

青岛
Qingdao

Photographers: Brian Kerry & Cheryl Tosh ...



Qingdao (Tsingtao) 15-16 August, 2015

We travelled by train from Yantai to Qingdao, sharing our soft-sleeper compartment with a Chinese family of grandmother and mother, a small girl and a very boisterous boy. As this was a day-time journey, we were all seated on the lower beds.



On arrival in Qingdao, a large city sea-port with many impressive new buildings, were met by our local guide and driver. Our first stop was outside the source of one of Qingdao's most famous exports - Tsingtao Beer. The brewery was set up by a German company in 1903 to meet the needs of the large German population in Tsingtao at that time.





Our principal objective was to find Edgewater Mansion. This was (in 1945) a recently built (1936) luxury hotel on a peninsular between two popular bathing beaches. In September 1945 were transported in a few hours by train from the crowding and deprivation of Weihsien Camp to this lovely place where we were treated like royalty. We enjoyed wonderful meals



Edgewater Mansions Hotel
U.S. Marine BOQ with Officers' Club

® <http://www.thatsqingdao.com/2013/10/us-marines-tsingtao-china-1945/>

served by uniformed waiters at tables with crisp, white table cloths, and proper dishes and cutlery. We slept, at last, in proper beds with sheets and blankets in rooms which all had views out over the adjacent bays. We enjoyed this life of luxury for about ten days before being transported on an American troop-ship, the USS Geneva, to Hong Kong.



USS Geneva (APA-86) underway in San Francisco Bay, probably in December 1945 as part of Operation Magic Carpet

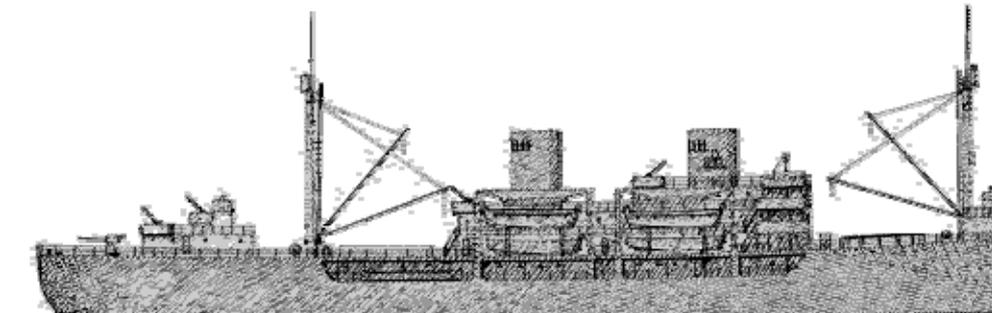
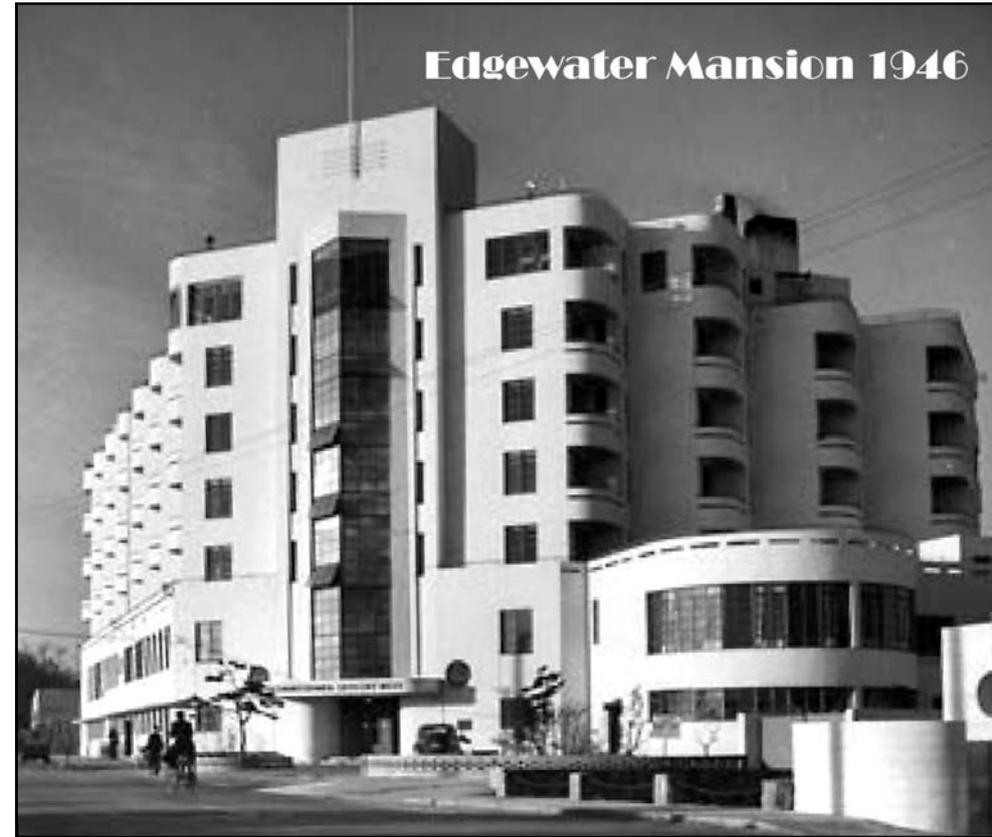
Career (United States) 

