

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 404986

CA 001

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 05, 1986

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. MURIEL EARHART MORRISSEY

SUBJECT: THE <sup>sister</sup> BROTHER OF AMELIA EARHART ASKS WHETHER  
THERE ARE ANY GOVERNMENT RECORDS PERTAINING  
TO HER FLIGHT AND THE SEARCH FOR HER PLANE

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ANNE HIGGINS		ORG	86/06/05	AH	48/07/22 AB
<u>DO D</u>	REFERRAL NOTE: <u>ASAP</u>	F	86/06/05		C 86/07/15 AB
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	*OF SIGNER	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	*CODE = A	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*		*OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

July 22, 1986

Dear Mrs. Morrissey:

On behalf of President Reagan, thank you for your letter. I am truly sorry for the delay in this reply, but due to the heavy volume of mail which the President receives each day, we cannot always answer as quickly as we would like. Also, some delay has resulted from our efforts to be as fully responsive to you as possible.

The deep personal interest that prompted you to write is understood and appreciated. In response to your request about government records pertaining to your late sister, Amelia Earhart, I am enclosing for you a fact sheet and two enclosures supplied by the Department of Defense. I hope that this material will be of assistance to you.

With President Reagan's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

Mrs. Muriel Earhart Morrissey  
Apartment 25C  
520 High Street  
West Medford, MA 02155

Encls: Amelia Earhart Fact Sheet, U.S. Naval History  
Division Fact Sheet, The Flight of Amelia  
Earhart (all from DOD)

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OCR.101

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 16, 1986

~~MORRISSEY~~

Dear Mrs. Morrissey:

AMH DE

Encls: Amelia Earhart  
Fact Sheet  
USN History Division  
Fact Sheet  
Flight of Amelia  
Earhart Fact Sheet



July 18, 1986

Dear Mrs. Morrissey:

On behalf of President Reagan, thank you for your letter. I am truly sorry for the delay in this reply, but due to the heavy volume of mail which the President receives each day, we cannot always answer as quickly as we would like. Also, some delay has resulted from our efforts to be as fully responsive to you as possible.

The deep personal interest that prompted you to write is understood and appreciated. In response to your request about government records pertaining to your late sister, Amelia Earhart, I am enclosing for you a fact sheet and two enclosures supplied by the Department of Defense. I hope that this material will be of assistance to you.

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Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

Mrs. Muriel Earhart Morrissey  
Apartment 25C  
520 High Street  
West Medford, MA 02155

✓ Encls: Amelia Earhart Fact Sheet, U.S. Naval History  
Division Fact Sheet, The Flight of Amelia  
Earhart (all from DOD)

AVH:DE:AVH:sew 7AVH



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

July 15, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

In accordance with your request, attached is a fact sheet  
with two enclosures regarding Amelia Earhart.

*Charlotte G. Cochard*  
Charlotte G. Cochard  
Lt Colonel, USA  
Military Assistant

Attachments

*Dan - can you pls do  
note & enclose  
this stuff -  
interesting*

*9*

## Fact Sheet: AMELIA EARHART

A thorough search for Amelia Earhart Putnam was conducted by the U.S. Navy at the time of her disappearance. As a result of various published allegations, additional investigations were conducted. These disclosed nothing of accurate substance to support the belief that Ms. Earhart was engaged in any type of espionage or reconnaissance activity for the United States.

Most of the material compiled by the U.S. Government on Amelia Earhart and her final flight was transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) some years ago. These records include most of the material relating to her disappearance. The Naval Historical Center and the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command do, however, maintain additional records relating to Ms. Earhart.

The Naval Historical Center maintains seven reels of microfilm on Ms. Earhart and the massive search conducted for her plane. Four of these reels are copies of material contained in NARA, but three of the reels preserve unique documents such as the reports of the 14th Naval District, the logs of the Coast Guard ships that searched the area of Ms. Earhart's final flight, the reports of the USS LEXINGTON, and correspondence from the Office of the Secretary of the Navy.

