

Mike Peng Remembered

By Jack Peng

Mike Peng was born in 1906 at Siangyang, Hupeh. In the early years, he was influenced by the Covenant church by the pathfinder in Central China, Pete Matson. Mike was fluent in English and earned his sociology degree at Jiling University in Nanking in the late 1920s, and he also studied at Auburn theology seminary in N.Y. around 1935

Then, Mike was head of YMCA in Wuhan when Japan attacked China in 1937 and was pushing down Southern provinces. Very shortly, he was one of the leaders of the Chinese youth delegation to the world youth conference in England. There, he did an outstanding job to inform the delegates about the anti-Japanese war and won much sympathy and support.

Mike also was a leader for the Chinese delegates to visit U.S. for war support and reported Japanese atrocity across the United States. One of the members in the tour was a young lady, Yang Huimin, who swam across the Suzho river to deliver a nationalist flag to the 800 soldiers dug in at the Sihang Warehouse. She became an instant national hero. During this tour, many Chinese Americans provided financial support for the anti-Japanese war.

In the war time capital, Chungking, Generalissimo realized the importance of international publicity and turned his attention to radio broadcast. He asked Dr. Tong to be in charge of international broadcast and Dr. Tong in turn asked Mike to be in charge of English

broadcast. Thus began Mike's great contribution to the war effort and his long radio broadcast career.

In eight years of devoted hard work, Mike built the voice of China from Chungking into one of the leading programs in international broadcast. It commanded at that time a large loyal audience. The USIS's (United States Information Services) Voice of America is very much a late comer and borrowed its name from Mike's Old outfit.

In those 8 years of Mike's outstanding achievements, two should be specially mentioned. One was in connection with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Mike reported after he verified over the American radio broadcast about the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Right away he realized that was the most important turning point in the course of Chinese-Japanese war.

Generalissimo Chiang highly commended the efficient information and prompt report of Dr. Tong and Mike.

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