

# The Revolutionary Rebel Spirit of the Red Guards

Our Staff Reporter

CHINA'S Red Guards, who are infinitely loyal to Chairman Mao and Mao Tse-tung's thought, have shown by their heroic deeds that they are the shock force in the great proletarian cultural revolution. In the past year and a half, together with the main force of the revolution — the broad masses of workers, peasants, soldiers, revolutionary intellectuals and revolutionary cadres — they have vigorously rebelled against the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road, against all sorts of monsters in society, and against the imperialists, modern revisionists and reactionaries of all countries. At the same time, they have energetically rebelled against ideas of self-interest in their own heads and have greatly raised their political consciousness through actual participation in class struggle. Their revolutionary rebel spirit has

frightened the class enemies at home and abroad, but it has won unstinted praise from the revolutionary people all over the world.

## To Rebel Is Justified!

The Red Guards, born in the great proletarian cultural revolution initiated by Chairman Mao himself, were first organized in Peking's middle schools and colleges 18 months ago. These young people, most of whose parents are workers, peasants and revolutionary cadres, were fired with the lofty ideal to make a complete break with the old world. As one article written by Red Guards declared: "All present-day reactionaries and those of antiquity, in China and in other countries, say: 'Exploitation is justified; oppression is justified; aggression is justified; revisionist rule is justified; but proletarian revolt is not

justified. . . .' It was Chairman Mao, our most respected and beloved leader and the greatest revolutionary teacher, who turned this addle-pated theory the right way round. Chairman Mao has said: **'In the final analysis, all the truths of Marxism can be summed up in one sentence: To rebel is justified!'**"

The Red Guards follow Chairman Mao's instructions and are resolute in action. From the very beginning of the great proletarian cultural revolution they have brought into full play the spirit of daring to think, to speak, to act, to break through and make revolution. They have put up thousands upon thousands of *dazibao* in schools, factories, stores, government organizations and the streets, exposing, criticizing and condemning the criminal activities of the Party people in authority taking

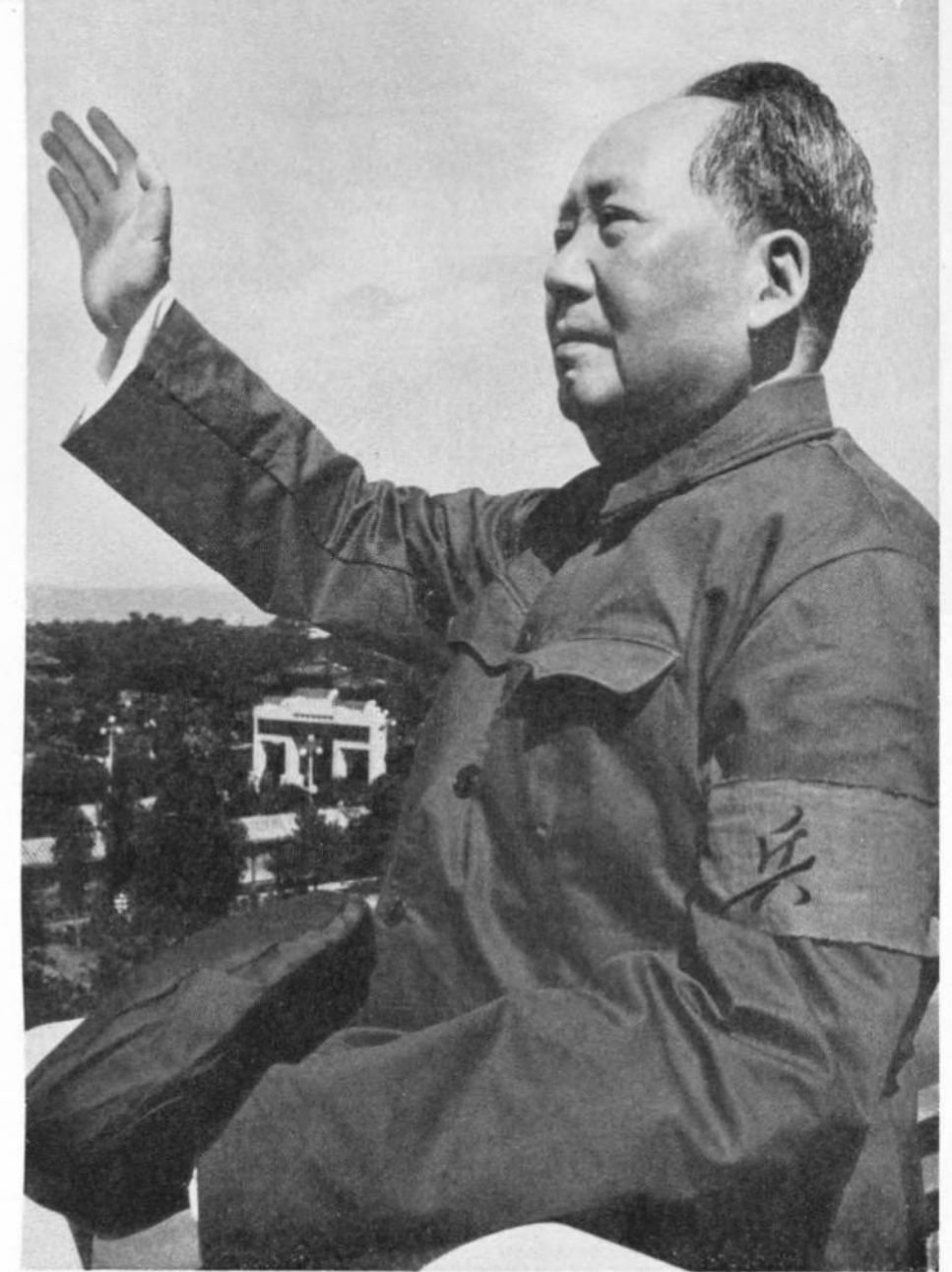
the capitalist road. These actions boosted the morale of the proletariat and punctured the arrogance of the bourgeoisie.

