

Birthday of Weihsien rescuer

mtpre-@aol.com

Jan 15, 2002 22:40 PST

Hello, Everybody,

If you'd like to bring joy to one of the liberators of the Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center, drop a birthday card to

Tad Nagaki

5851 Logan Road, Alliance, NE 69301

Phone: 308-762-2968

Birth date: January 25, 1920

A member of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Tad was the Japanese-American interpreter on the rescue mission. Remembering the rescue, August 17, 1945, he says he recalls girls in the camp cutting off pieces of his hair for souvenirs.

Today, he's a widower who lives alone. Both of his sons are dead. He continues farming beans and corn in America's heartlands.

If you have grandchildren, now would be a good time to inspire them to do a VALENTINES FOR VETS project, making valentines and mailing them to each of these heroes. Our rescuer, Jim Hannon has loaned to the Los Angeles Veterans Administration Museum the Valentines cards and tributes he received from children last year. If you need the addresses, please let me know.

Mary Previte

Hello Weihsien List

sancton

Feb 25, 2002 14:38 PST

Hello everyone,

I am Christine Sancton (née Talbot). My parents, Sid & Ida Talbot and children, Gay, Peter and I (Christine) were taken into Weihsien Camp in March 1943 by train from Chinwangtao with many other Kailin Mining Company employees. I was 7 months old at the time.

Our first home was in Block 6 and had two rooms as we were a family of five. This was near the ball field. My father was a baker in the No. 3 kitchen where my mother peeled vegetables. Our neighbours were: Wallises, Dreggs, Joneses, Carters, Barnes, Marshes and the Simmies. For 15 months we shared accommodation with Marie and (Dr)Robbie Robinson and their two children.

My family was lucky to have been kept together all through those years in Weihsien but there was a real threat of the men being sent away to other harsher camps.

It is incredible to think that we, in a prisoner of war camp in China under the control of the Japanese, could have letters from the outside world. Especially surprising were those from my uncle Arthur Jones in Stalag VIII B, a German prisoner of War Camp through the good auspices of the Red Cross.

I have enjoyed reading other people's memories on this site not having many of my own. I have some Camp photos that I received from David Michell. By the way, does anyone know what has happened to David?

We do have some family memorabilia. Ida was involved in some black marketing as she could speak Chinese. Perhaps many people were similarly involved.

I am interested in purchasing copies of the painting by Gertrude Wilder and also the excerpt from George Wilder's diary about his time in Camp. Please can someone let me know how to do this.

I look forward to hearing from some of you. I am looking for the family of Percy and Emma Allen, as Kay is a contemporary of mine.

Sincerely, Christine Talbot Sancton

Re: Hello Weihsien List

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Feb 25, 2002 20:43 PST

Dear Christine. My name is Joyce Cooke. My family and I were amongst the first batch of people to go into WeiHsien in 1942 and did all the cleaning up for you folks !! I was born in 1928 and I clearly remember block 6 and your sister Gay. The Wallis', Dreggs and Carters I also knew well. I am in contact with Marjorie Wallis who lives in New Zealand. (I recently sold her my book which deals with WeiHsien Camp life from start to finish) I remember your parents well and also Kathleen Carter who was one of my best friends in camp. Where is she now? Alfie Dreggs and his wife live in Queensland Australia but I have not seen them for about 3 years. I remember Dr Robinson who looked after inmates in the camp. I think David Michell lives in England now. My father was in kitchen No 1 as a cook. He was also a blackmarketeer. My job when I turned 14 was cleaning out toilets in the camp near the showers. As a matter of fact there is a number of books written about the camp. I can give you details of some of them if you wish. My husband and I are leaving for Singapore on 28 February and will not return to Sydney, Australia where we live, until 12 March 2002. Welcome to Topica. Joyce Bradbury, nee Cooke.

greetings

[stillbrk](#)

Feb 28, 2002 07:28 PST

Christine Sancton , my sister, has given a small family profile. She is an enthusiastic peruser of the internet, and we rely on her to dig for linkages.

Thank you, Joyce Cooke for the cleaning you did on our behalf. I sometimes feel that it was people like you, who worked day in day out, who were the real heroes of the times. If possible, I would like a copy of your book, since my memories are sketchy at best.

with best wishes,

Gay Talbot Stratford

Weihsien List

[Fred & coral Dreggs](#)

Mar 09, 2002 18:44 PST

Hi Christine and Gay.

I was absolutely surprised to read the email you both recently sent to Topica and I am sure you are equally surprised to read this message. Reading your mail certainly revived my very fond memories of Chinwangtao. Gay, you will undoubtedly remember our foursome--you, my brother Bobby who was about your age, Marjorie Wallis and myself. We often referred to ourselves as the "4 Musketeers"! We had wonderful times roller skating on the concrete area outside the Weihsien Country Club and bicycling all over the place together. Christine would obviously not remember any of this. We were doing all this during our "House Arrest" period whilst the Japs were getting the Weihsien camp ready for us. I was lucky to have been able to get to C.W.T. from Tientsin (where I was a student at the Grammar School when war broke out). Also at that time, to keep myself occupied, I was taught shorthand and typing by your mother. She must have done a good job because I can still type using all my fingers. Getting to Weihsien was also a great adventure for all of us. When I had finished with schooling at the camp one of my jobs was at the bakery. Your father was the leader of one of the bakery teams and I was in his team together with Ken Marshall, Tony Lambert and someone else whose name I have forgotten. We always maintained that "Sid Talbot's Team made the best bread in camp!!"

Ken lives in Canberra and we have kept in touch all these years. In fact I will be sending him copies of these emails. Would there be anyone reading this who may know the address of Tony Lambert and his half-brother Desmond Power? We shared a flat in London between 1946-1948 but have lost complete touch with one

another. Incidentally, would you by any chance have photos of camp which may depict our lifestyle there? I would be most interested to have copies of anything you may have as I have nothing whatsoever except memories. There is a lot more I can talk about but I will end now and hopefully we can keep communicating with one another in the near future. My wife Coral and I live at the Sunshine Coast (about 80 Km north of Brisbane,) our address is:

16 Ramsay Cres.
Pelican Waters
Qld. 4551

Kind regards,
Alfie (Everybody now calls me "Fred")

Continuing my email today's date to Christine and Gay

[Fred & coral Dreggs](#)

Mar 09, 2002 20:45 PST

I forgot to mention that, if you have not already read it, there is a book out called "The Mushroom Years" by Pamela Masters which mentions a lot about Weihsien and Chinwangtao. When we lived there we knew her as Bobbie Simmons and her older sister Ursula. Her father worked for the Kailan Mining Administration. Joyce Cooke (Now Bradbury) has also written a book about her experiences but I haven't yet read it. I am about to order a copy for myself.

Regards, again

Alfie/Fred

Re: Weihsien List

[David Birch](#)

Mar 09, 2002 23:22 PST

I think that Desmond Power lives in West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. I'll try to obtain his address for you. He's written a book about his 'growing up years' I believe

Sincerely,

David Birch

Formerly of Chefoo and Weihsien

Re: Weihsien List

[Ben and Jo Crick](#)

Mar 10, 2002 17:15 PST

On Sun 10 Mar 2002 (12:43:28), dre-@powerup.com.au wrote:

Would there be anyone reading this who may know the address of Tony Lambert and his half-brother Desmond Power?

Tony Lambert was a British diplomat in Beijing and Tokyo, and then became Director of China Research for OMF International. You can surely obtain his whereabouts from OMF HQ.

Ben and Jo

--

Revd Ben Crick BA CF, and Mrs Joanna (Goodwin) Crick

<ben.c-@argonet.co.uk>;

232 Canterbury Road, Birchington, Kent, CT7 9TD (UK)

<http://www.cnetwork.co.uk/crick.htm>

Re: Weihsien List

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Mar 11, 2002 21:33 PST

I have just returned from visiting my son in Singapore and notice several people want Desmond Power's address. He is contactable by Email and lives in West Vancouver. His Email is desp-@shaw.ca. I keep in touch with him ever since he bought my book a year or so ago. He may have Tony Lambert's address. Regards Joyce Bradbury nee

Cooke

Re: Weihsien List

[stillbrk](#)

Mar 16, 2002 16:12 PST

Due to a storm, we have been out of touch. Thank you for your welcome. Your mother taught me all the Russian I know . I have always been grateful to her. I do not have many memories to contribute to Chinwangtao, only the memory of you singing: 'I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls..' Sid died two years after the war, and Ida more than twenty years ago. Christine , Peter, and I all married Canadians, happily settled, Christine in New Brunswick, and Peter and I in Ontario. Trust you and yours are well. Gay

Re: Weihsien List

[David Allen](#)

Mar 17, 2002 13:22 PST

From: Dave Allen dan-@fidalgo.net

To: Ex Internees Fred & coral Dreggs

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2002 3:43 PM

Subject: **Weihsien List & Desmond Power's address**

Desmond Power? We shared a flat in London between 1946-1948 but have lost complete touch with one another. Incidentally, would you by any chance have photos of camp which may depict our lifestyle there?

Sorry I didn't know you in the camp but I lived in Block 24 (the Bell tower)

I contacted Desmond Power 2 year ago at 1582 Rena Crescent, West Vancouver, B.C. Canada V7V 2Z4 I obtained a list of 218 names of those in Weihsien. There have been some that have deceased since then. I noticed that David Birch had corresponded with you earlier. I met with Dave here in Mount Vernon, Washington last year at the Tulip festival with his wife and we had a great time telling about escapades we had been in. We took of from Chefoo one morning hopped over the wall and headed up Eve's Knob. It was a really hot day and we were looking for Gold. This was in 1942 and I was 8 years of age. We of course didn't find the gold that other kids said was hidden up there. For punishment we were put in solitary confinement for 24 hours in a closet. But that was fine with me. I didn't need anyone hollering at me..

I hope this gets you in touch with Desmond. Cheers.

Dave and Dorothy Allen dan-@fidalgo.net

FW: Weihsien photographs

[sancton](#)

Mar 18, 2002 08:04 PST

-----Original Message-----

From: sancton [mailto:sanc-@nbnet.nb.ca]

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2002 11:59 AM

To: wei-@topica.com

Subject: **Weihsien photographs**

Dear Natasha: I will try to improve the quality of the scanning of the Weihsien photos for you. I wonder if anybody else would like to see the photos that I have? I can send them by attached file.

Years ago, David Michell sent me 21 photos, quite a few are of Chefoo children. Others are from my mother's collection. Surprisingly, 7 of hers were exactly the same as David's. I wonder who the source of these was? Anyone know?

It has been very gratifying to read stories from other ex-Weihsieners, some of whom knew my family. After all these years, it is nice to make contact.

Anybody know what happened to Father Scanlon, the Trappist monk. I wonder how he settled down to his contemplative life again after the time spent in Camp. He was involved in some of the Black Marketing too, I

believe.

Blessings, Christine Talbot Sancton

Re: FW: Weihsien photographs

[jim bryant](#)

Mar 18, 2002 11:33 PST

hi im emily bryant, used to be pederson when I was in the camp at weihsien. if you can send an attachment to my husbands email, I would love it. thanks

Re: Weihsien photographs

[gordon](#)

Mar 18, 2002 19:03 PST

Hi

I'm Gordon Buist and I was very young during the Weihsien years. I would be so grateful for a copy of your photos.

Regards

Gordon

Re: FW: Weihsien photographs

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

Mar 18, 2002 19:17 PST

I'd love to see your photographs. Please attach them and forward to me.

Mary Taylor Previte

Re: Weihsien photographs

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Mar 18, 2002 22:12 PST

Dear Christine. When you read my book you will see I mention Father Scanlan quite extensively. There is also a photo of him in his later years, actually taken on his 100th birthday in California. Page 48. He died not so long ago at the age of 102 or 103

His autobiography is mentioned in page 96 of my book. I have a Photostat copy of it but it is otherwise unprocurable. Regards Joyce Bradbury.

He died in California

Re: Weihsien photographs

[alison holmes](#)

Mar 19, 2002 07:27 PST

I too would dearly like to see the photos. Please send them to me. Thanks so much, Alison Martin Holmes

Re:Re: Weihsien photographs

[tt-@juno.com](#)

Mar 19, 2002 07:59 PST

If possible, please include me when sending the photographs. My mother, Myrtle Granger (nee Sharp) and her sister, Isabell Gregoire (nee Sharp) would love to see them.

Thank you very much.

Theresa Granger

Re:Re: Weihsien photographs

[tt-@juno.com](#)

Mar 19, 2002 07:59 PST

If possible, please include me when sending the photographs. My mother, Myrtle Granger (nee Sharp) and her

sister, Isabell Gregoire (nee Sharp) would love to see them.
Thank you very much.
Theresa Granger

Here's a message I sent today to the CBI Internet Message board

mtpre-@aol.com

Mar 19, 2002 22:14 PST

Hello, all you China-Burma-India heroes:

Tenth graders in New Jersey's Cherry Hill High School West sat spellbound today as I told them the story of six CBI heroes who liberated the Weihsien Concentration Camp (and me) in China in 1945. The teenagers wanted to touch my souvenir piece of parachute silk, embroidered with the rescue scene and autographed by my CBI heroes in August 1945. Can you believe such a treasure!

The power of this story rivets children and teenagers every time I tell it. And I tell it often, often, often.

I love telling this story. Kids LOVE to hear it. They go home and tell it all over again at their supper tables. These days I always take along copies of the names and addresses of my CBI heroes who liberated the camp and ask the students to write letters to these World War II heroes to tell them what the students think. Talk about spreading happiness all around!

My heroes love getting the letters and the Valentines cards. And the kids love getting letters back.

Thank you -- each one of you -- for giving freedom to the world.

Mary Taylor Previte

Re: Here's a message I sent today to the CBI Internet Message board

gordon

Mar 20, 2002 05:58 PST

Hi from Gordon Buist

I was a very small child when I was in Weishien and can remember almost nothing other than what I have been told. Unfortunately my parents May and Fred Buist didn't talk a lot about the camp so I have been left with a thirsty appetite for information.

I don't suppose that you have written down the text of the lecture that you enthral these kids with? If so is there any chance that you could forward a copy to me and I am quite sure to many of the others who were in Weishien. I would love to attend one of your talks myself but as I now live in Thailand it would be a rather long way to commute!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Gordon

hi!

sancton

Mar 20, 2002 06:38 PST

Dear Gordon: I too have no actual memories of Camp. Just what I heard my family talk about and some of my mother's notes. Were you born in Camp? I know there were naturally quite a few births in those 3 years of Camp. My father, Sid, died in 1948 in China. Both Sid and Ida went back to work for the KMA after liberation. My mother, Peter and I left China for England late 1948. Gay had left China in 1946 to finish her schooling in the UK. My mother always felt that the things she had learnt to do in Camp like cleaning, washing, baking, budgeting etc all helped her in her new life as a widow in post war England. She had been brought up in China, and always had had servants. Actually she turned out to be a great cook!

Now we are all in Canada as Gay has already said.

How long have you been in Thailand? Are you in touch with any other ex Weihsieners?

I haven't forgotten about the photos. I will a few at a time as I may jam up people's computers otherwise.

Will be in touch. Christine

Re: Here's a message I sent today to the CBI Internet Message board

Frank Otto

Mar 20, 2002 11:46 PST

Mary,
Thanks for the info.
Frank
WW2 Navy Net

Grace Hope-Gill

lauraho-@aol.com

Mar 20, 2002 12:05 PST

Dear Weishien List Members,

My name is Laura Hope-Gill. My grandparents, Grace and Donald Hope-Gill, were interned from 42-45 with my father, Herbert, and uncle, Charles. I have only recently found success in my search for information, and what a pleasure it is to find you all here. I'm almost breathless as I read your words. I am planning to visit Weishien this summer. If you have been there, I would love advice on lodging and any reports you might share.

Granny (Grace) only spoke of the camp during her final year, 1989, when a brain tumor seemed to lift the censor that had kept her memories silent. Up to that point, whenever I asked her questions she replied that I should focus on being happy and clean (she was a consummate hand washer. . .). During her final year, I sat with her for hours listening and recording her stories on tape. She was only 25 at the time of liberation, and very ill. I also understand that she and Donald fought so much and so loudly that the Japanese conceded to giving the family two rooms instead of just one. It must have been awful. Their marriage never recovered, although they divorced and remarried several times following until Donald's death in 1975. I was very close to Granny, and have long believed that if she could survive as she did, it would take an awful lot to bring me down, and this has proven true. She is an inspiration to me. If you knew her, please tell me about her.

Grand-dad was a physician in the camp, and he fixed Desmond Power's dislocated shoulder. My father, whom you might remember as a little 2-5 year old, followed in his footsteps as a physician. I would be interested to know how other camp-children adjusted to life after the liberation. I have so many questions, and can also offer my grandmother's memories which have become my own through our closeness.

There were many kindnesses bestowed upon her by her friends in the camp.

On her behalf, allow me to thank you for them.

My best regards to all of you,
Laura

Jews in China

Laura Hope-Gill

Mar 20, 2002 12:39 PST

Hello again--

I have a letter written by my grandfather from Tientsin prior to capture. In it he mentions three German Jews who were residing with him and Grace. I am very curious to know who they were, and how they came to China. It would be a dream to meet them and their families. Were there many German Jews in the Chinese cities?

Sincerely,

Laura Hope-Gill

Christ School

Arden, North Carolina

Re: Jews in China

mtpre-@aol.com

Mar 20, 2002 18:01 PST

Kaifeng in Honan province had an enclave of Jews. When our family last visited Kaifeng (the city where I was born) in the 1980s, the Jews had been indistinguishably absorbed into the Chinese population.

Mary Previte

Re: hi!

[gordon](#)

Mar 20, 2002 21:10 PST

Hi Christine

Thanks for coming back so quickly. I will wait with bated breath for the first instalment of the photos.

I was 9 months old when we went into the camp. Mr father and mother, May and Fred Buist, were Salvation Army missionaries and the whole family - mum, dad my sisters Kath (6yrs old), my sister Beryl (3 yrs old, and little me - were all together for the duration. I have only vague memories of life in Weishien although a few years ago I went to a reunion in England and saw several photos of the camp, and I was so pleased to see that my memories were actually true and not just imagined. I can remember the wall and the ditch outside. I also remember the tower that the Japs lived in and their dogs, which I imagine to be Alsations (can anybody confirm that?). I still have a scar on my chin which I managed to get when we kids were out collecting frogs. I was holding a tin can to put them in when my sister Kath slipped and fell onto me. I managed to stick my chin into the jagged edge of the tin can. My war wound !!!!!

We returned to England after the war and moved almost every year to different Corps (churches) where my dad was the Officer (vicar). When I was 12yr old we were sent off to the Philippines where my dad ended up running the Salvation Army work for several years. He had so many stories to tell about his time out there but almost never told spoke of his time in China.

In fact a year or two after our return to the UK he had a nervous breakdown (as a result of the Japs) and spent almost a full year in hospital.

Thankfully he made a full recovery and had absolutely no lasting effects of the mental illness.

He was a great guy. He was up to every trick under the sun to make money for the Salvation Army work. For example - when we were in the Philippines the government suddenly came out with a new law forbidding the export of any money at all out of the country. This left hundreds of immensely rich Americans stuck in the Philippines for life as all their money was in the country. The exchange rate was two pesos to the US dollar, but on the black market you could get five to one. The money to run the Salvation Army each year in the Philippines was sent every year from New York. I have no idea how much it was but it was in the millions. So my dad contacted a multi millionaire in Cebu City and suggested a deal. If he put one million dollars into a New York bank would the guy give him five million pesos in Manila. Of course the guy jumped at the chance so my dad had a second uniform made - absolutely huge. He arranged for the transfer of the money from the Salvation Army account in New York directly into the guy's account in New York and then flew from Manila to Cebu wearing his normal Salvation Army uniform and carrying his fat mans uniform in his suitcase. The American had already made a complete body suit of pockets stuffed with 5 million pesos in cash which my dad put on, rather like a policeman's bullet proof vest. He then put on the 'fat' uniform and, accompanied by two armed guards, flew home to Manila. Although my dad admitted that he was acting illegally he said "I really don't care. With this extra 3 million pesos I can build orphanages, hospitals etc".

When we were in the camp - emaciated from the small amount of food which we were allowed - my dad used to climb the outside of the tower that the Japs used to sleep in. He would climb onto the roof, in a hole and quietly wring the necks of a pigeon or two. He would then drop them over the side to my mother who caught them in her apron. I am still amazed that he would risk so much to feed us kids.

There was one Jap who took a liking to me. Apparently he was homesick and had a son back in Japan of my age. I can remember him taking me into the tower and showing me his sword and also letting me play with his dog. One day he gave me two eggs. Now - remember that I had never seen an egg before and I was probably not yet three years old. I took the eggs back to our room and when my mum saw me she was so excited that I threw them onto the floor and ran over for a cuddle. My mum told me that she scraped them off the ground, complete with the earth and dust and cooked them anyway.

My dad was into the black market as well whilst we were in the camp. If anybody wanted something special they would give him the money or a piece of jewellery, etc., and dad would push it up his nose with a written note saying what was to be delivered. When the Chinese rubbish collectors turned up at the Camp my dad would be there waiting for them - along with the Jap guards.

He would catch the eye of the bin man who was into the scheme and then, under the eye of the jap guard, he would put one finger to his nostril and blow hard. Of course the money and note would spray out into the bin (along with other disgusting things!) and the guard would always look away - disgusted. The bin man then picked up the bin

and left. The next time the trash men arrived the man would always put one bin in a particular place, and when it was safe dad would open the bin and inside, attached to the lid, would be the purchases. All this, of course, under the threat of terrible consequences if he was discovered.

I wonder if anybody remembers the Dutch woman who hoarded loads of goodies in her room ? At the end of it all other prisoners found loads of stuff stored - stuff which could perhaps of helped those families with starving kids. Mum used to tell the story of the time when she saw three potatoes lying in the gutter. Carefully checking that no Jap was watching she sat beside them and surreptitiously sneaked them into her pocket. Can you believe it - but this Dutch woman (who was by herself and had no kids to feed) saw what was happening and told my mother that unless she gave her two of them she would report it to the Japs. Oh well, I suppose it takes all sorts to make a world. I doubt that she is still alive - but if she is I hope that she gets to read this, and feels suitably ashamed of herself !

I am now almost 60yrs old and have spent most of my life in the UK. I have never lost the urge to wander and 18 months ago I decided to pack in the working life and come back to the far east to live. Three years ago I had originally intended to move to Malaysia but whilst on a visit there I met a wonderful Thai lady. We are now very happily married and live in Khorat, which is a fairly large town 250 kilometres north east of Bangkok. It is a wonderful place - almost no tourists, almost nobody speaks English and life is marvellous. I have not been so happy for 30 years ! I can often be found wandering through the native markets, or hiking through the mountain jungles, or taking an elephant ride along a jungle river, or just sitting under my banana tree contemplating my navel!

I would lve to hear from you again - and also from any other Weishieners who may read this letter - especially my sister Beryl who OWES ME A LETTER
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I look forward to hearing from you.
Gordon

Re: FW: Weihsien photographs

[Beard](#)

Mar 21, 2002 01:05 PST

Dear Christine,

I can't resist your kind offer to send your photos by attached file, whenever you're free to respond.

Many thanks indeed.

David Beard

Re: FW: Weihsien photographs

[Laura Hope-Gill](#)

Mar 21, 2002 04:44 PST

Dear Christine,

I, too, would love to see the photos!

Sincerely, Laura

Re: Grace Hope-Gill

[stillbrk](#)

Mar 21, 2002 08:03 PST

Just read your message, and it stirred memories of my parents, Ida and Sid Talbot, talking about their gratitude for excellent care from either your grandmother(was she a nurse?) or your grand father. They were great contributors.

Gay Talbot Stratford

Re: FW: Weihsien photographs - and Paintings

[Donald Menzi](#)

Mar 21, 2002 08:23 PST

Christine -- Is it possible for you to send your photos to the whole Weihsien group? I would assume that everyone would want them.

Everyone -- Many of you have sent me a check for the reproduction cost for color copies of my grandmother's set of 22 watercolors of Weihsien scenes, but some of you newcomers may not know about them. She painted them on the blank fly-leafs of Japanese propaganda booklets. I am also including a map showing where she was standing and the direction she was facing for all but two of them, and my grandfather's diary of his time in the camp. Anyone who wants them can have the whole package for the current cost of \$18, which covers my costs of copying and mailing.

I'd be interested in receiving by return email any comments from those of you who have received them already.

RE: FW: Weihsien photographs - and Paintings

[sancton](#)

Mar 21, 2002 08:39 PST

Dear Donald: were you proposing that I send all the photos as attached files to this site? How do you think I should do it without locking people's systems up? There are 31 pixs so I could send a couple at a time as Jpeg files.

Comments please.

Thanks Christine.

Also I can send hard copies to those who prefer.

Re: Jews in China

[Donald Menzi](#)

Mar 21, 2002 08:41 PST

The German Jews you mentioned were probably part of a large group of refugees who managed to escape from the Nazis in the 1930s, most of whom were interned in Shanghai. Some who were doctors found employment elsewhere in China. The Japanese didn't go along with Hitler's policy of extermination, and gave them sanctuary there, though the I think that the task of feeding and housing them was done by voluntary contributions from Chinese relief agencies. A friend of mine was one of these refugees (as a child.) I think that the Japanese were doing it because Jews had helped them finance the war against Russia in the 1890s, though I'm not sure. Try looking for the combination "Jewish refugees shanghai" (all the words) on hotbot.com or another search engine. A good site that tells this story and other information about Jews in China is

<http://www.gluckman.com/ShanghaiJewsChina.html>

Re: FW: Weihsien photographs - and Paintings

[alison holmes](#)

Mar 21, 2002 10:08 PST

Are you overwhelmed by the enthusiasm we all showing for the photographs?

If you could send hard copies I think that would be preferable....but make sure that you charge properly not just for the mailing and the printing but for the time it takes for you to satisfy all your nostalgic customers! My address is [2985 E. Sunset Butte, Prescott, AZ 86301](#) and I would like four sets so that I can send them to the rest of the

Martin clan. Thanks again,

Alison Martin Holmes

RE: FW: Weihsien photographs - and Paintings

[Ron Bridge](#)

Mar 22, 2002 01:14 PST

Note one or two people have complained in the past about the length of time that their systems take to download pictures. I believe on request is the best solution unless Toica can put them on the file for people to extract.

Also has the site enough space for all that.

Rgds

Ron

RE: FW: Weihsien photographs - and Paintings

[Donald Menzi](#)

Mar 22, 2002 11:04 PST

I just thought that you could send one or two at a time, but send them to Weih-@topica.com and they would go to everyone.

RE: Weihsien photographs

[Thompson](#)

Mar 22, 2002 18:20 PST

Dear CTS,

We are all drooling at the prospect of seeing some new pictures of Weihsien.

