

DECLASSIFIED

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

711.94114A/3-145 -- 3-3145

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

*and*

*SWP*

*BP*

*DC/R*

*LD*

ALH-1233

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 1, 1945

Rec'd 7:48 a.m., 2nd

Secretary of State

Washington

1325, One

AMERICAN INTERESTS INDOCHINA

Swiss note February 27 states Swiss Consulate Saigon reports arrival Saigon almost 1000 POWS by boat about 300 interned work camp one kilometer 400 meters east of kilometer 68 on Saigon Cap St Jacques Road endeavoring obtain additional information.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION FILE 1945 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*AW*  
*File BP*

711.94114A/3-145

HARRISON

*Was navy*

WSB

DOR - GP-C TISS  
Amel. ....  
Rev. ....  
Use ....  
Date .....

APR 17 1945

FILED

X

CS/D

711.94114A/3-145

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

*dup*

*SWP BF*

*FMA JA A-H*

JB-1576

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 2, 1945

Rec'd 11:25 p.m.

*DC/R*

Secretary of State  
Washington

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
MAR 5 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1350, Second

FROM DAYMONT

Department's 3213, September 16, 3693, October 28, and 156, January 10. Paid Intercross March first equivalent \$72,320 (\$72,320) for February and March.

*Funds for purchase of war bonds by the Japanese*

*711.94114 a/9-244* *711.94114 a/10-284*

MJF

HARRISON

*SWP BF FMA JA A-H*

711.94114A/3-245

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

*711.94114 a/3-245*  
CS/MMA

In reply refer to Initials and No.

Serial No. 0018213  
(SC)A14-3/EP37

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
MAR 3 1945  
AW JW KDP  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



2 MAR 1945

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ATTENTION: Mr. Edwin A. Plitt,  
Chief, Special War Problems Division.

Reference is made to your letter of 17 February 1945, addressed to Captain Ragan, enclosing a copy of a telegram dated 2 February 1945, from the American Legation, Bern, in which it is stated that the Swiss Legation, Tokyo, reports that the Nippon Times published an article alleging that, during a raid on a port in Formosa, American planes machine-gunned a ship at anchor where American prisoners of war were detained.

It is noted that the date on which the incident is alleged to have occurred is not stated. Shipping in Formosan harbors has been attacked on several occasions. Such shipping constitutes a legitimate military target. It would not be possible to identify ships on which prisoners of war were held.

Since the telegram from Bern indicates that the prisoners were being detained on the ship it appears that the Japanese are guilty of a violation of the Geneva Convention in that the prisoners were so detained in jeopardy on shipboard instead of being removed to a place of safety ashore.

*L. A. Davidson*  
L. A. DAVIDSON

DIR. SEC. OFF.

Ad. *[Signature]*

Rev. *[Signature]*

St. *[Signature]*

711.94114A/3-245

CS/LE

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

711.94114a/3-245

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

2 March 1945

3 30

5/4/45 *B9*  
 Let. to Sec of Navy  
 Dept. of Navy  
 SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
 DIVISION  
 3/26/45  
 MPR 71015  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 copy taken - SWP: Bluffler

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
 MAR 25 1945  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In your letter of January 8, 1945, you state that the State Department has given its approval to the policy with respect to the release of accounts of atrocities set forth in the minutes of the meeting of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War on December 14, 1944. You also enclosed for information a copy of your letter of the same date to the Secretary of War, noting that this policy is also acceptable to the Secretary of War.

As noted in Secretary Forrestal's letter to you of February 5, 1945, this policy has since been altered by an understanding between you, Mr. Stimson and Secretary Forrestal at the meetings of the Committee of Three on January 9th and 16th. The three departments there agreed that the final decision as to publication of atrocities would rest with the War and Navy Departments but that in all cases the advice of the State Department would be sought before publication.

Furthermore, it was agreed at the fifth meeting of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee on January 12, 1945, that the Interdepartmental Board should be the forum for discussion of questions of publicity concerning atrocities and that any publicity campaigns proposed by the Army or Navy should be brought there for discussion. It was further agreed in that meeting that the Interdepartmental Board should operate subject to the general supervision of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee to which it should be prepared to report on request.

I wish you would confirm this change in the policy and suggest that, if your understanding coincides with mine, you so advise Mr. Bernard Gufler of the State Department who is Secretary of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War. Future proceedings of the Board will then be in line with the agreed policy and other interested agencies of the government can be advised.

Sincerely yours,

*Ralph A. Bard*  
 Ralph A. Bard  
 Acting

The Honorable  
 Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.  
 Secretary of State

DOR - OP-C Unit

Anal.	.....
Rev.	.....
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Dist.	.....

EPM

711.94114A/3-245

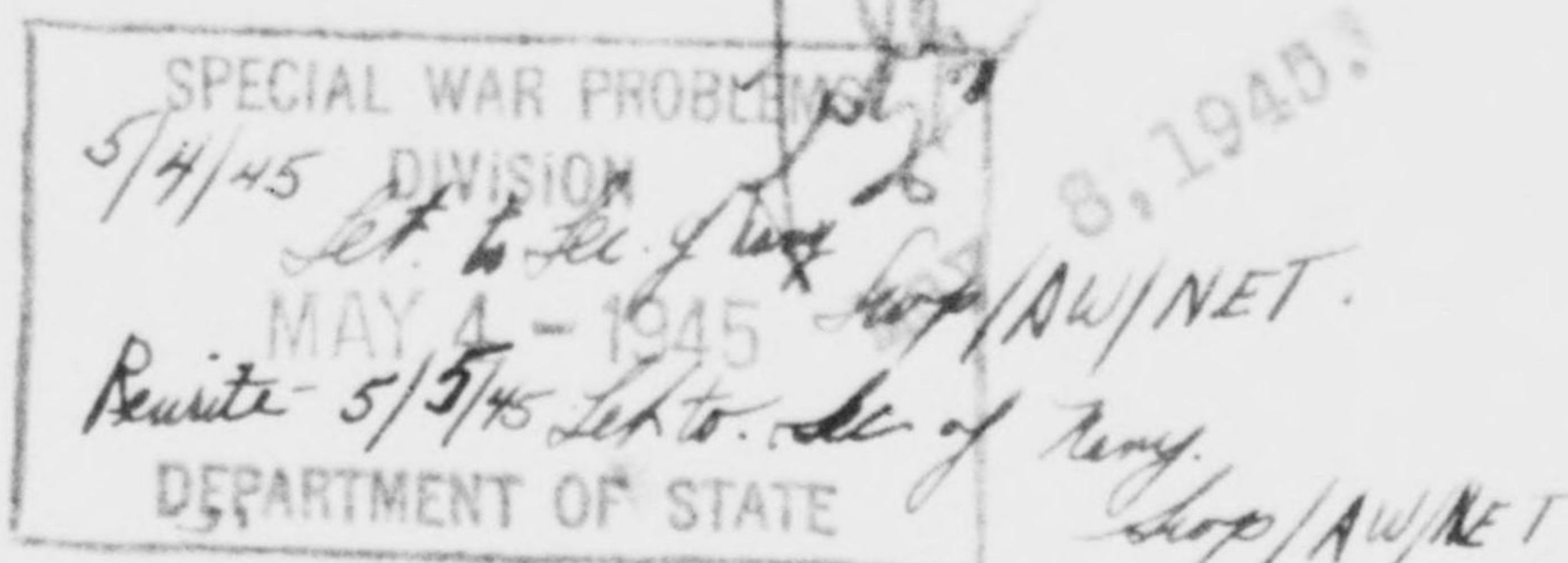
711.94114A/3-245

55756 *SWP*

OFFICE  
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON  
THE SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~9831~~

1945 APR 23 AM 10 02  
April 21, 1945



My dear Mr. Secretary:

Vice Admiral Edwards tells me that, when the Joint Chiefs of Staff were considering authorization for Area Commanders to announce authenticated atrocities, some question was raised about the meaning of our understanding of January 9, 1945. I am setting forth my understanding of that agreement, as shown in my notes, in the paragraph immediately below and I am giving a copy of this letter to Vice Admiral Edwards for his use.

At our meeting with Secretary Stimson on January 9, 1945, the three of us agreed, according to my notes, that the Army and Navy could release accounts of authenticated atrocities without obtaining the consent of the State Department. The War and Navy Departments' handling of atrocity accounts, rather than each individual story, is to be subject to the advice and recommendation of the State Department.

Sincerely yours,

*Forrestal*

James Forrestal

Hon. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.  
The Secretary of State

CC: Vice Admiral R. S. Edwards, USN

DEC 11 1945  
RECORDED

711.94114A/3-245

711.94114A/3-245  
OS/MAD

*Return to ~~SWP~~*

25

*Wayon 31-45*

*5/4/45*

*Let. to Sec. of Navy,  
Swp: A.W. NET*

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/3-1345

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter of March 13, 1945,  
with respect to the policy agreed upon among the  
War, Navy, and State Departments regarding offi-  
cial publication of acts of enemy atrocities, and  
enclose for your information, in this connection,  
a copy of a letter addressed by me under today's  
date to the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

*FW 711.94114A/3-245*

Enclosure:

To Secretary of the  
Navy, of even date.

*28 1945*

The Honorable  
Henry L. Stimson,  
Secretary of War.

*RG*  
SWP:BGufler:DF

3/24/45

A true copy of the signed original

*R* *RH* *W* *R.C.F.*

*JA* *SPD* *FG* *W*

25

*Return to ~~SWP~~*

*5/4/45*

*Let. to Sec. of Navy,*

*Sup:AW:NET*

March 5 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/3-245

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to Mr. Bard's letter of March 2, 1945, and confirm my understanding that the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War is the forum for discussion of questions on publicity concerning enemy atrocities and that any publicity campaign proposed by the State, War, or Navy Departments is to be brought there for discussion.

Representatives of the armed forces make up two-thirds of the representation on the Board. It has always been understood by the Board that in matters of direct interest to military operations final decision would rest with the War and Navy Departments. It was, I understand, not the intention of the Board in its consensus of December 14, 1944, to make any alteration in this policy and it is understood that after discussion of questions raised before it on publicity concerning atrocities final decision as to publication rests with the War and Navy Departments.

The agreement of the Board that there should be coordination among the three Departments prior to the beginning of any publicity campaign on enemy atrocities, was entered into in order that the timing of any such campaign by any of the three Departments could be coordinated with operations of the other Departments, whether in the diplomatic or military field, for the protection of American nationals in enemy custody.

The Honorable

James V. Forrestal,

Secretary of the Navy.

I have

Anal.	<i>J. R. H.</i>
Rev.	<i>J. R. H.</i>
Dist.	<i>J. R. H.</i>
File	<i>J. R. H.</i>

CS/D

711.94114A/3-245

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- 2 -

I have made copies of your letter available to the Secretary of the Board who has circulated it to the members in order that they may be appropriately informed.

Sincerely yours,

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

A true copy of the signed original.

55  
Som  
MAR 29 1945

SWP:BGufler:DF

3/26/45

m  
JA  
SPD

W  
R.E.  
R.B.  
EE  
J.M.  
H.T.

~~TOP~~

May 8, 1945

In reply refer to  
SNP 711.94114A/4-2145

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of April 23, 1945 to Mr. Stettinius stating that Vice Admiral Edwards had raised some question of the procedure to be followed with regard to the release of atrocity accounts. I have noted your statement of your understanding of the policy agreed upon by the Navy, War and State Departments concerning this matter. In so brief a statement as yours for Vice Admiral Edwards, it was, of course, not possible to cover the whole ground. In order to clear up any confusion which may still exist concerning the policy agreed upon, I wish to record here the Department of State's understanding of all the salient points of that policy.

It was agreed that a distinction should be made regarding the procedure to be followed for private, unofficial releases and for official releases of atrocity accounts. First, as to unofficial releases, individuals having knowledge of atrocities may make their stories public on a personal basis. It is not necessary to submit these accounts for the joint consideration of the Navy, War and State Departments. The publication of these accounts is subject only to the usual clearance for security purposes.

Second, a different procedure has been adopted for official releases of atrocity accounts. An official release is defined as "a statement or a release issued by the State, War or Navy Departments, or any of the authorized agencies of the Government, or a statement by an agent authorized by any of the foregoing; also a statement by a theatre commander

or an

The Honorable  
James V. Forrestal,  
Secretary of the Navy.

711.94114A/3-245

711.94114A/3-245

Handwritten notes and stamps in the left margin, including a box with the word "INDEX" and some illegible markings.

or an authorized statement in his behalf." Before such a statement is made public, it is to be referred to the Navy, War and State Departments who are to consult with each other. This consultation may be carried on informally, but where matters of high policy are involved a meeting of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War will be called. The actions of the Board are subject to the general supervision of the State, War and Navy Coordinating Committee. It is understood that the final decision as to the official release of atrocity accounts rests with the Navy and War Departments, but in all cases the advice of the State Department will be sought before publication.

I believe that the above statement embodies the gist of the policy adopted at the meeting of the Interdepartmental Board on Prisoners of War on December 14, 1944 and at your meeting with Mr. Stimson and Mr. Stettinius on January 9, 1945.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph G. Grew  
Acting Secretary

A true copy of the above is being furnished to the State Department.

MAY 7 1945 P. M.

A-D  
WR

Handwritten signature and initials

SWP:AWagner:NET

5/4 -5/5/45

Handwritten initials: JFA, PI, FE, T.P., B.F.S.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

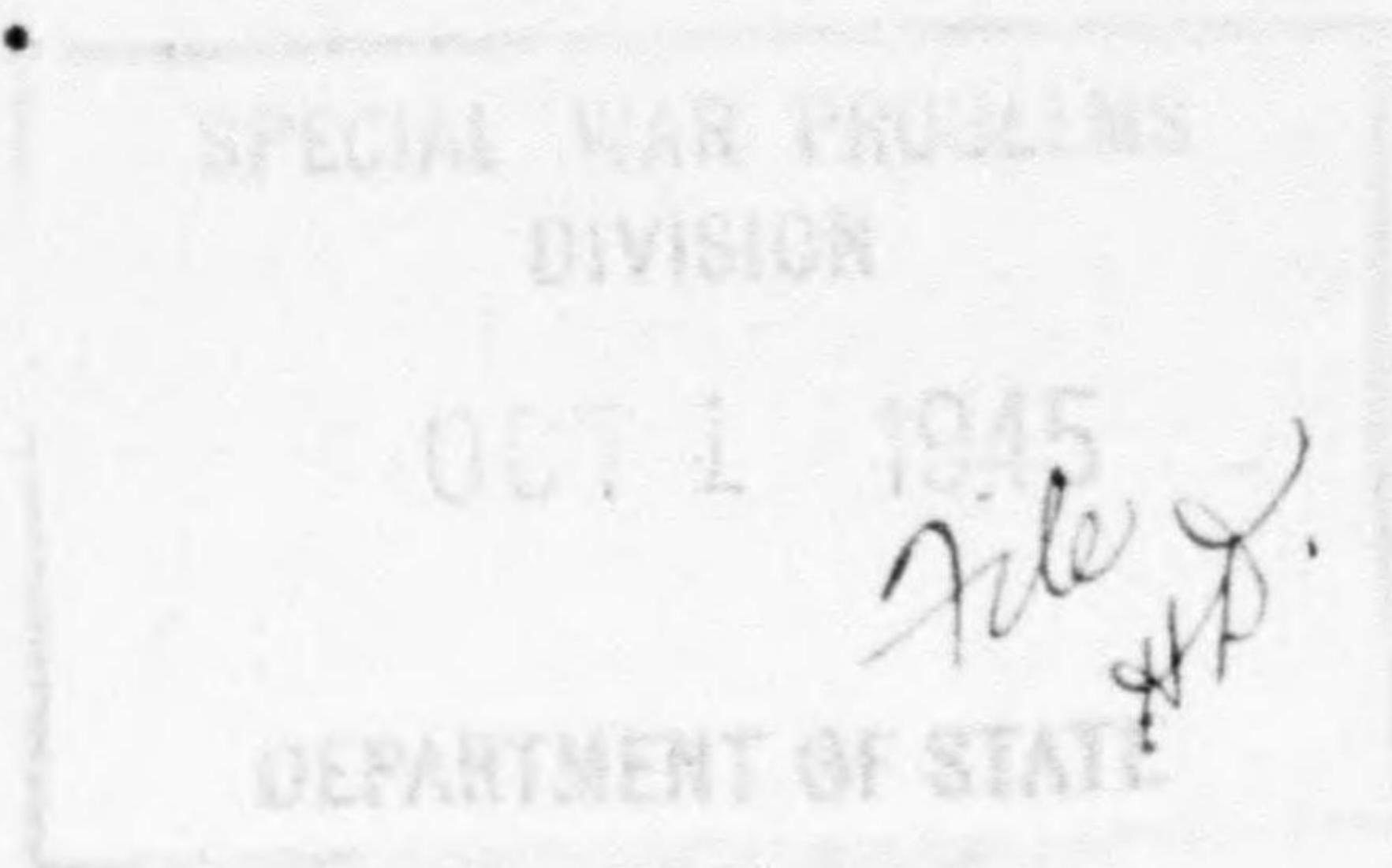
TELEPHONE

DATE: March 3, 1945

SUBJECT: Sinking of Japanese transport on December 15, 1944.

PARTICIPANTS: Major Brown, G-1, War Department, Captain Tonseth, Navy Department and Colonel Bresee, Prisoner of War Information Bureau, War Department, and Miss Wagner Special War Problems Division.

COPIES TO:



1-1408

Miss Wagner inquired of Major Brown, G-1, Captain Tonseth, Navy, and Colonel Bresee, of Prisoner of War Information Bureau, War Department whether there was in existence an official report of the sinking on December 15, 1944 of the Japanese transport carrying American prisoners of war presumably headed for Japan and whether any lists had been received of those on board, of those who may have perished and of those who may have survived. The sinking had been, according to the newspapers, reported by a Lieutenant Petritz now in the Naval Hospital at Bethesda. Both Major Brown and Colonel Bresee stated that no such sinking had been reported to the War Department nor any lists.

Handwritten initials and a checkmark in the left margin.

