

CHINESE SPIRIT HIGH ON EVE OF FOES' BIG PUSH

Veterans Years in Service, Youths in First Battle, Face Death Calmly.

By D. G. BESS
United Press Staff Correspondent
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SHANGHAI, Feb. 20.—Boys and old men, the latter veterans of years of civil war in China, stood together behind the Chinese defense lines today before they opened their battle to hurl back thousands of maraudingly trained, well-equipped yellow men from Japan.

I went behind the lines of both armies, looked over the preparations for the "big push," observed their spirit, and their equipment for the drive that was to mean eternity for countless thousands of them.

I toured the front lines, from the northern borders of the international settlement to the Woosung forts, some eight miles away.

All hands were ready. Some were tense, others appeared unconcerned. All the while, munitions' trucks came up to the front lines and the men not on guard at the defenses helped unload the shells destined for the enemy.

Japanese Well Trained

The Japanese appeared to be marvelously trained. There was no doubt that they were well equipped.

They wore the dark green khaki uniforms of the Nippone, so dark that they appeared black in the light of early dawn. The men crouched side by side behind their defenses. Some who arrived here with the Ninth Division were about to go into their first big engagement and receive their baptism of fire.

Across No Man's land were Chinese soldiers perhaps more accustomed to warfare. They were greater in numbers than the Japanese, but their equipment, as far as could be determined, was not as complete.

En route to the front I talked with several geisha girls, many within range of shelling. They were in kimono.

I asked if they were receiving guests in their houses, where distinguished visitors to Shanghai usually go as part of the routine of "doing the town."

Refuse to "Prostitute"

"That would be unpatriotic," one of the girls said. "It would be like prostituting. We must wait until the war is over before we can have gay time again."

Hours before daylight, airplanes were tuning up on two Japanese landing fields. Tanks were ready to crawl over the Chinese lines. The tank corps knew that the Chinese had mined the terrain.

They also knew that the Chinese had hidden machine guns in the area and that they would have to urge their mechanical beasts through rows of barbed wire and over the ruins of many buildings in the Chapel area destroyed by their own Japanese air bombers.

Some of the younger Chinese soldiers, mere boys, were happy and thrilled by the prospects of their first taste of war. Their morale was exceedingly high. They were ready for battle with the spirit which, until three weeks ago, most foreign observers here believed to be lacking.

Patriotic Spirit High

The boys appeared ready to die for China, instead of for a daily wage and the spoils of war, which characterized many of the mercenary Chinese soldiers of other days.

The Japanese soldiers were confident. They prepared to win for the Japanese army the prestige the navy lost in failing to dislodge the Chinese.

I tried to get on board a Japanese tank and go up to the lines with the troops. The Japanese commander refused my request politely, but very firmly. He not only spoke English, but used terms bordering on American slang.

"There must be no danger to Americans in this show," he said, smiling.

Foreigners Are Calm

Except for the screaming of shells which dropped into the settlement and endangered their lives, foreign residents had no idea of the bitter offensive going on for eighteen miles along the river.

Foreigners took advantage of the brilliant sunshine to get outside and walk through residential and business districts. Groups stood on the streets, gossiping. Ferries puffed and puffed vigorously across the Wangpang. Steamers passed in and out of the harbor, undisturbed.

While the offensive was proceeding, a colorful funeral cortège went through the crowded settlement streets to Holy Trinity cathedral. There services were held for the two British seamen, Francis and Prior, killed by the explosion of a Chinese shell at Hongkew wharf.

LINGLE SLAYER MUST SERVE 14-YEAR TERM

Leo Brothers' Conviction Upheld by Illinois Supreme Court.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 20.—The sensational slaying of a Chicago newspaper reporter, which brought an end to the bonanza era of the gangs, today appeared finally as a closed case.

A year and eight months after the killing of Alfred J. Lingle the state supreme court affirmed the conviction and fourteen-year prison sentence of Leo V. Brothers, St. Louis gangster, for the reporter's murder. He was found guilty last April 3.

PSI PSI ALUMNI ELECT

Albert M. Campbell Is Named as President, Purdue Dean Talks.

