



excerpts

NORMAN CLIFF'S
scrapbooks

May 14, 1942

REPORT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION OF AMERICANS IN THE ORIENT *



The following information was taken from the reports of the Swiss Minister in Tokyo, and the delegates of the International Red Cross of Tokyo, except where noted.

COMPLIANCE

The Swiss Legation in Tokyo expects to report soon regarding the situation of the Americans interned in Kobe.

A certain number of interned Americans in Japan have been reportedly turned over to the International Red Cross delegate but have not been received in Geneva. The Swiss Legation is making efforts to forward lists of Americans through diplomatic channels.

The International Red Cross delegate in Tokyo cabled May 11, that the approximate number of American prisoners of war taken in the Philippines is ten thousand. Fifteen thousand American prisoners were taken in Singapore and four thousand six hundred in Java. No names were given.

The number of lists and names of Americans interned by Japan and reported to date by the International Red Cross is as follows: total number of lists thirty-four; American civilians, 431 interned, 2 dead. American prisoners of war, 1292 interned 16 dead.

The Department of State continues negotiations for full compliance on the part of Japan in regard to the Treaty of 1929, pointing out the full compliance on the part of the United States Government.

The Swiss Ministry reports that the Japanese authorities still create difficulties in the way of delay in visitation on the part of the Swiss representative to internment camps.

The Foreign Mission Conference of North American reports financial assistance by the State Department reaching Americans except in Hong Kong and Manila.

EXCHANGE

The Swedish-American liner, "Gripsholm", may sail about the middle of June with the first group of Japanese Diplomats and others from North and South America to be exchanged at Laurengo Marke, Portuguese East Africa. It is presumed that the American Diplomatic Corps will sail from Japan about the same time.

Preference is being given to women, children, aged, and sick in selecting Americans to be exchanged on the first steamer.

MAIL

Service between Basel and Tokyo organized by the Universal Postal Union, Bern, goes via Istanbul, Tiflis and Siberia. The International Red Cross is now able to send ordinary Mail for P.O.W. and civilian internees.

Taken from partially complete files of cables in the hands of the Information Bureau. As these matters are in a continual state of change, any portion of this report may become out of date at any time.

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

OCCUPIED CHINA

CHEFOO: China Inland Mission reports all missionaries in occupied territory are safe and well, mostly residing in own homes, able to get out occasionally. We move freely in the settlement (Chefoo). Schools much as usual. Mild rationing. Wardrobes difficult. Free funds sufficient for three months. Seventy-one adults and two hundred and twelve children, mostly in school, are located in Chefoo.

CHENG TU: Hospital and University discontinued. All allowed freedom of campus and city.

HANGCHOW: Considerately treated. Living in homes, all well and safe.

HANKOW: General hospital and central cottage systematically looted by Japanese. It appears that missionaries have considerable freedom of movement although some have been forced to leave their homes.

WUHU: Missionaries confined to mission compound. Homes all occupied by self-invited guests. "Treated well." Have sufficient funds.

TIENTSIN: Several missionaries in the International Concession. Funds until May. Frequent visits from friends allowed.

HUPEI PROVINCE: Through the International Red Cross. Missionaries (church of the Nazarene) are well. Needs provided. Treated well.

PAOTING: Missionaries report kind and considerate treatment. Given large liberties after routine checking of property. No restrictions on exercise. Plenty of canned goods and coal for winter, abundant supply of milk. Most folks in their own homes. Work going on.

KOREA: Maryknoll priests, brothers, and nuns safe. Residing on Mission property.

MANCHURIA: Missionaries, Maryknoll Society, well, in good health, well treated. Limited use of churches permitted. Missionaries assembled in Dairien.

THAILAND: The Thailand Foreign Office replied to representations that humanitarian principles are being applied to interned Americans. Since the number are few, etc., sees no reason to apply Treaty of 1929. Also military necessity requires representatives of the Protecting Power to follow certain procedure (?) in visiting places of internment or detention. There is no delegate of the International Red Cross in Thailand. Report to Mission Headquarters is that all missionaries are in good health.

INDO-CHINA: Through Bern. Missionaries are well, funds being received through Swiss representative, effective March 1. - ?

BURMA: Twelve hundred persons carried out of Burma by air before Japanese occupation. Mostly women and children, but some were British soldiers who had fought without relief for months.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES: Registration of American and European nationals costs \$81.00 for men and \$43.00 for women. Two Dutchmen condemned to death by a Japanese military court at

Batavia, Java, for repeating rumors based on foreign radio reports. There is a ban on listening to foreign broadcasts. Japanese military authorities decree that the Christian calendar should be replaced by the Japanese calendar. Use of term, "Japan" is banned. "Nippon", "Dai Nippon" is required.

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THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS ARE TAKEN FROM THE REPORTS OF THE FOREIGN MISSION CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA

Y.M.C.A. IN JAPAN: The National Y.M.C.A. in Japan has withdrawn from the world Y.M.C.A. organization, preserving initiative for further cooperation. Y.M.C.A. in Tokyo reports trying to receive permission to work among interned Americans. Also the World Y.M.C.A. is endeavouring through the Swiss Minister in Tokyo and the Japanese Minister, Mintani, Bern, to have this permission granted. To date, there is no information as to the success of these moves.

HONG KONG: Tokyo broadcasts claim two hundred thousand Hong Kong dollars had been advanced for living expenses of foreign civilian internees.

Lt. Colonel Ride, British, at Chungking, has set up an informal Information Bureau at Kukong. He recently advised people in Victoria, British Columbia, that he would undertake to give them word of Hong Kong friends and relatives if they would send him the reply prepaid radiograms. It is understood that some replies have come back.

Dr. Gordon King reports conditions in Hong Kong as bad. Little food and practically no medical care for the three hundred Americans interned in the wardens' houses in Stanley Prison. He does not believe that half of them can survive six months of such treatment, as much dysentery and other sicknesses are developing. There are many women and children in the group.

Mr. Petro, a French citizen who escaped from Hong Kong February 12, reports as follows, United States diplomatic officers are housed in two consular homes. Personnel allowed occasional visits to the city under guard but are not allowed to communicate with the outside. No food is furnished, but purchases allowed through certain channels. Outside of restrictions, they are "all right". A proposal seems to be afoot to transfer diplomats to Stanley Prison but keep them segregated from the rest of the civilian internees. This, however, had not been done when Mr. Petro left Hong Kong.

Mr. J.F. Marsman, a citizen of the Philippines, who escaped from Hong Kong February 10, makes the following report: Civilians were often threatened. Many losing all their belongings, ladies' handbags looted. Military prisoners bound and gagged even when severely wounded. Japanese officers lecture civilians on being "despicable". "Prisoner shot." Civilians hiked for several hours with no water or food or relief even for women. The Japanese were very nasty. Civilians slapped for not saluting. Even in the early days of captivity, many civilians became sick with dysentery and boils which refused to heal. Appeals rarely denied and nothing was done for the sick. Restrictions in Hong Kong were getting tighter every day while the Japanese officers celebrated in nearby hotels.

Report of Mr. Warrow, naturalized American citizen, who escaped on February 10: Maryknoll Fathers badly treated, tied up and put in a garage with little food for several days. Many British prisoners, including officers were beheaded in their presence. The Fathers were later released and given three truck loads of food. They are now interned in St. Stephens College. The Japanese would ask the British officers to show them where they had hidden their field glasses and revolvers. After they had shown them, the officers were bayoneted.

End of page.



TELEGRAM

PLAIN

BERN NOVEMBER 5 1942

SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON D. C.

4994 FIFTH

AMERICAN INTERESTS FAR EAST.

**INTERNMENT FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE
NOVEMBER 3 REPORTS THE RECEIPT OF A
TELEGRAM FROM SWISS CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI
STATING THAT THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES HAVE
ASSEMBLED ALL CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES AT WAR
WITH JAPAN IN CERTAIN GROUPS OF HOUSES. THIS
WAS DONE AT HANKOW, TSINGTAO AND CHEFOO.
JAPANESE AUTHORITIES CONSIDER PROCEEDING
WITH SUCH INTERNMENT AT SHANGHAI AND
ELSEWHERE IN OCCUPIED CHINA.**

HARRISON.



TELEGRAM

BERN, NOVEMBER 9, 1942

SEC. OF STATE, WASHINGTON

5069, NINTH.



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

AMERICAN INTERESTS, FAR EAST INTERNEES,

LEGATION'S 4994, NOV. FIFTH.

**TELEGRAPH FROM THE SWISS CONSULATE
SHANGHAI**

**NOVEMBER 4 STATES THAT THE —
JAPANESE POLICE IN SHANGHAI ARRESTED ABOUT
100 CITIZENS OF COUNTRIES AT WAR WITH JAPAN.
PROMINENT PERSONS AMONG THOSE THE JAPANESE
AUTHORITIES INTEND TO INTERN ARE PRESIDENTS
OF AMERICAN, BRITISH AND NETHERLANDS
ASSOCIATIONS OF SHANGHAI.**

HARRISON.



Copy SD :ATS

Compared : EKG

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

WAR DEPT. INFO. BUR.

DATE: MARCH 20, 1943

FROM: AMEMBASSY CHUNGKING

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DATED: MARCH 11, 1943, 9:50 A.M.

NUMBER 356



**REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S TELEGRAM OF
JANUARY 29, NUMBER 162.**

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN
RECEIVED FROM THE CHINESE FOREIGN OFFICE AS
BEING FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE: ORDERS HAVE
BEEN ISSUED TO JAPANESE CONSULATES IN NORTH
CHINA TO INFORM ALL ENEMY NATIONALS IN
NORTH CHINA THAT THEY ARE TO BE SENT FOR**

CONCENTRATION TO WEIHSIEN, SHANTUNG. THIS IS
TO TAKE PLACE ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF MARCH.

VINCENT

Bern, March 26, 1943
TELEGRAM RECEIVED
Special Division
Department of State
To: War Department (PMG)
4/6/43



Plain,
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

BERN, MARCH 26, 1943
TELEGRAM RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON.

1925, TWENTY-SIXTH

AMERICAN INTERESTS — CHINA
LEGATION'S 1258, FEBRUARY 24.

FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE DATED MARCH 23
STATES THAT SWISS CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI
TELEGRAPHS THAT ON MARCH 11, 13 AND 15 THE
JAPANESE INTERNED RESPECTIVELY 251, 254
AND 248 BRITISH SUBJECTS YANCHOW.

IN MARCH, 192 BRITISH MEN, SINGLE OR
MARRIED TO ASIATIC WIVES WERE INTERNED IN
POOTUNG, ALONG WITH 19 AMERICANS AND 1
DUTCH.

ALL ENEMY CIVILIANS RESIDING IN NORTH
CHINA WILL BE INTERNED PRIOR TO THE END OF
MARCH AT WEIHSIEN, PROVINCE OF SHANTUNG.

CIVILIANS ASSEMBLED AT TSINGTAO WILL
BE TRANSFERRED TO WEIHSIEN AND THOSE
ASSEMBLED AT CHEFOO WILL REMAIN THERE.

HARRISON
AF.- APRIL 8, 1943



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SPECIAL DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TO: EAR DEPARTMENT

TELEGRAM RECEIVED
PLAIN,
BERN, APRIL 24, 1943



SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, D. V.

2559, TWENTY-FOURTH

AMERICAN INTERESTS - CHINA
TREATMENT OF BRITISH INTERNEES.

REPLY FROM JAPANESE AUTHORITIES
REGARDING TREATMENT OF BRITISH INTERNED
IN CAMPS IN OCCUPIED CHINA.

1.) RATIONS. CIVILIAN INTERNEES ARE
OBJECT OF CLOSEST ATTENTION OF COMPETENT
AUTHORITIES. THEIR RATIONS ARE DESCRIBED AS
BETTER THAN RATIONS OF THE JAPANESE TROOPS
IN THE VICINITY OF THE CAMPS, OR OF THE
POPULATION AND JAPANESE RESIDENTS OF CHINA.
DESPITE THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES THE
AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THE TASTE AND HABITS
OF THE INTERNEES AND PROVIDE FOOD WHICH IS
DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIENTAL FOOD. IT SEEMS
THAT THE INTERNEES WOULD PREFER FOOD SAME
AS THE REST OF THE POPULATION, BUT
CONSIDERING THE DIFFERENCE IN TASTE AND
OTHER REASONS, THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES
CONSIDER SUCH MEASURES WOULD ONLY HAVE A
DEPLORABLE EFFECT ON INTERNEES.
NEVERTHELESS, AUTHORITIES ARE READY TO
MEET SUCH A REQUEST.

2.) HEALTH... INTERNEES RECEIVE FULL
MEDICAL ATTENTION AND DOCTORS DISPOSE OF
MEDICAMENTS. GENERAL HEALTH OF INTERNEES IS
CONSIDERED GOOD.

3.) TRANSMISSION.. IN VIEW OF PRESENT DIFFICULTIES OF COMMUNICATION THERE IS A DELAY IN MAIL, BUT CORRESPONDENCE IS IMPROVED.

4.) IN PRINCIPLE VISITS ARE AUTHORIZED EXCEPT WHEN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES RENDER IT IMPOSSIBLE.

HARRISON.

AF.- MAY 4, 1943



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Issued by the intelligence office

Office of Chief of Naval Operations

Navy Department

CONFIDENTIAL

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Received on Foreign Mail Room 1943 MAY 19 PM 3:16

Serial 32/43

FROM: Naval Attache

AT: Chungking

DATE: May 1, 1943

SOURCE: Japanese, Chinese and Foreign

EVALUATION: C-3



SUBJECT :

CONCENTRATION CAMPS, OCCUPIED CHINA.

During recent weeks the Japanese appear to have tightened the restrictions imposed on "enemy nationals" resident in the occupied areas of North and Central China. Official and semi-official Japanese announcements of the concentration of Allied Nations nationals are confirmed from independent sources.

A brief description of the more important camps is given herewith as compiled from available sources.

WEIHSIEN (SHANTUNG PROVINCE)

WEIHSIEN is on the railway about 80 Miles (airline) west of TSINGTAO and approximately 30 miles south of LAICHOW BAY.

The American Presbyterian Mission is said to consist of 61 buildings with conspicuous red roofs.

A Japanese correspondent visiting WEIHSIEN on April 26th makes the following observations concerning life among the internees:

"The internees, who are divided into married and unmarried groups, administer their daily routine affairs through their various committees such as supply, medical, education, housing, etc. The camp has a hospital to provide medical service and a library for study. There are 15 doctors among the internees. Education of the children is entrusted to the missionaries. Food is prepared by professional cooks who before the war worked in Peiping, Tientsin, Tsingtao and other places in North China. Baseball and hockey games were being played. Internees cultivate flowers and vegetables. Excellent cooking and sanitary features are provided at the camp and the kitchen larder is plentifully supplied with foodstuffs, including meat and eggs. There is a chapel for worship. Facilities are being provided for the internees to learn Japanese. The camp is provided with a dining hall, assembly hall and canteen. The administration of the camp is vested in a camp supervisor and under him there are four departments which are subdivided into general affairs, accounts and allowances, medical treatment, housing equipment, industrial training, education and discipline. Each section is governed by a committee of four members who are mutually elected by the internees. Indians, persons under medical care and nationals of countries which have only severed diplomatic relations with Japan are exempted from the concentration camps."

Another correspondent visiting WEIHSIEN writes as follows on April 27th:

"Among the more notable persons in the internment camp here are:

E.J. Nathan.	Manager, Kailan Mining Administration
W.B. Christian	Representative, Anglo-American Trust in North China.
White Kerr	American Bank Clerk.
Hayes	American Bank Clerk.
Pinger	American Missionary.
Mrs., Spear	American.
Miss Adella	Canadian Missionary.
Maclaren	British Trader.
P.A. Whiting	British Trader

These representatives of the internees were gathered in a single room with the permission of the Camp Director and the correspondent was able to gain from them a personal description of conditions within the camp. When asked how they felt, Nathan

replied that the food was sufficient and that he was satisfied, while Christian praised the kindness of the Camp Director and all of the other authorities and said: "We all feel grateful, I can assure you". Mrs. Spear was more philosophical and replied: "I had nothing to do until today, but now that I am here I can do the work of a woman which is a God given destiny. I am certain that the internment will not be so bad if all will work together in the right spirit". When asked their opinions of the Greater East Asia War, both Nathan and Maclaren said that they knew nothing about political affairs. Maclaren declared however, "All I wish is that the war will end soon and we are again able to resume our business", Miss Adella said: "We are all praying to God that the war will end as soon as possible". I told them about the harsh treatment which Japanese nationals residing in their countries were receiving as learned through magazines and newspapers recently coming in hand from overseas. Contrasting this with the fair treatment which they were receiving, I asked for their opinion. White Kerr said: "But we do not know anything about it and it is not our fault". Maclaren said: "We cannot believe that our fellow countrymen at home are mistreating your nationals. There must be some mistake", Mrs, Spear said: "I'm sincerely hoping that people at home are treating your nationals just as kindly as your authorities are treating us".

Additional Japanese reports vary as to the number of internees.

As of April 22nd the total was given as 2108 divided between WEIHSIEN and CHEFOO with 1756 at the former and 352 at the latter place. Nationalities were given as follows:

BRITISH:	935
AMERICANS	598
BELGAIANS	282
DUTCH	248
Others	45
TOTAL	2108

However, on April 26th it was reported that there were 1840 internees at Weihsien of whom 950 were Americans and the remaining 890 were British. It is believed that the figures of the 22nd are more nearly correct.

Independent sources in Peiping indicate that the American and British Nationals in the Peiping area have been well treated by the Japanese. However, on March 14th the Americans were notified by the Swiss representative that they must be prepared to leave Peiping on March 24th for internment in WEIHSIEN. Each individual was allowed to take two suitcases of personal effects and bedding. British subjects were instructed to be ready to proceed to SHANTUNG on March 27th. Although the Chinese in Peiping have not been encouraged or permitted to fraternize with "enemy nationals" many had been punished and reprimanded for doing so. Nevertheless Chinese friends had constantly contacted

and assisted foreigners and some of the Americans had turned over their valuables to Chinese friends for safekeeping, It is believed that practically all Americans in Peiping were compelled to go to WEIHSIEN with the possible exception of a few elderly or sick people.

As of March 17th Dr. Leighton Stuart, President of Yenning University, was still kept in Mr, A.C. Henning's residence on Waichiaopu Street, Peiping in company with Mr. Trevor Bowen, Acting Director of Peiping Union Medical College. The property of the Peiping Union Medical College was being used by the Japanese as a military hospital, as was the Presbyterian Hospital in the northern part of the city. Dr. Stuart and his companion had not been permitted to receive visitors but had been permitted to communicate by letter twice a week with other Americans and to receive mail.

The former American Marine Barracks in Peiping now serves as the headquarters of the Japanese Gendarmerie.

CHEFOO

It is believed that the majority of the internees in CHEFOO are children at the China Inland Mission School where they have been held in the cramped quarters of the school compound in the company of their teachers. The adult internees appear to have been quartered apart from the school children. The administration also appears to have been transferred to the Japanese consular authorities and taken out of the hands of the military.

The Japanese give the number of foreign internees at CHEFOO as 352.

YANGCHOW

(In Kiangsu province across the Yangtze River from Chinkiang on the Grand Canal.)

Japanese sources state enemy nationals in Central China (not including Amoy) were grouped in Shanghai and Yangchow.

Foreign sources in late March reported that certain British women from the Shanghai area were being or had been concentrated at Yangchow.

SHANGHAI

The Japanese announced on April 21st that the internment of enemy nationals in the Shanghai area, numbering some 6,000 and composed of Americans, British and Dutch was completed on

the 20th. It was stated that camps had been established in **POOTUNG, CHAPEI, LUNGHUA** and other suburban districts of Shanghai with each camp holding from one to two thousand internees. The Japanese statement said that teachers, religious workers and hospital workers were being allowed to resume their former work, this being highly appreciated by the individuals "as well -----

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Special Division

Department of State,

To: War Department (PMG)

Chungking, May 19, 1943

Secretary of State

Washington.

731, May 19, 9 a.m.



Report has come in regarding civilians in China, under Central news report dated Tunki Anhwoi, May 18.

According to information from Shanghai the Japanese have established another concentration camp for enemy nationals in Yangchow, northeast of Nanking. Some of the internees of Shanghai were transferred to this new camp, but me they wee not taken by train, they were forced to walk to Yangchow.

It was announced in April, by Japanese radio broadcasts, that 6,000 enemy nationals had been interned in various interment comps it the area of Shanghai. There was also a concentration of Allied nationals residing in North China at American Presbyterian Church compounds at Weihsien and Chefoo, Shantung.

Of the 2,108 persons reported to be concentrated, 1,756 were said to be interned at Weihsien and 352 at Chefoo.

Total number of Americans in both places is said to be 598.

(signed)

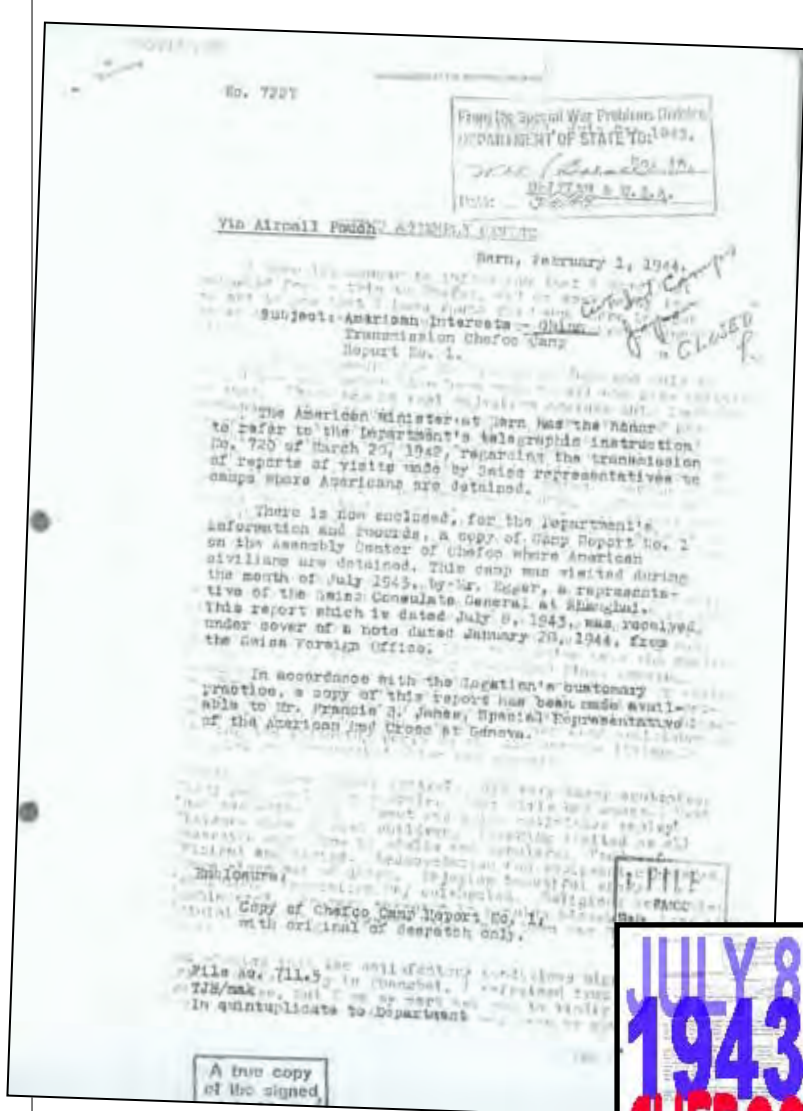
ATCHESON.

af .- may 26, 1943



REPRODUCED AT THE

NATIONAL ARCHIVES



No. 7227

From the Special War Problems Division

Department of State to: ----

3/4/1944

Tsingtao, July 8th, 1943

British & U.S.A.

Via Air Mail Pouch

Bern, February 1, 1944

Subject: American Interests - **China**

Transmission Chefoo Camp

Report No. 1

The American Minister at Bern has the honour to refer to the Department's telegraphic instruction No. 720 of March 20, 1942, regarding the transmission of reports of visits made by Swiss representatives to Camps where Americans are detained.

There is now enclosed for the Department's information and records, a copy of camp report No. 1 on the Assembly Centre of Chefoo where American civilians are detained. This camp was visit-

ed during the month of July 1943 by Mr. Egger, a representative of the Swiss Consulate General at Shanghai. This report which is dated July 8, 1943, was received under cover of a note dated January 28, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office

In accordance with the Legation's customary practice, a copy of this report has been made available to Mr. Francis B. James, special representative of the American Red Cross at Geneva.

Tsingtao, July 8th, 1943

No. 15

British & USA

CHEFOO ASSEMBLY CENTRE

I have the honour to inform you that I have just returned from a trip to Chefoo, and am most happy to report to you that I have found the Camp there in good order and the people happy and content as circumstances allow.

Comfort payments for the months of June at FRB\$150.—per person have been made to all who were entitled to same. There was no real objection against this increased payment on the Consuls part, he was more afraid of his superiors. My explanation was that the internees should be able to have some cash money in order to enable them to secure some stock of provisions for winter, especially fruit, which are plentiful and cheap now in Chefoo. Having secured his agreement for the increased allowance, I propose to return there again as soon as possible to make August and September payments, so the internees will be able to make substantial stocks, which should last them all through the winter.

The health conditions of all are really exceptionally good and it is not too much to say here, the health of the internees is better than ever, only a few cases of mumps have risen amongst the C.I.M. children, but now they have passed. Especially I would like to mention here the health of the C.I.M. children. They are doing fine, growing, and looking good and happy. Taking the opportunity of my visit, Mr. Bruce, the Headmaster of C.I.M. School, called a meeting of all the members of the school staff, and being himself happy and satisfied, asked me to use your kind assistance in sending the following cable to all the parents living in Occupied and Unoccupied China and abroad:

“Under Japanese Consul control. All very happy contented. Very good health as a whole. Some girls had mumps. Heat not excessive yet. Scout and guide activities employ leisure time of most children. Teaching limited as all domestic work done by adults and scholars. Food sufficient and varied. Accommodation and equipment unchanged. Some sleep out of doors. Enjoying beautiful shady compound. Foundation Day celebrated. Religious activities unhindered. Prayers answered in genuine blessing. Pray winter clothing shoes. Margaret Ruth Howie born May 5th. All send Love.”

Not wishing that the satisfactory conditions might be interpreted differently in Shanghai, I refrained from telegraphing the above, but I on my part ask you to kindly transmit this message by the best possible way open to you.

The Japanese Camp Authorities allow one letter weekly to be sent out to Shanghai and any country including Unoccupied China and already a few answers have been received. On the other side, I have collected a large number of Red Cross letters and at the same time I have returned a good many answers to the internees, so that Chefoo is not quite off from the outside world.

Dentist and medical arrangements remain the same and patients are receiving their due and proper treatment. Only one grown-up patient (British) had to be taken to the hospital. The hospital bill amounts to FRB\$300. The Japanese Camp Director insisted that the hospital had to be paid by the individual person, but the person having no money, the amount was deducted from the monthly allowance, from each internee his share. The bills for the two C.I.M. children having mumps in the Temple Hill hospital have not yet been collected and I hope that they never will. I have tried to secure the Consul's approval to pay in future all medical bills, including medicines. He seems to be quite willing to do so, provided he gets sanction for doing it from his Peking Authorities. Should it against all expectations not be possible, I shall make payments against a suitable receipt as per your Secretariat Circular letter No. 28, dated June 23rd.

I have previously informed you that the Chefoo Camp management insisted on supplying the internees with food etc. pay FRB\$4.-- per person per day for the month. Up to now this amount is quite sufficient and they all seem to be able to get along. The Japanese are obliging the compradors to supply all the required provisions at the Japanese fixed prices and a strict control is kept over them, also the quality they deliver. This explains the reason why such a small amount is still sufficient to keep the people going. Knowing your anxieties for the welfare of the children and your great responsibility, I have asked the two medical doctors in the camp for certificates regarding health, expressing their opinion over the diet and present nourishment and you will see that some are quite satisfactory. These certificates should also relieve parents who are far away from being too worried about their children. The total weight of food supplied seems below the weight given in U.S.A., but is sufficient. Should necessity arise, I shall certainly fight for an increase, always taking care that our comfort allowance is really used for comfort only.

Building quarters have been somewhat improved and the rumour of transferring the whole camp to some other place had died down. The Chefoo climate in summer and winter is quite good, better than in Tsingtao.

The school teaching and church services are going on daily, visits are made from compound to compound twice a month, in addition of every Sunday for Church services, and since the boy-scout movement was introduced in the Camp, the boys and girls are kept busy with themselves.

I left Chefoo convinced that the internees are in good care.

(Signed)

V.E. Egger

Representative for Shantung.

Report RE: Diet of Chefoo Civil Assembly Centre,

House Nos. 5, 6 & 7,

Under the present arrangements regarding finance and supplies, I feel that the diet of these houses is adequate both in quantity and quality.

(Signed) A.N. Howie, M.D., Ch.B.

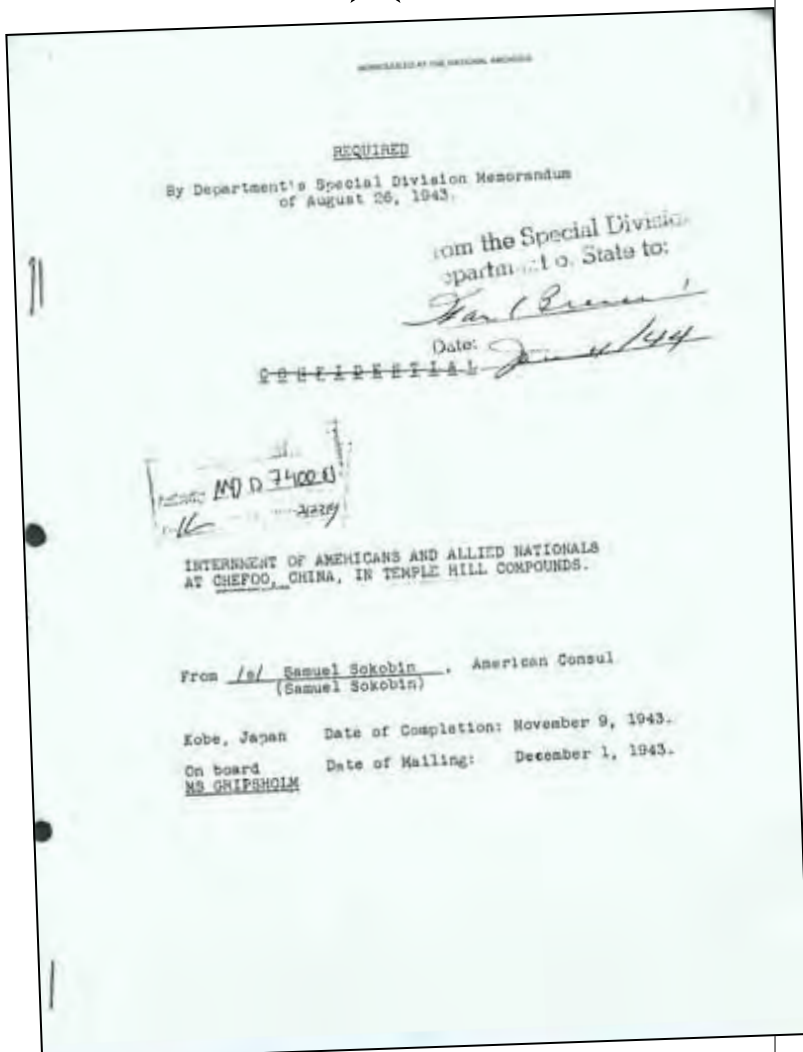
July 1st, 1943

Civil Assembly House No. 4, Chefoo, July 1, 1943.

Report RE: Food

I am of the opinion that while this centre is supplied with the money to purchase the food, we contrive to so balance the diet that the children have not yet had any lack of vitamin or other necessary ingredients in their diet to ensure good health. The children always are our first concern.

INTERMENT OF AMERICANS



AND ALLIED NATIONALS AT CHEFOO, CHINA, IN TEMPLE HILL COMPOUNDS.

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

REQUIRED

By Department's Special Division Memorandum of August 26, 1943

Released: January 4, 1944

From Samuel Sobokin, American Consul November 9, 1943

On board **GRIPSHOLM**, Date of mailing: **December 1, 1943.**

Chefoo, China

Temple Hill Internment Camp

INTRODUCTION

American and Allied nationals at Chefoo, China with certain exceptions were not interned until October 29, 1942, and November 4, 1942. On the latter date all those connected with the China Inland Mission were interned while the others were interned on the earlier date.

The China Inland Mission conducted a large school at Chefoo, and on its premises, on November 4, 1942; there was a total of 239 men, women and children who were, interned.

The other residents interned in Chefoo numbered 119, composed of missionaries and their families and members of the business community. Only one exception to the internment order was made by the Japanese; an invalid Greek girl, her mother and grandmother, were exempted.

On Thursday morning, October 29, 1942, the Japanese military visited the homes of the American, British, Dutch, Greek and Norwegian citizens, except those living in the China Inland Mission, announcing they must leave and be at house No. 2 of the Presbyterian Mission (Kidder House) in Chefoo by 12 o'clock noon. Some were notified as early as 8 a.m., others after 11 o'clock, and all were told to be at the location by noon. They were instructed to take their money, clothes, food, and bedding; this latter may include a mattress but not a bed. Some were told to leave most of their clothes as they would be back in four, or five days.