1. Even my 56 k dial-up modem can download 400 - 500K in about 2 minutes without making me too uncomfortable. As Ron suggests, this would be about 2 snapshot quality pictures per message, and the whole batch could be sent out within 3 weeks.
2. On the other hand, Ron's idea of borrowing space on somebody's web site for a month or two, and putting all the pictures up seems smart. Then you would just have to announce the web site's address and we would all show up and download the pictures. (Is Ofoto still in business ?).
(A permanent collection on our own web site would be very nice ! Every now and then when someone rediscovers an old photo - it could then be added to such a "Weihsien web site" !)
3. The third possibility is for us each to cough up the cost of well made prints (a la Menzi) (eg, archival ink-jet 8X10 prints on good quality heavy-weight matte paper would be good !)
4. I hope that someday you will be able to get publication-quality scans (10 - 20 MB, unfiddled) of each picture to Mary's collection, because someday we ought to have an Album of Weihsien Images (with worthwhile legends) published - especially if photos from Norman Cliff's collection can be included !

Stan Thompson

<http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sancton/>

[sancton](#)

Mar 23, 2002 10:47 PST

Hi friends,

Please go to <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sancton/> to view and download my photographs. Pages 1 and 2 show the small thumbnail copies of the photographs. Click on a thumbnail to access the larger version of a photograph. To save a photograph on your system, in Microsoft Internet Explorer you can go to the larger photograph, right-click on the photograph and then choose 'Save Picture As'.

Thank you to everyone who gave me their advice. We may be able to update the web site with higher quality BMP files at a later date.

See below for the list of photographs. As I am new to the list, I have not seen other people's collections, so I don't know if some of these are duplicates or not.

Cheers,

Christine Talbot Sancton and son Rob -

Weihsien photographs

Chefoo groups: from David Michell

- 1) 25 Brownies outside #13
- 2) Camp Band
- 3) Chefoo Prep School Children, David Michell back left
- 4) Rovers and Rangers 20 in all, outside # 13
- 5) 18 Rangers
- 6) 36 Rovers and Rangers, outside #12/13

- 7) Scouts and Cubs
- 8) 17 Cubs & Leader
- 9) 25 Girl Guides & 2 Leaders outside #13
- 10) 8 Scouts
- 11) 16 Scouts & Leader outside #13
- 12) Arrival in Tsingtao & boarding buses for Edgewater Mansions Hotel by Chefoo students
- 13) Tsingtao arrival by train September 25
- Others from David Michell:14) Camp Church
- 15) Market after end of War outside front gate
- 16) Girl near #18
- 17) Supplies being dropped Sept. 1945
- 18) Block 23, parachute drop
- 19) Block 23
- 20) Eric Liddell's room (and Eric Liddell?)
- 21) Eric Liddell's grave

From Ida Talbot:

- 22) Over looking camp from Block 23 tower
- 23) Over looking camp, 3 figures in foreground
- 24) Milling crowds
- 32) Ida and 4 friends 1945

From Ida Talbot/David Michell:

- 25) Kitchen II
- 26) 4 unidentified people by Camp Gate
- 27) Road Outside Camp
- 28) Searchlight Tower
- 29) Camp Hospital
- 30) Hospital and walls
- 31) Camp Bell War Block

Re: <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sancton/>

[alison holmes](#)

Mar 23, 2002 13:26 PST

These look just wonderful! And could you please send me hard copies as my printer is not up to this. Thanks so much, Alison Martin Holmes

Re: <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sancton/>

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Mar 23, 2002 22:43 PST

Dear Christine. I have enjoyed looking at the photographs. How wonderful to see them. I have not studied them yet but already I recognise your mother (Ida) and four friends. Top left of course is Father Palmers, a Catholic Priest, he was Belgian. I have his autograph which says "Fr. (Initial unreadable) Palmers. To a good crusader. Weihsien. 11 X11 1943" The lady in front is the mother of the young boy top right. His name was I think Nick. His mother was Russian and a friend of my mother Vera Cooke. I think the man with the spectacles could also be a priest - I am looking for his name in my autograph book and I will let you know if I find it. Incidentally I have just found an entry in my book from the Belgian who was the object of a girl from your mother's block's infatuation. He wrote "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who conquers his enemies for the hardest victory is victory over self. 2- Sept 1944, Weihsien". I have his name which I will not include here. In case Natasha Petersen is reading this, I have also just found her signature (Natalie Somoff) in my autograph book together with all the teenagers who took part in the play "Prof. Thomas And His Students" (sic). Regards. Joyce Bradbury, nee Cooke.

Re: <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sancton/>

mtpre-@aol.com

Mar 24, 2002 14:59 PST

What wonderful memory photos! Thank you, thank you, thank you. What a gift to all of us.

The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine used a color rendering of the Block 23 photo as its cover photo when they printed my story as their cover story for the August 25, 1985, edition. An artist colored the photos. The story, "A Song of Salvation at Weihsien Prison Camp," commemorated the 40th anniversary of the ending of World War II.

Those of you with the Salvation Army connection will enjoy this excerpt from that copyrighted story:

We would win the war, of course, and when we did, we would need a Victory March. So on Tuesday evenings -- all so clandestinely, in a small room next to the shoe repair shop -- the Salvation Army band practiced a newly-created Victory Medley. It was a joyful mix of all the Allied national anthems.

Because the Japanese were suspicious of this "army" with its officers, uniforms and military regalia, the Salvation Army in China had changed its Chinese name from "Save the World Army" to "Save the World Church."

The Salvation Army had guts. Right under the nose of the Japanese -- omitting the melodies so the authorities wouldn't recognize the tunes -- Brig. Stranks and his 15 brass instruments practiced their parts of the victory medley each week, sandwiching it between triumphant hymns of the church -- "Onward, Christian Soldiers," "Rise Up, O Men of God," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." We would be ready for any victor -- American, English, Chinese, Russian -- or God. And victory would surely come.

(The story eventually skips to liberation day.)

Lying on my mattress in mid-morning, I heard the drone of an airplane far above the camp. Racing to the window, I watched it sweep lower, slowly lower, and then circle again. It was a giant plane, and it was emblazoned with the American star. Americans were waving at us from the windows of the plane! Beyond the treetops, its belly opened, and I gaped in wonder as giant parachutes drifted slowly to the ground.

Weihsien went mad.

Oh, glorious cure for my diarrhea! I raced for the entry gates and was swept off my feet by the pandemonium. Prisoners ran in circles and pounded the skies with their fists. They wept, cursed, hugged, danced. They cheered themselves hoarse. Wave after wave of prisoners swept me past the guards and into the fields beyond the camp.

A mile away we found them -- seven young Americans -- standing with their weapons ready, surrounded by fields of ripening broom corn

Advancing toward them came a tidal wave of prisoners, intoxicated with joy.

Free in the open fields. Ragtag, barefoot, hollow with hunger. They hoisted the paratroopers' leader onto their shoulders and carried him back toward the camp in triumph.

In the distance, from a mound by the gate, the music of "Happy Days Are Here Again" drifted out into the fields. It was the Salvation Army band blasting its joyful Victory Medley. When they got to "The Star-Spangled Banner," the crowd hushed.

O, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

From up on his throne of shoulders, the young, sun-bronzed American major struggled down to a standing salute. And up on the mound by the gate, one of the musicians in the band, a young American trombonist, crumpled to the ground and wept....#

Audiences weep when I tell this story. I always include this amazing snapshot of the Salvation Army band.

Mary Taylor Previte, a 12-year-old student in the Chefoo School in Weih sien on liberation day.

Re: FW: Weihsien photographs - and Paintings

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](mailto:Joyce.Bradbury (nee Cooke))

Mar 25, 2002 22:52 PST

Dear Ron. I have just received a standard letter from the War Pensions Agency explaining they are only implementing Government policy in refusing my application for ex-gatia payment on the grounds I have not a parent or grandparent born in Uk. They state there is no legislation that allows for an appeal. It seems the only thing to be done is to put pressure on the British Government. This I am happy to do. Can you suggest how? By the way, the photo you have of the hockey team with the name E. Cooke could not have been my father because he never lived in Tientsin but it could be his brother Ernie who was drowned when a submarine torpedoed the Japanese transport conveying him and other POW's to Japan. Also you may be interested to know that Coghill, who signed my passport has a daughter aged in her seventies living in Sydney (Joan Coghill). She has two sons and one of them lives across the road from our property in the country about 200 kilometres from Sydney. His name is Ian and he is married to his mother's young cousin and they have a little baby. Small World isnt it? Regards Joyce Bradbury.

English teachers and medical professionals for work in China

mtpre-@aol.com

Apr 02, 2002 19:01 PST

Hello, Everybody:

Medical Services International (MSI) needs Christian English teachers and medical professionals from around the world to serve in China. MSI says it can use more than 20 English teachers to start service in China this fall.

MSI was founded by Dr. James Hudson Taylor (better known as Jamie Taylor in Chefoo School and Weihsien days) and by Dr. Reginald Tsang. It brings Christian medical professionals, English teachers, and agricultural specialists to underserved areas of China for both short and long term service.

Please spread the word. Those who are interested should contact Dr. James Taylor at presi-@msi-professional.org

Mary Taylor Previte

thanks!

sancton

Apr 03, 2002 05:34 PST

Dear Donald: thank you so much for the paintings of your grandmother and the commentary. I also loved the map indicating where the paintings were painted from, I was unaware of the out of bounds area, I guess I'd never thought about it.

We have a few that my mother painted, also from that period and some were of the same scenes. Perhaps because there was so little of beauty in the Camp, as Langdon Gilkey says, that the artists found beauty in the same few things.

I wonder if they could have known each other. They both painted the crepe myrtle tree for instance! Does that tree remain in flower for a long time?

In reading the diary, the only name I am familiar with is, Dr Robinson as we lived together for a long period in 1943/44 and they remained a pillar of strength for our family, when my mother went to England as a widow in 1949.

Thanks again for all the information. What is you opinion on me copying them for my brother and sister? If you don't agree I will show them to them when I see them later in the year as I know they will be very interested in them.

Ron Bridges said that there were some paintings of Camp in the Imperial War Museum in London.

Did George know Theilhard de Chardin? My mother had him for lunch in Chinwangtao in 1941, I think. He talked about finding the Peiking Man, she got his autograph too. She thought that he had given it to the Americans to take out of China. I have always been intrigued that they have never found the skull, another casualty of war, I suppose.

Thank you so much for sharing this part of your grandparents lives.
Sincerely, Christine Talbot Sancton

Re: thanks!

[Donald Menzi](#)

Apr 03, 2002 08:15 PST

Hi "sancton" (and others who may read this)

I'm glad you like the paintings. You can try copying them with a color copier, but I've found that the copies aren't as good the second time. I'd be happy to make another set if you want them. Eventually, I hope to have a web site with the map and pictures on which anyone can take a virtual "tour" of the camp, and download the pictures to print out themselves if they want to. It might be possible to convert it into a comprehensive Weih sien site, with all of the paintings, photos, maps, bibliography, etc. in one place. If I have time, I'll try to work toward that.

TIENTSIN

most-@hinet.net.au

Apr 11, 2002 02:03 PDT

To all who came from Tientsin, Weih sien, or Saint Louis College, this is the book for you.

"Tientsin" was written by David C. Hulme, and Australian journalist who was at the big reunion in Tientsin, and interviewed many of the attendees.

The stories that he received were about Tientsin, Weih sien, and Saint Louis College, it is great reading, and so very many of my friends are mentioned. Hulme not only interviewed the "foreigners" but also the Chinese pupils of S.L.C. as well as travelling around the World to interview those in Australia, England (Lord Robert Skidelsky...an old boy !), Hong Kong, America and Canada.

Unfortunately in the second paragraph of the acknowledgements he mentions the late Jesse Tracton. Jesse Tracton ne Trachtengaerts (not surprised he changed) was very surprised on hearing of his own demise, and assured me over dinner that he was really very well.

The book can be ordered through the internet www.iunix.com , and depending on your denomination can be as the old fashioned paper (as I did) or to be downloaded through the internet for a reduced cost.

It's not often that you can read about your childhood in such immediacy, and even though I was in SLC for only a fairly short time, between wars and revolutions, it was quite a thrill.

Leonard Mostaert

Old China Hands Reunion

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Apr 11, 2002 06:33 PDT

Hello,

I attended the reunion in Arizona a year or so ago. Did any of you attend the early ones. I am anxious to get a list of names and addresses. I am looking for old - lost friends. One with whom I have lost touch is Joan Waller from Tsingtao. She, her sister Lila and parents were in Weih sien. I was Joan several times when she was living in New York City.. Her husband was working for Radio Liberty - was from Riga originally, and spoke several languages. Is the latest ad. for "Tientsin" legit? Does anyone know? I have not yet tried to access the website.

Natasha

RE: Old China Hands Reunion

most-@hinet.net.au

Apr 11, 2002 23:49 PDT

Natasha

The Tientsin site is certainly legit, as I have received the book (in paper form).

There is only a small mention of Tsingtao in the book section of Weihsien, as it is mainly descriptions and events on the lives of Saint Louis College boys in Tientsin. Off course, your question would have to cover SLC boys that were from Tientsin and had gone to the Weihsien Camp.

Leonard Mostaert

p.s. I am certainly not getting any royalty from the book, it just sounds that way.

sorry

[Natasha Petersen](mailto:Natasha.Petersen)

Apr 12, 2002 11:01 PDT

Fellow Weihsieners,

I would like to thank those of you who responded to my search for Joan Walle. Yes, I misspelled her surname.

Natasha

Visiting Weihsien

[Laura Hope-Gill](mailto:Laura.Hope-Gill)

Apr 16, 2002 05:58 PDT

Dear All,

I will be going to China this summer (June-July) and will visit the school/ camp. If anyone can give me contact information for the headmaster and any kind contacts I would be deeply appreciative. Also, I would love to have directions to Weihsien, which I understand is now called Weifang. I will be teaching in a rural area near Dalian. If you know of some not-to-miss sights and places, I'd love to know about them

Sincerely,

Laura Hope-Gill (Grand-daughter of Grace and Donald)

Weihsien list

[Natasha Petersen](mailto:Natasha.Petersen)

Apr 17, 2002 09:19 PDT

I have written to Mary Previte, and we have decided to send the following message.

Our Weihsien list seems to have a number of unknown e-mail addresses. Mary and I feel that it is time to delete those who are not interested in our web-site and messages.

If you wish to remain on the list, please advise me. Write to me at nata-@infi.net. I will not delete any e-mail addresses until June 1, 2002

In addition please do the following: click on your list name showing in the Topica account and input your name in the appropriate field. When posting your name will be displayed.

Best wishes to all.

Natasha

name input

[Natasha Petersen](mailto:Natasha.Petersen)

Apr 17, 2002 13:00 PDT

Hello,

go to www.topica.com/lists/weihsien see whether there is a listname to click if there is click on your own e-mail address this should bring up a name field - enter your name go to bottom of page click save changes

There should be 'Read this list' giving you the archives

My Topica may be set up differently.

If someone has been able to enter his name in the appropriate field, please send e-mail with instructions.

Natasha

Re: Weihsien list

[Laura Hope-Gill](#)

Apr 17, 2002 15:11 PDT

Dear Natasha,

Please keep my name on the list.

Laura Hope-Gill

sorry

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Apr 17, 2002 16:11 PDT

Sorry; that is www.topica.com

Natasha

Re: name input

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Apr 17, 2002 21:55 PDT

Dear Natasha. I have not been able to access the topica list to add my name but I wish to remain subscriber. Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

Re: name input

[Beard](#)

Apr 18, 2002 05:00 PDT

I could access the archives, but not the List names. 'List names' wasn't clickable. I want to remain on the List.

David Beard

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Apr 18, 2002 05:17 PDT

I will type in your names as signed by you on the "wish to remain" list.

I have been rereading and printing out messages from the archives. It is most interesting.

To access, go to www.topica.com/lists/weihsien click on 'Read this list'

Do hope that this works. I am not a computer whiz, and ask your indulgence.

Natasha

topica

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Apr 18, 2002 05:54 PDT

TOPICA site will be down this Saturday for twelve hours during the day.

Natasha

Re: list - weihsien

[alison holmes](#)

Apr 18, 2002 16:35 PDT

Keep me on the list please...just in case there comes a new person with a new thought! Thanks. Alison Holmes

Weihhsien

[David Birch](#)

Apr 18, 2002 19:20 PDT

I think we all realize that we owe a debt of gratitude to Natasha for starting this list. I would not want to lose my place on it.

Re: list - weihsien

[jim bryant](#)

Apr 18, 2002 20:58 PDT

I don't seem to find a "wish to stay on list" option.

Re: Weihsien

[Donald Menzi](#)

Apr 19, 2002 08:33 PDT

This list has been a wonderful source of connections to my grandparents' experiences in Weihsien. The fact that my grandmother's paintings are so appreciated brings me great joy. Many thanks to everyone for participating.

Keep me on the list

Donald Menzi

Art teacher.

[sancton](#)

Apr 19, 2002 11:03 PDT

Dear Zandy: It was so nice to talk to you when you called the other day from Australia.

Thanks for identifying some of the people in the photographs. If any one else knows any of the others, perhaps you could add their names to the list. Zandy mentioned that it was Ron Chew(sp?) who took those photos of the parachute drops.

Also Zandy, you mentioned having art classes in camp. Did you recognise the photo of Gertrude Wilder that Don Menzies sent you? My mother has a note saying that their art class made a presentation of a painting(or 2)to a Peter Travers Smith near the end of the war. Was he one of the art teachers?

Regards, Christine Talbot Sancton

here is my updated photo list:

Weihsien photographs updated info by Zandy Strangman Chefoo groups: from David Michell

- 1) 25 Brownies outside #13
- 2) Camp Band
- 3) Chefoo Prep School Children, David Michell back left
- 4) Rovers and Rangers 20 in all, outside # 13
- 5) 18 Rangers
- 6) 36 Rovers and Rangers, outside #12/13
- 7) Scouts and Cubs
- 8) 17 Cubs & Leader: back row, dark shirt: Ron Bridges
- 9) 25 Girl Guides & 2 Leaders outside #13
- 10) 8 Scouts: 2nd left: Lawson Barnes
- 11) 16 Scouts & Leader outside #13
- 12) Arrival in Tsingtao & boarding buses for Edgewater Mansions Hotel by Chefoo students
- 13) Tsingtao arrival by train September 25 Others from David Michell:14) Camp Church
- 15) Market after end of War outside front gate
- 16) Girl near #18: Bessie Atree(?sp) who lived near 17/18
- 17) Supplies being dropped Sept. 1945: these first plane were the Liberators photo possibly by Ron Chew
- 18) Block 23, parachute drop: photo possibly by Ron Chew
- 19) Block 23
- 20) Eric Liddell's room: Gene Heubener in room he shared. (from David Michell's book)
- 21) Eric Liddell's grave

From Ida Talbot:

- 22) Over looking camp from Block 23 tower
- 23) Over looking camp, 3 figures in foreground: Ron Chew and wife Lily and Chinese cameraman's assistant who didn't duck out of the photo quickly enough.
- 24) Milling crowds
- 32) IdaTalbot & Fr Palmers, Mr Ouerkirk, Mrs Ore and son Nicholas who was one of the stokers of the fires in the hospital kitchen with Zandy Strangman 1945

From Ida Talbot/David Michell:

- 25) Kitchen II (or is it kitchen 1?) and Lily Chew
- 26) 4 unidentified people by Camp Gate: Lily Chew and daughter with 2 others.
- 27) Road Outside Camp
- 28) Searchlight Tower
- 29) Camp Hospital
- 30) Hospital and walls
- 31) Camp Bell War Block

Weih sien names and e-mail addresses

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Apr 19, 2002 11:44 PDT

As soon as I get all the "keep me on the list" requests, I will try to send all the e-mail addresses and the names that go with them. I believe that I can copy e-mail addresses and just add the names to each. Give me time.

At present, I am able to get the e-mail address of the person sending the e-mail, if I print out the message. See whether that works for you.

Natasha

Re: Art teacher.

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Apr 19, 2002 20:54 PDT

Dear Christine. Yes, Peter Travers Smith was the art teacher. My brother Eddie Cooke has one of his paintings. Joyce Bradbury.

(no subject)

[Bobbie](#)

Apr 20, 2002 19:46 PDT

Dear Natasha

My computer has been playing up (which really means I'm not too good at getting it right) please keep my name on the list. Thanks Bobbie Backhouse (nee Bridger)

Re: Weih sien list

[Mary Previte](#)

Apr 21, 2002 15:06 PDT

Hello, Natasha,

Yes, I definitely want to remain on the TOPICA WEIHSIEN list. Thank you SO much for this world-spanning gift you've given to all of us.

Mary Taylor Previte

Jim Hannon's manuscript about Amelia Earhart and Weih sien

[Mary Previte](#)

Apr 21, 2002 18:10 PDT

Hello, Everybody,

Some of you may be interested in a question Natasha has asked me: Has Jim Hannon published his book about Weih sien and Amelia Earhart? For some of you new to our Weih sien Bulletin Board, Jim Hannon is one of the six Americans who liberated Weih sien in August 1945. Several years ago -- using a pseudonym -- he wrote an article in the Amelia Earhart Association Magazine saying that in 1945 he found a woman in Weih sien (identified as "the Yank") whom he believed was Amelia Earhart. He described this woman as heavily sedated by the Japanese and kept in separate quarters. Within the last couple of years he told this same story to a California newspaper which covered almost a full page with his account.

Our other rescuers say the story is bunk.

As far as I know, Jim Hannon has not yet published his book about Weih sien and Amelia Earhart. (A zealot of the

Amelia Earhart Association quizzed me mercilessly about this a couple of years ago when he heard that Jim had published the book. Believe me, these Earhart devotees don't give up. I don't know why these people don't ask Jim directly. I did.) Jim has talked to me about it several times both on the telephone and when I visited him and his wife a couple of years ago in Palm Springs, California. Though they showed me plans for illustrating the cover of his Earhart/Weihsien book, he has been secretive about this project. But, then, I find that he keeps most information about himself and his projects close to his chest. He does have a couple of other books in print. He sent me a copy of his novel, THE SAVAGE AMERICAN, and tells me someone is interested in turning this into a movie. You can find his writing listed on AMAZON.COM under the name James Jess Hannon.

Most recently he has been working on a book -- and I think a screen play -- about his own experience in -- and escape from -- a German POW camp in Europe in 1944.

Jim was interviewed a few months ago for Stephen Spielberg's SHOAH project -- capturing the oral history of the Holocaust. Jim told them his own story of being a prisoner of war in Germany. Jim is very hopeful that the connection with the Spielberg organization may open their doors to filming his stories.

Jim and his wife, Gin, work non-stop on his manuscripts as a two-person team. Jim writes by hand on legal pads and Gin types the manuscripts and screen plays for submission to publishers. After Jim was almost killed in an accident several years ago and he became plagued with double vision from that accident, the Hannon family retired to the California high desert to concentrate exclusively on his writing. Gin tells me they now have a garage-full of Jim's manuscripts. With Jim in his 80s and both suffering from a variety of health problems, their sense of mortality keeps them writing full time -- racing against the clock.

When we chat by e-mail, I tell them that I admire their astonishing discipline and productivity. Bless my soul! May I be as disciplined as they are when I'm in my 80s.

Mary T. Previte

A Newly Discovered Description of Life in Weihsien

[Donald Menzi](#)

Apr 22, 2002 20:56 PDT

I have attached a description of the way that life was organized in the Weihsien internment camp written by Howard Galt, a missionary and teacher at Yenching University, Peking (now part of Beijing University) in 1943. Galt was a friend of my grandparents, and his description makes a good introduction to George Wilder's diary, for those of you who already have that document. I obtained a copy of Galt's hand-written manuscript from the Yale Divinity School library, after seeing it mentioned among the sources used by John Hersey in his novel, "The Call," which describes a fictionalised character based in part on Hugh Hubbard, who was my grandfather's best friend. I have "digitalized" it in MS Word, and thought that some of you might find it interesting. I hope you enjoy it.

If you have trouble opening the file, let me know and I'll send you a copy in the mail.

Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weihsien

[Donald Menzi](#)

Apr 22, 2002 21:06 PDT

I sent you all the email message below, but it bounced back with the message that it was too big. Apparently Topica won't transmit attachments of more than minimal size, so if you are interested in receiving a copy of Howard Galt's description of life in Weihsien, please respond to this email and I will email it to you individually, rather than to the group as a whole. It is 19 pages long, and you can have it in either MS Word or WordPerfect formats.

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weihsien

[alison holmes](#)

Apr 23, 2002 08:08 PDT

Yes please! What a gift you have been to us all! I so appreciate your new discoveries and the depth they provide. . Tell me about George Wilder's diary as well. Is this published? Can one get it? Interesting that the grandchildren are doing the research that brings a new life to childhood memories. Thank you so much!

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weih sien

[Gordon Buist](#)

Apr 24, 2002 03:32 PDT

Thanks Donald.

I would love a copy in MS Word if possible.

Regards

Gordon Buist

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weih sien

[Donald Menzi](#)

Apr 24, 2002 06:52 PDT

Those of you who are requesting copies of Galt's manuscript need to include your email address in your message, since Topica only gives itself as a return address. If you've already sent an email without it, please ask again.

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weih sien

[alison holmes](#)

Apr 24, 2002 08:08 PDT

Sorry about that, Donald! Ahol-@prescott.com; Thanks

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weih sien

[stillbrk](#)

Apr 24, 2002 11:00 PDT

Good of you to make Galt's manuscript available. My e-mail address is stil-@eagle.ca thanks, Gay Talbot Stratford

e-mail address

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Apr 24, 2002 12:39 PDT

Dear Subscribers,

If you copy the e-mail sent to you, the e-mail address of the person sending to all weih sien subscribers should show up. It does for me. You can print only one page if the message seems to be very long.

Natasha

Re: e-mail address

[Donald Menzi](#)

Apr 24, 2002 14:47 PDT

Natasha --

I do get the email address of the sender if they originate the message. However, when it's just a reply to my message, it comes without the individual email address of the person who is replying. Is this different from what you get?

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weih sien

[Gordon Buist](#)

Apr 24, 2002 19:13 PDT

Donald, here is my e-mail address.....gor-@korat.anet.net.th

Many thanks

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weih sien

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Apr 24, 2002 21:38 PDT

I would be grateful to receive Howard Galt's description. My email is : bobj-@tpg.com.au Thank you. Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

RE: Weih sien names and e-mail addresses and UK GOvt Ex Gratia

[Ron Bridge](#)

Apr 26, 2002 02:51 PDT

I have been out of the loop for eleven days hiding in a small cottage in rural France, I did not take my lap top with me and was off e-mail. Only conact was mobile for emergencies.

One I would like to stay on the Weih sien list Two, for those interested about the people that were rejected by the British Government for an ex gratia payment for being interned by the Japanese due to lack of proving grandparents born in the UK although holding British passports under the British Nationality and Alien Registrations Act of 1914, having changed the rules seven months after announcing that they would be eligible. ABCIFER are trying to get the rule changed to get the Govt to adhere to their original statement.

The case of HM The Queen petitioned by R W Bridge on Behalf of ABCIFER v The Ministry Of Defence was heard on 15 Apr 2002 at 11...am ABCIFER were represented by Barristers Ben Jaffey and Michael ordham - Solicitor Richard Stein of Leigh Day & Co

The result is that leave to go to Judicial Review was granted

The next stage is a full hearing in the High Court London on 25th July 2002 but the result may not be known until October.

Apologies for the delay but I had to cancel four days of a holiday to be in Court on the 15th and then rushed straight off to catch up with my wife. I did not take my lap top with me and was off e-mail.

