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"Twenty Thousand Blankets For Our Wounded" and "A Szechuan Army On  
The Lower Yangtze"

# CHINA DEFENCE LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

Bulletin of the Central Committee of the China Defence League

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Young boys fighting in the ranks of the partisans for the freedom of their homes.

## TWENTY THOUSAND BLANKETS FOR OUR WOUNDED!

"We need twenty thousand blankets for our hospitals before the winter," the commander of one of the partisan armies operating on the lower Yangtze telegraphed to the Central Committee of the China Defence League.

Checked on the fronts, the Japanese are increasingly turning their attention to the "pacification" of the areas they have occupied, areas in which hundreds of towns and thousands of villages are defended by brave men fighting for their homes and their liberty.

These partisan fighters are not afraid of Japanese "campaigns of extermination." They have dealt with them before. But they know that such campaigns are accompanied by heavy fighting, that there will be many casualties both in their own ranks and among the people.

Last winter, hundreds of wounded died not from their injuries but from exposure. This is what a doctor working in the area wrote at the time: "In winter weather, when warm clothing is scarce and bedding rarely sufficient to protect the patients from the intense cold, a doctor's role is not to be admired. We are left helpless to watch the patients lose their resistance and die simply because we cannot keep them warm."

The testimony of another observer: "It is fearfully cold in this region in the wintertime, yet we do not have money to make padded winter garments. Only two men in five have blankets in this army. Of the sick and wounded in our hospitals, many cannot recover for this reason. The plight of the brave fighters injured in distant sectors and carried for days on uncovered stretchers through the cold and the snow is indescribable."

The China Defence League appeals to all organizations working for China and to all readers of this newsletter to see that during the coming winter these things do not happen again. The world has failed sufficiently in its duty to the men who are struggling not only for China's freedom but for peace and human dignity everywhere. Is it too much to ask that friends of China in the rich countries of the West MAKE SURE THAT CHINA'S WOUNDED DO NOT FREEZE TO DEATH!

The twenty thousand blankets for the partisans on the Yangtze must be sent quickly, not only if they are to reach their destination by the winter, but if they are to reach it at all. At this moment, the Japanese are threatening to occupy the last seaports giving ready access to the partisan areas. Already difficult, the transport of bulky supplies may soon become impossible.

Action is needed now. Light, warm woolen blankets must be sent to China immediately by our friends in the United States, Great Britain and Australia. Special campaigns must be inaugurated. Results must be produced before it is too late.

## FIELD REPORTS

### A SZECHUAN ARMY ON THE LOWER YANGTZE.

*The following report, by an American member of the China Defence League who has spent the last few months with the Chinese armies on the lower Yangtze is very interesting and illuminating.*

*The army of which this friend speaks came originally from Szechuan, thousands of miles to the West. For a year and a half it has been fighting the national enemy. It has suffered 10,000 casualties and faces the prospect of even greater losses and hardships. In spite of this, the picture this army presents is not one of fatigue and homesickness but, on the contrary, of progress and self-improvement. Peasant boys who at the beginning knew only hazily what they were fighting for now know the meaning of their struggle to China and to the world. The illiterate learn to read. All the men develop their minds and bodies. Science, literature and dramatic art have come into their lives.*

*The story of this Szechuan army is a typical one in the annals of China's fight for freedom and unity. The needs of this army are also typical. The list of required supplies given at the end of this article will give our friends an idea of how they can help.*

"I have just returned from the N-th Army, a Szechuan Army fighting by positional warfare along the Yangtze River, the headquarters of which is located about one day's hard ride from the station of the New Fourth Army. I went to this place by invitation and as a member of the Chinese Red Cross Medical Relief Commission, primarily to see what help was needed in the care of the wounded. I was particularly anxious to do this because I have watched the transport of the wounded of this Army to the rear, for some three months. The wounded from one division passed through the town in which I am at present, and often the New Fourth Army hospitals were able to help the wounded in transit. They came often through here in the late evening or night, after a long trip from the front. The hospital here put up some of the wounded who could not reach their receiving stations before night; it changed dressings and gave tea, and took in a few too sick or too badly wounded to travel further. The general condition of these men was often so very bad that I longed to see the commander of this Army and tell him what I had learned. Finally the invitation came and I went.

#### Soldiers Learn While Fighting

I first visited the Training School six li from Headquarters, where 200 men from the Army are being trained as lower officers and about a hundred men and women students are being trained for political work in the Army and amongst the people. I spoke to this training school and gave one hour's report on foreign aid and support of China, on Japanese spying and propaganda activities in various countries, or people's organisations combatting them, collecting money and medical supplies for China, conducting the anti-Japanese boycott, and various other activities. I was highly impressed by the seriousness and determination of the men under training; they sat listening intently as I spoke, and many took notes. A secretary wrote down my speech and it will be published and circulated in the Army for study. I gave all the

information I have been able to gain from foreign magazines, from Shanghai foreign publications and from my general knowledge gained before coming here.

