

Tully Archive: LeHand Papers

Correspondence: Kennedy, Joseph P., 1938-1941 and undated

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum

Collection: Grace Tully Archive

Series: Marguerite ("Missy") LeHand Papers

Box 10; Folder = Correspondence: Kennedy, Joseph P., 1938-1941 and undated



April 10, 1938

Dear Missy,

After the dinner  
last night with the King  
and Queen and the  
Neville Chamberlains, I

the first thing.

I have never enjoyed any

the entire family deeply appre



WINDSOR CASTLE

April 16, 1939.

Dear Missy,

Here we are again  
with the chief topic of  
conversation "Roosevelt's  
note" and the coming trip

Miss Marguerite  
The White House.

Dear Missy,  
my best always and  
a Happy Christmas  
MR. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY  
Joe

Happy Easter  
MR. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY  
Joe

ce and am doing it

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY  
CHAIRMAN, SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

could have hoped

atisfied with the

nterview with the

President's mother

he told me with

talk with the

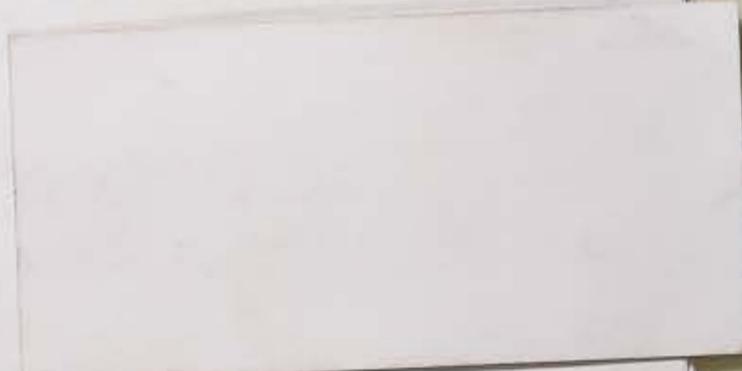


*Miss Margaret LeHand*  
*The White House*  
*Washington*  
*D. C.*  
*U. S. A.*

*Personal*

I have just returned to the of  
 the first thing.

I have never enjoyed anything so much. I and  
 the entire family deeply appreciate what you did in



*Miss Margaret LeHand*  
*White House*  
*Washington*  
*D. C. U. S. A.*

*Personal*

The White House.



... interview with the  
 the President's mother  
 and he told me with  
 his talk with the



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London, March 17, 1939

Dear Missy,

I hope you received the wire I sent you from Paris. I was so terribly busy when I got to Rome that I didn't have much of a chance to write you. I have just returned to the office and am doing it the first thing.

I have never enjoyed anything so much. I and the entire family deeply appreciate what you did in making it possible for us to go. Rose and I both feel that the President conferred an honor on us all far beyond anything we ever could have hoped for.

I hope the President was satisfied with the statement I gave out after my interview with the Holy Father. He mentioned the President's mother and Mrs. Roosevelt and you, and he told me with what pleasure he remembered his talk with the President.

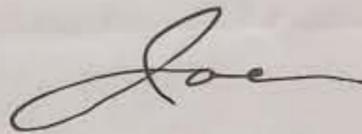
Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House.

-2-

The Pope gave me yesterday morning when we went to Communion - and, by the way, he gave little Teddy his First Communion - a medal of the Coronation for you and one for Frank Murphy. I am sending them both to you and will ask that you give one to Frank. Tell him I am writing him, but it probably won't go on this boat. Also, I expect to have the first signed photograph of His Holiness for the President and will send it along as soon as I receive it.

Again with my thanks, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe".

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
London, August 31, 1939

*Dear Missy,*

I received a letter yesterday from Bernard's wife telling me of his sudden death, and thanking me for all I had done. I wrote her and told her how terribly stunned I was to get the sad news, and that she need have no feeling of gratitude at all, because it was a pleasure to do it for Bernard, and especially because of you.

I know how deeply interested you were in this brother, Missy, and I feel that you have so many troubles in the position you hold that it is almost more than one can bear to have a shock like this. There isn't anything I can say to you at this time, except that I do feel terribly for you and assure you that, as always, I am yours to command for anything I can do.

*Sincerely  
Joe*

I know you will be interested to know that the British had decided to let the Duchess of Windsor run a hospital in England - quite a bit removed from London - because they thought it would look better than having

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House.



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London, October 3, 1939

*Dear Missy*

You will probably have heard from me before you receive this regarding the check for Rabbit Durand. I am very glad to be of any assistance at all, so just put me down for whatever you want, and it will be perfectly satisfactory to me. I have told my office in New York to find out from you what you need and to send you a check accordingly. I am terribly sorry the poor girl is having a hard time.

