Pass on to Fr. Thurston - Sara Thurston to Dr. Horton Daniels
3103 Portland ave. Minneapolis, Minnesota.
then here, Santa Cruz, Calif.

September 24, 1937.

Dear Folks,-

Back in Nanking again I shall revert to the diary form of letters to keep you informed of all that is happening here and the local reaction to what is happening elsewhere.

Sept 24

The last letter was handwritten in Kuling telling of my reasons for going there and our doings there. The Stewards suddenly decided to start down the hill on Wednesday morning, the fifteenth to intercept Albert Steward who was coming from Nanking on the Whangpu. They would then proceed together to Hankow. After a thorough nental review of the situation it seemed best to have Marjorie go along and we had just enough money so that I could go up to Hankow with her and see her off on the train for Canton.

with friends up the River

On Tuesday morning I had taken advantage of the Kuling Community hospital to the extent of performing a couple of minor operations there on Mary Park. She didn't have to stay in the hospital and could be followed postoperatively by Dr. Taylor. It was Tuesday noon that we decided to go and so we packed up. About supper time we received word that the Whangpu would leave at eleven the next morning from Kiukiang instead of the afternoon as we had previously thought.

It was a cold rainy day and I had two trips to the gap at night before we finally got the chair and carrier situation straightened out. The chairs were to start at seven in the morning and I was going to walk down with the three Steward kids, starting at six so that we could meet the Whangpu as it came in to keep Albert from unloading his baggage. We accordingly started shortly after six and arrived at Lien Hwa Tung before eight taking a small car across the plains. We arrived at Kiukiang at precisely the same moment as our heavy luggage which had been sent down the night before. All twenty-two pieces of luggage and the four of us then piled into a couple of sampans and rowed over the floods to the Butterfield wharf. We were greatly alarmed to see a boat tied up to it but found it to be the Wulin on her way down river. The Whangpu was barely in sight downstream and anchored for some time in the river before the Wulin cleared out.

Marjorie bathed the baby after the walkers had started and appeared before the Whangpu tied up. With her came Mrs. Steward, Newton, Mrs. W. P. Roberts and her 3/4/0 children, John (aged 11 convalescing from a tonsillectomy) and Bruce, aged 4, and Helen, aged 15, the latter on her way to school in America and we hope a travelling companion for Marjorie all the way to New York. The trip up river was uneventful with the weather improving slightly as we went along.

Arriving at Hankow we were delighted to find Helen Van Voast at the boat to meet us and to take us to the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Crawford Brown, of the Episcopal mission. He had been doing the major portion of the negotiations for passing through Hankow for a great many people and we were exceedingly grateful that they opened their home to us. They have one little girl who talks an amazing amount of Chinese, partly because she is being brought up with two little boys whom the Browns have semi-adopted. One boy is the oldest son of D.D. Su, business manager of the University of Nanking. He is about six and has been with them since he was fourteen months old. The other boy has a Chinese father and a Russian mother. They both go to Chinese schools as did the girl for one year. The little girl is probably

the only other person in the world besides Marjorie who answers to the sobriquet of "Punk".

The first accomodations we could get were on Monday's train from Hankow. Marjorie got a first class apartment with Helen Wan Voast who was going to Hongkong for the time being. Think of travelling for forty-eight hours on a train, first class, for forty five dollars. Many went third class for only fifteen dollars. The Johnnabers, Stewards, Roberts, and some others were also on the train. The Japanese had promised not to bombard the railroad until the 26th after which they said they would not be responsible for anything that might happen. They however did do some heavy air-raiding of Canton and if the train arrived on schedule it was between two raids.

After seeing them off I went over to the Hospital in Wuchang where Logan Roots is located and had lunch with him. On Tuesday morning I had a short talk with Dr. Miller of the Shanghai Sanatorium who has arrived in Hankow to open their new magnificent plant near the Wuhan University in Wuchang. He told me to send him an airmail letter if things became so that there was no job in Nanking. After lunch I went with Mrs. Brown out to the Union Hospital around which Dr. Kundel, the superintendent, piloted me for an hour or two. Just before supper we took the three kids to see "The Elephant Boy" an excellent screen version of Kipling's "Toomai of the Elephants", by the London Film Corporation.

The Woosung left for down river at nine-thirty p.m. I was glad I had gone up with Marjorie because there was an interminable amount of red tape to go through. We even had to have the baby's picture taken and attached to her passport. Then there was the negotiations with the Dollar people and the railroad, baggage checking and all the incidentals. Marjorie was able to get some rest and not keep dashing about all the time.

Mr. Hale of Chinkiang was going down to Kiukiang on the Woosung and also Ivor Butler of the Standard Oil, whom I knew well in Nanking. Jack Sherwood and another fellow named Pickering also of the Nanking group of Standard Oil people joined us at Kiukiang and so we had a very congenial group to travel down the river together. I had dropped in at the office in Hankow a couple of days ahead and bought a ticket not because I thought it would be crowded but because I happened to be passing by. I think I was the second one to get a ticket. I was surprised on getting on board to find camp cots all over the decks and the cabins all full. After two trips up river with "deck passage", on the last of which I had slept on the floor of the smoking room while Marjorie occupied one of its lounges, I felt pretty ritzy having an actual bunk.

Sept 24 - (2)

On the way down the river we heard of the wholesale bombing of Nanking on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. It was hard to know what to expect when we arrived. Before we left Hankow the Butterfield and Swire company sent me an urgent letter stating that their Nanking hulk had been moved ten miles up stream and that they might not land at Nanking at all. After bombing with forty to sixty planes on Sunday and Monday the Japs served warning on all Embassies that on Tuesday they were really going to do business and that they had better get out. The American Embassy was the only one that took the hint and departed

~~ten miles up stream on the flagship~~ to the flagship in Hsiakwan of the Yangtze patrol, the U.S.S. Luzon. This brought down on them the ridicule of all the Chinese and caused an inestimable loss of prestige to the American government and the American people generally. The report is that the other Embassies would stand by until orders from their home governments told them to evacuate while the Americans ran out on orders from Japan. They may have been justified but it will be very difficult to regain the position of confidence they have had.

The boys from the Standard Oil were telling of the report of their chief Chinese clerk in the Nanking office after the first serious raid. He said "They bombered the air field, they bombered the broadcasting station, they bombered the railroad station and, in fact, they bombered just about everything." After all it does sound a little more realistic to "bomber" instead of just to "bomb".

We arrived at the Butterfield Hulk just below San Shan at noon on Thursday, the 23rd. Ivor Mackay, the Butterfield agent was on board. The Whangpu was tied up to the wharf and was acting as a sort of refugee hotel for about thirty foreigners, mostly Germans, who had left temporarily. The raids on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday were fierce from the standpoint of the number of planes used and number of bombs dropped but the actual damage done was negligible. The greatest loss of life was caused by bombs landing right in the refugee camp at Hsia Kwan. One feels sorry for them that after losing their homes in Shanghai and being shunted off from place to place they should finally end up by being bombed in Nanking. A small pontoon between the shore and a larger pontoon was sunk by a bomb which killed one and wounded several. Elsewhere numerous poor Chinese houses were knocked down but no places of military significance and no buildings of any size or importance received the slightest injury. Two bombs landing on the main road caused traffic to go around the holes for some time.

Several more news paper correspondents have arrived and the news that you read from Nanking itself will be fairly accurate. To return to the trip. We left the hulk at two o'clock and reached Hsia Kwan shortly after three. I got a sampan for an outrageous price and was rowed ashore only to find that the half dozen Chinese on board were coming in on my charity, refusing to pay a cent. A horse and carriage was cheaper than a taxi and I came up to the hospital through a city that looked exactly as I had left it two weeks ago. They had two false alarms and five raids since I left so that the total number of alarms to date is 35 and we will proceed from there. It has been raining all today so that there has been no raid. The hospital staff are all present and not unduly alarmed or worn out. My cook has ceased to have any fear of Japanese planes. He watches them come and then laughs at them. If his reaction is typical the Japs have managed to achieve exactly the opposite result from that they had anticipated. The populus now heads for their numerous dugouts and waits until the raid is over. It is only in places like refugee camps than they can do any damage.

Sept 24-

The best news of the day waited until I was in bed before it arrived. It was a telegram from Hongkong saying "Arrived Safely President Jackson" which implied to me that Marjorie and Elizabeth were spared the dreaded two week wait in Hongkong and were able to get on the boat very shortly after arriving.

September 25.

This has been a terrible day!! Mrs. Twinem, who is now doing the English Broadcast for the Central Broadcasting system over the short wave and whom some of you might be hearing, was here for supper along with Dick Brady and Lewis Smythe. We helped her word her introduction to tonight's broadcast starting, "Gallons of civilian blood flowed today as Nanking was subjected to three terrific air raids."

I went down after breakfast to try and get some films that I had left two weeks ago before I left for Kuling and Hankow. While in the shop the first warning sounded and I got on my bicycle and hastily headed for Dick's comfortable cellar. Lewis Smythe, who is here helping us now with getting cars for emergency squads, and Dick were already there and we watched our planes take off, fourteen of them, and head across the river. Recently they have been too few to engage the large enemy squadrons direct as it would mean total destruction. Some time after they left the Jap bombers came in droves and as they started bombing and being shot at we ducked into the cellar which shook every time a bomb exploded. Many people saw one bomber drop in flames, landing just opposite the Y.M.C.A.

After the raid was over we went to the hospital and as it was my turn to operate I excised a carbuncle. Before we could start dinner another raid started and more bombing was done. This time they called for us to come to East Chung Shan road opposite the Kiangsu Bank. We found all the windows thereabouts shattered and several poor Chinese houses collapsed. Two people were killed in the entrance to a dugout and their bodies were badly mangled. I climbed over the wreckage of one house and came upon a man flattened out by the central beam of the house. It had crushed his chest and he was quite dead. After I had extricated myself I found that the hospital bunch had all gone and I had no more than started walking back to the hospital before another alarm came. After running most of the way home I thought I would go to the excellent dugout prepared by the Embassy. Going up the back way I ran into a blank wall as a gate had been locked and found it closer to come to my own house just as the Jap planes again came sailing overhead. More damage was done and bombs seemed to be raining around. We could see the puffs of smoke from the exploding anti aircraft shells but apparently none found its mark. The all clear signal was followed almost immediately by another warning but this time the bombers did not get over the city.

