Escape Lyon's Reign

on Nov 9, 1924

Admiral Oriental Line
MANAGING OPERATORS U.S. SHIPPING BOARD

S.S. President McKinley

Mrs Boyd Carpenter & I have the stateroom, Mrs Seaton & Mrs Potter are in a section in the open car.

9 A.M

As we sit here in our car on the train, we not only hear the guns that are fired from Tientsin - we feel the vibration -

Mrs Seaton has started off alone on foot to see if she can get a van at the ~~sta~~ railway station to take our baggage & to try to find out if we can go directly out on steamer - The station is some mile & a half away. If we would leave the trunks behind we could all walk into town but of course I will not leave the Museum things behind with no one to look after them -

10 A.M.

Before leaving Peking we sent a telegram to the Astor House Hotel in Tientsin asking for rooms - They have

sent their porter with an automobile & two assistants to look after the baggage.-

Leaving the train, as we passed the engine I turned to take another picture of it. There were some British soldiers nearby. I asked them to come close so that they could be included in the picture. All the British soldiers still guarding the train, came. Having taken the picture & thanked them for their faithfulness & protection we went on our way rejoicing. We had come the 80 miles in 31½ hours & no one had been hurt.

At the office of the American Express Co. we found Mrs Seaton. She reached the railway station just as Marshal Wu with some 600 of his followers were leaving by train for the coast, there to take a ship for Tsingtau. His army was left in the lurch, no food, no shelter no money & most of them are a long way from home. With everything to lose & nothing to gain how can they

be induced to join the army?

And speaking of fighting, - one of Marshal Wu's officers did refuse to fight. He was decapitated there in the station just as Mrs Seaton arrived. His head was placed on a spike for all to gaze upon. It was poundings - mum let loose, in that station. & a body blow to my siding with the Wu faction. It reminds me of mideaval Europe.-

Dear old China. This is the 5th revolution in eight years. May it be the last.-

from Peking

Our escape with our treasures for the Univ of Oregon Museum ~~treasures~~

[1]

S.S. .....

..... 192

I have written you how difficult it was for us to reach Peking from Tientsin because Chang-so-lin was moving his army and his supplies - getting ready to attack the government

We were glad to find room at the Hotel des Wagons Lits because it is in the legation quarter, and just across the street is one of the entrances to our American Legation - so we could always give the flag just inside the entrance a silent greeting -

While Chang-so-lin was preparing to attack the government forces, with the object of moving into Peking, General Feng, - the Christian general was given the task of blocking him -

We reached Peking in the midst of the preparations - Automobiles, horses, mules, carts everything in sight was comandeered - including the men who drove them -

Our rickshaw coolies requested American flags to place on our rickshaws - to protect them and us - Every foreigner flew his flag on anything and everything that belonged to him, as a warning to the recruiting officers to

192

I have written you how affrayed it was for us to X Israel Tobing from Iwatsu Treasure Charge-in was burning the army and the supplies - getting ready & attack the government.

We were glad & final room at the Hotel des Wagons Lits because it is in the legation quarter and that makes the street is one of the safest & not American legation - I we could also give the flag that mark the safeness & safest quarter -

While Charge-in was preparing & attack the government forces, with the object of burning out Tobing, General Tang - the Chinese general was given the task of detaining him -

We received Tobing in the number of the refugees - Christians, Boxers, mails, coolies everything in sight was commandeered - including the men & the horses them -

Our Indochinese coolies requested American flag to place on our rickshaws - a protect them and us - Every foreigner flew the flag on everything and everything that belonged to him, as a warning & the rebelling officers & [illegible]

INDO CHINA. S.N. Co'y LD.

S.S. .....

