

Photos of heroes, 1945 and now

mtpre-@aol.com

Jan 01, 2001 15:59 PST

Hello, everybody:

Happy New Year.

Natalie Peterson, who started our Weihsien bulletin board, has suggested that we nudge our recollections by posting "then" and "now" photos of ourselves and some information to bring everyone up to date. What a great idea! I think only a couple of people have posted the snapshots. Here are some of mine, in several e-mails, for ease of downloading.

I thought you'd enjoy some of the "then" and "now" photos I included in a photo scrapbook I created a couple of years ago as a Christmas gift for each of the heroes who liberated Weihsien. I tracked them all down in 1997 and then criss-crossed America to visit each one -- survivors and widows.

In Weihsien, I was Mary Taylor, a student in the Chefoo School's Lower School Dormitory (we called it LSD). My sister Kathleen, Jamie, and John and grandpa Herbert Hudson Taylor were also interned in Weihsien. We LSD girls lived first in Block 23 and then, after the escape of Hummel and Tipton, on the second floor of the hospital. I was 12 years old when the Americans parachuted from the B-24 to liberate the camp, August 17, 1945.

I started my career as a high school teacher -- English and journalism -- until our daughter, Alice, was born. Alice is an attorney who also helps me take very elementary steps on the Internet. For nearly 27 years I've directed a youth detention center that serves the toughest-of-the-tough delinquent teenagers -- about 1,600 a year. My book, HUNGRY GHOSTS, tells about Weihsien as well as the astonishing story of how a suburban housewife (me) took over an exploding juvenile lock-up and turned it around. I'm now also serving my second term in the New Jersey state legislature and continue

to speak to audiences around the country.

I hope all of you will also bring us up to date with your own stories and snapshots.

Mary Taylor Previte

RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

David Birch

Jan 01, 2001 23:36 PST

Ron,

A family who returned at the same time as the Chefoo party were named 'Turner.' The Turners had two sons, Micky and Peter, both likeable boys about the same age as my brother John and I, (John Alfred Birch, b. 04Mar1934 and I, GDB b. 25Nov1931).

We all, the Chefoo party and the Turners (possibly others too) came in to Vancouver, CANADA via Great Northern Railroad from Oakland, California, in the evening of Thursday, 08Nov1945.

I recall seeing a quotation in, I think, the 'Vancouver Province' newspaper, probably dated the tenthNovember1945, although it could have been Friday, the ninth's issue, quoting Mr. Turner as saying the camp experience included 'slow starvation.'

At the time, I recall thinking and mentioning to someone in our group that this really was an exaggeration. However, within a very few years, I realized that Mr. Turner had been correct in his remark. In 1948 I began receiving hospital care that a remarkable medical doctor, Leslie Arthur Patterson, MD, attributed to what he termed ADRENAL CORTICAL STARVATION resulting from prolonged malnutrition in a Japanese camp during World War Two. Dr. Patterson was, I believe, a remarkably knowledgeable medical practitioner. He was a 'disciple' of a Dr. John Gregory who practiced medicine in California, USA. He even

took my file with him down to California to confer with Dr. Gregory. Dr. Patterson had a very large part in enabling me to have sufficient self confidence to walk out of a Provincial mental hospital with my sanity intact.

Anyway, Ron, there are the Turners. Do you have them on your list. The younger Turner lad walked with a limp.

Do you have Dr. Eugene Chan on your list? His father was a medical practioner who lived in our camp at Weihsien. Eugene was known as "Junior Chan" and was a pitcher on one of the softball teams, a good pitcher too.

When I was fifteen or sixteen, and home was a dairy farm which my father was purchasing, and the Birch boys and girls were helping our parents to 'make a go of' Eugene walked over from the "Dyke Road" now known as Wharf Street. Our farm was bounded by the Fraser River on the south. Apparently the Dr. Chan's family had relatives living in a home by the river's edge. The Chans may not have actually been considered British subjects at the time. It was not till soon after the war that Canadians of Chinese descent were accorded the right to hold Canadian citizenship.

Thanks again, Ron, for the work you are doing.

Very sincerely,

David Birch

GDB/b.25Nov1931

p.s. Jr. Chan, practices medicine (he is a dermatologist):

Dr. Eugene J. Chan
523-625-5th Avenue
New Westminster, BC

He lives in West Vancouver:

Dr. Eugene J. Chan
3664 Cedaridge Place
West Vancouver, BC

He may recall some names of people he knew. (We used to have baseball games with 'Britain vs. America.')

Re: Photos of heroes, 1945 and now

David Birch
Jan 01, 2001 23:36 PST

Thank you Mary.

You are an inspiration.

May blessings abound in 2001 for you. I quite clearly recall you now. Looking out your window overlooking where Torje and I used to play basketball.

David

GDB(b.11/1931)

Overload!

Linton Conway

Jan 02, 2001 00:12 PST

Dear Mary and other ex-Chefusians,

I feel I have to get in now and ask to unsubscribe from this bulletin board. Having just spent 16 minutes downloading 10

pages of photos and material, and then to read an invitation for everyone else to start sending in their photos as well. HELP! Please. I think there ought to be some self-imposed restrictions on how much material is sent round. With respect, there are those of us with other things to do in life as well, and to have the email constantly taken up with two or three Weihsien stories or comments every time you switch on, gets a bit heavy. I would suggest that if anyone has larger amounts of material they alert the BB to that and let those who want it request it.

Sorry if I sound ungrateful - I'm not. I confess I was not at Weihsien myself (though several friends and relations were), but as the Secretary of the CSA in New Zealand, I came on the BB, on behalf of one or two that did not have email. Even they are now wearying a little I'm sad to say. I have read some amazing stories and feel that I know so much more about the internship - all of which causes me to praise a wonderful God for His care and deliverance. More amazing still to see the way God is using this event nearly 60 years later to bring further blessing and opportunities for witness and testimony.

I must confess I don't know how to unsubscribe - so if whoever put me on could take me off, that would be appreciated. Thanks for everything.

Linton Conway
New Zealand

Re: Overload!

Beard
Jan 02, 2001 01:06 PST

As the person who downloads the email and prints it off for David, I sympathise with Linton. Large graphics attachments take time to download and may be in a format recipients cannot open. I think it would be better if messages to the List were restricted to plain text. If anyone has photos available, they could send a plain text message to say what was available and in what format it could be sent. Then anyone who wanted the photos could have them sent to their own personal email address.

Margaret Beard

Linton Conway,

As per request, I have taken your name off our list. Sorry.

Natasha Petersen

Mary,

I have been able to download only some of the photos. Thank you so much. I know that there are messages that perhaps do not interest all of us. I have printed many, and intend to do something with them. At this time, I am putting them in a separate folder.

Natasha

RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jan 03, 2001 03:11 PST

David Birch. Re your message to Ron about the Turners in Weishien. I can add a little to the story of that family because they were in the same living room as my family and me separated only by a clear glass sliding door which had a sheet covering the glass. Nora Turner, the mother erected that sheet. We lived in this way for the whole of the period we were

In the camp and consequently, came to know them very well indeed. We were in the only block which had two stories and the de Zutters lived above us. The boy with the limp had a shoe with a special spring to help him walk because of what is now known as polio. There was also a sister, the youngest child, named Barbara. I am interested in whatever became of the family. Doctor Chan had two sons, Guy and Eugene and they were in the camp. Dr. Chan was our family doctor in Tsingtao before the war and he attended to me when I had typhoid. Guy Chan is known as junior and his younger brother is Eugene. Guy Chan is now a professor in ophthalmology and is married to an ophthalmologist. They have two grown up children, Paul and Maria. My husband and I had lunch with them in Atlanta several years ago. I think Dr. Chan's wife originally came from Canada. Junior Chan signed my autograph book in Weishien on 9 Oct., 1943.

FW: Weihsien memories from Franciscan nuns

Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke)
Jan 03, 2001 03:14 PST

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

From: Bob Bradbury [SMTP:bobj-@tpg.com.au]
 Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2001 1:00 PM
 To: 'weih-@topica.com'

Subject: **RE: Weihsien memories from Franciscan nuns**

Dear Pamela. I am now able to finish off my message regarding the names of nuns who autographed my book in Weishien Camp. You may have wondered why my previous message suddenly terminated. It was entirely accidental when I pressed SEND instead of something else. My apologies. Here are the rest of the nuns. From Sister M. Eustella - May the pleasant memories of two "concentrations" remain with us until we meet in the blissful concentration of Heaven. Wei Hsien C.A.C. September 4, 1943." - From Sr.M.Donatella O.S.F. "Dear Joyce. Miles may separate the dearest of friends but they can never efface a memory. May God bless and protect you always, lovingly. Weishien 1943." From Sr. Mary Ludmilla O.S.F. Think of me sometimes. Think always of God. Your Weishien friend." From Sr. Mary Veronica. O.S.F. May God bless you and keep you. And may the love of Jesus and Mary ever grow stronger in your heart. Sept. 9, 1943.Weishien." Also from the following who made no notations, Sr. Mary Blanda O.S.F.; Mother Clarisse F.M.M. Mother Anicetus S.M.M. and Mother Christopher, F.M.M. Sister Mary who was Portuguese was also in the Camp but I do not have her autograph. All of the nuns I have mentioned were, as far as I remember, from Tsingtao. I have many other autographs of civilian inmates and members of Religious Orders which I can detail if anybody is interested. I think there were other nuns in the camp but probably no others from Tsingtao. Regards, Joyce Bradbury.

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

From: Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke) [SMTP:bobj-@tpg.com.au]
 Sent: Monday, January 01, 2001 5:00 PM
 To: 'weih-@topica.com'

Subject: **RE: Weihsien memories from Franciscan nuns**

Dear Pamela. Your message re the Sisters of Our Lady of the Angels from Tsingtao has prompted me to add some information which may be interesting particularly to ex-Weishien and Tsingtao people. I attended both Holy Ghost Convent and St. Josephs middle school from the age of about 5 years until the Japanese came when I was thirteen and a half years old. Quite a lot of the nuns from Tsingtao, were taken into Weishien and in fact travelled with us by train to the camp from Tsington. They consisted of British, American, Dutch, Portuguese and one from France. They did wonderful work in Weishien. I have the signatures of quite a few of these nuns and I list their names and any comments they made in my autograph book. I also have the autographs of many priests and brothers which I shall put into the net if there is anybody interested in their names The nuns I have are;
 (The following are all from St Josephs) - Sr Verna OSF who wrote "Dear Joyce. If as you grow older you come closer to God your life will have been successful. Lovingly, SR. Verna" - :Sr.Hiltrudia, who wrote, "May God bless you and guide your footsteps to our Heavenly Goal, lovingly Sr. Hiltrudia; - Sr. Mary Elaine OCM(?) "May mother Mary ever keep you the sweet girl you are now is the sincere prayer of Sister Mary Elaine":

RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

R.W. Bridge
 Jan 03, 2001 03:56 PST

David,
 It is indeed a small world. Thanks for the info re you and your brother and the Chans. I am One day older than your brother! Pre the 1948 British nationality Act all British Passports were interchangeable except Canadian ones which were separate because of the British North America Act of 1867 when passports for the general public were introduced. The Chans were listed as Canadians in Weihsien.
 New Zealand, Australia, South Africa Indian etc were all listed as British. Yet a British person who happened to be in say Kenya when his passport needed renewing got a Kenyan Passport, British Passports were only issued in a non Commonwealth Country where there was a Consulate or at the Passport Office London. This is causing endless problems with the British Governments decision to pay out to former British Internees and PoWs
 The entries that I have for the Birches, Chans and Turners are enclosed.
 Our family knew the Turners well, Frank Turner was the Manager of McKenzie & Co a cotton press packing plant

and exporter in Tientsin, the chief engineer was Tullis Lewis my uncle by marriage and when his wife Freda(Neé Bridge) was widowed she visited us here in the early 1970's and I used to take her over to see Frank and Norah Turner at a place called Parsons Green about 5 miles south of here. When Freda died in 1974 I lost track of the Turners. The boys Peter and Mickey were non-identical twins and I have a photo here of a childrens birthday party in Tientsin in 1940. I went to school and played with them and my parents played tennis/majong etc with Frank and Nora Mickey had polio when he was small hence the limp, there was also a sister. Mickey was the only British boy born circa 1933/4 in Tientsin that did not end up flying somehow I think that he went into the HongKong Shanghai Bank. Peter came to the UK joined the RAF for his national service and became a pilot. I think he did 3 years and then went to HK to join his brother and transferred to the HK Auxilary AF, to complete his reserve service sadly he hit one of the hills in HK flying a North American Harvard in 1955.

Now to the questions of the effects of malnutrition, I have been involved in a lot of the problems caused that have manifested themselves in the past ten years since I got involved with ABCIFER (see www.abcifer.com)

Looking at the statistics the incidence of girls of puberty and two years pre puberty in Japanese camps having children is about one fifth of the average of their contemporaries who did not have the "Internment experience". I suspect with modern medicine it would have been overcome but that was not available when they were after a family in the late 50's and 60s. The law in this country allows for War pensions for those affected by malnutrition as a result of enemy action and I am involved in about a new case a month and tend to win all the cases, the pensions are modest, around £2500 per annum but they do help many who have fallen on hard times. My own view is that those of you in Canada and the USA that were civilians caught by the Japanese should pursue a case with Ottawa, citing their own payout to the Canadian forces that were caught in HK and the British Govt handout to POWs and civilians.

Rgds
Ron

B-24, POW, Amelia Earhart, ...RE: Ch

Frank Otto
Jan 03, 2001 11:30 PST

Joyce,

Good to hear from you. I'm looking for WW2 Veterans who were on the USS Mt. Olympus AGC-8. Thanks.
Frank

-----Original Message-----
From: mtpre-@aol.com [SMTP:mtpre-@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2000 10:04 AM

Hello, Everybody,

In California, the Hi-Desert Star filled most of a page in its Section, December 2, 2000, with a story about Lt. James Hannon, one of our rescuers. In the story headlined, STRANGER THAN FICTION, Lt. Hannon = "claims to have spent over five weeks with Amelia Earhart after she was reported missing."

Let me quote from this article in the Hi-Desert Star: In Weihshien, Lt. Hannon says he was "asked to look after a semi-conscious woman who was being kept in her own room and being given high doses of morphine. 'She was so drugged she couldn't speak.' Hannon determined this woman was Amelia Earhart."

The article pictures the rescuing B-24 bomber dropping relief supplies after the American team parachuted to the fields beyond the barrier walls of the camp.

I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Mary Taylor Previte

B-24, Aug. 17, 1945, ...POW, Re: Photos of heroes, 1945 and now

Frank Otto
Jan 05, 2001 14:48 PST

Mary,

Great information. Thanks.

Frank

RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

David Birch
Jan 06, 2001 01:54 PST

Ron,

Thanks for your clarification of the situation. I am grateful for your explanation re. the difference for Canadians owing to the passage of The British North America Act of 1867.

It may be, that we have received all that we are legally entitled to receive; however, as you suggest, I plan to make some further inquiries. It may be that someone at Douglas, Symes & Brissenden, in Vancouver, may be able to recover my file (from the mid to late nineteen fifties). Possibly though I should start by contacting my Member of Parliament, a young man with his constituency office not far from where I live here in Maple Ridge.

How interesting that you knew the Turner family so well! I clearly recall that the Turners were likeable, friendly and altogether 'decent' people. I should have liked to have known them, but 'was never introduced.'

Do you remember a family at Weihsien named Jones? Mr. Jones, a Britisher, used to sketch with india ink I recall. He did a number of landscape scenes. I don't clearly recall Mrs. J. but faintly remember her. They had two boys, Richard, my age or a year or two older; and Robin, possibly a year or two younger.

Robin was a good highjumper, and startled everyone by jumping almost if not actually his own height (5'1" or so) on sports day. I was a highjumper, having been encouraged by Miss Bea Stark, a legendary nurturer of youthful talent whether in art, poetry, history or even outdoor sports. Also she got me started in learning French, which I can read rather slowly, and

speak, just 'un peu' today, and with a definite British rather than North American accent. But my high jumping was limited, to the prosaic "scissors" style.

And did not extend, sad to say, to Robin Jones's dramatic "western roll."

Has anyone heard of Stanley Fairchild? He attended Chefoo/Yentai, and later transferred, I think, to the Tientsin Grammar School in Weihsien.

Do you recall Ivan Girling, an engineer I think. Or Percy Gleed, a highly gifted pianist who played for services in Weihsien Camp's church. Including the special service of thanksgiving following VJ Day? You must have Mr. Waters on your list. I recall one little Chefoo girl making a crayon sketch for a school assignment. It depicted the said Mr. Waters holding forth outside the camp library to a great host of captives. Little Joan T. entitled her masterpiece, "Mr. Rivers Giving out the Ten Commandments."

Won't keep you any longer. But it's marvelous being able to share memories with one another.

Thanks again Ron, and all of you, for sharing! Then of course there was the imperturbable Mr. McFarlane, who headed the "Discipline Committee." And the wonderful Mr. and Mrs. Lawless, he a former policeman as I recall, and she a motherly and truly gentle woman who brought a sweet and wholesome influence into classrooms at Chefoo's Prep school (the first four years). After the war, when we were reunited with our parents and brother and sisters on the farm in BC's Fraser Valley, my brother, John, used to tell our family stories Mrs. L. had related. But space does not permit telling any here tonight.