#### An Army's Recreation

The Army put on a sports tournament for me, which lasted throughout the day. It was a magnificent tournament, for never have I seen finer bodies and stronger men in all China. They seem to be selected Szechuan men, and since the Army lays great stress on physical training, the men are as strong as steel and as swift as light. General Kwoh Hsien-chi, commander of the N-th Army, himself took part in the basket-ball and tennis tournament, as did his wife, Mme. Kwoh, who is at the front with him, and as did some of the other officers and their wives. The wife of one officer is a sportswoman who formerly took part in national sports tournaments as did her husband; she, Mme. Kwoh and four or five other women, wives of officers, are university graduates and participate in the political life of the Army. Political work was introduced about three months ago. They take part in sports, teach singing and join the Front Service Corps, an organisation composed of young men and women students from South Anhwei who have joined the Army in the last six months.

In the evening I was taken to the theatre where the Front Service Corps put on a number of patriotic dramas every evening; the acting was excellent and most of the plays excellent in content. The theatre was crowded by officers and men, who sang patriotic songs; civilians were admitted. A woman doctor went with me and she and I spoke and sang songs with the audience. The soldiers have learned to sing and some of them do it very well indeed. A part of the work of the Front Service Corps is the singing of songs. General Kwoh himself arose at various times and led the theatre in shouting slogans of national emancipation and of solidarity with foreign friends aiding China.

**CHINA'S WOUNDED NEED 20,000 BLANKETS! HOW MANY CAN YOU GIVE?**

I was much impressed by General Kwoh and his wife. General Kwoh has earned a name for himself by his fearlessness and his democratic ideas. He has been wounded once in battle since the war began. He has tried to improve the Army insofar as he could. He is progressive and modern and approaches his soldiers in a friendly way. His wife, who goes with him at all times, is a university graduate and a teacher, a very active and tireless woman in improving the Army.

#### Medical Service Difficulties

I met the Director of the Medical Service of the Army and the Director of the Medical Service of one division, saw their records, visited the Headquarters clinic and talked at length and many times with them and with many others about the medical service. The Army follows the regular Government system in organisation and supplies. I am sorry to say that this means the medical service is not what it ought to be. Its doctors are not well trained. But, like other Chinese armies, its chief problem is medical supplies. The Government gives very little medicine. All the armies of the country suffer in the same way—ten cents per month per man being allowed for medical supplies for all armies. It is a terrible thing but it is true. The result is that this Army got just 2,000 tablets of quinine for the whole of last year when it was fighting along the Yangtze valley, though malaria has decimated its ranks. Its other supplies are of the same nature. All the medical supplies in the clinic at Headquarters were bought by General Kwoh himself from Shanghai, for money for medicine was inadequate and Headquarters received none at all. The divisions, each of which has a hospital, are also miserably supplied; combined with this is the fact that the divisions take care of the civilians wounded by Japanese bombing and by artillery. I can vouch for this for I once saw 16 wounded men of a Peasant Defence Corps being transported from the front to a rear receiving station of this Army. The New Fourth Army took four of these severely wounded men, three of whom died.

The need of this Army for medical supplies is so great that I am appealing to the Chinese Red Cross Medical Relief Corps for medical supplies, though Dr. Kwoh and I know that the Red Cross can supply only a small part of what is required, since the Red Cross must supply its own units in the field. I am therefore writing to the China Defence League asking you to do everything possible to get medical supplies for this Army and ship them here.

#### Urgent Needs

I asked the Army to give me a list of its most urgent medical needs—four or five items to begin with. They gave the following:

1. Emetine hydrochlor. - - (510 boxes)
2. Iodine chrystals - - - (51 lbs.)
3. Potassium iodide - - - (34 lbs.)
4. Mercurochrome - - - (5 lbs.)
5. T.A.T. serum - - - (3,000 units)
6. Rivanol - - - - - (2 lbs.)

The army has inadequate bandage cloth. It has only primitive surgical instruments and needs scissors, forceps, knives. It needs magnesium sulphate, borax, acid powder, bicarbonate of soda, bleaching powder, etc. I think Dr. Lim will send the T.A.T. and some of the necessary anti-typhoid and anti-cholera serum—perhaps some of the emetine and some of the quinine. I do not know if he has any mercurochrome. I think not. He can perhaps supply the iodine crystals and we have asked him to send alcohol.

We all here urge you to help for many reasons; first because this Army has had over 10,000 casualties since the war began, fighting as it does by positional warfare; secondly because we here get and can get, almost nothing from the Far West, because of difficult transport facilities.

Is there any organisation that can give this Army blankets? They have an average of one blanket for every two men and some of their wounded pass by here without any covering at all. Often they have no shoes or stockings either. It is a miserable thing.

Help us all you can, to strengthen Chinese resistance along the Yangtze.