Albert M. Campbell was elected president of Indianapolis alumnae chapter of Phi Kappa Psi Friday night at the Spinck-Arms as the chapter celebrated the eighteenth anniversary of the fraternity's founding.

Fred Hadley was elected vice-president, and Peter Reilly, secretary.

Dean Stanley Coulter of Purdue spoke on "College Education and the Fraternity as Basis of Citizenship."

Cities Ancient When Christ Was Born Are Menaced by Mars

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Series-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Military observers here today deemed Japan has become involved so deeply in China that a formal declaration of war immediately can be avoided much longer.

Victory at Shanghai, it is said, will not give the Japanese a victory over China. Only a miracle, therefore, can prevent the fighting from spreading, perhaps throughout the country.

Victory even there, it further is stated, hardly can be of a decisive nature, unless the front is extended vastly—perhaps as far as Chinkiang, 112 miles to the northwest, and Hangchow, a similar distance to the southeast.

This would mean a battlefield,

triangular in shape, with Shanghai at its apex, covering approximately 5,000 square miles.

That the Japanese will be able to masticate as much as that, even if they succeed in biting it off, is doubted here, unless further heavy reinforcements are rushed to the scene.

Chinkiang is on the Yangtze, at the intersection of the river and the Grand canal—ancient when Christ was born. It is also a key-station on the Shanghai-Nanking railway, hence an important base of operations for troops supporting the Nineteenth route army defending Shanghai.

Hangchow, on Hangchow bay, is the southern terminus of a railway from Shanghai. Re-

serves and supplies from Canton the Nineteenth route army's home town—likely would be routed that way, to avoid the Japanese fleet off Woosung.

Soochow, at the base of the triangle battlefield, also is on the Shanghai-Nanking mainline. Strategists here believe it probably will be one of the Japanese objectives. It is fifty miles from Shanghai.

Every foot of this terrain, in the heart of one of the earth's oldest civilizations, is rich in historic interest.

First of all, geologically speaking, it was only recently far out in the sea. The land was built up by the sediment brought down by the Yangtze.

Hangchow is 2,000 years old. Population about 400,000. It used

to 6,430,000 cubic feet a year, or enough to deposit a layer a foot thick over 230 square miles.

SHANGHAI was on the sea when founded. Now it is twenty-five miles inland, on a branch of the Yangtze. The name means "on the sea."

The railway from Shanghai to Woosung, astride which the battle rages, was the first to be built in China. As the natives did not like the newfangled contraption, it was shipped, rails, rolling stock and all, to Formosa, where it was dumped on the beach to be eaten up by rust. The present line was laid many years.

Hangchow is 2,000 years old. Population about 400,000. It used

to be called the "Queen City of the Orient." There a race of Chinese Jews for centuries worshipped in a synagogue. Most of the "spirit money," burned so the departed never will be want, is manufactured there.

Soochow is "the Venice of the Far East." It also is called "the Athens of the Orient," because of its scholars. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. It was founded shortly after Rome, about 600 B. C. Its population is about 600,000.

Chinkiang is called "the gateway of the Yangtze" and is strategically important for that, and other reasons.

The Grand canal, which passes through this historic battlefield, is one of the wonders of the world, like the Great Wall of China. It was begun more than 400 years before Christ and runs from Hangchow to Tientsin.

Kublai Khan often is given credit for building it, but it was commenced long before he was born.

It is one of the prettiest cities on the lower Yangtze. The river there winds through what is known as the Silver Islands pass, beneath frowning forts built high upon the bluffs.

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JOBLESS RELIEF ISSUE PRESSED IN HOUSE BILL

Another Showdown to Be Sought in Senate; Ask 700 Million Dollars.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The unemployment relief issue was forced back before Congress again today, this time in the house, by an active and energetic young Massachusetts congressman, Representative William P. Connelly, World war soldier and former actor.

Under his pressure, the house labor committee of which he is chairman, has reported favorably a \$700,000,000 state loan and public works unemployment bill.

Connelly announced today he would seek a special rule next week for its consideration after the tax bill is passed.

Seek Another Showdown

Advocates of unemployment relief will seek another showdown in the senate. A bill similar to that of Connelly has been introduced by Senator Hatfield (Rep., W. Va.), and other measures are being worked out.

