

# Chaos, Famine In Communist North China, Reporter Says

(Editors note: Wayne Richardson, veteran Associated Press correspondent at Hong Kong, was aboard the American freighter Flying Arrow when a Nationalist gunboat riddled her with shot off Shanghai. The following dispatch was written aboard the ship after he spent four days ashore in Communist North China at Tsingtao while the ship was unloaded.)

By WAYNE RICHARDSON  
ENROUTE TO KOBE, JAPAN, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A black picture of chaos and famine in Communist North China was given to me during the four days I spent ashore on Shantung peninsula while the Flying Arrow unloaded cargo at Tsingtao, once the base of the American Asiatic fleet.

My informant was a well-informed source. His name cannot be used. He said: "Poor crops in Shantung (one of China's richest agricultural areas) will make impossible any surplus for export. Consequently many millions of people will starve before next year's harvest, despite anything the Communist government could do even if it was willing. Even now in various areas people are eating herbs and leaves. Trained Men Lacking

"The administrative picture is absolutely a mess, because of lack of trained personnel and Communist reluctance to utilize available experienced professional men.

"The average Shantungese thinks even less of the Reds than he did of Kuomintang (Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist party) but will remain apathetic. Somewhat by resorting to Gestapo methods, there appears no reason to believe the armed Communists cannot maintain effective control."

My informant said there was no more behind the Communist money than was behind Kuomintang currency. "That is why their exchange is going to hell," he said bitterly. The exchange rate in Tsingtao was 21,000 Communist dollars to \$1.

"The Kuomintang through sheer corruption and robbery of the people by their financial measures lost any remaining prestige they might have had in Shantung," he said.

"Having lost to the Reds politically, their (the Kuomintang's) military defeat was a foregone conclusion. Such American military aid, which was considerable, as was rendered the Nationalist military authorities in Shantung directly or indirectly might just as well have been given the Reds directly."

He said the Communists pre-

sent policy of taxation indicates they intend to drive out all private trade.

"The volume of business is not used as a basis for taxation but rather each guild is allowed so much to be prorated among members," he said. "Many firms, foreign and Chinese, already have closed or applied for permission to close," he said.

This man said that since last year's withdrawal of U. S. Marines from Tsingtao the people would welcome back the Japanese to reestablish law and order and reasonable taxation.

"Despite the publicity given in the Communist controlled press concerning friendship with Russia and the formation in Tsingtao of a branch of the Chino-Soviet Friendship society, the average Soviet citizen is accorded no better treatment than any other foreigner," he said.

All U. S. government property in Tsingtao has been taken over by the Reds.

One oldtime resident of Tsingtao, who also desires anonymity, commented: "The rich are getting poor, and the poor still poorer."

He told me of the ruse the Communists used to obliterate robbers and beggars.

"They arrested one robber," he said, "and convinced him that he would not be molested if he registered his trade. He registered, told his colleagues about it and they registered, too. Then the police cracked down and arrested all of them. Since then there have been no more robbers."

The same trick, he said, was played on beggars. After they all registered, they were arrested and sent to the "salt mines" to labor.

This source said the Communist government gained control of all food in the city through informers.

Two accidents already have marred efforts to get the mine into production of the ore used in atomic science, the men said: Four men were killed by a mine-shaft cave-in and two by an explosion of a hydrogen bottle, they reported.

They said the mine's labor force was expected to reach 2,500, including prisoners sentenced as criminals, but not including German war prisoners.

The refugees said the new mining area was being guarded by 800 German "people's police" and that billets were being requisitioned for 500 Russian soldiers.

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## Russians Digging Uranium In Red Zone Of Germany

LUENTZBURG, Germany, Jan. 25.—(AP)—The Russians were reported today to have begun digging uranium from a new field in the Soviet zone of Germany.

Five German workmen, who said they fled from a mine located in the Harz mountains, about 25 miles from the British zone border, told British and west German officials that work began last Friday at the new mine, near the town of Wernigerode.

Two accidents already have marred efforts to get the mine into production of the ore used in atomic science, the men said: Four men were killed by a mine-shaft cave-in and two by an explosion of a hydrogen bottle, they reported.

They said the mine's labor force was expected to reach 2,500, including prisoners sentenced as criminals, but not including German war prisoners.

The refugees said the new mining area was being guarded by 800 German "people's police" and that billets were being requisitioned for 500 Russian soldiers.

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3 PKTS. **32c**

CANNED MILK  
Cherub Tall Cans **11c**  
Case of 48—\$5.25  
All National Brands **3/35c**  
Case—\$4.49

Lux Toilet Soap  
Bath size bar **11c**  
Reg. bars **3 for 23c**

Ivory Soap  
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OXYDOL  
Granulated Soap  
24-oz. pkg. **24c**

**Campbell Tomato Soup 3 CANS 29c**  
**Tender Peas SUGAR BELLE Fancy No. 303 Pack 15c**  
**Kitchen Craft Flour 10-lb. 93c 25-lb. \$1.98 Sack**

Orange Ade Hi C Brand 46-oz. 33c  
Tomato Juice Sunny Down 46-oz. 25c  
Margarine Sunnybank Per lb. 29c  
Soda Crackers Krispy 1-lb. pkg. 27c  
Cheese Food Fireside 2-lb. loaf 75c  
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