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**Life in China after World War II:  
Calendar to the Letters of Thomas L. Alexander,  
1946 – 1947 and 1951**

**Extent:** 153 items

**Author:**

Thomas Loryea Alexander (1893-1975)

**Background:**

Col. T.L. Alexander served in China (Apr. 1946 - Apr. 1947) as chairman of the Executive Headquarters Field Teams 5, 12, and 31 in mediation efforts between the National government and the Communist Party of China as a part of the "Marshall Mission" headed by General George Marshall.

A native of Wagner, S.C., Alexander was the son of Dedrick B. Alexander and Lillian Malone, and married to Ellen Boykin (1899-1996). He graduated in 1915 from the Citadel and received his Masters of Science from Oglethorpe University. Prior military service included the Mexican Border conflict in 1916 and in France during World War I.

During World War II, Thomas Loryea Alexander commanded the 179th Field Artillery as a National Guard officer in Louisiana, and later commanded 16 Prisoner of War camps in North Carolina.

**Summary:**

Chiefly correspondence between Alexander and his wife while awaiting departure at Fort Lawton, Washington, during his sea voyage to China, and while serving in Shanghai, Peiping (present day Beijing), and Shijiazhuang, Kalgan (present day Zhangjiakou), Beidaihe, and Handan (all in present day Hebei Province) as Chairman of Field Teams 5, 12, and 31.

Topics discussed include the climate and geography of the area around Fort Lawton, his activities aboard the U.S.S. General R.M. Blatchford while en route to China, his living arrangements in China, his desire that Ellen join him in China as a dependent, mediation efforts of General Marshall, and Chinese geography, climate, and culture.

**Accession Number:**

14702

**Abbreviations / Legend ADS = autographed document signed**

**ALS** = autographed letter signed

**ALS(T)** = typed copy of autographed letter signed

**DS** = document signed

**LS** = letter signed

**MP** = printed manuscript **MS** =

manuscript signed

**n.d.** = undated

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## **1946 MARCH**

### **MS, Postmarked 22 Mar[ch] 1946**

Chicago, Illin[ois]

T[homas] L[oryea] Alexander to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Durham, N[orth] C[arolina], postcard written en route to Seattle re how to direct future correspondence.

### **ALS, 26 Mar[ch] [19]46**

Fort Lawton, Wash[ington]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Millway Plantation, Boykin, South Carolina re his arrival at Fort Lawton, the climate and geography of the region, and a rumor that he and the 60 officers in his party will depart on Friday – “It seems that we will have something to do with training the Chinese army but haven’t learned all about our duties yet. Hope they will be small that I can get you over early.”

### **ALS, [26]-27 Mar[ch] [1946]**

Fort Lawton, Wash[ington]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re preparations for his trip, his disappointment that they will not stop at Hawaii en route to China, and taking his meals at the Officer’s Club despite the large crowd – “there are 400 Chinese officers here awaiting a boat.”

### **ALS, [28 March 1946]**

F[ort] Lawton, Wash[ington]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his enclosure of two copies of movement orders [not extant], his departure the following day aboard the *U.S.S. General [R.M.] Blatchford*, the beauty of Mt. Rainier, and advising her to seek medical attention at Fort Jackson when needed.

**ALS, Pmk. 29 Mar[ch] 1946**

F[or]t Lawton, Wash[ington]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his boarding and his plans to mail another letter in 15 days.

Includes a newspaper clipping re disturbances in radio and cable communications caused by the aurora borealis.

**1946 APRIL**

**ALS, 30 Mar[ch]-6 Apr[il] 1946,**

“Aboard *U.S.S. Gen[eral] [R.M.] Blanchford [Blatchford]*

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, South Carolina describing his trip from Fort Lawton to “the date line” and speculating on his duties in China,

“The plan was to go the northern route near the Aleutians but on account of reports of storms in that area we are now headed

S.W...the sea is one ‘swell’ swell after another...I look forward to the time I can look backward to next Tues. when I take my last two Typhus and Cholera shots. I think we go direct to Shanghi and will not stop at any port...I do a days work as ship inspector...We are traveling S.W. from Puget Sound but will turn directly west when we hit the 30° latitude line. There are no stops so we expect to be in

Shanghi on 14 April. We have 6 tiers of bunks 3 beds in each in this stateroom. 3 lavatories and a nice table and chairs, also a locker for each officer.

We read, play cards and go to movies after supper...We have one hr. per day in our Chinese school and I believe I can teach you when you come over...Am anxious to get to Shanghi to see what this job is like. It seems that the Nationalist and Communist are at it again. Hope that we can bring them together and stop fighting...One of the young naval officers aboard, Lt. Cooley, is from Newberry and knows the Houseals

...When I get to Shanghi I will find out about dependents coming over. If I am to be there as much as 6 months I sure want you to come...I am not

going to sign up for any longer than 6 months unless you can be with me... We will probably remain in Shanghi two or three weeks for orientation then be sent out as arbitration teams... The Post Office says there's good airmail service from Shanghi and you ought to get a letter in eight days... We are just crossing the date line so there will be no 7 April but will try to write a longer letter to make up for it."

**ALS, 8 April [19]46**

[Aboard the *U.S.S. General R.M. Blatchford*]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re their having "drawn life preservers...since the mine area will soon be reached."

**ALS, 9-11 Apr[il] [19]46**

[Aboard the *U.S.S. General R.M. Blatchford*]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, South Carolina re his duties and activities aboard ship – "Inspected the engine room with the ships engineer. It is operated by a 9000 H.P. oil burning steam turbine the propeller shaft is 18 in. in diameter..."

The same smokey albatrosses have followed us all the way. One has a white body and can be spotted each morning. I still do not know where they spend the nights... Walked a mile or more today and played medicine ball on deck," the final portion of his voyage – "We will probably hit the mouth of the Yangstee river on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> and pick up a pilot to guide us up that river into the Wangpo up to Shanghi, I understand about 60 miles."

**ALS, 12-13 April [19]46**

[Aboard the *U.S.S. General R.M. Blatchford*]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his continuing sea voyage – "We are now 2 or 3 hundred miles south of Tokyo and have just passed a Jap fishing boat... It looks as if we will dock some time Monday... This afternoon we passed Torijima a small volcanic island. It was inhabited in 1939."

Then it was a level plane. Today it is over 1000 ft. high and still smoking. I spent a couple of hours studying it with my field glasses...This is the only land we have seen thus far.”

### **13-14 April [19]46**

Aboard [the *U.S.S. General R.M. Blatchford*]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re the final portion of his voyage – “About 9 pm we will pass Kyushu the southernmost big island in the Jap group. Tomorrow night we will probably drop anchor at the mouth of the Yangstee and await the pilot who will take us the 70 miles to Shangi...”

We are now 2 miles from Japan (Kyushu) with a bright moon and have a good view of it...We are in the China Sea this A.M. and will be in Shangi before noon tomorrow. Day before yesterday we passed over the second deepest part of the ocean 34,600 feet, 6 ½ miles. One of the Chinese officers dropped his watch about that time into the sea. Another one exclaimed ‘See what you did.’ He replied ‘Oh it’s water proof it won’t be hurt.’”

### **ALS, 15-16 Apr[il] [1946]**

China Sea [Aboard the *U.S.S. General R.M. Blatchford*]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, South Carolina re his arrival in Shanghai by traveling up the Yangtze River – “struggled up the river from 5:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M...I saw the junks, a river full of them...There are 3,500,000 people in this town and they all seem to be on the streets at the same time. It is the damndedest mess of humanity I’ve ever seen...”

Have spent all day getting shots (Chinese small pox and plague) and drawing equipment...I am billeted in a hotel which is just as nice as anything in Atlanta except the Japs took all the radiators. I have an electric heater. The room is large with plenty of closet space with a nice bath, shower and tub. It is the Metropole and right in the center of town...

All of these birds have their hands out all the time and you have to do a lot of bargaining...Have seen a lot of the city from a truck but haven't tried the rickshaws yet", his transfer to Peiping Headquarters Group – "They tell me too that it is a nice clean city and much better than Shanghai. Don't think I would like to stay here", and directing her how to send mail.

**ALS, Pmk. 18 Apr[il] 1946**

[Shanghai, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re conditions for her joining him – "China will be open for dependents around 1 Sept...If you come I will have to agree to sign up for one or two years. It's impossible now to estimate how long we will be needed", and his upcoming transfer to Peiping – "It is cold up there and I have been issued everything except an igloo knife...Gen. Marshall flew into Peiping today. It seems that he would have us come up right away. I'm about through with Shanghai. If we don't leave before Sunday I may run down to Hangchow...However, the white Russians here have a big Easter celebration and I would like to see it."

**ALS, 20 April 1946**

[Shanghai], China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his not receiving any mail, preparations for his transfer to Peiping – "The Japs left the buildings in Peiping in such a bad state of repair it will take another week to get them ready for us", his impressions of Shanghai – "I plan to roam all over the old Chinese area of town today..."

These are a very strange people. They still have their gods in the temples which are only two or three blocks from here...The whole town is crowded as a carnival is on Sat. night. 4 ½ million milling around. They seem all to be going nowhere and trying to get there at the same time...

Four of us...took off with 2 guides furnished by the Red Cross and did we do this town. We came to a 10 story pagoda and I climbed all over a thousand Chinese to get to the top...there were at least 700 [Buddhas] of all sizes in other shrines in a 5 acre area. Whole families were kneeling bowing



and scraping before the big budas. The place was cloudy from all the incense smoke. I smoked them with \$400.00 (C.N.C.) worth of incense about 20¢”, his method of letter writing – “I usually start them in the AM or night before the date and write a paragraph or too whenever I get a chance...I like to keep in touch with you through out the day”, and his plan to attend an Episcopal service on Easter.

**ALS, 21 Apr[il] [19]46**

Shangh[a]i, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to “My dearest” [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re Easter service at the “Trinity Cathedral” – “Have just heard the Bishop of Hankchou. The services were beautiful not too high and not too low. The Trinity Cathedral is a beautiful church and about ½ as large as the chapel at Duke. I followed the services in good order. They took up collections while standing and singing the last song. Communion was held after church” and his not receiving any mail.

**ALS, 22-23 Apr[il], 1946**

[Shanghai, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, South Carolina re his not receiving any mail, the crowded nature of Shanghai, his upcoming duties – “Expect to be alone in some small town in Manchuria by the end of the month. I’ll have a radio for communication to Hq, an interpreter and some canned rations”, and preparations for transfer to Peiping – “Had my last plague shot this A.M. I don’t think it will bother me...Will leave here tomorrow at 0600 for Peiping.”

