

## THE LAST OF THE CHINA MISSION PIONEERS

JOHN PETER ANDERSON, Born May 6, 1886 at Kiron, Iowa passed to his rest March 18, 1978, at Lakeport, California.

Parents of Swedish stock, arrived in America shortly before John Peter was born. Later the family settled in Northeastern Nebraska near Hartington, remaining in that area for many years.

John had hoped to become a physician. In 1903 he entered Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska, Swedish Department, preparing for the ministry to preach to Swedish folk in the U. S. A.

As graduation time drew near, John prayed earnestly for guidance as to where he should labor. He promised the Lord to follow His leading whatever that might be. The very next day he received a letter from a Swedish believer living in Gothenburg, Nebraska. This letter stated that this brother would pay John's salary for a year if he would go as a missionary to China.

Within a few days Elder W. A. Spicer, secretary of the General Conference, visited Union College, and John showed him this letter which brought the response, "You will be hearing from us."

He graduated from Union College in the spring of 1906 and shortly thereafter along came Elder Spicer's promised word, a ticket to China, boat sailing from Seattle, Aug. 20, 1906.

For many years John worked among the people of South China, being able to speak several of the dialects and languages of that area.

John married Amanda VanScouy, and to this union were born two daughters, Helen and Hazel, in 1915 and 1916.

Amanda died in the early 20's and for some months John worked in the South seas, Java, Bangkok, Singapore and other centers, raising funds to help establish the China Training Institute at Chiao Tu Tseng, Kiangsu.

Later Ethel Edwards of Takoma Park, Maryland came to China and was married to John, and worked with him until 1948, when she passed away in Shanghai, and was buried there in that port city.

In May of 1949 John and Rachel Landrum, who survived him, were married in Hongkong. As John had not had a furlough for 15 years, the couple's wedding trip took them to Europe, where they visited his ancestral home, and also Denmark and England.

His children, Helen and Hazel, both became nurses. Helen served some years at the Canton Sanitarium and later at the Washington, D. C. Sanitarium, and also on the faculty of Columbia Union College, until December of 1977. She sleeps in Arlington cemetery waiting the call of the Life Giver.

Daughter Hazel lives in Ohio near her four daughters and two of her sons. Her eldest son, James E. Prelog, lives in Denver, Colorado where he serves on the faculty of the Mile High Academy.

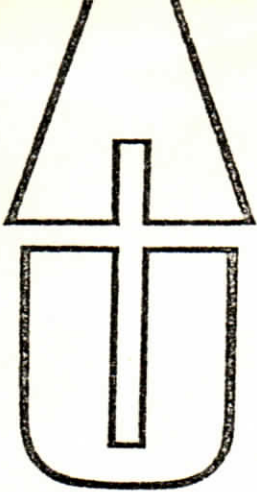
After retirement in 1949, John was invited to return to China, where he and Rachel served faithfully for another five years, and in 1957 retired to Lakeport, California.

John loved people, and was never happier than when helping and encouraging those in need. A recent letter from Dr. Samuel Young, currently President of the Hongkong-Macao Mission says: "We are anxious about Pastor Anderson. There are many people here praying for him. He was the pastor who baptised me many years ago. We love him and hope that he can stay with us many more years."

John also had a real sense of humor. Our last visit with him on the day he fell asleep is a precious memory. He was lucid and when reminded of old times in China responded with cheerfulness and vigor. When asked if he would like some Lychees, of which he was very fond, the word came quick and loud "about a half bushell of them." So, dear Brother John Peter, sleep peacefully until Jesus comes. He will send His angels to call you, and they will say, "Wake up John, The Master wants you to come" And, I hope to be there with him, and the two of us, with our loved ones, gather "lychees" from the tree of life.

Elder E. L. Longway  
Angwin, California





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*Seventh-day Adventist  
Theological Seminary*

Friends of the J. P. Andersons  
Wherever you live  
Planet Earth

Dear Friends of the J. P. Andersons:

Please don't be buffaloed by the bulk of this unusual document or disconcerted by its delightful intimacies. Put down whatever you're doing and start reading right away.

I can only hope that you don't have anything else important to do the rest of the day!

You all know that Elder John P. Anderson left Vancouver for the Orient in 1906 fully intending--in the very best missionary tradition--to remain in China for a full fifty years. Instrumental in building up Seventh-day Adventist mission work in south China, he found himself when the second world war began in charge of the SDA hospital in Canton, an institution he had himself helped to found. Determined that it would not be left to suffer at the hands of looters, he and his (second) wife, Ethel, remained at the hospital when Chinese authorities abandoned Canton in the wake of invading Japanese. When looters did attack the building, Anderson stood in the way and dared them to shoot him. Angels evidently also stood guard!

On February 19, 1943, John and Ethel were placed under Japanese protection in the Canton "Civil Assembly Center" (C.A.C.) along with a number of other American and British Commonwealth missionaries. Offered repatriation, J. P. Anderson and Dr. D. D. Coffin, medical director of the Canton SDA Hospital, elected continued internment in the hope of helping to prevent looting of the hospital at the end of the Japanese occupation. Their wives left them on September 20, 1943, to return to the United States.

The Japanese meanwhile had appointed John as "chief representative" of the internees, and after the departure of the repatriates, he found himself the leader of about twenty souls of whom only he and Dr. Coffin were SDAs.

Faithfully and regularly, John wrote a letter to Ethel almost every day, completing 1000 pages by the time of his release! You have heard about this astonishing document, this highly remarkable communication, and now at last you have it--or at least a portion of it--in your very privileged hands.

A few years ago Dr. Everett Dick of Union College urged me to interview Elder J. P. Anderson about his China days and also to secure his Canton

correspondence for posterity. In 1975 and again in 1976, in August each time, Elder Anderson and his (third) wife, Rachel, welcomed me into their home in Lake County, California. During the second visit they entrusted me with their precious letters as a gift to the Heritage Room, a Seventh-day Adventist archive and research center, James White Library, Andrews University. In exchange for the letters they asked me to make a selection of about 100 pages for duplication and distribution to each of you, their friends. It thus became my privilege to prepare the pages that you now have before you.

In preparing this selection I have tried to present a sample of all the different topics Elder Anderson was interested in and to do so in a way that would reveal the changes that occurred as time went on.

Spelling and punctuation have been changed here and there, but otherwise the material is just as he wrote it--swatting mosquitoes in the summer time, shivering with cold in the winter, carefully measuring an inch of candle when electricity failed, feeling blue when internees grumbled too much about Japanese regulations, and feeling romantic and affectionate almost consistently all the time.

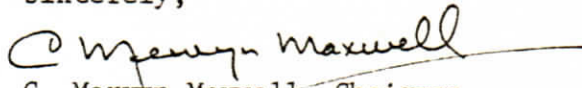
I think that J. P. Anderson emerges as a hero. Any internee, in my opinion, would have been fortunate to have him as his "chief representative." Mr. Hoffmeister, who I understand to have been the Swiss consul in Canton, comes off as another hero. What a faithful public servant he was too.

You may wonder, as I did at first, how accurate the news was that Elder Anderson gathered from newspapers and from Chinese informants when the Japanese for nine months refused to deliver newspapers. In brief, the rumors were usually optimistic, evidence of the deep Chinese desire to see the Axis defeated. But for the curious, I have prepared a comparison of report and fact which you may someday examine at your leisure.

Elder J. P. Anderson did complete fifty years of missionary service in China. He remained in Canton after his release from the internment camp until 1949, concluding fifteen years without a furlough. With Rachel (formerly a single mission worker) he returned to the Far East in 1952 and worked for the Voice of Prophecy there until the year 1957--fifty-one years after he left North America in 1906.

But don't let me hold you up any more. May you enjoy reading this collection as much as I have enjoyed editing it.

Sincerely,

  
C. Mervyn Maxwell, Chairman  
Department of Church History

CMM:ep

P.S. I do want to thank Mrs. Dorothy Heidtke, secretary to our librarian, Mrs. Mary Jane Mitchell, Patricia Jennings, a student secretary, and Mrs. Earlene Papendick, my personal secretary, for their parts in typing off the original manuscript and preparing these selections for duplication. C.M.M.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>TRUTH</u>
Nov. 27, 1943	papers	Big battles in the Pacific.	U.S. had invaded Bouganville, Tarawa, Makin. Tarawa fell Nov. 23 with high casualties.
Dec. 3, 1943	papers	Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and Chiang Kai Shek met in Cairo.	True. The meeting was held on Nov. 22, 1943.
Jan. 3, 1944	-----	(Japanese don't look happy as they read their papers.)	In Jan. the U.S. invaded the Marshall Islands.
April 14, 1944	rumor	U.S. has landed on the Palau Islands.	Actually, on Feb. 29 the U.S. had invaded the Admiralty Islands near New Guinea. Palau fell later.
June 8, 1944	papers	Rome has fallen.	Correct. Rome was liberated June 4, 1944.
June 8, 1944	papers	Japan executed pilots who bombed Tokyo.	Correct. Doolittle raided Tokyo on April 18, 1942. Two planes crashed in Japan and their pilots were shot.
June 22, 1944	papers	Allies have landed in France. 11,000 planes and 12,000 ships took part.	Essentially true. D-Day occurred on June 6, 1944. 11,000 planes and 5,000 ships, and 4,000 landing craft took part.
June 22, 1944	papers	Japan has been bombed!	True. American B-29s based in China began bombing Tokyo and other cities in Japan on June 15, 1944.
June 22, 1944	papers	U.S. has invaded Saipan.	True, on June 15, 1944.
July 27, 1944	papers	Prime Minister Tojo has resigned.	True. Hideki Tojo resigned July 18, 1944, as a consequence of the loss of Saipan on July 9. (The loss of Saipan put Tokyo within range of B-29s.)
July 27, 1944	papers	An attempt on Hitler's life.	True. On July 20 Colonel von Stauffenberg attempted to kill Hitler with a time bomb.
July 27, 1944	papers	Japan has practically cleaned U.S. planes out of China.	Propaganda.
Sept. 9, 1944	-----	(Internees celebrate liberation of Paris.)	O.K. Allies entered Paris August 25, 1944.
Sept. 28, 1944	rumor	Fighting is over in Germany.	Premature! Battle of the Bulge followed in December. Germany did not surrender till May 7, 1945.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>TRUTH</u>
Oct. 20, 1944	rumor	Philippines liberated.	Premature! The Philippines were not (largely) liberated till March, 1945. The rumor was based perhaps on U.S. occupation of Peleliu in the Palau Islands between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15. The U.S. began bombing Mindanao in Sept. The U.S. landed on Leyte on Oct. 20, but this did not allow time for the rumor to reach Canton by Oct. 20!
Feb. 2, 1945	rumor	Manila liberated.	Premature. U.S. landed 150 miles from Manila on Jan. 9, 1945. Manila was entered on Feb. 2 (the day after this rumor) and reconquered by Feb. 24.
Feb. 2, 1945	rumor	Allies are 70 kilometers from Berlin.	Premature. Russians reached the suburbs of Berlin on April 22.
Feb. 16, 1945	rumor	Berlin has fallen.	Premature. Berlin surrendered on May 2, 1945.
Feb. 24, 1945	rumor	Berlin has not fallen.	Correct!
Feb. 24, 1945	rumor	U.S. has landed in Japan.	U.S. had landed on Iwo Jima.
March 14, 1945	rumor	U.S. has landed on Japanese main islands.	Incorrect. No landing was made until the war was over.
April 14, 1945	rumor	Roosevelt has died of a stroke.	True--and rapidly reported. FDR died on April 12. (Some to this day, of course, insist he died not by a stroke but by suicide.)
April 14, 1945		(JPA assumes that the new U.S. President is called Wallace.)	False. Henry Wallace served as Vice President during FDR's second term, 1941-1945. The new president was, of course, Harry Truman.
April 30, 1945	rumor	Germany has capitulated.	Premature. Germany fell on May 7.
May 4, 1945	rumor	Hitler is dead.	Correct. Hitler's death was reported from Germany on May 1. (He died April 30.)
May 7, 1945	rumor	Mussolini has been assassinated.	True. On April 28.
May 17, 1945	Chinese paper!	War in Europe is over.	Correct.
July 19, 1945	rumor	Truman, Churchill, and Stalin are meeting in Potsdam.	Correct. JPA has learned the new U.S. President's name, apparently for the first time. The Potsdam Declaration, demanding Japan's unconditional surrender, was issued on July 26 at the close of this meeting.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>TRUTH</u>
Aug. 13, 1945	rumor	Atomic bomb dropped on Japan.	True. The first one fell on Hiroshima on August 6.
Aug. 15, 1945 4 p.m.	Official Notice	War has ended!	True, and very rapidly reported, for Japan accepted Allied terms on Aug. 15.  The treaty of surrender was not signed until Sept. 2, Japanese forces in China did not surrender until Sept. 8, and in Southeast Asia, not until Sept. 12. Nonetheless, the internees were permitted to leave their Civil Assembly Center on August 31.



Tung Shan  
Canton  
October 17, 1945

Dearest Ethel ---

I have found a way to get these books to you so here they are and may you have mercy extended to you in reading all of what I have jotted down during the encampment. Do not over-do it but take your time.

Few people I fear have been favored with a near thousand page letter and still fewer people have ever written one. You will have to overlook a lot for I made few corrections on what came into my silly head. I shall be much interested in the reaction from you when you first see it and leaf thru it for the first time.

As to our condition right now, I will say that I am getting along real well. Have gained in weight and so all anxiety on that score is in the past. My big problem is the future, and I have very little to say until I shall hear from you. It seems that surely you would be sending me some letter by airmail soon; up until now I have neither heard from you or the Division. J. C. Chen of the Union is here now in Canton.

I am spending \$47,000.00 n.c. on my teeth! It looks large but is less than 400.00 H.K. so do not faint.

I am trying to make contacts for help in rehabilitating ourselves again. I have been successful in getting medicines and may be able to get some money also but am not sure of that yet. I shall continue my efforts.

The lights went out at this point and I had visitors so I was unable to resume my writing last night. I so long to hear from you and hope that I may get some word from you before very long as the suspense is getting oppressive.

Trusting that you are well and that I may hear from you soon I will close--

Lovingly your own boy, John



C. A. C.  
Sept. 21, 1943  
8:30 p.m.

My Dearest Ethel ---

How shall I begin again to write you. It seems that you have only gone to the city and that you will be back shortly, but I fear that that is a pipe dream.

After you left yesterday I went back to the house and had no stomach to putter around so went over and read the two new papers. This did not take long so I came back and started in to arrange the house again. We put the table over the partition and then I put a few things away, but I seemed to be walking in a circle all the time so was unable to accomplish much. Just before dusk Mr. Halward and I went on top of #1 and stayed and chatted for about an hour. The cook did not come so we had milk and bread for supper which was quite acceptable to us all. I went to bed at 10. The icebox gave no trouble, ran all the time and has continued without any attention as all thus far.

I spent a rather restless night. I wonder how you fared. I hope not too cool or hard a bed. I was up at daylight and thought of you carrying your two suit cases to the hotel. I hope you have not had too hard and hot a day. I wish Mr. Kiddo could bring me a letter from you. The house seems woefully empty without you, dear.

Today's breakfast and dinner Ah La and I got but tonight Ah Mi came. We had extra milk so its been simple in the extreme.

All day the merchants have been here carting away what they bought. It's surprising how much stuff there was to go away from here.

I have been arranging the room and have it nearly all finished. I will tell you what I've done. We are using Drs. for a dining room. So I moved our sakwai and dish cupboard over there. We moved their sideboard over against the wooden partition where Percy is placed at night and placed the sa kwai and china closet along the wall where their sideboard used to be.



Then, where our china closet stood I put the large black bedding trunk. The camphor wood trunk I put under window where the sewing machine stood. The machine I put out where the trunks were. The arrangement is not too bad.

Ah Li cleared out of the kitchen all pots, pans, etc. that we would not need. I put these in that large tin container that stood in the bathroom. It was filled. They will be kept nice and clean there and packed so they could be picked up and sent to Fung Shan if necessary. Then, I packed up all the soap into those coal oil tins and put them under the stairway. With these things packed away the room has taken on a better appearance. I am not quite through rearranging it yet but tomorrow shall see the end of this part of the confusion.

Poor Chico knows you are gone and grieves for you. She did not show interest in food so I did not feed her anything but a little toast. I hope she will be better tomorrow. We got the cat and fed her some of the salmon roast. We hope to entice her. Poor Dr. Coffin is down to less than 150 lbs. He has eaten well thus far and I hope soon to report that he has made good gain.

Until tomorrow goodbye Dearest,  
I miss you fearfully.

It is now Sept. 22, 10:30 p.m. I have been working on the accounts getting all entered and ready for tomorrow.

Then too, I went over my cash and balanced up so as to know how I stood. I have actual cash in hand in the till \$20,380.00 c.r.b. This includes the money for the piano. I got \$4,722.20 c.r.b. for it. It went this morning. I am glad it is gone; I thus have nothing to worry about in the future. If I spend 700.00 cr. per month of my own I will have enough to take care of me for 29 months, by which time the war will be over. Dr. is not quite as well fixed but is good for over a year. In counting my cash---I was long 15.00 c.r.b.! So, you see I have kept a good account despite your fears, and from now on I will be doing it each day which will make me more careful. Do not be uneasy over this matter. Our store bill was only 736. c.r.b.

the last ten days you were here. Not too bad.

I wonder if you are in the hotel or on the boat tonight. I could wish you were on the big boat. I hope you did not have too hard a time. It's woefully lonesome here---seems I can hear your footsteps coming in from going to town. The mosquitoes are about to eat me up so I will get under the net and continue writing tomorrow.                      Much love to you.

Sept. 23--3 p.m.

It turned cold last evening and rained. I wonder if you had enough to keep you warm and comfortable. If you could get at your suitcase I am sure you were glad for your coat. The wind blew pretty steady and hard today and if you had to go aboard in the open out at Stanley I fear you had a bad time going up the gang plank or ladder. I wish I knew how you fared in regard to food, beds, etc. while in H.K., whether you were able to see much of the city and what its appearance was like. By now I suppose you are headed for Manila. I hope you have a smooth journey. I hope Elihu Wood is aboard. That will help you to while away part of the long hours of the day. I hope you have a comfortable berth.

I did my first official act on Sept. 21. Miss Lilburne has been having considerable pain on right side, has occurred several times this year. They feared she might have appendix trouble so asked for her to go out to Dr. Otto and have a blood count. The report has just come in and there is nothing acute, I guess. The report just got here and I have not given it to the Drs. yet as they are all asleep.

Things are so lonesome here without you. The yard seems so forsaken. Chico has missed you and has refused to be comforted--today was finally prevailed upon to take a bit of food, the first since you left. She goes out and wanders about the yard as though she is out exploring your whereabouts. Poor thing. It's really touching to see her. I do all I can to comfort her. Last evening Mr. Halward visited me and while visiting I held her on my lap and caressed her.



Tuesday,  
9-28-43

Well, how rich I feel this day. At 3 p.m. Mr. Kiddo called me over to the office and gave me the letters he brought back to pass around. I was so happy to receive one from you. I was so pleased to learn that you did not need to carry your own baggage. Glad to learn you were agreeably surprised at the Hotel. The way I figure your speed I think you will be in Saigon tomorrow and Singapore Friday p.m. You will be in Goa before you know it. Mr. Kiddo said the boat was a very nice one with nice cabins. I will be so glad to learn if you got a cabin. He seemed hurried today so I did not ask about it but will tomorrow when it seems the right thing to do. I heard Mrs. Coffin beat you and Dr. Henry at Anagrams! I shall thank Mr. Kiddo for all his kindness to you.

Well, they have finally settled on the housing. All single ladies stay in #1.

#3--We, upstairs Dr. Anderson and Mr. Childe

#5 upstairs--Dr. Lawson Room--Halward  
Carlson " --Thompson  
Gressitt " --Rathsam  
down -- Dr. Rose " --Jansen  
stairs Whites " --Mr. Ip.

#9 H. F. Thompson Place  
and sheets --Dr. Rose

#10 Halward Jansen  
Childe -- --The White family

I like the arrangement very much and I think all are happy. Miss Anstey takes Mrs. Todd's room and Miss Banks, Miss Schaefer's. We were told at 4: and by 5 to 7 much shifting was on the go. It will be done by tomorrow evening. Mr. Childe is already installed in his flat. No. 7 to be closed altogether. Mr. Nara asked if I wish to move and I said I was content to stay where I was. I have been helping Miss Anstey move. Also helped some on Mr. Childe and so am rather weary and tired. Tomorrow I suppose Mr. Hoffmiester[sic] will be here. I do not expect to learn much new from him. I miss you dreadfully. I hope the ocean voyage will do you some good. I shall feel very good when I learn that you have arrived at Goa. Much love and a sweet kiss to you dear. More tomorrow.

The first ten days of our mess was up yesterday. Last evening I got out the accounts--it cost us MY 92.08 for ten days. Not as bad as I had expected it to be.

