

operations" the Japanese and Manchurian army and police forces, too, laid a strict cordon, smuggling many espionage agents.

General Kim Il Sung called the political worker dispatched to the village to the agitating point and told him:

"...Start a rumour at the village that you are hiring a 'hand' because you cannot handle domestic affairs by yourself. Then I will come and live with you as a 'hired hand' for about a month and a half and form an organization...."

Several days later, wearing ragged clothes, General Kim Il Sung came to the village with the political worker on a horse-drawn cart. In a little while after their arrival they heard the distant beat of hoofs, which was gradually approaching the village. Children cried out that the cavalry was coming. Undoubtedly it was the enemy. Danger was near.

Hurriedly, General Kim Il Sung went out into the garden and began to collect firewood. The enemy halted before the house and turned their eyes on him sitting on the earthen floor under the eaves. Just then the political worker nearby drew their attention, saying: "He is my hired hand." Sure enough, they were searching a Communist cadre. It seemed that after getting an information from an agent that a cadre was expected to come to this village they dashed there in search of him. But apparently the enemy thought that the General wearing worn-out clothes did not look like a communist cadre, and left grumbling among themselves.

From the next day, going out as though for firewood, the General, "hired hand," along with the political worker, "master," went to the mountains every dawn, pulling their sledge. Once in the mountains, General Kim Il Sung, instead of gathering firewood, studied the documents brought by the latter, asked him about the concrete situation at the village and gave him detailed tasks.

The villagers had no inside information about them. At times, therefore, the women of the village asked him to break the ice over their wells and each time he quietly obliged like

a real "hired hand." The young men of the village repeatedly asked him to do various chores. The political worker felt sorry for him. Eventually they told him to pound rice for rice-cakes. The "master" offered to do it for him, taking a wooden pestle, explaining that he had had his arm hurt the day before, gathering firewood in the mountains.

As a result of his activities under the guise of a hired hand, the revolutionary consciousness of the villagers was heightened and an organization could be basically formed.

Later, as Commander of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, General Kim Il Sung, along with his men, visited the village near Fuerhho and addressed the villagers. The villagers looked at him in amazement for he quite resembled the hired hand who had once been in their village. The women whispered among themselves: "Incredible! He was a hired hand here before. How on earth could he become Commander of the Guerrillas?"

BIRTH OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE GUERRILLA ARMY

"In the darkest period of Japanese imperialist rule, the staunch Communists of our country, guided by the Marxist-Leninist theory, organized the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, the first contingent of the revolutionary people's armed forces in our country, with the progressive workers and peasants and patriotic youths who were opposed to Japanese imperialism for the national independence and social emancipation of the Korean people."

KIM IL SUNG

The Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army was founded in Antu County, Chientao Province, east Manchuria, on April 25, 1932. This was a historical fruition brought about by General Kim Il Sung's underground activities and the self-sacrificing struggles of the workers, peasants and patriotic youths and their unshakable trust in and comradely relations with him.

Following the foundation of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army based on the revolutionary organizations in the areas of Antu, Yenching and Holung, guerrilla units were organized in Wangching and Hunchun in east Manchuria by the comrades sent by General Kim Il Sung.

The core and pivot of the Guerrilla Army was of course formed by the young comrades burning with revolutionary patriotism who had been brought up personally by the General—members of the Korean Revolutionary Army, the Young Communist League, the Anti-Imperialist Youth League, and workers and peasants greatly influenced by them. The birth of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, the first Marxist-Leninist revolutionary armed forces of the Korean nation, marked a new decisive stage in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the Korean communist movement.

At that time the patriotic Korean youth saw clearly a bright future of the nation and the worth of youth in the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army and the armed struggle.

The Korean Communist Party failed to strike its roots among the Korean people substantially. Heedless of the wretched plight of the Korean people, its leaders, separated into the "ML group," "Tuesday group," etc., were engrossed in factional strife for hegemony without paying attention to the imminent revolutionary task.

As a result, the Korean Communist Party which was founded in 1925 was dissolved three years later in 1928 due to Japanese imperialist suppression and the splitting machinations of the sectarians.

It was in that period that General Kim Il Sung, a staunch young man, appeared and set an example of very realistic rev-

olutionary activities unlike the "leaders" of the Korean Communist Party and the nationalist "bigwigs" of the independence movement.

He rejected the reckless revolt organized by the "Left" adventurists. And he called for acquiring arms and waging an armed struggle. It necessitated the formation of an armed guerrilla army.

Like this, General Kim Il Sung took the lead of concrete and realistic march.

The line of armed struggle was an embodiment of the Juche idea, which was materialized in the course of struggle traversed by General Kim Il Sung and his comrades and the anti-Japanese guerrillas.

Later on, President Kim Il Sung recalled as follows:

"The anti-Japanese guerrillas established the traditions of a fighting spirit, in which they fought not for the landlords and capitalists but for the good of the working people, and always lived among the people and struggled hand in hand with the people. The ideas of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army were Marxist-Leninist ideas and its aim was to fight for the establishment of a people's power which would oppose imperialism and safeguard the interests of the working people.

"...

"The guerrillas were not merely combatants fighting the enemy; they were also propagandists who educated and agitated the people, and organizers who organized and mobilized them."

INSPIRED BY MOTHER'S WILL

General Kim Il Sung dropped in at the Togijom village, Mouchutun at Hsiaoshaho to see his ailing mother,

Kang Ban Sok. He missed her long. But his mother was not to be seen in her poor house. She had died.

Two months had passed since his last meeting with her. Before leaving for Tunghua, south Manchuria to persuade Yang Se Bong, Commander of the Independence Army, into waging a joint struggle, he found a little free time and called at the hut in the Togijom village.

At that time, he brought one *mal* of foxtail millet he had bought with money he had received from his comrades, but he found his mother was in critical condition.

"How are you, mother? I'm worried about your health."

The General sitting by her bedside felt a heartrending anguish to see his ailing mother who had become thin and drawn from poverty and hardships.

The General had left his mother and two younger brothers at home and spent busy days, but never forgotten them even for a moment.

However, the sick mother intently looked at her son who came home and said: "You should not worry about your family in accomplishing the great cause of restoring the country. You must expand your forces and fight, you know.... Leave quick!"

Every time General Kim Il Sung met his mother she would encourage him. She had given him fresh strength for the revolution.

Now, however, the mother was not beside him.

He visited the mother's grave, taking his two little younger brothers who had found shelter in the house of a comrade.

Comrade Kim Chol Ju, the older of the two, was active in a revolutionary organization, and Comrade Kim Yong Ju, the youngest brother, belonged to the Children's Corps.

General Kim Il Sung felt his heart torn in grief, but his mother's words "revolution" and "great ambition" pounded on his ears. After asking a comrade to take care of his younger brothers he left determinedly Liangchiangkou with the guerril-

las and finally arrived at Lotzukou via Tunhua, Emu and Nanhutou.

He visited a village where a unit of the National Salvation Army had stayed only to find it away. The Japanese imperialists had started the "mopping-up operations" against the anti-Japanese guerrillas and their wave had reached Lotzukou.

By the spring of 1932 when the Guerrilla Army was founded Japanese imperialism had deployed huge forces in Manchuria, particularly in east Manchuria, where many anti-Japanese Koreans lived and the anti-Japanese guerrillas were active. In other words, it had organized the so-called "Chientao Expeditionary Force" under the commander of the 75th Regiment of the 19th Division, which was a mixed unit made up of infantry, cavalry, artillery and engineers. In addition, in 1933 the command of the Japanese Army stationed in Korea worked out a "Manual for the Extermination of Communist Bandits in the Chientao Area" in order to "annihilate" the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army founded by General Kim Il Sung and "destroy" the guerrilla bases, and made a frenzied effort to wipe out the "communist bandits" on that occasion.

JAPANESE IMPERIALISM'S "ENCIRCLING OPERATIONS AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS"

In the late autumn of 1932 Japanese imperialism convened a liaison conference at the Chientao consulate general with the participation of high-ranking officers and officials of the Kwantung Army, the Kwantung Army Military Police, the Chientao Expeditionary Force of the Japanese Army in Korea, the Police Department of North Hamgyong Province, the Korean Border Police and the Manchukuo Police.

At the conference, "punitive actions" taken in the latter half of 1932 against the anti-Japanese guerrilla units in east Manchuria were recapitulated, and measures were taken for intensifying offensive operations from the beginning of 1933.

The Japanese imperialists' primary intention was to alienate the anti-Japanese guerrillas from the masses, setting spies in the ranks of the guerrillas and spreading anti-communist propaganda among the people.

Immediately after the conference huge armed forces were concentrated on east Manchuria, which was swarming with Japanese and Manchurian troops and gendarmes.

It was just at that time that General Kim Il Sung arrived at Lotzukou, Wangching County. The course of marching through Emu and Nanhutou to Wangching County bristled with hardships and tribulations. The guerrillas had encountered the enemy's offensives many times and repelled them, skilfully keeping out of their way or making surprise attacks.

On top of it, when they arrived near Lotzukou the National Salvation Army units had fled, attacked by the Japanese and Manchurian troops and police.

They had no choice but to act secretly in the forest in the vicinity of Lotzukou, because its central part was "seized" by the Japanese imperialists. General Kim Il Sung had already known such moves of the Japanese imperialists through a report sent from Liangchiangkou.

The Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army was only six months old. Only 18 men survived out of 40-odd guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung, and they were all worn out.

In this unfavourable situation facing the guerrillas the General led his unit out of Lotzukou without hesitation and headed for the snow-covered Mt. Laoheishan in Tungning County, avoiding the ubiquitous enemy troops.

In a deep gorge the guerrillas found a log house, which looked like the hut of a hermit.

"Is the master at home?"

An old man came out, and asked:

"Who are you?"

"We are anti-Japanese guerrillas organized just recently."

"What! I too have heard of that rumour. My name is Ma. Well, come in please!"

Showing a deep comprehension and trust of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, old Ma said: "Men of the National Salvation Army who have fled from Lotzukou are close by. They say they'll disarm the anti-Japanese guerrillas if a chance throws them together."

The guerrillas, who barely managed to come here avoiding the Japanese imperialist "punitive units," had not expected the National Salvation Army men would turn upon them.

Some of the young guerrillas who were still not hardened by battles and difficulties lost heart on hearing old Ma's word. This was not unnatural.

In the meantime, some had been transferred to other units, and not a few had fallen victim to their hard trials. Some had dropped out because of illness. So by the time they arrived at Mt. Laoheishan, the ranks had shrunk to the original 18 men who, at the outset, formed the core of the guerrillas. Some of the guerrillas had been students only yesterday and active as members of the Young Communist League. Their revolutionary spirit had been sky-high. They had felt they could restore the fatherland for themselves right away and reign over the whole country. But now confronted by harsh realities, they were helpless.

Well aware of this, General Kim Il Sung thought his men should be tempered through actual battles. He was lost in meditation before the fire kindled by old Ma.

It was the night of December 31, 1932.

THEY GREW INTO INDOMITABLE REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS

General Kim Il Sung was musing on a line for the future struggle sitting before the fire at old Ma's hut in deep Mt. Laoheishan.

Gazing at the General's thoughtful look in the light of the fire, the old man said to him: "You are the leader, I take it,...

I'll take you to a good place. We'll march about 60 *ri*, deeper in the mountains, where it is safe. What do you think?..."

The General agreed. Guided by old Ma, the guerrillas moved to another hut in a deep mountain. It was located in the deepest of the deep forests, so the claws of Japanese imperialist troops had not yet reached there.

On arriving there the 18 guerrillas hotly discussed the line of future action. They were divided into two groups. One asserted that they should go underground again because the present state of armament fell short of the demand of guerrilla warfare; on the contrary, the other held that they should swell their ranks by calling in the guerrilla units operating in different places of Wangching County and then enter full-scale guerrilla operations.

Both assertions, of course, came out of their fiery revolutionary passion. They were groping for a way out of a fix. But they acquired a strong will in the course of repeated battles.

General Kim Il Sung considered that if their passion was set ablaze in a right direction, it would bring success in the armed struggle. He said:

"The revolution, which creates the new, is by its very nature the course of overcoming endless hardships, isn't it? We must overcome these obstacles to liberate our fatherland and build a new society. All our hopes, our youth, our wisdom exist for the revolution. Think of the homeless people. Think of the enemy trampling underfoot our fellow countrymen. Can we stand this?"

"No, we can't."

"It is intolerable."

Thus all shouted unanimously with excitement and their faces were all in a glow.

"Let us be resolute and fight. The people are waiting for us!"

In this way the hot discussion lasted several days. The General's impassioned words made the men's morale grow

higher, and the steel of revolution was tempered while it was hot.

However, they were not engaged in the discussion only every day. From his youthhood, General Kim Il Sung knew well what was needed for his comrades on a mental strain, for he had a hunch only belonging to a leader. It was revolutionary optimism. They played a piece of music, and went out hunting once every other day running throughout the length and breadth of the winter forest. The meat of the games went to those tired with fighting. In this course they were united into a true, comradely group sharing life and death in the guerrilla struggle to crush the Japanese imperialist aggressors.

Amid this unity every guerrilla grew into an indomitable communist fighter capable of overcoming stern trials and hardships. It was the source of inexhaustible strength for the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Watching the vigorous looks of the men filled with a firm determination General Kim Il Sung was drawing up the next strategy.

ATTACK ON THE BIG BELEAGUERING ENEMY FROM THE REAR

Though the 18 guerrillas personally led by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung stayed only several days in the hut in the forest of Mt. Laoheishan, they were steeled and grew into excellent fighters during this period.

Here they pledged themselves to blaze the road of revolution, sharing life and death with one another. They formed the core of the powerful forces for the guerrilla warfare.

In January 1933 they left Mt. Laoheishan where some of them had lost faith in the prospect of the revolution in face of the adverse situation.

Now, however, they became firmly united through discussions and studies at the hut of Mt. Laoheishan and grew into the ranks full of determination and conviction of victory in the armed struggle.

Led in person by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, with bugles blaring, the guerrillas imposingly left Mt. Laoheishan, bearing in the van a red flag inscribed with the words: "Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army." They seemed to have forgotten the day when they arrived there, low-spirited and tired out. Their next destination was Yaoyingkou, Wangching County.

At Yaoyingkou Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung joined the guerrillas operating in the region with his own unit to form a powerful contingent, and stormed the Japanese imperialist and puppet Manchukuo troops in the vicinity, thus strengthening the arms of the guerrillas.

"Though engaged in guerrilla warfare, in a nutshell, the anti-Japanese guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung had neither state rear nor support from a regular army. But they had to fight the formidable Japanese imperialist aggressor army. It was entirely due to self-reliance that they could withstand this protracted and arduous struggle. They increased the internal revolutionary forces relying on the strength of their own people, not on outside forces."

Thus beginning with his talk, the anti-Japanese fighter I met had this to say about the situation of the anti-Japanese guerrilla warfare:

"When the enemy hurled thousands of troops into a large-scale encircling operation against the guerrillas, even bringing in artillery, to annihilate the guerrillas at a stroke, General Kim Il Sung employed a tactic of positive defence to beat them back. The principle of guerrilla warfare was to inflict as much loss as possible on the enemy while preserving our own forces, so it was no more than a reckless adventure to make a frontal attack on the enemy whose tactics was to besiege us with large forces. Nonetheless, we had no choice but to fight them. It was General Kim Il Sung's 'positive defence

tactic' that suited the situation. According to his tactics, above all, the people in the bases were made to move to a safe place in thick forests, and the guerrillas hid in the natural fortress until dusk. The guerrillas went into action after dusk. A storm party made up of two or three guerrillas secretly approached a tent of the sleeping enemy on an encircling mission and threw a Yongil bomb in it. The terrible blast frightened the enemy out of their wits.

"After a little while the storm party raided another tent and swiftly finished the enemy before stealing out of it. Raids continued in this way, throwing the enemy into confusion.

"In the meantime, the main force of the guerrilla units, under the command of General Kim Il Sung, broke out of the enemy's encirclement. As the enemy mobilized all their armed forces for the encircling operation, their rear was virtually open. General Kim Il Sung led the main force units to attack the enemy's open rear and capture provisions, weapons, ammunition and clothes. Attacking the enemy's rear was rather smooth because a small number of enemy troops were left there.

"General Kim Il Sung, laughing triumphantly, would speak figuratively of such desperate offensives of the enemy, with the Korean saying: 'One lost his pig at home while he was out to hunt a wild boar.' "

JAPANESE TROOPS SHOOT EACH OTHER IN CONFUSION

The positive defence tactic developed by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung was of course a product of practical struggles. It was in the spring of 1933, the year following the founding of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army that this tactic actually proved to be effective in battle.

In April 1933, with an allied force of about 4,000 troops in east Manchuria, the 19th Division (the Ranam Division) sta-

tioned in Korea made a siege-and-attack operation against the guerrilla base from the three directions of Wangching, Tatu-chuan and Chiehyehho.

In order to beat back the invading enemy the positive defence tactic was employed. In connection with this the anti-Japanese fighter said:

"At first it seemed to be difficult to attack from the rear the large enemy forces encircling the base and capture arms and provisions, but in actuality it turned out to be simple and easy.

"At night it was very cold at the foot of Mt. Paekdu-san, so the enemy made bonfire outside their tents and warmed themselves by it. A sentinel was posted, but pulling a broad-visored winter cap over his ears, he could hardly see or hear anything in the darkness beyond the fire.

"On the contrary, the bonfire served as a lamp for our small storm party which approached their camp in secret. Illuminated by its light every movement of the enemies gathering around the campfire was seen as clearly as a picture. Some wearing overcoats were warming their hands, others were conversing, and yet others were sleeping on the snow. But the guerrillas under cover of darkness were not visible from them. In addition, freshly fallen snow caused no sound of footsteps. Coming nearer, the guerrillas would throw Yongil bombs into the tents of the enemy. The greatly alarmed enemies were quite at a loss what to do. Their ugly features were clearly seen, lighted by the fire.

"The explosion of Yongil bombs was really terrible because the guerrillas threw them all at once. The enemies mistook them for a large force and fired at random in the directions of explosion. They shot each other, causing casualties among themselves. In this turmoil the guerrillas snatched weapons from them."

The fighter went on to say:

"Here is an interesting story about what I myself experienced.

“Once the word ‘oxhide rifle’ circulated among the guerrillas. At times, the Japanese imperialist troops ran out of provisions staying in deep forests. On such occasion they would take cattle from farmers and slaughter them to eat. At first they threw away their hides, but when they consumed beef they roasted the hides and ate them. Taking advantage of this, a guerrilla in ambush attacked the enemies coming to fetch the deserted hides and seized their weapons. From this the nickname ‘oxhide-rifle comrade’ was given to that guerrilla.”

In his reminiscences O Baek Ryong who participated in the Chiapikou battle in Wangching County in March 1933 gave a detailed account of the ambush tactic, one of the various tactics employed in the guerrilla warfare of the time.

According to his account, by that time the guerrilla units had grown in number and strength enough to make sorties with a force of one company or more troops instead of a few attackers.

The Chiapikou Battle commanded by Commander Kim Il Sung was the battle in which O Baek Ryong took part for the first time after his joining the Guerrilla Army. He wrote:

“At sunset our company left Matsun, Hsiaowangching, for Chiapikou, Wangching County. We marched straight to the north, forcing our way through a forest.

“Chiapikou was a mountainous village located nearly 16 kilometres northeast of Wangching, behind which giant trees grew thick.