Rgds

Ron Bridge

Chairman

Re: Howard Galt's Description of Life in Weih sien

[Fred Dreggs](#)

Apr 26, 2002 20:44 PDT

DearDonald,

I should be very pleased if you could send me a copy of the abve-mentioned subject matter.MSWord will be fine. My email address is dre-@powerup.com.au.

With thanks,

Fred

Re: Weih sien names and e-mail addresses and UK GOvt Ex Gratia

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

Apr 26, 2002 22:50 PDT

Thank you Ron for the update about the latest court proceedings. There's still hope yet, thanks to you. Regards Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

Re: A Newly Discovered Description of Life in Weih sien

[Gregory John Strangman](#)

Apr 28, 2002 23:55 PDT

Yes please Donald, my father (Zandy Strangman) would love to have a look at that.

Thanks, thestra-@bigpond.com.au Greg

Combined Reply

[Gregory John Strangman](#)

Apr 28, 2002 23:55 PDT

Hi Christine Sancton and Donald Menzi, I've enjoyed reading your Emails and noted the keen interest you younger folk have for a clearer picture of how things really were for all of us, at Weih sien 59 years ago. And I'm moved by that. You did well to remember so many details from our chat. Since then, I've tried to talk Sylvia, Roy Tchoo's

daughter into giving her fathers story some light, as it's worth knowing. He was, after all, a most interesting and enterprising internee, full of ability, as reported by Des Power in the end chapters of his book, 'Little Foreign Devil'. Who else would have had a loaded camera on hand, ready to capture for posterity, that moment the first plane, the big 'silvery' B24 Liberator came thundering out of the clearblue sky, that morning. Then swooping in low over the camp on it's second pass to unload it's welcome cargo of 7 'gung-ho' paratroopers onto the 'gow-liang fields, outside the camp. (not one included in your 32 photos.) Reliving the moment as I stood in a clearing in front of block 22, open mouthed then screaming with excitement as the ear-splitting din from those 4 big engines drowned me out. The thought of which still brings on the goose pimples, today.

Then there was the adventure of " the great escape". Where together with Fr. de Jaegher, the Belgium priest, and Roy's fluency in Chinese the key to the outside connection which ultimately enabled Arthur Hummel and Larry Tipton to "go over the wall" on that memorable night and to 'freedom'. In it's own way, it was a helluva risky affair that caused quite a stir and huge embarrassment for the Japanese authorities. It's a shame so little ever came to light on it. Finally as our time in camp drew to a close, Roy's skills were called upon again to negotiate our safe passage out by rail. But it is history now, most of us had to be flown out on US C47s.

In photo 20, you named Gene Hubener. I remember him being heavier set. And he was indeed a scout master, earlier.

Bessie Attree (2 t's) I understand is living in Texas as is younger sister, Lucy.

The lad in grubby working overalls was my stoking shift partner, Nick. Due to difficult to light , hospital diet kitchen fires, we were required to make an early start, 3:30 am no less. As a 15 year old, it was both exciting and eerie making my way across a sleeping camp, from block 22 , hoping I would not run into a Jap guard in the dark. Finally as Joyce Bradbury has confirmed, Travers-Smith did actually conduct art classes. A couple I attended were held in an upper floor room of the hospital building with an extra large window vantage point , giving a panoramic view of the surrounding country scene.

Hi Donald, I wish I could help with your remembrances of your grandmother, but as a 13.5 year old at the time and 59 years later, down the track, most of her image has faded on me. I only remember the occasion this kind lady and I took up a position facing big block 23, with paper and board on our lap and I watching how she began her sketch. I'd like to think it was Gertrude Wilder. I can't imagine who else it could have been and don't remember her there in 44 or 45. There was a huge exodus from camp at the latter end of our first year. Besides the repatriation of half? of the Americans, 700 of the catholic nuns and priests left us as well. Taking with them our most entertaining and charismatic group, the flamboyant , softball playing padres. My sporting roll models, who never lost a game and now THEY were gone . At the time this had a bad effect on my morale, at being left behind , if you know what I mean. At least, now there was more room in camp. But not for long. The Chefoo school kids promptly arrived . And when Italy surrendered, they too, were sent to join us. All of this is well documented in Langdon Gilkey's book , 'Shantung Compound', if you are interested, enough.

Thanks for your kind offer of your grandmothers paintings. I'd really love that but I'll have to work out how to get a M/O to you, and wonder in what form would the prints be sent? Surely, the US \$18 couldn't cover postage, too? Your address and phone number would come in handy. sent to my son, Greg's Email address, of course. I'm also interested in your kind offer of Howard Galt's work and hope you will take the opportunity to tell me a bit about yourself. I assume your mother was your connection to Gertrude Wilder? Was your mother in camp, too by any chance?

With best regards to you both,
Alexander (Zandy) Strangman

Watercolour paintings WeiHsien

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

May 10, 2002 22:04 PDT

Hello everybody. My brother Eddie Cooke, who was in WeiHsien with me and my family has some beautiful water colours done for him in camp.

- (1) by Travers-Smith, Member of the Royal Art Academy, London (MRAA) of the ball field and tower;
- (2) the main gateway done by M S Jamieson another camp art teacher;
- (3) a coolie with bamboo pole and two buckets attending to his duties by Ursula Simmons dated 1944;
- (4) a camp scene by (Bobby) Simmons dated 1/9/44. Also

(5) a caricature of inmates involved in Wei-hsien activities drawn by Tom Nott.

I am happy to send scans of each if you give me your individual email addresses as I do not wish to clog up the Topica address. The first three are in colour and the fourth is black and white.

Regards Joyce Bradbury. Sydney Australia.

Re: Watercolour paintings WeiHsien

alison_holmes

May 11, 2002 10:48 PDT

Yes please, Joyce! Ahol-@prescott.edu. Thank you, Alison Martin Holmes

Re: Watercolour paintings WeiHsien

Laura Hope-Gill

May 11, 2002 11:04 PDT

I too would love to see them. lauraho-@aol.com.

Thanks!

Laura

Re: Watercolour paintings WeiHsien

Emily Patterson Bryant

May 11, 2002 19:44 PDT

We would love it if you could send us the pictures. please send paintings to jebry-@yahoo.com

deletion

Natasha Petersen

May 14, 2002 06:54 PDT

On the last day of the month I will be deleting e-mail addresses of those who have not notified me. The following have written. Previte, Bryant, Beard, Thompson, Bridge, Birch, Bradbury, Holmes, Nordmo Horton, Backhouse, Menzi, Buist, Granger, Dreggs, Mostaert, Crick, Talbot Sancton, Stratford, Gill
After the first, I will send out the list of names and the e-mail addresses.

Natasha

RE: DELETION

Laura Hope-Gill

May 14, 2002 08:08 PDT

please don't delete me: lauraho-@aol.com

Thanks,

Laura

(NO SUBJECT)

adriank-@aol.com

May 14, 2002 14:59 PDT

Dear Natasha, Please don't delete me. Sylvia Walker

NORMAN CLIFF

Mary Previte

May 14, 2002 19:56 PDT

Natasha,

Norman Cliff e-mailed me an inquiry a few days ago, asking how to join the WEIHSIEN bulletin board. He wrote that he had just been given internet access as a gift. I gave him instructions on how to join. Have you heard

from Norman? He ranks near the top of our Weihsien/Chefoo historians.

Mary Previte

RE: DELETION

IMACC-@AOL.COM

May 18, 2002 08:48 PDT

Please do not delete me from the list.

Regards,

Iain Macpherson

FRED DREGGS

[Leonard Mostaert](mailto:Leonard.Mostaert)

May 19, 2002 01:05 PDT

Fred

I am having trouble e-mailing to your address. Perhaps I have it all wrong. Would you please send me the full address.

Len Mostaert No.248

FW: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS WEIHSIEN

[alison holmes](mailto:alison.holmes)

May 22, 2002 16:03 PDT

Did my message not get through? I would really like to have the watercolours! Thank you.

WATERCOLOURS OF WEIHSIEN

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](mailto:Joyce.Bradbury)

May 24, 2002 02:42 PDT

Dear All

My apologies for the delay in sending to all who have asked for the watercolours. My husband has been the "shingles" and I am too stupid to learn the email (my son Tom is typing this as I recite!). Bob is recovering slowly so you should receive them in the not too distant future.

I have had so many requests for them, so I will probably send them to Weihsien Topica rather than individually. Once again, my apologies for the delay, but you WILL get them soon.

regards

Joyce

Deletion

[Natasha Petersen](mailto:Natasha.Petersen)

May 24, 2002 11:07 PDT

The following have written and WILL NOT BE DELETED.

Mary Previte, Emily Bryant, David Beard, Stan Thompson, Ron Bridge, David Birch, dJoyce Bradbury;, Allison Holmes, Iain Macpherson, Audrey Nordmo Horton, Bobbie Backhouse (Bridger), Donald Menzi, Gordon Buist, Theresa Granger Myrtle Sharp

At the end of May, I shall delete those who have not written to me. I shall send out the names of all remaining subscribers and the e-mail address of each.

My e-mail address is: nata-@infi.net

Natasha

additional names to non deletion list

[Natasha Petersen](mailto:Natasha.Petersen)

May 24, 2002 11:13 PDT

ADDITIONAL LISTING

The following have written and WILL NOT BE DELETED.

Mary Previte, Emily Bryant, David Beard, Stan Thompson, Ron Bridge, David Birch, Joyce Bradbury;, Allison

Holmes, Iain Macpherson, Audrey Nordmo Horton, Bobbie Backhouse (Bridger), Donald Menzi, Gordon Buist, Theresa Granger Myrtle Sharp

At the end of May, I shall delete those who have not written to me. I shall send out the names of all remaining subscribers and the e-mail address of each.

My e-mail address is: nata-@infi.net

Natasha

Zandy Strangman, Fred Dreggs, Leonard Mostaert, Jo &: Ben Crick Christine Talbot Sancton, Gay Talbot Stratford, Laura Hope Gill, Sylvia Walker.

I do hope that I am not omitting anyone.

Re: Watercolours of Weih sien

[Donald Menzi](#)

May 24, 2002 11:39 PDT

Unfortunately I think you will find that Topica won't handle attachments for lists. I have had to send the Galt documents individually. However, by the end of the summer I hope to have a Weih sien web sit up and running that will enable anyone to place documents or pictures there, and anyone else to download them. This would make the whole process quite easy, but it will probably not be ready until August.

New to List

[Greg Leck](#)

May 24, 2002 14:30 PDT

Greetings all!

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Greg Leck and I come from a family of Old China Hands. My grandfather, Oliver "Nutty" Hall, joined the Chinese Maritime Customs in Shanghai in 1910. He married a Chinese woman, Sue Soo, and they raised a large family in several of the treaty ports along the coast of China. From 1926 to 1932 they lived in Tientsin. I have a family photograph with two of the Cooke brothers, one called "Jolly" taken in that city. After a year in Macau the family moved to Shanghai. Two of my uncles, Joe and Dick Hall, left before the war. They had been standout athletes at Tientsin Grammar School and continued to be so at Public and Thomas Hanbury School in Shanghai. After the Japanese takeover of the International Settlement the family was evicted from their home at Holt's Wharf and lived in an apartment on Avenue Road until internment.

Family members were not in Weishien but spent time in Pootung, Lughwa, and Lincoln Avenue camps. After the war, remaining family left one by one until my mother, the youngest, left with her parents for Hong Kong in 1952.

I am an avid historian and am busily researching this time period in Chinese history. I'm currently involved in several projects dealing with the Japanese internment of Allied civilians in China.

Can anyone tell me the name of Father Scanlon's autobiography?

Thanks,

Greg

Re: New to List

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

May 25, 2002 17:56 PDT

Greg,

Thanks for the email !

Re: deletion

[Zandy Strangman](#)

May 26, 2002 01:53 PDT

Dear Natasha,

Sorry this has taken so long to reply, but did you receive my dad's email (3/5/02)? In it, dad said he would like to stay on the list as well.

All the best

Greg Stragman

Re: Watercolours of Weihsien

[Zandy Strangman](#)

May 26, 2002 04:53 PDT

Yes please Joyce. thestra-@bigpond.com.au Thank you. Zandy Strangman

RE: New to List

[Greg Leck](#)

May 26, 2002 17:34 PDT

Dear Joyce,

Thanks for your note about Father Scanlon's book. I will keep an eye out for it.

The photo I have of Jolly Cooke (and also another Cooke, whom I don't recall the first name of at the moment" was taken in 1932 or so at the Tingzhi (spelling?) or Chinese Pavilion in Gordon Park (?) in Tientsin. Something to do with local football (soccer to us Americans). I'd like to scan a copy of it and email it to you or mail you a hard copy, with a view to showing it to Jolly to see if he can give me any insights on it. Most of the people are identified and include Chief Lawless and Desmond Power's stepfather.

Secondly, I would love to purchase a copy of your book. Do you have a copy available for sale?

Thanks,

Greg Leck

Re: Deletion

[Fred Dreggs](#)

May 26, 2002 21:44 PDT

Dear Natasha,

I thought that I had already advised you that I wanted to stay on the list, but if not here is my confirmation that I do want to stay on.

With thanks,

Fred Dreggs

No Subject

[Mary Previte](#)

May 27, 2002 04:24 PDT

To answer Leck's questions –

---1. Ron Bridge knows a lot about Tianjing and about the camps. He has lists and lists of names of internees in all camps.

His e-mail is rwbr-@freeuk.com;

---2. To order Scanlan's book try Abbot Thomas Davis, Abbey of New Clairvaux, Vina, California. If unsuccessful, come back to me to trace the Order in this country from which I got my copy.

---3. History of internment camps. See my PRISONERS OF THE SAMURAI - £10 incl. postage. Please write to: DR. NORMAN H. CLIFF, 4 HALL TERRACE, HAROLD WOOD, ESSEX RM3 OXR, U.K.

Peter Bazire rang me today to tell me that Theo had died.

I certainly have info. to contribute to the bulletin board.

Greetings to you, NORMAN CLIFF

Peter Bazire

[Mary Previte](#)

May 27, 2002 05:07 PDT

Word comes from Norman Cliff that Theo Bazire has died. Theo was one of the Chefoo School students in Weihsien. His mother, Eileen Bazire was a teacher, musician and artist whose job was to coordinate use of the piano at Weihsien and to facilitate musical events. She copied sheets of music for use by music groups. I have a

few of her watercolors and also a couple of the watercolor posters she created, announcing cultural events -- lectures, concerts -- at Weihsien. When I visited the Bazires in England in 1985, she told me that the Japanese ruled that no posters could be displayed unless they had first screened and approved them. Proof of their approval was their "CHOP" on the poster. Eileen Bazire said she thought she had the best job in the camp.
Mary Previte

Re: Deletion

[Natasha Petersen](#)

May 27, 2002 06:32 PDT

Dear Fred,

Your name was on the list NOT TO BE DELETED.

Natasha

Re: Peter Bazire

[alison holmes](#)

May 27, 2002 08:42 PDT

Thanks for the news, Mary, I hold happy memories of Theo in my heart. How about scanning Eileen's pictures and sending them off to us all?! It is so wonderful to be building up this dossier of memories. Thanks, Alison

joining the club

[Norman Howard Cliff](#)

May 27, 2002 08:58 PDT

It is good to know that I have been accepted into the weihsien club. I will shortly be making a contribution.

In the meantime here are two items -

John Moyler of Weihsien has died of cancer. He was the source of much fun at the meetings of ABCIFER with his symbols of each camp under an umbrella.

Believe it or not a Weihsien widow and Weihsien widower are getting married. Joyce Stranks married Marcy Ditmansen. They did medical work in Taiwan. She is marrying Joe Cotterill, who married Jeanie Hills (Chefoo School teacher) while in camp (I know because I had to move out of a small room on the top floor of the Hospital to make way for the newly weds)

I am going for a 9 week visit to China in July. At 77 I think that will be my last.

Weihsien greetings to you all, NORMAN CLIFF.

RE: No Subject

[Greg Leck](#)

May 27, 2002 10:33 PDT

Dear Listmembers,

Thank you everyone for your warm welcome and your replies to my posting.

I have been in contact with Ron Bridge for the past year or so and we have exchanged information about the various camp lists.

I was fortunate to locate a copy of Father Scanlon's autobiography. I also have read Norman Cliff's monograph about the internment camps as well as dozens of others dealing with different aspects of internment.

Several of you have written directly to me and I will be contacting you off list in regards to questions I have. I'm also working my way through the archived postings of the list and hope to contact some members about their older postings as well.

Sincerely,

Greg Leck

Hullo Dwight!

I've often wondered where you were and how everything is going for you. I first learned about "[weih-@topica.com](#)" through a letter (by conventional mail) sent out by Mary Taylor Previte the year before last, as I recall. Apparently PBS television in the US produced a nostalgic "look back" show about Weihsien internees and our camp. Following this program, which generated a lot of interest, one of our fellow former internees, Natasha Petersen, set up this most convenient internet link to enable her fellow Weihsien alumni to keep in touch with one another. I'm tremendously grateful to Natasha for her generosity and for all the trouble she has gone to. I've been personally contacted by several of my friends from long ago--all as a result of our making use of this invaluable site!

My personal e-mail address is gdauid-@yahoo.com. I'd love to hear from you.

David Birch

Just Found

[Dwight W. Whipple](#)

May 27, 2002 21:45 PDT

Just found the "list" and some familiar names and certainly familiar places. What is everybody up to? And what is the purpose of all this? It is intriguing!

~dwight whipple

WELCOME DWIGHT!!!

[David Birch](#)

May 28, 2002 15:17 PDT

Dear Dwight. I have a photograph of your sister Lorna with you standing behind her in a group photo of a play we had in our first camp in. It is in my autobiographical book. Welcome to WeiHsien topica. You will love it. I remember you as about my brother Eddie's age, maybe a little younger. I am in a big hurry at the moment but I would like to chat with you. Love Joyce Bradbury (Nee Cooke.) Ex Tsingtao. Singtao

re PBS programme.

[Christine Talbot Sancton](#)

May 29, 2002 06:09 PDT

Dear Mary: I was just reading David Birch's message to Dwight Whipple. I hadn't heard of the PBS programme that you were involved in. Is it possible to get a transcript of it? Or perhaps even the video?

I was looking through some papers listed with the Yale Library and saw some several references to Weihsien, one submitted by a Ruth Brack. Was she an internee too?

It is fascinating to me to read other people's experiences in Weihsien as I have so few actual personal memories!
Regards, Christine Talbot Sancton

Fw: OCH - New Book

[Natasha Petersen](#)

May 29, 2002 08:00 PDT

OCH - New Book I am sure that some of you are on Peter Stein's list. For those who are not, this may be of interest.
Natasha

----- Original Message -----

From: Peter Stein

To: meas-@alum.mit.edu

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2002 9:57 PM

Subject: OCH - New Book

Dear Old China Hands!

It's been a long time since we've been in touch!

Partly to clean the e-mail list I am sending you news about a new book by one of our own. Hope you like it!

Stay in touch!

Peter Stein, Organized of OCH 2000 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

NEW BOOK

Concealed Identities

By Felipe B. Nery

Colma, CA

ISBN No. 0-7596-9341-2, Production I.D. 9673

First Books Library, 2595 Vernal Pike, Bloomington, IN 47404-2782

USA & Canada Toll Free: 1-800-839-8640,

Outside USA: 1- 812-339-6000

www.1stbooks.com

US\$16.25 includes shipping & handling in USA, inquire about for other destinations.

Felipe B. Nery: My family and I had close ties to the former Portuguese Colony of Macau and for about 30 years I lived in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Macau. I have been living in the U. S. A. for almost 51 years and have become a U. S. citizen.

This novel involves an American (Caucasian), his Chinese wife and their son. They lived in Hong Kong enjoying apparent freedom and happiness but for the unfortunate disaster that blew up a car the American unknowingly sold to some Chinese mobsters. These mobsters obviously used the car to engage in a gun battle with a rival gang. The mobsters blamed the American, who as a car dealer dumped on them what they perceived to be a defective vehicle, rather than on their own inadequacy and shortcomings in the fight.

From that day on, they made life miserable for the American and his family, at times even threatening to kill them. For their peace of mind, they had no choice but to leave Hong Kong secretly and to settle in the San Francisco Bay area in California. In spite of the precautions taken to protect their identities, the American was assassinated and the police at first believed it was the work of the Chinese mobster, but later changed their minds, pinning the crime on the victim's business partner who was instantly arraigned and incarcerated.

A sensational court battle ensued, headed by a renowned defense attorney who practically performed a miracle going through a minefield of evidence after evidence, witness after witness and accusation after accusation to have his client at long last acquitted and proven innocent of the crime. The real culprit was then exposed and apprehended.

A mystery novel replete with suspense and courtroom drama, thrilling and informative, giving one a rare insight into how our laws work.

Re: re PBS programme.

[Dwight W. Whipple](#)

May 29, 2002 08:31 PDT

I think all of us would be interested in the PBS video if it is available.

~Dwight

Re: Just Found

[Dwight W. Whipple](#)

May 29, 2002 08:37 PDT

Dear Joyce

Thanks for your message. I am so delighted to find this network of folk from days gone by. Is there really a picture from our "camp" days? Must have been the Iltis Hydro (sp?), Tsingtao experience from what you have indicated.

Is your autobiographical book in print? If so, how does one obtain a copy? So many questions! Please notice that I am copying my sister, Lorna, with this message.

~Dwight

Who was Marina?

[Norman Cliff](#)

May 29, 2002 10:08 PDT

In Aug. 1995 a small group of weihsieners returned to Weih sien to celebrate 50 years since Liberation.

Their picture was shown on the local TV, and their story told. A Chinese, whose home had been in Weih sien, saw the photo and listened to the narrative.

His attention was immediately arrested. In the group was "a lady with blue eyes and blond hair. Her gestures and facial expressin seemed so familiar to me." Could she be Marina "the pale, thin and weak little girl of 50 years ago?"

In his article in the Chinese press he says, "That night I could not sleep. I recalled that all the foreigners in north China had been imprisoned here...To me it was a horrible and mysterious Hell?"

He remembered that after Liberation the electric wires had been removed, and how the prisoners were now free. They eagerly bartered their worn out clothes for vegetables and tomatoes.

With a package of 15 tomatoes Ju went to join in the bartering on a low wall on the east side of the camp. A young girl of his age "with blond hair and a pair of large blue eyes, and a pale thin face" put her "purple coat and a pair of yellow pointed leather shoes" into a bamboo basket which was pulled up the wall, and he on his part put his 15 tomatoes into the basket; and he added an egg which he had brought for his lunch.

Marina disappeared to her room. Meanwhile an elderly lady, who spoke Chinese and was also bartering, told the youth all about her. She was 14 years old and American. Her parents had been missionaries in Shijiazhuang, and prior to internment her father had been killed by the Japanese. Her mother was ill, and no doubt was being given the egg.

Marina returned to the wall with a xylophone which she herself had made, and passed it to the Chinese to express her gratitude. "This moved me deepy as I love music very much".

Mr Ju was convinced that the lady on the TV was Marina of 1945. This was in fact my sister Estelle, who was not the Marina of earlier days.

CAN ANYONE THROW ANY LIGHT ON THIS REMARKABLE INCIDENT ?

Norman Cliff.

Welcome, Norman Cliff and Dwight Whipple

[Mary Previte](#)

May 29, 2002 19:54 PDT

Hello, Norman Cliff and Dwight Whipple,

Welcome aboard. How wonderful to have fresh names and memories for the Weih sien bulletin board! At your convenience, you can dig into our Weih sien Topica archives for every kind of memory.

We all have Natasha Petersen to thank for this worldwide service that gets postings from UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, and USA.

Mary Taylor Previte

LIST/NUMBER?

[Dwight W. Whipple](#)

May 29, 2002 19:58 PDT

Maybe this has been discussed before, but has anyone seen an actual list of names of all that were interned at Weih sien? And the number that were there?

~dwright whipple

Try contacting Ron Bridge

[David Birch](#)

May 29, 2002 20:50 PDT

Dwight,

I think Ron Bridge would be the man to ask. He is the president of ABCIFER (Association of British Civilian Internees Far East Region), although his familiarity of the numbers, identities, and stories of other internee nationalities is, in my opinion, encyclopedic. You will find Ron's e-mail address in some of his recent messages on

weih-@topica.com. Ron was one of our fellow internees at Weihsien. David Birch p.s. Of course both Norman Cliff and Mary Taylor Previte are in the same league when it comes to information. Joyce (Cooke) Bradbury is another knowledgeable authority I'd say.

National Public Radio broadcast of liberation of Weihsien, May 11, '00

[Mary Previte](#)

May 29, 2002 21:28 PDT

Hello, Everybody,

On May 11, 2000, National Public Radio's popular news magazine, "Morning Edition," broadcast a brief, heartwarming segment about the liberation of Weihsien. For the broadcast, host Bob Edwards interviewed three of our liberators -- Major Stanley Staiger in Nevada, Jim Moore in Texas, James Hannon in California -- and me. National Public Radio had sent an audio team and taped my reunion with James Hannon in California in January 2000.

Visiting James Hannon was the end of a very personal pilgrimage for me. It's a goosebumps story, how I tracked down our heroes by telephone. Then I wanted to thank each one of them or their widows face to face. So I criss-crossed the continent to visit each one of them. My visit with Jim Hannon was the last of those reunions.

National Public Radio host Bob Edwards told me that the story was one of his all time Morning Edition favorites. The broadcast brought people out of the woodwork. One man wrote that he had been riveted to the story while he was shaving -- and realized halfway through the day that he had forgotten to finish shaving.

For information about the broadcast, type the code `npr.org` in the "FIND" section of the top of your screen. Go to MORNING EDITION and bring up May 11, 2000. If you choose to use a search word, don't use the word Weihsien -- because they misspelled the word. Use the search word Previte.

If you have a powerful computer with the right equipment (and, alas, I don't), you can listen to that broadcast. Here's how.

Type the code `npr.org` in the "FIND" section of the top of your screen. When the npr page come up, go to MORNING EDITION and bring up May 11, 2000. If you choose instead to use a search word, don't use the word Weihsien -- because they misspelled the word. Use the search word Previte.

As I tracked the team members down -- starting in 1997 -- I made sure their local newspapers spotlighted their heroism in 1945.

I communicate regularly with these heroes who are all in their 80s now -- talked to most of them this past (Memorial Day) weekend. Those of you who do not yet have their addresses, let me know. I hope you'll remember them with birthday and holiday cards or notes. They are all frail and love getting letters with your Weihsien memories. Only two still have spouses living.

Carol Orlich -- widow of Peter Orlich, radio operator and youngest of the Weihsien rescue team -- celebrates her birthday June 13. Her address is 15727 20th Road, Whiteston, NY 11357 Peter Orlich was 21 years old the day he helped liberate the camp. How many of you girls were in love with him?

Mary Taylor Previte

Re: Try contacting Ron Bridge

[Joyce Bradbury \(nee Cooke\)](#)

May 29, 2002 23:14 PDT

Dear David. I will send you coloured photocopies at no cost if you supply me with your postal address. Joyce Bradbury.

Re: re PBS programme.

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)

May 29, 2002 23:37 PDT

Dear Dwight. My book is called "Forgiven but not Forgotten" Please send me your postal address and I will send a copy. My cost is \$22 Australian but it might be more convenient for you to send me a US check for \$16 which will cover exchange etc. Joyce.

Thank you Joyce!!!

