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Soviet China - Kansu, Ningsia, Sensi - Yu Wang Hsien

O-Yu-Wan, history - int. w) Hsu Hai-tung

Sothern Sensi, sov history

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Biographies -

Cheng t<sub>u</sub>-hau (u)

Wang Shan tao

Nieh ho t'ing

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Liang kuan-yang, T'ang En-poa. Formerly Reng Yu-huang's troops; previously a bandit, most of troops recruited from bandits. Fascist organization in his troops, called Political Committee. Organized a district committee, propogandized that the KMT did not oppose the principle of Red, would also divide land. Seized all the grain, then announced that since Reds had destroyed all crops, KMT would feed people. This induced many peasants to return. Called mass meetings, and behind stage graves already prepared. Then turned machine guns on them. Mainly happened in Huang An, Cha Cheng & Lo An. Occurred mostly in latter part 1933 & early 1934.

Girls from 13 to 18 raped in one place. Where? Over 400 peasants killed by machine guns in another. Soldier found with skin stripped off him. Nose & ears cut off.

Whampoa

Most officers in these armies are Fascists: graduate of ~~Hampoa~~ military academy. Act on orders of Chiang Kai-shek, whose theory about a Soviet area is that the peasants are all Reds: population must be wiped out completely & area repopulated.

Arrangements were made during these killings for Wang Chun's troops to arrive & tell the masses that he opposed these massacres. They therefore fled to Wang Chen's troops on on flank. Wang treated them well for a few days. They then said that young men must go out to bring in food from outside. When sent out never returned. Peasants discovered a grave with over 90 bodies of young men & realized they'd been killed. In the south of Chuang Cheng, near border of Lo An, Ku Shih & Shuan Tung was scene of most of this activity. In a place called Li Chuan Tsu in south of Lo An, the bodies were found in 1933, December.

History of O-Yu\*Wan - Interview with Hsu Hai-tung  
Yu Wang Hsien  
August 26, 1936

In October, 1928, the Red Partisans in Hupeh area numbered more than 100. (See Hsu's biography for beginnings) Surrounded by <sup>Jen</sup> Ying-chi, a KMT of the 12th army; formerly under Feng Yu-hsiang, killed later in Tientsin sith Chi Hung-chang.

Under this pressure the partisans withdrew with 60 - 70 men to Wu Lan Suan and the rest were left to work with the peasants & th Red Spears. A company of Jen Yung chi's troops turned over to the Reds & brought 73 rifles. Led by a service officer; other officers were killed. Red guard totalled over 120 rifles. With this basis began organization of the 11th Workers & Peasants Red Army, 31st Division R A. Three detachments

were created, with 6 squads in each, every squad 6 men, one political commissar, one detachment commander and one service officer - supplies, communications, etc - and one special guard to each detachment. Each detachment called a regiment. Thus reorganized they returned to border of Huang An & Lo Shan, where Tien Tai Shan & Lao Chun Shan are located & offered good cover. Partisan warfare & work in the masses was successful; work with the Red Spears progressed. Main problem was arms.

Jen Ying Chi's troops were moved away in 1929, and partisan warfare enlarged. A comrade was sent to negotiate with a local bandit leader; by chance 40 bandits were surrounded and most of them killed. These bandits had been much hated by the masses & they praised Reds highly for destroying them. Partisan warfare enlarged over six hsien & from east to west extended about 500 li, from north to south about 600 li. A fourth detachment was created. Every detachment had 50 rifles and two pistols.

In April came Sha Tou-yin (a native of Ma Cheng) and Hsu Yuan-ch'uan (native of Huang Kan) two of most relentless fighters against Red Partisans since they were sons of landlords in the district & deeply hated the Reds. At this surrounding the R A divided into small partisan groups. By this time the regular R A had 4 regiments & 400 guns; another 100 guns had been given to the partisans. Their activity extended from Piao Han Ry. to bank of Yangste River. In October the enemy withdrew because Truong Sheng-chih was fighting Chiang Kai-shek near Hankow. The R A enlarged here, fighting only the min tuan, seizing new guns. A comrade (Hsu-Yuan-chien) in the White troops held a successful uprising & brought a company with him, equipped with 93 rifles. About 200 guns were taken from the min tuan, more were purchased outside. The 5th, 6th & 11th detachments were organized. Every detachment increased to a total of 70 men. Rifles then totalled about 600.

Hsu first wounded in 1928 by a Red Spear in the backside. Hsu pulled spear out & turned & shot the spearman. These spears are about 10 feet long, with a point on foot long, made of iron. Many troops much fear them in a battle; worse than bayonets. But Hsu did not fear them, he was an expert marksman & could shoot a spear 30 meters distant. In this battle 29 Reds fighting about 1,000 Red Spears (Hung Chiang). To save ammunition didn't fire on them till they were near; Hsu was covering their retreat. A vanguard struck him in the rear; Hsu turned & shot him; others came to his rescue; they counter-attacked & defeated the Spears. Then ran for 3 li; afterwards Hsu was in bed for two months. The 29 men all killed later on. Hsu had to hide on the mountain; his comrades disguised themselves as woodcutters. Red Spears believe themselves invulnerable to bullets; at least their leaders do; they are very cruel and superstitious. Originally a revolutionary organization, in most places now degenerated into bandit secret society. In beginning Reds had no relations with them; the majority supported the min tuan; later in 1930 when the district became Sovietized, most of former Red Spears joined the Red Army.

Second time he was wounded when in Huang Pi, fighting one battalion of Sha Tou-yung, with sixty partisans, he received a bullet but continued to fight.

There were no doctors; they only used a tea brewed from the mulberry tree to cleanse their wounds.

In June, 1929, Hsu Hsiang-chien was sent by the Central Committee accompanied by a political commissar to the Hupeh Soviet. They had had contact with special committees in Hupeh, Honan & Anhui, but Hsu was first delegate to arrive from outside; prior to that the Hsu R A had always sent its own delegates to Hankow and Changhai. In 1930 concentrated the partisans of Huang P'i, Huang An, Ma Ch'eng, Lo Shen, Kuang Shan & Hsiao Kan and established the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th & 12th detachments of the R A. Commanding them was the Hqts of 31st Division, of which Hsu Hsiang-chien commander-in-chief. After this moved to Ping-han Railway & attacked Yen Cha Chai and there destroyed two companies of Hsiao Chih-chu's army. Returned to Soviet regions; pursued by Szechuan troops under Kuo Ju-tung. Destroyed a regiment of his men in the beginning of April. Captured 700 soldiers and rifles; only 300 could be enlisted as Red soldiers; rest were weak & opium smokers. After this success the various detachments were formed into regular regiments.

Li Li-san now ordered an attack on Hua Yuan station, Penghan Ry. There was a regiment & a battalio of former T'ang Sheng-chih troops there, reorganized by Chiang. These were completely destroyed by the Red Army. In following weeks (after middle April) they reorganized the 32nd & 33rd (Honan & Anhui resp) Red divisions into the First Red Army. Formerly the three areas were not consolidated; now they connected & the O-Yu-Wan Provincial Soviet was formed. Hsu Chi-shen was sent from Shanghai and became commander of the First Army. Hsu Hsiang-chien became 31st Div. commander. In Honan & Anhui the partisan groups had begun in much the same way as in Hupeh; they were smaller than Hsu's & kept in touch with him constantly. Up to formation of O-Yu\*wan Hsu Hai-tung had not operated directly in Huhui & Honan, but had sent delegates to those areas & given them guidance. In partisan engagements they ~~went~~ moved back and forth through all three provinces, however, but main field of activity was Hupeh.

After the attack on Hua Yuan & the consolidation of all the forces, the 1st Red Army numbered 10,000. Development during the civil war ver rapid. (Peng Teh-huai said if civil war had lasted another year R A could have enlarged to 500,000 ). Reds next fought 45th Division of Chiang Kai-shek, destroyed a brigade; in June captured Lo Shan hsien city.

In October began the First Envelopment, at same time as in Kiansi. O\*Yu-Wan & Kiangsi then two biggest Red areas. O\*Yu-Wan was called the 2nd Soviet District. (Hsu did not know it was called "model Soviet area" outside). Perhaps it was so-called because of nature of development from peasant struggle). Hsu Chishen was commander during the First Extermination campaign, but did not perform well. He was also considered politically wavering; Central party removed him. After his removal Kuan Chi-shun became c-in-c; sent by the Central. Before the 1st Surrounding (these are called Mei-chao in Chinese) Hsu was commander of 31st Division;

shortly afterward a 6th Division was created & Hsu Hai-tung was made commander of it, also c-in-c of Hopeh Red armies.

First surrounding began in October. The enemy had nine divisions, the main forces being under Chen Tao-yuan, now chief of staff to the Nanking government, and Chi Hung-chang, later assassinated by Blue Shirts in Nientsin. Reds attacked Ma Pu of Lo An & destroyed 5 regiments of Chen T'ao yuan. Again attacked Tu S han in Lo An hsien and destroyed two regiments of Chen Tao-Yuan. Chen was commander of the 1st Route Anti-Red forces; Chiang Kai-shek c-in-c. In December Reds attacked Shuang Cheng hsien in Honan & destroyed two regiments under Chi Hung-chang. This ended the first surrounding.

Tsai Sheng-chi's 15th army (Red) came from Tayeh (where had fought imperialists with Peng Ten-huai) to the Soviet district of O-Yu\*Wan. Brought with him 4,000 men. The 1st Army & 15th Army together organized the 4th Front Army. Tsai's forces 4,000; together had about 24,000 men by now, all armed. Many small wars had occurred and in the destruction of White Armies (9 regiments in 1st surrounding) many new recruits had been added. Kuan Chi-shen arrived in January, 1931. In February he was made c-in-c of 4th Front Army. In May Hsu Hsiang-chien became c-in-c, Kuan having been removed by the Central committee. Kuan's errors consisted in his inability to win support from the rank & file; he had some militaristic habits; he hesitated too frequently, lacked decision of command; at time he did not follow the party's instructions.

The second campaign began in February. Chi Hung-chang commanded the main forces. Yo Wei-chun was a supplementary commander; also Chen T'ao-yuan & others. Altogether 10 divisions. In the very beginning the Red Army left the Soviet areas & attacked Hsiao Kan hsien fought with You Wei-chun, captured him, & destroyed four of his regiments. Two divisions of Chi Hung-chang were defeated on the border of Kuang Shan & Huang An hsien. After these attacks Chiang Kai-shek withdrew his offensive, especially because in Kiangsi a great victory had been scored vs. Chiang by the Reds. In April fighting ceased and the R A rested.

In May the 4th Front Army began an Eastern offensive. Lo Tin hsien & Yin Shan cities were captured. At Yin Shan another regiment of Chen Tao yuan was destroyed. (Shao mien - destroy). Red Army has three noughts; if cannot seize rifles, they must not fight; if they cannot be sure of victory, they must not fight; if they foresee a long engagement, they must not fight. If these taboos are observed, R A need suffer no defeats; can retreat from any disadvantageous situation. During all this time the KMT never "destroyed" a Red regiment, not even a company. The only great loss suffered was in August, 1931, when the R A fought Hsu Yan-chien, and suffered 400 killed and wounded. Hsu had one brigade, 3 regs, at Ho Shan hsien; occurred during Eastern campaign. If Reds captured fewer rifles than men wounded it was considered a loss; otherwise a victory. Red high commanders went to front line. Red killed & wounded together in First & 2nd campaigns did not exceed total of 1,200 men.

On Eastern campaign R A moved from Yin Shan to Shao Chin Ho and annihilated Kuo Ju-tung's 2nd Division. He escaped with only 14 or 15 men, fleeing across the river in a boat. Occurred in July. In the beginning of August occurred the battle with Hsu Yang-chien. During this eastern attack the R A destroyed 13 KMT regiments. At the end of the campaign over 10 hsien were in Soviet control.

In Nov, captured Huang An hsien city & destroyed a whole <sup>60th</sup> division under Chao Kuan-ying, of Chiang Kai-shek & captured Chao himself. Regular Red Army then numbered six divisions, about 40,000 men. Hsu was in command of partisan warfare at this time & enlarging the R A.

Political conditions. Land had been divided. Cooperatives had been established. New techniques in agriculture had been introduced. Socially ~~many~~ progress had been made among women. Bound feet had disappeared; those who had them now wore long shoes. Mass meetings drew from 30 to 40,000. Lenin schools were established throughout the district. Higher primary schools, middle primary and lower primary were extensive. Party activity among the masses was very successful. The Soviet govt: provincial and districts (one each for Honan, Anhi, Hopeh). Chang Kuo-tao was chairman of the military committee & sec of the party. Provincial govt was established in May 1930.

Division of land was same as in Kiangsi. Landlords were deprived of pol. rights, and given labor to do. Not killed unless actively led armed counterrevolutionary activity. Some became useful citizens later on. Hsu was not in organizational work, he does not know how many coops there were; they existed in most districts, and in nearly every big village. materially this S district was very good; had good communications on every side; rivers on three sides, and railway on one. Coops had goods in plenty; everything the peasants needed. Had separate financial system: coppers, subsidiary coins, and silver dollars. Had captured a mint at Hsin Chi and another at Ma Pu. In Hsin Chi 100 workers; in Ma Pu about 50 workers. Soviet paper money also circulated; no white paper used; lithographed paper. Govt industries confined to textiles. Kilns & others were still in private hands. Communications with outside continued good. Exports of rice, oil, peanut oil, linen thread and pottery continued. KMT could not prevent peasants from moving goods. Not till the 5th campaign did KMT succeed in a salt blockade, and then only partly.

Kao Chen-t'ing was chairman of the govt; he is now commander of the 28th Army. Formerly Wang P'ing-chang was chairman. Later he was killed, in 5th campaign. Wang was in the army when he was killed at the front. Tea & silk were also products of the area; it was generally rich. Formerly under KMT control the landlords exported most of crops to Hankow & there were frequent famines. Soviet govt established a plan & only surplus was exported. there was no crisis afterward. The govt fixed a price of \$2 per tan (300 chin) in outside world it was \$8. Hence there was a good income for peasants & gov from exports. Retailers from outside bought in mainly salt and traded for grain. Cooperatives derived chief income from

confiscations, from tax on luxuries, from tax on rich farmers & middle peasants.

The enemy in Dec. 1931 prepared for the 3rd surrounding. The main force at this time was 16th Division under Tang En-pau, Cheng Hah-ting, Chang Fang. This was main route but there were other lines of entry. In February the enemy began to attack at Huang Chuan. Five regiments of Tang's troops were destroyed, during the fighting in Huang Chuan; two of Chen Han-tung and one of Chang Fang. Over 10,000 rifles were captured, over 100 machine guns & many rounds of ammunition. Red killed only 70 & wounded 230. Enemy's losses were about 1100 killed & wounded. Most of the troops were simply captured & disarmed. Dead enemy troops mostly killed by enemy's own machine guns when they attempted to retreat. White troops politically influenced by the Red Army; besides the officers the troops had no spirit to fight. If there is a chance to win the battle the soldiers fought; if not they simply sat down with their rifles in front of them. They told the Reds they would not fight for the KMT to the death & Reds had a slogan that they would fire on no soldier who laid down his rifle.

The main battle in the 3rd offensive, in which Reds captured 10,000 rifles: caption in ES script for sketch of troop deployment.

When Reds attack the Whites they shout to them to drop arms & join the Reds; sometimes they reply. Often the White soldiers simply stand up & hold out their arms when Reds attack; frequently lower officers dress like the troops & prepare for capture. Reds release such soldiers, paying them \$5 per man; they make good propagandists when they return to the white districts.