Captain Tonseth stated that the Navy must have a report of the interrogation of Lieutenant Petritz, and that if the classification made it possible, he would make a copy available to the Department. He himself had spoken with Lieutenant Petritz who had stated that so far as he knew he and one other man were the only ones to escape. He was of the opinion that less than 800 men managed to get out of the ship when it sank and that most of them had been recaptured.

Major Brown, Captain Tonseth and Colonel Bresee agreed that it would be well for the Department to request Gorge to endeavor to obtain a list of the survivors as well as a list of those who may have perished.

SWP:AWagner:mmc

711.94114A/3-345

OS/LE 94114a/3-345

7/2

4524 Boundary St.  
San Diego 4 Calif.

March 4, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
RECEIVED  
MAR 30 1945  
DO/ST  
RECORDS BRANCH

UNDER SECRETARY  
MAR 12 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

March 28, 1945  
Ack'd

Office of  
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS  
MAR 13 1945  
Director  
Department of State  
eh  
Ans'd  
3/24/45  
reply drafted  
3/24/45 EFB

Hon. Joseph C. Grew,  
Acting Secretary-of-State  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Grew:

The American public has been reading in newspapers that fliers on bombing raids on Japan and particularly on Tokyo have received instructions to avoid bombing the palace of the emperor of Japan. Whether these reports are correct or not, I, of course, do not know. Also, if they are true, I am certain that there is definitely reason for such procedure.

On the other hand we read of constant atrocities to not only civilians interned by the Japanese, but especially prisoners of war. We read also that the Japanese have not permitted supplies to reach these internment camps, where they are desperately needed.

It has occurred to me that we have at hand an opportunity to exert great moral pressure on the Japanese to insure the proper treatment of internees. Through diplomatic channels the Japanese government could be advised that unless such steps were taken immediately, and substantial proof submitted to the United Nations to indicate that it was being done, then, on every bombing raid over Tokyo in the future a particular objective would be the emperor and the emperor's palace.

I believe that at this stage, and after this number of bombings on Japan so far, the people over there have rather a great respect for the accuracy of our bombardiers. Too, if such a promise of attention to the emperor could reach the people of Japan, their devotion to their "god" and their fear of harm coming to him might cause some pressure to be exerted on the military for more favorable treatment for our people interned.

Respectfully

*James A. Bartley*  
James A. Bartley

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 24 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MAR 30 1945

711.94114A/3-445  
FILED  
MAR 30 1945

711.94114A/3-445

25

March 28, 1945

In reply refer to  
JA

My dear Mr. Bartley:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 4, 1945, addressed to Mr. Grew, in which you suggest that this Government publicly threaten to bomb the imperial palace in Tokyo unless the Japanese accord more humane treatment to American prisoners of war and civilian internees in their hands.

It is clear that our over-all objective is the winning of the war as soon as possible and with the least possible loss of American lives. At the same time we are constantly on the watch to utilize any feasible means of causing the Japanese to observe humanitarian principles in their treatment of American nationals in their custody. In considering suggestions such as yours, therefore, we must examine them from all possible angles to determine whether they would be likely to aid in the accomplishment of these primary objectives. To give only one illustration of the questions which present themselves in any consideration of suggestions such as that which you offered, might not the announcement of such a policy increase, rather than diminish, the danger to our nationals in Japanese hands, in as much as the Japanese might consider themselves relieved of all restraint should the palace subsequently be bombed accidentally or otherwise?

I assure

Mr. James A. Bartley,  
4524 Boundary Street,  
San Diego 4, California.

SM 711, 941140 / 3-445

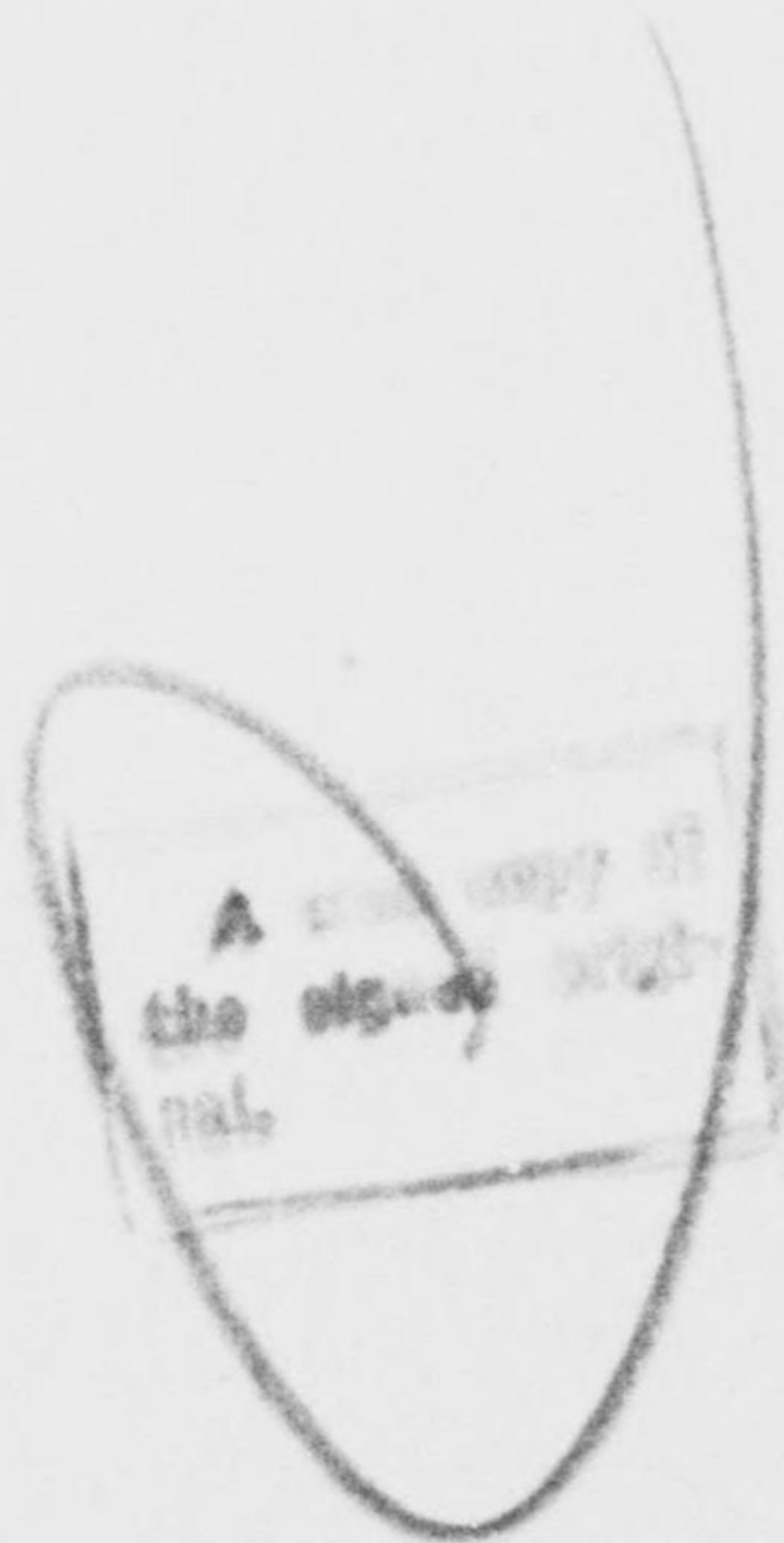
- 2 -

I assure you that the Department greatly appreciates the spirit which prompted you to bring your views to our attention. The Department is always glad to receive thoughtful expressions of opinion from private persons.

Sincerely yours,

Erle R. Dickover  
Chief  
Division of Japanese Affairs

OR ✓ HM  
MAR 27 945



JA:ERDickover:MP  
3/24/45

RB  
FE  
*[Handwritten initials]*

LE  
mB  
u  
TW

Secretary of State  
Central Service  
Edward Stettinius  
Washington, D.C.  
1945 MAR 8 AM 9:35

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 11 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
PUBLIC LIAISON

6325 Kenwood Dr  
Cheeseg 37 Del.  
March 15  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAR - 8 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
PUBLIC LIAISON

MAR 8 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RECORDS BRANCH

Dear Mr. Stettinius:  
I heard <sup>DC/R</sup> the news that the Japanese  
prisoners in P.I. must be  
insufficiently. This should be done. This must  
be forced to feed the prisoners. But this  
is to ask why nothing, or very little if any  
thing was done about the civilians and the  
military prisoners in P.I. held by the  
most diabolical enemy - the Japs! I heard  
Gabriel Hater remark some time ago that  
he felt some neutral nation should be  
made some comment about the cruelty  
of the Japanese in regard to the U.S. citizens  
and soldiers who had been so brutally  
mistreated. From the pictures of those  
who were captured in the P.I. they certainly  
endured untold hardships and starvation.  
My way of retaliating the cruelty of the Japs  
is to bomb that nation into oblivion.  
That will never rectify what they have  
done to us. But I am still at a loss as to  
what more action was not taken against  
Japan for what they did to our captives. I  
resent seeing the Japs in Chesapeake being so  
well and enjoying liberty while our  
fine young men go and fight.

711:94114A/3-545

Yours very truly  
(Miss) *[Signature]*

Dr. C. G. Unit  
MAR 30 1945  
SS/MAJ  
(BONAR)

711:94114a/3-545

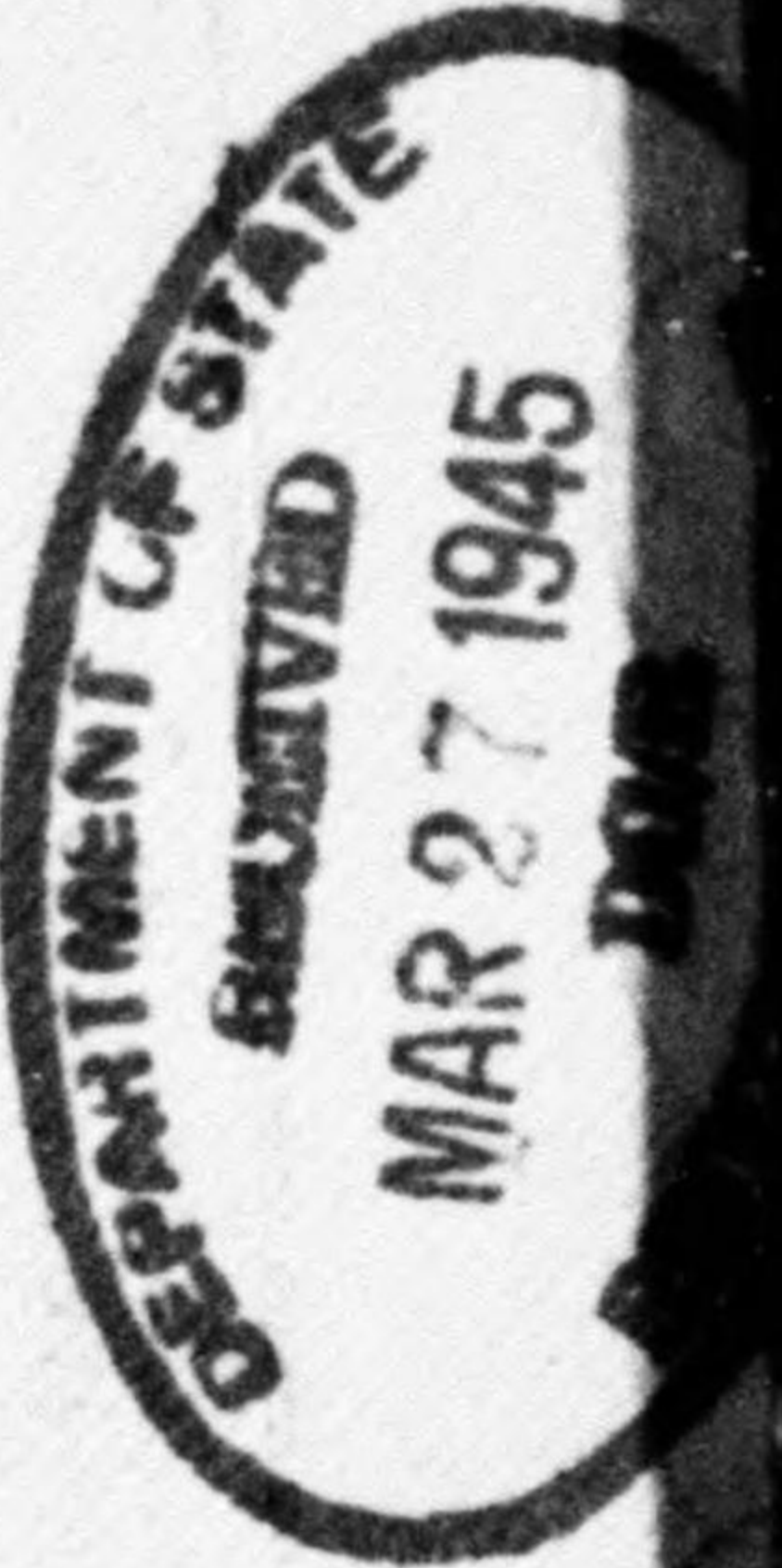


*P. Bolas*  
*6325 Kenwood*  
*Chicago 37*



*First Class Mail*

*Secretary of State*  
*Edward R. Stettinius*  
*Washington*  
*D.C.*



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THIRD FOLD HERE

FIRST FOLD HERE



*Curio Letters*

March 26, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Miss Bolar:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 5, 1945, expressing your concern for prisoners of war held by the Japanese and urging that protests be made by this Government to the Japanese Government.

I assure you that the welfare of American nationals held in Japanese custody is of the deepest concern to this Government and that no stone has been left unturned to alleviate in every way possible the conditions under which American nationals are held in captivity. Officers of the Department endeavor to keep themselves as well informed as possible with regard to the hardships which Americans in Japanese custody experience in order to contribute to the improvement of those conditions. The United States Government is ever on the alert to protest to the Japanese Government against any breach of the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention.

I must point out to you that from the outbreak of the war the Japanese Government consistently refused, despite the continued representation of the United States Government, to authorize visits by representatives of the protecting Power or of the International Red Cross to prisoner of war camps and civilian internment camps in the Philippine Islands. Nevertheless, on information received from other sources the United

Miss Cecile Bolar,  
6325 Kenwood Avenue,  
Chicago 37, Illinois.

United States  
*Ann. file*

SWP 11/19/45 1440/3-545

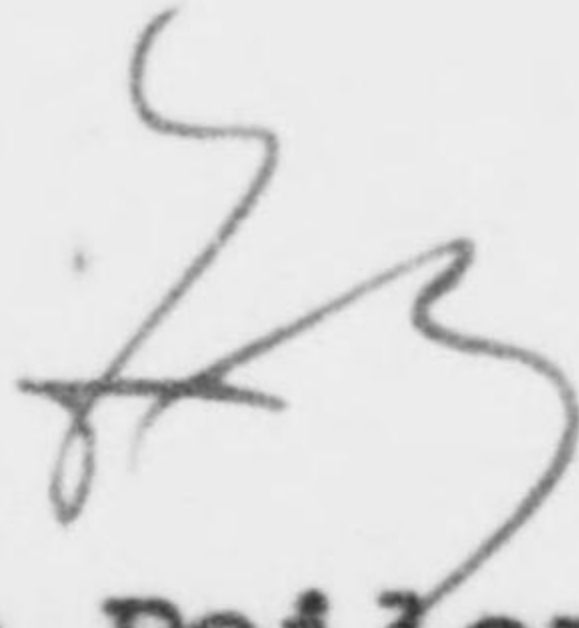
-2-

States Government, on many and various occasions, protested to the Japanese Government regarding the treatment of American prisoners held there.

The Japanese Government has authorized some visits to prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in Japan, China and Manchuria. After such visits have been made the representative of the Protecting Power or of the International Red Cross dispatches a full report of the visit to the Department.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

  
E. Tomlin Bailey  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division.

3P.  
SWP:EP:ec

3-23-45

MAR 24 1945 P.M.  
C ✓ N

A true copy of  
the signed original.

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
PERSONNEL DIVISION G-1  
WASHINGTON

SECRET - WAR DEPT. STAMP  
DIVISION  
MAR - 7 1945  
CIN SWP  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WDGAP 383.6 (10 Feb 45)

5 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWIN A. PLITT, CHIEF,  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

SUBJECT: Investigation of Alleged Bombing and Strafing by  
American Planes of Military Internment Camp at  
Hong Kong.

YR  
711.93114a

711.94114a/3-1945

Reference is made to my letter to you, dated 10 February 1945, on this subject. Investigation has been made of the alleged bombing of an American military internment camp at Hong Kong by American military aircraft by the Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area and by the Commanding General, China Theater, and their reports have been received by the War Department. I am now able to advise you that no Army planes were involved in the foregoing incident. However, it is possible that the Navy Department may have some knowledge in this matter and, accordingly, it is suggested that you inquire of that Department for further information with respect to this incident.

711.94114A/3-545

*R. W. Berry*

R. W. BERRY  
Brigadier General, GSC  
Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1

*fine*  
*mk*



SECRET

0011 51345

Confidential File

711.94114a/3-545

*g.v. ell*

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

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

- Collect

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to Department

711.94114A/3-545

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

947 *1111*

AMERICAN INTERESTS - FAR EAST

It has been reliably reported that a Japanese transport carrying American prisoners of war presumably headed for Japan was sunk off Luzon on December 15. Department urgently desires Gorge to endeavor to obtain list of the survivors as well as a list of those who may have perished.

CS/H

*Grew*  
ACTING (RG)

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>gpm</i>
Rev.	<i>TF</i>
Cat.	<i>am</i>
Dist.	

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
1945 MAR 5 PM 5 10  
CODE ROOM  
RELEASE DESK

711.94114a/3-545

*4B*  
*agr.*  
SWP:AW:ATS

GR ✓  
MAR 5 5 P M.

SENT

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



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

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

March 6, 1945

Ref. C/x

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey  
Acting Assistant Chief  
Special War Problems Division  
State Department  
Washington D. C.

*teste*  
*teste*  
*SPR*  
*737*  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 7 - 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

copies of 4 cables  
For your information I am herewith enclosing ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
cable we have received from the International Committee of the Red Cross  
in Geneva concerning

- no. 1490, memorial services at Osaka POW Camp,
- no. 1492, distribution foodparcels POW Camps Far-East,
- no. 1493, religious services at Osaka POW Camp,
- no. 1496, distribution foodparcels Hyogo CI Camp.

