



*Norman Bethune
in China*

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Adapted by Chung Chih-cheng

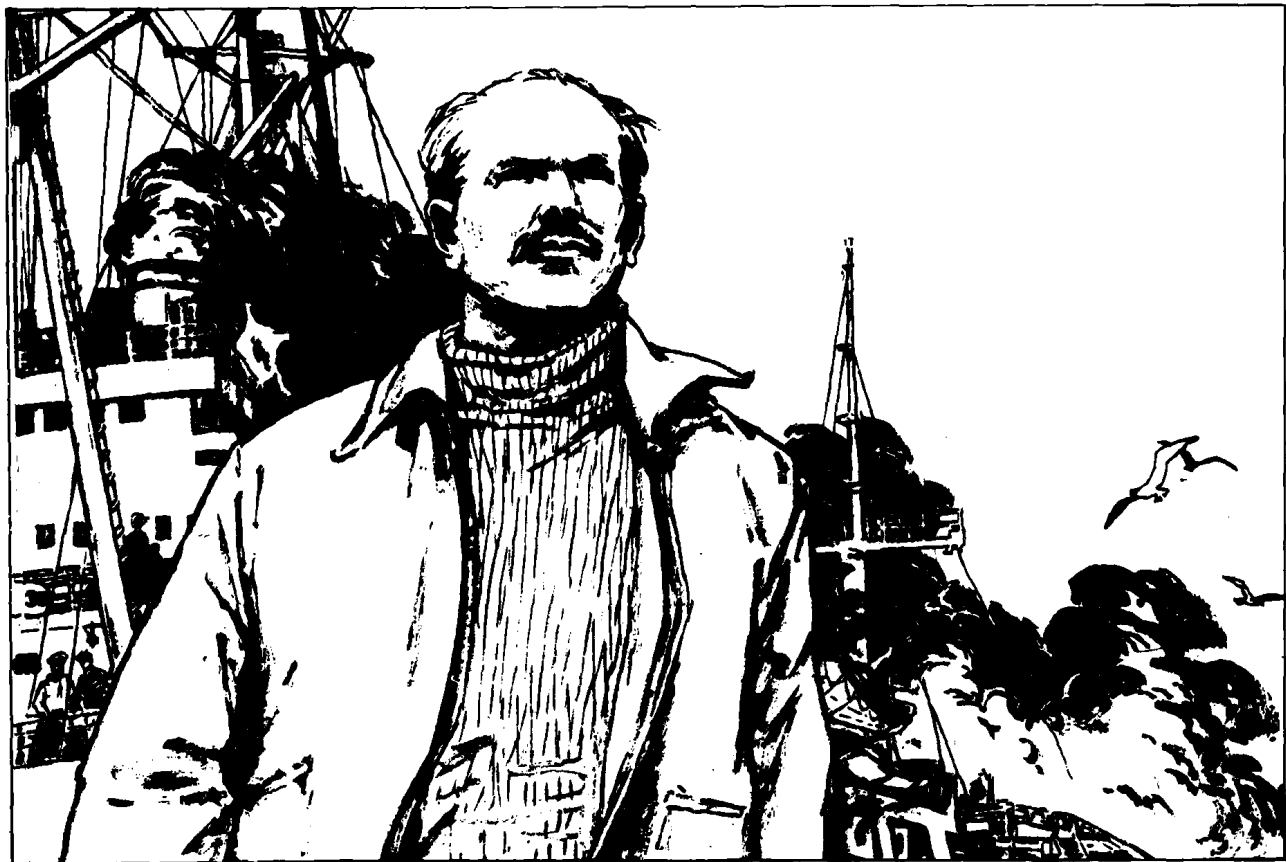
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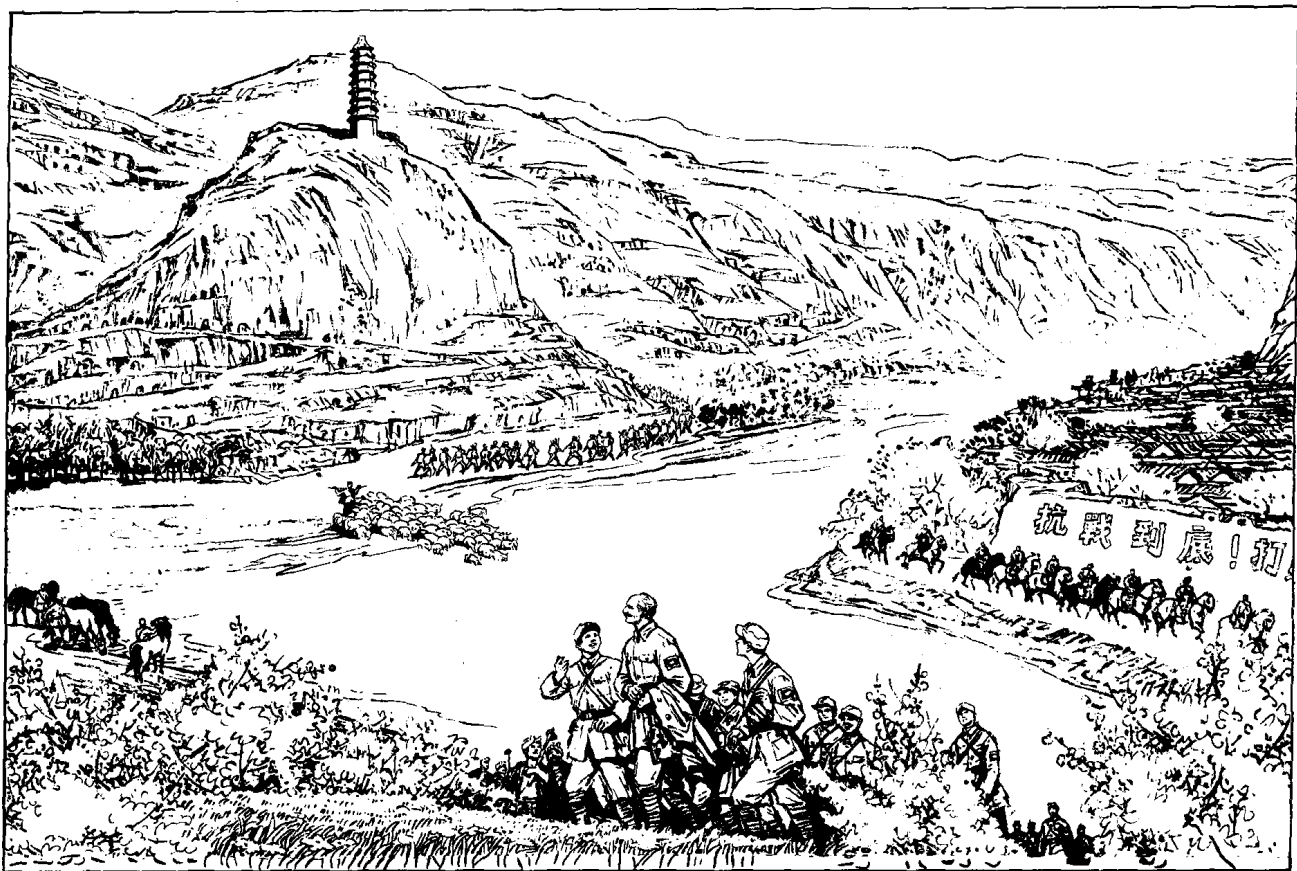
COMRADE NORMAN BETHUNE, a member of the Communist Party of Canada, was a world-famous chest surgeon. In 1937, when the War of Resistance Against Japan broke out, he was sent to China by the Communist Parties of Canada and the United States. He arrived early in 1938. In the spring of the same year he reached Yen-an and was received by the great leader of the Chinese people, Chairman Mao. Soon afterwards, he went to the base area behind the enemy lines as Medical Advisor to the Shansi-Chahar-Hopei Military Area. In those hard war years he shared the joys and sorrows of the people and army-men in the Shansi-Chahar-Hopei Border Region. He adopted the cause of the Chinese people's liberation as his own. With selfless enthusiasm in his work, and imbued with the great spirit of internationalism and communism, he made a glorious contribution to the cause of the Chinese people's liberation. Unfortunately, he contracted blood poisoning while operating on wounded soldiers, and to our great sorrow, after all measures taken to cure him had proved futile, died on November 12, 1939 at Yellow Stone Village in Tang-hsien County, Hopei Province.