After victory in Huang Chuan Reds immediately moved on to Shuang hsien to meet Chen Yao-hun's troops there. But hearing of defeat of his colleagues, Cheng fled without a fight. Chen's troops left two big guns there, unable to carry them away in their flight. After this victory the Third Campaign ceased.

Moving to Ku Shih the R A destroyed a regiment of the enemy, but failed to capture hsien cit. Regiment belonged to Tai Peng-shan. Captured Sn Ho Tien on the Huai River, a small port. Much govt salt was stored there, enough to provide salt to the Soviet districts for one half a year. Thousands of peasants volunteered to join the salt brigade, carrying it back.

In April, 1932, began the 2nd East attack on Anhui. A division was sent to Chenyangkuan in (about) June & two American missionaries were captured in the town, in the end of May. They were kept there till August of the same year. Asked the Americans to write a letter to the KMT requesting the KMT to release the Noulens, in return for their own release. They wrote the letter, without result. In August the division moved away & the Americans were released. Hsu says that no Americans or other foreigners were ever killed by R A in this region. Knew nothing of the Stams; is certain they were not killed by any R A; may have been Red Spears or some bandit group with loose political connections with partisans.

Hanpotu,

Later at Hsu Chia Pu and ~~Han Potu~~, in Lo An hsien, surrounded Chen Tao-yuan's troops in Anhui. Wang Chun reinforced chen. War followed. Six regiments of Wang Chun's troops destroyed & captured Lo Hih-tung, c-i-c. Chen Tao-yuan's 8 regiments were destroyed. Captured two of Chen Tao-yuan's brigade commanders, 8 regimental commanders. Destroyed and disarmed 15 regiments altogether. Captured 20 to 30,000 rifles, pistols & arms, & over 30,000 white soldiers.

This great victory occurred in April & May, 1932, 48 days; it was a war of surrounding. Reds also shot down one Nanking plane which was sending food to the enemy. Here is a rough diagram of the situation. (p. 15 bk 17)

Red army crossed river and surrounded Hanpotu and Suchaopu, where Chen Tiao-yuan had nine regiments. Chiang kai-shek sent Li Shih-ting & Wang Chun to reinforce the besieged troops. Airplanes were bombing and reconitering between Luan (Lo-an) and Suchaopu and Hanpotu, but failed discover Red main forces, entranehed and camouflaged, with one flank of both roads. When Li and Chen moved to reinforce they were attacked by R A & destroyed with results given above. Total Red forces @ 60,000 - 5 divisons of 5th Army and one ind. divison, and partisans. Hsu Hsiang-chien commander in chief. Red divisons then numbered about 6 to 7,000 men. After defeat of Wang & Li it became impossible for enemy to send any relief to Chen Tao-yuan's (then gov. of Qnhui) troops & they sub mitted on 48th day. This was in the Second Offensive into A nhui. Red casualties about 300 killed & wounded in Luan battles; about 50-60 in surrounding. Chen Tao-yuan, having lost 26 regiments of 30 to the Reds, was withdrawn to become chief of staff at Nanking.

After this the army turned to the West, to protect the Soviet regions there, being invaded. This was in June, 1932. Met Chang Fang in Huang Chuan and disarmed his six regiments of 76th Divison as well as Sung Tien-tsai's regiment.

A division was sent to Chi Kung Shan and in the beginning of July captured 13 foreigners. Chi Kung a summer resort. 8 of foreigners released immediately. Others released in middle of July, 1932. These were the last foreigners captured; since then Hsu-Hai-tung knows of no foreigners captured in that area. These foreigners British, American, French, Polish & were working there, students & travellers. Reds gave them special treatment, special food, sent special bodyguards to protect & serve them. At this time the 4th campaign was about to begin & the main Red forces returned to Ma Ch'eng hsien. One KMT brigade defeated at Topushan along the route to Ma Ch'eng.

The Fourth Campaign had 23 Divisions as main force, 11 divisions as supplementary force. Enemy advanced along 4 main routes; two from Panghan Ry, one from Chinpu Ry, and one from Huang Chang. The main force came from the Chinpu side, attacking Huang pi, Lo Shan, Ssiao Kan, under the direction of Wei Liphuan. The first contact occurred on the Huang P'i-Huangan border, with the 10th Division of Li Po-an. The Red Force commanded by Hsu Hsiang-chien. This was a minor encounter.

In the beginning of August occurred the main battle of the Fourth Campaign, at a place called Chi Li Peng.

(diagram of battle) (p. 18 Bk 17)

Two or three days before the battle White & Red troops both concentrated and approached the river. This was in beginning of August. White army 63 regiments. Moved one morning across the river (shallow stream, could be forded) and began to attack Reds. Before main force had crossed Reds counter-attacked & destroyed 6 regiments of enemy; rest retreated to Ho K'ou. Reds used 5 divisions in attack and kept only small force behind. Enemy reorganized army in Hou k'ou for 20 days without activity. Red, killed & wounded 2,000. Enemy, k & wounded 7 Or 8,000. Captured about 300 Whampou students, newly-trained Fascists of Chiang Kai-shek.

In this war the Red army had conducted a campaign telling every soldier that this was a war of life & death, a fight to the finish, for their homes and their families. Red soldiers went into battle wearing only trousers, carrying rifle & bayonet & belt of ammunition. Formerly the Reds had not killed enemy troops retreating; here they fought with deep hatred & many returned with bent bayonets. There were rice-fields on both sides of the river, ready for harvest, but after this battle so great was the stench that farmers unable to harvest. Most of Whampou Fascists were released; about 40 or 50 were killed before they could be sent to hqts. Of the 240 brought to hdqts only 7 detained and two killed. Five joined the 4th Front Army. Fascists released partly to counteract Chiang Kai-shek's propaganda that all Fascists of Whampou would be killed. (Actually no ~~Hampou~~ now; Nanking cadets of Nanking Military Academy, Chiang Kai-shek's, called "~~Champou~~ cadets"). *Whampou*

*Whampou*

The R A returned to Kuang Shan hsien and there was a war with Hsu Yangpchuan, with Wei Li-wan commanding officer. The Whites had 6 divisions, the Reds 5 divisions. The White (KMT) troops were taking the offensive at a town called Hu Shang Chai and the R A had built defense works. Battle occurred in middle of August. In the beginning the KMT troops spread out & there were small contacts. On the 4th day the KMT troops launched a general attack. More whites were killed at this point than in ordinary battles; about 6,000 altogether. About two regiments were destroyed during the attack. The enemy moved in with greater determination; experience at HoK'ou where Reds had fired on retreating troops had embittered them. When the crest of the wave of attack had subsided the reds counter-attacked fiercely, and suffered loss of over 1,000 dead. This was a great loss in Red reckoning & enemy was still intact. The enemy withdrew, result indecisive.

The RA now moved to the West of Anhui to fight Hsu Ting-yao & other KMT forces there. Arrived there, 7 divisions were entrenched & waiting for battle. Reds refused it & withdrew without fighting. Chang Kuo-tao now led the entire 4th Army, the 9th Army, and the 73rd division, about 60,000 men, to the west. Passed Yin Shan hsien Lo Tien hsien, Ma Cheng hsien, Huang An hsien, to the O-Yu-Wan Soviet districts, which now included about 20 hsien and 15 hsien cities. This was maximum. Hsien at this time included Huang An, Huang Ching Lo T'ien. Two divisions of the 25th army turned off to the south to divert enemy advance & protect the withdrawal of the

main Red forces to the Soviet districts. This occurred in October 1932 (or '33?). Hsu led the 25th Army. In Oct. Hsu & Chang left O-Yu-Wan district for Szechuan. The 25th Army went to Tai hu Lake & fought partisan warfare there, endeavoring to ~~attract the~~ attract the main White force to follow them. In Nov. the 25th Army ~~returned to the Soviet districts~~ returned to the Soviet districts; Chang & Hsu Hsiang-ccien had already passed the Ping han Railway. The Fourth campaign was still not concluded.

The 25th Army returned to N E Hupeh & destroyed a brigade of Hsia Tou-yin and a brigade of Ma Hung-kuei. Attacked from two different sides by the Whites, the 25th Army was unable to meet the enemy, with only 2 divisions. Principal hsien cities were reoccupied by the KMT armies.

Chan Kuo-tao was chairman of Soviet military committee <sup>and Central Committee</sup> of O-Yu-wan and theoretically had power to take such a decision without consulting Kiangsi. It was according to plan that he should move out & conduct war outside Red districts. Three divisions of Chiang Kai-shek's troops followed him, but after a short distance returned to attack the Soviet districts. Chang Kuo-tao then on his own initiative continued to Szechuan where created a new Soviet area. The O Yu-Wan Soviet by this time was surrounded by 100,000 troops. Later, in 5th campaign, it increased to 400 to 500,000. There were 23 1st class divisions, averaging nearly 20,000 men per unit.

(In 4th & 5th campaigns in O-Yu-Wan about 10,000 R.A. men killed & wounded. White losses killed & wounded about 60,000. Hsu does not know how many citizens were killed after whites came in)

The destruction of Ma Hung-kwei and Hsia Tou-yin coincided with the Red victory in Kiangsi. The battle with Hsia was in Dec. 1932, in February, 1933. Ma Hung-kuei, Chiang Kai-shek then withdrew six divisions from O-Yu-Wan. Following this there was no more serious fighting. The White troops remained in occupation of the hsien for two months. Liu Chun-hua, chairman of Honan, reinforced the White troops with two divisions, in May and the 5th campaign began.

The enemy force now totalled 15 divisions (Chiang had left seven divisions in occupation of the cities of O Yu Wan). Red Army had only 2 divisions totalling 10,000 men against 200,000 enemy. In this campaign the enemy adopted fortification tactics & the Reds used gurrilla tactics. Their main purpose was to drive away Reds & if possible annihilate them and their war base. Tien Tai Shan & Lao Chun Shon were surrounded by enemy & R A had to retreat. White still held the place and captured 6,000 men women and children from there. Only 300 returned. Mostly old men & a few sickly children. They reported that the young women were first raped, then sold outside. Higher officers took them to Honan to sell; lower officers took them as their wives; mintuan also annexed them as concubines. No young women in O Yu Wan after arrival of Chiang's troops; under 30 very scarce. Liang Kuan-yung, T'ang An-poa, Wang Chun, Hsiu Tou-yin & sung tien-tsai were mainly responsible for these atrocities. Beautiful ones were given to officers; other

taken away and sold as prostitutes or workers. They were treated as wives of bandits. Those with unbound feet or bobbed hair were shot! Many fights occurred over this distribution of women. The same method was used in Kiangsi. This was the officers' reward. Chiang's announcements about prohibiting officers from receiving bribes referred to this traffic in women, since Soviet masses had no money with which to bribe Chiang's officers (all of their wealth being in Soviet currency). Nevertheless, even under the oppression of the enemy, the Soviet mass remained loyal; none of them went to the enemy; their determination was high; none joined the White troops.

It was during Fifth campaign that killings began on a vast scale. By Dec. the Oyuvan district had become a no man's land. There were no houses, no crops planted, no women, no men, no children. Over a once rich country was only grassland & wasteland. From east to west @300, s to n about 200 li in Hupeh, Huang An, Ma Cheng, Lo Shan, Kuang Shan were the areas ehifly depopulated in Hopeh-Honan border. In Lo An, Ku Shih, Ho Shan and Shan Ch'ang east to west over 300 li, wouth to west, 300 li, in Anhui-Honan border region the same conditions existed.

Fascist political workers told peasantry they admired Red principles but opposed the Gaypayoo; also practiced communism. At this time some Fascists slipped into Gaypagoo & killed many people who were innocent. The result, they saw 93 people in one grave near Li Chia Fa Yuan, in Shan Chung hsien. In Huang A n hsien, at Tzu Yun Chai the R A saw 17 girls dead, lying without trousers, some with only one leg. They had fled to a valley & were caught by KMT troops. Reds found them in July; soldiers of 25th army called a meeting at this and all wept. Later, in October, they found the shallow grave of soldiers. Not long afterward, in Ma Chen they found the body of 12 soldiers with skin stripped off to the waist, their eyes gouged out & their noses & ears cut off. In Ma Cheng & Huang An border in a place called O Kung Chai the 25th army came upon over 400 bodies of peasants, men & women, who had been shot by machineguns, several days after finding the women. This was done in the area where mass was mostly ~~determined~~ determined, the best part of the Soviet regions. White troops which surrounded with 4 divisons & took out 6,000 peasants were: T'ang En-pou, Chen Yao-hou, Shao Chich-chu and Hsia Tou-yin. The troops responsible for the raped women & the 400 mudered peasants were Liang Kuan-yeng, Tang En-pou & Chang Yin-chang. The 93 bodies were wang Chun's work. When Reds reached 400 dead about 20 still lived. Men & women, old & young, were lying across each other. In some places nearby the blood was several inches deep. Those still alive were heavily wounded & given up for dead. After this Hsu called a meeting of the whole army & talked to them. Throughout the 5th campaign no wa rrior attempted to escape. Of the 20 living they had to leave in the hospital when they retreated & when next they returned they found them all killed. Where the 93 bodies were found there was a great rise in the earth & the Reds dug under it & found them. The 20 wounded reported that when the R A retreated they

were driven by the 4 division to that valley; the White army occupied the 4 sides of the mountain; did not come down to the valley, simply used machine guns on the masses. Machine guns continued for several hours. About a thousand killed on mountainside besides.

Hsu's family killed in February, 1933, Huangpi was then already in hands of the enemy. Chiang Kai-shek issued a special order, executed by Hsia Chih-hsu, to kill everyone even distantly related to him, altogether five generations. Hsu's grandfathers and mothers, fathers and brothers and sisters, cousins, his own brothers and sisters, and their children, all killed. These totalled 66. Seven members of his family escaped. His fifth brother escaped from 1st arrest & told Hsu about it. 13 of his brothers and aunts and nephews were arrested & moved to new hsien city. Li Hsiang hsien (a new hsien KMT created after 4th campaign on the Huangpi & Huangpi & Loshan, Hsiao Kan and there they were killed; some shot, some beheaded. Rest of family escaped to the countryside, but were captured by the landlords later on. Fifth brother, two months later, also died from heart trouble. Mother died a natural death. Hsu did not see either father or mother after 1928. Mother died in 1930 & Hsu's sisters came to ask him to return to weep at coffin. Hsu's immediate relatives altogether 26 were killed by KMT. 27 more distant relatives were killed: old & young, men & women. The only remaining 7 joined the Red Army. Of those five have been killed. One is now with the 4th army; Hsu remains. A whole village was wiped out in this way in Huangpi. Other Red Army leaders families were killed with almost equal thoroughness. Generally the peasant masses as a whole were regarded as bandits & annihilated. During the 5th campaign the Red region was divided into several districts and each general was responsible for destroying the Soviet population. Every house had dead in it; under the bed, on the floor, in doorways. White soldiers afraid to go out alone at night to wc, had to go in pairs; afraid of ghosts. Even the dogs shrank away & were afraid. In the 5th campaign the Reds did not need to send out spies to descry the enemy's movements; they could see their route of advance by the smoke of fires, burning of villages & towns. Peasants fled to the hillsides and built huts there; later the troops went even there & destroyed these huts & as peasants fled to valleys they were killed. O Yu Wan district more difficult to destroy than Kiangsi because blockade could not be made effective; hence killing of peasantry greater.