Name:	USS Geneva (APA-86)
Namesake:	A county in Alabama
Builder:	Consolidated Steel
Launched:	31 January 1945
Sponsored by:	Mrs. Leonard Firestone
Acquired:	21 March 1944
Commissioned:	22 March 1945
Decommissioned:	23 January 1947
Struck:	25 February 1947
Fate:	Sold for scrap, 2 November 1966

General characteristics

Class and type:	Gilliam-class attack transport
Tonnage:	85,000 cu. ft., 600 t.
Displacement:	4,247 tons (lt), 7,080 t (fl)
Length:	426 ft
Beam:	58 ft
Draft:	16 ft
Propulsion:	Westinghouse turboelectric drive, 2 boilers, 2 propellers, Design shaft horsepower 6,000
Speed:	17 knots
Capacity:	47 Officers, 802 Enlisted
Crew:	27 Officers, 295 Enlisted
Armament:	1 x 5"/38 caliber dual-purpose gun mount, 4 x twin 40 mm gun mounts, 10 x single 20 mm gun mounts
	MCV Hull No. ?, hull type S4-SE2-BD1

Edgewater Mansion 1946





东海饭店
Donghai Hotel
汇泉路7号
7 Huiquan Road

美国“摩登”派建筑，建于1936年。原名“四海饭店”，英文译称“水边大厦”，后称“东海饭店”。

This American Modern style building was completed in 1936. It was first called *Sihai Hotel (Edge Water Mansion)*.

青島市文物局
Qingdao Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage
青島市旅游局
Qingdao Municipal Tourism Administration
2008年10月



Our guide and driver took us through the city to the waterfront where we progressed very slowly through dense week-end traffic towards our destination. We enjoyed distant views of Edgewater Mansion before eventually arriving at the car park in front of the hotel.

Our guide took us to the entrance where he spoke to the Manageress and explained our mission. To our surprise - and delight - we were warmly welcomed in, and told we were allowed to take photographs. This was a great surprise as previous ex-Weihsieners have not been permitted to go inside.





The manageress took us into several rooms on different floors to show us their features and the views they afforded. The style is very Art Deco and I am so pleased that they have not spoiled it by "modernising"! On one of the upper floors there is what was originally a sun-deck where the latest movies were screened on summer evenings. This has now been enclosed as an additional restaurant area.







At the end of our conducted tour we were introduced to the joint Manager, and invited to sit with him and the manageress and relate briefly the story of the Weih sien internees who stayed there in September 1945. They were very interested, recognising that this was an important episode in the hotel's history.



The "Edgewater Mansion Hotel" : The manageress, Ruth & Brian Kerry, the manager, ... and Cheryl Tosh ...

The following morning, before catching the high-speed

train to Weifang, we were taken to see the Badaguan Scenic area. This has many large, Western-style houses in their own grounds. None is privately owned (they belong to the State) but they are rented out to retired Government and Military personnel.

A sign proclaims that "The scenic area was listed as a state protected historic site in 1996, and was appraised as "the most beautiful city area in China" in October, 2005".

Badaguan Scenic Area was built in the first three decades of the 20th century. It is called "Badaguan" as the eight roads in the area were all named after China's important passes in history (now there are ten roads), namely, Shaoguan Road, Ningwuguan Road, Zijingguan Road, Shanhaiguan Road, Juyongguan Road, Linhuaiguan Road, Zhengyangguan Road, Hanguguan Road, Jiayuguan Road, and Wushengguan Road, which cover several square kilometers of seaside scenic area along the Huiquan and the Taiping Bays. The trees in the area vary from road to road, blending harmoniously with the nearby buildings: crape myrtles along Zhengyangguan Road, cedars along Zijingguan Road, peaches along Shaoguan Road and Chinese flowering crabapples along Ningwuguan Road. Most buildings in "Badaguan" are villas with courtyards, typical of the modern European architectural style, known as "World Architectural Fair", with famous buildings such as, among others, "Huashilou House" and "Princess House". The scenic area was listed as a state protected historic site in 1996, and was appraised as "the most beautiful city area of China" in October, 2005.



山海关路3号
3 Shanhaiguan Road

欧式别墅，建于1943年，中国建筑师周翥设计。
This European style villa, designed by Chinese architect ZhouAo, was built in 1943.

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We all agreed that this had been a thoroughly successful visit. And now to Weifang!!