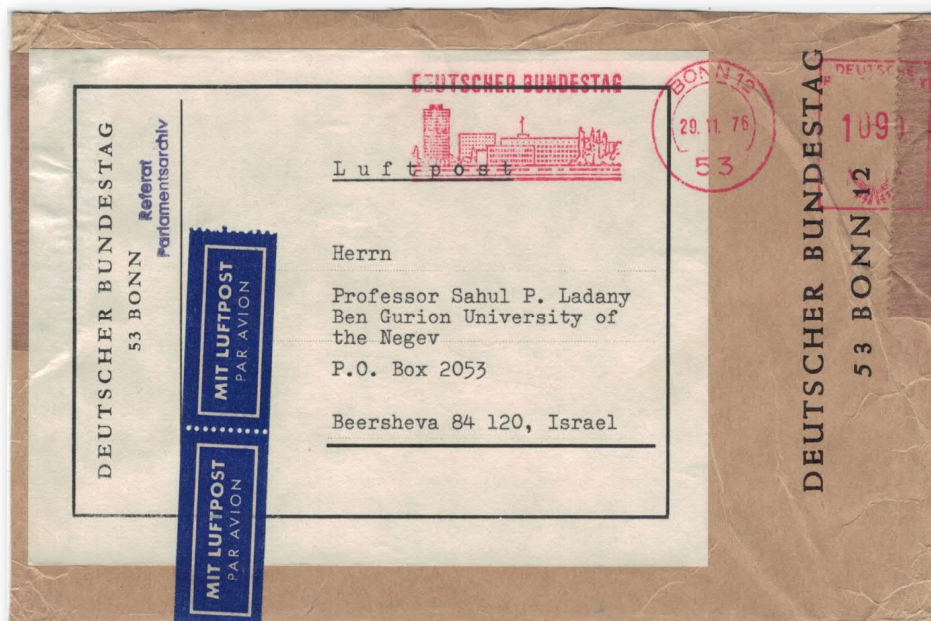


They are all dead!



This address label comes from the parliamentary archives of the German Bundestag in Bonn - four years after Shaul [sic!] Paul Ladany had participated in the Olympic Games in Munich - games that should have been cheerful.

Munich 5.9.1972 - the terrorist commando Black September attacked Israeli athletes in the olympic village and took eleven hostages. All the Israeli hostages fall victim to an amateurish rescue operation by the German police at the Fürstentfeldbruck airfield. Zvi Zamir reports to his Prime Minister Golda Meir on 6.9.1972 "They are all dead". Since the surviving hostage-takers were later released, this act could never be legally processed in Germany.

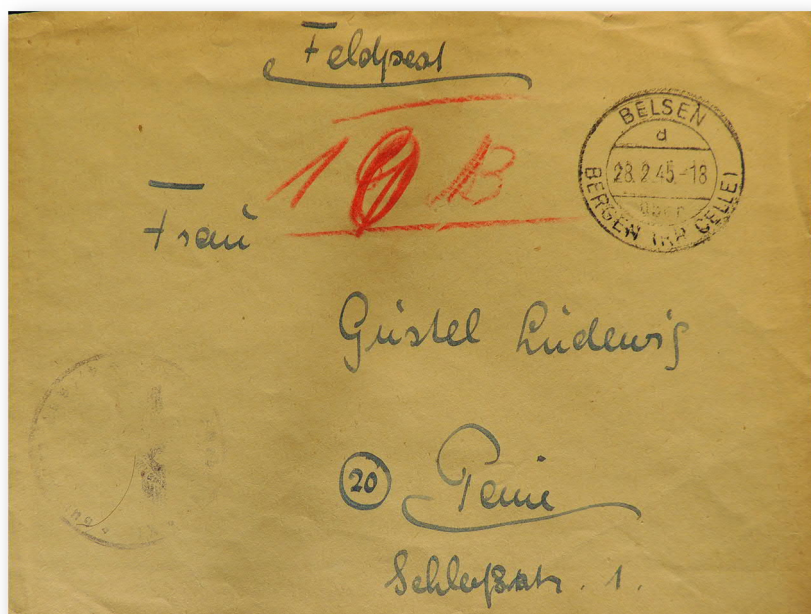
A member of the surviving Israeli Olympic team is the walker Shaul Paul Ladany,

the addressee of today's document. He is the only one from the Israeli team who does not leave the games after the terroristic attack; he does not want to give in to terrorism. In the course of his life, he wrote 13 books, more than 100 articles in journals, held 8 patents and was professor emeritus of engineering; he taught at various universities.

Yet he narrowly escaped death already in 1944: In 1941, his Jewish parents fled with five-year-old Shaul from Yugoslavia to Hungary to escape the Germans. They hope to survive here. In 1944, 437,000 Hungarian Jews are deported to concentration camps by SS-Spezialeinsatz-kommando Adolf Eichmann and his only 150 (!) helpers. The Ladanys arrive at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp by train and are detained there. Rudolf Kaszter heads the Committee for Help and Rescue in Budapest; he has good contacts with the National Socialists in Hungary and is able to buy a "train full of Jews" out of Bergen-Belsen. It is on this train that the Ladany family arrives in Switzerland.

Still today he travels and walks for his conviction that sport unites people and can thus reduce hatred and prejudice.

Further reading: Wikipedia pages from 06.03.2022



Letter from the military training area (TÜP) Bergen-Belsen from the days when Shaul Paul Ladany could still survive with his parents in the nearby concentration camp of the same name as a condemned to death.