

THE GEORGE PUTNAM FUND OF BOSTON

FIFTY STATE STREET

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES

March 30, 1942

The President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you because I believe that a situation is developing that might become serious. There is no use in writing to Archie MacLeish about it, as he has no more power than I have to correct it.

X1773 - X4695 X144

I refer to excessive censorship of news. Everyone believes that the German and Japanese general staffs get at least most of the facts and that only loyal Americans are kept in ignorance.

What I think I detect is the same sort of numb and disturbed feeling (not complacent at all) that existed in Neville Chamberlain's England or Daladier's France.

The Navy raids Wake Island? The Japs give their version immediately. The Navy waits a month before giving theirs. To say that the necessity for radio silence should cause as much delay as that seems specious.

Why not give us some of the real facts about our production program? Something to make us all realize what is being accomplished? People are trying to work hard, but there is such worry and uncertainty that the results are not what they might be. There are two things that could make them produce that extra effort that gets the superlative results. One is a feeling of desperation such as the British had after Dunkirk, and the other is the enthusiasm from results known and shared. God protect us from ever having the first stimulus, but a more intelligent handling of the news could give us some of the second.

X249

X4488

Give us details of our plane and tank production. If the results are good it will stimulate us all, and should be broadcast to the people of Germany and Japan in an effort to sow discouragement. If the results are not good a public airing is the best corrective.

- 2 -

The President

March 30, 1942

A small detail, but one that should be better handled, is the matter of official communiques. In all the welter of people in Washington it should be possible to find some one who can make these readable.

In view of the conversation that we had the last time that you and I talked together, I shall be curious to know whether this letter ever gets to you personally. The evil that I speak of has not yet reached serious proportions, but the time to correct it is before it takes hold more deeply. The action must come from you as none of your subordinates down the line would dare to change the existing routine. Maybe some real facts in one of your press conferences would be a good beginning.

Sincerely yours,

George F. Putnam

GP:ALH

file

THE GEORGE PUTNAM FUND OF BOSTON

FIFTY STATE STREET
THE WHITE HOUSE

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES

APR 8 12 11 PM '42

RECEIVED

April 7, 1942

The President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

PP7, 960

It was very nice of you indeed to take the trouble to answer my letter. As a matter of fact, as you well know I should not have written at all had I not felt that a situation was developing which might become quite serious.

I am a little surprised by your second paragraph. As I understand it a Task Force is sent out by the Navy Department to raid some particular Jap Island. The raid is successful (we hope) and the Japs announce their version of the story. Is it possible that our Navy Department knows nothing except the Tokyo version until our ships arrive at some refueling base days later? This seems to me rather incredible. It was my thought that the Navy could announce something before they were prepared to give entire and full details.

I have never assumed or heard anyone else assume that anything given out was other than the truth. I think you and your people deserve a great deal of credit for that. My letter was based on the belief that an unnecessary amount of secrecy was being indulged in and that the morale of this country which is fundamentally very sound could be and would be stimulated by more information as to exactly what our effort is producing.

A very large percentage of the population is engaged in some way in furthering the National Effort. Naturally most people's jobs are so small that they can not see the whole picture. In order to produce that extra something of effort I believe it necessary and proper that more information or results be given out.

- 2 -

The President

4/7/42

The remarks of Mr. Donald Nelson over the weekend were very much to the point and a very definite start in the right direction.

Once again thank you very much indeed for your most courteous letter.

As ever yours,

George Putnam

GP:ALH

May 19, 1945

MISS TULLY

MRS BOETTIGER ASKED ME TO RETURN THESE
TO YOU.

D E KRAUSS

1945

PPF

960

Dear Anna:

Perhaps you will recall the enclosed letter from your friend, Janet Mabie, who wrote about Amelia Earhart. Admiral Brown has sent me information contained in the Navy Department's files in regard to her proposed flight to the Pacific. However, they do not seem to know much about what was done by the President in the way of searching for her plane when she was long overdue.

