

KHARKOV 13/5/3

Dear (Israel)

My lucky stars are favouring me !
I left my "home" at the Stanitza yesterday and am here
this morning as you see.

MOSCOW 14/5/33

I was interrupted and could not finish. Am completing
in Post Office here. Most glorious days ,warm Spring.Loving lavish
green all over Russia. Russia is loving again after its cruel
Winter.

All along the line beggars pray upon us. Appealing for
bread,for food. Shocking stench.Shocking !! Abhorring !!.

Perhaps this year's harvest will terminate this cruel famine ?.
I am enclosing several photographs taken by my colleague there.
I hope "they" will let it through ! I personally am not allowed
to take any snaps except personal ones. These enclosed here are
at the "Sovernoi Donetz" at Stanitza Luganskaia at the early
stages. The later ones I dare not risk sending you.

I also sent you a few group photos.(You and Beile).

LOVING JERRY.

COPY of a letter dated 11/5/33 received at Tzaneen 8/6/33

My dear (Israel)

I have now leisure, tons of it ! My departure has
been delayed from Luganskaia Stanitza till 12th May. On that day
leaves for Moscow our Chief Platinov and we are leaving together.
When he offered me to wait for him, I could not very well refuse;
though for minor reasons, this latter may not be too good.

On the other hand, leaving with the Chief together has
advantages that with the aid of his Annual Personal Ticket (costing
4000 roubles and enabling him to travel on all Soviet Railways
at any time and by any train) I shall perhaps get a seat on a "Soft"
carriage (not hard ones, like S.African 3d, that I have to take,
though the ticket entitles me on "soft" carriages). "Soft" is much
more convenient, because one can sleep. It is clean and in ones
compartment are only four. In "hard" carriages all people of the
carriage are together, there being small partitions.

My waiting was worth it all, undoubtedly. Just listen !-
Besides the moneys I got !

The boss placed two waggons to my disposal with four
semi dead horses. My luggage, four packages, were taken two on a
wagon, to the river. Thence it will be offloaded, placed on a boat,
taken across the "Donetz". The horses and the waggons will be
sent over the river, too and thence will start a pilgrimage of 20
kilometers till Lugansk, where it shall be handed to the "Bogasnie
Otdelenie" bound for "Nisnie ~~xx~~ Novgorod" or "Gorod Goreki", as
it has been renamed recently.

"Zhavtrans" is accompanying it and will do all the neces-
saries ! Will hire men and deliver me the receipt.--- The baggage
thus leaves to-day, whilst I shall leave to-morrow. !

Now can you appreciate what it all means to me ! None much
to worry and queue waiting and cursing, & let alone hard work
it saves me !....

It is hot to-day. In Lugansk will be dusty and hot and stuffy
and plodding along with laden waggons drawn by miserable horses is
not a pleasure either !

My waiting was well worth the while.

We shall now see what my new post and the new surroundings
will mean to me. !

I am travelling through Lugansk, Kharkow, Moscow. In Moscow
I shall stop for a day or so to go to a "show". It will be easier to
get a ticket to the famous theatres not during holiday season.

I have been resting lately a lot. I returned on the 7/5/33
and am already tired of doing nothing nothing. So am keen to leave.

I acknowledge your letter dated 9/4/33 and thank you for
it

I was yesterday in Lugansk and went to the State Bank of USSR and Torgsin. The reason is that up to now I have used up one of my Beile's cheques (£1.10.0.). The other £2.0.0. as well as Leivi's 10 dollars are lying there. -- I applied to have the money forwarded to Nizhni-Novgorod. There they were going to give me in roubles and have these transferred as such. The exchange on the dollar is very low (165 roubles) and English pounds are low too. After some quarrelling, I decided to leave for Nizhni-Novgorod and thence apply for the money; in that way they shall have to transfer in foreign valuta!

Do not think that one cannot use Valuta or pounds! But I have no need! I bought in London enough goods that will last without replenishing 2 years (that is, if they do not get lost or stolen). So let money better remain in your hands and when I need some I shall ask you.

I am not touchy, you need not be worried. I shall ask you or Beile etc. when I want some!.....

That will do.

JERRY.

COPY of a letter from Jerry dated 7/5/33 arrived Tzaneen 8/6/33
LUGANSK STATION. "WAITING ROOM"

Dear (Israel)

I am full of praise for Moscow; for its theatres, its bioscopes, its habits and its life!

I never starved. Its restaurants supplied me with the food at a reasonable price and its shows I lavishly enjoyed.

I saw an Operetta, light, breezy, and simple; Proletarian operetta under "proletarian" conditions for 8 roubles. The house was full. Apparently money is free and easy!... I saw a drama of Russian origin; which was good, a fine piece of art with little propaganda. I saw several films, which were not so good, Revolutionary themes with much propaganda. I went into bookshops and found large masses of books, all 1932-1933 and all technical and political. Fancy, all technical, only such!.... Hundreds on every theme of work. Nothing in fiction (perhaps 1%, not more) Went to the "Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga" and found foreign books of political and technical nature. No fiction, none at all!.....

Russia is going mad on technicians, on technical work, on engineering and science. Simply mad!.....

I was at Torgsin and bought a few things and found crowds in every department (The Government is accepting gold and silver and the people fall enticed by oranges, apples, bread, meat, butter and what not! Enormous queues in everyone of the dozen Torgsin Department Stores.).

By the way, once again, no valuta. None at all. I have enough. This is all seriousness.

I'd love to tell you of my experiences in Moscow. On the Red Square in Moscow on the 1st of May when 1½ million people went past Stalin; of my experiences in Hotels, theatres, trains, of the people I stayed with.

And how they met me and invited me to stay with them ! But that would take whole letters and time that I certainly have not.