We all weigh on Friday--I tip 192. Dr. Coffin--157, and Dr. Anderson 99. Both Drs. have gained 2 lbs. They feel very good over it. I feed 'em soup!! With plenty of milk in it. For supper we had tomato soup, plain. I hope Dr. gains two pounds next week. He told me he was so light for a while he did not dare to give his wife the true figures of his weight. Said he just simply could not eat. He now consumes the most of any one of us. I am glad. I hope to get him to add on 20 pounds.

Monday,  
10-4-43

We are to ask for an increase of allowance. We have prepared a table showing increase since March, in most cases there has been a 400% increase. Hoffmiester says he will try to get 6 MY per day. Some of the Britishers are about down to bed rock as far as private funds are concerned. I have certainly a comfortable feeling as far as this item goes.

Tuesday,  
10-5-43

The day after you left I got into the trunk and pulled out your enlarged picture. I took the back off of my picture frame and inserted your's so both our pictures are in one frame only yours is the one that shows. I had some slightly orange colored light bulbs given me by someone. I rigged up a lamp connected with the bed lamp and put this lamp on your dresser. Each evening I turn on the nice rich look light before your picture and take a good long look at your face. I mostly do this while I am getting ready for bed. The suffused light in the room makes it look very beautiful and I love to look at you. Wish you might be as near as the picture is.

Friday,  
10-8-43

Dr. is eating very well again. I am happy. He ought to be--no household cares, no food cares. He is learning the trombone and the piano, and has added a violin now!

Sabbath,  
10-9-43

We have started two Bible classes. One in New Testament and one in minor prophets. The first led by Mr. Childe, the second by Mr. Jansen. We meet once each week, Friday night 7:45-9. Dr. Coffin, Miss Purry, Robertson, myself are taking the New Test. class. We are to study Luke and when finished continue on with Acts--this was



my suggestion. Originally the class was organized to help Mr. Rathsam and Thompson and we were to join it just to give them company---so Mr. Jansen thought or planned but when Jansen approached them they flatly said they were not interested at all!

Monday,  
10-11-43 We have just finished supper and I have entered the daily expense account so will visit a bit with you. I am a bit tired for I have worked very hard on spading the garden. We have not had rain for so long that the ground seemed like flint, so we poured about 40 pails of water on it and that softened it up so this p.m. I spaded a lot. And for my pains I raised a large blister on the palm of my left hand. I burst the blister so it is a bit sore. However, I am going down good and deep with the spade so I rather guess it will make a nice garden.

Tuesday,  
10-12-43 Today we had an inspection by the new Japanese consul general. The yard was all slicked up and we had our abodes all in apple pie order. He came at about 12. We all dressed in our Sunday best and stood at roll call quarters. He visited some rooms, Dr. Coffin's and mine. Mine first. He asked if he might come into the room and then I insisted he see the bedroom also. He seemed much pleased. Asked after my health which I said was splendid. Wanted to know why I did not return. Told him I had been here too long to go just yet. He spoke almost flawless English. Seemed real nice, open-faced and about 30 or 35 years of age. He asked Miss Banks about radio and also about newspapers so we may be given a radio--hope so--and I hope the papers will come more regular in future.

Dr. is well again, eats well,--more than either Dr. Anderson or I do. Tonight is Bridge night in the camp. It's a wonderful full moon. Almost as light as day outdoors. Tomorrow we will have Mr. Hoffmiester visit. Today Mr. Childe on top of No. 1, had a visit with Mr. Nara. Mr. Nara informed him that the Philippines would have independence granted them tomorrow. Mr. Childe asked when China would have hers and was informed that they already were independent!!!! but rather smiled when he said it. Some logic I must say.

Thursday,  
10-14-43

There seems to be a story current that very soon, just when we do not know, but soon, that instead of giving us money they will give us a certain amount of food--and probably above that we will have to pay or buy for ourselves. The store will close down. We will probably fare better than at present. I hope we shall not be all put into a general kitchen and have our meals in common, that would be too bad, I do not anticipate such a move.

A short while ago I lit the light before your picture so your dear face could be lit up and I could gaze on it a while. I wish I knew how you were tonight. Hope you were able to add a bit to your weight some.

Sabbath,  
10-16-43

Dr. Coffin is playing the violin--he does real well. He remarked today how good his appetite was and how well he was eating. Potatoes are so high that we have not eaten any for 10 days or more. We eat a lot of rice -- with our milk we are getting along fine. The last whole wheat bread turned out very tasty. She made some corn-starch pudding today which was O.K. Soon we shall have tomatoes, carrots are now in, plenty of "loh-pak" and "Paak Chai" but even these are high. Yesterday one stack of Paak Chai and one Loh-pak cost 1.57 MY! Yesterday we bought 6 oz. of beef. We boiled it with Loh-pak and a stock of Paak Chai--for the dog! She is in clover today. I teased Ah Li that while she was cutting up for the dog her mouth dripped!

Sunday,  
10-17-43

Many rumors are current just now. Hoffmiester on his last visit told Whites to get their pens ready to sign on the dotted line next time he came. He also told them that when the next repatriation was accomplished he would have "18 less British" to look after. Well, they speculate on what they may mean. That would take in all here including the New Zealanders. So, the idea is that we will be transferred to H.K. etc. I have it from Dr. Henry that Kiddo told him probably only 3 or 5 from here would go next time. Well, I am sitting put and we will learn in time what will take place. Personally, I do not think they wish to add to their already heavy burden in H.K. and if Halward, Whites and Miss Wilson go, I feel pretty sure we are set here for the duration of the war. I just had to stop and light the smudge for the mosqui-



toes are terrible indeed even to me.

*Sunday,*  
10-17-43      It is now 11 p.m. I do not feel sleepy so will visit a bit with you before I retire. I have the light on near your picture.

Mr. Halward and Childe have been in for a short visit. They have just left. We discussed various phases of the war, etc. Before they came Dr. and I had a game Dominoes. He beat me. We played one hour. He had 760 and I had about 560 I believe. I was not very alert. My mind wandered all over--sometimes at Wai Chow on my various itinerary trips, experiences, then I tried to follow you, then back to here and what would become of us, how long we would be here, what I should do when I get out, after--going home--and then the future. So you can imagine I did not play a very stiff game in that sort of a frame of mind.

*Monday,*  
10-18-43      I have just come in from a walk upon roof of No. 1. It was delightfully cool up there. The lights of the city over across the river looked entrancing and intriguing but of course we are locked up to this place. While up there I heard someone call and it startled me for I thought I heard your voice.

Mr. Childe was just in for a short visit. We have more in common on various questions than anyone else here. We see much alike on many things and problems. I have the light turned on over your picture so I can see you whenever I wish to. The pancakes were real good this morning. Dr. Anderson is playing Mah Jong tonight. I here them mixing the cards and blocks; they are always very noisy.

*Tuesday,*  
10-19-43      Dr. Coffin and I were invited by Miss Lilburn and Robertson to play Buccaneer from 8-10. We have just gotten home. It was the first time I had ever seen the game so was a bit awkward at it. Dr. Coffin won. I was happy for him.

Today I paid up our account at the store for the first 15 days of Oct. It was 2,655.50 CRB which worked out at 159.91 MY. or 10.66 MY. per day for each of us. In this amount there were some stores such as rice that we had on hand.

Wednesday, Well, the day is past. It afforded us a change from the ordinary routine.  
10-20-43

Hoffmiester came and as I expected, we were not much wiser after his visit than before. However, there were some affairs that enlivened the visit. The Britishers got their comfort money. Nothing definite about repatriation for them.

Friday, I hear Dr. Coffin blowing the trombone. He works at music very earnestly. Wish  
10-22-43 he might weigh a bit more. He eats well and seems to enjoy his food.

Sunday, Today it is 34 days since you left here. I wonder how you have fared. I shall  
10-24-43 be so relieved when I hear how you are.

We had pancakes, half white and half w.w. flour. They were real good. We shall now have them twice weekly--sundays and Fridays. French toast on Mondays. Tuesday brown whole wheat; Wed. Brown rice; Thursday brown wheat; Sabbaths brown rice. So the weeks' breakfasts are all taken care of. Our evening meals are as follows: Sunday soup; Monday chuck; Tuesday soups; Weds. waffles; Thurs. soup; Friday chuck; Sabbath milk and bread. The soups are made usually from leftovers from the noon meal. They are mostly rice greens, taro, sweet potato, string beans, tomatoes, potatoes only on Sabbath. We thus have it worked out so it is not so hard. We bake on Mondays and Fridays and I suppose on Fridays we may have now and again a cake or a pie. We of course have fresh fruit at each meal besides the milk at breakfast and supertime. I am doing very well on this diet.

Monday, Dearest, this has been quite a day. We were informed that Mr. Kiddo has been  
10-25-43 transferred and is leaving next week for Tokyo. We do not know just who will be in charge but we all feel that there will be no break up of this camp, that it will continue until we are rescued for the war end. I feel quite confident of it now by the way the guards are settling down and Mr. Uchida said today he liked it here--that we never gave any trouble and he expected to continue here until end of war. This evening they are flooding the sky with search lights. I wonder if they expect night attacks.



Wednesday, Dr. Coffin and I have just come in from a long nice walk on the roof of No. 1.  
10-27-43

The wind has turned to the north and is considerably cooler tonight.

Hoffmiester came today and seemed in very good spirits. The Whites asked about repatriation. He said since the Americans have gone you have more room and are quite comfortable, which is true. Also, he said there probably would be a British repatriation from North China of old people and women and children and maybe a few from South China, which may be only men from Hong Kong. So that's that.

Friday, While we were on the roof last evening Mrs. Uchida called and said their little  
10-29-43 boy had run their sewing machine and had gotten it out of order and wanted me to see it I could fix it for her so I suppose I will have a look at it today. Dr. and I are working away on the botany of our compound. We now have it about complete. We are finding it hard to get the Chinese names for all of the plants, through various books etc. We have now close on to 90% all written in Chinese characters. We are now making the final copy in English and Chinese. It will be a big help to making the list when we get back to our compound. Bye Bye for now little girl.

Tuesday, My dearest Ethel--I did not write yesterday. It was settlement day. My, our bill  
11-2-43 was huge--3000.00 C.R.B. We will have to retrench some way. Probably will have to drop the cook! Will talk it over and arrive at a decision tomorrow. I could probably stand it at least for awhile but Dr. Anderson could not. At most he has 1,4000.00 C.R.B. per month and at our recent rate it would be about 16 to 18,000.00 C.R.B. and he will be unable to make the grade for he cannot get any money besides what the Japanese and Mr. Hoffmiester give him. Then there is Dr. who only has about 8,000.00 C.R.B. and this would be all gone in less than eight months which would not be wise. So we will have to cut down drastically in order to live long on what we have. I fear the cook will have to go and then we will cut on other items also.

Thursday, Yesterday we had air alarms. I counted over 20 U.S. planes headed South. They  
11-4-43 went right over the city at a very fast rate. Anti air-fire very ineffective for some reason. Evidently their objective was not Canton but elsewhere, probably

Hong Kong. However, we shall know further when papers come. We now subscribe for it so it will come each day. This I may have already written you.

Mr. Wong and the compound sent 3 papyas, 9 eggs and some nice white rice, 4 oranges. It's awfully good of them to remember us thus and I shall make them all feel how I appreciated it when once I am out of here. Real news my dear girl---Mrs. White is in the family way!!!! Not very far along yet but I guess enough so that she knows some of her troubles! I suppose before you get this news the child will be born! Will close for tonight. May you have had a restful night. Much love.

Sabbath,  
11-6-43 For dinner we shall have boiled soya beans, beef, string beans, sliced tomatoes rice and fruit. What will you have? My 500 plants of letuce are growing nicely.

Thursday,  
11-11-43 Our hearts feel encouraged, etc. Yesterday Mr. Kiddo came. I had a very pleasant visit with him. He said the Japanese had had a very great victory (?) in the Solomons. My interpretations are the reverse, has been the case--they needed this report for bolstering the spirit of that big Asia meeting they were holding. According to the papers, the affairs in Europe are not going well for Germany at all. You know I feel---I still feel it will not be many months until the war in Europe will be over and our release will then come quickly. Time will tell. It seems a pity all this loss of life for all nations and the expense would give one a headache.

Tuesday,  
11-16-43 I paid our November 1-15 store bill today as you will see from the other side of this sheet. We averaged 5.84 MY per day. I feel very proud of it.

Wednesday,  
11-17-43 This morning for the first time I made "egg rare". It was a huge success, using only two eggs. Dr. Coffin and Anderson enjoyed it. I soaked some toast--just a bit of cream on them in bit of butter, then put the egg stuff on the toast; it was fine--enjoyed it myself. I used two cups of fresh milk, two eggs, a bit of salt, and one and a half teaspoonful of flour to each cup of milk for thickening--beat the whole mess up with the egg beater. We shall have it often now I am sure. Both my fellow boarders are not so hearty on appetite as I am so I have to kind of look out for them.



Sabbath, Evening after Sabbath. The day has passed pretty fast. For dinner we had beef, 11-27-43  
carrot, soya bean stew--very good. Then Ah Lai made a cornstarch pudding. It was good also. The climax of goodness was some lettuce sent by the Tung Shan folks. It tasted so good.

At noon today Mr. Kiddo came and shook hands with all of us to say goodbye. He leaves Tuesday for Japan by plane. I am sorry to see him go for he did not do too bad by us. I hope the new man will be as considerate of us.

Well, you must all be getting very excited for you are not so terribly far off from New York. I warrant you the last day there will be great activity on the vessel; if I only could hear that you are well I would feel so relieved. Today we received the Nov. 24-25 papers. They tell of terrific battles in the Pacific. We also heard that Formosa had been bombed. I suppose in a few days we shall read of it in the papers. We get about 5 papers per week so we are quite up to date we feel. Not one word about the Gripsholm thus far. I hope soon we will hear it has arrived in New York with all passengers safe.

In our Bible class Miss Robertson made the statement she believed all would be saved. It created quite a lot of discussion to say the least. I think we all had a different idea. We shall, I suppose in time have a lot of discussion that will be quite lively to say the least. Mr. Childe is very fair and open-minded.

Mr. Kiddo's leaving so suddenly we had no opportunity to do anything gracious for him; however, it was thought a letter expressing our appreciation would not be amiss. So yesterday I composed the following which was given to him this morning.

Civil Assembly Centre

Canton --- 28/11/43

Mr. H. Kiddo

Chief Official of the Civil Assembly Centre

Japanese Consulate, Canton

Dear Sir:

Upon your transference to another post, and before leaving Canton, I wish upon behalf of myself and all the British and American internees to express to you our very grateful thanks and appreciation for your uniform kindness and unfailing courtesy during the time you have had charge of this camp.

We wish you health and success for the future. We shall not soon forget you and we hope to meet you again when the relations of our countries will be in happier conditions.

Sincerely yours,

J.P.A., Chief Representative (all people  
signed the copy...)

All expressed how well it sounded and that it sounded sincere which would carry weight to anyone who might read it. I sure meant it.

Tuesday, 11-30-43      Friday we are to have a deck tennis tournament. I am paired off with Mrs. Rose. She will have to do all the good playing for I am too clumsy to do much at that sort of thing; however, I shall try. They wished everybody to take part so as to make it as interesting as possible.

Today I honed Mr. Uchida's razor as well as Dr. Coffin's. I also fixed an electric stove for Miss Robertson, a wash tub for Thompson and Rathsam. People are using electricity in cooking much of the time. Some even heat bath water on them. They run from daylight until dark. It's a wonder that the office does not complain of the large E. bill. It will come, I fear then Sister Ansty and others will howl.

I wish I had some way of getting this letter to you. It will be so long you will never be able to wade through it all and I fear it is not very interesting either. How I wish I knew how you are. Two more days and you land.

I do hope I can get some word from Dr. Henry about the treatment of Japanese internees in America. What about the trouble at Tule Lake, California? I heard a Japanese was shot dead, ruthlessly, of course. Mr. Nara is about once more. He



called the roll today for the first time in nearly a month's time.

I have just cost up the accounts for Nov. 15-30. We average 7.70 per day including servants wages and food. The first half of the month it was 570 so the general average for Nov. would be 6.70 MY per day. Not too bad. I doubt if other messes do any better and we have lived well, too. I feel good over it.

Friday,  
12-3-43

Well, we had our ping pong and deck tennis tournament. I played very poorly; poorest in the lot I think. Dr. Coffin had Miss Banks as a partner and they won the finals. Dr. Coffin plays a good game of deck tennis. I shall practice up.

Today two papers came. My, there is heavy fighting in the south and central Pacific as well as in Europe. The papers admit America taking over the Gilbert group of Islands. It will be interesting now to see what the next move will be. I wonder how much truth there is to the story of Roosevelt, Churchill, Chiang Kai Shek and Stalin holding a meeting in Cairo. If they are there is probably big things in the offing for the Far East. The fighting in Russia must be attended with terrific suffering on account of weather conditions.

The papers say Berlin has been very heavily bombed and the loss of life to the civil population has been considerable. Evidently what we read sometime ago that the anti axis were to bomb 50 cities of Germany like they had bombed Hamburg was no idle boast. I think Germany at one time told her people that she had enough in planes and anti aircraft guns so Germany would be free for arial bombings. Well, evidently they made a mistake for if what is true written in the papers she is being bombed very severely.

Sunday,  
12-5-43

Well, the sermon is over. I never feel very free preaching here. However, it went off very well today. Where the pulpit was it was a bit dark so I could not see very well. They all listened very carefully and I thought interestedly. Dr. Coffin liked it very much. Only 45 minutes long so it had that to commend itself to them anyway. My next turn comes Feb. 6 and then April 23 and July 2, if we stay here that long. I told them in my sermon that I did not expect to be here a year.

After supper tonight Dr. C. and Dr. Anderson and I played dominoes until one got 500. Dr. C. won. Wish I might play with you, dear. We always got along so well and we seemed to play fast enough to make it interesting.

Monday,  
12-6-43

Well, now for the big news item. The papers on Dec. 2 said the Gripsholm arrived in New York Dec. 1, morning. I feel relieved. I do so hope you had a reasonably pleasant voyage and that you more than held your own. How I wish I could soon hear that you even improved some on the voyage. You have now been in the U.S.A. nearly a week. I hope visitors will not tire you out visiting you.

Wednesday,  
12-8-43

Dearest Ethel, Today is two years of war. We began on the third year with courage. For some time the lights have been dim or not as bright as they might be. Well, today Mr. Uchida went around with Mr. Hoffmiester and discovered a lot of electric stoves so he immediately called me and went the rounds of all houses telling them to turn in all stoves. Flat irons are allowed to be used but no heaters.

Mr. Jansen had put an electric cord from across the hall into Miss Robertson's room. Mr. Uchida was very angry at this and slapped Mr. Jansen for doing it. He was at fault so I suppose this will end the matter but now that we have the regulation we will know how to act. That's that. I am glad we have never relied upon the hotplate for cooking foods so it will make no change in regard to our conditions.

Today was supposed to be a holiday, but the office was open and Hoffmiester came and gave out the allowances to each one. The White's are now getting 300.00 C.R.B. per month on account of her condition so they are well taken care of as far as money matters goes.

Tuesday,  
12-14-43

Dr. Coffin is making a mouse house he will try to catch two mice and make a barrell for them to tumble about. It will add amusement for a short time. I have just gotten permission for Miss Robertson to see Dr. Otto tomorrow at 9 a.m. Miss Lilburne will go to the dentist next week, we hope.



Wednesday, Another warm day past. Mr. Hoffmiester came today and brought us 75 tins of stuff--  
12-15-43

Carnation milk, figs, sausages, syrup, pineapple apples, salmon, tomatoes, green olives,--so you see we had a very nice lot --they were divided up today. For supper we had a tin of stewed tomatoes, milk, bread and fruit. Oh yes, there was also 6 4 lb. tins of shortening in the lot. Well, we are very thankful.

Mr. Hoffmiester said he had an inquiry from Helen, evidently a cable from Switzerland asking about my welfare. He said that he had replied that I was well and needing nothing! I wonder if it was from Helen or you or if it was sent by Helen before you arrived or afterwards.

Today's paper says the American Attorney General says the Japanese are treating the internees according to Geneva regulation but discipline very slack which probably means the guards are allowed to smack people when they are in the mood, the same as certain ones here have been a law unto themselves.

Sabbath, Well, we finished the mouse house and set it and caught a mouse. He is now  
12-18-43 installed in his mansion where he seems very contented. Food brought to him. He keeps fit by treading the tread mill. Did it almost as soon as he got in the cage. It's quite cute and affords amusement for us for a while anyway. Wish we might have a monkey in the yard. That would occupy some odd moments with diversion. It's mostly diversion that we crave.

I suppose you are doing Xmas shopping. I hope you are well enough to enjoy it. I wish I could hear that you had gained in weight somewhat. The rate mails are coming thru it will be some time before I shall hear, I fear.

South Pacific has been very quite in the papers for over a week now--I wonder what has taken place in New Britain and the Marshall Islands. It seems if the Japanese were successful in warding off the American attacks, they would be doing more crowing than they are. Two weeks ago they, of course, reported huge successes but also admitted American advances and stopped all of a sudden in reporting South Pacific warfare.

