

Guide to the Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China Records

RG 17



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1993

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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CALL NUMBER: RG 17

CREATOR: Zhonghua ji du jiao hui. Border Service Dept

TITLE: Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China records

DATES: 1932-1984

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The records provide valuable documentation of an indigenous program of the church in China during the years 1939 to 1950. The correspondence and writings of Archie R. Crouch, English-language secretary of the Department, 1944-1946, provide interesting insight into the experiences of a Western missionary serving under Chinese leadership. The Border Service Department was the first missionary outreach effort of the Chinese Church. The peoples among whom the Border Service Department worked were known as the Kiang or Ch'iang, Chiarong or Gia-rung, Lolos or Nosus, and Miaos. Fields of work were western Sichuan (Szechuan) (Lifan), Sikong and Yunnan.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.017>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.017>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Archie Crouch.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Border Service Department of the Church of Christ in China Records (RG 17), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Processing Information

Place names were modernized in the description, with the name originally used in the collection material or in an older version of the finding aid in parenthesis: e.g. "Beijing (Peking)" or "Benin (Dahomey)".

Biographical / Historical

In 1939, the Church of Christ in China requested permission from the government to do educational and medical work among certain ethnic groups on China's western border. There was a growing tendency to view ethnic groups as a threat to national unity in China during the 1930s, so the government eagerly accepted the Church's proposal. An agreement was made that the government would provide certain equipment and the Church would provide the staff. The Border Service Department was the first missionary outreach effort of the Chinese Church.

Cheng Ching Yi, General Secretary of the Church of Christ in China, conceived the plan for a Border Service Department but died before the Department was established. William B. Djang (Djang Po-huai), former Dean at Cheeloo University, served as General Secretary of the Department from 1939 to 1949. Some Western missionaries served under the Border Service Department, but the staff was primarily Chinese. Archie R. Crouch, missionary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., spent two years (1944-1946) as English-language secretary on the staff of the Border Service Department. It is through him that these papers of the Border Service Department have been gathered and preserved. Crouch remained in contact with Chinese leaders of the Border Service Department for many years after his return to the United States. The Department was disbanded following the Communist liberation of China.

The peoples among whom the Border Service Department worked were known as the Kiang or Ch'iang, Chiarong or Gia-rung, Lolos or Nosus, and Miaos. Fields of work were western Sichuan (Szechuan) (Lifan), Sikong and Yunnan. The Department cooperated with other agencies in carrying out educational, medical and agricultural work. During World War II, a project was carried out in conjunction with the United States Army to educate Lolo people regarding the treatment of airmen who were forced to bail out of their planes into Lolo territory.

By 1949, nearly one hundred staff members of the Border Service Department were at work among the border ethnic groups, in primary schools, medical centers, agricultural stations, hostels for travelers, and industry projects.

Scope and Contents

These records provide valuable documentation of an indigenous program of the church in China during the years 1939 to 1950. The correspondence and writings of Archie R. Crouch also provide interesting insight into the experiences of a Western missionary serving under Chinese leadership. Crouch was English-language secretary of the Department in China 1944-1946; he continued to promote the Department and correspond with its leaders after his return to the United States.

Series I, REPORTS AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, contains administrative memos, reports, records of the Board of Directors, budget information, and other material documenting the program and operations of the Border Service Department. Arranged chronologically, these records provide a thorough overview of the work of the Department during the years 1940 to 1949.

Series II, CORRESPONDENCE, contains primarily the correspondence of Archie R. Crouch and William B. Djang (Djang Po-huai). Crouch served as a liaison between the Chinese leaders of the Border Service Department and its Western supporters. His regular, detailed report letters and other correspondence provide important documentation of the work of the

Department. Particularly valuable are the substantive letters exchanged between Crouch and William B. Djang.

Series III, WRITINGS/PUBLICATIONS, includes typescript and published materials on a variety of topics relating to the work of the Border Service Department. Some of the writings specifically describe programs of the Department while others provide background regarding the ethnic groups served by the Department.

