

A BOWL OF PARCHED-RICE POWDER

The anti-Japanese guerrilla struggle marked the grimmest period. Several decades have already elapsed since then, but its meaning is ever growing.

As is known, the noble character and lofty virtue of Marshal Kim Il Sung in the days of the guerrilla struggle against Japanese colonialism gave birth to numerous episodes. The great leader of the Korean people devoted his all to the implacable struggle against the ferocious enemy from his early youthhood. The enemy kept enormous forces which were armed with up-to-date weapons and specially trained for the suppression of revolution. The young leader sometimes had to be with some of his men in the mountains and train them through battles under the circumstances in which arms, ammunition and winter uniforms were short. Therefore, he ought to devote his all physical and mental power and ability not only to the struggle against the ferocious foreign enemy but also to saving the troubles of the guerrillas who entrusted their destiny and hope for people's freedom to him.

Veteran guerrillas who fought a heroic fight at the risk of their lives are keeping in their memories and hearts numerous touching stories about the selfless devotion of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung who at all times valued and loved his men.

It was in the severe winter of 1938. It was unusually rigorous in the mountainous regions. Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung's units had to make a strategic manoeuvre in order to stave off the pursuit of Japanese troops armed to the teeth. The enemy went in pursuit of the guerrillas, upon orders to "encircle" and "destroy" the headquarters where Comrade

Commander was—the centre of the unity of the Korean people in the struggle for national independence. Meanwhile, the young leader's tactics was to move to other region by making a faraway detour.

To this end, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army embarked upon an arduous march unprecedented in the nation's history. The unit led in person by Comrade Kim Il Sung had to march across mountains and highlands in severe snow-storm while beating back the enemy coming in hot pursuit of it. It was indeed an arduous march. The guerrillas were short of everything—arms and ammunition, winter clothes and food.

However, thanks to the presence of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung who gave the guerrillas the confidence in victory with his indomitable will, the guerrillas kept up a heroic march in high spirits, dealing heavy blows at the chasing enemy.

Forcing their way through deep snow and cold wind, the guerrillas were tired out, and hunger stared them in the face. However, encouraged by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung advancing with firm steps at the head of the rank, they could march on and on.

Even under the situation in which only those who were aflame with fidelity could overcome their fatigue and move themselves forward, the orderlies led by the young leader were worried about the fact that they could not serve Comrade Commander with food even a little rather than about their own hardships and hunger. The march got more arduous. Comrade Commander covered his own fatigue with a smile or words of encouragement and shared out even negligible amount of food to his men whenever it was available. He even offered his own share of food to the most tired guerrillas to give them a new strength. The orderlies were much anxious about the health of Comrade Kim Il Sung.

One morning when the weather got somewhat quiet, the guerrillas took a rest on the snow-laden mountains. The orderlies fumbled in their knapsacks and produced a little amount of parched-rice powder kept for emergency use. It was no more

than a bowlful. They presented it to Comrade Commander and asked him to take it, even if it was so little.

Comrade Kim Il Sung took the parched-rice powder in his hand and asked if they had had some.

The orderlies replied, avoiding his eyes:

"Comrade Commander, we have eaten already. This is for you."

At this, Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung called up to him the young orderly who seemed to be most tired and gave the powder back to him.

Hot tears rolled down the cheeks of the young orderly who barely took the parched-rice powder in his hands.

Comrade Commander warmly patted him on the head cheering him up, and left the place.

But the young orderly did not eat the rice powder. His comrades watched him for a while and then put the powder into the knapsack of an orderly for emergency use.

The march got more arduous day by day. In accordance with the tactics of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, the guerrillas harassed the Japanese units on many occasions and wiped out some of them by surprise attack in ambush. Thus they plunged the chasing enemy into confusion and disorder. One evening they had a chance to bivouac and take a short rest. However, at that time too, they all melted snow and drank it to ease hunger pangs.

The orderlies discussed how to serve Comrade Commander with the powder kept carefully in the knapsack, and at last took it out again.

Comrade Commander well knew that a bowlful of parched-rice powder had been the only food left. So, when the orderlies served it to him, he asked:

"How many times have you gone without a meal?"

"Comrade Commander, we have taken already," they told a lie.

Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung again asked with a smile:

“Well then, you want me to eat it by myself, don’t you?”

“Yes, Comrade Commander,” they replied.

Then Comrade Commander asked to bring their knapsacks for him to investigate. There was no food left in them. The orderlies had served him with the last reserve for emergency use.

He asked them to sit around it and said:

“Suppose that this is one *mal* of parched-rice powder and you will feel that you have eaten to the full. Go ahead.”

Comrade Commander portioned out the parched-rice powder to the orderlies, without caring about his own share. However, the orderlies did not eat the powder. He urged them to eat it, though a little.

The march was arduous beyond description, but ended in success. The men of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, though ill-clad and ill-fed, had enough strength to get to their destination, beating back the chasing troops of the enemy who harshly tortured and exploited the Korean people.

The march of revolution went on for fifteen years taking great efforts. At last the guerrillas drove out the foreign colonialist troops to the last man and restored Korea’s independence to build a new socialist state. Today this socialist state is ranking among the most advanced countries of the world and setting a shining example of social, economic, political, educational and cultural progress.

The veteran guerrillas who fought devotedly for the country’s freedom in hunger are now held in high regard as heroes. They and their posterity are enjoying welfare, upholding Marshal Kim Il Sung as the Head of State. Nay, all the people of the DPRK wear new clothes at each season and take nutritious food, without any worry or trouble. No Koreans fear any enemy’s aggression. This is because they enjoy the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who defeated the two strongest imperialisms of modern times and because they have enough strength, reserve and capability to defend national security and resolutely shatter any aggressive attempt.

Today the DPRK led by Marshal Kim Il Sung produces

millions of bowlfuls of rice which is enough for all Koreans to eat and spare.

Nevertheless, Marshal Kim Il Sung still today does his bit for the people and declines any favour bestowed on him just as he did in those arduous days, in order to bring a happier morrow to all of his people, men and women, young and old.

The more the DPRK advances and prospers today, the more the great leader and his people think of millions of the hunger- and poverty-stricken compatriots in south Korea.

Under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, President and Marshal, all families in the northern half of the DPRK have stored innumerable bowlfuls of rice for their south Korean brothers.

AFFECTION PERVADING THE FIFTY POWDER BAGS

Veterans of the liberation war against the Japanese colonialists have a proud memory of many episodes, one of which tells the personality of Marshal Kim Il Sung.

It is told and retold in the warm atmosphere of family circles, carried by the press, and referred to in the conversations of friends and comrades. It has become an invaluable legacy carried forward by the Korean people with warm attachment.

It tells about an event in the autumn of 1940, the most arduous period of the fierce anti-Japanese guerrilla warfare. The Japanese colonialists were strengthening their colonial set-ups against the mounting resistance of the Korean people and throwing in heavily armed reinforcements hundreds of thousand strong in an attempt to "pursue and annihilate" the guerrillas under the command of the young leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who brought a spark of hope to the masses of the

people. The KPRA was active always in the enemy's encirclement.

Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, accompanied by several orderlies and members of the machine-gun squad, was commanding all small units sent out to various areas. It was difficult to keep up correspondence with them. It often happened that information concerning the development of the situation and the results of frequent battles could be obtained after several days' delay.

At the same time Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung had to be on the constant move to harass the huge Japanese regiments equipped with hundreds of machine guns and cannons. The enemy made desperate efforts to "encircle and wipe out" the headquarters of the great respected leader, the only man who gave unified leadership to the liberation struggle of the entire Korean people.

The small number of guerrillas accompanying Comrade Kim Il Sung had to repulse the repeated attacks of the enemy day and night in his ceaseless encirclement. They often failed to procure provisions for many successive days. At times they had to collect wild fruits and hunt wild beasts. They often skipped meals for many days.

They were much concerned about the health of Comrade Kim Il Sung. Whenever some food was available, he would be the last to partake of it. When food was scanty he would offer his share to his men.

This made his orderlies and other men firmly resolve to serve him with some food. They hoped they would come across a wild beast to entertain Comrade Commander who was so concerned for them to tasty meat.

So they were overjoyed when they caught a large stag with a single shot. They brought it to the camp and began to cook to serve Comrade Kim Il Sung with a nice meal after a long interval.

When the meal was ready, they informed Comrade

Commander of it. They produced a savory meat dish before him and urged him to take it.

Complimenting his men on their catch of a big stag, Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung sat at table together with them. Before starting his meal, he gazed at the faraway sky and said in a low voice as if to himself: **"I wonder if Comrade O Baek Ryong and his men take their meal regularly somewhere...."**

There were no tidings for days from the members of the small unit who were out on a difficult mission. Comrade Kim Il Sung showed deep concern for their safety. Moved by his affection for them, his men were lost in thought, hanging their heads.

Recalling this event, veteran fighters of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army stressed that such had always been the case with Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung in those days. He even declined a bowlful of rarely-served soup out of his warm affection for his each comrade-in-arms. He felt sorry whenever he could not share some tasty food with his comrades. He was specially concerned for the small units which were fulfilling a difficult mission a long way off, out of the reach of any helping hand.

This time too his men were deeply touched by the fatherly affection of the great leader for O Baek Ryong's unit. They too were worried about those comrades with whom they could not share venison in his presence and who might fight an arduous battle against the Japanese troops.

When his men partook a little of the meat enough to renew strength, Comrade Commander told them to dry the rest and grind it into powder to keep it for a definite period. Following his instructions, his men cut the meat into thin slices and dried it by the campfire. And then they powdered it with care.

When they were going to put it into a big bag, Comrade Commander told them to divide it into fifty shares evenly and wrap it in paper separately. Then he ordered one of his men to bring Chinese ink and a writing brush. He began writing

the names of the members of the missing small unit on each of the paper bags.

When he finished writing the fifty names, Comrade Commander said to one of his orderlies: **"Keep these bags with good care to give to Comrade O Baek Ryong's small unit when we meet them...."**

Some people say when intimate friends are separated from each other affection and friendship wear out. But those who fought under the command of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung scores of years ago tell that even when they had to leave his side to carry out the difficult combat task they always felt as if he stood at their side and encouraged and inspired them to face any great danger head on and rout any powerful enemy.

Comrade Commander had the fifty powder bags kept properly till he restored communications with Comrade O Baek Ryong's small unit. At times he had them dried by sunrays for safe keeping and saw that they were kept with utmost care even in the flames of battle.

Tens of years have passed since they underwent great sufferings. The spirit with which the great leader inspired the ill-clad, ill-fed and poorly-armed guerrillas to heroic bravery is now inspiring the officers and men of the People's Army of the DPRK who are powerful and highly disciplined and are equipped with all kinds of up-to-date weapons.

These People's Army men, who are sound and strong in body and mind, highly qualified technically and politically and armed with every necessary means to virtually perform their heavy responsibility, are the proud successors to the heroic guerrillas who routed an army boasting of its being the "mightiest" in the world though they were in short supply of arms and provisions. Today each of them is ready to defend the country from any invasion as in the past and counter any armed forces of the enemy attempting to encroach on the independence, security and happiness the Korean people have acquired under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Now there is no need to dry and powder venison and write the name of each soldier on a paper bag. But even now Marshal Kim Il Sung remembers every name of his men who fought the fierce guerrilla struggle in deep mountains together with him. Whenever Comrade Commander visits army units or schools for the children of revolutionary martyrs he recalls the names of heroes and tells about their devoted struggle to hand over the free independent country to posterity and bring about today's security and progress, welfare and happiness.

It is because the great leader is now as in the past showing equal affection for all ages and sexes of Korea like a father does for his own children.

A LETTER SENT TO A GUERRILLA

Stories and episodes of the anti-Japanese armed struggle are immeasurably instructive not only to the Korean people but to the third world people who are waging the liberation struggle. Though every people are in different historical, political, geographical, social and natural conditions and have different national characteristics, there always exist common traits and conditions which have been formed in different parts of the world through ages.

It is necessary therefore for the Korean people to study their 15-year-long guerrilla struggle waged under the leadership of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung to put an end to Japanese military oppression with a view to educating and leading the rising generation to carry forward and consolidate the gains of the revolution. The study of it is also beneficial for the people of various countries of the world who are waging a vigorous struggle against new and old colonialism, and other forms of imperialist exploitation.

Fifteen years of the guerrilla struggle demanded of the Korean people a great deal of efforts and sacrifice. They had to fight not only against the Japanese authorities which persecuted and imprisoned them but also against the landlords and capitalists who robbed workers and peasants of the fruit of their labour in collusion with the foreign aggressors. Rest and recuperation were out of the question for the guerrillas, who had to fight the armed forces of the colonialists in deep forests and mountains with insufficient amount of provisions, clothes, weapons and ammo in enemy's repeated encirclement. They fought indomitably at the risk of their lives solely for national liberation.

However, Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung thought that gallantry and ability alone were not enough for struggle. While routing colonialists by force of arms, the guerrillas had to prepare themselves to restore the country and build a free, independent new Korea which would completely free the broad masses of workers and peasants from the chains of the centuries-old exploiting system, and remove class distinctions and bring welfare and progress to all the people.

That was why the guerrillas led by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung made it a rule to study every day. He devoted some day and night hours every week to lecturing before his men. He gave lectures in most cases in person and at times through instructors he had brought up.

The guerrillas were first taught to read and write the mother tongue, which was essential for other lessons.

They were also taught Korean history, culture, geography and the like and especially the subjects helpful to the promotion of political attainments.

The important subject was the study of the line and policies of the Korean revolution set forth by the great leader.

In order to realize the legitimate aspiration for the building of a new socialist Korea where power would be really placed in the hands of the people, it was imperative to train the revolution-makers so that they could discharge their heavy complex

duty. As Comrade Kim Il Sung stressed time and again, that problem could be solved only through study.

The great leader said: "...The masters of the revolution and the work of construction are the masses of the people and ...they are also the motive force of the revolution and the work of construction." According to the Juche idea the master of revolution in each country is its own people. The people in each country should be fully responsible for the revolution of their own country and settle all problems arising in the revolution and construction by their own efforts to suit their own interests and the reality of their own country.

The guerrillas, aware of the weighty significance of study, often declined rest to attend Comrade Commander's lectures even when they were exhausted from battle and suffered from the lack of shelter and food. In this course they gradually acquired the new revolutionary way of thinking, effective and responsible, befitting to the gallant guerrillas who are fighting for national independence at the cost of their lives.

It was all the more necessary to give education in this way when Japanese colonial oppression virtually ruled out the chance of learning for the Korean people. The children of the colonialist-patronized rich people alone had access to a few authorized educational establishments where only the Japanese language, history, culture and politics were taught. In other words, these lessons were aimed to stifle the national consciousness of the Korean people.

The educational program drawn up by Comrade Kim Il Sung was carried out under very difficult conditions. There were no proper classrooms. Most lessons were given in the open air, in the forest. During lessons sentries had to be posted to watch the possible attack of the Japanese troops. At times lessons were given in a cavern, log cabin and the like.

Pencils, textbooks and paper were in short supply. In case guerrillas got a pencil they set store by it, using it by turns. The same went with paper. At times they seized it from the enemy in a raid upon him. But in most cases they wrote with char-

coal on the bark instead of paper. Books which were in short supply were set store by like weapons and ammo and went round from hand to hand for reading.

Most of the guerrillas had been peasants and workers who were denied the chance of learning. Some were keen only on marksmanship and thought that study was a mere waste of time for them.

Such was the case with young recruit Pak Chang Sun who had been a peasant prior to joining the guerrillas. He was good at fighting and shooting. Having hailed from a poor peasant family, he as well as his parents did not know how to read and write. They had been condemned to drudgery in poverty under the persecution and exploitation by the Japanese authorities and big landlords who worked them hard like slaves or serfs. That was why the recruit thought study was out of the question for him and regarded it as a mere waste of time.

One day Comrade Kim Il Sung, getting wind of this, called him and had a talk with him. Learning that the recruit shirked lessons and study, he inquired into his family situation.

He answered, his face flushing with shame.

"Comrade Commander, I am a blockhead and so cannot learn how to write letters. Even so, during the hours for learning letters, I can train myself in shooting, so that I can kill as many Japanese aggressors as possible, for I think I am better fitted for that job."

Comrade Kim Il Sung sunk in thought for a while. Then he pointed to a tree growing near by and asked the soldier.

"What do you think this tree is fit for?"

He knew all about the trees growing in Korea, as he grew up in the countryside and followed the plow like his parents and grandparents. He was well aware of the characteristics of each tree.

"I think it good for the handle for an ax," was his quick answer.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, wearing a bright smile, patted him on the back and said:

"You are right. It is fit for the handle of an ax.... The same applies to the revolution. One who does not know what is needed where, or how it should be used, cannot achieve a revolution. And now, one who hasn't studied cannot tell which tree is fit for the helve of an ax. As for finishing off as many Japanese imperialists as possible, you can't do that if you know nothing. With a rifle alone you cannot beat the enemy."

In this way Comrade Kim Il Sung gave him an invaluable teaching, awakening him to the need to learn by letting him exercise his own intellectual faculty. Strongly impressed by these words, the awakened soldier, with a renewed resolve, came back to his company and informed his comrades of what the leader had told him and of the simple yet clearcut teaching of his he had received in a short talk.