David Birch

May 30, 2002 00:26 PDT

Dear Joyce,

Thank you ever so much for your kind offer. My mailing address is as follows:

David Birch
21 - 11 K de K Court
New Westminster
British Columbia
CANADA
V3M 6B6

Again, thank you so much Joyce!

Very sincerely,
David

RE: Camp Lists

Ron Bridge

May 30, 2002 04:41 PDT

Overall I hold lists of ovber 23,000 held by the Japnese. WEIHSIEN I have a complete list dated 30 Jun 1944 except for some of the surnames beginning with S & W . The page after surnames beginning S after STEVENS, BM are missing. And the last page is torn across at WULFSON.

I also have the complete list of those that were evacuated on the ss Gripsholm in Sep 1943. The Americans from a NY Times article and both them and the Canadians from the records of the British Malaya Association published in Sydney Australia in 1944. Norman Cliff let me have the names of the RC Nuns that were shipped to Beijing but I am missing most of the names of the RC Priests who were shipped out.

Details held are Surname, Forenames, Age, Profession, Camp Address. I also have a plan and list of the graves of those buried inside the walls near the "Dairy" in the Japanese section. Together with their dates of death and the name of the certifying doctor.

Anyone one wanting info on one or more particular persons please e-mail me direct on rwbr-freeuk.com

Rgds
Ron Bridge

Re: National Public Radio broadcast of liberation or Weihsien, May 11, '00

Dwight W. Whipple

May 30, 2002 08:23 PDT

Thanks, Mary, for the info re: NPR's broadcast.

~Dwight

page two of e-mail address

Natasha Petersen
May 30, 2002 10:44 PDT

Sort By: Date Email (26 - 27 of 42) Status Moderation norman-@amserve.com ; OnOffDelete
Use List SettingOn - Posts Require ApprovalOff - No Approval Required thewhi-@attbi.com wenty
seven e-mail addresses. The following is the name to go with each address. I hope that I have not
goofed. There was no other way to do this (that I could figure)

Natasha Petersen (Natalie Somoff)

Mary Taylor Previte

Emily (Patterson)& Jim Bryant

David Beard

Stan Thompson

Ron Bridge

David Birch

Joyce (Cooke)Bradbury

Allison Holmes

Iain Macpherson

Audrey Nordmo Horton

Bobbie (Bridger) Backhouse

Donald Menzi

Gordon Buist

Theresa Granger

Zandy Strangman

Fred Dreggs

Leonard Mostaert

Jo & Ben Crick

Christine Talbot Sancton

Peter Talbot

Gay Talbot Stratford

Laura Hope Gill

Sylvia (Tchoo) Walker

Norman Cliff

Greg Leck

Dwight Whipple

Contacts from the past

Norman Cliff
May 30, 2002 12:14 PDT

LAURA HOPEGILL -

If I have made the correct assumptions, I went into your camp room regularly and taught your mother
(an American) Greggs Shorthand.

Also I saw that a HopeGill is referred to regularly in the early copies of China's Millions. I presume this
is your grandfather, who, it appears was a missionary in the CIM.

DWIGHT WHIPPLE -

I have a picture from China's Millions of the group who were exchanged during the Jap war. Have you
got it?

I met your sister at the Shanghai Community Church. She was in a group visiting China under Rob Joyce in the mid 1990s. Am I correct?

Greetings, NORMAN CLIFF.

Re: Contacts from the past

Laura Hope-Gill
May 30, 2002 12:34 PDT

Dear Norman,

Thank you for telling me about my grandmother's learning shorthand. I did not know about this. My grandfather, Donald Hope-Gill, was a physician for the Kowloon Mining Administration and continued his work as a doctor during the internment. They were in Weihsien 1942-1945. I'm headed there next week to honor their memory and experiences. My home email is lauraho-@aol.com if you have some more stories and memories. I would love to read them

Sincerely, Laura

Re: Contacts from the past

Dwight W. Whipple
May 30, 2002 22:22 PDT

Yes, that's right. My sister, Lorna, with her son Stephen was in China in the 90's. They found our home in Tsingtao and also went to Weihsien with them. I've seen the China's Millions picture and have a copy somewhere.

Thanks for your message, Norman.

~Dwight

shorthand instruction

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
May 30, 2002 22:56 PDT

To Norman Cliff.

Hi Norman. Yes, you must have taught me. Grace Norman is the signature on my shorthand certificate. You must have done a good job teaching me as I ended up working for the US Navy in Tsingtao and later in the Police Department (Special Branch) in Singapore for 7 years. Thank you so much.

Do you remember working with my dad Eddie Cooke in kitchen No. 1 and were you there when a pigeon flew into the cauldron of watery, meatless stew? My young brother Eddie, recovering from tuberculosis at the time enjoyed that pigeon for dinner that night. Regards. Joyce Bradbury,

Magazine article about one of the heroes who liberated Weihsien

Mary Previte
May 31, 2002 20:15 PDT

Hello, Everybody:

I have spotlighted one of our Weihsien liberators in the June 2002 issue of the Ex-CBI ROUNDUP magazine. My magazine-length article with photographs eaves our liberation into the fascinating story of Tad Nagaki. Tad was one of an elite -- and daring -- Japanese-American team that operated with the office of Strategic Services Detachment 101 behind Japanese lines in Burma.

So, how did a Japanese-American soldier -- mistrusted as a Nisei and limited to pruning trees and landscaping grounds on an American military base in World War II -- end up in China, helping to liberate 1,400 prisoners from the Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center?

Over many weeks via telephone, I had to pull the story out of him. Today, Tad is a quiet, 82-year-old farmer in Nebraska.) I asked him one night, "Didn't you know that as an ethnic Japanese, if the Japanese caught you, they'd torture and kill you? And what if the Americans thought you were the enemy?"

"I never gave it any thought," he told me. "In war, if you're going to think about that, you're not going to make a very good soldier."

After serving in Burma until the war there wound down, Tad Nagaki went to Kunming, where he was assigned to the Duck Mission that liberated Weihsien on August 17, 1945. Each one of the rescue mission had a unique assignment -- medic, radio operator . Tad was the interpreter.

The article includes snapshots of Tad and rescuers Major Stanley Staiger, Jimmy Moore (a graduate of the Chefoo School), and Raymond Hanchulak.

The Ex-CBI ROUNDUP magazine is a small, specialty, reminiscing magazine for history buffs and those who served in China, Burma, and India in World War II. It features stories, photographs, and letters. I've been subscribing since a "CBI-er" who helped me find our liberators gave a subscription to me as a gift.

I'm sorry I don't know the cost of individual copies of the magazine. I'll try to find out for those who may be interested in buying this June issue.

Address: P.O. Box 2665, La Habra, CA 90631 Telephone: 562-691-2848

Mary Previte

Weihhsien on the internet !!!!

Leonard Mostaert
Jun 02, 2002 02:32 PDT

Had an amusing incident with a Wilson Leong over e-mail. Wilson is an accountancy student in Malaysia, and I have sent him all the Chinese cards through the internet since then.

One day, I had a few moments to "surf " the net, looking up Weihhsien, I noticed that there was a Wilson Leong with that name, so the exchange went something like this...

" How come your user name is Weihhsien ? (please note spelling!) That was the name of a Jap camp during the war. "

" Well...that's my name !"

" What do you mean, Your name ?"

" That's my family name, we have had it for centuries."

" Oh ! Sorry ! I did not realise that there was a name like that. "

Leonard Mostaert No.248 Block 53

Weihhsien postal history

Richard Morris
Jun 04, 2002 04:41 PDT

Hello everyone,

I hope I am welcome here, I have a collection of The Postal History of the Internee camps in China during WW 2, and of course Weih sien was one.

I would like to know more about internees that are either senders or receivers of envelopes that are in my collection.

Rev. McDouall, Mrs Cook 2/202, ect. etc.

Who was Miss Verna Riel?

I hope again that I am in order joining your site.

My regards,

Richard Morris

My books on Weih sien etc.

Norman Cliff
Jun 04, 2002 09:22 PDT

Mary Previte Taylor has asked me to advise the Bulletin Board of the books which I have written re. China

-
[COURTYARD OF THE HAPPY WAY](#). Experiences at the Chefoo School and Weih sien. £5.00
[HIJACKED ON THE HUANGPU](#). The Tungchow Piracy of 1935 in which 72 Chefoo scholars were held. £3.50

[CAPTIVE IN FORMOSA](#). Experiences of a P.O.W. in Changi and Formosa £6.95
[PRISONERS OF THE SAMURAI](#). An overview of all the internment camps in China - malnutrition, disease, overcrowding and eventual release. £8.95

I have also produced two booklets with color copied pictures - one of the Chefoo Schools and the other of Weih sien. each £10.00

Add 10% please for packing and postage. It is important to pay in pounds sterling as payments in dollars are wiped out by bank charges.

My address: [Norman Cliff](#),
4 Hall Terrace,
Harold Wood, Essex RM3 OXR. U.K.
Tel 1708- 342762.

Re: Weih sien postal history/WELCOME RICHARD!!!

David Birch
Jun 04, 2002 10:21 PDT

Hullo Richard!

And a warm welcome to our site! It sounds as though you have a valuable contribution to make and that you are eager to do so.

One of our Weih sien internees, Natalie (Somoff) Petersen, very kindly provided this site mainly for former Weih sien campers, but I know she would be delighted to have you on board as well. And I'm sure that all of us would be delighted. You sound like someone with a tremendous attitude and it's good to have people like you!

Sincerely

David Birch

gdauid-@yahoo.com

Which school is it?

Laura Hope-Gill
Jun 04, 2002 11:36 PDT

Dear all,

In a last minute rush to prepare for departure to China tomorrow I'm searching for the name of the school in Weih sien which was formerly the camp.

Was it public school 23?

Thanks, everyone. I can't express what a help you all have been in helping me understand my grand parents' experiences.

Best to all, Laura

additional subscriber

Natasha Petersen
Jun 04, 2002 12:37 PDT

Please add Richard Morris - cockorchard-@tinyworld.co.uk ; Natasha

Fw: welcome

Natasha Petersen
Jun 04, 2002 12:37 PDT

----- Original Message -----

From: cockorchard
To: natasha petersen
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2002 12:06 PM

Subject: **Re: welcome**

Hello Natsaha,

Thanks for your welcome.

My collection consists of some 140 items of the postal history of the camps in China, envelopes received and sent ,Red cross forms, and after liberation, correspondence with "Internee Mail Free of Postage, "Shanghai" marks on the envelopes [we stamp collectors call them covers].

My reason for joining you is to get more background on these names on the covers, for instance I don't understand why so many are addressed to" Verna Riel [Latvian]" ?

Ron Bridge has already offered his help.

Will now see what is forthcoming.

Regards,

Richard.

Re: Which school is it?

Donald Menzi
Jun 04, 2002 18:50 PDT

The note I have in the copy of the school's Annual says "Weifang #2 Middle School." The only two old buildings we found remaining were two western-style buildings that were "out of bounds" during the camp years.

Have a great time.

Re: Fw: welcome

Donald Menzi
Jun 04, 2002 18:54 PDT

Richard --

I can tell you a lot about the following Weihsien inmates:

George D. Wilder
Howard Galt
Hugh Hubbard

Do you have them in your material?
What kind of information are you looking for?

Re: Weihsien postal history

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jun 05, 2002 00:06 PDT

Dear Richard. Welcome to WeiHsien topica. You have mentioned a Mrs. Cook, 2/202 in your WeiHsien collection of envelopes. She may have been my mother as my family and I were in camp at WeiHsien. Have you any more information about Mrs. Cook you mentioned? Has it got a Tsingtao postal mark. I do not know anything about Verna Riel. Regards. Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

New to List

Pam Tanner
Jun 08, 2002 19:56 PDT

Hello,
My name is Pam Tanner. I am new to the list. My great grandmother, Penola Maie Iry was interned at Weihsien for approximately 2 1/2 years.
Mr. Desmond Powers was kind enough to let me know where Maie was housed there. I know that there was a rather large population housed there, but am hoping that someone might remember her.
Pam Tanner
ptan-@compuserve.com

Weihsien Camp Postal History.

Richard Morris
Jun 09, 2002 08:22 PDT

Thanks to you all who have offered help with my Weihsien Postal history collection, I will get back to you when I have more time with queries about internees named on my envelopes and Red Cross forms.
Regards,
Richard Morris

messages

Natasha Petersen
Jun 10, 2002 07:38 PDT

This is a trial run. Audrey Horton seems to be having trouble getting e-mail from our listing. I asked that she check right after receiving a e-mail one to one from me.
Natasha

RE: messages

Ron Bridge
Jun 10, 2002 12:46 PDT

It was ready and waiting when I checked on my e-mails at 8.45 Monday evening UK Time

Rgds
Ron

Ed. Cooke's paintings.

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jun 12, 2002 22:04 PDT

I had no idea how much my collection of WeiHsien paintings meant to so many of my fellow internees. You don't know the amount of joy and satisfaction your response has given me. My sincere thanks to my dear big sister Joyce Bradbury, husband Bob and son Tom for the time and effort they spent in setting everything up for the internet. God bless. Eddie Cooke.

David Michell Memorial Book Fund

Mary Previte
Jun 13, 2002 17:42 PDT

David Michell Memorial Book Fund

Dear friends, fellow internees of Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center, or friends from Chefoo School in China,

My name is Marjorie [Harrison] Jackson, Chefoo/Weihsien 1938-1945. Recently a fund in memory of the late David Michell has been established in cooperation with the Ambassadors for Christ, a Christian Mission reaching Chinese students in the USA, especially through their literature ministry to Chinese in China and other countries.

David Michell's book, A Boy's War, has been translated into the Chinese simplified script and my husband Walt Jackson and I made a donation for the first 150 copies to the Mainland Chinese book department of A.F.C.

I'm sending this message to let you know of this opportunity to donate to the fund in memory of David Michell and to make copies of this book available to the Mainland Chinese who desire to read this and to give copies to Mainland Chinese, both here and in China, especially key present and future leaders, as well as to be able to fund any necessary inventory increases. It is the desire of the Ambassadors for Christ to get copies especially to the cities of Weifang, present day name for Weihsien, and Yantai, where the Chefoo School was located, and the surrounding region. Maybe some of you will be visiting those areas and could take copies along with you. It would be wonderful to see the Lord use what many of us experienced there, to impact thousands Mainland Chinese today. Of course you are welcome to order copies for your own use as well.

The book is very well done with all the pictures that are in the English edition. The only things missing are the long lists of internees listed at the end, and that is understandable. The A.F.C. Literature Department does not "sell" their books, but is grateful for a suggested donation to be able to renew their supply. In this case the suggested donation is \$3.00 per book.

Recently I had the joy of speaking to a group of Chinese business and professional people who have been guests of Millersville University for 6 months. They were excited to receive the book. Of course I told them of my own experiences in the same Japanese concentration camp, and they were eager to read it. Mrs. Joan Michell was delighted to hear about this fund and will be most grateful for any contributions that would be made.

Should you be interested in obtaining a copy of the Chinese version of A Boy's War, or contributing to the "David Michell Memorial Book Fund", please address your correspondence to:
Ambassadors for Christ. Inc.

MC Lit/David Michell Memorial Book Fund
21 Ambassador Dr.
P.O. Box 280
Paradise PA 17562-0280
(717) 687-8564 Ext. 228 or 217 E-mail: mcl-@afcinc.org

If interested you can also ask for a complete list of their literature for Mainland Chinese. With special questions you can ask for Jim Brubaker 717-687-8564 or write him at jimbru-@xc.org.
We will be very grateful for any donation you would like to make to the memorial fund. You will receive a tax deductible receipt for your contribution.

Blessings,
Marjorie I Jackson
619 Glover Drive
Lancaster PA 17601-4419 (717) 394-2636 E-Mail Address -
WMj-@cs.com

Travel to Weih sien

Dwight W. Whipple
Jun 13, 2002 20:18 PDT

I know that many of you have been back to Weih sien. Are there any trips planned in the near or distant future -- as part of a tour or perhaps an adjunct to other travel? If you are planning to go, let's share information.

~dwight whipple

Article about Japanese-American hero who helped liberate Weih sien

Mary Previte
Jun 15, 2002 10:22 PDT

I'm sending as an attachment my article that appears in the current (June 2002) issue of the Ex-CBI ROUNDUP magazine. It describes the liberation and spotlights Tad Nagaki, the Japanese-American on the American rescue team that liberated Weih sien.

If you prefer to purchase the magazine which includes photographs with the story, send \$1.80 (U.S. currency) to Ex-CBI ROUNDUP, 1800 Park Newport, #203, Newport Beach, CA, USA 92660

change of e-mail

Natasha Petersen
Jun 22, 2002 08:35 PDT

Please change the e-mail address for Zandy Strangman. It now is: zandy-@bigpond.com.au
Natasha

Help

Natasha Petersen
Jun 24, 2002 11:26 PDT

I cannot open the attachment that Mary Previte sent the middle of June. It is a DAT file, says that DAT file is in Microsoft.Exe, and it is not to be found. Can anyone help?

Thanks,
Natasha

Re: Help

Dwight W. Whipple
Jun 24, 2002 12:07 PDT

I had the same problem. Anybody?
~dwight whipple

Re: Help

Pam Tanner
Jun 24, 2002 14:17 PDT

I was able to open it and can read it but there is a lot of garbage encoded within the document. If you can wait until I clean it up I can try resend it in maybe a text format.

Pam Tanner

Re: Help

Pam Tanner
Jun 24, 2002 20:57 PDT

Have managed to clean up file that Mary Previte sent out. Please write to me directly at ptan-@compuserve.com and I will try to send it to you in a format you can read/open.

Pam Tanner

Article by Mary Taylor Previte in another format.

Mary Previte
Jun 26, 2002 12:11 PDT

I'm also trying to get my daughter to send my June 2002 article out in a different format.

Mary Previte

New on the chat-list

leopold pander
Jun 27, 2002 09:25 PDT

Hello from Belgium,

Last year, when I bought my computer, there was a modem included. I had a free trial on the WWW, and -- of course - not knowing what to look for, I asked the machine if he knew anything about Weih sien.

My goodness, . what an avalanche !

And then, I found the "Topica" site Natacha started.

I'll say "we" because my sister Janette also bought a computer and, together, we are discovering an amazing new world. The internet world where everything is accessible. It is now, about a year that we are

reading the topica-messages . we had a contact with Donald Menzi and Joyce Bradbury and . I have just finished reading Pamela Master's book, "The Mushroom Years"

. I am glad she wrote it . .

Then, I finally got myself decided in entering the "Weihsien-chat-list".

We appreciate very much all of Mary Previte's writings and all the stories and experiences you all have .

Now that I'm "on", allow me to introduce myself .

At four and a half years old and after 873 days spent in Weihsien prison camp we finally returned to Tientsin where I was born. What do I remember of those 2 1/2 years?

Nothing!

I'm completely amnesic about that, except for a dream or a nightmare, I don't know. It keeps coming back from time to time and it is still clear in my memory.

I'm lost, on a hill without grass, and the sun shining. I am next to a granite rock as big as myself. not knowing what to do. People running and screaming all over the place . Then, someone picks me up .

.... and that's all I remember

August 17, 1945.

The rest of the story, is what our parents told us. Nothing much really. They wanted to forget the whole thing!

And now, it's all coming back.

Leopold Pander.

Re: New on the chat-list

Dwight W. Whipple
Jun 27, 2002 13:39 PDT

Nice to hear from a "fellow-internee" at Weihsien. I, myself, was seven years old when we left Shantung in an expatriation exchange, September 1943. My memories of camp and the journey home are still as vivid as if it were yesterday! Those were such momentous times. Wouldn't a "reunion" be fun? Keep in touch with all of us. So nice to have the "list" to work from.

~dwight whipple

Doris Littler and Donald Littler

Pam Tanner
Jun 27, 2002 17:25 PDT

I was wondering if anyone might know either one of these individuals and how I might contact them. They were both in their teens when they were at Weihsien. They were in the same block as my great grandmother. I am hoping to locate them to see if they might remember my great grandmother.

Pam Tanner

Welcome, Leopold

Mary Previte
Jun 27, 2002 18:47 PDT

Welcome to our Weihsien bulletin board, Leopold. You're our first official link from Belgium. Do you remember Weihsien's Block 22, where you lived -- right next to Kitchen #2?

Mary Previte

What a Fascinating Dream, Leopold , , , Tell us more about yourself, won't you?

David Birch

Jun 27, 2002 19:20 PDT

. . . and thanks for sharing your memory with the rest of us!

I wonder about some of the others who were your contemporaries (in age). I remember there was a little boy whose name, I think, was Billy Waldron (or Walman? And then there was a little fellow named Daniel --I'm wondering if he was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Baltau(sp?) and American couple. Or. was his surname Kelly?

Yes, I think it was. Wasn't he the youngster who before the war was over actually fell into one of those cesspools from which laborers from the nearby countryside used to cart the 'night soil' (human excrement out to the surrounding farmers' fields. Daniel was fortunately rescued from drowning in the cesspool. What dreams he may have had!

When you were seven, Dwight, I was twelve. So Leopold I'm maybe eleven years or so older than you. One of blessings I enjoyed was having my younger brother, John Alfred Birch (no kin as far as we know to the John Birch in whose honor the John Birch Society was named; anyway, my brother who was about two and a half years younger than I, was there in the camp with me. So we would sometimes go for walks together and remind each other of the happy times we had had at home in pre-war days. What a wonderful Daddy we had, the good times we'd enjoyed long ago playing with him. How he had taught us to swim before we had even started to school. How Mother used to make us a nice mugful of cocoa and sit outside the rest home at Chefoo enjoying watching us play with little toys in the dusty roadside. How we would say in a dreamy sort of way looking up at her, "Mommy, I love you Mommy!" And she always reply "I love you too, David" or "I love you too, John."

Then when we came to Canada, following VJ Day, Dad and Mother had acquired a small dairy farm, with some help from my Dad's mother, and one of his brothers.

There we would often reminisce together around the breakfast, dinner or supper table. We'd recount many quite pleasant memories about our happy days growing up in the great land of China.

And so very many of my memories today, of those distant times gone by, are really quite pleasant. Remind me to tell you some time of the quite unintentional 'ambush' of one of our truly well-loved schoolmaster whose unfortunate moniker was JELLYBELLY.

No time for that story now, but if any of you are interest, I'll be more than happy to relate the tale!

Right now I'll just say that the same master was truly like a kind, benevolent, and truly sensible 'uncle' to us. How unkind can teenagers be in the nicknames they apply to their instructors!

I'm rambling but I'll mention a few of those nicknames for old times sake:

Pa
Stanman
Chuckles
Boomph
Goopy

Carr-Carr
Willowbutt
Woody
Lassy
Starky

These were all monikers given to staff members who were invariably people of sterling character and great dedication to their calling. They loved us. I believe they truly did, without exception. As Rudyard Kipling says in a poem at the outset of his novel, *Stalking & Co*, in which he pays tribute to his own

schoolmasters at the United Services College in Devon, England:

Therefore praise we famous men
Men of little showing
For their work continueth
Broad and deep continueth
Evermore continueth ...
Greater than their knowing.

He speaks in the same poem of several

houses by the shore
six (was it?) bleak houses
by the shore

where these same dedicated schoolmasters in Kipling's words,
beat on us with rods
daily beat on us with rods
beat on us with many rods
For the love they bore us.

One of the good things about Weihsien, for me, was that our school's leaders had an opportunity to mingle with other enlightened educators from the schools in Tientsin and Peking, for example. I think in retrospect that this must have been wonderfully refreshing to our masters. In the two years or so I was at Weihsien, (and I arrived just before the Whipples left for the USA), I only recall receiving one caning, and it was administered quite lightly really. Ask me about that one if you are interested. It was for sawing off the top of a great spruce tree on a bit of a sort of 'dare'. That was the year Kenneth Bell, Jim Young, Kenneth Patchett and I actually had a Christmas tree in our room for Christmas week.

Thank you for reading this far, those of you who have!

David Birch
Weihsien 1943-1945

Re: New on the chat-list

Donald Menzi
Jun 27, 2002 20:38 PDT

Dwight

I don't remember if you already requested that I email you a copy of Howard Galt's brief memoir of the Weihsien camp and the trip back on the Gripsholm in 1943. If not, and you are interested, just respond to this and I will attach them to my reply.

By the way, this applies to everyone else, as well.

Is it possible for us to find out where everyone lives, to see how far-flung we are, and whether or not an actual "reunion" might be feasible? I am in New York City, USA. Where are you?

Re: New on the chat-list

Dwight W. Whipple

Jun 28, 2002 08:33 PDT

Donald

Thanks for your reply. Yes, I would like the Galt memoir if you could send it. That was the same journey we made. I am in Olympia, Washington.

~Dwight

new subscribers

Natasha Petersen

Jun 28, 2002 11:02 PDT

Welcome Leopold Pander and Dwight Whipple.

glaswift @cstone.net please let me have your first and last names, and let us know about you and your connection to Weihsien.

Natasha

natasha @infi.net

Nicknames

Mary Previte

Jun 28, 2002 19:10 PDT

David, you have such wonderful memories!

Yes, please tell the memory of Jelly-Belly Welch. Speaking of nicknames, do you remember when our Chefoo teachers stopped us from calling one of the Japanese guards "Cherry Beak"?

Mary Previte

Address list

Mary Previte

Jun 28, 2002 19:14 PDT

I live in New Jersey, across the river from Philadelphia.

Mary Previte

Weed eaters

Mary Previte

Jun 29, 2002 18:42 PDT

Here's a brief story I've written for my garden club newsletter:

WEED EATERS

by Mary T. Previte

Pigweed grows tall between my tomato and zucchini plants. Even my green beans can't choke it out. Each plant floods me with memories of World War II, so I pull the pigweeds out reluctantly.

Pigweed and dock helped save us in 1945.

Kathleen, Jamie, Johnny and I were children of Free Methodist missionaries. We and all our

classmates and teachers had been taken prisoner in the early years of World War II when Japanese soldiers commandeered our boarding school on the east coast of China. For almost three years, we had been interned in the Weihsien Concentration Camp, separated from our missionary parents by warring armies. Food supply dwindled as the war dragged on. If you wanted to be optimistic, you could guess that the Allies were winning and that you were going hungry because the Japanese weren't about to share their army's dwindling food with Allied prisoners. Our missionary teachers shielded us from the debates among camp cynics over which would come first, starvation or liberation.

An average man needs about 4,800 calories a day to fuel heavy labor, about 3,600 for ordinary work. Concentration camp doctors guessed that the daily food ration was down to 1,200 calories. Although no one said so out loud, the prisoners were slowly starving. The signs were obvious -- emaciation, exhaustion, apathy.

Adolescent girls were growing up with no menstrual cycle. That's when our teachers sent us foraging for pig weed and dock. They braised the weeds into food that tasted like spinach.

How did they know about eating weeds? Was it wisdom passed down from grandmom to mom? Was it hunger on the prowl? Did they know that most of our common weeds carry more nutrients than our garden crops?

Today, from your computer, you can get recipes for pigweed as a side dish with butter, vinegar, or lemon juice. For sure, we didn't have butter, vinegar, or lemon juice in Weihsien.

