

# Washington Digest

## Diary of 46 Years Ago Points Way for Present

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WASHINGTON. — Mary Condit Smith, a young Washington society girl, visiting diplomatic friends in China, and a 17-year-old boy in a little town on the Erie Canal both were keeping diaries at the turn of the century.



Baukhage

Mary, alone in her room in the American legation in Peking on June 11, 1900, slipped on her pink silk dressing gown, sat down and wrote:

"The telegraph was broken last night. We have no more communication with the outside world; our world is this dangerous Peking."

That same day, though it was really the day before, according to the strange tricks Old Sol plays as he pushes the clock around while he marches westward and paradoxically reaches the Far East—that same day, Monday, June 11, a boy in the fifth grade of the High street school painfully inscribed this entry in his book:

"It rained this A. M. Two more weeks and we'll be free from this School of Misery." (The next day it is of record that he broke the crank of his "wheel"—bicycle to you.)

The boy's name appears at the head of this column and what he wrote isn't important, but just 46 years later he was to read Mary's diary. She had gone to her reward long since but not until her diary became a book and she had become Mrs. Hooker, a colonel's lady.

### White Man's Prestige Slipped to Low

As I read this fascinating story, told in simple, boarding-school English, those awful days when the foreign colony in Peking lived in the daily horror of massacre during the Boxer rebellion, became very real.

Today the fires of civil war are spreading in China. Voices are being raised, demanding that our marines be withdrawn. American prestige has fallen almost as low as it was when Mary Hooker in her diary told the dramatic story of the Boxer Rebellion—that moment in China's history when Americans, along with all foreigners reached their nadir. History repeats.

The Empress Tzuhsi, a reactionary, encouraged the activities of the Boxers and other groups whose chief purpose was to cleanse China of the "foreign devils." It is only fair to say that China had passed through a period during which the occidental powers had exploited her to the hilt.

Attacks on foreigners, especially missionaries, began in 1899, but as Mary Hooker records, "the diplomats and people in general put these things down to the usual spring riots which yearly seized Peking."

By June and July of 1900, however, the foreigners found themselves besieged in Peking. As late as June 7 Mary's diary reports:

"Mr. Pethick . . . forty years a resident of China and an intimate friend of half the political leaders, knowing their weaknesses by heart, urges the minister to state to Washington the situation as it is, but all to no avail."

Three days later, as I mentioned, the foreign colony "had no communication with the outside world."

The next day's entry states: "Such intense excitement! This afternoon the Japanese Chancellor of the Legation went down to the railway station in the official legation car to see if there was any sign of troops. Returning by the principal gate, he was seized by the Imperial (Chinese) troops, disemboweled and cut to pieces."

### Eagerly Awaited Arrival of Troops

From then on the entries become even more exciting. . . . twenty of our marines have been sent by an officer to guard the big Methodist Mission . . . the Russian secretary . . . has figures at the ends of his fingers about the number of troops Russia can land in Tien-Tsin . . . are

they trying to prepare us for a Russian coup d'etat? Each day the arrival of foreign troops was awaited. On June 17 the entry reads:

"Just one week ago today we got the telegram that the combined forces of England, the United States, France, Japan, etc. . . . had left to go to the relief of the legations in Peking . . . when the time comes that the American and Russian legations can no longer hold out, the British legation will be the stage for the terrible last act."

The Roman Catholic church was only one of many burned, and the converts and their families in the vicinity slaughtered.

"In some cases," says the diary, "the Christians thought it better to be roasted in their houses than try to escape." (She herself had decided that she might as well be massacred in her pink silk dressing gown with a pink bow at her neck as in her golf clothes.)

On the 19th of June, the Chinese government offered to give legation members their passports and escort them and their families to the port. There was a division of opinion as to whether to trust the Chinese. In the evening the German minister started to confer a second time on the question when he was murdered in the streets.

The situation grows worse.

### Dead Piled Around Ramparts

A bullet knocks off the headpiece of a baby's crib. All the women are sewing sand-bags.

The Dutch and Austrian legations burn.

On July 1: "There are so many dead dogs, horses and Chinese lying in heaps all around the defended lines, but too far for us to bury or burn them."

They used the dead horses closer by, however: "The . . . mess has an invariable menu. At breakfast, rice, tea and jam; at tiffin, rice and horse; at dinner, rice, horse and jam."