## TWO IMPORTANT PAMPHLETS.

### ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW.

Now on the press are two important pamphlets, designed for sale at meetings and for distribution to friends of China abroad.

The China Defence League's Report after a year of work consists of 75 pages of text and photographs and gives full and interesting accounts of the International Peace Hospital, the Emergency Medical Training School of the Chinese Red Cross, the New Fourth Army Medical Service, the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives, the League's work for war orphans, the Anti-Japanese University at Yen-an, the forthcoming China Bazaars in New York, Paris, and London, and other information on China's relief needs and the projects undertaken to fill them. The report is prefaced by an appeal from Mme. Sun Yat-sen. The price is US\$0.10 or 5d. per copy.

The New Fourth Army is an illustrated pamphlet by Jack Belden, famous war correspondent who recently visited this partisan force. As a series of articles, this small book attracted wide attention. It contains new, first-hand, accurate and inspiring information on the progress of the anti-Japanese struggle in the "occupied" Yangtze Valley. An appeal from the China Defence League is printed on the back cover. Twenty Five Cents (U.S.) or One Shilling is the price of this important and attractively published account.

The China Defence League has gone to considerable trouble and expense to produce what it feels are two very effective pieces of publicity for the Chinese people's struggle. Organizations are urged to place large orders for sale at meetings and on news-stands.

In cabled orders, the pamphlets should be referred to as "Report" and "Pamphlet" respectively.

**TWENTY THOUSAND BLANKETS WILL SAVE A HUNDRED THOUSAND WOUNDED!**

## BEHIND THE ENEMY'S LINES, FREE CHINA FIGHTS AND GROWS!

Speaking before the Third Session of China's new People's Political Council, held in Chungking in the end of February, Dr. H. H. Kung, President of the Executive Yuan, revealed the following amazing and encouraging figures concerning the restoration of Chinese authority behind the enemy lines in the regions where anti-Japanese partisan detachments operate:

"It is most misleading to use the term 'occupied areas' for any part of China. Wherever the enemy sets foot, a war area is created, and it continues to be a war area regardless of whether the fighting takes the form of positional, mobile, or guerilla warfare. Some figures will demonstrate the weak hold of the Japanese over these war areas.

"Our eleven war-affected provinces, Kiangsu, Chekiang, Fukien, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Hupeh, Hunan, Hopei, Honan, Shantung, and Shansi, contain 941 districts. Of these, 583 districts, or 62 per cent., are still entirely intact and the magistrates exercise their authority as usual from the district seats.

"In 35 districts which are partially under Japanese occupation, the chief towns are still in our hands and the administration functions in them.

"In 254 districts, the chief towns are in the hands of the Japanese but the magistrates continue to exercise their authority from various points in the countryside, but still within the district. This condition obtains in 26 per cent. of the districts in the rear of the enemy. Finally, there are 23 magistrates who have moved their offices to the neighboring areas but whose orders still continue to reach their home districts. Of a total of 941 magistrates, only 55 are entirely unable to discharge their duties because the Japanese occupation of their districts is effective and complete. But this group constitutes only 6 per cent. of the total.

"After one and a half years of sanguinary fighting, the districts fully controlled by the Japanese apart from the cities and environs of Peiping, Tientsin, Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow and Canton, number only 33. This slim political harvest of the Japanese is, moreover, subject to constant threats and attacks by our guerilla forces."

It is noteworthy that Chinese provincial governments still function in all the "occupied" provinces. At the beginning of 1939, the Central Government, for the first time in seven years, appointed Chairmen for the four Northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Kirin, Heilungkiang and Jehol (comprising the puppet state of "Manchukuo"), where a United Anti-Japanese Army of 12 divisions is fighting for the liberation of the 30,000,000 Chinese who were the first to experience the hardships and cruelties of Japanese rule. A detachment of the Eighth Route Army, advancing from East Hopei along the shores of the Gulf of Chihli, has already penetrated into Manchuria from within the Great Wall and established contact with the anti-Japanese partisans there. This is the first Chinese regular force to enter the "lost territories" since 1931.

REPRINT THIS NEWSLETTER!  
REPRINT MADAME SUN YAT-SEN'S APPEAL  
FOR THE WAR ORPHANS!  
SEND CLIPPINGS TO THE  
CHINA DEFENCE LEAGUE.



## NEWS FROM NORWAY.

### 50 SURGEONS VOLUNTEER.

Dr. Robert K. S. Lim, head of the Medical Relief Commission of the Chinese Red Cross, has accepted the offer of the Norwegian Committees for Chinese and Spanish Relief, to pay the passage to China, and the salaries for one year, of 50 surgeons who formerly served with the Republican forces in Spain and are now unemployed in the South of France.

The surgeons are awaiting the granting of visas by the Chinese Government before proceeding to China.

Send all Contributions to CHINA DEFENCE LEAGUE,  
c/o Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, Hong Kong.