

✓ Requests for Specific Aid: SCHLEM, CHARLOTTE

000163

FEB 27 1945

Dear Miss Schlem:

I have your letter of February 10, 1945, in which you request the assistance of the Board in locating your mother and your aunt.

While the Board is not in a position to handle inquiries concerning specific individuals, I can suggest two possibilities for ascertaining the whereabouts of your relatives. Your local Red Cross chapter may be able to help you to send a message through the International Red Cross, or you may go to any Catholic rectory and request the priest to arrange for your inquiry to be sent through the Vatican message service. With respect to the latter, it is my understanding that the request will be directed through the Apostolic Delegate in Washington to the Vatican and that efforts will then be made to obtain the desired information through the facilities of the Nunciature and the Catholic clergy in Hungary.

If the reply to your inquiry indicates that your mother and your aunt are in Budapest or elsewhere in liberated territory, I suggest that you seek the assistance of one of the private organizations named in the enclosed list with respect to the matter of their immigration to this country.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

Miss Charlotte Schlem,  
294 Keer Avenue,  
Newark 8, New Jersey.

EBT:inp 2/23/45

000164

Dear Miss Schlem:

I have your letter of February 10, 1945, in which you request the assistance of the Board in locating your mother.

While the Board is not in a position to handle inquiries concerning specific individuals, I can suggest two possibilities for ascertaining the whereabouts of your mother. Your local Red Cross chapter may be able to help you to send a message through the International Red Cross, or you may go to any Catholic rectory and request the priest to arrange for your inquiry to be sent through the Vatican message service. With respect to the latter, it is my understanding that the request will be directed through the Apostolic Delegate in Washington to the Vatican and that efforts will then be made to obtain information concerning your mother through the facilities of the Nunciature and the Catholic clergy in Hungary.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

Miss Charlotte Schlem,  
294 Keer Avenue,  
Newark 8, New Jersey.

EST RBH RBHutchison:inp 2/17/45

000165

Newark, N.J.,  
February 10th, 1945.

War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D.C.

Re: 021 - Mrs. Bessie Schlem.

Gentlemen:

I wish to refer to your letter of May 18th, 1944, and your letter of June 12th, 1944 (the latter one addressed to Senator Hawkes), in answer to my request for your assistance to bring my mother, Mrs. Bessie Schlem, residing in Budapest, Hungary, to a neutral country in order that she may obtain her visa to come to the United States. (My mother was granted a U.S. immigration visa by the Department of State in November 1941, but she could not avail herself of it due to the United States' entry into the war.)

At this time I would again ask you for your assistance in locating my mother and helping me to bring her into safety, to some neutral country, and ultimately to the United States. From recent reports on the Radio I understand that Budapest was completely liberated by the Russians. I presume therefore that my mother is not any more in enemy territory and you can well imagine how very anxious I am to locate her and bring her into safety.

My mother has been living in Budapest with her sister, Mrs. Regina Loewy, for whom my mother's sister, Mrs. Leon Brody, has also been trying to obtain a U.S. immigration visa, which was not granted yet, and we are also most desirous to help her to get into safety, and to this country.

Myself, my mother's sister and her brother, Mr. Joseph Kransdorf of Caldwell, N.J., are ready and willing and perfectly able to stand for all costs and expenses involved, we are only most anxious to have the possibility to rescue my mother and aunt.

My brother is with the U.S. Army for the last two years, and presently in France. He is of course a U.S. citizen.

Kindly let me hear from you as soon as possible. Thanking you for your cooperation in advance, I am

Very truly yours,  
*Charlotte Schlem*  
(Miss) Charlotte Schlem  
294 Keer Ave, Newark, N.J.

000166

In reply please  
refer to: 884

JUN 12 1944

My dear Senator:

I have your letter of May 31, 1944, concerning the desire of Miss Renee Brody to assist her two aunts in Hungary to reach a neutral country and eventually to come to the United States.

While we have no record of an inquiry from Miss Renee Brody, the number mentioned in your letter refers to our file of correspondence concerning Mrs. Bertha Schlem, who is at present residing in Budapest, Hungary, and who was granted a United States immigration visa in November 1941, which she was unable to use because of this country's entrance into the war in December 1941. I am enclosing copies of our replies to inquiries which were directed to us by Mrs. Schlem's daughter and her sister, Mrs. Leon Brody.

Because of the tremendous task it faces in effecting the policy of this Government to save and rescue the victims of enemy oppression, one of the Board's first decisions was to confine itself to projects for the rescue of groups of persons. It was felt that, of necessity, the Board could not seek out and rescue specific individuals.

In view of this, I have suggested to Mrs. Brody that she seek the assistance of a private organization in her problem. Established private organizations engaged in relief and refugee work have indicated their willingness to cooperate with the Board in cases of this kind. Once a way of escape has been opened up, these private organizations should be able to be of great help in the reuniting of families and otherwise assisting specific refugees.