*Marc Peter*  
THE DELEGATE IN THE UNITED STATES  
of the  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

711.94114A/3-645

CS/HS

711.94114a/3-645

*file*  
*7/10*  
Dis

FILED  
MAR 23 1945

## COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Réf. C/x

DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

March 5, 1945

Date received:

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge  
Genève, Suisse

1490 FOLLOWING APPRECIATION LETTERS RECEIVED BY TOKYO DELEGATION FROM  
JAPANESE PIWAR ORIGINATING FROM POW AND CONCERNING MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR POW  
DECEASED OSAKA CAMP DURING 1944 HELD DECEMBER 23rd 1944 AT POW HOSPITAL  
PRIMO CONNOR PETTYOFFICER RN TODAY I WAS PRIVILEGED TO BE PRESENT AT A  
MEMORIAL SERVICE AT POWHOSPITAL I WAS VERY PLEASED AND GRATEFUL TO NOTE THAT  
THE WHOLE SERVICE WAS CARRIED ON IN OUR NATIVE TONGUE AND THE TWO NIPPONESE  
MINISTERS WHO WERE PRESENT SOKE ENGLISH PERFECTLY REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH  
CAMP AND EACH SERVICE WERE IN ATTENDANCE AND MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE WERE  
READ BY CAMPCOMMANDER FOR THE NIPPONESE AUTHORITIES ONE AUSTRALIAN OFFICER  
ONE BRITISH NCO AND ONE AMERICAN PRIVATE THE WHOLE SERVICE WAS VERY  
IMPRESSIVE AND I COULD NOT HELP BUT THINK OF THE FAMILIES OF OUR DEPARTED  
ONES AND HOW GLAD THEY WOULD BE IF THEY COULD KNOW HOW THE MEMORY OF THEIR  
LOVED ONES WAS REMEMBERED I AM SURE THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL AS I AM TO THE  
NIPPONESE AUTHORITIES FOR GRANTING US THIS SERVICE  
SECUNDO SW SMITH LIEUTENANT DC USN UNDER A BRIGHT AND SUNNY SKY THE SECOND  
MEMORIAL SERVICE COMMEMORATING THE ALLIED DEAD WAS HELD IN THIS HOSPITAL AND  
POW REPRESENTING SEVERAL OF THE CAMPS WERE PRESENT A MEMORIAL ADDRESS WAS  
GIVEN BY THE COMMANDER OF ALL POW CAMPS WHO WAS FOLLOWED BY THREE POW  
REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE CAMPS PRAYERS WERE OFFERED BY NIPPONESE  
MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL AND SEVERAL HYMNS WERE SUNG BY THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION  
THE ALTAR SETTINGS WERE MADE BEAUTIFUL BY FLORAL WREATHS AND SPRAYS OF FRESH  
FLOWERS SENT IN BY THE NIPPONESE ARMY WHICH WERE DONATED TO THE VARIOUS  
HOSPITAL WARDS UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAMME IT WAS A SOLEMN AND  
IMPRESSING SERVICE REPRESENTING A NOBLE GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE NIPPONESE  
ARMY IN SPONSORING IT AND ONE TO BE APPRECIATED BY ALL POW  
TERTIO ALLEN BEAUCHAMP USMARINES IT CERTAINLY WAS A FINE GESTURE ON THE PART  
OF THE NIPPONESE ARMY AUTHORITIES TO HOLD A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR OUR DEPARTED  
COMRADES IT WAS A WONDERFUL SIGHT TO SEE MEN OF TWO FIGHTING NATIONS PAYING  
TRIBUTE TO THOSE MEN THE ALTAR DECORATIONS WERE VERY BEAUTIFULLY ARRANGED  
AND IT WAS A PLEASURE TO ATTEND SUCH A SERVICE AS THAT I AM SURE THAT THE  
PARENTS AND RELATIVES OF THESE DECEASED MEN THANK YOU AS I SURELY DO  
QUARTO LG KELLY PRIVATE ALF I ATTENDED THE SERVICE THIS AFTERNOON IN MEMORY  
./.

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Date received:

Cablegram received from: p. 2, cable no. 1490

OF DEAD POW IT WAS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO ATTEND THIS SERVICE AND TO SEE BY ACTIONS AND NOT JUST WORDS THAT THE NIPPONESE ARMY ARE SHARING WITH US OUR PAIN AND SUFFERINGS AND THE RESPECT THEY HAVE SHOWN TO OUR DEAD COMRADES IS SOMETHING TO LONG BE REMEMBERED THE SERVICE WAS EQUAL TO ANY I HAVE YET ATTENDED ANYWHERE THE ALTAR BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED THE HYMNS AND PRAYERS RECITED AND SUNG BY NIPPONESE AND PRISONERS ALIKE WAS A SIGHT ANY PARENT WOULD BE PROUD TO SEE SO ON BEHALF OF ALL PRISONERS IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES I WISH TO THANK THE NIPPONESE ARMY AND PRIESTS

QUINTO HB MAINNIS LIEUTENANT USN IT WAS MY PLEASURE TO BE PRESENT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRISONER OFFICERS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WAR PRISONERS MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD AT POWHOSPITAL ON DECEMBER 23rd 1944 THE SERVICE WAS AN IMPRESSIVE ONE CONDUCTED BY MINISTERS WHO WERE PRESENT I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO CAMP COMMANDER FOR MAKING THIS SERVICE POSSIBLE AND FOR THE RENDITION OF HIS SINCERE AND INSERING ADDRESS AT THE SERVICE WHICH WAS IN COMPLETE ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS AND I AM SURE THAT EACH OF US WAS MOVED IN OUR HEARTS WITH APPRECIATION AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE EACH REPRESENTATIVE WAS CONDUCTED ON A TOUR OF INSPECTION OF THE HOSPITAL ITSELF THE HOSPITAL SEEMS WELL EQUIPPED AND THE PATIENTS AND STAFF SEEM QUITE HAPPY CAMP COMMANDER DOCTORS AND THOSE OTHERS CONCERNED IN THE SETTING UP OF THIS HOSPITAL ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED LET US HOPE IN THE FUTURE THAT MORE POW WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF VISITING THE HOSPITAL AND TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE PATIENTS AND STAFF UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES A VISIT AND A CHAT WITH FRIENDS AND COMRADES MEANS SO MUCH TO A SICK OR CONVALESCENT PERSON AND TO THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN ADMINISTERING TO THESE PATIENTS

INTERCROIXROUGE G9961



COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Réf. C/x

Date received: March 5, 1945

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge  
Genève, Suisse

1492 REFERENCE RECENT HOTEL POW CAMP VISIT <sup>N</sup> DELEGATION TOKYO TRANSMITTED US  
TEXTS FOLLOWING LETTERS ADDRESSED TO CAMP COMMANDANT AND COMMUNICATED  
DELEGATION BY JAPANESE PIWAR QUOTE

PRIMO CORPORAL THOMAS S BULLOCK AMERICAN DATED AUGUST 19TH 1944 I WISH TO  
EXPRESS TO YOU MY APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU HAVE  
DISTRIBUTED THE AMCROSS FOODPARCELS THEIR DISTRIBUTION HAS BEEN AMPLE  
EXTREMELY FAIR SO FAR AS ALL MEN RECEIVED THE SAME QUANTITY AND QUALITY AND  
IT WAS SPREADOUT SO THAT FULL BENEFIT WAS DERIVED FROM EACH ARTICLE STOP I  
ALSO WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE SPECIAL FOOD ALLOWED ME  
SINCE MY ADMITTANCE TO THE HOSPITAL AS A DYSENTERY PATIENT ENABLING ME TO  
REGAIN MY HEALTH AND STRENGTH STOP AS A PATIENT IN THE HOSPITAL I WANT TO  
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US LIBRARY PRIVILEGES NOW ENJOYED BY THE REST OF THE  
CAMP WHICH ENABLES US TO OCCUPY OUR MINDS AND PASS AWAY PLEASURABLY OUR DAYS  
OF CONVALESCENCE

SECUNDO MAJOR ROBERT PEATY BRITISH JULY 20th 1944 WITH REGARD TO THE  
DISTRIBUTION OF THE REDCROSSPARCELS I FULLY REALIZE THE NECESSITY OF  
PRECAUTIONS ON YOUR PART TO PREVENT THE CONTENTS BEING UTILIZED AS A MEANS  
OF ESCAPE FURTHERMORE I KNOW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT HAVING GONE WITHOUT  
OUR NORMAL FOOD FOR SO LONG IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE FOR ANY MAN TO EAT TOO  
LARGE A QUANTITY AT ONE TIME FOR THESE REASONS BELIEVE THAT THE ISSUE OF SIX  
OR EIGHT OUNCES AT A TIME IS THE BEST POSSIBLE METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION SUCH  
A QUANTITY IS SUFFICIENT TO DO A MAN GOOD AND YET IS SO SMALL THAT ONE CAN  
BE SURE IT WILL BE CONSUMED QUICKLY I AM OF COURSE AWARE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN  
MEN WHO GRUMBLE BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE EVERYBODY ALL THE TIME AND  
IN MY OPINION THE NUMBER OF GRUMBLERS IS VERY SMALL INDEED MOREOVER THEY  
ARE MEN WHO DO NOT USE THEIR HEADS I AM COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THE  
DISTRIBUTION AS IT IS WORKING AT PRESENT BOTH AS REGARDS THE FAIRNESS OF  
METHOD AND THE QUANTITIES RECEIVED

TERTIO PRIVATE FIRSTCLASS ROBERT A BROWN 34th PURSUIT SQUADRON MEDICAL  
DETACHMENT AMERICAN JULY 20th 1944 THE PRESENT METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING  
REDCROSS COMFORTPARCELS APPEARS TO BE THE MOST SATISFACTORY AND JUST METHOD

./.

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Date received:

Cablegram received from: p. 2, cable no. 1492

WHICH COULD BE DEVISED UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE EARLIER ARRANGEMENT OF DRAWING INDIVIDUAL RATIONS FROM THE CANTEENHALL REQUIRED MUCH WAITING BUT THE PRESENT DISTRIBUTION THROUGH BARRACKLEADERS IS THE SIMPLEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE FOR ALL CONCERNED THE GENERAL FEELING THROUGHOUT THE CAMP APPEARS TO BE ONE OF ENTIRE SATISFACTION AND I THINK THE MAJORITY REALIZE HOW IMPRACTICABLE IT WOULD BE FOR THE PACKAGES TO BE ISSUED EN MASSE TO THE INDIVIDUALS STOP THE SYSTEM OF CHECKING BY THE JAPANESE AND AMERICANS EFFECTIVELY REMOVES ANY DOUBT OF A POSSIBLE MISAPPROPRIATION OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PARCELS

QUARTO FIRSTLIEUTENANT WD THOMPSON AMERICAN IN REGARD TO THE ISSUE TO WARPRISONERS HERE OF ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE REDCROSS FOODPARCKAGES THE PRESENT METHOD OF DISTRIBUTING SMALL AMOUNTS DAILY TO EACH INDIVIDUAL THROUGH HIS SECTIONLEADER IS SATISFACTORY STOP SINCE THERE HAS BEEN AN ISSUE OF ALL THE SEPARATE FOODITEMS ON HAND EXCEPT COFFEE AND SUGAR NO FUTURE DISSATISFACTION IS ANTICIPATED AS LONG AS THIS METHOD IS FOLLOWED TO THE END OF THE ISSUE AND CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO THE FACT THAT COFFEE AND SUGAR ARE CUSTOMARILY USED TOGETHER STOP AS THE DISTRIBUTION ASSURES EACH WARPRISONER OF AN EQUAL SHARE OF THE FOODPARCELS AT NO UNDUE INCONVENIENCE TO HIMSELF AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO SERIOUSLY ILL HOSPITAL PATIENTS THERE CAN BE AND IS NO COMPLAINT TO BE MADE UNQUOTE

INTERCROIXROUGE SH690

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

· Réf. C/x

Date received: March 5, 1945

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge  
Genève, Suisse

1493 FOLLOWING LETTER FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT HALL RA TO OSAKA POW CAMP  
COMMANDER DATED 16th DECEMBER 1944 TRANSMITTED BY TOKYO DELEGATION QUOTE  
I SHOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MEN IN THE CAMP  
OF THANKING YOU SINCERELY FOR THE VISIT WHICH YOU ARRANGED TODAY OF A  
PROTESTANT PADRE TO OUR CAMP THE SERVICE WHICH WAS EXCELLENTLY CONDUCTED WAS  
ENJOYED BY EVERYONE GREATLY I AM SURE THAT THE SPIRITUAL UPLIFT THE MEN  
DERIVED FROM IT WILL IMPROVE THEIR MENTAL OUTLOOK CONSIDERABLY I SHOULD ALSO  
LIKE TO THANK YOU AND THE CAMPSTAFF FOR THE GREAT HELP GIVEN US TO MAKE A  
SUCCESS OF THE SERVICE BY GIVING US FLOWERS A CLOTH FOR THE TABLE A NEW CROSS  
A LANTERN AND CANDLES I SINCERELY HOPE THAT WE MAY HAVE MORE VISITS FROM THE  
PADRE IN THE FUTURE AND THAT ON SOME OCCASION IT WOULD BE ARRANGED FOR THE  
PADRE TO HOLD HOLY COMMUNION AS YOU WILL SEE FROM THE IMPRESSIONS MY MEN  
HAVE WRITTEN THEY ALL THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE SERVICE AND THOUGHT THE ADDRESS  
MOST APPROPRIATE ~~THEY~~ ALL APPRECIATED GREATLY YOUR EFFORTS AND HELP IN  
MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE UNQUOTE

INTERCROIXROUGE 69978

COPY OF INCOMING CABLEGRAM:  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

R&amp;f. C/x

Date received: March 5, 1945

Cablegram received from: Intercroixrouge  
Genève, Suisse

1496 OUR DELEGATION CABLES US THAT AFTER RECEIVING THEIR ALLOTMENT  
HYOGO CICAMPLEADER LEON A HARKB ASSISTANTLEADER ARTHUR B WOODRUFF BOTH  
AMERICANS FROM GUAM APPEALED FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE FOODPARCEL ALLOTMENT  
AS QUANTITY RECEIVED ALLOWS APPROXIMATELY FOUR UNITS PERCAPITA WHICH IN NO  
WAY SOLVES FOODPROBLEM LEAVING INTERNEES WITHOUT SUCH FOODUNITS DURING SECOND  
HALF WINTER STOP TOILETRIES SHOES HEAVY CLOTHING ALLOTTED INADEQUATE COMPAREI  
ACTUAL NEEDS ALSO URGE TOBACCO ALLOCATION AS LOCAL SUPPLIES ALL BUT STOPPED  
AMCROSS FOODUNITS EX HAKUSANMARU CONTAIN SIX PACKAGES ONLY AND PIPESMOKERS  
RECEIVED NOTHING STOP CAMPLEADERS REQUEST PLEASE NOT MISCONSTRUE PRESENT  
APPEAL AS INGRATITUDE BECAUSE DEEPLY GRATEFUL ALL RELIEF RECEIVED STOP  
DELEGATION STATE MATERIALLY IMPOSSIBLE INCREASE ALLOCATIONS BUT  
PROPOSING IN ERCHANGING SOME ADDITIONAL FOODUNITS HEAVY CLOTHING WITH  
SURGICAL EQUIPMENT DRESSINGS WHEREOF INTERNEES HAVE SURPLUS

INTERCROIXROUGE SH711

No. 11059

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

28770  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
file  
Cin sup  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Distributed Via Air Mail Pouch by SWP to

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, March 6, 1945.

UNRESTRICTED  
War - Bryan  
Briace  
Switz  
Bernard

Navy

Date

MAR 24 1945

Subject: American Interests - Japan.  
Transmission copies Intercross telegrams regarding religious services Osaka camp.  
1945 MAR 17 10M  
RECORDS BRANCH

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Department's telegraphic instruction No. 2179 of September 14, 1942 in which it is stated that the Department desires to receive by airgram copies of all reports of visits made to prisoners of war and civilian internment camps by delegates of the International Red Cross.

The Legation now submits, for the Department's information, two copies of telegrams No. 1490 and No. 1493 recently dispatched by the Committee at Geneva to its delegate at Washington quoting letters received by the Committee's delegate in Japan via the Japanese authorities from American prisoners of war who express appreciation for religious services conducted or arranged by the Japanese.

The Legation received the attached communications in triplicate under cover of letters dated March 2, 1945 from the Committee at Geneva. Although these communications are not reports concerning visits made to the Osaka camp, the Legation is forwarding them in accordance with the Department's instruction under reference for it is felt that the messages quoted might be of some interest.

Enclosures:

- No. 1 Copy of telegram No. 1490 from International Red Cross Committee, Geneva;
- No. 2 Copy of telegram No. 1493 from International Red Cross Committee, Geneva - both enclosures attached in duplicate to original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2  
GMG/mep  
In quintuplicate to the Department.

APR 5 1945

FILED

711.94114A/3-645

OS/L

711.94114a/3-645

War

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

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 11059  
dated March 6, 45 from the American  
Legation, Bern.

nlit intercross washington

onefourninezero following appreciation letters received by tokyo delegation from japanese piwar originating from pow and concerning memorial services for pow deceased asaka camp during oneninefourfour held december twentythird oneninefourfour at pow hospital primo conner pettyofficer rn today i was privileged to be present at a memorial service at powhospital i was very pleased and grateful to note that the whole service was carried on in our native tongue and the two nipponese ministers who were present spoke english perfectly representatives of each camp and each service were in attendance and messages of condolence were read by campcommander for the nipponese authorities one australian officer one british nco and one american private the whole service was very impressive and i could not help but think of the families of our departed ones and how glad they would be if they could know how the memory of their loved ones was remembered i am sure they would be grateful as i am to the nipponese authorities for granting us this service secundo sw smith lieutenant dc usn under a bright and sunny sky the second memorial service commemorating the allied dead was held in this hospital and pow representing several of the camps were present a memorial address was given by the commander of all pow camps who was follo<sup>w</sup>ed by three pow representatives from their respective camps prayers were offered by nipponese ministers of the gospel and several hymns were sung by the entire congregation the altar settings were made beautiful by floral wreaths and sprays ./.

