

# Civilian Red Cross Messages Forwarded between the US and Japan in World War II

By Louis Fiset

In World War II the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) initiated a personal message scheme to allow civilians to communicate with friends and relatives in countries where postal services had been suspended and no other means of communication were possible. National Red Cross societies provided correspondents with pre-printed message forms. One side had space for the names and addresses of the sender and receiver, and for 25 words of text limited to personal and family matters. The back was for the recipient's reply.

The scheme was a mammoth undertaking. From December 26, 1939, until the scheme's conclusion on June 30, 1947, a total of 22,767,166 civilian messages were handled by the ICRC in Geneva. During the latter part of the war, as many as 20,000 messages passed through the Civilian Message Section daily. The greatest number of forwarded messages originated at Red Cross centers in Paris (4,547,431), Rome (2,999,910), London (2,676,220), Berlin (2,632,189), Brussels (1,075,009), and Washington, DC (1,014,134). [1]

Some of the messages received at Geneva were sent by or intended for prisoners of war, civilian internees, or deportees. Because Article 36 of the 1929 Prisoner of War Convention provided for the exchange of mail by post (a privilege not available to free civilians), these categories of individuals were allowed by the ICRC to use the scheme only if correspondence by prisoner of war mail was not possible. [2]

Red Cross societies were authorized to print their own versions of message forms, so more than 100 unique designs are known. Many societies later reprinted their forms with significant changes thereby adding to the number of collectible variations. A collector assembling a comprehensive collection of these documents is thus presented with a challenge. Some Red Cross message forms and their varieties are relatively easy to come by, such as those passed between England and the German occupied Channel Islands. However, this article focuses on messages transmitted between the US and Japan, between Japanese Americans and Japan's citizenry. This connection is both scarce and offers a historical perspective unique in the story of the Civilian Message Red Cross Scheme.

## Japanese Americans

On December 8, 1941, President Roosevelt signed a proclamation declaring "that an invasion has been perpetuated upon the territory of the United States by the Empire of Japan" and that all resident Japanese nationals over the age of 14 in the US and its possessions were immediately "liable to restraint, or to give security, or to remove and depart from the United States." Immediately, 47,305 Japanese nationals became enemy aliens. The FBI started rounding up these residents the evening before, dispatching them to Justice Department internment camps operated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The detainees fell under the guidelines of the 1929 Geneva Convention, including Article 36. [3]

Three months later, 120,000 residents of Japanese ancestry, two thirds of whom were American citizens, were uprooted from their homes in Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona, and sent to encampments known as relocation centers surrounded by barbed wire and under armed guard. Authorization for their incarceration derived from a presidential executive order (EO9066). As a result, protection under the Geneva Convention, specifically Article 36, did not apply. [4]

The different political status of the two groups thus had implications for eligibility to participate in the Civilian Personal Message Scheme.

## ARC Authority

Earlier, the Office of Censorship clarified the authority of the American Red Cross to participate in the personal message scheme in the 1942 published postal censorship regulations: [5]

*The American Red Cross has been authorized to transmit, after censorship, short messages of a personal nature to residents in enemy territory. Letters, documents, and messages of a business nature cannot be sent by this means.*

*Application should be made to any one of the local Red Cross chapters, where full instructions can be obtained. No other organization or individual, unless duly authorized, will transmit communications to enemy territory.*

All communication with friends and family in Japan required use of the Civilian Personal Message Scheme set up by the ICRC on Form 1616 message forms provided by the American Red Cross. In addition, English was the required language.

## Early Form 1616 messages

Form 1616  
Rev. April 1942

**Comité International de la Croix-Rouge**  
Palais du Conseil Général, GENEVE (Suisse)  
**AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
Washington, D.C. 12 1942  
**CIVILIAN MESSAGE FORM**

Sender—Envoyeur

Name—Nom Itabashi  
Christian name—Prénom Tomio  
Street—Rue 5007-D W.R.A. Tule Lake Project  
City—Localité Newell  
State—Province California  
Message to be transmitted—Message à transmettre—  
(not more than 25 words, family news of strictly personal character.)  
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial.)  
We are all well and safe. Do not worry.  
Our regards to relatives.  
Chapter Tule Lake Project Date Nov. 4, 1942