These days, I usually throw away the pigweeds. They're bright green snapshots in my imaginary photo album of the war. They remind me too much of concentration camp. But I do allow my Crows Woods garden to grow a bumper crop of purslane weeds each year. I started letting them grow after I heard that trendy Philadelphia chefs serve purslane in salads in their chi-chi dining spots. So I snip the weeds into my salad bowl.

I learned to eat weeds a long, long time ago. #

Re: Weed eaters

Donald Menzi
Jun 29, 2002 19:59 PDT

Mary --

Your mention of purslane in your "Weed Eaters" story rang a bell.

Last summer I took my two sons to Weihsien to visit one of their "ancestral sites" and also to deliver to the school a set of copies of my grandmother's paintings, both scenes of the camp and paintings of some of the wildflowers there. (The latter were part of a series of over 100 wildflower paintings she had done over a 10-year period.) At one of the "banquets" on the way there, our hosts served us a very tasty vegetable that I had not seen before. When I asked what it was, we were told that it was until recently simply a wild plant, but had recently begun to be used for food. Our host then pointed to one of the wildflower paintings (of purslane), and said that was what it was. So apparently it is not only in Philadelphia that purslane has "arrived." I haven't seen it on any of the menus here in New York, but then we don't go to the "chi-chi" ones.

Topica apparently won't accept attachments, but I'll send you a copy of the purslane painting privately. (And to anyone else who asks for it.)

Re: Weed eaters

Dwight W. Whipple
Jun 29, 2002 20:59 PDT

I would love to have a copy of the purslane painting. My wife, Judy, is quite an artist and will be very interested in it.

~dwight whipple

in the coal dump !

leopold pander
Jun 30, 2002 00:15 PDT

Hello,
Mary, you wrote our Weih sien address!
Really, do you remember us? Fantastic! You must then, remember my big sister, Janette. She was 6 years old at the time and has a lot more souvenirs of Weih sien camp than I have.
--- and, the mail from David --- I had a real pleasure reading you. I'm sure that I am not the only one to think so. Please, do continue writing --- write us the story of JellyBelly ---
The first person you wrote of, in your mail, was Billy.
My parents, when they talked about Weih sien, said that Billy and I were always playing together. I wonder where he is now?

There is one story my Dad liked to tell:

In the early days of July 1944, when my Mom was at the hospital, waiting for my little sister Marylou our Dad had to take care of the two other kids. I reckon, it wasn't easy for him, but he did it anyway and one evening, after having given us our bath (with all that precious water he had to pump out of the well), and clean as never before, I went out to play with my friend Billy.

Where?

In the coal dump of course!!

We must have had a gorgeous time, because when I returned "home" for bed-time, my Dad almost had an attack. I was so black and dirty that he had to give me a bath all over again. Furious, he was. But he always laughed when he told the story afterwards. He never said what happened to Billy when he returned "home" that day!!?

If Billy reads this, will he remember ?

Not a very long time ago, when Donald Menzi sent us a copy of George Wilder's diary which we read with great pleasure, Janette told me that she had found Billy.

Well, yes, on page 130, on Aug. 24,25, a little boy of 3 years old fell in the cesspool.

Billy fell in the cesspool. His Father was Dr. Kelley .

à bientôt,
Leopold

RE: Weed eaters

Greg Leck
Jun 30, 2002 07:44 PDT

Some of you may find it interesting to know that pigweed (genus Amaranthus) is toxic to ruminants (sheep, goat, and cattle) and often causes death in these animals when ingested. The plant contains soluble nitrates which can cause sudden death, or a less acute death can result from kidney damage.

Greg

greens

Natasha Petersen
Jun 30, 2002 08:24 PDT

I remember eating dandelion greens. I had broken out in hives, and the doctor told me to eat as many greens as possible. The greens were not particularly tasty, but it was better than the rash. I do remember not being full, and eating a lot of bread, but I do not remember near starving. I was one of the servers, dishwashers, and special help to the cooks. Many did not want the greens, and we had much left over. There was another person who fell into the cesspool. Madeleine Grant and her son, Buddy lived close to the cesspool. I heard the story from them. After that, the Japs placed a heavy wooden cover.

Natasha

Re: Weed eaters

alison holmes
Jun 30, 2002 09:27 PDT

Oh Donald, what a treat your grandmother is! I would be very grateful fo have two copies of each of the wildflower paintings from Weihsien she did.

You know how much pleasure the other camp scenes have given to all the Martins! Thank you for the high quality paper you do them on too. Let me know what I owe you and I will be happy to send you a check.....Alison

Martin Holmes

Re: Weed eaters

alison holmes
Jun 30, 2002 09:30 PDT

And I would love a copy of George Wilder's diary too!. Thanks again.....Alison

Tip cat

alison holmes
Jun 30, 2002 09:56 PDT

Does anyone remember the rules for tip cat? I have such a vague picture in my head of this game...the cone shaped 'ball and a flipping of it into the air...but I would love to hear from someone who either has an excellent memory of a game played sixty years ago...or someone who has been playing it ever since!
Thanks

Re: greens

Dwight W. Whipple
Jun 30, 2002 12:55 PDT

Isn't it great remembering? I remember having warts on my hands in our Weihsien days -- over a hundred warts in all on the backs (not palms) of both my hands. Some of them were quite large for a little boy of seven. At first, a doctor starting burning them with some kind of acid. It was very painful and my parents made them stop. Then, some kind of natural doctor (homeopath?) gave my parents a small bottle of white pills and told them to give them to me each day -- for about a week or ten days, I think. In a month the warts were completely gone -- all of them. And they have never reappeared. Whether it was the white

pills or the continuation of time, I will never know. But I would love to know what was in those pills!
~dwight whipple (Weihsien, March - September, 1943)

Sylvia Walker
Jul 01, 2002 00:04 PDT

Dear Zandy,
I bet you're having fun with the Dong She !!! sorry I didn't ring you back that day but the do just went on and on !!!
Now for you and all the others interested in "Cesspool Kelly"- he went to the Convent of the Sacred Heart with me in 14 San Tiao Hutung in Peking until the mid fifties.

Here is an article that was in the sydney Mornig Herald dated 23/2/1979

" A missionary's son who spent 22 years in Chinese forced labour camps because he refused to renounce his American citizenship has arrived in Seattle Washington, a free man, Mr Daniel Kelly, the son of a US missionary father and a Chinese mother, said he was happy to be out of China but that we would work to help improve relations between China and the United States.

When his father died in 1957, Chinese officials ordered Mr Kelly - then 16 - to give up his American citizenship. He refused, and tried to flee through Hong Kong but was captured and sent to labour camps. Mr Kelly who was born in China and never left the country was freed last month after State Department pressure.

He was given a Chinese citizen visa to visit the United swtates in what he called a face-saving move. "They know I won't come back" he said.

He told reporters he would have stayed in prison until he died rather than renounce his citizenship"

I wonder if someone could locate him in the US? Does anyone know of Patsy Albert who was in camp - she had a sister Camille and British father and they left Peking sometime in the early fifties ?

Also the picture with the two ladies and little girls in the photos is of my mother Lillian Tchoo and myself - can't remember who the other lady was !!!

Re books on Weichien - there is also "Chinese Escapade" by Laurence Tipton probably long out of print- would anyone have a spare copy my Dad Roy Tchoo lent it to someone who never returned it !!!

Bye Zandy - love to Jen,

Sylvia (Tchoo) now Walker

(no subject)

Sylvia Walker
Jul 01, 2002 00:38 PDT

Dear Natasha,
Sorry I have taken a while to get back to you- you are right my Dad Roy Tchoo was a great friend of George Wallis- I remember Roy and George used to make a potent brew from sweet potatoes and occasionally George would sip a little too much !!! They would get together in our little room and I used to sleep on a bunk at the top and they had this weird contraption which used to drip the alcohol out a drop at a time. George married a German girl Trudi and lived in Hong Kong for many years until he moved to

Spain - we are not in the US buit in Australia- Sydney. Yes my mother was Russian (Tanya) but known as Lillian - my Dad was born in London grandfather being a Chinese who went to Oxford to study and married an English girl. My Dad died in 1978 and his brother who was born in China could not get out as he did not have access to a British passport.

So I still have relatives in China and Adrian and I went back in 1998 after 40 odd years and it was wonderful to see them all. Dad's brother John died during the cultural revolution in jail so they had a pretty bad time of it.

Is someone suggesting a re-union- wouldn't that be terrific!!!! Where and when ????

Will write again soon- regards to all !!

Sylvia Tchoo (Walker)

Re: I

leopold pander
Jul 01, 2002 02:38 PDT

Thank you for all the details on what happened to Billy.

It's too much in such a short time and after almost 60 years. I am completely KO! ---

Enclosed, a picture (*.jpg) taken a few weeks ago, of the parachute we received before our departure from Weih sien.

à bientôt,
Leopold.

Bedbugs

Greg Leck
Jul 01, 2002 07:10 PDT

Hello All,

The recent notes about weed eating brought to mind a question about plants someone may be able to answer.

In many of the camps lice and bedbugs were a problem. An ex internee of Haiphong Road told me they used to go to sleep with the leaves of a certain plant stuffed under the covers. The leaves were reputedly effective in repelling bedbugs.

This was a plant that was common in Chinese pharmacopia. Does anyone know the common or Latin name of this plant?

Thanks,

Greg Leck

Leopold Pander

Leonard Mostaert
Jul 03, 2002 03:04 PDT

Leopold,(camp baby)

Would you please give me you e-mail address, I have sent you a long message, but I don't think it was received.

fellow Belgian happy camper

Leonard Mostaert no.248 Block 53

Re: Leopold Pander

leopold pander

Jul 03, 2002 09:00 PDT

Hello,

my e-mail is, pande-@skynet.be

I'm looking forward in receiving your long e-mail and, so is Janette, my big sister.

Best regards,

Leopold

RE: Weihsien

Ron Bridge

Jul 03, 2002 13:30 PDT

Leopold,

Bon jour.

I picked up your msgs on the weihsien topica site, I am compiling a list of all British Internees but where camps only had a small number of other nationalities have included them.

You may recall me but more probably my brother Roger Bridge (Block 13 Room 11/12) who is the same age as you. My wife and I were in France for the past 2 weeks and He and his wife were staying at our house and has now gone to Ireland for a month. Sadly their only child a girl was murdered in Australia about four years ago at age 26 and they just wander round the world now..

I have the Pander family in Block22 Room 7 and 8 the details

Pander L Belgian <1898> M Bank Manager Tientsin

Pander C Mrs Belgian <1906> F Housewife

Pander +J Miss Belgian <1939> F Child St Josephs School T

Pander Leopold Belgian <1941> M Child

Pander M L J Miss Belgian 07.07.44 F Child

You can see I have your sister exact birthday but not the others can you let me have them also your parents/sisters names. I do not use the topica site for this request as some people do not want to give it.

Thus far I have put together over 23000 names most with full names. Next of kin, prewar address, date of birth, Camp Number and Camp Address.

Strangely having started with the Weihsien Camp that list has probably less detail than most

Rgds

Ron Bridge

PS I remember the cess pit kid! I only have a small section of parachutes but I do have one signed by the original seven that landed.

Fw: Tip cat

alison holmes

Jul 03, 2002 16:37 PDT

Silence is so odd from this chatty group that I will try and send this again!

"Does anyone remember the rules for tip cat? I have such a vague picture in my head of this game...the cone shaped 'ball and a flipping of it into the air...but I would love to hear from someone who either has an excellent memory of a game played sixty years ago...or someone who has been playing it ever since! Thanks "

Laura's visit to Weifang.

Laura Hope-Gill

Jul 03, 2002 21:09 PDT

Dear all,

I just got back from China where I finally visited Weifang Middle School No. 2. It was a remarkable experience--as I've been holding onto my grandmother's stories for 12 years now and went there to lay down some lilies in her memory, and to set to rest some of the ghosts.

I was so surprised to see what a modern city has grown up around what I'd imagined Weihsien to be. . . and to find an amusement park complete with rollercoaster and ferris wheel across from my hotel made me laugh at myself for having forgotten how time moves on ahead, even in places that caused such suffering.

Fortunately, my traveling mate, another teacher, and I were met at the gate purely by chance, as they recognized us from a television broadcast a few nights before, and these two gentlemen, both teachers themselves, held great interest in the history of the school. Richard, the English name of one of them, is very interested in joining our list, and I will send him the information.

I took many many pictures--a peculiar exercise in ghost chasing, as now I see all I've photographed are open spaces where the blocks once stood, and the new school building where the bachelors had lived. . . and of course the two remaining Japanese quarters, now residences for the new young headmaster and teachers. Richard escorted me through one of these buildings, and I eerily peered through windows back toward the new playground/football field sans lawn. I will post gladly send these to those who are interested.

My grandmother never fully recovered from her time at Wiehsien, either spiritually or physically. And my father, who was 2 at the time of entry and 5 upon departure, bears the scars of the aftermath. I wanted to go there to lay the lillies to close the chapter at last. I found the experience healing, although in Qingdao a few days later found myself very sad. It is such a quiet part of history we all share. .. and yet one so full of tales, dreams, stories, and effects.

I am grateful for this list, as I would hardly have known what to look for, what to expect otherwise. As for China, the people are still very very kind and considerate of the wandering meigworan.

My best to all,
Sincerely, Laura

Laura's visit to Weifang.

Christine Talbot Sancton

Jul 04, 2002 09:38 PDT

Dear Laura: I was a baby of 7 months when we went into Camp in 1943 from Chinwangtao. Where were your grandparents from in China? and why were they in China?

People always ask me if my parents were missionaries. They weren't. My father Cyril Talbot, went to China with the Royal Scots Regiment in the late 1920s and met my mother in Tientsin. Her father, Jimmy Jones, had gone out to China with the Welch Fusilliers in the early 1900s and lived in Peking.

I feel so sorry that your grandmother and also your father were so scarred by their experiences in Camp. I only know what I have been told by my family and now by this amazing list serve.

We have a local Chinese restaurant here in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada whose owners are from Weifang! I have yet to show them the paintings and photographs of our time in Camp. I did read recently that Weifang is the kite making capital of China.

We too hope to visit there one day. I look forward to hearing more of your experiences and seeing your photographs. I think your photos taken inside the guards residences would be very interesting. It never occurred to me to ask where the guards lived. I wonder if any of the guards have ever expressed any interest in what happened to the inmates of the camp.

Regards, Christine Talbot Sancton

Re: Fw: Tip cat

Jo & Ben Crick
Jul 04, 2002 15:46 PDT

On Wed 3 Jul 2002 (16:32:10), ahol-@prescott.edu forwarded:

Does anyone remember the rules for tip cat? I have such a vague picture in my head of this game...the cone shaped 'ball' and a flipping of it into the air...but I would love to hear from someone who either has an excellent memory of a game played sixty years ago...or someone who has been playing it ever since!

Dear Alison,

I don't know the rules of Tip Cat; but if you are a fan of John Bunyan's writings, you will find it mentioned in /Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners/, paragraph 22:

"22. But the same day, as I was in the midst of a game at *CAT*, and having struck it one blow from the hole, just as I was about to strike it the second time, a voice did suddenly dart from heaven into my soul, which said, Wilt thou leave thy sins and go to heaven, or have thy sins and go to hell?

At this I was put to an exceeding maze; wherefore, leaving my *CAT* upon the ground, I looked up to heaven, and was, as if I had, with the eyes of my understanding, seen the Lord Jesus looking down upon me, as being very hotly displeased with me, and as if he did severely threaten me with some grievous punishment for these and other my ungodly practices." [my capitalization]

It would appear from Bunyan's testimony that there were some immoral connotations to the game of Cat, or Tip Cat: but these he does not specify. Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable lists under "SEE" "See how /or/ which way the cat jumps, To. To see what develops before taking action or committing oneself. The allusion is either to the game of Tipcat, in which a player must see which way the 'cat' (a short piece of wood) goes before "tipping" (hitting) it, or to the cruel sport mentioned under NO ROOM TO SWING A CAT."

Maybe Tipcat is a giant size version of Tiddlywinks, in which you "tip" your "wink" (a small round disc or

counter) by pressing down on its edge with another similar "wink". ???

Have you tried looking up Cat or Tip Cat in an encyclopaedia? Or type Tip Cat into Google's Search Engine and see what comes up.

Yours ever,
Ben & Jo

--

Revd Ben Crick BA CF, and Mrs Joanna (Goodwin) Crick
<ben.c-@argonet.co.uk>;
232 Canterbury Road, Birchington, Kent, CT7 9TD (UK)
<http://www.cnetwork.co.uk/crick.htm>

Re: Fw: Tip cat

alison holmes
Jul 04, 2002 18:21 PDT

Thanks so much! This is absolutely rivetting. What a great reference.i'll try Google...but I had just thought it was a particularly Chefoo game.

Hadn't thought it reached the outside world! Sometimes it felt as if we were such a closed little world...and that's one of the reasons Weihsien was so great...we started seeing what the 'real world' was like, warts and all.

My first black people, my first sight of make up at close quarters, my first realization that people didn't take it all to the Lord in prayer but shouted at each other. Pretty healthy I would say, because we all had to see how to work together. And then after Weihsien we went back to the tiny world of Kuling....but my goodness it was beautiful. I am so glad for all the variations of experience we had.....and are still having. It was a glorious moment, that liberation, and I am sure that is one reason why I am here in the States....but my life and meaning are not dependent on that one day in August. I would love to hear what it is that people are up to now....though I can see the point of a bit of nostalgia...we must be all getting to the age where the past gets vivid, or we want to put things down for our grandchildren. For myself there have been whole different lives since then...teaching has always been involved and I am so enjoying working at an environmentally aware college in the Southwest....to go to the Rez takes me back to North China...the faces, the winds, the dust, the smells.....and in our adult degree program we work with many native americans as well as hispanics as well as young self directed learners and old wise learners. To be helping people move beyond mere reaction to response, to move above the reptilian level of "Can I eat it? Will it eat me? Can I mate with it?" above the limbic/mammalian brain which makes a context for the reactions to the neocortex which looks for significance, meaning and intention, which looks for quality in response seems to be to be work worthy of human beings. A lot of the old structures and institutions are proving very fallible...and what is required is for each of us to be developing a consciousness of being conscious. That way the inner world holds the outer world in a glorious creative tension. Too often we are under external pressure and we move driven by our fixations...often highly worthy ones...but not lived dynamic discovering experiences. I'll get off my soap box now. Hope every one here has had a glorious Fourth and for the rest, look at the Declaration of Independence and see it as a blueprint for what we should be doing now. Too easy to fall back into the antedeluvian concepts that the declaration was fighting against. All the best.....Alison Martin Holmes.

Re: Fw: Tip cat

Dwight W. Whipple
Jul 05, 2002 08:18 PDT

Your "soapbox" is very much appreciated. To move from provincialism to wider vistas is always enriching.
~dwight whipple

Oh! What a wonderful morning

leopold pander
Jul 05, 2002 08:33 PDT

Ooooh! - What a wonderful morning,
Ooooh! - What a beautiful day ...

Father Hanquet explained how, after the 17th of August 1945, we slowly returned to civilization and how, every morning we all had to listen to this song bawling out of a network of loudspeakers hooked in every possible place in the entire camp perimeter. He (Father Hanquet) sang the whole song with a loud and perfect voice, twinkling eyes and a large smile in his face..

My wife, Nicky, Janette (my big sister) and I spent the whole of yesterday afternoon listening to the stories of China told by Father Hanquet.

He invited us for a chat, and after filling four cups with an excellent hot Chinese tea and two plates of succulent Belgian biscuits, we joyfully talked about the "old days" --- about Weihsien especially and all his adventures in camp and also the after-war period in China, his voyage back to Europe and all he's doing now.

He is 87 now, and though he has a pacemaker installed in his chest, his heart is still young. He overflows with an energy .. we would all like to have if ever we get that far ---- !!

I didn't even know he existed, until ----- !

In Belgium, we have a national TV-network. "Service publique" they call it, in French. There is one particular program that is named: "Inédits" which is scheduled from time to time. It's all about interviews of various people with interesting memories illustrated with old films and photographs. Twenty years ago, they started with the memories of the Belgian Congo. Many old and interesting films were found in Belgium. All of this "recent history" was very interesting and "Inédits" had a lot of success. I think our Canadian friends had access to this particular program through the channel "TV5" which is a satellite re-transmission of all French spoken programs.

Anyway, we had a few evenings, with "China" as the central theme. We saw the voyage that our Queen Elizabeth of Belgium made in China "incognito", the coal mines of Northern China with Monique Walravens, the fabulous pictures and movies of Mister Hers, the interview of Madame Leclercq --- and many others (I forgot the names) --- and also a series with Father Hanquet and his return to Northern China where he was a priest many years ago, before the war.

Well, André Huet, the responsible person for "Inédits" received one day, a 16mm. film in a metal box that had a strong smell of vinegar. It rather stinked than smelled vinegar. That was due to a kind of mushroom that introduces itself into old films and finally destroys them at very short notice.

Well, our Belgian television restored the film with (I think) the help of our British friends who are "number one" specialists in that kind of work.

Very happy and proud of what had been done, André Huet invited all the people he knew that had been in China at the time, to a lunch in a Brussels Chinese restaurant to vision the "film" and to talk about China -- and also appreciate a bit of Chinese chow !

I was there too.

--- And at the end of the projection, when the lights went on again and when the speeches were said, someone in the backside of the room said my name --- loud and clear ---. "Is Leopold Pander here?"

I stood up and answered, "Yes, ---- ? " (?????)

Everybody was listening ...

" We were in Weihsien together ..I held you in my arms !! "

I was bewildered !

And ---

That's how Father Hanquet found me, nearly 60 years after.

What is most extraordinary, is that he lives in the village just next to where I live !!!!

Leopold.

P.S.

Can somebody give me the reference number of a good CD with that song we listened to so often in Camp and also a song my Mother often sang when she was specially happy: "You are my sunshine ...".

Re: Oh! What a wonderful morning

Donald Menzi

Jul 05, 2002 12:30 PDT

Leopold

The song you asked about is from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, "Oklahoma!" In 1945 it was still fresh, probably still playing on Broadway. At the time it was considered highly innovative, even revolutionary in the way it integrated music, dance and dialogue into an esthetic whole. Previously, musical shows consisted of dialogue that was interrupted periodically by a song or dance. I only know this because this year is the centennial of Richard Rogers' birth, so we hear a lot about him. There's also a revival of Oklahoma! on Broadway.

You can get a copy of the original cast recording, made in 1943 (re-mastered to improve the sound reproduction) which will show you how it sounded to its first hearers, from the on-line store, amazon.com.

Simply change the search criteria on their home page (left side) to "music" and enter "Oklahoma" and you'll see all the versions. You could also get later versions that might sound "better" because they used later recording technology, but given your reasons for wanting it, you'll probably want the original.

Enjoy!

Re: Oh! What a wonderful morning

Donald Menzi

Jul 05, 2002 12:35 PDT

Leopold --

By the way, would you be able to ask Father Hanquet about the exact location of the Trappist monastery located to the northwest of Beijing?

I have some photos that my father took there in 1925, while on a camping trip, and I'd like to visit it some day. I am told that it has been turned into a farming community, the church into a pig sty, etc., but I'd like to take a photo from the same spot he was standing over 75 years ago. I was able to do this 3 years ago in Tunghsien, where he was the principle of the North China American School from 1922 to 1927. If he could locate its approximate position on a map and indicate the direction distance from Beijing, that would be great.

Embroidered parachute silk

Mary Previte

Jul 05, 2002 18:24 PDT

Hello, Ron,

I also have a wonderful piece of parachute silk, autographed by the seven men who liberated

Weih sien. It is only partly embroidered -- as though the woman couldn't get it finished before she had to give it as a gift. In the upper left hand corner, the date is embroidered: August 17, 1945. In the upper right is the B-24 bomber. The lower right depicts the roof of the Weih sien church, nestled behind trees. The liberators are pictured drifting to the ground by parachute, I believe in the order in which they jumped.

Each man autographed his image.

Carol Orlich, widow of rescuer Peter Orlich gave it to me. She said Pete told her a white Russian woman gave it to him as a goodbye gift when he and most of the liberation team left to start a base in Tsingtao for the Office of Strategic Services. We have tried unsuccessfully to find out who gave it to Peter Orlich. Can anyone help?

Peter Orlich was the radio operator of the liberation team, only 21 years old the day he helped liberate the camp. Many girls in the camp were in love with him. He was young and unattached -- not that marital status mattered.

One prominent Weih sien prisoner has told me how one of the Weih sien liberators -- a married man -- stole his sweetheart from him in those post liberation days.

I have a "blueprint" or pattern of this embroidery on the now-yellowing parachute silk, which makes me think that this same pattern may have been embroidered by many women. Do others of you have similarly embroidered parachute silk?

Some of you may have the May 2001 GOOD HOUSEKEEPING magazine in which I told the story of my finding these heroes: "FINDING HER ANGELS." Page 85 of that magazine pictures this piece of embroidered parachute.

I usually show this amazing embroidery to audiences when I am invited to tell this heart warming story. -- many, many times a year. School children to seniors who experienced World War II -- they are all mesmerized by this piece of parachute silk.

Mary Previte

Re: weifang

Mary Previte
Jul 05, 2002 18:36 PDT

Laura,

Thank you for letting us use this network to join your pilgrimage to Weifang. Where did you lay the lilies? Did you visit the "museum," which used to be housed in one of the buildings in the old Japanese quarters? Is the hospital still standing?

Mary Previte

Re: Laura's visit to Weifang.

Mary Previte
Jul 05, 2002 18:47 PDT

Dear Christine:

Make your Chinese restaurateur from Weifang happy. Give him the Chinese edition of David Michell's book, A Boy's War. It's all about Weih sien. For those of you traveling to China and Weifang, this Chinese edition would make a wonderful gift to give as a small thank you to your hosts.

Mary Previte

Re: Oh! What a wonderful morning

leopold pander
Jul 06, 2002 01:34 PDT

Hello Donald,

It's with pleasure that I'll transmit your message to Father Hanquet with your address in NY. He was so pleased in talking all about China and Weih sien, I am sure he would be more than happy in getting news from all of you. He now lives in the university campus of the Catholic University of Louvain-La-Neuve, in Belgium situated, at more or less 30 kilometers south of Brussels.

Mr. l'Abbé E. HANQUET
Rue des Buissons, 1-201
1348 - LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE
BELGIUM

Best regards,
Leopold

Re: Laura's visit to Weifang.

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 06, 2002 05:58 PDT

Dear Christine,

Thanks for your kind message. My grandparents weren't missionaries either. Donald Hope-Gill was a physician for the Kowloon Mining Administration in Hong Kong, then Swatow, then Tangshan before his family were moved to Tienstin prior to "capture." Grace, my grandmother, grew up on an American base in Manila. They married shortly after he treated her for a sore knee (she had great legs).

Weifang is a sprawling young city with many white shiny condominiums and apartment complexes, and as I mentioned, even an amusement park. The amusement park is a curiosity to me as it costs 80 yuan to get in and this makes it very empty as 80 yuan is far beyond the disposable income of most families from what I gather.. I kid you not when I say myself and the teacher with whom I was traveling and her daughter were the only people in there! It was surreal.

