

VI - 73 D - 70. "Battle HYMN of China Author Discusses War Goals", The Saratogian, Saratoga Springs, New York, April 18, 1944.

Battle Hymn of China Author Discusses War Goal

"IN our armies now we have 15 to 20 percent mental casualties which already creates a serious problem," was one of many pertinent statements made by Miss Agnes Smedley, author of Battle Hymn of China and a Red Cross medical worker at the front lines in China for many years last night at the guest meeting of the Saratoga Springs Branch of the American Association of University Women with Mrs. George O. Tuck, hostess.

"We haven't taught our men," Miss Smedley said, "What they are to die for, what goal they are striving for. They need this motivation for balance. In the Chinese army they are building an armour against affliction, showing them a goal to fight for with a peaceful settled heart."

"There are many different kinds of armies in China, she said, naming the nationalist, provincial and guerrilla.

"The nationalist and guerrilla armies, in addition to fighting are being taught to read and write, she explained, "all going through military, cultural and political training camps. All educated men are being given short intensive training courses so that they may become instructors and help wipe out the great illiteracy of China."

"They are taught the three People's Principles of Sun-Yat Sen, the history of Opium War, geography, Morale, composition, traitor defense etc. Each division puts out its weekly newspaper the regiments their monthly magazines. In their clubrooms they write and act plays, compose and sing songs.

"It is interesting to note what photographs," said Miss Smedley, "they have as 'Pin-up girls' on their walls, such people as Marconi, Edison, Madame Curie, Newton, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson. Underneath each picture they have their dates, country and achievements listed.

ONE of the requests Miss Smedley met over and again in China, she declared was "tell us frankly if England and France really want China to win this war, to emerge a strong and victorious power or are they not afraid if China did? Would she not encourage India versus England, French-Indo China versus France? Do they not wish rather that the Chinese would be weakened by the struggle?"

"Sometimes the Chinese have thought, this is why the United States and Great Britain sold Japan weapons of war."

All these facts were brought out in a forceful manner by Miss Smedley.

topic, England; Her Interest in Palestine and the Near East with Miss Grace A. Cockcroft, of Skidmore, leader of the discussion.

Mrs. Philip L. Nichols was program chairman and Mrs. W. Ernst Spencer refreshments chairman for the meeting last night.

Guests of the club were Mr. and Mrs. John A. Slade, Surrogate George O. Tuck, Charles L. Swick, Charles F. Bassett, Mr. and Mrs. Claude VanWie, Julius Moncsko, Mr. and Mrs. Newton M. Connolly, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Crandall, Leo D. Ayeen Jr., Holger H. VanAllen.

Mrs. Newman E. Wait Jr., Mrs. Paul Wolters, Mrs. James T. Towne, Mrs. Frank Conant, Miss Josephine E. Mitchell, Mrs. M. G. Currey, Mrs. James M. Skiff, Mrs. Thomas F. Luther, Mrs. Walter H. Wandell, Miss Zada E. Herrick.

Mrs. H. G. Stacey, Mrs. W. P. Donohue, Mrs. Thomas A. Muir, Mrs. Robert S. Olcott, Mrs. Charles H. Chamberlin, Mrs. Willis S. Gale, Mrs. John H. Waner, Miss Helen B. Ausman, Miss Minnie L. Foster, Miss Elizabeth Ames.

Miss Lena M. Smith, Mrs. William E. Benton, Miss Margaret E. Madden, Mrs. Harold F. Smith, Mrs. John Sexton, Mrs. W. Ralph Clements, Mrs. A. Walter Ward, Mrs. Rowland C. Lamb Jr. and Miss Viola Pettit.

Miss Smedley says that to her the Communist armies of China are very much like those of Tito's Partisans in Yugoslavia. These China guerrilla communist armies, now have six main bases where they have training camps, arsenals, hospitals. They have freed 277 counties completely and 450 partially. Where they have freed counties they immediately instituted universal suffrage, the first time in Chinese history. They also have learned the procedure of each choosing his own mate in place of the family arranged marriage of old China.

"NOT all Chinese are fascist," she continued. "We must not forget this. There are many many democrats but they are not now holding the guns and are not, therefore, able to be heard. They have no freedom of speech and press but nevertheless, they are there working quietly now, but preserving China's respect for learning, educating the people."

Most of the soldiers can't define fascism or democracy but Miss Smedley once asked a platoon of soldiers what they meant by "New free China after the war." They answered, "We mean that those who grow rice will have enough rice to eat; that those that spin and weave will have clothing to wear instead of going ragged; all children will get an education and there will be work for all."

Mrs. Reginald F. Torrey, president, introduced Miss Smedley, and announced an International Panel meeting will be held Friday at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. LeRoy Foote, in Fifth Avenue, on the