On December 21, 1939, Chairman Mao wrote the brilliant essay "In Memory of Norman Bethune" calling on the Chinese people to learn from Comrade Bethune. In 1940, to perpetuate his memory, the Shansi-Chahar-Hopei Military Area renamed the Model Hospital set up by him the "Bethune International Peace Hospital."

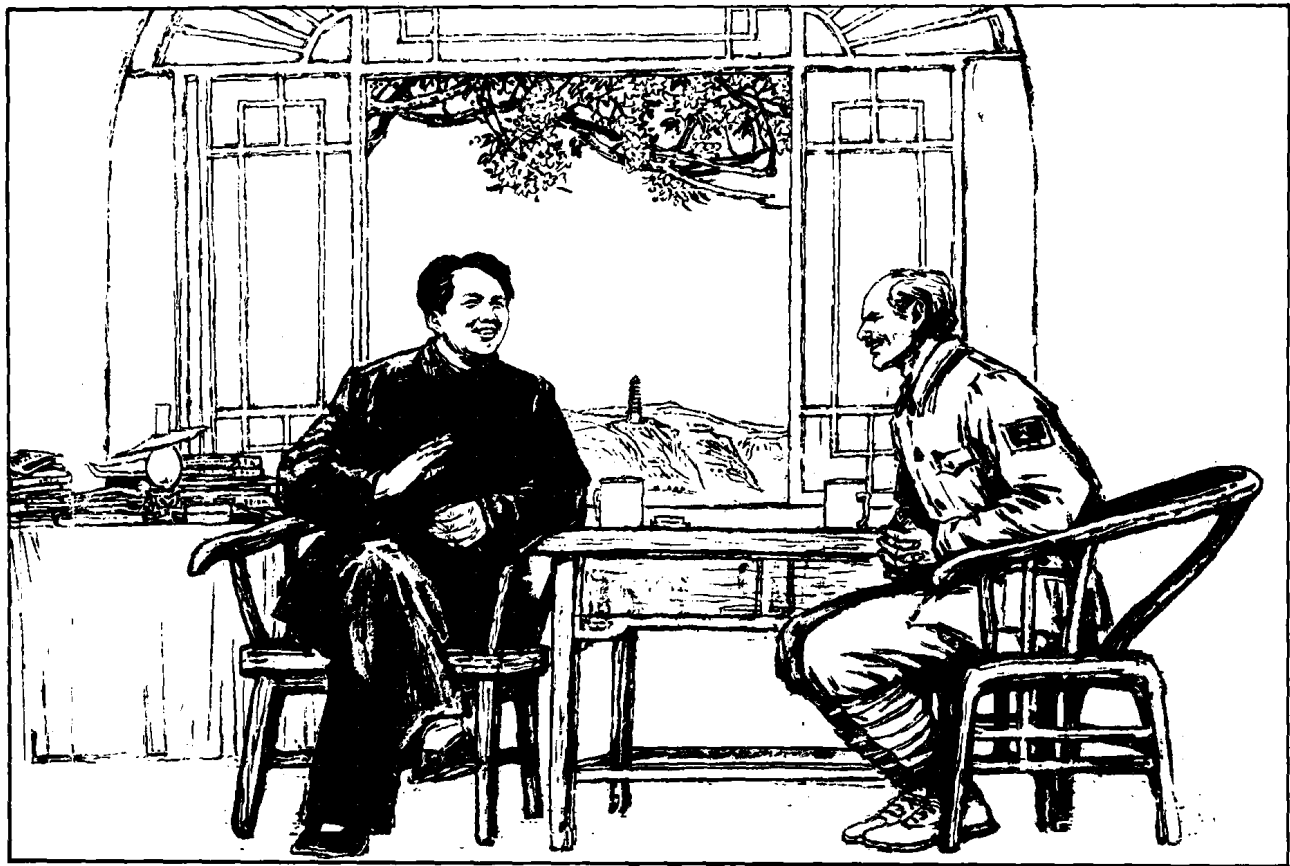
The great internationalist fighter Comrade Bethune lives forever in the hearts of millions upon millions of the Chinese people.



