

HENRY STIMSON

1941 - 1945

X
Adrian J. Dornbush - Summary of Proposed Defense Project, WPA Art Program.

April 9, 1941

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

The President suggested that I take this up with you. Will you let me know what you think about such a plan and if you think it would be possible to put it into effect?

Very sincerely yours,

Honorable Henry L. Stimson |
The Sec. of War

DD

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

E. R.

OK to take up with the
Secretary of War.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 31, 1941

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

See Mrs. Roosevelt's note:

"FDR - May I write the Secretary? L.R."

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

File
May 29, 1941

Stc - Str

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STIMSON
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My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing a statement which was given to me by Mrs. [REDACTED], a former employee of the War Department, who was dismissed several weeks ago.

Mrs. [REDACTED] tells me she never had a hearing, and I feel very strongly that she should have been allowed an opportunity to state her side of the case, as she sets it forth in this statement.

I have a letter from Mr. John W. Martyn, dated May 13th, 1941, explaining the reasons why she was dismissed, but he does not say that she was given a chance to appear before the board.

Will you please have this looked into and let me know what you find as the reasons for refusing her a chance to appear?

Very sincerely yours.

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

Miss Stimson:

In view of the attached letter addressed to Secretary Stimson on May 5, 1941 - to which no reply as yet been received - and further that a War Dept. report on the [redacted] case was sent to Gardner Jackson some time ago; this letter has not been written.

VDS

*Precedence
ack*

*Gardner
Jackson*

by phone

to relieve

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

Col. Stimson: The Wash. Youth Council has made representations
p re that [REDACTED] over whom there has been long altercation,
while she was promised a hearing, has never has a chance to
answer the charges which were made. She has written out a
statement which she has handed me. I am not suggesting,
of course, that she should be retained if for any reason it is
considered unwise, still I do feel that in the interests of
making the Union to which she belongs and the other organiza-
tions feel she has had a fair hearing, she should be allowed
to answer the accusations. I enclose her statement.

E.R.

Mr. Magee: I seem to remember that the War Dept. made a
full report on this woman and that she had a hearing and was
represented at it by her lawyer. If I am right, do not write
this letter. If you find I am wrong, please have this prepared
for Mrs. R.'s signature.

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

May 13, 1941.

Mr. Ralph W. Magee
Administrative Offices
Social Correspondence
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Magee:

I have your letter of May 5th, addressed to the Secretary, in which you desire further information regarding the request of Mrs. [REDACTED] for reinstatement into the service of the War Department.

Mrs. November was not dismissed until after a thorough investigation of her activities by the Military Intelligence Division of the Office of The Chief of Staff. In accordance with Section 6, Public 671, she was given definite reasons for her dismissal and allowed thirty days to answer the charges brought against her. This she complied with, and her reply was then given a full and comprehensive study by the Department. Upon the completion of this study it was thought advisable in the best interests of national security that she should not be reinstated, and was so notified of this decision. The case is now considered closed by the War Department.

However, at this time, I would like to take the opportunity to assure you, and through you to assure Mrs. Roosevelt that we are keenly cognizant to the responsibility entailed in administering the statute involved in Mrs. [REDACTED]'s dismissal. It is our avowed intention to continue to exercise extreme and scrupulous care in all such similar cases; so as to provide against discrimination either to individuals or organizations to which these individuals may belong.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. MARTYN

John W. Martyn
Administrative Assistant

JCC/ine

SANITIZED DOCUMENT

July 26, 1941

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you this note just to call to your attention the case of Paul Toneman, who wishes to be assigned to liaison with the Chicago Project, and in which Captain Earle Looker of your Department is interested. It seems that an Executive Order is necessary in order to set up the position.

I have known Paul Toneman for a long time and am interested in his welfare, but I do not want to ask that anything special be done that would not be done in the regular channels of business.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson
The Sec. of War

DD

September 15, 1941

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you these letters and I know such things are unavoidable, but when they do happen there should be some expression of sympathy on the part of the commanding officer at the Post.

I hope something will be done about changing the height at which the planes fly over congested areas.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

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Encs.

✓ Mrs. I. Arthur Kramer

September 30, 1941

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 25 and for sending me a copy of Mr. Cuccio's letter to General Marshall. I am glad to have had the opportunity to read such a beautiful expression of patriotism.

The Department has certainly done everything possible to convey to these two families the sympathy that we all feel for them.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

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WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

September 26, 1941.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have received your letter of September 15 enclosing a letter from Mrs. Kramer whose daughter was killed in the recent airplane accident at Hempstead.

