

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec 3(E) and 5(D) or (E) NNDG# 760050

711.94114A/7-145 -- 7-945



AIRGRAM

FROM

BERN

Dated July 2, 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

Rec'd July 12 3:21

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 14 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State,  
by SWP to

Washington.

W. A. - Swiss ..... A-854, July 1, 1945.

Navy - 2 ..... American Interests - Japan  
Legation's airgram A-694 May 8

Date JUL 17 1945

Swiss note June 29 states that according information which has reached Swiss Legation Tokyo names of five American POWs held Sakai prison Osaka are as follows:

- W.E. Reamer, 409 Finley Street, Cleves, Ohio,
- F.L. Joslyn, Mascoula, Montana,
- L.S.B. Bradsher, Rolston, Oklahoma,
- Nutton, Navy Garrison, Guam,
- Ben Magdon, Minneapolis.

Swiss Legation adds that Ben Magdon, sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, became insane. He and Nutton succeeded in escaping from Kobe camp during April. Japanese Foreign Office again approached by Swiss representative in effort obtain official reply to previous request for names and reason detention these POWs.

HARRISON

GT/TJH/hs

BERN, CH. 1945

Anal. Emb

Rev. SWP

97

MAR 2 2 1945

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CS/D711.94114A/7-145



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

AdoR-417  
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

Bern  
Dated July 2, 1945  
Rec'd 3:41 a.m., 3rd

*SDP*  
*DOR*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

3387, July 2, 11 p.m.

JAPAN AMINTERESTS

Log's 3220, June 18

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
7/2/45 DIVISION  
*Paraphrased Compara*  
JUL 3 1945  
*Compara in sup*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*2 of 2 in sup*

*711.94114A/6-1845*

FONOFF note June 29 states Gorge reports intervened again Jap authorities ascertain whether Amn aviators captured during aerial operations against Jap.

Likewise asked that in affirmative he be furnished names camps where detained and authorization visit.

HARRISON

WFS

711.94114A/7-245

Anal. *Dorothea M. Laurion*  
Rev. *MB*  
Cat. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

NOV 9 - 1945

**FILED**

Confidential File

711.94114 2/7-245

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PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

by SWP

FROM: American Legation, Bern.  
 TO: Secretary of State, Washington.  
 DATED: July 2, 1945.  
 NUMBER: 3387, July 2, 11 p.m.

..... | Bryan-Bessie  
 was } g-2 - Yudelson  
 ..... | Proctor  
 ..... | Harry-2  
 JUL 6 1945 CM:m

American Interests - Japan.

Reference to telegram 3220 of June 18 from Legation.

According to a note from the Swiss Foreign Office of June 29 the Swiss Minister in Tokyo has reported that he has again intervened with the Japanese authorities in order to find out if American aviators have been captured as a result of aerial operations against Japan. The Japanese were requested to provide the Swiss Minister with the names of the camps where aviators are held if any have been captured. Permission was also requested to visit such camps.

HARRISON

711.94114A/7-245

CM  
 SWP:CMarcy:lmv

7/4/45



JUL 24 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Mrs. Banks:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 2, 1945, concerning the situation of American prisoners of war and civilian internees held by the Japanese. You suggest that the only possibility of obtaining the release of Americans held by the Japanese would be by rescue or ransom.

I am enclosing for your information a recent statement issued by the Department concerning the treatment and repatriation of American nationals in Japanese custody which surveys in detail the problems concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East. This information sheet will indicate to you the unceasing efforts made by this Government to effect the return to the United States of American military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands. You will realize, however, that this Government is powerless to bring about their return without the cooperation of the Japanese Government. In view of the fact that the Japanese Government has been unwilling to repatriate even seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war, which its international commitments obligate it to do, it is improbable that it would agree to the repatriation of American prisoners of war through ransoming or by reason of the intervention of the Soviet Union. It is unlikely therefore that any able-bodied American prisoners of war will be freed from their imprisonment by the Japanese until they are liberated by the American armed forces. You may be sure, however, that this Government will continue in the future as it has in the past to exert every effort to obtain the release of American prisoners of war.

As you know, the President recently expressed his very deep sympathy for the relatives of those members of our armed forces who have the misfortune still to be

Mrs. Lydia Anita Mitchell Banks, held  
2408 South Derbigny Street,  
New Orleans 13, Louisiana.

Dist. ...  
Cut. ...  
Rev. ...  
And ...  
9 Aug 1945  
MIF

Handwritten notes on the right margin, including the number 760050 and other illegible markings.



-2-

held prisoners of war by the enemy. The President stated that the welfare of these men was a matter of deep concern to him and that he was determined to do everything possible to help them. You may be sure that your Government is doing everything possible for the protection of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese and will not abate its efforts in any particular no matter how discouraging the circumstances may appear.

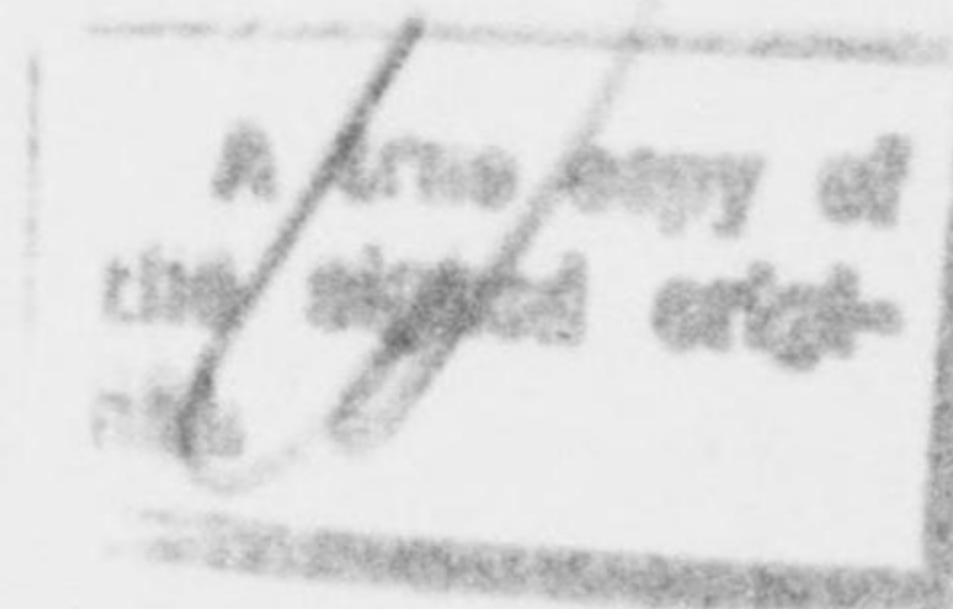
Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

Parmely W. Herrick  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure: ✓

Statement. ✓



*CR*  
JUL 24 1945 P.M.

*CM*  
SWP:CM:Mercy:lmv

7/23/45



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

55

ASD-393  
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Bern

Dated July 2, 1945

Rec'd 1:55 a.m., 3rd

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
7/4/45 DIVISION  
Paraphrased Cm/m  
JUL 3 1945  
Cm sup  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
C. of Cm sup

Tel Bern 8/2/45  
cm

Secretary of State,

Washington

by SWP to

Bryan-Bresce  
War-Sweet-Yudelson  
Navy-2  
Justice-Emmis-Kelly  
JUL 6 1945 Cm/m

3393, July 2, 3 p.m.

AMINTERESTS JAPAN

Substance FONOFF note June 29 follows:

During discussion June 16 between Gorge and

Suzuki latter stated financial relief POWS and civilian internees territory occupied by Jap was no (rpt no) longer possible.

Actually camp commanders all declared now impossible accept sums for individual periodic relief for purchase necessities because actually nothing available on free market. In rare cases only possible at detriment civil population.

Gorge states regard foregoing that impossibility to purchase supplementary necessities confirmed to him by POWS.

Suzuki added Jap disposed examine possibility send relief in particular cases citing as example Christmas

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-2- #3393, July 2, 3 p.m., from BERN

Christmas. Possible also consider assuring feeding more permanent manner example through purchase heads beef. Gorge remarked to Suzuki that if really impossible purchase anything transmission of considerable relief in effect useless. Simultaneously he emphasized obligation Jap make special effort assure sufficient food POWS and civilian internees. Suzuki replied Jap would do all possible.

HARRISON

NPL





AMERICAN RED CROSS  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON 11, D. C.

SEP 28 1945

2 July 1945

Mr. Eldred D. Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
File  
ABC  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~ABC~~  
ABC

Dear Mr. Kuppinger:

Enclosed is a chronological summation of Far East cables  
for the period April 1 to June 30, 1945.

Sincerely,

H. L. Pence  
Relief to Prisoners of War

HLP:ek

File  
ABC  
444

711.94114A/7-245

SEP 28 1945

711.94114A/7-245



CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMATION OF FAR EAST CABLES  
Arranged by Subjects  
April 1, 1945 - June 30, 1945

GENERAL AGREEMENT TO APPLY TREATY OF GENEVA - I

1945

LISTS OF POWS AND LOCATIONS - II

- April 4 Intercross advises 24 Canadian & 2 American Catholic Sisters interned Protection Centre Sendai & 26 evacuees including 4 Americans, from Yokohama City interned Relocation Centre Kanagawa. Not considered CIs by Japanese but Tokyo delegation recommends including them in relief actions.
- May 24 Intercross advises Shanghai POW camp being transferred North China. Yu Yuen Road CAC & Great Western Road 301 transferred Sacred Heart Pingliang Road.
- June 14 Salzmann cabled that following air-raid 5 March during which 4 explosive bombs fell into area POW and CI camps under Thai control, both camps were transferred to Vajiravudh College, Bangkok on 2 April.

DELEGATES - III

- April 20 Intercross advises Japan refusing authorize Junod and Straehler to proceed via U.S. Japanese prepared to allow travel via Canada if Russians refuse visas. Message repeated to Moscow. Vancouver suggested by Intercross.
- May 21 Amcross cabled James of understanding here that Soviet Embassy Teheran has been authorized issue visas Junod, Straehler. Assume delegates will enter Russia via Iran.
- May 23 Intercross advises Soviet authorities are instructing their Embassy Teheran to issue visas Junod, Straehler. Trust departure possible mid-June.
- June 12 Junod, Straehler left Geneva yesterday for Teheran via Paris. Please advise action taken forwarding SFP. Will it be possible forward supplies requested my 791.



VISITS TO CAMPS - IV

- April 16 Further information from Intercross re: Lincoln Ave. CAC, Shanghai. Good canteen & library. No overcrowding.
- May 7 Intercross advises delegate Tokyo visited Kobe mid-April. Food problem Hyogo CI Camp increasing. PP financing additional purchases thru Swiss Consulate.
- May 9 Intercross advises Egle's correspondent Canton informed him CAC situated in former Oriental Mission Compound on Honan Island. 21 internees, including 2 Americans. Accommodation, health & medical care satisfactory. Swiss Consul, Canton visits camp regularly once weekly.
- May 24 Shanghai Asst. Delegate Jost visited Yangchow CAC 5/8/45. 1 American (male). All buildings good, health good.
- June 2 In reference to Legation's airgram of May 18, No. 734 and despatch of March 20, No. 11202. Chapei and Lungwa Civilian Assembly Centers were visited during the week which ended May 27 by Fontanel, and others will be visited this week by Fontanel. After the visits are made, he will cable a full report. The Department's attention is invited by Fontanel to the desperate situation at these camps in regard to food.
- June 6 IRCC reports delegate visited for first time 27 April the Protection Centre 31 Tatamiyacho Sendai. 2 American Catholic Sisters. Quarters not too bad and food is main problem, last winter without relief food parcels. Vitamins badly needed as all somewhat weak.
- June 12 This telegram refers to Legation's telegram of June 2, No. 3016. A note dated June 9 from the Swiss says Fontanel has finished visiting assembly centers for civilians at Great Western Road, Lincoln Ave., Pootung, Chapei and Lungwa. As soon as possible his complete reports on these camps will be forwarded by Courier.

TREATMENT - V

- April 2 Intercross reported food situation worsened Hyogo CI camp (Futatabi) since beginning of year. Internees able to manage past few months only because of Red Cross food. Guam internees physical condition after 3 years internment considerably worse and further food reductions will have drastic consequences.
- April 4 Tokyo delegation reports Catholic Sisters not treated as civilian internees but should be treated as such. Tokyo delegation strongly recommends 26 internees Relocation Centre Nanazawa Kanagawa Prefecture be included our relief actions.
- April 24 Eger, Swiss Consulate, Shanghai, forwarded list food supplied during January by Japanese to Weihsien camp.



