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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
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Nanking
Corres.
Wilson, Marjorie 1936-1938

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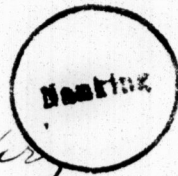
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0887

Jack

19 Hansow Road
Nanking, China
Oct. 31, 1936.



Dear Sir,

Oct. 11-27-36

I arrived in Nanking
to find most of the community
away on vacation. After a
perfectly delightful second
honeymoon spent in Piping
with Dr. Ferguson, we settled
down again and I have
become acquainted with
the foreign and Chinese
people.

I am doing clerical
work at the Hospital in

the mornings, and having
an hour of Chinese a day.

Mr. Wilson is also continuing
his study. Both the Chinese
and foreigners are pleased
with his work, like his eager-
ness and ability to under-
stand their problems.

I have felt no ill
effects from the change in
climate, except I need
added rest and have
an excellent appetite.

OK
Would you send to
my mother out of our
next check six dollars.
Her address is —

Paid
11/23/36
6.00
25737

Mrs. Jane E. Jost
304 Hillcrest Ave.,

Wood-Ridge
New Jersey.

I hope your wife has
continued to improve in
health.

Yours Truly,

Marjorie Wilson

P.S. Miss Priest is a peach.

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UNIVERSITY
NOV 23 1936
JOINT OFFICE

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0891



November 27, 1956

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson
19 Harker Road
Hanking, China

My dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thanks for your good letter of October 31. We are glad to know that your arrival was such a happy one, and that life in China is starting off so pleasantly. I know that you are living a busy life, and that every one on the Hanking campus is happy to have you there.

We have sent your remittance of six dollars to your mother, as requested.

By the time this reaches Hanking, you and Dr. Bob will be spending your first holiday season together in China. We hope that it will be a very happy one, and that the New Year will be pleasant and prosperous for you both.

Very sincerely yours,

HAS:VC

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19 Hanbow Road

Nanking, China

March 19, 1937.



ack 5/19

Dear Mr. Tarside,

Nanking has certainly been an excited town this last week.

Everyone was more than happy to see Dr. Bowen, and we know he is glad to be back. Dr. Ferguson has also been here, so you can imagine what a busy time it has been. To-night at a University dinner we will have three presidents with us.

The Hospital keeps the doctors very busy, it has been crowded all

winter. I am not doing
very much there now.

We are certainly
going to miss Dr. Daniels
next year. We are going
to live in the house
during furlough. We are
very happy about it, es-
pecially as Robert Jr.
is expected in early June.

I have been keeping
very well, and I know
the doctors feel that I
have improved a great
deal since arrival.

After June we
will settle down and
live quietly for awhile.

after you had Bob
all settled to come ~~to~~
to Nanjing, I popped up.
and now we are doing
the same kind of thing.
I do hope it is not
going to cause too
much trouble.

We are very happy,
and we do so like being
here. We are in the
midst of a fast growing,
fast changing community
and it is very interest-
ing.

I do hope your wife's
health has continued
to improve, and that

she is able to be home
with you again.

Would you again
send my mother two
dollars, please.

~~4/28/37 - 2nd
No 5980~~

Mrs. Jane E. Jost
304 Hillcrest Ave.
Wood-Ridge,
New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Wilson.

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY
APR 19 1937
JOINT OFFICE

0896

MRS. ROBERT O. WILSON

Dr. Young

A CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

OCT 21 1937

Today there came to my office a brown-eyed young woman who had just returned from China. A slender little person weighing less than a hundred pounds, she looked more like a high school girl than an "old China hand" just back from occupying a ringside seat at our latest undeclared war.

About two years ago she and her young doctor husband went out to China, he as a staff member of one of our university hospitals, she - a graduate nurse - to assist in the wards. Late in July of this year their baby girl was born in the hospital where both of them have been serving.

When the baby was three weeks old, the air raids started. For about a fortnight Helen and Doctor Ted* remained in the city. Whenever she heard the menacing hum of the enemy planes, Helen would take the precious baby down into the cellar of their home for protection against the bombs. Hardly a sultry August day passed but part or most of it was spent in the stifling cellar as wave after wave of bombers flew overhead, dropping their deadly cargoes.

