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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
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Yenching

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Porter, Lillian
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mrs. Porter

May 12, 1942

From: Oliver J. Caldwell

Soochow University was before Pearl Harbor the second largest Christian institution of learning in China. It had nearly 1,200 students of college rank, of whom more than 400 were women. It is noteworthy that this number of women students was the largest of any of the thirteen Christian Colleges in China.

In addition to the above enrollment, hundreds of students were being trained in various subsidiary schools. Soochow had won a nationwide reputation for the excellence of its work, and was one of the most rapidly growing universities in China.

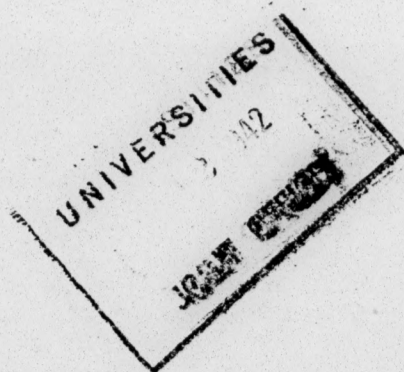
After December 7 the work of this University which had been transplanted from Soochow to Shanghai in the early days of the war was again disrupted. For the second time students and staff members became refugees. Many of them are now traveling across the mountains of south China towards Shaowu, where they will be the guests of Fukien Christian University. The Soochow refugees are united with students and teachers from Hangchow Christian College, a Presbyterian institution. A great new refugee university is being organized on the Shaowu campus, an enterprise which is thoroughly inter-denominational as well as inter-collegiate. In addition to the Methodist, the following boards are represented: The Northern Presbyterian, the Southern Presbyterian, the Reformed Church of America, the Episcopalian, and the Congregational.

We feel that Soochow has earned the gratitude and support of Americans. It has steadfastly refused to compromise with the Japanese invaders, or with the Chinese puppets. It has lost heavily through bombings and other misfortunes of war. It is now endeavoring to reestablish itself for the duration in an isolated mountain town, located in a region noted for its malaria. It is well for American students, and also for their elders, to remember the courage of the Chinese as exemplified by the students and teachers of Soochow University. Our small privations are luxuries compared to the sacrifices these friends have been called on to make. They need our help, and a little of our substance goes a long way to support them in their most difficult hours.

O. J. C.

OJC:JP

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June 3, 1942

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
18 North Porter Avenue
Elgin, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Porter:

Thank you kindly for your postal card of May 25th giving us your summer address. We have noted our records accordingly. However you did not state when this change was to take effect, but we assume you were planning to leave for Illinois immediately and, therefore, we are addressing you at this place.

We shall, of course, be very happy to continue sending reports to our Yenching friends as, and when news from China is received.

In further acknowledgment of your card, may I say that clipper mail is going through to Free China - we are advised - by two different routes - one by way of Africa and the other by way of the Pacific. However, no information whatsoever is given out by the United States Government concerning such mail. We are simply requested to enclose our letters in air mail envelopes marked, "UNOCCUPIED CHINA". We do have definite knowledge that our mail is going through but, of course, the time required is longer than previously.

With all good wishes to you for a pleasant summer, I am

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

(not dictated)

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18 North Porter Ave. Elgin, Ill
June 23, 1942

My Dear Mr. Evans,

A friend has just sent me this clipping from the New York Times. Have you had any confirmation of this kind of a report? It sounds to me like the ideas the students would have of what would happen to such prisoners, coming so long after the event as this report appears to be. I certainly hope such is the case. I judge the report that Yenching is to open in Chengtu means that some of our students and faculty have arrived in Chengtu and that the University is going to help support the institutions already at work there. Can you get any assistance to the Chinese faculty who must be in very dire straits if all their income is cut off at once. Word seems pretty slow in coming just now.

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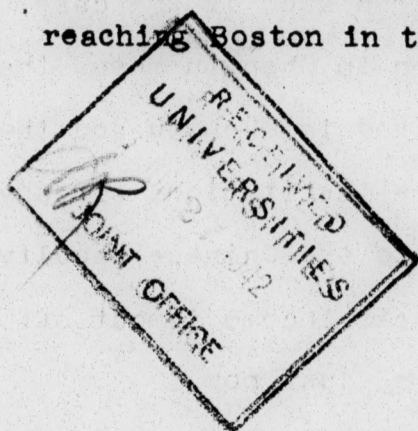
We do appreciate every bit of news you can send us.

Very Truly Yours,

William D. Porter

(Mrs. Lucius C. Porter)

P.S. Have you received any letters at all from any of our faculty people from Peking? Our American Board had one letter from our sec'y in Peking sent out thru Chengtu and forwarded from there reaching Boston in three months time.