MESSAGES FOR CIVILIANS & POW MAIL - VI

- April 10 State Dept. requests Swiss ask Japanese authorities whether POW mail transmitted by way of U.S. & Vladivostok has arrived in Japan and average time in transit.
- May 3 Intercross asks you request Bessmer cable reply message you forwarded him for Intercross. Intercross requests information how proceed inquiries for persons Philippines. Should it cable Philippines Cross direct or process through Amcross.
- May 22 Japanese Foreign Office has informed Swiss Legation, Tokyo that official correspondence forms have been sent to Nagasaki internment camp.

RELIEF SHIPS AND SHIPMENTS - VII

- April 23 James advises Intercross has received following cables from Tokyo Delegation: 4/12-Soviet willing authorize Jap. vessel to fetch correspondence & relief for POWs & CIS, Jap. Govt. dispatching Awa Maru to Nakhodka to load 2200 tons. 4/17-Awa Maru lost by enemy action on return voyage. 4/19-Could Amcross be induced use influence US Govt. offer compensation including supplying equivalent vessel to Japan for delivery relief goods. Action urgent.
- May 3 Amcross advises James investigation Awa Maru sinking proceeding. American Govt. in communication with Japanese Govt. thru PP.
- May 7 Amcross advises James relief supplies for Far East shipped on SS V Piateletka end April from Portland to Vladivostok; 115,152 ARC SFP, 5,190 ARC medical cases, 115,000 Cancross SFP, YMCA & NCWC recreational supplies.
- May 24 Junod, Straehler expect leave Geneva June 11 for Teheran. Could you arrange have American Consul, Vladivostok forward the 10 tons SFP requested my 791 to the Russian rail station opposite to Manchuria City on rail line from Chita to Harbin. Consigned to Dr. Junod delegate for Japan, International Committee Red Cross with orders to hold there for his arrival.
- June 23 Reference Department's 1235, June 6. Clubb reports that 10 to 12 days required for 15 tons Amcross freight to be shipped from Vladivostok to Otpor. Arrangements with Clubb will not be made for its shipment until arrival Junod in Moscow as little time would be saved.



PROCURING RELIEF AND DISTRIBUTION - VIII

- April 19 Intercross advises Tokyo delegation arranged distribution some drugs, clothing, comforts & food parcels ex-Hakusan Maru to Hoten & Shihei CI Camps.
- May 9 Intercross advises Shanghai POW relief expenditures for March included foodstuffs, medical supplies, recreational supplies, shoe repair materials, transportation.
- May 24 Amcross advises James \$10,000 being forwarded to Intercross.
- May 31 Amcross advised James Tokyo revolving fund increased to \$25,000, difference being forwarded to Intercross. Asked if monthly audit would be possible?

PHILIPPINES - IX



10  
 7-5  
 WHP  
 DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
 JUL 6 - 1945  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
 7/23/45  
 Letter to Mr. Banks  
 JUL 16 1945  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 New Orleans 13 Sa  
 July 2, 1945

Mr. President,

I am writing you in behalf of the American boys and civilians held prison by the Japanese. Are they going to be allowed to stay in the prison camps and die of homesickness, disease and starvation? It is time the United States did something about her prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

Think of all the mothers and wives in this country



2  
Suffering the tortures of Hell  
wondering what is happen-  
-ing to their sons and husb-  
-ands in the hands of the  
Japanese. This is one of  
the tragedies of this war.

The Japanese people as  
you know are cruel and  
torturous. Very few Japan-  
-ese soldiers are ever taken  
prisoners as they would rat-  
-her kill themselves, therefore  
there will be practically no  
exchange of prisoners as  
with Germany.

The prisoners held by  
the Germans were in most  
instances well taken care

711.94114A/7-245

OS/LE

711.94114A/7-245

JUL 26 1945

RECORDED



of, And those that have returned to this Country will usually vouch for this. However, the same cannot be said of the POW held by the Japanese, with very little to eat and exceptionally poor living quarters in the camps. Our boys and all other prisoners will die of starvation or disease, and we poor mothers and wives have to sit back and can do nothing about it.

The only hope of our boys ever being liberated is by Rescue or Ransom. Of course, the home

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JUL 26 1945

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4  
Island of Japan would  
have to be invaded in  
order to accomplish this first  
and this will take a long  
time and mean the loss  
of many lives. Some of  
our dear boys have been  
prisoners over 3 years -  
just imagine living under  
such conditions for three  
years or more, just waiting  
and waiting. I guess some  
of them are wondering if  
the United States ever want  
them back again. Brave  
young courageous boys,  
it was just their misfortune  
to be taken prisoner by a

711.94114A/7-245

CS/LE

711.94114A/7-245

JUL 26 1945

RECORDED



- 5 -

Cruel fantastical race.

The other hope for our boys being liberated is by Ransom. Ransoming of war prisoners is not new. It was practiced during the Civil War.

Thomas Jefferson approved the ransoms of soldiers.

I believe every mother or wife of every POW held by the Japanese would be willing to pay \$1000. ransoms or more, to have her boy or husband released should the Government not be willing to pay.

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CS/LE

711.94114A/7-245

JUL 28 1945

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Something should be done before it is too late. the way japan is being ~~run~~ <sup>run</sup> today, our POW will all be killed, dont let this happen. dont let the United States ever be ashamed of the way it let the POW be forgotten and let them die in stinking prison camps in Japan, Burma, Thailand, Manchuria or Formosa.

Take the boys in the submarine service, it takes guts and plenty to join that service. And what wonderful work they

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JUL 26 1945

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have done in the service of their country. many of them are now in prison camps, waiting away, dying of dysentery or other diseases, homesickness and sad, as a reward for what they have done.

My son Herman Mondell Mitchell <sup>Mitchell</sup> ~~Stonice~~ Age 19 when lost volunteered and (enlisted when 17) is now missing in action from the submarine U.S.S. ~~S-44~~ lost around Sept. or Oct. 1943. two of the boys from this submarine are presumed to be prisoners

711.94114A/7-245

CS/LE

711.94114A/7-245

JUL 26 1945

RECEIVED



-8-

As short waves messages from them have been intercepted by eleven different people on the west coast and relayed to their parents in both messages the boys mentioned folks at home so they would know the message were genuine. Many other boys from the submarine service are prisoners of war and have been since 1942.

I am not only appealing for my own son, but for all the prisoners of war held by the Japanese. My heart goes out to them all, and I think

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OS/LE

711.94114A/7-245

JUL 26 1945

RECORDED



- 9 -

Every right-thinking person  
in this United States feels the  
same as I do, that something  
should be done about our  
pov held by the Japanese.

I will again appeal  
to you by saying let's do  
something for our pov and  
not wait to long or any longer  
for we dont want to be

Ashamed of the way we treated  
our boys who are now pov.

Yours Respectfully,  
Mrs Lydia Anita Mitchell  
Banks.

711.94114A/7-245

CS/LE

711.94114A/7-245

JUL 26 1945

RECEIVED



July 2

Hsinview Texas  
July - 2 - 1945

ETB SWP  
1105

To the President of the U.S.

Dear Mr. Truman

I have just heard over Radio program  
There was to be a Japanese representative  
come to the U.S. to make arrangements  
for an exchange of prisoners of  
war. Will you please intercede  
for my son who has been a

prisoner since the surrender of  
Carregadar and is now at Prison -  
Camp no 7. Fukuoka - Honshu Island.

His name and rank is First Sgt. Jack  
G. Erwin - he has three little girls  
to raise - ~~Gen.~~ Genl. Wainwright's

name was mentioned - we have waited  
so long to hear from him, but only  
one letter has reached us that is  
two weeks ago, and a short wave  
message sent Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at the time

he was transferred from Prison Camp  
no 1 Philippines Islands - to Japan -

We will ever be so thankful  
if anything can be done. Sincerely,  
Mrs. J. W. Erwin

711.94114A/7-245

711.94114A/7-245

FILED  
JUL 10 1945



JUL 18 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-245

My dear Mrs. Erwin:

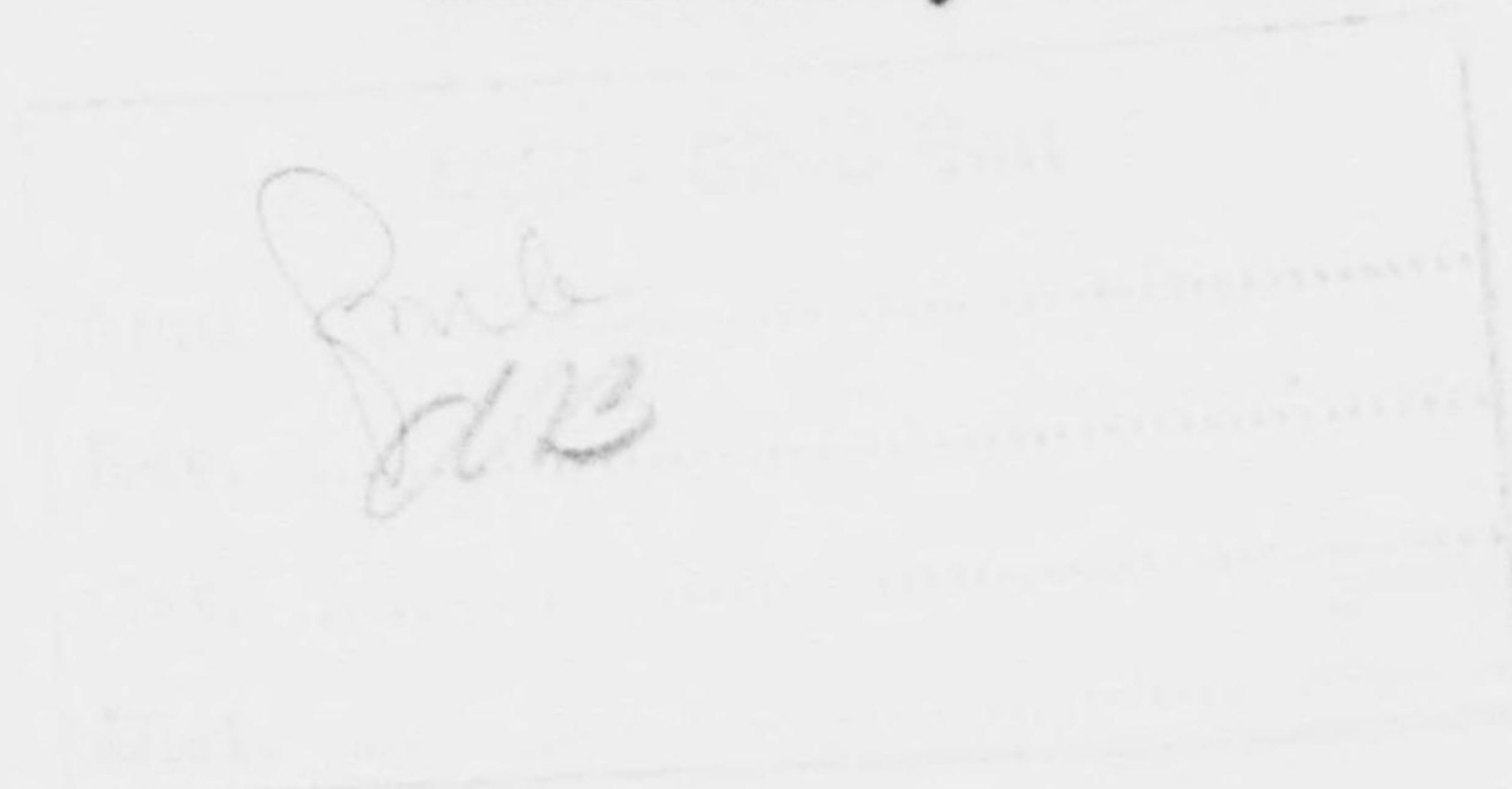
Your letter dated July 2, 1945, addressed to the President, concerning your son, Sergeant Jack G. Erwin, who was captured on Corregidor, and a prisoner of war at Camp No. 7, Fukuoka, Japan, has been referred to this Department for acknowledgment.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There

Mrs. J. W. Erwin,  
1106 Baltimore Street,  
Plainview, Texas.



Erwin  
1106 Baltimore Street  
Plainview, Texas  
7/18/45



-2-

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

*RF*  
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Summary.

A true copy of  
the signed orig-  
inal.

*WV 3*  
SWP:VWFaust:FAH

7/16/45

*CR*  
JUL 18 1945 P.M.



