(BP)--FEATURES
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention
produced by Baptist Press
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

July 28, 1970

The Day Zero Hour
Finished Second

By Robert O'Brien

DALLAS (BP)--Helen Chu's race against time wasn't as heart stopping as Actor Sterling Hayden's defusing of a Nazi torpedo lodged in the hold of one of Uncle Sam's World War II "battlewagons," but things got a little nervous.

Actually, zero hour was minus about 20 hours and counting when the efforts of First Baptist Church, Dallas, finally foiled fate's usually inexorable timing mechanism with a series of moves makers of World War II movies would have applauded.

Helen, a 17-year-old native of Hong Kong now living in Dallas, had been scheduled to tour the Orient with the church's chapel choir for a series of concerts and evangelistic meetings. She is a member of the church.

A month before departure the trip appeared impossible for her.

Somehow when Helen entered the States as a young child, she had received no alien registration number. Without it, she couldn't re-enter the country once she left.

Then influential church members went into action.

At zero hour minus 15 days, the Dallas Immigration Office finally came through with the necessary re-entry permit.

But what about the passport and visas which would allow entry into Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand?

At zero hour minus 14 days Helen flew to Houston to seek help at the consulate there.

Just before she left, she discovered she didn't have her health card, but the consulate in Houston said come without it.

After further delay the Hong Kong embassy in Washington issued a passport and visa, and the Japanese embassy produced the proper visa for that country.

But diplomatic red tape thwarted issuance of a visa by the Thai embassy.

Then U.S. Congressman Jim Collins, a Baptist from Dallas, exerted some influence in Washington.

Helen received the proper application blanks from the Thai embassy at zero minus six days.

But the embassy, a little skeptical of the whole procedure, needed her passport. It was in Dallas, and the choir was six days away from departure.

Peggy O'Neal, Collins's Dallas-based secretary, sent the passport by mail, but the Thai embassy delayed action until zero hour minus two days. The mail would probably never make it.

-more-

Then Braniff International airline agreed to transport the papers from Washington. They arrived on passenger Flight 111 at zero hour minus 19 hours and 55 minutes and counting.

And it's no exaggeration to say that Helen, 169 other teenage choir members, First Church Minister of Music Lee Roy Till and various adult chaperones had been counting--and raising a few goose pimples.

So had representatives of Dallas media who had followed the drama with interest.

They were all happy for Helen. Almost as happy as Sterling Hayden's crew when he defused that torpedo.

-30-

(BP) BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

DALLAS BUREAU
103 Baptist Building
703 N. Ervay
Dallas, Texas 75201
Telephone (214) 741-1996
Billy Keith, Chief

NATIONAL OFFICE
NASHVILLE W. C. Fields, Director; Jim Newton, Assistant Director
460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355

OTHER BUREAUS
ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N. W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board), Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230
Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D. C. 20002
Telephone (202) 544-4226

July 28, 1970

Relief Groups Agree
To Mutual Action

WASHINGTON (BP)--Southern Baptists and six religious and social organizations active in disaster relief agreed at a meeting here to work toward closer coordination of their efforts.

T. E. Carter and Clovis Brantley, secretary and assistant secretary respectively of the Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries, represented Southern Baptists at the meeting at American Red Cross headquarters.

Other representatives were from the National Catholic Disaster Relief Committee, the Christian Reformed Church, the Mennonite Church Central Committee, the Seventh-day Adventists, the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Red Cross.

The two-day meeting was initiated by Robert M. Pierpont, national director of disaster services for the American Red Cross, who led the discussions.

In wide-ranging conversations of their respective disaster relief programs, the agency officials reviewed activities and problems of mutual concern in the field, including warning and notification of disaster occurrences, assessment and surveys of disaster areas, relief supplies for victims, public appeals for assistance, coordination of relief efforts and agency identification.

They also received a detailed explanation of the government's role in disaster operations by James L. Lewis, chief of the Disaster Assistance Office of Emergency Preparedness.

All of the agencies represented have worked with the American Red Cross and with each other in past relief activities.

Recognizing a growing need, however, for more formal coordination of their assistance programs, they have agreed to exchange of information about relief operations regularly and establish a close liaison between agencies at the nationa, regional or state and local levels.

The Home Mission Board entered the disaster relief area in 1967. During the subsequent three-year period they have assisted victims of a flood in Fairbanks, Alaska, and Hurricane Camille.

Aid included, for example, joining with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission to send 100 men to Alaska to work.

-30-

McSwain Named to Staff
of Southern Seminary

7/28/70

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Larry Lee McSwain has been appointed assistant professor of church and community at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Seminary officials see McSwain's appointment as one step toward helping involve students in constructive projects within the Louisville urban community.

-more-

Besides teaching, he will help direct the seminary's field education program, which encourages students to work in church-related activities, including inner city ministries.

