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"China's Refugee Millions, Stricken by Hunger and Disease,
Call for Aid"

China's Refugee Millions, Stricken By Hunger and Disease, Call for Aid

BY AGNES SMEDLEY

THE JAPANESE MILITARISTS WANT THEM TO DIE!

"WE DO NOT WANT TO HELP THE WOUNDED CHINESE. WE WANT THEM TO DIE."

As reported in last week's issue of *The Review* (page 336) this callous statement was made by a Japanese naval officer to the physician-in-charge on board the relief ship *Tembien* which was proceeding from Shanghai to Ningpo with medical supplies and food to be used in succoring hundreds of Chinese in the Chekiang port city wounded by Japanese aerial bombs.

A Japanese destroyer halted the relief ship as it was nearing Ningpo. The physician-in-charge thought the vessel would be allowed to proceed to her destination when it was explained that she was engaged on an errand of mercy. The above-quoted remark was the answer he received and the *Tembien* was forced to return to Shanghai under escort without delivering her cargo or the 10 Chinese doctors and 21 nurses on board.

Editor's Note: The plight of millions of refugees behind the Chinese lines and the urgent need for organized relief and medical aid on a large scale are brought out in the following eye-witness account of conditions in the Yangtze River valley region to the west of Wuhu, particularly in Fanchang hsien. The article consists of extracts from reports lately sent to Shanghai by Miss Smedley, who is a member of the Chinese Red Cross Medical Relief Commission.

I have just returned from a study trip through one of the war districts directly bordering the Yangtze River. I passed through a part of Nanling hsien, through a few places of Tungling hsien, and then made a thorough trip through Fanchang hsien, a hsien directly bordering the Yangtze, on the borders of which there are five different Japanese garrisons. This hsien lies just to the west of Wuhu, one of its western bordering towns being Tikang, now under Japanese occupation.

In the past December and January, the Japanese over-ran this hsien, occupying all the important towns, including the hsien city, Fanchang. Many villages were burned to the ground, and many homes of the people just to the north of Fanchang were also burned. Fanchang itself was bombed, many of the buildings still being heaps of ruins, among these the municipal government building. The number of people killed is not known to me; it seems no account was kept. Members and commanders of the Fanchang Self-Defence Corps (now called "Army") told me of killings in many places.

Murder—Just Like That!

The Spanish Catholic priest, Eduardo Larrea, the only foreign missionary remaining in Fanchang during the occupation and at present, said he of course saw no killings, but, he added: "Just outside the gate here they killed a woman as they entered the town; they killed her just as if she were a chicken." When the Japanese came and demanded admission to the mission compound inside which he had 150 Chinese refugees, Father Larrea invited them into his study and gave them what they demanded—sugar—and then escorted them to the gate. He said he did this to keep them from searching the mission compound and finding the women.

Most of the civilians evacuated the city as the Japanese approached. There was fierce fighting for weeks, and eventually the Japanese were driven back by the combined force of Chinese troops and the local Self Defence Corps. This Self Defence Corps consists of some 600 young men civilians, all in civilian clothing; cooperating with them are a few thousand other armed civilians, but their weapons are old muzzle-loading bird guns and swords. This civilian force lost heavily during the fighting. The 50th Army and the New Fourth Army, which fought with them against the Japanese at the time over a broad front, both took in many of their wounded.

Refugee Problem Studied

I rode from village to village and town to town through Fanchang hsien, making a special study of the civilian refugee problem, of which I had heard. Thousands of these refugees had moved a little further to the rear, into Nanling and Kinghsien hsien, but I had heard that the situation right near the front was most desperate.

My first encounter with a large concentration of refugees was in Tungling hsien, where I found some 500 men, women and children in one rather large town. The second was in Mujiatien, in Tungling hsien also, where I found 218 refugees living, as usual everywhere, in an old ancestral temple.

After Mujiatien I passed on through one endless line of human suffering. There was no temple without masses of refugees sleeping on the stone floor, with bits of straw under them. A few of the smaller temples had 50 to 60 refugees in them, the average however being 200. In one large village near Bufachen I found 1,000 refugees living in three or four temples and abandoned buildings. In Bufachen itself I found three temples each with around 200 refugees.