ADDRESSEE—DESTINATAIRE

Name Itabashi BIRTH—NAISSANCE  
(Nom) Place Hiroshima, Japan  
Christian name Koichiro and Date 1892  
(Prénom) (Lien et Date)  
Street Yano-mura Kunidome Citizen of Japan  
(Rue) (Country-pay)  
Locality Koonu-gun Name Itabashi, Hunsuke  
(Localité) of father (Nom du père)  
Province Hiroshima-ken Relationship to Sender Father  
(Province) (Parenté au correspondant)  
Country Japan  
(Pays)

Reply on the reverse side  
Write very legibly

Réponse au verso  
Ecrire très lisiblement

REPLY—REPONSE

Message to be sent to inquirer—Message à renvoyer au demandeur  
(not more than 25 words, family news of strictly personal character.) (25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial.)

手紙見た 高橋氏よりも聞いた 此方は皆  
無事 花兄様に宜敷く 健康を祈る 兄ひ  
且つ望め

DETAINED ALIEN  
ENEMY MAIL  
EXAMINED  
BY 1500  
U.S. & N. S.

CENSOR  
EXAMINED  
By 1500

Date—Date  
Signature

Please write very legibly Prière d'écrire très lisiblement

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
DEC 14 1943  
INQUIRY UNIT

LA CROIX-ROUGE DU JAPON  
TOKIO

SEP 13 1943

Figure 1

The earliest Form 1616 seen by the author was written on April 30, 1942, a prewar Seattle resident writing to his brother from the Fort Missoula internment camp. See Figure 1. First censored locally at the internment camp (boxed censor marking) and again by the POW Unit at the Chicago Office of Censorship censor station (censors 102, 66), the message was forwarded to Washington DC and docketed by the ARC on June 11, 1942. A faint red circle marking indicates docketing at the ICRC Agency in Geneva. The message was subsequently forwarded to the Red Cross of Japan-Tokio (hereafter, Tokyo Red Cross.) The same figure shows the brother's reply, written in Japanese.

In January 1943 the ICRC began to receive from the Japanese Red Cross civilian message forms intended for now-incarcerated Japanese Americans. [6] Each relocation centers published weekly newspapers. Articles

occasionally appeared documenting the personal message scheme. The *Minidoka Irrigator* reported that by the end of August three shipments of Red Cross messages from Japan had been received and distributed at the Minidoka Relocation Center. [7] At the Tule Lake Relocation center five messages were still awaiting pick-up at the local Red Cross office on September 1. [8] By then the exchange of messages between the US and Japan was well under way.

Figure 2 shows a Form 1616 from an inmate at the Tule Lake Relocation Center to his father, in Hiroshima, written November 4, 1942 and docketed at ARC headquarters on November 12.

Form 1616  
Rev. April 1942

Comité International de la Croix-Rouge  
Palais du Conseil Général, GENEVE (Suisse)  
**AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
Washington, D. C. **12 1942**

**CIVILIAN MESSAGE FORM**  
16089

Sender—Envoyeur

Name — Nom Itabashi  
Christian name — Prénom Tomio  
Street — Rue 5007-D W.R.A. Tule Lake Project  
City — Localité Newell  
State — Province California  
Message to be transmitted — Message à transmettre —  
(not more than 25 words, family news of strictly personal character.)  
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial.)  
We are all well and safe. Do not worry.  
Our regards to relatives.

Chapter Tule Lake Project Date Nov. 4, 1942

ADDRESSEE—DESTINATAIRE

Name Itabashi BIRTH—NAISSANCE  
(Nom) Place Hiroshima, Japan  
Christian name Koichiro and Date 1892  
(Prénom) (Lieu et Date)  
Citizen of Japan (Country—pays)  
Street Yano-mura Kunitome Name Itabashi, Munauke  
(Rue) (Nom du père)  
Locality Koomu-gun Relationship to Sender Father  
(Localité) (Parent ou envoyeur)  
Province Hiroshima-ken Country Japan  
(Province) (Pays)

Reply on the reverse side  
Write very legibly

Figure 2

Form 1616  
Rev. April 1942

Comité International de la Croix-Rouge  
Palais du Conseil Général, GENEVE (Suisse)  
**AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
Washington, D. C.

