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Political -

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The system of ~~political~~ Educational work in the Communist-commanded armies was described to me officers of the 8th Route Army who were in charge of it. This system was carried over from the old Red Army. It was maintained throughout the war. Today, this same pattern of work is followed in the civil war with the Kuomintang Party.

Here are the words of the officers talking with me, and which I later verified by years in those armies:

"Our political work is the life-line of our Army".

"Because ~~xxxxxxx~~ our weapons are inferior to the Japanese, we must intensify our political work in the army so our men will become very strong and every man know the full significance of fighting the Japanese.

"Political educational work is primarily divided into 3 parts:

1. Education of the Army.
2. Political-educational work among the local population.
3. Work about the enemy and ~~xxxxxxx~~ and propaganda work directed at the enemy.

The main purpose of all this work is, as said, to raise the anti-Japanese spirit and understanding of the army and of the people.  
~~xxxxxxx~~

Our system extends through every unit of the Army, from the Company up to the Corps. The Company, which is the fighting unit,

is also the political educational unit, so the work there is more complex. Every Company has its own Anti-Japanese Club, with many branches, such as

1. The general cultural (or educational) branch--which includes reading and writing, ~~xxxxxxx~~ geography of China and of the world, and other such general subjects.
2. Military studies.
3. Recreation.
4. People's work.

Every fighter is urged to voluntarily join one or all of these groups, as he wishes. The military educational branch is compulsory, as is the ~~xxxxxxx~~ cultural, or general educational branch.

In every division, brigade, and regiment, there is a Propaganda Corps of educated youth, chiefly students, writers, actors, and such people, which does all kinds of work: They present ~~and~~ plays, they write and present their own plays; deliver lectures to the troops and the people; publish newspapers and wall newspapers for the various Army units and for the people. These wall newspapers are produced and edited entirely by the fighters themselves. A man can write and publish anything he wishes. The wall newspapers in

the various army units reflect the life and thought of the Army. All such work gives military and international news and world problems of every kind are discussed.

#### EDUCATIONAL METHODS.

We devote about equal time to military and political knowledge. This work is led and directed by ~~Political~~ men and women of education who work according to regular schedules.

The content is always centered on the problem of fighting the Japanese, the reasons we have to fight, comparison of the strength of China and of Japan; by what methods we can be finally victorious.

We also study and discuss current world affairs and Chinese affairs, and the general national and international military situation.

Except when we are actually engaged in battle, these regular lessons are held day by day, and in the midst of battle our political workers must stand side by side with the fighters, and fight with guns themselves, encouraging men in any moment of weakness both by word and example.

Apart from the regular lectures and lessons, day by day, we have all kinds of activities of an educational nature, such as

Theatrical groups who present plays

Mass meetings of the army and of the people (important because the majority of the civilian population are illiterate)

Night meetings of various kinds, to discuss specific problems and hear criticisms.

Discussion groups.

All kinds of recreation. (games, etc.)

In so far as possible, we spread foreign and Chinese radio news.

(In the New 4th Army I was in charge of receiving and putting out regular foreign news reports.)

SINCE WE KNOW THAT OUR CULTURAL, OR GENERAL EDUCATIONAL STANDARD, is closely related to our political standard, we aim to eliminate illiteracy in the Army and among the civilian population.

During marching or during military operations, we conduct educational work wherever possible.

WE HAVE A SYSTEM OF POLITICAL MOBILIZATION preceding and following battles.

Just before men go into battle, each company or each regiment, as the need may be, holds an emergency meeting. In this meeting

we give the fighters all we know about the enemy they are about to face: just how many of the enemy will be pitted against us, and their condition--equipment, ~~xxxx~~ location, etc., That is the work of of the military commander. The political director then explains to the troops what would be the effect on us and on the course of the war if we were defeated in this battle; and what the effect would be if we were victorious.

After a battle, when time permits, we hold another emergency meeting to study and criticize the battle. In this meeting ~~xx~~ every man has ~~xxxx~~ complete freedom of speech: he can criticize any of his fighting comrades or any one of his officers and the criticized men have the full right and the duty of replying. In this way we eliminate weaknesses in tactics. We also are thus able to ~~xx~~ eliminate weaknesses and mistakes of individual officers or men. In such manner we can remove weak or incapable or cowardly men to other positions, and promote the most capable and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ courageous. ~~xxxx~~ Our officers spring from ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the ranks, ~~xxx~~ and these ~~xxx~~ analysis meetings are among the many factors leading to such promotions. Privates who continue to show capacity and courage are in time sent to our ~~xxx~~ Military-Political Training Schools or Universities. Most of our highest commanders came from the ranks and most of them are peasants.

