



LETTER FROM INGEBORG HAVEMANN TO CLARA HARNACK DECEMBER 20, 1942

My dear Mama-

Yesterday at midday between noon and 1 o'clock the Court Martial pronounced the cruel verdict. Although we all secretly expected it, it was still a blow. I want to urge you again not to give up hope. The verdict first has to be confirmed by the highest authority (the supreme commander) and the clemency plea has already been filed. According to the attorney, there is a three-month limit. The poor woman was given 6 years. A. heard the judgment with complete composure and the exemplary attitude. On one of the previous days he was able to make a speech on his own defense to explain his motives clearly. That was his greatest wish, of course, and he will have felt very relieved. It is terrible for his wife. How wonderful that they could still be together during those 5 days. What a reunion that must have been!

Dear Mama, I am sure you will cherish hope with all of us and stay strong. He is still alive! - I assume that he will write to you himself about this new state of affairs. His greatest wish is that you remain steadfast.

W. is still hoping that something will come of the merchant marines. If so, we will have an empty bed here and then you must come to visit us. That's more convenient for everybody that if you always have to come and go. Ansa's letter refusing our invitation arrived today. I didn't quite understand it. *After all, if she intends to go to Schramberg or Erfurt then she can come here! She is welcome anytime. The boys are already upset about the games evenings. If you have other guests at Christmas, Ansa can come here. If her visit clashes with Falk's he can stay with Agnes. So I repeat: she can come anytime.

Greetings to you both,

Your sad Inge