Sunday, I dream of driving home via Siberia and Alaska, arriving in the Park with our  
12-19-43

Canton car number etc.---and will end up probably taking the fastest boat across the Pacific to U.S.A. when once I decide on going home. Dr. and I talked some of going to Europe via the Burmah road with an auto or via Alaska home and on return to China, (if coming back) via Europe in a car from France to China. Might as well dream as not to--it is not expensive, even cheaper than gathering vases was at one time.

Tuesday,  
12-21-43

I wonder what credence is given to their reports of the sinking of so many big boats and the downing of such huge numbers of U.S. planes. However, we shall soon be able to figure it out for if the U.S. keeps on progressing we shall know their reports are padded. I can see from what creeps in now and again in the papers the Japanese are having a hard time to keep the supplies up.

Xmas Eve, Dearest Ethel:--

Friday,  
12-24-43

I wonder where you are tonight, if at 4 Hickory or at the San? My thoughts have been much on you today. I hope you have had a Merry Xmas. I hope above all that you have increased in weight and that you are feeling much better and are once more yourself physically. I would give a lot to know your condition right now. The Xmas festive spirit is upon us in the compound. Maureen and Michael acted as post delivery today. All received several cards. I think I must have gotten 18 anyway. Dr. and Mrs. Cadbury left cards for us. I shall save them all and let you see them. We of course know we will not spend another Xmas in here.

They allotted to me the job of getting the cakes to Uchida, Ito, store keeper, and the guards and the Chinese coolies on the compound. We made a sponge cake in that cake tin you make angels food in. It turned out wonderfully nice. Frosted it with frosting sugar colored a bit red. It looked handsome. Made one like it only smaller for the three guards, a square one for Ito and the store keeper each one, of course, a much thinner one but longer for the Chinese coolies. Also a nice one for the Chinese servants.

Made 8 cupcakes for the Uchida children. He seemed very pleased. They were



all good for I used 30 eggs. The foreign women all seemed afraid to tackle the sponge cake. I had the Thompson Rathsam women do it. She did a very creditable job and I feel very grateful to her. I am, of course, glad the ordeal is over.

Sunday,  
12-26-43

Dearest little girl---Well, the big event is over. It was a huge success from start to finish. Where shall I begin my description, probably the decorations is as well as any. First, on entering the hall way at the head of the stairs was a big red bell made out of paper. One at the other doorway as you enter the hall. The pillar to pillar was strung with small bells, evergreen trees, stars, etc. tinsel, etc, all hand made, very beautiful. Windows were all draped with the same. Then along the wall, where one of the pillars stands out like a chimney, a mantle fireplace was rigged up out of a few boards and paper, black paper inside made it look like a real fireplace. A monogram of C.A.C. in gold letters were on the smoke hood. Andirons, grate and all were there even to a railing to keep away the dust and coal from getting out into the room. To make it more realistic some red paper wrapped around bricks covered with wax paper or cellophane with an electric bulb underneath. It would fool you that there was an actual fire. We of course had plenty of flower pots so we had plenty of greenery for decoration.

The two long tables were placed end for end so as to seat us all. For decoration on the table we had a silver paper strip about 4 in. wide right down the center. This was fringed with green tissue paper that had shirred edges cut and curled up making a very lovely sight. On this strip were placed a few small vases with flowers in them and we had three glass <sup>8</sup>bowls in which goldfish were placed. It made the decorations very rich looking. The meal consisted of roast chicken, potatoes, boiled then roasted in the oven, green olives, lettuce, tomatoes, fresh onion salad, Alaska salmon, carrots, Xmas pudding, figs with cream, and candy--- enough, you cry, for anyone. We all thought so. It was a most pleasant evening. I was host! They presented me with a beautiful hand made menu that I shall prize

all my life. I had all sign on it. Mr. Childe and Jansen and Mr. Halward made speeches. Of course, I had to reply to the last one which I did as fittingly as possible. All was most pleasant. Could not have been much nicer no matter where we would have been. After the meal we had music, played a few games and broke up at 10:45, each claiming his own cutlery and dishes so it was after 11 before we left the hall. We of course had oddles of stuff left over so this morning we are dividing it up. I was much disappointed in the chickens. I like our way of doing them much better. They were not tender owing to the way they were prepared. The chickens were young so it was not their fault. Miss Robertson sat at my left and Mr. White at my right. Next to Miss Robertson sat Mr. Jansen. At the end of the tables and serving sat Mrs. Rose and at the other end Miss Lilburne. I felt sorry for them for it made a lot of work for each. The servants waited on tables and did a good job of it too. Oh yes, Mr. White wrote an original poem by Santa Claus. I shall get a copy of it so you may see it. It is real rich. A paper by Miss Lilburne was read by Dr. Rose. That was very interesting and this too I shall procure for it was very amusing. We all thought Dr. Rose wrote it but he disclaimed authorship but after a while we got it that Miss Lilburne wrote the script.

I had of course furnished considerable of the stuff for the meal and all were profuse in their thanks. Personally I was glad to be able to contribute a bit to the happiness in the camp. Well it is soon meeting so I will close. May write a bit more this evening. I am going to make out my reading schedule for the year 1944 today if possible to see if I will not be able to accomplish a bit of real hard thinking, reading for improvement. Bye bye for now dear.

Monday,  
12-27-43      The pump needs fixing. The whole pipe line will have to be pulled out for it is at the bottom where the trouble is so after New Year's I expect for a few days shall have plenty of exercise. I wish I had some good wood. I would carve.



Friday,  
12-31-43

Well, dear, the old 1943 year passes. I fear it has been a very unpleasant year for you. I very much regret this separation but I feel much better that you are in the homeland where your wants can be supplied. I very much fear I did not make the year as pleasant for you as I might have--for this forgive me and I will try to do better. I do love you with my whole heart and am willing to do anything that will bring happiness to your heart. Let us hope the new year will see us together once more for surely 1944 will see the end of the war.

Sabbath,  
1-1-44

I will tell you a joke on myself. Yesterday being Friday I began after dinner to sweep and tidy up the room. I asked for bath water to be ready by 4 so as to have the bath out of the way before roll call. Well, I shaved and got the water in the tub by 4:03 and had got into the tub, washed my hair, and soaped myself well when the roll call bell rang. Al Lai pounded on the window that the man was coming. I put on my overalls and enroute wiped my hair and ran out to salute!!! looking like a drowned rat! We all laughed of course. Being the last day of the year they called the roll early without giving warning. I went back and finished the bath at my leisure.

The past few weeks I have felt somewhat depressed. I have no way of explaining it--do not sleep well or through the night--wake up early and cannot go to sleep again. But yesterday and today the depression seems to have left me and I feel better. I wonder if you have been ill or are having untoward problems up for solution or the children are worrying you.

Sabbath,  
-8-44

My, for some real heartening news like you must be getting. We got Jan. 1 paper today and read Germany in Russia is practicing "Elastic tactics" again and from names given I conclude all is not so well for Germany in Russia. It also stated 2,000 tons of bombs were dumped on Berlin Dec. 30. My, that is 4,000 bombs weighing 1,000 pounds each. It's a wonder the city is still there. It must shake the people terrifically. Glad I am not there. Surely Germany does not possess air superiority or she would

prevent these raids on her capital. I wonder how many planes it took to carry 2,000 tons?

*Sunday,*  
1-9-44 Miss Lilburne did the honors of the sermon this day--did pretty well--better than the time before. For dinner we had mashed potatoes, and meat gravy and for supper we had chuk and milk. We are well, I weigh 203 today! I feel real full right now.

*Wednesday,*  
1-12-44 Rice is 2.65 and will go to 3.00 My. per catty--ouch!

*Thursday,*  
1-13-44 I notice the Japanese scan their newspapers with avidity each day and they do not seem to wear a happier face after reading than before. My guess is that all is not going according to propanganda plans anyway. Oh, for a short wave radio. It's too bad to allow so much good news go to waste for us!

Today they actually paid us the additional living allowances for Nov. and Dec. 1943. It amounted to 61.00 My. We all feel rich with our 338.80 C.R.B! Prices have gone up over 20% so fast, a lot of good it will do us but of course prices would have gone up even if we had not received the additional allowance.

*Sabbath,*  
1-15-44 Dearest Ethel: I did not write you yesterday for they came to fix the pump and being Friday I wished to have it over with before Sabbath so turned to and worked with a will and by 3 p.m. water was pouring into the tank. I was very glad. Then in the evening we had our Bible class.

*Sunday,*  
1-16-44 Dr. Coffin, Mr. Jansen and some of the ladies seem so unconcerned, never read the papers. I can hardly understand it for some of the most momentous issues of history are being fought out and the outcome will effect us individually whether we believe it or not.

*Monday,*  
1-17-44 The new man has three girls. One goes to school. After she came home she and a younger girl were playing, she with a rope. She had on those Keds. She took them off and the younger one was carrying them, swinging them about. Well, when she got by



No. 7 our people i.e. Halward was drawing water, the shoe slipped out of her hand and down the well it went! Halward called me and I put a bucket down and fished it out. The little girl was crying with her whole might and even after I got it out she could not stop for a long time.

Monday,  
1-24-44

A few gather each Sunday evening for a sing in the hall. Last evening I went up. Dr. Rose played a couple of solos and Mrs. Rose a piano solo. They were nice. I enjoyed hearing them. Before I went up I had had Dr. Coffin draw me an outline of a man standing in the attitude of salute. I transferred this drawing to a pine stick and carved it, only  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches tall, very small you see. I put this under the little porch where MacDonalds stood for roll call to represent Mr. Childe answering roll call. I shall carve the rest of us to be placed at our doors. It looks real realistic. I may add other features as time goes on. I shall probably carve Chico! But not in attitude of scratching fleas however. The figures are so small they will be a bit difficult to carve, I fear.

(Later in day.) Today I carved Dr. Coffin to stand at roll call attention--tomorrow probably will try Dr. Anderson. I doubt if Mr. Hoffmiester will visit us Wednesday but probably will come Thursday instead.

I wonder how you are dear? I hope much improved. Dr. Rose is next door helping Dr. Coffin with French pronunciation. They have French class at 1:45 to 2:00 each day. Mrs. White had spent a year or so in France so is the best in the class. Miss Wilson has had 6 years, Miss Purry and Dr. Rose and Dr. Coffin constitute the class.

Sabbath,  
1-29-44

Mr. Hoffmiester came yesterday. No news whatsoever. We received no papers this week. The Japanese around here look somewhat glum so we are wondering if they have received bad news. It's wicked but I hope they have. It has now been 130 days since you left here and 343 days since we arrived in camp.

Today Mr. Jansen and Childe played tennis and it was a very fine game. They were so evenly matched that it seemed the game would never end. They were both about tuckered out. Nearly 120 days since we had rain so the court is very dry but the

dust it creates is some problem for us in our houses. However, it has afforded a lot of sport to the players for which I am glad.

Sunday, 1-30-44 Do you have a radio or do you rely upon reading in the papers for your news of the progress of the war? How I would love to have a radio.

Tuesday, 2-1-44 I bought 100 catties of rice today. I think it will cost 299.50 My! Well, it will soon go up to 4.00 I fear so I bought while I could. Be sometime now before we buy rice again.

I was interested to see that out of 120,000 Japanese nationals in U.S.A. only 2,500 were interned while in England 10 were interned. I wonder how they are treated. I noticed absence of remarks by the Japanese government of ill treatment of their nationals. There is still considerable said in the papers about a Japanese hospital ship being bombed again. One would like to know the exact truth in such matters. I do not believe the U.S. airmen would deliberately do such acts.

Wednesday, 2-2-44 I bought 100 catties of rice and on the book this morning I saw it was entered as 300.00 My. Ouch! Well, it will probably increase in price as time goes on.

We gave Mr. Hoffmiester a copy of the increase of foods since we came here so he can use it to talk when we ask for an increased allowance. They are only paying for about 50% of our keep here at present time.

Thursday, 2-3-44 This year is 1944. I wonder what our people are saying about the 100th year of the second Advent movement at home? Do they mention it much in the pulpits and in the R. & H.? Certainly a lot of food for thought for all of us.

Sabbath, 2-5-44 I dreamt last evening that I met Mr. Milne out at the compound and Dr. Miller with them and they asked to look at the empty houses. I had been doing a lot of repair work and was just finishing up some gutters outside and then it dawned on me that I was going home for good and probably Milne had been sent to take over. I



then awoke. Probably it will be so, who knows what the end of this war will bring.  
May its end come soon.

*Wednesday,*     Some people are agitating again on the high cost of living so we have agreed to  
2-9-44  
make Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday--four days, a definite accounting as to the average amounts of various things that go into our meals and compute the calories and the cost and see how near the nourishing diet we get in comparison with the International standard as set by the International Red Cross.

I hope the war will end this year sometime. Today's paper said you are only allowed 1 lb. butter per person per month, that would be 2/5 of an oz. per day--not a very large pill; nearly as large as we get!!!!

*Thursday,*     Dearest--Today has been a red letter day for sure for I received the returns  
2-10-44  
on the letter we sent to Hojet June 8, 1942! Hazel put no date on so I do not know when she wrote but rather gather it was September 1942. Says Helen arrived and stayed with her a month and was working. And so Hazel has two girls--well, well. Coming rather fast.

*Monday,*       Well, they have clamped down on us--none of us are allowed to go on the roof  
2-14-44  
of No. 1 and No. 5 We have been grounded and that's not all. We have to turn all lights out at 10 p.m. and until 6 a.m! Ouch. I fear Mr. Nara is at the bottom of all this.

Dr. has given me the figures on calories. We each averaged 4,200 calories per day and the protein, fat and carbohydrates were all in almost textbook proportions. Do not worry over our food question dear. Sweet dreams, rich tender love to you, dear.

*Tuesday,*       I did not forget our wedding anniversary dear. Wish I could have sent you some  
2-15-44  
message of cheer or comfort. I remember with warmth our lovely time in Shanghai--

how sweet and nice you were and never have changed a bit either.

We expect Mr. Hoffmiester tomorrow and shall tell him our average calories is 3,165 per day per person and the average cost 9.80 per day.

Sabbath,  
2-19-44

Well, dear, tomorrow our year rounds out at C.A.C. We shall celebrate it by having Mr. Childe, Jansen, Halward, over for dinner. Am not sure what we will eat yet but mashed potatoes will be one article, and bread. What else I am not sure of. Probably will have Campbell's soup to begin the meal with.

The captain of the guard--Mr. Goto--is a gay sort of a fellow, overly friendly and likes his drinks, real gay--seems to have no feelings towards us but friendliness. Plays tennis etc. with the people. Well, last night while Miss Banks and Dr. were playing duets he went up to the room and listened to them, then fumbled around and saw the piano duet book of Helen's. He selected some pieces among them a waltz. When the waltz was played he ran down to the new guard's room, called the wife, brought her into the chapel and while Dr. and Miss Banks played they waltzed around the room!

Thursday,  
2-24-44

Well my dear sweet girl, your letter from Port Elizabeth was given to me shortly after I wrote the above. Mr. Ito came to borrow some bicarbonate--and I made bold to ask about the letter. He came back with them in a few minutes. My, I have already read it three times and copied it once as I have to return the original to the office. How I have enjoyed it. I read it to Mr. Childe and Mr. Halward and then went up to No. 1 and read it to the ladies up there. They were very much pleased. I am so glad to hear that you are so much better and that you have more than held your own even gained a bit. Sorry you received no letters.

Wednesday,  
3-1-44

Well, Hoffmiester came today and gave the camp some very sad news. It was that his comfort money could not be paid until further notice and was already in effect. Most of the camp had depended about 50% on the comfort money to meet daily



necessities so it was a big blow and then on top of that the Red Cross milk sent word that milk had increased to 6.60 per catty! Went up 2.00 at one jump today-- Ouch! Well, we all dropped 50% of our milk.

Friday,  
3-3-44

Mr. Ito told me we are to go into a common mess up in No. 1. Just what the arrangements are I do not know yet. Probably they do not know themselves. Will probably only be allowed to have two servants! The women are to do the cooking in turns. How thankful I am that you are not here to be tortured in a common kitchen and common food. I will probably have to make some adjustment but I have itinerated so much that I feel I will be able to weather the storm. Mr. Childe and I have just been talking it over so we have told the people that probably it means that we will have a common mess and not to buy up too much stores. The reaction is not bad so there will be a peaceful turnover I hope. Most all are good sports.

I do not sleep well. This upset of no comfort money and common mess has given me considerable to think about and if emergencies arise I shall be the one who puts up the talks to the officials which I dislike very much and could heartily wish I did not have this burden to wrestle with. My hopes soar that it will not be long in our present situation. Plenty of love dear little girl to you--Ever your love, John.

Monday,  
3-6-44

Just now I was called by the guard to show our whole-wheat grinder to a Japanese consular policeman and two Japanese. I tolled the thing out to the guard house gate. They looked it over to get an idea how to make one. Then the Japanese policeman asked me to give him a washer for his leaking water faucet!! They must be pretty hard put on the outside to not have a faucet washer but must come to us poor internees for supplies. None too rosy a world for them I fear. Must close. Lots of love dear. Lovingly, John

Wednesday,  
3-8-44

Rice is 4.60, peanut oil 23.00 per catty, wood 44.00, matches 1.00 per box, potatoes 2.80, soap, small bar, 1.40, sugar 12.00, so you see at only 5.00 allowance per day, there is some pinching before food is ordered. Nearly everyone is becoming lighter.

Well, Hoffmiester did not come today. He was sick in bed with a cold so sent Szaloof instead. We had a very interesting time. They always visit all places first. Mine the last so if we have business we can take as long at it as we like. Well, today Mr. Szaloof said that Mr. Hoffmiester had neglected to inform us that the stopping of the comfort money was not just our camp but was a general order for all camps in occupied China--Shanghai, Chefoo, Tsinanfu, Hankow, Peking, etc.

*Sabbath,*  
*3-18-44* Some were in for trying to debate the orders from the consulate. This of course was wrong. They do not issue orders to be debated on but to be obeyed. Miss Banks and Anstey and the Whites were the most vocal. This you see was Thursday. Friday morning Mr. Ito said orders had come for him to begin the common mess, they to furnish the food. So, after a talk we agreed that Monday March 21 we would begin, thus giving us a bit of time to organize ourselves.

*Monday,*  
*3-20-44* Dearest Ethel, Well, we have taken two meals in the common kitchen. I have helped wash up after two meals. I do not mind it at all.

We of course are very interested in the amount of rations allowed per person per day. They gave us rations for two days today--12 catties of rice--72 oz. per pay day for 29 people. You see that is not very much---2 oz. of rice makes 1 full bowl of "faan" or cooked rice so we could have  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bowls of cooked rice per person for three meals! The fish we had you could pretty nearly put in your eye after it was divided up between us.

Miss Banks, Dr. Rose and Mr. Thompson are the cooks. They did very well I must say. Miss Anstey works fast at dishwashing. We get it all done in  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hours time. The dining room, with Dr. and my table and the Phillippes make lovely looking furniture. Each table has a vase of flowers on it and so we look real cozy. All seem cheerful and willing to help so I expect we shall have an enjoyable a life as we can under our present circumstances. Sabbath I will only wash dishes one meal. Sunday I will do two. Time will go real fast I am sure of that.



Wednesday, In our talks today with Mr. Koi we asked that new orders or regulations be  
3-22-44 written out in English and placed on bulletin board for all to see. So today the following were pasted up:

1. 7:00 a.m. rising time
2. 8:00 walking about or music (no walking on roof permitted)
3. 8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
4. 12:30 - 1:00 Tiffin
5. 6:30 - 7: supper
6. 10: Lights out
7. Those who have cash can for cash purchase anything they may desire but must render a report of same to office as hithertofores.
8. During air-raid alarm, silence should be observed.
9. But in case you are at a neighbor's during the coming of the air raid alarm, you are to stay where you are but observe silence.
10. If the air raid alarm is sounded near meal time you are to go quickly to dining room and remain until after the all clear is given.
11. 10:00 a.m. store open for business
12. These rules to go into effect as from today. Dated March 22, 1944.

By order of \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Inspector

Monday, This is my first day at cooking or rather helping cook. Miss Anstey is the  
-27-44 real cook. She does real well, too, I must say. Not a bit lazy. I build the fires in the "fung los" and keep them up to par at all times. Between times I pare sweet potatoes or wash and prepare vegetables, etc. This morning I woke up early and thought it must be about time to go and start the stoves at 7. I got up in the pale light and looked at the clock and thought it said 6:30. I thought my! Miss Anstey will be starting fires unless I hurry up. So I put my union suit on and then thought I better turn on lights to see what time it might be and found it only 5:30 so I lay down for an hour. I had no trouble with the fung los at all in 15 minutes I had beautiful coals for Miss Anstey when she came down at 7:20. She seemed very pleased for I had put on a kettle of water and it was boiling which she said went to the spot with her

for then she could thus make herself a cup of tea as an eye opener for the day. She works fast and with a good idea of system, making all movements count. We got all meals on time.

Friday,  
3-31-44      They are still toying with the idea that they can feed us on what was the monetary allowance, i.e. 5.00 My. per day. They will soon awake to altogether a different situation. It will probably be nearer 7.00 and that for not long as prices are skyrocketing. Inflation is here with a vengeance.

