

W.P.H.C

No. 4439

Sheet No. ....<sup>1</sup>.....

1940

(1)

①


Telegram from R. Cm, Gr & E. I. C. , No. 348 of

1.10.40.



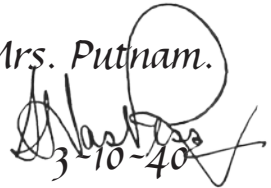
1. 2.10.40

(2)

M.P. 957/37  
attached.   
3.10.40.

Office,

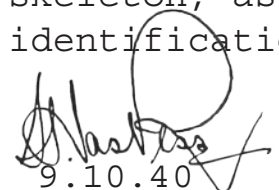
Please attach file re search for Mrs. Putnam.

  
3-10-40

(3)

His Excellency.

Submitted. A communication might be addressed to the U.S. Consul in Sydney, but, before doing so, I suggest that Mr. Gallagher should be asked by telegraph for full details, including, e.g., any indications of age of skeleton, approximate height of woman, and anything that might be useful for identification, such as condition of teeth, etc. If Your Excellency concurs, Dr. Macpherson would no doubt advise as to points that might be put to Mr. Gallagher. It would perhaps be useful to know where the skeleton was found, e.g. if on the beach it might be an indication of whether the body was washed ashore. Mr. Gallagher should also be asked to state what has been done with the skeleton, as it may be desired to forward it for identification purposes?

  
9.10.40

(4)

Sec

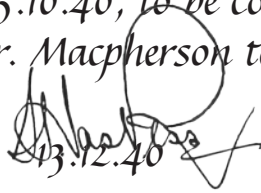
PL make these enquiries telegraphically in the meantime instructing the <sup>and Mr. Gallagher</sup> RC, to keep the matter secret.  
AD 10/X/40

Secretary Vaskess, please make these enquiries telegraphically in the meantime instructing the Resident Commissioner (and Mr. Gallagher) to keep the matter secret.

10/10/40

(5)

Spoken with Dr. Macpherson on 10.10.40 and again today. Telegram to Mr. Gallagher, No. 1 of 15.10.40, to be coded and sent, as drafted in consultation with Dr. Macpherson today.

  
13.12.40

②

Coded & sent  
15.10.40 OM

(6)

Telegram to Ag. R.Cr., G. & E.I.C., Conf., No. 500 of 16.10.40, as drafted by the Secretary, coded and sent by Mrs. Lucchinelli.

OM  
16.10.40.

③

[Ag. R.Cr., G. & E.I.C., Conf. — Acting Resident Commissioner, Gilberts and Ellice Islands Colony, Confidential]

(7)

Telegram from O.C., P.I.S.S, No. 1, Conf., of 17.10.40.



④

(8)

Central Medical Authority

What do you make of ④.  
Would it in yr opinion be consistent with the ascription of the remains to Miss Earhardt?

AD  
21/X/40

# W.P.H.C

No. 4439

Sheet No. ....2.....

1940

⑨

Secretary, W.P.H.C.,

According to 4 no positive evidence of identification was found, and I am afraid the data available does nothing to establish the skeleton as that of Mrs. Putnam. It is unfortunate that the complete pelvis is not available as this would have done much to establish remains as being those of a woman. It is unfortunate also that no evidence of dental work was found as this frequently affords a most valuable means of identification. Bones, per se, unless correlated with some known physical deformity or injury in the deceased (such as a healed fracture, etc.,) are of little value as regards identification, although of course sex and age can often be established.

2. I would suggest the bones be sent either to the Anatomical Department at the University of Sydney or to Fiji for farther examination, and that the search be continued with a view to discovering farther bones, personal trinkets, etc. Up till the present the number on the sextant case appears to afford the most hopeful means of identification. The instrument itself moreover, if a good one, should have engraved on it a number assigned either by the Bureau of Standards in the case of the United States, or the National Physical Laboratory in the case of the United Kingdom. This number indicates as a rule the result of tests to ascertain various optical errors for which compensation requires to be made in using the instrument.

D. C. M. Macpherson

Acting Central Medical Authority

23rd October, 1940

10

His Excellency,

Submitted with (4) and (9) and with a draft telegram to Mr. Gallagher for Y.E.'s approval.

2. ? Perhaps a carefully worded letter should now be sent to the U.S. Consul-General in Sydney asking him to obtain a description of the sextant carried by Mrs. Putnam and any number or distinguishing mark on it?

*[Signature]*  
26.10.40.

5

(No 2 - 26.10.40)

5 coded and sent.  
OM  
26.10.40

11

*Sec Dft tele appd*

*2. yr #2: better I think await the arrival of the remains etc. Thinnest rumours which may in the end prove unfounded are liable to be spread.*

*26/X/40*

Secretary, draft telegram approved.

2. Your #2: Better I think await the arrival of the remains, etc. Thinnest rumours which may in the end prove unfounded are liable to be spread.

12

B.U. <sup>2</sup>  
12 41  
~~21.11.40~~

Telegram from R. Cm., G.&E.I.C.,  
Conf., No. 75 of 11.2.41

*[Signature]*  
12.2.41

6

13

His Excellency,

Submitted with (6), and with a draft telegram to the Resident Commissioner of the the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony for your Excellency's consideration.