We have been greatly concerned over this tragic accident from the very moment that we received word of the crash and saw Mrs. Kramer's open letter published in the newspapers. I know you will appreciate that I myself sympathize deeply with the parents of the three children who were killed.

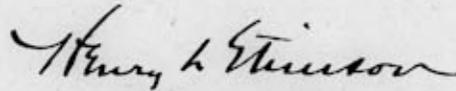
Immediately on learning of the accident I ordered a thorough investigation. I am glad to say that the pilot, who himself suffered very severely, is not culpable in the matter. With his plane on fire and his face and clothing burning, he did the best he could to glide into the air field, and it is for this reason that the uncontrollable machine was flying at a low altitude. He abandoned the plane only at the last moment and was saved from death by the fact that he fell into a tree.

In the absence of the Commanding Officer of the Hempstead Field the Post Chaplain went in an Army ambulance to the scene of the accident as soon as the crash report was received. Unfortunately he was unable to find Dr. and Mrs. Kramer. The Cuccio children were taken to the hospital in the Army ambulance. General Marshall wrote personal letters of condolence to both the Kramer and Cuccio families, which were delivered by The Inspector General who conducted the investigation. Letters of deepest sympathy have also been written by the Chief of the Air Corps. In addition to this the Chief of Chaplains, Monsignor Arnold, has held memorial services several times during the past month. I feel certain that you will be interested in reading the enclosed copy of Mr. Cuccio's letter to General Marshall. To me it represents one of the finest expressions of patriotism and loyalty that I have read. I have personally convinced myself that the military authorities have been neither negligent nor unsympathetic in regard to this accident.

The only unfortunate aspect of the affair was the visit of an inexperienced young officer to the Kramer household shortly after the accident with a request for clearance as required by law. The young man did not realize at first that he was talking to the parents of one of the children and his embarrassment when informed of this was intense. We have done everything that we possibly could do to make amends for this unfortunate oversight.

You may rest assured that we are doing everything humanly possible to obviate similar accidents in the future.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Henry L. Stimson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Secretary of War.

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
The White House.

C
O
P
Y

Hempstead, L. I., N. Y.
9 September, 1941.

General G. Marshall, U. S. A.,
Chief of Staff,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear General:

Your very kind letter to Mrs. Cuccio and myself was very much appreciated by us.

A more tragic loss could befall no one and needless to add we are heartbroken.

However, this disaster does not mean that we feel that Army flying activities in this or any other area should be curtailed in the slightest degree.

These are perilous times and if through some negligence Mrs. Cuccio and I have to pay an unusually heavy price to our country it is small indeed compared to the ruthless destruction of life being wreaked in the World today.

Again General let me express our appreciation for your kindly and sympathetic letter.

Sincerely yours,

PETER CUCCIO (Signed)

December 20, 1941

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

The attached communication from Frederick P. Gruenberg is self-explanatory.

I have received quite a number of similar complaints recently and am wondering if the War Department is taking any steps to overcome the situation which Mr. Gruenberg describes. I will appreciate any information you can give me which can be used in answering this sort of letter.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

PLF/hy

From: ~~Mr. Frederick P. Gruenberg~~
~~1411 Walnut Street~~
~~Philadelphia, Pa.~~

Re: Turning away of Negro youth from volunteering
for service, notably in Navy and Marine Corps.

December 24, 1941

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing a communication I have received from the Wisconsin Chapter of the Friends of Our Native Landscape. I hope the War Department can work as these people suggest.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D.C.

Write Sec. War I hope they can work as these people suggest. E.R.

Ask the Dept. to make every effort to integrate the site of the Merimac region with as little injury as possible to scenic and recreational value

*Enclosing letter from Mrs. Foster Kennedy, Bloomhill Park,
Malone, Belfast, Ireland. (See letter to Mrs. Kennedy)

F.R. Papers
Box 851

September 22, 1942.

