

Peking story (American prisoners in China) - correspondence, letters and ca...

HS L 179:79



Dag Hammarskjöld's sand.

Peking story - 1954

22 Dec.

a.) Grocock, Harvey B., Mrs, Kensington, Conn.
USA

- 1 letter to D.H.
- 2 photos.

b.) D.H.'s reply, 1 letter, 22 Dec.

Harvey B. Grocock

Grocock, Harvey D.

20 Glen Street
Kensington, Connecticut

The Honorable Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General
The United Nations Headquarters
New York, N.Y.

My dear Sir:

The news this morning reports that you are going to China. May God give you success in what you are trying to do for the imprisoned American service men and may He take care of you personally too on that wonderful mission of mercy. To me it is so right that someone from Sweden should be named for that job. Our blessed homeland is to me a symbol of peace and mercy missions. Through many years now the world has looked to Sweden as an intermediary.

I am enclosing two pictures of Lt. Kenneth Tackus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew L. Tackus, of Ridgewood Road, West Hartford, Conn. The larger is one of Ken taken at Fishburne Military Academy. The other I took when I cared for him and his brother, Jim, back in 1931 while I was a student at the Hartford Public High School. Kenneth graduated from West Point in 1950. He was sent to Korea that year.

In early December of 1950... or perhaps it was 1951.. it is so long ago now that I cannot keep the dates straight in my head, Ken was wounded in the neck and reports came back that he was taken prisoner. The following Christmas we heard that he had been mentioned on the radio from China. I do not know whether or not that is true.. I did not hear it. Since then, his parents have undergone the most cruel strain one could imagine. They do not know whether or not Ken is still alive. At the moment they are in Florida. The father, I have heard, is suffering from hypertension. The strain of uncertainty is slowly killing both the father and the mother.

The reason for my writing to you about this is that I love the Tackus family. They were wonderful to me and Ken was a child in a million. He grew up to be a fine specimen, as you can see from his picture. You see, I came to this country in 1923. I was born in Sweden in 1904 so I was 19 when I arrived. I was determined to get myself an education. The only way to do it, since I had to do it alone, was to take job in private families where room and board were provided and you could arrange to go to school while earning your way. I graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1931 and from Smith College, Northampton, Mass. in 1935. It was because of wonderful Americans like the Tackus family that I was given a chance to go to school. And God took care of my health and strength. I am grateful for all that beyond words.

And now I ask you, in the name of humanity, in the name of that blessed little homeland of ours in the north which has become a symbol of mediation and peace and mercy through the 20th century, will you put Kenneth Tackus' name in your notebook and remember him when you go to China. I know this is probably too much to ask... but I could not resist the temptation to ask you. The parents are desperate and their health is going bad. Will you kindly take note of my letter. I know you are a busy man and if this request is not possible to fulfill, I know you will have a good reason to refuse. But I could not let this opportunity to tell you our plight go by. I would so much appreciate your taking note of my letter.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Anna Anderson Grocock

22 December 1954

Dear Mrs. Grocock,

I wish to acknowledge your letter regarding Lt. Kenneth Tackus and to tell you that I very much appreciated the spirit in which it was written.

Except as regards the eleven captured airmen, my task in Peking does not directly concern individual cases but I have, as you know, also been requested by the General Assembly to seek the release of all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command still detained. If Lt. Tackus belongs to that latter category, I am glad to know that my efforts will also be directed in his behalf.

Sincerely yours,

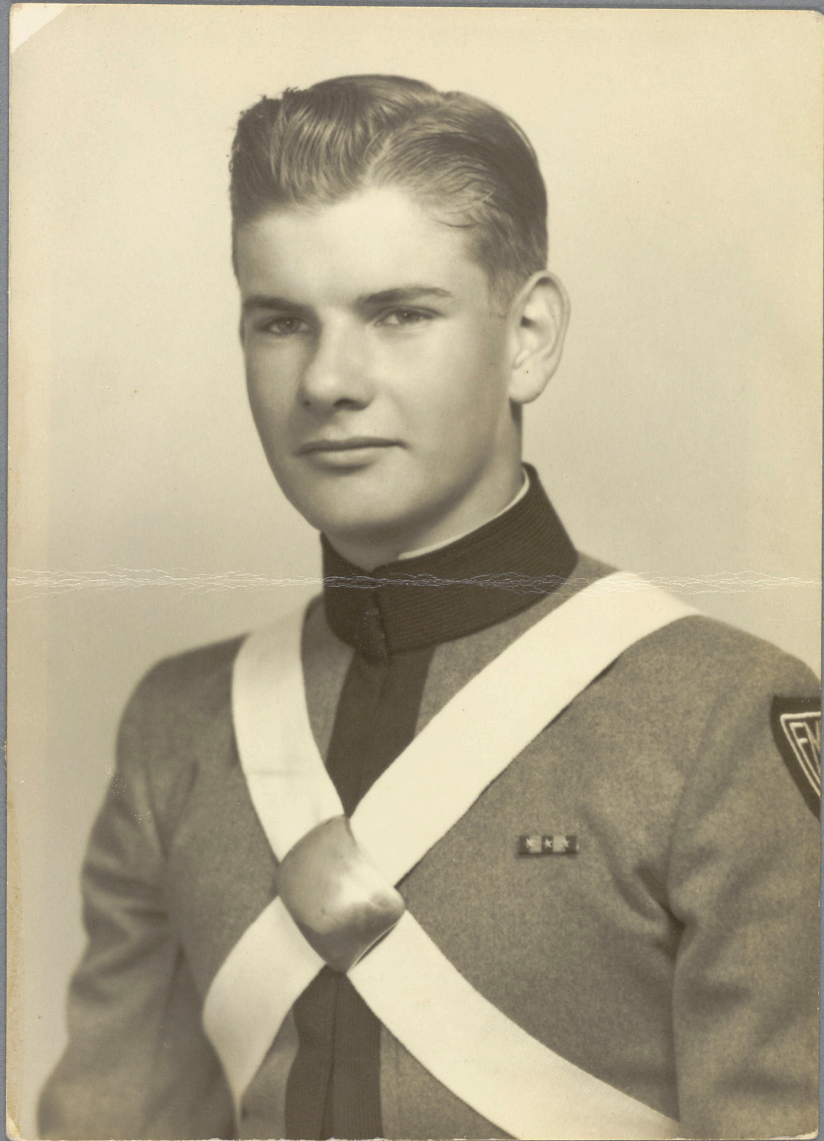
D. H.

Mrs. Harvey B. Grocock,
20 Glen Street,
Kensington, Conn.

FL:ca



Kenneth A. Tolson



Kenneth A. Tackus