

Requests for Specific Aid: SHEDD, CHARLOTTE

000189

SEP 1 1944

Dear Mrs. Shedd:

Thank you for your letter of August 16, 1944,  
in response to our letter of August 1, 1944.

In view of the information contained in your letter, I suggest that as an American citizen you promptly file with the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice at Philadelphia, Pa., a petition to establish the status of your parents as persons entitled to first-preference quota immigration visas to the United States as parents of a citizen of the United States who is 21 years of age or over. It is suggested that when you file the petition you advise the Immigration and Naturalization Service that you are doing so at the suggestion of the War Refugee Board. Enclosed you will find a proper form of such petition.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Charlotte Shedd,  
812 N. Harrison Street,  
Wilmington, Delaware.

Enclosure.

<sup>m.s.</sup>  
MSargoy: dh 8/30/44

E.S.L. JWA -

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

August 16 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle  
Executive Office of the President  
War refugee Board  
Washington 25. D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In answer to your letter  
from August 1, 1944, I state the following :

Unfortunately, no visa has ever been issued to any  
member of my family, although affidavits were furnished  
for them and the money for their trip across had been  
deposited with the American Friends Service Committee  
by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For some reason, unknown to me, my parents efforts  
to obtain a visa at the American consulate in Vienna  
failed, and when I was finally notified that visas would  
be issued, the American Consul left Vienna, thus cutting  
off the last possibilities for my parents.

At that time the Friends Service Committee asked me if they  
could use the money deposited with them, to pay the fare  
of a refugee ready to embark in Lisbon, and I agreed.

In the meantime I got married to an American citizen and  
became a citizen myself one year ago.

I have not heard from my parents since January 1943 and  
I am troubled beyond words about their whereabouts.  
If you could help me to find out where they are, either  
through the Red Cross or through channels known only to  
you, maybe then it would be possible to somehow get them  
to a neutral country and finally over here.

000191

Their names and last known addresses are:

Siegfried Kraus, Klosterneuburg- Wien , Alleegasse #

Austria

Anna Louise Kraus, Klosterneuburg- Wien , Alleegasse #

Your letter has given me new hope of ever seeing them again  
and if you should be able to find them , please let me know  
what further steps I have to take.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon

very truly yours

*Charlotte Shedd*

Charlotte Shedd

000192

AUG 1 1944

Dear Mrs. Shedd:

Your attention is called to my letter of February 19, 1944 in response to your letter of February 15, 1944 to Secretary Morgenthau in which you requested the assistance of the War Refugee Board in aiding your parents to escape from Austria.

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

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

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Charlotte Shedd,  
812 N. Harrison Street,  
Wilmington, Delaware.

Copy to: Mr. Sargoy

Mrs. L.C.L.  
M. Sargoy:dh 7/27/44

JW

000193

FEB 19 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 148

Dear Mrs. Shedd:

Your letter of February 15, 1944, to Secretary Morgenthau, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in saving certain members of your family in Vienna from Nazi persecution, has been referred to this office.

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 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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. Charlotte Shedd,  
812 N. Harrison Street,  
Wilmington, Delaware.

Enclosure.

*EAT*  
*RH* *JW*  
RBHutchison:agr 2-18-44

000194

February 15, 1944.

*Mr. P. H. -*  
148

The Hon. Henry Morgenthau  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Washington , D. C.

FILING AUTHORITY  
TO: Mail & Files  
ANS. ....  
NO ANS. REQ. ....  
INITIAL .....  
DATE .....

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A short time ago

I read in the paper that the President has set up an organization to rescue the persecuted people of Europe.

I came to America 5 years ago and I am now an American citizen, married to an American. My husband is the State Supervisor for Delaware, Department of Agriculture.

I came to this country alone, leaving behind parents and a sister. My father is of Jewish descent, Catholic by religion, my mother is what the present German laws call "Arien" and my sister being also Catholic was somehow able to finish her studies at the University of Vienna and to teach private pupils.

The last news I had about my parents was coming via Switzerland dated January 1943 and received by me in March 1943. From then on silence. Until 1943 my mother had managed to safeguard the three of them, I hope and pray that she was able to at least keep them in good health and alive up to date.

My father's 71 year old sister was sent to a concentration camp in 1942. She had lived in Prague.

000195

But even if my parents should have been able by some miracle to keep out of serious trouble, you just as well as I <sup>know</sup> that as the war draws to an end the situation will get more and more serious for those that are left to serve as scapegoats. and that is why I write to you to ask you what could be done to get my parents out and over here. I tried to do this for the past years but without success. there was always delay in obtaining visas and when I finally succeeded and received the assurance that visas would be given to them the American consuls left, and there was a law that no one could come to America who leaves behind any one who could be taken as a hostage by the Germans; since my sister did not want to leave because she had a friend in the Army, my parents also were condemned to stay. I do not know whether this friend of my sister is still alive, but I do know that he has always been violently anti-Nazi, I knew him since my childhood.

however this is just to give you the background.

My parents are now the parents of an American citizen and I am in a position to take them into my home and to compensate them with love and care for all they have had to go through. I have no idea whether something can be done and if so what I would have to do. I have written to Mrs. Roosevelt for advise because she has honored me with her friendship for the past five years, knows me well, and has been tremendously kind and good to me innumerable times. Her advise this time as you can see from the letter enclosed was to write to you, which I have done herewith.

000196

I shall be very grateful  
if you would let me know wether something can be done.  
I would regard it as a blessing if we could even only get them  
to a neubral country , as long as they are out of danger.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon I am very sincerely  
yours

*Charlotte Shedd.*

Charlotte Shedd

812 N. Harrison Steet , Wilmington , Delaware.

P.S. When last heard from my parents resided in Vienna.

000197

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Shedd:

Mrs. Roosevelt has your letter  
and suggests that you write to Mr. Henry  
*Secretary of the Museum,*  
Kerpsentau, giving a full account of what  
you have told her about your parents.

Very sincerely yours,

*Melvin C. Thompson*  
Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt.

Mrs. Clifford Shedd  
812 North Harrison Street  
Wilmington, Delaware.

000198