

Letter # 14

November 5, 1942

Work camp

The whole time I waited for a letter from you because the last one written in pencil I received on September 5. I was so happy that I answered immediately. At the end of September I sent another postcard for your birthday, dear Nina. On 31.10 I received a notice from the authorities, for me to get in contact with the family immediately because you had registered me as missing. And then they notified you immediately about my location.

Now I've received your two letters, but please write often so that I know how you're getting along.

Before I continue writing, I wish each of you good health. Because, Nina, you wrote that Grandmother (*Oma*) is still sick, how is her health now? And how is your health, Nina? I'm especially interested how things are with your feet, because they were always painful. And how is the health of the children? Henriette, you note, always has headaches. But we don't have to worry ourselves yet because she still doesn't have to go to school.

I'm happy that you had good weather this summer. How was this year's harvest for vegetables and potatoes, how much did you harvest? Nina, please write me about that.

At the moment, I'm in good health, but sometimes my feet are so weak, like after the flu in spring, so that I can hardly walk. The meals consist of 600 gr. bread, with some thin dinner soup twice a day, but one can buy products from the farmers, although expensive, potatoes, butter, onions, tobacco. But they haven't brought in the harvest yet, the weather is rainy and there are few workers. It's possible that they will send us away from here, because the construction is complete. On October 27 a government commission accepted everything with a 1 (*otlitschno\**). I worked at this place for the whole summer, the base is sandy and during the rain it wasn't dirty. Earlier we moved around a lot, but now we're more stable, living in big tents, quite comfortable in wind or frost. In the evening we gather around the iron stove and discuss numerous topics.

Some of the workers have gone away, and it's said that some of them have even gone home. Has no one arrived at your place yet? All we have left is dreams of home, and the wellbeing of the family.

Yes, Nina, what does the renovation of your apartment look like, did you do it? I wanted to send money, but that is not allowed. I get paid 300 rubles a month, but half of it is taken away for taxes, food, and more.

I'm writing this letter in the morning before work. Have to close. How are things with Eugenia and the children? Where is Lili? I get no letters from them, and know nothing about her. Give them my address.

With greetings, your Papa Heinrich.

A heartfelt kiss. Write.

*\*otlitschno* - #1 ( popular expression: "could not be better")

[ Copy of a letter from son of Heinrich Hübert. From a work camp – forced labour ]