Requests for Specific Aid: Beeman, Adate (Mrs.)
Dear Mr. Loomis:

Your attention is called to my letter of February 25, 1944 in response to your letters of February 7 and February 16, 1944 in which you requested the assistance of the War Refugee Board in obtaining the removal of Mrs. Adele Bermann from a concentration camp near Marseille, France.

From your letters it appears that the issuance of a visa permitting Mrs. Bermann to enter the United States may have been authorized after July 1, 1941. If such a visa was authorized, I would appreciate your furnishing us with the following additional information:

1. The date of authorization of the issuance of such visa by the Department of State;

2. The reference or file number assigned to the visa or to its correspondence with you by the Department of State.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Oliver M. Loomis, Esq.
416-417 Old Fellowes Building,
South Bend 8, Indiana

Copy to: Sam Levy

Mrsargydh 7/27/44  L. S.  F4
In reply please refer to: 185

Dear Mr. Loomis:

I have your letter of February 16, 1944, further concerning the case of Mrs. Adele Bermann. Your letter of February 8, 1944, to Dr. Kathryn McHale relative to the same problem, has also been referred to this office.

You have, no doubt, by now received our reply to your letter of February 7, 1944, to this Board concerning the possibility of rescuing Mrs. Bermann from a concentration camp near Marseille.

As pointed out in our reply, the task of the Board is so great that, of necessity, it cannot deal with problems limited to seeking out and rescuing specific individuals.

It is hoped that the list of private organizations contained in our letter of February 16, 1944, will be of help to you and Mrs. Schuman in this problem.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Oliver M. Loomis,
Loomis and Hartser,
416-417 Odd Fellows Building,
South Bend, Indiana.
February 16, 1944

John F. Peale, Esq.
Executive Director
Of the ids Board
Executive Office of the President of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Peale:

I addressed you a letter, a copy of which I enclose, on February 7, 1944, in the interest of Mrs. Adele Bermond, 82, before you had established your offices in the Executive Office of the President.

I likewise wish to supplement the facts in my former letter to include the fact that Mrs. Bermond, on the occasion we last heard from her through the International Red Cross, was confined in a concentration camp at Dachau, Bavaria, 82. For your information, we are likewise enclosing a copy of that letter.

It is to be hoped that no further investigation of this subject will be required and something may be done to relieve her situation in the near future.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

Oliver M. Loomis.

O.L./Js
Encl. 2
John W. Field, Sec.
Office of Secretary
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Field:

I notice in the "Star" Saturday night, that you are resigning your position to head up a new refuge board, and I am hastening to write to you about a most urgent case.

Mrs. Annie Bornstein, 62, is a subject of Austria, and is at the present time incarcerated in a concentration camp near Jarsomell. Her daughter is Mrs. Selma Sherman, 2035 Linest Street, South Bend, Indiana, who, with her husband, is a Jewish refugee, and have applied for their citizenship papers some 10 years ago.

Mrs. Sherman made an application for a visa for her mother and brother, Alexander. The case was fully investigated by representatives of the State Department, S. E. C., and a representative of the United National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the Sherman was informed that if her mother was able to apply to an American Consulate, she would be granted a visa; but of course under the circumstances she has been wholly unable to make such an application.

I am informed that for reasons best known to themselves the Germans are permitting Jewish refugees now in concentration camps, to make applications for visas for deportation to the United States, and if this is true I should very greatly appreciate your advice as to the modus operandi under which her release and subsequent deportation might be arranged.

Thanking you for your prompt advice I am

Sincerely yours,

Oliver M. Loomis
American Red Cross
National Headquarters
Washington 16, D. C.
International Red Cross Committee
Geneva, Switzerland

December 9, 1943

Mrs. Leota Koehler
Home Service Secretary
St. Joseph County Red Cross, Inc.
600 West Washington Avenue
South Bend, Indiana

Re: Hermann, Jacob & Alexander
France

Inq: Shuman, Malitta
2505 34th S. B.
South Bend, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Koehler:

We have received a letter from the International Red Cross Committee dated September 23, 1943 containing the following report on your inquiry dated June 4, 1943:

"Mr. Alexander Hermann
Has left Versailles for the Camp de Meilleron, then he has been transported to Camp de Dancsy from which he has been taken on September 27th 1942 to an unknown destination, according to information received from our correspondent in France.

His mother, Mrs. Adele Hermann, who is living at the Camp de Noye, Bari 32, is well, but also without news of her son Alexander and of Undi and Fritz. She sends hearty greetings."

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

(Miss) Annie H. Lockett
Chief, Inquiry Unit
Home Service
Dear Mrs. Brunauer:

Reference is made to your letter of February 16, 1944, enclosing a letter to Dr. McNally from Mr. Oliver M. Loomis, on behalf of Mrs. Adela Bernheim, now in a Jewish concentration camp near Marseille, France.

