

Requests for Specific Aid: GROSS, Luowick (Capt.)

000585

FEB 12 1944

Dear Captain Gross:

Reference is made to your letter of January 28, 1944, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in saving certain members of your family in Poland 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 communicate with the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, 425 Lafayette Street, New York, New York, or the American Friends Service Committee, 20 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am advised that these organizations may be in a position to be of help in cases such as yours.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Captain Ludwick Gross,
Medical Corps,
Station Hospital,
Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

JK - EBT

FHodel:hd 2/8/44

000586

FEB 4 1944

Dear Captain Gross:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 28, 1944, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in saving certain members of your family in Poland from Nazi persecution.

Your letter has been referred to the Acting Executive Director of the Board who will communicate with you in the near future concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

(SIGNED) W. N. THOMPSON

Administrative Assistant to the
Secretary

Captain Ludwick Gross,
Medical Corps,
Station Hospital,
Camp Forrest, Tenn.

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with [unclear]*

FHodel:hd 2/4/44

000587

Station Hospital
Camp Forrest, Tenn.
January 28, 1944

The Hon. Henry Morgenthau Jun.
Secretary of the U. S. Dept. of Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

You have been appointed member of the War Refugee Board whose task it is going to be... "to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe".

My mother, Mrs. Augusta Gross, my sister Mrs. Maria Klein, and my three brothers, Dr Maksymiljan Gross, Dr Otto Gross and Mr. Zygmunt Gross, are in Poland. Our family is Jewish. As you know, the Nazis are killing the Jews in Poland. I was fortunate to escape from Poland in 1939. I came to the United States in 1940, and now I am an officer in the U. S. Army, and I am happy to be an American citizen. My family is still in Poland. They have to hide, and probably live under assumed names because the Nazis kill the Jews. My family's only crime is that of being Jewish. I have heard from them from time to time, through gentile friends sending messages through the Red Cross. My mother, sister and brothers are in a most distressing situation and they need help. Is there anything you, or the Red Cross, or anybody could do to save them from Nazi persecution? It is almost distressing to see the Nazi prisoners live here in the United States Army camps in perfect safety and almost in luxury, while the Jews in Poland are being killed ruthlessly in gas chambers by the same Nazis. I know about the Geneva convention. I believe however that helpless women and civilians should have at least as much protection as military prisoners, and that ways and means should be devised to save them from death. The Geneva convention was devised as a minimum protection for the most exposed individuals, i.e. for prisoners. The civilian population persecuted minorities should have at least the minimum protection granted to prisoners by the Geneva convention. They are more exposed to danger in this war with the Nazis than military prisoners. The Geneva convention is outdated, and should be supplemented without delay so that helpless civilians may be saved.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Gross

Ludwik Gross
Captain, Medical Corps, U.S.A.

000588