

Requests for Specific Aid: WEISS, WALTER J AND/OR  
CLARA TORDA

000351

MAR 2 - 1945

Dr. Clara Torda Weiss  
Cornell University Medical College  
The New York Hospital  
525 East 68th Street  
Room F-368  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Weiss:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 24, 1945.

In reply I wish to inform you that the names of Helen and Joseph Torda were transmitted to the U.S. mission in Switzerland on December 30, 1944, as persons to whom American Consulates abroad are authorized to issue immigration visas. The U.S. mission in Switzerland was requested to transmit this information to the Swiss authorities for communication to the German Government with a view to insuring that your parents be placed on the list of those eligible for exchange with a view to affording them protection pending their release by Germany.

The Board does not possess information whether your parents have been found in the liberated parts of Hungary, and it is not expected that such information would reach the Board in the near future. Should your parents be found in liberated territory, further consideration of the matter of their immigration to the United States would rest with the Department of State. On the other hand, should your parents be in German-occupied territory, it is hoped that the protective measure referred to above will result in a certain measure of protection and in their eventual release by German authorities.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

BAK:in:er 2/22/45

Ba

JA

000352

CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE  
THE SOCIETY OF THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

Created by Royal Charter  
June 13th, 1771

Maintains  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL  
68th to 71st Streets, York Avenue to East River  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL - Westchester Division  
White Plains, N. Y.

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL  
525 East 68th Street  
New York, N. Y.  
Room F-368  
Telephone - REgent 4-6000

February 24, 1945

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

File number: 505-

Dear Sir:

I would be very grateful if it would be possible for you to aid my parents to reach America at an early date.

My application for a non-quota immigration visa for my parents was approved by the Justice Department (see enclosed document) and the Department of State (File number: VD 811,111 Torda, Joseph).

The National Refugee Board, New York informed me that the War Refugee Board of the President has a Rescue Committee that is compiling a list of those people who received this non-quota immigration visa to aid them to reach America as soon as circumstances permit. I would be very grateful if you would include the name of my parents in this list.

My parents are: Joseph Torda, born: Dec. 10, 1874, Budapest, Hungary; Helen Torda, nee Varga, born: March 10, 1888, Ersekosanad, Hungary. Last address: Nador-utca 19, Budapest, Hungary (received by Red Cross message mailed from Hungary in July, 1944).

I, Clara Torda Weiss, am an American citizen, a physician and research worker, a member of the staff of the Cornell University Medical College. My husband, Walter Ira Weiss, is an American citizen by birth, a veteran of the present war.

I will be sincerely grateful to you for any assistance you may give my parents in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Clara Torda Weiss

Clara Torda Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.

One enclosure

000353

*Clara Torda Weiss*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

Philadelphia, 2

December 16, 1944

File number:  
V-312601  
Clara Torda Weiss  
V/P&PXU

Dr. Clara T. Weiss  
1559 York Avenue  
New York, 21, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Weiss:

Reference is made to your newly executed petition for issuance of immigration visa in behalf of your parents, Joseph and Helen Torda.

The records of this office show that on September 9, 1944, a visa petition, executed by you in behalf of your parents, was approved and forwarded to the Department of State on September 18, 1944, for transmittal to the American Consul nearest to the place of residence of your parents. As the present petition indicates that your parents have not been in the United States subsequently to the approval of the first petition, the authorization appears to be outstanding and action on the new petition is regarded as unnecessary.

The financial evidence submitted has been forwarded to the Department of State.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Savoretti, Acting Commissioner  
By T.E. Shoemaker, Assistant Commissioner

I hereby declare under oath that this is a true copy of the letter of the U.S. Department of Justice to me, Clara Torda Weiss.

*Clara Torda Weiss*  
Clara Torda Weiss

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2 day of February, 1945

*Alexander*

25

30, 19

000354

Clara Torda Weiss, M.D.  
AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL  
525 EAST 68TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.  
Room F-368



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

**REGISTERED**  
272629

000355

607

# THE SOCIETY OF THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

Created by Royal Charter  
June 13th, 1771

Maintains  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL  
68th to 71st Streets, York Avenue to East River  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL - Westchester Division  
White Plains, N. Y.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Reg.   
Initial W.R.B.  
Date 4/29/44  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL  
525 East 68th Street  
New York, N. Y.  
Telephone - REgent 4-6000

April 27, 1944

Mr. J. W. Felle, Executive Director  
Executive Office of the President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letters 483 and 505.

I would be very thankful if the name of my parents could be included in any future register of persons to be chosen to be transported from the countries occupied by the Nazis.

I would be very grateful for any advice or help in this matter.

Thank you ever so much for your kindness in the past.

Respectfully yours,

*Clara Torda Weiss*  
Clara Torda Weiss, M.D.

000356

In reply please  
refer to: 505

APR 18 1944

Dear Dr. Weiss:

I have your letter of April 10, 1944,  
requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board  
in bringing your parents to this country from Hungary.