There are long streets of shops and vendors. Just outside "the camp" a shoemaker stands surrounded by tools on the sidewalk, and people sit on their small folding squat stools (as I call them) visiting. It's a very social place where communities just begin and disperse around whatever the most interesting thing happening might be--in some cases simply the repairing of a pair of sandals. Also just outside the gates (no longer the old gates, which seems a loss to us historians) there are carts vending kabobs and sausages and people dine on low stools at low tables. We were advised that our tender american bellies might not be well served by this food. You can also buy a bottle of Weishan Soda, which tastes like flat diet coke, for 2 yuan (30 cents), from the carts vendors. There's a flower store that sells real flowers just across the road. I found it difficult to find real flowers so found kind symbolism in this particular florist.

Inside the Japanese quarters it is dark and run down. I took a picture of the window and door on the staircase. I felt uncomfortable photographing the headmaster's bedroom so didn't. It was spacious and had four windows. The feelings I had in those buildings haven't yet surfaced, I think. All I kept thinking was how I was standing in 2002 in a space that my grandparents could not go near in 1942-1945. My friend photographed me on the porch, a sort of symbolic undoing of the out-of-bounds-ness.

There is a museum in Harbin which observes the goings on in the camps in China. I only learned about it at the airport prior to my departure from Beijing. There are records there apparently of medical experiments and other horrors--did these atrocities occur at Weih sien?

As for kites, yes. I learned from the concierge at the hotel that it is the home of the kite. When you go, request a driver to take to the Weifang Crafts District. It's a very old street filled with little kite shops where you can buy fantastic paper and silk dragon kites anywhere from 30 centimeters long (cute!) to 100 feet long. I bought several three foot kites for just 8 Yuan (1 dollar) and wish I'd had more room in my suitcase for a hundred more for friends.

We stayed at the Dongfang hotel, which cost 200 yuan a night (30 dollars roughly) and has four restaurants and a pool, which I found a blessing and a rarity.

Visiting the place has affected me in ways I don't know yet. I caught some miserable virus either in Qingdao or Beijing which has kept me in fever and kleenex since returning on the first. I think it's greatly psychosomatic, all the tearing of eyes and such.

I'll scan in pictures when I'm a bit better. Thanks for writing.

Sincerely, Laura

Re: weifang

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 06, 2002 06:24 PDT

Dear Mary,

I asked Richard about the museum and he told me it no longer "exists." He did arrange a meeting with the school's archivist and showed me several files which include the watercolors (beautiful work!) and several manuscripts by former internees. Also, there is an immense amount of information about Eric Liddell. My friend Mary has Richard's email. I think once we contact him and show him how many of us still hold so much information, we could reopen the museum on the grounds. He is very enthusiastic about the school's history.

I asked about the hospital. Richard said an old section still exists, but we were traveling with a 10 year old girl who was anxious to get to the roller coaster, so I settled for driving past the new hospital next door and imagining what I was missing. I plan to return next summer to teach English so will do more searching.

I lay the lillies on the edge of the football field. According to maps, my grandparents' quarters were closer to the near end of the field, but for some reason I felt drawn to the far edge, as though something of importance had happened there. Forgive my spookiness, but it was all rather spooky. Also, from that place, looking back over my shoulder, I could see the whole section and felt a sense of entirety, that the lillies were not just for my family, as I'd planned, but for everyone who had been there, who had helped and witnessed each other's survival. It no longer belonged just to the Hope-Gill's, and I didn't either in a sense. This is a story that belongs to all of us, and as I knelt at the lillies to say a prayer, I felt comforted by hope and time which moves us forward and through all terrible things.

While writing that I figured out I was on the West edge of the section. Perhaps I was drawn to the West edge because our families were from the West and for innumerable reasons found themselves caught in the East, and suffered with the East, and later, for the most part, returned to the West. I'm not sure, but

it's possible. All I know is that was the space that spoke most deeply to me. I lay five golden lillies. Four for each member of my family that was there, and one for all of you and the peace I hope you have all found in your lives and memories.

And then I rode a ferris wheel, looking down over the entire city as the slow cycle of the wheel moaned at every turn. Another peculiar little detail is that my grandmother told me that when the parachutes came down, the people sang a chorus of Amazing Grace. She was deliriously weak at that point so the memory could bear some corroboration, but when I returned to the hotel alone as Mary had gone with her daughter to the amusement park and I'd returned to put our kites in my room, as I stepped into the elevator in the lobby I heard "Amazing Grace" playing on the piped in music. I stumbled for a moment as I didn't recall hearing music before in the hotel air. From that moment, I continued to hear the song in a variety of strange contexts, including a shampoo commercial in Beijing and couldn't help but wonder. . . .

It's great that we're all in contact. I would be very happy to help organize a trip back to Weifang next summer. I've also a documentary film-maker friend who is very interested in our stories. . . perhaps. . .

Sincerely,
Laura

Re: Weed eaters

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 06, 2002 10:20 PDT

Dear Mary,

Your article is beautiful.

Warmly,
Laura

Re: Weed eaters

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 06, 2002 10:24 PDT

Hello all,

Regarding peculiar diet in the camp, my father and uncle licked the walls to get calcium into their bodies.

My grandmother told me of "handkerchief gardens" in which she tried to grow tomatoes from the seeds she pulled in the kitchen. At one point she was certain her boys would die without vitamin C and must have shared her concern as the next day three full ripe tomatoes appeared on her step with no note or name of their giver attached. Tomatoes, ever since I heard this story, are special to me.

Laura

tunnels

Dwight W. Whipple
Jul 06, 2002 10:26 PDT

Does anybody else remember the tunnels at Weihsien? I remember playing in them. We lived in block one near the ball field and one tunnel started in the outfield and ended up by the hospital. We never knew what they were for -- maybe a hiding place in case of a raid? In any case, my memories are of a lot of fun down there, hiding and scaring whoever else would come along!

~dwight whipple

Reunion

Laura Hope-Gill

Jul 06, 2002 11:09 PDT

Dear all,

I would be happy to put together a reunion in Weifang. I'll go ahead and give the specs to a travel agent here in Asheville, NC for whom I used to work. We could get special deals through them for "missionary fares". I also have an excellent contact at the visa office in DC and know the manager at the hotel where I stayed. Naturally, I'll just get the estimated cost per person and put it back to you all. It seems we're all quite far flung, so meeting in Weifang makes sense. There's no airport there, so we'd fly into Beijing or Shanghai then take a domestic flight (50 bucks or so) to Qingdao and then a 2 hours train ride to Weifang.

Of course, if the meeting place should be elsewhere more economical, all we need to give an airline is a common destination for 10-15% conference discounts. If we do China, I could arrange for a number of common departure points, i.e. London, New York, Toronto or Vancouver, L.A., and perhaps one in Australia as it seems several listers have mentioned former internees and friends there.. Add-on airfare from our regional airports could be organized either independently or through the agency.

Would there be interest in including a few days in Tianjin/Tientsin, Qingdao, Chingwantao, and/or other cities which are pertinent to our histories?

Please advise me of these. It seems most of us have history with Tianjin.

And I believe a great number were taken to Qingdao after liberation. Please correct me.

Would anyone be averse to the idea of making a documentary about this reunion? If so, please tell me. I would like to get the ball rolling on permits and arrangements with the Chinese government as soon as I can.

I'll go ahead and look into it on Monday (I'm on summer holiday from teaching so have some time on my hands.)

Sincerely, Laura

Re: Reunion

Dwight W. Whipple

Jul 06, 2002 11:56 PDT

What kind of time span are you looking at? This autumn? Next spring? We are in the process of planning a trip to China this autumn to take advantage of the Yangtze River before it changes. We are also planning to visit my birthplace, Kuling, or as it is known now, Lushan, in the mountains of Kiangsi south of the Yangtze. If the reunion were this autumn we could do it all!

~dwight whipple

Re: Reunion

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 06, 2002 14:11 PDT

Dear Dwight,

Your plans sound fantastic. Based on what I know of the travel world, planning for the autumn would not give us enough lead time. If we plan it for next summer--say Mid-July, we'll have time to negotiate really low fares and rates at hotels, as well as accommodate special requests for such individual trips as to birthplaces (my own Dad was born in Tangshan, my uncle in Swatow) and other details which will make this the trip of a lifetime for everyone.

In booking these things, travel agencies first take the request, then it sits in a box for a while (sometimes a week, sometimes a month) as the agents take care of current tours, most of which happen in summer and early fall, then the requests get doled out among the agents who then do the necessary research--taking bids from airlines, for instance, to get the lowest fares--and then they come up with a rough draft and estimate. The next step is tweaking the itinerary, and then we make the "brochure" which we'd send to as many people as we can in hopes they all say yes. Next, people send in a deposit and the forms which specify whether they need add-on airfare and any special individual side trips. It's good, I think, to give everyone the chance to make payments over time leading up to departure. I'll definitely try to make it as economical as possible. I'll also look into a grant to subsidize our travel costs, that is if I have everyone's blessing to go ahead with the documentary project, under the auspices of which we could get funding from historical and arts councils and organizations.

I hope this explains why I think the autumn will be too soon, although I wish we all could hop on the boat and cruise the Yangtze at the end of it. I had tickets to go on the Victoria Cruise, but the week of my cruise found the Yangtze flooded and 60 dead in Wuhan and tourists stranded without drinking water or food in Xi'an. . . so please witness the Yangtze for me when you go.
I was very sad not to see it.

I hope to hear lots of questions and suggestions, especially regarding dates.

All my best, and thank you for your suggestion.
Safe travels,
Laura

Re: Reunion

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 06, 2002 20:11 PDT

I am from Tsingtao and WeiHsien. I am interested in a re-union of Weihsien exes. Please keep me advised of developments. There are quite a few ex WeiHsieners in Australia. Joyce Bxradbury nee Cooke.

Re: weifang

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 06, 2002 21:14 PDT

Dear Mary. The hospital was still standing when my husband and I visited the camp in 1986. There was a foundation stone near the door of the hospital which was very difficult to read but from memory it read

"Hospital 1924". We were with Stanley Fairchild who pointed out the upstairs section where he said he had been a patient for a short period in the hospital during internment. I had no knowledge of any museum in the camp. The hospital is only a few meters from the present (new) front gateway. Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

RE: Embroidered parachute silk

Ron Bridge
Jul 07, 2002 07:55 PDT

My price of parachute is just signed by the team I know my late mother planned to embroider it but never did.

Have you any clue as to the name of the women who gave it to orlich as I have the nominal roll.

Rgd
Ron

RE: tunnels

Ron Bridge
Jul 07, 2002 07:55 PDT

They were not tunnels but were the standard Japanese design " Air Raid shelter, most situated near the hospital block.

Rgds
Ron

RE: Laura's visit to Weifang.

Ron Bridge
Jul 07, 2002 07:55 PDT

Just for the record Laura's account was slightly wrong it was the Kailan (Not Kowloon) Mining Administration with Headquarters on what then Meadows Road. The mines were situated at Tongshan and the same mines were damaged in the earthquake in the 1970s.

Rgds
Ron

RE: Reunion

Ron Bridge
Jul 07, 2002 07:55 PDT

You are not going to get anything together before mid 2003 at earliest. With the weather factor I would suspect May or September would be a good time out of the normal holiday rush for flights.

Rgds
Ron

Re: Laura's visit to Weifang.

Gay Talbot Stratford
Jul 07, 2002 08:48 PDT

Hi, actually there were three mines apart from Tongshan, one at Linsi where we lived, one

atTchogajuong? and one at Tongjuajong.

Off the air for 9 weeks!

Norman Cliff
Jul 07, 2002 10:22 PDT

My fellow Weihsieners, 7 July, 2002.

I have enjoyed all the discussions about past years in Weihsien.

On the evening of 10th July I will turn off my e-mailer, as I am leaving for Shanghai on the 11th. I will turn it on again on 21 Sept. when I will be back. I am not taking my machine with me.

I will be going through many provinces in China, starting in the south west, making contact with Christian communities. In Shandong it will be Tsingtao and Chefoo.

God bless you all. Norman Cliff.

Re: Off the air for 9 weeks!

Donald Menzi
Jul 07, 2002 10:45 PDT

Norman

It sounds like a very interesting trip. We will all look forward to hearing about it when you get back.

Do you know if there is still an active Christian church in Tianjin? My great-grandfather, Charles Stanley, was the American Board missionary there from 1862 to 1910 and I'd like to visit there the next time we go to China.

Do you have any idea about how to identify a contact there?

I also have the names of about a dozen village churches northeast from Beijing that were started or served by my Grandfather, George Wilder, and I'd like to know if there are any Christians still in them. Is there any way to find out?

You don't need to reply to this if you don't have time.

Best wishes for a safe return.

Calcium supplements at Weihsien

Mary Previte
Jul 07, 2002 17:00 PDT

Hello, Laura,

I'm fascinated at your account of your father and uncle licking the walls to get calcium into their bodies. Getting calcium was, indeed, a problem.

Some children in Weihsien had teeth growing in without enamel.

That's when our Chefoo teachers discovered egg shell as a calcium supplement to our dwindling diet. On the advice of camp doctors, they washed and baked and ground the shells into a gritty powder and spooned it into our spluttering mouths each day in the dormitory. We gagged and choked and exhaled, hoping the grit would blow away before we had to swallow. But it never did. So we gnashed our teeth on the powdered shells -- pure calcium.

On one of our Taylor family's return trips to Weihsien, I stuck out my tongue as we did to long ago to

get the ration of powdered egg shell -- and had my daughter take a picture of me on the exact spot in our dormitory in Block 23 where our teachers spooned it into our mouths.

Eggs usually came into the camp via the black market.

Mary Taylor Previte

How the Chefoo School got switched from Block 23 to the hospital

Mary Previte
Jul 07, 2002 18:10 PDT

Joyce:

On one of our Taylor family returns to Weih sien, the principal of the school showed us a "museum" he had created in an upstairs room of one of the houses in the the Japanese section of the camp. In that room, a glass display case held articles and books that had been written about the camp.

On my last trip, the old hospital was still there -- but in deplorable condition and no longer in use as a hospital. But we convinced our hosts to let us into the room that had once been the Chefoo School's Lower School Dormitory (LSD) where I had lived in 1944 and '45 .

Do any of you recall how most of the Chefoo School got switched from being housed in Block 23 to the hospital? Single, adult men had been housed in the hospital until the escape of Hummel and Tipton, June, 1944. Located near the camp wall, the hospital had a clear view of the fields beyond the camp, and the Japanese accused the adult men of signaling over the wall to Chinese guerrillas, perhaps to facilitate the escape. That's when the Japanese switched the single, adult men away from the hospital -- too close to the outside wall -- to Block 23 in the middle of the camp. They moved the Chefoo School children out of Block 23 to dormitories in the hospital. I guess they thought children and teenagers would be less likely to spy over the wall.

Several years ago, because our daughter was working for the Philadelphia Inquirer's economics columnist, I was invited by this columnist to a posh dinner meeting of erudite Philadelphians at which Arthur Hummel was the speaker. Hummel, as you know, had served as the U.S. ambassador to China and spoke about China and U.S. trade -- economics stuff way over my head. As a post script for the evening's event, I was asked to stand and recount the story of the escape of Hummel and Tipton from the Weih sien Civilian Assembly Center so long ago

My childhood memories of that escape and the ripples of hope it inspired always tumble out in living color. And I am never erudite, so I may have upstaged Arthur Hummel that night. The wife of The Philadelphia Inquirer columnist later told me that she found my story much more interesting than the talk about U.S.-China trade relations. When it comes to speeches, doesn't "feel-good" always beat economics?

Mary Previte

Embroidered parachute silk

Mary Previte
Jul 07, 2002 18:15 PDT

Ron,

Peter Orlich's widow does not know the name of the woman or girl who gave it to Pete. She knows only that she was a "white Russian." How many "white Russian" women were in Weih sien?

Mary Previte

Re: Off the air for 9 weeks!

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 07, 2002 23:44 PDT

Dear Norman. You lucky man! When you get to Tsingtao keep your eye out for our old home at 14 Second Chan Shan Road, Iltis Huk. This is where your old No 1 kitchen hand colleague Eddie Cooke (my dad) and our family lived before and after internment. The Chinese name of the street is Chan Shan Er-lu - She-se ho. The house is still there and the street number and name is the same or at least it was in 1997. It was then an old peoples' home. I do not need a photograph of the house as I took one in 1986 and my friend took one two years ago. Bon voyage. Joyce Cooke Bradbury.

RE: Embroidered parachute silk

Ron Bridge
Jul 08, 2002 05:32 PDT

Mary,
According to the records the following were listed as born "Russian" and hence could probably be considered White Russian. Married to US Citizens.
SY Broome, J Cline, J Hamins, VA Hoch, HSB Ladlow, Anya Ladlow, MS Oddo E
Richardson, NN Rumpf.
Married to UK Citizens
AK Ouwerkerk, VG Smurthwaite, G Watts
There could be more but the records do not show them
My suspicion would be that it was one of the US wives.
Rdgs
Ron

(no subject)

Sylvia Walker
Jul 08, 2002 05:52 PDT

Dear Norman,
Thank you for your kind words about my Dad- he was great! and how he would have loved all this "chit-chat" with you Weisheners !!!
Have got a copy of your book " Courtyard of the Happy Way" and really enjoyed it.
My memories are sketchy because I was quite young when there - it is good to have the gaps filled in by people older than I was. Also I was one of the two kids who had polio in the camp- the other I believe was a boy- would anyone know who that was ?

I do remember my mother massaging me with hot blankets - a technique she read about used by the Australian Sister Kenny- and luckily have recovered. I also remember being in the Hospital under quarantine because I had the Chicken Pox and all the kids sending me a get well card.

Lovely to be in touch with you all and have a wonderful trip,

Regards,
Sylvia Tchoo (Walker)

White Russians

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 08, 2002 06:01 PDT

Dear Mary,

I checked my notes. In addenda, written on small sheets of paper and tucked between pages to none of our knowledge until after her death, to Gilkey's book, my grandmother cites the population as follows:

600 U.S

800 British

250 Netherlands (before 1943)

100 Italians who arrived in December of 1943

60 White Russians who were married to Americans and British.

Sincerely,

Laura

Camp Diet

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 08, 2002 06:10 PDT

Dear Mary,

I have a bit more on diet from my granny's notes, here reproduced.

"Gao-Liang flour was a hard grain used to make bread, filling but hard to digest.

Millet.

No cereal, only leftover bread soaked overnight and heated the following morning.

"No Experience" (she is referring to her own cooking skills) no hot plate

Preparers were begged to cut down on water in the vegetables so people could use a fork."

Granny told me a story once about how she and some other cooks wrote up a menu card and posted it on the wall of the dining hall. On it were listed such delights as duck a l'orange, champagne, etc. They did this so everyone "could have a wish and a laugh". When the commandant saw it, he tore it down.

Regards, Laura

Jazz Band

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 08, 2002 06:13 PDT

Dear all,

I'm very curious about the jazz band and the dances that took place at Weih sien.

I understand there was a Louisiana Jazz Band--African American?--interned.

Were they on tour in China? Does anyone know their names? Also, I understand from Granny's notes that many internees brought with them or made in camp musical instruments. What instruments were

there? How did rehearsals/jam sessions take place. Notes say: "when the band was started the instruments were taken away and the members were punished." And yet, I understand from Desmond that dances did take place. Can anyone shed light on this detail for me?

Thanks and regards,
Laura

RE: Jazz Band

Ron Bridge
Jul 08, 2002 09:29 PDT

Laura,
According to the 30 Jun43 Camp Roll. The following were professional Musicians
George "Pineapple" Alawa US Guitar Player b1902
George Beck US Guitar Player b1902
Reginald " Jonsey" Jones US Base Player b19019
L Sarreal Phillipino Bandsman.
They were probably the Jazz Band
Do not forget that there ws a lot of amateur musical talent as well as a Salvation Army Band
Rgds
Ron

Re: Camp Diet

Mary Previte
Jul 08, 2002 20:08 PDT

I don't recall the menu board listing duck a l'orange or champagne, but once in a while some happy soul substituted a menu name like "Hungarian goulash" for the usual S.O. S. (same old stew). I recall once being tantalised by the menu board listing of "TT soup" -- which turned out to be turnip top soup.

Mary Previte

Calcium Supplement

Leonard Mostaert
Jul 08, 2002 21:59 PDT

Mary Previte has brought back my nightmares of having to swallow (?) ground up egg shells. These were ground up to a fine powder and a table spoon full was given to the unhappy recipients with a smile of encouragement. I remember vividly walking around for hours with this horrible mass in my mouth which would not go down as egg shells are just soluble in water, and just sit there waiting for little bite to go down slowly through their own initiative. It was truly terrible.

the hospital

Leonard Mostaert
Jul 08, 2002 22:21 PDT

There has been a lot of correspondence about the coal hill, Cheefoo School, and air raid shelters. We were in block 53, and the main way to the hospital area by those from the west of the camp was right past our door. The Hospital was my home territory, as well as the South Field, where I ran around

with Alec Lane (block 33) who always seemed to have got me into mischief.

This is the first time that I have realised that the school that we attended was the Cheefoo School, I always thought it was the Grammar School.

I remember that I sat next to Frennie Dhunjishah (block 42), and that classes were held at the first floor south end. Every morning all activity stopped by the screams of a pupil being dragged along by his mother to attend school. He screamed very loudly and we could hear him coming from a long way away.

There was this "coal hill" north west of the hospital where many boys of my age, me included, used to scratch around to find some useful lumps of semi-burnt coal to take home to our parent, as fuel was very scarce.

We also used to play in the hospital grounds, near the air raid shelters, and what went on in those dark scary tunnels was hard to believe.

We also used to know when a certain guard was on duty at that sentry tower at the south east corner of the hospital grounds. This guard was very kind to us children, and would let us play with his sword, and remember having a pretend sword fight with Alec Lane, one of us with the sword and the other with the scabbard ! This guard also let one boy over the wall to retrieve any ball that would mysteriously land on the other side of the wall. I never did get over, but some of the bigger and more athletic boys did spend a few precious minutes on the other side.

Talk of the hospital, and it all came back.

Re: Jazz Band

Zandy Strangman
Jul 09, 2002 06:38 PDT

Hi Laura,

I've been reading your messages with a lot of interest, from the Visiting Weihsien item to the many recent very interesting reports on your wonderful trip. By the sound of it, you must have had a memorable trip to want to return so soon and even go to the trouble of organizing a group 'pilgrimage' back to our 'ol camp' site.

You make it sound so easy and tempting . I'll have to give it some serious thought but maybe I've left my run too late.

I had just turned 16 when that big, beautiful B-24 Liberator 'dopped in'! Therefore, older than your father, which ever one of the two young boys, was he.

There is more I'd like to know about your trip such as the cost. (from the U.S. I presume?)

But tonight I'd just like to fill you in on what your other informant omitted regarding the Jazz band.

Earl West (guitar) and Wayne Adams (Clarinet,) both African/Americans made up the group. We called 'it' the Hawaiian band. And I can still hear their popular rendition of "The Sheikh of Araby"! No they were not on tour but just part of many foreign musicians working in China, as far as I know.

Don't remember much about the rehearsals or jam sessions but maybe Des can throw more light on that one .By the way, he'll be 80 this year and he's still going strong. Des Power and Brian Clarke came in as relief guitarists, occasionally.

I never heard about any instruments being 'taken away' or 'members being punished'. The Japs were pretty 'good' to us, really, in my opinion . The Salvation Army had their full quota of instuments of course. There were one or two piano accordians around as well. I had one loaned to me for a couple of weeks, as a trial. ---

Sincerely, Zandy Strangman

Weihsien

Natasha Petersen

Jul 09, 2002 09:33 PDT

Dear All,

I had just turned 19 in September of 1945. I fondly remember the outdoor dances. I remember going with George Wallis and Roy and Lily Tchoo. These dances were quite festive and quite a treat for us. I, too, do not remember about instruments being 'taken away' or members being punished. The Japs were quite lenient. We sang both American and British 'national & patriotic' songs and had many presentations of song and dance. Betty, Desmond's half sister with her Hula dancing was a great success.

I had forgotten about the tunnel. I do not believe that I had ever gone through it.

Bedbugs and China of those years went together. In camp we placed the bed legs into tin cans filled with water. The bedbugs drowned.

Laura, do keep us informed about the proposed trip to China. Thank you for taking on the job of putting it together. I have put together many trips to the former Soviet Union and England. It is very time consuming.

Natasha

bedbugs

Mary Previte

Jul 09, 2002 16:58 PDT

Oh, yes, I remember sleeping with China's millions -- bedbugs. We children in the Chefoo School slept on steamer trunks -- three trunks, side by side, topped with a poo-gai -- because we had no beds. The bedbugs infested every nook and cranny of those trunks, hiding out during daylight and marauding at night.

We got so used to bedbugs crawling across our bodies that our minds often invented the feeling. In the morning the trail of bites would testify whether or not we were attacked by the real thing.

For those of us in the Chefoo School, every Saturday in the summer was Battle of the Bedbugs time. It was a survival ritual. With knives or thumbnails we attacked every corner, every crack in those steamer trunks (it was them or us). We attacked every seam in sheets or pillows to crush hidden bugs or bedbug eggs. Some of us had mosquito nets that were streaked with blood where we had killed these blood-gorged bugs.

Mary Previte

Re: Article by Mary Taylor Previte in another format.

Gladys Swift

Jul 09, 2002 18:14 PDT

From Gladys Swift - I do not get Attachments. Please do not send me any.

Thanks.

Re: Doris Littler and Donald Littler

Gladys Swift

Jul 09, 2002 18:17 PDT

I was wondering if anyone might know either one of these individuals and how I might contact them. They were both in their teens when they were at Weihsien. They were in the same block as my great grandmother. I am hoping to locate them to see if they might remember my great grandmother.

Pam Tanner

Reply from Gladys Hubbard Swift - I think there were some Littlers in Paotingfu when I was young, Salvation Army, but I don't know how to contact them.

Re: new subscribers

Gladys Swift
Jul 09, 2002 18:20 PDT

Reply from Gladys - My name is Gladys Hubbard Swift, daughter of Hugh and Mabel Hubbard who were at Weihsien to the end. They sent me back to the U.S.A. in January of 1941 before Pearl Harbor. I may have some writings about Weihsien from them but I would have to find them.

Welcome Leopold Pander and Dwight Whipple. glaswift @cstone.net please let me have your first and last names, and let us know about you and your connection to Weihsien. Natasha natasha @infi.net

Re: New on the chat-list

Gladys Swift
Jul 09, 2002 19:09 PDT

Reply from Gladys Hubbard Swift - I was twenty years old when my parents were interned at Weihsien. I have some writings of theirs. Do we have a Bibliography re Weihsien? I do have OMF Book list with A Boy's War by Michell.

RE: CALCIUM SUPPLEMENT

Donald Menzi
Jul 09, 2002 19:23 PDT

I remember my grandmother talking about grinding up eggshells for calcium, but I believe she said (or else I imagined) that they were mixed with food, or baked in bread. Did everyone have to take them straight?

RE: CALCIUM SUPPLEMENT/OH! HOW WELL I REMEMBER!!!!

David Birch
Jul 09, 2002 20:39 PDT

I clearly recall taking the chalky, white powder, by teaspoon and washing it down with piping hot tea from my enamel mug. All the boys at my table, and adjoining ones (just a few feet from where my brother John sat at the prep school table with his classmates, boys and girls. The prepites as I recall ate certain greens, such as home-grown alfalfa, and so on, grown by Miss Pearl Young, et al).