As we approached the Yangtze River, the fighting zone, there were fewer refugees, because as many as possible had moved a few hours to the "rear." But right near the fighting zone, and now since the Japanese are driven back to five points, we found refugees right within a few li of Japanese positions. The last twelve families in the Catholic Mission compound of Fanchang hsien itself left a few days ago to return to their bits of farms, though all their homes and agricultural implements, clothing and other possessions were burned, destroyed, or their livestock and poultry eaten by the Japanese.

In estimating the possibilities of relief, it must be borne in mind that much land remains uncultivated due to its locating around Japanese points of occupation; in other places land remains uncultivated because the homes, agricultural implements, clothing, and livestock of the farmers were

Comforts for China's Wounded Soldiers

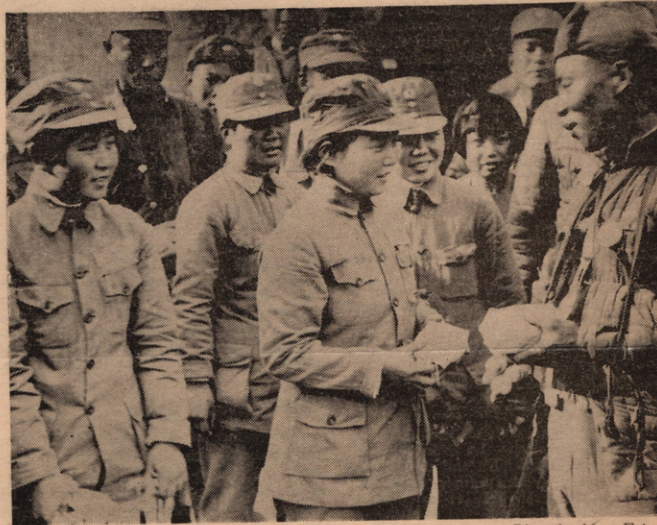
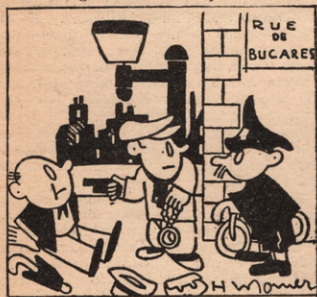


Photo by Mary Fei

An occasional ray of sunshine filters into the lives of China's valiant warriors whose lot is generally one of unrelieved hardship and suffering. Sunny-faced young girl soldiers are shown in the picture distributing gifts of food and clothing to battle-scarred fighters not far from the front lines.

can be eliminated, and those of trust, understanding, restitution and cooperation be multiplied. Speaking for America, yet in a sense speaking for all, former president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, George L. Eastman, said at this conference: "It becomes more and more evident that ultimate understanding between nations is not going to be brought about by peace treaties or international agreements. It must come through a change of the motives that drive men and nations. The next fifty years unquestionably will be a Pacific era, and it is here that world commerce and trade will find its greatest advance. We, the nations bordering the Pacific, must face the responsibility of determining whether the spirit that shall



Canard Enchaîné

Robber: "Please attend to your own business. I'm only proposing a commercial treaty to him."

dominate this period will be one of distrust and greed, or one that will make for understanding and peace."

Among far-seeing men of affairs in both China and Japan there is great interest in Moral Rearmament, both as a possible avenue along which an understanding between the two nations might eventually be reached, and as a foundation for reconstruction after present hostilities cease. Quietly the spirit of M.R.A. is multiplying the constructive forces in both nations upon which, in future, a bridge of understanding and cooperation can be built. A Danish member of the League of Nations, himself an internationally-known construction engineer, said of the Oxford Group: "It is the greatest bridge builder in the world, bridging the differences between nation and nation, class and class, man and man."