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you this letter with a copy of my answer. I have heard from one or two other sources that the young Southerners were very indignant to find that the Negro soldiers were not looked upon with terror by the girls in England and Ireland and Scotland. I think we will have to do a little educating among our Southern white men and officers, emphasizing the fact that every effort should be made to prevent marriages during this period but that normal relationships with groups of people who do not have the same feeling that they have about the Negro cannot be prevented and that it is important for them to recognize that in different parts of the world, certain situations differ and have to be treated differently.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

X Mrs Foster Kennedy

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March 8, 1943.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have been told that discrimination is practiced against Negro troops which are stationed at the Carlsbad Army Air Field, Carlsbad, New Mexico. My informant tells me that the Post Theatre, which was presumably built to provide amusement for any American soldier, seems to be exclusively for white soldiers, except for the last row which has a sign with the words "Colored Section" printed on it. Only twenty seats are provided for Negro soldiers although the theatre has a capacity exceeding one thousand. That the Post Exchange offers another example of discrimination; refreshments are served, but Negro soldiers do not have the privilege of eating inside the building. Further, that all colored soldiers must ride in the rear seats of all buses leaving the Base, as the front seats are provided for white soldiers.

I should appreciate it very much if you could have an investigation made as to whether or not such conditions do exist.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

VDS

write Secy of War ✓

" Gen Marshall ✓

these facts + ask to
have investigated. (Do
not give name or
say a Soldier wrote)

ER

MAF 21-100
Pvt. Richard K Allen
349th Avn. Sqdn. Sep.
Carlsbad Army Air Field
Carlsbad, New Mexico
February 23, 1943

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

At the present time I am a member of the 349th Avn. Sqdn, Sep. and eager to do my part for my country. On December 10, 1942, as a civilian I wrote you a letter stating my desire to be assisted in a project of Visual Education for Negroes and I am grateful to have received a reply from the U.S. Department of Education.

Although my proposal was not accepted, I appreciated your attention concerning this matter. It is because of your kindness in my personal affair that I recommended my fellow committee members to write you concerning our complaint. Your prompt and thoughtful consideration will be gratefully received by all the members of our loyal squadron.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Allen

William H. Davis
Henry L. Jones
Jesse S. Neely
Richard K. Allen
William Jones
Paul H. McCoy
Edward Robinson
James O. Bradford
John H. Jefferson
George C. Thomas
Rufus Pulley
Robert C. Campbell
Earl W. Mabley
Charles Newman
Marshall Robinson
Dane H. Taylor
William Campbell Jr.
Hazard H. Fields
Clarence Jackson
Harding Nichols
James W. Patterson

James E. Robertson
Tommy H. Greene
Clarence Hall
Shadrach Hudgens
M. W. Wagoner
Willie Lewis
Thomas Bolden
Emanuel O'Neal
James S. Talbert
Melvin Rogers
George Johnson
Melson Karall
Joseph S. Thomas
James Patterson
Jacob Middlebrooke
Isador Jenkins
James Johnson
Charles W. Dickson
Elmer Oliver
William Rudolph

Johnny Walker
Jesse B. Cannon
Willie E. Moon
Frank J. Henderson
James N. Nunley
Mphela Brown
Solomon Brown
Allan Burns
Niket A. Cott
Lawrence Jones
Robert Billups
Johnny H. Lewis
John C. Cannon
Guy Myers
Henry J. Smith
Robert W. Johnson
Hewitt J. Citterden
Prof. Albert B. Collins Jr. (8805)
Earl E. Mitchell
O. S. Robinson
Ernest Jr. Goldert
Corinthian Howard

Clifford Cooper
Benjamin Pearson
Name, stamp.
Nolan J. Allen
Curtis Evans
Wilbur E. Felt
Edward J. Bryant
Elijah H. Cooper
Harry C. Cole
Hurstor Miller
Willie B. Hollaway
Carl R. W. Field
George R. Kather
Melvin J. Shelton
Richard A. Tullay
Avery H. Dugan
Merrell G. La Staff
Donald A. Webb
~~Melvin E. Dugan~~
~~William J. Shelton~~
Elmer Adcock
Gail Harvey Jr.

Pvt. Randolph Andrews
PVT Henry Swartz
PVT Herman Bonds
PVT Matthew Anderson
Pvt. Arthur Kelly Albert
PVT Joseph Robinson
Pvt. Albert Mitchell
Pvt. John C. M. Mullen
Pvt. Robert J. Brantley
Pvt. Regie L. Shannon
Albert L. Watt
Abraham Felton Jr.
Watt Peptic
Willis D. Co
Warren Fields Jr.
Eugene Heatherby
Perry E. Minniefield Jr.
Pvt. Charles S. Parker
Pvt. Curtis Butler

PVT. Mac Henry Fulton
Doc Bennett
PVT. Thomas Silbey
Pvt. Leavelly Whillips
Homer Smith
PVT James L. Lewis
Pvt. Charles Bates
Marshall Bolcum
Harold S. Covington
William Turpin
PVT. Harry J. Thraillkill
Thomas Thraillkill
Willard M. Coody
Coats William L.
Wallace Polley
Phillip Bomar.

