

From: <gregleck@epix.net>
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2009 3:40 AM
Subject: **Weih sien film footage**

- I've just returned from a trip to NARA and found a few documents
 - > regarding Weih sien which I did not dig up whilst researching my book.
 - > Once I get things in order I will probably pass them on to Leopold to
 - > add to his site.
 - >
 - > On a related topic, I have finally, thanks to the recent release of OSS
 - > personnel records, identified the Philip Malmstedt who was a film
 - > cameraman and may have taken film footage of Weih sien in the days after
 - > liberation. Pamela Masters has mentioned this person and the film he
 - > shot in August 1945. Knowing he was a member of the OSS helps to narrow
 - > down the area where the film could be held at NARA.
 - >
 - > Greg Leck

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2009 12:27 AM
Subject: **film footage from World War II**

Troy Sacquety, our premier researcher about the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), has recommended the following site <http://www.realmilitaryflix.com/>

You'll find fascinating real life footage here -- including about the OSS. Five of our seven liberators -- Major Stanley Staiger, Jim Moore, Tad Nagaki, Ray Hanchulak, and Peter Orlich -- were members of OSS.

Happy New Year.

Mary Previte

From: "Tapol" <tapol@skynet.be>
To: <weih sien@topica.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2009 12:34 PM
Subject: **Re: Weih sien film footage**

- Dear Greg,
 - > Thanks for helping me keep the website alive. New info is always welcome and
 - > especially photos, documents and even short films ---
 - > Best regards,
 - > Leopold

From: "Dusty Knisely" <jknisely@paonline.com>
To: <weih sien@topica.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2009 11:05 PM
Subject: **Re: Weih sien film footage**

- Greg, NARA is a town in Japan to me. Is that in Bethesda? We had a
 - > Swedish friend who came in and took pictures right after liberation and
 - > before we left on the train for Tsingtao. They confiscated the pictures and
 - > maybe video when the military man returned to the US> As you look again.
 - > PLEASE see if any of this got in with other things. I have tried to find
 - > them and have never had any good fortune. Hopefully, Georgie Knisely
 - > They were pictures of life in camp.

From: Tapol
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 7:09 PM
Subject: **Fw: The Jap's uniform**

Remember the Jap's uniform (in the guard tower)?
Best regards,
Leopold

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

From: [kim smith](#)

To: [Pander](#)

Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 4:07 PM

Subject: **Re: The Jap's uniform**

"After reading the (to me) fascinating controversies here, I must tell everyone that Dad was a STICKLER about accuracy. I guarantee he took no artistic license with the color, guns, caps etc. As I mentioned in my just-previous E-mail, when doing historical commissions much later in life, he would get permission to inspect inside the seams of historical uniforms to see the unfaded (or less-faded) color of the original cloth. He thus changed the historical record on at least one instance. My mother, a native French speaker, once accompanied Dad on research for project on the French and Indian war, looking at documents written in French. Mom found a punctuation error, which had resulted in an historical figure's name coming down through history, inaccurately!

Dad would have wanted to record the soldier in the watchtower as he was, and only employed his vivid imagination to the thousands of illustrations he did for the Saturday Evening Post and all the other highly illustrated magazines in the fifties.

Dad also took hundreds of photographs, which Leopold will publish for y'all when I get to burning them and sending them to him. The Japanese in the pictures (there are also many Chinese soldiers) are almost all, if not all, wearing the kind of hat you see in the painting. I don't offhand remember seeing any helmets, though I would ave to review the pics.

I would also like to say that Dad was OSS in China. He was not a war correspondent per se, but was sent a couple of days after the liberation to record the action. He spent most of his time in China in Kunming doing Morale Operations".

Leopold, would you publish the above along with the other comments I have read? I'm not sure how to connect to this thread. I'd love to stay conneted to that thread.

Also, if people are interested, they might want to see some of Dad's other work, much of which is historical at these links:

Today's Inspiration, the blog which first ran a week of Dad's illustration. Here is a link to the first day, and if you then go to the April 2008 links to the right of the page, you will get the rest of the week

<http://todaysinspiration.blogspot.com/2008/03/william-smith-fine-painter-robert.html>

Here is the link to the same blog, but the week where Leif focuses on Dad's work in China liberating Weih sien civilian internship camp at the end of the war:

<http://todaysinspiration.blogspot.com/2008/11/william-smith-terrible-picture-of.html>

Here is Davis Apatoff's homage to Dad's China work, just scroll down to August 10th:

http://illustrationart.blogspot.com/2008_08_01_archive.html

There will be more of Dad's work soon on the web, and I am in the process of making a Wikipedia entry,

Very best to you,

Kim

--- On Tue, 1/6/09, Pander <pander.nl@skynet.be> wrote:

From: Pander <pander.nl@skynet.be>

Subject: The Jap's uniform

To: "Kim Smith" <kim5888@sbcglobal.net>

Cc: "Janette & Pierre @ home" <pierre.ley@pandora.be>
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 5:08 AM

Dear Kim,

Here is an amusing link to read ---- It is about the colour of the Jap's uniform & nobody seemd to agree about it and now, we finally have your dad's painting in colour --- thanks to your blog !

<http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/TedPearson/text/JapUniform.htm>

all the best,
Leopold

From: [Albert de Zutter](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 8:16 PM

Subject: **Re: Fw: The Jap's uniform**

I have consistently maintained that the Japanese guards wore olive green uniforms and were army, and not consular police. There was a civilian authority, and in one of the writings of an American missionary who was repatriated in September of 1943 is the statement that there was disagreement between the Japanese civilian and military authorities.

Further evidence that our guards were army can be found in Father Scanlan's writings in the chapter where he describes his transfer from Weih sien to Peking. There he says that the guards accompanying his group from Weih sien were angry because their prisoners were transferred to consular police in Peking rather than to army personnel, as they were.

Albert de Zutter

From: [Ron Bridge](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2009 10:47 PM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us settle this saga once and for all. I have had numerous examples during the past ten years when I have been establishing the names of those interned or who were military PoWS of Japan that the only truly reliable source of information was contemporary records and documentation. Human Memory is selective and often blind in spots. Books written in the 1950's are accurate but there was a tendency to use pseudonyms there was then a dearth until the late 1980s and 1990 where quite clearly memory failure has occurred

in November 1943 a repatriated Canadian (ex Gripsholm) from Weih sien filed a report for the British Commonwealth Governments reported that the Camp Commandant had been the Japanese Vice Consul in Honolulu that is was of limited intelligence, incompetent and spoke no english but that the police officials were correct in their behavior towards internees. (This is filed under CO.910/26 at the UK National Archives Kew)

in March 1944 The Swiss consul filed a report through the Swiss Consul General in Shanghai. This cites that the Commandant was Mr Tsukigawa who had been Vice Consul in Honolulu on 08Dec45. and had reported that he had had a very rough time and that was why the camp was in Shantung Province away from civilisation. He reported to the Japanese Consul General in Tsingtao where all major decisions were taken. The Japanese Staff of the Camp is given as 1 Commandant, 4 Heads of Departments, 3 Police Officers and a varying number of policemen between 30 and 40. The original of this document is Despatch NO 7500 filed at NARA (US National Archives)

in August 1945 the Japanese submitted documents to General MacArthur's staff during the discussions regarding the surrender. Among those is a list of all POW/Civilian Internee Camps with their controlling authority Weih sien is shown to be under the Department of Foreign Affairs (I have seen the copy in the UK National Archives Kew but I am sure the same document will be available in NARA.

in September 1945 the Duck Mission refers to the Japanese Consular Police authorities representing the Japanese Government. Due to lack of US Manpower the Japanese were to remain responsible for guarding the Camp walls. Major Staiger met the Chief of Consular Police Koyanagi... and then met Mr Izu of the Japanese Consular Service who was the Camp Commandant at NARA (US National Archives) and also contained in Leopold's Web site.

Having said that I have no doubt that by 1944 Japanese who were no longer fit for Combat duties were re-assigned to the Consular police as camp guards, but that did not mean to say that they were still in the Military.

The Japanese Consular Police Uniform was black serge (for Temperate winters and Cold climates) and they wore a khaki/green cotton summer uniform in the tropics and in the Temperate Summer months.

I my dealing with the Japanese National Archives Weih sien which they had by different name as they could not decipher the characters is in the Foreign Office Archives, other camps are under the Japanese Navy and Japanese Army and those in

Japan under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

From: grannydavies@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 2:08 AM

Subject: **Re: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

The control of the Japanese guarding Weih sien was military, not consular. We had proof when my father Algernon F. Evans was dying in camp. My sister and her husband the Danish consul tried repeatedly to get in to see him. They were allowed in briefly by the commandant twice. The Japanese consul in Tientsin was a friend, he gave my sister a 3-month pass to come to Weih sien but informed them that he did not have jurisdiction of the military camp of Weih sien. Phyllis Evans Davies

From: Ron Bridge

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 11:04 AM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

It is pretty obvious that 64 years later nobody is going to agree despite the overwhelming evidence both pictorial and documentary that it was Consular Police. The quote cited below by Phyllis Davies is effectively correct as the jurisdiction was under the Tsingtao Consul General.

But I close matters by quoting yet another report from the debriefing of the Gripsholm evacuees in November 1943 "Discipline generally was under the control of a retired Japanese NCO who had under him 40 Japanese Consular police."

As far as I am concerned having examined the surrender documents, the contemporary camp documents including reports by the Swiss Consuls and International Red Cross raised at the time I am satisfied that they were Consular police in Weih sien. Incidentally having studied the broader picture of all Camps Shanghai all ten camps under civil control except Haiphong Road and Kiangwan where military control and all inmates even if civilian at beginning of the war considered military POWs and granted rank of Sergeant. Hongkong initially military control transferred to civil in late 1942 reverted to military a year later. Singapore military control
Burma military control
NEI military control except Celebes where Naval Control.
Rgds
Ron

From: Albert de Zutter

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 1:50 PM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

I am curious as to whether you, Ron Bridge, were an inmate at the camp, or is all of your information from documents? I grew up in Tsingtao, which was occupied by the Japanese army in 1938, when I was 6 years old. The Japanese soldiers were in our view from then on. I was 10-plus when we were interned in Tsingtao and 13 when we were liberated. I never saw a black uniform at Weih sien, nor did I see a dark blue uniform as some have maintained. I cited the adult testimony of an American missionary lady who was repatriated and the passage in Father Scanlan's book in which he depicts the guards from Weih sien who accompanied his groups to Peking as being angry at having to give up their prisoners to consular police. My direct experience bolstered by that of these two adults is proof enough for me.

Albert de Zutter

From: Ron Bridge

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 10:28 PM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

Albert,

1 I am not just an interested academic, I was in Weih sien Block 42/Room 6 until Sep 43 when we moved to Block 13 Rooms 10 & 11. I would also refer you to Leopold's web site.

2 When I said Black they could have been mid-night blue.

3 I have cited only a few official sources.

4 I leave you all with the thought of a quote from "Shantung Compound" written by Langdon Gilkey in 1966 when his memory would have been fresh although he uses pseudonyms for the Camp Inmates I quote:

"We were neither in Japan nor in "enemy" territory - we were in part of China which was occupied or "puppet" territory, held by the Japanese since 1937, and so maintaining at least nominal diplomatic relations with Japan. Thus we were under the Consular Service rather than the Army or the Military Police. As a result civilian diplomatic officials were in charge of us. OUR GUARDS WERE A PART OF THE CONSULAR GUARD RATHER THAN SOLDIERS IN THE REGULAR ARMY." (RWB My capitals) it goes on to describe why Weih sien inmates were handled differently to the "folks" in the Philippines East Indies or Singapore. (for those with a copy of Gilkey's Shantung Compound it is on page 42)

5 As at no source from written by inmates during and after the war, red cross reports and surrender documents does any mention made of the guards being Japanese army other than by contributors to this Topica Bulletin. I consider the case

proven beyond any reasonable doubt.

Rgds

Ron Bridge

PS I leave you with the thought that I have been Vice Chairman 1997-2000 and Chairman 2001 of the Association of British Civil Internees Far East Region and have spent many many hours in studying the whole issue of internment in the Far East have been in constant dialogue with the UK Government over an ex gratia payment including 3 High Court and 3 Appeal Court cases against the Ministry of Defence. The the British ex internjees who are readers of this column will know what that entailed.

From: [Albert de Zutter](mailto:Albert.de.Zutter)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 10:40 PM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

Thank you for the information. You have some good sources to cite and so have I. I have no doubt that the consular service was technically in charge and that there was a civilian authority. But I equally have no doubt that the guards were military personnel.

From: [David Birch](mailto:David.Birch)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 8:23 PM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

Thank you for this interesting discussion. As with Ron Bridge and Albert de Zutter, I was interned by the Japanese at the Civilian Assembly Center (read Concentration Camp) until the end of World War II. I was thirteen years and nine months of age in August 1945 when the American paratroopers dropped to us from the B24 Liberator plane.

As you mention, Ron, after some sixty-plus years our memories of those days are not as clear as they must have been even forty or fifty years ago. But there are a couple of things that I do remember clearly today.

One is that in the Chefoo School, we always referred to the head man over the Japanese guards as the CHIEF OF POLICE. Never as the commandant. But he may well have had to report to some fairly high-level official with the Japanese army. The reason I think this may have been the case is that I can still recall a little group of officers (the head man may have been a colonel) visiting our camp and staking about doing some kind of an inspection which probably did not last more than a couple of hours and may have been largely for show. Since I was first interned at Chefoo, in 1942 and transferred with the Chefoo contingent to Weih sien in September 1943, I no longer am able to recall whether this military inspection took place at Chefoo or Weih sien.

I do clearly recall that the uniforms worn by the army 'brass' were of the khaki variety.

I do know that the uniforms worn by our camp guards were different in color. They were NOT khaki in my recollection as the army uniforms were. I've always seemed to recall them as a dark 'navy' blue color, but certainly they may have been black.

I would respectfully suggest that I don't really think this really matters very much. It's sort of like the argument over which end of the boiled egg should be uppermost in the egg cup, the pointy end or the rounded end. In one of his books, Norman Cliff refers to the Japanese guards as consular police.

Sincerely
David

From: [Dwight W. Whipple](mailto:Dwight.W.Whipple)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 9:15 PM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

The reason for the rounded end of the egg pointing up is so that the spoon fits better into it.
~Dwight

From: [David Birch](mailto:David.Birch)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 10:05 PM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

Ha, ha !!! That's quite interesting! Hadn't heard that explanation before! I do however recall reading in "Gulliver's Travels" that quite a hubbub took place between two factions in one of the kingdoms. The row was all over the question of which end of the boiled egg should be broken in order to eat the egg.

Until now, I knew nothing of the real significance of preference of one end over the other!

Thanks Dwight!

David

From: [Albert de Zutter](mailto:Albert.de.Zutter)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2009 12:15 AM

Subject: **RE: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

I have had two careers in my life -- a journalist twice and, in between, a psychotherapist for 20 years. Both have helped me understand the human condition. I understand the urge to place oneself "above the fray," and take a bemused, superior position. I also understand the urge to truthfully accuracy -- a trait I recognize and very much respect in Ron Bridge. Although the details of our internment hardly make any difference now (they can't affect how I relate to my children or grandchildren, for example), they are interesting to us -- we the survivors of what has been a turning point in our upbringing, especially those who underwent the experience for the full 35-36 months, in contrast to those who were repatriated in September of 1943. Those two additional winters in Weih sien brought us to the brink of extinction and imposed two more years of not knowing what in heaven or earth was to become of us. That last winter was especially brutal, with all our clothes outgrown and worn out, not enough coal to keep our heating stoves burning, and food supply deteriorating from its already inadequate level.

Like David Birch, I was 13-plus when our seven rescuers dropped out of that B-24. I rushed out, barefoot and clad only in shorts, and I was not frightened by the sight of .45 caliber Tommy Guns pointed at us -- they were the "good guys," after all. I didn't know till a few years ago that the Japanese guards had orders to kill us all, and I'm glad they did not. I happen to think, without definite proof, that they would not have done so, but then, I'm kind of an optimist. Anyway, here we are, as Ron said, 64 years (not quite) later. What does it matter what color uniforms the guards were wearing? Not a damn bit. But it matters to me that I saw Japanese army uniforms from the time I was six years old till the end of the concentration camp experience, and I saw no difference between those I saw in Tsingtao starting in January of 1938 until the end of our imprisonment in 1945. I never saw a black or dark blue uniform in Weih sien, and I have great difficulty picturing "King Kong" in anything but army olive drab.

In reply to David, the vast majority of Weih sien prisoners NEVER referred to the commandant as "police chief." I have noticed that it is only Chefoo kids (a small minority), and some Peking personnel who insist that we were guarded by "consular police." Both groups encountered "consular police" before they arrived at Weih sien, and I believe it is a well-known psychological phenomenon that we tend to see what we expect. I never heard of the term "consular police" in relation to the Japanese occupation and our experience at Weih sien before I read it on this

site. Sgt. "Pushindi" sure as hell was not a diplomat.

So, snicker if you will, but Ron Bridge, a researcher, and I, a journalist, still care about accuracy. And I wish more people did.

Albert de Zutter

From: Joyce Cook

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2009 5:17 AM

The Jap officers who came to our house in Tsingtao immediately after Pearl Harbour (albeit one was Korean) wore dark coloured uniforms. They attached a sign to our house indicating we were 'British - enemy'.

Later we went to WeiHsien being the first group to arrive there and one of the last to leave after liberation.

My recollection of the guards there is that they wore khaki uniforms.

After some time in the camp my father was astonished to meet a former civilian business acquaintance of his from Tsingtao who had become the new Commandant of WeiHsien Camp. He was Koyonagi. I think I only saw him once later in the camp but I remember my father saying to my mother, "Guess who I met today, Koyonagi, he's the new commandant of the camp." My mother was surprised and they spoke about him as a business acquaintance of my father pre war in Tsingtao. who suddenly appeared as the camp commander. Pop was manager of Jardine Matheson before the War in Tsingtao. He actually visited pop and gave him eggs and watermelon. He was very friendly. Dad asked him not to bring any more food to us as it would not look good. Dad knew him as a businessman and not an Army officer and was very surprised to see him as an officer. The Chinese police in Tsingtao pre war wore black uniforms as I remember.

Joyce Bradbury

From: Dusty Knisely

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 5:13 AM

Subject: **Re: The Japanese uniform in Weih sien**

Dwight, I love the egg answer, makes sense to me. Georgie Reinbrecht Knisely

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 11:23 AM

Subject: **Weih sien & Unit-731**

Hello,

My little sister, Mary-Lou, born in camp (7 July, 1944) graduated from Brussels University (U.L.B.) as a journalist. Before she died, we (her family) knew that she was preparing to write a book about what she called then: "our family saga in the Far East". Being born in Weih sien made her to be very interested on the subject and I know that she had had long conversations about that with her mother.

She once told me that Father DeJaegher knew!

Knew what?

She told me to read Father deJaegher's chapter about Weih sien and that it had something to do with Unit-731.

Here is the extract (last pages ...) <http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/rdjaegher/text/ChapterXVIII.htm>

"He and two other camp guards were very young idealistic men who had been inflamed by the propaganda of their own militarists and induced to throw themselves into this "great and honourable war." They were wounded in the fighting on the Malay Peninsula, and their disillusionment was complete after their experiences there. They had grown more and more bitterly opposed to the war until they were really fanatical pacifists when I encountered them in camp, as violently anti-war as they had been for it before they left home. It was not too hard to win these young men over to our side and, while they remained Japanese soldiers, under military jurisdiction, doing their duty as guards, they had no heart for their work and helped us enormously. They began to give us all kinds of information, and of course I encouraged them, as did the Gervasi. It was thus I learned that the war was not going well and that plans were under way to move the various interment camps scattered all over the Pacific area. The prisoners in the Philippine camps were to be sent either to Hong Kong or Japan; the Hong Kong camps were to be moved to Shanghai, the Shanghai camps to Peiping, the Peiping camps to Mukden. Of course the military prisoners in these places, as well as the civil internees, would be moved, and the leapfrogging arrangement was to gain time and hold onto as many of these captives of war as possible, as long as possible, for bargaining purposes.

Since we would be included in the Peiping grouping, we would inevitably go to Mukden. I knew it would be extremely bad for us if this move went through, particularly for the women, because Mukden is a rugged place at all times and devastatingly cold and bleak in winter. I realized we would have to do something, and so did the committee in whom I confided my news. We made emergency contact with the guerrillas and inquired how long it would take them to bomb the railway from Tsinan to Tsingtao, the road through which we would have to be evacuated. The word came back quickly, and it was cheering. They would need only one day's notice. Knowing we could always count on that, and that we need never have to move, we relaxed.

It was not just messages like ----- "

--- all camps in Asia were to be moved "one step" Northwards !! ?? Why?

Nowadays, we know much more about Unit-731 situated near Harbin in Manchuria. Not a single prisoner survived from that camp, a sinister place where medical experimentations were made on human bodies. Mostly Chinese, Russians and POWs from Mukden.

Father DeJaegher was very fluent in Chinese and very well accepted by the Chinese population. He was also very well informed as to what was going on in many parts of China during the war, (as well as before and after the war). Could he have had any knowledge of the atrocities going on in Harbin? Unit-731? Could he have known that POWs from Mukden were disappearing to be dissected in the Japs' laboratories of Unit-731?

It seems to me that he must have known that everything possible had to be done to prevent us – civilian captives in Weih sien – from going up North. To Mukden which is very close to Harbin --- and from there to Unit 731. Not only for the climate (as he writes) but also for our lives ...)

We were all in relatively good health and excellent material for the Japs' experimentations on humans. Furthermore there were many children in our group.

A question to our historians:

Our Japanese captors could exterminate us at any time & place they wished. Historians have found written orders for that.

Do you think that my hypothesis about Unit-731 is plausible?

Best regards,

Leopold

From: [Fred & Coral Dreggs](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2009 2:37 AM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien & Unit-731**

Dear Leopold,

To cut a long story short, there are 491,000 pages on the internet dealing with the subject "Unit - 731". I have never heard of it and am now astonished to read that a unit such as that really did exist and has dreadful matters attached to it reminiscent of Dr. Mengles(?) in German concentration camps etc. I have not yet read what has appeared on the net but am bringing this to the attention of readers.

Regards.. Fred aka Alfie

From: [Tapol](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2009 10:05 AM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien & Unit-731**

Dear Everybody,

http://www.dailymotion.com/relevance/search/unit%C3%A9+731/video/x4emmn_les-fantomes-de-l-unite-731-part1_politics

This URL brings you to a recent & interesting TV documentary about the subject. Its in French but there are many other videos in English, as Fred mentions in his message. First time I heard of 731 ---- must have been in the mid-eighties. It's a real nightmare!

Best regards,

Leopold

From: [Ron Bridge](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2009 10:38 AM

Subject: **RE: Weih sien & Unit-731**

Unit 731 is one thing but to link it with Weih sien is ridiculous. I have seen much on Unit 731 and at no time did Weih sien feature as a possible source of humans for laboratory experimental use. I have just read through all the reports written both during the war and by the Duck and other release teams and there is no mention whatsoever of a move to Mukden.

Readers of this bulletin board should realise that the whole of all internment camps lived on rumour it is a very natural human activity and when there is no authoritative news of events they are invented and then embellished at each telling, with optimists giving one slant followed by pessimists turning it round.

Ron

From: [Albert de Zutter](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 6:23 AM

Subject: RE: Weih sien & Unit-731

I don't think it's correct to dismiss Leopold's hypothesis about Weih sien and Unit 731 as "ridiculous." The two soldiers cited in the passage of Father De Jaegher's book did say there was a plan to move all the camps toward the north, and since we were the "Peking group," north for us would have meant Mukden. Whether or not that was to have been our fate, I think it was very fortunate that the war ended when it did and that the Duck Mission reached us three days after the cessation of hostilities. Had the war continued over another winter, many of us would not have survived anyway, whether from the cold and malnutrition in Weih sien or under the tender mercies of the Japanese "Doctors Mengele" in Mukden. Or, for that matter in just another camp in that frozen part of the world.

Albert de Zutter

From: [Tapol](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 12:18 PM

Subject: Re: Weih sien & Unit-731

Dear Ron,

Nonsense?

I don't think so.

The author was a very intelligent man. His book was written after the war and he had ample time to correct and modify his prose before the book was published. He could have not written this short paragraph about Mukden and his chapter about Weih sien would have been just as spicy as it is now.