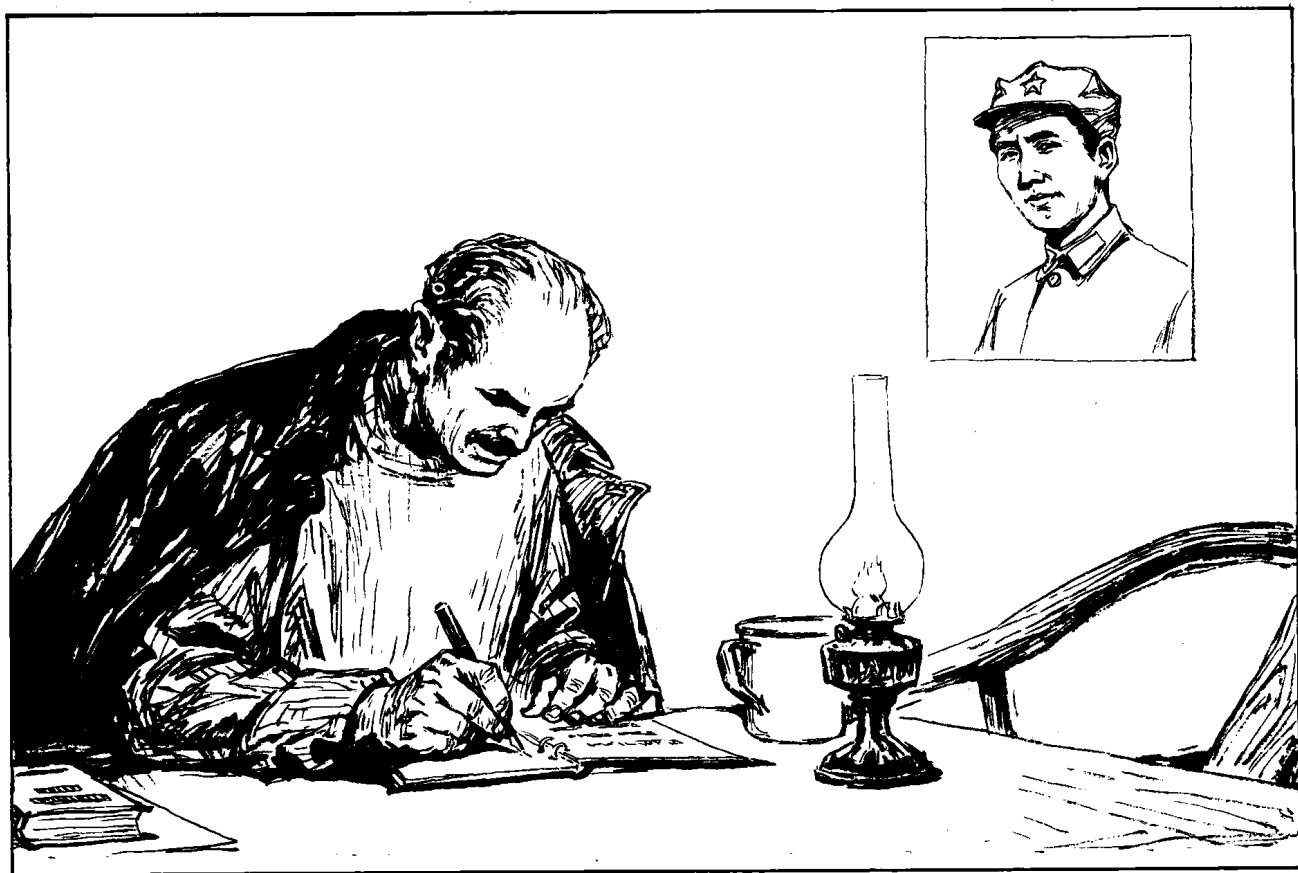
1. Early in 1938, after a long voyage, the great internationalist fighter Norman Bethune, who had been sent by the Communist Parties of Canada and the United States to help in the War of Resistance Against Japan, arrived in China.