Doctor Ted went on with his hospital work, now multiplied many fold by the unending stream of wounded civilians. At first the doctors suspended their operating when the raids began, but after a time they went calmly ahead with their surgery while the bombs crashed about the city.

Hurried diplomatic officials urgently advised that all Americans at once evacuate China. But Helen, Doctor Ted, and all their American colleagues in the University and the University Hospital, pointed out that now they were needed more than ever before, and that they could not desert their Chinese friends and co-workers.

At last Doctor Ted and the other members of the University group

* These are not their real names, of course.

0897

insisted that for the baby's sake Helen and Det must go for a time to the coolness and comparative safety of the mountains at Kuling. Reluctantly Helen agreed, and started out with the baby on the difficult journey.

After three days of travel in the mid-summer heat - first on a small, overcrowded, foul-smelling boat, and later by cart and sedan chair - they reached Kuling.

But they could find little of rest and comfort and even less of peace and quiet. Day after day frantic consular officials urged them to leave while they could. One by one the possible avenues of escape from China were closed.

Late one evening Doctor Ted arrived at Kuling looking very sober. Only a single means of exit remained open, and that might be cut off at any time. Regretfully he told Helen that he felt that she should take Det back to America for awhile, for it would be almost impossible for so young a baby to survive the conditions they might have to face in the months just ahead.

Helen protested, but in the end acknowledged the wisdom of Doctor Ted's recommendations. With several other mothers having small children, and a few workers compelled by age or illness to withdraw, she started on the long and dangerous journey to Hongkong.

First they made their way to Hankow where they hoped a train would be waiting to take them southward to Canton. But no such train was immediately available. Days passed before a train was secured. Even when the train did set out it was crowded and uncomfortable beyond description. With the railway glutted by military traffic and menaced by air raids their progress was slow and halting.

When at last they neared Canton, they found themselves coming

into a veritable inferno. Enemy planes seemed to be everywhere, dropping their bombs not only along the railway but also on the defenseless towns and villages whose dwellers needed to be convinced of the good will of their friendly neighbor.

Their arrival in Canton was marked by a terrific air raid. Bombs fell like hail stones in the area around the railway station. They saw neighboring buildings blown into bits. Streets which an instant before had been crowded with struggling humanity were strewn with mangled bodies.

There was no one of their own nationality to greet the little band of Americans. After trying to plan their next movements they sought to find temporary shelter until they could go on to Hongkong. In the war-torn city it seemed impossible to find any refuge at all. Finally they managed to get crowded quarters in a Chinese inn, paying exorbitant prices for their miserable accommodations.

After a night of discomfort, sleeplessness, and constant menace from the raids, a British good Samaritan discovered them and took them to the comparative comfort and safety of the Shamsen. Here, too, everything was overcrowded, but they were grateful for the privilege of sleeping on the floor until they could find transportation to Hongkong.

Finally a small steamer was secured. They forced their way to the wharf through milling crowds of bewildered people. Loaded far beyond its capacity, the boat moved slowly down Pearl River. Once more they found themselves with ringside seats at an air raid, with bombs falling on the city along both banks, and even throwing up geysers of water from the river about them.

They reached Hongkong, and boarded a steamer headed for America. That was some three weeks ago. And now the brown-eyed little lady who looks like a sixteen-year-old high school girl was sitting peacefully in my New York office, describing her travels as calmly as if she had just come over on the Staten Island ferry.

"How did Det stand the trip?" I inquired.

"She was marvelous through it all. Of course for the first few weeks, with the crowds and the travelling and the air raids, she couldn't sleep much, and had dark circles under her eyes like a little old woman. Didn't eat well, and lost some weight I'm afraid. Now that I have her in a quiet place she sleeps nearly all the time, and her eating should improve."

But Helen herself was eager to do some questioning. "I have had practically no news of what has happened at the University since I left. What word have you had?"

I sketched briefly the news we have received during recent weeks by cable and by China Clipper - of how the University had gone ahead with its plans for opening despite the continuing air raids. Of how as many as possible of both the American and Chinese staff members had remained on the campus making preparations for the year's work. Of how the University had actually opened for the autumn semester and was carrying on its work, with staff and students retiring to their dugouts when the sirens announced an approaching raid and returning to their interrupted classes as soon as the "all clear" signal sounded. Of how the administrative officers were struggling desperately to keep the institution going despite the large losses of regular income from Chinese sources and the heavy emergency expenses necessitated by the war conditions.

