

Headquarters,
2 Canadian Corps,
Canadian Army, Overseas.

21 April 1945.

Mrs. Magdalen Biggs,
The Cottage,
55 Springfield Road,
St. Leonards on Sea,
Sussex, England.

Dear Mrs. Biggs:

One week ago, a Camp which contained 1700 Polish women mostly military in category was uncovered by our troops. In this Camp was a young Red Cross nurse who gives the name of Maria Zylinska whose number is 46996.

She was anxious to get a letter into your hands and had already prepared it, but unfortunately until further facilities are available, the letter cannot be sent to you. I therefore am conveying to you in a few words what she wanted to say. She also enclosed a letter to her from a John Biggs who is evidently either your son or some close relation.

She has not seen her family for some time of course, some of whom live in England and some in America. They of course think her to be in Poland. She was evidently for some time in the same Camp as John Biggs and has promised him that her first attempts will be to reach you.

She wishes you to contact the Polish Authorities at Rubens Hotel, London, Polish HQ, and attempt to get her to England as soon as possible. She stresses the fact that she will not be a burden to you. She encloses a picture of herself and John Biggs. She is in good health, and is being well cared for now.

Any communications you have for her may be addressed to me or through PWX channels, the War Office.

I hope that this manner of conveying the information to you will be satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

Colonel J. J. Hurley,
Canadian Army, Overseas.

Telephone
Hastings 2606.

The Cottage,
Springfield Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea.
28. April, 1945

Dear Colonel Hurley

Thank you very much for your kind letter. We think it exceedingly good of you to go to so much trouble, and we are most grateful. Yes, we want Maria Zylinka to come to us, at once - at least as soon as she is allowed to travel. And she is to stay with us as long as she likes. I had already applied to B.R.C.S. for her to be sent to us when we knew the camp at Munster was freed by the Allies. She and our son, John Biggs (still, we think at Stalag XI A) became great friends while she was in that camp, and she was so kind to him during his illness. Please impress it on Mlle Zylinka how warm a welcome we are prepared to give her, and how much we look forward to her coming. There can be no question of her being a 'burden' to us

It is more likely that she will be a joy. Perhaps you will tell us what we can do to help her come. Does she need clothes, or money? Please say so, if she does. When is she likely to come? If you cannot let us know, don't worry. You must have such a vast correspondence that I feel I ought not to encroach on your time any further.

Please allow me to thank you once more for your extraordinary kindness in helping us to our visitor.

Yours sincerely,

Magdalen Biggs.

P.S. I am now writing to the Polish Headquarters in London, as you suggest.

Headquarters,
2 Canadian Corps,
Canadian Army, Overseas.

3rd May 1945.

Mrs. Magdalen Biggs,
The Cottage,
55 Springfield Road,
St. Leonards on Sea,
SUSSEX, England.

Dear Mrs. Biggs:

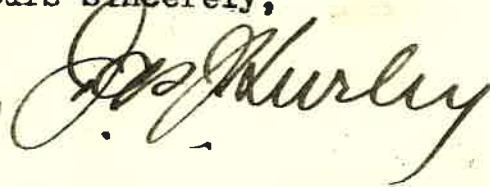
Thank you very much for your letter of the 28th April which I think is one of the nicest it has been my privilege to read. Yesterday, I took it to Mlle Zyliaska who was very moved in reading it. I also took the liberty of showing it to the Commandant, a very fine Polish woman in order that she might understand and be informed.

Nikka, as they call her is most anxious that you should know with what delight she read your letter and how much she thanks you for the sentiments which you express in it. She wants to thank you for your efforts on her behalf and to reiterate her great desire to get to England as soon as possible.

I don't know what we can do from this end but I am submitting her case to the Canadian Army authorities for consideration but I am convinced, however, that the best solution lies with the Polish HQ in London. Through their resources they might easily ask for Mlle Zylinska to be transported to England for purposes which they must delineate. I am sure you are doing all you can to get them to act.

I think you must be a very kind person from your letter.

Yours sincerely,



Colonel J.J. Hurley,
Canadian Army, Overseas.