A few nasty jottings amid rape and bayonet stabs and reckless shootings to be sent on the first foreign boat available since the situation developed after the Japanese entry — a U.S. Navy tug engaged in salvage work on the "Himmy." Friends in Shanghai will pick this up from the Consulate-General, and will get it away somehow on a foreign boat without censorship.

There have been a good deal since New Year's within the crowded foreign zone, largely through the departure of the main bodies of soldiers. "Restoration of discipline" very nebulous indeed, and even the military police have raped and robbed and ignored their duties. A new turn may come at any moment, through fresh arrivals or revolutions in action. There is no policy visible. At least foreign diplomats have been allowed to re-enter [this week], which seems to indicate a desire for stabilization.

More than 10,000 assumed persons have been killed in cold blood. Most of my trusted friends would put the figure much higher. There were Chinese soldiers who threw down their arms or surrendered after being trapped; and civilians recklessly shot and bayoneted, often without even the pretext that they were soldiers, including not a few women and children. Able women colleagues put the cases of rape at 50,000. I should say not less than 5,000, and it might be anywhere above that. On University property alone, including some of our staff families and the homes of Americans now occupied by Americans, I have details of more than 100 cases and assurance of some 200. You can scarcely imagine the anguish and terror. Girls as low as 11 and women as old as 55 have been raped on University property alone. On the embassy compound 17 soldiers raped one woman successively in broad daylight, in fact, about one-third of the cases are in the daytime.

Practically every building in the city has been robbed repeatedly by soldiers, including the American, British and German Embassies or Ambassadors' residences, and a high percentage of all foreign property. Vehicles of all sorts, food, clothing, bedding, money, watches, some rugs and pictures, miscellaneous valuables, are the main things sought. This still goes on, especially outside the one. There is not a shop in Nan-ting save the International Committee's rice shop and a military store. None of the shops offer free-for-all looting and pilfering; were systematically stripped by gangs of soldiers working with tricks, often under the observed direction of officers, and then turned. We still hear several fires a day. Many sections of houses have also been burned deliberately. We have several samples of the chemical strips used by the soldiers for this purpose, and have inspected all phases of the process.

Most of the refugees were robbed of their money and at least part of their scanty clothing and bedding and food. This was an utterly heartless performance, resulting in despair on every face for the first week or ten days. You can imagine the outlook for work and life in this city with shops and schools gone, no books or communications as yet, some important blocks of houses burned out, everything else plundered and now open to cold and starving people. Some 250,000 are here, almost all in the safety
and fully 100,000 entirely dependent on the International Committee for food and shelter. Others scrapping along on tiny holdings of rice and the proceeds of direct or indirect looting. Japanese supply departments are beginning to let out for monetary and political reasons a little of the rice confiscated from considerable Chinese Government supplies, though the soldiers burned our small reserves. But what next? When I asked Japanese officials about post and telegraph services, they said, "There is no plan." And that seems to be the same with everything economic and most of things political.

The International Committee has been a great help, with a story little short of miraculous. Three Germans have done splendidly, and I'd almost wear a Nazi badge to keep fellowship with them. A Dane and three Englishmen added a good deal in the preliminary stages, but were pulled out by their companies and governments before the Chinese retired from Hankow. So the bulk of the work has been on American missionaries, only nine of whom have been outside the confining strain of the Hospital filled with bullet and bayonet cases; and of course some of us have had varying duties and conceptions of duty. Naturally there has been considerable Chinese aid and cooperation from the beginning, and most of the detail has had to be done by and through Chinese. Yet at some stages nothing could move, not even one truck of rice, without the actual presence of a foreigner willing to stand up to a gun if necessary. We have taken some big risks and some heavy wallops (literally as well as figuratively), but have been allowed to get away with far more than the situation seems to permit. We have blocked many robberies, persuaded or bluffcd many contingents into releasing groups marked for death, and pulled scores of soldiers away from rape or intended rape, besides all the general work of feeding, sheltering, negotiating, protecting, and prostrating and sticking our eyes and noses into everything that has gone on. It is no wonder that a Japanese Embassy officer told us the generals were angry at having to complete their occupation under the eyes of neutral observers, claiming (ignorantly, of course) that never in the history of the world had that been true before.

Sometimes we have failed cold, but the percentage of success is still big enough to justify considerable effort. We must recognize that although in some points the relationship is far from satisfactory, we have gained a good deal by the effort of the Japanese Embassy to put cushions between the Army and foreign interests, the relative decency of their Consular Police (far and not altogether angelic), and the fact that the main figures in the enterprise have been Germans of the Anti-Comintern Pact and Americans to be appeased after the barbarous attack on American ships. The Japanese refused twice to send out for us a mild request for the return of American officials, because of the great number of property cases and flag problems; and even with this week's improvement we are still in practical isolation even from the countryside and river front, except for the opportunities of American naval wireless through the embassy for a limited scope of messages.