Although it may sound a little like Dickens's Mrs. Squeers administering brimstone and treacle, it quite honestly wasn't that bad. Perhaps there was some of the powdered eggshell in our bread from time to time. I well remember enjoying dried-out bread (a bit like Melba toast or rusks) that Mr. Bruce kept in a bowl for us boys who lived in the attic of Block 61 (the fine old Presbyterian hospital overlooking the Wei River valley.

Thank you Donald, for doing so much to stimulate these wonderful memories. Really, our morale was GOOD, but mainly because of the full program of studies, sports, evening concerts, piano recitals

(remember Miss Talahti and Percy Gleed, and earlier on Mr. Elden Whipple, Dwight's father, who sometimes accompanied the well-attended church services in the big church by the baseball field?

Must run now - I could reminisce with you folks all night if I allowed myself.

David

RE: BIBLIOGRAPHY ON WEIHSIEN

Donald Menzi

Jul 09, 2002 21:43 PDT

Between the books, paintings, photos and the wonderful recollections being shared within this group, it seems almost possible to bring Weihsien back from the the past. I think there we have the makings of a great documentary

As a beginning bibliography, I have managed to obtain the following material about Weihsien:

1. Books

Langdon Gilkey, "[Shantung Compound](#) -- The Story of Men and Women Under Pressure," HarperSanFrancisco (1966).

Norman Cliff, "[Courtyard of the Happy Way](#)," Arthur James Limited, Evesham, Worcs., England (1977).

David Michell, "[A Boy's War](#)," OMF International, Singapore (1988).

Laurance Tipton, "[Chinese Escapade](#)," Macmillan & Co, London, (1949). (He's one of the two escapees)

(our own) Pamela Masters, "[The Mushroom Years](#) - A Story of Survival," Henderson House, Placerville, CA, (1998).

R. J. DeJaegher, "[The Enemy Within](#), An Eyewitness Account of the Communist Conquest of China" (Chapter 8 only), St Paul Publications, Bandra, Bombay (1969).

Stanley Nordmo mentioned a book by Martha Philips, "[Behind Stone Walls and Barbed Wire](#)." I've searched in vain for it through all of the internet sources I know of for out-of-print books (bibliofind, abe, powells, alibris -- all ending in .com). [July 22, 2004, message from Norman Cliff: This was published by: Bible Memory Association, P.O.BOX 12000, Ringgold, LA 71068-2000. Tel: 318-894-9154](#)

Joyce Bradbury has mentioned her own book in an email, but I don't know the title. Through abe.com I located a book entitled "[Forgiven but not Forgotten](#)" by a Joyce Bradbury in a bookstore in Australia. I have called them and they are checking it out to see if it could be hers, in which case I'll buy it from them. (Is that your book, Joyce, and if not, what is your title?)

Joyce also mentions that she has a photostat copy of [Fr. Scanlan's autobiography](#), which is not otherwise obtainable. (Joyce, if you would be willing to send me a copy I may be able to scan it with Optical Character Recognition software and put into Microsoft Word so it can be "republished" so to speak.)

Leonare Moestart has mentioned a book entitled "[Tientsin](#)," by David C. Hulme, that includes some stories about Weihsien, available by downloading or print through [www.iumix.com](#).

2. Writings

The two unpublished manuscripts that I have, which I will make available to anyone either as an attachment (in MS Word) or on paper, are:

Howard Galt, "[The Internment Camp at Wei Hsien, Shantung, March - Sept., 1943](#)," original in the Yale Divinity School Library, New Haven.

George D. Wilder, "[Weihsien Diary](#)" -- daily diary entries for the period from March to September, 1943.

In addition, there are Galt's and Wilder's descriptions of the [repatriation voyage of the Gripsholm](#), the ship that took a large number of internees back to the U.S. in 1943. These, too, can be sent either as email attachments or "hard" copies.

3. Paintings and Photos

There are several sources of paintings and photographs of Weihsien. In addition to those done by Gertrude Wilder (22 watercolors), Joyce Bradbury has sent out scans of five paintings collected by her brother, Eddie Cook. Leopold Pander has produced a CD with some wonderful "aquarelles" -- finely detailed paintings of various Weihsien scenes.

There are also a number of photos from David Michell and others. I am planning to set up a web site where all of the Weihsien graphics can be viewed along with a map showing their locations, and also downloaded to individual computers.

It would be good if those of you who know of other publications, including magazine articles or newspaper clippings (publication and date) dealing with this topic, pictures, etc. would add them to this list. It will also be a start on the research that would need to go into any documentary.

(Greg -- you say you are "busily researching this time period in Chinese history" What have you turned up about Weihsien?

RE: BIBLIOGRAPHY ON WEIHSIEN

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 09, 2002 22:42 PDT

Dear Donald. You got the right Joyce Bradbury and my book is entitled "Forgiven But Not Forgotten" It is in a number of libraries and is recorded in bookstore lists but can only be obtained from me. I can send copies to USA and indeed anywhere. A US currency cheque mailed to me for \$US16 covers all costs - exchange etc. It is softback of 103 pages and deals with my life before and after the War with much detail of our internment at WeiHsien. Father Scanlans book (according to Mary Previte in her email of 27 May 2002) may be obtainable at Abbot Thomas Davis, Abbey of New Clairvaux, Vina, California. My copy is photostat paper and weighs about 1 kilogram. I am a little concerned about copyright problems. My mailing address is Mrs Joyce Bradbury, 100 Coxs Road, North Ryde 2113, Sydney Australia. Regards Joyce Bradbury.

RE: NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Pam Tanner
Jul 10, 2002 06:01 PDT

Hello All

My name is Pam Tanner and I live in Virginia Beach, Va. I am also relatively new to the list. My interest in Weihsien, is because my great grandmother Maie Iry was interned there. According to Desmond Powers, she was in Block 52, room 9. Maie passed away a few years before I was born, so I don't have any personal stories about her. I was able to get some information from the Pentecostal Church headquarters, who sponsored her.

My mother who is still alive remembers her, but her memories of Maie are few. I have been able to determine that Maie, and my grandparents went to China in 1921. They started missions in Taiyosh and Kwo Hsien, which I believe is in Shantzi Provence. My grandparents returned to the United States sometime around 1925/26 and never returned. Maie was furloughed at least once, and then returned to China around 1938/1939 going back to the area where she and others had started missions. From the writings I received she was taken to Weihsien around March, 1943.

I joined this list hoping to learn more about Weihsien and the life that my great grandmother experienced there. I am also hoping that someone might just remember her, although I know that might be a long shot. I would really like to hear their impression of Maie. All of have is my genealogical research.

Pam Tanner

ptan-@compuserve.com

NEWCOMERS

alison holmes

Jul 10, 2002 08:25 PDT

It's so interesting to me to see all these grandchildren wanting to know about the lives of their grandparents. What a source of information Ron Bridge is....he will know exactly where every one lived and have precise details in a way that few others of us can furnish. The memories handed down or still held by some of us seem very similar...the food, the glory of release, playing in the airraid shelters or dancing.. That's why I really appreciate Pam Masters book as it has love and despair and teenage hopes, showing a strong inner life amidst the monotony. Do you think people escaped into books? Did anyone discover a strong calling because of the circumstances? I just love the Wilder pictures, and this was obviously a talent she had developed before camp. Did any one find that they became an artist BECAUSE of the time on their hands? Were there whittlers? Were there playwrights? Or did all the ingenuity go into day to day living? Who created beauty? I know my mother insisted on flowers as well as beans in the garden. My father painted pictures on the walls above our beds so that each of us had a spot we could call our own. And I still have in my bedroom the picture that Ma Yuan made ?800 years ago of an old fisherman asleep on his autumn river, the boat rocking gently and the paddle just touching the water. Chien Lung loved this picture 200 years ago and fifty years ago it brought sweet dreams to me.(And on bedbugs I remember the acrid smell and sizzle as they dropped into the flame of the match) I know that my father's story telling and ability to draw were heightened by camp. Did anyone become aflame with religion and find their lives changed? I guess what I am asking is for stories or evidence of this crucible bringing out refinement and change. We young were living life as though there was nothing else, and indeed there wasn't. But for teenagers and older, what did this experience do? Are the stories of quiet endurance and learned team work or are there others? I am thinking a lot about freedom these days and wanting to connect it to the core principles upon which it moves. Has freedom a definable character or is it a description of a state of being? And the same with confinement.What did confinement do to our sense of beauty, of purpose, relationship, intellect, idealism, structure? Did we find freedom in those areas? I would so enjoy hearing anyones musings on my ramblings! I like the idea of troops of people going back to Weifang....though it is so different from the days we were there. Each year we read of people going and yet another building being gone....and so they should be and the space utilized well.....but I will not forget

the powerful experience of standing from the vantage point of Block 23 (then a middle school) to look out on to the scene of my childhood. What a gift. Thank you Natasha for bringing together this varied bunch of seekers. What another gift! Alison Martin Holmes

RE: NEWCOMERS

Gay Talbot Stratford
Jul 10, 2002 09:48 PDT

Although I was only eleven, two things have stayed with me from that experience. One, was the sense that I witnessed a whole community of unlikely mix rise above their circumstance. The greatness of the human spirit is amazing. The other was the Christian witness of the nuns and priests. Their joy in service; the way they took on any task willingly impressed me. It was a glimpse of how things should be- and can be.

Thank you for your musings. It is a pleasure to share such ruminations.
gay talbot Stratford

RE: NEW ON THE CHAT-LIST

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 10, 2002 22:04 PDT

Dear Gladys. I would be grateful if you could email me a copy of Howard Galt's memoirs. Thanks. I live in Sydney Australia and am interested in any forthcoming re-union. Incidentally I am happy to scan the paintings of the camp I previously referred to, to anybody who desires. Just send me your own email address so I do not clog up the Topica address. I will re-send my original message for the benefit of anybody who did not see it. Joyce Bradbury.

FW: WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS WEIHSIEN

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 10, 2002 22:08 PDT

Re-sending this for the benefit of newcomers. Joyce Bradbury

----- Original Message -----

From: Bob/Joyce Bradbury

To: weih-@topica.com

Sent: Friday, May 11, 2001 3:02 PM

Subject: **WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS WEIHSIEN**

Hello everybody. My brother Eddie Cooke, who was in WeiHsien with me and my family has some beautiful water colours done for him in camp.

- (1) by Travers-Smith, Member of the Royal Art Academy, London (MRAA) of the ball field and tower;
- (2) the main gateway done by M S Jamieson another camp art teacher;
- (3) a coolie with bamboo pole and two buckets attending to his duties by Ursula Simmons dated 1944;
- (4) a camp scene by (Bobby) Simmons dated 1/9/44. Also

(5) a caricature of inmates involved in Wei-hsien activities drawn by Tom Nott.

I am happy to send scans of each if you give me your individual email addressess as I do not wish to clog up the Topica address. The first three are in colour and the fourth is black and white.

Regards Joyce Bradbury. Sydney Australia.

Re: **WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS WEIHSIEN**

alison holmes
Jul 11, 2002 07:32 PDT

Good morning, Joyce! I too diligently cleaned up my computer and deleted a whole bunch of things I shouldn't have deleted. So could I please have you send the water colours to my address ahol-@prescott.edu? Thanks so much

Fw **HOWARD GAIL'S MEMOIR**

alison holmes
Jul 11, 2002 08:35 PDT

----- Original Message -----

From: Alison Holmes
To: weih-@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2002 7:25 AM

Subject: **HOWARD GAIL'S MEMOIR**

Yes, please Gladys,! I would like a copy too! Alison Martin Holmes
Yes, Dwight, it really is great remembering, . . .
David Birch

Jul 11, 2002 11:53 PDT

. . . and all our reminiscing and recalling and retelling is a tremendous reminder, isn't it, of the gracious and loving and protecting hand of almighty God, the God and Father of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, upon our lives, when we were held in the compound of the Presbyterian Mission at Weihsien, in Northern China half a century ago. How full my heart is with gratitude and awe before Him.

I just paused a moment to type out this reply to your earlier e-mail before I leave in a moment to visit my ninety-seven-year-old mother, Grace Lilian Birch (nee Poland) who was born on 13May1905. I really must run now so, the Lord willing, I'll continue the e-mail visit with you all again soon.

This afternoon I hope to meet with a "Mr. Sit" who is a retired civil engineer now living in Burnaby, a suburban city nestled between Vancouver, BC and New Westminster, where the Fraser River empties into the Pacific.

Mr. Sit (pronounced 'Seat' as in "Please be seat(ed) would like to learn English from me while he teaches me Mandarin Chinese (although he speaks better Cantonese than Mandarin). Interesting, he attended university In Tsingtao (Chingdao). Born in Shanghai, he lived for some time in Hongkong. We've had a brief visit so far at the Canada Games Pool and recreation centre in New Westminster. That's where we met about two days ago. We played table tennis together. He is one remarkable ping pong player, believe me!

David Birch

Re: **BIBLIOGRAPHY ON WEIHSIEN**

Dwight W. Whipple
Jul 12, 2002 04:26 PDT

Yes, you did send me the memoirs of Howard Galt. Thank you very much. Fascinating reading and I could picture in my mind many of the references he made. Anybody want to make a movie of this?!

~dwight whipple

Re: **WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS WEIHSIEN**

Fred Dreggs
Jul 12, 2002 04:27 PDT

If it's not too much of a bother, I would be delighted to receive scanned copies of the watercolors you have mentioned.

Regards

Alfie

Re: **CALCIUM SUPPLEMENT**

Dwight W. Whipple
Jul 12, 2002 04:45 PDT

I guess we all remember the egg shells. Our family ground them up and put them in our "porridge" along with orange peels, I think. The egg shells were a little gritty but with the mixture, not too bad.

dwight whipple

WEIHSIEN INTERNEE SKETCHES

Greg Leck
Jul 12, 2002 10:38 PDT

I think Norman Cliff may have mentioned these in the past but I thought I would bring it up again.

ABCIFER has some sketches of Weihsien internees which were done by a Mrs. Pearson. None have been identified but there are photos of the sketches in issue no. 20 of ABCIFER's newsletter, "Bamboo Wireless."

Donald Menzi provided a bibliography of Weihsien and I have a few more to add. I will give Donald my additions and he can incorporate them into his master list.

Greg

Re: **BIBLIOGRAPHY ON WEIHSIEN**

Donald Menzi
Jul 12, 2002 12:58 PDT

I think it would make a great "made for television" movie. Anybody know a producer?

HUGH HUBBARD

Mary Previte
Jul 12, 2002 20:19 PDT

Welcome, Gladys,

In my memory, Hugh Hubbard ranks near the top of Weihsien's "spirit team" -- right up there with Eric Liddell and Mary Scott. Through those Weihsien years, he inspired countless children and teenagers by teaching them the lore of birds and in leading them on bird watching tours of the camp. I think my brother Jamie still has his Weihsien bird watching diary.

How many of you out there took bird watching "tours" with Hugh Hubbard?

Wasn't your father a renowned author, Gladys? Where did your parents go after Weihsien?

Mary Previte

MORE CAMP NEWS.

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 12, 2002 21:16 PDT

Hi all. What interesting stories you have. Here is my contribution. Another victim of the dreaded cesspool was father Keymolen, a catholic priest. He was a short, small man with an unfortunately misshapen back. Nature called during the night and he was on his way when he fell in. A Jap guard pulled him out when he heard him calling for help.

I remember Buddy Grant well. His camp girl friend was Helen Parry who now lives in Norfolk Island off the Coast of New South Wales, Australia. My brother Eddie and his wife called to see her when they holidayed there a couple of years ago. She is now Mrs Helen Payne, widowed and has a son living in Sydney. She has been in touch with Buddy who is a widower living in Canada.

Re George Wallis's wife Trudi. I went to school with her in Tsingtao. Her name was Gertrude Asmi. She was a boarder at the Holy Ghost convent there.

I remember Saturday night dances well in Weihsien. My then Boy friend, Brian Clark, now deceased in Canada used to play with the band and I had to wait around for his time off to have a dance with him. (But I used to dance with others while waiting including Michael Calvert also Lloyd Frankie (now deceased) and Tony Lambert) They all brought their own instruments into the camp with them. I do not know of anyone making their own in camp but it is possible. Joyce Bradbury

To Sylvia Walker. The young boy who also had polio in camp was Peter Turner. He had an older brother who died as a pilot I think in a flying accident. There was also a sister Barbara. Their room was next to ours in block two.

OF EGG SHELLS, THE HOSPITAL, AND SCHOOLS

Leonard Mostaert
Jul 13, 2002 02:43 PDT

Those egg shells brought back so many memories, and I thought people only remembered the

pleasant ones and not the terrible ones !

One memory that came back was for me just before we were sent to Weih sien. The Japs (I make no apology) had closed down the Grammar School and had forbidden anyone studying in any other language but Japanese. Our house was confiscated as well as the car (this really hurt my father as it was a Lanchester) and we had to live in a garage on Tyne St. The pupils of the Grammar School were farmed out into various private houses and taught clandestinely. I have a birthday card given to me on my birthday 14th. March. This was signed by all the class as well as the teacher in 1943, at 133 Singapore Rd. (just behind the Min Yuan field). The list, written by the children themselves is as follows.

Sylvia Churchill	later in block 22
Jimmy Quinn	?
Monica Morris	17
Lucy Oakes	23
Johnny Robinson	22 (?)
Daphnia Parking	41
Johnny Hoch	18
Jane Murray	40
Anthony Potter	54 (just behind us)
and our teacher FAH.Kelly	23

I have always wondered what became of all these children, and with the exception of Johnny Hoch, I know nothing of their future after Weih sien.

Can anyone help.

SCHOOLS....

I first went to a Chinese language School held in block 53, right up against the Japanese compound wall, Almost facing block 50, and behind the two big mulberry trees. The building was small and contrary to the other blocks was built in a very Chinese manner. It was quite empty except for some desks and that is where we learned Chinese.

Then I went on to the school in the hospital, first floor and to the right, with the classroom facing south. I sat next to Frennie Djunjishah, but have had various reports as to which school it was. We wrote on slate, but would like to know which school it was.

After that I went to school in the church, either I was promoted or kicked out. In the Church for possibly some misdemeanour, I remember standing and facing the wall, when I heard the sound of the Aeroplanes that dropped our saviours. Being so close to the window to look out, I had this wonderful view of the parachutes coming down. What school was that ?

Talking of the US troops....The first time I saw them in the showers was a great disappointment to me. They were so extremely white,(as compared to our weather beaten skins) they had no terrible wounds, scars or blood running down. What sort of soldiers could they be ?

RE: WEIHSIEN

David Birch
Jul 13, 2002 04:45 PDT

Natasha!

Would that have been Betty Lambert?

David Birch

RE: JAZZ BAND

David Birch
Jul 13, 2002 05:08 PDT

Zandy,

When the B-24 Liberator dropped those seven paratroopers down to us, Stanley Thompson and I were playing a game of table tennis in Kitchen One. I was thirteen going on fourteen at the time. My article entitled, 'A Game of Ping Pong' appears in the Magazine "Good Old Days" which is published in the American Midwest. I wrote it about ten years or so ago and a Mr. Tait, the editor, responded promptly to my query when I offered the article for publication. A second story of mine, which tells of my memories of the same magnificent air rescue, was published as, 'The Pocket Watch,' in Western People, at that time a supplement to The Western Producer, Canada's national farm weekly paper.

Have to run, now, gotta leave for work.

David Birch

(gdavid-@yahoo.com)

p.s. I think I remember you, just a bit, Zandy. You were maybe a year and a half older than I. pps. Let's continue this reminiscing. Remember the great baseball players - Haazi Rumfph (sp) Aubrey Grandon and others. Remember the home-runs batted away out over the center field. Didn't Des Power hit some over the right field wall.

Now I really MUST run or I shall not be at work by 06:15 PDT out in nearby White Rock, BC, Canada.

RE: JAZZ BAND

alison holmes

Jul 13, 2002 07:03 PDT

Can you send us your stories, David? It would be good to have the texts.....Thanks, Alison Martin Holmes

RE: HUGH HUBBARD

alison holmes

Jul 13, 2002 07:20 PDT

Aha! The 'spirit team' Bird watching. This is good. Who was Mary Scott?

CORRECTION ON EGG SHELLS & HOSPITALS

Leonard Mostaert

Jul 14, 2002 00:16 PDT

Due to old age I did make a mistake on the block number where that Chinese lesson classes were held. Instead of block 53, it should have read block 51. We lived in block 53, that's certainly a sign of old age. Sorry

SOAP

leopold pander

Jul 14, 2002 00:24 PDT

Hello,

In our neighborhood, it's spring cleaning four times a year.

Four times a year, my wife, Nicky and I, roam the attic and empty the garage and cellar of all we have

accumulated during the years.

The unlucky "chosen" items are then gathered outside, on the side walk for the special truck to evacuate them to the garbage dump on the following day.

Well, this time, my Mom's old washing board went out on the street !!!

Poor 'ol washing board! --- falling to pieces and rotten by moisture.

. and speaking of Weihsien, I know that my Mom did a lot of washing there.

She always did a lot of washing.

First, the steaming hot, boiling water in an enormous kettle on the stove. She stirred everything with a broom-stick. Then the washing board - scrub, scrub, scrub - with lots of soap. Finally, rinsing, with a great quantity of water - that came out of the tap.

---- In Weihsien, the water had to be pumped first .. by muscles !!!!

When she passed away, in 1992, besides the washing board, there was a stock of "Sunlight Soap" in the cellar of the apartment building, where she lived.

--- At least a hundred bricks! (ready for the next war!!!)

Believe it or not, I still have more or less 50 bricks of that excellent "Sunlight Soap" now in reserve and I'm happy to use it for my everyday use. It's a good soap and has a nice smell!

When the brick is nearly finished, it is impossible for me to throw it away!! So, ----

I take a new brick and stick the old one on the new one . and so on.

Soap is not a costly item, but I can't get myself to waste it or to throw an old piece away.

Is it a Weihsien habit ?

Am I a soap maniac?

I have the same kind of respect for bread. I always eat bread to the end of the loaf.

If it gets hard, I eat it with a good plate of hot soup.

"Fish-soup" with old-hard bread, on which you put cheese-flocks and garlic tastes delicious. And if the bread is really too old, I give it to the birds.

Question?

Is it true that a brick of soap in Weihsien was as valuable as a gold bar ?

Leopold

RE: SOAP /That's a Good Question . . .Answer: . . .

David Birch
Jul 14, 2002 02:02 PDT

Probably we thought so at the time. Your mother certainly was a thrifty person who obviously didn't tend to waste sensible, worthwhile items such as Sunlight soap!

Comparatively little was wasted in that Shandong compound in those days. And, if we were about to waste anything . . . such as, for example, boiled turnips - the stringy, rather woody variety, sometimes served as a sort of gooey mash, the coolies who carried out the slops from the garbage pile out behind the kitchen, would salvage it - possibly for use by people even hungrier than we were. Their own people in a nearby village.

After the paratroopers had come, along with tons and tons of American Red Cross food parcels, quite a bit of 'black marketing' took place over the wall of the camp.

I heard that empty "PREM" tins could be converted rapidly into shiny new tin lamps, and other useful objects. Meanwhile the supplier, from our side of the wall, would come away with a few hens' eggs. Some of the young people who lived in the camp were really pretty good bargainers, as of course the men and boys were who lived on the other side, the OUTside.

Who else remembers.

Our chief of police, any one recall his name- he was known a little disrespectfully as "King Kong" by some, anyway, our chief of police who still had responsibility, delegated to him by the American

administration officer, would understandably become quite frustrated. He'd try to stop this wretched over-the-wall bartering, running up and hollering at the offenders who rapidly dispersed, only to return when poor ole "King Kong" went off on his rounds.

David
p.s. Did any of you know a lad named Leo Auerkirch (sp?). I remember him as a boy of possibly twelve or thirteen at the end of the war. My brother and I were about to be repatriated to Vancouver, Canada. I recall Leo saying he had lived for a while in Vancouver. He seemed to be familiar with this great city's beautiful Stanley Park. And I recall his mentioning that his family had owned a Plymouth automobile in those prewar days. Plymouth was pronounced Ply (rhymes with ply as in plywood, and mouth (as in the part of the face where smiles, frowns, and so on are displayed). I wonder where Auerkirch went to when we all returned home

GDB

RE: SOAP

Dwight W. Whipple
Jul 14, 2002 08:42 PDT

I remember the washboards. In fact, one time my mother was washing clothes in our block one area when a chicken was thrown over the wall from outside. She was so surprised that she pushed it into the washtub with the clothes in case guards were nearby. I think of Weihsien every time I open a new loaf of bread. Us kids used to fight over the crusts (heels, end pieces) because we thought they filled us up more. Our kids today throw away the crusts.

~dwight whipple

RE: SOAP

Mary Previte
Jul 14, 2002 19:17 PDT

Leopold,
You are not a maniac.

I, too, never throw out the last slippery sliver of a bar of soap. I ALWAYS glue it to the new bar. Even when I stay in a hotel, I bring home the used hotel soap to use at home. My bathroom vanity cupboard boasts my never-ending supply of used hotel soap. When my sister-in-law told me about my brother John's soap-saving habits, I realized how Weihsien and wartime survival skills still shape us.

Mary Previte

RE: SOAP

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 15, 2002 00:04 PDT

I am like you. I cannot waste food - even the crumbs go to the native birds of Australia which visit us every day. (White cockatoos, Lorekeets, Noisy miners, crested pigeons, Rosellas, Mountain lowrys and Galahs and Magpies and a few others. Arent we lucky to have such beautiful birds visiting us of their own free will? Regad. Joyce Bradbury

RE: SOAP

leopold pander
Jul 15, 2002 01:28 PDT

When we were at the age of "little-children-are-to-be-seen-and-not-to-be-heard" and when we had rice on our plates, we were told that "for every grain of rice left on the plate, it was one year of happiness we wouldn't have" !!

Is that not a Chinese saying?

Well, believe it or not, when rice is served, (I love rice), I always eat it to the last atom.

Happiness? So far, so good.

Leopold.

RE: SOAP

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 15, 2002 09:48 PDT

more to the laundry memory:

my grandmother told me that hot stones were placed upon the clothes as a means of "ironing.

laura

RE: SOAP

Gladys Swift
Jul 15, 2002 18:40 PDT

Reply from Gladys - When I was growing up in China I never heard about losing a year of happiness for not eating the last grain of rice.

RE: SOAP

Gladys Swift
Jul 15, 2002 18:40 PDT

Reply from Gladys - I must have inherited this tendency from my Weihsien Mother. I bought a "Soap Saver" from one of those catalogs, to put all the scraps and ends of soap in. Just add water and it comes out liquid soap. Wonderful!! No more guilt about wasting soap !!!

RE: HUGH HUBBARD

Gladys Swift
Jul 15, 2002 18:40 PDT

Aha! The 'spirit team' Bird watching. This is good. Who was Mary Scott?