The fact is that he wrote that paragraph and that he explicitly mentions "Mukden" three times.

What message did he want to send us?

After the war and as a Catholic priest he was close to the entourage of Mr. & Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek and certainly had knowledge of a lot of very confidential information. The negotiations for the possession of all the scientific data concerning 731 took place then. All that was "Top Secret" and of course he couldn't write that in his book. He would have been immediately censored. Furthermore, when the war ended, the Japanese destroyed Unit-731 and with it --- all the compromising documents were burnt in Manchuria as well as in Japan. The whole episode was classified "Top Secret" in Japan and in the US.

No wonder you can't read any official report about this.

So, if Father DeJaegher writes that we could have been sent to Mukden, I believe him. Once in a POW camp in Mukden, whether you are a civilian or a military --- you become a potential candidate for Unit-731. That's just pure logic!

I hope that one day; a historian will find some written evidence about all this.

Not all has been said about WWII and some things, we will never know.

Best regards,

Leopold

From: [David Birch](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 3:55 AM

Subject: RE: Weih sien & Unit-731

As far as I am concerned, I'll go with Ron Bridge. He is one of the very most well-informed people on the whole subject of Japanese internment camps in the Far East that I know about. And, of course, he was one of our fellow prisoners, as a boy, in Weih sien!

In fact through his work as a high executive with the ABCIFER organization, I among thousands of others who were prisoners of the Japanese, in the Far East, received thousands of dollars of special Ex Gratia grants from the British Government.

Yes it is true, of course, that we were very fortunate that the war ended

when it did and that we were rescued promptly by Major Staiger and his men. But I don't think we were in any danger of being used as human guinea pigs by ghoulish Japanese versions of depraved Nazi medical men! I think that is sheer speculation with no real basis in provable fact.

David

From: <gregleck@epix.net>
 To: <weihsien@topica.com>
 Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 4:19 AM
 Subject: **ONI report on Weih sien**

- I've uncovered a report from the Office of Naval Intelligence based on
 - > an interview with a missionary internee who was part of the 1943
 - > exchange. I'll pass it on to Leopold for the website.
 - >
 - > In it, the missionary tries to make the case that a raid could be made
 - > (long before the end of the war was in sight) to free the internees.
 - > This had just been done in the Philippines.
 - >
 - > I have never come across any primary source documents to suggest that
 - > this was seriously considered (the Chinese had their own wild scheme to
 - > free Weih sien) but I suspect that intelligence like this was available
 - > to the Duck Mission.
 - >
 - > I also came across a list of equipment carried by members of the various
 - > humanitarian missions.
 - >

From: Gay Talbot Stratford
 To: weihsien@topica.com
 Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 4:27 PM
 Subject: **Re: Weih sien & Unit-731**

Dear Friends,
 The recent flurry of e-mails concerning Weih sien and Mukden is interesting.
 There is no doubt that Father de Jaeger was an intelligent man and a fine priest. He and his 'news team' risked' their lives to bring news and hope to the adults in camp. He was an unsung hero, and I have no difficulty in believing what he said. Facts are facts of course, but all the facts are not yet in-- and may never be.
 One of our sons is married to a Japanese girl who knew nothing about the war, except for the dropping of the atomic bombs. But in recent years an exhibit of camp 731 has been touring Japan. The place did exist ,and it was horrendous. Thousands of Chinese were not as lucky as we were.
 Gay Talbot Stratford-----

From: "Tapol" <tapol@skynet.be>
 To: <weihsien@topica.com>
 Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 5:55 PM
 Subject: **Re: ONI report on Weih sien**

- Dear Greg,
 - > I'd gladly add that document to what we already have --- mostly thanks to
 - > Norman Cliff's scrap-books.
 - > <http://www.weihsien-paintings.org/NormanCliff/history/DOCUMENTS/1944-Oct18-TiptonHummel/ConditionsInWeih sien.htm>
 - > On the website, I added a short cut on the main frame:
 - > "Documents&Archives" ----
 - > Best regards,
 - > Leopold

From: rod miller
 To: weihsien@topica.com
 Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2009 5:23 AM
 Subject: **Situation reports Chinese camps**

Hello

I'm not sure how interested you are but in the file below there are some references to Weih sien.
Due to the file title you probably haven't seen them before.
There are daily sitrep reports for August 1945.
If you want to look at these files in date order you start at the back and work your way to the front.
Pages 224 to 197 have mentions and there maybe others as I didn't go right through it.
Page 25-28 is a list of Australians at Weih sien.

For the link below to work you will have to be logged into the Australian National Archives as a guest
<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/recordsearch/index.aspx>

Then click the link below.

<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/imagines.asp?B=237699&I=1&SE=1>

Title

Australian Prisoners of War and Internees.

Series number

A4144 **Control symbol**

810/1945 **Contents date range**

1944 - 1945

Access status

Open**Location**

Canberra

Barcode

237699

Regards
Rod

From: [Ron Bridge](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2009 2:31 PM

Subject: **RE: Situation reports Chinese camps**

Rod,

Many thanks I had seen some of the messages as they were in the UK National Archives. But as always there were some nuggets.

RGds

Ron

From: [Ron Bridge](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2009 9:38 PM

Subject: **RE: Situation reports Chinese camps**

Rod,

Just as a matter of info I am now understandign why there were so many discrepancies in numbers the NAA documnets referred to give a host of Australians many of whom I knew or were friends of my garndparents or parents and the Camp documnet list as British (UK) and many of the children in the China Inland Mission SChool Chefoo who were in Weih sien and who had bee born in China of Australian parents have UK Birth Certificates. It could be belt and braces as with Australia emerging on it's own in the Commonwealth post the 1931 conferece British enjoyed extra-territoriality and were not sbject to Chinese law where there was some doubt re Commonwealth Countries.

Thanks again thinking of me

Rgds

Ron

From: [rod miller](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2009 11:59 PM

Subject: **RE: Situation reports Chinese camps**

Ron

The reason I stumbled across this file is because I was researching the Australian POWs at Hainan.
Between January and September 1942 the Australian internees in China were probably valuable to the Japanese.

Australia had a diplomat in China Sir Frederick Eggleston. He arrived in Chungking in October 1941 and remained until 1944.

Its a complicated story to do with the British exchange but the Japanese desperately needed 800 Japanese we had interned in Australia. I mention them in my book. I'm pretty sure that our Prime Minister, John Curtin, put his foot down and said if it wasn't reciprocal they weren't getting them.

At 07:38 AM 1/25/2009, you wrote:

Rod,

Just as a matter of info I am now understandign why there were so many discrepancies in numbers the NAA documnets referred to give a host of Australians many of whom I knew or were friends of my garndparents or parents and the Camp documnet list as British (UK) and many of the children in the China Inland Mission School Chefoo who were in Weihhsien and who had bee born in China of Australian parents have UK Birth Certificates.

This would be the trick, as for the exchange the British Government would be counting the heads as British where as the Australian Government would be counting them as Australian. I believe it was all about numbers and who was going to be returned on the exchange, people the British Government wanted, or people the Australian Government wanted. As you've pointed out to me before, in the British files people from the dominions were all named as British. The thing is Australia held the whip hand for although we weren't negotiating the exchange we had the internees the Japanese desperately needed.

It could be belt and braces as with Australia emerging on it's own in the Commonwealth post the 1931 conference British enjoyed extra-territoriality and were not subject to Chinese law where there was some doubt re Commonwealth Countries.

Have a look at <http://www.passports.gov.au/Web/PassportHistory.aspx> The words 'Australian Passport' replaced 'British Passport' on the cover of an Australian passport in 1949. No wonder the Japanese were confused.

Thanks again thinking of me

You survivors of Weihhsien are living history. Like all internees you can tell us what happened, which is terribly important, but you can't tell us why it happened. It is the "Why" factor that interests me.

I enjoy the lively debate in here. I can tell you that the Rabaul nurses who were interned in Japan, although completely different to you in the respect that there was only 19 of them, had many different guards, police, army and navy.

I think historian Margaret MacMillan <http://www.margaretmacmillan.com/index.html> summed it up nicely during a recent visit to Australia.

History is a process, and there is not one truth about the past, just as there is not one truth about the present. It will depend in part where you're looking at it from. What we have to try and do, in both history and in confronting the present, is recognise that our view is a limited one and it may not be the only one. And try and be aware of other angles and other aspects. We have to sort out what people think they believe and what we think we believe about the past from what actually happened. We have views on the past which are simply not borne out by the evidence. And I think that's what good history does, it respects the evidence and it tries to deal with evidence that doesn't fit in to a particular picture.

Maybe a lesson in that for all of us...

If I find anything else I'll let you know.

Regards
Rod

From: Tapol

To: weihhsien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2009 9:53 AM

Subject: **Re: Situation reports Chinese camps**

Dear Rod,

I too appreciated your last messages. The Australian archive link is a very interesting one. I took out the documents about Weihhsien and will transfer them to the Weihhsien-Paintings website. That will come in the "Documents & Archive's" chapter I don't know how yet --- but I'll find a way. That very last paragraph — written by Margaret Mac Millan — is marvellously said. The frontier between history and legend is sometimes difficult to define. I'll be ordering that book very soon. I

am actually reading a book about "Hirohito & the making of Modern Japan", by Herbert P. Bix. There is still much to understand about that part of the planet. So many questions still unanswered.

Best regards,
Leopold

From: rod_miller

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2009 12:45 PM

Subject: **Re: Situation reports Chinese camps**

Dear Leopold

If your interested you can listen to Margaret MacMillan on the links below.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/latenightlive/stories/2008/2298060.htm>

<http://www.lowyinstitute.org/Publication.asp?pid=850>

If you wish to see her give her speech you can watch it here. This will require a fast broadband Internet service. She mentions China at about 13 minutes into her speech.

<http://www.themonthly.com.au/tm/node/1283> Part 1

<http://www.themonthly.com.au/tm/node/1281> Part 2

Rod

From: <gregleck@epix.net>

To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 4:48 AM

Subject: **Duck Mission personnel and equipment**

>I recently came across some information about the Duck Mission. I know
> the only member whose fate is unknown was Eddie Wang, the Chinese
> interpreter. A list gives his Chinese name as Cheng Han Wang.

>

> According to a list of equipment I found in the National archives, the
> team carried 38 and 45 caliber pistols, as well as carbines with folding
> stocks. No mention of Tommy or submachine guns.

>

From: Pamela Masters

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 8:19 PM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien & Unit-731**

Just a thought -- As Unit 731 was unknown to any of us internees till after the war was over, I can't see how we could have been spreading rumors about it in the camp.

Pamela Masters-Flynn

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 8:54 PM

Subject: **William Smith -- Thought you might like this...**

Kim Smith has sent me this fascinating biographical sketch of her father Willam Smith, an OSS artist who came to Weih sien after our liberation in August 1945 when he sketched and photographed Weih sien life. Kim is currently working on an upcoming display in California of her father's work.

Mary Previte

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

From: kim smith <kim5888@sbcglobal.net>

<http://www.tfaoi.com/aa/3aa/3aa117.htm>

This short bio was written by a friend of the family who is also a curator.

Very best,

Kim

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 3:51 PM

Subject: **English version of Weih sien Camp documentary**

Since I'm visiting Hong Kong, I phoned Sui Shude today in Weifang. Mr. Sui tells me that an English version of the Weih sien Camp documentary is on the drawing board. They were thrilled at the enormous response they'd had throughout China for the broadcasting of 5-part series on national TV.

Mr. Sui told me what a good response Weih sien had during the Olympics, so the People's Government of Weifang is planning what they'll do next to improve the concentration camp site. He said plans include improving some of the rooms in the hospital to use them for display purposes.

The People's Government of Weifang hopes to create a Weih sien Concentration Camp web site in Chinese and English.

Mary Previte

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Cc: Janette & Pierre @ home

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 6:15 PM

Subject: **new photos**

Dear Kim & Weih sien friends,

Thanks to Kim, we have a brand new set of photos in "avant première" :

<http://www.weih sien->

[paintings.org/KimSmith/PhotosSketches/Weih sien_Camp/p_Weih sienCamp.htm](http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/KimSmith/PhotosSketches/Weih sien_Camp/p_Weih sienCamp.htm)



there are a lot more to come but this is the first batch. My final layout is not yet ready but I am sure that you will be all happy to give your comments on these first pictures. Don't forget to give the number of the picture --- more details about the immediate surroundings --- and the names of the people you think you can recognize! I'd be happy to add all that on the website.

Best regards,

Leopold

PS Ted, isn't that you on picture "w009"?

From: Kim Smith

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 7:19 PM

Subject: **Re: new photos**

Please, let us know which photos you recognize by the code at the bottom! It's so exciting to find out who they are!

From: Albert de Zutter

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 10:18 PM

Subject: **Re: new photos**

Kim,

In picture 007, the nun at left is probably Sister Hiltrudis of St. Joseph School in Tsingtao. The next person, a man with a mustache is certainly Jimmy Baskett of Tsingtao. The next man, in shorts, could very well be Mr. Cockburn,

who was our Scout Master, with Father Hanquet and Father Palmers as assistant Scout Masters. If I could get the entire image of the other photos enlarged it is possible I might recognize some more people. I tried, but i could only get a small portion of each picture in the enlarged size.

Albert de Zutter

From: grannydavies@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 11:31 PM
Subject: **Re: new photos**

Picture 13, that's Phyllis Evans in the middle bottom row. could be ChristianeChatham above me, am not sure. Phyllis

From: [Albert de Zutter](mailto:Albert.de.Zutter)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 12:21 PM
Subject: **Re: new photos**

In picture 002, the second person from the left, I believe, is Alice Gerber.

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 9:51 AM
Subject: **English version of Weih sien Camp documentary**

Since I'm visiting Hong Kong, I phoned Sui Shude today in Weifang. Mr. Sui tells me that an English version of the Weih sien Camp documentary is on the drawing board. They were thrilled at the enormous response they'd had throughout China for the broadcasting of 5-part series on national TV.

Mr. Sui told me what a good response Weih sien had during the Olympics, so the People's Government of Weifang is planning what they'll do next to improve the concentration camp site. He said plans include improving some of the rooms in the hospital to use them for display purposes.

The People's Government of Weifang hopes to create a Weih sien Concentration Camp web site in Chinese and English.

Mary Previte

From: [Dusty Knisely](mailto:Dusty.Knisely)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 2:58 AM
Subject: **Re: English version of Weih sien Camp documentary**

Wow, Mary, you are helping also to advertise us. Can't wait for the English version. The Chinese one was wonderful! Sui Shude has much to be proud of. What memories it brings back from recent years also!!! Georgie Reinbrecht Knisely

From: [David Birch](mailto:David.Birch)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 7:54 PM
Subject: **Re: English version of Weih sien Camp documentary**

Looking back to the period 1943 - 1945, Weih sien Camp, interestingly, brings back a flood of nostalgic memories to me. I was eleven when I came to Weih sien with the contingent from Chefoo, and thirteen when I left a few weeks after being set free by the American airmen.

Mr Sui has done so much for us in helping to preserve that (to us) most important part of history!

And so have you, Mary! I don't clearly recall you Dusty. But I'm sure our paths crossed many times in days of old.

David

From: "Terri Stewart" <tkswearer@verizon.net>
To: <weih sien@topica.com>
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 2:01 AM

Subject: **Re: English version of Weih sien Camp documentary**

- This is exciting news! I watched most of the 5-part series but would have loved to have listened to it in English. When that version becomes available I can forward it to my family that has been following some of this history.
- >
- > Terri Stewart

From: [Estelle Horne nee Cliff](mailto:Estelle.Horne.nee.Cliff)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Cc: expeditions@biosearch.org.uk

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 6:47 PM

Subject: **GCS Russell**

From Estelle Horne nee Cliff

I received this email from Peter Overton, grandson of Gardiner Russell who was in Weih sien, and in fact died there. He was a trader in Tsingtao, under the trade name of GCS Russell. They were interned in 1942 in the ILTIS HYDRO Hotel, and then were the first group to be transferred to Weih sien.

Does anyone remember him?? Norman's widow Joyce put him in touch with me.

Estelle

From: Biosearch Expeditions

Date: 26/02/2009 17:59:25

To: jeromeandestellehorne@yahoo.co.uk

Subject: **Weih sein GCF Russell**

Dear Estelle,

Thank you very much for your help.

I am gradually piecing together my grandfather's life and you have provided another snippet by telling me that he was one of the first to enter the camp – presumably shortly after the Pearl Harbour attack. I would really like to try to find someone who knew him. This is becoming increasingly difficult since he died aged 65 in the camp in 1944 and those still alive would be a different generation. Nevertheless if you have any ideas I would welcome them.

My mother was born in China. Her parents separated when she was 11 and she never saw her mother or two siblings again. She subsequently had sporadic contact with her father, who was probably in China most of his adult life. She was raised in England by GCF Russell's sister. My mother's first husband died very soon after they married in 1938 and she married my father, Nevil Overton, a Battle of Britain pilot, at the end of the war.

In a way my researches are trying to put together a broken family. Since I know practically nothing about Gardiner Russell, a living contact would be fantastic. I suppose anyone who knew him on a personal level would probably be at least 90 by now, since they would probably have to be in their 20s in the camp to have really engaged with him.

Thank you again for your prompt reply.

Peter Overton

Hilltop Farm

Welbourn

Lincolnshire Tel: 01400 273323

From: [Albert de Zutter](mailto:Albert.de.Zutter)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 8:42 PM

Subject: **Re: GCS Russell**

I can't say I remember Mr. Russell, as I was 10 years old when the Tsingtao people were interned. However, I can add a few crumbs of general information to what Mr. Overton knows.

After Pearl Harbor, "enemy aliens" (American, British, Belgian, Dutch) were placed under house arrest. Soon we were allowed out from noon to 3 p.m. to take care of necessary business. Then we were interned in the Iltis Hydro on October 20, 1942, and transferred to Weih sien in March 1943. As he already knows, the Tsingtao group was the first to be brought to Weih sien.

I wish him luck in finding someone more contemporary with his grandfather.

Albert de Zutter

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weihsien@topica.com ; roycampbell@eastlink.ca ; patrickgoodland@freenet.co.uk ; lauchlan@fctvplus.net ; sametcalf@hotmail.com ; douglasrosie@ntlworld.com ; neil.yorkston@gmail.com ; henrylack@homechoice.co.uk ; jeromeandestellehorne@yahoo.co.uk ; jht3@msi-professional.org

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 10:58 PM

Subject: **WEIHSIEN CAMP documentary**

Meggie Li, producer of the WEIHSIEN CAMP documentary, and Director of the **Shandong Provincial Broadcasting and TV Bureau** tells me that they are now producing a 100-minute English version with hopes that it may be aired outside of China.

If any of you has helpful connections to television media outlets in USA (such as the History Channel) or in the United Kingdom or Australia , please let me know. Let's help with this project.

Mr. Sui Shude tells me that Weifang paid 800,000 renminbi (\$100,000 in USA dollars, I believe) to produce and broadcast this documetary throughout China.

Mary Previte

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weihsien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 3:37 PM

Subject: **Re: WEIHSIEN CAMP documentary**

Yesterday I received an e-mail from **Meggie Li**, who produced the 5-part **WEIHSIEN CAMP** documentary that was broadcast to every part of China last October. After more than 60 years, our Weih sien experience continues to broadcast what some might consider a surprising message from an internment camp.

Because Meggie interviewed a good number of you for this series, I wanted to drop you this note. If you thought you were just telling a story, read part of Meggie's **first paragraph** as she comments on creating this documentary:

"It is my pleasure to meet all of you who were internees in Weih sien Camp," Meggie writes. **"You have given us good lessons about love, forgiveness, tolerance."**

Mary Taylor Previte

From: Tapol

To: weihsien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 10:43 AM

Subject: **screen captures**

Hello all,

http://www.weihsien-paintings.org/CCTV/ScreenCaptures/p_ScreenCaptures_01.htm

--- a new link,

I also received the De-Luxe box with the DVDs of the TV documentary about Weih sien.

Magnificent work. I also have a extra copy for my sister Janette and a copy for Father Hanquet's family. Unfortunately I don't understand Chinese but the story is very comprehensible and the interviews are in English. I'm just as impatient as you all are, to be able to vision the 100 minute English version when it will be ready.

On the Weih sien-Paintings' website, I added a new page with screen captures. I know many of you by name but not visually. Could you help me complete the names of those who were interviewed?

I guess that "066" is Pamela Masters, --- "053" is Estelle Cliff --- "032" is Peter Bazire --- "085" is Stephen Metcalf ---

If you click on the number just under the image you will get a postit with the caption. If you click on the image --- it will ZOOM in another window. ---- and so on ---

There are also a lot of family photos from your personal albums --- it could be interesting to know more about those pictures --- when? where? who? ---

Could you help me with the captions?

Thanks again ---

Best regards,

Leopold

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 3:09 AM

Subject: **James Hudson Taylor III**

Overseas Missionary Fellowship announces the death of James Hudson Taylor III



James Hudson Taylor III, great-grandson of the founder of the China Inland Mission, died early this morning the 20th of March 2009, in Hong Kong. Having been born and raised in China, he imbibed its language, thought forms and literature like the Chinese themselves, and won the respect of senior Chinese government officials and of church leaders alike.

James Hudson Taylor III was born on 12 August 1929 in China's ancient city of Kaifeng, situated in Henan province on the south bank of the Yellow River. His parents served here as missionaries of the Free Methodist Church.

As a 12-year-old boy, he was interned in Weih sien Concentration Camp for three years, when the whole of Chefoo School was moved there during the Sino-Japanese War. Eric Liddell, the Olympian who won gold in the 1924 Paris Olympics, was also in this camp and taught the boys games.

Camp life was a tough and cramped existence. Summers were often blisteringly hot, and the children had to contend with swarms of flies and rats. Jim Taylor, interned with his brother and two sisters, also had the company of his grandfather in the camp. He was always to remember his grandfather's sure faith during this testing time. He wrote 'I saw in Grandpa how the patterns of life had been set. Every day began with praise.' The camp was liberated on 17 August 1945, and the Taylor family reunited the following month.

James Taylor returned to the US for college education at Spring Arbor College, Michigan; Greenville College, Illinois; and Asbury Theological Seminary. He would later pursue further study at Yale University and Yale University Divinity School. In 1951 he married Leone Tjepkema, a fellow student at Spring Arbor and Greenville Colleges. Their marriage was to prove a strong partnership for service in each sphere ahead of them.

In June 1955 James and Leone arrived in Taiwan to begin missionary service in Kaohsiung. They joined James' parents just as Holy Light Bible School, founded by his father, began its first year of classes. James and Leone's three children (Amelia [1955], Signe [1957], and Jamie [1959]) were born during their first term. When James's parents returned to America for home assignment in 1960, James was invited to serve as the principal, an office he held for ten years.

In 1970 he was appointed founding president of China Evangelical Seminary (CES) in Taipei. CES was an expression of the Chinese church's desire to provide theological education for university graduates. In this role he travelled extensively among Chinese churches worldwide to impart the vision.

In 1979 James Taylor received an unexpected invitation to become the seventh General Director of what was by then the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, succeeding Michael Griffiths. He took up this position on 1 July 1980, the first descendant of the mission's founder to serve in this role. The 1980s brought consolidation and growth across all OMF fields, and strikingly so in Japan, The Philippines and Hong Kong's new towns; in literature ministry; and among factory workers in Taiwan. China was welcoming professionals to contribute to its policy of 'Four Modernisations'. Under James Taylor's leadership, OMF was encouraged to continue in their concerns for China & the Chinese people. China Awareness seminars became established across the UK and North America, and new energy went into the creation and distribution of apologetic literature in Chinese.

When James Taylor handed the leadership to David Pickard in 1991, he & Leone relocated to Hong Kong to seek opportunities to serve the Chinese people. In 1993, with a Chinese American Professor of Paediatrics and a businessman from Hong Kong, James Taylor formed Medical Services International (MSI), to serve in Sichuan province where Jim Broomhall, a descendant of Benjamin and Amelia (Hudson Taylor's younger sister) Broomhall had served as a medical doctor among the Yi people in the early 1950s.

MSI was soon to diversify into Accounting, English teaching, community development, livestock rearing,

and Business/ Management. Invitations, extended in full partnership with the provincial government, were extended to skilled teams bringing long-term commitment to serve in needed spheres.

In 1993 the marriage of James and Leone Taylor's son, Jamie, to Ke Yeh Min from Taiwan, brought Chinese blood into the family line. James Taylor took especial delight in teaching Bible stories and New Testament Greek to James Hudson Taylor V (known as JT) and his sisters Selina and Joy, when the whole family lived in Hong Kong. He had a strong sense of legacy; the legacy he had received in the seventh generation of his family's Christian history, and the legacy he himself would pass on.