Wednesday,  
4-5-44      Well, today was another red letter day for me. I received your Goa letter. I was glad you had gotten along so well. I can see that you must have had a bit of a food problem on the Tei-a-Mara as well as other annoying conditions. Do not worry over Chico for she is as fat as butter. Tonight I petted her for you.

Sabbath,  
4-8-44      Yesterday being Good Friday, permission was given to hold a phonograph rendering of Stiner's Crucifixion. It was very nice music. Just as the last record had finished and the benediction said the air raid alarm was sounded. It was then 9:20 p.m. so all hurried home and went to bed, without lights. Rather a hurried exit after such solemn music.

Tuesday,  
4-11-44      I am banker for most of the compound, having over 8000.00 C.R.B. outstanding. The stuff is not worth very much.

Friday,  
4-14-44      Good morning--I have just finished dressing and will soon have to go to breakfast. I will now continue my story of yesterday. After getting the tree down I cut it into lengths for the "Kiaks". These blocks I put in our bathroom. One I split up into proper thickness for making "Kiaks" and proceeded to make a pair for Halward. The wood being fresh cut and green worked easily so I worked away with a rather large audience of various people watching me, and gradually the shoes took shape. I was much handicapped by not having a "spoke shave"--a sort of plane that is



a very common article of which I have two out at the compound. It would have lightened my work of smoothing it by 50%; as it was, all I had to make the shoes was a hammer and a chisel. I kept right at it and by the roll-call time I had the straps nailed on! Mr. Halward was well pleased.

Friday,  
4-14-44

Got papers yesterday. Pretty good news. We see Odessa has been evacuated by the German army which will probably mean they will go up into Rumania to hold the oil fields. The European situation looks very hopeful for the allies. In Burma it does not look so good. However, we hope the allies will bestir themselves. We heard the Americans have landed in the Palau Islands. If this is correct it is a very strategic move, I think, and we shall probably hear a lot about in the near future. We catch at any straw that is good news to us.

Monday,  
4-17-44

I have just come from the kitchen where I boiled a potato for yeast making as I am to make some bread tomorrow. The bread up at the dining room is almost uneatable for Dr. and me. I toast it almost to charcoal and even then it has that evil smell and taste. It's simply musty to the core.

I think they discontinued the rice ration system in H.K. to get people to leave. They claim many are leaving. All public utilities are curtailed terrifically. Trains run 6-7 a.m. and at 4-5 p.m. only. They advise people to walk!!! Firewood seems a problem that defies solution for them. This evening the rice was far too underdone. It would powder when chewed. Hope people will not have "tummy" aches tonight. Miss Lilburne is the chief cook and as I came out she said she told the people at her table, if Mr. Anderson went for a second bowl of rice the meal was O.K., if not, it was a failure. I did not go for a second bowl so she said it was a failure. Her first meal. This all in fun you understand. Most of them have come to realize that I can tell good milk from chalk and water!! I think I have made the best bread out of that poor flour yet, the last Miss Robertson made was not good. The flour is simply impossible. I must close. I shall make myself a hot

drink to help digest the hard rice! Much love dearest, John.

Wednesday, I can beat the ladies already. Yesterday we had dumplings. The flour is  
4-19-44  
horrible and so the dumplings were horribly compounded. I got outside of one; some  
ate as many as five--those who could handle 5 are proof against anything, germs and  
all is all I have to say.

Thursday, Dear Ethel--Arrangements were made for Dr. Coffin to go to the dentist. He left  
4-20-44  
at about 1. Mr. Childe asked me today if Dr. Coffin was aware that there was a war  
going on in Russia or not? Rather cute statement, I thought. Dr. devotes himself  
to music so earnestly that he hardly seems to live here with us. The course of the  
war seems to not influence or cause his curiosity to arouse in the least.

Well, dear, today it is 14 months since we came to camp and 7 months since you  
left for home. How I do long to hear from you, dear. I prodded Hoffmiester yester-  
day for a letter from you but it did not produce any.

Sabbath, In Mrs. Coffin's letter she speaks of several of the children of missionaries  
4-22-44  
have gotten married; Brewer's daughter, Nelson's son, Schaffenberg's boy, etc. Said  
her father had died, that Galen was preparing to study medicine and Harold going to  
take up preaching.

Thursday, Mr. Hoffmiester did not have anything new to say. The British have an arrange-  
4-27-44  
ment whereby if they incur any medical expense--even dental--the Swiss consul takes  
care of the expense for the time being, thus helping them not to deplete their cash  
on hand. Being Dr. Coffin is going to the dentist I thought I might find out what  
our status was along this line. He said he would write and may inquire for us. I  
care little but I thought I would like to know as it may help out in some situation.  
We did not apply for repatriation so hence we are orphans as far as help is concerned,  
I suppose. However, that may be I am not worrying much about the situation.

Yesterday Dr. Coffin and I were made very happy to receive letters from Rio.  
I will withhold comments until I start my next page. The rain is now falling in sheets!



Sabbath,  
4-29-44

Well, I have said little about your letter from Rio. I felt sure I would receive one and you see I was not disappointed in the least. I could have wished it was longer and that you would have been able to report that you had made some gain in weight but I see nothing in the letter about it.

Tuesday,  
5-2-44

Dear Ethel--I have done quite a day's work. I got up early and heated some water and commenced washing before breakfast. Nearly got half done by the time to eat. I had not washed for two weeks so I had quite a good size wash--5 shirts seemed to be the biggest lot. Having soft water, hot, and good soap, I turned out a very acceptable wash as far as looks is concerned.

Well, the big news is that Mr. Goto is to be transferred from us, maybe tomorrow. A person by the name of Ohata is to take his place but probably he will be under Mr. Uchida. We all liked Mr. Goto very much. He was a very friendly sort of a soul. Did not seem to have the superior complex at all so we have enjoyed him.

Thursday,  
5-4-44

Today I baked bread. It came out wonderfully nice. I feel quite proud of being able to make the nicest bread on the place. I'll tell you a good joke. You remember me saying I had offered to bake the bread and had been turned down. It seems mostly on Miss Banks talks to the ladies she put up the story that the one thing the ladies desired above all else was to get their hands on the dough--course I immediately felt relieved. Well, this week is Miss Banks turn at cooking and yesterday she had her hand in the dough and even to her own confession it is simply terrible. Did not raise well and were baked underdone, simply the limit. Well, she had heard I was to relieve Dr. Coffin on Monday and she came to me and wanted to know if I would bake the bread!!!!

Sabbath,  
5-6-44

I will tell you a good joke. Dr. was fooling around with his caged mouse. Put his finger into his feed box and the mouse up and bit him real hard. Almost took a piece of meat right out of the end of his finger. Well, the day after the

mouse up and died! So I announced at breakfast this morning that we had kind of a monster(?) in our camp--the mouse bit the Dr. and died from the effects!!! It went over big.

Tuesday,        Yesterday the Roses had ten rabbits, three chickens and about twenty nukkwa  
5-9-44  
sent in from FaiShan. Today Mr. Ito and others begged eight of the rabbits so they only have two left!!!

Wednesday,     Dear little girl--I do not seem to be able to find anything particular to do so I  
5-10-44  
thought I might as well empty my time in dashing off a few lines to you. It's been a rather hectic day. To begin with, last night just as we should have turned out lights Dr. Rose came and informed Dr. Coffin and I that Mrs. White's water bag had burst! But no pains yet. Well, that was that. So after a bit of consultation I agreed to see Mr. Nara about having lights for the Drs., etc. if necessary. He was very polite and agreeable to all we suggested. Then I came home and the Drs. had about agreed upon what they wished for an emergency kit and then the job began of trying to find the various things and medicines--by 11:30 this was complete and put in our cloth basket and one of Dr. Coffin's suit cases so we felt as prepared as we could possibly make ourselves with our own equipment. Then we all went to bed. This morning we were informed that beginning about 3 a.m. she has been having pains. So, I got hold of the head guard and told him I wished to phone Mr. Hoffmiester to get his car to take Mrs. White to the hospital. The phone was horrible. I could hardly hear him and he me. I did get it across what was wanted. After waiting a long time and they not coming being about 9 we phoned again. And learned Mr. Zara was at the Japanese consulate making all arrangements. Pretty soon he came and told us she must go to the Japanese hospital. So there she went at 10:40 and about 2:30 I got a phone call from Mr. Ito saying a baby boy had been born! Quick work, eh? About 1:20 p.m. Mr. Nara came to White to get blankets and bedding etc. to take to his wife. This he got ready so he arrived just shortly after the child



was born which of course was very nice. Maureen went along. When Maureen returned she informed me "she was a boy". Papa and Mamma did not know if it was going to be a boy but she knew it all the time that it was a boy! Some girl, eh? Well, the Whites had hoped for a boy and now they have one. I am glad it is over. These items of having to see Drs. outside camp are always rather a strain on me for you are never sure whether you can get permission to go. Mrs. White is a bit of a spit-fire also. But I did my best and when our own consul said he could do nothing and she would have to go to the Japanese hospital I felt relieved.

*Wednesday,*  
5-17-44 I informed Mr. Zulauf that on an average the camp people have lost 8.65 pounds per person since March 1. It shows we are low on our food allowances. We are only having about 1850 calories per person when we should have 2800. A patient put to bed by the Dr. is required to take 1600 calories. According to my weight figured at normal 180 I should be getting 3120 calories. The ladies should average 2200. We are losing 4.32 per month and if it keep up there will be some very sick people in the camp before long. This of course I told to Zulauf and Mr. Kai as politely but with emphasis so they could understand.

*Tuesday,*  
5-23-44 They are obsessed with the idea to hold us down to 7.00 My. per day per person and food stuffs going up all the time.

The mosquitoes are nearly eating me up so I will get my feet away from under the table.

*Sabbath,*  
5-27-44 Dearest little girl: I do not know that I will have much to write about. Our lives seem rather humdrum and consist of roll call, going to meals, and tidying your own rooms, with feeding the dog, and washing a few rags once a week, anyone who can get romance out of that they are welcome to extract it.

*Sunday,*  
5-28-44 Well, our police chief has been changed today. I do not know his name. Seems like a very nice young man. Has a very pleasant and efficient looking wife with

whom we will have a lot of dealings evidently for I learned today that she is to be the office girl to take Ito's place who has gone to Singapore! Personally, I think a chief of police with a wife on the compound is better than the carousing single ones we have had. If only Nara would go but of late he has not been too bad.

Wednesday, Mr. Kai told me that the new chief of guards wife was born in the state of  
5-31-44 Washington.

Mr. Ito brought back three Nippon Times magazines for us. My, how they brag as to what they have contributed to the world in scientific achievement. Wish I might have this copy to look at after war. Reading it one is left with the impression all worthwhile things are the products of the Japanese brains. These magazines are for Oct. 1943 and the newest or the latest to arrive. It shows practically no boats are coming from Japan. She is stumped for marine transportation. Probably much has been done to her ships that she has not dared to report to the world.

Sabbath, Well, dear, I was made very happy on Thursday June 1 for your letter of Feb.  
6-3-44 22 came to hand. My, it was a bright spot. How I did enjoy it. Have read it I guess ten times. I was so interested in all that you wrote about.

Yes, Chico is enjoying life. She has been given one of the big stuffed chairs as her's day and night! So, she can be comfortable. I give her rice, some greens, meat, two meals a day. Not more than she will all clean up from her plate. She is getting old like her master, though, I fear for she does not seem so lively as she used to but sleeps a great deal. Sleeps the whole night through. She seems real hungry each meal for when she sees me get her stuff ready she dances about and begs me to hurry up and put it down for her to eat. She is real cute to say the least.

Now yesterday I was gone most all day at the kitchen and when I came home after supper I went to Bible class. Coming home from the class at 9:30 she met me in the doorway and cavorted about as though she was in highest delight to see me. I sat down in the chair and said "come let me pet you". I hardly got the



words out of my mouth before she was up in lap and at each stroke she gave contented grunts of satisfaction. I enjoy her very much. She shall not want, come what will. I talk to her about you and she cocks her head and listens. I tell her when I get letters from you!!

Thursday, 6-8-44 We had asked for medicine for Mr. White and when Dr. Hajagama was here two weeks ago he had prescribed medicine for Maureen which had not come. I remarked before all if the business was turned over to the office lady it would be attended to at once. She seemed to enjoy the compliment and lo! before evening the medicine arrived! My, but it is a pleasure to go to the office and be able to talk naturally as one would to an American and actually be understood. It simplifies matters very much to say the least.

Today we got 4 papers, June 3, 4, 5, 6; very good news I call it. Rome probably has fallen and in the far east the news is good. With all their talk about invading India and that Imphal was as good as in their hands months ago, they are still no nearer and Germany by now must realize she is up against it. The fighting must be ghastly. When the second front is opened it will not be long before the end will come for if Germany loses the coast to the allies she will be unable to hold them from invading Germany. Russia has done well and will press on, I feel sure. My great enthusiasm now is to have the Americans land somewhere on the China coast. When it takes place we shall speedily have relief. Today's paper report by Japanese conveyed the idea that the fight in New G. and the central Pacific were aimed towards that end. They also said that the Americans who were taken captive in bombing Tokyo were executed. It seems Germany has done the same and rather glory in it.

Friday, 6-16-44 Dearest Ethel--I have several things out of the ordinary which I hope I can remember to jot down for I think they will be interesting to you. On Wednesday p.m. I saw all the guards sitting on their haunches in very earnest conversation. I thought then that either bad news had come thru-- and I had heard a rumor that there was tenseness in the city and we had had one night air raid alarm without

any bombs being heard however. Well, Thursday morning we were at 9:45 all called to go to the assembly hall. Pretty soon Mr. Nara appeared and informed us no one was to leave the building without his permission. Well, I had set bread and it would be---

Sabbath, ready to knead. We were all of course wondering what was to take place.  
6-17-44

Also I had disconnected the ice box so I could use the plug for grinding rice flour. Pretty soon Mr. Nara informed us our rooms would be searched and as they came to the individual rooms they would call the individual to be present while the room was searched. Miss Banks was called first. After 20 minutes she came back and called Miss Anstey. We were all eager to learn from Miss Banks just how thoroughly they searched and what they seemed most interested in. Seems they sort of checked on her food, looked all over her correspondence, opened every drawer and box but were nice and polite about it. When Miss Anstey returned she reported that they did not seem so eager to pry into everything she had. Miss Robertson said it was not a very thorough search. Well, while they were going thru No. 1 I of course was having quite a battle inwardly for here I had 429 pages of written matter to you beside some old maps which were innocent enough of themselves but if they wished to make an issue of them I could not help myself. They were both in my desk and would be easily seen. With the exception of the maps, your letters I could claim a husband's right to write in confidence to his wife but the maps were a disturbing element to me. So I was having considerable mental conflict and was prepared to receive a slap or two from the powers that be. It seems however they were interested in all light bulbs above 60 watts or any other electrical gadgets they might see. They searched Mr. Childe's room very closely going over and over his stuff. Dr. Anderson got thru very quickly, then Dr. Coffin's turn came. Mine would be next and of course the great event of slapping the chief representative would be the climax. So I mused. Well, they got Dr's. fan and then they pawed over all my tools, etc. and wanted



my electric drill. Layed it out on the bathroom floor, then I was called. Well, I made myself as agreeable as possible, opened everything for their inspection. In fact, I opened things so fast I had them bewildered with the suddenness of stuff to look at! I carefully piled up stuff by one drawer! and noticing the chief inspector seeming to be bored with the whole proceedings, I offered him a chair in front of this drawer so it could not be opened and the rest were pulled out for his inspection which he did very casually. Mr. Nara had been given my files of proceedings of the C.A.C. com. to look thru! Well, I got thru in a hurry. Lost two fans, 1 200 watt bulb, our beautiful heater and that other heater, that was all. My, I breathed a sigh of relief and was thankful to God I had gotten thru the ordeal so easy and pleasantly. We had observed that the more they examined the less thorough they became. Mr. Nara was evidently the leader in the affair. Well, about 1 p.m. it was all finished. As soon as one whole house was examined they permitted those people to return so the ladies all pitched in and helped cook the tiffin which we had at 1 p.m. instead of 12:30 as usual. Not so bad.

About 2:30 Mr. Uchida came and asked me if I would sharpen his razors for him. Which, of course, I was pleased to do. He then volunteered the information that Mr. Nara had been transfered to a police station in the city and would be leaving in a day or so. Light began to dawn. This was Mr. Nara's handing over to his successor who was with him! Sure enough on June 16 Mr. Nara left the compound bag and baggage--unlamented--hoping he would never return! We all feel happy.

Tuesday,  
6-20-44

We now cannot turn on our lights in the evening until 8-10. Not very long, you see. However, we are permitted to get up at 6 instead of 7. Our largest light bulb can only be 30 C. of power! Now it is 60 and we can hardly see. With 30 it will be awful to say the least.

This afternoon I went and weighed out the ration. Charcoal, rice, flour, oil, sugar, salt, pooh yau, vinegar, for the next team; thus, each team knows just what

she has to do with for the seven days. I keep a record so I can tell exactly what each one gets.

The new regulation about electricity is not only for us but the whole city and thus it may affect the ice box. If they would only be definite about it I would be happy because one of my big burdens is to look after it and see so it runs on this jerky current.

Thursday, 5-22-44      It's a red letter day. We have not had any papers for over two weeks and we have suspected probably the news was good for allies and bad for the axis partners. Well, thru devious ways we learn that the allies are in France, good progress in Italy, Russia pushing well in Finland and Japan proper bombed. Saipan Island occupied, good progress in New G. Well, we feel heartened to say the least. At long last the push has begun and probably will be successful--the sooner the better for the whole world. 12,000 ships for crossing and 11,000 planes as an umbrella was some noise!!! Probably many of the ships were small yet I suppose our two million men were landed. Success to them and quickly at that.

Sabbath, 5-24-44      According to our papers over here, they have said Germany had a ring of steel from northern Norway to the Bay of Biscay that the allies could not cross and if they did try it they would be given the knock out blow and Germany welcomed this one great battle to end the war in her favor. They explained her withdrawals in Russia and preparing for a final knock-out blow to Russia at the proper time. We, however, observed that Germany was on all sides pulling in her armies. She is beaten even though she does not admit it yet, which she will have to do pretty soon. I feel Japan is probably not much behind Germany in this respect. Today the little store woman and four others pushed a cart thru certain parts of town asking for scrap iron for war purposes. They too are short of the article to continue the war for much longer. Without iron no war can be waged.

It has rained all day especially this p.m. I wanted to take a nap but first



one then another came for this, that, and the other thing. I think in all ten people called! Who could sleep with ten callers anyway? In the distance I hear the tom-toms of the Chinese dragon boats. Tomorrow it will be dragon boat festival so I suppose that they are practicing for the races.

Monday,  
6-26-44

Yesterday being Sunday Miss Anstey held the services. She certainly, of all the ladies, is the most at home in the pulpit.

Sabbath,  
7-1-44

Mr. Childe does not have much sense of time, being a bit absent-minded. Well, today he was in the store talking when the roll call bell rang and he did not hear the bell so I went quickly and told him. Being the guard waited for him probably 3 minutes he reported it to the office and they called Childe over and informed him it was the second time it had happened and if it happened again he would be required to write an apology! He replied, I apologize now. I am sorry! Seems childish of the guard. How many times have we waited 10-15 minutes for the guard to come to take the roll. But of course we have a slim excuse for not being on time. I hope I never get caught. I shall do my best to not get in that fix. Of late, since the new chief has arrived they have been very prompt. The most prompt yet. He keeps his clocks quite accurate also. They are very nice.

Tuesday,  
7-4-44

I have just come from the store and after inquiring about not having potatoes or sweet potatoes was informed that all the country side was in flood.

I have just had two more callers. Mr. White and the married guard's wife came to borrow whatever they may be in need of, even to money! So life has a bit of spice for me, even comic at times which allows the safety valve to blow off in a bit of humor and so saves my life!

My, if the North, East and West rivers are all in flood the spring crops will probably only be a small percentage of normal harvest. Prices will shoot up again and misery will pile up on misery, compounded. What a world we live in.

No papers have been given us now for a month, so we are much in the dark as to the outside conditions.

Sunday,  
7-9-44

Well, dear, we have been visited with bombers for five nights now and last night was or seemed to be a climax. They bombed from ten p.m. until two p.m. and the bombs were of a rather large caliber. Tungshan and the white cloud aerodrome got it. Today we have heard considerable dynamiting, supposedly demolishing buildings that were hit. The engines of our aeroplanes sound as smooth as can be, hardly audible. Anti-aircraft went into action but it had no effect on the planes whatsoever. They turned search-lights on but they were very ineffective, very weak. When we read the accounts in the papers how effective their air gunnery is and then see what actually takes place or has taken place here, one feels like discounting their report by over 90%. Of course, daylight raids may have a better score for them.