..... 192.....

keep their hands off -

General Wuntie's guards, - the Chinese protection for the Legation Quarter, patroled the southern quarter of the city in groups of five -

When General Feng's army left, there was a sigh of relief - But about this time the Chinese merchants began to consider what would happen if General Feng's army should be defeated - and trunks, boxes, baskets - chests of drawers - every conceivable kind of a receptacle, was filled with merchandize & taken to the sheltering wings of some foreign friend, in the Legation Quarter - Simultaneously the Chinese began to send their women & children to our hotel for refuge -

tody Mrs Evans left -

General Mounsey arrived. - He delivered his letters to the Deputation Health, patrolled the southern quarter of the city in groups of five -

Mr. General Tang's army left, there was a sigh of relief - But about this time the Chinese government began a concerted attack against troops of General Tang's army detached to defend - the Hunsha bare, treachery - death of officers - very considerable loss of a regiment, was killed with machineguns & letters & the disbanding of army groups began in the Deputation Health - Gradually the Chinese began & some men women & children & our hotel to return -

Our first realization that the supplies were low, came when the marmalade - which is a part of every Englishman's breakfast - gave out; then the butter - lard was substituted. Also altho the cold weather had set in, our hotel was not heated. We wore our winter coats in our rooms.

Then, two weeks ago, on Nov. 6th, as I sat in the lobby of our hotel, ~~wh~~ waiting for Mrs White - the Princess der Ling - ~~John~~ Dr. Ferguson came in "Where are you going" "On an errand outside the city wall with Mrs White." "Don't you go. The city was captured last night by Feng's troops. Railroads, telegraph, & telephone have been stopped - and the city is guarded in sections, so that no one shall get away." But General Feng? "Deserted the government party and joined forces with Chang-Tso-ling. Stay in the Legation Quarter." He waited until I had promised.

We, as well as the Chinese - were considering the possibility of Chang-Tso-lin's soldiers looting the city and were starting to gather in our Museum things.

Mrs White & I were going a Chinese tailors, in the Chinese city, outside the walls of the Manchu, or Imperial city, where I had left ~~a coat~~ an imperial coat, brought from my collection at home, to be made up. In the case of looking, everything, including that coat would be lost.

Mrs White felt that she, a Manchu princess, could go where she liked, & started in her car - She went a block, as far as the city gate, & was turned back.

We were quite short of funds, & not knowing what might be ahead of us, I went to the International Bank, - located in the Legation Quarter - for money.

The Chinese, fearing that the government paper money might become invalid - were making a run on all the banks, demanding silver in the place of their paper money - The Chinese banks promptly closed their doors. In the inclosed section, set aside for their chinese depositors in the International Bank, there was a seething mass of people - all calling at once to attract the attention of the clerks, & get their paper money changed to silver. The young man who waited on me, said they would not have to close their doors, as they had millions in their vaults -

In the mean time, Mrs Seaton & Mrs Potter had taken the bit in their teeth & gone in another direction for the porcelains that I had left with the dealer

99

198

Mrs Nutter & were going a dinner later, in the dinner city, without the work of the Mandarin, or dispensed city, which I had left ~~a great~~ an unpaired book, brought from my collection of bone, & to make up. In the case of tearing, very hurry, mentioning that coat would be lost.

Mrs Nutter felt that she, a Mandarin Dinner, could get white she taken, a detective in the coat - She went a block; on for on the city gate, & was instant took.

He were quite sight of friends, & not knowing what might be chased of us, I went & the chief - mentioned Count, - looked in the Japanese Chinese - money -

The dinner, leaving that the government papers money might become invoked - were making a sum on all the tombs, demonstrating silver in the palace of Mian papers money - the Chinese tombs brought chest Mian doors. In the inclosed section, set with to Mian Chinese depositors, Mian was a scattering mass in the international Bank of people - all calling at once & almost the attention of the clerks, & get Mian papers money changed & silver the young man who worked on me. Said they would not have & close Mian doors, as they had millions in Mian vaults -

In the mean time, Mrs Leader & Mrs Potter had taken the bill in Mian letter & gone in another direction for the purchases that I had left on the clerks

S.S. .....

..... 192

to be packed - Two trips brought them all back to our hotel. The Legation Quarter is the safest part of the city - It is guarded from the inside by the marines from all the Legations - and from without, so we thought, by Gen. Mu's troops - But no, when the city was captured the Chinese guards were incarserated & only allowed to go out one at a time after swearing allegiance to their captors

General Feng said he would maintain order & there should be no looting - Two would be looters were promptly decapitated & their heads, each in its box was exposed at the city gate as a warning -

~~The city was hermetically sealed~~ - no one could go in or out of the city on that day - No trains, no telegraph, no telephone no mail - it was hermetically sealed except for one means of communication - One American Legation has a wireless & sent word of our plight to the world.

