

Mur

[Murtogh]

APR 12 1945

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Louisiana.

To: Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, ³³
President of the United States of America,
Commander of the Armies of the U. S. A.
And: Mrs. Eleanor D. Roosevelt
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Hon. and Respected Sir, and Madame,
Mrs. Roosevelt, I the widow of Wm. H. Murtogh, ³³
mason, wrote to you on April 7, 1945, appealing to you
to help me to hold my position as file clerk, in the office
of Lt. A. J. Scherubini, Station Hospital, Camp Claiborne,
N. O. P. Embarcation, New Orleans, Louisiana.

I stated that I had written to Mr. Roosevelt, ³² in
regard to this matter, but for fear he had not received
the letters; and as it meant not only my position,
but my good name, perhaps my home, (For to be
dismissed from a United States Govt. position,

would be a disgrace); I wrote to you.

I did not intend to write again to you, but Mrs. Roosevelt, new and important developments have come up.

Yesterday morning (Tuesday April 10) Mrs. Jones of Civillian Personnel phoned me, and said I would have to go to Camp Plauche for investigation. So, at eleven o'clock a soldier driving the truck, and another soldier, took me to Camp Plauche, where I was interviewed by a Mrs. Riese, Civillian Personnel mediator.

She said Mrs. Jones was not the person who should have interviewed me before, that I should have seen her. I said "I never had even heard of Mrs. Riese".

Mrs. Riese said "I was to be dismissed for inefficiency, because (so she said) I had not done my work properly." I said "that is a deliberate misleading false hood; I have done my work correctly, my files are in excellent order; I have done every bit of work that was assigned to me, at any time to do, in any way. Every bit of work I have ever done in War Department, or any -

nowhere else has been properly done to the best that ^{is} any one could do that work; for I have given of myself to my work; I have taken a personal interest in my work."

We discussed the matter pro and con for some time. I said the charges against me were an insult, for the excellent work I had done, I had worked in an honest, conscientious, steady, correct careful manner, and I was proud of my work. Any statements against the quality of my work were deliberate lies.

And as for quantity of work, I did all the work I had been told to do, and in a correct manner. I had even ~~done~~ more work than I was told to do, for I had been correcting and verifying all mistakes of the typists. I do not type any of the work.

So finally Mrs. Rice gave me a paper signed by Lt. Gerst, accusing me of "not doing my work correctly, and not doing very much work." I said "the quantity of work given to me rested with the Lt. or Sgt; I had done all the work I was told to do, correctly. I had even been checking on several ^{hundred} old laboratory sheets, and laboratory

diagnosis slips, "dead" cases, from way back in 1942, & 1943. And these things should have been filed every day.

Finally Lt. Seret gave me a notice sus- pending me for five days from work, and permitting me to make an answer to these untruthful charges against me. "I was also told I could take the matter up with Civil Service."

I cried all night at the shame and disgrace that had been heaped upon me. I just couldn't sleep. For such falsehoods to be told about me, and I had really done such beautiful work, and correct work.

Today, I went to Civil Service, I was sent from one person to another, finally I was sent to a Capt. Beckhan, in charge of Civilian Personnel, at N. O. Port of Embarkation, N. O.

Capt. Beckhan sent me to a Mrs. Sarger, to be interviewed by her, and we discussed this matter, as I had done with Mrs. Reese, at Camp Plausche.

I protested the untruthful rating that had been given me. The falsehoods that had been told about my work. The ridicule, the insults, and snubs to which I had been subjected. I told the truth to

her, as I have done to any one else. I said "the report³ of my work I felt to be actuated by personal antagonism on the part of Sgt. Crabbe against me, and his desire to have a "young, pretty, woman, in my place" as he rudely told me last February. I said he had deliberately lied about my work, to get me out of my position". I judge these things by Sgt. Crabbe's own statements to me, the several times he was so rude and insulting to me, and again by his deliberate lies, and rudeness to me last Thursday.

I have not yet truthfully found out what really is behind all of this rudeness and untruthful statements regarding me, and my work except a desire for a "young woman in my place".

I had a talk with St. Cherubini yesterday, after I talked with Mrs. Reese, at Camp Plausche. I told him I was going to fight this matter in defense of my own good name, and my husband's name, to protest these falsehoods that had been told about my character, and my work — through Civil Service — Port of Embarkation, N. O. — to the very highest authority in the United States, for I had done nothing wrong; and I had done

all of the work assigned to me, correctly".
He said "go ahead", it would all come
back to him anyway".

But Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt, although I
have done my work carefully and correctly,
and I have been honest in my labor, (and in
every way,) and I have done all the work assign-
ed to me, and more. Truthfully - I, the widow
of a loyal 33° mason stand alone! I must have
help to defend me; for I have only my word.

I speak only the truth, to everyone, but still
it is only my word to the word of those who
have told untruth about me.

I have written a protest to Camp Plauche,
as I was told to do. But it all runs around in
the same circle again. I had five days to
enter my protest against the injustice shown
to me.

As I told Mrs. Riese, at Camp Plauche, and
Mrs. Targer, at Port of Embarkation it was good
proof I told the truth; for if my work had not
been satisfactory, neither the Lt. nor the
Sgt. would have waited a year to complain
about it. So that alone proved their statement

were deliberate falsehoods.

Mrs. Roosevelt, I am pleading with you and Mr. Roosevelt, a loyal mason, to help me to hold the position I now have, (for I am suspended from work for five days) to compel St. Cherubini to reinstate me to my regular work as file clerk; the same work I have done for nearly fourteen months in his office.

No one in that office would dare to say one word in my favor, for fear of jeopardizing their own position.

I've done all I can. I've been told "only influence will save me from being dismissed in disgrace."

Will you help me, please. I am appealing to you and Mr. Roosevelt, both.

Truly, I do not mean to be presumptuous. I am just very much worried. If I am dismissed in disgrace - no one will want me to work for them. And I am afraid of losing my home, now I am being forced to take time from work, when I need the work and the pay so badly.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Mary E. Murtagh.

Widow of Wm. B. Murtagh³² (mason)