Warm regards.

David Birch

(GDB)

RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

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

Jan 06, 2001 14:07 PST

David. I note in your message to Ron that you ask after Stanley Fairchild. I spoke to him by phone a few minutes ago. He is in London but will be here in Sydney with his wife next week end to stay with my husband Bob and me for a week or two He said to say hello to you and to tell you he is alive and well and has left school now. He lives in Hong Kong and has recently retired. He will be contactable on my email. He also gets a mention in my autobiography "Forgiven But Not Forgotten" which deals with my experiences in China, Weishien and subsequently Singapore and Australia which is now in print. Regards Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

Let's shower Weihsien rescuer Tad Nagaki with birthday cards

mtpre-@aol.com

Jan 06, 2001 17:18 PST

Hello, Everybody:

Tad Nagaki, one of the heroes who liberated Weihsien, will celebrate his 81st birthday on January 25. Tad continues to farm sugar beets, corn, and beans in Alliance, Nebraska.

His address is:

5851 Logan Road, Alliance, NE 69301 Phone: 308-762-2968

Let's shower him with birthday cards or letters. Tad is widowed, and his son died two years ago, so he lives alone. He enjoys mail and phone calls.

Tad was one of a select group of Japanese-Americans recruited by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in World War II to infiltrate enemy territory in Asia and to do sabotage and demolition there. He was assigned to Burma, but when the war wound down in Burma, he went to Kunming, where he volunteered for the Weihsien rescue mission. He functioned as the Japanese interpreter on the rescue team.

I am awestruck still at how America teamed young men of such different backgrounds for these rescue squads. Tad's parents were first generation in the USA -- working as tenant farmers in Nebraska. And Tad himself didn't speak English until he went to school. When I visited Tad in Alliance in 1998, we drove through the Nebraska heartlands so I could see the tenant farmhouses where he grew up poor. I took pictures of him in front of the tiny two and three-room schools he attended as a boy.

Tad remembers girls in Weihsien cutting off chunks of his hair for souvenirs -- mind you, he was engaged to be married, he tells me -- as though any of us cared about that. We girls loved them all.

Dr. Guy Chan got in touch with me in 1985 after my story about Weihsien appeared as the cover story of The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ending of World War II. Guy lived in Philadelphia and was teaching there at Temple University Medical School. I've not had further contact with him. Does anyone have his current address?

Mary Taylor Previte

FW: "Before" and "After" photos

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

Jan 06, 2001 20:09 PST

Here is the second file, as mentioned in my previous email.

Regards

Joyce

FW: "Before" and "After" photos

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

Jan 06, 2001 20:17 PST

Dear All

As suggested by Mary recently, I have two "before and after" photos I am sending to the bulletin board. They were taken after my Australia arrival in 1959 and in 2000. The are both .bmp files, each about 360KB in size. In the first file (attached herein), the baby kangaroo was a pet, and note the dog and cat asleep on my lap in our home. The second file (in my next email) was taken at Scottsdale OCH Reunion last year.

I hope you all find them interesting.

Regards

Joyce

RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

[David Birch](#)

Jan 07, 2001 14:02 PST

Thank you Joyce! And a warm "Hello" Stanley! Glad things are still going well for your after all these years!

David Birch

GDB

p.s. Let's continue to keep in touch.

Re: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

[Albert de Zutter](#)

Jan 08, 2001 10:21 PST

Ron:

Just a small clarification regarding your message to David regarding the Turners. My brother John and I, as well as Joyce and Eddie Cooke, lived in the same block as the Turners. As the Turner boys were the same age as I was, I knew them well in the camp, and we played running games, etc., together. Mickey was a fine runner before he contracted meningitis in the camp, after which he had a limp. As boys around 11 years of age, who is the faster runner, etc., is important, and I clearly remember that Mickey was a faster runner than his fraternal twin brother, Peter, before Mickey got sick.

Joyce Cooke also said Mickey got polio, but when I reminded her that it was meningitis, she agreed.

I am reminded that I promised to send you the list of internees which I received from the National Archives in Washington, and I will do so.

Albert de Zutter

Please Drop My Name off Your List

[Pamela Masters](#)

Jan 09, 2001 09:14 PST

Hi --

It's with regret that I ask this: But as I'm in business, and it took me forever to get my messages this morning as I had to wait, and wait, and wait for pix to come through from Weihsien Topica (97% of my message scroll!) before I could get the important e-mail that runs my business -- and requires prompt response -- I have no other choice.

PLEASE remove my name, immediately. Any ex-Weihsien-ites who want to contact me can reach me on pamela@hendersonhouse.com. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards to all.

Pamela (Bobby Simmons) Masters

photos

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Jan 09, 2001 11:18 PST

Hi,

Some months ago, I asked that photos before and after be sent. These photographs take forever to receive, and this causes problems for some. Perhaps it would be better to send an e-mail saying that there are photos available from ? and if an ex internee wishes to receive them, he (or she) needs only to ask that the photo be sent direct. I hate to see our list of ex internees dwindle. I am sorry for causing this problem.

Natasha

Re: photos

[David Birch](#)

Jan 14, 2001 20:54 PST

Hello Natasha,

I think this is a great learning experience for all of us. How thoughtful, and generous you are! Thank you for your consideration and helpfulness.

And may blessings abound!

Sincerely

David Birch

RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

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

Jan 15, 2001 12:48 PST

Dear David. I am having some difficulty casting my mind back almost sixty years. Please tell me about yourself and refresh my memory. Did we go to school together? My wife and I are staying with the Bradburys for a while in Sydney but we live in Hong Kong where I am retired. We had 100 degrees heat in Sydney yesterday which was not unwelcome after being in chilly London until a few days ago. Regards, Stan Fairchild.

POW, China, Chefoo,...RE: The lists you are compiling, Ron. Have you these.....?

[Frank Otto](#)

Jan 16, 2001 11:48 PST

Joyce,

Thanks for the info.

Frank

e-mail

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Feb 14, 2001 09:05 PST

Dear Weihsieners,

I cannot believe that no one has written since the middle of January.

I miss reading messages.

Natasha

RE: e-mail

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

Feb 15, 2001 01:13 PST

Dear Natasha. I too was wondering why no messages because I like to read them too. I just tried to send this message but I think I made an error so I will try again. I will mention that I heard four days ago of an ex-Weihsiener lady in Hong Kong who was not aware that the British Government has agreed to pay 10,000 pounds compensation to ex-internee British subjects. So now might be an appropriate time to mention this again. I am waiting for my payment which is supposed to be this month. I am also waiting for my cousin Walter Booriakin of Scottsdale Arizona to give me a report on an OCH (Old China Hands) Chinese New Year get together in Scottsdale on 4 February. Otherwise no news. As the weather is always pertinent I can tell you we in are enjoying a beautiful summer with temperatures each day 25-35 celsius. Cheers and best wishes from Joyce Bradbury (nee Cooke) and husband Bob from Sydney, Australia

Re: e-mail

[Beard](#)

Feb 16, 2001 01:12 PST

Joyce, did you know that while the use of "Cheers" is culturally acceptable in Australasia for closing emails, it seems to be offensive in some other cultures! I have found it so difficult to find something that is internationally acceptable for closing email messages, that now I usually just close with my name.

Margaret Beard

RE: e-mail

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

Feb 16, 2001 16:18 PST

Dear Margaret

Thanks for the info - I did not know!

However, I will probably continue to use it, as I was brought up with it back in both Tsingtao and Singapore days.

Best regards

Joyce

Re: e-mail

[Mahlon Horton](#)

Feb 16, 2001 17:36 PST

I am new to this page.

I just want to say "hello" at this time.

Audrey Nordmo Horton in British Columbia, Canada

Re: e-mail

[David Birch](#)

Feb 16, 2001 21:24 PST

Dear Natasha,

Thank you for your message! I was beginning to wonder whether our 'chat line' had been discontinued.

I was feeling a little uncomfortable, thinking that maybe I had been using it too much, and that maybe some of the rest of you were tired of hearing my 'two bits worth' of contributions.

Actually, I've found this avenue of communicating with fellow Weih sien campers incredibly stimulating. I'm tremendously thankful to you for making it possible! Perhaps now that a cash settlement has been approved for many of our fellow internees some may be taken up with making sure they are included. This may have diverted some attention from the chat line for a while.

Let's not let this valuable communication link die for want of use.

Thanks again, Natasha et al!!!

David Birch

(no subject)

[alison holmes](#)

Feb 17, 2001 06:15 PST

Dear Natasha,

I am not a bit surprised that there has been a lull in the writing. There have been all sorts of reasons for us to have been excited and for the memories to surface...but we are talking about more than fifty years ago and we have all been living full lives and that is just one segment of it. I think also that the ex gratia payment both brought things to the forefront and in a way also brought closure on our time there.

I have been incredibly grateful for the memories, and particularly for the books that have been recommended. For virtuous little Chefusians, the world of the Mushroom Years is quite a revelation. And Stanley Nordmo very kindly gave me a copy of Langdon Gilkey's book which did an interesting job of both fleshing out details and of reflecting upon them as a theologian. My sister Elisabeth galloped through both of them this last month and both of us have great fun talking, reminiscing, letting one memory spark another. I think we are so lucky to have had such a vivid childhood so that many incidents live on, maybe distorted over the years, but live vividly.

I am running a three day seminar at the moment and last night when the participants were describing an experience

when they felt part of a bigger picture I found my self telling of walking and singing from Chefoo on the way to the boat "I will not be afraid, I will not be afraid, I will look upward and travel onward, and NOT BE AFRAID" This was the first of many times in my life that showed me that the inner world was bigger, more powerful, more beautiful, than any outside circumstance. It also showed me how well the teachers were working in the real light of consciousness. by giving us this good form to follow. We as kids adapted to the situation, but the teachers were doing the real work of human beings, they were evolving their consciousness (not just adapting it) in response to the situation, acting as mediators to shape the context for us all

So now I must run off to this group of students...a large proportion of them are counselling psychologists, some teachers, a police man, a communicator, half of them Native Americans and the rest a wonderfully mixed bag where we discuss the differences between interactions and relationship, where we move beyond the personality on stage to the actor's integration, where we move beyond unconscious regimentation to expanded understanding, deepened sensitivity, where the past has little leverage and the future calls for discovery. So may we all have a discovering day!

Cheers and best regards and laughter and fondness from this beautiful mauve shocking pink dawn breaking over snow covered Granite Mountain high in Arizona! Alison Martin Holmes

Lu-Doh for Chinese New Year!

mtpre-@aol.com

Feb 17, 2001 11:51 PST

Joyce,

Good to hear from you. I too need info about my shipmates onboard the USS Mt. Olympus AGC-8 during WW2. Thanks.

Frank

Re: Lu-Doh for Chinese New Year!

[David Birch](#)

Feb 17, 2001 20:23 PST

Mary,

You are a constant source of encouragement and inspiration!

May God continue to bless, guide and encourage you and to make your life an ever-expanding source of encouragement to all those who are fortunate enough to come within the orbit of your influence!

Sincerely

David Birch

Re: The Martin Legacy

[David Birch](#)

Feb 17, 2001 20:39 PST

Dear Alison,

I have often, over the past five decades, felt deeply thankful for the influence of your father and indeed the Martin family on my life in those long-ago days in Chefoo and Weih sien!

How beautifully you express your feelings for and appreciation of the vital contribution our teachers made to our young lives! Really those teachers of ours at Chefoo and at Weih sien were saints of a calibre easily equally that of any who have been canonized by mortal pontiffs. I look forward to one day being reunited with those heroic Christian missionary teachers of ours in the Home our Lord Jesus Christ went to prepare for his own. Your dear parents as well as the rest will forever hold a special place in my heart! As far as I am concerned they were real heroes of the faith.

Sincerely

David Birch

Re: The Martin Legacy

[Thompson](#)

Feb 18, 2001 13:45 PST

David,

Even though you and I were Chefoo/Weihsien classmates and childhood friends with similar upbringing, I am intrigued to observe that **a**) my memory for these details is not as good as yours, and **b**) that my memories often seem to have a different twist from yours !

Do you remember when we first moved to the Boy's School (1940 or '41 ?) - Goopy Martin used to read to a considerable group of us at bed time. I remember him reading Charles Reade's *The Cloister and the Hearth*. It was a ripping yarn, and I was transfixed ! (I didn't realize until later that it was all about Gerard agonizing about taking up the religious life). While Gerard and Denys were waiting for the horrifying "Abbott" to come up the stairs, I'm quite sure that I was slack-jawed and wide-eyed ! (seeing us all in this state was no doubt part of Goopy's reward !) I know that those evenings contributed to our lifelong love of books; and it put the phrase "Courage, mon ami ! - le diable est mort !" into my head where it seems to be firmly stuck !

Stan Thompson

PS. I agree, Mary's little story about the lu-doh beans was a gem !

The Martin Legacy

[David Allen](#)

Feb 18, 2001 18:51 PST

To Stan & Dave: 2/18/01 1830

Thanks for bringing up your recollections of Gordon Martin. I have several. He was an outstanding teacher, through use of object lessons, in the morning church services; through his paper, ink, and pen drawings; through his graphical portrayals of European History; through his use of the hairbrush or hand on the bottom of a bare seat in Weihsien (for lipping off to the teachers).

I remember him challenging us to read through the chapter on the Prussian wars in Europe and graphically portraying the leading characters, places, events, dates and if possible the reasons. I chose the use of waterfalls to show the turbulent times, main characters and split in alliances at that time. That must have been back in about 1949 - 1950.

I remember him using the easel, plus the Chinese ink pen, draw, and paste technique. He illustrated the spiritual armor in Eph. 6 worn by a Christian. He would paint magically on paper the different pieces of armor, cut them out, and then paste them on the soldier. Our attention was glued to his great artistry and lesson. We were too busy watching him create this fighting soldier, than to make rabbits out our handkerchiefs or to catch flies with a little spit in the palm of our hands.

His teaching was like a graphical flowchart of today. He was years ahead of his time, tying in truth to a simple flowchart.

Mr Martin, taught like the apostle Paul, and Mr Stanley Houghton taught like the apostle John. Stanley Houghton, understood the separation and loneliness caused by separation from parents, and responded with understanding and compassion.

Dave Allen dan-@fidalgo.net

Re: The Martin Legacy

[alison holmes](#)

Feb 18, 2001 20:18 PST

It touches me so much to hear these thoughts about Pa. I had been sad that when he died there was so little that was written about him. His life in Chefoo, Weihsien and Kuling was his very being. He continued teaching after going to England in the fifties, but it never had that engrossing, all involving quality that Chefoo had had for him. School was his opportunity to share his love for the classics, to teach people rowing which he had learned to love in Oxford., to exercise his artistic skills ("It's just a question of practice") and to write doggerel to celebrate occasions, any occasion! He would have rejoiced to read these thoughts and he loved it when old pupils came from far and wide. Thank you on his behalf!

Re: The Martin Legacy

[Stanley Nordmo](#)

Feb 19, 2001 19:07 PST

To David, Dave, Stan Thompson and former pupils of Gordon Martin

I wonder how many remember their first introduction to the Gettysburg address?

In my case it was not during a course in American history but in the Latin class taught by Gordon Martin.

Assuming that we now knew enough Latin, he challenged us to compose the Gettysburg address in Latin. By the time he gave us his version, he had convinced us that Lincoln's words were indeed timeless. This praise impressed us all the more coming from one who was an Oxford scholar of the Classics.

The respect for our schoolmaster is seen in the foreword to his book Chefoo School 1881-1951, first published in 1990

"When we* wrote asking Old Chefusians to help us launch this book, we were delighted with the prompt and enthusiastic response, and encouraged by the comments in many of the accompanying letters showing the writers' love and respect for Mr. Martin. One person wrote: 'Whatever subject Mr. Martin taught became interesting and memorable.' Our thanks are due to all the donors who have so generously made the publication of this book possible. "

*Jimmy Bruce, Norman Cliff, David Landsborough and Roland Stedeford. (My note: David Landsborough was the only one of the above not interned in Weihsien)

Best regards

Stanley Nordmo (1935-1945)

Torje Torjeson

mtpre-@aol.com

Feb 21, 2001 19:04 PST

Hello, Everybody,

Natasha, will you remind everyone how to access the archives to our wonderful memory bulletin board? Some of our new members want to read from Memory One on to the present.

Does anyone have an e-mail address of Torje Torjeson, one of our Chefoo and Weihsien classmates?

Mary Previte

RE: Torje Torjeson

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

Feb 22, 2001 07:15 PST

Dear Natasha. Stanley Fairchild went to Chefoo school and may be able to help re Torje Torjeson I will ask him when he visits us on 28th February and let you know. Maureen Starkey who was in a camp in Shanghai is in the early stages of organising a re-union of ex-internees in Sydney at a good Chinese Restaurant, wants to hear from anybody who was in, or knows about Chapei Camp in Shanghai. Would anyone contact me on my email so I can pass it on to her. Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

RE: Torje Torjeson

[Thompson](#)

Feb 22, 2001 13:04 PST

Mary,

I know the Torjesen tribe well. Not only in Chefoo and Weihsien, but Torje and I were good friends in college days in Minneapolis. Torje and his wife Reidun live in Norway (Ostrengveien 17, 1405 Langhus, Oslo, NORWAY).

