

Cl. Russensmith

September 26th, 1941.

Colonel Henry Barber,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel:-

It was very fine to see you the other day and I only wish we could have remained in Washington longer. We are having a delightful and restful stay here at Hot Springs and I feel better than I have for years. We will leave on Tuesday morning, September 30th, by car, and arrive in Miami on October 3rd. This brings us to Havana on October 4th.

I hoped, while I was in Washington, to discuss the following matter with you in which I am very much interested.

I have a friend, Mr. Daniel Heineman, who is the head of the Sofina, which in many respects is the largest and most important holding company of public utilities in the world. Mr. Heineman was born in North Carolina, where his father was born, and went to Brussels as a young man and has there built up this company which has important interests in public utilities in many countries. I will not go into details, but can only say that without doubt over a long period of years, he built up one of the most important and well managed companies, not only in Europe, but anywhere. On the outbreak of the war, or shortly before, the officers of the Sofina had to be moved from Brussels to Lisbon and New York and Mr. Heineman is now living with his family in New York.

I am writing you particularly with regard to his son James Heineman, who was born in Brussels on May 5, 1917, and is therefore 24 years of age. His number was called under the Draft Act in February 1941 and he entered the Army at Fort Dix in March 1941. He was afterwards transferred to Camp Lee, Va. and then to Fort Benning, Ga. and is now with his Unit in the manoeuvres in Louisiana. He is a very serious and capable young man and he is naturally anxious to have his services in the Army as useful as possible. You know better than I what a problem the Army has before it in order to best utilize the material which we have and I know that it is in many ways difficult to use the men in the best way. On the other hand, I am sure that the Army, as are the men, is anxious to make the best use of all available material.

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Young Heineman has no desire to get out of the Army, but he is very anxious to be used in the best possible way. His father naturally is anxious too that James be in a position to serve in a capacity in which his background and qualifications can best be utilized.

James is therefore very anxious to get into the Intelligence Service and to be transferred to an Officers' Training School. He has served six months in the Army, so that under the Army's rules he could be transferred to a training school if his Commanding Officer makes the appropriate recommendation. He has particular capacities for the Intelligence Service. He went to school first in Brussels and then to a preparatory school in England. Afterwards he went to school to Switzerland, then went to England where he had one year of post-graduate work at Oxford University. He then went to Brussels to work in the offices of the Sofina and then to New York where he spent two years in the Sofina offices. He decided to do some more work at New York University, but shortly after undertaking his work there, he was drafted in the Army.

In addition to this broad educational background, the international character of which of course has some advantage, he has an excellent reading and writing knowledge of both French and German.

Mr. Heineman knows very well General Marshall with whom he has discussed this problem concerning James. General Marshall has told Mr. Heineman that in case James gets through an Officers' Training School, he will be glad to have him assigned in G.2 in Washington. Obviously, of course, General Marshall cannot do anything himself to facilitate the transfer to a training school, for it would look like favoritism. Once, however, James has been through a training school, or has a commission, then I am sure General Marshall will want to give him an assignment in Washington or somewhere, that he can be used with advantage.

Mr. J. Donald Duncan of the firm of Auchincloss, Alley and Duncan, lawyers in New York, who are the private attorneys of Mr. Heineman, has interested himself in this matter. I talked with Mr. Duncan over the telephone this morning and he will get in touch with you the next time he goes to Washington, which may be very soon. Should he do so, I hope you will arrange to see him and he can give you the whole story.

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I am writing you about the matter as Mr. Heineman Sr. is one of my best friends and I consider that he is one of the most constructive business men we have today. I am also very fond of James who is a very fine young man. Both Mr. Heineman Sr. and James are so anxious that James should be used in the best manner possible. It is not a question of his getting out of the Army or of the public service, it is only a question of his being used to the best advantage. Mr. Duncan will tell you what he has been doing and I believe that you can give him some very helpful suggestions.

I have mentioned General Marshall's name in this connection because there isn't any doubt that the General, though he cannot take any initiative in the matter, will be very happy to see the situation created which will make it possible for him to give James an assignment in some connection with G.2, most likely in the intelligence.

I forgot to tell you that James went through the officers' training corps in England while he was in school there.

I hope you will not mind my writing you so fully about this matter and I shall appreciate any way you can be helpful in cooperating with Mr. Duncan.

We are leaving here on September 30th but I shall try to get you on the telephone to give you further details before we leave.

With affectionate regards and all good wishes from both of us to Margaret and yourself, believe me,

Faithfully yours,

Sg: S. Messersmith