

CHINA NEWS LETTER

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Dear Friends of the China Mission:

The following information has been compiled from letters sent to our office either through our Mission Secretary, Mr. Marx, or from the missionaries themselves. Even though some of the news is old we wish to share it with you who may not have received letters recently.

Many of these people ask that more letters be written to them so if any of you care to have their addresses, you will find the list of their locations, attached, as we have them to date. This material takes the place of a China News Letter.

China Missions,

PHILLIPS HOUSE,
Kowloon, Hongkong
Jan. 21, 1938

Dear Friends:

Mrs. Smythe in Honkong received a letter from Lewis, dated January 7th, from which the following items of general interest are taken:-

"There are still about 50,000 refugees in the Safety Zone who are receiving free rice daily. The local Autonomous Chinese Committee was inaugurated and on New Years day took over the functions of the former Nanking City Government, with a big celebration. This Committee will assume the political and administrative duties of the Safety Zone, but there will be enough refugee work to occupy the foreigners till spring.

"There is enough rice at present. Coal is the most serious problem, but arrangements are being made with the Japanese to bring in coal for the soup kitchens. Mr. Riggs is trucking coal, and Mr. Sone is trucking rice. Mr. Mills is looking after mission property, and Bates and Smythe assisting with the refugees at the University. The number of refugees at the University is reduced to about 6,000, and at Ginling where Miss Vautrin and Mrs. Twinem are in charge of refugees the number has been reduced to about 5,000.

"All University buildings and houses are intact, except for one bomb having gone through the roof of a dormitory, and one shell which did not explode into Steward's house. One shell struck the back of Drum Tower church.

"McCallum and Wilson are running the Hospital. Dr. Trimmer was sick for a time. The Hospital is full, even over-flowing into some of the University old dormitories. It can carry on very well as long as there is not too much sickness but there is a serious need for more doctors. (Arrangements are trying to be made for Dr. Brady's return now.--E.M.)

"There has been no radio reception in the city since December 12th. The only news is obtained from newspapers printed in Shanghai in Chinese language by Japanese.

"Stray soldiers are now barred from the Safety Zone, and sentries are posted at all entrances.

"Mr. Allison of the Consular staff was in Wuhu before entering Nanking. He reported only about 5,000 Chinese left in Wuhu, all others fled. All the foreigners in Wuhu were well.

"Mrs. Bates got a letter through to Searle, saying she expected to arrive in Shanghai this week."

Miss Teagarden wrote Mr. Marx from Hofei on December 29th:

"Hofei is still peaceful in spite of occasional radio reports which seem to be to the contrary. Two weeks ago Japanese planes dropped some small bombs on the air-

field but caused no damage inside the city. A few days later there was a skirmish outside the city wall between local guards and some disorganized troops whom they were attempting to disarm. There have been occasional air-raid signals, and day before yesterday several Japanese planes passed over the city. But so far as we can find out the reports that Japanese troops are advancing on Hobei from various directions were apparently not founded on fact. So far there has been no activity on the part of Japanese troops in this immediate area, but it may be only a matter of time.

"We are anxious for recent news from our various stations and from Hankow. As you wrote to Wenona, we seem to take turns being concerned about one another. This has been an unusual sort of Christmas season, but we really had a lovely Christmas in spite of everything. One of our workers said, "In former years we have done a lot of outward celebrating, but this year we have Christmas in our hearts."

On January 22 we received the following cable:

"UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
MISSIONS BLDG INDIANAPOLIS IND
TELEGRAM FROM CONSUL GENERAL HANKOW STATES LETTERS DATED FEBRUARY FIRST AND SECOND FROM BURCH HOFEI ANHWEI STATES THAT THE FOLLOWING ARE NOW IN HOFEI MISSES WENONA WILKINSON GRACE YOUNG LYREL TEAGARDEN AND MR AND MRS C BURCH. IT IS THEIR PRESENT PLANS TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE SERVICES OF THE LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL EVEN IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES. DR BROWN OF WUHU HAS PROMISED BURCH TO NOTIFY THE PRESENT AUTHORITIES AT WUHU OF THIS PLAN

SUMNER WELLS ACTING SECRETARY STATE."