**ALS, 25-26 Apr[il] [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re sightseeing in Peiping – “Have just finished a half day trip through the Forbidden City where all the emporers of China lived for many, many centuries...It is just like going through two world fairs in one afternoon...Went over to the Marco Polo bridge this

A.M. Also saw the spot where the China incident began”, preparations for her joining him – “Whenever you take shots have it recorded on an immunization record (Form 81). You have to show it where ever you go in China. You must have Typhoid, Tetnus, Chinese small pox, cholera, plague, and I think that’s all...I do not know what my assignment will be but if it is in the wilds of Manchuria I could certainly see you once a week in Peiping and you could work with the Episcopal church”, and parties thrown by “Major Generals Tsi and Lui.”

**ALS, 27 Apr[il] 19[46]**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his doubts about whether she would enjoy China – “I do not know how you would get along in a filthy Chinese town. The burros, Russian ponies, camels, etc plod up and down the street and traffic keeps enough dust flying to contaminate the foods along the side walks. Of course no Americans dare eat this food”, his room at the “Le Grand Hotel de Peiping” – “I have a large front room and a nice stone veranda overlooking the garden between the building and a nice avenue. The hotel was built by the French in 1918...The street on which all the legations have built is one block over and I can see their flags flying from my window or really 2 French doors opening on the veranda”

Re beginning his orientation and General George C. Marshall – “Marshall is in Chunking and no doubt is handling the problem well at that end”, his agreeing to stay for a year longer as part of submitting the application for her to join him, transportation in Peiping – “One man just came trotting by on a 3 ft. donkey, and there goes a same sized donkey hitch to a wagon along side of a long haired Russian pony. I can count a hundred rickshaws in 3 minutes. There goes one of the wood burning busses.”

**ALS, 28 Apr[il] [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alexander to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re finding quarters for dependents, attending a “Chinese concert” the previous night – “it was as good as I’ve ever heard. They used 3

pianos. Had a chorus of 100 voices selected from 3 colleges here. It was put on by the W.A.S.C. This is a Chinese organization which furnishes all entertainment, conducts tours, furnishes all meals etc. for us free on a reverse lend lease basis”, various aspects of Chinese culture – “It seems they work all day Sunday too. Some stores do close on Mondays...I have seen a lot of women...over 30 yrs. old who came along before they stopped bandaging feet. They all have to hobble along. I can’t understand how even uncivilized people stood for such a thing.

Saw two very colorful funerals...The first one...was decorated with every color and shade of the rainbow...The other one of poorer people was carried on poles by men but just as much decorated. There is a wedding going on down stairs now and has been in progress all day. They have a band dressed in gaudy uniforms. The vehicles are also covered every inch with color.

Many of the people here have gone out to the great wall today. I will go next week. May want to build one like it on the farm. There must always have been too many people in China with not enough constructive work to do to have built so many unnecessary structures such as temples, walls, etc...Every body including the army have the flimsy sandals which cost about \$1.00 American”, and military construction – “Went out to a little walled city near the Marco Polo bridge. The soldiers there were building barbed wire barricades to hold off communist army attacks.”

### **ALS, 29 April [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, South Carolina re the lack of mail, “another or the same wedding” going on downstairs, “Tommie Liu” – a 17 year old who seemed “to have been brought up in the right way, a good Christian and a fine character...His mother has 10 children. He is the oldest. His father deserted them. His widowed uncle with 10 children looks after them.

His uncle is wealthy has a plantation of 40 acres on the outskirts of Shanghai.”

Re Communist military operations and deterioration of peace process – “The Communists have torn up the railroads sometimes for 150 miles. In places

they have carried the rails 15 miles from the tracks on their backs and hidden them. Some of the embankments have been carted away in baskets and scattered over the fields. Some walled towns are being besieged and the people within are starving, etc. The damned fools, etc. The two factions agree tonight and disagree tomorrow on the same points. It's a mess maybe two."

**ALS, 30 Apr[il] [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re the lack of adequate lighting – "We are supposed to have a 220 volt current but actually get 180 volts in the 220 bulbs... The street lights just don't exist and the main drag is as dark at night as our road is on the farm", plans to finish orientation the following day, and the living situation if she agreed to come to China – "They expect to use 2 compounds and some other rental quarters."

Includes a copy of the application for the "Movement of Dependents Overseas."

**1946 MAY**

**ALS, 1 May [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his desire that she send \$5 to the *Atlanta Journal* and have them send him the paper – "I do not know what Alley Oop has done for the past 3 months", his not receiving any mail, the forced landing of one of his "team planes" – "Several were hurt but none very seriously."

**ALS, 2 May 1946**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his move to another room in the hotel – "The furniture is much nicer and the view is much prettier", the expected arrival of 20 more

American officers from Shanghai, his estimations for how long it takes mail to reach Peiping, and items she will need to bring to China – “bathing cap...nose drops...eye drops, low heel shoes...a little extra soap...dark glasses...a good steamer trunk and put some Nescafe in it.”

**ALS, 3 May [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, South Carolina re representatives from the Communist and Nationalist factions staying on the first three floors of the hotel, wanting food from home – “If I could have some beans and cornbread I’d eat my weight...If I could just eat a head of lettuce or some other green raw vegetables. Every thing must be cooked and the water boiled.”

Re his evening plans – “The marines are having a dance at their officer’s club but have decided to let that go...The Temple of Heaven is directly in front of my window so I’ll just keep an eye on it for Budda’s sake”, learning aspects of Chinese culture – “Tuesday we are having a Chinese dinner with chop sticks and all. When they give these Chinese knives and forks they just get down in the trough and waddle around...Am studdying Chinese and can pronounce the words pretty well. Don’t ever expect to be able to write it”, and a visit to market – “Went to the bazaar this pm, but so many beggars started to follow me I just left them. They make a business of begging and I make a business of giving them nothing. They are certainly a nuisance and I am certainly not going to encourage them.”

**ALS, 4 May [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his not receiving any mail – “Am going to the Temple of Heaven tomorrow and ask Budda to write me. I’ll smoke him out of the temple if I don’t get some mail from you.”

**ALS, [5 May 1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re the Summer Palace – “The grounds must cover several thousand acres with lakes and all...It would take a billion dollars to duplicate it in America. I haven’t climbed so much since my last trip to Stone Mountain. One of the temples is made of solid brass...There is well water...which is guaranteed to give longer life but am sure it means the life here after” and food – “The have one favorite course poached egg on rice with curry dressing...The pepper is white the salt is from the sea at Tiensin with some sea weed in it and it’s a little brown. The sugar is beet captured from the Japs.

Where the rest of the food was captured I don’t know.”

**ALS, 6 May [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his not receiving any mail, expectations that he will leave Peiping soon, difficulty of travel – “They only way to get out is by plane. The d--- Communist keep the Rail roads cut and it seems that there is little any one else can do about it”, and the lack of alcohol – “There are no highballs or cocktails in these parts. The Chinese do make a kind of Vodka but they must use rotten potatoes and other waste materials. You can’t drink it. The same is true about Cognac except it’s worse.”

**ALS, 7 May [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thoams Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his upcoming move to the “North Compound...built by Rockefeller in conjunction with the [Peking Union] Medical College” – “That is probably where you will live when you come over...it is a beautiful place and the houses are just as nice as you would find on any army post.”

**ALS, 8 May [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his new quarters – “Our house is next over to the general and the food is from the good old U.S. It is so much nicer than the hotel. We have 4 boys to look after our house”, his assignment with the Army reorganization team, a concert given by the Marine band – “Most of the audience was Communist and Nationalist...I don’t think they liked it so much...Tommie Liu sat by me and he didn’t think much of the Chinese for leaving before it was over”, his only receiving mail twice since leaving – “all told I have had only 8 letters. Some have had as much as a half hundred...China is a long way and you have to put a lot of force behind your letters.”

**ALS, 10-12 May [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his inability to send a cable on Mother’s Day – “the rates have increased 600%. It costs \$4.35 per word including address for a regular cable. For the delayed cables it is \$2.60 per word. The cost would be between \$20 and \$30 American” and the difficulties of his upcoming duties – “I do not know just how much we will be able to do here.

The Communist are still besieging cities in this area. The paper says that there are around 30,000 around this city. I read a lot about the Chinese in an effort to figure them out, but I just can’t understand them. How in the world they can destroy their own cities, railroads and all other means of communications I don’t see. Things are in a tumultuous mess. The teams have already done a great deal of good but I hope can continue to do so. My impression of most of the people does not coincide with the things I read.”

**ALS, 13-14 May [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his unfavorable impressions of the Chinese – “I’ve read a lot

about China and every book says a ‘Chinaman’s word is as good as his bond.’ That is a damned lie with very few exceptions. I can not agree with these books written by a bunch of idealists. If what they say is true this thing would be very easily settled...Just between us they are the damndest skunks, double crossers I can think of.

These people in North China are a mixture of Mongols, Turks, and other low types of humanity...Life is cheap here and they certainly spend it sometimes in the most gruesome ways. A hundred thousand lives here would not be worth a quarter...They don’t seem to want any one to help them and appreciate nothing. I have met some good Christians but the others are not worth saving. They are so thick here every foot of land is a public toilet...‘Watch your step’ signs should be posted every ten feet...Confucius lived across the creek from here and he said ‘This place stinks abundantly and sometimes more’ I thoroughly understand why he didn’t come over here to live...Crops grow greener in proportion to the distance from habitation...Am reading the books but learning about them first hand.”

**ALS, 14-15 May 19[46]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re delays in sorting the mail, a visit made by Alexander and another colonel to the Temple of Heaven and “Coal Hill” [Jingshan Hill], and inflation – “It takes so little to live here and the exchange rate is today \$2610.00 C.N.C. to \$1.00 American...I paid \$400.00 for a hair cut today and they actually took off only 9¢ worth.”

**ALS, 16 May [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his desire that she come to China by 1 July and a dinner with Tommie Liu and “his girl.”

**ALS, 16-17 May 1946**

[Peiping, China]



[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his assignment with the Army Reorganization Section for the Chinese Army, their inability to work – “there’s not much we can do until the cease fighting. The Communist tore up completely a 50 mile branch of rail line in the last day or two. There would not be so much need for relief if there was sufficient communications” and the opening of their officers club on the roof of the Peiping Hotel on 1 June.

**ALS, 17-18 May [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re an upcoming article about Peiping in *National Geographic* – “I was with the photographer when he took some of the pictures” and doubts expressed about the General Marshall and the mission in *The New York Times* and *Time* – “They seem to think that Gen. Marshall has taken on a bit more than he can handle. It is a big undertaking but if it can be successful it will have a tremendous effect in handling other national problems. If the Nationalists and Communist concede just a little and will adhere to their agreements and promises the job would be fairly simple.”

**ALS, 18-19 May [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his new assignment – “I will leave next Thursday for a little town called Shih-chia-guang [Shijiazhuang]”, demographics of the officers – “Most all our office force here are Russians, Koreans, and Chinese with two or three Americans. These people are used in place of soldiers since most of the latter have been discharged”, weather in Peiping – “This country is generally rather dry. The monsoon winds travel up the coast and do not turn inland. Most of our winds come from the Gobi desert and frequently bring great clouds of dust. It gets right cold but on account of the lack of humidity there is not so much snow”, and his desire to visit “the farm” during her visit to Atlanta – “I wrote Mr. Towns to make such repairs as he saw necessary and send you the bill for the materials. See if the Lespedeza is growing, etc.”