“At that time the Japanese imperialists were carrying on the projects for laying military railway tracks and communication lines and building military installations in order to permanently occupy northeast China and make it a foothold for the invasion of the whole of China and the Soviet Union. They were carrying timber for the use of sleepers by oxen- or horse-driven carts from the valley of Chiapikou.

“Comrade Kim Il Sung ordered his men to ambush on both sides of the road and attack by surprise the enemy escorts of

oxen- or horse-driven carts in order to capture weapons.”

LARGE-SCALE BATTLE FOR TAKING ARMS

“Until that time, we had seized weapons with only a small number of men, and even in case of collective action some ten men had done it by way of surprise attack. However, in accordance with the wise line of armed struggle put forward by Marshal Kim Il Sung our guerrilla units rapidly grew in number and strength, and by this time, they began to mobilize one company and more troops in a struggle to take arms collectively. And this struggle, too, was developed in scale and method by raiding the moving enemies by surprise from ambush and capturing a large amount of weapons at one stroke. A typical example of it was the Chiapikou battle commanded in person by Marshal Kim Il Sung.

“On arriving at the valley of Chiapikou, led by Marshal Kim Il Sung, our company built positions on both sides of the road. Two platoons lay in ambush on the slope of a mountain to the north of the road and one platoon on the mid-slope of a mountain south of the road. I and Kim Chang Sop lay to the ground in a hollow about 20 metres off the road, camouflaged with dry bushes.

“And a squad of men were sent as a defence party to a mountain about one kilometre away from our position, located in the direction of Wangching, to the north of the road. Its task was to watch the enemies coming from the direction of Wangching and blockade their approaching reinforcements during the battle.

“Marshal Kim Il Sung’s commanding centre was posted on a nameless hill to the north of the road.

“We were fully ready for action before daybreak.

“I felt renewed courage and conviction of victory only to see the hill where Marshal Kim Il Sung was. This was not a

feeling confined to me alone. All the men under his command were burning with such conviction.

"The day broke, and the things around began to loom in sight one after another.

"Behind us there was a sloping snow-patched fallow field extending 200 metres to the forest. The sun was rising over the east mountains. On the alert I was keeping watch while at the same time looking down often at my weapon.

"My weapon was a sort of rifle called flintlock. It was a single-loader far inferior to the enemy's 38-rifle. Worse still, I had only five bullets on hand. So I decided to take a 38-rifle and a lot of bullets at any cost in this battle.

"I was impatiently waiting for the appearance of the enemy. But they did not appear soon.

"As time passed, I looked towards the commanding post more frequently.... I recalled what Marshal Kim Il Sung had once said:

" 'Knowledge is power. One without knowledge is doomed to failure. We must learn. We are not only brave guerrillas but also propagandists and organizers who educate the people, aren't we? We need knowledge and theory therefore. However, we guerrillas who make it a daily routine to march and fight have scarcely time enough to spare for our studies. So if one has a mind to study in leisure hours it means after all that he does not want to study.

" 'We must study at every odd moment even while marching and fighting....'

"I reproved myself for having nearly wasted precious time in excess of strain.

"I was reviewing what I had learned in my mind earnestly. Just at that moment there came a signal reporting the appearance of the enemy at the entrance to the valley. It was 10 o'clock in the morning.

"(Well, you have come at last!)

"I was on the verge of shouting. My heart was throbbing with joy and excitement, but barely keeping it back, I carefully

watched the enemy. About 20 self-defence corps members shouldering rifles were coming on foot. Behind them filed oxen- or horse-driven carts accompanied by ordinary people wearing white clothes. At a cursory glance, the number of carts was over 70 and the end of their procession was hardly visible.

"My heart beat wildly at the sight of the rifles slung over the shoulders of self-defence corps members. I firmly gripped the stock of my rifle...."

THEY ATTACK SELF-DEFENCE CORPS AND CAPTURE NEW-TYPE RIFLES

Guerrilla O Baek Ryong who was on a look for the coming enemy in a hollow of the Chiapikou valley camouflaging himself with dry bushes tightened his grip on his gun.

At the head of the procession came a bastard holding a pistol on his side, with a red-ribbon hung on his shoulder and breast. At the first glance it was apparant that he was the chief of the self-defence corps.

He was now close by. On the high ground, he looked back arrogantly at the procession with his head thrown back, and shouted loudly:

"If only Communists appear, I'll wipe them out!"

At his ugly sight O Baek Ryong felt a strong urge to shoot him then and there. But there was no signal of firing yet. He restrained his impatience with difficulty.

The chief of the self-defence corps continued to brag: "We can beat poorly-armed Communists hands down, even if we cannot kill them all." He slapped his holster with his hand before resuming the march along the road.

Just at the moment, a report of gun echoed through the valley. It was a long-awaited signal shot from Marshal Kim Il Sung. In response to it the guerrillas opened fire simultaneously here and there in the fallow field. O Baek Ryong shot the chief of the self-defence corps to death with one bullet.

In a moment 7 or 8 enemies fell down. Seeing the death of their chief who had just acted with all bombasts, the self-defence corps members were scared out of their wits. They all started fleeing pell-mell, but there was no way out. The white-clothed Korean peasants who were forced to drive the carts knew well that the guerrillas would do no harm to them, and so sitting together by the roadside, watched the battle as "lookers-on" without retiring into a safe place.

Finding themselves trapped, the enemies were desperate. They fired blindly at guerrillas in ambush. A fleeing enemy came and thrust his head into a stack of barnyard millet straws less than five metres from the very spot where O Baek Ryong was lying low. He might probably think that he would be safe if only he got his head hidden. The look of his ugly hips was offensive rather than laughable. O Baek Ryong took aim with his rifle. As if by presentiment, the enemy pulled out his head from the stack and now quickly moved to another stack behind O Baek Ryong and stuck his head into it. Sure enough, he did not see him in ambush. O Baek Ryong pulled the trigger. With a loud gun report bits of straw flew up. Throwing away his gun, the enemy staggered a few steps forward and slumped to the ground.

At the moment the guerrillas stopped firing and shouted: "We want weapons, not your lives." "Don't die a dog's death for the Japanese imperialist aggressors! Your parents, wives and children are waiting at home."

At this, some self-defence corps members uplifted their guns above their heads, dropping on their knees. But some others kept resisting.

At this juncture, the bugle sounded commanding charge. The guerrillas, who were firing, lying low or hiding behind rocks, charged forward shouting "*manse!*" They crushed the resisting enemies and seized their 38-rifles. O Baek Ryong captured four rifles single-handed. By this "battle result," he fairly deserved the honour of shouldering a new-type gun instead of the old one.

The battle, however, was still going on. The defence forces posted on the road leading to Wangching were fighting the Japanese imperialist garrison armed with a light machine gun that was escorting another procession of the carts loaded with ammunition and flour bags.

ARMED FORCES DEFENDING THE GUERRILLA BASES STRENGTHENED

Some guerrillas assaulted the carts carrying ammunition and flour bags, while others lying in ambush by the roadside attacked the Japanese imperialist guards tailing the procession.

The enemy numbered over ten and had a light machine gun. Some on the carts and others on foot, they were coming, unprepared for action. As it were, they were not in a combat formation.

Therefore, flustered by the thrust of the guerrillas, they turned on their heels and hurried away. They could not even think of rescuing the self-defence corps members at the worst.

Thus the battle was over at about one o'clock in the afternoon.

Deep tranquility settled over the valley of Chiapikou. Now O Baek Ryong calmed himself down and stroked his captured 38-rifles. Instead of flintlock, he shouldered a 38-rifle and walked back and forth, fingering it time and again.

As a matter of fact, it was the first time that the guerrillas captured so many weapons in a battle.

Satisfied, the guerrillas marched in high spirits towards Matsun—the guerrilla base, blowing the bugles and waving the red flag.

Children were playing in Matsun village. They were not simple children but members of the Children's Corps, wearing red scarves around their necks and sticking clubs in their sides.

Hearing the distant sound of the bugles, they simultaneous-

ly shouted, cupping their hands around their mouths: "Guerrilla uncles are coming!"

At this, the villagers rushed out.

The sound of the bugles grew louder, and the valiant guerrillas entered the village, bearing the red flag in the van. Finally they stopped in a row, and Children's Corps members saluted, raising their hands, and shouted: "Always be ready!"

Marshal Kim Il Sung, smiling all over his face, waved his hand to the warm welcome of the people in the base. All the guerrillas carried captured rifles and ammunition plus their own guns. Even those guerrillas who had left the village without rifles now returned with rifles and ammunition. Armed with new weapons, they all looked reliable. The villagers' hope ran high.

"Good. Now there's no question. The guerrillas have enough rifles and ammunition. They can beat the enemy and defend the base. Now we rest assured."

The welcoming villagers felt intense relief. Even in needy circumstances village women mulled over how to entertain the guerrillas at supper to appreciate their service. While sending cheers of "*manse*," they kept thinking of the matter.

The moment the guerrillas saw the people in the base they, on their part, were filled with joy and excitement as if a fish had found water. All fatigue of their arduous march through forests and their battles was gone.

"It's good indeed to fight for the people."

These words O Baek Ryong repeated to himself, feeling something hot.

That evening Matsun—the guerrilla base—was in a festive mood like a New Year Day.

The villagers were more excited than the guerrillas. They congratulated the guerrillas on the victory of their battle by entertaining them with a hearty meal which they had prepared with the precious provisions collected in their hard life.

The Children's Corps members gave a colourful art circle performance to comfort the guerrillas. General Kim Il Sung,

too, was much pleased to see it. The guerrillas seemed to be overcome with emotion and excitement.

True, the guerrilla bases were the source of motive power for the revolution.

GUERRILLA BASE—OPERATIONAL CENTRE FOR REVOLUTION

In the early spring of 1933 General Kim Il Sung said to the following effect:

In order to make the guerrilla bases or liberated areas impregnable, we must rapidly expand and strengthen the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army and arm all the people in the bases. Of course, it is true that we have no arsenal of our own and lack cadres and we face many other obstacles and difficulties. But if the people clearly understand the aim of their struggle—the liberation of the country—and pool their efforts they can overcome any hardship. If all of us, from the members of the Children's Corps to the old people, are fully armed, we can repulse the "punitive forces" when they attack the guerrilla bases and promptly frustrate their espionage and sabotage activities. Once all the people are armed, they can drive away any enemy.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas had neither state backing nor support from a regular army. The guerrilla bases were built through such toilsome efforts as to turn "nothing" into "something."

The guerrilla bases had to fill the functions of the training ground, recreation centre, supply base of uniforms and food, etc., and especially it should serve as a supply base which provides everything indispensable for military activities of the guerrillas both in name and practice. By so doing, the protracted, arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle could be developed.

And the guerrilla base should fill an important role as an operational centre of the revolution on a nation-wide scale.

Therefore, the following three conditions were essential for the guerrilla bases.

1. The guerrilla base must be an area with definite economic foundations and with revolutionary masses protecting and supporting it.
2. Geographically, it must be an area favourable for defending itself with small force, and at the same time, unfavourable for the enemy to attack it even with modern weapons.
3. It must have an armed force with minimum defence power.

General Kim Il Sung regarded the mountainous areas with vast forests and numerous valleys along the Tuman-gang River, the northern border area of Korea, as a suitable zone which satisfied above-mentioned conditions.

The class composition of the population in this area was suitable for a base of guerrilla warfare. Anti-Japanese fighters had long been active there, and the area could be called "the base of anti-Japanese, anti-imperialist struggles" of the Korean people.

Koreans accounted for more than 80 per cent of the population, and 90 per cent of them had been poor peasants or hired hands. Almost all of them had migrated to the region in quest of life, unable to bear the colonial predatory policy of Japanese imperialism. Some of them had found a shelter there from the suppression and arrest by the Japanese imperialists after fighting in the van of the fierce anti-Japanese movement back in the homeland.

BUILDING OF STRONG GUERRILLA BASE

The zone stretching from Mt. Paekdu-san to Chientao where were located the guerrilla bases led by General

Kim Il Sung had been a "vacuum area" and, at the same time, a "blind area" outside the reach of the tentacles of the Japanese imperialists who occupied Manchuria.

It was most suitable and favourable for the building of guerrilla bases.

These guerrilla bases were much conducive to the expanding and strengthening of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas and Communists began to build guerrilla bases from the spring of 1932 by organizing and mobilizing the revolutionary masses in conformity to the line set by General Kim Il Sung. This had been a toilsome work. Because the base had to be built in the fierce fight against the puppet Manchukuo Army. There had been several hundred consecutive battles in the east Manchurian area until early 1933 alone.

Guerrilla bases were built one after another in the midst of these battles.

They appeared first in Wangching County with the mountain area of Tawangching and Hsiaowangching as the centre; in Yenching County with the districts of Santaowan, Ilankou and Hsirenkou as the centre; in Hunchun County with Taohuangkou and Yentunglatzu as the centre; in Holung County with Yulangtsun and Niufutung as the centre; in Antu County with Chechangtzu and other areas as the centre.

They covered the whole areas around except the towns and villages along the Hsinching-Tumen and Tumen-Chiamusu Railway Lines.

However, the mere building of guerrilla bases was not enough. All of them had to be turned into impregnable fortresses. Only then could they fill their role as revolutionary bases. With this in view, the people in the guerrilla bases had to arm themselves with weapons.

Taking up arms in one hand, and the sickle and hammer in the other, they rose up as one in defence of their bases when attacked by the enemy while speeding up production in ordinary times.

The bases were fortified by way of building strong trenches and defence facilities at key points, skillfully taking advantage of the natural terrain to the maximum.

As liberated areas completely freed from Japanese rule, the guerrilla bases could reliably shelter those who had fled from the sanguinary suppression by Japanese imperialism. This was called a perfect guerrilla base.

These impregnable perfect guerrilla bases were surrounded by regions under Japanese imperialist rule. However, the anti-Japanese guerrillas organized underground revolutionary organizations there and pushed the work to rally the broad masses into these organizations. Thus these regions were completely converted into a world of the revolutionary people, into a base for violent guerrilla warfare by night, while they were under the control of Japanese imperialism in daytime. This was a semi-guerrilla base.

A perfect guerrilla base was a strong natural bulwark provided with strict guard system. And on instructions from this base, the underground organizations in semi-guerrilla bases performed missions such as the observation of the enemy's movements and the delivery of secret messages between towns, enemy's rallying points.

The establishment of such well-organized, powerful guerrilla bases got guerrilla activities brisk rapidly. Embarrassed by the fortification of the guerrilla bases, the intensified activities of the guerrillas and the expansion of their revolutionary influence, the Japanese imperialists tried every available means to encircle and wipe out the guerrilla bases in the cradle while infiltrating spies and saboteurs into the bases.

They clung more tightly to scorched-earth operations, in an attempt to cut off the close ties between the guerrilla bases and guerrillas, which had brought their former large-scale operations to naught.

GUERRILLA ARMY THWARTS JAPANESE IMPERIALISTS' AGGRESSION ON THE CONTINENT

This article mainly intends to vividly describe the history of the guerrilla bases-liberated areas which served as the motive force of Korea's liberation and independence and became the prototype of today's Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, for me, a foreigner who had lived as an ordinary Japanese under the system of Japanese imperialism, it is hard to depict how those liberated areas had really looked like.

Fortunately I have got the long novel "IMMORTAL HISTORY—The Year 1932." Though this book is a novel, it gives a vivid description of the historical facts.

Through the medium of this book, I would like to introduce the guerrilla bases to the readers.

The village of Liangkiang was lively once again. The first AJGA group had come here last spring, at dusk on a warm day when the magpies had been shrilling from early morning. Now midsummer was gone and cool days were stealing up on the village.

The troops, back from their long march, were billeted in people's homes, spending their time in study, while awaiting fresh instructions from headquarters. Since last spring their ranks had multiplied and had grown into a reliable force, tempered by many a hardship. They looked well in their uniforms and had become accustomed to army life. Their guns and knapsacks and their conversation were deeply tinged with the same colour—with guerrilla life.

In the very yard where last spring Pak Hung Dok had brought paper and saluted in clumsy fashion, Comrade Kum Song (General Kim Il Sung—*Author*) was walking leisurely back and forth; he was analysing the internal and external situation from the point of the revolution and summing

up the long march of the last few months through the Amnok-gang River area, in order to map out new policies.

After provoking the "September 18 Incident" in Manchuria the Japanese imperialists tightened the noose around Korea's neck. They carried out their last "mopping-up operation" against communism. Up until last year there had been eight batches of wholesale arrests and almost all Korea's Communists had been sifted out. In Chientao Province there had been upwards of 30 wholesale arrests recently.

But what was happening now? Where the hell did the Korean guerrillas come from, crisscrossing a vast expanse of country and hitting the "Imperial Army" on its way to the continent from the rear? Could this really be happening? This was what the enraged rulers of the "Greater Empire of Japan" kept asking themselves.

Now large-scale army movements were under way: Four infantry divisions moved to the north via the port of Pusan and two cavalry divisions and six garrison units landed on Chongjin. The Kwantung Army and the Korean Army (the Japanese troops stationed in Korea—*Ed.*) were ordered to carry out "massive punitive operations" and ostentatious watchwords to camouflage the "cultured" rule—"Cultivating cotton in the south and raising sheep in the north," "Fostering owner farmers," "Physiocratic policy," "Universal brotherhood" and "Application of Metropolitan favours"—were all thrown overboard.

"Kill and burn indiscriminately!" and "Nip the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army in the bud!" were now the watchwords of Japanese imperialism. These were watchwords that interrupted the continental advance of the "Korea Command" and the Kwantung Army and caused them to suddenly change their targets. The operational movements of the "Chientao Expeditionary Force" have started. This unit was formed solely to stifle the revolutionary forces around the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army in the Tuman-gang River area. Some Kwantung Army units came southeastward from Kirin and Tunhua, ano-

ther unit cut diagonally northeast from Tianshanweitzu via Mukden, to try to intercept and pursue the main force of the guerrilla army. Flanked by these forces the "Chientao Expeditionary Force" was preparing to overrun all the guerrilla bases along the Tuman-gang River that had come into being in the summer. A Japanese regiment with several auxiliary units moved along the bank of the river across Chongsong and Hoeryong towards the Wangching area, to make the first attempt to break through the bases.

Raising his clenched fist and thumping it down, Comrade Kum Song said to himself, determinedly:

"Yes, we must smash the very first move in the enemy's overall plan for any 'punitive operation' against our bases."

A GENTLE FARMER GROWS UP TO BE A STRONG SOLDIER

Choe Chil Song who has managed to join the army according to his wish arrives at the Liangkiang village near his native place accompanying his unit. Kind Pak Hung Dok grants him leave to visit his home after ten months' absence. Now let me proceed to another part of "IMMORTAL HISTORY—The Year 1932" in which this recruit returns to his native place, a guerrilla base, and meets with his family.

Three days after he left Liangkiang, Choe Chil Song arrived at the top of the hill behind Ssoksae Valley. The long march of more than one thousand *ri* had faded his uniform, bronzed and toughened his face and made him look fit with the flintlock slung across his shoulder. He shaded his eyes and looked down at the village over which the mountains had begun to cast their shadows. This valley was called Ssoksae or Horsetail Valley because of its luxuriant horsetail plants. Some hundred peasant houses huddled together along the valley beside the stream.