With their mass base destroyed & their numbers depleted, the 28th army was forced to evacuate A Yu Wan in August, 1934, & left with 5,000 men. 25th army concentrated in Huang Shan-Kuang Shan border & defeated two divisions of Liu Chun-huan in Aug. 1933. Destroyed four regiments & captured on regimental commander. In September the Red Army moved to Anhui; after their departure the killings & burnings were carried on on a big scale. Whites could not win over masses. In November due to the Fukien Incident, Wang Chen's two divisions & those of Fang En-poa, moved away. The situation improved. In January, 1934, war was renewed in Hsiang Cheng,

Han Hsi hsien and a brigade was destroyed of Ho Lung-ming's and the brigade commander captured, named Liu Shou-chun. He was killed; he was at same time division command, Ho having gone to Lo Shan to receive education. R A then continued partisan warfare outside the Soviet areas.

Ho Chu-kuo & Wang I-che, Tungpei commanders, now entered the field with six divisions. In February was in Lu-An and R A defeated Liang Kuan-ting's brigade. In March partisan warfare was fought in the N E of Hupeh in O-Yu-Wan. One regiment of Tungpei troops destroyed. In April RA moved to Lo Shan and defeated a brigade of Hsiao Chih-chu & destroyed two battalions. (Hsiao is a Chiang Kai-shek gen). In middle of April Hsiao Chih-chu, Ho Chu-kuo & Wang I-chi began the surrounding of the R A at Lo Shan. Several battles vs enemy 4 divisions and R A destroyed 2 regiments. Liu Chung-hua, chairman of Anhui, commander of bandit suppression reinforced by 2 divisions. RA moved to Anhui and in June captured Tai Hu hsien; in middle of July received order from c.c. to leave O Yu wan but keep small part of 25th R A there. Because in this district no new troops can be created, they were ordered to go to Shansi. The 28th Army with 3,000 men, was created out of 8,000 men remaining in 25th Army. Main 25th R A forces moved to ~~Shanpei~~ Shanpei.

After this moved to Kuang Shan & had a war in Hu Shan Kai. 13 regiments were chasing them. Destroyed a regiment of Liu Chung-hua.

The above long story of victories with not a single important defeat is explained by these facts: Reds never fight when likelihood of defeat; they followed tactics listed by Peng Teh-huai; they knew perfectly the geography in which they fought; they did not engage in positional warfare; they had a discipline that no man could lose his rifle, better to lose his life. In the 5th campaign there was no base in which to train the white troops captured and they were mostly poor material, needing long political training. R A was several times surrounded, but always managed to break through them. No White army could withstand them. Very rarely. When the 25th Army left a company was surrounded by 3 regiments & fought from a village all day. At night they came out & broke through enemy lines with loss of only 7 men. Hsu himself believed this company finished, & was surprised when they rejoined ~~him~~ him.

Another very important reason why Reds cannot be accused of burning cities etc: because most of their battles are fought in open country, utilizing geographical advantages, with few habitations or buildings, whereas whites all fight from cities, using them as base & then destroying them when they retreat. Was not men but machines & stone forts which finally drove Reds out of Kiangsi. Hsu believes they would not have been driven from O-Yu-Wan had Hsu Hsiang-chien ~~Chien~~ remained; his own army did not want to leave when it finally did, plenty of room to develop in neighboring districts. Reds in O Yu Wan also fought positional war several times with Whites; each time



Called Hupeh-Honan-Shensi provincial border Soviet & has Chu, hsiang and hsien governments. The R A there when Hsu arrived about 1,000; later & now, including partisans about 3,000; partisans about 2,000. Geographical condition good. Captured five hsien cities; Soviets with divided land 4 hsien, partisans 2 hsien. Cheng formerly was political commissar to the 73rd Division of the 25th Army Corps, now 73rd Division of the 15th Army Corps. Cheng only 23 years old, native of Shang Cheng (Honan). A brave determined fellow, peasant in origins, very bright. Cheng Wei-san is only intellectual among the three; he was a middle school student. Hsu's present 75th Division commander is only 21 years old.

In July 25th army moved to North Shensi via Kansu. Captured Liang Tan, Wei Shui, Ching An, Lung Teh, and fought Ma Hung in Pingliang, defeated him & destroyed his two regiments. In August arrived in Chin Chuan, captured a regiment commander, Ma Ke-chi, then entered North Shensi & met Liu Tsu-tan's troops reorganized into the 15th army corps. In September occurred war at Lao Shan, war with Wang I-choh. Destroyed whole division - 110th & killed the division commander, Ho Li-chun. In middle of September another war in Kan Chuan hsien. Destroyed 4 battalions of 107th division, captured regiment commander, Kao Fu-yuan. In October the Central Red Army entered Shensi, together fought war of Chih Lo Chun in Lo Chun hsien and destroyed entire 109th division, captured 106th regiment, captured division commander, Liu Yuan-feng, Chief of staff, political instructor, almost the whole division staff. Liu later died; chief of staff & pol. commissar released; both were Fascists. Nobody belong NE army killed after capture. (Reds killed very few landlords in O Yu Wan after 1st campaign's most of them fled. Later returned as guides of White Army & during 4, 5th campaigns led the slaughter).

Red army commanders are appointed by the military committee on basis of party record, military record, & army commander's recommendation. Army appoints company or below; army corps appoints battalion; above that mil. committee appoints.

25th Red Army dead in 4th & 5th campaigns about 3,000. After Hsu Hsiang chien left. Total dead 10 - 13,000.

Hsu did not read Comm Manifesto till 1930. Did not need to read it. When principles of Communism first explained to him he knew this was the road he wanted to follow. From childhood had had a deep class hatred of rich. Would not visit home of sister married to rich family because he knew he would not be treated as equal. Never any interest of belief in religion. Rich sister's family tried repeatedly to get him to come to visit them, arranged a great New Year's festival, especially invited him, but though very young & fond of lantern festivals he would not go.

Hsu says he has been somewhat handicapped in warfare by lack of academic military instruction, but this handicap only pronounced in planning major defense and great strategy of battle. Hsu feels that he is weak in planning campaign strategy; has difficulty

analyzing over great space of time & distance. In tactical <sup>mobile</sup> warfare he probably has no equal outside the Red Army. He thinks this is generally true of all R A commanders, most of whom peasants & workers. (Of Hsu's three regimental commanders one is worker, other peasant, both pure proletarians. He has greatest faith in them; their courage & determination unequalled: matchless skill in strategy. The knowledge of a war of class interests, strong & loyal class consciousness in a warrior, more important than technical training. Hsu likes to call himself a "coolie."

Interview of Cheng Tzu-hua  
Yu Wang Hsien, Aug. 29, 1936

Cheng Tzu-hua, Po. Commissar of 15th Army Corps. Born 1904 in Hai Hsien Shansi. Originally named Ssu. Later he was given to his mother's sister, who had no son. His own family were middle peasants & his father was a merchant. His elder brother was a doctor in the White Army. 2nd brother also a merchant. His adopted parents were poor and when his foster father died they had to depend on an allowance from his grandmother. When 8 he entered classical school and found it very dull; he succeeded in getting changed after two years to a "modern" primary school. Graduated when 12 years old. His family wanted to apprentice him to a merchant, but he objected; he entered a higher primary school. A year later his family unable to support him and insisted on his becoming a merchant. He hated this idea, especially because he despised the treatment of apprentices as servants in master's home. He was 13 and he ran away to Yun Cheng, where there was a free school, including tuition and food, clothes & books. He graduated from this school ~~when~~ in 1921 when he was 17. Borrowing from classmates he went to Taiyuanfu where Kuo Min Shih Fan, a normal school, also free. The master was Chao Tai-wen, now chairman of Shansi; one of his sons was a Leftist, put in jail by his father and died there; another in Yenching when student movement began, his father warned him he would send a company of troops to arrest him; son a Red; he left school because believed his father meant it. Progressive students at Shih-fan were dismissed if expressed any liberal ideas; most students very poor, afraid of dismissal & did not act. In Cheng's 4th year he led his class to drive away chairman of his class in school. Students in a body went to see Chao but he was out; talked to Yen Hsi-shan in stead. Yen was informed of his exploitation, appropriating funds from food supply, decreased quality of the food; this was in 1925 & the student movement was strong throughout the country. Other chairman wanted to dismiss Cheng, but Chao ordered dismissal of the teacher, for Yen had been informed of his sins. Outside the Taiyuan Student Union was rising in opposition to Yen's taxes & sent letters to Kuo Min Shih Fan, but Chao Tai-wen suppressed them. Students became indignant on learning this, student body rose up & drove chairman from the school; about 30 altogether. Began by destroying furniture in house of Yen's secretary; unsatisfied, they held a meeting & considered expelling all the

chairmen; while this was going on, the chairmen climbed over the wall. At this time Feng Yu-hsiang was fighting Yen & near the city Yen, feating Feng would win student support granted all student demands, abolished chairmanship system, & granted student government, with professors only in advisory capacity. Chao Tai-wen left and Chao Pei-lien (now Ch. of Mongolian & Tibetan Committee) became chairman. There were over 1,000 students in the school. Cheng was chairman of the student gov. He had been much influenced by the May 4th Movement & he intended to join the Army to fight the Japanese invaders. At this time he felt already that there was no road for liberation except revolution. He joined the C P while still in school, in 1926. In the same year he left school and in December went to Wuhan, to study in the military & political academy of the Nationalist Govt. In February the split between the KMT & CP began; the school was reorganized; the students became a regiment in Chang Fa-kui's army. On Aug. 4, 1927, the Regiment was moved to Chekiang, but on Aug. 1 had occurred the Nanching Uprising. Chang Fa-kuei, fearing the regiment would join the Uprising disarmed them; but the men remained there, without arms. The C P organization in the regiment assigned new work to the men. He returned to Wuhan, was sent next to Canton & from there to join Yeh Tang & Ho Lung. By time he arrived at Hongkong Yeh Tong already defeated at Swatow & Chao Chou & Cheng had no party connection. Joined the army of Li Chi'suan & became a soldier there in the special battalion. The company commander was a Shansi native & he appointed Cheng as dispatch bearer. Later he became an army clerk in Canton. Chang Fa-kuei now led the 4th Army to Canton & Cheng's original regiment was there. At Shao Chou they were again disarmed; most of them were students. Chang Fa-kuei moved to West River & prepared to attack Kuangsi. On December 11, the students of his old regiment called the Training Regiment, about 1,200 together with the workers & under party leadership, also part of the gendarmes of the 4th army, staged the Canton Uprising. (Regiment had been armed by Chang to consocidate his rear) In a day the Uprising had control of Canton. Chang Fa-kuei returned immediately and on Third Day counter-attacked. Kuangsi meanwhile had begun attack on Chang & ultimately he lost his base in Canton to Huang Shao-shun. Reds retreated through Kuantung to Hai Lo Feng, where arrived one month later & began the first soviet. Cheng joined in with his old regiment during uprising. The special battalion of Li Chai-sun had been moved to Hsiao Kuan, & Cheng escaped from it to join the Uprising.

Enemy's force about 10,000. Uprising altogether only about 1,500. In 3 days captured 10,000 rifles. Huang & Chang Fa-kuei both in Canton when Uprising occurred & both fled to Shameen. The troops in the city were Chang Fa-kuei's and police under the mayor & chief of police. Hsueh Ying-pai was chief of staff to Chang. The Mayor Chu Hui-erh Yeh Chen-ying was chief of staff to the 4th army & much trusted; now chief of staff to East Front Army. He became the chief of staff of Uprising. Yeh Ting was the commander of Uprising.

Japanese mobilized 200 Japanese marines & landed in

Canton but were driven back to Shameen. Over 10 were wounded in Cheng's company by British gunboats machine guns. In the Canton Soviet govt then Chang T'ai-lei was chairman & killed by counter-revolution; Yeh Chen-ying; Peng Pai (who was in H.?) Hailofeng ? Su Chao-cheng (died later of sickness). Uprising led by the Canton C P.

During Uprising there was no serious fighting. Only one divisional hqt fought stubbornly for 5 hours. Reds did not lose many men; neither did Whites. Most of KMT officials fled; few were killed. Most of workers joined the Uprising; all except Yellow Unions. Chang Fah-kuei 3 divisions returned immediately and attacked the city; numbered over 10,000. About 10,000 workers had been armed; some of them joined R A & retreated with R A; rest left behind were killed by White troops or they hid arms. In the 3rd afternoon one regiment of Chang's troops arrived in Canton & was defeated by Uprising. The main army of Chang Fah-kuei arrived next day. At night Reds had retreated. Cheng does not know exactly how many were killed. People were killed on basis of dress; all poorly clad on wtrees were destroyed; those whose work in govt offices good were killed because said but workers were C Ps.

Along the road to Hailofeng the training regiment changed name to Chinese workers & Peasants Army, 1st Division. In January reached Hailofeng & met 2nd Division there. Under leadership of special committee there they met to consider ways of consolidating and enlarging Soviet district there. After two months struggle enemy attacked them & army turned to Hailai, Chaiyang, Pu ning. Captured Hui lai hsien city and there received wound in left hand which crippled it. After a month the Reds were attacked again. Reds turned back to Hailofeng. This time Cheng stayed in a forest on the mountain nursing his wound, with 10 others. After a month the Kuantung Provincial Committee ordered them to return to Canton; they went en route to Swatow and from there to Shanghai. Arrived in Shanghai with \$4 and no party connection. Decided to return to Shansi to make a connection there. Went to Nanking by ship, while paying \$1 to the servant as bribe, binding \$3 to his leg in order to avoid detection.

Peng Pai returned to Shanghai. Was arrested in 1928 and executed there. Hailofeng was first soviet; ranged over two hsien, S to N about 400, E to W about 300ki to the sea. Both Hailofeng & Lo-feng were hsien in hands of Reds. Land divided & s.g. established, with Peng Pai as chairman. He was nearly 30 years old. He had been a teacher; his family were great landlords & he was a native of Hai Feng, Kuantung. Yeh Fing was son of great landlord; married to rich overseas Chinese. Later he left revolution and returned to Hongkong, where he still lives. Was a young man in first class of Hampa. The rest of Hailofeng army stayed as partisans in the district. RA defeated by Whites & fled to seashore where got a boat from the peasants who were sympathetic. Later Whites came & killed all peasants, with slogan: "Kill every Red. If necessary kill 10 innocents to get one Red.

By Pingpu Ry Cheng went in a troop train to Hsuchow, arriving there with \$1. He then walked along the ry to Chengchow, doing 170 li per day, and travelling sometimes on rods of the car. Reaching Shansi he found his old schoolmates either fled, arrested or killed & an order issued for his arrest. He had in his grandmother's home; they sold some old clothes for him & got together \$12 and he left Shansui. His destination Nanyang, Honan but arriving there he found his relative already moved. Feng Yu-hsiang's troops were there fighting Yo Wei chun (later killed by Reds in O Y Wan) and Cheng joined them as he was broke. Half a month later he met a schoolmate who was staff officer to the battalion & he helped him to promotion. These schoolmates had also lost connection with the party, but they organized themselves & began work in the army. He became a platoon commander.