Series IV, SLIDES, includes approximately sixty well-labeled black and white slides which portray scenes and customs of China's western borders.

Arrangement

- I. Reports and Official Documents, 1940-1949, n.d.
- II. Correspondence, 1935-1984, n.d.
- III. Writings, Publications, 1932-1949, n.d.
- IV. Slides, 1944-1946

Collection Contents

Series I: Reports and official documents, 1940-1949, n.d.

b. 1, f. 1	"C.C.C. Border Missions Budget"	1940
b. 1, f. 1	"Some News Items of Border Mission"	ca. 1942
b. 1, f. 1	"1942 - The Eventful Year in Border Evangelism" by W.B. Djang	ca. 1943
b. 1, f. 2	"The 1943 Summer Missionary Work of the Border Mission"	ca. 1943
b. 1, f. 2	"Project for Research of Lolo Religion"	ca. 1943
b. 1, f. 2	"An Address of Dr. H.H. Kung to the Border Mission Committee at its Fifth Annual Meeting"	1943 Oct 20
b. 1, f. 2	"Remarks of Mr. Huang Yen Pei on the Border Mission - Fifth Annual Meeting, Chungking"	1943 October 20
b. 1, f. 3	"Social Rehabilitation in the Sungpan-Lifan Area under the Auspices of the Border Mission"	ca. 1944
b. 1, f. 3	"Extracts from a letter of Mr. H.D. Tsui, Field Director of the Lifan Mission"	1944 Jun 6
b. 1, f. 3	"With God Nothing is Impossible" - report of W.B. Djang	1944 Dec 31
b. 1, f. 4	"A Report of the Border Service Work - 1944"- by W.B. Djang	ca. 1945
b. 1, f. 4	"An Experiment in Close Cooperation between the Government Public Health Administration and the Border Service Hospital in Sichang"	1945 June 1
b. 1, f. 5	"A Memorandum on the Work of the Border Service Department"	1945 Sep 20
b. 1, f. 5	"Memorandum on the War Service Projects in the Estimate budget for 1946"	ca. 1945
b. 1, f. 5	"Report on the Work of the Border Mission"	1946
b. 1, f. 6	Minutes - Committee on Aid to Social Workers, International Relief Committee, Chongqing (Chungking)	1946 February 6
b. 1, f. 6	"A Memorandum of the Border Service Department"	1946 May 7
b. 1, f. 6	Conference between Drs. Tsui, Fisher and Mr. W. B. Djang	1946 Jul
b. 1, f. 6	Minutes - Standing Committee of the CCC	1946 Nov 8
b. 1, f. 6	"A Memo on Border Mission"	ca. 1946
b. 1, f. 6	"Project Requests from the Border Mission of the Church of Christ in China - Submitted to United China Relief for 1946"	1946 (?)
b. 1, f. 7	List of Board of Directors of B.S.D.	1946
b. 1, f. 7	Summary B.S.D. 1947 Budget	1946
b. 1, f. 7	"A Memo on the Border Mission" by W.B. Djang	1947 Apr 20