"What about the Hospital?" she asked.

I showed her three cablegrams from the Hospital recently transmitted to us through the facilities of the United States Department of State.

The first cable stated that all the other hospitals in the city had been wrecked by bombs and compelled to close, throwing upon the University Hospital the full burden of caring for the enormous number of wounded and destitute civilians. It contained an urgent plea that funds be secured in

America to purchase desperately needed medical supplies and to assist with the operating expenses of the hospital. The message, signed by Secretary Cordell Hull, closed with the statement "In transmitting this message the American Ambassador states that the University Hospital is the only large hospital now operating in the city and is doing excellent work."

The other two cables from Dr. Ted and his colleagues asked that we purchase and forward at once by China Clipper lists of indispensable drugs and supplies costing about five thousand dollars, their own stock being entirely exhausted and none being available anywhere in China.

"One of the things we are trying to do this week," I told her, "is to find money to purchase these supplies."

She sighed. "How I wish I were at the Hospital right now! If it hadn't been for the baby, they could never have gotten me away. I won't be happy until I'm back there, where I belong."

"Incidentally, young lady," it occurred to me to ask, "what are you using for money these days?"

She sketched briefly the way in which she had made her journey homeward on the slender travel allowance advanced to her by the field treasurer of the University. "I was able to save thirty-eight dollars, which I must return to you." She started to reach into her purse, then hesitated. "I had to spend a few dollars out of that to buy Dot some clothes. Can I give you thirty dollars now, and the balance in a few days?"

"I'm amazed that you could possibly save anything," I said. "Keep the whole thirty-eight dollars for a few weeks until you can get settled, then we will adjust the account."

The relieved look in her eyes led me to ask another question. "How do you stand on the matter of salary?"

She explained to me that just before she left, she and Doctor Ted had agreed that half of their joint salary would be paid to him on the field and the other half to her here in America. "I'm afraid it won't be very much though," she added. "You know that all the members of staff voted this summer that because so much of the University's income from Chinese sources is cut off by the war, we will all try to get along on 40% of our regular salary."

"You folks can't possibly live on 40% of your salaries," I said. "We must get the Board of Founders together to see if there isn't some way in which they can find funds to provide at least a little more than that - for the American members of staff anyway."

She smiled and shook her head. "The American members of staff agreed last summer that they would share whatever cut our Chinese staff must take. We wouldn't accept any restoration unless the same provision could be made for our Chinese colleagues."

"Well, suppose we do a bit of figuring," I suggested. "The regular salary for yourself, Doctor Ted, and the baby is \$110 per month. Forty percent of that is \$44. Not so good."

"That isn't the worst of it," she said a bit ruefully. "You know Doctor Ted is still paying off a college debt at the rate of \$10 per month."

"Then that leaves only \$34 per month - \$17 for Doctor Ted and \$17 for you and Det. You 'll starve to death on that."

I looked at her appraisingly. Though attractively dressed, her clothing seemed to hang a bit loosely about her slender body. "Why, you have been losing weight already. The first thing you must do is to put on about ten pounds."

She colored faintly. "Don't be alarmed. I borrowed this dress from my sister to come to the office. You see, I was able to bring very

little baggage from China, and the few clothes I had with me don't look very presentable."

"It will be a long time before you can buy a new outfit - on \$17 per month - to say nothing of living expenses for yourself and the baby."

"Our relatives have urged that Dot and I live with them. Of course I wouldn't want to be dependent upon them in any event - but now I have a special reason for earning some money." An eager light came into the brown eyes. "In addition to supporting the baby and myself, I must save up enough money for a trip back to China. I must start the very minute the raids and fighting in our city have ended. I belong back in the Hospital with Doctor Ted, and I want to get there as soon as I can.

"The hospital here in New York where I was a nurse before I went to China will take me back on its staff. So I plan to find a little apartment here in the city, put Dot on a bottle, and get back into nursing."

I wanted to say to her "You get some rest, take care of that precious baby, and let the Board of Founders do the worrying about providing your support and getting you back to the field." But I remembered the state of the University's finances and the multiplicity of its emergency needs. So I restrained my generous impulses, and asked the accounting office to make a small advance on her salary account.

When we handed the check to her, her face lighted up. "This looks like a small fortune. Now I can pay my nursing registration fee, rent rooms near the hospital, and get back to work."

