

After Two Years, Farmer on Quemoy Now Says He Regards Shooting as 'Just Nuisance'

Editor's note: The writer of the following dispatch reported the 1958 Quemoy bombardment for United Press International. Now, two years later, he has returned to the offshore island to report on life in the world's only hot war area.

By HULLEN SHAW
United Press International
Quemoy—(UPI)—Ong Chinch is a young farmer who cultivates a scrap of land in the center of a battlefield.

He did not sleep on a night two years ago when Communist China began its first saturation artillery bombardment of the Quemoy offshore islands.

But today, almost one million shells later, Ong shrugs his deeply tanned shoulders and said, "Scared? Yes. But not so much anymore. I work my land every day, dawn to dusk. This shooting is just a nuisance."

Communist Chinese shore guns, less than four miles from Ong's farm, have been bombarding Nationalist-held Quemoy since the night of Aug. 23, 1958.

From Formosa, President Chiang Kai-shek has vowed he will never surrender Quemoy and his other offshore islands. Ong was born 32 years ago on this small piece of real estate, little larger than New York's Manhattan Island. Home for 43,000

Quemoy, a hot war battlefield on the fringe of the Bamboo Curtain, is home for some 43,000 farmers, fishermen and small shop keepers. The island's parched red soil, broken by forbidding

Minimum Wage Action Is Blocked

Washington—(UPI)—A Michigan Republican today blocked a move by House Democratic leaders to start immediate negotiations for a compromise between differing House and Senate bills to boost the \$1-an-hour minimum wage.

Rep. August E. Johansen (R-Mich.) objected to a request by Labor Committee Chairman Graham A. Barden, (D-N.C.), for unanimous consent to send the conflicting bills to a House-Senate conference committee.

The House bill would boost the wage floor to \$1.15 an hour, the Senate bill to \$1.25 with several million more new workers included under the legislation's coverage.

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by Alice Brooks

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gray stone hills, is tired from centuries of cultivation.

With his hands and the same tools used by his ancestors, farmer Ong, tall and stocky for a Chinese, scrapes the earth for peanuts, vegetables and maize.

From the maize, Quemoy ferments one of China's most famous—and powerful—wines, its production uninterrupted by two years of hostilities.

Ong stood on his land barefooted and stripped to the waist against the August sun, his blue cotton trousers rolled to the knees, while he described his rendezvous with war.

"When the shellings are light, I just go on working. When they are heavy, I curse against my lost time and go home and into the shelter."

Private Bomb Shelter
His mother, 60, his wife and their five children, ranging in age from 1 to 10, join him in their private concrete bomb shelter when Mao Tse-tung's cannoners get hot.

Ong built the shelter himself behind his squat, two-room red brick house with cement given by the government.

Since the initial 1958 assault, the U.S. and Nationalist Chinese governments have provided a bomb shelter for nearly every house and school on Quemoy.

Ong counts his blessings in a strange way.

Once he could take a sick child only to a medical quack.

But now he knows that Quemoy's wounded civilians are treated free in modern military hospitals and clinics established in the past two years. Many of these facilities have been built underground.

Ong's neighbors are lucky.

Free Schools May Help Others Find Basic Freedoms

These years since the end of World War II have brought us many of the greatest moments in the history of free men.

Never has the longing for freedom and independence stirred the souls of so many men as in our times.

Throughout the world—as currently evidenced in Africa and Asia particularly—people are seeking their rightful freedom and self-realization from authoritarian forces.

And the concept of public education—a free school system—may well prove to be the avenue of communication and development that will help peoples in other parts of the world achieve their basic freedoms.

Education is not a static force or fixed process. In the midst of ever-present changes in social, economic and political structures, values and forces, education changes also.

Outside influences are putting tremendous pressures on teachers and schools "to keep up with Russia" . . . or . . . "get ahead of them" or bring forth similar themes inspired by the original Sputnik surprise.

However, keeping pace or leading the race is not solely a matter of more science courses in the curriculum.

Well-trained teachers, greater number of teachers, more schools, more adequate facilities, and a greater interest on the part of our political and social leaders, parents and the children themselves, are important factors that can collectively contribute to better education.

What happens to American education in the immediate future depends on how much people know and learn about their schools and how much the power of the people is brought to its support.

This is the challenge to educational leadership.

In two years, only one person has been wounded in Ong's Ding Pao village, population 600.

But thousands of soldiers and civilians have been killed and wounded elsewhere on Quemoy. The exact number of casualties is a military secret.

Shell on Alternate Days
Since November, 1958, the Reds, by announced policy, have shelled the offshore only on alternate days.