**CIVILIAN MESSAGE FORM**  
25249

Sender—Envoyeur

Name — Nom TAKAHASHI  
Christian name — Prénom Henri  
Street — Rue 11 - 6 - F  
City — Localité Topaz  
State — Province Utah  
Message to be transmitted — Message à transmettre —  
(not more than 25 words, family news of strictly personal character.)  
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial.)  
ALL IS WELL. EVERYONE IN GOOD HEALTH.  
HELEN IS A PIANO TEACHER. PLEASE DON'T  
WORRY. FAMILY SENDS BEST REGARDS.  
HENRI TAKAHASHI

Chapter Central Utah Date April 10, 1943

ADDRESSEE—DESTINATAIRE

Name Takahashi BIRTH—NAISSANCE  
(Nom) Place Tokyo, Japan  
Christian name Rev. Otohara and Date Nov. 20, 1886  
(Prénom) (Lieu et Date)  
Citizen of Japan (Country—pays)  
Street Honmura 2788 Name 20 P. Takahashi  
(Rue) (Nom du père)  
Locality Moji City Relationship to Sender Father  
(Localité) (Parent ou envoyeur)  
Province Fukuoka-Ken Country Japan  
(Province) (Pays)

Reply on the reverse side  
Write very legibly

Figure 3

The message in Figure 3 was generated by an inmate at the Central Utah (Topaz) Relocation Center to a relative in Tokyo. It was written April 10, 1943, docketed by ARC April 27, and received by the Tokyo Red Cross on July 28.

### Early Tokyo Red Cross messages

An example of a Tokyo Red Cross message form may be seen in Figure 4. Docketed by the Tokyo Red Cross on March 23, 1943, it passed through ICRC Geneva on June 7, and reached ARC headquarters on August 27. The message was addressed to the writer's relative at his prewar address in Los Angeles.

However, the recipient had been removed from his home nearly a year earlier. This suggests a first-time communication since the beginning of the war. A “Heart Mt” pencil manuscript, likely applied at ARC headquarters, indicates the recipient is now at Wyoming’s Heart Mountain Relocation Center. The pencil manuscript, 12-AB-24, documents the recipient’s local address - Block 12, Apartments AB, Barrack 24. The required Japanese language message concerns the well being of family in Japan, with prayers for the relative’s eternal good health and wishes for a reply.

Figure 4 →

### MS *Gripsholm* /*Teia Maru* exchange voyage

The usual routing for Red Cross messages between the US and Japan was via the trans-Siberian Railway, Tehran and Geneva. In September 1943 a one-time opportunity arose for correspondents in both countries to send messages with a shorter transit time. The State Department and Japan’s Foreign Ministry successfully negotiated a second diplomatic exchange in which Japanese residents in the Americas would be exchanged for American civilians held by Japanese forces in the Far East. The MS *Gripsholm* departed New York harbor after midnight on September 2, 1943, with 1,500 repatriates, relief supplies, mail, and Red Cross messages, to rendezvous at Mormugao, Goa with the Japanese exchange ship, *Teia Maru*, carrying a similar number of repatriates and cargo.

On September 2, 1943, inmates at all ten relocation centers were advised they could send 25-word Form 1616 messages to Japan but must act with haste. Although *Gripsholm* had already, messages, along with mail and relief supplies would be flown to the ship’s first call, at Rio de Janeiro, scheduled for September 16. Stenographers and typists were present at each center Red Cross office to help process forms to be airmailed to Washington D.C. Scribes would be available to help elders with difficult English language skills. The deadline was Saturday, September 4 so that messages could reach the post office in Washington DC on September 6 at 9:00 am. Since the messages were to be flown in bulk, writers would be assessed no postage fee.

The *Gila News-Courier* advised readers that from late Thursday evening, September 2 through 11 am on Saturday, Red Cross representatives would be available to help produce the messages. All would be subject to censorship and must be written in English. [9] The response was heavy. The *Topaz Times*, for example, reported 1,885 messages sent from the Central Utah Relocation Center, [10] while the *Rohwer Outpost* reported “the local chapter of the National Red Cross successfully completed and forwarded over a thousand copies of letters to the Washington, D.C. office.” [11]

*Gripsholm*’s schedule to arrive at Rio de Janeiro on September 16 to take on additional repatriates and cargo allowed plenty of time for an Army Transport Command plane to carry last-minute air shipments of next of kin parcels, 6,500 pounds of letter mail, and the Form 1616 personal message forms processed at the relocation centers. [12]

**SOCIÉTÉ DE LA CROIX-ROUGE DU JAPON**  
5, PARC SHIBA  
TOKIO (Japan)  
14654  
MAR 23 1943

**DEMANDEUR - INQUIRER - ANFRAGESTELLER**

Nom - Name - Name: NAGUMO  
Prénoms - First name - Vorname: Kanichiro  
Rue - Street - Strasse:  
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: Gunma-ke  
Province - Province - Provinz:  
Pays - Country - Land: Japan

Message à transmettre - Message - Mitteilung  
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) -  
(25 words at maximum, only personal and private news) - (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten).

