

Jan. 1938

Not formally filed.
STATEMENT BY M. S. BATES REGARDING LOSSES DUE TO DEPREDACTIONS OF
JAPANESE SOLDIERS (Nanking, Dec. 18, 1937, to Jan. 11, 1938)

Between Dec. 18, 1937, and Jan. 11, 1938, inclusive, my house at 21 Hankow Road was visited ten or eleven times by Japanese soldiers, who stole and damaged my personal property as summarized below. Up to Dec. 18 the house and its contents were in excellent condition, as I observed in the course of frequent visits for inspection, which averaged three to six times per week from Dec. 1 to Mar. 1. There has been no injury to my property from any other cause since Dec. 1.

The house is in charge of a caretaker long known to me, who was on the premises day and night during the period of difficulty; as also of a Chinese teacher's family whom I invited to live there (a teacher formerly employed by American families, including my own). I received reports from them once or twice daily after the time of Japanese entry into Nanking, and when robbery had occurred I went there for inspection. The house is five minutes' walk from the University and also from my temporary residence at 3 Ping Tsang Hsiang, so report and inspection were convenient and prompt. With the exception of one occasion on which the soldiers forcibly prevented the occupants of the house from accompanying them upstairs, all the thefts were observed in detail.

In two instances groups of soldiers remained in the house as long as two hours (on or about Dec. 19, and on or about Dec. 27), throwing on to the floors and trampling the contents of drawers, cupboards, desks, and closets. Indeed, a preliminary setting to order required me two full days of work. I also observed that several locks of doors and boxes were smashed, and there was some breakage of glass and porcelain.

This disorderly condition was noted, and a hasty note of losses was made, in company with Mr. Takatama of the Embassy Police on or about Jan. 5, when we were inspecting various University properties. My next-door neighbor, Mr. Charles H. Riggs of 23 Hankow Road, observed a

Japanese soldier entering my compound from his, on or about Dec. 20. Also, on Dec. 22 or 23 he saw two soldiers leaving my house from the front door. Mr. Riggs will make affidavit as to these two observations.

My house carried an American flag prominently displayed upon the roof, and a proclamation from the American Embassy on the gate. From Dec. 21 there were also Japanese proclamations upon front and rear gates. On the afternoon of Dec. 21, while reporting to Consul Fukuda both orally and in writing the wrongful acts of Japanese soldiers upon University property during the preceding twenty-four hours, I included ^{that} the fact/while he was conversing with me at the Embassy that same morning, my own house had been robbed for the fourth time. Consul Fukuda did not express any interest in that fact. Soldiers further showed their attitude toward American property by leaving excreta upon the floors of two rooms of the house. It might be added that the entry of a Japanese "supplementary military policeman" (regular soldier in uniform with a distinctive armband) into my house on Jan. 11, and his wrongful act there, were promptly reported in writing to the Japanese Embassy and were brought up at several later times; but no explanation was ever given. However, since no theft was involved, details need not be repeated here.

Classified list of thefts and damage follows, omitting many small items, and running the risk of incompleteness in the absence of my family. All articles were removed from the premises save those in the last three classes.

		<u>Local</u>	<u>Currency</u>
I. FOOD.	Tinned fruits, beef, and fish.	Sugar.	
	Groceries.		\$ 35
II. TOOLS, KITCHEN UTENSILS.	Saw, hatchet, 2 hammers, wirecutters, hair-clippers.	5 heavy aluminum cooking utensils; 4 lighter.	45
III. WOOLEN CLOTHING.	Heavy overcoat.	2 sweaters.	130
	Woman's coat with fur.		
IV. PICTURES.	5 Chinese paintings.	2 large gilt-framed western prints; 3 smaller.	181
V. VICTROLA AND RECORDS.	Victrola (\$75) 85 records, all American and British, average \$4.50.		457.50

VI.

		<u>Local</u>	<u>Currency</u>
VI.	RUGS. 2 large Peking, \$160 and \$125; 3 small Peking @ \$19.		\$ 342
VII.	LAMPS AND SHADES. 1 large oil lamp complete; 1 electric table lamp with special shade.		19
VIII.	PORCELAIN. 2 good vases. 5 old bowls.		55
IX.	TABLE LINENS AND EMBROIDERIES. 4 large tablecloths, American linen best quality @ \$52; 24 napkins \$70; 6 good linen luncheon cloths @ \$12; 42 napkins \$40. 7 pieces embroideries and decorative silks \$65.		455
X.	BEDDING. 9 best quality sheets @ \$7.50; 6 pillow slips @ \$4; 4 spreads @ \$11.		135.50
XI.	BICYCLE. Boy's size.		15
XII.	STAMP ALBUMS AND COLLECTIONS. Two boys'.		50
XIII.	DESK. Excellent quality American, Gov. Winthrop type. Top, glass doors, locked drawers -- broken, hacked		25
XIV.	LOCKS. (Including injury to trunks and boxes). Five, with expensive combinations.		20
XV.	DRY CLEANING, PRESSING, WASHING for whole family's clothing and remains of household linen, all soiled and trampled		50
			<hr/> \$ 2015.00

Claim in American currency @ \$3.40, \$592.65