With the privations and fear of the Boxers grew the suspicion and distrust of the members of the foreign missions of each other. Russians and English hated each other; Americans were the buffers. Racial ructions have no date lines. Mary Hooker notes:

"The dislike of the Russians for the British is so cordial that it is only equalled by the feeling the British entertain toward them. Our compound joins the Russians, and they love us and we love them in as strong a fashion as they hate their English neighbors on their other side."

And so pretty Mary Hooker wrote history. . . . But it was more than history. It was drama. It was tragedy. Just look over her shoulder once again:

"July 9 . . . day before yesterday, the Austrian Charge d'Affaires was shot at the French legation. . . . At first we kept a record of the dead or badly wounded . . . but now they come in so often we cease to note the exact number. . . ."

"July 16 . . . I was en route to the hospital carrying a pot of coffee to the doctors and nurses when some soldiers passed me, carrying a rough litter, bearing Captain Strouts (the British commanding officer) mortally wounded."

Then July 16: "It is discussed quietly by men that they will certainly kill their wives when that time comes (to make a final stand). God grant it never may! Apropos of this, I have in my pocket a small pistol loaded with several cartridges, to use if the worst happens. A Belgian secretary stole it from the armory for me—in case you need it, mademoiselle."

Then finally this note on August 15, when the Chinese were closing in on the improvised fortifications manned by lord and flunky, soldier and civilian making their last stand. . . . "A veritable ring of flame on all sides of the defenses."

And then!—"Through that racket that was around us all night, we could faintly hear the unmistakable sound of the foreign guns of our troops."

That page of history, let us hope, will not be repeated.



**BREAKS AIR SPEED RECORD . . .** Lt. Wm. J. Reilly, San Francisco, winner of feature race at the National air races held at Cleveland. He piloted his P-80 jet craft to an average speed of 578.36 miles an hour. Reilly is shown receiving the trophy from Albert J. Weatherhead Jr. Many other records fell during the postwar air show and races. Cleveland plans to make this an annual event. Hundreds of thousands visited Cleveland to watch the big races.



**TWINS ELECT TWINS PREXIES . . .** The nation's twins at their Grand Rapids, Mich., convention elected the Hick twins, Emory, left, and Ernest of Birmingham, Ala., co-presidents of the association. Receiving the gavel from Chicago's twin policemen, Warren and Chester Doonan, right, who held the gavel as co-presidents of the International Twins association for the past five years, the Birmingham twins dedicated their efforts toward more and better twins in 1947.



**ADVENTUROUS? GO CLIMB AN ALP! . . .** But you won't have to go to Switzerland to do a spot of Alpineering. Mountaineers from all parts of the United States and Canada do it in the Canadian Rockies, and they say the thrills are worth all the effort. The Bogaboo glacier in the Parcurel range of British Columbia is tougher than many Swiss Alps and unmatched in grandeur. Here is Maj. Rex Gibson, one of Canada's ace Alpinists, chopping footholds.



**DAVIS AND BLANCHARD AGAIN . . .** The Army's touchdown twins, Glen Davis, left, and "Doc" Blanchard, demonstrate how they plan to shake the opposition during the coming football season. They were snapped during practice at the United States military academy, West Point.



**DIRECT ACTION . . .** William G. Williams, 70, Washington, D. C., the consulting engineer who as a "plain citizen," protested plan to ship material to Yugoslavia and found his action started movement for new organization, "Direct Action."



**MODEL WINNER . . .** Milton L. Guguelet, Chicago, who won the national champion trophy at the national model airplane meet held at Wichita, Kans.



**STOP RELIEF! . . .** World War I food czar, ex-President Herbert Hoover, as he called for an immediate stoppage of relief supplies to Yugoslavia. He termed that nation's shooting down of American planes, "a poor token of gratitude."



**BELL TO HONOR HERO . . .** A pig-tailed little girl is reading the inscription on the bell whose tolling will be a ringing memorial to the late Gen. George S. Patton, former commander of the U. S. 3rd army. It was presented to St. John's Episcopal church, Beverly Farms, Mass.



**TUTOR JAP PRINCE . . .** Mrs. Elisabeth Gray Vining, Philadelphia teacher and author, who was selected as a tutor for Crown Prince Kotahshi Akhito of Japan. She was selected by the U. S. state department.