**ALS, 19-20 May [19]46**

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Cook's Court, c/o J.W. Cantey, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re lack of mail, attending church service, his upcoming service – "I am supposed to stay out in the styx for 30 days then come back here to be sent on another trip", and his desire that she come on 1 July. Second page of letter is written on the back of a church bulletin dated 19 May 1946, Peiping China. Includes a poem titled "China Panorama, Written by a G.I. Joe (unknown)" with a handwritten note by Alexander – "Save. This is the China I Live In."

**ALS, 20-21 May [19]46**

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Cook's Court, c/o J.W. Cantey, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re preparations for his assignment – "Went down to the Marine Rx and bought a good bit of extra stuff like olives, crackers, sardines, fruit cake, fruit juices, etc. Also a can opener."

**ALS, 21-22 May [1946]**

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Cook's Court, c/o J.W. Cantey, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his receipt of a letter from her dated 8 May, his recommendation that Jimmie should start college on the G.I. Bill once he gets out of the Army, his departure for the field the following day.

**ALS, 22 May [1946]**

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Cook's Court, c/o J.W. Cantey, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his departure the next day and his hope that after his first 30 day assignment she will be in China.

**ALS, 23-26 May [19]46**

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander], [Shijiazhuang, China] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re Shijiazhuang – "Well here I am at Shih Chia Guang a little town of 250,000. There is one wide street around the town. The others are in

a few instances wide enough for a jeep to pass through...The section of town adjoining the railroad was severely bombed by the Americans and around 7000 killed. They still dig in the debris for junk and bodies...A refugee camp holding 800 is just as filthy or more so than a one horse farm pig pen. Dealing with those things does not come under our jurisdiction and we can do nothing about it. All China needs D.D.Ting.”

Re his living quarters – “The Japs built a number of buildings here and I am living in one of them. I can’t get used to the squat flush toilets. The ceilings in this building are high which is unusual in their type of construction. Generally everything is a foot or so lower than normal and I have to do a lot of stooping to get in doors. The bath is a big cement affair big enough for 6. It is heated by fire under the building”, an upcoming visit to “Chengting” [Zhengding] – “Gen. Loh is furnishing a guard for us. This is necessary in this area...You probably remember reading where the Japs burned 7 priests at the stake when they refused to turn 200 girls over to them well that was at Chengting. One of the priests who escaped, Father Slouse, visits us every day.”

Re the political situation – “Little progress is being made by Marshall’s group at this time and sometimes it looks hopeless. Armies are standing at each others throats all the time and attacks are frequent”, Zhengding – “Words could not describe what I saw in that old place...The streets were narrow, dirty and filled with kids and dogs...We then went to the monastery where the priests kept the glasses filled with wine...We then went to the nursery where there were babies from a few days old to 2 yrs. Some were blind and were in a pitiful condition. We had a U[nited] N[ations] R[elief] [and] R[ehabilitation] A[dministration] representative who got milk for them. I went into the classrooms and work shops and found them all very busy...The work a full day weaving, embroidering making lace, towels, handkerchiefs, pillow cases...There must be several hundreds maybe over a thousand all girls...The worst thing I saw was when I came to a dark shed I stepped in and found 3 blind girls turning a mill wheel like a blind mule, grinding millet...I gave the sister superior \$15.00 and bought some handkerchiefs”, a Communist attack – “There was considerable artillery and machine gun fire all night last night...Communists are 6 mi away on one side 14 on another and 10 on another...The Communist attacked at a village

20 Li to the SW which is 6 ¾ mil to the SW. The Nationalist drove them off after an all night battle. We will investigate as soon as the Communists member returns”, and medical care in Zhengding – “Dr. Nee came in a short while ago...He is the only doctor here and works from 5:30 AM to 11:30 p.m. each day...He also has a hospital. Each room holds 10 patients and he has to put 15 in every one of them. The patients bring their own clothes and bedding all of which is loaded with every type of vermin.”

**AL, 27 [May 1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

Fragment of letter from [Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re a visit from General Loh – “The General, his wife and daughter came in and so we entertained them for an hour. I presented him with my \$12.50 pipe, 1 carton of tobacco, 3 cans of V8 – 1 can of tomatoe juice, 1 can of rum, soakies and 1 can of tody[?] for the child and his visit to a “Milk Center” – “They don’t do anything right. They are suppose to wash out the containers in boiling water but when you look the other way they don’t. They never heard of boiling water...The N.R.R.A. require that their faces be washed before milk is given them.” **Incomplete.**

**ALS, 28 May [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re the geography – “This country is much like the San Antonio, Tex. area except they get plenty of water for the fields from shallow wells. They have a very deep and fertile top soil”, his visit with the U.N.R.R.A. representative “to see the milk centers and the lousy folks who come there” and his assessment of the political situation – “This country is in a hell of a mess and sometimes I think they would rather have it that way. It would be so very easy to correct all their problems if they would even go about it have heartedly. The Central Government itself needs much attention and reorganization. Some feel that civil war is necessary and inevitable but of course that is absolutely absurd.”

**ALS, 28 May [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re his visit to a Trappist Monastery 9 miles outside Shijiazhuang – “The Bishop from France

as well as the Bishop from Chengting were both there. The former spent 2 ½ years in a Jap concentration camp....All kinds of wine flowed gently and cheeses of very odor penetrated the air...Little did I desist so the feast rolled on for an hour...They are really disciplined and never look on the outside world...No woman ever can come in eyesight, for fear I guess that they will throw down the hoe and leave the crops untended...Their wines are excellent and the cognac flooring...All speak French and so did I after the first coniac.”

Re his sanitary precautions – “My germicidal soap and I went into action in the community bath and the imagination of crawling things gradually abated. Am using aerosol bombs and D.D.T. is supposed to arrive on the plane...Thursday. We are going to D.D.T. the whole house and out houses”, his quarters – “Well there are six buildings in the compound which is surrounded by a 10 ft brick wall with glass (broken) cemented on top. We have 5 bed rooms (brick house), sitting room and dining room. The kitchen is in another brick bldg just a few yds. out the back door. The communal bath is also in that bldg. The squat latrinorium is a little brick house out near the corner.

Our furniture is very nice. Many nice big over stuffed chairs, lounges etc. The beds (China) have soft pine boards for mattress with one comfort on it. Chinese soldiers guard the gate and patrol the yard day and night. We have about 6 servants and wonderful cooks...There are only 4 Americans here. The other 3 on the team are Chinese interpreters and radio operators”, and his desire to investigate the battle mentioned in the previous letter – “Our Communist general team member slipped off some time ago and has not returned so the investigations have been at a stand still. We have asked for a replacement so we can investigate the battle of a few days ago. The Nationalist only lost 1 man and 20 wounded but captured 200. No doubt there was method in the Com. member’s departure.”

**ALS, 28-29 May [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re speaking to the staff of the “3d Army”, an upcoming trip to Taiyuan – “Lt. Gen. Loh offered to send me...by pl[ane] tomorrow but am a bit leary about flying with Chinese pilots in an old C46 so declined. Will take the train and take a

chance with the war” and Communist attacks on “Chengting” [Zhengding] – “10 regiments of Communists are attacking Chengting (pronounced Jengding) tonight and today. The Nat will drive them out tomorrow.”

**ALS, 29 May [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re the hospital in Zhending – “Most of the patients...are suffering from trachoma. The doctor operates and saves the sight of most of them. All bandages and absorbent cotton has to be cleaned and reused five times before being thrown away. They have one free bed...I don’t think most people know about hospitals they just die”, his upcoming trip to Taiyuan – “Expect to run over to Taiyuan or Yangku [a]bout 200 miles west of here Friday for an inspection. Will go by train and return Monday. The country is mountainous and should be very interesting. It is a 12 hr. trip”, and the political and military situation – “Had a battle just out of Chengting today and Gen. Loh just called and asked us not to go that way...The situation is looking a little better in the past few days and I expect it will take a turn one way or another in the next 2 or 3 weeks.”

**ALS, 30 May [19]46**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re his not receiving any mail, applications for dependents leaving China for Washington – “The priority depends on the length of overseas service only...All applications for all China go in together and I do not know where I stand”, and dinner with “the General’s family and the Wangs (CNRRA).”

**1946 JUNE ALS, 1 June [1946]**

[Taiyuan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Cook’s Court, c/o J.W. Cantey, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re Taiyuan and Shanxi Province – “It is much colder than at Shih Chia Chuang since it’s elevation is 3200 ft. and the mts. rise to the heighth of a mile about 7 miles from the

city walls...Filth is prevalent here as in every where. This is the disease season and this week the dragon festival is on to ward it off...This, Shansi [Shanxi] Province is under the control of a powerful war lord [Yen His-shan] who has 131,000 soldiers at his command. It is a rich province in agriculture, coal, iron and lime”, train trip from Shijiazhuang – “I left S-C-C at 8:30 A.M. and arrived here at 9:30 P.M. I rode the express but did not travel very fast since all bridges had been bombed out or destroyed by communists and were being repaired...I brought only my interpreter along. So at every stop I got out and met the people Chiefs of Police etc...

We passed through the Great Wall on the trip...at every stop hundreds of kids and women would rush the train with pewter kettles filled with tea for \$400.00 about 18¢”, General Tsou “who graduated from the Citadel in 1929”

Re opium trafficking – “When the Japanese [were] here they started the opium traffic again to wreck the morale of the people. This town was the banking center of China and many wealthy and prominent people lived here. The Japs by hook and crook forced them to become opium addicts. Some of them have begun to deal in the stuff in order to get enough for themselves. Whenever they are caught Marshall Yen, the war lord, places them against the wall and has them shot. Wed. is the shooting or execution day”, souvenirs – “I went shopping...and bought you \$22,000 about \$8.80 worth of junk, and old Ming dynasty bell about 600 yrs. old and a 100 yr old set of chop sticks.”

### **MS, 3 June 1946**

“Information Concerning Peking American School for Service Families Coming to Peiping” re number of students enrolled in the school, educational mission of the school, tuition, and boarding arrangements.

### **ALS, 4-6 June 1946**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re his desire to be sent to Mukden or Kalgan “where it’s cooler and too I want to see something of Manchuria”, his not receiving any mail, ice cream – “We had

ice cream the other day. Had forgotten how it tasted. All of the ice over here is last year's river ice", giving her advice for her anticipated trip to China – "I would suggest that you keep a diary from the day you leave home get a big one because you can write books on this country. If you want to go out in the hinterland I will send you with the UNRRA team and an Aerosol bomb to kill the bed bugs...Get accustomed to sleeping on rough pine boards. They'll straighten out your spine." Includes MS describing the Dragon Boat Festival.

