

NEWS OF THE WEEK

RAPE OF NANKING

Grim tales of massacre, looting and rape during Nanking's capture, were received by the "North-China Daily News" from an independent, reliable source. The report reads:

"At Nanking the Japanese Army has lost much of its reputation, and has thrown away a remarkable opportunity to gain the respect of the Chinese inhabitants and of foreign opinion. The collapse of Chinese authority and the break-up of the Chinese armies in this region left vast numbers of persons ready to respond to the order and organization of which Japan boasts. Many local people freely expressed their relief when the entry of Japanese troops apparently brought an end to the strains of war conditions and the immediate perils of bombardment. At least they were rid of their fears of disorderly Chinese troops, who indeed passed out without doing severe damage to most parts of the city.

"But in two days the whole outlook has been ruined by frequent murder, wholesale and semi-regular looting, and uncontrolled disturbance of private homes, including offences against the security of women. Foreigners who have travelled over the city report many civilian bodies lying in the streets. In the central portion of Nanking they were counted as about one to the city block. A considerable percentage of the dead civilians were the victims of shooting or bayoneting in the afternoon and evening of December 13, which was the time of the Japanese entry into the city. Persons who ran in fear or excitement, and any one who was caught in streets or alleys after dusk by roving patrols was likely to be killed on the spot. Most of this severity was beyond even theoretical excuse. It proceeded in the Safety Zone as well as elsewhere, and many cases were plainly witnessed by foreigners and by reputable Chinese. Some bayonet wounds were barbarously cruel.

"Squads of men picked out by Japanese troops as former Chinese soldiers

have been tied together and shot. These soldiers had discarded their arms, and in some cases their military clothing. Thus far we have found no trace of prisoners in Japanese hands other than such squads actually or apparently on the way to execution, save for men picked up anywhere to serve as temporary carriers of loot and equipment. From one building in the refugee zone, 400 men were selected by the local police under compulsion from Japanese soldiers, and were marched off tied in batches of fifty between lines of riflemen and machine-gunners. The explanation given to observers left no doubt as to their fate.

"In the main streets, the petty looting of the Chinese soldiers, mostly of food shops and of unprotected windows, was turned into systematic destruction of shop-front after shopfront under the eyes of officers of rank. Japanese soldiers required private carriers to help them struggle along under great loads. Food was apparently in first demand, but everything else useful or valuable had its turn. Thousands upon thousands of private houses all through the city, occupied and unoccupied, large and small, Chinese and foreign, have been impartially plundered. Peculiarly disgraceful cases of robbery by soldiers included as follows: scores of refugees in camps and shelters had money and valuables removed from their slight possessions during mass searches; the staff of a hospital were stripped of cash and watches from their persons, and of other possessions from the nurses' dormitory (their building are foreign, and like a number of others that were plundered, were flying foreign flags and carrying official proclamations from their respective Embassies); the seizure of motor cars and other property after tearing down the flags upon them.

"There were reported many cases of rape and insult to women, which we have not yet had time to investigate (the report was written on December 15), but cases like the following are sufficient to

show the situation. From a house close to one of our foreign friends, four girls were yesterday abducted by soldiers. Foreigners saw in the quarters of a newly arrived officer, in a part of the city practically deserted by ordinary people, eight young women.

"In these conditions, the terror is indescribable, and lectures by suave officers on their 'sole purpose of making war on the oppressive Chinese Government for the sake of the Chinese people,' leave an impression that nauseates.

"Surely this horrible exhibition in Nanking does not represent the best achievement of the Japanese Empire, and there must be responsible Japanese statesmen, military and civilian, who for their own national interests will promptly and adequately remedy the harm that these days have done to Japanese standing in China. There are individual soldiers and officers who conduct themselves as gentlemen worthy of their profession and worthy of their Empire. But the total action has been a sad blow."

NANKING HORROR

On Dec. 25, in a leaderette, the North-China Daily News says:

"The story of what happened in Nanking after its fall into the hands of the Japanese forces is now leaking out. The account published in this journal today comes from a reliable source. It is written with very considerable restraint, but nevertheless, reading between the lines a picture of the horrors which have been perpetrated there can be sketched in with terrible vividness. It cannot be believed for one moment that what transpired was done with the consent of the Japanese high command, for it is readily admitted that it consists of men of high character, faithful servants of a traditional honour, the requirements of which are as high as those of any other proud nation. Blood lust is a terrible thing and has been recognized for what it is for centuries past. As long ago as the Norman conquest of England, William I, kept his army outside Winchester for a whole day in order that they should not perpetrate the iniquities which the heat of battle so often inspires, and Winchester was saved from sack. The conclusion to be drawn from this horrible story is that

trial and other establishments have seen fit to move to the interior, thanks to the destructive capabilities of the Imperial Japanese army, navy, and air force, but a movement should immediately be launched to have others follow suit and to make those already in the inland to remain there for good even with the cessation of fighting along the coast.

Yet another lesson China has learned from the war can be summarized in the word, conscription. In a protracted campaign of resistance, China has apparently experienced considerable difficulty in the task of drawing on reserves and reinforcements. With the exception of Kwangsi Province, perhaps in no province in China was military training of

citizens taken seriously. It has been reliably reported that a system of reserves has been built by General Pei Chung-hsi in Kwangsi whereby he can always maintain about 15 divisions of troops in the field. National conscription after the pattern of Kwangsi should therefore be initiated at once so that China will be able to put up many more 15 divisions in the field, if necessary.

the troops for a time got out of hand. That does not relieve the officers commanding them of their responsibility, and if every city which may be captured by the Japanese is to be transformed into a bath of blood the world will be repelled with horror and dismay. The chastisement of the Chinese Government, which Japanese authorities have so frequently announced to be their sole object is being transformed into the slaughter of the people for whom great Japanese friendliness has been claimed. Words are again being so completely belied by actions that the world will soon be wondering wherein lies the truth. What has been done has been done and the bad effect that this news must of necessity have on the world at large cannot be lightly discounted. The shooting of unarmed Chinese whether they had been soldiers or not cannot possibly be justified unless these hostilities have degenerated into a war with no quarter, which seems to be the case. It is the very negation of that chivalry which is still believed to be one of the Japanese characteristics. If, as it has been suggested, this and other recent incidents have occurred because a section of the troops got out of hand, then the sooner control is reasserted the better. If punishment of those responsible can be meted out it should be done as soon as possible, for only by such action can this heavy blot upon a fine national escutcheon be removed."

