

国際教養学部 P.A.C. O'CONNOR	JOURNALISTIC WRITING
Week 2	REPORTS AND REPORTAGE
<p>READING 1: ALL GOOD JOURNALISTS DREAM OF BEING THERE WHEN A BIG STORY BREAKS. Some get a tip and find themselves in the right place at the right time, but few rise to the occasion. This anonymous reporter is one who did, catching perfectly the mixture of fear and relief on the House of Commons on the eve of war with Germany.</p>	
<p>WAR AGAINST HITLERISM The Commons scene Calm, relief and unity</p> <p>The Speaker rose in a crowded House of Commons to-day. "National Registration Emergency Bill," he recited, and the Chief Whip said according to the ritual. "To-morrow," which is the Parliamentary device for passing over a measure that it is not desired should be immediately discussed. There was a roll-call of half a dozen such bills, and then the Speaker almost casually called, "The Prime Minister!"</p> <p>Just so have sessions of Parliament opened decade after decade, and some have left no imprint at all behind them on their national history; others have their interest for the research student: still others have marked great moments in our history, but to-day's session belongs to the very few that are the high peaks of our national destiny - the day we went to war to destroy Hitlerism.</p> <p>Saturday's doubts "The Prime Minister." He had been loudly cheered when he came into the Chamber. Some members stood and waved their order papers. He began almost in a whisper. He referred at once to the doubts about the Government's firmness that struck the whole House nearly dumb after his statement last night. There is no need now to go over the anguish that searched every soul in the House last night at the delayed ultimatum and the reasons given for the delay. That, as Mr. Greenwood said, is over. The atmosphere is completely changed. Mr. Chamberlain admitted that if he had had only the information available to the ordinary members of the House he would himself have been tortured by the same doubts and misgivings last night.</p> <p>At war He then told of the ultimatum. There had been no reply from Berlin. "Consequently," he went on in subdued tones, "this country is now at war with Germany." Even Mr. Chamberlain's thin voice could not rob those words of the ring of fate that is in them. France had also sent an ultimatum with a time-limit. Here was final relief, the destruction of the last plaguing doubt. There was a loud burst of cheering.</p> <p>Emotion nearly mastered Mr. Chamberlain now. He was fighting hard and just prevailed. He spoke of this sad day that had brought to ruin "everything I have worked for and hoped for during my public life." There was a murmur of sympathy from the packed benches. He proceeded on a note of humble aspiration to speak of the service he might be able to render his country in the struggle, and he ended with the hope that "I may live to see the day when Hitlerism has been destroyed," to which there was the instant response of a sustained cheer.</p> <p>Mr. Greenwood</p>	

Mr. Greenwood, who so magnificently spoke the mind of the House in those torturing moments last night, spoke even better to-day. Nothing could have been more admirable than his contrast of last night's "anger and apprehension" with "the relief, composure and resolution" of to-day. "The intolerable agony of suspense is over," and a relieved House cheered its agreement with the Deputy Labour Leader.

His tribute to Poland ("standing in the gate for liberty") was well done, and the whole House was with him when he promised that the country would never tolerate "wavering, confused counsels, or inefficiency," for the country was inexorably determined to end the Nazi regime for ever. The crisis has greatly raised Mr. Greenwood's stature in the eyes of the House. The big view, combined with a strong masculinity, has been seen in all he has done since Mr. Attlee fell ill.

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George

Mr. Churchill conjured the country with fine eloquence not to underrate the severity of the coming ordeal, to remember there must be disappointments and unpleasant surprises, but to remember also the might of the British Empire and the French Republic, which were quite equal to ridding the world of the pestilence of Nazism.

Then Mr. Lloyd George rose and the House, remembering only the great leader of the nation in the last war and forgetting the savage critic of the Government, welcomed him with rounds of cheers. "I have been through this before," he said, shaking his white hair, amid further cheers, and staring at the floor in momentary reverie. Suddenly raising his head he told the House in accents that still hold their spell that he himself had always found the country greatest in moments of disaster. And then he gave the country and the Government this for their encouragement. "We won a victory for right in the end, and we will do it again." Mr. Lloyd George sat down amid great cheers.

The Guardian: Monday September 4, 1939

READING 2: Wilfred Burchett in Hiroshima



The Daily Express, [UK], September 5 1945

THE ATOMIC PLAGUE

'I Write This As A Warning To The World'

DOCTORS FALL AS THEY WORK

Poison gas fear: All wear masks

Express Staff Reporter, Peter Burchett

Was the first Allied staff reporter to enter the atom-bomb city. He travelled 400 miles from Tokyo alone and unarmed, carrying rations for seven meals – food is almost unobtainable in Japan – a black umbrella, and a typewriter.

Here is his story from –

HIROSHIMA, Tuesday

IN HIROSHIMA, 30 days after the first atomic bomb destroyed the city and shook the

world, people are still dying, mysteriously and horribly – people who were uninjured in the cataclysm – from an unknown something which I can only describe as atomic plague.