Other guerrillas who had been reluctant to study, too, came to know this inspiring teaching of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung. From that very day he and his comrades rectified their attitude and began to study hard. Soon they mastered reading and writing in the mother tongue and became able to grasp the socio-political problems of the country and find their positive solution on the basis of the Juche-oriented revolutionary world outlook.

Quite a few recruits who had been workers and peasants prior to joining the anti-Japanese guerrilla unit were adverse to study like Pak Chang Sun. But since he confessed his wrong attitude before them and explained the truth told by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung, they too felt an urge to learn and got down to their studies in good earnest, achieving remarkable results.

Thus zeal for study prevailed among all the guerrillas who followed the line of the young leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. Though their time was largely taken up by the fierce battle against the Japanese troops and even in case they had to suffer from hunger and cold in severe winter they regarded it as their main duty to observe their study schedule, devote their efforts to the study of the teachings of Comrade Commander

Kim Il Sung who did not spare his precious time in furthering his men's education and training.

But not all the guerrillas were zealous in study. Their history of heroic struggle has a story about a young soldier who joined the guerrilla unit with a burning resolve to make for people's liberation from the harsh oppression of the Japanese colonialists. He was a poor worker's son and his family, subjected to all kinds of persecution, suffered from poverty and diseases. So he was keen only on shooting practice and tactical training to kill as many enemies as possible.

But he did not give the least thought to studies.

His comrades explained to him that study was part of guerrilla activity because in order to make a genuine revolution to build a country where all people would be provided with freedom and justice it was necessary to acquire new knowledge and political principles.

But he would declare: "Never mind. Though I'm poor in learning, I'll not fall behind any of you when it comes to killing Japanese aggressors."

His case came to the knowledge of Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung. Officers told him that though they had tried every means to persuade that young, gallant and honest soldier to attend the lessons assiduously, it was of no avail.

Comrade Commander addressed him a letter containing an urgent task for him to do within a set time and instructed the orderly to tell all the others beforehand not to read the letter for him. Presently the letter was conveyed to the comrade in question. He asked the orderly what was written there. "This is a letter sent to you by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung." This was his reply and he disappeared quickly.

Nonplused, the soldier stood with his eyes riveted to the letter in his hand, not knowing what to do. Looking at the address on the envelope he could not make out even his name.

After some hesitation he went to his companions and asked them to read it. But none offered to read it for him on the pretext of an urgent matter.

Then he went about his company and asked everyone to read it. But he could not get help from any one. So he went to other companies of the regiment. But none would read it, for they had been instructed by Comrade Commander Kim Il Sung not to.

The soldier got uneasy, not knowing what Comrade Commander had written to him. At last, getting weary, he approached Comrade Kim Il Sung and said:

"Comrade Commander, I can't make out what is written in the letter.... But no one is willing to read this letter for me. So I have brought it to you...."

The leader took that letter and read aloud its content for him. It contained instructions for an urgent task for him to do, but the time indicated had already passed.

He was filled with remorse, realizing he had failed to carry out the order because he had not learned to read. Then Comrade Commander told him to take a seat and showed fatherly concern, saying in a soft voice:

"If you should be sent behind the enemy lines and receive from your commander a letter which you cannot read, and accordingly be unable to carry out at once the task indicated there, what do you think would happen? There is no doubt such a grave failure would do damage to the cause of the revolution.

"We have an important duty on our shoulders. I mean the sublime duty of accomplishing the revolution by overthrowing Japanese imperialism and liberating our fatherland as quickly as possible. If we remain ignorant of Marxism-Leninism and consequently fail to educate the masses and to lead them to rise in the struggle, how can we accomplish this revolutionary duty? That's why we have to study hard.

"Learning is the task of prime importance to us revolutionaries. No matter how difficult it is to learn how to read and write or how unfavourable the conditions for learning, we have to stick to our studies at any time and at any place."

The young soldier was deeply moved by the kind words and fatherly affection of Comrade Commander who helped him find

out his fault and indicated the right path for him to follow to become a genuine revolutionary. He repented his faults and resolved to make redoubled efforts to make good the lost time.

Thenceforth he attended lessons assiduously, reviewed them turning his spare time to good account, and soon became able to write and read and raise his political and theoretical levels.

In this way, Comrade Kim Il Sung devoted his all to the education of the guerrillas with the parental concern and affection of a teacher, sparing nothing for it. This made them get large attainments and have interest in their self-cultivation. Comrade Kim Il Sung paid great attention to the political education of the guerrillas wherever he went. This helped them fight more gallantly and heroically and prepare themselves to be equal to the heavy duties of reconstructing the country after national liberation.

Thanks to this invaluable experience gained in the protracted guerrilla struggle, the DPRK has no illiterate now and boasts the large contingent of one million intellectuals capable of carrying out the plans and programmes which have placed their nation on a very high level of socio-economic, cultural and political progress.

The zeal for study of the guerrillas who, taking arms in hands, rushed back even from a battlefield after smiting the enemy to attend lessons has been carried forward after national liberation.

After day's work all farmers, men and women, young and old, gather at their study rooms to acquire the latest know-how and broaden their scientific, technical and political knowledge.

In factories and enterprises male and female workers study in the evening after work to enrich their knowledge and experience. With this knowledge and experience, they improve their living and labour conditions and serve better to carrying out the plan for turning the DPRK into a more developed socialist state which provides everyone with greater welfare and happiness.

CHILDREN ARE TREASURE FOR REVOLUTION

Special care and parental solicitude of Marshal Kim Il Sung for children command the attention of visitors to the DPRK. They call him "great leader, our father" of their own accord, and cling to him, overjoyed, when they meet him. In his turn, he puts aside every other work, even an urgent issue, if it is for the children. He sees that the state and the Party pay primary attention to the children.

In the DPRK every best thing—room, classroom, cloth, shoes and others—goes first to children.

Marshal Kim Il Sung said:

"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."

He holds fast to this stand not merely because he is the head of the state and the supreme leader of the nation. In fact, it stems from the firm conviction of the great leader. From the grim days of the revolutionary struggle when he, as a young leader, rallied workers and peasants and fought the Japanese imperialist forces which occupied his country, he put forward the principle of giving priority to children's security and welfare and put it into effect.

Anti-Japanese veterans who fought the colonialist troops, braving all hardships in forests and mountains, illustrate Marshal Kim Il Sung's warm care for children with ample facts. Meanwhile, elder people who narrowly survived sufferings, hunger, poverty and the persecution and exploitation of the Japanese colonialists recall with emotion many events

in which he, the then young commander of the guerrillas, did not spare time, efforts and means to take care of children, remove their difficulties and meet their demands.

Here is an instance. There lived many children in the areas liberated from Japanese imperialist rule by the valiant guerrillas led by Marshal Kim Il Sung. They were orphans and most of them had no relatives to rely on. If they had not been embraced in this bosom of the young commander of the guerrillas, if they had not been given shelter and education by him and if their lives had not been protected by him, they would have died of hunger, cold or disease. Or they would have fallen a prey to the brutality of Japanese soldiers.

At that time Marshal Kim Il Sung was taking upon himself the burden of the arduous war. Flurried by the gallantry of the guerrillas led by him, the ever-victorious commander of the people's liberation army, the Japanese aggressors mobilized their well-equipped troops, hundreds of thousands strong. In their effort to find out his whereabouts, the Japanese troops dispersed in all directions and even crept into deep mountains. They attempted to remove all the possibility of victory of the struggle for Korea's independence by "wiping out" his headquarters. But it was a miscalculation.

Though busy working out strategic plans for dealing crushing blows at the enemy and taking measures for the procurement of weapons, ammo, clothes and provisions for the guerrillas, sitting up till late at night, Marshal Kim Il Sung always found time to take care of many children of those who had fallen in fighting or been mercilessly murdered by the Japanese occupationists.

It happened when they were camping in the valley of Lishukou. Marshal Kim Il Sung had to repulse the surprise attack of the Japanese troops. A fierce battle was fought.

Young Comrade Commander showed the talent of a brilliant strategist in countering the enemy's attack. Trapped by his tactics, the enemy suffered an ignominious defeat.

In the battle the Japanese troops suffered heavy casualties.

The guerrillas captured a lot of weapons and ammo, and the people became ever more convinced that he would surely achieve national independence.

The battle was fought at night. When the enemy started taking to his heels and the situation was improved, he rushed to the children's dormitory which was located near the battle site. He asked the person in charge of the children if anyone was wounded by stray bullets. The latter replied that they were all safe and none was injured.

Marshal Kim Il Sung continued to ask: **"Were not the children scared? Was there any damage to the dormitory?"** Assuring him there was nothing to worry about, he replied: "They were not frightened, Comrade Commander. No damage to the dormitory. They are all safe and sound asleep."

But the young Comrade Commander was still uneasy. In face of the enemy's surprise attack he had failed to take precautions for the children prior to the action. He asked again, if there were any children who were ill, if they had supper, if there were any difficulties.

The reply was that all were healthy, took good supper and went to bed.

Marshal Kim Il Sung entered the bedrooms and carefully looked at sleeping children, covering some of them with quilts which were removed in their sleep. He was merciless to the enemy, but his eyes were full of warm tenderness, seeing the orphaned children in sound sleep.

Peasants in the neighbourhood and guerrillas under the command of General Kim Il Sung were all moved by his care and solicitude for the children. He was not their relative and might have been a stranger to some of their parents. Nonetheless, he showered them with parental affection and spared nothing for them, while skipping meals and having no thick clothes on himself in the bitter cold of winter.

Ever since Marshal Kim Il Sung fought the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, he taught that the future of the country depended on children and that the arduous revolu-

tionary struggle was fought for their sake, for building a new country, a great and free new Korea where all the people, the poor and the weak including orphans, could lead a happy, abundant life.

That is why the great leader is holding fast to the line of giving primary attention to the children, the rising generation even now thirty years after he fought the protracted anti-Japanese struggle attended with indescribable dangers and hardships.

It is for the children that best buildings have been built and the universal eleven-year free compulsory education, the most advanced and perfect educational system in the world, introduced.

Today a large contingent of children, merry, happy, healthy, well-clad and well-fed, are growing to be able and reliable pillars of a highly advanced socialist society, enjoying all conditions necessary for their physical and mental training, everywhere in Korea from big cities to the out-of-the-way villages.

They call Marshal Kim Il Sung "father" and sing of his warm favors. They represent the future of free, sovereign and independent Korea. They will advance towards happiness and progress, never giving in to any enemy and without envying anyone in the world.

ALWAYS AMONG THE PEOPLE

Keeping constant and direct ties with the people is a conspicuous feature of the socialist government system set up by Marshal Kim Il Sung in the DPRK. The great leader holds fast to the basic principle that in the revolutionary struggle the leading personnel should be invariably among the people anytime and anyplace.

This principle underlying the whole government activities has been firmly established by Marshal Kim Il Sung, the great Head of State of Korea in the course of his practical struggle over scores of years.

When the young Commander of the Guerrilla Army, now the President of the DPRK, organized and led the arduous struggle against Japanese imperialist rule, he had already got a deep grasp of the feelings, ideas, demands, troubles and aspiration of the popular masses.

Whenever General Kim Il Sung visited the poverty-stricken rural villages subjected to the harsh slavish exploitation by the Japanese colonialist authorities, he kindly helped the poor villagers who had no land to farm and no means to support themselves with, talking frankly and sharing bitters and sweets with them like their flesh and blood.

Veteran fighters of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army and old peasants who personally met Marshal Kim Il Sung at that time look back with deep emotion on the event that happened in late October 1936 when the guerrillas were staying around Chihyangchiai, Shihchiutaokou, Changpai County. Though extremely exhausted, they, as usual, kept themselves alert as the Japanese troops were tightening their encirclement.

The guerrillas were hard pressed for provisions. General Kim Il Sung greatly concerned himself with his men who were eating grass roots and tree bark in the arduous march and fighting fierce battles for days on empty stomachs. He shared hardships and sufferings with them and at times dealt out his small share of food to those who were in poor health and exhausted.

In order to relieve his gallant fighters from hunger and fatigue, General Kim Il Sung sent two soldiers to a near village Yuehshuitung to procure radish leaves and cabbage for soup.

The villagers who revered General Kim Il Sung and spared nothing in helping him willingly came out to assist the guerrillas by contributing their mite. They were well aware

that their assistance in General Kim Il Sung's guerrillas accorded with their own interests. Because they found in the guerrillas' struggle and fighting spirit the only way to liberate themselves from the harsh persecution and exploitation of the colonialist authorities and army.

That was why a villager brought his ox for the soldiers.

The two soldiers were surprised by the sudden offer. There General Kim Il Sung's words crossed their mind that they should not accept any goods or food from the people without paying for them, much less violate their interests in any case. Comrade Commander said:

"It is in behalf of the people that we fight the enemy while eating grass roots and tree bark and suffering all kinds of hardships and it is out of our love for the people that we spare them the least troubles, while suffering from hunger ourselves."

So, the soldiers declined the affectionate gift offered by the poor peasant. Now the peasant together with other villagers entreated them to accept the offer, reasoning that the guerrillas should build up strength to win back the country and free them from the inhuman exploitation of the foreign aggressors.

The soldiers were finally persuaded into accepting the ox and led it to the camp. At the sight of the ox, the guerrillas in the camp were delighted with the expectation of a tasty dish made with beef they had not had for long. They set to prepare the meal. Cooking personnel started sharpening knives and boiling water. General Kim Il Sung appeared on the scene.

After receiving a report on the happening, he was lost in thought for a while, reading his men's impatient expectations and feelings. He touched the fat back of the ox, and then looking round his men, said in a gentle voice:

"Stop preparing the meal.

"Let us return the ox to its owner.... The reason why I propose this is not because I do not understand the villagers'

sincerity but because I consider that to hand it back to the owner conforms to the mission of our troops who love the people and fight for them...."

He stopped talking for a while. Looking round his men, he told them that they should give much heed to the people's situation and interests to respond to their sincerity. He went on to say:

"I have no word to appreciate the boundless sincerity of Yuehshuitung people who offered their only ox. All I can say is 'Thank you'.

"I fully understand the feelings of those comrades who brought the ox. The people persuaded them into accepting it.

"If our men had firmly declined, the people surely would have sent us the ox by all means since they knew our situation.

"The people are so attached to us and helping us guerrillas with all sincerity, sparing nothing for us.

"Yet I say the ox should be returned to the villagers because the ox is the fruit of their love and has their living of tomorrow staked on it....

"Probably you can see well how affectionately the owner has bred this ox. Look at the nose ring, bell and coins attached to the headstall. The bell must be a precious one handed down in the family from generation to generation. And the coins may have been brought by the grandmother in her purse when she got married into the family, and carefully kept by her until she died. Mothers in our country have shown their love for oxen in such a manner...."

The General continued:

"Another reason why we should give it back is that the livelihood of not only the owner but also Yuehshuitung villagers depends on the ox.

"Perhaps it is the sole property of the breeder. There must be only a few oxen in the village. That ox must be indispensable for farm work for all the peasants of Yuehshuitung. What will happen, if we don't consider their real situation,

but accept the offer simply because of a gift presented by the people with best wishes, and slaughter it?

"From the next day on, the Yuehshitung villagers as well as the owner will have to do the work that has been done by that ox. They will have to carry on their back what the ox carried. They will have to plough with spades and hoes the farm land that has been tilled by that ox. That will certainly be a big burden for the peasants. In other words, to accept their sincerity will add to their hardships and make their living much harder."

These words of the General strongly moved the soldiers. The two men apologized to him for their mistake, with tears in their eyes. And they returned the ox to its owner. At this the villagers were struck with admiration for the parental solicitude of General Kim Il Sung who was more concerned about the interests of several poor peasants than the hunger and fatigue of his men.

From the period of the arduous guerrilla struggle Marshal Kim Il Sung taught his men and the rural people that man is most precious in the world and, accordingly, the rights and demand of the people should be placed before anything else.

He used to contact with the popular masses, ordinary people in the villages where he happened to stay between the arduous battles fought against the Japanese troops. More, he went into the midst of them to appreciate their feelings, listen to their voices and share their sufferings.

Now leading the DPRK to the world-startling goal of developing its industry and agriculture at highest tempo of growth and providing all of its people with an abundant and happy life, Marshal Kim Il Sung is working hard to bring greater welfare and happiness to his people in town and country, not mindful of his own pains and fatigue. So he is not only a great leader but a beloved father to the people.

BROAD BOSOM

Those who get used to ambition, arrogance and luxury common to the rulers in the capitalist world will be struck with admiration by the private life of Marshal Kim Il Sung, President of the DPRK. The great leader of the entire Korean people is living a frugal life like his people. He is a simple ordinary man alien to luxury and extravagance which are supposed to be inherent in the life of the rulers of other countries.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, President and Marshal, leads the same life with the citizens of his country. His virtue affords an example of sincerity, integrity, modesty and simplicity. In the past he shared pains and sufferings with his people under Japanese imperialist rule, fought the arduous war together with his people against the military invasion of the US imperialists, and worked hard together with his people to rehabilitate the war-ravaged economy. And now he is leading a mediocre and frugal life, along with his people.

Marshal Kim Il Sung respects and cares for his people of all walks of life. This noble character of his was manifested even in the critical situation and moments. He told the guerrillas and villagers that they should always be sincere, honest and simple. Because abuse of authority, excessive luxury and dissipation would lead to corruption and degradation and eventually to ruin.

