THE CUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES FOR SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY AT THE BREMAN MUSEUM

Mss 387, Gordon Family Papers

Box 6, File 5

War Claims Commission, 1944-1952

ANY REPRODUCTION OF THIS MATERIAL WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE CUBA FAMILY ARCHIVES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED
Mrs. Sadie G. Gordon
1028 St. Charles Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to your letter of February 1, 1944 requesting (as suggested in letter of this office dated 20 January 1944) that payment be stopped on check #463,769 dated 26 September 1941 issued in favor of your son, Ensign J. Gordon for $8.50.

Your request that your son's account be credited with the amount of the check ($8.50) was referred to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Field Branch, Master Accounts Division, Cleveland, Ohio for appropriate action. This office is now in receipt of a letter from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts (copy attached). It is suggested that you hold this letter for future reference and that any further inquiry on the matter be referred to the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Field Branch, Master Accounts Division, Cleveland, Ohio.

Very truly yours,

J. C. Sutherland
Captain (SC) USNR
Disbursing Officer
THIRD NAVAL DISTRICT

Enc.
From: Chief of Field Branch
Bureau of Supplies and Accounts

To: Disbursing Officer
Third Naval District
90 Church Street
New York, N. Y.

SUBJ: Lost U. S. Treasury Check #465,769, in the amount of $8.50, dated 26 September 1941, payable to Ensign J. Gordon, and drawn over symbol No. 52-031.

1. Since the proceeds of subject check have been covered into "outstanding liabilities", payment would not be honored by the Treasurer of the United States. In all such cases payments will not be made except through claims presented to the General Accounting Office. A claim presented in the instant case by the mother of the subject officer would not be honored should it be found that a holder in due course had a right to the proceeds of the check.

2. A record of this outstanding item will be retained by this office and Ensign Gordon will be advised to present a claim for the proceeds of the check at such time as he returns to Naval jurisdiction. Otherwise, in the absence of a proper claim by another person, the mother may be entitled to the amount of the check in a future settlement of the estate of the officer. No further action need be taken by your office toward the issuance of a duplicate check.

F. E. McILLEN

G. F. BREWTON
By direction
Mrs. Sadie G. Gordon
1028 St. Charles Avenue - Apt 9
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Gordon:

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your check for $3,000 in payment of your subscription to $3,000 U. S. Treasury 2 1/2% Bonds due December 15, 1972-67 which we have today filed with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

We have also arranged with the Federal to exchange your $2,500 U. S. Treasury 2 1/4% Bonds due December 15, 1962-59 for an equal amount of the above issue.

As soon as the bonds are available, we will communicate with you.

Assuring you again of our appreciation of your subscription, we are

Yours very truly,

J. S. Budd
Vice President

JSB: s
Mrs. Sadie G. Gordon  
1028 St. Charles Ave. N.E.  
Apt. #9  
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Gordon:

This is to officially inform you that the War Claims Commission, established by the "War Claims Act of 1948" (Public Law 896, 80th Congress, as amended) now is functioning. This Commission is required, among other matters to receive, adjudicate according to the law, and provide for the payment of any claim filed by any prisoner of war for compensation, at the rate of $1.00 for each day, for the violation by the enemy government by which he was held as a prisoner of war, or its agents, of its obligation to furnish him the quantity or quality of food to which he was entitled as a prisoner of war under the terms of the Geneva Convention of 27 July 1929.

The Act further provides that, in the cases of deceased former prisoners of war, the claims will be payable only to or for the benefit of the following persons:

(1) Widow or dependent husband if there is no child or children of the deceased;
(2) Widow or dependent husband and child or children of the deceased, one half to the widow or dependent husband and the other half to the child or children of the deceased in equal shares;
(3) Child or children of the deceased (in equal shares) if there is no widow or dependent husband; and
(4) Dependent parents (in equal shares) if there is no widow, dependent husband, or child.

The commission has furnished a supply of application forms to the Governors of the States for distribution to interested persons. These forms also have been distributed to all Veterans Administration agencies, veterans organizations, state agencies, etc., or they may be obtained from the War Claims Commission, 7th and E Streets, N. W., Washington 25, D. C. Your claim form, when completed, as well as any subsequent correspondence regarding the claim, should be directed to the War Claims Commission at the above address. Claims must be filed not later than 1 March 1951.

If this Bureau can be of assistance to you with reference to matters relating to service or prisoner of war status, please do not hesitate to so advise. Such inquiries should be addressed to the Casualty Section, Dependents Services Branch, Welfare Division, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Department of the Navy, Washington 25, D. C., and should indicate the service person's full name, rank or rating, and his file or service number which is 97687.