## Opposition to Revolution

Any revolution inevitably meets with resistance. The top handful of capitalist-roaders in the Party were scared to death when in June and July, 1966, millions upon millions of the Chinese people launched a general attack against all ideas of the exploiting classes. Foreseeing the end of their dream to restore capitalism in China, this top handful took advantage of Chairman Mao's absence from Peking and vigorously put into operation a bourgeois reactionary line through which they defamed, deceived and suppressed the masses and protected themselves. True to their exploiting-class instinct, they hurriedly sent out large numbers of work teams which, in the name of establishing "revolutionary order", branded many revolutionary pathbreakers as "counter-revolutionaries", "anti-Party elements" and "fake Leftists but real Rightists". These work teams played the role of "fire brigades" in suppressing the mass movement. Almost everywhere they went, they thrust the real Left aside and prohibited the exchange of revolutionary experience in a vain attempt to put out the revolutionary flames which had just been lit.

The Red Guards waged a tit-for-tat struggle against the bourgeois reactionary line. Heroically they declared: "No matter how high his position or how long his years in the Party, if a person is against the Party, socialism and Mao Tse-tung's thought, we will rebel against him!"

At the beginning of the movement, a leader of the Red Guards at Tsinghua University who



From Tien An Men rostrum on August 18, 1966, our most respected and beloved great leader Chairman Mao reviewed one million Red Guards and revolutionary students and teachers. This was his first of eight reviews of the Red Guards.

comes from a poor peasant family was branded as an "anti-Party careerist" and was locked up in his room for 18 days by the work team. Many fellow-students hoodwinked by the work team were incited to struggle against him. But this young man courageously exclaimed: "Such high-pressure policy is itself a sign of weakness", and "You may look terribly fierce, but you are really paper tigers. You are mortally afraid of us!"

Chairman Mao has said: "Even great storms are not to be feared. It is amid great storms that human society progresses." In the heat of the struggle, these words gave great encouragement to many Red Guards. Confronted with the threat of a reign of white terror, they did not lose their conviction

that the dark clouds would pass away and the bright red sun would shine again.

## 'I Firmly Support You!'

When Chairman Mao returned to Peking in July 1966, he learned about the Red Guards. With the vision of a great proletarian revolutionary, he recognized this newly-born organization as possessing boundless vitality, and himself fostered its growth. On August 1 he wrote a letter to Red Guards in a middle school which gave them great inspiration. He said: "Your two big-character posters of June 24 and July 4 express your wrath against, and your denunciation of, the landlord class, the bourgeoisie, the imperialists, the revisionists and

Red Guards enthusiastically cheer and hail our great leader Chairman Mao, whom they are determined to follow in carrying the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.