It happened in early 1936 when the headquarters where Marshal Kim Il Sung was moved to Tunhua from Emu County. The guerrillas who stood guard at that time saw a horse-drawn sleigh coming at a great speed under convoy of some ten armed men. Its rider was a woman finely dressed and with a fur muffler round her neck. Even a brief glance showed that she was the wife of a high-ranking official.

Korean sentries challenged them in Chinese: "Who go there?"

Taken aback by the unexpected shouts, the convoy took to their heels, deserting the woman. Two of them were caught and the rest fled away.

Sentries approached the sleigh. Its rider was found to be the wife of a regimental commander of the puppet Manchukuo Army in the service of Japanese colonial rule. Her husband too was engaged in the persecution and slaughter of the Korean guerrillas, branding them as "bandits."

The two captured soldiers and the woman who were terror-stricken were shown over to General Kim Il Sung's room. Seeing that they were gripped by fear, the young Commander wore a kind smile on his face to calm them down, and invited them to come near the stove and warm themselves at the fire as the weather was cold.

But still traces of fear were to be seen on their faces. They were trembling in trepidation. The General gently addressed them in a quiet voice, showing magnanimity.

As they noticeably calmed down, General Kim Il Sung asked them about their life and family. Then he told them that both Koreans and Chinese were groaning under the heels of the Japanese imperialists and that they, therefore, should unite and pool their efforts instead of keeping away from each other since their goal was common.

Realizing that no one was going to do harm to her, she felt relieved and gave a trustful ear to his words. The General said:

"Your husband is a regimental commander of the 'National Army of Manchukuo,' and I do not understand why he should seek to fight against us and why he should act as a cat's-paw of Japanese imperialism.

"I feel great pity for your husband who is following the road of betraying his country and nation."

At this she blushed for shame. She told him with sincerity

that now she came to know what a wrong path her husband was following and that it was no more than a slander to label the Korean guerrillas as "bandits."

She went on to say: "General Kim Il Sung, this is my first meeting with you, and your words bring me the poignant realization what a sinful path we are following. I do not know how to repay you for the favour you have granted us!"

She resumed her composure and showed no sign of fear. The General told his men to get the sleigh ready for a journey and release the woman together with the two soldiers. So far they had thought they were lost. Now relieved, they were so obliged that they did not know what to do.

Back home she told her husband all that had happened. She said that the rumour of the Korean guerrillas being "bandits" was false, that they were gallant men fighting for the freedom of their people and that they were honest-minded and polite.

She added that General Kim Il Sung was a great man deserving respect and reverence for his gallantry and magnanimity and that guerrillas had done no harm to her nor robbed her but let her go back safe though the puppet Manchukuo Army soldiers had fled, deserting her.

General Kim Il Sung taught the guerrillas that a revolutionary should always make an upright and magnanimous attitude the criterion telling him from others and that only then he would command respect and support in his cause and struggle.

As the news spread in the neighbourhood Koreans and Chinese expressed their great admiration for the personality of the young General and came to look up to him with boundless respect.

The authority and prestige of Marshal Kim Il Sung mounted higher for his wholehearted and devoted service to the people from the time of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

That is why the people have fought, wholly entrusting their lot to their extremely great and respected and beloved leader, and take boundless pride in having him as their great leader who is working hard today too for their happiness.

GREAT REVOLUTIONARY TRADITIONS

Muhammad al Missouri

Reporter of the Syrian
Broadcasting Station

FISH CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT WATER

The anti-Japanese armed struggle was a harsh struggle against the Japanese imperialist bandits armed to the teeth, under the condition where it had no state rear and support of a regular army at all.

President Kim Il Sung put forward the famous slogan **"As fish cannot live without water, so the guerrillas cannot live without the people"** and educated the men of the AJGA in such a way that they defended the interests of the people at any time and in any circumstances and sincerely helped them in their lives. That is why they received active support from the masses of the people.

As Comrade Kim Il Sung pointed out, the Japanese imperialists' failure to put down the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army despite of their huge armed forces was simply due to the fact that the guerrillas had a correct viewpoint on the masses and enjoyed their support.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great revolutionary leader, thoroughly defended the people's interests in any situation and did all he could to alleviate their sufferings, regarding them as his own.

Throughout the long-drawn anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, he set an example in loving and serving the people and educated the guerrillas in this spirit.

It happened in one winter when the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was out by the Tuman-gang River, commanding his unit.

At that time, he stayed at the house of an old man. Every morning he would get up earlier than the old man and clean the inside and outside of the house. Then he would go to the

Tuman-gang River with an axe, make a hole in the ice and carry water to fill a kitchen pot.

One morning, while breaking ice with the axe, he got the helve of the axe broken and the tool sank into the hole. He enlarged the hole and searched for the axe over the river-bed with a long stick with a hook tied to its end, but could not easily find it out because the water was deep. As there was no help for it, he liberally paid for it to the old man and begged his pardon more than once.

The old man declined the money, saying that he was heartily ashamed for having made the General suffer trouble in the cold for such a trivial thing as an axe, although he had fetched water for him in early morning every day.

The old man declined the money resolutely, but the great leader induced him to receive it at last.

So many years had elapsed since the liberation of the country, but he still remembered it. Some years ago when the team for the inspection of the old battle sites and historic places of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was to take its departure, he told it to visit the old man and once again apologize to him in his stead.

The men of the AJGA educated and trained by the great leader thought of the lives and property of the people first even in the thick of battles; if there was possible danger to them, they allured the enemy elsewhere at the risk of their lives.

They fought in the unshakable creed that they should live to be loved by the people and die for their sake.

The Korean people more deeply revered and infinitely admired Comrade Kim Il Sung as the sun of the nation and the great leader of the revolution. They regarded the guerrillas who fought for the restoration of the fatherland and the freedom and liberation of the people as their kins, rendered them material and spiritual assistance and creditably fulfilled the tasks of liaison and reconnaissance at the risk of their lives in the fascist oppression by Japanese imperialism.

Indeed, no bayonet and no force on earth could break the

ties of kinship established between the revolutionary army and the people during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The victory of the anti-Japanese guerrillas in the 15-year-long struggle without the state rear and the support of any regular army was attributable to the fact that they fought for the sake of the people and received their energetic support and protection.

The experience of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle with the richest content of the national-liberation movement confirms the correctness of the great leader President Kim Il Sung's idea that no revolutionary movement divorced from the masses of the people can survive or win victory.

The valuable experience of kindred relations between the revolutionary army and the people gained in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle waged under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung will inspire the freedom fighters to unite themselves with the people for ever and make their hearts throb violently.

GREAT REVOLUTIONARY TRADITIONS

Great traditions are created only by a great leader.

The anti-Japanese national-liberation struggle of the Korean people was an arduous one from the beginning. The Japanese imperialists barbarously repressed the Korean people from the first days of their occupation of Korea.

Blood flowed everywhere. Korea was turned into a big prison.

Scared at the brutal suppression by Japanese imperialism, the self-styled patriots slid into the road of giving up the revolution.

At such a time when Korea was undergoing trying ordeals, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, who had a piercing

vision to detect a light shining in faraway shores even through a raging storm, and exceptional courage, was firmly determined to devote his all to the struggle for the fatherland and nation and conquer even the angry ocean waves if it was for their salvation.

He always thought of the future of the liberated fatherland even while commanding thousands, tens of thousands of battles against the vicious enemy in the thick forests or in wide plains for 15 long years, and visualized the world where the people were the master even while fighting severe battles to repulse a cloud of enemy troops and struggling through terrible blizzards.

The great leader who had an ardent love for the fatherland and the people beat down the large force of the enemy, covering tens of thousands of *ri* of flaming battlefields, and brought about the victory of the revolution.

The 15 years of the anti-Japanese armed struggle showed that General Kim Il Sung was the only legendary hero for all ages in the world who, with a brilliant foresight and indomitable fighting spirit, performed great revolutionary achievements.

Already in his twenties he created new guerrilla tactics and strategy which are hardly found in any books of strategy and military science in all ages and countries and which excel any military theories and war experiences accumulated through human history of several thousand years and applied them in practice. This resulted in routing and smashing the enemy everywhere.

So, the Japanese warlords even cried, "The communist troops' strategy and tactics would make even the gods weep. They fight with 'tactics' to be found in none of the books on strategy and tactics. They are the hardest foes to deal with because their tactics outmatch the regular operations of the Imperial Army."

The ingenious and original tactics of President Kim Il Sung spelt horrible fear and despair to the enemies, putting them in

great disorder. But they gave the people greater pride, self-confidence, faith and courage and yielded mythological legends.

The people had infinite respect and adoration for him, telling innumerable legendary tales such as, "General Kim Il Sung knows the profound secrets of Nature," "General Kim Il Sung has command of the art of land contraction," "General Kim Il Sung crosses mountains at a bound and attacks the enemy in east and west at the same time," and "General Kim Il Sung is a famous general born of Heaven."

The following legend is spread still today among the Korean people: he beat the enemy at will like the generals in the ancient mythologies, soaring into the sky or sinking into the earth to vanish or changing himself into trees or rocks when the enemy is close at his heel.

It happened in Shuangshantzu in 1938.

The Japanese imperialist aggressor army besieged the main unit of the KPRA at a place where three sides were surrounded by hillocks and there was a steep cliff at the back. They bragged that they would "annihilate" it there.

But, the next morning when they awoke, there was not a single man of the KPRA.

The Japanese imperialist army and police, looking at each other, gave a despairing cry: "Where have they gone, up into sky or down in earth?"

Here is another story.

The Japanese punitive force was once informed that the KPRA was camping at a place. The enemy then cast a strong encircling net in that area and bore down upon the KPRA. But there was no trace of the KPRA. The enemy could find nothing but thick trees and rocks.

The Japanese imperialists could not but draw up their net, when all of a sudden General Kim Il Sung appeared from nowhere and raised his hand to make so many trees and rocks scattered in the gorge men and officers of the KPRA and mow down the enemy.

This may be a legend reflecting his resourceful tactics of

ambush whereby he got his men thoroughly camouflaged and concealed and ordered them to rise up like the air when the enemies appeared and smash them in a twinkling.

Commenting on their defeats in the Battles of Tamalukou and Hungchiho in March 1940, even *Keiyu*, a confidential magazine of the Japanese imperialists, wrote as follows:

"What went wrong? That Commander Maeda, a veteran in punitive operations, a prince of the punitive operation, who had never before been taken in by such a trick, should unexpectedly fall into such a trap may place him somewhat open to censure. But, after all, we can find no other words than the 'finger of God' to account for this."

General Kim Il Sung had so great power of attacking the enemy with perfect freedom that the Japanese troops and policemen were terror-stricken and out of their wits before him. They trembled at hearing even his name.

Indeed, Comrade Kim Il Sung is a legendary hero who gives rise to legends far surpassing the ancient mythology by his ingenious tactics, bold operations and military actions which are beyond human imagination.

As they were led by such a legendary hero as the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the Korean people could emerge victorious in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The historic victory of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was the victory of his great Juche idea and of his brilliant military thought and strategy and tactics based on it.

A great struggle builds up a great revolutionary tradition.

A revolutionary tradition is not a mere summing up of historical heritages.

Only those heritages that are worthy of the root of the revolution, its flesh and blood, the source of great strength and of priceless wealth can become the revolutionary traditions to be inherited by the people through generations.

Such revolutionary traditions cannot be created by anybody. They are created only by a great leader who blazes the trail of the revolution, with a great revolutionary thinking,

superb leadership art and high virtue combined in him.

In Korea, such revolutionary traditions were built up by Comrade Kim Il Sung who emerged as the leader of the revolution to meet the ardent desire of the times and the people and led the revolution to victory.

Comrade Kim Il Sung created the revolutionary traditions in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, with his revolutionary family as their historical foundations.

In the revolutionary traditions established by him, the ideological system of Juche occupies an important place.

The quintessence of this ideological system is the great Juche idea, and its main contents are: the anti-imperialist revolutionary idea marked by an uncompromising struggle against imperialism and class enemies; a firm conviction of victory and indomitable fighting spirit; socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism; principled unity and revolutionary comradeship; and other lofty revolutionary ideas and revolutionary spirits.

In the revolutionary traditions created by President Kim Il Sung, an important place is also held by the noble revolutionary achievements and rich and many-sided experience in struggle.

Included here are the precious achievements and experience in the laying of organizational and ideological basis for the founding of a Party and its work, the establishment of people's power, the formation of mass organizations, creation of a revolutionary armed force and military activity, and the formation of anti-Japanese national united front and international anti-imperialist joint action.

Basing himself on the revolutionary viewpoint on the masses, he firmly built up a revolutionary tradition of revolutionary work method and popular style of work which are characterized by full reliance on the popular masses and the loyal service to them.

These brilliant revolutionary traditions have unusually great influence and great significance, because they were created

by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who commands an absolute respect of the people, because they were established in the flames of the harsh revolutionary struggle that won the admiration of the world, and because they are rich and profound in content and cover all problems arising in the contemporary revolutionary practices.

Thanks to these brilliant revolutionary traditions, the Korean people did not waver in so complicated and disorderly situation after liberation and could advance steadfastly along the correct road of the revolution, and win a great victory in all fields of the revolution and construction in so short a historical period.

It is precisely for this reason that Comrade Kim Il Sung has become the great leader whom the Korean people are so immeasurably proud of.

He has also become an outstanding global leader revered by the people of the world, because he lit the torchlight of the first colonial national-liberation war to illuminate the road before hundreds of millions of the people of the world when they were shackled to the fetters of imperialism and colonialism.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle of the Korean people proved the correctness and invincible vitality of great Kimilsungism.

It established the truth that one is the master of one's own destiny and has also the capacity for moulding it; it showed that the most correct stand to be maintained in the revolutionary struggle is that one should solve all problems with one's own effort according to the actual conditions of one's country.

It also demonstrated the correctness and vitality of the theory of Kimilsungism on the colonial national-liberation struggle.

The Korean people's anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle is, indeed, a great struggle that marked the beginning of a new epoch in the national-liberation struggle of the oppressed peoples of the world and serves as a shining example of the struggle for freedom and liberation.

FACTORS OF VICTORY

Ross Masood Hussein

Pakistan

The march of history has thrown up many a great leader renowned for his revolutionary exploits, but as many people see it in no age and in no country all the wide-world over has there been a national hero comparable to Korea's General Kim Il Sung. Few have ever called upon to wage so arduous and protracted a revolutionary campaign in the grim conditions then prevailing in Korea as the heroic anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by General Kim Il Sung. In the history of international revolutionary movements, this was probably one of the most complicated and difficult. The 5,000 years of Korean history had never seen the likes of such a magnificent struggle. And yet, under the brilliant leadership of General Kim Il Sung—the undisputed leader of the Korean people, the peerless patriot, the national hero, the ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and one of the outstanding leaders of the international communist and working class movement—this struggle had triumphed over the impregnable imperial army of Japan and had resulted in a great and glorious victory. Korea had become free, the nation had been wrested from the clutches of the usurpers and had once again been restored to the rightful ownership of the Korean people. In modern history no people had borne so bravely the tragic sufferings and ordeals as the Korean people, who had now ended the thirty-six years of the dark Japanese imperialist colonial rule. A new era had dawned. It had been a glorious struggle and an even more glorious victory for the Korean people fighting under the command of General Kim Il Sung—a victory for which General Kim Il Sung is forever enshrined in the hearts of his people.

For fifteen long years, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army led by General Kim Il Sung had fought and repeatedly attacked the Japanese army of occupation and had finally succeeded in ridding Korea of the menace of foreign occupation. In the final stages, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army had dealt deadly and annihilating blows to the enemy, restoring

national honour and dignity, and crowning their heroic anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle with a triumph that has resounded through history. For fifteen long years, General Kim Il Sung had swooped down on the Japanese armies moving through the thick forests, the high mountains and the broad plains around Mt. Paekdu-san, and had swept the enemy hordes before him like dead leaves in the autumn. His burning love for the country and the people had led him through fire and water over a thousand *ri*, and had made it possible for him to turn the large forces of the enemy to play in his hands, and to smash them with his genius for tactics and strategy. It was also in the course of this struggle that General Kim Il Sung worked out the organizational and ideological foundations for a Marxist-Leninist Party to be set up after the liberation of Korea. He had organized the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland as a broad anti-Japanese national united front, rallying people drawn from all walks of life around the banner of the front. The intense political and military struggles of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army culminated in the great and historic victory over Japanese imperialism and the liberation of the fatherland. It is for this that his people adore him—this noble and brilliant commander sent by the heavens who had been able to conquer the rivers and move the mountains as he pleased. Neither the evil laws, nor the bloody repressions, nor even the bristling bayonets of the occupying power had been able to shut out the rays of hope for the rebirth and the salvation of the people of the land of 3,000 *ri* which shone from the leader and lit all Korea. Hailing their liberation, the entire Korean people now raised their voices in unison to shout "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" Truly, General Kim Il Sung had become the sun of the Korean nation.

Historians have attempted to analyse the factors that led to the great victory. For them, the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was not only a revolutionary struggle which delivered the Korean nation from colonial bondage but it was also a historic process that has lessons for mankind for all times to come.