He reached his house when the evening sun hung low on the mountains. His house had vanished. The burnt joists lay on

the ground and the flat floor-stones were cracked. With every breath of wind, ashes fluttered in the air. His heart sank and he looked round, bewildered. He had heard a lot about Japanese brutalities but he had never expected they would do this to him. He felt dazed and his heart contracted painfully. He put down his rucksack on a rock and ran up the hill to get a bird's eye view of the village. This hamlet called Spring Valley was the only one in Ssoksae Valley that had been reduced to ashes. His heart beat wildly and the hot breath rose in his throat. His face clouded in despair, he climbed down listlessly, clutching at his chest as he came to the all-too familiar well. He lay on the stone and drank the water as if to put out the fire burning in his heart. At this moment Jagunnyo's mother came along with a jar in her arm and fell back. She saw the rough face of a man on his hands and knees reflected on the water, with that frightful thing, a gun across his shoulder.

"Good Heavens, is it possible...."

The woman who was rather voluble put down the water jar and came close to Choe Chil Song, dropping her hands in amazement.

"I wondered who it was. I heard you'd joined the army and...."

She looked at his cap, a bit wrinkled from the rain, his chest thrown out, his waist pulled in with a belt and the neat pair of shoes, before she again exclaimed her amazement. She ladled up the water in great haste and hurried down the slope, her rough hemp skirt rustling through the bushes. In a very beautiful and sonorous voice that contrasted with her plump body, she yelled: "Look, girl. The soldier is home. The soldier."

After she had repeated it several times, the matting door opened and dark-faced Ssanggama, Choe Chil Song's wife, came staggering out, dragging her shoes.

For a few moments Choe Chil Song and his wife stood staring at each other speechless. Then Ssanggama came to her senses and, still pressing her hand against her breast, approached her husband.

"You're back, dear."

Raising her neatly parted head, Ssanggama looked at her husband with sparkling eyes and put up her hands to take the rucksack off his shoulders. Startled, she drew her hands back to her red lips.

"You have a gun."

"A soldier carries a gun...." replied the husband, laughing.

Again Ssanggama looked at him in round-eyed astonishment. His behavior and his way of talking were so changed that he looked like another man. His low voice had become so resonant, his bent shoulders had straightened up and his movements were quick and agile. She raised her long lashes and smiled at him, and only then, pushed from behind by her husband, did she open the door and enter with him. He kept grinning not knowing what to say to her, for now the many stories he had so long intended to tell his wife were suddenly all forgotten. Presently they exchanged the words that people usually do when reunited after a long separation. Then he lay down on the straw-matted floor with his shoes on.

"PUNITIVE FORCE" APPEARS IN GUERRILLA BASE

The couple sat at the supper table facing each other. Choe Chil Song mixed foxtail millet with cold water in a flat bowl, telling his wife what he had experienced in the past ten months. Before his enlistment in the guerrilla army the husband who had seldom spoken except to answer questions had become talkative and well-informed. Sometimes he gesticulated as he spoke, making her laugh or even cry.

After supper Ssanggama did her sewing. He went on talking, lying on the floor, pillowing his head on his arm. He told her of his emotion when he had first marched in uniform and that he began to learn the Korean alphabet in the midst of march and could now read and write a little....

Ssanggama was again surprised. Even his speech had changed. He used big words as "absolutely" quite freely now, like the political worker from the district organization who had attended a recent gathering of the Women's Association.

Ssanggama stopped working and stared at her husband's face which seemed to her larger and prouder.

The husband went on talking.

He said he had rid himself for good of the bondslave's life that he would ascribe to fate, and stressed that as soon as the workers and peasants won their battle to liberate the homeland and build a socialist society free from exploitation and oppression, they would be masters of the country. Though now, because of the Japs, they lived in this grass-roofed hut with stars shining through the ceiling, he said, in the not too distant future they would be living under the happiest system in the world.

Ssanggama stopped sewing and stared at him, fascinated; his simple-hearted wife was delighted and exalted, because she had faith in every thing her husband told her.

Choe Chil Song talked on and on far into the night. It was almost daybreak when they went to bed. Placing the flintlock beside his pillow he began to talk about the gun.

"What sort of gun is that?"

"We call it a flintlock."

"A good gun?"

"Not so good. An old one."

"So you didn't fight well, did you? Because you were not given a good one."

"You are right. I couldn't fight well. I will have to get myself a good one."

Choe Chil Song confessed frankly, looking rather embarrassed.

At that moment the report of a gun was heard.

"A gunshot," observed Ssanggama in fear. Enemy's ceaseless punitive operations and arson got on her nerves now.

But Choe Chil Song said:

"Don't worry. Those swine can't do exactly what they want any longer."

Putting her hand to her breast, Ssanggama gave a sigh of relief and quickly put out the lamp.

Next day refugees started streaming into the main village of Ssoksae Valley from early morning. Soon afterwards the "punitive force" approached the village firing their machine guns. According to the refugees, the Japanese were carrying out "punitive operations" against all the villages on the Tu-man-gang River, burning houses and slaughtering people. Wave upon wave of women carrying babies on their backs and loads on their heads, able-bodied men carrying the wounded, and ox carts full of children surged into the valley.

The masses of refugees were scattering over the millet field. The "punitive force" were firing their machine guns at them. The village began to burn. Flames shot up into the sky and the valley was heavy with the dark clouds of smoke blown forward by the south wind. Piercing cries were heard from all directions.

Choe Chil Song who had been standing with pursed lips and trembling fists rushed down along the range of the mountain.

VILLAGERS RISE IN DEFENCE OF THEIR BASE

His darting figure with the flintlock was seen appearing and disappearing on the mountainside. He ran down to the familiar end of the mountain range. It occurred to him that though he was alone, with a flintlock he could hit as many enemies as he wanted if he occupied a good vantage point. He resolved to show his marksmanship. Like a tiger he flew down to one of the rocks that stood on either side of the village entrance. He lay down on his stomach in a crevice of the rock. He loaded

his gun with powder and a ball, ignited it and aimed at the middle of a large pack of Japanese firing at the millet field from the roadside. The gun recoiled at his shoulder and emitted a flame from its muzzle. One of the Japanese collapsed on the slope.

When he had hit the "punitive force" before, he had been frightened and confused, though God knows why, but now he felt quite composed.

At that moment gunshots rang out from somewhere nearby, sporadically at first but, later, with increasing frequency. Suddenly, on a slope just below he saw 40 to 50 people in khaki uniforms.

"Why, isn't that the guerrillas?"

On orders from headquarters the Yenchi Company under Choe Gi Gap's command had rushed to this spot and gone into action right away.

As soon as the guerrillas provided covering fire the refugees seized the opportunity and began to make their way to the mountainside through Spring Valley. In high spirits, Choe Chil Song moved in the direction of Deer Rock where he could get a better view of the enemy. Lying flat here at the edge of the mountain range fifteen or sixteen guerrillas, in twos or threes, were shooting at exposed targets, making the most of their scarce ammunition. Nearly every shot told. Those who had no guns used stones as missiles or rolled down rocks to stop the enemy crawling up. The enemy force was obviously relying on numerical superiority, however. Half of them were fighting the guerrillas, while the other half headed for the village according to plan. Around noon the front village was completely enveloped in flames, and the Japanese advanced to the middle village and Spring Valley.

Dodging the bullets with great agility Choe Chil Song carried rocks in his arms and pushed them down. Some of them rolled down intact, others split into thousands of splinters, which cut into the attackers. Those on their way up turned and fled, often to be hit by guerrilla bullets while fleeing.

Towards evening the situation turned decisively against the guerrillas. Few in number, their positions had become exposed and, worse still, they were almost out of ammunition.

Having realized this disadvantage, the people now in the middle village were resolved to resist the enemy at the risk of their lives. With stones, spears and sticks in hand they were ready to fight to their last breath, standing with their backs to the children, women and old people.

Are the children in the village safe? More than 30 boys and girls were breathlessly waiting in the three-roomed log cabin.

The teacher Paek Gwang Myong, though of poor health caused by consumption, went behind the cabin and told the teacher Jong Ok to get out of there with the children. When the children dashed out of the cabin, the teacher Paek Gwang Myong called out:

"Boys and girls! Look at the top of the hill. The guerrilla uncles have come. They are hitting the Japanese."

"Our guerrillas!"

The children gave exclamations of joy.

"Now sing a song!" shouted the teacher.

Bullets whined through the walls of the school buildings. The children started singing, putting their arms over each other's shoulders. They sang a song as taught in the Juvenile Vanguard and Children's Corps.

*Let's go out to a decisive battle,
To a guerrilla struggle
Firmly holding arms in hand....*

The teacher instructed the children not to gather in one place, but get out of the place in groups, carrying little ones on their backs and singing a song as they were trained.

It was too late, however. The "punitive troops" crossed the water and encircled the village.

ENEMIES ARE ENCIRCLED AND ROUTED IN THE VALLEY

Comrade Kum Song climbed up to the crown of the hill behind Spring Valley. He looked down at the village clouded with smoke and from which he could hear the shrieks of children. He pulled out his pistol and rushed down the hillside. He stood on a rock and watched his men deploying to their respective positions for action.

Preparing for this battle he told his commanding personnel that they should remember that the enemy forces were confident of their numerical strength and that they had never yet met any resistance from the Korean people. Therefore, he said, the enemy might be arrogant and outrageous, but once they were really hit, they would be scared. So, if we drove them into the ravine and made a concentrated attack, the "Invincible Imperial Army" troops would be smashed. This had encouraged the commanders.

Comrade Kum Song quickly moved the Yenchi Company to the rear of the middle village and dispatched a platoon to the enemy's flank to attack him from there.

He brought down his pistol which had been raised over his shoulder, and pulled the trigger. Following this signal, firing started at all four points.

The guerrillas sent rocks down the slopes and battle cries could be heard here and there. At first the enemy soldiers attacked furiously. Then their ferocity sagged and they shot blindly. They tried to fight on against the guerrillas but soon realized that this would be sheer recklessness. They could take no action against guerrillas scattered on the rugged mountain ranges, while the guerrillas were hitting one of them with every shot.

Comrade Kum Song ordered a concentrated attack on the enemy's command post on the opposite side of the stream. The

Japanese, who had appeared in an unsheltered area pursuing the civilians, were disconcerted. Their fire became more and more sporadic and weak.

Having repulsed the enemy for the time being, the guerrillas went to the aid of the villagers.

There were still scores of people besides the children in the middle village.

Comrade Kum Song, accompanied by some of the combatants, went down into the village. Our surprise attack had forced the enemy to withdraw but only temporarily. Therefore, the village had to be evacuated quickly.

He hurried down the steep slope, leading a dozen or so guerrillas. As they entered the village the enemy began shooting as he had expected. The old folk and children who had stayed there again raised a hubbub. The guerrillas quickly took them on their backs across the water.

Comrade Kum Song dashed over to two children, took them in his arms and waded into the water.

It was necessary to build temporary huts in the forest for the old folk and children.

After inspecting the thicket Comrade Kum Song went down to a ravine overgrown with ash trees.

The guerrillas had already chosen a place they thought suitable and built a hut with the trees they had brought in. The top was covered with pine branches and the bottom was spread with dry grass.

However, Comrade Kum Song said that the hut built with larches was not suitable for the children, because it was on the slope. He in person took a shovel, went down the slope and chose a nice flat spot.

Then he himself built a hut with ash trees he brought in.

After getting the children to be asleep on quilts, Comrade Kum Song looked back at a guerrilla and instructed him to use the hut built by guerrillas for themselves. He further said that the Japanese robbed the children of too many things, but the revolution should get back all they had lost.

In another hut, guerrillas, sitting around a bonfire, were holding a recreation party.

In any adversity, the guerrillas and the people in the guerrilla base were cheerful and optimistic.

“WE WANT TO GO WITH YOU, GENERAL”

The guerrilla bases were, so to speak, a “Pandora’s box” which is full of a bright hope and every possibility. A brilliant future of the revolution was to be seen in the simple and bright eyes of the Children’s Corps members, and an unlimited possibility in their looks when they saluted raising their hands with the words: “Always be ready!”

Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung visited the Children’s Corps school in Wangching, and said as follows:

“You are all flower buds of our fatherland, pillars of its future. When you are cheerful, we are cheerful, too, and when you are growing well, we feel new courage. No matter how difficult the situation is, don’t lose hope, don’t be pessimistic. Grow up fast and quickly into excellent workers of the fatherland with conviction of victory.”

Most of the children in the guerrilla bases were orphans who had lost their parents in indiscriminate slaughtering by the Japanese imperialist punitive forces, the offspring of guerrillas who had fallen in battle, and children of people who had died in the battles in defence of the bases.

In his reminiscences “We Must Firmly Bring Up the Reserve Force Which Will Succeed to the Revolutionary Cause” Comrade Pak Yong Sun, a former guerrilla, wrote:

“Indeed, from the first day when he set out on the road of revolution Comrade Kim Il Sung put his heart and soul into

the work of stoutly bringing up the reserve force of the Korean revolution.

"...How to bring up, educate and train the children in the bases? This stood out as one of the most important work among a mountain of complex work to be done in the bases.

"Sizing up the living conditions in the bases and perceiving the importance of the education of the reserve force, Comrade Kim Il Sung first took steps to protect, educate and train the bereft and other children in the bases and looked after them before anything else.

"And Children's Corps schools were set up in each guerrilla base to bring up the reserve force of the Korean revolution.

"He saw to it that the biggest houses in the guerrilla bases were used as school buildings, and paid deep concern for all affairs from making new teaching materials to selecting teachers from among the best members in the Young Communist League organizations, dispatching them to schools, and improving their qualities through short courses.

"Busy as he was leading the fierce armed struggle of beating brigandish Japanese imperialism, he often visited the Children's Corps schools, awakened the instructors there to the importance and honour of the task of bringing up the reserve force of the revolution and taught them in detail that they should educate the children who would take up the future of the arduous Korean revolution into ardent revolutionary fighters and, to this end, they should educate and train them in revolutionary ideas from childhood onward.

"In this way, Comrade Commander had not only given the opportunity of learning to the children in the guerrilla bases but also personally looked after all their affairs, from their food, clothing and beds to their life in the Children's Corps and art circle activities.

"Though he was fighting the enemy in thin clothes in the coldest season, he provided the Children's Corps members with thick cotton-padded clothes, quilts and fur caps. And while

eating tree bark and grass roots as his meals together with the people in the bases, he saw that the children should live in a big and spacious house, knowing no hunger.

"In those days it was inconceivably difficult to run a school. To get even a notebook or a pencil one had to shed blood and risk his life in fight.

"As there was the broad bosom of the fatherly leader who first looked after and led their life even in such difficult circumstances, our younger generation could grow up as staunch revolutionary soldiers who fought in so grim ordeals with single-hearted devotion to the leader, indomitable fighting spirit and burning wrath against the class enemy."

It is natural that the people of the Republic revere President Kim Il Sung, calling him "fatherly leader."

It was in March 1936 that Comrade Pak Yong Sun and other guerrillas, accompanying General Kim Il Sung, arrived at the Maanshan secret camp located in the midst of a deep mountain in Fusung County. In the secret camp there were scores of Children's Corps members and the logistical men of a weapon repair shop, a sewing group and a hospital. Among the Children's Corps members were those who had come across Mt. Naitoushan after the dissolution of the Chechangtzu guerrilla base, and those from further places such as Yenchi and Holung areas.

Some of them had met with liaison men of the guerrilla army while wandering about in mountains evading the enemy's pursuit and others happened to meet guerrillas while they roamed in groups.

General Kim Il Sung met the Children's Corps members and acquainted himself with their bitter state of affairs.

The looks of the Children's Corps members in the secret camp of Mt. Maanshan were really miserable.

In the above-mentioned reminiscences, Comrade Pak Yong Sun who accompanied General Kim Il Sung to the place where the Children's Corps members had been wrote with these impressive words:

"Having reached Mt. Maanshan through deep snow-bound hills and ravines, Comrade Kim Il Sung first called at the secret camp where the Children's Corps members were quartered.

"The Children's Corps members, already informed of our coming, came running towards us, vying with each other.

"However, they suddenly halted half way and stopped shouts of joy. Huddled up at one place they did not come farther.

"Most of them looked fourteen to fifteen. Among them were a few children of six or seven years old.

"We hardly looked at them without surprise.

"Their faces were swollen on account of hunger and they were virtually uncovered, with their clothes tattered, burnt and worn out.

"Their looks were really miserable.

"They were innocent children, but they were so much ashamed of showing their shabby looks to Comrade Commander that they could not come up to him willingly although they felt immense joy over their meeting him after they had missed so much.

"Comrade Commander walked towards the children with his arms outstretched but seeing the children coming to a halt, he also stopped for a while without a word, his arms still outstretched.

"What a bitter pain and agony Comrade Commander who had shown deep concern and meticulous care for the happiness and bright morrow of children must have felt when he found the flower buds of the revolution to be blossomed in full being forsaken and trampled underfoot!

"'Come on here!...'

"Thus saying, he took quick steps towards the children, kindly held up in his arms the child standing in the front row who looked the youngest.

"'You must have suffered much trouble, mustn't you? Your faces are all chapped.'

"He covered the naked knees of the child with the edge of his tunic and looked closely at the faces of the children. A cloud passed over his face.

"At this all the children lowered their heads with their eyes cast down.

"Holding the child in one arm, he patted the other children on the head one by one with the other hand.

"His hand stretched out on their heads with a painful feeling and his affectionate voice was filled with the love and feelings of a real father who embraced his son after long separation.

" 'My children, raise your heads. You are not to blame for your being in rags.'

"There came sobs from among the children before he finished his words.

"Sobs became louder.

"How much they might have longed for the warm fatherly bosom!

"Still so young, they should have to sleep at their mother's side at night. Yet they had undergone all hardships in deep mountains and then come to this place going through all adversities only to be subjected unexpectedly to the maltreatment and persecution by the national chauvinists.

"They had endured all difficulties with patience, without shedding a tear even once when they yearned parents or underwent hardship. But now embraced in the genuine fatherly bosom, how was it possible for them to keep back their tears of emotion?

" 'Well, let's hurry into the room. The children must feel cold.'

"On his instruction, we hurried to the children's secret camp, putting our coats over them or taking them in our arms.

"In the secret camp we found some Children's Corps members lying sick."

Meeting the fatherly leader unexpectedly, they were at a loss what to do.

Some of them sat up with difficulty and others tried to sit up. He personally took them in his arms and laid them down. Then, now putting his hand on their foreheads, now studying their complexions, he asked them in detail how they had fallen ill and what treatment they were receiving.

None of the guerrillas in this secret camp dared to speak up about the matter. For the children were bedridden not by any disease but rather by the criminal act of the national chauvinists.

The national chauvinists in that base regarded the children as a nuisance and did not look after them at all, insisting that they were a great "burden" to guerrilla activities.

They even prevented the Children's Corps members from having access to them while quartering themselves in a separate secret camp in the deepest forest on the plea that there was a great danger of exposing the secret camp to the enemy if they had the Children's Corps members nearby.

As they were obsessed with the idea of keeping themselves away from the Children's Corps members, they did not supply even provisions to them regularly nor did they make a suit of clothes for them who were shivering in cold winter.

These ignorant, narrow-minded national chauvinists went so far as to preposterously brand even little Children's Corps members as ones involved in the "Minsaengdan" and maltreated and despised them. They also labelled those who sympathized with or looked after the Children's Corps members as members of the "Minsaengdan" and harassed them in every way.

A regimental commander who took Children's Corps members from Mt. Naitoushan to Mt. Maanshan made clothes for them with the fabrics in store for his unit, feeling sad to see them in rags. For this reason he was shot to death in the end, on the false charge of being a member of the "Minsaengdan."

Under the condition it was hard for anyone to readily embrace the Children's Corps members though he wanted to help them.

It was just at the time that Comrade Commander came to Mt. Maanshan.

The General looked around the room. It was a room, but it looked deserted and the air in it was rather chilly. Nevertheless, the sick children were lying without a sheet of blanket.

