

Original and only copy.

40 Hwang Li Hsiang, Nanking
October or November 4, 1940

Dear Family:

Well, war is really a terrible thing. Here they have a boat scheduled for every week in November and I have no excuse for not writing to you every week. Just when I had expected a respite from the heavy schedule of the summer of one boat in two weeks, reduced to one amonth.

Conference is over and aside for a couple of committees this morning which due to the fact that not many folks are left on the field I am on (ahem) there is not much left to do except to try to return to normal. This is the first time that I have had any heavy administrative responsibilities in my work, so I found this conference a busy time. Some days I started in at eight and finished up at midnight, but of course that was only two days. We had on a whole a good conference.

I was also on the appointment committee, and managed to get my name on the list pretty well, supervisor of this, in charge of that, but at that I didn't get all my numerous jobs officially listed. Some of them were lumped together under such general topics as day schools, etc. (Harummmphhhh)

The bishop went over the list of missionaries and indicated those who were to lveave "early" and those who were to stay on a little longer. I was put in the latter class. It was what I had expected and hoped. The former class consisted of those who had special reason for needing to go, such as mothers with children, people in poor health or those soon due for furlough anyhow. Then if worse really comes to worst, I have asked to be sent to West China. He is very anxious to keep as many out here as possible. So it is probably that if I leave Nanking, I shall be sent to some other field if that is possible. The concensus ~~swam~~ of opinion seems to be that there is no immediate need to press the matter. The "early" ones are to go in December or January, and the rest of us have no idea. I still have hopes that some one will see the light of reason. *and there will be no war*

All this makes life rather complicated for we have to continue to live as though we had no thought of leaving, carrying on as usual, while at the same time make plans for turning over work to Chinese where possible or making other plans for it. Most unwelcome all this is to a person on a new job as I am who is kept plenty busy júst with the carrying on part.

But don't worry about me, either as to my job or my future, for I've always managed to survive so far. You remember the words on my banner, "Nothing ever happens to me" and I don't expect any change of luck. My orders are to stay longer but not too long, and you can trust me for that at least. Anyhow, if anything happens, just remember that I am doing what I want to do.

Lovingly, Jessie