

21 January, 1937.

My dear Wife:-

It is very good to know that you are arriving in Shanghai today, and Bobby too. I suppose you will find quarters in or near the School, so that he can have that advantage and you as convenient and comfortable a place as may be. There is still no light upon improvement here or in communications, save that Kröger is receiving a railway pass after many refusals. I don't see any hope for family residence here during an indefinite future, though a woman without children could be very useful if she could get here. So far no permits for doctors & nurses, though volunteers are ready and calls are urgent. Whether I'd be allowed to leave is doubtful, and still more whether I could return after leaving. Anyhow, at present I could not consider any real absence from duty. So we'll have to work and watch for a while. Perhaps Pake will try the experiment of asking for a return pass, since Siemens-China Co. presses him so hard. But if he gets it there would still be question about Americans and about individuals who have kicked against the pricks.

You will be able to do some things for me, and for semi-public services also, in acting as means of communication and as shopper. Gunboats will come and go irregularly, perhaps at intervals of about two weeks. But there is no program or stability about anything. These University materials, if they cannot easily be copied in office of pressy or somebody else, can be done privately with comparatively small effort or cost. Words on a page are

9.

few, and they go very quickly. Single-space could be used in copying.

I have not heard anything from Earl and Mary, or from Gaylord save the uncommunicative letter of last summer. You had better try a little news work yourself for relatives & friends, including Japan people. Efforts to release our mail in Shanghai or our share of 600-700 bags stored here after Dec. 1 (which we now fear were burned), have brought no success of which we yet know. Radio does us a lot of good, and after some days of frightful interference has noticeably improved. Our set went bad last night, & we must substitute Lewis' unless the Embassy operator from the "Oahu" can help us with adjustment or repair. We usually hear, among us, NEDN at 12:40, Eve. Post at 1:00, Hongkong Reuters at 1:30, Manila at 8:50, Hongkong or London at 9:30, Eve. Post at 10:10. There are also Changsha, Hankow, plenty of Japanese stations, Europeans, Saigon, and once New York at 7:30 a.m. for news.

We have no clear policy on publicity, inhibited or oscillated between anger at suppression and misrepresentation on the one side; and fear over our Committee's responsibilities, institutional futures, and personal burdens now and later. Probably we'll slide along with indirect releases of the bad stuff and cautious direct communiqués under anonymity (so far as possible), until the game becomes clear or some retaliation brings a new form of hesitation. Yet I do long to bring in some ^{wordy} attention and some pressure upon the Japanese to straighten up for their own sakes some of the shameful abuses that continue.

Will welcome any intelligent information and judgment upon outlooks for Chiang's govern-

ment and its warfare; Soviets & their game in East; Japanese doings in Shanghai; views from inside Japan; German policy. Don't be afraid to ask some people for information, especially right now when you are fresh from Japan and have some new stuff from Nanking. Rees or Imperley or others would be glad to arrange a talk with Howard or Chancellor. Gould of Post, L. C. Smith of Reuters, Steele of Chicago Daily News, if there, Calder-Marshall (thru Miss Binder if you prefer) of Brit. Chamber of Commerce: all are approachable directly by mentioning my suggestion. You should see Wilbur of Ymca regarding Japan; he and Pettit have plenty from Nanking by Fitch. Imperley's address in autumn was 176 Route Mufour, Apt. 32, Tel. 75452. That's close to Am. School. Lossing has his value for communication & information. Several men in Consulate-General are rather rough. Sawyer not interested much in politics. Gauss considered high-grade but very cautious. I have no real contacts there. Harris of A.P. is decent and powerful not unusually keen. Beware of U.P., though facts are better than sensational imagination even for them. Bennett & Green of Nat. City Bank very good, former is Dr. Fischer of Legation. Fitch insists that Dollar Line & some other foreign boats used to follow practice of receiving foreign-bound letters in their offices with full Chinese postage. Check this. Hansen of Texas Co., Mead of SO, Munro-Faure of A.P.C., Ritchie all worth contact if you have a chance. Hansen & Munro-Faure were very good in start of Zone Committee. Food outlooks bad. Japanese refuse to sell to us, to let us sell, to let anybody else sell in zone or to let us ship in from Shanghai. This the ori-