- 2 -

of fresh flowers sent in by the nipponese army which were donated to the various hospital wards upon the completion of the programme it was a solemn and impressing service representing a noble gesture on the part of the nipponese army in sponsoring it and one to be appreciated by all pow tertio allen beauchamp usmarines it certainly was a fine gesture on the part of the nipponese army authorities to hold a memoria service for our departed comrades it was a wonderful sight to see men of two fighting nations paying tribute to those men the altar decorations were very beautifully arranged and it was a pleasure to attend such a service as that i am sure that the parents and relatives of these deceased men thank you as i surely do quarto lg kelly private aif i attended the service this afternoon in memory of dead pow it was a pleasure for me to attend this service and to see by actions and not just words that the nipponese army are sharing with us our pain and sufferings and the respect they have shown to our dead comrades is something to long be remembered the service was equal to any i have yet attended anywhere the altar beautifully decorated the hymns and prayers recited and sung by nipponese and prisoners alike was a sight any parent would be proud to see xxx so on behalf of all prisoners in this country and the friends and relations of our fallen comrades i wish to thank the nipponese army and priests quinto hb mainnis lieutenant usn it was my pleasure to be present as a representative of the prisoner officers and to participate in the war ./.



- 3 -

prisoners memorial service held at powhospital on december twenty-third oneninefourfour the service was an impressive one conducted by ministers who were present i wish to express my deepest appreciation to camp commander for making this service possible and for the rendition of his sincere and inspiring address at the service which was in complete accordance with our christian teachings and i am sure that each of us was moved in our hearts with appreciation at the conclusion of the service each representative was conducted on a tour of inspection of the hospital itself the hospital seems well equipped and the patients and staff seem quite happy camp commander doctors and those others concerned in the setting up of this hospital are to be congratulated let us hope in the future that more pow will be given the opportunity of visiting the hospital and to spend more time with the patients and staff under the present circumstances a visit and a chat with friends and comrades means so much to a sick or convalescent person and to those who are employed in administering to these patients

intercroixrouge g9961



Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 11059  
dated March 6 45 from the American  
Legation, Bern.



Mlt Intercross Washington

1493 following letter from captain robert hall ra to osaka  
pow camp commander dated 16th december 44 transmitted by tokyo  
delegation quote i should like to take this opportunity on  
behalf of all the men in the camp of thanking you sincerely  
for the visit which you arranged today of a protestant padre  
to our camp the service which was excellently conducted was  
enjoyed by everyone greatly i am sure that the spiritual  
uplift the men derived from it will improve their mental  
outlook considerably i should also like to thank you and  
the campstaff for the great help given us to make a success  
of the service by giving us flowers a cloth for the table  
a new cross a lantern and candles i sincerely hope that we  
may have more visits from the padre in the future and  
that on some occasion it could be arranged for the padre  
to hold holy communion as you will see from the impressions  
my men have written they all thoroughly enjoyed the service  
and thought the address most appropriate they all appreciated  
greatly your efforts and help in making it all possible  
unquote

intercroux rouge g9978

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 13 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEGAL ADVISER  
MAR 13 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JP-541.  
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (RESTRICTED)

Dated March 6, 1945

Rec'd 10:05 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
MAR 7 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

US URGENT

2285, March 6, 4 p.m.

British authorities have requested Embassy to endeavor to expedite reply to Embassy's telegram No. 2060 February 28, 6 p.m. British authorities wish to forward protest at earliest possible date and are anxiously awaiting Department's comments.

*Protest to Japanese authorities as to location of prisoner of war camps in close proximity to docks, war factories, railway yards and other military objectives.*

WINANT

WSB

*For action taken see reply to London 2060, Feb. 28, 1945. TSP.*

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal. ....	<i>gpm</i>
Rev. ....	<i>[Signature]</i>
Cat. ....	<i>FK</i>
Dist. ....	

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 11 1945

MAR 11 1945  
TELETYPE

711.94114A/3-645  
CS/HS

In reply refer to Initials and No.

Serial No. 0021613  
(SC)A16-2(3)

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. - 9 1945

PROBLEMS DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
8 MAR 1945  
*AW* *File* *HP* *RG*



*AW*

**SECRET**

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION.  
Attention: Mr. Edwin A. Plitt.

Reference is made to your letter of 5 March 1945 addressed to Captain Ragan, in which you enclose a copy of a telegram from the American Legation, Bern, with regard to the newspaper "Mainichi" story alleging that during a raid on Northern Formosa by twenty American planes about ten prisoners of war were killed and fifty wounded.

In the absence of information as to the location of the prisoners of war, or the camp, with relation to legitimate attack objectives it is impossible to determine whether or not the prisoners had been placed in jeopardy in violation of International Law. It is known that the Japanese Government has failed to report the locations of a number of prisoner of war camps.

In the absence of details further comment on the alleged incident does not appear to be appropriate.

*L. A. Davidson*

L. A. Davidson,  
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.

Handwritten routing slip with fields for 'And', 'Rev.', and 'at' containing initials.

711.94114A/3-845

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

711.94114a/3-845

March 16, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/3-945

My dear Mr. Harless:

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 9, 1945, concerning Private Jack Kemp Brundage, a prisoner of war at the Tokyo camp. You desire information regarding the possibility of an exchange of prisoners of war between this Government and the Japanese Government as Private Brundage's mother has written to you concerning the matter.

I assure you that the United States Government has endeavored unceasingly to effect the return to this country of military personnel who are entitled to repatriation. You will realize that as one of the major objectives of modern warfare is to deplete as rapidly as possible the military forces of an opposing belligerent, it would be inconsistent with the methods of warfare for belligerents to return to their native countries during hostilities strong and able-bodied prisoners of war. There is thus no customarily-accepted practice among nations nor provisions of international law or conventions for the return or exchange during hostilities of able-bodied members of the armed forces of one belligerent who may be captured by the forces of an opposing belligerent.

Provision is made, however, in Article 68 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 for the repatriation of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war. The Japanese Government is not a

The Honorable

Richard F. Harless,

House of Representatives.

party  
[Signature]  
[Stamp: March 19, 1945]

SWP 711.94114A/3-945

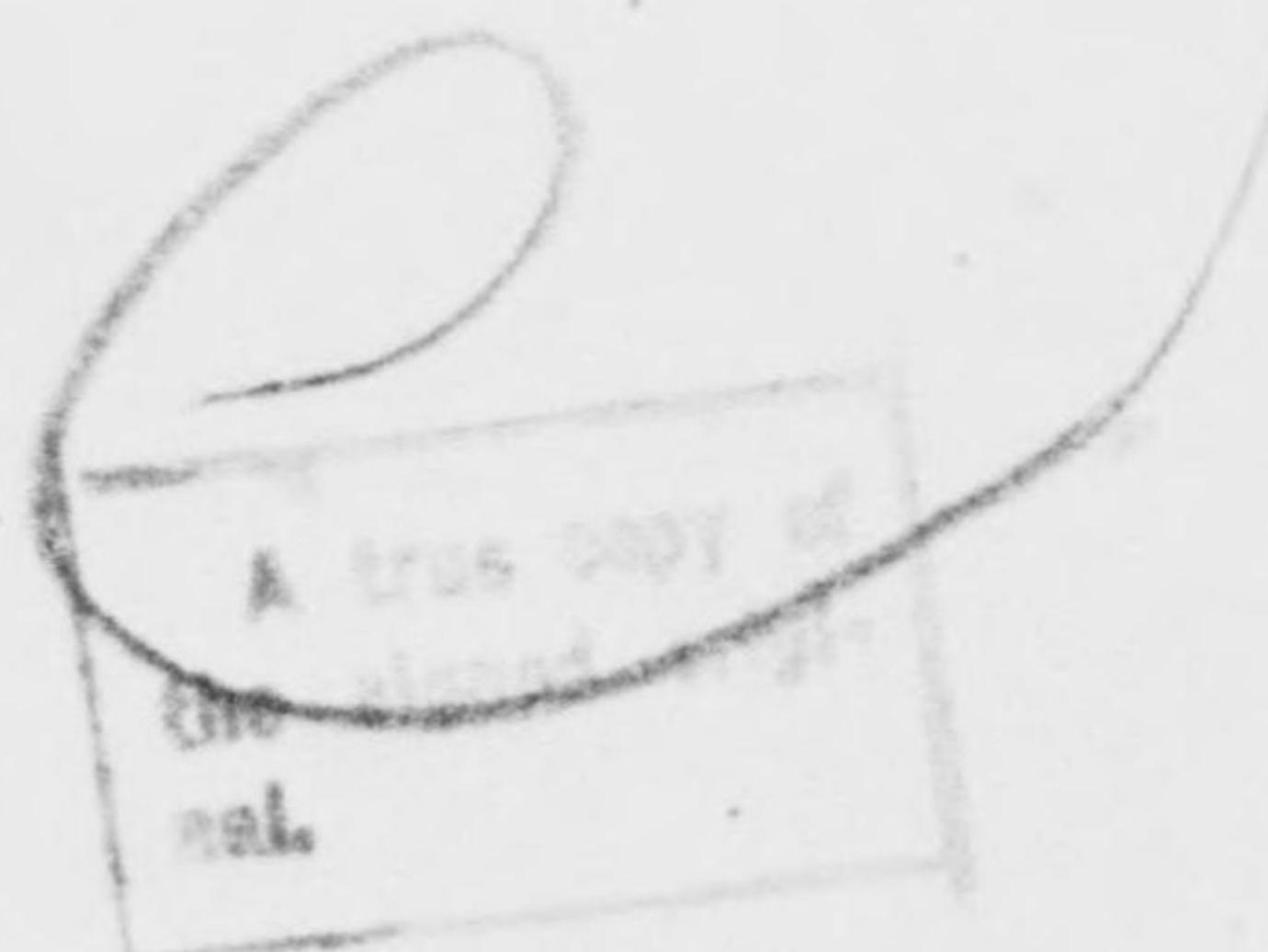
-2-

party to this Convention, but upon the outbreak of war it notified the United States Government that on humanitarian grounds it would apply the provisions of the Convention, mutatis mutandis, to the treatment of American prisoners of war. The United States Government has made insistent demands that the Japanese Government honor Article 68 of the Convention.

At the time of the first two civilian exchanges, this Government demanded that the Japanese Government permit the return of seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war. The Japanese Government replied that it could not make a favorable response. When negotiations were reopened in March 1944 for a third civilian exchange the United States Government again proposed that seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war be repatriated. To this last proposal the Japanese Government has not replied. The Department therefore can offer no encouragement for the immediate release and return to the United States of members of the American armed forces taken prisoners of war by the Japanese armed forces.

Sincerely yours,

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.



BP  
SWP: B. Petro: ec

*f. Bailey*

3/15/45

MAR 16 1945

*SDH*

13

PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

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

Collect

Charge Department: Department.

Department of State

RESTRICTED

Charge to

This telegram Washington paraphrased before being committed to anyone other than Government Agency. RESTRICTED

MAR 9 1945

8 p.m.

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

999

AMERICAN INTERESTS - JAPAN.

The Legation is requested to transmit the following to the Swiss Government when instructions in a similar sense from the British Government are received by the British Minister at Bern.

The United States Government requests that the Swiss Minister in Tokyo protest strongly along the following lines against continuing breaches of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention which offend against elementary standards of civilized conduct:

The United States Government is reliably informed that the Japanese authorities have continued to locate prisoner of war camps in close proximity to docks, warehouses, war factories, railroad yards and other military objectives. The United States Government is accordingly forced to the conclusion that the Japanese authorities are carrying out a deliberate policy of attempting to render certain points or areas immune from bombardment by the presence of prisoners of war.

The Japanese

SENT

711.94114A/3-945 711.94114a/30945 CS/MAR 9 1945

Handwritten notes and stamps in the bottom left corner, including a large signature and some illegible text.

14

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

**TELEGRAM SENT**

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

Collect

Charge Department: **Dept.**

**Department of State**

**RESTRICTED**

Charge to

*Washington*

tel. to BERN

-2-

The Japanese Government is reminded that Article 7 of the Geneva Convention provides that prisoners of war shall be evacuated from the zone of combat in the shortest period possible after their capture and Article 9 provides that no prisoner may at any time be sent into a region where he might be exposed to the fire of the combat zone, nor used to give protection from bombardment to certain points or certain regions by his presence. The United States Government considers that the Japanese Government has obligated itself under these provisions of the Convention to remove American nationals held as prisoners of war or civilian internees from areas subject to bombardment to camps outside those areas.

*J. New*  
Acting (RS)

*SB*  
*BPetro*  
SWP:BPetro:ec

*JA*  
*SPD*

Le  
*mmB*

FE ✓

3/2-6/45



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
SPECIAL DIVISION

15

EG:

It is not possible to use the phrase "despite repeated representations" as repeated protests have not been made on this subject.

BP.

911.941142-13-945

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

## TELEGRAM SENT

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

Collect

## Department of State

RESTRICTEDCharge Department:  
Charge Department

Washington

Charge to

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

AMERICAN INTERESTS - JAPAN.

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"The United States Government is reliably informed that the Japanese authorities have continued to locate prisoner of war camps in close proximity to docks, warehouses, war factories, railroad yards and other military objectives.

The Japanese Government is reminded that Article 7 of the Geneva Convention provides that prisoners of war shall be evacuated from the zone of combat in the shortest period possible after their capture and Article 9 provides that no prisoner may at any time be sent into a region where he might be exposed to the fire of the combat zone, nor used to give protection from bombardment to certain points or certain regions by his presence. The United States Government considers that the Japanese Government has

**NOT SENT**NOT TO BE RECORDED OR CONFIRMED UNTIL THIS COUPON  
HAS BEEN DETACHED BY THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

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:  
Charge Department  
Charge to

Washington  
- 2 -

has obligated itself under these provisions of the Con-  
vention to remove American nationals held as prisoners  
of war or civilian internees from areas subject to bom-  
bardment to camps outside those areas.

The United States Government is accordingly forced  
to the conclusion that the Japanese authorities are  
carrying out a deliberate policy of attempting to render  
certain points or areas immune from bombardment by the  
presence of prisoners of war. ~~the~~ The United States Govern-  
ment requests <sup>that</sup> the Swiss Minister in Tokyo ~~xxxx~~ make the  
strongest protest against these continuing breaches of  
the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention which offend  
against elementary standards of civilized conduct.

RS

RS

Grew  
Acting (RS)

AM-13  
BFL  
SWP:BPetro:mmc

JA Le FE

3/2/45

NOT SENT NOT TO BE RECORDED OR CONFIRMED UNTIL THIS COUPON  
HAS BEEN DETACHED BY THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

*SEP*

28 Cottage Place  
Keansburg, New Jersey

~~SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
1945  
SENT TO FILE FOR INDEXING  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE~~

*DC/R*

Department of State  
Special War Problem Division  
Washington, D. C.  
Gentlemen:-

*Noted  
on card -  
3-13-45  
AIMA  
File*

RECORDS  
DC/GRAN  
H  
1945 MAR 9  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

I have not heard from my son, Thomas Burnesses E. M 1/C  
U. S. S. Peiffer D. E. 588, U. S. Navy, % Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California since October 8, 1944, his serial  
number is 2247686.

Will you try and find out something for me through  
The International Red Cross as I am terribly worried about his  
whereabouts and condition.

I can assure you that any word will be greatly  
appreciated.

Many thanks for anything that you can do.

Very truly yours,

*Thomas Burnesser*  
Thomas Burnesser, Sr.,

711.94114A/3-945

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

MAR 11 1945

FILED

711.94114a/3-945  
CS/D

28 Cottage Place

Keansburg, New Jersey

Department of State  
Special War Problem Division  
Washington, D. C.  
Gentlemen:-

*Noted*  
*enclosed*  
*3-13-45*  
*AMZ*  
*file*  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 13 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Yesterday I wrote asking you to find out about the whereabouts and condition of my son THOMAS BURNESSE E M 1/C #2247686, U. S. S. Peiffer D. E. 588, U. S. Navy % Fleet Post Office San Francisco, California.

I am very happy to report that this morning I received a letter from him.

Thought it best to let you know so that you could devote the time that would have been required for him to someone else.

Many thanks,

Very truly yours

*Thomas Burnesser*

Thomas Burnesser, Sr.

March 9, 1945

711.94114A/3-945 CS/EG

MAR 19 1945

*Ind*  
*P*

711.94114A/3-945

RICHARD F. HARLESS  
AT LARGE—ARIZONA

COMMITTEE:  
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN  
COMMERCE

HOME ADDRESS:  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
CENTRAL SERVICES

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, D. C.

March 10, 1945

1945 MAR 10 PM 2 22

DC/R  
RECORDS BRANCH

March 9, 1945

Handwritten notes: "To be", "Richard", "Harless", "March 14, 1945", "B.P.", "PROBLEMS", "File BP", "ST OF ST"

cc/r

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
State Department  
Washington, D. C.

Re Pvt. Jack Kemp Brundage enlisted  
Phoenix Oct. 1941 for Philippine Dept.  
Serial No. 18,044,345

My dear Sir:

I have just received a letter from Mrs. Agnes Kemp Brundage, 504 East Garfield, Phoenix, Arizona, which reads in part, as follows:

2

"Jene d'Allemand advised me to write to you regarding the repatriation of my son being held, formerly in the P.I. as a P.O.W. for past three years. Recently he was moved to Tokyo, Japan, according to a report from the War Department.

"The cards I have received from Jack have been marked, health fair and improving, and last card received in January 1945, was dated July 22, 44, was recorded as coming from Camp No. 1 P.I. He said he was back at \_\_\_\_\_ camp, getting plenty of rest - the name of the camp was blotted out. I wondered if it were possible that it were a hospital camp. His health on that card was marked fair.

"An exchange of nationals and civilians is scheduled to take place some time this year and there has been talk of exchanging soldiers as well. I would like my son to be considered in this exchange if possible. He will be 22 this May, being 18 when taken P.O.W. He landed in Manila about 10 days before the bombing. He is my only child. Anything that can possibly be done to repatriate my son will be gratefully appreciated."

If anything can be done in this matter it will be greatly appreciated by

Yours very sincerely,

DCR - GP-C Unit  
Anal. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. \_\_\_\_\_  
Cat. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

*Richard F. Harless*  
Richard F. Harless  
M. C. Arizona

FILED  
MAR 20 1945

711.94114A/3-945  
FLH

711.94114a/3-945

March 14 - POW information Bureau confirmed that Pvt. Jack Kemp Brundage is officially listed at Tokyo POW camp. Camp No. 1 in the P.I. was at Cabatuan - BP.

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

*Amer Ints - Far East*  
INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

CLB-425

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

Bern

Dated March 11, 1945

Rec'd 2:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1544, March 11, 1 p.m.

AMERICAN INTERESTS FAR EAST.

Legation's 960, February 12.

Swiss Foreign Office note March 6 states Swiss  
Legation Tokyo received from Japanese Prisoner of War  
Information Bureau permit to send 20,480 yen for  
December and January at the rate of 40 yen monthly per  
person to Netherlands Indies for 199 prisoners of war  
and 57 civilians. Swiss Legation will ask similar permit  
for February and March.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION

MAR 12 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/3-1145

HARRISON

WTD

626

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
GENERAL SERVICES

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 17 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STP  
DC/R

1945 MAR 15 AM 11 06

DC/R  
RECORDS BRANCH

MAR 13 1945

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There has come to hand <sup>MV</sup> a letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy dated 3 March 1945, inclosing for my information a copy of his letter to you of even date with respect to his understanding as to the agreed policy of your Department and the Services with respect to the publication by the Services of accounts of atrocities.

It was suggested that I might wish to advise you with respect to this policy in view of my previous letter to you on this same subject dated December 28, 1944. The statement of policy made by the Acting Secretary of the Navy in his letter to you dated 3 March 1945 conforms to my understanding of the policy as presently agreed between our respective Departments.

Sincerely yours,

*Henry L. Stimson*

Secretary of War.

711.94114A/3-1345

DEC 11 1945

RECORDED

M.K. 14 33

711.94114A/3-1345  
CS/D





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALH-1902

INCOMING TELEGRAM

1385 DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 13, 1945

Rec'd 3:15 a.m., 16th

*D/R*

Distributed by SWP to Secretary of State

*War - Bryan  
Brusee  
Sweet  
Bernard*

Washington  
1575, Thirteenth

LEGAL ADVISER  
MAR 22 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
MAR 16 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN INTERESTS THAILAND

*navy - 2  
MAR 19 1945*

Legation's A236 February 7/ Swiss note March 9

states Swiss Consulate Bangkok reports two bombs fell night of March 4-5 close to building where POWS detained. Officers dormitory and part recreation room seriously damaged. Damage noncom dormitory less extensive no POWS wounded.

During same attack one bomb hit airraid trench southwest corner civilian internment camp. Two British one Chinese wounded no damage caused by other bombs which fell in immediate vicinity camp.

HARRISON

JMS

DIVISION OF SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AFFAIRS  
MAR 22 1945  
OFFICE OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOB - ~~SWP~~ Unit  
Anal. *epm*  
Rev. *FWH*  
Dist. *en*

MAR 27 1945

711.94114A/3-1345

711.94114A/3-1345



SECRET

CITY OF WASHINGTON )  
( SS:  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA )

My name is Glen W. McDole and I am a Private First Class in the United States Marine Corps. My home address is 1515 - 11th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

I was on Corregidor at Fort Hughes at the time of the surrender and was concentrated with the other men in the 92nd Regiment Garage Area, and on 23 May 1942 we were taken to Manila and marched in the Jap parade down Dewey Boulevard on the 24th and taken to Bilibid Prison. We were there for a day or two and then were taken to Cabanatuan, arriving at prison camp No. 3 on 27 May. This camp was located about twenty kilometers from Cabanatuan.

At the end of July I was one of a group of 350 men all from Camp No. 3 who were sent to Puerto Princesa, Palawan Island, to work on a Jap airfield. We arrived at Puerto Princesa on the first of August and I remained there until the time of the massacre on 14 December 1944. On that day the Japs called in all the working parties about noon and later called an air raid alarm and forced us all into the air raid shelters. I was in the Headquarters shelter, the one nearest and parallel to the rear fence. This was the same shelter Barta was in. Shortly thereafter the Japs attacked the shelters, pouring in gasoline which they set on fire by throwing in lighted torches.

Immediately after the Japs began pouring gasoline and throwing the blazing torches into the air raid shelters, the men began pouring out, some of them on fire. They were being shot at with rifles and machine guns by the Japs and many were bayoneted. Numbers of them attempted to scramble through the small holes in the fence. I with about 17 to 20 others escaped through a concealed escape hatch that lead outside from our shelter. About thirty to forty men succeeded in getting down the embankment for the purpose of hiding among the rocks. Others plunged into the water in an effort to swim away. I saw a number of these men shot and killed in the water by the Japs. I hid in a hole under some rocks near the beach. While hiding in this hole I could see parties of Japs searching for prisoners up and down the beach. There was a Jap landing barge off the beach, cruising up and down, shooting at Americans in the water. This boat was under the command of Ogawa, whose grade was equivalent to that of Master Sergeant, who apparently was second in command of the massacre. Later in the evening while lying there I saw, about 75 feet down the beach, a party of five or six Japs with an American who had been wounded, poking him along with bayonets. I could see the bayonets draw blood when they poked him. Another Jap came up with some gasoline and a torch and I heard the American beg them to shoot him and not burn him. The Jap threw some gasoline on his foot and lit it and the other Japs laughed and poked him with their bayonets. Then they did the same thing to his other foot. They poured gasoline on his hands and lit that and at this point the man collapsed. The Japs then threw the whole bucket of gasoline over him and it burst into flames. I was unable to recognize who this man was because he was all covered with mud. He had apparently been shot in the water and dragged out through the mud.

Certified a true copy.  
*Philip L. Smith, 1st Lt., JAGD*  
PHILIP L. SMITH, 1st Lt., JAGD

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 17th day of February 1945.  
/s/ Philip L Smith  
/t/ PHILIP L SMITH, 1st Lt., JAGD

/s/ Glen W McDole  
/t/ GLEN W MCDOLE, Pfc, USMC

SECRET

SECRET

CITY OF WASHINGTON )  
( SS:  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA )

My name is Douglas W. Bogue, Sergeant, USMC. My home address is 526 South Union Drive, Los Angeles, California. At the time of the surrender of the American forces I was stationed on Corregidor Island and was there until the Americans were moved to Cabanatuan where I was in Prisoner of War Camp No. 3. We arrived there 27 May 1942 and at the end of July I was one of a group of 350 men, all from Camp No. 3, who were sent to Puerto Princesa on Palawan Island to work on a Jap airfield. We arrived at Puerto Princesa the first of August. I was at Puerto Princesa until the massacre on December 1944.

At about two a.m. on 14 December we heard the Jap troops moving around in their quarters which were outside the compound. But we paid no particular attention. In the morning when we got up, however, the Japs were in full field equipment ready to move out, but for us the day started as usual. We fell in at the gate, got into the trucks and went out to the airfield and on the other usual working parties. We noticed the Jap troops fully equipped and armed going toward the beach and out the road toward a road junction outside the town, but we did not know what was up. About noon all hands were called in from the airfield and also the other small working parties. We had an air raid alarm and all hands were ordered into the shelters. There were then only the customary number of guards around. At first we stayed out of the shelters since there were no planes around. At about two p.m. I saw two P-38's overhead. It created some comment. A few minutes later all hands were ordered under cover by the Japs. There was a Jap first lieutenant whose name I do not know in charge. Fern Barta stuck his head out of the shelter and this lieutenant threatened him with a sword and made him pull his head in. The Jap first lieutenant then left. I noticed the guards outside the compound had now been reinforced and had machine guns. The Japs were saying that hundreds of planes were coming and made us get under cover as some of us were still outside the shelters. This was the first time that they ever forced us under cover so we thought it might be the real thing, though in air raids before they never bothered about us but let us worry about ourselves. Just about this time the first lieutenant came back with sixty or so soldiers armed with light machine guns and rifles, and some were carrying buckets of gasoline and torches. They attacked the A Company air raid shelter first, threw in buckets of gasoline and torches and the gasoline exploded. As the men ran out screaming, the Japs mowed them down with light machine guns. Everyone in the other shelters had heard the dull explosion of the gasoline. I looked out the opening of my foxhole and saw men running out of the A company shelter, some of them on fire, and the Japs shooting and bayonetting them, and then the Japs outside the compound opened up on us with their guns. There were two men, Pvt Gabriel Sierra, Jr, USA, and Pfc Steven Kozuch, USMC, with me in my foxhole, which was close to the fence, and I told them our only chance was to get through the fence. I made a hole, told them to follow me. I went to the rocks below and I saw others coming through small openings under the fence from the other air raid shelters.

SECRET

**SECRET**

When I got to the rocks on the shore I met Seaman First Class Hale, USN, and Pvt Ayers, USA. They started to swim and were shot, as did others. There were several Japs by the fence shooting at men among the rocks. I concealed myself in the rocks and was overlooked by the Japs looking for us. I lay there until nine p.m. The Japs passed up and down the shore in a land barge and had patrols on the shore. About nine o'clock I came out and met Petry, Barta, and Pacheco. The only way to escape was to swim, so as everything by this time was pretty quiet we tried it. While swimming the bay we could see the Japs burning the bodies in fires. While I was lying among the rocks I heard explosions of dynamite which the Japs used to blast the Americans out of the air raid shelters. The shelters were large and strong and apparently the Japs thought the fire might not have killed them all. After we got ashore on the other side of the bay we were eventually taken care of by Filipino guerrillas. We later learned that the Japs informed the Filipinos that the Americans had been killed by bombing by American planes. We also heard that the Japs killed whatever Filipinos were working in Puerto Princesa at the time.

Captain Fred T. Brunie, Lieutenant Carl Mango, U.S. Army Med Corps, Warrant Officer Glen C. Turner and Lieutenant Commander Henry Carlisle Knight, Dental Corps, USN, had their own foxhole near the A Company air raid shelter, and when the Japs attacked that shelter I saw them pour gasoline in this foxhole and burn the four officers, who were hopelessly trapped.

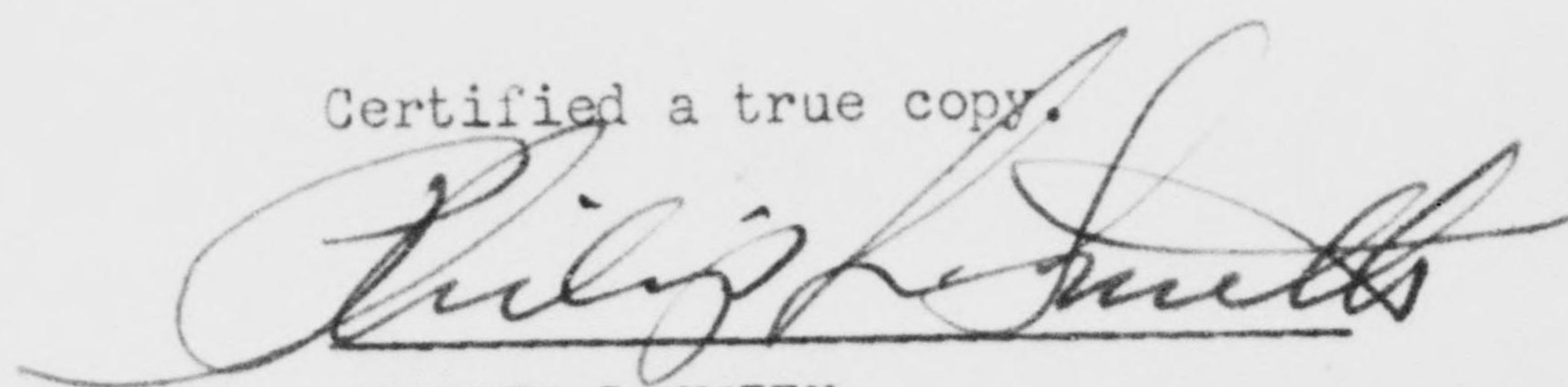
I was interviewed with others at Honolulu on our way to the United States and we made out a list of all those in the camp who did not escape.

/s/ Douglas W. Bogue  
/t/ DOUGLAS W. BOGUE,  
Sergeant, USMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
17th day of February 1945.

/s/ Philip L. Smith  
/t/ PHILIP L. SMITH,  
1st Lt, JAGD.

Certified a true copy.



PHILIP L. SMITH,  
1st Lt., JAGD

- 2 -  
**SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

REGISTERED  
NO. 100,359

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

SECRET

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

SECRET

SECRET

SWP

April 23, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/3-1445

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received your letter of March 14, 1945 enclosing copies of the sworn statements made by Private First Class Glen W. McDole and Sergeant Douglas W. Bogue, United States Marine Corps, on February 17, 1945, concerning the massacre of American prisoners of war at Puerto Princess, Palawan, Philippine Islands on December 14, 1944.

I agree with you that this unprovoked massacre of our men warrants the most vigorous protest on the part of this Government. I am enclosing for your approval the protest which the Department proposes to make.

You inquire as to the desirability of making an official release with regard to this incident and state that you have furnished to the Secretary of the Navy a copy of the letter which you addressed to me. It would appear that the announcement on March 3, 1945 by General MacArthur concerning this incident was tantamount to an official release. If you wish to issue another statement in this regard I have no objection to interpose.

Sincerely yours,

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

DCR - GP.C Unit

Anal. *ford*

Enclosure: *FIT*

Draft telegram.

The Honorable  
Henry L. Stimson,  
Secretary of War.

*BY*  
SWP:HDreppard:BP:AW:NET

4/16/45

WVB  
LE

CONFIDENTIAL  
JA

711.94114A/3-1445

711.94114A/3-1445

COPY: NCTCOMP: GLL

PLAIN

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

AMERICAN INTERESTS - JAPAN

Please request Swiss to transmit verbatim to Japanese Government following message:

QUOTE The brutal massacre on December 14, 1944 of one hundred and fifty American prisoners of war at Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippine Islands, by the personnel of the Ogawa Tai Construction Corps has profoundly shocked the Government and the people of the United States.

At noon of that day the prisoners who had been detailed to work on a nearby airfield were recalled to camp. Following upon a series of air raid alarms the Japanese guards forced the prisoners into air raid shelters within the camp compound. The shelters were tunnels some seventy-five feet long with openings at each end. About two o'clock in the afternoon fifty to sixty Japanese guards, armed with rifles and machine guns and carrying buckets of gasoline and lighted torches approached the shelters. They

emptied



-2-

emptied the gasoline into the openings of the tunnels and hurled the blazing torches after it. Violent explosions followed. The victims enveloped in flames and screaming in agony, swarmed from the shelters only to be mowed down by machine guns or attacked with bayonets. Four officers who had sought shelter elsewhere suffered a similar fate. One of them, emerging in flames from his retreat, approached a Japanese officer and pled that the carnage be stopped. He was ruthlessly shot down. In order to insure that no living prisoners remained in the shelters, the guards fired the tunnels with dynamite charges.

About forty prisoners succeeded in escaping from the compound by throwing themselves over a fifty-foot cliff onto the beach below. Landing barges patrolling the bay and sentries on the shore fired upon them. Many, moaning in agony, were buried alive by their captors. One, who had reached the water and struck out to sea, was recaptured and brought back to land where Japanese soldiers, prodding him with bayonets, forced him to walk along the beach. A Japanese guard poured gasoline upon

the

-3-

prisoner's foot and set fire to it. Ignoring his entreaties that he be shot the Japanese soldiers deliberately set fire to his other foot and to both his hands. They mocked and derided him in his suffering and then bayoneted him until he collapsed. Thereupon they poured gasoline over his body and watched the flames devour it.

Such barbaric behaviour on the part of the Japanese armed forces is an offense to all civilized people. The Japanese Government cannot escape responsibility for this crime. The United States Government demands that appropriate punishment be inflicted on all those who directed or participated in it. It expects to receive from the Japanese Government notification that such punishment has been inflicted. The United States Government further demands that the Japanese Government take such action as may be necessary to forestall the repetition of offenses of so heinous a nature and assure the United States Government that such outrages will not again be inflicted upon American prisoners of war in Japanese custody.

711.94114A/3-1445

*AM*  
*JP*  
*Boiler*  
SWP:HD/BP/AW:NET  
*AK*

4/11/45

*WMB*  
LE*my*  
JA  
*EPD*

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

### TELEGRAM SENT

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

Collect

Charge Department: Department

## Department of State

SECRET

Charge to

Washington

MAY 19 1945

This telegram must be  
closely paraphrased before  
being communi-  
cated to anyone  
**SECRET**

8 p m

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

1855

DEPT desires Gorge deliver personally to JAP  
MINFONAFF protest embodied in following plain language  
telegram. (American Interests - JAP). DEPT requests  
that Gorge prepare statement indicating date and place  
of delivery and official to whom delivery was made.  
Original should be attached to copy of note retained  
in Swiss LEGS records and held in safekeeping until  
Swiss representation of American interests is termin-  
ated. One copy of statement should be transmitted by  
pouch to Swiss FONOFF for forwarding to DEPT. It is  
also desired that information be telegraphed to DEPT.

711.94114A/3-1445

Anal.	Dorothea M. Laurion
Rev.	WB
Dist.	
File	

*[Signature]*

Acting

MAY 19 5 19 P M.

Confidential File  
**SENT**

711.94114A/3-1445  
CS/MAY 19 1945

711.94114A/301445  
SWP:HDreppard:DF  
*[Signature]*

5/14/45

Le

*[Signatures]*

PI

SWP

11887

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

TELEPHONE

DATE: March 14, 1945

DCA

SUBJECT: Welfare of Americans in Bombed Areas.

PARTICIPANTS: Colonel Yudelson, War Department, and Miss Wagner, SWP.

COPIES TO:

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
11946  
3/26/45  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 24 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/3-1445

Colonel Yudelson telephoned to ask if we would make inquiry regarding prisoner of war camps in bombed areas in the Far East. Miss Wagner said she disliked to put ideas into Japanese heads and that heretofore they were always quick to report any harm done by bombing to prisoners of war. No reports have come to the Department to date of latest raid. She suggested, therefore, waiting a week and if by that time no report has been received to send a restricted telegram asking Gorge for information.

1-1448

MAR 15 1946

FILED

3/21/45

SWP:BPetro:mmc

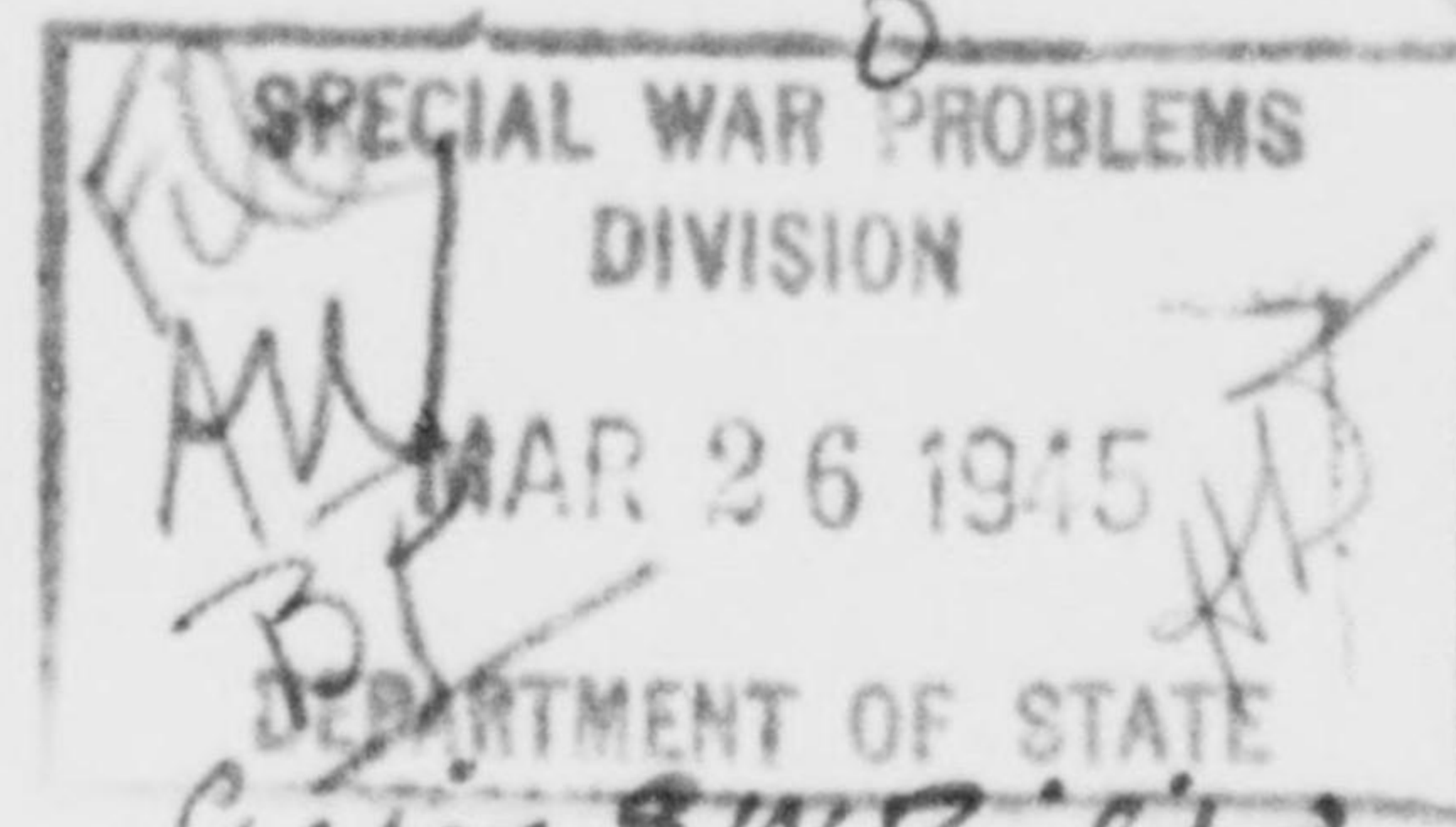
Confidential File

711.94114A/3-1445

8029

UNRESTRICTED

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



No. 11121

Via Airmail Pouch

AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, March 14, 1945.

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CONSULAR SERVICES

1945 MAR 23 AM 9 27

DC/K  
RECORDS BRANCH

Subject: American Interests - Japan  
Transmission copy Intercross cable  
regarding prisoner of war hospital  
Kobe.

711.94114A/3-1445  
SWP

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airmail despatch No. 9313 of September 23, 1944, which transmitted to the Department two copies of cable No. 1199 sent by the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva to its delegate at Washington regarding a visit made on August 18, 1944, to the prisoner of war hospital at Kobe.

In accordance with the Department's telegraphic instruction No. 2179 of September 14, 1942, the Legation now submits two copies of telegram No. 1510 from the Committee to its delegate at Washington referring to the telegram transmitted with the Legation's airmail despatch under reference.

The Legation received the attached telegram under cover of a letter dated March 13, 1945, from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva.

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

Enclosure:

Two copies of telegram No. 1510 -  
with original of despatch only.

File No. 814.2  
GMG/mak  
In quintuplicate to Department

711.94114A/3-1445

APR 15 1945

CS/P  
RECEIVED

711.94114A/3-1445  
*[Handwritten signature]*

Enclosure No. *1* to despatch No. *14421*  
dated *March 14/45* from the American  
Legation, Bern. *145*

Re: intercross Washington

1510 our questionnaire; as result inquiries prime Japanese official  
bureau informs us heating sufficient effected mainly by charcoal  
brasiers secundo we asked if slippers obtainable locally official  
bureau replies best possible has been done

intercroixrouge h9138



Distributed by SWP to

War - Buys  
Breese  
Sweet  
Bernays  
Hans - J

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
APR 26 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

7829

FROM

Bern

Dated March 14, 1945

Date MAR 28 1945 BP:m

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

A-430 March 14, 5 p.m.

American Interests - Manchuria

Legation's airgram 805 December 13

Rec'd: March 22 5p. m.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
MAR 28 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Intercross writes March 6, stating Legation's authorization to effect payments to American pows held. Noten transmitted Intercross delegation Tokyo with instructions that matter be discussed with Japanese authorities and camp commandant. Intercross continues that Hoten was visited for second time by a delegate of the Intercross delegation Tokyo on December 6, but due fact that visiting delegate, Mr. Angst, fell ill during voyage transmission report was delayed and has only reached Committee.

This report reveals that Major S.H. Hankins during interview with delegate stated that pows have ample funds for their needs. Extract from report reads as follows:

"The prisoners' funds are deposited in a postal saving account and are used mostly for canteen purchases... There are no destitute prisoners neither are Protecting Power allowances required for the time being. The savings account deposits at the end of September 1944, were the following:

Officers Yen 13,459.95  
other ranks 810.84

"Remittances to next of kin abroad are permitted."

Copy of report regarding Hoten visit received today from Committee and being forwarded Legation's airmail 11120 March 14.

GT/GIG/mak

HARRISON

711.94114A/3-1445  
711.94114a/3-1445

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RECORDS  
DIVISION OF  
GENERAL SERVICES  
CARY M. ABNEY  
INACTIVE  
THOMAS Y. ABNEY, MAJOR U.S.A.C.

1945 MAR 19 AM 11 15

ABNEY & ABNEY  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
MARSHALL, TEXAS

March 15th, 1945

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 29 1945  
*Suppl 13/31/45*

*PH*  
*STP*  
*JA*  
*SWT*

Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.  
RECORDS DIVISION

*6-8-45*  
*6-20-45*  
*JA*  
*file in*

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
MAR 20 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*DJR*

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your burden is no doubt the greatest that was ever carried by a Secretary of State, and perhaps I should not trouble you with this communication in which I express the views of an arm-chair statesman. Like many others, I have suffered three years of the deepest anxiety over my son, who has been a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government since Bataan fell. The Japanese Government and the Japanese military authorities have proven themselves wholly unfit to hold any human being as a captive. While Assistant Secretary Grew should, and perhaps does know the Japanese better than any other member of our Government, I am just wondering if his views about holding the Mikardo personally responsible are sound.

It occurs to me that if through neutral sources our Government should make known to the Japanese Government in no uncertain terms that the Mikardo, as well as the Japanese authorities, both high and low, will be held personally responsible for any mistreatment of our boys, and couple this with an ultimatum that such of our boys as they have not murdered be immediately interned with some neutral nation, so that we can furnish them the necessary food to prevent starvation, some relief might be obtained for our unfortunate sons who have been so cruelly persecuted. Personally I do not wish any pay for what my son has done, nor for his life if he loses it, and his wife alone would be entitled to such compensation, if any, as is paid. It occurs to me that the treatment of these boys might be softened if the further representation should be made to the Japanese Government that unless conditions were immediated changed, no treaty of peace would be made with the Japanese that did not provide for an indemnity of say \$20,000.00 to each prisoner who survives his imprisonment, and \$50,000.00 to the dependents of those who died during their imprisonment, and that all on Bataan and Corregidor who were not repatriated, would be presumed to have died during their imprisonment.

The Japanese people no doubt consider their Mikardo as a diety, and my thought may be all wrong upon the subject, and this execution might only result in more brutalities and murders, but frankly I think the Mikardo should be publicly hung on the streets of Tokyo, and he and his government should be informed that he can expect this justly deserved punishment

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JUN 14 1945

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DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
JUN 11 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

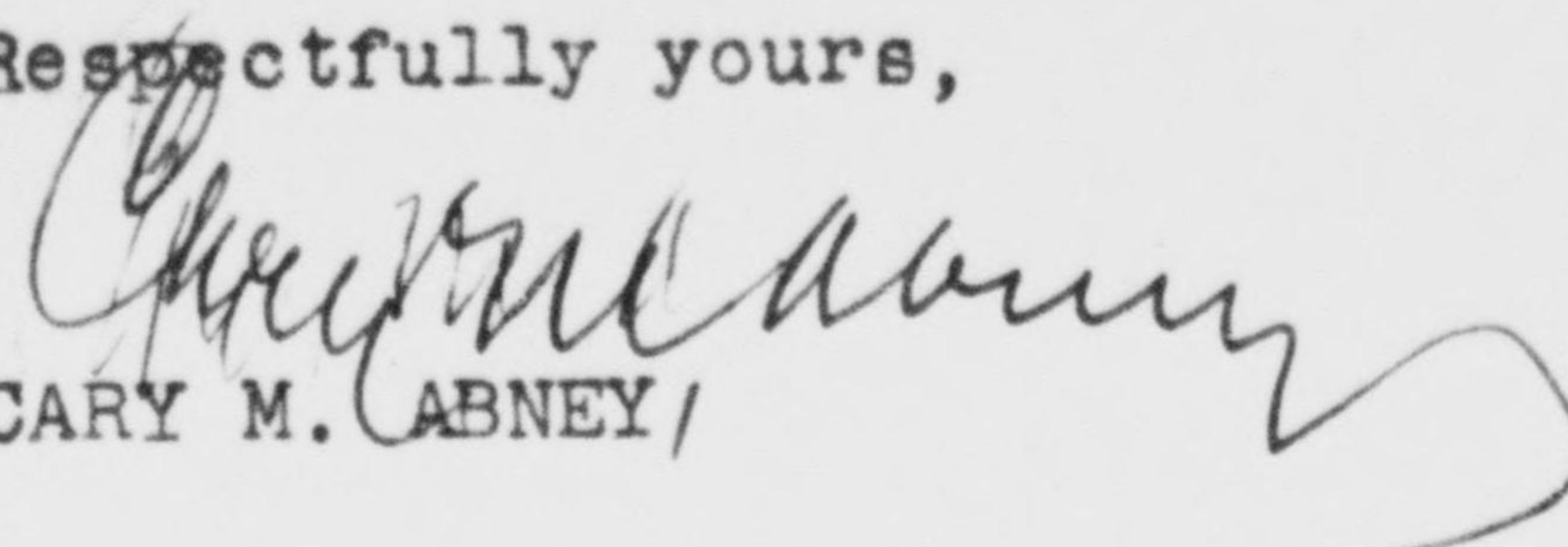
711.94114A/3-1545

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unless the treatment of our boys is changed immediately.

Respectfully yours,

  
CARY M. ABNEY/

CMA:wk

SWP

25

APR 12 1945  
APR 2, 1945

In reply refer to  
JA

My dear Mr. Abney:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 15, 1945 in which you refer to your son's detention by the Japanese as a prisoner of war and offer suggestions as to methods for inducing the Japanese to improve their treatment of war prisoners.

The Department thoroughly understands the feelings of those whose relatives and friends are held prisoner by the Japanese and welcomes the submission of suggestions intended to be of assistance to the Department in its constant efforts to cause the Japanese to follow civilized standards in their treatment of American prisoners.

In view of the particular interest you show regarding the institution of the Japanese emperor, there is enclosed a copy of the statement made by Mr. Grew on this subject before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on December 12, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

Erle R. Dickover  
Chief  
Division of Japanese Affairs

Enclosure:

Press Release No. 643,  
December 15, 1944.

Mr. Cary M. Abney,  
Abney & Abney,  
Attorneys at Law,  
Marshall, Texas.

JA:BRJohansen:MP 3-31-45

OCR - GP-C Unit

APR 1 1945

A true copy of the original

50711-941140/3-1545

25

June 12, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711.94114A/3-1545

My dear Mr. Abney:

With further reference to your letter of March 15, 1945 concerning your son's detention by the Japanese as a prisoner of war, to which the Department replied on April 2, 1945, there is enclosed as of possible interest a series of mimeographed circulars which set forth in some detail the various measures taken by the Department of State in behalf of American nationals in Japanese custody.

Sincerely yours,

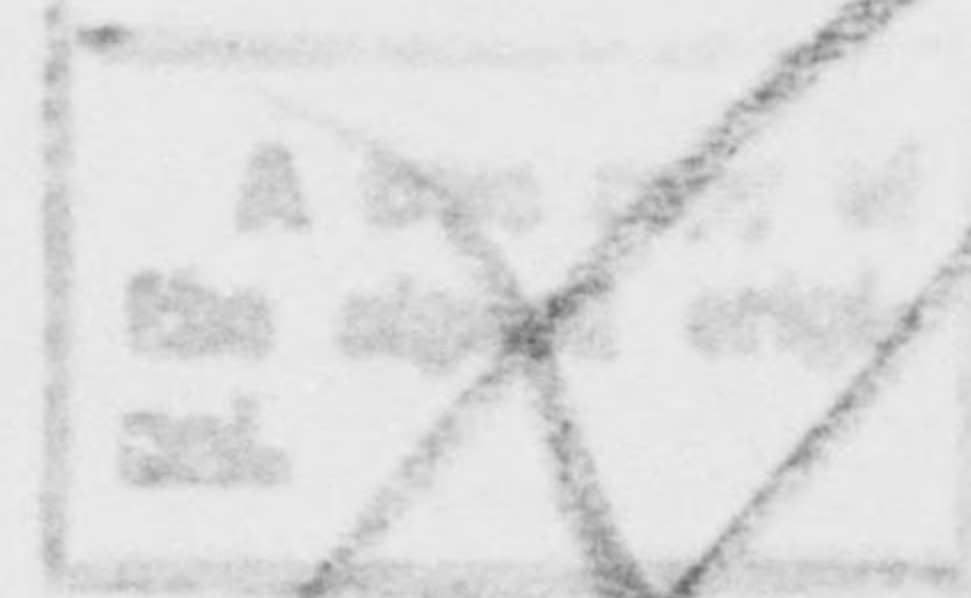
For the Acting Secretary of State:

Anal.	<i>Dorothy M. Laurion</i>
Rev.	
Cal.	
Dat.	

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

Enclosure:

Circular.



*my*  
Mr. Cary M. Abney,  
Abney and Abney,  
Attorneys at Law,  
Marshall, Texas.

JUN 12 1945

*JCH*  
SWP:JHChapman:MA

6-8-45

JA (Mr. Johansen)

*711.94114A/3-1545*

PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

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

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Charge Department: Department

Department of State

PLAIN

Charge to

Washington

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

1094 SIXTEENTH

Legation's 8204, December 18, 1944, and 8235,

December 20, 1944.

Request Gorge to inform Japanese Government that the United States Government has given consideration to the Japanese Government's proposal to permit visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to certain specially designated prisoner of war and civilian camps in Japanese-occupied territory. It is noted that the Japanese Government proposes that the United States Government make arrangements to authorize visits to prisoner of war and internment camps where Japanese nationals are held on Saipan, Tinian, Guam and New Caledonia. The Japanese Government offers, on the basis of reciprocity, to authorize visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to the prisoner of war camps at Singapore, the prisoner of war hospital in Thailand and to the Santo Tomas civilian camp at Manila, subject to the exigencies of military operations.

The United States Government notes with gratification the

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## Department of State

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PLAIN

- 2 -

the evidence of the Japanese Government's willingness to take this first step to permit visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to camps never visited before by representatives of the protecting Power or the International Red Cross Committee. It points out, however, that in view of the fact that the American nationals at the Santo Tomas camp have now been freed by American forces it is obvious that the offer to authorize visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to the Santo Tomas camp has no value at this time, thus limiting materially the reciprocity offered by the Japanese Government.

The United States Government requests clarification of the Japanese Government's proposal. Does the Japanese Government's offer permit visits by International Red Cross Committee representatives to the civilian camp at Singapore where American nationals are held? Are representatives of the International Red Cross Committee authorized to visit the prisoner of war camp in Thailand where American nationals are held by the Japanese authorities?

also

The United States Government desires assurance that  
representatives

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PLAIN

Charge to

Washington

- 3 -

representatives of the protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee are authorized regularly to visit and to report on all camps in Japan proper, Formosa, China, and Manchuria where American nationals are held.

Upon receipt of satisfactory clarification of the points raised by it, the United States Government is prepared to arrange for accredited representatives of the protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee regularly to inspect the camps where Japanese nationals are held in Saipan and to report on the conditions under which they are held. Although not previously proposed to the Japanese Government, the United States Government is prepared to make arrangements for visits by representatives of the protecting Power and the International Red Cross Committee to Guam and Tinian. It will also endeavor to obtain permission from the appropriate authorities for visits to camps in New Caledonia where Japanese nationals are held in American custody.

