

Weihhsien Concentration Camp
Official correspondence to the Americans

Civil Assembly Centre,
Weihhsien
September 4th 1945

Major S.A. Staiger
U.S. Army
Weihhsien Civil Assembly Centre

Dear Major Staiger,

Now that your particular Mission is completed, we, the elected representatives of those interned in this Camp, would like to express, however inadequately, the depth of admiration and gratitude which is felt towards you and your group by everyone in Weihhsien.

The memory of your arrival on August 17th is one that can never fade from the minds or hearts of any of us, and we hope that the memory of our joy and emotion at your coming is one that you, also, will be able long to cherish.

But it is not only the heroic manner of your arrival that has excited our admiration; it is also, and perhaps especially, the tactful and efficient manner in which you have performed your duties, maintaining all the time the happiest and friendliest of personal relations with us all. If we, as a Committee, have worked with you and for you to the best of our power and ability, this fact but offers one more token of the respect in which you and your group have been held by us and all the internees of this camp.

To you, to Capt. Georgia, Lt. Hannon, Lt. Moore, Sgt. Hanchulak, Sgt. Nagaki, Cpl. Orlich and Mr Wang we offer the heartfelt thanks of this community, and express the hope that some where and some when it may be possible for some of us to meet again.

Yours very sincerely,
THE COMMITTEE OF THE WEIHSIEN CAMP:

(signed) J.Allan
W.R. Chapman
J.H.W. Grice
M.C. Halton
W.J. Howard
E. McLaren
W. Pryor
E.J. Schmidt
P.A. Whitting

From the Americans.

Weih sien
September 6th 1945

TO: Internees, Weih sien Civil Assembly Centre.

In anticipation at the departure from this area of the undersigned officers and enlisted men of the United States Armed Forces, it is our desire and wish that this letter be brought to the attention of all internees.

The sincere manifestation of good-will, appreciation of our work and in particular the efforts of the Camp Committee and all concerned in the whole-hearted support of our team, facilitated our task immeasurably.

We want each of you to know that any success achieved in the performance of our duties, from the moment of our arrival to the completion of our mission, is largely due to the excellent administration organisation already in existence and the complete cooperation so freely and cheerfully displayed by all on our behalf.

We feel that the attitude of the internees is indicative of the true ideals that made possible the total victory of all Allied Forces during the titanic war now successfully concluded.

Further, the conduct and the adaptation of you towards difficult and trying circumstances of the three unfortunate years now passed permits our most sincere respect and profound admiration.

(signed) Stanley A. Staiger
Major – U.S. Army

(signed) Willis S. Georgia
Captain – U.S. Army

Tadashi T. Nagaki
Sgt. – U.S. Army

J. Walton Moore
Lt. – U.S. Navy

Raymond N. Hanchulak
Sgt. – U.S. Army

James J. Hannon
Lt. U.S. Army

Peter C. Orlich
Cpl. – U.S. Army

Cheng Han Wong – interpreter

The originals have not been found (November 11th 2005) but these were typed by Ida either while still in China before we left in 1948 or in the early 1950s, I believe. And it looks as if they were carbon copies, purple print on very thin paper.