Others were not allowed to take much bedding. There was no uniformity about the amount of baggage permitted. Transportation to the camp was arranged by the individuals as best they could, rickshaws chiefly being used

The residents of the C.I.M. compound were notified by



the military to be ready for moving in a week's time. This gave opportunity for packing and sorting of personal effects for the disposition of such things as seemed impractical to move. Beds, springs, cooking stoves, and almost all other furniture, were not permitted to be taken. Dishes, cooking utensils, clothing, a very few heating stoves, mattresses, and other bedding (pukai's) and limited quantities of books were packed and transferred by hand carts and by trucks (the latter being furnished by the Japanese authorities.) Expenses for carts and rickshaws were paid by the mission authorities.

Strict examination was made of all things taken out of the compound, and some things were turned back as not being permitted. Some few babies' beds were permitted, and a very few chairs (possibly a dozen at the most.) At the C.I.M. compound our own servants helped with the packing and loading, but at the arrival at Temple Hill only the barrow men and cart men were allowed in and permitted to assist.

Consequently our own men and older boys were kept busy in moving the various loads. In the confusion attendant upon arrival in new quarters, quite a number of boxes and loads were miscarried, and many of these never arrived at all. With the exception of the use of the army trucks, all expenses for the transfer were paid by the internees. No limit was given about the quantity of food taken in (the Japanese at this time were not assuming any responsibility for the feeding of the center). In the same way personal

money was taken in by the internees, and no questions asked by the Japanese; the same applied to clothing and personal effects, except for cameras, typewriters and radios.

The internees were registered by the Japanese military as they entered the compound gates of the camp at Temple Hill, and the first internees were assigned by the Japanese to particular rooms in the houses in compound No. 1. (See drawing attached.)

Organization of Camp,

Upon arrival at the Temple Hill Compounds and the installation of the internees in the houses there, the Japanese authorities directed the internees in each of the houses to form their own administrative organizations. The Japanese made it plain that the responsibility for the internal administration rested on the internees themselves and that the internees would also have to support themselves; that is, the maintenance of the internees would be the responsibility of the internees, not themselves.

There were accordingly set up administrative committees in each of the houses in which the internees were lodged. While it might seem that so many committees were unnecessary, household economy in each particular building and the fact that the seven houses were situated in three compounds separated from each other, passage between which was not permitted except by pass, required the installation of these several committees.

Japanese Control

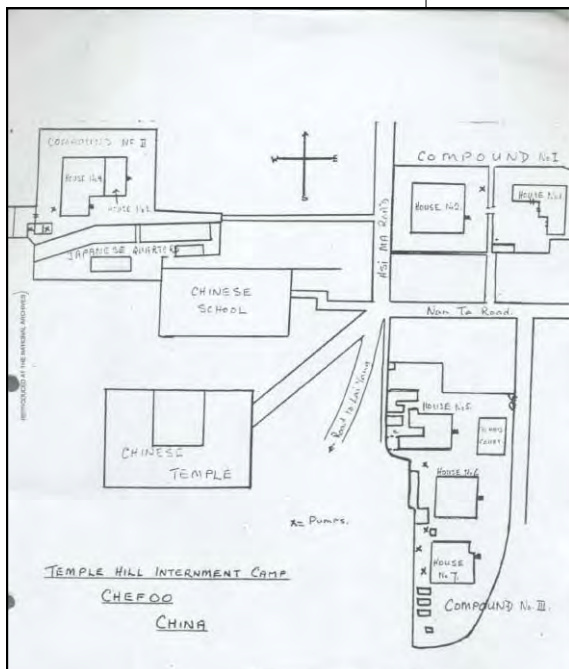
The Japanese military designated a Japanese commandant for all three compounds. He was situated at Japanese headquarters in the city. For about a week Japanese soldiers guarded the compounds day and night; thereafter their places were taken by Chinese policemen. In the initial period the commandant visited the compounds fairly frequently, but with the passage of time his visits became less and less frequent, and with the result that the internees' urgent problems were neglected, since the internees could not leave the compound without a pass, the commandant being the only one who issued the passes; and the internees had no means of communicating with the commandant.

In March, 1943, a Japanese commandant was installed in one of the camp compounds (No. 2) in charge of all three compounds. This commandant was the head of the Japanese consular police detailed to guard the compounds. This change resulted on the one hand in obtaining more prompt consideration of certain camp problems, while on the other hand there was a stricter enforcement of the regulations: roll call of the internees was made twice a day.

The Temple Hill Internment Camp at Chefoo was disbanded when the internees were transferred on September 8, 1943, to the camp at Weihsien, Shantung, China. A total of 296 men, women, and children made the journey to Weihsien by steamer and rail.

Early in August, 1943 Mr. Kosaka, Chief of the Chefoo camp police guard, informed the Catholic priests in the camp that they were to be transferred to Peking. This information prompted an internee to ask the chief if this meant that the Chefoo internees were to be sent to the Weihsien Camp. The Chief of Police replied that he had not intended to mention it, but since he was asked, he would state that the transfer was under consideration. Within a few days he informed Mr. P. A. Bruce, Principal of the China Inland Mission Schools, that all the internees were to be moved to Weihsien in September in four groups, one group per week. When asked the reason for the transfer to Weihsien, he replied that it was a measure of economy for his government. Asked what could be taken by the internees from Chefoo to Weihsien, he said that he would make inquiry. Later, he informed the internees that they need not take kitchen utensils, beds, mattresses, chairs or crockery, as all of these articles were provided by his government for the internees at Weihsien.

The group of Americans who were to be repatriated in 1943 left Chefoo for Weihsien ten days before the other internees were moved. On learning from them that the Chefoo internees had been instructed not to bring the above mentioned things, the Weihsien Camp internees at once took up with the Japanese authorities the urgent need of telegraphing to the Chefoo internees that they must bring all their equipment. A promise to do so was made, but



official word to that effect was never given to the Chefoo internees. However, through private sources in Tsingtao those internees still in Chefoo learned of the desirability of 'taking' with them the articles above named.

Fortunately, many internees at Chefoo doubted the word of the Japanese authorities, and took all they could. They, however, were hampered by the selfish restrictions laid down by the Japanese guards and by the physical possibility of getting ready so much baggage on such short notice, for instead of being moved in four groups, one group each week, the remaining internees were sent off from Chefoo to Tsingtao on one steamer after ten days' notice. As the ship had very limited cabin accommodations, most of the 300 internees slept either in the hold or on the deck. They had been told to take food for the trip, but in moving the baggage from the camp to the ship, many bedding rolls and food baskets were put in the hold under the heavy baggage and could not be secured. After 24 hours on the ship, they were herded on to the train at Tsingtao, and reached Weihsen hungry, thirsty, dirty and weary. (The ages of the internees ranged from 3 months to 89 years.)

Their baggage was sent by freight from Tsingtao to Weihsen, and was criminally looted en route. The looters seemed especially to want heavy clothing, shoes and bedding. Evidently several pieces were opened at a time and a choice made. Rejected items were worn often returned to wrong pieces of baggage. The loss of bedding and clothing was a very serious matter to some families, in view of the impossibility of replacement.

I. LOCATION.

I.

Name and exact location of camp with description of distinguishing features or surroundings (so as to be identifiable from the air):

Number of internees broken down by sexes, nationality, race and age-groups.

The official name of the internment camp was "Chefoo Civil Assembly Center", and as stated previously, was located in the compounds of the American Presbyterian Mission on Temple Hill. Seven residences with servants' quarters were used. These residences are on the north, east, and southeast side of the hill which itself is the northern end of a ridge of high hills bounding Chefoo on the east, south and west. It is easily distinguished from the air by its being at the western end of this ring of hills, by a large temple with two high flagpoles, set garden in the southeast, and by a large tile-roofed two-story school building on the northeast of the hill. On the eastern slope of the hill, more than half way down, are the three large buildings of the Temple Hill Mission hospital, set in a large well enclosed yard. Lower down on the north-eastern slope is an octagonal church with grey tiled roof and belfry at the northeast corner of the church. This Chefoo camp is now closed as the internees were transferred to Weihsen early in September, 1943.

II. DESCRIPTION.

Description of premises (photographs if possible) kind of buildings (e.g. barracks, abandoned factories, and school or college buildings); estimate of square and cubic feet per internee; lighting and heating facilities (hours when available); kind and amount of bedding provided. Beds and nets.

The internment camp at Chefoo was located in the private, foreign style, dwellings of the American Presbyterian Mission. These houses consisted of five single family houses and one two-family house, making two residences, arranged in three groups or camps. **Group I** consisted of the Dilley and Kidder houses, known by the internees and Japanese as houses No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. These two houses, together with servants' quarters and small garden, were enclosed within a compound wall, (compound No. 1). **Group II** consisted of the two-family house known as the Brown-Irwin house, and designated in camp as houses No. 3 and No. 4. This house together with servants' quarters was also enclosed within a compound wall (compound No. 2). **Group III** consisted of the single family houses known as the Berst, Young and Lanning houses and designated respectively as houses No. 5, No. 6 and No. 7. These houses, together with servants' quarters, were likewise enclosed within a compound wall (compound No. 3). The townspeople, were located in houses No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, while houses No. 4, No. 5, No. 6 and No. 7 were occupied by the China Inland Mission group. Photographs and plans of these houses may be obtained from the Presbyterian Board for Foreign Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

(** pages 5, 6 and 7 = missing !? **
BILLETING)

COMPOUND III.

HOUSE NO.7

Description:

A large foreign style stone house; first floor has three rooms, flower room, kitchen, bath; second floor 4 rooms, sleeping porch, 2 baths; has good basement, attic, and garage.

Billeting:	Flower room	-----	1 woman	2 children
	Parlor	1 man	1 woman	2 children
1st floor	Study	1 man	1 woman	3 children
	Bathroom	-----	1 woman	-----
	Sleep. porch	-----	1 woman	4 children
	Bedroom	1 man	1 woman	3 children
2nd floor	Bedroom	2 men	2 women	-----
	Bedroom	2 men	2 women	-----
	Bedroom	-----	4 women	-----
Attic		-----	-----	10 children
Garage		-----	3 women	-----
TOTAL = 48 >		7 men	17 women	24 children

Resume	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN	TOTAL
House No. 1	22	14	12	48
House No. 2	15	24	3	42
House No. 3	10	9	9	28
House No. 4	3	15	53	71
House No. 5	3	14	45	62
House No. 6	7	9	43	59
House No. 7	7	17	24	48
TOTAL:				358

there were left 500 beds which the Japanese refused the members and school children (the mission conducted a large school for children of missionaries residing in the interior) to take to the Temple Hill Internment Camp.

III SANITATION

Facilities for washing, bathing, laundry, sewage and garbage disposal, etc., number and kind of toilets, supply of toilet paper.

HEATING

Houses Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 were equipped with central heating but all except houses Nos. 3 and 4 used small stoves in various rooms for reasons of economy.



The houses used were the usual type of missionary foreign style. Residence No. 4 was a large bungalow with a fairly adequate heating plant, an extensive attic (which was used as a dormitory

for 36 girls). In the other houses the heating was provided by stoves (a few being brought over). There were grates in some of the rooms. In most cases bedrooms were unheated, but stoves were placed in halls and in common rooms. One house had a hot air furnace, but this was not used as it was in need of major repairs.

The internees paid for the fuel out of their comfort allowance provided after January 27, 1943. Prior to this time the "???" (smudge) fuel with their own personal funds.

Most of the residents and schools had good supplies of coal at their original residences, but none of this fuel was allowed to be brought over to Temple Hill. Upon arrival at Temple Hill there was some supply of coal on the premises for which payment was made to the owners.

LIGHTING

Electricity was supplied from the city current, which was usually available 24 hours a day, and paid for, by the group of internees in the several houses.

BEDS AND BEDDING

With the exception of a few beds which were found in the houses upon arrival, beds were made on the floor or upon trunks and boxes, which had been brought along. There were no mattresses, beds, bedding or nets provided by the Japanese. Permission was given for bringing our own mattresses and a very few people had folding cots.

Neither beds, cots, mosquito nets nor bedding was supplied by the Japanese authorities at any time. The internees supplied mattresses and bedding from their homes or borrowed from their fellow internees. At the China Inland Mission Compound in Chefoo

WATER SUPPLY

Chefoo has no water works system. Water is supplied from wells by hand pumps. In the Temple Hill Compound all water had to be pumped by the internees from wells; 100 to 190 feet deep.

WASHING AND BATHING FACILITIES

Schedules had to be arranged for each of the seven houses for bathing. The water supply and the number of persons permitted only one bath per week. Where it was possible water was heated in the bath rooms. Otherwise hot water had to be carried up from heating stoves in the basement. The daily provision of hot water was also made through the basement water heaters.

TOILETS

In each compound there was a septic tank which had been built by the mission for family use only. These were entirely inadequate for such large numbers and were not used after the first few days. In each house there were two or three commodes for the use of women only. Commodes for the men were placed in the out-houses. All these were emptied and cleaned several times a day by men of our sanitary squad. The contents were dumped into large covered crooks in the garden. These were emptied daily by the city sanitary coolies. Pits were dug and lined with brick and concrete in all but one of the gardens. These we thought to be septic tanks, but the work was never completed. Toilet paper was purchased by each house from its regular house allowance, or by individuals.

SEWAGE

Kitchen and wash water was drained into deep pits dug in the garden by internees. This was far from satisfactory. Repeated requests by house No. 2 were made to the Japanese Chief of Consular Police for direct underground drainage to street sewer drain. This was finally completed just one month before the camp was moved to Weihien. As there were flies in very large numbers the garbage disposal proved a very real problem. Deep pits were dug by the internees into which garbage was dumped and covered over with ashes several times a day.

SCREENS

All the houses except House No. 1 were screened. Those belonging to House No. 1 had been destroyed, and the authorities took no interest in replacing these. Flies were such a menace in

that house that the internees themselves bought screens for the kitchen. Great pride was taken by the internees in keeping their yards clean and attractive.

LAUNDRY

Individuals or families did their own washing in the laundry room of each house or out of doors. For the first five months some were able to send their laundry out to their servants. A public laundry did some work for the internees but the service was irregular, expensive and unsatisfactory. Privately owned wash tubs and boards were turned over to the house for general use. Water for each house was pumped into tanks by our own men from deep piped wells on compounds. Hot water was supplied by native-made water heaters. Additional hot water could be purchased from a Chinese shop near the compound gate.

V. FOOD AND CLOTHING.

Facilities for and method of preparing food. Sources and handling of food. Food and clothing provided by Japanese. Relief supplies from International Red Cross; gift packages. Purchases of food and clothing by internees with their own funds. Post exchanges and canteens. Influence of local food situation on diet provided by Japanese.

Preparation and cooking of food was done entirely by the internees. At one time a tentative promise was made that Chinese help might be provided to do the roughest work, stoking, cleaning of pots and pans, etc., but this was never permitted. The internees were divided into shifts, who took on responsibility for these tasks on definite days.

Everyone had his or her own task. The work problem was a major one, as there were a large number of young children. School classes were carried on in an abbreviated forms and considerable time was needed by adults, for teaching classes.

In the same way, several adults had to give considerable time to the oversight of wardrobes, particularly as so much of the clothing was in a bad state and would normally have been replaced.

The kitchens were supplied with stoves intended for family use, but in two or three of the houses a second stove was obtained. However, the cooking of the food required real planning. The kitchens were equipped with utensils brought to the camp by the internees and by utensils bought or improvised. By the time the camp was moved to Weihsien most kitchens were well supplied.

All preparations, cooking, and serving of the food was done by the women of the camp who were divided into groups which did cooking, dishwashing, and house cleaning in rotation. Each of the houses had its own kitchen, and in most of them the meals served were ample, nourishing, well-balanced and appetizing.

Aside from supplies brought into the camp by internees nearly all food was purchased directly from local merchants, who secured passes to enter the camp from the Japanese authorities. At first they came in at any time without permission, but after Jan, 1943, they were always accompanied by guards who checked the

items with the invoices.

Prices were higher than market prices but through competition, checking with Chinese friends and the real cooperation of the Chief of the Japanese Consular Police, who were able to keep them within reason. It is worth noting that on one occasion when we were overcharged the chief of police forced a refund. When one contractor gave us bread that would not keep 24 hours without souring the Chief of Japanese Consular Police changed the contractor and severely warned all contractors.

At all times we were able to secure on the market ample supplies of beef, pork, fish (in season), cereals, peanuts, vegetables, and fruits. Chicken was at times as cheap as beef and afforded a welcome change in diet. Bread was secured at first from local bakeries, but as local supplies of flour ran low it deteriorated in quality and increased in price. Later when the Japanese sold us ample quantities of second grade flour, we contracted with local bakeries to give us 60 pounds of bread per bag of flour weighing 49 pounds at a cost of FRB\$23, per bag equivalent to US\$3.68. Usually we got very good bread. Plentiful supplies of second grade milk could be obtained from the local dairy. All milk was boiled before use. Milk was apportioned in the various houses in different ways. Considerable milk, butter, and cheese were purchased by individuals.

From October 29, 1942, until January 27, 1943, food was purchased with the internees' own personal funds. At the end of January the Japanese military authorities undertook to provide each internee with a sum of FRB\$4.00, the equivalent of US\$00.64, per person per day. Flour, sugar, corn meal, some rice and fuel, were sent in by the authorities and the cost of these commodities was deducted from the amount provided for the support. After the Japanese arranged for the feeding, Chinese compradors (under Japanese oversight) were allowed to come in and take orders from the housekeepers. The ladies in charge displayed a great deal of ingenuity in making the money stretch over the need and in making the food appetizing. The amount of sugar received was rationed to one pound per person per month. In some cases no sugar was used on the table and this sugar was used to make jams and marmalade for use on the bread.

Certain supplementary purchases could be made through the compradors for people who required special or extra food — such as liver (for those on liver diet) — and extra fruit and eggs. Soap was very expensive, but toward the end of the internment the Japanese authorities furnished both toilet and laundry soap at nominal prices; viz: two cakes toilet and two pieces laundry soap (small) for each person, at 25cents per cake. As Chefoo is a fruit-growing district, fruits of most kinds were usually procurable; also a good variety of vegetables could be secured. These were fairly good; but not the usual best quality as our buying was limited to the compradors who were allowed in and who, therefore, were largely in control of price and quality.

No comfort money was taken or received by the C.I.M. group at Chefoo, its own personal funds being used for any extras that were obtained. Upon arrival at Weihsien, those C.I.M. members who were listed for repatriation were told that they must accept comfort money for August and September, but when the group reached Shanghai it was told that this money was not forthcoming, although receipts for the money had already been signed at Weihsien.

RELIEF SUPPLIES

No clothing or shoes of any kind were sent in, nor were any gift parcels brought in or received.

PURCHASES WITH OWN FUNDS

Practically no restraint was laid upon the internees in the purchasing of food, clothing, drugs, etc., with their own money. Ladies and men's tailors, shoemaker and a laundryman had passes for free entry into camp, although after May they had to be accompanied by a guard. A man selling fresh fruit was allowed in every two, or three days in the summer. No clothing was supplied to the internees by the Japanese at any time.

From October 29, 1942, the first day of internment of the group until January 27, 1943, the internees had to support themselves. By January 27, less than half of the members of houses Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were able to pay the assessments.

At this time they owed the food merchants, carpenter and blacksmith considerable sums of money. After the Japanese took over our support — and not until then, Mr. Egger, the Swiss Representative, paid one month's relief, and started to pay comfort money as from December 1, 1942. With these funds in hand, all internees with one exception were able to pay up all back assessments. Beginning with January 27, 1943 the Japanese paid us more or less regularly FRB\$4.00, equivalent to US\$0.64 per person per day to cover all expenses: food, light, heat, repairs, replacements, hospitalization, etc. After March 1943, they sold the internees one half bag of flour and one pound of sugar per-person per-month and later added soap, all of which were sold at very, reasonable prices.

V. MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE.

Availability of physicians and specialists. If Japanese physicians assigned to camp, their professional ability and training. Hospitalization outside camp, whether in occidental or oriental hospitals, quality of treatment and care. Who pays fees?

Officially the medical care of the internees was in charge of the Japanese Public Health Doctor of Chefoo, who before the war had been friendly with the doctors of the mission hospital. As he was very busy he asked the interned medical missionaries to care for the sick and report cases of illness to him. He visited the camp when called and at other irregular intervals, sending internees needing hospital clinic treatment or hospitalization to the Temple Hill Hospital two blocks away. This hospital though nominally under Japanese supervision, was staffed by four Chinese doctors and the Chinese nurses; both graduates and students, who had been there when the hospital was under the mission control. They were all well qualified to treat and nurse the internees. Most of the time the four mission doctors in the camp accompanied their patients to the Hospital but during the last two or three months this privilege was denied with a resultant interruption in the close coordination of medical treatment.

During the latter part of the internment, a Japanese doctor made weekly visits and consulted with our doctors about health, and in a few cases made personal examinations. The whole group was vaccinated, and inoculated against cholera, and before travel-

ling were inoculated against typhoid fever. In a few cases, patients who needed special nursing and diet were treated and cared for. In Temple Hill Hospital, which was adjacent to the camp, one maternity case, several dysentery cases, blood tests, and similar treatment? One patient, who needed special lung deflation, was given treatment from time to time in Temple Hill Hospital, and later in the Japanese Hospital in the city where the necessary treatment could be secured.

VI SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION

Swiss Government Officials.

International Red Cross.

Vatican delegates.

Local relief societies.

Are internees permitted to speak to Swiss representatives without witnesses present? Are local residents permitted or willing to visit internees? Presentations taken by Japanese during such visits.

Mr. V. E. Egger, the Swiss Representative of American and British interests in Shantung, with Head Office at Tsingtao, was in Chefoo on the day of internment and was notified by the American Relief Committee of the concentration. He was present at the camp when the internees were being assembled and he did what he could for the internees, but was unable to alter the plan of the Japanese for the assembly, nor get any concessions for necessary baggage or equipment. He was allowed to come into the camp but was watched closely by a military guard at all times. Mr. Egger returned to camp from time to time to supply the internees with comfort money, give information and get data regarding repatriation. He helped materially in getting permission for individuals in camp to return home for clothing, bedding, etc., that might still be in their home, which in nearly every instance were found to have been looted. On nearly every occasion when he came to camp he was supervised by a guard who understood English, and when thus escorted he was, not permitted to hold private conversations with any of the internees. At times the supervisions were not rigid and on one occasion he was permitted by the Chief of the Guard to have lunch with the internees without a guard.

One German family in Chefoo was very friendly with the internees and rendered valuable assistance in procuring food and clothing for many from the local market. Chinese friends and servants were permitted to talk with the internees at the gate until May, 1943, when the Japanese attempted to cut the camps off from all local contact both foreign and Chinese. Until that time the internees were permitted to have Chinese servants outside the camps who would purchase special food in the market, and who were permitted to collect and return laundry each week. Most of these conversations were supervised by the local Chinese Police who were very friendly when the Japanese were not present.

At no time was the Chefoo camp visited by a representative of the International Red Cross, except by Mr. Egger, the Swiss Representative. Likewise the camp was not visited by any Vatican Delegate or any representative of local relief societies.

VII. WELFARE AND RECREATION.

Facilities for recreation. Comfort allowances. Personal funds (loans etc.). Passes and temporary releases. For what purposes issued and to what extent. Package lines. "Vacations".

No facilities for recreation of any kind were provided by the Japanese authorities. Courts for deck tennis were made in the gardens of each of the three groups, and group No. 3 had a regulation tennis court which was used for tennis, hockey, and other games. Additional sports and garden equipment was promised by the Japanese Consul, but this never materialized. Other forms of entertainment and amusement were organized in the various houses by the internees. Plays were written and produced, lectures were given, and two orchestras were organized. Courses of study for the community children were given in the various houses until about June when permission was given for them to attend the classes of the China Inland Mission School, in No. 3 compound. Courses of study for adults in home nursing, cooking, and modern languages proved very popular.

The internees were fortunate in having a goodly number of books in the private libraries of the homes occupied by the camp, which were freely used by all. After March, 1943, the various houses were supplied with copies of the Peking Chronicle (later charged to the account of each house) which came with fair regularity. No other papers or periodicals came into camp.

In connection with the schools, a series of lectures and concerts were given by internees, (very informally) but no inter-compound activities were permitted. On Sundays two services were held regularly by each group. For these, detailed notes of the addresses given had to be submitted to the Japanese authorities several days before the Sunday. The Japanese had to approve these notes, but no case where such notes were not approved is recalled. On one or two special days a very few selected persons were permitted to come from one compound to the other in order to take part in the program.

Passes and Vacations.

No vacations were suggested or allowed. During the first few months of internment passes were issued by the military authorities, allowing some internees to return home to get clothing, bedding, coal, and household utensils. Some were able to get essentials but many found their homes already badly looted. Most internees were allowed to make several such trips. Mr. Paradissis (a Greek) and his sister-in-law were given permission once each month to return to their home where Mrs. Paradissis, their invalid, daughter and elderly grandmother were confined. Passes were issued on request to visit the dentist. Internees were given passes to visit the other two groups in the Chefoo camp about once in two weeks. Usually passes could be obtained for particular cases to attend the Out Patient Department of the hospital.

The medical committee of the internees held an emergency pass to the hospital in case of accident or serious illness. All visits outside the camp with passes were made under guard.

Comfort Allowances and Personal Funds.

Up to October 29, 1942, the initial date of internment in Chefoo, money for the maintenance of Americans and allied nationals in Chefoo with the exception of the China Inland Mission group was provided from a fund of FRB\$25,000 equivalent to US\$4,000 which the Japanese Consulate deposited with the Yokohama Specie Bank in Chefoo. Periodically beginning with the month of January, 1942, the Japanese Consul paid over to the American Mutual Aid Committee and to the British Mutual Aid Committee in cash withdrawn from the fund in the Yokohama Specie Bank the amounts indicated by the two committees, as required for the living expenses, of the nationals whose names were submitted with the amounts required for each.

The two committees then distributed the cash to their nationals on the following schedule:

1	Married couples:	FRB\$300 equivalent of US\$48
2	Single Persons:	FRB\$200 equivalent of US\$32
3	Children:	FRB\$ 50 equivalent of USA 8

Following this schedule, payments were made on February 17, 1942, for the months of January and February. Similar payments were made in March, April, and May, 1942, when the original allotment of FRB\$25,000 set aside for relief by the Japanese was exhausted.

No information was given by the Japanese to the Committees in regard to future repayment.

A delay occurred in the advancing of relief funds by the Japanese following the exhaustion of the FRB\$25,000 in May, 1942. Negotiations which contemplated that the Swiss Consul in Tsingtao would take over the matter of relief funds for American and allied nationals in Chefoo failed for lack of Japanese assent thereto. However, after further negotiation and much urging, the Japanese advanced additional funds for June and later for July and August, 1942. These payments were greatly delayed, that for June being made in July, and that for July and August being made in September. No further relief was paid by the Japanese authorities.

When the internees were placed in the camp on October 29, 1942, no relief funds for the months of September and October, 1942, had been given to them from any source. The internees maintained themselves thereafter until January 27, 1943, when the daily allowance of FRB\$4.00 (U.S. \$0.64) was provided by the Japanese. However, in January, 1943, through the good offices of the Swiss Consulate in Tsingtao the internees were granted relief allowances for the first full month of internment, i.e. November, 1942, as follows:

1	Married couples,;	FRB 450 equal to US\$72
2	Single persons:	FRB\$250 equal to US\$40
3	Children:	FRB 50 equal to US\$ 8

For the four months following November, 1942, the Swiss Consul in January, 1943, then provided the internees with "Comfort Money" on the basis of FRB\$50, (US\$8) .per person per month. Thereafter the "Comfort Money", was paid regularly each month up through May, 1943. In June and July, 1943, the "Comfort Allowance" was increased to FRB\$150 (\$24.00 U.S.) per person. The "Comfort Allowances" for the months of August and September were not paid to the internees until after their transfer to the Weihsien Camp. Those of the internees, however, who were to be repatriated in 1943, requested that their August and September "Comfort Allowance" be remitted by the Japanese at Weihsien in part to the St. John's Camp at Shanghai, where they were to be lodged temporarily prior to their embarkation, and in part to repatriation vessel "Teia Maru". They signed receipts at Weihsien for the August and September allowances, but in fact only that part remitted to them at St. John's Camp in Shanghai was received; the portion directed for them on board the vessel was never received.

Those nationals attached to the China Inland Mission were offered the same amount in comfort allowances and relief allowances, but declined to accept the money on any basis, inasmuch as it is the policy of the China Inland Mission and the members thereof not to obligate themselves financially.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

How often letters and cards may be sent by internees; restrictions on length and contents. Regularity of receipt of mail. Transit time. Particularly important are facts which may be quoted indicating where, delays may have occurred.

The internees in Chefoo were permitted to send one Red Cross letter per person per month. These were sent out with Mr. Egger of the Swiss Consulate at Tsingtao, none being sent directly through the Japanese. Mr. Egger brought a small number of Red Cross letters into camp, and occasionally one would be brought in by a Japanese Consular representative. Later it was required that a list be prepared by each internee of those to whom they would wish to send letters and from whom they might expect letters. 100 word letters were permitted to be sent, after censoring and re-writing, to those on this list. No other provision for communications was provided. Descriptions of the camp, location, number of internees, living conditions and certain activities were the chief items deleted by the Sensor.

Letters could be sent by the International Red Cross, but these, were very long in coming. For instance, Red Cross letters mailed in U.S.A. in November and December, 1942, reached camp in Weihsien on September 14, 1943. A card definitely stamped as received in Chefoo by the Post Office in February, was not delivered until four months later, and this was merely a greeting card with no personal message on it.

Until May, 1943, when the Japanese became aware of this avenue of communication, English letters in Chinese envelopes and, addressed in Chinese were frequently delivered surreptitiously by the Chinese Postman, and replies were sent through similar channels. This constituted our main contact with Free China and our home country.

IX. LABOR.

What kind and where performed. Voluntary or paid for; mode of payment, that is money or kind, food, etc. If wages paid for with money, what could be purchased? What compensation to those who were injured during course of labour.

All work was done by internees. Pumping water, building fires in kitchen and rooms, all cooking and preparing of foods, dish-washing, laundry (with a few exceptions, large pieces could be sent out to Chinese laundries, but these were subject to very close inspection and the work was not very satisfactory).

Repairs (except a few repairs of pumps and plumbing, which required iron workers) were done by our internees, including making some furniture. A few carts of water were brought in daily by coolies to supplement that pumped from the wells, and coolies were provided by municipal authorities to remove the night soil. Aside from these, no help was permitted. For a time tailors and shoemakers were allowed in to take orders for new shoes and for clothes. Also, a few amahs came and took away some mending and sewing.

The internees were not asked to do any labour outside the camp, but all the labour inside was performed by them. Labour groups composed of men, women, and the older children were appointed by the house executive committees and their work designated. Every internee except the aged, sick and very young was in one or more labour groups. No servants were allowed by the Japanese, so the question of pay was not considered.

X. PUNISHMENT.

Penalties prescribed for Americans, particularly for attempts to escape. What proceedings for accused. What disciplinary measures rather than penalties prescribed by quanjudicial proceedings.

No occasions requiring punishment or discipline arose. On one occasion, long before internment, two boys wandered over the bluff and came upon some fortified place. They were held overnight but were not mistreated and were discharged the following morning.

When the Japanese Consul took over charge of the camp from the Military, the Chief of the Japanese Consular Police was given charge of the camps. This was a fortunate choice for all internees as this man really had the interests of the camps at heart. He was limited in his powers, but he did all that he could for us. He won the respect and admiration of all who dealt with him.

XI. SUPPLIES FOR INTERNEES.

What supplies sent by Red Cross or other organizations reached camps; nature of supplies, date of arrival, method of distribution. What possessions were taken away from internees without receipts being given?

No Red Cross or other relief supplies reached the Chefoo Camp.

When the internees left their homes they were allowed to take very limited amounts of necessities and no receipts were given for the things left in their homes. All keys had to be surrendered to the Military. Looting started in most of the houses at once. All bicycles in the camp were confiscated in March, 1943, when the Japanese Consular Police took over the guarding of the camp. No receipts were given.

Musical instruments, furniture, bicycles (quite a number owned by the school-boys), books, cameras, radios, wall pictures, were taken and no receipts were given.

There were at least 500 beds left at the compound of the China Inland Mission in Chefoo at the time when members of that mission were interned in October, 1942. These missionaries were not allowed to take any of the beds to the internment camp at Chefoo and consequently suffered considerable discomfort. No beds were available during the entire period of internment in Chefoo from October, 1942, to September, 1943, except those found on the promises at the Temple Hill Compounds. These premises were simply the simple foreign style one family residences of missionaries. The morning the internees left the Chefoo Camp on their journey to Weihsien in September, 1943, Japanese trunks were waiting at the gates of the camp to remove equipment which the Japanese would not permit internees to take or which had to be abandoned.

The worst crime was the wholesale looting of the baggage of the internees during the transfer to Weihsien and while under the care of the Japanese. The looters seemed to want especially man's winter clothing, shoes, and bedding, though women's clothing was also taken. Evidently several pieces were opened at a time and a choice made, for in repacking the rejected articles they often returned them to the wrong pieces of baggage. Some lost all their winter clothing, a very serious loss. Even the baggage of some repatriates was looted between Chefoo and the ship at Shanghai.