I have been attacked with a spell of the blues. It came about as a start with our comm. meeting last Thursday in making up the teams, etc. Well, the bread question--i.e. the making of the bread by one individual was brought up by Dr. Coffin and Dr. Rose. They said it seemed better to have one person do it and get a uniform bread than to keep on experimenting as hitherto. They said something about some bread being rather hard to eat. Well, this led on to an embarrassing discussion of the whole bread question and I was much sick of the whole affair. Miss Anstey and Lilburne felt they had made good bread, etc. A few sharp words were passed between Mr. Childe and Miss Banks. I did not enter into the discussion at all, deeming silence the better part of valor only I remarked I hoped all would understand I had done no electioneering on the subject.

Sabbath,  
7-22-44

I have been revolving over in my mind if I should not put Chico to sleep but when she looks at me with those trusting eyes I say I will wait a while yet. No ice box makes me have to boil her food nearly every day so I have to prepare a fire especially for her which is a bit of a nuisance. Dr. and I are talking of buying sweet potatoes and cooking them to supplement our food and if we do that it will be easier. I am now down to 164; before the month is over will be 160 I expect. I look old, like a mummy--leather faced--wrinkles like a prune face! If



I came in at the Union Station you would not know me if I passed you within ten feet and did not speak!

Sunday,  
7-23-44

The day is drawing on to a close. I was disappointed in the beans for I had made up my mind to have a good fill and either they allowed them to boil dry or else she attempted to bake them and they came out as hard as gravel when they could have been nice and soft. Well, we will get used to eat most anything before we leave here. Hunger is of course good for us to eat the poor fare we have. If we were not hungry we would be unable to get down much of what is set before us.

Thursday,  
7-27-44

Yesterday we were made glad by the arrival of newspapers July 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. My, they were full of news. Tojo's cabinet resignation, the attempt on Hitler's life, etc. Seemed after reading the success of our armies on Saipan we could take new courage. I would not be surprised to hear that Guam has also already gone to our forces. I long to hear the Americans have landed in the China coast. It will come. I have been convinced of that for over a year. The Chinese say the Japanese read the papers and weep. I feel sorry for them. If their statesman would have been level-headed, the whole affair could have been avoided. The army and navy have run amuck, I fear. Now the nation will pay for it in blood and tears and misery for many a long year to come. No wonder the empire is somewhat "disturbed."

Sabbath,  
7-29-44

Two air raid alarms last night. One about 10 p.m. and one at 3:15. Some people said they heard either bombs or anti-air craft firing in the distance, probably in Whangpoa. My guess is the planes went to H.K. We now have fairly moonlight nights especially for full part, being half-moon--so we can expect raids.

In the last papers they stated they had practically done away with the American air force in China, chasing them back to Yunnanfu and Chungking, so they could not raid us on the coast!!

One of these days I am going to cook a mess of beans and show those ladies how well-cooked beans should taste for once! You would laugh if you could taste some of their hard-shell bean bullets but being we are hungry we eat them dutifully

without disparaging comments knowing they will take a long time to digest so it will be some time before we get hungry again!!!

*Wednesday,*  
8-2-44 The office said it had been noticing that Dr. Anderson, Thompson and Rathsam, are together a lot. Too much so. So, I told the office if they had any regulations to write them out on the Board for us, for hithertofore nothing had been said about it. I also said if they had any regulations in regard to card playing and Mah Jong to write those regulations out and if they could only play Mah Jong in the Assembly Hall to say so. Tomorrow I am going to suggest that they also give regulations about classes, such as Bible classes, etc. If they only tell us what their regulations are we would know how to relate ourselves to them.

Hurrah. Electricity is back. The pump is working so we need not carry water.

*Sabbath,*  
8-5-44 Dr. Rose got 6 letters the other day, Miss Anstey 3, Banks 2, Robertson 2, and Miss Lilburne 1, all mailed in 1942! My, how I hoped when I saw her copying letters that there would be one for me. If there is they have not handed it over yet.

July 7 I asked for Miss Lilburne to go to the dentist and thus far they have not arranged it. The first excuse was that the bombings were so frequent but of late there has been a let up so that excuse is invalid.

*Monday,*  
8-7-44 Yesterday the guards measured the compound walls and this morning they were measuring the distance between the office buildings and the place where Mr. Nara used to live as though they were going to put in a partition fence. I am wondering if they have bad news and are afraid of the Chinese rushing in here or if they are to intern Italians or some Germans and they are going to separate us from them? We speculate a lot on their meaning. My guess is there is bad news for the Japanese for the guards all look pretty glum.

*Wednesday,*  
8-9-44 Dearest Ethel, Amid all the happenings today the happiest to me is your letter of April 14. My, it got here quick. You can believe me when I saw it I was very glad and almost overwhelmed to get your letter. I had been hoping for a letter of



course and sure enough it came. I was much relieved to hear you say you were quite yourself once more. That takes a big load off of my heart.

We are talking big these days. As soon as the war is over and we can leave we will get a car and drive home via Siberia and Alaska! That would be some trip. It does no harm in having something to speculate about while we are bound in here, does it? I expect what will really happen is we will want to take a plane home! We have part of the road charter, in China at least!

Thursday,  
8-10-44      Nothing very interesting has happened today. Mr. Rathsam came to me today and said he wanted to be transferred from Miss Wilson's team to some other. He could not stand her bossing him so; he of course takes her directions for bossings. Poor creatures he and Thompson are, never having done manual work. Said if he could not get changed he would be obliged to go to the Japanese authorities and ask for relief. I imagine he would not get much sympathy from them and yet again on account of being part Chinese they may get considerable help. I will seek a transfer for him. Thompson is about as bad. They are none too good sports. When I help with the cooking I expect the cook to direct what she wants me to do and I do not feel being bossed about at all. The cook is responsible for the meal and she naturally has to plan out the work so it will come that the meal will be on time. We never hear of Childe, Coffin, Rose, Halward or J. P. complaining about being bossed. It's all in their viewpoint.

Thursday,  
8-10-44      The coolie's wife is to soon have a baby. Said if she went to the Red Cross hospital it would cost her \$600.00. I think Miss Banks will help her. Dr. Coffin got a lot of the necessary stuff together today for her. She will probably not have any harder time than a hen laying an egg!

Sunday,  
8-20-44      Today at 1 p.m. my thoughts return to Vancouver B.C. to 1906 when I went aboard the Mount Eagle and sailed for China, a rather green lad with little money,

less sense and no experience, but unbound faith in the future. Certainly I did not expect many of the experiences that have come to me. Many far better than I deserve; having you for my wife for one good sweet enjoyment, and to be a prisoner of the Japanese for the bad experience. All in all, God has been good to this ignorant, over-optimistic, dogged Swede. Much I have done and said as I look back over 38 years, I wish I could undo and others I wish I could atone for. How I wish I could have had more success in the ministry. And now to be locked up here for the duration of the war seems a bit hard at times and chafes my mobile spirit rather gallingly at times. Yet end it soon will and we shall be out and I will go home to you as soon as I can.

Monday, 8-21-44 Dear little girl--The great day has come. This p.m. 22 people were put into No. 1. They were a motely crowd; 1 Englishman, 2 Indians, the rest Chinese--4 women in the lot.

The office lady came to me distressed about 4 p.m. saying they had expected the people to bring their cooking utensils with them but they had not and could I loan her some things. I of course was glad to oblige. I fixed her up for which she seemed very grateful. When in trouble or in need of any help or things they always gravitate to Anderson's place and thus far I have been able to fix up nearly everyone some way or other.

I have just been handed a set of new regulations, for our guidance--roll call is at 9 a.m. We are not to get up before 7 a.m. No walking in compound until after 8 a.m. No music before 8 a.m. nor after sunset! You see, they wish us to conserve our strength by laying in bed as much as possible! So the merry-go-round goes from day to day with us.

Wednesday, 8-23-44 Dear Ethel--Mr. Hoffmiester is sick so Mr. Zalof came today. He brought June small comforts of 1000.00 C.R.B. for each Britisher. This made all feel good. The July and August has not been settled but will come in due time he said.

Now for a bit of rather disturbing news. I have spoken to Dr. about his large



ankles many times. I had feared Beriberi for we are on a rather restricted diet. Two days ago I spoke to him again and afterwards I had a conversation with Dr. Rose telling him my fears.

Dr. ought to take more of an interest in his food. Being we were all eating together I did not feel duty bound to watch him take his food, but I guess I will have to.

Dr. Anderson's feet are also swelling. It begins to look like we are beginning to experience what a restricted diet will do for people. Well, I am not going to get into such a condition until I have to anyway, for as long as I have money or can get hold of it, I will get some fairly proper food. I have plenty beans on hand so I will not need to suffer in the least for this year and by early next year it may all be over.

Sunday,  
9-3-44

The planes have been raiding Canton nearly every night. Last night they did not come. We have heard the planes come over and have heard things drop but no explosions as of a bomb ever followed. We now learn that they are dropping incendiary bombs, trying to set fire to the army stores, etc.

Monday,  
9-4-44

I did quite a bit of work today. The first thing I staked out my garden plot. It is at the end of the tennis court, between that golden bamboo and house No. 5. It will be a very large patch. Probably will be able to plant about 50 tomato plants. The grass is very rank and all I had expected to do was to stake it out and then sort of make a spade width of grass turned over to mark boundries but I got started and worked off and on and nearly finished skinning the turf off, also spading up some. Will finish it tomorrow with the exception of spading it all.

Sabbath,  
9-9-44

Some time ago when we heard Rome had gotten back into our hands, we celebrated by having ice cream. I gave the ingredients. Now Paris is safely tucked into our fold, we celebrated by having ice cream. I gave the ingredients again. Two more celebrations are yet to come, Berlin and Tokyo. I have saved stuff for these two events also. These news items must make America very cheerful these days.

Sabbath,  
9-16-44

We all weighed today. I weigh 157! Dr. Coffin 138! Which means I have dropped off 47 pounds since the common kitchen was started. I feel good and am not worried in the least. In fact, if I could fix it some way so I would not feel hungry I would not mind staying around 160-165. Wish you could see how loose my skin hangs on my arms and other places. I can even bend over easily!!!!

Well today is the full 38 years since I came to China--Canton--tomorrow will begin the 39th year. I am not far off of my goal of 1906 of spending 50 years of service in China. I hope and expect to be home either late 1945 or early 1946. It will be interesting to see how I come out on this guess. I long to see you more each day. Wish I might plant a kiss on your lips right now. Here goes. Look out! Smack--feel it? I shall close and go on duty until roll call. Much loving love to you, dear. John.

Sunday,  
9-17-44

Today when the vegetables were so little we brought the office lady down to see them and she looked as though she had been crying. I feel honestly sorry for her and her husband for I think they are very nice people and what they do here I think they feel ashamed of but they are under orders and cannot help matters any.

Friday,  
9-22-44

In my bath I looked myself all over and I do not remember being so thin since I got over smallpox in February, 1907! Talk about your clothing hanging loose on you. Well, my trousers bulge out from under the belt faster than I can poke them back--if they bulge out right in front, why, well, it is rather embarrassing, the big peekhole visible from above! I am careful to protect myself with a pair of hands!! You should see the number of new holes I have punched in the belt to make it tight! This is a great game. I am enjoying the various reactions I observe here. When we got twice as much to eat it seems we grumbled more than now.

Dr. Anderson is hatching a crop of boils! Others probably will follow.

Today is Miss Robertson's birthday so they are having a party at Miss Wilson's in her honor. 49 I think is her age. She was to have ice cream but the juice was off



all day so they will drink it! Or else wait until tomorrow maybe.

We are all spading up small plots of land to plant garden truck. I will have about 30 tomato plants and over 100 lettuce. My plot is about ready for planting.

Thursday, 9-28-44      The man Dr. Coffin went to see in No. 1 died yesterday. They had the Japanese elaborate ceremonies for his soul! They spent 1000.00 for vegetables, etc. as offerings. Probably if they had spent this before he got too low he would never have died. They held their ceremony in the church!

Today while taking tiffin and biting into one of the beans I broke out one of my store teeth! I do not know if it can be replaced or not. My plates are plastic, not rubber, so I rather feel I have to have a "vent" until the war is over. However, I shall send it to Dr. Kuttner by the next person who goes to see him. In a pinch I can get along.

Sunday night we had an alarm and some bombs were dropped. Monday night we had an alarm but no bombs were heard.

We hear all kinds of wild stories. One is that fighting has stopped in Germany. Another is that a great air battle over Manila in which she lost 200 planes; a third tale is the Japanese have lost so badly that they have even stopped publishing papers in Canton! If the first tale of a breakdown in Germany is true, it would account for the downcast features of all the Japanese around us. In a few days it will leak out, I suppose.

Friday, 9-29-44      Before going further, I herewith paste in an item I clipped which I think you will enjoy. If you reject my copy will you write as good a rejection slip as the one to "Illustrious Brother of the Sun and Moon"?

#### A Chinese Rejection Slip

Illustrious Brother of the Sun and Moon:

Behold thy servant prostrate before thy feet! I kowtow to thee and beg that of thy graciousness thou mayest grant that I may speak and live. Thine honored manuscript has deigned to cast the light of its august countenance upon me. With raptures I have perused it. By the bones of mine ancestors! Never have I encountered such wit, such pathos, such

lofty thought. With fear and trembling I return the writing. Were I to publish the treasure thou hast sent me, the Emperor would order that it be made a standard of excellence and that none be published except such that equaled it. Knowing literature as I do, and that it would be impossible in ten thousand years to equal what thou has done, I send they writing back by guarded servants.

Ten thousand times I crave thy pardon.

Behold! My head is at thy feet and I am but dust.

Thy servant's servant,

Wang Chin, Editor

Sunday,  
10-1-44

Dear Ethel--What a night. They really bombed Canton last night. The air fields and whompoa were the worst. However, they were after something near us for they dropped bombs very close to us. Three of the cows back of where Dr. Harvey lived were killed; house and wall collapsed all around us. In the room where Dr. Anderson used to live, now used by Mr. White, all the window panes were broken and two pieces of shrapnel were found under the baby's bed! One piece of shrapnel broke a window pane in the room of Mr. Halward. Another piece of shrapnel was found by Miss Anstey under her bed! It shook the earth and buildings about us, felt and sounded like the end had arrived. One large piece of shrapnel fell and made a big hole at the front entrance to the compound. A large piece fell into Dr. Otto's garden. I was awake, of course, and saw the burst. It was awe-inspiring. One feels very small and helpless during such affairs. Am so glad you are not here to endure the strain.

Out near the airdrome it sounded like they unloaded a terrific lot of bombs at one time, seems as though it was a continuous rumble for five minutes. They must have messed up things considerably. There is a battery of anti-aircraft guns somewhere near here that I think they were after. The boast of the Japanese that they have wiped out the American air force of China certainly does not hold good. The planes come so quietly that they sound as though there is only one but how could one carry so many bombs. They certainly have smooth running engines.

Wish I might have some way to get the first 600 pages to you, so if anything would happen you would have that much to read about as to my experiences while in here. I do not anticipate anything however so shall be calm and live as normal a life as possible.



*Tuesday,*  
10-3-44        So many cows of the Red Cross milk company were killed that we are unable to get milk now. I do not know what they will do. If small comforts come thru and people are able to repay me what they borrowed, I think I will take some Lingnam milk. One bottle per day maybe, am not sure yet.

*Wednesday,*  
10-4-44        Well, Hoffmiester came today. He brought small comforts for July. They amounted to 2,000.00 C.R.B. each. It augmented the camp money about \$40,000.00! It made people feel very happy to say the least.

*Thursday,*  
10-5-44        Today I rearranged my room again. In the corner where your dresser stood I have planked the bed flat against the wall. The reason for this is to have as much protection against shrapnel as possible. The walls of this house are 3 bricks thick laid in cement and a corner this one is a good protection. Those who were killed at Dr. Otto's were killed by shrapnel mostly coming in through the windows so I wish to get my bed away from all angles of the windows and this corner is the best. So, that's that. This arrangement of the room makes the room look much larger and not so crowded.

*Sabbath,*  
10-6-44        I shall burn another inch in writing to you. I have been very busy today in picking over rice. I have picked over 35 catties of broken rice. It is all wormy, full of bugs, etc. It's a rather neck-back-breaking job but it is over and when my cooking week comes it will make work in the kitchen much easier.

*Monday,*  
10-9-44        Food stuffs are going up and it presents us with a real problem in connection with our limited budget from the Japanese authorities. They are still holding us to 7 My. per day and prices have increased 500 or 600% with the result that we are seriously cramped in our food allowances on such a budget. Maybe next Wednesday Hoffmiester will have some word, probably not so soon as Mr. Endo said they would have to refer the matter for final word to Tokyo.

*Thursday,*        The guards in Nara's house seem to be very lively tonight for some reason. Mrs.  
*10-12-44*        Store Lady made bread and did a good job of it and so she gave me two loaves made in two children's pans.

*Sunday,*        Well, the service went off pretty well today. They all listened very attentively  
*10-15-44*        to say the least. Some expressed the hope I would have some more of like services in the future but I shall probably not do so. I am on for December 10 when I shall deliver a regular sermon. Mr. Childe told me today he had greatly enjoyed my sermons, which was very charitable on his part to say for I am not glib of tongue like he and some others.

*Tuesday,*        We hear that 21 ships of America were sunk on the southern shore of Formosa  
*10-17-44*        (Taiwan). Also heard American aircraft have been bombing Formosa's interior very severely. Last evening we could hear evidently news coming in over the guard's radio and we could hear the guard clapping hands and applauding at times! My guess is that the American task force has either landed in Formosan soil or was on its way to land somewhere near Amoy or come to Bia's bay north of Hongkong. I have no doubt but what they attained their objective.

My garden is doing very well. I will dig a bit more land and plant about 70 more tomato plants, I guess. This will be all that I care to take care of.

*Friday,*        We hear the Philippines have been reconquered. This I think is premature. We  
*10-20-44*        also hear that the battle off of Formosa was also very nearly a decisive one against Japan but probably the next one will be. That there is terrific fighting in eastern and western Europe. We had an air raid alarm here today and sounded like a small air battle. Bombs were dropped.

*Sunday,*        As I write I hear the Japanese radio going. Ordinarily they are very loud and  
*10-22-44*        and verbose but tonight the speaker seems very subdued for some reason or other. I hope we can get some real news this week but fear it will be out of our ability outside of what our imagination can conjure up.



This morning I awoke very early and lay and planned a new house and a model garden for us out beyond Flower Ave., or beyond the College a bit. I had an enjoyable time fixing things up as I wished them, having a real model garden from which we got all we could eat of vegetables for even the winter. Lots of love to you, dear. I hope you are well and strong again. I want to see you very much, dear. I kiss you in mind anyway. Lovingly, John.

Wednesday, 10-22-44 Dr. Rose has an infected foot. Mr. White has malaria, Mr. Jansen has a very sore tongue, which were all duly reported. We also asked for some vitamin A, D, and B for some members of the camp. I hope we get some.

The weather is very hot yet. Hope it will soon be cool weather. Mr. Zalof brought a lot of Red Cross letters. They had been wet and some burned. As yet they have not been distributed. Porbably some post office had been bombed and then the water turned on which damaged the mail. It looks like a dozen or more Red Cross letters. Most over a year old.

Sunday, 10-29-44 Darling Sweetheart, I did not feel much in the mood of writing today so postponed it until now. Last evening we were at Miss Robertson's for a party as I wrote the other day. It began at 7:45. When we arrived at the door we were each given 4 beans. When all were present each one was requested to carry on a conversation or ask a question of someone else, failing to answer a question in less than 5 words he was fined by giving up one bean. If he did not ask a question or carry on a conversation your next seatmate could count ten and if you had not started by then you gave up one bean! The idea was to make the people talk and make the party interesting. Well, I did pretty well. In 15 minutes two tables were set, one for our Dominos and the other for Anagrams. We drew as to which game we would first play at. I got Anagrams and as partners Miss Wilson, Purry, Mr. Jansen, Dr. Anderson. This we played for about 20 minutes. I had the most when we quit! I am not very bright at that game you know but considering the others at the table, I felt I did not do so bad after all. Then we exchanged tables, winners going to winners.

I had poor luck at Dominos--Miss Wilson carrying off the palm in this game. By then it was after 9 so eats were served consisting of a vegetable pie made like an American pie and made out of peas, some jello, and a bit of fried egg on top. It tasted real good. Tea with slices of lime and sugar was also given as well as two kinds of candy and a savory tart they called it, it was about the size of a silver half dollar piece.

A parody on Kipling's poem "If" was given to Mr. Jansen; the arrangement was by Miss Lilburne. The copying on a large cardboard in beautiful lettering was done by Dr. Coffin. It was real nice. I will copy it and insert it for you to see. So a very pleasant evening was spent by us. I slept well. I feared I would not because of the tea but it did not bother me nor Dr. in the least. The tea must not have been very potent.