Communist China said it would withhold fire on even-numbered days of the month for "humanitarian reasons."

"We used to keep track which days were odd and which were even," Ong said, "but we always were getting mixed up. Now it does not make any difference to us."

The Nationalist Chinese Defense Ministry, counting artillery rounds by U.S. World War Two battlefield techniques, reported that the Reds have fired 827,487 shells at Quemoy since Aug. 23, 1958.

Nationalist military officers believe the Communists can never pierce Quemoy's beaches, ringed with mines, barbed wire and underwater spikes sharpened to rip the bottoms out of landing craft.

Every inch of the Quemoy beaches is covered by machinegun mortar and artillery muzzles.

Quemoy will stand, Nationalist officers say, so long as the sea supply line is kept open across 100 miles of the Formosa Straits to the main Nationalist Chinese island, Formosa.

And that's the job for the atomic-armed U.S. Seventh Fleet.

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Many College Graduates From England Come to Work for Firms in U.S.

By ANTHONY ROUSE
United Press International
New York—(UPI)—American businessmen are being trained on the playing fields of Eton.

A recent survey showed that 10 of the 200 odd in the 1951 graduating class from this famous English school are working in Manhattan alone.

In the past decade, Eton, which has been credited with victory at the Battle of Waterloo and the loss of "the revolting American colonies," has sent an increasing number of its alumni across the Atlantic.

It's getting so that New York firms who really want to be "one up" on their competitors must not only have an English secretary to take a call, but an Englishman to whom the call can be referred.

English Are Clannish
But while England's blue blood is streaming over here in increasing quantities, it is showing little inclination to get into the American circulation.

These young Englishmen are clannish, tend only to see each other or other Europeans, and avoid American girls. "Your girls are not fem-

inine. They demand masculine chivalry when they should wait to be offered it," one said. "They attach too much importance to money. Marriage for American girls is simply another status symbol," another reported.

Weather a Factor
What brings these young men to the States is obviously not the American girl. It does not seem to be money either. But the weather apparently has something to do with the Englishman's emigration habits.

While over 27,000 Britons settled in the States in 1957 and again in 1958, last year, when England had a long and glorious summer, the number dropped to 20,000.

But the principal reason for leaving home seems to be the increased opportunities in this country.

Back in England the phrase "children are seen but not heard" tends to apply until a child is in his forties or fifties. Here, say the young Englishmen, elders are not necessarily considered better and the youthful voice is positively encouraged.

If the present out-flow of England's ruling class con-

Jack Says Religion Won't Hurt in South

Washington—(UPI)—Democratic presidential nominee John F. Kennedy said today he cannot believe the South would not vote for him because of his religion. "I can't believe," Kennedy said, "that in the year 1960 I cannot become president because of the church I go to."

Arson Ruled Out in Salem School Blaze

Salem—(UPI)—Marion county sheriff's deputies said Tuesday they have all but ruled out arson in last week's \$100,000 Hoover Elementary school fire here.

Chief Deputy John Zabinski said investigation indicated the fire started in an attic over the girl's rest room and near wiring connecting the school's automatic bell system.

Olympia—(UPI)—A petition by former Teamster President Dave Beck for a second hearing of his appeal from a grand larceny conviction was turned down Monday by the Washington Supreme Court.

tinues, the old country may soon be suffering from executive anemia.

Douglas County Fair Sets Opening

Roseburg—The Douglas County fair in Roseburg opens tomorrow with Kiddies Day.

Special events include hourly performances of Dancing Waters, the water show and queen contest each evening at 7, and the eighth annual Ricketts Revue and Talent contest nightly at 7:30.

There will be Sally Hill's Polynesian dancers in the gardens each afternoon, John Strong's circus, the Lessell Marionettes and the High Fire diver with a number of shows each day.

Thursday evening will be highlighted with a fireworks display at 8:30. Friday and Saturday evening holds square dancing on the outdoor floor and professional wrestling in the grandstand arena at 8.

Horse show activities will be featured in the arena on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Dedication of the new exhibit hall will climax events at 6:15 p.m. Sunday. Speaker for the event will be Hillman Lueddeman of Portland, prominent lumber executive.

The auto show, gem and mineral show, exhibits, gardens and zoo will be open throughout the four-day event. Many 4-H contests are also scheduled during the morning and early afternoon each day.

Portland—(UPI)—A West Coast Airlines flight landed in Olympia Monday night after the Portland airport received an anonymous bomb scare telephone call.

The starfish eats oysters in the shell by pulling the bivalve open with its suction tentacles and then turning its own stomach inside out to digest.

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