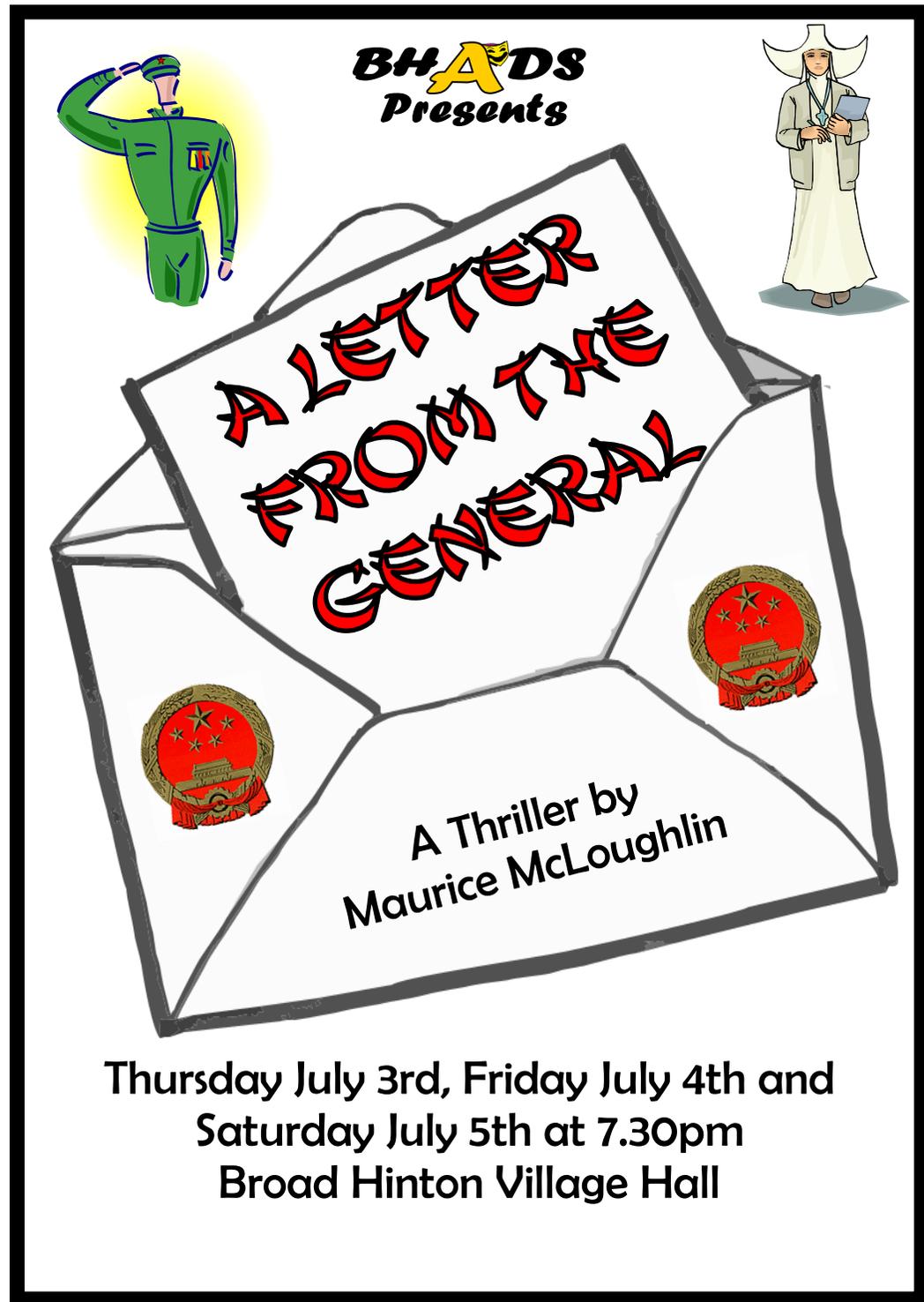


# HELLO!

**even  
covers  
revolutions!**



**BHADS**  
Presents

**A LETTER  
FROM THE  
GENERAL**

A Thriller by  
Maurice McLoughlin

Thursday July 3rd, Friday July 4th and  
Saturday July 5th at 7.30pm  
Broad Hinton Village Hall

# Missionaries in China



*Cambridge Seven" were seven Cambridge students who went to China in 1885 as missionaries of the China Inland Mission*

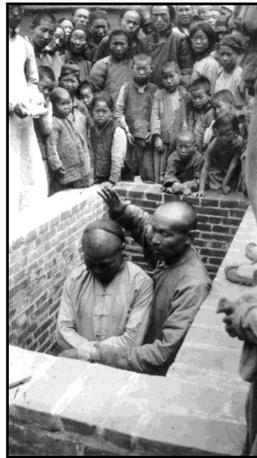
Foreign missions were active in China for approximately 100 years between 1850 and 1950. Opinions varied as to whether they were a good or a bad thing. Missions brought many good things to China. Chinese Christian schools had been the first places where Chinese could receive a modern education, and the first to permit enrolment of girls and to employ women teachers. Missionary hospitals and clinics had saved tens of thousands of lives, and missionary-coordinated famine relief saved hundreds of thousands, if not millions. Missionaries had been leaders in the movements to abolish the opium trade and to end the custom of binding and

crippling the feet of young girls as a means of increasing their desirability for marriage.

After the revolution which overthrew the feeble Manchu dynasty in 1911-1912, the provisional president of the young Republic was Sun Yat-sen, a baptized Christian. In 1913, the Republic's second president asked the foreign missionary community in China to pray for the nation. Christianity seemed to be making real inroads in China.

