

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

HS L 179:81



Dag Hammarskjöld's soul.

Peking story - 1955

25 March

Chou En-lai (Premier of the State Council
and Foreign Minister)
Peking.

- 1 letter from D.H.

- 12 encl. (Letters from families of the
U.N. personnel imprisoned in China)

25 March 1955

My dear Mr. Chou En-lai:

I have the honour to transmit to you with this letter a number of letters from the members of the families of the UN personnel imprisoned in China.

The human aspect of the matter which these letters so movingly bring to the forefront is one which I know you fully appreciate. This aspect alone would seem to override all other considerations and, thus, in itself provide a sufficient reason for release.

His Excellency
Mr. Chou En-lai
Premier of the State Council
and Foreign Minister
Peking, China.

Montgomery, Alabama
8 March 1955

Premier Chou En-lai
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai:

My husband, 1st Lieutenant Wallace L. Brown, is now held in your country, I have written you this letter to ask you to return him to me. His plight has been discussed by the press and by Government officials from Panmunjom and Geneva to New York and Peking. Many have pondered the legal and political aspects of his case. But apparently few have considered his family, his broken and desolate home, and his personal plans that have been so tragically interrupted by his imprisonment.

In September of 1953 -- almost two years ago -- other United Nations prisoners were repatriated. The friends of my husband have been returned to their homes and have resumed their lives with their families. For over two years my home has been without happiness and my life without purpose in the absence of my husband.

Though I am aware that you will permit me to visit my loved one, seeing him within prison walls would only add more to the heartache I now suffer. A brief glimpse would only increase my desire and his to be reunited in the comfort and privacy of our home.

Need the suffering brought by war to me and to my husband be further prolonged? I ask that you keep in mind that he has been imprisoned for over two years at this time and that every moment of this punishment has been magnified by my sharing it.

I hope that you will see fit to release my husband to me, gaining gratitude in my heart.

Sincerely,

BOBBY J. BROWN

C O P Y

Montgomery, Alabama
March 10, 1955

Premier Chou En-lai
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai:

I am writing this letter concerning my husband Colonel John K. Arnold Jr. who is being detained in your country. I ask you on a humanitarian basis to return him to me and our four children. The boys have reached an age where they need their father's guidance and discipline, the little girl needs a father's love. I find it increasingly difficult to be both mother and father to them.

I know that you have invited me to visit my husband in your country, but to see him behind prison walls so far from home and without the children would only increase the heartaches and loneliness we now suffer. It would be so very hard to leave him and return to a life emptiness, and longing to be with him in the comfort and privacy of our own home.

I hope and trust you will find it fitting to return my loved one to me and our children in the near future.

Sincerely,

May L. Arnold (signed)
Mrs. John K. Arnold Jr.

C O P Y

March 11, 1955

Missoula, Montana

Premier Chou En-lai

Peking, China

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai:

I am the wife of Capt. Elmer F. Llewellyn, one of the eleven airmen in your country. I am writting to you with the hope that you will soon release my husband so that he can once again return to his home and family.

I wish to thank you, Chou En-lai, for your invitation to China to see my husband. I was more than willing to go and would still go if my government would permit it. The pictures and moview that Mr. Hammarskjold brought back are indeed wonderful to have. Now if I could just have my husband returned to me I would indeed be happy.

We have a little boy, now six, who hasn't seen his father in almost three years and to him the word "Daddy" is just a word and not a person. We live alone and our days are filled with loneliness with the absence of my husband.

If you would release him, I would be one American who would be grateful to you for the rest of my life.

Very sincerely,

Marjorie G. Llewellyn (signed)
Marjorie G. Llewellyn

C O P Y

1124 Sherwood Street
Worthington, Minnesota
March 11, 1955

Premier Chou En-lai

Peking, China

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai:

I am writing to you in regard to my husband A/2c Harry M. Benjamin Jr. who you have been holding for 26 months. This is a personal plea from me and his parents. We are hoping that the 26 months would be long enough for him to serve for something he didn't do. We would be overjoyed if you let him return to us.

We know it is up to you to let them all return ~~so~~ we are asking you in this letter. It has been a long hard pull for both him and us. Why must it go on any longer? May peace be in your heart. I hope you will see fit to let him return. Thank you.

Thank you for offering to let us come and see to boys. I would have come but I felt it would only make us both feel worse after meeting behind prison walls.

Sincerely

Mrs. Charlene Benjamin (sign)

Mrs. Charlene Benjamin

C o p y

Armathwaite, Tenn.

Mar. 11, 1955

Premier Chou En-lai.

Dear Sir - We are writing you in regard to our son, 1st Lt. John W. Buck who is be held as a spy in your country.

Want to say we were so grieved that he was not released when those other prisoners were Sept. 1953. We are age 77 & 73 years & this worry is hard to bear in our declining years of our life. Couldn't you make the remainder of our lives brighter by releasing these boys? It would mean so much to all of us & we know you would feel better too.

Thanks so much.

Mr. Noah A. Buck Father & Mrs. Noah A.
Buck, Mother of 1st Lt. John W. Buck

No. A.O.787245

C O P Y

St. Paul 6, Minn.
12 March 1955

Premier Chou En-lai
Peking China

Our Son Lut. Sergeant Howard W. Brown is now being held in your country. We are so very concerned about him. I am sure you understand the heartache we have suffered.

