

Chinese Rescuers in the Nanking Safety Zone

By Professor Zhang Lian-hong - Translated by Monica Brick

Before the assault by the Japanese army, most Chinese with a higher social standing had already left Nanking. However, there was yet a handful of well-educated Chinese, who for one reason or another, stayed behind. They assisted twenty-two westerners to help rescue Chinese and manage the Nanking International Safety Zone. Many refugees also volunteered to help with the management, sanitation, and law enforcement within the Zone.

In general, Chinese rescue workers in the Safety Zone can be categorized into three groups:

1. Upper class Chinese who had very close relationships with Westerners, such as Chen Rong, Xu Chuanyin, Han Xiang-lin, and Qi Zhao-chan. They were intellectuals, fluent in foreign languages. During the Nanking massacre, they worked directly with Westerners in the International Committee to handle various issues. Within the Zone they arranged and coordinated the relief distribution, moreover, they functioned as the communication bridge between refugees and Westerners; outside the Zone, they served as interpreters helping Westerners to negotiate with the Japanese. These Chinese made significant and irreplaceable contributions to the Safety Zone.
2. Middle ranking Chinese management personnel, included special committee members in the Safety Zone, a majority of the directors of refugee shelters, and other administration staff. They were the backbone of the Safety Zone. Their conscientiousness and hardworking efforts greatly helped the smooth operation of the entire rescue. Westerners praised the assistance and work done by the safety zone administration staff. The Administrative Director of the Nanking Safety Zone International Committee, American Protestant missionary George A. Fitch said that the Zone workers were all volunteers, who did a superb job in maintaining order, preparing food, and keeping up sanitation.
3. Safety Zone sanitation workers and policemen. Approximately 1500 registered International Committee employees who were in reality refugee volunteers. They came forward and offered their services when the Safety Zone was first established. Some of them were murdered after the Japanese seized the city, but most of them strived on during the occupation. Chinese rescue workers in the Safety Zone labored frequently under tremendous difficulty and stress. For unlike Westerners, if they did not handle matters with extreme discretion, they would easily be singled out by Japanese soldiers and killed. Therefore, not only did they work very hard, they had to be on constant alert for possible Japanese cruelties. After witnessing the Japanese atrocities, seeing how fellow Chinese were brutalized and slaughtered, the only thing the Zone workers could do was to hide the hatred in their hearts and endure the disgrace as well as the insults in order to complete the tasks at hand. In short, the Chinese workers were important components of the rescue undertakings; nothing could have been accomplished in the Safety Zone without their strenuous efforts.

Because there is still data that has yet to be unearthed and analyzed, it is not an easy task to learn systematically about the Chinese rescue workforce. Below is a list of Chinese rescue workers assembled from the currently available files and Westerners' published diaries:

1. Various committee members in the Safety Zone Westerners were the major leaders of the International Committee in the Safety Zone. However, Westerners were hindered by a language

barrier, and it was also impossible for them to have a full grasp about every aspect of the situation in Nanking. Therefore, large numbers of Chinese were needed to assist the salvage work of the International Committee. According to the data collected, personnel working for affiliated organizations under International committee were the following:

- Xu Chuan-yin [Hsu Chuan-ying] (Vice-President, the Nanking Branch of the Red Swastika Society [philanthropic society]; Vice-President, the International Red Cross; and the only Chinese member of the Nanking International Relief Committee)
- Li Chun-nan (Vice-President of Nanking Branch of the International Red Cross; President of Nanking Red Cross)
- Xie Jin-kuan (member of the Sanitation Committee)

2. Middle ranking Chinese management personnel

There were twenty-five refugee shelters scattered around Nanking city. With the exception of Minnie Vautrin, the Shelter Director of Ginling College, most of the other shelter directors were Chinese. Unfortunately the names of those directors were not well documented; as a result, the list below is far from complete.