Dr James Taylor received honorary doctorates from Greenville College (1978) and Asbury Theological Seminary (1987); more recently he was also awarded two honorary doctorates, in recognition of his distinguished service in Christian mission, by Tyndale College and Seminary, Toronto (2001) and Spring Arbor University (2009).

His ten years of service as founding president of MSI gave him opportunity to work with officials from the central government as well as with provincial and grassroots leaders. The depth of their acceptance and respect is reflected in their referring to him as 'Overseas Chinese'. On 4 April 2007, in a ceremony attended by 300 people, a county of the Sichuan province conferred on him honorary citizenship.

Dr Taylor's book on the life of Hudson Taylor's father-in-law *Even to Death: The Life and Legacy of Samuel Dyer*, co-authored with Irene Chang, will be published this year.

Two Festschriften, each planned to celebrate James Taylor's 80th birthday, will be released shortly. They honour a man who pressed into service an unusual combination of ten talents and high energy, all infused with a love of Christ and a humble spirit.

OMF International

God's Grace to Nine Generations (OMF Singapore 1999) p18
Published by OMF HK, ISBN: 978-962-8402-13-7

From: gkapo@sbcglobal.net

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 3:57 AM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

Dear Mary

My condolence on the death of you brother.

George Watts- Weih sien

From: Dwight W. Whipple

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 4:27 AM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

We also send our condolences, Mary. In reading the notice of your brother's death including some of his life story we are reminded of so many familiar names and places. Our father and mother, Elden & Evelyn Whipple, as well as our future step-mother, Marian Carleson Whipple all went to China in 1931 under CIM. We were in Tsingtao when the war started and we were under house arrest first, then interned at Iltis Hydro, then transferred to Weih sien on March 20, 1943 and repatriated to the US in September of that year, arriving in New York on December 1st. We share your sorrow at the loss of your brother but rejoice in the life that he lived and the contribution he made through his life to China.

~Dwight W. Whipple

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 8:11 AM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

Dear Mary,

--- from Belgium, our condolences on the death of your brother ---

One of his last pictures dated February 14th of this year :

<http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/JamesTaylor/indexFrame.htm>

Nicky, Leopold and Janette Pander

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 1:26 PM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

Thank you so very much, Dwight.

I said my goodbyes to my precious brother in a wonderful week with him last month in Hong Kong and will fly out next week for the memorial service.

Mary Taylor Previte

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 1:26 PM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

Thank you so very much, George.

I said my goodbyes to my precious brother in a wonderful week with him last month in Hong Kong and will fly out next week for the memorial service.

Mary Taylor Previte

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 1:31 PM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

You are such a comfort, Leopold. Thank you so very much. I took that picture on my goodbye visit to my precious brother last month in Hong Kong. .

I will fly out next week for the memorial service.

I am still working on getting a disk for you that includes my brother's Weih sien bird watching diary that includes color sketches. The folks who copied it didn't know how to scan to me so big and amount of material.

Mary Taylor Previte

From: Kim Smith

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 3:05 PM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

I am SO sorry Mary for the loss of your brother.

Very many good thoughts to you, and a remote hug if you would like one.

Kim Smith

From: Mitch Krayton

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 6:40 PM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

It with deep regret to learn of your loss. Your brother's life was full of giving and caring. You and your family should take great pride in his legacy work and the impact he made with the Chinese people.

I was not in Weih sien, I am just doing research on a biography for one of you who was. I am a fascinated observer on this list by the depth of love you all share for each other after such a traumatic period together in the camp. And that you understand how important it is to preserve your history.

You and your brother, Mary, give the rest of us hope in these trying times we now live in.

Mitch Krayton

From: grannydavies@aol.com

To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2009 1:00 AM
Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

thank you for the news of James Hudson Taylor III Phyllis

From: liuyanyan
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2009 4:40 AM
Subject: **links of the documentary**

Dear everybody:
This is wang guiyong ,vice mayor of weifang people's government,and also former director of foreign affairs office.I put the links of the documentary below so everybody interested can see it.
I am so moved by all of you and thank you sincerely.
guiying wang

part 1 http://news.xinhuanet.com/video/2008-10/15/content_10198552.htm
part 2 http://news.xinhuanet.com/video/2008-10/15/content_10197312.htm
part 3 http://news.xinhuanet.com/video/2008-10/15/content_10197245.htm
part 4 http://news.xinhuanet.com/video/2008-10/16/content_10204583.htm
part 5 http://news.xinhuanet.com/video/2008-10/17/content_10209086.htm

微软地图实时路况，为您节省的不仅仅是时间！ 立即查看！

From: Gay Talbot Stratford
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2009 5:29 PM
Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

Mary,
You must be so proud of your brother and his life well lived. I pray for you all and with you, give thanks for a beacon of faith.
Gay Talbot Stratford

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 1:51 AM
Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

What a beautiful message, Mitch! Thank you so very much.

Yes, Weih sien connected us in ways that changed our lives forever. I, for one, am grateful for everyone's help in preserving this history. I wish you might have experienced the memorable, 60-anniversary reunion that celebrated our liberation. Officials in Weifang have earned our everlasting gratitude for preserving this chapter of their history.

Mary Taylor Previte

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 12:30 PM
Subject: **Fwd: Weih sien**

From: hampton.oxford@dial.pipex.com
To: lauchlan@fullchannel.net, e.v.goldsmith@ntlworld.com, JohnHoyte@aol.com, jeromeandestellehorne@yahoo.co.uk, kathywfoster@talktalk.net, philip.holder@ntlworld.com, MTPrevite@aol.com, rwbridge@freeuk.com
Sent: 4/9/2009 6:26:52 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: **Weih sien**

Dear Weih sien Brownies and Guides

Marian Lauchlan has lent me her Kingfisher Log Book from the 1st Chefoo Guides. They were asked a list of questions during their 4th meeting in 1943.

I wonder if any of you can answer some of these questions now? Just a few answers would help me with my book about Brownies and Guides during the second world war.
If you know any other Weih sien children who might know the answers, do pass this on.

Many thanks, Janie Hampton
Oxford

hampton.oxford@dial.pipex.com
www.janiehampton.co.uk
www.chauncymaples.org

"How much do you know about Weih sien?" compiled by 'Lefty' (Miss ? Priestman)

1. How many water towers are there in this compound?
2. What is Mrs. George Washington's real name and her community job?
3. How many loaves are baked in the bakery every day, on average?
4. What is the number of the block named Downing Street?
5. At what time on the clock face was the moon at seven o'clock this morning?
6. What is the height of the sprays in the showers from the ground?
7. What is the name of the lady in charge of female labour at Kitchen one?
8. How many books are there in the library?
9. In which direction does the weathervane on top of 23 point?
10. How many families live in houses on the compound?
11. What is the width of the South playground?
12. What rank comes next above Captain in the Salvation Army?
13. Which girl in the Guides is the lightest in weight?
14. How many circular plain glass windows are there in the church?
15. How far is it from the steps of 23 to the Gateway opposite?
16. How many people are fed at Kitchen one?
17. What would six medium-sized apples weigh?
18. How far is it from the wall of the ladies' showers to the wall of the baggage room?
19. Who lives at number 2 Harley St?
20. What is the height from the ground to the top of the archways in the porch of 24?

ends/

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 7:02 PM
Subject: **Weih sien Brownies and Girl Guides -- book in progress**

From: hampton.oxford@dial.pipex.com
To: MTPrevite@aol.com
Sent: 4/9/2009 8:44:47 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: **Re: Weih sien**

Dear Mary

Many thanks for passing this on. It will be interesting to see how much people can remember after 65 years!

My book is coming along nicely. I have some great stories from Guides in Jersey, who went underground during the German occupation. And Guides in Poland who helped in the resistance. I met a wonderful Jewish Dutch Guide who had escaped in 1940 with her parents in a rowing boat across the English Channel, and through Guides became integrated in England. The story was published in 1946, and when I told my husband, he recognised her name as a well -known London psychotherapist. I tracked her down, and we had an extra-ordinary morning - she lay on her couch and told me her story, I sat in her therapist's chair, and we both wept!

I feel that writing this book is such a privilege, allowing me to find so many wonderful people. A log book in the Imperial War Museum led me to a house in Scotland, where three Brown Owls looked after 50 Glaswegian evacuees. Turns out that, by complete coincidence, the house is now owned by Baden-Powell's grand-daughter in law! Her daughter is the last in the B-P line. They have invited me up in May to look at family albums.

Have a very happy Easter, Janie

Janie Hampton

www.janiehampton.co.uk
www.chauncymaples.org

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

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: hampton.oxford@dial.pipex.com

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 12:33 PM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien**

Janie,

I've forwarded your request to the entire Weih sien Topica network. I'm sure you'll get som answers.

How is your book coming?

Mary Taylor Previte

From: Pamela Masters

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 7:07 PM

Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

Dear Mary -- I've been in and out of the hospital for since 3/20 and have only now opened up my e-mail. I am so sorry to hear about your brother. What a wonderful life he led. For all of us who truly believe, it is never good-bye just *aur revoir*, but it is still so very hard to say. My sympathy goes out to you and your nearest and dearest -- Love Pamela (Masters Flynn)

From: "Jonathan Henshaw" <jonathan.henshaw@ualberta.ca>

To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 5:32 AM

Subject: **writing project**

Hi everyone,

My name is Jonathan Henshaw and I am a graduate student at the University of Alberta. I have contacted some of you previously as part of a research project that I am doing on Weih sien. Just after my undergrad, I lived in Yantai for six months, very close to the old Chefoo School, and then, on a subsequent trip to HK, met and spoke with a former internee there-and it was at that point that I became more interested in the camp.

I've spent some time looking at the Weih sien paintings website, and wanted to ask all the folks on topica if they knew of other written accounts of the camp that had yet to be published or find their way online. In particular, I am interested in the following:

*the report written by Dr Augusta Wagner comparing Weih sien with a camp for interned Japanese in the US. I have found part of this report online, and contacted the website owner, but he no longer had a complete copy either;

*anything written that states that Mr McLaren did indeed testify on behalf of the commandant at the Tokyo War trials. I've looked in Norman Cliff's two books, "Prisoners of the Samurai," and "Courtyard of the Happy Way," but cannot find that mentioned in either of them;

*something more specific about those that became snitches for, or collaborated with, the Japanese guards. Some of the published memoirs vaguely mention these folks, but I wonder if there are other written sources out there;

*and finally, any written work that paints a clearer image of the Japanese guards and commandant-they appear so seldom in so many of the works that I can't help but be curious.

This message has become rather long, but I would certainly appreciate it if anyone could point me in the right direction, or put me in touch with someone who might know more on the above. Also, if you have any questions or comments about my project, please don't hesitate to write.

Thanks in advance for your attention on this, and for having taken the time to share your stories. And happy easter!

Sincerely,
Jonathan Henshaw

PS: if possible, I would certainly appreciate being added to the list.

From: Tapol
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 10:59 AM
Subject: **Re: writing project**

Dear Jonathan,
"*anything written that states that Mr McLaren did indeed testify on behalf of the commandant at the Tokyo War trials. I've looked in Norman Cliff's two books, "Prisoners of the Samurai," and "Courtyard of the Happy Way," but cannot find that mentioned in either of them;"
In Norman's chapter see also: http://www.weihsien-paintings.org/NormanCliff/people/Committee/McLaren/txt_McLAREN.htm

Happy Easter ,
Leopold

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 12:28 PM
Subject: **Re: James Hudson Taylor III**

Pamela:

Thank you so very much.
I do hope you are mending

Have you received a deluxe copy of the Weihshien Camp DVD? I know that the producer, Meggie Li, mailed copies to those in Europe whom she interviewed. If you have not received a copy, please send me your mailing address so I can forward a copy of the deluxe set to you. It is a gift from my brother, James, who asked the JINAN production team to make this deluxe set.

Happy Easter,

Mary

From: berean@xplornet.com
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 6:09 PM
Subject: **Meeting with Tad Nagaki**

I thought you might enjoy reading about my visit with Tad Nagaki.

Audrey Nordmo Horton

From Audrey Nordmo Horton January 30 was a momentous day for my husband and me. . We met Tad Nagaki in person and we both thanked him for rescuing me on August 17th, 1945. He had kindly arranged for us to meet him at Alliance Tractor in Alliance, Nebraska. We called him on our cell phone an hour before our arrival to make sure that all was on schedule. We took him to eat at the Chinese restaurant he selected. The quieter area of the restaurant was taken so where we ate we had difficulty hearing each other. After our meal we returned to the Alliance Tractor business where we had a table and chairs to ourselves in a quiet area, what a treasured time. He is very alert and his memory is fantastic. I asked him if I could give him a hug in appreciation for delivering me. He said, —Yes! as that is the only way he gets hugs. He was smiling broadly. He is lonely and seems to dread going home where he is reminded of his wife who died 10 years ago. His three children died years ago and his only 3 grandchildren live in Colorado. I had photo

copied a page from my old autograph book which had Tad's autograph in it. I had him sign a current autograph on that page. I also gave him photocopies of the pages I had the six autographs of our heroes on. I showed him the photocopy of the letter with the Duck Team's names on the bottom in which they were thanking the camp for our cooperation... He quickly pointed out that the name of Willis S Georgia – Captain – US Army didn't belong there, as he was not part of the Duck Team. I think the Alliance Tractor business is his favourite place to be at while away from his house. The people there were very kind. The secretary was most helpful. I had corresponded with her by e-mail and she in turn contacted Tad for me as I had had problems understanding Tad on the phone due to my hearing problem and depending on the connection we were having on the cell phone. Sadly, due to our travelling and not being on internet regularly—I read her letter too late telling of a change in her schedule for January 30th saying she wouldn't be there in the office after 11 a.m. and we got there at 11:30—whereas we could have arrived earlier. They remembered the article Mary Previte had written about Tad Nagaki Tad was walking without the aid of a cane and didn't complain of any pain. We hated to leave him but we had to be on our way. We were driving from our home in British Columbia, Canada to South Carolina. We were very glad we went out of our way to meet Tad who is such a gentle man. I would certainly recommend a visit with him if you have the opportunity. He appreciates phone calls. His cell phone # is 308-760-2899. It is easier to reach him this way and also better for him. When he is home he doesn't have to get up out of his chair to answer the phone. As we were leaving, Tad said he would have to call Mary Taylor Previte to tell her about the visit. I truly believe it was a bright spot in his day. It certainly was a bright spot in our day. All thanks to Mary Previte for opening up the way for us to correspond with our heroes—which I have done—and now to actually meet our last living hero, what precious memories. I had called James Hannon not long before he died but he didn't connect with me about Weih sien. Instead he would switch to his experience as a German prisoner of war. I do have pictures of our meeting with Tad. Audrey Nordmo Horton

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 3:03 PM

Subject: : **Meeting with Tad Nagaki**

Audrey:

Please forward your photos to Leopold Pander, tapol@skynet.be , so he can put them on his Weih sien web site,. We all want to see them. Tad Nagaki , age 89, is the last living American on the DUCK Mission that liberated Weih sien.

Mary Previte

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2009 9:01 AM

Subject: **Tad Nagaki,**

Dear Audrey,

Hello :-))

Go To: <http://www.weih sien-paintings.org> and click on: "the Magnificent Seven"

There is already a link for Tad Nagaki in 2007. I added a New link for 2009.

http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/The7Magnificent/Tad_2009/leftFrame.htm

The text and the pictures you sent to me are now visible ---

Could you send me captions for the pictures. Of course, any new documents are always welcome.

Best regards,

Leopold

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2009 3:27 AM

Subject: **Another Eric Liddell movie?**

The Eric Liddell story is seriously on the radar screen of **Walden Media** of Boston and its founder, conservative billionaire, Philip Anschutz. I found more out about this today when movie and television producer Ken Wales and actor Rich Swingle spent most of the day with me.

Walden Media is the team that, with Walt Disney Pictures, co-produced "**The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**," a \$200 million dollar film adapted from C. S. Lewis's children's book of the same title. In 2007, Walden Media also produced "**Amazing Grace**," the award-winning film about how English statesman and reformer, **William Wilberforce**, stopped the slave trade in England. I loved that film. Ken Wales, producer of "**Amazing Grace**," and the popular CBS television series, "**Christy**," is now actively working on the Eric Liddell story. Writing the screen play is Rich Swingle, the actor who created and played the part of Eric Liddell in the one-man show that has appeared off Broadway in New York and that played in several venues in Hong Kong during the Olympics last year. Having also helped create an Eric Liddell film, produced by a Chinese Christian group in Hong Kong, Swingle has been immersed in the Eric Liddell story for several years. .

Wales and/or Swingle have interviewed many of us Weih sien-ers either in person or by telephone. They are digging deep. Little details tell big stories. When they told me today the role that **Douglas Finlay** had played in Eric Liddell's final hours, I knew how very deeply they have been digging. **Douglas Finlay** -- 6' 6 1/2" -- was one of Weih sien's super star athletes. Douglas and my sister Kathleen Taylor were madly in love as the war ended. Sad, sad, sad! After our Taylor family was evacuated from Weih sien, Douglas and Kathleen never saw each other again. Douglas reconnected with me -- thanks to **Desmond Power (Little Foreign Devil)** and this Weih sien Topica network. Eric Liddell and Douglas had been friends, running competitors, and house mates in Weih sien, first in the hospital and then -- after Hummell and Tipton escaped -- in Block 23. In telephone conversations, Douglas told me about how he and Kathleen met. He told me about his being with Eric Liddell in the hospital on that final day. Alas, Douglas died in 2000. So I was dumbfounded today when Ken Wales started talking about **Douglas Finlay**. Dumbfounded is too weak a word. Ken Wales told me today that Desmond and I are the only ones they've talked to that knew **Douglas Finlay** and the **Douglas Finlay-Eric Liddell** connection. Yes, this team is taking the project very, very seriously.

Who would play the part of Eric Liddell? Ken Wales, who is the Executive Producer, is thinking of **Ioan Gruffudd** who played the part of William Wilberforce in "Amazing Grace." **And where is the film likely to be shot?** **Australia** is a possibility.

Walden Media is owned by Philip Anschutz, an oil magnate, media mogul, the owner of the Regal Entertainment Group -- the largest motion picture exhibitor in the world (it operates nearly 20 percent of all indoor screens in the US) -- and a growing force in Hollywood.

Anschutz has already made his mark in Hollywood. A major contributor to conservative causes, Anschutz decided not long ago to begin a career as a twenty-first-century Louis B. Mayer. His agenda: producing humanistic, family-oriented films. "We expect them to be entertaining, but also to be life affirming and to carry a moral message," he says. . He sees movie making as a "chance to attempt some small improvement in the culture."

To improve the culture, I can't think of a better story than Eric Liddell's.

By the way, Anschutz has been ranked number 33 on Business Week's 50 Most Generous Philanthropists List.

Mary Previte

From: "Terri Stewart" <tkswearer@verizon.net>

To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2009 1:50 AM

Subject: **Re: Another Eric Liddell movie?**

This is really a cool follow up to Eric's story as well as those who knew him, in and out of camp. For those on this list who may not know the actor

Ioan Gruffudd, he played Captain Fantastic from the recent Fantastic Four movies. You know, the super hero who could stretch like rubber.

Terri Stewart

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2009 4:06 PM

Subject: **radios in Weih sien**

How many radios did internees have in Weih sien? I know the Japanese suspected that internees had at least one radio and searched for them.

Top-secret information like this, of course, was hidden from almost everybody and certainly youngsters like us -- and from snitches in the camp. I remember that wartime news filtered down to us Chefoo School students in the form of infrequent briefings that provided information that must have come first either from a radio or from news smuggled in by escapees, Hummel and Tipton, via the Chinese "honey pot" men.

Long after the war, Jackie Graham, a Chefoo School classmate, told me of his being assigned to sneak into a building in the Japanese quarters to steal a radio tube from a radio there. Someone must have done some serious spy work to know where that radio was in off-limits Japanese quarters. To avoid suspicion, I believe Jackie swapped the good radio tube with a dud and even made sure the replacement looked dusty. I believe Jackie was assigned to this skullduggery by someone on the Weih sien internee ruling council. Jackie was a spunky youngster ideal for a project like this.

If someone needed a radio tube, it must have been for a radio that internees had..

Mary Previte

From: [Pamela Masters](#)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 7:38 PM

Subject: **Re: radios in Weih sien**

The only person I knew who had access to a radio was Bobby Grandon, famous for ringing the bell in the bell tower building (#23) on VE Day. If you recall, he rang the bell around eleven pm at night and guards rushed through the compounds and we were all hauled out for a freezing roll call. As I couldn't locate Bobby to get his approval to use his name in the incident in my book, *The Mushroom Years* (see pages 244 - 248), I had to give him a fictitious one.

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From: [Dwight W. Whipple](#)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 9:04 PM

Subject: **Re: radios in Weih sien**

I seem to remember that Didi Sayles (sp?) had a radio or had access to one. I remember his name because I am called Didi (little brother in Chinese) by my family.

~*Dwight Whipple*

From: [Bob Bradbury](#)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 9:55 AM

Subject: **Re: radios in Weih sien**

I did not know whilst I was in the camp about any radios. I only knew the honey pot men dropped messages in silk or paper usually hidden in their nostrils but their information mainly related to the advances made by the communist fighters. That was enough to frighten everybody. I do not remember who rang the bell late at night but it signalled us to go quickly to the ballfield to be counted. Winter and summer in sometimes atrocious weather.

A few years ago Bob and I visited Armic Baliantz' wife Armen, known as Tsolik in her Bali restaurant in San Francisco. I think Armic was still alive and in a terrible state from the treatment and beatings he had received from the Japs both at the Iltris Hydro and in Weih sien.

As a matter of fact she gave me a letter in her handwriting detailing a vicious beating they inflicted on him in the presence of Tsolik **WHILST SHE WAS ACTUALLY GIVING BIRTH** in the camp hospital demanding to know whether he was going to name the baby Douglas (or Arthur) after the Supreme Allied Commander, General Douglas MacArthur. Despite his beating Tsolik answered, "I cant tell you because the baby is only half born and I do not know whether it is going to be a boy or girl"

At the time of our visit to Tsolik she told me that her husband Armic had secreted a radio receiver under the altar in the Church in the camp and that he used to listen to it during the Sunday services.

I have always wondered why, if there were radios in the camp we did not know of the atomic bombs and impending capitulation. Maybe it is true the committee knew but did not allow it to be spread amongst the internees. I certainly wasnt told maybe because I was only 17 2/12 years old at capitulation. Joyce Bradbury

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 1:48 PM
Subject: **Re: radios in Weih sien**

Amazing how grown ups shielded us younger internees from some of the horrors of the horrors of the camp.

Mary Previte

From: [Estelle Horne nee Cliff](mailto:Estelle_Horne_nee_Cliff)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 3:58 PM
Subject: **Re: radios in Weih sien**

I remember a story that my aunt, Marjory Broomhall, headmistress of CIMGS, told me years later. She said the Japanese (a Jap officer?) came to an internee who was known to be good radio technician, and asked him to repair his radio. The man found the fault easily and fixed it. But he said to the owner that he needed a certain part, with a long name, and drew the supposed part on a piece of paper. The Jap spent the rest of the war hunting for the spare part, while the internee enjoyed the use of the radio. I know no names.

Has it occurred to you how ironic the situation, that the people who became calculator suppliers to the world, took an hour to reconcile their figures at each rollcall?

I was in the matric class - little me and seven or eight boys. Our classroom was in the hospital attic, where the boys' dorm was. The teacher put a map on the flipchart, hand drawn I guess, showing us the pincer movement of the Allies on Berlin - the Russians from the north and the US and Britain from the West. Suddenly there was a clomp of heavy boots on the wooden stairs, and the flipchart quickly changed. By the time the Jap officer entered the room we were studying mathamatics.

And suddenly it was all over. Pa Bruce came to talk to us, recommending that we do our exams straight away. Nothing would be lost if we failed, but if we passed we would not have to go back to school for two more years 'at home'. (They had saved the half-year Oxford papers since the war started, in case they were sunk on the way out.) We agreed. He gave us a week to swot, and then we wrote - in the sweltering August heat, with the scissor-grinders buzzing in the trees, and the food parcels falling from the rumbling skies outside the window!

