December 11, 1944

War Department
Army Effects Bureau
Kansas City Quartermaster Depot
601 Hardesty Avenue
Kansas City 1, Missouri

No reply necessary

Reference No. 168351

Dear Colonel Murphy:

Your letter dated December 8 arrived today and I am taking this opportunity to answer it although I did not intend or anticipate that an answer would be necessary.

It does not interest or concern my parents or me in the least as to the nature of your work or how you and the people working with you feel towards it. I wrote to you mainly to express our opinion and nothing more.

That there is a war on and that other people are constantly suffering the loss of someone they love dearly is very evident to us. There was no need for you to include that note of sympathy and the fact that you or others would like to be doing my kind of work. This is matter of far greater importance than personal wants and desires. We all realize that war forces all of us to do tasks against our will and that there is nothing or very little that can be done about it.

You state in your letter that funds are handled separately and will probably be sent later. The money is not the reason why I wrote to you. We don't want it! My brother didn't send us any of his money ever nor did he have to. The money he did send out of his allotment, which was 20% of his wages, my parents banked in his account. The reason I wrote you as I did was because others have had the same experience as we did and received the identical worthless articles. These people, either through neglect or because they were unable to correspond legibly with you, did not report their findings so I thought someone should. It's the principle of the thing.

I cannot understand how you intend to recover any additional property of my brother's when it took all this time to send us what you did. He has been killed exactly five months today.

If, as you say, other departments handle different articles is true, and if their search reveals some additional property, why then are not all of these findings sent to one center and all sent at once? Have you any idea what torture it is to receive a package containing such property? My mother did not have the courage to open our package until my father came home from work.

Sincerely,

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You speak of the fact that I will always be proud of my brother. NEVER! We want him back here with us and not lying in some god-forsaken country that the world is always trying to save. Yes, I am proud of him for the fine man, son and brother he was but not because he died for a cause that is clear to no one.

Regardless of how much or how little I may understand about world affairs I still maintain that this all all past and future wars are a means of destroying mankind for the sole gain of a selected few. Why is it that a war always creeps up just about the time when our young men are beginning to get a foot-hold in their future? Because they have reach a certain degree of education and have their own ideas about vital issues - they are able to think for themselves and that is very bad for those in power at the time. Result - another war to exterminate all of these fine yound men and then peach can once again be ours until the children born during war-time have grown into manhood and are ready for another war.

I know that you and the people that work with you are not responsible for that which happens beyond your knowledge but I just couldn't sit idle and not say something to someone.

My brother's memory will never make me believe that he died for something worth while. I can't ask myself any other question except why, why, why? God said, "Thou shall not kill." What are we doing? How can I find solace in church when I am a hypocrite to all that He taught and preached?

It may interest you to know that I forwarded copies of the same letter I sent you to the Red Cross Headquarters in Washington and to my brother's commanding officer in Europe.

In closing I wish to express my thanks in your interest in answering my letter and also that there will be a speedy end to your type of work.

Very truly yours,

Nellie Seder

Nellie Seder

P.S.

According to your letter there must be a lot of this crookedness going on because you yourself state that you receive thousands of letter per day inquiring about the property.