# "If"

(with apologies to R. Kipling)

If you can keep your cash when all about you  
are overdrawn, and seek a loan from you;  
And keep on buying goods at soaring prices,  
yet not require to borrow money too;  
If you can still keep wearing clothes and footwear  
that was worn out a year or two ago;  
And cease not darning, patching and repairing,  
Nor feel annoyed that it should happen so;

If you can do the carpentering and plumbing  
and gardening, though your tools are old and few  
And take your turn at washing up and cooking,  
yet still have time to do some study too;  
If you can keep your temper in the mornings  
with charcoal damp, and breakfast almost due,  
And someone comes requesting fires for toasting,  
not caring how their wish may upset you;

If you can eat rice every meal with relish  
with little else and plain and plain can be,  
Without just sometimes longing for the fleshpots  
that you enjoyed in times when you were free,  
If you can with scanty fare that's given,  
make tasty meals you hope all will enjoy  
Then hear them all condemned without misgivings  
and not with spiteful thoughts your mind employ.



If you can bear to listen to the rumours  
 of victories that will make the end so sure,  
 Then learn that they are nothing more than rumours,  
 and grit your teeth, prepared to still endure;  
 If you can stay here month by month, contented,  
 with ne'er a longing for your former state  
 When new restrictions press and rules are irksome,  
 yet still keep mind and spirit free from hate;

If you can keep your health in normal vigour  
 with calories reduced to basal rate,  
 With proteins nil and fats at next to nothing  
 and "comforts" do not come til two months late;  
 If you can keep your cheerfulness and patience  
 and sense of humor always on top  
 The age of miracles is not yet over!  
 Even in Concentration Camp can't make them stop!

"Anne Lilburne"

Wednesday, Mr. White is a very sick man. The Drs. the other day gave him only a 50-50  
 11-1-44 chance to pull thru! He got an infection in his nose and then it spread upwards  
 and into his eye and forehead. They fear it would enter his brain!

Sabbath, My darling: I have occupied my whole time today in rereading some old Reader's  
 11-4-44 Digests. Somehow could not get up any enthusiasm to write. I have for the past  
 hour been reading Japanese history found in the encyclopedia Britanica. They have  
 had a rather checkered time--especially the imperial house and for them to say the  
 line is unbroken thru 2600 years is putting quite a strain on truth, to put it  
 mildly.

Mr. White is much better--in fact, almost well. I learned today that 100.00  
 H.K. is equal to about 700.00 My! or about 4,000.00 C.R.B. Quite a change. It  
 shows loss of confidence in this My. and C.R.B. I am glad we have some H.K. salted  
 away. I do wish we could have a regular paper so as to keep abreast in a small  
 way with affairs of the world.

Monday, I am tempted to unravel my old sweater and have stockings knitted out of it.  
 11-6-44 One sweater for the winter would do me.

We have among the guards a sort of half-witted fellow. He has a pretty good  
 voice and sings continually. Many of the tunes are familiar such as Old Black Joe,

etc. Gets a bit tiresome at times. When he has night duty he parades the whole night long, sometimes even sings on his rounds.

*Wednesday,*      Evidently things are not very good in the city for they are building one of  
11-15-44  
those round brick street forts just outside of the Assembly hall. Prices are going up all the time so we judge from this that things are not going too smoothly for Japan. I wonder how things are in Europe. How I long for a radio!

*Sabbath,*          Dear Ethel--I have been very busy today in the kitchen. Miss Anstey had an  
11-18-44  
attack of indigestion last night but was around today. However, a great deal of the work devolved upon me so I am a bit tired tonight. We baked bread, cake, besides the regular cooking of the day. When you only have rice, Paak Choi, sweet potatoes to choose your menu from, it makes it a bit hard to get much variation in the meals or make them tasty. The other day Miss Anstey out of her own money bought a catty of fresh fish. A catty does not give each one very much yet all thought it wonderful. Today I gave a small tin of salmon, which we stirred into a gravy like goo, which tasted very wonderful. Probably Monday we shall have beef so our week of cooking will be very good on the whole. It is impossible to make good bread from the flour that we have to deal with.

We have had no electric light the past week. I am writing this by candlelight. My page of paper is full. My inch of candle is burned up so will close. Much sweet love to you.

*Wednesday,*      You see I have held goo to my work that I would probably skip a few days  
11-22-44  
while on cooking duty. Well, I finished my week last night. All joined in and said it was a week of the best tasting food they had had thus far. We did try to do a good job of it. We did not stint ourselves in labour to do our best by the food.

*Friday,*            It's rather cold and damp today.  
11-24-44  
We hear there is terrific fighting in Europe and that some headway is being



made. I do hope they make it decisive by Xmas.

The mother rabbit has given birth to 5 rabbits. There is talk that we may slaughter 3 of the young ones for Xmas dinner.

Monday, 11-27-44 I find I have written 182,250 words. My, I pity you wading thru the whole of it.

Thursday, 11-30-44 Wednesday Hoffmiester came. He had nothing new for me. I had very little, asked for  $\frac{1}{2}$  catty each of milk, for Miss Banks, Purry and Miss Robertson. He granted it and it came today! So now the whole camp will have some milk. Even poor I will have 4 oz. daily! I did not wish any for a while yet but the whole camp besides me were to get it and they insisted I be included. I get it for Dr. Coffin and myself from those who have borrowed money. We shall drink \$8,500.00 worth of milk. Oh boy, and only get it at the rate of 4 oz. daily. Which will cost me about 800.00 each month. Well, such is camp life in C.A.C.

I am not sorry to have the milk. My tongue is getting sore, probably on account of the food. I hope the milk will give relief.

Tuesday, 12-26-44 We had quite a long discussion with Mr. Kai on firewood. He said he could not get any charcoal but would give us wood, and only 500 catties which would not be enough to cook for us a month. We pointed out that at least 900 catties were needed. Then he suggested that we cut down the trees on the place for wood! I pointed out we were none of us fit for very hard work, that we are hardly holding our own and that the cutting of the wood would take considerable effort.

Thursday, 12-28-44 Sunday Dec. 24 we began in earnest to cook for Xmas day. They had killed 7 rabbits. These I fried and got ready for a rabbit pie, which they were to bake on Xmas day. On Xmas day they wished off on me three jobs right at once, stoking charcoal fire for oven, stewing the corn, and frying sweet potato chips! Well, I did the best I could. The corn turned out lovely and all sweet potato chips were eaten. The rabbit was done so it was real tender. I had fried it very thoroughly

the day before. We had a vegetable salad consisting of lettuce and carrots (grated by our nice grater) and green olives. Then we had a large tin of peas--they tasted grand, the rabbit pie and a fresh fruit salad completed the menu. All tasted so good. I had worked like mad up until 12:50 and dinner was at 1 p.m. I went home and changed and appeared just as they were getting the soup on. Must stop now. Lights just went out.

Sabbath,  
12-30-44

I have just come in from my bird watching. I keep them off the gardens between 10:30-11:30 now Mr. Rathsam is doing it. He feels like going to slaughter to work a bit. All he seems able to think about is that he is not well. Can't do anything etc., etc. Gets a bit thin at times to listen to it.

Our people at the compound sent in to us 3 dressed chickens, 8 lbs. Mok nga Tong, and two tines of canned pineapple. It was very good of them to remember us. We had the chicken in the mess on Thursday.

Xmas we gave the chief and his good wife a large tin of figs, a tin of sausages, a bottle of green olives. They wrote us a beautiful letter of thanks. Individually we had given them also; Dr. and I each gave a tin of milk. I shall make a copy of the letter they wrote us. They have a kindly feeling towards us of that I am sure.

We have as a guard a person whom we have named "Dippy". He is a sort of a nit wit and wishes to appear very important, takes the roll call in a very pompous manner. During raids he is all over the place and barks at us at times. He despises the office lady and talks to us about her. He of course is the cause of considerably merriment among ourselves. The other day during the raid he came to my room, instructed me how to get down on the floor, face to the floor, finger in ears and over my eyes, and to crawl under the bed! I simply smiled and let it go at that.

Today a rather amusing thing happened. Jansen had the cover off of the cistern while carrying water. When he came back he found one of the chiefs ducks had jumped in! We finally let one of the coolies down on the end of a rope to catch it and bring it up.



I wish I knew if the telegram I sent has gone forward or not. I hope it has. I long so for word from you. It's getting a bit tiresome here, say nothing of the loneliness that creeps in at times. We all long for some real news of the progress the war is taking but they deny us their own papers so we conclude news for the axis partners is none too favorable for them.

I wonder how you are getting along. I hope you are well again. Many evenings when the lights go out I sit for a long time and in my mind's eye and memory I review the past 23 years in various places with you. How kind you have been to me. The very thought of it makes me rather chokey now as I write. Too bad this war had to come at this time to spoil all our plans. If it would have held off for another year we would have been home together. Well, as Dr. Coffin says, it will end one of these days.

I am now torn between binding up this letter in a 700 page book and start 1945 with Vol. II or keep on until I have 1000 pages. I shall see how big 700 pages look before I decide the matter. Will close for now. Much love dear. Lovingly, John.

Monday,  
1-1-45

Well dear, I have sold the "Norge". I got \$26,000.00 C.R.B. for it! Which money will buy me about 150 catties of rice! The lady in the office got it. So Dr. and I are now fixed up with small comforts for another year. I hated to part with it but thought I better while I could get the cash. I still had 5000.00 odd on hand but you have no idea when money is as cheap as C.R.B. how quickly 1000.00 goes. Dr. probably will sell a little medicine which will fetch a high price. Old clothing, woolen blankets and quilts fetch the most fabulous prices, I hear. .

Today I have been working on the first 700 pages of this letter binding two sheets together getting them in shape for binding in book form. I have enjoyed writing it and I am enjoying getting it bound up and to do it all myself will be fun. I suppose it will not be much of a job yet if I find it too much, I will wait and have it done.

Today I loaned out 10,000.00 C.R.B. so people could pay their store bills. We

now have a clean sheet to work on. If we get no small comforts they will pay me in goods which each has on hand.

*Friday,*  
*1-5-45* I feel more courageous the past few days some how. Formerly I always dreaded these whole camp meetings. The one before this one there were some rather sharp questions put to Childe and answered in kind by him. I have always tried to steer the meetings into peaceful waters, so have held them down to just the matters for which the meetings were called. Today they were all very humble and did not snarl at one another, and adopted the course I lay before them. All seemed to feel it was a good meeting. I feel I have won out over some of the more war-like inmates.

*Monday,*  
*1-8-45* Miss Anstey went to the dentist today. Oranges sell in the street for 60.00 each. Kit tsai - 15.00 and Carambolus for 5.00 to 8.00; said the Sau Pau children on the boat on which she crossed the river played with 100.00 notes as though they were waste paper!

*Thursday,*  
*1-18-45* Today I finished binding Vol. I. I still have the cover to make. I had worked quite steady for some time on it. Vol. II, I shall work on a different plan.

I read some things I wrote and I noticed on January 17, 1944 I said I thought we would be out of here in 20 months. We still have 8 months, and I feel I am not far off on my estimate.

*Tuesday,*  
*1-23-45* Dear Ethel, It seems 8:15 is my time for a visit with you. Today being Tuesday I give out the following weeks stores on this day. This time I issued them to my own team. It does not take me very long. I have to weigh out the correct amount of salt, sugar, rice, flour, oil, shi yau, beans, and wood. Then I have to cart them all over to the kitchen and deliver them to the cook. I keep a detailed record in a book so I can check up on just how we divide things up.

On Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays I draw all the water from the well for the people to water the community garden. This is quite a task, the water is low in the well, and requires real work. It originally was started



to pull water for the ladies so they could help in watering the garden. Now even Halward, Childe, and White get it from the common tub. On Mondays and Wednesday Dr. Coffin pulls it. All spading for garden beds is done by Dr. Coffin, Dr. Rose, Mr. Jansen and yours truly. I have done, I think, the lion's share of spading thus far. I do not mind for I like spading.

Our garden is producing quite a bit of vegetables now each day so we are not down to rock bottom by any means. We have some carrots or lettuce or Kai Chus or Kai Lau or Paal Chai each day, oh yes, some onions.

Thursday, 1-25-45 Mr. Hoffmiester came yesterday. We were all asked to meet him in the assembly hall, so we knew he had small comforts to give. He stated that "his government" had decided to increase the small comforts to 3,000.00 C.R.B. per month and make it retroactive from October, so each person got 5,000.00. Well, all were very happy of course.

O yes, yesterday I got the Red Cross letter reply from Hazel that we sent her in May '43, she got it in May '44, and I got the reply Jan. '45. Rather slow mail, too much laying about in censors desks I fear.

Friday, 2-2-45 We hear Manila has fallen to the American troops, we also hear that the allies are only 70 kilometers from Berlin. Course these maybe only street stories. Yet with the increase cost of things it may well be true.

Wednesday, 2-7-45 Mr. Hoffmiester came today. He did not bring small comforts but said he hoped to soon.

Miss Anstey is very sick with beriberi, walks like a woman of 90 years. We of course told him of her condition, in fact had a medical certificate prepared for him. We also stated others in the camp were borderline cases. He then said he would furnish 1 egg per day per person for the British people.

Thursday, 2-8-45 Hoffmiester sent Zauloff on Thursday with a lot of tin goods, 10 tomatoes, 15 salmon, 3 cherries, 12 pounds of fat, 6 green olives, 2 tin carrots, 3 tin pineapples,

6 carnation milk, 2 tins pears, 15 lbs. American flour. These were divided up to eat at the rate of 2 tins per week. The eggs also arrived. The camp voted, in as much as we were not included in the eggs, that the camp would give us an egg a day by each of them giving 4 per month. I have of course been very liberal in my goods for the camp and they all realize it. We shall probably give back many for use in the general mess from time to time. So we are set for the duration of one egg per day!

*Wednesday,*  
2-14-45      You can well imagine you have been much in my thoughts today. Those were happy days we had in Shanghai weren't they dear? I gave the mess a tin of corn, which was mixed with a little roast beef and milk and then baked in a pie crust and was called meat pie! It was good, and it was announced that it being one of Mr. Anderson's special days he had donated the tin of corn! I was asked at the table what was the special day and I said it was the day you signed away your liberty! Then for this evening, because we would be eating about that "right" hour I shaved and dressed up in a clean shirt and tie and my nice blue serge suit, but I looked very haggard I fear, but not so much worse then I did then for I had been sick then for some time. I hope you had good eats and cast a stray thought toward this side of the big pond. The other night I dreamed of you and me, we were happy and having such fun together, felt disappointed it was a dream.

*Friday,*  
2-16-45      Mr. Hoffmiester did not come yesterday but came today. The new man in charge of this place, a Mr. Ucheda, came with him. I think this man visited the camp in civilian dress over two months ago. He speaks excellent English and was interned in Seattle by the U. S. government and then came home on one of the exchange ships. He looks and acts today like a very sensible fellow.

Today we heard indirectly that Berlin has fallen. This we guess as much from the faces of our guards. It will remain now to see how much longer Germany will be able to continue the fight. I hope that they will soon give it up. Evidently the Russians have entered Berlin. There is talk here that the Japanese women of



Canton are all being sent back to Japan. Am not sure if the store lady is going or not. We shall know in a few days time.

*Sabbath,*        We hear of new landings 700 miles from Tokyo, where or in what direction we  
2-24-45  
do not know. Also that Berlin has not fallen yet.

*Friday,*        On Sunday Mr. Childe said, he thought we better have a meeting of the whole  
3-2-45  
camp and discuss how we would like to arrange ourselves so as to permit Miss Anstey, Purry, and Banks to move out of no. 10, for the rain came through in 14 places in Miss Anstey's room. We went to the office to get permission and they seemed glad for suggestions.

I like my new quarters very much. Seems so nice and dry and light after living in those dark rooms. I feel sorry for those who were moved in there. Spring weather has hit us and the floors are all wet and frightfully the extreme. I will say I feel I have the nicest apartment and the best arrangement on the compound. Our furniture lends itself to this big room very well. I miss the blue rug!

*Thursday,*     I did a few odd electrical jobs this p.m. The most satisfactory job was in  
3-8-45  
hiding away the first 700 pages of this letter so if we are searched again I will not be apprehensive of them finding it. My heart is at rest! Even should we be moved away from here it would be safe until I returned for it.

We hear that the Japanese are evacuating all women and children from Canton, it probably means active military operations will be expected in the near future.

*Friday,*        Sabbath has now arrived. I am sitting in my own room that I swept and garnished  
3-9-45  
today, I even put up clean fresh curtains to four windows, it makes me have a very fine room, the best arranged on the compound without a doubt.

*Wednesday,*    We have heard that the Americans have landed on the main land of Japan, it  
3-14-45  
seems too good to be true, but it is what I have been expecting would take place,

just to show the Japanese people that their army is not invincible as they have been telling their people that they were. We have also heard that we can soon expect operations in these parts. They cannot come too soon to suit me.

*Thursday,*      Today I also heard that the Emperor of Japan has moved over to Manchu Kwo,  
3-15-45  
also that the Japanese were unable to repulse the Americans who landed on this island near Japan.

*Friday,*      Tonight is Helen's natal night, I might write her a short letter for fun,  
3-16-45  
yet there is little incentive, for it cannot be sent, and those short Red Cross letters I feel are hardly worth the fag to write.

I hope Hazel has not produced twins or triplets yet!

I shall stop now, let down my net and wash my feet, for I have a kettle of hot water ready and I am sure my feet will be improved with a good scrubbing. How I wish I were at 4 Hickory where I could get a nice warm bath in a nice warm room; may that day come soon.

Today Mr. Jansen cut my hair, I feel almost light headed. He remarked how nice and fine my hair was in comparison with Mr. Halwards. It has been 84 days since the last hair cut! I doubt if ever in my life, since I have grown up, that I have gone that long a time.

*Sunday,*      The Japanese are evidently expecting very heavy bombing here, for all the  
3-18-45  
guards have dug themselves a man hole in the lawn in from of the office for their own protection. It looks as though they do not care what will happen to us, for nothing has been done for our safety.

*Monday,*      About midnight last evening a lorry drove up to our front gate and unloaded  
3-19-45  
some goods. This morning the office told me that they were Red Cross packages for interns in China. Later I learned that they were from the Britishers in the far east. There are 12 large gunny sacks full of stuff.



Tuesday,  
3-20-45

The office sent for me today saying they were in great difficulty. I found that they have a safe under the enclosed stairway in the hall. The door to this little room is locked by a yale lock. They had gone to the safe and taken some things out and left the key in the safe, on which was the yale key to this outer door, in the mean time the outer door had slammed shut and locked! They did not know what to do so sent for me to see if I could help them out. I looked the matter over and said I would go home for some tools and see what I could do. I came back, pulled the hinge bolts out of the door hinges and then pried the door off for them without injury to anything. They were of course immensely pleased as well as relieved to get their keys. I then rehung the door for them. I jokingly told them I feared they would think I could crack safes also! I feel pleased that I am able to help them out and that they have confidence enough in me to call me to their aid. They are very nice people and I would like to do all I can for them, they are deserving.

Wednesday,  
3-21-45

Today all forenoon I have been busying myself with refining salt! We get terribly dirty salt and in two weeks time I will be cooking again so I thought I would before hand fix up our salt. I dissolved the salt, then filtered the water thru a rag, some cotton, and once more thru cotton in a funnel. I did all of our salt supply of 49 Chinese ounces this forenoon, now I am in the process of evaporating the water which of course will be a much longer process. You should see the stuff I get out.

In the next room Dr. Coffin is giving Mr. Jansen sight singing lessons.

The weather continues balmy and so our garden will grow well. The peas are giving us more than we can eat almost, there is talk of canning them.

Thursday,  
3-22-45

This evening after roll call we are to all go and put out plants in the various beds, so that we can have hope of some vegetables sometime in the future, regardless of the Japanese allowance.

Friday,  
3-23-45

I have now been in here 813 days. My how much longer I wonder, hope it will not go up to 1000 days. I feel it will not for by the way they are digging their man-hole shelters it looks like they expect trouble, and too I have heard that they are not carrying out the evacuation of their women folk, probably are unable to do so on account of intensified fighting around Japan.

Wednesday,  
3-28-45

Dearest Ethel, Well this has been a red letter day in our stay here. First Mr. Hoffmiester came and he brought for the Methodist groups a lot of foods from their church people in Fat Shan, also a lot from Kong Chueu for the New Zealand people. I suppose in all there were 5 of those large rice baskets full of food, it consisted of peanuts, 160 eggs, a lot of noodles, 30 tins of beef, etc., etc. Then Mr. Ucheda came and the Red Cross parcels were opened and Dr. and I received quite a surprise. There was a special lot sent especially to the Americans. It consisted as follows:

8 cotton drawers	8 singlets	8 sewing kits
8 tooth brushes	8 dental powder	8 shoe polish
8 khakhi shirts	8 khakhi pants	8 khakhi socks
8 pieces of soap	8 shaving cream	8 shoe laces
8 combs		

Well, we were surprised to put it mildly.

We tried to be unselfish. We each kept 2 pair of khakhi shirts and pants, gave two to Halward and Mr. Childe each, they were pretty low and they of course were overjoyed and overcome with the gift.

To Mr. Jensen we gave a sewing kit, shoe polish, shaving creme, and shoe laces.

To Mr. Rathsam, Thompson, Miss Anstey we gave a sewing kit.

We divided the rest between us, with the exception of the drawers and singlets, for Dr. is well supplied and I am not; these I kept, or we agreed I should keep them. We are overjoyed at the good tooth brushes and the tooth powder. Seems nice to be able to really clean your teeth once more.