Young Red Guards in Peking change the name of the street in which the Soviet embassy is located from "Yangwei (Display of Military Power) Road" to "Anti-Revisionist Road".

their running dogs, all of whom exploit and oppress the workers, peasants, revolutionary intellectuals and revolutionary parties and groups. They show that it is right to rebel against reactionaries. I warmly support you." This letter became the general guide to action for the Red Guards.

It was also in that stirring month of August that Chairman Mao on the Tien An Men rostrum told Red Guards: "I firmly support you!" Immediately the movement to form Red Guard units swept the whole country. The Red Guards travelled far and wide to exchange revolutionary experience and carried the sparks of the great proletarian cultural revolution wherever they went. And on eight occasions within the space of a hundred days, Chairman Mao reviewed a total of 12 million Red Guards and revolutionary students and teachers from all over China. The emergence of the Red Guard movement and the mobilization of the masses under the guidance of Chairman Mao represented a decisive victory in the campaign to criticize and repudiate the bourgeois reactionary line.

Many of the Red Guards who had been persecuted and branded as counter-revolutionaries had the decisions on them reversed. An outstanding case was that of Kuo Chia-hung of Chenchiang, Kiangsu province, a student who had left school to work in the countryside. When, out of his infinite loyalty to Mao Tse-tung's thought, he rebelled against the revisionists, he was branded "an anti-Party

element" by the capitalist-roaders in the local Party leadership. He came to Peking and reported to the Central Committee against these class enemies. While in the capital he chanced to pass by a construction site where a big fire had broken out. He courageously dashed in and while fighting the flames kept repeating quotations from Chairman Mao. He gave his life in the struggle. This valiant deed and the sacrifice of his life to protect public property was powerful proof of how vicious were the capitalist-roaders who had branded this young revolutionary a "counter-revolutionary". The decision on his case was reversed and he was posthumously admitted to membership of the Chinese Communist Party.

#### Washing Away All the Dregs

Having burst out of the snare of the bourgeois reactionary line, the Red Guards left the schools and universities and went out into society to launch a general cleansing away of the old ideas, old culture, old customs and old habits of all the exploiting classes. They distributed great quantities of revolutionary leaflets and made innumerable stirring speeches. Supported by revolutionary workers, they took down shop signs and street names tainted with the ideology of feudalism and colonialism and replaced them with new, revolutionary ones. They banned the bizarre clothes and hair styles introduced from capitalist and revisionist countries, and bad books and gramophone records that

poisoned the minds of the people. In short, they "made a big noise" in order to foster the new ideas, new culture, new customs and new habits of the proletariat. They turned every place they went to into a base for spreading Mao Tse-tung's thought.

The heroic Red Guards were unwavering in rebelling against the monsters shielded by China's Khrushchov, the top capitalist-roader concealed in the Party. By mobilizing the masses, these youngsters dragged out feudal diehards, reactionary bureaucrats and reactionary capitalists who had long remained hidden out of sight and put on public show their accounts and records (which they had kept in the hope of a restoration of the old regime), gold, treasure and murderous weapons secreted away for many years. This was a direct refutation of the views peddled by China's Khrushchov that "class struggle has died out" and "exploitation has its merits".

The imperialists and modern revisionists who fear and hate revolution and are hostile to the Chinese people are also targets of the Red Guards' attacks. Together with the broad masses of the Chinese people, the Red Guards have over the past year and a half staged a number of mammoth demonstrations and rallies—against the Soviet revisionist leading clique who brutally beat up the Chinese students on Moscow's Red Square, against the British imperialists who suppressed with armed force our compatriots in Hongkong and Kowloon, and against reactionaries of all countries who joined the U.S. imperialists and Soviet revisionists in their frantic attacks against China. The Red Guards have also held many demonstrations and meetings to support the Vietnamese people in their war against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation and the Arab people in their heroic struggle against the U.S. and British imperialists and their satellite Israel. The young revolutionaries have mercilessly exposed the Soviet revisionists' shameful behaviour of sham support but real betrayal of the revolutionary struggles waged by the people of all countries.

They have greatly developed their spirit of proletarian internationalism and strengthened their determination to carry, together with the oppressed peoples and nations, the world revolution through to the end.