0991

YENCHING UNIVERSITY LOOTED BY JAPANESE

*Faculty Members at Institution
at Peiping Seized, Students Say*

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHUNKING, China, May 23—

According to students who have escaped from Peiping and arrived here, the Japanese have not only taken over the campus of famous, American-endowed Yenching University but also have imprisoned the institution's American president, Dr. John Leighton Stuart, removed office files, library books, laboratory equipment and food supplies and put faculty members through the third degree. z

At 8:20 A. M., Dec. 8, while classes were in session, Japanese surrounded the campus, arresting more than twenty students and eight Chinese professors, while foreigners were removed to the south compound. The Japanese began wholesale looting of everything moveable.

Dr. Stuart, accused as a spy, was closely guarded by eight gendarmes and subjected to repeated examinations. The chief of the culture section of the Homma Army Corps tried to enlist Chinese professors to reopen the university. When they refused, four were imprisoned: Dr. William Hung, director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute; Dr. Henry Chou, dean of the College of Arts and Letters; Stephen Tsai, university comptroller, and Professor Teng Chi-Chen.

Early in January twenty students were released. Imprisoned faculty members were whipped daily and water and oil were poured into their noses. Among the victims Dr. Lu Chi-wei, acting chancellor, suffered most. When ordered to write a letter of repentance he bravely wrote: "I have nothing to repent." He was so badly beaten that most of his upper teeth were knocked out. But he still refused to submit.

The Japanese first intended to

use Yenching as a naval hospital, but the story was soon spread that the campus was haunted, and at that the superstitious Japanese, who are afraid of ghosts, dropped the hospital idea.

A restored Yenching is opening at Chengtu this Fall. Three other refugee universities have already reopened at Chengtu—the University of Nanking, Ginling College for Women and Cheeloo University, formerly of Tsinan, Shantung.

LAURENCE STUART

L.S. Lewis
May 24.

0992

June 29, 1942

Mrs. Lucius Porter
18 North Porter Avenue
Elgin, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Porter:

It is very difficult for me to answer your letter enclosing the clipping from the New York Times. We have received a number of different reports concerning what the Japanese have done on the Yenching campus and it is my impression that the newspaper report you sent me might have been substantially exaggerated. To the best of our knowledge, the American staff members of Yenching have been in no way injured. We have received no confirmation of any injury suffered by any Chinese staff member, although I do not think it at all unlikely that some of them may have been roughed up in the early days following December 8. We are actually unable to secure any direct word from Peiping that is worth anything, because the few letters which have been allowed to go through the mails have been obviously doctored to please the Japanese. I am afraid we must content ourselves with a minimum of news from Peiping for some time to come.

Please do not take any newspaper reports too seriously. Such reports are seldom reliable, and frequently are gross exaggerations.

In the meantime, we shall keep our ears to the ground and will report anything of interest which comes to our attention. We will do our best to help Chinese faculty members, if and when that becomes possible. Above all, we will hope and pray for a new day in China.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. Evans

CAE:JP

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July 21, 1942

Memorandum to Mrs. Porter:

I have looked over with much interest your material for the booklet which you are to publish. The paragraphs describing the Christian Colleges in China are almost all either out of date or inaccurate, and I am going to take the liberty of writing new paragraphs which you can accept or not just as you desire.

As a whole, I think the manuscript is very interesting but has the difficulty of being somewhat kittenish. It seems to me it underestimates the intelligence of American students. However, I like it, and I believe it will be very useful.

I will endeavor to return the material to you in the next few days.

O. J. Caldwell

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18 North Porter Ave. Elgin, Ill.
July 21, 1942

My Dear Mr. Evans,

*also
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for
copies*

I am enclosing a copy of a letter just received from Miss Grace Boynton who is teaching at Ginling as you no doubt remember. It has many little tidbits of news and sidelights on Yenching life so I am sending you a copy. I am also sending a copy for you to forward to Mrs. Sailer and she to Mrs. Wolferz and Mrs. Adolph as I have a feeling they may not be at the same addresses for the summer and Grace asks me to share this letter with the other anxious wives of our Yenching faculty. I have already sent a copy to Mrs. S.D. and Mrs. E.O. Wilson out in Claremont.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Lillian H. Porter
(Mrs. Lucius C. Porter)

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18 North Porter Ave., Elgin, Ill.
July 21, 1942

Copy of a letter from Grace Boynton to Mrs. Lucius Porter, written June 7th, 1942,
from Chengtu.

Yesterday we had a big American Mail and Grace Riggs received the letter you wrote Lucius in her care. It is considered necessary to open and read all mail which we are asked to forward to Occupied China in order to be sure that nothing which everyone concerned would regret may happen, so I asked Grace to tell me what you said about getting news and she read me bits from your letter. She will send it on but in the meantime I want to let you know all that I know about the people at Yenching and I wish you would forward this to all the Yenching wives who may be interested.

