

Deaconess Julia A. Clark  
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May 11th, 1944.

Dear Dr. Baker,-

Your letter of May 7th, inquiring as to my reaction to Ralf Sues's book, has come and I shall try to answer your several questions.

As you knew, I travelled with the group in which she was included, on a visit to the 8th Route Army and travel in those days, as we made it, meant close living together, sharing the same kang most of the time, and being together all day. I was present at all of the interviews she had with the various commanders in the Army, etc., and saw quite a little of her during the following months, until it was arranged for her to leave Nankow. Of course I knew nothing first-hand of her days in Nanking, and only what she told me of her mother and her earlier life, of which she spoke a good deal.

One does not wish to be unkind, but it is puzzling to read the book and imagine why she is so consistently inaccurate in all the sections of which I have personal knowledge. Sometimes it redounded a bit to her own credit, to put into her own mouth things which others actually said, but at other times there seems to be no reason. Then again, what she claims to have understood or said in Chinese simply were not so. She has a patter of common phrases, spoken quite incorrectly, but could hardly understand a thing of the northern Chinese. And even Chu Teh did not get much from her German. She speaks of having daily conferences with him, for an instance, but we had only two, both carefully prepared for, by having us send in the questions we proposed to ask in English, which were translated into Chinese, by his own interpreter. These were given us and also their digest of the answers. In the incident of the Roman Catholic Service, she gives the wrong day of the week, an entirely wrong introduction( the "Little Red Devils never coming into our room when we were not up, and it was the Vice-Commander of the Political Dep't who came anyway, and neither she nor Frances Roots understood what he said, not knowing the Roman term for the Mass. Ting Lin was with us at the time, giving her life-history(carefully expurgated) to Fran, who was writing it down, as I translated for her phrase by phrase. As for my saying I'd never been to an R.C. Church and would not go, I'd been many a time, and set off the next morning with the two men, both Ralf and Fran having refused to go. But when I saw how interesting it was to be, I asked the Red Army people to send a messenger with a note to urge them

to come and they hurried in after the Service had begun, while the two men and I had been talking with Father Lebbe and the old Bishop for a half hour before the Service. I give these details as an instance, and could give many more. There is hardly a thing that took place while I was with her, which is not almost as distorted as this, and for no apparent reason. As to her attitude toward Madame, I know nothing at first hand, but both Agnes Smedley and I felt it was resentment at having been left behind, after having had a really wonderful break while in Hanking. Evidently, she did not deliver the goods then, or she would have been taken along. I'll not go into the final sending her out of China, as it was all rather pathetic, but with these inaccurate reportings of the part I knew personally, naturally I read the rest of the book with reservations.

As to my own opinion of the 8th Route Army people, from what I saw and heard, (including Chou En-lai in Hankow and later by letter while he was in Chungking and I in the Southwest, I am convinced of their good faith in their ideology and in their living it and enthusing others with it. Their influence over the local people in the Northwest is amazing and it is because they were living what they taught. As to what they may have done since, with the Central Government living up to almost nothing of what they promised them, I cannot say, and it must be heart-breaking to them to be caged off where they can do almost no fighting against the Japanese; to say nothing of that fact precluding them from supplying themselves with most of what they needed from their captures. I am hoping that if the Japanese take Loyang, the Government may use them again to hold back the drive. If so, it will mean a sinking of the jealousy of them on the part of Ho Yin-chin, or else that others over-rule him for the sake of public safety. I do feel it is a great mistake for those here, in this country, who do not know truly what is happening, to use the methods that you say they are, to coerce the Government. I'd like to know more of this.

What a shame your files were not sent out, but you may find much needed material in New York, and people there and in Washington who can help you. My friend, J.L. Chia, who knew you in Kunming and Chungking, has written that he expects to be in the East, probably in Washington the latter half of this year. If you are kept there some time, you may run across him. But I think he does not plan to be in that section of the country till June or July.

For myself, word from China implies that the excessive living-costs and the low exchange given on monies sent out, will probably mean no more foreigners will be returned to China till the inflation is somewhat reduced. The doctors think I should be in shape for work in a month or so, and that will mean that I shall want to find work in this country if I cannot go back then. It was pleasant meeting you in San Francisco. Let me know if you come this way.

*Stacy  
John  
Chou En-lai  
G. Clark*