A-H

*Handwritten notes:*  
part  
R. S. Luper  
740-20115-10/2-28-45

SWP:AWagner:DF

OK

bpm

RB

JAG

FE

*Signature*

noting

*Signature*

2/27/45

**SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION**  
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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**WAR PROBLEMS  
SPECIAL DIVISION**

*[Handwritten: SCOT]*  
March 10, 1945

*[Handwritten: DCR]*

A-H General Holmes:

March 8, 1945

U - Mr. Grew:

*[Handwritten: 711.94114a/3-1645]*

There is attached the reply which it is planned to send with regard to the Japanese Government's proposal to authorize visits to certain restricted places in Japanese-occupied territories. It embodies the results of considerable consultations among Navy, War, and State Departments and representatives of the British Embassy and the British Army Staff. It is believed that the message from Mr. Eden to Mr. Stettinius was sent before the Foreign Office received the draft of the proposed answer to the Japanese Government.

As you are aware, from the outbreak of hostilities the Japanese Government consistently refused, despite continued reference to the standards of the Geneva Convention, by both the British and United States Governments to authorize visits by neutral representatives to the prisoner of war and civilian internment camps in Japanese-occupied territories. As long as the United States had nothing to offer but fulfillment of the Geneva Convention it got exactly nowhere with the Japanese Government. When the United States Government began to take Japanese nationals in the Southwest Pacific, the situation changed.

Last summer the Japanese Government expressed an interest in its nationals in New Caledonia. In August the Japanese Government requested a report on the conditions under which Japanese nationals are held on Saipan and the treatment accorded to them. Although the Japanese Government did not request visits, the United States Government took the opportunity to offer visits to these places on a reciprocal basis for visits to the camps in occupied territories where American nationals were held. It was this offer of the United States Government which resulted in the present Japanese proposal.

The Japanese Government offers to authorize visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee to (1) Santo Tomas, (2) Prisoner of War Camp Singapore, and (3) Prisoner of War Hospital Thailand. This

**FILED**  
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arrangement

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 06/MAY

- 2 -

arrangement is to be carried out on what the Japanese call the principle of reciprocity, that is, "that the United States, British and Allied Governments concerned shall permit delegates of the International Red Cross Committee to visit prisoner of war and civilian internment camps where Japanese subjects are detained in areas under the administration of the United States, Great Britain or an Allied country and in particular in respect to the United States on condition that it permit visits to the prisoner of war and internment camps where Japanese subjects are detained in New Caledonia, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam".

The limited nature of the offer made by Japan, especially in so far as the United States is concerned, is evident. The Japanese Government's offer to permit visits to the Santo Tomas camp no longer has any value. In Thailand, the Japanese Government restricted its authorization to the hospital. It did not authorize visits to the camps where prisoners of war are held. It authorized visits to a prisoner of war camp at Singapore but so far as is known, there are no American prisoners of war at Singapore. There are, however, British prisoners of war at Singapore. American civilians are interned at Singapore but the Japanese Government has not authorized visits to the camp where they are held.

The War and Navy Departments originally agreed to authorize the State Department to offer visits to Saipan and New Caledonia only on the basis that the offer be made conditional on receiving from Japan complete reciprocity for visits by representatives of the protecting Power to all places where American nationals are held. The letters of the Secretaries of War, dated January 12, 1945, and Navy, dated January 22, 1945, with regard to Japan's present offer recommended that the United States continue to press for complete reciprocity. Because of the Japanese offer to permit visits to the prisoner of war camp at Singapore the British Foreign Office urged that the United States Government accept unconditionally the Japanese Government's proposal.

After consultations and conferences among representatives of War, Navy, and State Departments and representatives of the British Embassy and the British Army Staff, the attached reply was agreed upon. The wording of the last four paragraphs of the telegram, embodying

the



- 3 -

the substance of the reply, is almost verbatim that recommended by the British Embassy. As a concession to the British, the United States is not pressing for visits to camps in Java and Burma where American prisoners are held. It is willing to authorize visits to Guam and Tinian although the Navy Department did not originally contemplate permitting this. The United States is not insisting on visits by the representatives of the protecting Power but is willing to accept visits by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee. It was the consensus of War, Navy, and State Departments that the reciprocity offered by the United States should be used to obtain some benefit for American nationals in Japanese custody. It was believed that this Government would be open to severe public and official criticism if this were not done. It is also believed that the British would in the end stand to lose if the United States gave everything the Japanese requested and the Allies accepted so little in return.

In its reply to the Japanese Government the United States therefore inquires whether the Japanese Government's proposal authorizes visits to the prisoner of war camp in Thailand where American prisoners of war are held and to the internment camp in Singapore where American civilians are held. It also requests assurance that the camps in Japan, Manchuria, China and Formosa will be regularly visited and reported upon. The visits permitted to the camps in Japan and adjoining territories have been sporadic and arbitrary. The location of many of the camps has not even been reported. The records show that not more than 2800 of the almost 10,000 American prisoners of war in Japan have been visited. If the assurances requested by the United States are received, the British and other Allies as well as the Americans will benefit since the prisoner of war camps contain not only Americans but also British and other Allied prisoners.

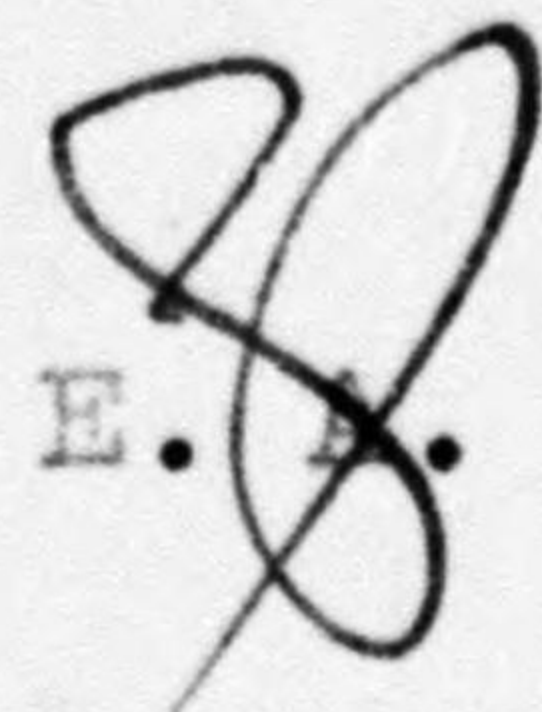
For the above reasons, it is recommended that the attached reply be made to the Japanese Government.

At the same time that Mr. Eden sent his message to Mr. Stettinius a letter was also sent by the British Army Staff to the Chief of Staff. War Department representatives have reviewed the case, have gone into the facts and checked the record and recommended to the Chief of Staff that the United States stand on the reply agreed upon as embodied in

the

- 4 -

the attached telegram. You may wish to consult with the Chief of Staff as to what the final decision of the War Department is.

  
E. A. P.

Attachment:

Proposed telegram to Bern.

*Augusta Wagner*  
SWP:AWagr:r:mc

*AW*  
*Blumler*

3743

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS

DIVISION

Let to Bern - 3/26/45

MAR 16 1945

MAR 20 1945

SWP: HD:ppard:mme

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1945 MAR 19 AM 10 24

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

RECORDS BRANCH

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There has come to hand your letter of March 3, 1945, SWP 711. 84114A/2-145, inclosing copies of the Department's telegram 3007 of August 31, 1944 protesting the torture and decapitation of an American airman captured by the Japanese in the Aitape Area, New Guinea and message 731 from the U.S. Legation, Bern transmitting the Japanese reply thereto. It is noted that you request additional information with respect to the Japanese personnel who were in the Aitape Area at the time of the foregoing incident, and that you further request the views of the War Department with respect to the reply made by the Japanese Government.

The full names of the three Japanese Army officers known to be involved in the commission of this atrocity are First Lieutenant Takeo Kurita, First Lieutenant Kosaku Seto, and First Lieutenant Kihei Watanabe. Previous information has been to the effect that Lieutenant Kurita was commanding officer of the 26th Air Construction Unit and that the other two officers were his subordinates. However, it has since been established that the unit to which these officers were assigned, at the time of this offense, was the 4th Air Construction Unit.

The War Department is in agreement with your statement that this Government should not accept the perfunctory reply made by the Japanese Government in this matter. The incident is a particularly atrocious one and justifies the most vigorous and continued protest and a renewed demand for satisfaction along the lines of your original protest.

It is recommended that your Department proceed accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

*Henry L. Stimson*

Secretary of War

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 30 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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TELEGRAM SENT

Department of State 23

Washington

PREPARING OFFICE WILL  
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MESSAGE:

RESTRICTED

FOR RELEASE TO  
SWISS FOREIGN OFFICE

Distributed  
by SWF AMLEGATION

War-Weis BERN.

1296

This telegram  
must be paraphrased  
before being communicated  
to anyone other than  
Government officials  
RESTRICTED

MAR 31 1945

6 Pm

AMERICAN INTERESTS - JAPAN.

Request Swiss Government to communicate verbatim  
to Japanese Government the following message (Your 731,  
February 1, 1945):

QUOTE The United States Government has been informed of the message from the Japanese Foreign Minister that he could not admit the charges of the American Government with regard to the capture and decapitation by the Japanese forces of an American airman on March 24, 1944 in the Aitape area, New Guinea. It has been informed that the Japanese Foreign Minister stated that investigation of this incident revealed that no Japanese forces corresponding to the descriptions furnished in the United States Government's protest were stationed in the region of Aitape.

The United States Government finds unacceptable the reply made by the Japanese Government.

The full names of the three Japanese officers who

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Washington

Charge to

- 2 -

who were in the Aitape area and who the United States Government charges as guilty in the perpetration of the murder of the American flier are as follows: First Lieutenant Takeo Kurita, First Lieutenant Kosaku Seto, and First Lieutenant Kihei Watanabe. The unit to which these officers were assigned at the time of the offense was the Fourth Air Construction Unit.

The reply made by the Japanese Foreign Minister in no way diminishes the responsibility of the Japanese Government for this deed. The United States Government therefore expects that assurances will be forthcoming from the Japanese Government that this crime is being further investigated and that necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such inhuman treatment of prisoners of war have been taken. The United States Government expects to receive from the Japanese Government assurances that all participants, including officers, enlisted men, and the Japanese civilian Inouye, have been punished severely and to be informed of the punishment inflicted.

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a-D  
Mr. Green take  
message forward  
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~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 23, 1945

SUBJECT: Mr. G.R. Rankin, British Embassy,  
Mr. Bailey and Miss Wagner of SWP.

PARTICIPANTS: Telegram to Bern in reply to Japanese Government's proposals.

COPIES TO:

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1-1493

Mr. Rankin called to present certain suggestions of the British Embassy with regard to the draft telegram submitted to the Embassy for reply to the Japanese Government's proposal to permit camp visits in certain specified camps in Japanese occupied territories.

The Embassy requests that the words "on the basis of reciprocity" be eliminated from the last paragraph, page 2. The Embassy realizes that the United States Government is not prepared to accept the Japanese proposal unconditionally and therefore does not request that the position taken by the United States with regard to the reciprocity desired from Japan or offered by the United States be altered but that the words "on the basis of reciprocity" not be used.

The elimination of these words makes necessary a rearrangement of the telegram and the Embassy suggested the attached rearrangement. Mr. Rankin stated that he believed the elimination of these words would satisfy the Foreign Office in its position that the matter should not appear to be put on a bargaining basis.

Mr. Bailey and Miss Wagner stated that since the elimination of these words did not change the position of the United States Government and would make possible

British

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MARCH 1 1945  
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British Foreign Office acceptance they could see no objection to incorporating the British Embassy's suggestions in the reply. It was necessary, however, to present the suggestions for War and Navy Department approval and incorporation of these suggestions would depend on the approval of both the Army and Navy.

*See letter of  
Feb 23 1945  
from Mr. Rankin*

Mr. Rankin stated that a formal letter would be sent to the Department embodying the Embassy's suggestions.

Miss Wagner informed Captain Tomseth of the Navy Department and Major Brown of the War Department of the British Embassy's suggestions. Captain Tomseth stated that the Navy Department had dispatched to the State Department a letter expressing approval of the draft telegram. He stated that he believed the approval was general enough to make it possible to include the British suggestions without referring the telegram again to the Navy Department for clearance. Major Brown stated that he believed the British Embassy's suggestions could be incorporated without the necessity of referring the telegram again for clearance to the War Department since reference would only cause further delay. He stated that the War Department's letter of approval with certain suggestions had been dispatched to the Department.

SWP:AWagner:lmv

See Letter 7  
Feb. 23, 1945,  
from Mr. Ranken

Changes suggested by British Embassy.  
Brought in person by Mr. Ranken. He  
said he would incorporate these in a

formal  
letter

AW.

3. The United States Government requests clarification of the Japanese Government's proposal. Does the Japanese Government's offer permit visits by International Red Cross Committee representatives to the civilian camp at Singapore where American nationals are held? Are representatives of the International Red Cross Committee authorized to visit the prisoner of war camp in Thailand where American nationals are held by the Japanese authorities?

4. The United States Government desires assurance that all camps in Japan proper, Formosa, China, and Manchuria where American nationals are held are being regularly visited.

5. Upon receipt of satisfactory clarification of the points raised by it, the United States Government is prepared ~~to consider taking steps with a view to arranging for~~ <sup>to take</sup> accredited representatives of the protecting power and the International Red Cross Committee regularly to inspect the camps where Japanese nationals are held in Saipan. Although not previously proposed to the Japanese Government, the United States Government is prepared to make arrangements for visits by representatives of the protecting power and the International Red Cross Committee to Guam and Tinian. It will also endeavour to obtain permission from the appropriate authorities for visits to camps in New Caledonia where Japanese nationals are held in American custody.



*SWP*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

*DC/R*

TELEPHONE

DATE: February 19, 1945

SUBJECT: Visits to Camps in Japan proper and Japanese-occupied territories.

PARTICIPANTS: Captain Tonseth, Navy Department,  
Miss Wagner, SWP.

COPIES TO:

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
FEB 21 1946  
*File No*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1-1408

*71194114A/3/645*

Captain Tonseth telephoned concerning the draft telegram submitted by the Department of State for reply to the Japanese proposal regarding camp visits in Japanese-occupied territories. He stated that the Navy Department approved the position taken in the telegram. He stated that the Navy Department was not prepared to accept the original British proposal that the Japanese offer be accepted unconditionally. Although the Navy originally had recommended pressing for ~~the~~ complete reciprocity, it was ready to give its approval to the modified position taken in the present telegram. Captain Tonseth said a letter from the Secretary of the Navy expressing approval was on its way.

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*W.N.*

SWP:AWagner:mnc

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MAR 13 1945

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

*DC/R*

TELEPHONE

DATE: February 19, 1945

SUBJECT: Visits to camps in Japan proper and Japanese occupied-territories.

PARTICIPANTS: Major Brown, War Department and Miss Wagner, Special War Problems Division.

COPIES TO:

FORM 1-1493

Major Brown called this morning to say that a letter was being dispatched to the Department expressing the War Department's approval of the draft telegram submitted by the Department of State concerning the Japanese proposal with regard to camp visits in Japanese occupied-territories. It was suggested that the telegram could be made somewhat more affirmative by making the following changes: Page 3, paragraph 1, might read somewhat as follows, "The United States Government desires assurance that all camps in Japan proper, Formosa, China, and Manchuria where American nationals are held are authorized to be visited, and to be reported upon by representatives of the International Red Cross Committee and the protecting Power under suitable arrangements at appropriate intervals."

Page 3, paragraph 3 might read, "Upon receipt of affirmative answers to the above questions, the United States Government is prepared to arrange for accredited representatives regularly to inspect camps in the above mentioned places and to report on the conditions under which Japanese nationals are held in these places."

Major Brown said that these changes had been discussed with Captain Tonseth of the Navy, and that ~~at GFC~~ Navy approved them.

*AWagner*

SWP:AWagner:mmc

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SWP

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 19, 1945

DGR

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Ranken, British Embassy, and Mr. Plitt, Mr. Bailey, and Miss Wagner, Special War Problems Division

COPIES TO:

Mr. Ranken of the British Embassy called at his own request to discuss informally the text of the draft telegram prepared by SWP in response to the Japanese offer, on a reciprocal basis, to permit the inspection by representatives of the International Red Cross and protecting Power of American prisoner of war camps and Americans interned in Japanese-occupied territories.

Mr. Ranken expressed himself to the effect that even though the British Embassy had been in agreement with the draft reply, indications had reached the Embassy from London that the Foreign Office, because of British public opinion as expressed recently in Parliament, would undoubtedly prefer a response to the Japanese which would avoid placing our reply to the Japanese offer on a bargaining level. Mr. Ranken thought that the draft would have a much better chance of approval by his Government if the provisions of the Geneva Convention were adhered to rather than placing inspections of camps on a quid pro quo basis. He added that he understood that it was our experience with the Japanese which dictated the drafted reply and added that his suggestion to consider changing the reply was somewhat difficult to make in view of the fact that in the draft reply the United States was the "giver" whereas Great Britain was the "receiver".

I invited Mr. Ranken's attention to the fact that the draft reply reflected the joint opinion of the State, War and Navy

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MAR 1 1945

-2-

Departments with which we hoped his Government would go along; that it had not been an easy task to have visits to the Islands of Guam and Tinian included in our counterproposal but that the War and Navy Departments finally acceded to our request after it was pointed out to them that if a visit to these two islands were not included there might be only a small chance for protecting Power visits to the extensive number of British nationals held by the enemy in the Malay Peninsula. I added that I was quite certain that every concession possible had been made and that I doubted very much if we could procure the agreement of War and Navy to changing our position to that suggested by Mr. Ranken.

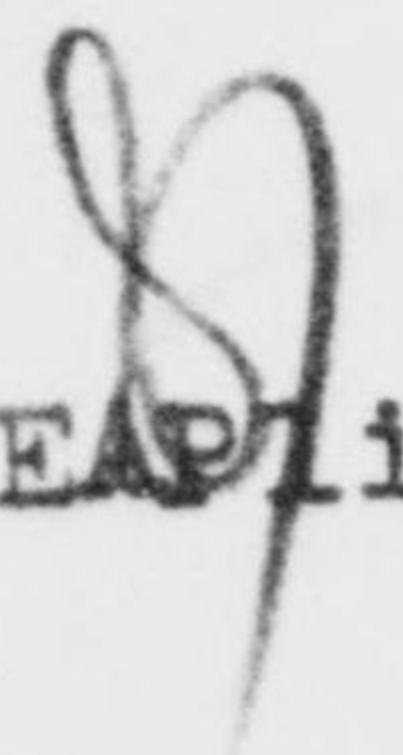
I ignored Mr. Ranken's question whether the War and Navy Departments were thought to be the real obstacles to a revised draft, but immediately upon his departure had the appropriate officials in War and Navy informed of Mr. Ranken's visit and the question he raised in regard to them. I wanted to forewarn them of possible efforts which I felt reasonably certain would be made by the Embassy directly with War and Navy officials. I got the distinct impression from Mr. Ranken's visit that he was sent here to explore the possibility of our changing our attitude in regard to this problem and that at the same time perhaps similar efforts were being or would be made at the War and Navy Departments.

