

The following information has been supplied by Wolf's nephew Ian Ellis. The originals of the letters and photographs are in the possession of Dr Ellis, the son of Siegfried Engelhardt.

While only the obvious typing errors were corrected when transcribing the postcard, the excerpts from the letter of 19 January 1939 contain better readability due to orthographic corrections. In particular, from this letter, the desperation of the father of the family speaks of the precarious situation in which he was in Poland with his wife and youngest son Isaac, as well as his concern for the remaining sons Wolf Hermann (Wolfgang) and Siegfried (Sigi).

Deported from Erfurt: Documents on the 'Poland Action' 1938

The operation, known as the "Polish Action", was considered to be the earliest mass deportation during the tyranny of German fascism and was directed against people of Polish nationality persecuted as Jews. *Erased Life. Jews in Erfurt 1933-1945.*

Letter 1

From the correspondence of the Leon Engelhardt family Letter of 19 January 1939 from Nowy-Sacz Ghetto in Poland to an already emigrated nephew

My dear nephew and niece!

On Friday 13/1 I received 26.15 zloty from you. I was completely speechless when the postman followed me with the money. My dear cousin, I did not ask you to do that. [...] I just asked you to give me a request, it may be from relatives. I can't ask you for anything. But you showed a noble feeling and sent money help immediately after the first letter. My dear child Oscher, how can I thank you for this?! [...] // [...] That we have come to this stage, that one has to look at a penny from all sides, [...] we are out as one goes and stands without a penny of money. Did Malcze give me 25 zlotys on arrival, I shouldn't be without penny. So, we are already 3 months, where you eat every Shabbat at Malcze, while she has nothing herself. [...] She knows what emigrants are. She sees our life now and knew our life from Erfurt. However, one comforts one another – one has saved one's life. [...] What have we saved from our lives, but we have no bed, no pillow, no camp and no home. [...] what else is worth our lives? And there, left behind a private house of 7 rooms first class furnished. [...] also a shop with goods. Now I am dependent on begging bread. You can hardly imagine where your few zlotys arrived at the right time. [...] I take it from you with heartfelt thanks that you have done your human duty. Because you don't have anything myself I don't ask for anything. It's just money. [...] // [...] I wrote to my brother, but I did not get an answer. I just want our [...] Mixed poche should help me. Just as [I] have given you the addresses [...] I ask you to approach them. Because I am not able to tell you our misery, your newspapers write with you enough about the displaced people. [...] // [...] Will close my letter with warm greetings. My wife and son [...] we are [...] g. be healthy thanks. I wish you to hear the same thing [...]

I get letters from Erfurt. We don't know back yet, we want to go on 14 days to sell everything and get our stuff, but in [s] business he (his son?) doesn't know in, and he takes his meals with strangers. The eldest son is in Berlin. This is what my children look like. My son has been in Erfurt for 14 days he sleeps probably in my apartment [...] and waits he should come to England knowing. Yes, yes, that's what my children look like. I left nothing [them] there. (?) A cold winter [will] blow on them. Now where do they sleep? Where do they eat?

Letter 2

Postcard of 9 June 1939 to Wolfgang Engelhardt, Salvation Army, Hadleigh, Essex from his brother Sigi Engelhardt, currently Leipzig C 1, Gneisenaustraße, 71/1

Dear Wolf!

I received your card. I expect the final decision from the Pal Office [Palestine Office] every day. As Lotte wrote to me, she submitted a permit for me. Now I should ask you on behalf of Berta Klausner to inquire about where the house or the committee for the physically handicapped is. If you can, let me know the address as soon as possible, because Berta, like all Leipzigers, must be on the 20th ds. [Mts.] Leave Germany. Some of the people who are here are emanated and [must] now go back to Poland. If I do not have something positive in my hand soon, I will end up in Poland. Ask again if my permit application is already there and if it has already been approved. I still don't have my passport. But this week I'm going to get him. Our wagon has been in Poland for some time and Dad has done everything with the customs office. There is nothing new here. Many greetings from all acquaintances and relatives. Please greet Horst Rotfels [from] me. I send you the best greetings

Your brother Sigi

Letter 3

Letter of June 18th, 1939 to Wolfgang Engelhardt from his parents in Nowy-Sacz Ghetto in Poland.

My dear son Wolfgang!

Your dear letter of the 16th ds. Mts. we have received and read with joy, now my dear child I am from the return trip also the wag[g]on with things is already there and admitted to a small apartment, back to the Erfurt trip as well as my open stay [stay] there, will certainly interest you very much, I found everything well on my arrival, I thank you also sincerely that you have cleaned up a bit, man could at least get in the apartment, I had no difficulties nowhere until Sigi came from Hamburg, there we went with the police, who wanted that Sigi got his valid passport otherwise they made him stateless, which was already the case, the next day the police called. the pole. Consulate Leipzig, who said that Sigi gets his passport, Sigi had to hand over his stateless passport again, and when I was back at the consulate and demanded the passport for Sigi I did not get it, with the consolation that the documents for Sigi from Poland are not yet there, and so the time passed I had to leave and unfortunately the child left bird-free, to this day he had nothing, when I was still in Erfurt, the Polish citizenship arrived for you, now you can laugh about it, but when I was hardly here came the re-naturalization for me and family e this is a big blow to me, I am very desperate, I have no rights here, my papers are in the very first order, without any reason, and without objecting [meaning to be able to raise], you cannot imagine our sad situation now at all. Now Sigi can't come here, he can't stay there, what am I supposed to do now? I am only tolerated here, the house in Erfurt did not sell [I], I was counting on protection of Poland ... what should I do now, I am not allowed to do anything here, I don't have money to live, I'm very bitter if it was a possibility as long as I still have my passport and the still valid I could get out of here more easily, who[n] man takes away my passport, I am done, so I ask you, dear child see you. Maybe one possibility would be that[s] I should only come to London alone one of the time, in order to get out of here, the[s] after the emigration have been to my all plans, so that I have only been instructed on another hike, only

for this my dear child help me, should now benefit me what I have been in Erfurt for over 20 years on the board of directors of r Erfurt Z.O.G. [a Zionist association] had worked, behold, maybe it would be a possibility, but first for Sigi try Sigi first out of the [it follows a Hebrew expression, meaning: get out of hell], he looks very bad also I have in Erfurt very taken away, I put you at a recording from Erfurt, the things have arrived so far quite well, the dining room is in a stable, because I have no place, I also have no patience to write help me my [son] if you have the opportunity to help me , but first your brother Sigi, who urgently needs help because it threatens him the beech forest save him from the [there is a Hebrew expression, meaning: save him from the evil persecutors] I greet you very cordially Your godfather Leo

My dear boy! Now Dad has written you everything exactly you can imagine what it looks like with us a very small apartment but that is to hurt but the other Zores, not to earn a penny, the Zores with Sigi, put the greatest effort that you the boy out of the cursed land and then you can look forward to doing something for us because here there are no prospects of earning anything. Otherwise [I] would have nothing important to write you greetings and kiss you quite cordially. Greetings from Issi he thanks you for the stamps he is in the Cheder [Jewish-religious school for boys]. Let you do quite well what now means going well stay healthy and see to help Sigi. Your mom

Dear Wolf. Thank you very much for the brands. Heartfelt greetings sends Issi