General Kim Il Sung organized and led the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in those dark hours of Korean history when this small but brave nation stood alone and resolute on the crossroad of survival or extinction. Appearing as a saviour of his people, he had led a successful campaign at a time when the Korean nation, which had waged since the time of occupation a series of uninterrupted struggles against the Japanese occupiers in various forms and methods, had failed to dislodge the colonial power due to the total lack of an outstanding leadership, a proper revolutionary programme, and correct tactics and strategy. If the Korean people, under the wise leadership of General Kim Il Sung, had been able to demonstrate in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle their indomitable revolutionary mettle and restore their national honour, it was because for the first time in the history of the national liberation struggle in Korea, General Kim Il Sung had set forth the correct revolutionary line from the stand of Juche, and had thus elevated the national liberation process in Korea and the communist movement to a new, high stage. In the course of this revolutionary struggle, many noble revolutionary exploits were recorded, and a reservoir of rich and varied experience in the revolutionary movement was built up. The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was thus not only a national liberation struggle against the Japanese occupation, but also a great revolutionary movement which successfully carried out all the historic tasks set before it, namely the founding of the Marxist-Leninist Party, the formation of a broad anti-Japanese national united front on the basis of the worker-peasant alliance, the establishment of people's power, the building of the people's armed forces, and the creation of revolutionary bases.

The outstanding factor that contributed to the victory of the Korean people in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was no doubt the Korean people, fortunate in having General Kim Il Sung as the maximum leader of the revolution, rallied firmly around him as their unitary centre, struggled under his wise leadership, upholding the Juche-motivated revolutionary

lines and policies enunciated by him, and thus could attain the historic cause of national liberation. Wise leadership is provided to the movement by General Kim Il Sung.

The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was indeed the main and decisive form of the Korean national liberation process which enabled the Korean people to single-handedly overthrow the Japanese imperialist aggressors and regain their lost country. Yet, it was also many-sided political struggle which was closely linked to the struggle for the founding of a Juche-typed Party and the anti-Japanese national united front movement. It was also a struggle waged on the basis of scientific tactics and strategy that appeared for the first time in history of the national liberation struggle of the Korean people. Following the revolutionary line laid down by General Kim Il Sung on the basis of Juche, and the scientific strategy and tactics, the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was able to write such a glorious chapter in the nation's chequered history. Furthermore, the struggle reflected the unanimous aspirations of the masses of the people, including workers and peasants, and was a struggle to champion their rights and legitimate interests. The struggle was firmly rooted among the people and was waged with their positive support. In the course of the struggle were built up the glorious revolutionary traditions which are today the most precious assets of the Korean nation. The fundamental contents of the revolutionary traditions established in the fire and fury of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle are the firm unique of Juche, the sublime communist revolutionary spirit, the popular work style and the revolutionary work methods, the outstanding revolutionary exploits and the rich varied experience of revolution. It was in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle that the immortal idea of Juche and the living examples of the communist revolutionary spirit were established for the first time in Korea.

The question of establishing Juche in the revolution was one of the most important tasks faced by the Korean Com-

munists. During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the line of Juche was firmly established by General Kim Il Sung for the first time in the history of the Korean revolution. Indeed General Kim Il Sung put forth the Juche-oriented line of struggle at every stage of the development of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and personally led the Communists and the masses to their implementation, thus ensuring final victory. General Kim Il Sung insisted that every tactics and strategy—political or military—should be settled on the basis of the stand of Juche. It was his conviction that the Korean people should believe, above all, in their own strength in the revolution, do their own thinking and settle all problems arising in the Korean revolution by themselves. In pursuing the line he had to contend against manifold difficulties and obstacles, and he did so in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. He fought unyieldingly against “flunkeyism” and “great power chauvinism” at the risk of his own life and often saved the Korean revolution from disaster. Ever since his early years in the revolutionary struggle, General Kim Il Sung has consistently adhered to the firm Juche idea and the revolutionary principle of self-reliance for he believed that the masters of the Korean revolution were the Korean people themselves and that the Koreans alone could carry out the tasks of the Korean revolution.

General Kim Il Sung has said:

“It should be a fundamental principle that the problems of a country should be solved by its own people. It would be a very stupid and erroneous idea to win independence by relying on others and to live well on the favours of others. The Korean revolution must be accomplished by the efforts of the Korean people themselves, and the Korean question must be solved by the Korean people themselves.”

Thus General Kim Il Sung authored the great idea of Juche and led the Korean Communists and the masses of the people to take their national dignity and honour and glory, to fight with all their devotion for the advancement of the revolution on the road to final victory. It was on the basis of the idea of

Juche that General Kim Il Sung was able to work out original solution for the manifold problems of lines, tactics and strategy of the Korean revolution and to apply these to the concrete methods of the armed struggle. It was his firm adherence to the idea of Juche that enabled him to reject "left" and right opportunism and to design the correct path of the Korean revolution. It was because of the idea of Juche again that the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle and the Korean communist movement were able to march triumphantly forward, relying firmly on their own revolutionary forces, and the Korean Communists were able to discharge faithfully their international obligations without currying the favour of anyone.

While the general actual course of the entire struggle was an embodiment of the Juche idea, a few specific examples could be cited with advantage. On the basis of a deep analysis of the socio-economic situation and class relations in Korea General Kim Il Sung gave scientific definition to the character of the Korean revolution, and for the first time spelt out its mission and tasks. His revolutionary line, which was formulated in a general and comprehensive manner in the "Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland" and in his immortal classical work "The Tasks of the Korean Communists," was a beacon light that illumined the correct road of struggle to the Korean people. General Kim Il Sung founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army under conditions in which the Korean people lacked the bases of national armed forces and rear state areas. By establishing the organs of people's revolutionary government in liberated areas he demonstrated to the Korean people how to build up people's revolutionary power under new historical conditions, and indicated a scientific road to the founding of state power based on the new form of the participation of the working class. General Kim Il Sung also put forth for the first time in the history of Korea the unique idea of the anti-Japanese national united front and gave point, content and direction to this movement. He also laid the organizational and ideological groundwork for

the founding of a Party in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and built the mass basis on the strength of which the Party could be founded, thus providing the historical roots for the eventual establishment of this Party. It was through the precise enforcement of these original and revolutionary lines and policies that the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was able to attain final victory.

In the political field, the formation of the anti-Japanese national united front and the anti-imperialist common front is perhaps the most outstanding example of the embodiment of the Juche idea in General Kim Il Sung's strategy for the Korean revolution. The organization and the mobilization of all broad segments of anti-imperialist forces on a national and international scale led to the speedy annihilation of Japanese imperialism, and was a decisive fact that led the Korean people's anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to final victory.

General Kim Il Sung founded on May 5, 1936 the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, the first systematic organization of the anti-Japanese national united front in Korea. With the founding of this association, broad segments of anti-Japanese forces drawn from all walks of life were, under the leadership of the working class, rallied around the banner of the association and organized on a nation-wide scale. The association accelerated the process of the strengthening of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, the overall expansion and development of the armed struggle, and the preparatory work for the founding of the Communist Party. The association helped the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to build firmly its own mass foundation and to command organized and systematic support from the broad masses. This enabled the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army to rely at all times on the human, material and spiritual resources of the masses in expanding and consolidating the guerrilla bases, in supplementing and expanding the armed forces and in carrying out the military and political tasks of the revolution.

These steps regarding the formation of the anti-Japanese

national united front and the anti-imperialist common front and their successful realization brought a wide range of anti-imperialist revolutionary forces together on a national and international scale, and turned the balance of forces between the Koreans and the enemy in favour of the revolution. In particular, the anti-Japanese national united front movement and the anti-imperialist common front movement were organized under his direct leadership to carry out in a unified way a close collaboration with the anti-Japanese armed struggle so that together they became mightier and administered telling blows to Japanese imperialism, both politically and militarily, thereby hastening its ultimate downfall. In the military plane of the armed struggle itself, the idea of Juche found expression in the correct combination of the overall mission of the armed struggle with its immediate tasks in keeping with the ever-changing requirements of the revolutionary situation, and in the solution of a number of important tactical and strategic military problems such as the selection and consolidation of guerrilla bases, the selection of military staging and operation areas, the choice of the forms of guerrilla struggle, and the ways of expanding and strengthening guerrilla ranks.

Another important factor, also embodying the principle of Juche, was the unitary ideological system established by General Kim Il Sung, among the rank and file of the anti-Japanese guerrillas. This system helped to firmly ensure the unity and cohesion among the ranks, establish revolutionary discipline and lay the foundation of a bond of strong affinity between the army and the people. Throughout the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, General Kim Il Sung endeavoured constantly to organize and carry out the political work necessary to establish firmly the unitary ideological system within the guerrilla army, and to transform the guerrillas into indomitable fighters boundlessly loyal to the revolution. He put up a fighting slogan: **"Study is the principal duty of those who make revolution."**

He intensified politico-ideological education among the

members of the guerrilla army, and personally organized and guided the political study classes. He strove valiantly to make the members of the guerrilla army thorough masters of the Juche-oriented revolutionary line and the original strategy and tactics emanating from this line. He stressed the study and the creative application of Marxism-Leninism to the realities of the Korean situation. He armed them with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, a steadfast anti-imperialist stand, an uncompromising fighting spirit when faced by the enemy, a boundless loyalty to the revolution, a firm conviction in final victory and filled them with the ideas of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism. He carried out a vigorous struggle against all opposing ideas including "left" and right opportunism that were contrary to the aims and ideals of the revolution. Through popular work style and revolutionary work methods the members of the guerrilla army were trained as a voluntarily united group comprising the finest sons and daughters of the Korean people including workers and peasants who shared one ideology and one aim. As a result, an indestructible principled unity was established among the guerrillas and noble revolutionary comradeship was displayed to the full. Thus an army came into being comprising true Communist revolutionaries whose members ardently loved their fatherland, their national honour and their people and fought to make of their fatherland a socialist paradise on earth free from exploitation and oppression. The Japanese authorities in Korea dreaded this ideological unity and noble morality of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army more than anything else. It is no wonder that the Japanese authorities were known to ask themselves the question: "What provided the motive power for their orderly and dauntless actions? It must be found in something internal and spiritual."

General Kim Il Sung also established rigid revolutionary discipline in the army and the principle of affinity between the army and the people. In the matter of revolutionary discipline, the commanders and men of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army consciously observed and responded to the orders and

instructions of their Supreme Commander, General Kim Il Sung, and gave full play to the revolutionary trait of implementing them unconditionally no matter how adverse or difficult the conditions might be. Unlike the armies of imperialist countries the officers and ranks of the guerrilla army behaved like brothers towards each other because of the community of their class interests and fighting goals. Juniors as well as superiors, imbued with the close unity of one idea and one goal, shared life and death and the sweet and bitter events of their lives together. Members of the guerrilla army safeguarded their commanders at the risk of their own lives, and commanders in turn educated their men, cared kindly for them, and encouraged them with their own examples. The principled unity within the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, based on the unitary ideological system, was further guaranteed and strengthened through the medium of candid self-criticism among comrades. Thus a revolutionary trait was established in which members of the guerrilla army never overlooked the slightest defects in their normal lives or on the battlefield, and criticized each other to rectify their faults for the common cause.

Along with the establishment of rigid revolutionary discipline in the rank and file of the guerrilla army, General Kim Il Sung stressed the need of strengthening ties with the popular masses—a factor which in his view constituted the basic guarantee of attaining victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. General Kim Il Sung has said: **"As fish cannot live without water, so the guerrilla army cannot live without the people."** General Kim Il Sung educated the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army members in the spirit of always loving and caring for the people, protecting the people's interests and ceaselessly serving the people. In this matter, as in all other matters, General Kim Il Sung set many an example by himself. True to the teachings and the examples set by their leader, the members of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army never infringed upon the rights and interests of the people in whatever circumstances they were. They fought with devotion and without

hesitation for the defense of the interests of the people. Even in crucial battles, they endeavoured to lure the enemy into different directions at the risk of their own lives so as to save the people from the inevitable death, destruction and sufferings of war and brutal enemy repression. As one guerrilla member later remarked: "We fought with the conviction that while we are alive we would live in the love of the people, and if we were to die, we would die for the love of the people." It is no wonder then that in the areas where the guerrilla army operated the people regarded them as fighters not only for the independence of the fatherland but for their own freedom and liberation as well. The result of this close affinity between the army and the people could be seen in the moral and material support given by the people to the guerrillas and the successful missions of liaison, communication and reconnaissance carried out by old and young members of the population even at the risk of their lives. It has been truly said that the strong ties of affinity between the anti-Japanese guerrilla army and the popular masses, and the active support and encouragement of the masses to the Korean People's Revolutionary Army were one of the most important factors which enabled the anti-Japanese guerrilla army to win victory in the protracted armed struggle against Japanese imperialism.

To sum up, the major factor of victory is that from the early days of his revolutionary activities General Kim Il Sung showed deep interest in uniting the internal revolutionary forces. While struggling for the realization of joint action with broad segments of the anti-Japanese forces, he organized various revolutionary mass organizations in many places and carried on vigorously the anti-Japanese national united front movement. The internal forces of the revolution were formed with the anti-Japanese armed guerrillas—the leading force of the Korean revolution—as their core and the patriotic forces rallied around them. Upon the basis of these forces, he founded the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

General Kim Il Sung set forth the line of setting up guer-

rilla bases which were the centre of guerrilla activities and the strategic base for the Korean revolution. In keeping with the strategic phases of the revolutionary struggle, he set up different kinds of bases, and utilizing these, he carried on the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle forcefully and thus developed the Korean revolution vigorously. In this process, the members of the guerrilla army under his leadership acquired valuable experience. Also during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the root of people's power was laid, and the precious experience of its foundation and administration was accumulated. He rejected all kinds of rightist and "leftist" assertions with regard to the question of power, and on the basis of a scientific analysis of the character of the revolution and the balance of forces between the classes in Korea, he set forth the original line based on Juche of the people's government, and through the people's revolutionary government enforced all democratic and revolutionary policies. Thus, through the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the root of people's power was established for the first time in Korea.

The anti-Japanese guerrilla army, founded personally by General Kim Il Sung, was an armed force which aimed at the national and social liberation of the Korean working masses, and a revolutionary army which was guided by the Juche idea. He embodied thoroughly the ideas of unity between officers and men and unity between the guerrillas and the people, and put into practice the military line of arming all the people in the liberated areas with the guerrillas as the core. Many excellent military cadres were thus reared in the course of the struggle, and rich combat experience was gained. These ties of kinship with the masses of the people were the source of strength of the anti-Japanese guerrillas and a guarantee of their ultimate victory.

From the outset of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, General Kim Il Sung paid great attention to the preparatory work for the founding of a Party and fought energetically for it. He pushed ahead the struggle for the founding of a Party

combining it closely with the armed struggle. He brought up many trained and seasoned Communists of worker and peasant origin, and through the resolute struggle against factionalism and all kinds of right and "left" opportunism, he defended the unity, the cohesion and the ideological purity of the Communist nuclei groups and established the firm mass foundations for building a Party. Thus the organizational and ideological bases for founding a Juche-typed Party were truly and firmly laid.

All of these factors combined to bring victory to the protracted and arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle waged under the leadership of General Kim Il Sung. The history of revolutionary movements has rarely seen the likes of such a brilliant and magnificent struggle which marked an epoch-making turn in the development of the national liberation struggle of the Korean people and the communist movement in Korea.

APPENDIX

Reminiscences of Former Army Men, Police and Officials of Japanese Imperialism

MANGYONGDAE ON THAT DAY

Miura Masato

(Former South Pyongan Provincial
School Inspector)

Whenever I recall the Korean people's anti-Japanese armed struggle, I come to think of General Kim Il Sung, the legendary hero of the anti-Japanese war, and my mind turns to Mangyongdae where General Kim Il Sung was born and spent his childhood. For I received an unforgettable impression from my visit to it already in the 1930's when he waged an anti-Japanese armed struggle in the forests of Mt. Paekdu-san and in the fields and mountains of Manchuria, harassing the Japanese troops and police mercilessly.

I had lived in Pyongyang, Korea, for more than 30 years since the early 1910's and returned Japan after her defeat in the Second World War.

In my early days in Korea I worked as principal of the "Songdong Primary School" in Songyo-ri, Pyongyang. Later I became a "school inspector" of the South Pyongan Provincial Office and this enabled me to make comparatively free travels to different parts.

What surprised me very much at that time and is still vivid in my memory was the fact that everywhere there was no Korean who did not know the name of General Kim Il Sung and that all of them, old and young, were respecting and admiring him.

Not only that. General Kim Il Sung was widely known as

a celebrated hero even among the Japanese. To cite an instance of which I was an eyewitness, the Japanese teachers never gathered together without whispering about General Kim Il Sung who was mowing down the Japanese troops in Mt. Paekdu-san.

The Japanese who were teaching in Korea in those days were, as a matter of fact, the executors of the Japanese imperialists' educational policy of colonial enslavement, and their positions and circumstances were quite different from the Koreans'. However, they made legendary stories about General Kim Il Sung topics of their conversation and admired him as a great man. This was a real surprise to me.

One day, in the spring of 1937, I happened to meet a Japanese called Izumi (now living in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan). He was the principal of a primary school in Taedong County near Mangyongdae. In the middle of our conversation he changed the subject and asked:

"I hear there is Mangyongdae over there, the native place of that famous General, Kim Il Sung. How about going there?"

The moment I heard this, I felt an irresistible urge to see with my own eyes the very place where was born and brought up General Kim Il Sung, hitherto known as a legendary hero, the hero of the anti-Japanese war who was displaying ever-victorious bravery in the fight against the Japanese Kwantung Army. I agreed with him and left for Mangyongdae then and there.

