

SHERBOWSKI, D. (PUTI)

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Berchin:

I have your letter of May 8, 1944, concerning a letter recently addressed to us by Private David Sherbowsky from 'somewhere in Sicily'.

The War Refugee Board has no objection to your publishing Private Sherbowsky's letter in your magazine.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pahle  
Executive Director

Mr. M. Berchin,  
The Answer,  
25 West 45th Street,  
New York, New York.

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The Answer,  
28 West 45th Street,  
New York, New York.

EBT JWP  
JWP:agr 5-18-44

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THE  
**ANSWER**  
A BI-WEEKLY MAGAZINE

A NON-SECTARIAN APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF  
THE HEBREW PEOPLE IN EUROPE AND PALESTINE

ONE EAST 44th STREET  
25 WEST 45th STREET

NEW YORK CITY  
BRyant 9-4600

NEW YORK CITY

May 8th, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Pvt. David Sherbowsky has forwarded us a copy of a letter sent by him to you from 'somewhere in Sicily.' A copy of the letter is enclosed.

We should like to publish this letter in our magazine, but since it is addressed to you, we feel that we cannot do this without your permission.

We should much appreciate your authorization.

Sincerely yours,

hf

Mr. Berchin

S. MERLIN  
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Y

- Somewhere in Sicily -

21 April 1944

Mr. John Pehle  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I'VE SEEN JEWISH REFUGEES:

I've seen them -- seen their anxious heads revolving like battle-ried gun turrets on tired and worn bodies -- their ordeal-streaked faces scanning the faces of passersby for signs of friendship -- noted the crowfeet etchings of hardship around their dark eyes -- counted their few belongings -- spotted the pilot light of hope switching into their eyes as they espied and talked to American soldiers;

I'VE TALKED TO THEM --

breaking through their time-hardened reluctance to talk -- learned of their short-stay asylums and continual houndings -- like so much unwanted and unlabeled baggage -- learned of their gypsy billetings inferior to our own GI accommodations;

I'VE HEARD --

the lisping accents of a four-year-old refugee kid struggling through the Four Questions of a Passover First Seder -- questions relating to the delivery from a former bondage -- and haunting me ever since are thoughts of oppression and the quest for a permanent haven;

I'M HELPING --

in a GI sort of way; a meal today or tomorrow is a jab at Old Man Hunger -- cigarettes, caramelli, chewing gum, soap, razor blades, 100 lire -- they're expressions of aid -- but only atomic -- commas, so to speak, in the story of aid for them;

I BELIEVE THE TIME IS RIPE

to give a "booster shot" of hope to sinking hearts -- to strike a mighty and hefty blow on the Coney Island hammer and sock the dial pointer from the zero point of chronic beggary and hobodom toward the ceiling mark of freedom and security;

I understand that a sort of assembly line of assistance is being formed -- that President Roosevelt recently appointed a War Refugee Board headed by you, Mr. Pehle -- to tackle this job -- starting by removing Jewish refugees from Axis-satellite countries;

I wonder how far the War Refugee Board has progressed -- I'd like to know!

Respectfully,

David Sherbowsky,  
Pvt., Mos., 7th Army  
APO 758, Postmaster, Nyc

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reply please  
refer to: 626

Dear Private Sherbovsky:

I have your letter of April 21, 1944, relating your personal experience with refugees and requesting information as to the work the Board is doing in rescuing these unfortunate people.

The War Refugee Board was created by the President on January 28, for the purpose of taking all possible measures to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war. Copies of the Executive Order establishing the Board and the White House press release of the same date are enclosed.

To accomplish its purpose, the Board has initiated numerous measures to rescue refugees from enemy territory, particularly from the Balkans and Central Europe, to find havens of refuge for them in places of safety where they may receive medical care and other needed assistance, to persuade the satellite countries to desist from cooperation with Hitler's program of persecution and extermination of minority peoples, and otherwise to obtain better treatment for those remaining under the Nazi yoke. Established private organizations engaged in refugee and relief activities are cooperating with the Board in the development and execution of its programs. The Board has also stationed representatives in strategic countries in order to expedite these measures. I am enclosing some press releases issued by the Board which may be of particular interest to you in connection with your inquiry, and a copy of the President's Statement of March 24, in which he has called upon all freedom-loving people to rally to this righteous undertaking in the name of justice and humanity.

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I am sure you will appreciate that the nature of this task is such that a detailed account of our work cannot be given. I can assure you, however, that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve the humanitarian objectives for which it was created, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Fvt. David Sherbowsky,  
Headquarters, 7th Army,  
A.P.O. #756, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

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Dear Private Sherbowsky:

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J. W. Pehls  
Executive Director

Pvt. David Sherbowsky,  
Headquarters, 7th Army,  
A.P.O. #758, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

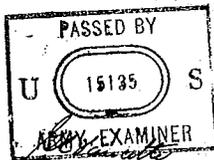
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Pvt D Sherbowsky,  
Hqs., 7th Army,  
APO 758,  
Postmaster, N Y C



Mr. John Pehle,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington, D.C.  
U.S.A.



*Capt*

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

Pvt. David Sherbowsky,  
Headquarters, 7th Army,  
A.P.O. #758, c/o Postmaster,  
New York, New York.

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W. R. B.  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
Ans.  
No. Ans. Req.  
21 April 1944.  
Date

- Somewhere in Sicily -

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War Refugee Board,  
Washington, D.C.

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*David K. Kowitz*

(Pvt., Hqs., 7th Army, APO 758, Postmaster, N Y C)

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



*air mail  
letterhead*

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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