It was by now five o'clock and I went over to the hospital to find Dr. James Shen, superintendent of Central Hospital, making arrangements for moving his staff and patients into our hospital. It

seems that some twenty bombs had landed in the vicinity of the hospital destroying their kitchen, laundry, water plant, shattering all the glass of their operating room, killing their electrician, destroying two of their four ambulances, and wounding four coolies. No doctors or nurses were injured and the big building was intact except for panes of glass broken. Dr. Shen had returned hastily from a trip abroad and arrived just in time for this.

Dick Brady and Lewis Smythe and Mrs. Twinem came home with me at five thirty for a bite to eat before we got busy on the evening's work of tending to wounded and helping move the Central Hospital patients. The staff is standing by splendidly. Dick used his car to bring patients over. J. Lossing Buck has offered his car but it was locked up in the Ford Garage and unavailable tonight. When we get it out I will have a chauffeur's job added to other duties. After looking over the wounded of which we had about ten admitted and finding none in need of immediate surgery I came home to write up this account. We have only candle light tonight as the minor injuries to the electric light plant in this morning's raid were not able to be fixed up in time for night use as the raids continued so continuously. The count of raids and alarms has now risen to 39.

Sunday, September 26.

We continue by candle light. It has been raining all day so that we have been mercifully free from raids. Three letters from America arrived today mailed about August 9th. Which reminds me that in the excitement of the last few days I forgot to mention the letter that our new Cousin John, Brigadier-General Beaumont, brought over with him. It arrived two days ago so that the mails seem to be coming through and give me hope that my first long letter will arrive safely. I shall mail this shortly. One of today's letters was from Mrs. J.B. Butchart who was visiting Baird in Bethlehem, Pa. Her home address is Eureka, Ill. and if mom will write to her and acknowledge my receipt of her letter and the pleasure it gave me I would be much obliged. She enjoys contacts with her old friends immensely. She tells among other things of the death of Mrs. Gilbert.

Cousin Julia's carbon copy arrived and it was preceeded not long ago by the lovely little dress she sent Elizabeth. The dress came while Marjorie was in Kuling and I forwarded it to her and she now has it on the Pacific. Whew! but I'm glad she's on the "Pacific". The third letter was from home at the start of their vacation in which mom promptly started to strain herself with overwork canning plums and otherwise acting as if she did not need a rest.

My cook went to see some of his family in Wuhu today. They have been suffering from dysentery and afraid to go to the hospital. I gave him a note to Dr. Brown and his wages. He will presumably return tomorrow. He is an excellent worker, very clean, and serves a delicious meal even when he can't find anything to buy on the street. His little boy and a playmate, both about ten years old, had a grand time serving my supper tonight. I get so much pleasure out of having a house of my own that I can't bear to give it up. The piano is a blessed relief, the two dogs are excellent company. Snooky is getting huge. We have four new pigeons and, in fact, all it needs is Marjorie and Elizabeth to make it perfect.

I must get some more and thinner paper tomorrow. The pad of paper I have been using has finally given out.

After the usual rounds this morning and an hour or two on store room supplies, Lewis Smythe and I went to the Ford garage and got out Dr. Buck's Buick. We used it to transport some people to a gathering this afternoon at Ming Teh Girls' School called by Dr. Han Li Wu who is in charge of the British Boxer Indemnity Fund. Dr. Wu I fang, president of Ginling, presided and we discussed forming committees for war relief and publicity. After the meeting I took Dr. Wu, Grace Bauer and Minnie Vautrin around in the rain to see some of the places bombed yesterday.

Sept 26.

Never have I been so appalled as by the sight at Central Hospital. The grace of God must have intervened in an unbelievably saving way to prevent the consummation of one of the greatest outrages in history. One Japanese plane dived down on the hospital and let loose two one thousand pound bombs intended for the main building. They struck about fifty feet apart at each end of a tennis court. The craters were about twenty feet deep and thirty feet across. The craters were only a few yards away from a long dug out where over a hundred members of the staff were taking refuge. The dugout according to those in it shook as if a great earth quake had shaken the earth. All the windows in the hospital facing the bombs were of course broken. If the bombs had landed only a few yards either north or south the destruction would have been incredible. If they had hit the hospital it would have been shattered to smithereens and the one hundred patients including one Japanese aviator, would have been blown to bits. A few yards the other way and the whole staff of the hospital would have been wiped out. As it was these tremendous bombs and the numerous smaller ones dropped around them accounted for only one death and five injuries. The beautiful auditorium where we have held many medical meetings had one wall demolished, and all the glass blown out.

We went from there to the Y.M.C.A. to see the airplane which had come down in flames but it had already been towed away. My candle is getting short and I guess I ought to be conserving it so I will continue tomorrow.

I should mention before closing, however, a night alarm between three and four this morning in which the planes did not reach the city.

September 27. Monday.

Three more alarms raises the total to 43. After attending chapel and making rounds the alarm sounded and I went over to the Embassy for the first time. Hereafter I shall do it more often. The Embassy is on a hill and from the top of their dugout one has a clear view for miles around. We could see the planes when they were miles away and watch their approach. This morning they did not enter the city but one by one dove onto the Pukow railway station and discharged their bombs. Those with field glasses could see the bombs drop and we could all see them explode. Nine planes dove. A check-up afterwards revealed no direct hits and very little damage. One or two people were killed and a few injured.

The next raid followed almost immediately and they must have been after the Yung Lee chemical works down the river, judging [illegible] sound as the planes themselves did not come into sight. [illegible] came when I was home preparing something to eat. Again the [illegible] come over the city so that all told the day was very wild.

The Central hospital has temporarily abandoned their quarters and are reorganizing as a military hospital in the Orphanage just outside of the city. They are preparing to take care of two thousand wounded from the Shanghai front. Their patients which moved over into our hospital two days ago will be officially under our care starting tomorrow morning and will considerably increase our responsibilities. The overflow is now in the old University dormitory that used to be Mr. Meig's school years ago. We went around to see the different patients this afternoon and found many compound fractures that will require a good deal of care. On my ward this morning I saw my first "dum-dum" bullet wound. The patient was an officer from the Shanghai front; we are getting more and more of them now. The bullet entered by a very small hole in one side of the arm, shattered the bone and emerged through a gaping wound over two inches across. His chances for a useful arm are very slim. Another patient on my ward was operating an anti-aircraft gun in Hsia Kwan and succeeded in bringing down a plane in flames. His gun became over-heated and exploded blowing off three fingers and injuring an eye so that he will probably lose it. He also has numerous minor infuries.

This morning I was talking to some of the newspaper reporters over at the Embassy. They told of the experiences on Thursday of two news reel camera men. These men were close to the Tower Plant in Hsia Kwan when the planes were diving on it and could see the flaring plane for the whole of its descent. They sped over to the Central Hospital under [illegible] special permission and were up in the top floor of the Central Hospital actually photographing the explosion of the two enormous bombs. Dr. Shen thought they were surely killed and rushed up there after the planes had gone to find them still winding their cameras. As if that were not enough Madame Chiang appeared on the scene and allowed herself to be photographed visiting the sick in the hospital and then told them to take the reels along just as they had taken them. They had been told they would have to develop them themselves here and undergo a censorship before taking them out. They immediately sped back to Shanghai with them and you will probably see them before this reaches you. Again the candle grows short. The cook is going to try and get me a kerosene lamp tomorrow. He came back this afternoon from Wuhu somewhat relieved about his family. I had dinner tonight with Grace Bauer and her numerous Chinese family.

Heaps of love Bob

Sept 28

8.

Dear Folks,

The lights were on all afternoon but just as I was [illegible] ing my dessert at supper time they went out and here I am again with a candle at my elbow. Perhaps tomorrow they will be on to stay.

The program today was for the planes to come at noon fly around for about two hours, drop a few bombs here and there and fly away again. The clouds were of medium height so that they arrived above the clouds and one by one dived down beneath them and into view. Also in the view of the antiaircraft guns which promptly got to work and the planes quickly flew again up above the clouds. Four or our pursuit planes took off at the first alarm but kept well out of the way of the dizen or fifteen Japanese planes that arrived later.

It was a pretty busy day for me at the hospital. Quite a few of the patients turned over to us by the Central Hospital needed some type of surgical care as soon as possible. I fixed up three nasty compound fractures of arms and one simple fracture of the leg. Before I could finish the last one the alarm sounded. I came home and ate dinner during the raid keeping one ear open for the near approach of planes and being on guard when they came overhead or otherwise too close for comfort.

After clinic this afternoon an acute appendix arrived and we were happy to see an unruptured appendix. (The Central Hospital turned over two ruptured ones to us unoperated) This case had an appendix tense with pus and would undoubtedly [illegible] tomorrow morning. There are few things that give me [illegible] than that of whipping out an unruptured acute appendix [illegible] table, a relatively small opening, and a [illegible] patient up and around as if nothing had happened, [illegible] a few more hours his very life would be a gamble. We see so many ruptured ones like the wretched pair turned over to us this morning that accounts for our pleasure in the other kind.

[illegible] letters again today: an air mail from Hongkong telling of [illegible] hectic trip with the wild confusion of Canton; a letter [illegible] from Hankow with the unfortunate news that the package [illegible] from Hankow to give to John Magee was in reality sent [illegible] to Bessie Sims at Hankow and would I please see if I [illegible] it; and the third was a letter from Miss Petrova to Marjorie which I shall not forward as she will see her long before she would get the letter. Bravo for the President Jackson! I hope that the steamer will soon give Marjorie a chance to get rested and get the [illegible] back on proper schedules.