The President of the Republic was ~~locked~~ under guard in his palace. One official was locked in the cellar of Gen. Feng's house, ~~awaiting~~ being held for a ransome - The rest of the officials of the old government came into the Legation Quarter, where they were - by treaty - immune - They flocked into the Hotel des Wagons Lits until every available nook & corner was taken - Some ~~of them~~ came down to the dining-room for their meals but most of them, considering discretion the better part of valour, staid in hiding in their rooms - The halls & stairs were crowded with Chinese children

108

& he photos & - the high brought them all back to our hotel. The departing Chinese in the royal port of the city - it is provided from the wreck by the provinces from all the departing - and from another by fire. Phenomena begins - but one, when the city was captured the provinces were neglected & only allowed to go out one of a time after swearing allegiance & their cohorts

General Tang said he would mandarin order & their should be an testing - the would be hooted more promptly accepted & their heads, cook in the hot oven exposed at the city gate on a morning -

~~the city was hermetically sealed~~ - no one could go in or out, in fact of city. No news, no telegraph, no telephone no mail - it was hermetically sealed except for one means of communication - the Chinese departure from a province & sent word of our plight & the world.

The Treasurer of the Republic was ~~hooted~~ mobbed in his palace. The official was hooted in the cellar of his house. Tang fame, ~~consoling~~ being with a reward - the head of the officials of the old government came out - the departure chinese, which they were - by lieutenant - they flocked into the Hotel des Wagons lits until only available were a few men - ~~some of them~~ come down & the dining-room by their meals but most of them, remaining in occupation the ballroom part of modern. Hotel in lodging in their rooms - the halls & stairs were crowded with Chinese children

S.S. .....

..... 192

as many girls as boys, I was happy to see.

When, in Tokyo, we talked over the pros & cons of coming to Peking with Jr Ballantine, our Vice-Consul he said it would be safe to go to Peking, because it would always be possible to get away. According to our treaty the railroad between the Capital & the sea must be kept open.

The diplomatic body was called together. The nationals from each country were carefully listed. There were 1300 Americans who might have to be taken into our Legation if the government side should say to Gen. Feng, "No you don't" and there should be a fight on within the city.

After a few days an "International train was sent up from Tientsin, with 200 guards, mail & a reinforcement of soldiers for the legations. The train arrived at eight o'clock at night & started back two hours later. Draped over the front of the engine was "old glory" & on the sides the English, French & Japanese flags.

S.S. _____

_____ 192

as many girls as boys, I was happy & see.

Now, in Tokyo, we talked over the pros & cons of coming & fishing with Hollowtrix, our Vice-Consul. It would be safe & go & fishing, because it would cheer & possibly & get away. Considering & our treaty the railroad between the Capital & the sea must be kept open.

The diplomatic body was called together. The national gun code carefully over carefully tested. There were 130 Americans who must leave & be taken with our departure if the government-aide should say & give Tong "no gun aboard" and there should be a fight on outlaws the city.

After a few days on "International Train" we left up from Tientsin, with 100 guards, and & reinforcement of soldiers go the departure. The train consist of eight coaches of eight & sleeping cars & a dining car. Dropped over the front of the engine was "old glory" & on the rear the Japanese, Tientsin & Japanese flag.

S.S. .....

..... 192

~~French and Japanese flags~~ - The train reached Tientsin safely - ~~twice~~ once more ~~the train~~ it came up and returned at night - ~~The second time~~ on the 2nd trip, we thought that we would go, - ~~John~~ Dr Ferguson was opposed - He said "you may get there and again you may be turned back - There is fighting all along the track - If you are turned back you will have lost your places in this hotel in the Legation quarter - We could take you in, but how about Mrs Seaver & Mrs Poller?"

There is shortage of fuel and food in Peking - The Fergusons had changed their way of living so that if necessary they could get along with one fire, beside the one in the kitchen - Their coal on hand would only allow that much - (In Peking there are no furnaces, the rooms are heated by little iron stoves) -

General Feng is in league with Soviet Russia The Soviet government has established itself - not in a Legation like the other foreign powers - but in an Embassy - in the Legation Quarter - An ambassador takes precedence over a minister - and the situation is full of possibilities -

The government's party did say "no you don't" to General Feng, & Marshal Wu's army was started for Peking -

Once more General Feng left the city, this time to fight his old chief - We watched the soldiers as they marched out, thro' the city gate - They were singing our hymns -

At this juncture the Belgian Minister was ordered transferred to another post - The International train was again sent from ~~Peking~~ Tientsin to take him his wife and their belongings as far as Tientsin -

We decided that pressure would be brought to bear to get that train thro' - and we would go - It

99

No. 442

~~Hawker at Tyrone Hotel~~ - The Train reached Fenchurch St. ~~where we left the train~~ drove up and returned at only 1/4 - ~~The Cost of time~~ on the Hospital that we would go - ~~Hawker~~ Tyrone was opposed - He said "you may get into and again you may be burned to ashes - there is frightening all along the track - If you are burned books you will have lost your places in this hotel in the Japanese quarter - We could take you in, but how about Mrs Beaton & Mrs Potter?"

There is alternative of final and final in Tokyo - The Tyrones had changed their way of having to that if necessary they could get along with one fire, beside the one in the bedroom - Their coal is found would only allow that much - (the Tokyo Hotel are on furnace, the rooms are heated by little iron stoves) -

General Tong is in Japan with Sunset Tunnin - The Sunset Government has substituted ability - but is a character like the other foreign powers - but in no tomorrow - in the Japanese Army - he another - Sun Yat Sen proclaimed over a month - and the - [illegible] is full of promise -

General Tong, I learned Mrs's army has a hard for Tokyo -

Poor Gen. General Tong left the city, this time a point his old chief - he restored the Emperor on the throne - [illegible] only capable Ting was [illegible] Tyrones -

[illegible] a [illegible] people - the Constitutional [illegible] Tyrones [illegible] it into this [illegible] - [illegible] that future would be [illegible] - and we would go - [illegible]

S.S. .....

..... 192

arrived Saturday night at 7 30 and left at 4 A.M. Sunday morning -

To go on the International train it was necessary to go to our Legation, armed with ~~our~~ passports - each ~~one~~ personally making the request - ~~so that~~ there ~~would~~ should be no question as to who went aboard - We were each given a permit to go on the train - The new government was very much on the alert to see that no members of the old government should get away in disguise -

In order to make sure of our places, we went aboard the night before shortly after the train came in -

There was a car for the Belgian Minister, an American car, two British cars, a dining car, a baggage car, and four cars for the guards - The French Capt. Bertrand in command - The cars were not heated The temperature was considerably below freezing - We could see our breath -

Our trunks being safely housed in the baggage car, we found Mrs Boyd-Carpenter in the American car - ~~She~~ Her husband ~~is~~ professor of International law teaches in one of the Universities in Peking - She and I occupied a compartment, while Mrs Seaton & Mrs Potter had a section in the open car - It was a 2nd class ~~car~~ car. The seats covered with leather, without padding or springs - no sleeping accomodations.

French soldiers both from France and Anam ~~English, Tommies, Atkins, Johnnies~~, guns in hand, kept going back and forth all this the night -

It had been expected that Marshall Wu's

arrived Saturday night at 30 and left at 4 A.M. Sunday morning –

To go on the International train it was necessary to go to an office, armed with ~~our~~ passports, each ~~one~~ personally making the request – ~~so that~~ there ~~[illegible]~~ should be no question as to who went aboard – We were each given a permit to go on the train – The new government was very much on the alert to see that no members of the old government should get away in disguise –

In order to make sure of our places, we went aboard, the night before shortly after the train came in –

There was a car for the Belgian Ambassador, an American car, two British cars, a dining car, a baggage car, and four cars for the guards – The French Capt. Bertrand in command – The cars were not heated, the temperature was considerably below freezing – We could see our breath.

Our trunks being safely stowed in the baggage car, we found Mrs Boyd-Carpenter in the American car – ~~She~~ Her husband ~~–~~ professor of International law teaches in one of the Universities in Peking – She and I occupied a compartment, while Mrs Seaton & Mrs Potter had a section in the open car – It was a queer sleeping car. The seats covered with leather, without bedding or springs – no sleeping accommodations –

French soldiers both from France and Annam ~~Tonkin~~, [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~, guns in hand, kept going back and forth all thru the night –

It had been expected that Marshall Wu's

S.S. .....

..... 192

forces would push Gen. Feng's closer & closer to the city until he would be forced to take refuge inside the city walls - Then when coal & food gave out, the city would surrender -

We went very slowly - a detached engine ahead, with English marines aboard, looking for bombs and derailed tracks

At 9 a.M. we came to the first trenches - Three long zigzag trenches, some distance apart, running at right angles with our track - There was no sign of life in any of them - That meant that Feng's forces, that left Peking to fight ~~Wu,~~ Marshall Wu, were advancing, not retreating - We crept along, the country was absolutely deserted - at the little stations, a few soldiers, and a few camels carrying supplies - Suddenly crack crack crack crack - The advance engine was being fired upon, as a notice to stop. ~~Some of the bullets flew past to our engine~~ - a long wait, then a slow advance until fired upon again - The International train was not expected, and the soldiers did not know what to make of the foreign flags flying so ~~carelessly~~ independently over the engines -

After a couple of these unpleasant experiences our engineer, Chinese - refused to ~~run the~~ get up from his prostrate position, & run the engine - one of our American officers took his place -

A fusilade, a long stop - We were informed that

S.S. _____

_____ 192

Green would find for Tung's dinner & dress & the only world he would be forced to leave behind is the only world - this is-time could's good-bye out, the only world anything -

We went only slowly - a deliciously languid stream, with tropical monsoons around, hoisting for towns and already to-day.

At 9 a.m. we came to the final harbour - after long days Nevada, some distance out, morning at night suddenly with tropic - there was no sign of life in any of them - that-moment - that stay years, that high - throwing & fly in them. Marshall Mr., were admiring, not-withstanding - the crept-along, the morning was absolutely unreal - at the little station, a few buildings, and a few canoes carrying supplies - hunkering crack crack crack crack - the cabinet engine was being fired again, so a matter & life. ~~[illegible]~~ - a long world, then a slow cabinet until fired again open the dimentional train was out effectively, and the [illegible] that out - know what & matter of the foreign lingo flying to ~~[illegible]~~ over the engine - [illegible] - a complete of these unfortunate [illegible] - [illegible] engineer, dinner - refused & ~~[illegible]~~ the pal-up [illegible] paintings, & new the engine - five of our "friends" [illegible] blood -

a twenty, a long stop - We were informed that

S.S. .....

..... 192

there were sand bags on the track ahead - a request from us that they should be removed met the response that if we wished to go forward, we could go into the firing line and remove them ourselves. - which our soldiers eventually did -

Feng's soldiers had red badges with a white disk, on the left arm - Long lines of them marching with an encircling movement, in the same direction that we were going, made us think that they were encircling Wu's forces -

Finally we came to the outposts, - instead of trenches, round holes, with a man or two in each.

There was a sudden stop - a detached rail ahead - All hands got out to "look see" - The ~~English Johnnies~~ Tommies hoisted it back into place very quickly -

Finally we came to the outposts of Feng's forces, - instead of trenches, round holes, with a man or two in each, just their heads & guns showing -

The danger seemed over - The reconnoitering engine was switched off, and we went on a little faster, much relieved -

Not having slept the night before, I was indulging in a nap when suddenly roused by Mrs ~~Scobon~~ Potter "Gertrude they are firing on us with a machine gun!" Bum bum bum bum - It seemed to last a long time but perhaps it was not more than a couple of minutes - We were ordered onto the floor by the French Commandant - It was Wu's men -

99

192

Water was said to be on the north side. A report was that they should be removed and the reports were that if we wished to go forward, we could go with the freight train and return. Having arrived safely.

Which our soldiers eventually did.

Tang's station had not taken with a whole night on the left side - they lived of their provisions and enjoying movement, in the morning it was discovered that we were going, much to their delight they were enjoying Wu's guests -

Finally we came to the outpost - protected by barbed wire with a mass of trees in front.