Edvard and his wife Jenny live in the Pacific Northwest. Kari and her husband Bob Malcolm were missionaries in The Philippines for a while and now live near St Paul (3175 105th St E, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55075). Hakon,

(who was best man at our wedding) married a medical school classmate of mine (Karen Olness), and they have been all over the world doing useful and generous things for other people, and are still active at this sort of thing. Karen is a pediatrician at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland and has not yet retired, but their home is in Minnesota. (44500 66th Av. Way, Kenyon, MN 55946). Hakon is a great man to have at a Chefoo reunion; he can sit at a piano and play all the old Chefoo songs and most of the hymns we knew the best.

As far as I know there isn't an email in the lot

Stan Thompson

RE: Torje Torjeson

[Stanley Nordmo](#)

Feb 22, 2001 16:18 PST

To Mary, Stan Thompson, and Joyce

I have just checked with my fellow Norwegian, Edvard Torjesen. He is certain that his brother Torje does not have an e-mail address. Hakon does have an e-mail address through Case Western Reserve.

Edvard has an e-mail address in connection with Evergreen Family Friendship Service.

The home address:

Jenny and Edvard Torjesen

2339 Chambers Lake Drive

Lacey, WA 98503

Regards

Stanley Nordmo

Re: RE: Torje Torjeson

mtpre-@aol.com

Feb 22, 2001 17:34 PST

Stan:

When I want to e-mail Kari Torjeson Malcolm, I send through her husband's university e-mail.

Mary Previte

testing

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Mar 05, 2001 13:47 PST

I have been having trouble getting messages after Feb 22nd, and had been informed by Topica that I was not a subscriber when I tried to send a message. I was given instructions by Topica, and am now checking. I apologise for taking up your time. I hope that this is working.

Natasha

e-mail addresses

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Mar 05, 2001 13:54 PST

Hi, again

Several subscribers have wanted to know the e-mail addresses of Weihsien subscribers. The only way that this can be done is for those who wish to give name and e-mail address should send an e-mail to weih-@topica.com;

Each person then can copy into his own address book.

Mine is: Natasha Petersen nata-@roanoke.infi.net

I do hope that this works.

Re: e-mail addresses

[Beard](#)

Mar 05, 2001 14:12 PST

Natasha, the email address of the person from whom the message comes is always on the email message after From. All I have to do is click on it and a New Card comes up with the details for me to enter into my address

book.

Margaret Beard bea-@xtra.co.nz

Natasha Petersen wrote:

Several subscribers have wanted to know the e-mail addresses of Weih sien subscribers. The only way that this can be done is for those who wish to give name and e-mail address should send an e-mail to weih-@topica.com; Each person then can copy into his own address book.

Mine is: Natasha Petersen nata-@roanoke.infi.net

Re: e-mail addresses

[Thompson](#)

Mar 05, 2001 15:34 PST

I use Eudora, and if they have that neat trick that Margaret describes, I haven't discovered it yet.

Stan Thompson

boo-@ginniff.com

archives

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Mar 06, 2001 09:01 PST

As per Mary's request -

www.topica.com/lists/weih sien/read is the URL for the Weih sien archives. Subscribers can read this list by retistering with Topica

You can help by: supp-@get.topica.com

You need to give your name, e-mail address, and the Weih sien posting address: weih sien@topica.com

Natasha

Did Japan commit atrocities in China in WWII?

mtpre-@aol.com

Mar 08, 2001 19:39 PST

Hello, Everyone on our Weih sien Memory board:

In trying to find Eddie Wang, the Chinese interpreter on the mission that liberated Weih sien, I got hooked into an e-mail network of Chinese who are interested in preserving the true history of China under Japanese occupation during World War II. I think you'll be fascinated by this exchange between World War II generation Chinese with a young American of Chinese origin.

The sequence of questions and responses are very mixed up. Mary Previte.

Forwarded Message:

Subj: Re: [Fwd: Fwd: Re: I-Search Research Paper]

Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2001 8:10:40 AM

From: wch-@mail.fyi.net

To: cha-@duq.edu

From: wch-@mail.fyi.net (Wen-Hsuan Chang)

To: cha-@duq.edu

OH, SC:

We need to try our best to preserve the true history. That is our obligation. I feel. Pay something back to the society.

At 11:50 PM 3/6/01 -0500, Shih-Chi Chang wrote:

WH: Prof. Hsu gave me a book "What Really Happened in Nanking" by Tanaka Masaaki. You may already have the book. The author says the Nanking Masscre was a fabrication. The Japanese must spent a lot of money and printed a huge amount of copies, and they distributed everywhere. He wants you to know about it.

A high school student asked Prof. Hsu questions about Nanking Massacre. He gave him a short answer and asked me to forward this e-mail to you so the kid can get more information. So here is.

choyun hsu wrote:

S.C.

Please forward this bunch of materials to Wen-hsuen.

This young man deserves our encouragement.

Thanks,

Choyun

Note: forwarded message attached.

Subject: Re: I-Search Research Paper

Date: Sun, 11 Feb 2001 21:32:32 -0800

From: Eric Cheng <diox-@dioxide.net>

To: choyun hsu <hsu-@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Hsu,

I have received your two messages and I thank you so much for taking the time to answer my questions. I am especially grateful for you writing your lengthy and detailed account to me in your condition. I was very excited to read what you responded, because it will help my paper immensely. Ever since my grandparents have mentioned little things about a terrible memory of their past, I have been interested about what happened in China in World War II. Your vivid description was fascinating as it was informative of the horrible events that took place during that time and this has encouraged me to continuing researching and learning more.

I actually found your name listed as an Expert on the Princeton University Nanking site, and thought that you would be a good person to talk to, which you were! I thank you for your openness to helping me further and the time you have spent to aid my research paper.

Thank you again and regards,

Eric Cheng, Los Altos, CA

choyun hsu wrote:

Dear Eric: I hope you have received my message. Now, let me briefly answer your questions. Yes, Japanese did commit all those crimes you mentioned. The number of people killed by Japanese in the first week of their occupation of Nanking is estimated about two hundred thousands, most of whom were civilians, while some were disbanded unarmed soldiers. I assume you have read Iris Chang's RAPE OF NANKING [1997] . The total casualty in eight year war is hard to count because the chaotic condition and the prolonged disorder during war period prevent to have good statistics. It is estimated that seven million soldiers died in combat, and roughly same number of civilians died along battle line or under Japanese oppression. In my own experience, for instance, I witnessed Japanese pilots machine-gunned over two hundreds civilian refugee on a river boat marked clearly the sign of International Red Cross. I also saw Chunking burned to ground after heavy bombardment of air raid. The entire city of Wanhsien was completely wiped out after two days of unceasing air raids. My family was scattered in many places. I and my parents hardly stayed in one place more than a few months. The impact of War upon China is tremendous. Starvation, malnutrition, sufferance on the road of constantly fleeing. All these caused my generation growing up smaller and more vulnerable than people of your cohorts. Run-away inflation and destruction of industries made China virtually collapsed. At the end of War, CHINA WAS BLEEDING TO WHITE !

All these trauma was not known to the Americans, because usually the people here cared more on what happened in European War Theatre, and that China fell into Civil War right after the WW II was over and then divided subsequently also complicated the situation. Japanese rightist faction so far still show no remorse of their crimes. Last week a Japanese Foudation distributes thousands copies of a book claiming that the Nanking massacre is fabricated by Chinese in order to smear the noble cause of Japanese "liberation of China" ! I grew up in the war years. What I said here is my own memory and experience. Being a historian of ancient China, I do not claim expertise on modern history. Therefore, I suggest that you get in contact with two of my friends as I have mentioned in the previous letter. Nevertheless, you are welcomed to call me when you feel I can help.

By the way, is there some one who suggested to you to reach me ? Is such a person knowing me personally ? If he or she happens to be an old friend of mine, please let me know.

Best wishes,
Choyun Hsu

University Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh, and Seman
Distinguished Visiting Professor, Duke Universty

--- Eric Cheng <diox-@dioxide.net>; wrote:

Hello,

My name is Eric Cheng and I am a sophomore at Los Altos High School in California. In my English class, we've begun work on a fairly large I-Search research assignment where we choose a topic of our choice; I've chosen the topic of the Japanese atrocities committed in China during the time of World War II. As almost nobody in my generation has even heard of what happened in China during that time around here, I think this would be beneficial to inform at least a room of honors English students of the truth which I am trying to discover.

I would like to ask you a few questions over e-mail as an interview.

Because of your extensive knowledge and research done on the topic, I think that an interview with an expert such as yourself would give me much more to write, help the validity of the paper, and give me much more insight on the topic. Please consider this and if you could answer some or any of these questions, I would be very grateful. Horrible atrocities committed by the Japanese military in China during World War II are slowly gaining public awareness.

Did such war crimes really occur? Are they exaggerated?

Were disarmed soldiers mass executed and civilians massacred by the Japanese military?

Did the Japanese experiment with biological weapons on the Chinese people?

Were Chinese females, from young children to elderly women, raped indiscriminately?

It is said that many experts agree that around 300,000 Chinese people were killed and 20,000 women raped during the Nanking massacre alone.

Do you agree with these numbers? If not, what is your opinion?

What do you think is the approximate total death toll of Chinese people at the hands of Japan during World War II?

What were the physical, psychological, and monetary affects of China after this war?

Why do you think that the history of this period of time have remained buried for all this time?

Do you think Japan has apologized and/or made reparations for the damage it caused?

Do you think that the Japanese government has intentionally forgotten or avoided dealing with this time period?

Many thanks for your time and regards,
Eric Chen

15 Feb 2001 18:06:17 PST

Date: Thu, 15 Feb 2001 18:06:17 -0800 (PST)

From: choyun hsu <hsu-@yahoo.com>;

Subject: Fwd: Re: I-Search Research Paper

To: shichi chang <cha-@duq.edu>;

MIME-Version: 1.0

S.C.

Please forward this bunch of materials to Wen-hsuen.

This young man deserves our encouragement.

Thanks,

Choyun

RE: e-mail addresses

[David Allen](#)

Mar 13, 2001 13:50 PST

Natasha Petersen wrote:

Hi, again

Several subscribers have wanted to know the e-mail addresses of Weih sien subscribers. The only way that this can be done is for those who wish to give name and e-mail address should send an e-mail to weih-@topica.com; Each person then can copy into his own address book.

Mine is: Natasha Petersen nata-@roanoke.infi.net

I do hope that this works.

Get well cards

mtpre-@aol.com

Mar 15, 2001 04:57 PST

Hello, Everyone,

Jim Moore, one of the heroes who liberated the Weih sien concentration camp in 1945, is ill and struggling to get back into circulation. Jim lived in Chefoo from 1920 to 1936.

Let's shower him with get well cards. Tell him who you are and what you remember about the day his team liberated the camp.

Jim's address is: Jim Moore, 9605 Robin Song Street, Dallas, TX 75243, USA

Mary Taylor Previte

Mary Cookingham, Yenching Univ., Weih sien 1943

[ron_merritt](#)

Apr 09, 2001 08:37 PDT

Greetings:

I am researching the life of my grandfather's first cousin, Mary G. Cookingham, who worked at Yenching University from approx 1922 until 1948. She was held at the Weih sien Center until being repatriated back to the U.S. (with five other female staff from Yenching) in August 1943 on the Swedish ship M.S. Gripsholm. She returned to work at Yenching after WWII and stayed there until 1948. She was married late in life to a former colleague, Vernon Nash, whom she had known in China. Mary Cookingham Nash died in Santa Barbara, Calif in June 1978 at age 84. A collection of her papers and correspondence is on file at the Yale Univ. Divinity Library as are the papers of many other American civilians who worked in China before WWII. The Univ. of Oregon also has a collection of China Missionary documents that may be of interest to readers of this list.

I am interested to hear from anyone that may have a remembrance of Mary Cookingham. I would also like to learn how was the decision made to repatriate some persons from Weihsein to the U.S. in 1943?

Regards to all,

Ron Merritt

Re: Mary Cookingham, Yenching Univ., Weih sien 1943

mtpre-@aol.com

Apr 10, 2001 22:59 PDT

As you may remember, the Chefoo group arrived in Weih sien less than two weeks before the US internees left for their trip back to the States on the MS Gripsholm. So I have no recollection whatsoever of Mary Cookingham.

Ron Merritt may be able to find further information on Mary Cookingham's work at Yenching University from the Harvard - Yenching Research Center or from writings on Christian Universities in China. There was a gal (Lutz, I think her name was) who did a massive job of research on the Christian universities in China. Any books on or by Leighton Stewart, the former president of Yenching University, may also give further information. I have called my friend, Richard Chen, a Yenching University grad here in HongKong, but he has no

recollection

Concerning how the US repatriates were chosen, I can only refer you to Langdon Gilkey's SHANTUNG COMPOUND. As I recall, he addresses this question. I suspect that no military age men would have been allowed to go. Beyond that, I can only speculate.

James H. Taylor, HongKong

Mary Scott and softball

mtpre-@aol.com

Apr 21, 2001 14:14 PDT

Hello, Everyone,

Several of you have written of Mary Scott before. But you girls who learned from Mary Scott how to play softball in Weihsien will enjoy this chunk that was cut from my PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER MAGAZINE story about the camp (1985). I interviewed Mary Scott face to face when she was visiting my brother, Dr. John Taylor, in Dayton, Ohio, a few years ago. Mary Scott was still a dynamo and a saint.

"In Chefoo we had played all the proper -- very proper -- British games: tenni quoit, cricket, tennis, hockey, prisoners' base. In Weihsien, with its postage stamp field too small for baseball, Mary Scott introduced us to the joys of softball. A Nazarene missionary from America's heartlands, a lively English teacher from Hammond High, Mary Scott grew up the only girl in a family of seven brothers. They blistered her hands with hardball in the back yards and sandlots of Hammond, Indiana. This 5'2" dynamo could play like a pro. But the starvation diet was taking its toll. In the summer league games, when the Peking Panthers or the Tientsin Tigers ran out of men with enough stamina to finish a game, they called Mary Scott from the bench. It was unheard of in the 1940's -- a woman coming in to save the faltering male line up.

There was nothing Southern Cute nor Boston Brahmin about this ball of energy; Mary Scott was Midwest Wholesome. After school on the open space near our dormitory, she coached us girls in playing softball.

In Chefoo, sports had all been so prep-school-proper. For a brilliant run in cricket, we would clap politely or call demurely across the lawn, 'Well played, Sir!' But in Weihsien, when the Tientsin Tigers were whupping the Peking Panthers or the Priests' Padres in the softball games on summer evenings, we whooped, we hollered, we flipped hand springs, and slapped each other on the back. Our teachers shuddered. Alas! Exposed to the troubling new world in this prison camp melting pot, we might escape the war without falling prey to the triple threat of sin, sex, and sophistication, but from our first taste of softball it was clear that we would never escape the taint of American enthusiasm."

Mary T. Previte

Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien

[Donald Menzi](#)

May 01, 2001 18:50 PDT

My Grandparents, George and Gertrude Wilder, were interned in Weihsien from April to September, 1943, when they were repatriated on the Gripsholm. During that time, my grandmother painted 22 watercolors, each about 4 1/2" x 6 1/2", which she was able to smuggle out in the bottom of her sewing basket. Her subjects include: the front gate, the church, the noon bell, a view of the village west of the compound, the "white elephant," the moon gate, the south end of "Main Street," the hospital water tower, a watch tower, the part of the wall where the black market flourished, plus some other scenes.

I would be willing to make color copies of these paintings for any Weihsien internees who would like them. The

entire set would cost me \$13 to reproduce and mail, so if you would like copies, please send me a check for that amount and I will send you the copies of the paintings.

Many thanks to Mary Previte for telling me about this site. I hope that some of you will find the paintings enjoyable.

Re: Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien

[alison.holmes](#)

May 01, 2001 19:40 PDT

Hooray! Please send me copies of them all! I will gladly send you the cheque when I have an address to osend them to. [My address is Alison Holmes, 2985 E. Sunset Butte, Prescott, AZ 86301](#). Please, photocopy them on the best paper, with the best system, so that they will be a pleasure to frame together. Thanks so much

Re: Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien

[gordon](#)

May 01, 2001 22:43 PDT

Hi Alison

My name I Gordon Buist and I was 9 months old when we went into Weihsien, with my parents Fred and May and with my two older sisters Kathleen(5yrs) and beryl (3yrs). I don't know how old you were then, or if you remember much about the camp, but my parents were with the salvation Army.

I would love to hear from you again as this time I am sure it was by mistake. I received your message which I think was supposed to be sent to the guy who has the paintings but I seem to have received it in error. What luck. You may be interested to hear that Kathleen is living in Gloucestershire, England and is married to a retired farmer, Beryl has been in Philadelphia for 40 years and has a family and husband. Her husband is a Methodist minister. I have now retired (early I may say) and now live in a small town in Thailand. Mum and Dad have both passed on some years ago.

