















### 乐道院成集中营

1937年7月7日“卢沟桥事变”后，日军于1938年初占领了胶东半岛，由于当时美国持中立态度，所以驻潍县的侵华日军对“乐道院”基本不加干涉，一时乐道院成了避难所，住进的难民达到4000多人。

太平洋战争爆发后，美国政府以日本侨民窃取美军情报、为日军服务为由，将侨居旧金山等地的日本人集中到洛杉矶附近指定的地区，限制其自由。日本为报复美国，将中国沦陷区内的美国、英国、加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰等国家的侨民强行隔离关押。日军在华北地区选中“潍县乐道院”作为关押侨民的集中营。昔日幽静典雅的乐道院，顷刻间变成了一座阴森恐怖的集中营，日本人称之为“敌国人民生活所”，当地老百姓叫它“外国侨民集中营”。

此后，日军将长江以北地区及上海的美英等国侨民陆续关押来潍。

据统计，前后被日军关押到潍县集中营的欧美牧师、教师、医生、商人、学生等共2011人。期中因交换战俘释放了500人。在被关押的人员中还包括327名儿童。成人难友中有许多知名人士，如曾任蒋介石顾问的美国人雷振远、华北神学院院长赫士、齐鲁大学教务长康德恩，后来担任美国驻华大使的辅仁大学附中教师恒安石、英国著名奥运会400米短跑冠军埃里克·利迪尔等都被囚禁于此。

Le Dao Yuan was Taken as Weihai Camp

After Lugowiao Incident on July 7th, 1937, Japanese army occupied Jiangdong Peninsula at the beginning of 1938. Because at that time American maintained the neutral position, the Japanese army in Weihai did not interfere Le Dao Yuan much. Quietly, Le Dao Yuan became a refuge. The refugees there came up to 4000.

After the Pacific War broke out, based on the excuse that the Japanese stole the secret information of the US army and served for the Japanese army, US government gathered all the Japanese immigrants in San Francisco to a confined place near Los Angeles, and restricted their freedom. In order to take the revenge on US, Japan ordered to isolate and intern all the overseas persons living in the enemy-occupied China from Britain, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.. The Japanese chose Weihai Le Dao Yuan in North China as a concentration camp to intern these foreign residents. The quiet, elegant Le Dao Yuan in the past has become a horrible concentration camp. The Japanese called it: "A living place for the people of the enemy state". But the total people called it "Foreign Residents Concentration Camp".

After that, Japanese successively took captive and imprisoned the foreign residents from US, Britain and other countries who lived in the north of Yangtze River and Shanghai. According to the statistics, there were totally about 2,011 European and American priests, doctors, teachers, businessmen, students and so on including 327 children interned in the concentration camp by the Japanese. 500 of them were set free because of war prisoners exchange. There were many celebrities in the adult internees, among them were American R. Jaeger, who was once Mr. Jiang Jieshi's advisor; Mr. K. Hayes, the President of North China Seminary School; Mr. Davies, Dean of Qilin College; Mr. Arthur Hummel Jr., a teacher in the Middle School attached to Catholic University, later as the American Ambassador to China and Mr. Eric Liddell, the famous British Olympic champion of 400 meter race.



**By Elaine YAU**

## **How I Got Connected with the Weihsien Internment Camp !**

In the early 1990s, during my flight from Vancouver to Toronto, I was sitting next to a friendly man, David Michell. It was a long flight, more than a four-hour journey, and it was natural for us to open up as chatterboxes. When I found that he was the Canadian representative of an organization I am familiar with. It instantly added intimacy and common topics to our conversation. He shared his experience of living in China as a little boy, especially during the Second World War, in an internment camp in Weifang, Shandong for more than two years. This led me to respect him more. Before the plane landed, he gave me a copy of his book 'A Boy's War' (his biography of his life in the Weifang Internment Camp). We also exchanged contact information and did keep in touch occasionally before he died suddenly in a car accident.

In the 1980s, because of the release of the Oscar winning movie 'Chariots of Fire', David Michell got in touch with Florence, Eric H. Liddell's wife and three daughters. The exchanges with them reminded him of the time he was with Eric Liddell in the camp, arousing his interest to revisit China. He organised a China trip with his camp teacher and their children, taking a group of ten in 1985, 40 years after the liberation of the Weihsien Camp. They visited the Chefoo School site in Yantai and the camp site in Weifang. This not only aroused the interest of the Weifang people to pay close attention to the almost forgotten camp, but it also moved the people by the life and character of Eric Liddell, including such people as Charles Walker and St. Andrews society members in Hong Kong. They set up the Eric Liddell Foundation in Hong Kong and moved a stone from Scotland to erect a monument of Eric Liddell at the camp site where he was buried in Weifang, Shandong, China. Trying to promote the spirit of Eric Liddell, David Michell and Charles Walker had been working hard to organize a sports exchange among Chinese, Canadian and Scottish young people in China, Hong Kong, the U.K. and Canada until David Michell passed away. Without the effort of David Michell, there may not be the existence of Eric Liddell's Monument or the Weihsien Internment Camp Museum today.

Early in 2000, I got in touch more often with Dr. James Taylor III, another internee member and great grandson of Hudson Taylor. I enjoyed very much listening to his sharing of his life experiences in China. He was proud of his China born identity and being treated as an overseas Chinese by the government. After his 2005 reunion in Weifang, Shandong, he was more excited in sharing his camp experience and how Eric Liddell had an impact with the boys there. His zeal stimulated my determination to do a documentary on the life story of Eric Liddell, the Olympic award winner who gave his life to China and died in the camp. It was my hope that this documentary "Eric Liddell, The Olympic Hero in China" could be out before the Beijing Olympics to reach and bless more people.

Dr. Taylor, my life mentor, was also my encyclopaedia and walking dictionary during my research and filming of the documentary. He gave me a lot of help and guidance in the planning and liaison. His selfless personality also inspired me. Because of the help and networking from him and Mary Previte, his sister, we did interviews in Weifang, Tienjin, Hong Kong, U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom, visiting and interviewing Eric Liddell's three daughters and two nieces, students of Chefoo school, internee camp members and their families. We also interviewed people inspired by, and influenced directly or indirectly by Eric Liddell, such as Charles Walker, John Keddie etc. Some of those we interviewed for this documentary have gone on to join Eric Liddell to be with the Lord. This includes James

Taylor III, Steve Metcalf, Peggy Judge and Charles Walker. I am thankful for their sharing which has had eternal value.

I am thankful I got invited to be a producer of the documentary "The Forgotten Weihsien Internment Camp", giving me opportunities again to visit and revisit Eric Liddell's daughters, David Michell's wife and son, and some internee members. It was with great joy that I attended the 70th anniversary of the camp liberation, meeting and being encouraged by Patricia Liddell Russell and Heather Liddell Ingham, Wang Chenghan, the liberator, the 12 internee members and their families. What I most cherished was their sharing through personal conversation. For example, Hakon Torjensen shared as we drove in the van, how Eileen Bazire taught him to play piano. Brian Kerry shared his revisit of the Chefoo School bringing the old memories. Joe Cotterill shared what he did together in the camp with Eric Liddell as his roommate. They shared both the good and bad experiences in those days of being interned, when some of them were far away from their parents and families. The three days of reunion in Weifang and the sharing through the "Weihsien-paintings" website administered by Leopold Pander, have brought back fond memories and mutual support. The reunion also encouraged more story telling among members.

It is my prayer that I could write a story of each camp internee member I met throughout the years, as each of them could be such a channel of blessings to many people.

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