### **ALS, 6-11 June 1946**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his not receiving any mail, lack of contact with the outside world – "The latest magazine we have is *Life* dated Sept. 1945, the one with Jimmie Stewart's picture on it. We know almost nothing of the outside world but still believe it's turning around."

Re wheat harvest, sanitary directives issued by Chiang Kai-shek, the signing of a 15 day truce – "But agreements etc don't mean much here...It is very monotonous now since there's a 15 day truce on and there's nothing to do. There will probably be delays, extensions and a lot of wrangling, decisions, indecisions, agreements, disagreements and broken agreements, the latter the most likely, before we start work again. They may decide to fight it out but if they do come to some real understanding we can begin the reorganization which we have planned."

Re a visit to the monastery – "We carried our food but they insisted that we eat there. We D.D.T.'d the nursery...I then went to the orphanage school and they really put on the dog...The band played and they sung the Chinese National Anthem, then God Bless American. I made a speech then...had them sing the two songs again. Then they marched out and took up a position in line so I could review them as I passed in the jeep", cholera – "a cholera epidemic is expected this summer. The disease is carried by flies, raw fruits, vegetables and raw water. We steer clear of them", visit to a cemetery – "The maple trees there were over 4 ft in diam. The lane is lined with the most grotesque stone figures, giant Gods and Goddesses all horses and other kind of animals. I climbed up on a horse and the saddle fitted perfectly", opium stores – "the Japs opened 40 opium stores in this small



town and had many hundred of addicts principally the business people. The Japs did not allow their own people to use it and forced the Chinese to grow it. Then they took all the crop and gained a big tax from it. It was their plan to destroy China with opium...All the addicts were mere putty in their hands and accounted for most of the collaborationists", evidence of Japanese construction, and his intention to quit writing until he receives mail.

**ALS, 16-18 June [19]46**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander] re military situation – "There have been several attacks east of here and the com. have destroyed another big bridge on the Tia Yuan Ry and captured a town. We are expecting the Ry to Peiping to go out before very long. The nationalists have very good troops here but not enough...I went out and inspected the artillery this A.M. all the equipment is Jap including the horses...I do not know what the outcome of this truce will be. Marshall must be disgusted...The Nationalists have done fairly well but the Communists are very treacherous. They have been supplied with good equipment by Russia all of which Russia denies."

Re a visit to the cathedral and orphanage, a visit to a Buddhist temple in Zhengding – "One [Buddha statue] was 72 ft. high and had 42 hands (for grabbing I guess), "the noises of China", work being performed at the compound – "20 coolies have just arrived to tear up the old air raid Jap dugout in the front yard. 6 would be enough but labor is plentiful and very cheap so each will be able to buy a catty or two of flour with the pay for his day's labor."

Re their cook – "We have an 80 year old cook who used to be the empress's servant before she was deposed in 1911...The Ry. officials found him for us", a dinner given by the "Supt. of Ry., Mr. Yong" – "In came 4 meats and after that 4 more meats and assorted dishes, bamboo shoots, shark's fins, boiled green figs, water chestnuts, water lilies, some kind of fruit, then soup followed by rice boiled with fruits, then a noodle soup...The dinners are very formal but at the same time it's o.k. to stand up and pick out something in the common dish with your chop sticks. Then lick 'em and help your partners..."

Mr. Yong's place is a modern home built by the Japs with nice flower gardens and fish pool...Mr. Yong went to school in the States", and rampant corruption – "There is so very much graft throughout and the grafters do everything to keep the poor poor through taxes, interest and rents...The government itself encourages graft generally known in China as squeeze...A general's pay was recently doubled from \$30.00 to \$60.00 per month but he gets a certain percent of the rice which go to the troops. From time to time a soldier at the city gate will kick off a sack of rice or wheat from a farmers cart for himself. Police take bribes from law breakers. If the people who get UNNRA supplies are not watched they will sell them immediately. Milk has to be issued already mixed to keep it from being sold."

**ALS, [19]-20 June [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], c/o J.W. Cantey, Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his trouble sleeping – "I roll and tumble all night on my wide board bed trying to keep cool...My pillows are filled with fine sand, the finest in China and I dare not get into a fight with them", his uncertainty about his new assignment, Catholic clergy – "Two fathers came in yesterday by mule cart 150 miles. The Bishops and fathers do not hesitate to take a mule cart of bicycle and take a 2 to 300 mile journey. They wade rivers and climb mountains and suffer all kinds of discomfitures and privations but never complain", and *Grapes of Wrath* – "The literary style and composition is superb but about 1/3 of it is unshellaced cussin' of the rawest kind."

**ALS, 20 June [19]46** [Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], c/o J.W. Cantey, Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the Communists – "They are more or less bandits who want to destroy any and every thing. I don't see too much good in either side."

Re agriculture, the Yellow River – "The engineers are now trying to get the Hwang Ho (Yellow) back into its old 1938 channel but the Communists slipped in and destroyed all the machinery so I doubt if they can get it back before the floods start next month. The course was changed in 1938 to block

the Japs”, and the military situation – “The Truce is over Sat. I do not know what will be done after that. A good bit of scrapping has taken place in the past 10 days. This is a rail center here and an important military objective. We are not allowed to shoot but have the irons...It’s very interesting this damn fool war.” Includes an advertisement by the Chin Shing Enterprise Company.

**ALS, 22 June 1946**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], c/o J.W. Cantey, Cook’s Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re Communist troop movements – “Bridges have been destroyed during the truce period. Much activity has taken place in the Shantung Province east of here. There have also been movements in this area. Next week will probably be very active”, the removal of a dirt bridge over the “Tzeyu River”, and the extension of the truce through 30 June.

**ALS, 23-26 June 1946**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re attending a Catholic Mass – “The services were beautiful and impressive although I knew little what it was all about. When we arrived there were about 300 Chinese singing the prayers and other ritualistic chants.”

Re Christianity in China – “These people need Christianity about as bad as they seem to like all this ritualism so I guess Catholicism is just as good as the rest...Some of the Christians keep a Budda in the house for reserve in case Christianity doesn’t do them enough good”, damage to railroads – “We have one line open to Peiping but the one to Tia Yuan has two bridges out. The one South to Hangkow is almost obliterated for 198 K.M. as is the one to the east”, and radio broadcasts from London.

**ALS, 26 June [1946]** [Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the political situation – “I wish I knew what was in the minds of the people at Nanking and at Peiping. It doesn’t seem that this plan is working so very satisfactorily due to the fickle and undependable Communists. Of course many times the Nationalists are just as much to blame...Our Communist member ran off and left us and he won’t come back. He’s scared I think”, a visit to a mission hospital run by Dr. Nie – “I carried 2 gals. of D.D.T...He has about 70 patients per day. Many of them have trichinosis which he says is caused by unsanitary living conditions, using the same towel etc...He has several sisters trained to operate. He looks after the Trapist monastery about 9 miles out, has a clinic at Chenting Fu [Zhengding] and attends to the orphanage and schools there too”,

Re difficulty of travel – “Jeeps can’t travel on the country roads. The Communist have ditches cut across many of them...It’s impossible to go far except by oxcart”, and attending a show with General Loh – “Something like our U.S.O. They have about 10 little girls and they really put on a dance. They had jugglers, magicians, singers and dancers. It was all just good Chinese and I enjoyed it.”

#### **ALS, 28 June-4 July [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re Dr. Nie’s son contracting meningitis – “We got 400,000 units of penecilin from our Hq for him by plane yesterday. Also got pineapple juice.”

Re purchase of antiques – “Bought a Chinese one string stradavaris probably 100 or more days [years] old...The chop sticks I sent are old Mongolian several hundred yrs. old”, Chinese wine – “The wine is 70% alcohol or about 135 proof...It is highly recommended as a disinfectant...The odor of all Chinese drinks is so bad...They must be made from refuse and elderly shoes.”

Re military preparations – “The Chinese troops are building a maize of defensive works around this city...Of course the city is supposed to be

encircled but there's so much exaggeration in this country I don't know what to believe", a visit to Chen Tao with "boy scouts and Father Schlooz" – "It was primitively primitive", extension of the truce, the spread of malaria and flu, dry weather, 120 Japanese POW's sent to Peiping, and bathing – "My #1 boy, Shorty, really fixes my bath and it worries him silly when I don't jump right in when he gets it fixed."

**ALS, 4-5 July [19]46** [Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re uncertainty over the status of dependents, items she will need when coming to China – "Bring a 3 months supply of cosmetics, toilet articles, bobby pins, soap powder, hot water bottles, thread, scissors, disinfectants, special medicines like alkalizer, Kleenex, mirrors, starch, blueing...belts and napkins."

Re 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration – "the 3d Army band played the Star Spangled Banner as we raised our beautiful silk 9x15 flag presented to us by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army...We were invited to a special arranged show at the theatre...A great long streamer was across the whole building 'Welcome Americans' (only 2 of us). Inside 3 streamers, 2 on the side and one in front of the stage reading 'Hail to Democracy', 'Peace Will Save the World', and 'Cooperation with the Americans'...After the show...we brought the party here for ice cream", and military action – "The Communist, 2000 of them, tried to destroy the Ry between here and Yen Shi last night but were frustrated in the attempt."

**ALS, 5-12 July [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Camden, South Carolina] re defensive fortifications – "They are finishing a rectangular ditch around this town which must be 30 or more miles long. It is 30 ft deep, 20 ft wide and sharp sticks stick up in the bottom...There is no wall around this town. It's not old enough", lack of rain, rumors that General Albert Coady Wedemeyer will replace Marshall, a pay increase – "[t] cost me very little to live. Most of my expenditures are in tips or gifts to people, the orphanage, etc...May be a good idea to buy bonds with our savings", French presence –

“Many of these people speak French particularly the old cooks, the nuns and fathers. The French owned most of the Railroads and hotels in this province”, and hunting plans – “Have ordered 2 shot guns and 1 doz. boxes of shells to shoot ducks, deer and doves later on.” Includes a clipping from the “Shihmen Chin Feng Baw” re 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

**ALS, 12-17 July 1946**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re Dr. Nie, “the nephew of Dr. T[se-] V[en] Soong of the U.N.O. fame”, modernization – “It wouldn’t do to try to modernize China now. There are too many people who must have enough work to eke out an existence. We just had the road into the compound straightened and it took 30 men 4 days to do it. After wetting it down they spent a half day beating it with sticks to pack it down”, beginning of the rainy season – “It must have rained 6 or more inches...I can hear the thousands of kids screaming as one of their number steps in a hole and gets ducked. No doubt some will be drowned and many of the others will die of disease. It’s just China...Lots of people got their washing done today because the street gutters still have about 2 ft of water in them.”