SHANGHAI PLEDGES SUPPORT

Celebrating the first anniversary of the conclusion of the Sian incident, when General Chiang Kai-shek, President of the Executive Yuan and Chairman of the Military Affairs Commission, safely landed in Loyang from Sian, public organizations in Shanghai sent a telegram yesterday to the Generalissimo at Hankow, pledging their full support to the Central Government and to its plan of armed resistance against Japan.

The telegram read:

"We have been greatly moved by reading your statement of last week, reiterating the firm decision of the Chinese Government to resist Japanese aggression. Although Shanghai fell more than a month ago, every Chinese citizen here is eager to do his part at all times for his fatherland. On this day, in remembrance of your safe departure from Sian last year, the three million Chinese here are raising Chinese flags, under the most difficult conditions, and giving our full support to you and to the Central Government. This represents also our firm decision not to surrender, and our hope that every Chinese in the country, under our supreme leader, will fight for our final victory under the banner of the San Min Chu I, with ever-growing re-

volutionary spirit. So long as we are determined to achieve success, we can do it. So long as we are determined to fight on, national regeneration is assured."

The telegram is signed by all civic, cultural, and educational organizations in Shanghai.

GENERALISSIMO'S INTERVIEW

In an important interview granted to German press representatives, General Chiang Kai-shek discussed on Dec. 23 the plans and aims of the Chinese government and commented for the first time since leaving Nanking on his plans for further resistance.

"Never in history has destiny struck China such a blow," the Chinese leader declared, "but for the first time in history the Chinese people are inspired by only one will, i.e. to resist to the end. Although severe losses have been suffered, China is in a position to replace every soldier, so that from that point of view no difficulty is to be feared. China's resistance will increase with time and this fact will soon become obvious. The policy of offering mass resistance to the Japanese is being relinquished in favour of guerilla warfare which will render the Japanese advance more and more difficult."

Queried concerning the supply of arms and ammunition in view of the blockade, General Chiang pointed out that the principal lines of supply were now from Indo-China via Yunnan and from Soviet Russia via Kansu. Several hundred motor lorries have already made the trip from Indo-China, he declared, and a modern military road is being constructed from Szechuen via Lanchow for the purpose of obtaining a direct route from Russia.

The general declined to discuss the relations with Soviet Russia or to comment on the fact that up to the present time the Soviet Union has no Ambassador in Hankow, while the Chinese Ambassador to Moscow, Mr. Chiang Ting-Fu, is said to have arrived in Hankow today. General Chiang emphasized, however, that the Sino-Soviet relations would not be allowed to interfere with China's internal policy which was based on the principles of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen.

Thanks to increasing sympathy in many foreign countries for the Chinese cause, and the gradual increase in China's military strength, Japan's situation was becoming increasingly unenviable, he stated, this being aggravated by Japan's internal problems and financial difficulties. He expressed complete confidence in China's ultimate victory.

In reply to a question concerning China's attitude towards Germany, General Chiang Kai-shek stated: "China is grateful for the sympathy accorded her by the German government and the Ger-

man people during this period of great difficulty. We hope that Germany will always remain the good friend of China which she is now."

FRANCO-JAPAN DISCREPANCIES

Violation by France of her agreement with Japan in 1907, guaranteeing the security of the two Countries' adjacent territories in Asia, was seen on Dec. 24 by the "Tokyo Asahi," influential daily, "if the French Government promised to place its Indo-China ports at the disposal of the British Fleet in the Far East."

The journal's comment was made in connection with reports that the stand of the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden, in favour of a stronger British fleet, was based on promises of French co-operation in the Mediterranean and Indo-China.

Press reports had said that such promises by France were seen as bolstering Mr. Eden's opposition to a decision of the British Government to refrain from strengthening its fleet.

The Franco-Japanese pact of 1907, said the "Asahi" editorial, ensures the security not only of Indo-China but also protects French interests on Hainan Island as embodied in Franco-Chinese Notes exchanged in 1897.

The journal stressed the fact that Japan during the past 30 years had strictly observed the terms of the Franco-Japanese agreement, even during the present Sino-Japanese hostilities, and that the French Government "several times recently had requested the Japanese Government for assurances concerning the security of French interests in Indo-China and on Hainan Island."

At the time the Manchurian incident was submitted to the League of Nations in 1932, the "Asahi" declared, an influential French newspaper had pointed out that the French Government, in violation of the Franco-Japanese agreement, had failed to prohibit the export of arms and ammunition to China through Indo-China.

PEIPING GROUP NOT RECOGNISED

"His Majesty's Government recognize the Central Government as the Government of all China, and there is, therefore, no question of recognizing the new administration installed in Peiping."

This statement was made in the House of Commons on Dec. 21 by Mr. Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, when asked for an assurance that there would be no sort of recognition of the "provisional government" installed at Peiping.

Meanwhile, in an editorial in its issue of Dec. 21, The New York Times says: "There is no reason whatever to believe that foreign nations will extend to the puppet government south of the Great Wall of China, recognition which they