- Zhao Yong-kui (Director, Army Academy shelter)
- Lu Cheng-mei (Director, Military warehouse shelter)
- Zhao Tang-rong (Director, German-Chinese Club shelter)
- Zhang Kong-sheng (Director, Quaker Church shelter)
- Zheng Da-cheng (Director, Hankong Road Elementary School shelter)
- Jiang Zheng-yun (Director, Ginling High School shelter)
- Ling En-zhong (Director, Gao's Tavern shelter)
- Kong Ping-liang, Wang Cheng-xu (Directors, Military Chemistry Plant shelter)
- Wang You-cheng (Director, Shanxi Road Elementary School shelter)
- Dong Kui-chen (Director, Judiciary School shelter)
- Jing Zhe-qiao, Xu Kai-ji (Director, Silkworm Factory shelter)
- Shen Jia-yu (Director, Agriculture School shelter)
- Kuo Jun-de (Director, Bible Preacher Training School shelter)
- Tao Zhong-liang (Director, Ginling Seminary College shelter)
- Qi Zhao-chang (Director, Ginling College shelter)
- Liang Kai-chun (Director, College Library shelter)
- Chen Luo-meng (Director, Shuantang shelter)
- Chang Hai-yu (shelter staff)
- Ji Mei (shelter staff)
- Wang Ling (shelter staff)
- Wang Yu-hui (shelter staff)
- Sai Zhu-fu (shelter staff)
- Li Duan-ting (shelter staff)
- Xi Ru-yuan (shelter staff)
- Luo Bo (shelter staff)
- Yao Yuan-fu (shelter staff)
- Xiao Ma (shelter staff)
- Yang Chun (shelter staff)

3. Assistants for Westerners and Workers in the schools, churches and hospitals

- Wu Jing-yi (Minnie Vautrin's special Assistant; Lecturer, Ginling College, Biology Department)

- Huang Zi-liang (Gate Guard at Ginling College; staff of Former Chinese Mobile Military Surgical Hospital)
- Jiang Sheng-tai (Teacher, Ginling College)
- Cheng Rui-fang [Tsen Shui-fang](Ginling Emergency Committee member; Dorm Superintendent, Ginling College)
- Li Xian-rong (staff, Ginling College)
- Chen Zhong-yi (Dean of Agriculture Department, Ginling College)
- Chen, Francis [Chen Fei-rung] (Ginling Emergency Committee member; Office Administrator, Ginling College)
- Luo Wei (Vice-President of Nanjing Branch of International Red Cross; Manager of the Capital Hotel)
- Shen Yu-Shu (member of Nanjing Branch of International Red Cross; Director of Safety Zone Sanitation Committee; Clergyman)
- Tang Zhong-mo (Chief of Chinese Secretaries in Safety Zone)
- Chen Rong (interpreter for the International Committee; Professor, Ginling College)
- Han Xiang-lin (Director of Food Committee; Director of Siemens shelter)
- Ma Pu-ying (staff of International Committee in the Safety Zone)
- Ma Si-hua (staff of International Committee in the Safety Zone)
- Tian Xian (staff of International Committee in the Safety Zone)
- Wang Ping-sheng (staff of International Committee in the Safety Zone)
- Kuang Cheng-fa (staff of International Committee in the Safety Zone)
- Shan Yuan-kuan (staff of International Committee in the Safety Zone)
- Cheng Rui-fang (staff of International Committee in the Safety Zone)
- Zhu Shou-yi (Relief supply distributor in the Safety Zone)
- Liu Yun-hai (post calamity Investigator in the Safety Zone)
- Xu Jin-de (Ambulance Driver, Red Cross)
- Li Wen-yuan (Driver, International Committee)
- Yuan Chun-rong (Police officer, Safety Zone)
- H.K. Wu (Police officer)
- Y.H.Yong (Chief of Police)
- Wang Xing-long (member of the Housing Committee; former superintendent of the City Police, arrested and killed by the Japanese Army)
- Sun Yao-san (member of the Food Committee)
- Zhu Jing (member of the Food Committee)
- Cai Chao-song (member of the Food Committee)
- Chao Lao-wu (member of the Food Committee)
- Xiao (member of the Food Committee)
- C. C. Meng (member of the Food Committee)
- Zhou Bao-xin (member of the Food Committee)
- Charles Ji (member of the Housing Committee)
- Zhu Shu-chang (member of the Housing Committee)
- Owen C. C. Zhu (member of the Housing Committee)
- Xu Hao-lu (member of the Housing Committee)
- Wang Ming-de (member of the Housing Committee)
- Y.S. Chang (member of the Housing Committee)
- Ren Ze-qin (member of the Housing Committee)
- Cao Zhi-chang (member of the Housing Committee)
- Wu Guo-jing (member of the Housing Committee)