Comrade Commander called a guerrilla accompanying him from Mihunchen and ordered him to fetch his own blanket.

Presently the guerrilla returned with a rolled blanket.

It was Comrade Commander's only blanket.

Sensing what he would do with that blanket, all the guerrillas produced their blankets before him.

Quietly pushing aside their blankets, he personally unrolled his blanket for the sick children.

Then he asked each Children's Corps member how they had come to Mt. Maanshan.

They were all orphans who had been deprived of their parents by the Japanese imperialists.

They left Chechangtzu following guerrillas, but before arriving at Mt. Naitoushan, they had a surprise attack of the enemy, which separated them from the guerrillas, leaving them alone in the depth of a blizzard-ridden mountain.

Though they had got tired from wanderings in mountains suffering from hunger and cold, they did not seek a highway or an inhabited area but went deeper into mountains.

Through their life in the guerrilla bases and through what they had learned at the Children's Corps school they were fully aware that only by going into mountains could they meet the guerrillas and take revenge for their parents.

CHILDREN ARE TREASURE OF THE KOREAN REVOLUTION

As for Comrade Commander's visit to the Children's Corps

members in Mt. Maanshan, anti-Japanese fighter Comrade Pak Yong Sun impressively wrote:

"A guerrilla who had found seven Children's Corps members in a forest and taken them to the secret camp gave an impressive account of what had happened on the evening of their arrival in Mt. Naitoushan.

"The villagers in Mt. Naitoushan procured dear rice and cooked supper for them.

"The Children's Corps members, who came to have a rice meal after suffering from hunger for a long time, slowly put back their spoons on the table, went outside and sobbed unseen. Evidently they were choked with the thought of their parents, brothers and friends who had died of starvation in the bases due to the 'punitive operation' of the Japanese imperialist scoundrels.

" 'Comrades, just think. What kind of children are these children? They are the flower buds of the revolution who have entrusted everything to us and are living, looking forward to the day of victory in the revolution.

" 'That is why they have not been burnt in flames, nor have they been bent in storms. The seeds of revolution sowed deep in them are stoutly and unbendingly growing into pillars of the future....

" 'However, leaving such children in this miserable state, how can one dare say he is working for the revolution and call himself a Communist?'

"The voice of Comrade Commander was trembling with indignation.

"After silently patting Children's Corps members on their heads for a good while as if to calm down his excited feelings, he gently asked them how they had spent their days since they came to Mt. Maanshan.

"But none of them complained of the cold and hunger they had suffered from.

"Even little children merely shook their heads when he

asked them affectionately whether they had felt cold or gone hungry.

"The little children who would play a baby if they were under the parental roof looked very reliable, and we were overcome by irreconcilable hatred that gnawed at our hearts.

" 'You see, they don't say they feel cold though ragged as we see; they don't say about their hunger cramps though hungry.

" 'They rather fear that they might trouble us....'

"His face clouded again when he said this looking around us. After acquainting himself with the living conditions of the Children's Corps members that day, Comrade Commander called in one place all the guerrillas including those in Mt. Ma-anshan.

"Then he inquired into why they had been so indifferent to the life of the Children's Corps members.

" 'It is said that these children are accused of having been involved even in the 'Minsaengdan.' Well, now tell me how it comes that they could have affiliated with the 'Minsaengdan' and what they had done for the 'Minsaengdan'!

"Among the guerrillas there were some who were under the influence of the national chauvinists. But they could not vindicate themselves before him who sorted out black and white like the sunrays.

" 'Just think over who are these children. Their parents all fell in fight against the Japanese imperialists. Very young as they are, they, too, had a determination to avenge their parents' death and make revolution to the last, followed the guerrillas to this place, not going down to the area under enemy's control even after the break-up of the guerrilla bases.

" 'Nevertheless, they have been falsely branded as those involved in the 'Minsaengdan' far from being looked after. What a foolish act and great crime this is!

" 'Your errors are not confined to your failure to look after a few Children's Corps members well.

“We treasure and love the children precisely because we are Communists.

“It does not proceed only from the human nature that the children are charming and lovely.

“We treasure and love them because our goal of struggle is to make them enjoy a good life in the future in a happy society free from exploitation and oppression, and because the bright future of the Korean revolution rests precisely on them.’”

HAPPY CHILDREN DRESSED IN NEW CLOTHES

Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung explained in detail the crimes of the national chauvinists who had branded the Children's Corps members of the guerrilla bases as those implicated in the “Minsaengdan,” and persecuted them.

Our revolution is a protracted, arduous struggle.

Therefore, the revolution must be accomplished without fail by making those children carry on it if we leave it unfinished, and if the revolution is unfinished even in their generation let the next generation take over and carry it out at any cost.

Therefore, in order to remain faithful to the Korean revolution to the end we must firmly bring up the reserve force which will succeed to the revolutionary cause.

We shall be able to claim that we have fulfilled our duties as revolutionaries, only when we ourselves not only fight well for the revolution but properly bring up those children with whom the future of the revolution rests.

More, those children who should become masters of our revolution in the future are the bereaved children of revolutionary comrades who fell while fighting together with us on the same road.

To take care of them warmly and bring them up well is not only the fidelity to revolutionary comrades but also a sacred duty of the revolutionaries. When we fail to carry out this duty

we cannot say we have discharged our revolutionary duty as Communists.

Then, he repeatedly stressed that the Children's Corps members should be provided with new clothes at the earliest date.

But under the prevailing circumstances there was no way to get cloth forthwith.

Having learned that in the secret camp there was neither scrap of cloth nor money to buy it, he was lost in deep thought.

After a while Comrade Commander put his hand into the inside pocket of his military coat and produced something carefully wrapped.

This is all the money I have on hand. This is small sum but let us buy as much cloth as we can and make clothes for those children, primarily for those ragged ones.

Handing over the money to the regimental political commissar, he told him to go to the town of Fusung and buy cloth.

I learned later that the money was twenty *won*. It had a long history.

It was the money Mother Kang Ban Sok had given him when he left home to organize armed ranks.

Mother Kang Ban Sok herself suffered hunger. But even in such needy circumstances she saved penny by penny out of what she had earned by sewing and laundering for others. When her son was leaving home, she took his hands in hers and gave him the money saying that a man must carry some money to use in time of need.

The twenty *won* that bore the unforgettable memories of the mother who devoted all her life to the restoration of the fatherland but left this world in an alien land before seeing the day of the country's liberation!

It was not great sum. It was insufficient for buying cloth for clothes of all the ragged children.

However, the guerrillas felt something hot surging in their hearts, thinking of Comrade Commander who offered for the Children's Corps members, the flower-buds of revolution, the meaningful money imbued with the affection of his mother. (The

Children's Corps members who will be dressed in new clothes thanks to the money earned by Mother Kang Ban Sok with her devoted efforts—they will be embraced in the really warm bosom of the mother and sing a song of joy and happiness to their heart's content!)

Upon the order of Comrade Commander, the regimental political commissar went to the town of Fusung, bought cloth and returned. But the cloth was not enough to make all clothes for scores of Children's Corps members.

So Comrade Commander gave him a task beforehand to have contacts with his revolutionary comrades in Fusung whom he had worked with in the period of his early revolutionary activities, and then he, accompanied by some of his men, personally went up to the vicinity of Fusung, risking dangers, met his revolutionary comrades there and solved with their help the question of clothes for all the Children's Corps members while firmly building up revolutionary organizations.

A happy smile spread over every face of the Children's Corps members now in new clothes, and their life became animated and cheerful as if they had got wings.

A dark shadow faded away from the face of Comrade Commander only after he saw the happy Children's Corps members.

Comrade Commander who had shown parental affection to the once forsaken Children's Corps members took every measure to protect and rear them before leaving Mt. Maanshan.

He assigned an instructor to educate them, left a platoon for the supply of provisions for them and took even steps to move the secret camp to a safer place and plough the land. In his reminiscences Comrade Pak Yong Sun wrote:

“Prior to his departure he even instructed his men to keep only two meals' rations in their emergency rice-bags and leave the rest to the Children's Corps members.

“When the guerrillas were in the midst of preparations for the march, adjusting their rice-bags, according to the intention of Comrade Commander to give even one more grain

to the Children's Corps members remaining in the mountain though the arduous march was expected, the Children's Corps members rushed to them in groups.

"Coming up to Comrade Commander, panting, they clung to his arms and the edge of his military coat, pleading:

"Take us, too, with you. Let us always be with you. We can't live a day without you, General. Do take us."

"Stooping over the Children's Corps members who were pleading in unison, he calmly asked them.

"Do you know where we are going to?"

"Yes, we do. To beat the Japs," answered the Children's Corps members unanimously.

"Well, you are right. We go to smite the Japanese imperialist rogues who killed your fathers and mothers. Our road is very rough, however. Sometimes we will have to march hundreds of *ri* a day and other times we will have to fight the enemy without taking meals for days. You will have hard times more often than you study and train in the secret camp. Still do you want to follow us?"

"Smiling, he eyed every face of the Children's Corps members.

"Yes, we will do. It is best for us to be with you, General."

"This came from the elder Children's Corps members. The innocent younger ones stamped their feet, still holding on to his coat, as an expression of their wish to accompany him.

"We guerrillas were dispatched to other units sometimes and in that case we were much regretful of leaving his side. Much more would it be the case with these children who found the light in his warm love and were embraced in the fatherly bosom only a few days ago after wandering in wind and rain and in storms and darkness.

"Looking with admiration at the Children's Corps members persisting in their accompaniment, Comrade Commander asked again:

"Can you smash the enemy?"

"Yes, we can."

“‘Not knowing how to handle a rifle, how can you do?’

“‘We will avenge our parents on the enemy without fail even by biting at them if we can't hunt them with a rifle.’

“Their eyes sparkled like stars and their voice rang clear.

“‘You're right... You must avenge on the enemy by all means...’

“With this he was lost in deep thought for a good while, and then said to the guerrillas to the following effect:

“Let us take these children along.

“Of course it may be difficult in many aspects for us to take the children along while carrying on the guerrilla warfare. If we keep them in the rear, we can bring up these children rather easily.

“Then, why are we going to take a rougher path?

“... .

“They are children who will have to weather the storms of revolution, the future Korean Communists who will go through the flames of struggle without having a time to put off their shoes until the day of victory in our revolution.

“Let us bring them up into undaunted revolutionary fighters, staunch Communists in the midst of the revolutionary struggle, the finest school of the revolutionaries!

“His word deeply moved us all.

“The Children's Corps members were beside themselves with joy, and turned out after preparing themselves for their departure.

“Just before the departure, Comrade Commander called me, who was to remain there, and emphatically told me more than once to take good care of those Children's Corps members who would have to remain as they were infirm or sick.

“Only after that did he give an order to start up the march.

“He left in the van of the procession, personally holding children's hands.”

THE GENERAL—THE GREATEST MAN

Together with the Young Communist Leaguers, members of the Red Guards, the Juvenile Vanguard, and the Women's Association in different places of east Manchuria very fiercely waged the daring struggle to get arms. Acquiring weapons was the first step to national liberation and independence.

Upholding the slogan, "Arms are our life and soul. Unite! Prepare! Come all out to the line for arms!" The patriotic revolutionary masses who were living in hiding in east Manchuria after leaving their fatherland devoted all their strength and wisdom to the struggle to get arms and, availing themselves of every chance, attacked Japanese imperialist "transporters of weapons."

It was literally a fierce, bloody struggle fought at the risk of their lives. People took their chance of attacking armed enemies with empty hands. Armed with an imitation wooden rifle, a youth took a weapon from an enemy. A bold woman, with an imitation pistol fashioned from the legs of a Korean-style table, threatened an enemy and seized his rifle. One day a farmer was cutting grass by the riverside. Then a police came swaggering. There was neither a bridge nor a boat to cross the river. If he waded it, his clothes would be wet. He shouted to the farmer: "Hey, is this river deep?"

"Not so deep. Everybody can wade it."

"Well, carry me on your back!"

The farmer quietly obliged and began to cross the river with him on his back. When he reached the middle of the river where the current was swift, he dumped the scoundrel into the river. While the victim was pawing the air to get out of the water, he took a rifle from him and gave him a down blow with its butt. This farmer was a member of the Red Guards.

Recalling those days, Wakazuki Yoshiharu who served as chief special service man of a police station at that time, and later as deputy mayor of Kofu city, said as follows:

"The deepest impression I gained during my seven-year life in Korea is that the Koreans revered General Kim Il Sung, pinning their great hope on the independence movement led by him, and that the Communists had a very strong faith in independence.

"I remember it had happened towards the end of October 1932. In front of our police station there flowed a small river, 6 or 7 metres wide. By the riverside children were seen playing with stones a little bigger than a fist, while selecting and gathering them.

"I felt their playing was something queer as it was the sort unfamiliar to me, but considering it as a mere snivelling child's play giving no harm, I left them as they did. After a few days passed there appeared mounds of stones here and there by the riverside.

"One night in late October a 'rain of stone' fell on the police station. The stones were on fire. After an examination we found that they were wrapped in cotton soaked with oil. The children threw the stones from across the river in a way that they bound each of stones with wire, set fire to it, and then whirled it round a time, holding the other end of wire with their hand before letting it loose.

"Roofed with wooden tiles, the building of the police station was reduced to ashes in the twinkling of an eye amidst the rain of flaming stones. Besides our police station, the sub-county office, too, was burnt down.

"The next day we knew that not only the place where we were but also other places had received the baptism of fire. Government and public offices in different parts of the province were stormed simultaneously."

As can be seen above, children played a very important role in the anti-Japanese armed struggle. Both army men and police little suspected the children. The revolutionary organiza-

tions took advantage of this. Though they were very young, these children were respectable members of the Juvenile Vanguard who received revolutionary training almost every day, bearing an important part of the Red Guards.

The incineration of Wakazuki's police station enraged the Japanese imperialists. It was not likely at all that the police remained still. Five police substations under its control made a wholesale roundup of people, regardless of old folks and children.

The number of those detained in his police station alone reached 1,200 to 1,300.

Wakazuki was greatly surprised to see the children so well organized. In the course of investigation it turned out that the inhabitants of the surrounding villages looked obedient to the Japanese police ostensibly, but in reality all of them had got involved in some way or other in the fire incident.

While interrogating the arrested people, Wakazuki questioned: "Who is the greatest man in Korea?"

"General Kim Il Sung," answered they proudly with an imposing attitude.

"What? General Kim Il Sung?!"

"Because he is fighting for the independence of Korea."

In spite of his cruel examination they, only afire with faith in Korea's independence, never gave in, keeping these words firmly.

They replied adequately to the questions related to general affairs, but when they thought it would contravene the "Law for the Maintenance of Public Peace" even a little, they became mum as a mouse. This made him quite helpless.

Now he changed his method and started persuading them in a soft tone. At this a young man resolutely retorted: "Korea has a history of five thousand years. Ignorant of this, Japan with only two thousand years of history forces us to 'believe the Japanese emperor wholly and absolutely.' Why should we submit ourselves to this despotic imperialism? Korea will certainly win independence. If you think Japanese imperialism is

better than communism, bear it out by fact." It seemed that 99 per cent of the Koreans, whether Communists or not, were opposed to Japanese imperialism and ardently wished for national independence and that the whole of Korea seethed with patriotic zeal.

In those days strikes and revolts including the workers' strike at the Sinhung Colliery and the peasants' uprising in Tanchon County broke out frequently in all parts of Korea. The struggle for capturing weapons became brisk, and police substations were often stormed, each time being deprived of weapons.

Later on, the chief special service man Wakazuki recalled that time with these words:

"In the summer of 1930 when I had got used to my work in some measure since my appointment to the police station there occurred an incident in which a police sergeant named Matsuyama was shot to death by a small armed group at his police substation under the jurisdiction of the Pungsan Police Station. Boldly enough, they, having put him to death, rode bicycles in the direction of Pukchong. When they met with a car carrying constables on the way, they disarmed them and rode it back.

"Another police substation was attacked at night, suffering 3 policemen killed, 6 heavily wounded, and 38-cavalry-rifles and ammunition captured.

"One early morning in 1929 four border patrols were shot to death while on guard and their arms taken at Itaokou."

BEACON FIRE RAISED AT POCHONBO

*Row upstream
Aboard the boat of recollections.
Tell you, the eternal witness,*

*Mt. Paekdu-san, Mt. Paekdu-san,
When did the enraged guerrillas of this land
Come over here
To kindle the last beacon fire of liberation war
Following the will of Heaven?*

(From the epic *Mt. Paekdu-san* by
Cho Gi Chon)

The Pochonbo battle was fought on June 4, 1937. I visited its site on May 20, 1975, thirty-nine years afterwards. It was past five o'clock in the evening when I arrived there.

It was probably at that very hour on the evening of June 2, 1937 that some 150 guerrillas had gazed down on the waters of the Amnok-gang River from Kouyushui Valley, with this happy thought: Once we cross the Amnok-gang River, we will tread the soil of Korea, the longed-for motherland.

Among those guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung there was a 17-year-old guerrilla Paek Hak Rim.

He joined the guerrillas in the beginning of 1936 and one year later in 1937 became the bodyguard of General Kim Il Sung. It was the greatest honour for him to take part in the Pochonbo battle.

This young guerrilla has now grown to be a general. Before coming to the Pochonbo battle site for inspection I was given a vivid reminiscence of those days by Lieutenant General Paek Hak Rim in Pyongyang. Now beholding the battle site on the spot, I could recall all scenes described by him.

Rafts floated down the Amnok-gang River tinged with the evening glow. Hearing the song of the raftsmen the guerrillas waiting for the sunset at Kouyushui Valley yearned all the more for the motherland.

*We have started floating down the 1,000-ri river,
Playing our favorite tune on the leaf flute.
Mountains are passing, clouds are sailing overhead.*

E-heng, E-heng, we are floating down on and on.

....

At that time the young guerrilla Paek came to serve as an orderly of the headquarters. That morning he climbed Mt. Kouyushuishan from where he could feast his eyes on the mountains and rivers of the fatherland. The fatherland which he could not forget awake or asleep even during the arduous march through blizzards, in a severe battle against the Japanese imperialists, and in the depth of the night in the secret camp. Now this fatherland stretched before his eyes. His heart swelled and the tears stood in his eyes in spite of himself. It was the tense hour when he was lying in ambush in a grove.

Never before had the young guerrilla seen the fatherland with his own eyes since he was born in Yenchu, Chientao, north-east China, where Koreans emigrated leaving the fatherland behind. His yearning toward the fatherland had grown whenever grown-ups had told him about it.

"Our fatherland, blessed with beautiful mountains and clear streams, is called the beautiful garden of golden tapestry. In autumn the hills are carpeted with scarlet-tinged leaves."

"I want to see the beautiful fatherland right now."

"Certainly."

"Born in China I have never seen the fatherland."

"If you want to go to the fatherland, you must join the guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung. There you must fight well to win back the fatherland from the Japanese imperialists with the efforts of Koreans themselves."

The young Paek had borne deep in mind the words of the villagers.

The dusk deepened now.

The waters seemed to have cooled down and a chill wind rose, rustling willows on the riverside. Suddenly a whistle sounded over the river. Someone must be hiding himself behind a rock opposite the river. As if responding to the whistle, faint flames rose here and there from the floating rafts.

All the rafts at once changed their course and formed a file, their head turning to the opposite bank and their tail to this side of the bank where 150 guerrillas were waiting. Thus, there came into being a straight raft bridge in no time.

On the opposite bank a few guerrillas raised their hands as a signal that everything was ready.