She hurried away, her head filled with valiant dreams of supporting that precious baby and herself, and earning in addition enough money to get back to China some day. As she left I made obeisance to the gallantry not only of Helen and Doctor Ted, but also of their hundreds of colleagues, both Chinese and Western, going forward courageously with their work in all the Christian Colleges and Universities of China. But I knew that the burden they are

bearing in these days is too heavy for them to carry alone, and that if they are to continue long at their posts help must speedily be provided for them.

New York City
October 21, 1937

B. A. G.

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Nov. 4, 1937.

Ack. 11/12/37.

My dear Mr. Sarside,

Bob's sister sent me a letter yesterday, enclosing "our story."

She also said that a very kind person had made a contribution towards our salary. If you could send me the name and address I'd like awfully to thank him.

We are getting settled in our new place, across the street from the hospital. I hope to go 'on call' Monday.

It will probably be difficult for me to get

0905

down to the office often. If any
news comes from the hospital
I wonder if you would send
me the news, also my part
of Bob's salary each month.

The baby is doing nicely,
which makes me very happy.

Bob is writing a
diary form of letters which
he sends every week. It
goes to the different members
of the family, and when it
is returned I will send it
to you. A most interesting
account of the war in
Nanking.

If there is anything I
can do to help I will be only
too glad.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Wilson
1105 Amsterdam Ave.

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UNIVERSITY
NOV 6 1937
JULIE GFFI

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November 12, 1937

Ack. her letter of Nov 4, 1937

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson
1105 Amsterdam Avenue
New York City

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you for your note of November 4th, and also for the draft of the story which you returned with a few notations.

The friend who made a contribution to bring your salary back to normal for the next few months instructed that the gift be kept anonymous. I will however, convey your thanks in due course.

We are asking Mr. Evans to see to it that regular remittances are made on your salary account.

We will look forward with interest to seeing the diary which Dr. Bob is writing.

Glad to learn that the baby is doing nicely. We are troubled lest it is too large a load for you both to take care of her and also to carry on your nursing work, but we know you will succeed in the undertaking if anyone could.

We will try to see to it that you receive copies of all informational material from Hanking. Mr. Wheeler is sending out a news letter this week, and I am giving him a notation to be sure that your name is included.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BAG/am

0908

December 27, 1937

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson
1105 Amsterdam Avenue
New York City

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

All of us have read with the keenest interest Dr. Bob's diary running from August 15th through October 19th. We will await with keen interest additional installments which are no doubt on the way.

I am wondering what plan you have as to the ultimate disposition of this very valuable material. Already we have made some publicity use of it, but there is an almost inexhaustible store of material which we have not yet used, and which we would be glad to utilize from time to time as opportunity offers. On the other hand, I am sure that you and Dr. Bob would like to share this material with other members of your families.

Because of the volume of material, it would be a rather expensive job to type off additional copies. Possibly some condensed version could be prepared by taking excerpts of the greatest general interest. We would be grateful for your suggestions and instructions.

In the hope that you and the daughter enjoyed a very pleasant Christmas, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:MP

0909

Dec. 28, 1937.

Del 12/30/37

Dear Mr. Laroide,

I'm very happy
to know that Bob's diary
letter has been interesting.

A great deal
of mail arrived on the
Pres. Hoover the other
day. I hope most of it
is for me. Apparently
my letters have not
been getting through.

Fortunately
I've been very busy;
However, I do hope I'll

be able to get down to
the office soon.

I certainly spent
a few awful days
when Nanking was falling.
I'm so proud of Bob.
I wish I could be with
him.

The baby is six mo.
old to-day. She is really
quite a young lady.

Do whatever you
like with the letter. Use
it for whatever purpose
you see fit. All members
of the families have seen

It I have a copy of the
first long one, so that there
is no hurry to get it
back.

Hoping you have
a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Wilson

January 21, 1938

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson,
1105 Amsterdam Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Marjorie:

I believe that from January 1st on the Manking Founders will be able to restore from our emergency funds the salary cuts of the Western staff at Manking. So we won't need any longer to depend upon the generosity of the anonymous benign godparent who felt inspired to help you, Elizabeth, and Doctor Bob.