XII. PERSONAL TREATMENT OF INTERNEES.

In general, it is desired to know whether any internees have been exposed to violence, insult or public curiosity.

With but one exception, no one was exposed to violence, insult, or public curiosity. On one occasion when a group of men from the camp were taken to the beach to fill bags with sand to be brought to the camp for air-raid precautions, the guards accompanying this group left their revolvers at headquarters and were armed only with the customary short sword.

One internee, a widow of a British missionary, who herself had a Chinese mother, and who had many contacts among the local Chinese, was discovered to have received some letters from Chinese friends and was taken over to the guards for questioning during which she was struck by one with a cane. She suffered no more than the nervous reaction of the incident.

In the beginning of the internment, the camps were under the charge of the military, and there was little order or system in the oversight. Later on the Consular authorities took over this work and responsibility. The oversight was more strict, but the methods were more regular. Compound gates were kept locked and roll call

was held morning and evening. With a few exceptions — several aged people, one invalid, and a new born babe — all were required to appear at roll call.



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North China

CIVIL ASSEMBLY CENTRE AT WEIHSIEN

(Shantung Province)

Visited the 9th and 10th November 1943 by Mr A. Jost, Assistant-Delegate.

Location:

The twin cities of Weihsien, in Shantung Province are reached by the railway line from Tientsin to Tsingtao. The city of Weihsien is enjoying the typical climatic conditions of North China, cold but dry in the winter and not too hot in the summer, with little rainfall throughout the year. The camp is outside the city of Weihsien, about two miles from the Railroad Station, located in the compound of the former Presbyterian Mission.

Established:

20th March 1943.

Camp Committee:

The inmates have elected their own representatives for the following 9 committees who are managing the affairs of the Assembly Centre directly with the Commandant:

Banking
Discipline
Educational
Food
General Affairs
Hospital
Medical
Quarters
Sports

	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN <5	CHILDREN < 16	TOTAL
British	370	410	71	242	1095
Americans	87	78	15	22	202
Dutch	8	11	—	9	28
Belgians	19	13	4	6	42
Others	23	19	6	10	58
	507	531	96	289	1425

Recreation:

There are two grounds at the disposal of the inmates where they can enjoy all kinds of outdoor sports such as Football, Softball, Basket ball, Hockey, Horseshoe-Pitching, etc. The inmates avail themselves of these facilities as often as their free time permits and are quite keen in arranging competitions for the various sports. There are also opportunities for indoor games

and the camp boasts a very fine orchestra, a dance-band, and a choir. An amateur dramatic society is performing with great success. The gardening section is somewhat neglected due to a shortage of the necessary tools.

Correspondence:

Each Inmate is allowed to write monthly a letter of 150 words to occupied China and a message abroad on the I.R.C.C.'s form No.61C. There is no limit to the amount of messages an Inmate may receive. Telegrams also may be received and sent through the I.R.C.C. and other correspondents, the Swiss Consular Agencies in Tientsin and Tsingtao. Unfortunately mail to and from Weihsien is most of the time greatly delayed as it has to pass via Peking first for censorship.

Funds:

Inmates receive from their respective Governments a Camp comfort allowance through the protecting power. In the case of British, American and Dutch nationals, this amounts to FRB\$150—monthly. Inmates of other nationality receive less.

Visitors:

No arrangements have been made so far to allow visitors to the Centre. This would in any case prove difficult and tedious matter as the Weihsien Camp is about 4½ hours train journey from Tsingtao and 18 hours from Tientsin, and military travelling permits would have to be secured. However, permits are being granted to Inmates in case of a serious illness to go to Peking for necessary operations and treatment.

Comfort Parcels:

Comfort parcels are being admitted freely to the camp. The I.R.C.C. has not been called upon to arrange this service since all parcels can be forwarded through the Chinese Post Office. Certain delays in the delivery of parcels sent from Tientsin are unavoidable as all parcels have to be sent first to Peking to pass censorship. Many complaints have been received lately to the effect that parcels delivered through the Post Office, were received by Inmates in a badly pilfered condition. Investigations are being carried out by our correspondents in North China as a continuation of such practices cannot be tolerated.

Conclusion:

Although the Weihsien camp, where most enemy nationals from North China are assembled, is remote from any larger or modern city, one has the feeling that the locality is a pleasant and healthy one. Inmates looked well and cheerful and expressed their appreciation, over the good treatment accorded to them by the

Inmates:

Meals:

Three meals are being prepared daily, the composition of which was not obtainable. The food supplies are weighed and distributed every morning by the Food Committee to the various kitchens. Inmates are cooking their own food and I was informed that they are turning out well prepared and tasty wholesome meals. Many inmates have small Chinese stoves which enable them to prepare supplementary food.

Bread:

The camp has built its own bakery and a Greek inmate, formerly a baker of high repute in North China, is — — ??

(page(s) missing !?)

Religion:

Services are conducted regularly for both Catholics and Protestants by Missionaries who are themselves Camp Inmates.

Library:

The library has been very well arranged and consists of approximately 4000 volumes. A special feature is the separate children's library, which is called upon to supply a part of the tuition books to the varied schools.

Schools:

After the recent repatriation of American Nationals, and the transfer of the Chefoo School of the China Inland Mission, the camp has formed the following schooling facilities:

The Chefoo School

The Weihsien School

The Kindergarten

The Nursery School

Private tuition is given to about 30 children whose past education does not permit them to follow the courses of previously mentioned schools. I had an opportunity to visit several classes in session and I could see that the Inmates had laid great stress on the educational part of their children's' life in camp. No doubt the purpose has been achieved to provide children with schooling as good as possible under the circumstances.

Authorities and the kindness of the Camp Commandant and other Officers. The camp is well arranged and organized and relations between Inmates and Officers of the Detaining Power are good.

REPORT ON WEIHSIEN CIVIL ASSEMBLY CENTER

Introduction

(This section of the report has been prepared by Mr. Wm. B. Christian)

End of page.



The Japanese authorities notified British and American nationals in Peking and Tientsin on March 12, 1943, about two weeks in advance of the projected internment that they were to be interned at Weihsien in Shantung Province. This notification was first communicated in Peking by the Japanese Embassy to the American Relief Committee which in turn distributed mimeographed notices to American nationals. In Tientsin the same procedure was followed by the Japanese Consulate General and the American Relief Committee.

In Tientsin prospective internees were told that they might send ahead a maximum of three trunks and necessary bed and bedding. In Peking prospective internees were told that they might send ahead two steamer trunks and bed and bedding. There was no restriction with respect to internees taking into camp food, money, clothing, and other personal effects so long as the luggage did not exceed the prescribed limit.

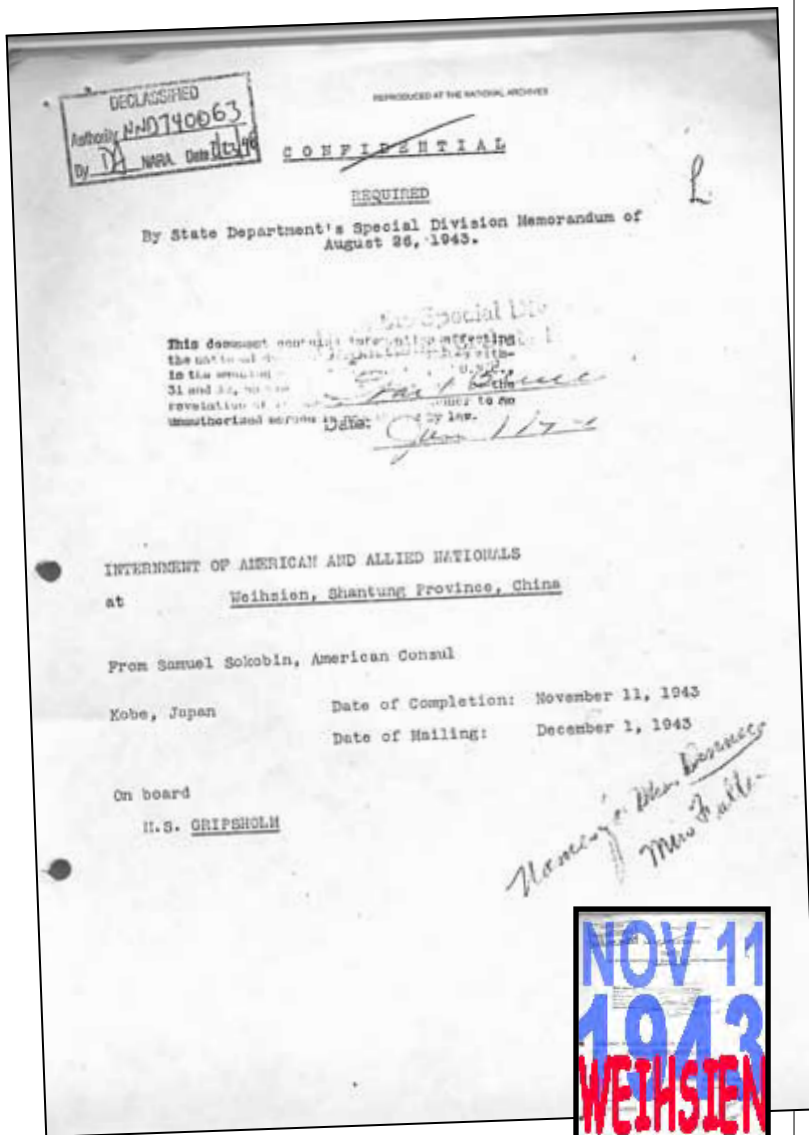
In both Peking and Tientsin exceptions to internment orders were allowed with respect to the very aged and the ill, subject to the approval of a Japanese doctor. Very few individuals were exempted, however, many aged and chronically ill being forced to enter the camp. So far as is known, there was no resistance to or avoidance of the internment order.

The first Tientsin group — 255 men, women, and children, composed mostly of British nationals — left that city on March 22, 1943. The first Peking group, numbering about 245 and composed mostly of Americans, left Peking on March 24. The second Tientsin group of about 260 persons, mostly Americans, left on March 26. The second Peking group of about 240, mostly British, left on March 28. The third Tientsin group of about 265 persons, entirely British and largely women and children, left Tientsin on March 30. In all cases these groups arrived at the Weihsien camp on the day following their departure. The Tsingtao group of about 170 persons which had, since October 27, 1942, been interned in the Iltis-Hydro Hotel in Tsingtao, left Tsingtao on March 20, 1943, arriving at the Weihsien camp the same day.

In all cases, the groups were in the charge of a, general sponsor, chosen by the Japanese, and were sub-divided into smaller groups in the charge of persons designated by the internees.

The trip to the Weihsien camp was made under most crowded conditions in third-class cars with no possible place for relaxing. All internees were compelled to sit up for the entire journey which, from Peking to Weihsien, required 18 hours; from Tientsin to Weihsien, about 14 hours, and from Tsingtao to Weihsien, about 6 hours. Not even the aged and ill, compelled to make a journey of from 14 to 18 hours by rail, had any provision for sleeping or even reclining been made.

The Japanese authorities in Peking had indicated officially that food would be provided in the dining cars attached to the



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Declassified: February 23, 1996.

By State Department's Special Division Memorandum of August 26, 1943.

INTERMENT OF AMERICAN AND ALLIED NATIONALS

At Weihsien, Shantung Province, CHINA

From Samuel Sobokin, American Consul

Kobe, Japan, November 11, 1943

Date of mailing, December 1, 1943

On board M/S GRIPSHOLM

trains, but no one was permitted to enter the dining cars and no effort was made by the authorities to provide food or drink during the entire journey. Fortunately, most people had taken lunches and canteens or thermos bottles; otherwise, greater hardship would have resulted.

In the case of the Peking internees, they were advised that they could take two suitcases and a knapsack which they must carry themselves from the American Embassy Grounds, where they were to assemble, to the Ch'ien Men Station, a distance of about one-third of a mile. Many of the internees were men and women of advanced years and at the last moment the Japanese authorities found that it was utterly impossible for these persons to carry their bags. Consequently, one small motor truck was provided for transporting the hand luggage of the feeble. However, at least 80 of the internees were compelled to march through the streets of Peking carrying a suitcase in each hand, a knapsack on their back, and a canteen or thermos bottle as best they could. Many of the women had provided themselves with makeshift wheel-barrow which they trundled before them. Coolies and rickshaws for the handling of this luggage were easily available, and the fact that internees were not permitted to secure this help resulted in additional unnecessary discomfort. It was entirely obvious that the Japanese authorities did everything they could to try to humiliate U.S. citizens in the eyes of the Chinese. Japanese cameramen constantly took motion pictures of the assembly and the march to the station. These pictures subsequently were shown in native cinemas all over occupied China.

Upon arrival in Weihsien, the internees were loaded into motor buses and trucks, and taken to the camp where they were lined up in groups and the chief sponsor for each Group was given a two-page typewritten draft of the rules and regulations of the camp which he was asked to read to his group. After this was done, the groups were led to the classroom buildings of the Weihsien camp and were told that they must sleep on the floor of these buildings. In no case had the beds and bedding, which had been shipped from Tientsin and Peking many days prior to their departure, arrived in Weihsien. On the morning following their arrival, internees were made to sign a pledge of good behaviour, and to declare the amount of cash which they had brought to the camp.

When the Tsingtao Group arrived on the evening of March 20, no arrangements for eating had been made. They were shown by the Japanese to the kitchens and told they must clean there and prepare their meals from a supply of vegetables which the authorities had provided. In this respect the Tsingtao group suffered more than those arriving subsequently. For the first few days after the arrival of the Peking and Tientsin groups there was nothing to eat except stale bread and a stew composed of leeks and potatoes.

Rooms were allocated by the Japanese the following day after arrival at the camp, but beds and bedding generally did not arrive until two or three days later, so that all internees were compelled to sleep on the floor in freezing March weather with only their overcoats and in some cases blankets for protection. A few stoves were issued to the aged, ill, and those with small children, but in no case were they in usable condition until after the internees had been in the camp for several days.

Camp Organization

At the time of the internees' arrival in the camp the Japanese authorities had sent to Weihsien the Japanese Tsingtao Consul. (not Consul General), a Mr. Kagegawa, who had lived many years in London, spoke fluent English, and whose attitude toward the internees was firm but correct. As soon as the camp was organized, he returned to Tsingtao.

Immediately upon the opening of the camp, a temporary committee was formed of senior residents of Tsingtao, Tientsin, and Peking, and the operating of the camp during the first week was handled by this committee to the best of their ability. On the night of March 31 this temporary committee was advised by Mr. Kagegawa that the time had come when permanent committees must be set up and that the names of the committee men must be in the hands of the authorities before noon on April 2. Those concerned asked for an extension of time but this was refused for reasons unknown. This necessitated hurried action on the part of the internees. After considerable discussion, it was decided to divide the camp into four groups, namely, laymen groups from Tsingtao, Tientsin, and Peking, and a Roman Catholic group, as there were nearly 500 Catholic fathers, brothers, and sisters in the camp at that time. Each of these groups was permitted to name one representative to serve on the nine committees which the Japanese had indicated they wished to function as the executive organs of the camp. These committees were Discipline, Education, Employment, Engineering and Repairs, Finance, Food Supplies, General Affairs, Medical Affairs, and Quarters. The 36 representatives, one from each of the four groups to each of the nine committees were chosen, and the groups of four forming each committee chose their own chairman. The results were given to the Japanese authorities at noon on April 2. This hastily chosen organization continued to function from April 1 to May 28 when a general election was held to elect permanent representatives to the various committees. Almost without exception the original members were re-elected. The committee chairmen were as shown below:

Committee	Chairman	Nationality
Discipline	E. McLaren	British
Education	W. Pryor	British
Employment	N. Gorman.	American
Engineering and Repairs	L. D. Jones	British
Finance	E. Torrey	American
Food Supplies	N. Whitting	British
General Affairs	W. Christian	American
Medical Affairs	H. Loucks	American
Quarters	T. Waters	British

The Japanese permanent staff consisted of Mr. Tsukigawa, the Commandant, who personally supervised the work of the Education and Employment Committees; Mr. Koga, general assistant to Mr. Tsukigawa and English-speaking Japanese in the charge of Food Supplies and Medical Affairs; Mr. Izu, non-English speaking Japanese in the charge of Engineering and Repairs, buildings, and related affairs; Mr. Ihara, in the charge of General Affairs, including the canteen, post office, etc.; and Mr. Mitsumoto in the charge of Finance, including the management of the Center Bank. Discipline

was under the control of a retired Japanese major whose name has been forgotten and he had under him 40 Japanese Consular Police. On December 7, 1941, Mr. Tsukigawa, the Commandant, had been a Vice Consul attached to the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu but spoke almost no English. He was a man of very ordinary intelligence, extremely incompetent in practical matters, and not inclined to be helpful in connection with the many problems with which the internees were faced. Generally speaking, however, the attitude of the officials was correct in that there were very few incidents and the internees were given practical autonomy in the direction of their affairs

End of Introduction (= page -4-)

(Jump to "page 20") — — —

No Vatican delegate visited the camp. However, the Catholics were permitted to receive visits from Japanese and Chinese Catholics and also many visits from Father Flasch, a prominent German Catholic priest from Tsinanfu, as well as visits from German priests from Peking. In this respect the Catholics were much more liberally treated than the Protestants. Visiting priests and sisters were allowed to bring in food and medical supplies and clothing without any restrictions whatsoever and with only the most casual inspection. It was obvious at all times that the authorities were anxious to avoid antagonizing the Catholic group.

If any local relief societies existed, they were unable to contact the internees in any way. Local Chinese residents were never permitted to visit the camp.

WELFARE AND RECREATION

(This section of the report has been prepared by Mr. Wm. B. Christian and Mr. E. W. Torrey)

VII. Welfare and recreation:

Facilities for recreation. Comfort allowances. Personal funds (loans, etc.) Passes and temporary releases. For what purpose issued and to what extent. Package lines. "Vacations."

Facilities for Recreation

The Weihsien Camp provided a baseball diamond, somewhat small for regular baseball but well suited to softball, a tennis court in bad condition, and a basketball and volleyball court. In addition, cricket and hockey were played on the baseball field. Softball was by far the most popular form of sport and various teams recruited among the internees provided many interesting games which were largely attended and did much to improve the

morale of the entire camp. Athletic equipment was brought in by the internees and supplemented by supplies purchased through the courtesy of the Swiss Consular offices, all of which were paid for by the internees.

The church was the general recreation hall and provided a place where theatricals, concerts — both piano and symphony — were held each Friday and Saturday night. Great interest was shown in these performances and many of them reached an amazingly high standard of excellence. The camp was fortunate in possessing two grand pianos which permitted two-piano concerts which were outstanding performances.

Religious Worship

The authorities gave the internees complete freedom for religious worship. There were in the camp large groups of all denominations and sects, both Protestant and Catholic, and these had every facility possible for holding Sunday school, church services, and bible classes for the Protestants, and masses and other services for the Catholic group. On Easter Sunday 1943 very impressive services were held by both Protestants and Catholics. As Protestant missionaries and teachers and Catholic priests and sisters made up some half of the total number of internees, religion in all its aspects contributed a large factor in the life of the camp.

Education

As soon as the camp was opened, the question of education, both juvenile and adult, was given careful consideration. The organization of this important phase of camp life was handled by the Education Committee of four persons under competent chairmanship of a Britisher previously associated with the Tientsin Grammar School. Starting with the youngest children, a group of about 50 three to four year olds were in the charge of a trained English kindergarten teacher and five assistants; a group of about 20 four to five year olds were under two American teachers; and an older group of about 20 five to six year olds were handled by two young women — an Australian and a New Zealander. As camp mothers were busy with home and kitchen work, the classes for the younger children did invaluable service not only from an educational point of view but also by relieving the mothers of the care of the young children which would have prevented them from carrying out the daily work necessitated by camp conditions.

Elementary education was conducted by internee teachers and was divided into an American group working under the general supervision of former teachers of the Peking American School, and a British group working under teachers mostly from the Tientsin Grammar School. Some 100 children were enrolled in classes covering grades 1 to 8 for the American group and corresponding forms for the British school. Nine teachers were employed for the American group and seven for the British. Classes were held in poorly furnished, dark, crowded, and generally unsuitable classrooms. All books and equipment, except chalk, were supplied by internees. Classes were sometimes held in the open when the weather permitted.

High school education was based on the American four-year system and the English higher forms. Fifteen teachers were employed and there were about 75 students. At the end of the scholastic year in June 1943 five American boys and girls received their high school diplomas and several students of the British school were promoted to higher forms.

Adult education developed along very broad lines. Ninety teachers taught more than 700 students in 25 subjects divided and sub-divided into 120 divisions. There were 320 classes a week, making a total of 3665 student-hours a week. Subjects taught included art, botany, biology, ornithology, physics, chemistry, English, Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese, Latin, Greek, philosophy, psychology, theology, commercial subjects (such as shorthand, bookkeeping and auditing), vocal and theoretical music, and higher mathematics.

The Japanese authorities showed a marked interest in education and this phase of camp life was under the supervision of Mr. Tsukigawa, the camp commandant. Weekly lectures on timely subjects of general interest were held each Wednesday evening and proved both entertaining and instructive.

Comfort Allowances and Personal Funds

Each group of internees on arrival at the Weihsien camp was required, to declare the amount of cash held by each individual. About the middle of April 1943, after all the larger groups from Peking, Tientsin, and Tsingtao had arrived, internees were requested to deposit, their funds in the Center Bank, which is under the complete control of the Japanese authorities in the camp. Except in the case of two or three small groups that arrived later on, the authorities made no attempt to require the internees to deposit the full amount declared on arrival. In return for the money, they received a sheet of paper marked "passbook", showing the name, nationality of depositor, amount of deposit, balance, and bearing a chop applied by one of the Japanese officials.

The Japanese authorities insisted that "comfort" money received from the Swiss representative must be deposited to these individual accounts (in the case of families it was required that the account be in the name of the head of the family). Thus, up to the departure of this group, the following deposits of "comfort" money had been made:

For Month of	Amount per Person	Approximate Date Deposited
April/May	FRB\$100	Early June
June	FRB\$50	Early July
July	FRB\$100	Late July
August/September	FRB\$200	Third week of August

The Japanese authorities did not allow these deposits or any of the personal deposits to be withdrawn at will. They were reluctant to permit the internees to withdraw except on a very modest scale, hence there developed dissatisfaction and friction in the camp. Finally, however, through the good offices of the Swiss rep-

resentative and the representations of the camp committees, the camp authorities agreed in July to allow monthly withdrawals at the rate of \$100 per month per person.

"Regular" monthly withdrawals (i.e., those permitting every depositor to withdraw) were permitted as follows:

Middle of April	FRB\$25 per person (US\$1.66)
Middle of May	FRB\$50 per single person (FRB\$80 for a married couple with a scale for children according to age, averaging FRB\$25 per each child)

(end of page 22)



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

From The Special Division

Department of State

Embassy of the United States of America

DATE: January 21, 1944

Chungking, December 17, 1943

No. 1921

SUBJECT:

Life of Foreign Internees at Weihsien, Shantung

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of dispatch no. 89 of November 25, 1943 from the Vice Consul at Kweilin, together with a copy of its enclosure, a translation of an article written by a staff member of the Peking Chronicle, a Japanese controlled newspaper.

Although the reference article may contain a certain amount of factual information, its text as a whole does not appear to warrant complete acceptance in as much as its author and his newspaper are under strict Japanese supervision.

A brief summary of the article is included in the reference dispatch.

Respectfully yours,

(signed)

C.E. Gauss.



Enclosure:

Copy of dispatch no. 89 of November 22, 1943

In single copy to the department

711.5

HBH/kky

Enclosure to dispatch no. 89 dated November 24, 1943 to the Embassy at Chungking.

A Description of the Life of Foreign Internees at Weihsien, Shantung.

According to statistics recently issued by the Japanese Ministry of Greater East Asia Affairs, hostile British and American residents in China at present number 7,500 British and 2,100 Americans, not including hostile residents of other nations. Before the war they are undoubtedly "devils who used to squeeze the Chinese people". But how is their life after the outbreak of the war? We now learn that their life is comparatively comfortable, although they are interned; and this is evidence of the greatness of the magnanimous spirit of Japan. In Weihsien, Shantung, about 2,000 hostile foreigners are being interned. Recently, a reporter of the "Peking Chronicle" named Witte Kant has made a trip to that place. His description of the life of the foreign internees there is as follows:

"In Weihsien, Shantung, there are about 2,000 hostile foreigners in internment for four and a half months. A two-day travel at that place will disclose that although they differ in religion, race, class or profession, they are now accustomed to the new circumstances and are living within a surprisingly harmonious atmosphere. Everywhere reveals that their esprit de corps has overcome their selfishness. The internment camp is situated on an elevated ground near the city wall of Weihsien, overlooking the country on all sides. Looking from after, the former Presbyterian Church gives us a beautiful impression. Outside the Church is a thick wood; and the red walls as well as grey roofs appear from the midst of the trees rendering the Church more dignified.

"A police officer from the Japanese Consulate having looked at the pass handed out by the visitor directs him to the central entrance which leads to the internment camp. Once inside, you will be put among the bustle of social life. An inspection of the life of these residents will reveal that they enjoy reasonable comfort, and everywhere overflows with pleasant and friendly atmosphere.

"These foreign internees have their own committees to manage their own affairs. They are five in number, viz. medical committee, responsible for hygiene; public welfare committee responsible for education, reception and finance; general affairs committee responsible for the control of general affairs; supply committee responsible for all matters of supplies and the management of a small bar; and training committee responsible for the distribution of duties and matters of repairs. These five committees meet the need of their life and are the centre of their daily activities.

"Generally speaking, they have complete freedom inside the camp. Their movements are not restricted: they may visit their friends, hold tea parties, read, write and exercise, but they have to do their duties assigned to them by their committees. The training committee assigns to each person a certain kind of work; the amount of work undertaken by each person is not much, as the number of able-bodied males and females is numerous, and generally the work is equally divided among them. On the average each person except children and the aged works two and a half hours a day. Besides working hours, the rest of the time is left to them to spend in whatever way as they may wish.

"Inside the internment camp there is also a school which all children are required to attend, and in which there are good missionary teachers, both male and female, Catholic and Protestants. Because many of the students and teachers come from the same school, their original classes are being continued, and even their text-books are unchanged. The guards on the Japanese Consulate have become well acquainted with the school children and they often send them some dolls, toys and small birds as presents.

The Hospital of this camp is a bright, well-ventilated and cool house, and the rooms are clean and well kept. The number of physicians is not less than seventeen, most of whom are recognized medical specialists, and the nurses perform their duties well. The important isolation is between small operation rooms and the maternity rooms. Since April, four babies have been born and further additions are expected.

"The exact number of internees is 1,794 belonging to all nationalities. The business of the small bar prospers, supplying all kinds of daily necessities and things wished for by every person so that its shares are also increasing. Every internee is entitled to special allowance of \$100 each month, or he or she may be allowed to draw this amount from his or her own account at the Central Bank. With this sum of money each person can obtain more enjoyment.

"Their food is sufficient in quantity and hygienic in quality. As stated by the authorities of the camp, there is no necessity of sending the internees large quantities of food by friends from outside, but consolation bags in reasonable size may be accepted. Newspapers should not be used as wrappers. Food easily decayed should not be sent in, because it takes some time for the food to be delivered to the person for whom it is intended. Each person inside is allowed to send out one letter or postcard monthly, and of course all correspondence is subject to censorship.

"Subscription to the "Peking Chronicle" is permissible, and the paper is sent out once every four or five days.

They have a band; with this and the band of the Salvation Army, concerts are held at fixed intervals. They have also a dramatic society; and it has given a performance with full-house attendance.

"Inside the camp there is also a library with more than 1,000

copies of books and magazines for public reading too.

Their chief sports are base-ball, volley-ball and tennis, and they have regular tournaments. Notice boards are put up everywhere reporting various events inside the camp.

"This internment camp is under the supervision of the Japanese Vice-Consul who came from Tokyo, especially responsible for this matter. He and his able assistants deserve credit for the orderliness within the camp. The police officer of the consulate is the only person responsible for surveillance;

"From the above description we can see that the internees are passing a healthy and regular life. The progress of all affairs has reached the extent of setting an example for others."

Sources:

Heung Top Yat Po, Hong-Kong,

September 15, 1943.





ASSISTANCE AUX BELGES D'ASIE ORIENTALE

Annexe 3 à la circulaire II, du 6/2/1944

Op

Copie d'une lettre adressée par le Comité International de la Croix Rouge, Genève, 29 novembre 1943, à la Croix Rouge de Belgique, et communiquée par celle-ci sous date du 1/2/1944.

Objet : civils belges internés au camp de Weihsien près de Pékin.

Pour faire suite à la correspondance que nous avons eue avec vous au sujet des civils belges internés en Extrême-Orient, nous avons l'honneur de vous communiquer aujourd'hui quelques renseignements qui nous sont parvenus de notre délégation à Shanghai au sujet des belges détenus dans ce camp de Weihsien.

Ces ressortissants belges comprennent 19 hommes, 13 femmes et 10 enfants. Ils sont logés dans les bâtiments d'une ancienne mission presbytérienne américaine, qui offre des locaux spacieux au milieu des arbres. La situation générale des internés paraît bonne. Ils ont exprimé leur satisfaction au sujet de la nourriture, qui leur est fournie par les autorités et qu'ils préparent eux-mêmes. Les soins médicaux sont donnés à l'hôpital par 11 médecins et chirurgiens internés et les cas graves sont envoyés dans les hôpitaux de

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D'autre part, nous avons reçu également des renseignements sur des missionnaires catholiques qui vivent à Pékin retirés dans 9 maisons de retraite religieuses. Parmi eux se trouvent 157 hommes belges et 40 religieuses de même nationalité. Ils se trouvaient auparavant internés au Civil Assembly Center de Weihsien et ont été transférés au mois d'août à Pékin où ils peuvent vivre ensemble et avoir libre contact avec des missionnaires de nationalité non ennemie.

Ils bénéficient d'une assez grande liberté, vivent dans des locaux confortables et ont eux aussi des soins médicaux suffisants.

Ces missionnaires se sont montrés heureux d'avoir pu quitter Weihsien et de pouvoir, dans leur lieu de retraite actuel, mieux poursuivre leur vie religieuse et leurs études.

Nous espérons que ces quelques renseignements ont pu vous intéresser et vous prions d'agréer. ... etc.

pour le Comité International de la Croix Rouge
Division des prisonniers civils et internés

(a).....

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Pour le Comité International de la Croix Rouge
Division des prisonniers civils et internés

(signature) -----

End of page ---

bateaux qui en 1942 et 1943 ont procédé à l'échange de civils rapatriés. C'est ainsi qu'en 1942 quatre mille tonnes environ de marchandises ont pu être envoyées. En 1943 le récent échange a permis d'expédier 2500 tonnes et un nouvel échange est prévu.

Pour ce qui est des achats à faire sur place, il est indispensable, pour organiser toute action, de connaître les besoins réels des belges internés ; nous avons donc câblé à nos délégués à Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bangkok, en leur demandant des précisions à ce propos. Nous ne manquerons pas de vous faire connaître la réponse. Nous sPage 02

ASSISTANCE AUX BELGES D'ASIE ORIENTALE –

Circulaire n° 11 : 10 février 1944

1. NOS CIRCULAIRES.

La circulaire n° 10 n'a été tirée qu'en un petit nombre d'exemplaires, elle était destinée aux membres éventuels du Comité.

2. CHINE DU NORD .

Camp de Weihsien. Nous venons de recevoir de Genève la liste des Belges internés à Weihsien. Nous le reproduisons à l'annexe n°1. Cette liste remonte apparemment au mois de juillet 1943 , elle porte 230 noms. Ultérieurement, ce nombre est tombé à 42, voir annexe n°3. Un message privé veut qu'il soit actuellement de 75.

Cette annexe n°3 est la copie d'une lettre de Genève, en date du 29/11/1943 ; elle donne d'intéressants renseignements sur les conditions qui règnent à Weihsien et aussi sur le sort fait aux 157 missionnaires et aux 40 religieuses belges qui ont reçu l'autorisation de quitter Weihsien pour aller habiter Pékin. Nos propres listes indiquent, pour la Chine du Nord et pour la Mongolie intérieure (non compris le Jehol, rattaché par les Japonais à la Mandchourie) un total de 225 missionnaires et religieuses belges. L'annexe 1 indique seulement 197.

L'annexe 3 indique aussi 197.

Cela pourrait signifier que plus de 25 missionnaires et religieuses ont été laissés à leur poste. De fait, nous avons appris que quatre religieuses avaient reçus permission de rester au travail à l'hôpital général de Suiyüan.

En dehors du Camp de Weihsien, il y a aussi, dans le nord, le camp de Chefoo, où il y a notamment une femme belge dont le mari est chinois (Mme Ho Fang Li, née Dekeyzer).

3.

CHINE CENTRALE

Camp de Shanghai. Nous avons aussi reçu de Genève la liste des belges internés dans le différents camps de Shanghai et la reproduisons à l'annexe n)2. Cette liste porte 55 noms.

4.