皆様ノ安否ヲ如何ニ  
此方ハ皆變リナシ  
尚水久ニ健康ヲ祈ル  
返信有ラマ欲シ

Date - Date - Datum: 12-AB-24

**DESTINATAIRE - ADDRESSEE - EMPFÄNGER**

Nom - Name - Name: NAGUMO  
Prénoms - First name - Vorname: S.  
Nationalité - Nationality - Staatsangehörigkeit: Japanese

Lieu et date de naissance - Place and date of birth - Geburtsort und Datum:  
Dernière adresse connue - Last address known - Letztbekannte Adresse: 1648 No. Hoover St.  
Rue - Street - Strasse: Los Angeles  
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: Calif.  
Province - Province - Provinz:  
Pays - Country - Land: U.S.A.

RÉPONSE AU VERSO. - ANSWER ON NEXT PAGE. - ANTWORT UMSETZG.  
Ecrire très lisiblement. - Write legibly. - Bitte deutlich schreiben.

AMERICAN RED CROSS  
AUG 27 1943  
INQUIRY UNIT

Japan's citizenry was provided the same opportunity to send messages to North America as part of the second diplomatic exchange. In addition to the Red Cross messages, postcards not exceeding 200 characters, were also permitted. On August 22, 1943, citizens were advised through the national media of a one-time opportunity to send postal cards "via an exchange ship" to North America (including Canada) as an alternative to the standard Red Cross message forms then being distributed by the Japanese Red Cross. Such mail would allow correspondents to write longer messages. Both message options were available to correspondents. [13]

The Japanese exchange vessel, *Teia Maru*, departed Yokohama on September 14 to rendezvous with *Gripsholm* at Mormugao on October 15-21.

The reply to the message sent from the Fort Missoula internment camp on April 30, 1942, was on board (Figure 1). It was docketed by the Tokyo Red Cross on September 3, 1943, two weeks prior to the departure of *Teia Maru* and received by the ARC Washington DC office on December 14, two weeks after *Gripsholm's* return to New York. The dates confirm dispatch on the return voyage of *Gripsholm*. Following censorship at the New York censor station's POW Unit, the message was forwarded, likely with other messages, to Fort Missoula, where it was censored again before being handed over to the recipient. The message reads:

*I received your letter and I also heard from Mr. Takahashi. We are all well here. Hana's brother says hello. I pray for your health. Have hope and be patient.*

It took 19 months for the message form to complete its circuit.

**SOCIÉTÉ DE LA CROIX-ROUGE DU JAPON**  
5, PARC SHIBA  
TOKIO (Japon)

6457  
SEP 2 1943

**DEMANDEUR - INQUIRER - ANFRAGESTELLER**

Nom - Name - Name: IKUMA  
Prénom - First name - Vorname: Yasu  
Rue - Street - Strasse:  
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: TOKYO  
Province - Province - Provinz:  
Pays - Country - Land: Japan

Message à transmettre - Message - Mitteilung  
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) -  
(25 words at maximum, only personal and private news) - (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten).

皆無じですか 静江・鈴子様の夢を見る  
皆心配す 親戚元氣 皆様の健康に祈る

12-24-AB  
157

**DESTINATAIRE - ADDRESSEE - EMPFÄNGER**

Nom - Name - Name: NAGUMO  
Prénom - First name - Vorname: Shōji  
Nationalité - Nationality - Staatsangehörigkeit: Japanese  
Lieu et date de naissance (Geburtsort und Datum)  
Place and date of birth  
Dernière adresse connue (Latest address known)  
Letztbekannte Adresse: 1646 N. Hoover Street  
Rue - Street - Strasse:  
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: Los Angeles  
Province - Province - Provinz: Calif.  
Pays - Country - Land: U.S.A. family # 23623

RÉPONSE AU VERSO. (Answer on next page)  
Antworten auf Rückseite.  
ANSWER ON NEXT PAGE  
Write legibly.  
ANTWORT UMSEITIG  
Bitte deutlich schreiben.

