

711.94114a/3-1945

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Requests list of names of prisoners of war moved out of
Philippine camps.

711.94114a/3-1945

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Letter

(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated March 19, 1945 From Pacific Island Employees
To Foundation, Incorporated, The

File No. 740.00115a P.W./3-1945

711.94114a/3-2045

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Informs funds spent by Egle are used in making bulk purchases of foodstuffs and medical supplies for POWS.

For the original paper from which ^{rb}reference is taken

See Tel#1684
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated March 20, 1945 From TOX | Bern

File No. 740.00115a Pacific War/3-2045

711.94114A/3-2045

CS/R

Confidential File

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

16 INCOMING TELEGRAM

6759

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK-1445
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Bern
Dated March 21, 1945
Rec'd 10:32 a.m.

DC/A

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1686, March 21, 10 a.m.

AMERICAN INTERESTS JAPAN.

Your 756, February 19.

Swiss note March 16 states Gorge will forward translation regulations concerning POW camps which appear in official Japanese gazette. He adds that Jap Foreign Ministry never transmits such regulations protecting power or Intercross.

HARRISON

WFS

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
MAR 22 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*file
WMP*

Request that Swiss whether Japanese govt is making its corresponding regulations available to Gorge or Intercross.

*121
Rev. [initials]
Dat. [initials]*

711.64114A/3-2145

CS/MAJ

AUG 1 1945

[Stamp]

14294
for
but

SWP

Distributed
by SWP to

War - Bryan
Bucee
Sweet
Bernard
Coff

AIRGRAM

FROM

Bern

Dated March 22, 1945.

Rec'd : March 28, 6p.m.

DC/R

Navy - 2
Date **MAR 31 1945** *B.P.m*

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-479, March 22, 3 p.m.

SPECIAL W. PROBLEMS
DIVISION
MAR 30 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AW file
file
C in SWP

American Interests - Japan

*to that
being held
for follow up?*

Swiss note March 20 states Swiss Legation Tokyo reports that List JU/74 of American pows established by Japanese authorities March 2 mentions that American pow HEARD detained at camp at Fukuoka was stabbed on May 31, 1944. Note adds that Swiss Minister intervened with Japanese Foreign Office for information and will submit details when received.

HARRISON

711.94114A/3-2245

GT/DWM/dmh

DCR - GP-O Unit
Anal. *[Signature]*
Rev. *[Signature]*
at. *[Signature]*
Dist. *[Signature]*

MAY 21 1945

FILED

CS/D 911.94114a/3-2245

X

Nil
Byers
DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

8853

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Both
To War

RWP-403
This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (SECRET)

Sofia via Army
Dated March 23, 1945
Rec'd 9:05 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington
160, March 23, 5 p.m.

3/29/45
Paraphrased RWP/hw
State to WH Army/hw
180
o of Dir Sec P

Can Department ascertain the views of the War Department
and Joint Chiefs of Staff with respect to trial of Bulgarian
military personnel accused of mistreating American Air
Corps prisoners. Matter was referred to Washington about
a month ago by General Richmond, Judge Advocate General
AFHQ.

Bulgarian authorities are most anxious to proceed
with trials on grounds that public opinion is beginning
to react unfavorably to extensive operations of peoples'
courts and that the longer the trials of those accused of
mistreating American prisoners is delayed, the less will
be the popular support that the government can count upon.

Repeated to AIRPOLAD as No. 82.

BARNES

WMB

REC'D - CP-C Unit
fwg
Rev.
Dat.
Dist.

711.74114A/3-2345

CS/EG

Confidential File

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: Sofia via Army.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington.
DATED: March 23, 1945.
NUMBER: 160, March 23, 5 p.m.

This telegram has been repeated as No. 82 to the American Political Advisor.

The extensive operations of the people's courts is beginning to create an unfavorable public opinion. Furthermore, the government can rely on decreasing public support relative to the increase in the delay of the trials of the Bulgarian military persons who are accused of mistreating the American Air Corps prisoners. The Bulgarian authorities, therefore, are most desirous of proceeding with the trials.

The Judge Advocate General of AFHQ, General Richmond, referred this matter to Washington about the middle of February.

Can the Department determine the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War Department in this regard?

BARNES

711.74114A/3-2345

SWP:MBFleming:lmv

3/29/45

53111.14114A/3-2345

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

In reply refer to
SWP 711.74114A/3-2345

APR 2 1945

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of War and transmits herewith a copy in paraphrase of telegram no. 160 dated March 23, 1945, from the American diplomatic mission at Sofia in which the Department is asked to ascertain the views of the War Department and of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with regard to the trial of personnel of the Bulgarian Army who are accused of mistreating American prisoners of war.

It would be appreciated if the Department of State might receive the views of the War Department in this connection in order that an appropriate reply can be made to this communication.

Enclosure: ✓

Telegram no. 160,
March 23, 1945, in
paraphrase.

711.74114A/3-2345

fyda
B

Dist.
Dist.

MAF 22 ✓
OR ✓
ST.M. ✓
PWH

SWP:PW Herrick:lmv

L2

A true copy of
the original
is being
retained.

3/29/45

711.74114A/3-2345

SECRET

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

[Handwritten initials]

WDGAP 383.6
(9 Mar 45)

24 March 1945

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
MAR 27 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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.

Reference is made to my letter of 17 March 1945 on
the above subject. The Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific
Area has now advised the War Department that aircraft under
his command did not conduct any operations in northern Formosa
areas where prisoner of war camps are located at or about the
time in question. No other theater engaged in air operations
against Formosa during this period.

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

*MP
send
information
to G-1
get
original
telegram
HW*

711.94114a/3-1945

711/94114A/3-2445

CONFIDENTIAL
[Handwritten initials]



SECRET

Confidential File

711.94114a/3-2445

711.94114a/3-2445

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Information regarding proposed creation of a Safety Zone for civilians at Shanghai.

711.94114a/3-2445

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Memo
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Mar. 24, 1945 From Red Cross,
To International

File No. 800.142/3-2445

for

SWP

PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

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

Collect

Charge Department: **Department**
Charge to

Department of State

Telegram sent by
cl: **Washington**
Do not communicate
to anyone.
SECRET

SECRET

4/24/45
Approved - HD: NET
MAR 26 1945

3 pm

Hold for follow up

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

1222

AMERICAN INTERESTS - JAPAN

Request Swiss Government have Gorge telegraph latest available information regarding prisoner of war camps in or near Yokohama, Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, and Nagoya.