First of all I want to say that I am disappointed that my own efforts to send you news seem to have been only partially successful. I knew how anxious you all would be and just as soon as my first word came through in early Feb. from Lucy Burtt, I sent radiograms by the Chungking Mailbag to the Board, the New York Office, to you, to the Speers and to Grace Smith in care of her son-in-law. So far as I have heard the message to the Board was the only one which got through. It was my information which you quote in your letter to Lux. I also sent a radio to Anna Wilson at the last address in Claremont which I had for her. All these should have been broadcast Feb. 10. About the first of April, Leatrice received an inquiry about Ran from Louise and I sent off a reply at once saying Ran was all right and have heard indirectly that this reached her. At the same time I sent a message to Louise Galt and a letter has recently come through from her which has a veiled message of a good report having reached her about her husband and son, so I hope some of my attempts have been successful. About a week later I sent a message to Flo for a letter had come through from Alice Boring saying Sherm was turning his unexpected vacation into a thorough-going rest-cure. I had no address for her and had to send through Anna. Now a recent letter from Alice asks me to send Anna a message, but our Mail-bag privileges have been cut to one message a month and I cannot send another until July so I am putting Stanley's message into this letter which should reach you in five weeks if it makes as good time as my last from home and can carry the message in its entirety which the Mail-bag could not. Alice writes: "S.D. wants me to tell you he is flourishing and his household of grass widowers and bachelors is the merriest on the compound even though they do give him about giving them too many beans to eat! There was some strange rumor about him, so he would love it if you could get news to Anna to say he is entirely all right and safe." This was dated April 26.

Augusta in a very juicy letter speaks of repatriation prospects and says, "Stanly has been 'house-mother' to Bi, Lang Gilkey, Sherm, Ran and Dr. Adolph. They have had a good time and enjoyed being together. Stanly is keen to get home to his Anna and his Goonies and because he wishes it so much is sure we will be home in six months time at the latest. -----Aline's husband (the letters usually speak of J.L.S. in some roundabout way) was hoping to be repatriated but all possibility of repatriation has been postponed for a month it is said, and who goes and who does not is not in our hands. Aline's husband is banking all his hopes on getting away but I fear he may be doomed to disappointment. He was looking well and in quite good spirits when we saw him a week ago but I hear he is rather low over the postponement of evacuation. He is doing the house-keeping for the family who are Dr. Houghton and some other P.U.M.C. people in the Ying compound and they are living well." This was written April 13.

Since February I have been hearing from the Yenching group fairly regularly and on March 20, Lucius wrote me the following Postcard: "Please request Trustees circulate the following information to all relatives in all countries. Yenching community interned totals 42 adults and 4 children. De Vargas and family moved to Peking to assist Swiss office caring for alien interests. All well and busy. Group organized with financial, housing, supplies, medical and executive committees.

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Members engage in intellectual, recreational, religious, physical and musical activities with due time for relaxation. Are planting and tending gardens (vegetable). Morale excellent. President resides by order in the Ying Compound. Thirteen native colleagues still away from the main group detained in the city."

This message came late in April when Y.P. happened to be here. It was too long for the Mail-bag and I knew Y.P. was cabling the Trustees so he took charge of it. I have not heard that anyone received the message so I repeat it in case it never got through.

Augusta, Alice, and Edith Czech all report the dismay which overtook them when they were told to pack up and get out of University property. After a week of frenzied attempts to find somewhere to go, they asked if they might remain in the South Compound until the diplomats departed from the San Kuan Miao and then go there and they were finally told they might remain where they are for the present and they hope to stay through the hot weather and harvest their vegetables!

Alice says they all pooled their resources in the beginning of the internment and people lived on 120-140 dollars a month. Now they are on the "dole" and draw \$200 a month but she says they really need a little money since all of the dole must be used for food and overhead expenses. Augusta writes that it was a problem to get food that was nourishing and not "too nasty". Martha and Alice both feel that a triumph of science and good sportsmanship was achieved in the solution of the food problem. Ruth writes that the Japanese who live in Wan Ying's house and a part of V.K.'s are surprised and a little at a loss to account for the good spirits of their charges. Our Yenching people have a lot to be thankful for in comparison with our brave Chinese in prison. I am going to write the story of their ordeal for the New York office at the end of this month when it is a little more complete than it is now and I haven't room to put it down here. It is one to make us all proud and no one is reported dead or seriously ill. Yenching has now her patriots who have suffered and risked their lives rather than serve the aggressors.

Everyone reports Lucius as in good spirits and supporting morale. He labors very earnestly in the 57 vegetable garden. There is choir, dramatic evenings and once a week a sort of shop club. No one has mentioned his special share in these things, but knowing Lucius, we know it is a large one. I cannot help being glad he is in the group although I often think of you and feel guilty at being glad.

Will you get word to the rest? My love to them all.

Grace

P.S. I would have written to you all before when word first began to come, but at that time no mail was moving in or out of Free China. From December to April the radio was our only means of communication with the U.S.A.

July 22, 1942

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
18 North Porter Avenue
Elgin, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Porter:

I am most grateful to you for sharing with me Miss Boynton's letter, giving news of the people at Yenching. As you well know, we are eager for any information about the group in China, and this cheerful letter is welcome indeed.