I am enclosing a copy of our letter of  
April 15, 1944, to your husband, concerning this prob-  
lem. I hope that the list of private organizations  
which we enclosed with our letter to him will be of some  
help to you.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Clara Torda Weiss,  
1359 York Avenue,  
New York 21, New York.

Enclosure.

EBT BBHutchison:agr 4-17-44 JJA

000357

THE SOCIETY OF THE NEW YORK HOSPITALS

Created by Royal Charter  
June 13th, 1771  
April 10, 1944

Maintains  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL  
68th to 71st Streets, York Avenue to East River  
THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL - Westchester Division  
White Plains, N. Y.

W. P. B. 505

Filing Authority

Ans.

No. Ans. Req.

Initial

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

525 East 28th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Telephone - REgent 4-6000

Mr. J. W. Pehla,  
War Refugee Board, R 288 1/2  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate any help you could offer me to bring my parents to this Country. They are Hungarian citizens by birth and are still living in Hungary. If they remain there, I am sure that they will be killed. Please try to help them to come over or at least to leave the countries occupied by the Germans. I am very willing to pay all the expenses incurred.

Respectfully yours,

*Clara Torda Weiss*  
Clara Torda Weiss, M.D.

My data are:

Clara Torda Weiss, M.D., Staff member of the Cornell University Medical College  
Citizenship: American  
Address: 1359 York Ave, New York City, 21, N.Y.

My husband:

Walter Ira Weiss, Veteran of the present war  
Citizenship: American by birth  
Address: 1359 York Ave, N.Y. City, 21, N.Y.

My parents:

Torda, Joseph Birthplace: Budapest, Hungary  
Citizenship: Hungarian  
Address: Nador-utca 19, Budapest, 5, Hungary

Torda, Helen (Varga) Birthplace: Ersekcsanad, Hungary  
Citizenship: Hungarian  
Address: Nador-utca 19, Budapest, 5, Hungary

000358



APR 15 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 483

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Your letter of March 30, 1944, to the President, concerning the possibility of rescuing your wife's parents from Budapest, Hungary, has been referred to me.

Your concern for the safety of your wife's parents 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 any specific individuals. The War Refugee Board is directing unstinted efforts to the solution of the problems precipitated by recent developments, and I assure you that everything in its power will be done to rescue and save the victims of enemy persecution 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 some help to you.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fahle  
Executive Director

Mr. Walter I. Weiss,  
1359 York Avenue,  
New York 21, New York.

Enclosure.

EBT  
RBHutchinson 4.12.44

000359

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : WAR REFUGEE BOARD - Mr. Mann  
FROM : WAR REFUGEE BOARD - Mr. Warren  
SUBJECT:

DATE: April 7, 1944

Herewith is a letter from Walter I. Weiss, dated March 30, 1944, referred by the White House, which I believe you will wish to answer.

*George L. Warren*

*Rec'd  
April 8, 1944  
[Signature]*

WRB:GLW:OMH

000360

*Entered*  
*1-6-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
APR 5 1944 April 5, 1944  
DIVISION OF  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND

Respectfully referred to the  
officials of the Department of State  
for attention and appropriate acknowl-  
edgment.

William D. Hargett  
Secretary to the President

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON  
APR 5 - 1944  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

000361

4-2  
State

Walter Ira Weiss  
1359 York Ave  
New York City, N.Y.

WAIB  
SE  
483

March 30, 1944

Filing Authority  
To: Files



His Excellency,  
The President of the United States,  
Executive Mansion,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

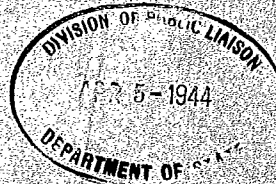
I hope I will be forgiven for this letter.  
I am a discharged veteran of the present war, being  
discharged after almost 2 years of service. My wife,  
who is a naturalized American citizen, and I are  
very anxious for the lives of her parents. They are  
Hungarian citizens by birth, and now in Budapest,  
Hungary. We have tried everything in our power to  
save them to no avail, and since they will surely be  
killed if they remain there, we beg you to advise us  
as to what to do to save them.

I have the honor to remain,

Most respectfully yours,

*Walter Ira Weiss*

Walter I. Weiss



100362

Walter Ira Weiss, enlisted into the Army of the U.S.  
in December 22, 1941; Army serial number was:  
12029683; address: 1359 York Ave, 21, N.Y.

My wife: Dr. Clara Torda Weiss, research fellow on the  
staff of the Cornell University Medical College;  
naturalized on August 13, 1943.

The parents are: Joseph Torda; born: Budapest, Hungary;  
address: Nador-utca 19, Budapest, 5, Hungary

Helen (Varga) Torda; born: Érsekcsanak, Hungary;  
address: Nador-utca 19, 5, Budapest, Hungary

000363