

RELIEF FOR AMERICANS IN PHILIPPINES

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SPECIAL BULLETIN

Relatives of some of the internees who are to be repatriated on the second exchange have already been so informed by the State Department. The complete list of repatriates will not be available until the Japanese liner, Teia Maru, leaves its last port of call, possibly Manila, about October 1st. Watch papers that carry Associated Press Service for date of sailing from last port of call of the M. S. Gripsholm.

The returning repatriates may receive letters from their friends and relatives. But these letters must be very carefully worded as the censorship regulations are very strict. Many letters directed to the Gripsholm on its first trip failed of delivery because they contained some statements which the censors considered sufficient to withhold the entire letter. Such expressions as: "We are so glad that you are allowed to come home", etc., must not be used, as the censors would either hold up these letters or delete sentences. Particular care should be taken to make no mention of the enemy; its actions; United States troops; or the whereabouts of individuals--all comments on policy, strategy, future hopes, etc., should be eliminated. Letters should not be sent to Port Elizabeth, Union of South Africa, as there is no direct air mail service and the ordinary mail is slow and uncertain. Mail, however, can be sent to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. According to advice of the Postmaster, the letters should be addressed as follows:

Name
Returning repatriate
M. S. Gripsholm
c/o Postmaster, New York, New York

Postage is 5¢ only. Also the Postmaster has stated that if necessary all mail will be sent by plane to Rio de Janeiro with no extra charge to the sender and will take precedence over all other mail.

WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT NO MAIL SHOULD BE SENT FROM THIS COUNTRY UNTIL AFTER THE EXCHANGE AT MARMAGAO HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE M. S. GRIPSHOLM HAS SAILED FROM THAT PORT. THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR ALL MAIL TO REACH RIO DE JANEIRO.

We suggest that all mail to be delivered to returning repatriates on their arrival in New York should be sent in care of this office. Mail addressed to the steamer would take longer in delivery than if sent in care of this office. Mail sent to the Gripsholm on her arrival last year took weeks to be delivered, which caused disappointments and inconvenience. The returning repatriates will be informed of this before the boat reaches New York and will be told that their mail is being held at our office for them. Special volunteers will be in charge of this service.

We also request that those who are coming to New York to meet the Gripsholm leave the names of their hotels and their addresses at our office. In this way delays in making contact with their friends and families will be avoided. No one will be permitted to go on the pier, and there is no way of telling when individuals will be released from the ship, therefore, relatives and friends are in danger of not finding each other promptly. This happened in many cases on the last trip of the Gripsholm. The returning repatriates will also be informed of this so that on calling our office, they will be told where to find their friends and relatives. The office will be open at all hours.

If you have any suggestions as to what can be done by us in meeting repatriates, please let us know at the earliest possible moment.