

Buffalo Mirror

Sept. 24, 1945:

Lieut. Com. Harold Stassen:-

Sir As I understand you have charge of combing the islands for missing personnel you will pardon me I am sure if I burden you with my story one of many. I suppose.

My son Co. pilot Bernard L Johnson with the 115 Squadron and flying a B 24 was listed as missing while on a bombing mission to Pulawat a lagoon island in the vicinity of Truk. Nothing was ever heard or seen of the crew of 10 men the plane. This occurred Apr 22nd 1944. It was suggested by the navy that they might have landed on an uninhabited island of which there are so many. After that those islands seemed to be by passed. They were not declared

dead when the year was up
but left on the missing list.

I am sure every thing is
being done but - it would sort
of ease us if we could know
for sure, what is being done.

He has a wife and baby in
Los Angeles Calif.

You will kindly pardon
an anxious mother and dad
again, as I know you must
be a busy man.

Thanks a lot -

Very Respectfully,

Mrs A. H. Johnson

Box 378 Buffalo Minn

P.S. They took off from the air base
at Munda Is. with orders to
attack Puluwat Is. A short time
afterwards they radiod back
"we are attacking Alit." Alit is
one of the two principal islands
comprising Puluwat. Nothing
more was ever heard from them.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

AND REFER TO

NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



November 10, 1945

Mrs. Jason N. Quist
1812 First Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Quist:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 10, in which you inquire about the release of your husband, Captain Jason Quist. I regret that it was not possible for me to reply before now.

I am very pleased to learn from the War Department that Captain Quist has been liberated, and regret the additional information that it has been necessary for him to enter a hospital for treatment. I trust that this period of hospitalization is brief and that he is with you now or will be in the very near future.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Stassen

1812 First Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota
September 10, 1945

Commander Harold Stassen
c/o Fleet Postoffice
San Francisco, California

Dear Comm. Stassen:

There are several of us here in the Twin City area who have either husbands or sons held as prisoners of the Japanese on the Island of Shikoku.

It has been a long time since the surrender of Japan and from all news reports it will be some sixty days more before many of the boys will be released. It is hard for us sitting back here to realize that it will take so long when this work was accomplished so quickly in Europe.

The reason I am writing you is, that I know how deeply concerned you are in securing the swiftest possible release for all the boys who are held there. It certainly feels good to have one good friend at "court" that you can count on.

The part that is most distressing is that landings have been scheduled for everyone of the four Jap Islands with the exception of Shikoku. I cannot understand this when Kyushu is so much further south. Why should MacArthur choose to by-pass this particular point?

My husband, Captain Jason Noble Quist, O 368 437, has been held by the Japs since the fall of Bataan and he has been at Zentsuji on Shikoku since November 1942.

Has there been any indications that this camp was moved to Hiroshimo sometime in 1945? I have a horrible fear that this has happened.

I really want to know the truth, Comm. Stassen. It has been pretty hard trying to keep going when so little information comes through. Please do what you can to secure any information regarding my husband and why Shikoku is not listed for invasion. I realize that you are with the Navy and may not know the Army plans but, whatever you can unearth will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Lorentina B. Quist
Lorentina B. Quist

ADDRESS REPLY TO
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 10, 1945



Mrs. H. L. Vest
2318 Grand Avenue, So.
Minneapolis 5, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Vest:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 11, in which you inquire about the release of your son, 1st Lieutenant Lee Herbert Vest. I regret that it was not possible for me to reply before now.

I am very pleased to learn from the War Department that your son has been liberated and is probably now with you. I was also informed that Captain Alfred Breher was to arrive in San Francisco on October 18, and that Captain Jason Quist has been liberated and is now hospitalized.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Stassen

P.B. WELCH, PRESIDENT
S.C. JONES, VICE PRES.
W. HECKMAN, VICE PRES.
O.A. JONES, SECY & TREAS.

WESTFIELD, N. Y.
NORTH EAST, PA.
LAWTON, MICH.
MATTAWAN, MICH.



The WELCH GRAPE JUICE COMPANY

2918 GRAND AVENUE, SO.
TELEPHONE: KENWOOD 3535

WESTFIELD-NEW YORK

MINNEAPOLIS 5, MINN.
Sept. 11, 1945

Comm. Harold Stassen, USNR
3rd Fleet, c/o Fleet Post office,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mr. Stassen,

Naturally we don't expect you to recall Mr. Vest and son, 1st Lt. Lee Herbert Vest (graduated at 21, Engineer U. of Minn. June 1940 Class) when they ate dinner with you at University.

We are most anxious to know why the Zentsuji Camp, Shikoku, Japan has not figured in the news since the surrender and more than anxious to know where son is, also Capt. Alfred Dreher (St. Paul), Capt. Jason Quist (Mpls.) along with their friends in this Camp, had been transferred from Shinagawa, Tokyo-- Vest and Dreher were originally at Clark Field, Ft. Stotsenberg in 1941 (Quist, Manila), later at Del Monte and Valencia, Mindanao at the Philippines Fall May 6, 1942--than missing-located in Tokyo.

A month has passed since the Surrender, and while we know there are over 100 P.O.W. Camps in Japan, have no word of Zentsuji being rescued-- these boys have been prisoners now about 3 1/2 years --very long time indeed, while some of those closer to Tokyo not nearly half that time we understand. Anything you can do to be of Service to rescue these boys and their companions will be most appreciated.

Thanking you in advance,

Sincerely, Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Vest and Virginia.

Mrs. H.L. Vest

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



November 10, 1945

Mr. Gordon Peattie
Osborne Hill Road
Fishkill, New York

Dear Mr. Peattie:

This will acknowledge your letter of August 31, in which you inquire whether any additional information has been received concerning your brother, Lieutenant Francis G. Peattie. I regret that it was not possible for me to reply before now.