In 1929 when Gen. Yo Wei-chun moved to western Hapu to fight Chang Fa-kuei three regiments were disarmed, by Chang's troops while crossing the river. His regiment not disarmed; moved to northern Hopeh. Chiang Kai-shek now sent Whampoa students to replace old officers, and this aroused resentment. In two regiments, 4th & 5th, the C Ps led an uprising and joined Kiangsi Hupeh West Soviet district. Cheng was in 6th Regiment, got no news of this. Chiang Kai-shek moved his regiment to Ischang on the Yangtse and appointed Chao Wan hsun new divisional commander, of the new 1st Division. On the boat they were disarmed & returned to Hankow. There reorganized with other regiments not in uprising into the 15th Independent Brigade. He was reappointed platoon commander. He was in 2nd regiment of the Independent Brigade; comrades few. Among the soldiers remained the past influence. Therefore when in September, 1929, the Red Army attacked, near Tayeh (part of Peng's troops, the 5th column) and Cheng's regiment sent to attack them, there was a C P committee in the brigade and on Dec. 14 Cheng led the 2nd battalion uprising in the night. Two companies of the 1st battalion also joined the Soviet side. The others, 3rd and 2nd battalion, sent to chase them: 9th company of 3rd battalion joined the uprising and frightened the enemy withdrew all troops.

After Cheng joined the 5th column of the 5th Army. In March 1930, in the war attacking Suichang, Kiangsi, 90 li from Chekiang, he was again wounded, a long bullet wound in the arm. In May Peng brought the other 4 columns to meet with 5th column in eastern Hupeh. There they established the 3rd Army Corps, organized the 5th & 8th Army. In June he went to Shanghai to cure his wound. In January 1931 went to the Central Soviet district & was appointed Regimental Commander in the 35th Red Army. After the Third Surrounding the army was reorganized as the Independent Third Division & he was appointed Division Commander.

In December 1931 occurred the Ningta Uprising. After that he became political commissar of a division of the 5th Army Corps, a division newly organized from the Ningta uprising; it was 41st division. Half a year later, in 1932, he was made commander of that division. Later transferred to newly organized 14th Division. In 1933, November, he entered the Red Academy in Suichin.

A month later sent out to become division commander of 22 nd Division. Later appt. chief of staff to the Kuantung-Kiangsi military district. In May, 1934, sent to O Yu Wan Soviet district. Arrived there in July & after a conference of the provincial committee there he was appointed commander of the 25th Army, while Hsu was vice-commander. They ~~mmmmmm~~ moved out & to Shensi, and from there on he was with Hsu.

( Yo Wei-chun originally a bandit leader in north Shensi. In Tingsien, Anpien, Yen pien he organized bandits into the Ching Kuo Chun, or Pacification Army, under Gen. Hu Chung-yi. When Hu went to Honan to fight Chang Tso-lin. Hu died; he became tu~~3~~ay of Honan. Fought against Yen Hu-shan & We Pei-fu. Captured by Yen. <sup>Released and</sup> Again went to Shensi organized bandits into an army, and joined Kuominchun of Feng Yu-hsiang. He was c-in-c of South Route Army. Later he rebelled against Wu Pei-fu. In Juominchun-KMT war he was removed by Chiang-Kaishek. He was 40 or 50)

Cheng was wounded in Shansi campaign. Walking over mt. holding his injured hand with other: a bullet entered above wrist of old injury, pressed hand and bone of one hand, entered palm of other & came out through wrist. Cannot use hands naturally. Could not use at all for two months.

HSU HSIANG-CHIEN biog. Told by Cheng Tzu-hua.

Hsu born in Wu Tai hsien, Shansi, about 40 years old. (Wu Tai Yen Hsi-shan's native place). Cheng met Hsu in Wuhan. He was then commander of the political detachment. Hsu very reserved: talked little. Hsu Hai-tung said he had "northern habit" of talking very little. After Wuhan he went to Shanghai, then to Canton, after Nanchang Uprising. He was in Canton uprising, worked in headquarters. A graduate of first class of Whampoa. After Canton Uprising went to Hailfeng, then to Shanghai.

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Yu Wang Hsien, August 20, '36

WANG SHOU-TAO, chairman, political dept. of the 15th Army Corps. Born in Lo Yang, Honan, 1907, now 29 years old. Family very poor peasants. He entered primary school when he was nine years old, a school free of charge; students had to furnish only clothes, books & food. Diligent in studies; teachers liked him. Once he asked a teacher to draw a picture for him and afterwards a landlord's son asked for it and teacher gave it to him. Wang fought with the student; later the teacher punished him for doing so. He was much embittered by that experience and he did not forget it; from then on he was imbued with a bitter hatred of landlords. He had to earn his own money to pay for food & to get his he cut wood. The only wooded places were owned by landlords & he had to steal wood from them, after going on these expedition with his brother. One day they were caught & his brother was imprisoned by a landlord. He felt very depressed, and hopeless; life offered no way for the poor. When he was 12 his family moved a distance of 100 li & went to live with his uncle, the brother of his

mother. Sent to become apprentice in a firecracker shop; half a year later he began to study in an old Chinese school, with help of his uncle. The teacher was a landlord named Li, a relative of his uncle. There he worked & studied more than a year. Subsidized and helped by Li he went to a higher primary school & there became influenced by the May 4th Movement. Organized the poor students in the school in a brotherhood. With several friends he began a movement in his village to start a night school, to oppose the 21 demands & oppose old Chinese teaching methods & ideas; also organized a dramatic club to present plays. His father, fearing that when he grew up his family would be too poor to get him a wife, had engaged him when very young. He was now 14 years old & his father wanted him to marry. He refused; he had acted in a play as a girl victim of the arranged marriage. When he was 18 he entered Changsha Shu Yueh Middle School, supported by Li & some family friends. Because his family very poor & he hadn't enough money to eat with other students in the school he ate outside in street restaurants & borrowed money from other students. Sometimes he was ashamed to borrow, sometimes he could not. He got along by eating two meals a day. One night feeling extremely hungry he went to the school restaurant to steal some food & was discovered by the manager. He felt both humiliated & indignant. He wrote an essay in his notebook called, "On the way to Huang Ton Lin" (a graveyard with wonderful trees, where he often played). This essay described & contrasted the rich and poor students & pointed out idleness of former & diligence of latter without result. What can we do to change such a social world? he exclaimed. Teacher found this in his notebook; he was a liberal & helped Wang through the next term. Next year he had concluded he could learn nothing of practical use in the middle school; he entered the government agricultural school, also a free school. Here the tuition fee was very low, \$8 per year, and he was supported by the middle school teacher while he studied there. A year & 6 months later the Changsha students movement began against the Japanese who had killed a Chinese warf worker in Changsha. He joined the CY in one school and took part in the agitation. This was about 1923. He wrote a manifesto attacking the school government & authorities & he was expelled from school. Returned to Lu Yang; there began to read the New Youth. An article appeared describing the peasants .. in Canton & this inspired him to organize peasant groups in his own rural community & organize political discussion groups. By then he understood the nature of the class struggle, and he explained it to the peasants. Landlords objected & the provincial government ordered his arrest. He fled to Canton & on the way stopped in Shanghai. He used a false silver dollar in Shanghai, unknowingly, & was arrested by the British police. He was quite innocent, but police treated him roughly and fined him \$5 of his small sum, all borrowed from friends. This introduction to foreign concessions filled him with hatred of them. In Canton he entered the peasant school organized

by Mao Tse-tung; Peng Pai also a teacher there. Here he joined the CP in 1925. Here he received further instruction & learned fundamental principles of land revolution. He returned to Honan and in Changsha joined the KMT. He was also member of the CP branch in Changsha. He went to southern Honan in 1926 & began work among the peasants in Chi Yang. In 1927, due to the Shukoshang Mutiny fled from Chi Yang to Tan Hu in south Honan & stayed with a peasant family for nearly 5 months. Here he read the Communist Manifesto, Essential of Capital. In the winter of 1927 returned to his native town, Lo Yang & led the peasant uprising there. Returned to Lo Yang & because peasants opposed taxes, opposed slaughter, he organized them & formed a Lo Yang hsien committee of which he was secretary. Peasants made three attempts to capture Lo Yang hsien city. Began to confiscate the property of landlords & gentry. First time had one pistol & about 20 men with him. Hatred of peasants for this first landlord so intense that when they went to his house & found him fled they burned his house. Small partisan districts were organized throughout the hsien. In 1928 he was appointed secretary to the special committee of Honan-Hupeh-Kiangsi border district. The collective cultivation system was practiced in Lu Yang & Peng Kiang; they did not know how to begin land revolution, had no experience. Later received instructions from the party, after Chinese C P 6th Congress. Division of land then began. Development in the Soviet district accelerated. In 1929 established the Soviet Gov of Hupeh-Hunan-Kiangsi, special district, Wang a member of committee; he was then 22. In 1930 when Peng huai captured Changsha he was sec. to the activities committee. Later he became chairman of the Hunan Provincial Soviet. Li Li-san was nominal chairman but never arrived. Appointed by Central to conduct secret work. He & wife went to Changsha, to Long lin Shih to work among textile factories. Because of destruction of provincial committee his wife was arrested & killed by Ho Chien. Wang escaped to Shanghai. Worked in party there till 1932 when he reentered Hunan-Kiangsi Soviet & began work in the C P as secretary. The struggle of the mass in this district was most enthusiastic. In Chu Ling the cities occupied by Ho Chien's troops for two years but the masses remained still sovietized outside; when hsien police went to country to collect taxes the peasants beat them & drove them away; the landlords also could not collect rent.

In 1933 Hsiao Keh became the 6th R A Corps commander. In 1934 Wang went to the 2nd all-Soviet Congress: then went on the ~~ann~~ long march to the north. Worked in the pol dept. of the Military Committee until the Shansi Esp~~ation~~ - the East attack. During the East attack he was transferred to the 15th Army Corps.

The pol. commissar is all powerful in the political role of the army. Polit. dept. under direction of pol. commissar to carry the plans of pol commissar into effect. Pol. dept also directs white army work.

In this collectization experiment the result was not good. Attempted to consolidate all farms & share work among peasants dividing crop at end of harvest. Peasants did not respond to this; their demand was for land of their own to cultivate each family for itself. The party recognized this & altered its policy.

Wang thinks the collectivization in the future will be possible. At present not necessary. When the Soviet is in power over several provinces or a great part of China & its power is great enough this can be undertaken with energy & confidence & moderation.

Nieh Ho-t'ung  
Chief of staff of the First Front Army.

Born Fuyan, Anhui, 1908. Family small landlords during his grandfather's time. When he was born his family had but 40 mou of land left, owed others \$7-800, were middle peasants. He entered primary school at age of 7. Entered Han Mei middle school of Huyuan, Anhui, a missionary school, at 14. A year later he entered a normal school at Anching. Two years later graduated. Was member of student government, & student representative. Already some communist members in the school & he was influenced by them. He read "A B C of Communism" & the "Leader" a Left magazine. When he was a member of student government there was a movement vs. Tsao Kun, for bribing representatives in the house of representatives. Students of Anching surrounded tuchun tomen & guards killed two students. An order issued for Nieh's arrest. Fled to Nanchang and there entered Fan Wen-pen (tuchun of Kiangsi's military academy. Received a letter from a school mate, leftist, introducing him in Shanghai C P circles. After six months in Academy went to Shanghai & worked with Kuo Yu-hun, a C P leader in Shanghai. After the May 30 Movement he was sent to Anching to work in organizing students; also became teacher in private middle school, where he worked a year & six months. During this time returned once to Shanghai, & there joined the party; then went back to Anching & worked there. It was 1925 or 26. There were about 10 KMT members there & 3 communists; they cooperated & organized the students. After he retired from the school he returned to Shanghai & the northern drive had already begun. He was sent to Hofei, Anhui by the party. The surrounding of Wuhan had begun; Nanchang already taken. Anhui troops reinforced the front: the rear was empty. In Hofei he got connection with the 6th middle school; went there with another comrade from Shanghai. They were introduced by the middle school to the west of Anhui to the min tuan. There were 170 or 180 min tuan & they had 110 rifles. A landlord's son in this district was a leftist, returned student from Japan. Through him they made connection with the hsien guards in Hofei. On the whole they had about 100 men. In August they began an uprising & raised the KMT banner, occupied a town. But because they had no experience in the past, the soldiers had not been reorganized, not educated,

discipline very bad. After seizing a town in Hofei hsien they simply raised banner & did not develop. On the 3rd day a battalion was sent from Hofei to attack them & they were defeated. Hsien guard ... and only Nieh & the Shanghai comrade were left. The two went together farther west in Hofei. They had 12 coppers together. After a day's travel they learned from the peasants that Chiu Chiang (in Kiangsi) had been captured, and Anhui troops retreating. Disguising themselves as defeated Anhuites they walked along road back to Hofei. Both of them went to take a bath in a Hofei bathroom & there he met the guard commander who cooperated in uprising. Next day to Shanghai & made connection with C P. Wuhan still being surrounded by southern troops; C P helped them into northern army. En route to Wuhan they returned to Anching & collected 14 students. Fearing inspection they disguised themselves. When they reached Wuchang they found it already captured. Kao Yu-han had preceded them. Nieh & other students joining the party school; 2 weeks later he was again called to work in the army. Worked as platoon commander of Yeh Ting's Independent Regiment. Party organization there very good. Wuchang captured. Mme Sun, Valen, Borodin, inspected them. Before departure for Chingchow, on northern drive. Returned to Hankow, when Shu Ko Shang mutiny occurred. Yeh Ting, with one division & one regiment defeated Shan Ton-ying. Chiang Kai shek openly opposed the C P, Yeh Ting decided attack Nanking. In Wuhan the Lefist govt began the opposition to the communists. Yeh Ting was c i c of all rev. forces fighting Sh Ton Ying, the leader of the Shen Kon Shang mutiny in Changsha. When troops moved to Kuangchow on the road they held a mutiny outside of Nanchang. Disarmed part of Cheng Fu-hsuein's troops. In ..... Nieh was platoon commander, later company commander ... wounded. 24th & 25th KMT divisions had joined uprising. After Hailfeng they went to South Kiangsi and Lin Piao became commander of reorganizing "first detachment" & Nieh was his political commissar. Chu Teh ~~Chui~~ c & Yeh Feng vice commander. Discipline ... Many CPs tried to induce party to return to Shanghai. He was sent to Shanghai & then to Canton. He was in training detachment of Chang Teh Chui's army & he joined the ... Divisional staff officer after reorganization of R A following defeat in Kuangtung. After short time returned Shanghai, worked there nearly three years. About 1929 - 30? was sent to Soviet districts. Became regimental commander. Wounded in 2nd surrounding & transferred to become chief of staff of 11th division. Later c of s of 12th army. In fighting Konchow a military school established which moves with army. With 1st & 5th army corps as basis. Participated in attack on Changchow. During 5th war he was divisional c of s. After RA entered Kansu he was app. Front Army hats, vice-commander. After east attack became bureau head. After west attack became c of s to 1st Front army hqts  
Unmarried

August 26 - Yu Wang Hsien.

Left Yu Wang Pao at 7.30 after breakfast with Peng, Li Fu-chen, Haiteh, chief of staff and others. Rode black pony presented by 1st Division. Road a level one through a country bare of trees & human habitations. Much farmland here has gone back to pasture. Grazing is good & one sees herds of sheep, goats & cows. We passed a small herd of gazelles on the way. Moving very swiftly. Here I first saw great patches of bunch grass in the northwest. What population there is here is mostly Mohammedan, and the buildings in wide courtyards have somehow a Moorish aspect to them. The Moslems courtyards are swept clean as parlor floors, making a contrast to the yards one sees in Shansi, where men & beasts live alike and under the same roof very often.

A platoon of mounted men was sent to escort us by Hsu Hai-tung & the 15th Army Corps. They were not regular chi-ping but rode little Mongolian ponies small than the cavalry, but with rumps well filled out, fast and lively. We rode quickly over the 70 li, running the horses about half the way, which was level. Toward noon Wang's cinchstrap broke & he took a nasty spill. His pony bolted to Yu Wang Hsien. I rode the big black horse captured from Ma Hung Peng's cavalry, one of about 100 taken in a skirmish.