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Sincerely yours,

M. E. REEDER

Head, Casualty Section
Claim No. SP-76691-P

Date August 22, 1952

The War Claims Commission is in receipt of your application for compensation for forced labor and/or inhumane treatment as a prisoner of war.

If you change your mailing address, please notify this office of your new address promptly in writing and signed by you.

All correspondence relative to your case should bear your claim number.

War Claims Commission,
Washington 25, D. C.
J. B. Gordon
P. O. Box 2127
Atlanta, Ga.
14. (a) Describe the living conditions and sleeping facilities (crowded conditions, heating, ventilation, bedding, fire protection, etc.)

(b) What clothing, linens, or footwear, if any, were furnished you?

15. (a) Were sanitary measures taken to assure cleanliness and healthfulness of camps and to prevent epidemics? (Yes or No)

(b) State whether toilet facilities were adequate and if sufficient water was provided for bathing to maintain cleanliness.

(c) Were you allowed to exercise in the open air? (Yes or No)

16. Describe what medical care, supplies, or facilities were available.

17. Were you permitted to retain personal effects and objects, other than arms, military equipment, and papers? (Yes or No)

18. Describe here any other conditions to which you were subjected that may be relevant to provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1929 as to the humane treatment of prisoners of war (e.g., abuse, ridicule, humiliation, subjection to attack, bombardment, etc.)

19. (a) Having read the requirements of the Geneva Convention of 1929 outlined above with regard to labor and/or inhuman treatment of prisoners of war, do you allege that the enemy government which held you prisoner continually failed to comply with those requirements? (Yes or No)

(b) If you believe your answer to (a) above should be "yes" for most of the period of your imprisonment, but you wish to except certain periods when you received treatment in compliance with the Geneva Convention of 1929, give dates of such periods.

20. If you have paid or agreed to pay anyone for assistance and/or advice in the presentation or filing of this claim, state names and addresses of each person or persons and the amount of the fee paid or agreed upon. (See item No. 4 of general instructions.)

21. If this application is being executed in behalf of an ex-prisoner of war who is incompetent or incapable of filing for himself, give your name, mailing address, and state capacity in which claim is executed.

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statements are true and that they are made with full knowledge of the fact that penalties involving fines and imprisonment are prescribed by various statutes of the United States for making a false statement.

IF SIGNATURE MADE BY (X) MARK, WITNESSES SIGN HERE:

Signature of claimant

Signature of witnesses

DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN APPLICATION

Mail application form and acknowledgment card to

WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

CLAIMS MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 9, 1953
PART III
INFORMATION CONCERNING HUMANE TREATMENT DURING IMPRISONMENT

Before answering the questions in Part III, please read carefully the following provisions from the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, pertaining to humane treatment. These provisions are grouped to correspond with the consecutive order of the questions.

Prisoners of war shall be lodged in buildings or in barracks affording all possible guarantees of hygiene and healthfulness. The quarters must be fully protected from dampness, sufficiently heated, and lighted. All precautions must be taken against danger of fire. With regard to dormitories—the total surface, minimum cubic amount of air, arrangement and material of bedding—the conditions shall be the same as for the troops at base camps of the enemy. Clothing, linens, and footwear shall be furnished and replacement or repairs of these effects regularly assured. (Articles 10 and 12.)

Prisoners shall have at their disposal, day and night, installations conforming to sanitary rules and constantly maintained in a state of cleanliness to assure healthfulness and prevent epidemics. Toilets must be convenient and clean, and sufficient water must be available for bathing. Prisoners must be allowed to exercise in and enjoy fresh air. (Article 13.)

Every camp shall have an infirmary, where prisoners of war shall receive every kind of attention they need. If necessary, isolated quarters shall be reserved for the sick affected with contagious diseases. When important surgical operations are needed, prisoners must be admitted to qualified Military or Civil Medical Units. Medical inspections shall be arranged at least once a month. (Articles 14 and 15.)

Personal effects and objects, including metal helmets and gas masks, shall remain in the possession of the prisoner of war. Arms, military equipment, and military papers may be taken by the enemy government. (Article 6.)