**TITO DEAL EXPOSED**  
WASHINGTON. — When the full details of the Teheran conference are told, they will show that after Josef Stalin and Winston Churchill finished dividing up the Balkans—one of the worst things FDR let them do—Stalin then sold Churchill on the trigger-happy little dictator who recently caused such a crisis between the United States and Yugoslavia.

Marshal Stalin, at that stage of the Teheran conference, was in expansive mood. He had beaten down Churchill's insistence that the second front against Hitler be staged through the Balkans and had put across an agreement instead that Russia take over Romania and Bulgaria, with Britain getting Greece and Yugoslavia.

So at this point, Stalin gave his friend Churchill some advice. The Adriatic coast of Yugoslavia and the areas in which Britain is especially interested, he said, are Croatian, not Serb. Therefore General Mihailovitch, a Serb, was the wrong man to run Yugoslavia. Instead, Stalin offered Churchill his man Tito, a Croat.

Those are the inside facts on how Churchill happened to take on Tito, and how the United States immediately switched tons of valuable lend-lease equipment to Stalin's puppet-in-disguise.

The finishing touches to this tragic error were applied when Churchill sent his bungling son, Randolph, together with equally bungling Brig. Fitzroy McLean, to serve as liaison officers to Tito. They, in turn, played right into the hands of Stalin's shrewd plan to steal Yugoslavia right out from under the British.

### TITO SHOWS HIS TEETH

When Dictator Tito fired on U. S. airplanes recently it was not the first time he had shown his teeth. His first snarling display of force came toward the end of the war as relations between himself and the British began to cool.

One night Tito's headquarters were raided by a Nazi airborne division and he barely escaped. It so happened that on this particular night, Randolph Churchill and all other Britishers left Tito's headquarters for the first time in two months.

Tito was beside himself with rage and suspicion, figured the British were out to doublecross him, and shortly thereafter flew to Bari, Italy, then headquarters for refugee Yugoslavs.

As Tito's plane landed, several hundred Yugoslavs armed with tommy guns surrounded it. No British official was allowed anywhere near their chief. Later Tito was invited to dine with Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, British commander in the Mediterranean, and arrived at the dinner with two dozen husky Yugoslav guards, who lined up with tommy guns on both sides of the dining room.

"I say, marshal," remarked General Wilson, "isn't this a most unusual procedure?"

"This, general," replied Tito, "is a most unusual war."

Next day he flew to Bucharest, conferred with Russian officials, then returned to Yugoslavia. His cooperation with the British was absolutely dead. He was now openly working for Russia. Meanwhile the United States had poured millions in lend-lease material into Tito's hands.

Shortly after that, when British commandos landed at Split on the Yugoslav coast to try to head off the German army, Tito's men disarmed the British and sent them back to Italy.

**BALKANS BREED CUTHROATS**  
Today in Yugoslavia, Tito is anything but popular and, if it wasn't for the support of Russia, he would be out on his ear. The Serbs, who formerly ran the country, don't like him, because he is a Croat and they have been put on the sidelines. The Croat people don't particularly like him because they are strong Roman Catholics and he is a Communist. Only people who really like Tito are the Montenegrins, and their leaders adore him—for a very special reason.

The Montenegrins are the born fighters of Yugoslavia. Living in one of the rockiest countries in the world, they have nothing to do but fight—or migrate to America, which they did in large numbers before the war. Almost every third Montenegrin you met in the old days spoke a little broken English, and had worked for a time in the steel mills of Pittsburgh or Youngstown.

**BALKANIZING AMERICA**  
Although the mystery is unsolved as to how the grand mufti of Jerusalem was permitted to slip out of his comfortable villa in France to Egypt, some highly important additional information has now leaked out about his activities—as a result of U. S. army cross-examination of Nazi prisoners. The cross-examination lays bare Hitler's plot to Balkanize the United States; also to stir up terror against the Jews. For Hitler the two projects invariably went hand-in-hand.

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## BARBS . . . by Baukhage

"Joy-buzzers" which give you a shock handshake, the American Machinist says, produced a profit of \$140,000 in one year. Better than a clammy paw.

A new non-fogging glass for auto windshields has been invented, according to Business Week. Now if we can assure a non-fogging brain for the driver we'll be okay.

There will be more cranberries for your Thanksgiving turkey this year, department of agriculture says. Now all we need is the turkey.

The army and the navy at last have gotten together on the question of how long is a mile. The nautical mile was 800 feet longer than the infantry mile. But the sailors didn't care. They didn't have to walk it.