



Chaplain Alvin I. Fine

Mr. M. Leavitt  
American Jewish Joint Dist. Com.  
100 East 42nd Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. Leavitt :

Doubtlessly, Mr. Manuel Siegel has mentioned my name to you in recent letters. There is no need, I think, to introduce myself.

In reply to many inquiries from the States, I was sent to Shanghai in September to submit a report on refugee affairs to my command. Later, I was returned to Shanghai to be assigned to the Army Civil Affairs Section as liaison officer in the refugee problem.

During this period, it has been my privilege to work closely with Manny Siegel. In fact, to a very large degree, my job has been to assist him in whatever small way it has been possible for me to do so.

I am certain that Manny's reports have given you an accurate picture of ~~the~~ work he is carrying on and the enormous scope of the problem at hand. Believe me, however, no verbal report could give you the slightest indication of what one goes through in the course of a day's work in Hongkew, or on behalf of the people there. It requires the patience of a saint, the wisdom of a Solomon, in addition to a large measure of every other human virtue. The more I become familiar with the situation and the more I have contact with the prodigious difficulties, the heartache involved---the more I come to admire Manny's ability, his sense of proportions, his clear thinking, and the fine humanitarian instincts which motivate his work. A man with lesser qualities would have despaired long ago. This, on Manny's part, is all the more remarkable after two and one half years of Jap internment, under which many others were broken in health and in spirit.

I am not given to flattery, and I expect, merely as a matter of duty, a high sense of obligation and devotion on the part of those engaged in JDC and similar work. However, by all high standards of measuring these things, Manny Siegel is still a bright example for others.

*Photocopy to Manny 11/11*  
*Chava*  
7 November 1945  
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I assure you that in the Army many men have been decorated for doing less than Manny has done and is doing here in Shanghai. I have no intention of writing a detailed citation. There are more important things at hand. Besides, I am certain that JDC has quite a good idea of Manny's record. I just wanted you to know that someone, fully aware of the problem involved and quite familiar with entire situation, is of the opinion that Manny deserves the highest commendation that your organization and the American Jewish Community can give him. I consider it a privilege to work with him and to count him among my dear friends.

Two and one half years in a Jap camp didn't leave Manny as fresh as a daisy. I know you realize that. He has earned a rest---a chance to think of himself, for a change. May I dare to tread where I really have no business by suggesting that Manny be replaced as soon as possible--and given the opportunity to go Stateside for a spell.

If Manny were to learn of my writing this letter, I am certain that he would be quite annoyed. Please do me the favor of telling him nothing about it.

I look forward to meeting you when I return to the States. With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,