I am very sorry indeed to have to tell you that no further information has as yet come to light regarding your brother. The War Department informs me that he is still carried in their records as missing in action.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Stassen

Osborne Hill Road
Fishkill, New York
August 31, 1945.

Comdr. Harold E. Stassen
Flag Secretary to Admiral Halsey
Tokyo Bay, Japan

Dear Sir:

The August 31st edition of The New York Times contained an Associated Press Wirephoto (U.S. Navy Radiophoto from USS Iowa) with the caption:

"Allied prisoners of war freed at Omori waving the flags of the United States, Great Britain, and the Netherlands after their liberation."

I am certain that the man in the photo waving the American flag is my brother who has been missing since his Flying Fortress was shot down over Rabaul, New Britain, on June 26, 1943. His name is Second Lieutenant Francis G. Peattie, O-727655, Air Corps.

If data are available on those prisoners liberated at Omori, my mother and I will be most grateful if you can furnish us with any information regarding Lt. Peattie. I am writing you because you visited Omori and must realize the joy we fear to indulge in because it may be fruitless and the dread we experienced upon the publication of your grim report on prisoner of war camps.

Very truly yours,

Gordon Peattie

ADDRESS REPLY TO
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NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 10, 1945



Mrs. Edwina S. Ely
348 West Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Dear Mrs. Ely:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 4, in which you inquire whether any additional information has been received concerning your son, William Busch. I regret that it was not possible for me to reply before now.

I am very sorry indeed to have to tell you that no further information has as yet come to light concerning your son or other possible survivors from his ship. He is still being carried as missing because of the possibility of his survival. The Navy Department is soon to make a final determination of his status, and you will be notified at that time.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Stassen

Oct. 4, 1945.

Lt. Commander Harold E. Stassen, U. S. N.

Dear Commander Stassen:

In view of the fact that my son, William Robert Busch, Firecontrolman, $\frac{3}{c}$, has been reported missing in action since December 4, 1943, and the Navy Personnel Dept. informs me his status remains such at the present time, I wonder if you can give me some information. He was serving on the submarine Corvina at the time it was "overdue and presumed to be lost." Since you, no doubt, may have information as to type of mission in which this submarine was engaged at that time, your ideas as to what the chances are that he may have been able to escape and become^a prisoner of the Japanese, would help me.

Is there any way that some fact or information can definitely be established?

Worry is a mother's privilege during a war but it seems that enough time has elapsed since the surrender to allow one to know whether hopes for his being alive may be

encouraged or otherwise.

My husband and I are life long residents of Minnesota but have been here for the past year and a half. We are planning to soon return to Minneapolis.

I know there are thousands of mothers going through the same worry which I have had for the past two years but I thought it could do no harm to appeal to you in seeking some bit of information.

Thanking you for whatever courtesy and help you can give me,

I remain,

Yours truly,

Mrs. Edwina B. Ely
348 West Center Drive
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

AND REFER TO

NAVY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



November 10, 1945

Miss Geraldine Cooler
3546 North Lyndale Street
Minneapolis 12, Minnesota

Dear Miss Cooler:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 2, regarding your brother, Sergeant Edmund Cooler. I regret that it was not possible for me to reply before now.

I am very sorry indeed to have to tell you that I do not know the identity of the man in the picture you enclose. It is a picture of prisoners at Kawasaki, near Tokyo, taken on August 30, and I believe was called Kawasaki Bunsho Camp No. 2, or Nisson Mill Camp #2.

The War Department informs me that your brother is carried in their records as presumed dead as of October 26, 1944.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Stassen

October 2, 1945

my dear Mrs. Stassen,

Will you please read my letter, though I know this procedure is quite irregular?

Enclosed, is a picture which was printed in the Minneapolis Star Journal on September 7, 1945. It shows your husband, Commander Harold Stassen, shaking hands with liberated prisoners of the Tokyo area.

My brother, Tech. Sgt. Edmund Hays Cooler of the 13th. Air Force in the Pacific, has been missing in action as of October 25th. 1943. We have heard nothing of the entire B 24 crew since. And the other evening when we saw the enclosed picture showing prisoners, we were almost sure the marked

picture was my brother.

My brother Gerald works at the Star paper, so he got a gloss picture & since we saw it, we are more certain it is he. We have called the Red Cross but they say they cannot inquire & we haven't heard a word.

We are so anxious to know that I thought I'd ask you to see if Commander Stassen remembers what camp or better, who that man was.

I know this request is very unusual but trust that you will do what you can.

Thank you for your kindness in this matter.

Miss Geraldine Coaler
3546 No. Lyndale
Minneapolis 12,
Minnesota



STASSEN GREETES LIBERATED PRISONERS—Comm. Harold E. Stassen, former governor of Minnesota and now on the staff of Adm. Halsey, shakes hands with joyful Allied prisoners of war who were rescued by United States navy mercy squadron Aug. 29 and 30 from camps in the Tokyo area. The men seem overcome as they await transportation to a naval hospital ship in Tokyo harbor.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



November 11, 1945

Dear Walter:

Will you add this inquiry regarding Lieutenant Muellerleile to the stacks that you undoubtedly have, and find out his status and hopes of return and let his father know.

Sincere regards,

Harold E. Stassen

Congressman Walter H. Judd
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11 November 1945.



To: Commander Walter W. Finke, USNR

Subject: Ensign John William Elliott, USNR (Deceased).

1. I do not have any information regarding subject officer. I presume the request of his father was in the hopes that we had acquired some information during the evacuation of prisoners of war, but we did not acquire any such information that is not reflected in the official records.

Harold E. Stassen.



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