

VI - 73 C - 21. Smedley, Agnes "What Chinese Soldiers Asked Me To Tell"
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ON JULY 7th, 1937, when the Japanese began to invade China proper, foreign military observers believed the Japanese boast that Japan would conquer China with five divisions within a period of from three to six months. Now over six years have passed. The Japanese, allies of Hitler, must keep around a million soldiers in China, and the Chinese have killed and maimed two or three million more.

How is it that China, a country unprepared for war with a major power with a population largely illiterate, and an economy primarily backward, could fight for over six years and continue to fight still?

There are many reasons, but these are a few: first, because the Chinese people prefer death to enslavement; secondly, because they have studied and thought so intensively in the past six years that they have leaped over a century of knowledge; third, because every man, woman and child has learned to fight with something or other and by some means or other. Common peasant soldiers who, before the war, knew only their own villages now talk in terms of world fascism and world democracy. I spent nearly four years with the Chinese regular armies and guerrilla detachments in the field, and saw them in common people arose from the ashes of destruction and death until they became armed forces fighting the Japanese by every means at their command.

Let's take as demonstration a region in the rear of the Japanese army of occupation just north of Hankow. All regular Chinese armed forces in this region had been defeated and driven out. There remained millions of the common people whom the Japanese believed they could use as slave labor, much as the Nazis use conquered people of Europe. The Japanese organized puppet governments in each town and village. But, for such traitorous activity they could get only the worst elements of the population. They conscrip-

What Chinese Soldiers Asked Me to Tell

A Message to the German People

By Agnes Smedley

We have asked Agnes Smedley, famous American writer and author of the just published book, "Battle Hymn of China," for a contribution to our paper. An ardent anti-Nazi and full of sympathy with the German people who were the first victims of Hitler, she addressed, a few weeks ago, the German people through the short wave facilities of CBS in German. She sent us the original English text of her address, part of which we are glad to present herewith:

In the ordinary training schools, both men and women, were taught methods of organizing the common people, of conducting guerrilla warfare, of sabotage, and methods for detecting secret enemy agents. Then they scattered to do their work. This process went on continuously.

I once saw a regiment of 1,500 puppet soldiers come over to the guerrillas which had grown up in this manner. These puppet soldiers had been armed and officered by the Japanese. At last they shot their officers and came over to the guerrillas with all their equipment. Six regiments of guerrillas existed while I was there, and they were constantly enlarged by young civilian men who poured into their ranks. These men had to live off the Japanese. They fought and captured their own weapons, food and clothing.

When the armed guerrillas fought the Japanese in battle, members of the Ten Men Group organized the entire common people in the battle zone as auxiliaries. Men, women, and children then went at night with picks, shovels and bars to help tear out bridges, roads, telegraph and telephone wires useful to the enemy. They cut down trees and felled them across mountain paths. They tied ropes around stones and hurled the stones over telephone or telegraph wires and dragged these away into the hills. They tore up railways and carried the rails into the hills where fountry workers had established forges in which they welded the rails into big swords for the guerrillas.

By the time I came into this region almost all the puppet governments had been destroyed by the people. Some traitors had fled to the arms of the Japanese, others were captured by secret members of the Ten Men Group and shot. In this liberated territory the people then elected their own officials in democratic elections.

ians learning guerrilla warfare. One young man, a foundry worker, said the first task of guerrilla warfare was to turn the enemy rear into a Chinese front. Guerrillas must rigidly discipline themselves so the people would trust them, he said, and they must keep the people informed of news from every front of the country so they would not lose hope, and would not submit to the enemy. Every soldier thus had important political tasks.

In some parts of China such regions as this cover vast areas. In such places there are great training camps with thousands of men and women studying in them. Training in such places cover not merely guerrilla warfare, but world history and politics and even natural science. Even the hospitals filled with the sick and wounded are training centers so that by the time a man leaves the hospital he has learned tremendous. Newspapers and magazines are published, industrial cooperatives have been founded and mobile theatres of plays and singing to the armies and the people. Throughout China, the people judge a man or woman by his ability to endure bitterness and make sacrifices. Better to die than go down in history as a slave or as a submissive traitor, say the Chinese. The Chinese people know that one must have a faith so faithful that it returns even after it has been slain.

This faith the Chinese have. Before I left China, soldiers and officers at the front, and civilians throughout the country, asked me to tell Occidental peoples that they will fight to the last drop of their blood, for tens of years if necessary until they are totally victorious. China's long struggle is eloquent proof that the Axis is doomed to failure. We free peoples of the west, and of China, find it impossible to understand why the German people have bowed down before Nazi rulers who have made the very name of Germany synonymous with infamy. Show us, you people of Germany, that you have the strength of spirit and are as fearless of death, as are the Chinese whom you have been taught to despise. Unless you prove this by destroying the Nazi beasts who are grinding you, and all Europe, under their heels, you also will go down with the Nazis and your name go down in history as slaves without courage.