- Su Cheng-yuan (member of the Housing Committee)
- Wang Yu-cheng(member of the Housing Committee)
- Xie Sheng (member of the Housing Committee)
- Wu Ke-qin (member of the Housing Committee)
- Wang Xing-lang (member of the Housing Committee)
- Meng Cai-dao (member of the Sanitation Committee)
- Ma Sen (member of the Sanitation Committee)
- Min Jian-de (member of the Sanitation Committee)
- Li Ze-cheng (staff, Ginling College)
- Wang Qing-ji (secretary for Minnie Vautrin)
- Lin Sheng (staff, Ginling College)
- Chen Tai (staff, Orphanage)
- Xu Zhen-zhi (Professor, Ginling College)
- Shao Yuan-han (Director, Nanjing Y.M.C.A.)
- Chen Shi-yu (Assistant for George Fitch; General Manager for all shelters; secretary, Y.M.C.A.)
- Xu Qing-liang (staff, Y.M.C.A.)
- Shi Li-sheng (staff, Y.M.C.A.)
- Deng Tai-cheng (Chinese secretary, American Embassy)
- Chen Fan-sheng (Pastor, Ginling College)
- Reverend Fan (Pastor, Protestant Episcopal Church in Ginling College)
- Reverend Tang (Pastor, Protestant Episcopal Church in Ginling College)
- Lu Xiao-ting (Pastor, Protestant Episcopal Church)
- Cheng Ru-lin (Pastor, Protestant Episcopal Church)
- Reverend Jiang (Pastor, Protestant Episcopal Church)
- Dr. Paul Dong (Pastor, Protestant Episcopal Church)
- Dr. Su (Doctor, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital)
- Dr. Tang (Doctor, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital)
- Dr. Chang (Doctor, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital)
- Chen Yuan (Nurse, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital)
- Ms. Chang (Nurse, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital)
- Wu Zhen-zhu (staff, Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital; adopted daughter of an American missionary couple)
- Wang Ming-de (staff, Bible Training School)
- Kong Qin-xin (Director, Red Swastika Hospital)
- Zhou Wen-bo (General Tang Sheng-zhi assigned him the responsibility of caring for the injured Chinese soldiers; Accountant, Siemens)
- Long William (General Tang Sheng-zhi assigned him the responsibility of caring for the injured Chinese soldiers; Interpreter, Siemens)
- Zhang Fu-gen (staff, Siemens)
- Sun Long-sheng (staff, Siemens)
- Xu A-si (staff, Siemens)
- Zhang Yi-kuan (staff, Siemens)
- Cai Zi-liang (worker, Siemens)
- Tong Xi-kun (worker, Siemens)
- Zhang Kuo-zhen (housekeeper for John Rabe)
- Cao Bao-lin (cook for John Rabe)
- Ge Wen-hai (driver for John Rabe)
- Liu Han-chen (driver for John Rabe)

- Chang Ze-de (doctor, Red Cross Hospital at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building)
- Dr. Tu (Director, Red Cross Hospital at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building)
- Dr. Cao (doctor, Red Cross Hospital at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building)

Source: *Chinese and Western Rescuers of the International Safety Zone Nanking, 1937-1938* published by The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center (2011), P.57 - 61