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CONFIDENTIAL, CAPTAIN WILLIS E. PRATT
FEB. 1944 - JULY 1945

R E S T R I C T E D

HEADQUARTERS
HEADQUARTERS COMMAND ALLIED FORCE
APO 512, US ARMY

210.31

30 July 1945

SUBJECT: Orders (373 Jul).

TO : CAPT WILLIS E. PRATT, 0521390, Sp Res, 2675th Regt, ALCON (Ovhd).

1. The above named officer is relieved from present assignment, from further assignment and duty in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations and is assigned to Reception Station #3, Fort Meade, Maryland. He will proceed at proper time from present station to a United States port, thence by indorsement on these orders to Fort Meade, Maryland and report upon arrival to the Commanding Officer for disposition. This is a permanent change of station. EDCMR 15 Aug.

2. Capt Pratt is cautioned against the compromise of classified military information and is advised of his responsibility in preventing unauthorized publication of personal information of value to the enemy. He will cooperate with authorized and properly identified intelligence officers representing the United States, both overseas and after arrival in the United States.

3. Mode of transportation and baggage allowance authorized:

- a. Within Theater: Water, rail, government motor vehicle, and/or military aircraft, as necessary and available.
- b. To United States: Military aircraft and/or water.
- c. Within United States: As prescribed by CO, US Port of Arrival.
- d. A baggage allowance of sixty-five (65) pounds is authorized while traveling by aircraft. Authorized baggage in excess of this amount will be shipped in accordance with letter, AG 524 (18 Aug 44) OB-S-SPMOT-M, WD, 1944, subject: "Processing of Baggage from Overseas", and Circular No. 121, Hq MTOUSA, 1 October 1944.

4. Within the Continental United States the provisions of par 25, AR 35-4820, 19 April 1945, will apply; outside the Continental United States the provisions of par 26, AR 35-4820 apply, except no per diem is authorized for periods of travel and/or temporary duty performed wholly within this Theater. 3430

5. a. Immediate notice will be given to emergency addressee, all correspondents, and publishers to discontinue mailing letters, parcels and publications until further advised as to the new address. ID AGO Form 971-1, (V-Mail Notice to Correspondents and Publishers) may be used for this purpose. In the event it is known at the time this order is received that departure from the unit will be delayed the notice should not be sent until the departure date is known. The notice should be sent 15 days before departure date when possible.

R E S T R I C T E DOrders (373 Jul) Hq Comd, AF (Contd)30 July 1945

b. Prior to departure from the assigned unit, the unit Mail Clerk and the 2628th Postal Directory Company, APO 512, will be furnished a non military forwarding address in the United States for each returned individual. Card Form NAP 11 (Available at any APO) will be used in furnishing the forwarding address to the 2628th Postal Directory Company.

6. TDN TPA TCNT 61-000 P 431-02 A 212/60425.

7. Authority: AGWAR Radio, W34907 of 19 July 1945.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL RAMSEY:



A. D. GETMAN,
Major, AGD,
Adjutant.

DISTRIEUTION:

Officer.....	20
(6 for del. to CO, Port of Arrival)	
CO, 2675th Regt, ALCOM.....	5
M & Tn (Air).....	1
CO, Reception Sta #3.....	3
AC of S, G-1, MTOUSA.....	1
TAG (Off Div).....	2
Files.....	3

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

P/478/PRB

29 July 1945

Press Release - Immediate

ALLIED COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS, ROME, ITALY, JULY 29.- Captain Willis E. PRATT, former President of the State Teachers College in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, and former County Superintendent of Schools in Erie, is completing his assignment as a Regional Education Officer for the Allied Military Government and Allied Commission in Italy.

His superior officers, Brigadier General E.E. HUMB, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, 5th Army AMG, Colonel A.C. BOWMAN, former Regional Commissioner of Emilia, where the Captain has recently been stationed, and Lt. Colonel C.W. WASHBURN, director of the Education Sub-Commission, have described his work as "brilliant and of great help to the Allied cause."

Capt. Pratt obtained a leave of absence from the presidency at Mansfield, in June 1943, to accept a commission in the army. He took military training at Fort Custer in preparation for his present work. After further training in North Africa, Captain Pratt was assigned in February, 1944 to the Education Sub-Commission, which then had headquarters in Naples.

His subsequent career is described in the following citation by Colonel WASHBURN:

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His subsequent career is described in the following citation

by Colonel WASHBURN:

" As Education Officer for Avellino Province, as Deputy Regional Education Officer for Lazio-Umbria (including Rome); as Fifth Army Education Officer for Florence, as Fifth and Eighth Army Education Officer and as Regional Education Officer for Emilia Region (including Bologna), Captain Pratt has met and overcome innumerable obstacles in the successful accomplishment of his mission to re-establish Italian education on a non-Fascist basis.

" There was extreme shortage of all raw materials needed for printing new text books, and old ones were permeated with Fascist propaganda. There were often no school supplies -- chalk,

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pencils, pens, ink, paper, transport was lacking; school buildings were destroyed or requisitioned; children were hungry and ill-nourished; school heads and many teachers were Fascists and had to be eliminated; yet non-Fascists usually lacked experience in school administration. To obtain capable personnel, train them in their new jobs, inspire them with a democratic ideal, and put them to work against all these seemingly insuperable difficulties was almost a herculean task.

"Through drive, ingenuity and unflinching tact Captain Pratt found places to hold classes. He succeeded in preventing the requisition of school and university buildings or getting them quickly derequisitioned. Where this was impossible, he devised other accommodations -- army tents, church sacristies, motion picture houses, double and triple use of rooms, classes in tea-rooms and homes.

" He personally found raw materials for printing text books -- ink in an army store; zinc for illustrations in the rafters and cupboards of little shops; a substitute for binding thread in a distant factory for making thread for cobblers. He personally supervised the printing of hundreds of thousands of new elementary school text books from which the Fascist taint had been expunged. He devised means of distributing the books to the most remote hill-top villages.

" He caused school supplies to be manufactured, and brought

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" He caused school supplies to be manufactured, and brought chalk up from Calabria, and distributed everything to the children. He organized a school lunch program so that hundreds of thousands of children had a hot noon-day meal daily. He found and trained school heads to replace the Fascists.

" He opened the universities of Florence, Bologna, Modena, Parma and Ferrara, named their rectors and epurated their faculties. He re-wrote the educational directive now used in all Italy.

" As a result of Captain PRATT's work, kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, technical institutions, universities and cultural organizations, are functioning successfully in

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each Region where he has worked. His efforts have shown civilians that schools can be run justly and without bias or propaganda. Fascist propaganda has been abolished; Fascist personnel have been eliminated. And in their place is a new education, Italian, but with a breath of democracy and new life blowing through it."

Captain Pratt, who is 39, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the son of Mrs. William H. Pratt. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Allegheny College and his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. His volume of "American School Achievements Tests" has sold more than a quarter of a million copies as a standard work. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Pennsylvania State Educational Association, of the Masons, of the Lions and of the PAC fraternity.

He is married to Mrs. Margaret B. Pratt. They have two daughters: Marjorie Ann, 16, and Marilyn Louise, 9. The Pratt home is at 73 Academy Street, Mansfield, Pennsylvania.