I rejoice with you in the good news it brings you of your husband and his activities, limited and curtailed though they may be by the interest of our little brown brothers. I am sorry that the Yenching group is not on this trip of the Gripsholm, but I am confident that there will be another exchange which will bring them all home.

Sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

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1002

Letter from Lucius, dated October 12

... Each visit to town I drop in on some one of the old crowd. Yesterday I had a grand half hour with Stephen and Lily. I take them in on my way home as they have a court almost in the southwest corner. Steve is now in very good shape weighing more than in the past and full of eagerness. I was glad to share some of my best China news with them. Last week my call was on William and Rhoda. They live in their own house, part of which is rented to a physician. William is beginning to feel like working again and showed me the outline of a paper on Christian reconstruction of our world. (They get along on the rent from their house)

..... We were or so before the visit A. C. and my philosophical close-up met me at the Anglican Centre. They are also full of plans for reconstructing our world and ourselves and our work. All this new Christian enthusiasm augurs well for the days to come.

..... The other day in paying my water bill the chance to walk to Bushford came to me. The trees and lake looked wonderfully beautiful and quiet; autumn colours have not yet begun as our season is still warmer than usual for this month. The new management is having the grass cut in readiness for the opening of an institute of research. It is evident that many objects have been removed from the interiors. As there is no one in the office to accept my money the opportunity for a second walk came this morning. It was just about noon as I exited and there was a chance to see what a lot of laborers are on the job getting ready.

743 College Street, Beloit, Wis.
Nov. 1, 1942

My Dear Mr. Evans,

Here is a copy of some excerpts from a letter which came over with the Gripsholm people and has just come to me this last week after I had quite given up all hope of getting anything. There may not be anything in it that you have not already heard thru some other source but I am sending it along just in case it may add anything to the Yenching picture for you.

What is the present status of the Gripsholm and is there any further word as to the possibility of more people being re-patriated from the Peking area? Our papers have had no word of her going so I take it for granted she is still in New York.

I am trying to get a cable thru to Lucius urging him to come back with the rest if there is another chance for I feel sure he has no idea of what a long war this is probably going to be. It certainly was good news that the Band-Lindsay expedition had safely reached Free China. What a tale they will have to tell!

Very Sincerely Yours,

Lillian C. Porter

(Mrs. Lucius C. Porter)

1004

Excerpts from Letter of Lucius Porter to his wife
sent via Mr. Jesse Wolfe of the U.S. Embassy

May 7, 1942

" This is a letter that has more chance of getting thru to you than those that have been sent since Nov. 8. It does seem good to be writing to you naturally, but what shall I say? Try to write a history of our doings since Dec. 8? That would be too long to take and might cause trouble for taker. So I shall assume that you have known something of our general situation from Grace Bynton and the broadcasts and just tell the immediate news of the month. You will sense the previous months even if you have received none of the half-dozen letters that have been mailed in various ways and by various routes. (None received but one postcard)

I have been at the Porter's lodge this past week packing up dishes, books curios etc. Some six weeks ago we were told we would have to move into the city. Later they said the matter was not urgent but it seems well to make some preparation. Our house became a storage place for other goods the middle of March when all the residences in Lang Jun Yuan were ordered to be evacuated. You see at first we were ordered to move into the South Compound for living but goods remained in the houses where they were. I was able to get permission to have the goods stored in our house. The young gang, Jimmy Pyke, Langdon Gilkey, John Stanley, Dick Irwin and Albert Liss did the moving with a cart that we built on a watering cart chassis; others of us unloaded and stowed away assigning rooms to each house, so Martha's goods are in our sleeping room, Alice's in the dressing-room etc for the seven houses. That moving day was a great rush. We had been told we could have three days but at two P.M. on the second day we were told we must finish that night. Everybody pitched in. The boys with their cart made more rapid trips, all available bikes were brought out to carry things. We certainly looked like refugees fleeing from an invasion. Nancy brought sandwiches and coffee at seven and just before nine Howard and I locked everything up tight. Now it is to that godown that I am going for my packing. ----- There is some talk of our being able to sell some things but the official regulations do not yet seem to be settled. However smaller things are being sold at a Y.W. weekly sale and some of our kitchen things like pyrex dishes and aluminum pans and kettles have gone already. Also some of your hats and shoes! These provide me with a bit of ready money. So far the A.B.C.F. workers are well off for our treasurer was able to secure a considerable fund from a bank an hour or so before it was closed. The rest of our crowd are already on the "dole" which is administered by an American-British committee in the city. I'll go on the dole when necessary.

I am enjoying being here at #57 with the girls. The Paynes have now moved to #58 since Dr. Singer and her mother went to Shanghai so we have more room. (Dr. Singer is the Jewish refugee Dr. who has been at Yenching the last two years and more) Augusta is a grand housekeeper and we keep very well on our diet of native supplies, limited as it is.