In this spirit, every nation bordering on or with interests in the Pacific area can work for the underlying purposes of Moral Rearmament, well-expressed in the Oxford Group Bridge Builders' Song:

On sure foundations, build we God's new nations;

Strong and clear, tells each year, of new-bridged relations.

As land reaches to land, on a world-front will we stand,

And build together, what none shall sever, Bridges from man to man, the whole round earth to span.

Taunggyi, Burma, May 6, 1939

Four U. S. Cruisers Ordered to Pacific

Four 10,000-ton cruisers belonging to the Atlantic Squadron—the Brooklyn, the Savannah, the Philadelphia and the Honolulu—received sudden orders from the Navy Department on May 11 to proceed immediately into the Pacific via the Panama Canal. *Transocean* reported from Washington May 11. With their departure, the Atlantic Squadron will consist merely of three relatively obsolete battleships, seven modern destroyers and a number of smaller units, the German agency said.

Franco Orders Book Purge in Spain; Stalin's Role in Strife is Revealed

A grim reminder of the type of regime established throughout Spain by the victory of General Franco was contained in a *Transocean* dispatch from Madrid on May 13 which reported the commencement of a drastic "purge" of books throughout that country by order of the Minister of Interior. No book published since July 18, 1936, which was the date of the outbreak of the civil war, may henceforth be sold or otherwise circulated without special authorization, the dispatch stated.

Another step taken by Franco's authoritarian regime has been the issuance of a decree invalidating all marriages contracted in the former Loyalist territory without benefit of clergy. A time limit has been set within which all couples thus wedded must go through a church ceremony or have their marriages declared null and void.

Stalin's Role Exposed

A striking expose of Dictator Joseph Stalin's contribution to Franco's victory in Spain is contained in the first of a series of articles by General W. G. Krivitsky, former head of the Soviet Military Intelligence Service in Western Europe, which appears in the April 15 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*. Krivitsky broke with the Stalin regime in November, 1937 and is now living in the United States.

His first article deals with Stalin's decision to embark upon an interventionist policy in Spain and the manner in which this intervention was carried out. Krivitsky, because of his position with the Soviet Government, played a leading role in Stalin's machinations and is therefore able to record what actually happened from first-hand knowledge.

Stalin, he declares, decided upon intervention in the Spanish civil war, hoping thus to establish Moscow's influence on the Iberian peninsula and to use this influence in order to force Britain and France into a firm agreement with his government. His agents in this maneuver were instructed to act with utmost circumspection in order to conceal the Soviet role and to do nothing which might embroil the Soviet Union in war.

Ogpu Invades Spain

The essence of the task Stalin set himself, according to Krivitsky, was to prevent a Franco-Hitler-Mussolini victory, to dominate the Loyalist government by making it dependent upon Soviet arms and supplies, and to use this domination to prove the "respectability" of both Moscow and Loyalist Spain so that France and Britain might deem them worthy partners in some kind of alliance. To accomplish this latter part of the program,

Stalin sent hordes of Ogpu agents into Spain to strangle all revolutionary tendencies on the part of the masses and to forge a totalitarian regime utterly obedient to Moscow's commands, while parading this "assistance" to Loyalist Spain as a contribution to the struggle of democracy against fascism.

The Moscow system of political assassination was transplanted to Spanish soil and opponents of the Stalinist policy were wiped out. Soviet arms were withheld from vital fronts manned by forces in opposition to Stalinism, particularly Catalonia and the Aragon front. A well-organized provocation was staged in Barcelona by Ogpu agents in order to furnish a pretext

Fascist Victory in Spain



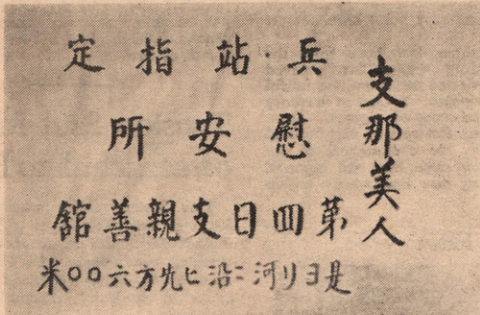
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

for wiping out all opposition to the Stalin-Negrin regime (May, 1937).

