

This is a letter of appeal, from Howard W. Campbell to the American government, which was found in his will, opened by Colonel Harold J. Sparrow in September 1961 after H. W. Campbell committed suicide.

5<sup>th</sup> November 1945  
New York, USA

Mr. President,

My name is Howard W. Campbell, Jr.

I am an American by birth, a Nazi by reputation, and nationless person by inclination.

What I have done is impossible to forget. But I truly in my heart regret what I have done to those people that because of my actions lost their lives. And I hope that what I did, can be forgiven by those who lost a loving wife or husband, a child or a parent.

I have no idea what I would say, or what I would feel if I met a person who, because of my actions, has lost a relative. I can't explain how I feel, my personal thoughts that I have to carry along the road which we call life. How heavy the burden of so many people's life that I have taken away from them is. It is easy to lie about and to try to forget, but I must not forget. The world must not forget.

I am going to live in your country, as a refugee of my past, away from everybody that I love, including my beautiful and beloved wife Helga Noth. You must know that she is the owner of all my love and there is nothing that I wouldn't do to see her, to touch her, and to feel her just once again.

I wish that, when you read this letter, you will understand some of the regret that I feel. Understand that when I saw the messages that I was supposed to read, I did not understand the fruit of my actions. I thought that what I did helped your nation to capture the man, whose name was Adolf Hitler and who was the ruler of the nation within I lived and worked for during the second World War. I hope that you will understand how I felt when I saw reports of innocent Jews that had been murdered, the set of figures that displayed how many allied that had been captured and executed - the fruit of war.

How can I ask for forgiveness, how can I say I'm sorry to the Jew that I killed. I hope that the destiny will put an end to my suffering that seems to be endless.

I wish that you will let the world know how I feel, because I cannot tell it myself. I wish that the world will forgive me, because I cannot forgive myself. And I wish that God will forgive me, because I can't live a whole life with the lie that I did the right thing.

May God have mercy on my soul.

Howard W. Campbell

This is a letter of appeal for forgiveness and regret that I think Campbell felt after the war. In this letter he explains what he felt, why he acted the way he did. He also says that he loves Helga Noth that show that he has feelings of love and regret. He seeks forgiveness for his actions and ends with three sentences in which he sums all up and asks God for mercy, because he knows that some day he will commit suicide.