Mangyongdae was a very beautiful place. There was a low hill covered with green pine trees. Its foot was washed by the waters of the gentle Taedong-gang River. In its bosom nestled several common Korean farm houses.

The old home of General Kim Il Sung stood in a nook of the Mangyong-bong Hill. It was a little straw-thatched house with low eaves.

We entered the brushwood gate and stepped in the yard. Nobody was in the house. The whole family seemed to have gone out on the fields. We looked into the room through an opening left by a door half ajar. Reed-mats were spread on

the floor and there was no piece of furniture to draw our attention. The front yard was fenced by a barn with some farm implements. Even a casual glance showed the vivid marks of a poverty-stricken poor peasant family.

That day we were fortunate to meet with an old man who had been living there since his birth. Knowing that we were from a government office, he was shy of us at first. But, having learned why we visited there, he told us with great pride about the family of General Kim Il Sung which we were so eager to know.

General Kim Il Sung's family was a patriotic and revolutionary family which had through generations fought for the country and people. In particular, I was greatly astonished that day to hear that the parents of General Kim Il Sung were Kim Hyong Jik and Kang Ban Sok, which left me a memory for life.

It was a very impressive moment when the great images of Kim Hyong Jik and Kang Ban Sok floated before my eyes while my heart leaped with deep emotion and surprise at the fact that they, whom I had met before, were the parents of the great hero of Korea.

One day early in 1917, during a tour of inspection to private schools through my jurisdiction as a South Pyongan Provincial "school inspector," I visited a small school in the village of Naedong, Tongsam-ri, Koup Sub-county, Kangdong County (present Ponghwa-ri, Kangdong County—*Ed.*).

The Myongsin School in Tongsam-ri (Ponghwa-ri), which one may take for a private tutorial school rather than a school, had some twenty students and was housed in an ordinary farmhouse. The great popularity teacher Kim Hyong Jik enjoyed there made me inspect the school. The villagers, too, held him in high esteem.

Wondering what the so highly respected teacher was like, I imagined him to be a man of considerable age, namely, an elder. On meeting him, I found him to be a dignified youth of 25 or 26. I was quite captivated by this young teacher with

eyes radiant with ardor, a confident way of talking and grace of somewhat great attraction. I remember I sympathized with him.

There were the voices of polite greeting heard behind me and I looked round to find a young beautiful woman standing among students, who seemed to be the wife of the young teacher. She was Kang Ban Sok, mother of the President and the young teacher was Kim Hyong Jik.

Now, recalling this in connection with the staunch revolutionary activities of the President, I feel all the more keenly that he is worthy of his parents.

By the way, in the fall of that year a great "incident" occurred in South Pyongan Province, causing a great sensation throughout the country. The police authorities of South Pyongan Province detected a secret organization called the Korean National Association, rounded up the persons concerned and brought a criminal suit against them. The leading spirit of this "incident" was none other than Kim Hyong Jik, teacher of the Myongsin School.

The news struck me with amazement. Having met Kim Hyong Jik some months before, I was aware that he was a highly respectable person with an ardent patriotic spirit. But I never imagined that he had formed so large an anti-Japanese underground revolutionary organization and was active as its guiding spirit.

Afterwards, on an official local trip I heard that the "case of the Korean National Association" had been tried in Pyongyang. I was very much disappointed at my failure to gain my desire to see Kim Hyong Jik once more even in court.

At the time of our visit to Mangyongdae the General's uncle was said to have been looking after his grand parents in his old home.

What the old man in Mangyongdae told us that day set me thinking: As he was born into a great revolutionary family and thoroughly experienced the agony of a stateless people, General Kim Il Sung at so young an age is probably able to

hold up the weapon of anti-Japanese struggle and rouse the Korean people to the sacred war for national restoration.

The Korean people, who have President Kim Il Sung, a hero for the century and most outstanding revolutionary leader, as the leader, are the happiest in the world.

I have become a member of the Japan-Korea Society out of the desire to strengthen amity and friendship with the Korean people led by so great a leader.

People say that no joy is greater than that of a historian who has found out a prehistoric relic. But I keep in my heart an incomparably great pride and joy of having visited Mangyongdae, the native place of President Kim Il Sung, already in the 1930's when the Korean people were waging their heroic anti-Japanese war.

IMPRESSIVE DAYS IN PATAOKOU

Saito Masuji

(Former Manager-director of the
"Amnokgang Forestry Stock Company")

More than fifty years have flowed since then.

He was then called Kim Song Ju, a boy of unusual intelligence and distinguished ability. In his youthhood he was called General Kim Il Sung who, as the "tiger of Mt. Paekdu-san," struck chill into the hearts of the soldiers of Japanese imperialist Kwantung Army. Today he enjoys a good reputation all over the world as the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I once lived in the locality where General Kim Il Sung resided in his early years. And one of my greatest lifetime wishes was to have his audience without fail.

After the end of the Russo-Japanese War, Japan and China jointly set up the "Amnokgang Lumbering Corporation" on a government level. In 1918, when I was 25 years old, I arrived at Antung, the place of appointment, to work as an engineer of the corporation.

I worked as a superintendent near the Amnok-gang River. In 1940 when the corporation was renamed the "Amnokgang Forestry Stock Company," I was made its manager-director. This means I lived in the eastern provinces including Antung and Changpai for about 27 years till Japan's defeat.

Of those years, the days I spent in Pataokou of Changpai

County left on me an impression which I shall never forget to the end of my life. At the time I happened to pass some three years in the village where renowned General Kim Il Sung resided in his early years together with his father, Kim Hyong Jik.

Pataokou was a small riverside town with about 70-80 households most of which were Korean. On a market day Korean hillside tillers flocked there from all places to make it somewhat flourishing.

It was in 1922 or so, I remember.

In Pataokou Kim Hyong Jik entered upon medical practice under the shingle of "Kwangje Hospital" and gave medical service to people in and around the town.

Next door to his house lived two Koreans whose surnames were also Kim. One was a dentist and the other a dry goods dealer.

Kim Hyong Jik was enjoying deep popular confidence far and wide. He was a doctor of high reputation. On top of it, he was exceptionally kind-hearted and treated needy patients free of charge. This won him unequivocal respect of the inhabitants.

Patients and guests called on Kim Hyong Jik almost every day.

Our corporation had its branch close to the "Kwangje Hospital." So whenever I had a cold fit, I would go to it and receive treatment.

The hospital was housed in a small building.

Kim Hyong Jik was well-informed, tender-hearted and sensitive, and for this he always commanded others' respect.

I often called on him, feeling an attraction to him.

I more than once saw Kim Hyong Jik, together with dentist Kim, going to a river for angling, taking his son, General Kim Il Sung, along.

In those days, though still young, General Kim Il Sung was neatly dressed and never forgot to bow to those who came to his father to seek medical assistance.

After school he often went to the Amnok-gang River in company with his friends and enjoyed swimming and rafting. He was also fond of playing at soldiers together with his friends. On those occasions he was always a commander. And this I witnessed many a time.

He also stood out at all times even among senior boys and students. People used to speak highly of him for his extraordinary and outstanding disposition.

In one winter he was not seen in his house for some time.

I thought he was on a visit to a neighbouring village. But I learned later that he had set out on a thousand-*ri*-long solitary journey for Mangyongdae in spite of cold weather in order to learn mother tongue, national history and geography in the motherland, thereby living up to the lofty intention of his father.

Around that time I once or twice saw Kim Hyong Jik talking something seriously to young General Kim Il Sung. I am now sure that he taught his son "to regain the country without fail."

In fact, Kim Hyong Jik was a man of strong patriotic spirit. I remember I felt an impression that he relentlessly drew a line between us Japanese and the Koreans while restraining a fury of passion.

Some time after Kim Hyong Jik moved to Pataokou from Linchiang, the Japanese authorities on the other side of the Amnok-gang River began to send out informations and warnings to the effect that he was "a man related to the case of the March First Uprising," "a person related to the case of the Korean National Association, a secret organization" and "a person having riotous ideas who is to be guarded against." And he was under constant police surveillance.

A certain Cho and his son who had been active under his guidance were caught by the secret agents to be killed in the end.

Some time later I heard that before Kim Hyong Jik left Pataokou he had crossed the river and gone to Popyong on business, where he had been arrested by Japanese policemen

who had rushed there on information from an agent. But he had escaped with the help of an independence fighter while being escorted. Then he had continued his revolutionary activities with Fusung and its neighbouring areas as the centre of activity.

Several years, I remember, had passed since then.

A rumour got abroad and thicker about General Kim Il Sung. Of course, at first I did not know who he was. But, a little later I learned that the man called General Kim Il Sung was the eldest son of Kim Hyong Jik who had resided in Pataokou. My astonishment at that time was beyond description.

The rumours about the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army commanded by General Kim Il Sung were spreading far and wide with each passing day.

Stories were told about an assault on the branch station of the corporation in Changpai County, the annihilation of a Japanese police force in a ravine of Shihpataokou by the elaborate ambushing operation of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army led by General Kim Il Sung, and about the crushing defeat of a police force by the encircling operations of a guerrilla unit at the end of its pursuit of this unit. Hearing these stories, I could not but think of the childhood of General Kim Il Sung.

In the corporation to which I belonged there were 300-400 workers including no small number of Koreans. One of them, a Korean, whose family name was Cho, was often having secret contacts with the AJGA. I was sure of it, but feigned complete ignorance. It was only natural for the Koreans to desire to regain the independence of their motherland. So, even though I was unable to assist them, I had no mind to stand in their way. On those occasions the figures of General Kim Il Sung in his early years and his father Kim Hyong Jik floated before my mind's eyes, inspiring me with an infinitely pure sense of justice.

Some time later I heard the story about a woman soldier of an AJGA unit personally commanded by General Kim Il Sung,

who was arrested by the Japanese police. Never daunted till the last moment of her life when she was executed, did she sing loudly a revolutionary song in a dignified manner to strike the policemen dumb. This story brought me to realize all the more keenly the greatness of General Kim Il Sung's revolutionary thought. And I was deeply convinced that no force could extinguish the strong flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

By way of conclusion, I sincerely wish a long life to General Kim Il Sung, a patriot for all ages, outstanding and brilliant military commander and the great leader of the Korean people.

GENERAL KIM IL SUNG HELD SWAY OVER JAPANESE AND MANCHURIAN TROOPS AND POLICE

Torii Zenshu

(Former Chief of Mingyuehkou
Police Station, Yenchi County,
Chientao Province, "Manchukuo")

When I think of it now, I realize how absurd I was then. Looking back to my early years when I, blindly following Japanese imperialism in its continental aggression, recklessly took part in the "punitive operations" against the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army on orders from above, I cannot but feel the sorrow of disillusion about myself.

I was enlisted in the 76th Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Army in 1930 and first saw active service in Hoeryong, Korea. Right after the occurrence of the "Manchurian Incident" I was sent to Chientao Province to be stationed at Peichakou.

We had been ordered there for the plausible reason of "protecting Japanese nationals in the upheaval." But that was, in fact, the aggressive inroad of Japanese imperialism. Still young, I did not see through the true nature of the continental aggression of Japanese imperialism, and believed in what it said.

In those days the Japanese imperialists suppressed the Korean people very cruelly. Blackmails and sanguinary murder were committed everywhere.

However, their suppression was of no avail, and more and more Koreans joined the AJGA as days went by.

It was under such circumstances that I was removed from the army and made a policeman.

At first I was placed in charge of economic affairs. Then I was to work as the chief of the police station in Mingyuehkou, Yenchi County.

Mingyuehkou was the place of the famous Mingyuehkou Meeting held in December 1931, where the legendary hero, General Kim Il Sung, put forward concrete measures for waging an anti-Japanese armed struggle in accordance with his Juche-oriented line. But I did not know that at all. As for myself, I strove hard to become "familiar" with the Koreans while faithfully doing my police duty. Of course, that was not for the Koreans. My intention was to make a cat's-paw of them in maintaining "public peace" in the district under my jurisdiction as the chief constable.

It happened around that time, in 1933 or the following year, I remember. With the AJGA's intensified activities in different parts, the reputation of General Kim Il Sung spread wide among the Japanese and Manchurian troops and policemen. Rumours were afloat that "the guerrillas were deployed all over Manchuria," and that General Kim Il Sung was "not an ordinary man," but "a highly distinguished person." When these rumours spread wider with each passing day, the Japanese military authorities were keeping a "strict watch" over the AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung, because they had realized that it was quite different from the Anti-Japanese National-Salvation Army which was a Chinese anti-Japanese nationalist unit.

From the very beginning, General Kim Il Sung won the people's deep confidence and respect to himself and struck terror and unrest into the hearts of the Japanese and Manchurian soldiers and policemen.

The Japanese military authorities then admitted that they could never shatter the prestige of General Kim Il Sung by

means of force and suppression. So they made a desperate effort to kill the growing popular confidence in him. They set up "concentration hamlets" and introduced the "Paochia (tithing) System" in an attempt to cut the ties between the AJGA and the popular masses.

They tried all means available, reinforcing the army, expanding the police setup, newly forming garrisons and "punitive forces" and what not. But the AJGA commanded by General Kim Il Sung was in full activity in the northeast regions of China and in the northern border areas of Korea, increasing its forces further.

It was not until the fall of 1934 when Laotoukou was attacked by the AJGA that I directly took part in the "punitive operations" against it. At the report of "reinforcements wanted" more than 50 men under my command rushed to the scene.

But we found there that the AJGA had already withdrawn leisurely to somewhere after its lightning attack.

We started to chase after it hurriedly. Even a plane was called out to find its traces. But its footprints vanished in the thick forest and we didn't even know in what direction it had gone.

My adjutant asked me to go deeper into the forest for a search. I refused, because it would apparently mean our complete destruction in the face of the mysterious tactics of the AJGA. Moreover, at that time I recalled the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Sukegawa, "Commander of the Independent Garrison Unit." It happened when a Japanese company was annihilated in Antu County by the unit of AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung. Bragging, "I will never fail to show an example of routing the guerrilla army," Lieutenant-Colonel Sukegawa pursued the AJGA, only to meet its counterattack and turn up his toes. At that time, he ordered, "Forward! Forward! Never retreat even one step!" One of his men, a sub-officer, opposed it. He earnestly asked him to order retreat. But Sukegawa gave no heed to it. The company had no choice but to continue to advance, with the result that most of its men

including the lieutenant-colonel were killed. Only the sub-officer and some soldiers could return with a narrow escape. But this came into question later, and the sub-officer who had insisted on retreat and returned with a bare life was courtmartialled and put to death by beheading after self-disembowelment. I was quite disgusted at the very memory.

Since I was the commander of a "punitive force" then, I turned down my adjutant's proposal on further advance into the dense forest and withdrew my unit. When I think of it now, I could escape death at that time because I withdrew my unit, rejecting my adjutant's proposal.

As can be seen, General Kim Il Sung held a complete sway over the Japanese and Manchurian troops and police by his bold, daring and multifarious tactics.

I even nourished a thought, of course, a foolish thought, that if only I could catch a man of the AJGA I would, among others, ask him without fail how General Kim Il Sung had conceived such tactics.

General Kim Il Sung, the hero of the anti-Japanese war, rose to higher note from day to day. It was around that time that we called the hero an "invisible hero."

The Japanese military authorities, who had thought it quite impossible to accomplish their purpose only by resorting to frontal attack on the AJGA, formed a "special investigation group," which tried to force the grandmother of General Kim Il Sung to "make him submit." But this, too, was of no use.

General Kim Il Sung proved himself to be distinguished not in military strategy alone. As I could see it in the old site of a guerrilla base created by him, schools were erected with large bullet-proof logs, and an ordnance department, clothing depot, hospital, etc., were arranged in good order there. From this I could clearly see what a great person he was.

The AJGA was under rigid discipline. It never did any damage to the property of the popular masses. It was literally the army of the people and maintained an excellent relationship with them. Therefore, when a gang of bandits had done evil

and laid the blame on the AJGA, the people and even I myself disbelieved it.

I have many more things to tell, but to tell them, in a sense, means talking about my shameful past. Therefore, closing my account here, I earnestly wish President Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved leader of the Korean people, a long life, and Korea early independent peaceful reunification.

“PUNITIVE OPERATIONS” THAT ENDED IN CRUSHING DEFEATS

Nakagawa Tomozo

(Former Platoon Leader, 7th Company,
2nd Battalion, 10th Regiment, 10th
Division, Japanese Kwantung Army)

I took part, as a junior officer of the Japanese “punitive force,” in the “autumn punitive expedition in Chientao district” of 1933 and in the “winter punitive expedition in Chientao district” of early 1934.

Many years have passed since then, but I still preserve the pictures I had taken at that time, as well as a series of documents. Looking into them, I am going to look back on the barbarous “punitive expeditions” of those days as far as I can remember.

In the spring of 1931 I graduated from the Military Academy of Japan and became a profession officer as a platoon leader of the 7th Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Regiment, 10th Division.

It was in December 1931 that the unit to which I belonged left its base in Okayama, Japan, and moved to Manchuria.

The intensified aggressive manoeuvres of Japanese imperialism against China in those days sparked off the “Manchurian Incident” and this incident gave the Japanese army a pretext for an extensive inroad into Manchuria.

In June 1933 our 10th Regiment was stationed in Chientao.

It left Tunhua towards the end of June and was to operate with Chutzuchieh as the base.