We got our results the following April. Pa had taken the two sets of papers written in camp, to Oxford himself. Chefoo's reputation saved the day. Most of us passed, in spite of all the upheavals along the way.

I've met one or two white-haired men who were part of the Class of '45. I'd like to hear from them! Where are you guys??

Estelle Cliff Horne

From: [Jonathan Henshaw](mailto:Jonathan_Henshaw)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 3:56 AM
Subject: **Commandants**

Dear Mr Pander,

Thank you for the suggestions on where to look at the Weih sien-paintings website. The information on Goyas was really helpful. If it isn't too much trouble, I have a few other questions.

1) Commandants and Chiefs of Police: different memoirs seem to indicate different people in charge, with a Mr Izu and Mr Koyanagi coming up most frequently...but other people have also mentioned: on page 217 of "A Cross in China: The Story of My Mission," Sister M. Servatia, O.S.F., mentions that on her arrival at Weih sien, the commandant was a man called Mr. Sukigawa, and he had an aide, Mr Ibara. A Red Cross report from Aug. 1944 agrees, mentioning a Mr Tsukikawa as being commandant. Can anyone point me to a source, or recall who was in charge of which aspects of the camp, and at what time?

2) I came across mention of an unpublished memoir called "This is Leo's Life," by Lionel (Leo) Harold Twyford. Is there any chance someone might have a copy of this, or would know where a copy

might be found?

Again, thanks all for the suggestions, patience, and advice.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Henshaw

From: [Estelle Horne nee Cliff](mailto:Estelle_Horne_nee_Cliff)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Cc: hampton.oxford@dial.pipex.com
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 9:59 AM
Subject: **Re: Weih sien**

I don't know any of the answers either. They were obviously an exercise to go out and measure.

I think Lefty (i.e. lieutenant) was Connie Mann, CIM Hospital Matron, Chefoo. I visited her at a nurses' retirement complex in Surrey some years ago. She was still involved with the Guides. I gave her my old Guide uniform that I had kept, with hand-embroidered badges, and made of the common Chinese blue cotton that became the material for the "Mao suits" (actually started by Sun Yat Sen) that everybody wore in the Mao years.

She sent it to the then new HQ in London, and sent me a photo of an exhibition they made of it, and Norman's red Rover scarf with "!st Weih sien" and a temple sewn on it, my song book and I don't know what else.

She told me that when we left Chefoo, there were no restrictions on what could be taken for the community, and she packed up the contents of the hospital, every dressing and even empty bottles, which delighted the Weih sien doctors when the boxes arrived.

All those photos that were taken of the Weih sien and Chefoo scout troops were, I believe, for Japanese propaganda, but did you notice that none of us had shoes, and we were trying to hide our feet?!

Estelle Cliff Horne

From: [Bob Bradbury](mailto:Bob_Bradbury)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 10:38 AM
Subject: **Re: Commandants**

Dear Jonathan. I am glad my advice to you to contact WeiHsien Topica seems to be bearing fruit. I particularly remember Mr Koyanagi, Commandant. I remember he inspected the inmates during a roll call very early in our incarceration. He was wearing full dark coloured Japanese Officer's uniform. When he saw my father (Edmund Cooke) he said to him, "Cooke! What are you doing here?" and my pop said, "We are your prisoners now" They then had a conversation about their business associations in Tsingtao before the war and pop told us he had no idea Koyanagi was connected to the Japanese army. The next day Koyanagi brought water melon and fresh eggs to our rooms for us. Pop told him that because we were prisoners he could not accept the gift and asked him to take them away. He said it would not look good to the other prisoners. Koyanagi tried to get pop to accept them but he was adamant and he took them with him. I was present when they met and also I noticed other prisoners nearby were astonished my father had had business dealings with our commandant before the war. My father was Manager of Jardine Matheson in Tsingtao before the war. I knew Leo Twyford Thomas in camp and later in Sydney. I went to his funeral several years ago. Regards. Joyce Bradbury.

From: [Bruce Henderson](mailto:Bruce_Henderson)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 4:04 PM
Subject: **Inquiry on Weih sien and Chefoo - Henrietta Henderson**

Hello, I hope this email everyone well. I have been doing family research, and recently began digging into the life of an amazing woman, named Henrietta Henderson (born 1897), who as a member of the missionary group at Chefoo. She made several trips to China in support of the mission, but the one that I have the most curiosity about is her trip January 1st, 1940. According to historical records, she did not return to England until October 1945. This means that she could have possibly been a member of the Chefoo staff that the Japanese locked up in Weih sien.

Is there any chance you know anything about this lady, or know where I could do

more research?

Thank you very much, I greatly appreciate it.

Bruce Henderson
San Diego, CA

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 4:53 PM

Subject: **Re: Inquiry on Weih sien and Chefoo - Henrietta Henderson**

Our 30/6/44 Weih sien internee list includes a **Miss H. G. Henderson -- British -- age 43 -- missionary.**

Contact **Overseas Missionary Fellowship** (formerly the China Inland Mission) 10 W. Dry Creek Circle, Littleton, CO 80120-4427 USA to find out if Henrietta Henderson was a missionary sponsored by the China Inland Mission. If she was a CIM missionary, they should have information in their archives.

Mary Previte

From: "Bruce Henderson" <sigalarm@gmail.com>

To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 5:08 PM

Subject: Re: Inquiry on Weih sien and Chefoo - Henrietta Henderson

Fantastic, thanks for that information. We suspected that she was at Weih sien, and it's good to have more information. A bit more on Henrietta, in regards to her missionary service (from the CIM archives):

Dear Mr Henderson,

I am happy to say my further research as yielded some success. I have consulted the original minutes of China Inland Missions' China Council. The China Council operated in the field and was composed of senior CIM missionaries including the Superintendents of provincial districts. The minutes record discussion of individual missionaries and detailed records of arrivals and departures from China.

Unlike the CIM register, these China Council minutes confirm that a H.G. Henderson served as a missionary with the CIM. She is recorded as first arriving from England in China on October 24th 1923.

The minutes further record that Henderson was awarded her 'Junior Missionary Certificate' on March 11 1926 and a 'Senior Missionary on Certificate' December 4th 1928.

Henderson was discussed when she requested a furlough from her service in 1930. Her Superintendent, a Mr. Taylor, is recorded to have 'made appreciative reference to her excellent work, but spoke of her having suffered rheumatism, and to her being tired'. Her request for a furlough was granted and Henderson departed from England, via North America, on September 27th 1930. Returning to China on October 27th 1931.

The minutes record a second request for a furlough on October 11th 1938. Here Henderson is recorded as being the housekeeper in the Chefoo Preparatory School.

The Chefoo School was established by the China Inland Mission in 1880. Its aim was to provide an education for the children of missionaries and the business and diplomatic communities. Chefoo School was a Christian boarding school, run in accordance with the China Inland Mission's regime. Members of staff were required to be full members of

the Mission.

Further trips recorded in the minutes include:

Departure to England: December 12th 1938

Return to China: January 1st 1940

Departure to England: October 28th 1945

Return to China October 25th 1946

I hope that the above helps to elucidate the life of H.G. Henderson. Only a small proportion of the original records of the CIM have survived but these do include some records of the Chefoo School. It is possible that these include further references to Henderson's life and work.

 Since then, my cousin Sally has done a bit of digging into her travels and come up with this list of her travels to and from China:

HENRIETTA GUNN HENDERSON'S TRAVELS (b.1897)
 CHINA INLAND MISSIONARY

ARR./DEPT. DATES DESTINATION SHIP NAME &
 OTHER INFO.

Arr: Oct. 24th 1923 China 26yrs old

Dep: Set. 24th 1930 Hong Kong via Yokohama Japan 'Hikawa Maru'
 to Victoria British Columbia Only Japanese passenger
 ship to survive WW2

Arr: Nov 24th 1930 Montreal via Quebec to London 'Ascania'
 via Plymouth Used in WW2 '39 to '49

Sept. 27t 1931 England to USA

Oct. 27th 1931 USA to China

Dec.13th 1938 Shanghai China to Victoria B.C.
 'Empress of Canada'
 H. recorded as speaking Chinese.

Arr: Feb. 10th 1939 New York to Southampton 'Aquitania'
 Luxury Liner
 via Cherbourg Served as Merchant Ship,
 Hospital & Troop ship in WW1 & troop ship in WW2.

Dept: Dec 16th 1939 To China Passport #7090
 Issued Shanghai 23.9.1935

Jan. 1st 1940 To China Henrietta in China
 during WW2.

Under Japanese occupation.

Oct. 28th 1945 To England

Arr: Dec. 5th 1945 Hong Kong to Liverpool
 'Oxfordshire'

Renamed:

Safinar-E-Arab

Oct. 25th 1946 To China

Arr: Dec 9th 1949 Liverpool 'Duchess of Richmond'

to St. John's Brunswick Destroyed by fire at
Liverpool docks 1953.

Jan 1st 1952 Hong Kong to London 'Chusan'

From the looks of it, she returned to China after a brief recovery in the UK after being freed from Weih sien, and was likely continuing her work until the communists kicked her out.

Thanks again, and I would dearly welcome any additional information on her.

Bruce H

From: [Estelle Horne nee Cliff](mailto:Estelle.Horne@topica.com)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 7:10 PM

Subject: **Re: Inquiry on Weih sien and Chefoo - Henrietta Henderson**

Yes, Miss Henderson was on the staff of the Chefoo Schools. I wondered why I could not remember what she taught us, The reason is obviously that she was the housekeeper, and not a teacher.

Let me just say that the staff were to be much admired, because they had all applied to be missionaries, and then were sent to teach or look after foreign children instead. They took their calling very seriously, and were a wonderful example of Christian living to us as we grew. BUT more than that, when things grew dangerous, and all our foundations were moved, they SO continued in serene assurance of their faith, that we were very seldom afraid.

We children did not know what COULD happen to us, but THEY DID. The control of our lives and movements was taken out of the hands of those given responsibility for us, and were in the hands of ruthless enemies. But they sang with us: God is still on the throne, and we believed it too. The debt we owe them is incalculable.

Estelle Cliff Horne

From: [Jonathan Henshaw](mailto:Jonathan.Henshaw@topica.com)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 8:49 AM

Subject: **Article from The Times**

Hello All,

Here is something I came across in The Times which I thought might be of interest to you, another recollection:

From out of a clear blue sky; every reader tells a story.(Features).*The Times (London, England)* (Oct 9, 2008): p5. (333 words)

Full Text: COPYRIGHT 2008 The Times

Byline: Jenny Pagliaro

Each week, a Times reader writes a personal tale about a memorable moment in his or her life. Today, Jenny Pagliaro remembers a summer's day in 1945.

It was August 17, 1945 and this day was like most other days in our internment camp at Weih sien, north China. I was 11 years old and had gathered with the other children in our school for a singing lesson in the community church.

The hot weather was rather soporific and our singing was lacklustre. However, we were brought to our feet by the sound of a plane roaring over the church roof and we knew straight away it was not a Japanese aircraft. As it roared over for the second time, we tumbled out on to the ball field and saw it turn to come in again for the third time. It was indeed an American B24. As we waved and shouted the belly of the craft opened up and out fell seven airmen whose parachutes billowed as they floated to the ground and we could see that they would land in the bean fields outside the walls.

With one accord we rushed for the gate, which the Japanese guards were trying to close. We slipped through and, rather like a covey of partridges, disappeared among the beanstalks in search of our rescuers, who were crouched with drawn pistols fearing an attack from Japanese guards. They were met instead by a mob of children!

We escorted them into the camp, passing the guards who had barricaded themselves into the sentry box. Then ensued a time of celebration with thanksgiving services in the church, speeches, parties, chocolate and chewing gum. Peace at last, seeing parents again, and going home to England to start a new life.

One of the airmen said that when he saw us shouting and waving on the field he jumped out without his parachute and it was thrown after him - my hero, Pete Orlich.
Copyright (C) The Times, 2008

Sincerely,

Jonathan Henshaw

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weihsien@topica.com ; sipabit@videotron.ca

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 11:39 PM

Subject: **Re: Article from The Times**

Thank you, Jonathan.

I'll forward this to Carol Orlich, liberator Pete Orlich's widow. She'll love it.

Pete Orlich, age 21, was radio operator and the youngest member on the rescue team. Pete desperately wanted to be chosen for the rescue team, but feared he would be excluded because he wore glasses. So when candidates were moving through the medical screenings, he took off his glasses and memorized the letters on the eye chart by listening to the men in front of him calling out the letters. To keep his glasses from flying off his head during his parachute drop from the B-24 (The Armored Angel), Pete taped his glasses to his head with pink medical tape.

That's how 10-year-old Teddy Pearson remembers finding Pete in the gaoliang stubble. Teddy got to Pete Orlich before anyone else.

Here's what Teddy remembers of Pete:

"I remember I was the first to reach (American rescuer) Peter Orlich. He had a brush cut (flat top!) when I first saw him. He did not have his cap and he had his glasses taped with pink 'medical' as opposed to Scotch tape around his temples. I remember this very clearly. He was standing (as I remember) in a field of stubble, (Kaoliang?) I remember him assuming I was a Chinese, maybe I looked like one? when he saw me, barefoot and only wearing shorts. Who knows, but he pointed to some printing in Chinese on his shirt or jacket or vest. There was printing all over in different languages. There was also the stars and stripes. I said to him in my impeccable English, "Excuse me, sir, but I don't read Chinese." He then asked me if I was from the camp, and how did I get out, so I told him the gates were opened. Then he wanted to know where his fellow jumpers were. I walked him back to the camp, and as we got closer I got pre-empted by some adults :-(" ."

Mary Previte

From: [Albert de Zutter](mailto:Albert.de.Zutter)

To: weihsien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2009 9:06 AM

Subject: **Re: website**

Dear Leopold,

I read most of the text you provided. While the story of her marriage and subsequent disappointment is interesting, I found what she was told about the Weihsien camp questionable. If we had a "tennis club," I didn't know about it. Yes, we played tennis, and we even had some tournaments, but we played with bald tennis balls and cracked rackets and had to tie pieces of cat-gut together with knots around to restring rackets. But beauty parlors? Come on! It sounds like she was recounting Japanese propaganda. And not a word about the gaoliang for breakfast and the "stew" -- which was no more than a thin soup -- and hot water for lunch and supper, and the fact that all but those who worked in the kitchens were underweight and malnourished (I was assigned by Dr. Chang to eat in the hospital for two weeks because of my emaciated condition). I concede that the Japanese were looking to the future, as she reports, and that they treated us at Weihsien better than they treated people at many other camps, but there was also some unnecessary meanness, as Joyce Cooke Bradbury reports -- dumping the meat supply on the ground and not allowing our people to deal with it until it started to spoil, etc. I'm sure we are all grateful that our guards were told there might be a reckoning after the war and that they should avoid atrocities -- which they did. But the conditions at Weihsien in no way resembled those at a vacation resort, as the author claims.

Albert de Zutter

--- On Sun, 5/17/09, Tapol <tapol@skynet.be> wrote:

From: Tapol <tapol@skynet.be>

Subject: **Re: website**

To: weih sien@topica.com
Date: Sunday, May 17, 2009, 1:13 AM

Dear Gay,

Thanks very much ----

I dont think that you have to transalate the whole thing... Just the texts highlighted in green would be perfect. Those texts are interesting because directly connected to Weih sien and/or the presence of the American troops in China at that moment. Of course if you have the courage to do the whole thing ---- :-))

Thanks in advance for all our English speaking friends ---

Best regards,

Leopold

http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/books/LeGueDuCiel_JacquelineDubois/02.pdf

http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/books/LeGueDuCiel_JacquelineDubois/04.pdf

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

From: [Gay Talbot Stratford](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2009 7:36 PM

Subject: Re: website

Leopold,

If you need help with the translations, letme know.Hope you are both well.

Gay

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

From: [Tapol](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2009 4:38 AM

Subject: **Re: website**

--- one of the latest entries on the website, extracts from a book written in French by Jacqueline Dubois, mention quite a few names of Weih sien prisoners and she also mentions the Swedish representative as: Ralph Engström. Is this Mr Egger? I'd be grateful if somebody could volunteer to translate these texts into English --- ?

best regards,

Leopold

From: [Ron Bridge](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2009 9:33 AM

Subject: **RE: website**

Engstrom who was Sweedish was tied up with the International Red Cross Egger the SWiss consul Qingdao
Ron Bridge

PS if you want a little info the London Daily Mail did an article on me yesterday 16 May 09. The reporter and editor's pen changed a few things I was not allowed sight before publication. See

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1181629/It-happened--I-child-Japanese-prisoner-war.html>

From: [Tapol](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2009 2:00 PM

Subject: **Re: website**

Dear Albert,

Many thanks for your reaction. --- and that is why we must correct all forms of false-information about Weih sien and other camps (all over the world) during WWII.

(<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5663726.ece>)

Have a look at <http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/NormanCliff/Aftermath/TheNorthChinaMarine/p-01.htm> This article published in May 1946 mentions that we were rescued by an "unarmed Australian team" ---- and that we did not suffer !! (click on the book-picture for the complete text) http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/NormanCliff/Aftermath/TheNorthChinaMarine/txt_TheNorthChinaMarine.htm

I'd like to have more reactions about this French text and this is where the website becomes interesting. The texts will be added to the webpage mentioning Jacqueline Dubois' book. It must

be known that she got it all wrong because many people (like her) think that we had a jolly good time during two years and a half !!

Dear Ron, Thanks for your link --- I'll add that too on our website (hope the author won't mind though)

Best regards,
Leopold

From: grannydavies@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 2:36 AM

Subject: Re: website

There was a ralph engstrom in Tientsin once I thought he was with the Danish embassy, could be swiss. Phyllis Evans Davies

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2009 11:12 PM

Subject: **Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

Mary,

In conjunction with Memorial Day (May 25) here in the United States, a new on-line film site called SnagFilms is featuring the documentary *So Very Far From Home*. Produced by Bill Einreinhofer and Jiang Weihui, the hour-long program tells the firsthand stories of **Weih sien, Lunghwa, Chapei** and the other brutal "civilian prison camps" set-up in Japanese-occupied China during World War II.

The program includes vintage footage unearthed at the National Archives, including scenes of the Weih sien Presbyterian Mission compound circa 1934.

Some of those who attended the 2005 60th anniversary of our liberation reunion at Weih sien are featured in this film.

SnagFilms is a free site, but you'll need a broadband connection. Here is the web address:

<http://www.snagfilms.com/>

Mary Previte

From: Mitch Krayton

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2009 2:22 AM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

Mary,

Thanks for this tip and for keeping the memory alive.

No one should ever forget what you all had to endure.

Mitch Krayton

From: Terri Stewart

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2009 5:32 PM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

Wow. Just spent the hour watching this movie and being able to grasp more of what my great-aunt (Ruth Kunkel) wrote about in her letters of the camp, including the guard nicknamed Gold-Tooth. Thank you for passing this info along and I have now passed it onto my family to view.

Terri Stewart

From: "Mitch Krayton" <mitch@digital-res.com>

To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2009 6:39 PM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

- My wife Linda and I watched this incredible documentary and were
 - > speechless. The narration and editing were compelling. The quality of
 - > the video was superb. The heartfelt and honest emotions of joy, pain and
 - > reunion were clearly captured in the interviews.
 - >
 - > How wonderful that everyone's faces, voices and photos are now preserved
 - > in such a compelling manner. I hope that Leopold can post a link on his
 - > site and that someone can get a copy to archive in case this link
 - > disappears. The only issue for me was that the audio was out of sync.
 - > Could be a result of the transfer from PAL to NTSC. No worries though,
 - > because that did little to spoil that story for us. We feel like we know
 - > each of you a bit more so thanks for sharing.
 - >
 - > Mitch Krayton

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2009 8:02 PM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

Thank you so very much for this response.

I'll pass it along to the producer, Bill Einreinhofer.

Mary Taylor Previte

From: Dwight W. Whipple

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2009 9:19 PM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

I echo the comments re the Weih sien documentary and sent it to others in our family who also were interned there. We arrived in the camp on March 20, 1943 and were repatriated, all eleven of us in the Walton/Whipple families (CIM) in September of that year. My memories as a seven year old are still vivid. The documentary is such a treasure. We are trying to find a way to preserve it. Thanks so much, Mary and those who made it possible and a reality.

~Dwight W Whipple

From: Ron Bridge

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2009 9:15 PM

Subject: **RE: British and Commonwealth Internees of Japan 1942/5**

Dear Weih sien readers.

I realise that this will not affect or interest many readers, but to some out there I think it might be of interest . To forestall the inevitable inquiries the list of names is NOT available on any web site.

On 24th May 2009 (the 24th May being called Empire Day pre 1945 and a date for school sports) I had the privilege of placing a book of the name of all British who were interned in perpetual custody of the Church of St Michael's Cornhill London. A 17th Century church built by Sir Christopher Wren. I attach the preface to the Book for interest. The Book was funded by the Association of British Civilain Internees Far East Region which closed on the same day.

Ultimately copies will be placed in the Impperial War Museum London, and the War Museums in Aukland, Canberra and Ottawa if they should want them.

Rgds

Ron Bridge

This Memorial Book has been placed in St Michaels Cornhill, a church nearest to the Bank intersection in the City of London a point that was considered the center of Empire in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. It is dedicated to the British civilians who were captured and interned by the Japanese after the outbreak of the hostilities on 8th December 1941. Many of these civilians had heeded the call from London to stay at their posts during a rapidly deteriorating political situation in the Far East during 1941. Included in the lists are merchants, teachers, policemen, nurses, colonial administrators, missionaries, indeed people from all walks of life, together with their families. - in fact, it records all British civilians who were interned prior to and after the "diplomatic" exchange of August 1942.

At the time, the term "British" encompassed all of His Majesty's subjects in the British Commonwealth. However, those people who were the direct responsibility of a Dominion government have been separated out in this book.

The indigenous inhabitants of Hong Kong, the Straits Settlements, Burma and other Far East Colonies are not included unless they were actually interned, which is not to say that they did not suffer under Japanese rule.

The Japanese did not incarcerate all Caucasian British as they permitted some of the aged and infirm to remain out of the camps but under some form of curfew. These individuals are not included.

The precise number of British civilians interned by the Japanese during World War Two is not known. Immediately post war, various documents represented the number as ranging from 15,012 to 18,486. However, studies made in the 1950s suggested that 19,800 British passport holders were interned together with 870 Australians, 80 New Zealanders and 200 Canadians making a total of 20,950 British Commonwealth citizens of whom 1,000 died in captivity.

This Memorial Book includes the names of 19,217 Civilian, 1,551 Dominion and 32 Colonial, a total listing of 20,800, compiled from surviving camp nominal rolls. At the side of each name is an internment camp, in most cases this is the only camp in which the individual was interned. However, for some people the precise camp has not been identified, and a geographic area is quoted. For others an arbitrary choice has been made, notably in the former Netherlands East Indies where people fleeing Singapore and Malaya were moved between up to nine camps.

Included are civilians who, although evacuated in late 1942 to southern Africa, had been interned and sometimes tortured in places like Outram Road, Bridge House and Forfar Road.

No attempt has been to differentiate Merchant Navy personnel, as those captured in port were generally treated as civilians, and those captured on the high seas as military PoWs. (There are numerous exceptions to this rule, especially in the case of those captured in the Atlantic by the Germany Navy and interned in Java or Japan.) The listing also contains the names of a few volunteer forces personnel, who were for some reason treated as civilians and of the members of the military nursing services who were all placed in civilian camps. Whilst other civilians were placed in Military Camps. Indeed, there was little consistency in treatment of non military Britons.

This Memorial Book is not intended to be an exhaustive source of genealogical data, neither can it be considered the legal basis for establishing internment by the Japanese. The events occurred over 60 year ago and it has not always been possible to obtain forenames from the often fragmentary camp lists which have survived in a myriad of British and foreign institutions. Given the limitations, the omission of any forename, or indeed any individual is regretted. Deliberately omitted are Dates of Birth, Dates of Death and Maiden names. These were considered, but the concept rejected for reasons of consistency, of space and on the basis that the data was only available in some cases.

For general assistance in the preparation of this book I am indebted to Richard Gunning (Once of Stanley Camp)

Finally, it must be re-iterated that whilst every care has been taken in compiling this Book from all known sources throughout the world, it cannot be considered definitive evidence of internment by the Japanese for any legal purpose whatsoever. Any omission or inaccuracy will almost certainly be due to the incomplete nature of the records. For any and all mistakes, the compiler offers his sincere apologies.

