

# ADVISER TO THE GENERALISSIMO

(Continued from previous page)

tinue to do until the volume of assistance swelled anew. She had made herself self-sufficient in the manufacture of small arms and ammunition. Until recently, Russia had sent quantities of supplies by road from the north-west. A good deal of material had even been sent by sea from Russia or through the Japanese blockaded coastal inlets to the Chinese hinterland by the simple means of bribing Japanese officers.

With these small means, China had shifted inland in order to hold and harry the Japanese armies. The country had been goaded by Japanese methods of conquest to make itself unconquerable.

## Into The Interior

Into the roadless interior Chiang Kai-Shek had taken his armies and built a new China round the capital of Chungking. In the rear and along the flanks of the Japanese remained the awakening peasantry to exact what vengeance they could for the atrocities perpetrated on their land and its inhabitants.

Even had they been more politic in their treatment of what they regarded as a subject race of slaves, Mr. Donald said he thought the Japanese could never have been successful conquerors. Within their own ranks graft and corruption spoiled all their chances. They settled on the land only for the riches they could get out of it.

Meanwhile, Chiang Kai-Shek was gathering his forces to drive them all out. He was now holding an army of 5,000,000 men ready for this task.

## The Burma Road

To improve the traffic on the Burma Road—that miracle of engineering, built in four months by volunteer labour—the U.S. had sent experts to sit on a committee of control, with more transport experts to control the traffic itself.

If he could get enough material in by this route between this month and next May—months during which a permanent cloud-covering makes bombing impossible—Mr. Donald said he thought the Generalissimo would attack. He wanted air support, but would probably go without it if necessary. The Japanese were able to maintain an air force of about 2,000 'planes for all their operations. These were not comparable to the machines being used in Europe—the Japanese build from a now out-dated German model—but were superior in speed, weight, and especially in numbers, to anything China had so far been in a position to operate.

## Force to be Reckoned With

But China's army was becoming a force to be reckoned with. Unable to meet head-on with Japanese armoured forces, they enveloped them, surrounded them, and descended on them in their own time. By this means, they were quite capable of inflicting 12,000 casualties in a single battle, with the Japanese fleeing in a rout.

Behind the organised armies were the guerrillas, and supporting them with arms and ammunition were about seven small factories working on the lines of Rowi Alley's co-operatives. If they had to make machines of wood, they still managed to weave cloth for army uniforms or wool for army blankets. One



CHIANG KAI-SHEK  
... An army of 5,000,000 ready

factory had all its machinery made from metal salvaged from Japanese aeroplanes.

## The Co-operatives

Mr. Donald spoke with admiration of the work of the co-operatives and of their leader. They were officially blessed by General and Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang party, he said, was trying, in spite of the war, to organise Chinese national life on broadly socialist lines. The co-operatives, therefore, were approved. Tenure of land by the people who worked it was approved, and it was planned to perpetuate this by banning the sale of land.

These ideals, although they could not be realised while the war took up all the Chungking government's energies, promised well for the future of a free China, and, he thought, made the position of the Communist elements untenable.

## China's Communist Armies

"Rag-tag and bobtail," was Mr. Donald's comment on the Communist armies. "I was with the Generalissimo when he chased them into the north-west. They want freedom of action, and a definite sector to hold against the Japanese. The point is, of course, that they want to beat the Japanese and then hold the land for themselves. Chiang Kai-Shek is quite definite that they can be given neither power nor supplies unless they recognise the authority of the Kuomintang."

Mr. Donald said he had suggested they be given a province in which to confine themselves and make whatever experiments they liked in Communist methods. But Chiang Kai-Shek had said he could not do that because the Communists, given so much, would want more. As for the potential nuisance-value of the Communists, Chiang Kai-Shek had told Mr. Donald that he was holding five divisions of troops to keep an eye on them.

It remained to be seen what effect on their relationship would be made by Russia's entry into war with the Axis.

To Mr. Donald it was pointed out that a rather glowing picture of the Communist Eighth Route Army had been given by such a writer as Edgar Snow.

"Oh yes, no doubt," he replied. "Those writers," he said, "we call the armchair Communists. They write from a pro-Communist point of view."

## Time For Dinner

Now, Mr. Donald has a secretary, a Chinese lady very beautiful to look upon. Largely because of her that is all that can be said about what Mr. Donald said about many other things of interest and great importance to a country which shares the Pacific with China and Japan and Mr. Donald's vituperated Australia.

In short, he was snatched away to be taken to dinner. In Wellington he had been in consultation about Pacific affairs with the New Zealand Government. Soon he expected to return, and his greatest worry, apart from the anxious secretary and *The Listener* representative, was whether he could get by ship to Honolulu. If not, he would have to make a connection at Australia "and I don't even want to go there to catch a boat."

## How Mr. Donald Went To China

JOHN GUNTHER'S story of how W. H. Donald first went to China goes something like this: When Donald was working on the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" he found a cable from Hong Kong on his desk one morning. It asked him to leave at once and take a position on a newspaper there, and said that he would find £120 passage money transferred to his account in a Sydney bank. Puzzled, Donald asked his editor whether he thought this was a hoax. "Only one way to find out," said the editor. "Go to the bank and see if the money is there. If it is, go to Hong Kong by all means."

The money WAS there, so Donald took ship for Hong Kong on the strength of it, still mystified. At his destination he sought out the editor of the paper and introduced himself. "Oh, yes, Mr. Donald," said the editor, "I've been expecting you. That's your desk in the corner there, if you'd like to start work at once."

"Yes, but could I ask what this is all about?" asked Donald. "Why am I getting the job? Surely you've never heard of me—"

"On the contrary," smiled the editor. "I have heard of you. You see I have a friend who travels round the world a good deal as a correspondent, and some time ago I asked him to let me know if ever he found a newspaperman who doesn't drink. Recently I got a cable from him saying that he had at last found such a man. You're the one—here's the job if you want it." And W. H. Donald has never looked back.



## END CONSTIPATION TO-NIGHT

If you suffer from constipation, take one or two NYAL FIGSEN tablets before retiring. There is no gripping pain, no stomach upsets. In the morning Figsen acts . . . thoroughly, *effectively*, yet so gently and mildly. Except for the pleasant relief Figsen brings, you would scarcely know you had taken a laxative. NYAL FIGSEN is a pleasant-tasting, *natural* laxative that is just as good for youngsters as it is for grown-ups. Figsen is sold by chemists everywhere. 1/6d. a tin. The next best thing to Nature . . .

**Nyal Figsen**  
FOR CONSTIPATION



## HE DIDN'T RING

Perhaps he didn't want a "sniffling Susy" for a partner. Don't miss a good time through a bad cold, let good old "Baxters" beat that cold. You can feel the first dose soothing, relieving, penetrating to the root of the trouble. "Baxters" is so pleasant and so sure.

**BAXTERS**  
LUNG PRESERVER

The proved pleasant remedy with the tonic action.