However, missions in China failed to cultivate local people to take over and shepherd the flock into independent and self-supporting local churches. In the 1920s, popular resentment against foreigners' legal privileges in China, which dated back to treaties signed by the Manchu government in the mid-1800s, boiled over. Missionaries were among those who enjoyed these privileges. There had been the occasional missionary prophet (for example, Frank Rawlinson, editor of the Shanghai missionary journal *The Chinese Recorder*) who warned that the seeds of the "treaty system," as it was called, might bring a harvest of wrath someday. That day arrived in the mid 1920s.

In these years it could be dangerous to be a Christian in China, whether foreign or Chinese. In 1934, one of the most dramatic incidents of martyrdom in China mission history occurred. John and Betty Stam were stationed in a small city in Anhui province (central China). When Communist troops captured the city in late 1934, they beheaded the Stams and killed some local Christians who pleaded



*Baptism in China*



So what is BHADS?

We are the Broad Hinton Amateur Dramatic Society, formed to produce entertainment for the local community (and ourselves). If you are interested in taking part in any way, be it on or off stage please contact one of the following:

Mark Miller	731231
Sally Cartwright	731050
Alex Laroche	731850
Nick Moakes	731241
Marilyn Martin	731521
Sarah Kromer	731458
Chris O'Neill	731365

## Need a Costume?

BHADS has a fair-size wardrobe of costumes now, for children as well as adults. If you need to dress up for a special occasion we may have just the thing you need, so it's always worth ringing up or emailing to find out if we can help. We have period costumes, and lots of pantomime outfits. Even a rabbit, a bear and a small dragon! Costumes generally cost £10 a time to rent. If you want to know more, call Sally Cartwright on 731050, or email [scartwright@hellomagazine.com](mailto:scartwright@hellomagazine.com).

## BHADS Marquee

We have recently invested in a new large tent/small marquee as a changing room, whilst we wait for the rebuilding of the Village Hall. The marquee is 4.5m x 5.8m, is 3.2m tall in the centre and is available to hire for a modest charge. For more information please contact Liz on 731241

# Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play passes in the Common Room of a Mission Station in China in the year 1950

## Act I

Afternoon

## Act II

Scene 1: The evening of the same day  
Scene 2: The next morning

## Act III

The evening of the same day

BHADS would like to give a special welcome and thanks to Graine Jones, our Prompt for this production. Graine hasn't been involved with BHADS before, and so her first experience with us is in the unglamorous but vital role of Prompt. Also with us for the first time is Claire Ilett as Stage Manager (ably tutored in her part by Dave Eagle). Welcome aboard Graine and Claire!

for the foreigners' lives, but the Stams' three-month-old child was safely taken to a nearby mission station.



*Eric Liddell*

After Japan went to war with China in 1937, most missionaries left, but hundreds stayed in "Free China," beyond Japanese reach, and ministered during the Pacific War. About 1000 others were interned in camps by the Japanese, where many died, including Eric Liddell. Most of us only think about Eric Liddell as the man who wouldn't run on Sunday, about whom the movie "Chariots of Fire" was made. After his running career, he served as a missionary to Shandong Province, China. He was captured during WWII by the Japanese and died in a prison camp in Weifeng, China, in 1945, just five months before the camp's liberation. In a prisoner exchange bargain, his freedom was arranged by Winston Churchill, but he gave it up and let a pregnant woman leave instead. He was known as the "Flying Scotsman" and by his Chinese name, *Li Airui*, 李愛銳.

The most radical elements of Chinese opinion considered missionaries, and for that matter Chinese Christians as lackeys of foreign governments and of world capitalist exploitation. Such attitudes, which pervaded the Communist Party, continued strongly until the last foreign missionaries were expelled from China in 1951-1952 by the new government. The missionary community, and the mission project as a whole, paid a high price for its failure to distance itself from Western political, military, and economic power in China



*Soldiers of the People's Liberation Army entering Peking in 1949*

Dramatic stories abound about the extrication of the last missionaries from the remote hinterlands of China. Dorothy Toop from Scotland and her husband William, both born to missionary families in China, had arrived in Dali in South Western China in 1949. Their second son was born at the Gospel Hospital that year. After 1949 it took about a year for the Revolution to penetrate to Dali and the work of the hospital continued until the beginning of 1951. The Toops were forced out of town in a horse and cart. Others were less fortunate. One of their neighbouring missionaries, who cared for a colony of lepers, saw all her patients taken out and shot.

# Cast

# Crew

Sister Henry	Jenni Moseling
Sister Lucy	Rose Aves
Sister Bridget	Jo McCombe
Reverend Mother	Marilyn Martin
Sister Magdalen	Libby New
Arthur Stilton	David Martin
Ruth Stilton	Sarah Kromer
Captain Lee	Nick Moakes
Father Schiller	Mark Miller
<hr/>	
Director	Sally Cartwright

Set Design	Alex Laroche
	Chris O'Neill
	Dave Eagle
	Mark Cooper
	Alex Laroche
Set Construction & Decorating	Des Clarke
	Kate Marshall
	Jane O'Neill
	Marilyn Martin
	David Martin
	Abby Kromer
Stage Manager	Claire Ilett
Backstage Crew	Steph Moakes
Lighting	Mark Cooper
Prompt	Graine Jones
Sound	Steve Cutler
Make Up	Jane O'Neil
Posters & Programmes	Liz Moakes
Wardrobe	Sally Cartwright

Thank you very much to the following people for assisting with Front of House duties:  
John Hutchings, Jerry Marshall, Kate Marshall, Caroline Fleming, Andy McCombe, Ian Aves, Ange Cutler, Geoff Martin, Des Clarke, Jenny Clarke, Mark Wightman, Helen Miller.