**SOCIÉTÉ DE LA CROIX-ROUGE DU JAPON**  
5, PARC SHIBA  
TOKIO (Japon)

29638  
AUG 27 1943

**DEMANDEUR - INQUIRER - ANFRAGESTELLER**

Nom - Name - Name: OTANI  
Prénom - First name - Vorname: Kōsho  
Rue - Street - Strasse:  
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: KYOTO  
Province - Province - Provinz:  
Pays - Country - Land: Japan

Message à transmettre - Message - Mitteilung  
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) -  
(25 words at maximum, only personal and private news) - (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten).

奮闘を謝す一層健康に留意し教化の本務を全うせられよ。  
大谷光照

Date - Date - Datum:

**DESTINATAIRE - ADDRESSEE - EMPFÄNGER**

Nom - Name - Name: NAGATOMI Yū  
Prénom - First name - Vorname: Rev. Shinjo  
Nationalité - Nationality - Staatsangehörigkeit: Japanese  
Lieu et date de naissance (Geburtsort und Datum)  
Place and date of birth  
Dernière adresse connue (Latest address known)  
Letztbekannte Adresse: 1881 Pine St.  
Rue - Street - Strasse:  
Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: San Francisco, Calif.  
Province - Province - Provinz:  
Pays - Country - Land: U.S.A. family # 26906

RÉPONSE AU VERSO. (Answer on next page)  
Antworten auf Rückseite.  
ANSWER ON NEXT PAGE  
Write legibly.  
ANTWORT UMSEITIG  
Bitte deutlich schreiben.

← Figure 5

↑ Figure 6

Figure 5 shows a message originating in Tokyo, docketed by the Tokyo Red Cross on September 2. The American Red Cross docketed the message on December 14, 1943. Again, the dates confirm transport by the exchange ships. After censorship by the POW Unit at New York, the message was forwarded by pouch to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, where the addressee had been since August 1942. The message enquires about the recipient's health, expressing worry about relatives and their wellbeing.

A similar message (Figure 6), addressed to a priest at a Buddhist Church in San Francisco, was forwarded to him at the Manzanar Relocation Center. It was docketed by the Japanese Red Cross on August 17, 1943, carried aboard the exchange ships, and received by the American Red Cross Inquiry Unit December 14. The message reads: "Thank you for your efforts. Please take care of your health and fulfill your duties as an educator."

Postcards: The option of writing longer messages on postcards increased the burden on censors in Japan and the US. However, these cards were not processed by the ICRC or the ARC, thus, reducing the Red Cross workload, if ever so slightly. Figure 7 shows an uprated postcard originating at Tokyo, bearing a September 1, 1943 (Showa 18) postmark, with plenty of time to reach *Teia Maru* prior to the vessel's departure from Yokohama on the 16th. It was addressed to the recipient's prewar address in Seattle but forwarded to the Tule Lake Relocation Center. Most postcards seen by the author bear the same two handstamps indicating the recipient's status as an internee eligible for Prisoner of War service.

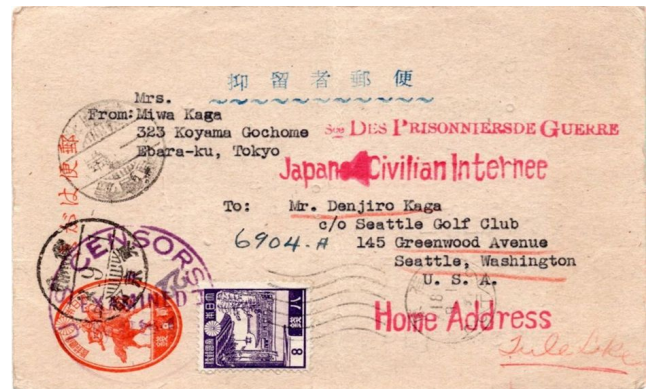


Figure 7

To illustrate the advantage of the postcard option in providing more personal information than possible in the 25-word message, the message typed on the back reads in full:

