

Finally a letter arrives from Moni with the evening post. Sent from Marseille on 8 / 1:¹ I want to use an unusual opportunity² to send you my warmest, best wishes for the New Year. I am doing well to the extent that it's possible in a war waged like this one. Hopefully you will never experience a war! Everything we went through in the war³ was a child's game. But don't worry, only the good die young. Thank you for your lovely letters. I'm not going to write because it's better for me [that way]. And it would also be better for me if you only contact me through Gerharda or Frau L.⁴ At some point all this will be over and then you'll get a long letter.

The Institute is kaput and much else besides!⁵ I'm cleaning, cooking, sewing and doing everything one can do. Otherwise I'm helping the doctors where it's necessary. My ear is almost completely healed. But what is that compared with all the terrible things one sees here every day. It's only during an air-raid that you see how unimportant everything can be. Remember that I'm nevertheless happy and content here. I know why I stayed here and I wouldn't do it any differently again now.

For months we have been without any news from Marianne. It's as if all the good things from the first book were at an end! We don't know where to go from here. Gerharda is not answering any of our letters.

¹ The first two sentences are from Charlotte Angermann.

² This "unusual opportunity" is probably the ability to send a message via Marseilles. It is likely that she entrusted the letter to someone travelling that route.

³ Marianne's reference here is to World War One.

⁴ Frau L. is Frau Laubmeyer, a family friend who was resident in the Netherlands.

⁵ See the introduction for a discussion of the fate of the Institute of Medical Research.