Connelly notified Speaker John N. Garner and Floor Leader Henry T. Rainey personally of his committee's action and they were slightly surprised.

Garner has maintained absolute silence on unemployment relief legislation. Rainey expressed his opposition a few days ago to the senate loan idea, but said that if existing agencies could not handle the unemployment problem, then the federal government must step in.

The Connelly bill carries three provisions. The first authorizes appropriation of \$300,000,000 for secured loans to states upon application by the Governor.

Loans at 5 Per cent

The loans would bear interest at 5 per cent and run for ten years. If they were not repaid at the end of ten years, then the government would hold back each year for ten years one-tenth of the regular federal aid highway appropriations.

The second provision authorizes appropriations of \$200,000,000 for grants to states which have a constitutional inhibition against such loans or have borrowed to the full extent possible under their laws.

In the case of such a loan the Governor would agree to recommend to the legislature necessary action to insure repayment.

The third provision authorizes \$200,000,000 for public building.

ONE MOVIE'S ENOUGH, SAYS OCTOGENARIAN

"All Foolishness," He Grumbles, After Seeing First Film.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—Mills S. Cobb, 84, never saw a movie in his life until Friday night, but he wasn't a bit sorry today about this lack in his entertainment.

"That show last night cost me 25 cents," the retired contractor said, "and it wasn't worth a nickel. It's just nothing but a lot of foolishness."

"No, I don't think there's anything wonderful about hearing those film actors' voices. Just sounded to me like all hell had broken loose. I hadn't ever gone before and I'm never goin' agin."

OPERATION MAY BALK DEATH BY STARVATION

Rail Official's Esophagus Closes; Only Liquid Diet Possible.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Feb. 20.—A. E. Brainard of New York sped on a Transcontinental limited train today to undergo an operation in Philadelphia in an attempt to save himself from death by starvation.

Brainard, passenger traffic agent for the New York Central railroad, was told by Los Angeles physicians that his life was in danger due to the closing of his esophagus.

X-ray pictures taken by the physicians revealed his esophagus had closed to the size of a slate pencil, making it necessary that he exist on a diet of liquid food and a continuation of the ailment eventually would result in starvation, he was told.

Kidneys bother you?

Hood promptly bladder irregularities, disturbed sleep and nagging backache. They may warn of some disorder kidney or bladder condition. Users everywhere rely on Dean's Pills. Praised for more than 50 years by grateful users the country over. Sold by all druggists.

DOANS PILLS

A DIUREtic FOR THE KIDNEYS

Sale of 250 New 45-lb. Cotton and Felt Mattresses

\$3.95

Capitol Furniture Co.

300 Massachusetts Ave.

★ Safety for Savings

FLETCHER AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

Southeast Corner of Market and Pennsylvania

CLOTHING ON EASY CREDIT

ASKIN & MARINE CO.

127 W. Washington St.

FIGURES CLASH IN REPORTS OF LIGHT COMPANY

Cuthbertson Is Puzzled by Differences Shown in Stock Sale Folder.

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under the slogan, "Earn 6 per cent with safety." They offered the customers a so-called savings investment plan at \$10 down and \$10 a month for each share.

In his order dismissing the rate reduction petition, Cuthbertson set out that the company suffered a loss of \$294,145.38 in electric operating revenues in 1931 and, therefore, it would be impossible to cut the rates.

Although no formal hearing was held on the rate reduction petition before it was dismissed, Cuthbertson insists that one must be held here before he can issue any order cutting rates of the Indianapolis Water Company.

"The company would object to such procedure," he explained.

No Formal Objection Yet

So far no formal objection to dismissal without hearing of the electric rate reduction petition has been registered by the city and citizens who filed it.

Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan today met with his light and water committee to outline future action toward utility rate reductions.

Sullivan announced the meeting today with his committees following a conference Friday with members of his legal staff.

Attending the session Friday, besides the mayor, were Edward H. Knight, city corporation counsel; James E. Deery, city attorney, and Taylor E. Groninger, attorney for South Side Civic Clubs, actively interested in the utility rate fight.

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