"There, forward," the General ordered, raising his hand.

In March that year the General set forth the strategic policy at the Hsikiang Meeting. The young guerrilla Paek knew by heart the General's words at the meeting.

We must advance into our fatherland. Only then can we imbue the people at home, who are now suffering under Japanese imperialist rule, with confidence in the victory of the revolution....

By advancing into the fatherland, I do not mean attacking a big city and occupying it. Just entering Korea and shooting off several rounds of bullets will be enough to give immense courage to our people.

After the meeting the General sent Comrade Kwon Yong Byok, who had been active in Changpai County, to the homeland closely to reconnoitre the enemy's defence and military and geographical conditions of the Pochonbo area.

The General met his comrades from the homeland in the mountains of Erhshihtaokou, Changpai County, and assigned them the same task.

Through this reconnaissance he obtained the detailed information of the enemy's military situation in the border area and the homeland.

Meanwhile, the Japanese imperialists made every effort to strengthen the frontier defence, surely getting wind of the movements of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army to advance into the homeland.

They erected batteries at 2-kilometre intervals in the border area including Linchiang, each of which was equipped with one machine gun, one mortar, 15 38-rifles plus mounted border

patrols and were in full readiness to concentrate their troops in one place.

To advance into the homeland it was necessary to create a weak point in the strong defence line by dispersing the enemy forces.

The General's guerrilla tactics was as clear as a pikestaff: attacking in the west while making sounds in the east and attacking in the west while assaulting in the east.

And using the "One step makes a thousand miles" tactics he sent the Fourth Division under the command of Choe Hyon to the Musan area. As was expected, the enemy started concentrating their forces in Musan, raising the cry, "Kim Il Sung troops have appeared." Weak points were thus created in their defence line. The Fourth Division had to bear the brunt of the enemy forces. The General made up his mind to advance into the homeland, leading the main force of the KPRA. Thus, he crossed the Amnok-gang River, employing the "quick-war-and-quick-result" tactics. (With the daybreak the flurried Japanese imperialist troops will rush back to Pochonbo from Musan.)

It was evident that at the news of the advancement of the KPRA to Pochonbo across the river truckloads of the Japanese imperialist troops would rush there from two directions of Hyesan and Musan.

Besides, according to the information obtained through reconnaissance, the enemy threw treble and quadruple cordon of frontier guards. It was a great adventure to break through that cordon.

It was the ties of faith between the guerrillas and the people that rendered it possible to tide over the snag.

General Kim Il Sung believed that the correct information on the enemy was a decisive factor in winning the battle.

Pochonbo was made an object of assault with this reason: First, Pochonbo was an important border point politically and economically which had a police substation headed by a police inspector, forest protection office, agricultural experi-

mental station, bank, post office, *myon* (subcounty) office and others;

Secondly, its terrain was favorable for the guerrilla activity relying on mountains. Hyesan failed to offer this condition;

Thirdly, it would be most effective to attack the enemy in Pochonbo which was situated between Musan in the north and Hyesan in the south. It amounted to fighting the whole enemy forces deployed along the frontier area.

Reconnaissance was undertaken closely and in detail. If the political workers of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army were likened to "fish," the people and villages on the border of the fatherland might be compared to "water." Political workers could develop brisk activity only among the people.

Solid informations came to the hands of the political workers through the underground revolutionary organizations with which they could have quick contacts. Bringing together all these informations and referring to them, the General worked out the operational plan at the headquarters.

On this basis, leaflets and appeals were written and necessary provisions and uniforms procured.

Strict observance of secrets is the key to success in carrying out operations. In this sense, too, but for the absolute faith in General Kim Il Sung of the people in the border area, the reconnaissance activity by the political workers might have been disclosed sooner or later. It was because the Japanese imperialists had placed their agents in every village by all means...

The surprise attack on Pochonbo could be successful mainly because the people kept secrets to the last despite an untold white terrorism out of their reverence for, faith in and expectations from General Kim Il Sung.

Figuratively speaking, the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, the combat power of the people's revolution, was the train of national liberation running on the rails of solidarity with people.

Having crossed the Annok-gang River by the raft bridge,

150 guerrillas climbed the Konjangdok Hill rising ahead. It was so steep they could reach the hilltop at dawn.

The General ordered his men to rest and have a short sleep. But no one could fall asleep.

Guerrilla Li O Song who lay on the grass on the hilltop seemed to be in sleep. But he was shedding tears, a blade of grass in his mouth.

"The grass of the fatherland. What a smell it has...."

Another guerrilla took a handful of earth and pressed his cheek to it, his eyes closed. Then he put it in his uniform pocket.

As if unable to repress his surging emotion, the General shifted his eyes towards the distant mountain ranges of the fatherland which was shackled by the chains of Japanese imperialism and was suffering and moaning. We cannot liberate our beautiful fatherland and return home unless we drive out the aggressors armed to the teeth with our own forces.

The guerrillas with the same feelings as the General's waited for the fall of dusk.

They could see the streets of Pochonbo spreading below. Having received reports from scouts, the General formed four units with the 150 men and assigned combat duties to each unit. The first unit equipped with two machine guns was to raid the police substation and block the road leading to Musan; the second unit was to assault the *Myon* (Subcounty) Office, the Forest Protection Office, the Agricultural Experimental Station and the Post Office; the third unit with one machine gun was to block the road leading to Hyesan, intercept the enemy reinforcements and cut off the telephone line; the last unit was to distribute handbills and appeals in the street and carry on propaganda among the people.

All the units were to approach their targets, skirting the Karim-chon River, not passing through the streets.

The guerrillas climbed down the Konjangdok Hill when dusk fell. Having crossed the murmuring stream of the Karim-chon River, they spread out in four directions to approach their

objects. The General set up his commanding post under an aspen tree standing by the Karim-chon River.

The streets of Pochonbo were in dead silence. No dog barked. Some residents of Pochonbo saw guerrillas descending from the Konjangdok Hill in a single file and in good order but never suspected them, for they took them for the Japanese troops or policemen in Hyesan on their routine patrol duty.

At that time in the police substation two policemen, blind to the whole situation, were interrogating two Korean peasants.

Standing under the aspen tree, the General consulted his watch by the moonlight. It was just ten o'clock at night, H-hour.

GUERRILLAS AND PEOPLE ARE IN WARM EMBRACE

General Kim Il Sung who was standing by the Karim-chon River together with the young orderly Paek raised his right hand gripping his pistol. He gave a signal shot resounding over the Konjangdok Hill. At this, rat-tats rose from all over the streets. In a moment, the *Myon* Office, Forest Protection Office and Post Office were wrapped in flames lighting the small street of Pochonbo as bright as day.

Prior to launching the attack, the General had sent out a scout to the street. Now the scout returned and reported to the General accompanied by the young orderly Paek: "There is no likelihood of reinforcements. Police and other enemy forces are estimated at 50 or 60."

The roads leading to Hyesan and Musan were intercepted, each with a machine gun.

The battle lasted only ten minutes.

"Fully occupied," reported an orderly, rushing to the commanding post under the aspen tree.

"Arms captured?" asked the General.

"No. We couldn't find them," answered the orderly.

The General couldn't believe his word. It occurred to him

that the way of keeping arms was different in Korea from that in China. In China they carried their weapons along or hung them on the wall, while in Korea the Japanese military police kept them in a definite place in case they did not use them. He told the orderly of this and ordered the wall closets to be searched again. As was expected, arms were found there.

People turned out of their houses barefoot when the ruling organs of the Japanese imperialists burst into flames. Some children were in their birthday clothes.

"General Kim Il Sung has come."

"Long live General Kim Il Sung!"

"Long live the independence of Korea!"

Among them the members of the propaganda squad scattered leaflets of the "10-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland" and the appeals. Greatly moved, the people warmly embraced the guerrillas.

Leaflets and appeals were pasted up everywhere and the small town was bubbling with joy as on a gala day.

The excited white-clad people taking leaflets scattered by propaganda squad members thronged the burning police sub-station. General Kim Il Sung left his commanding post and bored his way through the crowd. He mounted the rostrum with his hand raised high, his face beaming with smile.

In his speech, the General denounced the villainous Japanese imperialist aggressors and then appealed to all the patriotic forces to unite firmly and rise in a resolute struggle against Japanese imperialism to win the freedom, liberation and independence of the country.

Cheers of the compatriots resounded over the night sky. The flames licking up the ruling establishments of the Japanese imperialists seemed to be the beacon fire of Korea's independence. Again the cheers "Long live General Kim Il Sung!", "Long live independent Korea!" reverberated through the surrounding mountains for a long time.

QUICK RAID AND QUICK RETREAT

Alarmed at the assault on Pochonbo, Inspector Okawa, chief of the "Special Garrison" in Hyesan, immediately issued an emergency call. He formed three platoons with the men who came rushing with arms and ordered them to get on the trucks and set out.

He glanced at his watch. It was 11:10 p.m. Only ten minutes passed since he had received the alarm. He considered it best to cut off the retreat of the guerrillas beforehand instead of going straight to Pochonbo. Thus his unit rushed to the Kouyushui Valley near the village of Erhshih-santaokou along the Amnok-gang River via Chiatsaishui.

But the anti-Japanese guerrillas moved more adroitly. A successful raid usually accompanies a disorderly retreat. But the guerrillas were agile all along both in assault and retreat.

The telephone line was cut off. But the General made a short speech, foreseeing that the enemy would get the information within an hour and his big unit would come in pursuit of the guerrillas. He descended rostrum amid loud enthusiastic cheers, "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" The guerrillas lined up for quick retreat and started off. The people followed them, carrying provisions and trophy. The Proclamation pasted up in the street of Pochonbo was visible in the light of the still raging flames.

It reads:

The most villainous bandits, the Japanese imperialists, have occupied Korea. Through colonial domination by the Government-General for over twenty years, the Japanese imperialists have trampled on and massacred Korean people. Our compatriots are robbed by the aggressors of all their property, gained by their sweat and blood, and are forced to lead the miserable life of colonial slavery.

Furthermore, the Japanese imperialists are forcing the Ko-

rean people to become an "advance detachment" for the Second World War, a tool of their aggressive war against China.

Our Korean nation is at stake. We are the Korean People's Revolutionary Army that is waging a struggle to open the way for the people, bring them a worthwhile life, defeat Japanese imperialism and liberate the country. It is universally acknowledged that we have dealt the Japanese imperialist bandits fatal blows in our life-and-death struggle of the past six or seven years on the vast Manchurian plain.

Relying on the firm unity between the patriots in Korea and our ardent fighters, this Army has crossed the Tuman-gang and Amnok-gang Rivers and come on an expedition to the provinces of North and South Hamgyong with the object of fighting the Government-General of Korea, the vampire that fattens on the blood of the Korean people.

Long-suffering compatriots and brothers! Come out at once! Rally around the anti-Japanese national united front and respond to the guerrilla warfare of this Army by waging struggles in various ways!

Fight on to smash Japanese imperialist rule quickly and build a genuine government of the Korean people!

KIM IL SUNG, Commander,
North Korean Expeditionary Force,
Korean People's Revolutionary Army

June 1, 1937.

UNABLE TO REPRESS REGRET AT PARTING

The fine 150 anti-Japanese guerrillas commanded by General Kim Il Sung achieved a brilliant result in the Pochonbo battle, suffering no casualty. Thrown into utter confusion, the enemy could not fire a shot, and the battle ended in no time.

When they reached the Kusimuldong Dam crossing, the Konjangdok Hill, a raft bridge was ready again there. One might wonder how it could be arranged so readily both in assault and retreat. But there is no wonder at all. The close ties of kinship between the raftsmen and the guerrillas explain it.

When the guerrillas faced the raft bridge, they felt the great sorrow of parting from the Pochonbo residents who followed them up to the riverside, carrying their captured weapons and ammunition. But they were urgent and had no time to exchange lengthy parting words. All of them jumped on the raft bridge and crossed the river, waving farewell to the people. Standing on the riverside, the General observed the crossing till the last of his men passed over the bridge, while casting backward glances at times.

He was the last to cross the Amnok-gang River together with the young guerrilla Paek after making sure that the enemy was still not at their heels. The day broke when they reached Mt. Kouyushuishan. The village folk came out to welcome the guerrillas, waving their hands and sending up cheers, "Hurrah! Hurrah!" "Long live General Kim Il Sung!"

Before, when the 150 guerrillas were leaving Kouyushui Valley for Pochonbo, the villagers had sent breakfast meals, thinking they should not cook their breakfast on the Konjangdok Hill on the other side of the river for security purpose. The Kouyushui village was a new emigrants' settlement where people lived in hunger and rags. On his arrival there the General saw to it that all the captured clothes were distributed among the villagers.

Moved by the warm favors of the General, the villagers presented the guerrillas with thick soypaste mixed with garlic and red peppers, rare stuffs in the mountainous areas.

The Okawa unit arrived at the Erhshihshantaokou village, when the east was a hazy white. They took an hour rest there. Villagers were cooking barley meals. Taking them for the guerrillas' breakfast, commander Okawa hauled out several villagers and interrogated them. But none of them gave mouth to

the guerrillas' whereabouts. But it was evident that the guerrillas had left there without having breakfast.

For fear of being late the Okawa unit hurriedly left the village for Mt. Kouyushuishan. They had to be prompt in action but, leaving their trucks on the opposite shore, they had to pursue on foot. After an hour's march they discovered a few footmarks and broken trees on the uphill trail near the Kusi-muldong Dam.

Commander Okawa took it for the traces left by the guerrillas. They put his unit in a tense atmosphere. His men drank the river water instead of wine in token of their oath, as if prepared for the worst. It was about nine a.m.

GENERAL'S VALOROUS FIGURE SEEN WITHIN 40-METRE DISTANCE

The Okawa unit, the Special Garrison in Hyesan, began to climb the steep slope of Mt. Kouyushuishan in a file, puffing and blowing.

Lieutenant General Paek, General Kim Il Sung's orderly forty years ago, recalled what he had experienced at that time:

"We guerrillas could not stay long in the village at the foot of Mt. Kouyushuishan. The enemy was sure to come in hot pursuit of us. So, we began to climb Mt. Kouyushuishan. It was an eight-kilometre steep trail remindful of a staircase. We scaled the top and saw the enemy troops below rushing in pursuit of us.

"Levelling our guns at the enemies, we waited for them to close in. We felt reassured, having two machine guns captured at Pochonbo besides the ones carried from the base.

"The enemies were climbing up with great difficulty, gasping for breath. They numbered 60-70. On the order of the General we blazed off at them. But most shots missed them because of the staircase-like configuration of the mountain.

"The General ordered to stop shooting and *yellow* *beats* *ers*."

Okawa Shuichi, the former chief of the *Special* *Command* in Hyesan, later described what had happened at the time as follows:

"We were climbing Mt. Kouyushuisan, *pointing*. The *guer* *rillas* suddenly began to shower bullets on us at a range of some thirty metres.

"I promptly hid myself behind a rock and *looked* *up* *through* *binoculars*. Unexpectedly, it brought into view the majestic figure of General Kim Il Sung directing the battle in the centre of his unit like a Hercules. He was standing just some forty metres off with a pistol in his hand. I was so surprised that I felt as if my heart had stopped beating. In the meantime, the five machine guns of the anti-Japanese guerrillas began to spit out lead all at once. My men returned fires, lying scattered here and there.

"The battle continued long. Occupying higher and favorable positions, General Kim Il Sung's unit attacked us with high spirits and superb tactics. As time passed, the situation became worse for us. On top of it, we ran out of ammunition. In that while seven policemen were killed, including policeman Okabe who was shot through his chest and policeman Kaneki who breathed his last with his finger on the trigger. Another batch of seven policemen were heavily wounded. I rushed my orderly to the police force to inform it of the ruinous situation.

"My men groaned in pain here and there, which was mingled with the bitter complaints about the depletion of ammunition. But, strange enough, the anti-Japanese guerrillas stopped shooting all of a sudden. Now stones and rocks started rolling downhill upon us like an avalanche. General Kim Il Sung's unit switched over to the tactics of rolling stones downhill. The number of our troops was again reduced to a half in the baptism of stones. My heart was rent to hear the shrieks of those hit by the rolling stones."

Kannan Keiyu, magazine of the Police Department of South

Hamgyong Province, carried the following lines by Shiotani, chief constable of a police station:

“In calm retrospect now, I feel as if a harvest gained over many a day of hard labour has been reduced to ashes in a twinkling in this Pochonbo incident. Though I learned a great lesson from it in working out my guard plans, I keenly feel myself heavily responsible for the too great sacrifice to my superiors, fire victims and the public in general.”

ANTI-JAPANESE GUERRILLAS SUFFERED NO LOSS

The special guards in Hyesan suffered a crushing defeat. Chief Okawa Shuichi felt everything went dark before his eyes. He produced his memo-book from his tunic pocket and jotted down his will, attempting suicide. He collected corpses of his men.

Recalling those days, Lieutenant General Paek said:

“If they had not been Japanese police troops but Manchukuo puppet troops, they would not have fought such a foolhardy battle. The latter were well aware of our guerrilla tactics. They seldom pursued us recklessly. But the Okawa unit was ignorant of our guerrilla tactics. Having no idea that we were lying in ambush on the hilltop, they climbed in a single file the steep mountain along an eight-kilometre path, panting for breath. Caught up in a shower of bullets the flurried enemy fired at random and ran out of ammunition. Then stones rolled down, crushing them.”

The guerrillas did not stay long on the hilltop. They descended and collected weapons from the dead Japanese policemen half way down the mountain. There they found the Japanese reinforcements below climbing the mountain, bearing their sun-flag at the head.

But the sight of their dead policemen lying scattered just 40 metres off the hilltop was so miserable that the Japanese troops simply gaped and stood there as if nailed to the ground.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas withdrew from the mountain in high spirits. They suffered no loss at all.

The annihilation of the police force shook the morale of the reinforcements and restrained them from further pursuing the guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung.

The evening edition of *Osaka Asahi Shimbun* front-paged the Pochonbo incident together with a photo under the headline: "Heroic Event! Running Out of Ammunition, the Okawa Unit Desperately Fights, Storming with Human Bullets."

But, in fact, they could not step forward, far from "storming with human bullets" because stones rolled downhill upon them. Nor could they put up a "desperate fight" because the terraced terrain shut out views ahead.

Next day crestfallen Okawa went to Pochonbo to arrange the funeral service for those killed in battle. Smoke was still rising from embers, mingled with the smell of gunpowder. Witnessing the burnt-down *Myon* Office, Post Office and Forest Protection Office and the bullets-riddled police substation, Okawa mourned his men's death and, at the same time, felt anew the mightiness of the protean anti-Japanese guerrillas.

The newspaper *Tonga Ilbo* dated June 9 carried an article titled "Pochonbo after Typhoon," which reported:

"Pochonbo's important buildings such as the *Myon* Office, Post Office, Forest Protection Office ... and Fire Defence Hall were all reduced to ashes overnight. Arriving at the police substation and looking round here and there we found it riddled with bullets.... From the ruins of the *Myon* Office was seen thick smoke still rising. The burnt-down pillars and beams were a mass of charcoal. The bundles of documents had already been reduced to ashes and were dancing in the wind."

"June 4, 11: 25 p.m.... the moment I received an emergency phone call from Karim Police Substation by policeman Naito who narrowly escaped the enemy's tight encirclement and learned about this grave attack which had never been dreamed of, I felt my whole body suddenly stiffen as if the back of my head had been struck. I immediately gave an alarm and ordered

to move out, biting my lips.... The police substation was heavily fired by two machine guns installed in front of it and apparatuses in the office and other rooms were wholly destroyed as if blown up with dynamite. Doors, walls, ceilings of the office and resting rooms and boarding rooms were riddled with bullets. What a sorry sight! Employees and their families were too excited to give a reasonable account of the event. I thought it was not unnatural, for it was an event of weighty significance.