come of long and treacherous negotiations. So we hold a fair amount of cash, 2300 bags ($1\frac{1}{4}$ tan or over 200 lb. each bag) of rice which we give out at 100 bags per day for free distribution in most needy groups and soup-kitchens. Red Swastika runs 2 big kitchens with rice secured from a particular military unit. "Self-Govt Committee" is supposed to be major or even monopoly agent for distribution on behalf of military. But actually they have received 500 bags in 10 days, a total of 2500 in 5 weeks, - this & Swastika trucked by us. Daily consumption between 1500 & 2000 bags. Difference is private hoards, rapidly disappearing; irregular releases & looting; some flour; our earlier distribution and sale at more rapid rate. Vegetables almost exactly 10x ordinary price for most lines; as low as 5x for a few. Many thousands never touch anything but rice - gruel. We are trying to get 1000 lb. cod liver ^{oil} on gunboat as medical supplies. Military are grossly indifferent, and no one among Japanese shows any serious use of thought or attention to civilian problems. Coal for soup-kitchens also a critical issue. We squeak by from day to day, often getting coal without authorization of any kind. Supplies in city rapidly disappearing & none arriving. Military units compete recklessly grabbing & predatorial trucking. A good deal of coal, rice, & wheat burned.

5.

22 Jan.

Today a Honmai truck brought a parcel of supplies, especially for hospital, and some letters including you #15 of 20 Dec., & Mr. Boynton's of 14 Jan. with note of your wiring arrival on Andre Lebon (which means little to me without newspapers) and address as American School. He had previously radioed that you would arrive 31st. Also letters via Hongkong from Esther Jappert & Elsie Priest addressed to Shanghai people for forwarding, showing the concern of second half December about Nanking friends. I've recently exchanged a couple of radios with Elsie before she left Hankow for Ichang on way to Chengtu. Both Chungking & Chengtu must be jammed with Nanking Chinese, as Hankow has been. Provincial Govt gave us \$20,000 for temporary building to house staff; W. China U. advanced US \$5500 to put up dormitories for students — our use now, theirs permanently.

You will have had, I hope, my letter in answer to yours by the Nichi Nichi correspondent. I never got a message by wire from you. Nothing from you ever reached here from Edith, since she doubtless put it in regular mail addressed to Nanking.

I love you dearly, Lilliath, and will be glad to hold you close again. There may still be some very hard experiences ahead of us, but I am glad you are nearer and that we can communicate with some satisfaction. Mr. S. Matsu moto, manager of Honmai, should be called upon. He may often be able to send personal messages or moderate parcels. (Probably the British boat tomorrow night will carry a big order of food for the American community; and the way is slowly opening for us to get some things from Japanese military canteens). We will now understand more deeply what

our marriage and home mean, and will be able to sympathize more adequately with those who don't have them. (In one camp alone we have so far reports of over 400 women whose husbands were killed or carried off without return).

Today's radio makes clearer some of Timperley's troubles with censors, and his attribution of the facts to a very reliable ^{(foreigner} ~~american~~ missionary in Nanking (two reports). Also, British Embassy in Tokyo wires for confirmation of information about disorders received through British Consul-General from Boynton. So the pot is beginning to stew, and the full consequences may be not small in international as in personal affairs. I have heard that an important wire or radio to the Associated Boards was sent off some ten days ago.

You should find a copy of my letter to Elsie 15 Jan. as well as that to F. M. 10 Jan. not too hot. This is already too heavy a dose, though small compared with an evening's talking! Lovers of more than fifteen years' experience should be able to wait, leaving some things unsaid —

Searle