FRED FREE

Regret return

505 Cassiar St. Fremantle, J.
Vancouver B.C.
June 13. 1949.

Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

I'm writing to you as a last resort, I hope you can advise me on what I could do. I'll tell you the whole story of our trouble so you can get a clear understanding.

My husband was deported from the United States in 1930 when he was just 18 years old. He was idle like so many others during the depression, so he and a friend crossed the border at Blaine with no intention of going further, when a freight train stopped & with others they got on, were picked up the next day in Oregon and sent to the immigration shed in Seattle where they spent 30 days & were deported with a years suspended sentence. The following year he served a year in prison for stealing a car, and in 1935 he was also sentenced a year for breaking an entering. At that time he was living in town as his widowed Mother was on social relief & he couldn't live at home. Those years our boys didn't

there the W.R.A. as the Americans did. Those that were lucky enough to get into relocation camps worked for 16¢ a day & ate terrible food and the rest who were unable to find employment lived as my husband did and got in trouble as he did.

After his release he found work and I met him a month later. He worked steady ever since, except for illness, we lived a clean, decent life with two boys, attend church, the boys go to sunday school & belong to boy scouts. (cubs)

His only sister married an American in 1932 and has lived in Seattle ever since and my husband has never been able to meet her. Now the boys are old enough to want their father to take them down and it doesn't seem fair that we shall have to tell them. My husband paid to society for the wrong he did but does it take a lifetime for a man to live down the wrong he did in his youth?

He tried several times for permission to reenter the U.S. just for a visit and has been denied, because of his record. Did that make him such a criminal that he can never be allowed to enter the U.S. again? Is there no hope?

I've enclosed the result of my latest attempt which left me heart-broken as I did it on my own in hopes I could surprise my husband as he gave up hope, but I haven't.

Not only has it kept him from being able to meet relatives in the U.S. but has kept him from working on ships touching U.S. coil as most ships out of Vancouver do.

Can you advise me what I can do, Is there anyone further I can apply to? We were told a lawyer may be able to do something for us but we can't afford large fees and it doesn't seem fair that only those with money can get results.

I spoke to our local police inspector, and he was surprised that my husband was refused because of his record which he considered old and not very serious.

I'm not asking you to do anything personally but just advise me who to write or appeal to further.

Please reply and thanks a million for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely yours
J. Fremonte.

Ex 3754

Hold for reply

Freer -

I am deeply sorry for the loss of your husband & I can well understand how you feel.

The only thing I could do would be to send your letter to the Secy of War. I am sure, however, they have given you as full a report as they can. Did you write Cal March for further details? If you want me to make an inquiry, I will have to have your husband's number, etc. I doubt that I can find out anything additional

With my sincere sympathy

M Ellen Freer
Box 238
Wentzville, Mo.
April 21, 1947

Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt

Dear Mrs Roosevelt:

I am a Constant reader of your Column - my Day - in the Post Dispatch. One of your ~~the~~ articles was Outstanding, and keeps coming back to me in these dark days. I refer to the one Wherein you Answered the "Communistic Activities" Charge against your son. I know you didn't have to write and ask your boy if this was true before you Wrote your article. You knew it was Not, just as the Majority of america knew or believed, Only you knew because of your long and close association - because you knew the heart and Mind

the person: I know what hurt and injustice you must have felt. But you have been long in a position, to recieve much public criticism and have no doubt become accustomed to it.

My problem is not remotely similar to the article I refered to, But your loyalty and faith in your son makes a similarity. I only ask you to please read my letter and write me what you would do, Were you in my place? I shall be deeply grateful if you will.

My husband - 1st Lt. George H Freer has been stationed in Europe since Jan of 1946 as part of the Occupation forces. On March the 7, 1947 the Army notified me that Lt Freer died in Germany Feb. 11, 1947 as the result of gunshot wound of the head. Later I had a letter from Col. K F March - apparently

husband's Commanding Officer - stating that, "for some unknown reason Lt Greer had taken his own life."

I have been married to Lt Greer for almost 16 years - We have 3 lovely daughters. Our marriage has been happy. I know the heart and mind of the man they tell me took his own life, and because I know him so well - I know some one has made a ~~gr~~ ghastly mistake. His death may have looked like a suicide but knowing and loving him as I do - I know he could not have taken his own life. He had been in the Army over 20 years and had never had a mark against his record - He was proud of that fact. His services were always commended highly by his superior officer, and by those of lower rank as well. He was a jolly easy going person but very devoted to his duties.

from the information I have - it appears that Lt Freers death looked like suicide and there wasn't any effort made to disprove it. They apparently took no finger prints - and they say too "His death was caused presumably by a bullet from the 45 army automatic found lying between Lt Freers feet. All I have is a brief and it has no details. Am I not entitled to a full report on all the investigation. Do I have to accept the Army's statement, without question. I can't believe being a member of the Armed forces deprives any man or his dependents of the rights of an american Citizen. I know Lt. Freer did not take his own life - I don't know how to go about proving that fact, but somehow I'll prove it. How could I say to Lt Freers children - Your father killed himself? They adored him - and I know

y would not believe me. There are many improvements to be made in our army - but the most necessary one - is - to treat each man as a human individual being - endowed with rights and ~~begin~~ dignity, and not as a small part of a vast machine.

Will you give me the benifit of any knowledge you have in regards to how I should proceed in this seemingly hopeless task that confronts me?

Lt. Freer was always so tender, kind and thoughtful of his family. How can anyone ask me to believe he would for any reason plunge us into this black despair?

I know I have taken to much of your valuable time - but I thank you and shall be deeply grateful for any word of advice from you.

Sincerely

M. Ellen Freer