Life is good.

I would love to hear from you.

Gordon Buist.

Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien Camp

[Donald Menzi](#)

May 02, 2001 06:57 PDT

I forgot to include the mailing address in my email. To receive copies of the 22 watercolor paintings of Weihsien, you can send a check for \$13.00 to:

Donald Menzi

5 East 10th Street

New York, NY 10003.

Re: Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien

[Thompson](#)

May 02, 2001 08:54 PDT

Gordon, I remember with pleasure your Dad's cornet playing - as I'm sure does everyone who was in Weihsien CAC - wherever there was music, there was Capt. Buist. I confess that I was especially fascinated by the way he drew air in at the side of his mouth while playing !

Stan Thompson

Re: Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien

[gordon](#)

May 02, 2001 09:38 PDT

Good to hear from you. I will write again soon as I am off to bed as it is midnight here in Thailand.

regards

Gordon

Re: Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien

[Beard](#)

May 04, 2001 02:00 PDT

Dear Donald,

I want to order the 22 watercolours which you have kindly put on offer, but first need to check as to whether the cost of US\$13 is valid for overseas orders. So would you please advise what the cost would be for me in New Zealand. Have you any facility by which you could accept payment by Visa? If not, I can still make payment, but not having a US cheque account, I'd have to get a bank draft.

Sincerely,

David Beard

Re: Watercolor Paintings of Weihsien

[jim bryant](#)

May 04, 2001 17:52 PDT

Donald I'm not sure if you have given you address. where should I send the check or money order for the watercolor paintings?

Donald Menzi's water colors

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

May 04, 2001 18:05 PDT

Hello, Everybody,

I'm a little teary-eyed right now from poring over Donald Menzi's watercolors of Weihsien. What a gift!

And what an artist his Grandmother Wilder was! Her detail is extraordinary. I kept looking at one of the guard towers where the Japanese guards used to haul us kids up and over the wall when we "accidentally" threw our ball over the wall. They'd let us play over the wall for a few minutes while we searched for the ball. Moments of delicious freedom!

I'm thrilled at your numbering the Weihsien map to identify the site of each painting. Your paintings will flood each of us with memories. The canteen! The White Elephant Exchange! The church! My, oh, my!

These pictures are doubly important now that most of these buildings have been torn down.

Donald Menzi's watercolors of Weihsien

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

May 04, 2001 18:48 PDT

Hello, Everyone,

I'm a little teary-eyed right now from poring over Donald Menzi's watercolors of Weihsien. What a gift!

And what an artist Donald's Grandmother Wilder was! Her detail is extraordinary. I keep looking at one of the guard towers where the Japanese guards used to haul us Chefoo girls up and over the wall when we "accidentally" threw our ball over the wall. The guard tower was near the air raid shelter. Remember? They'd let us play over the wall for a few minutes while we searched for the ball. Moments of delicious freedom!

I'm thrilled that Donald has numbered the Weihsien map to identify the site of each painting. These paintings will flood each of us with memories. The canteen! The White Elephant Exchange! The church! My, oh, my! Bless my soul! What a gift!

These pictures are doubly important now that most of these buildings have been torn down.

Donald's Grandmother Wilder was an early prisoner in Weihsien, evacuated on the Gripsholm. They are distant relatives of American Pulitzer prize-winning writer, Thornton Wilder, who attended Chefoo School with my father, James Hudson Taylor. Americans will recognize the Thornton Wilder play, "Our Town," as a classic we all had to study in high school.

A Chinese municipal official from Shandong province recently linked me to Donald Menzi. This Shandong official had heard me tell the Weihsien story last November at the University of New Haven (Conn). The Provost at the university had invited me to speak there after he heard the National Public Radio broadcast last May about the liberation of Weihsien. The University of New Haven has a unique, six month management program for Chinese officials from Shandong and other provinces. The Provost said that Shandong officials would feel more

connected to America if they met an American who had lived in Shandong. My whirlwind visit worked like magic.

A couple of weeks ago, one of these Shandong officials told me about Donald Menzi. Donald, I hope you'll tell us all about your present work and of your travels to China.

Mary Taylor Previte

Address for Weihsien Paintings

[Donald Menzi](#)

May 07, 2001 08:47 PDT

For all those who didn't get (or didn't read) my second email, the place to send a check for \$14 for the Weihsien paintings is:

Donald Menzi
5 East 10th Street
New York, NY 10003

I will be waiting for a couple of weeks until I am sure I know how many copies to make, so please be patient.

Re: Address for Weihsien Paintings

[David Birch](#)

May 07, 2001 19:27 PDT

Donald,

Thank you very much for making these pictures available to us. I will be sending you a money order very soon for \$14. in U.S. funds along with my mailing address. My years as a young boy at Weihsien were among the most formative of my life, and from Mary Taylor Previte's description of your grandmother Wilder's watercolors I am sure I should have a set. Thanks again!

David Birch

Weihsien interneers connected via Good Housekeeping Magazine article

mtpre-@aol.com

May 10, 2001 19:29 PDT

Hello,

I just received a phone call from my cousin, regarding information on the Weihsien Compound. My mother was in the camp as well, and is the older sister of the people you have been in contact with (Isabell Sharp Gregoire, Lisa Gregoire - her daughter in law that you have been e-mailing). My mother is Myrtle (Sharp) Granger. She is 68 yrs. old, and a resident of Detroit, Michigan. I am her youngest daughter - Theresa Granger, and am 32 yrs. old.

I have heard stories all my life about this compound, and am waiting for my sister to finish the book, "Shantung Compound" so I can read it. My mother sketched a picture of the compound when she was younger and keeps the sketch in the book.

It was a great surprise to hear the news from my cousin, and I will be signing up for my mother, as she does not own a computer. Can you give any information (such as volume, etc.) of the Good Housekeeping magazine the article was in? I would like to contact the publishers to see if I can order a copy.

Thank you very much for all of the information you have provided us.

Sincerely,

Theresa M. Granger tt-@juno.com

May , 2001, issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine - page 85

Re: Weihsien interneers connected via Good Housekeeping Magazine article

[alison holmes](#)

May 11, 2001 08:09 PDT

What Good Housekeeping article?

RE: Weihsien internees connected via Good Housekeeping Magazine article

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

May 11, 2001 19:22 PDT

Dear Theresa. Thanks to me being an addressee to weisien@topica I received your message that you are anxious to obtain information about Weihsien Compound. My family and I who were residents of Tsingtao were interned from Pearl Harbour day until 17 August 1945. We were in the first batch of internees to arrive at Weihsien and we spent the rest of the War there. I was 13 years old when the War started and 17 when it ended. My autobiography was published just before last Christmas. It deals in considerable detail with life and events in that Compound until our liberation by members of US Parachute Infantry. It is not available in US bookstores (Yet?) but I can airmail a copy or copies to anybody desirous of purchasing it. A check for \$US17 would cover total costs of postage, conversion etc at current rates. My home address is 100 Coxs Road, North Ryde 2113 Australia. If you email your address I can send a copy immediately. Sincerely, Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

[Bob Bradbury] dneyn, Australia

Re:Weihsien internees connected via Good Housekeeping Magazine article

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

May 11, 2001 20:41 PDT

Hello, Everybody,

I'm answering Alison Martin Holmes's question about a recent magazine article about the Weihsien.

The May 2001 issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine has a brief story about the liberation of Weihsien and my tracking down our heroes. See page 85. It's entitled, "Finding Her Angels."

The writer heard the National Public Radio broadcast last May about the Liberation of Weihsien and decided to write this magazine story about it.

Several long lost Weihsien internees read this GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MAGAZINE article and have contacted me. I'm trying to get each one signed up onto our Weihsien Bulletin Board.

Donald Menzi is delaying reproducing and mailing his Grandmother Wilder's watercolors of Weihsien until everyone who wants them has dropped him a note and the money. He hopes to do one big reproduction and mailing. Believe me, these watercolors are worth having. With his mailing he includes a map of the camp, noting where each watercolor was drawn.

Speaking of artists, how many of you remember Mrs. Eileen Bazire, one of our Chefoo teachers? Mrs. Bazire was a musician and artist. Among her duties, she made magnificent drawings and watercolor posters announcing cultural events in the camp -- concerts, lectures. When I visited her in Bath, England, in 1985, she showed me a collection of these remarkable posters. She had saved them. Mrs. Bazire told me that at first she was permitted to post these posters all around the camp. Later, the Japanese made a rule that no posters were to be posted until they had first been reviewed and approved by the Japanese. Those which had been approved were marked with a small Japanese "chop" or seal.

Peter Bazire, do you have your mother's collection?

Mary T. Previte

xpressnews.com features story about Tad Nagaki, Weihsien liberator

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

May 14, 2001 18:20 PDT

Hello, Everybody,

Xpressnews.com features a fascinating front page story today about one of the heroes who liberated Weihsien. On its Internet news page it tells the story of Tad Nagaki, the Japanese-American who served as the Japanese interpreter on the team. The story is entitled They had Japanese Faces but American Hearts and American Minds.

You'll find the story at [xpressnews.com](#)

Talk about ripples! The author of this [xpressnews.com](#) story, Mary Wernke, of Alliance, Nebraska, read Mr.

Nagaki's name in the story in May 2001 issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine. It details my tracking down the heroes who liberated Weih sien . Mr. Nagaki also lives in Alliance, Nebraska. So she tracked down him down.

Be sure to click all the underlined phrases in the story to bring up several other related stories of this search for the heroes who liberated us from the Japanese. The author of xpressnews.com has reprinted several Associated Press stories of my finding these heroes.

Do comment on the xpressnews commentline. Let's encourage writers to produce more stories about these heroes.

Mary T. Previte

Thank you for the photo

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

May 19, 2001 00:58 PDT

Dear Desmond

Thanks for the photo. I only know three people in it - Leo, Boo-Boo Cameron and Jolly Cooke. Pity he is not here to see this.

I went to a camp internees reunion in Sydney last Wednesday. Only four from Weih sien - Alex Strangman, Treetee Dunjisha, Eddie and I, and our spouses.

Many from Shanghai and Hong Kong. Eight-course Chinese banquet - very yummy!

Still no results re: my Compensation. Am getting less confident.

Where are Tony and Betty Lambert now?

Regards

Joyce

Family of Weih sien internee asking for information

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

May 19, 2001 17:36 PDT

Hello, Everyone,

Can anyone send helpful information to this writer? Her aubt, Martha Kramer, was in Weih sien, evacuated on the Gripsholm.

Mary Previte

Dear Mary-

I can't tell you how pleased I was to hear from you. Just got home late yesterday from St. Louis, where my husband had some surgery (doing well, incidentally), thus the reason you haven't heard from me until today.

It was my husband's aunt, Martha M. Kramer, who was the internee at Weih sien.

She was Dean of the Home Ec Dept. at Yenching University (Peiping) from fall of 1937 until Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese took over the University and impounded the staff. She did not go to the camp until March of 1943, and was returned on the Gripsholm in Sept. of 1943. Her stay was blessedly short, but it changed her life. She was involved in the "egg shell" program, designed to get some calcium into the children, especially. We had a lot of her papers in our attic until we went to China ourselves, shortly before Hong Kong reverted back to the Chinese. After our trip, I was totally intrigued with her letters to family and friends, many of which had been returned to her after she came home. We decided they were too meaningful for the family, not to be put together into a book, and so I took it on as a personal project, eventually printing "Aunt Martha's China" for the family. If all goes well, we will return to China in August. One of these days, I would love to go to Weih sien-I understand that Tom Scovel, who also returned on the Gripsholm when Aunt Martha did, and with whom I have had contact, has been back on more than one occasion. Any information you could add to mine, would be greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Sue Kramer

[SueT-@aol.com](#)

RE: Martha M Kramer and others

[Ron Bridge](#)

May 20, 2001 04:49 PDT

Martha Kramer is listed in the New York Times of the 15th October 1943 as an evacuee who travelled on the Taia Maru to Goa India and then on the Gripsholm to the US. She is obviously not listed in the lists of inmates dated 30th June 1944

Coming from Beijing (Peking) she would probably have lived in a Room in Blocks 10 through 18.

The egg shell programme I well remember, the one egg a week ration each had the shell crushed between two spoons and fed to children - I was one.

On eth list of inmates I am still hoping to will the names of those beginning S after Stevens - Page missing - and after Monica Wulfson – Page torn. Anyone out there with a full list that can help.

For more general information I am working on a List of British Internees in the Far East which is now helping the British Govt establish eligibility for their payments. Where other nationals are involved I have included them Weih sien is fairly complete but I have not got a copy of the Catholic Fathers who were interned in March 1943 and sent to Peking in August 43 I have the Nuns. Can anyone help. Overall I have put together some 15,000 names of those detained in the Far East and adding more daily.

Ron Bridge

Originally Block 42 Room 6 then Block 13 Room 12.

Currently Chairman Association of British Civilian Internees of the Far East.

Re: Digest for weih-@topica.com, issue 124

[ron_merritt](#)

May 20, 2001 21:51 PDT

I was very interested to read the posting from the relative of Ms. Kramer, who was on faculty at Yenching Univ., and repatriated on the chartered Swedish vessel, M.S. Gripsholm in 1943. My relative, Mary Cookingham was Bursar at Yenching Univ before WWII and I have some correspondence addressed jointly to both Ms. Kramer and Mary Cookingham as they journeyed home on the Gripsholm. There were several other faculty members from Yenching Univ on the same trip of the Gripsholm. Mary Cookingham returned to Yenching after WWII and stayed until 1948.

Please contact me directly for more information.

Sincerely,

Ron Merritt

Yanbu, Saudi Arabia

ronme-@hotmail.com

Re: Weih sien internees connected via Good Housekeeping Magazine article

[theresa_m_granger](#)

May 21, 2001 05:44 PDT

Hello Joyce ~

I would love a copy of your book. Should I mail a check? Please let me know. It has been wonderful to read the e-mail that is circulated regarding Weih sien. My mother has been telling me stories of the place for as long as I can remember (I am 33), and she is enjoying reading the memories as well. Soon I will place one of her memories for everyone to read.

My address is: [Theresa Granger](#)

[19461 Poinciana](#)

[Redford, MI 48240 USA](#)

Sincerely,

[Theresa Granger](#)

memories

[Beryl Rogers](#)

May 23, 2001 07:06 PDT

My name is Beryl Buist Rogers - I was interned in Weihsien with my parents - Fred and May Buist who were with the Salvation Army and my sister Kathleen and brother Gordon. I was 2 years old when we went into the camp. I have many memories - strangely most of them happy as our parents protected us from all that was not pleasant. I do remember vividly the pantomimes that were put on and I remember the electricians daughter was the fairy and she was all lit up with lights. I also remember when the American planes flew over to liberate us. I was very scared as they seem to touch the roofs of our little huts - and there was so much confusion (at least in my eyes) as everyone was running around. I remember running out of the camp - the guards just standing there as everyone ran out of the compound.

I also remember the roll-call in the middle of the night after some of the internees escaped and we all had to stand outside our hut and be counted!

Thank you for sharing your memories. Especially when people remember my father playing the cornet. He has gone to be with the Lord now and he would have loved to have reminisced with us. Neither of my parents talked about camp - and we could not get them to - so this sharing now is great as it fills in the many gaps in my life. Do you remember my mother singing in the musical concerts that were put on. She had a beautiful voice.

Keep the news coming

Beryl Buist Rogers (I now live in Pennsylvania USA)

RE: memories

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

May 23, 2001 15:54 PDT

Dear Beryl. I was also an internee in Weihsien and have written a book about my experiences there. In it is mention of the Salvation Army, the escape you refer to, roll calls etc. I was 17 year old when we were released and still have an excellent recall of events during our incarceration. I think you would find the book most interesting as it gives an excellent account of that camp from its inception as a CAC until War's end. If you want a book I can air mail it to you immediately at a total cost of \$21 Australian or a US currency check for \$US16 would cover conversion and all other costs My address is 100 Coxs Road, North Ryde, 2113, Sydney Australia. Sincerely Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

RE: Weihsien internees connected via Good Housekeeping Magazine article

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

May 23, 2001 16:45 PDT

Dear Theresa. Sorry for delay but I have been away. I have posted air mail a book to you this morning. I hope you enjoy reading it. I would be happy to receive your check for \$US17 which covers all costs. My address is 100 Coxs Road, North Ryde 2113, Sydney, Australia. Sincerely, Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke.

(no subject)

[alison holmes](#)

May 25, 2001 07:35 PDT

For those who are new to this site and are interested in memories of Weihsien and China I cannot recommend too highly Pamela Maters' The Mushroom Years. This is solidly researched, vividly written. I thoroughly enjoyed it. She is a writer and delightful human being. To order pam-@hendersonhouse.com or fax 530 647 2000 phone 530 622 0851, Shall I put the mailing address? Why not? Henderson House Publishing 1390 Broadway, Suite B 295, Placerville, CA 95667. \$19.95, s&h 4. It's well worth it! I have no interest in recommending this, I just loved it!!!