Re his dog “China”, military action – “There was a little battle over near the Trapist yesterday...I suppose China will always have groups of bandits harassing the country side. The poorer the crops the more bandits...Some American congressmen call the communists, who are largely bandits, the peoples army but they certainly are not. They steal, ravage the small villages and operate for themselves”, the shortage of cotton, and receiving a wire instructing him to return to Peiping.

**ALS, 19 July [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re receiving word that she will arrive in China on 10 September, staying in the “Wagon Lits” [Grand Hôtel des Wagons-Lits] – “the best hotel in town which does not mean so very much”,

and shipping antiques to her including “3 pieces of China one from the Chu dynasty over 600 yrs. old” and “a 600 yr. old ink well.”

**ALS, 19-20 July 1946**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re plans for her coming to China and Jim and Tommie's educations.

**ALS, 21-22 July [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his plans to attend Episcopal services at the British Legation and his duties – “I'll be here at least a year. It depends entirely on the success we have in the cease fire job. I'm in the reorganization section but that section can do very little until the fighting stops... Would like to go to another Field team soon so I could get back to meet you. Officers are brought in from time to time supposedly for a rest, but it's rather dull at Peiping.”

**ALS, 23 July 1946**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re the beginning of the “2d phase of the hot season” and the military situation – “We are still piddling and hoping that some definite lasting agreement can be decided at Nanking. The trouble is neither side makes little effort to adhere to the provisions of any agreement. There are more battles raging now than before.

The civilians are the principle sufferers. They lay siege to a town and allow no food or medicines to enter. Consequently many die of starvation. They drop food from planes without parachutes and the weight carries the bundles through the roofs of houses and kills or injures lots of people. If you got hit in the head with one of these 18 inch Chinese biscuits you wouldn't need

any more food...I have about 30 recent battles to investigate but half the time the Nationalist won't cooperate and the other half the communist won't. The same thing all over China and 90% of the teams are inactive."

**ALS, 23 July [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re his assignment to Team 25 – "which operates out of here. Would much prefer to be in the field because you make more money and you do not spend so much", the death of Tommie Liu's sister from cholera, and taking his meals in the "old German Legation."

**ALS, 24 July [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re details of his duties – "Any battles in this area are referred to me for action and then I have to get the Com. and Nat. representative to agree to take action. If they agree we hop in some kind of transportation...and go to the troubled area and stop the battle. Some times the trip ends in a 1 to 3 day horse back ride through the mountains or swamps where Jeeps can't travel. There are 80 conflicts on my desk now only 6 weeks old but we will be able to handle only a very few. I am supposed to get a Nat. member tomorrow."

**ALS, 24 July [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re hot weather, the probability of having a new Nationalist member assigned to his team – "judging from the past it may be some time yet before one is forth coming", and a trip to the Officer's Club for a USO show.



**ALS, 26 July [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his salary and visiting the Officer's Club where he had "two highballs."

**ALS, 28-29 July [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re deteriorating political situation and the continued absence of the Nationalist representative.

**ALS, 29-30 July 1946**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re the lack of work for his team, failure of the Nationalists to send a representative, the death of 4 Marines following an ambush 22 miles outside of Peiping on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**ALS, [30] July 1946**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re being denied permission to investigate the ambush of the US Marines by General Marshall – "He is afraid we may become involved since none of our present directives cover conflicts between U.S. and Chinese troops. I don't see any objections...and was rather enthused about the job" and the arrival of the Nationalist representative to his team.

**ALS, 30-31 July [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re receiving a copies of *Reader's Digest* that she sent and a directive from General Marshall ordering them not to

investigate the Marine battle – “so I’m just waiting for a day or two until we can save face before releasing the two Chinese.”

## **1946 AUGUST**

### **ALS, 1 August [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re waiting to hear from Nanking on investigating the Marine battle, moving from the hotel to the South Compound – “nice lawns, big trees, pretty buildings, and homey rooms and good food”, and his plan to build a one story house on his farm in Atlanta when he returns.

### **ALS, 2 Aug[ust] 1946**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the lack of work due to fighting and rumors that General Marshall is returning to the US – “the N.Y. Times feels that his mission is a failure. They will have to keep some folks over here or give up to Russia which would be very bad.”

### **ALS, 2-3 Aug[ust] [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, South Carolina] re his new assignment to Team 5 in Kalgan [Zhangjiakou] – “It is on the great wall in...Inner Mongolia...This is Communist territory and is frequently straffed by the Nationalists. My territory runs way up in the Gobi desert in Inner Mongolia. Am looking forward to the job”, sending more antiques, receiving a package from her containing pajamas, Nescafe, and dental floss.

**ALS, 4 August [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re dependent priority, the military situation – “There is quite a lot of troop movements taking place particularly from Shansi and Hopeh Provinces to Shangtung Province. The Manchurian situation is fairly stable...The situation around Peiping is some what tense but our Marines are patrolling with considerable armour now and their planes keep an umbrella over them. The Communists have admitted the attack on the Marines. They claim in their propaganda that Chinese Nat. troops were with the column but that of course is false. It was a dastardly trick”, and Jeeps – “I see that the veterans are going jeep wild up there and have already had several serious accidents with them. They are highly overrated vehicles and are only suitable for Army use.”

**ALS, 6 Aug[ust] [19]46**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re preparations for his departure to Kalgan – “I turned the rest of the Marine investigation over to Col. Davis so I could get ready to go to Kalgan...That...is a camel and horse country and I understand is besieged with flies.”

**ALS, 7-8 Aug[ust] [1946]**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re meeting other officers from South Carolina and an upcoming trip to “Northern Chahar” – “I can't go unless the two opposite members agree which is difficult. They don't agree much but when they do they don't stay agreed very long.” **ALS, 8-9 Aug[ust] [19]46**

[Kalgan (Zhangjiakou), China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re Kalgan – “The outer Great Wall runs through Kalgan...It is much cooler here...It is a solid mass of mountains from Peiping here with green valleys interspersed along the dry stream beds. I saw no running water anywhere.

This is truly a Communist area which is saturated with all forms of propaganda against every thing including Americans...Also are they bitter against the Catholic church. Two months ago the orphanage was looted, the girls outraged, the buildings torn apart and many of the fathers jailed...Our windows here are stripped with paper to prevent the glass from shattering. The town has been straffed and may be bombed”, heavy fighting 100 miles to the south near “Tatun (Dadun)”, and his quarters – “I have 1 bed room, 1 sitting room with rugs and upholstered furniture 1 conference or library room, showers, lavatory toilets in an adjoining bldg, Dining room kitchen etc are in another bldg. All bldgs. are brick and of the normal Chinese architecture.”

**ALS, 9-14 Aug[ust] [19]46**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re recent floods – “It has rained a good bit recently...The water was over a foot deep in the streets but we jeeped around alright...I radioed the plane not to come. The field is too muddy...Some of the mud houses especially those with mud roofs have caved in and those whose floors are lower than the streets have a foot or so of water in them.”

Re Kalgan – “This town has a population of 170,000...All driving is on the left side here but milling around prevails from one side to the other...There are walls around all compounds”, fertilizer – On account of so many animals and humans here the fertilizer business is popular. The middle man, that is the man between the product and the consumer, might also be called the collector and we pray that he will never miss. He has a long basket strapped on his back and sort of a spoon like shovel. In one motion he scoops up the deposits and in a one handed golfing movement to his left shoulder drops it into the basket. The action is artistic and is perfected by practice and perseverance”, unconfirmed reports of Soviet units 80 miles north of Kalgan, playing tennis at the Army Headquarters, fighting near “Tatun.”

Re mass meetings held by Communists in Kalgan – “We thought we saw a Russian officer leaving the meeting in the Gens. car”, attending a Russian movie – “It was a good Propaganda picture and whenever Stalin appeared there was applause.”

Re the prison – “I was very much surprised at the excellent condition. All the inmates were clean. Most were working making shoes, cloth, and clothing. Their bedding was in the sun and everything was sanitary. 6 days of work and 7 hrs. per day. Plenty of air and reasonable recreation...there were 20 women in...for dealing in opium. Also several Japs and Germans. Some had on leg chains but they were nice clean shinny chains. They knew I was coming. Maybe they just polished them up for my visit”, and an attack by 2 P-51's on the airfield.

**LS(T), 14 Aug[ust] 1946**

Kalgan, [China]

T[homas] L[oryea] Alexander to Col. W.C. Stanton, Conflict Control Group, Headquarters, Peiping H[ea]dq[uar]t[er]s Group re fighting near “TaTung”, flyovers by fighter planes, visiting the jail, his opinion that “all my movements are quite closely observed”, Soviet propaganda films, and rumors of a Soviet unit “equipped with ten or more heavy tanks” stationed at “Chia-Pu Temple in the vicinity of “TeHwa.”

**ALS, 14 Aug[ust] 1946**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re the end of the rainy season and his hopes to “take a trip somewhere in a day or two.”

**ALS, 15-18 [August 1946]**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re not receiving any mail.

**ALS, 16-19 August 1946**

[Kalgan], China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re continued fighting in “Tatun” and the evacuation of the Field Team, attacks on trains and railroads – “The Nationalists tear up the Communist Rys and vice versa. It seems that if each would tear up and destroy their own railroads and other means of communications it would save a lot of time”, his opinion that “civil war will be on a full scale shortly.”

Re radio news broadcasts from the US, Communist concentration around Kalgan – “you can’t get out of the gates except to go to the airfield which we have rather heavily guarded. Of course they are concentrated in this area for one or two hundred miles in all directions. This is one of their main strongholds...and would naturally be a good spot for their Headquarters”, and his teams duties – “I now have one Lt. and one driver and I guess we’re the only Americans in the area. If we have to look after the Tatun area our responsibilities will cover a distance about the size of Georgia.” Includes 3 clippings re graft in China and a 100 yuan note.

**ALS, 19-20 Aug[ust] [1946]**

Kalgan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re playing tennis and recent flooding.

**ALS, 20-22 Aug[ust] [19]46**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re an experimental farm – “The soil was very fertile and just about all the water from the river was running through the irrigation ditches. There were around 40 different kind of rice and the fields were of course flooded. We...ate grapes, apples and watermelon (ice box).”

**ALS, 22-26 Aug[ust] 1946**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the crash of one of the mail planes – “I guess some of my mail is lying in some Chinese field. The bags are probably being used for grain”, military situation – “Tatun hasn’t fallen yet but don’t see how it can last much longer. Tai Yuan is being cut off rapidly and the team there may not be able to get supplies in much longer...Have just gotten a radio stating that team #1 will negotiate cessation of hostilities at Tatun...We have been directed to give them any assistance necessary...The team at Tatun were just about shelled out and left under a hail of mortar shells. All their equipment etc. had to be left there...I expect Team 1 will be glad to get down off of that Mongolian plateau for a bit...”

I am of the opinion that the Tatun situation will decide their bombing at Cheng The, Kalgan, and Yen-an. If Tatun falls one or all of those three chief communist cities will be bombed...The people are trying to move as close to our compound as possible but am sure that will not be much safer.”