Ronald William Bridge MBE AFC
Once of Weih sien Camp
March 2009

From: [Mpether](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2009 10:04 PM

Subject: **RE: British and Commonwealth Internees of Japan 1942/5**

Dear Ron,

What a timely and thoughtful action yourself and ABCIFER.

Whilst the numbers of men, women and children still with us who underwent the awful experience of internment throughout the Far East is fast diminishing, from my own experience there is a strong resurgence of interest and need to see the memory secured by their children, grandchildren around the world. Organisations I am a member of, such as COFEPOW and the Malayan Volunteers Group have rapidly expanding international memberships from families connected with the Far East at the time and people now living in the region.

I have personal connections with the events through family being interned in Changi, Sime Road and the camp at Iltis Huk in Tsingtao and have formed friendships here in New Zealand with internees and POWs who were in Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

Please let me know if you would like any assistance in approaching the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

I would be interested to know what is happening with the records of ABCIFER insofar as their archiving and would appreciate your reply on that point.

Regards,

Michael Pether,
Auckland,
New Zealand.

From: [Ron Bridge](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 6:46 PM

Subject: **Re: Marjorie McLorn**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have had an inquiry into the whereabouts or what happened to Marjorie McLorn, b 1931 in Block 61 Room 9.

Her roommate Joyce Kerry is anxious to trace.

If she is on the topica circuit or if anyone knows her is please let me know either by replying to this or direct on

rwbridge@freeuk.com

Thanks

Ron

From: [Fred & Coral Dreggs](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 1:13 AM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

Hi Mary,

Many thanks for advising about the availability of the above-mentioned documentary.

I got on to the web address OK and located a small photo depicting what appear to be internees lining up outside a sort of kitchen. This was found under the heading of 'So Very Far From Home'. My problem is that I could do nothing further from that point to in order to view the doc. Have I done something wrong? Would you ,or someone who has been successful, please lead me. With thanks in advance,

Regards, Fred (aka Alfie)

PS I do have Broadband.

From: [Tapol](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 7:01 AM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

dear Fred,

I have the same problem. I sent a message to snagfilms and got this answer: (see below)

I haven't tried "mozilla" yet but I'll let you know --- My computer had a "fatal error" recently so I'm trying to get everything working again.

Dear Gay,

thanks for the translation --- In a day or two it will be on the website --- in English !!

--- all the best,

Leopold

From: [Estelle Horne nee Cliff](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 9:41 AM

Subject: **RE: British and Commonwealth Internees of Japan 1942/5**

Dear Ron

Many, many thanks to you and Richard and all the volunteers who edited the lists for the memorial book, and worked so hard for ABCIFER. We owe you so much.

Estelle Cliff Horne

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 2:24 AM

Subject: **Fwd: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

Here's a suggestion from Producer Bill Einreinhofer that may help those of you who have had difficulty connecting to the documentary about Japanese-operated internment camps in China

From: bill@paradox-communications.net

Sent: 5/27/2009 10:11:04 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subj: Re: Fwd: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"

Try this link. It should take you directly to the film.

http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/so_very_far_from_home/

Bill Einreinhofer

Paradox Communications, Inc.

973.495.3111 mobile

Skype ID [bill.einreinhofer](https://www.skype.com/user/bill.einreinhofer)

bill@paradox-communications.net

From: Pamela Masters

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2009 1:56 AM

Subject: **Re: Weih sien in documentary, "SO VERY FAR FROM HOME"**

This is GREAT documentary -- totally in sync, and such fun to watch! Thanks again Bill for making it. -- Pamela

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 4:11 PM

Subject: **Raymond Hanchulak, Weih sien liberator**

What memories does anyone have of Raymond Hanchulak, medic on the "DUCK MISSION" that liberated Weih sien?

Some time ago, I recall someone's writing that Hanchulak had given him his boots.

Scheduled to give a speech later this month about my tracking down the heroes who liberated Weih sien, I'd like more information about Raymond Hanchulak.

When I tracked down members of the DUCK MISSION in 1997, Raymond had died a year before. When I found his widow, Helen Hanchulak told me she had married Raymond many years after the war. She knew nothing about Weih sien. She was flabbergasted when I told her about her hero husband and the liberation of the camp. She said Raymond was trained to keep secrets -- having served all of his adult life in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and later in the Central Intelligence Service (CIA). She begged me to tell her everything I knew.

Liberator Tad Nagaki, close friends with Raymond Hanchulak, has helped with some information. But I've felt frustrated to know so little about this American hero.

Born August 23, 1916, Raymond was the oldest member of the rescue team, almost 29 when he helped liberate Weih sien.

How I wish now that I had started my search a few years earlier so that I could have talked with Raymond Hanchulak and with Peter Orlich, who had died before I started.

Mary Taylor Previte

From: Mitch Krayton

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 9:07 PM

Subject: **Re: Raymond Hanchulak, Weih sien liberator**

Mary

Instead of fretting over things you cannot change, please take pride in all the marvelous and wonderful things you have accomplished on this project.

Think of the wonderful news you have given to Helen that helped make her husband's memories even better.

Mitch Krayton

From: berean@xplornet.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 10:56 PM

Subject: **Re: Raymond Hanchulak, Weih sien liberator**

Thank you for what you have done. Years ago Kathleen and I started calling the Steigers listed in the Portland, Oregon phone book as that is where Major Steiger had listed his home town. We gave up too soon--I think. We felt rather embarrassed calling. Now I would feel differently. Obviously we got nowhere--as by that time Major Steiger was no longer living in Portland. I am not sure at this point if we even explained who and why we were trying to locate him to the ones we called--. that has been years and years ago.

But years ago I wrote James Moore (he answered as if he was writing to a Houghton instead of a Horton) But he said he had not kept up with any of the team---so again we dropped the idea of locating any of them. Really hadn't given that much thought basing it on experience above. So please do not blame yourself.

Before I was married I stayed with a college classmate in little St. Paul, Minnesota. My parents were in Indonesia at that time. I got the idea of trying to locate my uncle on my Dad's side--using an address I had in that area. We had a day of riding busses or what have you trying to locate him--think we had tried to call--do not remember. We got nowhere I am not sure if I wrote my parents about it. All the 11 years for my Dad and 10 for my Mom when they were in Indonesia--we never talked on the phone to them.

We were married 8 years and had four children before they met my husband. They came home to 3 married children and 11 grandchildren they had not met. They had met Stanley's wife but had not met Kathleen's and my husbands. they got to only attend Rowland's wedding--and the rest of us didn't get to attend that wedding in Oklahoma--couldn't afford to travel then.

Something interesting is happening in our daughter (who lives next door to us) in her family. Her second oldest and oldest son is getting married on June 12th. They started courting (no hand holding etc) the end of January. Not too long after that they got engaged and now getting married. Her family was in our church in Oregon--way back in the 1970's. Her parents were not in church. Mahlon knocked on their door inviting them--and kept going back. The dad was from a Christian home--but backslidden, the Mom was not from a Christian home. Long story made short--my folks were in our church the too, -Larry, the father was called to preach, graduated from Bible College in Indiana, came back to Oregon//Washington, pastored in Washington, then now in Oregon. At the time we met them they had 2 children. They saw we had 6 children--later a 7th added--the Lord impressed on them they should have more children. Now they have 15 children--twice as many as we did though we had two miscarriages in first trimester--one of theirs is in heaven. So now our grandson is marrying their fourth youngest. When we visited them a year ago the girls--at that time there were 7 unmarried daughters--asked if they could adopt us as grandparents--(both sets of their grandparents are in heaven)--we consented--so now Tiffanie will be doubly our granddaughter. She will be moving to Canada.--now after June 12th they will only have 5 unmarried daughters--the youngest is 15-16 years old.

Now another interesting page of the story. Tiffanie has a 28 year old cousin named Roy Taylor, (her mother's maiden name). Now he is engaged to our oldest granddaughter next door, Elisia, who is 23 years old. They have been engaged a week now. Their engagement happened very fast but they are very agreed--they discuss the Bible all the time on the phone.--8 hours driving distance away from here. We will lose Elisia to the states unless God calls Roy up here. He is a very talented carpenter with his own business--His Dad is not saved but his mom is saved. So we are going to miss her very much. She has been a big help in the music at church as has had voice lessons over the years and piano lessons--also she is very good on the computer. Our daughter Valerie is writing a Trailblazer Club material which is being used by mission churches or others--can be used for clubs, children's church--really too much material for Sunday School. Elisia does the graphics for it. She will continue to do it long distance as her fiancé will buy her computer etc--he is not into that. He looks like a Viking--has some Swedish blood in him--is 6'4". She is tall as well--so they really complement each other. She is blondish as well. She has the big bone build of a Scandinavian--carries herself very well. She is still recuperating from hyperthyroidism--she took the radio active pill as didn't want surgery in case it would damage her vocal chords.

Anyway, it has been exciting to see how God has kept these young people for each other. Our grandson and fiancée will reserve their first kiss for after the wedding.

He puts out a magazine for young men, called A Servant's Heart and has been doing it now since he was 17 and he is now 21. She is 23. The family has leased a laser printer for their printing ministry as they do tracts for people as well.

It was something how God impressed Mahlon that we should stop in and see this family on our holiday last year--We had not seen them for several years. And now all of this. The couple have over 40 grandchildren already and 8 who do not have children yet. They are a Godly family. all of the children and grandchildren are in church. And to have had a tiny part in their lives--God uses all the links and we were just one tiny link.

Mahlon resigned the church January 18th--a young Canadian couple with two sweet little girls have taken over the church-- moved down in April. from Alberta. |Our grandson did the preaching until new pastor came--our grandson is assistant or associate pastor or pastor in training. He is enrolled in Bible training by correspondence and is in 3rd year--had first year in a Bible institute away from here.

We have seen real answers to prayer and are so gratified with what God is doing. We started the church. Then were able to buy a building from a Lutheran group who were merging two congregations--the building has been paid for a couple of years now. The former parsonage was bought by one of our members-- an elderly lady who took on the job of being caretaker of the property--she sold the house to the new pastor--the house is right next door to church so it was so crucial to have the right person there--so God answered prayer that way. She moved into a condo which is quite an adjustment for her as she is very much of an outdoor person--and she has always lived in a house.

Several years ago we were involved in finding a missing son for one of our members--He was Canadian but had been loaned to the CIA--they had reprogrammed his mind--even to showing him a grave--saying his mother was dead. it was over 20 years they hadn't seen each other. So he didn't remember he had sisters--etc. he had several social security numbers etc. It was a miracle how we found him--It was very scary for him when he was found because of his past with the CIA. He never moved back to Canada. Long story with a sad ending that just happened last year. We are not sure if his 90 year old mother is still living but son preceded her in death.

What we couldn't understand is that she didn't want to put out a notice in papers she knew to find him--didn't want to embarrass him--We didn't do that--found him through other means.

Trust you are doing o.k. We hope to see Kathleen after we are finished with the wedding. She is too tired to do any travelling anymore and it is very doubtful she will get to wedding--They are very close to our grandchildren as before her illness they would come up once or twice a year to visit. we we would go down there. once or twice a year--. We have our property up for sale since last July--we live off the grid so it will take a special couple to buy it--We are waiting on the Lord's guidance. He might just want us to stay here.

Love, Audrey

From: [Tapol](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com ; [Greg Leck](#) ; [Albert de Zutter](#) ; [Janette & Pierre @ home](#)

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2009 9:55 AM

Subject: **Japanese guard uniform ---**

Hello,

--- if you type in the search engine: "japanese guard uniform" you will reach our interesting conversation about the colour of that uniform ---

<http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/TedPearson/text/JapUniform.htm>

Thanks to *Greg Leck*, we have an additional document attesting that it was "olive" --- in summer!

best regards & thanks *Greg* ---

Leopold

From: [rod miller](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 2:02 PM

Subject: **Re: Chefoo etc Woops...**

Sorry I gave you the wrong file.

It is this one that contains the report.

Title

Japan exchange of British and Japanese subjects - evacuation Agreement

Barcode

177535

Series number

A981

Series accession number

A981/4

Control symbol

JAP 116

Contents date range

1941 - 1942

Location

Canberra

Access status

Open

Date of decision

1 Jun 1973

<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/imaginer.asp?B=177535&I=1&SE=1>

Rod

At 10:38 PM 6/12/2009, you wrote:

Hi

I've noticed some of you mention Chefoo in here.

There is a brief 1941 report on China in the following file in the Australian archives that may or may not be of interest.

Title

Japan - First Exchange of Civilians

Barcode

184378

Series number

A989

Series accession number

A989/1

Control symbol

1943/460/10/1

Contents date range

1942 - 1944

Location

Canberra

Access status

Open

Date of decision

7 Mar 1976

To view the file log into the archives as a guest <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/recordsearch/index.aspx>
Then click on the link below.

<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/ItemDetail.asp?M=0&B=184378>

Covering letter for the report is on page 16, the report is page 17 - 21

Regards

Rod

From: berean@xplonet.com

To: [Tapol](#)

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 10:56 PM

Subject: **Re: japanese guard uniform ---**

Audrey writing. Miss Evelyn Davey, now Huebner chuckled when I told her that there had been quite a discussion about color of guard uniform. Without hesitation she said they were khaki--green --usual color of uniforms.

From: [Jonathan Henshaw](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 3:44 PM

Subject: **Visiting Shandong**

Hi Weih sieners,

I am writing for advice on people/places to see connected to the camp since I will be making a trip to Weifang at the beginning of July. I am currently in Beijing and might be making a stop in Yantai on the way south. After Shandong I will be in Hongkong. Any suggestions/contacts/questions anyone might have would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Henshaw

From: "Donald Menzi" <dmenzi@earthlink.net>To: "weih sien" <weih sien@topica.com>Cc: "shude" <suishude@sohu.com>; "Shude" <suishude@126.com>; "shude-1" <suishude@sina.com>

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 7:25 PM

Subject: **Your Visit to Weih sien**

- Jonathan,
- >
- > You should definitely make Sui Shude your main contact point in Weih sien. He is with their the municipal government office that was key in setting up the 2005 celebration and the documentaries about the weih sien camp. He's also a great guy, extremely fluent in English and will be very happy to help you. I've included the three email addresses that I have for him in the cc line because I'm not sure which are still in active use.
- >
- > Enjoy the visit. They've done a great job in memorializing the Weih sien camp and those who were interned there.
- >
- > Please say hello to Shude for me.
- >
- > Donald Menzi
- >
- > P.S. Any chance you're related to my old Hebrew professor, Richard Henshaw?
- >
- > DM

From: "Tapol" <tapol@skynet.be>To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 9:13 AM

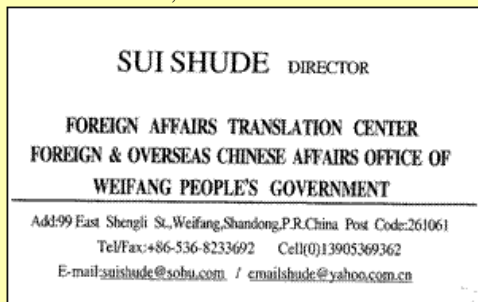
Subject: **Fw: Your Visit to Weih sien**

-
- > ----- Original Message -----
- > From: "pander" <pander.nl@skynet.be>
- > To: <weih sien@topica.com>; "Jonathan Henshaw" <Jonathan.Henshaw@ualberta.ca>
- > Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 10:12 AM
- > Subject: **Re: Your Visit to Weih sien**

>

>

>> Dear Jonathan,



>> --- as Don wrote, Mr. Sui Shude is the best host you could ever have for
 >> the
 >> visit of Weifang and of course the "old" Weih sien concentration camp. For
 >> the website (<http://www.weih sien-paintings.org>) we would all be eager to
 >> share your photos/videos and experiences of your visit
 --- Do send them my
 >> way when they will be ready --- thanks in advance, --
 - Best regards, ---

>> Leopold

>> PS You will have all the info by clicking on the *.gif-file attached.

From: <sigalarm@gmail.com>To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 8:28 PM

Subject: **Ettie Henderson - Continued Search**

- Hello all, I can't thank the people on this list enough for their help
- > in uncovering the history of my relative, Henrietta "Ettie" Henderson
- > who was a member of the staff at Chefoo.
- >
- > Since the last time I have posted, have come into possession of
- > additional information, and now I need your help again if you would be

- > so kind.
- >
- > Below are links to 2 pictures taken at the Chefoo school in 1938, one is
- > of the staff at the Prep school where we think Henrietta was, and the
- > second was the girls school. It know it may not be possible, but could
- > you have a look and see if any of them match your recollection for her?
- >
- > Prep School Staff Photo:
- > http://andstillpersist.com/wp-content/photo/scotland/Chefoo_Prep_Staff_1938.jpg
- >
- > Girls School Staff Photo:
- > http://andstillpersist.com/wp-content/photo/scotland/1938_Chefoo_Girls_School_Staff2.jpg
- >
- >
- > Thank you so very much for your time and your help.
- >
- > Bruce Henderson
- > San Diego, CA

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 1:36 PM

Subject: **Another Eric Liddell movie**

The November-December 2008 issue of **Mission Frontier** reports in a 4-page article that another movie about Eric Liddell is in the works, being produced by **Wang Zi Yin**, a Chinese Christian film maker based in Los Angeles. The article says plans include filming in China. Premiers are being discussed for cities including London, Paris, Toronto, Moscow, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore. According to the article, the screen play has already been written, however, that announcement may be premature since former Chefoo School student, **Stephen Metcalf**, has been approached for an interview in London in July.

This **Mission Frontier** article is being circulated along with letters encouraging financial support of the production.

In Weih sien, Stephen became Eric Liddell's assistant in athletic activities and helped Eric mend broken equipment. Not long before Eric died, he gave Stephen his running shoes. Stephen was so profoundly moved by Eric's message of "**Love your enemies**" -- **pray for the Japanese** -- that in Weih sien Stephen made a promise to God that if God would get him out of that place, he would serve God as a missionary to Japan. Stephen kept that promise and is now retired and living in London. .

Stephen's moving speech at the Eric Liddell monument near the hospital in Weih sien during our 2005 reunion celebration made headlines around the world.

Mary Previte

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2009 2:01 PM

Subject: **UPDATE on Weih sien Girl Guides and on Eric Liddell movie**

Here's an update on a couple of Weih sien projects.

GIRL GUIDES and BROWNIES IN WEIHSIEN -- a social history:

A book to celebrate 100 years of Girl Guides (called Girl Scouts in the USA) is to include a chapter about Girl Guides and Brownies in Weih sien. Commissioned by London Publisher, Aurum Press, to write a social history of Girl Guides, author Janie Hampton, hopes to have it ready for the publisher by Christmas and published in Spring 2010. Janie decided to include Weih sien after finding in the archives of the Girl Guide Association across the road from Buckingham Palace in London a logbook from the Brownie Pack in Weih sien. Janie writes, "***This is a moving and extraordinary document of courage. Brown Owl must have been a strong woman to keep the pack going so effectively.***" Amazing as it may seem, through former Chefoo School students who were interned in Weih sien, Janie tracked down "Brown Owl," Evelyn Davey Heubener, in a retirement community in Seattle and interviewed her by telephone.

If you have your own stories or memories to contribute, send to hampton.oxford@dial.pipex.co.

ERIC LIDDELL MOVIE SEQUEL:

Movie producer Ken Wales reports that a financial backer in Australia has stepped forward for his ERIC LIDDELL movie project

after the original backer was wiped out in the recession. Wales plans to shoot the film in Australia. The story will pick up where **Chariots of Fire** left off, and will include extensive coverage of the Weih sien chapter of Eric Liddell's life. Wales says the movie will be a story -- part fictionalized, not a documentary.

Mary Previte

From: [Jonathan Henshaw](#)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 3:21 AM
Subject: **Notes from a trip**

Hello Weih sieners,

I have written a short note in .pdf format about my trip up to Weih sien in June that includes a few pictures-- it is available here: http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/JonathanHenshaw/VisitToWeifang/Letter_to_Weih sieners.pdf. Thanks to Mr Pander for putting it online. The visit was a definite success for me, and I am really quite thankful, both to all of you here, and to Mr Sui Shude and Mr Jeff Liu in Weifang and Yantai, for their hospitality and kindness.

Sincerely,
 Jonathan Henshaw

From: [Mitch Krayton](#)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 8:51 AM
Subject: **Re: Notes from a trip**

Thanks for this wonderful report and photos. Thanks also for doing some additional research for me about Helen Burton. This site has brought together a wonderful group of people who won't let the past fade away.

Thanks again to all that make this possible.

Mitch Krayton

From: [Carol Ann Vaughn](#)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 10:47 PM
Subject: **CIM School for MKs in Chefoo/Yantai**

Greetings.

I apologize if I am intruding on a personal list or thread.

I am researching the lives of Freddie Crawford and Minnie Crawford Jones to complete a biography of Martha Foster Crawford and T. P. Crawford. It has been ten years since I completed my dissertation about Martha Crawford, and I am pleased to have access to more threads and people now, thanks to the internet and on-line databases.

Martha and T. P. Crawford adopted Minnie and Freddie in 1876. Minnie married the rather well-known British Baptist missionary Alfred Jones, who was killed in a mudslide in 1905; and I am attempting to follow-up on her whereabouts in the U. S. and/or Great Britain in the early 20th century.

Freddie Crawford was sent to the new China Inland Mission School in Chefoo in 1881, where he was apparently was one of the first students. Unfortunately, I have come to a dead-end of information about Freddie. (We do not have Martha Crawford's diaries after 1881, although I am on a quest to see if any more survived.)

I plan to try to look at the CIM School Records, but if anyone here has any ideas or suggestions for further possible areas of investigation about Freddie Crawford in the Shandong area in the 1880s-1890s, I would be very appreciative.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Vaughn Cross

Samford University
 Core Curriculum
 Birmingham, Alabama
cavaughn@samford.edu

From: [Terri Stewart](#)

To: weihsien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 11:53 PM

Subject: **Re: Notes from a trip**

Thank you as well, Jonathan for the wonderful and updated report and the pix of the buildings. I am glad to know that they are being kept up in one way or another, even though I have never been there nor likely will be able to make the trip (my great-aunt was there in the camp). I appreciate what you have done!

Terri Stewart
(for Ruth Kunkle)

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weihsien@topica.com

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 2:05 AM

Subject: **Re: CIM School for MKs in Chefoo/Yantai**

Ian Grant, editor of Chefoo School Magazine, says the Chefoo Boys School registry shows that Alfred Foster Crawford was enrolled from 1881 to 1886. It does not give his date of birth, nor his place of birth. It states that his parent/guardian were at 142 Morgan Street in Knoxville, Tenn, USA, which might be where they went after he left school.

Mary Previte

From: <sigalarm@gmail.com>

To: <weihsien@topica.com>

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2009 4:54 AM

Subject: **RE: CIM School for MKs in Chefoo/Yantai**

- > Hello Carol.
- >
- > Having recently done a significant amount of research into Chefoo, I can
- > possibly give you a bit of advice.
- >
- > The collection held at the Billy Graham centre in Illinois is actually
- > quite good. They have a large collection of documents associated with
- > the CIM, and some related to Chefoo.
- >
- > The collection at SOAS in London have a great deal more in terms of
- > photographs and information about Chefoo specifically.
- >
- > I strongly recommend contacting either archive:
- >
- > Ed Hood at SOAS: docenquiry@soas.ac.uk
- > Wayne Weber at Billy Graham Center Archives: BGCArc@wheaton.edu
- >
- > They may even be able to let you know how much information they have on
- > the people you are researching.
- >
- > Feel free to follow up directly with me if you would like as well:
- > sigalarm (at) gmail (dot) com
- >
- > Sincerely
- >
- > Bruce Henderson

From: [Jonathan Henshaw](mailto:Jonathan.Henshaw)

To: weihsien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 12:59 PM

Subject: **More photos uploaded**

Dear Weih sieners,

Leopold Pander has kindly uploaded a few more photos from my trip to Weifang last month. The link is below:

http://www.weihsien-paintings.org/JonathanHenshaw/VisitToWeifang/Photos/p_photos_01.htm

Thanks again to everyone who helped make the trip a success.