Our community has all kept well for these five months plus, perhaps due to the greater amounts of sleep, rest and exercise that we get. Wood hauling from the big brush pile south of Sage and wood-chopping were exercise forms for the winter. Now our work is gardening. I have dug up the entire garden space in #66 and have planted it to a variety of things. Peas are almost ready. Soon we shall have strawberries for the plants are covered with blossoms. We hope we will be left here to enjoy the harvest.

I have been able to get a pass for weekly visits into the city on Wed. when I act as messenger and general utility man and get good visits with both Chinese and "estern friends at lunches and teas. Dentistry makes the excuse for I have had to have another tooth pulled and will have to have it replaced. I have also done most of the securing of permission for the westerners who have moved into the city, -the Murrays to the London Mission compound, the Stanleys and Lucy Burt to the Language School which is going on under Japanese Christian auspices with John Hayes as Co-Administrator. Since Dr. Singer left, Dr. Li (Our Chinese Dr.) has established a neat office in Grace Brynton's court and we pay him for Health Insurance. To-day Dr. Anderson is out to consult with Dr. Li over Mary Cockingham who has had a long attack of some kind of Flu that has weakened her a lot but her condition is not serious. Dr. Anderson is our first outside visitor and we have made much of him. Our beloved Boss was allowed to come out twice each time to get clothing from his house. They are still much restricted in movement and privileges but we are permitted to send him letters.

For the first four months we were allowed the freedom of the campus but that privilege was withdrawn six weeks ago. Our keepers live in #60 and #61. We use only the south gate. Chinese police patrol the place with a few Japanese soldiers at the East and West gates. We are only occasionally reprimanded if our "t'i tu" (I cannot remember what that is!) seems to them unsatisfactory. On the whole we must confess that we have been treated with courtesy; some of the officers and interpreters have been quite genial with only occasional lapses.

Three items of American mail have reached me since Dec. 8. One was your letter of Oct 8 which came on Mar. 15. The Clipper copy of the same letter came on Nov. 4th. Another item which came to me in Jan was a birthday gift from Dudley mailed Oct. 4th. Every one in the group was delighted and interested that a parcel should come thru.

For the future my plan is to stay with B.K. if I am obliged to leave the campus for the group has the feeling that I am about the best one to bear the responsibility of staying on to be on hand if allowed to do so, to be ready to re-occupy the campus at the first available moment. It is not at all certain that any of us can be re-patriated since none except possibly the Boss are to be included in the first lot."

November 4, 1942

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
743 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

Dear Mrs. Porter:

I am grateful indeed for your letter of November 1st enclosing copy of a communication from Lucius. He has written another one which we are holding pending the publication of the list of repatriates. This should be coming through very shortly.

We are very glad to have this letter as we are building up historical data regarding this whole experience and are grateful for this addition.

The GRIPSHOLM is still anchored in the Hudson River, but it is our impression that negotiations have reached the point where things will begin to move within the next ten days -- still this is war and one cannot be certain of anything.

I learned from Dr. Snapper last Thursday that when the repatriates come out the Japanese will insist upon all of the Americans coming, and the fact that the entire staff has been moved from the campus to the Embassy grounds in Peking should be warning to all that no work can be carried on during wartime.

With added thanks, I am

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B

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627 Church Street, Beloit, Wis.
Jan. 11, 1943

My Dear Mr. Evans,

This is to tell you of my change of address from 743 College St. to 627 Church Street, Beloit, Wis. We gave up our old home to the Navy for an Infirmary and Dormitory and have just moved to this new address, and are nicely settled in after a week of confusion and hard work.

Have you had any more word about the chances of any of the University people getting home this year? It begins to seem a very long time since we have had any word from there.

Wishing you a pleasant New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Lucius C. Porter

(Mrs. Lucius C. Porter)

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January 13, 1943

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
627 Church Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

Dear Mrs. Porter:

Thank you for your letter of January 11th giving us your new address. Same has been noted on all of the records in our office.

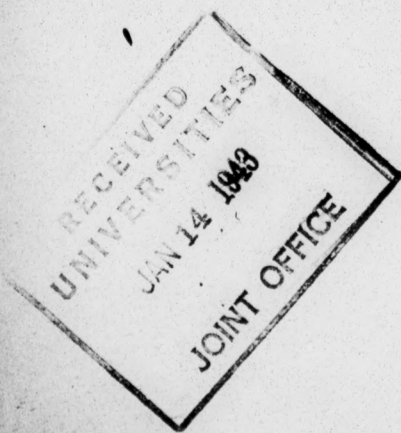
Plans for repatriation of the Americans in China are still progressing. Temporarily they have bogged down because the Japanese Government will not accept the list of repatriates submitted by the United States Government. The Japanese seemingly wish to have military prisoners exchanged for civilians, to which the United States will not agree. However, there is optimism that eventually an exchange will be made, but temporarily the Japanese are trying to play the game to obtain as large stakes as possible.

