

DECLASSIFIED

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

711.94114A/1-146 -- 12-3146

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INCOMING TELEGRAM

ACTION COPY

ACTION: SPD
INFO:
FE GEM 0
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DC/R

SPECIAL PROJECTS
1/4/46 DIVISION
*Telegram to Am Consul
JAN 2 - 1946 Manila*
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

99
PLAIN

Manila

Undated

Rec'd January 2, 1946
4:26 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
JAN 2 - 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PRIORITY

Unnumbered, undated.

FROM CG 8TH ARMY

TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON DC (AFPACPLS PASS)

INFO INCAFPAC ADV

Nr. DX 78167 Y JA

Request release to this headquarters of records of
International Red Cross inspections of Japanese POW camp
17-B Omuta Kyushu Japan between 1 August 1943 AV.

740.00114A P/1-246
711.94114A/1-246

MESSAGE UNSIGNED

EEC

PLAIN

DCR - GP-C Unit
Anal. *[Signature]*
Rev. *[Signature]*
Cat. *[Signature]*
Dist. *[Signature]*

CS/MJD
JAN 17 1946
711.94114A/1-246

4

DIVISION OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN AFFAIRS
JAN 10 1946
OFFICE OF FAR
EASTERN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL PROJECTS
1/14/46
Letter to Mrs. Pohl
Airgram to Gov. Cou.
Batavia, Java
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEA
SPD
Mr. Bailey

ETB/erk

January 5, 1946

The Honorable
James F. Byrnes
Secretary of State
of
The United States of America
Washington, D.C.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON
JAN 9 - 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Mr. Byrnes:

I am enclosing copies of two letters, to Her Majesty, Queen Wilhemina and to the Honorable Alexander Loudon, Ambassador to the United States from the Netherlands, that I am despatching in this same mail.

I believe these letters are self explanatory but there is some additional information that will be of value to you.

On June 4, 1945 a United States Navy PBM plane was hit by shells from a Japanese gunboat in the Makassar Straits after the plane had sunk a merchant vessel and set fire to the gunboat. My brother Lieutenant DeLand J. Croze, No. 101643 was the commander of that plane that carried 14 men aboard. The plane was forced to land on the west coast of the Celebes and after spending the night ashore the crew were attacked by a Japanese force. During that encounter the American crew separated. The outcome of the situation was that 3 men were rescued by an American plane, 4 were known to be prisoners, 6 were unaccounted for and 1 died from the injuries received when the shots from the gunboat hit the plane.

Prior to the Japanese surrender in the Celebes Area to Lord Mountbatten the Japanese moved their prisoners of war to Java because of the possibility of invasion by our forces. This we understand from military authorities at Fort Snelling is common military practice.

As pointed out in the attached letters it is well known that there are 180,000 Dutch and part Dutch Internees held hostage by the Indonesians in Java along with an undetermined number of Allied, including American, prisoners of war.

Five months have now elapsed since the surrender of the Japanese and it is imperative that these people be released. It is also imperative that the United States take the necessary measures to release American prisoners of war from an untenable situation. Conditions in Java under the best of circumstances are not too healthful and in the present situation conditions are not conducive to a prolongation of life.

The political and economic aspirations of the Dutch, British, or

711.94114A/1-546

OS/10 911.94114A/1-546

Handwritten initials

JAN 19 1946

FILED

page 2.

Indonesians are immaterial in this situation. Neither England, Holland nor Java sent American men into this Area but rather did the United States and it is therefore the responsibility of the United States to get them out.

We will await with interest your reply indicating the measures that are being carried out by the United States to accomplish the rescue of Americans, who willingly risked their life for their country, from this Dutch territory in the British zone of war responsibility.

Very truly yours,

B. C. Pohl

B. C. Pohl
1708 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis 5, Minnesota, U.S.A.

January 5, 1946

Her Majesty
Queen Wilhelmina
of the
Netherlands
The Hague
Holland

Your Majesty:

Realizing your anxiety for the 180,000 odd of your subjects who were interned by the Japanese and who are now held hostage by the Indonesians in Java, I know you recognize our concern for the allied, including American, prisoners of war who are also held hostage in Java under the same circumstances.

We have reason to believe that my brother, United States Navy Lieutenant, DeLand J. Croze, No. 101643, PBM pilot, missing in the Celebes since June 4, 1945 is among this latter group. U

Since 5 months have now elapsed after the termination of the war with Japan we are greatly concerned over the fact that a very large group of people are still being held capture under circumstances not conducive to a prolongation of life.

We realize that there have been tremendous obstacles to overcome yet we feel that succor should be brought to these people immediately before there is any further loss of life.

We will greatly appreciate knowing what the Dutch are doing to accomplish this aim, when you feel the aim will be accomplished and if Allied help is needed to accomplish it what specifically is required.

Very sincerely yours,

B. C. Pohl
1708 Irving Ave. South
Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.

January 5, 1946

The Honorable
Alexander Loudon
Netherlands Embassy
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Loudon:

We are aware that as late as December 9, 1945 there were 180,000 Dutch and part Dutch internees in Java, originally held capture by the Japanese, in addition to which there are an undetermined number of Allied, including American, prisoners of war held hostage by the Indonesians. Among this latter group we have reason to believe is my brother United States Navy Lieutenant Deland J. Crose No. 101643, a PBM pilot reported missing June 4, 1945 in the Celebes.

Since 5 months have now elapsed since the surrender to the Japanese in that area it is essential that prisoners and internees be released immediately. Knowing that there have been and are great difficulties to overcome we nevertheless feel that by this time succor should have been brought to this large group of people.

Specifically the information that we hope you will provide us is:

1. What efforts are being made to release these people by the Dutch?
2. When will the release be accomplished?
3. If Allied help is necessary to achieve the rescue, specifically what is needed?

This information will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

B. C. Pohl
1708 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.

~~MINNEAPOLIS~~
~~445 AMERICAN ARTS BUILDING~~
~~MINNEAPOLIS 5, MINNESOTA~~

B. C. Pohl
1708 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis 5, Minn.



The Honorable
James F. Byrnes
Secretary of State of the United States
Washington, D. C.

SPD
JAN 19 1946

In reply refer to
SPD

My dear Mr. Pohl:

I have received your letter of January 5, 1946 with regard to the whereabouts of your brother, Lieutenant DeLand J. Croze, who was missing after his plane made a forced landing on the coast of Celebes.

As far as the Department is aware, there are no American military personnel in Java who have not been recovered. I have made informal inquiries of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, War Department, with regard to this matter and find that the offices of that Bureau are of the same opinion. However, in the chance that there may be American personnel still in Java who have not been liberated, the Department is inquiring of its representative at Batavia to secure his opinion in the matter.

I have learned informally from the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, that Lieutenant Croze has never been reported to that office as a prisoner of war.

I assure you that the military authorities have been extremely careful to recover as quickly as possible any military personnel who have been held in enemy-occupied territory. This is true of the areas where the British military authorities are accepting the surrender of Japanese, as well as in areas where our own army and navy have accepted the surrender of the Japanese.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special Projects Division

Mr. B.C. Pohl,
1708 Irving Avenue South,
Minneapolis 5, Minnesota.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

1/14/46

CR ✓ my file
JAN 18 1946 P.M.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
BONE AND JOINT DISEASES
FRACTURES, INJURIES
AND DEFORMITIES

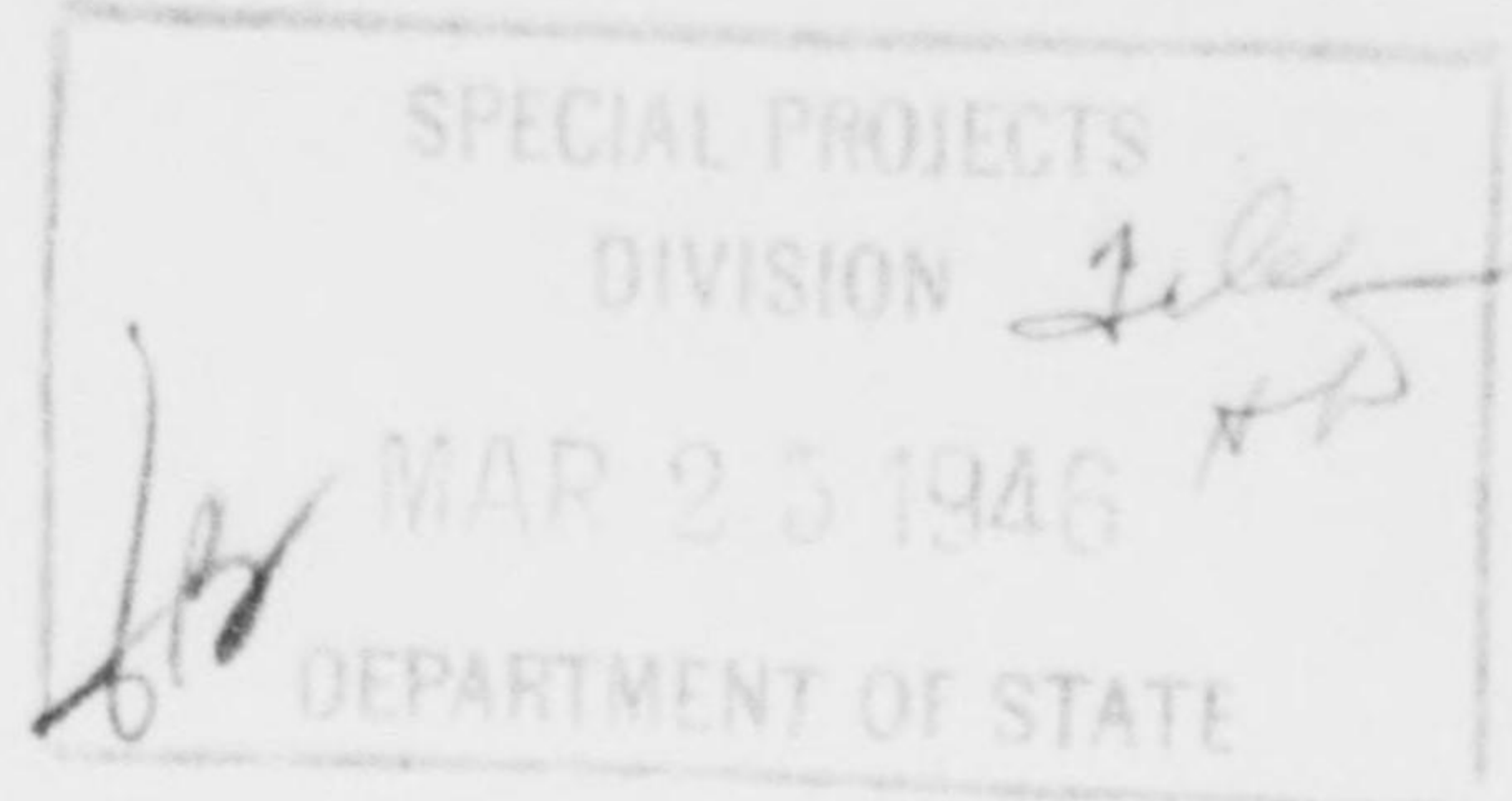


JOHN F. POHL, M. D.
1945 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

JS
DC/R

SPD 711.94114a/1-546

March 20, 1946



Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special Projects Division
State Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bailey,
Thank you very much for your informative letter of
March 16, 1945.

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to talk to you
last week and we will be anticipating with great interest
any information you may procure.

Sincerely yours,

Betty Pohl
Betty Pohl

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JUL 19 1948

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DCR

MAR 16 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.9411a/1-546

4

My dear Mrs. Pohl:

I refer to the Department's letter of January 19, 1946, addressed to Mr. Pohl, concerning the whereabouts of your brother, Lieutenant DeLand J. Croze.

Immediately after your visit to the Department, a telegram was received from Batavia in which the Consul General there expressed his belief that none of the officers and men of the missing plane on which your brother served are held as hostages in Java. The local military authorities there are of the same opinion, but both the Dutch civilian and military officials and the British military authorities throughout the Netherlands East Indies have had the case of your brother brought to their attention and they have been instructed to fully investigate and make full reports to Batavia in the matter for the information of our Consul General.

I am forwarding to Batavia the information concerning the wrecked plane which you gave me during your visit, and I shall not fail to forward any information which the Department may receive to you.

Sincerely yours,

EB

E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special Projects Division

Mrs. B. G. Pohl,
1708 Irving Avenue South,
Minneapolis 5, Minnesota.

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Anal. <i>[Signature]</i>	CR
Rev. <i>[Signature]</i>	MAR 15 1946 P.M.
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SPD:ETBailey:erk

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

Collect

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to **Department**

AMERICAN CONSUL,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

7945 JAN 31 1946

29 ~~THIRTY-NINE~~

REDEPTEL 11, January 10. Do you consider possibility exists that Americans are being held hostages by Indonesians? What is opinion of local military authorities?

711.94114A/1-846

Bureau (630)

Anal.	<i>Frank</i>
Rev.	<i>Frank</i>
Cat.	<i>2</i>
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TELEGRAPH DISTRIBUTION

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DIVISION OF
CENTRAL

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711.94114A/1-846

JAN 31 1946 P.M.

SPD:ETBailey:EJS

1/29/46

NOE

SEA

Frank

SPP

MAR 8 1946

In reply refer to
NOE 711.94114A/1-846

My dear Dr. Judd:

Reference is made to your inquiry of January 8, 1946, and subsequent correspondence relating to the whereabouts of Naval Lieutenant DeLand Joseph Croze and nine Naval personnel missing in action in the Celebes on June 4, 1945.

The Department of State has recently received a reply, dated February 28, 1946, from the American Consul General in Batavia and, in corroboration of the message given by phone to your secretary on March 2, 1946, is pleased to inform you of the Consul General's reply:

All possible efforts are being made to obtain information concerning the whereabouts of Lieutenant Croze and his missing plane crew. Both civil and military Netherlands authorities have been and are continuing to search for clues leading to any knowledge of the fate or whereabouts of the missing crew. The Commander of the Netherlands Forces in the Great East has directed that no efforts be spared in the search, and he has promised

The Honorable,

Walter H. Judd,
House of Representatives

that

DCR
DK

Dr Judd's secretary informed of contents of Batavia's 731 on March 28, by phone

CS/WJ

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that he would immediately transmit any information obtained. It is not considered likely that the crew are being held as hostages. Since the major part of the Celebes is still in native hands, the Netherlands authorities have sent natives into the interior with orders to look for the missing personnel and to assist any of the crew found. Any further information will be sent in immediately.

Sincerely yours,

James F. BYRNE

NOE:R Allan: jt
3-2-46

Pres
(SWP)
5/13

OR

MAR 7 1946 P.M.

Routine

SPD

MAR 16 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/1-846

My dear Doctor Judd:

I refer to my letter of March 8, 1946 and to our previous correspondence concerning the whereabouts of Lieutenant DeLand Joseph Groze and other naval personnel missing in action in the Celebes on June 4, 1945.

I have had a further report from the Department's representative at Batavia who states that he does not believe that the missing officers and men are held as hostages in Java. His opinion is shared by the military authorities there. However, all Dutch civilian and military officials and British military authorities throughout the Netherlands East Indies have had this case brought to their attention and have been instructed to investigate fully and make reports to Batavia for our Consul General's information. Similar instructions have been given by the Dutch to loyal native officials.

I shall not fail to forward to you any further information which I may receive in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>CS</i>
Rev.	
Cat.	
Dist.	The Honorable

James F. Byrnes

Walter H. Judd,
House of Representatives.

Act JB
SPD:ETBailey:erk

[Signature]
3/15/46

MAR 15 1946 P.M.

Routine

711.94114A/1-846

VSD

MAY 23 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/1-846

My dear Doctor Judd:

I refer to my letter of March 16, 1946, and to our previous correspondence, concerning the whereabouts of Lieutenant De Land Joseph Croze and other naval personnel missing in action in the Celebes on June 4, 1945.

I have now received another report from the Department's representative at Batavia, which states that a special searching party of the United States Army visited the place where Lieutenant Croze's plane crashed. The party also went inland. They found evidence that a fight had taken place on the beach in which six men died. The men were buried in the brush not far from the crashed plane. Four survivors were taken into the interior and held for a while by the Japanese Military Police, but they have not been heard of since. The Consul General states that he is reasonably sure that the natives are not holding any Americans, because the natives are friendly to Americans and would be the first to assist any of them who are alive. The search of the Netherland Indies military and civilian services is continuing wherever possible. Since the archipelago consists of more than 10,000 islands, the task is unending.

I shall not fail to forward to you any further information which I may receive in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

James H. Byron
Anal.
Det. *mm*

Dorothea M. Laurion

The Honorable
Walter H. Judd,
House of Representatives.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

5/21/46

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CS/VJ

MAY 22 1946

WALTER H. JUDD
5TH DIST. MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION
INSULAR AFFAIRS
EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENTS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

January 8, 1946

MAR 8 1946

DC/R

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
JAN 13 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Letter NOE. R. Allan
1-10-46
File
gtr

Northern European Division
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Mr. J. H. Morgan

Dear Mr. Morgan:

In line with our conversation with you today, I am enclosing copies of letters received at my office and which are self-explanatory.

As suggested by you, I would appreciate it if you would send a cable to the American Consul General in Batavia requesting him to contact the British and Netherlands authorities in an effort to locate these unaccounted for American flyers. To date the Navy Department has been unable to account for them.

