

HOW FARE OUR MISSIONARIES?

By Arthur G. Robinson, '06

ACCORDING to the best information available, the situation of the several Colby missionaries in the Japan-occupied areas of the Far East is fairly reassuring. Although going through difficulties and hardships such as we can only imagine, the reports indicate that they have thus far suffered no atrocities or indignities at the hands of the invaders. This conclusion is based on cables received by the Congregational and Baptist Mission boards.

On January 22nd came a telegram from Peking stating that American missionaries there were well treated and in their homes. Earlier word had come of the situation at Yenching University near Peking that all American and British professors were confined to the South Compound by the Japanese. Dr. Stuart, the President of Yenching, was put under so-called "honorary confinement" at the American Embassy. The majority of Yenching's 1,400 students have left the campus and are stranded either in Peking or Tientsin.

A cablegram from Chengtu (in "Free China") dated January 16th reported: "Shanghai missionaries safe. Blockade strict." The latest figure for all Americans excluding U. S. Marines, in China is 4,384. Of these 2,349 are in Shanghai, and 721 in Tientsin, including Peking and other North China cities.

A February 19th dispatch from Shanghai reported the closing of the Peking Union Medical College (Rockefeller endowed) on February 1st. Officials "held in custody but well treated and in good health."

From Chekiang Province in East China, where Ellen J. Peterson, '07, is located, came on March 9th the information showing that American and British missionaries in Shanghai and other occupied cities of East China are safe, but with financial difficulties increasing. Food is limited and freedom restricted in varying degrees. In Shanghai and other places, movement is permitted within the city but in Nanking, Wuhu and many inland

With the opening of hostilities between this country and Japan on December 7, the status of American missionaries in the Japanese-occupied parts of China and elsewhere changed from that of neutrals (technically, at least) to that of enemies, and thereby became sources of anxiety to their friends back home. Accordingly, we asked Arthur G. Robinson, '06, to report to ALUMNUS readers anything he could find out regarding the Colby alumni in the Far East. The author was for nearly 25 years connected with Y. M. C. A. and mission work in Tientsin, China, and now, with Mrs. Robinson, is in charge of the Walker Missionary Homes at Auburndale, Mass. He has a son in the freshman class.

cities missionaries are confined to their homes and their activity much reduced. Some churches are closed; others are kept open under Japanese observation. Many mission hospitals are open under Japanese supervision but medical supplies are insufficient. Miss Peterson was reported as safe in Shaoshing in a message sent out from Free China on March 9.

The food situation in Shanghai is growing worse, with 300,000 workers unemployed. There are many deaths from starvation and in the streets long lines of people are seen trying to buy rationed rice and flour. Officials are urging the poor population to leave Shanghai. British and American members of the Municipal Council have resigned, leaving only Japanese, German, French and Chinese puppet members. Except for eating, gambling and amusement places, Shanghai is dead. An exodus of teachers and students is starting.

Mail communications between Shanghai and other occupied cities are open, but between Shanghai and free China they are limited. There are perhaps 1,500 American and British missionaries in all the occupied areas. There is little hope for their release now.

A rather reassuring report the middle of March from Paoting, an inland city in North China, says "Food plentiful. Freedom in Compound. Activities suspended. Local shops lending funds." This, along with an earlier report on conditions at Yenching, "General treatment considerate. Light, heat, water and servants allowed" shows some tendency on the part of the Japanese to fair treatment of Americans.

Conditions in North China were described by Dr. Hugh L. Robinson, '18, who was in charge of the American Board Hospital at Tungchow. He wrote on November 16: "Everything is outwardly quiet here, and our work goes on about as before. The hospital is full most of the time and the statistical summary at the end of 1941 will show a larger amount of work in every regard than ever before. The Christian schools for boys and girls have a larger enrollment than ever before since the war started so our student work is greatly increased. We have had little change in our staff in recent years and we all work together very happily."

With conditions getting worse, however, Dr. Robinson and three fellow missionaries started home. With American boats no longer calling at Hongkong or Shanghai, they secured passage on a French vessel and reached Manila soon after December 7th. He was reported to be working in the Naval Hospital there, and is now believed to be interned.

Early cablegrams from the Philippines were: Dec. 15, from Mindanao, "Personal property unscathed;" Dec. 16, from Dansalan, "Missionaries safe;" Dec. 23, from Dansalan, "Christmas greetings—safe, well, busy." A cable dated Jan. 20 from the Southern Philippines acknowledged receipt of money and reported, "All safe," covering all Baptist missionaries.