I am grateful for your good wishes and hope that new faith and courage will come to us all in this new year, which will be hard, but we hope a victorious one.

Very sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAE/B



March 5, 1943

Dear Mrs. Porter:

A review of the general situation as it concerns the Christian Colleges in China leads us to the following conclusions.

1. The Colleges are facing their period of greatest potential usefulness. They never before have known such cordial Chinese public acceptance. Their accomplishments will be limited primarily by the material resources available.
2. China has never needed what the Colleges have to offer more than she does now.
3. America also needs the China Colleges. In the development of Sino-American Cultural Relations, these Colleges should play an important role.
4. A financial crisis threatens the Colleges. They need assistance on an unprecedented scale from their friends in America.

Since July 1, 1942, the Associated Boards have secured \$380,702 in sustaining funds; of this amount \$292,986 was obtained through United China Relief. The minimum needs of the Colleges for the current fiscal year are \$663,546.43; thus \$282,844.43 remains to be secured by June 30, 1943.

Owing to the general financial situation in America, and to wartime restrictions, the Colleges cannot rely on securing the entire balance of their needs through United China Relief, although they hope to secure additional grants from this source. Therefore, the Associated Boards must find \$282,844.43 more than is now definitely in sight before the end of the fiscal year.

Very sincerely yours,

OJC:D

Oliver J. Caldwell

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— May 14, 1943

Mr. C. A. Evans
Yenching University,
150 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Evans:

Enclosed is \$5⁰⁰ for
Yenching. I thought I would
get down to your office
to leave it before this, but
as I didn't I'm not
delaying longer.

Your last report to
us makes more question
marks in this situation.
Am glad I sent the Red

2
pass tracer after my sister
in February. This should
mean they'd probably be
contacting her sometime in
August, which would cover
this latest move and clear
up for us where she is at
that time, even though we
may not receive our answer
until next February.

Perhaps she'll send something
from that end before this
report reaches us.

Thanks again for
all you're doing.

Sincerely,

Nina May Bosland

May 18, 1943

Dear Mrs. Porter:

I am taking occasion to acknowledge your remittance of \$100.00 for which we enclose receipt herewith. This is greatly appreciated.

We have no direct news since the Yen-ching group has been interned at Weihsien and if anything comes to hand we will forward it immediately.

Most sincerely yours,

C. A. EVANS

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
627 Church Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

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Chengtu, China,
To aid YENCHING UNIVERSITY in carrying forward its Christian educational activity and in consideration of the securing, by representatives of this University, of gifts from others for this purpose, I promise to give to the Trustees of Yenching University the sum of One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) as follows:

- ☒ Cash herewith \$ 100.00 beginning 194
☐ In annual payments of \$ beginning 194
☐ In semi-annual payments of \$ beginning 194
☐ In quarterly payments of \$ beginning 194
☐ At my convenience on or before 194

Signed William D. Porter
Address 627 Church St
Date May 11, 1943 Beloit, Wis

Checks payable to TRUSTEES, YENCHING UNIVERSITY
150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes

CORBETT

REC'D 9/11/43

ANS'D 11/1/43

18 North Porter Ave. Elgin, Illinois
Sept. 7, 1943

Dear Charles,

I was much pleased to receive your first official letter from the Yenching office, even if it did not tell me that the American Board was misinformed and Lucius was listed among the Yenching people instead of the American Boarders. For some unknown reason I began to have great hopes this summer that Lux would be on the Gripsholm when she finally came back so that I have been feeling a good deal depressed the last two weeks, especially when a radiogram came to Elizabeth from Grace Boynton saying that she had word from Weihsien that "Food and Medicines insufficient". She also said that Lucius and his unit were assigned to "Farm Labor" which will not be so hard for him as it will be for some of the others who are not as athletic as he has always been for he still keeps up his morning setting-up exercises and his running. Well, I shall be glad to see the others when they come or at least hear from them so as to get a lot of my questions answered. I fear few of them come west. A letter from Jean just in says she has heard from Alice Peck that they did not succeed in getting Dr. Stuart and his house-mates on the boat in spite of all their efforts. That is certainly very much to be regretted. Time must hang pretty heavily on their hands. I only hope they do have enough to eat.

This letter is primarily to ask you to change my address once again. This time it is to be

847 College Street
Beloit, Wis

until further notice. Having refused a permanent job this July because I felt so certain that Lux was coming back, I am taking on a temporary one which may last thru the year and may not. I really should not call it a job for it is merely being housemother at one of the girls' houses again, but it does give me a place to live with a good degree of independence and freedom and I do like that. Much as I love my children and grandchildren, I do not wish to live with them all the year round!

I went to Rochester to see Dudley and the new grandson the end of May expecting to stay two weeks and ended by staying two months, looking after little Jim while his mother went to the hospital for an operation on her coccyx and later while the two Dees went on a vacation fishing trip to Canada with the other grandparents. It was fine to get so well acquainted with the baby who is a very fine little boy.