Very sincerely yours,

Walter H. Judd

CROZE, DELAND J.

WHJ: NJG.
Enclosures

(1)

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Dist. *[Signature]*

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711.94114A/1-846

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AUG 6 - 1946

711.94114A/1-846

JOHN F. POHL, M.D.
1945 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 2, MINNESOTA

January 4, 1946

Doctor Walter H. Judd
Congressmen from Minnesota
Washington, D.C.

Dear Doctor Judd:

I am writing to you in the hopes that you can answer some of the questions that have been bothering us considerably during the past months. We were all much interest in and particularly appreciated the information that you obtained and sent last fall to my mother, Mrs. A. C. Croze 212 S. E. Walnut St. Minneapolis.

I am referring to your letter of October 25, 1945 concerning my brother Navy Lieutenant DeLand J. Croze No. 101643. Unfortunately however, the data that you obtained from the Navy Department was only a partial answer.

Since the relevant data was outlined in my mother's letter to you dated October 1945 I will not again repeat it in detail here but will set down the salient facts on which we would like further elucidation.

As you are aware from that previous letter the PBM plane of which my brother was plane commander was shot over Borneo which necessitated a landing on the west coast of the Celebes on June 4, 1945. Of the 14 men in the plane at the time, 1 was killed when the plane was shot down, 3 were rescued, 4 were known to be taken prisoner by the Japs and 6 were unaccounted for. The indications are that my brother was on the prisoners however, the important point is that at least 4 Americans and possible 10 were made Prisoners of War at that time in the Celebes. No trace of these men was found when the Celebes were occupied by the Allies in late September 1945 nor have they been found since during the searches made by the Navy Department.

Published reports have stated that in September, prior to their surrender to Lord Mountbatten, the Japs moved prisoners of war from elsewhere in the Netherland East Indies to Java. It is also known factually that there are hundreds of allied prisoners of war, captured by the Japs, being held hostage by the Indonesians during this period of the revolt in Java. Just before Christmas the Indonesians stated that they would negotiate with the British but not the Dutch and that they would release their hostages to the British if the Dutch stayed out of the picture; however, last week two shiploads of Dutch Marines landed in Java.

Page 2.

It is incomprehensible that when a militant nation like Japan can be brought to her knees that Allied prisoners of war cannot be rescued from an Indonesian revolt for 5 months after the Japanese surrender.

This is a simply untenable situation. We, and certainly not the involved men, are not interested in the political and economical aspirations of the Dutch, Indonesians or the British. The length of time since the Japanese surrender has been too long for a settlement of these differences when the lives of American men are at stake, as they very definitely are. If the British have not been able to effect a rescue then it is time the United States did something for their own men.

The fear for the safety of these American men is not a vague one. The conditions in Java under the best of circumstances is not conducive to healthful living and certainly the outlook under the present circumstances is anything but favorable to a prolongation of life.

The Australians at the present time are conducting a Jap trial for sadism in the prison camp on the Dutch Island of Amboina but according to our newspaper reports this is of not too great concern to the United States because only 14 Americans were involved. This percentage according to the population of the United States may be small but should you be one of the men the percentage is 100 and such things should be of great concern to everyone.

Certainly without doubt, there are Americans among the hundreds of Allied prisoners on Java and regardless of the number, it is the duty of the United States to insist and to take the necessary steps to free all of them immediately before any more die.

WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES DOING TO RESCUE AMERICAN MEN WHO WERE WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE UNITED STATES?

WE will be looking forward to your reply.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Betty Croze Pohl

(Mrs. John F. Pohl)

October 20, 1945

Dr. Walter Judd
Representative from Minnesota
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Judd:

I am writing this letter in confirmation of our telephone conversation on Wednesday, October 17, 1945 concerning my son DeLand J. Croze. I am enclosing the specific data that will allow you to trace my son and I am hopeful that you will be able to obtain some information for us.

Navy Lieutenant DeLand Joseph Croze
Patrol Plane Commander
No. 101643
V.P.B. #20
Home Address: Minneapolis, Minn.

We know many of the details of the calamity from the squadron Commander and from three survivors who were rescued 3 days after the plane was shot down.

DeLand's plane was based at Tawitawi in the southern Philippines and on June 4, 1945 was patrolling the area on the east coast of Borneo through the Makassar straits. After sinking two merchant vessels they attacked an enemy aircraft carrier which they set afire but they were hit during this encounter and the bottom of their plane was shot out so that their supply of gasoline was lost.

Several members of the crew (12 crew members and 2 observers) were shot with shrapnel at this time and one of the observers died. With only an hour's gasoline left to them they were forced to land on what subsequently proved to be the west coast of the Celebes.

Because it was impossible to achieve enough altitude for a parachute descent DeLand was able to land the plane safely on the beach and all the crew spent the night together on shore. In the morning they were attacked with machine guns by a Jap patrol and at that time the crew separated.

The three rescued men hid in a swamp and at night took to the sea where they remained for 2 days until rescued by an American plane. One of the rescued men, Bumpas, was wounded by shrapnel and just as the rescue plane arrived on the scene was attacked by a shark. Hunt, a companion, came to his aid only to have one of his arms and the opposite hand taken off by the shark. Stephenson, who was the third rescued man was uninjured. Hunt is now in the Naval Hospital at Mare Island, California.

2.
Subsequent to this episode, a party of Australians were sent into the Celebes and they found that 4 of DeLand's party had been taken prisoner but they could not ascertain which men they were nor what happened to the other six members of the party.

Since it is now five weeks since the Australians occupied the town of Makassar, Celebes we are more concerned because we have received no information.

On September 11th we received letter from another pilot in V.P.B. squadron #20 stating that the information available seemed to indicate that DeLand was one of the prisoners and that he believed we would be hearing from him shortly thereafter since allied rescue forces were waiting for V-J day to enter the Celebes. (V-J day in that area).

I am enclosing a list of the party who are "missing" so that if any information is available about these men it might be at least indirect evidence concerning DeLand. The names of the two observers are absent from this list since they were not regular crew members. One of these men was killed when the plane was hit but the other was with the missing group. We know the names of neither of these men.

Patrol Plane Commander V.P.B. #20
Lieutenant DeLand Joseph Croze No. 101643 Minneapolis, Minn.

First Pilot	
Ensign M. H. Hicks	McComas, West Virginia
Second Pilot	
Ensign L. A. Wheeler	Michigan City, Indiana
K. J. Crow A.O.M. 3c	Ossian, Indiana
J. H. Garcia Slc	Corpus Christi, Texas
O. D. Huls A.R.M. 2c	Columbus, Ohio
G. W. Moorfield A.O.M. 3c	Newport News, Virginia
I. P. Igoe A.M.M. 1c	Brooklyn, New York
E. A. Calhoun A.R.M. 3c	McKeesport, Pennsylvania

While no additional data was available at the navy department on October 17th we are so hoping information will be available now and if not we would be extremely grateful to you if you can, as you suggested, perhaps learn from other sources either more facts or at least the reason why we have not heard from or about DeLand after this long period of time.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. A. C. Croze, Sr.

Marion G. Croze
212 S. E. Walnut St.
Minneapolis, Minn.

NOE ✓

JAN 14 1946

In reply refer to
NOE

My dear Dr. Judd:

Reference is made to your letter of January 8, 1946, concerning the whereabouts of Naval Lieutenant DeLand Joseph Croze and nine Naval personnel missing in action in the Celebes on June 4, 1945.

The Department of State has sent a telegram to the American Consul General in Batavia requesting him to contact the appropriate authorities in order to obtain all information possible regarding the whereabouts of Lieutenant Croze and the missing members of his plane crew.

Very sincerely yours,

Anal.	<i>Judd</i>
Rev.	
Dat.	
Dist.	

DCR - GP-C Unit

John H. Morgan,
Assistant Chief, Division of
Northern European Affairs

The Honorable,
Walter H. Judd,
House of Representatives.

CR
JAN 14 1946

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1-10-46



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PREPARING OFFICE
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TELEGRAM SENT

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

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to

MAR 4 1946

AMERICAN CONSUL,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

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58

FOURTE

811.3356h

11-1046

REDEPTELS 29, January 31, and 11, January 10,

not
not

Family reports that Donald M. Pell, Aer.M 2/c
(627-22-56), was also member of crew of this plane.

Re
Donald M. Pell, missing,
+ believed POW
held by Japanese.

Byrnes
(H.B.)

711.94114A/1-846

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Rev.	
Cat.	B.R.T.
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DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
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TELEGRAPH
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MESSAGE:

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Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to Department

5584

FEB 21 1946

AMERICAN CONSUL,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

49 TWENTY-FIRST

REDEPTELS 29, January 31, and 11, January 10. Make

partial reply if full immediate reply impossible.

*Inquiry
as to whether
possibility Americans
being held as hostages
by Indonesians.*

*711.94114-1-846
811.3336 H/
1-1046*

711.94114A/1-846

OS/D

711.94114a

1-846

TELEGRAM
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DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

FEB 21 PM 4 59

*Byrnes
(E.B.)*

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Cat.	VI		

AIR

SPD:ETBailey:erk

2/20/46

GR ✓ 5345

DC/R 2147

PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

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

Collect

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to

JAN 10 1946

AMCONSUL,

BATAVIA.

// TENTH

Request you contact proper authorities to ascertain whereabouts of Navy Lieutenant DeLand Joseph Croze, Serial Nr 101643, Patrol Plane Commander, and following 3 Naval Personnel, all of VPB squadron 20: First Pilot, Ensign M. H. Hicks; Second Pilot, Ensign L. A. Wheeler; K. J. Crow AOM 3c; J. H. Garcia Slc; O. D. Huls ARM 2c; G. W. Moorfield AOM 3c; I. P. Igoe AMM 1c; E. A. Calhoun ARM 3c. They and 2 observers were in PBM plane, which Croze commanded. Plane was shot up during action off Borneo and force landed on west coast of Celebes June 4, 1945. One of 14 men in plane was killed during action, 3 rescued, 4 reported taken POWs by Japs, and 6 unaccounted for and possibly POWs. Indications Croze may have been taken POW. Possibility Japs may have moved POWs to Java in September.

811.3556H/1-1046
711.94114A/1-1046

CS/LE

CS/V

711.94114A/1-1046

9
x R
511.32

M.C.

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Alcherson, Acting

TELEGRAPH
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DIVISION OF
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~~SECRET~~

January 19, 1946

Dear Mrs:

Our Special Projects Division will look into Mrs. Hicks' query. As soon as I am in receipt of a full reply, I will pass it along to you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Russell

800 911,9441140 / 1-1946

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Mr. D. A. Smith,
Secretary to Senator Maybank,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

A-R:CLB:DMK

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

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

January 17, 1946

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
 MR. RUSSELL
 JAN 18 1946
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
 DIVISION
del. to
Jan. 29,
Batavia 1/29/46
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Hon. Donald Russell,
 Dept. of State,
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Donald:

The enclosed letter speaks for itself.

M.H. ✓
 Mrs. Hicks has requested that I have the
 State Department to check into this matter and advise.

Will you kindly see that this gets into the
 proper Department of the State for reply, and oblige,

Sincerely yours,



D. A. Smith,
Secretary.

Hicks, Ensign M.H. Jr.

Enclosure
DAS/mr

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January 14th, 1946

The Honorable Burnet R. Maybank
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Maybank:

On June 4, 1945 a United States Navy PBM plane sank a Japanese merchant vessel in the Makassar Straits and set afire a Jap gunboat. During this latter incident shells from the gunboat hit the plane shooting its bottom out and damaging the gasoline reservoir. This necessitated a forced landing of the plane on a beach on the West Coast of the Celebes which were occupied at the time by the Japanese. The crew were members of United States Bombing Squadron 20, stationed on June 4, 1945 at Tawitawi. The plane was commanded by Lieutenant DeLand J. Croze of Minneapolis, Minn. and carried 14 men aboard at the time of the search mission on June 4th.

After the American crew spent the night ashore on the Celebes they were attacked by a Jap force which necessitated their splitting up. The outcome of the situation was that 1 of the men died from wounds received when the shells, from the gunboat hit the PBM; 4 men were taken prisoner by the Japs; 3 men were subsequently rescued; and 6 men were completely unaccounted for. The identity of the prisoners is not known nor is it known whether or not the 6 unaccounted for members of the crew are prisoners.

Eight months have now elapsed since 9 members of that ill fated mission have been declared "Missing". None of these men have been identified either as a prisoner of War or as a casualty. My son Ensign M. H. Hicks, Jr. was the first pilot on that plane and was declared "missing, we have been unable to obtain any further information.

Five months have passed since the surrender of the Japanese and yet hundreds of allied prisoners of war are still being held hostage by the Indonesians in Java. This is a simply untenable situation. Many Japanese prisoners from elsewhere in the Netherlands East Indies were taken to Java prior to the Surrender to Lord Mountbatton because of the possibility of Allied Invasion. This action we understand from authorities is accepted military practice.

Condition in Java under the best of circumstances are not conducive to healthful living and under the present circumstances the situation is certainly not conducive to a prolongation of life.

The political and economic aspirations of the Dutch, British and Indonesians are of no concern to us. Neither the Dutch, British nor Indonesians sent American men into this area but rather did the United States.

Mrs. Marshall U. Hicks, Sr.
1209 Colleton St.
Columbia, S.C.

It is therefore up to the United States to get them out, immediately before there is any further loss of life.

While my son may not be one of the hostages, the facts remain that there are Americans still unrescued in the East Indies Area; that The United States has withdrawn from that area; and that the "Exhaustive" search report of the Navy Department is not confirmed by correspondents in that area nor by returning military personnel, particularly airmen.

Our position is that the United States is responsible for American men and the United States must get them out immediately. No satisfactory information has been forthcoming from the Navy Department who state that an "Exhaustive" search has been made of this area and that when specific information is available we will be informed.

Since no satisfactory information has as yet been obtained we have finally come to the conclusion that the information necessary can only be obtained from the Dutch Ambassador and from our own State Department. Will you therefore call upon the Dutch Ambassador and the State Department and find out what the Dutch and the United States are doing and can do to release the hostages immediately.

We will await your reply with interest,

Very truly yours,

Mrs. M. H. Hicks, Sr.

Mrs. M. H. Hicks, Sr.
1209 Colleton St.
Columbia, S. C.

PROJECTS
/

January 29, 1946

A-R - Colonel Burgess

I have referred to Mr. Bailey of this Division the file which you sent over with the blue of your letter of January 19 to Mr. Smith, Senator Maybanks' secretary, regarding the whereabouts of Ensign Hicks who was listed by the Navy Department as missing.

Mr. Bailey tells me that there has been previous correspondence from other persons in this case and that an inquiry was addressed by NOE to the Consulate General at Batavia. However, we are getting inquiries in additional cases and NOE's inquiry seems to me to be inadequate. I have therefore asked Mr. Bailey to take the case up further.

A. E. C.

SPD:AEC:lattenburg:BB

SPD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DCR

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION DATE: April 10, 1946.

SUBJECT: Whereabouts of Lieutenant Croze in the Celebes.

PARTICIPANTS: Mrs. Pohl
Mr. Bailey, SPD

file
4/11/46
Del. to Batavia
ETB/erk

COPIES TO:

FW 711 94114A/ 1-2546

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Mrs. Pohl telephoned from Minneapolis and referred to the Secretary of the Navy's letter of March 15. Mr. Bailey said that the information from the Navy Department had been sent to Batavia. Mrs. Pohl then asked if we could find out if any Commission had been set up to go into the Celebes to look for these men. She said that on the radio Vandercook had reported that Japanese were being repatriated from the Celebes. Consequently, she feared that any witnesses would be removed and lost. Mr. Bailey said that he was prepared to telegraph to Batavia at her expense to find out if a Commission had been set up and if it had proceeded to the Celebes.

TO: *DCR - GPO*
Dorothea M. Laurion
BY: *[Signature]*

JUL 16 1946

FW 711. 94114a
SPD/A-2546

SPD:ETBailey:erk

4/10/46

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
JAN 28 1946
SENT TO DCR FOR INDEXING
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

January 25, 1946

4/11/46
SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
Tel. to Batavia
JAN 29 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special Projects Division
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bailey,
Thank you for your letter of January 19, 1946.

We are eagerly awaiting the reply to your cablegram to the U. S. Consul General in Batavia, Java in regards to the general situation in Indonesia and more particularly in regards to the whereabouts of my brother Lieutenant DeLand J. Croze. — 711.94114A/1-846

Our efforts to procure information concerning the situation have been nearly futile during the past months and it has been only recently that smatterings of data have been made available to us.

I'm going to try and explain the situation to you in the hopes that you will be able to give us more data and also that you can assure us that the United States will continue their search missions in Indonesia.

If the style of expression at times seems belligerent please realize it is completely impersonal and is a result of innumerable unavailing attempts to make our position clear by other means.

The relevant facts concerning my brother were given in my letter of January 5, 1946 to the State Department so I will not again repeat them here. There is however, an impression that everyone seems to procure from those facts that is erroneous and I therefore feel that I should explain them more clearly.