b. 1, f. 8	"Minutes of a Special Meeting of the General Committee of the Border Mission of the Church of Christ in China (The Nanking Section)"	1948 Jun 10
b. 1, f. 8	Circular letter from C.T. Tsai, Secretary for National Missions, Church of Christ in China	1949 Nov 18
b. 1, f. 9	"Constitution of the Border Missions Commission"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	"Evangelistic Work of the Border Mission of the G.A. of the C.C.C."	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	"Report on a Visit to the Border Mission" [by Archie R. Crouch]	n.d.
b. 1, f. 10	"Tengchung Report"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 10	"Project for a Survey of Christian Work among Yunnan Tribes People"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 10	"War Service Project for the Lolos of the Liangshan Region"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	"A List of Audio-visual Education Equipment for the B.S.D. of the C.C.C."	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	"The Medical Staff of the Border Mission"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	"Staff of the Sikong Hospital of the B.S.D."	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	"Suggestions for an Institute of Cultural Research"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	"The Border Research Institute"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	"Books and Magazines Wanted by the B.S.D."	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	"Special Program"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	Financial statement form	n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	Chinese language report of Border Mission actions re.budget and personnel	n.d.
b. 4, f. 56	Outline of Sino-Tibetan Relations from 700-1946 (Archie Crouch)	1946
b. 4, f. 57	Post-war student incidents in China	1948 Jul
b. 4, f. 58	Christmas in Zakulao (Mildred Stray); A Chinese Village (Martin Yang) RG017-0004-0058: 2023-06-05	n.d., 1945
b. 4, f. 59	Leadership for the Unfinished Battle	
b. 4, f. 60	Present work: Future Plans for the Border Service Department	n.d.
b. 4, f. 61	General Principals for a Project of Community Improvement in Southern Yunnan	n.d.
b. 4, f. 62	Hymns in the Himalayas	n.d.
b. 4, f. 63	Suggestions re: the relationships between the Presbyterian Mission in China: The Church of Christ Mission	n.d.
b. 4, f. 64	The Future of Theological Education in China	n.d.
b. 4, f. 65	Annual Report of the Church of Christ in China - New Plan for 1946	1945
b. 4, f. 66	Questionnaire (Archie Crouch) and article	

Series II: Correspondence, 1935-1984, n.d

Correspondence of Archie R. Crouch

b. 1, f. 13	British Information Services	1946
b. 1, f. 13	British Ministry of Information- re. missing photographs of Lolo life and culture	1946
b. 1, f. 13	Broomhall, A. J. (China Inland Mission)	1948
b. 1, f. 14	Clarke, Hal	1946-1947
b. 1, f. 14	Connibear, A. A.	1945
b. 1, f. 14	Coonradt, Ralph	1946
b. 1, f. 14	Copland, E. Bruce	1946-1950
b. 1, f. 14	Cranstoun, Margaret	1946
b. 1, f. 15-16	Crouch report letters to supporters in the U.S.	1943-1947
b. 1, f. 17	Crouch circular letter	1946
b. 1, f. 17-20	Crouch letters of acknowledgement for financial support of Border Service Department and re. speaking engagements in U.S.	1945-1950
b. 1, f. 21-26	Djang, William B. (Djang Po-huai)	1946-1950
b. 1, f. 27	Dye, Daniel S.	1950
b. 1, f. 27	Fisher, A. J.	1946-1947
b. 1, f. 27	Henderson-Smith, J.	1945-1946
b. 1, f. 27	Ho Chao-fan	1949
b. 1, f. 27	Hsu, C. L.	1946
b. 1, f. 28	Jiang Wen-han (Kiang Wen Han), incl. letter re. his death from wife, Yao Hsien hwei	1983-1984
b. 1, f. 28	Lautenschlager, Stanton	1947
b. 1, f. 28	Ling, Frank	1946
b. 1, f. 28	Liu, Grace	1946
b. 1, f. 28	Liu Lin-chiu (re. Den Shu Kao, Eastman Dental Dispensary)	1949
b. 1, f. 28	[Liu?], Samuel	1946
b. 1, f. 28	Oliver, George	1946
b. 1, f. 29	Outerbridge, T. S. (International Relief Committee)	1946
b. 1, f. 29	Ruland (Presbyterian Church USA)	1945
b. 2, f. 30	Tootell, George	1945