#### The Seizure of Power and Mass Criticism

Early last year, the broad masses of proletarian revolutionaries, chiefly comprising workers, peasants and soldiers, seized power in different parts of the country from the handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road. Leaders of the Red Guards were included in the revolutionary committees set up in their areas.

Last April the clarion call was sounded for a general assault against the handful of top capitalist-roaders in the Party. In the mass campaign of revolutionary criticism and repudiation of them, Lu Jung-ken, a youth from Shanghai, is looked upon as a model by the Red Guards. In the early days of the great proletarian cultural revolution, this second-year student in a senior middle school had studied many writings of Tao Chu, the No. 3 capitalist-roader in the Party, and detected that the author viciously attacked the Party and Chairman Mao under the cover of oblique references and in veiled language. Lu then wrote *dazibao* totalling more than 20,000 words to expose the ugly features of this counter-revolutionary double-dealer. Though persecuted and attacked by the bourgeois reactionary liners for his critical posters, Lu continued to tell his schoolmates: "It is extremely dangerous for a person like Tao Chu to be nestling by the side of Chairman Mao!" and "I won't feel easy until Tao Chu is overthrown." Later he came to Peking and, posting a 10,000-word *dazibao* in the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee which at that time was headed by Tao Chu, waged a relentless struggle against this so-called "veteran revolutionary" whose two-faced tactics had not

then been seen through by others. The broad revolutionary masses soon rose to attack the No. 3 capitalist-roader and Tao Chu was finally overthrown.

While the handful of top capitalist-roaders, in the words of China's great proletarian writer, Lu Hsun, have become "dogs that have fallen into the water", the pernicious revisionist influences long spread by them and their

henchmen have yet to be fully exposed and thoroughly criticized and repudiated. Only when we have done this can we fully establish the supremacy of Mao Tse-tung's thought and consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat. In the fight to completely destroy the bourgeois headquarters, the Red Guards, together with the proletarian revolutionaries in all fields, carry on conscientious investigation and study and use Mao Tse-



Wielding their pens like swords, revolutionary students at Peking Normal University mercilessly fight China's Khrushchov with big-character posters.



Young revolutionaries at the Peking Aeronautical Institute arm themselves with Mao Tse-tung's thought in order to combat ideas of "self" in their own heads.



tung's thought to analyse problems and make judgements. Through struggle meetings where facts are presented and reasoning is used, through big-character posters written in striking language and pictures and cartoons, by the printing of militant little newspapers and loudspeaker broadcasts, they have vigorously criticized and repudiated the bourgeois reactionary line pushed by China's Khrushchov and his followers in all spheres, and exposed their criminal trickery in attempting to sell capitalist wares as socialist ideology.

### **Fight Self and Repudiate Revisionism**

While a motive force in the revolution, the Red Guards also consider themselves targets of the revolution. They have enthusiastically responded to Chairman Mao's great call before National Day last year, "**Fight self and repudiate revisionism.**" They understand that self-interest, including the concept of private ownership, is the seed-bed for the birth and growth of revisionism, and in order to criticize and repudiate revisionism they must combat the idea of "self".

Red Guards in all parts of the country have organized classes for the study of Chairman Mao's works. They conscientiously study Chairman Mao's "five good old articles" (*On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party, Combat Liberalism, Serve the People, In Memory of Norman Bethune and The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains*) and other writings. They use Chairman Mao's instructions as the test for their own words and actions in the great proletarian cultural revolution. With criticism and self-criticism as their weapon, they rebel against all non-proletarian ideas so as to make themselves more revolutionary and more scientific and to improve their organizational discipline. The Red Guards, following Chairman Mao's instructions, go among the workers, peasants and soldiers to learn modestly from them, and they constantly remould and steel themselves through struggle.

In his letter to the Red Guards last August, Chairman Mao earnestly advised the young revolutionaries: "**While supporting you, we ask you to pay attention to doing your best to unite with all the people that can be united . . . the proletariat must emancipate not only itself but all mankind. Without emancipating all mankind the proletariat cannot achieve its own final emancipation.**" Carrying out this instruction, the Red Guards have unified their ranks on the basis of Mao Tse-tung's thought and are uniting with all those who can be united in order to overthrow the handful of capitalist-roaders in the Party, the imperialists, revisionists and all reactionaries. They are determined to retain their revolutionary rebel spirit, to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end, and to work hard to temper themselves through struggle into reliable successors to the cause of communism.

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