Re local produce – “Saw 3 right nice watermelons so I thought I’d buy them for our soldiers here. I stepped up and thumped them and they sounded alright to me but everybody in sight started to laugh. Then an interpreter walked up and said ‘Those are not watermelons but a kind of cucumber.’...Their squashes are as big as our watermelons and their watermelons as small as our squashes. Their grapes in this area are good.”

Re attending a Chinese opera – “I sat from 6 pm to 10 in the opera...Dried watermelon seed, fresh watermelon and tea were served throughout...Everybody talked and yelled to each other during the entire show. The actors were good and didn’t seem to mind the noise”, and reading *The Challenge of Red China* by

Guenther Stein – “It is fairly good but he doesn’t tell the whole truth, mostly the good things and he leaves out all the bad. I know many of the people mentioned in it...Stein seems to be pro communist. There is a lot of good in their doctrines and so much that is rotten in the Nat. Gov. The Communist are not the same as the Russians. I think it is unfortunate that their party is called Communist.”

**LS, 28 August 1946**

Peiping, China

Lt. Colonel Earl J. Yates to T[homas] L[oryea] Alexander, Chairman, Field Team No. 5, Kalgan, [China] re their appreciation of his personal letters – “They have given us a much better insight than official reports can ever do”, being “impressed by your suggestion of propaganda value of good American pictures”, air activity of the National Government, his attitude toward the Catholic missionaries – “It has been the usual practice of all the Teams to give them any unofficial assistance possible without jeopardizing our neutral position”, and their desire that he expedite arrangements for establishing a transmitting radio station in Kalgan.”

**ALS, 29 Aug[ust] [1946]**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re dependents' priority.

**1946 SEPTEMBER**

**ALS, 30 Aug[ust]-1 Sept[ember] [19]46**

Kalgan, [China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re his having a cold and sore throat, military situation – “You know the Nat's threatened to attack Cheng The, Yen-an, and Kalgan if the siege at Tatun was not lifted. They started on Cheng The several days ago but negotiations are still in progress at Tatun...It seems that our actions here have held up air attacks over much of China...none of the civilians are allowed to leave town”, a party planned for the following week with “all the notables around here”, reporters in the area including Ben Welles (son of Summer Welles) of the *New York Times*, and his plan to begin showing American movies.

**ALS, 2-4 Sept[ember] [1946]**

Kalgan, [China]



[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the arrival of his radio team, the arrival of Team 25 to talk with "Gen. Nieh", his purchase of a "Tibetan Budist Lama bell", and Mongolians – "The Mongolians are coming into town wearing their quilted overcoats and that must be a good weather sign or shall I say bad."

**ALS, 6-10 Sept[ember] [19]46**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re Team 11 – "They seemed to have been shot up pretty badly and are out of contact with Peiping. Somebody will have to go up there I know they haven't the proper facilities there. The report I got was that several Chinese of the team were killed and one American soldier seriously wounded...They are now at Wei Ch'ang 3 or 400 mi N.E. of here. They say their wounded are receiving proper medical treatment...a rescue team was sent to Chengte yesterday...to pull team 11 out. They will have to travel at least 100 miles by vehicle over very bad roads before they reach Wei Chang...wounded coming in here."

Re a party given that evening for 30 of the "high officials, government and military", the deteriorating political and military situation – "Regardless who wins the civil war China loses. Tatun may fall any minute and I'm afraid that will be like a car load of dynamite in the civil war crisis...The broadcast last night said that Chih-Feng had fallen to the Nat. and they had threatened to take Kalgan in 10 days if the siege was not lifted at Tatung immediately. Understand that the Communist have ordered their troops to take Tatung within a week. If the Nats. decide to attack Kalgan I don't believe we can stop them", upcoming harvest festival or "rabbit's birthday" – "The men gorge on moon cakes, fruits and vegetables. The women pray to the moon god at midnight and so on", and local culture – "There are many temples to the mother of water at little springs all over the country...The family is the basic unit and they feel that old age security can be obtained only through large families. The oldest boy is responsible for the parents' support in old age. Many of the smaller villages grew from one family and carry the family name."

### **ALS, 11 Sept[ember] 1946**

Kalgan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re Team 11 – “I got Team 11 off yesterday... They had one Am. Sgt. right badly burned and two other slightly burned... One Nat. radio operator was killed and 4 Communist who were not members of the team. The truck they were riding in was strafed by 50 cal. mch gun. It had several drums of gas in it and must have had some explosives because the truck blew all to pieces.”

### **ALS, 12-14 Sept[ember] 1946**

Kalgan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the arrival of two UNNRA and two reporters – “Miss Strong who... writes for the West Coast papers... has just spent a month at the Communist Party Hq. at Yen-an” and “Miss Cooley, who is writing a book”, attempts to evacuate Team 1 – “One Lt. got hit in the ankle. Hope they get them out tomorrow.”

Re his compound – “Well constructed with a series of thick walls all around and in between. Our rear walls are 3 ft thick and just about 2 ft from another wall. There are two story brick bldgs. in front of our two wings. There are 3 walls before I get to my rooms... Am drawing a picture of our compound and asking the Nat. to not bomb it.”

Re taking sulfur medicine for his cold – “the minute I put it on my dresser the cold disappeared... It’s wonderful what the Medical Dept. is doing these days.” Includes LS(T), 29 Aug[ust] 1946, Peiping, [China], J. Nuyts to Lt. Col. Robert S. Michael, Peiping, [China] re Communist treatment of Catholic missionaries in “liberated areas” including descriptions of looting of churches and private houses, taxing of missions, jailing and beating of priests, and the drafting of all men between the ages of 15 and 40.

**AL, 14 Sept[ember] [19]46**

Kalgan, China

[Thomas Loryea Alexander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his opinion that they will be cut off from Peiping soon and HQ's delivery of picks, shovels, penicillin, blood, plasma, and medicines.

**ALS, 15-19 Sept[ember] 1946**

Kalgan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the evacuation of Team 1 from Chining – “I think we are the only team left in a Communist area in China Proper, but there are some in Manchuria”, fur production in Kalgan, worsening political situation – “Tried to get them to stop this damned thing but they would not listen...The real action will certainly start in a couple of days and I will try to to give it to you play by play”, and the evacuation of the town – “There is quite a flow of people, carts, soldiers and materiel moving out of town. The hospitals and schools are also being evacuated...We were ordered back to Peiping but can't get the C.P.s to let us go...It will take 4 big planes to get us out...Had to shut my radio off last night and lost touch with Peiping.”

**ALS, 19 Sept[ember] 1946**

[Kalgan, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his efforts to leave Kalgan – “Have my radio going again...Hqrs. is trying to get us out of here but the 3 commissioners have not agreed to it yet so we may continue here for some time...We may pull out if there can be any agreement in Peiping...It is little reason for any of the teams to stay in the field now because I do not believe they can accomplish anything. Team 2 is going in today” and fighting near the town.

**MP, 19 Sept[ember] [1946]**

Newspaper clipping titled “Contact Resumed with Col. Alexander.”

**MP, 23 Sept[ember] [1946]**

Newspaper clipping titled “S.C. Man Held By Communists. Col. Alexander of Boykin in ‘Protective Custody’ in Kalgan, China.”

**MP, [23 September 1946]**

Newspaper clipping titled “Boykin Officer is Held Captive by Communists.” [Same text as article described in 99.]

**ALS, 25 Sept[ember] 1946**

Kalgan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, South Carolina] re the evacuation of 5 UNRRA personnel – “They would have been in the way if and when”, the military situation – “Bombers and fighters come over every day but the bombing and strafing has been done north or south of here and we haven’t been bothered for about 5 weeks...The communist may put up a strong defense of the town or they may evacuate it...They say they will defend it to the last man but that may just be propaganda too”, his plans to evacuate to Peiping on 30 September.

**ALS, 1 Oct[ober] [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, South Carolina] re his arrival in Peiping on 30 September.

**ALS, 1 Oct[ober] [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the information messages he was required to send from Kalgan prior to evacuation – “I...always put a little sauce in them to ‘kiver’ up the grim facts. I was out of the reach of the brass hats and I couldn’t help but cut a little fool over the air. They never know what was coming out when they started decoding them.”

Re recommendations that he take a weeks vacation at “Peitaiho” [Beidaihe], his evacuation from Kalgan – “We brought back the 17 Nat. and U.S. members, three jeeps, trailer, two electric generators and enough other equipment to fill six C-47 planes. We did not leave anything except two last year’s Sat. Evening Posts and a roll of toilet paper...In fact I had no idea we would get out and was very much surprised when the agreement was finally reached...They [the Communists] felt that we were some protection to them I guess, a “Kom Pei” party, and his interpreter – “Pao Tai Hsun...He is a Mongolian prince and a very fine boy. He got right scared out yonder and wanted to resign.” Includes 2 clippings re Alexander’s time in Kalgan.

**ALS, 2 Oct[ober] [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cooks Court, Camden, South Carolina] re clippings that appeared in the Atlanta paper – “They were not exactly right. My radio was stopped by soldiers with loaded guns and not by mechanical difficulties. However I was on the air again in less than 24 hrs...We felt that we would stand a pretty big siege and had a nice cave prepared we did not...particularly desire to come out.”

**ALS, 3 Oct[ober] [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook’s Court, Camden, South Carolina] re his interpreter – “His ancestor was the brother of Ghengis Khan. His father was the ruler of a large section of Mongolia and Manchuria until the Japs came in...When the Japs tried to get him to be the Puppet ruler of Manchuria he fled to Peiping...Pao’s mother...was very much worried when her boy was in Kalgan and I don’t think she wants him to go out again. However, I think he will stick with me as will all the others”, political situation – “The situation in China becomes no better rapidly. The Communist continue with their mule headed stubbornness and refuse to meet on any ground. If conditions do not improve it will be of no value to send any more field teams out”, his desire that she save money.

**ALS, 4 Oct[ober] [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re articles and rumors that he was held against his will by Communists in Kalgan – "I was never in any danger as far as I know and did as I pleased whenever I wanted to...People worry too much about nothing. I haven't been lost either. I knew where I was all the time and Hq. did too...We had food and everything we needed except cigarettes."

**ALS, 5 Oct[ober] 1946**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re spending the previous afternoon with his interpreter's family – "You should have seen me trying on those royal robes. They were of the most vivid colors and much of them were woven with gold thread" and his desire to leave Peiping and go to Manchuria or back to Kalgan.

Includes newspaper clipping titled "Secret Red Order of Mobilisation and Documents Found." In margin in Alexander's handwriting "This may be propaganda. This is a Nat. paper."

**ALS, 6-8 Oct[ober] 1946**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his plans to go to the beach for a week, the capture of "Paoting" [Baoding] by Communist forces, and a party being given for "Commissioner Robertson...who leaves for the States...Lt. Gen. Gillen is taking his place."