“Though hard pressed for provisions, they (guerrillas), strangely enough, caused little damage to provisions, taking only garments, clothes and work shoes with them. The reason for this was probably that such heavy loads as rice were difficult to carry and that they feared pursuit.”

This is part of the impressions carried in *Kannan Keiyu* by the chief of the Hyesan Police Station who, charged with the investigation, hurried to Pochonbo right after the incident.

A Japanese pastor called Watanabe in the Yamate Church in Pyongyang at that time wrote that he was “deeply impressed” by his Korean acquaintance who told with the conviction that since Kim Il Sung’s guerrilla units were giving the Japanese troops a good thrashing with preternatural swiftness, Korea would surely win independence sooner or later.

A STORY ABOUT A “RICH HARVEST OF PUMPKINS”

“In former days, the anti-Japanese guerrillas were never dispirited even though they were poorly clad and went hungry for days in the biting cold of raging snowstorms, even under trying circumstances when they were besieged by the enemy. When arriving at a village our guerrillas would immediately dry their shoes and come out to sing

and dance. It was an important characteristic of our guerrillas that they were optimistic under whatever circumstances."

KIM IL SUNG

After winning a great victory in the Pochonbo battle and wiping out the pursuing enemy the anti-Japanese guerrillas came back in high spirits to their secret camp at Heihsiatzukou.

The unit led by Regiment Commander Choe Hyon which had carried out daring "decoy" operations in the Musan area was also returning to Heihsiatzukou soon afterwards. Commander Kim Il Sung came out to the entrance of the secret camp to greet the returning unit. The moment they caught the sight of Comrade Commander, they gave cheers all at once. Regiment Commander Choe Hyon, too, was embraced in the bosom of Commander Kim Il Sung, sharing the joy of victory.

That evening the guerrilla units held a grand joint party of celebration at the secret camp.

At meetings and on other occasions Commander Kim Il Sung had emphasized that the revolutionaries should be optimistic. So the guerrillas would hold merry recreation parties in the intervals of studies at the secret camps or during the breaks of their marches through forests.

Commander Kim Il Sung would join these parties and sing the revolutionary songs he had composed in person or dance together with his men. And during such hours of singing and dancing he would find time to explain the domestic and international political situation and tell the men who, born in Manchuria as the second generation, had not seen the fatherland about the beauty of its mountains and rivers.

Recreation parties were a great pleasure to the guerrillas. They heightened their morale.

Celebrating the victory in the Pochonbo Battle, Commander Kim Il Sung proposed the guerrillas to organize another heroic battle aimed at extending its success and further frustrating the Japanese aggressors. The proposal won the unanimous sup-

port of all the commanders and men present and their shouts of joy shook the forest of Heihsiatzukou, echoing far over the peak of Mt. Paekdu-san.

The next day Commander Kim Il Sung called a meeting of commanders of all units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. The unanimous views of the attendants reached at the meeting were: The enemy was planning a "large-scale punitive operation" to make up for his bitter, disgraceful defeat in the Pochonbo Battle. Therefore, the guerrilla units, not content with their victory, should rally their forces and actively prepare for defence in order to shatter the enemy's desperate attempt.

After the meeting the KPRA men studied hard the line of action adopted at the meeting, and then an order of departure was given to all the units.

They were 600 strong and their destination was Chiensanfeng.

It was expected that the Japanese imperialists would concentrate their forces on this area. The KPRA men vigorously marched southward towards Chiensanfeng covered with dense forests as if treading on "their garden."

They sang the "March of Guerrilla Units."

Stand up, comrades, for a decisive battle.

Hold firm the grip on your gun.

Advance with vigour and spirits high.

And fight the enemy even to the seventh life.

On June 29, 1937 the KPRA units reached the Chiensanfeng area. The area consists of three peaks that soar, like isolated islands, from a plateau covered with primeval forests. Commander Kim Il Sung settled on the camping sites around the three peaks.

VICTORY WON THROUGH "COMBAT PSYCHOLOGY"

The Japanese imperialist army and police were frantically seeking for a chance to recover from their miserable defeat in

the Pochonbo Battle. Anyway, if they failed to display the military power of the "Imperial Army" they would be unable to put down the anti-Japanese sentiments in Korea. The Government-General of Korea convened an emergency meeting of the chiefs of the army and police.

At the meeting they reached the conclusion that the Japanese and Manchurian army and police forces in northeast China alone could never match the KPRA active in the border area. So they decided to mobilize the 2,000-odd men of the 74th Regiment of Hamhung of the 19th Division of the Japanese Army in Korea and 500 troops of the combined brigade of the puppet Manchukuo Army stationed in Changpai.

From a common military viewpoint it is quite beyond imagination that they failed to quell only 600 men of the anti-Japanese guerrilla units despite the mobilization of nearly four-fold regulars.

Nonetheless, Commander Kim Il Sung had a firm confidence in victory by resorting to a calculation of "combat psychology." Before and after the Pochonbo Battle he had continued to dispatch scouts to the border areas and collected and analysed the informations on the movements of the enemy. The informations collected by the guerrilla army were not ones gained mechanically or based on the confessions of enemies captured and tortured. When political workers, on a mission of reconnaissance, came to a village where Korean peasants lived, they would be received with warm hospitalities like their relatives met after a long separation. There they could easily get reliable informations on the basis of what villagers had seen and heard. If they asked the people to search out some secrets, the latter would meet their demand immediately.

For reconnoitring the moves of the enemy the people went into the midst of Japanese troops under the guise of traders. And tavern keepers smelt out military secrets from soldiers of the puppet Manchukuo Army by treating them with liquor free and thus becoming intimate with them.

In a Korean film I saw a scene of besieging the Japanese troops. I was alarmed to see what a well-knit network of intelligence the anti-Japanese guerrillas had cast before surrounding Japanese troops at a stroke. This network involved most of the Koreans in Manchuria—the owner and maids of a Chinese restaurant, middle schoolboys, old men holding pipes in their mouths, rural women, grandmothers, and what not. Therefore, the enemy's weak points were to be seen as clearly as one's palm.

If the anti-Japanese guerrilla army is compared to fish, the Korean people can be said to be water for breeding it. Fish cannot live out of water. This was General Kim Il Sung's way of thinking and the KPRA's constitution.

There are many examples of the close relations of kinship between the people and the guerrillas. They are to be given henceforward whenever necessary.

The informations obtained thus told that the Japanese and Manchurian army and police forces were in very low spirits. This was a most conspicuous fact. The garrisons and police disposed along the border areas were thinking of nothing but retreat, for they were scattered in small groups at batteries. To make excuses for freeing themselves from their duties, they inflicted self-injuries by shooting their own feet, feigned illness or deliberately applied a red-hot iron to their throats.

Such being the case, it was impossible to foresee the battle result with the ratio of 600 to 2,500 alone.

Commander Kim Il Sung established the formulas "600 + X" and "2,500 - X." By "+X" he meant the "morale of the guerrillas and all-out support of the people," and by "-X" the "war-weariness of the enemy soldiers and the anti-Japanese ideas of the inhabitants in the borderland."

The youth and children of Korea eagerly wanted to become members of the anti-Japanese guerrilla army. This burning desire was further inflamed by the news of the Pochonbo Battle which spread among the people of the borderland in a brief instant.

It is just in this sense that I say Commander Kim Il Sung

commanded all battles on a solid calculation of "combat psychology."

THE GENERAL'S INTELLIGENCE DECIDED VICTORY

A solemn ceremony was held on the plaza in front of Hamhung Railway Station to send off 2,000 men of the Japanese punitive units. This was designed to deliberately obliterate the consciousness of the Korean nation against Japan and for independence by displaying their military power. So they forced the Korean citizens, to say nothing of the Japanese residents, to join in the ceremony.

That day Kim Sok Won, a faithful pro-Japanese stooge, took the floor in the send-off party and made a speech under the Flag of the Rising Sun on which were inscribed the letters: "To Your Success in War." Then he declared: "I assure you I will capture the anti-Japanese guerrillas in this expedition and bring them back here. So you wait to see them. And watch how I will come out of my car when I come back. You will see, without fail, Kim Il Sung, the chieftain of the guerrillas, in person."

Thus the military train carrying the "Imperial Army" and traitors to the nation left Hamhung Railway Station.

On the way their units crossed the Amnok-gang River on some 100 trucks by way of Hyesan and Singalpa, and then they headed in the direction of Chiensanfeng. They marched through forests enveloped in a deep fog, casting an encircling net from three sides.

In his reminiscences "In Recollection of the Chiensanfeng Battle" Choe Hyon, the then Regiment Commander, writes as follows:

"On the dawn of June 30 the KPRA command got a report from the watch that enemy troops appeared.

"Immediately Marshal Kim Il Sung mapped out a detailed

combat plan for annihilating the enemy in the Chiensanfeng area and deployed the guerrilla units on the lower, sloping ridges of the hills.

“Our Fourth Division took its positions on the southwestern part of a thickly-wooded and gently-sloping ridge from where we could see in the east the hill on which Marshal Kim Il Sung’s command post was located.

“Thus, the battle line was thrown across the Chiensanfeng area to wipe out the enemy in a jiffy under the superb command of Marshal Kim Il Sung.

“June 30. Clouds were hanging low and a dense fog was lying over the forests.

“At daybreak ear-splitting clatters of machine guns came from where the sentry squad was lying hidden, rending the air in the valley. Soon the sentries returned shooting down enemies. The situation could turn unfavourable for us if the enemy should capture the place where our sentry squad was posted. The enemy’s advance party that stole in under cover of the fog was now under our very nose. The situation was critical.

“We could not fall back but had to meet the enemy. This was the only way left for us. Instantly I ordered to charge. Our men closed in upon the enemy, giving battle cries which shook the whole mountain. In a dismay the enemy took to their heels. Thus, we regained our sentry position. At this time an orderly from Marshal Kim Il Sung came to our regiment to inquire about our situation.

“I reported through the orderly how matters stood with us and that we were resolved to defend our positions by all means.

“When a short silence fell over the valley, a blue signal shot went up from the forest opposite. We also sent up a signal shot of the same colour as the command had instructed us to do so. The enemy took it for an attack signal, perhaps; he began to fire at random, sending up signal shots here and there.”

A GRAND CHORUS "ARIRANG" SUNG DURING THE BATTLE

Regiment Commander Choe Hyon goes on to write:

"Our plan to throw the oncoming enemy into confusion did the trick. From the signals shot up by the enemy all over the place we could see his disposition and movements as clearly as our own palm."

Seeing clearly the enemy's movements the anti-Japanese guerrilla units got themselves fully prepared. Moreover, the rain which had been falling all morning, was now pouring down.

At last, the enemy's bugle sounded the final charge. The reminiscences say: "The foolish enemy was closing in on us from three sides in an attempt to envelop us."

About this an interesting story is described in "KIM IL SUNG: Biography." It runs:

"The buglers of the Revolutionary Army blew 'Arirang' in chorus. In response to the bugle, scores of women members of the units began singing loudly 'Arirang.' Hearing this, the enemy troops acted as if they heard a heavenly voice or as though the General had used magic, and turned pale with fear."

The reminiscences go on as follows:

"The enemy made a bayonet charge giving battle cries. We pumped lead into them.

"A fierce battle was also being fought by the Sixth Division. As soon as the enemy soldiers crossed the stream and began climbing the hillside, they were mown down. Our range was 200 to 300 metres at most, and so nearly all our shots told.

"Enemy fell in heaps, and the sight of this raised the morale of our men sky-high.

"But the enemy was not to be slighted. The enemy soldiers desperately pushed forward stepping over the dead bodies of their men.

“The fighting was so bitter that at times we had to engage the enemy with bayonets across fallen trees.

“At such times, our men were furious against the enemy and displayed amazing valour.

“Woman guerrilla Ho Song Suk rained bullets on the enemy men, shouting: ‘You’ve robbed us of our homeland and condemned our parents and brothers and sisters to misery. Come, and take this, a fire of revenge!’ Thus, she sent many of them to kiss the dust.

“There was a new recruit called Kim Yun Gyong. He had no combat experience, but, encouraged by the gallant fighting of the guerrillas, killed many Japanese soldiers in the battle that day.

“The severe loss was something the enemy had little expected. To recover from the setback, he brought his troops posted on the east shore of the stream to the front of our Sixth and Fourth Divisions.

“Seeing this, Marshal Kim Il Sung sent an orderly to us again with orders to hold out where we were to the last.

“This was the fourth time I met Marshal Kim Il Sung, and the first time I ever fought a big battle directly under his command. I felt strong particularly because he helped and encouraged me by sending his men to me three times. I resolved to fight so well as to live up to his expectations.

“The battle that started at dawn grew fiercer by noon. The Second Company assigned to the right flank of the unit was fighting a hard battle. I went to support the Second Company in command of a platoon. When I was commanding the Second Company, bugler Kim Ja Rin called to me:

“‘Comrade Regiment Commander, look at the forest over there!’

“I looked and saw a group of enemies in khaki uniform. Apparently they were officers, as they were seen wearing Japanese swords.

“I loaded and fired the grenade thrower. With an explosion

in the forest some of them fell. I fired again, and there remained no more of them to be seen.

“When they saw their commanders were killed, the Japanese scoundrels who had been desperately coming forward began to retreat.

“Seizing upon this chance, we showered bullets on the fleeing enemy.

“The Second Company was thus saved from danger.

“The low-hanging clouds began to release their load. Soon it rained in torrents.

“In the pouring rain the battle grew more furious and enemies continued to fall.

“The enemy’s attempt to envelop us from three sides was smashed to pieces. This we owed to the superb operational plan of Marshal Kim Il Sung and his cool and wise command.

“The enemy suffered a heavy blow in the from-dawn-to-dusk battle. The survivors took to flight hurry-scurry, abandoning all their weapons and knapsacks.

“The valley was strewn with heaps of dead bodies, which the Japanese imperialists could hardly think of evacuating.

“Marshal Kim Il Sung who was watching the battle situation ordered all the guerrilla units to withdraw to the designated assembly ground.

“In this battle the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army killed or wounded more than 1,500 men of the 74th Regiment from Hamhung who made a futile attempt at a ‘large punitive operation.’

“I learned later that the enemy officer Kim Sok Won was heavily wounded in the left leg and escaped with bare life.

“The 74th Regiment had left Hamhung Station with a loud-mouthed promise. But only a few survivors returned in July 1937, with boxes containing the remains of the dead hanging from their necks.

“Even today the people around Chiensanfeng tell many stories about the ignominious defeat of Kim Sok Won’s unit.”

One of them is a story about a “rich harvest of pumpkins.”

The enemy, gravely concerned about how to dispose of their innumerable dead, prohibited the local people from loitering about the place where the battle had been fought. They beheaded the corpses and, while cremating or interring the bodies, crammed the heads into jute sacks and secretly conveyed them to a nearby highway by mobilizing local horse-drawn carts. The local peasants who were drafted for this labour, although they knew the contents of the bags, deliberately feigned ignorance and asked the guards:

“What do these bags contain?”

“Can’t you guess from the outward appearance? They are pumpkins. Pumpkins, I say.”

“Well, I guess you’ve had a rich harvest of pumpkins. They will surely make good side dishes. Now you have enough food to eat.”

So was born the story of the “rich harvest of pumpkins.”

In the wake of its great victory in the Pochonbo Battle the KPRA won another brilliant victory in Chiensanfeng, in accordance with its triumphant operations of advance into the fatherland.

Regiment Commander Choe Hyon’s reminiscences conclude with these words:

“The great victory in the Chiensanfeng Battle demonstrated once again to the world the outstanding strategy and tactics and brilliant art of command of Marshal Kim Il Sung who organized the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army and tempered it into an iron-strong revolutionary army, always leading it to victories.

“This battle was a sequence of the Pochonbo Battle, and it fully demonstrated the invincible might of the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army led by the great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung and inspired the Korean people with a still firmer confidence in victory.”

THE ONLY LODESTAR SHINING OVERHEAD

Kai Masaharu was appointed commander of a pacification unit made up of some 30 men. It was the autumn of 1936. These men, members of the "Paoantui" (the Peace Preservation Corps) selected from different parts of Antung, were gathering in Tunghua.

Kai crossed over to Korea from Antung and then headed in a hurry for Tunghua by the shortest route.

All mountains and hills in the borderland of Korea, like in other areas of her 3,000 *ri* land, were aflame with autumn tints.

Kai wished to meet Commander Kim Il Sung who was said to be of his age, 24 or 25. Although his unit was hostile to the anti-Japanese armed guerrillas, it was not a combat unit, but one with a mission of pacification work in the villages where guerrillas had been "put down" by the punitive forces or the guerrillas had passed through. So he expected that he could perhaps meet him individually in the form of a certain "negotiation."

The situation, however, was tense.

In October that year the Governor-General of Korea and Commander of the Kwantung Army held a secret conference at Tumen with the attendance of their staff members and worked out a plan for more powerful and effective military mobilization to perform "punitive operations" against the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

The plan involved: to concentrate and deploy the armed forces stationed in Korea on the area north of Wonsan and establish a system whereby to check the advance of the anti-Japanese guerrilla units into Korea through the close joint

operations of the army and police in Korea and Manchuria, to build more bridges over the Annok-gang and Tuman-gang Rivers for the establishment of a unitary transport route linking Korea and Manchuria, and to set up concentrated villages in many areas of Manchuria to alienate the KPRA from the Korean peasants and harshly suppress the Korean people's anti-Japanese struggle.

Following this secret conference, the Japanese imperialists strengthened the guard over the northern border area while launching large "punitive operations."

Kai's pacification unit had been organized as a part of these operations.

As soon as he arrived at Tunghua County seat, the meeting place of 30 "Paoantui" members, Kai began his activities with them.

Having got an information that a guerrilla unit led by General Kim Il Sung had appeared, his unit began to march into the area around Mt. Paekdu-san where the fallen leaves had already begun to be covered with snow and ice. Winter came in the plateau unawares.

The weather became wild and stormy all of a sudden. Marching on horseback in such weather, they felt their hands and feet benumbed.

A CHINESE PRAISES THE GENERAL

Commander Kai, while hurrying up his march through the raging blizzard in search of the KPRA command, had to often dismount his horse and rub his hands and feet for fear of frostbite. And at times, he found his military boots frozen fast to the stirrups.

In this way he marched through the deep snow. Many times he had to get down from horseback and walk, pulling the horse, for it balked with its legs buried deep in snow. It was already

getting dark when his unit got to the destination with much difficulty.

At the village he heard that General Kim Il Sung's guerilla unit had already left there in the daytime.

For all his trouble taken to arrive at this village, Kai failed to meet General Kim Il Sung to his regret. He, though, felt as though smelling his personal odor left behind. He knew later that what he had felt at the time was rather the tone or odor of General Kim Il Sung's unit than his personal odor.

The village consisted of some 100 households. Anyway, Kai and his men decided to take up their quarters there. Kai lodged in the house of a brewery master. Though the master was a Chinese, he inquired of him closely about General Kim Il Sung's unit according to the need of business. The master heartily praised General Kim Il Sung. He said:

"The unit led by General Kim Il Sung stayed here for three days. They were a really flawless, fine army. They did not give the villagers even a bit of trouble. Every morning they cleaned the yards of the houses where they lodged, and even rebuilt the bridge which had collapsed.