Best regards,
Jonathan Henshaw

From: "Carol Ann Vaughn" <cavaughn@samford.edu>
To: <weihsien@topica.com>
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2009 6:56 PM
Subject: **RE: CIM School for MKs in Chefoo/Yantai**

➤ Dear Bruce,
>
> I cannot thank you enough for taking time to respond so helpfully to my query. I am looking forward to pursuing these avenues you have mentioned.
>
> After a ten-year hiatus from this particular research, I am enjoying the benefits of the internet. It has been more than ten years since I visited the Chefoo area.
>
> I have located information about an Alfred Foster Crawford, the same age of the man for whom I am searching, who survived the _Titanic_ disaster. I hope that the school's documents will help me confirm whether or not it was the same person.
>
> I found a lot of excellent material at Yale regarding the missionary community's evacuation from Chefoo during the Boxer Uprising, and I am interested in more on that as well as material on the missionaries' return in 1902.
>
> I have a sabbatical coming up in the next year or so, and I think this will be my reason to visit the Graham Center and various repositories in England, funding permitting.
>
> I appreciate being in contact with you. Thank you.
>
> Sincerely,
> Carol Ann
>
> Carol Ann Vaughn
> Core Curriculum
> Samford University
> cavaughn@samford.edu

From: [Mitch Krayton](mailto:Mitch.Krayton)
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 2:41 AM
Subject: **Re: More photos uploaded**

Jonathan,

Thanks for the visual documentation.

Again, much appreciated. Leopold great job hosting as always.

Mitch Krayton

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weihsien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 11:19 AM
Subject: **WEIHSIEN BIRDS -- Jamie Taylor's diary for a Naturalist Badge**

Here's an introduction to WEIHSIEN BIRDS on Leopold Pander's Weih sien web site
<http://www.weihsien-paintings.org/JamesTaylor/indexFrame.htm>

Leopold has created a masterpiece with my brother's diary.
Mary Previte

Jamie Taylor's Bird Watching Diary

1944 -1945

By Mary Taylor Previte (Jamie's little sister)

In 1944 and 1945, James "Jamie" Taylor, 14 years old, filled a 4" x 6" notebook with carefully-penned observations – about putting his hand into a sparrow's nest and finding babies, counting bustards flying overhead, welcoming flowers that announced the spring, listening to cicadas beginning to buzz, numbering the leaves sprouting on a plant. Logged to earn his Boy Scout Naturalist badge, he wrote ordinary, boyish stuff .

Ordinary?

Jamie Taylor was writing in a crowded Japanese internment camp in China, a world of barrier walls, electrified wires, guard dogs, prisoner numbers, roll calls, and hunger.

The cover says simply: **J. Taylor Weih sien Birds. J. Taylor** was James Hudson Taylor, III, a student in the Chefoo School for the children of Protestant missionaries in China and great grandson of pioneer missionary to China, J. Hudson Taylor. **Weih sien** was the Weih sien Civilian Assembly Center in China's Shandong Province. Weih sien held 1,500 Allied prisoners behind barrier walls and electrified wires.

In 1944, when Jamie started writing his bird watching diary, we four Taylor children had already been separated for four years from our missionary parents, with warring armies an impenetrable blockade.

With a school full of the children of Protestant missionaries to China, we and our classmates in the Chefoo School had had been marched off to internment camp. With 1,500 prisoners in Weih sien, we had been rounded up as "enemy aliens," each with a prisoner number. It would be another year and a half before the war ended and we would see our father and mother again. Missionary teachers tried to be substitute parents.

In a prison camp, how do you arm yourself against fear? Our teachers' answer was to fashion a protective womb around our psyches, insulating and cushioning us with familiar routines: daily school and work details.

Structure. Structure. Structure.

Our teachers taught us exactly what to expect. They marched us off to breakfast for a splash of steaming *gao liang* gruel (animal feed, even by Chinese standards). They trooped us back to our dormitory, mug and spoon in hand, to scrub the floor. We grouped for morning prayers, and sang:

God is still on the throne;

And He will remember His own.

His promise is true;

He will not forget you.

God is still on the throne.

We lined up for inspection. Were we clean? Were we neat? Did we have our mending done? We settled down on our steamer-trunk "beds" for school: English, Latin, French, history, Bible.

Structure. It was our security blanket.

One of the predictable routines was school. Yes, school would go on – even in the shadow of guard towers. So would **Boy Scouts** and **Girl Guides**, **Cub Scouts** and **Brownies**. We practiced semaphore and Morse Code during daily roll calls. We practiced tying knots -- reef, bowline, round-turn-two-half-hitches. Scout leaders like **Stanley Houghton** and Guide leaders like **Inez Phare**, Brownie leaders like "Brown Owl" **Evelyn Davey** expected students to work on badges. In the shadow of the barrier walls and under the eyes of uniformed Japanese guards, we worked on badges – reading badges, hiking badges, folk singing badges, naturalist badges. Yes, and do a good deed every day – even when your hands are freezing from making coal balls to fuel the stoves or your knife or thumb nail is bloody from the Saturday "battle-with-the-bedbugs." Girl Guides were expected to embroider badges for the Boy Scouts.

Written for his Naturalist Badge, Jamie's bird watching diary is so much more than a 14-year-old Boy Scout training a sparrow or watching poplar catkins "beginning to fall off." Its pages are punctuated with news and observations that fascinated this 14-year-old about life in internment camp:

June 11 *New bull not as large as the old one which died of anthrax..*

Dec. 2. *Got stoves.*

It's a story of relationships:

Sunday May 12 *A boy threw a stone at a Crowned Willow Warbler, and killed it.*

Thursday May 18 *I put my hand into a sparrow's nest and found babies, It was at block 60 under the tiles. I am sharing with Beard (a class mate).*

Tuesday May 23 *A Jap gave us an egg so we put it under the baby rook.*

Between the lines, it shouts triumph of the human spirit.

March 29 Wednesday *Hugh Hubbard gave a lecture on N. China Birds. It was very good. He showed us some specimens.*

April 17 Monday *Mr. Hubbard showed me some Bramblings in a willow tree.*

Monday April 24. *Saw a Western China Blue and white Flycatcher. Mr Hubbard had only seem it once before.*

Were spirits wilting? Hugh Hubbard took boys and girls on bird watch walks. Group walks. Private

walks. He showed them stuffed birds. He taught them the songs of birds. He lectured on birds of North China. An internationally-known ornithologist and author, Hugh Hubbard would not let their spirits die. Jamie wrote about it all.

Well, not all.

Jamie **didn't** write about hunger or terror or bayonet drills or guard dogs or homesickness. When he wrote about daily roll call, it was only to observe "**November 10. 17 bustards passed during roll call.**"

In the Weih sien internment camp, it is just as much what Jamie **DIDN'T** write about -- that honors with an everlasting tribute the quiet heroes of Weih sien: our teachers, Boy Scout, Girl Guide, Brownie, and Cub Scout leaders, men and women like Hugh Hubbard, Eric Liddell, Brigadier Stranks who poured their unique spirit into saving us children.

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 12:59 AM

Subject: Re: birds

Leopold, Your exquisite presentation of James's WEIHSIEN BIRDS diary is bringing me such joyful responses from family members and from former Chefoo School class mates. I sent a blast to a network of Chefoo students as well as to those on the Topica. network.

I'm not familiar with a bird called blue start. Jamie was the bird watcher in our family. I wonder if Peter Bazire might know. Peter wrote to me today to comment on Jamie's diary and said he himself had made a very small bird diary in Weih sien.

By the way, I did find a few mis spelled words -- that add to the charm of this diary.

Thank you so very much.

Mary

From: [Donald Menzi](mailto:Donald.Menzi)

To: weih sien@topica.com ; weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 2:07 AM

Subject: **Re: birds**

Mary,

Aha! At last I got a chance to consult the 700+ page book on Birds of Northeast China by George Wilder and Hugh Hubbard and found that the Bluestart is also known as the Blue-tailed Robin and the Siberian Blue-tail. I was going to copy out their description when I realized that the Internet would be even better.

You can find out all about it at:

<http://www.mangoverde.com/birdsound/spec/spec142-144.html>

Donald Menzi

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 7:08 AM

Subject: **Re: birds**

Thanks very much Donald :-))

In fact --- I took the "red start" and changed it into "blue" --- but that's not very scientific !!

I did find an interesting database with the English and Latin denominations but no "blue start"

I copy/pasted your link into my "favourites" for the future --- I still have more than 22 pages of James's Diary to explore. Knowing nothing about "birds" I find it very interesting!

Just give me time to finish the work --- slowly but surely !!

Best regards,

Leopold

From: [David Birch](mailto:David.Birch)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 7:25 PM

Subject: **Re: WEIHSIEN BIRDS -- Jamie Taylor's diary for a Naturalist Badge**

It's quite amazing how glamorous these old memories have become in the decades since the events happened!

Jamie Taylor's bird diary reminds me of other boys' bird diaries in Weih sien at the same time in our youthful history!

A HUMOROUS INCIDENT

While I was in a younger group of boys and was not involved in keeping a bird diary, a close friend of mine, Murray Sadler, must have been about your brother's age. Murray was an avid observer of birds, and rescued sparrows that had fallen out of their nests. I vaguely recall Miss Priestman (not my favorite teacher) having quite a bit to do with supervising the observation of birds and the maintenance of bird diaries.

I'VE HAD MY DIARY FOR TWO WEEKS

One day when we boys still occupied a very large dorm on the second floor of Block 23 (before Tipton and Hummel's escape), young Murray Sadler announced in the dorm where we were making our beds on the floor, "I've had my diary for two weeks now!"

Mrs Bruce, our headmaster's wife and one of the nicest women I've ever known, was really shocked and said to Murray, "Why haven't you reported it before this?"

A discussion ensued between Murray Sadler and Mrs Bruce, in which it soon became clear that a misunderstanding had developed between them. Mrs Bruce had thought Murray Sadler was announcing that he had been suffering from diarrhea for two weeks, whereas he had simply had his diary for that period of time. I've had many a chuckle over that in the decades that have passed since then.

I was saddened to learn from Murray's brother Douglas, in 2005, that Murray had died about three years earlier. He was a good friend, and even now I miss him!

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2009 1:01 AM

Subject: **Saute to Weih sien Liberator Tad Nagaki**

Liberation Day is almost here. And only one of our American liberators is still alive -- **Tad Nagaki**

Would you like to join me in a special tribute to Tad? The Internet can help us create a miracle. If we were once overwhelmed with a shower of parachutes, let's overwhelm Sgt. Tad Nagaki with a shower -- of Letters to the Editor to his local newspaper, the Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Star Herald.

In your letter, you might mention a memory from Liberation Day.

Send your letter to news@starherald.com (I've cleared this with the editor.)

Letters to the editor are limited to 400 words and must include your name and contact information. If you live outside the USA, please be sure to put your country -- Canada, U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Hong Kong Let's flabbergast the farm community where Tad lives.

I'm timing this shower of letters for Wednesday, August 12, when the largest vernacular newspaper in the United States will feature the Tad Nagaki story on its front page. Based in Los Angeles, RAFU SHIMPO is printed both in English and in Japanese. Your letter should arrive no later than Monday.

Just to refresh your memory about Tad Nagaki, I've attached here a biographical sketch i sent out on Weih sien Topica last year when Tad fractured his pelvis in a fall. See below.

Tad Nagaki, the only living member of the American team that liberated Weih sien in August 1945, is recuperating at home after fracturing his pelvis in a fall from his truck. He's home now and in good spirits after six weeks in the hospital. Still farming corn and beans in Alliance, Nebraska, Tad will be 89 in January.

Tad was the Japanese-American interpreter on the Duck Mission that liberated the camp. Born in America and growing up in a farm family in Nebraska, he had starred as a high school athlete -- basketball, football, track (hurdles) -- and played with a Japanese-American baseball team in the Nebraska-Denver area during his summer vacations, which explains why he delighted teenagers in Weih sien by playing baseball with internees. (See the following entry from 14-year-old Peter Bazire's diary entry for August 23, 1945.)

"Thursday 23rd

The 3 schools ? Chefoo ? Weih sien ? American school were photographed with a small Kodak camera ? 2 photos each

In the evening there was a softball England v America. After the first innings 3 Ams. came, J. Moore (R.F.), P. Orlick (S.S.) & Tad Nagaki (Catcher). Tad is in my mind the best catcher in camp. I was told he couldn't peg fast 'cause he strained a muscle but he was as quick as anything, getting some which meant a quick spring. He was very springy although he played in boots. "

After Tad graduated from high school in 1938, he went to Japan for a year in Tokyo for language school. Returning to the USA, he was drafted in 1941 not long before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

His is a remarkable story -- a Japanese-American fighting for America when thousands of his people were interned in relocation camps on America's west coast.

In my interviewing Tad for over a year -- month after month after month of questions in 2001 as I prepared to write a magazine story about him -- never once did I hear him complain about America or of his treatment for years during the war -- mistrusted as a Nisei, sidelined with about 40 other Japanese-American soldiers in Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, limited to pruning trees and loading trains -- when he was itching to be out front fighting for America. When he passed his physical and collected recommendations to be an air cadet, his commander sent him a personal letter: They could not accept him because he was Japanese-American.

No matter how I dug to find his feelings -- Did he resent being sidelined and mistrusted? -- Tad's answer was always the same: "I am American."

What an astonishing turn of events! Tad was accepted by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) for a special Nisei combat unit to operate behind Japanese lines in Asia. He had to know his grim realities as an ethnic Japanese -- fighting the Japanese. "It's a one-way ticket," Nisei volunteers were told.

I prodded Tad: "What would the Japanese do to you if they caught you?" Of course he knew.

"I never gave it any thought," he said. "I am American."

"And in Burma and in China, what if American soldiers thought you were the enemy?" He made it sound so simple. "In war, if you think about that, you're not going to be a very good soldier. I am American."

On August 17, 1945, carrying in a sling over his shoulder a .45 sub-machine gun, Tad Nagaki parachuted from a B-24 called the Armored Angel and landed among the graves and gaoliang stalks outside the barrier walls of Weih sien. This Japanese-American helped liberate 1,500 Allied prisoners behind those walls.

Tad tells me he's not a hero.

Tad was one of about 25,000 Japanese-American men and women who served in U. S. Armed Forces during World War II.

On Liberation Day this year, I asked Tad how the war changed him. It didn't really change him, he said. Like so many Americans, he returned home and picked up where he had left off. He married the girl he had met in Army Language School in Minnesota, and settled back into farming in Nebraska, and made a family.

Mary Previte

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 10:22 AM

Subject: **James's diary**

Hello,

I just finished the layout with James's bird diary.

http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/JamesTaylor/BirdDiary/Pages/p_photos_01.htm (two pages)

The complementary pictures mostly come from Google Images. I tried to add complementary URLs to the pictures but abandoned that because too complicated.

James's knowledge about birds is amazing. Was it the same for all you Chefoo kids. Did you all have Diaries? What about the non Chefoo children of your age? Did they do bird watching too?

Did Hugh Hubbard do bird teaching for all the children in camp?

James mentions Chinese Kites flying in the sky. Did we fly kites in Weih sien? I remember reading a book about a Dutch boy prisoner of the Japs in a civilian camp in Java ---- one of his favorite occupations was flying kites and the strings got meddled up with the kites of the Chinese children on the other side of the electrified fence.

My sister was 7 in 1945. She often mentions the birds ---- Birds were "LIBERTY - FREEDOM". They were free to go wherever they wished and had a horizon which we -- prisoners behind high walls -- hadn't.

Best regards,
Leopold

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 11:31 AM

Subject: **Fw: James's diary**

James ends his bird diary on January 12, 1945. Our hardest Winter! We were all starving --- Was it not at that moment we all received those long waited American Red Cross parcels mentioned in Pamela Master's book as well as in Joyce Bradbury's?
Leopold

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 12:02 PM

Subject: **Re: Fw: James's diary**

Exquisite, Leopold! Thank you a thousand times. I shall go to this precious site over and over again. Looking at the pictures of the birds floods me with memories.

My brother, James, would have celebrated his 80th birthday yesterday, August 12

In Weih sien, Chefoo teachers continued school. even in the summer to keep us occupied with positive activities. However, because of unbearable heat in the summer of 1945, they gave us a few days' holiday. On August 17, 1945 -- Liberation Day -- students were getting ready to start back to school.

Mary Previte

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 12:25 PM

Subject: **Tad Nagaki story in Japanese-American newspaper**

The following story appeared yesterday on the front page of **The Rafu Shimpo**, a newspaper based in Los Angeles. With a circulation of 45,000, the newspaper appears in both English and Japanese. It is the largest vernacular newspaper in the United States. The story is the first in a three-part series.

Columnist Wimpy Hiroto tells me that he has already received A warm response from Japanese-American veterans.

Mary Previte

Crossroads to Somewhere:

THE SAGA OF TAD NAGAKI:

Nebraska Farmer to OSS Operative

by w t wimpy hiroto

Fhlop. Fhlop. Fhlop. Fhlop. The parachutes seemed to open on cue. Fhlop. Fhlop. Fhlop. Seven cotton balls in synchronized unison. The morning of Aug. 17, 1945, was already sweltering hot despite buffeting winds. Jumping from 400 feet eliminated the danger of anti-aircraft fire but could bring the threat of small arms into play. Members of Duck Team had little time to worry about potential enemy resistance. Their assignment was to free 1500 prisoners of war at Weihshien Civilian Assembly Center on China's mainland. Tadashi Nagaki was second man out of the lumbering B-24 Liberator bomber, aptly named "Armed Angel."

The military saga of Tad Nagaki does not follow the well worn path of evacuated Nisei internee to a slogging 442nd Regimental Combat Team

soldier in Italy. This GI would go for broke in a far less familiar, almost forgotten, World War II theatre of operation.

Drafted in November of 1941, he was just a farm boy being sent off to fight a war with other fellow Nebraska recruits. A stocky 5'5" athlete who excelled at baseball, football and track, Nagaki had set his sights on becoming an *air cadet passing all required tests and physicals; only to be denied acceptance because of ethnicity, Nagaki's very first experience with racial prejudice. (*The U.S. Army had it's own air force at that time; Ben Kuroki, ironically also from Nebraska, was one of only two Nisei ever accepted into its service.)

A star-crossed military experience continued to sour when, as a signal corps trainee, everyone shipped out for overseas duty except him. While assigned to such menial tasks as pruning trees and loading supply trains (with 40 other Nisei), Nagaki spotted an ominous notice on the bulletin board: "Volunteers for a Special Nisei Combat Unit" were being sought for "highly secret intelligence work more hazardous than combat. "

There is a standing axiom for military survival. *Never volunteer for nothing.*

To Private Nagaki anything would be better than gardening and manual labor for the duration. He signed on without any reservations, one of 23 to make the harrowing decision. In the final reckoning only 14 would complete the training regimen, three from California, 10 from Hawaii and Nebraskan Nagaki.

The rigorous preparation began with radio training in Illinois, Military Intelligence Language School sessions at Fort Savage, Minnesota, and six weeks of unrelenting survival conditioning on Catalina Island. The irony of training in California while all Japanese were barred from the west coast military zone was not lost on the Nisei trainees. Although all communications with the outside world were restricted and censored, the Catalina experience gave hint to where *OSS Detachment 101 would eventually be headed.

(The Office of Strategic Services was a military orphan. Known today as the forerunner of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), it was formed in 1942 by Col. William J. Donovan with the support of Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Nick-named "Wild Bill" by detractors, Gen. Douglas MacArthur refused to allow the organization to operate in the Philippines under his command. At home J. Edgar Hoover fought to undermine it's intelligence gathering abilities at every turn as he jealously viewed Donovan's ragtag unit a potential rival to his civilian Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Despite this opposition in its short tenure OSS helped arm, train and supply resistance movements in areas occupied by the Axis powers during World War II. It was disbanded by Pres. Harry Truman in 1945.)

The Japanese Imperial Army conducted an Asian version of *Blitzkrieg* early in 1942, rampaging through sieve-like defenses at will. With the fall of Singapore, Java, the Philippines and China proving to be inept ally, the loss of all Southeast Asia's rich and important natural resources loomed imminent. The string of conquests also gave the Japanese a potential jumping off point to invade Australia.

Strained supply lines and unfriendly jungles were seemingly the only obstacles they couldn't overcome. Confronting such an impasse became a greater hurdle for the invaders than Chinese, British, Indian and Australian troops.

Seizing upon this unexpected opportunity OSS guerilla teams were formed and sent into remote regions to operate behind enemy lines. Their first order of business would be to win the allegiance and support of native chiefs and their tribes; harassing a superior force would require the aid of the warriors.

Combat was not John Wayne and Gary Cooper single-handedly winning the war. It was constant danger and peril, especially for the Nisei. The brotherhood of OSS Nisei was a combination of versatility and commitment. Their duties ranged from sabotage, guerilla warfare, hit and run harassment, translating captured documents, preparing propaganda leaflets, building airfields, reporting troop movements, helping rescue downed American pilots.

Calvin Tottori, a detachment member, authored "The OSS Nisei in CBI (China/Burma/India) Theater", a first person memoir of the collective exploits of this unit. Dick Hamada, a member of 2nd Battalion, recalls the aftermath of an early skirmish with the Japanese. Before reporting the results of an ambush, he asked his Kachin Ranger counterpart for a body count estimate, unsure of the true total based on some clothing and captured weapons. When he openingly questioned the exact number reported, the tribesman produced twenty ears from his pouch. "From that day on I never doubted their claims," Hamada confessed.

Tad Nagaki added, "I never had the chance to interrogate Japanese prisoners (since) they resisted capture with such fanatical zeal. It seemed surrender was never an option (with them)." Being mistaken for the enemy was always a clear and present danger.

2nd Lt. Ralph Yempuku, the only Nisei field grade officer, pointed out the depth of Kachin native hate for the Japanese. "They had a history of torture and bayoneting villagers to death." Capt. Joe Lazarsky, 1st Battalion Kachin Ranger leader, carefully made a production out of Yempuku's first introduction to the natives. The captain ordered the warriors to carefully study Yempuku's face to guarantee he wouldn't be mistaken and killed as an enemy Japanese in a U.S. uniform. "I told them the lieutenant was a "Big Dua" just like the rest of us (white) men," Lazarsky emphasized. Yempuku would later lead his own guerilla unit behind enemy lines along the Burma Road. (*When Lt. Yempuku returned to civilian life in Hawaii he became a noted entertainment and sports entrepreneur. Rafu Shimpō columnist George Yoshinaga later became an associate in his U.S. and Japan ventures.]

As the war wound down in Burma, Detachment 101 was deployed to China where disturbing rumors were being heard of the possible slaughter of all prisoners of war by the Japanese, both civilian and military. Rescue plans became the top priority for Gen. Albert Wedemeyer as he ordered the safe evacuation of all POWs in China, Manchuria and Korea.

OSS had 7-man teams available for such duty, all with code names of birds. Nagaki's Duck Team parachuted into Weih sien Assembly Center where 1500 Allied civilian prisoners were being held. Hamada parachuted into Peiping (Beijing) to liberate 624 prisoners, including survivors of the Doolittle air raids on Tokyo; Fumio Kato's team jumped into Mukden to rescue Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, hero of Corregidor and Bataan, along with 1600 other POWs; Tottori flew to Taiwan while Yempuku landed on Hainan Island to save 400 starving prisoners.

"The Nisei bought an awful hunk of America with their blood," declared Gen. Joseph Stilwell, commander of U.S. forces in CBI. "You're damn right those Nisei boys have a place in the heart of America forever!" Nagaki was among those honored with the Soldiers Medal for Heroism.

In recounting his time in service Nagaki dismisses any sense of heroism or extraordinary duty. "Just served my time like any other GI," is his simple explanation. As if living among 120 Shan tribesmen, sleeping in a *basha* (hut), eating native cuisine of chicken curry and rice (not too bad compared to K and C rations) and riding elephants bareback was routine army duty. Not to mention a constant battle fighting superior numbers of the enemy.

After being honorably discharged from the Army in 1947, he married Asako "Butch" Nakazono whom he had met on a blind date while training in Minnesota. She had been his lone stateside contact during his CBI adventures and she dutifully kept Nagaki's parents as informed as is possible from censored mail. They had earlier agreed to get married only after he had returned from active duty. (By coincidence Asako's brother, Eichi, was also in the CBI while with Military Intelligence. Meanwhile Tad's older brother, Akira Skeets, was a private first class with the 442nd.)

According to Nagaki, it was no problem transitioning back to the uncluttered life of tilling the soil. With bride in tow he returned to Nebraska to start raising a family along with his beloved crops.