AIRGRAM

FROM

Bern

Dated July 3, 1945

DC/R

UNRESTRICTED

Rec'd July 13 3pm

by SWP

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 14 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A-855 July 3

W.A. Bennett  
Lincoln

American Interests - Japan

Department's airgram 410 June 22

JUL 17 1945

Aircraftman second class John LACEY ASN 1055493 reported by Intercross in US/2795 of February 7, to Piwar as well as all names listed in JU/72.

Legation requesting Swiss obtain next of kin information.

HARRISON

711.94114A/7-345

DCR - CT-6 Unit  
Anal. *[Signature]*  
Rev. *[Signature]*  
Cat. *[Signature]*

ST/mak

DIV. OF FOREIGN ACTIVITY CO-RELATION  
APR 6 1948  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NOV 13 1945

OS/D  
711.94114a/7-345

X



Grand Prairie, Texas

701 Grand Prairie Road.

July 3 1945

Hon" President Truman;

Dear President.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
PERSONNEL

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 3 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Let to Mr. Gosler  
7/14/45 VWF/RF

I see in the Dallas News where they are going to be an Exchange of some Prisoners of War with Japan for those Japs we got in Germany. We hope you can include our boy in in the Exchange He is. Corp Paschal C. Gosler. 38036285. He was Taken Prisoner with the Lost Battalion in Java March of 1942. He is Now Being held in Fukuoka Camp No 2 in Japan.

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May God Bless you and All your undertakings. also our Darling Son.

Yours Truly

Mr & Mrs A.H. Gosler

*Mr & Mrs A.H. Gosler*

*Martha M. Lawrence*  
*W*  
*9*

JUL 8 1945

CS/MAJ  
546-0-345



JUL 19 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-345

My dear Mr. Gosler:

Your letter dated July 3, 1945 addressed to the President, concerning your son, Corporal Paschal C. Gosler a prisoner of war in the Fukuoka Camp No. 2 in Japan has been referred to this Department for acknowledgment.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or totherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is

Mr. A. H. Gosler,

*Dorothea M. Laurson*  
301 ~~Maple~~ Prairie Road,  
Grand Prairie, Texas.

711.94114A/7-345



-2-

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

*Bel*  
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

*✓* Summary.

*Next*  
JUL 18 1945 P.M.

A true copy of  
the signed original.

RCEcker  
AEClattenburg  
SWP:VWFaust:JSF  
*W.F.*

7/14/45



Downers Grove, Illinois,  
July 3, 1945.

ETB

The Honorable Harry S. Truman,  
President of the United States,  
White House,  
Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 14 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*File to Mrs. Walton*  
7/14/45  
RCE  
ACE  
WPF } JSF

Dear Sir:

Am taking the liberty of writing to you about my husband Chief Warrant Officer Wilbur W. Walton who left this country August 7, 1941 for the Philippines to do a tour of foreign service for a period of two years. He is an only child and at the time of his departure had dependent parents that were left with me but since the father has passed on and the mother who is now eighty seven years old is gradually weakening and becoming more and more of a care. I have cared for these parents since my marriage in 1924 and now feel the end is not far away. Listening to the radio last night a news announcer reported that Japanese in Germany apparently the members of the Japanese Embassy in Berlin were being sent to this country and would be used to effect an exchange of military prisoners. According to information have Mr Walton is now in Japan having been taken there in December of 1944. A Corporal down in North Carolina wrote me a letter saying he had been freed in Manila and had since 1942 been friends with Mr Walton. The transfer to Japan separated them. Realize am not the only one who has a loved one in prison but am nevertheless asking if would be possible to include Mr Walton in the next exchange. He is now getting along in years and any longer delay in coming home will mean his mother also will be gone. Have a chicken ranch to manage and having kept up the work so far would like to have my husband come home before anything happens to change the home situation for there is as we all know a limit to one's endurance. Have not been off this ranch except to go shopping for needed food since August of 1941 and would be indebted to you for life if and when an exchange can be made my husband could be included. Thanking you,

Yours truly  
*Mrs Wilbur W. Walton.*  
Mrs Wilbur W. Walton,  
R#1, Lennox Road,  
Downers Grove, Illinois.

DCR - GPC  
Anal. *Esther M. Laurion*  
Rev. *ETB*  
Cat.  
Dist.

JUL 18 1945

94114N/7-345

CS/DB/11.9411407

7-345



In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-345

My dear Mrs. Walton:

Your letter dated July 3, 1945, addressed to the President, concerning your husband, Chief Warrant Officer Wilbur W. Walton, a prisoner of war in Japan, has been referred to this Department for acknowledgment.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is

Mrs. Wilbur W. Walton,  
Route 2, Lennox Road,  
Dorothaa M. Lowers Grove, Illinois.

APB

711.94114A/7-345



-2-

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

*Be*  
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Summary. /

CR *ms*  
JUL 17 1945

Accept of  
the Dept of  
Int.

*ms*  
RCEcker  
SWP:AEClattenburg  
VWFaust :JSF 7/14/45



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TELEPHONE  
Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 3, 1945. DCR

SUBJECT: Manner in which duplicate Red Cross Identification Cards requested by Americans in Japanese custody were transmitted to the United States authorities.

PARTICIPANTS: Major Farrand, Office of the Provost Marshal General,  
Captain Guggenheim, Office of the Provost Marshal General.  
Miss Dreppard, SWP.

COPIES TO:

JUL 6 1945

711.94114A

*July 5*

Miss Dreppard telephoned Major Farrand to inquire how requests for duplicate Red Cross Identification Cards made by Americans in Japanese custody were transmitted to the United States authorities. Miss Dreppard explained to Major Farrand that she desired to know whether mail facilities had been usually employed in transmitting these requests with a view to requesting the Swiss and the International Red Cross Committee, if practicable, to transmit such requests by telegraph in the future. Major Farrand expressed the opinion that telegraphic transmission of requests would go far toward expediting the transmission of Red Cross Identification Certificates. He suggested that Miss Dreppard talk with Captain Guggenheim on this subject, who was more familiar with it and would be in a position to supply the information desired.

Miss Dreppard telephoned Captain Guggenheim regarding the manner in which these requests were transmitted and inquired whether a difference existed between the identification cards issued for chaplains and protected personnel. Captain Guggenheim, after consulting his records, telephoned July 4 and informed Miss Dreppard that requests for identification cards came from various sources; some are transmitted by Intercross, some come through the American Legation at Bern, some are addressed to families of the protected personnel, et cetera. Generally, however, these requests have come through the mails. Captain Guggenheim was also of the opinion that anything that could be done toward speeding up the transmission of these requests would be most helpful.

*W.M.S.*

With regard

711.94114A/9-345  
MAU



-2-

With regard to identification cards themselves, Captain Guggenheim said that this subject was dealt with fully in a letter dated February 24, 1945 from Colonel Tollefson, which was made in reply to the Department's letter of February 16, 1945 (File no. 711. 62114A/1-3145).

*HD*  
SWP:HDreppard:NET



*RL*

*State*  
*DCR*

JUL 12 1945

52 Riverside Drive,  
New York City,  
July 3rd, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
7/11/45 DIVISION  
*Letter to Miss Roland*  
JUL 7 1945 *cm/m*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

80  
1945 JUL 6  
GOODS BRANCH  
President Harry Truman,  
Washington,  
D. C.

My dear President:

My brother, Capt. Paul S. Roland, an Army Surgeon, has now been a captive of the Japs since the fall of Bataan in April 1942, and is now somewhere in Japan. We have exerted every means of trying to get some recent information on, but to no avail.

Since we now hold several thousand Japs as our prisoners, it would be a great idea if some effort were to be made by our Government to work out an exchange of prisoners, particularly those who were captured on Bataan and Corregidor. Heavens only knows, how badly in need these boys must be of some real worth while help. I might also suggest that at least physicians be included in such an exchange in the event that the Japs should refuse an exchange of combattants.

I am placing a lot of hope in the fact that you will give your kind and speedy attention to this matter.

Thanking you most cordially for whatever you may do, I remain, a broken-hearted sister,

Respectfully yours,

*Miss Rosalie Roland*  
52 Riverside Drive,  
New York 24, N.Y.

①

*Handwritten notes and stamps in the bottom left corner, including a signature and the word "main".*

FILED  
JUL 14 1945

711.94114A/7-45

OS/D 711.94114A/7-45



Ransom  
July 3, 1945. SWR

To the President of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
7/18/45 DIVISION  
JUL 14 1945  
Let. to Mrs. Richlender  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PLEASE Mr. President

Please read this letter, no matter how very busy you may be.

I am a heartbroken mother whose son has been missing nearly two years, and, this waiting and wondering are so terrible, I am writing you regarding our American boys and girls who are held prisoners by the Japanese.

Won't the United States do something about how prisoners of war held by the Japs? Are we going to let them die in those stinking, dirty prison camps of dysentery and starvation?

If you had a son or daughter in a Jap prison camp, wouldn't you suffer as all we mothers and wives are suffering, wondering what has happened to our loved ones?

As you know the Japs are a very treacherous people and they rather kill each other than be taken prisoners, so there won't be an exchange

711.94114A/7-345

OS/LE 711.94114a/7-345

JUL 12 1945  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL LIAISON  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUL 23 1945



of prisoners as there was with Germany, and unlike the prisoners taken by the Germans, who for the most part were not so ill treated, the prisoners of the Japs are being starved and tortured so cruelly.

So if something isn't done, our poor boys in those Jap prison camps will die of starvation and disease, and we who live here and have loved ones in those camps, just have to wait with broken hearts and sadness, not knowing if our loved ones are dead or prisoners of war, suffering the pangs of hell.

Those boys are probably wondering if they are to be left to die in those hell holes filled with disease and filth, while the United States, for whom they went into service, sits back and lets them rot there. They, no doubt, are wondering if it was worth the terrible price they are paying.

Some of those boys have been prisoners of war for more than three years.

Can you imagine what it must be like, what a living death it must be, for them to just have to wait and wonder if the United States isn't doing something to free them from that hell? Just imagine what those poor boys are going through.



They are all brave, grand boys who love life and went into this war because they love their country. Can this country let them down now! Please do something about it.

We just can't wait until the home island of Japan is invaded, to rescue these prisoners, that may be months, and many will die while we are waiting. Save those loved ones. They have suffered enough.

So why not try to liberate them by ransom? I know all mothers and wives of the prisoners of war held by the Japs would give all the money they could to be able to have that boy or girl home again, if the Government isn't willing to help pay that ransom.

Don't wait until it is too late. Act immediately. Save those boys and girls. Surely the United States wouldn't want to be ashamed of the way they let the Prisoners of War down and forget them after the torture of their being captured.

✓ I am the mother of Les Elmer Butters, Chief Commissary Officer missing from the lost submarine S-44 in 1943. The official



date of the loss of the S-44 is October 26, 1943. Two of the boys from this sub are presumed to be Prisoners as short wave messages from them have been intercepted by a number of different people on the West Coast, and relayed to their parents. Many of the other boys from the submarine service are prisoners of war and have been for 3 or more years.

I am not only asking that something be done on account of my own son, but for all prisoners of war held by the Japanese.

I have written many letters to the Navy Department and the Red Cross asking for lists of names of prisoners of war in the Japanese prison camps, hoping to get some information and help in finding out if my boy is one of the prisoners, and I know many other mothers and wives have tried to find out about their loved ones, but no encouragement or information is given out.

It would be so much easier to know that a loved one is dead than to have to



wait month after month, year after year, wondering and praying that our government will get some word about that loved one and relay it on to us that are waiting.

And what about that boy or girl, perhaps dying in those awful prison camps - they wait and wait for letters or a word from home to encourage them to keep living if possible under those most terrible conditions, why can't we be allowed to know where they are so we can send those words of encouragement and love?

If you had a son missing, wouldn't you do all you could to find out if that son was among the Prisoners of War or not? But how can we find out if our government won't help us obtain such information, how can we find out?

Let's do something about it before it is too late to save those loved ones from the cruelty of the Japanese.

I would appreciate a reply from you. I realize you are very busy, but this matter is certainly important enough



for you to take time out and see what can be done to find out about the Prisoners of War held by the Japs, who are in the prisons and if they can be bought by ransom.

I believe this letter warrants an answer.

Very respectfully

Mrs. Ruth Heiklider.

P.S. I would also like to know why it is that the boys in the submarine service are never given credit or lauded as the other factors of the different services are. Never do we see or hear one word of praise for those loyal boys on our submarines, who are due as much credit and praise as any other part of the service. Those boys really face death much more than those on battleships, destroyers and such, for they have no way of saving themselves when submerged. But never a word is said regarding their heroism. Never a medal of honor given to them, and it sure seems that they are a forgotten factor - just a convenience to get sunk or blown up. Please see that they too are honored for their courageousness and bravery.