I have been hoping to hear from Minnie about your new grandchildren who were in the offing when she last wrote me. Tell her not to wait much longer and please give her my new address also. Mine changes so often it is hard for my friends to keep up with it, tho Elizabeth's address will always reach me eventually.

As I began, so I end. I like to think of you in the Yenching Office.

Cordially Yours,

Lillian (Dorothy)
Landy.

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1018

Oct. 13, '43

847 College Street

Beloit

Wisconsin

Dear Charles,

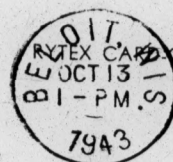
Here is a copy of a radiogram I rec'd Saturday via XGOY, which has a bit of Yenching news.

LUCIUS WRITES JULY 12th RECEIVED HERE SEPT 24th SAYING "PRESENT DAILY DUTIES WATER CO-ORDINATOR FOR KITCHEN THREE, SOME FIVE HOURS DAILY OVERSEE* ING PUMPING AND DISHWASHING. GIVE TWO LECTURES WEEKLY. CAMP HEALTH FAIR DESPITE RECENT INTESTI- NAL FEVER EPIDEMIC. A FEW YENCHINGIANS DOWN NOW UP. NOW HEALTH SPIRIT HIGH.

GRACE BOYNTON

CHENG TU SZECHUAN

Have you had any word of the Japanese allowing on- ly 25 word letters in or out of the camps? I read an item to that effect in a newspaper but the P.O. knows nothing of it. Hastily Yours, Lillian



Mr. Charles H. Corbett

Yenching University

150 Fifth Ave.

New York

CORBETT

N.Y.

REC'D _____

ANS'D 11/1/43

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November 1, 1943

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
847 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

Dear Lillian:

Thank you for giving me a transcript of the Radiogram you received about Lucius from Grace Boynton. It is good to know that the health of the people remaining behind is better and that their spirits are high.

I made inquiries at the Foreign Mission Conference about the number of words allowed in letters to internees. I am informed that the twenty-five word limit applies to Red Cross messages. The instructions given by the Provost Marshall General issued on April 13th, say that messages should be "brief and strictly personal" but no word limit was set.

Last week we received a cablegram through the State Department from Howard Gault in India giving us the names of twenty-one Yenching people on the Gripsholm. Apparently they are all well. Two persons were included in the list whose names we have not previously had on our list. One is Miss Hague who is a Canadian, and therefore, was not reported by our State Department. The other was Dr. Brown.

The Lingnan office received a similar telegram from Dr. James Henry, and the Mission Boards offices have also received messages. We expect to have an exciting time when the ship comes in.

Congratulations on your new grandson Jim. I wish I could see him. I am counting on Minnie to give you the latest about our grandchildren.

Sincerely yours,

CHC:MM

Charles H. Corbett

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File

November 5, 1943

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
847 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

Dear Lillian:

The information I sent you in my last letter was from the office of the Foreign Mission Conference which at that time did not know anything about the Japanese restriction of mail to internees to twenty-five words. Today, the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury has just come out, and has a notice from which I quote the following:

"The Japanese Government has announced that letters to prisoners of war and civilian internees in their hands must not exceed 25 words in length. (American, British and Dutch notifications state 25 words, while the Canadian instructions make the limited number of words allowed 24.)

In the latest bulletin issued by the American National Red Cross, it is pointed out:

Letters must be typewritten or printed in capital letters clearly legible. Letters not complying with these regulations, or those which are not correctly addressed, it is stated in the new mail regulations issued by the Japanese Government, will not be forwarded by the Japanese military authorities. An endeavor will be made to have the Japanese Government liberalize this ruling, but it should be observed pending further instructions."

In a picture published in our local papers this week, we thought we recognized Margaret Speer among the repatriates going on the Gripsholm. However, the picture was not clear and we could not be sure. The American Red Cross is the only organization which is to be allowed on the pier, and will take charge of messages for repatriates.

Sincerely yours,

CHC:MM

Charles H. Corbett

1023

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CONFIDENTIAL

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AM'D

847 College Street, Beloit, Wis
Jan. 15, 1944

Dear Charles,

Here is a copy of a radiogram which came from Grace Boynton yesterday, sent via XGOY. I thought there might be members of the Yenching crowd who came home who would like to get the word even if is not very much, -I shall hope for the letter from which this was culled in six weeks or so.

Jan. 8, 1944

WORD FROM LUCIUS OCTOBER 24th RECEIVED YESTERDAY. HAS FIVE LEFT*OVER SOUTH COMPOUND ROOM*MATES PLUS HUMMEL. LIFE TOGETHER ENJOYABLE. USING COT FOR OUTDOOR SLEEPING. CLASS WORK SATISFACTORY: MENCIUS "MEAN" CHINESE LITERARY STYLE. LARGE ATTENDANCE FOR PHILOSOPHY LECTURES. FIVE HOURS DAILY KITCHEN LABORS STILL. HEALTH SUPERFINE. COMRADES WELL ACTIVE. TRANSMIT NEWS TO THEIR FAMILIES. FROM ME NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

GRACE BOYNTON *

Chengtu, Szechuan

I have sent word to the Gilkeys and Hummels but do not know the addresses of the others.