"Their discipline was rigid, and the commanders and soldiers were so harmonious and intimate with each other that it was hardly possible to discriminate between them.

"Seeing such an army for the first time in my life, I thought that General Kim Il Sung had trained his men very excellently.

"This morning, on their departure, the villagers who saw General Kim Il Sung and some other cadres wearing wornout shoes offered several pairs of spared shoes before him as a gift. But he declined their offer persistently, saying that they were more necessary for the people.

"When he came to our village we entreated him to stay at a nice room, but he also declined. It was only by our persistent and earnest request that he finally took the room. He had worked just in this room until this morning.

"I'm afraid what you are thinking of me when I tell you this. But being asked to tell the truth, I've only told it as it is."

KOREAN PEASANTS REVERE THE GENERAL

Commander Kai was greatly impressed by the master's remark. He could see in his mind's eye the vivid image of the hero, a young fighter of the independence movement. He thought:

"General Kim Il Sung who is fighting for the independence of the nation, finding himself among the soldiers and sharing life and death, sweets and bitters with them. He is indeed a formidable match. How much time and energy should I spend in future against this man?..."

Deadly tired as he was, he lay awake that night, lost in this thought. The people in the areas where General Kim Il Sung's guerrilla units were active and in their neighbouring areas entertained such a deep respect for and trust in General Kim Il Sung and helped his units of their own accord.

Kai felt afresh that the rumours about General Kim Il Sung widespread among the Korean peasants were not simple rumours but a kind of their absolute faith in him.

For instance, they said: "The guerrillas have good eyes, so they can march quickly even in the dark night." "Nor it is all. The guerrillas walk without producing the sound of their footsteps. Therefore, while passing through a street, they do not make anyone else notice it."

There is also a story of the "art of land contraction." When the Japanese Army and the Chingan Army of puppet Manchukuo were informed to their relief that General Kim Il Sung was in a place hundreds of kilometres away, his unit suddenly appeared and attacked them and then disappeared like the "wind." It was not until they collected their mind that they found their provisions, to say nothing of their weapons and ammunition, had gone away. This "art of land contraction" was well known to all Koreans. And many people really believed that General Kim Il Sung was a man performing a miracle like that.

The peasants believed: "General Kim Il Sung's art of land contraction is a mysterious art of covering a distance of hundreds or thousands of kilometres at a stroke by contracting land. It is also thanks to this art that General Kim Il Sung's unit can move freely, crossing mountains at a bound."

The stories about General Kim Il Sung in which the broad sections of the Korean people believed are too numerous to cite.

Naive peasants would say: "General Kim Il Sung crosses a river on foot." If someone retorted by saying: "There cannot be such a preposterous thing as far as it is not Jesus' miracle," they would confidently say: "It is a fact. Here is a corroborative evidence of it."

"What an evidence can you offer?"

"It's the Pochonbo Battle."

"The Pochonbo Battle?"

"Yes. You know one should cross a large river to go from here Manchuria to Pochonbo in the homeland, don't you? General Kim Il Sung crossed that Amnok-gang River on foot, I should say. If not, how could the guerrillas make a boat in face of the close watch of the Japanese scoundrels?"

"I am afraid you did not see them with your own eyes."

"Though I didn't see it, there was no other way for them but to cross the river on foot, I'm sure."

To the people General Kim Il Sung was indeed the only lodestar shining overhead. They were convinced that as long as General Kim Il Sung fought, they could surely return to the fatherland and work as peasants of a full-fledged independent state. General Kim Il Sung cut such a figure among the peasants.

The more Kai thought of the General, the less he could sleep. He spent one sleepless night, writhing in agony and rose early in the morning.

He muttered to himself like a man attacked by fever: "I must seek and meet General Kim Il Sung at any cost."

The period of pacification work assigned to Kai's unit was one month. It had already spent over 40 days in wandering

about in the snow-covered forests in the cold. It was not unnatural that he was in an anxious state of mind. He had missed the chance to meet General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrilla unit as he had been only half a day or a few hours late.

The pacification unit left before daybreak. It marched through a snow-deep mountain in the cold air of morning when the temperature stood at around 30 degrees below zero. Towards that evening the unit managed to arrive at the back of the designated ridge. Many footprints were found on the snow there which seemed to have been left two or three hours before. But no shadows of guerrillas were to be seen.

Once again he missed the chance. This only resulted in lowering the morale of the members of the pacification unit which was formed with all sorts and conditions of men gathered from the "Paoantui" of puppet Manchukuo. They were accustomed to the cold of north Manchuria, but, driven out for such an aimless pursuit, they could not but voice their complaints.

Grasping this atmosphere prevailing among his men, Commander Kai decided to discontinue the work for a time and declared it. His men breathed a sigh of relief. (Now there is no more danger of being attacked by the guerrillas at any moment.)

Commander Kai was suddenly moved to grief as he announced the unit would discontinue its activities and return to the headquarters. He thought it was quite useless to carry on pacification activity against such a brilliant commander who was enjoying so deep a trust of the people. (General Kim Il Sung is really a distinguished man. He is like a magician winning general popularity. And he is sure to be a hero.)

On descending the ridge he fell down from horseback because he dozed off on the saddle from exhaustion. When he recovered from a faint it was late. He could not even move his body for a while. That day he got hurt on the spine, and this caused a chronic disease. From this disease he was suffering even on the day when he heard the news of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

BROAD BOSOM

Mario Augusto Rodrigez

Panamanian Journalist

AN IRON-WILLED BRILLIANT COMMANDER

If we, Westerners, view the characteristic traits of the Korean people from our own standpoint, we find it difficult to understand them at once. Most impressive above all is the unaffected revelation of their feelings, tender and affectionate, which make people soon fraternized with them.

When we first heard all the Koreans, young and old, men and women, calling Comrade Kim Il Sung cordially with honorific titles, we were amazed. In our world, rulers and leading government officials always come from among persons high in social scale and their living conditions are quite different from ours. Lying between them and us are middle-class officials, established formalities, complicated procedures and a great impassable barrier. Even when there is any friendly relation, this relation is overwhelmed by the norms of formal etiquette that allow no intimate treatment.

The Korean people, however, tell about the President of the Republic, Marshal Kim Il Sung, just as they would do about their close friends and comrades, about their brothers and family members. Their love and respect for the great leader invite our admiration. They, though, are expressed from the bottom of their hearts. They are the manifestation of their unaffected thanks and genuine love.

As can be seen, Comrade Kim Il Sung is not only a respected great leader but also a true father personifying all the noblest virtues. To carry out his policies faithfully without fail is not mere execution of orders but a true manifestation of intense loyalty. This loyalty not only adds to his greatness but also knits him with all people in inseparable, spiritual bonds.

In the period of the guerrilla warfare the units commanded by Comrade Kim Il Sung waged incessant struggles against the Japanese colonialists in deep mountains at the risk of their lives. We often heard from veteran guerrilla fighters moving stories about what had happened in those days when they had had to undergo the Japanese colonialists' torture, persecution, imprisonment and suppression. Each time we felt as if they told us a legend or a folk story. We found that they were presentation of real facts.

The Korean people prefix various honorific titles to Comrade Kim Il Sung's name out of their desire to hold him in high esteem and show undivided fidelity to him who freed them from colonial rule, defended them from the US imperialists' aggression and build up a free country where they enjoy all rights, well-being, safety and happiness.

Already in his youth his comrades and revolutionary masses called him Comrade Kim Il Sung instead of his original name (Kim Song Ju) as a token of their boundless faith in and adoration of him. It is because they, along with this august name, firmly believed the birth of the Sun that would herald a new era and illuminate the way of national liberation.

General Kim Il Sung also came to be called an ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander. It was because even the most vicious offensive of the enemy was broken into a dozen pieces before his iron-like fighting will and indomitable courage.

The leader was admired not only by the Korean people. Such admiration for him can be seen in the stories and recollections of many Japanese officers and soldiers who fought the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army organized and led by Comrade Kim Il Sung. They were deeply impressed by the extraordinary strategic ability of the Korean people's leader who hurled them into utter confusion and annihilated them even when they were far superior both in number and armament. Struck with admiration by his courage, heroism and dexterity they even regarded him as a supernatural being with superhuman ability.

Having originated the "Juche idea," a new idea, Comrade Kim Il Sung smashed all sorts of factionalist tendencies, strengthened the unity of the popular masses, organized the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and led the people to victory in conformity to the actual conditions and demand of the nation, relying solely on his own ability and means, on his own thoughts and creativity.

Hence the great leader said in later days:

"...The Korean Communists and patriots organized the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army with progressive workers, peasants and patriotic youth who were against Japanese imperialism and for the restoration of the fatherland and the national independence of the Korean people and carried on a heroic armed struggle over 15 years."

As a matter of fact, the great struggle for Korea's independence had no precedent in hardships and complexity. Accordingly, there could be no ready-made prescription for it. The strategy and ways for struggle had to be mapped out by the Koreans themselves. As the leader stressed time and again, the people alone are the true masters of their revolution and have the ability to gain the freedom and independence of the country and reconstruct it.

The great leader, the true hero of the people, who came from among the popular masses, routed the foreign aggressors, braving all hardships and sacrifices, and led the people to victory. It is quite natural that he is placed in the centre of numerous legends whose roots are deeply embedded in the people's hearts.

Most workers and peasantry went through formidable hardships under Japanese colonial rule during which the whole nation was bled white. His appearance threw brilliant rays over the people's heads, dispelling this darkness like the rising sun of hope.

With new strategy and tactics which could not be found in any military book and in any preceding revolutionary history he was able to fight the aggressive army equipped with up-

to-date weapons and lead his poorly-equipped small guerrilla ranks to victory. These splendid strategy and tactics placed him on the pinnacle of superhuman greatness.

The guerrillas enjoyed proficient leadership of young Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, though they were badly equipped, fed and dressed. As the enemy's "punitive" operations suffered repeated failures in face of a small number of the guerrillas, the top leaders of Japanese imperialism mobilized all of their armed forces. They had a big stake in maintaining and consolidating their rule over Korea. It was because they schemed to occupy China and the whole of Asia and then even the Soviet Union, with Korea as a stepping stone. For this purpose, they threw their huge military force, thousands of combat planes and powerful guns into Korea and China under the command of their best generals.

In order to beat back such vicious enemy Comrade Kim Il Sung had to put to practical use his deep knowledge of the country's natural conditions and turn to account dense forests, mountains, rivers, animals and plants. He intended to drive the enemy to his wits' end, hurl him into utter disorder and deal a surprise blow at him by use of various tactics including ambush and mobile operations, thereby bringing an unexpected ignominious defeat to him.

The Japanese officers and soldiers who suffered repeated failures in their attempt to "encircle and annihilate" the guerrillas commanded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung related the wonderful things experienced by them and the "magic"—it was their view—applied by him in smashing them. When they marshalled their infantry and artillery, taking those before them for guerrillas, they found nothing but a bare plain and a bare mountain. But, all of a sudden bullets would be rained upon them from behind their back. Allow me to quote their own words: "We thought our strong armed regiment was making a surprise attack on a small unit within our firing range.... But when we started firing they disappeared somewhere. Bewildered, we were searching for them, only

to get a baptism of sudden fire from the joint in a rock. Our men kissed the dust....”

Here is another story: “Our reconnoiters reported that guerrillas had taken to their heels and hid themselves in a distant mountain. Believing this report, we, dog-tired, were taking a rest. But suddenly the guerrillas whom we had thought to be several kilometers away encircled us on all sides and came pouring a hail of bullets upon us. So, we hurriedly ran away.”

From his early years Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung studied all the characteristics of his country's nature. His deep grasp of topography helped him swiftly move and use unknown roads. That was why the Japs felt as if he were winged to contract land and fly over rivers and mountains. A Japanese officer who had participated in a battle at that time said: “We made hot pursuit of the guerrillas and besieged them in a deep valley. So, we thought that they were like a rat in a trap. However, when we reached the valley and searched it, the guerrillas were nowhere to be seen. But just when we exchanged puzzled looks, rocks emitted fire, logs rolled to us and branches and leaves changed into rifles. Our men collapsed to the ground everywhere. How could we fight the enemy that made rocks fire and turned branches and leaves into guerrillas?...”

Meanwhile, the Korean people with a burning hope of liberation looked up to the great leader who with a small number of poorly equipped guerrillas was beating down the enormous armed force of the Japs, and gave divine explanation of his deeds.

Longing for their country, some aged persons said:

“Lofty Mt. Paekdu-san, the sacred mountain of the country, is shedding its glorious rays as if heralding the freedom of the nation.... The ever-victorious hero commanding the struggle for the independence of Korea on the top of Mt. Paekdu-san is having the world right under his thumb.... Who is he?... He is Kim Il Sung, the outstanding commander of the Korean people, who uses the superhuman magic of suddenly appearing

now in the north, now in the south, now in the east and now in the west, sending a shudder to the enemy....”

Stooped women labouring on their fields in the scorching sun or in a drizzling rain said:

“The day is not far off when our country will become independent and we will free ourselves from the yoke of the foreign rulers since the General star has appeared over the top of Mt. Paekdu-san. The star is none other than General Kim Il Sung, the salvation star for Korea’s liberation....”

The guerrillas who under his command beat the enemy far superior in strength remarked:

“Commander Kim Il Sung is the general of portentous ability born by Heaven to regain the independence of Korea.”

The people regarded the leader as a man using an ingenious “magic” by which he could contract land when it was necessary to swiftly move his unit from a place to another and lengthen land when it was necessary to deftly throw the enemy troops far away. They firmly believed that when strategic necessity arose, Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung could remove or jump over even mountains, cover thousands of miles at a stretch to suddenly smash the vicious Japanese army, and swiftly make a hill or deepen a river to cut the way of the colonial troops.

In early 1937 Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung was informed that a huge military force of the Japanese army was moving to Limingshui to besiege the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army. Presently handing over maps to a few guerrilla units, he ordered them to quickly advance up to a narrow tract by a shortcut and wait for the enemy which was fagged out from his long march along a rugged path.

Caught in a shower of bullets of the revolutionary army which had been thought to be a good way off, the vicious Japanese soldiers were scared out of their wits and beat a hasty retreat. They said:

“It is true that the communist army of General Kim Il Sung uses the art of land contraction.... We believed they were scores of miles away. But they abruptly pounced upon us from all

directions. It is the wonder of wonders....”

In June that year the Japanese army built “impregnable” positions all along the “frontier” so that the guerrillas could not cross it. They deployed there a military force tens of thousands strong, cannons, thousands of machine guns, reconnaissance planes, etc. So, their brass hats vaunted over its “impregnability.”

“Since we have built an impregnable fortress, no enemy can get access to it.”

However, the KPRA commanded by Comrade Kim Il Sung stole through an open between the swarming Japanese soldiers, nicely avoided the eyes of the artillerymen and machine-gunners, and the surveillance of reconnaissance planes and then, made a surprise assault against Pochonbo where a huge force of guards were massed in reliance upon the “impregnable fortress.”

Though the guerrillas were far inferior to the enemy both in number and armament, they annihilated his heavily armed forces by a sudden attack. They captured lots of weapons and ammunition and showed the dawn of the triumphant Korean revolution.

The awe-stricken Japs tried to explain away their defeat in this battle like this:

“General Kim Il Sung could certainly win victory because he made a boat out of tree bark so that his unit could cross the Amnok-gang River....”

The people said that Commander Kim Il Sung was a man using “magic” by which he transformed and disguised himself and his unit, thereby throwing the Japs into dislocation. They said:

“‘A punitive unit’ organized by the Japanese authorities with fully armed, picked men obtained an information that the men of the KPRA were bivouacking in a near village in a flat area. They rushed to the place in an attempt to encircle and wipe out the guerrillas by surprise. But when they arrived there, they could find no shadow of a guerrilla. They started tracing the

guerrillas. Now a tree turned into a brave feature of Commander Kim Il Sung. Then, branches changed themselves into guerrillas and even stones transformed into courageous fighters to fire direct shots at the nefarious Japanese soldiers. So they fled in all directions leaving behind many casualties and weapons and ammunition....”

For all his great force and up-to-date weapons, the enemy suffered an ignominious defeat. When their superiors reproved them for it, they apologized as follows:

“We were utterly helpless before Commander Kim Il Sung using magic presented by God.”

The tactics applied to the exceptionally difficult and arduous battles waged in the days of the guerrilla warfare against the Japanese army were so wonderful that they gave birth to legend-like stories among the guerrillas and Koreans and even within the Japanese army itself. One story is about the arduous winter march which is recorded in golden letters in the Korean history. It was a march in which the guerrillas trod an unbeaten snow-covered path in a raging storm, going through untold hardships in want of weapons, food and clothes. The Japanese imperialists thought they could check the growth and development of the revolutionary war for Korea's independence only by “wiping out the headquarters.” For this purpose, they mobilized many regiments. This march was a great epical one in which the rock-firm will and the ingenious creativity of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung enabled a small number of guerrillas to perform distinguished exploits in face of the enemy's desperate pursuit.

During this 100-odd-day arduous march, the great leader aroused his units to ardent heroism and led them to deal successive blows at the Japanese troops, breaking through their strict surveillance in the biting cold. His varied tactics and wonderful command knocked the breath out of the Japs, getting them hardly to defend themselves.

At times, they raised “victorious” cheers over the encirclement of the guerrillas. But, the soldiers of Comrade Commander

Kim Il Sung would appear out of snow in no time to mow down the enemies.

Hence, they said as follows sighing over their defeat:

"The communist guerrillas of Commander Kim Il Sung use magical strategy and tactics.... We cannot match them who employ the tactics not to be found in any books on military science...."

"How," they added, "can we fight the guerrillas of Commander Kim Il Sung when they apply the tactics which cannot be found even in the military regulations of the Japanese Imperial Army?..."

In its effort to "besiege" and "annihilate" the guerrilla units led by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung the general staff of the Japanese Army dispatched its best strategists time and again and mobilized the best-equipped regiments with good battle experience. The enemy was sure that if he was to put down the revolutionary cause of the Korean people he should "wipe out the headquarters." He searched in vain the headquarters machine-gunning the place where it was likely to be.

The enemy would complain in utter disappointment:

"We showered bullets over the most likely place...."

Meanwhile, Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung would soon appear unscathed to lead the guerrillas to a counteroffensive. This made the people think that unlike an ordinary man Comrade Kim Il Sung was an iron-willed brilliant commander who was even bullet-proof.

Thus, many legendary stories about the superhuman force of Comrade Kim Il Sung were born to spread not only in Korea but abroad.

LOFTY VIRTUES OF THE GREAT LEADER

Comrade Kim Il Sung shared with his people all the sufferings in the arduous days of the protracted anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle as well as in the days of promoting the cause of rebuilding the country. And even now when the Korean nation under his leadership has grown powerful after liberation and reached a very high level in the socio-economic, cultural and political developments, he himself sets an example of commonness and simplicity in his life.

Lofty personality and virtues of the great leader of the entire Korean people serve as a paragon for the rising generation and all the world people. It is because he has won the faith and affection of the people for his dignity and pure sincerity. With such sincerity he is solely devoted to the happiness and welfare of the people, taking no heed of his own pains even a moment.

Commonness is a characteristic feature of Marshal Kim Il Sung, President of the DPRK. Here commonness is not merely expressed in his attire and living manners—which of course brings the simplicity of his character into relief in contrast to ostentation, luxury and dissipation displayed by the rulers in some countries—but is rooted in his close ties with the ordinary people.