I am just reading Alexis Carrel's "Man, the Unknown" in which he claims that man's scientific achievements have far outstripped his [illegible] spiritual evolution, and what a superb example of that very [illegible] in progress right now, and here I am in the middle of it.

Wednesday September 29.

It ha[illegible] most of today which probably accounts for the fact that [illegible] raids. I did, however, get an aftermath of yesterday's [illegible] our 44th. One of our aviators who engaged the Jap planes over [illegible] province was shot in the abdomen with two machine gun bullets. He managed to bring his plane down and then fainted. It took [illegible] eleven hours to get him to our hospital. I saw him at 2 a.m. [illegible] shock and loss of blood. One bullet entered the right side of the abdomen plowed through his intestines, smashed the upper [illegible] pelvic bone on the opposite side and brought six inches of [illegible] along with it through its exit. The other entered the left side of the abdomen and I couldn't trace it. It may still be in [illegible]. The small intestine was completely severed in two places about two or three feet apart and in addition there was a round hole in the part (a loop) that was protruding from the wound in his flank.

[illegible] decided to resect the part between the two complete severations and [illegible] to do only one anastomosis. the hole was sewed up with a fine silk suture and now we must wait and see if by some special grace of God he will be permitted to recover. I will keep you informed of his progress. Yesterday's appendectomy was reading a newspaper when [illegible] rounds this morning so I guess we won't have to worry about [illegible].

Some more American mail came in today with the very welcome Reader's Digest and Time Magazine. Also a good letter from home with Judy and Franklin's enclosed. The letter from home tells of seeing in the papers that Marjorie and Elizabeth went to Ruling. There were three letters from Marjorie from her folks which I shall not forward as she will see them long before the letters could reach her. The snap-shot of dad and mom with our new cousin John, Helen, Pat and John was excellent. Pat has certainly grown up in the short time since I saw her last.

A new tale of Japanese horror reached us yesterday. You have all seen it by this time. I refer to the complete destruction of a Chinese fishing fleet leaving only ten survivors out of three hundred men women and children. These were picked up by the S.S.Scharnhorst near Hongkong and had a horrible tale to tell. In view of the Japanese constant reiteration of how impossible it is for Japanese to kill non-combatants, they must have mistaken the fishing junks for the Chinese navy.

The Chinese are falling back in the north to a well prepared line of defence south of Paotingfu, slowly contesting the ground as they give way. In Shanghai in spite of straining every nerve for over six weeks they have made practically no progress. After the Chinese withdrew from the range of the Japanese battleships the battle line remained stationary except for small areas of give and take. Their utter lack of success there undoubtedly accounts for their wanton bombing of the inferior, apparently largely a matter of pique.

The lights are on in most places in the city, including the hospital, but they haven't reached here yet except for the short period yesterday. A nice little kerosene lamp however, is proving a vast improvement on the candles and recalls the early days in Nanking before we had any electric lights.

September 30.

And so the rather hectic month of September draws to a close with the prospects for October little if any brighter. It closed on a rather busy day with eight operations, mostly the result of bombs. The worst was a rather gruesome case in which a shrapnel fragment had entered near the anus, ripped open the rectum and completely severed the neck of the bladder. The shrapnel then dug itself into the arch of the pubes at their symphysis. All his urine and feces was diverted into the wound, none using the proper channels and naturally the poor fellow was an awful mess. I gave him a temporary colostomy to function until the lower wound had a chance to heal and repaired the urethra after a fashion. He also required a transfusion. The aviator is still holding his own. His chances of recovery are distinctly slim but they seem to be growing better rather than worse.

The mail situation seems to have gotten on to the Hongkong route and we have had a regular feast of home letters with several more arriving today for Marjorie and the August 17 letter from Santee. It told of mom's birthday, the visit to Victorville and the beginning of the Shanghai trouble. Now that the Japs have started bombing the Canton-Hankow railroad we will probably be isolated again for some time. Marjorie has been on the Pacific for five days and as she is a good sailor and those boats have good food, I think she will by this time have recovered from the strenuous trip on the railroad. It will be good to hear from her when she reaches America.

It has been raining again today. When we wake up to find it raining we rejoice and say that the weather is perfect. It is the sunny days and the ones with high clouds that hold the danger for us. The rain has enabled us to catch up on the operations bequeathed us by the Central Hospital. I am still using the kerosene lamp but the repair work has been almost completed and the lights should be on in another day or two.

Oct. 2.

Yesterday was a rather uneventful day and so I skipped. Plumber Mills came down from Kuling and is staying temporarily with me. We had one air raid alarm but no planes. Withe all the seriously ill cases we have over at the hospital it takes most of the day to get around and take care of them. What on earth do they do with those batches of two and three thousand wounded. The care they get must be pathetically inadequate.

Oliver Caldwell arrived from Shanghai where he left his wife and baby. They still intend to make some sort of opening of the University on the 4th. Oliver will stay with me here also so my household is increasing. I am hoping my coolie Lo Si Fu will be back soon as the wash and other items will be getting heavier.

Oct. 30.

This morning we had a five minute alarm. It started just as I was playing "Jesus, Lover of my Soul" on the organ for chapel service. We finished chapel and then prepared for the raid. The release siren sounded almost immediately. Thus passed the 46th alarm.

There are few new developments on the war fronts. Oliver has some tales to tell of the Shanghai area. e says that the symmathy of the foreign population, soldiers included, in Shanghai is overwhelmingly with the Chinese. The guard of the International Settlement have orders to prevent any Japanese, armed or unarmed from entering the settlement.

Several nights ago twenty Chinese boys gave their lives in a futile attempt to sink the Japanese flagship. They swam down the Whangpoo with a sort of floating torpedo and rade for the Idzumo. It carries a steel net all around it about one hundred yards from the ship. They were using ir-out ers to make a hole in this when they were spotted. They did not have time to get through the net and so blew up their torpedo the explosion of which rocked Shanghai. Several sailors on the Augusta about a mile away were blown out of their bunks and Oliver himself was wakened with a start clear over in the American school buildings. It must have done some damage to the ship but nothing like what they had intended. The Japanese saw red and poured a tremendous barrage into the Chinese lines almost continuously for hour after hour. When they thought they had killed every Chinese soldier for miles around they sent their soldiers over the top only to be met with a withering machine gun fire that sent them back to their lines with hundreds upon hundreds of dead and wounded left behind. They have yet to make any substantial progress and only today have completely abandoned one sector of their front. The [illegible] are sus[illegible] for that and are [illegible] over the [illegible] lined.

[illegible] the north the Japanese seem to be having considerable success [illegible] the two railway lines but they [illegible] shock in Shansi province. Advancing for about forty miles with little or no resistance they headed toward the great Yen Men Pass in three isolated columns of 5000 men each coming down different valley approaches. All of a sudden they ran into the advance detachments of the former Chinese Red army, now a division under the Central government. One of the detachments was completely annihilated, one decimated and the other put into a full and hasty retreat.

When the Reds decided to come in with the Central government they sent one of their two main leaders, Chu Teh, down to Nanking to confer with the Generalissimo. The conversation is supposed to have run about as follows:

Chiang: Now that you are with us I suppose you will need some equipment. How about a few tanks?
Chu Teh: No thanks, we have plenty.
Chiang: Some air planes?
Chu Teh: We have plenty.
Chiang: Then How about some big guns?
Chu Teh: We have more than enough. Couldn't we offer you a few?

All of which may be a long way from the truth but it suggests that Russia may have been pretty busy supplying the Reds and if that is the case the Japs may find their hands full before long up in that region. There is a good deal of talk about Russia becoming involved sooner or later. The Russian Ambassador just made a hurried trip by plane back to Moscow and the newspaper reporters here maintain that that is just a blind for considerably more important people than the ambassador.

Heaps of love
Robert

Dear Folks,-

This is a rather strange birthday. I never thought of it until noon. Then I asked the cook to make me a birthday cake and he did himself proud with Chinese flour. Plummer Mills and Oliver Caldwell both seemed to enjoy it.

One alarm yesterday and two today bring our total to 49. Yesterdays and this mornings were false alarms in that the planes did not come over the city but this evening six planes came over. I was just finishing seeing the last of my patients at 5:30 when the alarm sounded. Hastily finishing rounds I changed my coat and headed for home. At that time of day with some uncertainty as to how long the raid will last I would rather be home where I can get something to eat if it lasts a long time.

Plummer was already home but Oliver went over to the Embassy where he had a much better view than we did and saw one plane come down in flames and another drop so straight and so far that he is sure it was crashing. Both were south of the city. We were not bothered by bombs but could see the antiaircraft shells explode in the region of the planes. Darkness had fallen before they sounded the release siren.

My aviator, after a gallant struggle against overwhelming odds for a week, died this morning. He seemed to do so well the first few days that I had begun to have some hopes but this morning at five o'clock he took a sudden turn for the worse andnever rallied.

This afternoon I again saw Mr. Lancaster and found him still optimistic about the air situation. He was exceedingly bitter against the American government for stopping the shipping of planes already bought and paid for by the Chinese. That side of the neutrality act certainly overwhelmingly favors the Japanese as they have a great many more planes. Since they started mass bombing the Chinese have their planes scattered over the country in small units. If they tried a major engagement, even if they shot down two to one they would come out the losers because they wouldn't have any at all after that while the Japs would still have plenty. They now play a foxy game and send their pursuit planes into the air to harrass the stragglers and the rear of the big squadrons. In this way Lancaster claims that they have been bringing down four to six planes every time the Japs make a raid while losing practically none themselves.

