

138 Allen Street  
Lansing, Michigan  
20 May 1947

Mr Drew Pearson  
1313-29th Street, NW.  
Washington, D.C..

Dear Sir:

After hearing your Sunday night broadcast, 18 May 47 I felt obliged to write the following, relative to the trial of Lt Comdr Little.

I knew Little personally, and if his trial is not already over, must be made a honest trial to reflect true justice for the dead and living who fought for our country.

Little should have been tried right along with Fukuhara as a War Criminal.

What has happened to the testimony given by 1700 American, English, Austrailians and Dutch prisoners of war that were under him and hated him as much as they ever hated a Japanese and for a good reason. My legs have no reflex today because of Little who turned me in for stealing a little rice. I'm fortunate that I am alive today; we all stole; we were hungry. When you are starving you do things you wouldn't do otherwise. Little stole; and it was our Red Cross supplies--otherwise, how did he drink American coffee all the time, eat Spam, smoke American cigarettes? His henchmen traded our ration of rice to us for the little we had. He was merciless and as cruel a dictator as Hitler ever was. He was hated even by the officers in our camp. We feared him as we feared the Japs.

Knigh and other prisoners caused trouble by stealing but when Major Mamereau was in charge he handled all situations without turning our boys over to the Japs to kill and torture. When Major Mamereau was moved to another camp Little took over the camp, then the reign of hell began.

On my mess kit are words inscribed in Japanese I will long remember as meaning nothing but pain and harshness. On the bottom of my mess kit is the sentence, in american, "GET OUT OF MY MESSHALL". These are Little's famous, or more rightly, infamous words that he used often, those words I will remember always. Speak that sentence over the radio and you will rekindle the hate that is in the hearts of all men who knew him in Camp 17-B, Omuta, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan.

If this man is allowed to ever again wear the uniform of an officer and a gentleman of the United States Navy and to the honor to which this uniform alludes and to again regulate the well being and lives of men under him, then most surely the dead heroes of our country will not rest easy in their graves. Little should be stripped of everything that stands for our Navy and sentenced the same as any criminal.

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As evidenced in all the testimony I know was written against him, and God knows for good reason, he never gave a man a decent break and deserves none himself.

If his trial is over, he should be given a retrial. The statements I make herein are not idle remarks. If the testimony given by myself and others which resulted in his return to the United States, has been lost or misplaced we will gladly give it again. Little had more threats on his life than any Jap was ever cursed with.

The men who first came in contact with Little can testify that Pvt Knight is not the only man whose death can be attributed to Little, they can tell you of a Marine, know as the "Greek" and many others whom he caused pain and hardship ruled out by his harsh self-imposed treatment while he controlled our food and lives under the grace of the Japs.

I am only one small voice and provide these facts for your intelligent use and imagine by the time you receive this epistle will be in receipt of many more sent in protest of the outcome Little's trial seems to indicate.

If you wish to use my name, you may, it is already signed to testimony I gave when I arrived in Manila, after the war was over, given against him and certain Japs.

I could go on and on about this man but as I want this to reach you as soon as possible will close for now but will gladly furnish more detailed information if it can assure that no mistrial of justice allows Little to escape his just due.

Sincerely yours,

*Donald D. Rutter*

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Japanese Serial Number 1310

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