Before marching, we also hold meetings of the various units,

with the company as the unit, in which we explain why we march, where we are going; and during the marching we write slogans, give lectures, conduct classes.

This is ~~xxxx~~ to raise the anti-Japanese fighting spirit of our troops and to ensure that the orders of commanders are carried out 100%.

(I ~~xxxx~~ have marched with the armies and watched this system in practice.)

#### THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

The people's movement is very important because, in the war against Japan, we believe, and have seen, that the regular armies are not strong enough to defeat the enemy. The Kuomintang armies have been retreating and retreating before the most powerful Japanese. Not only are they militarily weak, but they are morally weak because they have no political educational work among their troops; and because of this, in turn, such armies are demoralized in retreat and often loot the people and some of them desert and become bandits.

We believe that the final victory over Japan depends on the MOBILIZATION AND ARMING OF THE PEOPLE, on the DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE COUNTRY AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, and on the IMPROVEMENT OF THE

livelihood of the ~~XXXX~~ people. The people must be ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ educated to know what the war is about and why they must take part in it in some capacity. Above all, they must be given something worth fighting for. They will have no interest in merely fighting as helots to maintain ~~the~~ ancient wrongs under which they have ~~xxx~~ always suffered.

These things are all organically related; they cannot be separated. In our People's work, we therefore do the following:

1. Grant civil rights to the people so the most determined and progressive can themselves become the leaders of the people,
2. Grant universal suffrage to all men and women over 18 years of age. Introduce democratic elections in every liberated region, and enable the most capable and enlightened people to be elected to local and other governments, ~~xxx~~ that these governments may obey public opinion.
3. Only such a government can improve the livelihood of the people or serve their interests.
4. Also, the livelihood of the people is improved that the people can give their whole-hearted attention to the anti-

Japanese war.

Many elements, both inside and outside the Kuomintang--Army officers, Party officials, and the landed gentry, fear to arouse the people, to grant them civilized democratic rights, to educate them, and to ~~xxx~~ organize or arm them.

We Communists have no fear of the people. We organize them, educate them in every way, grant civil rights and suffrage rights, and, above all, we arm them and teach them to use arms. We do not merely arm those who may be Communists or who are sympathetic to Communists. We aim to arm the entire people. Should any individuals or groups of our Party or Army attempt to violate the rights of the people, the people could then deal with them. We ~~XXXXXXXX~~ spring from the common people; we are the people; our sole strength is rooted in the people. We are the People's army.

In addition to all the above, we have a FRONT MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE with branches at the front everywhere.

This FRONT MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE and all its branches are elected directly by the people.

It is this Committee, and its branches, which organizes and

arms and trains the ~~XXXX~~ people in the use of arms.

These Committees, working jointly with ~~our Political Educational Departments~~ the elected governments, carry out the various means of improving the livelihood of the people. ~~XXXXXX~~ They reduce taxes, rent, interest, and engage in such activities as forming and promoting industrial and consumers cooperatives, improving crops and deciding on the crops most necessary; breeding ~~XXXXXX~~ live stock and poultry, etc. All such activities strengthen the ~~XXXXXX~~ Army and the people in the anti-Japanese war.

These same FRONT MOBILIZATION COMMITTEES form local guerrilla forces which cooperate with our regular troops.

They form the local Self-Defence Corps, or Minute Men, to protect villages and towns which also cooperate with the local guerrillas and with our regular troops.

THE SAME FRONT MOBILIZATION COMMITTEES give special care to the families of fighters at the front. They hold ~~family~~ mass meetings of such families to discuss their problems and solve them. They also help refugees, providing them with food and shelter and help them settle and become productive workers.

Our 8th Route (and New 4th) Armies, when not engaged in actual battle, must always help the people, wherever possible. We help them

plough, cultivate, reap and harvest, and we help them carry food from enemy areas.

As I said at the beginning, each Company of our Army has a People's Movement branch, which men may voluntarily join. They help work among the people.

OUR ARMY IS LIKE A FISH AND THE PEOPLE ARE LIKE THE WATER THROUGH WHICH WE MOVE.

