

TADEUSZ CIEKATA AND BENEDYKT BIELSKI LETTERS, circa 1940-1945 **2006.314**

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Tadeusz Ciekata and Benedykt Bielski Letters Transcriptions

21.3.44

Dear Wanda,

Your dear letter and lovely letter, thank God, happily received. I covered it with tears of happiness, so much happiness you brought me that it is hard to describe. When time allows me I look at your loved face and kiss you regretfully only on the photo. Her kisses brought him strength, how much and honestly he always loved her. Brought her many hardship, try to forget about them, many trials but everything was conquered and now I love you even more.

Wanda, when will this longing stop? How much longer to do we have to tire? I see you always before my eyes. But everything has its own limit and this _____ for, happy day of joy, happiness, and our meeting. And then _____ that we are made for each other. I know that you suffer and have a hard time. My heart tells me that _____ need patience and will conquer all. Overjoyed that you are in good health and at home all is the same. I worry that there are new news from Benek. Thank you very much for regards from your family. Kiss from me your mother's hand, hug your sisters, brothers-in-law and kiss _____ and _____. Thank you very much for the package (received shoes). Cake was wonderful, dearest.

I end already. I would like to write more but cannot. Please do not answer this letter. 50 Rell received, no need for more money—please do not send me. In the package (as a sign that letter you received) please send a cigarette case. To the camp you can write twice a month (naturally in German).

In letters to me there can be no mention of this letter. Careful! My dearest, I say goodbye from the heart and kiss your sweet mouth a thousand times. Stay well and God will have pity on us and we will hopefully be together.

Your always loving, Tadek

Dearest Mother, father, and Stasin!

I thank you mother for your loving letter that I luckily received. I cried from the heart. O, Mother, I love you so much, I know, Mother, that I will come back and we will be together again. I am happy that you are in good health. I only ask that you should not worry much about me. The bad has passed already, now I am relatively ok. I work in the office, look well. Mother! I know how much such a _____ son costs and you, poor one, are trying to make it as well as possible for me. You have to think about yourself. Do not take away from your mouth (I would never agree to this). Mother, I will not die of hunger. I do not know what will happen but now I have on me reserves of fat, reserve for worst times also. Good that you have what to eat and can send some to me. So, Mother, if you can continue to send me packages (not more than 3

times a week) I ask for colored underwear, shirts, and underwear, one towel, 2 handkerchiefs, 2 pairs of summer socks (light), soap, toothpaste, utensils to shave, instrument, blades, brush and mirror, tobacco, please press hard and iron out (cigarettes are few because many are confiscated). I ask also for a pipe for tobacco. For cooking (such as beans, grains, and so on), please send only till Christmas, since afterwards will not be able to cook.

I kiss you all from the heart. Stay well. Kiss father, Haske. Regards for all relatives, aunt, uncle, cousins, and friends.

Your loving son, Tadek

[in German, different handwriting] Please send him also needle and thread in package.]

Mauthausen, May 11, 1945

My beloved Wanda,

Emotions enormous does not all to quietly write this letter. Dearest, I live, am in good health, return to strength, put on weight, relax all day in the sun, and think when finally I will take you in my arms and kiss you warmly. The bad has passed, terrible suffering has ended. Believe in God and love for you produced a miracle that I survived hell, about which one can hardly imagine. From this battle I come out a winner even with unheard suffering and torment in Mystowicach, Auschwitz, Gusen, and Mauthausen. April was maybe the hardest to survived. On April 2nd, we started from Diender-Neudorf on foot to Mauthausen. This was for us a crossroad. Hunger, cold, we walked for 12 days, at night staying on wet soil, rain or bitter cold (freezing). The whole time (12 days) we got only ½ liter of soup and 3 kgs of bread. We ate grass, nettle. Who got sick or weak could not keep walking was without pardon shot by the SS. Perished in this way above 100 comrades. Clenching teeth we arrived to Mauthausen. Here we got ¾ liters of soup so horrible that _____ would die from it and 100 grams mildewed, bitter bread. Every day died a couple of hundred people. This destiny awaited everyone.

On May 5 came in to the camp the Americans and so we were saved. Our joy had no borders and on May 8 we celebrated happily the end of the war. That was the day of Saint Stanislaus. It was not given to us to _____ this day of freedom.

To the hoped moment I come, the heart beats so strongly and tears of happiness flow, thought goes toward the motherland. To be together with you and enjoy together. Regretfully for the time being we have to stay together and get nourished, some get medical attention and after the quarantine will come a commission that will release us.

I feel so well that I could any minute already travel to you but there has to be some order in the camp's life. We receive now good, tasty, and much food. We are under the care of the American army. When I come back (can't wait for that day) will start for us a happy time. So many years of separation. Not to believe, not to believe that a human being is capable to survive hell.

Wanda, I thank you from my heart for all you did for me to lessen my unhappy stay in camps. My gratefulness is enormous. Dearest, I wanted to write at the same time to my mother but I am not sure if she lives still at the same address. I write to you, please inform them and give me her address. You can write to me without restriction every day. I will also try to write as much as possible and often. Maybe tomorrow I will write another letter.

Please kiss _____ and _____. Regard for the whole family. What is with Benek?
Regards for acquaintances.

To a fast meeting and thousands of kisses, remain your Tadek

Dearest Mother, Father, and _____, soon will write to you, please send address. Hug
and kiss you warmly a thousand times.

Letter sent to Wanda is also sent to you.

Your, Tadek

Write to me much and in Polish and everyday.

Postcards from Flossenburg:

8.III.1941

In German, addressed to My Dear Mother and Family

Letters from 25-26 February have received and thank you very much. Happy to hear that all at home are well and Wanda is well.

