

Will try to write articles soon.

~~Dear~~  
Home

Memoranda - Has.

- g. 3. Tooteel
- " 4. Abate
- " 5. ~~Re~~ Jan 1, 1902
- " 6. How Yik we
- " 7. Moss - 2nd copy
- ~~" 8.~~
- " 9. Arm.
- 8. Mr. Fox (Miss. Bes)

6 yellow  
9 green  
10, 1933.  
Gray - red.  
Shepherd

Practically every building in the city has been robbed repeatedly by soldiers, including the American, British and German Ambassadors' residences, and a high percentage of all foreign property. Vehicles of all sorts, food, clothing, bedding, money, watches, tape rugs and pictures, miscellaneous valuables, are the main things sought. This still goes on, especially outside the Zone. There is not a store in Nanking, save the International Committee's rice shop and a military store. Most of the shops after free-for-all breaking and pilfering were systematically stripped by gangs of soldiers working with trucks, often under the observed direction of officers, and then burned. We still have several fires a day. Many sections of houses have also been burned deliberately. We have several samples of the chemical strips used by the soldiers for this purpose, and have inspected all phases of the process.

Most of the refugees were robbed of their money and at least part of their scanty clothing and bedding and food. That was an utterly heartless performance, resulting in despair on every face for the first week or ten days. You can imagine the outlook for work and life in this city with shops and tools gone, no banks or communications as yet, some important blocks of houses burned out, everything else plundered and now open to cold and starving people. Some 250,000 are here, almost all in the safety



and fully 100,000 entirely dependent on the International Committee for food and shelter. Others scraping along on tiny holdings of rice and the proceeds of direct or indirect looting. Japanese supply departments are beginning to let out for monetary and political reasons a little of the rice confiscated from considerable Chinese Government supplies, though the soldiers burned not small reserves. But what next? When I asked Japanese officials about post and telegraph services, they said, "There is no plan." And that seems to be the case with everything economic and most of things political.

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

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

No mail since about Dec. 1, and that most tardy. Electric light in our house last night by special arrangement (seven Americans among whom were personal links to the staff of the power plant). Japanese shot 43 of the 54 technical men on the staff, falsely accusing them of being Government employees. Bombing, shelling, and fires on top of that, and you can imagine that the utilities are slow in resumption. But insecurity of workmen and their families was the main stumbling block at that. Water depends on electric pumps, but we are beginning to get a trickle at low levels of the city. No dreams of telephone or bus or even rickshaws. The Zone is about two square miles in area, not all built up. In this con-



centration we have had no accidental fire of notice and practically no crime or violence except that of soldiers, until the present week's turning to looting outside the area in open buildings - especially for fuel. No armed police.

The University has 30,000 refugees on various parts of its property. Problems of administration are fearful, even on the low scale of living that can be maintained. We have very few indeed of regular University staff and servants, most of whom have done splendid work. There are many volunteer helpers hastily got together by the International Committee, who have come with considerable adulteration of motives. Now we must add delation and ~~and~~ the intimidation and purchase of agents by the Japanese. I'm in three hot spots right now over this sort of business, and begin to wonder whether they are out to get me or the University into a corner. For instance, the two occurring in the past three days involve a contradiction of my report of losses for the University Middle School (thus putting me down for lying and cheating to the Japanese, and striking between me and a key man in that tremendous refugee camp); and a severe shove through the gate of a terrible military police office, when I tried to inquire about a good-spirited interpreter whom they had carried off bound as for death (after he had refused to leave the Middle School camp to accept their offers or submit to their threats). Incidentally, police from that office last night took a woman from a University house and raped her thoroughly, after putting a bayonet against our man Riggs when he happened along at the wrong time. So you get a little of the flavor of our daily diet while struggling to do something for these wretched but remarkably durable and cheerful people.

The real military police numbered 17 at the time that over 30,000 soldiers were turned loose on Nanking, and for days we never saw one. Eventually soldiers were given special armbands and called police, which means that they have special preserves for their own misdeeds, and keep out some of the ordinary run. We have seen men scolded for being caught by officers in the act of rape, and let go without a tie; others made to salute an officer following robbery. One motorized raid on the University at night was actually conducted by officers themselves, who pinned our watchman to the wall and raped three women refugees before carrying off one of them (another was a girl twelve years old.)

Lilliath had every reason to think that I was finished or wounded on the "Panay", for my messages about remaining in Nanking had not got through to her, and the papers in Tokyo implied that all foreigners were taken on the boats. But after 48 hours of distress she read in a Japanese paper an interview that a couple of dumb-bells got out of me shortly after the Japanese entry. The paper responded to the thanks of her friends by rushing out reporters and a photographer on the 17th. (Entry on 13th; "Panay" sinking on 12th, reported slowly). One of their men brought me a picture and a letter New Year's Day, the latter of course dutifully read in the Japanese Embassy. Thus we were saved a good deal of prolonged concern. I have no other word since Nov. 9 save that letter, although she wrote and wired many times by all sorts of routes and agencies. On Dec. 17th she expected to come to Shanghai the first week in January, but I have heard nothing more. Perhaps a repeat radio through the newly arrived gunboat will get some information from Shanghai.

However, I am not allowed to pass through a Nanking gate, and she would not be allowed to start west of Shanghai even if means of communication were open to her. How long this state will continue we do not



know. Chinese have been greatly afraid lest Americans or all foreigners would be expelled from Hankow, but they seem more afraid to have us go than to have us stay - so far. Meantime I try to keep on friendly terms with Embassy staff and a few Japanese in semi-official posts, and even with a few of the less violent and treacherous of the police and soldiers. But it's hard going. Four weeks today! The shells and bombs were almost comfortable, if we had only known it. And what's ahead?

Dear Edith and Margaret:

Sorry for wretched disorder of this hasty and oft-interrupted letter. But for lack of better, I'm going to ask you to try to get copies to the following persons or their entourage: Elsie for U. of T. and Chengtu; A. Voffet and E. Spiser, wherever they may be - last known at Hankow, Lutheran Home and St. Wilda's School (or London Mission) respectively; E. Tappert at Szechuan University for Chungking people. I don't know at all about air or other postal service; but try as well as you can. Your house untouched, mirabile dictu! Anna's place badly robbed and knocked about. Giding teachers' residence on hill lost some things, but on the whole little pilfering, save possibly the outside residences.

Appreciation of your aid and willingness.

With all good wishes,

*M.S. Bates*