**MS, 8 Oct[ober] 1946**

War Department, Washington, D.C. to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515

Cooks Court, Camden, So[uth] Car[olina] telegram stating that  
“Colonel Thomas L. Alexander has not been captured by Chinese  
Communists he has been performing executive headquarters mission at  
Kalgan which is Communist Party territory and he is now on duty at  
Peiping.”

**ALS, 12-13 October 1946**

Pei Tai Ho [Beidaihe], China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks  
Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the return to the US of most of the  
officers who came to China with him and attending church services at the  
Marine compound led by William Kirkland from Augusta.

**ALS, 15-17 Oct[ober] 1946**

Pei Tai Ho, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's  
Court, Camden, South Carolina] re his vacation – “It has been very  
interesting but not exciting except for the beautiful area... This house once  
belonged to Chiang Kai Chek” and the destruction of nearby railways – “the  
civilian population is pretty well stranded.”

**ALS, 20 Oct[ober] 1946**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks  
Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re lunch with the “Kalgan Bishop” and a  
priest from Shijiazhuang, his new assignment – “Tomorrow I go to Han Tan  
[Handan] to team 31. The C.O. there has got things messed up and I've got  
to straighten them out... Han Tan is in communist territory and they feel that  
my experience with them will be... of value there”, and his salary. Includes  
newspaper clippings titled “S.C. Man Held by Communists” and “Chinese  
Reds Fleeing  
Kalgan.”

**ALS, 22-24 Oct[ober] 1946**

Han Tan [Handan], China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re Handan – “The streets are narrow, bending back and forth and seem not to know or care where they are headed. The fertilizer people appear to be behind in their work since the production is so heavy...It is about 50 miles north of Anyang...This is Communist territory but the Nationalist are this side of Anyang...I went up to the temple this a.m. It is said to be 3000 years old but looks older. The tombs of the Chou [Zhou] dynasty are about a mile from here and I can see them from my window. This is the seat of one of the six kingdoms. There are more trees than usual...”

Re railway destruction – “The railroad is now destroyed from Kaoyi South almost to Anyang and today it was further destroyed below Anyang”, a recent party – “We had 25 dishes...lotus bulbs, the pink meat of the crab, crayfish fried and in salad, chicken a la la, apricot seed pudding, devil fish and a few things I can't name”, and the leaders of the Communist and Nationalist parties – “The Communist Party generals, the mayor and other leaders here are very high type people. They usually put their very best men at the top and that is why they are so strong. The National Government is so terribly corrupt, dishonest and incapable. The N.G. leaders throughout China are friends, relatives or fellow crooks...Their generals are all rich men.”

**ALS, 25 Oct[ober] [1946]**

Han Tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, 515 Cook's Court, Camden, South Carolina] re a trip with General Tao to the “dream temple about 10 or 12 miles” north of Handan, General Tao's wife – “a Doctor and the head of all the medical hospitals etc. in...Shansi, Hopei, Honan, and Shantung Provinces”, his duties – “The situation is not much different from Kalgan...I hope that Nanking will come to some agreement so that we can go to work. Our main purpose is to see that agreements are adhered to. If there are no agreements we just have to work on our own”, and naked men harvesting lotus bulbs.



**ALS, 29 Oct[ober] [19]46**

Han-tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re meeting Lt. George W. Ray from Hartsville, military actions – “The Nats. are attacking in this direction now and should by this time have reached the river 100 li or 33 miles to the south”, and his quarters – “Am living in mud bldgs. and sometimes the rats burrow up through the floor and try my patience.”

**ALS, 30 Oct[ober] [19]46**

Han tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re little change in the political situation in Handan – “it is difficult to get much information on account of suspicions etc. I try to gain confidence and have succeeded to some measure.”

**1946 NOVEMBER**

**ALS, 1 Nov[ember] 1946**

Han-tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cook's Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re a dinner with “Miss Strong” [Anna Louise Strong] and Communist generals – “We will load her on tomorrow's plan for Peiping. She's right much of a C – and they like for her to come around. She will go to Yen-an, the C – hq next week. Mao Tze Tung is there. it is a cave city and one of the oldest in China.” Includes newspaper clipping titled “Last Rites Friday for Cleburne Grady.”

**ALS, 3-8 Nov[ember] [19]46**

Han-tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re lack of church services – “The Bishop over at Ta Ming was reported beaten to death as were some fathers but reports here are not reliable”, food – “We are having a time trying to train

our cooks. All the food is just about drowned in grease...The meals here are the worst I've had in China. Everything is fried."

Re the political situation – "I don't see very far into the future, not past the 12<sup>th</sup> of Nov. right now. The National Convention meets in Nanking on that day and if there is not some agreement by then am sure hell will be a popping. This team is about the last contact in China Proper with the communist and it is not a good idea to lose it at this time...I hate to leave here if there is anything I can do to help stop this civil war...P Hq. seem to like the way I handled the situation in Kalgan and that's the reason I'm here."

**ALS, 11-12 Nov[ember] 1946**

Han tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re his jeep – "I picked up a Chinese today and drove across the airfield and his eyes got as big as saucers when he saw I didn't have my hands on the wheel. Then when the jeep stopped and started backward he almost passed out...Then I filled up with kids and carried them through town. Some of these folks in the small villages have never seen a motor vehicle. If I stop for a few minutes...I'm surrounded by kids and grown ups, thousands of them."

**ALS, 12-13 Nov[ember] [19]46**

Han-tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], 515 Cooks Court, Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the delivery of radio equipment from Peiping, a visit to "Ma Tao" – "I had a street full of men women and children following me for a whole block...Believe if I charged 10¢ to see me and the jeep I could make a fortune", and a UNRRA team – "An UNRRA team got stuck in the mud this a.m. between the lines...The Nat. took a shot at them and killed one of the oxen trying to pull them out. So the party with their supplies is on the way here and the truck is still out in no man's land. We'll probably get it cleared for them tomorrow but on account of our mission and directives from the top we can't actually help pull the truck out but can help them get the clearances and take them back to the out posts."

**ALS, 18-20 Nov[ember] [19]46**

Hantan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re bathing – “Went down town and got a good tub bath...That’s the first real bath I’ve had in a month. Hope to have one in Peiping by Christmas”, his son Jim’s education, difficulties of his duties – “There seems little chance for us to accomplish anything with these people. They all have warped ideas about everything which was brought about by rotten propaganda much of it Russian”, his desire that she save money, and his departure from Handan on 23 November – “Will evacuate all com. members in China Proper to Han tan and then haul tail...Am a little surprised that they agreed to take us out.”

**ALS, 21-22 Nov[ember] [19]46**

Han tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re delayed evacuation due to a shortage of planes “due to the necessity for air lifting the Communists from Nanking to Yen an and Peiping”, party given the following day by “Gen. Lin Po Cheng” – “He has been reported killed and I’ve been trying to see him for a long time maybe I’ll get the story tomorrow”, and preparations of a cave in the mountains for him in case of attack.

**ALS, 23 Nov[ember] [19]46**

Hantan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re evacuation from Handan – “We got the National Gov. officers out on yesterday’s plane...About 1/3 of our supplies were shipped out Tues. and now I’ll stay a few days longer and try to hold the loose ends together till they can catch their breath in Peiping”

Re Manchuria – “Heard yesterday that hell broke loose in Manchuria but do not know what that means”, and the party given by Lin Po Cheng – “he was not able to come. Gen. Huang represented him.”

**ALS, 23-25 Nov[ember] 1946**

Han tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re a Thanksgiving turkey delivered from Peiping – “We’ve walked the town over trying to find something to cook it in but no luck. They don’t have ovens here... We have decided to barbecue the turkey if we can find some wood... I would rather spoil it than to let these cooks do it. It would be more fun any way... I will make the basting fluid out of a can of V-8, salt, pepper and any other thing I can find around.”

Re threshing grain – “You know all grain in China is threshed on the ground by having a donkey pull a big stone roller over it. Then they rake off the straw and rake the grain and chaff in a pile. They then take a shovel or that basket scoop and throw the stuff in the air. The wind blows the chaff away and the grain again falls on the ground. All this accounts for the pebbles in the rice, millet and wheat”, an attempt at making a lemon pie, and clothing worn by locals.

**ALS, 25-27 Nov[ember] 1946**

Han tan, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re the Thanksgiving turkey – “It was basted with V8, salt, pepper, tomato juice and several lumps of bullion cubes... It cooked for 3 hours all wrapped up in wire to hold it to the spit... The Chinese couldn’t understand our wild man way of doing it and stood around giving advice and making comments. They wanted to boil it and no doubt afterwards to cover it with grease... We had turkey, gravy, rice, ripe olives, bread, coffee, apples, oranges, candy, mince, pumpkin and peach pie and nuts.”

Re Peiping – “It really has more to see than Paris, and certainly more ancient beauty. To be very old things must have existed 2000 or more years. They could make millions on tourist if they had enough foresight”, attempts to change the course of the Yellow River – “They are blocking off the Huang Ho now so it will again flow through its 1938 channel... It now goes into the Yellow Sea about 300 miles south of its 1938 point. This will reclaim

several million acres of land and relieve much suffering to the south. There are families living on the levies in thached pup tents dieing of malaria and starvation every day”, new plans to evacuate to Peiping on 28 November.

**ALS, 1-2 Dec[ember] [19]46**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his desire to return to the field.

**ALS, 2 Dec[ember] 1946**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re mud villages – “All the villages in China are made of mud...The houses are from 4 ft high and up. The good earth is the floor. When the floods come the houses just melt to the ground...In Han tan the rats burrowed through my floors and walls and I fought them with a poker every night”, her being #15 on the new dependent priority list, and orders for him to return to Shijiazhuang.

**ALS, 6-11 Dec[ember] [1946]**

Shih Chia Chuang [Shijiazhuang], [China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his happiness over returning to Shijiazhuang – “I have hunting engagements, trips planned etc from now on”, a dinner for 14 at General Loh’s house, attending services at the cathedral in Ching Ting, destruction of the railroad between there and Peiping – “the bridges are laying on the ground. The C.P.’s are making as much trouble as possible.”

**ALS, 13-14 Dec[ember] [19]46**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re General Loh’s daughter singing “Silent Night” in English, dinner with the Bishop from “Ching Ting” and Dr. Nie, and an attack on a train near “Ching Ting” by the Communists.

**ALS, 15-19 Dec[ember] 1946**

S[hih] C[hia] C[huang], China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re donating \$100,000 to the orphanage for Christmas, his desire that she bring his .22 rifle and cartridges when she comes – “They yard is full of doves and the sand bars full of geese as big as ostriches”, dependents’ priority, visits from Generals Hsiao and Yang, and cancellation of a goose hunt due to the presence of Communist troops on the north bank of the river.