711.94114A/3-2645

DCR - GP-C Unit	
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Dist.

Jew
Acting (BJ)

1945 MAR 25 PM 2 52
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
GENERAL SERVICES
CODE ROOM
RELEASE DESK

BP
SWP:BP:mmc
3/21/45

OR ✓
MAR 26 1945

JA
[Signature]

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
GENERAL SERVICES
711.94114a/3-2645
Confidential
CS/M
FILE
SENT

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

by SWP

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington.
TO: Amlegation, Bern.
DATED: March 26, 1945.
NUMBER: 1222.

..... Bryan
..... war - Bresee
..... 9-2
..... Bernaup
..... Navy - 7
Date MAY 4 1945 B.P. rm

Department desires to have latest information regarding prisoner of war camps in or near Nagoya, Yokohama, Tokyo, Kobe, and Osaka. Please ask Swiss to have Gorge to telegraph this information.

GREW
(Acting)

711.94114A/3-2645

Paraphrased: SWP: HDreppard: gll

5/4/45

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

11314

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

SWP

EDW-1149
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

London
Dated March 26, 1945
Rec'd 4:26 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

3110, March 26, 6 p.m.

Foreign Office states orally that Secretary of State for War proposes to make a statement in the House of Commons on March 29 concerning the protest against the location by the Japanese authorities of prisoner of war camps in dangerous areas. REDEPTEL

1836, March 10, 8 p.m.

711.94114A/2-2845

WINANT

WTD

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
MAR 29 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
file *AW*

DC/A

711.94114A/3-2645

APR 4 - 1945

FILED

RECORDS SECTION

DCR - CP-C Unit

Anal. *file*
Rev. *FH*
Clerk
Spec.

Confidential File

X

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



12200
International Committee of the Red Cross
in Geneva, Switzerland
Delegation to the United States
of America

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

APR 5 1945
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
MAR 27 1945
SENT TO DCR FOR INDEXING
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SWP
DCR

March 26th, 1945.

In replying, refer to (E)

Mr. Edwin A. Plitt,
Chief, Special War Problem Division,
State Department,
501, 17th Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
Let to Col. Beech
MAR 26 1945
FD: mme - 4/45
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

file

Dear Mr. Plitt,

740.00115
390.1115
pw/3-2645
3-2645

At the request of our Headquarters in Geneva, I am quoting below a letter which I have just received pertaining to enquiries made concerning the welfare or whereabouts of prisoners of war or interned civilians detained in Japanese hands in the Far East.

"The International Committee received numerous requests regarding the welfare or location of prisoners or internees detained in the Far East; these enquiries are always retransmitted to the competent authorities in Tokyo, namely the Japanese Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

We now learn from our Delegation in Tokyo that this Information Bureau composes such welfare or whereabouts reports in reply to our enquiries on the basis of its own records, without taking into consideration the date at which this record was established. No enquiry is made by this Bureau on the spot. In consequence, if the records of the official Bureau do not indicate that the party enquired about is deceased or has suffered any illness, a reply indicating the well-being of the party concerned is returned. We believe that it is essential that the competent authorities should be informed of the foregoing."

I would thank you to pass on this information to the competent divisions of your Department, and remain,

Sincerely yours,

M. Peter

MARC PETER,
Delegate.

Sub
F. T.
Det. R. P. T.
Dist.

APR 7 1945

FILED

CS/D

711.94114A/3-2645

711.94114A/3-2645

sgc.

March 31, 1945

UNRESTRICTED

No. 2855

To the

Officer in Charge of the American Mission,
Bern.

The Secretary of State transmits herewith eighty-one Red Cross identification cards issued by the War Department for persons held in Japanese custody. There is also enclosed a list of the names of the persons to whom these certificates were issued, indicating their respective ranks and Army serial numbers.

The requests for these certificates were made by the individuals named and were transmitted through the International Committee of the Red Cross. The last known place of internment of these protected personnel was Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1.

The Legation is requested to forward to the individuals named the enclosed identification documents through such channels as may be available to it.

Enclosures:

- 1. Eighty-one identification cards ✓
- 2. List of names. ✓

SWP:HDreppard:mmc

find
11/1

A true copy of the signed original

3/29/45

711.94114A/3-2645

CS/D 711.94114A/3-2645

OR ✓ 69
12/5



ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 31, 1945
26 March 1945

SPMGO (26) 383.6

Special War Problems Division
Department of State
501-17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

C in sub
SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION
Incls. to Ben
MAR 27 1945
AD: mmc - 3/29/45
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Attention: Mr. Bernard Gufler

Gentlemen:

It is requested that the inclosed Red Cross Identification Cards W.D., A.G.C. Form 65-10, be forwarded by your Department to the American protected personnel listed on the attached inclosure.

Request for these certificates came to the Office of The Provost Marshal General through the International Committee of the Red Cross. The requests were made by the individuals themselves, who were reported to be in Japanese custody, and the last known place of internment was given as Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 1.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen M. Farrand

STEPHEN M. FARRAND
Major, CMP
Prisoner of War Operations Div.
Provost Marshal General's Office

82 Incls.
81 W.D., A.G.C. Forms No. 65-10
1 list of names.

711.94114A/3-2645

Anal. *[Signature]*
Sec. *[Signature]*
Off. *[Signature]*
Dir. *[Signature]*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
APR 2 1945
DO/R
RECORDS BRANCH

APR 2 1945

FILED

711.94114A/3-2645
CS/D

3/29/45 - Changes in names 1-3-46 were made
to correspond with names carried on identification cards.
Det. Inquiry of Captain McIntyre's office revealed
spelling on identification cards more correct and had them
checked in A.O.'s A.S.N. office. *ADT*