The news from the north is not encouraging and we don't know how far the Japs will be able to push before they meet strenuous opposition. Our optimism, while still borne out in the Chinese papers, regarding Shansi is flatly denied in the most recent North China Daily News which claims an major Japanese victory, capturing of the Yen Men Pass and the imminent fall of the capital Taiyuan. We are hoping to hear some more about the well-equipped former reds but the N.C.D.N. was certainly not encouraging.

The lights came on last night quarter strength but we are back again to kerosene and candles.

October 6.

Our raid tally [illegible] number fifty was most inconvenient in that it occurred from [illegible] until two a.m. and broke up our sleep. The raid was more or less of a false alarm. I put a few clothes on and lay down again and [illegible] before the release siren sounded was fast asleep. When it did sound I took off the extra clothes and was soon again in dreamland.

In raid fifty one I achieved one of my cherished ambitions. Three planes came overhead and headed for south city flying at a tremendous altitude and just in the edge of a bank of clouds, just over a small cloud. The first one started to dive through the small cloud below it and ran plumb into an antiaircraft shell. As it appeared again at the lower edge of the cloud it was already in flames and it shot down to earth at a tremendous speed with a column first of flame and then of smoke trailing several hundred feet behind it. The second plane had already started its dive but quickly changed its mind, veered off and quickly disappeared into the clouds. The third never even started.

In the afternoon raid we saw six planes and some high

October 8.

anti aircraft shells bursting. The planes did not come down under 12,000 or so feet and as far as we could see no bombs were dropped. The break just above was caused by our 53rd raid and as I was already using a candle and had to put it out there was nothing to do but to stop temporarily. The alarm lasted for about an hour and ahalf but we didn't hear any planes. It rained all day yesterday and is sprinkling again today so our weather has been excellent. The thermometer is in the low sixties most of the time. I have to use most of the remaining bedding for myself so that Plummer and Oliver have had to bring their own supply.

On the afternoons of October 5 and 4 I went down with a nurse to the Hsia Kwan refugee camps to run a small clinic for any illnesses that turned up. They have two of them there both situated in large old theaters. One contained four hundred and the other about two hundred refugees. Almost all were from Shanghai. They were a cheerful and on the whole healthy lot. They were getting sufficient food from the Chinese Red Cross and Red Swastika societies. Most of them had enough bedding of their own. They slept on the benches. All were anxious to move on and the turnover is several hundred a day. On our first afternoon there were four hundred in one place of which two hundred were preparing to leave for Wuhu. When we came back the next day there wasn't a soul in the theater. Just where they end up it is hard to say. They seem to be shoved on indefinitely. One woman was all by herself, pregnant and due any time. She made very light of her difficulties and when we suggested that she had better stay in Nanking until her time was over she poo-poohed the idea and got ready to go on up river. Probably there will be some emergency obstetrics on board.

Another activity which is going on is an attempt to aid in the cooperation of the Mission Hospitals with the Army Medical Corps. Plummer has interested himself especially in it and I went with him

to see J. Heng Liu, head of the Army Medical Corps and also head of the national Health Administration. The idea has to be worked out but it will probably take the form of professional assistance by missionary hospitals and doctors in caring for the more severe cases and helping in consultations in the Army Medical Hospitals which are being established all over the Yangtze Valley. A form letter was sent out and the government will help financially where such help is needed in connection with the taking care ofwounded soldiers.

October 10.

On the afternoon of October 4 after visiting the refugee camps the nurse and I went over to the Army Hospital which the Central Hospital staff has organized in the Orphanage just outside of Chung Shan Gate. There is a boys' and a girls' orphanage across the street from each other. There are innumerable buildings in each spread out in bungalow form over many acres, connected with cement walks. All told they will be able to care for two thousand wounded. Almost all of the Central Hospital equipment has been moved directly to these buildings which by their very spreading out are fairly safe from annihilation. They have a roomy operating room and huge wards.

The clouds have been very low for the last four days and we have not had a single raid. The Chinese are celebrating one of their great national holidays very quietly, today. They were all convinced that there would be some especially severe raids today but none have materialized. The continuous drizzle is most welcome. Only Oliver wants it to clear up because he says the paint on his is depressing. He unfortunately disagree.

Oct 10

Perhaps the big single item of news in the last few days has been the effect of President Roosevelt's Chicago address. The Chinese papers have given it a tremendous writeup. The feeling of criticism toward the Americans cleared up like magic and they are again the best people on earth. While the Chinese morale has always been to us excellent at all times so far it received a thoroughly refreshing breeze after reading the speech and the subsequent statement by the State department. With the effect it produced also on the League report China feels that she has received the spiritual and moral backing of most of the world and while she would appreciate something more tangible she is not crying over the lack of it and has received a wonderful bucking up. If Roosevelt can proceed now with the wedge he has driven and actually force Japan to back down he will go down in history as one of our greatest Presidents. The opportunity seems to be his and he is a good one for making the most of his opportunities. The Embassy here is greatly heartened and are thoroughly in sympathy with the new stand.

It is a critical time in world history. China can easily be molded to join the communist camp but it would rather have the opportunity of lining up with the great democratic powers. A complete victory for Japan would be a prelude to world disaster. How we all long for the triumph of the principles of the Prince of Peace. It is almost overwhelming to contemplate the possibilities of the next few months. We must all continue to do our bit and continue to pray that God's will may be worked out through it all.

Oct 12

Dear Folks,-

Again three raids to report as the count rises to 55. Yesterday an alarm was sounded but we saw no planes. This morning they got as far as Chinkiang but after two were shot down by Chinese pursuits they did not reach the city. This afternoon, however, we were treated to a rather awesome air spectacle. Shortly after the initial warning and we had gone to our respective places which we each decide for ourselves for each raid, (this time four of us were at Lossing Buck's making arrangements to move in there in a day or two) and shortly after the emergency warning we saw nine big Jap bombers coming in from the north east. They were a new type, monoplane and both faster and larger than the ones we had recently seen. Nanking has recently been reinforced by some beautiful new Curtiss-Hawks and we saw some fancy dog-fighting. One Chinese plane was forced down and one Jap plane came down in flames. The official report is that two Jap planes were brought down again this afternoon making their total today at four. Our plane that made the forced landing was apparently uninjured. The aviator came to our hospital with a laceration of his lower lip and had it sewed up. He will stay in and rest for a few days.

Some bombs were dropped in the southern part of the city but we do not yet know the extent of the damage. As we have had no casualties brought into the hospital, except for the aviator, we presume there wasn't much damage done.

The hospital is again quieting down a little except that we are again having heavy clinics. We treat a good many wounded soldiers that can still walk and have about fifty soldiers in the hospital. As it has been raining for so many days we have had very few raids and hence bomb casualties. Today was the first clear day for quite a while.

The Japanese started their fifth big drive in the Shanghai area this morning. We all hope it will prove as futile as the others. The Chinese soldiers in the north, however, are of a decidedly different caliber and are offering little or no resistance to a steady advance by the Japs. We don't know what will happen if they succeed in crossing the Yellow River but as they haven't reached it yet we still have time to wait and see. Meanwhile food prices are rising but there seems to be no actual shortage. It will cost considerably to live during the winter.

Six or seven of us are getting together to solve some of the problems and plan to move into Lossing Buck's house. He flew to America not long ago and we don't know when he will get back. His house is the best in these parts with three modern bathrooms on the second floor, excellent central heating, city water supply and at present electric lights. We should be very comfortable for the winter. We are taking my cook over instead of using Lossing's and so I will continue to act as housekeeper, at least until Lossing comes back.

I am writing this during our 61st raid. [illegible] and two today. They dropped a few bombs yesterday south of the city. This morning I was caught operating for the fifth time. It was on a fellow I have mentioned before as having shot down two Jap planes with his anti-aircraft gun and then had it burst on him. As the infection was subsiding in his fingers I took him to the operating room and did some trimming that will make them more useful. The alarm sounded before we were half through and by the time we had finished the planes had gone overhead at a tremendous height, flown south and dropped their bombs which we could hear. We postponed the last two cases until the raid was over.

Dick Brady leaves this afternoon for a two weeks' vacation in Kuling. He must have just about made the ship when the current raid commenced. The planes were fairly near before we got our first alarm as they sounded the emergency one along with the preliminary. From my window here I could see six planes dive one after the other a couple of miles south while the air was filled with the antiaircraft smoke-puffs. I didn't see any Chinese planes and also failed to see any Jap planes come down. (I just looked to see if the planes were returning as the buzz became a little louder) It must have been our planes returning however as the all clear signal is now sounding.

Dr. Cheng brought some rather gruesome news this afternoon. It seems that general headquarters had failed for two days to get any definite information from two of the northern fronts. When news finally came through it was to the effect that the Japanese had proclaimed that all the soldiers fighting opposite them on the northern fronts were communists and as such should be exterminated whereupon they used poison gas on an unprecedentedly large scale and wiped out thousands of them. We shudder as we wait for conformation. In the meantime the Chinese have been getting a little the better of it during the last few days around Shanghai but yesterday we received in Nanking the first cases of mustard gas poisoning. Several were taken in at the new Red Cross Hospital. We haven't seen any at ours yet.

October 17.

No confirmation has come of Dr. Cheng's report so I hope we can brand it as rumor. The Chinese press continues to report successes in northern Shansi.

We have had three days of clear weather but they have not been productive of anything unusual in the way of raids. On Friday we had two raids and yesterday one. Both times the planes flew at a tremendous height and dropped bombs near the airport without any appreciable damage. Our count rises thus to 64.

Life is becoming more normal and the raids do not disrupt it as much as they did previously. For instance, when the first alarm sounds if we are making rounds, we continue as if nothing had happened. The clinic proceeds until the emergency alarm sounds as does the operating room, except as described above.

We have officially moved to No. 3, Ping Tsang Hsiang, Fr. J. Lossing Buck's house. Seven of us are here: Plummer Mills, Claude Thomson, Searle Bates, Lewis Smythe, Oliver Caldwell, Peter Bannon and myself. I am still acting as host as my cook came along and my

Dear Dad & Mum,

Thanks specially for the Christmas present which arrived safely. Twenty-five dollars U.S. equivalent will be useful for present purchases in Hankow. Love Robert

coolie does some cleaning and the weekly wash.