**ALS, 20-26 Dec[ember] [1946]**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re a visit to the orphanage on 21 December – “I...carried 40 lbs. of hard candy and macaroni, crackers and \$40,000 for the kids. They are doing great work there.”

Re Christmas decorations – “Six Chinese had cut the top out of the two tall cedar tree and had been and still are decorating. The sitting room is over hung with flags and colored paper. The entrance to the dining room is incased with hangings. The dining room is most colorful and the elevated Christmas tree is decorated as only Tommie could do.”

Re receiving Christmas gifts – “I thought I was having Christmas for these people but they beat me to the draw...I tried to hide the fact that we gave presents and have given nothing but tomorrow [25th] I have presents for everybody...So far I have a silver Chinese eating set...2 Chinese silver chop sticks, one 1 ½ ft. Chinese China wise man, one cake, 6 bottles of Chinese scotch, 6 bottles of Chinese brandy, 18 bottles of wine, and many other damn things which I did not expect...I also have the embroidery the sister took 2 ½ months to make. It is Virgin Mary and child in Manchurian dress”, and his Christmas celebration – “We went to Mr. Yang’s house and danced for a couple of hours and now I’m ready for bed. We had 23 for dinner and the turkey held out beautifully. We had soups, olive salad, mashed potatoes,

peas, 14 bottles of mission wine, apples, oranges, cake and pumpkin pie. We gave the yard boys a party afterwards and I think they cleaned up the rest. We gave them some 15 bottles of Chinese wine, brandy, and whiskey.”

## **1947 JANUARY**

**ALS, 27 Dec[ember] [19]46-2 Jan[uary] [19]47**

[Shijiazhuang, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re a 13 pound turkey dropped by a passing C-47 on a parachute, a visit to a refugee camp – “1000 landowners whose property had been confiscated and they and their families had been driven out by the Communists. They were fine looking people but around a hundred or more had to sleep in one room and their children all seemed to have colds. They have nothing to eat except millet”, his fear of flying with the Chinese civilian air force – “They lost 4 C-47 planes over fog bound Shanghai last week killing over 100 people.”

Re a visit to the orphanage – “The children all look so healthy and happy now since they got milk from UNRRA. Those people are doing a wonderful work over there at the mission”, a pair of shoes lined with lambs wool given to him by General Yang, New Year’s party – “Today has been just a series of celebrations...The drums were so big they filled two trucks and men beat on them with clubs. All the actors, about 100, were dressed in fantastic silks of varies colors and all were on stilts and moved in every direction with wiggles and contortions...How they can cavort on stilts for hours I do not know.

Even the horses were on stilts.”

Re Communist persecution of Christians – “the Communists have ordered all Christians and their property destroyed which they have already done in pretty good shape. All missions are generally taken apart brick by brick.”

**ALS, 3-9 Jan[uary] 1947** Shih

Chia Chuang, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re anti-American sentiment – “There has been a lot of Anti American Propaganda lately after a rape or attempted rape by 2 Marines in Peiping. The news spread all over China like wild fire. These people have, as a nation, a terrible inferiority complex and anything like that arouses them.”

Re gifts of silk and an ashtray set sent by Generalissimo and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, her preparations for leaving the US for China, his desire that she bring watermelon, cucumber, “hybrid corn,” and cotton seed, and Byrnes’ resignation and Marshall’s appointment as Secretary of State – “I believe it is best Marshall did not quit but was given a bigger job. I’m glad for him and I think it is a good move in every direction. He made a statement about China which was good but not strong enough. Someday I will explode and tell the whole truth about this damned country and it’s government and the Communists. I know them both intimately but I haven’t turned loose yet. It’s not diplomatic over here to do so but I’m learning the truth...I do not know...what the effect of Marshall’s leaving will have. The Chinese papers say that P.H.Q. will be closed but most of the time they are wrong.”

**ALS, 9-10 Jan[uary] [19]47**

Shih Chia Chuang, [China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re hunting rabbits at the airfield – “We brought in 7...but that was not much because at least 300 jumped up. German Police dogs just don’t understand rabbits” and his desire that she bring farm bulletins about pigs, cows, wheat, cotton, and chickens.

**ALS, 12-16 [January] 1947**

Shih Chia Chuang, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander or Meta Cantey Boykin], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re his uncertainty over whether she was still in Boykin or in route to China, the possibility of his traveling back to Peiping later in the week, and delivering 1,0002,000 pounds of vegetables to the refugee camp.



**MS(T), 15 Jan[uary] 1947**

Transcript of a newspaper article appearing in the *Shihmen Daily News* titled, "Field Team U.S. Representative Contributed Cabbages and Food to the Relief Camp."

**ALS, 17 Jan[uary] [19]47**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to "Dear Caroline et al" re an upcoming mission by John Leighton Stuart to Yen-an, wildlife in China – "This country is full of game, doves in countless droves, geese galore, Pheasants abundant and deer enough also bustards, a 3 toed bird which weigh 20 to 40 lbs", and food – "How the Chinese think up all these conglomerations of dishes is beyond me unless they have been handed down from generation to generation through the 4,500 years of Chinese History. I haven't seen any of them eat the hair of animals or the feathers of fowl but the rest yes. Have I? I don't know."

**ALS, 19-27 Jan[uary] [19]47**

S[hih] C[hia] C[huang], China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re upcoming celebrations for the Chinese New Year – "They have bought much food, fire crackers and decorations for the occasion. They will stop work for 3 days to celebrate."

Re political and military situation – "The situation seems hopeless and I just wonder whether we will close up shop and go home. Certainly the Communists are receiving instructions from Russia. The policy of all Communist seems to be to disrupt, corrupt, destroy and gain full dictatorship control of a government... They struck the Ry again about 20 miles north of here and have been battling there for the past three days...

The Communists have had right much success since the 1<sup>st</sup> and now hold at least 40 miles of the Peiping railroad this side of Pao ting... Troops have been sent up from here for reinforcement. The Nats. officers are a bit upset

and have asked for more troops. The only way they can get here is to march through the Com[unist] lines or come by air but they haven't enough planes to bring in ammunition. This place has always been a pocket surrounded by Coms. so it's not new. I've evacuated the last two teams I was with and hope I do not have to take this one out although under the present circumstances it can do no good."

Re the death of Eugene Talmadge – "Have heard just a word or two about the Talmadge Dynasty in Georgia. Wonder how Herman Talmadge figures he inherits the throne. He really ought to be thrown out on his ear. It's the Lieut. Governor's job to take over."

**MP, 30 Jan[uary] [1947]**

Newspaper clipping from *The Charlotte Observer* titled "May Slow American Withdrawal, Raids Imperil U.S. Route Out of China."

**ALS, 4-9 Feb[ruary] 1947**

Shih Chia Chuang, [China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re arrival of dependents – "The last ship with dependents came in on the 30<sup>th</sup>...it parked 30 miles at sea and on account of the Communist blasting the Ry between Peiping and Tiensin they sent 10 planes...for them this a.m."

Re Buddhist statuary – "Passing a temple the other day I saw a Buddhist lady goddess whose body had become so ramshackled it didn't seem that she would need her head any longer so I just brought it along. It is made of bronze and is between 1000 and 2000 yrs. old. I'll send her to you", their anniversary, his plans to leave for Peiping on 10 February and return to the U.S. soon after.

**MP, 5 Feb[ruary] [1947]**

Newspaper clipping titled "Americans are Promised Route Out of Peiping."

**ALS, 11 Feb[ruary] [1947]**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander], Boykin, S[outh] C[arolina] re closing Peiping Headquarters, trade goods arriving from Mongolia on camel, and boxes of souvenirs he is sending containing statues, silver chop sticks, an “embroidered fidelity hanging,” “a couple of friendship scrolls,” and vases.

**ALS, 12-13 Feb[ruary] 1947**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his reading “Marco Polo’s travels” – “China was a little better in Marco Polo’s time than it is now but the old boy did a little ex[agg]erating too to make it interesting” and his expectation that he will leave China on 7 March.

**ALS, 20 Feb[ruary] 1947**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re attack on a railroad out of Peiping by Communist forces and a party given by Peiping-Hankow Railway officials.

**ALS, 23-25 Feb[ruary] 1947**

[Peiping, China]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his work unloading trains in Peiping and plans for their settlement after he returns. Includes newspaper clipping from *The Atlanta Journal* re James C. Furman.

## **1947 MARCH**

### **ALS, 4 March [19]47**

P[eiping], C[hina]

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re his sending a box of vases and his plans for departure.

### **ALS, 30-31 Mar[ch] [19]47**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re a dinner with the Pao's and his departure on 15 April – "I will be the troop C.O. on account of my rank. Will have all Cols. on my staff."

### **ALS, 6 April 1947**

Peiping, China

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re a visit to the Temple of Heaven on Easter and a battle between U.S. Marines and Communist forces at an ammunition dump near Tangku [Tanggu] – "5 Marines were killed and 16 wounded. The Marines were chasing them and I hope they catch them all. The dump is really just north of Sin Lo, near the Ry. station where we detrain, and about 4 miles north of Tangku. Am glad America has taken a stand against the Communist...Real Communist have no right to existence or rations. They have two of our officers now up in Manchuria and we won't get them back for several months yet."

### **ALS, 18-20 April 1947**

"Off the Shore of Luzon, Linguien [Lingayen] Gulf"

[Thomas Loryea] Alex[ander] to [Ellen Boykin Alexander, Boykin, South Carolina] re a party at the Army and Navy Club in Manila, trips by motor boat to Corregidor and Batan, his upcoming voyage from the Philippines to

San Francisco via Hawaii, and his daily activities aboard ship – “Up at 7, bathe, shave and dress. Then out on deck to scan the horizon for whatever looms in sight. Breakfast at 8:30 – cereal, bacon, eggs, grapefruit, hot cakes, jam, syrup, coffee. Inspect ship at 10 to 11 then at 12:30 a regular banquet dinner...Picture show at 7 pm and sandwiches and drinks at 9:30...We are traveling around 500 miles per day.”

## **UNDATED 1940s**

**MP [ca. 1946-1947], n.d.,**

Chinese political cartoon. In Alexander’s hand – “This is a Reactionary. Some are not bald headed.”

**Photo [ca. 1946-1947], n.d.**

Alexander on steps of an unidentified building.

**Photo [ca. 1946-1947], n.d.**

Alexander in a parka between two Chinese individuals.

## **1951 FEBRUARY**

**LS, 14 February 1951**

Winnipeg, Manitoba, [Canada]

F.M. Simeon Chang, O[rder] [of] C[istercians] [of the] S[trict]

O[bservance] to T[homas] L[oryea] Alexander, Camden Academy,

Camden, S[outh] C[arolina] re the abandoning the Trappist Monastery in China and relocating to Canada and giving him news re Father Denys, the Bishop of Cheng-Tin-Fu, Dr. Nie, and General Loh. Letter is written on “Chinese Trappist Mission” stationery.