

Requests for Specific Aid: LURCH, J. F.

000880

AUG 16 1944

Dear Mr. Lurch:

Thank you for your letter of August 4, 1944 in which you furnished us with the information requested in our letter of August 1, 1944.

Pursuant to your request we are returning the exchange of letters between you and the American Friends Service Committee.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. J. F. Lurch,  
550 Fort Washington Avenue,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

*Copy to: Mr. Sargoy*

<sup>md</sup>  
MJSargoy:dh 8/14/44

*L. F. L. JH*

000881

J. F. LURCH  
550 FORT WASHINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY  
WADSWORTH 7-1714

3209

W. A. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
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To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. 8/1/44  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

August 4, 1944

Mr. J.W. Penle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Penle:

I am very grateful for your letter of August 1, 1944. As explained in my letter of March 9, 1944 the affidavits which I sent shortly before the first of July 1941 to Marseille, France did not receive authorization because they just arrived at a time when the State Department decided to authorize affidavits in Washington.

Due to this delay the affidavits lost their validity.

As I needed 10 affidavits i.e. two each for five people, it took me more than a year to furnish valid affidavits which we sent to Washington in the month of October 1942 through the National Council of Jewish Women, New York, N.Y.

We had news from the Red Cross that in April 1944 the members of my family were still well in Pau, France.

The names of my relatives are:

Flora Lurch, born June 2, 1864, my mother  
Sophie Rehfeld, born July 22, 1890, my sister  
Marie Lurch, born November 11, 1894, my sister  
Paul Rehfeld, M.D., born May 24, 1914, my nephew  
Margot Rehfeld, born April 28, 1922, my niece.  
They live in Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France, rue Emile Garet #68.

Very truly yours,

*J. F. Lurch*

P.S.

I attach herewith an exchange of letters with the American Friends Service Committee for your information. Please be good enough to return them to me.

000882

AUG 1 1944

Dear Mr. Lurch:

Your attention is called to my letter of March 15, 1944 in response to your letter of March 8, 1944 in which you requested the assistance of the War Refugee Board in aiding members of your family to escape from France.

From your letter it appears that the issuance of visas permitting the members of your family to enter the United States may have been authorized after July 1, 1941. If such visas were authorized I would appreciate your furnishing us with the following additional information:

1. The date of authorization of the issuance of each such visa by the Department of State.
2. The exact names and last known addresses of the members of your family for whom such visas were authorized.
3. The reference or file number assigned to each such visa or to its correspondence with you by the Department of State.

Very truly yours,

*[Faint signature]*

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. J. F. Lurch,  
550 Fort Washington Avenue,  
New York, New York.

*Copy to: Mr. Sargoy*

*L.S.G.*  
M Sargoy:dh 7/28/44 *[Signature]*

000883

MAR 15 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 307

Dear Mr. Lurch:

I have your letter of March 8, 1944, requesting the aid of the War Refugee Board to enable certain members of your family to leave France and come to the United States.

I am sure you will understand that the task of the Board is so great that, of necessity, it cannot deal with problems limited to seeking out and rescuing any specific individuals. We shall, of course, do everything in our power to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

I suggest that you may wish to refer your problem to a private organization. There is enclosed a list of some of the organizations which I am advised may be in a position to be of help to you.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. J. F. Lurch,  
550 Fort Washington Avenue,  
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

*EAT*  
EBTowler: agr 7/8-13-44

000884

J. F. LURCH  
550 FORT WASHINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY  
WAGSWORTH 7-1714

March 8, 1944

Mr. John Pehele, Director  
New Refugee Board,  
State Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I emigrated from Germany in 1938. My parents, Heinrich and Flora Lurch, and my sister, Marie Lurch, were transported to the Gurs concentration camp in October 1940. Four weeks later my father - 86 years old - died.

An older sister of mine, Sophie, was married to a Dr. Camille Rehfeld. They also lived in Germany. They have a son, Paul and a daughter, Margot. Paul Rehfeld, born in 1914 in Alsace Lorraine, left Germany in 1933 to study medicine in France. The fact that his grandmother (mother of his father) was born in France, enabled him to become a naturalized Frenchman.

In the year 1939 Paul's father and mother (my sister) and his sister emigrated to Paris. Shortly thereafter Dr. Camille Rehfeld died in Paris. In the meantime Paul had become a medical doctor in the French army. He fell sick and went to the south of France, to the city of Pau (Basses Pyrenees), where his mother and sister followed him.

Pau is not very distant from the Camp de Gurs. Due to the efforts of Paul, my mother - Flora Lurch (his grandmother) and my sister - Marie Lurch, could be freed and in July 1943 they still lived in Pau. The address of Dr. Paul Rehfeld is: Rue Emile Garret #68, Pau (Basses Pyrenees) France.

I have made great efforts to bring my relatives to the United States. Twice all the necessary affidavits were ready. Twice, due to new regulations, these affidavits became obsolete. The last time, the affidavits were on their way to France, when a new ruling was set up, requesting the filing of these papers with the State Department in Washington instead of with the Consulate in Marseilles. The third set of affidavits were mailed to Washington in October 1942.

I have heard about the activities of the New Refugee Board and I would like to ask whether there is any possibility of getting my relatives out of France into the United States? I would like to repeat their names:

MAR 11 1944

000885

J. F. LURCH  
550 FORT WASHINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY  
WADSWORTH 7-1714

Mr. John Pehele,  
New Refugee Board,  
State Department  
Washington, D. C.

- 2 -

3/8/44

Flora Lurch, born June 2, 1864  
Sophie Rehfeld, born July 22, 1890  
Marie Lurch, born November 11, 1894  
Dr. Paul Rehfeld, born May 24, 1914  
Margaret Rehfeld, born April 28, 1922.

Yours very truly,

*J.F. Lurch*

JFL:u

APR 11 1944

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