



NYM WALES, wife of Edgar Snow and Far Eastern expert in her own right. Her latest book, "The Chinese Labor Movement," has just been published by John Day

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latest publication, *The Pattern of Soviet Power*, deserves the same attention as all his earlier works.) His lovely wife, Nym Wales, decorative as the orchids in her tropical garden, was equally busy on a couple of books. One of these, *Song of Ariran*, a study of the life of a Korean revolutionary, is among the few valuable background-references for a little-known country that is again in the news.

Yankee Crusader

I had been asked by Mme. Sun to form a branch of the China Defence League in Manila, and for the next month or so was busily engaged with a number of exotic characters, amongst whom Chinese commercial magnates and young Filipino writers and artists were the most interesting. Then we had a surprise visitor from the States in Major (now Lt.-Col.) Evans Fordyce Carlson of the U.S. Marines, who had been the first foreign military observer to travel with the Chinese Communist armies at the front, and with whose legendary legs I had kept track through the snowbound hills of Shansi during that first winter of the China war. Carlson and I spoke together at a mass meeting in Manila, and I shall never forget his lean Yankee figure towering over his hearers as he warned of the military machine the Nips were building up on American (and British) materials.

Evans Carlson is an amazing figure. In World War I, he rose from the ranks to be a colonel on Pershing's staff; he then left the Army and joined the Marines, starting again from scratch. He won fame in the Pacific fighting of World War II, as leader of "Carlson's Raiders," specially trained commandos to whom he taught a lot he had learnt from the Chinese guerrillas. Friends speak of him now as a future Senator for California, and even as a possible Democratic presidential candidate.

These are all people who knew what the score was in 1940, and they still know the score in 1945. But the reunion of our old "China gang" that year in

Manila was only made complete with the appearance of one whose name will be associated with China for very many years to come—Rewi Alley of the Industrial Co-operatives.

A Great New Zealander

Alley is always sensitive about publicity, and it is only safe to write about him when he is well out of the way in China. *Indusco* has been striking a lot of snags lately; and the recent tragic death at Sandan from tetanus of George Hogg, head of the Training School for co-operative apprentices, is a particularly heavy blow. There is an excellent report of the movement, with an intimate sketch of Alley at work, in Hogg's recently published *I See a New China*. But it was good to see Rewi in Manila, that familiar stocky figure in shorts with the thrusting nose and the big behind: and while there he achieved an almost impossible feat by delivering a long and highly technical speech in Mandarin to a sweltering theatre filled with local Chinese.

I finally reached China in time for one of the most crucial internal developments of the war years—a piece of cold-blooded treachery which is bearing its crop of dragon's-teeth to-day.

War Within a War

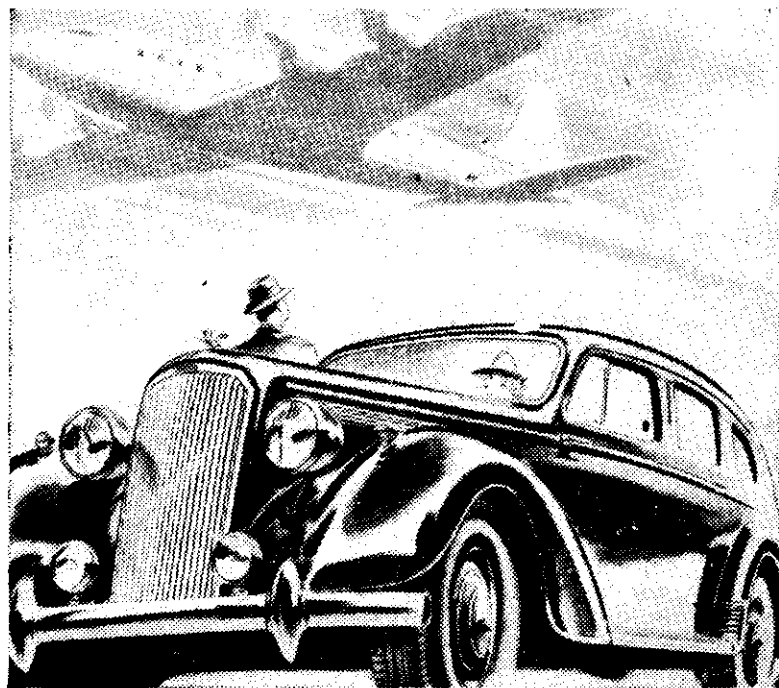
This was the sudden attack on the rearguard of the Communist-led New Fourth Army, which had an excellent fighting record against the Japanese in the lower Yangtse, by the overwhelmingly superior forces of a Chinese War Zone Commander who had always taken very good care never to fall foul of the Japanese. The rear echelon of the New 4th was not a regular battle unit; it consisted of some 6,000 auxiliary troops, many of them women nurses and students, and included the Headquarters of the Army, with its Commander and vice-Commander.

The whole of this Communist-led force had been moving northwards across the river under explicit orders from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and with an equally explicit safe-conduct for all Chungking troops it might encounter. Only the rearguard was left south of the Yangtse when it was trapped in a narrow valley and annihilated by "friendly" troops. Han Ying, second-in-command, was killed, and the Army Commander, Gen. Yeh Ting (a Cantonese volunteer who was not a Communist) was wounded and taken as a prisoner to Chungking. The Generalissimo later disavowed any responsibility for this reopening of civil war in China; nothing happened to the War Zone Commander, in the ineffectual that followed; and it is hardly surprising that relations between Chungking and Yenan have never since recovered the brief cordiality they had during the first war years.

This massacre occurred in January, 1941. It was in the weeks of strain immediately following the clash that I was asked by Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, then H.M. Ambassador in China, to join the staff of the British Embassy in Chungking as Press Attaché; and a C.N.A.C. plane from Hong Kong duly deposited me on the old stone-flagged airfield that rose just above the yellow waves of the Yangtse, under the bomb-scarred cliffs of China's war capital.

(To be continued)

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