The enclosed checklist from the U.S. Naval History Division's Operational Archives provides summaries of the individual reels of microfilm and distinguishes between those reels which are unique



and those which are on file with NARA. Copies of this microfilm cost \$5 per reel and may be ordered from the following address:

Naval Historical Center  
Operational Archives Branch  
Building 57  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, DC 20374

Also included in this package is an information sheet prepared by the Historical Center on Ms. Earhart's last flight. It summarizes the results of the various Navy investigations into her disappearance and the persistent rumors that Ms. Earhart was acting as an agent for the U.S. Government at the time of her disappearance.

The records of the Army Intelligence and Security Command on this subject may be obtained under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. These documents deal exclusively with Ms. Earhart's disappearance. Most are from General Headquarters, U.S. Army Supreme Command, in Tokyo. They discuss the Japanese Government's efforts in the search for Ms. Earhart's plane, and many of the documents are in Japanese. There is nothing to indicate that the Japanese considered Ms. Earhart a foreign agent or spy, or that they ever held her prisoner. According to the records, their interest in locating her plane stemmed from the same humanitarian impulses that inspired the other searchers.

Requests for this material must be submitted in writing and contain a clause noting that the material is requested under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. These requests should be directed to the address listed below:

Freedom of Information/Privacy Office  
U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command  
ATTN: IACSF/FI  
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755

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U.S. NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION ..  
OPERATIONAL ARCHIVES

25 April 1974

Records Relating to Amelia Earhart

1. Naval Investigative Service (Office of Naval Intelligence) File.

Includes the records of official naval investigations into allegations regarding the disappearance of Amelia Earhart. The file also contains a copy of the Fourteenth Naval District Report of the Earhart Search by U. S. Navy and U. S. Coast Guard Units 2-18 July 1937. Covers period 2 July 1937 - 9 June 1967; 360 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-D.

2. National Archives Record Group 26 - Records of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Includes messages; Pan American Airways report; Earhart plane flight; transcript of USCG ITASCA log, July 1937; and correspondence. Covers period 2 July 1937 - May 1938; 505 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-C.

3. National Archives Record Group 37 - Records of the Hydrographic Office (File A4-3, Box 22).

Correspondence concerning flight and search, weather data for Pacific Region, and weekly news letter of USS COLORADO on search. Covers period 14 October 1936 - 13 May 1938; 25 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-G.

4. National Archives Record Group 45 - Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library (File GU, Box 116).

Fourteenth Naval District, serial 095 of 31 July 1937, forwarding the basic Earhart search report. Covers period 2 - 18 July 1937; 96 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-A.

5. National Archives Record Group 80 - General Records of the Department of the Navy (File A4-5(5), Box 146).

Correspondence and messages. Covers period 31 October 1936 - 21 October 1938; 106 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-A.

(File A21-5). Correspondence concerning the proposed flight. Covers period 16 October 1936 - 11 May 1937; 20 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-B.

6. Fourteenth Naval District File (serial 17527 of 3 December 1948).

Search plan and dispatch reports of Amelia Earhart Search. Covers period of 1-25 July 1937; 487 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-E.

7. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Maintenance Division File.

Messages and correspondence relating to Amelia Earhart's around the world flight. Covers period of 20 October 1936 to 2 March 1938; 258 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-F.

8. Miscellaneous Folder

News Clips, miscellaneous correspondence, and a copy of a 1967 manuscript by Paul Briand Jr., "Requiem for Amelia." Also copies of documents accumulated by Francis X. Holbrook. Covers period 1961-1970; 149 pages.

On Reel NRS-246-G.

NOTE: Microfilm copies of these reels are available for \$5.00 each. The total set, which is seven reels, costs \$35.00. To purchase such copies, please send a check or money order for the appropriate amount (made payable to the Department of the Navy) to the U.S. Naval History Division, Building 210, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C. 20374.

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THE FLIGHT OF AMELIA EARHART

Over the past few years, the Office of Information and the Office of Naval Intelligence have conducted extensive research of existing files in response to numerous queries that have been received concerning the fate of Amelia Earhart.

One of the most persistent rumors has been that Miss Earhart and her navigator crash-landed in the Marshall Islands, were captured by the Japanese, and were then taken to the island of Saipan where they were either executed or died. Their remains were said to have been buried on Saipan. Extensive investigation and review of Navy files since the incident have continually failed to reveal any information that would substantiate this rumor.