2.II.1941

Prisoner Benedykt Bilski

Dear Mother and Father,

Hereby I inform you of my new address:

Protective custody prisoner Benedykt Bilski

Nr 2740 Block 12

KZ Flossenburg Bayer Ostmark

I feel very well and am in good health.

With heartfelt regards, kisses, your son, Benek

Write to me only with ink and in German language.

Neudorf

From Tadeus Ciekata, born 1.12.13

19.6.44

Return address: Camp Mauthausen

My dear Mother, Father, Wanda, and Stach,

Your dear letters from 12.V and 24.V. 1944 with great joy have received. My happiness cannot be described because you, Wanda, love me. Wanda, my heart burns to you.

Dear Mother and Father and Stas, I am very thankful for everything. I love you. I thank you from the heart for the packages. I am in good health and fine. Happy that all is well with you. _____ thoughts are by you. Oh, my dear God.

Kisses and regarding 1000 times. Wanda! I love you, regards for the whole family, Lilusia and Adusia.

27.VI.44 Heartfelt wishes for father, Tadek

Flossenburg

15.II.1942

From Benedykt Bilski

Dear Mother and family,

Letters dated 15 and 29.I.42 and the money have received and thank you. Tell now all is well with my health, have all in best health. Today received, please send me no money since I do not need money for the time being.

How are you at home, are you all in good health and my sister and sister-in-law are also well? Heartfelt regards and kisses to you, dear mother and sisters and brother-in-law, family and friends and Josi,

Sends, Benek

Addressed to Mrs. Helene Ciekata from Tadeusz Ciekata, NR 33701, born 1.12.13
From KLM workcamp Neudorf

Dear Mother, Father, Wanda, and Stach,

Your two letters and one from Wanda have with great joy received and thank you very much, happy to hear that you are in good health. I'm also healthy. Dream about you. For packages which I received regularly twice a week I thank you.

Sorry about _____. I had a good comrade. From Wanda I have received one package with pears and apples. For it many kisses. I pray for our common happiness.

Wanda, my feelings became very strong and believe you feel the same. Many kisses and regards for all.

Your, Tadek

7.3.44

Stamp of the Red Cross

Addressed to Wanda Bilska (one side), also addressed to Helena Ciekata from Tadeusz Ciekata

Dear Mother, Father, Stas, and Wanda,

Your letter dated 15.II received with great joy. Long awaited news from want have finally, thankfully, received. With indescribable longing I await always your dear letter. Letters from Wanda are dated 1 and 15 February. I thank you for packages. Am in good health and happy.

I wish you, dear Mother, to your birthday on March 2.44 much luck, health, and everything you wish. Kiss you a thousand times and remain waiting for fast reply.

Your loving, Tadek

Addressed to Helene Ciekata

4.5.44

My dear Mother, father, Wanda, and Stas,

Two letters, one from Mother, dated 12.IV.44 and from Wanda, dated 29.3.44 received with great joy. I rejoice much that you are in good health and in the house all is in order.

I am also in good health and am well. Only my thoughts are always by you. I thank very much for the packages.

Dear Mother and Wanda, I dream of you. When will dreams become reality.

Dearest Wanda, I love you always so much. I would love to embrace you. God should protect you.

Regards and 1000 kisses, sends Tadek

Addressed to Helene Ciekata
22.7.44

Dear Mother, Father, Wanda, and Stas,

Your letters dated 17 and 27.6 have received with great joy. Such letters make me happy, give me indescribable happiness and joy. I am in good health and feel well. You can write me _____ times a month. Packages receive regularly and for that my thanks.

Wanda! You are in my life the dearest treasure. I thank God that I met you. I dream of life in the future with you and look with hope on our meeting. I squeeze you and kiss your blessed hands!

Regards for all the relatives and friends, Tadek

Addressed to Helene Ciekata
24.Aug.44

Dear Mother, Father, Wanda, and Stas,

2 letters from you dated 27.6 and 27.7 have gratefully received. I wrote to you in July. Did you receive that letter?

I am in good health and feel well. In the last 3 weeks I have received 5 packages. For that, thank you very much!

Why does Wanda not write now? The letters from Wanda are so loving. I thank God very much for this that I met Wanda. Wanda, you are my dearest treasure in my life. I will love you till death.

Dearest Mother, I dream always of you and Wanda. I kiss your dear hands.

Kiss you from the heart and wait for reunion.

Regards for acquaintances, Tadek

3 notes, dated 23.IX.40

Dear family,

For the time being cannot write in Polish so I send a postcard in Germany. I know that you wrote to me but I did not receive it. Do not write until I will write in Polish. Only regards in German do I receive. On the postcard I asked for an old suit, sport shoes, belt, vest, tie, and brown socks not hairy. Underwear once for 14 days.

Probably the post Friday did not pick up underwear (laundry) because too much news arrives. If they will not pick up laundry so send me only regards in Germany so I will know that you have received or a clean postcard with laundry. I suspect that for the time being _____.

When it will be much colder so bring me jacket with the black collar. If you are in good health so you will somehow make it through this war which I wish you. I am in good health. I am not hungry. Here they give us twice as much as in Sosnowiec to eat. Once a week a spoon of jam, 2 grams of butter, and 5 grams sugar, 300 grams for coffee and _____. Let Maryska go for berries to Romek's father.

_____ let clean up for me the suit if gets old one. Let Bogercz [may be a name—it means 'the wealthy one'] buy the three pairs of soles that I ordered by the shoemaker _____

who lives on Cebrynskujo at Krakowska and let Wajowski put them on my yellow laquer shoes and those that I have.

And now for Bundzia. I already signed protocol at Gestapo. A) to Cbrynskiego! That by him by coincidence going from shoemaker Purvanowskieo recognized Kororkiewiczze.