Camie Gray, Wuweichow, wrote on Christmas Day and the letter was received in Hongkong January 20th:

"A party of 49 including children, all members of our church and workers left Wuhu by houseboat for Wuweichow. Although I have often made the trip from Wuhu here in six or seven hours, we were four days. We had engaged several other boats out of Wuhu for Wuwei, only to have them taken over by the military. As it is, we came on about the last boat out of Wuhu, and in less than a week after we left Wuhu the city was mercilessly bombed, followed shortly afterward by the Japanese army.

"Since the bombing of Wuhu we in Wuwei have been completely cut off from communication with the outside world. They say that not a single mail bag has arrived in Wuwei since. Mail is accepted here, but the Post Office says they have no idea when it will be taken out of the city.

"We are quite in the dark as to what is happening in the outside world, even as near-by as Wuhu. No autos, no boats, no mail have arrived during the three weeks we have been here.

"In the party that came in the same boat with me were Mr. and Mrs. Cheo Hsiao-chen, and family; Mr. and Mrs. Chien Si-lin; Mr. and Mrs. Cheo Wei-lung of Wuhu; Mr. and Mrs. Ling, daughter and son-in-law of Mr. Lee Hou-fu; a couple of Chung Hwa teachers; Mr. and Mrs. Wu Sing-tang, seminary student; etc. We brought bedding rolls for Pastor and Mrs. Li Chowu, - they wanted to come with us but their son had not yet returned from school in inner Anhwei and also they hadn't found a place to put Mrs. Li's blind nephew. So we don't know where they are. (Mr. and Mrs. Lee were at Wuhu Hospital when Miss Lawrence left there, December 18th---E.M.)

"This Christmas morning our little outstation church here in Wuwei had 150 present in service, Christians and their children, no onlookers or curiosity seekers. The little Christian community here has been increased greatly by Christian refugees from different points in China. One of the nurses of Nantung hospital and her family are here. A number of Christians from Nanking are here. One Christian member of the Central Kuomintang is here. It was a lovely Christmas service this morning, with war and suffering all around us, but with peace and good will in our hearts."

Miss Mushrush wrote from Nantung on December 19:

"For some days now we have heard neither guns nor planes. It is much easier to

study when the windows are not rattling to high heaven.

"For over a month now we have had regular Sunday services in our little church. The congregation runs from 20 to 40 people. They are all sorts: children, old men, students, and business men.

"This week a Russian and his wife came to visit me. Their property was destroyed in Shanghai and he plans to live here. He is working with a German firm buying eggs."

There are numerous other details about local personal and happenings which are not of general interest to those not locally acquainted.

Our Shanghai colony consists of the following:

Miss Lawrence and Mrs. O'Hanlon, who left Wuhu December 18th and came to Shanghai on the British ship "Ladybird." They are living at the Blackstone Apartments, 1331 Rue LaFayette.

Mrs. Gish, who traveled from Wuchang to Hongkong by train with Mr. and Mrs. Ts'ai Ruh-ling and three other Chinese friends from South Gate. They were five days and nights en route. They sailed from Hongkong for Shanghai on Sunday, January 16th, by B & S ship, "Naning."

Mrs. McCallum, David, Harland, and Robert. They are living at the American School.

Mrs. Bates, if she arrived according to the note indicated in Mr. Smythe's letter above.

Mrs. Hagman and Miss Fry continue at Kuling, where Miss Fry is superintendent of nurses in the Lushan Community Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Marx, Miss Schutze, and Dr. and Mrs. Brady and family are here at present. Of course we all have our eyes on Shanghai, as the next port en route back toward our stations. Efforts are being made now to get arrangements for Dr. Brady to return at once to Nanking. Special radio messages have come expressing the need and desire for him there.