When, despite Stalin's grandiose efforts, it became clear that Britain and France preferred a Franco victory, Stalin gradually withdrew his intervention and left the Loyalists to their fate. His agents were "recalled" to Moscow in droves to suffer the fate of all those who, having lost their usefulness to the Kremlin dictator, know "too much" to be left alive or at liberty.

Krivitsky reveals the interesting fact that Stalin succeeded in getting possession of a large part of Spain's gold against promises to deliver arms and supplies, which actually were only sent in niggardly doses and on condition that the Negrin government strictly carried out Stalin's wishes, especially in the matter of strangling any attempt at social revolution. The manner in which this gold was transported to the Soviet Union, and the secrecy which surrounded the whole operation, is one of the most dramatic sections of the story. In his next article, Krivitsky promises to reveal the facts regarding Stalin's frame-up and execution of the Red Army generals.

JAPAN'S "NEW ORDER" IN EAST ASIA



(Translation)

Designated by the Base Camp Authorities
House of Restful Consolation
Chinese Beauties

No. 4 Hall for Friendly Relations Between
Japan and China

600 Meters Along the Bank of the Stream
From Here



This photographed poster, advertising a brothel established by the Japanese Army, represents a standard type of sign adorning the streets of Nanking. It was displayed on North Chungshan Road, directly against a large girls' school and near Japanese military police headquarters, where it was photographed recently by a foreign resident. It is a vulgar mixture of Chinese and Japanese, disgusting to literate Chinese and presumably to Japanese civilians of any education.

destroyed by the Japanese. Even if the farmers return to their land, they have no agricultural implements, nor have they a shelter over their heads. They do not have food enough to live on until their crops are ripe. Relief is also affected because most of the rich people of the region fled before the Japanese occupation, taking their money with them, and have not returned because the situation on the Eastern front is as yet unsettled.

Beyond Description

It is difficult to describe the living conditions and health of the refugees, for there seem no words in any language capable of describing this. Near the hsien government—which is no longer in Fanchang—the temples which can be supervised and helped by the Committee on the spot are fairly well-organized and clean, with a "business manager" from the refugee group in control in each. This man, with other capable men among the refugees, is in charge of the administration of relief in their temples. However, even in these temples, as in all other refugee concentrations, there is absolutely no medical relief at all. Most temples are indescribably dirty and in a dangerous, insanitary condition, the refugees sleep on the floors on their old patched padded quilts, or on boards, benches, tables, or altars wherever there is an inch of space. The courtyards of the temple are piles of straw, old rags, fragments of decayed vegetables, mingled with green stagnant pools of water.

Terrible Scabies Scourge

Everywhere I found sick men, women and children lying in some bundles of rags. These was no sense in trying to learn the nature of their disease, for I had no medical supplies with me, nor am I a doctor. They

suffered from every kind of ailment; from what the refugees and the sick men told me some cases were clearly typhoid, others pneumonia and dysentery. In my mind remains a general picture of scabies in every form, from the initial stages to scabies infections, with people lying sick in bed, unable to move, covered with open sores. I saw countless children with great open gashes of scabies on their necks, feet and hands. Everywhere babies were covered with scabies, many with red bleeding sores all over their faces that might be due to malnutrition. To my unutterable misery, mothers with diseased babies in their arms fell on their knees before me, crying and asking for medical care, pointing to their babies and to sick members of their families lying on their padded rags with high fevers. I learned that there was practically no family but has lost one or more members from sickness and disease since December. There are no statistics of death. It was clear that in summer cholera and typhoid can take root in the entire hsien, wipe out the refugees and other civilians, and dangerously affect the army as well.