HONG KONG

Une lettre de Genève, 20/12/1943, contient les détails suivants :

Les internés civils du Stanley camp reçoivent journallement :

riz 240 grammes

farine 120 grammes

viande ou poisson 100 grammes

huile comestible 6 grammes

légumes 200 grammes

sucre 9 grammes

sel 9 grammes

Les ventes de la cantine, dans le même camp, ont représenté pendant les mois d'août à octobre, les moyennes mensuelles suivantes, en livres anglaises :

légumes, surtout fèves et petits pois 2500 lbs

viande en boite 200 lbs

fruits frais 9000 lbs

sucre et condiments 4500 lbs

divers 7000 lbs

œufs 6000 lbs

Un service de colis hebdomadaire fournit à l'ensemble des internés environ 9000 lbs de vivres, la plupart en conserves.

Enfin, le délégué du C.I.C.R. a, en septembre et octobre, livré au camp un total de 17000 lbs de fèves, pois, blé, graisses et mélasses.

Le Stanley camp de Hong Kong compte 2500 internés.

5.

INTERVENTION DE LA PUISSANCE PROTECTRICE,

Renseignements extraits d'une lettre de Genève, 13/12/1943

Les belges internés à Shanghai, 25 hommes, 18 femmes et 14 enfants, reçoivent chacun par l'intermédiaire du Consulat de Suède, une allocation de secours mensuels de 1100 dollars chinois. De plus, le Consulat de Suède paie les frais d'hospitalisation des internés malades. Certains internés reçoivent des colis de la part de leurs amis habitant Shanghai. D'autres, qui n'ont pas de contact personnel à l'extérieur du camp, reçoivent des colis de vivres qui sont des dons de la Société belge de bienfaisance.

La communauté belge de Hong Kong comprend 26 membres, dont 9 sont internés au Stanley camp, un est prisonnier de guerre et 15 ne sont pas internés. La communauté reçoit, par l'intermédiaire de la Légation de Suède, une allocation mensuelle totale de 2500 yens. Chaque interné ainsi que le prisonnier de guerre, reçoit 25 yens en espèces et 50 yens sous forme de colis de vivres par mois. Les fonds qui restent sont répartis entre les belges non internés.

La situation est satisfaisante et les allocations adéquates.

6.

ENVOIS DE SECOURS.

Les renseignements reproduits ci-dessus ou bien à l'annexe 3 peuvent être considérés comme rassurants. Les congrégations religieuses, les sociétés, les familles, n'en ont pas moins le désir de faire tenir à tout le moins un colis aux compatriotes qui se trouvent là bas. Nous avons donc particulièrement étudié la question des possibilités qui s'offrent en ce domaine.

Au sujet de l'envoi de colis, le C.I.C.R. écrit ce qui suit, sous date de Genève 18 novembre (lettre à nous communiquée le 22/2/1944) :

Il n'est pas possible d'envoyer des colis de Genève, les administrations postales n'acceptant à destination d'Extrême Orient que des lettres et cartes. Des secours n'ont pu être apportés aux prisonniers de guerre et internés civils que de deux façons. D'une part par des achats effectués sur place par nos délégués à Shanghai, à Hong Kong, ou au Thaïlande ; d'autre part en profitant des *ouligions encore une fois que la seule façon dont nous puis-*

sions faire parvenir des fonds à ces délégués est l'envoi à partir de Genève de francs suisses.

7.

ENVOIS DE FONDS.

Comme il est très difficile de trouver en Belgique des francs suisses libres et que nous pourrions de toute façon les obtenir qu'en très petite quantité, nous avons étudié les autres possibilités de transférer les fonds en Asie Orientale.

La question se complique toutefois du fait que «les arrangements pris entre le Comité International de la Croix Rouge et les autorités japonaises interdisent l'emploi de fonds trouvés sur place en Extrême Orient pour les besoins de secours. Tous les fonds doivent parvenir à Genève en francs suisses. Cependant, si la Croix Rouge de Belgique, éventuellement par l'intermédiaire de la Croix Rouge allemande, peut obtenir l'agrément des autorités japonaises pour l'emploi de yens bloqués au Japon, et si ces yens peuvent être transférés à Yokohama avec l'accord des autorités japonaises, le Comité International de la Croix Rouge se chargera volontiers de leur retransmission aux délégations qui seront en mesure de faire des achats».

Ceci ressort d'une autre lettre de Genève, 18/11/1943, à nous communiquée le 2/2/1944.

Nous avons le 30 octobre, introduit une demande près de l'Office de compensation pour obtenir la permission de recourir Clearing belgo-allemand, puis au clearing germano-japonais. Il nous a été répondu à la mi-janvier que la chose n'était pas possible. Nous étudions présentement les possibilités qui s'offrent par une autre voie. Des démarches sont en cours et nous espérons bien qu'elles finiront par donner un résultat. En ce domaine comme en tous les autres, nous avons le très obligeant concours du Comité International de Genève, de la Croix Rouge de Belgique et de la Croix Rouge allemande.

8.

NOUVELLES PERSONNELLES ;

Des messages que quelques familles ont bien voulu nous communiquer, nous extrayons les nouvelles suivantes :

De Tientsin, un belge non interné écrit : matériellement, nous n'avons pas à nous plaindre, la nourriture est toujours variée et abondante, les prix toutefois ont fortement haussé. Nous attendons d'un moment à l'autre l'ordre de rejoindre un camp d'internement. Tous nos compatriotes qui ne faisaient pas partie du personnel des tramways sont internés depuis le printemps, sauf tel et tel ménage. De Shanghai, nous apprenons que Monsieur Franck et sa famille et que Monsieur J. Lafontaine et sa famille occupent la même chambre, au camp de Yu Yuen road, 404. Comme cette adresse est celle de l'ancienne Public School for girls, du Shanghai Municipal Council, nous supposons qu'il s'agit de salles de classe.

De Hong Kong, un de nos compatriotes écrit : "All well, best of health and mind. Since six weeks stopped going office. Weeks fly quickly. Go down town once or twice a week." Ce qui donne à supposer que nos compatriotes en cette ville ont été autorisés à se rendre pendant tout un temps à leur bureau, pour aider sans doute à la liquidation des affaires par le séquestre japonais.

Un agent des charbonnages Kailan écrit : nous sommes toujours au travail mais nous sommes les seuls ; tous les belges des autres entreprises en Chine sont sans emploi. La plupart sont réunis dans des Civil Assembly Centres. La vie est difficile à cause de la cherté.

Les souliers qui se payaient jadis 15\$ coûtent à présent 150 à 200 \$; un poulet coûte 12\$ au lieu de 1,5cents; la farine coûte 150\$ le sac au lieu de 5\$; les appointements sont restés les mêmes. Les dernières nouvelles reçus de vous datent d'août 1941.

9.

PHILIPPINES, MALAISIE, INDES NEERLANDAISES etc. ;

La Croix Rouge allemande nous dit que pas plus que le Comité International de la Croix Rouge, elle n'est présentement à même de nous renseigner sur les Philippines, Malaisie, Indes Néerlandaises, etc.

10.

CORRESPONDANCE.

Nous attirons tout particulièrement l'attention des familles sur ce que nous écrit la Croix Rouge de Belgique, sous date du 4 février 1944:

Primo : lettre du 3/01/1944 de Comité International de Croix Rouge à la Croix Rouge de Belgique :

«

La réglementation édictée par les autorités japonaises pour la correspondance adressée aux prisonniers de guerre et internés civils en leur pouvoir limite à 25 mots la longueur des lettres que les prisonniers de guerre et internés civils en Extrême Orient peuvent recevoir et stipule que ces lettres doivent être soit tapés à la machine, soit écrites en caractères majuscules.

Pour les prisonniers de guerre et internés civils que l'on présume être détenu par le Japon mais dont les noms n'ont pas encore été communiqués, les lettres peuvent être adressées par l'intermédiaire du Comité International de la Croix Rouge à la Croix Rouge japonaise. Pour ceux dont les noms sont connus, mais dont on ignore l'adresse de camp, c'est le bureau officiel des prisonniers de guerre (Huryohokyoku) qui se charge également par l'intermédiaire du C.I.C.R. de la transmission.

»

Secundo : lettre du 14/01/1944 du C.I.C.R. à la Croix Rouge de Belgique :

«

Nous venons de recevoir de notre délégué à Shanghai certains renseignements sur les prescriptions qui régissent la correspondance des personnes détenus dans les Civil Assembly Centers de la région de Shanghai.

Les autorités japonaises ne considèrent pas ces personnes comme ayant le statut d'internés. En conséquence, elles n'ont pas droit à la franchise de port, mais doivent utiliser les formulaires de messages civils pour correspondre avec les pays ennemis du Japon, et ces formulaires doivent être affranchis. D'autre part, les messages qui sont envoyés aux occupants des Civil Assembly Centers doivent également être établis sur les mêmes formulaires et doivent avoir payé les frais de port. Monsieur Egger nous signale que, pour les civils, comme pour les prisonniers de guerre de nombreux camps, un seul message ou une seule lettre peuvent être reçus par mois.

»

De quoi il semblerait résulter que les messages rédigés sur formules de Croix Rouge devraient être affranchis. La Croix Rouge de Belgique ne peut pour le moment que nous communiquer le texte de la lettre, tel qu'elle-même l'a reçu, mais elle va demander à Ge-

nève, quelle est l'interprétation à donner. Dans l'entretemps, elle conseille aux familles de continuer à procéder comme par le passé.

11.

COMPTABILITE.

Les dépenses que nous avons encourues pour achat de papier, enveloppes, timbre-poste, pour l'impression des fiches, des circulaires et des listes, s'élevaient au 31 janvier 1944 à 4285,20 frs.

Trente et une personnes différentes ont bien voulu, d'autre part, intervenir dans ces dépenses et nous ont remis au total 5540,00 frs. Le solde disponible à fin janvier était donc de 1.254,80 Frs. Si d'autres personnes devaient intervenir, nous leur serons reconnaissants de bien vouloir verser leur quote-part soit au Compte chèques postaux J. Hers, 476.31. soit au compte H. Fromont, 946.41. en Banque de la Société Générale à Bruxelles.

Les circulaires sont maintenant tirées à 300 exemplaires, et l'impression coûte cher, elle représente pour le moment une dépense de 130 Frs par page, plus la reliure et l'envoi.

Responsable : J. Hers, 2, rue de la Régence, Bruxelles.



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

[Copy: VTS:SS]

Compared:]

[740.00115A Pacific War/1112])

No. 7500

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Via Air Mail Pouch

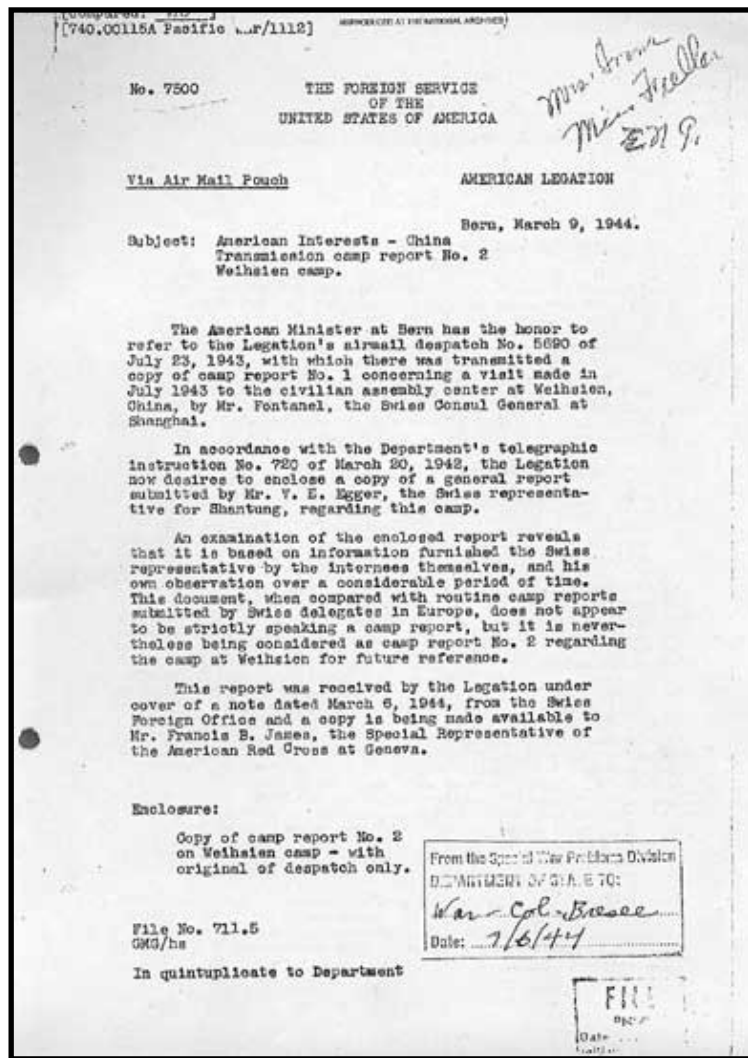
AMERICAN LEGATION

Bern, March 9, 1944.

Subject: American Interests - China
Transmission camp report No. 2
Weihsien camp.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the Legation's airmail dispatch No. 5690 of July 23, 1943, with which there was transmitted a copy of camp report No. 1 concerning a visit made in July 1943 to the civilian assembly center at Weihsien, China, by Mr. Fontanel, the Swiss Consul General at Shanghai.

In accordance with the Department's telegraphic instruction



No. 720 of March 20, 1942, the Legation now desires to enclose a copy of a general report submitted by Mr. V. E. Egger, the Swiss representative for Shantung, regarding this camp.

An examination of the enclosed report reveals that it is based on information furnished to the Swiss, representative by the internees themselves, and his own observation over a considerable period of time. This document, when compared with routine camp reports submitted by Swiss delegates in Europe, does not appear to be strictly speaking a camp report, but it is nevertheless being considered as camp report No. 2 regarding the camp at Weihsien for future reference.

This report was received by the Legation under cover of a note dated March 6, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office and a copy is being made available to Mr. Francis B. James, the Special Representative of the American Red Cross at Geneva.

Enclosure:

Copy of camp report No. 2
on Weihsien camp - with original of dispatch only.

File No. 711.5
GMG/hs

In quintuplicate to Department

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 7500.

dated March 9, 1944

from the American ---,

SHANGHAI,

**SHANGHAI
CONSULATE GENERAL
QUESTIONNAIRE
WEIHSIEN CAMP**

Although there are exceptions the heads of departments are not bad people to deal with, but their hands are tied and they have the greatest difficulty in persuading their seniors, including military at Peking and Tsingtao, to supply the bare necessities of life..

The Japanese staff of the Camp varies from time to time but consists approximately of:

- 1 Camp Commandant
- 4 Heads of departments
- 3 Police Officers
- 30/40 Policemen

A 3. Number of Internees.

A. GENERAL

A 1. Japanese Camp Commandant.

Mr. Tsukigawa, a member of the Consular service previously Vice Consul at Honolulu at the outbreak of the war, and now under Tsingtao Consul General Mr. Kita. Mr. Kita insists that he and his staff had a very rough treatment at Honolulu and this is the principal reason why the Camp remained in the Shantung Province.

Mr. Tsukigawa being the official Camp Director, the real responsible man is Mr. Kakigawa, Consul in Tsingtao, unfortunately Mr. Tsukigawa, is often incapable of making a decision, and most if not all are made or at least influenced by his heads of departments in the Camp.

A 2. Camp Representatives.

The four groups of internees from Peking, Tientsin, Catholics.

A 6. Internal Organisation.

Tsingtao and Outports were instructed to elect one representative to each of the following nine committees, the four members of each committee electing their own Chairman, who became the liaison officer for that department:

Four Japanese heads of departments control 1+2, 3+4, 5+6 and 7+8 whilst 9 is directly under the chief of Police. The system is cumbersome and leads to duplication of work which, however, is being eliminated as time goes on. The greatest drawback is that matters requiring urgent decisions are bounced around from one department to another by the Japanese — often possibly on purpose. There is adequate talent available amongst the internees to cover all duties in the Camp but the lamentable shortage of tools and materials constantly retards the efforts of all to improve conditions.

		Chairman		
1	Education	W. Pryor	Tientsin	British
2	General Affairs	W.B. Christian	Peking	American
3	Engineering	L.C. Jones	Tsingtao	British
4	quarters	T.F.R. Waters	Tientsin	British
5	Medical	Dr. H.H. Loucks	Peking	American
6	Food Supplies	P.A. Whitting	Tsingtao	British
7	Finance	E.W. Torrey	Tientsin	American
8	Employment	N A. Gorman	Tientsin	American
9	Discipline	E. McLaren	Tientsin	British

A detailed list of all internees is in preparation and will be mailed soon with all particulars.

A 5. Daily Routine.

- Roll Call 7.30 a.m.
- Breakfast 8.00/8.30 a.m.
- Tiffin 12.30/1.15 p.m.
- Supper 6.00/6.30 p.m.
- Lights Out 10.00 p.m.

With the exception of the cleaning out of cesspools all work is undertaken by internees, e.g. preparing, cooking and serving meals, baking, pumping of water, cleaning of lavatories and bath houses, carrying stores, coal, etc., bricklaying, joinery, hospital, street cleaning and carriage of garbage, milking of cows, etc. For details of work hours etc. see notes on "Labor". The daily routine of individuals varies greatly, and is dependent upon labor assignment. Hours of work cannot be considered excessive and one of the problems to be faced is prevention of boredom as and when the Camp is cleaned up and settled down to a regular existence. Field capacity for games is somewhat inadequate, which results in too

many spectators and too few players; whilst recreation rooms are few-existent, in consequence of which the elders have little facilities for card playing, etc. housing quarters being too crowded to permit of play therein. In summer, games can be had outside the

Nationality	Men	Women	Children	Infants	Total
American	227	234	47	18	526
Belgian	173	51	5	4	233
British	305	306	126	41	778
Canadians	25	29	12	1	67
Dutch	111	38	1	-	150
Greeks	6	4	-	1	11
Iranians	3	3	1	1	8
Norwegians	3	3	-	1	7
	853	668	192	67	1780

houses under straw shades over the doors and the library is at their disposal. All adults, in addition to their assigned duties, are required to assist in sweeping of paths, etc. fronting their block or dormitory, cleaning of dormitories, etc., etc. Each block or dormitory is controlled by a Warden (internee) who is responsible for enforcement of discipline, and the various regulations promulgated by the Camp Committees

9. Description of Houses.

Individual houses are built of brick, mostly hollow wall, in lime mortar; they are (most of them) unscreened.

Roofing is of unglazed tile with plaster ceilings laid on kaoliang stalks, average height of ceiling about 9 ft; No. 50 building, however, has a corrugated iron roof with similar ceiling.

Flooring is of painted wood laid over an earth floor with little or no air space; floor-boarding is of 1/2" soft pine laid on joists 24" apart. Two story buildings are of better construction, being the original mission buildings.

Heating will be by coal stove in all cases, there is no provision in any building for other types of heating, each house has provision for a stove pipe to be put through the back wall but installation of stoves will prove a fairly difficult matter in the present overcrowded rooms and dormitories. No stoves are at present installed though there are stocks of same under the Authorities care, total number unknown but believed ample.

Ventilation is provided by one window in the front of the house and one small window in the back wall, the exception to this being Row 43 which runs along the N Boundary wall and contains 27 rooms having no window in the back wall.

One forty watt lamp globe and fitting is provided for each room and about an equal distribution by area for the dormitories — the lighting thus provided is insufficient for reading or doing any close work in the evenings. Lights are turned on at dusk and are turned off at the main at 10.00 p.m. no light is allowed after that time unless permission has been obtained from the police.

B 7. Camp General Capacity.

Estimated at 1400 persons only.

B 8. No. of Rooms of Average Size.

12'6" x 8'11" = 430.

Each of these rooms is suitable for 2 persons but are made to hold 3 and 21 cases 4 persons (2 of these are small children). When stoves are put in, in the winter there will be some danger of asphyxiation and/or fires. These rooms are almost all of them used for families.

B. 10. No. of Dormitories.

There are 9 buildings, including the Hospital, used as dormitories.

Building No. 23 has 13 rooms containing a total of approximately 7,480 sq. feet and is occupied by 180 persons, **or about 41½ sq. ft. per person.** The occupants are Catholic Sisters and unattached ladies.

Building No. 24 has 9 rooms containing a total of approximately 4,900 sq. feet and is occupied by 90 persons, **or about 54.4 sq. ft. per person.** The occupants are Catholic Sisters and unattached ladies.

Building No. 35 has 5 rooms containing a total of 2,140 sq. feet and is occupied by 38 persons, **or approximately 56 sq. feet per person.** Actually 4 of these rooms are 16' x 15' and hold 5 and 6 persons each, which is less than 50 sq. feet per person. This building is occupied by unattached ladies.

Building No. 44 has 6 rooms containing a total of 2,060 sq. feet and is occupied by 32 persons, **or 64 sq. feet per person.** However, 3 of these rooms are of the 10'8" x 9' variety, containing 5 persons between them. This building is occupied by unattached men.

Building No. 49 is one room of 960 sq. feet and is occupied by 14 unattached men — giving **64 sq. feet per person.**

Building No. 50 has 8 rooms of total area of 5,770 sq. feet and is occupied by 98 unattached men. One of these rooms is an attic in the rafters and contains 11 persons. The one big dormitory of

2,093 sq. feet contains 32 persons and is on the second floor.

The other buildings **56 57** and the top of **61** are all occupied by Catholic Fathers and are decidedly over-crowded. These buildings (except 61) are constructed of small rooms, which are shared by 2, 3 or 4 Catholic Fathers.

Building 61 has 31 rooms above the first floor; the first floor being reserved for hospital use. These 31 rooms contain 157 Fathers.

Complaints. The overcrowding is not so important now the warm weather is with us, as many can sleep outside, but with the coming winter, when stoves will have to be placed in all rooms there will be serious danger of fire and asphyxiation. No small room should have more than 2 persons as they (other than dormitories) are low ceilinged. Negotiations for more space are going on, but up to date no definite decision is made.

B 11. WATER SUPPLY

a. Quantity

Supply is hand pumped by internees from eight hand pumps, situated one to each kitchen (3) (reported No. 4 Kitchen became Hospital diet Kitchen), one to each boiler room (2), one for hospital, and two others. Boiler room and hospital pumps are connected to water towers of various capacities, capacity of pump is about one quart per stroke. Various wells have run dry on occasions notably those at No. 2 kitchen, No. 1 kitchen and ladies' shower baths.

Some water restrictions have been enforced ever since the Camp was opened and cannot be lifted. The Authorities promised the provision of an electric pump and as all water has to be pumped from eight wells with inadequate equipment it is quite safe to say that the supply is insufficient. Water will have to be pumped from the river or from deep wells electrically before the water situation can be considered approaching satisfactory, but up to day Peking has not yet sanctioned the capital lay out.

b. Quality.

Bacterial infection of the water supply is certain (in the opinion of the internees) due to the close proximity of cess pools, soak-away pits, etc., to the wells. All wells are built in lime mortar with local native brick; their linings cannot be considered satisfactory and the infiltration of large quantities of polluted surface water must take place. The wells had not been cleaned out when the Camp was taken over as has been proved by the removal of considerable debris from the bottom in certain cases.

Against the internees opinion the Japanese Army and Navy bacteriologists from Tsingtao insist that the water is good even better than in Tsingtao, and that there is no infiltration possible, as the water would have to pass through 40 - 50 feet of sand and therefore even if it would be true, water passing sand such a distance could be free of bacteria as the analysis has proved. So please do not worry too much. Missionaries who have been living for years in the Compound confirm that the boiled water is quite

safe; as the compound had previously more than 1,200 students and no sickness occurred caused through water supply.

The water is medium hard and causes quite .considerable scale deposits in kettles, kuos, boilers, etc.

All water for drinking has to be boiled, like all over Shantung, except in Tientsin, where there are artesian wells.

c. Facilities for Boiling

On arrival in the Camp there were no facilities for boiling water other than the kuos installed for cooking in each kitchen. Two vertical water boilers were salvaged by the Internees Engineering Dept. and installed at Nos. 1 and 2 kitchens.

The boilers that supply steam for heating the shower baths have now been coupled up with tanks and the distillate is collected and issued as distilled water, this again, is entirely due to the work of the Internees Engineering Dept. The drinking water situation is somewhat improved by the above, but still leaves much to be desired as regards quantity and would have been serious in the extreme if it has been left to the Authorities.

B 12, Toilets.

Three washrooms with cold water under 50 F are provided for the men, served by water laid on from the aforementioned towers. One similar wash room is provided for ladies' use. Accommodation of ladies wash room is insufficient as they take a long time for washing.

There is little provision at the present time for washing of clothes inside the Camp and the outside laundry is limited as mentioned in the report under laundry.

B 13. Bathing Facilities.

One set of shower bath is provided for the men and one set for ladies; however, the shortage of water is such that it is impossible to provide more than **35 men and 25 ladies with baths during any one hour**. The facilities provided and the equipment are good but the water supply is insufficient.

Showers cannot be opened before 1 p.m. due to water shortage and have to be closed at 6 p.m., so that about 360 people daily can have a shower bath only, or each person every five days, while the internees would like to have one every day.

B 14. Lavatories

These are of two types

(a) Squat-bowl, draining into cesspools.

(b) Chinese, open latrines.

(a)

There are 22 of these of which 18-20 are usually in working order. They are "Chinese servant" type, no seat or even a grip being provided to aid squatting. Originally they were designed for flushing but owing to the bad material (all broken up within 3 days) they are now flushed by bucket by each user; women and children find this a difficult task. Used, dirty water is kept in an earthenware kang at each latrine for this purpose. The latrines are arranged in 4 groups of 4, 5, 5, 8 (ladies). They are not fly-screened. The 4 cess-pools into which these latrines drain have no overflow mechanism. They must be emptied daily by Chinese labor, using gasoline tins on pole carriers; when it rains emptying is difficult owing to the impassability of the roads. For one group voluntary Camp labor has made a temporary overflow pit. For the others this is not possible since the Authorities refuse up to now to cooperate in providing piping, etc.

(b)

There are 40 of these in groups of 6, 5, 4, 2 and 1. They are emptied once daily by Chinese labor.

Only one (a 5 group) is fly-screened. No chloride of lime is provided. Ashes and slaked lime are used. In twelve of them a commode is installed.

The Authorities have strictly forbidden and prevented their attempts to dig Army-type trench latrines and negotiations are still going on.

Complaints.

It is expected that internees will do their own repair work, but little in the way of material has so far been provided except for some timber and practically no tools are available with which to do the work. It is obvious from the condition of the Camp that it was not ready to receive the internees and that the Authorities had no idea of the scope of the undertaking they had started.

The water supply question is one which needs urgent attention, cleaning of lavatories is of equal importance and all possible is done on my part to secure the electric pump. The assurance of a regular sufficient fuel supply should be forthcoming whereas there are no signs that such a stock has been considered.

B.15 Laundry Facilities.

Laundry facilities are now practically non-existent. In the basement of the hospital there is one room, now No. 4 Laundry capable of handling only a part of the camp laundry. A Japanese laundry situated at Fangtze, some eight miles from the camp, has done since the beginning of the Camp some washing of sheets, towels, and other heavy pieces, but the service has been unsatisfactory and at the moment has stopped entirely due to a misunderstanding between the Fangtze laundry and the camp officials, but this service will be resumed soon. (has not resumed)

In the meantime nearly all laundry had been done by individuals in their residences under difficult circumstances.

D. 34 Canteen.

The canteen has been very slow in getting into operation. The internees were given to understand by the high Japanese authorities in Peking that a well stocked canteen would be awaiting them on their arrival. In fact, it could not open at all until three weeks after the arrival of the people and then for the sale of only five kinds of toilet articles of inferior quality. Only one of each is sold to each person per month.

However, the canteen organization has grown and **improved considerably during the past month and prices, while high, do not seem to be exorbitant in the light of those prevailing outside the camp.**

The canteen accommodations have been utterly inadequate and the staff and public have been subject to a great deal of hardship, but **at the moment more commodious accommodations have been arranged for** and it is believed that the canteen will soon be on a satisfactory basis.

The authorities have been urged repeatedly to stock such articles as eggs, honey and peanut oil, all of which are freely obtainable in this province and Weihsien, and if supplied to the internees in reasonable quantities would go far to assuring adequate nutrition. The authorities have always replied that they are unable to secure more than limited quantities of these products and this has resulted in sales being rigidly restricted. Eggs, for instance, are supplied at the rate of two per person per week and so far no honey or peanut oil had been sold. The lack of fresh fruit is also causing unnecessary hardship with regard to diet.

A list of what has been ordered and items received is shown herewith, together with a notation as to whether the quantities in the canteen have been adequate for camp requirements.

Key

A	- Adequate
In	- Inadequate
Blank	- No arrivals
R	- Rationed, 10 per day

Foods

- Canned Milk
- Canned Fruit
- In Fresh Fruit
- A Dried Fruit
- Jam
- Coffee
- Tea
- Canned Meat
- Canned Fish (sardines etc)

- A Asst Candies
- Sugar
- In Honey
- Cocoa
- Chewing Gum
- A Peanuts
- In Eggs
- A Dried Dates
- Dried Persimons
- Ojinimoto
- A Soft Drinks

Toilet Articles

- A Tooth Brushes
- Tooth Paste
- A Tooth Powder

Clothing;

- Work Gloves
- Overalls
- Socks
- Work Shoes
- Rubber Shoes
- Overshoes
- Coolie Cloth
- A Chinese Shoes
- A Straw hats
- In Wooden Shoes
- Khaki Cloth
- Buttons
- Men's underwear
- Ladies' underwear

Household Furnishings

- In Buckets
- In Scrub Brushes
- Mops
- A Thermoses
- A Brooms

- Water Pitchers
- Tin Plates
- Tin Cups

- A Soap
- A Shoe Polish
- A Shoe Laces
- Needles
- Thread
- A Yarn
- A Razor Blades
- Shaving Soap

- In Ink
- Pencils
- Note Books
- Combs
- A Mirrors
- Flit

Mosquito coils

- A Sun Glasses
- Towels
- In Talc Powder
- A Cold Cream

- Shampoo
- Bay Rum
- Citronella

Tobacco

- R Cigarettes
- Pipes
- Pipe Tobacco
- In Matches
- Cigarette Holders
- Pipe Cleaners
- Snuff
- Knives,
- Forks,
- Spoons
- Wash Basins
- A Toilet Paper
- In Laundry Soap
- A Pins
- Thumb Tacks
- In Candles
- Victoria Needles
- Flash Light Batteries

- Padlocks
- Blankets
- Folding Stools
- Assorted Tools (hammers, etc.)
- In Large teacups
- A Fly Swatters
- Playing Cards
- Dusters
- Dust Pans
- Kettles

35. Clothing outfit in general.

There are no supplies of clothing for sale in the camp or facilities for making men's or women's clothing.

36. Facilities for repairs.

A fairly satisfactory repair service has been organized and is run by camp ladies. The demand for repairs is very heavy and supplies of materials for patching, supplies of thread, buttons, etc. are always inadequate, and difficulties are experienced in securing such supplies.

In and Out going mail service.

(a)
No. of letters per month.

Incoming, mail.

Inward mail has been most unsatisfactory and in many cases letters written about the middle of May by people in Tientsin and Peking have mentioned that as many as five or six letters had been written previously, none of which had been received in the camp. It would seem reasonably certain that approximately 75% of letters

written to the camp are not received. One letter which, according to the post office shop, reached the Weihsien office on June 12 — held 53 days in Weihsien.

39. Outgoing Mail.

Mail was received for dispatch weekly from March 24 to May 3 inclusive without restriction as to the number of letters or postcards per person or as to the length of contents except that letters were limited to one sheet of paper each — any size and both sides might be used. Records were kept of the letters and postcards handed in on April 12, 19, 26 and May 3, which totaled 2097.

From May 10 onwards, all letters and postcards had to be typewritten or in block letters and it was decided to return to the senders all those previously accepted but not yet dispatched which did not comply with these requirements. The number so returned totalled 1374. On May 31 postcards only were accepted for dispatch and were restricted to one per internee ten years of age and over. 640 postcards were received on that date. On June 7 letters, which it was requested should be short, or postcards that were restricted to one per person of ten years of age or over were accepted and totalled 581.

Some of the postcards accepted on May 31 and all of the letters and postcards accepted on June 7, not having left the camp on June 14, the reception of further mail has been suspended.

To the best of their knowledge no letters or postcards handed in at the Center for dispatch prior to the above dates had been received in Peking or Tsingtao up to May 12 or in Tientsin up to May 27.

The tentative arrangement which is to be tried is to allow **each Person over ten years of age one letter of not more than 150, words and three postcards of not, more than 50 words every four weeks one letter or postcard to be received by the camp post office on Mondays only.**

40. Parcel Service.

There is no outward parcel service but inward parcel service seems to be fairly good. According to Camp records, only one parcel has been lost out of about 150 which the Committee knows were dispatched to the camp.

42. Regular Religious Services.

There is no restriction whatsoever on religious services. All sects and creeds may hold services at any time or place that circumstances permit. (See previous reports)

C - HEALTH CONDITIONS'

C 17. General State of Health:

In view of their present circumstances of living, the general state of health of the population of the Weihsien Centre **has been, surprisingly good, particularly when the large number of elderly individuals and those suffering from chronic ailments is kept in mind.** Such factors as long hours of rest and sleep, regular exercise, plenty of exposure to fresh air and sunlight, a simple (even if inadequate) diet, the inaccessibility of alcohol and the freedom from responsibility and worry attendant on regimented living all seem to have helped to bring-about the result. Also, the **climate** has, so far, **proved very favorable.**

C 18 Number of deaths since opening of Camp.