*[Signature]*  
13.2.41

7

no 83,  
(Conf. - 14.2.41.)

W.P.H.C

No. 4439

Sheet No. ....<sup>3</sup>.....

1940

(14)

7 coded  
& sent by  
Mrs. L.  
14.2.41

*Sec.*

*I have added a sentence.*

*AD 14/2/41*

(15)

(8)

B.U. 27.2.41

Telegram from R.Cr., G.&E.I.C., No. 94 of 17.2.41.

*[Signature]*  
18.2.41.

(16)

(9)

Telegram from R.Cr., G.&E.I.C., No. 95 of 17.2.41.

*[Signature]*  
18.2.41.

(17)

(10)

B.U. 3.4.41 Telegram from Officer in Charge, P.I.S.S.,  
Gardner Island, Conf., of 27.12.40.

*[Signature]*  
25.3.41.

(18)

Ass't Secretary,  
For necessary action.

*[Signature]*  
28.3.41

(19)

The Central Medical Authority,

We have spoken by telephone concerning this matter & I am sending you the file and the coffin to the Central Medical School to Dr. Hoodless.

2. H.E. will be glad if the bones may be examined and a report submitted in due course.

*[Signature]*  
Asst. Secy. W.P.H.C.  
31.3.41.

Stamped:

MEDICAL DEPT.  
REC'D ...31.3.41.....

(20)

Principal C.M.S.

The entries in this file will put us in possession of the known facts concerning certain human remains which will be sent to you, probably after 1/4, for general examination and later report.

*Curry*  
31.3.41

(21)

D.M.S.

My report on these bones is enclosed. I will take charge of these bones until it is decided what to do with them.

*J.W. Hoodless*  
5.4.41

(11)

Stamped:

MEDICAL DEPT.  
REC'D ...5.4.41.....

(22)

Mr. Secretary

My final report from Dr. Hoodless is enclosed at (11). Do you wish to take the further action he mentions?

*Curry*  
7.4.41

RECEIVED  
7 APR 1941  
W.P.H.C.

(23)

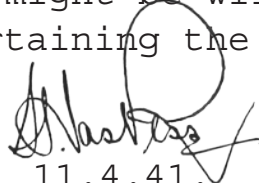
His Excellency,

Submitted with (10) and (11) and minutes (20) to (22) above. The report (11) appears definitely to indicate that the skeleton cannot be that of the late Amelia Earhart, but Y.E. may wish action taken as suggested in paragraph 9 of (11) although it does not seem possible that any useful purpose will be served by proceeding farther.

2. The sextant box with its contents is now

1940

with me. Perhaps Captain Naysmyth might be will to examine this with a view to ascertaining the origin?

  
11.4.41.

(24)

*Sec*

Secretary,

Please ask CMA [Central Medical Authority] to convey my thanks to Dr. Hoodless for his report and the trouble he has taken in this matter and to request him to retain the remains until farther notice.

2. Please ask Captain Naysmyth orally if he can throw any light on the origin of the sextant.

Then send the file to me again.

*Pl ask CMA to convey my thanks to Dr. Hoodless for his report and the trouble he has taken in this matter and to request him to retain the remains until farther notice.*

*2. Pl ask Captain Naysmyth orally if he can throw any light on the origin of the sextant.*

*Then to me again.*

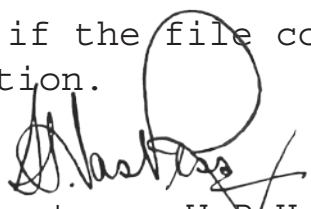
*HJ*  
*12/4/41*

(25)

The Central Medical Authority,

With His Excellency's minute (24) above (paragraph 1). Would you be so good as to take action accordingly?

2. I should be grateful if the file could be returned early for further action.

  
Secretary, W.P.H.C  
12.4.41

26

Principal C.M.S.

Please see para 1 of (24)

*S. An. Macpherson*  
16/4/41  
for C.M.A.

27

C.M.A.

Noted - thank you.

*J.W. Hoodless*  
17.4.41

28

Secy. W.P.H.C.

Returned to you. I have read Dr. Hoodless' report with interest and agree with his conclusions.

*S. An. Macpherson*  
A.D.M.S. Fiji  
18.4.41

RECEIVED  
23 APR 1941  
W.P.H.C.

29

Telegram  
Despatch

to Ag. A.O. Gardner Island Conf. No. 2

dated 28/4/41

12

coded & sent  
28/4/41

30

BU. 5.5.41

31

Telegram  
Despatch

from O.C. P.I.S.S. Gardner Isd. Conf. No. \_\_\_\_\_

dated 28/4/41  
2.5.41

13

32

D/o. letter to Cdr. G.B. Nasmyth, Suva, No. 4439 of 6.6.41, faired for signature.

E.C.  
6.6.41

14

14 signed.

*[Signature]*  
7.6.41




W.P.H.C  
No. 4439  
1940

Sheet No. ....<sup>5</sup>.....

33

Office,

*Please empty sextant box carefully  
and wrap box up in a parcel and send it to Cdr.  
Nasmyth with original of letter 14.*

  
7.6.41