Oliver went to Shanghai on Friday morning. His wife and baby are there and he is going to get them off on the U.S. Transport Chaumont for Kobe where they will connect with the President McKinley. When he applied for a pass from the Embassy they said they would under no circumstances grant it, that they didn't think the trip down a fit proposition for man or beast and they would give no official sanction to anyone attempting it. He got a ride with some travellers and we will be glad to see him come back and hear how he fared.

Peter Bannon is two years out of college and was on his way out to the University when the trouble started. He got as far as Hongkong and was there given his choice about coming on. He then flew to Hankow and come down on a river boat. He and Oliver are now operating the English department of the University. After a shaky start the students started coming in and they now have over 170 of which about 135 are taking English which keeps the two of them busy and with Oliver now in Shanghai the whole burden is on Bannon's shoulders.

The war front seems to be just about the same and attention here is more or less focussed on the convening of the Nine Power Conference. Speculation is rife as to just what it can accomplish. There is not too much faith placed on it.

Dick Brady has gone on a two week's vacation. Cheng and I have a pretty heavy surgical schedule but we manage. Yesterday I did my first prostatectomy. I've seen it done several but never tackled it by myself. It was not exciting to read that the mortality in hospitals in the U.S. is as high as 40% and even in the best clinics reaches nearly 20%. The man is still alive and shows surprisingly little postoperative reaction which is definitely reassuring.

Oct. 10, 1937.

Dear Folks,-

The Japs are certainly out to upset our schedules. We had two raids yesterday, two during the night and two again today making a grandd total now of 20 alarms. They seem to be concentrating on the airport but they don't dare come down within range and hence their bombs almost always fall wide of their targets. Last night the siren blew at two fifteen and the release siren didn't sound until four twenty. The Japs came twice during that time and dropped a lot of bombs. Several of our crowd got up and put on their clothes. I had my bathrobe handy but managed to sleep peacefully through most of the time arousing when the sound of the planes became too distinct. The second alarm came about five o'clock but the release came after a very few minutes indicating that probably the planes which had been sighted headed this way were in reality headed somewhe e else.

The big raid today came while we were eating lunch. They dropped over twenty bombs in the vicinity of the airport and also tried to hit the railroad ferry. At the airfield they killed three coolies and wounded two more. One of the wounded came in to our hospital with apparently a machine gun bullet in his back. The injury seemed to be almost exactly similar to that described by the doctors in charge of the British Ambassador. This coolie however did not bleed so severely so that we believe that it did not penetrate his liver. We could see the bullet lodged near the spinal column but apparently not in either lungs or abdomen. [redacted] the peritoneum.

The other part of the raid [redacted] were unproductive of casualties and about twenty were killed [redacted] number wounded. They did not hit their target but managed to destroy some neighboring structures. John Magee was here late this afternoon. They have established some sort of hospital for bomb victims in the Hsia Kwan Episcopal Mission where he is located and they took care of the wounded. I suppose when they find themselves completely balked at the fronts they will again take to promiscuous bombing and we could come in for some anytime.

This afternoon the commander of the Kiangyin forts sent his private car to our hospital with the request that one of our doctors come down and treat him as he didn't want any of the military doctors. Kiangyin is the big fortress that guards the Yangtze and is preventing the Jap ~~planes~~ navy from coming up the river. They have several barriers of scuttled vessels and countless rocks across the river which are covered by the forts and so far the navy hasn't even tried to force the barrier. The commander apparently wasn't willing to pay the [redacted] we asked. I was going down with the car but after the [redacted] went back to inquire about meeting our conditions he didn't [redacted] so I guess the commander will have to be satisfied with the [redacted] army surgeons.

October 21.

The raids are getting on schedule again. The planes have arranged to come every noon at about twelve thirty just as we are about start lunch. Yesterday and today with the time already mentioned in the last installment makes three days in a row. Two other minor alarms during the day brings us up to 74. Our motto is 100 raids by the first of November.

Yesterday Wang came in the afternoon and we had a busy two hour session making some substantial progress in our ability to get the drift of the newspapers. After that was over Bannon and I went over and kicked a soccer ball around a bit. ~~My right leg feels as if it had some rheumatism in it today.~~ I wish we could get more regular exercise.

Today has been a busy day in the operating room for me. We had just put in the spinal anaesthesia for repairing a large hernia and hydrocele when the siren sounded. This was at nine a.m. We continued to operate and were rewarded by the release siren about half an hour later, no emergency siren having been sounded. The system is as follows: One long wail followed by about six short wails tells us that the enemy planes have been sighted heading this way. The next signal is a series of short wails if the planes are nearing the city. The release siren is a long two minute wail without any short ones following it.

After the hernia repair we took out another piece of shrapnel under the flouroscope. It had miraculously missed the man's femur. Entering directly posterior to it we found it directly anterior to it but the bone was not touched. It must have been the principle of relativity or something.

Just at that point a ruptured appendix found its way to the operating room and we again gave spinal anaesthesia, it was now about twelve o'clock. No sooner had the novocaine entered the subarachnoid space than the siren again sounded. We proceeded as usual but this time after about ten minutes the emergency siren sounded and we had to continue the operation to the tune of buzzing airplanes and exploding bombs, not to mention booming antiaircraft guns. As ruptured appendices do not seem to come in singly we had our second tonight arriving in the hospital with a general peritonitis at about six p.m. I started work on him a little after eight and his abdomen proved to be filled with thin pus and his appendix to have a great jagged hole in it and numerous adhesions telling of former attacks. It was a long tedious job digging it out and I figure his chances at about 10%. This morning's I figure about 60% or better as he had a tendency to localize the peritonitis. I shall keep you informed from time to time how they progress.

We had President Chen in to supper last night and in fact are doing a lot of entertaining. I wish we had a hostess.

October 23, Saturday.

Yesterday we celebrated the diamond jubilee raid. It was a relatively quiet one in the afternoon and the planes flew so high that no one in the city could see them. I watched from one of the upper windows of the hospital and could see the bombs bursting on the airfield, or rather the smoke from the bombs rising over the city wall between us and the airfield. The sound of the explosion took about ten seconds to reach us after we could see the smoke. The planes then left without making themselves visible.

Day before yesterday as the A/A raid was still on when I had finished operating on the first ruptured appendix I could not get home for lunch even though it was already one o'clock. I thought of a brilliant idea and got a Red Cross sleeveband and sallied forth on my bicycle. Instead of being shooed off the road by the police and soldiers I was greeted with broad grins. I now carry the sleeveband in case of emergency.

The Japs tried to upset schedules again today by treating us to three raids this morning. The first one came just after Wang Hsien Sun had arrived for my Chinese lesson. I squeezed an extra half hour of profitable study in with him and finally got worried about all the work I had to do at the hospital. They would not sound the release siren so I again made use of the red cross sleeve and rode over to the hospital again without the slightest trouble. I was operating all during the second raid and failed to take any notice of it. The third alarm sounded just as I was ready to go home to lunch. This time we saw six planes and again they bombed the airfield at Tachiachang, outside of Kwanghuamen. They fill up the craters as soon as the planes leave and life goes on as before.

This afternoon a little boy of 16 came in having been gored in the abdomen by a cow. About four feet of intestine in two loops were spread out over his abdomen. The wound was almost a typical incision for an appendix. I fixed him up giving him an enterostomy tube for each of the bruised loops of intestine. Fortunately they were not ruptured but we will have to await developments to determine in the next few days what his chances are. The two ruptured appendices are holding their own as yet. The prostatectomy is getting along beautifully which is indeed encouraging.

This morning Wang told me a good story about dad. I don't know whether dad ever knew his Chinese nickname. Apparently all of us get them but very few find out what they are. It seems that dad's was Wei P'u Sa, or the Idol Wilson." He acquired the nickname during the course of years when many unfortunates used to wait for him after his classes, give a hard-luck story and get some good advice or a little hand-out. They would be greeted by a stern face, a short lecture on getting out and looking for some work, and then a little hand-out. They protested their eagerness to find work but a few days or weeks later would again approach the idol for a little hand-out. The name certainly has its elements of justification.

Sunday, October 24.

Today's one raid makes our total 79. I was making rounds on the fourth floor and watched three planes sail almost overhead with a few antiaircraft shells bursting around them. They headed south and soon we could see the great clouds of smoke rising from the much battered airfield and hear the thunder of the bombs. They then made off and the raid was over.

Last night George Fitch and Emory Luccock came up from Shanghai. Luccock, pastor of the Community Church in Shanghai, is staying with us here. He lived with us for the fall of 1921 when he first came to China. I remember him slightly and he remembers me more clearly but I was only a small boy then with some hair. He and Fitch brought up some medical supplies and money from Shanghai.

This noon we had a most interesting guest, Mr. Chancellor, who is Reuter's chief correspondent for the far east. He looks very young but must be about thirty-five and has a very keen mind which goes at his subject from every angle and penetrates far beneath the surface in a very short time. He will be here a few days interviewing the influential people. He is very sympathetic to China but anything but optimistic about the ultimate outcome. We all sat around for a long discussion after dinner until almost church time. We then went over and listened to John Magee at the Hwinen Chapel. It is my turn again next Sunday and I haven't a thought so far about a message. If I have to lead the service many times I'll have to call on dad for some sermons.

All the peritonitides (I guess that is the plural of peritonitis) are still alive but are still mighty sick and we must reserve judgement for a few days yet. The German with the leg wound is doing splendidly. (In looking back over last week's letter I see no mention of him. I think I wrote about it on Marjorie's special sheet so I will repeat and she can skip this part.) It seems that several members of the German Embassy were out on the river shooting ducks when Gerhard Roth in the front seat of the sampan received a charge of number 8 shot in the leg from the back seat. I dug out four pieces of sampan, one piece of leather boot, three wads and 340 shot from the calf of his leg. He is now getting serum sickness from the injection of antitetanus toxin.