Navy files do show, however, that Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred J. Noonan departed from New Guinea at 1000, July 2, 1937 for Howland Island. The ill-fated flight of approximately 2200 miles was recorded by the USS ONTARIO at approximately mid-point along the route and by a Coast Guard cutter at Howland Island. The USS SWAN was on station at mid-point between Howland Island and Honolulu to guard the next leg of the flight. Except for the services of ONTARIO, SWAN, and the Fleet Air Base at Pearl Harbor, the Navy had no official connection with the flight. The disappearance of the flight, naturally, caused great concern, and the Navy responded quickly with search efforts. Careful evaluation of all available flight data indicates that Amelia Earhart's plane came down at sea to the northwest of Howland Island.

Additionally, the government of Japan conducted exhaustive investigations and reported in 1960 that there was no basis whatsoever to the rumor that the Japanese executed Amelia Earhart on Saipan in 1937. In 1949, the United Press reported from Tokyo that a survey of former Japanese officials made it appear fairly certain that Amelia Earhart did not land on a Japanese-mandated island when she disappeared in 1937. Also, former Vice Admiral Selishiro Fujimori, who had jurisdiction over the islands, said he knew of no American flier who landed on these islands. He did recall, however, that the Japanese Navy also took part in the search for Miss Earhart, but these efforts were also unsuccessful.

In conclusion, a recent review of the files of the Naval Investigative Service indicates that a thorough search for Amelia Earhart was conducted at the time of her disappearance with negative results. Additional investigations conducted regarding the possibility that Miss Earhart crash-landed on or near Saipan, was a prisoner of the Japanese, and eventually died or was executed by the Japanese with subsequent burial on Saipan, have disclosed nothing of concrete substance to lend credibility to these assumptions.

Enclosure (1)



Finally, the files contain no information to substantiate allegations that Amelia Earhart was or ever had been engaged in any type of espionage activity for the U. S. Government.

The Navy plans no further public statements on this matter; however, we will, as in the past, provide factual answers when such queries arise.

T H E   W H I T E   H O U S E   O F F I C E

REFERRAL

JUNE 10, 1986

TO: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE *8*

ACTION REQUESTED:  
FURNISH FACT SHEET

REMARKS: ASAP

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 404986  
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 7, 1986  
TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN  
FROM: MS. MURIEL EARHART MORRISSEY  
520 HIGH STREET  
#25C  
WEST MEDFORD MA 02155

SUBJECT: THE BROTHER OF AMELIA EARHART ASKS WHETHER  
THERE ARE ANY GOVERNMENT RECORDS PERTAINING  
TO HER FLIGHT AND THE SEARCH FOR HER PLANE

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN  
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE  
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE  
(OR DRAFT) TO:  
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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AK

520 High Street, #25C  
West Medford, Massachusetts 02155  
May 7, 1986

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House, Capital Hill  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear President Reagan,

It has been almost fifty years since the disappearance of my sister, Amelia Earhart, during her attempted around-the-world flight in 1937. During this time, and especially in recent years, there have been persistent rumors and theories that claimed that Amelia Earhart had been asked to spy for the United States government while on this flight, and that special cameras and other equipment had been secretly placed aboard her aircraft. Although no evidence has even been found to substantiate this claim, the rumors persist nonetheless.

For many years I have been working on what I hope will be the definitive biography of my sister, and I certainly want to address this question. Previous searches by both myself and others in the Archives have failed to provide any information. Some people claim that the government would have suppressed or destroyed any such evidence. Could you, by virtue of your position, ascertain whether there are any government records pertaining to her flight and the massive search for her plane afterward which would shed any light on this question? As the fiftieth anniversary of her disappearance approaches, it would surely be satisfying to put these rumors to rest once and for all and to acknowledge either that she was serving her country in this manner or that there was no such government involvement in her flight. As an aviation pioneer in your own right, I am sure you can understand why we need your assistance.

I will be most grateful for any help that you can give me in this connection.

Most Sincerely,

*Muriel Earhart Morrissey*

Muriel Earhart Morrissey