Australian Government ex Gratia Payment to former PoWs/Internees of Japan 1941/4

[Ron Bridge](#)

May 27, 2001 06:20 PDT

The Australian Government has followed the lead of Canada, Isle of Man, United Kingdom and New Zealand to

award a payment to former internees of the Japanese qualifying date is to be alive 01Jan2001. Currently Canada has restricted their recognition to those that were in the Canadian Military. Details of the Australian Scheme are on www.dva.gov.au/media/aboutus/budget/budget01/budget2.htm

Rgds
Ron Brideg
Chairman
ABCIFER

Weih sien liberators

mtpre-@aol.com

May 29, 2001 04:35 PDT

Hello, Everyone,

Keeping in touch with our Weih sien heroes ranks near the top of the delights of my life. This Memorial Day weekend, I chatted by phone with all the team or their widows.

Actually, Jim Moore and Carol Orlich phoned me first, because the mailman had just delivered to them another flurry of hero worship letters from Girl Scouts and school children. In February, when I was telling this amazing story to 4th graders who had been studying World War II at a local school, I asked the children if they'd like to write to my heroes. You should have seen the hands waving in the air. These three classes of 4th graders made hand made Valentines Day cards and mailed them to the team. I wish you could have heard the reaction from the team.

Since then, when I speak to children's and youth groups -- (that happens quite often) -- I take along the names and addresses of the team to pass out to these spellbound young listeners. It's pure joy for the children who send and, believe me, to the team that receives. Several of our heroes are now very frail and isolated and this mail brings joy.

Major Stanley Staiger continues in very poor health. He told me yesterday that he doesn't drive any more. Tad Nagaki still farms-- bless him! -- in Alliance, Nebraska. Jim Hannon and his wife are about to move from California's high desert closer to civilization. They've have both had a series of health problems this year. Jim continues writing -- and connecting with people interested in producing movies from the two books he has written.

Teeth, hips, knees, back, heart -- these are the trouble spots for our heroes who are now all in their 80s.

By the way, Carol Orlich -- widow of Pete Orlich, the radio operator on our rescue team -- will celebrate her 80th birthday on June 13. What a delight she is! Send her a card or a note. Her address is 15727 20th Road, Whiteston, NY 11357 Pete orlich was the youngest member of the team -- age 21 the day he parachuted into the fields beyond the barrier walls of our "Civilian Assembly Center."

Mary Previte

Re: memories

[Beryl Rogers](mailto:Beryl.Rogers)

Jun 06, 2001 05:53 PDT

Dear Joyce:

Yes I would like to order the book you mention. My address is PO Box 387, Warrington PA 18976, USA I will get a check to you for \$16.00 US correct - let me know.

Beryl Rogers

RE: memories

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

Jun 07, 2001 21:08 PDT

Dear Beryl. Thank you \$US16 will be fine. I have posted the book to you a few minutes ago. I do hope you like it. Best regards. Joyce Bradbury.

Wilder pictures

[alison holmes](#)

Jun 11, 2001 14:48 PDT

These are just gems! I am surprised at how green it all looks, the cosiness of the views, the big trees by the church....my strongest memories are of the bare field outside the church, and of the alfalfa we picked on the rolling ground above the air raid shelter near the morgue. What a gift parcel it is, with the maps, diary excerpts and all. How different it looks with the student blocks having little gates into their courtyards. We were in block fifteen, looking straight out at block 23. That was where we made our coal balls, grew our castor oil plants, and the morning glories.

I hope, Donald, that my other parcel is coming...I sent you a second cheque on the 7th May knowing that you needed to have all the orders in when you were doing the printing and I wanted to send three sets to my siblings.

Those of you who haven't asked for them yet should do so! It really is a total delight! Thank you so much, Donald. Great to think of your grandma smiling at her work bringing so much pleasure to so many at this late date. Thank you, thank you!

Lushan - Kuling Statistics

[David Allen](#)

Jun 11, 2001 21:44 PDT

Dear Weihsien and Kuling Classmates: 6/11/2001

Sorry but this info is for those who were in Kuling and much is about myself. I'm sorry about that. They come out of my letters and were then sorted into categories. Activities; Book read; Weight and height statistics while growing up ; places hiked with dates; Beginning and ending of terms etc. If you hate statistics this might bore you.

Date Cat Events

4/13/42 A Sport scores: Livingstone 257; Patton 119; Carey 78
4/13/42 A Wally Desterhaft high jump 5' 3 1/2"
4/22/49 A High jump : 1st at 4' 9"
4/30/49 A My Long jump record: 12" 6"
5/3/49 A I win cricket throw 188 ft 4"
5/3/49 A I win shot put 28' 5"
5/6/49 A I win high jump 4' 3"
5/6/49 A I broadjump 15 ft; In USA in 1947 did 13 ft 1 "
6/16/49 A Cricket match and BasEball game on Whole Holiday
2/3/50 A Saturday Scouting: Stalking, Rock climbing, discussions
4/14/50 A High jump 4' 11"
4/22/50 A Shot put 33" 4" my winning shot.
4/22/50 A 90 yd dash I came in 4th
4/22/50 A 200 yard dash I came in second
4/22/50 A Long jump: 1st at 15" 11"
4/22/50 A 440 yards run: 2nd after Keith Butler
5/17/50 A Junior Sports Day races
6/1/42 B Aladdin and his wonderful lamp
9/12/48 B Austin Boy's Adrift read
9/13/48 B Austin Boys Marooned read
9/14/48 B Fighting for Freedom read
10/24/48 B Twelve Famous Evangelists read
12/12/48 B Greenmantle by John Buchan read
1/8/49 B Three hostages: Mr & Mrs Porteus read
1/11/49 B Story of Baden Powell read

1/19/49 B Swiss Family Robinson read
 1/23/49 B Wolf Ear the Indian read
 1/25/49 B I will repay by Baroness Orczy read
 1/25/49 B Mystery of the Broken Bowl and Stolen scrolls read
 1/27/49 B The scarlet ship read
 2/17/49 B Pickwick papers read by Mr Houghton
 2/21/49 B Through Forest and Fire by Edward S. Ellis read
 2/24/49 B Abraham Lincoln's life read
 2/25/49 B The Bells of Enderberry read
 2/25/49 B Assignment to Brittany by Baroness Orczy read
 2/29/49 B In the grip of the Druids read by Mr Houghton
 3/10/49 B Paris - Underground read
 3/27/49 B The Flight of the Heron read
 4/11/49 B The two gangs read
 4/17/49 B Peter the Whaler read
 5/1/49 B Story of Eric Liddell read
 5/12/49 B Dr Apricot of Heaven Below read
 6/4/49 B The Nazarene read by Mr Houghton to us
 6/10/49 B The restraining hand by R.A. Bosshart read
 7/7/49 B Life of George Washington Carver read
 7/20/49 B The Rover Boys on Treasure Isle read
 8/6/49 B Feversham's Fag read
 8/9/49 B Hanand's Investigations
 8/10/49 B King Solomon's mines by Rider Haggard read
 8/16/49 B Seven Sea Stories read
 8/18/49 B The Golden Mirage read
 12/5/49 B The mutiny of the Flying Spray read
 12/7/49 B Over the Rockies with the Airmail read
 12/9/49 B The Spanish Brothers read
 12/9/49 B The nine Taylors read by Mr Martin
 12/18/49 B Twice Lost read
 12/20/49 B The Ghost of Exlia Priory read
 12/21/49 B Done and Dared in Old France read
 12/22/49 B Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens read
 12/23/49 B The Lost Trail read
 12/23/49 B Midwinter read
 12/24/49 B Spirit of the Border by Zane Grey read
 12/25/49 B A girl of the Limberlost by Porter read
 12/27/49 B The Life of Edward Bok read
 1/17/50 B The Fifth form of St. Dominics read
 2/10/50 B The Scarlet Pimpernel read
 3/31/50 B Beau Geste read
 4/1/50 B I am Graf Spe's prisoner read by Mr Houghton
 4/13/50 B Middle Temple murder read
 4/13/50 B Last of the Mohicans by Fenimore Cooper read
 5/10/50 B The Boys of Gresham House read
 5/10/50 B Dr Main of Hangchow read
 5/19/50 B King Solomon's Mines read by teachers to us
 5/22/50 B Ladder of swords read
 6/13/50 B Twelfth Night read
 10/24/44 Bd Phillip Paulson's birthday
 10/24/44 Bd Torge Torgerson birthday
 2/7/44 D Eric Liddell died
 4/7/49 D Mrs Wupperfeld died 1 AM
 3/22/49 E Mr Moyer and Miss Dolder married
 4/2/49 E Mr Searle and Miss Draffin married
 4/20/49 E Being restricted to hikes in view of school

12/25/49 E Santa Claus comes in thru bay window in Assembly Hall
 12/25/49 E Punch and Judy Show
 2/16/50 E Set toboggan record down ice ramp on ball field.
 4/22/50 E End of term concert
 4/22/50 E David Simpkin show collection of twigs leaves and trees.
 7/24/50 E Not allowed to swim unless water temp 60 F
 10/3/48 H Hike to Paradise Pools to swim
 11/2/48 H Played attackers and defenders
 12/3/48 H Hike to Lions Leap
 12/16/48 H Hike to Hun Yuang Peak via Temple in the clouds
 12/18/48 H Hike to Cave of the Immortals
 12/23/48 H Pine cone fights up at the cemetery
 1/14/49 H Hike to Heights of Abraham
 3/19/49 H Hike to Morris hill and Russian Valley
 3/27/49 H Hike to Emerald Grotto and Stone Bridge
 4/16/49 H Hike to Russian valley and water cistern
 5/8/49 H Hike to Monkey Ridge
 5/10/49 H Hike to Hun Yuang Peak
 5/12/49 H Hike to Paradise Pools to swim
 7/6/49 H Hike to Three Graces (waterfalls)
 8/10/49 H Hike to Temple in the Clouds via Nankong pass
 8/10/49 H Then on to Hun Yuang peak.
 8/19/49 H Hike to Poyang Ridge beyond Monkey Ridge
 10/1/49 H Hike to Wolf's Ravine ... Stone Bridge ... Dark Forest
 10/1/49 H Then Three Trees and home.
 10/26/49 H Trip to Hun Yuang peak
 11/20/49 H Trip to Elephant Hill via pagoda.
 11/20/49 H Wildfire on hillsides around Lushan
 12/9/49 H Hike to West Valley to ruined house for slate.
 12/9/49 H Piece of slate carved with school emblem
 1/10/50 H Hike to Botanical Gardens and Nankong Pass
 1/14/50 H Hike to Heights of Abraham
 1/16/50 H Hike to Hun Yuang Peak
 1/20/50 H Hike to Sunset ridge above monument
 1/23/50 H Hike to Russian Valley Bridge
 1/24/50 H Tree competition: Identify 22 trees
 1/24/50 H Trip via Dragons Tooth Tingtse, Larch Forest
 2/5/50 H Hike to Bell Tower with Stephen & Norman Austin
 3/4/50 H Hike to Russian Valley
 3/26/50 H Hike to Russian Valley: Gordon C. & Stephen A.
 4/9/50 H Hike to Pine Walk
 4/30/50 H Hike to Elephant walk with Gordon A.
 5/1/50 H Hike to Three Graces (waterfalls)
 5/2/50 H Adventure badge journey: See separate details
 5/4/50 H Trip for Venturer Badge: see details
 5/10/50 H Hike to Pine walk
 5/20/50 H Trip to three graces
 6/11/50 H Hike to West Valley
 10/10/41 J No letters from 10/10/41 - 4/12/42 to parents
 10/3/41 M Robert Clow with scarlet fever
 10/10/41 M School quarantine for scarlet fever
 5/25/42 M Paul Thompson broke his arm: taken by Japs to hospital
 6/29/42 M I come down with Heat stroke - temp 105 F
 6/2/42 S Dudley Woodberry & Grace Woodberry leave for America
 6/2/42 S Eddie Lindberg leave Chefoo for America
 1/27/49 S Shanghai party returns from vacation holiday.
 1/26/50 S Nanking party returns from vacation holiday.

9/8/41 W Height Weight 58 lbs
3/25/42 W Height 4' 9" Weight 77 lbs
1/12/44 W Height Weight 70 lbs (Weihsien diet)
2/23/49 W Height 5' 8 1/2" Weight 137 lbs Stretch 5' 9"
6/18/49 W Height 5" 9" Weight 133 lbs
2/1/50 W Height 5" 10" Weight 148 lbs
3/10/50 W Height 5" 10 1/2" Weight 152 lbs
10/26/48 X Ice storm at Kuling - 30 power lines down
1/29/49 Y Starting of new term
4/3/49 Y New Class schedule
6/25/49 Y Helped Miss Bromiley clean Laboratory
7/25/49 Y Exams and end of term
12/6/49 Y End of school term
12/6/49 Y 12/6 to 1/18 Winter Holidays - Yunnan group excluded
1/18/50 Y Start of new term
4/22/50 Y End of term
5/8/50 Y Beginning of new term
7/24/50 Y End of Term
5/18/48 Z Communist soldiers hike up to Kuling

I trust that the hikes I listed brought back some fond memories of hikes you took and sled rides down onto the ball field. You will notice that in 2 years of Weihsien diet I lost 7 pounds when I should have gained 20 pounds. You will also see that I did quite a bit of reading. That was because I spent a lot of time in sick bay with boils etc.

Something I tried to pass on was the love of being read to by the teachers. My kids were too busy in athletic events to spend time reading. I still love to read.

Regards, David Allen dan-@fidalgo.net

Re: Lushan - Kuling Statistics

alison.holmes

Jun 12, 2001 08:00 PDT

Thanks David! It was a great list...and showed how very well read we were indeed! I remember the Girl of the Limberlost because there was a scene where there were pink and gold water lilies in a bedroom with pink and gold counterpane and someone said Very French! and when-ever I see pink and gold together I mutter under my breath Very French. How funny to have Pa read The Nine Tailors...a Dorothy Sayers book involving bell ringers in East Anglia. We lived in such a curious little bubble...I wish we had spent more time learning about Chinese history and literature...what was the name of our language teacher? But truly we were blessed to live in such a spot...and the hikes were spectacular. Remember the azaleas in bloom along the contour paths? Jolly impressive long jumping. Thank you for reminding me of so many names and places.

Re: Lushan - Kuling Statistics

mtpre-@aol.com

Jun 12, 2001 16:31 PDT

David, what a fascinating record! You make me wish again and again that I had kept such notes.

Your list of books brings back a flood of memories. I loved The Scarlet Pimpernel. Does anyone remember our teachers reading Les Miserable to us?

Have all of you received the remarkable set of drawings of Weihsien from Donald Wilder Menzi? They were painted by his Grandmother Gertrude Wilder, who speny six months in Weihsien before being evacuated on the Gripsholm. I can't say enough thank yous, Donald. What a gift to all of us!

Mary Previte

Re: Lushan - Kuling Statistics

SueT-@aol.com

Jun 12, 2001 19:54 PDT

Hi-this is Sue Kramer speaking, and my computer crashed last week, and is just now up and running again, so I lost a lot of stuff. I would really love to have a set of the pictures you spoke of, but do not remember how to make contact. Can you please help? thank you, Sue

(no subject)

[alison holmes](#)

Jun 12, 2001 20:00 PDT

Thank you Donald! Two more copies have come today!

Re: Lushan - Kuling Statistics

[Donald Menzi](#)

Jun 12, 2001 22:43 PDT

I have just sent out 16 sets of the Weihsien paintings to those who requested them. You should be receiving them in a few days.

Hope you enjoy them.

I still have four sets left from the first batch of 20 that I had copied. We're off to China for three weeks, including a day in Weihsien, so I won't be able to respond to any more requests for a while.

Sue Kramer's request for information

[Donald Menzi](#)

Jun 12, 2001 22:43 PDT

Sorry about your computer crashing. I've had some misfortunes too lately.

I think it's the sunspot cycle or something.

To get a set of the Weihsien paintings, send a check for \$20 to me at the following address:

Donald Menzi
5 EAst 10th Street
New York, NY 10003

The cost has gone up because I decided they should really be printed on heavy weight paper, which costs 50% more. I was fortunate on the first batch of 20 sets to get a lower price because the print shop was running a special on multiple copies printed directly from disk. The special is over, so from now on I have to pay \$1.50 per sheet, which contains two paintings, plus postage. I think that you will find that this is still a bargain.

Re: memories

[Beryl Rogers](#)

Jun 14, 2001 05:35 PDT

Dear Joyce:

I have received your book - that was fast - I hope the US mail is as fast as yours with my check to you. I am already into the book - enjoying it immensely. thank you so much

Beryl

Re: memories

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

Jun 18, 2001 15:42 PDT

Dear Beryl. Your check arrived yesterday 18th. Thank you. Joyce Bradbury.

Re: memories

[theresa m granger](#)

Jun 20, 2001 07:42 PDT

Joyce, I apologize - the check for your book is going out in the mail today. My computer was down for a while,

and I did not write your address on paper. Thank you for the book - I read through it before giving it to my mother.

(no subject)

[alison holmes](#)

Jun 20, 2001 09:09 PDT

I have lost Donald's email address so excuse me for doing private business in public! I have received three out of the four sets of the Wilder watercolours and would dearly like the last set to send on to my brother. Hope the trip to Weihsien was interesting for you. It is certainly a very different place from the paintings. The people at the middle school are unfailingly polite and helpful with all these emotional visitors who are transported back in time. How lucky we are to have lived through and seen such things. Thanks....