In sept. 1953 when the United Nations Prisoners were repatriated, these boys have returned to a happy and normal life with their families.

It is 26 months today since we have had any happiness in our home.

We hope that you will very soon release our son so he can begin a normal and happy life with us again and gain the gratitude in our hearts for you.

Sincerely

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown

(1712 Conway

St. Paul 6, Minn.)

C O P Y

124 St. Anthony St.
Lewisburg, Penna.
March 15, 1955

Mr. Chou En-Lai
Peking, China.

Dear Sir.

My son, Major William H. Baumer, is now held in your country. I am asking you to please return him to me.

His plight has been discussed by the press and Government Officials concerning the political aspects of the case. No one seems to consider the family ties and his plans that have been interrupted by his imprisonment.

In september 1953, almost two years ago, other United Nations prisoners were repatriated. His friends have returned and are now happy in their homes.

I know that you will permit me to visit my son. Seeing him within prison walls would only add to the heartache I now endure.

I am not young anymore and I do need my son for help and comfort in my home.

I ask you to bear in mind that he has been a prisoner for more than two years. Is that not long enough?

Out of the kindness of your heart, please return him to me and I will be forever grateful to you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary E. Baumer (signed)
Mrs. Mary E. Baumer

MB:jh
cc

C O P Y

March 15, 1955

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai,

My husband, Lt. Colonel Edwin L. Hellers, is in a hospital in Mukden and has been since January, 1953. You have taken excellent care of him and have made him well again, for which I am very, very grateful. He has suffered so much and I, as his wife, have suffered along with him. Colonel Heller's children need their father, like every child does. A mother's love is not enough ---it does not bridge the gaps that a father's love fulfills. His two children were three and four years old when he left them. They are now six and seven. They need him and I need him. Our life is nothing but an empty shell without him.

I am asking you as a wife and mother -- won't you please send him home to us.

Sincerely yours

Judith R.Heller(signed)

C o p y

Omaha, Nebraska
March 16, 1955

Premier Chou En-lai
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai:

My son, First Lieutenant Roland W. Parks, is now held in your country. He has been detained by your government since he was reported missing on a combat mission September 4, 1952, during the Korea activities.

I recently received pictures of my son who is being held in Mukden, China, and they were so much appreciated. My anxiety has been great, of course, for the past two and one-half years, and I am certain you can, no doubt, realize how happy it made me to see him looking so well. My son also advised me by letter that he is being well treated, receiving good food and medical care - for this I am very thankful.

The past two and one-half years have been prolonged with great suffering and heartache for our loved one; and each day I awake with great hope that you will see fit to return my boy to me soon.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W.G.Parks (signed)
Mrs. W.G. Parks

C O P Y

March 18, 1955
Clayton, New York

Premier Chou En-lai
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai,

My husband, Captain Eugene J. Vaadi, is now held in your country. He has been away from home for over two years.

His parents are ill and elderly. They have but one wish, before passing on, that is to see their only son once more.

He also has two daughters which are growing up without his love and care.

His folks, my daughters, and I would be very grateful if you could see in your heart to let him return home to us.

This is a plea from loved ones, not concerned parties.

Would you please give us some thought and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eugene Vaadi (signed)

C O P Y

146 Caroline Street
Orange, Virginia
United States of America
March 21, 1955

Premier Chou En-lai
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Chou En-lai:

Our son, airman Second Class John Walker Thompson III, is now being held in your country. We are writing this letter to ask you to return him to us.

Almost two years ago other United Nations prisoners were repatriated and returned to their homes. They have resumed their lives in their communities. It is our greatest desire that John, who has been in prison over twenty-six months, be allowed to return to our family circle, so that he may establish a home, with children, while we are still living.

John's imprisonment has been discussed by government officials from all countries of the world, but has anyone given thought of him, his desires and ambitions, or of his parents, who have so heartbrokenly awaited even the smallest bit of information concerning him.

We are aware of the invitation you extended to us to visit our son in your country. Until the present tense situation developed one of us had planned to make the trip. May we take this opportunity to thank you for the invitation, and for the photographs of the prisoners you sent by Mr. Hammar-skjold, when he returned from his visit to your country.

We sincerely trust that you will give this letter your most gracious consideration and will see fit to release our son to us soon.

Respectfully yours,

Helen L. Thompson (signed)
John W. Thompson (signed)

C O P Y

5102 Garland,
Lincoln, Nebraska
March 22, 1955

Hon. Chou En-lai,
Premier, People's Government of China,
Peking, China.

My dear Sir:

I am writing you in regard to my son,
Lieut. Lyle W. Cameron, now being imprisoned
with Lieut. Parks and Captain Fisher in your
country.

On three separate occasions, we have
received photographs of him, and he looks in
perfect health. His letters are coming to us
quite regularly, and he tells us of the good
food and considerate care he is receiving from
the Chinese people. Believe me, when I say
for this, we are truly grateful to you and
your people.

I sincerely thank you for your generous
offer to let me visit my son in China, and I
know that I would be kindly treated and safely
conducted through your country. But even if I
could afford the trip, I could not stand the
terrible grief of parting with my son in prison.

Sir, I beseech you to release my son
and restore him to a heartbroken mother, father,
sister and brother. We desire to live in peace
with all the world and have our loved one home
again.

Again I thank you for the kind care you
have given my son.

A loving mother,

Dorothy Cameron (sign.)
Mrs. Rolland G. Cameron