C 19 Name, Nationality of deceased.

Only one death has occurred since the camp was opened. The individual in question, Mr. F. C. Stoffer, aged 35 years, American, Coloured, of Tientsin, developed an acute perforation of a peptic ulcer in the early morning of April 5. The Camp Hospital was in no condition at that time to permit a major surgical procedure to be undertaken, so it was necessary to send the patient elsewhere for treatment. The German Hospital in Tsingtao was recommended, but the patient was taken to a Japanese Hospital in that city instead. A camp physician was allowed to accompany him to Tsingtao and was allowed to stay for the operation which was performed approximately 24 hours after the perforation had occurred. The patient died some days later. Had it been possible to operate immediately the chance of saving his life may be estimated at about 80%.

C 20 Illnesses: Number and nature.

About 10 days after reaching camp a case of typhus fever developed in a Trappist father from Yang Chia Ping. Fortunately, the course of the disease was mild and complete recovery followed. The disease obviously was brought into camp from the outside, and vigorous measures taken to isolate and de-louse all contacts prevented spread to others. In response to an appeal to Dr. Hoeppli which the authorities were willing to transmit 25 sets of typhus vaccine were received promptly and administered to contacts who had never been inoculated previously. There are many other individuals in camp, however, who have never been inoculated against this disease and if the present crowded living conditions now prevalent in some of the, dormitories persist into the winter months, the possibility of an outbreak of typhus fever must be seriously considered. It is hoped some way may be found to provide a considerable supply of vaccine before that time.

Chicken-pox, mumps and whooping cough all were brought into the camp at the beginning, but the cases proved mild, and measures taken for isolation soon brought them under control.

Due to the inadequate sanitary arrangements, and the com-

plete lack of screening of kitchens, dining rooms and latrines, the medical staff has been daily anticipating the outbreak of an epidemic of dysentery. With inadequate hospital bed space, inadequate drug supply and inadequate equipment, it fears that such an outbreak might easily prove disastrous.

Influenza-like colds have been numerous, but fortunately only a few cases of bronco-pneumonia have been observed.

Low back pain, lumbago, sciatica and sacro-iliac strain have been common, as also has been the exacerbation of chronic arthritic conditions and ailments of the feet brought on by the participation of internees in heavy labor and various occupations to which they were unaccustomed. Many of these ailments are yielding to time, the return of warm weather and the gradual strengthening of muscles and ligaments, but in quite a few instances the conditions have proved intractable and the medical staff has been greatly handicapped in treating such patients by the absence of facilities for physical therapy and the impossibility of securing belts, braces, shoes, arch supports or orthopedic equipment of any kind.

There are in camp many individuals suffering from sprue, peptic ulcer, diabetes, tuberculosis and other acute and chronic ailments requiring for proper treatment special types, amounts and cooking of food. This group of individuals had particularly difficult time for the first two months because almost no possibility existed for meeting their dietary needs. A varying but all-

ways inadequate amount of milk has been supplied and they have been allowed to purchase no more than one egg a day through the hospital canteen. These have been the only concessions allowed. Otherwise the patients have been forced to do the best they could on the regular camp diet, supplemented, when possible, by private supplies brought into the camp. During the **last week in May it finally became possible to open a special diet kitchen in the hospital basement for the feeding of these patients.** This arrangement offers some help since it is now possible to give attention to individual needs as far as the cooking of food is concerned. There is still no special consideration given to the kinds or amounts of food provided. The supplies just received through Mr. Egger and Mr. Joerg (June 14) **will prove most valuable in this respect.** A dairy herd recently has been brought into camp which should help improve the milk supply.

The hospital estimates the minimum requirements for both in-patients and out-patients (including infants and growing children) at 30 gallons a day. The amounts so far have varied from 15 to 22 gallons per day. 50 gallons could be used advantageously for

the ill alone.

Twenty five individuals are present in the camp who are known to have active or possibly active tuberculosis. In the absence of X-Ray facilities accurate diagnosis is difficult. Many of this group are in need of hospital or sanatorium care, most are in need of isolation, all are in need of extra food and special dietary care. Eight of 26 hospital beds for adults have been set aside for these patients but for **neither in-patients nor out-patients can standard anti-tuberculosis treatment be provided.** Several individuals are in need of pneumo-thorax treatment. Neither pneumo-thorax nor X-Ray apparatus is available. An outbreak of food poisoning, presumably due to infected meat served in one of the camp dining rooms, occurred during the week ending June 5. About 75 patients were ill, 20 of them seriously ill. All recovered.

One case of acute appendicitis and one of acute intestinal obstruction have been observed. In both instances operation was performed successfully. Two deliveries have taken place.

C-21 Camp Doctors, Dentists.

- a) Japanese
- c) Visiting doctors, dentists.
- b) Interned doctors.

Name	Nationality	Former place of work	Field
Dr. H. Adolph	U.S.A.	Peking	Laboratory
Dr. H. H Anderson	U.S.A.	Peking	Pharmacology and Laboratory
Dr. A. G. Bryson	British	Peitaiho	Surgery
Dr Ernest Clay	U.S.A.	Chang li	Surgery
Dr, E. C . Corkey	U.S.A.	Chang li	Obstetrics & Gynecology
Dr. G. H. Chan	Canadian	Tsingtao	General Medicine
Dr. H. S. Gault	U.S.A.	Tsinan	Internal Medicine & Laboratory
Dr. G. Geens	Belgian	Suiyuan	Ophthalmology & General Medicine
Dr. J.W.H. Grice	British	Tientsin	Surgery & Gen. Medicine
Dr. M. J. Hinkhouse	U.S.A.	Paotingfu	obstetrics Gynecology & Pediatrics,
Dr. S. Hopkins	U.S.A.	Peking	Ophthalmology
Dr. H.H. Loucks	U.S.A.	Peking	Surgery
Dr R C Lewis	U.S.A.	Shuntefu	Pediatrics & General Med. (Quarantine Of.)
Dr. Clara Nutting	U.S.A.	Tientsin	Nutrition
Dr. W. B. Prentice	U.S.A.	Peking	Dental Surgery
Dr. J. B. Robinson	British	Tongshan	Medicine and neurology (Hygiene Officer)
Dr. F. G. Scovel	U.S.A.	Taming	General Med. Tuberc. Officer
Dr. C. M. Seamans	U.S.A.	Peking	Surgery and Dermatology
Mr. A. Staphilaris	Greek	Tsingtao	Dental Technic

Roster of Medical Officers (Interned)

A medical staff adequate in number is available among the interneers. It has been somewhat handicapped, however, in having no one in its number with special training in the fields of orthopedics, otolaryngology or urology. The roster of the medical staff follows. No Japanese resident or visiting physician is in attendance.

22. Camp Clinic.

C. The Shadside Hospital of the Weihsien Presbyterian Mission enjoyed the reputation previous to the outbreak of the war, of being one of the best designed, constructed and equipped mission hospitals in North China. At the time the camp was opened in March 1943, however, it was completely unfit for use. All plumbing, including the water system, heating system and steam system for operating the sterilizing units had been largely torn out and carried away. Pipes had been pulled from the walls leaving gaping holes. Kitchen stoves had been wrecked and all ordinary hospital utensils and housekeeping equipment was gone. About half of the beds remained but all, mattresses, blankets, sheets and linen had been taken away. The X-Ray unit and all surgical instruments and other equipment had been removed. A few drugs still were present in the pharmacy and a few odds and ends of equipment mostly in damaged or broken condition were littered about with dust and filth in the corridors and rooms. Nothing had been done to put the hospital in order. The second and third floors (including the operating room suite) had been assigned as a dormitory to the Belgian Fathers who also occupied one of the two hospital wards on the main floor. Subsequently this ward was cleared.

By volunteer labor the main floor and basement of the hospital gradually were cleaned up and equipped with supplies brought in by the interneers, salvaged from the wreckage or improvised from odds and ends. It was almost impossible to secure buckets, brushes or any other cleaning equipment. Most of the soap used was contributed by the workers from their private stores. All water had to be carried in by hand. Medical and surgical Clinics were started, however, on March 29. The first patient was admitted on April 6. On April 20 two outlets for running water finally were brought into each floor. Bedding, towels, basins and eating utensils had to be provided by the patients themselves. All food had to be carried from the various camp kitchens until May 4 when sufficient cooking utensils finally were supplied to allow the Hospital Kitchen to operate. The lack of all simple housekeeping equipment was and still is a great handicap.

C22a Number of beds.

The hospital now has available 26 beds for adults and five for children distributed as follows:

Women's ward	12
Men's ward	12
Obstetrical	2
Children's	5

This number is reasonably sufficient for the ordinary turnover of acute cases provided an epidemic does not break out. It

does not adequately provide, however, for the chronic cases such as the tuberculosis and cardiac group.

The out-patient department has four rooms for the Medical, Surgical, Ophthalmologic and Dental Clinics and one for the Registrar. In addition there is an operating room, a laboratory, a pharmacy and several supply rooms.

22b Equipment

On April 10 detailed lists of necessary equipment were turned in to the authorities. None of these materials have been received although recently the beds were measured for mattresses, blankets, sheets and pillow cases.

The operating room is **reasonably** equipped for emergency surgery with instruments and materials brought by the interneers, from Peking, Tientsin, etc. The Japanese have furnished a non-adjustable operating table, a kerosene burning sterilizer (without lamp or kerosene), a few syringes, an outfit for direct blood transfusion, enough instruments to incise and dress an abscess and a few other items of no consequence. **A few instruments such as deep retractors, long clamps are badly needed as also are reliable water still and flasks for the preparation of solutions for intravenous administration.** A list of these needs has already been supplied to Mr. Joerg and Mr. Egger.

A small laboratory has been set up with materials brought along and a few others salvaged locally. Through the assistance of Dr. Hoeppli a satisfactory microscope was secured. Routine examinations of blood, urine, sputum and feces are possible, but no facilities exist at present for bacteriological, chemical or serological work. A small **incubator** would be invaluable. **Certain glass ware such as burettes pipettes centrifuge tubes etc. are urgently needed** as well as a **hemocytometer and Sahli Haemoglobinometer.**

These items were included in the above mentioned list.

The hospital wards need much simple equipment of all kinds, such as **basins, pails, brushes, thermometers, etc.**

22c Medical Supplies.

At the time the camp opened a few drugs were provided by the authorities, but in quantity and kind totally inadequate to meet the medical needs of 1,800 people. Since that time **typhoid and cholera vaccine and 2.5 litres 2500 cc of alcohol have been provided.** On June 14 a few other drugs were received with the statement that others would follow later. Only the considerable supply of many medicines brought in by the interneers has saved the situation. In many instances this supply has already run low or been completely exhausted. The arrival on **June 13 of many drugs urgently needed, provided through the courtesy and assistance of the Swiss Consul, Mr. O. Joerg and myself, well may prove life saving.**

Fortunately, fairly large quantities of used gauze and muslin dressings were found about the hospital when we came. These will prove sufficient for some months. Nothing of this kind has been provided by the Authorities.

22d Treatment - free of charge

Medical, surgical and dental attention as well as drugs have been provided free of charge to the entire population of the camp.

22e Who pays for the supplies?

The supplies brought into camp were provided by the various Relief Committees as well as by private organizations and individuals. All were contributed to the general use of the community.

23 Dental Treatment.

23a Dental Equipment.

All dental equipment was the personal property of Dr. W. B. Prentice of Peking and was brought by him from that city.

Sufficient equipment is at hand for fillings and extractions but facilities for crown, bridge and prosthetic work are lacking. Routine dental supplies have been requested from the authorities but so far nothing has been received.

23 b Supply of dentures by whom, whether free?

A few dentures (about 25) have been taken to Tsingtao by me for repair. The cost of this work is charged to the individual.

23/4 Ocular Treatment.

(a) Who supplies glasses, lenses?

Dr. N. S. Hopkins brought from Peking equipment for refraction. He hopes to be able to send prescriptions for glasses to that city to manufacturers with whom he is accustomed to deal. So far, however, broken lenses, spectacle frames etc, all have been taken to Tsingtao for repair at the expense of the patient.

23/25 Hospital Treatment.

So far only two patients have been sent outside the camp for treatment. The patient with the perforated peptic ulcer previously referred to was sent to a Japanese Hospital at Tsingtao for operation. Recently Dr. A. C. Bryson was allowed to take his wife to the German Hospital, Peking for X-Ray or operative treatment of persistent uterine bleeding. In this instance choice of hospital and doctor was allowed. In both cases third class travel was provided. Dr. Bryson was able to change this to 2nd class at his own expense.

He was not allowed to remain in Peking while his wife was undergoing treatment.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1943

Out-Patients:

Medical, Surgical & Ophthalmological Clinics	1,439
Dental Clinic	394
Inoculations against Diphtheria	38
Inoculations against Typhoid	39
	1,910

Exclusive of Home visits by Doctors.

Home Nursing:

Number of patients visited	193
Number of visits paid	698

In-Patients:	Male	Female	In-fants	Total
In Hospital April 30th	5	2	1	8
Admissions (May)	15	10	2	27
Discharges (May)	11	4	2	17
In Hospital May 31st	9	8	1	18
Number of patient days				409

Operations.

Major operations	2
Minor operations	12
Deliveries	2
Reductions of Fractures under anesthesia	2
Total	18

Pharmacy:

Number of Prescriptions dispensed (exclusive of drugs used for In-Patients)	538

Laboratory:

Number of examinations carried out	438

D 26 Food, Cooking Facilities..

At no time have the Food Supplies Committee nor I been able to obtain any data or figures as to the scale of foodstuffs allowed per person. From the commencement of the camp until June 7, 1943 the weighing and distribution of all food supplies was handled by a Japanese storekeeper and access to figures prepared by him was impossible. Frequently such allocations were, to say the least, very erratic and carelessly handled inasmuch as the use of any scales was ignored time and again. Such method of distribution was, naturally, very unsatisfactory and made unfair distribution a frequent occurrence. Continuing with their requests for a closer handling of food issues, the Committee as from June 7th were eventually allowed to accept food rations in bulk and arrange individual distribution to the four kitchens, and although under these arrangements no scale was available and allocation a matter of estimation, a much fairer distribution was arrived at, but it was not until internees salvaged and reconditioned an old pair of scales that the Food Committee were able to arrive at a more complete and satisfactory method of distribution and at the same time obtain some idea of the scale of various rations being issued per person. As such records have only been in operation a few days it is impossible at this time to issue complete figures of all food items issued.

The following is list of foodstuffs issued from time to time with covering remarks as called for under

(a) and (b) **MEAT** (confined to-date to Beef only) Pork was for Japanese consumption.

Meat received has always been 'roughly handled', that is, badly cut and therefore containing too large a percentage of low 1st grade meat with comparative high percentages of 2nd grade (Stewing) and 3rd grade (soup) meat. On opening the camp from 2 to 3 days of meat was held in storage at one time, but with the arrival of the hot weather and lack of any cold storage arrangements only 1 day's meat is received at a time and issued to the kitchens as promptly as possible. Even under this arrangement the meat is not free from 'smell' on arrival and portions have frequently been found tainted and unfit for consumption, as the supply is shipped in by rail in closed boxes not insulated, ventilated or in any way artificially cooled. Slaughtering in Weih sien had to be given up through lack of supplies.

Slaughtering of the cows or bulls was given up. No suitable supplies could be obtained. The farmers bring only the poorest of the poorest animals, and good quality animals can only be secured by Japanese military requisition parties. Therefore, meat must come from Tsingtao Army distribution centre, but I shall do all to secure a better quality and larger quantity.

(b) Meat issued daily. Ration considered entirely inadequate especially having in mind the surplus of sinew and muscle which is not edible and can only be used for soup flavoring. Figures below show meat issued for period June 7th to 12th (6 days rations) — all un-

cooked weights. The supplying of meat seems to cause some concern to the camp authorities owing to outside shortage. From observation the ration appears to be roughly from 525/550 lbs. per day, but during the period mentioned above several days were short of this figure, and the Food Committee have been notified at this writing that no meat can be expected for 13th and 14th instant but that supplies will be resumed in 15th instant. To tide over this period additional Egg ration has been promised.

June 7/12	2945 lbs Low	1st Grade	1275 lbs	or 43%
		2 nd Grade	790 lbs	or 27%
		3 rd Grade	880 lbs	or 30%

Issue per person per day approximately 219 lb. uncooked weight.

FISH

Various species

(a) Shipped in from Tsingtao in barrels, with ice packing and distributed as early as possible. Generally speaking supplies have arrived in a satisfactory condition, but with the arrival of hot weather this item may have to be withdrawn.

(b) Fish supplied once a week, and does not affect the meat issue for the day. Quantity of fish entirely inadequate for the whole camp, at least double of the present supply is necessary. No weight record available.

FLOUR (BREAD etc.)

(a) Second grade Flour issued and found satisfactory. All baking done in camp by internees. "Dawalu" yeast used.

(b) Supplies of Flour and Bread **sufficient at present** ration of about 1 - **1/10 lbs of Bread per person per day** with additional flour for kitchen use. Approximately 280 bags flour issued weekly for all purposes.

EGGS.

(a) Good quality fresh eggs.

(b) Ration approximates 2 eggs per person per week. This issue considered inadequate bearing in mind the absence of cereals and short meat ration.

Canteen arrangements permit purchase of additional 2 eggs per person about every 5 to 6 days. It might be pointed out that the camp is situated in one of the previously largest egg producing districts in China, but now the chickens have become few in comparison.

CEREALS.

(a) No issue for almost one month.

(b) In the early stages of the camp limited ration of Oat Meal was issued but soon exhausted. Since then despite continuous requests for some kind of cereal the Food Committee have been unable to obtain any satisfaction. However, the information was recently volunteered that this matter was receiving the attention of the authorities and that cereal in some form would shortly be provided.

POTATOES.

(a) Quality satisfactory.

(b) At the commencement issue of old crop potatoes was sufficient and remained so up until a month or 5 weeks ago when the issue became very short and erratic depending on when stocks were received. The reason given for this shortage was that new crop potatoes were not available in sufficient quantities to meet their requirements. New crop potatoes have now commenced coming in every few days and increased rations have been promised when the market is more plentiful. This is camp's chief item to fill up a meal and is much desired. The recent short issue has been entirely inadequate. Weight records not available.

FRESH VEGETABLES.

Consisting of Leeks, Spinach, Carrots, Turnips, Onions, Bean Sprouts, Cabbage, Radishes, Sorrel, Cucumber issued according to season.

(a) Vegetables received fresh and in good condition.

Unfortunately lack of cold storage is detrimental to same if stocks are carried over 24 hours which sometimes occurs.

(b) Issue considered insufficient. This is particularly noticeable when ample supplies of potatoes are not forthcoming as referred to above. Present ration approx. 3/4 lb per person per day of Fresh Vegetables — uncooked weight.

FRUITS (FRESH OR OTHERWISE)

(a) Non issue at any time. Extremely limited quantities have been on sale in the canteen from time to time according to season,

(b) It is considered that the issue of some kind of fruit should be made to maintain good health among the internees.

SUGAR.

(a) Good clean product issued.

(b) Issue inadequate. No record available over any period, but last issue approximately 388 oz per person per day. Sugar is rationed for all outside people. Including Japanese 1 lb per head per month.

JAM.

(a) Confined to Apple Jam — sweetened.

(b) Seldom issued. Ration entirely inadequate bearing in mind there is no fruit issue and very small sugar issue. Last issue of Jam approximated 3/4 oz per person.

Condiments (Salt & Pepper)

(a) Quality sufficient.

(b) Issue satisfactory on present basis.

CORN STARCH,

(a) Good Quality.

(b) Seldom issued. Needed for thickening purposes. Have requested a more frequent issue.

PEANUT OIL.

(a) Good quality.

Issue inadequate. Ration considered 7 or 8 x 5 gallon tins per week. This quantity has been exceeded in the past but authorities advise they have been using too much and must curtail their usage. Food Committee have pressed for at least a minimum of 12 x 5 gallon tins per week, and at present indications are that an increase will be granted. This is an important item in their cooking as little or no fats are available. The committee are anxious for increased supplies to be available at the earliest possible date.

VINEGAR

(a) Quality satisfactory.

(b) Present issue inadequate and an increase in the ration of this item has been requested.

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

(a) Inferior to home product but satisfactory.

(b) Present ration sufficient.

TOMATO CATSUP,

- (a) Inferior to home product but satisfactory
- (b) Increased ration would be appreciated.

TEA.

- (a) Quality 2nd grade but satisfactory.
- (b) Present issue sufficient.

COFFEE.

- (a) A Barley Product of North China Coffee Company.
- (b) Occasional issue. A more frequent issue would be appreciated as a change in place of daily Tea Issue.

TOMATO SOUP.

- (a) A prepared product of satisfactory quality.
- (b) Occasional issue. Probably not considered a regular camp issue.

CURRY POWDER

- (a) Quality inferior but satisfactory. Unfortunately no rice is available for correct curried meal.
- (b) Present ration sufficient.

MARGARINE.

- (a) Inferior quality but appreciated.
- (b) Ration entirely inadequate. Issued on an average once a week on the approximate scale of 1 oz per person.

MILK.

- (a) Previously drawn from Tsingtao and local farm sources and undoubtedly adulterated with water. This source now discontinued and 10 Milk Cows kept in the camp ensuring better grade milk.

Quantity entirely inadequate and reserved exclusively for very young children and sick internees. Many others in need of milk have to be denied even though their age and/or condition may demand same. Tinned or Powdered Milk not available for issue or, to-date, on sale at the canteen. With the summer stomach ailments to anticipate, the demand for milk will be increased.

BAKING POWDER SPICES FLAVOURINGS etc., etc.

- (a) No issue.
- (b) Requests for the above have been made and it is hoped stocks will be forthcoming in the not too distant future.

REMARKS

From the foregoing it will be gathered that with the exception of a few minor items the general ration issue in the main is inadequate. It must be particularly stressed that an enormous amount of heavy work has to be done by the majority of the internees to ensure proper running of the camp, and such workers have to be adequately fed to retain their energy to enable them to fulfill their camp duties which are mostly of manual nature. The Food Committee has at all times pressed the camp authorities for increased rations of many items, but regulations naturally are hard to overcome and any response is slow in forthcoming.

The following is a summarized statement prepared by a Dietary Expert from the internees showing results of Dietary Study covering one 12 day period (May 1st — 12th, 1943) for one kitchen feeding around 400 people; carefully measured intake and calculation of food value using standard tables of food analyses.

1. Average per capita intake per day (grammes) (Edible portion)

Potatoes	216	Beef	121
Carrots & Radishes	66	Butter	1
Onions & Leeks	52	Fats & Oils	20
Greens	162	Fish	16
Flour	344	Eggs	0.25
Sugar	14	Condiments	-

2. Calculated nutritive value per capita per day

Average Requirement (This requirement is figure for sedentary individual).

Calories (energy)	1917 cal.	2400 cal,
Protein	75 grm	70 grm
Calcium	0.26 grm	0.68 grm
Phosphorous	0.86 grm	1.00 grm
Iron	0.012 grm	0.012 grm
Vitamin A	probably sufficient	
Vitamin B	low	
Vitamin C	nil	

x Intake and requirement for Vitamins are not easily expressed in figures (data insufficient)

xx Does not include Oranges (containing Vitamin C which has been occasionally available through Canteen.)

Deficiencies.

Most glaring are in Calcium

Vitamin B

Vitamin C

Calories

These can be most readily met by supplying:

for Calcium: Milk and Beans (see note below)

Vitamin B: Whole Cereals and Beans.

Vitamin C: Fresh Fruit-.

Calories : Whole Cereals and Beans

Note:-

The lack of Calcium is the most serious of the above four items. If milk and legumes (beans) are not to be secured, could an adequate supply of Bone Meal be made available, — or the raw material (bones) and proper milling machinery for making bone meal. To attempt to partly meet the Calcium needs of small children and adolescents, we are grinding up egg shells and feeding this. Egg shells however are inferior to bone meal and probably only partly meet the need; moreover the supply of egg shells is itself wholly inadequate.

Suggestions:

If some arrangement could be made for the Canteen to supply a line of nourishing food this should include:

1. An abundance of Fruit. Some kind of fruit always.
2. Oatmeal and other whole cereals in stock.
3. Tinned material of all kinds, especially Milk and Egg Products.

27. (a) & (b)

On the opening of the camp no special provisions were available for providing special diet to either children, aged or sick persons. The Medical section pressed for such and permission was granted to recondition the kitchen in the hospital basement. The work of reconditioning this kitchen was carried out entirely by the internees themselves with certain fittings and equipment supplied by the authorities. The results have fully justified themselves though the accommodation and capacity for cooking cannot be said to be adequate to meet all needs. At present the special diet kitchen takes care of all children up to the age of 3 years, aged and those in need of special diet as well as in-patients in the hospital. The average number handled under this kitchen would be from,

say 130 to 150 individuals daily. As there is no special food provided the usual kitchen rations are used. To-day certain foodstuffs necessary for diet kitchen requirements have arrived from me, which are much appreciated by those responsible for diet kitchen work. It is hoped that this diet kitchen can eventually add further ages of children to their present list.

28.

Undoubtedly a number of internees brought stock of provisions with them, and with the short food ration, have depended considerably on such stocks as they had privately. Naturally individual provision stocks are gradually becoming exhausted after almost 3 months camp life, and people are more and more having to depend entirely on camp rations unless receiving parcels from outside sources.

D 29

There are no facilities for buying from outside sources except by mail arrangements. Refer to Discipline Committee report on this matter: The Canteen has not to date had stocks of foodstuffs for sale.

D 30

Kitchen installation is very primitive reducing the major portion of food preparations to boiling and stewing, a certain amount of frying can be done on native type ranges, but even most of the meals prepared in that style frying has to be done by means of using the "Kuos" (cauldrons) when not in use for boiling or stewing purposes. At the commencement boiling facilities were not sufficient for cooking and taking care of the enormous amount of water to be boiled for drinking or tea making, but some old boilers were salvaged by the internees which has considerably relieved the situation. The camp is divided into four kitchens as follows:

Kitchen No. 1	755 persons (approx.)	
Kitchen No. 2	497 persons (approx.)	
Kitchen No. 3	411 persons (approx.)	
Kitchen No. 4	129 persons (approx.)	(Diet Kitchen)
TOTAL =	± 1792	

(a) Kitchen utensils entirely inadequate in every respect. Repeated requests are being made for additional equipment as well as additions to the present issue. Some items have been received from time to time but insufficient to meet the needs for cooking for such a large number of people. At the present time the department concerned have a considerable list of items ordered by the Food Supplies Committee from time to time which have not been filled other than by verbal promises.

Mess seating accommodation is suitable for around 800 persons in total and calls for, generally speaking, two sittings. This has been more or less overcome by people automatically 'staggering' themselves so that meals are served in a continuous manner.

(b) Fuel is adequate at the present time but no reserve stocks are held, additional coal and firewood being brought in when needed.

D 31

For general camp supplies one Foreign built residence has been turned over as a store room. Each kitchen has a small room adjoining for their individual stores as received from the general camp supply rooms. It should be stressed here that there is, generally speaking, extremely little reserve stocks of foodstuffs apart from flour which is received from time to time in approximately 1000/1200 bag lots. Other reserve stocks would not suffice the camp for more than, say 24 hours and would not include any Meat, Eggs and probably no vegetables. We understand that arrangements will be made, and necessary materials supplied, to salt down a small reserve of meat, but in view of the present meat shortage it cannot be said with any certainty when these plans can be carried out.

D 32

A number of Refrigerators were shipped in by the Tientsin internees (14 machines) and of these four are out of commission due to mechanical defects. This is the only refrigeration medium existing in the camp and, as will be realized entirely inadequate considering the bulk of food which should be kept in refrigeration.

D 33

The only facilities for preparing private food is by means of small brick and mud stoves which internees have built themselves near the various blocks.

LABOR

C 38

Labor in the Weihsien Camp can be styled compulsory in as much as the internees have to do practically everything for themselves connected with their daily lives.

They do all the handling, preparing, cooking and serving of their food — including the baking of bread; carry all their fuel, stoke their fires, pump and carry all their water for every purpose; do their own carpentry, pipe fitting and masonry work; do much of their own laundry, and operate a canteen where limited supplies of some necessities are sold. Not the least of their achievements is the rehabilitations of the hospital at a tremendous expenditure of labor. This institution is staffed entirely by their own doctors and nurses and they operate there a vitally important diet kitchen. It was also a task of considerable magnitude from the labor angle to get the accumulated filth of the camp cleaned up (the debris they found here on their arrival) and they continue by their own efforts to keep it clean. Night soil is removed by Chinese contractors, but kitchen garbage and other refuse is carried outside the compound by camp personnel. A general storm drainage scheme for the camp, planned by internee engineers, for execution by internees before the anticipated early advent of the rainy season, is now under way and a considerable number of male internees are busy digging surface drains.

The foregoing requires work in varying amounts from all their adults physically able to make their contribution, and, in addition to their personal work, adult internees do community work averaging 2 1/2 hours per day for women and 3 1/2 hours per day for men, although many individuals of both sexes work five and six hours daily.

Instances have arisen when they have definitely been required by the camp authorities to do certain specific tasks, and at once, but it may be said in extenuation that all such jobs to date have had as their avowed object the improvement of camp conditions and facilities. There has, however, been considerable work required that proved unnecessary, presumably because of lack of planning, thus resulting in duplication of effort. The question of work for hire has not arisen.

EDUCATION

The members of the Committee who took office were Bro. J.F. Janning (Catholic Group), Miss Peer (Peking), Mr. R. A. Jacob (Tsingtao), and Mr. W. Pryor (Tientsin), it being agreed between them that Mr. Pryor should act as their representative in dealings with Mr. S. Tsukikawa and the Camp authorities.

The activities organized or cared for by the Committee comprise to date:

1. A kindergarten and Nursery school for children under 6 years of age.
2. Two schools for children and minors ranging in age from 6 to 17 years.
 - (a) According to the British system of Education and
 - (b) According to the American system of Education.
3. Classes for Adults.
4. Public Lectures.
5. A Musical Society.
6. A dramatic society.

1) KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY

SCHOOL (Headmistress Miss Clarke)

Number of pupils	65
Number of Teachers	8
Number of Classes	3 (i.e. Transition, Kindergarten and Nursery)

This branch of the Committee's activities is superintended by Mr. R. A. Jacob. Two classes are housed in the two upper rooms of Building 25, while the third or Nursery school, consisting of the smallest children and numbering 35, has of necessity to be accommodated out of doors in the south sports field.

Hours of work are 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon daily except on Saturdays and Sundays.

The accommodation and the equipment for these schools are far from satisfactory and make the proper education of the Children difficult. The provision of small tables and benches for the

class rooms in Building 25 and that of 'Penguins' and a storeroom for the equipment of the class using the South Sports field has however, been promised and will, when completed, improve matters greatly.

1) **SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND MINORS**

(Superintended by Mr. W. Pryor)

(a) **The British School** (Headmaster Mr. G. T. Foxlee)

Number of Pupils	117
Number of Teachers	14
Number of classes	12

Hours of work are: for the five junior classes 9 a.m. to 12.00 noon daily except Saturdays and Sundays.

For the seven senior classes 9 a.m. to 12.20 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. except and 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

The five Junior classes of this school, comprising 54 pupils are accommodated in the two larger rooms in the basement of Building 24, the remaining 7 classes being accommodated in the Church Building.

The organization of this school was facilitated by the fact that two thirds of the pupils and most of the teachers were residents of Tientsin, enabling the committee to reestablish the British school which had been functioning previously in Tientsin and to incorporate therein such additional British children as had entered the camp from elsewhere.

The accommodation and the equipment for this school are not unsatisfactory.

(b) **The American School** (Headmistress Miss Moore)

Number of Pupils,	55
Number of Teachers	14 (Excluding Catholic Sisters)
Number of grades	12 (who also assist)

Hours of work are: -

For the six junior grades

(i.e. I - VI) 9 a.m. to 12 noon except Saturdays and Sundays

For the six senior grades

(i.e. VII-XII) 9 a.m. to 12.20 p.m. 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. except Sat. and Sun.

The six junior grades, comprising 24 pupils, are accommodated in the two smaller rooms in the Basement of Building 24; the six senior grades are accommodated in the mornings either in the

Church yard (out of doors) or in No. 1 Dining hall and in the afternoons in the two smaller rooms of the Basement of Building 24.

The bulk of the pupils in this school hail either from the American School in Peking or from that previously functioning in Tsingtao. In order not to disturb the courses of study in which each party was engaged it was therefore felt desirable in the six senior grades to permit pupils to continue under those teachers who had accompanied them from Peking and Tsingtao respectively until the end of the school year (i.e. the end of June). A reorganization of classes among grades VII and XII may be considered when the school re-opens after the summer vacation.

The equipment for this school is satisfactory but the accommodation available for the six senior grades is poor — neither, seemingly, can it be improved under existing conditions.

3. **CLASSES FOR ADULTS,**

The promotion of Adult Education in the Camp has been entrusted to the special care of Brother Janning and has proved a highly successful though formidable undertaking.