JUL 21 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Mrs. Licklider:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 3, 1945, concerning your son who has been missing in action for nearly two years and concerning the situation of American prisoners of war held by the enemy.

As you know, the President recently expressed his very deep sympathy for the relatives of those members of our armed forces who have the misfortune still to be held prisoners of war by the enemy. The President stated that the welfare of these men was a matter of deep concern to him, and that he was determined to do everything possible to help them.

He pointed out that the eventual liberation of these prisoners would be the result of victory by our armed forces and would depend upon the unrelenting prosecution of the war by every American.

There is enclosed an information sheet which summarizes the steps taken by the United States Government in its efforts on behalf of Americans held by the Japanese. You will observe that many proposals have been made for the repatriation of American nationals and that the repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners of war has been proposed. The Japanese Government has thus far refused to repatriate the sick and wounded and it is not likely, therefore, that it would consent to the repatriation of able-bodied prisoners of war, even though money were offered for their return.

Until

Mrs. Ruth Licklider,  
Route #1, Box 482,  
Central Point, Oregon.

*FVH*

800 711:941140-19-345



- 2 -

Until the final defeat of Japan, every step which this Government takes with a view of obtaining relief for Americans held by the Japanese or of obtaining information regarding American prisoners for their friends and relatives in the United States depends upon the cooperation of the Japanese Government. It is known that the Japanese Government has failed to report the names of many prisoners which it holds, despite its obligation to report such names to the United States Government. You may be sure that if information concerning your son is received by the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, the agency charged with the receipt and distribution of this information, you will be promptly notified.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

Parmely W. Herrick  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Information sheet. ✓

JUL 20 1945 P.M.

A true copy of  
the signed original.

*Am*  
SWP:CM Marcy:erk

7/18/45



JUL 12 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-345

My dear Miss Roland:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 3, 1945, concerning your brother, Captain Paul S. Roland, who has been a captive of the Japanese since the fall of Bataan in April 1942. You ask if it would be possible for this Government to arrange for an exchange of prisoners of war or protected personnel such as physicians.

I assure you that this Government has endeavored unceasingly to effect the return to the United States of military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands. I do not consider it likely that the Japanese Government would consent to the repatriation of able-bodied American prisoners of war since it is one of the major objectives of modern warfare to deplete as rapidly as possible the military forces of an opposing belligerent. It would be inconsistent, therefore, with the methods of modern warfare for belligerents to return to their native countries during hostilities strong and able-bodied prisoners of war.

There is enclosed an information sheet which indicates among other things the steps which have been taken by this Government with a view to repatriating American sick and wounded and American protected personnel held by the Japanese. You will observe that despite the obligations of the Japanese Government under Article 12 of the Red Cross Convention to repatriate protected personnel they have thus far repatriated only five nurses who were captured on Guam. Despite repeated efforts to secure the return of additional protected personnel, the Japanese

Government

Miss Rosalie Roland,  
52 Riverside Drive,  
New York 24, New York.

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Dist	
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SWP 711.94114A/7-345



-2-

Government has continually refused to repatriate them.

From the enclosed information sheet you will see that the Department of State has assiduously endeavored to effect the return of repatriable military and protected personnel. This Government is powerless to bring about their return, however, without the cooperation of the Japanese Government.

You may be sure that your Government will continue its negotiations with the Japanese Government for the return of American nationals and will explore every feasible method of arranging for their return to their homeland.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

Parmely W. Herrick  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Information sheet.

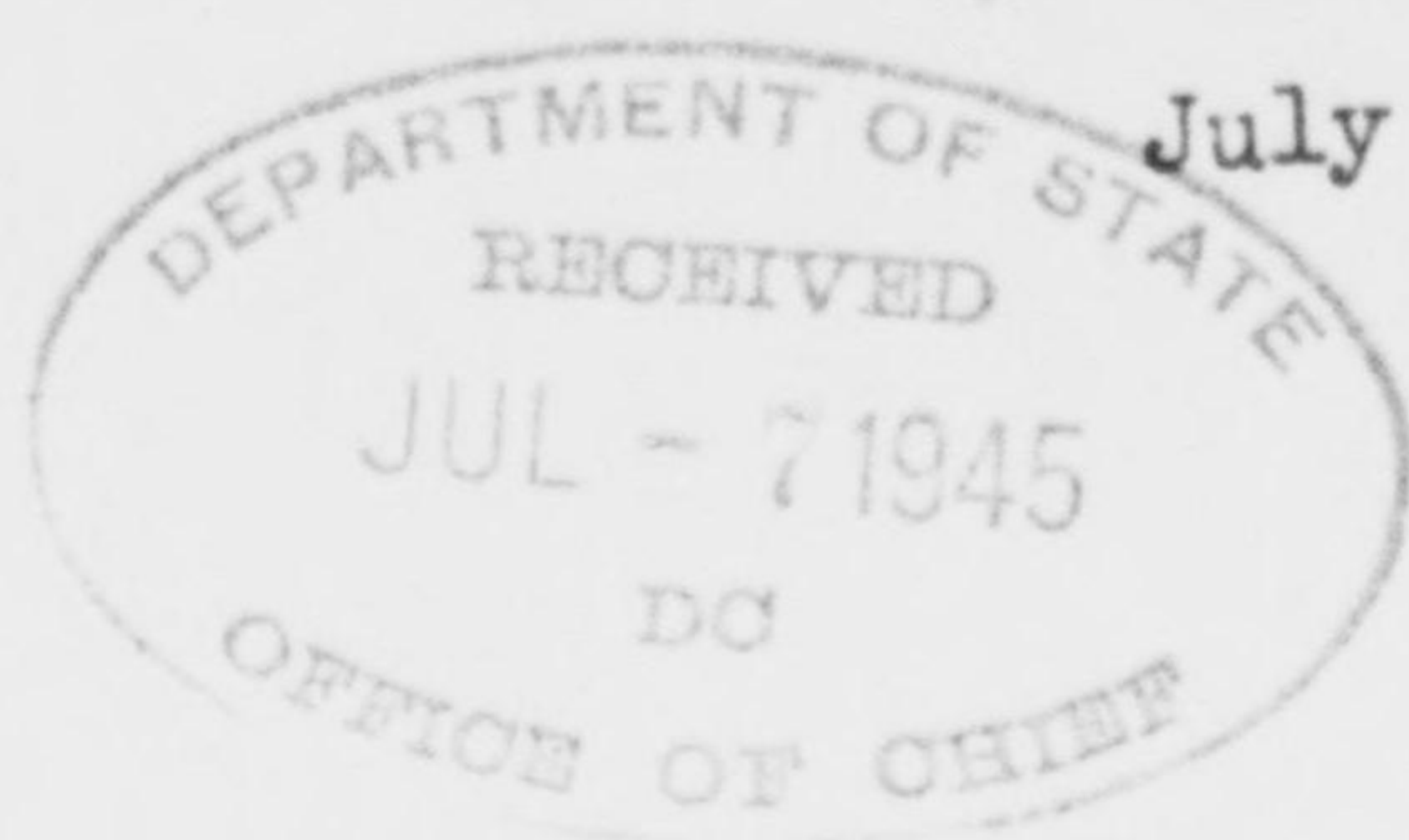
CR  
JUL 12 1945 P.M.

*PM*  
SWP:CI:Marcy:lmv

A true copy of  
the signed original.  
7/11/45



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Respectfully referred to the  
Department of State.

M. C. LATTA  
Executive Clerk



*EH*  
~~*SWT*~~

The Ambassador,  
3811 Canterbury Rd.  
Baltimore, 18, Md.

July 4th, 1945

*7/17/45 Let. to Mr. Raider*  
*CMM/ATS*

Harry F. Truman,  
President of the United States,  
c/o The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

*file*  
*cur*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

My dear Mr. President:-

I have two sons in the Army, one of them among those left behind in the Philippines. The last post card we had from him was over fifteen months past, and from an internment camp in the Philippines, so it may have been written two years ago. Letters to the Army result in the usual form letter.

Since the Swiss have not been able to do anything, it would appear that if some action had been taken to have the Russian Government look after the welfare of our prisoners, that they would not be starving and dying in Jap prison camps today.

It is a small thing to ask of Russia for those boys and others, who are not only giving the best years of their lives but who will return to spend the rest of their lives paying the war debt.

Yours sincerely,

*Harry A. Raider*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
JUL 7 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GP-C Unit  
Anal. *[initials]*  
Rev. *[initials]*  
Cat. *[initials]*

AUG 8 1945

711.94114A/7-445

CG/LE

711.94114a/7-4



In reply refer to  
SWP

AUG 6 1945

My dear Mr. Raider:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 4, 1945, concerning the situation of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese. You state that the last communication which you had from one of your sons who was captured in the Philippine Islands was over fifteen months ago from a camp in the Philippines.

I want to assure you that your Government is deeply concerned about the situation of American nationals who are still in the hands of the Japanese and that it is doing everything possible to improve their condition.

Since your son was not liberated when the Philippine Islands were retaken by the American Armed Forces, it is possible that he may have been moved to Japan prior to the American liberation of the Philippines. As you undoubtedly know from press accounts, a number of American prisoners who were being moved by the Japanese from the Philippines to Japan were lost when their ships were sunk. Since the transfer of these men from the Philippines to Japan, the Japanese Government has been sending lists of prisoners of war which it successfully moved to Japan, as well as lists of survivors of the ships' sinkings and lists of men who are missing. These lists are received through the International Red Cross Committee which forwards them to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C. As soon as information regarding the whereabouts of your son is received, the Information Bureau will communicate immediately with his next of kin.

Mr. Harry A. Raider,  
The Ambassador,  
3811 Canterbury Road,  
Baltimore 18, Maryland.

Anal.	With
Rev.	<i>FWT</i>
Dat.	
Dist.	

*From PH 1140/9-445*



-2-

With reference to your suggestion that this Government should have asked the Soviet Government to look after the welfare of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese, I want to assure you that the Soviet Government has been of great assistance to this Government in action taken on behalf of American nationals held by the Japanese. The Soviet Government has among other things made facilities available for the transmission of mail and relief supplies from the United States to Japan and there is every reason to believe that it would be willing to assist this Government in any move to have our prisoners of war interned in Siberia rather than held in dangerous areas in Japan and Manchuria. It is the Japanese Government, however, which has consistently rejected proposals for repatriation operations and prevented many activities on behalf of American prisoners of war.

The United States Government has not forgotten the sacrifices which men such as your son made in the early days of the war and the suffering which they have undergone as prisoners of war. You may be sure that officers of this Government, many of whom have relatives held prisoners in the Far East, will spare no effort to obtain relief as speedily as possible for American citizens held by the Japanese.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

*PHH*  
Parmely W. Herrick  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

400  
6 1945

*CMH*  
SWP:CMH:lmv

*SAT*  
*EE*

7/17 - 8/1/45

A true copy of  
the signed original.



July 17, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Mrs. Carlson:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letters of June 10, and July 4, 1945, addressed to the President concerning American prisoners in Japanese custody. You urge the repatriation of these prisoners and especially inquire as to the feasibility of ransoming them.

I am enclosing for your information a recent statement issued by the Department concerning the treatment and repatriation of American nationals in Japanese custody which surveys in detail the problems concerning the repatriation of prisoners of war from the Far East. This information sheet will indicate to you the unceasing efforts made by this Government to effect the return to the United States of American military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands. You will realize, however, that this Government is powerless to bring about their return without the cooperation of the Japanese Government. In view of the fact that the Japanese Government has been unwilling to repatriate even seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war, which its international commitments obligate it to do, it is improbable that it would agree to the repatriation of American prisoners of war through ransoming or by reason of the intervention of the Soviet Union. It is unlikely therefore that any able-bodied American prisoners of war will be freed from their imprisonment by the Japanese until they are liberated by the American armed forces. You may be sure, however, that this Government will continue in the future as it has in the past to exert every effort to obtain the release of American prisoners of war.

With

Mrs. Audrey Clark Carlson,  
3649 Thirty-fourth Street, W.,  
Seattle 99, Washington.

FD-711-94140/7-4-45



- 2 -

With reference to your inquiry regarding the American prisoners who were evacuated from the Philippines, you are informed that the Japanese Government has been transmitting lists of prisoners of war transferred from the Philippines to Japan. These lists are received through the International Red Cross Committee which forwards them to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D.C. As soon as information regarding the whereabouts of individuals transferred is received the Information Bureau will communicate immediately with their next of kin.

Very sincerely yours,

*PhH*  
Parmely W. Herrick  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Treatment and  
Repatriation.

