

VI - 73 D - 46. "She Saw China Fight Back," Hollywood Citizen News (undated)

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She Saw China Fight Back

Woman Urges Oil Ban to Japanese

In Hollywood today is Agnes Smedley, ace war correspondent, author and lecturer, after 12 years spent in China, the last four with the Chinese regular and guerrilla armies as a member of the Chinese Red Cross Medical Corps.

As one of six American marked by the Japanese Secret Service for instant death, if captured, according to a Reuters (British) News Agency dispatch, Miss Smedley knows, probably more than any other American woman, the inside story of wartime life in China.

She knows it because she has lived it.

Volunteering as soon as the Japanese invaded China, in July, 1939, she worked as a propagandist for China without salary, while continuing her regular job as special correspondent for the English Manchester Guardian.

Once for 18 months she was on the march, by foot and horseback, covering vast territories in Central China; visiting the famous Eighth and Fourth Route guerrilla armies and with them penetrating far behind the enemy lines.

She tells how she slept in uniform for nights on end, pistol at her side, ready to flee, should the Japanese appear. She was in Hankow, former war capital of the Central Chinese Government, during its heaviest bombing and escaped with the rest of the Medical Corps staff to Changsha just a few hours ahead of the Japanese.

She has seen hundreds of brave Chinese soldiers lying untended on battlefields swept by Japanese machine guns; women and children mercilessly massacred; Red Cross hospitals and ambulances deliberately sought out for bombings by enemy planes.

She, herself, has faced the machine guns and rifles of a Chinese bandit detachment, and talked herself and her army escorts out of being shot, using as arguments her Red Cross passport and her status as an American citizen.

She has seen how "China Fights Back," the title of one of four books she already has written on her experiences in China. She plans to write two more.

Back in her homeland, she has two "demands" to make of Americans—demands so pressing that failure to comply may mean defeat, not a name for China but for the cause of freedom and democracy, she believes.

She says "this war... materials... other in... is aggres-

When, with six Japanese prisoners, I flung myself in a wayside ditch to escape machine gun fire from an enemy plane, as I once did, it was not pleasant, believe me, to know that only the pilot was Japanese—that all the rest was American.

BUT WHY THESE?

"It was not easy to explain, as I once tried to do at the last 'resting place' of some soldiers en route to the front, to die, that America is China's friend, and then to have them ask of me 'But why these?', pointing to the oil tins, bearing the name of an American oil firm, that the Japanese had left behind.

"Secondly I ask that at least 75 per cent of all the medical supplies which you, kind American friends, send to China, be designated for the soldier and civilian sick and wounded who are bearing the brunt in the fight with the Japanese. This can best be done by sending them to the Chinese Red Cross Medical Corps, named by the Central Chinese Government to care for those actually in the war zones."

In these war zones tens of thousands of Chinese, the brave common people of this great country, soldiers and civilians, men, women and children are starving on rice and turnips ("at most two meager meals a day"); dying like flies of typhus and relapsing fever for lack of medicine, care and proper food.

"The Chinese have a saying, 'Japanese power reaches only as far as machine gun fire,'" Miss Smedley says. "Outside the walled cities held by the Japanese, with themselves virtually prisoners within, are the Chinese, one, two or 10 miles away, tilling the soil,

maintaining their schools, spying on the enemy and fighting ceaselessly toward China's 'Final Victory.'

AMERICA MUST AID

"Here, too, are hundreds of brave volunteer workers, teachers, propagandists, organizers who are teaching these harassed people to read and write, instructing them in hygiene, broadening their vision, teaching them patriotism through theatricals — anything, everything to bolster their morale.

"Here are 2500 medical workers, Chinese doctors, surgeons, nurses, aides, stretcher bearers and truck-drivers who work under constant danger, under severest handicaps. To many of these areas not one ounce of American supplies or medicines has ever come. Without anesthetics, or morphine,

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"Stop," she demands, "this wanton sending of oil and materials for planes, bombs and other instruments of war to this aggressor nation, Japan.

"When, with six Japanese prisoners, I flung myself in a wayside ditch to escape machine gun fire from an enemy plane, as I once did, it was not pleasant, believe me, to know that only the pilot was Japanese—that all the rest was American.

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Miss Smedley plans, not only to write her two books, but also to make a nation-wide lecture tour.