NEW YORK TIMES, New York, N.Y.
MANSFIELD ADVERTISER, Mansfield, Pa.
PITTSBURGH PRESS, Pittsburgh, Pa.
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE, " "
PITTSBURGH SUN-TELEGRAPH, " "

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PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE, " "

PITTSBURGH SUN-TELEGRAPH, " "

ERIE DISPATCH-HERALD, Erie, Pa.

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PASSED FOR PUBLICATION BY FIELD PRESS CENSOR.

PRESS RELEASE

Captain WILLIS E. PRATT, President of the State Teachers College in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, and former County Superintendent of Schools in Erie, is completing his assignment as a Regional Education Officer for the Allied Military Government and Allied Commission in Italy. His superior officers, Brigadier General E.E. HUME, Colonel A.C. BOWMAN, and Lt. Colonel C.W. WASHBURN have described his work as brilliant and of greatest help to the Allied cause.

On request of the War Department Dr. Pratt obtained a leave of absence from the presidency at Mansfield, accepted a commission in the army, and took military training at Fort Custer in preparation for his present work. After further preparation in North Africa, Captain PRATT was assigned to the Education Subcommittee, which then had headquarters in Naples. His work and subsequent career are described in the following report from Lt. Colonel CARLETON W. WASHBURN, Director of the Education Subcommittee:

As Education Officer for Headquarters, Education Subcommittee, and for Avellino Province, as Deputy Education Officer for Lazio-Umbria, as Fifth Army Education Officer for Florence, as Fifth and Eighth Army Education Officer for Emilia, and as Regional Education Officer for Emilia Region, Captain PRATT has met and overcome innumerable obstacles in the successful accomplishment of his mission to reestablish education on a non-fascist basis. There was extreme shortage of all raw materials needed for printing new text books, and old

ones were infested with fascism; there were often no school supplies -- chalk, pencils, pens, ink, paper; transport was lacking; school buildings were destroyed or requisitioned; children were hungry and ill-nourished; school heads and many teachers were Fascists and had to be eliminated; yet non-fascists usually lacked experience in school administration. To obtain capable personnel, train them in their new jobs, inspire them with a democratic ideal, and put them to work against all these seemingly insuperable difficulties was a Herculean task, and was brilliantly accomplished.

Through dynamic drive, great ingenuity, and unfailing tact Captain PRATT found places to hold classes. He succeeded in preventing the requisition of some school and university buildings or getting them quickly derequisitioned. Where this was impossible he devised other accommodations -- army tents, church sacristies, motion picture houses, double and triple use of rooms, classes in teachers homes. He personally found raw materials for printing text books -- ink in an army store; sine for illustrations in the rafters and cupboards of little shops; a substitute for binding thread in a distant factory for making thread for cobblers. He personally supervised the printing of hundreds of thousands of new elementary school text books from which the Fascist taint had been expunged. He devised means of distributing the books to the most remote hill top villages. He caused school supplies to be manufactured, and brought chalk up from Calabria, and distributed all to the children. He organized a school lunch

program so that hundreds of thousands of children had a hot noon-day meal daily. He found and trained competent school heads to replace the Fascists. He opened the universities of Florence, Bologna, Modena, Parma, and Ferrara, named their rectors and epurated their faculties. He rewrote the educational directives, since used in all Italy. In these and countless other ways his dynamic spirit, unflagging zeal, and ingenious efficiency brought about a reopening and revitalising of the schools and universities wherever he served. His work was an inspiration and example to other Education Officers, and was a benefit to civilization.

As a result of Captain PRATT's brilliant work, far beyond the requirements of duty, kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, technical institutions, universities and cultural organizations, are functioning successfully in each Region where he has worked. His efforts have shown civilians that schools can be run justly and without bias or propaganda. Fascist propaganda has been abolished; Fascist personnel have been eliminated. And in their place is a new education, Italian, but with a breath of democracy and new life blowing through it.

Captain PRATT's keenly intelligent work, his skill, initiative, and ingenuity, have brought about a new education in Italy. His unselfish attention to duty, his loyalty, and his tireless efforts with complete disregard to personal health are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army. The results of his work reflect the greatest credit upon himself, his organization, and the Allied Forces.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Sub-Commission
APO 394

ED/CWW/ge

ED/1C/1.3/AC

Tel: 489081/259

SUBJECT : Awards

22 June '45

TO : Commanding Officer, 2675th Regiment.

1. In pursuance of our conversation and my letter of 21 June, I am presenting herewith a revised statement as to the reasons for awarding the Legion of Merit to Captain Willis E. Pratt, and proposed citation.

2. In order to assure that this award goes to the most deserving of the three deserving officers recommended by me, I am reluctantly willing, if necessary, to withdraw the recommendation of Capt. Noe for the Legion of Merit, and to substitute a recommendation that Capt. Noe and 1st Lt. Simoni receive a citation in dispatches. If this change is desired, please instruct me as to what action I should take.

3. Since your Board has already agreed that Capt. Noe deserves the Legion of Merit, there should be no hesitancy about recommending Capt. Pratt for this award, since he is even abler, has had an even wider experience, and has gone even farther beyond the demands of duty than Capt. Noe.

4. In the light of the facts presented it is urgently requested that the Board reconsider the case of Capt. Pratt and recommend him for the Legion of Merit.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt.Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

CWW/YRW/SC

19 June 1945

File: 200.6

x-201-Pratt, Willis E. (O)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Legion of Merit.

TO : Commanding General, MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army.

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 12, AR 600-45, it is recommended that Willis E. Pratt, 0521390, Captain, Specialist Reserve, 2675th Regiment, Allied Commission, be awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 5 February 1944 to 8 May 1945.

2. As Education Officer for Headquarters, Education Subcommittee, and for Avellino Province, as Deputy Regional Education Officer for Lazio-Umbria, as Fifth Army Education Officer for Florence, as Fifth and Eighth Army Education Officer for Emilia, and as Regional Education Officer for Emilia Region, Captain Pratt has met and overcome innumerable obstacles in the successful accomplishment of his mission to reestablish education on a non-fascist basis. There was extreme shortage of all raw materials needed for printing new text books, and old ones were infested with fascism; there were often no school supplies -- chalk, pencils, pens, ink, paper; transport was lacking; school buildings were destroyed or requisitioned; children were hungry and ill-nourished; school heads and many teachers were Fascists and had to be eliminated; yet non-fascists usually lacked experience in school administration. To obtain capable personnel, train them in their new jobs, inspire them with a democratic ideal, and put them to work against all these seemingly insuperable difficulties was a Herculean task, and was brilliantly accomplished.

3. Through dynamic drive, great ingenuity, and unfailing tact Captain Pratt found places to hold classes. He succeeded in preventing the requisition of some school and university buildings or getting them quickly derequisitioned. Where this was impossible he devised other accommodations -- army tents, church sacristies, motion picture houses, double and triple use of rooms, classes in teachers homes. He personally found raw materials for printing text books -- ink in an army store; sine for illustrations in the rafters and cupboards of little shops; a substitute for binding thread in a distant factory for making thread for cobblers. He personally supervised the printing of hundreds of thousands of new elementary school text books from which the Fascist taint had been expunged. He devised means of distributing the books to the most remote hill top villages. He caused school supplies to be manufactured, and brought chalk up from Calabria, and distributed all to the children. He organized a school lunch program so that hundreds of thousands of children had a hot noon-day meal daily. He found and trained competent school heads to replace the Fascists. He opened the universities of Florence, Bologna, Modena, Parma, and Ferrara, named their rectors and operated their faculties. (He rewrote the educational directives, since used in all Italy.) In these and countless other

Ltr. Recommendation for Award of the Legion of Merit (Cont'd)

ways his dynamic spirit, unflagging zeal, and ingenious efficiency brought about a reopening and revitalizing of the schools and universities wherever he served. His work was an inspiration and example to other Education Officers, and was a benefit to civilization.