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

WD 291.21
(3-8-43)OB-C

MAR 13 1943

File

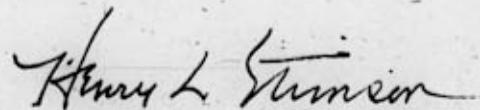
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of March 8th concerning a report you have received that discrimination is practiced against Negro troops, which are stationed at the Carlsbad Army Air Field, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

This matter is being investigated and when a report is received I shall write you again.

Sincerely yours,



Secretary of War.

March 2, 1944

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

Will you tell me what is the status
of American-Japanese soldiers after the war?
Are they denied full rights of citizenship,
or are they given full citizenship status?

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson

See let. to Mrs. Katayama

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*See letter in files from T/Sgt. M. H. Unthank, 234th AAA Gun Bn.,
Camp Davis, North Carolina.

April 7, 1944.

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to bring
the following information to your attention.

Mrs. Roosevelt understands that
on January 19, 1944, at Camp Davis, North
Carolina, two accepted Negro Officer Candi-
dates passed the examining board at that
station, along with four white candidates.
That since January 19, 1944, all of the six
accepted Candidates have been selected and
transferred to various Officer Candidate
Schools, except the two Negroes

Mrs. Roosevelt understands further,
that these Negroes were told that they were not
selected because they are colored and because
the Adjutant General did not specify in the
telegraphic message whether the Officer Candi-
date School quotas were for negroes or for whites.
If Mrs. Roosevelt's information is correct, these
men have apparently reached all the requirements
and qualifications to attend Officer Candidate
School, one in Chemical Warfare Service and the
other in the Quartermaster Corps.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Honorable Henry L. Stinson
The Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

VDS

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Wife of the President
White House, Washington, D. C.

Start take that you answer
SFC. STIMSON
4/7/44
234th AAA Gun Battalion
Camp Davis, North Carolina
31 March 1944.
ash
4/29/44

APR 4 1944

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am writing in the interest of myself and one other accepted Negro Officer Candidate here at Camp Davis, N. C. On the 19th of January 1944 the two of us were among six applicants, 2 Negroes and four Whites, who passed the examining board at this station.

I am quite aware of the fact that OCS quotas are small at this phase of the war, but since the 19th of January 1944 all of the six applicants (accepted Candidates) have been selected and transferred to various OCS, except we two Negroes. Upon my inquiry into why we have not been selected I was simply told that it was because we are colored and because the Adjutant General did not specify in the telegraphic message whether the OCS quotas were for negroes or for whites. I am certain that the telegram from the Adjutant General will never list quotas in regard to race. That was seemingly an excuse for not selecting us.

I feel confident that you can help us, if you were to inquire into the matter.

I have reached all of the requirements and qualifications to attend the Officer Candidates School in Chemical Warfare Service and my friend has come up to all of the required qualifications for the Quartermaster Corps. I am sure that I will be of better service to the United States in the field of my choice.

Please help these Negro accepted candidates at Camp Davis, North Carolina to be given the chance that the White Soldiers are given.

Very humbly yours,


H. H. URTHANK
T Sgt 33334560
234th AAA Gun Bn

November 25, 1944

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hope you will not mind my writing you this letter about publicity in general and the story of the family which had one son returned because of the loss of four others.

It seems to me that, while these stories attest the fact that the War Department is deeply interested in all the men, they create a lot of unhappiness and raise false hopes.

My mail has been filled with letters from mothers who have lost one or two sons and have only one left. They do not see any reason why their sons can't come home or be transferred to a non-combat area.

The same thing happened when one man was brought home to see a sick child.

I realize, of course, that these stories are often written by local newspaper people, but I seem to remember that some of them are War Department releases.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson

X Soldiers Returned

January 13, 1945

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

I think the Italians fighting with us should be in our hospitals. Isn't this a mistake that can be rectified and won't you please see that the change is noted in Stars and Stripes?

Sincerely yours,

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Hon. Henry L. Stimson

Enc. let. from Beatrice Malakoff, 535 W. 113, NYC with letter (copy) from number of soldiers to Stars and Stripes about the case of an Italian partisan soldier who nearly died because of unsanitary hospital conditions - could not be admitted to an American hospital