A cable on Jan. 29 from Francis H. Rose, '09, and Gertrude Coombs Rose, '11, to their daughter indicated that they are safe and still at the Central Philippine College at Iloilo. We un-

derstand that thus far the Japanese have not taken that section of the islands, although the invaders must be expected hourly.

The recent public announcement from Francis B. Sayre, High Commissioner of the Philippines, included the names of H. L. Robinson (probably Hugh L. Robinson, '18, above mentioned), Mrs. Leonette Warburton Wishard, '23, and Charles H. Perkins, '17, among those of 1,500 Americans interned by the Japanese in Manila. Mrs. Wishard has been in missionary service and last fall married Glen Porter Wishard who is in Y. M. C. A. work in Manila. Mr. Perkins is employed by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company. His son was a student at Colby in the class of 1944 and is now in the Marine Corps.

Dr. Gordon E. Gates, '19, head of the biology department at Judson College, Rangoon, Burma, was forced to evacuate in the face of the Japanese invaders and probably had to leave his irreplaceable collection of earthworm specimens from all parts of the world. His daughter, a sophomore at Colby, thinks he first went to

ROBINSON RELEASED

After this article had been written and set up, an Associated Press dispatch dated April 6 appeared as follows: "The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions announced tonight that six Congregational Missionaries had been released for service by the Japanese at Manila. The six were returning to America from North China when they were trapped in Manila at the outbreak of hostilities." One of the six named was Dr. Hugh L. Robinson.

Mandalay, but whether he is there or in India at the present moment is unknown. Mrs. Gates (Helen Baldwin, '19) left Rangoon some weeks previously and is now in Nellore, India.

From Japan comes the news via the War Department that Rev. W. M. Mackesey, '28, has been interned in that country. Fr. Mackesey attended

Colby for one year, 1924-25, and went to Japan immediately after his ordination in 1934. His ministry in that country was chiefly among the tuberculosis patients. Other Colby missionaries in that country, Marlin and Melva Mann Farnum, both of the class of 1923, returned to America last year, finding that the restrictions upon their work and the growing hostility and suspicion made their efforts fruitless.

Summing up, virtually the only information that is obtainable about Colby alumni in the war zone is whatever comes to the various mission boards. The only other way is through the Red Cross Communications Center, 17th and D Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., which is able to undertake inquiries as to the health and welfare of Americans in most sections of the Far East. Messages can be sent to one person, asking about a specified group. All inquiries are, of necessity, made by cable and radio and are very expensive. Costs vary so widely that no general estimate or average can be reported.

"I'M GLAD I STUDIED UNDER . . ."

Weapons Which Will Not Fail

IT was a hot midsummer day on which I slowly climbed the winding steps to the tower of Bunker Hill Monument. From its small square windows I could look out over the old colonial city of Boston where factories, railroads and harbors were being geared for defense production. Then I cast my eyes down upon the little green-covered mound below, where, once before, blood had been spilt for the hope of America. Two days later I was inducted into the army of the United States.

When I passed from civilian to military life, from student to soldier, I carried with me weapons which have given me the strength and courage to face the dark days ahead. These weapons are the teachings of Dr. Wilkinson. I can well remember, as a freshman, his first lecture, which began something like this:

History teaches man the great heritage that is his. The future of



WILKIE

. . . the future of the American heritage depends upon you . . .

our American heritage depends on you — the youth of America. Preserve it if you will, change it if you will, but don't ever lose hold of it!

I value the opportunity of having studied under Dr. Wilkinson, whose foresight, as early as 1935, proved his clear comprehension of the destiny of America. He braved the opposition

of his more apathetic colleagues and students in maintaining that the United States should take a firm stand against Japanese aggression in China, Italian aggression in Ethiopia, German aggression in Austria. His was an unpopular side then, but he never faltered. To this very day he maintains that the League of Nations could have been made a working force with American participation. To those who objected to the League because they did not want America involved in European affairs — God help them explain the holocaust of today!

As a soldier, I feel even more the great share that I have in the destiny of America. Long before reading Louis Adamic's "From Many Lands," Dr. Wilkinson taught me the America that is worth living and fighting for — an America where French and Italian, English and German, Chinese or Negro, can live and work towards a common goal; an America where Protestant, Catholic, and Jew can