----- Original Message -----

From: "Mary Previte" <mtpre-@aol.com>;

To: <weih-@topica.com>;

Sent: Friday, July 12, 2002 8:19 PM

Subject: **HUGH HUBBARD**

Reply from Gladys Hubbard Swift - I still have a few photocopies of "Birds of Northeastern China" by George D. Wilder and Hugh W. Hubbard. The originals were left in Beijing (at the PUMC I was told) when my parents were interned and the books never showed up again as far as I know. But my cousin has made photocopies. My parents retired in the Missionary Homes of the American Board in Auburndale, MA. My father died in 1975 and my mother in 1979. I have my father's copy of "Shantung Compound" by Gilkey, with his list of names in the book vs real names. I would be interested if anyone else has a list and if it is the same as mine??? In May 2001 I went back to the Hubbard home in Baoding, Hopei Province and saw our old house still standing, unused, but a part of the No. 1 Highschool of Baoding. They say it will be a museum!

RE: NEW ON THE CHAT-LIST

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 15, 2002 22:13 PDT

Yes please I would be happy to receive a copy of Howard Galt's memoir. Joyce Bradbury

RE: NEW ON THE CHAT-LIST

alison holmes
Jul 16, 2002 07:05 PDT

I, too, would like the memoir. Thanks

GOOD OLD DAYS!

Zandy Strangman
Jul 17, 2002 01:35 PDT

Hi David,

Your email of July 13, to my attention, really struck a cord because it touched on my pet subject, the 'action'

on the camp ball field. Do I remember the great 'baseball' players? I sure do ! Those you mentioned and many more. Des being a 'lefty' , no doubt hit many over the right field wall, after all it was the closer of the 2. But it is the 'characters' with their own peculiar style that is still crystal clear, to me, today. I could go on reminiscing on that all night.

First of all, your a better man than me, Gunga Din, to still be ' fronting up to work at 06:15 PDT ' and also able to remember me 'a bit ' . I've been doing some research to see if I can get some sort of picture on you, but alas, all I determine is what you have already stated , that you were part of the Chefoo contingent and therefore you and your brother were alone in camp.

I remember soon after your group arrived, a few of you boys set up 2 sets of Stumps either side of a make believe Wicket and proceeded to have a game of Cricket. We watched with amusement until challenged into ' having a go ' ! The bowling action beat us and it stopped us ' taking you on at your game' .

Well, to cut a long story short, you all started playing 'Softball ' forming your own team. It wasn't long after, you fellas started challenging us at our game, taking-on the rest of the camp boys and much to our embarrassmentbeat us.

As I remember it, the Chefoo boys, apart from the softball games, kept pretty much to themselves. Guess

that's why we didn't get to know too many of you. There was one tall Chefoo boy who didn't mind openly fraternizing with 'one of ours' (Lucy Attree)

Must close as I've overdone a good thing already and I haven't even answered the first part of your message... re the Liberation etc.. Boy, I wish I could get my hands on a copy of your 2 articles, A Game of Ping Pong and Good Old Days.

Regards.....Zandy

RE: OFF THE AIR FOR 9 WEEKS!

Gladys Swift

Jul 17, 2002 19:28 PDT

Reply from Gladys - Who wrote this note to Norman? If Don Menzi, then this is for him. Have you written to Bill Stanley about contacts with people who knew Charles Stanley, also his something-grandfather? There is definitely an active Christian church in Tianjin now. Also some "house churches" which are illegal. I have a contact with one of them. She can probably tell you about the official Christian church, too. Write directly to me, Gladys Hubbard Swift, for more info or better yet call 434-973-4179.

Of course we can find out about Christians in the village churches by some subtle inquiries. What villages?

Norman

RE: BIBLIOGRAPHY ON WEIHSIEN

Stan Thomas

Jul 18, 2002 09:19 PDT

Donald,

Here are some further titles for your list. They are largely about Chefoo, but may add a little about Weihsien.

1. Gordon Martin [Chefoo School, 1881-1951](#): A history and memoir. Paperback, 166 pp, Braunton, Devon, UK, Merlin Books, 1990. (L 5.95). (ISBN 0863034659). The popular schoolmaster "Goopy" Martin gives a history of the Chefoo Schools. There are about 20 pages on Weihsien.

2. [Gordon Martin Schoolmaster Errant](#) paperback, 80 pp, Braunton, Devon, UK, Merlin Books, 1992. (L 5.25). (ISBN 0863036120) 8 pages on Weihsien. A charming series of autobiographical anecdotes.

3. Sheila Miller [Pigtails, Petticoats and the Old School Tie](#) paperback, 224 pp Seven Oaks, Kent, OMF, 1981 (ISBN 0853631409) A lively history of the Chefoo Schools with 11 pp on Weihsien.

4. Myra Scovel [The Chinese Ginger Jars](#), hardcover, 189 pp. NY, Harper & Brothers, 1962 An American Presbyterian Mission family, repatriated in 1943; about 20 pp on Weihsien.

5. Sally Magnusson [The Flying Scotsman](#), paperback, 191 pp, NY, Quartet Books Inc., 1981 (ISBN 0704333791) A biography of Eric Liddell with about 20 pages on Weihsien

6. Norman Cliff [The White Cliffs of Hangzhou](#), paperback, 172 pp. Courtyard Publishers, PO Box 25, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9EN, UK. 1998 (ISBN 0953329518) A Genealogy of the Cliffs and Broomhalls with 6 pp on Weihsien. Please write to: DR. NORMAN H. CLIFF, 4 HALL TERRACE, HAROLD WOOD, ESSEX RM3 OXR, U.K.

Stanley Thompson

RE: GOOD OLD DAYS!

David Birch
Jul 18, 2002 17:52 PDT

Hi Zandy,

Partly why I recall you is just that you are the only 'Zandy' I've ever known. I recall you as being a slim, sun-brown boy, a little shy, and, I thought, a bit sorta (is tough the right word?) I think we were just normal adolescent boys who sort of looked each other over before making friends. And, as you say, we fellas from up there at Chefoo, away out on the Shandong Peninsula, were kind of a community apart. I am really grateful for this opportunity to get to know you better after all these years.

Wasn't there another Weih sien family, the Pykes. It seems to me that a fellow named Ed Pyke was another of the camp home-run hitters. Being a bit younger than you, though what's a couple of years difference now?), anyway, I spose I wasn't on the team that beat you at softball. I did, however, learn to play softball there at Weih sien. And still remember the time when "Goopy" one of our schoolmasters and a pretty good track and field coach, plus a great motivator for all of us, saw me waiting for a 'fly ball' to come down. His "Attaboy David," when I actually caught the ball, still rings in my memory as one of the great moments, you might say in my pretty modest schoolboy athletic career! I think Goopy must have been to me a little like one of your Belgian fathers was to you Zandy. How very fortunate you and I were to have such worthy role models!

God bless. And keep in touch!

David

You can also reach me personally at: (silver-@shaw.ca)

ps If you will send me your mailing address, Zandy, I will definitely plan to send you copies of stories I have written about those days, including the article, A Game of Ping Pong which was published in Good Old Days magazine, and The Pocket Watch, which appeared Western People magazine. I have another unpublished article, so far only in handwritten form, called, The Treasure at Eve's Knob, however further research is beginning to reveal some details about that last story which, until now, I had not known.

I think retired US Army Colonel John Graham, who was a roommate of mine at Weih sien, was the 'scallywag' who was behind the story of a treasure buried in a brassbound chest and concealed at the top of a thousand-foot hill which we called Eve's Knob. Stanley

Thompson, another pal of mine, was in on the scheme too. Stan was delegated by that rogue Graham to send me off on a wild goosechase up into the hills. And little David Allen, only about eight years old (to my nine) was persuaded to accompany me. The tale of our treasure hunting excursion, and the posse of prep school teachers who followed our 'spoor' up into "them thar hills," still needs a little polishing, but I'll gladly mail you a copy if you'd like one.

And I'd be happy to receive any true stories that you can tell me about your own adventures as a youngster.

Time to sign off now and get down to supper. We have relatives visiting from the prairies,

DB

JACK GRAHAM AND THE RADIO TUBE HE SMUGGLED FROM THE JAPANESE QUARTERS

Mary Previte
Jul 18, 2002 19:09 PDT

David,

You've got to get your Weihsien room mate, Jack Graham, who lives in St. Louis, to write down his Weihsien adventure of smuggling himself into the Japanese quarters and successfully filching a good radio tube from a radio there in the Japanese quarters. Jack says he took out the good tube and replaced it with a burned out tube. This stolen tube successfully brought to life the prisoners' illicit radio. Jack says he was picked for the spywork by top level Weihsien insiders because he was a bit of a bad boy. Jack himself told me this spine tingling story. I think it was when I was in St. Louis to give a speech. What a cloak and dagger yarn! Jack even described "covering his tracks" by putting dust on the tube he left in the Japanese radio.

Remember getting periodic news briefings in the camp? We children always thought this news came via the "bamboo radio," which was not a real radio at all, but only the messages sneaked into camp from escapees Hummel and Tipton via the "honey-pot men" to the camp's inner circle. (These "honey-pot men" who carried out the nightsoil from the cesspools were among the few Chinese ever allowed into the camp.) But according to Jack Graham, prisoners did have a real radio.

You Weihsien softball buffs, do you remember Mary Scott? When men in the softball league fizzled, too weak to finish a game (the Priests Padres, Peking Pathers and the Tientsin Tigers), they would let Mary Scott come in to play -- the only woman ever allowed as a softball substitute, as I recall. Mary Scott was a 5-foot ball of fire, a Church of the Nazarene missionary from around Chicago, I think. As the only girl in a large family of boys, she grew up a tomboy and played wonderful softball. It was Mary Scott who took it upon herself to teach us Chefoo School girls from the Lower School Dormitory (LSD) how to play softball. For hours in the south field bounded by Block 57 and the outside wall, she taught us how to throw a softball.

Here on my desk, I have resurrected a 1985 snapshot of Mary Scott-- still radiant -- when she visited my brother John in Ohio. What a vibrant woman! What a saint -- and definitely part of the Weihsien spirit team! She was one who CHOSE the chore of scrubbing those open-trough latrines. Mary Scott's book is now out of print and I grieve that I've been unable to find a copy.

Mary Previte

RE: JACK GRAHAM AND THE RADIO TUBE HE SMUGGLED FROM THE JAPANESE QUARTERS

alison holmes
Jul 19, 2002 06:55 PDT

Thank you so much for telling us about Mary Scott....what a delight she must have been. I have been reading the Galt Weihsien memoir and would like to know if the food stayed at that level for the last two years. I have a feeling that it was a lot sparser. Any authoritative answers? Or even any unauthoritative ones? Thanks Alison Martin Holmes

NOTIONS OF FREEDOM

Laura Hope-Gill
Jul 19, 2002 09:23 PDT

Dear Alison,

I love the questions you are asking. As daughter and granddaughter of Weihsieners, I have asked similar

ones. I have no doubt that the experience greatly shaped my father's psyche on into life. Having read Judith Herman's "Trauma and Recovery", which focuses greatly on prisoners of war, as well as victims of child abuse, I think an "acting out" of sorts was inevitable--from saving soap to other, perhaps deeper manifestations. For instance, throughout my childhood and adolescence, my father moved us from our homes approximately once every three years, the duration of his time in the camp. I have "inherited" the habit of leaving every three years, and this year will break it by remaining in a job for a fourth year. Also, the notion of "suffering" in my childhood was constantly compared to "real suffering," i.e. having to lick plaster from the walls to get calcium. When I bought my father some oil paints and canvasses during what seemed a breakdown of sorts, we sat outside in his garden and he painted a small hut surrounded by snow. There was no door and the supply barrel was outside, under a boarded up window. At that moment, I began to consider the effects of the camp.

My sister and I are both poets and artists. Alice Miller, who has also written much on the topic of trauma, hypothesizes that it is the children and grandchildren who manifest the effects, either through subconscious behaviors or obsession, of their elders' experiences. There is also much written in transpersonal psychology about the transference of memory through DNA or subconscious communication from elder to child. My sister and I are both deeply affected by whatever happened in China in those years. We're not victims--and it seems to me none of the former internees feel or write like victims. We're something else. Are you/we all "survivors" if an immense number of internees survived? What name applies?

What I find most striking is how the literature of the camp celebrates the community that evolves in adversity. It seems to me that the stories of Weih sien could shine a new and very important light on the nature of survival, one which could further develop the history of POW's. It was a concentration camp, but it was not a German Concentration Camp, of which there is much more documentation, more communal "memory" which has made it into consciousness, if not in some ways defined, modern/postmodern culture.

On and on and on. . .

Laura

RE: BIBLIOGRAPHY ON WEIHSIEN

Laura Hope-Gill

Jul 19, 2002 09:36 PDT

I am close friends with a documentary film-maker who is thrilled with the idea. We will meet this week with a man who know's how we can fund it. I would very much love to interview all of you--naturally at Weifang would be best, but we could also venture to various regions for personal interviews.

I don't think the material falls short of full motion picture once all the stories are shared. I have only seen two films about Europeans in the Japanese camps--Empire of the Sun and Paradise Road (w/ Glenn Close). I think studios would be very interested in a treatment. As Beijing 2008 Olympics draw close, interest in China is going to go through the roof, and we can expect to see hundreds of books and several films about various aspects.

Iris Chang's book Rape of Nanking has opened a lot of people's eyes to the code of silence between Japan and the US after the war. There is definitely interest in what went on.

Sincerely,

Laura

MORE MEMORIES

Natasha Petersen
Jul 19, 2002 10:49 PDT

Blanche Kloosterboer and I stole bricks from the low internal walls. George Wallis and his room-mate built Russian peasant style brick stoves for us and themselves. These kept the heat in the room. Blanche and I decided that we needed roofing tiles for the top of the stove, and the only place we could get them was in the Japanese compound. This was out of bounds. I still remember being excited and very much afraid at the same time. We were in luck! We were not caught. Naturally neither her mother nor my father knew of our plans.

The amount of food was cut every time the Japs lost a battle or a battleship. By the end, the food left a lot to be desired, and the portions were small. But we all must remember, that although we were hungry at times, we never starved as so many others did in Japanese and German camps. In the beginning many had tinned food to supplement the camp diet, but that did not last long. We later fondly remembered the food that we had been given before. The cooks have to be commended for what they were able to fix with the quality and quantity of food that each kitchen was given. In addition, we seldom were without fresh-baked bread.

Regards,
Natasha

For those who have wanted to know, I live in Roanoke, VA. I have been retired for ten years from teaching in public school. I have two sons in their 40s and two grandsons.

RE: NOTIONS OF FREEDOM

Dwight W. Whipple
Jul 19, 2002 10:56 PDT

I love the philosophical thinking that is going on regarding our Weihsien days. There certainly is commonality among us but there are significant differences also. Some of us were fortunate to be in intact families. Ours was such a family and the overwhelming feeling that I have from our Weihsien days is that of adventure. The security of being with father and mother and siblings (two sisters and a brother) had immeasurable value for us, I am sure. Others were removed from family bearings, still others were freed from normal constraints and experienced a broader part of life. We were certainly a mixed bunch. "Cosmopolitan" describes us and our separate viewpoints expresses the screen of our own experience. But what an outbreak of discussion has developed among us after nearly sixty years. The technology with which we live makes it possible. It is unparalleled in history. So let's keep it going!

~Dwight Whipple

RE: MORE MEMORIES

Dwight W. Whipple
Jul 19, 2002 12:00 PDT

Natasha

Thanks for all you have done. We didn't call it "stealing." We called it "scrounging." I remember, too, going into the out-of-bounds area and getting a screen door and a griddle. We took the griddle home and used it for years. I think we were the first, or one of the first groups, to be in the camp--arriving on March 20, 1943. It was our mother's birthday so the date is etched in our memory. Everything was up for grabs and we made do and shared with others. It was all so exciting and filled with adventure.

~dwight whipple

BOY SCOUT GOUP

Zandy Strangman
Jul 19, 2002 18:15 PDT

Hi Everyone,

Can anyone help identify the individuals in this latest Scout group photo?

It apparently was shot at the same time and location as those previously circulated by Christine. But this time we think we have 7 positive and 2 possible IDs. In my opinion, the abundance of trees suggests the location is camps 'Main Road'.

The photo came to me per courtesy of Janette Pander. (my neighbor in camp)

Joyce.....Ivonne thought you would have a 'special' interest in this photo copy I showed her, yesterday, and she intended to 'MAIL' you a photo-stat of it. I convinced her this way would be quicker and clearer but that was before I 'struck a snag' forwarding it on, to the Weihsien site. Rejected for it's size or something to that effect! So, here goes a 2nd time.

Fred.....is your brother Bobby one of the boys on the right hand side?

Thanks for taking the time to look at it.....Zandy Strangman

RE: BOY SCOUT GOUP

alison holmes
Jul 19, 2002 19:30 PDT

No attachment came with this message!

RE: BOY SCOUT GOUP

Fred Dreggs
Jul 20, 2002 00:16 PDT

Hi Zandy,

Can't answer your question as there was no photo attachment. Perhaps it is coming via Mars?

Regards,

Fred

RE: BOY SCOUT GOUP

Ron Bridge
Jul 20, 2002 00:58 PDT

The Copy of the photo was missing from msg received by me. I have 12 pictures Scouts/Guides/cubs/brownies but they are small and very faded if you are talking about those with the trees and number on the wall behind the groups they were taken in the grounds near the hospital.

Rgds
Ron Bridge.

RE: BOY SCOUT GOUP

Zandy Strangman
Jul 20, 2002 02:35 PDT

Thanks to all of you who came back informing me that 'no attachment 'came thru. but my ' sent box' for my 3rd attempt now shows it with the proverbial 'paper clip' motif. Here's hoping!!!!
Be patient, I'll get it to you some how.!

MORE JOGGED MEMORIES

Leonard Mostaert
Jul 20, 2002 02:55 PDT

All these little things have become so vivid to me when the subject is mentioned in Topica. Someone mentioned birds.....My father caught a dove, it must have been sick, and kept it in a cage in our room. Soon there was another dove that showed up, they must have been married, and Father placed it in the cage with the other one. These were "Red Burmese" doves as we found out much later. How the doves arrived from Burma I don't know, but there they were, and it is a wonder we did not eat them. When we left the camp, Father took the doves with us and they lived on happily in Tientsin. as they just did not want to leave us, even after a few attempts to let them fly away far from the camp, they still beat us home when we arrived at our block. There must have been a streak of homing pigeon in those birds.

All the newcomers to this site should view www.netzone.com/~adjacobs/compare.htm this is the comparison by Mr. Wagner of the living conditions of Weihsien and Crystal City where the American/Japanese were interned. Makes sobering reading !

LEAK STREET

Leonard Mostaert
Jul 20, 2002 03:00 PDT

Then there is another one.....

There was a bit of a joke around camp on our constant diet of leeks, everyone seems to have become very sick of them, except me and I still like them. Someone put up a sign at block 33 in the form of a street sign....Leak Street. A surprise for all was when a Japanese guard pointed out the correct spelling should have been L E E K ! How embarrassing.

CAN U HELP

Ron Bridge
Jul 20, 2002 13:25 PDT

I have had an inquiry from Kay Canning in Scotland, she was Katherine Margaret Allan (B 1942) in Weihsien and was with her 2 brothers William Douglas Allan and Robert Jeremey Allan (Born 28Jun44 in Weihsien) they were with their parents John and Mat Allan lived in Block 21 Room 5 (same block as Bobby Simmons) she seems to recall playing with someone called Oliver who had a slightly deformed hand. Anybody shed any light on this I have searched the data base and cannot find a boy named Oliver.
Rgds

Ron Bridge.

RE: CAN U HELP

Christine Talbot Sancton
Jul 20, 2002 18:17 PDT

Dear Ron: I can't answer your question, but I have been looking for Kay Allan for years as our family was very close and she and I are the same age.

Please can you send me her info so that I can get in touch with her myself.

This is great news for me.

Christine Talbot Sancton

RE: BOY SCOUT GOUP

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jul 20, 2002 18:53 PDT

Thanks Sandy. Yes Yvonne did tell me about the photo and my brother Eddie is thrilled at the thought of getting an old boy scout photo. Unfortunately your transmission to me did not work so I will wait for Yvonne to give it to me. Thanks very much. Regards. Joyce.

MORE GOOD OLD DAYS

Zandy Strangman
Jul 21, 2002 02:38 PDT

Hi David,

Your nice email of the 19th stirred up more fond memories of action on the ballfield and together with Mary Previte's contribution on Mary Scott and reference to the " Priests Padres ", makes giving you both a brief reply, sort of difficult.

First of all, could you please clear up in my mind, the date the Chefoo kids arrived in camp? You see, I think the Chefoo crowd only arrived sometime after the majority of the Nuns and Priests had departed, and therefore 'unfortunately' you missed out on the best and most spectacular Softball games that were played, particularly in our first 6 months of internment.

It is a well known fact that the Catholic 'Padres' were a 'pretty' good bunch of softball players. With Fr Whellan pitching, Fr Joe Fontana 'catching', handsome Fr Andy Penfold on 1st and the 'flashy' Fr. 'Windy' Kline (played some 'pro' baseball before joining the priesthood) playing 'short stop' etc., they were almost 'unbeatable'. The biggest attraction, at that time, was the 'Padres' vs the 'Camp', and these games were usually real tight and low scoring affairs.

One of the best, I think was the last one, which was nil all at the bottom of the 9th and with 1 out, we managed to get a man(possibly speedy Aubrey Grandon) on 3rd with a couple of stolen bases.

Up to the 'plate' stepped Jimmy Pyke (our P.E. teacher at old P.A.S. pre 1943.) and slammed the longest' sacrifice drive deep to Center Field, almost to the guard tower, and you guessed it, brought in the winning and only run. What a finish it was, it couldn't have been better scripted. I will never forget it.

Fred.....your room's rear window looked out over that field, do you remember that game?

Mary ScottI must admit, I had forgotten the name but with your (Mary Previte) account and

'discriptions' , I most certainly can recall the "5-foot ball of fire" 'character'. How could I put it without sounding rude, she was sort of ' 5 x 5' ? (oops)Let's say she was on the solid side, ok? Have I got the right one?

I also remember watching 'this person' trying to organise a girls game but was a bit short of players. For the fun of it, I put up my hand . Much to my surprise, I was accepted but was made to play left handed. Throwing was a real problem !

That's my 'silly' bit of trivia but it's true.

David, I'll have to defer answering the rest of your email, 'cause I've just been 'paged' .
Bye the way, which email address are you using currently?

Cheers for now.....Zandy

SCOUT GROUP PHOTO

Zandy Strangman
Jul 21, 2002 05:04 PDT

Hi Joyce ,

Everyone must be 'sick to the back teeth' of reading about this photo that stubbornly ' never appears'. I can't see any reason for it not getting thru, as I had no problem sending it to someone else, not on the Weihsien site.

So this is my final attempt to get it thru electronically, I've asked Janette to re-forward it from her end, again.

Zandy

MARY SCOTT'S BOOK

Mary Previte
Jul 21, 2002 15:59 PDT

Mary Scott's book: Kept In Safeguard was published in 1977 by the Nazarene Publishing House in Kansas City. It was a missionary book...one of six which was published that year and read by Nazarene for credit points in our mission award system for the churches.

The toll free # of the Pub House: 1-800-877-0700

Mary Previte

CHEFOO SCOOOL'S ARRIVAL IN WEIHSIEN

Mary Previte
Jul 21, 2002 16:39 PDT

Mary Scott was a stocky five feet tall.

The Chefoo Schools contingent arrived in Weihsien in September 1943 -- about a week before a group of American and Canadian prisoners were released in a prisoner exchange. Among those released were Chefoo students Jack Bell and Grant Hanna. They travelled home on the Gripsholm.

In his book, [COURTYARD OF THE HAPPY WAY](#), Norman Cliff describes the day the Chefoo Schools arrived. I quote a poem about that day directly from Norman's book. By the way, I hope all of you have a copy of Norman's fascinating story. You can order it directly from him. He's a member of our Weihsien

Topica network. Norman writes on page 65:

" The story of our arrival in Weihsien as seen by the local inhabitants is recounted in the following poem, entitled 'The Two Hundred and Ninety-seven.'

"Hooray! The Chefooites have all arrived at last!
Right heartily we cheered them as through the gates they passed,
They trudged up Guardhouse Hill, their baggage in the lead,
We 'Servers' nudged each other, 'Great Scott, more mouths to feed!'
That's not a nice expression but our rations were so low
And they had come from what we'd call luxury, you know.
They joined the Tsingtao Kitchen, school-children big and small;
We fed them on bread porridge, and they ate it, one and all!
We felt sorry for them when we filled their cups with bitter tea,
But they said, 'If you can drink it without sugar, so can we.'
Then came the real calamity, the camp ran out of yeast.
Our manager said, 'Doughnuts! Make twelve hundred at least!'
The boys soon took to 'Pumping' and other hard work too;
Some girls became dishwashers, others joined the kitchen crew'
We've grown fond of these school-children who so bravely stood the test
And should they ever need our help, we'll gladly do our best!' (G. E.
Norman)"

Norman remembers that we were served leek soup, corn flour and waster custard (didn't we call that blanc mange?), dry bread and tea that day.

Mary Previte

RE: NOTIONS OF FREEDOM

alison holmes
Jul 21, 2002 16:49 PDT

What a pleasure it is to read people thinking and asking questions. How right Dwight is to speak to the mixed bunch in camp and the significant differences in experiences and what was gleaned from them. I was most touched by Laura's account of her father's painting, a bleak landscape, no way in or out of the house, no nourishment, no light...all good things unattainable. How desolate...and yet how beautiful that she/you and your sister could give him the materials to become more aware of where he was standing at that particular moment of despair.

I think there is a lot to be said about the effect on children of their parents' experience...how could this not be so? It is bound to have a bearing on the field, though of course, need not control the field. You bet I tell children and grandchildren about Christmases when we had no more than a balloon and a cup of cocoa...but that doesn't have much effect on their Christmas preparations!

I suppose what we are all talking about is the cruelty of unnatural limitation.....and to a certain extent, that limitation is experienced everywhere. Just as the depression was an example of the extremities of supply and demand, so the war and the camp was an example of taking limitation to the extreme. And we struggled for survival more obviously, more aware, then, than perhaps we are now that the organizing principle of current society is driven by the concept of survival. This is probably not the place to enlarge on the limitation we experience and impose in our unconscious and conditioned way in twenty first century America.....but as for Weihsien, so for now. Healing has to come to all who are scarred by limitation. It has to come on all levels.

On the physical level we will rejoice once again on August 17th. We are doing it on the emotional level as we swap memories. On the mental level we do it when we look at what qualities lead to that limitation, what qualities developed in that situation, what qualities are being utilized now. There are victims, there are survivors, and there are mediators, utilizing everything sent our way in order to build awareness. I'd like to mention once again the value of Victor Frankl's book "Man's Search for Meaning" As a psychiatrist who was a prisoner in a Nazi camp, he was able to discover and formulate the structure of conscious living. He was so very aware of all the different levels, even of the level of the Eric Liddell's in his world ('the best of us did not survive'). I have seen this book work well with those with Post Traumatic Stress. And on books, Joseph Chilton Pearce's "The Biology of Transcendence" show both scientifically and humanly the wondrous equipment we have been endowed with, the actual physiological sequence of circuitry in the body which shows we are designed to handle experience in a particular way. In demonstrating that it also shows that as members of the human race we are handling it in a less than skillful way. Misusing the equipment we have leaves us stuck in the interplay between the mammalian and reptilian brain, in having emotional fixations on a physical focus. He encourages us to use all that we have been given for life abundant.

My very best to all of us who are looking for patters, potentials, possibilities, who are using that kernel to make bread! Alison

Next = 676