Correspondence of Archie R. Crouch (continued)

b. 2, f. 30	Tsui, David and Mildred	1946-1948
b. 2, f. 31	Tsui, Henry D.	1947-1950, 1980-1983
b. 2, f. 31A	Tsui, H. H. (Hiram)	1945-1946
b. 2, f. 32	U.S. Department of Agriculture - re. kudzu seed	1945-1946
b. 2, f. 32	Williamson, H. R. (Baptist Missionary Society) - re. Crouch photos of Lolos	1945
b. 2, f. 33	Wu, C. Jean Wang	1946
b. 2, f. 33	Unidentified	1950
b. 2, f. 33	Chinese language and Lolo script letters of thanks for Christmas gifts, to Archie Crouch and family from school children	1937?, n.d.
Correspondence of William B. Djang (Djang Po-huai)		
b. 2, f. 34	British Ministry of Information - re. Crouch photos of Lolos	1946
b. 2, f. 34	Cadbury, Branden (Friends' Ambulance Unit) - re. Tengchung hospital proposition in Yunnan	1945
b. 2, f. 34	Chung, Mr. (Border School at Nan Wen Chuan)	1935
b. 2, f. 35	Copland, E. Bruce	1946
b. 2, f. 35	Djang, Y. S. (International Relief Committee) - with Chinese language enclosures re. B.S.D. grant request	1946
b. 2, f. 35	Drake, F. S.	1946
b. 2, f. 35	Edwards, Dwight (United China Relief)	1946
b. 2, f. 35	Fisher, Hiram	1946
b. 2, f. 36	Haines, H. - re. criticism of B.S.D.	1945
b. 2, f. 36	Henderson-Smith, J.	1946
b. 2, f. 36	Jolt (?), Curtis M.	1946
b. 2, f. 37	Moncrieff, J. E. (American Baptist Missionary Society)	1945
b. 2, f. 37	Mortensen, Ralph (Society of Friends of Moslems in China)	1945
b. 2, f. 37	Outerbridge, T. S. (International Relief Committee)	1946
b. 2, f. 38	Rees, Ronald (Djang statement on future of missionary work in China)	1944
b. 2, f. 38	Tsui, Henry D.	1946
b. 2, f. 38	Williamson, H. R. (Baptist Missionary Society)	1945-1946
Other correspondence		
b. 2, f. 39	Two circular letters of Bill and Win Upchurch from Xichang, Xikang (Sichang, Sikang), West China	1949

Other correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 39	Photostatic copies of 3 letters in Chinese and Tibetan, with translations, asking the Border Service to open a hospital in Cho k'e-chi	1947
b. 2, f. 39	Unidentified Chinese language letter	
b. 2, f. 39	Letter of Ernest G. T. Madge to H. H. Tsui	1946
b. 2, f. 39a	Miscellaneous - alphabetized	

Series III: Writings/ Publications, 1932-1949, n.d

Published material

b. 2, f. 40	Chinese language handbook of the Border Service Department; published by the headquarters of the Border Service Department in Chengdu (Chengtu)	undated
b. 2, f. 41	Chinese language serial: <i>Pien-chiang fu-wu (Border Work)</i> - seven issues	1943, 1944, 1947
b. 2, f. 42	Chinese language: Plans to return to home regions from wartime headquarters and stations in West China (Church of Christ in China, Chongqing (Chungking))	1945
b. 2, f. 42	Chinese language: <i>The Future of China</i> by Chiang Kai-shek	1945
b. 2, f. 42	Chinese language: Essay on Ta Yu, early emperor of China, who was born in Wenchuan, Sichuan (Wen Chuen, Szechuan); gazetteer-type description of the county	undated
b. 2, f. 42	Chinese language: A brief history of Wenchuan (Wen Chuen) county by the magistrate of the county	1943
b. 2, f. 43	<i>China's Wild West</i> ; pamphlet published by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. [by Archie R. Crouch]	1949
b. 2, f. 44	"The Christian Front in China": series of articles by Archie R. Crouch; published weekly in <i>The Church Times</i>	1944 Jul-1947 Jun
b. 2, f. 44	<i>The Church and the Future in China</i> - National Christian Council of China memorandum	1944
b. 2, f. 44	<i>Important Actions of the Enlarged General Council Meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Christ in China</i>	1946

Typescript material re. China and B.S.D.