Then was a further step - a unfortunate incident - all hands got out to look see " this ~~temporarily~~ Tonnaco brought it to the with place out quickly -

Finally we came to the outposts of Tang's troops, protected by barbed wire with a mass of trees in front, that were needs a good shouting -

The danger seems over - the reconnoitering party was withdrawn off, and we went on a little further, much relieved -

But scarcely left the hospital before, I was unhappy in a very rather suddenly roused by Wu ~~Chotow~~ Chotow " Quickly that we going on in with a reconnoitering party " from some some - all learned at last a long time but perhaps it was not more than a couple of minutes - We were ordered out the flat by the French Commandant - At was Wu's men

There being no reconnoitering engine ahead of us, the gun was aimed at our engine - from the machine gun on the track ahead - The glass in the engine room was broken - The bullets whizzed past our coaches - We were near Tientsin - ~~Wu~~ Marshall Wu's men had made a quick retreat - Of course they took us for the enemy - They apologized -

Our train was unable to reach the city because of congested tracks - So we spent a second night on the train -

Captain Bertrand, with a couple of aids went for help - He feared that Gen. Feng's men would follow on the heels of Marshall Wu's retreating forces, & as one of our boys expressed it - "clean us up."

Many of the soldiers left the train -

The men passengers put their hand luggage on the seats, and walked the mile or so to the station -

We would not leave our baggage - Those precious Museum treasures - So the little group of six women & such of the guards as had stood by, spent the night in watchful waiting -

The next morning Mrs Seaton started on foot for the station, in search of a dray to carry our baggage -

Mrs Potter & I stood ~~in~~ on the train to be with it - I was going to say - to guard it -

There being no accommodating engine ahead of us, the pair was turned at our engine - from the overhang pair in the back ahead - the place in the engine room was broken - the bullet whipped port on coaches - the work was finished - the Marchioness's crew had made a quick retreat - of course they took us to the nearest - they apologized -

But then was usually a week the only - because of congested tracks - So we spent a second night on the train -

Cabin Barbarous, with a couple of girls near-by - He learned that Jim. Tong's crew would follow on the track of Marchioness's returning forces, & as one of our tong explained it - "clean up".

Many of the soldiers left the train -

The crew passengers put their hand luggage on the seats, and walked the rails a ways & the station -

We would not leave our baggage - There Chinese Chinese Nationals - So the little group of six women & such of the people as had stuck by, spent the night in wonderful wrestling -

The next morning the doctor started on foot to the station in search of a dray & carry our baggage -

The Police & I stuck in the train & to watch it -

I was going & say - & guard it -

INDO CHINA S.N. Co. LD.

S.S. .....

..... 192

Before leaving Peking we had telegraphed to the Astor House Hotel at Tientsin for rooms - about an hour after Mrs Seaton left, who should come along but the hotel porter & two assistants - The assistants got into the baggage car & stay with our trunks until they could be taken out, while the porter took us to the automobile -

~~At the same office of the American Express Co we found Mrs Seaton.~~

Passing our engine on the way, I stopped to take another picture of it - Near by were some British soldiers - I asked them to come close so that they would be included in the picture - all the British soldiers still guarding the train, came - Having taken the picture & thanked them for their faithfulness & protection we went on our way rejoicing - We had come the 80 miles in 3½ hours - altho shells had passed above & beneath us, no one had been hurt;

At the office of the American Express Co. we found Mrs Seaton - She had reached the railway station just as Marshal Wu with some 600 of his followers, were leaving by train for the coast, there to take a ship for Tsingtau - His army was left in the lurch; no food - no shelter - no money & most of them a long way from home - With everything to lose & nothing to gain how can they be induced to

join the army?

And speaking of fighting - one of Marshal ~~Feng's~~ Wu's officers did refuse to fight. He was decapitated there in the station just as Mrs Seaton arrived. His head was placed on a spike for all to behold. It was pandimonium let loose in that station. And Marshal Wu's last act was a body blow to my siding with the Wu faction. It makes one think of the conditions in Medeaval Europe.

Dear old China - This is her fifth revolution in eight years - Somehow she will find a solution to her problem and settle down in peace - We all hope - soon -

Gertrude Bass Warner

P.P. _____

_____ 192

Correspondence /
Diary /