4. As a result of Captain Pratt's brilliant work, far beyond the requirements of duty, kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, technical institutions, universities and cultural organizations, are functioning successfully in each Region where he has worked. His efforts have shown civilians that schools can be run justly and without bias or propaganda. Fascist propaganda has been abolished; Fascist personnel have been eliminated. And in their place is a new education, Italian, but with a breath of democracy and new life blowing through it.

5. Captain Pratt's keenly intelligent work, his skill, initiative, and ingenuity, have brought about a new education in Italy. His unselfish attention to duty, his loyalty, and his tireless efforts with complete disregard to personal health are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army. The results of his work reflect the greatest credit upon himself, his organization, and the Allied Forces.

6. The Officer was a Captain at the time of his assignment to duty with Allied Military Government. He has performed duty in the assignments of Education Officer in Headquarters of the Education Subcommittee, Deputy Regional Education Officer in Lazio-Umbria Region; Regional Education Officer for Emilia Region, and Education Officer for Fifth and Eighth Armies, Allied Military Government. The officer is presently a Captain and is assigned as Regional Educational Officer, Emilia Region, Allied Military Government.

7. The commanding officer of this award has personal knowledge of the services rendered by Captain Pratt.

8. All subsequent services of Captain Pratt have been honorable.

9. The officer has received no previous awards.

10. Proposed citation (see Inclosure 1).

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A. U. S.
Director of Education.

1 Incl:
Proposed Citation.

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PROMISED CITATION

Captain Willis E. Pratt, 0521390, Specialist Reserve, 2675th Regiment, Allied Commission, for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services from 5 February 1944 to 8 May 1945. As Education Officer for Headquarters, Education Subcommittee; Deputy Regional Education Officer for Lazio-Umbria Region; Education Officer for 5 and 8 Army; and as Regional Education Officer for Emilia Region, Allied Military Government, Captain Pratt was faced with seemingly insuperable obstacles in reestablishing Italian education on a non-fascist basis, and making schools, universities, and cultural institutions function. Through his efforts, teachers were screened, active Fascists dismissed, and competent, non-fascist personnel were found and trained to head each educational enterprise; buildings were derequisitioned or repaired, or alternative accommodations found; new courses of study were made available; new text books, free from fascist propaganda, were printed and distributed; school supplies were found or manufactured; school children were given hot lunches. The entire school system, from kindergartens to the highest institutions of learning, were made to function effectively, free from Fascist taint, and revitalized with a new interest in a free and democratic education. Through his efforts the universities of Florence, Bologna, Modena, Parma, and Ferrara were reopened. In many cases improvised class rooms were used in promulgating the educational programs. Captain Pratt's resourcefulness, ingenuity, dynamic energy and high efficiency are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect greatest credit on himself, his organization and the Allied Forces in Italy. Entered the Military service at Mansfield, Pennsylvania.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/ams

ED/IC/L.3/AC

Tel. 489081-236

SUBJECT : Release of Captain
Willis E. Pratt.

21 June, 1945

TO : CO, 2675th Reg't.

1. Release of Captain Willis E. PRATT has been recommended by this Subcommittee for the reasons stated in his application.

2. Replacement is essential, but may be by a junior officer capable of being a competent executive assistant to Major VESSELO, KSO Lombardia, whose present assistant, Captain Stanley OPENSHAW (B) could then replace Captain PRATT.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A. U. S.
Director of Education.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/ans

ED/10/1.3/AC

Tel. 489081-236

TO : Captain Willis E. PRATT,
Regional Education Officer,
Malta Region, AMV.

18 June, 1945

Dear Willis:

Enclosed please find copy of letter from HUME and from General McNARNEY's Headquarters. The letter make the situation look hopeless for the immediate future but promising for the moment the freeze thaws.

Good luck!

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education.

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 512

14 June 1945

Lieutenant Colonel Carleton W. Washburne
Education Subcommittee
Headquarters Allied Commission
APO 394, United States Army

Dear Colonel Washburne:

General McNarney has asked me to reply to your personal letter to him of 8 June.

It is regretted that it was necessary to suspend promotions, but this was essential to carry out a War Department directive. As soon as the redeployment schedule is firm and it becomes known what officers will be retained in the theater for a protracted period, promotions will be resumed on a limited basis. I hope that at that time it will be possible to promote the outstanding officers whom you mentioned in your letter.

Sincerely yours,



O. L. NELSON
Major General, USA
Deputy Theater Commander

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FIFTH ARMY
APO 464

12 June 1945

Lieutenant Colonel Carleton W. Washburne
Director of Education
Education Sub-Commission
Headquarters Allied Commission
APO 394, U. S. Army

Dear Colonel Washburne:

I am enclosing herewith a formal letter to the Chief Commissioner which I would be glad to have you deliver, either as coming through the sub-commission of which you are in charge, or it can be, if you prefer, sent direct. I am sending a copy to General Spofford with a note asking him to push the matter as best he can. Certainly both officers have deserved promotions and I would be glad if I could do anything in the way of helping to bring it about. It is manifestly unfair to withhold recognition to officers of the Education Sub-Commission when it is given to men in many other sub-commissions whose work is equally distinct from what is ordinarily considered military duty.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Sincerely yours,



EDGAR EUGENE HUME
Brigadier General, GSC
Senior Civil Affairs Officer

EMT:hml
Enclosure

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10. Because Captains PRATT and HOE are in every way deserving of promotion, and because a serious injustice has inadvertently been done them, and because their highly responsible work is hampered by their lack of appropriate rank, it is urged that the AC Promotions Board be permitted to resubmit these two names at once, and that they be promoted forthwith to the grade of major.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A. U. S.
Director of Education.

1st Endorsement.

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION, Allied Commission, APO 394.

TO : Commanding Officer, 2675th Regiment, Allied Commission.

9 June, 1945

In my opinion, Capt. Willis E. PRATT and Capt. Sam V. HOE have performed outstanding services as Regional Educational Officers. Their positions and work merit immediate promotion and I trust that this can be arranged as soon as possible.

G. R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP, CA Section.

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*Quatt
put file*

Headquarters Emilia Region
Allied Military Government
APO 394

June 8, 1945

Dear Colonel Washburne,

I am enclosing the letter I received yesterday from Dr. Grose. Knowing his conservatism and his desire to spare me as much as possible I fear the situation is even more grave than he presents it. And as you will ascertain, it is at the best a serious situation which worries me no end. If my papers are still at the regimental offices, perhaps it will be possible to have this letter attached to the file.

I hate to impose on your friendship and your good will but feel it is most imperative, both for my family's sake and my own personal health to be released as soon as possible. Would you consider following the matter closely and if possible obtain permission to go to Caserta to make a personal appeal? I hesitate to make any such request but would certainly appreciate it for I am so concerned. I know you could explain my illness of the past four months and now, in spite of it, I have tried to continue with my duties.

