

VI - 73 D - 42. "U.S. Woman Relaying News From America" (Smedley's notation
"About December - 1939) Otherwise source not identified.

About Dec 1938

US Woman Relaying News From America

Deep in war-ravaged China, an American woman keeps the Chinese army informed of the world events by copying news bulletins from KGEL, the General Electric International Broadcast station on Treasure Island at San Francisco, California.

She is Agnes Smedley, a writer and an ardent supporter of the Chinese cause. In a letter from Anhwei Province and just received by the station, she explained that she takes the news down in shorthand and an interpreter translates it for the new Chinese Fourth Army.

"This is a guerilla army fighting over a long narrow belt along the lower Yangtze from Chinkiang (west of Shanghai), past Nanking to Tatung," she wrote. "It has turned the Japanese rear into a Chinese front and has had considerable success."

Of radio reception she wrote:

"We have difficulty if we run out of batteries—which is often due to the cost—or when our precious batteries run low. Unfortunately when I am not here no one can take down the broadcasts quickly enough, and when there is a typhoon or the radio is broken, we can get no news."

Her closely written letter filled four pages of the stationery of the National Red Cross Society of China. Of conditions in her

locality, she wrote in part: "On July 1, I was in another terrible air raid here and lay in a ditch and watched 13 bombers beat their power dives right above me. They bombed four villages around me."

Agnes Smedley was born in Oklahoma and at one time taught school in a Colorado mining district.