

My dear All,

I will add a few lines to this letter. I myself would like to thank you for your nice letter which you sent to my mother. She herself is a wonderful woman, her life consisting of work only. I (Elizabeth) and Suzanne, apart from her grandchildren, are her only pleasure. My mother had a very hard life, and a lot of sickness, worry, and work. As long as mother and father were together, we had a laundry, which mother was conducting herself with the help of two laundresses. We had this business for ten years, but then unfortunately we had to give it up, as mother had a nervous breakdown three times, and it was good that this came about, otherwise mother would not be alive. At one time, she lived separated from father, and then in 1940 she got a divorce. My sister Suzanne, thirty years of age was then already married, and lived in Bremen, where she took mother to live until she got a flat again. However, all that is now overcome, and then came the war, when mother lost everything -- but, perhaps you can understand what that means.

My husband has been twelve years in the navy. We ourselves have got over the war quite well. We kept our home, and my husband came back healthy. Now our mother lives here in Wilhelmshaven. She told you all about it already. We are living in very difficult times, but, the sun must shine again, so that our children will have a better future.

Now I must close my letter. We are enclosing a few photos for you. I hope that this letter will find you in the best of health, and will make you a bit happy. With best greetings from us all,  
Your neice and cousin -----

Elizabeth.

Dear Sister-in-law, neice & nephew,

I received your lovely and extensive letter. You wouldn't believe how happy we were that you surprised us with such a nice letter. We are only sorry that your good Dad didn't see that. I didn't even know that my dear brother was married. Dear sister-in-law, as you wrote you have taken a stroke which effected your eyes, I hope that you are not blind, it would be terrible.

What a pity that we do not know each other personally. Nevertheless, I shall always enjoy some nice photos which you send us, particularly of my dear brother, and of you all. Dear sister-in-law, if you only knew how often I searched for my dear brother, and then in 1924 had to declare him dead, because of an estate from father, when he was still alive until 1947, with you. Now he has closed his eyes forever. I think back very often of the

hour when he left us to look for a new country so far away from us.

Dear sister-in-law, neices, and nephews, now I will write something about ourselves, how we got on. I was worst of all. You know perhaps that if the Lord loves somebody, He judges, and that is because I took everything as it came about. Everything in Germany went up-side-down. It was really terrible. When the war broke out, my two daughters with their children were evacuated. I have only two girls, both of whom are married. One lives in Bremen, and the other in Wilhelmshaven. The eldest one has three boys aged 10, 9, and 8 years, and the younger has two girls aged 10 and 5 years. I am also a grandmother, and have five grandchildren. Both my daughters have already lost a child each, viz. two boys, about three months, and three years respectively. My only happiness is the children.

I was looted on 22nd December 1943 in Bremen, and I lost everything. Then I was evacuated also, and I came to my children, when we were together once again. Only my son-in-laws were in the war, one in the navy, and the other in the army. We spent two years away from our country, until the Russians came into our land, and we can now really see something. For fourteen days, both day and night I have watched over my children and protected them until the day came when we had to leave again for our country. As I was then without a home, my son-in-law took me to Wilhelmshaven, where I looked for a job and found one in a fishery. I worked for nine months, but, then could not do it, so I found another job in a hospital where I am working to this day. I work in the hospital laundry, and have been there for 1½ years. I like it very much. If I should get sick, I am sure to have all the time I need to take a rest. I was being attended by the doctor when I received your nice letter, and he was very happy about the letter together with me. He only told me that my dear brother had suffered very much -- Is that so?

I am living in one room, which is not very far from the sea. On Sundays I visit my children. That is always a holiday, when we go down to the sea for a swim.

You write that you want to send me a parcel. Believe me I don't know how to thank you. Dear sister-in-law, you wrote me to let you know what we need. Now this is so much. Winter is just on our doorstep, and it is impossible to buy anything as ~~you~~ you cannot get it at all, ~~and especially~~. Shoes are impossible to buy, and the shoes that we are wearing let the water in and out. Stockings are the same. My size of shoe is 42. I have a very broad foot. That is the reason why I was so sick last winter, for about five months, and was not able to take another job. Most of t

~~time we walk about~~

time we walk about barefoot, or with wooden shoes. I cannot ask anything of you dear sister-in-law, now that you are on your own without a husband. I know how difficult it is to get by. I am now eight years on my own. I am unfortunately divorced, but, I am not unhappy about it. My past husband has also a cousin in Australia, in Sydney. I will let you know their address, and perhaps you can get in touch with him. He will give you any information about myself.

I would like to ask you one small favour dear sister-in-law. Perhaps you have got a few old curtains. I cannot ask you to send me this and that. However, anything that you can spare, we shall be only too willing to accept with thanks.

Now my dear all I will close my lines, and hope that this will reach you in the best of health. With best regards and greetings to all.

Auguste.

Many regards to my neices and nephews.