The mission of our unit was, in cooperation with the 14th Division which had been stationed there at that time, to "establish public peace" over the whole area, "set up, fully equip and consolidate the police machine of the Manchukuo" and, at the same time, "train and reinforce the self-defence corps."

I was detailed on the mission of maintaining "public peace" in Mingyuehkou and its neighbouring areas and "suppressing" the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army as commander of a platoon.

In those days, the 10th Regiment had its companies sent out in different parts of Chientao for "maintenance of public peace" and "punitive operations" there. In other words, in case there was an attack by the AJGA, the company in charge of that area had to conduct "punitive expeditions" mainly on its own.

Even after the stationing of our regiment in Chientao Province, news came ceaselessly about vigorous activities of the AJGA in various places.

There were some activities of Chinese anti-Japanese nationalist units in the Chientao region at that time, but the AJGA commanded by General Kim Il Sung constituted a chief menace to the Japanese army.

It happened one day in July 1933. After the day's hard training, the exhausted soldiers were having a rest on the grass. Several Korean boys approached them, amusing themselves. In the middle of their play, they threw a hand grenade and ran away. Several soldiers were killed and wounded.

Such an incident occurred everywhere.

I now think that even the children and women could wage so courageous a struggle against Japanese imperialism because they were led by General Kim Il Sung and were sure of victory.

The Japanese troops carried on "punitive operations" against the AJGA, but in vain, as it fought back in reliance on powerful guerrilla bases.

Between July and August, 1933, each company under the

10th Regiment made repeated attacks on the Wangching guerrilla base.

However, the "punitive operations" had to be suspended temporarily on account of thick summer foliage.

The Japanese troops at that time launched a furious attack each time with overwhelming forces and superior armament. Nevertheless, they were helpless before the AJGA which was brave and high in anti-Japanese spirits and employed elusive guerrilla tactics.

When the Japanese troops were drawing a long breath, pausing their summer "punitive operations," the AJGA made assaults in different parts almost every day. It even descended on towns in many places.

It happened early in the autumn of 1933, I remember. Erhtaokou of Chientao Province was assaulted. Driven into a corner, the "garrison" of that area could not but ask the air force to send a rescue plane.

The repeated attacks of the AJGA commanded by General Kim Il Sung made it very difficult for the Japanese army to maintain "public peace" in Manchuria.

Everywhere in Chientao Province the AJGA was fighting fierce actions. Its struggle was a strong resistance against the aggression of Japanese imperialism and a just struggle for liberation, freedom and independence of the fatherland.

Particularly furious were its attacks on the railways which the Japanese imperialists were building at that time for Manchurian invasion. Most striking among them were the assaults on the construction site of the Tumen-Ningan railway line upon which Japan was concentrating her greatest effort.

At midnight one day in August or September 1933 we were attacked by the guerrilla army. Very much upset, we were at a loss what to do for a while. We could not venture to follow it and shot at random only in the direction of a dark mountain where men of the AJGA were supposed to be in hiding.

We were so greatly frightened that night that from then

on when night fell, we all trembled with uneasiness.

In order to "put down" the AJGA that had built up many guerrilla bases in Chientao Province, the Japanese army worked out a plan for a large-scale "punitive expedition" which would involve scorched-earth operations against those bases.

The 10th Regiment to which I belonged was to bear the brunt of the operations.

On November 11, 1933, the regimental commander drew up an operational plan for "subjugating" the Wangching guerrilla base by advancing his regiment to Pataokou.

According to this plan, in December that year the 1st Battalion of our regiment was to attack in the direction of Chaoyangchuan from Pataokou and the 3rd Battalion in the direction of the heart of the guerrilla base from Peichakou. Other units were to mount attacks in the direction of Tuntienying from Tahsingkou.

In the battle with the AJGA we adopted an "advance-separately-and-attack-from-both-flanks" tactic which meant an enveloping attack from the vicinity onto the heart of the guerrilla base.

The Japanese army suffered a terrible loss in these operations in face of the powerful counteroffensive of the AJGA and the people in the guerrilla base. When it managed to penetrate into some sections of the guerrilla base, it made a quick escape after wantonly destroying and burning down the houses of the inhabitants.

At the last stage of the operations, the Japanese army caught an old man who had had wounds all over his body and thus failed to take refuge. I still remember what a bold front he showed them. He knew that he would be shot at any moment, but did not show the slightest sign of submission. He rather made a demonstration of his anti-Japanese spirit in a composed manner and shouted, "Down with Japanese imperialism!"

As an officer of the Japanese army, I could not understand then what the ideology in which they held faith was like. But,

seeing that he maintained a dignified attitude and that no torture could make him surrender, I felt admiration and came to a fuller realization of the fact that the anti-Japanese revolutionary forces were a formidable adversary that could never be "wiped out."

Another thing that surprised me in the guerrilla base at that time was the fact that the base had a solid defence system made up of the guerrilla army, the main force, and of such paramilitary organizations as the Anti-Japanese Self-defence Corps, the Red Guards and Juvenile Vanguard and the people in the base, and a well-organized administrative setup of the revolutionary government which had enforced various democratic reforms and assumed full responsibility for the material and cultural lives of the inhabitants.

We came to know that the people in this area were all affiliated with well-organized political and military organizations with a definite political aim.

I still keep a picture of the flag of the People's Revolutionary Government that fluttered over the Wangyukou guerrilla base.

During the operations, the Japanese troops destroyed and set fire to houses in the guerrilla base at random and killed inhabitants mercilessly when they came across them. I now feel the pangs of remorse, conscious of a crime, when I think what a brutal atrocity the operational mission at that time led us to commit and what a great hardship it brought to the Korean people. However, at that time the soldiers and officers of the Japanese army made no scruple of perpetrating such a barbarity as to destroy and burn the houses at random in the guerrilla base. Then they thought that the Communists could never come back there again.

But, after the Japanese "punitive forces" were driven out, the guerrilla bases were rebuilt, and the AJGA grew in strength, rather than weakened. In particular, the forces of the AJGA in the areas of Hsiaowangching and Tawangching increased as days went by. They made incessant attacks on towns around

the construction site of the Tumen-Ningan Railway.

And, in January 1934 another large-scale "punitive expedition" was organized under the command of Brigadier Nakamura for the purpose of "destroying" the guerrilla bases in the Hsiaowangching and Tawangching areas. The Japanese army brought out even guns for the operations.

The "southern punitive force" comprising the "Independent Garrison" and the 7th Infantry Battalion, with the 10th Regiment as the main unit, was to attack mainly the area north of Chutzuchieh and the Wangching guerrilla base and then concentrate its attack on the eastern district of Chientao in succession.

And the "northern punitive force" made up of units with the 1st Battalion as the main unit was to attack from the south of Lotzukou. According to this operational plan, the unit to which I belonged started a "punitive expedition" for "complete destruction" of the guerrilla base in the Wangching area. It was a brutal operation to set fire to all the houses and property of the inhabitants in the guerrilla base and slaughter or capture people indiscriminately.

However, these winter operations, too, as in the case of the autumn operations, met with a stubborn counterattack, and the Japanese troops suffered a great loss. In particular, when they were attacked by the AJGA from ambush or by night, they suffered heavier casualties. Trucks of transport units, too, were frequently assaulted to be burned and destroyed. One of them, in face of the AJGA's attack from ambush, was hit by more than 100 bullets and totally disfigured.

The guerrilla bases in Chientao Province were very favourably situated for the AJGA's guerrilla activities. Therefore, once the AJGA which was versed in the topographical features attacked the Japanese "punitive forces" by surprise and withdrew, we could hardly locate its whereabouts.

When they located the AJGA, the Japanese troops conducted pursuit operations for 3-4 days. But the AJGA, skillfully

availing itself of the terrain, covered its traces quickly each time.

At one time, the AJGA lured the "punitive force" of the Japanese army into a place where the geographical and topographical conditions were advantageous to it and struck it like a thunderbolt, causing it an unexpectedly great loss.

Thus, whenever they encountered the AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung, the "punitive forces" of the Japanese army suffered a crushing defeat and heavy losses. So we talked much about General Kim Il Sung and were more and more afraid of the AJGA.

Later I came to know everything clearly and was much more surprised at the fact that General Kim Il Sung who had been so greatly renowned at that time was only 22 years old then. It was, indeed, beyond imagination that the General, at so young an age, could employ so superb military strategy and tactics and win in the fight against the large "highly-efficient" Japanese imperialist army with an incomparably small force and armament. So I thought then that General Kim Il Sung would be a person of a good age.

But, at so young an age he was already famous all over the continent as a politico-military genius. I could not but admire General Kim Il Sung as a hero for the century.

Looking back now, I remember how reckless the young officers of the Japanese army were in those days. As soon as they set foot on the Manchurian soil they, carried away by youthful ardour, even desired to have an encounter with the AJGA in the hope of rendering "distinguished military services." But, having experienced defeats in actual battles without so much as fighting, they soon realized how foolish they had been.

That was why the officers and soldiers of the Japanese army gradually lost interest in the battles with the AJGA. If one fell in a "punitive expedition," it meant throwing away his life.

Remembering the miserable fates of my colleagues and soldiers who were killed to no purpose by the bullets of revenge

in the far-off alien land while trying to "subdue" the AJGA, which fought for the liberation of the country and the freedom of the people, I think I should never repeat such an error.

Moreover, when I think of it now, the most atrocious "punitive operations" conducted by the Japanese army against the guerrilla bases were really shameful acts, and I am penitent for this.

As one of the persons concerned, I have no adequate words to make an apology for the indelible crimes committed by Japanese imperialism in those days.

I am resolved to strive to make sure that Japan will not repeat her invasion of other countries, and, at the same time, do my best to strengthen friendship and amity between the Japanese and Korean peoples.

GENERAL KIM IL SUNG IS A GREAT MAN OF UNUSUAL RESOURCES AND VIRTUES

Okawa Shuichi

(Former Vice-Chief of the Hyesan
Police Station and Commander of
"Special Garrison")

It was June 26, 1936, that I, as a police officer of the "former Empire of Japan," took the post of the vice-chief of the Hyesan Police Station and concurrently the commander of a "special garrison."

In those days, due to the influence of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by General Kim Il Sung, the legendary hero, the anti-Japanese sentiments of the Koreans residing in the border areas including South Hamgyong Province were surging very high and "public peace" in those areas was in a serious condition.

To cope with this situation, the Hyesan Police Station formed a "Special Border Garrison" and I held concurrently the post of its "commander." This "garrison" was a police force aimed specifically at "suppression" of the AJGA. It was a "crack unit" which, like an army unit, had undergone an intense training even at ordinary times.

At that time the AJGA personally commanded by General Kim Il Sung was carrying on active operations in the northern

border areas of Korea and the northeastern region of China, centering around Mt. Paekdu-san.

I had heard of the legendary name, General Kim Il Sung, and of the "Kim Il Sung unit" before I came to Hyesan.

I had been an assistant police inspector of the South Hamgyong Provincial Police prior to my appointment to the Hyesan Police Station.

The South Hamgyong Provincial Police informed the "Peace Section of Police Inspectors' Bureau of the Government-General of Korea" of the movements of the AJGA by phone almost every day. So, I had obtained comparatively much intelligence about the AJGA's activities.

It happened one day a few days after my taking up the fresh post at the Hyesan Police Station.

The police station interrogated a Japanese opium smuggler that day. During the interrogation we learned that he had once been caught by a sentry of the AJGA in a deep valley of the Changpai range.

According to his statement, he was escorted to a place where there were a school, hospital, weapons repairshop, barber's shop, training ground, etc., which gave him an impression that it was a small "communist town." He said it was guarded very strongly, with observation posts placed at short intervals around it.

To confirm his statement, we conducted investigations and found that the place he had mentioned was not referred to even in the map and was very difficult of access.

It seemed that once even a large force several hundred strong hid itself in the deep valley and eternal forests of the Changpai range it would be hard to locate its whereabouts.

We thought that the thick forests in and around Mt. Paekdu-san afforded a very favourable condition to the AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung in its operations.

As can be seen, General Kim Il Sung set up a strongpoint of guerrilla activities in dependence of such a natural fortress and conducted active operations in vast areas. We couldn't

ascribe this to any other thing but his truly gifted resources.

To tell the truth, all these things seemed mysterious to me in those days.

Later, I came to know better through my personal experience that General Kim Il Sung was a really great man.

It happened in May 1937 before the well-known "Pochonbo Incident" took place. Warned of possible advance of General Kim Il Sung's unit into Korea, we hurried preparations to cope with it.

Meanwhile, in mid-May a "punitive operation" was started by a 70-strong force commanded by Shioya Takeo. It was expected to last about one week. The chief aim was to "suppress" the AJGA entrenched in the forest area at the foot of Mt. Paekdu-san.

Armed with four machine-guns, we began to comb the base of the mountain. We spent days in the mountain like guerrillas in an attempt to obtain good results in the operations. But we could not find any trace of the AJGA. They had probably got intelligence about us in advance. We only found some spots where a small AJGA force had pitched camp. And we returned towards May 20.

Afterwards, we all concluded that the AJGA would not appear for the time being, and relaxed our attention. Therefore, we never thought that we would suffer an unexpected hard blow on the night of June 4.

Having watched for such a chance, General Kim Il Sung's unit more than 150 strong stormed Pochonbo.

That night, some inhabitants there saw a guerrilla unit descending from a hill in an orderly way. They thought a Japanese "garrison" or a police force in Hyesan was returning from patrol.

The police substation, too, was quite unaware of it. At that very moment the policemen of the substation were interrogating two Korean peasants.

The attack began at around 10 p.m. on June 4. But we were informed of it one hour later.

I was then sleeping in the house of the Hyesan Police Station. At the emergency report on the attack on Pochonbo by General Kim Il Sung's unit, I jumped out of my bed. I reported this to the chief at once and called out my men.

I divided them into three platoons, got them to board the patrol trucks and issued advance orders. It was around 15 minutes past 11 p.m., I remember.

It was my plan to cut the AJGA's route of retreat. So, without heading for Pochonbo, I led the unit straightly to the Kusimuldong Dam near the village of Erhshihsantaokou via Chiatsaishui along the Amnok-gang River.

Arriving there, however, we found that they had already crossed it. We were a little late and there was no raft on the river. I sent out scouts in no time. According to their reports, it was certain that the guerrillas had headed for the village of Erhshihsantaokou upon getting off rafts already several hours before.

The day was dawning gradually.

At the village of Erhshihsantaokou we took rest for about an hour. We learned that each house of the village had cooked much barley meal and that the villagers had prepared it to welcome the guerrilla unit.

However, General Kim Il Sung's unit seemed to have left the village soon without delay. The inhabitants of the village were mostly Koreans. To track down the guerrilla unit, we brought four or five Koreans, but could obtain nothing from them. As we were delayed, we left the village and started our action in the direction of Mt. Kouyushuishan. About one hour after our departure from Erhshihsantaokou, we discovered several footprints and broken grass stems at the foot of Mt. Kouyushuishan.

I judged them to be the traces of the guerrilla unit and ordered my men to pursue it at once. A tense atmosphere suddenly pervaded my unit. We drank the water of the Kouyushui stream, instead of farewell wine. It was around nine in the morning.

We were climbing Mt. Kouyushuishan, panting. The guerrillas 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 favourable 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.

The thought of a total destruction of my unit let me down. I was resolved to kill myself. I made a will in my pocket-book and was collecting the corpses of my men, when the police reinforcements arrived. But they were too late, because the guerrilla unit had swiftly withdrawn from Mt. Kouyushuishan.

Around noon, the "Hyesan Garrison" was on the scene. At the sight of the wholesale destruction of my unit, it recoiled in terror and gave up the pursuit. The following day, I went to Pochonbo to make preparations for the funeral of the fallen in battle. There was still a smell of smoldering here and there. Looking at the sites of the burnt Sub-county Office, Forestry Protection Office and the wall of the Police Substation riddled with shots, I keenly realized the great might of the AJGA while feeling bitter grief at the loss of my men.

After the "Pochonbo Incident," the "Government-General of Korea" was in great confusion. It was because both the "Government-General" and the military authorities, having fortified the frontiers in anticipation of the AJGA's attack, had never imagined to suffer so hard a blow.

Afterwards, the army and police built watch-towers in police substations and increased the police force by more than 700 in order to strengthen the border guard.

What impressed me most during the "Pochonbo Incident" was the fact that General Kim Il Sung not only commanded his unit in a very systematical way but also employed tactics adroitly.

The tactics adopted by the AJGA, such as the tactic of elusive surprise attack and the tactic of nimble withdrawal, which were not referred to even in the war manual of the Japanese army, were very superb, and I cannot explain it any other way.

Generally speaking, it is usual with the case of surprise attack that even if the attackers succeed in their engagement, they cannot avoid confusion at the time of withdrawal, with the speed of movement slackened as compared with that in the attack. However, the AJGA acted at a consistently quick speed from attack to withdrawal and even lay in ambush at a vantage point on Mt. Kouyushuishan in anticipation of our pursuit. I could not but admire at its flawless tactics.

In particular, what I still keep in memory with great admiration is the fact that General Kim Il Sung personally

commanded the battle on the first line.

Until then I did not know an instance in which any world-famous general commanded operations on the first line under a rain of bullets and in the short distance of no more than 30-40 metres at that.

So, when we had the direct encounter with the AJGA, I thought that General Kim Il Sung had already gone to a safe place with his bodyguards or was in his commanding post far from the front line.