I have a vague recollection of the President telling the Naval Aide to be sure and see that everything was done humanly possible to find her. There does not seem to be anything in writing.

Perhaps if Miss Mabie contacted Mr. Gene Vidal, he might be able to give her more accurate information than we seem to have.

I do hope that Johnny continues to hold his own and that you will have him home with you very soon. Don't forget I want to run in and see you and John one evening when you have a little free time. With much love,

Affectionately,

GRACE G. TULLY

Mrs. John Boettiger,
Wardman Park Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures - 2 letters from Miss Mabie of March 25, 1945.

P.S. You may want to return this file to me when you have finished with it for the record.

Janet Mabie

file

May 15, 1945

Dear Anna:

Perhaps you will recall the enclosed letter from your friend, Janet Mabie, who wrote about Amelia Earhart. Admiral Brown has sent me information contained in the Navy Department's files in regard to her proposed flight to the Pacific. However, they do not seem to know much about what was done by the President in the way of searching for her plane when she was long overdue.

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GRACE G. TULLY

Mrs. John Boettiger,
Wardman Park Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures - 2 letters from Miss Mabie of March 25, 1945.

P.S. You may want to return this file to me when you have finished with it for the record.

Anna Mabie

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 15, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Miss Tully.

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I do hope that Johnny continues to hold his own and that you will have him home with you very soon. Don't forget I want to run in and see you and John one evening when you have a little free time. With much love,

Affectionately,

This letter was passed to the Chief of Naval Operations on 16 November 1936 via Captain E. Bastedo (the Naval Aide) stating that "the President hoped the Navy would do what they could to cooperate with Miss Amelia Earhart in her proposed flight and that in this connection contact should be made with her husband, Mr. Putnam."

GRACE G. TULLY

The Office of Naval Records has no information in the files of the Chief of Naval Operations to indicate there was White House interest in the search for Amelia Earhart. It would appear that whatever the President did was done by personal conversation or by telephone.

Mrs. John Boettiger,
Wardman Park Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

Very respectfully,

Enclosure - 2 letters from Miss Mabie of March 25, 1945.

P.S. You may want to return this file to me when you have finished with it for the record.

Noted Mabie

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9 April 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Miss Tully.

Subject: Aid given by the President in the search for Amelia Earhart.

White House files disclose that on July 26, 1937 the President told Secretary McIntyre that he would like to see Mr. Gene Vidal for five or ten minutes. It appears that at that time Mr. Vidal (referred to in Miss Mabie's letter) was in very close touch with Mr. Putnam, husband of Amelia Earhart. Other files show that at this same time Mr. Marvin McIntyre was in contact with Mr. Putnam and apparently was acting as liaison between Mr. Putnam and the State Department, which was active in enlisting the participation of the British in a search through the Gilbert Islands. This search took place about the first week in August 1937.

Going back earlier, we do find a letter in the files of the Naval Aide to the President written by Amelia Earhart to the President asking the President to help her secure naval cooperation in her proposed flight. This letter was passed to the Chief of Naval Operations on 16 November 1936 via Captain Paul H. Bastedo (the Naval Aide) stating that "the President hoped the Navy would do what they could to cooperate with Miss Amelia Earhart in her proposed flight and that in this connection contact should be made with her husband, Mr. Putnam."

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Very respectfully,

W. T. Brown

Miss Mabie

Full

45 East 55th Street
New York City
25 March, 1945

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am just back from California where I went to talk with AE's mother. I don't think she knows how, and how much, you helped, and it would touch and gratify her if it were part of the book. She is gallant about losing AE, and cherishes special evidences of admiration of her.

And so, for a book designed as a testament of admiration, I can't resist taking the liberty of asking you direct, if some way can be worked out. I would like to ask to see you but have a feeling that is too much. Mr. Vidal is wonderful about recalling the day-to-day circumstances. But if I could possibly have some of it from you ? In any case, both he and Mr. Baruch encourage me to make the try.

