

Requests for Specific Aid: FAITH, KATHLEEN

000399

1 - 1945

Dear Miss Fahy:

Reference is made to my letter of May 22, 1945, concerning Mr. Peter Mathijs Smedts.

The American Red Cross has written to us requesting additional information about Mr. Smedts. It will be appreciated if you can give us the following data:

Race
Citizenship if other than Dutch
Last known civilian address in Holland
Address of Mrs. Peter Smedts
Names and addresses of persons other than Miss Nijst who might supply information concerning Mr. Smedts.

Very truly yours

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Miss Kathleen Fahy,
31 East 12th Street,
New York 3, New York.

ERS RBH: 6/1/45

000400



Fahy

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

May 22, 1945

Executive Office of The President
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

RE: SMEDTS, Peter Mathijs
Dutch National

Attention: Miss Florence Hodel
Asst. Executive Director

Gentlemen:

This is to acknowledge your letter of May 4, 1945 concern-
ing the above named.

In order to forward the inquiry to the International Committee
of the Red Cross, it will be necessary for us to have more complete
information regarding Mr. Smedts. We will be happy to forward the
inquiry on receipt of the following information:

PERSON INQUIRED FOR:

INQUIRER:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ✓ Born of (Father's name
(Mother's maiden name) | Name |
| ✓ Race | ✓ Address |
| Religion | Relationship to person sought |
| ✓ Citizenship, <i>other than Dutch</i> | ✓ Names and addresses of persons
who might supply information |
| Marital Status | |
| ✓ Last known address in Holland
(Civilian) | |

We shall attend to the matter at once on receipt of your
reply.

Very truly yours,

Lucille McGrath
(Miss) Lucille McGrath
Home Service Correspondent
Inquiry Unit

hc

000401

Dear Miss Fahy:

Reference is made to my letter of May 22, 1945,
concerning Mr. Peter Mathijs Smedts.

The American Red Cross has written to us requesting
additional information about Mr. Smedts. It will be ap-
preciated if you can inform us of his race and last known
civilian address in Holland.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Miss Kathleen Fahy,
31 East 12th Street,
New York 3, New York.

RBH RBHutchison: 5/30/45

000402

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

Miss Kathleen Fany.
31 East 12th Street,
New York 3, New York.

000403

MAY 22 1945

Dear Miss Fahy:

Since my letter of May 4, 1945, concerning Mr. Peter Mathijs Smedts, we have been informed by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington that communications between the Vatican and Germany have been interrupted for some time and that it is not known when they will be reestablished.

You will be further informed as soon as a reply has been received to the inquiry which was directed through the Red Cross.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Miss Kathleen Fahy,
31 East 12th Street,
New York 3, New York.

EBT:inp 5/19/45

000404


APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

NO X-3388

May 8, 1945

THIS NO. SHOULD BE PREFIXED TO THE ANSWER

Miss Florence Hoel
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hoel:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of May 4th, containing an inquiry about Peter Methijs Smedts.

I regret that the communications between Vatican City and Germany have been interrupted for some weeks, and it is not possible to foretell when they will be re-established. I think that it may be practical to wait for some weeks until normal postal communications with Europe will have been re-established and then to seek him at his last known address in Holland.

With sentiments of esteem, and every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Joseph M. Shea
Secretary

000405

MAY 4 1945

My dear Miss Shotten:

It is respectfully requested that a welfare and whereabouts inquiry be forwarded through means at your disposal on behalf of Peter Mathijs Smedts, a Dutch national. He was born May 26, 1913, in Limberg Province, Holland, in or near the village of Amerika. He was a journalist by profession and was deported to Germany in the winter of 1943-44 as a political prisoner. He had previously been jailed in Holland by the Germans and was last reported in 1944 in a labor camp in Coburg.

It will be appreciated if you will forward this inquiry to the International Red Cross and regard the War Refugee Board as the inquirer.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Miss Margaret Shotten,
Chief, Inquiry Unit,
American National Red Cross,
Washington, D. C.

EAB ✓
PJMccormack:inp 5/4/45

000406

MAY 4 - 1945

My dear Msgr. McShae:

It will be appreciated if you will direct a welfare and whereabouts inquiry through means at your disposal on behalf of Peter Mathijs Smedts, a Dutch national. He was born May 26, 1913, in Limberg Province, Holland, in or near the village of Amerika. He was a journalist by profession and was deported to Germany in the winter of 1943-44 as a political prisoner. He had previously been jailed in Holland by the Germans and was last reported in 1944 in a labor camp in Coburg.

It will be appreciated if you will regard the War Refugee Board as the inquirer.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph McShae,
Apostolic Delegation,
3339 Massachusetts Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

EAB ✓
PJM6Cormack:inp 5/4/45

000407

MAY 4 1945

Dear Miss Fahy:

General O'Bwyer has asked me to advise you that inquiries concerning the whereabouts and welfare of Peter Mathijs Smedts have been directed to the Vatican Message Service and to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Both of these channels are understood to have produced reasonably good results in certain areas, and as soon as a report has been received from either source, it will be forwarded to you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Miss Kathleen Fahy
31 East 12th Street
New York 3, New York

EBT ✓

EBTowler

5/4/45

000408

April 24, 1945
31 E. 12th St.
N.Y.C. 3

Dear Bill.

I'm sorry I missed seeing you before you left town. There are a number of things I'd like to talk over with you so I hope this California trip is not too long. But before you leave, would you please do one thing for me? Would you ask your best Aluthe (not Captain Ball!) to keep an eye out, or look for, the husband of a good friend of ours?

He is Peter Mathijs Smedts, a Catholic Dutch national. He was born May 26, 1913, in Limburg Province, Holland, in or near the village of Amerika. He was a journalist by profession and was deported to Germany in the winter of 1943-44 as a political prisoner. He had previously been jailed in Holland. He was last reported in 1944 in a labor camp in Lebrügge. He was married in 1939 to our friend Prudence Lowe, an American citizen, the daughter of Helen Lowe-Porter who has translated all of Thomas Mann's books. They have - Prue and Peter - one child who is with Prue at the Lowe's home in Princeton. Prue's only contact in Holland is Miss Eugenie Nijst who works for the Civil Affairs Authority of the Netherlands at Soetstraat 3, Nimegen, Holland.

Anything you could do to find a trace of Peter would be wonderful and I would be very thankful.

Take care of yourself. I'll be waiting to hear from you when you get back.

Affectionately -
Kathleen

000409