Re:

[Beryl Rogers](#)

Jun 20, 2001 10:10 PDT

Dear Alison:

Read your e-mail and was intrigued with the fact that you went back to Weihsien. I am planning a 4 day trip to Beijing in September and was wondering if it is difficult to travel up to Weihsien and if we would be allowed. How did you get there? If you or anyone has any hints, please let me know. Could it be done in one day?

Thanks

Beryl

Re:

[alison holmes](#)

Jun 20, 2001 19:39 PDT

I think someone like Stanley Nordmo or almost anyone could answer you better than I can! I know we travelled over night from Beijing to Weifang and were champing at the bit to get to the site whilst everyone was having siestas...so we just took off It is so different to find that the town is right around the site. Check with your travel agent or guide. If you are going such a long way four nights is not enough time...unless you are going to go to other parts of China of course. It's really worth the trip if you have time to see how strong your memories are...when we found ourselves on the playing field we were just breathless....and standing in the school and looking out as if from block 23 onto our home had us both in tears. Block 15 had been pulled down but the one behind was in complete chaos...and showed us the view from our accommodation. We went and had tea with a delightful young couple who asked us in and to be in the exact size of room was incredibly vivid on our nerve endings. Elisabeth spent much of the war in the hospital with TB and she found her bed now used by a young woman with all her belongings tucked underneath. So it was a great, great visit for us...but I am no good at giving you travel details! Sorry...and let us know how it was for you if you go.

Re:

[Beryl Rogers](#)

Jun 21, 2001 06:49 PDT

Dear Alison

Thank you for your comments. We are going to Korea - our son is stationed there in the US Army and are taking this 4 days trip to Peking. You are right - it probably is not enough time. I will let you know if we go!

Beryl

Re: Australian Government ex Gratia Payment to former PoWs/Internees of Japan 19

[David Birch](#)

Jun 29, 2001 08:49 PDT

Ron,

Have you heard whether there is any move afoot by the Canadian government to recognize civilian internment of WWII with financial compensation as the British government and Australian government have done.

I do earnestly hope that something will come from all your efforts for those of us here in Canada. After all, we

were British subjects during the time of our incarceration and all that we suffered as a result of those years under the Japanese. If nothing is going to come of this for us at all, will we be refunded the hundreds of dollars we paid for membership in ABCIFER. I'm almost ashamed even to mention this, but the reality is that I am in very modest financial circumstances. My hopes were greatly built up through ABCIFER and I very sincerely hope that something truly worthwhile will come of your laudatory efforts. Again, please do not misunderstand me Ron. I am most grateful for all that you have done and are now doing to try to bring about a just settlement for us.
Very sincerely

David Birch
WWII Civilian Internee
Chefoo(Temple Hill)
Weihsien

RE: Australian Government ex Gratia Payment to former PoWs/Internees of Japan 19

[Ron Bridge](#)

Jun 30, 2001 02:16 PDT

The UK Government have paid a lot of people who were British at the time and where they live is of no consequence, we know of hundreds in Australia/Canada/USA/Europe/South Africa/ New Zealand et al. ON the 25th June they changed the definition of British and are excluding at this time those who do not have at least one parent or grandparent born in the UK.

This ABCIFER are fighting tooth and nail and will win. Parliament is already well briefed. The Australian Scheme and NZ scheme restrict payment those that had residence in Australia or NZ prior to being captured. The UK are liaising with those Governments to ensure that there are not double payments thus there might now be hold ups to those that fall into those categories. AS the ABCIFER the case\ in Tokyo is going ahead the date of the next hearing is still not known, there is some delay because the Dutch case has complications in that Japan apparently misread the Stikker protocol of the 1951 Peace Treaty, Sticker, the then Dutch foreign minister did a Deal with Japan that although the Peace Treaty precluded Holland seeking reparations from Japan it did not stop Dutch citizens in their own right seeking damages.

I watch that space with interest.

Meanwhile those living in Canada could well help the cause by asking their Member of Parliament why has Ottawa singled out payments to former POWS and excluded civilians it is the only Commonwealth Government to do so. Similarly those in the US could well pester their Senators/Representatives and ask why did the US Govt pay the Nissei for unconvincing them whilst those that suffered for being American are left to their own devices. There is a Bill present before the House of Rep seeking action under Article 26 of the peace Treaty. To refresh you this allows for any government to re-open the Peace treaty if Japan does a better deal with any other country, to date 17 countries have benefited better than the UK and probably the same for the US. IT was\ because of ABCIFER's very real preparations to go to the European Court of Human Rights that the UK GOvt decided effectively to settle out of court. Trying to modify that now means that we may yet see them in Court. Trust that answers your query.

RE: memories

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

Jul 07, 2001 23:48 PDT

Dear Theresa. Many thanks for your check, glad your mother enjoyed reading the book. I am sending books to various people who were in Weihsien living in many different parts of the World. I am still waiting for advice from the British Govt as to whether I am eligible for compensation for internment as I cannot prove a parent or grandparent was born in England although my great-grandfather undoubtedly was. But I will have to wait and see. Good luck. Joyce Bradbury.

Visit to Weihsien (re-sent)

[Donald Menzi](#)

Jul 08, 2001 09:32 PDT

NOTE: I tried sending the following message with four photos attached, but it was rejected because the photos exceeded the message size that topica would allow. Anyone who wants the photos should contact me and I will send them to you directly.

=====
My family and I just returned from three weeks in China that included a visit to Weihsien. We found only two of the "old" buildings surviving. Both were "out of bounds" to internees. For those of you who requested my grandmother's paintings, their upper parts appear behind the wall in paintings #14 and #15.

The main school building has been replaced by a building whose design echoes the original, with a central section higher than the sides.

The area where the internees lived is now a running track.

We were received cordially by the Principal, and copies of Gertrude Wilder's paintings and the portion of my grandfather's diary dealing with their internment were accepted with thanks. They will be included in their historical collection, which is not presently being exhibited but will be on display at some time in the future.

Those of you who ordered pictures just before we left, or whose orders are still incomplete should receive them within a week. I would like very much to hear your reactions or recollections upon seeing them.

Re: memories

[theresa m granger](#)

Jul 09, 2001 10:39 PDT

Joyce, how would I begin to research whether my mother would qualify for any compensation? She was actually born in China (Tinsin- ?). Her parents are from the US (father) and Japan (mother). If there is any way I can research this, please let me know. Thank you very much, I appreciate it.

~Theresa

RE: memories

[Ron Bridge](#)

Jul 09, 2001 15:43 PDT

Teresa,

The British Government are making an ex- gratia payment to British Nationals who were interned in by the Japanese.

AT the present time they are even qualifying the term British in that the claimant, or one of the claimants parents or grandparents must have been born in the UK but remember if it was before 1922 Ireland counted as well.

The Australian and NZ Governemnbts have got similar schemes. Canada has not included civilians at the time the US has not got a scheme at all and of course Japan is still denying there was a war.

RE: memories

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

Jul 09, 2001 23:38 PDT

Theresa. As I understand it the British Government agreed to pay an Ex Gratia Payment to ex-civilian internees who were British citizens at the time of their internment. The Government appears to be now saying they will only pay people who had a parent or grandparent born in England. I understand that ABCIFER is trying to have the definition extended but this is presently subject of final determination. I suggest you contact your local British Consul, or Embassy and ask them to send you a form to enable you to apply and that way you will know for sure whether you or your mother may be eligible. No doubt you have read the email from Ron Bridge who knows more about this than I do. Good luck. Joyce.

Re: memories

[Beard](#)

Jul 10, 2001 01:32 PDT

The British Government accepted the following documentation from my husband:

His own birth certificate - he was born in a British Concession of China and his birth was registered with the

British Consul.

Birth certificates of both parents who were born in England.

Birth certificates of the four grandparents who were also born in England.

Marriage certificate of his parents - this was registered with the British Consul in China.

Marriage certificates of both sets of grandparents who were all married in England.

Three printouts of the 1881 UK Census showing three of the grandparents resident in England in 1881.

As we couldn't reliably identify the fourth grandparent in the 1881 Census, we sent copies of his military record in the Coldstream Guards and his death certificate.

To get verified birth/marriage certificates we downloaded application forms from

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/registration/certificates.asp>

We had done our own research to get GRO index reference quotes, by using St Catherine's Index which is held on microfiche in New Zealand National Library and is also held by most LDS (Mormon) Family History Centres. This cut down the cost to 24 pounds for priority service for each certificate, but this still amounted to a lot of money especially with the low exchange rate on the \$NZ.

We faxed the completed forms to the Family Record Centre and the certificates were posted to us.

We heaved a sigh of relief!

Margaret Beard

ex-gratia payment

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Jul 15, 2001 11:52 PDT

Dear Weihsieners,

I received a form letter from the War Pensions Agency that I am not eligible to receive the ex-gratia payment.

None of my parents, nor grandparents was born in Great Britain. (specific reason not given), but that is the only measure that I cannot claim.

What are the chances of changing this particular criterion? I don't suppose that I can do anything at this time!

Natalie Somoff (in Weihsien)

Natasha Petersen (now)

Re: Sue Kramer's request for information

[Beryl Rogers](#)

Jul 17, 2001 13:01 PDT

Hi Donald

I sent a check back in the beginning of June for two sets. Have you sent them yet as I am concerned that nothing has arrived yet. You did mention that you were get some more copies made. Thanks for checking for me.

Beryl Rogers

Re: Sue Kramer's request for information

[alison holmes](#)

Jul 17, 2001 17:23 PDT

Thank you so much Donald for sending me my last packet! I am sure you have been busy catching up after your China trip and I really appreciate your thoughtfulness in sharing these gems with us. My siblings are delighted.

Thanks

RE: ex-gratia payment

[Ron Bridge](#)

Jul 18, 2001 14:02 PDT

Natasha,

I am working on it. there are 600 of the 2452 civilian claims rejected for this reason, Parliament is trying to sort it out as the

Re: Fw: (no subject)

[alison holmes](#)

Jul 23, 2001 13:26 PDT

Not enough info on this for me to be happy to open it...there is a virus creeping around at the moment...and so I return this to you.

Re: Fw: (no subject)

[Beard](#)

Jul 23, 2001 14:33 PDT

I wouldn't open it either. Jim, Can you past it in plain text into the main body of the email message?

margaret Beard

"Justice for US POW Act of 2001"

[Thompson](#)

Aug 01, 2001 13:12 PDT

For anyone interested, a bill (S.1154) will soon come before the US Senate offering Senate support of the Claims Settlement Agreement (3 UST 3169) signed by Japan on Sept 8th, 1951, in which Japan clearly agreed to accept liability for illegal and inhumane conduct towards members of the Armed Forces of the Allied Powers held as prisoners of war.

Some US servicemen were very badly treated by the Japanese during WW2, mostly in the Philippines and in Japan. A few of these guys are still alive. They should probably be entitled to some retroactive pay for the forced labor they did for Japanese companies while they were prisoners of war.

As I understand it, S.1154 is an effort to reaffirm the right of these surviving POW's to ask for this kind of compensation from Japanese individuals or companies, as laid out in article 26 of the 1951 Claims Settlement Agreement, by :

1.) dismissing the Japanese Corporate lobbyist's claim that article 14(b) of the same 1951 treaty constitutes a waiver of this right for US servicemen !

2.) making available the information on the use of POWs in chemical and biological tests; information that was handed over to the US by the Japanese Government at the end of WW2.

You can get more information about this situation

a - by watching Ted Koppel (ABC Nightline) some night this week

b - by e-mailing Wendy Behan at wbe-@hermanmathis.com

c - by checking the website www.justiceforveterans.org

If you think this bill is a good idea, you might want to write to your senator.

Stan Thompson

VJ Day 15.08.2001

[Beard](#)

Aug 15, 2001 02:58 PDT

NZ probably led the world to-day in being the first to celebrate VJ Day No 56. In the capital, Wellington, at 11am (NZ time), our Far East Prisoners of War organization held a wreath laying ceremony of remembrance, followed by a luncheon at Parliament Buildings and finally an afternoon tea hosted by our Prime Minister herself. After a number of armed forces veterans spoke of their experiences of being incarcerated by the Japanese during WW2 - in Burma, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan itself- I got a word in to keep alive the memory of civilian internees in China, specifically Weihsien Civil Assembly Centre. Present also was Marjorie McKenzie (nee Wallis), formerly of Tientsin (now Tianjin). I've encouraged her to subscribe to the list, so any who know her might like to send a message in a few days time.

Regards from 'down under' - i.e. NZ !

David Beard

RE: VJ Day 15.08.2001

[Ron Bridge](#)

Aug 15, 2001 14:47 PDT

London,

Cenotaph Whitehall at 3pm a short service with wreath laying was preceded by lunch at the Methodist Central hall and a March up Whitehall. The Military were represented by Japan Labour Camp Survivors Association led by their President Martin Bell (Former BBC World Correspondent and MP) Civilians led by Ron Bridge (Weihsien) Chairman Association of British

Internees Far East Region who carried the Union Jack that was flown over Lungwha Camp Shanghai when liberated in 1945.

The Service was taken by Rev Norman Cliff (Weihsien) and there were several ex Weishien in the group that marched at took part.

COMMENTARY CELEBRATINGH THE END OF WORLD WAR II

mtpre-@aol.com

Aug 15, 2001 18:06 PDT

Commentary for The Philadelphia Inquirer

If I could pick one month to wrap my arms around America, it would be August.

I fell in love with America fifty-six years ago. Americans were spilling from this low-flying B-24 bomber, dangling from parachutes that looked like giant poppies. They were dropping into the fields outside the barrier walls. I dashed to the barracks window in time to see the American star emblazoned on its belly. God's rescuing angels had come. Six gorgeous American men, sunbronzed, with meat on their bones. It was August, 1945.

"Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center," the Japanese called our concentration camp in China. I was twelve years old. For three years my two brothers and sister and I had been captives of the Japanese. For five and a half years warring armies had separated us from our missionary parents.

But now the Americans had come.

Weihsien went mad. I raced for the entrance gate and was swept off my feet by the pandemonium. Men ripped off their shirts and waved at the bomber circling above. Prisoners ran in circles and pounded the skies with their fists. They wept, hugged, cursed, danced. Wave after wave of prisoners swept me past the guards into the fields beyond the camp.

A mile away we found them -- six young Americans, all in their twenties -- standing with their weapons ready, surrounded by fields of ripening broom corn. Advancing towards them, intoxicated with joy, came a tidal wave of prisoners. We were free in the open fields.

Back in the camp, we trailed our angels everywhere. My heart flipped somersaults over every one of them. We wanted their insignias. We wanted their signatures. We wanted their buttons. We wanted snips of their hair. We wanted souvenir pieces of parachutes. They gave us our first taste of Juicy Fruit gum. We children chewed it and passed the sticky wads from mouth to mouth.

We made them sing to us the songs of America. They taught us "You Are My Sunshine, My Only Sunshine." Fifty-six years later, I can sing it still.

As the decades passed, I could never understand why six Americans would parachute in a suicide mission to rescue 1,400 people they didn't even know. It was beyond my imagination. I wanted to know these men. I wanted to know what makes an American hero.

Four years ago, in a string of miracles I tracked them down: Major Stanley A. Staiger; Ensign James W. Moore; 1st Lt. James J Hannon; T/5 Peter C. Orlich, radio operator; Sgt. Tadash Nagaki, interpreter; T/4

Raymond N. Hanchulak, medic. Imagine it! After more than 50 years! Four heroes and two widows, all in their 80s now -- in Pennsylvania, New York, Nebraska, Texas, Nevada, and California.

What words would ever be enough to thank a man who risked his life to give me freedom, to give me all the opportunities America gives its children?
Talking to them by telephone, sending them cards, didn't feel like thanks enough.

So I started my pilgrimage -- crisscrossing America to visit each one of them face-to-face to honor them. From New York to California, I went looking for the soul of America. And it is beautiful!

Each one is different: Tad Nagaki, a Japanese-American farm boy who didn't speak English until he went to school. Jim Moore, a former FBI agent and the son of missionaries to China. Jim Hannon, an adventurer who prospected for gold in Alaska. Major Stanley Staiger, an ROTC student snatched from his third year at the University of Oregon. Raymond Hanchulak, a boy from the coal mines and ethnic enclaves of Pennsylvania. The youngest of the team -- Pete Orlich, a kid with a scholarship to college whose family needed him to work, not go to school -- who memorized the eye chart so he wouldn't be excluded from the rescue team because he wore glasses. Pete taped his glasses to his head when he parachuted down to liberate the camp that day.

Some folk tell me America has no heroes. I know they're wrong. I see the face of heroes in the weathered faces of these six men and the thousands of American men and women who look like them. These are the heroes who saved the world.

(Mary T. Previte is an Assemblywoman, representing the 6th Legislative district.)

Tomorrow is a good day to say thank you to our heroes

mtpre-@aol.com

Aug 16, 2001 18:22 PDT

Hello, Everybody,

What's your most vivid memory of August 17, 1945?