The price of food here is going up steadily but I think we will make out. This is a more expensive house to run than the Daniels' but we have more people to share the expense.

Love
Robert

Tuesday. Oct. 26.

Dear Folks,-

The chief item in today's new was the arrival of four letters from America. Three from Santee. Dad sent his of September 27 to General Beaumont and mom sent hers direct. Dad's got here this morning and mom's this afternoon. It will be at least two weeks after you wrote those before you get my first diary letter which I did not mail until the first week in September. Of course long before you get the letters you will know most of what has gone on and where and how we are. The news from home is good except for Julia not yet having her year's job. I hope she gets it soon.

The war news here is distinctly discouraging. The Japs have captured a very important point on the Shanghai front, Ta Chang. Its capture will probably mean a forced retreat from the whole Chapei-Kiangwan sector to a second line of defense. The Chinese will probably attempt one fierce counter-attack before yielding the place for good. The fighting there has been appalling. The Japs inundated the whole area for several days with thousands upon thousands of big bombs from land artillery, fleet and airplanes. How anyone could stay alive there is hard to imagine, let alone fight. Yesterday they report over a hundred planes continuously flying over the lines and dropping countless bombs. They were so busy there that Nanking was free from raids yesterday.

We had two alarms today, however, our 80th and 81st. We saw seven planes this afternoon and they dropped a number of bombs on the airfield. It must look like an enlarged photo of the moon, but they fill the craters up in no time and are ready for the next raid. We have seen no Chinese planes in the air here for some time but we hear Chinese bombers every night starting from somewhere near here to fly to Shanghai to do what little they can to help there. The second alarm came soon after but failed to produce any planes. Both came during the afternoon clinic.

The problem of wounded soldiers becomes more acute each passing day. So far we have only touched the outskirts of it by having forty or fifty at the hospital. But forty or fifty is a far cry from the forty or fifty thousand wounded that there are at present with the number increasing about one thousand or so a day. So far we are not cooperating at all with the large Red Cross hospital here a matter I feel keenly about at present. I hope to be able to work out something in the near future as with our relatively large personnel we should be able to do a lot more than we are doing at present.

October 28.

A brief alarm this morning with no emergency signal and a quiet day yesterday makes our total of alarms 82. Yesterday was very quiet. The second class mail came through and the Readers' Digest, two Time magazines and Parents' Magazine came along with some medical literature. The arrival of Parents' is a trifle ironic with my family so far away. Today Elizabeth is four months old and there doesn't seem to be much prospect that her dad will see her for some months to come. I hope Julia and Franklin get to see her soon. I will be anxious to get their reactions.

This morning I had a few minor operations and applications of plaster casts to some of our wounded. I took several pieces of shrapnel out of the face of one soldier. Last night an aviator was transfered to us from Central Hospital. He had been shot down on the Northern front several days before. Six were in the plane and the other five were burned to death. He himself received some burns and three fractures, one of which so destroyed the circulation in his left leg that it was turning gangrenous. Cheng took it off this morning but I don't believe he will pull through.

We are again entertaining distinguished company. Mr. Luccock left for Shanghai yesterday morning and soon after he left Dr. J. L. Maxwell arrived from Hankow. He was for many years with the Lester Institute in Shanghai and has recently retired. When the war broke out he couldn't place himself on the retired list and proceeded to head up the Red Cross work in the Hankow area. He came down to see J. Heng Liu. Dr. Maxwell had a good deal of war experience in the Great War when he was in charge of a five hundred bed hospital in the south of England. He is now most interested in leprosy. He has written a book on the diseases of China which has gone through a second edition.

This afternoon after a brief clinic I acted as chauffeur for J. Heng Liu and Dr. Maxwell and Claude Thomson when we went over to the Red Cross Hospital. They now have 1200 patients and are preparing for about 4000. My earlier figure of 5000 was a little high. They had over fifty operations today, mostly guillotine amputations. It was my first view of Central University since its bombing a couple of months ago. In their big library reading room with long tables they now have two patients to a table and about a hundred in the one room. Another ward, the gymnasium, contained two hundred beds. They are getting better and better organized and doing a tremendous work. Our contribution so far seems pitifully small by comparison. There is considerable feeling that we should keep ourselves reasonably free for the civil population who otherwise would have totally inadequate hospitalization. We are however taking care of about 50 and expect 80 more seriously wounded cases.

Tonight I went as guest to Claude Thomson to the Rotary dinner, their first meeting for three months. They have elected to have their meetings in the evening instead of the usual noon hour as it is much more apt to be free from alarms. Colonel J. L. Huang, actually Major-General, talked on his work with the wounded soldiers. Lewis Smythe also spoke on relief work in Nanking. This morning I went down to the Ginling Motors and inspected the Ford truck which we are purchasing to make over into an ambulance. The funds are a gift from the Shanghai Rotary Club. It is a model 1931 and in good condition and should make an excellent ambulance. Dick has been using his car as an ambulance and has taken out one front seat to accomodate a stretcher. With the new one we can accomodate four stretchers. Temporarily I will have to act as chauffeur. The system will be for the doctor to drive the ambulance, carry the stretcher, get the patient to the hospital, don his operating room costume and operate on the wounded he brings in. If the raids do not get much more severe than they have been for the last few weeks we will not be overworked in that service. But when it is known that we have a good ambulance its uses will probably multiply as the knowledge gets around.

Sunday October 31.

An air mail letter arrived today from Los Angeles from a manufacturing company who is presenting us with some anaesthesia machines. The letter was dated October 19. If Marjorie's boat made the usual time and she sent back an airmail letter it should arrive soon. It will certainly be grand to get a letter. Another letter came yesterday from Uncle John and Aunt Mary at Peiping dated Oct. 20. They seem to be having a fairly quiet time there and are getting home mail service through, so that you have no doubt heard from them frequently. I shall write soon. Another letter came by air mail from Hongkong from Helen Van Voast who broke her leg shortly after she saw Marjorie off on the boat. It was full of questions which I shall have to answer soon.

We have had no air raids since I last wrote. There are probably two reasons. The weather has been rather bad making the take off muddy and for Thursday and Friday at least they were all busy in Shanghai with the bombardment of the Chinese positions. The front has quieted down a little. After the Japs captured Tachang the Chinese as was expected had to withdraw from the whole Chapei and Kiangwan area. The retreat was masterfully carried out. Through the narrow neck left between the Japanese and the International Settlement the whole force passed through on Thursday night during the night. One lone battalion elected to fortify themselves in a godown near Soochow Creek and remain until the end. After three and a half days in which they received all the publicity they were after they were persuaded to surrender into the Settlement. On Friday morning an official Japanese military spokesman made the statement: "We have closed the net but we have not yet looked into it." They must have been chagrined to find it empty.

The new positions taken up by the Chinese are must better than the old ones [illegible] away from the battleships. The line is now shorter and straighter and they have had more time to build adequate defense works. We do not anticipate any great defeat for a while yet.

Oct 31.

This afternoon I spent most of the sermon time reading passages from the Psalms. I collected verses and passages to show the trend of thought of the Psalmist from defeat and despair, to supplication, to answered prayer and then peace, confidence and praise.

Yesterday two more ruptured appendices were added to my gradually lengthening series. Both were rather serious cases and will probably have a stormy time. They are doing well today and I have high hopes for them. The two which were done a week ago yesterday are both doing very well and will soon be up and about. Chang's aviator with the leg amputation took a decided turn for the better the day after the operation and is doing very well now. And so the week and also the month draws to a close.

Heaps of love,

Robert

Sunday, November 28, 1937

Dear Family,

A very busy week has passed with plenty of news and plenty to keep us occupied. Ten more alarms raise the total to 96 and I'm afraid that there are one or two that I didn't get in. There has been some spectacular dog-fighting over the city with several of our new Russian pursuit planes taking part. On Thursday they again dropped bombs inside the city and wounded about twenty persons, the killed were more, about forty according to some estimates. I have added about four pieces of shrapnel to my collection as a result.

On Tuesday I went with a young German girl to a large convalescent hospital at Pa Tou Shan, about fifteen miles outside the city on the river bank. She is about twenty years old and came to China a year ago as the wife of a Chinese chemist in the National Health Administration. With one Chinese doctor whose training apparently is negligible, hers being that of a second year medical student, she is running a hospital for three thousand eight hundred wounded soldiers. Her husband has gone to Hankow with the Health Bureau. It was cold and we had to wrap warmly. I took one nurse along, some operating tools, sodium evipan anaesthesia and a large supply of Red Cross materials, with antitoxins, dressing materials and medicine. In the open square of a temple which we roped off to exclude hundreds of onlookers, we performed an amputation of an arm and several minor operations. Imagine the nerve of the youngster staying out there. She is apparently the only one that can handle the soldiers and it is amazing to hear her order them around.

Tuesday evening we took our entire hospital staff to Hsia Kwan where about 1200 wounded soldiers lay around the station in all stages of illness. We dressed wounds for over half the night until all our supplies ran out. The boat scheduled to take the hospital staff was delayed a day and they left Thursday morning. Two Chinese doctors and about four nurses elected to stand by. Dr. Cheng was more or less ordered to stand by by the Generalissimo so he had to stay too against his better judgement. However, he plans to leave this week with the remaining doctors and nurses. One doctor left last night. We still have over one hundred patients and most of them require considerable care. For instance, in the bombing on Thursday we had one man, wounded in the abdomen. With one nurse who is really our X-ray technician, and one Chinese doctor helping, Dick and I operated and found four holes in his small intestine. We also found the small piece of shrapnel which caused the damage. He is doing fairly well. Incidentally that nurse left this afternoon and now we have no one in the operating room. I had showed her how to run the sterilizer and now will have to break in someone else.