We are not in any sense deluding ourselves in believing the possibilities that my brother is a prisoner of war. While we realize that the division of the War Department charged with the affairs of prisoners of war has done an outstanding job we also are cognizant of the fact that it has been a stupendous task and that the records available to them, particularly the Japanese ones, have not always been complete. The Navy Department informed us on June 29, 1945 that at least 4 members of my brothers crew were taken prisoner by the Japanese. This information was procured from Australian Scouts. In September 1945 we were informed by a pilot in my brothers squadron, in a completely unsolicited letter from an individual never before heard from, that my brother was one of those prisoners. You can readily see therefore that there is factual evidence pointing to the belief that he is a prisoner of war in spite of the fact that there is no record in the Prisoner of War Division of the War Department.

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711.94114A/1-2546

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711.94114A/1-2546

Page 2.

The evidence we have procured from the Navy Department since we first became concerned over the political situation in Indonesia last fall has been very conflicting so that you will understand I'm sure our great consternation when the dispatch stating that the search was ending, issued from Pearl Harbor, was broadcast on January 4, 1946 over the Mutual Network. A copy of this Associated Press dispatch is attached herewith.

Knowing something of the geography of Indonesia by no logic could we conceive that the search missions had done so efficient a job in this region in three months time that they could have reached the stage where they were "ending" their search. The ~~se~~ purpose of such a statement is still completely incomprehensible to us.

Examples of the conflicting statements made to us are.

1.

On October 25, 1945 we were informed that there were no Americans found in the Celebes.

On October 29, 1945 one of us (families of the "missing" men) spent the afternoon in New Orleans with an American boy who had been a prisoner in the Celebes for 3 years and was released from there on September 17, 1945.

2.

On January 7, 1946 I was informed that an "exhaustive" search had been made for my brother.

On January 14, 1946 I was informed that the search of the Celebes was not complete.

3.

On October 25, 1945 we were informed that the search missions were finding men every week who had previously been thought dead.

On January 4, 1946 we were informed that the search missions were "ending" their hunt for missing men because they were practically fruitless.

4.

On January 19, 1946 I was informed that in the opinion of the State Department there were no Americans in Java.

On January 24, 1946 I was informed that "There are quite definitely a considerable number of Allied Prisoners of War in Java and the other Indonesian Islands who we (the British) have not yet been able to rescue." (I am attaching a copy of the January 24, 1946 letter from the British Information Services.)

page 3.

I think with this data before you, you can realize our impatience with the platitudes and expressions of sympathy which have been offered us in place of the general information which we requested.

How can the search missions be efficient over an area of 3, 600,000 square miles consisting of thousands of islands and atolls in a period of only three months since the surrender of the Japanese in that region to Lord Mountbatten?

How can anyone know that there are no Americans held hostage in Indonesia until all the hostages and prisoners of war are released?

Our stand in this matter is very definite. The United States search missions must be continued until the search has been actually completed efficiently.

Any specific or general information you can obtain for us will be very gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

B. C. Pohl

B. C. Pohl
1708 Irving Avenue S.
Minneapolis 5, Minn.

C
O
P
YTelephone
Andover 1733Cable
Digestion, New YorkBRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES
360 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago 1, Ill.Mrs. John F. Pohl
1708 Irving Avenue S.
Minneapolis 5, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Pohl,

I am sorry not to have answered your letter before but I was in Washington and it was forwarded to me there. Fortunately I was able, when there, to see our people who deal with Prisoners of War and copy of the letter has been sent out to Lord Louis Mountbatten and he has been asked to find out all he can.

There are quite definitely, I discovered, a considerable number of Allied Prisoners of War in Java and the other Indonesian Islands who we have not yet been able to rescue. As far as is known Borneo itself has been thoroughly searched but as you say your brother may easily be in the rest of the area.

It will no doubt take a little time to get an answer from Singapore but I will let you know as soon as there is anything definite to report.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN DUNCAN MILLER

C
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P
Y

PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC
Executive Offices
50 Rockefeller Plaza New York 20, N. Y.

Pearl Harbor--(AP)--The Navy is nearing the end of one of its greatest manhunts-- A search of the thousands of islands and atolls that stud the Pacific for missing men of the Armed Forces.

Specially training parties operating from destroyers and small amphibious craft have been ransacking the out-of-the-way places of the Pacific for men who vanished during the war or who might have made it to land.

On five islands they found the graves of allied fliers whose planes crashed or evidence that the fliers met death, but no survivors. The parties have questioned natives and Japanese military personnel in addition to search, but so far relatively little success has rewarded them.

March 3, 1946

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/2-145

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing for your attention a copy of a telegram received by the Department from the American Legation at Bern which contains the Japanese Government's reply to this Government's protest with regard to the torture and decapitation of an American airman captured by the Japanese in the Aitape area, New Guinea. There is also enclosed for your ready reference, a copy of the Department's telegram 3007 of August 31, 1944 to Bern protesting this incident. The draft of the protest was submitted to the War Department for its approval with the State Department's letter of July 31. Your letter of August 21 expressed satisfaction with the protest and recommended its transmission.

This Department is of the opinion that the United States Government cannot accept the perfunctory reply made by the Japanese Government, but before taking up the matter again with the protecting Power, would appreciate being informed of the views of the War Department on the matter.

Careful examination of the report furnished with your letter of July 11, has failed to reveal any information that might be used to identify more completely the Japanese personnel who were in the Aitape area. The Department would appreciate being informed whether it would be possible for the War Department to furnish additional information. It would be most helpful to have the full names, particularly the

The Honorable
Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.

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711.94114A/2-145

711.94114A/2-145

-2-

given names of the persons who participated in the crimes. Your early attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph C. Grew

Acting Secretary

Enclosures:

- 1. Telegram from Bern, No. 731, February 1, 1945.
- 2. Telegram to Bern, No. 3007, August 31, 1944.

photo

SWP:HDreppard:mmc

Handwritten signature

Le WMB

JA

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MAR 26
1

Handwritten initials

Handwritten signature

A true copy of the signed original.

GEORGE W. GILLIE
4TH DIST. INDIANA

COMMITTEE:
AGRICULTURE

HOME ADDRESS:
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

SECRETARIES:
R. C. PRICKETT
RUTH ALICE BAIRD

OFFICE:
1532 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FEB 7 1946

4 February 1946

SPECIAL PROJECTS
2/6/46 DIVISION
FEB 6 1946
Letter to Mr. Gillie
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State
State Department
Washington, D. C.

C in SPD ETB/erk
2/16/46 Let. to Rep. Gillie
LNPA/TS

Dear Sir:

I enclose a self-explanatory communication from Mr. Claude E. Crow of Ossian, Indiana, concerning allied prisoners of war in Java.

I should appreciate your advising me on this matter, returning the enclosed letter with your reply.

Thanking you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

George W. Gillie
George W. Gillie

GWG:B

Crow, R. J.

DCR Gen Unit
Anal. *Jack*
Rev. *FLH*
Cat.
Dist.

AUG 6 1946

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711.94114A/2-446 OS/LE

711.94114a/2-446

COPY

January 25, 1946

The Honorable
George W. Gillie
Congressman from Indiana
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Gillie:

On June 4, 1945 a United States Navy PBM plane sank a Japanese merchant vessel in the Makassar Straits and set afire a Jap gunboat. During this latter incident shells from the gunboat hit the plane shooting its bottom out and damaging the gasoline reservoir. This necessitated a forced landing of the plane on the beach on the west coast of the Celebes which were occupied at the time by the Japanese. The crew were members of United States Patrol Bombing Squadron 20 stationed on June 4, 1945 at Tawitawi. The plane was commanded by Lt. DeLand J. Croze of Minneapolis, Minn., and carried 14 men aboard at the time of the search mission on June 4th.

After the American crew spent the night ashore on the Celebes they were attacked by a Jap force which necessitated their splitting up. The outcome of the situation was that one of the men died from wounds received when the shells from the gunboat hit the PBM; four men were taken prisoner by the Japs; three men were subsequently rescued; and six men were completely unaccounted for. The identity of the prisoners is not known nor is it known whether or not the six unaccounted for members of the crew are prisoners.

Eight months have now elapsed since nine members of that ill fated mission have been declared "missing". None of these men have been identified as either a prisoner of war or as a casualty. My son K.J. Crow, AOM 3/c, was an aerial gunner on that plane and was declared "missing". We have been unable to obtain any further information.

Five months have passed since the surrender of the Japanese and yet hundreds of Allied prisoners of war are still being held hostage by the Indonesians in Java. This is a simply untenable situation. Many Japanese prisoners from elsewhere in the Netherlands East Indies were taken to Java prior to the surrender to Lord Mountbatten because of the possibility of Allied invasion. This action we understand from authorities is accepted military practice.

-2-

An editorial by Carroll Binder indicates the large number of allied prisoners still held hostage in Java and points out the difficulties involved in their rescue; the other states that the United States has withdrawn from this area where there are American men.

Conditions in Java under the best of circumstances are not conducive to healthful living and under the present circumstances the situation is certainly not conducive to a prolongation of life.

The political and economic aspirations of the Dutch, British and Indonesians are of no concern to us. Neither the Dutch, British nor Indonesians sent Americans into this area but rather did the United States. It is therefore up to the United States to get them out immediately before there is any further loss of life.

While my son may not be one of the hostages, the facts remain that there are American men still unrescued in the East Indies area; that the United States has withdrawn from that area; and that the "exhaustive" search report of the Navy Department is not confirmed by correspondants in the area nor by returning military personnel, particularly airmen.

Our position is that the United States is responsible for American men and the United States must get them out immediately. No satisfactory information has been forthcoming from the Navy Department who state that an "exhaustive" search has been made of the area and that specific information is available we will be informed.

Since no satisfactory information has as yet been obtained we have finally come to the conclusion that the information necessary can only be obtained from the Dutch Ambassador and from the State Department of the United States. Will you therefore call upon the Dutch Ambassador and the State Department and find out what the Dutch and the United States are doing and CAN DO to release the hostages immediately.

We will await your reply with interest.

Very truly yours,

(SIGNED) CLAUDE E. CROW

Claude E. Crow
R.R. #1
Ossian, Indiana.

Copies sent to:
Raymond E. Willis, Senator from Indiana
Ralph E. Gates, Governor of Indiana

✓ SPD

MAY 23 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-446

711.94114A/2-446

My dear Mr. Gillie:

I refer to my letter of March 16, 1946, and to our previous correspondence, concerning the whereabouts of K. J. Crow, AOM3/c, who is missing in action in the neighborhood of the Celebes.

I have now received another report from the Department's representative at Batavia, which states that a special searching party of the United States Army visited the place where Mr. Crow's plane crashed. The party also went inland. They found evidence that a fight had taken place on the beach in which six men died. The men were buried in the brush not far from the crashed plane. Four survivors were taken into the interior and held for a while by the Japanese Military Police, but they have not been heard of since. The Consul General states that he is reasonably sure that the natives are not holding any Americans, because the natives are friendly to Americans and would be the first to assist any of them who are alive. The search of the Netherland Indies military and civilian services is continuing wherever possible. Since the archipelago consists of more than 10,000 islands, the task is unending.

CS/WJ

I shall not fail to forward to you any further information which I may receive in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Anal. *Dorothea M. Laurion*
Rev. _____
Cat. _____
The Honorable

JAMES F. BYRNE

George W. Gillie,
House of Representatives.

MAY 22 1946 P.M.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

5/21/46

711.94114A/2-446

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MAR 8 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-46

My dear Mr. Gillie:

I refer to my letter of February 7, 1946 concerning the whereabouts of K. J. Crow, AOM3/c, who is missing in action after the airplane on which he was serving disappeared in the neighborhood of the Celebes.

I have received information from the Department's representative at Batavia, Java, that both the Dutch civilian and military authorities are searching for clues that may lead to discovery of some information concerning the fate or whereabouts of Mr. Crow and the other missing members of the plane on which he served. Directions have been given by a General Van Der Veen, Dutch Commander in the Great East, that no efforts be spared in pursuing the search. The General has promised to inform the Department's representative promptly of any information that is found.

I regret that it is not absolutely clear from the telegram that the Department has received whether the Consul is satisfied that no Americans are being held in Java as hostages. I am asking our representative to clarify this point. He does say, however, that it is not likely that members of the crew of the plane on which Mr. Crow served are being held as hostages.

The Consul reports that local natives still control most of Celebes, but that other natives have

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DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	
Rev.	The Honorable
Cat.	
Dist.	George W. Gillie,

House of Representatives.

DCR - GP-C Unit	
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Cat.	
Dist.	

711.94114A/2-46

- 2 -

been sent into the interior by the Dutch with instructions to search for and assist personnel of this plane.

I shall not fail to keep you informed of any developments in this case.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes

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MAR 7 1946 P.M.

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SPD ✓

MAR 16 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-446

My dear Mr. Gillie:

I refer to my letter of March 8, 1946 and to our previous correspondence concerning the whereabouts of K. J. Crow, AOM3/c, who is missing in action in the neighborhood of the Celebes.

I have had a further report from the Department's representative at Batavia who states that he does not believe that the missing officers and men are held as hostages in Java. His opinion is shared by the military authorities there. However, all Dutch civilian and military officials and British military authorities throughout the Netherlands East Indies have had this case brought to their attention and have been instructed to investigate fully and make reports to Batavia for our Consul General's information. Similar instructions have been given by the Dutch to loyal native officials.

I shall not fail to forward to you any further information which I may receive in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes

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The Honorable
George W. Gillie,
House of Representatives.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

MAR 15 1946 P.M.
3/15/46
Routine

711.94114A/2-446

FEB 7 1946

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In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-446

My dear Mr. Gillie:

I have received your letter of February 4, 1946 enclosing a communication from Mr. Claude E. Crow of Ossian, Indiana, concerning the whereabouts of his son, K. J. Crow, who is missing in action after the airplane on which he was serving disappeared in the neighborhood of the Celebes. Mr. Crow fears that his son is being held by dissident Indonesians in Java.

The Department's attention has been previously drawn to the case of the missing plane which was commanded by Lieutenant DeLand J. Croze, and has requested its representative in Batavia to make inquiries concerning the whereabouts of the missing members of the crew of this plane. Thus far, however, no new information has been obtained, but I assure you that in the event that the Department's officer is able to obtain additional information it will be sent to you immediately.

Mr. Crow's letter is returned herewith, a copy having been made for the files of the Department.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes

Enclosure:

From Mr. Crow,
January 25, 1946.

The Honorable

George W. Gillie,

House of Representatives.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

2/6/46

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A true copy of the signed original.

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FEB 7 1946

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Double



RALPH F. GATES
GOVERNOR

STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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RECORDS BRANCH

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
2/13/46
Letter to Gov. Gates
of Ind.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAR 15 1946
February 5th, 1946
E+R/erk

State Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have today received a letter from Claude E. Crow, R.#1, Ossian, Indiana, who is a very fine citizen of this State.

He lost a son by the name of K. J. Crow AOM3/c in the past War. He was an aerial gunner on a Patrol Bombing Squadron plane, which was sunk by Japanese gun fire in the Makassar Straits in June of 1945.

Mr. Crow seems to have evidence that hundreds of Allied prisoners are being held hostage by the Indonesians in Java. Not knowing whether his son is among them, I can readily understand his anxiety, and I feel that his request for a clarification of this condition contains much merit. He seems to also have information that the United States has withdrawn from this Area where American men are still being held.

I understand further that the Navy Department reports an exhaustive search in this section, and have reported that when specific information is available it will be released.

It seems to me that the United States has a direct obligation to release a full explanatory statement concerning what the conditions in this section actually are, and further than that I think there can be no doubt but that our Government has an obligation to make a thorough coverage of the entire area, regardless of the number of Forces required to complete such search, and to see that the effort is never slackened until every American Service man being held is released. It is a responsibility which is ours, and which our Government can not shirk.

711.94114A/2-546

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BRT

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CS/VJ

711.94114A/2-546

STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS 4



RALPH F. GATES
GOVERNOR

-2-

I will await your report, and will deeply appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ralph F. Gates
Governor

RFG-RS-cc
cc.-Mr. Crow

P.S. I would appreciate it greatly if the nature of your answer is such that a copy can be sent to the father of this boy.

FEB 15 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-546

My dear Governor Gates:

I have received your letter of February 5, 1946 with regard to the whereabouts of K. J. Crow, ACM3/c, who is missing in action after the airplane on which he was serving was forced down in the Makasser Straits in June 1945.

The airplane of which Mr. Crow was a member of the crew was under the command of Lieutenant De Land J. Croze. Relatives of several of the missing members of the crew have been in touch with the Department with regard to the possibility that they may be held in Java. As far as the Department is aware, there are no American military personnel in Java who have not been recovered. An officer of the Department has made informal inquiries of the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, War Department, with regard to this matter and found that the officers of that Bureau are of the same opinion. However, on the chance that there may be American personnel still in Java who have not been liberated, the Department is inquiring of its representative at Batavia to secure his opinion in the matter and has asked him to make inquiries concerning the whereabouts of the missing members of this crew. Thus far, however, no new information has been obtained, but I assure you that in the event that the Department's representative is able to obtain additional information it will be forwarded to you immediately.

I assure

The Honorable

Ralph F. Gates,
Governor of Indiana.