Respectfully yours,

Janet Mabie JANET MABIE

45 East 55th Street
New York City
25 March, 1945

The Honourable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C..

My dear Mr. President:

I am in process of writing a biography of Amelia Earhart. By way of being assigned by The Christian Science Monitor to cover her, I saw her continuously through the approximately nine years of her public life.

Approaching the subject in terms of character and personality rather than events, I am deliberately avoiding ground hitherto covered as much as I can, and having marvelous luck in finding sources of new light on someone I feel was one of the great people.

This week I had invaluable conversations with Mr. Bernard Baruch and Mr. Gene Vidal. I feel I should apologize for writing you in the preoccupied period between Yalta and the San Francisco Conference, to say nothing of the war itself. But unfortunately I am trapped by the deadline of the mss., only six weeks off, and must do it now or not at all. Both men seemed to feel you would understand this, considering the subject.

I know you perceived and admired a special quality in AE, and the things she stood for and accomplished. I know that after she disappeared you bore a personal hand in the search, moreover drawing on an unparalleled naval experience to, yourself, direct the details. Yet you will appreciate why that would be a dull way for me to handle it, just to say that you did, and let it go at that. To do justice to the facts it would be very moving I think to show that The President personally helped with the search, and the actual steps, the atmosphere of personal concern, the experienced attention spared by a phenomenally busy man. If I could tell the story as it happened from hour to hour and day to day it would be maximum human interest. Parenthetically I am just back from California where I went to talk with AE's mother. I don't think she knows how, and how much, you helped, and it would touch and gratify her if it were part of the book. She is gallant about losing AE, and cherishes special evidences of admiration of her.

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Respectfully yours,

Janet Mabie JANET MABIE

Miss Tully
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Very respectfully,

/s/ W. BROWN.

PUTNAM, George Palmer, Esq.,
New York, N.Y.
March 22, 1934

Sends the President an article written by Amelia Earhart,
about aviation, which was to appear in the next Sunday's Tribune.

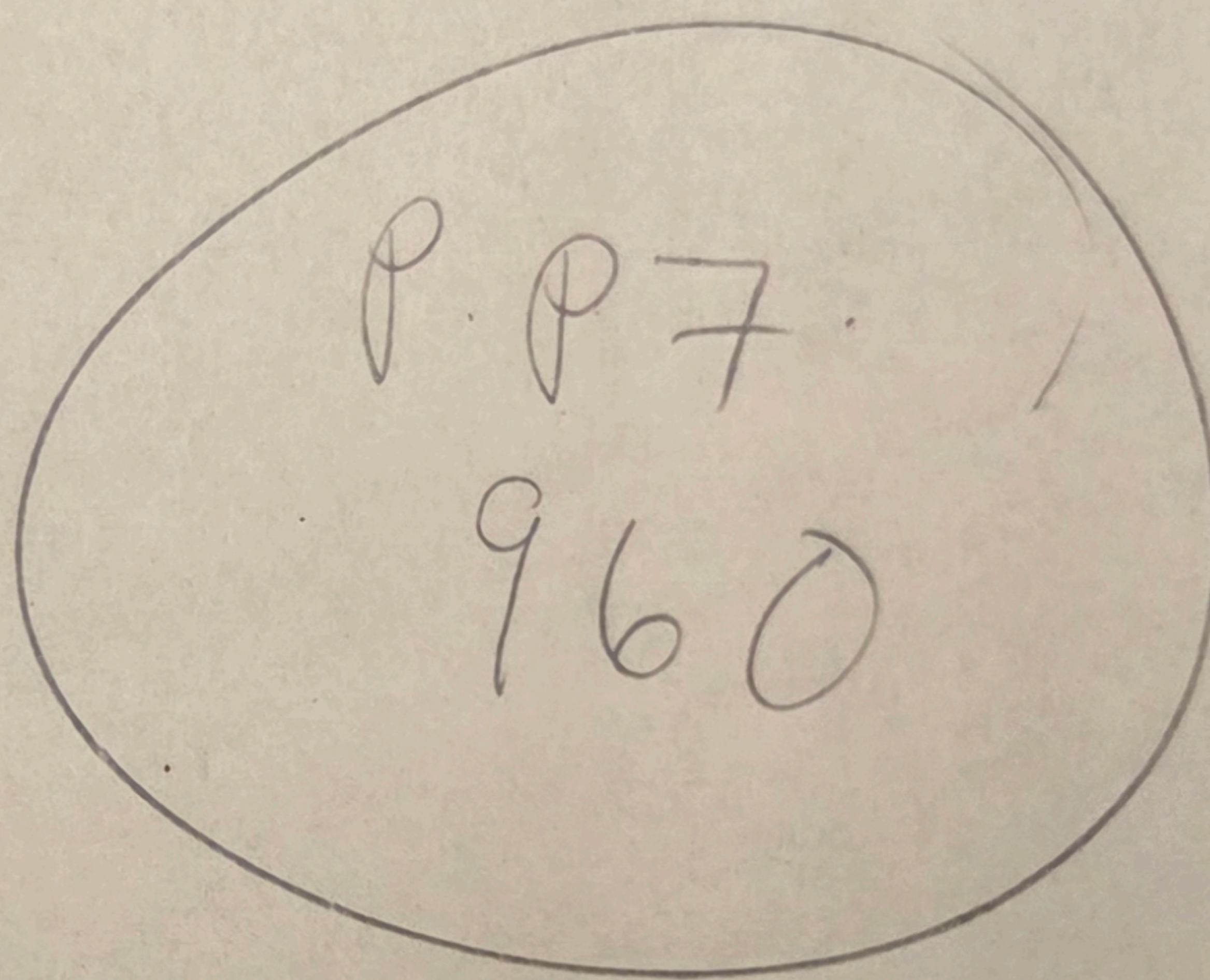
See 249

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PUTNAM, GEORGE P.,
New York, N.Y.
Jan. 28, 1935.

Letter to Mr. McIntyre, regarding a special letter which
Amelia Earhart carried across the Pacific sent to the President by Governor
Poindexter and enclosed in a unique decorated envelope.

See P.P.F.37-P



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BOETTIGER, Mrs. John,
Women's Activities, Democratic State Committee,
New York, N.Y.
October 6, 1936

Writes to Miss LeHand enclosing a card which was handed to her by Mr. Eddie Dowling, who told her at the same time, that Mr. Emanuel Cohen had just handed in a check for \$1,000. Mr. Cohen was approached by Mr. George Palmer Putnam. Mrs. Boettiger states that Mr. Dowling thinks that the President should write Mr. Cohen a personal note of thanks. Enclosed is newspaper clipping containing article captioned "My Day", written on the previous day by the President's wife. On Oct. 20, 1936 Col. McIntyre wrote personal note to Mr. Emanuel Cohen, c/o Major Pictures Corporation, Hollywood, Calif, expressing the appreciation of "all of us" concerning the above.

See 300-C

P.P.7.
960

BUDGET, The Acting Director of the Bureau of the
Jan. 8, 1937

Mr. McIntyre referred for draft reply a wire of Jan. 8 to the President from Amelia Earhart, Burbank, Cal., who says just before the President left for South America she wrote about her proposed round the world flight this spring and hoped for Navy Cooperation in refuelling west of Hawaii, which was subsequently kindly arranged by Admiral Standley. Says since then the necessity for such difficult and costly maneuvers has been obviated and instead she hopes to land on Howland Island where the Government is about to establish an emergency field. Says Dept. of Commerce approves her plan and the Interior Dept. is very cooperative as is the Coast Guard. Says all details are arranged and the construction party with equipment due to sail from Honolulu next week. Says she is now informed that apparently some question re WPA appropriation in amount of \$3,000 which covers all costs other than those borne by her for this mid-pacific pioneer landing field which will be permanently useful and valuable aeronautically and nationally. Understands its moving requires executive approval and asks that it be expedited. - Director Bell submitted draft, which Mr. McIntyre sent Miss Earhart on Jan. 11 saying, in part, that an allocation of Federal funds has been made by the President to WPA to enable the Bureau of Air Commerce to carry out the construction of such a field. Understands the necessary equipment and labor for this work will be transported to Howland Island by the Coast Guard Service on a boat scheduled to leave Honolulu on Jan. 12th.

SEE - 249 Official

PPF
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SEE - 249 Official (Official File)

P.P.F.

960

CROSSON, Charles S.,
Huguenot Park, Staten Island, N.Y., N.Y.
Jan. 30, 1938.

Sends two covers, a stamp doily and a picture of Amelia Earhart to the President. Extends birthday greetings.

See P.P.F.37-C

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P.P.F.
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The following send birthday greetings to the President. Filed 2-1-38

CHAPEL, Mrs. Ella E.,
Warren, Pa.
FAGAN, Theresa,
Mount Vernon, Wash.
CROSSON, Charles S.,
Staten Island, N.Y.
(Encloses stamp doily-returned)
GRAVELY, Landon Dickinson,
Axton, Va.
JOHNSON, Jacob,
Brattleboro Vt.
ARNETT, Miss Clara,
Columbus, Ohio.
RIEHL, Max M.,
Brisbane, N.Dak.
AUSTIN, Betty Lou,
Elwood, Kans.
HARBOUGH, George,
Oakdale, Pa.
BACON, Mrs. Leona,
Los Angeles, Calif.
EDWARD, Jr., Clyde,
Bemarton, Texas.
DEUTSCH, Bruce M.,
New York, N.Y.
JENSEN, Mrs. Alfred H.,
Reed Point, Mont.
GREGORY, G.E.,
Mayfield, Ky.
FRANCO, Grace,
Brooklyn, N.Y.
BILLING, June,
Anna, Ohio.
KRAUS, Alma,
Pleasant Dale, Nebr.
DOUGLAS, Helen,
Everett, Wash.
EARL, Kenneth,
Jasper, Mo.
CUPPY, LaVerne,
No address
BELLEMORE, Miss D.,
Marrero, La.

GILMORE, A.M.,
Wamego, Kans.
DOWE, James Sylvanus H.,
Dunbar, Pa.
JIMENEZ, Mrs. Aguida,
Hayward, Calif.
JACOBUS, Charlotte A.,
Chatham, N.J.
DOYLE, Margaret,
Los Angeles, Calif.
(Requests President's signature)
BORGENDALE, Charles,
Dawson, Minn.
FOSSLER, Miss Mabel,
Pasadena, Calif.
FATSCHER, A. Edwin,
Port Richmond, S.I., N.Y.
GLIDR, Edward S.,
McBain, Mich.
KAISER, Mrs. Margaret,
Hammond, Ind.
HICKS, Miss Thelma,
Meadow Grove, Nebr.
DAVIS, Kenneth Leroy,
Jackson, Mich.
BOLEN, Mrs. Hardie,
Neeses, S.Car.
BALOCH, Joe,
Windber, Pa.
CASEY, Virginia,
Elkin, N.Car.
GAMPER, Mrs. John,
Medford, Wisc.
BRYAN, Mrs. William,
San Francisco, Calif.
GENNIS, Melvin,
Detroit, Mich.
DAY, Phyllis Jean,
Ontario, Calif.
HENLKY, Judith P.,
Carthage, Ind.
(Requests autographed picture)

See P.P.F.310-

ags

PARK, Paul
Los Angeles, Calif.
1-28-38

Sent the President a photograph of "Amelia Earhart".