The Generalissimo went to Hsia Kwan the other day and saw the pitiful situation. He thereupon ordered C. Heng Liu to fly immediately back to Nanking and get busy clearing up the situation. Liu arrived yesterday and the situation is much better. We are having some trouble as are all the rest of the hospitals in getting rid of our convalescent soldiers. Our staff is getting adapted to war conditions. Trin is running the X-ray and drug rooms. Grace Auer is treasurer and dietician, we have no lab at present. Dick is doing some of the administrative work and we all take turns on night duty. Mr. MacCallum has entered the business office and is looking after many things that we don't have time for. Last night I slept in the hospital in the X-ray room, being on night duty. Snooky went over with me and behaved himself very well. Baerli has been sick for a few days but shows considerable improvement and I hope will be back to normal soon.

The University has all left on the same boat as the majority of the hospital staff. What they are going to run into up river is only conjecturable. It will certainly not be pleasant.

From the military situation we more or less expect to be in Japanese hands before many weeks are passed. They have taken Wusih which was one end of the strongest defence line. They are now nearing Changchow which is the half way mark from Shanghai and we have already heard the rumble of big guns.

Our household still consists of seven people and we are constantly having guests. Probably Oliver Caldwell and Peter Bannon will leave this week to go up river and teach if the University finds a place to open. Bates, Smythe, Thomson, Mills and myself are remaining. We will probably be joined by two or three more before the week is out. The international committee have been working strenuously on establishing a refugee zone inside the city. It is all settled as far as the Chinese are concerned. We have not heard from the Japanese military. Their press is reported as decidedly unfavorable. The zone extends from Sing Chai Ko to Shansi Road and from their west for about half a mile and includes all the university property except for the hospital compound across the road. The main hospital buildings are all within the zone. If the scheme falls through we must expect some heavy shelling. Yesterday Chingkiang was heavily bombed and the A.P.C. installment ruined. We are laying in supplies for some time and will be able to eat anyway for about a month.

The Post Office is closing down and we expect very little more mail. I don't believe I will try to mail this until I can be a little surer of its arrival so will keep it as a sort of diary again. You will get radio news much sooner than I can write the details. I wish I could get a letter from Marjorie before the mails close off completely. It has been about two weeks now since a letter arrived.

November.30. The month is over and again we look forward to a more exciting month than the previous one. The Japanese have taken the Kiangyin forts and today broke a fifty-foot wide passage through the barrier so that their destroyers can get through. There are two little booms still before they get to the city but they are nothing to compare with the one already taken. We will probably be in the thick of it before the week is out. The hospital has secured several odd nurses from here and there and is continuing open. Many patients are leaving and we are trying to get our present wounded soldiers out so as to prepare for the ones who will be wounded in the defense of the city. All sorts of speculations are rife. Two more alarms have sounded but no planes came over the city. We heard later that they bombed places near here.

December 2. Two alarms yesterday and three today make us a total of 103. Today's noon raid was a vicious one with a good deal of dog fighting over the city. Three Japanese planes were shot down. Two Chinese pursuits were likewise shot down and the interesting thing for us is that we are now taking care of two Russian aviators. One has a skull fracture and a bullet in his thigh and the other a couple of minor fractures. Dick got a message that his little girl Joyce was seriously ill on Kuling and they wanted him to go immediately. The Whangpoo, last boat of the Butterfield line to make the trip starts tonight at midnight so I took him and Claude Thomson down to it. It has been loading the Palace Museum treasures for several days. Elsie Priest, Dr. Wu Yi-fang, president of Ginling, Dr. Chen Fu Kwang, president of Nanking University, and the last four of our former Chinese staff, Dr. Cheng, Dr. Tu, and the two Foochow nurses are also on board. Dick will be the only surgeon in Kuling and that leaves me the only surgeon in Nanking. Trim is still here and we have a young lad from the Kiangyin hospital who claims to have a medical training though we haven't been able to unearth any evidence of it yet. In spite of our efforts to cut down the number of patients we still have about 75, of which about 73 are surgical. Maybe I won't have time to write much more for a while but will try and keep the letter going. Dr. Cheng, the lad just mentioned, is on night call tonight so I was able to take Dick and Claude to the boat in Dr. Buck's car which has proved of inestimable value in toting refugees to Hsia Kwan. Mr. Lone of the Southern Methodist mission has moved in and we expect George Fitch in a day or so. Ly Cook is staying and we have a good supply of food in. It is just midnight now and I will stop to get a few hours of sleep as I may need them. I wish that letter from Marjorie would arrive but the hope gets dimmer. I also hope there is a picture of Elizabeth in the letter.

Saturday Friday Dec. 3, 1937. Yesterday's estimate of the number of patients was made before I checked up on the office and I find we have 99. As I am taking care of about 95 of them it took me a fair proportion of the day to see them. Then there were three operations, including an acute appendix, that had just ruptured. Trim scrubbed up and assisted me. I also took a piece of metal out of one of the Russian aviators. He also has a fractured skull, lacerations of his lip, loose teeth and a broken ankle. The other one has a broken ankle and a broken arm. The piece of metal was part of his cartridge case which was strapped to him. A bullet hit the case and glanced off but broke off this piece of metal and drove it into his body. It was not deep and there is no serious injury. He is perfectly clear mentally and is in no particular danger now.

Just as I was leaving the hospital Colonel Huang entered the front door with no less a personage than Madame Chiang and I conducted them up to see the Russians. The Madame is head of the aviation force in addition to her other duties. It was my first glimpse of her and she is certainly all that her sincerest friends claim her to be. It is no wonder that she captivates people. She is a stunning woman with the utmost grace and charm of manner. She said that she and the Generalissimo appreciated what we were doing here, brought some fruit and candy to the invalids and was whisked away.

Two more raids today brings our total to 105. There was considerable bombing just outside the city and just about lunch time three bombers soared directly over our house, a not too comfortable feeling when anti-aircraft guns keep popping around them.

Sunday, Dec. 5. Two raids yesterday and one today. Today's was one of our more severe ones. After I had been around and seen most of our patients I went to the library to look up something on the technique of the tannic acid-silvernitrate treatment of burns. The hum of airplanes was audible and I thought they were Japs from the sound though I had heard no siren warning. The anti-aircraft guns then began popping and the planes let loose a group of bombs near the commercial airfield near the Central Hospital. Shortly after we had a phone call that there were some wounded. I went out in the ambulance given to us by the Municipal Health Bureau when they left town a couple of days ago. We found about a dozen buildings flattened and some dead and wounded. A few reporters had beaten us there. I was struck by the exceedingly appreciative attitude of the Chinese, soldiers, police and civilians. They were all glad to see the ambulance. We brought back four wounded. One had his leg horribly mangled and I had to amputate it immediately. Another had his leg shattered and I am going to try and save it. I did remove a big piece of metal from it. One man sat rocking a two year old child in his arms. The child's mother and sister had been killed and itself had the top of its skull torn open so that the convulutions of the brain were exposed. It was still breathing so I put it in the ambulance but it died shortly after reaching the hospital.

After a busy day yesterday, including another leg amputation in the afternoon I had to be on night duty. The leg amputation was on the little girl admitted the other day with a badly corminuted compound fracture of the femur. I fluoroscoped her and found a large piece of metal in the wound. As I felt around for the metal the femoral artery started to hemorrhage and there was nothing to do with the circulation already so badly impaired except to amputate immediately. When I went over in the evening I found a twenty year old girl in labor. She was a primipara, wife of one of our coolies. It was my first obstetrics case since coming out here. She did beautifully and everything was finished up shortly after midnight. About two o'clock the night nurse woke me and in great agitation led me to a window where I beheld a huge conflagration and at first it seemed to be from the Daniel's house. More careful figuring placedit slightly beyond it however and this morning I checked up and found it to be next door to the German-Austrian club. Then at 5:30 I had to get up and dress and discharge our two Russian aviators who were being flown to Hankow.

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This afternoon about a hundred stretcher bearers came up from Hsia Kwan and relieved us of about fifty of our wounded soldiers. We now have only about a dozen seriously wounded ones who require more than the ordinary care. We have also about forty civilians. Trim and Grace Bauer and Miss Hynds are all standing by and are working splendidly. It is also a relief to have our one little Chinese doctor who can take the night calls every third night. It is quite a sensation to be the only surgeon in a big war torn city.

Plumber Mills got a letter yesterday from Dr. Maxwell, who visited us here earlier in the fall. He was decidedly perplexed. We had sent him an appeal for doctors and nurses and his letter was a reply to it. He said that they had about two hundred and forty doctors and nurses in Hankow, more than they had places to put them. He had received on that very day a note from Bishop Roots who had received a telegram asking to arrange accommodations for the doctors and nurses of the University Hospital in Nanking.

This afternoon we received the final warning from the Embassy and were told that the U.S.S.Panay was leaving at 9:30 tomorrow morning with the remaining Americans who were willing to go. From reports during the day we gather that nine are going, mostly Embassy members and newspaper reporters. Thirteen are remaining including our household and the hospital foreign staff. How can we leave the sick patients? The others here are up to their necks in working on the refugee zone plan for civilians in the city. They received a formal reply to the Japanese today which was not particularly reassuring but are going ahead anyway. Already hundreds are streaming into this zone and the problems of housing and feeding them are what is occupying the committee's time. The hospital is, of course, an essential cog. The Japs have now reached a point about 25 miles from the city, a town called Chufung where earlier there was a large military air base. It was said that gunfire could be heard though I did not hear it myself. It won't be long now, however.

The household now consists of Searle Bates, Lewis Smythe, Plumber Mills, Hubert Sone and myself. Fitch has not moved in. We also have a lad named Steele, reporting for the Chicago Daily News, eating with us. Trim is staying in his house. I forgot to mention MacCallum who has moved in with us now that Dick has gone to Kuling. Mac is helping with the business end of the hospital and is a tremendous factor in keeping the wheels going around.