*I received your first letter in April this year and am very happy to hear that you are all in good health. I have been worried about your safety ever since. Kiyo and Kikuko are doing well and I am also feeling fine, so please be rest assured. We have also contacted you three times, but I hope you have received them. Kimiko and her husband and grandson Kunihiko are also doing well.*

*Please make sure you make arrangements so that you can return to Japan at the next opportunity; we are working hard to make that happen.*

*Well, then, please take care of your health.*

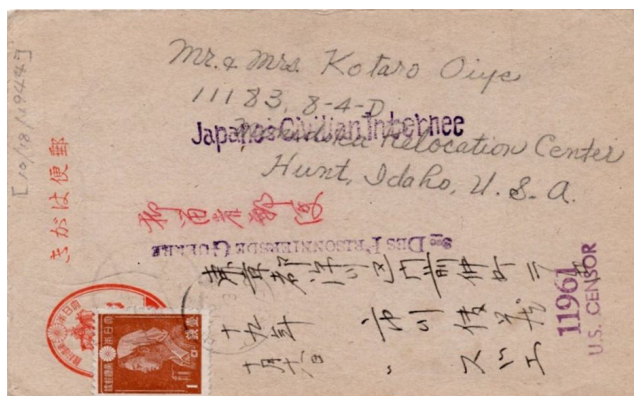


Figure 8

Japan's Foreign Ministry initially offered the postcard option as a one-time opportunity. However, evidence shows the service continued in use beyond the diplomatic exchange voyages. The card in Figure 8, for example, was postmarked October 18, 1944, more than a year later. It is addressed not to the recipient's prewar address but to the Minidoka Relocation Center, at Hunt, Idaho, suggesting previous contact by the correspondents during the war. Likely, the card was bundled with other internee mail and transported by rail across Siberia and Iran to Lisbon and onward by ship to New York where it was censored before forwarding to the Hunt destination.

## Later message forms

Civilian personal messages continued throughout the war, as seen in Figure 9. This message, on a Tokyo Red Cross message form, originated on October 25, 1944, transited through the ICRC at Geneva on December 22, and was docketed by the American Red Cross Inquiry Unit on January 8, 1945. The message reads:

*I am glad to hear that everyone is fine and healthy. Here everyone is fine. I beg for peace of mind. I'm looking forward to seeing you again and receiving health news.*

Civilian personal messages continued to be generated and processed well into 1946. Figure 10 shows a message from a prewar Japanese Peruvian interned at the Crystal City family internment camp who repatriated to Japan in late 1945. It was docketed by the Tokyo Red Cross on July 15, 1946, and censored by the Civil Censorship Detachment on July 26. Because international postal relations with Japan did not resume until the following September, the Red Cross message scheme still remained the only means of communication for the Japanese citizenry.

**Figure 9: Tokyo Red Cross Message Form (October 25, 1944)**

**DEMANDEUR – INQUIRER – ANFRAGESTELLER**

Nom - Name - Name: **NOZAWA**  
 Prénom - First name - Vorname: **Munesaku**  
 Rue - Street - Strasse: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: **Yamanashi ken**  
 Province - Province - Provinz: **Japan**  
 Pays - Country - Land: **Japan**

**Message à transmettre – Message – Mitteilung**  
 (25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) –  
 (25 words at maximum, only personal and private news) – (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten).

**Message (Japanese):**  
 便ヲ受ケ皆ノ健康ヲ喜ブ此方モ皆無事  
 安心ヲ乞ウ 健康ニテ又會ウ日ヲ待ツ

**DESTINATAIRE – ADDRESSEE – EMPFÄNGER**

Nom - Name - Name: **NOZAWA**  
 Prénom - First name - Vorname: **Tomoyuki**  
 Nationalité - Nationality - Staatsangehörigkeit: **Japan**  
 Lieu et date de naissance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dernière adresse connue: **11-6-F**  
 Rue - Street - Strasse: **Topaz, Utah**  
 Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: **U.S.A.**  
 Province - Province - Provinz: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pays - Country - Land: **U.S.A.**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS INQUIRY UNIT**  
**JAN 8 1945**

Figure 9

**Figure 10: Tokyo Red Cross Message Form (July 15, 1946)**

**DEMANDEUR – INQUIRER – ANFRAGESTELLER**

Nom - Name - Name: **MATSUURA**  
 Prénom - First name - Vorname: **Kiyoko**  
 Rue - Street - Strasse: **Isogo-Machi 349**  
 Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: **Isogo-Ku**  
 Province - Province - Provinz: **Yokohama City**  
 Pays - Country - Land: **JAPAN**

**Message à transmettre – Message – Mitteilung**  
 (25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) –  
 (25 words at maximum, only personal and private news) – (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten).