Prisoners must be humanely treated at all times and protected against violence, insults, and public curiosity. They must have their persons and honor respected. Women shall be treated with all the regard due their sex. A receipt must be given for any money taken from a prisoner and the money refunded on his release. Prisoners are not to be kept in danger zones and shall not be made to walk more than 20 kilometers or 12.43 miles a day. Prisoners are to be treated with regard due their rank and age. Soldiers of the same army are to be assigned to prison camps in which officers of that same army are held prisoners. They are not to be given any more severe disciplinary treatment than arrest for more than 30 days. Quarters must be sanitary and prisoners may not be put in jails or penitentiaries. Prisoners under arrest must be allowed to stay in the open air at least 2 hours daily. Each prisoner must be allowed to write a definite number of letters and postal cards a month and at least one week after arrival in camp each prisoner must be allowed to send a postal card to his home. Such cards may not be delayed in transit by the enemy. Prisoners must be allowed to receive mail and packages, except, while under arrest, packages may be withheld. (Articles 2, 3, 6, 7, 21, 22, 30, 56, and 57.)
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING APPLICATION BY SURVIVORS OF DECEASED EX-PRISONERS OF WAR FOR COMPENSATION FOR COMPULSORY LABOR AND/OR INHUMANE TREATMENT

READ CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Information regarding the filling out of WCC Form 660, Application by Survivors of Deceased Ex-Prisoners of War for Compensation for Compulsory Labor and/or Inhumane Treatment, payable under Section 6 (d), War Claims Act, 1948 (Public Law 806, 80th Congress, July 3, 1948), as amended by Public Law 363, 82d Congress, April 9, 1952.

1. WHO SHALL FILE CLAIM—(A prisoner of war is defined as any person who was a regularly appointed, enrolled, enlisted, or inducted member of the military or naval forces of the United States, who was held as a prisoner of war for any period of time after December 7, 1941, by any enemy government. Compensation is payable to survivors of deceased prisoners of war at a rate of and not to exceed $1.50 for each day of confinement on which the enemy government failed to comply with the terms of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929, relative to humane treatment and compulsory labor.)

(a) The following survivors of deceased prisoners of war should file WCC Form 660 in the order of preference indicated.

1. Widow or dependent husband and child or children;
2. Widow or dependent husband, if there is no child or children;
3. Child or children, if there is no widow or dependent husband; or
4. Parent(s), if there is no widow, husband, or child or children.

(b) If the person for whom claim is being made is not mentally competent or is incapable of filing for himself, the claim form should be filled out by the natural or legal guardian or person having custody of the claimant. If this application is executed in behalf of a survivor, it is important that question No. 18 be answered.

2. APPLICATION FORM.—This claims application is for compensation for subjection to inhumane treatment by the enemy government and/or because the deceased ex-prisoner of war performed compulsory labor under terms and conditions which violated certain articles of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929. Public Law 363, 82d Congress, added subsection (d) to Section 6 of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended. This new subsection authorizes the War Claims Commission to allow compensation to any ex-prisoner of war (defined in item 1 of these instructions) at the rate of and not to exceed $1.50 per day for each day he was held as a prisoner of war on which he alleges and proves in a manner acceptable to the Commission “(A) the violation by such enemy government or its agents of the provisions of Title III, Section III, of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929” relating to labor of prisoners of war, or “(B) any inhumane treatment” which term includes, but is not limited to, violation by the enemy government of one or more of the provisions of articles 2, 3, 7, 10, 12, 13, 21, 22, 54, 56, or 57 of the Geneva Convention.

3. PREPARATION OF APPLICATION FORM.

(a) All of the information required in the application must be furnished and the questions must be answered fully and clearly. Answers must be written in a clear, legible hand, or typewritten. If you do not know the answer to any question write "I don't know" in the proper space.
VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN ACCREDITED TO REPRESENT CLAIMANTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AND ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU, WITHOUT CHARGE, IN THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF YOUR APPLICATION. IF THIS SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO YOU OR DESIRED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD WRITE TO THE WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(b) DEPENDENT HUSBANDS Must also file WCC Form 551, Husband's Certificate of Dependency.

4. ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS.—Any claimant may, but need not, be represented in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of his claim by an attorney or by an attorney admitted to practice before the War Claims Commission. The War Claims Commission will furnish, without charge, assistance in the filing of an application. Any attorney, or attorney admitted to practice before the War Claims Commission, who has filed a power of attorney executed by a claimant, may receive for his services in assisting a claimant in the preparation and filing of an application form in this class of claim, a fee of one percent (1%) of the amount awarded. Higher fees not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the amount awarded are authorized by the Commission in cases such as those requiring the securing of additional oral or written testimony, or the preparation of an appeal (see Section 10, War Claims Act of 1948, as amended). There are penalties for payment of a greater fee than allowed by regulations.

