

WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY

JAU

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY
REFER TO

AG 201 Underwood, Charles Calvin
(5-21-42) OG.

May 21, 1942.

- Mr. Ernest Norton Underwood,
916 Polk Street,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Underwood:

According to War Department records, you have been designated as the emergency addressee of First Lieutenant Charles Calvin Underwood, O-378597, Infantry, who, according to the latest information available, was serving in the Philippine Islands at the time of the final surrender.

I deeply regret that it is impossible for me to give you more information than is contained in this letter. In the last days before the surrender of Bataan there were casualties which were not reported to the War Department. Conceivably the same is true of the surrender of Corregidor and possibly of other islands of the Philippines. The Japanese Government has indicated its intention of conforming to the terms of the Geneva Convention with respect to the interchange of information regarding prisoners of war. At some future date this Government will receive through Geneva a list of persons who have been taken prisoners of war. Until that time the War Department cannot give you positive information.

The War Department will consider the persons serving in the Philippine Islands as "missing in action" from the date of the surrender of Corregidor, May 7, 1942, until definite information to the contrary is received. It is to be hoped that the Japanese Government will communicate a list of prisoners of war at an early date. At that time you will be notified by this office in the event his name is contained in the list of prisoners of war. In the case of persons known to have been present in the Philippines and who are not reported to be prisoners of war by the Japanese Government, the War Department will continue to carry them as "missing in action," in the absence of information to the contrary, until twelve months have expired. At the expiration of twelve months and in the absence of other information the War Department is authorized to make a final determination.

Recent legislation makes provision to continue the pay and allowances of persons carried in a "missing" status for a period of not to exceed twelve months; to continue, for the duration of the war, the pay and allowances of persons

known to have been captured by the enemy; to continue allotments made by missing personnel for a period of twelve months and allotments made by persons held by the enemy during the time they are so held; to make new allotments or increase allotments in force to certain dependents defined in Public Law 490, 77th Congress. The latter dependents generally include the legal wife, dependent children under twenty-one years of age and dependent mother, or such dependents as have been designated in official records. Eligible dependents who can establish a need for financial assistance should be advised to approach their local chapter of the American Red Cross who will assist them in obtaining any benefits to which they may be entitled. In the event dependents require financial assistance and are eligible to receive this assistance the amount allotted will be deducted from the pay which would otherwise accrue to the credit of the missing individual.

Very truly yours,

Allegio

Major General,
The Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1942

Mr. Ernest Norton Underwood,
916 Polk Street,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Underwood:

The Provost Marshal General directs me to forward to you official information regarding your son, Captain Charles Calvin Underwood, who is now a prisoner of war.

This information is to the effect that Captain Underwood is now interned in the Philippine Islands by the Japanese.

His exact place of internment is not known at this time, but you may communicate with him by addressing him as follows:

No. 0-378597
Captain Charles Calvin Underwood, U. S. Army,
Prisoner of war interned by Japan,
c/o Japanese Red Cross,
Tokyo, Japan,
Via New York, New York.

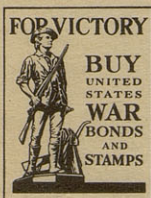
Packages cannot be sent to the Orient at this time. As soon as transportation facilities are available a package permit will be issued to the next of kin.

When any further information is received concerning him, you will be advised.

Sincerely yours,

Howard F. Bresee

Howard F. Bresee,
Lt. Col., C.M.P.,
Chief, Information Branch.



WAR DEPARTMENT
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PC



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

WAR SAVINGS
BONDS AND STAMPS

Holly wood

YPP

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY AG 201 Underwood, Charles Calvin
REFER TO (12-9-42) PC-G 344020-1 WASHINGTON

December 22, 1942.

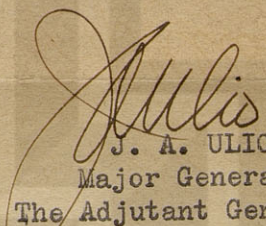
Mr. Ernest Norton Underwood,
916 Polk Street,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Underwood:

Report has been received that your son, Captain Charles Calvin Underwood, O-378597, Infantry, is now a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government in the Philippine Islands. This will confirm my telegram of December 10, 1942.

The Provost Marshal General, Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Washington, D. C., will furnish you the correct mailing address of your son. Any future correspondence in connection with his status as a prisoner of war should be addressed to that office.