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>
1 x Bond, Sanford A. <i>Stanford</i>	Private	18,015,124
2 Bohn, John H. ✓	Private	19,043,527
3 x Bowden, Nicholas R. <i>Nicholas</i>	Corporal	19,011,189
4 Bradshaw, Vance A. ✓	Staff Sergeant	6,548,082
5 Brewton, Marvin V. ✓	Private first class	18,019,162
6 Brock, Clyde I. ✓	Staff Sergeant	6,576,270
7 Brower, Charles W. ✓	Private	19,050,297
8 Brown, Robert M. ✓	Corporal	6,256,739
9 Bryan, Karl F. ✓	Sergeant	17,012,293
10 Burns, Robert T. ✓	Private first class	38,002,614
11 Burns, Virgil P. ✓	Staff Sergeant	6,893,871
12 Butler, Edwin J. ✓	Private	6,928,088
13 Cabreira, Benjamin F. ✓	Private first class	39,082,300
14 Campbell, Francis A. ✓	Corporal	19,056,362
15 Campbell, James B. ✓	Private first class	6,563,689
16 Castle, Eugene ✓	Private	6,295,894
17 Chamberlain, Henry T. ✓ <i>jr.</i>	Private	17,011,542
18 Chavez, Horace ✓	Private first class	20,842,385
19 Chavez, Ralph F.	Private	20,802,363
20 Chavez, Tony P. ✓	Private	20,842,388
21 Churchwell, R.D.F. ✓	Private first class	18,052,555
22 Clanton, Thomas I. ✓	Sergeant	R-1,455,744
23 Collins, Doyle F. ✓	Private	18,060,102
24 Cook, Terry M. ✓ <i>jr.</i>	Private first class	18,029,627
25 Crowson, Oscar J. ✓	Sergeant	20,842,387
26 Crupper, Charles G. ✓	Private	19,010,415

3/24/45 Miss Dwyer

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>
27 Kellogg, George S. ✓	Private	6,581,746
28 Killian, Leo J. ✓	Private first class	13,029,106
29 Kittredge, James D. ✓	Private	19,053,052
30 Kline, Clarence A. ✓	Private first class	19,019,157
31 Koenig, Raymond W. ✓	Corporal	6,903,104
32 Kuhn, Lloyd W. ✓	Private	18,019,149
33 Kurvers, Harold G. ✓	Private	37,026,126
34 Kusek, George J. ✓	Private	18,003,438
35 Kush, Zachary ✓	Private	38,002,616
36 Mangrum, Max R. ✓	Corporal	14,022,036
37 Martin, Charles O. ✓	Private first class	6,149,515
38 Martinez, Gavino B. ✓	Private	1,044,246
39 Massey, Howard I. ✓	Staff Sergeant	6,658,095
40 McCaffery, Richard E. ✓	Private	6,560,442
41 Miller, Norman L. ✓	Corporal	6,580,743
42 Miranda, Fred T. ✓	Corporal	19,000,453
43 Morris, George H. ✓	Private	19,013,277
44 Myers, Olin E. ✓	Private First class	17,028,756
45 Rifkin, Morris ✓	Private first class	6,980,175
46 X ^{Robison} Robinson, Ernest L.	Private	6,834,961
47 Rogers, Harry W. ✓	Private	38,021,650
48 Mohn, George ✓	Private first class	19,017,322
49 Moore, Samuel B. ✓	Private	18,063,202
50 Morgan, Ira C. ✓	Private	38,041,101
51 Moss, Edwin B. ✓	Private first class	18,063,209
52 Musso, Anthony ✓	Private first class	6,834,775

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>
53 O'Keefe, James J. ✓	Private first class	6,895,483
54 Omansky, Herman ✓	Private first class	37,026,102
55 Orosco, Arnold A. ✓	Staff Sergeant	20,842,394
56 Owen, Jimmie V. ✓	Staff Sergeant	6,281,725
57 Owenby, Clifford W. ✓	Private	14,047,688
58 Padilla, Jake P. ✓	Private first class	20,842,395
59 Palasota, Sam M. ✓	Private	38,030,970
60 Pankratz, Walter P. ✓	Private first class	19,020,943
61 Patterson, James A. ✓	Private	19,038,364
62 Perton, Harry H. ✓	Sergeant	R- 514-833
63 Rhodes, Alvin R. ✓	Private	18,063,210
64 Rogers, Charles D. ✓	Corporal	18,030,341
65 Rolfe, Jesse ✓	Private	7,086,720
66 Ryan, Robert J. ✓	Corporal	36,206,232
67 Sidebottom, Arthur R. ✓	Private first class	19,015,381
68 Smelcer, Charles L. ✓	Private first class	18,052,698
69 Smith, Charlie R. ✓	Private	14,028,801
70 Templeton, Elbert L. ✓	Private	18,063,214
71 Van Horn, Walter E. ✓	Private	37,049,584
72 Voros, Louis J. ✓	Private first class	6,296,772
73 Watson, Donald J. ✓	Private first class	6,571,406
74 Weldon, Vernon E. ✓	Sergeant	19,000,745
75 Wheeler, Earl H. ✓	Private	38,029,837
76 Wolf, Joseph W. ✓	Private	37,055,973
77 Wolf, Lawrence L. ✓	Private	6,561,567
78 Wyatt, Rufus H. ✓	Private	15,058,911
79 Zanirato, Peter A. ✓	Staff Sergeant	6,459,455

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>A.S.N.</u>
80 Zimmerman, George R. ✓	Technical Sergeant	6,816,366
81 Zimpfer, Fred W. ✓	Private	35,030,659

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

12493

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

SWP

TBP

MOK-1586
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

London
Dated March 27, 1945
Rec'd 9:52 p.m.

Secretary of State
Washington

US URGENT

3162, March 27, 7 p.m.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
MAR 28 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Embassy's immediately following telegram contains text (re REEMBTEL 3110, March 26, 6 p.m.) of final draft of statement which Secretary of State is expected to make in House of Commons on March 29.

WINANT

LMS

Secretary of State for war proposed to make statement in House re; protest to Japanese against location of POW camps in dangerous areas.

