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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

January 3, 1947

ROBERT V. SHIRLEY, CLERK

Honorable Amon G. Carter
President
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
Fort Worth, Texas

Re: Melvin J. Brewer, RA 6954524
Warzburg, R/C APO 227
New York, N. Y.

Dear Amon:

Upon my return to Washington, Mrs. Carr made available to me all material submitted to this office in behalf of the above cited soldier, by yourself and other interested parties in his home community.

For your information, I am handing you herewith communication received from the Office of the Chief of Staff, War Department. This letter had been held in the hope that a further and more specific report would be forthcoming shortly. However, to date, we have received no later information than that contained herein.

With cordial good wishes for yourself, I am

Sincerely,



TC:31

*The Committee will be expected
until review of case by
Judge Associate & approval
by President*

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

December 17, 1946

In reply
refer to: WDSLL/1316.1-51

Honorable Tom Connally

United States Senate

Dear Senator Connally:

Permit me to acknowledge your further expression of interest in Private Melvin J. Brewer, 6954524, and the correspondence concerning this soldier which you have referred to this Division.

This correspondence consists of a letter to you from Mr. Amon G. Carter, Fort Worth, Texas; a copy of a letter to Mr. Carter from Judge David McGee, Fort Worth, Texas; a copy of a letter from Private Brewer to Dr. and Mrs. G. S. Lackey, Fort Worth, Texas, and a letter to you from Dr. G. S. Lackey, 920 East Powell Street, Fort Worth 3, Texas. Mr. Carter's letter to you and Dr. Lackey's letter to you are herewith returned.

For reasons stated by them, Mr. Carter and your other correspondents express their belief that Private Brewer's sentence to death should be commuted to a term of confinement.

The only information presently available in the War Department is that Private Brewer was tried by a general court-martial overseas on November 2, 1946, convicted of murder of a German civilian, in violation of the 92d Article of War, and sentenced to death. A report just received shows that the record of trial in this case is now under consideration by the reviewing authority.

As you were advised on December 10, 1946, a letter to you from Judge David McGee, similar in purport to the correspondence now referred by you, in which Judge McGee quoted Private Brewer's letter to Dr. and Mrs. Lackey, has been dispatched overseas by air mail for consideration by the appropriate military authorities in connection with this case.

As you are aware, the law requires that no death sentence adjudged by a general court-martial may be carried into execution until

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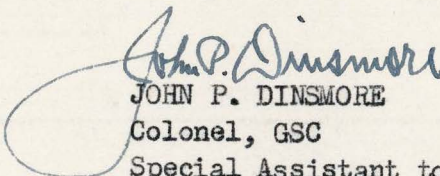
SEN. CONNALLY

Honorable Tom Connally

it has been confirmed by the President, who is now the only person authorized to confirm or commute sentences to death adjudged by courts-martial, prior to which the record of trial must be reviewed for legal sufficiency by a statutory Board of Review in the Office of The Judge Advocate General and by the Secretary of War.

For the foregoing reasons, I have been glad to forward copies of all of the correspondence now in reference from you and described above to The Judge Advocate General, with the request that they be filed in his office and given consideration in connection with his review of the record of trial in this case.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John P. Dinsmore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JOHN P. DINSMORE

Colonel, GSC

Special Assistant to the Chief
Legislative and Liaison Division

Incls