

Requests for Specific Aid: BALLAY, Joseph

000131

SEP 1 1944

Dear Mr. Ballay:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 1, 1944.

Please be assured that the War Refugee Board is doing, and will continue to do, everything within its power to protect the lives of victims of Nazi persecution in Hungary and elsewhere. The Board cannot, however, for practical reasons, undertake the rescue or special protection of specific individuals.

With respect to your mother, however, I suggest that as an American citizen you promptly file with the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice at Philadelphia, P., a petition to establish her status as a person entitled to a first-preference quota immigration visa to the United States as the mother of a citizen of the United States who is 21 years of age or over. It is suggested that when you file the petition you advise the Immigration and Naturalization Service that you are doing so at the suggestion of the War Refugee Board. Enclosed you will find a proper form of such petition.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.Mr. Joseph Ballay,
15 William Street,
New York 5, N. Y.

Enclosure.

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Ballay

BALLAY & CO.
INCORPORATED
NEW YORK 5, N. Y.

15 WILLIAM STREET
TELEPHONE HANOVER 2-8366

August 1, 1944.

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

W. R. G. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Several friends, including my cousin Mr. John Biro, who recently had the privilege of being in touch with you and Mr. Laurence Lesser told me how deeply they were impressed with the magnificent work being done by the Board and encouraged me to apply to you. Though realizing that the main objectives are broad I venture to inquire whether assistance in cases such as outlined below might be considered.

I am an American citizen of 18 years' standing. My mother, my only brother and his wife, citizens of Hungary since the Munich pact but previously Czechoslovaks, were granted immigration visas to the U.S.A. in 1939 by the American Consul in Budapest. Of the three only my brother George Ballay, now 54, agriculturist, was able to use the visa, landing here on August 28, 1939, from the Normandie. Owing to temporary illness my aged mother stayed behind with my sister-in-law and were to follow later. However the outbreak of the war in Europe a few days after his landing here caused my brother to hurry back to his family in the hope of returning here with them. But as traveling became more and more difficult and costly, the Germans and Italians denying transit to sea ports etc. they were unable to leave and the U.S. visas in the women's passports lapsed. My brother had obtained a U.S. Re-entry permit before sailing from New York; an extension valid till March 11, 1942, was sent from Washington to the American Consul in Budapest on October 15, 1941.

My respectful inquiry now is whether the two visas and the one re-entry permit might be revalidated and made available at a U.S. Consulate in Switzerland, or some other neutral country, for it is believed that those regarded as "non-Aryans" on submitting to the Hungarian authorities evidence of admission to the U.S.A. will be allowed to leave instead of being interned, deported and killed, and that their transit even through German territory would be facilitated.

According to a recently received message my mother, my brother and his wife were still alive as late as last January on their small farm in northwest Hungary which until November 1938 was part of Czechoslovakia. If they have not been killed since it might be possible to save their lives and likewise those of others in a similar situation.

May I add that, same as in 1939 when the visas were issued on my affidavits, I am today in a position to support my relatives, being single with an annual income of about \$5000. and net assets of over \$40,000. more of half of which is in U.S. War Bonds. I also beg to enclose copy of a letter from the O.W.I. in reply to my volunteering last October to go overseas to broadcast in French, Dutch, German and Hungarian.

Expressing my deepest thanks in advance for your esteemed reply, I am,

Very truly yours

Joseph Ballay
Joseph Ballay ✓

encl.

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COPY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE of WAR INFORMATION
224 West 57th Street
New York City

October 30, 1943

Mr. Joseph Ballay
Hotel Wyncham
42 West 58th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Ballay:

I wish to thank you personally for taking the trouble to come and see us about overseas duty. I regret to say that late developments in the London situation leave no opening for your services in that area.

However, I have returned your papers to Mr. Ruml, through Mr. White, and perhaps an opening may occur in one of our other outposts.

May I repeat my sincere appreciation of your patriotic willingness to serve.

Sincerely

signed. Brewster Morgan
Chief, Broadcasting
European Theatre of
Operations, London.

BW:ID

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