In writing to thank our kindly friend, I'd like if possible to send him a picture of your charming self and your charming daughter. Do you have such a picture, preferably one quite recent so as to show how the young lady has grown? Something simple like a snapshot would do quite well if it does the two of you a fair amount of justice. I have a faint hope that you might have had pictures taken recently for Doctor Bob's benefit, though I know that is quite a long chance.

If you don't have anything in the line of pictures, would you give me a ring on the phone, and let's see what we can scheme up.

In sending a picture it would be nice to autograph it with some appropriate expression of thanks, as for instance "To a fairy godparent, from Elizabeth Wilson and her mother", or something of that sort.

Every variety of good wishes.

Cordially,

0913

January 25, 1938

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson
1105 Amsterdam Avenue
New York City

Dear Marjorie:

Thanks for the picture of little Miss Elizabeth. She is a very charming young lady. But I am sorry that you did not also send us a picture of yourself, for that would have been of great interest to a certain anonymous friend.

I am sending along the picture of Elizabeth at this time but I still reserve the possibility of coming later on for pictures of yourself and Dr. Bob.

The latest instalment of Dr. Bob's diary is particularly interesting. Rex Wheeler is trying to find some effective channel for giving it the publicity it deserves.

Very cordially yours,

BAG:MP

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February 17, 1938

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson
415 West 115th Street
New York City

Dear Marjorie:

Thank you for your letter of February 3rd sending us page 50 of Dr. Bob's diary. We are putting this material with the parts of the diary we already have.

Rex Wheeler has been trying to find some magazine which could publish this material. He narrowly missed getting it in the Atlantic Monthly, but found that they were not able to take it because their April issue was already overcrowded, and they felt that the May issue would be too late. I believe he is now exploring other possible leads.

Thank you for sending us your new address. At your convenience will you let us know your new telephone number?

Very cordially yours,

BAG:MP

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Saranac Lake, N.Y.
August 11, 1938

Dear Marjorie:

Your letter of July 24th reached the office just as I was dashing off for a few weeks' vacation, so I brought it along. Margaret and I have enjoyed this latest letter from Doctor Bob. Gladhe was able to get away to Shanghai for a brief breathing space. I return the letter herewith.

CAE
If the situation in November is such as to permit your getting back to China of course our office will be glad to help with the arrangements. What may happen in China during the months ahead is still filled with uncertainty. If the Chinese can continue their present resistance another year or so until the Japanese are worn out or other nations take a hand in the situation, we might have another period of terrorism through the lower Yangtze Valley as the Japanese withdraw. On the other hand, if the Japanese keep control, they will undoubtedly make life within the interior of China increasingly impossible for Americans. Lovely prospect either way.

I'm passing your letter along to Mr. Evans, with a request that he see whether there are any steps we should take to help you with your plans before I return later this month. After that I'll be glad to help in any way I can.

We want to see young Miss Elizabeth some of these days. I can appreciate the fact that she is getting to be quite a young lady now, and is rapidly gaining poise and dignity.

Cordially,

09 16

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
JUL 25 1938
JOINT OFFICE

MJW

415 West 115 St.
New York City, N.Y.
July 26, 1938.

7/26/38 Mrs. Wilson called.
Cable would not be returned.

Dear Mr. Arnold,
Ack 8/11/38

Enclosed is the
letter from Bob. Parts of it
will interest you.

I am hoping to
go back in November - or
about that time. We will
go to Hankow if possible,
otherwise live in Shanghai.
Bob wants to go with him
next year. We are planning
on taking a combination
freight-passenger boat.

0917

Elizabeth is quite a young lady, over a year old! Some say I will be able to bring her down with me. Right now I am working, therefore I cannot get down to talk things over with you.

I'm terribly excited about the whole thing. I wonder if the Japanese will let us go up river to Nanking.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Wilson.

P.S. No answer to cable yet. I may come through your office.
m.

Possibly the same line that Bob went out on. Do you think I can get any help on my passage?

Thank you so very much for your advice about the "Digest" article. I finally had a brain-storm (I get one occasionally) and sent a cable through Mr. Ray Mackay in Washington. He wrote saying they had fine reports of Bob's work in the State Dept. He is quite a wonderful person, don't you think so?

