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"China War No Pushover Declares Agnes Smedley!"

# "China War No Pushover" Declares Agnes Smedley

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"There's no soft war in China, where the battle cry is 'Give Everything,'" says Agnes Smedley, intrepid woman war correspondent and author who spent two years as a volunteer worker in the Chinese Red Cross Medical Corps. Miss Smedley, the author of the stirring new book, "The Battle Hymn of China," will tell a thrilling tale of her experiences in the fighting fronts in China, when she speaks at Southwestern University on December 17. Miss Smedley is back in this country with one burning desire to kindle America's interest in China's problems and to make clear how our nation's fate is at least partially wrapped up in China's. As an illustration of the "give everything" idea, Miss Smedley was quoted as follows in a recent interview.

"I had returned after two years with the Chinese Red Cross Motor Corps to a wartorn area where suffering and privation loomed on all sides. I discovered an 11-year-old Chinese boy orphaned and half starved. I arranged with authorities to adopt him and have him sent to school in the interior.

"But he wouldn't have any of it. Although he looked more like a boy 9 than 11, he proudly rejected my pleadings. This is what he said:

"You may adopt me if you like after the final victory. Right now China needs every man at the front."

"That's what I mean by giving everything."

Miss Smedley, an American newspaper woman, went to the Far East in 1928 as correspondent for the Liberal newspaper Frankfurter-Zeitung. An ardent anti-Fascist, she lost her position when Hitler came into power. She became a special writer for the Manchester Guardian when China got into war. Miss Smedley joined the Chinese Red Cross Medical Corps as an unpaid volunteer worker. For a time she was with the Eighth Route Army, traveling on foot and on horseback. She also experienced many adventuresome raids with guerilla forces.

Shell shock—she was under al-  
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laria and a wrenched back suffered when she was thrown by a horse, forced Miss Smedley to leave the front. She was carried on a stretcher from one area to another until she finally reached the interior. This illness compelled her to leave the Far East and return to this country in 1941. Before leaving she turned over all the royalties from her earlier books to China's use. Her latest volume was finished after her return to California.

Much that Miss Smedley has seen and learned about China cannot now be discussed in public or in print. "I don't know how much longer China can carry on unless we get supplies to her," she says. "We lost face because of Pearl Harbor, but we've regained it. However, the Chinese still look upon us to deliver arms, not promises."

"Japan is a powerful foe. More and more it's becoming clear that we have a long, hard fight ahead in the Pacific. Russia cannot fight Japan and save the United Nations in Europe at the same time. Russia already is helping

in the Pacific by keeping about 450,000 crack Japanese troops demobilized on the Manchurian front." Most encouraging to her, Miss Smedley says, is the interest American youth displays in China.

"The world these young Americans will inherit will offer the United States a wonderful opportunity for leadership," she says. "It will be up to today's youngsters to take advantage of it. I hope that they meet the challenge with the same courage of the little Chinese 11-year-old who felt he was needed at the front."