

# FRONT LINE TROOPS RECEIVE U. S. ARMS AND AMMUNITION

## American Staffs Secretly at Work Since Last April Making New Force

With a Chinese Expeditionary Force, Feb. 28.—(AP)—The revitalization of Chiang Kai-Shek's armies has begun with the arrival of concrete American aid. This is the first public disclosure of one of the most ambitious and far-reaching programs in military history to modernize, re-train and re-equip a vast army in war-time.

### To Retrain Divisions

American army officers and men under the command of Lieut.-Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell have started the job in southwest China in co-operation with commanders of Chinese expeditionary forces. The program envisages the retraining of a score of divisions in critical areas where they will do the Japanese the most harm.

Secretly at work since last April, Stilwell's "Y" force operations staff is making a real impression on its mission of increasing the fighting efficiency of this expeditionary force.

The program has reached the point where travelling American instructional groups and liaison teams are in the field with Chinese army groups, armies, divisions and battalions.

Frontline troops in some cases have received American weapons and ammunition and learned their tactical use from Chinese officers and non-commissioned officers, recent graduates of American training schools.

### Look to Offensive

After seven debilitating years of defensive struggle against the relentless and modernly-armed invader, some large units of the Chinese army at last are able to begin thinking in terms of the day when all will be able to turn to the offensive and drive the Japanese from the continent of Asia.

Viewing the Chinese picture as a whole, however, there still is a staggering job ahead. To a large extent, it hinges on opening a land supply route from India for which a Chinese-American expeditionary force under Stilwell is fighting ahead in Burma. It also depends upon the eventual seizure of a seaport on the China coast. American personnel and material now are limited to what can be flown in, in addition to the needs of the U.S. and Chinese air forces.

### Concrete Aid Extended

Concrete aid has been extended in the following categories:

Air ground support—anti-aircraft batteries.

Ammunition, in considerable quantities, weapons including mountain artillery, machine guns, anti-tank guns, mortars and tommy-guns.

Radio and signal equipment.

Motor replacement parts, trucks, gasoline.

Field hospital services.

Veterinary services.

Ordnance repair.

Engineering and road construction.

Field training in tactics, use and care of weapons, bayonet fighting, operation of signal equipment, air and ground co-operation, care of animals, sanitation and preventive medicine.

On a 1,500-mile trip through mountains and valleys of south-

west China, I have had the first opportunity to visit and talk to the Chinese and Americans working and living side by side in the field to create a new striking force in the framework of the Chinese armies.

Despite what might have been considered insurmountable difficulties a year ago and some misgivings on both sides, the groundwork has been laid. The training is going into its final stages down into the lower units.

Gen. Shiao I-Sy, chief of staff of the Chinese expeditionary force, told me: "We have enough supplies and enough weapons on this front. The C.E.F. is adequately equipped for both offensive and defensive operations."

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