The Camp contains an abundance of highly qualified teachers and lecturers who have generously and enthusiastically given of their free time to assist this work while from the residents, to whom this opportunity of study has been offered, there has been a very gratifying response.

The difficulties that have arisen through lack of adequate class room accommodation and the necessity of arranging classes at times that would not conflict with the Camp duties of Teachers and students have proved severe but have, with cooperation and adjustment among all concerned, been suitably met.

The degree of benefit accruing to the community from the promotion of these classes can perhaps best be appreciated by an examination of the class schedule, a copy of which will be found attached and at the conclusion of which are recorded the following statistics:

Number of Teachers	78
Number of classes	113
Number of class periods per week	309
Number of students by classes	1575
Number of student hours per week:	3763

Classes commenced on May 7th 1943 and will continue until July 17th, after which it is proposed to have a short recess before the second semester begins.

4) **PUBLIC LECTURES.**

This sphere of activity is in the special care of Miss Speer by whom lecturers are canvassed and lectures arranged.

It has been the purpose of the Committee to provide one lecture every week on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 p.m. To date the following four lectures have been given which have been well attended and much appreciated:

- May 5th Dr. Williams H. Adolph - "The Wisdom of the Body" or "What Happens to the Food We Eat"
- May 12th Father Scanlon - "The Life of a Trappist"
- May 19th Mr. Ahmad Kamal - "Central Asia"
- May 26th Mr. Theodore Bodde - "The Planets"

It is hoped to continue such weekly lectures regularly in the lecture room of Building 25, but should the seating capacity of the room prove insufficient it would be possible to arrange for the use of the Church Building.

5) MUSICAL SOCIETY.

This society is controlled by sub-committees appointed by popular selection, Mr. Curtis Grimes being the chairman of the General Committee.

The activities of this committee are many and the entertainments provided have proved extremely popular. Apart from regular weekly Victrola concerts and occasional meetings for community singing which are held in Building 25, concerts or light musical entertainment have been provided each Saturday evening in the Church Building. This sitting capacity of the church building (i.e. approximately 640) has proved to be inadequate. It has consequently now become the general rule to offer the same concerto entertainment on two consecutive nights — Fridays and Saturdays.

6) DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

This society was formed at the end of April under the direction of an elected sub-committee with Mrs. Tipper as Chairman. Several plays are now being studied and rehearsals have commenced, giving hope that productions may be offered to the community by the end of June.

GENERAL REMARKS

In this camp there exists a wealth of Educational talent and the community as a whole has not been slow to show its apprecia-

tion of this fact by accepting the opportunity thus offered and to benefit there from. Of the children and minors residing in the camp it may be said that all are being provided with a good education — a fact which is much appreciated by all parents. Of the adult residents fully one third are following one or more courses, while virtually all are benefiting from the enjoyment of attending the musical entertainment provided.

K43 Recreation facilities

REPORT ON RECREATIONS FROM APRIL 27, TO JUNE 12, 1943.

1. The following table shows the program of sports and events held at the camp so far:

TABLE I

SPORT	NUMBER OF GAMES	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	REMARKS
Softball- men	37	205	Playing space somewhat limited
Baseball- men	4	36	Playing space entirely inadequate
Softball- women	12	46	
Japanese rubber baseball- men	6	70	Playing space entirely inadequate
Volleyball - men	14	77	
Volleyball - women	3	21	
Tennis			No regular matches scheduled by the Sports Committee
Basketball - men	1	16	
Basketball - women	3	32	
Cricket - men			Playing space entirely inadequate
.Hockey - men	22	56	Teams made up of 6 on a side because of inadequate playing space
Hockey - women	3	12	Teams made up of 6 on a side because of Inadequate playing space
Table tennis	0	0	No trestles available for table tops
Soccer football	0	0	Playing space entirely inadequate.

2. Table 2 shows the number of fields and equipment made available for the above activities:

TABLE 2

SPORT	PLAYING FACILITIES	EQUIPMENT FURNISHED BY CAMP AUTHORITIES
Softball	1 field	None
Volleyball	2 courts	None
Tennis	1 court	None
Basketball	1 court	None
Soccer Football	None	None
Cricket	None	None
Baseball	None	7 gloves 12 bats 5 bottles glove oil 1 Dozen Japanese rubber balls' (See note 1 below)

Note 1. The Camp Authorities required this equipment to be paid for in cash on delivery of goods.

Note 2. All equipment used to date has been furnished by the internees themselves. At present this supply has almost completely run out.

Note 3. Softball has proved to be the most interesting and exciting in the way of recreation at this camp for both player and spectator. However, this game will have to be discontinued within this week as the present supply of softballs has been completely exhausted.

3. Table 3 shows sundries, etc., necessary to carry on a limited program in sports and recreation;

TABLE 3

SUNDRIES	FURNISHED BY CAMP AUTHORITIES
Paper for publicity and advertising purposes	100 sheets
Pencils, ink, and other office supplies	None
Equipment for making and lining courts	2 galvanized water buckets
Lime for marking and lining courts	None
Whistles for referees and timers of basketball and volleyball games	None

DISCIPLINE

L 44 Committee elected by the various groups of internees:

E. McLaren (Chairman) Tientsin

H. E. Olsen Tsingtao

P. J. Lawless Peking

Father Rutherford Catholic Group

The Chief of Police (Nakanishi) and his assistant (Yoshinada) are educated men who so far have taken a not unreasonable attitude towards internees, and are persons who can be dealt with in a reasonable manner. The same thing, however, cannot be said for the rank and file of the police, who on occasions have been unnecessarily free in the use of their hands and who, typical of their type, have frequently taken it upon themselves to arrest, try and punish their unfortunate charges. So far there have been three cases in which "slapping" has been indulged in by the Police guards.

Mr. L.C.Porter. — age 62 — American.

A trivial charge of bumping into a guard — Arrested and taken to the police office, where without trial his face was slapped. A rather indefinite apology was obtained from the Chief of Police.

Miss A. Black — age 38 — British.

Slapped by the guard in the police office whilst the Chairman of the Discipline Committee was endeavouring to secure her release. No police officer was in the room at the time,

A. Lambert — age 16 — British.

Arrested for attempting to purchase honey from a Chinese over the compound wall, and beaten by the guard who arrested him.

The second and third cases cited occurred after the Chief of Police had agreed verbally that punishment could only be ordered by him after the delinquent had received a fair trial in the presence of the Chairman of the Discipline Committee and moreover, that a member of the Discipline Committee would be called immediately an arrest was made.

Following on these three instances an agreement confirmed verbally, but not yet signed, was drawn up detailing the procedure to be followed.

1. The police to patrol and control the boundary walls and "out-of-bounds" area.

2. The entire enforcement of discipline within the Camp to be in the hands of the Discipline Committee, which shall be directly responsible to the Chief of Police only.
3. All minor misdemeanours shall be dealt with by the Discipline Committee at their discretion, but crimes of a serious nature shall be reported immediately to the Chief of Police.
4. Disciplinary measures for dealing with offences committed shall be recommended by the Discipline Committee to the Chief of Police, with whom the decision as regards the settlement of the case shall rest.
5. A Fire Brigade of internees to be formed to function under the Discipline Committee.
6. Persons arrested shall be taken to the Police Office where their case will be heard by a Police Officer in the presence of the Chairman of the Discipline Committee. Punishment shall be ordered by the Chief of Police only.

It must be understood that this agreement, even if signed by the Chief of Police, may well fail in its purpose, which is to avoid arbitrary action being taken up officially. These juniors are by training and up-bringing quite incapable of dispensing justice as we know it, and moreover, it is apparently difficult for the Officers of the Police to control entirely the actions of their men.

Shortage of food has forced internees to take steps to augment their diet and has led to the establishment of a "Black Market" over the wall, where eggs, peanut oil, honey and other local produce have been purchased. The Police, people who have strict orders to prevent internees from communicating with Chinese, are now taking steps to prevent this and state that as from 10th June they will enforce the following measures:

- (1) All Chinese in close proximity to or on the boundary wall will be shot on sight. (Nothing has happened since, the black market is still going on as usual and I believe that nobody will be shot nor will anyone be delivered. Arrangements can be made in a friendly way to suit all parties.
- (2) An electrified fence will be erected around the Camp.
- (3) Internees caught trading will be sentenced to solitary confinement for varying periods.

In addition to the foregoing, carts bringing in stores are now stopped at the gate. The coolies must remain outside whilst internees take the carts inside and unload them. The reason for this is, we are informed, to prevent communication with Chinese. It is hardly necessary to add that this ruling has not been received with acclamation, and it is being fought on the grounds that whilst internees are prepared and are liable to carry out reasonable duties within the Camp, the delivery of foodstuffs to the store house is the responsibility of the Authorities.

The root of all this discontent and the greatest danger to discipline is the shortage of food. It has been pointed out repeatedly to the Authorities that the remedy lies in their hands, i.e. to increase rations and arrange for adequate supplies of local produce in the canteen. The Chief of Police appreciates this point and has

made an effort to assist them. Unfortunately this effort has resulted only in an absurdly small quantity of eggs appearing in the canteen. The supply department either will not, or cannot, secure adequate supplies.

Fire Fighting.

The attention of the Authorities had been drawn repeatedly to the serious fire risk which exists in the large 2 story dormitories, all of which have wooden staircases and timber-slate or timber galvanized iron roofs. Applications for supplies of fire fighting gear and offers to organize a fire brigade have, however, merely led to abortive discussions, and today no gear is forthcoming. The danger to the inmates of these buildings is great, and heavy loss of life might well result in the event of an outbreak of fire.

Copy of Class Schedule for Adult Education re: item 3 will be mailed later.

(Signed)

B. E. EGGER Representative for Shantung



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Enclosure to dispatch No. 3072, dated October 18, 1944, from the American Embassy, Chungking, China.

Headquarters Hsiao Ho Tzu. **26/6/44**

To: British and American Embassies,
Chungking.

Report of mission from Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center to Commander Wang Yu Min, 1st War Area, 2nd Command, Shantung Advance Unit, 15th Tsung Tui. (Formerly Shantung-Kiangsu War Area, 4th Tsung Tui).

CONDITIONS IN WEIHSIEN CAMP

Nationals interned: (Men, women and children respectively)
American: 89, 78, 38 – total 205. British: 358, 394, 324 – total 1076.
Italians: 44, 30, 19 – total 93. Others: 46, 48 – total 146. Total 1520.
(Aged over 60 – 142. Average sick 200).

In general except for food and finance, there has been little change in camp conditions since the American evacuation in September, 1943. Health good with no epidemics but present reduced rations are lowering resistance and increased sickness is

anticipated during the summer. There has been gradual reduction in the quantity and quality of the food during the past six months. Present supplies allow one bowl cereal (beans, kaoliang or corn meal) for breakfast, meat or vegetable stew at noon and a bowl of soup in the evening. The quantity of food is insufficient for manual labor. There are two sources of additional foodstuffs, the Canteen and the Black Market. The former supplies eggs, peanuts, peanut oil, fruit, honey, etc. and necessities such as shoes, soap, matches, candles, cigarettes, etc. The latter supplies sugar, jam, tinned milk, cereals, etc. but owing to lack of funds has not been operating for the past three months.

Monthly Comfort Money payments have been at FRB\$150.- per head but inasmuch as the Japanese have insisted upon a more favorable rate of exchange no Comfort Money has been received for the past four months. Personal funds confiscated upon internees' arrival may now be withdrawn at the rate of FRB\$50. - per month, but the greater majority of the internees have either no credit balance or sufficient only for 2/3 months. At present prices, FRB\$50.- does not even allow purchase of necessities from the Canteen, much less additional Canteen issued foodstuffs, upon which the internees have come to rely – particularly children, aged and medical cases. The emergency relief fund established by the internees' Committee is already exhausted and the internal financial situation prevents possibility of reimbursement. The visits of the Swiss Consul from Tsingtao, at some time fortnightly, are becoming much less frequent owing to Japanese non-cooperation and at the time of our departure six weeks had elapsed since his last visit.

Since the camp was completely isolated from reliable Chinese contacts, the internees were completely ignorant of the true local conditions. It was generally believed that the areas in the immediate vicinity north and south of the railway were controlled by groups of bandits and semi-independent units of the 8th route Army. With the collapse of Germany in sight and the anticipated increased activity in the Far East, there has naturally been some anxiety in regard to the safety of the camp in the event of hostilities in this area or of a sudden Japanese withdrawal. In the interval between such a withdrawal and the arrival of a disciplined force it was feared that the camp, being entirely defenceless, might be occupied by irresponsible elements resulting in looting, cessation of food supplies and general danger to women and children. Early in May a letter was smuggled into camp from Commander Wang inquiring after the welfare of the internees and general camp conditions, offering any assistance within his power and suggesting that with the approval and co-operation of Chungking, the evacuation of the entire camp by air might be possible. Although this plan was considered impracticable, it was felt that advantage might well be taken of Commander Wang's desire to be of assistance (and the possibility of utilizing a landing field in the vicinity to ship arms to Commander Wang, facilitating the protection of the camp, was discussed. In view of the necessity for absolute secrecy, knowledge of this contact was confined to only four responsible individuals, including the Chairman. * It was suggested that two men, who would go to Commander Wang's headquarters, should be responsible for negotiations and this was readily approved by the Commander. The question of repercussions to such a move was considered and it was believed that any restrictions would probably be only of a temporary nature and outweighed by benefits derived from a satisfactory connection.

OBJECT OF MISSION

1. Investigate and ascertain as far as possible reliability and suitability of the connection.
2. Explain reasons whereby conditions inside camp make evacuation by air impracticable,
3. Establish reliable means of communication with camp,
4. Investigate possibilities of financial relief,
5. Investigate possibilities of landing field,
6. Make provision for adequate protection of the, camp if necessary,
7. Arrange for provision of food in case of emergency.

CONCLUSIONS

1. We were agreeably surprised to find so large a body of disciplined troops in close proximity to the camp and we consider we have been most fortunate in establishing this connection with Commander Wang, who both in personality and military position is best fitted to be of assistance to the camp. He is 38 years old, a University and Military College graduate, forceful and direct in manner, obviously well educated, and showing an intelligent grasp of current events; he commands much respect from, and is held in great esteem by, his subordinates and one has only to consider the self-sufficiency and organization of this area to estimate his ability. He has a total of 30,000 troops 25,000 of which are armed. These are garrisoned in small mobile groups throughout this area. They are disciplined, well-fed and smartly turned out. The communication system is efficiently organized, giving immediate warning of Japanese troop movements; Commander Wang's sphere of influence lies roughly within lines drawn from Weihsien NE. to the sea, from Weihsien to Kaomi on the Kiao-Tsi Railway, N. to Pingtu and NW. to the sea. The nature of the warfare makes it impossible to indicate permanent boundaries and it is incorrect to say that the whole of this area is under his rigid control as rapid troop movements and night raids alter the position from time to time. The last major engagement was on May 19th/20th at Sunchang against an enemy force of 5,000 and was fiercely contested. Enemy losses were 400 killed and 300 wounded. Defending troops suffered casualties totalling 300. The Japanese retreated without attaining their objective. From the information that we have gathered it appears that the armed troops are inadequately equipped and that there is a shortage of ammunition. The supply of armaments is maintained by (a) local manufacture (b) purchase from Japanese (c) capture in battle. Decentralized local manufacture accounts for the larger part of supply but quality is inferior and is restricted by difficulty in obtaining raw materials. Manufacture includes machine guns, rifles, hand grenades, trench mortars and light field artillery. In addition, there is an efficient organization for the manufacture of cloth, paper, matches, etc. from local products. Two-way radio communication with Chungking is maintained through Fuyang, Anhui. Daily news broadcasts are received and a daily paper issued with a circulation of 10,000 copies. Education is adequately provided for with a Middle School, 70 Higher Primary and 1500 primary schools. Fapi is in current use, \$20. - being equal to FRB\$1. - the use of the later being prohibited. Food supplies appear to be adequate for both military and civil use but this year's wheat crop gave only 20% yield and insufficient rain makes prospect for millet and kaoliang poor.

2. The plan put forward for the evacuation of the camp by air included the construction of a landing field, the taking over of the camp by armed forces, transportation of internees to vicinity of air-field and housing and protection of same for a period of 5 days during which transportation by relays of planes would be effected. We have explained to Commander Wang that this plan is neither desirable nor practical — particularly on account of the large percentage of aged, sick, women and children.

3. Arrangements are being made to place a reliable and trustworthy contact within the camp, as an employee of the Japanese.

4. Current prices make FRB\$150.- per head per month the minimum requirement to take up Canteen issues of necessities and foodstuffs, but this does not allow purchase of additional foodstuffs on the Black Market. Immediate financial assistance is urgently required in the camp and to meet this situation Commander Wang will advance FRB\$100,000. - which will be forwarded to the camp in instalments as soon as contact is established. This sum is to be used for the relief of urgent cases. The extent of future financial assistance will depend on the amount of Comfort Money received — if any. Commander Wang will supply up to FRB\$100,000. - per month, this sum being considered the maximum amount that can be absorbed in the camp without arousing the Japanese suspicions. It is presumed that the Red Cross is in a position to make funds available but failing this we suggest consideration be given to obtaining funds by donation from Catholic and Protestant Missions and the leading business firms. As a further means of alleviating the food situation in camp, we are investigating the possibilities of purchasing foodstuffs in bulk at Tsingtao, such purchases to be handed to the Swiss Consul as anonymous donations for shipment to the camp. Small shipments of this nature have occasionally been received. The method of reimbursement has been discussed with Commander Wang, and while he is willing to accept a credit in Chungking, he has put forward the suggestion that shipment of munitions by air might be arranged as an alternative method. Since any funds allocated for camp use must reduce his local purchase of munitions and raw materials, the later method be more desirable.

5. Under the original proposed evacuation plan, three prospective sites were selected for an airfield. We are of the opinion that anyone of these would be suitable and allow the construction of a landing field with tamped earth runways. Although the evacuation plan is abandoned shipment of arms, ammunition, medicines, etc. could be effected by the use of such a landing field or by parachute. Such shipments should be of great assistance in strengthening Commander Wang's position and thereby the security of the camp.

6. We have explained to Commander Wang the apprehension in regard to the safety of the camp in the event of hostilities in the vicinity or the sudden withdrawal of the Japanese. He has promised us that everything possible will be done to protect the camp and he assures us that there is little reason to fear the occupation of the camp by undisciplined forces as long as he is able to maintain his position in the area.

7. Commander Wang has promised to take care of the food supply to the camp in the event of an emergency.

We strongly suggest that a suitable English-speaking Chinese be sent to this area as soon as possible to deal with and be responsible for all matters pertaining to the camp, both at the present time and during the period of transition, when his assistance would be invaluable.

We would like to express our appreciation of the interest that Commander Wang has shown in the welfare of the camp and his concern for us personally — he has treated us with every courtesy and has made every provision for our comfort.

Although we realize some of the difficulties involved both here and in Chungking, we feel that it is time some effort was made to relieve the present situation, if only through unofficial channels. We also feel that some consideration should now be given to the question of securing the safety of the internees should the local situation make protection necessary and we hope that, having established this connection, it will be put to good use.

Any additional information that you may require, other than that pertaining to the camp, may be obtained from Mr. Li Tzu-Lien () Commander Wang's representative in Chungking. If Mr. W. B. Christian of the Yee Tsoong Tobacco Distributors Ltd., is in Chungking, he will be able to enlighten you on conditions in the camp prior to his evacuation in September 1943.

We have endeavoured to give you a summary of the existing situation both here and in the camp, and we hope that our suggestions will be of some assistance to you in formulating any plans you may deem advisable.

(signed)

Arthur M. Hummel, (American).

Fu Jen University, Peking

(signed)

L. Tipton, (British).

Yee Tsoong Tobacco Dist. Ltd.

* As a precautionary measure we considered it advisable to delete this from text of report.



A DRAMATIC ESCAPE FROM THE CAMP - AND IT'S CONSEQUENCES WITH THE ALLIED VICTORY COMING –

On 9 June, 1944, fourteen months before the end of the war, Bill Tipton and Arthur Hummel escaped, after many months of planning and of communication with Chinese guerrillas not far from the camp.

Here is a letter from Wang Yu Ming dated 7 June, 1944, two days before their escape

CONFIDENTIAL

June 7th, 1944.

TO MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

[i.e. Tipton and Hummel] To all British & Americans, and other Friends -
P.O.W. Camp, Lotaoyuan, Weihsien.

Dear Friends,

With reference to your letter of the 30th May. In your letter you stated that "you propose, with the approval of our Commander (Wang Yumin) to send at least one British and one American representative to our headquarters to discuss this matter". I have the same reported to our General Commander and agree your arrangement. Now we are ready to welcome (meet) your representatives at the fixed point Liukiamutien (a big cemetery surrounded with brick wall just about 2 li north-west from your camp, and in the cemetery a lot of trees (Chinese call pei shu), you can see from Lotaoyuan).

I put three armed guards to meet you at the main entrance of the cemetery - they all wearing civilian cloth, and some more armed soldiers far behind them to protect you. At a front of the cemetery (3 men) you will see a small white flag which mark "Welcome American and British representatives" for you easily to recognize. The leader of the guide named Chang Pei chuan. Please arrange to leave the camp in the night of 9th June (from 8 p.m. to 12.00 midnight. If you have no chance to get out we will wait for you on the following night.

Can you bring out a typewriter (portable) with you? As my typewriter and all my other things has been destroyed by shell fire and bomb. If you could borrow a good fountain pen and pocket watch (which keeps good time) so much the better, and I will return the same after I get back from Chungking. Bring out some thin papers as well, as I can't get it in the country town and hsien cities.

After you get out I have to set out on my long journey right away, as I have to go round from Nanking, Shanghai, Hangchow, Changshan etc. The other ways cannot get through.

Please answer without any fail. After I left my wife will keep connection with you. Kaoliang growing up is the time for you all to leave the camp. Keep patient. I leave for Chungking to arrange the air transport for you.

Your loving friend,

WANG YLI MIN.

You will see from the above letter that Wang Yu min gave careful instructions on where to meet on the proposed night of escape. There would be three armed guards to meet them, waving a white flag. They asked the two men to bring a typewriter.

THE ACTUAL ESCAPE ON 9 JUNE, 1944 and PREPARATIONS FOR THE END...

Tipton and Hummel slipped into the watchtower at the corner of the sports field, and through it, over the electrified wires with the help of fellow internees, while the Japanese sentry fresh on duty was doing his ten minute tour of inspection. A small group of Chinese were waiting for them, as arranged, at a cemetery two miles from the camp. Walking, travelling by wheelbarrow and bicycles, they reached the headquarters of General Wang Yumin and his guerrillas less than a hundred miles to the north east of Weihsien Camp.

Here they remained until the end of the war. They sent a lot of information about the camp to Chongqing, and obtained funds and medical supplies for the internees. They also kept in regular touch with the camp through a Chinese carpenter, who went in regularly as a labourer. The messages were written in fine silk, and folded into a small pellet, which the workman stuffed up his nose. This strategy defied the most exacting body searches. The messages were written in a special code in case they fell into the wrong hands. Sometimes they were spat out near a camp toilet where Fr. Raymond J. de Jaegher was already waiting.

The basis of this feverish and clandestine correspondence was partly due to the increasing shortage of food and medicines, but even more importantly to the fear that when the war ended the Japanese might slaughter the camp inmates, or the internees might be caught in dangerous crossfire between competing bands of guerrillas.

Here is a selection of letters which were smuggled into camp with the purpose of making plans about the end of the war and ensuring that the internees were kept in safety.

In the following letter Wang Shao wen stated that his purpose was "to save you all out from Ledaoyuan [Courtyard of the Happy Way] and then send you back to your country". He asked for statistics of the numbers of men, women and children, and for a sketch map of the area around the camp.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sunchen Headquarters,
No 6 Area, Changyi Area,
3rd May, 1944.

To all British & American Friends
& Others,
P.O.W. Camp, Lotaoyuan, Weihsien.

Dear Friends,

This serves to inform you that first of all I have to introduce myself to you. I am one of the first class interpreters in the Chinese Labour Corps, B.E.F., France. Upon my return to China I joined the A.P.O., Tsinanfu Area for more than ten years. Recently I left my last service in K.M.A. Tsinan. I came to No.6 Area Changyi just a

couple of months ago. The first thing I decided with the Commander and the Asst. Commander is to arrange to save you all out from Lotaoyuan, and then send you back to your own country.

Please note that from here to Chungking it is rather difficult to go right thru, as the Jap soldiers are all blocked up the ways. So we have to arrange to send you all back by air. In this connection, we have to send a few special men (and I myself) to Chungking to connect the matter and request the Central Government, American and British Consulate Generals to arrange to send down some big aeroplanes for the transportation. So therefore before we save you all out from Lotaoyuan we have a lot of things to do, as the aerodrome built etc. for the planes to land. However, after everything settle up and then we will let you all know beforehand. Kindly believe us that we are easily to save you all out as we have over 60,000 soldiers staying in Changyi Area.

- There are several things we want to know, please let us know.
- (1) Total number of persons in Lotaoyuan (including ladies and children) ?
 - (2) How many American friends (including ladies and children) ?
 - (3) How many British friends (including ladies and children) ?
 - (4) Others (ladies and children)?

Please make a rough sketch of Lotaoyuan and number of persons which are living in each of the houses.

The best way to do is for you to write a letter to our Commander Wang Shang chih and Asst. Wang Yu min to save you all out from the War Prison Compound, and then you will all sign on the letter. Kindly write out a rough copy and then I will type it out for you. We need four copies - 1 for Central Government, 1 for British Consulate General, 1 for American Consulate General, and 1 for ourselves.

As I have never been to Weihsien before, so we request Miss Yang Jui lan to find one of her friends who can get into this compound to handing in and out of our letters. Now I am living in one of the hotel for your early replies.

Enclosed herewith an official letter from the Commander Wang Shang chih (Keep secret)

Wishing you all have a good luck. Please keep patient for the time being. We may act till the kaoliang crops grow up. Wait! Wait!

I remain,
Yours very truly,
WANG SHAO WEN.

In the above letter from COMMANDER WANG SHANG CHI DATED 4 MAY, 1944, Wang tried to identify himself with the sufferings of the internees. "We can well imagine that your life in Hades must reach the limit of inhuman cruelty. As I write this, I tear the roots of my hair." He sought to bring encouragement to the camp leaders as the war is in the favour of the Allies. He would like to use his division of soldiers to "snatch the internees from the tiger's mouth". They on their part must enlist the help of their consuls to send aeroplanes to evacuate them. He would gladly give his assistance.



Beleagured British and Americans

Greetings to all. The dwarf islanders, who as brigands and robbers have upset the order of the world, and whose brutality my countrymen have first felt, as war and calamity spread widely and human sacrifice became cruel beyond any comparison in human history, without taking account of virtue and measuring their strength, dared to make enemies of your countries, so that you have met with great misfortune, and have been robbed of your livelihood and happiness.

We can well imagine that your life in Hades must reach the limit of inhuman cruelty. As I write this, I tear the roots of my hair.

The Allies are now in the Pacific, in South East Asia and on the mainland of China, where they have attacked with great success. I beg of you to let your spirits rise.

My division at the present moment is able to release you, snatching you from the tiger's mouth. But the territory we control is small and restricted. I cannot guarantee your safety for a long period.

If you will request your consuls to send aeroplanes after your release to pick you up, and take you away to the rear, then my division can certainly save you. Regarding this matter, I am asking Miss Wang Juilan to find some way of getting into touch with you, and to make arrangements.

I respectfully hope that you will be able to carry this out, and send you all my good wishes,

Wang Shang chih, 33rd year of the Republic, fifth month, fourth day.

Letter to Weihsien Camp from Commander
Wang Shang chih dated 4 May, 1944

Wang Shao wen, who wrote the earlier letter dated 3 May, 1944, sent two more letters to the camp dated 31 May. He acknowledges that he has now heard from the Camp Committee.

Dear Friends,

The numbers we want to know 1,520 etc. was duly received.

I am sorry that when I got back to our headquarters was just the time we are fighting with Japs' troops. The result we killed over 700 of them. This caused me cannot get back right away.

When you go out from Lotaoyuan (till the kaoliang crops grow up) we cannot keep you in country so long. Therefore we have to arrange the air transport with the British and American authorities in Chungking. So it is necessary for you to type 2 separate letters* to your consuls in Chungking (4 copies each with thin papers in single space and sign by both of your Consuls will do - that means easily to carry)

This suggestion, it is really put by me, so I request you to write a letter to our Commander Wang Yu min. Please have those letters (pass) hand out as soon as possible, as I have to take those letters with me when I leave for Chungking to arrange the air transport

On our part here everything ready for you all. I cannot tell you more about it. Please note that when the time you hear our shouting, that's the time for you to get out. I decided to leave for Chungking in the beginning of the coming month.

As the planes' landing ground we already starting work. Frank W. Price will help me in this connection (Chungking)

Letter handing in and out from the same point (over wall), and by the same man as well. The sooner the better.

Please have the figures which you passed out 10 days ago put in the letters as well.

Your loving friend,

WANG SHAO WEN.

Weih sien, 31/ 5/ 44.

Awaiting your letter to start my journey. God will help us.

CONFIDENTIAL

To all American & British, and other Friends -

Lotaoyuan, Weih sien.

Dear Messrs Ti, T'ien & Lee,

In reply to your letter of 30th instant, contents of which has been clearly noted with interest. And I will have the same report to our Commander Wang Yu min on the morrow.. And will be back again in a few days later.

Before I came to Weih sien we have a meeting held which is about all necessary work we should be done. The result we could everything on our part, except the air transport. So therefore we have to request the heads of you to write letters for us to arrange air transport with the British and American Consuls easier. After everything arranged and settled at Chungking, I have to lead a few planes to come back first (show them where to land, and night or day signals to put etc.) At the same time will ask a couple of the British and American officers to come here first to see the airodrum built, and will ask Mr. Frank W. Price to come too.

We have radio station at our headquarters Hsiao Ho Tze (shifted from Sunchen after recent air raid). When they got to our headquarters and ask them to report our present conditions, it is far better than we report ourselves. This trip to and fro it will take two and a half months at least.

So I still ask you to write the letter for us to prove it. (Letter pass through the usual man). I will come back to fetch it. The sooner the better. Time not permit us to delay. As two more months the kaoliang crops will growing up by then.

Please keep patient to wait 2 more months. Now we have to catch the A.M. train to get back. So good-bye.

Sincerely,

WANG SHAO WEN.

31/5/44

This correspondence has been brought into and out of camp through a cesspool coolie. In the above two letters Wang Shao wen is asking for some letters to be written by the Camp Committee which he can take to the British and American authorities in Chungking.

The following letter dated 3 June 1944 is the first record we have of the Weih sien Camp Committee's reaction to Wang Shao wen's rescue plan. They thank Wang for his interest and sympathy in their "unfortunate position", but tactfully state "we cannot at present recommend your plan to our Consuls in Chungking".

LETTER FROM CAMP COMMITTEE TO WANG SHAO WEN

June 3, 1944.

Dear Mr. Wang,

We received your letter of May 31st., and note that you propose to report to

Commander Wang Yu min on our letter of May 10th, and we await your reply with interest.

Once again we wish to express our most sincere appreciation of the interest and sympathy that both you and Commander Wang are showing in our unfortunate position here and we feel that it deeply reflects the true spirit of the Allied Nations in the struggle against our mutual enemy.

We have given careful thought to the plan put forward in your letters, and whilst the idea of our being rescued from our present plight and being transported to Chungking by plane is a very brilliant scheme and one that appeals to all, we realise that there are certain circumstances and conditions here in Lo Tao Yuan with which you may not be familiar, but which make - in our opinion - the successful operation of this plan doubtful. Therefore, with the limited knowledge that we have regarding this plan we feel, much as we appreciate your kindness and concern for our welfare, that we cannot at present recommend your plan to our Consuls in Chungking.

It seems to us essential that we have an opportunity of discussing the details of the plan from every point of view before we can write to our Consuls. The lives and safety of a great many people are involved, and we feel it unwise to make any hasty decision without a face to face discussion.

There are also other plans that we have in mind by which both you and Commander Wang can be of the greatest help to us - particularly if you yourself are still willing to proceed to Chungking on our behalf, and for this reason we are most anxious that you arrange for our representatives to meet both Commander Wang and yourself in order that we can give you every possible co-operation, and so enable our joint efforts to be directed along the most practical channels.

As we realise that you have our interests at heart we feel sure that you will do all you can to assist us in this matter, and we on our part are most anxious to take advantage of this opportunity, because we feel that with your help a great deal can be accomplished towards securing the safety and relieving the suffering of our fellow internees here.

Trusting that we may have a favourable reply from you in the near future, and expressing our most sincere thanks,

We remain,
Yours sincerely,

WEIHSIEN CAMP COMMITTEE

The "camp representatives" referred to were Laurance Tipton and Arthur Hummel, who were planning to escape six days after this. In the year which followed these two men worked closely with this pro-Chungking unit in ensuring the continued safety of the internees.

The following letter, dated 14 July, is from Captain John M. Birch, a missionary working behind the lines with the American Air Corps.

LETTER FROM JOHN M. BIRCH TO HUMMEL AND TIPTON -

14 July, 1945

Dear Messrs Hummel and Tipton,

Your letters to Capt. Glass safely received. Since Glass has left this area and I have returned, the letters were delivered to me.

