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Letter from Fr. Leonard Amrhein to Catherine Amrhein.

Fr. Leonard Amrhein C.P.

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Card
9/14/45



Mrs. Catherine Amrhein,
2623 Ellie St.,
Pittsburgh, (10) Pa.,
U. S. A.



U. S. ARMY EXAMINER U. S. A.

F. Leonard Amrhein, C.P.
Franciscan House,
18 Li Kuang Kiao,
Peking,
China.

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OF

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苦難堂

TELEG. ADDRESS

PASSIONIST FATHERS

"PASSIONIST PEKING"

NEI WU CH'Ü

26 YANG FANG HUTUNG

PEKING

3 years - 8 months - 19 days later.
Hello Everybody,

Back on the air after a silence of almost four years. It's all over now. It was a great experience. But I think one is sufficient in any man's lifetime.

How is everybody at home, especially Mom? I am literally starving - for news from home - from you Mom. From you get to work and write me a long, newsy letter, with all the news of the past four years. Only one letter got through to me - that of July 17, 1944. So tell me everything that happened - even at the risk of repeating yourself. Yes, I'll do the same. I have 50 sides of typewriter paper single spaced ready to come to you. I'll add more before it goes to the mail.

I am well - in good health in spite of the starvation diet of 4 years. I weighed myself two weeks ago and tipped the balance at 171.9 lbs. Not bad for a big skinny drink of water like me. Lot others fared a lot worse than I did. But God has a special Providence over drunks, fools and big lanky guys like me. (That "like me" refers only to the third class). Thank you.

J. F. P.

Now that you know I am still in the land of the living, I'll get back to where I left off last December 7, 1945 (about 50 years ago, isn't it?) A few developments since then deserve mentioning.

As I was saying things were getting pretty tense over here. Well, they kind of snapped before the ink was dry. The "would be prophets" who thought they knew, didn't know so much after all. And as I said before, it really was an experience worth talking about. It was over a year before the Japs got around to concentrating us. During that time we managed to arrange that they didn't ensick themselves with any spoils from us. And believe it or not we actually rented our place out to them during our vacation. They had to ^{pay} to hire on American property. But all of this will be explained at length in my "Post-war Letter." So just wait till you get that letter.

What are we going to do now? I don't know. We were already asked if we wish to be repatriated and we have already answered that we didn't. We are looking forward to going to Hwanan. But we are awaiting orders from that section of the country. Our superiors might think

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a rest would do us good. In that case, I'll be seeing you soon.

I was just thinking - no wise coaches at - what'll we do about in-coming mail? If we go to the missions soon, the mail will come to the address on the back of the envelope and take about a month to reach me. Tell you what. All mail sent within the next two weeks, send to that address. After that time, if you don't hear anything to us to our whereabouts, contact "The Sign" and ask them where to send your mail. I'll try and keep in touch with you as often as possible, until I get a permanent^{ne} place to hang my hat.

Frs. Linus and Alopinus are going home because they are sick. So you might get a visit from them one of these days. But I don't think it (their visit to home) will be in the near future. Both of them are from the vicinity of Boston.

and I imagine it will be awhile before they get as far west as Pittsburgh. Another Father Fr. Andrew Raha, S. V. D. is also going home. He lives about 90 miles from Ogish - Mingo Junction, he said he would drop in to see you if he can find our place. He promised to look you up.

How is Mother Bernadette?

Give her my best regards. I'll write as soon as I get three consecutive minutes of time. She's sure prayed hard for me during this war as did you all. There were times when I could feel someone was praying hard for me. And that is what I contribute my health to now. Believe me, sometimes it was anything but a picnic. However that's all passed now and I've pulled through O. K. Thanks to all of your prayers. So tell Bernadette I'll write just as soon as possible. So long everybody. I'll write again soon. As ever, Leonard.