

Requests for Specific Aid: GIFFORD, E (DR)

000541

JAN 17 1945

Dear Mrs. Gifford:

I have your letter of December 4, 1944, concerning your daughter, Miss Evelien M. Wechselmann, who is interned in a concentration camp at Theresienstadt.

I am indeed sorry that there is no specific action which the Board can take to obtain the release of your daughter from the camp referred to, beyond our general programs which are directed to the rescue and protection of the victims of enemy persecution.

I can assure you that we are doing and will continue to do everything in our power in the interest of these people, and we earnestly hope that your daughter may benefit from the general activities which we are pursuing.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. E. Gifford  
Thames Hospital  
Baillie Street  
Thames, New Zealand

EBFowler

1-16-45

*JW*

000542

4th of Dec. 1944

Executive Office of the President,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D.C.

I have written to you about one year ago, when my daughter, ~~Edith~~ ~~Edith~~ was put into a Concentration Camp in Holland.- I have not heard since then from her, but yesterday I received a letter from a girl in Palestine, who tells me, that she is a friend of my daughter and had been together with her in the Camp Westerbork, Hooghalen, in Holland.- She says, that my daughter was on the 15th of January 1944 transferred to a Camp in Theresienstadt, and just a few days ago the girl saw my daughters name on a list in Palestine.- The girl herself did get to Palestine through an "Austauschtransport" as she says, two months ago. She is a Jewish girl like my daughter.- I wonder, if you could ~~not~~ do something to help my daughter to get out of the Concentrationcamp.- I would be ever so thankful to you, you see, we here in New Zealand are so far away from everything and dont seem to be able to do anything- my husband and I have tried for 5 years.- There must be ways to get my daughter out, somebody did help her friend to get out.- If you are not able to do anything at all, would you be so kind and give this letter to some Jewish Society who might be able to help- we dont mind whatever the costs are.- My husband is a Surgeon here at the Thames Hospital and you could inquire about him.- My husbands name is Dr. Edward Gifford, Superintendent and Surgeon Thames Hospital.- Particulars about my daughter: ( from my first marriage) Evelien Margot Wechselsmann, born 7th of April 1927

in Rotterdam, Holland.  
Nationality: German, but through adoption of my second husband, New Zealand Nationality.- She lived till July 1943 with my sister, Mrs. Piccard-Bauman, Nicolaas Maesstr. 89, Amsterdam, Holland, then in Concentrationcamp Westerbork, Hooghalen, Holland till Jan. 1944. Since then she is supposed to be in Theresienstadt, but I dont know where that is. There is a Theresienstadt in Bohemia, I suppose it is the same place.-

I would be very grateful if you could give me your assistance to help my daughter.-

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) E. Gifford.

Mrs. E. Gifford,  
Thames Hospital, Haillie Street,  
Thames, New Zealand.

000543

P.C.—90.

OPENED BY EXAMINER

D.D.A. / 124

**BY AIR**

HAMES <sup>N-7</sup> LETTER CARD HAMES

If anything is enclosed this card will be sent by ordinary mail.

Executive Office of the President,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.

When folded the letter card must conform in size and shape with the blue border within which the address only may be written.

SENDER'S NAME Mrs. E. Clifford,  
AND ADDRESS Thames hospital, Ballie street  
Thames, New Zealand

EXAMINER  
I-J-P-12

000544

In reply please  
refer to: 2899

AUG 12 1944

Dear Mrs. Gifford:

I have your recent letter, and its enclosure, concerning the plight of your daughter who is now in a concentration camp for political prisoners in Holland.

As stated in our previous letter to you, the Board cannot undertake problems limited to seeking out and rescuing specific individuals. In view of the magnitude of the task before it, the only practicable and remotely promising approaches are those devoted to groups of persons rather than to individuals.

We assure you, however, that the Board will continue its efforts, and we sincerely hope that among those spared will be your daughter.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Hella Gifford,  
Thames Hospital Board,  
Baillie Street,  
Thames, New Zealand.

EBT RBHutchison:agr 8-10-44

JCA -

000545

2899

THAMES HOSPITAL BOARD

~~All Correspondence to be~~  
addressed to the Secretary

*Battle Street*, 24th of May 1944

*Thames*

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. *8/2/44* \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Office of the President,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.

In reply 487.