Wednesday Dec.8. Morning. Having spent the night at the hospital I am taking a few minutes after breakfast before going over again to catch up on this letter. These are busy days for me though our patients have now been reduced to about fifty. Most of them require a good deal of care. Five air raids on Monday and one on Tuesday now raise our total to 114. Sone has apparently a more accurate count as he has in his little diary the start and finishing time of each alarm and finds it over 120. However, I'll stick to my figures for the time being anyway. Frequently now we don't hear the siren so that the raids sort of run together.

Yesterday afternoon we had a particularly tragic case. A very nice looking young woman of 20 had phoned about a week ago somewhere and had been told that the hospital had closed. She had returned from the country to give birth to her first baby. After two days of unsuccessful labor she had called in a midwife who had badly infected her. She came in very toxic with a pulse of 140 and a temperature of 101. The baby had been dead for about two days and was in a head transverse position. It was all I could do to get it out with forceps. She is still alive this morning but her chances of recovery are very slight.

The courageous little German girl has gone with her wounded [illegible] river. She sent me at the last moment one of her assistants who had fallen and sustained a compound fracture of the leg. He is in the hospital now.

Thursday. December 9. If you are getting the same sort of radio reports that we are you are undoubtedly rather alarmed for our safety here. Well, we are a little concerned ourselves. I am writing this to the tune of big guns firing just outside of the city. Today I counted eight fires going at once both inside and outside of the city. Japanese advance guards have reached the walls in several places. The Embassy has all departed for the gunboat after a last effort to get us on. The official air raid tally must now come to a close as today was one long raid from morning until night. The sirens sounded once in the morning and then didn't bother to sound for the rest of the day. Japanese planes could be seen most of the day bombing both within and without the city. We received a number of casualties and the hospital is again filling up. We have a pretty good nursing staff now but still only the three doctors, Trim and myself and the little fellow from Kiangyin.

We had another tough obstetrical case today with Trim doing the honors while I gave the anesthesia. A prolapsed arm and cord with a baby daad for a day or so. We were not entirely sure it was dead so did a podalic version and extraction. The woman seems to be in pretty good condition. The case described yesterday is still alive but will not live long.

Counting up today I find I have nine fractured legs at the hospital, four amputation stumps with severe infection, all open flap amputations in an attempt to save the patient's lives, three ruptured appendices now draining, two fractured (no it's four) arms besides a host of other surgical conditions, most of them severe. With such a charge there seems to be nothing to do except to take a chance on the Japanese shelling, the Chinese looting or whatever else may be in store for us.

My little shrapnel and bullet collection is increasing daily and I will be able to open a respectable museum before the war is over. The international committee of which five members are here at the house are doing a splendid piece of work but the outcome is a matter of grave concern. The Japanese definitely say they will not recognize it. In this zone around us here we now have about a hundred thousand poor people crowded into all the available buildings. What will happen to them is mere conjecture. The committee has gathered great quantities of rice and stored them in the University chapel. The zone is all marked with flags and banners and so far the Japanese have not bombed it. We still have hopes that even if they do not recognize it they might respect it. If they do it will mean the saving of thousands of lives of poor people. The hospital has its work cut out for it. Trim is heading up a sanitation committee for the zone.

So far we have continued both our electricity and city water but expect both to go shortly. Steele, the Chigo Daily News reporter, got a baptism of fire today when he went with Yates McDaniels to Kwanghua Men. They reached there to find Japanese machine gun bullets whistling over the wall over their heads. Chinese were replying from the wall. Several airplanes then started to dive practically overhead and a number of bombs dropped within two hundred yards of them. A good many Chinese soldiers were killed. The radio reports suggest that the fall of the city will come in a day or so and we think it entirely possible. There has not been much looting though we got in the hospital this afternoon an old lady of 72 who had been shot twice by a pistol by a Chinese looter, the first shot passed through the metacarpals of her left hand and the second shattered her thigh. I have the second bullet in my collection.

The air has been heavy with smoke all day and the city looks more like Pittsburgh than our Nanking. A terrific explosion occurred about supper time and I happened to be looking at the spot when the explosion occurred. There was a big fire around Hansimen and suddenly the sky was lighted with a huge flare from the center of the fire. After a few seconds the boom came. It must have been a big collection of ammunition. I was on my bicycle heading home from the hospital at the time.

南京鼓樓醫院
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
NANKING, CHINA

December 14.

This is Julia's birthday and I shall start by wishing her many happy returns of the day. I am now in the X-ray room of the hospital at 9 p.m. of a busy day pounding on the treasurer's office typewriter. I am not on night duty but it is much the best these days to have an American sleeping in the hospital.

The battle of Nanking is finished and gone. It is a pathetic thing to see a breakdown of morale. The Chinese morale broke all of a sudden and we were treated to the full effects of it. My last note as I recall was written last Friday, but i'm not at all sure. We have been very busy treating cases wounded by the aerial bombing. On Saturday the big guns began to creep closer to the city. We could see a couple of observation baloons somewhere in the vicinity of Spirit Valley. We had all kinds of trouble with wounded soldiers. We could not receive them as we were in the so-called safety zone but we treated them by the score and tried to get them to the military hospitals which were very sketchy institutions.

On Sunday the Japanese were pounding the city wall in several places and they made a breach near Kwang Hwa Men but were repulsed. Then suddenly starting about dusk on Sunday night the morale broke and all night the Chinese soldiers streamed north towards Hsia Kwan by the thousands. There was no discipline and they threw away all their guns and equipment which lay scattered all over the roads. They say the situation at Hsia Kwan was appalling as there were no boats to take them across the river. Thousands were drowned as crudely put-together rafts were overturned and what small boats there were were overcrowded and sunk.

The looting on there way out was not marked as they didn't seem to have time. The Japanese big guns shelled the city throughout the night. Numerous fires were started and our windows rattled practically all night. Needless to say we didn't get much sleep. Working in the hospital and particularly the operating room with the big guns going is a rather uncomfortable job. The Japanese seemed to respect the safety zone remarkably with their big gun fire and so none of us came near to being actually hit. The Chinese had spent two days barricading Chung Shan road right in front of the hospital and up to Sunday night we were gravely concerned as the hospital formed one border of the barricade. The rout on Sunday night however left the nicely built sand-bag barrier just as they had built it without a single defender.

On Monday morning the 13th, exactly four months after the trouble started in Shanghai the Japanese entered the city by several gates at once. Some came in Ho Ping Men in the north and some in Han Si and Kwang Hwa Mens in the west and south-east respectively. By night they had complete control of the city and numerous Japanese flags flew from various places including their former embassy.

The entire remaining population of Nanking, some 150 or 200 thousand individuals, were crowded into the zone I have described earlier as the refugee zone. The International Committee are doing a tremendous job with them and there is no doubt but that they have saved thousands of lives by their efforts. At the last moment thousands of Chinese soldiers threw away their uniforms and equipment and donned looted civilian clothes and crowded into the zone. Handling them is a grave problem in itself. Doubly grave has it become since the Japanese have not been fooled and are rounding them up by the hundreds and shooting them, putting their bodies in the conveniently handy dugouts built for air-raid protection.

南京鼓樓醫院
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Dec. 14 - 1937

NANKING

Any civilian who shows no signs of fear and goes quietly about his business in the daytime seems relatively safe. Nobody is safe at night. Last night Mr. Chi, architect for the University and left behind to look after the buildings as best he could, was only saved from shooting by the intervention of Charlie Riggs who stoutly maintained that Chi was his coolie. They then came over to our place with another Chinese University staff man, Mr. Ku, and all three stayed all night on some cots we put up in the living room. Steele of the Chicago Daily news also slept there and we totalled eleven people sleeping on the main floor and up and I completely lost track of the innumerable Chinese that slept in the basement. The servants are rightly scared to death. To finish this paragraph more or less as it began, any civilian that shows signs of fear or tries to run away is promptly bayonetted. I sewed up one severed trachea this afternoon and we have had several dozen cases of bayonetting.

This morning we were treated to a thorough though unofficial inspection by thirty or so Japanese troops with fixed bayonets. They poked into everything. MacCallum, Trimmer and I showed them around and they would jabber away in Japanese while we would jabber away in both Chinese and English, and neither had any idea what the other was saying. They lined up some of the nurses and took away their pens, flashlights and wrist watches. They did a pretty good job of looting the nurses' dormitory, taking all kinds of petty things. So far there has been no physical violence done to any of our staff.

Yesterday afternoon before the Japanese had gotten complete control of the city but after most of the heavy guns had quieted down I thought it would be safe to operate on an eye. The man had had a severe eye injury from a bomb several days earlier and the eye had to be removed in order to save the other one. As the eye was about half removed a terrific explosion occurred about fifty yards away as a shell exploded right on the corner of the Christian Mission church in the next yard. I happened to be facing the window and raised my head to see the cloud rising from the explosion. Four pieces of metal came through the windows of the operating room and two of them have been added to my collection which is growing steadily. The operating room nurses were naturally pretty shaky and wanted to know if we should continue the operation. There was obviously nothing else to do but I don't think many eyes have come out that fast. The corner of the Church is pretty badly smashed. Another shell from the same source entered the new dormitory of the University and exploded. Fortunately neither shell either killed or wounded a soul.

We have added another young Chinese doctor to the staff also from the Kiangyin hospital. He seems to have a little more medical knowledge than the other one and I have had him help me once or twice in the operating room. The three Kiangyin nurses I have there have been doing beautifully. I did eleven operations today including the inevitable amputation. We have considerably over one hundred patients now and I didn't manage to get around to see them all today. One ward I had to leave over. The electricity is naturally off as is the water supply and now the telephone is off so we have few of our modern conveniences commonly regarded as necessities. What we are going to use for food shortly is something we can only guess at. I hope mail becomes established again shortly as I would like to get this off to you all and needless to say it would be grand to hear from you again.

Robert Wilson