CR  
JUL 17 1945 P.M.

*CM*  
SWP:CMM:erk

*V2*  
*SPD*

7/16/45



3649-34 West 34th  
Seattle 99, Wash  
4 July 1945

Mr. Harry Truman  
White House  
Washington D.C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
7/6/45  
JUL 13 1945  
Carlson - Cur  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
JUL 11 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Mr. Truman:

While you were visiting our Governor, Mr. Walgren, I sent a letter to you. I hope you received it; but, if you did not, may I take one minute of your time? This is urgent!

I write in behalf of our men who are still prisoners of the Japanese. So very little has been done for those boys who offered everything they had for this country. Reuters from Washington to Tokyo: Yes, but with what result?

With your approaching visit with Mr. Stalin, couldn't this subject be discussed? Couldn't Russian aid in behalf of our men be asked? Russia is in a position to get concessions from Japan and certainly she is indebted to the United States!

You must realize, Mr. Truman, as well as we that our men's lives are not certain from one day to the next under Japanese fanaticism and disdain for enemy lives.

711.94114A/7-445

711.94114A/7-445



Why do we not hear something from  
the boys who were evacuated from  
Cabanatuan & Bilbilid before their liberations?  
It has been 9 months.

You can offer your thanks to God,  
Mr Truman, that your daughter isn't  
among those forsaken Americans as  
my brother and his many gallant  
associates are.

Sincerely,  
Audrey Clark Carlson



DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
JUL 10 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*SWP*

Tahoka, Texas.

July 4th 1945. SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION

7/16/45

JUL 14 1945

Letter to Mr. Boyd

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

James F. Byrnes, Secty State,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Byrnes,

I realize that this letter maynot get past the waste basket, but I will not be satisfied until I have written in the interest of my son and others who are prisoners of the japs, my son taken a prisoner at Coregidor. These boys are suffering the torture of hell, and if you would use the influence of your office to secure the whole harted support of the Russian Government to the end that Russia would bring pressure to bear on the japs, who we all know are overly anxious to stay in the good graces of Russian, japan will grant Russian the right to transfer all our loved ones to Russia to be interned. It would be a gods send for these prisoners and I know that it can be accomplished if the proper interest is manifested and carried on with determination.

I realize that this effort is just a chance in a million, but the most I can do is to little. I do not expect a reply, only your wholeharted efforts, if you are so enclined.

Respectfully,

*M. M. Boyd*

JUL 20 1945

FILED

711 9411AA/7-445 CS/11941140/9445

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E.A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy



DSL-2  
(6-4-45)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

**SPEEDLETTER**

In reply refer to

**SWP**

Date:

This form of communication is used in the interest of speed and economy. If a reply is necessary, address the Department of State, attention of the Division mentioned below.

**SPEEDLETTER**

To:  Mr. M. M. Boyd,   
Tahoka,  
 Texas.

JUL 18 1945

GPO 16-44742-1

There is every reason to believe that the Soviet Government will be willing to assist us in any move to have our prisoners of war interned in Siberia rather than held in dangerous areas in Japan and Manchuria. However, the Japanese Government has consistently rejected proposals of this nature. There are, furthermore, no available means of transportation from Japan and Manchuria to Soviet territory except a single-track railroad line which the Japanese Government is using for military purposes exclusively.

You may rest assured that your Government will do everything possible for the protection of American prisoners of war held by the Japanese and will not abate its efforts in any particular, no matter how discouraging the circumstances may appear.

DSR - GPO Unit

Anal. *Int*

Rev. *AB*

Cat. *CM*

Dist. *ph*

SWP:CMarcy:erk

E. Tomlin Bailey  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

True copy of the original.

*50911.94140/9-445*



~~EJS~~  
~~Part in pending~~  
~~CWA~~

~~SWP~~  
DC 1R

JUL 19 1945


In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-545

My dear Mr. Huber:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 5, 1945 (P,P/3/b) in which you ask if the International Committee of the Red Cross might receive information regarding Allied prisoners of war captured by the Japanese authorities. The information to which you refer is received in the United States by radio direct from Japan.

This matter is receiving consideration and I shall communicate with you again with regard thereto.

Sincerely yours,

  
Edwin A. Plitt  
Chief, Special War Problems Division

TO: <i>Huber</i>
FROM: <i>SWP</i>
DATE: <i>7/10/45</i>



*SWP*  
JUL 18 1945 P.M. J

The Honorable  
Charles Huber, Delegate,  
International Committee of the  
Red Cross,  
1645 Connecticut Avenue, NW.,  
Washington 9, D.C.

SWP: *CWA* *Marcy*:lmv

*HC TD* 7/10/45

*FW 111.94114A/7-545*



In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-545

JUL 19 1945

The Acting Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of War and transmits for the attention of Brigadier General B.M. Bryan, Assistant The Provost Marshal General, a copy of a letter dated July 5, 1945, addressed to Mr. Edwin A. Plitt, Chief, Special War Problems Division, Department of State, by Mr. Charles Huber, Delegate to the United States of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Mr. Huber asks if the International Committee of the Red Cross might receive information regarding Allied prisoners of war captured by the Japanese authorities which is received in the United States by radio direct from Japan.

The Department of State perceives no objection to making this information available to the International Committee of the Red Cross and would appreciate receiving the opinion of the War Department with regard to this matter.

Enclosure:

From Mr. Charles Huber,  
July 5, 1945.

711.94114A/7-545

CS/LE

711.94114A/7-545

JUL 18 1945 P.M.

*Handwritten signature*

SWP:CMarcy:lmv

*Handwritten initials*

*Handwritten initials: AWB, AF*

A USE COPY  
OF THIS LETTER  
IS KEPT IN THE  
FILE

*Handwritten initials: JFC, TD, EAP*

7/10/45

*Handwritten initials: G.A.P.*



~~SECRET~~

99 Jewel Street,  
Brooklyn 22, N.Y.  
July 5, 1945.

Hon. James F. Byrnes,  
Secretary of State,  
State Department,  
Washington, D. C.

*File*  
*7/16/45*  
*90 Kozakevitch*  
*UNF/BKF*

Dear Sir:-

According to newspapers dated July 3, 1945 and radio broadcasts of the same date, it is apparent that thirty-three members of the Japanese embassy to Berlin are being transported to the United States to figure in a prisoner exchange and it was suggested that the exchange might liberate Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright.

From the first day that America has entered this war I have not spent one peaceful night and have gone through untold agonies, due to the fact that my boy was amongst the poor unfortunates who were stationed in the Philippines. Incidentally, he was amongst the boys called in the first draft and yet was sent overseas before hostilities. At the time the boys were being drafted the parents were assured and reassured that their boys would not go outside of the United States, yet a great many of them were sent to the Philippines.

As the mother of a boy who was taken prisoner on Corregidor, I wish to protest against the aforementioned exchange on the grounds that -

- 1 - It would not be a fair exchange. Why should we release thirty-three Japs for one American, even though he is Lt. Gen. Wainwright. I realize we would all like to have him back and, also, the benefit of his experience while interned, but am certain the General would not approve of such a deal.
- 2 - If we are going in for exchanges, why not exchange all the remaining boys whom the Japs are holding, especially the men who fought in the Philippines. They have been Prisoners of War over three years and am certain they are not receiving the best treatment.

Please give this matter your prompt attention.

Yours very truly,

*Josephine Kozakevitch*  
(Mrs.) Josephine Kozakevitch

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
JUL 9 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Handwritten initials*

711.94114A/7-545 CS/LE

711.94114A/7-545

JUL 23 1945



In reply refer to  
SWP

JUL 20 1945

My dear Mrs. Kozakevitch:

I have received your letter of July 5, 1945, stating that your son was taken prisoner on Corregidor and protesting against a prisoner of war exchange for the thirty-three members of the Japanese Embassy at Berlin who were captured by the Allied forces.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is

Mrs. Josephine Kozakevitch,  
99 Jewel Street,  
Brooklyn, 22, New York.

50-911941-40/1-545



-2-

There is enclosed for your information a summary of the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

*Bel*  
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Summary.

*CR*  
JUL 18 1945 P.M.

*WV*  
SWP:VWFaust:JSF

*7*  
A two copy  
the original copy  
sent.  
7/16/45



Comité International  
de la Croix Rouge à Genève, Suisse  
Délégation aux Etats-Unis  
d'Amérique



International Committee of the Red Cross  
in Geneva, Switzerland  
Delegation to the United States  
of America

1645 Connecticut Ave. N. W.  
Washington 9, D. C.

JUL 20 1945

July 5th, 1945.

In replying, refer to ( P / P/3/b )

Mr. Edwin A. Plitt,  
Chief, Special War Problems Division,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
SENT TO DCR FOR INDEXING  
JUL 6 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*File*  
*West*

My dear Mr. Plitt,

7/10/45  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
Letter to Mr. Huber  
State to War  
C in Sup am/m

We have been informed by the Foreign  
Communications Control, that the Japanese Authorities  
have recently been communicating over the radio, the  
names, identification numbers and units of allied  
prisoners of war captured by the Japanese Army.

As we would very much like to  
communicate this information to our Geneva Headquarters  
for the completion of their records, we are wondering  
whether you could possibly authorize the F.C.C. to  
send this information to us, so that we may transmit it  
to Geneva.

Thanking you for your cooperation in  
this matter, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Charles Huber*  
CHARLES HUBER,  
Delegate.

sgc.

*sgc*  
*Huber*  
*gw*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
JUL 1 1945  
*Huber*

711.94114A/7-545

711.94114A/7-545  
CS/MIAJ



50.  
703

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

### TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE  
CLASSIFICATION OF THE  
MESSAGE:

Collect

The  
**Department of State**  
Washington

**SECRET**

Charge Department:

Charge to Department

JUL 5 1945  
7 PM

U.S. POLAD  
HOECHST, GERMANY  
65

711.94114A/7-545

This morning's Post carries U.P. story attributed to diplomatic sources regarding departure certain Jap from Salzburg which states some will be exchanged for General Wainwright. A.P. deleted corresponding item from its story after consulting Dept.

XR  
811.9111  
740.94115

Such speculative reports in press hamper negotiations with Allied and enemy govts and may have serious effect on utility of measures taken by Dept looking toward exchanges. To extent they encourage individuals to hope relatives may be specifically included in exchange by name, they cause needless distress.

By phone  
to  
Maj. Simpson  
Liaison Branch  
G-2  
Dad

War Dept informed of foregoing and may suggest SHAEF discourage speculation by officers dealing with press on exchanges with Jap. Please caution your staff correspondingly.

711.94114  
JUL 5 1945 P.M.  
Bcl

DCR - <sup>GP-C</sup> SUR Unit	
Anal.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Rev.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dat.	
Dist.	

SWP:AEClattenburg:BB 7-3-45 SA/M

(First paragraph includes information provided by Mr. Penfold, SA/M)

SENT  
JA  
*[Signature]*

Confidential  
CS/MAJ  
911.94114/7-545



The tugboat is commanded by Comdr. J. H. Harper, Centerville, Md.

# Wainwright May Be Traded For Nip Envoys

By the United Press

Arrangements are expected to be made with the Japanese government for the exchange of Lieut. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright for some of the 132 Japanese diplomatic and consular offices captured in Germany, diplomatic sources said last night.

Wainwright, taken by the Japanese when his American forces surrendered on Corregidor, is a prisoner in Korea.

## Japs En Route to U. S.

Salzburg, Austria, July 2 (AP).—Thirty-three members of the Japanese embassy to Berlin left by plane today for the United States to figure in a prisoner exchange.

The diplomats included Gen. Hiroshi Oshima, Japanese Ambassador to Berlin; Admiral Hideo Kojimabara, and Lieut. Gen. Mitsuhihi Kamatso.

The Japanese were seized at Bad Gastein in the Austrian Tyrol when Germany was falling.

They departed with this message from PFC Michael Cipkowski, New York:

"You won't recognize your country when you get back."

## Density of Smokes

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Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'J' or '8'.



~~SWP~~

AIRGRAM

DCR

FROM

Bern

Dated July 6, 1945.

Rec'd July 20 8pm

UNRESTRICTED

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

A-863 July 6.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 23 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

American Interests - Far East

Department's airmail 3027 June 25

711 941140/6-1945

Owing to Swiss impossibility to forward mail to its representatives in Far East Legation now sending all duplicate Red Cross identification cards to Interross Geneva.

by SWP

HARRISON

Bryan-Bresce  
Wang  
Gudelson  
Huang-2

JUL 29 1945

DCR - SP-C Unit  
Dorothea M. Laurion  
Anal. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. \_\_\_\_\_  
Cat. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 16 1945

GT/mak

711.94114A/7-645 CSLE 711.941140/7-645

X



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RECEIVED  
JUL 13 1945 July 12, 1945  
DC  
OFFICE OF CHIEF

~~A. C. Carter~~

Respectfully referred to the  
Department of State for attention  
and acknowledgment.

M. C. LATTA  
Executive Clerk



Kansas City, Missouri,  
July 6<sup>th</sup> 1945.

Harry S. Truman,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 13 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Mr. President:-

I take the liberty of writing to you again, seeking your aid in regard to my son Robert Emmet Daniels, Seaman first Class U. S. N. Service No. is 341-80-85. who from the last communication from the Provost Marshal General, Washington, D.C. dated Feb. 23, 1945 is interned as a prisoner of war by the Japanese Government at Fukuoka Prison Camp, Island of Honshu, Japan.

You were so very kind in obtaining what information you could for us in January of 1942. That I just could not resist appealing to you once more for a very big favor.

I read in the Kansas City, Star where there is to be a negotiation with the Japanese in regard to the exchange of prisoners.

If that is true, will you do what you can in behalf of my son? I will be always grateful.

My husband, William P. Daniels, had the honor of meeting you at the Picnic Lunch

Anal.  
Rev.  
Dist.

711.9  
SMM  
A/7-64E  
SMM  
71194114



2

and Class reunion at the University of  
Kansas City. You were in his class at the  
Kansas City School of Law.

I was present at the Homecoming and  
Convocation at the Kansas City Municipal  
Auditorium. It was a very impressive  
sight.

May Almighty God bless you and  
your administration be most successful.

Very Sincerely yours,

Mrs. William P. Daniels,  
2536 Chelsea Ave.,  
Kansas City, Mo.



25

*File*

JUL 20 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-645

My dear Mrs. Daniels:

Your letter of July 6, 1945 addressed to the President has been referred to this Department for reply. You state that you have read in the newspapers that there is to be another exchange and request that every effort be made to have your son, Robert Emmet Daniels, presently interned by the Japanese, included in any such exchange.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is enclosed for your information a summary of  
the

Mrs. William P. Daniels,  
2536 Chelsea Avenue,  
Kansas City, 1, Missouri.

*Sub  
DAB**711.94114A/7-645*



-2-

the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

*Bcl*  
Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr.,  
Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Statement.

*CR*  
JUL 18 1945 P.M.

*J*

SWP:RCEker:MA 7-17-45



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

July 6 1945

Secretary  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

*Joseph B. Cooper*  
MEMBER CONGRESS  
FOURTH DISTRICT, S. C.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
- o -  
The Secretary wishes an acknowledgment sent immediately if this communication cannot be answered in three days.



~~SWP~~  
July 19, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 12 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
TRIAL SERVICES

JUL 7 AM 11 52

RECORDS BRANCH

711.94114A/7-645

Desire of A.H. Easterby  
106 W. North St, Greenville,  
N.C. to have name of  
Colonel Roy C. Hilton -  
kidnapped by Japanese  
govt, included in any  
future exchange that  
may be negotiated.

①

File  
DVB  
am

JUL 24 1945

FILED

FILED for 7-645



25

July 19, 1945

ply refer to

My dear Mr. Bryson:

I have received your letter of July 6, 1945 with enclosures concerning the desire of Mr. A. H. Easterby, 106 West North Street, Greenville, South Carolina, to have the name of Colonel Roy C. Hilton, presently interned by the Japanese Government, included in any future exchange that may be negotiated.

The Department of State is responsible for doing what can be done to alleviate the hardships of American citizens held by the Japanese Government as prisoners of war or otherwise. The end of the European phase of the war left in our possession numerous captured Japanese diplomats whose presence in American hands may be helpful to us in our efforts to bring about exchanges of prisoners between our Government and the Japanese. In as much as we have to coordinate with our Allies in negotiating with the Japanese Government for the exchange of the Japanese officials captured in Europe, it has not yet been possible to place before the Japanese Government any concrete proposals regarding them. There has therefore been no approach to the Japanese Government suggesting the exchange of these individuals for any specific person or persons.

You may be assured that the United States Government will take every possible advantage of the capture of the Japanese officials in question in order to benefit all American citizens now in Japanese custody.

There is enclosed for your information a summary of  
the

The Honorable

Joseph R. Bryson,

House of Representatives.



-2-

the measures that have been taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in an endeavor to bring about their repatriation and to ship relief supplies to them.

The enclosures to your letter are returned herewith, copies having been made for the Department's files.

Sincerely yours,

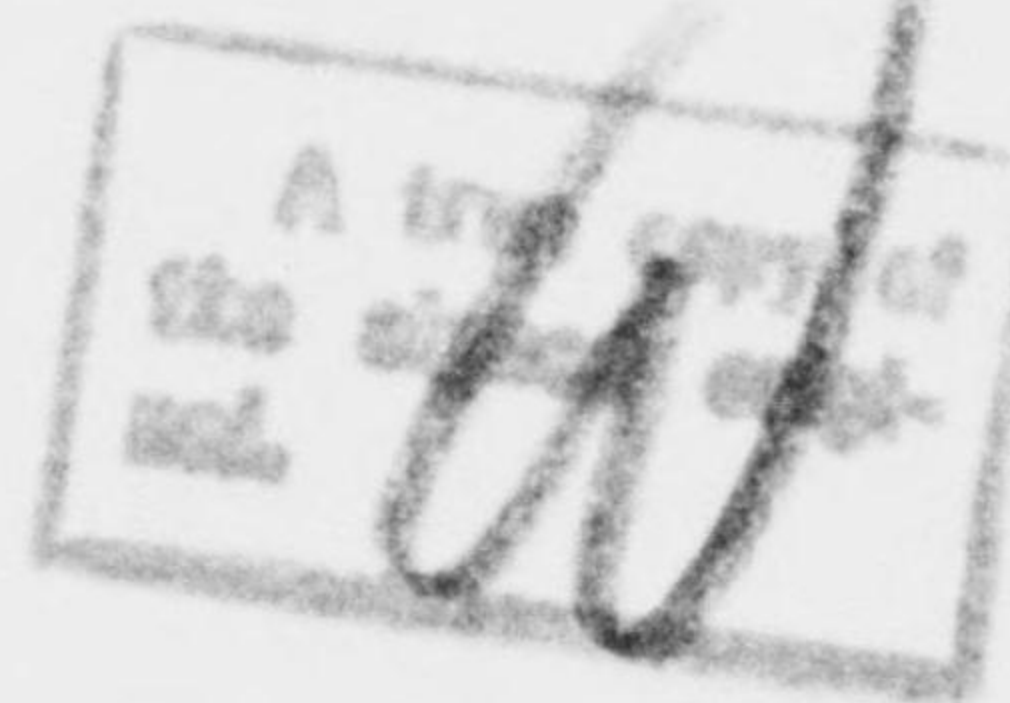
Joseph G. Grew

Acting Secretary.

Enclosures:

1. Statement.
2. From Mr. William F. Pearson,  
July 5, 1945.
3. From Mr. A. H. Easterby,  
July 3, 1945.

CR  
JUL 18 1945 P.M.



Routine  
H

BCI  
SWP:RCEcker:MA

7-17-45



P.F.C. James R. Caldwell, Army serial number 19,052,384,

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
7/17/45 DIVISION  
Let. to Mrs. Caldwell  
JUL 13 1945

CMK  
DOR

Dear President,

I have a son who is listed in the Army, in April, 1941. He was sent over seas the following June. He was sent to Manila in the Phillipines. I received a letter from the War Department in June, 1942 that he was captured by the Japanese. It has been one year since we have heard anything about him. He was then in Osaka Japan.

He has been in the Army four years and has never got a furlough.

If there is any way he can be exchanged it will be greatly appreciated.

If you can get me any word from him or see if he can be exchanged, it surely will be appreciated.

Dorothea M. Laurion

Sincerely yours

ms  
KF - Mrs. Nona M. Caldwell  
Route # one  
(over) Portagville, Mo.

711-541-4A/7-645  
CS/LE  
7/11/45  
7-645



This is my sons address

P.O. James Caldwell 19,052,384

Osaka, Japan

048-7144-144-117

0-717

Handwritten notes and stamps, including a date stamp 'JUL 1 1952' and a postmark '11 22'.



In reply refer to  
SWP

JUL 18 1945

My dear Mrs. Caldwell:

The receipt is acknowledged by reference from the White House of your letter of July 6, 1945, concerning your son who was captured by the Japanese early in 1942 and who is now held as a prisoner of war. You ask if there is anything that can be done to arrange for his exchange.

I assure you that this Government has endeavored unceasingly to effect the return to the United States of military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands. I do not consider it likely that the Japanese Government would consent to the repatriation of able-bodied American prisoners of war since it is one of the major objectives of modern warfare to deplete as rapidly as possible the military forces of an opposing belligerent. It would be inconsistent, therefore, with the methods of modern warfare for belligerents to return to their native countries during hostilities strong and able-bodied prisoners of war.

There is enclosed an information sheet which indicates among other things the steps which have been taken by this Government with a view to repatriating American sick and wounded and American protected personnel held by the Japanese. You will observe that despite the obligations of the Japanese Government under Article 12 of the Red Cross Convention to repatriate protected personnel they have thus far repatriated only five nurses who were captured on Guam. Despite repeated efforts to secure the return of additional protected personnel, the Japanese Government has continually refused to repatriate them.

From

Mrs. Nona M. Caldwell,  
Route #1,  
Portageville, Missouri.

Handwritten note on the right margin: F 30 m. 941142 / 9-6-45



- 2 -

From the enclosed information sheet you will see that the Department of State has assiduously endeavored to effect the return of repatriable military and protected personnel. This Government is powerless to bring about their return, however, without the cooperation of the Japanese Government.

You may be sure that your Government will continue its negotiations with the Japanese Government for the return of American nationals and will explore every feasible method of arranging for their return to their homeland.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

Parmely W. Herrick  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division

Enclosure:

Information sheet.

JUL 18 1945 P.M.

*CM*  
SWP:CMarcy:erk

7/17/45



*548P*

CARTER GLASS, VA., CHAIRMAN  
 KENNETH MC KELLAR, TENN.  
 CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.  
 ELMER THOMAS, OKLA.  
 JAMES F. BYRNES, S. C.  
 MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD.  
 RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.  
 ALVA B. ADAMS, COLO.  
 PATRICK MC CARRAN, NEV.  
 JOHN H. OVERTON, LA.  
 JOHN H. BANKHEAD, ALA.  
 JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY, WYO.  
 HARRY S. TRUMAN, MO.  
 EDWARD R. BURKE, NEBR.  
 THEODORE FRANCIS GREEN, R. I.  
 FRANCIS T. MALONEY, CONN.  
 DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.

FREDERICK HALE, MAINE  
 GERALD P. NYE, N. DAK.  
 JOHN G. TOWNSEND, JR., DEL.  
 STYLES BRIDGES, N. H.  
 HENRY CABOT LODGE, JR., MASS.  
 RUFUS C. HOLMAN, OREG.  
 ROBERT A. TAFT, OHIO

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

JULY 10 1945

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK  
JOHN W. R. SMITH, ASST. CLERK

Unacknowledged letters  
sent immediately if this  
communication cannot be  
answered in three days

July 6, 1945.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
 7/11/45 DIVISION  
 Letter to Senator Chavez  
 JUL 9 1945  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*gll  
am*

Honorable James F. Byrnes,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am in receipt of a number of communications from mothers and fathers of our Bataan heroes who are prisoners of war in Japan. They have asked the possibility of negotiating with Japan through Russia for the release of these men by the payment of ransom or by any other possible means.

I suggest that this matter be given consideration and study prior to the meeting of President Truman with Premier Stalin. I would appreciate your views in this regard.

kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Dennis Chavez*

Dennis Chavez, U.S.S.

DC/jys

711.94114A/7-645

RECORDS SECTION  
1945 JUL 7 AM 10:00

711.94114A/7-645  
CS/MAJ  
JUL 16 1945

711.94114A/7-645  
CS/MAJ



July 13<sup>th</sup> 1945.

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/7-645

My dear Senator Chavez:

I have received your letter of July 6, 1945, in which you state that you are in receipt of a number of communications from relatives of Americans who are held as prisoners of war by the Japanese. These communications suggest the possibility of negotiating with Japan through Russia for the release of these prisoners by the payment of ransom or by any other means and you suggest that the matter be given consideration.

I assure you that this Government has endeavored unceasingly to effect the return to the United States of military personnel who have fallen into Japanese hands. I do not consider it likely that the Japanese Government would consent to the repatriation of able-bodied American prisoners of war since it is one of the major objectives of modern warfare to deplete as rapidly as possible the military forces of an opposing belligerent. It would be inconsistent, therefore, with the methods of modern warfare for belligerents to return to their native countries during hostilities strong and able-bodied prisoners of war.

Provision is made, however, in Article 68 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 for the repatriation of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war. The Japanese Government is not a party to this Convention, but upon the outbreak of war it notified the United States Government that on humanitarian grounds it would apply the provisions of the Convention, mutatis mutandis, to the treatment of American prisoners of war. The United

States

The Honorable

Dennis Chavez,

United States Senate.

711.94114A/7-645

CS/DT 711.94114a/7-645



-2-

States Government has made insistent demands that the Japanese Government honor Article 68 of the Convention.

At the time of the first two civilian exchanges, this Government demanded that the Japanese Government permit the return of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war. The Japanese Government replied that it could not make a favorable response. When negotiations were reopened in March 1944 for a third civilian exchange the United States Government again proposed that seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war be repatriated. To this last proposal the Japanese Government has not replied.

Certain protected personnel, such as chaplains and those who are charged exclusively with the removal, transportation, and treatment of the wounded and sick, as well as with the administration of sanitary formations and establishments, are also repatriable. Article 12 of the Red Cross Convention, to which Japan is a party, stipulates that such persons may not be detained after they have fallen into the power of an adversary and, unless there is an agreement to the contrary, are to be sent back to the belligerent to whose service they are attached as soon as a way is open for their return and military exigencies permit. The United States Government has made repeated efforts to secure the return of such personnel. At the time of the first civilian exchange the Japanese Government permitted, however, only the repatriation of five nurses who had been taken on Guam.

From the foregoing account, you will see that the Department has assiduously endeavored to effect the return of repatriable military and protected personnel but that this Government is powerless to bring about their return without the cooperation of the Japanese Government. In view of the fact that the Japanese Government has been unwilling to repatriate sick and wounded prisoners of war in accordance with the obligations of the Geneva Convention, I do not consider it likely that it would accept a proposal to repatriate able-bodied prisoners of war even though money were offered to induce their repatriation.

I assure you that in its negotiations with the Japanese Government for the return of American nationals, this Government will not cease in its efforts

to



to induce the Japanese Government to permit the return of American military personnel as well as civilians, and that every possibility of effecting their repatriation is being examined.

I enclose for your information duplicate information sheets concerning measures taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in Japanese custody. You will observe that one section of the enclosed information sheet concerns the efforts which have been made by the Department of State to arrange for the repatriation of Americans held by the Japanese.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosure:

Information sheet  
in duplicate.

MR NID  
JUL 12 12:15 P.M.

*Bohne*

*Same as George  
letter to Sen George*

*M*

*CM*  
SWP:CMarcy:lmv  
*Am*

7/11/45





# AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

July 7, 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
JUL 7 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*File*  
*Approved with*  
*Mr. Redfern*  
*Mr. Murray*  
*7-11-45*  
*WJC*

Mr. Eldred Kuppinger  
Assistant Chief, Special Division  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kuppinger:

I enclose herewith, in duplicate, copies of the material which we have prepared for the first issue of the Far Eastern Prisoners of War Bulletin, which we hope to have ready for mailing by about August 1.

After you have had an opportunity to go over this material, will you please let me know when it would be convenient for me, or my assistant, Mrs. Virginia Lamont, to come over and discuss it with you.

Yours sincerely,

*Gilbert Redfern*

Gilbert Redfern  
Editor  
Prisoners of War Bulletin

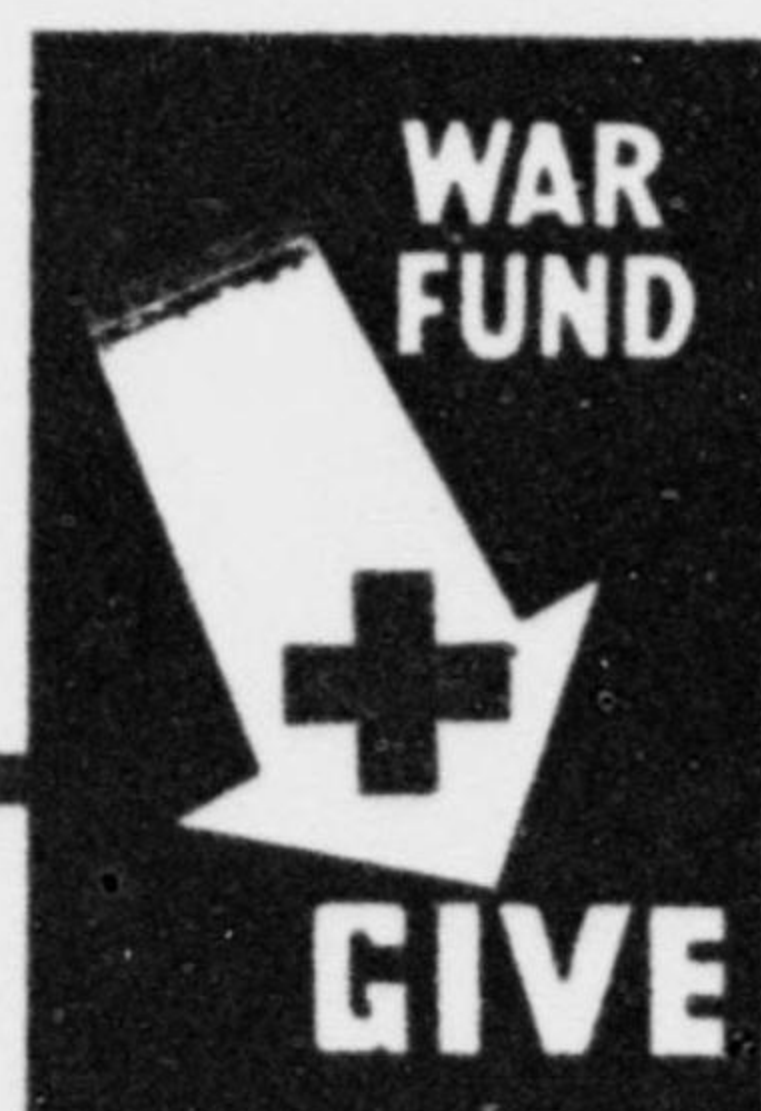
GR:VKL

*File*  
*WJC*  
*5/21*

SEP 28 1945

711.94114A/7-745

CS/LE 111.94114a/7-745



KEEP YOUR RED CROSS AT HIS SIDE



## AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE FAR EAST

By Captain H. L. Pence, USN (Ret'd)

*Heads*

Captain Pence, who recently retired from the Navy, is now in charge of the Far Eastern section of Relief to Prisoners of War. Mr. John Cotton, who formerly held that post, returned to the Philippines in June. Editor

One year ago, the largest concentration of American prisoners of war in the Far East was in the Philippines. At the same time, the largest concentrations of civilian internees were in the Philippines and the Shanghai area. With the liberation of the Philippines in the first half of 1945, many prisoners of war and civilian internees who had been confined in that area were released. Of the remainder, a number were evacuated to camps in Japan and elsewhere in the north, while others were found to be missing. At the present time, the greatest concentrations of prisoners of war are in Japan and Manchuria, and the greatest concentration of civilian internees in Shanghai.

At the beginning of July 1944, information obtained from official lists, and from reports of the Protecting Power (Switzerland) and the International Committee of the Red Cross, disclosed a total of 22,294 <sup>that are in the Far East</sup> American prisoners of war and 9,526 civilian internees (in the Far East). At the present time (July 1945), official lists show a total of approximately 10,400 known prisoners of war and approximately 3,600 known civilian internees. These numbers do not include 5,245 prisoners of war who were in the Philippines but whose present whereabouts are still not officially known. Similarly, they do not



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include 2,106 civilian internees still unaccounted for. There is some evidence of prisoners of war and civilian internees being moved several times and to various areas. Reports of these moves have not always been available. In due course, it is hoped that more accurate figures can be given, (and that more frequent visits to prisoner of war and civil internment camps will be made by Delegates of the International Red Cross and representatives of the Protecting Power.) In the areas where camp visits have so far been possible, they have averaged about one per camp per year, *but*

*and further* A press report from Manila in the latter part of June gave some statistics released by the Recovered Personnel Branch of the Adjutant General's office of "Army Forces Pacific," the latter being the new title of General MacArthur's command. It was reported that of the more than 18,000 members of U.S. Armed Forces captured at Bataan and Corregidor by the Japanese in 1942, 10,000 enlisted men and 2,000 officers had been sent to prison camps in Japan and other northern areas; 3,260 had been officially reported dead; and 1,447 had been rescued. Roughly, at this time, about 1,500 are still missing. As to civilians, 5,844 have been liberated in the Philippines. In general, the Japanese left the weak and sick in the Philippines, the others having been sent to northern areas, presumably to labor camps. As to commissioned personnel, officers of the grade of Colonel and above were usually sent to metropolitan Japan or Manchuria. Bilibid Prison, in Manila, was the staging point for the shipment of prisoners of war, and official records were maintained there.

#### RELIEF SHIPMENTS

Relief so far has been supplied by furnishing funds, and by forwarding shipments of food, medicines, clothing, and other articles, whenever it was possible to make arrangements for delivery by the Japanese. Neither method



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has been entirely successful. Local purchases have been high in cost and difficult to obtain. Any favorable changes in exchange rates have been quickly absorbed by inflationary trends. While Japan has announced her general adherence to the Geneva Convention, she does not permit neutral vessels to enter any area under her control. As a result of this restriction, it has been necessary to ship supplies via the only available neutral in the Far East, namely, Soviet Russia, and to depend upon Japan to pick up such supplies at a Russian port. This has been done, but the delays have been longer than expected, and there is no assurance that supplies can continue to be sent in that manner.

During the past year (July 1, 1944 to June 30, 1945), the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross (representing also the Dominion Red Cross societies), the Netherlands Indies Red Cross, and the YMCA have been able:

- (a) To effect the delivery and distribution of one shipment of supplies to Far Eastern prisoner of war and civil internment camps. This shipment (valued at \$1,772,058) was sent to a port near Vladivostok, Siberia, by Russian ships, and was picked up there by Japanese vessels and distributed to the various areas. The following articles were sent in this shipment:

From American Red Cross

205,932 food parcels  
2,516 cases drugs  
15,040 sets tropical clothing  
4,465 sets heavy clothing  
7,050 overcoats  
4,176 pairs of shoes  
128 shoe repair kits  
15,630 comfort sets  
99 cases cigarettes

From British Red Cross

81,534 food parcels  
37 cases miscellaneous foods  
195 pairs of shoes



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From Canadian Red Cross

42,016 food parcels

From YMCA

294 cases recreational and educational supplies. The International Red Cross has reported the delivery of this shipment and the report indicates an effective distribution.

- (b) To have delivered at Vladivostok, about June 1, 1945, a second shipment of 1,500 tons of relief supplies, valued at \$1,166,181.

It contained the following:

From American Red Cross

155,152 food parcels  
5,190 cases medical supplies

From Canadian Red Cross

*115,000*  
~~155,000~~ food parcels

From YMCA

298 cases recreational and educational supplies  
10 cases supplies for blind prisoners

From National Catholic Welfare Conference

60 cases recreational supplies and books

- (c) To prepare for a third shipment of food, medicines and clothing to be available for forwarding whenever it is possible to do so. This shipment includes 10,000 pairs of spectacles to meet a definite need. It is planned to add to this shipment also certain items in bulk, the need for which is particularly apparent.
- (d) To begin the assembly of release kits for men, women and children, valued at approximately \$243,000, to be forwarded to an advanced base for distribution as prisoners of war and civilian internees are liberated.

The American Red Cross has also established, through the International Red Cross, a revolving fund of \$25,000 at Tokyo to permit the timely local purchase of articles available in the market. In addition, outright grants



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of funds have been made where the need has been justified by reports of responsible officials. *The U.S. Govt. through its War Relocation Authority has also provided funds for prisoners of war and civilian internees.*

Furthermore, the American Red Cross has been able to send to Far Eastern camps by mail (via Tehran, as in case of prisoner of war mail):

- Italy*
- (a) 960 packages of multi-vitamin tablets, each package containing 2,000 capsules, and
  - (b) 60,000 units of insulin

The Japanese authorities now permit all prisoners of war and civilian internees to send collect cablegrams to their families. Each American prisoner of war and civilian internee can send collect one ten-word message per year. These are paid for by the appropriate agency in the United States. The first of these arrived in the United States in January 1945, and they have been coming continuously since that time.