Hiroshima does not look like a bombed city. It looks as if a monster steamroller had passed over it and squashed it out of existence. I write these facts as dispassionately as I can in the hope that they will act as a warning to the world.

In this first testing ground of the atomic bomb I have seen the most terrible and frightening desolation in four years of war. It makes a blitzed Pacific island seem like an Eden. The damage is far greater than photographs can show.

When you arrive in Hiroshima you can look around and for 25, perhaps 30 square miles, you can hardly see a building. It gives you an empty feeling in the stomach to see such man-made devastation.

I picked my way to a shack used as a temporary police headquarters in the middle of the vanished city. Looking south from there I could see about three miles of reddish rubble. That is all the atomic bomb left of dozens of blocks of city streets, of buildings, homes, factories and human beings.

STILL THEY FALL

There is just nothing standing except about 20 factory chimneys – chimneys with no factories. I looked west. A group of half a dozen gutted buildings. And then again nothing...

READING 3: THE 1923 EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN

...& US-JAPAN RELATIONS IN JULY 1941, SIX MONTHS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR

Earthquake in Japan.

By an inscrutable decree of Providence a great and progressive nation has been visited with a calamity, the full extent of which can as yet be only dimly imagined. On Saturday a typhoon swept across the centre of Japan and was followed by a terrible earthquake. Tokyo and Yokohama are in flames. The Imperial Palace in Tokyo is reported to be burning. Communication by railway, telephone, and telegraph is dislocated for many miles around. The GOVERNOR of YOKOHAMA has sent out from a ship in harbour an appeal for help, a veritable S.O.S. At least ten thousand lives, he says, are lost in his city. The chief buildings are gutted. There is no food and no water; indeed the whole system of water supply has been destroyed by the earthquake. Tokyo, the capital, is cut off from the world, and of what is happening there we have only fragmentary information. The city is burning; there are thousands of dead in the streets; great buildings have crashed down. The last resort of modern civilization in such an awful calamity is a wireless appeal from the troubled sea. That appeal will be answered. Such incredible suffering cannot but move the heart of mankind in the midst of all the sorrows and cares of this troubled day. That a powerful island nation should, like a sinking ship in a stormy ocean, send out an S.O.S. for help is a striking reminder of the thinness of the veil that separates man's life, his toilsome effort and all his progress from the dark forces of chaos. If this horror had ever come upon London and Liverpool we might understand the sorrow and despair that afflict the Japanese people now. We grope for analogies. We remember Lisbon long ago, and Martinique and San Francisco, but in sight of this new calamity both memory and imagination falter. Who is alive, and who and what have been blotted out? The capital and the chief port of a strong and striving nation are in the grip of an unprecedented catastrophe. A great part of its wealth and enterprise seems to have been brought to naught in one terrible day. Does the Government still exist amid the ruin? Are the Throne and the Elder Statesmen intact? At present all such questions are unanswerable. The first need is to help, wherever and by whatever means help is possible. Generous help will certainly be given to the stricken nation whose magnificent effort of will has been one of the wonders of our modern world.

U.S. CRITICISM OF JAPAN

THE CENSOR AT WORK

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JULY 25

Dispatches from Tokyo report increasing resentment there against the United States, with the newspapers giving great prominence to Mr. Roosevelt's statement of yesterday, from which, however, all references to Indo-China have been eliminated.

A part of the Press speaks of an American-British-Russian economic blockade, but most of the comment is on what the United States alone may do. In this connexion the newspaper *Nichi Nichi* hopefully warns America that an embargo on oil and cotton exports to Japan might prove a boomerang, for it would injure producers in California and the Southern States, and Japan would, however, be able to retaliate by stopping her export of raw silk to the United States.

The *Nichi Nichi*, reporting that there had been "talks" in Washington between the Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Sumner Welles, and the Japanese Ambassador, Admiral Nomura (but without apparently publishing Mr. Welles's denunciation of Japan as an aggressor), expressed the opinion that differences between Japan and the United States could be settled peaceably.

"PROTECTION OF THAILAND"

The Foreign Office organ, the *Japan Times and Advertiser*, continues to assert that all French Indo-China is in obvious need of defence to guarantee its integrity, and there and elsewhere in the Press—always with the pretended idea that the British and the Free French are massing for attacks on Indo-China—there are more suggestions that Thailand requires "protection" as well as the French colony.

It is reported from San Francisco that after Mr. Sumner Welles made his declaration yesterday that Japan's activities in Indo-China were a threat to American security, more than 40 Japanese ships in the Pacific hove to or altered their courses and silenced their wireless sets. Among these vessels was the liner *Tatuta Maru*, with 300 passengers and a cargo of silk valued at about £600,000.

The tanker *Daini Ogura Maru*, which had at first been refused permission to leave San Francisco unless she unloaded her cargo of 4,500,000 gallons of oil, was allowed last night to depart after an order cancelling the refusal had been received from the State Department.