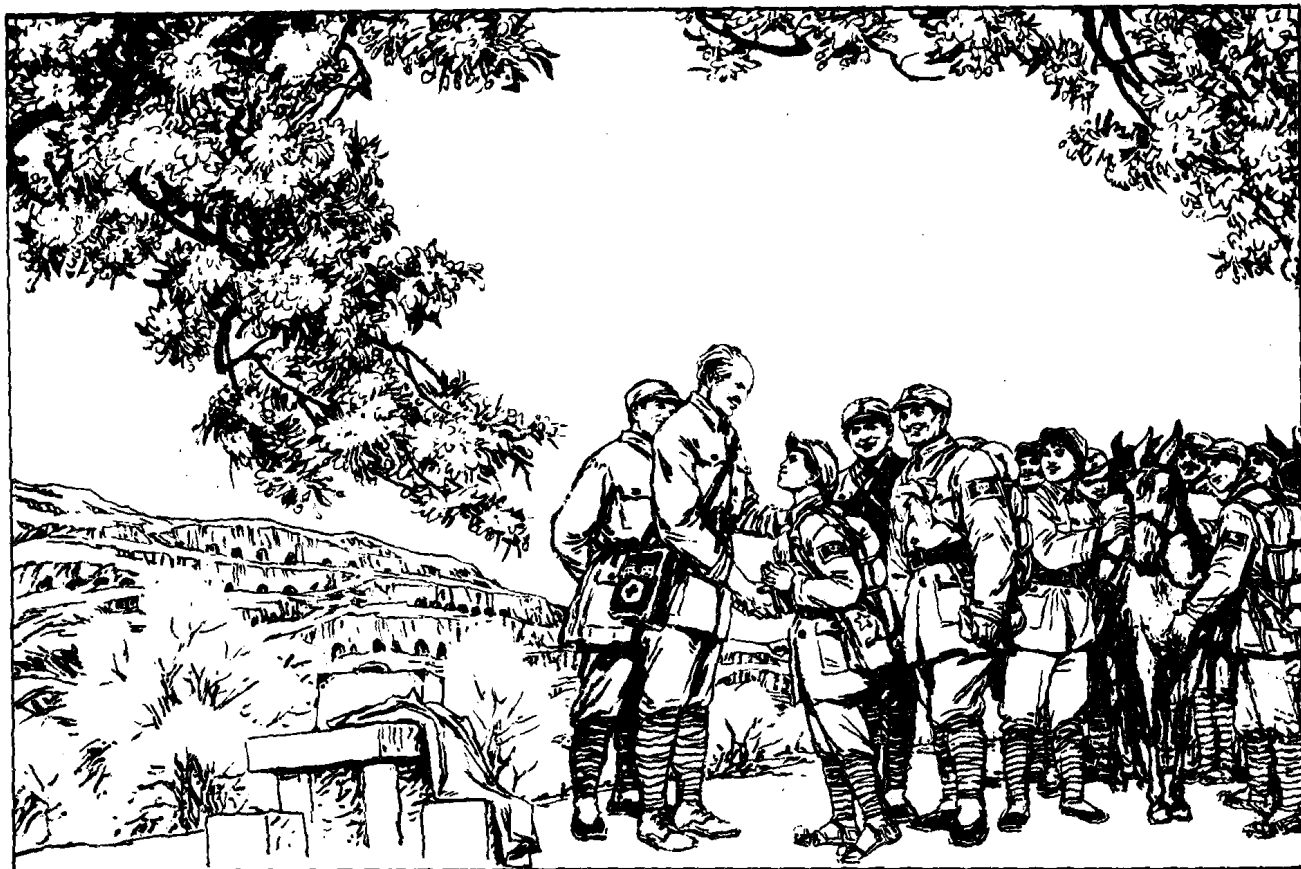
2. Late in March, after a hard and hazardous journey, Comrade Bethune reached Yanan, cradle of the Chinese revolution. Here, scenes of revolutionary vitality met his eyes wherever he went. Deeply impressed, he said: "Here in Yanan I've seen new China at last!"