If you'd like to phone our heroes, here are their current addresses and phone numbers. (Jim Hannon recently moved, but his mailing address remains the same.) They would LOVE to hear from you. Tell them what you remember about the day they liberated the camp.

Mary Previte

WEIHSIEN RESCUE TEAM (DUCK MISSION) -- current addresses

Mrs. Raymond Hanchulak (Helen)

 Birthday of Raymond Hanchulak: August 23, 1916

 Birthday of Helen Hanchulak: April 18

Phone: 570-472-3520

P.O. Box 4

243 Laurie Lane

Bear Creek Village, PA 18602

James J. Hannon Birthday: November 12, 1919

Phone: 760-364-2210 Fax: 760-565-3320

P. O Box 1376,

Yucca Valley, CA 92286

James W. Moore Birthday: October 5, 1919

Phone: 214-341-8695

9605 Robin Song Street

Dallas, Texas 75243

Tad Nagaki Birthday: January 25, 1920
Phone: 308-762-2968
5851 Logan Road, Alliance, NE 69301

Mrs. Peter Orlich (Carol) Birthday of Peter Orlich: May 4, 1923
Phone: 718-746-8122 Birthday of Carol Orlich: June 13, 1921
15727 20th Road
Whiteston, N.Y. 11357

Stanley A. Staiger Birthday: December 30, 1917
Phone: 775-825-3766
Village of the Pines
700 E. Peckam Lane, Apartment 259
Reno, NV 89502

Trial

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Aug 31, 2001 14:12 PDT

This is a trial e-mail to Weihsieners. Mary's e-mail did not go through. Shall try to get this fixed.
Natasha

Omaha.com Story from mary Previte

mtpre-@aol.com

Aug 31, 2001 15:20 PDT

mary Previte has sent you a message:

I sent this tribute to newspapers near each of our heroes. Here it is today in the Omaha World Herald. I hope you'll comment on the comment line. Mary

----- Begin Omaha.com Story -----

Published Aug 31 2001 6:45:00:000PM

Mary T. Previte: U.S. Rescuers in 1945 Seemed Like Angels

BY MARY T. PREVITE

<i>The writer is a New Jersey state assemblywoman. She remains in contact with the Americans who in 1945 liberated the prisoners of a Japanese concentration camp where she was held. </i>

Trenton, N.J. - If I could pick one month during which to wrap my arms around America, it would be August.

I fell in love with America 56 years ago see text here above !

Re: Trial

mtpre-@aol.com

Aug 31, 2001 15:27 PDT

Natasha, I've received this trial just fine.

I've also tried for a second time today to forward to everyone a tribute I wrote about our heroes. It appears today in the Omaha World Journal, the largest newspaper in Nebraska, where our liberator Tad Nagaki lives.

If the article does not come through, you can access it at <omaha.com> You'll find it under columns. I hope you'll take time to write a comment on the comment line so newspapers like this will know what pleases readers.

Mary Previte

Weih sien Visit

[Donald Menzi](#)

Sep 02, 2001 20:05 PDT

Thanks to Mary for the copy of the article.

By now all of you who have asked for copies of Gertrude Wilder's paintings of Weih sien camp scenes should have received them, along with the section of George Wilder's Diary dealing with the six months they were there. I would appreciate it if you would email me your reactions to them, so I can include your comments in the material I am compiling about that period.

In July, we took my three sons back to Weih sien for a brief visit, leaving behind copies of the pictures and taking some photos of present conditions for ourselves. The only original buildings left standing are two gray brick houses that were in the "out-of-bounds" area, both of which are partly shown in two of the watercolors. I will send copies of the photos to anyone who asks for them.

The main classroom/administration building has been replaced by a not very attractive modern building that is vaguely reminiscent of the original building in its basic shape, with a high central section and lower wings. The area where the prisoners' 9'x12' rooms were located is now a running track and athletic field.

The school's Principal was friendly, and promised to add the paintings to the school's historical exhibit. The first time we were there, four years ago, we saw that they have quite a few photos and other memorabilia, which are not presently on display, however, but they say will again have their own display room in the near future.

If any of you are able to get to Weih sien, be sure to visit one of the city's kite "factories." Weih sien is the kite-making "capital" of China, where the best kites are made, all by hand, and hand-painted, of course.

Once again, thanks to Mary for helping to keep the memory of Weih sien alive.

[All Messages](#)

Re: Weih sien Visit

[David Birch](#)

Sep 02, 2001 20:38 PDT

A very warm 'thank you' Donald, for the beautiful copies of the watercolour paintings done by your grandmother at Weih sien some fifty-seven years ago.

They, along with your grandfather's journal written at that same time certainly brought back some wonderful memories to me. In September 1944 I was twelve years old, a youngster who arrived at Weih sien with the crowd of 300 or so children and teachers from Chefoo. I still recall my first meal at Weih sien Camp. I remember joining a line-up outside Kitchen #1 (I think it was), and receiving an informal welcome to Weih sien from friendly camp 'veterans.'

Interestingly, nearly all my recollections of Weih sien are pleasant. These include school classes conducted in bedrooms; chores such as pumping water into a water tower by the Ladies' Showers; making coal balls and 'briquettes' with mixtures of slack coal and mud which we dried in the sun; queuing up in great long lines to fill our coal buckets with coal from a huge heap in the Japanese quarters; concerts in some of which I and my classmates took part in choral singing; baseball games, and so on and so on and a lot more. Of course, the rescue by the U. S. airmen is a particularly vivid and treasured memory.

Your grandmother's delightful pictures and your grandfather's journal certainly stirred my own memory.

Thanks again Donald!

Sincerely

David Birch

RE: Omaha.com Story from mary Previte

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

Sep 02, 2001 23:18 PDT

Dear Mary. Your article about the liberation of WeiHsien on 17 August 1945 brought back the same memories to me. Your description of the event is exactly as I remember it. I was a mere 17 years of age at the time and I, like many others obtained some souvenirs. My most memorable is a drawing of a parachute with the signatures of each and every member of the seven original parachutists. I have read with interest the present position of the survivors. I wish them well and will never forget them. Thanks for bringing it all back to me such cogent manner. Regard.
Joyce Bradbury nee Cooke. Sydney Australia.

Ronald Bridge

[most-@hinet.net.au](#)

Sep 09, 2001 18:26 PDT

My Dear Ronald,

It has been a long time since we were in the camp and in Tientsin, at St. Louis College.

I have a couple of photos of you in a group during one of Huguette's parties. These look as they were taken right at the end in Tientsin and you probably do not have them.

I can always send them over to you by e-mail, please give me your address if you want to have a look.

warmest regards

Leonard Mostaert

DISGRUNTLED WEIHSIEN CAMPER

[most-@hinet.net.au](#)

Sep 09, 2001 18:52 PDT

Hello all the readers.

I am Leonard Mostaert No.248 Room 1 Block 53 Kitchen 2

The dead hand of Belgian Bureaucracy has landed on my shoulder. I wonder if there is anyone out there that has had a similar experience.

Belgium is about to give reparations to the Belgians that were in the camps throughout China and Indonesia. At first I thought that my ship had come in, but no....It seems that Belgium does not give any funding to those that are no longer Belgian subjects, this law on their statutes is wrong, not compatible with any E-U legislation, and is contrary to all natural justice, as the reason that we were in Weihsien were solely because we were Belgian.

I did take out Australian Nationality after we came to Australia, and now the Belgian Government does not want to know me.

Is there anyone out there that has fallen into the same category ?

Thinking about those times, what about the Italians in their own little camp ? Should they not get reparations?

There were many more nationalities there, as an example there a Spanish couple at the end of our block, a Mr. and Mrs. Lopez, what about them. This has become a very twisted path indeed.

Leonard Mostaert

RE: DISGRUNTLED WEIHSIEN CAMPER

[Ron Bridge](#)

Sep 10, 2001 02:35 PDT

Leonard,

I remember you well, I am having a big fight with the UK government for those British interned as British, still British let alone those that have gone elsewhere. I may have tog o to the European Court of Human Rights on their behalf so keep in touch rwbr-@freeuk.com.

I had a few letters from Huguette up to a couple of years ago when her second husband left for someone younger

she was then living in Georgia
Rgds
Ron (The Ronald) Bridge
Chairman
Association of British Civilians Internees Far East region

RE: Ronald Bridge

[Ron Bridge](#)

Sep 12, 2001 02:28 PDT

Leonard,
Many thanks I had seen the bottom one round the table at Huguette's house but not the other one.
Best Wishes
Ron (fka Ronald)

United States darkest hour

[Natasha Petersen](#)

Sep 14, 2001 08:51 PDT

Dear Fellow Internees,
Since the Tuesday tragedy, I have attended several meetings. At the beginning of each meeting, we not only gave the Pledge of Allegiance, but also sang "God Bless America" The singing brought tears to my eyes - I remembered so well singing this in Weih sien. This tragedy has brought back the emotions of the war years in Weih sien. God bless the United States. Let us say a prayer for the souls of those who perished and for the recovery of those hurt both physically and emotionally.
Natasha

RE: United States darkest hour

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

Sep 14, 2001 22:17 PDT

Our thoughts are with all Americans in this tragic hour and especially for the fallen and their loved ones. May retribution be swift and sure. The Australian Government, fully supported by the people, has pledged its support in any way required. I too, still remember the words of "God Bless America" and remember how we were saved in Wei-Hsien. God bless you. My brother Ed Cooke has asked me to send his sincere condolences. Joyce Bradbury, nee Cooke and husband Bob.

RE: United States darkest hour

[David Birch](#)

Sep 15, 2001 20:47 PDT

Dear Fellow Weih sien Internees,

How very I too thank God for our dear neighbors and friends, the people of the United States of America!
Truly we are "family!"

I pray that all our friends in the USA will be able to find comfort in knowing that all around the world people are remembering them at this time and giving thanks for a generous and noble people who have consistently given so much of their abundance to help others who are less fortunate. May we try at this time to be very very careful to remember that the vicious acts committed against America are the fanatical acts of a comparative few. A comparative few who are consumed and blinded by hatred and may we show loving concern and solidarity with ethnic and religious communities who through this whole tragedy are in serious danger of becoming the victims of a careless and cruel backlash of unreasoning anger!

Yes, may God continue to bless America, still a bulward of hope and freedom in this world
Thank God for the courageous American airmen who rescued us at Weih sien Camp fifty-six years ago.
With love,
David Birch

Here's a speech I gave this evening to celebrate America

mtpre-@aol.com

Sep 16, 2001 18:19 PDT

Speech by Mary T. Previde

September 16, 2001

at HADDONFIELD, New Jersey's outdoor, candlelight Community

“Coming-Together”

I spread the snapshots of America across the album of my heart this week. And I felt proud.

This was a week of carnage and courage.

First, came the bullies, the cheats, the terrorists, the sneaks.

They trained in our flight schools. They used our airplanes. They savagely murdered our citizens. They stole our sense of security. They shook our being to the core. They planned to destroy and devastate our cities. They counted on our being a collection of “me-first” individuals. They thought we would crumble.

They were wrong. A tragedy that could have torn us apart made us a family. It brought us the warm courage of national unity.

Tonight let's open the albums of our hearts. Look at snapshots of our America:

- * The passengers on United Airlines Flight 93, responding with valor as dread ruled the skies above Pennsylvania. They apparently gave their lives to save countless others. America showed its soul this week. And I feel proud.
- * The firefighters, police and other emergency responders of New York City, who hesitated not one second to plunge into a wobbly hell to save their fellow citizens. Thousands of people who forgot about themselves and went to help.
- * Firemen hoisting Old Glory on a giant crane above the rubble of New York. America showed its soul this week. And I feel proud.
- * The rescue workers, doctors and nurses who have shrugged off sleeplessness and stark horror to keep searching the rubble for any who could be healed and many who could not.
- * Tough-guy, he-men chanting U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A. Tough guy, he-men weeping. I loved it that they wept. And I wept too. America showed its soul this week. And I feel proud.
- * On the steps of the nation's Capitol --Congressmen and women, Senators --every race, gender, ethnic and political group, hand in hand -- singing “God Bless America.” America showed its soul this week. And I feel proud.
- * Hometown snapshots in the album of my heart -- Kings Highway flying red, white, and blue from one end to the other.
- * Very proper neighbors wearing flags on hats, fluttering them along driveways, on their dogs, on cars, waving them wildly to make sure that everyone would see.
- * Up the street, Lucky's Ice Cream parlor posting a sign in the window: 5 percent of all its profits would go to families who lost so much this week.
- * The voice on the intercom reminding shoppers in my grocery store -- You can put bottled water, band aids, gauze, Danish in the containers right up front and it will all be in New York for rescue workers by noon. The sign said the grocery chain would match contributions to the relief fund --up to a million dollars. America showed

its soul this week. And I feel proud.

* A social worker in my neighborhood volunteering as a grief counselor in New York. A county maintenance director personally posting small American flags on county buildings. A secretary in my workplace, printing red, white and blue flags from off her computer and posting them on the door of every office in the building. The lady at the library's magazine counter wearing red, white, and blue ribbons pinned to her shoulder. America showed its soul this week. And I feel proud.

Some people say America has lost its soul -- they say that America has no heroes. I know they're wrong.

May I tell you a very personal story? I met America's heroes a long, long time ago. I fell in love with America 56 years ago. August 17, 1945. I will never forget that day. They were spilling from the belly of a B-24 bomber. Six America heroes -- like those this week -- risking their lives for people they didn't even know. For three years I had been a child prisoner in a Japanese concentration camp in China. For 5 1/2 years I had not seen my missionary parents. And now American heroes were dropping from the skies. We turned these liberators into gods. We wanted their buttons. We wanted their insignia. We cut off souvenir pieces of their hair. Oh, yes, yes, yes! We sang, too. God bless America.

In 1997, I went looking for the soul of America and it is beautiful. Through a string of miracles, I tracked down these heroes from 1945. I found them. Then I criss-crossed America to say thank you to each of them face to face. I keep in touch with them.

Yes, America has heroes. I know their names. I have seen their faces. I stand here tonight because of their heroism.

This week I found -- America found -- new heroes.

What will we give? Who will work just a little bit harder? Give a little more, study just a bit more, hug a little more, spend more time with our children, be a little more vigilant, and vow to fight evil with good? I for one.

Twelve year old Bridgid Ryan wrote in today's Philadelphia Inquirer:

"I have never seen such evil. And yet, I have never seen such good. I see faces that, days ago were self-absorbed, now brimming with compassion. I witness arms that were once clutching briefcases, donating life-giving blood. Through the smoke and rubble, I have glimpsed faces and arms and hearts that I might never have known. And this is what I can dream about."

This is our America, my friends. YOU are our America. I feel proud of you.#

World Trade Center

[Donald Menzi](#)

Sep 16, 2001 19:49 PDT

not sure whether or not I sent this to the Weihsien group. If so, please excuse the duplication. It's something that my wife, Jane, wrote for a community prayer vigil at our synagogue.

=====

We had heard that first plane fly over us. Like all New Yorkers we hear planes go over us so often we don't hear them, but we took note of that plane. Much too loud, too low, grinding, roaring through, much too fast. But it was still early in the morning for us and we didn't make much of it. It was maybe five minutes later, however, when we heard WINS say, "This just in. . . ." And then we knew what we had heard.

Now, along with others - mostly NYU students spilled out of their dorm - we stood on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 10th Street where we live. Looking south, we watched. We'd already seen the first impact, although only on our tv screen. Now that we were out on the street, we stood staring, my camera at the ready but not I. Horror setting in, I waited; what else to do? And then, as we watched, all at once - the tower on the right, the first to have been attacked - just . . . lowered itself. It sank. Imploding, it took our people and their stories with it.

The integrity of its shape was. . . gone. The clouds no longer billowed around it; the clouds were it. Viscerally some part of me sank with it. I gasped and my hands dropped down, the camera swinging somewhere at knee level. And then, almost immediately, a surge. I swung the camera up - quickly, very quickly - the weight of it satisfying, and my hands deftly finding all the right buttons, and the clouds were in my viewfinder and I clicked. I clicked again. And again. It was now very important that I capture this whirling evanescent shape. That I stabilize it, even as it was disappearing before my eyes. I was holding on to something even if it was only the process of vanishing. Keep clicking. I clicked many times. I don't know how many, but many. And finally, I wheeled around to the source of the moans I had been hearing and deliberately ignoring thinking that they can wait, the story of the constantly changing clouds could not. I clicked here too. The faces were raised upward, staring south of course - stunned, pained, disbelieving. I was struck by how many had covered their mouths with a hand (why? I wonder what a psychologist would say?) - and I clicked again, feeling self-conscious and intrusive. But I didn't stop clicking for a long time. Then, turning south again, but now slowly, resignedly, spent, I took one final shot of what was left; the emptiness beyond Washington Square Arch. The memorial to the World Trade disaster will be in the eloquence of that negative space.

Much later in the day I described this scene to one of my sons. He said, "Why?" "Well, why what?" "Why did you take these shots? Why would you ever want to see them again?" Well, I hadn't thought about why. Until then.