I trust the reports reached you on time. Capt. Tilroe will move into regional headquarters next week on Tuesday or Wednesday. The University of Ferrara was reopened with appropriate ceremony this morning and, while I did not feel well, I was there.

I expect to go to the hospital for further examination tomorrow. Thanks for all you have done in the past and anything you can do to have my application given favorable consideration soon.

Sincerely,

Whilis

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ERIE, PA.

Public Library Building

C. A. Sapper
Secretary

C. Herman Grose
Superintendent of Schools

May 24, 1945

Captain William E. Pratt, O-321300
Co. 1, 2675th Reg.
APO 394, c/o Postmaster
New York City, New York

Dear Bill:

This will be a hard letter for you to receive, Bill, and is equally hard for me to write, but in all fairness and honesty I feel that I should give you this information. As a matter of fact, I could hardly face you on your return should I fail to acquaint you with the facts as I know them. As you will readily surmise, the story is about Marjorie Ann.

We have really made a supreme effort to get Marjorie Ann to make necessary adjustments this year. Frankly, we must admit complete failure. I did not realize that her situation had become so precarious until late in the winter. At that time I made a personal call at the house and talked things over with Marjorie Ann and her mother. Marjorie promised to go back to school. In an effort to help her become adjusted again I called Mr. Leberman and had him see every teacher individually so that they could give her a cordial greeting and some encouragement to continue her work. She had done very well as far as accomplishment is concerned, but because of intermittent absence she had missed so much time that her teachers feared that she might not make the grade. However, they assured me that if she would return to classes, they would see to it that she had enough help to pass her subjects.

Within the next few days I had a report from the school and from Mrs. Pratt that Marjorie Ann had refused to go back to school. I again to the house to talk things over, but, frankly, I didn't get very far with Marjorie. She was very set against returning to school and stated that she wished to go the Villa and that unless her mother let her go there, she would not make any effort at Vincent. However, she did return to school, but her attendance was of short duration and she was out again.

I am convinced that Mrs. Pratt has done everything possible to get her to go to school, but even after Marjorie Ann gets there, she will find some good reason for leaving the building. She has simply walked out without giving anyone any indication as to the reason for her action. In most cases her mother knows nothing about this until later in the day or possibly the next day. Sometimes she goes home and Mrs. Pratt has probably told you of her abnormal craving for sweets. She will make candy or cookies or purchase them and gorge herself. Mrs. Pratt described it in terms of a chain eater. It seems that she has a perpetual desire for sweets and fattening foods. You probably know, too, that she has gained a great deal more weight since coming to Erie. This additional weight and increase in size has made her even more sensitive than she was before. I do believe that this is partly the difficulty. She is over-sensitive about her size and weight and, for that reason, does not have a desire to mingle with her fellow students. At any rate, she has simply refused to go to school.

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You will probably never forgive me for this, but in a final effort to get results I authorized Mr. Leberman to turn her attendance record over to the Alderman with the

result that he called Mrs. Pratt in a day or so ago. I had left instructions that it was Marjorie Ann that I wished to have appear, but, of course, it was necessary for Mrs. Pratt to be there too. Marjorie Ann flatly refused to go at first. I talked with her on the telephone and told her that I thought that she owed it to her mother and you to comply. Reluctantly she agreed to, on condition that if she carried out my request, that I let her talk to me about leaving school and going to work. I had told her that I would not even think of issuing her a working permit or letting her leave school unless she was willing to carry out her instructions. Nothing was accomplished by the trip to the Alderman, which incidentally was private and only for the purpose of trying to impress her with the legal provisions of school attendance.

Following this event I had an hour's talk with Mrs. Pratt. Considering all of the facts, I have concluded that it would be best for Marjorie Ann to be permitted to leave school since she has reached the state now where she cannot pass her subjects and to accept a job which she has reason to feel she can get. In fact, she has worked at the Boston Store and has done very well. I am willing to issue the permit and have authorized Mr. Stikes and Mr. Leberman to sign it, but I have reserved the right to revoke it unless Marjorie Ann meets certain requirements that I shall prescribe relative to turning over a certain amount of her money to her mother to hold for her. I would do this to avoid having Marjorie Ann in possession of too much money which, in turn, might result in her walking out and going on her own. Mrs. Pratt fears that this might be the case if she had free run of money.

All arrangements are complete now to give Marjorie Ann the working certificate and to help her get a job so that she may be occupied in something that she likes to do. I believe it will be a good thing for her since she is now lacking in confidence and we must find something to help her regain it. If she is working she cannot devote so much time to the chain eating and to abnormal sleeping. Both of these probably have a tendency to add to her weight. By being active and by being away from the food, she can probably hold her weight in check and possibly cut it down. Mrs. Pratt has probably told you that she has taken her to Dr. Brecht, who made a complete examination and found no major difficulties. However, Dr. Brecht did prescribe a diet, but told Marjorie Ann that unless she followed it faithfully it was useless for her to return to her for consultation.

Marjorie Ann is a fine girl who exhibits unusual intelligence and presents an excellent appearance in spite of the size and weight of which she is so self-conscious. I see no reason at all why she should not settle down and regain her self-confidence and eventually go back to school and complete her work. But all facts considered, I think probably it is best that she take the job at the Boston Store now, or one like it, and have the activity and association which would result from it.

I assure you that I am going to keep as close an eye on things as I can and I am very sorry, indeed, that I have failed so miserably in accomplishing results. I know it means very much to you and I am certainly anything but happy to have to give you this kind of a report. I purposely waited until such time as I knew you were over your sickness. Had you been well several weeks ago, I would have given you some information then, but I didn't want to add that to your then already heavy burden.

I want you to know that Mrs. Pratt has been most concerned about the situation. I think she has worried a great deal more than is good for her. Mrs. Pratt looks well and is just as neat and trim as always; and with the exception of the few people in whom she would confide, the story is a private matter. I am convinced that Mrs. Pratt has done all that any mother could do and that any difficulties are certainly not her fault, but rather the result of a series of situations which no one could help. Mrs. Pratt has not wanted to ³⁴¹⁸ sorry you with the situation and only for that reason may not have told you all of the details. I had hoped that things

would work out differently, and we could give you a different story, but now that it seems quite apparent that we have not succeeded, you should know the facts, and I requested permission of Mrs. Pratt to be the one to tell you about it.

What the ultimate solution of this problem is, I am sure I do not know. I do know that Marjorie Ann worships you and that your presence would probably have much to do with her regaining the necessary self-confidence to go ahead with her work. I certainly do not wish to put my self in a position of adviser for my failure with Marjorie Ann certainly does not recommend me for such a post. Nevertheless, I do think that if you have the opportunity to come back home, you should do so as early as you can. I think you can feel that you have done all that anyone could expect of you in the service of your country and that now your personal contribution to your family is equally important or even more important than what can be done over there. Therefore, I am really urging you to take the first opportunity to ask for a discharge from service and come back to Erie.

I can't close this letter without giving you a truthful bright spot- in fact, two of them. One is that Mrs. Pratt has kept up so well in courage, chiefly for your sake. The other is that Marilyn continues to do so well. Her record is exceptionally good and I have had nothing but the best of reports from her teachers.