**Message (Japanese):**  
 無事ニ歸リマシタ 吉彦ハ學校へ 邦子ハ元氣デス  
 敦子ハカハラズ 安心デサイ。

**DESTINATAIRE – ADDRESSEE – EMPFÄNGER**

Nom - Name - Name: **NODA**  
 Prénom - First name - Vorname: **KIKUKO**  
 Nationalité - Nationality - Staatsangehörigkeit: **JAPANESE**  
 Lieu et date de naissance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dernière adresse connue: **AVENIDA URUGUAY No. 189**  
 Rue - Street - Strasse: **LIMA**  
 Localité - Locality - Ortschaft: **PERU S.A.**  
 Province - Province - Provinz: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pays - Country - Land: **PERU S.A.**

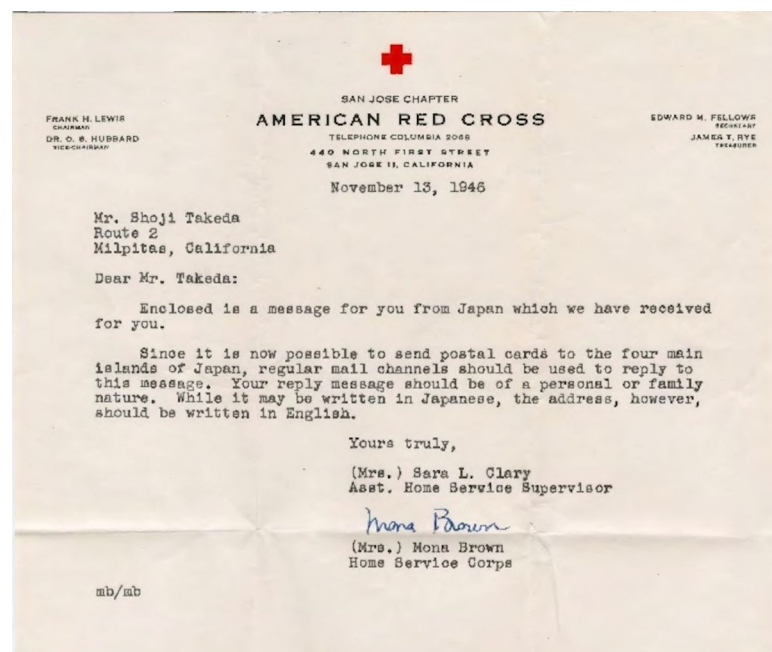
**AMERICAN RED CROSS INQUIRY UNIT**  
**JAN 8 1945**

Figure 10

## Conclusion

On November 13, 1946, the San Jose Chapter of the American Red Cross advised the recipient of an enclosed message from Japan that because regular mail channels were now restored any reply message should be by

postal card. The letter, shown in Figure 11, was sent to a former inmate in a relocation center who had returned to his prewar home more than a year earlier.



← Figure 11

↑ Figure 12

The postcard from Japan to Peru (Figure 12) from a former internee at the Crystal City family internment camp, postmarked October 17, 1946, confirms the resumption of postal relations with Japan. By then, postal relations with all countries had been re-established. [14] By June 30, 1947, the ICRC Civilian Message Section stopped forwarding messages; the Civilian Personal Message Scheme came to a close.

## Endnotes

1. *Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on its activities during the Second World War (September 1, 1939-June 30, 1947)*, Volume II. (Geneva: May 1948), 72-73.
2. *Report of the IRCC*, 67.
3. Louis Fiset. *Detained, Interned, Incarcerated: U.S. Enemy Noncombatant Mail in World War II*. (Collectors Club of Chicago, 2010), 31-32.
4. Fiset (2010), 155-173.
5. United States Government Office of Censorship. *U.S. Postal Censorship Regulations*. (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, April 13, 1942), 4.
6. *Report of the IRCC*, 69.
7. *Minidoka Irrigator*, Sept. 11, 1943, 1.
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