*711.94114A/3-2845
SWP 34-C-PC*

711.94114A/3-27 45

DCR - ~~Unit~~ Unit
Date:
Dist:

APR 5 1945
FILED

Confidential File

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

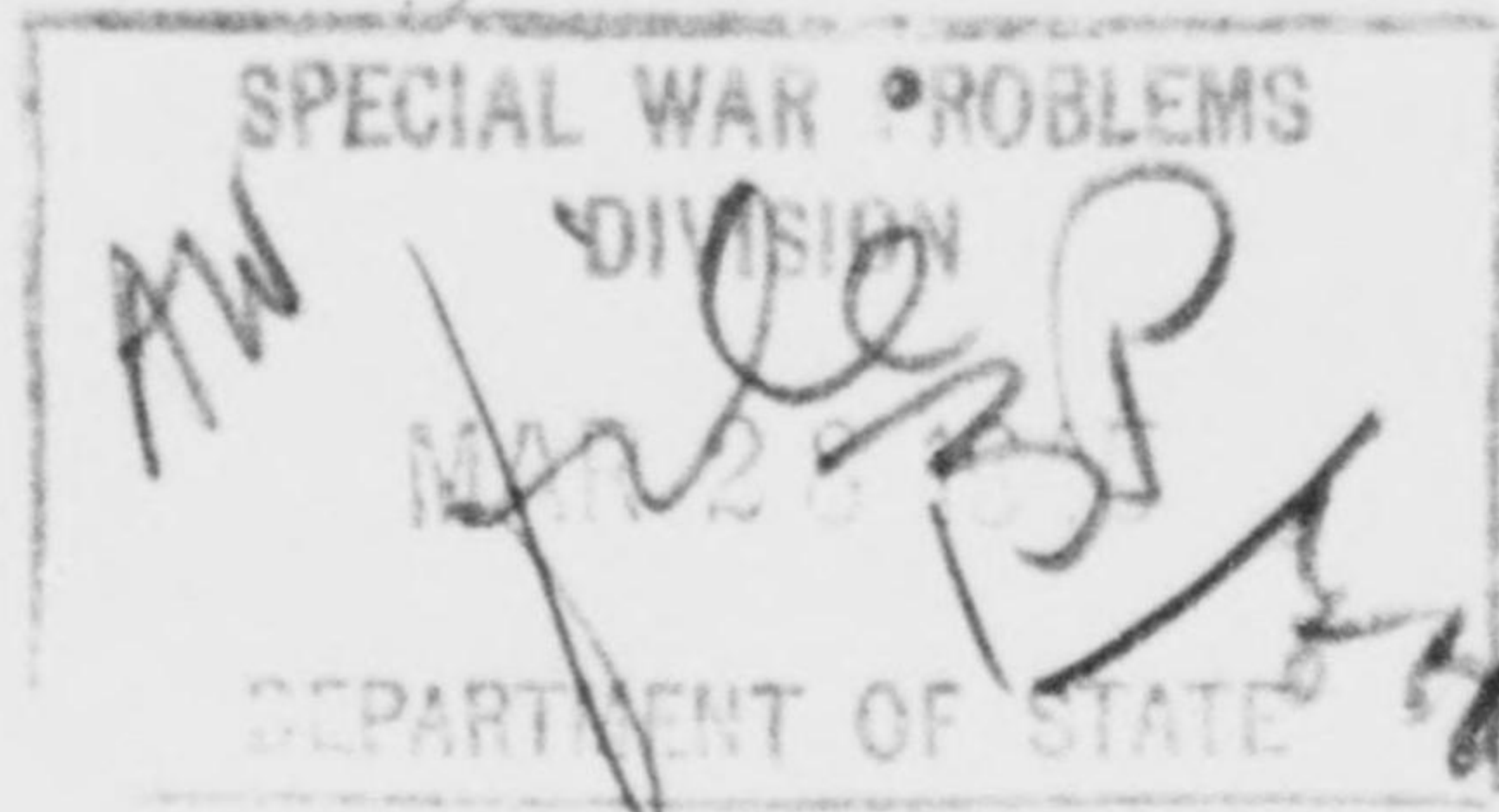
12483

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EAS-1623
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (RESTRICTED)

London
Dated March 27, 1945
Rec'd 11:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.



US URGENT
3163, March 27, 7 p.m.

Dangerous locations of prisoner of war camps in the
Far East. Draft public statement.

Article IX of the International Convention relative to
the treatment of prisoners of war provides that " no
prisoner may at any time be sent to an area where he
would be exposed to the fires of the fighting zone, or be
employed to render, by his presence, certain points or
areas immune from bombardment".

This article precludes the establishment of prisoner
of war camps in close proximity to areas or targets which
are liable to bombardment from the air. We and our Allies
have conscientiously observed this principle and shall
continue to do so.

I regret to inform the House that the Japanese
authorities

D.R. - CP-C Unit

APR 5 1945

FILED

711.94114A/3-2745

-2- #3163, March 27, 7 p.m., from London

authorities are not conforming to this principle. Early in 1943 the first reports on prisoner of war camps in metropolitan Japan reached this country. We noted with anxiety that many of the camps were situated in the stockyard and factory areas of Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, and other cities. After consulting our Allies, we represented through the protecting power that these camps should be moved from areas which constituted important military targets. These representations have been renewed on several occasions, but without effect. The Japanese have stated that they are "always very careful to establish camps outside danger areas", but none of the camps of which we have complained have been moved.

During the construction of the Burma-Siam railway the camps were close to the line and casualties inevitably occurred from Allied bombs.

The railway is a primary objective of our bombing attacks since it is the principle line of supplies to the Japanese forces opposing the Fourteenth Army in Burma. I regret to say that evidence is accumulating that the Japanese are attempting to hamper these attacks by the very means which are specifically forbidden by Article IX. of the convention

-3- #3163, March 27, 7 p.m., from London

of the convention. In other words, they are moving prisoners of war into close proximity to the line with the obvious intention of "rendering it immune from bombardment".

It is essential that attacks on targets vital to the prosecution of the war should go on and that the task of our troops in Burma and elsewhere should not be made more difficult than it already is. The House may be assured, however, that all possible care will be taken by all Allied air forces engaged to avoid endangering our prisoners of war.

A protest in the strongest terms has been made through the protecting power to the Japanese both by His Majesty's government on behalf of the Commonwealth Governments and by the United States Government.

WINANT

MJF

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

13733

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

VAC-37

Oct 27/45

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 27, 1945

DC/R

Rec'd 11:05 p.m., 28th

Secretary of State

Washington

1815, twenty-seventh

AMERICAN INTERESTS, FAR EAST

Your 799, February 22. *711.9 4114a (1-2145) SWP*

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
MAR 29 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

asking verification
report that
ship has
porting POWs
was sunk
by a W.
China coast
on Oct 24, 1944.
BP.

