

Britons, Americans, and Chinese in the ambulance unit had the same problem. The greatest moral hurdle was not in justifying the impersonal war, but in steeling oneself against an inevitable attack by bandits, soldiers, or sneak thieves. When the drivers realized they were prepared to defend their trucks and cargoes with force, if necessary, they knew they were no longer pacifists. Many put off the step, but eventually these men resigned from the unit and joined the British and American armies.

After two years of truck driving, Morris fell on the same hurdle. His decision was precipitated by a trivial row with half a dozen Chinese soldiers who tried to climb aboard his truck at a stop. The argument led to blows and to the conviction that his pacifism was no longer bona fide. On his arrival in Kunming he boarded a plane for India to enlist.

Actually, Morris's abandonment of pacifism is a trifle anti-climactic. But the chronicle of events is not the important element of this book, anyhow. The important thing is the author's thoughts, experiences, and observations, many of which are penetrating. It is a truism that China has a multitude of faces, and that no two Occidentals ever see her the same. Were it necessary to demonstrate this proposition it could hardly be done better than by contrasting Morris's book with other recent reports by—say—General Chennault, Agnes Smedley, and George Creel. The comparison is startling—and enlightening on the bewildering complexity of the "China problem."

FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT: No. 302

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 302 will be found in the next issue.

KCGFA LDHBOGNN EN
NGHBDP REASDTA NDPG
FLNTCBEAQ.

WCFOXEN LFXDO

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 301

Where boasting ends, there dignity begins.
YOUNG—Night Thoughts.

Four-Century Marathon

RUSSIA'S RACE FOR ASIA. By George Creel. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1949. 264 pp. \$2.75.

Reviewed by EDGAR SNOW

GEORGE CREEL headed Woodrow Wilson's information committee in World War I, which may explain some of the confusion accompanying that affair, unless Mr. Creel then had greater esteem for accuracy than he demonstrates in the volume under review. Part of his trouble may be that he never found time to visit the Far East, apparently, until last year. It is a pity that he did not go a little earlier or stay a little longer before writing about China. Every chapter, indeed nearly every page, of his book, "Russia's Race for Asia," is distinguished by errors of fact, judgment, and understanding which must be obvious even to those who have read only those few books about China which Creel himself quotes—often out of context—for his purposes.

The author notes at the outset just what those purposes are. The first is to prove that China's Reds are mere puppets of Moscow, the mere means to Russia's conquest of all Asia. The second is to show how Roosevelt and Truman are responsible for the Reds' successes; we betrayed China consistently after 1937 but particularly since 1945, when we supposedly abandoned Chiang Kai-shek. Another Creel purpose is to acquit the Generalissimo & Co. of charges of either corruption or dictatorship; it seems that Chiang Kai-shek "held his country and his people together by sheer force of character" for thirty years.

If the latter is quite a trick it is no more formidable than the task which Mr. Creel assigns to himself—enough to challenge all the skill of the most gifted polemicist working in a thoroughly familiar milieu. Mr. Creel's own approach includes a hasty rehash of Chinese revolutionary history, some references to the rise of the Kuomintang and the Communist party, and mention of the Sian Incident of 1936, to bring us up to the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war in 1937.

The Chinese Reds are largely blamed for Chiang Kai-shek's defeats and difficulties before Pearl Harbor; after that, General Stilwell becomes the chief culprit. China is almost ruined in this period by the combination of American aid and Vinegar Joe's attempts to make an army out of Chiang Kai-shek's diseased, hun-



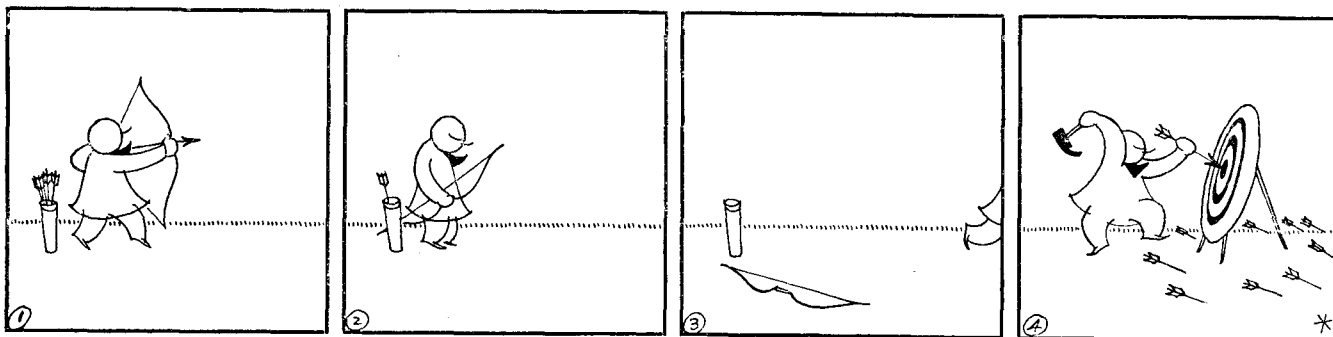
—From the New York Star.