For the past several days we have been attempting radio contact with your man. So far we have been rewarded with one short period of two-way communications, and your station faded out before that was finished. I fear that your present equipment will prove too weak to carry much communication.

There is, however, another means of sending messages to us by radio. Our mutual acquaintance will explain this. In the meantime, we will continue to call you on the times and frequencies you suggested. These do not interfere greatly with our work.

Your letter to W.B. Christian has been forwarded to Chungking by radio. So far we have heard nothing from there, except that Mr. Christian has gone to the States, leaving his work in the hands of others.

In the event we make fair radio contact, request you forward us any useful information on Japanese installations, strength, intentions, etc. at your convenience.

Best wishes for your success and safety.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. BIRCH,
Captain, Air Corps A.U.S.

In the above letter John Birch arranged with the two escapees regarding the time and means of communicating by radio. He also asked for information about Japanese movements and strength.

In the next letter dated 22 July, 1945, Tipton writes to a Chinese business friend in Tsingtao for financial assistance. He is aware that the war could be ending soon, and he wanted to ensure that the Weihsien Camp had sufficient funds with which to survive.

He therefore arranged a loan with this friend, and requests that the funds be given to Swiss representative Egger for the benefit of the internees.

LETTER FROM HUMMEL & TIPTON TO A CHINESE BUSINESS MAN

July 22nd, 1945.

Dear Friend,

Owing to the difficulty we are having in transferring funds from here to Tsingtao for the use of our friends in Weihsien, I have approached an old business friend, and requested him to advance cash in Tsingtao for this purpose.

As a convenience to him we shall be greatly obliged if you will receive these funds and pass them on to Mr. Egger. These funds will be in the form of a loan to my company in FRB dollars, repayable in U.S. currency after the conclusion of hostilities. I have requested a first payment of FRB \$ one million to be paid before the end of August.

Further sums required and the rate of exchange will be matters to be decided upon by yourself (if you will be good enough to assist in this matter), Mr. Egger and my friend. I am enclosing eight receipts, duly signed and chopped. Please fill in the amount of FRB dollars received and the rate of exchange agreed upon, and have same initialed by yourself, Egger, and chopped by bearer of funds, who will take delivery of receipt.

Please advise Egger that he may use this arrangement at his discretion, and that everything must be done to help our friends in Weihsien that is possible, and I hope my friend will be able to supply sufficient funds for this purpose.

Please advise him that we would like a brief monthly report confirming receipt of funds, and information as to how they are being spent together with any suggestions or requests that he may have to make. If this report be left with the Camp Committee in Weihsien we will arrange for collection.

We much appreciate the co-operation that you have so readily given in the past, and we hope you will continue to be in a position to help our mutual friends.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR HUMMEL L. TIPTON.

Things are now moving fast with the end of the war now in sight.

On 12 August Hummel and Tipton write to the Camp Committee, advising them that Japan has surrendered unconditionally on 10 August.

**LETTER FROM TIPTON & HUMMEL
TO WEIHSIEN CAMP COMMITTEE**

12 August, 1945.

To McLaren, Howard, Holton, de Jaegher,

Chungking with Allied help attacked Yen-an on July 21. Russia declared war on Japan on August 6. Japan surrendered unconditionally to China, England and America on August 10. They are probably still fighting the Russians.

We are endeavouring to contact the Governor of Shantung, who is near Weihsien, to provide for your food, protection from Reds etc. If you are approached by representatives from ... co-operate with them. They are all interested in your survival.

The Reds occupy large areas both north and south of the Railway, and are attacking both Japanese and Chinese.

Until either the Allies land in Tsingtao or Chungking troops arrive from the west, the military situation will remain very unsettled. Therefore under no circumstances allow anyone to run away from the camp.

For the time we will be unable to go to the Camp, but will be doing what can be done for your welfare.

Please reply thru usual channels,
Tipton and Hummel.

The above letter is overtaken by events during the next few days. ... For on 17 August 1945 American parachutists come down outside Weihsien camp.

The following letter consists of instructions from the camp to the two escapees. Roy Tchoo informs Hummel and Tipton about the arrival of American airmen, and advises the two men to return to camp as soon as possible.

LETTER FROM ROY TCHOO TO TIPTON AND HUMMEL

1.30 p.m. August 17, 1945.

Dear Laurie & Arthur,

McLaren instructs me to inform you that seven U.S. paratroops landed outside the camp and are now inside. They are here purely for humanitarian reasons, and have not taken over the camp.

They are to gather information on local conditions, esp. camp conditions, which they are to report back to their H.Q.

The situation within the camp is that the guards will continue to man the walls, reinforced by the internees' own police force. The authority within the camp has been turned over to the Camp Committee while the Japs are responsible for the wall. The gate is in our hands.

Several groups of supposed Chungking forces have tried to contact us, but have been told nothing except that we will appreciate their protection.

The Weihsien City Magistrate sent a Pao-an-tui representative to meet the paratroops chief, Major Staiger, and was told to maintain order in the city, and to protect the camp outside the perimeter, but not to approach the walls for fear of any mistaken identity question.

McLaren says you two should get inside the camp as soon as possible and if possible your unit should try to protect us. If you come alone you will be admitted, but any Chinese coming will be stopped at the gate and interviewed by de Jaegher or myself.

If your unit comes, first send one or two in plain clothes to inform us, and we will inform the Pao-an-tui in turn that you are coming in. Otherwise there will be bloodshed.

We have sufficient food for a few days, but that matter will probably be under the care of Major Staiger. Pastor Hwang was in with a supposed Chungking unit, calling itself the representatives of the Third Independent Brigade, situated north of here. No statement has been issued to them, pending your arrival.

The paratroopers landed here shortly after ten this morning, and are now having lunch. The time is now 1.30 p.m. August 17, 1945.

If you send Chinese ahead of you, ask for McLaren, myself or de Jaegher, and give them a written chit in English.

See you soon,
ROY V. TCHOO.

ATTENTION ALLIED PRISONERS

Allied Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees, these are your orders and/or instructions in case there is a capitulation of the Japanese forces:

1. You are to remain in your camp area until you receive further instructions from this headquarters.
2. Law and order will be maintained in the camp area.
3. In case of a Japanese surrender there will be allied occupational forces sent into your camp to care for your needs and eventual evacuation to your homes. You must help by remaining in the area in which we now know you are located.
4. Camp leaders are charged with these responsibilities.
5. The end is near. Do not be disheartened. We are thinking of you. Plans are under way to assist you at the earliest possible moment.

(Signed) **A. C. WEDEMEYER**
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.
Commanding

レソゴウグンホリヨヘ

ALLIED PRISONERS

The JAPANESE Government has surrendered. You will be evacuated by ALLIED NATIONS forces as soon as possible.

Until that time your present supplies will be augmented by air-drop of U.S. food, clothing and medicines. The first drop of these items will arrive within one (1) or two (2) hours.

Clothing will be dropped in standard packs for units of 50 or 500 men. Bundle markings, contents and allowances per man are as follows:



INWARD Messages

Number 1. – March 1945

No copy of the original message has been retained but it consisted merely of details of the code plus a statement that T. and H. had lost their chop.

Number 2

This message is referred to in their number 3 but had not been received up to 25th April 1945.

Number 3

“Have your code No.2 (stop) Your reply No.1 received. Carpenter’s letter also received (stop) Can cut railway only temporarily but to prevent movement of Camp cooperation of Air Force necessary Matter referred to Chungking (stop) Philippines occupied now fighting Luchus. – Chinese advancing Honan Hupeh – Allies 50 East West of Berlin – Treatment civilians in Philippines ensures all possible help from Chungking for you (stop) Air shipment from Chungking includes money mail medicines for you – radio for us (stop) Medicines needed, if on hand, will be sent through Egger (he knows nothing) – deposits to accounts being made (stop) Communication difficult essential restrict contacts with Carpenter to our business only (stop) With 15th Tsung Tui, Chang I Hsien, April 22nd. Date and number letters.”

Number 4

“Your No.2 received (stop) Have interviewed Carpenter with object speeding up communications (stop) Suggest you arrange place where he can pick up and deliver notes without waiting for suitable opportunity for personal contact (stop) Do not use him for contact with 8th Route or any other business (stop) Investigate and advise us of other possible means of contact as precautionary measure; payments to carpenter arranged here (stop) American government recently expressed strong disapproval of 8th Route (stop) Berlin occupied (stop)

No.4 – April 30th”

Number 3

“Your number 3 received (stop) We will find out if parts obtainable but we do not consider this enterprise worth the danger involved (stop) Advise when you receive small trial

medicine parcel through Egger; we are also supplying him with money for all your Tsingtao purchases (stop) Please confirm that Comfort money will be resumed this month (stop) Give full particulars all correspondence with Reds (stop) Germany surrenders on eight, Mussolini and Hitler dead; Polish question: very serious situation between England/Russia.

Number 5 – May 11th”

Number 6

“Your No.4 received (stop) Tubes required unobtainable suggest another type (stop) If carpenter fails contact will be made over North wall to vineyard signal whistle time noon dates ending 1 and 6 (stop) Give number deaths since June in future give names of deaths (stop) For your attention Tchoo buying saccharine and victrolas bring though carpenter.

Number 6 – May 15th 1945”

Number 7

“Your No.5 received (stop) How were medicines delivered (stop) Representative from Chungking now here discussing means of protecting and financing Camp We expect decision before end of June Your plans for radio strongly disapproved (stop) Rangoon Foochow recaptured Still fighting Luchu Islands Troops equipment moving from Europe to Pacific (stop) Suggest messages unless urgent be restricted to two or three times a month.”

Number 7 – May 20th 1945”

No.8

“No reply received our Number 7. We are arranging contact in meat supply room Chinese with towel on left side of belt will give letter to foreigner with towel on head (stop) Please confirm through channel by which you receive this.

July 7th – No.8”

No.9

“Your six received. A contact will be made trough meat room but keep this open also do not tell either of the other

Our nine July 12th”

No.10

“Your seven received understand Tchoo selling gold Japs if we supply how much can you use Tsingtao price \$170,000. an ounce (stop) Report on present conditions reduction rations etc. Meat Room contact not settled but keep watching (stop) Advise if anything from Chungking that can be brought by Egger (stop) Luchus finished landing anticipated either Japan or China

No.10 – July 20th”

No.11

“This area recently suffered heavy losses and possibilities of future help to you uncertain Our radio contact Chungking has been cut therefore one of us may go to Reds with object of going to Chungking (stop) Please contact Reds immediately and find out

if they will send one of us as representative of Camp to Yen-an (stop) Do not indicate yet that the proposed representative is not in Camp Under no circumstances tell anyone that we are concerned as our position here as regards Reds is delicate.

No.11 – July 24th”

No.12

“Your 12 received Meat room temporarily postponed (stop) Situation here slightly better but keep trying Red contact (stop) Our idea send in ointment through Egger Do you want (stop) Will see what can be done re food situation but since radio gone contact very slow.

Our 12 – July 27th”

OUTWARD MESSAGES

Number 1 – March 1945

No copy of this communication was retained but in brief it read as follows:-

Have you been to the West and returned? Conditions in Camp little changed from time of your residence but wire increased although vigilance of guards less (stop). Although no indication of this at present could you, in the event of attempt being made to remove us from this Camp, cut communications?

Number 2 – March 1945 – Message en clear sent by O.D.

Contents unknown

Number 2 – April 25th 1945

“Number 2 (stop) Acknowledge your number 3 – April 22nd (stop) Your Number 2 not yet received but understand it adjacent awaiting opportunity deliver (stop) Thanks news and efforts Chungking (stop) Medical supplies in camp adequate six months therefore do not contact Egger presently (stop) Your reference money deposits not understood – please elucidate – (stop) Agree communication difficult, in future act only on code messages with chop (stop) Have been approached by local representative 8th Route who required report for Yen-an on (a) camp conditions, (b) details your escape, (c) feasibility removing us all to Yen-an (stop) Have replied to (a) in detail, (b) nil, (c) have explained impossibility but thank for offer assistance (stop) Use foregoing knowledge with utmost discretion (stop) Camp conditions unchanged (stop) Advise if any time you foresee prospects Allied action this neighbourhood likely affect us (stop) Our Number 2 – April 25th 1945”.

Number 3

“Your Number 4 received (stop) Post Box system working satisfactorily with carpenter (stop) Impossible us establish reliable alternative messengers so suggest you contact Police Office boy Han or shoe-repairer or other persons through carpenter (stop) Pass word arranged with carpenter for use with unknown contacts (stop) We are investigating possibility building radio receiving set and later transmitter for communication with you (stop) Following parts required:- 4 Type 606 tubes; 3 – Six-prong sockets; 2 fixed condensers .00025MFD; 1 Audio Transformer

ratio 1/3; 1 Rheostat 10 ohms; 1 Fixed resistance – 2 Megohms; 2 sets of headphones; 8 dry bell batteries; - 1.5 volts (large cells) (stop) Can you send us these and do you consider project feasible.

Our No.3 – May 7th 1945

Number 4

“Your Number 3 received (stop) Our idea use radio only if Chinese contact out (stop) Recommend greatest caution using Egger; Japanese suspect him and we are not permitted near him; all parcels carefully examined and covered by permit Tsingtao Consulate (stop) Expect January/February comfort possibly May (stop) First Red enquiry (a) details nationality ages etc. internees (b) details defence (stop) Replied (a) only (stop) Second inquiry more detailed questionnaire said emanate from Yen-an (a) treatment by guards living conditions etc. (b) details defences (c) details your escape (d) suggested possibility removing internees Yen-an. Replied (a) Treatment reasonable conditions fair (b) (c) ignored (d) thanked for offer but demonstrated impossibility by figures of old young and sick (stop). We have hedged and not committed ourselves this policy apparently successful as messenger subsequently indicated our reply satisfactory. We gather local representative relieved not required undertake removal (stop) Instruct your contacts confine conversations messages to de Jaegher or Tchoo this business being handed exclusively by them plus Halton Howard McLaren.

Our No.4 – May 14th”

Number 5

“Your No.6 received (stop) Carpenter contact arranged verbally (stop) Deaths 15 (stop) Medical supplies received (stop) If we are left to fend for ourselves do you plan finance and/or feed us (stop) No Eastern news now coming in therefore request keep us posted (stop) Learn 8th know your whereabouts and showing excessive interest you (stop) Tubes (details) (stop)

Number 5 – May 19th 1945”

Number 6

“Your Number 7 – 8th received. Medicines delivered by Egger officially without query (stop) We confirm meat room contact Rations again reduced Joerg fully posted on recent visit (stop) Senior Japanese staff and guards now being changed (stop) Police nery fear outside attack but generally friendly to internees.

Our 6 - July 8th”

Number 7

“Your number 9 received Will act accordingly

Our seven July 15th”

Number 8

“As no contact Chinese internees selling gold silver personal effects to guards via Tchoo Goyas etc. for cash Surplus proceeds resold to other internees for cheques at FRB\$250. to US\$1.00 Camp price gold \$210,000.00 Detail your proposition (stop) Indications new chief Police cooperative General treatment reasonable food inadequate breakfast bread water tiffin slim supper bread tea sometimes thin soup Heavy workers mothers

feeling pinch Canteen supplies inadequate Can you finance or urge Red Cross Egger send in supplies which preferable to Comfort money (stop) No Chungking supplies required at present (stop) Your ten received.

Our eight July 24th

Number 9.

Your 11 received Very sorry hear your misfortune Interested learn cause (stop) In your our interest strongly disapprove your proposition in view (1) question American relations – see your number four (2) Prefer non committal policy for Camp (3) No contact Reds last three months would have to try contact through your messenger by Chinese letter which very dangerous (stop) Verbal message difficult probably impossible (4) Reds must discover representative is one of you and not from Camp thus suspecting double cross. As food etcetera situation here not yet desperate your immediate assistance not essential therefore can you with safety stay around quietly passing messages to from Egger Joergand be available for final act Alternatively if situation too tough suggest you both contact Reds direct.

Your 12 received do not wish meddle with medicines or involve Egger (stop) Finance fairly plentiful presently (stop) May require few ounces against future contingencies Suggest delivery via neutral or walls. No urgency unless you breaking our contact

Our 9 – 30th July”

レンゴウグンホリヨへ

ALLIED PRISONERS

The JAPANESE Government has surrendered. You will be evacuated by ALLIED NATIONS forces as soon as possible.

Until that time your present supplies will be augmented by air-drop of U.S. food, clothing and medicines. The first drop of these items will arrive within one (1) or two (2) hours.

Clothing will be dropped in standard packs for units of 50 or 500 men. Bundle markings, contents and allowances per man are as follows:

BUNDLE MARKINGS			BUNDLE MARKINGS			ALLOWANCES PER MAN	
50 MAN PACK	500 MAN PACK	CONTENTS	50 MAN PACK	500 MAN PACK	CONTENTS	50 MAN PACK	500 MAN PACK
A	3	Drawers	B	10	Laces, shoe	1	
A	1-2	Undershirt	A	11	Kit, sewing	1	
B	22	Socks (pr)	C	31	Soap, toilet	1	
A	4-6	Shirt	C	4-6	Razor	1	
A	7-9	Trousers	C	4-6	Blades, razor	10	
C	25-30	Jacket, field	B	10	Brush, tooth	1	
A	10	Belt, web, waist	C	31	Paste, tooth	1	
A	11	Capt, M.P.F.	C	10	Comb	1	
B	12-21	Shoes (pr)	B	32	Shaving cream	1	
A	1-2	Handkerchiefs	C	12-21	Powder (insecticide)	1	
C	32-34	Towel					

There will be instructions with the food and medicine for their use and distribution.

CAUTION

DO NOT OVEREAT OR OVERMEDICATE FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FEEDING 100 MEN

To feed 100 men for the first three (3) days, the following blocks (individual bundles dropped) will be assembled:

<p><u>3 Blocks No. 1</u> (Each Contains)</p> <p>2 Cases, Soup, Can 1 Cases Fruit Juice 1 Case Accessory Pack</p>	<p><u>1 Block No. 5</u> (Each Contains)</p> <p>1 Case Soup, Dehd 1 Case Veg Puree 1 Case Bouillon 1 Case Hosp Supplies 1 Case Vitamin Tablets</p>	<p><u>1 Block No. 3</u> (Each Contains)</p> <p>1 Case Candy 1 Case Gum 1 Case Cigarettes 1 Case Matches</p>
<p><u>3 Blocks No. 2</u> (Each Contains)</p> <p>3 Cases "C" Rations 1 Case Hosp Supplies 2 Cases Fruit</p>	<p><u>1 Block No. 7</u> (Each Contains)</p> <p>1 Case Nescafe 1 Sack Sugar 1 Case Milk 1 Case Cocoa</p>	<p><u>1 Block No. 10</u> (Each Contains)</p> <p>3 Cases Fruit 2 Cases Juice</p>

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 793 and 794, and the transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

MS: 3072
Subject: Condition of Internees at Weihsien; Possible Methods of Assisting Them.

From the Special War Problems Division
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO:
War - Col. Bremer
Date: 11/28/44

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter, dated June 26, 1944, addressed to the British and American Embassies, Chungking, by Mr. Arthur Hummel, an American citizen and Mr. L. Tipton, a British subject, who last June made their escape from the internment camp at Weihsien, Shantung. The original of the letter, typewritten on silk, was brought to this Embassy by Mr. Han Ming, a newspaperman known to members of the Embassy staff. It seems that, due to interrupted communications and the necessity for passing through wide stretches of enemy territory, it required over three months for the messengers carrying the letter to reach Chungking.

Summary of Letter. There are 1520 internees at Weihsien, including 205 Americans (89 men, 78 women, and 38 children), 1076 British and 146 other nationals. 142 internees are over sixty years of age. There has been little change in the camp, except for food and finance, since the American evacuation in September, 1943. Although, as a rule, there are about 200 sick internees, health in general is good, with no epidemics; reduced rations, however, are lowering resistance. Diet can be supplemented by purchases from the canteen and on the black market. Because of Japanese insistence on favorable rates of exchange, monthly

comfort

Chungking, China

October 18, 1944.

SECRET

No. 3072

Subject: **Condition of the Internees at Weihsien;**
Possible Methods of Assisting them.

Declassified: November 28, 1944

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

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The original of the letter from Messrs. Hummel and Tipton has been retained in the Embassy, copies having been given to the British Embassy and the American military and naval authorities in Chungking. Major F. B. Summers, of the Office of the British Military Attaché at Chungking, has left for Kunming to discuss the matter of the possible relief of the internees at Weihsien with Captain Maxwell Becker, MISX, USAF, CBI, the American Army organization in this theater directly concerned with prisoners of war and civilian internees. While in Kunming, Major Summers will also have the opportunity of discussing the matter with Mr. William B. Christian, formerly representative of American interests in the concentration camp at Weihsien, and now with the Office of Strategic Services. Major Summers has promised, on his return to Chungking, to inform the Embassy of developments.

The Embassy understands that Mr. Hummel is a son of Mr.

October 18
1944
WEIHSIEN

Arthur Hummel of the Library of Congress (Embassy's airgram A-88, October 9, 12 noon) and that Mr. Tipton is a representative of the British-American Tobacco Company. They were doubtless chosen to represent the internees because they had no relatives in the internment camp who might suffer at the hands of the Japanese as a result of their escape. It appears, from information given by Mr. Li Tzu-lien, the local representative of Commander Wang, that the camp is but lightly held and that Hummel and Tipton were able to make good their escape without difficulty. With regard to the statement made in the letter that radio communication is maintained between Commander Wang's headquarters and Chungking via Fouyang, Anhwei, Mr. Li has informed the Embassy that such is actually not the case at present, due to inadequate and faulty radio equipment at Fouyang.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) C.E.Gauss

Enclosure:

Letter on conditions at Weihsien Camp dated June 26, 1944.

Ozalid Original to Department

ARR:rcb

711.5



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Translation

Bern, October 27, 1944

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

Division of Foreign Internees

To the Legation of the United States of America, Bern.

B.24.US (13)51-Weihsien Camp-HE/sch.

53912

In accordance with the wish expressed in the kind note A.f. No. 9739 of October 11, 1944, the Division of Foreign Interests of the Federal Political Department has the honor to inform the Legation of the United States of America that the Swiss Consulate General at Shanghai has transmitted to it the following information supplied by Messrs. Egger and Joerg, Swiss representatives at Shantung and Tientsin, after visits which they made at the end of August, 1944, to the civilian internment camp of Weihsien.

If the Italian section is excluded, the internees number 1424, of whom 204 are Americans, 103 Filipinos and 2 Panamanians. They have established a General Committee and various Commissions to insure good operation of the camp.

It is installed on a large tract of land belonging to a Mission. The internees there are somewhat crowded; the installations and furniture are not satisfactory and must frequently be repaired or replaced, generally at the expense of the internees.

The camp is administered by Mr. Kita, Japanese Consul General at Tsingtao, and by Mr. Taukikawa, Commander of Weihsien. Generally speaking they appear to be favorably disposed toward the internees, despite the poor treatment which is said to have been accorded them previously at Honolulu.

The food is almost satisfactory; in any case it is much superior in quantity and quality to that supplied in the Shanghai camps. Meat and eggs were scarce during the summer but the situation improved at the end of August.

The canteen sells particularly fruits, eggs, various other foodstuffs and cigarettes but it is often poorly stocked.

A large number of internees receive each month a parcel of from ten to fifteen books forwarded by friends who reside in northern China. Formerly these parcels were subject to pilfering whilst in transit.

Mr. Egger is making every effort to supply the internees with shoes and clothing of which they are in urgent need.

The health of the internees in general is good. During the summer there were various light ailments. The sick are treated by doctor internees. Most of the hospital equipment, instruments and medicament have been furnished by the Swiss representatives with the aid of official funds placed at their disposal. A good radio set was recently acquired.

Great efforts have been exerted in order to ensure the education of some four hundred interned children.

Religious services are celebrated in satisfactory manner.

The Swiss representatives have been able to discuss all problems relating to camp life with the members of the Committee in the presence of the Japanese authorities.

The Japanese authorities do little to improve the camp on the pretext that the lack funds and the Swiss representatives found it necessary strongly to insist in order to obtain a few small improvements.

These conditions, relief of 2,000 CRB dollars is wholly inadequate. In addition the Swiss representatives are obliged to finance among others a large number of necessary purchases (medicaments, dietetic foods, clothing, etc.).

In conclusion the Swiss Consulate General has expressed the view that the conditions of internment at Weihsien are satisfacto-

ry, especially if this camp is compared with those in the Shanghai region.

Bern, October 27, 1944

TJH/hs



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

From the Special War Problems Division
Department of State
Date: November 25, 1944

No. 9736

Via Air Mail Pouch

Bern, November 1, 1944.

Subject: American Interests — China
Transmission report No. 3,
Civilian internment camp Weihsien.

The American Minister at Bern has the honor to refer to the department's telegram No. 720 of March 20, 1942, concerning the transmission of reports of visits made by Swiss representatives to camps where Americans are detained. Reference is further made to the Legation's airmail dispatch No. 7500 of March 9, 1944, with which there was transmitted report No. 2 concerning the civilian camp at Weihsien, China. Reference is also made to the Legation's telegram No. 6802 of October 12, 1944, with respect to the distribution of relief supplies at this camp.

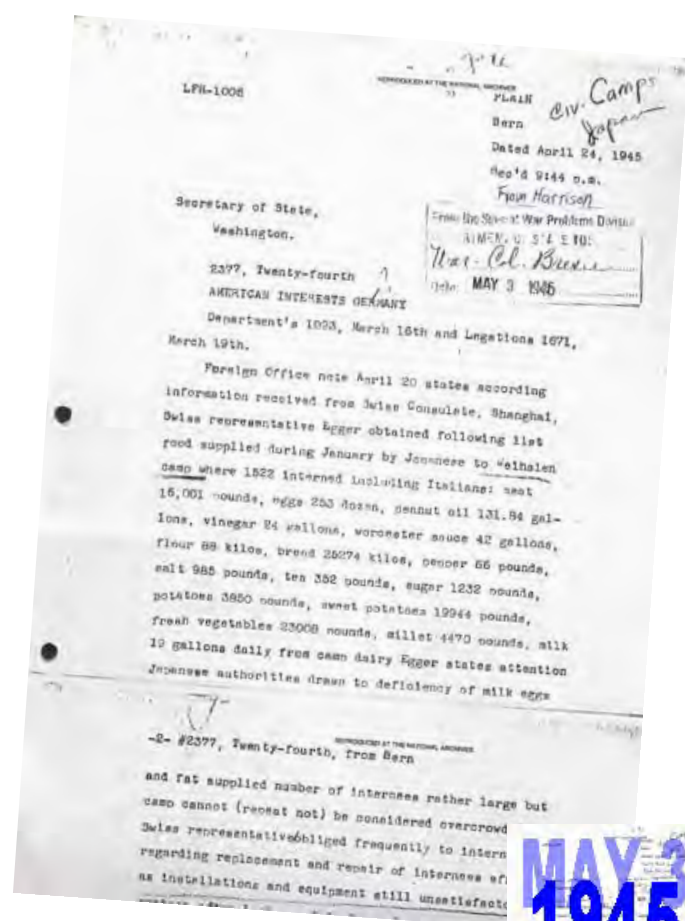
There is now enclosed, pursuant to the ultimate paragraph of the Legation's telegram under reference, a translation of a note dated October 27, 1944, from the Swiss Foreign Office which summarizes a visit made at the end of August, 1944 by Swiss representatives to the Weihsien camp.

A copy of the attached document, which the legation is designating as camp report No. 3, has been made available to Mr. Francis B. James, Special Representative of the American Red Cross at Geneva.

File No. 711.5

TJH/hs

In quintuplicate to Department.



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Bern, April 24, 1945 9.44 pm.

Secretary of State

Washington.

DATE: May 3, 1945

2377, Twenty-fourth

AMERICAN INTERESTS GERMANY (?)

Department's 1093, March 16th and Legations 1671,

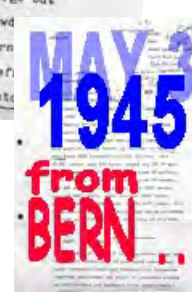
March 19th.

Foreign Office note April 20 states according information received from Swiss Consulate, Shanghai, Swiss representative Egger obtained following list food supplied during January by Japanese to Weihsien camp where 1522 interned including Italians: meat 16,001 pounds, eggs 253 dozen, peanut oil 131.84 gallons, vinegar 24 gallons, worcester sauce 42 gallons, flour 88 kilos, bread 25274 kilos, pepper 66 pounds, salt 985 pounds, tea 352 pounds, sugar 1232 pounds, potatoes 3850 pounds, sweet potatoes 19944 pounds, fresh vegetables 23008 pounds, millet 4470 pounds, milk 19 gallons daily from camp dairy Egger states attention Japanese authorities drawn to deficiency of milk eggs

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

-2- '#2377, Twenty-fourth, from Bern

---- and fat supplied number of internees rather large but camp cannot (repeat not) be considered overcrowded. Swiss representa-



tive obliged frequently to intervene regarding replacement and repair of internees effects as installations and equipment still unsatisfactory canteen often lacks certain items but in general working in rather satisfactory way in forwarding foregoing Swiss Consulate, Shanghai, added, it has knowledge of nothing which would indicate that camp situation worsened since January out of contrary with new season supplying of vegetables and eggs has improved mail for internees subject to great delays due to increasing slowing down of railway traffic.



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

EMBASSY, Chungking (via Navy)

To: Secretary of State, Washington

Dated: May 8, 1945. 10 a.m.



From Special War Problems Division

Date: May 29, 1945

In the Weihsien area of Shantung, Commander Wang is the leader of independent guerrilla forces. His agent has reached Chungking with written reports dated March 3 from Hummel and Tipton. The reports, outlined below, give more information on conditions in the Concentration Camp at Weihsien.

Letters and supplies which on December 12 were parachuted to earth have not yet reached the Weihsien internees. This is due to greatly increased strictness of Japanese control and surveillance. However, Hummel and Tipton are making great efforts to forward badly needed medicaments such as antitoxins, opiates and anaesthetics to the Tsingtao Swiss Consul to ship through (his) channels to the camp.

Since two fences of electrified wire and deep ditch now surround the camp, it is exceedingly difficult to have clandestine communications and operations on the black market have stopped altogether. Comfort money MRB\$400 per month, which at the percent rate of exchange equals CN\$1000, is now credited to each internee who may draw supplies against this amount from the camp canteen in order to be provided with toilet necessities and to supplement the diet. Since money is now of no use to the internees, the sum of money dropped by parachute are to be used to aid British and American nationals still living in Tsingtao, Peking and Tientsin.

Detailed information concerning the internees cannot be had but apparently Japanese treatment is not worse than it was when Hummel and Tipton escaped and it is reported that living conditions are much worse in the port cities than in the camp. Periodic visits are still made to the camp by the Tsingtao Swiss Consul and by the Catholic representatives from Tsinan.

Hummel and Tipton, after living eight months with the guerrilla forces of Commander Wang, believe that their previous report of June 26 is exact in every respect except the number of guerrilla troops. (Embassy despatch 3072 of October 18.) Fifteen thousand is believed to be the figure for later, of which twelve thousand bear arms, rather than thirty thousand as that report indicated. Since equipment is of poor quality and mainly of local manufacture, military action is confined to defending the area against increasingly

repeated punitive raids by puppet and Japanese troops.

Having witnessed operations, Hummel and Tipton feel that the inability to present more effective resistance is caused solely by lack of ammunition. Commander Wang, according to Hummel and Tipton, is concerned about the internees' safety should the Japanese withdraw. He wishes to assure adequate protection but unless he receives a supply of powder or ammunition this may prove to be impossible. Hummel and Tipton also advocate sending a qualified army officer as liaison between Chungking and Wang's area. He should have a radio.

It is my opinion that the presence in Weihsien Camp of one thousand British and two hundred Americans justifies furnishing Commander Wang the necessary explosives and ammunition to safeguard Allied nationals. At any earlier date I shall have a discussion on the matter both with GMO and General Wedemeyer.

(Signed) Hurley



**ISSUED BY THE
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION OFFICE OF
NAVAL OPERATIONS NAVY
DEPARTEMENT
INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

From: **Op-16-FE DNI** -----
at **Washington, D.C.** -----
Date: **26 May, 1945**
Source: **American Missionary** -----
Evaluation: **B-2**
Subject:
**China, Internment Camps, Weihsien
- Shantung Province, North China**

1. In a letter dated April 26, 1945, (Enclosure A), source describes the Internment Camp at Weihsien, Shantung Province, North China. Information is given as to the location of some 2000 American, British and other Allied internees.

2. Weihsien is strategically situated at the juncture of important roads leading from Chefoo (Yentai) and Tsingtao (Chingtao) to Tsinan (Chi-nan) and is also on the railroad running from Tsingtao to Tsinan. As it may become an important target for our Air Forces, attention is invited to the exact location of this internment camp

(Enclosure B) in order that Allied airmen may be briefed accurately.

Forwarded by: Wh. Bales, Colonel, USMC

CONFIDENTIAL Enclosure A
Extracts from DI0,7 ND Memorandum 5 May 1945 Op-16 FE
(16-F-WFF-mrd) A8-2/EF16 May 1945

Now I come to the town I wish the Navy would take. It has done so many brave deeds, and paratroopers from Marines and army have landed in the concentration camps in the Philippines. If you will

Chinese on the outside and internees in the inside daily conduct a black market for foods, the only thing which keeps them from actual starvation. Just in front of the compound is a small stream very shallow with willow trees along banks. These help to screen it from the big city.

