

I - 13. Special Events Script -- Recorded Monday, August 30 _____,
concerns promotion of Battle Hymn of China, 4 pp.

AGNES SMEDLEY

(SMEDLEY)

[13]

I-13

SPECIAL EVENTS

page 1.

Script to be recorded Monday, August 30

TEXT:

Since returning home to America / I have heard many people express something like amazed awe at China's six long years of continued resistance to the Japanese. / Many people do not understand how a poor, backward country, / poorly equipped for war, / could continue to fight an enemy which had prepared for nearly forty years for some such event as this.

In my new book, / the Battle Hymn of China, / I have tried to explain the countless factors which have made this possible, / and I have tried to explain them in graphic human stories which every human being ~~xxxx~~ can understand. //

Smedley

2.

Since I spent the war years, down to the ~~end of 1940,~~

end of 1940,

in the field with the various Chinese armies and guerrilla

forces, I was privileged to see a whole nation engaged in

an heroic and heart-rending struggle against gigantic odds.

Once I asked a high commanding Chinese General ^{Li Chung-jen} how he

explained China's long resistance. He replied in these

words:

"We have traded space for time. / Time and the
human spirit are our allies. / We have prolonged the
struggle, developed mobile and guerrilla warfare, organized
the people, improved our administrative organs, and waged
a war of attrition. / Our man-power is limitless and
national consciousness has increased with every inch of
Japanese advance." // (Pause)

The spirit of China which enables it to continue
the fight was also once brought home to me / when I tried
to adopt a little boy 11 years of age / who, / after his
parents were killed by the Japanese, had become an
orderly in a guerrilla army.

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3.

When I told the child that I would like to adopt him as my son and place him in a school in western China, --and even take him with me some time to America, to study, he asked to think the matter over for one night. Next morning he came to me and said:

"No, I can't let you adopt me now because every man must now stay at the front and fight. // But you can adopt me after the final victory." //

Once, in the guerrilla regions in the rear of the Japanese army of occupation I found an old lady of 68 who had organized and led a woman's organization known as the Women's National Salvation Association. // This old lady, Mother Tsai, had two sons fighting in the guerrilla forces, while her third son, a boy of fifteen, helped her till the fields. // All the women took over field work so the young men could fight and the older men carry ammunition up to the battlefield and bring back the wounded. // Under the leadership of Mother Tsai, study courses had been organized, //

Smedley

4.

with guerrilla commanders to teach the people methods of sabotage of the enemy, guerrilla warfare, and ways of detecting enemy spies or agents. Mother Tsai asked me to tell the women of the western world that Chinese women "had arisen" and were struggling for a new, progressive China.

In my new book, the Battle Hymn of China, I have tried to give western peoples a thousand glimpses into the heart and mind of China which is waging a holy war against a merciless and barbarous enemy. It is not the full story, for China is a country larger than America with ancient and unsolved problems. But I have tried to tell of men fighting for their own lives and the life of their country. And I have, with a spirit of humility before them, dedicated my book to the Chinese soldier, the poor, glorious pioneer in the world struggle against Fascism.