"Can It Be Worse?"

gry, ill-led, ill-trained troops. The situation is saved at last when, in 1944, General Stilwell is relieved by General Wedemeyer, who, according to Creel, was a big improvement. Indeed he was on the way to become China's savior when he was frustrated by the conspiracy of Roosevelt-Truman policy, which interfered with a well-laid Chiang-Wedemeyer design to destroy the Chinese Reds.

"The Yalta betrayals"—Creel means the terms of Sino-American agreement which recognized Chiang Kai-shek's authority in Manchuria, where he had never ruled before—were our worst sin. After that Truman sent out General Marshall to China because—judging from Creel's comment—the Reds weren't doing so well. Marshall soon fixed things up for the Communists; they arranged for him to call for a truce in the civil war whenever the Generalissimo seemed about to gain some advantage. The "Gissimo" always honorably ceased fire at Marshall's request while the Reds invariably violated the order until they were in position for new attacks. Chiang was repeatedly taken by surprise.

After Marshall had thus done what he could to defeat Chiang Kai-shek by permitting the Reds to make use of such ingenious devices, the decrepit general washed his hands of China and returned to become Secretary of State. In Washington he continued to oppose aid to Chiang, which alone could have saved China, Asia, America, and the world. Marshall's stupidity is all the more incomprehensible in view of the fact that the Generalissimo did everything to please him. He even established a democratic government in China,



"Archery."

chosen by "free election" in which "more than half the population" (sic) voted.

In the last laps of "Russia's Race for Asia," the author catches up with the Russians while they are arming the Chinese Reds. He quotes as authority for that assertion General Fu Tso-yi, whom he calls the best Nationalist general in China. General Fu is now working for the Reds in Peiping. Mr. Creel elaborately doubts that the Reds ever fought the Japanese. He proves that they treacherously knifed the Generalissimo in the back—by occupying Hopei, Shantung, and Shansi in 1943—provinces from which Chiang's troops had been driven in 1937.

In the pursuit of his purpose the author makes other astonishing reports and observations, of which the following offer a fair sampling:

That Li Li-san in 1930 "led a Red army down from the heights of the provinces of Hunan"

That "Joseph Stilwell sacrificed China's best divisions by ill-fated Burma campaigns"

That at General Wedemeyer's advice and requests the Chinese soldier won a "balanced diet," a pay increase from \$1.50 to \$30 monthly, and a selective-service system which drafted sons of the rich as well as the poor

That because, in 1944, the Generalissimo's forces defeated a Japanese flank operation toward Kweiyang (provincial capital, far in West China) "more than a million and a half of Nippon's best troops were kept in China instead of being sent off to fight against MacArthur"

That "while Chungking was bombed unceasingly for five years no bomb ever fell on Yenan"

That "never at any time has the personal integrity of the Generalissimo been questioned"

Enough!

Serious students of such matters will know at once that the foregoing statements simply aren't true. But the book contains other contradictions, anachronisms, and logical fallacies of a more recondite nature, which it would require much more space to examine than is available here.

Mr. Creel's not very original pur-

poses may be entirely worth while and conceivably his arguments might be proved. But he has defeated them by a technique of heavy special pleading, based upon a hasty regurgitation of poorly digested material. The result is hardly more convincing than the "shoddy propaganda" of the Communists which he abhors. Mr. Creel's imagination has perhaps been excited by a too-literal interpretation

of his own title. After all, Russia's race for Asia has been going on for at least four centuries, but it is still led by "the Bear that walks like a man."

Edgar Snow, now an associate editor of *The Saturday Evening Post*, is author of "Red Star Over China" and other books. He spent more than a decade as a correspondent in China.

Your Literary I.Q.

By Howard Collins

COMMON PATRONYMS

Clark Kinnaird, of the King Features Syndicate, points out that, though they are not related in a blood sense, each of the following groups of literary practitioners has the same last name. Allowing three points for each name you can identify, a score of sixty is par, seventy-five is very good, and eighty-one or better is excellent. Answers are on page 25.

1. E. B.; W. L.; Walter; Nelia G.?
2. Sinclair; Lloyd; C. S.?
3. Thornton; Gelett?
4. Pearl; Frank?
5. Betty; Lillian; Harrison; H. Allen?
6. T. S.; George F.?
7. Langston; Dorothy; Rupert?
8. Frederick L.; Hervey?
9. Kenneth; Elizabeth M.?
10. Walt; Dorothy C.?
11. Craig; Elmer; Cale Y.?
12. Elliot; Louis?
13. Irwin; Bernard?
14. Arthur; Max; Helen T.; Alice D.?
15. Julian; F. L.; Paul?
16. Vardis; Steve; Dorothy C.?
17. Robert; George J.?
18. John; George Agnew?
19. Josephine; Hilda; D. H.?
20. Philip V. D.; G. B.?
21. James T.; Samuel H.; F. P.?
22. Graham; Ward?
23. Hesketh; Drew; Edmund L.?
24. Wallace; James?
25. Bruno; Louis?
26. Erskine; Taylor?
27. Charles R.; Joseph H.; Shirley?
28. Elmer; Clyde B.; H. L.?
29. Waldo; Jerome; John P.; Pat?
30. Ben A.; Tennessee; Wythe; William C.?
31. Margaret; Edmund?
32. Dorothy; Sylvia?
33. F. Hugh; A. P.?
34. Katharine; Norman?
35. John M.; Cecil; Frederic?