All the letters and messages I have had from the repatriate Yenching people have added great joy to my Xmas season, but I am still longing for word of another exchange before long. Will there be any hope for another this spring? I'm pulling for Lucius and Leighton to come back together!

Love to Minnie & you, Lillian

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February 2, 1944

Mrs. Lucius Porter
847 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin.

Dear Lillian:

Thank you for the copy of the radiogram from Grace Boynton which you sent me on January 15.

We have had some debates as to the interpretation of the sentence "Mencius 'Mean' Chinese Literary Style." One supposition is that Lucius is teaching two courses, one on Mencius' "The Doctrine of the Mean", and another on Chinese Literary Style, but the word "Mean" could have a double interpretation here.

It is certainly good to know that Lucius is in superfine health.- Do you know the names of his room mates so that we can send you the addresses? I think they are probably the same room mates he had before, and the next time I see one of the Yenching Gripsholm repatriates I will ask for the names of these room mates.

The people who came back in the Gripsholm are taking up various responsibilities and changing their addresses so often that it is hard to keep up with them.

I hope you are keeping well, and that we shall have an opportunity to see you here in New York some day.

With best wishes for the new year

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

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February 5, 1944

Dear Mrs. Porter:

Your contribution of \$100.00 is gratefully acknowledged. Enclosed please find receipt.

Hardly a day passes without a request from China for help of some kind. It may be for helping those of the faculty who lost all personal belongings in the fire last March, or it may be the need for added funds in the budget, or for a scholarship for a needy student.

Thus your gift comes at a most advantageous time and just after the Chinese Government has granted a 100% subsidy on funds sent from America. Many, many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Treasurer

Mrs. Lucius C. Porter
847 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

1029

February 7, 1944

Mrs. Lucius Porter
847 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

Dear Lillian:

Our friend E. K. Smith was in my office last week and I asked him the names of Lucius' room-mates. He gave them as follows:

Albert Liang
George Loehr
Stewart Mitchell
Langdon Gilkey
James Pike
Arthur Hummel

We have the address of George Loehr's sister as follows:

Mrs. Marie Loehr Arnold
2403 Bagby Street
Houston, Texas

We have here also the following address:

Mrs. Ruth Crawford Mitchell
6106 Walnut Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

We are not exactly sure of the relation of this Mrs. Mitchell to Stewart. I presume she is his mother.

We have no address here for Albert Liang's family. I do not know James Pike, but presume he is a nephew of Mrs. Thomas E. Breece, whose address is Tule Lake Project, Newell, California.

E. K. said that there were two others with Lucius when he left, namely, a Mr. Myers of the Church of the Brethren Mission who had been serving with the Army and Navy Y.M.C.A., and a young man named Grant, about whom he could give me very few details.

1030

Mrs. Lucius Porter

- 2 -

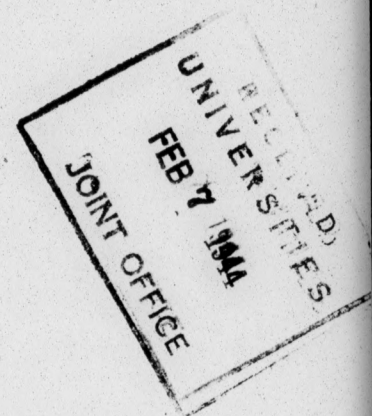
February 7, 1944

E. K. left for California last Friday evening. He has been waiting all this time to get reservations thru to the coast. He seems to be in very good health. You probably know that his wife is with the O.W.I. in San Francisco in connection with the broadcasts to China. She seems to be exceedingly busy.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles H. Corbett

CHC
fb



1031

May 31, 1945

Mrs. L. C. Porter
847 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin

Dear Mrs. Porter:

A recent letter from Mr. A. C. Hausske, Treasurer of Yenching University in Peking, China contains the following paragraph:

"From the Ministry of Education we have recently received N.C.\$100,000. This is for faculty members who have served for a number of years and is in the nature of a special grant. In talking this matter over with Dr. Mei, it was thought that the equivalent in U. S. currency be kept in New York. With that in mind will you kindly credit U. S.\$32.25 to each."

Dr. Lucius Porter is included among the names listed and we are glad to enclose herewith check for \$32.25 representing his share in this distribution among ten honored people on the staff of Yenching University. We regret he is not in America so that this check could be given to him personally. You will be interested in knowing that Dr. Stuart was named and also Dr. Ph. DeVargas, both of whom are still in Peking, but under widely different circumstances. They are, however, under conditions which make it necessary for us to credit their accounts for the time being.

Very sincerely yours,

E. M. McBRIER, Treasurer

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