Mrs. Smythe with Margaret Ann and Joan are specially happy in a small island just fifty minutes ride by ferry from the Hongkong harbor. Mail can be addressed to her at House No. 1, "Sunnyside," Cheung Chau, Hongkong."

Edwin Marx

January 21, 1938.

Dr. Hagman wrote on January 6 to Mr. Alexander Paul as follows:

"You will be glad to hear that to date our mission property in Wuhu has not suffered the grosser damage of bombs or fire. Word has recently come that Hofei is still unmolested.

Margaret Lawrence and Elizabeth O'Hanlon remained on through the bombings and the Japanese invasion. They both helped very beautifully and bravely in the hospital during the time when so many wounded were brought in and the staff was so depleted.

Ih Dji Shan has been a wonderful haven for some 1500 refugees. To date only a very few have returned to their homes nearby. In the city are none but the invaders and a few coolies who are working for them. A wrecked and deserted city it is which would make your heart sick to see. All of those new business houses which you rejoiced to see on your recent visit are no more.

These three and a half months at Ih Dji Shan have for me been most satisfying in many ways. In the face of the tremendous need of the Chinese in this crisis I did not see how we of the medical profession could honorably comply with the advice of the State Department to withdraw from China completely. A re-dedication to Christ of all, including each member of my body has brought a complete freedom from the fear of bodily danger. Having therefore made ready to be wounded for him the hand, the eyes and the life were released for joyful and creative service. It has truly been a great privilege to have been able to serve here in so great a need with such excellent facilities at my command. Every patient who could get away was discharged before the invasion for fear of being massacred in bed. This fortunately allowed room for the victims of the bombings. From the two British ships bombed in port the first day (Dec 5th.) we received into the hospital seventy patients. Many of these were very seriously wounded. And such wounds as they were caused by these irregular fragments of shell. Those were days of hard long hours of work. To the surgeon who had been seeing the six to twelve day old infected wounds from the Shanghai area it was a great privilege to be able to treat these wounds within a few hours of the time they were inflicted. As I have gone through the wards it has been a great satisfaction to count the number of arms and legs with useful function which I know would have been amputated had I not been here.

Dr. Brown the superintendent of the Wuhu General Hospital is greatly to be commended in keeping the institution going. Knowing the resentment in America which bombing of other hospitals had caused we were confident that this institution would be spared. Dr. Brown does no clinical work but gives all of his time to administration of the hospital. I have enjoyed working in such a modern and well equipped plant with steam heating, plumbing, ectra. This will doubtless prove useful when the time comes to rebuild our hospital at Nantungchow. One of the officials of the Butterfield Co. who came on the first steamer recently up from Shanghai said that Nantung is quite peaceful now. This official came to inspect his company's S.S. TaTung which was disabled by the Japanese bombing here. He reported that the cotton mills were running at Nantung and that cotton yarn as well as cotton was being shipped out by the British steamers, which run regularly from Shanghai to Nantung. I am very anxious to run down and look things over in view of the possibility of opening up our work again in the early Spring. Was there ever any time in history that the Chinese as well as the Japanese needed the message of Christ more than now? Never in my experience has the message of God's love been so favorably received by the Chinese than during these months of crisis for this nation. What other hope is there for the Chinese people or the world than this gospel message of Christ Jesus? For such times as these were we sent forth. The medical approach is still among the most direct ways of bringing the message of Love to the human heart. The daily evening preaching meetings at the hospital have brought forth overflowing audiences of interested hearers.

We have had no mail or newspapers for over a month. But it has been a great blessing to be able to get the daily broadcast of radio news. The boom in the river between here and Kiukiang prevents river travel upstream. The low water prevents large battleships from reaching the boom and so it will not be opened until the spring flood allows the larger vessels to go upstream. Of course we have had no news from any of our missionaries elsewhere except that Mrs. Hagman was still in Kuling about a week ago and that Miss Mushrush was still in Nantung two weeks ago. You doubtless have had later news from the latter than we have. I understand that censorship of mail as well as of cable service has been established by the glorious conquerers.