5. TIME LIMIT FOR FILING CLAIMS.—In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Public Law 303, 88th Congress, amending the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, regulations of the War Claims Commission provide that claims under section 6 (d) must be filed on or before April 9, 1953.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT CARD.—There is enclosed an acknowledgment card which is to be completed and returned to the Commission together with the application form. In the spaces indicated on the address portion of the card the claimant is to write plainly his name and mailing address. This card will be mailed to the claimant by the War Claims Commission upon receipt of this card and application. Use enclosed self-addressed envelope in mailing application form and card.

Special attention is directed to question No. 2 which appears on page 1 of the application form. The claimant should indicate the claim number for survivorship prisoner of war $1 per day benefits assigned to him in the space provided.

7. Before answering question 11 (b) and (c), 12, and 13, please read the following analysis of provisions from the Geneva Convention of July 17, 1929, pertaining to labor and treatment of prisoners of war.

The enemy government may utilize labor of able prisoners of war, excepting officers. If officers request suitable work, it shall be secured for them so far as is possible. Noncommissioned officers shall only be required to do supervisory work. Officers and persons of equivalent status shall be treated with regard due their rank and age. Labor detachments must be furnished good sanitary conditions and food. (Articles 21, 27, and 33.)

The enemy government must pay prisoners of war for work performed except work connected with maintenance of prison camps. Wages shall be paid at the rate in force for National troops or native workers. All wages earned must be paid at the end of captivity. The work day, including the trip going and coming, shall not be excessive or exceed that of civilian workers. Every prisoner shall be allowed a rest of 24 consecutive hours each week, preferably on Sunday. Work clothes, whenever required, must be furnished. (Articles 12, 26, and 52.)

6 Unhealthy or dangerous work is prohibited. No prisoner may be employed at work for which he is physically unfit. (Articles 29 and 52.)

Labor furnished by prisoners of war shall have no direct relation with war operations. Prisoners cannot be employed in manufacturing or transporting arms or munitions or transporting any material intended for combatant units. (Article 31.)

Prisoners of war shall be lodged in buildings or in barracks affording all possible guarantees of hygiene and healthfulness. The quarters must be fully protected from dampness, sufficiently heated and lighted. All precautions must be taken against danger of fire. With regard to dormitories—

(2)

the total surface, minimum cubic amount of air, arrangement and material of bedding—the conditions shall be the same as for the troops at base camps of the enemy. Clothing, linens, and footwear shall be furnished and replacement or repairs of these effects regularly assured. (Articles 10 and 12.)

Prisoners shall have at their disposal, day and night, installations conforming to sanitary rules and constantly maintained in a state of cleanliness to assure healthfulness and prevent epidemics. Toilets must be convenient and clean and sufficient water must be available for bathing. Prisoners must be allowed to exercise in and enjoy fresh air. (Article 13.)

Every camp shall have an infirmary where prisoners of war shall receive every kind of attention they need. If necessary, isolated quarters shall be reserved for the sick affected with contagious diseases. When important surgical operations are needed, prisoners must be admitted to qualified Military or Civil Medical Units. Medical inspections shall be arranged at least once a month. (Articles 14 and 15.)

Personal effects and objects, including metal helmets and gas masks shall remain in the possession of the prisoner of war. Arm, military equipment and military papers may be taken by the enemy government. (Article 8.)

Prisoners must be humanely treated at all times and protected against violence, insults and public curiosity. They must have their persons and honor respected. Women shall be treated with all the respect due their sex. A receipt must be given for any money taken from a prisoner and the money refunded on his release. Prisoners are not to be kept in danger zones and shall not be made to work more than 10 kilometers or 12.43 miles a day. Prisoners are to be treated with regard due their rank and age. Soldiers of the same army are to be assigned to prison camps in which officers of that same army are held prisoners. They are not to be given any more severe disciplinary treatment than arrest for more than 30 days. Quarters must be sanitary and prisoners may not be put in cells or confinements. Prisoners under arrest must be allowed to stay in the open air at least 2 hours daily. Each prisoner must be allowed to write a definite number of letters and postal cards a month and at least one week after arrival in camp each prisoner must be allowed to send a postal card to his home. Such cards may not be delayed in transit by the enemy. Prisoners must be allowed to receive mail and packages, except, while under arrest, packages may be withheld. (Articles 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 21, 22, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 54, 55, and 57.)

8. EVIDENCE TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.—If claim was filed on WCC Form 650 for compensation of $1 per day for failure of the enemy government to furnish food of the quantity or quality required by the Geneva Convention of 1929, there is no need to file again evidence of status (i.e., certified copies of marriage, birth or death records, etc.). If there has been any change such as a death, marriage, etc., since the filing of the first claim evidence of the change should accompany the claim. If additional evidence of status of claimants is necessary, request will be made by the War Claims Commission.

DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN APPLICATION

Mail application form and acknowledgment card to

WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CLAIMS MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 9, 1953

(3)
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING APPLICATION FOR LIVING EX-PRISONER OF WAR COMPENSATION FOR COMPULSORY LABOR AND/OR INHUMANE TREATMENT

READ CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS

Information regarding the filling out of WCC Form 611, Application for Living Ex-Prisoner of War Compensation, payable under Section 6 (d), War Claims Act, 1948 (Public Law 896, 80th Congress, July 3, 1948), as amended by Public Law 303, 82d Congress, April 9, 1952.

1. WHO SHOULD FILE CLAIM.

   (a) Any person who, being a regularly appointed, enrolled, enlisted, or inducted member of the military or naval forces of the United States, was held as a prisoner of war for any period of time after December 7, 1941, by any enemy government of the United States. Survivors of deceased prisoners of war use WCC Form 660.

   (b) If the person for whom claim is being made is not mentally competent or is incapable of filing for himself, the claim form should be filled out by the natural or legal guardian or person having custody of the ex-prisoner of war. If this application is executed in behalf of an ex-prisoner of war, it is important that question No. 21 be answered.

2. APPLICATION FORM.—This claims application is for compensation for subjection to inhumane treatment by the enemy government and/or because the ex-prisoner of war performed compulsory labor under terms and conditions which violated certain articles of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929. Public Law 303, 82d Congress, added subsection (d) to Section 6 of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended. This new subsection authorizes the War Claims Commission to allow compensation to any ex-prisoner of war (defined in item 1 of these instructions) at the rate of and not to exceed $1.50 per day for each day he was held as a prisoner of war on which he alleges and proves in a manner acceptable to the Commission “(A) the violation by such enemy government or its agents of the provisions of Title III, Section III, of the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929” relating to labor of prisoners of war, or “(B) any inhumane treatment” which term includes, but is not limited to, violation by the enemy government of one or more of the provisions of articles 2, 3, 7, 10, 12, 13, 21, 22, 54, 56, or 57 of the Geneva Convention.

3. PREPARATION OF APPLICATION FORM.—All of the information required in the application must be furnished and the questions must be answered fully and clearly. (Question No. 21 to be answered only if person filing application is the guardian or person having custody of the ex-prisoner of war.) Answers must be written in a clear, legible hand, or typewritten. If you do not know the answer to any question write “I don’t know” in the proper space. If you need more space to answer any questions, attach a piece of plain paper, numbering the answers to correspond with the questions appearing in the application. It is important that you give dates, places and periods of time. Veterans organizations and other organizations, which have been accredited to represent claimants before the Commission, are available to assist you, without charge, in the preparation and filing of your application. If this service is not available to you or you desire further information, you should write to the War Claims Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

4. ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS.—Any claimant may, but need not, be represented in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of his claim by an agent or attorney admitted to practice before the War Claims Commission. The War Claims Commission will furnish, without charge, assistance in
the filling out of your application. An agent or attorney or other accredited person who has been admitted to practice before the War Claims Commission, who has filed a power of attorney executed by a claimant, may receive for his services in assisting a claimant in the preparation and filing of an application form in this class of claim, a fee of one percent (1%) of the amount awarded. Higher fees not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the amount awarded are authorized by the Commission in cases such as those requiring the securing of additional oral or written testimony, or the preparation of an appeal (see Section 10, War Claims Act of 1948, as amended). There are penalties for payment of a greater fee than allowed by regulations.

5. **TIME LIMIT FOR FILING CLAIMS.**—In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Public Law 303, 82d Congress, amending the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, regulations of the War Claims Commission provide that claims under section 6 (d) must be filed on or before April 9, 1953.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT CARD.**—There is enclosed an acknowledgment card which is to be completed and returned to the Commission, together with the application form. In the spaces indicated on the address portion of the card the claimant is to write plainly his name and mailing address. This card will be mailed to the claimant by the War Claims Commission upon receipt of this card and application. *Use enclosed self-addressed envelope in mailing application form and card.*

   Special attention is directed to question No. 7 which appears on page 1 of the application form. The claimant should indicate the claim number for prisoner of war $1 per day benefits assigned to him in the space provided.

   **DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN APPLICATION**

   Mail application form and acknowledgment card to
   
   WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

   **CLAIM MUST BE FILED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 9, 1953**
Claim No. ______________________ Date ____________________________

The War Claims Commission is in receipt of your application for compensation for forced labor and/or inhumane treatment as a prisoner of war.

If you change your mailing address, please notify this office of your new address promptly in writing and signed by you.

All correspondence relative to your case should bear your claim number.

War Claims Commission,
Washington 25, D. C.