*[Little did Tadashi Nagaki realize his 1945 parachute jump into eastern China would be reprised a half century later in a most unexpected manner. **Next Week:** A child prisoner of Weih sien launches a belated search for the seven American parachutists.]*

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 11:12 PM

Subject: **The Saga of Tad Nagaki: Nebraska farmer to OSS Operative on Page 1 of Au...**

Subj: The Saga of Tad Nagaki: Nebraska farmer to OSS Operative on Page 1 of August 12, 2009 issue of The Rafu Shimpō

Please see The Saga of Tad Nagaki: Nebraska farmer to OSS Operative on Page 1 of August 12, 2009 issue of The Rafu Shimpō

From: "Donald Menzi" <dmenzi@earthlink.net>

To: "weih sien" <weih sien@topica.com>

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2009 3:32 AM

Subject: **James' Bird Diary**

> Hi, all,
 >
 > James' bird diary is, indeed wonderful. I think that there is also a deeper lesson that it teaches us, beyond the obvious talent, skill and devotion of James himself.
 >
 > James' teacher of bird lore was, of course, Hugh Hubbard. Hubbard, in turn, first got bitten by the bird bug through his contact with my grandfather, George Wilder. Going through some old family documents, I found the following in a Feb. 25, 1917 letter from Wilder to his mother back in the U.S.: "Hubbard is so interested in birds now that he kept me up late each night asking questions about them and then took my books to bed with him to read." Again, on Nov. 9, 1917 he writes, "Hubbard is doing a lot of fine work on the birds. He has the disease badly."
 >
 > Wilder had begun keeping a daily bird diary as a teenager in South Dakota in the 1880s one of hundreds of volunteer contributors to a nation-wide effort to track patterns of bird migration, a practice that he kept up his whole life and which he apparently passed on to Hubbard.
 >
 > The "disease" Hubbard caught from Wilder in 1917 was in turn passed on to Jamie in 1943, and the daily bird diaries that a teenager had begun keeping on the frontier in South Dakota in the 1880s eventually resulted in the beautifully illustrated web book that Leopold has crafted from Jamie's teenage work in Weih sien.
 >
 > To me, this illustrates the fact that we can never know all of the eventual consequences of what we do, and that we are often connected to each other in ways that we may never even know about.
 >
 > Donald Menzi
 >
 > P.S. Leopold you have inspired me to do something similar with George Wilder's journal of the repatriation voyage of the Weih sien inmates who were exchanged for Japanese prisoners in 1943, about a week after the Chefoo students arrived, which he titled "Birds Seen from the Decks of the Exchange Ships Teia Maru and Gripsholm."
 >
 > DM

From: "Mitch Krayton" <mitch@digital-res.com>
 To: <weih sien@topica.com>
 Sent: Friday, August 14, 2009 4:10 AM
 Subject: **Re: James' Bird Diary**

- That would be a great follow up Don. You know I have an interest in one
 - > of those folks, Helen Burton on the Gripsholm. Looking forward to your
 - > Sea Bird journal.
 - >

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
 To: weih sien@topica.com
 Sent: Friday, August 14, 2009 1:41 PM
 Subject: **Re: James' Bird Diary**

The links of the story go on.

Estelle Cliff Horne,

Please tell us the story of your bird walk with Hugh Hubbard in Weih sien and decades later in South Africa your identifying a bird by its call -- something you learned from Hugh Hubbard in Weih sien.
 Mary Previte

From: "Donald Menzi" <dmenzi@earthlink.net>
 To: <weih sien@topica.com>
 Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2009 4:02 AM
 Subject: **Re: James' Bird Diary**

- Mitch,
 - >
 - > I think that you already know this, but anyone else who is interested can view/download the Wilders' description of the Gripsholm voyage, and also watch a video of the trip, based on Gertrude Wilder's paintings and Life Magazine's photos, from:
 - >

> <http://menzi.org/Wilders/Gripsholm.htm>
>
> I'm not sure how long before I will be able to get to adding the bird photos, but Leopold's example is certainly inspiring.
>
> Donald Menzi
>

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2009 12:58 AM

Subject: **Next installments of Tad Nagaki stories**

Columnist Wimpy Hiroto says that installment 2 and 3 of the Tad Nagaki saga will appear on the next two Wednesdays in The Rafu Shimpo. Mr. Hiroto says he chose that arrangement because his columns usually appear on Wednesdays and that's when his readers expect to see them.

He says he has had a flurry of appreciative letters from Japanese-American veterans in response to this Wednesday's story about Tad Nagaki.

Thank you to those who have written tributes to Tad Nagaki in the form of Letters to the Editor in the Scottsbluff, Nebraska, **Star Herald**. The **Star Herald** covers the news in and around Tad Nagaki's home town of Alliance, Nebraska. As far as I know, these Letters to the Editor have not yet appeared in that newspaper. It may be that the editor is waiting until August 17, Liberation Day to print them.

Mary Previte

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2009 7:49 AM

Subject: **rafu shimpo**

Dear Mary,

I don't remember if you wrote that I could (or not yet) reproduce the first part of The Rafu Shimpo's article about Tad Nagaki --- but here it is:

[http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/The7Magnificent/Tad_2009/RafuShimpo/p_09-0812-part\(1\).htm](http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/The7Magnificent/Tad_2009/RafuShimpo/p_09-0812-part(1).htm)

--- also click on the book with the flipping pages --- (the reading is more comfortable)

Best regards,

Leopold

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2009 11:35 AM

Subject: **Liberation Day**

Who could EVER forget this day!

Leopold, would you post a link to the photo of Weih sien going mad with joy, surrounding American liberators?

Mary Previte

From: Tapol

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2009 3:50 PM

Subject: **Re: Liberation Day**

Hello,
go to:
<http://www.weih sien->



[paintings.org/NormanCliff/liberationDay/p-liberation.htm](http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/NormanCliff/liberationDay/p-liberation.htm)

and left-click once on the yellow magnifying glass

--- and the B-24 --- "Armored Angel"

http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/The7Magnificent/photos/p_ArmoredAngel.htm

Best regards,
Leopold

From: [Estelle Horne nee Cliff](mailto:Estelle.Horne.nee.Cliff@topica.com)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2009 10:01 PM

Subject: **Re: Hugh Hubbard**

We girls were not involved in the bird-watching like the boys, but there came a day when we were invited. Hubbard had obtained permission to go into the out-of-bounds area, where the Japanese officers' houses were, to show a special bird, and we were invited to come along too.

The special bird was a golden oriole, and as we silently crept up on it, it was singing in a tree high above us. This was my first encounter with wild birds, and I didn't especially remember the song, but decades later, when my family were in the foothills of the great Drakensberg mountains in Natal, South Africa, I recognised the song! There in the main street of this little village was an oriole!

It reminded me of those few minutes of freedom enjoyed so long ago, and of the adults who went out of their way to lift our spirits above the hardships of everyday life. We owe them a lot.

Estelle Cliff Horne

From: [Peter Bazire](mailto:Peter.Bazire@topica.com)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2009 9:46 PM

Subject: **Chinese kites. Golden orioles**

Hullo,

In Aug 2005 when I was in Weifang, I met a Chinese lady doctor, who worked in the nearby hospital, and her young daughter. A few weeks after returning home I sent her some of my mother's paintings, mainly of Weih sien Camp. In return I was amazed to receive from her a parcel about 2 cubic feet, and even more surprised when it contained 3 kites: a butterfly, a dragonfly and a bird of prey. Chinese students visiting us here in Bath assembled them for us, being very nimble fingered. We have the kites on walls in our home, looking magnificent. We couldn't risk flying them: too precious!
Estelle, you mention golden orioles. I well remember often hearing

a distinctive bird sound in Chefoo (Yantai) but never seeing the birds. It was not until we moved to Weih sien in Sept '43 that I **saw** them: golden orioles! Here they would fly from branch to branch or tree. A beautiful sight. I mentioned them in my "Scout 1st Class Journey" (see Weih sien web-site).
Peter

From: [Dwight W. Whipple](mailto:Dwight.W.Whipple)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2009 10:09 PM

Subject: **Re: Chinese kites. Golden orioles**

Peter,
This is a long shot. I am Dwight Whipple, son of Elden & Marian Whipple of the CIM. We were in Weih sien in 1943 too but I am interested in your reference to "Bath." Is that Bath, Maine, USA? We spent some vacation time years ago at Westport Island near Bath and Boothbay Harbor. Same place? Just curious.
~Dwight

From: Tapol
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2009 10:03 AM

Subject: **Re: Chinese kites. Golden orioles**

Hello,
It is a very nice sound indeed !
When you are in James's bird diary, go to page "two". There are several thumbnail pictures of the "Golden Oriole" on that page --- Just underneath the picture(s) there is a nice (small) round face with two blinking eyes. [Click on that!](#)
You will see in a new window a URL with much more info about the Golden Oriole --- click on LISTEN/PLAY.
Best regards,
Leopold

From: "Peter Bazire" <psbazire@yahoo.co.uk>
To: <weih sien@topica.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2009 8:50 PM
Subject: **RE: Chinese kites. Golden orioles**

Hullo Dwight,
Thanks for writing. No, the Bath we live in is in England. What is curious is that your parents and mine met in the USA in the autumn of 1939. There is quite a story there which I'll write about in a separate email.
Peter

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 2:09 AM

Subject: **RAFU SHIMPO, Tad Nagaki story, installment 2**

You can see the full front page of the Wednesday, August 19 issue of Rafu Shimpō at <http://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODE/RafuShimpō/>. The Tad Nagaki story is on the lower right corner.

The 3rd installment will appear next Wednesday telling the astonishing coincidence that columnist Wimpy Hiroto discovered in interviewing Tad Nagaki, that he (Mr. Hiroto) had been interned with and knew the parents of Tad Nagaki's fiance in the Poston Internment camp in Arizona where Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II.

Mary Previte

CROSSROADS TO SOMEWHERE
Tad Nagaki: The Savior Angel

By W.T. Wimpy Hiroto

This is the second installment of a series, which started last Wednesday.

Fhlop. Fhlop. Fhlop. Fhlop. The Angels of Mercy suddenly appeared from the belly of the lumbering, lowflying B-47 bomber. Fhlop. Fhlop. Fhlop. Seven parachutes, one after another, popped open in the sweltering heat of that Aug. 17, 1945 morning, sixty-four years ago. Brisk winds buffeted the chutes as they rapidly descended on the corn field outside Weihshien Civilian Assembly Center in eastern China.

Fifteen hundred civilian prisoners of war cheered in unison as the parachutes floated earthward. They laughed and cried. They cheered and prayed. Men ripped off their shirts to give them something to wave skyward. The cacophony impossibly increased with the appearance of each ensuing jumper.

In the midst of the madness stood a strangely calm young child, Mary Taylor, a 12-year-old who had been separated from her missionary parents at war's onset. At the age of 9 she and her siblings had been marched into captivity with other children, Christian missionaries and teachers. By this time the four Taylor youngsters had not seen their parents for 5 ½ years.

As the American bomber disgorged it's final parachutist and banked to safety, Mary smiled knowingly after spotting the name painted on its nose, "Armoured Angel. " It couldn't have been otherwise. She was reminded of her mother's long ago recitation of Psalm 91: "And He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you."

The celebration and rejoicing was unending. The rescuers were escorted into the compound, everyone seeking some remembrance of the occasion, a button, shards from a parachute, autographs, insignia, a lock of hair.

It seemed appropriate they break into American song: "You are my Sunshine" and "Happy Days (are here again)." Seeking anything remotely Yankee, an impromptu few innings of baseball were also played.

Despite the imprint of war and its lasting impact, a child's resilience and ability to recover converged as young Mary and siblings were united with their parents (as well as a new brother) and returned to the United States. Weihshien eventually became a distant memory. The years in China were replaced with the joys of growing up as an American in America.

•
Fifty two years later, Memorial Day week of 1997, Mary Taylor Previte was campaigning for a seat in the New Jersey Assembly when asked to be a substitute speaker before a group of veterans of the China-Burma-India Veterans Association. Although she had never heard of the group, the CBI reference brought about a cold chill and goose bumps. Her long ago rescuers were a part of that World War II campaign!

[Twelve years earlier Previte by chance had discovered a declassified military report on the Weihshien internment camp mission; it also contained the names of the seven members of the Duck rescue team. The list was tucked away in a drawer all those years, but was now nervously retrieved as she outlined the talk she planned to give. Vivid memories of that memorable 1945 morning returned as she addressed 150 elderly CBI vets. The climax of her speech was a recitation of the rescuer's names. Could it be possible someone in the audience that evening might be familiar with any one of the seven?]

There was no miracle recognition. But there was total agreement amongst the audience that a search should be launched to find her long ago hero Angels. They urged her to write a story in their national magazine to publicize and seek outside assistance. She sat down and wrote her poignant account of the rescue.

Results and reaction were almost immediate. After the meeting a Maryland veteran took her roster of seven, made a computer search of every telephone number listed in the United States (thousands) that matched her name list! With hundreds of telephone numbers and addresses scattered over her kitchen table, she started her daunting task by initially sending out some self-addressed, stamped envelopes: "Are you the Stanley Staiger who liberated the Weihshien concentration camp in China?"

A trickle of responses came in. "God bless you in your search", they said, but no hero was uncovered. The first break came in September of 1997. A nurse, having read about the search in the CBI magazine, informed her of a sister who lived next door to Raymond Hanchulak, the mission medic!

Hanchulak's widow answered the telephone. He had died a year earlier. Previte began to wonder if her contacts would all end in conversations with widows. The second call, tracing radio operator Peter Orlich, seemed to confirm her fears. He had died four years earlier. Third name on her list was Tadashi Nagaki, Japanese American interpreter on the Duck roster. Holding her breath she carefully dialed Alliance, Neb.

"I'm calling for Tadashi Nagaki," she whispered when the telephone was answered. "Speaking," the voice replied.

•
Mary T. Previte had found her first live hero! Between sobs of happiness and relief she was able to explain the complete history of her determined search to a stunned Nebraska farmer, a half century and thousands of miles removed from her emotional recitation.

There are no guidelines on what to talk about under these stressful circumstances. During the course of the *get-acquainted conversation she did most of the talking, learning about his background, family (a recent widower) and farm. She asked how he felt with all of the camp children following him around like

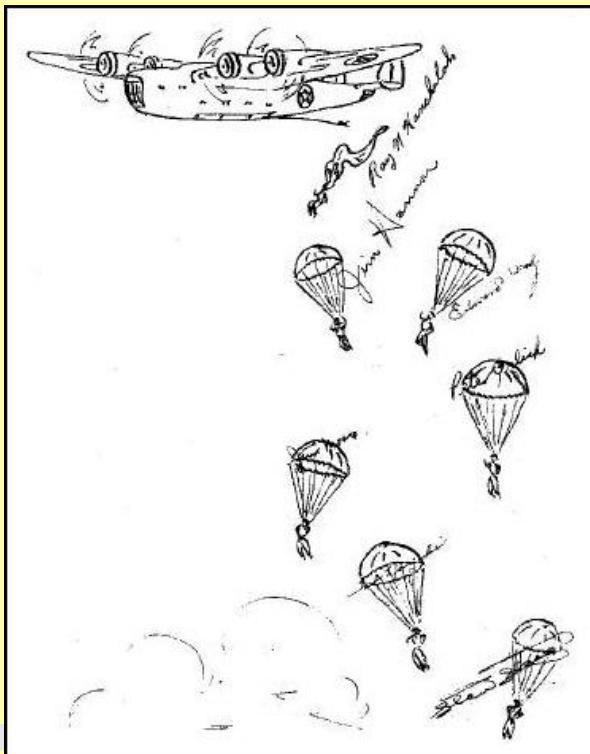
he was the Pied Piper. He was reticent and rather stoic throughout, admitting to feeling like being on an undeserved pedestal. He remembered a girl cutting off a chunk of his hair so she'd have a souvenir.

("I remember that first telephone call from 'the lady,'" Nagaki states matter of factly. "I really didn't know what to say or how to react. It was just such a weird experience, a call like that from out of the blue.")

Finally reaching a mutual comfort level, Nagaki explained that he had stayed in touch with fellow team member Jim Moore. What a relief, thought Previte. There were 150 James Moores on the search log she now would not have to canvass. He, in turn, later located Stanley Staiger by checking a program which listed every driver's license in the United States! (Eddie Cheng-Han Wang, the Chinese interpreter and a Chinese national, was the only one of the seven not tracked down.)

Previte then made it an additional mission to criss-cross America to personally visit each of her living heroes and kept in touch via phone and mail. She also contacted chambers of commerce, veteran groups and newspapers in the cities where the members resided, notifying them and writing stories about their under-publicized wartime exploits.

When she traveled to Nebraska for her first face to face with Nagaki, Previte was impressed by his modesty and refusal to accept anything resembling special status. But she knew of the perils of a Nisei being captured by the Imperial Army yet could never get Tad to admit to anything except simply being an American in uniform. As to the danger of being mis-identified as an enemy soldier by Allied troops, he merely shrugs with a patient "I never gave it any thought" reply.



Nagaki is now the sole living member of Duck Team. He suffered through a bout with pneumonia and more recently had a serious fall from his truck resulting in the fracture of his pelvis. Due to physical infirmities he has sharply reduced his active hands-on farming supervision but still oversees some acreage to remain involved. He will be 90 years old next January.

[In next week's third and concluding column on the Nagaki-Previte story, a personal view of Nagaki, his wife, family background, how Crossroads to Somewhere came upon the story and why it took two years to complete.]

W.T. Wimpy Hiroto can be reached at wimpyhiroto@att.net Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of The Rafu Shimpo.

Prisoner artist's sketch of Duck Team parachutists autographed by the seven liberators. Nagaki was the second jumper.

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 12:22 PM

Subject: **"You are my sunshine."**

With the death of Senator Ted Kennedy (youngest brother of President John Kennedy), the NEW YORK TIMES reports that in his final days, Senator Kennedy "took phone calls from [President Obama](#), house calls from his priest and — just a few weeks ago — crooned after-dinner duets of "You Are My Sunshine" (with his son Patrick) and "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" (with wife Vicki)."

"You are my Sunshine" -- now THAT floods me with memories. After our American liberators came in August 1945, we children trailed them unmercifully everywhere. We begged for their autographs, their buttons, their insignia, pieces of parachute. Remember sitting with them in the evenings in the spot just outside the Japanese commandant's office (where they took up residence) and begging them to sing the songs of America?

They taught us to sing "You are my Sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me happy when skies are blue." After nearly 65 years, I sing it still.

What else do you remember doing with our heroes in those days after our liberation?

Leopold, would you give us the link to the National Public Radio interview with Major Staiger, Jim Moore, and Jim Hannon that includes reference to the song, "You are my Sunshine"?

When National Public Radio was preparing this interview, the producer asked me what version of "You are my Sunshine" was popular in America in 1944. He wanted the broadcast to present the accurate

version. Well, bless my soul! A child born in China with no radios around, I had no clue what songs were popular in the USA in the USA when these men had last been home. All I remember is wanting sit on the laps of these heroes, to be near them, to touch them. They were my favorite version of "You are my Sunshine."

What do you remember?

Mary Previte

From: [Albert de Zutter](mailto:Albert.de.Zutter)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2009 9:06 PM

Subject: **Re: "You are my sunshine."**

Dear Leopold,

Thanks for the cute rendition of "You Are My Sunshine." Best wishes to all in Belgium.

Albert

--- On **Fri, 8/28/09**, Tapol <tapol@skynet.be> wrote:

From: Tapol <tapol@skynet.be>

Subject: Re: "You are my sunshine."

To: weih sien@topica.com

Date: Friday, August 28, 2009, 10:34 AM

dear Mary,

I bet you will like this link on U-Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfXkt6WnOBw&feature=related>

best regards,

Leopold

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 2:23 AM

Subject: **Letters to the editor honoring Tad Nagaki**

Weih sien liberator Tad Nagaki was spotlighted today (Sunday, August 30) with a **full-page** story and nine tributes in the form of your letters to the editor in the **Scottsbluff (Nebraska) Star Herald**, the largest newspaper in his area. .

Thank you, Thank you. Thank you to each of you who sent tribute letters to the Star Herald. You've given joy to a hero. Tad told me tonight that letters came from England, Belgium, Canada, and the USA. Some writers, he says, did not identify their country

Under the headline, **An Unknown Hero**, the tribute also includes photographs of Tad Nagaki receiving the Soldiers Medal in 1945 for his role in the liberation of Weih sien; a picture of him with Major Stanley Staiger, Ensign Jim Moore, and medic Raymond Hanchulak. and a photo of him with the OSS Detachment 101 elite Nisei team that operated behind Japanese lines in the China, Burma, India Theater of Operations in World War II.

Tad is delighted. Now, believe me, **that's** something. Tad expressing delight? Tad, who always tells me he's not a hero, usually shuns the spotlight, and is most comfortable in the solitude of his tractor and hangs out in the local tractor supply store. He says in liberating Weih sien, he was doing only what any American would have done. Bless you all! Today he's delighted.

A FULL PAGE SPOTLIGHT -- As you can guess, the phone calls and greetings have already started coming in to him. I'll touch base with Tad tomorrow evening to hear all about the comments he gets when he goes into town tomorrow.

At age 89, Tad still farms in Alliance, Nebraska, America's heartland. He lives alone. His wife and three sons are all dead.

You computer experts, see if you can access this page about our last living American who liberated Weih sien.

By the way, Columnist Wimpy Hiroto, who wrote the three-part series about Tad Nagaki in the **Rafu**

Shimpo newspaper, tells me that this is the first time in his memory that stories by a columnist have appeared on the front pages of Rafu Shimpo. Rafu Shimpo is based in Los Angeles.

Mary Previte

From: [Mitch Krayton](mailto:Mitch_Krayton)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 2:32 AM

Subject: **Re: Letters to the editor honoring Tad Nagaki**

You need no further proof of the power of the Internet. Well done to all in honoring Tad.

Giving him delight is a small price to pay for his acts of heroic liberation.

Mitch

From: [Kay Rictor](mailto:Kay_Rictor)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 6:50 AM

Subject: Re: "You are my sunshine."

I love that song. I was writing to find out how to get the third article and then also how to access the newspaper surprise for TadThank youso much ..thanks again for all you do to keep us Chefusians informed
Kathleen Rictor (Nordmo)

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 2:34 PM

Subject: **Tad Nagaki tribute letters and story**

Alas, I too, have been unable to find on the Internet this story about Tad Nagaki. My information comes from phoning Tad last night and asking him to tell me all about it. However, Tad has promised to send me the full page. I'll phone the **Star Herald** today to thank them for this beautiful tribute page and ask if they would forward to me via e-mail their article and the tribute letters to the editor.

If any of you who sent letters to the editor to the Star Herald prefer NOT to have us post your letters, please let me know.

Getting public recognition for a very private 89-year-old hero involves respecting his right to privacy and, at the same time, recognizing a newspaper's enthusiasm for a powerful human interest story about a local farmer. Before I suggested our sending letters to the editor, I sent my own letter and telephoned the editor and asked if he would print other letters if they came from around the world. He was IMMEDIATELY interested and also wanted to write a story about Tad Nagaki.

But I didn't want to offend Tad Nagaki -- who has suffered from some inaccurate reporting in the past . So I phoned him and told him that I had sent a tribute to him in a letter to the editor -- timed for Liberation Day. That wasn't a big shock because I always phone him on Liberation Day. When he didn't object, I told him that the newspaper wanted to interview him. Would he like to talk to a reporter? I assured him that I would respect either a YES or a NO answer. When he said yes, it took some coordinating to connect the reporter with Tad Nagaki when Tad was available at his home.

After Tad seemed comfortable with being spotlighted in the newspaper, I asked if others of you would like to send tributes in the form of letters to the editor. These were a COMPLETE SURPRISE to Tad. And he was delighted.

Tad told me last night that the reporter interviewed him in a local restaurant. Tad avoids asking folks to meet him at his home because, when it rains, some of the country roads, he says, are almost impassable.

We're going through these same discussions with the producer of the proposed Eric Liddell movie, who is hoping to interview Tad for background information on the liberation of Weih sien.

Mary Previte

From: [David Birch](mailto:David_Birch)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 4:11 PM

Subject: **Re: Letters to the editor honoring Tad Nagaki**

Wonderful! Thanks for sharing this! Tad, along with his teammates, was certainly a hero to all of us at Weih sien in 1945. After sixty-four years, I no longer am able to distinguish Tad in my memory as an individual. But I certainly know he was a vital member of our team of rescuers. Certainly one of my heroes! The only paratroopers that I can clearly differentiate in my memory from the group are our own Chefoo grad, Jim Moore, and the teen-age Chinese interpreter whose name eludes me. There was another young man who gave us a "re-orientation" talk about what we could expect once we got home again. I remember being fascinated by his description of helicopters (which he pronounced: HEE-helicopters). Then there was the big tall, handsome blond paratrooper whom I and Raymond Trickey met at the edge of a gaoliang field striding toward the camp and who accepted a drink of water from us and made us feel really SPECIAL!