During these past few months my health has been better than for some time previously. This has been a large factor in my enjoyment of these hectic times. I have been reminded as so many times in the past the truth of that ancient promise "As thy days so shall thy strength be." It is with this hope that I look forward to the tasks of the future. Of course we earnestly crave the Master's guidance in our future service for Him. It is a joy to us to know that you in the office are motivated by the same desire.

RELIEF SITUATION IN NANKING

Lewis S. C. Smythe

January 22, 1938

The International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone is now operating as a relief committee for the welfare of the 250,000 Chinese civilians living in the city. Most of these people (at least 90 per cent) are still living within the Zone because of fear of injury by wandering Japanese soldiers in other parts of the city or that their homes will be burned from over their heads. Some persons have gone home but have returned because of violence at the hands of Japanese soldiers. Instead of moving out, the population presents all the aspects of digging in for the winter in the Zone. In spite of very serious crowding and original instructions not to bring in furniture (because it was thought they would go home in a week or two), they are now bringing in their things in order to salvage them from destruction. With only two foreign doctors, the health situation has very dangerous possibilities but so far we have been fortunate enough not to have much sickness. Requests for permission for two doctors and two nurses to come to Nanking have been refused. The University Hospital has been kept full caring for seriously wounded civilians and now an increasing number of maternity cases of poor women from camps. A few cases of diphtheria have appeared and cold, wet weather has brought many colds. An increase in sickness is expected.

The International Committee is still conducting twenty-five refugee camps in public and institutional buildings in the Zone. These camps now have about 60,000 persons living in them. The largest of these camps are: University of Nanking Middle School with 15,000, Old Ministry of Communications with 12,000, University of Nanking main campus with 6,000, and Ginling College with 5,500. Owing to the rush preceding the Japanese entry and the disorder since, it was impossible to arrange soup kitchens in all these camps. Consequently, we had to resort to distributing free rice to those who could not buy rice. In the camps and the soup kitchens conducted by the Red Swastika and Red Cross Societies, we are daily feeding 50,000 people on either hsi fan (rice gruel) or free rice. Valuable help in this came from a gift of over 2,000 bags of rice by a friendly Japanese detachment to the Red Swastika Society.

At first the International Committee sold rice so that such resources could be rotated in the service of those who had no money with which to purchase rice. It was planned that just as soon as conditions quieted down enough that private rice stores could open, we would cease such sale. The Self-Governing Committee was ready to open a rice shop on January 10th, so from that date we stopped selling rice from relief stocks. But the second day the Japanese stopped the supply of rice to that shop and since then have not allowed any rice to be sold within the Zone. A week later the Self-Governing Committee was able to open two rice shops in the southern part of the city, a mile from the southern boundary of the Zone. This was at the order of the Japanese in order to force people to move out of the Zone. But without the restoration of order amongst the Japanese troops in those areas, the people are afraid to return home. These two assignments of supplies to the Self-Governing Committee totalled about 2,200 bags of rice and 1,000 bags of flour. It is estimated it would take 1,600 bags of rice per day to feed the 250,000 people. People have existed on private family stocks which are now rapidly running out. Unless determined and efficient arrangements are made for supplying rice and fuel to this population, serious famine conditions will result. All attempts by the International Committee to purchase food supplies stored outside Nanking or in Shanghai for relief purposes have been refused by the Japanese authorities.

The International Committee has funds for purchase of foodstuffs and fuel here if it is permitted. Food supply on hand will feed our 50,000 people dependent on that at present for less than thirty days. As appeal was sent to Shanghai for \$50,000 for purchasing supplementary foods there and a ready response was received. But so far no permission has been secured to ship foodstuffs. If the International Committee is not permitted to purchase food supplies directly, we may have to resort

to cash relief--which is much more difficult to administer. But there are some problems developing that can probably be solved in no other way.