Ha~~o~~ Teh with his shirt off, galloped his grey pony racing with the escort to within 200 yards of the welcome committee. Then saw it, had to turn back to dress.

There was a welcome committee outside the city gate, with a banner spanning the road, "Welcome the American Internationalist to Investigate the Soviet Regions." A bugle corps played as we entered, quite a grand entry. The walls of Yu Wang Hsien are massive & impressive; they were dotted with people come to witness the arrival of the foreign devils. Many Mohammedans, with their white skull caps, were on the walls. A well-built and newly-made Moslem temple stands just outside the south gate; beyond the north gate is another and there is a street of shops between two pretty towers, in one of which was a theatre at one time.

Inside the city the troops of the 73, 75 & 78th divisions were lined on the streets by companies, coming to attention for salute as we passed, then singing songs and shouting slogans of welcome. I felt like a generalissimo with his prick out. Battalion & regimental flags were unfurled & bugles rang in the old city. Within the brick-faced walls the city itself was small, with very few houses standing. Most of the buildings were in ruins - old ruins, years old it seemed, and the city look like a Greek ruin, with none of the nobility of Greek architecture. Most of the buildings were destroyed about 10 years ago, during the great Mohammedan rebellion here. A new suburban town has grown up outside the walls and here the magistrate's office was located. The building was a pile of ruins, smoke-scarred & with crumbling walls, destroyed by the magistrate before he fled to the city and thence over the walls at night, when the RA entered.

At the north end of the city we were met by Hsu & his staff, who escorted us to a three-storied tower in the center of the city, where quarters were provided for us. A bomb-proof shelter had been built underneath; above it was a comfortable apartment of two rooms, with a balcony over-looking the city. A splendid view of the mountains could be had on every side; to the north lay the city of Weichow, only 40 li distant, where a battalion of Ma Hung-kwei's cavalry is located & about 500 min tuan. 25 li to the northwest one could see the Reds last pao lei or fort where there is a hot spring, and then beyond it the pagoda of Weichow. We stood in the city tower where the magistrate had formerly lived and which Hsu had arranged very comfortable board beds, well off the floor, had brought melons, apples, sugar & coffee for us. The coffee had been presented to him by some French missionaries in Anpien and Tungpien. We sat with his staff and talked till midnight. Hsu told of the capture of this city two months ago. There was only a minor battle. The 15th army surrounded the city for about 10 days. Inside were 1,000 min tuan and a brigade of Ma Hung-kuei's cavalry. Reds made no attack till one dark night. Then sent a company of men up a ladder, who took up a position on the wall & covered the arrival of the rest of Red troops. There was little fighting. Before dawn the Reds had disarmed the min tuan & surrounded the entire brigade of cavalry. Only one Red was killed; seven wounded. The min tuan were given a dollar each; the Moslems \$2, and sent on their way. Some of the Moslems joined the R A. The magistrate & brigade commander escaped by climbing over the east wall during the fight. All buildings to the south of city were destroyed by Ma Hung-k.

August 27th, Yu Wang Hsien

Talked all morning with Hsu Hai-tung, and then afternoon till 5 o'clock, while he told the amazing and unknown story of the development of the 4th Red Army in Hupeh-Anhui-Honan- O Yu Wan. Hsu has over 7 wounds, but despite these is lively as a child. Something willful & impulsive and naive about him like a child too; he is a pure proletarian leader, one of few in RA. Has two teeth missing as result of a fall from a horse & their deficiency, when he smiles, which is often, increases the impression of childlike modesty, simplicity, bashfulness perhaps, about him. His figure is slight but wiry & full of endurance & evidently very strong; he is proud of his strength & his marksmanship. He does not eat much seems like all R A men to be hardly aware of what he eats, he rises at 4 o'clock, and works hard. His organizing ability is seen in the condition of his army and the neatness, orderliness and discipline of his troops. A remarkable thing about R A is that perhaps <sup>it is</sup> only revolutionary army in which order and cleanliness & respect for property <sup>are</sup> fully maintained. The long history of struggle it has built up an iron discipline, passed over the stage of confusion & disorder which features most revolutionary armies. Thus it is almost inconceivable to anyone who has seen R A that its entry to a town should cause riot, looting, burning,

R.A. itself kills no landlords, traitors or oppressors, except officials and Militarists. The masses themselves under guidance of C P & Soviet govt, carry out whatever punishment is given such culprits.

At six o'clock a great mass meeting was called outside the north gate, to "welcome the Internationalists." The stage was in a former theatre building facing a kind of square formed by two rows of flat-roofed buildings on each side; the opposite end of this open-air theatre was closed by a two-story temple. The square was already densely packed with troops when we arrived, and there was a "balcon" crowd on the roofs of adjoining bldgs, making altogether perhaps 3,000 people. Some Moslems were there also. The lines of soldiers sat on bricks carried by themselves and their bayonets sparkled in the setting sun. There were banners strung across the road and posters in English welcoming us. One said, "Welcome the American friends of Chinese people, come to the Soviets on Excursion." The sentiments of all were kind & comradely.

I was introduced & spoke on the world political situation, and explained why I had come to Soviet China. They seemed to like what I said; I was frequently interrupted by slogan, and these were led by the Political Commissar, Cheng Tzu-hua, a thin, frail figure with nasty bullet wounds in both hands, that have crippled them, so that they look as if he had been crucified.

The plays that followed, given by the C Ys of the Red Army Players, 15th Army, were the best acted & most original I have seen. ... of the "International", and I thought of the contrast with the "International" of Peiping, a contrast of life & death, between a living force & a dead one, a young & growing culture & an old, disillusioned, spent & diseased one. Then there was a play about Manchuria, a thing of several scenes, showing the development of an uprising among the merchants in a town there. First it showed the petty merchants gathered under their umbrellas in a market place displaying their wares & peacefully hawking them. Japanese soldiers entered with a strutting walk, and sampled the goods. One walked over to a seller of beef & smelling it decided it was good. He picked up a hunk & walked off with it. When the merchant demanded his price the Jap turned on him in great fury & lectured him on the benefits of Manchukuo, how Japan had saved the Manchurians from the Reds. "Chiang Kai-shek knows this very well. He gave us all Manchuria for nothing and yet you sit there & demand money from us for your beef! Ya!" He strikes himself and stalks off. Others come in and maltreat the merchants. At last they have nothing left. Finally someone enters & says the Volunteer Anti-Japanese Army is coming. The merchants shout excitedly, turn over their umbrellas & stools, and shout, "Join the Volunteers!" Down with the Japanese oppressors! Unite with the Red Army to destroy imperialism!"

A Mohammedan playlet very well done showed a propagandist of Ma Hung-kuei at work, warning the Moslems of the approach of the Reds, telling them of their looting, killing, burning & raping. Then the R A enters & politely the men ask for food, lodging, etc, but the Moslems have buried everything & their women & children are hiding. They pretend they are deaf and dumb. The Reds go into the fields & collect their crops, bringing them back & again asking the price. They put money on the table and walk off. The Moslem is astonished & speaks to them. The next Reds who come buy his provisions already taken out of hiding & pay him what price he asks. Next scene shows Moslem women & children returning; then there is a scene in which Moslem peasants hold a meeting & decide to punish Ma Hung-kuei's propagandist.

Sitting next to me through this was a former Tungpei soldier & he enjoyed the play enormously, especially about Manchuria. I talked to him between acts; he was from Heilingsheng and he fought the Reds in an early war in S hansi, joining them during the battle. Was it better here, I asked him. "Very much better," he replied. But why, what was the difference between R A and White Army? He gave me half a dozen reasons, but first among them was that the Reds were anti-Japanese; next, the officers lived like the men; then because the R A helped the people, because it was a revolutionary army, because the food was better, treatment better, because the people liked men in the R A but despised the White armies.

August 29th - Yu Wang Hsien.

Spent the morning talking to Cheng Tzu-hua, political commissar of the First Army Corps, whose biography appears elsewhere here. In the afternoon we rode over to Hung Cheng Shuie and there saw the "front line." There were a few forts, pao lei, on points around the old city wall, a very ancient and crumbling structure. There was a fort on a strategic hill directly behind the town & the whole position was garrisoned by the 81st Division of the 15th Army Corps. Hsu Hai-tung, Wang Shou-tao, Han Hsing-tzu, and Fang Shao-tung accompanied me. We visited the 81st Division Lenin Room & ate watermelons for an hour, Hai Teh alone consuming no less than five. The place is famous for its mineral spring and the water from a small stream irrigates the finest gardens in the hsien, all varieties of vegetables and melons being grown, as well as grapes, apples, pears and other fruits.

Later we went to the front fortifications and looked down on Weichow, only about 20 li distant, where 500 cavalry of Ma Hung-kuei's are stationed. We walked out beyond the limits of Red territory, marked by some target posts, and for a moment wandered through the no man's land toward Weichow. Not a shot was fired; on the walls of Weichow, through the glasses, one could not even see a sentry. During my stay in the Red regions so far I have heard only 3 shots fired; one accidentally, by a soldier who gave me his gun to examine, the other by a soldier

on the road who took a long shot at a gazelle, the third a trench mortar fired so that I could photograph it.

The Reds have decided not to attack Weichow. Although it could easily be taken, its population is 90% Mohammedan & R A does not wish to give Moslems idea that it is warring on them. There would be looting and plundering during the fight by the White troops & Reds inevitably would be accused of it and the fact made into more prop. by MaHungKuei. The Moslems in the town themselves, about 500 families, are organizing a movement to eject Ma Hong-kuei's troops, who are living on them. An shien is leader & is now under surveillance. A policy of surrounding, of encompassing the city with Red territory, is therefore being carried out. It is expected that it will then submit, probably with no fighting.

Returning to Yu Wang Hsien in the evening I talked more with C. Wang. He told me something about Chu Teh's present wife. She is a peasant woman with very large feet & hands, strong as a cow, stronger than most Red soldiers, and she sometimes carried weak ones on her back during the Tong March, which she made entirely on foot. She is an expert shot, and before her marriage commanded a partisan detachment herself; still frequently goes to the front & fights with the soldiers. She was married to Chu Teh at Ching Kangshen; they have no offspring. Chu's first Red wife was captured at the same place by the KMT. Her stomach was cut open, her skin pulled away and her breasts sliced off, then her body thrown back to the Reds. Chu Teh still has another wife living outside, somewhere in Szechuan.

August 28th (should be before last)

This afternoon also I went to a political discussion group of one company of the 75th Division, nucleus of which was Hsu's 25th Army. The content is recorded in a notebook elsewhere. The subject was the R A policy toward the Moslems & the discussion revealed a remarkable grasp of the fundamentals of Communist policy toward minorities. No other army in China could discuss with such intelligence and clarity the political questions here debated, around which revolve some of the major political & economic problems of all China & the Far East. That the men were not hand-picked but were rank & file, was clearly demonstrated by the fact that they were chosen simply because it happened to be their hour for political discussion that I picked. That their speeches & talk were not mere memory work was also evidenced by the promptness & clarity with which they answered questions I put to them.

During the morning I had inspected the quarters of the various regiments & companies & had found them one and all neat, clean and habitable. They were more crowded than in the First Army Corps, due to lack of bldgs. here. Although Yu Wang Hsien has an impressive wall it has little else; evidently most of the inhabitants were driven out to build it. There are few houses & the ruins of those left standing are at least several years old, yet I daresay if KMT troops recapture the place we will see more stories of Red destruction & burning, based

on their ancient ruins, relics of the Han-Hui wars. Today I also visited the Mohammedan regiment of the 15th army & found it the neatest and cleanest of all.

August 29 (cont'd)

News came tonight of the Uprising of 3,000 of Ma Hung-kuei's troops, who have just joined the 2nd & 4th Red Armies, at ... in South Kansu. These men were formerly in Sun T'ien-yeng's army in Suiyuan. After the collapse of Feng Yu-hsiang's rebellion in 1933, Yen Hsi Shan pursued Sun Tien-ying to the Bobi desert and there Ma Hung-kuei's army disarmed them. He reincorporated several thousand into his army, but so far has never trusted them. Instead of garrisoning them in the cities he kept them in the villages & always north of the Yellow River. When Reds appeared in South Kansu Ma had no troops to send to meet them except there. He consulted his divisional cavalry commander, Li Tsung-yi, about it & the c c c assured him they were quite reliable. He therefore added a regiment to the 2,000 original Sun Tien-ying forces & sent them to attack the R A. As soon as the Reds were in the neighborhood Li Tsung-yi sent Chu Teh a message of allegiance & the entire division was placed under his command. This is the biggest single uprising of KMT troops since the Ningtu affair; when over 20,000 went over in one night. The towns now occupied by Sun Tien-ying's forces are Lin Tso & Chang O, which are being held for the R A, places which Ma ordered them to defend. Curiously enough the local people here had the news of this uprising several days ago, no one knows how, evidently through the Ku Lao Hui, but the Red Army hdats would not credit it until receiving the above telegram directly from Chu Teh' hdats. Other news received today told of capture of Wei Yuan & the surrounding of Lung Hsi by the 4th front army.

Wang told me something of Ma Hungkuei's marital life. He has five wives, the latest addition to the harem being a Soochow University girl, for whom he paid \$50,000. The Tientsin & Shanghai papers made a big story of this marriage & entered in some detail into facts of Ma's private life. He had flown down from Ninghsia specially to meet his new wife and take her home, & it made a good color story. It seemed that a few months earlier Ma had imported a Western-trained secretary, through Nanking, to help him modernize his realm. This secretary had sat for days with nothing to do, all his conversations with Ma centering on the modern woman & her superiority to the old-fashioned. Finally the secretary had got the idea & flew back to Shanghai, where he collected a number of photographs of possible candidates. Of these Ma chose one & the bargain was made. After these stories had appeared Ma Hung-kuei became annoyed & telegraphed to Chiang Kai-shek to suppress these salacious papers. He sent a special delegate to Nanking to urge a more rigid control of licentious press.

On marriages, I also learned from Hai Teh that Hsu H-t has a wife here. H T met her in the hospital, where he had tiffin. She is petit & a good comrade; some embarrassment of Hsu makes him deny he is married, evidently chiefly because he has gone through no formal ceremony with her. I jokingly told him he was afraid his former wife would divorce him if the news got out. Like Peng Teh-huan he would return one day to O yu Wan & find an old newspaper in which his wife had advertised that she was no longer responsible for him. He laughed very much at that, and said dryly that he did not think she would spend that much money on him.

August 30 -

Bugles began sounding very early this morning about three I think, anyway long before dawn, and kept blowing steadily till we left at 6.30. By that time the main force of the 15th army was already on the road. Only Hsu, Cheng, Wang & other members of the staff remained with us & left the city with the hdats guard. How smoothly, how simply, the great army moves out of the city! It is an excellent illustration of the simplicity & yet thoroughness of R A organization, of the splendid and systematic command with which it is endowed. Yesterday afternoon I visited the main part of the army still in its barracks, not a thing moved, the Lenin rooms still intact; this morning it is all packed on the backs of mules & men on the road. The degree of responsibility placed on the younger officers & the rank and file was evident also from the fact that Hsu felt free to spend the afternoon & evening with us; one would not have suspected that here was a man in command of 8,000 troops, about to move westward 200 li on a new campaign. Plans for the march were completed days ago, I was told; every detail of the new territory had been examined, the R A knew exactly where it would stay on each day. For the past four days peasants moving back and forth across nomansland had been detained by the R A, to prevent news of the new movement leaking out. Their advance, as later events showed, was wholly unexpected.

