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Smedley Expresses Deep Feeling For Chinese

The Megaphone, Organ of
Southern University, Georgetown, Texas

Lecturer Speaks Friday Evening

"Such a little thing—for my country!" quoted Agnes Smedley, war correspondent and author, Friday evening in her lecture on the campus. She referred to the dying words of a Chinese soldier who expressed what she feels is the spirit of the Chinese people with whom she has lived for the past several years.

Miss Smedley says she "feels something of a missionary's task" to tell America about the so-called illiterate Chinese who have withstood the Japanese for six and one-half years, going through agonies unintelligible to the American mind.

In listing the reasons why China fights back, the speaker gave first Japanese atrocities. She told the story of one Chinese school teacher whose face was horribly disfigured because he had lived in spite of the Jap sword which had cut off the heads of his eleven companions and almost his own.

Second is the unrelenting hatred against the Japs which is in the heart of every Chinese. The tiny babies are taught to say the Chinese words for "Down with the Jap devils" when they first learn to talk.

China continues to fight because she now knows why she is fighting. Instructors in political training have been employed by the army to teach the soldiers principles and tactics of national united front, principles of Sun Yat-Sen, history of Chinese revolution, history of Chinese-Japanese relations, history of Chinese-foreign relations, political science, political theories, nature of Fascism, history of human progress, Japanese language, and methods of mass mobilization. These schools have helped to educate the common people and will be the background for continued education after the war.

The education system which was in existence at the outset of the war in China has been re-organized to meet the situation. Whole colleges have picked up a few belongings and moved more than 1,000 miles to continue their studies.

Another innovation which helps the Chinese fight is the industrial cooperative. These are small settlements, owned by the workers, who furnish a great deal of food and supplies for the armies. They are now supported almost entirely by English and American donations.

The Chinese Red Cross Medical Corps, with which Miss Smedley worked, has done a great deal to teach the natives the elementary facts of sanitation and to care for wounded soldiers on the battle fields. These have laid a foundation for socialized medicine which may become national after the war, Miss Smedley believes.

"I doubt if there is a city in China which has not been bombed," the speaker stated. "I have lain in muddy ditches watching the Japanese come over in American-made planes which were powered by American gasoline and carried American-made bombs."

It is conditions like these which make the Chinese distrust America, but hope that help may come. They believed that America would have the Japanese defeated in six months after Pearl Harbor and were greatly disillusioned when the victory did not take place.

"The Chinese will never quit until they win," Miss Smedley believes, because they hold to the proverb, "Without sacrifice there can be no victory."