But unexpectedly I saw him on the firing line. Indescribable was my surprise at that time.

Thanks to the presence of such a leadership of the great General, I think, the AJGA could win constant victories.

Scores of years have elapsed since then. The fear I entertained about General Kim Il Sung at that time has vanished from me, and my respect for him is becoming deeper day by day.

Conjuring up the image of General Kim Il Sung who, as the President of the DPRK, is now administering excellent politics in the interests of the people, I sincerely wish his cause successful accomplishment, transcending ideology.

Lastly I wish General Kim Il Sung a long life.

FOLLOWING IN THE TRACKS OF GENERAL KIM IL SUNG'S ARMY

Kai Masaharu

(Former Commander of the
"Pacification Unit" of Japanese Troops
Stationed in Antung, Manchuria)

The mountains and hills in the northern border area of Korea in the late autumn of 1936 were ablaze with autumnal colours.

Around that time, in Antung, Manchuria, was organized the so-called "pacification unit" to bring the AJGA into "submission." It consisted of some 30 members of "Paoantui" picked out from counties.

This unit played an important part in the Japanese imperialists' "punitive operations" against the guerrillas in those days. To cope with the advance of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army led by General Kim Il Sung into the areas of Mt. Paekdu-san and the subsequent rapid growth of the Korean communist movement, the "Governor-General of Korea" and the "Commander of the Kwantung Army" hurriedly held the "Tumen Conference" in October 1936, where they discussed on the operational measures to "stifle" the entire revolutionary forces by "concentrated suppression" of the headquarters where General Kim Il Sung was. To carry them out immediately after the conference the Kwantung Army, the puppet Manchukuo Army and the police force and others

set out on the "punitive operations" in a large force and, at the same time, a "pacification unit" for bringing the AJGA into "submission" came into being and started its activity.

Our "pacification unit" was to assemble in Tunghua in no time, and I assumed the duty of its "commander." To take the short course, we crossed the Amnok-gang River from Antung and stepped into Korea and then recrossed it for Tunghua. I made my way to discharge my duty given from above, but my heart throbbed violently at the thought that I would meet the AJGA of General Kim Il Sung who was enjoying world-wide fame.

At the time (1936), General Kim Il Sung was a 24-year-old young hero. He was a distinguished leader of the AJGA which was active in the areas of Mt. Paekdu-san and on the vast plains of Manchuria. Many legendary stories were told at that time about the activities of General Kim Il Sung. They said that he "is able to see in the dark night what is going on at a place 400 kilometres away, as clearly as he knows the palm of his hand," and that he "comes and goes like the wind, without leaving any traces." It was true that as a legendary hero and the lodestar for the Korean nation, he was enjoying the absolute support and respect of the broad popular masses. When a Japanese teacher in a primary school in Pusan asked his little Korean pupils whom they thought most admirable in the world, the majority of them, to his great surprise, named General Kim Il Sung. The teacher had expected that they would name Kusunoki Masashige or Minamoto Yoshitsune who were mentioned in the history of Japan. Of course it goes without saying that in those days the reputation of General Kim Il Sung had an extremely mystic and overawing effect on us Japanese soldiers.

Having arrived at the seat of Tunghua County before long, our "pacification unit" commenced action on a certain mission. We marched towards a spot where the unit of the KPRA personally led by General Kim Il Sung was active. We were carrying with us salt, cigarettes, matches and other

necessities. As I looked at these things now and then, my heart was filled with constant doubts whether the trifling things were helpful to the performance of our mission. Can the independence of a country be really bartered with some goods or the people's faith in independence be shaken by a small sum of money?

The rich autumnal tints were soon buried under snow and ice.

We were on the road more than ten days after leaving Tunghua County, but could not locate the whereabouts of the guerrillas.

Over 40 days passed before we were aware of it. The weather grew terribly cold. But we were not allowed to leave the Changpai mountains. We set spurs to our horses in the blizzard, with our hands and feet numbed with cold. We often had to stop our horses and chafed our hands and feet so as not to get chilblains. There were times when our boots were frozen fast to stirrups.

One day we at last got an information that the guerrilla unit of General Kim Il Sung was in a deep valley in the interior of Changpai. We hurried to it, cutting our way through deep snow and dragging our horses on foot at times. After undergoing all sorts of hardships, we arrived at our destination towards evening. But we found that General Kim Il Sung's unit had already left there.

That night we stayed at an old man's cottage in the heart of a village with some 100 households. From the master of the house we could hear a story about General Kim Il Sung whom he had met. He said:

"The unit commanded by General Kim Il Sung stayed in this neighbourhood for three days. They were really a flawless, fine army. They did not trouble the villagers in the least. Every morning, when they got up, they swept the yards of the houses they were quartered. What is more, they repaired that demolished bridge for us.

"They were under rigid discipline and the relations bet-

ween the officers and soldiers were so equal, harmonious and intimate that I could hardly draw a line of distinction between them.

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

"This morning when they were about to leave here, the villagers found that General Kim Il Sung and some of his officers were wearing worn-out shoes. So, they offered some pairs of shoes they had reserved. But the General declined the offer positively, saying that they should keep them because they would need them more than he and his officers.

"When he arrived at the village, he was offered a nice room to stay at, but he resolutely declined it at first. At our repeated requests, he was obliged to give an unwilling consent at last. He stayed at this very room and carried on his work till this morning.

"I'm afraid how you think of my remarks, but I've spoken as I saw as you bid me to."

Hearing the master, I could not help feeling a respect for him, rather than fear.

I stayed overnight there, thinking of the young hero of independence movement who shared the same room with his men, sweets and bitters with them, trained them further in struggle and was winning victories.

Frankly speaking, though I was the commander of the "pacification unit" at that time, I even wished to see once General Kim Il Sung who was so great a person.

We were scheduled to operate for 30 days, but ten days had already passed in excess of the set period. The snow lay deeper and it was very difficult to move about. The next morning we left there, following in the tracks of the guerrillas. We regarded this as the last chance. Towards evening we reached the peak of a mountain, our destination, only to find that there was no shadow of guerrillas at all except numerous footprints on the snow. It seemed that they left there several

hours before. We looked around, but there was no sign of man's presence. Only snow-covered peaks were seen soaring here and there. We were again a little late.

While descending the peak, I fell from the horse due to the fatigue from the long-drawn march and was wounded in the backbone. This injury gave me a chronic disease.

Returning to Tunghua, we learned that it was not the "pacification unit" alone that had made vain efforts. All the forces mobilized in the "winter punitive operations" including the very Kwantung Army that boasted of being the "most crack" army, to say nothing of the puppet Manchukuo Army and the police force, had suffered terrible blows in the mountains of Changpai and returned with bare life. Needless to say, it was a fatal "present" they had received from the AJGA commanded by General Kim Il Sung.

I took off my hat unconsciously to this fact which made me admire at General Kim Il Sung's superb tactics and indomitable revolutionary stamina.

I have had no chance of meeting the great leader President Kim Il Sung, the peerless patriot born of the 20th century, gifted military strategist and ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, but my respect for him is getting deeper with each passing day.

MYSTERIOUS TACTICS THAT TERRIFIED JAPANESE AND MANCHUKUO TROOPS AND POLICE

Kobayashi Shinzo

(Former policeman, Pataokou Police
Station, Yenchi County, "Manchukuo")

It was 1933 that I entered police service in the consulate of the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Lungching, Manchuria. Around that time the KPRA commanded by General Kim Il Sung, the iron-willed brilliant commander, was in active operations in different places of east Manchuria.

I was first appointed to a post at the police station in Liangshuichuantzu, Hunchun County. In 1937 when the police was "turned over" to the "Manchukuo" I was transferred to the Tumen Police Station. From that time to my retransfer to the Pataokou Police Station in Yenchi County in 1939 I worked as an assistant police lieutenant, collecting intelligence about the movements of the anti-Japanese guerrillas.

During the time a "special cleanup campaign for maintaining public peace in the southeastern areas" started, and in 1939 or so a police battalion was formed in Chientao Province for intensified "suppression" of the anti-Japanese guerrillas. Thus, I took part in the "punitive operations" as a squad leader of a company commanded by Murakami.

The chief target of the operations was the anti-Japanese guerrillas personally led by General Kim Il Sung who were active while moving from the direction of Changpai to the

direction of Mingyuehkou via Antu. At that time pictures of General Kim Il Sung were distributed to every police station. Among them was one showing the General looking down at the combat posture of a woman guerrilla lying in ambush behind a machine gun.

Seeing his figure for the first time in the pictures at that time, I thought, "This is the very hero of the anti-Japanese war, General Kim Il Sung!" At the same time, I felt I was kept in his power.

During my service in the Murakami-led Company I took part in the "punitive operations" on four occasions in all. As the adversary was the elusive guerrilla army, the "punitive operations" could not be conducted as in the case of the military "operations against the enemy at a definite spot."

Since it was difficult to locate precisely the position of the guerrillas and their direction of movement, in many cases the "punitive force" was ordered out after receiving informations about their appearance at a certain place. And it always had to chase them passively.

Moreover, it was also really painful and dangerous to follow the guerrillas in mountains and forests. When I first took part in the "punitive operations," I went about in mountains for a week in search of the guerrillas and barely managed to reach Korea on the opposite bank of the Tuman-gang River. I gave up the operations in the end. In my second "punitive operations" I was to pursue the AJGA of General Kim Il Sung which was moving from Changpai to Holung.

On that occasion, I rushed to the "concentration hamlet" in Chulintsun, Holung County, on the order of covering from the flank the Kwantung Army's "Nakano-led Volunteers Corps" (a railway garrison composed of three companies) which was in pursuit of a unit of the AJGA of General Kim Il Sung from Changpai. Some days after our arrival at Holung an urgent message came informing that the unit personally commanded by General Kim Il Sung appeared at the point of a ferry on the Tuman-gang River. We strained every nerve. A

platoon of the "Manchukuo Army" under the command of "Nakano Volunteers Corps" was sent out for scouting, and the main unit got ready to move as soon as it received an intelligence. Several days passed, but the scouting party did not come back. Later we heard from Commander Nakano that the scouting party was annihilated by the AJGA. This gave us a great shock.

What happened during my fourth "punitive operations" remains most vivid in my memory.

It was early in 1939, I remember. One day we received an information that a unit of the General Kim Il Sung's AJGA was lying in ambush in a mountain on the boundary between Yenching and Wangching Counties, and our company was ordered out there for scouting. We found some traces of guerrillas camping there. Judging from the state of things, Company Commander Murakami concluded that our adversary was a unit made up of 150 guerrillas. In consideration of the actual conditions that the strength of our force was inferior to it and that we had only a single day's ration, he hurriedly led the company back to the "punitive headquarters."

There we were reorganized into a "punitive force" under the command of Kuzuta, Chief of the Yenching County Police Affairs Section, who had rushed there after receiving the urgent message. The "punitive force" set out at once.

I was then charged with the rear supply and transported provisions and ammunition, with 30 men under my command. That day we carried out a "searching operation" covering a dozen kilometres, but failed to spot anything. We were obliged to pitch tents on the mountain. It was very cold. Moreover, as we were in a dangerous place and there was no knowing whether the AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung was lying hidden near by, we had to spend the night on the waterless top of a mountain for safety's sake. We made it a rule at that time to sleep on the top of a mountain in any circumstances because, if we stayed on the geographically unfavourable slopes or ravines of mountains, we might be

annihilated in case of being assaulted.

When thirsty, we melted the snow and drank it. We cooked our meals with melted snow. So there were dry pine needles in boiled rice to make it difficult to eat.

We spent the whole night awake. Early in the morning we resumed our action, enduring fatigue.

We advanced cautiously, with helmets on and in combat readiness. Suddenly there came a bang in front of us, followed by a hail of bullets landing around us. Attacked by surprise, we lay on the snow and fired blindly. Presently Company Commander Murakami, brandishing his saber, shouted, "Charge! Charge!" But the guerrillas had already disappeared, leaving no traces behind. Only dead bodies of our colleagues were scattered here and there.

Having had a narrow escape, I thought I could not save my life if the company commander ordered to continue the pursuit.

However, even Company Commander Murakami who had bragged that he would distinguish himself in his first encounter with the AJGA was terror-stricken and could not order a further charge.

Really, if we had pursued further at that time, we would have suffered a total destruction by the guerrillas' attack from ambush.

The AJGA employed really mysterious tactics.

One day in 1940 after the dissolution of our unit, the Hsinchengtung "concentration hamlet" under the Mingyuehkou police jurisdiction was assaulted by a guerrilla unit commanded by General Kim Il Sung. The police stationed there were driven into a battery to be annihilated. At the time I was staying in Mingyuehkou under instructions from the Chief of the Yenchi County Police Affairs Section. So I was ordered to rush to the village and cut the guerrillas' route of retreat. But, it was obvious that if we had an engagement with the AJGA we would suffer a crushing defeat. We delayed our departure on the pretext of having breakfast and left for the

village around the time of the guerrillas' withdrawal from it.

As I anticipated, when we arrived at the village, they had left there about an hour before. To speak honestly, we heaved a sigh of relief then.

Applying such elusive tactics, the AJGA commanded by General Kim Il Sung, the gifted military strategist, always made a plaything of the Japanese and Manchukuo troops and police.

Whenever I think of my shameful past when I, as a policeman under Japanese imperialism, recklessly took part in the "punitive operations" against the AJGA, I cannot but feel very sorry for the Korean people.

In conclusion, I heartily wish the Korean people success in their cause under the wise leadership of respected President Kim Il Sung.

THE PROTEAN AJGA

Narumi Bunshiro

(Former Officer, 2nd Battalion,
5th Infantry Regiment, 8th
Division, Japanese Army)

I once took part in the "punitive expedition" against the AJGA in Manchuria as the adjutant of the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, the Japanese Army.

Speaking of this period, it coincided with the Japanese imperialist invasion on the Chinese continent.

With the occurrence of the "Lukouchiao Incident" (July 7 Incident) in July 1937, the Japanese imperialists hurled a larger number of troops into the continental aggression from Japan.

I taught at a normal school in Iwate Prefecture before I was enlisted in the 5th Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, the Japanese Army, in Aomori in October 1937.

The regiment was expected to be dispatched to Manchuria.

I was then not aware of what war I would take part in. I left Aomori Railway Station with a vague hope of "rendering my service for the country."

In Manchuria our unit was stationed at Poli, Tungan Province, north Manchuria.

I had military service some years before, and was appointed adjutant of the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 5th

Regiment.

The main task of this regiment was to protect the Japanese "reclaimed land" and "residents" in and around Poli and, particularly, "mop up" the AJGA which was in active operation in that area.

In Poli there had been stationed the 2nd Division before the 5th Regiment was sent there. We were told that a regiment of this division had suffered a heavy loss in its "punitive operations" against the AJGA.

This struck me with horror from the first days of my arrival at Poli.

As it was the case with all other districts of Manchuria at that time, Sankiang and Tungan Provinces were also the areas of AJGA's activity which was so vigorous that they were even called the theatres of "communist army's" activity.

Our regiment spent every day conducting "punitive operations" from morning till evening.

Under the 2nd Battalion there were the 5th, 6th and 7th companies and a machine gun company, four all told. Of them, the machine gun company was mainly charged with the duty of guarding the Soviet-Manchurian frontier and other companies were often thrown into the "punitive expeditions" against the AJGA.

In the meantime, I served as the adjutant in the 2nd Battalion and sometimes commanded the 5th Company in "punitive operations."

Poli where the regimental headquarters was located was a town nestling in mountains. There were many Japanese settlers, Chinese and Koreans. But it was not too much to say that Poli was a town under the control of the AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung. In daytime Japanese troops strutted about, but when the night set in, the AJGA would appear in the town to raid the regimental headquarters constantly. Therefore, we could hardly sleep a restful sleep even a single night.

In the AJGA commanded by General Kim Il Sung, the brilliant commander of the anti-Japanese struggle, there was a

cavalry at that time. This cavalry was quick in action and operated always like a regular army.

It enjoyed a positive support of the inhabitants in and around Poli.

It happened one day. It was reported that inhabitants near Poli were carrying a large quantity of aid goods including rice and meat to the cavalry of the AJGA.

That night our 5th Company started to chase those inhabitants. We could clearly see in the darkness traces of many people passing in a single line. So we confirmed that the information was accurate and increased the speed of pursuit. Suddenly sounds of voices came from a short distance. We at once presumed that AJGA was welcoming the people who had brought aid goods. We got so strained that we held our breath and lay down on the grass. After a while a dead silence reigned over the forest. The sudden silence increased our dread.

We were at a loss what to do. It was certain that if we continue to follow we would be attacked by the guerrillas from ambush.

At length we gave up the pursuit and turned back.

The above story furnishes only one example illustrative of how close the relations between the AJGA and the people were and how much we feared the AJGA in those days.

Such was the actual situation, but our regiment had no choice but to continue with the "punitive operations" against the AJGA.

Inoue, our regimental commander at that time, even carried out aerial reconnaissance himself against the guerrillas, blowing that he would "wipe out the communist army" before it thawed.

He always shouted at us: "We must put down the whole communist army within three months from now. When we come to fall, they would be done up and fall, too. The question is whether we keep the Japanese spirit. If we display this spirit, we have nothing to fear and will win."

And, once there was any information about the AJGA's

appearance at a place, we sent out troops in no time. If we considered a village to be one where the AJGA had stayed, we set fire to it at random and arrested villagers indiscriminately.

In this way, we went about in countless days and nights during the whole winter, but could not "wipe out" the AJGA.

The AJGA commanded by General Kim Il Sung was literally a protean army.

Having informed of the appearance of the AJGA, a "punitive force" rushed to the scene, only to find that it had already gone away without leaving any clue behind it. In particular, it was quick in action and moved on horseback at that, so we foot soldiers could hardly cope with it. Returning from their "punitive operations," the company commanders could only report on their defeats at all times.

Why could the Japanese troops, superior both in armament and strength, not match with the AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung?

It was because the AJGA was a protean army that could move freely in the severe cold of 30 degrees below zero and enjoyed active support of the people.

While taking part directly in the "punitive expeditions" in the area of Liushuhotzu, Fuxian County, Sankiang Province, I saw the AJGA was armed mainly with rifles and hand grenades. In contrast to it, we had light machine guns, heavy machine guns and even mortars. Nevertheless, we suffered repeated defeats in the "punitive operations," because they were too elusive in their movements.

Of so many "punitive expeditions" we carried out, still vivid in my memory is the battle near Liushuhotzu.

Liushuhotzu lay several hundred kilometres away northward from Poli, and the AJGA made its frequent appearances in that area in those days.

The battalions and companies of our regiment carried out "punitive expeditions" days and nights, but every time our casualties were heavy.

It happened one day.

We received an information about the encampment of a unit of the AJGA led by General Kim Il Sung in Mt. Chih-singlotzu and started an attack at once. High and rugged, the mountain was said to be a fairy land.

It was very cold that day. The humid powdery snow, peculiar to Manchuria was drifting. We wrapped our faces except eyes and noses, but the cold was biting.

At 9 o'clock in the evening we were climbing up the top of the mountain, cutting our way through the waist-deep snow, when we met a sudden hot firing on the mid-slope. Hand grenades exploded here and there and the bullets rained over us. In this firing, Corporal Fukushima and Second Class Private Kubota of the 5th Company fell with piercing wounds in their breasts.

When we counterattacked, the AJGA shot their rifles, moving freely, and when we stopped firing, it swooped upon us.

The fierce battle continued for several hours. We closed our encircling net and barely managed to reach the top of the mountain late in the night.

But there was not a single man of General Kim Il Sung's AJGA to be seen and no traces remained. Only we could see the dead bodies of our soldiers lying on the snow.

After all, in return for our occupation of the vacant mountain we got nothing but many casualties, five cases of frost-bite and ten-odd missing men.

In other "punitive expeditions" carried out in its wake, the results were all the same. The Kawasaki unit of our regiment, too, met an overwhelming defeat when it was ordered out on the information that General Kim Il Sung's AJGA had appeared near Liushuhotzu.

The unit went out at five o'clock in the afternoon. It was nearing its destination, when another information reached to it that some 100 or more anti-Japanese guerrillas broke in upon a village about 10 kilometres away from there.

At quicker march it reached the destination around seven

o'clock in the evening. The moon rose just then. General Kim Il Sung's AJGA mounted a surprise attack on the Kawasaki unit which was exposed in the bright moonlight. Thus a fierce shooting and hand-to-hand fighting went on under moonlight between General Kim Il Sung's AJGA and our unit.

The Kawasaki unit offered desperate resistance. But, in face of General Kim Il Sung's AJGA pressing it hard on horseback, its men were scattered in all directions, scores being killed or wounded.

The powdery snow fell and a strong wind rose, burying everything under a snow drift. There was no knowing when General Kim Il Sung's AJGA would attack again, so the surviving soldiers trembled with fear and cold all night.

The regiment did not know this until the Kawasaki unit cried for help three days later.

After that, even planes were called out to find out the corpses of fallen soldiers and the cases of frost-bite. It is still vivid in my memory.

The days I spent in Manchuria after I left my native place were the days of strain and horror which gave me no peace of mind at all.

In the case of our battalion which had "suppression" as the main task, each of its soldiers probably had a forced march for more than 10 kilometres on an average every day in the blizzard. So they were tired at all times. We posted many sentries in all directions, but the soldiers could not sleep restfully as they did not know when they would be attacked by General Kim Il Sung's AJGA.

We, the officers, were in a more painful position. We had always no time to rest, collecting intelligence about General Kim Il Sung's AJGA and analysing it.

In those days we received informations systematically from ten agents whom we had bought over, except those received from the superiors. When we got various informations from them in succession, we officers made a fuss, not knowing which was authentic, and had to stay up all night. And the

whole battalion was seized with terror and thrown into confusion.

I spent days of fatigue, unrest and horror like that until I heard of the defeat of Japanese imperialism in Talien. It was only then that I belatedly repented deeply of the crimes I had committed against the Korean people.

Whenever I come to see the DPRK which is now making dazzling progress under the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved leader of the Korean people, I think deeply of what a bloody, arduous struggle the President waged in the past in command of the AJGA for the freedom and liberation of the Korean people, and feel a great reverence for him.

A "PUNITIVE UNIT" THAT AVOIDED THE ANTI-JAPANESE GUERRILLA UNITS

Higashi Mamoru

(Former Chief of the Chintsang
Police Station, Wangching County,
"Manchukuo")

In 1936 I entered the Paochengtzu Police Training Centre in Hsinching, Manchuria in order to become a policeman.

After becoming a policeman I served at various posts—a man in charge of education at the police affairs departments in Yenchi and Hunchun Counties, commander of the Soviet-Manchurian border garrison in Tunghsingchen, a man in charge of education at the Lungching Police Station, chief of the Chintsang Police Station in Wangching County, and a man in charge of education at the police affairs department in Wangching County.

During my nearly ten-year long police career I heard almost daily of the stories about the anti-Japanese guerrilla units led by General Kim Il Sung, the legendary hero of the Korean people.

In those days the Japanese and Manchurian army and police forces were mobilized almost every day in the "punitive operations" against the anti-Japanese guerrillas. But I never saw them return with a success worth mentioning.

In 1938 a police battalion was formed in our province

and, under its control, Maeda Company was solely engaged in the "punitive operations" against the guerrilla units. In March 1940 this company was routed in the Hungchiho battle, and Yamane Company was newly organized in its place to which I came to belong.

Acting as a platoon leader of the company at that time, I was assigned the task to "maintain public peace" in the area between Mingyuehkou and Antu where the activities of General Kim Il Sung's units were brisk and to guard the "concentrated villages" in the nearby areas.

The anti-Japanese guerrilla units led by General Kim Il Sung came storming Japanese and Manchurian troops and police in the "concentrated villages" so often to capture arms, provisions, and clothes that our main duties were to stop the guerrillas from securing food and prevent the losses of our troops in advance.

Leading 40 men, I guarded the "concentrated villages" in Santaohotzu and often wandered about in the nearby mountains under the name of "punitive operations." To tell the truth now, we were quite unwilling to combat with the anti-Japanese guerrilla units at that time. For we knew well the odds were against us in every battle against the anti-Japanese guerrillas who applied various superb tactics.

Therefore, whenever we forced our way through mountains we took a route considered rather safe, avoiding the dangerous places where the guerrillas might appear. Back from the mountains, we drew up a false report as though we had reconnoitred something new and submitted it to the higher-ups. In this way we could save our lives.

I remember it happened in February 1941.

Towards evening when winter hail often to be seen in Manchuria was falling, there came an emergency phone call from the company command, and our platoon was ordered to move.

According to an information, there appeared some anti-Japanese guerrillas in charge of food procurement in a

mountain located some 6 kilometres away from the "concentrated village" where we were.

At once I had my platoon gathered and left for the spot. Expecting the number of the guerrillas to be 3 or 4 at most, which meant a one-to-ten numerical ratio between them and us, I could feel strong in my mind.

We arrived at the mountain and began to search it, stretching in a line. We discovered a small puddle under a big rock, around which were scattered upturned soil and pine twigs still uncovered with snow. It was evident that the guerrillas had just left the place after digging provisions out of it. They must have been near.

All of a sudden a loud gun report came from the forest to the left. We started firing at random in the direction of the firing. Now another gun report came from the forest to the right, and a policeman beside me slumped to the ground with a scream. We were at a loss what to do.

It was getting dark all over, and there was no more of the guerrillas' firing. A sudden silence in the deep mountain inspired us with greater awe.

Fear-stricken, we fired away all our shots at random in one place and hurried back to the "concentrated village."

Such an event occurred almost every day and ended like this, which resulted in disbanding Yamane Company including our platoon.

On disbanding it the county office authorities heaped curses upon us, clamouring that it was a shame for the Japanese police to tremble with fear before the anti-Japanese guerrilla units. Our colleagues, however, whispered among themselves that it was better to survive than to die trapped in their superb tactics. Even now the events in those days flash through my mind clearly. Indeed, when I think of the subtle tactics of General Kim Il Sung, an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, I cannot repress my admiration for him.

ANNIHILATION BY SUPERB TACTICS

Nagatomi Naoaki

(Former Commissioner of the Detached
Office of the Police Bureau of
Chientao Province, "Manchukuo")

It was in July 1939 that I was appointed to the Chientao Provincial Office in Manchuria. There I was engaged in a secret service as a commissioner of the Detached Office of the Police Bureau of Chientao Province.

Until my transference to Chientao I had been deputy head of Chingcheng County, Peian Province, north Manchuria, and fancied myself to be devoting all my energies to the "maintenance of public peace" with a sense of building a "realm of peace and prosperity." I had done my bit to keep the local inhabitants under control and smother their discontent with Japanese imperialism and "Manchukuo."

In this way I had spent two years in Chingcheng County before I was appointed to the Chientao Provincial Office.

When I came to Chientao Province my first impression was that there were not so many people opposed to Japan and "Manchukuo." So I was pleased with my new duties.

One day, however, I heard a news that there appeared an anti-Japanese guerrilla unit led by General Kim Il Sung. I was greatly alarmed. How could the anti-Japanese guerrillas appear in such a "place where public peace and order were fully maintained?"

This doubt of mine, however, came to disappear in the course of my intelligence activities.

The Detached Office of the Police Bureau was an intelligence office whose main mission was kept in the dark.

My basic duties at the office were to give active help in the "punitive operations" against the anti-Japanese guerrilla units, collecting and supplying useful information.

In those days there occurred many "incidents" in which the local inhabitants supplied provisions to the anti-Japanese guerrillas. As it were, the guerrillas acted in close relationship with the people and enjoyed their positive support.

So we exercised a rigid control over the local peasants.

We formed a large number of surveillance groups with Japanese, Chinese and Korean policemen, each consisting of 3 to 5 men. I dispatched them to every village to supervise the inhabitants and watch and arrest those grumbling about Japanese imperialism and the "Manchukuo Government."

At the same time I instructed that the villagers might have guerrillas among their relatives and friends, and therefore, if any of them visited the village he should be reported at once or made to "defect."

There were scores of such groups in Chientao Province alone at the time.

It was three days after my proceeding to the new post in Chientao Province that I directly received information regarding the activities of General Kim Il Sung.

At that time the anti-Japanese guerrilla units led by General Kim Il Sung were making successive assaults every day on the Japanese garrisons and police in Chientao and Tunghua Provinces.

While in north Manchuria, too, I had often heard of General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrilla units briskly active in these regions. But now hearing the news of their attack on the nearby Japanese garrison only three days after my appointment, my nerves were very much strained.

General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrilla units were

active everywhere without let-up. Much flustered, the General Staff of the Kwantung Army set up Nozoe "Punitive Headquarters" in Kirin deploying under its command large forces such as several corps of the Kwantung Army, the Expeditionary Force in China, the "Manchukuo Army," police and gendarmerie, and disposed a "regional punitive force" in each province.

The "punitive operations" against the anti-Japanese guerrillas assumed larger dimensions from the autumn of 1939. Thus, I served at the Detached Office for two years just when the "punitive operations" were unprecedentedly strengthened.

Of the reports I received from my subordinates and the stories I heard at the meetings during my service there, those about the anti-Japanese guerrilla units led by General Kim Il Sung still remain vivid in my memory.

To put it in a nutshell, General Kim Il Sung's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army was a very strong army known as one using superb tactics.

Informed of an anti-Japanese guerrillas' surprise attack, the "punitive forces" would rush to the scene, only to find none of their traces. They would search all over the place for two days or three, but in vain.

It happened in September 1939.

The Mingyuehkou Unit, a force of about 300 troops, which was moving from Mingyuehkou under orders from higher-up to build a new "base" in Antu was attacked from ambush and crushed at Yaocha by the anti-Japanese guerrillas commanded by General Kim Il Sung.

In Antu only worn-out barracks were to be seen and no troops stationed at that time.

In order to carry out the task of building up a base for "punitive operations" in Antu the Mingyuehkou Unit left Mingyuehkou by ten lorries that morning.

Towards 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon the unit was passing through Yaocha, a place with maize fields stretched along the road and dense woods growing on both sides.

When the lorry driving in the forefront turned round a

L-shaped bend and veered to the right, a heavy machine-gun barrage came from both flanks.

The lorries tailing behind stopped one after another.

The soldiers hastily jumped down from the lorries and returned the fire. But most of them were killed in less than 30 minutes.

Only a few Japanese soldiers riding the last lorry barely saved their lives and reported this fact to the garrison command at a police station on the way to Mingyuehkou.

One day later we could get the whole picture of this event. It was because the garrison had tried to conceal it. Though belatedly, however, this fact became known, and this gave the Provincial Office quite an upset.

As a matter of course, the Mingyuehkou Unit was on the alert when it passed through the area. Prior to its departure it had received information that General Kim Il Sung's guerrillas were active in the neighbouring areas and foreseen that it could probably encounter their surprise attack on the way.

This unit, however, was completely annihilated by the novel tactics of the anti-Japanese guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung who had lain in ambush taking advantage of the terrain and showered bullets on the enemy all of a sudden.

Later, I happened to go along the road to Antu on business. The terrain of the place turned out to be very favourable for the guerrillas to make an attack.

I felt once again that the anti-Japanese guerrilla units which had chosen such a spot favourable for attack were really formidable.

A policeman who rode together with me said that the assaulting anti-Japanese guerrilla unit at that time had been a 60-man unit equipped with light machine guns and its movement very agile.

It was said that the Mingyuehkou Unit had even failed to use the machine gun which had been kept in the driver's cab and the soldiers had fallen under a shower of bullets as

soon as they jumped down, their weapons and ammunition all being taken.

After this battle we trembled with fear merely at hearing of General Kim Il Sung's units. Particularly all the more so after we heard Maeda Police Company had been routed in the Hungchiho battle.

Maeda Unit had been known as the "strongest among the police punitive units." Company Commander Maeda himself was a "formidable man" who boasted of being a fencer of the fourth grade. His men had undergone the intense training of "punitive operations." After getting up in the morning they, in a combat outfit, would run about the garrisoned area scores of times so as to harden their legs and waists. I had seen it many a time.

And more than once I had heard the chief of the Police Bureau praise him before us, saying: "Company Commander Maeda is a wonderful man. His 'punitive operations' will be successful."

So I had never dreamed his unit would be wiped out. At the news of its annihilation I could not but feel that the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army led by General Kim Il Sung was very strong.

Even the troops and police engaged in "punitive operations" feared his guerrilla units for their tactics of turning the terrain to good account.

General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrilla units did no harm to the peasants and other popular masses.

Whenever we got information that an anti-Japanese guerrilla unit had visited a village or assaulted a "police garrison," we were required to go there and investigate their number, equipment and words of mouth. And the result had to be reported to our superiors. In this course, I could fully understand what an army General Kim Il Sung's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army was.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung were said to have propagated: "We are the Korean People's

Revolutionary Army fighting for the restoration of the fatherland and the interests of the people. Japanese imperialism and its minions are our enemy."

Among the events of those days here is an unforgettable one.

I remember it was one winter day after the Tamalukou battle. Many parts of this area were occupied by lumber companies run by Japanese. A lumber station was stormed by one of General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrilla units and the police force there was annihilated.

At that time Japanese office workers and interpreters employed by the company were in the office room.

Informed of this attack by telephone, reinforcements rushed there only to find the guerrillas away. They gathered at once the workers and office employees of the lumber station to examine the real state of affairs.

According to their account, the office workers were trembling with fear when General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrillas attacked them by surprise. One guerrilla member declared: "We men of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army don't harm you. Feel easy since we've come to punish police bastards." The office workers related this fact, showing their good feelings towards General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrilla units.

The reinforcements came back and grumbled: "Even Japanese office workers speak well of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, which is really unbearable." These words are still fresh in my memory.

Once a booklet printed by General Kim Il Sung's Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army came to hand. It dealt with guerrilla tactics, ideological education, method of political work with the people, etc.

At another time I saw leaflets the anti-Japanese guerrillas led by General Kim Il Sung had pasted on fences and trees in a village. The leaflets bore the slogan, "Down with Japanese imperialism!"

Analysing these materials I could realize that General Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese guerrilla army had a clear-cut aim of struggle and was an army trained well politically and militarily.

In the summer of 1941 I was transferred to Changchun, where I served until the surrender of Japanese imperialism.

Looking back upon my past life, now I cannot but feel respect for General Kim Il Sung, ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander, who scared Japanese imperialism so much at that time and is now striving for the happiness of the Korean people and world peace as President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

And I, repenting of my past, firmly resolve myself to make an effort to improve the relations between Japan and Korea and promote friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

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