We walked out across the grassy plain that morning in the rear guard of the army, and before us as far as one could see stretch a long serpentine of men. A few li outside the city a signal was given & the army suddenly left the road to disperse in small groups for a practice air-raid. Every soldier suddenly ~~disappeared~~ became another clump of grass on the long treeless landscape. As you looked ahead it seemed only that the grass clumps thickened near the road. After 100 yards you could not distinguish men from the green fields, and only the pack animals in the rear, which might have been a large caravan were visible. The cavalry was already well in the vanguard.

With this army I saw no camp followers except a pack of 30 or more beautiful Kansu hounds who ran closely bunched, ranging back & forth across the plain in chase of an occasional distant gazelle or a hedgehog.

They barked joyously & scrapped with excellent humor, and evidently liked the idea of going to war. Some of the soldiers carried along pets of their own; one or two had little white .. tied to a string; another had a pet slate-colored pigeon perched in the saddle of his mule.

At a mud fort on the road, which looked quite like the outposts of Arabia one thinks of the connection with the Foreign Legion. I told Hsu & the staff goodbye. What a deeply human fellow he is. Walked hand in hand with me for the last mile, talking about the army, his own army & the condition of the men. Twice he asked me, "Can't you give us some advice on how to improve? We are only ignorant peasants you know & you come from the outside world, of which we know practically nothing." He said he hoped more Americans would come to see the Red Army or work with it; he asked me to come back again; he repeatedly asked this. It seemed to me that there were really tears in his eyes when he told me goodbye. "We will meet again," he said. "Certainly we will meet again." He gave me a black snuff bottle before we left, apologized because he had nothing better, and that the men of the 15th army wished me to have it so that I would not forget them. It had once belonged to a Mongol prince & was famous throughout the district among the peasants.

I returned with Fu, Hai Teh & Wang & we galloped most of the way. I had a splendid little Mongol pony, a "gift" of Ma Hung-peng to the 15th army. We covered the 50 li in 2½ hours and by 2 o'clock were back in Yu Wang Pao, where we found the 1st army corps already moving.

For an hour or more I stood under the great stone gate of the city, beside the half-demolished wall (one kind of "destruction" really done by the Reds, for military reasons) watching the First Army Corps depart for new territory, on toward Hai Yuan, some 200 li distant. The long caravan of men & animals stretched out over 4 or 5 li. Everything had its place and there seemed to be every necessary of a great army, although many of these necessities were improvisations. The arms were first class in every respect: latest type German and Czechoslovakian rifles, British automatic rifles, machine guns, Mausers, artillery batteries & shells well-kept & covered in their canvas capes. But the smaller articles were less uniform & showed more ingenuity: camp stoves made of oil cans, kettles, buckets, etc, also made of them, pots & pans likewise. The players went by with their portable ... sharing a mule between them, and singing. They carried a gramophone with them & some records; prizes of a war with Kao Kuei-tsu. In Ho Lien Wan also was a gramophone with one French record, the Marsellaise on one side & a ... song on the other. Another record was a French comedy song, one of those laughing things, and the roomful of Reds was in tears when it had been played, and holding their sides. This was proudly brought to our room in the Lenin Corner and we were entertained with Chinese opera singing. The Shao Kuei's stood around in great awe and bewilderment staring at the machine. Even the voluble Lu, our bodyguard (Lu Ming 'ien) was silenced. He finally decided the noise came from a wire attached to the machine somewhere, but he could not find the wire.

This evening we had dinner with Peng & Nieh, his chief of staff, and Liu Hsia<sup>o</sup> of his political department. Together we consumed several watermelons & talked of the problem of a lao-pou for Peng. Here a wife is not called tai-tai or fu-jin, but lao-poa. Peng said that he had never had time for a wife & had less now. Anyway there was no woman who could live as he lived. We pointed to his growing stomach and doubted it. Peng is the nearest to a fat man the Red Army boasts. But is not really fat at all but well filled out. Chu Teh, he claims, is fatter than himself, or was before they parted in the Man-tzu regions. He is also about Peng's height, which is a couple of inches shorter than myself.

Peng wanted especially to send the greetings of the R A to Lu Hsun, Mao Tun & Suzie. He said to tell L H that the whole RA read his letter & deeply loved him for it; that they would have answered except that communications were very bad. They would welcome Lu Hsun & Mao Tun in the Red regions; believed it very important for them to come here & write & help raise the cultural level in the Red regions. The effect on the intelligentsia outside would also be very great, he thought. Peng sent greetings to A.S. also & a promise of a warm welcome if she would come to the Red regions, likewise to ShihLao-po. Peng, speaking of culture, said he believed that a great art could not develop during a rev. period, but only after it.

Sept 8 - Chang Chia Chia

We left Yu Wang Pao this morning at 6 o'clock. Bugles sounded from about three, as the remainder of the 1st Army Corps moved westward. By five o'clock the Hdqts guard, 500 men, including cavalry, was ready & waiting outside Peng's hdqts. Peng made all his preparations to leave in an hour. This consisted chiefly in packing his belongings into two tin boxes - clothes, maps, telephone & batteries, and was ready for the road. We had breakfast together, had last farewells & as we laughed & talked & ate melons Peng mentioned casually that 1st corps expected a battle today, and left the town together, Peng to the west, I to the south. Last night, after a hard day's ride, I was up till one o'clock taking down Nieh's biography. Wang stayed up till three finishing the translation of Mao's interview.

In a talk yesterday with Liu Hsiao I learned of the election here two days ago of a Mohammedan Independent government. This is the first of its kind created in Ninghsia & Liu & Peng were very happy about it. Over 300 delegates attended, representing the Moslem villages of Yu Wang hsien, and elected by Moslem village govts, created for the first time under the Soviets. The meeting represented the hsien revolutionary committee mass meeting and on its agenda were three main topics: 1 - formation of a county self-government, 2 - formation of an autonomous Moslem army, 3 - formation of an anti-Japanese society. Among the delegates were several mmm, one or two landlords, and two middle school students (from Ninghsia) both sons of landlords. The great majority were poor men, most of the rich men & landlords having fled when the Reds arrived. Elected to the chairmanship was an old whiskered man, long respected in the community, a poor man and honest,

a good Moslem, a believer in Han-Hui cooperation. Committee were elected for the formation of an autonomous army to guard the new independent govt against counter-revolutionaries, for the formation of an anti-Japanese society, for the formation of a Han-Hui cooperative society. The Moslem govt is independent of the Soviet government here, which only supervises the Hans, but<sup>a</sup> C P is advisor to it, & Moslems army is trained by R A.

An important part of the business accomplished at this historic meeting was the decision to execute ~~an~~ a KMT tax collector arrested by several of the Moslem village governments & brought to the meeting for trial. This fellow had collected taxes for old Ma Hung-kuei before the Reds came; later, after their arrival, he continued to collect taxes under the name of the Soviet govt. This infuriated the villages & they protested to Yu Wang Pao. When they learned that R A was collecting no taxes they immediately seized him and brought him to the meeting. The chairman asked what should be done with him. "Boil him" "Burn him alive" "Cut him to pieces." The crowd shouted. Dozens of mild looking whiskered old men got up & demanded his death. When a vote was called among the delegates not a single hand was raised against the death penalty. He was promptly shot by the Moslem partisans who had arrested him. This is the only execution that occurred in Yu Wang Pao while I was there.

Not only are the Moslems beginning to cooperate with the Reds, but here for the first time the majority of the ~~Ke~~ Lao Hui, an ancient and once patriotis <sup>secret</sup> society of China, is being won over on the basis of the anti~~e~~ Japanese united front. Only two months ago, when Reds first came here, the ~~Ke~~ Lao Hui was still opposed to R A & heloed the Whites, as min tuan, as spies, as sabateurs, etc. Now that the society has b ecome open and reorganized as anti-Jap force it is actively working with the revolution. Anti-Jap partisan groups are being formed by it & trained by RA to work in Suiuan, Kansu & Shensi. Delegates have also been sent to the White districts to form partisan units there. Liu told me of a Ko Iao Hui here who was given partisan work to do in the White districts. Immediately after the meeting he went home and made preparations to leave. In a few minutes he came out of his door & gave his wife a few instructions & told her goodbye. "I won't see you for at least two years," he said, "if then. You can marry again if you like & you can sell our land. You are a free woman. I have work to do for the country." At this his wife broke into tears. He became very angry and told her, "You don't appreciate how progressive I am. This is what the Soviets have done for me. If you were married to another man he would not treat you as well. He would kill you before he left. I leave you a free woman." This fellow had been working with the Reds for only 2 months. There is no question that the Reds have brought hope, happiness, purpose in life & not least an escape from dreary marriages & lonesome wives to hundreds of men now in the army. Although the married men in R A are small in percentage they are most reliable, rarely get homesick & never want to return to their wives. Wives also have found release from dull husbands in the same way, urging them to

join the R A, declaring they will disown them if they do not, shaming them & humiliating them into the front. At Yu Wang Hsia one of the plays presented showed the method of social pressure used by the peasants to enlist new troops from the married as well as unmarried men. This is certainly in direct contrast with all Chinese teaching & beliefs in the White district, where a marriage once made, especially among the peasantry is virtually impossible to break, except with complete loss of dignity & social position to the man or woman guilty of the crime.

Conversations with soldiers.

In Yu Wang Pao we walked around the wall one morning & below the city opened up like a kettle from which the lid has been lifted. Moslem men & women in their courtyards were doing domestic tasks: grinding floor, sorting corn, etc. Moslem courtyards here generally are spotless, swept clean several time a day. In one corner is a stone stairway leading up to a flat-roof where worship is performed. In every courtyard also is a house with very thick walls, some three or four feet thick, with a roof of equal depth, where the family can retreat in time of war or riot. Moslem women generally are clean, strong & handsome, with natural feet, though of the Han Moslems many women bind their feet like the Chinese. Here their cultural & economic level is distinctly higher than the Chinese.

While walking around the wall I came upon two little buglers & we sat down & talked together. He was 14, had come clear from Kiangsi & had been in the R A for 4 years. His family lived near Changchow & when the R A came there he heard that it helped poor people & he went to ask them to help his family. Later on R A did go to his district, his family was given land & three of his brothers joined the army. They had been tenant farmers before that, were heavily in debt, & rarely had enough to eat. Every winter they cooked wood bark for soup. He had no idea where his Brothers were now; when he last saw them they were fighting with Fan Chih-min in Fukien. He said the peasants in Fukien had loved the R A very much, as their R A. They had made "a thousand then thousands of shoes" for the Reds with their own hands. He asked me about the Japanese in Peiping. How did they treat the Chinese in Manchuria? Was it true that Japan had occupied North China? How about youths in my country? Was there a C.Y. there? A C.P.? A R A ? He could not understand why if there was a C P there was no Red Army. What was the use of a C P without an army? I had no convincing answer for him. He had asked me about conditions there & he used my answers now to debate with me. There were capitalists, great landlords, heavy taxation, with the great mass of people serving them, many farmers without land, wasn't it like China? Why no Red Army?

One night in Yu Wang Pao also I talked with several soldiers who had wandered in to watch the foreign devil take a bath. They sat around perfectly at ease, unlike peasants in the White world, as if they don't belong: they knew this was their army, their city.

Their land. Another soldier had come from Chang-chow. He had been in a middle school there run by Spanish priests. When the Reds had come over 50 middle school students had left to join the army. All of them, without exception, had remained, many were in the 1st Front Army, some in Pao An with the govt, some with Chu Teh. In his school one of the professors was a Formosan, Tsai Chuan, today minister of interior.

Our guard on the day's trip from Yu Wang Pao numbered 30 troops. Whenever the R A moves the min tuan become active in the rear & Peng thought it advisable to send an adequate escort with the foreign devil. We rode over a 70 li trail across rounded mountains & uninhabited plateau, miles & miles of it, without seeing a living soul. It is splendid grazing country, with fine tall grass, very thickly grown, but no one farms the land & even the herds of sheep & goats one sees elsewhere are here scarce. One sees frequent packs of wild gazelles, beautiful in their swift flight, gallop like warm dust clouds over the horizon. Sometimes they completely encircle us from a distance of a mile or more & then having satisfied their curiosity trot off again.

Arrived in this Arabian-looking outpost tonight we discovered that Peng's precautions about a bodyguard were well advised. Bandits attacked a village 20 li from Hungteh chen two days ago & the news reached here only tonight. More than 100 strong, with about 20 rifles, they attacked the village at daybreak. (Six killed, about 10 wounded) Burned the place & decamped with 8 or 9 captured rifles. The village was occupied entirely by Red partisans in training & only a dozen of them were armed. The bandits attacked while it was still dark, killed the single sentry, set fire to the houses where the troops were, and then shot them as they poured out, blinded by the smoke. A number were burned to death. Only 12 of the bandits were killed. Of the armed Reds five or six escaped. Everyone else was killed. These bands are composed chiefly of landlords, old leaders of the Ku Lao Hui & former gentry of the cities, led by KMT officers & paid by them. They engage a whole army, at present the 28th, and are as difficult for the Reds to combat as Red partisans are for the KMT troops in the White areas.

Sept 9th - Cheng Chia Wa

Reached here early in the afternoon, a 60 li march. My pony is exhausted, having been ridden for five days without a rest. The way led through grassy meadows spotted with wild flowers, purple & pale green asters, some very large & beautiful thistles and a crimson flower dark as blood in the green hills. Gazelles were still numerous and overhead the sky was thick with eagles, enormous birds with a wing span of four or five feet - or were they bustards? There were many larks, red-winged blackbirds, magpies and thrushes; the meadows thronged with birds. Great clusters of pampas grass grew on the softly-rounded hillsides that are so pleasant a contrast with the ugly broken-up landscape of Shensi. Here one saw herds of three or four hundred sheep, goats & cows,

and occasionally a herd of wild horses, very far in the distance. High in the air we saw two great eagles fighting over a carrion of some kind, tearing at each other with their wide claws, striking the air and their big wings fanning in fury.