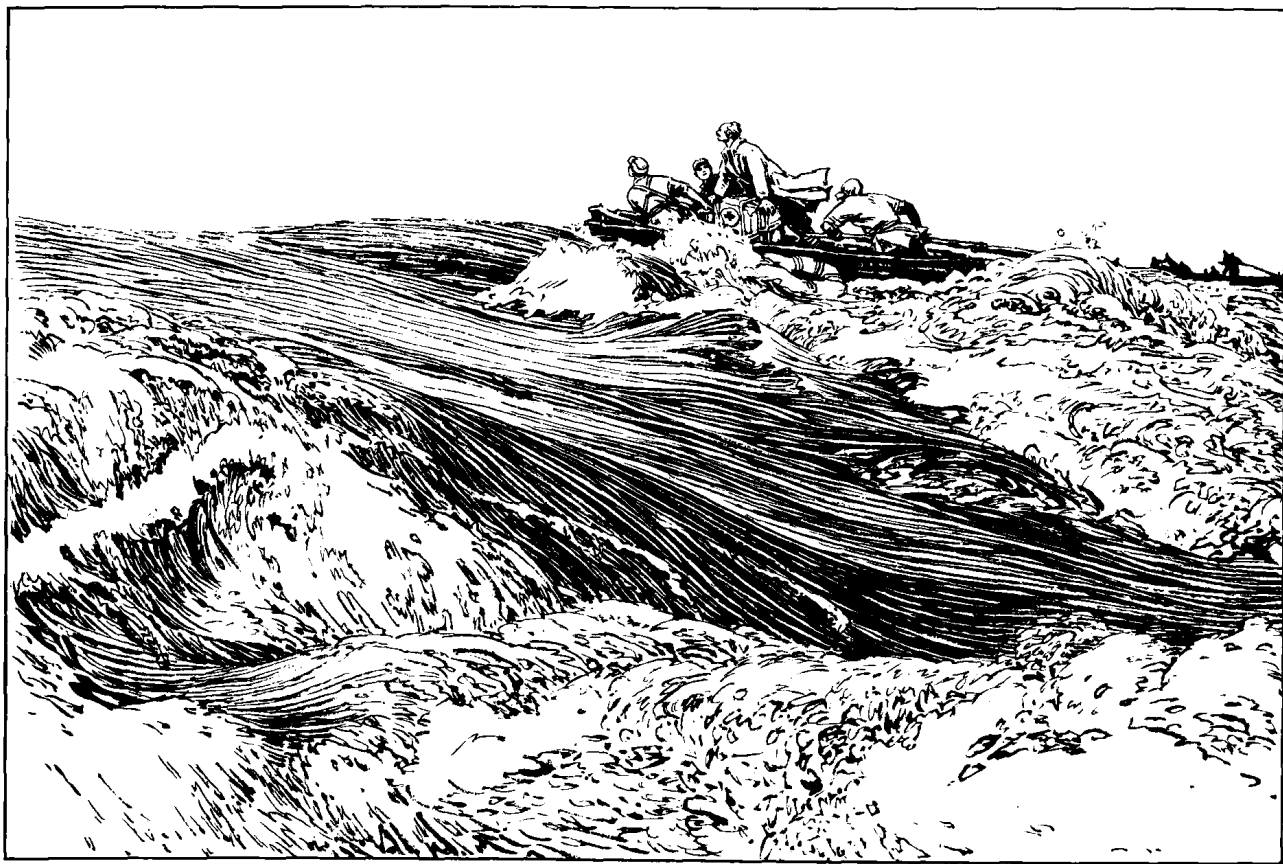
3. Not long after Bethune's arrival in Yen-an, Chairman Mao, the great leader of the Chinese people, met him and had a friendly talk with him.



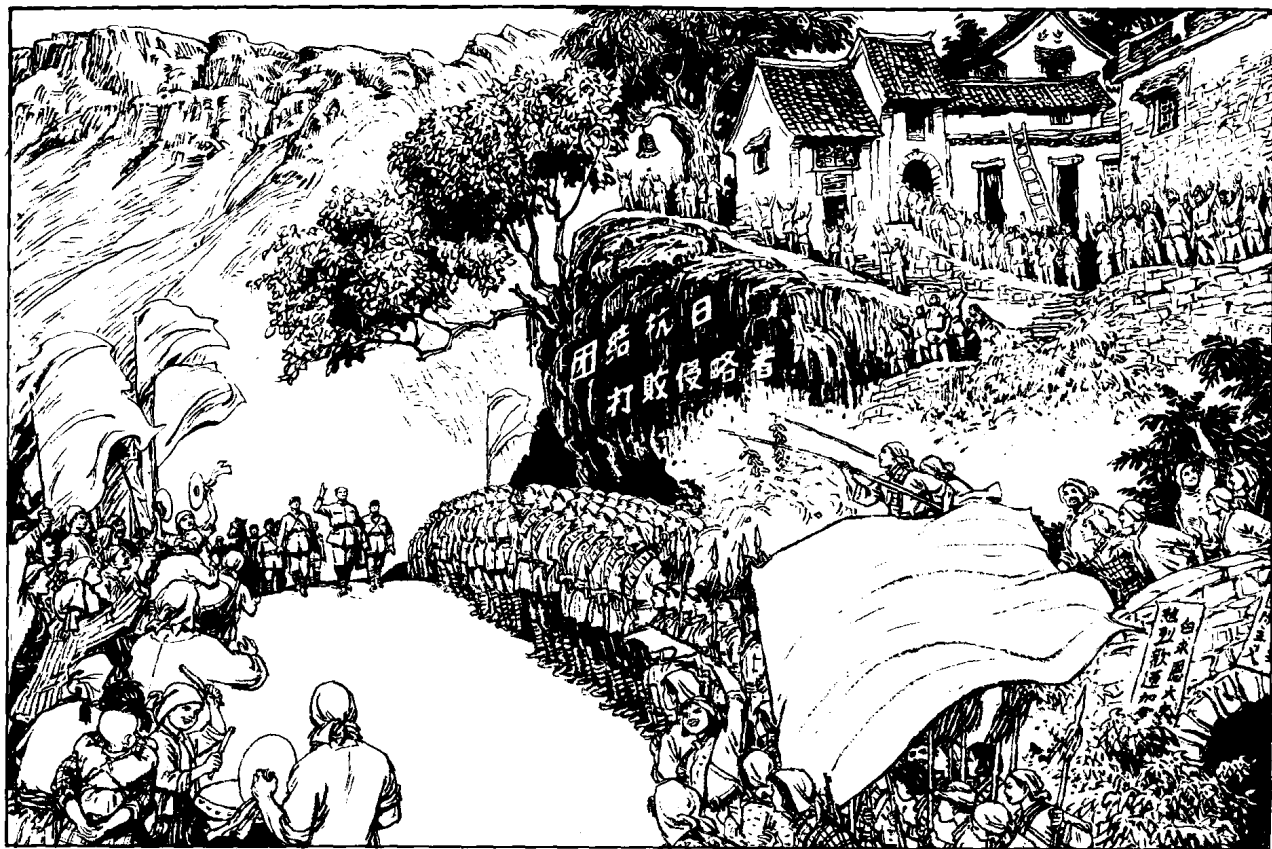
4. It was late at night. Comrade Bethune, just back from the Chairman's, was too excited to sleep. He wrote in his diary: "I now know why Mao Tsetung impresses everyone who meets him the way he does. The man is a giant! He is one of the great men of our world."



5. Comrade Bethune, clad in an 8th Route Army uniform, and bearing in mind Chairman Mao's expectations, made ready to set out for the front — the Shansi-Chahar-Hopei Border Region. On the day he was to start, the Party assigned him a bodyguard and an orderly, but Bethune said with feeling, "More comrades are needed at the front. I'll only take this one 'Little Devil' with me."



6. Comrade Bethune made a detour until he got to a ferry on the Yellow River. Medical kit in hand, he crossed the turbulent river on his way to the Shansi-Chahar-Hopei Border Region.



7. Two months later, on June 17, Comrade Bethune reached this Border Region after a hard journey over mountains and rivers. There he was warmly received by the people and the armymen.



8. The first question Bethune asked on entering the room was: "Where are the wounded?" The comrades urged him to rest for a few days, but he declined with a smile: "I'm here to work, not to remain idle. Please take me to the wounded men right away."