The back one fourth of this 16 acre compound, is filled with ten foreign residences, the homes of the missionaries who formerly lived there, all of whom came home on the first Gripsholm, forced to do so by the Japs. In two of these ten houses the Japanese soldiers who guard the place live. The other eight are vacant, though people long to live there and not be so crowded as they are with 25 in a big school room, for instance Between these two parts is another high wall, with gates all shut but one.

Weih sien is only sixteen miles from a beach on the Gulf of Chili, and cannot tell you about that beach or its landing facilities. I do know if there is a fishing village. Mr. C.V. Reeder, whose address could be gotten from the Presbyterian Board of Missions, 156 Fifth Ave., New York City was an evangelist in Weih sien, and he traveled all over the countryside. Kirk West also did the same, and there are many others. Miss Martha who is a nurse now at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, could also give you information all about the countryside. I do know that at the boxer outbreak in 1900, the people then in Weih sien climbed over their wall, hid the gaoliang (Kaffir corn) fields and made their way by night over these sixteen miles to get on board a gunboat which came up to that place and took them off. So, I feel sure that a good-sized vessel could come fairly near to shore and small boats could make a landing.

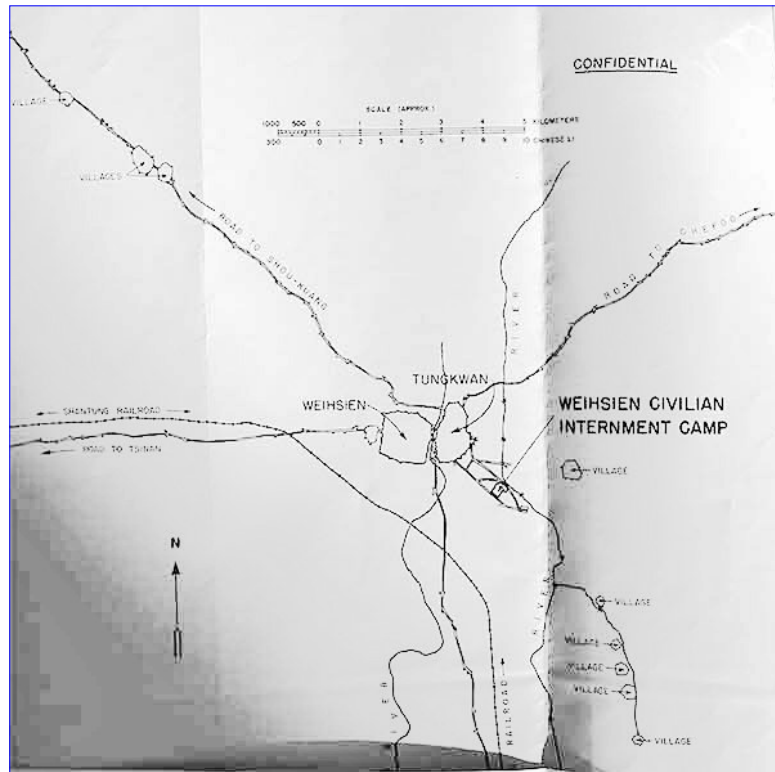
I presume there would be maybe fifty old people in the camp who would have to be taken in a jeep to the coast, but most of the two thousand could walk that distance. If only our marines could come ashore, with one force to surprise the guard at the internment camp and start off the internees to the boats, while the second force kept the main Japanese force shut up in Weih sien city, it would not be a very hard task. The country all around there is very level. We went to Weih sien from Tsingtao by rail, and though there were mountains on each side at a distance, we traversed a very broad level valley or plain all the way, and I am sure this continues from Weih sien to the coast.

When we were in Weih sien those two weeks we were hungry all the time, and by now they must be in a pretty bad condition. Of course, we did not try to get anything via black market over the walls, as we knew we were to leave in two weeks' time. The man in charge, a Japanese raised in Tsingtao, who evidently ate the good Shantung corn and soy bean, for he was a very tall handsome young fellow (named Koga) was a stern ruler of the camp. When they complained to him that the food furnished was not enough, he said, "What do you think we brought you here for -- to pamper

have patience with me, I will tell you why I hope that a raid can be made on the Japanese Weih sien, and over two thousand British and Americans, with a sprinkling of other nationalities be taken out of their hands. Seeing that our Army and Navy have already done such daring things, I do not think the liberation of our people at that camp would be as hard as what they have done.

We were moved to Weih sien camp for two weeks before we came to the States on the last trip of the Gripsholm in December 1943. The camp is so situated that liberation might not be hard at all. You see, the camp is three miles from Weih sien City. This city may have a good many Japs in it. I do not know that, but I do know that they have charged electric wires all around the top of the high city wall. But not over a hundred soldiers are out at the camp at any one time, I am sure.

The main gate of the camp faces the bus road toward the city. But the camp is divided into two parts. Next to this front part, is where all the internees live, housed in school buildings, hospital and the dormitories of these schools. The whole compound comprises sixteen acres, so there is plenty of space. The big church is right by the front gate. The wall is perhaps fifteen feet high and is newly built, for on July 4th, 1943 the whole front wall suddenly fell out onto the lower ground in front of it. The Japs were much perturbed that this should have happened on our Independence day. They built it up again, and firmly. Inside this wall the land is filled in so one can stand and rest one's elbows on the wall itself in many places, particularly right by the big athletic grounds right by the church. There are towers at the corners where guards stand at night, but no fortification whatever. The wall around the back of the compound, and at the sides has no earth up against it, but all the same



you? No, indeed, we brought you here to humiliate you and to discipline you!"

The food at the camp consisted of meat and bread and sugar and potatoes. No cereals or milk except for children under four years of age. Fruit could once in awhile be purchased at the canteen, but not very much. Two eggs a week were allowed each person. The shells of these were saved and ground and they sprinkled the powder on their food, to try and get some calcium.

They did not feel that we needed any breakfast, so sent in no food for any. The camp cooks made up a gruel of flour and water, sprinkled a bit of cinnamon and sugar in this gruel and each person had a bowl of this and a slice or two of bread for breakfast. And then went out to pump for several hours, work in the bakery, carry garbage, dump coal, carry vegetables etc. from the gate, and do all sorts of other work, hard work.

Twice in the two weeks we were there, no, it was three times, they did not send in any food for supper. One time we ate a bowl of noodles, for they always had stocks of flour on hand. These noodles were made of flour salt and water, and cooked in salted water. So, they were entirely tasteless and uninviting. The other two times each person had a half a cup of the little cooked green meng bean. And this has gone on and on for more than a year since we left there, for we left in Sept. 1943. From news printed in the Shanghai post published in New York, we read that in West China they had heard that the people in the Weihsien camp were near to starvation. And so many are our dear friends, the 350 from Chefoo and many from Peking and other north China cities. That is the reason I ask your consideration of this long letter. I can do no less than plead for them.

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

From the Special War Problems Division
Department of State
Date: August 2, 1945

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington.
TO: American Legation, Bern.
DATED: **June 25, 1945**
NUMBER: 2137

THE TRANSFER OF THE CIVILIAN INTERNEES FROM WEIHSIEN TO TECKOW (TECHOW) HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

PLEASE ASK THE SWISS GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION AS TO THE TRUTH OF THIS REPORT. SHOULD THE REPORT PROVE FALSE, PLEASE ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUCH A TRANSFER IS CONTEMPLATED BY THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES.

N.D.L.R. Location of Techow, Shandong, China
(Latitude: 37° 26' 55 N, Longitude: 116° 17' 33 E)



REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: July 20, 1945.
NUMBER: 3629, July 20, 1 p.m.

Weihsien Camp
From the Special War Problems Division
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO:
War. Col. Breeze
Date: **AUG 2 1945**

With reference to your 2137, June 25, concerning American interests in China you are informed that a note dated July 18 from the Foreign Office says that Gorge has asked the Japanese Foreign Office for the information requested since he does not know what the Japanese authorities intend to do regarding Weihsien Camp.

HARRISON

From the Special War Problems Division
Department of State
Date: August 2, 1945



PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern.
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: **July 20, 1945**
NUMBER: 3629, July 20, 1 p.m.

WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR 2137, JUNE 25, CONCERNING AMERICAN INTERESTS IN CHINA YOU ARE INFORMED THAT A NOTE DATED JULY 18 FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR THE INFORMATION REQUESTED SINCE HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES INTEND TO DO REGARDING WEIHSIEN CAMP.

HARRISON





AIRGRAM

FROM : Bern

DATED : August 27, 1945.

Rec'd: September 6, 7 p.m.

UNRESTRICTED-W

Secretary of State,

Washington.

A-1006 of August 27.

American Interests — Far East

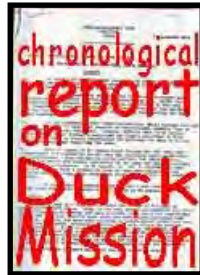
Your 2148 June 26

FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE AUGUST 25, STATES ACCORDING TELEGRAM FROM GORGE JAPANESE MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATES HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION TRANSFER TO TECHOW INTERNEES FROM WEIHSIEN CAMP.

HARRISON



CIVILIAN ASSEMBLY CAMP WEIHSIEN, CHINA



7 September 1945

SUBJECT: Chronological Report on Duck Mission.

TO : Mr. Roland Dulin, Chief MO/OSS, China Theatre.

SUMMARY

On August 17 the Duck Team proceeded by air to Weihsien, China and after reconnaissance from, their plane located the Civilian Assembly Camp and jumped to begin their mission.

They were greeted by the civilian internees who rushed out past the Japanese guards to welcome the parachuting men. Major Staiger immediately made contact with the governing authorities in the camp - the Committee of Nine administering the local affairs of the internees and the Japanese Consular and Police authorities representing the Japanese Government.

At the conferences with these authorities Major Staiger arranged for the Duck team to take over control of the Civilian Assembly Camp on behalf of the Theatre Commander. Internal affairs were to be jointly controlled by Major Staiger's group and the Camp's Committee of Nine. The Japanese were to remain responsible for guarding the camp walls and for provisioning and supplying the camp.

From 17 August to 30 August Major Staiger and the Duck team consolidated their position in the camp and fulfilled other objectives of their mission - such as opening up the airfield for relief planes, caring for health and morale conditions in the camp and negotiating with the Japanese Authorities. On 30 August, Lt. Col. H. Weinberg arrived from the Theater with a processing team to take over command of the Civilian Assembly Camp, thus ending the first phase of the Duck team's

In subsequent paragraphs there follows a more detailed account of the Duck team's achievements from 17 August to 30 August.

17 AUGUST.

The Duck team in a B-24 arrived over the target of Weihsien at approximately 0930 hours. Owing to the very scanty photographic and other information with which they had been provided, they could not immediately locate the Civilian Assembly Camp where the 1500 Allied civilians were interned. A sweep was made over the area at approximately 2000 feet and, as no fire was drawn, subsequent flights were made around the area at lower altitudes. Major Staiger, commanding the Duck team, knew only that the internees were held in a compound some way outside of Weihsien, but from the air several locations would have answered to this description. Finally when the B-24 was down to around 500 feet, a compound was located in which hundreds of people were collected, waving up at the plane. It could therefore be presumed that this was the objective sought.

In the course of the circling an air-strip had been noted below located not far from the internment camp. A conference now took place between Major Staiger and the pilot of the plans as to whether a landing should be attempted. Major Staiger finally decided against this course owing to the danger that the field might be mined. Also as the reception of the mission by the Japanese was far from sure, Major Staiger decided to go through with the original plan of jumping. Thus, if the worst came to the worst, the loss in men and equipment would be minimized. Accordingly the B-24 dropped down to about 450 feet and the Duck team bailed out.

The names of the men composing the Duck team and their functions in the mission are given below in the order in which they jumped from the plane:

1. Major Stanley A. Staiger, team leader.
2. Sgt. Tadash T. Nagaki, Japanese interpreter.
3. Ensign James W. Moore USNR, S.I.
4. T/5 Peter C. Orlich, radio operator.
5. Eddie Wang, Chinese interpreter from F.A.B.

6. Lst Lt. James J. Hannon, AGAS.

7. T/4 Raymond N. Hanchulak, medic.

The men left the plane in good order. There was little opening shock, but a stiff ground wind and the low altitude of the jump made the landing difficult. There was no open or plowed ground near the objective so most of the men came down in high growing corn fields. Lt. Hannon, whose parachute was swinging, sustained a shoulder injury on landing which caused him considerable discomfort. Nevertheless in subsequent weeks he continued to perform his duties efficiently despite bandaging.

The plan had been that major Staiger alone of the team should leave his parachute unfurled as a check point for subsequent drops the airplane was to make. However, by the time the men had recovered from their landings and had begun to roll up their chutes, the crowds of internees from the camp had rushed out to greet them. In the general rejoicing and confusion that followed there was the ever present danger that containers dropped from the plane would injure the people below. Fortunately this happened in only one case. A small Chinese boy (a local spectator, not a member of the camp) sustained a skull fracture from a falling container. He is now recovering satisfactorily in the Camp hospital. Otherwise the drops of supplies and equipment were effected without incident and the members of the internment camp assisted team members in collecting the containers and carrying them to the camp

From the confused and often hysterical account of the internees, Major Staiger was able to form a picture of what had taken place when the B-24 began circling the internment compound. The people within had gone wild with joy, and when they saw the team parachuting, had burst out past the Japanese guards at the gate - the first time they had been outside the compound walls during two and a half years of captivity.

Major Staiger credits this spontaneous action on the part of the civilian internees with easing to a considerable extent his subsequent negotiations with the Japanese. This defiance of the guards apparently threw the authorities into such an uncertain state that all idea of resisting the Duck team by force seemed to disappear. It was possible subsequently for Major Staiger to take a firm line with the camp commandant who had lost face to such an extent that he had no alternative but to accept the terms dictated to him.

Major Staiger's immediate concern after landing however was to determine who the governing bodies were at the camp. He was soon informed that Committee of Nine, composed of delegates from the interned population, administered the internal affairs of the camp, while Japanese control was represented by the dual authority of the Consular service and the Consular police. (For a full discussion of this control see Appendix 1). It happened that at the time the B-24 was circling the camp a meeting was under way between the Committee of Nine and the Japanese controlling authorities. Major Staiger asked to be taken directly to this meeting. As his party approached the walls of the compound the camp band had organized and was playing "Happy Days are Here Again".

On the way to, the meeting with the authorities Major Staiger had met several members of the Committee of Nine who had streamed out with the other members of the camp to greet him. Thus the first informal conference took place as the party walked to the interview with the Japanese authorities. Major Staiger asked the committee members for their recommendations in the situation. He explained that the purpose of his mission was humanitarian. Its objective was to contact the Japanese authorities and to take care of the health and welfare of the internees until more substantial aid could be forthcoming. He explained further first with only 7 men in his team the task of completely taking over all responsibilities for the camp was out of the question. In this situation it was decided between Major Staiger and the committee members that the Japanese should be asked to retain responsibility for provisioning the camp and guarding it against external forces while Major Staiger's group and the Committee of Nine would be charged with joint responsibility for administering all internal affairs. At the Japanese headquarters building Major Staiger met the Chief of Consular Police, Koyanagi. Major Staiger showed Koyanagi his letter of authorization from General Wedemeyer for the Duck mission and was then taken to see Mr. Izu of the Japanese Consular Service, Commandant of the camp. A conference was immediately held between Major Staiger and his officers, the Committee of Nine from the camp, and Mr. Izu and Koyanagi and their staffs.

At this meeting Major Staiger put forward the proposals already decided upon between himself and the Committee of Nine - namely, that the Japanese authorities be responsible for guarding and provisioning the camp, while the Duck team and the Committee of Nine be responsible for administering its internal affairs. The Japanese authorities appeared confused by the situation and felt themselves unable to make a binding decision but agreed to accept the arrangement temporarily. Major Staiger then stated that he and his men proposed to take up residence at the camp and asked that suitable quarters be provided. As the only suitable quarters were those that the Japanese authorities were occupying, they agreed to move out. At Major Staiger's insistence, they moved out during the dinner hour, and by the afternoon OSS headquarters had been established.

During the conference Mr. IZU, the consular commandant had obviously pried around to find out what courses of action were open to him. He had inquired repeatedly what would have happened if the Duck mission had failed. Major Staiger had informed him that in that case a second and larger expedition would have been sent which certainly would not have failed. Mr. Izu appeared convinced that the Americans were there to stay and subsequent conferences with the Japanese authorities, though often dilatory, were never openly hostile.

During the afternoon of August 17, Lt. Hannon and Ensign Moore went out to the airfield to examine its safety for subsequent plane landings. Sgt. Hanchulak examined the camp for a report on the medical conditions. Corporal Orlich set up his radio equipment to be ready for his first scheduled contact in the evening. Major Staiger held conferences with the camp committee on the various problems brought about by the new situation.

During the early afternoon a visit was made by Mr. Koga, vice-Consul at Tsingtao, who happened to be in Weih sien at the time the Duck team landed. Mr. Koga had higher authority than either the Commandant of the Camp or the camp Chief-of-Police,

so the whole purpose of the Duck mission had to be explained again and the agreement reached that morning was renegotiated. Mr. Koga wished Major Staiger to take over full control of the camp, allowing the Japanese to withdraw altogether, but Major Staiger insisted on the original agreement standing.

18 AUGUST

Major Staiger made a general inspection of the camp. It was decided that 12 patients in the hospital were in such a condition mentally or physically that their immediate transference to Hsian was advisable. It was decided to send them back on the B-24 that was expected to land at the airfield the same day. However, when the B-24 arrived over the airfield the actions of the 200 Japanese guards surrounding the field were so suspicious, (they had taken up combat positions surrounding the strip) that panels were put out warning the plane not to land. The plane flew back to Hsian and the patients intended for evacuation were taken back to the hospital.

Major Staiger called a conference with the Japanese authorities to ask for an explanation of the happenings at the airfield. Izu, the Consular Commandant, stated that the airfield was the concern of the Japanese Army and that he couldn't be responsible for the Army's activities. Major Staiger then requested that a message be sent from him to the Japanese Army authorities, through the proper channels. His message was that he could have no respect for an army organization that could not enforce orders. This apparently touched the local commander's pride as he sent word that the incident at the airfield would not be repeated and that American planes could land freely in the future.

19 AUGUST

For the first time the Japanese army entered the picture. Lt. Col. Jimbo and his staff came to call on the Duck mission. That their authority was on a different plane altogether from the Consular authority was attested to by the fact that both Mr. Koga and Mr. Izu were asked by Col. Jimbo to withdraw when he settled down to a conference with Major Staiger. Col. Jimbo was pained that the U.S. Government had not notified the Japanese Government of the intended descent on the Civilian Assembly Camp at Weihsien. He asked that Major Staiger now request General Wedemeyer to inform the Japanese Government that the Duck mission was at Weihsien. The protocol having been thus disposed of, the conference was able to get down to business. Major Staiger informed Col. Jimbo that it was necessary the proper execution of his mission that traffic of American planes at the air-strip be not interfered with. Col. Jimbo agreed that in future American planes would be given full permission to land.

20 AUGUST

Major Staiger received word that the Eagle Mission had arrived in Weihsien the previous day and was staying in town under the protection of General Li Wen Li. Major Staiger established contact with Col. Byrd and the Eagle Mission (a party of 20) came out to the Civilian Assembly Camp. They subsequently spent the day inspecting the work that had been done and taking photographs of the internees.

In the afternoon a B-24 appeared over the camp and dropped OWI leaflets giving instructions to the internees on how to conduct themselves when the war ended. (See Appendix 2) Later still another B-24 appeared and dropped more leaflets, telling the people of the camp not to lose heart as a humanitarian mission was on the way to attend to their needs.

21 AUGUST;

The C-47 that had originally brought the Eagle Mission to Weihsien left for Chungking with Col. Byrd aboard. Other members or the mission remained behind in Weihsien temporarily.

22 - 26 AUGUST

Snarls were straightened out in the administration of the camp. The first joy of the internees had evaporated somewhat by this time and most of them were eager to know when their evacuation for home would start. On this subject Major Staiger had no information, but the rumors that were flying about the camp provided difficult morale problems.

Conference with the Japanese continued. Particularly hard to solve was the transportation situation. The Japanese have only 4 charcoal burning trucks in this area and two are always out of commission. There are also a couple of old model sedans in town. Negotiations were under way to obtain one, the Americans providing the fuel to run it.

27 AUGUST

At 0730 hours an unannounced B-29 arrived (from Okinawa) and dropped leaflets announcing that in an hour more B-29s would arrive to drop supplies (see Appendix 3).

An hour later a B-17 arrived overhead and effected a landing on the short run-way of the airfield. It was full of reporters and photographers from the 20th Bomber Group who wanted to come to the Civilian Assembly Centre for photographs and news-stories. Major Staiger did not permit them to come in, however, as "visiting firemen" were raising problems between himself and the Japanese and disquieting the Camp population. When later a group of 10 B-29s appeared overhead, the B-17 took off to photograph the drop mission that was about to take place.

The ten B-29s dropped huge quantities of supplies (for full listing see Appendix 3) Unfortunately much of it was poorly packed in gasoline drums too heavy for their parachutes and a loss of about 25% was sustained. Major Staiger sent a message to Hsian requesting that the 20th Bomber Group be asked to send down lighter drops in the future. Actually while the B-29s were dropping a B-24 came in from Hsian and made a perfect demonstration of how a dropping operation should be effected. Many of its containers were dropped squarely on the marking panel. The civilian internees and members of the Duck mission spent the rest of the day carrying in the dropped supplies and sorting them out for issue.

28 AUGUST

Two C-47 which had arrived the day before left for Hsian. One evacuated the 12 invalids from the Civilian Assembly Centre hospital. The other transported the members of the Eagle Mission who had been left behind when Col. Byrd departed for Chungking. One member of the Eagle Mission, however, stayed behind to become attached to the Duck mission. This was Tech. Rep. Willis S. Georgia, a communications man.

30 AUGUST

At 0700 hours an SOS team of 7 officers and 12 enlisted men headed by Lt. Col. H. Weinberg, arrived at the Civilian Assembly Camp to take over administrative control on orders from the Theater.

Thus the first phase of the Duck Mission ended.

William G. Norwood
2nd Lt. AUS

APPENDIX 1

JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION AT CIVILIAN ASSEMBLY CAMP WEIHSIEN

Because this was a civilian internment camp it was under the control of the Tsingtao Japanese Consulate. Administration was carried out by the consular service. Executive control was in the hands of the Consular Police

Thus there were at the Camp two Japanese authorities - the Consular administrators and the Police executives. Commandant of the camp at the time of the Duck mission's arrival was Mr. Izu of the Consular Service. Head of the policing and executive authority was chief of Police Koyanagi.

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Alcatraz est une prison en Amérique
White Sulphur Spring est un camp d'internes Japs en Amérique
Article à garder S.V.P. Pour les gosses.

Page 4


Weihhsien Camp Internees Saw No Jap Atrocities

By Lt. Edward Kuhn, Jr.

TIENTSIN, May 10—American Marines with preconceived ideas of life in a Japanese concentration camp will lift an unbelieving eyebrow when they hear of Weihhsien. The Tientsin internees on the Shantung peninsula saw no atrocities.

The town of Weihhsien is 80 miles northwest of Tsingtao and 25 miles inland from the Gulf of Chihli. Here 1,500 Occidentals — 700 British, 300 Americans and smaller groups of Dutch, Greek, Italian, and Belgian nationals — were confined from March 24, 1943, until October 17, 1945. What precipitated their internment by the Japanese was the seldom mentioned declaration of war on the Allies in January, 1943, by Wang Ching-wei's puppet government in Nanking.

Formerly an American Mission School, the camp was surrounded by an eight foot wall with corner watch-towers, guards, electrical barbed wire, and other Alcatraz accessories. Inmates lived in long rows of one-room mudstucco huts. Standard room dimensions were nine by 12 feet, two or three persons to a room. Inside the cubicle of the more ingenious inmate could be found a mud stove with stove-pipe made of tin cans, chairs that once were wooden crates, expedient tables, a trunk, suitcases, and two beds. Plumbing facilities were comparable to those back on the islands; outdoor showers and strict shower hours, outhouses, no running water. Food consisting mainly of bread porridge, tea, sweet potatoes, and weak soup was proffered service style to long lines of internees.



A typical internee family room at Weihhsien.

THE NORTH CHINA MARINE; May 1946

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Formerly an American Mission School, the camp was surrounded by an eight foot wall with corner watchtowers, guards, electrical barbed wire, and other Alcatraz accessories. Inmates lived in long rows of one-room mudstucco huts. Standard room dimensions were nine by 12 feet, two or three persons to a room. Inside the cubicle of the more ingenious inmate could be found a mud: stove with stove-pipe made of tin cans, chairs that once were wooden crates, expedient tables, a trunk, suitcases, and two beds. Plumbing facilities were comparable to those back on the islands; outdoor showers and strict shower hours, outhouses, no running water. Food consisting mainly of bread porridge, tea, sweet potatoes, and weak soup was proffered service style to long lines of internees.

Community, affairs were handled by a nine man committee of prisoners granted an amazing amount of power by a lenient and, reasonable Japanese commandant. The latter, it was rumored, spent time: behind barbed wire in the United States before repatriation via an enemy alien swap. Time spent possibly at, White Sulphur Springs, had softened the commandant to such a degree that he allowed the committee to offer suggestions and to register complaints. As the war drew to a close, these complaints became demands. Among other painless regulations the Japs called for two daily roll calls and a ten o'clock curfew.

Each prisoner had a job. Men hauled carts of flour and coal in the same back breaking fashion that the Taku Road coolies do the work today. Women were nurses, cooks and pan washers. Everyone took a turn at latrine duty and tried their hand at manning, the pumps. Such occupations were novel to most, painful and filthy to all. But somehow a group of people, any group, will rise to meet a situation. The prisoners at Weihsien were no, exception.

As the war progressed and the committee widened its scope of activities under the temperate commandant, recreational committees planned baseball and football games, stage productions, musical concerts and weekly dances. The fact that one of Tientsin's better dance bands was interned almost intact in Weihsien added a professional flavor to the entertainment.

The Japanese as masters were ineffectual and pathetic as well as indulgent. The extreme form of punishment was a meaningless slapping around and eventual confinement in the Japanese section. Their propaganda attempts to lower camp morale included a bizarre tale about the death of Deanna Durbin in child birth and a story about Carmen Miranda losing both legs in an automobile accident. Apparently the Nips thought Carmen's legs were of more vital interest to the inmates than the death of F. D. R. They failed to capitalize on the tragic truth. Towards the war's end half of the Japanese guards were involved in black market operations with the other half trying to apprehend them.

Two men disguised as coolies, an American and an Englishman, ventured and accomplished escape over wall and barbed wire to join a Chinese guerrilla band which operated only a few miles away. Through the efforts of these two, news of Allied victories began leaking into Weihsien. As the Japanese tide ebbed westward

across the Pacific, spirits in Weihsien rose, defiance and black market activities increased. Particularly effective at this latter avocation were the missionaries and priests whose meditations led them on long walks by the, prison walls. With the Scriptures before them in their right hand, the holy men would trade over the wall with sympathetic Chinese peasants with their left.

The long awaited rescue came on August, 1945. Peace rumors had been circulating in camp for a week. When confronted with a demand for information, the Nip commandant refused to confirm or deny the news — which action on his part was really confirmation enough. About nine o'clock the morning of August 17, a large transport with an American flag painted on the body circled the camp uncertainly, finally dropped seven paratroopers. Weihsien tenants, imprisoned two and a half years, stormed the gates to swoop down upon their "rescuers", an unarmed AUS peace team.

In fact, we were rescued by a fully armed team from a well trained American commando ready to fight for it if the Japs disobeyed to HiroHito's surrender speech two days before. They were parachuted from a B-24 bomber with stars and stripes painted on its fuselage and wings. Furthermore, in the camp, young & valid men were ready to help the American soldiers with what they had --- butcher's knives, axes etc. ...



Civil Assembly Centre,

WEIHSIEN,

Shantung (China)

September 4th 1945.

To:

Commanding General,

20 Bomber Command

OKINAWA.

Sir,

No formal thanks can properly express or convey the tremendous pleasure and gratitude that all the members of this Camp feel for the supplies which Squadrons under your command dropped for us on two recent flights over this area.

After 2½ years of internment on lean diet the thrill of seeing your aircraft can possibly be imagined, as can also the joy at receiving such an abundance of good food, clothing and medical supplies.

There are many in this Camp who will be writing to those members of the aircraft crews whose addresses were given in some of the packages dropped, but we shall be most grateful if you would kindly convey to all who those two flights the heartfelt thanks of our whole community.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient Servants,

THE WEIHSIEN CAMP COMMITTEE

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



CIVIL ASSEMBLY CENTRE – WEIHSIEN

September 4th 1945



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

Dear Major Staiger,

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

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

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

To you, to Captain Gorgia, Lt. Hannon, Lt. Moore, Sgt. Hanchulak, Sgt. Nagaki,

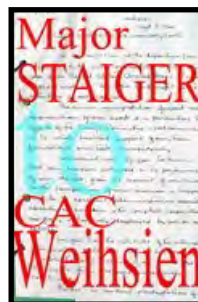
Cpl. Orlich and Ens. Wang, we offer the heartfelt thanks of this community, and express the hope that somewhere and some when it may be possible for some of us to meet again.

Yours very sincerely,

The Committee of the Weihsien Camp

(signed)

- L. Allan
- W. R. Chapman
- J. H. W. Grice
- M. C. Halton
- W. J. Howard
- E. McLaren
- W. Pryor
- E. J. Schmidt
- P. A. Whitting



Weihsien
September 6, 1945

To: Internees, Weihsien Civil Assembly Centre.

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

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

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

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

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

(sgd)

Stanley A. Staiger	Major	U. S. Army
Willis S. Georgia	Captain	U. S. Army
J. Walton Moore	Lt.	United States Navy
James J. Hannon	Lt.	U. S. Army
Tadashi T. Nagaki	Sgt.	U. S. Army
Raymond N. Hanchulak	Sgt.	U. S. Army
Peter P. Orlich	Cpl.	U. S. Army
Cheng Han Wong		Interpreter

The names on this letter include Captain Willis Georgia, who was not a member of the DUCK MISSION. Rescuer Jim Hannon has told me that letter was posted and when he saw the name of Willis Georgia included with the liberators on this letter, Hannon was angry enough to cross the name out. With great disdain, Hannon tells me that Willis Georgia was someone (possibly a publicist) Major Staiger allowed to stay in Weihsien from one of the other American planes that stopped in -- possibly Lt. Colonel Bird's controversial EAGLE MISSION.

Some of the publicity ("Public information") efforts on these missions stirred huge controversy. Colonel Bird was the deputy director of OSS/CHINA. According to THE OSS IN CHINA, Bird -- "ever publicity-conscious and eager to gain fame by 'liberating Korea single-handedly,'" violated very specific orders and took along a reporter and photographer when the EAGLE MISSION went to liberate a POW camp in Korea. When Japanese turned Bird and the EAGLE MISSION away from Korea, EAGLE MISSION flew back to Weihsien.

In listening to the stories from men on our team, I get a sense that they believed Colonel Bird wanted to save face from his failure in Korea by taking over the operation at Weihsien.

No way was Major Staiger going to let Bird take over the Weihsien operation -- especially after Bird had failed to liberate the POW camp in Korea. In this little side bar story to our rescue, our DUCK MISSION team of rescuers have no good words for Colonel Bird. Jim Hannon has told me he thinks Col. Bird should have been court martialled for failing to complete his rescue mission in Korea.

Back in Chungking, while Bird was telling General Wedemeyer how dangerous the attempted rescue of prisoners in Korea had been, the reporter's story was broadcast worldwide about the first encounter of the Americans with the Japanese in Korea -- including photographs and information about the Japanese entertaining the Americans with beer and sake. General Wedemeyer was embarrassed and outraged -- especially that Bird took a reporter and a photographer along on the failed rescue mission, but no medical supplies or food for the POWs.

OSS angrily moved Bird out of the EAGLE team, but Bird was never disciplined.

Mary Previte



Addressed to all Japanese Commanders and Officers, and all Japanese residents.

Issued by Gen. Wedemeyer:-

- 1) The Emperor of the Japanese Imperial Government has surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, and the detailed regulations regarding the cessation of war is now being negotiated between the Japanese Govt. and the governments of the various Allies as listed here below.
- 2) All Allied POWs and non combatant people taken prisoner are to contact the representative in China of the Allied Supreme Command.
- 3) The instructions of the Allied Supreme Command should be obeyed.
- 4) In all areas where there are Allied POWs and non combatant prisoners all food, clothing and medical supplies should be continued, and peace and order maintained.

The international Red Cross will co-operate with the U. S. Command to maintain peace, release the prisoners and guarantee their safety.

This order must be obeyed for the maintenance of peace and discipline as a provisional measure until the arrival of the Allied forces in the various areas. The surrender formalities of the Japanese forces are still in progress. Thus the maintenance of peace and order are still the responsibility of the Japanese Commander.

Signed --- **Major Gen. A. C. Wedemeyer**
(U. S. Commander in Chief in China)

