

If signed pls mail out
& return file to W.D.H.

file
mw

325

May 25, 1945

File

My dear General Booth:

Please accept my thanks for your thoughtful letter of May twenty-first. I can appreciate your fears lest the perpetrators of barbaric practices # escape punishment for their evil deeds.

I think I sense in your letter a distinction between retributive justice and vengeance. We have a stern duty to teach the German people the hard lesson that they must change their ways before they can be received back into the family of peaceful, civilized nations.

x198

x85

I shall hold your letter in the confidence which you request. I need hardly add that I am grateful for a remembrance in your prayers.

Very sincerely yours,



(Sgd) HARRY S. TRUMAN

General Evangeline Booth,
Aradia,
Hartsdale,
New York.

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Gen. Eusebius Booth
born

Dec. 25, 1865 —

(From "Current Biography"
for the year 1941 —

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Bom

Dec. 25, 1865 —

(From "Current Biography"
for the year 1941 —

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May 21, 1945

President Harry S. Truman

The White House

Dear Mr. President:

While I more than hesitate to write you, having some idea of your crowded desk, yet in the interests of humanity and our own organization I cannot refrain from expressing my solemn conviction that, of all the tragic things that have happened to the world during the past year nothing could be more disastrous to the future than to allow the perpetrators of barbaric practices to escape the severe punishment that can be administered.

As a Salvationist I trouble you with this communication because I am fearful lest there be any misunderstanding arising out of the Gospel of love and mercy upon which our Salvation Army is founded. The basis of the Army is no less the preaching of God's justice and the eternal punishment of those who by an act of soul-suicide reject His command, particularly those whose wickedness takes the form of brutal abuse of the weak and innocent, especially children.

The highest ranking officer should not be exempt from the responsibility for the commitment of hideous crimes because they were not committed by his own hand, any more than he would be exempt from credit for triumphs won by troops under his direction.

Therefore I appeal to you to use your unparalleled influence to strengthen action in Europe and prevent delay in urgent procedure.

I will appreciate your regard for this communication as private. Occupying a foremost position of influence in our organization which has in its ranks all nationalities I have to exercise both wisdom and care.

Need I assure you that the believing prayers of our people are with you, asking for you spiritual guidance and physical strength for the herculean burden upon your heart and shoulders.

Very sincerely yours

Evangelist Booth

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