

May 15, 1933.

PPF 8015

Dear Joe:

I have received your letter of May twelfth, with inclosure.

In response to your request for a letter from the President to the Camp Merritt Memorial Association, let me explain the policy which it has been necessary to adopt. So many cases similar to this have been brought to our attention that were the President to give the time and attention necessary to reply personally, it would be physically impossible for him to deal with the problems of government.

For this reason, we have had to adopt the rule of refusing all requests for messages. I know you will appreciate the wisdom of our adhering strictly to this policy at the present time.

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Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY

Assistant Secretary to the
President.

FEE

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May 12, 1933.

Stephen Early
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Steve:

For the past several years I have handled (gratis) the publicity for the annual Memorial Day Exercises of the Camp Merritt Memorial Association. It is held at the site of the old camp, near Tenafly, N.J., where a large monument now stands. Governor Moore, the late Dwight Morrow, U. S. Senator Barbour, and others have been the speakers. Moore always attends. Last year, at my request, President, then Governor, Roosevelt sent a letter to the Association's president, copy of which I enclose. Colonel Valle, the president of the Association, is a personal friend of mine and, in addition, I served a long time at Merritt during the war. Will you be good enough to secure from the President a letter similar to the enclosed so that we may read it at the exercises and also use it for publicity purposes, as we did last year. Many thanks, Steve, and hope to be able to run down to Washington soon, when I trust such a busy and important man as you will be able to see me for a minute. Best to everybody---

Sincerely,

Joe Cohn

State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany

April 13, 1933.

My dear Colonel Valle:-

I regret exceedingly that I will be unable to be with you and your comrades on Memorial Day to participate in the exercises in honor of the brave men who passed through Camp Merritt during the World War and never returned.

Camp Merritt, in my opinion, should be a national shrine, as troops from every State in the Union passed through it either going over or returning from overseas. It was the greatest of our embarkation camps during the war and the busiest debarkation centre following the Armistice. The majority of the A. E. F. at one time or another were guests of Camp Merritt, some for days, others for weeks, according to the availability of transports.

And to the permanent garrison of Camp Merritt, I should like to pay a tribute. Many of them lost their lives while performing necessary tasks on this side, not being permitted to go overseas, as their work here was considered of vast importance. They wanted to "shove off" with the thousands who left daily for "over there," but had to be contented with duty here.

Please extend to your comrades my best wishes and the regret that I am unable to be with you.

Very sincerely yours.

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt.
Colonel Eugene H. Valle, President,
Camp Merritt Memorial Association,
20 George Street,
Tenafly, N. J.

RT

April 15, 1942

P. P. F.

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My dear Mr. Giegold:

The President has asked me to thank you and, through you, the members of the Camp Merritt Memorial Association, Inc. for their cordial invitation to him to be their guest speaker at the Memorial Services, on May 30, 1942. He deeply appreciates your thoughtfulness, and regrets that he cannot join with you in these inspiring ceremonies.

The President hopes you will be good enough to convey his best wishes to all those attending.

Sincerely yours,

EDWIN M. WATSON
Secretary to the President

Henry A. Giegold, Esq. x4
President, Camp Merritt
Memorial Association, Inc. #
Dumont, New Jersey

RB:rlk

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April 11, 1942

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. President:

For years this organization has carried on the traditions of our Association, paying tribute to the five hundred and seventy-eight men and women who passed away at Camp Merritt during the first World War. May I extend to you an invitation to be our Guest Speaker on May 30th, 1942 at 12:00 noon. I can appreciate how busy you are but I believe you can stimulate the patriotic interests in this locality by your presence.

You may recall that a few years ago we endeavored to have you come here and at that time you advanced the thought that sometime in the near future you might be with us on Memorial Day. We have, for some time, attempted to have this spot nationalized and our former Congressman, Ed. Kenney, as well as former Senator, Dwight Morrow, have tried to push legislation in that direction. At this time when we pay tribute to our dead, we would appreciate any effort you may make to be here with us.

It is thought by our Committee that you will probably be at Hyde Park that day and, if so, it might be possible for you to make the trip to Camp Merritt.

Ever mindful of the many duties that it is necessary for you to assume, we are hopeful that you will favor us with your presence.

Respectfully yours,

Henry A. Giegold
HENRY A. GIEGOLD,
PRESIDENT

HAG/fs

x Invitation Dumont, N.J.