TOKYO CAMP AND HOSPITAL VISITED

The Omori Camp No. 8, and the Higashi Shinagawa hospital, located in the Tokyo area, were visited by an International Red Cross Delegate on February 19 last. Omori, he reported, is located on an artificial island connected with the Tokyo-Yokohama road by a wooden bridge, while the Higashi Shinagawa hospital is close to the port of Tokyo, and can be reached in ten minutes from the city.

At the time of the visit, the Omori camp had an Allied strength of 611 prisoners of war, of whom 230 were British; 317 Americans, including 65 officers; 11 Australians; and 53 other nationalities. The total camp area, consisted of 2,500 square yards, surrounded by a fence ten feet high, and was situated between industrial installations. The low, wooden, barrack buildings were reported to be well ventilated, with sufficient electric lighting, and to contain chairs, tables and double-tier sleeping planks. Prisoners slept on straw mats on the planks, and were provided with a sheet, pillow, and five thin blankets. There were no heating facilities. Sick prisoners, and those over forty years of age, received an extra blanket. At one end of each barrack was a small room for housing three or four officers. Because of insufficient space, 24 officers slept in the soldiers' barracks, but this situation was to be remedied by making a food storage barrack into an officers' dormitory. The treatment of prisoners had improved since the appointment of a new commandant early in 1944. The doctor in charge feared contagion, and the commandant expressed nervousness over possible bombardment. (Air raids over the Tokyo-Yokohama ~~are~~ have been frequent and heavy in recent months.

Sufficient wash basins, and one large Japanese bath, with additional bathing facilities at working sites, provided for the men to have two baths and showers each week. Prisoners received one bar of soap each quarter, and

and according to reliable reports Ed.) the Japs have not taken action to remove camps from areas subject to bombardment in accordance with their obligation under Article IX of the Geneva Conv.



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did their own laundry work. Sanitation facilities were reported adequate. The camp had fire extinguishing equipment. Trenches served as air raid shelters, but offered insufficient protection.

The daily food ration of 2,400 calories corresponded to that furnished Japanese soldiers, and was supplemented by meat, fish, vegetables, miso, oil, sugar, salt, pickles, and shoya. An additional 500 calories, consisting of soup, fish, soya and rice, were distributed to prisoners at places of work, together with three cigarettes or more. The quantity of food was said to be sufficient, but somewhat lacking in meat and fats. Prisoners could buy at cost tea, spices, fruit juices, and sometimes fruits and cigars, in the canteen. Prisoners raised pigs and poultry, and could fish.

The infirmary, with two consultation rooms and a well supplied pharmacy, was roomy, and the physician in charge stated he was satisfied, but that he feared an early lack of engine. Medical visits were made every two weeks, and, whenever possible, every ten days. The prisoner of war sanitary personnel consisted of two doctors and two dentists, several non-commissioned officers, and enlisted men. Dental care was provided at the camp, except for serious and complicated cases, which were treated at the Shinagawa hospital. Serious illnesses were rare, the most prevalent diseases being amoebic dysentery and beri-beri, as well as colds. The average weight of prisoners was 143 lbs. All services were free, and the Japanese authorities declared health conditions were satisfactory. Since the camp was opened in September 1943, thirty eight deaths occurred, ten during 1944.

Prisoners received clothing from the Japanese army, but were not well supplied with warm underwear or shoes. A repair shop was maintained in camp, and prisoners had opportunities to purchase clothes at official prices. Officers received pay corresponding to the same ranks in the Japanese army.



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Protestant services were held weekly, with sermons by two chaplains. Some sports equipment and games were available, but more were requested, of which the YMCA had been informed. No radios were permitted, but a victrola, records, and musical instruments, had been supplied. No studies had been arranged, and only one movie was shown in 1944. Many letters had been received, and, the report continued, prisoners could send one or two letters each month. On the day of the Delegate's visit, 20,000 letters were ready for distribution in prisoner of war camps in the Tokyo area. Those from the United States were dated around August 1944. Some prisoners had sent radio messages and received replies by mail.

Thirty prisoners worked outside the camp in factories and workshops. Others in the camp worked in the kitchen, infirmary, and repair shops. One hundred worked on pelts, and officers complained that many of them were obliged to do this work. The Japanese commandant told the delegate that, according to his instructions, no officer was obliged to work, and he promised an investigation. The daily wages ranged from 25 sen (12½¢) for working officers, 15 sen (7½¢) for noncoms, and 10 sen (5¢) for enlisted men. Discipline was described as "generally good, with the men contented, and no attempted escapes."

Red Cross relief packages recently received consisted of one parcel per prisoner last Christmas, and one and one-half packages each in January 1945.

#### The Higashi Shinagawa Hospital

The Delegate reported that 259 prisoners were ill on the day of his visit to Higashi Shinagawa Hospital, which had a protected personnel of 10 British and 21 Americans, including five officers. Four British and three American noncoms were employed in the kitchen.

The patients were housed in seven lightly constructed barracks, each containing a consultation room and space to lodge 10 patients. The floors were



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of beaten earth, and the internees slept on mats about eleven inches from the floor. All had one sheet, one pillow, and five blankets. The heating was insufficient, but pneumonia patients were lodged in continually heated rooms. Bathing and sanitation facilities were reported to be adequate, patients being permitted two baths a week. One bar of soap per man per quarter was supplied. Treatments were given in a central barrack, which contained an operation room, several consultation rooms, X-ray, pharmacy, dental room, and pathological laboratory. Doctor prisoners confirmed that medications received from the Japanese authorities and Swiss Legation were adequate in quantity and quality. British and American doctors worked with Japanese physicians. The treatments were described as excellent, with only four deaths following 174 operations. Main ailments were dysentery, tuberculosis, beriberi, and pneumonia. Since the hospital was opened in August 1943, 53 deaths had occurred, 43 of which were in 1944.

The principal diet consisted of bread, fish, miso, vegetables, meat, oil, salt, pickles, and sugar, supplemented by milk, soya milk, and dried blood. Kitchens were well arranged, and prisoners were allowed to buy, at cost, from the canteen, tea, spices, fruit juices, and sometimes fruit and cigarettes. Internees receive three cigarettes a day. British and American doctors declared food was now sufficient, and an improvement over the previous year.

<sup>It is stated</sup> Clothing was supplied by the Japanese army, and internees could purchase clothes if needed. British and American doctors, however, preferred the International Red Cross Committee to provide clothing. The same financial arrangements were made for patients, and other hospital internees, as for the Omori prisoners of war. Only three religious services had been held since the opening of the hospital, but 200 books, musical instruments, with a victrola



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and records, were available. The sanitary corps was free every Sunday afternoon, and no work other than care of the sick was required of them. Prisoners were allowed to send two letters each month to families, and some had received replies by mail to their radio messages. Letters arrived regularly, and in large number. The Allied physicians considered treatment satisfactory, but they requested that the hospital be clearly marked because of danger of air bombardment. Inspection by the Delegate was interrupted by a half-hour bombardment. Air-raid shelters were better than those in the main camp, and fire extinguishing apparatus was available. Allied doctors wished their families to be informed that they were in good health.



STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN

At a White House press conference on June 1, President Truman made the following statement:

I wish to express my very deep sympathy for the relatives of those members of the Armed Forces who have the misfortune still to be held prisoners of war by the enemy. The welfare of these men is a matter of deep concern to me and I am determined to do everything possible to help them and to bring about their release as soon as possible.

To this end, every effort is being made to get relief supplies and mail through to them. At the same time, definite information is being sought concerning the names of those men who are still held as prisoners of war. The eventual liberation of these prisoners will be the result of victory by our Armed Forces, and depends upon the unrelenting prosecution of the war effort by every American.



LUNGHWA CIVILIAN ASSEMBLY CENTER

The International Red Cross Delegate at Shanghai visited the Lunghwa Civilian Assembly Center, located a few miles south of Shanghai, on May 24. At that time the Center housed 1,748 internees, 50 of whom were Americans. The Delegate conversed freely with the camp spokesman and other internees. He reported that their state of health was satisfactory, and that special measures had been taken by the camp committee to prevent a recurrence of mosquito troubles which last year caused a number of malaria cases. The medicament supply was adequate, and the thirty infirmary patients received competent nursing service and care. There was only one dentist at the Center, however.

The water supply was satisfactory, 2,000 gallons being provided daily. Drinking water was obtained from the waterworks of the former French concession. Fire fighting equipment was adequate, but little provision was made for air raids. However, since no military objectives were situated near the camp, the lack of raid protection was not considered important.

Glasses for children ranging from primary instruction to preparation for university were arranged under competent teachers. Facilities for both indoor and outdoor games were provided, and frequent musical and theatrical entertainments by talented internees of all nationalities were arranged.

The gardening section was reported in excellent condition, with livestock, including cows, chickens, pigs, rabbits, geese and ducks, being under experienced care. Sufficient milk was produced for sick internees and children under seven years of age.

The general food position was nevertheless reported to be unsatisfactory, but the Delegate felt that the Japanese authorities were making genuine efforts to overcome difficulties. They had increased the bread ration by 12 ounces daily for each person to compensate for temporary shortages of other foodstuffs. Camp morale was said to be excellent, and the internees expressed appreciation of the cooperation of the camp commander.



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MOORE

Early in July, the Tokyo radio ("Postern Calling") broadcast a message from Major General George F. Moore to his wife at San Francisco, Calif. The message stated, in part:

*Moore* I am with the same group of General Wainwright and General Keene. I saw Catrill, Bayer, Brady, Cruse, Helm, and Chase. They are all in fine spirits. Do not worry about me.

The broadcast did not state which camp the message came from. Other messages broadcast on the same program were from the Hóten and Tokyo camps.

General Wainwright and other American prisoners were transferred, late in 1944, from Taiwan. It is believed that they were moved to Hoten, in Manchuria, but this has not yet been confirmed.



WAR PRISONERS TRANSFERRED FROM SHANGHAI

A cable from the International Committee of the Red Cross, received in June, stated that the prisoner of war camp at Shanghai was being moved to an undisclosed location in north China.

No further detail had been received from the International Red Cross up to the end of July, but it is understood that the camp was moved to the vicinity of Peking.



JAPANESE BROADCASTS

A civilian message program was started by Radio Tokyo about the middle of June. After a propaganda opening, the announcer said: Hello, folks. I just dropped in for a little friendly chat. You do not know me yet, but you will, because I will be around quite often with friends and relatives interned here in far off Japan. My name is Dale Andrews. Three messages were then broadcast to Boise, Idaho, from men at Fukuoka. You see this is the first time civilians have had a program of their own. Two more messages from Fukuoka were given, after a burst of propaganda in which the announcer described a visit with friends to "a quaint Japanese house in Tokyo", after which he walked back to the internment camp.



RED CROSS SOCIETY PLANNED FOR THE PHILIPPINES

An independent Red Cross Society is planned for the Philippines to take over the work among civilians now being done in conjunction with the American Red Cross organization. Basil O'Connor, national chairman of the American Red Cross, conferred with General Douglas MacArthur and Philippine officials during a recent visit to Luzon.

The Philippines Red Cross Society is being assisted by the American Red Cross in developing a program within the financial limitations of the Philippine Red Cross to raise funds within the Islands. Mr. O'Connor estimated the Philippine Red Cross would be able to carry out its plans, without financial assistance from the American organization, by about July 1946, and emphasized that the program became effective irrespective of the date set by Congress for Philippine Independence. The Philippine Red Cross is eventually expected to become a separate member of the International Red Cross.



RED CROSS DELEGATION IN JAPAN

Dr. Marcel Junod, who has been appointed to head the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation in Japan, and Miss Margherita Staehler, a technical assistant, left Switzerland for Tokyo in June. They travelled via Tehran and the Soviet Union.

VITAMIN SHIPMENTS

The vitamin program for prisoners of war and civilian internees, held by Japan, inaugurated in June 1944, has proceeded smoothly with shipments by air from the United States every two weeks. Reports from Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and liberated prisoners, indicate that shipments have been regularly received and distributed among the various camps in the Far East,

*Tehran and thence overland.*



EFFECTS OF MISSING IN ACTION

The personal effects of navy fliers reported missing in action in the Pacific Area are forwarded to Personal Effects Distribution Center, U. S. Naval Supply Depot, Farragut, Idaho, for distribution to next of kin. Those of army fliers missing in action in the Pacific Area are forwarded to Effects Quartermaster, Army Effects Bureau, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, Kansas City, Missouri.

It had been previously reported that the personal effects of navy fliers were sent to Clearfield, Utah, for distribution.