STANDARD TIME INDICATED
RECEIVED AT
TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

Form 18



THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-GRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE. SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICE SELECTED ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S TARIFFS ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON FILE WITH REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

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MRS ROBERT O WILSON

37-2

415 W 115TH ST NEW YORK CITY

TELEGRAM FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY, NANKING, AUGUST 26, TRANSMITS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR YOU QUOTE YOUR PRESENCE URGENTLY NEEDED ON HOSPITAL NURSING STAFF, BOOK MAERSK NOVEMBER 30 IF POSSIBLE, IF NOT AVAILABLE TRY DECEMBER 15 MAERSK KLAVENESS OR ANY OTHER AVAILABLE BOOKING. AM WELL AND HOPE TO MEET YOU CHRISTMAS DAY LOVE BOB END QUOTE

CORDALL HULL SECT OF STATE

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09 19

Aug. 27, 1938.

ack 8/29/38

Dear Mr. Garside,

I'm awfully glad that you are back from your vacation, (I don't mean to be mercenary) as I feel that I can go to you with all my problems.

I will try to make this as clear as possible. Enclosed is the cable which arrived today. I really feel that Bob would not send such a message if there was no reason for it. I had told him that no matter what happened I could not possibly sail before November.

I have expressed to everyone my desire to work at the Hospital as soon as I returned. I talked with Dr. Daniels about it when he was in New York last spring. He was due to arrive in Shanghai Aug. 23 and was to proceed immediately to Nanking. (If permitted) The cable may be connected with his arrival, we of course do not know.

Bob wrote from Shanghai in May saying that Nanking was more quiet, several families planned to return in Sept. and he hoped we could come in Oct. or Nov. He has never said anything about working at the Hospital.

I immediately made inquiries and found that the Maersk Line was the only one I could afford. (190 L.A. to Shanghai) All the others charge $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$ for Elizabeth. I wrote to Bob telling him that I would plan to sail Nov. 30 or Dec. 15. I asked him to let me know by return mail if I should make my booking.

Miss Mynds is at the Hospital. Miss Lucy Greer and Miss Sarah Glenn were there I think in April. I am under the impression that they have returned to their own posts, but Bob's letters are scattered about the U.S.A. and I cannot be sure.

The Readers Digest article is to appear in the Oct. issue. Bob did not want his name signed to it and after talking it over with the Digest people they still wanted the material and are using it. I am to have the proof reading very soon and I would appreciate it if you would read it over and give me your opinion of it. (Mr. Wheeler has a copy of the cable which Bob sent) It is to be written in such a way that no one would ever know the source of the material. I am sure that Bob will not object to it. I do not know how much the Digest is paying for the article, but I do not feel that I should use the money unless absolutely necessary. Our future is so uncertain, we may have to practice medicine here in America after our five year term and every cent will count.

Bob saw Elsie Priest in Aug. and any person on the Univ. staff wishing to return to America was given 400 dollars with the understanding that the Univ. would not pay return passage.

There are so many things needed that the whole trip is an expensive one for me. I had to start from scratch when I arrived here. Fortunately I have been able to save enough to buy the things we must have before returning.

I hope this will help, I'm sorry the Wilsons are such a lot of trouble for you.

Sincerely,

0920

Sept. 15, 1938.

Act 9/21/38

Dear Mr. Sarside,

I looked at my passport yesterday after talking with you and found that it could be renewed.

I had an opportunity to go down this morning, and applied for a renewal.

The request has gone to Washington and I shall probably hear in about two weeks.

A letter from Bob today says that travel into the interior (meaning Mankin, I suppose) must be approved by the Japanese.

If I may, I'd like

awfully to hear what Dr. Daniels
reply to your cable was. Also,
I'm anxious to read "what war
means." Do you know if Dr. Bates
is going up river with the University?

I went to the Canadian
Pacific office today and found that
the passage was not really much
more than some of the better freight
lines. It would certainly be a
much better trip for Elivick.
I asked about third class, but
they are very reluctant to make
bookings for women.

I'd like to help, and
can pay some of my passage.
I'm working again and will be
unable to get down to the office.

Sincerely,

Marjorie.

September 21, 1938

Mrs. Robert Wilson
415 West 115th Street
New York City

Dear Marjorie:

Thanks for your letter of September 15th.

In accordance with our conversation, Mr. Evans and I sent out a cable to the Nanking Hospital asking whether they wished to make an official request for your return. Thus far, we have had no reply. As soon as any word reaches us we will pass it along to you.