We came upon a small Mohammedan village tucked into a narrow valley & the only one seen all day & there had our lunch. Fu & I sat under a tree overlooking the broad plateau and watched the gazelles galloping back and forth across the distant ridges, hazy in the noon sun. Fu told me something of his life. He comes from a hsien in southern Kiangsi "where rice was so plentiful even the poorest man ate it." You could buy several ton for a dollar. Still his home was very poor. They were always in debt, and perhaps even rice as a diet becomes tiresome. Fu heard of a place called Ching Wan, in central Kiangsi, only two days from his home by the steam launch which travelled on the river nearby. He went to the wharf often & asked the boatman about Ching An. There were factories there, he heard, electricity, and a hot bath house. For five tiao of cash he could get there. So when Fu had 5 tiao of cash he went. Arrived there he got a job in a weaving mill & he liked it. He received more money than he had ever had, and he had to spend it all; still he had a bath occasionally in the hot bath house. He saw electric lights, he became a worker, he even learned a few characters. When the revolution came he was popular among the younger workers & he influenced them to join the C Y. They understood that the revolution was against the landlords & the rich; that was enough. He participated in strikes & other revolutionary activity; he became known as a leader. After the counter-rev scores of young people in Chiang An were killed by the KMT under Chiang Kai-shek. Fu was arrested and jailed. Over 500 of his fellow workers signed a petition asking for his release & guaranteeing that he was not a C P. This was published in the local paper. Eventually he was freed. In 1930 the R A came to Ching An & captured it. At this time over 6,000 workers joined the R A. For a month the factories were under R A control. Salaries were quadrupled, every worker was given a bonus (Fu got \$30) and for says the R A gave feasts of pork, mutton & beef seized from the landlords. There were plays every night, singing till everyone was hoarse; it was a wonderful experience. But not so wonderful for the landlords. Several hundred were captured when the Reds took the hsien & all were killed, along with some White officers taken. They were first invited to a feast and given great quantities of wine, traditional Chinese method of execution. Fu remembers that \$80 or \$90 worth of Kaoliang chou was consumed. This was in 1930 & the Red Army was still dominated by the Li Li-san line & the Trotskyists, who urged a ruthless indiscriminate war on the landlords & capitalists, a reign of terror. Shortly afterward Li was deposed & the party line radically altered, close to its present policy of moderation. It must be remembered that the bitterness of the slaughter by

the Whites in the counterrevolution was still fresh in the minds of all Communists & they were in no mood for clemency to the usurer & landlord allies of Chiang Kai-shek. Fu joined the R A at this time & has been with it ever since. Has the polish & aplomb of a college grad; is entirely self-taught or R A taught, clever, intelligent, able, good-humored, patient, observant, & courageous. One would not believe he was an illiterate factory worker four or five years ago. ✓

On reaching this town tonight we found it already occupied by about 400 soldiers of the Pao Wei Tui or Peace Brigade, who were moving toward the front. Other army units were ~~returning~~ returning to join their divisions at the front. The little courtyard of the landlord's home where we stayed was crowded with mules, horses, camels, men & baggage. I slept on boards in the courtyard with the crowd all the rooms being taken both in the adjacent hospital & the main house. One end of my bed rested on a box containing tench mortar shells & I moved with greatest care.

I drew a crowd of onlookers as I ate, the ~~Shao-Kuei's~~ finding me an amazing spectacle & never-ending source of good-natured mirth. Most of these ~~shao-kueis~~ seemed to come from Shansi, and had been recruited under all sorts of queer conditions, some running out of their homes to join, some joining after witnessing a R A play, some simply following the great crowd of farmers that went in the wake of the R A. There was a lad from Shanpei with a shaved forelock but long hair, a muleteer. I asked him how he got in. He had a wife & two children at home, a place near Mayapao & the Soviet govt was looking after them; he had joined when R A explained to him that they could give him land but could not hold it for him unless he & many like him fought to protect the revolution. Throughout dinner a dirty-faced local boy, a watermelon seller, sat thoroughly searching his clothes & occasionally a pleased look came over his countenance. "What are you looking for," I asked him. "Lao Tse-tse," he replied, "Old fleas." This brought a roar from the Red soldiers nearby at his colloquialism. "Join the R A & get rid of them," one said. "We have fleas but they aren't old ones. We change our fleas every day, for we move to a new place every day." They also joked with him about his long pigtail. "Is it a man or a woman?" they asked. "Why don't you cut it off like a man." He took all this good-naturedly, pleased to be included in their talk.

A company of new arrivals came in at midnight, assembled in the courtyard and woke everyone up with a song. "Ba Hao Chu I," the "Eight Disciplines". Before retiring the company commander, a red-faced you peasant, gave them a lecture on the events of the day. Two of the men it seemed had walked too far ahead of the rest and been separated. The young commander explained why it was necessary for them to march closely together. "Ting teh tao?" he asked them when he had finished & they roared back, "Ting tao liao!" We understand.

Hsiao

Hsiao

Ho Lien Wan

September 10

It was an easy stage, following a river bed all day with few hills & no mountains to cross for once. At noon we stopped beside a landlord's home for "hsiao mi". There was an orchard of peaches nearby & the troops helped themselves. I asked them where were their disciplines? They replied that it wasn't a lao pai-hsing's house but a tu hao's, a landlords. During the halt I went up the hill from beneath the tree where we rested and inspected the condition of the hao. There were two women in rags sitting on the kitchen floor, one feeding a baby at her dirty breast, the other stoking the fire. Had they any eggs, any corn, any vegetables, any melons, any rice for sale? "Nothing at all," they replied in a surly tone, "we are poor people, we have nothing." They wore no ornaments of any kind not even a bracelet or silver which even the poorest women here, as in India, generally boast. Were they posing as poverty-stricken farmers to avoid confiscation by the Reds, or were they really as poor as they looked? The soldiers seemed to know. "It is impossible," they say, "to tell a landlord by the clothes he wears." They immediately bury whatever wealth they have when the Reds arrive & put on their poorest garments. Most of them flee; those who remain are usually the smaller landlords.

Further on the road we stopped below another farmyard & called up a hill, "Old brother, have you any watermelons for sale?" "Plenty," came the friendly reply, "ripe ones and large ones. Come up and see them." We climbed the hill & the farmer's son went into the field for melons. The old farmer had some teeth missing & a genuine smile exposed them. How long had he been there, I asked & how were conditions. He had moved here from Ninghsia 10 years before, when the Moslems attacked the Hans. It was not as good as Ninghsia, still he got along. "How do the Reds treat you?" I asked. He smiled back with enthusiasm. "The Red Army, eh? Now here is a poor man's army indeed. They pay for what they eat. They act like men and they do not rob us peasants. The Red Army is a good army! Nearby two little children, quite naked, stared & smiled bashfully at the Yang Juei-tsu. A pretty girl, the only sexually attractive one I have ever seen with bound feet, sat on a bench and looked at me with frank & unaverted eyes and then she blushed, I could not tell why. The son returned from the field, we bought his melon for 20 cents Soviet money, and ate it on the spot. It was quite delicious and as it was a large one the family shared it with us. "Well, and what about Ma Hung kuei?" asked Fu Chin-kuei. "You say the R A is good today, I suppose you said the same thing to Ma Hung-kuei's men before we drove them out, old brother."

The old man jumped up in great indignation, spluttering watermelon seeds between his gums. "Ai ya! Ai ya! Ai ya!" he cried, "Man Hung-kuei, ta Ma-ti Ma Hung-kuei! Taxing us to death, taking our sons for his army, burning & killing!" Everyone in the courtyard laughed at the old man's anger & I noticed that the girl had nice teeth. The old man & the girl ~~had~~ walked down to the road with us & somehow I went away reluctantly. It was not till I left that the old fellow realized I was a foforeign devil. When Fu asked him who I was he said, "Ta shih fu shih Shanpei ~~su~~?" Isn't he a Shanpei man?"

jen

We reached Ho Lien Wan at about 4 & stopped in at the provincial government headquarters to see Li Fu-chen & his wife, Tsai ~~chen~~. They were very glad to see us, broke open an enormous watermelon & we feasted & talked till dusk, when I rode on to Hei Chia Pu, a village two li distant, where I stayed on my previous visit.

chang

Ho Lien Wan  
September 12 (Hei Chia P'u)

Last night while we were at Yang's we had a sudden interruption when a sentry rushed in & reported that he had just seen a dozen mounted men ride across the ridge of a mountain on the west of Hei Chia Pu. He suspected they were min tuan. There was no road there used by the farmers, horsemen had appeared just at dusk & the raids of a few days ago made it seem likely that they were bandits preparing for a night attack. In a few minutes Yang had sent out three detachments of men to search the mountain. Fu & I armed ourselves & went with one party to the plain back of the city. We proceeded cautiously for about 15 minutes & the men then scattered in a corn field & took up a defensive position. There we waited, till the skirmishing party should report. In half an hour a messenger came back to say that he had found the horsemen on a farm half way up the mountain. They claimed to be farmers bringing back their animals after selling their produce, and a search had produced no weapons. Such a number of animals & men at such a place however remained a suspicious fact & further questioning was proceeding. We returned to Hei Chia Pu & had dinner & my first rice in weeks. (Another battle won without a shot fired)

While I was at Yang's today a toothless old man entered the courtyard of this former Moslem inn and he wore a faded but clean & neat R A uniform and a leather apron. I asked who he was. Yang told me he was a mafu, 66 years old, who joined the R A in Shansi. I went over to talk to him. He was very glad to tell me all about himself. He had joined the Reds in Hung T'ung, she said and had never regretted it since. I asked him if he was in the city when the Reds came & he said yes. He was a small merchant, a seller of pork, but it was impossible to do business under Yen Hsi-shan he said, they taxed a man's excrement. How did he get out of the city, wasn't it filled with Yen's troops & the gates closed. "Yes," he said, "but during the day they opened the gates for awhile & watching my chance I slipped out and went to the Reds. "You are pretty old, they told me."

"Yes, I'm 66," I said, "but I can walk like a man of 20,

I can shoot a gun, I can do the work of any man." They told him to come along then and he marched all the way back to Shensi & now to Kansu with them. He was apologetic because he was not at the front, but he said "They think I am more useful here so I do this house work." And how did he like the Red Army by now. "The Red Army, eh? "And why shouldn't I like it? It's our army, fighting for the poor against the oppressed, it is a man's army. Of course I like it." He pulled some notebooks from his pocket, carefully wrapped in cloth, & displayed them. "See here," he said, "I already recognize two hundred characters. Every day the R A teaches me 4 new ones. I lived in Shansi for 66 years & no one ever taught me to write a character. Is the Red Army good or isn't it." He pointed to the rough script of his characters with intense pride & read off some newly inscribed phrases to me. His name was Li & he wrote it for me with a flourish. He had two daughters, both married; his own wife had been dead for some years. I asked if he had considered marrying again & he replied that he was too busy now and with that he went off to water his horses.

Another Shansi man, 43 years old, works here as barber. He lives in a yao fang in an orchard just behind the Lenin room where we are staying. I ran into him one evening as I walked through the place & we began talking. He asked me if I wasn't an American. I told him I was & asked where he came from. "Ping Yang hsien, Shansi," he replied. "I used to work for an American there in the Christian hospital. He was a good man, a good man indeed." He had been a Christian I asked why he had left there and was still one; he & he said because the R A had worshipped once a week; come to Ping Yang. nobody interfered with

him. The American doctor for whom he worked was named Li Jen & there were two other doctors in the hospital there, one named Ho & the other Chien. They were all three good men, they healed the poor without any charge & they had never oppressed him. "Li Pai Tong," "House of Worship," called out a ~~shao~~-Kuei from below, "Li fu, *Hsiao* li fu! - give us a hair cut." "Iai-la, lai-la, I'm there" he called back. Then why had he joined the R A I asked him. "Why did I join eh? Because the R A is a good army, it helps the poor & attacks the traitors, it rights Japan & the rich men, it is our poor men's army & we must fight for it." He apologized for his work as a barber & pulled up his trousers to show me a bad wound on his leg, from which he still limped, and yanked up his short to show a new scar on his belly where he had been wounded also. "These I got in our battle here & they are not healed yet," he explained. This was Chia H-chung & he was married; he did not know whether his wife knew where he was, but Li Jen and Ho & Chien, the American doctors, knew. He and two others from the hospital had talked to them about their intention, when the R A neared Ping Yang. "Dr. Li did not oppose us. He told us to go ahead, that the R A was an honest army, not like the White armies, and we should be glad to fight for it." So the three of them left the city just before the White troops

arrived & joined the Reds. Li Pai Tang asked me to tell his friend Dr. Li if I ever saw him that he was still well & alive, that he was happy in the Red Army & that he would like to have his job back at the hospital after the revolution was victorious. He had worked there four years in the pharmacy & he was afraid any new man who came there would not understand the job. I assured him I would let Dr. Li know of his whereabouts & bid him good bye.

Tonight we had a delicious dinner, foreign style, at Li Fu-chin's, prepared by Mme Li (Tsai Chang). Sung Jen-ching, political director of the 28th army, had just arrived from Tingpian & he ate with us. Fu, Li, Yung, Nieh Yung-chen's wife (he is pol director of the 1st Army Corps) was also there. She had arrived from Tientsin only a month ago, reached the front a week ago and spent two days at Yu Wang Pao before returning to ~~Chongchuan~~ Honien Wan. She had not seen her husband for five years, and had been working in the White districts; a slim, boyish-looking girl with very fine and sharply-marked features, bright, witty, mannish, speaking a little English. She is now working with Tsai Chang on the Women's committee's work in the White regions. Several other women comrades were there, among them one girl of 26 from Fukien, who had been leader of a partisan detachment there under Fan Chin-min. She was rather nice looking, large, solidly built, bashful, 100% peasant. They told me she had once carried two wounded soldiers herself back from the front 10 li to a hospital; on the ~~many~~ long march to Szechuan she walked all the way & carried a rifle. Now she is organizing peasant women here. Tsai Chang jokingly introduced her to me as a "pei chi pao" - a term used to describe a woman warrior. It means "vagina" apparently & Tsai Chang's remark brought out great laughter. Her name was Li.

Tsai asked me to take a letter to mail for her in the White regions. It was addressed to her daughter, now 14 years old, whom she has not seen for 5 years.

Present also was Yeh Meng, head of the agit-prop bureau for Shan-Kai-Ning. He was formerly a writer, has written short stories & a novel or two I believe, and is a close friend of Lu Hsun. He asked me to take a letter to him; he is writing a book on the Long March & is anxious to have L.H.'s opinion of it. If he thinks it worthwhile he will ask L.H. to write an introduction for it when it is published. Many Red leaders are now writing stories, essays or books, using the time between the Shansi campaign, which ended in April, till now, for that purpose.

Division of land, organization of partisans and development of Soviets are proceeding here now with greater speed & the area is rapidly being consolidated as a Soviet one. The most noticeable defect is economy; economically & culturally all S.D. suffer a serious lag.

Ho Lien Wang

Sept 3, 4, 5.

Rain for two days made the roads impassible & I was obliged to spend this time in Ho Lien Wan. I took a bath, the first in four weeks & as a result caught a sever cold. The little mud room in which we are quartered has no doors nor windows and is full of draughts; it is impossible to avoid catching colds if one is susceptible, as I am. This one developed into bronchitis, I had to stay in bed for two days; the doctor came & gave me some medicine, which I did not take. When I left I still had some slight fever and at Hung Teh Chen had chills all night and did not sleep. Next day the sun came out at last, it was warm again. I took off my shirt & rode all day like that & at night felt better.

The min tuan who raided a village near Hung Teh Chen returned to Anpien & there acquired reinforcements, their number totalling over 400, with about 200 rifles. They began moving toward Ho Lien Wan, evidently preparing to attack it. But about 300 men of the 28th Army meanwhile had moved to the north in pursuit of the bandits who had attacked Hungteh cheng. A peasant informed them of the movement of the bandits & they prepared to attack them. Dividing into three columns they left their main forces in the center, sent two wings on each side to the rear of bandits, then closed in & surrounded them. Over 200 rifles were seized and 90 bandits killed. The rest dispersed, carrying with them not more than 20 rifles. The battle lasted about an hour & many Reds were wounded, 11 killed. This is the biggest encounter the Reds have had with any bandit group in Hansu & practically liquidates them. At Hoheinwan they were very jubilant at this news. A great reception was prepared for the returning warriors, all troops, Y Cs, R Eh Tung Tuan being mobilized, together with partisans. There was also a big delegation of farmers, carrying their ... lances with little Red banners flying from the spearheads. All these lined the roads along the return route & cheered & sang to the warriors & brought them refreshments - sickly tea & green fruit, all they had, but smiles broke out over the faces of the weary warriors, for they knew this greeting was warm and heartfelt.