Well, Bill, this is a letter I never had any idea of writing to you and you, undoubtedly, have never had an idea you would receive such a letter. I only hope my intended purpose has been accomplished and that you will understand that we have tried to do everything possible for Marjorie Ann, and in confessing defeat, feel that you should know the facts and what we have concluded. When you get back we can talk thing over and may be I can help some in finding something for her.

I hope that you are feeling much better now and that you will not let this letter cause any great drop in your spirit. Things are really not as bad as I have probably pictured them. You and I know that there are plenty of youngsters who have adjustments to make and it just seems more serious when one of the youngsters happens to be in our own immediate family. Marjorie has never done anything of a nature to reflect discredit on her family or on her character. She is a good girl. I think there is nothing wrong that cannot be corrected eventually.

When you write, tell me whatever you would like to have me do to help either Mrs. Pratt or Marjorie Ann. I guarantee you to make the effort;

Sincerely yours

C. Herman Grose

I Certify that this is a true and correct copy of a letter received from Dr. C. Herman Grose Superintendent of Schools, Erie, Pennsylvania.

Willis A. Pratt
Willis A. Pratt - C-321390
Capt. Spec-Res.

HEADQUARTERS EMILIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

REF: RIX/ED/

SUBJECT:

TO: Lt. Col. Carleton W. Washburne, A.C.

18 June 1945

Col. Washburne,

will you kindly substitute the original letter concerning
Marjorie Ann for the copy attached and file with the regiment. I will
appreciate your expediting this matter.

Sincerely

Willis

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/ans

ED/16/1.3/40

Tel. 489081-236

TO : Captain PRATT,
Regional Education Officer,
Malta Region.

9 June, 1945

Dear Willist

The enclosed letter to General HUME is self-explanatory.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education.

also letter to Gen. McRaney

3410

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWS/asm

ED/IC/1.3/AC

Tel. 489081-236

SUBJECT : Promotions of PRATT and NOE.

8 June, 1945

TO : Brig. Gen. HUME,
SMAO Fifth Army.

Dear General:

The failure of Captains PRATT and NOE to get promotions is causing me much concern. I need your help.

They have been recommended in strongest terms, repeatedly, by their Regional Commissioners and by this Subcommittee. After great delay the AC promotion board recommended them. Then, just as their names were reached by AFHQ, AFHQ put out a new TO for AC according to which AC had something between 40 and 50 too many majors, and their promotions were rejected.

I am informed that prior to January AFHQ told the AC promotions board not to submit names of any education officers for promotion, on the ground that they were supposed to be "civilianized". It was a false premise and not uniformly practiced since 2nd Lt. SIMONI was promoted in November. In January the ban was lifted, and in February the AC Promotions Board passed PRATT, NOE, and me. They sent our names in, however, on separate successive lists. My name was on the first list submitted. There were three lists, sent in two weeks apart, thereafter I urged that PRATT's and NOE's names go in ahead of mine, but was told that postponing my name would not help them since I was on the list for lieutenant colonelcies and their names were in one of the lists for majorities. My name, going in first, I was promoted. Innumably, I think, the AC Promotions Board put PRATT and NOE on the last list. The two preceding lists of captains were both passed in their entirety. On the third, and last, list, the only Captain promoted was Henry HUDSON, an excellent man, but not senior to PRATT and NOE and with a less responsible position. There AFHQ stopped and two days later issued the edict on the TO.

I wrote the enclosed letter to the Commanding General, submitting it through channels. The AC Promotions Board refused to forward it. I wrote personally to General SPOFFORD. He said he would write to Colonel FISKE and would recommend that G-1, AFHQ loosen up on the TO. But there still appears to be no action.

Captain PRATT's health has broken and he will probably have to be relieved. An important factor in the break has been his worry and humiliation over the fact that despite his brilliant work he has to go home with the same rank as he had when he sacrificed his important work as a college president to respond to the Government's request that he join AMO. On his faculty, when he goes back, he will have men who have been promoted above him in the army, and this rankles greatly - his staff and community back in Pennsylvania will

- 2 -

not know that his failure to get recognition is not due to any lack of effort and efficiency on his part.

Captain NOE's health has not suffered, but he is embittered and chagrined. When he gets a letter from his little boy back home saying, "Daddy, when are you going to be promoted?" you can imagine how he feels.

Of course there are countless men who have not been promoted and feel that they should be. But in the case of these two, there is an obvious and gross injustice - in the same organization man after man has been promoted with less time in grade, less responsibility, less service up in Army and Corps Area, less efficient performance. By no criterion or group of criteria can it be shown that the majority of the captains in AG and AAG promoted since 15 December, 1944, outclass NOE and PRATT - the contrary is the case.

These two men have served under you. You know them and their ability and efficiency. I have great confidence in your being able to get what you go after for your men. Colonels KIRKWOOD and BOWMAN have done their damndest - and failed. Brigadier UPJOHN has done all a British Officer can do, and met no success. General SPOTFORD has done all he felt he could, with propriety, do - and no results have appeared to date. But I believe if you will really go to bat for these men, you can right the wrong that has been done them. Will you help?

Cordially,

CARLTON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A. U. S.
Director of Education.

HEADQUARTERS ARABIAN COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

WD/10/1.3/45

Tel. 489081-236

SUBJECT: Promotions.

8 June, 1945

TO : Commanding General, MEDANA,
through channels.

1. Capt. Willis E. PRATT, O-521990, and Capt. Sam V. ROE, O-521655, were recommended for promotion by the Promotions Board of A.C. in February, 1945, and their names were submitted to AFHQ on 21 March, 1945. Their names, with others, were returned to the Promotions Board, A.C., on 18 April, on account of the overstrength of A.C. in number of Majors according to the new T.O.

2. It is submitted that a serious injustice has been done to these men, and that the effectiveness of their work is thereby diminished.

3. The injustice is indicated by the following facts:

a) Of the 54 captains promoted to majorities since 15 December, 1944, 34 have been junior to Captains PRATT and ROE.

b) On the list of captains submitted on the same list with them on 21 March, the captain who has promoted was not senior to them.

c) The large majority of captains promoted to major since 15 December, 1944, held positions of less responsibility - as follows:

CAOs: 5	
Legal Officers (not Regional heads)	2
Provincial Legal Officers	3
Provincial Agricultural Officers	1
Public Health Officers	1
(not Regional heads)	
Public Safety Officers	1
(not Regional heads)	
Provincial Public Safety Officers	2
Provincial Supply Officers	2
Miscellaneous - (Adjutant, Warehouse	
director, P.S. Staff O, Co. Hq. Comdts,	
by Trans.O, Insurance O, Ass't Prop.	
Cont.O, etc.)	21
Total, at least 33 out of 54.	

d) Among the 54 captains promoted to major since 15 December few are listed as serving with 5 or 8 Army. Capt. PRATT is 5 and 8 Army Education Officer and Capt. ROE 5 Army Education Officer. Both men have been operating in Army and Corps area. This is in addition to their responsibility as Regional Education Officers.

e) Of Regional Staff Officers in ASD regions, 72 are majors, lieutenant colonels, or colonels. Of the 18 company grade Regional Officers, 13 are junior to Captains NEE and PRATT.

4. The responsibilities of Regional (and Army) Education Officers involve population control of about one-fifth of the population, responsibility for the bulk of the public property, and responsibility for by far the largest number of civil servants handled by any division of ASD.