We will be interested to learn what happens to your application for an extension of your passport. The experience of all of our other China Colleges people has been that applications for renewals of passports, as well as applications for new passports, are always turned down at Washington unless they are accompanied by an official letter from us stating that the return of the staff member is a matter of urgent necessity. Once such an application has been turned down it is doubly difficult to secure favorable action later even though we put on all the pressure we can.

We are trying to get a copy of Timberley's book, "What War Means" and will send it along as soon as we succeed. So far as we know, Dr. Bates is not planning to join the University in Chengtu but expects to stay on the campus in Nanking and to help with the work there.

Just as soon as some reply comes from Nanking, we will take up the matter of your return with our Nanking Executive Committee, and should then be in a position to discuss more intelligently the matter of your steamer accommodations. We can appreciate the emotions with which you have to endure these delays in the working out of your plans for return to China, but hope that decisions can be reached before very long.

Very cordially yours,

BAG:MF

0923

Sept. 23, 1938.

Recd 9/26/38

Dear Mr. Garisde,

Enclosed is the note that I received from the State Dept. today.

The Digest is out, you have probably seen it. I tried to have them take out one line in particular but could not work fast enough. It was certainly different from what I expected and was led to believe. I'm afraid I should have gone about the whole thing differently.

An air mail from Bob written on Aug. 16 said to go ahead and print anything with or without his name, he did not care. The only drawback being that I might not be able to get up to Nanking or the Japs might not allow him back in if he came to meet us. I don't think that I should do anything now until I hear what the reaction is going to be.

What about Europe? That of course is a foolish question. Maybe I'm wrong but it seems that the United States is the best place for Elizabeth right now. I feel that Bob and I should get together before we are unable to. (possibly for a long period)

I wish I knew what to do. Life is certainly a merry-go-round, but I'm getting very dizzy.

Have you any suggestions? They will certainly be welcome.

Sincerely,

Marjorie

P.S. I think I shall stick to nursing.
I'd be terrible as a secretary.

M.

0924

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
FEB 26 1938
JOINT OFFICE

Dear Mr. Gant...

Dept. Today...

to have that...

and with...

for...

[Faint handwritten text]

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0925

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL
PRIVATE PAVILION
NEW YORK

Sept. 24th
Ack 9/26/35

Dear Mr. Harold,

I have some information for you as regards Bob's cable. A letter written Aug. 28 arrived today.

Quote "Bob Smyth (our new consul) said he wasn't sure what the regulations were now concerning messages of a more or less private nature but that he would send the cable and look up the

0926

reputations afterwards. We put
in some soft soap for the
State Dept. about Marjorie
being urgently needed on
the Staff of the Hospital, a
statement that doesn't by
any means stretch the
truth, though of course
the exact application of
the need may be subject
to interpretation." End quote.

Now what do we do?
Shall we try again to
get a renewal? If not,
that is, if you feel that
it is quite useless I

want to cable Bob.

Thanks very much
for giving me your
precious time.

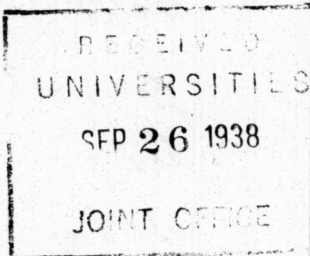
Sincerely,

Marjorie.

P.S. The Stone family
with two children returned
to Nanking Aug. 24th.

Brady and MacCallum,
also Bates are bringing
their families up.

M



0928

Sept. 26, 1938.

Act 9/26/38

Dear Mr. Garside,

You have already received a deluge of letters from me expressing my views on our different problems. However, I have thought things over very carefully these last few days, and the letter from Bob has made me come to a firm decision.

I am no longer worried about the "Digest" because Bob does not "care a rap what they print" as he expresses it. As long as I cannot get a passport now for plain Marjorie Wilson and daughter Elizabeth I am going to cable Bob. I don't want to ask for one under false pretenses, and as Bob said it was a lot of "soft-soap" about being urgently needed at the hospital. I honestly do not think that the China picture will be so changed in one month that the State Dept. will re-consider. We have been going on indefinitely for over a year and it has not been easy. I've been trying to play the game and keep my chin up. If we do not come to a decision now and abide by it we may be caught and go on again indefinitely.

