

Hankow, Hupeh
December 14, 1937

Mr. Alexander Paul,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Alex:--Horrors pile one upon another as this ghastly business of the war proceeds. We have been depressed the past forty eight hours by the bombing and destruction of the U.S.S. "Panay," with the reported loss of nineteen lives, and others seriously wounded. So far as we know there were no missionaries on board, but some of the sailors and officers, the business men and newspaper correspondents, and all the four members of the Embassy staff, were among our acquaintances, and some very close friends. We have heard only who were aboard, but no word yet as to who were among the casualties.

Mail facilities are badly disrupted all along the Yangtse River, from Shanghai to Hankow. Telegraph, telephone and radio communications are so largely monopolized by official business that private messages are almost out of the question. By one means and another we try to keep in touch with our people and with the situation in general. Following is a report based upon such information as I have been able to secure since last week's letter.

Nanking. As I write, the announcement is just being published of Generalissimo Kiang Kai-shek's order for the Chinese defender's of Nanking to withdraw from the city. We may not get reports for several days yet, so as to know how much destruction has been wrought in the city, and how the civilian population have fared. However, one section of the city, extending from Hsin Chai Kou Circle on the south, to Shensi Road Circle on the north, and bounded on the east and west respectively by Chung Shan Road and Shanghai Roads (approximately two miles long and a mile wide), was designated as a so-called "Safety Zone." Chinese authorities agreed in advance to refrain from locating any military defenses in this area; and Japanese commanders were understood to have tentatively agreed to respect the zone provided Chinese fulfilled the above agreement. An international committee sponsored the plan and made all possible arrangements to care for the civilian refugees who crowded into the area. As a result, we are still entertaining hopes that the battle for the city and the change of control will have passed with a minimum of suffering and losses to the non-combatants.

With high fortitude and sense of duty a dozen foreign members of Christian organizations in the city, as preparations went forward for the siege of the city, dug in to stay through the ordeal, in order to minister as they could to the needy sufferers in the beleaguered city. They were the only foreigners who remained, besides six newspaper correspondents. The following is a list of the Christian workers who remained when the gates were closed:--

	Supported By -	Work
M. S. Bates,	U. C. M. S.	University of Nanking
Miss Grace Bauer,	University Hospital	University Hospital
Mr. G. A. Fitch,	Y. M. C. A.	Y. M. C. A.
Mr. E. H. Forster,	American Church Mission	A. M. C.
Miss Iva Hynds,	University Hospital	University Hospital
J. H. McCallum,	U. C. M. S.	South Gate Evangelist
John G. Magee,	American Church Mission	A. M. C.
W. P. Mills,	Presbyterian Miss. U.S.A.	Presbyterian Mission
Chas. S. Riggs,	American Board Mission	University of Nanking
Lewis S. C. Smythe,	U. C. M. S.	University of Nanking
Hubert L. Sone,	Methodist Miss. South	Nanking Theol. Seminary
Minnie Vautrin,	U. C. M. S.	Ginling College
Dr. Robert Wilson	University Hospital	University Hospital

Wuhu.

(The following letter is copy of one written by Miss Frances Culley, Methodist missionary nurse in Wuhu General Hospital. The following Disciples were in the same hospital at the time the letter was written:-- Dr. G. L. Hagman, Miss Margaret Lawrence, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Hanlon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Burch.---

EDWIN MARX.)