5. The effectiveness of the work of these two Regional Education Officers is hampered by their lack of rank for the following reasons:

a) The Italian civilian officials with whom they deal (Rectors of Universities, Provveditori agli Studi, etc.) have civil service grades corresponding to army ranks higher than those of the Regional Education Officers, are acutely conscious of army rank, and cannot have adequate respect for officers who are not recognized by their own army as worthy of higher rank.

b) The other Regional officers with whom the Regional Education Officers have to deal on terms of equality are almost all of field grade.

c) The effect on the morale of these two officers is acute, and has seriously affected the health of one, and the enthusiasm for his work of the other.

6. There is no question as to the merit of both officers. They have been recommended in the highest terms by their Regional Commissioners and SCAG's. This Subcommittee considers their work to be of the highest quality - they are intelligent, resourceful, efficient, energetic, responsible and loyal.

7. Whether the criterion for promotion is length of time in grade, position occupied, weight of responsibility, quality of service, or strength of recommendation by commanding officers, or any combination of these factors, it can be shown that a large proportion of the captains promoted in AG since 15 December, 1944, are outclassed by Captains PRATT and NEE.

8. It is submitted that had the above facts been taken into due consideration, these officers would have been promoted before the present suspension of promotions.

9. Attention is called to the following statement from the War Department (AG 210.2 (8 May 45) CE-9-AM of 20 May) on which the indecorous ordering suspension of promotions (AG 210-2/730-P of 19 May) is based:

"It is not the desire of the War Department to generally suspend promotion of worthy officer and enlisted personnel. To prevent unwarranted promotions during the period of readjustment, it is desired that all promotions be closely scrutinized."

10. Because Captains PRATT and NOE are in everyway deserving of promotion, and because a serious injustice has inadvertently been done them, and because their highly responsible work is hampered by their lack of appropriate rank, it is urged that the AG Promotions Board be permitted to resubmit these two names at once, and that they be promoted forthwith to the grade of major.

CARLETON W. KASHMAREK
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education.

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

In my opinion, Capt. Willis B. PRATT and Capt. Sam V. NOE have performed outstanding services as Regional Educational Officers. Their positions and work merit immediate promotion and I trust that this can be arranged as soon as possible.

/s/ G.R. Upjohn, Brig.,
G. R. UPJOHN, Brig.,
VP CA Section.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/GWW/rg

ED/IC/1.3/AC

Tel. 489081-236

MEMO :

7 June, 1945

TO : CO, 2675th Reg't.

In addition to the reasons given by Captain PHATT, his relief is recommended on health grounds. Since January he has had two attacks of pneumonia, has been repeatedly hospitalized, and is now at the breaking point.

His ill health is due primarily to two causes. (1) He had driven himself inexorably in his successful attempt to do an outstanding piece of work. He is definitely the ablest education officer this Subcommittee has had for the opening up of new provinces and regions. But the same drive and conscience that has contributed to his brilliant performance has strained his strength to the limit. (2) He has been deeply humiliated by the lack of recognition of his work in terms of promotion, when many of the captains promoted during the past six months have had less time in grade, less responsible positions, less work in Army and Corps Area, and less brilliant performance. His worry and keen disappointment as a result of this injustice (see attached letter from his Regional Commissioner, Colonel BOWMAN), acting on an organism already strained from overwork, have brought about his present break in health.

He should be released at once and returned to civilian life in time to recuperate before the fall opening of his college.

His work as college president in the United States is of real importance. His pioneer work here is accomplished and a less able man could carry it forward successfully. It can truthfully be said, at this juncture, that he can "render more valuable service to the nation in a civilian capacity".

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On the compassionate side, Captain PRATT has just received a long report from the superintendent of schools his adolescent daughter is attending. This report says the girl has left school that her mother has no control of her and is at the breaking point, and that Captain PRATT must, if he is to save the situation, return immediately.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col. A.U.S.
Director of Education.

- File*
10. Capt. Willis E. PRATT has shown brilliant performance in his work. When attached to Headquarters of the Education Subcommission he overcame almost insuperable obstacles in finding materials and getting non-fascist text books printed in Naples and distributed throughout southern Italy, and laid out the general plan for a statistical survey of Italian schools and put it into execution. When attached to Region 3, he not only organized education in the province of Avellino with great dispatch, ingenuity and efficiency, but established the basic pattern which has been followed in the opening of schools in all provinces throughout Italy ever since. As Deputy Regional Education Officer for Region 4 and Lazio-Umbria Region, he organized the opening of schools in Littoria, Frosinone, and Rome provinces successively, and supervised operation in all three; in Littoria especially he entered one of the most completely devastated provinces of Italy, yet had some schools actually operating within two weeks of the departure of the Germans. As Education Officer for 5th Army he did the initial work of opening schools and university in Florence. Working with 5th and 8th Armies as Emilia Region Education Officer, simultaneously, he opened schools in corps area wherever shelling had ceased, working repeatedly in areas under fire to make preliminary arrangements so that as soon as danger was passed schools could be opened without delay. In all his work he has shown extraordinary energy and initiative. He has worked in complete harmony with all other personnel, from civilians and enlisted men to field and general officers, and has commanded the liking and admiration of all. He has been loyal and devoted, and has worked with tremendous energy far beyond the line of duty.
 11. Capt. PRATT has worked successively, and in some cases simultaneously, in Education Subcommission Headquarters, in Region 3, Region 4, Lazio-Umbria Region, 5th and 8th Army, and Emilia Region. He supervised production and distribution of non-fascist text books in Naples overcoming great obstacles of lack of material and transport; he early established the pattern for opening schools in provinces, since followed throughout Italy; he opened schools in some of the most devastated parts of Italy in an extraordinarily short time against heavy odds; he has worked under fire to have things organized for the earliest safe resumption of education in corps areas. He has worked with great energy, initiative, good spirit, and brilliance far beyond the line of duty and has commanded the liking and admiration of all with whom he has dealt.

28 May 1945

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A. U. S.
Director of Education.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommission
APO 394

ED/CWW/vv

TO : Captain Willis E. Pratt
Regional Education Officer,
Emilia Region.

Tel. 489034-236

27 February 1945

Dear Willis :

I learned officially today that while your promotion has been definitely recommended by the promotion board here, it will not go forward to the A.F.H.Q. for two weeks. Same for Sam's. When I asked why the Hell, they said that they were feeding them in to A.F.H.Q. a few at a time, as being more sure to get action. The Sergeant tells me the stuff is all in order and is simply waiting for the two weeks. I'll keep following it up, but if the Promotion Board thinks you're surer to get it by this gradual method, I naturally won't push just yet. So don't expect anything till the latter part of March - on 10 March I'll check up to see that the thing is going forward. Will get it yet, boy!

Cordially

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
Director of Education.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWM/ams

17 February, 1945

Dear Willis:

The Promotions Board met Wednesday and Thursday. Before the meeting I contacted one way or another every member of the Board refreshing their memories on the urgency of your promotion and Sam's.

Colonel CHAPMAN, in charge of promotions for the Civil Affairs Section, tells me that you were both recommended for promotion and that the recommendations are going forward to AFHQ.

Keep your fingers crossed. But if AFHQ turns it down I shall try to get permission to go down there myself and plead the cause unless FISKE will take an aggressive initiative - and I have no reason to suppose that he won't.