The only doctor in the Fanchang hsien government is an old-fashioned Chinese doctor who deals in herbal medicine. He does not know the use of modern drugs. The only other medical forces are the sanitary units of the New Fourth Army companies and regiments. The New Fourth Army base hospital and field hospital are farther in the rear of this region—two days of hard marching as an army marches, over hills and mountains. The sanitary units in the army do only first aid work, seriously sick, or the wounded, being transported to the divisional hospital; and the most serious cases transferred farther to the hospitals

in the rear. I talked with the sanitary workers in the army units and saw their medical supplies and records. Their supplies are not sufficient to take care of the refugees. Yet, wherever they are located, they give first aid treatment for scabies and other infections, for malaria, etc., to the civilians. For instance, the sanitary unit in one regiment cared for 100 men daily in its little clinic, 10 per cent of these being civilians.

The rear hospitals and the divisional hospitals of the New Fourth Army care for civilians wounded in air raids, and they take in local sick and wounded civilians, while the out patient departments are open to civilians and the armed forces. However, the units in the fighting field change their locations very often, they can never carry with them enough medicine to meet the needs of the civilians. Furthermore, the educational standards of these medical workers in these fighting units are not sufficiently high to qualify them for work among the refugees. Nor is it humanly possible for them to shoulder such a burden as caring for over 74,000 civilian refugees scattered everywhere in the hsien. Medical workers whose specific job it is to do this work are urgently needed, and with them their own medical supplies.

Things That Are Needed

Magistrate Chang Mou-tao told me that he would indeed welcome qualified medical workers from refugee committees to come into this hsien for relief work. He told me that his Relief Committee did everything possible last year to keep down epidemics—but that was before the Japanese had occupied the hsien entirely, driving tens of thousands of refugees from their homes. This year his Committee cannot deal with this problem alone. They do not have the qualified medical workers, the money, nor do they have any modern medicine. What is needed in this one hsien is the following:

1. Money immediately for a minimum of food and for clothing for the aged, the children, and the women unable to work, and men who cannot find work.

2. Money to start small industrial cooperatives, to give peasant families small necessary sums to enable them to build a roof over their heads, buy some agricultural implements, and cultivate their bits of earth again. For industrial cooperatives there is enough raw material—cotton, tobacco, bamboo. In many villages and in Fanchang we saw many hand spinning wheels and looms, so that enough cloth can be produced to care for the region and regions beyond. Looms, spindles, and wheels can be made in the region. The 26 industrial cooperatives granted help by the Refugee Committee all moved to Kianghsien when the Japanese occupied the region. Deacon Wang and other members of the Refugee Committee are quite qualified in such work as this. But they lack money.

Medical Requirements

3. Modern medical workers are required simultaneously with basic medical supplies, such as cholera and typhoid sera (urgent), sulphur ointment for scabies, quinine, vitamin extracts; bicarbonate of soda, boric acid, gauze and bandage cloth, magnesium sulphate, very much bleaching powder, aspirin, bismuth subnit, sodium sulphate, simple dressing equipment (forceps, knives, scissors), kaolin, iodine, allinsol, argyrol, copper sulphate, tincture of opium or morphine tablets.

A guerrilla army of 2,000 men have sent urgent request here for doctors and medical supplies. We do not have enough as it is. Of course they will get some medical supplies, but really, now with Nanchang in the hands of the enemy, the problem of

medical supplies from the interior is great. The problems become greater and greater. The demands upon us grow. We do not have enough doctors or nurses.

I wonder if you know that the Japanese have thrown three to four new divisions against this army south of Nanking and Chinkiang. As I write this, it is a moonlit night and I can hear Japanese artillery over the hills, pounding away. We are getting in new wounded—one of them this week was a Japanese, a fisherman. The Japanese wounded and the captives are strong, well-fed, well-clothed fellows. Chinese armies are undernourished, ragged, barefoot men. However, talks with the

here, two of them teach Japanese in the Training Camp, and all of them work in the Enemy Work Department putting out handbills and such things for distribution among the Japanese troops. A new captive came yesterday but I have not yet seen him.

This week three delegations from the Nanking-Chinkiang region have arrived here and interviewed me about the fearful problem of refugees in Chinese territory outside Japanese-occupied regions. These delegations came for medical supplies and for help. Also, the commanders of the various divisions came here and reported the same, saying they simply can't go on

the occupied zones. In Tanyang region there are many more: in Kintan about 200,000. Other thousands are down around every Army unit. From all I can learn by talking, many of the refugees could be put on their feet by a little money; carpenters could be given a few tools, peasants a sack of seed.