Foreign Office note March 26 states Swiss Legation, Tokyo still without (repeat without) any reply from Japanese to representations twice made. Accordingly again pressing for reply.

HARRISON

711.94114A/3-2745

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

OCT-41945

Y

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

13195

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

EOC-34

PLAIN

Born

Dated March 27, 1945

Rec'd 10:59 p.m. 28th

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
MAR 29 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1813, Twenty-seventh

AMERICAN INTERESTS JAPAN

Your 776, February 20,

Foreign Office note March 26 states message

delivered March 1 by Swiss Legation, Tokyo, to

Japanese Government.

HARRISON

711.94114A/3-2745

Swiss govt requested to have delivery given message to Japanese govt, re U.S. govt protest to answer to top reply to 1942 protest

LMS

Anal. *fine*
Rev. *110*
Cat.
Dist.

APR 5 1945

FILED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

17 INCOMING 15022 TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

by SWP to

LEGAL ADVISER APR 11 1945 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MES-233

War-Bryan
Bresce
Sweet
Bern
Dated March 27, 1945

Navy-2

REC'd. 2:20 p.m., 29th

Date MAR 31 1945 BP/m

Secretary of State,

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION APR 10 1945 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington.

1820, Twenty-seventh

AMINTERESTS THAILAND

Legation's 1575, March 13. Swiss note March 23 states

Swiss Consulate Bangkok reports steps taken to transfer POW and civilian internment camps from their present location at "Vajiravudh College" Bangkok. Present site these camps as result recent bombardments not considered as offering adequate security owing proximity Bangkok Noi railroad station. New site almost adjacent barracks of Thai "royal guards battalion" but despite this proximity Swiss representative considers it much safer than previous location. He directed attention Thai authorities to presence these barracks and recommended camps be transferred outside Bangkok. This however beset with numerous obstacles and Swiss Consul does not believe it possible obtain location meeting all essential needs. No better place available in Bangkok itself as regards airaid protection

711.94114A/3-2745

DIVISION OF SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AFFAIRS APR 12 1945 OFFICE OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOE - GP-0 Unit

APR 16 1945 FILED

X

14

--2- #1820, Twenty-seventh, from Bern

protection transfer will probably begin next few days
but cannot be completed for some time. In meantime Swiss
Consul considers desirable that former and new locations
both be considered as the Bangkok camps.

HARRISON

WFS

April 13, 1945.

In reply refer to
SWP

My dear Mr. Collins:

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 28, 1945, concerning your son-in-law, Lieutenant Bleecker Provost Seaman, Jr., who, you state, is reported missing in action and requesting information concerning this Government's activities on behalf of American prisoners held in Japanese custody.

I am fully sensible of the anxiety and concern which parents and relatives must sustain in these unhappy times and I assure you that everything possible is done by this Government to achieve the betterment of conditions under which American nationals are held in the Far East. In some instances long and difficult negotiations end in failure as the assent and cooperation of the Japanese Government must be secured before relief plans can be put into effect, but in other cases concrete benefits for Americans in captivity are secured.

For example, early in 1942, this Government made efforts to find a means acceptable to the Japanese Government for forwarding to prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East necessary supplies of food, clothing, and medicines. As a result of lengthy and drawn-out negotiations by the Department of State large quantities of relief supplies were shipped to the Far East in 1942 on the first exchange vessel. Again, after months of negotiation, another large shipment of relief

Anal. *[Signature]*
Re: *[Signature]*
Sub: supplies
Dist: *[Signature]*

711.941142/9-3015

-2-

supplies was despatched to the Orient on the second exchange vessel in 1943. The third shipment of relief supplies, to which you referred in your letter, was received in Japan in November 1944 and was distributed to camps in Japan proper before Christmas. The complicated arrangements for the shipments of these relief supplies were made by the Department of State. The allocation of the supplies to the various prisoner of war and civilian internment camps is left entirely to the representatives of the International Red Cross Committee in the Far East who report to the Department the dispositions that have been made and the dates on which the supplies have been received in the camps.

The Japanese Government has allowed the International Red Cross Committee to carry on activities in Japan, China, and Manchuria, and some of the southern Japanese-occupied areas. It has authorized visits by representatives of the protecting Power or of the International Red Cross to prisoner of war camps in Japan, China and Manchuria. Reports of these visits are transmitted to the Department of State. On the basis of the reports from the representative of the protecting Power or of the International Red Cross Committee the Department of State takes up matters needing reform. Serious violations on the part of the Japanese Government of its commitment to apply in so far as possible the humanitarian provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 form the basis for protests by this Government to the Japanese Government.

The reports of the camps that have been visited indicate that conditions in Japan proper, Manchuria and China are definitely superior to those which existed in the Philippine Islands. They also indicate that an attempt has been made to establish certain humane standards of conduct. A report has recently been received of a visit by a delegate of the International Red Cross Committee to a prisoner of war hospital near Kobe. The hospital was opened in July 1944, and is located on a sunny hillside with southern exposure. The report states that there are ten American prisoners of war on the hospital staff. The equipment is said to be complete and the medicines sufficient.

There is

-3-

There is a well-lighted operating room, an X ray room, a laboratory with a microscope, a dental office, and a well-stocked pharmacy. Hospitalized prisoners receive three meals a day, the food is said to correspond both qualitatively and quantitatively to the food issued to the camp guards. The impression of the International Red Cross Committee delegate is that the hospital is a competently run establishment.

Arrangements have also been made by the Department of State to extend financial assistance to prisoners of war in the Far East. Both the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross Committee are being allowed to exercise broad discretion for the disbursement of United States public funds in order to ameliorate as much as possible the detention of American nationals. Large funds are expended for the prisoners of war on a group basis with the advice and cooperation of camp committees, leaders or spokesmen and, when needed, individual allowances are distributed. For instance in Shanghai the International Red Cross Committee has been able to purchase with funds advanced by this Government thousands of pounds of foodstuffs each month to supplement the rations provided by the Japanese authorities. The supplies in February included fresh beef, bacon, lima beans, maize flour, cracked wheat, barley, noodles, lard, tomato sauce, pepper and sugar.

The International YMCA has also been active in attempting to improve conditions in prisoner of war camps in the Far East. It has supplied recreational equipment to the prisoners in Japan and in Japanese-occupied territory including musical instruments, books, playing cards, ping pong sets and athletic supplies which have been much appreciated by the men.