So we sail since about Dec. 1, and that most tardy. Electric light in our house last night by special arrangement (seven Americans among whom were personal links to the staff of the power plant). Japanese shot 43 of the 54 technical men on the staff, falsely accusing them of being Government employees. Bombing, shelling, and fires on top of that, and you can imagine that the utilities are slow in resumption. But insecurity of workers and their families are the main stumbling block at that. Water depends on electric pumps, but we are beginning to get a trickle at low levels of the city. No dreams of telephone or bus or even bicycles. The zone is about two square miles in area, not all built up. In this cow-
centration we have had no accidental fire of notice and practically no crime or violence except that of soldiers, until the present week's turning to loot outside the area in open buildings - especially for fuel. No armed police.

The University has 30,000 refugees on various parts of its property. Problems of administration are fearful, even on the low scale of living that can be maintained. We have very few indeed of regular University staff and servants, most of whom have done splendid work. There are many volunteer helpers hastily got together by the International Committee, who have come with considerable adulteration of motives. Now we must add detail and not the intimidation and purchase of agents by the Japanese. I'm in three hot spots right now over this sort of business, and begin to wonder whether they are out to get me or the University into a corner. For instance, the two occurring in the past three days involve a contradiction of my report of losses for the University Middle School (thus probably due to my staying and cheating to the Japanese) and striking between me and a key man in that tremendous refugee camp; and a severe show through the gate of a terrible military police office, when I tried to inquire about a good-spirited interpreter whom they had carried off bound as for death (after he had refused to leave the middle school camp to accept their offers or submit to their threats). Incidentally, police from that office last night took a woman from a University house and raped her thoroughly, after putting a bayonet against our men's heads when he happened along at the wrong time. So you get a little of the flavor of our daily diet while struggling to do something for these wretched but remarkably durable and cheerful people.

The real military police numbered 17 at the time that over 50,000 soldiers were turned loose on Hankow, and for days we never saw one. Eventually soldiers were given special ambulances and called police, which means that they have special preserves for their own vindications, and keep out some of the ordinary run. We have been men searched for being caught by officers in the act of rape, and let go without a tie; others made to salute an officer following robbery. One arterialized raid on the University at night was actually conducted by officers themselves, who pinned our watchman to the wall and raped three women refugees before carrying one of them (another was a girl, twelve years old.)

Lillith had every reason to think that I was finished or wounded on the "funny," for my messages about remaining in Hankow had not got through to her, and the papers in Tokyo implied that all foreigners were taken on the boats. But after 36 hours of distress she read in a Japanese paper an interview that a couple of ambulance got out of me shortly after the Japanese entry. The paper responded to the thanks of her friends by rushing out reporters and a photographer on the 17th (Entry on 15th; "Funny" sinking on 18th, reported slowly). One of their men brought me a picture and a letter New Year's Day, the latter of course dutifully read in the Japanese Embassy. Thus we were saved a good deal of prolonged concern. I have no other word since Nov. 9 save that letter, although she wrote and wired many times by all sorts of routes and agencies. On Dec. 17th she expected to come to Shanghai the first week in January, but I have heard nothing more. Perhaps a recent radio through the newly arrived ganboat will get some information from Shanghai.

However, I am not allowed to pass through a Hankow gate, and she would not be allowed to start west of Shanghai even if means of communication were open to her. How long this state will continue we do no
know. Chinese have been greatly afraid lest Americans or all foreigners
would be expelled from Hankow, but they seem more afraid to have us go
than to have us stay — so far. Meanwhile I try to keep on friendly terms
with Johnny staff and a few Japanese in semi-official posts, and even with
a few of the less violent and treacherous of the police and soldiers. But
it's hard going. Four weeks today! The shells and bombs were almost com-
fortable, if we had only known it. And what's ahead?

Dear Edith and Margaret:

Sorry for wretched disorder of this hasty and oft-interrupted letter.
But for lack of better, I'm going to ask you to try to get copies to the
following persons or their entourages: Alice for L. of K. and Shanghai;
A. Peffet and L. Spitzer, wherever they may be; last known at Hankow,
Luthern Home and St. Hilda's School (or London Mission) respectively; B.
Rapp at Szechuan University for Chungking people. I don't know at all
about air or other postal services, but try as well as you can. Your house
untouched, miraculously intact. Anna's place badly robbed and knocked about.
Dining Room! residence on hill lost some things, but on the whole lit-
tle suffering, have possibly the outside residence.

Appreciation of your aid and willingness.

With all good wishes,

m.s. Bates