Tension Said Rising on Manchukuo Border

That Soviet-Japanese relations are still far from amicable, despite the agreement reached last month on the thorny fisheries question, was indicated May 14 in a *Domei* dispatch from Hailar which said tension was mounting along the western frontier of Manchukuo due to border clashes. A regiment of Outer Mongolian troops were allegedly being held in readiness to march across the border at Soktsun, on the Khalka River, following three reported invasions of Manchukuo territory by Outer Mongol cavalymen a week previously, the agency said.

On May 15 the Hsinking government protested to the Outer Mongolian government at Ulan Bator against these alleged incursions and demanded immediate evacuation of Manchukuo territory, the agency said. The same day, Manchukuo troops, assisted by a squadron of airplanes, attacked the invading Mongols and drove them back across the border after inflicting heavy losses, according to a *Domei* message from Hsinking.

Sakhalin is Discussed

Questions concerning Japanese concessions in North Sakhalin were discussed in Moscow May 14 between V. M. Molotov, newly-appointed Commissar of Foreign Affairs, and Shigenori Togo, the Japanese Ambassador, the same agency reported. Relations in general between Japan and the Soviet Union were also a subject of discussion.

Meanwhile, there has been a spate of Japanese propaganda on the subject of alleged Soviet assistance to China in the current hostilities. The Tokyo *Nichi-Nichi* on May 13 published a dispatch from its Warsaw correspondent alleging that as the result of a secret Sino-Soviet agreement the Moscow government would lend China \$400,000,000 for the purchase of munitions and also half of the \$100,000,000 capital required to establish a Sino-Soviet arms importing company.

On May 15, a *Domei* report from Harbin said that 300 Chinese pilots were receiving training at a Soviet aviation school in Ili, Sinkiang province, and that 50 full-fledged Chinese pilots trained in the school were being sent to Chungking to take charge of the reorganization of the Chinese air force.

Manchukuo's Big Plan

Ambitious plans for the development of Manchukuo's border regions at a cost of \$1,000,000,000 were announced by *Domei* from Hsinking on May 16. An outstanding feature of the plans, to be executed parallel to the Five-Year Industrial Plan of the puppet state, is to be the introduction of collective farming after the Soviet model over an area of 370,000 hectares, the agency report stated. Another feature of the plans is to be the construction of 7,000 kilometers of motor highways and the improvement of 5,800 kilometers of existing roads.

Victims of War in Fanchang Hsien



These pictures taken by Miss Smedley are of refugees in Fanchang hsien, Anhwei province, which the author has been visiting lately, while the photo at right (below) shows Chang Mou-tao, hsien magistrate and chairman of the local Refugee Relief Committee (the taller man) and Ching Yin-pu, vice-chairman of the Committee and leader of the Mass Education Movement. The scabby condition of the child refugees, due to poor conditions, is illustrated by the photo at top left.

Japanese show that they were picked off fishing vessels, off miserable farms, out of taxis or factories and sent off, filled with lies—if anything—to China to kill.

Told Soviet Is Enemy

When the Japanese come they always think I am a Russian—they have been told, evidently, that Japan is fighting the USSR. Before long they mingle with the Army as do the Chinese. No guards watch them. In fact, they refuse to go back to Japan or to their own Army for they know they would be killed by their officers. They have also had enough of war. They are afraid to step out into any country

district because the common people would kill them. They are young, untrained fellows—workers or students in their early twenties. They present anti-war plays in mass meetings carrying all the refugees on their backs. The food of the Army is often cut just in half because the number of tubercular men being sent here from the fighting units is so many that we don't know how to cope with the tuberculosis problem. Most of it is due to inadequate food and clothing. I have talked for days with the delegations here and the problem is staggering. In Chianglinghsien, south of Nanking by one hour, there are 125,000 or so refugees from