

Requests for Specific Aid: GROSS, P. N.

000589

SEP 28 1944

My dear Congressman:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 22, 1944, addressed to Mr. Lesser, enclosing a communication from Rabbi P. N. Gross.

The War Refugee Board does not arrange for the exchange of persons with the German Government. Such matters are handled in their entirety by the Department of State. Accordingly, any request to include the names of specific individuals in exchange lists for transmission to the German Government should be taken up with that Department.

On the other hand, I am glad to inform you that, responding to the Board's efforts, the government of Guatemala has informed German authorities, through the intermediary of the Swiss Government, that persons holding documents issued in the name of Guatemala are to be treated as Guatemalan nationals and are eligible for exchange.

However that may be, the Board, in collaboration with the Department of State, has recently developed a special program calculated to assist the wives and minor unmarried children of American citizens and resident aliens. This program is based on the statutes relating to the issuance of non-quota and preference-quota visas, and it is suggested that Rabbi Gross fill out, execute, and file with the Immigration & Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the form enclosed which is appropriate to his status. He should advise the Naturalization & Immigration Service that he is filing such form at the suggestion of the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

Honorable Herman F. Eberharter,

House of Representatives.

Enclosure.

RR. BAKzin:ISLesser:tmh 9-27-44 L.S.K. JOT

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle
Copies to: Akzin
Lesser*

000590

HERMAN P. EBERHARTER
PENNSYLVANIA
32D DISTRICT

PITTSBURGH:
1306 BERGER BUILDING

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC WHIP

COMMITTEE
WAYS AND MEANS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

September 22, 1944

Mr. Lawrence Lesser
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

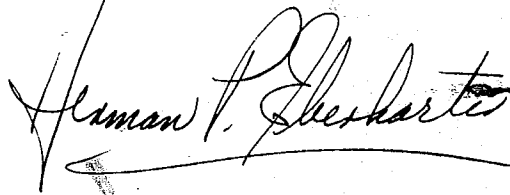
My dear Mr. Lesser:-

In accordance with your suggestion, in conversation with my office, I am transmitting herewith letter received by me from Rabbi P. K. Gross, 2106 Wendover Place, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, relative to his wife and daughter who are interned by Germany at Camp Bergenbelsen, near Hanover, Germany. I believe his letter is self-explanatory.

Would you be kind enough to advise me as to what I might say to Rabbi Gross in response to his letter.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



HPB:EC

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Y

Atlantic 0536-7

HEBREW INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Wylie Avenue and Green Street

Pittsburg, Penna.

P. N. Gross, Rabbi
2106 Wendover Place
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Hazel 5446

September 17, 1944

Hon. Congressman Herman P. Lberharfter
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

I shall highly appreciate it if you will be kind enough to furnish the following information.

As you know my wife (Blume Gross, born Liebermann) and daughter (Futrie Gross) are holders of Guatemaian passports and as such have been interned by the Germans in Camp Bergenbelsen, near Hanover, Germany. It has constantly been suggested that the only way to save their lives would be an exchange for German nationals in the Americas.

I am now told that the Germans have asked the State Department in Washington for a list of those interned passport holders for exchange. Washington, I am further told, cabled back the desired list. The names of my wife and daughter are known both to Congressman Bloom and the Hon. John Fehle of the War Refugee Board. I hope therefore that their names have been included in the list forwarded to the Germans. At any rate, it is to ascertain this that I am writing to you now. Please find out whether the names of my wife and child are among those proposed for exchange and how the chances are that such an exchange actually will take place.

In gratitude for all the efforts you made until now to save my family and in the hope that you will continue your kind cooperation,

I am very thankfully yours,

/s/ P. N. GROSS

000592

Files

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

*Explained orally
why message cannot
be sent, BG,
May 2.*

April 28, 1944

Hon. John W. Pehle, Dir.
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mr. L. Lesser

Dear Sir:

We call particular attention to the attached photostatic letter which refers to a case of the wife and daughter of a colleague, Rabbi P. N. Gross in Pittsburgh, who are internees in the Bergenbelsen Camp and who have Guatemala passports.

We are deeply concerned in the fate of all the internees in this camp, and we would respectfully urge that a diplomatic inquiry be made of the Spanish Ambassador whether he has intervened on behalf of his government for the internees in Bergenbelsen and whether he can report on their condition. We would respectfully urge that a request similar to those made to the other South American countries, be made also the Government of Guatemala.

We feel certain that you will give this urgent matter your earnest and expedient attention.

With our expressions of deepest appreciation,

Very sincerely yours,
VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Abraham Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

000593

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President

Norman H. Davis, Chairman, Central Committee

Mabel T. Boardman, Secretary



AMERICAN RED CROSS

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

WABASH STATION
LIBERTY AVENUE AT FERRY STREET
PITTSBURGH 22, PENNSYLVANIA

Telephone—GRant 1680

HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT

239 FOURTH AVENUE
Telephone GRant 4930

April 6, 1944,

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Home Service Secretary

HARRIET H. RAY
Asst. Home Service Secretary

Rabbi P. N. Gross,
2106 Wendover Place,
Pittsburgh, Pa. 17

Dear Sir;

We have today received from National
Headquarters the following cable for you;

"BLUMS GROSS LIEBERMANN AND DAUGHTER
RUTHLE INTERNED AUFENTHALTSLAG
BERGENBELSEN GERMANY LETTER FOLLOWS."

We hope this is satisfactory news,
and as soon as any further information comes to
our office, we shall forward it to you immediately.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. E. L. Parker by Steifer
Mrs. E. L. Parker,
Director, Foreign Inquiry.

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