

1. I am Guenter Gruschke born in Breslau Germany 85 years ago. I went to Shanghai in 1939 with my parents (father & mother).

2. The most vivid memory that I have of Shanghai is when I was about 6 years old. I followed on foot from the Shanghai Wayside Road Camp (heim) to the Ward Road Camp with many children, some older than I, carrying a banner (white bed sheet) inscribed with "We are hungry, get us food". That'll always stick in my mind.

This situation improved in early 1941 with some food and medication arriving thanks to the American Jewish Joint Committee under the care of Mr. Margulies who was later imprisoned by the Japanese.

3. When I think of Shanghai today, I always tell myself that no matter what little food and meager living conditions exist, one must try to live as normal as possible.

I was fortunate to have gone to three schools in Shanghai, namely St. Ignatine, SJYA in Shanghai and Freysinger Schools, having been taught my favorite subjects: geography, arithmetic and European history and Hebrew at the Talmud Torah on Ward Road, (5 - 12 ½ yrs old school yrs.) old bld'g not Oshe Mohel.

4. After the exposure of the banner, I was fortunate enough to be placed with a Czech or Hungarian couple at their home in the French Concession (Ave. Petain or Foche) for approx. a month. They seemed to be wealthy. They had a leather factory. Non Jewish. They enrolled me at the Catholic School near the Garden Bridge.

5. After the war ended in the Pacific in 1946, the Americans landed at the Kyang Wan Airport again and these transport planes brought the 10 in 1 food rations to the refugees likely the work of the American Jewish Joint Committee.

6. Going to the Freysinger School was a struggle for quite some time since the White Russian kids, of course anti-Semitism, picked fights with us and won 'til boxer refugees at the Wayside Camp taught us how to defend ourselves and more. We did have 1 fatality when they drowned one of the students in a nearby pond.