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>DK</i>
Rev.	<i>PC</i>
Est.	
D-1	

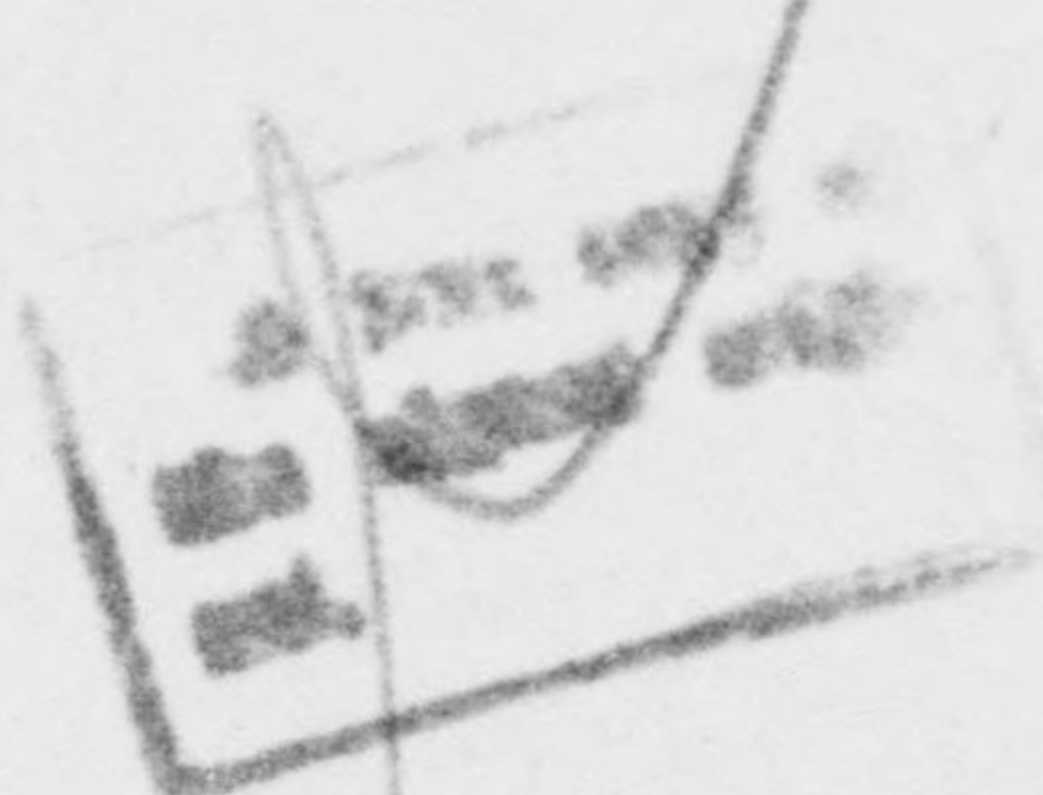
711.94114A/2-546 OS/D 711.94114A/2-546

- 2 -

I assure you that the military authorities have been extremely careful to recover as quickly as possible all military personnel who have been held in enemy-occupied territory. This is true of the areas where the British military authorities are accepting the surrender of the Japanese as well as in areas where our own Army and Navy have accepted the surrender of the Japanese.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes



SPD:ETBailey:erk

2/13/46

OR
FEB 14 1946 P.M.

Routine

PW X

AIRGRAM

2763 //

DD
ACTION:SPD
INFO:
EUR
PE
DC/L-6
SPD-6
FC
DC/R

FROM

Bern

Dated February 11, 1946.

Rec'd 9:52 a.m., Feb. 20

UNRESTRICTED

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-65 of February 11.

American Interests - Far East

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
FEB 25 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Swiss Foreign Office transmits February 8,
four lists indicating names of pows and civilian
internees deceased while in Japanese custody. These
names already forwarded by Intercross Geneva to
Piwar Washington with telegrams US/3271 through
US/3273 of November 8, 16, and 20, respectively.

711.94114A/2-1146

HARRISON

MAR - 4 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Handwritten signature]

FEB 27 1946

TJMadraba/nak

X



STD
LE
File

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCES TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMAND
455 LAKE AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, 8, MISSOURI

4S/aj

1946 FEB 19 AM 11 21

14 February 1946

DC/R
RECORDS BRANCH

Department of State
Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL PRODUCTS DIVISION	to LE 9B	LEGAL ADVISER ack 2/26/46 FEB 21 1946 O'Neill
FEB 20 1946		
DEPARTMENT OF STATE		DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Gentlemen:

Two enlisted men, former prisoners of war maltreated by the Japanese Army, have asked me to investigate any damage action they may have against Japan.

They have presented me with an Associated Press dispatch from Washington, dated 2 February 1946, which indicates such claims are entertained and should be submitted through the State Department. The local United States District Attorney's Office is not familiar with the subject.

Will you kindly advise me the form of such claims arising from mistreatment in violation of international treaties and rules of warfare, and the proper channels through which to submit them.

Yours very truly,

Ernest R. Mattoon

ERNEST R. MATTOON
1st Lt., Air Corps
Claims Officer

711.94114A/2-1446

CS/LF

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>Frank</i>
Rev.	<i>arb</i>
Cat.	
Dist.	

MAR 4 1946



711.94114A/2-1446



**HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCES TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMAND
455 LAKE AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, 8, MISSOURI**

4S/aj

14 February 1946

Department of State
Washington, D. C.

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Yours very truly,

Ernest R. Mattoon

ERNEST R. MATTOON
1st Lt., Air Corps
Claims Officer



**HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCES TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMAND
485 LAKE AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, 8, MISSOURI**

48/aj

14 February 1946

Department of State
Washington, D. C.

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Will you kindly advise me the form of such claims arising from mistreatment in violation of international treaties and rules of warfare, and the proper channels through which to submit them.

Yours very truly,

Ernest R. Mattoon

ERNEST R. MATTOON
1st Lt., Air Corps
Claims Officer

FEB 27 1946

In reply refer to
Le 711.94114a/2-1446

My dear Lieutenant Mattoon:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of February 14, 1946 in the interest of two enlisted men, former prisoners of war, who desire to receive compensation for mistreatment received at the hands of the Japanese authorities.

While the Department is not as yet in a position to indicate what procedure will be adopted to deal with claims against Japan or what classes of claims will be entitled to share in any funds which may become available for the settlement of such claims, it is suggesting to former prisoners of war who desire to file with the Department, for possible future consideration, claims for compensation on account of mistreatment, that such claims be prepared along the lines indicated in the enclosed memorandum dated January 5, 1946 which contains suggestions regarding the proper preparation of claims of that character. As indicated in the memorandum, it will greatly facilitate the consideration of claims if the suggestions, as far as applicable, are carefully followed.

711.94114A/2-1446

DCR SP-C Unit

RZH

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Benedict M. English
Assistant to
the Legal Adviser

Enclosure:
Memorandum,
January 5, 1946.

First Lieutenant Ernest R. Mattoon,
Air Corps, Claims Officer,
Headquarters,
Army Air Forces Technical Training Command,
455 Lake Avenue,
St. Louis 8, Missouri.

A true copy of the signed original.

FEB 27 1946 P.M.

Le:AO Neill:fje
2/26/46

OS/D 711.94114a/2-1446

MAR 8 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-4646

My dear Governor Gates:

I refer to my letter of February 15, 1946 with regard to the whereabouts of K. J. Crow, AOM3/c, who is missing in action after the airplane on which he was serving was forced down in the Makasser Straits in June 1945.

I have received information from the Department's representative at Batavia, Java, that both the Dutch civilian and military authorities are searching for clues that may lead to discovery of some information concerning the fate or whereabouts of Mr. Crow and the other missing members of the plane on which he served. Directions have been given by a General Van Der Veen, Dutch Commander in the Great East, that no efforts be spared in pursuing the search. The General has promised to inform the Department's representative promptly of any information that is found.

I regret that it is not absolutely clear from the telegram that the Department has received whether the Consul is satisfied that no Americans are being held in Java as hostages. I am asking our representative to clarify this point. He does say, however, that it is not likely that members of the crew of the plane on which Mr. Crow served are being held as hostages.

The Consul reports that local natives still control most of Celebes, but that other natives have
been

The Honorable

Ralph F. Gates,

Governor of Indiana.

~~SPD~~

711.94114A/2-4646

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711.94114A/2-4646

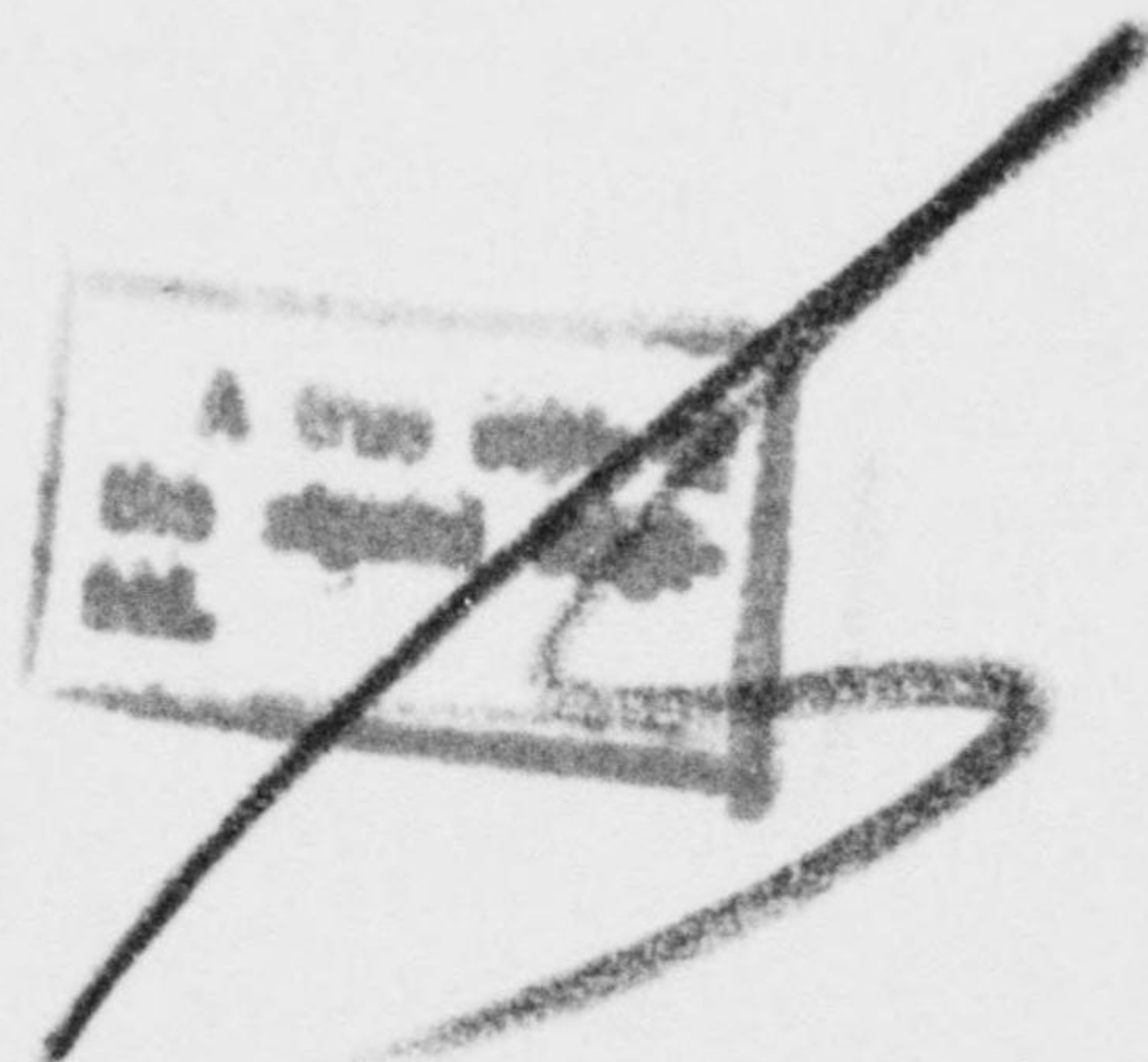
- 2 -

been sent into the interior by the Dutch with instructions to search for and assist personnel of this plane.

I shall not fail to keep you informed of any developments in this case.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes



3/4/46

Handwritten initials
SPD:ETBailey:erk

LETTER
CR
MAR 7 1946 P.M.

Handwritten initials
NOE

Rouhins

SPD

MAR 16 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-1546

My dear Governor Gates:

I refer to my letter of March 8, 1946 with regard to the whereabouts of K. J. Crow, AOM3/c, who is missing in action after the airplane on which he was serving was forced down in the Makasser Straits in June 1945.

I have had a further report from the Department's representative at Batavia who states that he does not believe that the missing officers and men are held as hostages in Java. His opinion is shared by the military authorities there. However, all Dutch civilian and military officials and British military authorities throughout the Netherlands East Indies have had this case brought to their attention and have been instructed to investigate fully and make reports to Batavia for our Consul General's information. Similar instructions have been given by the Dutch to loyal native officials.

I shall not fail to forward to you any further information which I may receive in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

DCR - GP-C Unit
And <i>DL</i>
Rev. <i>AK</i>
Dist.
Dist.

James F. Byrnes

The Honorable
Ralph F. Gates,
Governor of Indiana.



Routine

45
SPD:ETBailey:erk

MAR 15 1946 F.M.

3/15/46

711.94114A/2-1546
OS/D 711.94114A/2-1546

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
inc. sent to
MAR 5 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PMG
c. in SPD: Lj

No. 13458

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, February 15, 1946.

Subject: American Interests - Far East
Pow casualties resulting from
aerial bombardments.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1946 MAR 4 AM 9 47

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airgram No. A-1165 of October 24, 1945, which reported that the Swiss Minister at Tokyo had informed the Swiss Foreign Office that he was forwarding by courier a list from the Japanese Foreign Office giving the names of prisoners of war killed during aerial bombardments.

There is now enclosed a photostatic copy of the above-mentioned list as received from the Swiss Foreign Office under cover of a note dated February 13, 1946. It is stated in the latter that the Japanese Foreign Office informed the Swiss Legation at Tokyo that the list covers casualties to September 21, 1945.

It may be noted that the enclosure gives the names of deceased British and American prisoners of war, the latter being included in Sections V, VIII, IX, XII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XIX and XX.

Enclosure:

One photostatic copy of list. - with original of despatch only.

File No. 711.4
TJHadraba/mak
In quintuplicate to Department

Unit
Rev. *one*
Dist. *one*
MAR 8 1946

Distributed by SWP to

War - Kavanagh

Date MAR 7 1946 #D: *Lj*

711.94114A/2-1546
711.94114A/2-1546

Sent to Col. Kavanagh was Dept. no copy in Dept.

711.94114A/2-1546

CS/WJ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

February 19, 1946

EXPEDITE

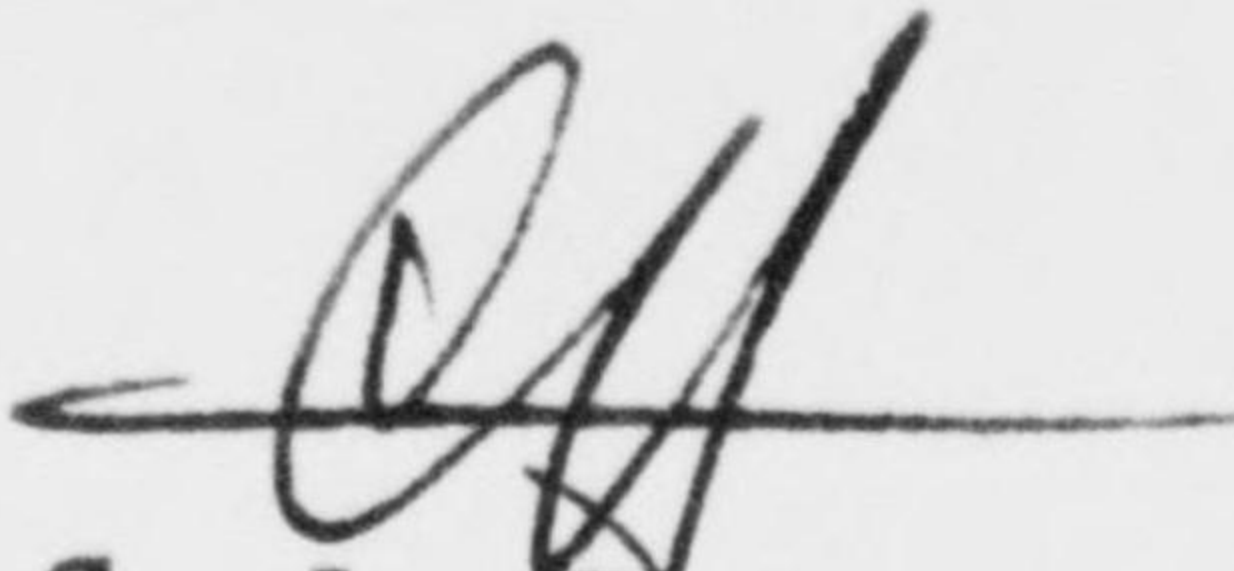
SPD
Mr. Clattenburg:

SPECIAL PROJECTS
 2/20/46 DIVISION
 Letter to Mr. D. A. Smith
 Sec. to Sen. Maybank
 Del. to Am. Consul, Batavia
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

More on the Hicks case.

Please expedite a reply -
even if of interim nature - on
this matter.

ETB/erk


 C. L. Burgess

Attachment:
Letter from Senator Maybank's
secretary.

7481-1-504114/2-1846

SPD

CARTER GLASS, VA., CHAIRMAN
 KENNETH MCKELLAR, TENN.
 CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.
 ELMER THOMAS, OKLA.
 MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD.
 RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
 PAT MCCARRAN, NEV.
 JOHN H. OVERTON, LA.
 JOHN H. BANKHEAD, ALA.
 JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY, WYO.
 THEODORE FRANCIS GREEN, R. I.
 DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
 JAMES M. MEAD, N. Y.
 BURNET R. MAYBANK, S. C.
 ABE MURDOCK, UTAH

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

United States Senate
 COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

February 18, 1946

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
 2-19-46
 MR. RUSSELL
 FEB 19 1946
 502/Chattanooga
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

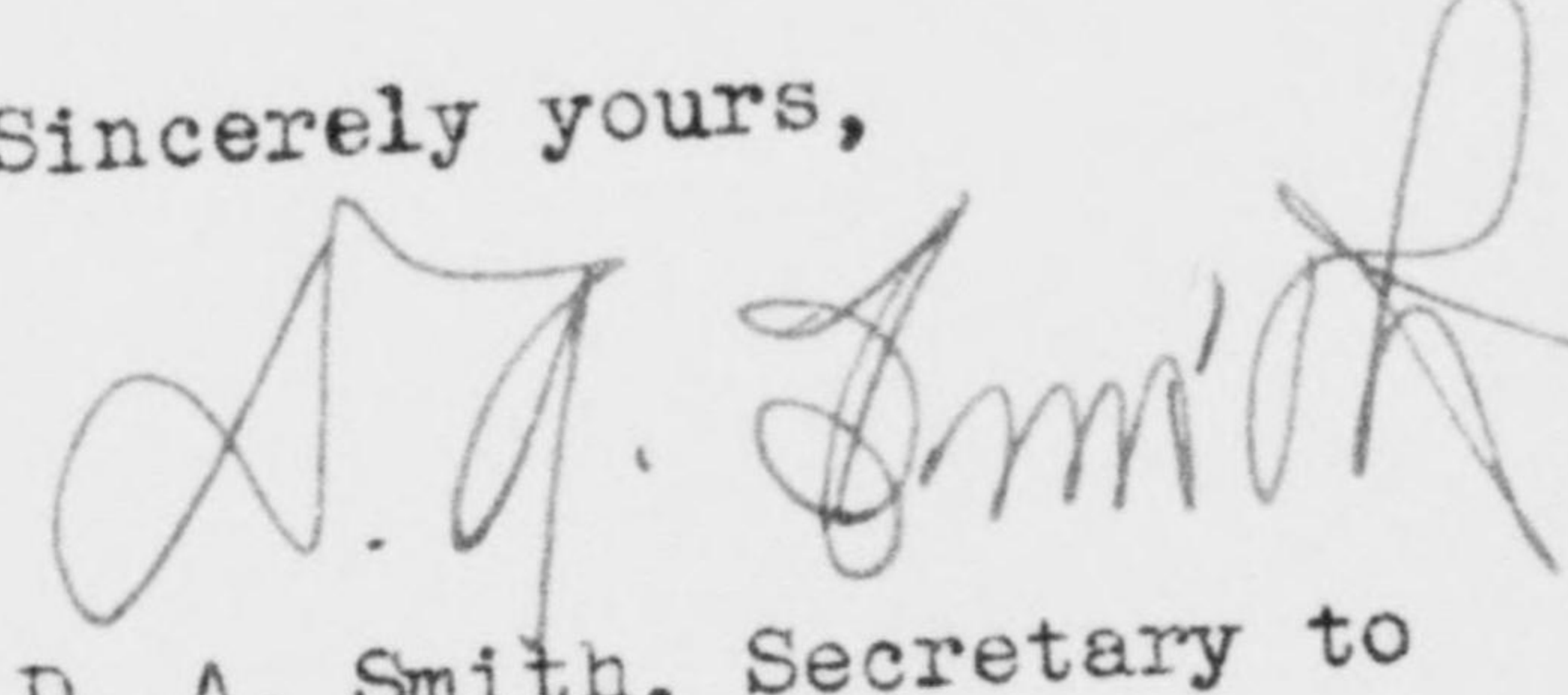
DCR

Mr. Donald Russell
 Assistant Secretary of State
 The State Department
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Donald:

With further reference to the matter of the whereabouts of Ensign Marshall H. Hicks, Jr., I am sending another letter just received from his wife. If you have any advice I will appreciate your letting me know at once. This information may give you a little lead.

Sincerely yours,



D. A. Smith, Secretary to
 Burnet R. Maybank

711.94114A/2-1846

Enc.
S:M

FILED
 AUG 7 - 1946

Adm.	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Asst.	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Ext.	<i>[Handwritten]</i>
Dist.	<i>[Handwritten]</i>

711.94114A/2-1846
 CS/WJ

COPY

1209 Colleton Street,
Columbia, S.C.,
February 14th, 1946.

Honorable Burnet R. Maybanks
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Maybanks:

We are eagerly awaiting the reply to your cablegram to the U.S. Consul General in Batavia, Java in regards to the general situation in Indonesia and more particularly in regards to the whereabouts of my husband Ensign Marshall H. Hicks, Jr.

Our efforts to procure information concerning the situation have been nearly futile during the past months and it has been only recently that smatterings of data have been made available to us.

I'm going to try and explain the situation to you in hopes that you will be able to give us more data and also that you can assure us that the United States will continue their search mission in Indonesia.

If the style of expression at times seems belligerent please realize it is completely impersonal and is a result of innumerable unavailing attempts to make our position clear by other means.

The relevant facts concerning my husband were given in my letter to you in the past, so I will not again repeat them here. There is, however, an impression that everyone seems to procure from these facts that is erroneous that I therefore feel that I should explain them more clearly.

We are not in any sense deluding ourselves in believing the possibilities that my husband is a prisoner of war. While we realize that the Division of The War Department charged with the affairs of prisoners of war has done an outstanding job we are also cognizant of the facts that it has been a stupendous task and that the records available to them, particularly the Japanese one, have not always been complete. The Navy Department informed us on June 29, 1945 that at least 4 members of my husband's crew were taken prisoner by the Japanese. This information was procured from Australian Scouts. So you can readily see therefore that there is factual evidence pointing to the belief that he or others of

-2-

his crew are a prisoner of war in spite of the fact that there is no record in the prisoner of war division of the War Department.

The evidence we have procured from the Navy Department since we first became concerned over the political situation in Indonesia last fall has been very conflicting so you will understand I'm sure. Our great consternation when the despatch stating that the search was ending, issued from Pearl Harbor, was broadcast on January 4, 1946, over the Mutual Network.

Knowing something of the geography of Indonesia by no logic could we conceive that the search mission has done so efficient a job in this region in three months time that they could have reached the stage where they were "ending" their search. The purpose of such a statement is still completely incomprehensible to us.

Examples of the conflicting statements made to us are:

1.
On October 25, 1945 we were informed that there were no Americans found in the Celebes.

but--

On October 29, 1945 one of us families of the "missing men" spent the afternoon in New Orleans with an American boy who had been a prisoner in the Celebes for 3 years and was released from there on September 17, 1945.

2.

On January 7, 1946 I was informed that an "exhaustive" search had been made for my husband.

but--

on January 14, 1946 I was informed that the search of the Celebes was not complete.

3.

On October 25, 1945 we were informed that the search missions were finding men every week who had been previously thought dead.

but--

On January 4, 1946 we were informed that the search missions were "ending" their hunt for missing men because they practically fruitless.

4.

On January 19, 1946 I was informed that in the "opinion" of the State Department there were no Americans in Java.

but--

On January 24, 1946 I was informed that "there are quite definitely

-3-

a considerable number of Allied Prisoners of war in Java and the other Indonesian Islands who we (the British) have not been able to rescue."

5.

On January 19 I was informed that it was the opinion of the State Department that there were no American Military personnel in Java.

but--

On January 31, 1946 we were informed that in the S.E. Pacific Islands there are 118 recorded American Prisoners of war unaccounted for in a region where there are a considerable number of unrescued allied prisoners of war.

I think with this data before you, you can realize our impatience with the platitudes and expressions of sympathy which have been offered us in the place of the general information which we requested.

How can the search missions be efficient over an area of 3,600,000 square miles consisting of thousands of islands and atolls in a period of only three months since the surrender of the Japanese in that region to Lord Mountbatten?

How can anyone know that there are no Americans held hostage in Indonesia until all the hostages and prisoners of war are released?

Our stand in this matter is very definite. The United States search mission must be continued until the search has been actually completed efficiently.

Any specific or general information you can obtain for us will be very gratefully appreciated.

Thanking you for all the services you have rendered and your interest in our case. Looking forward to an immediate reply and with great hopes for some real honest searching for these boys.

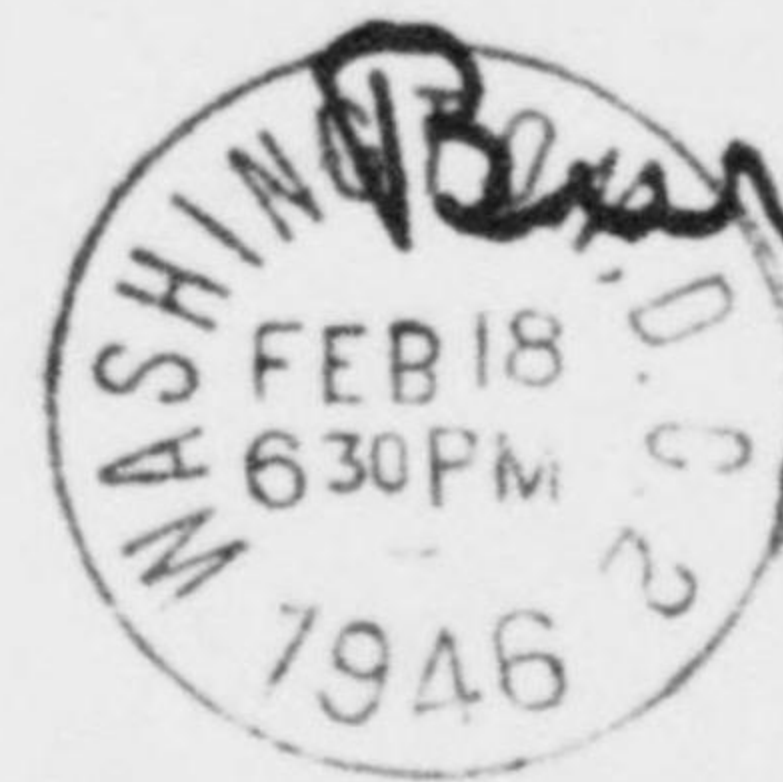
Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) MRS. MARSHALL H. HICKS, JR.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FREE



Mr. Donald Russell
Assistant Secretary of State
The State Department
Washington, D. C.

~~SPD~~

FEB 21 1946

In reply refer to
SPD

Dear Mrs:

I have received your letter of February 18, 1946 with further reference to the case of Ensign Marshall H. Hicks, Jr.

Although the Department has wired Batavia for information about the possibility that some Americans are being held as hostages by the Indonesians, and for information concerning the whereabouts of Ensign Hicks, no reply has as yet been received. I am therefore cabling again, and will not fail to let you know the moment we get any information at all.

Mrs. Hick's letter is returned herewith, a copy having been made for the files of the Department.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Russell

Enclosure:

From Mrs. Hicks,
February 14, 1946.

Mr. D. A. Smith,
Secretary to Senator Maybank,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

2/20/46

711.744/2-20-46

SPD 711.744/2-18-46

Routing slip with fields: Anal, Rev, Cat, Dist, and a large handwritten signature over it.

2/21
FEB 20 1946 P.M.

~~HD~~ ~~SPD~~

UNRESTRICTED

No. 13473

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Phil
SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
enc. sent to PMG
MAR 5 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
c. in SPD:ej

JCR

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, February 19, 1946.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1946 MAR 4 AM 9 47

DC/K
RECORDS BRANCH

Subject: American Interests - Japan
Transmission of list of
casualties at POW camp No. 2
Kawasaki.

711.94114a/11.945

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airgram No. A-1195 of November 9, 1945, which reported that according to information received from the Swiss Foreign Office the Swiss Minister at Tokyo was forwarding by courier a list giving the names of American prisoners of war who were killed, injured or missing as a result of the aerial bombardment on July 25, 1945, of prisoner of war camp No. 2 at Kawasaki.

There is now enclosed a photostatic copy of the subject list as received from the Swiss Foreign Office under cover of a note dated February 13, 1946.

Distributed
by SWP to

War-Kavanaugh

711.94114A/2-1946

Enclosure:

Photostatic copy of list - with
original of despatch only.

File No. 711.4
TJHadraba/mak
In quintuplicate to Department

Date MAR 7 1946

MAR 8 1946

FILED

CS/VJ 711.94114a/2-1946

DCR - GP 6 Unit
Anal. *Jml*
Rev. *WAB*
Cat. *sm*
Dist.

*Sent to
Col. Kavanaugh
with Dept
no copy in
Dept. HD*

TJK

LEGAL ADVISER
ans. 5/24
MAR 5 - 1946
617
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

File

3
RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pedersen

9701 SHORE ROAD,
BROOKLYN Febr. 21 1946.

1946 FEB 25 PM 1 19

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
FEB 26 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Honorable James F. Byrnes,
Secretary Of State,
Washington. D.C.

Sir: I am writing this letter with a view to obtain reparation from Germany for the three years of humiliation, starvation and misery I spent as prisoner of war in various Japanese prison camp and in this respect beg to state as follows:

In 1942 I was in command of the American merchant motorship AMERICAN LEADER of 6778 Gross tons, owned by the UNITED STATES LINES of New-York, but under charter to the WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION. While homeward bound from Ceylon, my vessel was attacked without warning during the night of Sept. 10 1942, when about 1000 miles west of Cape Town by the German surface raider S 28, which sent my ship to the bottom with shell fire and torpedoes in less than 20 minutes. The S28 was commanded by Kapitan zur See Hans von Ruckeschildt. Together with other survivors I was taken onboard the raider, where I remained for 29 days and was then transferred at sea to the German naval tanker UCKERMARK, whose commander landed me in BATAVIA, Java on Nov. 6 1942 and turned me over to Japanese military authorities.

The Japanese brought me to TANJONG PRIOK prisoner of war camp, a place described in the sailing directions as the white man's grave due to its malaria infested regions. It contained about 3500 prisoners of war Dutch, British and Australians. Malaria, dysentery and all kinds of skin diseases prevailed in the camp with little or no medicine and bandages. No Red Cross supplies were available, neither was the camp ever visited by representatives of any of the protective powers. I found myself much worse off than the officers of the armed forces, as unlike them I received no monthly pay and had therefore no money to buy food, mess gear, mosquito bar and clothes.

I protested the transfer of civilian merchant seamen from one nation to another on Dec 2 1942. (Copy attached), basing my protest upon the fact, that Germany was a signatory to the Geneva Convention, which Japan never ratified, and also upon precedence established during the war of 1914-18 in regard to captured merchant seamen both by Allied and German naval commanders. (Captain Hans von Muller of the Emden, von Luckner of the Sea Devil and the British commander, who captured the steamer President Mitre.)

Anal.
Rev.
Cat.
Dist.

711.94114A/2-2146

CS/VJ 2-2146

I am also attaching copies of letters sent to the Nippon commandant and the Swedish consul. The letter of August 3 1946 was written, while I was in jail. The Nippon commandant lieutenant Sonne, who never missed a chance to humiliate me, sometimes in front of all the prisoners on parade, had ordered my arrest a few days previously. The letter was written in response to an order, which came through the commandant's office in regard to merchant seamen, who were the only ones in camp classed as civilians. After I had been a week in jail, I requested Lt. Colonel Lanzing of the Dutch army, who in his capacity as camp commander was permitted to visit me, to obtain from lieutenant Sonne specifications of any charges against me. I never received a reply, except that I would remain in jail until the lieutenant decided where to send me, as he considered me an evil influence in camp.

I remained in jail 60 days without trial and was then shipped out together with nearly 3000 other prisoners of war on-board the steamer Macassa Maru. The old freighter was about 50 years old, and was never intended for a transport. We were so crowded, that it was hard even to find a place to sit down. During the day we were baked by the sun and at night drenched by torrential rainsqualls. The sanitary condition was appalling. The latrines were just wooden stages swung along the outside of the ship. Dysentery broke out and after five days, we were landed in Singapore, where the sick and infected were weeded out.

After three weeks in Singapore I was shipped out with 1500 other prisoners on another old freighter Matue Maru. She was loaded with iron ore, so the prisoners could only use the 'tween decks. Here we lay on the bare boards for 18 days, unable to stretch out due to the crowded condition. We were not permitted on deck or to wash ourselves. The wooden hatch covers were put on the hatches except for one, and the hatches were then covered with tarpaulins and battened down. It was clearly their intention to drown us all in case of an accident, as no provision was made for our safety. Our own submarines operated in these waters and the Japanese sailors and guards had life preservers strapped on them at all times, and also carried with them emergency rations of food and water. Dysentery broke out on the ship and several died.

I was taken off the ship upon arrival in Takao, Formosa, and shipped to senior officers camp at Shirakawa. I was still here during the summer of 1944, and went through the systematic starvation period together with American and Allied officers at that time. My own weight fell to 52 3/4 lbs. below normal, the lowest it reached during my captivity. I later went with these officers to Manchuria via Japan and was with them on-board the Oryoku Maru,

lying behind watertight doors in Keelung harbor, when that port was bombed for five successive days by our own air force.