Charles Ferguson in Shanghai says that Bob looks well but has the "appearance of utter exhaustion!" We are both unhappy and Bob just lives and dreams for the time when we can be together again.

Bob was alone during the period of occupation and the months following. There are three surgeons at the hospital now, two Chinese and Dr. Brady. We could go back later, depending of course on events.

I'm not trying to be dramatic or let my emotions get the better of me. I'm thinking of Bob, the baby and myself. I see no other way out.

I'll be happy to hear from you before I cable Bob.

Sincerely,

0929

September 26, 1938

Dear Marjorie:

We can appreciate your emotions these days. But don't worry too much - we'll get you and Dr. Bob together again yet.

An official cable came from Nanking Friday morning requesting your return. The Nanking Executive Committee that morning authorized us to proceed with arrangements for your journey. While we will have to leave to the hospital authorities the final decision as to the source from which your outgoing travel expenses are to be met, we will be glad to give you such aid in meeting these expenses as you may require and will report the figures to the hospital authorities for their disposition.

The letter from the State Department is the one we knew they would write. Evans is writing Shipley making an official request for your return, and there is a fair hope that the Department will approve the extension of your passport.

Until we can get word from Washington, sit tight and don't worry. And obviously you shouldn't send any cables or take any other radical steps until we have had a chance to talk over any moves you may think of making. We are nearly as anxious to get you back as you are to go. If it isn't safe for you and the young daughter to go to Nanking, or if you don't want to stay in Shanghai awhile until the situation up-river is clarified, you and the Doctor can veto the trip, but we will at least try to open the way if you do want to go.

Cheerio.

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson,
415 West 115th Street,
New York, N. Y.

0930

October 3, 1938

Mrs. Robert O. Wilson
415 West 115th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Mr. Garside wrote you on September 26th, but subsequent to that we received word from the State Department indicating that the Department would be agreeable to issuing your passport under certain restricted conditions. We have received copies of this letter and undoubtedly you have also received the passport.

The action of the Executive Committee of the University of Banking makes it possible for you to proceed at your convenience in securing sailings. We shall be glad to cooperate with you in this respect, when a decision is reached as to the time you desire to sail.

Please bear in mind that the less expensive accommodations are absorbed very rapidly.

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

0931

From C.A. &
seen by M.S.

OCT. 16th

ack 10/17/38

Dear Mr. Garside,

We seem to have every-
thing under control now, and I'm
ready to take the clipper. However,
the clipper will have to be the
Empress of Asia sailing on Xmas
Eve.

A cable arrived from
Bob yesterday - he does not anticipate
any trouble in connection with
the Digest article.

We will leave N. Y.
about the first of Dec. as I
am spending some time in
Arcadia, Calif. with Bob's people.

I'm going to work

0932

until the middle of Nov. and will
be down soon after. Would you take
care of Elizabeth's insurance for us
while we are away?

You can't imagine how
happy I am.

Sincerely,
Marjorie.



0933

October 17, 1938

Mrs. Robert Wilson
415 West 115th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Mr. Garside has turned over to me your letter of October 16th, and we rejoice with you that the way seems to be open for your return to the Orient. We note that the reservations have been made on the "Empress of Asia" sailing December 24th.

Most certainly we will take care of Elisabeth's insurance for you in the usual manner for those who are on the field.

Most assuredly we are looking forward to seeing you before you leave for the west.

Sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

0934

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ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL
PRIVATE PAVILION
NEW YORK

Oct. 20, 1938.

ack 10/22/38

Dear Mr. Harside,

Mr. Evans
sent a cable to Bob
yesterday telling about
our arrival. I know he
was worried about it.

In his last
letter he said that Miss
Hynds and a Mrs. Shih
(whom Dr. Daniels got in
Shanghai) were going to

0935

start the Training school
again. They want me
to teach when I get
back, and I'll be very
happy to help. I'm
afraid I'd wait with-
out something to do.

May I have my
clergy certificates or
books - whatever one
is supposed to have.
Would it be possible
to have some help
with my expenses -

you said something about
it in a former letter.
May I have a hundred
& fifty dollars? Could
it be managed.

I certainly feel
like a new person.

Sincerely,

Marjorie.

P.S. Won't it be wonder-
ful not to have me
around bothering you.
M.

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UNIVERSITIES
OCT 21 1938
JOINT OFFICE

UNIVERSITIES
JOINT OFFICE

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0938