

My dearest brother,

We were so very happy and pleased with your telegram. Oh darling, we are so very happy that you are alive. Mother was half mad when she read your telegram. Dad was with us until December 4. The three of us were in Westerbork from 29.9.43 to 20.5.44. Then from 20.5 to 5.12.44 in Bergen-Belsen, where we did quite well, because we didn't have to work. Then Dad was suddenly sent away, we don't know where. We still have one hope, that he is in Odessa. Mum and I were on December 6th. sent to Beendorf, where we had a really bad time, but we got through it fine, without being sick for a single day. On April 10 we had to leave because the Americans were closing in. We wandered for 3 weeks in cattle wagons, it was terrible and many women died along the way. Mother was so strong, we had great support for each other. On the 1st of May, that beautiful clear day, we were taken over by the Red Cross and on the 3rd, we arrived in Sweden, from hell to heaven, completely starved and full of lice. Mom weighed only 81 pounds and I weighed 98 pounds. But now we are back to normal. Mother 115 pounds and I 128 pounds, we received nice clothes and shoes from the government and would be completely happy now if we knew something about Dad, Chel and Ruud. Have you not heard from Chel? And her family? We are so eager for your first letter and our first reunion. I had the last message from Ruud in Westerbork on March 44 and I find it strange that I have not heard from him yet. Louis Pool is in America; we had a telegram and 100 kronen each from him. We had just done a lot of shopping today and when we got home your telegram was there. Today we also bought you nice things, socks, shirt, tie, pullover. Every week we get 10 kronen. We can only write postcards, not letters. Too bad because I have nice photos for you. We live here so beautifully, in the middle of the woods near a large lake. All small houses, with 16 people in a house, very cozy with radio, good food, sweets, not normal anymore. There is plenty of everything here. Liesje van Loggen is also here, I spend a lot of time with her. Ash, the first 12 women will go to Holland on Sunday, we hope to go in 3 to 4 weeks. We're running out of patience now. Were you already with family van Loo, Michelangelostraat 15? They were so extraordinary for us, we received so many packages in Westerbork and even two packages in Bergen Belsen. And were you already with van 't Veld and Canes? Do you live with Aunt Annie now? You didn't write a sender on your telegram. Let me write that I already have 4 pairs of shoes, 5 pairs. stockings, 3 bags, 3 blouses, 3 pullovers, so I don't have to worry about clothes for the time being. Mother will write you a postcard separately. Your telegram was like a dream. In our hearts we always believed that you were alive because we once had a letter from you from Radom. But we heard so many horrors from Poland that it really is a lottery ticket that you are still here. We actually have to provide an address where we can live when we come to Holland, but we can't do that yet. Dear darling, I write so small that mother can still write here. A thousand kisses and see you soon again from your so loving sister Milly.

(last two lines were written by Milly's mum, Esther).

Dear darling, I feel so lucky that you are here, almost unbelievably two years, also Pa and Chel and Ruudt.