You will also be interested to know that the Japanese Government, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, forwards lists of names of prisoners of war to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, which in turn relays the information to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington. The Prisoner of War Information Bureau was established at the outbreak of the war as the official agency of this Government to maintain a central index of information relating to prisoners of war. I must point out to you, however, that it is not unusual for several months to elapse after capture before full information including camp address and internment number is reported to the Information Bureau. Nevertheless I assure you that as soon as such

information

information is received the next of kin are promptly notified.

The welfare of American nationals in the Far East is of deepest concern to this Government and no possibility of rendering aid to them is being overlooked or neglected. The question has been given and continues to receive the personal attention of the highest ranking officers of the Department of State and other interested Departments of the Government. One of the Assistant Secretaries of State is particularly charged with the responsibility for taking all possible steps to do whatever can be done to ameliorate the conditions under which American nationals are detained in the Far East. He works in close collaboration with the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Far Eastern Affairs, with the Chiefs of the Division of Japanese Affairs and the Special War Problems Division, with the chiefs of other interested Divisions of the Department, with other agencies of the Government and with the American Red Cross. This whole problem is one of the chief preoccupations of the Interdepartmental Boards on Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees, on which the War and Navy Departments and the Departments of State and Justice are represented by high-ranking officers. Moreover the President has taken a deep personal interest in this matter and has directed that all possible assistance be provided for Americans in Japanese custody. You will realize, however, that unilateral action can accomplish nothing and that no matter what efforts are put forth by the United States Government, and they have been many and continuous, positive results cannot be achieved unless the Japanese Government cooperates.

Sincerely yours,

William L. Clayton
Assistant Secretary

signature
APR 13 10 45 AM '45
letter sent direct to A-C
SWP:AW/BP:NET
H. Bailey

4/9-11/45

AC
JWB

SEP-

*Putative
Markings of Camps*

In reply refer to
SWP 740.00114 EW/3-2845

711.94114a

June 2, 1945

My dear Mr. Huber:

I am enclosing a letter which I have addressed to Mr. T. G. Loscier, Deputy Director of the Division of Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees, of the International Red Cross Committee in reply to his letter of March 28, 1945 concerning a proposal made by the Belgian Government regarding the use of distinctive signs on buildings in prisoner of war and civilian internment camps.

I should appreciate it if you would forward this letter through the appropriate channels to Mr. Loscier.

Sincerely yours,

Julius C. Holmes

Acting Secretary

Anal.	<i>John</i>
Rev.	<i>8/13</i>
Dist.	<i>[initials]</i>

Enclosure:

To Mr. T. G. Loscier,
of even date.

Charles Huber

Charles Huber, Delegate,
International Red Cross Committee,
1645 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, 9, D. C.

MAY 31 1945

SWP:HDreppard:NET

5/30/45

711.94114A/3-2845

711.94114a/3-2845
CS/D

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

April 3, 1945

Miss Wagner - SWP

I am attaching the letter we discussed by telephone. We will appreciate it if you will prepare a reply for Mr. Clayton's signature. Will you please send it to me when ready. Thank you.

Alice H. Babb

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS Alice H. Babb
 DIVISION ^{Let. to Mr. Collins} A-C Room 301 S
 APR 4 - 1945
 SWP BP/aw:net 3/7/45 Rewrite Let. to Mr. Collins
 4/11/45
 SWP BP/aw:net

FIDELITY UNION LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

~~001805~~

30313

DALLAS, TEXAS

OFFICE OF
CARR P. COLLINS
PRESIDENT

March 28, 1945

Honorable W. L. Clayton
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clayton:

I realize that the subject matter of this letter is not under your jurisdiction, but I know that you will pass it on to the proper party and get for me something more than a perfunctory reply.

My son-in-law, Lt. Bleecker Provoost Seaman, Jr., is reported missing in action and is presumed to be a prisoner of the Japanese. He was a Naval flyer with Mitchner's task force that attacked Tokyo on February 16 and has been reported missing since that date. The only information that we can get from the Navy is that he was last seen making a crash landing on an air field near Tokyo.

We have made inquiry through the Provost Marshal's office of the Navy in an effort to try to find out whether or not Lt. Seaman is a prisoner, and we have learned that there is no way of getting any information from the Japanese.

It seems to me that our State Department should exert all possible pressure on Japan through the medium of the Swiss Government to furnish full information concerning American prisoners. What efforts have been made by the United States Government to get Japan to make reports on war prisoners? Japan claims to be complying with the Geneva Convention, which requires the government to make a report of a prisoner of war within one week after capture. It is obvious that they are not doing this.

Has the State Department made any effort to get the Japanese Government to give the International Red Cross a degree of freedom in dealing with prisoners similar to the conditions that have existed in Germany? It is my understanding that the Red Cross has been able to serve the war prisoners in Germany freely and has furnished them with food that has made the lot of these prisoners much easier than it would otherwise have been.

What steps are being taken by this government to help the International Red Cross get more supplies into Japan? I recall having read in the paper several months ago of a shipment of the Red Cross for Japanese prisoners that went by way of Russia, but it seems that this was about the only Red Cross shipment that had been delivered to the home islands of Japan.

711.94114A/3-2845

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MAY 1 1945

Handwritten initials

Honorable W. L. Clayton

- 2 -

March 28, 1945

Of course, the families of the boys who are prisoners in Japan are utterly helpless. There is nothing that an individual citizen can do to help these boys. It seems to me that the State Department should assume a very vigorous attitude to try to improve the present situation, and if the State Department has been doing its full duty, it would certainly comfort the many people who have relatives who are prisoners of Japan to know more about what has been done and what is being done.