In the course of the foregoing discussion with Mr. Ranken the opportunity was taken to emphasize the fact that the United States Government, ever since war with Japan had occurred, had never ceased calling Japan's attention to our readiness to apply fully the provisions of the Geneva Convention in regard to the inspection of prisoner of war and civilian internee camps; that this Government had at all times offered every facility to Japan's protecting Power representatives to visit our camps where Japanese are in detention, and that Japan had consistently refused our protecting Power similar facilities on the grounds that camps where Americans were being held were in operational areas to which no neutral could be permitted access. I explained that it was only after we had captured a large number of Japanese on Saipan and had proposed to the Japanese that, even though Saipan was in an American operational area, we were nevertheless ready to permit representatives of Japan's protecting Power to inspect them that the Japanese Government evinced sufficient interest to give further consideration to our many requests to have Americans detained by Japan visited. I pointed out to Mr. Ranken that the conclusion to be drawn therefrom was obvious and that I was convinced that only on the basis of what Mr. Ranken termed a bargaining procedure would it ever be possible for the Allies to succeed in having their nationals detained by the Japanese inspected by representatives of the protecting Power. I added that I was quite certain that even though we might succeed in procuring

Japanese

-3-

Japanese agreement to this, any such inspections made in Japanese-occupied territory would undoubtedly be carried out subject to strict Japanese surveillance under the guise of "courtesy accompaniment of the inspectors", and which accordingly would rarely if ever permit any of the internees to express freely their criticisms of the conditions under which they are being detained.

  
SWP:EAPlitt:OBO

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 23 1945  
C. in copy  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRMAIL

7803d  
by SWP to  
Wai Bryan  
Brose  
Sweet  
Bernays  
Navy - 2  
MAR 28 1945  
Lated Date March 17, 1945.

RESTRICTED

Rec'd : March 22, 5p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DIVISION OF SOUTHWEST  
PACIFIC AFFAIRS  
APR 16 1945  
OFFICE OF FAR  
EASTERN AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A-454, March 17, 1945, 11 a.m.

American Interest - Thailand - POWs

Swiss note March 15 states that, according telegraphic report from Swiss Consulate Bangkok, approximately 100 POWs are employed in removing debris caused by recent bombardment of Bangkok-Noi railway station and that 200 others are working in the port as firemen.

Swiss Foreign Office also states informally that Swiss Consulate Bangkok has learned from reliable source that POWs, estimated at slightly fewer than 3,000, are at Korat. They were said to have been in Korat railway station area during recent bombardment that town. Swiss representative did not indicate whether these POWs will remain at Korat or whether they will be employed in construction of Korat-Corn railway.

HARRISON

LMI/TJH/ns

*[Handwritten signature]*

APR 18 1945

FILED

711.94114A O.T./3-1745

711.94114a O.T./3-1945  
CS/D

X

Let to Mr. McMichael

MS: mmc-3/26/45

Mrs. L. H. Mc Michael Rectory, Virginia

REC-HP STOP

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mar. 17, 1945

April 4, 1945

Dear Sir,

1945 MAR 20 PM 4 07

I have a young son, a marine on Iwa Jima and a son-in-law a Jap prisoner from Wake Island. He's in Osaka. I realize what he's going through and what his life's worth.

The mothers may not always be wise, or foresighted, but their voices should be heard.

You must protect these pitiful prisoners, the victims in the best place of weakness and folly at home. You can protect them!

Just notify the Japs at once, they obey the Geneva rules at once as we do, or we'll attack Japan with poison gas and start the war.

I am deadly fed up with weakness in a great power like we are. Must we forever show our Civilization to sub-human beasts who burn up our helpless prisoners! White men, the bravest of us, are

MAR 21 1945  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Anal. [Signature]  
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Dist. [Signature]  
MAR 22 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/3-1945

711.94114 3-1945  
CS/D

tortured, starved, beaten & humiliated  
while we coddle their prisoners.  
For shame!

I'm so sick of weakness, my  
mind's throwing off the thought  
like the stomach does sickening  
food.

I demand protection for the  
prisoners in Japan.

Warn these Japs immediately  
if anymore prisoners are  
murdered we'll poison off  
their nation.

Stop wasting the flower of  
American manhood showing  
foul savages how nice we are.

Germany is about past  
retaliation on the Allies.  
Japan can't.

Get these rats out of their holes.  
Please act at once and  
please answer me

Yours for poison gas,  
Mrs. L. H. McMichael  
Pectory, Va.



April 4, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP

My dear Mrs. McMichael:

I have received your letter of March 17, 1945 urging that measures be employed to force the Japanese Government to observe fully the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. In this regard, you mention the use of poison gas. You state that your son-in-law, who was at Wake Island, is now held in Japanese custody.

Although the Japanese Government was not a signatory to the Geneva Convention, upon the outbreak of war, it notified this Government that it would apply the provisions of the Convention, mutatis mutandis, to the treatment of prisoners of war. On the basis of this commitment, this Government has been ever alert to protest any infringement or violation of the Convention and to obtain for American prisoners of war in Japanese custody the fullest possible application of the humanitarian standards prescribed by the Geneva Convention.

I assure you that the policy of this Government with regard to its treatment of prisoners of war is not one that may be described as "coddling". American treatment of enemy prisoners of war in its custody has been firm and fair and only provides them with that to which they are entitled under the Geneva Convention.

The House Military Affairs Committee, which, following an investigation which failed to substantiate any of the numerous coddling rumors, reported as

follows:

Mrs. L. H. McMichael,  
Rectory,  
Virginia.

Handwritten notes and stamps in the left margin:  
- A vertical stamp: "DOP - OP. C UNIT"  
- A signature: "L. H. McMichael"  
- Other illegible handwritten marks and lines.

Handwritten notes in the right margin:  
- "SWP 111-94114a/3-1945"

- 2 -

follows:

"The provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1929 are obviously being carried out to the letter and it is well indeed that such is the case, since the slightest deviation therefrom on our part would instantly result in more than retaliatory measures on the part of our enemies against American prisoners of war in their hands. Such a contingency must not be overlooked for a single instant."

As under Article 6 of the Constitution of the United States, international treaties such as the Geneva Convention, constitute part of the supreme law of the land, the various agencies of this Government are obligated to observe fully the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention since that Convention was signed and subsequently ratified by this Government. In spite of the criticism levied against it for its treatment of prisoners of war, the United States Government will continue to adhere to the provisions of the Geneva Convention. In so doing, it is believed that American prisoners of war in Japanese custody will derive the greatest benefits it is possible to obtain for them.

With regard to your suggestion that the United States military authorities use poison gas in such a manner as to compel the Japanese Government to give more favorable treatment to Americans who are held as prisoners, there is set forth below the last two paragraphs of a statement made by the President on June 8, 1943 in which he stated the policy of this Government relative to this means of warfare.

"Uses of such weapons has been outlawed by the general opinion of civilized mankind. This country has not used them, and I hope that we never will be compelled to use them. I state categorically that we shall under no circumstances resort to the use of such weapons unless they are first used by our enemies."

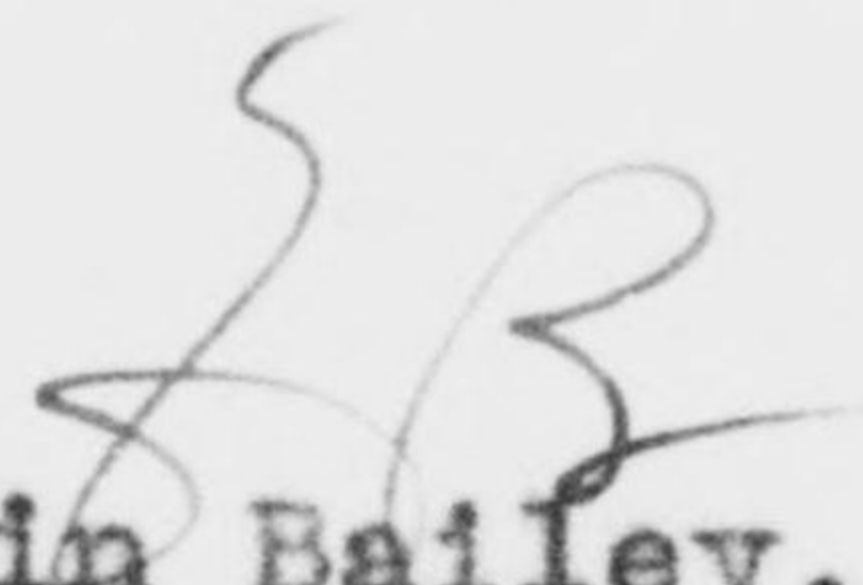
"As

- 3 -

"As President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the American armed forces, I want to make clear beyond all doubt to any of our enemies contemplating a resort to such desperate and barbarous methods that acts of this nature committed against any one of the United Nations will be regarded as having been committed against the United States itself and will be treated accordingly. We promise to any perpetrators of such crimes full and swift retaliation in kind, and I feel obliged now to warn the Axis armies and the Axis peoples, in Europe and in Asia, that the terrible consequences of any use of these inhumane methods on their part will be brought down swiftly and surely upon their own heads. Any use of gas by any Axis power, therefore, will immediately be followed by the fullest possible retaliation upon munition centers, seaports, and other military objectives throughout the whole extent of the territory of such Axis country."

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:



E. Tomlin Bailey,  
Acting Assistant Chief,  
Special War Problems Division.

A true copy of  
the stated original.

OR  
30 1945

LET. 3 1945  
SAM

SWP:HDreppard:REHibbard:mmc

LE  
WMB

3/27/45

MJ  
JA  
*[Handwritten signatures]*

*[Handwritten initials and signatures]*

~~SECRET~~

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
PERSONNEL DIVISION G-1  
WASHINGTON

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
*in Sarp*  
MAR 21 1945  
*file*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WDGAP 383.6 (9 Mar 45)

17 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWIN A. PLITT, CHIEF,  
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

SUBJECT: Prisoner of war casualties resulting from alleged U.S.  
raids on Formosa.

1. This is in reply to your letter of March 5, 1945 to which you inclosed a paraphrase of a message from the U.S. Legation, Bern, concerning an alleged raid on northern Formosa in which a number of British prisoners of war were casualties. It is noted that the newspaper article referred to, though published on February 11, 1945, does not give the date on which the alleged raid occurred.

2. Information available to the War Department indicates that there was air activity over Formosa during the period of February 4-10, 1945, including a strike over northern Formosa. It is not known, however, whether this is the operation referred to.

3. Inquiry is being made of the theaters which may have conducted operations against Formosa during the foregoing period. I will communicate with you further as soon as detailed information is received.

*R. W. Berry*  
~~R. W. BERRY~~

Brigadier General, GSC  
Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1

*Jmh*  
Rev. ....  
Dat. ....  
Dist. ....



SECRET

711.94114A/3-1745

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

711.94114A/3-1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
MAR 27 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

3188

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

~~SCIP~~  
JA  
~~SCIP~~  
DC/R

PAH-470  
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

Bern  
Dated March 17, 1945  
Rec'd 5:25 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Paraphrased by BP  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
DIVISION  
Negatives and distributed  
File  
MAR 19 1945  
H.C. Coppins  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1644, March 17, 3 p.m.  
AMINTERESTS JAPAN.

Swiss notice March 16 stated Gorge telegraphs that newspaper YOMIURI HOCHI February 26 published article giving views certain Jap circles and complaining that Allied POWS working factories treated better than Jap laborers, as former required work less and receive more food. Article demands suppression these privileges emphasizing "indescribable privations" of Jap subjects in enemy custody.

HARRISON

RB

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

711.94114A/3-1745  
APR 3 - 1945  
CS/M/R

FILED  
Confidential File

711.94114A/3-1945

X

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DISTRIBUTED  
by SWP to

FROM: Bern  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.  
DATED: March 17, 1945.  
NUMBER: 1644.

War - Bryan  
Busee  
9-2  
Bernays  
Navy - 2  
Date MAR 22 1945 H. L. Linn

A telegram from Gorge states that on February 26 an article was published in the newspaper Yomiuri Hachi setting forth the views held in certain circles of Japan and complaining that Japanese laborers were less well treated than Allied prisoners of war working in factories as the prisoners of war were given more food and less work was required of them. Stressing the "indescribable privations" of Japanese nationals held in enemy custody, the article demands that these privileges be suppressed.

The foregoing was in a Swiss notice dated March 16. (American interests Japan).

SWP:BPetro:ec

3-21-45



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~CMAA~~ INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

SWP JA

4795

Distributed by SWP to

19

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION  
MAR 21 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EOC-998

War - Bryan  
Bresee  
Sweet  
Bernays

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 19, 1945

Rec'd 11:23 p.m.

Navy - 2

MAR 24 1945 H.H.M.

DC/R

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1662, nineteenth

AMERICAN INTERESTS FAR EAST

Legation's 7704, November 23. Foreign Office

note March 14 states Swiss Legation Tokyo reports that since beginning 1945 it has received about dozen letters from POWS detained various camps Japan.

During recent visits representative Swiss Legation ascertained that POWS had been informed of circular which Japanese authorities had been asked to distribute in all camps regarding correspondence with protecting power.

Swiss Legation not (repeat not) informed whether this circular also distributed camps situated outside Japan.

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
APR 1 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/3-1945

FILED

APR 16 1945

711.94114a/3-1945

HARRISON DCR - GP-C Unit  
Cat. RB  
Dist.

WMB

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7441

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
*Let to Mrs. Flake*  
*BP. memo: ec - 3/29/45*  
*file BP*  
SUPERVISOR INDEXING  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Boise, Idaho  
March 19, 1945

1945 MAR 22 PM 3:29

RECORDS BRANCH  
DC/R

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 20 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. J. Holbrook Chapman,  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I realize that if every frantic relative of the American prisoners in Japan writes you concerning their chances for safety under the present devastating air attacks, you will be swamped with letters.

I have tried to quiet my fears, but as commentators continue to dwell on the extent of damage and "wiping out whole areas" by fire from incendiaries, I cannot resist writing to inquire whether there are any precautions our forces are able to take in protecting the particular area of prison camps.

Are these areas and locations known? My own brother and nephew, Forrest Don Read and John O. Young Jr., captured on Wake (civilian workers, but classed by the enemy as regular prisoners of war) are located in Camp #13, Bunsho, Osaka Prisoner of War Camp -- according to their last letters written in late summer, 1944. Do you have any information as to the location of this camp, type of buildings, etc.? Also, have the Japanese agreed to any protection for their prisoners in the way of air raid shelters, fire fighting equipment -- refraining to fire upon those fleeing from burning areas, and such? I realize the Japanese are wholly without honor in any so-called "agreement", but one cannot help wondering and hoping that there is a chance our boys will receive some protection.

We all recognize the vital necessity for such attacks by our forces, and that they must be repeated many times, but I also feel that the huge number of American prisoners in their hands deserve some consideration. Is there nothing we can do to prevent a repetition of the horrible massacre at Palawan Island, Philippines? Are protests and threats not even to be issued? They certainly were in the case of the Malmedy incident.

DEPARTMENT OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS  
APR 3 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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

APR 10 1945

FILED

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711.94114A/S-1945

711.94114A/S-1945

I know your Department carries on many efforts and attempts that are not made public, but believe me, to us who have dear ones involved, these are all of very great moment. I will appreciate any information you may be able to give in respect to safety precautions for our prisoners in bombing attacks.

Thanking you kindly, I am

*Mrs. Dennis E. Flake*

Mrs. Dennis E. Flake  
2809 North 26th Street  
Boise, Idaho

March 27. POW. Inform Bureau confirms  
that Forrest Iron Read and John O Young jr.  
are officially listed at Osaka Camp.  
BT

SWP

April 4, 1945

In reply refer to  
SWP 711,94114A/3-1945

My dear Mrs. Flake:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 19, 1945 requesting information regarding the Osaka Prisoner of War Camp and urging that protests be made to the Japanese Government.

According to an early report the camps of the Osaka Group of Prisoner of War Camps are located at Osaka, in the eastern part of the Osaka suburbs, in the northeastern part of the Osaka suburbs, in Kobe, in the hills behind Kobe, near Himeji Inland sea-shore, and at Himeji. The Department received a report of a visit made by a representative of the International Red Cross Committee to the Osaka Prisoner of War Camps on March 8, 9, 10, 1945. It stated the Osaka camps consist of nine camps, seven of which were visited, and that all the camps, with the exception of Kobe, are newly constructed and have standardized wooden barracks with electric lights and water from the city water supply. It further reported that there was a good infirmary in each camp. Treatment, discipline and morale were said to be good. The Department has also been informed that there are airraid shelters in some of the camps in Japan. Article 10 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention provides that all precautions must be taken against danger of fire.

I assure you that the welfare of American nationals held in Japanese custody is of the deepest

concern

Mrs. Dennis E. Flake,  
2809 North 26th Street,  
Boise, Idaho.

SWP 711,94114A/3-1945

- 2 -

concern to this Government and that no stone has been left unturned to alleviate in every way possible the conditions under which American nationals are held in captivity. Officers of the Department endeavor to keep themselves as well informed as possible with regard to the hardships which Americans in Japanese custody experience in order to contribute to the improvement of those conditions. The United States Government is ever on the alert to protest to the Japanese Government against any breach of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

*EB*

E. Tomlin Bailey,  
Acting Assistant Chief,  
Special War Problems Division.

*my*  
*IA*  
*SPD*

*JP*  
SWP:BPetro:ec:mmc

3/27-29/45

*CR* ✓  
*APR*

*CR* ✓  
MAR 29 1945