

Requests for Specific Aid: ELKERS, A. J.

000383

APR 4 - 1945

Dear Mr. Elkeles:

I have your letter of March 21, 1945, concerning your efforts to locate your sister, who was deported from Holland to Poland in February 1944.

I am sorry that the War Refugee Board cannot, for reasons which will be readily understood, undertake to handle inquiries concerning specific individuals. I can, however, suggest two other channels for obtaining the information you desire. Your local chapter of the American Red Cross may be able to help you to send a message, or you may go to any Catholic rectory and request the priest to arrange for your inquiry to be sent through the Vatican message service. It is my understanding that in the latter procedure, your request will be directed through the Apostolic Delegate in Washington to the Vatican, and that efforts will then be made through the Nunciature and the Catholic clergy in Poland to ascertain the whereabouts and welfare of your sister.

In addition to the above services which are available for inquiries of this nature, I am also informed that postal channels are now open to liberated Poland. I sincerely hope that these suggestions will be of help to you and that your efforts to locate your sister will be successful.

Very truly yours,

(Signed: William O'Dwyer)

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Adolf John Elkeles,
P. O. Box 217,
Church Street Annex,
New York 8, New York.

EBT EBT:inp 4/3/45

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CARL M. LOEB, RHOADES & CO.
61 Broadway
New York

New York March 21, 1945

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

At the suggestion of the Swiss Legation, Washington, I addressed the International Red Cross, 1645 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. under date of November 16, 1944 in the following matter:

"My sister, Mrs. Jane Brann-Elkeles, born December 20, 1894, a Jewish refugee, lived in Amsterdam, Holland since 1935 and was associated with the Jewish Refugee Committee, Amsterdam, until 1943. In 1942, my sister was placed in the concentration camp, Westerbork, Holland from where she was deported to Ossowice, Poland on February 7, 1944. Outside of the fact that my sister was ill at the time the deportation took place, I am of course very much concerned about her and I wonder whether you could do the following for me:

1. Instruct your office in Switzerland to find out whether my sister is still in Ossowice, Poland.
2. If so, whether your office in Switzerland is in a position to help my sister in any way. (Pocket money, food packages, etc.)"

Said Committee replied under date of November 20th, 1944 as follows:

"We have your letter of November 16 concerning your sister, Mrs. Jane Brann-Elkeles.

We have written to our headquarters in Geneva and have requested that an effort be made to obtain news of the welfare and present whereabouts of your sister. In addition, her name will be placed on the index of displaced persons which is maintained at our headquarters.

Unfortunately, we know of no channel through which funds can be transmitted to deportees, nor is it possible to send individual parcels. However, you will be glad to know that bulk relief shipments to refugees are being made by large Jewish organizations in New York City.

When information is received from Geneva in reply to our inquiry, we will communicate with you."

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March 21, 1945

On March 12, 1945 I sent the following letter to the International Red Cross:

"With reference to your letter of November 20, 1944 in reply to my letter of November 16, 1944 I would be grateful if you would communicate with your headquarters in Geneva, preferably by cable at my expense, in order to find out whether my sister, Mrs. Jane Brann-Elkeles, is still in Ossowice, Poland. As Poland has been liberated by the Russian armies there is perhaps an opportunity to obtain the information as outlined in my letter of November 16th. Unfortunately the Soviet Embassy, Washington and the Polish Consulate in New York could not assist me in the matter and I therefore take the liberty of addressing you again in the hope that you can do something for me in this case.

Thanking you in advance for all your efforts, I am,"

To which they replied under date of March 16, 1945:

"In reply to your letter of March 12 requesting news of your sister, Mrs. Jane Brann-Elkeles, we regret to inform you that the War Refugee Board has asked us not to accept cables in individual cases. You should, however, consult with the War Refugee Board directly.

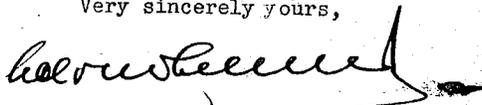
We have not yet received a reply to our previous inquiry concerning your sister, but wish to assure you that our headquarters will do its utmost to obtain news.

As soon as we receive word of your sister's whereabouts and welfare, we shall not fail to communicate with you."

The purpose of this letter is to inquire whether you could investigate, by cable at my expense, and advise me of the outcome.

Thanking you in advance for all your efforts, I am,

Very sincerely yours,



Adolf John Elkeles

AJE/km

000386

FEB 3 1945

Dear Mr. Elkeles:

This will acknowledge your telegram of January 30, 1945, regarding your desire to ascertain whether or not your friends Nathan Hesse and his wife Martha are now in Switzerland.

I regret to advise you that the Board is not in a position to handle inquiries concerning specific individuals. I suggest, however, that you may wish to communicate with a private organization. It is possible that one of the organizations named in the enclosed list may be in a position to be of assistance to you in this matter.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM O'DWYER

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. A. J. Elkeles,
c/o Carl M. Loeb Rhoades & Co.,
61 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHDC

MUCH CONCERNED WELFARE WHEREABOUTS INTIMATE FRIENDS NATHAN
 HESSE AND WIFE MARTHA NEE BARUCH WHO HOLD EQUADORIAN VISA AND
 ARE LISTED AMONG 600 JEWISH REFUGEES HELD AT CAMP BERGEN
 BELSEN GERMANY AND ARE SUGGESTED FOR EXCHANGE. UNDERSTAND 200
 OF ABOVE ARE ALREADY IN SWITZERLAND STOP KINDLY WIRE COLLECT
 WHETHER MY FRIENDS ARE IN SWITZERLAND AND WHAT KIND OF HELP IS
 REQUIRED WHICH GLADLY OFFER
 A J ELKELES CARE CARL M LOEB RHOADES AND CO 61 BROADWAY
 NEW YORK CITY.

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