We may not get the thing immediately. But we'll get it.

Cordially,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
A/Director of Education.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/1C/1.1/AG

24 January 1945

TO : Regional Education Officer
Emilia Region.

Dear Willis:

Thanks for your letter sent by Apicella.

I wish you'd join a church that gives some faith! If you can't trust anything higher, why not trust your friends? We won't let anything bad happen to you and we'll succeed yet in getting your promotion.

I had a talk with Colonel FISKE last night and at his suggestion wrote the enclosed letter. He promises to work on it -- and I'll keep after him.

Cordially,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
A/Director of Education.

3399

REAR HEADQUARTERS
EMILIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APG 394

HIX/RC

20 January 1945

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Promotion - Capt. WILLIS E. PRATT.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Headquarters Allied Commission.

1. I again urgently recommend preferred action toward the promotion of the above-named officer, who is the Regional Education Officer of this region.

2. Both in Emilia Region and previously in Lazio-Umbria Region this officer has established a unique record for assistance to the armies. In Litteria in June and July, with the 5th Army and with the 8th Army in Forlì and Ravenna in the fall and winter of 1944-45, he has been indefatigable in opening schools in the extreme forward areas, thus relieving the fighting troops of the nuisance, impediment and potential menace of idle children who would otherwise not only be constantly underfoot, but would hinder operations by thieving and malicious mischief.

3. He is at the present time engaged in the 8th Army Area where he has Army permission to open schools right up to corps boundaries and is rapidly doing so--even to the extent of commencing repair and reconstruction of school buildings in territory still subject to aerial bombardment and shell fire.

4. His achievements in this area are unparalleled in the history of military government, and experts in the field have characterized him as the most outstanding spearhead education officer in this theater.

5. The effectiveness of Captain Pratt's work would be greatly enhanced by his holding a higher grade.

ACB/eah

ALFRED C. BOWMAN, Colonel.
3398
Chief Commissioner.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/rh

ED/10/1.3/AC

16 Jan. 1945

SUBJECT : Promotions

TO : Regional Education Officer,
Emilia Region.

1. I enclose herewith copy of a letter I have written to the Vice President of the Civil Affairs Section. An identical letter has been also sent to the Commanding Officer of the 2675th Regiment.
2. I have discussed the letter with the Vice President. He is indignant about the supposed ruling against promotions in the Subcommissions which may some day be partly civilianized (Education, Fine Arts, Patriots, Finance, etc.), is in full sympathy with the points I made, and is taking the matter up directly with G-1 American.
3. Prior to writing the letter I discussed the matter with the Commanding Officer of the 2675th Regiment, who also agreed to take the matter up vigorously. He himself is a member of the Promotions Board.
4. I will keep you informed of farther developments.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
A/Director of Education.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/rh

ED/1 C/1.3/H/AC

15 December, 1944

TO : Capt. Willis E. Pratt,
Regional Education Officer,
Emilia Region.

Dear Willis,

Here's the latest on promotions:

AFHQ decided to have all recommendations re-submitted in new forms, with data from the 66-1 cards, etc. So everything bounced back for re-doing.

All is now in order, & you, Sam, and I are all up for consideration at the next meeting of the promotions board, scheduled for the end of this month or early next month.

A note from TV today says that instead of being discharged he is being re-assigned - bearing out what I wrote you yesterday, except that he hopes that his re-assignment will be in the U.S.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
A/Director of Education.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/rh

ED/H/AC

27 November, 1944

TO : Capt. Willis E. Pratt
Regional Education Officer,
Emilia Region, East Hq.

Dear Willis,

I've been checking with G-1 on the two matters we discussed.

Yours and Sam's promotion papers are all in order, but the promotions board is not considering any Captains to Majors until disposition of certain matters at AFHQ. It is possible that they will take them up at their next meeting, a week or two hence.

As to the officers desiring release: No officer can initiate proceedings for his own release, and release can only be obtained by the head of the S/C declaring the officer to be surplus. Since the S/C is not over-strength and since the officer in question is invaluable, I don't see how I could conscientiously declare him surplus, despite my warm friendship for him. His only recourse, it would seem, would be to get a medical discharge. If he would take my advice as to getting adequate treatment and rest, this would probably be unnecessary.

Cordial greetings always,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
A/Director of Education.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/cz

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(H)
ED/1.3/AC

17 November 1944

SUBJECT: Personal data.

TO: Regional Education Officers.
(Captain PRATT)

I find that we have little personal information about our staff here in the office. I know that each of you has filled out a thousand blanks on his past history; but none of them have been for Subcommittee files. Will you, therefore, please complete the following form?

Carleton W. Washburne

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, A.U.S.
A/Director of Education.

Name Willis E. Pratt Serial No. 0-521390 Organization Spec-Fes.
Born November 25 1906 Place of birth Pittsburgh, Pa.
Permanent address 73 Academy Street, Mansfield, Pennsylvania
Name of wife Margaret B. Pratt Her Address 308 East 7th St., Erie, Pa.
Ages of children 9, 15, _____, _____, _____
Education beyond secondary school (with dates):
Allegheny College, 1923-1927, A.B. Degree
Harvard, Carnegie Tech, Boston U., Uni. of Pgh. 1927-32, M.A. degree
University of Pittsburgh, 1932-1940, Ph. D. degree
Educational experience (with dates):
1927-30, Teacher and principal, Albion, Pennsylvania- Salary \$2000.00
* 1930-1941- Asst. Supt. and Supt. of Schools, Erie Co. Pa.- Salary \$4500.00
** 1941-43- President, State Teachers College, Mansfield, Pa. Salary \$7500.00
Military record:
First commissioned 11 May 1943 Captain
Present rank Captain Date of present rank 11 May 1943
Date assigned to Education Subcommittee 12 October 1943
Assignments in Education Subcommittee (with dates):
12 October 1943- 6 February 1944, Education Officer, Region 9
6 February 1944- 10 March 1944, Education Subcommittee, H.C.
10 March 1944- 12 August 1944, Region 4 Education Officer- Atch. H.C. Subcommittee
(Also part time in Region 3)
12 August 1944- to date, Regional Education Officer, Region 9
Signed Willis E. Pratt, Capt. A.U.S.

* Also Instructor, Graduate School, University of Pittsburgh

**On leave of absence.

3394

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Education Subcommittee

ED/CWW/tjr

ED/E/ACC

20 October 1944

SUBJECT: Promotion of Officer.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Emilia Region.

1. Captain WILLIS E. PRATT, Spec. Res., O-521390, Regional Education Officer for Emilia, has been in grade the requisite fifteen months and is therefore eligible for promotion.

2. Your contacts with Captain PRATT may have been too brief for you to have had evidence of his outstanding worth. Since, however, a recommendation for his promotion should originate with you, I take the liberty of sharing with you our experience with Captain PRATT since last February.

3. Captain PRATT is one of the very ablest officers who has worked in the Education Subcommittee at any time. He is industrious and energetic to an extraordinary degree. He uses initiative and originality. He is absolutely reliable. His personality has charm and he makes friends everywhere. He has made an outstanding contribution to the work of opening schools on a non-fascist basis.