A sub-committee on Rehabilitation has been working on a survey and plans for helping the people return to their homes and get started in some economic activity. This problem is greatly increased by the fact that three-fourths of the shops of the city have been systematically burned by the Japanese since December 19th. One case illustrates the problem: an old tapestry-weaving family which has always been independent had their shop and home burned out on the night of January first by Japanese soldiers. Their cloth was lost in the fire and all their money was taken from them by Japanese soldiers. With all resources destroyed how is this family of eight to make a fresh start? Some free rice tickets and money was the best we could do for them as there is no economic activity now excepting small roadside shops along Shanghai and Ninghai roads. No production of any form is going on. The whole population is on a consumption basis pure and simple. When spring comes it is hoped agricultural production can start---but that depends on security for the farmers who have fled even from their truck farms in the city.

Another rehabilitation problem is the widows and orphans. In the first part of the survey on this question at Ginling College, 420 women were found whose men folks on whom they were dependent for support had been killed by the Japanese. Many civilian men in the city met that fate because they were suspected of being "plain-clothes soldiers." Some were marched off in registration even though their women folks and family guaranteed them.

In this rehabilitation problem the International Committee does not have the resources for making loans to people for starting their business again nor does it have funds for making loans to members of families here whose earning members are in other places. Organizations of Chinese in Shanghai or other places that can help on this problem will give a big boost to their suffering fellow countrymen or families in this city.

Until persons are allowed to leave or enter Nanking, it is impracticable to do anything about re-uniting families or getting people back to their home towns.

A stirring story can be written some day about the strenuous efforts of Mr. Wang Cheng-tien (locally known as "Jimmy"), the new Food Commissioner under the Self-Government Committee, and the head of his trucking committee, Mr. Charles Riggs ("Charlie"), who together are moving heaven and earth to get the Japanese to allow them to have more rice, flour and coal for the population and then to truck it in. At first Mr. Riggs convoyed the trucks, then a consular policeman, now a Japanese guard from the Special Service Corps. Since most trucks and cars in the city were destroyed in the first week after the Japanese got here and no repair parts exist, they have a very difficult time moving food and fuel. Meanwhile hundreds of Japanese Army trucks stand idle about the streets.

Electricity is available now for certain selected buildings. City water flows from the lower hydrants at times. No telephones exist. As one Japanese Army man and one Japanese Embassy man remarked: "There are no nice eating places in Nanking," and "There are no amusement places in Nanking." The glory and joy of "China's capital are now in ashes and the only economy is a grubbing economy---grubbing in ruins for something to be salvaged to sell to buy some food. If only the work of coolies who work for the Japanese Army could be put on a commercial basis the city would have a small source of income. Some of the kinder soldiers have given the coolies their food while working and a few a little pay. This practice shows some signs of increasing---it may be the signs of a better day.

Mr. McCallum on January 15, told some of his observations and work in Nanking.

"Only a small group of our Christian Chinese are in Nanking, and none of our mission workers. There is a group concentrated in the Drum Tower Church, numbering about 150. About fifty of these are from our South Gate constituency. Fortunately, they have not been molested and are about the only group I know of that has been free from constant robbery, rape and other terrorism. The fact that five of our foreigners are concentrated here at the hospital may be somewhat responsible.

Around the 25th of December the two buildings of the Ruh Chuin Boys' School were burned. The other buildings at South Gate are undamaged except that there is very little glass left in the windows. The Women's Building has been badly ransacked, and there has been considerable breakage in school equipment, --- science equipment. The only other building damaged is the Drum Tower Church which was struck by a shell on December 14th. But I think that will be a very slight damage.

The heaviest damage will fall upon the missionaries in regard to their personal effects. Chinese who left things in Nanking will find practically nothing left. In our houses practically all of the furniture is left. Some mirrors are broken and there is general breakage. All bedding and food stuffs are gone.