SEE P.P.F. 9-P

P. P. F.

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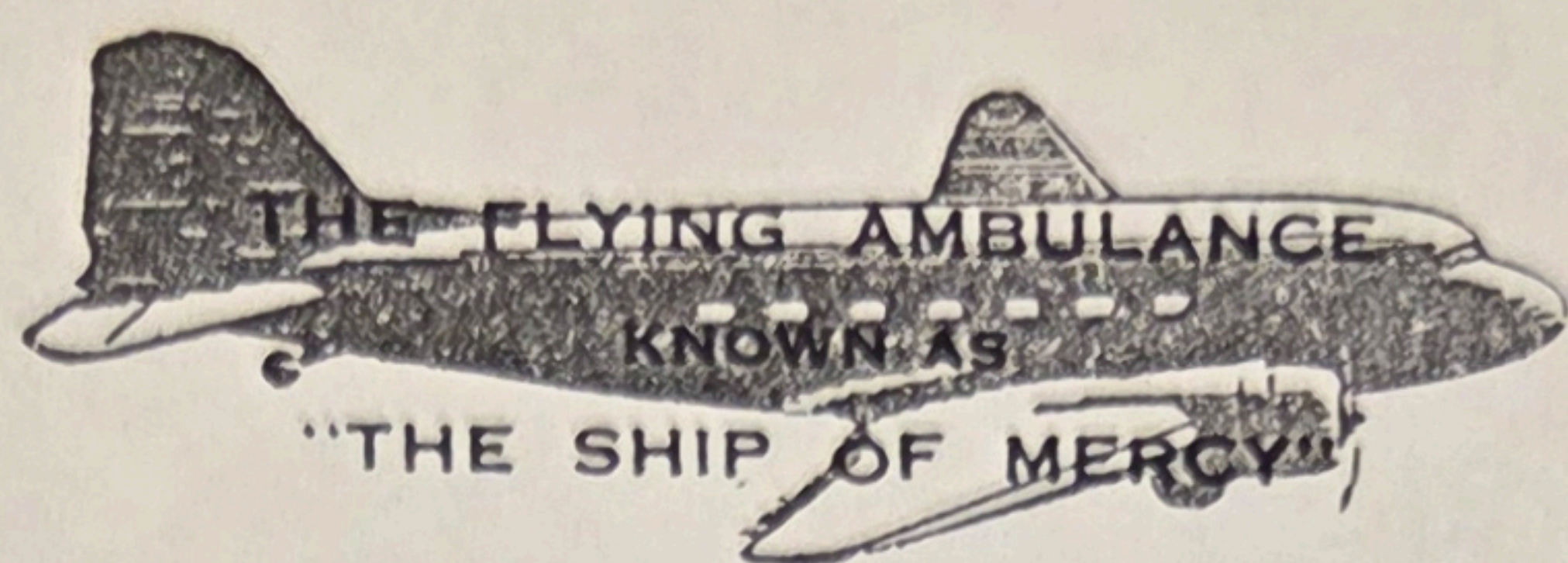
Oct. 14, 1943. Ackd. 10/16/43.

Let. to the President asking his aid in securing an Army or Navy Band for the Navy Day celebration at which time the Amelia Earhart Memorial Civic Club is going to dedicate the flying ambulance "the Amelia Earhart Ship of Mercy." Mrs. Amy Earhart, mother of Amelia, will christen the ambulance.

Orig. let. referred by memo, 10/16/43, to the War Dept. for attention and ack. Copy of let. referred by memo, 10/16/43, to Navy Dept. for attention and ack. Copy retained for our files.

SEE: 18-Misc.

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*You and your friends
are cordially invited to attend the*

Dedication

of the

Flying Ambulance

by the

Amelia Earhart Memorial Civic Club

Navy Day, Wednesday October 27th, 1943

at 2:30 p. m.

in

*Congress Plaza
Grant Park, Chicago*