I was in Mukden when the armistice was signed, having arrived there from Cheng-Chun-Tun in early summer. It was here after my liberation, I received my first letter from my wife and children in more than three years. I was the only prisoner of war in camp, who was not permitted to receive mail from home.

After arriving home, I learned, that Germany had never reported my capture with the result, that I was officially declared dead by the War Emergency Board in Washington in December 1942, and a death certificate issued at that time of which I am attaching a copy. I am also attaching a copy of Surrogate Court proceedings five months later.

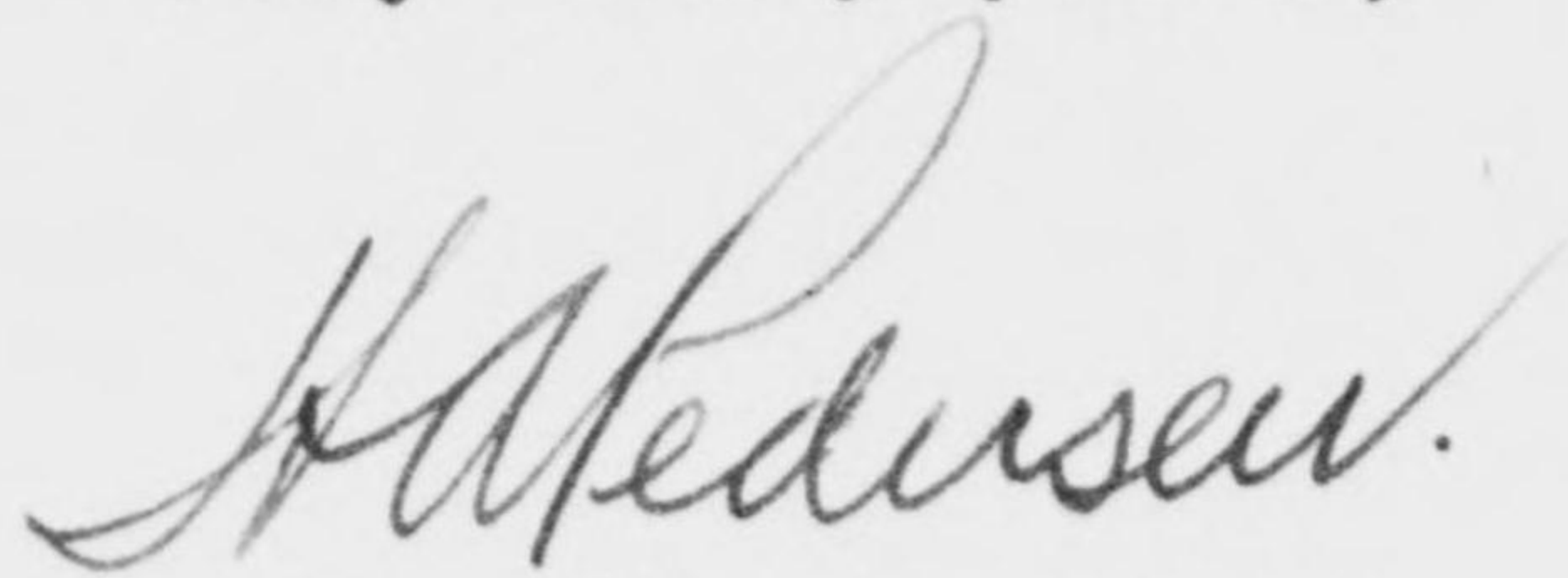
My ship was sunk by a cruiser belonging to the German navy. I consider myself as a German prisoner, and since a German naval commander handed me over to the Japanese, I feel I am entitled to compensation for his action and the savage treatment, I received in the hands of the Japanese. Had the German commander done his duty and brought me to Germany, I would have had a fair chance of being repatriated in due time;-a chance which did'nt exist in Japan;- I would have been reported captured and my wife and children would have been spared much grief and sorrow and also expence; - I would have enjoyed Red Cross supplies and letters from home, and I would under all circumstances have been liberated six months earlier, when Germany surrendered.

I am not stating any definite amount of compensation, as I am willing to leave it to the Department entirely. My loss of earnings, however, as a result of being a prisoner three years, I estimate to about \$12000.

I also think, I am entitled to reimbursement for expences while recuperating after arriving home, which would amount to \$ 2000 for four months based on my basic salary of \$ 500 monthly, less \$ 900 paid me by the War Shipping Administration.

I would appreciate if the Department would inform me, if it is necessary for me to engage a lawyer to press my claim.

Very truly yours,



H/A. Pedersen.

Enc att 2

Tandjonk Priok,
Dec. 2 1942.

From: Commander H.A. Pedersen, USNR.,
Master Ex: American Leader,
Prisoner of War # 4981.

To : The Nippon Commandant,
Prisoner of War Camp,
Tandjonk Priok, Batavia.

Subject: Treatment of American Prisoners of War.

1. On Sept. 10 1942 the motor vessel American Leader of 6778 gross tons, owned by the United States Lines of New-York and under my command, was sunk by a German auxiliary cruiser in the South Atlantic Ocean. The survivors including 9 officers and myself were taken onboard the cruiser as German Prisoner of War.

2. On Oct. 7 1942 we were transferred at sea to a German naval tanker, which brought us to Batavia Java, where we arrived on Nov. 4 1942.

3. On Nov. 6 1942 without previous notice, the German Commander sent us ashore under escort of Japanese soldiers, who took us to Tandjonk Priok Prisoner of War camp, where we have since remained. During this time, we have experienced great difficulty in obtaining the barest necessities to sustain life, which is due to the fact, that we have not received the pay to which we are entitled as German prisoners of war. We consider the German Government morally responsible for our welfare. Since Germany has fulfilled her international obligations in regard to prisoners of war within Germany, we feel we should be accorded the same treatment here.

4. The transfer of civilian merchant seamen from one nation to another is without precedent in naval warfare and is a violation of existing international law. I therefore desire to file a formal protest with you on behalf of us all.

5. I further request that a copy of this protest be forwarded to the German Government, and that I may be given the opportunity to interview the German Consul in Batavia.

H.A. Pedersen.

Tanjong Priok,
January 6 1943.

From : Commander H.A. Pedersen, USNR.,
Master Ex: American Leader,
Prisoner of War # 4981.

To : The Nippon Commandant,
Prisoner of War Camp,
Tandjong Priok, Batavia.

Subject: Status of American Merchant Marine Officers Prisoners of War.

1. I have been informed by Lt-Colonel Dobbin, the British Commandant of this prisoner of war camp of the results of my representations to you on the subject of pay for Merchant Marine Officers prisoners of war.

2. I understand there is no likelihood of pay being issued to my officers, nor will they be paid at officers rates, if they go out in charge of working parties.

3. As I have already stated in my letter of Dec. 2 1942 we are German prisoners of war, and Germany having fulfilled her international obligations in the payment of prisoners of war within Germany, I can not understand why similar treatment can not be given us here.

4. The refusal of the Nippon Authorities to grant us pay, places my officers and myself in a most precarious position, since we entered this camp with no money at all, and are therefore quite unable to make small purchases to supplement the unaccustomed food with which we are issued.

5. I request that the attached protest be forwarded to the Swedish Consul, who, I understand, is representing German interests in Java, in order that he may forward it to the German Government.

6. I also request, that I may be given an opportunity to interview the Swedish Consul in order to make arrangements for money to be sent me from the United States, should no arrangements be made for the issue of pay here.

H.A. Pedersen.

Tandjonk Priok,
Batavia January 9 1943.

From: Commander H.A. Pedersen, USNR.,
Master Ex: M/V American Leader,
Prisoner Of War # 4981.

To : The Swedish Consul,
Batavia.

Sir:

1. On behalf of my officers and men, I wish to address a request to you to use your authority as German Charge d'Affairs in Java, to redress a state of affairs which has arisen in this camp.
2. On Sept. 10 1942, the M/V American Leader owned by the United States lines of New-York, and under my command, was sunk in the South Atlantic Ocean by a German auxiliary cruiser. The survivors, 47 men including 9 officers and myself, were taken onboard as German prisoners of war. By devious routes we were eventually landed at Tandjonk Priok on Nov. 6 1942 and handed over by the German Commander to the Nipponese authorities.
3. We consider nevertheless that Germany is responsible for our welfare, and therefore some arrangements should be made for the payment of the officers, which is not being done. The seamen receive 10 Dutch cents per day, when they go out on working parties.
4. The Nipponese authority states that we are civilians, having no official status or rights, and are therefore not entitled to any pay, other than working pay at 10 cents per day.
5. We hope that you will be able to help us in this matter in order to alleviate our present destitute condition, which prevents us from buying food to supplement the unaccustomed rations with which we are issued.

Respectfully,

H.A. PEDERSEN.

Prisoner of War Camp # 1
Batavia, August 3 1943.

From: Commander H.A. Pedersen, USNR.,
Master Ex: M/V. American Leader.
Prisoner of War # 4981.

To : Nippon High Authority via Nippon Commandant.

Subject: Nippon Special Order of August 3 1943.

1. In compliance with the above order, I take pleasure in stating my views regarding my own case. I regret, however, that the Nippon Authorities found it necessary to place certain restrictions on the order, preventing me from quoting examples from previous wars, and making it more difficult for me to state my case clearly.

2. It is now nine months since the Germans landed me in Batavia. During that period, I have been kept in a regular prisoner of war camp, but at the same time have been classed by the Nippon Authorities as civilian without any status or rights. International law on the subject is very clear. Oppenheim late professor of International Law at the University of Cambridge states in his book International Law paragraph 85 as follows:

Quote:

In a sense the crews of merchantmen owned by subjects of the belligerents belong to the latter's armed forces. For those vessels are liable to be seized by enemy men-of-wars, and if attacked for that purpose, they may defend themselves, may return the attack and eventually seize the attacking men-of-war. The master, officers and crew of the merchantmen become in such cases combatants, and enjoy all the privileges of the armed forces. It should be mentioned in regard to the fate of the crews of captured merchantmen, that a distinction is to be made according as to whether or not a vessel has defended herself against a legitimate attack. In the first case the members of the crew become prisoners of war, for by legitimately taking part in the fighting, they have become members of the armed forces of the enemy. In the second case, articles 5 to 7 of Convention XI of the second Peace Conference enact the following rules:

(a) The master, officers and such members of the crew, who are enemy subjects may only be made prisoners, if they refuse to give a written promise not to engage, while hostilities last, in any services connected with the operations of war.

(b) The name of all individuals retaining their liberty under parole must be notified by the captors to the enemy, and the latter is forbidden knowingly to employ the individuals concerned in any service, prohibited by the parole.

Unquote.

3. It will be seen from the above, that my own case must fall within one of the two categories. I should therefore be classed either as a regular prisoner of war, entitled to enjoy all the privileges of the armed forces, or I should give my parole and be released and repatriated to my own country at the earliest opportunity. In the first case as the commanding officers of a combatant vessel, I must be entitled to officers rank and privileges, while a prisoner of war, and must not be classed on the same level as a private soldier, which is the case at the present time.

International law especially as it concerns naval warfare, was founded not only on treaties, but also on precedents and custom. From time immemorial, custom has placed the master of merchant vessel both in war and peace in a special position. Writers on International Law like Oppenheim and others, whenever they mention the crew of a merchant vessel, always differentiate between the master, officers and crew of the vessel. On the two German ships, where I was a prisoner this custom was fully recognized, and throughout my stay with them, I was treated as an officer prisoner of war, and furnished with officers quarters and rations. That the Germans landed me in Batavia may establish a precedence or create an International incident, when this war is over.

4. I have previously informed you, that I hold a commission in the United States Naval Reserve. I served as an officer in the war of 1914-18. I was made a Lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1928 and was promoted to commander in 1941 with precedence dating back to July 1 1940. My name is published in the Navy register. Since I hold both civil and naval rank, I feel the Nippon Authorities should recognize me as an officer.

H.A. Pedersen

MARITIME WAR EMERGENCY BOARD
WASHINGTON.

I certify that on December 15 1942 the Maritime War Emergency Board found, that the M/ V American Leader was lost through enemy action on or about Sept. 22 1942, and that the member of the crew listed below was or were onboard the said vessel at the time she was lost and has or have been missing ever since; and that the Board thereupon duly entered an order declaring the said member of the crew presumptively dead in accordance with its applicable decisions.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RATING.</u>
Captain Haakon Pedersen	Master.

(Signed) Eric Nielsen
Secretary.

KINGS COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT

In the matter of the prtion of
ANNA PEDERSEN

File # 2206 1943

For letters of Administration of the Goods,
Chattels and Credits which were of

HAAKON ANDREW PEDERSEN
DECEASED.

Notice of Petition
for letters of Ad-
ministration
121 a S.C.A.

Take notice that a petition for letters of administration of the goods, chattels and credits, which were of HAAKON ANDREW PEDERSEN deceased, has been filed in this court, and that the names and post office addresses of the petitioner and of each and every distributee, so far as they are known to the petitioner, or can be ascertained after diligent inquiry, as set forth in the petition herein, are as follows: the petitioner

ANNA PEDERSEN, wife of decedent,
whose post address is 9701 Shore Road, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Edna May Pedersen, Daughter of decedent,
whose post office address is 9701 Shore Road, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Kenneth Elsworth Pedersen, son of decedent,
whose post office address is 9701 Shore Road, Brooklyn, N.Y.

That there are no other distributees of said deceased to the best of petitioner's information and beleif.

And that such letters of Administration will be issued to ANNA PEDERSEN on or after 12 day of April 1943.

Dated Brooklyn, New-York April 9 1943.

(Signed) Rodney T Martinsen
Attorney for Petitioner.

Office and Post Office Address,
Brooklyn, New-York.

215 Montague Street

MAY 20 1946

In reply refer to
Le 711.94114A/2-2146

711.94114A/2-2146
711.94114A/2-2146

My dear Mr. Pedersen:

Reference is made to your letter of February 21, 1946 with enclosures concerning a claim against Germany for "three years of humiliation, starvation and misery" spent as a prisoner of war in various prison camps.

While the Department is not yet in a position to indicate what procedure will be adopted to deal with claims against Germany or what classes of claims will be entitled to share in any funds which may become available for the settlement of such claims, it is suggesting to former prisoners of war who desire to file with the Department, for possible future consideration, claims for compensation on account of mistreatment during their detention that such claims be prepared along the lines indicated in the enclosed memorandum dated January 5, 1946 which contains suggestions regarding the proper preparation of claims of that character. As indicated in the memorandum, it will greatly facilitate the consideration of claims if the suggestions, as far as applicable, are carefully followed.

The question as to whether you should "engage a lawyer to press" your claim is a personal matter concerning which the Department would not be in a position to advise you.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

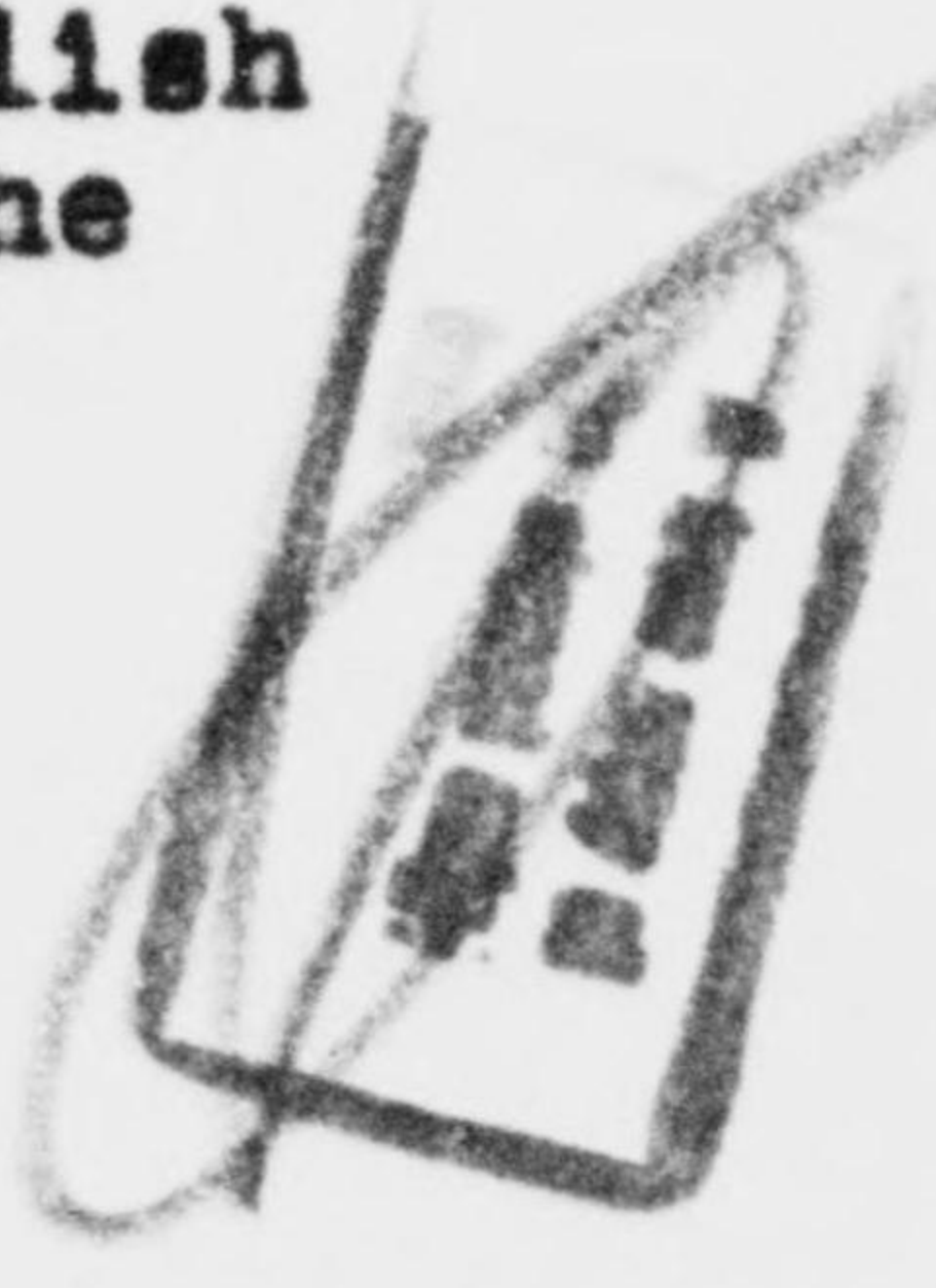
Enclosure:
Memorandum,
January 5, 1946.