But, of course, it must have been because I experienced this as an "historic moment". What is that? Well, perhaps the "historic moment" is the moment of transition - the split second when what was. . . will never be again. And inevitably, when something else begins. While that expanse of sky will never hold those towers again and will remain empty for many of us - no matter what is ever built there - our collective lives will not remain empty. Other - nascent - configurations of the World Trade Center - political, economic, architectural, cultural - are poised to form. Transition. * * * * *

I didn't rush to print the roll of film. I've not done it yet. I'm not ready for that transition, to whatever it might be. Past and present - and surely the future - are equally formidable. There are those who would destroy us for whom we have no coordinates. Confronted as we have been with the grotesque mixture of tribal passions and today's technology, we will need to stay very close to one another. All throughout our city - and others - there are homes behind whose walls people are grieving and suffering ineffable sorrows. They are not ready yet for the transition.

But it will come; it's still very early. We don't know what things will be like. We only know nothing will ever be the same.

But in varying shapes most of us have known ineffable sorrow at one time or another. Two years after my first husband died, a young friend of mine lost her husband with whom she had been very much in love. Somewhere in our many talks I told her that, even though she couldn't believe it then, she would some day want to love again. She laughed, amused but unbelieving. Now, three years later, Shelley is no longer alone. Yes, I'm sure she still grieves, and nothing will ever, ever be the same, but she also has a good new life and she is not all alone. With help from one another, individually and collectively, we will eventually -- as Mordecai Kaplan said and as we have chosen to inscribe in our sanctuary -- "discover within ourselves unsuspected powers of the spirit."

My spech at Haddonfield, N.J.'s candlelight "Coming Together"

mtpre-@aol.com

Sep 17, 2001 08:11 PDT

Here's a speech I gave last night for an open air, candlelight "Coming Together:" in our town, Haddonfield, New Jersey.:

Speech by Mary T. Previte

September 16, 2001

I spread the snapshots of America across the album of my heart this week.
And I felt proud.

This was a week of carnage and courage.
First, came the bullies, the cheats, the terrorists, the sneaks.

They trained in our flight schools. They used our airplanes. They savagely murdered our citizens. They stole our sense of security. They

shook our being to the core. They planned to destroy and devastate our cities. They counted on our being a collection of "me-first" individuals. They thought we would crumble.

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This is our America, my friends. YOU are our America. I feel proud.#

Re: World Trade Center

[alison holmes](#)

Sep 17, 2001 21:31 PDT

Thank you so much Donald...and Jane.. for that thoughtful piece. May we indeed move beyond emotions to feelings as you so beautifully did, using the mind as a gathering place to sift and evaluate, transmuting reaction into a full response to contact. As much as we love, that much we will understand.

As much as we understand, that much we will love. So onwards and upwards with the work of a human being! No more can we think rationality can be establish from a basis of violence and fear, no matter which side does it.

Let's be mediators, not manipulators. Love to us all as we move through this trauma, Alison Martin Holmes

RE: World Trade Center

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

Sep 18, 2001 19:52 PDT

Bill. Mum thinks you look beautiful. So do I. You do not seem to have put on weight. Was that Australian wine on the table?

You are the best judge about investments it was only a thought from me. I saw in the Herald today that the Thunderbirds from USA are cancelled. I have not heard from the trip operator whether it is still on or not but I will decide what to do when I hear from him. I am growing pretty cold on the trip because of last minute cancellation problems. I might say I will pay at the check in counter but I will at the moment wait and see. Have a good time at the function. You have not told us what the function is about and we are thinking Singapore is going to great pains to welcome you. It's a nice thought. Weather is good here - about 24 today. Love Dad.

Re: Weihsien Visit

[Beryl Rogers](#)

Sep 24, 2001 10:57 PDT

Dear Donald:

I still have not received my two sets of pictures ordered three months ago. Could you let me know if you have received my order and the check that accompanied it. Thanks.

Beryl Rogers, PO Box 387 Warrington PA 18976

Re: Weihsien Visit

[Donald Menzi](#)

Sep 24, 2001 11:17 PDT

I'm pretty sure that I sent them, and cashed your check, but if they didn't arrive, I'll send another two sets.

Re: Weihsien Visit

[Beryl Rogers](#)

Sep 24, 2001 11:29 PDT

Dear Donald

When did you send them. That will give me an idea of how to look and plan.

If they did not arrive to day - I will let you know.

Beryl

Beryl Rogers (nee Buist)

[gordon](#)

Sep 25, 2001 02:44 PDT

Hi Beryl

This is your little brother. Please do me a favour (do you notice that I use the English spelling ! !!!).

Please send me a message with your e-mail address as my hard disk failed and I have had to replace it. I have therefore lost all the Rogers family addresses.

I look forward to hearing from you VERY soon.

Love from the best looking member of our family.

G

Re: Beryl Rogers (nee Buist)

[Beryl Rogers](#)

Sep 26, 2001 05:48 PDT

Hi Gordon:

My current e-mail address is bro-@haberern.com however I am going out on disability (actually I went out Sept. 1) so it might be better to use Don's donr-@sw-mins.org. Technically I am out on disability but the owner of the business is dying of brain tumours so I am still coming in periodically to help out until agency is sold. . How are you. Keeping well I hope. Kris was talking about coming to visit you with his family over the Christmas break. I guess you have heard that. We have just returned from visiting them in Korea and we took (all of us) a 4 day trip to Beijing. We thought it was going to be cancelled because of the bombing in NY but he got clearance on the 16th to go and we left the next morning. We had a great time. Some places seemed familiar - some of them I had seen pictures of Mum and Dad in the same location so it was really neat to be a part of the same memory.

I will have to move my e-mail address at the weih-@topica.com also. Got to get back to work. Love you.

Beryl

monday and tuesday

mtpre-@aol.com

Sep 26, 2001 18:41 PDT

On Monday we e-mailed jokes

On Tuesday we did not

On Monday we thought that we were secure

On Tuesday we learned better

On Monday we were talking about heroes as being athletes

On Tuesday we relearned who our heroes are

On Monday we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived

On Tuesday we gave money away to people we had never met

On Monday there were people fighting against praying in schools

On Tuesday you would have been hard pressed to find a school where someone was not praying

On Monday people argued with their kids about picking up their room

On Tuesday the same people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids

On Monday people were upset that they had to wait 6 minutes in a fast food drive through line

On Tuesday people didn't care about waiting up to 6 hours to give blood for the dying

On Monday we waved our flags signifying our cultural diversity

On Tuesday we waved only the American flag

On Monday there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex, colour and creed.

On Tuesday they were all holding hands

On Monday we were men or women, black or white, old or young, rich or poor, gay or straight, Christian or non-Christian.

On Tuesday we were Americans

On Monday politicians argued about budget surpluses

On Tuesday grief stricken they sang 'God Bless America'

On Monday the President was going to Florida to read to children

On Tuesday he returned to Washington to protect our children
On Monday we had families
On Tuesday we had orphans
On Monday people went to work as usual
On Tuesday they died
On Monday people were fighting the 10 commandments on government property
On Tuesday the same people all said 'God help us all' while thinking, Thou shall not kill'

It is sadly ironic how it takes horrific events to place things into perspective, but it has. The lessons learned this week, the things we have taken for granted, the things that have been forgotten or overlooked, hopefully will never be forgotten again.

Re: FW: e-mail charge

[jim bryant](#)

Sep 28, 2001 20:13 PDT

apparently its hoax, looks like I'll fall for anything anymore.

Fwd: Check out Imagine...

[jim bryant](#)

Sep 29, 2001 20:36 PDT

May God bless our President.

Note: forwarded message attached.

Birthday of one of our liberators

mtpre-@aol.com

Nov 03, 2001 18:41 PST

Hello, Everyone,

Jim Hannon, one of our Weihsien liberators, will celebrate his birthday on November 12.

His address is:

James J. Hannon, Phone: 760-365-2210

P.O. Box 1376

Yucca Valley, CA 92286

The next birthday coming up is Major Stanley Staiger on December 30.

Stanley A. Staiger, Phone:775-825-3766

Village of the Pines

700 E. Peckam Lanes, Apartment 259

Reno, NV 89502

Mary Previte

Contact the manufacturer or source

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

Nov 18, 2001 23:06 PST

If you have a question regarding Microsoft Transaction Server, Microsoft Message Queue Server, or Microsoft Data Access Components, see the Pay-Per-Incident topic included in the Direct Assistance section of this Help file.

NOTE: Support may be limited if you are running Windows 98 Second Edition on hardware that is not on the Hardware Compatibility List. You can find the Hardware Compatibility List on your Windows 98 Second Edition disk or CD.

However, the list is updated as necessary.

VIRUS in "Re: Contact the manufacturer or source"

[Beard](#)

Nov 19, 2001 11:04 PST

****Virus Alert****

The attachments to Joyce Bradbury's message below contain Virus [W32.Magis-@mm](#).
Joyce, you need to get your computer disinfected for the virus. Margaret Beard

Happy Thanksgiving

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

Nov 21, 2001 05:47 PST

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone,

I have so much to be thankful for -- including long-ago friends like you.

You Chefoo students, I LOVED your Weihsien memories that appeared in the 2001 CHEFOO MAZGAZINE -- reprinted from this memory bulletin board.

On Veterans' Day last week, I spoke by telephone to all of our living Weihsien rescuers-- Major Stanley Staiger, Jim Moore, Tad Nagaki, and Jim Hannon. Stanley Staiger is very frail and suffers from a variety of ailments that keeps him in bed much of the time. The other three say they are in pretty good health.

Tad Nagaki continues farming in Alliance, Nebraska. Though he tells me he's cut back this year.

Jim and Pat Moore continue to be active in an astonishing range of activities that keep them circulating in their community and their church in Dallas, Texas. I stayed overnight with them late this summer when I was in Texas to train juvenile justice professionals.

In California, Jim and Gin Hannon continue working non-stop on their manuscripts. One of Stephen Spielberg's projects interviewed Jim recently about his experience escaping from a German POW camp in Europe during World War II. Jim was captured and imprisoned the year before he was part of the team that liberated Weihsien. Jim's been writing a book about that experience -- hoping that it will turn into a movie. He continues to mention finding Amelia Earhart in the Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center.

Mary Previte

Holiday greeting for our rescuers.

[mtpre-@aol.com](#)

Dec 02, 2001 15:24 PST

Hello, Everyone,

If you'd like to mail Christmas cards to the heroes who liberated us from Weihsien in 1945, here are their current addresses. Also, let's shower Major Stanley Staiger with birthday cards for his 83rd birthday, December 30. He's continues to suffer very frail health and is completely alone.

WEIHSIEN RESCUE TEAM (DUCK MISSION) --

current addresses

Mrs. Raymond Hanchulak (Helen)

Birthday of Raymond Hanchulak: August 23, 1916

Birthday of Helen Hanchulak: April 18

Phone: 570-472-3520

P.O. Box 4

243 Laurie Lane

Bear Creek Village, PA 18602

James J. Hannon Birthday: November 12, 1919

Phone: 760-365-2210 Fax: 760-365-3320

P. O Box 1376,

Yucca Valley, CA 92286

James W. Moore Birthday: October 5, 1919

Phone: 214-341-8695
9605 Robin Song Street
Dallas, Texas 75243

Tad Nagaki Birthday: January 25, 1920
Phone: 308-762-2968
5851 Logan Road, Alliance, NE 69301

Mrs. Peter Orlich (Carol) Birthday of Peter Orlich: May 4, 1923
Phone: 718-746-8122 Birthday of Carol Orlich: June 13, 1921
15727 20th Road
Whiteston, N.Y. 11357

Stanley A. Staiger Birthday: December 30, 1917
Phone: 775-825-3766
Village of the Pines
700 E. Peckam Lane, Apartment 259
Reno, NV 89502

Mary Previte

Research question

[alison holmes](#)

Dec 19, 2001 15:25 PST

Can anyone suggest how I find out more details about how long it would have taken in 1945 to travel by the SS Arawak from Hongkong to London? I think we slept in hammocks and the food was awful after the bounties our liberators brought us. I want my memories fleshed out with facts! Thank you so much. Alison Martin Holmes

Re: Research question

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

Dec 19, 2001 19:26 PST

Dear Alison. Sorry I cannot answer your query. All I remember is it took a lifetime to come from Hong Kong to Australia via Rabaul. All the best for Christmas. Love. Joyce Bradbury.

Re: Research question

[Ben Crick](#)

Dec 20, 2001 11:01 PST

On Wed 19 Dec 2001 (15:17:57), ahol-@prescott.edu wrote:

Can anyone suggest how I find out more details about how long it would have taken in 1945 to travel by the SS Arawak from Hongkong to London?

I think we slept in hammocks and the food was awful after the bounties our liberators brought us. I want my memories fleshed out with facts!

Thank you so much.

Dear Alison,

Yes, I can, because I was on the ship too. It was called the SS Arawa, and the journey took 4 or 5 weeks. I remember that we travelled via the Suez Canal. There was an awful storm in the Mediterranean, which probably slowed us down a bit, but we had good weather in the Bay of Biscay.

To keep us safe and occupied, the staff continued to teach us. We owe them a tremendous debt for all they did for us, both in camp and afterwards, as I hardly need tell you, Alison. On the ship, some of us shared cabins, but many slept in hammocks as you said.

I hope these sentences are helpful. Greetings to you and your family, and best wishes for a happy Christmas from Joanna Crick (nee Goodwin), CSA.

"God is still on the throne"

--

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

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Welcome, Joanna,

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Dec 20, 2001 16:05 PST

Welcome, Joanna Goodwin,

How lovely that you've joined our memory network! I hope you'll keep our e-mail lively with Weihsien memories.

My GOING HOME FROM WEIHSIEN story was an adventure. Six Chefoo children -- Kathleen, Jamie, Mary, and John Taylor, David Allen, and Raymond Moore-- were flown from Weihsien to an American Office of Strategic Services base in Sian, Shensi province, September 10, 1945, in the second plane load of prisoners repatriated from the camp.

We Taylor children had not seen our parents for 5 1/2 years. We were reunited with our parents, James and Alice Taylor, on September 11, 1945, in Shensi province. (After the year 2001, none of us in the USA will ever forget that date -- September 11.) While our parents finished out a year at the Bible School where they were teaching, we Taylors stayed in China for almost a year after Americans liberated us. Then we adventured across China, heading for Shanghai in spring less mule carts, on trains jammed, wall-to-wall, inside and outside with Chinese travellers trying to get home.

Sometimes at night we slept on mule carts under the stars. On the dusty roads on those mule carts, mother gave us raw Chinese turnips to eat to slake our thirst.

In Shanghai, we stayed at the China Inland Mission headquarters on Sinza Road, trying desperately and unsuccessfully to get passage to the United States. The whole world -- it seems -- was trying to get to America. In Shanghai, I was dazzled by neon lights, Coco Cola, and Nancy Drew books. Some of us -- me included -- had contracted trachoma -- so were banned from getting into the USA until we were treated and pronounced clear of this dreaded eye disease. Besides this, no ship heading to the States had room for six Taylors. (We had added a new Taylor brother while we were separated from our parents.) So to get "home," the Taylor family finally split up. Jamie went ahead. The rest of us followed on the American troop ship, USS Meigs. I can't remember how long the trip took from Shanghai to San Francisco. But I remember seeing the Golden Gate Bridge.

What were your adventures going home?

I'm enjoying the new Eric Liddell biography, PURE GOLD, by David McCasland, Discovery House Publishers. You'll love the memories triggered by the photos, drawings and names from Weihsien as well as the whole section of the book about Eric in "Weihsien Civil Assembly Center." You'll remember the names -- Brigadier Stranks, Father Scanlon, Joe Cotterill, Father DeJaegher, Mr. Egger (the Swiss emmissary).

Happy holidays to each of you,

Mary Taylor Previte

Re: Research question

Thompson

Dec 20, 2001 16:23 PST

Alison, We were on a similar ship. I disremember its name, but it was not the ARAWAK. It had once been a frozen mutton transport ship from Australia to England. We also slept in hammocks and had a supply of ancient

dusty chocolate bars. Out of Hong Kong the South China Sea was like a mirror. We stopped in Singapore and Colombo but were not allowed off the ship. We watched in fascination as we passed through the Suez Canal. Near Malta we had some high seas, but soon we were crossing the Bay of Biscay and docked in Liverpool in late December 1945. I would have guessed that we were 6 weeks out of Hong Kong.

Stanley Thompson

RE: Research question

[Ron Bridge](#)

Dec 21, 2001 10:07 PST

Alison,

The journey largely depended on how many stops. But Typically HK, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Suez, Port Said, UK was four weeks. However from the name of your ship it could have been a converted freighter and may have taken a week longer. I did Shanghai to Liverpool in late 1946 in five weeks and HK to Tilbury(London) in Four weeks in 1951. The times for ships had been relatively static since world war 1.

Rgds

Ron Bridge

"FORGIVEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

[Wallace Potts](#)

Dec 31, 2001 11:22 PST

I am trying to find out where Armen Balianz can buy a copy of Joyce Bradbury's book "FORGIVEN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN". (Mrs. Balianz was held in the Weihsien Internment Camp during World War II and wants to read your book.) I thank anyone in advance for any help they can offer.

WALLACE POTTS