Regarding the situation; it has been frightfully hectic since war was declared, but, with the Americans pretty well out of here now, and with the line-up made with most of the Departments, I should think that the actual work would sort of ease up. Naturally, the strain will always be there as long as there is a war on.

Of course, I am not carried away by this war for idealism. I can't see any use in everybody in Europe going busted and having communism run riot. My own belief is that the economics of Germany would have taken care of Hitler long before this if he didn't have a chance to wave that flag every once in a while. But, of course, one isn't supposed to say this out loud. The British are going about this war hating it, but with determination to fight it out. I still don't know what they are fighting for that is possible of accomplishment.

I know you will be interested to know that the British had decided to let the Duchess of Windsor run a hospital in England - quite a bit removed from London - because they thought it would look better than having

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
The White House.

her in France, but I am of the opinion that the Duke and several members of the Cabinet thought the whole business should be patched up socially with the Queen, but that young lady has ideas of her own and decided they could patch up anything they wanted to, but leave her out. So the Duchess received no social approbation and took herself by the hand and went back to France with the Duke. That's about the only social high-light since the war.

It is lonesome as the devil here without the family and at the same time the delivery of mail is very bad and chances are from now on it is going to be worse, particularly with no American ships stopping in England, and it is my belief that there will be very few neutrals. The worst of it is you can't keep in touch with your friends in the States and you haven't the slightest idea what's going on over there. The only American news being carried in the English newspapers is about the fight on the Neutrality Act. Last night, however, the papers carried a picture of Dewey and said he was far ahead of all other candidates for the Republican nomination. I know the world is screwy and that everything is topsy-turvy, but to have Dewey as candidate of a big Party to run the United States with the problems that are facing it is just the surest indication that either I have gone completely screwy or else I have lived ten years too long.

Give Be's my love and tell her she was very sweet to drop me that note. Tell her also she still has that soft spot in my heart.

Regardless of all the troubles we have over here, you must be having plenty of your own, so take good care of yourself and possibly we may all have a chance to meet up sooner than we expect.

*My heart to you always  
Love  
Joe*



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London, September 30, 1940.

Dear Missy:

I received your letter of August 22nd on September 11th, and the President's letter to Mr. Churchill which you enclosed was sent to him at once.

Now today I received a note from Robson Lowe, Ltd., in which they say:

"Last May the President of the United States purchased a number of items by auction but up to the present moment have received no remittance. We have forwarded various statements to the American Embassy to which we were directed to send them. We think it may possibly have been overlooked and the enclosed statement will give you details of the amount outstanding which you will observe is nearly five months old."

If you will just tell me what you want done about that, I can take care of it right here.

Well I don't suppose I can give you any news about what is going on here, because of course you hear everything from the President. It is a new experience, and one probably never to be forgotten, to go to sleep with German planes droning over your head and gunfire all around you, to play golf and ride horseback under the same conditions, and constantly see and listen to people who have lost everything; for you seldom meet a person who has not suffered some loss himself or had some intimate friend affected by this dreadful debacle.

Miss Marguerite Le Hand,  
The White House,  
WASHINGTON.

-2-

As far as I am concerned, I am getting along very well. The only thing I am unhappy about is that I have nothing important to do. If it hadn't been for the fact that I didn't want it to look as if I was leaving here before the bombing began, I would have left long ago. I have never been very happy sitting around and not making a real contribution to the job I was supposed to do. However, I suppose everybody gets maladjusted in a war. At any rate I am hoping I will be seeing you soon, and in the meantime give my love to Betsy if you see her and all those who you think would be interested.

Yours sincerely,

Joe

2381-2

STATEMENT

CADIES.  
STAMPS, LONDON

26/9/40

1940	May 16	YOPHA 3961	£ 8 2 6
------	--------	------------	---------

18, 1940  
[1941]

please  
President

on this

will be  
seeing you,

love  
you

If undelivered, please return to:  
ROBSON LOWE LTD., 96 REGENT ST., W.1.

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt,*  
*The American Embassy,*  
 *Grosvenor Sq. W.1.*

PLEASE DO NOT TEAR OFF YOUR NAME

*In account with*

**ROBSON LOWE LTD.**

LONDON'S LARGEST STAMP BUYERS

96 REGENT STREET

LONDON, W.1

JOSEPH P. KENNEDY  
9 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

January 18, 1940  
[1941]

Dear Missy, would you please  
give this letter to the President?  
I've had the worst 2 months  
I ever had in my life.

Anyhow perhaps I'll be  
better soon and be seeing you,

Love

Joseph