I write recently to Tad Nagaki and sent him a birthday/thankyou card. And I phoned and spoke personally to Jim Moore just a few days before I learned he had died. He was really friendly and reminisced briefly about Weih sien and Chefoo where he had graduated a few years earlier.

Many blessings! And thanks again for all your generous sharing!

David Birch

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 4:23 PM

Subject: **Re: Letters to the editor honoring Tad Nagaki**

David:

The Chinese interpreter was "Eddie" Cheng Han Wang. I've tried unsuccessfully to find him. Last year during the Szechuan Earthquake, when I saw the by-line, EDWARD WANG, on a story from the New York Times, I wrote asking if he or his family were related to the Eddie Wang who liberated Weih sien. He said he was not.

Mary Previte

From: MTPrevite@aol.com

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 5:30 PM

Subject: **Rafu Shimpo, Tad Nagaki, installment #3**

Here is story #3 from Rafu Shimpo, August 26, 2009

CROSSROADS TO SOMEWHERE

The Nagaki & Prevites Story: Final Installment

By W.T. Wimpy Hiroto

This is the final installment of a series, which started Aug. 12.

Compiling the Tadashi Nagaki and Mary Previte stories was one of the most challenging assignments I've confronted in some time. Probably

on the same scale as the two-part series I wrote several years ago regarding Pfc Joe Shiomichi of the 442nd RCT and the tragic effect this battlefield death had on his wife and later the daughter he never saw. But why bother readers complaining about the difficulties faced in composing a story?

If I happened to be a chicken rancher I don't imagine you would be much interested in an explanation of how to capon a rooster; or if a mechanic, how you go about priming a NASCAR racer. (In case anyone wants to know, a rooster is castrated and raised as a capon for meat; I don't know nothing about cars.)

That being said, this story behind the story deserves a review. First to point out why it took more than TWO years to finally appear on the pages of the Rafu Shimpo and secondly, the obstacles overcome compiling this series of columns.

•

Nori Uyematsu, a Korean War veteran, initially provided the background information regarding the Nagaki story, providing me with important details about Mary Previte's persistent hero search. (There had been an earlier story about Duck Team that Nagaki was not completely comfortable with and thus leery of any sort of reprise.)

After making contact with Previte I put the story on hold for additional research and later direct contact with Tadashi Nagaki to get his approval. Once the project was revived the first order of business was to convince him the unique story was worth repeating. His inherent reticence and modesty made him hesitate talking to a strange reporter calling from Los Angeles.

Unconditional endorsement and encouragement by Previte was the deal-maker. She was so pleased that a Japanese American publication would give her friend the recognition she felt so strongly he deserved. Even at this late date.

I was most interested in his personal recollections and thoughts rather than the usual genre of combat and military stuff. Dealing with taciturnity and a disinclination to open up makes telephonic interviewing a trying task. Eventually talking about mutual widower status and having also experienced the loss of a son helped create a level of trust. And the sheer coincidence of knowing of his wife in Poston Relocation Center was a bonus factor.

Using a Crossroads to Somewhere version of "Six Degrees of Separation" was the final ice breaker. You know the game: Two complete strangers meet and it takes only six names before you find a mutual connection. As created by W.T. Hiroto for Tadashi Nagaki, the connection went like this:

I lived in Poston Unit One Block 53-1-C (which means absolutely nada when talking to a native Nebraskan who had never experienced Evacuation). A friend and teammate, Toshio "Joker" Okamura lived in 53-5-D. He had an older brother, Henry Naohiko, who had a steady girl friend named Mary. She, in turn, had an older sister, Atsuko, nicknamed "Butch", who left camp for a job in Minneapolis. A friend arranges a blind date for her with a shy and lonesome soldier. Who turns out to be Tadashi Nagaki. Voila! Six Degrees of Separation.

Finally gaining some semblance of trust I still couldn't get him to reveal what his exact thoughts were as he parachuted onto the corn field outside Weishun Civilian Assembly Center, not knowing whether there were Japanese troops awaiting their arrival or maybe poisoned punji sticks. He would shrug off the question saying there wasn't time to think.

No, unlike Ms. Previte, CR2S does not plan to visit the down-to and of-the-earth Nebraska farmer, although the thought of at least one visit to America's heartland does have appeal. Watching wheat grow or sugar beets being harvested might not be as exciting as a Manny Ramirez home run but I'm willing to wager I could probably gain Tad's attention if I said something disparaging about the Cornhusker's football team.

I readily admit to having an over abundance of material for this series, thanks in part to the prolific and generous Mary Previte. I gained her attention and cooperation when told I wanted to focus the series of articles on her hero and friend, Tadashi Nagaki, the one who wants nothing to do with talk of heroism or its accompanying accouterments.

It is truly a pleasure but a problem communicating with someone who doesn't enjoy talking about himself. But the several conversations I had with Nagaki were as refreshing as a nor'easter, nary a single boast or "I" statement. (I do wish the fact that only a Poston Recreation Hall building separating me from his wife-to-be would rank higher on his list of astonishing coincidences!)

Citing family history was once a staple in all Nisei newspaper stories, be it a wedding, story of achievement or business venture; the information given to inform readership of the principal's background and history. Nagaki's family tree begins in 1881 in Saga, Yamaguchi prefecture, with Minosuke, 21, finding himself in Hawaii at the turn of the century. Arriving in the United States in 1906 he worked in and around San Francisco, traveling to Seattle in 1916 to marry picture bride Shige Kato.

Railroad employment took the Nagakis to the North Platte Valley region of Nebraska where the first three of the clan's offspring were born, Tadashi the third born in 1920. Eventually there would be four sons and two daughters. Both Minosuke and Shige achieved citizenship status in 1953.

With the untimely deaths of all three sons of Tad and Asako, it appears a near century of Nebraska farming by nurturing Nagaki hands will eventually come to an end. Because of physical infirmities and encroaching age Tad has had to drastically curtail his daily farming responsibilities. With none of the family grandchildren interested, the epochal era of Nagaki agriculturists in Nebraska will become past history. Tad will celebrate his 90th birth date this coming January.

It is not exactly professional to tack on personal messages to public writings but I have to thank Mary for her gracious sharing, Nori for identifying a good story and Tadashi for his patience and understanding. Sir, stay well. Myanmar it is today but I'm sure it will forever be a memorable Burma as far as you are concerned.

W.T. Wimpy Hiroto can be reached at wimpyhiroto@att.net. Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of The Rafu Shimpō.

Courtesy of The NAGAKIS
Nagaki with his wife, Atsuko on their 38th anniversary.

Mary Previte and Tad Nagaki at their first meeting.

From: Tapol
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 5:32 PM
Subject: **Re: "You are my sunshine."**

Dear Natasha,
click on the book with the flipping pages ---
let me know if it works for you?
Here is the short cut: [click on the link]
[http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/The7Magnificent/Tad_2009/RafuShimpo/p_part\(3\)text.htm](http://www.weih sien-paintings.org/The7Magnificent/Tad_2009/RafuShimpo/p_part(3)text.htm)
Best regards,

Leopold

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

From: [Natasha Petersen](mailto:Natasha.Petersen)
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 5:56 PM
Subject: **Re: "You are my sunshine."**

HELP!
The third article(August 26th) is too small or too large to read.
What do I do?
Natasha Petersen

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Saturday, September 05, 2009 1:53 AM
Subject: **Tad Nagaki story, Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

Today, the mailman delivered the full page story about Tad Nagaki from the Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Star Herald. Under a bank of pictures and the story written by a local reporter is another headline:

Alliance Man Remains A Hero to Survivors of Japanese Camp

Eight Letters to the Editor (or excerpts) fill the rest of the page. Letters are from **Leopold Pander**, Belgium; **Bill Varnedoe**; **Neil Yorkston**, England; **Peter Bazire**, England; **Jeanne Pander**, Belgium; **Kathleen Nordmo Rictor**, Ocean Shores, Washington, USA; **Audrey Nordmo Horton**, Canada; **Mary Taylor Previte**, USA

The editor declined to send the article and the letters to me via e-mail. I've retyped the story (see below).

From: **Scottsbluff Star Herald (Nebraska)**
Sunday, August 30, 2009

An Unknowing HERO

By Chabella Guzman

Alliance, Nebraska--

Tad Nagaki entered the military in November of 1941.

He figured he would do a year and be done but then World War II broke out..

"I was in Fort Leavenworth when the war broke out and was transferred to the Quarter Masters, Fort Morgan in Kentucky," he said.

Nagaki, now 89, would go on to become part of an elite team of Nisei in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Detachment 101, where he acted as an interpreter. He entered the Pacific Theater in 1944 and was part of the Burma campaign.

"When the war ended the OSS sent us to the POW camps," Nagaki said. "They were all civilian camps and I was supposed to translate."

He did not do much translating, but the impressions he and other members that parachuted in to free the POWs have been remembered for years.

When the Allied prisoners from the Weih sien Civilian Assembly Center in China's Shantung province saw the parachutes, they were overcome with joy. In one account made by Mary T. Previte, who was just a young girl in the camp at the time, when they saw the troops, everyone in the camp was elated.

"I raced for the entrance gate and was swept off my feet by the pandemonium. Men ripped off their shirts and waved at the bomber circling above. Prisoners ran in circles and pounded the skies with their fists. They wept, hugged, cursed, and danced. Waves of prisoners swept past the guards into the fields beyond the camp," she wrote.

Nagaki and his troop unknowingly had become heroes, not just to Previte, but also to hundreds of the people who had been in the camp for years.

Another POW, Jeanne Pander of Belgium, also remembered the day in a letter.

"A very hot summer day, people at their various tasks, listless yet hopeful, waiting, we knew the war was over, then suddenly a plane, yes American, then the parachutes! Grown-ups were yelling, cheering, crying we're free, we're free! We weren't forgotten after all! And everyone rushed through the gates to welcome our American Angels! After more than two years behind walls my world went topsy-turvy. I had to dare to go 'out of bounds,' discover the feel of the wind on my face, make my legs run on unknown ground, learn to eat again. No more roll-call rituals. I had yet to come to terms with the word Freedom," she said.

The prisoners who were children at the time speak of gum and Nagaki and the others playing softball with them.

When he hears those stories, Nagaki smiles saying it all happened so long ago that he doesn't remember a lot.

"They asked for volunteers to go and help and I volunteered. We were there for a week," he said.

For him, it was just what he was there to do. He doesn't see himself as a hero, but that's what heroes often say about their acts of kindness and courage. #

From: [David Birch](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 1:58 AM

Subject: **Re: Tad Nagaki story, Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

Thanks again, Mary, for faithfully sharing yet another story with us, your fellow internees of sixty-four and more years ago! It's true, that was a thrilling time. Somehow I do not personally recall Tad Nagaki. My friend, Raymond Trickey, and I headed straight out the main gate of the camp where a crowd was already surging past the Japanese guard house. Trickey and I carried a fairly small bucket of water over the little bridge that spanned the Wei River, a mere trickle of a creek in mid-August. It was Raymond Trickey's idea and I was delighted to join him. We carried out little bucket of water out to the edge of a gaoliang field where we met a tall, blond American paratrooper. We asked him, "Are you thirsty sir?" And with a big, friendly smile he looked down at us and said, "You bet, boys!" Then he lifted out bucket up to his lips and quaffed a generous libation of our little offering. I'm sure he did it just to "make our day!" And that he certainly did! Raymond and I then trailed along behind our hero as he strode along the way we had come and entered the camp's main gate! By this time, the welcoming band made up of internees was

already playing rousing music to greet our wonderful liberators!

I know that Tad Nagaki was one of these men, and I have sent him birthday greetings a year or two ago, though I just can't quite "place" him. Still I thank God for Tad! And I'm sure that he is deeply thankful for you, Mary, who have put so many folk in touch with him. You have done so much to improve the quality of life, and boost the morale of those heroic paratroopers from long ago 1945! You've also done so much to keep your fellow internees, including myself, in touch with one another!

Thanks again, Mary!

David Birch

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:26 AM
Subject: **Re: Tad Nagaki story, Scottsbluff, Nebraska**

What a beautiful story, David! I hope you'll post this detailed account on the Weih sien site.

Tad Nagaki was an ethnic Japanese and quite short. I'm guessing the American to whom you gave the water was either 1st Lt. Jim Hannon or Raymond Hanchulak, the medic on the team.

Mary

From: Tapol
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 1:27 PM
Subject: **Fw: Liberation Day**

Hello,

--- sorry for coming back so late but the interview Mary wanted to remind you was dated May 11, 2000 and had already been archived by the radio company.

So, --- with Mary's help, we had to re-contact the radio Co. and ask if they could re-activate Mary's interview for our non-commercial-non-lucrative-access-to-all-website. A very comprehensive person at the copyright department helped us and after a few modifications on the Weih sien-Paintings' website reactivated the page.

go to: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1073995>

--- or, in Mary's chapter: click on "national-public-radio" by scrolling the left-Frame. You will need to download "Real-Player" from the internet. It is free. The first time I clicked to hear the interview, the program asked me to download a complementary "codec" ---- which I did. It now works perfectly.

Hope it will be the same for you all ---

Best regards,

Leopold

From: MTPrevite@aol.com
To: weih sien@topica.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 9:47 PM
Subject: **Smithsonian museum -- The Price of Freedom exhibit**

Weih sien artifacts continue to be part of the amazing **THE PRICE OF FREEDOM** exhibit in the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History (NMAH) in Washington, DC, USA.

The museum's Deputy Registrar told me today that 4.5 million visitors have seen the display in the last year. The display had been closed for a while as the museum underwent renovation.

The Weih sien exhibit, of course, is just a small part of this monumental recollection of America's wars, well worth a visit if you're in the Washington, D.C., area. Included in the Weih sien collection is the piece of faded silk parachute, autographed by our seven liberators and embroidered with images of the B-24 and the liberators parachuting through the sky. The date, **August 17, 1945**, is embroidered in the upper left hand corner. The roof of the Weih sien church is embroidered in the lower right. Embroidered by a woman from the camp, this treasure was given as a goodbye gift to radio operator, Peter Orlich, as

he was leaving Weih sien to help establish an OSS base in Tsingtao. Carol Orlich, Peter's widow, gave it to me in 1997 when I successfully tracked down our liberators or their widows. Carol confessed that it had been hidden in a dresser drawer through all these years. We've been unsuccessful in finding out who embroidered this piece of silk parachute as a gift to Peter. The NMAH display also includes photographs of our American liberators and a baby bonnet autographed on the brim by these heroes.

You will find the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, in Washington, D.C.

Many of you will remember that Pete -- at age 21 and the youngest member of the team -- was the darling of many Weih sien ladies. Of the American liberators, Major Stanley Staiger, Ensign Jim Moore, 1st Lt. James Hannon were all married. Tad Nagaki was engaged to be married. Pete was one of only two who were unattached -- Orlich and Raymond Hanchulak.

Some of you may not know that Ensign Jim Moore had attended the Chefoo School for the children of missionaries to China, had graduated in 1936, returned to the USA, graduated from college in Texas, then joined the FBI. When he learned in the school's alumni magazine that the school had been interned by the Japanese, he resigned from the FBI, join the Navy, and headed to China, dreaming of liberating his classmates. In August 1945, he volunteered for the liberation team -- to liberate his teachers and his classmates.

Many of the Chefoo School teachers in Weih sien knew and recognized Jim Moore when he helped liberate the camp as did many of the older Chefoo students in Weih sien.

What an amazing story!

Mary Previte

From: [Ron Bridge](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 10:41 PM

Subject: **RE: Weih sien DR H H Louks**

Dear All,

I have had query by someone living in the UK who was born in Weih sien on June 27 1943. She was born with a cleft palate and Dr Harold Louks did an operation on her she would like to get in touch with Dr Louks descendants, she has not given me her e-mail which I am trying to get - contact to date has been by mail.

All I have on Dr Louks is that he was from the Peking Union Medical college and with this wife Mary and son Charles was on the Gripsholm exchange in late 1943 and that the NY Times gives his home-town as Alverton PA.

If anybody can be of help come back on my own address rwbridge@freeuk.com

Rgds

Ron Bridge

Weih sien Bloc 42 then 13

From: [Donald Menzi](#)

To: weih sien@topica.com

Sent: Saturday, November 07, 2009 4:42 AM

Subject: **RE: Weih sien DR H H Louks**

Ron,

If you are ever able to track down the Louks family, let me know. I've got a great letter from my grandfather describing a wild-boar hunting trip that he, Dr. Louks and some other friends in Shansi province, which they might find interesting.

Don Menzi

From: "R. E. Stannard Jr." <restannardjr@yahoo.com>

To: <weih sien@topica.com>

Cc: "Donald Menzi" <dmenzi@earthlink.net>; <rwbridge@freeuk.com>; "carl scovel" <carlscovel@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, November 08, 2009 5:04 AM

Subject: **RE: Weih sien DR H H Loucks (correct)**

It is Loucks with a "c" -- for those searching further...

I'm only an occasional lurker on this listserv, since my internment (at 11) was at Chapei in Shanghai, not Weih sien.

But I too was on the Gripsholm in fall 1943 (at 12), and ran with a little Gang of Five that included also Charlie Loucks, Johnny Hayes, David Filippi, and Carl Scovel.

Carl, a Weih sien kid and now a retired Boston Unitarian minister, has been a friend since we met again post WWII at Shanghai American School.

But my Google search for information on the other three in recent years hasn't turned up much except on Charlie, who was the son of Peking surgeon Dr. Harold H. Loucks. Dr. Loucks had been doctor on the famed 1920s Mongolian expeditions of zoologist explorer Roy Chapman Andrews that first uncovered dinosaur eggs.

The Charlie I knew grew up to be mountain climber Charles L. Loucks, a legend among fellow alpinists, especially in New York State. He fell to his death in the Tetons in 1976.

I'm appending only an excerpt of the most informative source, but will e-mail my entire file directly to anyone who wants to see it, including scanty information and references on both father and son, and a group photo of H.H.Loucks with the expedition in the desert. Would like to share in anything turned up further.

-- Ted Stannard

Here's the Charlie story, with URL:

www.americanalpineclub.org/AAJO/pdfs/1977/inmemoriam1977_306-315.pdf

CHARLES LOUCKS 1932-1976

"Chuck" was born in China, the son of American medical missionaries, educated in the United States and taught in a Long Island school.

For the past fifteen years, climbing was his real vocation. Spring and fall his habitat was the Shawangunks, though on long weekends he could be found at Poco-Moonshine or the White Mountain cliffs.

Come summer he climbed mountains. He ranged from the Alps to the Brooks Range, the Canadian Rockies to the Wind Rivers. He fed on gorp and glop and could cook a one-pot feast under any conditions.

He climbed gracefully, smoothly, with a rhythm and balance always admired by onlookers. He brought enthusiasm and puckish humor to every climb. On Easter he was known to have climbed Bunny in the Gunks to distribute jelly beans and a plastic rabbit. He shared his enthusiasm by introducing young people to the sport and teaching them the wonder of the classic routes.

Essentially a private person, few people could say they knew him well. Yet he was highly prized as a climbing, tenting, traveling or bivouacking companion.

For several years he served as the New York representative of the AAC and was a past member of the house committee. He was a serious collector of Alpine literature and spent many evenings at the Club library sharing his knowledge of the books and photographs.

Charles Loucks died of injuries sustained in a fall while climbing with friends in the Tetons on August 27, 1976.

....

=== Alan Rubin, climber From: Amherst, MA.

Chuck Loucks was one of the all-time nice guys in climbing---a gentle soul with a dry but excellent sense of humor. He was missing several fingers on one hand (I don't know the reason), but climbed smoothly and solidly. My recollection is that he died in an unexplained, roped, but unprotected, fall on the Jensen Ridge of Symmetry Spire, a climb well within his ability. It was, and remains to those of us who knew him, a very sad loss.

=== rgold, Trad climber, From: Poughkeepsie, NY

I stand corrected: Chuck died in a very long (80-100 ft) roped fall on easy ground on Symmetry Spire in 1976. Still not sure whether it was the Jensen Ridge or the SW Ridge.

=== the idle rich, climber, From: Estes Park, CO

Though before I worked in the Tetons, I'm pretty sure Chuck fell while leading on the Jensen Ridge on Symmetry Spire...well within his abilities. I think he was climbing with the Westmacott's (don't quote me on this) and was not feeling well before they began the climb. I recall that there was speculation that he had some sort of episode that caused him to fall. I didn't know Chuck well but I remember that he had quite a repertoire of old climbing songs and wasn't hesitant to perform. I also recall the jelly beans on climbs and the time it rained, leaving a sticky residue on all of the holds.

=== Harold H. Loucks, surgeon =====

[Haven't found anything on Dr.Loucks postWWII history except a couple of medical publication citations that seem to suggest he WAS back in China for a time. -- stannard]

www.questia.com/googleScholar.qst;jsessionid=K2VYWYsT2nmPMQrHnbGH4nDqhThm0Fv1ygdplzPLxTIZGRpWMwT7!1795388119!-1366559283?docId=5002516086

The Mysterious Expulsion of the Roy Chapman Andrews Expedition
Magazine article by R. Lamborinchin; Focus, Vol. 47, Fall 2002

Magazine Article Excerpt

...
Roy Chapman Andrews was the quintessential explorer and adventurer of his time. He grew up and went to college in Beloit, Wisconsin. In 1906 he began his career at the American Museum of Natural History in New York by scrubbing floors and working in the taxidermy department. The AMNH was his dream, and became his life and fame. He was competent in many fields and expert in hunting, taxidermy and organization. The AMNH Central Asiatic Expeditions were designed for the primary purpose of testing the hypotheses of Henry Fairfield Osborn, that Central Asia held the key to understanding the zoological and human history of the earth.

It was in the summer of 1922 that the Expedition left its bases in Beijing and Kalgan (China's gateway to the Gobi Desert) for Mongolia. Andrews had established a private household in Beijing as a base of operations.

In Kalgan (modern Jiangjiakou), a Swedish member of the expedition organized supplies and personnel. There were seven cars and 150 camels. The Expedition personnel were composed of thirteen Mongols, ten Chinese, and thirteen Europeans, mostly Americans.

The American team consisted of Walter Granger, Chief Paleontologist; Charles P. Berkey, Chief Geologist; Frederick K. Morris, Geologist; Clifford H. Pope, Assistant in Geology; N.C. Nelson, Archaeologist; Ralph W. Chaney, Paleobotanist; Harold H. Loucks, Surgeon; B. Roberts, Chief Topographer; and B. Shackelford, Cinematographer.

Roy Chapman Andrews, Zoologist, was the leader.

From: "Donald Menzi" <dmenzi@earthlink.net>
To: <weihsien@topica.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 08, 2009 7:33 AM
Subject: **RE: Weih sien DR H H Loucks (correct)**

Ron, et. al.

FYI, Harold Loucks is mentioned seven times in Charles Gallenkamp's book titled "Dragon Hunter - Roy Chapman Andres and the Central Asiatic Expeditions" (Viking Press, 2001).
Most are just mentions of his name along with others involved in some incident, but one(p. 204) states:"...Here Olsen excavated a huge titanotere skull discovered by Loucks and later named Embolotherium loucksi - a remarkable-looking beast with a snout shaped like a battering ram."

He must have had a lot of fun.

Don Menzi

From: Rich
To: Pander.nl@skynet.be
Cc: Mary.Previte
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 11:42 PM
Subject: **Charles Walker**

Mr. Pander,
I wanted to be sure you and those who visit Weisien-Paintings.org knew about this...

in Christ alone,
Rich

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rich and Joyce Swingle <Rich@RichDrama.com>

Date: November 25, 2009 5:34:30 PM EST

To: rich@Richdrama.com

Subject: **[The Swingles' Dramatic Developments] Charles Walker**

I was grieved to read of the death of Charles Walker. He saw a performance of [Beyond the Chariots](#) at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, after which he told us how he found Eric Liddell's grave in Weifang, China, which started the ball rolling on the establishment of a massive monument there in Liddell's honor. That conversation led us to interview him in our documentary, *Olympic Hero in China: The Story of Eric Liddell*.

Here's Walker's obituary in *The Scotsman*: [A Liddell claim to fame](#).

--

Posted By Rich and Joyce Swingle to [The Swingles' Dramatic Developments](#) at 11/25/2009 05:28:00 PM

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