b. 2, f. 45	"After Six Years - Yunnan, our Newest Mission"	1947
b. 2, f. 45	"The Border Missions of the Church of Christ in China"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	"The Challenge of China's North-west"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	"Cheeloo School of Theology Refresher Course Report" by F. S. Drake	1946
b. 2, f. 45	"Cheng Kiang Senior Middle School Return to its Old Campus" by Archie R. Crouch	n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	"China's Wild West" by ARC	n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	"Chinese Christians Sing to Your Boys" by ARC	1944
b. 2, f. 46	"The Churches in the West and the Rehabilitation of the Church in China"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 46	"Forecast of Possible Developments in Post-War China That Will Affect the Church"	1945
b. 2, f. 46	"Forward Station" by ARC	n.d.
b. 2, f. 46	"General Plan for the TRAIL BLAZERS Work of the Border Mission"	n.d.

Typescript material re. China and B.S.D. (continued)

b. 2, f. 46	"Hymns of the Himalayas" by ARC	1945
b. 2, f. 46	Interview re. work of Border Services Department	n.d.
b. 2, f. 47	"A New Challenge to the Border Mission"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 47	"A New Age for Christian Missions in China" by Archie R. Crouch; letters of evaluation of manuscript by Elizabeth H.S. Murray, Gordon Jones, and Daniel Dye attached	ca. 1945
b. 2, f. 47	"The Next Step is Tibet" by ARC	n.d.
b. 2, f. 48	"An Oasis in a Vast Human Desert: the Story of the Border Mission of the Church of Christ in China" by William B. Djang	n.d.
b. 2, f. 48	"An Open Letter fo Young People Who Have Attended Conferences this Summer' by ARC	1945
b. 2, f. 48	"Out Beyond" by ARC	n.d.
b. 2, f. 49	"A Prospectus for Missionary Work among the Wild Lolos"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 49	"Relief and Rebuilding of Hsing Wen Ping"	ca. 1945
b. 2, f. 49	"Spiritual Needs of the Churches and Evangelism"	1946
b. 2, f. 49	"Stories of Experiences of the Border Mission Workers"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 49	"This is Not the Time to Kick" by ARC	1944
b. 2, f. 50	"The Work of the Border Mission of the Church of Christ in China" - a broadcast address	n.d.
b. 2, f. 50	Untitled and brief texts	n.d.
Typescript material related to ethnic groups of China		
b. 3, f. 51	"The Decline and Possible Future of a Great Race: the Ch'iang People" by William B. Djang	n.d.
b. 3, f. 51	"Ethnobotany of the Gia-rung Tribe" by S.Y. Hu	n.d.
b. 3, f. 52	"An Outline of the Ethnography of China" by Archie R. Crouch; Printed map enclosed: "Distribution and Classification of the South-west Aboriginal Tribe in China"	1948
b. 3, f. 53	English translation by Archie R. Crouch of Chapters I and II of "The Facts About the Lolos" by Ling Kwang-tien (Kai Ming Book Co., Chengdu (Chengtú), Sichuan (Sze.), 1943)	undated
b. 3, f. 54	"Why a Daugher-in-Law Avoids Her Father-in-law and Her Brothers-in-law" by Archie R. Crouch - re. Lolo custom	No date
Other typescript writings		
b. 3, f. 53A	"Mothers of the Army" by ARC	n.d.
b. 3, f. 53A	"Teaching Religion at Home" by ARC	n.d.

Series IV: Slides, 1944-1946

b. 3, f. 55

[Box of 35mm slides labeled "Border Service Outposts - Chia-shan-chai, Jih-er-chueh, and others"; 60 slides documenting Chia-shan-chai folk dancers, agriculture, symbols, jewelry, clothing, buildings, houses, grave pottery, Nestorian cross, opium patients, bamboo bridge, firecracker, Lama temple, educational and religious work, etc.](#)

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Missions -- China

Names

Crouch, Archie R.

Djang, Po-huai

Corporate Body

Zhonghua Jidu jiao hui. Bian jiang fu wu bu