Benedict M. English
Assistant to the
Legal Adviser

Mr. H. A. Pedersen,
9701 Shore Road,
Brooklyn, New York.

Le:AO'Neill:hr
5/24/46

DCR - GP-C
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MAY 24 1946 P



SPD

MAY 24 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711,94114A/2-2146

Dear Dres:

I refer to my letter of March 19, 1946 and to our previous correspondence with regard to the whereabouts of Ensign Marshall H. Hicks, Jr.

The Department has now received another report from our representative at Batavia, which states that a special searching party of the United States Army visited the place where Ensign Hicks' plane crashed. The party also went inland. They found evidence that a fight had taken place on the beach in which six men died. The men were buried in the brush not far from the crashed plane. Four survivors were taken into the interior and held for a while by the Japanese Military Police, but they have not been heard of since. The Consul General states that he is reasonably sure that the natives are not holding any Americans, because the natives are friendly to Americans and would be the first to assist any of them who are alive. The search of the Netherland Indies military and civil services is continuing wherever possible. Since the archipelago consists of more than 10,000 islands, the task is unending.

I am also writing to Mrs. Hicks, and I shall not fail to forward to you and to her any further information which I may receive in this matter.

DCR - GPC
Ansl. *FK*
Rev.
Cat.
Dist.
Sincerely yours,

Donald Russell

Mr. D. A. Smith,
Secretary to Senator Maybank,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

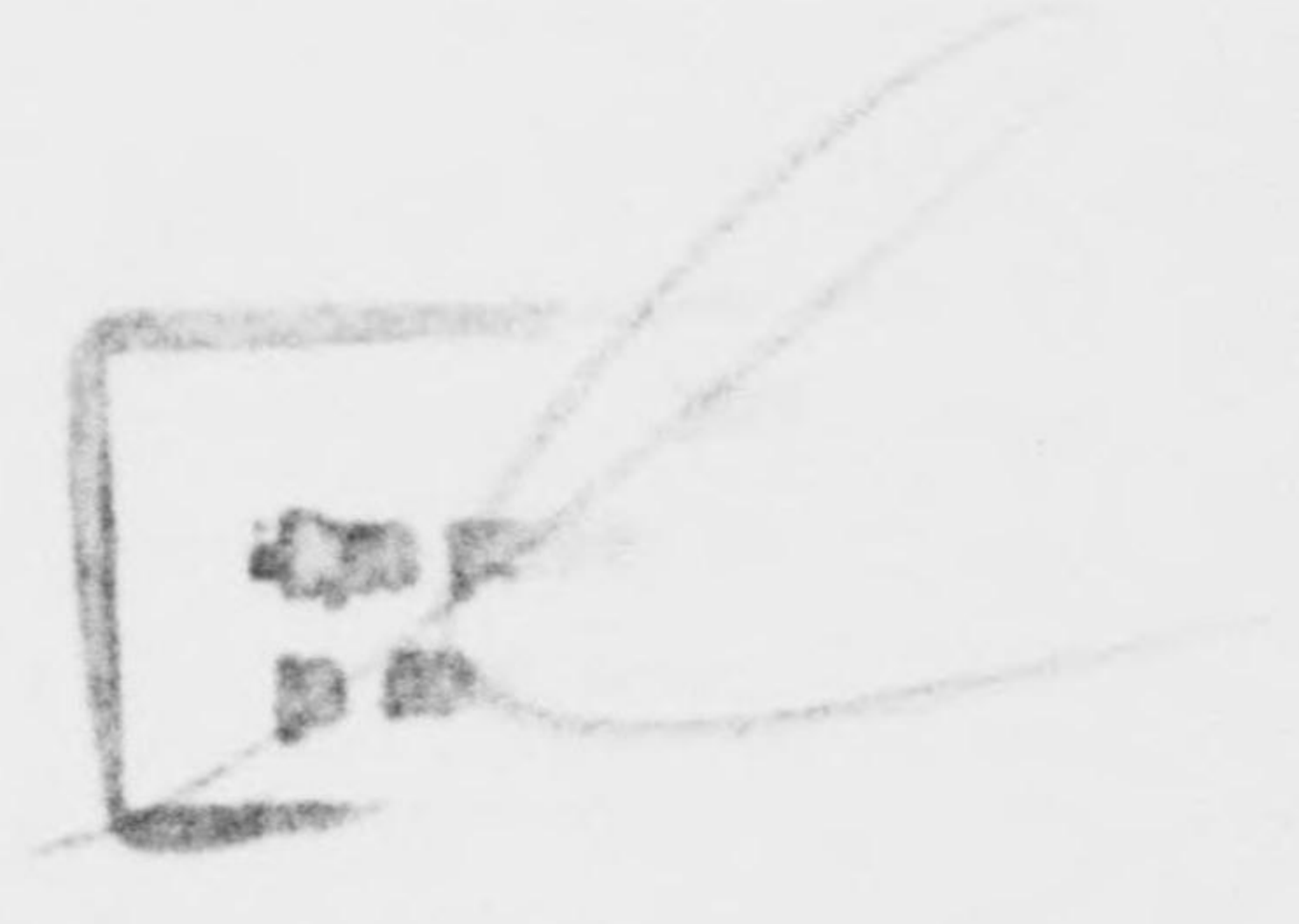
MAY 22 1946

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SPD:ETB:erk

5/21/46

5/23

File 711,94114A/2-2146



SPD

MAR 19 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-2146

Dear Dres:

I refer to my letter of March 8, 1946 and to our previous correspondence with regard to the whereabouts of Ensign Marshall H. Hicks, Jr.

The Department has now received another report from our representative at Batavia, Java, who states that he does not believe that the missing officers and men are held as hostages in Java. His opinion is shared by the military authorities there. However, all Dutch civilian and military officials and British military authorities throughout the Netherlands East Indies have had this case brought to their attention and have been instructed to investigate fully and make reports to Batavia for our Consul General's information. Similar instructions have been given by the Dutch to loyal native officials.

I shall not fail to forward to you any further information which I may receive in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Russell

Mr. D. A. Smith,
Secretary to Senator Maybank,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

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Anal.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
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Col.	
MAR 15 1946	

[Handwritten initials]
SPD:ETBailey:erk

3/15/46

711.94114A/2-2146

MAR 8 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-2146

Dear Dres:

I refer to my letter of February 21, 1946, and Mr. Bailey's telephone conversation with you on March 4, 1946, with regard to the whereabouts of Ensign Marshall H. Hicks, Jr.

The Department has received information from the American Consul at Batavia, Java, that the Dutch civilian and military authorities are searching for clues which may lead to more definite information concerning the fate or whereabouts of Ensign Hicks and the other men who were lost with him. Directions have been given by the Dutch Commander, General Van Der Veen, that no efforts be spared to assist in this search. The General has promised to give the Consular Officer any information that can be obtained.

I regret that it is not absolutely clear from the telegram that the Department has received whether the Consul is satisfied that no Americans are being held in Java as hostages. I am asking our representative to clarify this point. He does say, however, that it is not likely that members of the crew of the plane on which Ensign Hicks served are being held as hostages.

The Consul reports that local natives still control most of Celebes, but that other natives have
been

Mr. D. A. Smith,
Secretary to Senator Maybank,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DCE - GP-C Unit
Anal. *Frank*

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711.94114A/2-2146

- 2 -

been sent into the interior by the Dutch with instructions to search for and assist personnel of this plane.

I shall not fail to keep you informed of any developments in this case.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Russell



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MAR 7 1946 P.M.

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MAR 14 1946

MAR 14 1946

In reply refer to
SPD

CONFIDENTIAL

The Secretary of State transmits to the Secretary of War, for the information of the War Crimes Branch of the Civil Affairs Division, a copy of an airgram dated February 23, 1946 from the American Legation at Bern which pertains to the case involving the torture and decapitation of an American airman in the Aitape area New Guinea, which was the subject of the War Department's letters of July 11, 1944 and March 16, 1945.

711.94114A/2-2346

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Enclosure:

Airgram 83,
February 23, 1946
from Bern.

711.94114a/2-2346

CR ✓ *my*
MAR 14 1946

A true copy of the above original.

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3/13/46

OS/D 711.94114a/2-2346
SB

DD
ACTION:SPD
INFO:
S
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DC/R

20
AIRGRAM
475

1002
FROM
Bern
Dated February 23, 1946.
Rec'd 10:21, a.m. Mar. 12

CONFIDENTIAL

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-83 of February 23.

American Interests - Japan

Legation's airgram A-1168 October 25

3/13/46 SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
3rd to War
MAR 12 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
File
Crossed
NA/Perk

Swiss note contains following recapitulative
statement in translation:

Pursuant to its note of October 24, 1945
(Legation's above-cited airgram) concerning
an American aviator captured in the Aitape
area of New Guinea, who had been tortured
and then decapitated on March 24, 1944, by
the Japanese forces, the Division of Foreign
Interests of the Federal Political Department
confirms to the Legation that Japanese
Foreign Office informed the Swiss Legation at
Tokyo that a new investigation has been under-
taken on the basis of the information con-
tained in the Legation's note of April 4,
1945 (Deptel 1296 March 31, 1945, 6 p.m.)

Japanese Foreign Office observed that first
investigation was unsuccessful because the
communication from the American Government
contained in the Legation's note of September
2, 1944 (Deptel 3007 August 31, 1944, 10 p.m.)
stated that the Japanese unit which committed
this murder was the "26th Air Construction
Unit". As there was no such unit in the
Japanese Army the Japanese Foreign Office
informed the Swiss Legation on January 12,
that "the Imperial Government could not admit
the matter reported by the United States
Government". As the Legation will recall the

Federal

711.94114A/2-2346

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A-83, Bern, 2/23/46

Federal Political Department imparted this information by note of January 29, 1945 (Legtel 731 February 1, 1945, 6 p.m.). In the Legation's above-mentioned note of April 4, 1945, the Department of State found unacceptable this Japanese reply and requested that a new investigation be instituted. It mentioned especially that the responsible Japanese unit was the "4th Air Construction Unit" and not the "26th Air Construction Unit". According to the last communication from the Japanese Foreign Office the new investigation was ordered on the basis of this information. It results actually from this communication that this unit had in fact been stationed at Aitape and that Lieutenant Kurita was its commander. As the person concerned has probably not yet returned to Japan, the Japanese Ministry of War has given instructions to the Japanese authorities on the spot immediately to undertake an investigation, to punish severely the guilty person if found and to submit a detailed report.

The Swiss Legation at Tokyo has informed General Headquarters of the Allied Forces of this matter.

HARRISON

TJHacraaba/mak

SPD

DR. HARRY M. PELL
BRAZIL, INDIANA

SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
Letter to Mrs. Pell
FEB 25 1946
Tel. to Am. Consul, Batavia
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

James F. Byrnes
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dear Sir:-

1946 FEB 25 PM 4

7/16/46
LSNP/473
711.94114A/2-2546

7/16/46
67B/erk

You have recently had a letter from our Governor Gates concerning K.G. Crow a missing gunner on a Navy plane that came down in the Macassar Straits last June 4. Our son Ronald M Pell Aer. M/2 (627-22-56) of the ship Pocumoke was also a member of this crew and reported missing. As only one of these boys was known to have died of wounds, three were rescued some taken prisoners + some were abouts unknown, we feel as Mr Crow that a more extensive search should yet be made. If you have a son, you will know our terrible anxiety since we received this message last June and we appeal to you to do every thing in your power to find these boys. Ronald has

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CS/VJ

AUG 6 - 1946

FILED

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711.94114A/2-2546

DR. HARRY M. PELL

BRAZIL, INDIANA

a wife and baby, eighteen months old, and they join us in asking of your kindness to help us.

These boys were known to have landed on the Celebes and we were told that the Australians were to search that Territory, but have heard nothing of the results. They could be with natives there or as Mr. Crow suggests held as hostages on Java.

I hope and pray you will give this your immediate attention and will be forever grateful.

Very sincerely

Mrs. Harry M. Pell

1204 N. Walnut St

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Rev.

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DCR - GP-C Unit

Anal. *[Signature]*
Rev. *[Signature]*
Cat. *[Signature]*
Dist.

CS/VJ

AUG 6 - 1946

FILED

711.94114A/2-2546

711.94114a/2-2546

SPD

MAY 23 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-2546

My dear Mrs. Pell:

I refer to my letter of March 16, 1946 with regard to the whereabouts of your son, Donald M. Pell, who is missing in action over the Makasser Straits.

The Department has now received another report from its representative at Batavia, which states that a special searching party of the United States Army visited the place where the plane on which your son was serving crashed. The party also went inland. They found evidence that a fight had taken place on the beach in which six men died. The men were buried in the brush not far from the crashed plane. Four survivors were taken into the interior and held for a while by the Japanese Military Police, but they have not been heard of since. The Consul General states that he is reasonably sure that the natives are not holding any Americans, because the natives are friendly to Americans and would be the first to assist any of them who are alive. The search of the Netherland Indies military and civilian services is continuing wherever possible. Since the archipelago consists of more than 10,000 islands, the task is unending.

You may be assured that I shall forward to you any further information that the Department may be able to obtain concerning this matter.

Sincerely yours,
For the Secretary of State:

Dorothea M. Laurion

E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special Projects Division

Mrs. Harry M. Pell,
1204 North Walnut Street,
Brazil, Indiana.

MAY 22 1946

SPD:ETBailey:erk

5/21/46

711.94114A/2-2546

CS/WJ

711.94114A/2-2546

~~SPD~~

MAR 16 1946

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/2-2546

My dear Mrs. Pell:

I refer to the Department's letter of March 4, 1946 with regard to the welfare and whereabouts of your son, Donald M. Pell, who is missing in action over the Makasser Straits.

The Department's representative in Batavia has reported that he, as well as the local military authorities, do not believe that the survivors of the plane on which your son was serving have been brought to Java and are held there as hostages. All Dutch civilian and military officials and British military authorities throughout the Netherlands East Indies have been instructed to investigate as far as possible and to report promptly to Batavia such information as they may be able to obtain for the use of the Department's representative there. The loyal native officials have received similar instructions from the Dutch. In this connection, General Van Der Veen, who is Commander of the Dutch Forces in the Great East, has directed that no efforts be spared to assist in this search. Most of the Celebes is still in the hands of the natives, but the Dutch have sent loyal natives into the interior to search for and assist survivors of the plane on which your son served.

SPD 711.94114A/2-2546

You may be assured that any further information that the Department may be able to obtain in this matter will be forwarded to you promptly.

Sincerely yours,
For the Secretary of State:

E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special Projects Division

RECEIVED
MAR 15 1946

Mrs. Harry M. Pell,
1204 North Walnut Street,
Brazil, Indiana.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

MAR 15 1946 P.M.

3/15/46

SPD

MAR 4 1946

In reply refer to
SPD

My dear Mrs. Pell:

I have received your recent letter with regard to the welfare and whereabouts of your son, Donald M. Pell, who is missing in action over the Macassar Straits.

The Department was not aware that your son was on the same plane as Lieutenant Croze, Gunner Crow and others. The American Consul at Batavia, Java, has been requested to attempt to ascertain and report the whereabouts of the missing members of this crew. A message is being sent to the Consul immediately giving the name of your son as one of the crew members and I shall not fail to inform you if the Consul is successful in obtaining any information about him.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

EB
E. Tomlin Bailey
Assistant Chief
Special Projects Division

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Mrs. Harry M. Pell,
1204 North Walnut Street,
Brazil, Indiana.

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3/1/46

AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Mr. Eldred D. Kuppinger
Special War Problems Division
Department of State

Date: February 26, 1945

From: Maurice Pate

Subject:

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
FEB 28 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

For your information, I am sending a table prepared by Mr. John Cotton of our staff, showing that of the original 33,500 American prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East, there appear to remain now in enemy hands approximately 14,100.

I am also sending a copy of this table to General Bryan so that the figures, some of which are based on estimates, may also be checked by his office.

W.P.

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AMERICAN RED CROSS

UNOFFICIAL APPROXIMATION OF AMERICAN POWS AND
INTERNEES PRESENTLY HELD BY JAPAN
(as of 2/24/45)

	<u>POWS</u>	<u>INTERNEES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Original Totals	23,500	10,000	33,500
Died in Camps	6,000	500	6,500
Sunk on Ships	<u>3,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,300</u>
Total Dead	9,300	500	9,800
Balance	14,200	9,500	23,700
Repatriated	-	2,700	2,700
Rescued from ships sunk	100	-	100
Liberated	<u>1,300</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>6,800</u>
Total Recovered	1,400	8,200	9,600
Balance Now Held by Japan	<u>12,800</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>14,100</u>

PROBABLE PRESENT LOCATION

Japan	8,200	200	8,400
Manchuria	1,100	-	1,100
North China	900	1,000	1,900
SW Asia	1,500	100	1,600
Unlocated	1,100	-	1,100
	<u>11,800</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>14,100</u>

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION COPY

INCOMING TELEGRAM

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
3/4/46
Tel. to Batavia 12
Letter to Mr. Fudd
Batavia " Mr. Gillis
" " Mr. B. ...
" " Mr. ...
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3-4-46
send to
SPD
action
Kallen
Kerbl

CTC -H
Paraphrase before com-
municating except to
Government Agencies

ACT INF	
ADM	
EUR-H	
EUR-M	
EUR-S	
EUR-W	
ASIA	
AUS	
AFR	
AM	
BC	
CF	
NS	
SA	
WB	
ET 1 p.m.	

Rec'd 11:45 a.m., March 1st

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DISTRIBUTION OFFICE
MAR 1 - 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RESTRICTED

ACTION: EUR
INFO: SECSTATE
FE
SPD
FC
DC/R

73, February 28

Reference Department's telegram No. 11, January 10 and 29, January 31 concerning personnel of naval patrol plane which made forced landing West Coast Celebes on June 4, 1945.

Dutch authorities both civil and military have been and are searching for clues leading to any knowledge their fate or whereabouts. General Van Der Veen Commander of Dutch forces in Great East has directed that no efforts be spared to assist and he has promised to inform me promptly of any information obtained. It is not likely that they are being held as hostages. Most of Celebes is still in the hands of local natives but Dutch have sent other natives into the interior with instructions to search for them and then to assist the personnel of the plane. Please assure Navy Dept that all possible efforts are being made and that any information obtained will be telegraphed promptly.

FOOTE

BB

RESTRICTED

AUG 7 1946

FILED

DCH J. L. ...
Anal.
Rev.
Cat.

PERMANENT RECORD COPY: THIS COPY MUST BE RETURNED TO DC/R WITH NOTATION OF ACTION TAKEN

711.94114A/2-2846

ph
zh

PREPARING OFFICE
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

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

Collect

Department of State

RESTRICTED

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to

This telegram
must be paraphrased
before being communicated
to anyone other than a
Government Agency.
RESTRICTED

1896

MAR 7 - 1946

Sj

AMERICAN CONSUL,
BATAVIA, JAVA.

64

Note that persons interested in these airmen URTEL 73,
February 28, think they may be in Java. Do you think men
may be held as hostages in Java? What is opinion of local
military authorities?

In view of new inquiries concerning naval personnel
missing June 1945 in Japan Island area, ~~and~~ New Guinea, and
similar inquiries concerning military and naval personnel
missing over ~~the~~ NEI area, DEPT requests info concerning
likelihood of American personnel still being in whole NEI
area and nature and extent of efforts being made to search
for and locate American personnel missing in NEI.

711.94114A/2-2846

OS/D

711.94114A/2-2846

Anal *foab*
Rev. *foab*
Cat. *foab*
DCR - GP-C
Bynes
(mc)
foab
3-8-46

TELEGRAPH
DISTRIBUTION

MAR 7 PM 5 29

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

OR ✓
MAR 7 1946 P.M.

711.94114A/2-2846

NOE: Rallen: jt
SPD: ETS: Mey: erk

NOE

3/2/46
3/4/46

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Memorandum of Conversation

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DATE: March 4, 1946.

SUBJECT: WHEREABOUTS OF ENSIGN MARSHALL H. HICKS, JR.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Smith, Office of Senator Maybank
Mr. Bailey, SPD

COPIES TO:

Mr. Bailey telephoned to Mr. Smith and referred to the correspondence Mr. Smith had had with Mr. Russell about the whereabouts of Ensign Hicks. Mr. Bailey said he had received a telegram from Batavia about the matter and gave Mr. Smith the gist of the second paragraph of Batavia's telegram 73. Mr. Smith then asked that this information be repeated while a stenographer took it down. This was done. Mr. Bailey then explained to Mr. Smith that he was not sure that the sentence about the men not being held as hostages referred to Java or Celebes, or both, and that he was going to try to get further information. Mr. Bailey also said that he would confirm his telephone conversation by letter. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Bailey for the information.

SPD:ETBailey:erk

DCR - G.P.C. Unit
APR 7 1946
3/4/46

FW 711.94114A/2-2846

FW 711.94114a/2-2846

CS/VJ

FILED

APR 7 1946

GERALD W. LANDIS
7TH DIST. INDIANA

SECRETARY:
JACK B. LOCKWOOD
LINTON, IND.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

March 11, 1946

SPD
COMMITTEES:
LABOR
MINES AND MINING
ELECTIONS No. 2
UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

HOME ADDRESS:
LINTON, IND.

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

3/13/46
SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
MAR 13 1946
Letter to Mr. Landis
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ETB/jerk

file

Dear Sir:

I have been informed that hundreds of Allied prisoners of War are still being held hostage by the Indonesians in Java and that the United States has withdrawn from this area where there are American men.

Any information you may be able to furnish me in this connection will be appreciated.

Thanking you very kindly, I am

Sincerely yours,

Gerald W. Landis

Gerald W. Landis, M. C.

GWL:BL

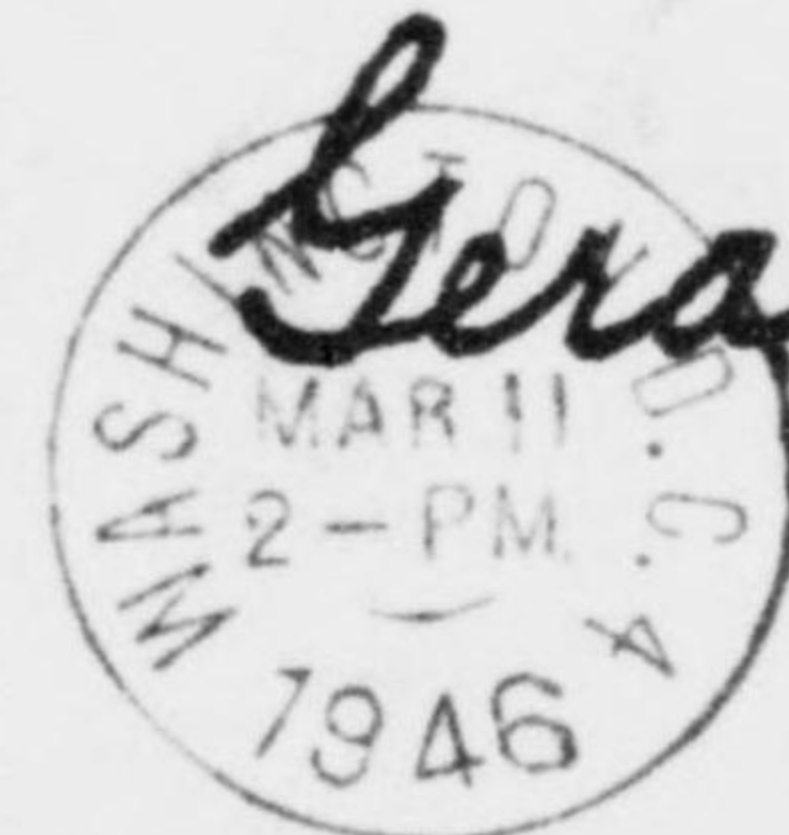
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1946 MAR 13 AM 10 10
RECORDS & COMM. DIV.

711.94114A/3-1146

DCR - GP C Unit
Anal. _____
Rev. _____
Cat. _____
Dist. _____

711.94114A/3-1146

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
OFFICIAL BUSINESS - FREE



Gerald M. Standis

RED CROSS WAR FUND	M.C.

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

3-13-47

SPD ✓

MAR 15 1947

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/3-1146

file

My dear Mr. Landis:

I have received your letter of March 11, 1946 with regard to the report that hundreds of allied prisoners of war are still being held hostage by the Indonesians in Java and that the United States has withdrawn from this area where, it is said, there are American personnel.

The Department understands that the military authorities have been extremely careful to recover as quickly as possible all military personnel who have been held in enemy-occupied territory. This is true of the areas where the British or Dutch military authorities are accepting the surrender of the Japanese, as well as in areas where our own Army and Navy have accepted the surrender of the Japanese.

Informal inquiries made at the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, War Department, indicate that the officers there do not believe that there are any American personnel in Java who have not been released.

I have

The Honorable

Gerald W. Landis,

House of Representatives.

711-94114A/3-1146

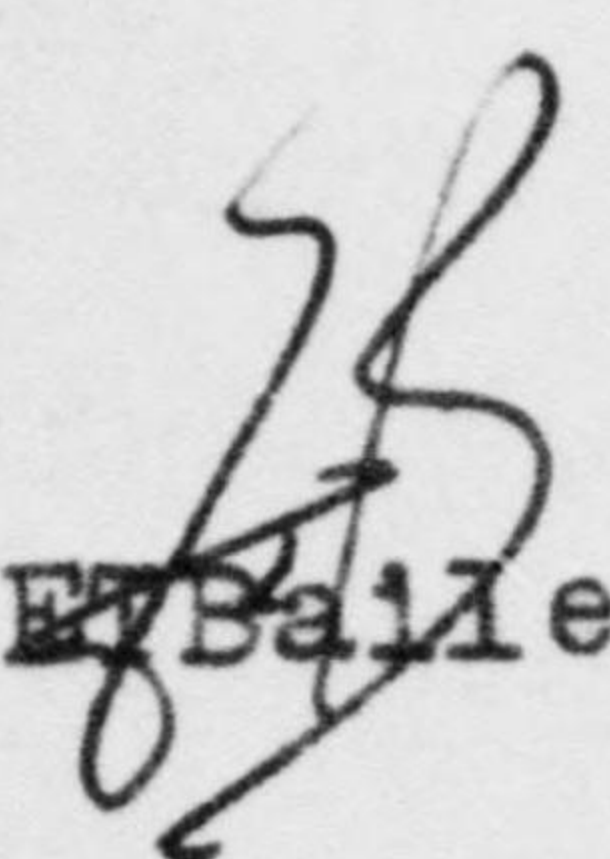
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Rev.
Cat.
Dist.

- 2 -

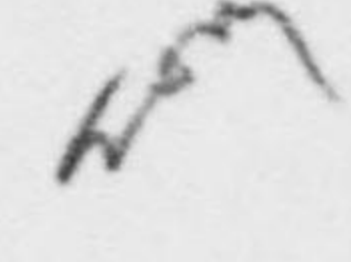
I have made inquiries of the American consular officer at Batavia, Java, who reports that the Dutch civilian and military authorities are searching for clues that may lead to the discovery of missing American military personnel. I have asked the consular officer for his opinion as to whether American personnel may be held as hostages in Java, and I shall not fail to write to you again as soon as I shall have received a reply to that question.

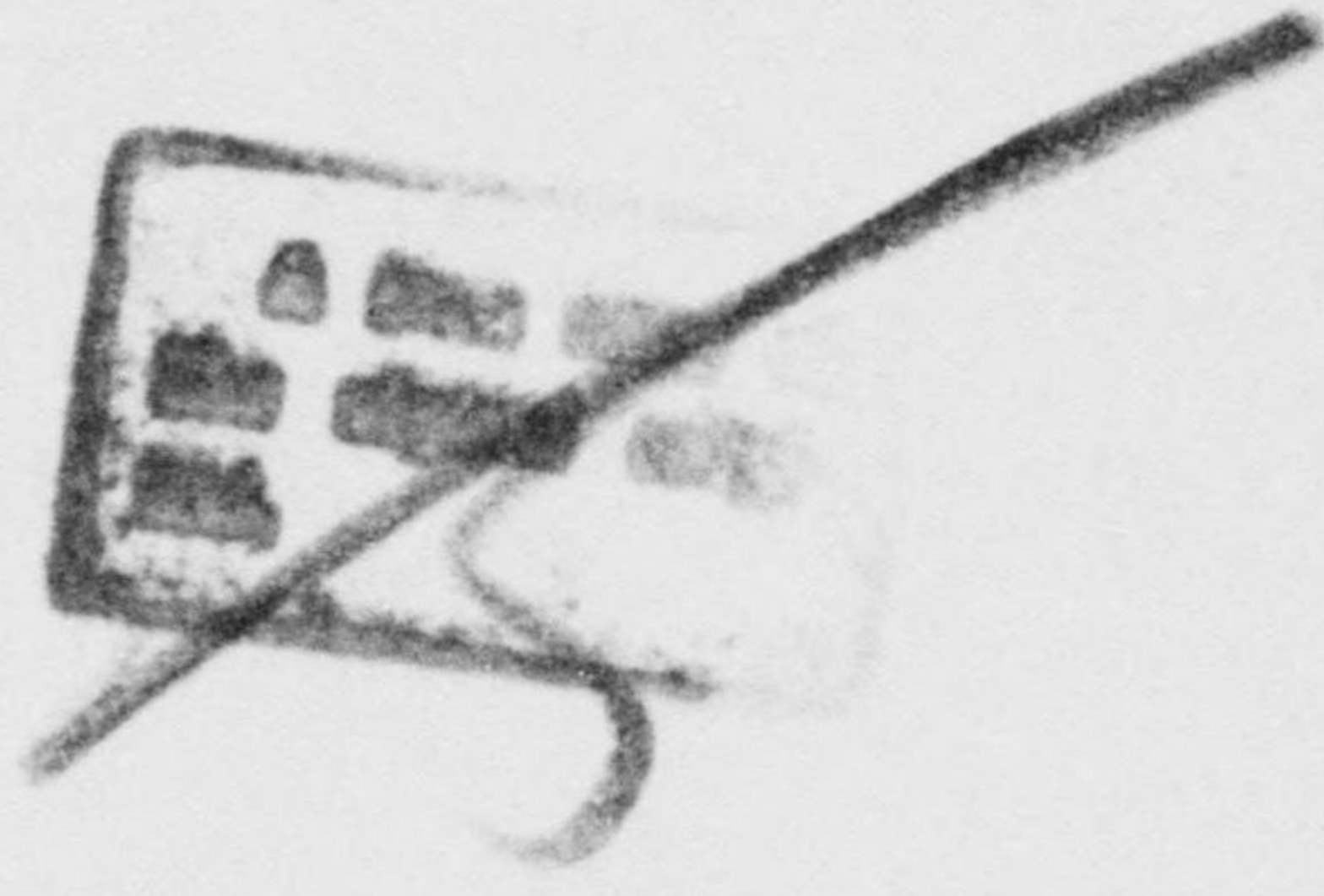
Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes

SPD:  Bailey: erk

3/13/46

 OR
MAR 14 1946



5-21-46

✓ SPD

In reply refer to
SPD 711.94114A/3-1146

MAY 23 1946

My dear Mr. Landis:

file

I refer to my letter of March 15, 1946 with regard to the report that allied prisoners of war are being held hostage by the Indonesians in Java.

I have received another report concerning this matter from the American consular officer at Batavia, Java, who states that a United States Army searching party has been active in the area, and that the Netherland Indies military and civilian services have searched and are continuing to search wherever possible for the missing men. The Consul General points out that since there are 10,000 islands in the archipelago, the task is unending. He states that he is reasonably sure that the natives are holding no Americans, because the natives are friendly to Americans and would assist them.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Byrnes

The Honorable

Gerald W. Landis,

House of Representatives.

711.94114A/3-1146

711.94114A/3-1146

CS/VJ

SPD:ETBailey:erk

Handwritten initials

Anal.	Dorothea M. Laurion
Rev.	
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Dist.	

5/21/46

MAY 22 1946

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 13559

Via Airmail Pouch

HD
2 letters to Cal Koven...
4/1/46
SPECIAL PROJECTS
DIVISION
MAR 25 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
File
C in SP5

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, March 11, 1946.

Subject: American Interests - Far East
Transmission lists of American
civilian internees and prisoners
of war who were detained in the
Far East and who died while in
the custody of the Japanese.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1946 MAR 22 AM 10 32

DO/R
RECORDS BRANCH

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to
enclose, for the Department's records, copies of the
following lists which the Legation received in single
copy under cover of notes dated February 14, 1946,
from the Swiss Foreign Office. These lists give the
names of American civilian internees and American
prisoners of war who were in Japanese camps and who
died while in the custody of the Japanese:

- ✓AM/73 - 22 prisoners of war interned in the
Tokyo camp on September 30, 1944;
- ✓AM/74 - correction to list AM/59;
- ✓AM/75 - 81 prisoners of war detained in the
Tokyo camp between October 12, 1944
and July 28, 1945;
- ✓C/173 - 2 civilians detained in the Shanghai
internment camp;
- ✓C/175 - 3 civilian internees detained in the
Sumatra internment camp;
- ✓C/177 - 1 civilian interned in the Malaya
internment camp;
- ✓C/202 - 200 civilians interned in the Philippine
internment camp;
- ✓C/203 - 199 civilians interned in the Philippine
internment camp;
- ✓C/204 - 243 civilians interned in the Philippine
internment camp;

APR 5 1946

APR 8 1946

FILED

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