Dear Sir,  
Thank you very much for your letter of the 6th of May. I understand, that you are only giving your help to people who are in real danger. I am afraid that is the case with my daughter, Evelyn Margot Wechseltmann, by adoption now Evelyn Margot Gifford. We received about a month ago a message from the International Red Cross that my daughter, aged 16 years, is taken away from my sister, where she was staying with, and put into a Concentrationcamp for political prisoners. I am enclosing the letter from the Red Cross. - I don't know the reason for her imprisonment, but I suppose because of her mother and married to a British subject.

You will understand my worry and I wonder if you could do something to get the child out of this concentrationcamp. I would be very thankful to you.

Yours sincerely *Hella Gifford*

My daughter's address: M. Wechseltmann, Gifford by adoption  
Lager \_\_\_\_\_, Cost. Drente  
holland.

000546

NES 53-500  
53-506



## Prisoners of War Enquiry Office

JOINT COUNCIL of the ORDER OF ST. JOHN  
and THE NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS SOCIETY

P.O. Box 139, Te Aro, C.2.  
TELEG. ADD. "WARPUR"



Please address Reply to  
SECRETARY,  
P.O. Box 139, Te Aro,  
Wellington

HEADQUARTERS and WELLINGTON OFFICE:  
96 Tory Street, WELLINGTON, C.3.

27th April, 1944.

Mrs. H. Gifford,  
Thames Hospital Board,  
Baillie Street,  
THAMES. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Madam,

Further to our letter of the 3rd instant we have to advise that very little data is available in New Zealand regarding Lager Westerbork in Holland. The International Red Cross Delegate has, however, advised that it is apparently not a recognised Internment Camp but is used by the Germans exclusively as a concentration camp for political prisoners.

The International Delegate has written to Geneva for further information regarding Camp Westerbork and will communicate with us again on receipt of a reply. When this is received we will write you again.

Assuring you of our interest and attention at all times.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY,  
PRISONERS OF WAR SECTION  
WAR PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

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000547

PAR AVION

Executive Office of the President,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.  
U.S.A.

TELEGRAPH COURTESY  
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24 MAY 44  
THAMES

THAMES  
24 MAY 44  
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Miss Hadil  
Room 190

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P.C. 30

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D.D.A. / 83

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REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD

1944 JUN 31 PM 2 15

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

James Earl Ray  
Bellemeir, Nevada  
Thames Road, London

Washington: 8-10444

945000

In reply please  
refer to: 487

MAY 6 1944

Dear Dr. Gifford:

I have your letter of February 19, 1944, concerning  
the possibility of rescuing your adopted daughter from Holland,

Your concern for the safety of Miss Wechselman meets  
with the fullest sympathy of the Board. I think you will under-  
stand, however, 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. I assure you we are doing  
everything in our power to rescue and save the victims of enemy  
oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

Persons in the United States seeking assistance for  
the rescue of specific individuals are being referred to private  
organizations. It is suggested that you may wish to refer your  
problem to the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 146 Darlinghurst  
Road, Sydney, Australia.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Dr. E. Gifford,  
Thames Hospital,  
Baillie Street,  
Thames, ~~NEW ZEALAND~~ New Zealand.

Air Mail

RBH Hutchison:agr 5-5-44 JWA ←

000550

Box 53  
TELEPHONE 47

THAMES HOSPITAL

*Baillie Street,*

*Thames*

VD

W. R. B. 487  
Filing Authority  
No. Files 5/6/44  
Ans. 5/6/44  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

19. 2. 44

The Chairman,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington.

Dear sir,

I heard recently of the establishment of your Board and hope that you could help my wife and myself to get Miss Evelyn Wechselman, away from Holland where she is staying with J. Michels of Kruidbergerweg 2, Santpoort. Miss Wechselman is 15 years of age and is my wife's daughter and my adopted daughter. I am a New Zealander and my wife came out to me here before the war between Germany and Holland broke out. We want Miss Wechselman to come out to us here as soon as possible and we are very concerned in case she is suffering from some form of persecution in the mean time. She has some relatives in Oregon - Aenne Weinberg, 1504 S. W. Montgomery Street, Portland.

If you find it possible to help we will be extremely grateful.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr) E. Sifford.

VISA  
DIVISION

1944 MAR 23 AM 10 48

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

000551

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1944



FE21-5-PM

The Chairman,  
War Refugee Board,  
State Department,  
Washington,  
U.S.A.

~~SECRET~~

WRB

IPC-9A

000552

*Sgt. Dr. E. GIFFORD.*

*THAMES. N. Z.*

D.D.A. / 121

000553