

Kweiyang, China

Sept 9, 1945

while on guard gate at the University where we were located recorded some of the sounds and activity of the city in early morning. Just before daybreak a Chinese guard arrived at the Chinese security shed near our American post. The clanking of boots and flopping of buckles broke the deadly silence of the night. At daybreak the rats disappeared and heard the first indication of Chinese getting up. Before daybreak heard only an occasional cough, a crow of a rooster or a passing truck in the far distance. Also a foreign call of a bird. Later can hear coughing, squeaking doors and soft thumping sounds and other sharp clatter of utensils dropping on tables or floors. Both Chinese and roosters start at the same time in the morning. The few barking dogs that call in the distance are now calling continuously. At 6:00 AM a Chinese water boy and a laughing rickshaw driver passed by, both with new sounds to the background noises. Some children cried. The first loud sounds was the explosive taking of people in the street. One old timer approached the gate and asked for a cigarette, coughing all the time. Roosters still calling. At 6:15 the first peddlers could be heard calling down town, and approaching progressively nearer. Crows among and calling. Dogs have stopped calling or barking, but roosters still calling. The rooster communicate with other roosters in the distance. Men arise first then later women. 6:30 crows increasing in numbers and calling. Can hear more loose board sounds of carts, mechanical rubbing of wheels, grading bamboo baskets. Have not heard utensil sounds so assume breakfast is over. 6:35 group of English sparrows arrived. Peoples voices are a humming sound, not individual voice sounds. Occasional noisy car passes by. Hum of city is continuous. A few roosters still calling. 6:45 Would say that the city has awakened, and there is a continuous hum. Water carriers, when near has sounds of shoulder straps. A bugle sounds in the far distance. By 7:00 all calls and sounds continuous, no individual sounds. At 8:00 sound deadening but rooster's still calling. Left post and returned to University where daytime sleeping conditions are not much better than the hum of the city.