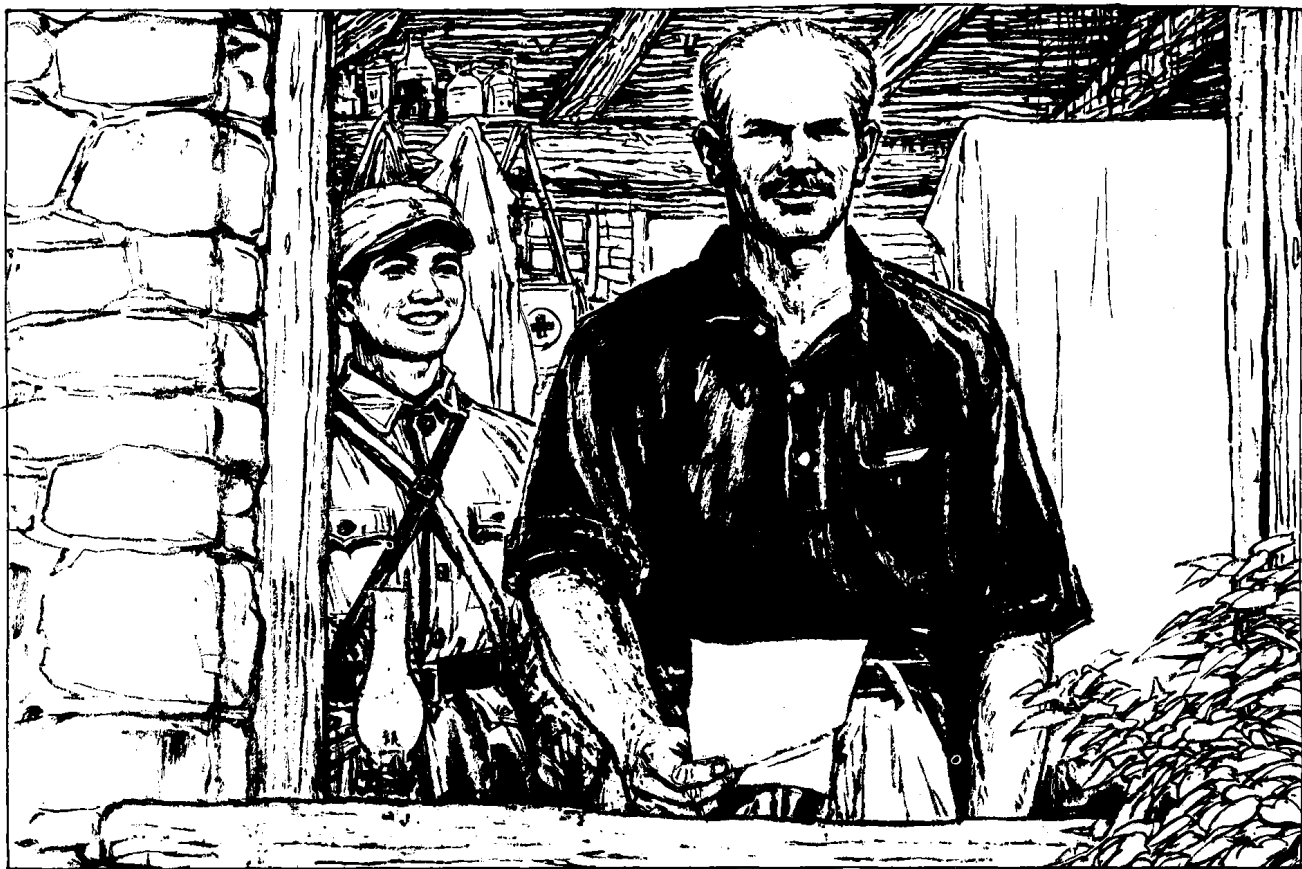
9. Early next morning, Comrade Bethune went to the rear hospital of the Military Area in Sungyenkou Village. He carefully examined the wounded one by one and inspected all the operating rooms. He found the hospital poorly equipped and badly in need of medicine. But when he saw the hard-working medical staff making medical apparatus and concocting Chinese medicine themselves, he was impressed.



10. Comrade Bethune said excitedly: "What the Chinese Communist Party has given the 8th Route Army is not superior weapons, but revolutionary fighters tempered on the Long March. With people like that as the backbone of the revolution, we have everything we need."



11. Comrade Bethune worked with fiery passion, examining 520 wounded men during the first week and operating on 147 within a month. Thanks to his efforts, the men soon got well and went back to the front.



12. The Military Area command brought a directive from Chairman Mao appointing Comrade Bethune medical advisor to the Military Area with a monthly allowance of 100 yuan. Comrade Bethune wrote Chairman Mao that very night, pledging to share the joys and sorrows of the people and soldiers there. The allowance he turned over to the hospital to pay for the nutrition of the wounded.



13. Even in the dead of night Comrade Bethune was still hard at work. To improve the medical service, he drew up a plan for a model hospital.