000167

For your confidential information, the Board is endeavoring to ascertain whether, in cases where American visas which were issued to persons in enemy or enemy-controlled territory have expired by lapse of time, the reissuance or replacement of such a visa would facilitate its holder's departure from enemy-controlled territory or otherwise afford any protection to the intending immigrant. While awaiting the outcome of our efforts in this direction, the Board is endeavoring to develop every possible means of assisting fugitives from enemy oppression in escaping to places of safety.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Albert W. Hawkes,  
United States Senate.

Enclosures.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle*

EBTowler:agr 6-8-44

100168

BERT W. HAWKES  
NEW JERSEY

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

884

W. P. B.  
ALBERT W. BENTLEY  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
Ans. 6/17/44  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

May 31, 1944

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

Refer to:  
File 621- *Belton*

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I understand that Miss Renee Brodsky *(nothing in file)*  
has written you with regard to bringing her two  
Aunts, who presently reside in Budapest, to a  
neutral country so that they might eventually obtain  
a visa to come to the United States.

I should like to be of any possible  
assistance in accomplishing this for Miss Brody  
and wonder if you would advise me the procedure  
which should be followed.

Thanking you for your cooperation,  
and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,  
*Albert W. Bentley*

AWH: LH

000169

In reply please  
refer to: 745

JUN 12 1944

Dear Mrs. Brody:

I have your letter of May 18, 1944, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in enabling your sister, Mrs. Regina Loewy, in Hungary, to reach a neutral country.

Your concern for the safety of your sister meets with the fullest sympathy of the Board. I am sure you will understand, however, that the task of the Board is so great that, of necessity, it cannot deal with problems limited to rescuing specific individuals. The War Refugee Board is exerting every effort to make its rescue programs match the exigencies of the current situation, and I assure you that everything in its power will be done to save the victims of enemy persecution who are in imminent danger of death.

The circumstances in the case of Mrs. Schlem appear to bring it within a category involving a different type of problem, for which the Board is seeking to arrange a suitable group procedure. Accordingly, we recently advised your niece, in response to her inquiry in behalf of her mother, that we have requested the consideration of the Department of State on certain aspects of the problem.

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 some help to you.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Leon Brody,  
294 Keer Avenue,  
Newark 8, New Jersey.

Enclosure.

EBTowler:agr 6-8-44

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle  
copy to: Sister Hanks  
4/2/44*

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000170

745

May 18th, 1944.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. J. H. Senle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington, 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am asking for your support in the matter of my sister, Mrs. Regina Loewy who is at present residing in Budapest, Hungary. Due to recent events in Hungary it is our most urgent desire to get Mrs. Loewy into a neutral country where she may be safe.

I have been trying for the past ten years to get Mrs. Loewy to this country, and my visa application and affidavit are filed with the State Department.

I have also another sister, Mrs. Bertha Schlem, residing at Budapest, Hungary, with the above. Mrs. Schlem has been granted an American visa two weeks before the United States' entry into the war. Mrs. Schlem's daughter has written to you concerning this matter. The case number is #621.

Please be informed that I am ready to take full responsibility for both my sisters. I am a citizen of this country, living here for the past 23 years and I am well able to support my sisters in any way necessary.

May I ask you urgently to give this matter your immediate attention, as this is a matter of life and death.

Very truly yours,

*Mrs Leon Brody*

Mrs. Leon Brody  
294 Keer Ave  
Newark 8, N.J.

000171

In reply please  
refer to: 621

MAY 16 1944

Dear Miss Schlem:

I have your letter of April 30, 1944,  
requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board  
in bringing your mother to a neutral country in  
order that she may obtain a visa to come to the  
United States.

We have requested the consideration of  
the Department of State on certain aspects of this  
problem and will advise you further as soon as poss-  
ible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fahle

J. W. Fahle  
Executive Director

Miss Charlotte Schlem,  
294 Keer Avenue,  
Newark 8, New Jersey.

ERT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-15-44 JAT

000172

621

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Newark 8, N.J.,  
April 30th, 1944.

Mr. John Pehle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
c/o Treasury Department,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you upon recommendation of the Department of State's Visa Division in reference to my mother, Mrs. Bertha Schlem who is at present residing at Budapest, Hungary. A U.S. immigration visa was granted to my mother in November, 1941, but she could not avail herself thereof because of the entry of the United States into the war in December, 1941.

Due to the recent events in Hungary I am more than anxious to get my mother out of Hungary to the United States or if this is not possible at the present moment, at least to some neutral country where she could find a temporary haven. I have written to the Visa Division of the Department of State to that effect and they advised me that the visa can be issued to my mother as soon as she can be delivered from Axis-controlled territory to any country where there is American consular service, and they also advised me to get in touch with your office. As this is a matter of life and death, I would appreciate your helping me in any way you can to get my mother into safety. I would be more than happy and willing to bear all costs, for transportation, cost of living in any country, etc., whatever it may be.

Trusting to receive a favorable answer as soon as possible, and thanking you in advance, I am

Very truly yours,  
*(Miss) Charlotte Schlem*  
294 Keer Ave,  
Newark 8, N.J.

000173