McSwain is former director of the Neighborhood Development Corporation, a non-profit organization sponsored jointly by churches and other interested institutions in the Old Louisville area. He also has served as a research assistant at the University of Louisville's Urban Studies Center.

He is graduate of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth. He has completed work on a doctor of sacred theology degree from Southern Seminary.

-30-

Baptists Learn Pidgin English
For Communicating Overseas

7/28/70

By Linda L. Brittle

RALEIGH, N.C.(BP)--Southern Baptist missionary journeymen spent three weeks of their summer training program here learning a "disposable" language.

Each journeyman heard and spoke Neo-Melanesian, a type of "Pidgin" English used in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, instead of concentrating on one of the more than 20 different languages of the countries where they will be assigned.

The "disposable" language is valuable for teaching a method for self-instruction in a second language and for helping the journeyman gain confidence in his ability to learn another language on his own, said Donald N. Larson, head of journeymen language orientation.

Larson is professor of anthropology and linguistics and chairman of the department of social science at Bethel College, St. Paul, Minn.

Currently, 64 young Baptists--all college graduates no older than 26--are in an eight-week course at Meredith College preparing to work overseas with career missionaries for two years. They were to be commissioned August 6 at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

"In today's world, the well-adjusted American can become a member of a minority group for the first time in his life after just a few hours of air travel," says Larson in Becoming Bilingual, a book which he co-authored. The book is the classroom text for journeyman language study.

"He is ill-prepared by his home community for the experiences he encounters in a strange airport half a world away, not to speak of what he will meet in a strange market place or a strange home," Larson continues. "He dies a kind of psychological death when he realizes that he doesn't really belong to the new community."

With every journeyman speaking Pidgin, the experience of a new language community was partially simulated.

Journeymen practiced everyday conversations in Pidgin, listened in groups of four to language tapes and eventually had a Sunday worship service in Neo-Melanesian.

Several students became a "T.P." (Talk Pidgin) group and tried never to speak to each other in regular English.

Larson hopes that living a new language community while in training will be useful to journeymen trying to project themselves into an overseas culture.

An evaluation of whether the new language community study "takes" cannot be made until each journeymen completes his two-year term in the field, he added.

-more-

"Important results in this phase of language study are that journeymen think they understand the methodology and can apply it overseas," Larson said, "And they have a more positive attitude toward learning another language."

Using Pidgin English as a tool for "learning to learn" another language is a theory which Larson originated.

About 10 years before Becoming Bilingual was written, he and William A. Smalley, the co-author saw Pidgin functioning in New Guinea as simplified verbal communication between people with different languages.

"We wondered, if we could get further by teaching Pidgin rather than a structured language," Larson said.

Last year, while working with journeymen, he was asked to evaluate their language program. He suggested scrapping instruction in particular languages for two reasons: the limited time for language training and the casual use of the language by some journeymen while they are in their host country.

Larson and Edmund A. Anderson, a doctoral student in linguistics at the University of Southern California who also taught journeymen, made their initial attempt at using Neo-Melanesian in an interdenominational training program for career missionaries at the Toronto (Canada) Institute of Linguistics a few weeks before journeymen training began this year.

One problem involved in teaching Becoming Bilingual and using Neo-Melanesian as a common language was finding people who could converse with journeymen in Pidgin.

"We were fortunate to find two MKs (missionary kids) who were newer sources than the book and the teachers," said Larson.

"I wrote embassies to locate native speakers in the United States and then tried to find bilinguals in Neo-Melanesian," he continued.

"Right across the river from St. Paul, in Minneapolis, I finally bumped into Philip Reitz and Leslie Walck, students at Augsburg Colle College."

Both are children of missionaries of the Lutheran Church in America, and they grew up speaking English and Pidgin in New Guinea. Journeymen conversed with them rather than just listening to tapes and parroting words back into a microphone.

"Using Neo-Melanesian as a teaching tool has meant a lot to some journeymen and has not meant anything to many," Larson said.

"I am satisfied with the journeymen's gain in confidence. One particularly good response from a journeyman in an evaluating session was that she had come to feel language is people--not just a subject in school."

-30-

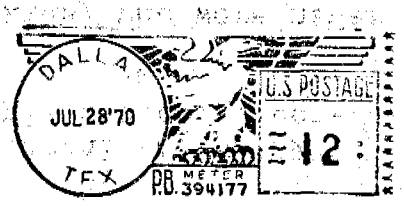
Linda L. Brittle is a staff writer in the Press Office of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., which serves as a bureau of Baptist Press.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photo will be mailed to all state Baptist papers.

NOTE TO EDITORS: This mailing of Baptist Press will be the last from the Dallas Bureau of BP, which has been filling in for W. C. Fields and Jim Newton for the past several weeks while they covered the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo. The BP national office in Nashville will resume operation on Wednesday, July 29. We have appreciated your cooperation.

**BAPTIST PRESS**

*460 James Robertson Parkway*
*Nashville, Tennessee 37219*




FIRST CLASS MAIL

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203



**News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention**