

## Communist Soldier Tired Of War, He Tells Captors

(Editor's Note: Here is the first interview with a Chinese communist soldier captured by the nationalists while attempting to land on Hainan island off the south China coast.)

By Robert C. Miller  
United Press Staff Correspondent

Hoihow, Hainan Island, Feb. 23—(U.P.)—Communist private Wei Chung-Kung has had a belly full of war, especially amphibious operations.

Wei was part of the 43rd communist army, which sent out five junks loaded with 250 infantrymen from Liuchow peninsula to

land on Hainan island. Nationalist gunboats intercepted the junks last week in the 18-mile-wide Hainan strait and sank four of them.

Wei and 50 others surrendered, too seasick to fight after spending two nights and one day in an attempt to cross the strait.

The 24-year-old Wei said he had been a communist for four years—since his induction in his home town on Harbin, Manchuria.

Wei laughingly described his capture at Nationalist headquarters, to which he and his comrades were brought after being marched through the streets under banners proclaiming:

"We do not like Russia!" Barefoot and wearing a faded green uniform, the moon-faced Wei said he never had seen any Russians, but knew the Americans were "imperialists" who are helping (Generalissimo) Chiang fight the Chinese people so they can buy out China."

Wei said he hadn't the slightest idea where he was going or what was happening. He said he was a messenger who always was kept busy training or listening to lectures. He admitted he would not recognize his own company commander if he saw him.

The captives were well armed

## Young Alaskan Leads Mushers In Territorial Race

Anchorage, Alaska, Feb. 23—(U.P.)—A 21-year-old boy spurred nine huge malamutes past a field of Alaska's toughest mushers today to take a commanding lead at the quarter post in the territorial championship dog races.

Garrett Wright, Fairbanks, the youngest Alaskan in the race, was eight minutes ahead of his nearest competitor as the dogs finished the first 25 miles of the grueling 100-mile course.

A total of 21 drivers mushed more than 150 dogs in the event, which started and will finish on Anchorage's main street.

More than 12,000 persons, over half the total population of the area, witnessed the start of the event.

In second place at the quarter post was Dan Snyder, the Noorvik Alaska trail blazer who was favored to win the event. Earl Norris, Anchorage's best musher, was in third.

Defending champion Jake Butler, known as "the Dan McGrew of Alaska dog racing," was in fourth place. Butler's team of half-breed coyotes was still given a good chance of winning, although it was 10 minutes and 31 seconds out of first place.

with rifles, tommy guns and two Bren guns.

The interview was one of the high points of Wei's life, so he made the most of it. He talked loudly and gestured to the Nationalist interpreter, Derick Cheng, a former GI once attached to the late Gen. Joseph Stilwell's staff.

Wei said he joined the local Harbin militia when promised he would be kept at home guarding his village. However, he was transferred to an outer province and then sent south.

He gripped at the 30-cent monthly pay and said the rations were lousy. The communist troops are forced to live off the countryside, he said. All the captives were northerners except one, a Cantonese.

Wei said the civilians of South China fled before their advance and had been giving the army trouble because they were not cooperative. But he wouldn't elaborate.

He said he does not expect to see his family again and he left Harbin. He said he believed they were suffering greatly.

He cursed the Nationalist air force. The communist soldiers were asking the usual question, "where are our planes?"

Regarding his own future, Wei was definite after he found out the Nationalists were not going to heed him. He said he wants to join the Nationalists because they seem like the "best army," so far as he is concerned.

His application is being taken under consideration.



(Acme Telephoto)  
PROTESTS BAIL—WEEKENDS IN JAIL—Representative Fred L. Crawford (R., Mich.) leaves the county jail at Marlboro, Md., for court, to be tried on charges that he assaulted a professional prizefighter. Rep. Crawford spent two nights in the jail to protest Maryland's bail-fixing practices. He was fined \$25.00.

Thursday, February 23, 1950

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

## Ozard Mountaineer Offers To Develop Attack Shelter

New York, Feb. 23—(U.P.)—Lester Dill, an Ozark mountaineer, said today that all he needs is \$1,000,000 and he'll furnish "the first subterranean refuge from possible atom and hydrogen bombing."

Dill owns the Meramec caverns, Stanton, Mo. He said he had asked for a \$1,000,000 loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corp., to equip the caverns against atomic attack.

Could House Many

He said the caverns were 26 miles long and composed of five levels. In an emergency, he said, they could house "thousands."

Only a few miles of the caverns, which were once used by Civil war forces and as headquarters for Jesse James' gang, have been developed, he said.

Last year they were visited by 200,000 tourists at \$1 a head. Would Choose Scientists

Naturally, Dill implied, you can't put everyone in the U. S. in a 26-mile long cave. But "those selected for admission should be representatives of the sciences

such as Einstein, the nuclear physicists, medical experts, chemists, engineers, etc."

"There should also be a chosen representative group of young people who would insure a future generation," he said. "These youths should be screened for the potential attributes in science, arts, agriculture, etc."

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## Heine's Juniors Give IOOF Lodge Program

A program was presented by Bliss Heine's Junior corps at the meeting of Medford Lodge, IOOF Tuesday night.

It opened with piano selections by Louis Parker, with a vocal duet by Krista Stelle and Sandra Stout following. Maj. Paula Jeanne Scott and Capt. Vicky Cordova, six-year-olds, of the mascot section, gave a baton duet and Norma and Carolyn Funk, pupils of Colleen Heine's school, presented a tap dance.

Eight girls, Maj. Sandra Stout, Capt. Norma Funk, Maj. Sgts. Deanna Cuthbertson and Patricia Rector, Capt. Marlene Golden, Sgt. Carolee Brantley, Sgt. Beverly Powell and Nancy Tays participated in a drill followed by a drill demonstration by Major, Scott and Capt. Cordova.

Four-year-old Sgt. Bonnie Brantley presented a baton solo, Maj. Sandra Stout gave an electric solo and Lt. Col. Phyllis Haus a baton solo. An electric duet was presented by Col. Krista Stelle and Maj. Harriett Johnson. Heine gave a musical oddity and Sgt. Gerald Funk demonstrated baton twirling.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 23—(U.P.)—Portland Outdoor Store defeated Bradford Clothiers 51 to 46 last night to take the city's AAU basketball crown. The winners are defending Oregon state champions.

## Sheriff Candidates To Address GOP Women

Speakers for the February meeting of Jackson County Republican Women will be Mrs. Stephen Nye, member of the group, and Howard Gault and Ray Marks, republican candidates for sheriff.

The meeting, under a change of schedule for the club, will be held at 1:30 p. m. Monday, February 27, at the Girls' Community club, without luncheon, according to Mrs. M. Allison Moulton, president.

Mrs. Nye will report on the part Australian women played in changing that country's trend toward socialism.

It is announced that paperback copies of John Flynn's book, "The Road Ahead," will be available for 30 cents per copy.

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#### KIWANIS KAPERS

8 P. M.

FRI.-SAT.

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| 10c                                                | STANDBY                       | No. 2      | 29c |
|                                                    | Sweet Potatoes                | Squat      |     |
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|                                                    | Lima Beans                    | Tin        |     |
|                                                    | LIPTON'S                      | 3 Packages | 35c |
|                                                    | Soup                          |            |     |
| SUNSHINE HI-HO                                     | NALLEY'S KOSHER               | 24 oz. Jar | 39c |
| Crackers                                           | Dill Pickles                  |            |     |
| 1 lb. package                                      | STANDBY FRUIT                 | No. 2 1/2  | 35c |
| 24 to package                                      | Cocktail                      | Tin        |     |
| SUNSHINE                                           | STANDBY                       | Quart Bot. | 29c |
| Fig Bars                                           | Prune Juice                   |            |     |
| 16 oz. package                                     | QUAKER                        | 3 lb. Box  | 39c |
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