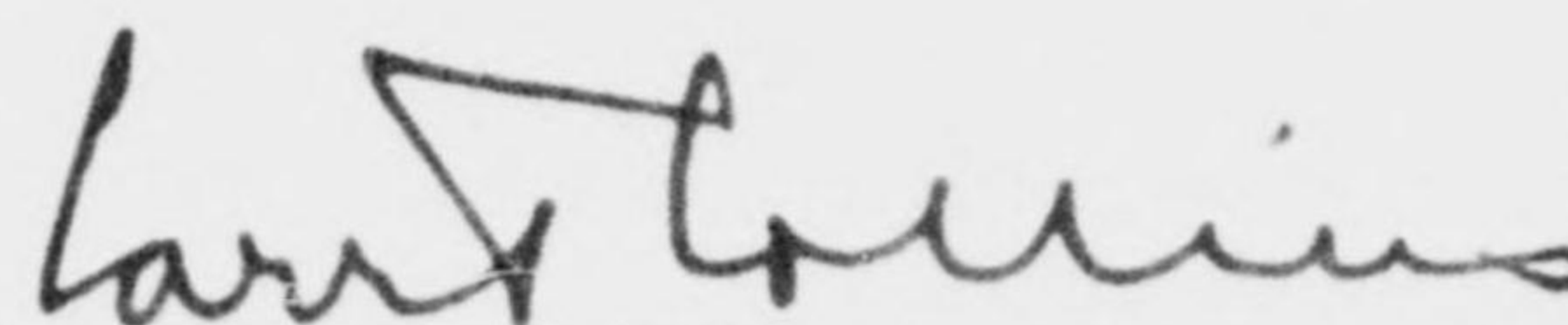
I have talked with a number of Dallas families who have sons who are prisoners of the Japs and they all have the feeling that the State Department of this Government has done a very poor job in representing our interests in connection with these war prisoners. Now, we all recognize, of course, that the Japs are beasts and that they are not motivated by humanitarian instincts; however, they now realize that they are going to be utterly defeated in this war, and it is very difficult to get American citizens to believe that our government has done its full duty in making better provision for these war prisoners. We realize, of course, that any action has to be taken through the Swiss Government, but I know that I would feel very much better about the situation if I could be shown that everything possible has been done and is being done.

Please, please get some high official in the State Department to do something about this matter. I think you can fully appreciate the anxiety and suffering of the close relatives of these boys who are Japanese war prisoners.

Just a few days ago, I talked with Mr. Earl H. Hulsey of Dallas, whose son has been a prisoner of the Japs since the fall of Manila, and he told me that he had done everything that was humanly possible to get some communication to his son and to find out where his son was and that he could get absolutely no help or information from any department of the United States Government. He told me that there was a little volunteer organization of citizens known as the "Bataan Relief Organization" at Albuquerque, New Mexico that had done more for these American boys who are Japanese prisoners than the American Government had done for them. This is certainly a reflection on our government. Of course, we realize the handicaps that the government faces in trying to improve the situation, but certainly they could do more than they are doing.

I shall be very grateful to you if you can give me any suggestions or any information that will give me any ray of hope in regard to this situation.

Sincerely your friend,


Carr P. Collins

CPC/dc

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFR-747

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 30, 1945

Rec'd 9:50 p.m.

SPECIAL WAR P. DIVISION
MAR 31 1945
C in swp
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

15363

by SWP to Secretary of State,

War - Bryan Washington.

Brissee
Sweet 1878, Thirtieth.

Bernays AMERICAN INTERESTS THAILAND.

Navy - 2 Legation's 1820, March 27. 711.94114a/3-27-45

APR 2 1945 B.P.m

Swiss Consulate Bangkok transmits following addi-

tional information:

Barracks mentioned are not (repeat not) occupied by "Royal Guards Battalion" but with ninth battalion of first infantry regiment Central building of new camp is 1200 meters north of Turf Club 650 meters northeast of "assembly building" (former throne hall) 1600 meters southeast of "government power station" and 1000 meters west northwest of main railway. New camp will be bounded on east by Pra Rema V Street south by Raja Vidhi Street west by several pools and north by Sukothai Street.

HARRISON

WTD

APR 12 1945

Unit
Rev. *fr*
Cat.
Dist.

711.94114A/3-3045

April 5, 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/3-2645

My dear Colonel Bresee:

I have received from Dr. Marc Peter, Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, a letter dated March 26, 1945 quoting a letter received by him from the International Committee at Geneva. The letter received by Dr. Peter from the Committee gave the following information:

"The International Committee received numerous requests regarding the welfare or location of prisoners or internees detained in the Far East; these enquiries are always retransmitted to the competent authorities in Tokyo, namely the Japanese Prisoner of War Information Bureau.

"We now learn from our Delegation in Tokyo that this Information Bureau composes such welfare or whereabouts reports in reply to our enquiries on the basis of its own records, without taking into consideration the date at which this record was established. No enquiry is made by this Bureau on the spot. In consequence, if the records of the official Bureau do not indicate that the party enquired about is deceased or has suffered any illness, a reply indicating the well-being of the party concerned is returned. We believe that it is essential that the competent authorities should be informed of the foregoing."

TO: _____
FROM: _____
SUBJECT: _____
DATE: _____

Sincerely yours,

EB

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

2 Colonel Howard F. Bresee,
Chief, Information Branch,
Prisoners of War Division,
Office of the Provost Marshal General,
Room 1705, Munitions Building,
Washington, D. C.

A true copy of this signed original.

APR 6 1945 F.M.

CM
HD
SWP:HDreppard:mmc

4/2/45

711.94114A/3-3045

JH/BS 71140/3-3045

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATEINCOMING
TELEGRAM

15976

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

VLP - 749

PLAIN

Bern

Dated March 30, 1945

Rec'd 10:05 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1891, Thirtieth.

AMINTEREST JAPAN POWS.

Legation forwarding by airmail reports of Swiss visits February 19 to main Tokyo POW camp (No. 8 at Omori) and POW hospital Higashi Shinagawa. Following three American men of confidence at camp desire Nok be informed they are in good health:

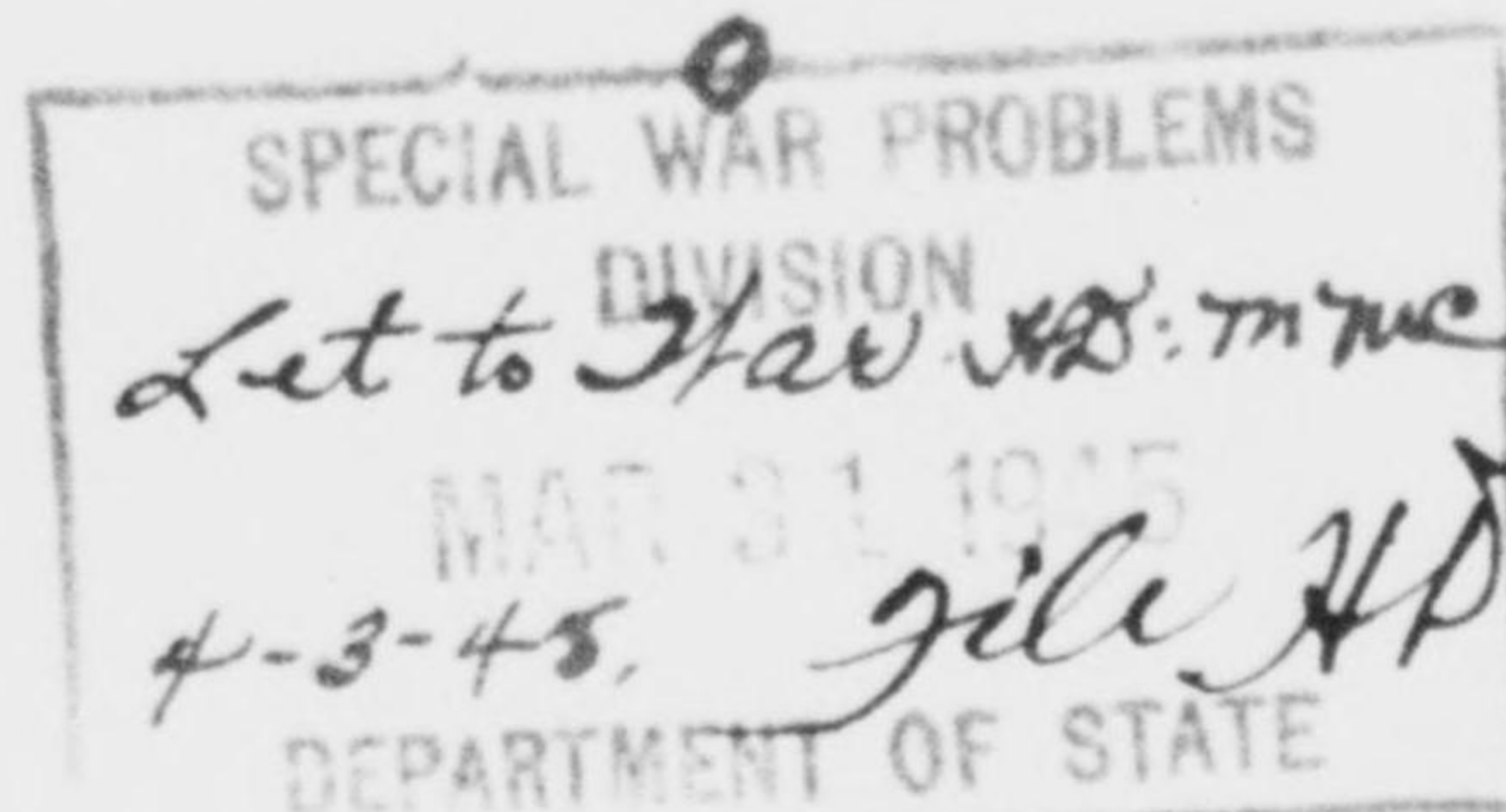
(1) Commander Arthur Laurence Maher USS HOUSTON Nok A. L. Maher, 7342 Bennet Avenue, Chicago (2) Major Wilbur C. Berry, Army Medical Corps Nok W. C. Berry, 439 Elenor Avenue, San Antonio, Texas (3) Chief Signalman Wesley Ernest Thomas Navy Nok Frieda Louise Thomas, 5617 Fourth Street, Philadelphia. Medical personnel at hospital Army Surgeon First Lieutenant Gottlieb and Army Surgeon Jackson desire Nok be informed they are in good health and send best wishes.

RB

HARRISON

APR 6 1945

FILED



711.94114A/3-3045

SWP

April 5, 1945

In reply refer to
SWP 711.94114A/3-3045

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of War and encloses for the attention of the Office of the Provost Marshal General a copy of a telegram from the American Legation at Bern forwarding messages to be transmitted to the next of kin of five American prisoners of war who are in Japanese custody.

It is assumed that the War Department will transmit to the next of kin the messages contained in the enclosed telegram. It is requested that the next of kin be informed that these messages were obtained by a representative of the protecting Power upon the occasion of his visit on February 19, 1945 to Camp No. 8 at Omori and the Prisoner of War Hospital at Higashi Shinagawa, and were subsequently transmitted to the Department of State.

711.94114A/3-3045

Enclosure: ✓

Telegram No. 1891,
March 30, 1945, from Bern.

Anal.	<i>for</i>
Rev.	<i>for</i>
Cat.	<i>M B M</i>
Dis.	

DCR - GP-C Unit

A true copy of the signed original.

eth

4/3/45

HD
SWP:HDreppard:mmc

JK/OS 94114A/3-3045
[Signature]

Mrs. L. H. Mc Michael Rectory, Virginia

JA

Dear Sir,
1945 MAR 31 AM 11:24

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
APR 4 - 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mar. 30, 1945

file
Reply to similar letter from Smith
no action required

I demand that you stop the murder of the Prisoners of War in Japan. It would be a duty indeed, ^{who} you couldn't see what's coming. I read in the papers to-day, that they are moving the Prison Camps into military areas. You can stop it!

Threaten that this will bring retaliation in the form of our worst weapons, including poison gas. The prisoners may as well be gased, as burned alive. Where are these terrible weapons we are supposed to have? When will they be used? How long will we waste the flowers of our manhood on sub-humans? Don't lose time!

I have a son-in-law from Wake Island at Osaka, Japan. He's in his fourth year of starvation and misery, only

PROVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
10R-2043
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

711.94114A/3-304E

711.94114A/3-304E

711.94114A/3-304E

to be murdered now. He has children. These pitiful "heroes" from Wake and Bataan will be a monument of shame to us forever. A monument to greed, selfishness and weakness at home.

The soft and helpless democracies they call us. Are we "helpless" now? Depend on our terrible weapons! Warn them at once about swift & awful retaliation. That's all they understand. If I have not sent this to the proper dept. refer it to proper one, please.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Anna M. McMichael
Rectorry, Va.

No. 37 GP-O Unit
 Lev. 37
 Cat. LF
 Dist. LF

P.S. After the prisoners are dead, who cares how fast you kill Japs and save the young men of America.