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**War
Cry**
*Battle Hymn of
China.* By AGNES
SMEDLEY. New
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Knopf, Inc. \$3.50.



During the past few months the exploits of Lieutenant Colonel Evans Fordyce Carlson have been given widespread publicity. The brilliant success of his Raiders behind the Japanese lines on Guadalcanal, the consummate skill with which they accomplished their missions on Makin and Tarawa are stories that have thrilled millions of Americans.

There is something ironic about the fact that the methods employed to achieve these distinguished victories were learned from the Chinese Communist Eighth Route Armies. The soldiers of Chu Teh, unsupported by any heavy industry, bereft of war's modern weapons, resorted to guerrilla tactics; they withstood five annihilation campaigns;

they proved themselves the most effective opponents of the Japanese. It was during two years of study with these armies that Colonel Carlson learned the techniques that have already paid heavy dividends in our war with the Japanese.

The authentic story of these years is told by Agnes Smedley in her rousing book, *Battle Hymn of China*. For four of her twelve years in China Miss Smedley lived with the guerrilla armies at the front, nursing the wounded, securing medical supplies against incredible odds, and in many other ways sharing in the magnificent and heroic struggle of the Chinese Communists.

During these days of staggering Russian victories—days in which we see the European struggle reaching its climax—it is well to turn to the East and see through Miss Smedley's eyes the unfolding of another pattern in which the century of the common man advances. This book makes it abundantly clear that the Kiplingese notions of contemporary imperialists are destined to be severely jolted. The *Battle Hymn of China* is the battle hymn of colored humanity on the march toward victory. The obstacles are foreboding; the cost is terrific, the suffering unimaginable; but the people of China are awakening to their own great destiny, and the progress of their struggle is such as to make their ultimate victory inexorable.

Edgar Snow has rendered a great service to the West with his thrilling stories of the Chinese people; now Agnes Smedley, through whom Snow acquired much of his knowledge, has brought the story to its grand climax. In 528 pages replete with eye-witness accounts of degradation, courage, intrigue, heroic devotion in the midst of a titanic conflict, Miss Smedley pierces the clouds that obscure the East and shows us the future.

W. ELLIS DAVIES