

THE RED TERROR IN SZECHWAN

RIVAL WAR LORDS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

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While Cantonese forces in the south and Government forces elsewhere in Kiangsi have been making considerable progress against the Communists, the position in North-East Szechwan has again become worse.

The Red General Ho Lung, who was recently active in Hupeh, has now joined the Szechwan and Shensi Provincial Soviet at Tongkiang, where there are three Red armies, with a military school and the usual political bureaux. A number of neighbouring cities are occupied and a reign of terror prevails.

A correspondent of the *North China Daily News*, who visited Paochow, where the Reds were for seven weeks, writes:—

In a mulberry grove adjoining the mission were 36 pits in which hundreds of bodies were thrown. . . . We were horrified to find a similar pit in our own garden, where over 30 children were buried.

Szechwan troops succeeded in driving the Reds back, but were soon recalled to share in the civil war, which has now become chronic in Chengtu Plain. Many, however, joined the Reds, attracted by the prospects of loot and a general orgy.

The exorbitant taxation imposed in Szechwan to finance the opposing war lords is destroying the prosperity of the province, and many begin to think that the Communists are a lesser evil than the military oppressors.

According to the latest reports from Chengtu (capital of Szechwan) foreigners are unable to leave the city owing to fighting between the rival generals which is now proceeding.