Lien Hsiao  
Hoheinwan seems overrun with chao kwei's and wa was. They come from Shanpei & Shansi, mostly from the latter. They are fat healthy-looking kids most of them, wearing uniforms too big for them with sleeves dragging to the ground & coats hanging to their knees. They wash their face & hands three times daily, they claim, but they are always dirty & their noses are running & they are usually wiping them with their sleeves & grinning. They bring our food, sweep the floors, after a fashion, make fires & run errands. They like life in the R A, there's no doubt about it; they eat well, they have a blanket each, a uniform & a R A cap with a broken bill. They are usually homeless, former apprentices, and of uncertain origin. They are always cheerful, they reply "Hao!" to every query,

They are the most loyal and optimistic of Red Army fighters, they are the incarnation of the spirit of the army - the boundless energy, the endless stream of youth, the eternal hope rising anew in China. These kids are bright, clever, polite without any training in etiquette, patient, unselfish, hard-working, quick to learn, but alas! mostly still illiterate.

Among these in Ho Lien Wan there was a good-looking child they called the Chiang Yang wu-wu. He was 12 years old, he had been an apprentice in Ching Ying when the R A came. He and four other apprentices climbed over the wall to join the R A when it came. Why? He did not know except that he hated his life as an apprentice, he had to wait on the mistress & empty the ma tungs, and he heard that in the R A apprentices could learn to read, could learn to jump, play ball, and shoot a gun against the masters of apprentices. He had no parents that he could remember; the R A was his father & his mother. The Shansi wa-wa seemed really to love me for some reason. He came to me frequently and put his arm around me and smiled and asked me, "Ni yao shen-ma?"

Hung Teh Ch' eng

September 16

Arrived here late at night after a difficult day crossing the valley river, now swollen by rains, nine times. In some spots it could not be forded & we had to take the high mountain road beside it, climbing perpendicularly & descending at once. One mule threw off his rider and loads into the mud on one bank. We lost a mule completely & a mafu, the mule dumping his loads & turning tail back to Ho Lien Wan, & the mafu chasing him. I never saw either again.

Comrades welcomed us here and we spent the night in a small house, newly built, which had belonged to a landlord. It was ~~mmmmmm~~ obviously a landlord's house; it had a wooden roof, good pillars & beams, several newly-latticed windows & even some doors swinging between the rooms. This miserable worm of a landlord had even provided himself with the luxury of a table clock & this now ticked on faithfully in his parlor, magnificently furnished with two tables & several unpainted wooden stools & benches. I spent the night on a bed made of wooden doors laid over a couple of benches.

Lo Chia Yao Hsien

September 17 100 li

Leaving at 5 o'clock this morning we rode all day, with only an hour's halt at noon, and reached this station just at dusk. It is the longest & most difficult stage of the trip, easily 40 miles. I felt very tired and still had a slight fever. I went to bed at once in the cave provided for us. Part of the front had fallen in and there was a big hole just above the doorway, where the wind roared in. It began to rain and continued until after midnight, so that next day we started out over wet roads and through valleys suddenly filled with rushing rivers, as always happens just after a rain in this country.

An escaped soldier was recaptured not far from here and brought back and put to work at digging. He had a shovel tied to his shoulders, but no guard watching him. I was told it was his second attempt at desertion. This is the second I have seen in the Soviet districts, the other being at Yu Wang hsien and he was punished in the same way. "The phenomena of desertion" as the RA calls it, is a subject for constant educative work among the troops. Desertions are far lower in the RA than any other in China and are for different reasons. Desertions in other armies are in the majority of cases due to maltreatment by officers, poor food, and political dissatisfaction. Here the commonest cause is "homesickness." As soon as young recruits get very far away from home they begin to fear they will never get back again; they sometimes ask for leave but more often take up their blanket & bowl and start over the narrow trails on foot. When captured & brought back the first time they are given no formal punishment, but the squad, platoon and company commanders talk to them, learn the reason for their attempted desertion & then sympathetically explain, very patiently, why their simple desire to go home is in the eyes of RA military law a crime. They explain why it is a betrayal also of China, of the revolution & of their own class. Most of them do not make a second attempt. Those who do are put at special labor for awhile & not allowed to carry arms; instead they are given intensive political lectures every day for two or three hours until the commander is satisfied that their understanding has been improved.

Third, fourth & further attempts at desertion are corrected in the same way, only more intensively. Capital punishment is given only to deserters who attempt to escape with their arms & lead others to follow them. These cases are extremely rare. Sometimes they happen among the partisans, however: such a case occurred here about the time we were going to the front. Some new partisans, about 30, had been enlisted & were being trained at Hung Teh Cheng. They seemed quite sincere; they had come from poor peasant families & their commanders felt they were trustworthy. After about one month however they staged an uprising, and 14 of them succeeded in escaping with 7 or 8 rifles and three or four horses. (The partisans in Shan-Kan-Ning have mounted detachments) It was then discovered that all these men had previously had connections with the min tuan, were members of the KuLaiHui under the domination of the landlords & had been sent by the mintuan to carry out this coup & seize some arms.

Another problem with the partisans on border districts is that many of them, not really counter-revolutionary, are persuaded by the White troops to sell their arms & even join the W A on the basis of the United Front. This is due to lack of political understanding of course. The White troops appeal to them not to fight Chinese, assert that they too are anti-Japanese and are not fighting the anti-Jap RA, therefore they should sell their arms to a more highly organized force, join hands with it, and help improve the RA-Tungpei U Front.

The biggest inducement, to a peasant with nothing in the

in the world, and often anxious to get back to his plowing, is the \$20 or \$30 offered for his gun. The partisans know that a United Front does exist with some White troops and in these cases the Whites do not make war on them; the whole thing therefore sounds plausible. The Whites do not arrest or kill the partisans after they have disarmed them, but send them back to tell others partisans of the new unity between White & Red. In this way the Reds lost a number of rifles several weeks ago and more intensive political training is now being given the partisans to stop this latest method of the Whites to combat partisan warfare.

In general throughout the Soviet areas one does not get the impression of a people at war, of either outer or inner conflict. There is no violence practiced upon the peasantry whatever and I have not seen even a fistfight either between a soldier & soldier or between a soldier & civilian. I have seen no cases at all of attack on women, old or young and here they move about with complete freedom with Soviet protection. They look upon the soldiers as their friends & protectors, rather, and voluntarily cook & prepare food for them, often refusing any payment. I have seen pretty young girls gladly sit down behind a bellows and pump this ancient instrument for an hour or more to flame the fire cooking the warriors' meal, talking & joking with them meanwhile. During all my stay in the Soviet districts I never saw a child struck or mistreated, a woman abused nor an old man offended. Even when landlords are arrested and brought to trial they are not bound or handcuffed, as are political prisoners in the White districts. I saw only one landlord's family arrested. That was near Hohien wan. They were four, the father, his two young sons and the mother. The latter, a stout woman of about 45, was given a donkey to ride & from where she sat, on piles of bedding they had brought along, she roundly cursed the half dozen young soldiers who accompanied them and they good-naturedly laughed & joked back at her. The father, a poorly dressed man, you would have thought him the poorest peasant by his appearance, walked glumly & silently before the soldiers and his two sons followed him with equally hostile faces. None of them was bound. I passed this procession on the road & the soldiers, in answer to my question, said they were being taken to Ho hien Wan for investigation. They must have been very wealthy, probably with several mu of land, for a peasant in this region is not considered a landlord unless he derives his main income from his rentiers, and to do that here one must own not less than 2,000 mou of mt. land or several hundred mu of valley land.

Besides these people the KMT tax collector at Yu Wang Pao, and the deserters already mentioned, I have seen only one other political prisoner in Soviet districts. This was at Pao An. One morning as Haitch & I walked up the main street several soldiers passed us, leading a young man wearing soiled cotton garments and a look of despair on his peasant face. I learned that he was a KMT spy, who had confessed that he had been sending out reports to the White districts. He was a member of a district revolutionary committee and was in possession

of considerable secret information. This made his crime quite serious. Later on I learned that he had not been shot, however, but was being imprisoned in the local "jail," a cave in the mountain where there are several political prisoners.

And oh, yes, I saw a min tuan, his hands bound behind him, being led in middle of a troop of soldiers returning from the battle with the bandits, north of Ho Lien Wan. He was a man of about 40, with a beard, and he looked like a good honest peasant. I felt an emotion of sympathy for him somehow till I saw in the column of youth with him many mere children nursing wounds on their arms, heads and legs. How very young they were, many of them hardly as high as the rifles they carried! I judged their average age to be about 17 or 18, with many as young as 14 or 15 and some in the hsiao kuei class completely. I think easily more than half the R A must be virgins. I asked many who accompanied me on the road whether they had ever slept with a woman and only about one out of 20, of those unmarried, claimed that he had. Hu, of the Waichiaopu, my "chief of staff," who was 31, had never had any sex relations.

Tien Ping Chen

September 8, 90 li

We rode all day along the gravelly bed of a stream, already receded after yesterday's rains, through a pleasant green country, a gentle contrast now with Hansu & Ninghsia. At noon we stopped at a farm surrounded by wonderful fields of sweet corn and with terraced gardens filled with ripe pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, beans, peppers and radishes and long white, delicious onions. The place was owned by a farmer with a wife and one pretty daughter, with natural feet & they made us welcome. They sold vegetables & corn to us for Soviet money, without any question: indeed from here on to within two days of Yu Wang Pao farmers generally accept Soviet money, though as far as I can see this is more of a gesture of confidence and support than anything else, for generally the cooperatives are now empty of nearly everything the farmer wants in exchange. Only salt and a little cloth are sold in the cooperatives I have seen.

We reached Tien Ping Cheng early and found a small garrison of troops here, detailed for fighting min tuan. The situation had much improved since our last visit, when there was a small band of min tuan actually on the mountain top just behind the village. These had now been cleared out & a pao lei had been constructed on the spot.

Here I met a Red soldier, formerly of the Tungpei army, from Tungchow, Hopei. His name was Thunder (Lei) and he had formerly worked in the American school at Tungchow as a dairy hand, milking the four of five imported American cows there. He was very anxious to know about conditions in his home town & asked if it was really true that Japanese soldiers had taken it over. I told him about Yin Ju-keng & the "Independence Movement", about the recent increase

of Japanese troops there and in Peiping. Were there any Japanese troops in the American school, he asked. I told him I believed not. He paused thoughtfully and said, "Well, I could still work there then I suppose." "Not if the Japanese knew you had been a Red," I laughed. He said his work there at the school had been good & the conditions were all right, too; he had joined the Tungpei troops in 1933, when Japan invaded Jehol, because he wanted to fight the Japanese. But instead of fighting the Japs he had soon been sent to Hankow & later to fight the Reds. He became disgusted with this and as soon as he had an opportunity he had gone over to the R A, who were really anti-Japanese. But he wished wistfully that the war would commence & be finished quickly. He wanted to get back to milking those cows. An interested crowd had gathered & he began to tell them about the American milch cow. He told them one of these cows cost \$1,000 and a great "oh" of surprise went up from the Shensi audience. Cows in this region cost only \$30 or \$40. Everybody thought they must be very big cows & very strong, but he said no, they were about the same size as Shensi cows. Why so expensive then? "Well, you may not believe it, old brothers, but those red cows give milk every day in the year, calf or no calf. And this milk is worth \$3 per day - about 10 pounds." Long discussion & argument followed this statement and none of the Shensi people believed it & I had to confirm the announcement & still they would not believe it. At last they agreed that the Soviet district needed some of these cows & they asked me if I could buy some and ship them back from America.

There was a quarter moon and it sprayed a faint light over the dirty stableyard, flanking which was the cave in which I slept. The lines of pack saddles on the silvered ground were strange four-legged shapes like crouching animals, full of restrained or suspended motion; like the mules that bore them they seemed resting for the long march before them tomorrow. Across a narrow valley down which cascaded the clearing river, tinkling like a cool drink gurgling into a jar of ice, there were other cave houses, and little circles of light still burned in them. They looked like weird eyes shining out of the black bulk of the mountain, faintly marked against the sky. I went to sleep thinking of the title of the book I mean to write, and I believe it is good because it is simple & completely descriptive of everything I want to imply. I shall call it, "I went to Red China."

WU Chi Chen - 90 li

Sept 19

A long road following a river bed all day brought us here at dusk. The day was memorable because of some sugary dew-cdd melons we came upon just beyond Tien Ping Cheng. Getting up while it was still half dark, a heavy white dew lay over everything, and a dense fog hung in the valley and this did not clear till mid-morning. The hillsides were a rare picture with their dewjewelled shrubs and every clump of grass sparkled like one of those marvellous little jade trees the Chinese artisans make from glass & semi-precious stones.

At a turn in the road we came upon a field of melons, touched

touched by this magic, and they glistened like great gems lying against the dark breast of the earth. We stopped to investigate and the farmer, sampling them himself, promised they were as good as they looked. Here for the first time I saw canteloupe, tasting in every respect the equal of a Colorado melon. But we passed on quickly to the watermelons and selected several ripe on their vines. I never tasted a better melon anyw here, not one so sweet, so read against the rind, nor so deliciously cold, "steeped" as it was in dew.

Wu Chi Chen - Sept 20

Stopped here for a day to give the animals a rest, especially Ma Hung-ping, who seemed on his last lap in a run to death. He recuperated quickly, however, and gave a good performance during the next two days on the road.

Here I found an electrical engineer had arrived from Shanghai, Com. Sze. . ., a specialist in power plants. Comrade Sze brought with him six other technical men, including an expert fitter, two master mechanics, 2 machinists, and an apprentice. Two of the youths stayed in Pao An, where they are now studying radio engineering in the Soviet Radio School. The other five came here to work in the arsenal.

Sze is 34 years old and a native of Ningpo. His wife is dead, he has one daughter, and his mother, with whom he lived in Shanghai. He is a power plant expert & has built and remodelled several plants in small cities around Shanghai. He attended a technological college in Ningpo where he studied engineering. Later he worked with Anderson Meyer & Co & after that with the Shanghai Power Co's Yangtze Station as an engineer. During 1927 he organized & led a strike there, independent of the C P, of whom he was not yet a member. He became one at that time; the C P sent organizers & political workers to call on him & offer their services & since he knew nothing of such work he was glad to accept. He got his political experience and training during this strike, which was successful. One of the conditions on which the workers returned was that he not be dismissed. He was not, until 1930 when he again organized & led the workers in a strike, which failed. His resignation was demanded & after that he entered business for himself, as a consulting engineer. He did not succeed in making a connection again with the party until this year, when he became an active leader in the Professional Workers Liberation Association of Shanghai, with membership of 500. Reforming his contact with the party, he was asked to come here three months ago, and made plans accordingly. To do so he had to give up a practice as a consulting engineer which was netting him about 310,000 a year. He doesn't mind that so much as the fact that he had to leave before completing the revision of his book on engineering. This book, published several years ago, has gone through several printings and is a popular textbook in engineering colleges of China. Why did he become and why does he believe in the Revolution, I asked him, pointing out that his history indicated an alignment with the small minority of prosperous petty bourgeoisie in China which is Fascist almost to a man. He said he thought

his action was traceable to the strong influence made upon him by his grandfather, by whom he had been educated. This rare old gent made a fortune in Ningpo as a merchant, but used all of it in erecting schools in his native district, continuing to live plainly, simply, like a peasant. He had always told Sze that he only wanted one thing from him, a promise that he would devote himself to raising the culture of the ignorant masses & enlightening their lives.

Sze was depressed because of lack of equipment here, a bungling White doctor (with pretty wife) from Shansi who love injections but not sterilization, & the lack of effort to improve people's minds, but concentrate rather on too much singing.

The Fitter Sze King-ling, showed me letters from A.M., S.P.C. and British firms all praising his work highly and commending him. He had left his wife & children to come to the Soviets, at Sze's urgence. Arrived Pao An Sept 13.