Free from flowery rhetoric expressions and sophisticated and abstract phraseology, he uses a plain and simple language which is easy to understand to all people, even children and ordinary workers and peasants, so that they can fully grasp his ideas and theories. That is why the great leader stresses the need to use popular language instead of sophisticated and mys-

tified phraseology in order to delve into the people's ideas and feelings.

Fortune, luxury and enjoyment are meaningless to Comrade Kim Il Sung. He was born into a poor peasant family, grew in it and devoted his all to the struggle for national liberation, always finding himself among the people, regarding himself as one of the workers and peasants who fought the guerrilla warfare together with him. Fighting in deep forests and mountains he shared all sufferings with the poor ordinary people. He went hungry with his men when provisions ran short, and endured the cold with them in severe winter.

From his childhood he experienced drudgery and hardships himself. So he willingly gave a helping hand to the sweating peasants who were ploughing in spring or harvesting in long days or carrying firewood from hills. As he helped the guerrillas dig trenches and clean their quarters in those days, so now he helps push a tip-cart in the mine and push out an ox-cart mired in a ditch.

Farmers in the countryside, workers in factories, housewives, children and grannies speak to him without reserve, for he is so accessible and familiar, speaking to them heartily in common parlance. Enjoying his parental patronage, they regard him as their comrade but, at the same time, respect and love him as a man with great strength, who was capable of breaking through any difficulties and settling any knotty problems.

Thanks to his life and activity, Comrade Kim Il Sung as a great leader enjoys ever mounting prestige, respect and reverence among people of all ages and sexes. His selfless devotion serves as an example in cultivating and promoting such fine virtues among the people. It rendered it possible to completely and rapidly overcome corruption and immorality spread by a foreign colonialist power for over 30 years in an attempt to emasculate and shackle the Korean people and bleed them white, driving them like a horse.

Half a century of his life devoted to the liberation of his

people from the colonial yoke and to the attainment of a highest goal of socio-economic and political development has struck its due deep roots along with his exploits in the minds of the people. Thus they have acquired an unshakable faith and creed which are handed down from generation to generation. Their warm feelings towards the leader gave rise to numerous legends based on real events, and their great imaginative power went the length of defining him as a man of magic, superhuman force.

Hence, men and women toiling in the fields used to say concerning the activity of the guerrillas led by young Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung in the mountains in these words:

“Since General Kim Il Sung commands support and respect of all the Koreans, Korea is sure to win independence. The people’s wish is Heaven’s will....”

Under the wise leadership of the leader all the revolutionary forces were rallied. Thousands of workers, peasants and students rose in the fight for national liberation and volunteered to join the guerrillas led by Comrade Kim Il Sung, eager to receive his brilliant teachings. Even the bigoted groupings which had been organized under the name of the “Independence Army” and others and dead set against any sort of coalition with Communists came to join the fighting ranks led by the leader.

At the news that Comrade Kim Il Sung put an end to the disunity of the anti-Japanese forces and persuaded all the groupings to abandon their “self-respect” and join his guerrilla unit, people said:

“The noble character and broad magnanimity of our Commander Kim Il Sung made him a great general. That is why those who meet him or listen to him soon come to look up to him and want to come under his distinguished leadership....”

And they added: “The character of our General is as high as the sky. He exerts a strong patriotic influence upon all to take the right path....”

These words had a real ground and reflected people’s sup-

port and respect for the great leader. In fact, Comrade Kim Il Sung displayed unparalleled persuasive power in putting an end to disunity and rallying all the forces fighting the Japanese colonialist troops. For instance, in defiance of his personal danger he went to Lotzukou where he held negotiations with proud Wu I-cheng of the Chinese anti-Japanese nationalist unit and brought him to the realization that he should fight the common enemy Japanese imperialism in unity instead of murdering in league with the Japs the guerrillas, Korean Communists.

Even religious leaders who had themselves kept away from the struggle against the Japanese aggressors, regarding resistance as a useless thing inviting only death and sufferings, bowed before the leader's personality and logic. And they came out to help guerrillas and fought themselves dauntlessly, displaying valour and patriotic spirit even behind bars and defying tortures inflicted by devilish colonialists.

Therefore, it is not strange at all that from their own conviction people said about the respected and beloved leader like this:

"Our respected General Kim Il Sung enjoys so high prestige and fame that even Japanese officers surrender of their own accord, submitting their arms and ammunition...."

Some others would say:

"Respected General Kim Il Sung has so high dignity that a mere mention of his name scares the Japanese officers and men out of their wits...."

The great leader's firm conviction and his sharp insight into the people's minds enabled him to pick out the best people and train them to be his fighters equal to the patriotic mission of overthrowing the Japanese colonial regime.

That was why a young farmer who had been servile from his childhood as a farmhand of a landlord bought off by the Japanese imperialists became quite another man upon joining the guerrillas. Guiding him in person, the leader found valor and wisdom in him and gave him education congruous to his

character. Presently he was fully awakened politically and became an energetic commanding officer armed with Comrade Commander's revolutionary idea.

There was another farmer who had lived on the money earned together with his father by gathering firewood in mountains. When he volunteered as a guerrilla, many said: "How can a woodcutter become a fine guerrilla?" But the great leader admitted him. Under his paternal care and learning from his patriotic virtues, this farmer, too, became a devoted, able guerrilla. Soon afterwards, for his gallantry and fighting skill he became a company leader and then a regimental commander.

Once a humble, faint-hearted student joined the guerrillas. His acquaintances thought he was not up to any important, practical task. But inspired by the leader and in the course of learning from his personal example, this student quickly cast off his timidity and became able to handle his weapon deftly. Soon later, he enjoyed the respect of all of his comrades as an indomitable fighter merciless to the enemy.

Some Koreans had to serve the Japanese colonial authorities for subsistence or by coercion. Many of them deserted or were rid of such service by help of the guerrillas. As they had served the enemy it was hard to believe them from the start. But the leader inspired them, convinced them of their errors and led them to love the country. As a result, most of them showed ardent patriotism and heroism in discharging the most hazardous duties.

As can be seen, Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung's noble example of lofty virtues, sincerity, integrity, patriotic dignity and the spirit of overcoming difficulties brought forth the great generation of new able patriots faithful to the revolution during the fifteen years' guerrilla warfare. They made a great contribution to the country's liberation and to the building of a new, free independent country.

With these forces who came from among the people the leader founded the powerful Korean People's Revolutionary Army that made the enemy tremble even at the hearing of its

name. Therefore, the Japs themselves admitted that the army led by Commander Kim Il Sung deserved respect, and admired: "Separate action such as assault and arson...is taken in a moment upon Commander's orders...."

On a disgraceful defeat the enemy suffered in a fight with the guerrillas of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung a document of the Japanese police wrote as follows:

"...Their organizational and controlled action doesn't differ from that of the regular army of an independent nation."

The leader's virtues and sincerity made his guerrilla members always respect the rights of people in any deepest adversity. They never allowed themselves to misuse authority or behave unmannerly before the peasants and other working people. Because they all followed after the leader and copied his noble patriotic attribute.

His men regarded it as their duty to protect the lives and property of the people at all costs.

It happened when they were to attack the Japanese troops stationed in Santaohotzu. They could win an easy, safe victory if they had taken the enemy by surprise under cover of darkness. But the leader thought it would cause a damage to the houses and properties of the peasants.

So, he waited for the daybreak, exposed his men to the enemy and lured him away from the village to keep the villagers safe, though it was unfavourable to the guerrillas. In that battle the guerrillas displayed miraculous courage to crush the enemy without doing any harm to the villagers.

For his constant interest in protecting and helping people they came to see that the leader had remarkable ability in grasping their troubles and wishes and helping them find out the solution. That was why they said:

"Our respected General sees through the feelings of the people, guesses their troubles and saves them. It seems everyone of us lives in his heart...."

There is a story about a girl who could not have the wedding for want of dress to wear on that occasion. Knowing this,

General Kim Il Sung sent pretty cloth to her and had her celebrate the wedding. Now a sick peasant had been anxious to sow seeds on his millet field, the only means to support his family. Yet, one morning he found his field sown with millet to his surprise. Under the leader's paternal care, his men had done it during the night. They even did not inform the peasant of it.

A certain person was unable to work and support his family because of his fatal disease. The leader sent him precious medicine to help him soon recover his health.

Because of poverty and sickness another person had to give his daughter to the landlord as a maid to pay back his long-standing debt. Yet, the leader gave him money to save the girl.

The leader protected the people in this way, but he was very strict when it came to judge the crimes of Japanese imperialism.

There was a vicious Japanese policeman in a village. He wronged, imprisoned and tortured the poor, regardless of sex and ages. This news reached the leader's ears. One night some guerrillas went to the village and caught the wicked policeman, and said to him: "We won't kill you.... But if you continue to manhandle and torture the people for no reason and ground you'll receive one hundred times severer punishment than all the violence you have committed towards them."

After that, the policeman changed and the people could live free from his outrages.

These stories have been passed from mouth to mouth, from one generation to another like legends. The people love and respect him as the greatest man, as their closest friend, as their family member, reposing absolute faith in him and entrusting everything to him.

SHARING SWEETS AND BITTERS WITH PEOPLE

The anti-Japanese guerrilla struggle serves as an inexhaustible wellspring of heroic lessons for the Korean people. The veteran fighters who had long fought in mountains and forests, smiting the enemy by surprise or in ambush under the command of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, not only cultivated their love for the country and their sense of strong responsibility for the people but learned from Comrade Kim Il Sung everything indispensable for building a new country in the future.

The workers and peasants who witnessed the development of liberation struggle in the valiant activities of the guerrillas looked up to Comrade Kim Il Sung as a brilliant Commander breaking the chains of foreign oppression and as a teacher working hard day and night for their security, health and well-being.

There had been complete mutual understanding between the worker-peasant masses and the guerrillas. The great leader's virtues and instructions immensely and constantly encouraged the fighters under his command and the rest of the Korean people to fight on against the aggressors.

The aggressors plundered the fruition of people's labour, plunging them into a mire of famine and poverty. Even forced to work under the constant threat by the aggressors, the Korean people entertained an inspiring hope that Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung would soon beat the foreign occupants once for all and bring them back freedom and the right to enjoy a happy life.

The 15-year-long fierce struggle entailed much bloodshed

and hardships upon the Korean people. Those fifteen years, however, brought about the unity of popular force on one hand and, on the other, the decline of foreign force. Innumerable are examples of the heroic exploits and selfless service performed by the guerrillas along with people who made strenuous efforts to regain the independence of the country during the period of the long-drawn struggle.

The winter of 1933 was very rigorous and blizzardy. Very hard that winter was the situation of the Hsiaowangching guerrilla base where many guerrillas were concentrated under the command of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung.

The guerrilla army fighting the well-fed, well-clad and well-armed Japanese troops was fledgling. The enemy often launched furious "punitive operations" in an attempt to "destroy" the guerrillas led by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, the great leader who united the Korean people, leading them to victory. The guerrillas were fresh and lacked training and experience. Their arms were scanty and food and clothes were in short supply. On top of it, the enemy mobilized numerous regiments equipped with machine guns and cannons, and incessantly encircled the guerrillas under his organized plan to "crush" them. The enemy came assaulting the guerrilla bases in wave after wave. The guerrillas had to beat him back in succession.

But it was not the guerrillas alone that received the enemy's attack. The Japanese army incessantly swooped down on the nearby rural residential areas as well in order to isolate the guerrillas and check any support for them.

Under the brilliant leadership of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung the guerrillas would lie in ambush and attack the enemy by surprise. Heated by their failure to "crush" the guerrillas, the Japanese troops desperately fell on the residential areas, burnt houses, ravaged farmland, looted livestock and harvests, and cruelly slaughtered old people, women and children.

The guerrillas lived in shabby log cabins. They had to pass the winter in worn-out summer clothes. However, the members of the Children's Corps were provided with best houses under the paternal care of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung. Many of them were orphans saved by guerrillas and brought under their care. Comrade Kim Il Sung deemed it the first and foremost duty to protect children of those fighters who had laid down their lives for the independence of the country or had been imprisoned and slaughtered by the suppressive force of the Japanese colonialists.

Guerrillas built good warm houses for them and supplied padded clothes to them even in needy circumstances. And the best food was always shared by the Children's Corps members. Thus, they were able to lead a secured, comfortable life in good health, studying and playing joyously, on the instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung who took care of them with fatherly love.

Comrade Kim Il Sung used an ordinary log cabin and wore summer clothes in winter, like his men. It was because he had turned over all the available materials for winter clothes to the children who were still unable to hold out cold and needed protection. He would find time to visit the children's dormitory even in the midst of the fierce battles against the Japanese troops. Children welcomed him with cheers like their real father. The great leader organized lectures for them, taught instructors how to educate them, and personally gave lectures. While getting the children to learn how to read and write and study the country's history, he let them sing songs, play games and have sports for the sake of their mental and physical growth.

Even when his men were taking rest from hard battles, Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, oblivious of his rest, would visit the dormitory of the Children's Corps members and looked after their life and relieved their troubles. He often met the children and instructed them to chew their food well, strictly observe the sanitary regulations, keep their hands and feet

clean and wear clothes neatly. Thus he took a warm care of them like their real father.

The children, though little, were well aware that the great leader did his best for them. They knew that they lost their parents but Comrade Kim Il Sung looked after them like his own children, sharing out even his food to them, and that he was taking troubles to provide them with better living conditions and promote their health.

Now the children, mindful of the great leader who was wearing thin clothes in severe winter, made up their minds to make a suit of new padded clothes with fine material for him. They were out to earn money by doing various work and bought one by one the materials for padded clothes and a pair of arctic boots by inquiring into their source. By help of villagers they could soon prepare a suit of new padded uniform to be presented to their great fatherly leader.

It was really a jubilant event for the children. They also decided to stage a revolutionary art performance for Comrade Kim Il Sung. They invited him to the show as an honoured guest. In high spirit they presented dances, songs, a revolutionary poem and a drama which all reflected the popular sentiments against the oppressors and treacherous landlords and capitalists. The show was also attended by guerrillas and many inhabitants from neighbouring villages.

After the show, a comrade in charge of the school delivered an address. He informed that the children had prepared the show for several months and also tried hard to prepare a suit of padded clothes and a pair of arctic boots for Comrade Kim Il Sung, the Commander of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army who extended warm solicitude to the children.

Instantly the representative of the children walked up to the great leader and politely presented the gifts to him. All the attendants, deeply moved by the children's laudable deed, sent stormy applause.

Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung warmly embraced the children, but refused to accept the gifts. An old peasant

in the audience stood up and said with a trembling voice:

"You General have taken fatherly care of those children.. So you should accept the simple gifts as tokens of gratitude from the youngsters...."

There were again a stormy applause and cheers in full approval of old man's words.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, smiling, awaited the applause and cheers to stop. He took up children in his arms and said:

"It is one of the noblest virtues of our Korean people to love children and respect the aged.... Therefore, receiving this uniform, my thought goes first to the old folks like my grandfather in my native place."

He went on to say:

"I am still young and in a position to work more than anyone else and fight shoulder to shoulder with the guerrillas. How then can I live an easy life, wearing this fine warm uniform?"

The attendants listened to him in deep admiration and affection.

Comrade Commander continued:

"How happy I am if this uniform is given to an old man to wear in cold winter! So, I suggest to offer this gift filled with the best wishes of the children to the oldest man in our guerrilla base."

The attendants were all deeply moved to tears by the benevolent character of the great leader. The women sobbed and children nestled close to Comrade Kim Il Sung, not knowing how to express their affection and respect for him.

Much efforts were made to persuade Comrade Kim Il Sung to accept the padded clothes and arctic boots, but they were transferred after all to the oldest man who in turn pledged himself to carefully handle the precious gifts and redouble his efforts to make for the victory of the guerrillas.

That emotional scene was deeply engraved on the memory of the attendants as an example of the great leader's love for the people, his constant care for the life of children, old folks and popular masses.

The great leader's devoted service encouraged the struggle of the people. And they remained rallied close around him who was leading them to national liberation.

STANDING UP TO FORCE WITH WISDOM

When the first volume of Marshal Kim Il Sung's biography was issued in Japanese, it set off a greater wave of admiration and respect for him in Japan which had imposed colonialism upon the Korean people in the past.

Hundreds of thousands of Japanese are reading this book for study, and newspapers and magazines are writing about the cruel outrages committed by the Japanese militarists against the Korean people.

At the same time, former Japanese men and officers who served the army at the time of their government's occupation of the Korean territory contribute articles reflecting on the events that took place in those days—these events are now arousing resentment and shame of the progressive younger generation of Japan.

In these articles they tell about Japanese soldiers' admiration and respect for the great leader as well as their fear of him who united and led the Korean people to victory with his wisdom, bravery and indomitable resolution as a weapon in the struggle against such a formidable enemy as the Japanese occupationist troops which were several million strong, accustomed to war and possessed of powerful arms.

Thus, the Japanese colonialist war veterans against Korea themselves are now hailing the ingenious traits of Marshal Kim Il Sung as a military strategist.

One of their stories tells how Marshal Kim Il Sung leading

a small number of his guerrillas defeated a heavily-armed Japanese regiment which was sent to mountains for the purpose of annihilating the guerrillas.

Upon obtaining the information from the villagers in sincere service to the guerrillas that a strong enemy regiment was approaching, Marshal Kim Il Sung conceived a plan to beat the enemy and capture his rifles, machine guns, mortars and others to arm the guerrillas fighting against Japanese colonialist rule.

The Korean guerrillas could mow down the enemy in a few minutes with a few shots.

They collected a great amount of enemy's weapons and ammunition which were enough to arm several hundred Koreans who eagerly wanted to join the guerrilla army.

Thus Marshal Kim Il Sung proved that the extraordinary tactics capable of destroying the self-styled invincible Japanese army with a small force could be employed in any difficult circumstances.

He also taught that one must know well about his own country and study well and love it ardently if he wants to fight for its sake.

Great waves of respect and admiration for the gifted talent of Korea's great leader spread far and wide. Japanese soldiers and officers began to realize that they could in no way keep long in colonial bondage the Korean people having such a leader with bright intelligence and boldness, who was able to turn the unfavourable into the favourable even in face of thousands of heavily armed Japanese troops. So they trembled with fear and unrest at the mere mention of the young leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

On the other hand, the Korean people admired and respected more and more their young leader who was beating the strong enemy with poor equipment. They came to place greater faith and trust in him, realizing that he was the only man who could relieve them from foreign occupation and bring them freedom and rights. Hence, people of all ages and sexes

joined the guerrillas commanded by the great leader of Korea or rendered every possible assistance to them or tried hard to get contact with them in the hope of contributing themselves to the struggle against the Japanese colonialist army.

Marshal Kim Il Sung would warmly receive all of these visitors with fatherly love, give them some instructions and political and military education against Japanese imperialism, and entrust each of them with an appropriate task for the good of the country. He would also assign them the task of collecting informations, have talks with them to grasp the actual situation of each locality, and inquire into their demands, troubles and hopes, jotting down them for solution.

From the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle Marshal Kim Il Sung prepared the foundation of doctrine, theory, plan and program for the building of a new, free, independent and sovereign Korea, even in such difficult conditions where he had to engage with the Japanese armed forces almost every day.

The brilliant leader of Korea clarified that each people should make revolution in conformity to their own means and requirements and that each people are responsible for their own destiny and for their own growth and development.

Abundant resources, powerful arms and excellent technique alone are not enough to win victory. The point is to know well about one's own means, make the best of them, bring one's ability into full play, and shatter the "mystery" about the superiority of a foreign country. Only then will a people never surrender to the foreign aggressor forces, and even a people, seemingly small and weak, will be able to win victory in their struggle for independence, progress, welfare and happiness.