These were evidently sent out from America in 1942 and reached us after 3



years on the way. Well we are very thankful for them. They will fix us up for the duration. Which will not be long I fear. I have on as I write the suit of khaki, the people said it made me look 20 years younger!

Then we were given the International Red Cross parcels. There were 48 of them. They were from England. Each parcel contained about 15 small tins of food. Each got two parcels and the rest was divided up in the mess.

Another big piece of news was that Hoffmiester brought Dr. and I the money for the medicines he sold. He realized \$91,000.00 C.R.B. for what we probably paid 50.00 for when we came in so Dr. and I are now in a very good position.

Thursday, 3-29-45 We shared with the chief inspector some of the Red Cross goods. I told him we as Christians had learned that when we shared our goods with others we were blessed and would be pleased if they would accept the few things as from the community. They were visibly touched.

Wednesday, 4-10-45 You remember that some time back in fact beginning with March 1, both Thompson and Rathsam stopped coming to tiffin because they did not put any money into the common kitchen fund. Well there had been considerable feelings against them, because they sent so much to their families and they spent the rest on themselves and then ate the same as any one else without their making any contribution. Personally I had advocated to give them an invitation to join in the common expense as much as they thought they could give, or not give and allow it to rest and not rub it in to them about helping out. Mr. Childe and especially Mr. Halward felt otherwise and Halward rubbed it in very much I fear, at times so much so that personal relationships were a bit strained at times. Most in the camp held the same views as I did. However, finally they, of their own accord, said being they could not contribute they would forego the tiffin meal. Now the other day Mr. Childe, etc., asked me to see them on behalf of the mess and urge them to come back and take tiffin. This I did and they now take tiffin again, and there is an improved spirit in the camp.

*Friday,*  
4-13-45      The tiffin was at 12:30 and the meeting was at 1 p.m. Just as we set down to open the meeting we heard planes of a different sound than what we normally hear. Well, they were American planes and they had as a target the river front from Butterfield Swires ward down to where the boats used to anchor for quarantine. The planes were very high but they seemed to be able to bomb very well indeed. The Japanese have a garrison and a lot of war materials. I suppose in this neighborhood the planes came over several times and dropped bombs. Our house walls simply trembled and the ground shook frightfully. It was all very awe inspiring or should I say awe trembling. One feels very helpless, and very small and matters of this world look very unimportant for a few seconds. I feel very sorry to be cooped up so I cannot get up high and see more, but we are bidden to stay indoors so indoors we stay.

The Japanese on the compound have taken to fix up their dug outs with a vim and a will that show they have a very wholesome respect for the bombers. They have been working away real earnestly since the raid. Hitherto for they sort of worked half-heartedly at the job, but this bombing today put speed and zeal into their muscles!

We held our meeting after the raid was over. Got along very well!

*Sabbath,*  
4-14-45      Well, we hear today that President Roosevelt died of a stroke and that maybe there would be peace as the new President (I suppose Wallace) does not wish to fight! I think it was a pep talk to the Japanese people.

*Sunday,*  
4-15-45      Today we heard that Roosevelt was only sick and probably would not die!

*Friday,*  
4-20-45      I have also planted 100 hills of corn that has taken considerable of my time. Preparing the bed was the hardest part. The corn was started in a bed and then transplanted, this took quite a bit of work, now I have to fertilize it from my body!



We have asked about digging air raid shelters in the ground. The office has been very sympathetic towards this idea. There are 6 of us who have asked for this privilege, the Chief Inspector will assign "lots" for us one of these days. I suppose Dr. and I will dig us one that will hold both of us. Glad I have lost plenty of girth, will not need to dig such a big hole!

*Sabbath,*  
4-21-45

Just now Mrs. Kataoka came to borrow some fruit jars to put some cucumber pickles in. I loaned her five quart jars. She is very nice, and I enjoy doing for her very much.

*Monday,*  
4-23-45

This morning at about 4 a.m. American planes came and dropped bombs. I think over on the Canton side of the river. The bombs were a very large kind for our windows and doors shook terrifically. It was only one wave. The alarm did not sound until 5 minutes after the bombs fell, so again they were caught napping.

*Wednesday,*  
4-25-45

My neuritis is still with me. I have a hard time to raise my left arm over my head. I rather charge it up to bad teeth, but I do not consider Kuttner a good dentist so I am holding off until after the war if at all possible.

*Sunday,*  
4-29-45

As the rain has wet the ground enough I need not draw water so I thought to occupy time until roll call I would visit with you for a short time. Nothing unusual has happened. We heard that the bombs dropped the other night killed 3,000 people. I hardly believe it is as great as that, but a large bomb dropped and exploded among the thickly settled portions of a street could carry away a lot of people.

*Monday,*  
4-30-45

We have now been held in this place for 800 days, and we heard grand news today that Germany had actually capitulated. We of course are over-joyed that it is probably over with in Europe or at least success to the allies plans are assured. We will have to wait a bit longer over here but come it will and that

before six months have passed I firmly believe, maybe I can get home for Xmas! Wouldn't that be grand. But we will have to reckon with a stubborn resistance from the fanatical Japanese war party.

*Wednesday,* Today has been a red letter day in our encampment. About 10:00 a.m. a  
5-2-45

rather distinguishing Japanese came into the compound. We were called over into the office, and learned that it was the Japanese Consul General of Canton. He spoke excellent English and said he wished us to tell him frankly our situation and conditions here. Being I was chief representative it of course was up to me to speak. I began by saying we had no complaints about our treatment at the hands of the guards, and said Mr. and Mrs. Kataoka were the soul of kindness, we had no complaints about our housing, but we did have something to be desired in regard to the food situation that we would like to air before him. I then went on to explain how little we were having and that we were all losing weight and that personally I had lost 54 pounds! Then we said on account of the depreciation of the paper money we had gotten down to where they were only furnishing us besides the rice, one catty of sweet potatoes per day for 20 people. We then went to the kitchen and fetched a weeks supply and he was simply stunned, could not utter a word for a long time and asked again if it was for one person or for all 20 people. We affirmed and quoted prices that it was for 20 people. He then arose and said, I understand perfectly the situation and promise to remedy it as soon as possible! He seemed like a very nice sincere man and I feel that there is a volt about face on their part and that we will be better cared for for food in the very near future. It cannot come too soon as far as we are concerned.

I began washing dishes today. Got along very well. Reminds me of old days in Union College when I used to wash dishes there. Only we had all the hot water we needed at old Union.

*Thursday,* Well the Japanese Consul got to work very quickly to help us out on food  
5-3-45

for I was notified today that we were to have  $\frac{1}{2}$  catty of meat or fish per day for



the month of May! That makes 8/20 of a Chinese ounce per person per day, well I have a good reading glass and perhaps I will be able to see my portion! Nevertheless, it is considered a big boon to us for it will add flavour to the food which is what we lack desperately. We have asked that it come every other day so when we get it it will be in a large bulk. I say hurrah for the new Japanese Consul.

I had planned that if sweet potatoes went up and rice became so dear I would perforce put Chico to sleep, which seemed a pity after keeping her alive so long, but now that we have the good news about Berlin, I feel her future on that score is assured. I would love to save her. She is such a quiet gentle little pup that it seems nice to have her about.

Friday,  
5-4-45

We have heard today that Herr Hitler is DEAD and that in a few days time fighting will cease in Germany! That is good news. The faces of our guards are very solemn these days, so we feel sure some bitter news has come to them.

We have air raid alarms but no bombs are dropped, they are probably just passing thru on to H.K. Mr. Hoffmiester just came to bring me some flowers. He does that every Friday afternoon. I must now close and get at my shaving and bathing in order to be ready by roll call at 3 p.m. I have heated my water out in the sun, it will not be any too warm I fear. You know how much I enjoy cold water baths.

Sabbath,  
5-5-45

We are all speculating on the position of Sulphur Island. The name of the island that the Americans are supposed to have landed on near Japan proper. Today I found that one of the large items of export for the large northern island of Hokkaido was sulphur and we are wondering if it could be this island. I hope so for that would give plenty of room for action and probably only 2 hours from Tokyo by air! It will be interesting to read after we get out of here the facts around some of our guesses, see how near right or wrong we have been.

Sunday,  
5-6-45

I have now spent 1943, 1944, and 1945 birthdays in C.A.C.! Miss Robertson was the only one who remembered it and she wished me many happy returns of the

day!

*Monday,*            Nothing new has transpired today to write about. We did hear that Mussolini  
*5-7-45*            had been executed by his own people, wonder how true that story is.

The main spring of my watch broke and I sent it out to be repaired; today it was brought back and they asked if I wished to have it repaired at the price of \$8,500.00. I immediately said no.

*Tuesday,*           There are several in the camp who have stomach upsets. Mr. Halward is in  
*5-8-45*            bed. Miss Banks, Miss Purry, Dr. Rose, Mrs. White and Maureen, Mr. Rathsam, Mr. Jansen, Miss Lilburne, Dr. Coffin began today, quite a list out of our small number. About 50%.

We heard today that Germany had given up the fight. We also heard that Japan is putting out feelers for peace.

*Thursday,*           Dear heart, Once more I pen a few lines to my darling girl. The day has  
*5-10-45*            been eventful in that we had an air raid alarm and 7 waves of bombing between 11:30 - 2:30. Also two waves of bombing during the night, so in the 24 hours past we have had 9 waves of bombing, which I think is a record thus far. We could see one of the planes that flew as low as the house tops along the river front by the Butterfield Swire warf, and machine gun the warehouses along that part of the bend. We could see the fire from the nose of his planes when the guns were in action.

*Friday,*            The Consulate has suddenly gotten very liberal with us, allowing 500.00  
*5-11-45*            per day for vegetables besides the meat and fish, and the promise of increasing this.

We hear that feelers for terms are already out; course this may only be guess work. I understood there was only one term acceptable to the allies and that was unconditional surrender. That will be a hard pill for Nippon to swallow but she may be unable to avoid the duty and so I hope it may come soon; I certainly



harbour no hatred towards all Japanese.

*Sunday,*            We now have permission to dig shelters for ourselves so I expect to busy myself  
5-13-45  
in a few days with work on my shelter. I have not selected my lucky spot but probably shall in a day or so. I still have two days cooking. Afterwards I shall devote my time to digging my hole in the ground.

*Wednesday,*      I have been saying all the way along as they began to realize they have lost  
5-16-45  
the war they will treat us better and better. I have been a lone voice in the camp, all other have predicted harsher treatment as the war went against them. I fear I know my orientals a bit better.

*Thursday,*        Today I contrived to see a Chinese Newspaper. From it I learned that the  
5-17-45  
war in Europe is over. Formerly we just heard it was so but now we have seen it in print. We are sure to get out of here in 6 months time probably much quicker. I hope so. Did not learn much about peace conditions but that all American and British prisoners had been removed from Germany. That 130 Japanese were in custody of the American Army. Maybe that is why they are treating us so much better.

*Friday,*            We have not much news of the war, but know that in Europe it is finished  
5-18-45  
and that a committee has been set up to try persons whom they consider as having "war guilt". It is to be hoped that mercy and sound discretion will be used. I wonder if they caught Georing and Goebels. I see they are seeking the whereabouts of Himmler. We speculate on how Hitler's life ended--bomb, shot by self or by his own men? The conduct of this trial of war guilt persons in Europe will be watched by the Japanese very closely for I think the same rule of procedure is to be applied over here.

*Wednesday,*      Today the Japanese man wished to know how many calories per day we were  
6-6-45  
getting. Dr. Rose and Coffin will figure it out for us, it will probably be about 1600, and we men ought to have 3000. We get more than 1800 but we

but we furnish it with our own means.

Thursday, Eggs are now selling for \$150.00 C.R.B. each. I get 5 each week! However  
6-21-45

I do not need to pay for them for they are given as medical grant to the British and they share them with Dr. Coffin and I. Mr. Hoffmiester said "the weather is very fine" and winked at us.

Today we heard that the Japanese air force and her navy have practically been wiped out. It must cause a lot of bitter inward feelings among the people, for they had been told that their air, navy and army were superior to anything on earth and the American navy had been sunk and the air force did not dare to show fight with the Japanese, and anyhow they could never get near the Japanese home land.

Sabbath, Dearest Sweetheart, I have returned from eating two bowls of chuk, 1 slice  
7-7-45 of bread and a half bar of Pin Tong and drinking 1 glass of water. The siren has just sounded and it seems I can hear the sound of planes in the far distance. A plane came over about 3:30 a.m. Since April 1, we have had an alarm every day sometimes several alarms. I am becoming so used to it I hardly wake up when the planes are over head.

This is my 900th page to you. About 288,000 words.

I am getting woefully short of interesting books to read. I am not excited about reading novels of which the camp has a lot. I have just finished Verdun, a novel based on the first world war. Yesterday I brought up to my room Man the Unknown by Dr. Carell. Am not sure if I will read it or not. A few days back I got a book called History of Sameen, this of course was along my line so I read it. It was rather short and sketchy so was finished in two hours time. If I were not so old I would take up writing Chinese characters but am too old, as you see, probably most of my active life is done! However, I feel pretty nimble yet and turn off work pretty quickly compared with some of those younger men.



Tuesday,  
7-10-45

Today the Katoak boy is a month old so they sent cakes to all us men in the camp and we shall probably send a cake to the child from us. They are real nice. I like them very much.

Sabbath,  
7-14-45

Yesterday, Friday, about noon came the most hair-raising raid of all. I saw two batches of five planes each coming at great height from the west at great speed. The A. A. guns opened a brisk fire on them, but which made no difference at all. They unloaded their bombs what I thought about the center of the city. The report was terrifying to say the least. Presently another wave came. I was out on the veranda working on a spade handle. I thought that the planes had veered south of us so after looking at the sky I returned to my work. I had hardly started until I heard the swish of the bombs coming down. The noise was terrific so I knew they were very near us, and before I could move the air was full of flying materials and a dust cloud blotted out the sky and I could hear stuff falling like hail on our roof, so I dived into Dr. Coffin's room and got under the doorway, the sides of the house waved like they were made of rubber as an extra large bomb went off. The noise of breaking shattered glass could be heard everywhere, then all was quiet for a moment, when the sound of wailing Chinese could be heard. The bombs, some say 9, lit about 300 yards south of us among the Chinese villages. Their houses were a sorry looking mess to put it mildly. This happened about noon or one p.m. All afternoon we could see the Chinese carrying pine plain board coffins out to the villages and also see them carrying in the wounded to the hospitals. One crater made by a bomb is big enough to bury our assembly hall in! I picked up a handful of pieces of bombs that fell in our yard, by our servants' house. I had ten panes of glass smashed, simply done by the concussion, others had nearly as many. The windows downstairs in the church were simply blown out of their frames. They look a mess. In all you can imagine it quite exciting to put it mildly.

Thompson who has been pretty cocky, was so scared that an hour afterward he was unable to set the tables! It shook Dr. Coffin pretty badly also. In diving

into the house I skinned a place about the size of a quarter on my left knee. I was wearing shorts, which left the knees rather exposed! Well we all hope that they do not drop any more eggs as close as that again.

*Tuesday,*        We have heard that all the houses along the bend and in farther than our  
7-17-45  
chapel from Wing Hon Ma Lo has been leveled by the bombing of July 13. 47 planes did the job. It is claimed that over 1,000 people were killed.

*Wednesday,*    I wish I knew how you are dear. Mr. Hoffmiester said last Wednesday that  
7-18-45  
even he did not get any letter mail from his family for nearly 3 years now, so it is not strange that I do not hear from you and I suppose you do not hear from me.

*Thursday,*       We hear that President Truman (?) and Churchill and Stalin are meeting in  
7-19-45  
Patsdam, Germany. I wonder what they will decide about the war in the Far East. We heard Shanghai has been bombed terrifically yesterday. I wish it all would end suddenly. Probably Russia will come in against Japan, who knows.

*Monday,*         I shall now pat Chico a few times for you and draw a pail of water to put  
7-23-45  
in the sun to get warm with which to take a warm water bath this evening. After getting the water I will return to the kitchen and do the chuk and rice for this evening.

It is no use to speculate on everything one hears. Some people see dire consequences in every rumor that comes our way. Dr. and I, we simply resign ourselves to what comes to us day by day and are thankful it is not worse with us than it is. My big problem is if we should be moved suddenly, what could I do with this 900 page letter. Where could I hide it? With whom could I intrust its care? It would seem a pity after writing faithfully over 900 pages to you to in the end have it lost. I shall have to bethink myself on what I better do.

Mr. Hoffmiester came in the p.m. He brought small comforts with him. For June, 15 catties of milk cost \$13,000.00 C.R.B! Eggs are now 171.00 each!



Thursday, 7-26-45      Dearest Ethel, I have little heart to write you tonight for I am made very sad because my little Chico seems to be dying. She was very well last night but in the forenoon she turned very bad and has gradually grown worse. I will say no more about her now until she either gets well or passes out. If she dies I shall feel very lonely for she has been a real comfort to me in my blues.

Friday, 7-27-45      Dearest, Poor Chico passed away at 9:35 a.m. I have just finished burying her. I wrapped her in that cretone you used to put on your lap when you picked fleas. My eyes are dim, I cannot see to write so will stop, also my throat has a lump too large to swallow. You understand all this. I shall later write all details. Love, John.

Sunday, 7-29-45      Dearest Ethel, It seems that I am dogged by ill luck again. Yesterday afternoon Dr. seemed to not feel very well. At 4:00 he had a temperature of 102. I told him to stay in bed, which he did. At 7:00 while I was doing his kitchen duty Dr. Rose made a call on him and found he had a temperature of 105! Well, we gave him 10 gr. aspirin and he seemed better. Put in a rather restless night, had loose bowel movement. This morning it was apparent that he was a very sick man and has continued very sick all day with high temp. and about 10 stools, mostly mucus. It evidently is Bucillary dysentery, which is a very serious thing to happen in a man as weak as he is.

Monday, 7-30-45      Dearest Ethel, I shall probably not get far with this letter for I am pretty weak. Yesterday I nursed Dr. Coffin all day and all night, with practically no sleep at all as he required the bed pan every 3/4 of an hour. His fever was very stubborn and would not go down, and he lay in a sort of daze all the time enough to drive one distracted. But I had orders to push the fluids into him and this I did without letup. In less than 24 hours I got him to take 7 pints of water; after midnight his fever did let up a little probably in the whole night it lowered 2 degrees.

*Tuesday,*  
7-31-45 I did not finish the above sentence and have now forgotten what it was I wished to say. I stayed in bed nearly all day yesterday and on account of working so hard and long with Dr. Coffin and practically 24 hours without food on account of my own stomach upset, I feel very weak. But I feel better, however. I shall have to be more or less resting for quite a while, I fear.

*Wednesday,*  
8-1-45 Well dear, night before last old man Yip passed out. Just here I stopped and went to his funeral. Held by a Buddhist Priest (Japanese) on the ground of no. 1. The ceremony was very simple and the floral decorations were very tastefully arranged. I was glad to have seen the affair.

*Friday,*  
8-3-45 We have very little news filtering thru to us these days. Wish we could hear the war would end suddenly. We do hear that the great new American long range bombers are now in the Pacific. It's unbelievable their size, if what we hear is so--821 feet long--110 tons weight, etc. I shall be much interested in seeing one of these large birds.

*Friday,*  
8-10-45 I suppose that it will be sometime before there will be boats for passengers across the Pacific. Dr. and I may take it into our head to drive home via Burma, India and Europe. Who knows. It would be some grand trip to say the least. We could make good time, and could see a lot enroute.

*Sunday,*  
8-12-45 Today we heard news that caused us all to be very cheerful. It is that the plane the other morning scattered leaflets all over the city telling the people that before long the Japanese would surrender and that they must not massacre or hurt the Japanese. This is done, I suppose, so as to avoid having any unpleasant incidents take place. We all feel very happy over it and devoutly hope it is true. We hear that there were ten conditions given the Japanese and they have agreed upon 9 and were to give an answer on the tenth tomorrow. In a few days we shall know just what it is all about. We of course have our doubts but most all are agreed now that we are actually on the eve of release for sure. Cannot come too



soon for me. The guards all look very solemn and there sure is something that has taken that cock-sureness out of them. They appear more humble than I have ever seen them. We wish none of them any harm.

I miss my little doggie very much and now so near to getting out I feel very bad that she should die on my hands.

Monday,  
8-13-45

We hear that the Japanese garrison of Canton is leaving by September 1. Garrison duty is taken over by the Chinese troops. We of course speculate very much on what it all means and how it will effect us. Before long I suppose we shall be duly enlightened. We hear that the bomb dropped recently on Japan that has created such a stir among us is an atom bomb. We are wondering if they have smashed the atom and now have it harnessed to make a horrible death dealing bomb with a very great radius. Do you hear about it in the papers in America?