On February 7, 1944, Mr. Loomis wrote to the Board concerning the possibility of rescuing Mrs. Bernheim from this camp. In our reply we pointed out to Mr. Loomis that the task of the Board is so great that, of necessity, it cannot deal with problems limited to seeking out and rescuing specific individuals. We suggested to Mr. Loomis that he refer this case to one of several private organizations which might be in a position to be of assistance to him.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. Esther Caufkin Brunauer,
Associate in International Education,
American Association of University Women,
1634 17th Street, N. W.,
Washington 6, D. C.

Handwritten note: 2-24-44
Mr. John Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

I am forwarding to you a letter which was received recently by Dr. Kathryn McCutchen, General Director of the American Association of University Women.

We know that the War Refugee Board has only recently been set up, and that it may well be too early to handle individual cases. Nevertheless, we would appreciate it if you would communicate with Mr. Loomis directly, so that he will know how to advise Mr. and Mrs. Shuman to proceed in order to try to rescue Mrs. Shuman's mother.

Would it be too much trouble to let us have a carbon of your reply to Mr. Loomis? In that way, we shall have the information here also, and will not need to trouble you again for a similar inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

Esther Caufin Brunauer  
Associate in  
International Education
February 8, 1944

Dr. Katherine McGuire
Browndoor Apartments
Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. McGuire:

In Washington last week I did my best to contact you for the purpose of soliciting your assistance for a Mrs. Adele Bernann, now in a Jewish concentration camp near Marseille, in occupied France.

Mrs. Bernann is 82 years of age. Her daughter, Mrs. Helita Shuman, and her husband entered the United States as Jewish refugees some four years ago and immediately made application for citizenship. They live in South Bend, have a splendid business and are well able to care for this aged mother should she be permitted to come into this country.

Mrs. Shuman was called to Washington after an investigation had been made of her application for assistance from the War Emergency Administration. She was interrogated by representatives of the State Department, the F. B. I., and the United National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and at that time was assured that if her mother presented herself to an American Consulate, she would be granted a visa for entrance to the United States. However, since she is in a concentration camp, it is impossible for her to go to an American Consulate. I have been informed that in recent months many Jewish citizens of Austria have been released for deportation to the United States, and if this is true I should like very much to know the name, address, and the proper persons to contact to be of help to this lady.

I shall appreciate it very much indeed if you are able to do anything for her.

Yours very sincerely,

Oliver M. Loomis

OLIVER M. LOOMIS
NORM.-N.
H. ARTZER
LAW OFFICES OF
LOOMIS AND HARTZER
416-417 DOD FELLOWS BUILDING
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

CMB/JS
In reply please refer to: 60

Dear Mr. Loomis:

Reference is made to your letter of February 7, 1944, requesting
the assistance of the War Refugee Board in saving certain members of the
family of Mrs. Malita Shuman, 2208 Miami Street, South Bend, Indiana, who
are in a concentration camp near Marseille, from Nazi persecution.

I think that you will understand that the task of the Board is
so great that, of necessity, it will have to confine itself to projects
involving the relief or rescue of groups of persons and that it cannot deal
with problems limited to seeking out and rescuing any specific individuals.
I suggest that you may wish to refer your problem to a private organization.
The following are some of the organizations which I am advised may be in a
position to be of help to you:

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society, (HIAS)

American Friends Service
Committee

Unitarian Friends Service
Committee

The American Committee for
Christian Refugees

War Relief Services – National
Catholic Welfare Conference

425 Lafayette Street,
New York, New York.

20 South 12th Street,

35 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

337 Fourth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Empire State Building
350 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Oliver W. Loomis,
Loomis and Harter,
416-417 Odd Fellows Building,
South Bend, Indiana.
John S. Pehle, Sec.
War Refugee Board
Office of Secretary
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I notice in a story in the Star Saturday night, that you are resigning your position to head up a War Refugee Board, and I am hastening to write to you about a most urgent case.

Mrs. Adele Germain, 80, is a subject of Austria, and is at the present time incarcerated in a concentration camp near Dusseldorf. Her daughter is Mrs. Helene Shuman, 2200 South Miami Street, South Bend, Indiana, who, with her husband, is a Jewish refugee, and have applied for their citizenship papers some 3½ years ago.

Mrs. Shuman made an application for a visa for her mother and brother, Alexander. The case was fully investigated by representatives of the State Department, F.B.I. and a representative of the United National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and Mrs. Shuman was informed that if her mother was able to apply to an American Consulate, she would be granted a visa, but of course under the circumstances she has been wholly unable to make such an application.

I am informed that for reasons best known to themselves the Germans are permitting Jewish refugees now in concentration camps, to make applications for visas for deportation to the United States, and if this is true I should greatly appreciate your advice as to the modus operandi under which her release and subsequent deportation might be arranged.

Thanking you for your prompt advice, I am

Sincerely yours,

Ollin H. Loomis

[Signature]

Office of Secretary
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.