

X - 78 - 57. Clip undated from United China Relief: "Mission Doctor Describes Plight of Bombed City"

Mission Doctor Describes Plight of Bombed City

The plight of a typical bombed city is described in a letter from the director of a mission hospital, just received by the Church Committee for China Relief.

The doctor writes:

"For three days, our city was subjected to severe bombing from Japanese planes which came in groups and incessantly dropped bombs and incendiaries in hour relays from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each of the three days. The damage through fire and bombs especially in the poorer sections of the city is frightful beyond words. The loss of life was small, but among the wounded many cases of tetanus cropped up. The wounded were given instant relief at the Memorial Hospital dispensary. Three-fifths of the population are

without homes, food or clothes. Many lost everything for the fourth time either through fire or bombs. Business is at a complete standstill. Farmers in the surrounding country lost their implements of livelihood as well. The wealthy have become poor overnight, the already poor are beggars. Fallen houses, crumbled walls, blown up streets, ruined missions, the homeless dying and sick, crying children and hapless parents constitute our city's plight.

"Funds sent by the Church Committee have been devoted partly to feeding several thousands of hungry crying babies, children and grown-ups unable to gain any kind of livelihood. The present time is especially hard due to a shortage of all eatables. Many are eating roots, unsavory vitamin-lacking leaves and grasses, rice bran, or other things causing undernourishment and consequent sickness. We have seen whole families each having only one bowl of very thin soup a day and not every day at that. We hope to alleviate the pangs of hunger of these poor people through your generosity. God bless all the devoted benefactors of our district."