4. This Subcommittee hopes that you will strongly recommend Captain PRATT for a Majority at this time, and will be glad to give every support to your recommendation.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, AUS
A/Director of Education.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
AFO 394
Education Subcommittee

ED/OWH/tjr

ED/H/ACC

12 October 1944

Captain WILLIS E. PRATT.

Dear Willis,

I'm glad to have this chance to communicate quickly with you. Here's the dope up to date:

1. Lt. Colonel ROWELL has been called to the South Pacific to organize a Tizi Oumu there. He's gone.
2. I'm now Acting Director of the Education Subcommittee. T. V. is still in Rome, but inactive awaiting his release. I've made his old office into a room for clerks, and have taken two interconnecting sunny offices across the hall - my private office and an outer one for Dr. Rombo and reception.
3. GREGORY is temporarily running Lazio-Umbria.
4. Major HURLEY is down in Naples trying to straighten things out there (only 25,000 children in school). He comes back the end of the month and will take over Lazio-Umbria, releasing GREGORY for Venezia.
5. Text-books: Printing is started in Florence in three plants, under a consorsio, of which Valecchi is a member. A new policy permits competing text books on approval of provincial or regional commissioners set up by REO's. A problem we're struggling with, however, is the religious section of such books. I'll get out a directive on this shortly, after reaching an agreement with a representative of the Cardinal.
6. Programs: I hope to be able to print here enough programs for all regions. It's very much more costly to do it Region by Region. Furthermore you may have difficulty financing, as I did in Region IV. I'll send further word as soon as I have definite clearance.
7. School lunches: Food Subcommittee is having trouble with supply and has not yet authorized lunches for Toscana and Emilia and north. I've requested an allotment for you and will notify you of results.
8. Defascism: A new over-all directive is going out next week which will modify some of our procedures. The dismissal instead of suspension of anti-marcia, squadrista, etc., is out - we'll use suspensions and part pay for all. This is official hearsay. I'm going over the proposed new directive immediately and trying to salvage the best part of our procedure. I'll send information as soon as I have it.

9. Paper for books. Just got word that 43 tons of our order are in a convoy due next week.

10. GIL. Our GIL directive is being kicked around through the dammedest maze of red tape you ever saw. I think it will go out, substantially as we planned it, as an order to all Regions. There are changes in wording, quite harmless.

11. I'm sending herewith an advance rough copy of my monthly report. You'll get the mimeographed copy later.

12. Your letters of 5 October and 6 October are hereby acknowledged. Thanks for calling my attention to the price discrepancy on soup, etc. 1.4 kilos is right. I duplicated your old form without carefully reading it.

13. A representative of International Boy Scouts is here with us and is apparently succeeding in bringing about a federation of the two competing boy scout organizations - Catholic and non-confessional. We're having a joint meeting in my office Tuesday. The Minister is president of the non-confessional group.

All good wishes to you,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Major, A.U.S.
A/Director of Education

3391

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Major, A.U.S.
A/Director of Education

3391

1.5

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394
Tel. 269

Ref. ED/3.4.

27 July 1944

SUBJECT : Promotion of Capt. Willis E. Pratt
TO : G-1 American.

1. I request that the following recommendation of Capt. Willis E. Pratt be attached to that originating with his Region IV.

2. Captain Pratt's work has been closely under my cognizance during his entire service in Italy. No officer that I have known comes closer to the ideal combination of energy and courtesy in dealing with this old but tired civilization. Pratt's record is versatile and unusual: speed at opening schools in devastated provinces, inspiring of morale among Italian officials, cementer of cooperative relations in the Subcommittee itself, fertility of suggestion as touching policy, and persistence of performance in all fields until the job is both done and finished. I strongly urge his promotion on the basis of merit already compounded.

I.V. Smith
Lt. Col. AUS
Director of Education

3390

ALLIED COMMISSION
Viterbo Province

3 July, 1944.

SUBJECT : Captain Willis E. Pratt

TO : Whom it may concern.
Vit/34

Captain Willis E. Pratt was in charge of the Education in Avellino Province under my command from 17 March 1944 to 10 April, 1944.

It was a matter of great regret to me personally when he left but he was able to say, with every justification, that the Education of the Province had been brought up to a very high level.

I can only add that I hoped to have with me again. I know that I could safely leave Educational matters in any province entirely in his hands and a first class job would be done.

A. D. Bonham-Carter
Lt. Col.
Provincial Commissioner.

785016

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. ARMY

18 July 1944.

Dear Captain Pratt,

I much regret, owing to my sudden transfer from the province of Avellino to Regional Headquarters, that I forgot to leave on record my appreciation of the work which you have done in connection with Education in that Province.

I feel sure that your tactful and understanding handling of the situation during your Educational inspection of the area did a great deal to consolidate the Italian Educational set up within the province, and I wish to thank you personally for the assistance which you gave me and for your excellent work.

I trust that all will go well with you, and I wish you the best of good luck.

Yours sincerely,

Alex: H. White
Lt. Col.
Executive Officer, Region III.

Captain Willis E. Pratt
Hq. 2675th Regiment, ACC.
APO 394, U.S. Army.

3385

File

Capt. Willis E. Pratt

You are hereby designated as officer in charge of the Education Office, Region 4 and the Naples office of the Education Subcommission, ACC. You are to act in my name and have my authority. Since I have succeeded to Major Sherwood's and Major Bergin's responsibility for office administration of all kinds, you are in full charge of the office. Lt. Vella and Mr. Hauser will continue their customary work and responsibility, but assume no new responsibility as a result of the departure of Maj. Sherwood. If they raise any questions you cannot answer, call Col. Smith. But you are administrative head of the office until my return.

Please be out as little as possible, letting Tilroe do such jobs around town as are necessary.

Region 4 has to use our truck Tuesday and Wednesday and possibly Thursday. Sorry.

Have a good time. See you Friday. If you have to reach me in Capri do so through Major Woodard; Civil Affairs Officer for the island. He will know where I'm billeted.

Carlton Washburne
Major. aus

CONFIDENTIALHEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
C-1

REFERENCE : 16004/C-1

14 February, 1944.

SUBJECT : Assignment - British and American Officers

TO : Education Sub-Commission
Property Control Sub-Commission
Fine Arts Sub-Commission
Region IX.

1. Approval has been given for the assignment of the following British and American Officers as shown :-

(A) or (B)	Rank	Name	Army Number	Unit	Assigned to
(B)	Major	BENNETT, R.L.	31529	Recon Corps	Property Control Sub-Commission
(B)	Major	GULLAND, C.M.	145956	R.A.	Property Control Sub-Commission
(A)	Capt	LEE, PIERRE O.	O-519827	Spec.Res.	Property Control Sub-Commission
(A)	Capt	HEILMAN, PAUL L	O-473505	C.M.P.	Education Sub- Commission
(A)	Capt	PRATT, WILLIS E	O-521390	Spec.Res.	Education Sub- Commission

2. The previous assignment in respect of the officer listed below is amended to read :-

(A) Capt. PENNOYER, ALBERT S.O-181027 C.E. Fine Arts Sub-
Commission.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUT GENERAL MACFARLANE.

F.A. PURGOLD,
Lt. Colonel, R.A.,
C-1.

JRH/ES

Copies to :- Executive Commissioner.
Establishment Officer.
C-1 (B)
C-1 (A)
O.C. British Detachment.
All officers concerned.

3386

0 2 9 4