Wednesday,  
8-15-45

At 4 p.m. we were called to the office and informed that the war was ended today! My, there was rejoicing in camp. We celebrated by opening several tins and had a grand feed. Shall send wire to Chung King as soon as possible and ask them to inform you. I am so glad I stayed it out. I am feeling very well today! I hardly have anything to write about but seems like I cannot keep from visiting with you. As to future plans I am at present in the dark. Is your health good enough so we could hope for another term or not? I, of course, would wish to continue but if you are not strong again I suppose the thing for me to do is to take sustentation and be a good boy and settle down in America. I hope soon to have some word encouraging me that you are well and strong again. I do not wish to be a mill stone around the brethren's neck but if you will I am, of course, as far as health is concerned, as good as ever for another term. I suppose we shall receive advice a-plenty from the Union and Division very soon now. I have prepared the following telegram:

Seventh-day Adventist Mission    Chung King

Both well and free--Inform families; letters follow.

Anderson-Coffin

Thursday,  
8-16-45

This evening we sent the Englishman up in No. 1 a supper on a tray. I saw him. He was all smiles for we sent him a huge tray--rice, greens, beans, a loaf of bread, a tin of beefsteak that came in the Red Cross stuff. So he had a real feast.

Well, it was 1338 days since the war in Asia broke out, 907 days since we came to this place, and 695 days since you went home until we heard that the war was over. As I look back it does not seem so terribly long. We can hardly realize it is over with. No more roll calls. Seemed rather queer not to have it today. We weighed today, I suppose for the last time for our internment record. I am down to 150 pounds which is not strange considering the worry I had over Dr. Coffin's sickness. Once out of here I shall soon pick up again, of that I am sure. I feel just fine. I do not wish to get up to 194 again. 170 is O.K.

Sabbath,  
8-18-45

Mrs. Kataoka came and said the Inspectors had five chickens they would give us and they would like to have a meal with us. We, of course, agreed. So, tomorrow evening they will eat with us. She said the taking over army is outside of Canton and will come in soon. She said she hoped it was an American army. Then tears filled her eyes. We did our best to reassure her there was no danger. She seemed grateful for the reassuring words. I feel sorry for her for she evidently is very much afraid of what the Chinese army would do.

Sunday,  
8-19-45

Well, the meal was very much enjoyed even by our Japanese friends. All ate to their stomachs full. I made a short speech then Kataokas replied. They are nice humble people and I feel downright sorry for them. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it created a feeling of good fellowship between us. We asked if possible to have a picture taken of the whole group. I think it will be arranged some way. The guards promised to protect us even at the cost of their lives!



Tuesday,  
8-21-45

Another weeks cooking is in the past and it will probably be my last and I am not very sorry. I have enjoyed it and have not been too tired either. I do think Mrs. Rose and I put up the best tasting meals of all the cooking teams. She has been very pleasant to work with. Very quick and knows just what she wishes done, which has pleased me well.

Last evening I sent up to the English man in No. 1 45.00 H.K. as I had learned he was destitute. I offered to help him when he got out of here for a short while. I received a reply and I herewith make it pages 963-964 of this letter. We have in past made short signs to one another but have never spoken yet.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot the great event of the day. I sent word to the compound today to have Ah Mi come to the kitchen window and tap on it with a bamboo stick. Well, I hardly expected her so soon but at 10 a loud tap came on the window which sort of startled us all. However, I suspected it was her so got up on the table and sure enough out on the street was Ah Mi. She looked very natural about as usual. She cried, of course, when she saw me. I jollied her a bit. She informed me that Ah Oi, Mrs. Choi, is dead. Ah Luk is dead and Hazel Chiu is dead. Old Ng Sz is gone also. She said Mickey was O.K. and well. Said she had threatened if he did not mind I would soon be there to punish him and lately he answered her "you have fooled me enough with such talk". James Cheung is there on the compound and has two more girls. 5 in all! Hazel Chan is there also. So Dr. will have enough to start work with when we get out there.

I gave her 3000.00 C.R.B. told her to buy some good flour, oil, salt and sugar and get some bread ready against when I should arrive. Ah Kwan is waiting for Dr. to come. She will work for him. Seemed good to see her. Said she had been cutting grass for a livelihood. Ah Pooi is still in the city. She said the Japanese soldiers were living in our house so it may be some time before they will move out but not too long, I fear, after I once get out of here they will have to give me back our place. It seems that everything is intact, which is the thing that I stayed on for in the first place and it has been achieved and we are glad and happy

over its success.

Thursday,  
8-23-45

Mr. Uchida informed us that some coffee, sugar would be sent to us. Well, in the p.m. or just before supper time a lorry drove into the yard--It had on for us

the following:

28 pounds of Chase and Sanborn coffee!  
84 pounds of butter  
120 pounds of sugar  
100 pounds of salt  
800 catties of good rice! Mercy on us.  
90 pounds peanut oil

We hardly know what to do with it all. Butter was divided among us, each got 3 pounds, the balance to go to the mess use; sugar, salt, oil, and rice, same. We each got 1 pound of coffee--balance to mess--after giving each guard 1 pound each of coffee and butter. We probably got more peanut oil at one time than we received in total for the past two years internment!

Friday,  
8-24-45

My darling sweetheart: I have spent most of all day yesterday and today packing. I have gotten along very well. Most all the dishes, all of the books and 2/3 of the cooking utensils are packed and the boxes nailed down. Some other things are in partially filled boxes so I feel I am well along to see the end of that packing job. I shall be glad when it is over and they are unpacked at Tungshan. Today was a great day for the camp. We had our pictures taken. It cost 12,000.00 C.R.B. for 8 pictures. Some pictures. I was glad to see it. It will be something to keep and remember this place and experience with.

Mr. Rathsam would not have his picture taken because his son was killed in action in Hong Kong. Mr. Thompson was just plain ornery so would not have his picture taken, when all it would cost him was to come to the place to where the picture would be taken!

Sunday,  
8-26-45

We hear the Chungking soldiers are to enter the city today, that by Aug. 31 the British navy will enter H.K. and Canton. Probably there will be some American soldiers and navy also. I am not sure. These are of course exciting days for us.



My khaki I shall not have made up. Probably will give it to Mickey for clothing.

It has rained terrifically since about 2 a.m. and is just now moderating a bit. Everything is in flood. The soldiers will have a wet entry into Canton, I fear.

I shall endeavor to practically finish my packing today after church services so I can go anytime we are released. The Japanese soldiers are still on our place. They are to turn over all their military equipment on August 31. It will be a bitter pill for them to give up all their guns. I hear that they have broadcast to the nation that they must all assume a humble attitude toward the allied soldiers and that this terrible ordeal the nation is passing thru must awaken each one of them.

We also hear that Manchuria is given back to China as well as Formosa. That Korea will be established an independent state and will for the time be garrisoned by American and Russian soldiers. That French Indo China will be garrisoned by American, British, Chinese, and French soldiers. It maybe will be given its independence. I will have to learn my geography all over again.

*Tuesday,*  
8-28-45

This week has seemed the longest week that I have spent in here. I suppose it is caused by waiting word from Hoffmiester about going out. I hope he can give us final word tomorrow. I wish he would allow us to go out for a short time. It seems utterly foolish to keep us here any longer.

*Wednesday,*  
8-29-45

Dear Ethel, It rained the later part of the night and woke me up so I have not slept any since about 3:30. Now that we are about to get out of here there are of course many problems running thru my head that cry out for solutions. My own finances for instance--will the Board allow my wages while interned or not, if there is a war bonus will we share in it? I have sold the piano, our rugs, our ice box, etc. and have eaten it all up. Then, the picking up of the threads

of mission work and the hospital, etc. These hold plenty of headache problems, let alone the pitiful personal stories that one will have to face. My mind gets to running on these problems and sleep simply departs for good; hence I am up early. I hate to lay in bed when I cannot sleep.

Last evening one of the guards visited me. He could not speak very good Cantonese but in his halting way he got it across that Japan is passing through a bitter experience. It is now beginning to dawn upon the common people just what the warlords of Japan have brought their country to. He said if he returned to Japan the probabilities were that some members of the family would starve to death. I tried to encourage him that he would find the American occupation very merciful after all. He admitted that Germany was not so bad off after all, was well treated. Japan will be much better treated than she would have treated others if she had won the war. The Japanese are afraid of the vengeance of the Chinese people and well they might for they have mistreated plenty of Chinese who might have just claims for trying to even the score somewhat.

He said McArthur entered Tokyo yesterday. I understand the greatest air-naval armada in world history is to enter Tokyo bay. I suspect that McArthur will be able to talk freely with the Emperor of Japan or at least will insist on it. Hitherto it has been well nigh impossible to get his ear as all affairs were arranged with the ministries concerned. I understand that the Emperor will take a more personal hand in affairs of the government from now on. I saw in the Chinese paper a note supposedly given out by McArthur that Japan would be occupied until she would demonstrate that she loved peace above war. That may take a whole generation.

Thursday,  
8-30-45

Nobody came with Mr. Hoffmiester yesterday so we were able to talk more freely. He said he had had a heck of a time with the Japanese consular officials over us, etc. Would tell us the whole story when we get out. I shall not close this letter until I hear his side which I will then write out and it will become part of



this letter. He said I would be expected to tell him the inside story from our side. I said I had written most of it down in letter form to you and so could probably tell it very well. So this letter will spin out without end, it seems.

I wish I could get some word from you. Yesterday we had quite a thrill. Mr. White came and said that there was a young Chinese in that dairy farm courtyard, back of where Henry roomed, that wished to see us. We thought of all whom it might be but were somewhat surprised when we saw Au Paak, i.e. Jon Au. His class had graduated at Wai Chow and about a year ago he had returned to Canton to learn lab work in Dr. Otto's Red Cross hospital, our next door neighbors! He had wished to talk to us but was restrained because the people thought it might get them into trouble. From him we learned that Bro. Davis is the P.O. Clinic Supt. Could be worse. We also learned the best of all--and one of the things for which I made up my mind to stay--that is, all of the hospital supplies; beds, blankets, sheets, medicines, x-ray, etc. are all O.K. That, to me, spells justification for hanging on. Had we not done so at the very first, it is just as sure as anything that all would have gone. Now we can begin work right away. I feel very thankful to God for this. More so that I can express. It puts new life into me to say the least. I face the com. and the Board with a very clean sheet, I feel. At times, as I have reflected on the difficulties I have had to put up with in here--poor food, grumbling of people, etc. and then thought that maybe after all, the thing I tried to accomplish would be destroyed by the Japanese. I have been in my innermost soul questioning if after all I should not have pulled out to free China early. But now nothing anybody can say will be able to shake my confidence in the thought that we were led to the right decision. My health has not been impaired at all. I am already, under better food, picking up. I never wish to go back to 200 pounds anyway. I still am the strongest person in camp and nearly the oldest, so I should not worry.

I will close this chatter for now. Much love to you, dear. I wish to see you so much, darling. Lovingly, John.

Sabbath,  
9-1-45

Oi Kwan Hotel! Well, we are out of the C.A.C. at least.

Now I will try and tell the story just as it happened.

On Thursday evening as we were sitting down to supper, who should walk into the C.A.C. but Mr. Hoffmiester and three big strapping foreigners dressed in khaki. They came to the assembly hall and said they represented the U.S. army and came to set us at liberty, then told us a bit of world news, and asked if they could get anything for us, that if was urgent could fly it in, etc. Well, we of course had nothing very urgent, etc. We chatted freely for a while and then agreed to store all our furniture etc. and then take only suitcases to the Oi Kwan Hotel where we would be royally entertained free of charge. Well, of course Friday we packed with a vengeance but at 10 a.m. Mr. Uchida called me over to the office and said that a hitch had occurred as they had not yet seen the credentials of these men and so were not sure if they could hand us over to them as their instructions were to only hand over to a person with proper credentials representing the allies. You see, these boys were Americans so I asked to be informed by 11 and we waited until 3 p.m. No word came so we gave up hope of getting out Friday. We had agreed to be ready by 2 p.m. Friday so we put back our nets, etc., got supper ready, when lo, we sat down to supper in they came again saying they were sorry a hitch had occurred--that there were some t's that had not been crossed and a few i's not dotted. Said he had made a formal protest but all was fixed up now. Said this right in front of Mr. Uchida too. Well, we got out our suitcases and were soon on our way to the Oi Kwan Hotel. You will remember it as the highest building in town down on the bend. It seemed strange to be out and free to talk as we wished. Today Mr. Hoffmiester will come and we will then know more just what we will be able to do. I suspect we shall stay here for about a week. By then the Japanese will be out of our quarters, I hope. We had another supper in the hotel at 9 p.m. I will tell more about it. I am a bit excited to see all I can see after being cooped up there for 923 days! The longest I had stayed put in one place in my life. The city looks not too bad and food seems very plentiful and we



were kept half-starved with plenty about us. O well, it is overwith. Now their day to foot accounts has come. I hope the allies will be merciful in a degree. I asked Capt. Dewey to radio you, which I suppose he did. I shall be interested to learn if you got it or not. I will write an air mail letter. They promised to get it off on the first plane going. Dr. Coffin is now writing his. There is so much to see I cannot keep my mind on writing. You can, I suppose, imagine how fidgety I would be. More later, dear. Lovingly, John.

Friday,  
9-7-45

Dearest Ethel, How shall I be able to set down all that has taken place this week. We were continually being seen by someone until we pretty nearly screamed for mercy. The hotel was noisy and the rich food we were unaccustomed to made nearly all of us have stomach trouble. So, it seemed more like a mad house than anything else.

In a day or so a lot of Americans came in from the skies--walking and by sampan. A Capt. Winston Guest, one of the richest men in America, flew in with 14 others, a British major among them. All came to take care of internees and war prisoners. Being that I was the chief representative of our camp, of course I had to be interviewed and was spokesman to all who came and was the general information for all. This took a lot of my time. Capt. Guest and the Dr. Eckhart, M.D. who was with him had me give a detailed account of the life of the camp. I was very glad to report no brutal treatment, our complaint being not sufficient food. This was, of course, the core of our trouble. I was of course in a position to give all details right off-hand on this. While I was giving this statement who should come into Mr. Guest's room but the Japanese consul. He was a bit uneasy at seeing me there. But he came to read the formal turning over of all internees and get release from responsibility. He read a statement about giving the names of all internees, that they had not kept any of our money, that our belongings were stored and we could take them at our leisure, that they had been asked to put up a W. P. which was done, but no parcel from a plane had been dropped. After reading

this I had to certify that it was all so, of which I was glad to do, which then completed the formal release of all internees.

On Tuesday we went over and took all or most of the Methodist and New Zealand stuff over to the shamen. We were promised trucks for Wednesday to complete the job but in that we failed so I appealed to Capt. Guest and simply ordered the Japanese to have two trucks at our disposal. So at 2 p.m. Wednesday we completed the English moving and Thursday we moved our stuff to the white house that does not belong to us. The Japanese boys who run the trucks were nice fellows and I treated them kindly and we got along beautifully. It took four trucks to move us! Well, I am glad we are moved. The Japanese are still in our place. Capt. Guest said he would get the Japanese out of our property in 72 hours. Some of our people thought we were fools to give them that long. They said 5 hours at most 24. I was firm saying I was still a human being and 72 hours stood. Capt. Guest said that it was a very good gesture on my part. You understand there is quite a feeling for revenge on them. Personally I will have nothing to do with it nor do I care what other people think. I believe we should live our Christianity outwardly as well as inwardly. I have been a bit surprised at the attitude of some of the people.

Dr. Coffin made plans to leave the hotel today. There has been considerable complaint by our English people as to the accommodations and services given, etc. but when I announced that the Chinese government would cease entertaining us as from today, they said they were not pleased, needed more warning, etc. I took a lot of trouble to be sure of the fact. Saw Capt. Guest to verify it and he said it was so but he would assume the payment where the Chinese government left off. I told him as far as the Americans were concerned, we were moving whether or not, to our own quarters and my concern was with the British--would he or would he not pay for their keep for a few more days. He answered just what I expected to hear--that the British had their own representative here who should look after their



interests. So, I called Childe aside and told him before they stayed longer they better make sure as to who would pay the bill; that he had better see Major Camie. After a bit of blustering he went. I did not see him after that for I had gone to the shameen to see Mr. Hoffmiester and while I was in there a card came in saying that Mr. Childe and Jansen wanted to see him. Evidently Major Camie had told them he could not pay hotel entertainment after today so they were going to try and get it from Hoffmiester and I know what his answer would be. Today Dr. Coffin was at the Ai Kwan at 3:30 and I inquired if he had seen any of the interneers. He said he saw the Kong Chuen people in the lobby with their stuff being loaded on those man pulled carts, probably going to Hacket. I had in the morning at breakfast table announced everybody better make his own decision about living expenses after breakfast. Jansen spoke up rather abruptly "Well, he would see Hoffmiester." He has been a bit of a thorn to me. He has a peculiar quirk. Coffin has been dumb-founded that anyone would expect free entertainment after a week. It seemed that they wished to force the issue for a longer period.

Well, dear, my head is swimming and I am tired so will not write more. Have had two good meals at home. The food tastes so much better. I will close and write more tomorrow. Love to you. Lovingly, John.

Tuesday,  
9-11-45

Dearest Ethel, It seems that I cannot find time to write you or rather finish this letter. There is a break here you see of a few days. I fear I cannot begin to tell in detail all that has transpired, yet I shall attempt to tell you as nearly as possible just how my days have been spent. All the people in the neighborhood have been very cordial in seeing us back. All have brought some gifts--peanuts, eggs, fruit, candy, until we have enough eggs to last for several days. Mrs. Biest brought us a cake. She talked a blue streak as though Dr. and I had been her long lost son come to life again!

Sabbath we went to S. S. and church at Tung Shan. Of course we enjoyed it

very much. The first religious service I have really enjoyed since I left the compound. Next Sabbath I preach at the Sai Kwan chapel.

Monday, yesterday, I went to town. Walked most of the way. I bought a pair of shoes for \$35,000.00 C.R.B! It cost 2,000.00 to ride a ricksha to the shameen--4,000.00 round trip! Some money we have and today it depreciated 50% more. Well, one can be a millionaire and still be poor, I discovered. I am glad I do not have much of the stuff.

Monday I went to see Captain Guest to see what he could do to help me get back my car. He had asked for a written statement, which I made, asking 500.00 gold for my car. I have hopes of getting a car, or the money for it. Either will suit me.

I saw Chinese robbing the Japanese right and left. I learned that some Japanese were even killed. I think the Chinese authorities should hang their heads in shame.

Now to clap the climax. Today two bands of robbers robbed on our street. Ah Lung was cleaned out. The other one was Mr. Biest. The Biests were cleaned out of everything--clothing, cooking utensils, dishes, etc. I loaned them two plates, two bowls and a pot to cook food in. The Biests were not home when it happened. They were away to the shameen. So, my day has been taken up with going to the police station to get more protection. We know where the thieves, about 200 of them, came from, have arrested 5 and have the village surrounded and tomorrow a search will probably be made and we hope to get back most of the stuff--maybe. Visitors are continually coming so I have little time to myself. Hence I am unable to get this letter finished. I hope to get the letter done and get it ready to send to you. It is now 10:15. Have just had some visitors who have taken up my whole time so even tonight I am unable to get as much done as I hoped to.

Ah Tin's daughter had an old radio she has let me have and so I am able to get a little of the world news. However, we only have electricity about 3 hours in the evening and the voltage is low so I only get Chungking and Manila. However,



tonight I did hear the last sentence of the news from Shanghai as an accident.

Wednesday, Dear Ethel--I did not sleep any too well last night so was up fairly early.  
9-12-45

After breakfast I went down to pay for the coolies that we hired to move our stuff from Honam. It cost us 48,000.00 C.R.B. Some coolies, when normal times, 60 cents per day is enough. On my way back I met Mr. Biest who wished me to help in translating at the police station which took up about an hour of my time. Mr. Biest got back some of his stuff but the most important, winter clothing, has not been recovered yet. However, the case is not closed so there is still hope of getting some of it maybe.

Ella Chan has been up here and she is to fly to H.K. probably tomorrow. I would like to have flown down there also. It would cost me nothing but I feel I better stay on the job here and get all the things back and in place before I venture abroad. Dr. seems quite helpless to cope with complicated moving operations. We are enjoying Ah Mi's cooking very much. The food is simple but it tastes very good after that drab fare at C.A.C.

I have written so much that I think I will now bring it to a close and begin sending mail in the regular way. I shall not blame you if you do not read all I have written. It will be very tiresome at best. Take your time to it. I am eagerly waiting mail from you. I hope the air mail I have sent will reach you in good time. Dr. is not quite so nimble in thought as I am so he did not get off two letters to Mrs. Coffin. I fear his mental processes are a bit slow at times.

Well, dear, this has been quite an experience. My greatest regrets are that we have been separated. I feel I have accomplished what I started out to do--i.e. preserve our property and San fixtures. This has been done and I feel greatly relieved. The Union and Division and the Board, of course, may not agree that it was worth the effort, yet one who has been thru the agony of getting funds for such an institution cannot but feel to do his best to keep it intact for the use

for which it was intended. I shall wear a smile--rather smirk, I fear--when I hear people berate me for staying. I have aged some--would have done that anyway. I have lost weight, which has been good for me, but I have come out with good health and an unbroken spirit. Forgive me for not being with you. Shall endeavor to make it up to you some way, darling. Now I close. Sweet kisses and love unbounded, fresh each day to you forever--Lovingly, John.