Requests for Specific Aid: Gerson, Fred
Dear Mr. Gerson:

Since we wrote to you on May 22, 1945, in reply to your letter of May 10 concerning your desire to locate your parents, we have received copies of your correspondence with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, from which it appears that your parents are Dutch nationals.

That being the case, I suggest that you may wish to write to the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, explaining that you desire to communicate with and assist your parents and requesting that you be informed at the appropriate time of any steps you may be able to take to that end.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Fred Gerson,
Akron Hardware Company,
36-16-18 Thirty-Third Street,
Long Island City 1, New York.
Mr. Fred Gerson
Akron Hardware Company
36-16-18 Thirty-Third Street
Long Island City 1, New York

Dear Mr. Gerson:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has referred your letter of May 7, 1945, to this office, in which you express your anxiety concerning the welfare and whereabouts of your parents, Gustav and Berta Simon Gerson, whom you understand to have recently been liberated by Allied military forces in Germany.

As you are no doubt aware, considerable time is expected to elapse before the Allied authorities, both military and civil, will be able to complete the immense task of obtaining and compiling information on each of the millions of displaced persons in Germany and areas formerly occupied by Germany. It is not now feasible to transmit either messages or relief shipments to them. However, you may be assured that the Allied authorities are fully cognizant of the anxiety felt by relatives and friends regarding such persons, and that all possible steps are being taken to provide the aid and care so urgently needed at this time.

In the meantime, since you state that your parents are Dutch nationals, it is suggested that you communicate with the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, explaining that you desire to communicate with and assist them and requesting that you be informed at the appropriate time of any steps you may be able to take to that effect.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
Dear Mr. Gerson:

I have your letter of May 16, 1945, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in locating your parents.

I am sorry that the Board cannot undertake to handle inquiries concerning specific individuals. I suggest, however, that you may wish to ask your local Red Cross Chapter to help you to send a message of inquiry through the International Red Cross in an effort to learn the whereabouts of your parents.

For your information, the principal aim of the Board's special visa program was to afford close relatives of citizens or resident aliens of the United States likely to be victims of enemy persecution such protection as might be afforded by the knowledge of German authorities that American consuls were authorized to issue United States immigration visas to them and that they were eligible for exchange. The capitulation of the German armies and the resultant disappearance of enemy control in European areas have removed the need for the protection which this program sought to obtain for detainees in the hands of the Germans. In the future, these cases should be handled under the regular immigration procedure.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Fred Gerson,
Akron Hardware Company,
36-52 37th Street,
Long Island City 1, N. Y.

RSBH:FM:hd 5/21/45
May 16, 1945

Brig. Gen. William C. O'Byrne,
Adjutant Director
U.S. Army Board
Washington, D.C.

Re: File Register V-29869
Fred Garson
V/29869

Dear Sir:

This refers to letter received today from the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, file reference as above, copy of which was forwarded to your office.

I would appreciate it very much if you could assist me in locating my parents.

Thank you in advance for your further advice.

Very truly yours,

Fred Garson

PG: fjj
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
FRANKLIN TRUST BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
May 15, 1945

Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear General O'Dwyer:

Further reference is made to a communication of this Service addressed to the War Refugee Board on October 23, 1944, in connection with a petition for issuance of immigration visas executed by Mr. Fred Gerson, 92-05 Whitney Avenue, Elmhurst, New York, in behalf of his parents Gustav and Berta Simon Gerson, which was approved and forwarded to the Department of State, Washington, D. C. on October 26, 1944.

Attached is copy of petitioner's letter of May 7, 1945, requesting assistance in locating his parents, whose last known address was Deltastraat 15, Amsterdam Zuid, Holland. A copy of reply by this office is also attached, which is self-explanatory.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Savoretti
Assistant Commissioner

Enclosures
May 15, 1945

Dear General O'Byear:

Further reference is made to a communication of this Service addressed to the War Refugee Board on October 25, 1944, in connection with a petition for issuance of immigration visas executed by Mr. Fred Gerson, 42-05 Whitney Avenue, Elmhurst, New York, in behalf of his parents Gustav and Berta Simon Gerson, which was approved and forwarded to the Department of State, Washington, D.C. on October 26, 1944.

Attached is copy of petitioner's letter of May 7, 1945 requesting assistance in locating his parents, whose last known address was Deltastraat 15, Amsterdam Zuid, Holland. A copy of reply by this office is also attached, which is self-explanatory.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Savoretti
Assistant Commissioner

Enclosures
May 7, 1945

Special Assistant to
Attorney General in Charge
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Philadelphia 2, Penna.

File No. V-313297
Fred Gerson
V/FHUA

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the above-mentioned file number concerning the writer's parents.

You advised under date of October 25, 1944, that the petition was approved for them to come to the United States as soon as they could present themselves at an American consulate. As you know, the former residence of the writer's parents, Gustav Gerson and Berta Simon Gerson was Deltastraat 15, Amsterdam Zuid, Holland.

Since Holland is now liberated, I wonder whether the Department of Justice has any means whatsoever in assisting me to locate my parents.

Your early attention will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

(sgd) Fred Gerson

Fred Gerson

FG:E53
May 15, 1945

Mr. Fred Gerson
Akron Hardware Company
36-16-18 Thirty-Third Street
Long Island City 1, New York

My dear Mr. Gerson:

Reference is made to your letter of May 7, 1945, concerning the whereabouts of your parents Gustav and Berta Simon Gerson, last known to have resided at Delfstraat 15, Amsterdam Zuid, Holland, in connection with your petition for issuance of immigration visas in their behalf, which was approved and forwarded to the Department of State and a copy of the letter of transmittal dated October 25, 1944 forwarded to the War Refugee Board, Washington, D. C.

This Service has no facilities to assist in locating your parents. It can only be suggested that you communicate with Brigadier General William O'Dwyer, Executive Director, War Refugee Board, Washington, D. C. for further information, or with the American Red Cross.

It is assumed that you have executed and filed with the Department of State Forms BG, required under existing regulations. If not, these forms may be obtained by writing to the Visa Division, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the War Refugee Board, Washington, D. C., together with a copy of your letter under acknowledgments.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Savoretti
Assistant Commissioner