We cannot function, we could not even exist, ~~with~~ if this was not so.

We therefore have a number of strong military rules which our troops must obey.

These include: To obey orders of the high command; and to take nothing whatever from the people.

We have 8 Military rules of conduct which must be obeyed:

1. Never enter the homes of the people without permission.
2. Before leaving such homes, ask if anything has been broken

or disappeared .

3. Return anything borrowed. Pay for anything destroyed. ~~xxxx~~
4. Keep such houses of the people clean; sweep and clean them before leaving.
5. Treat the people kindly. No cursing or insults; no molestation of women or ~~girls~~ girls.
6. Use the sanitary arrangements of the people; if insufficient for use of the army, dig latrines in the earth and fill them up before leaving.
7. Pay for everything at market prices.
8. Never rob or kill captives.

The system here outlined was one of the main forces which enabled the 8th Route and New 4th Armies to reconquer vast areas in north, central and Eastern China during the war. It has been estimated

that something like one hundred million people were liberated from the Japanese by these armies during the war. Civil rights, including the right of suffrage, ~~xxxx~~ were immediately introduced into such regions, schools of every kind, including ~~adult~~ schools for the eradication of illiteracy, were founded, schools of science, medical colleges, ~~and~~ one general university, and a number of high Military-Political Training Schools for advanced study in military ~~science, political economy, mass~~ science, political economy, mass organization, etc. Nineteen different mountain bases were established headquarters for ~~the~~ the armies, guerrillas, ~~and~~ Self-Defence Corps, hospitals, and Cooperatives. ~~These~~ These ~~regional~~ regional bases were also the headquarters of the regional governments, the members of which

were elected by villages and towns in the Liberated Areas. For the first time in Chinese history the common people of China exercised democratic rights. ~~This included~~ Women were emancipated and many educated women held high positions, including that of Magistrates of some Districts.

When the War ended, the 8th Route and New 4th Armies ~~included~~ had over a million regular troops, and the Self-Defence Corps or Minute Men numbered ~~approximately~~ around three million.

This system had been extended into Manchuria as early as 1939, when the advance units of the 8th Route Army contacted the Manchuria Volunteers, or the so-called Manchurian Peoples' Army, which included both Chinese and Koreans. In fact, within the first six months of the war, the 8th Route Army dispatched men to Manchuria,

and by the the end of ~~1938x 1937~~ the first Manchurians had  
the first representatives of the Manchurian People's Army had sent  
men to be trained in the 8th Route Army Military-Political University.  
A regional mountain base was established in the mountains of the  
borders of Jehol and the Manchurian provinces, north of Peiping.

Many Americans grow cynical about the Chinese Communists,  
yet I would ask you to consider this fact, which can never be denied  
even by the worst enemies of the Chinese Communists:

In the eight years of war, not one Chinese Communist  
surrendered to or deserted to the Japanese, and to the end of the war,  
and afterwards, the Japanese considered the Communists their most  
implacable enemies.

I ask you to consider also that 800,000 Chinese soldiers

fought as puppets of the Japanese, and of these over half were Kuomintang soldiers who, led by their highest officers, went over to the Japanese by the tens of thousands. After Pearl Harbor, when the Chinese Government thought the allied powers would be defeated by the Axis, ~~the surrender of Kuomintang armies to~~ the Japanese became a flood. In fact, many of those armies received instructions to join the Japanese and fight the Communist-commanded guerrillas.

The minute the war ended, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek incorporated these puppet-traitor armies into the main Kuomintang armies, and they still fight the Communists. ~~High~~ Kuomintang Generals who went over to the Japanese were given new ranks in the Kuomintang

armies, and, so far as reports go, not one of them has ever been punished. Chinese traitors who acted as officials under the Japanese were reappointed by the Kuomintang in many places and many of them still hold their positions.

When the war ended, hundreds of thousands of Japanese troops fought the Communists, under orders of Chiang Kai-shek, and there are still Japanese soldiers and officers in the Army of General Yen Hsi-shan in Shansi Province, while the Kuomintang in Peking has maintained the Japanese Special Service, or espionage organizations, intact. I am informed that large numbers of Japanese spies are in the service of Generalissimo Chiang in north China--around both Peking and Tientsin and in Manchuria.

American troops also stood side by side with Japanese

troops and Chinese puppet armies, guarding ports, highway and railways for the Kuomintang.