

March 26, 1946

My dear Lieutenant Heet:

Your letter of March fifteenth to the President has been received. He asks me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing to him and to express his appreciation of the interest which prompted your suggestion.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

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Lieutenant R. E. Heet,
2020 Elsmere Avenue,
Dayton 6,
Ohio.

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357-F

United States Army Air Forces
TOKYO, JAPAN

ckd
m.m.
3-26-46

15 March 1946

The President of the United States,
Washington 25, D.C.

Sir:

This following letter may sound very foolish to you and you may find many mistakes which I, at the present time, find impossible to correct due to the lack of library facilities. I have nothing to gain by writing this letter other than to gain your attention in a matter all americans should never forget.

The case to which I refer is that of Amelia Earhart. This evening, for the second time in many months, the officers and men of my Air Force unit, saw the picture "Flight For Freedom". Although this picture does not use the name of Amelia Earhart or other well-known flyers, all america believes it to be the life of that well-known girl flyer. Although the story was made by Hollywood, it still stacks too close to reality to be miss-leading. All the men in the Army Air Forces feel attached to such a girl, I'm sure. Due to the use made of the Navy in the picture, it somehow seems to have the sanction of the War Department.

The war has been over for 6 months now. We are in Japan and the top secret information that was once so important to our war effort, now seems to be open to inspection and comment. Many heroic deeds have come to light since the war's end. Many men and women have been decorated for outstanding deeds performed in secret. It is with this in mind, that I take it upon myself to compose this letter.

To my knowledge, no women in the United States has ever received the Congressional Medal of Honor. I believe that the case of Miss Earhart should be brought to the light and if the story that all america believes is true, Amelia Earhart should be given the coveted medal in recognition of her services to the people of the United States of America. Someone in history once said, I believe, "No greater love, hath no man, then to lay down his life for a friend". You could very easily substitute the word "country" in place of "friend". (Perhaps that phrase was in the bible...I'm not sure.)

I believe that you see my point. If it is possible, let the people hear the true story of her ending and the reason behind it all.

As a citizen-soldier of the United States, and one due to be returned to the former status within the month, I would appreciate your thought towards this matter. It just so happens that I was assigned work of very little importance in this war...therefore, I did nothing heroic. However, I firmly believe that those who did, should be recognized and publicly thanked. We owe them a great deal we can never repay.

HOME ADDRESS:

2020 Elsmere Ave.,
Dayton 6, Ohio.

Respectfully,

R.E. Heet,
Lt., AC

Lt. R. E. Heet, O-588976
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% FM., San Francisco.



The President of the United States,
Washington 25, D.C.