Very truly yours,


J. A. ULLO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1 Inclosure.
Memorandum re financial benefits.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

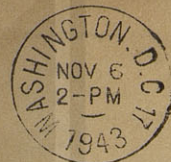
ARMY SERVICE FORCES

OFFICE OF

THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

WAR SAVINGS
BONDS AND STAMPS

Mr. Ernest Norton Underwood,
916 Polk Street,
Topeka, Kansas

J-11879

15 October 1943

REVISED JAPANESE MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

PRISONER OF WAR INFORMATION BUREAU
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL

WASHINGTON, 25, D. C.

The Provost Marshal General, being charged with the responsibility of furnishing all available information concerning American Prisoners of War, has directed that the following information be given to every interested person.

When a member of the armed forces of the United States has been officially reported interned as a prisoner of war by the Japanese Government ordinary mail may be sent, postage free, through regular postal channels by relatives and friends. It is not necessary to send prisoner of war mail to this office for forwarding. You are also advised not to attempt to correspond with a member of our armed forces whom you believe to be held as a prisoner of war until you have first determined his official status from this Bureau because only those letters which are addressed to officially reported prisoners of war will be permitted to go forward by the Postal Censor.

The importance of correctly addressing prisoner of war mail cannot be too strongly emphasized. In this connection, The International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, has reported as follows:

"Among the 100,000 messages received in Tokyo, more than 700 letters addressed to American and British prisoners of war could not reach their destination because the addresses were not sufficiently clear.

The Japanese authorities have created a special post office, connected with the prisoners of war camp in Tokyo, which is in charge of distribution of mail to prisoners. The staff of this post office is composed of American and British officers. These officers point out that the insufficient addresses make it difficult, if not impossible, to forward these letters. The name and first name are not enough; there may be a few prisoners of the same name. Besides, these prisoners of war with similar names are often interned in camps many hundred miles apart".

Strict adherence to the instructions in this circular will facilitate censoring and the ultimate delivery of prisoner of war mail.

When addressing prisoner of war mail, the rank, complete name (including the middle initial or middle name), prisoner of war number (when known) and place of internment or camp number (when known) shall be used.

The face of the envelope should be prepared as follows when the place of internment is not known:

Prisoner of War Mail

Postage Free

(Insert Rank and Complete Name here),
American Prisoner of War, (# when known),
c/o Japanese Red Cross,
Tokyo, Japan,
Via: New York, New York.

The following form should be used when the country or location is known but the name or number of the particular camp in which the prisoner of war is interned is not known.

Prisoner of War Mail

Postage Free

(Insert Rank and Complete Name), American P.O.W., (# if known)
Interned at Taiwan, (or other location),
c/o Japanese Red Cross, Tokyo, Japan,
Via: New York, New York.

The face of the envelope should be prepared as follows when the location and name or number of the particular camp is known.

Prisoner of War Mail

Postage Free

(Insert Rank and Complete Name), American P.O.W., (# if known)
Headquarters, Military Prison Camp #3, (or other camp),
Philippine Islands, (or other location),
Via: New York, New York.

In each of the three cases illustrated above, the sender's name and address must appear on the back of the envelope.

Restrictions recently imposed by the Japanese Government require that letters to prisoners of war be typewritten or printed in capital letters and less than twenty-five words in length. There is no limit, however, to the number of letters which may be sent by relatives and friends. They shall pertain to personal or family affairs only. Information of a political or military nature shall not be included. The use of thin paper is encouraged to save weight and space. Unmounted photographs and snapshots of appropriate size to fit into an ordinary envelope may be included providing they do not reveal information of military or political significance.

Packages cannot be sent regularly to the Orient at this time. When transportation facilities are available for this purpose, a parcel label will be issued to the next of kin without application.

V-Mail facilities are not available for prisoner of war correspondence. There is no assurance that the use of Air-Mail will facilitate its delivery in any case. Any change of PERMANENT address by a next of kin should be furnished to the Prisoners of War Information Bureau.

Very truly yours,

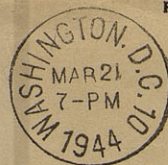
Howard F. Bresee
Howard F. Bresee,
Colonel, C.M.P.,
Assistant Director,
Prisoner of War Division.

0-378597 Infantry

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF
THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Mrs. E. N. Underwood,
916 Polk Street,
Topeka, Kansas.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID

PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

11 August 1944

The Provost Marshal General has directed me to inclose a prisoner of war communication forwarded through this office.

It will be unnecessary to return it to this office, as the information it contains has been placed in the records.

If this communication indicates a more recent internment address than contained in his record, the designated next of kin will be notified further.

Capt. Charles C. Underwood
M.P.C. #1, P.I.
POW Card

HOWARD F. BRESDE,
Colonel, C.M.P.,
Assistant Director,
Prisoner of War Division.

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