I was interrupted. The train steamed in and I ~~was~~ had to leave. At the moment I am already at the Stanitza ,at "home" in my room finishing this letter to you.

Travelling is a fine enjoyable thing and my last journey I enjoyed immensely.

Well, that will do.

I found a big batch of letters from home on my return. I thank you for yours and shall reply soon.

Thanks for your news cuttings you sent me.

Within 2- 3 days I think to leave at last in all seriousness.

JERRY.

P.S. I am sending a snap of myself. Also my April "PROPUSK" or permit to our Stolovaia. J.B.

COPY letter from Jerry LUGANSK 7/5/33 arrived Cape Town
5/6/33
Tzaneen 8/6/33

My dear (Beile)

I have just returned from Moscow and am waiting in Station Room for my train to Kontrashovka and thence to the Stanitza Luganskaia.

I shall be "home" soon and then I shall pack to leave. It will be a great ordeal, I can assure you.

Perhaps shall have to work for a week or so to get the work done that I have started here. It makes no difference in any case.

Nizhni-Novgorod is a fine town, larger than Johannesburg with its white and black population (i.e. it has over half a million people). It has some new colossal factories ; it is the Detroit of Russia. It lies on the junction of the "Oka" and the "Volga" rivers. The huge miles wide mother- Volga.

A few days ago there was opened a new arch bridge there over the Oka river and I sent you a copy of the Pravda with an article about it.

The Volga bridge is three times larger and is being built, I am told, in the very town of Nizhni Novgorod. The latter is one night's journey from Moscow, which is connected with Nizhni Novgorod by a double railway (not single as Capetown is with Johannesburg).

In general conditions up North are better than South and the further one goes to the colder climes, the better.

In Moscow one can get bread without cards & in special shops (very large queues) though the cost there is 4 rouble a kilogram against 25 kop. with a bread card. One can get milk at 4 roubles a litre, and eggs at 1 rouble a piece and sausages at 28 roubles a kilogram.

Though the prices are very high (since the average wage of a workman is 4-5 roubles a day), still it is better than nothing at all.

It is fine now, warm, sunny and pleasant. I had a restful holiday of about ten days and greatly enjoyed myself. I feel as a giant refreshed.

So move these days is much easier. Besides I know more the Russian ways and habits and shall get along better. I have already travelled a great deal by now and ought to know, I hope.

I shall write again soon. Regards. Much, very much I ought to tell you. Very pleasant and rightly amusing of all that I saw on my travels.

Regards. JERRY.

ANOTHER LETTER STANITZA 9/5/33 arrived Tzaneen 8/6/33

My dear,

I have every reason to think that this will be my very last letter from Luganskaia Stanitza, as to-morrow I expect to leave for Nizhni-Novgorod through Kharkov and Moskwa.

I learn that I am ~~going to~~ gaining a great deal by way of money. I shall get 300 roubles arrears here and "Lisia Balka". Then expenses on the way. Then six days to get fixed up and later when I get fixed up in Novgorod one month's wages as compensation for breaking up the home, i.e. "Pachenia" (?).

So instead of losing on the transfer as I would have, normally have been the case, I am actually getting rich!

Do not expect much to-day. I have still to pack all my things, everything and say good-bye, and ! to-morrow 10/5/33m early I shall be off !!!-----

I am leaving very many friends here, good ones and many enemies.--- Who knows what will happen later.--- Another gamble in a

certain sense.

This is a common letter. I acknowledge post from Leivi, Israel, and Beile; a rarity-- a note from Aaron.

My knowledge of Russian affairs, laws, habits are quite good now. I invite you all to visit Russia now and take me on as your guide. I can lead you through the length and breath of Soviet Land!!! Best wishes.

JERRY.

Another letter

MOSCOW

Chief Bridge Office

15/5/33

(arrived Cape Town 5/6/33
& Tzaneen 8/6/33)

My dear (Beile)

I arrived here yesterday and am leaving to-morrow 16th in the evening for Nizhni-Novgorod. I am sitting here to get fixed up with provision cards and books on basis of Foreign Supplies, i.e. get the same food rations as foreign workers get who arrived in USSR on special contracts. The procedure is very long and complicated. It has to involve agreements of two Peoples Commissars and many "helpers".

In any case, I am not running for it myself. This is being done for me by this "Mostretrest" organization and I thank my lucky stars.

In spite of it all, the three days I shall be here, will not suffice to see the matter through and I shall leave without the "book-card" ! "Zhabornaia Kniska". (?) They will, I hope, forward it on to me in Nizhni-Novgorod.

Last night, I went to "Mali Theatre" and saw "Gogol's Revisor". It was wonderful ! First class artists in a classical comedy. Sorry you were not here too. To night, I shall try to find a ticket (at all cost) to "Bolshoi Theatre" to see "Boris Godunov" the famous opera.

Tickets cost here "big money" and as Moscow feels the pinch of money shortage, it is possible to get a seat from speculators. And this is actually what I hope to do in order to get in.

Where my luggage is, I know not. Somewhere on the Russian Railways. I think to go to Nizhni-Novgorod, wait a week and if it is not yet there, to leave back for Moscow and Kharkov, to search all stations and pack houses. I shall probably find it towards the end.

I must repeat. In Moscow everything, food etc. is far far better than in the provinces. In Moscow for money one can get bread and most necessities, but not so in the villages and the smaller towns.

Sights along the railway line on stations, sidings are shocking, indescible, inhuman.

There is every reason to hope that things will not be bad in Nizhni:- a big town 500,000 people connected with a double track railway with Moscow, many foreigners, big factories, famous Russian motor car factory etc.

Love. Kiss the children.

Did you get my cable to you : "Lucky stars favour" JERRY