We are still active in relief work in Nanking. There is little progress in the direction of peace and order and the people are still crowded in concentration camps. All foreigners and the newly arrived diplomatic representatives are making every effort to check continued terrorism. No story of what has happened in Nanking since December 12th could be exaggerated.

The people of Nanking are not approaching a famine. There is enough rice in Nanking to carry through the winter if it can be made available. Large stores were brought in to carry through a long seige. The population is reduced to around 200,000. But a great portion of the people are without means and must be on relief. So far there have been no epidemics. With such crowded conditions such as 25,000 (yes, 25,000) people living in University of Nanking buildings and some 12,000 at Ginling College and the same in proportion in other places, there has been little sickness. The hospital has been full of only the most serious cases, but 90 per cent have come to be patched up after some Japanese soldier has used his gun or bayonet on some unarmed Chinese. We need a doctor for public health and we may anticipate an increase in medical cases and a decrease in surgery. We want very much the return of Dr. Brady and believe permission could be obtained.

Counting in replacement of stocks we are fast using up, I estimate the hospital is running on a budget of about Yuan \$11,000.00 per month, as compared with Yuan \$23,000.00 per month as the regular budget. The income from patients is around Yuan \$2,000.00 per month. We have only third class patients and may expect the income to decrease as the people use up their present resources. The Red Cross and relief organizations can furnish us around \$5,000.00 per month or until about the last of February. We are rendering a unique service here and are one of the few if not the single organization in Nanking that has not lost a day and is carrying on normally. Well, that is another story to be told later. But I want you to have some idea as to our condition.

I know I am pardoned for this long letter. I am on duty at the hospital tonight. as one of the foreign men has to stay here every night to take care of emergencies. Since the X-Ray room is the warmest, I make my headquarters here, and recently since electricity has been restored I have good music to set the rhythm to this writing.

I hope communications may soon be restored enough so that we can carry on correspondence.

It is perfectly all right for anyone to come to Nanking who can get permission to come. We would welcome additions to our community. A few more people would have been very valuable to us, as we were not enough to spread out over all our interests. But any one coming should come well supplied. We are always hopeful we will get in supplies but we have very little variety and there is nothing you can buy in Nanking now except loot. At the hospital we have peh ts'ai and rice and have had the same at

every meal for a month. We foreigners at our one household have practically gone through twenty-six dozen tins of Luchowfu peaches, and we have eaten a lot of peh ts'ai, also."

January 24, 1938

LOCATION OF CHINA MISSIONARIES

HONGKONG, Phillips House, Kowloon

Dr. and Mrs. R. F. Brady
Mr. and Mrs. Marx
Miss Schutze
Mrs. Smythe and children, House No. 1 Sunnyside, Cheung Chau,

HOFEI, via Wuhu, China

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Burch (helping in work)
Miss Wilkinson
Miss Teagarden
Miss Grace Young

KULING, via Kiukiang, Kiangsi Province, China

Miss Fry (on staff of the Kuling Community Hospital)
Mrs. Hagman (librarian for the Community Library - 15 F Azalea Heights)

NANKING, Kiangsu, China

Miss Minnie Vautrin, Ginling College - Wire says she is staying
Mr. H. McCallum
Mr. Lewis Smythe
Mr. Searle Bates

NANTUNG

Miss Vincoe Mushrush

SHANGHAI

Mrs. Bates & Victor Searle, American School, Avenue Petain, Shanghai
Mrs. McCallum and children " " " "
Miss Margaret Lawrence and Elizabeth Burch O'Hanlon
Mrs. Edna Gish

WUHU, Anhwei Province, China

Miss Cammie Gray - Wuweichow, via Wuhu
Dr. Hagman (helping with surgery in hospital)

JAPAN

Mrs. Bates and children

FURLOUGH

Miss Ely, Dr. Corpron and family, Mr. Goulter and family, Miss Tremaine,
Dr. Slater and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Plopper, Miss Major, Mr. & Mrs. Haskell.

Sincerely yours,

THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY