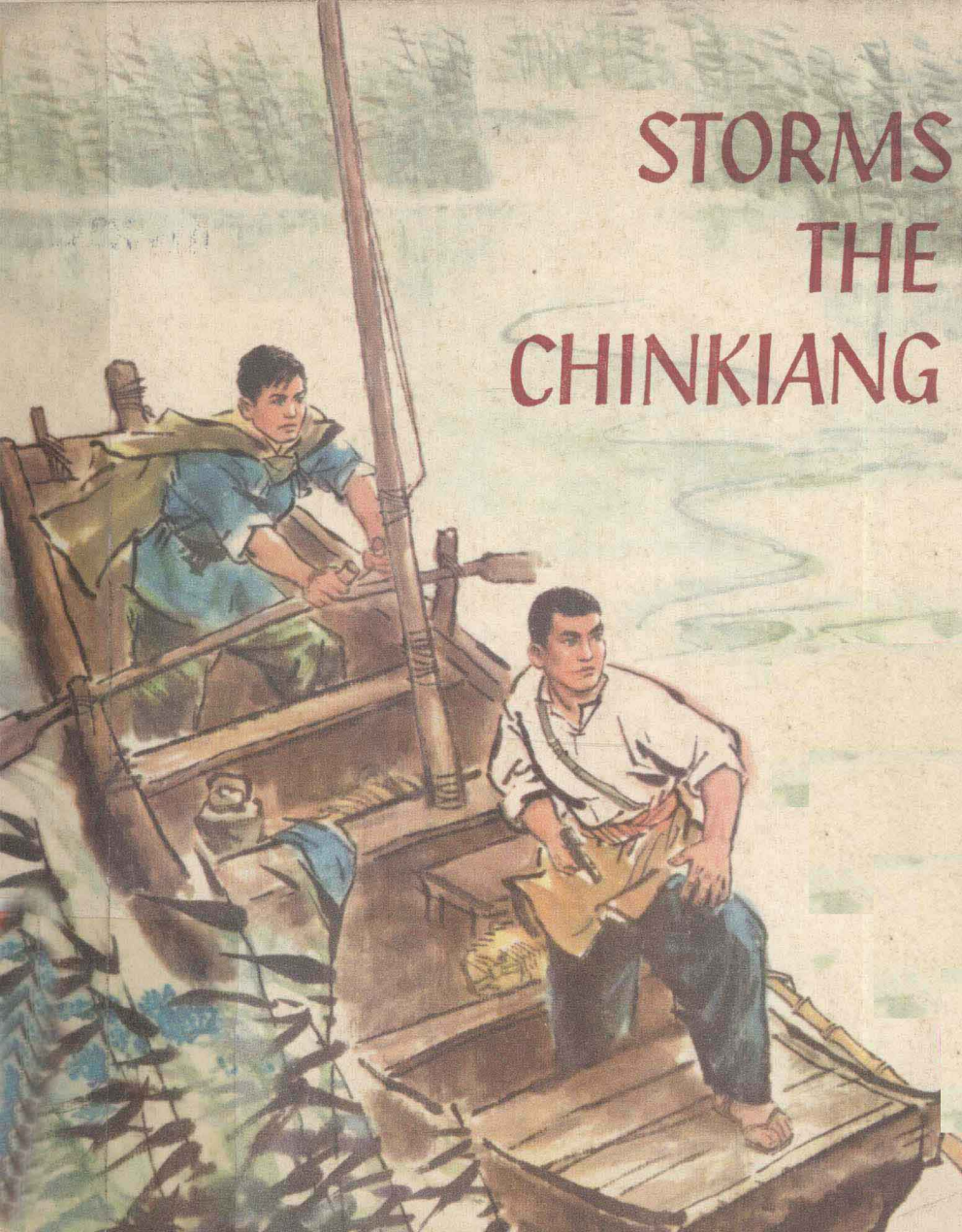


STORMS ON THE CHINKIANG DOCKS



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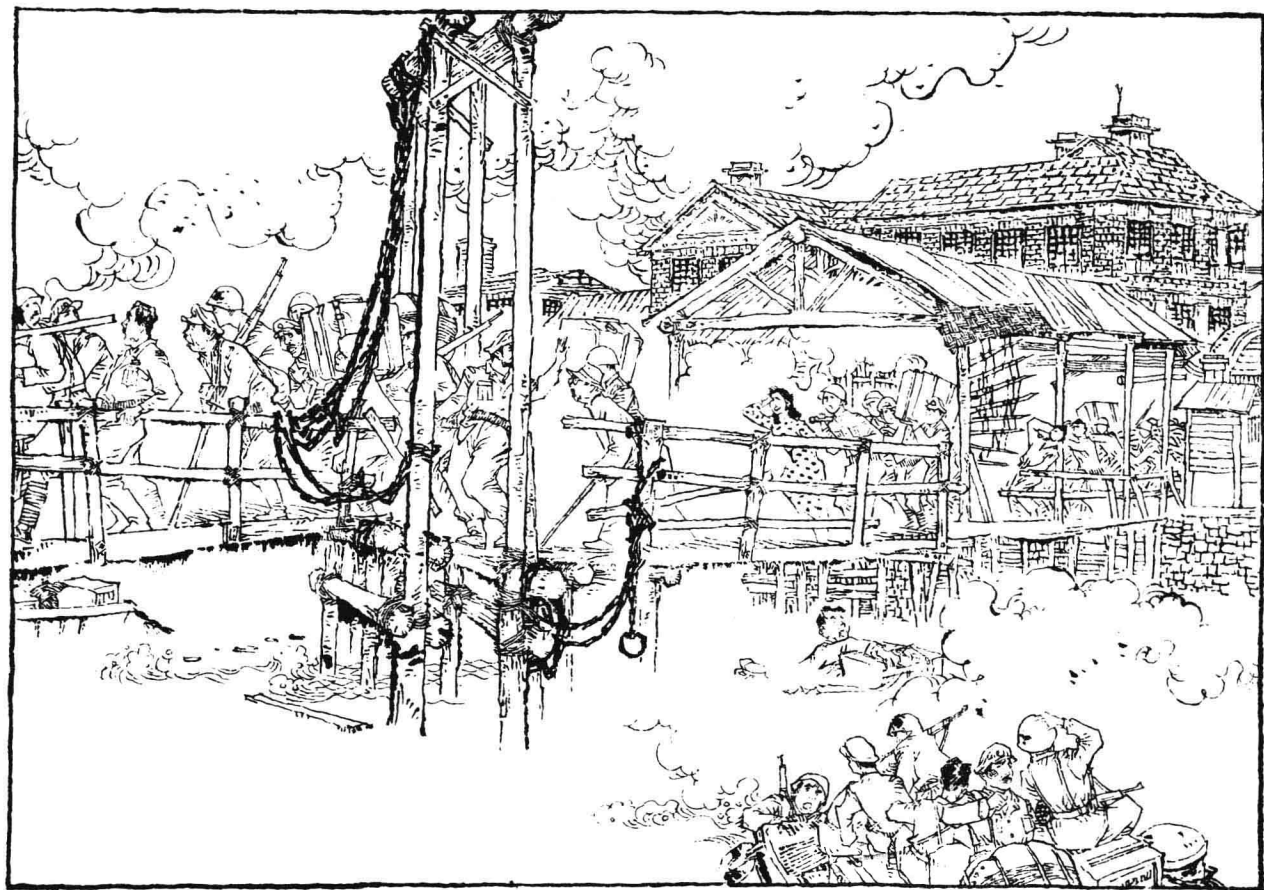
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The Story

IN the spring of 1949 when the Chinese People's Liberation Army was about to cross the Yangtze River, the Kuomintang troops in Chinkiang, Kiangsu Province, tried to ship some arms and ammunition out through the Chinkiang docks. The dockers, led by the local Communist Party organization, intercepted an enemy steamboat loaded with the arms, killed the enemy commander and captured the boat. Then they welcomed the Liberation Army on its drive south with a new supply of arms and ammunition.



1. In the spring of 1949 just before the People's Liberation Army crossed the Yangtze, the routed Kuomintang troops who had come over to Chinkiang from the north bank were fighting to get onto boats which would take them further south. Arriving at the river port they created scenes of great disorder.



2. The dockers guessed from this hasty retreat that the P.L.A. was on its way. They all kept a close eye on the enemy.



3. One day three trucks drew up unexpectedly on the docks. The dockers, carrying poles in their hands, crowded round the trucks.



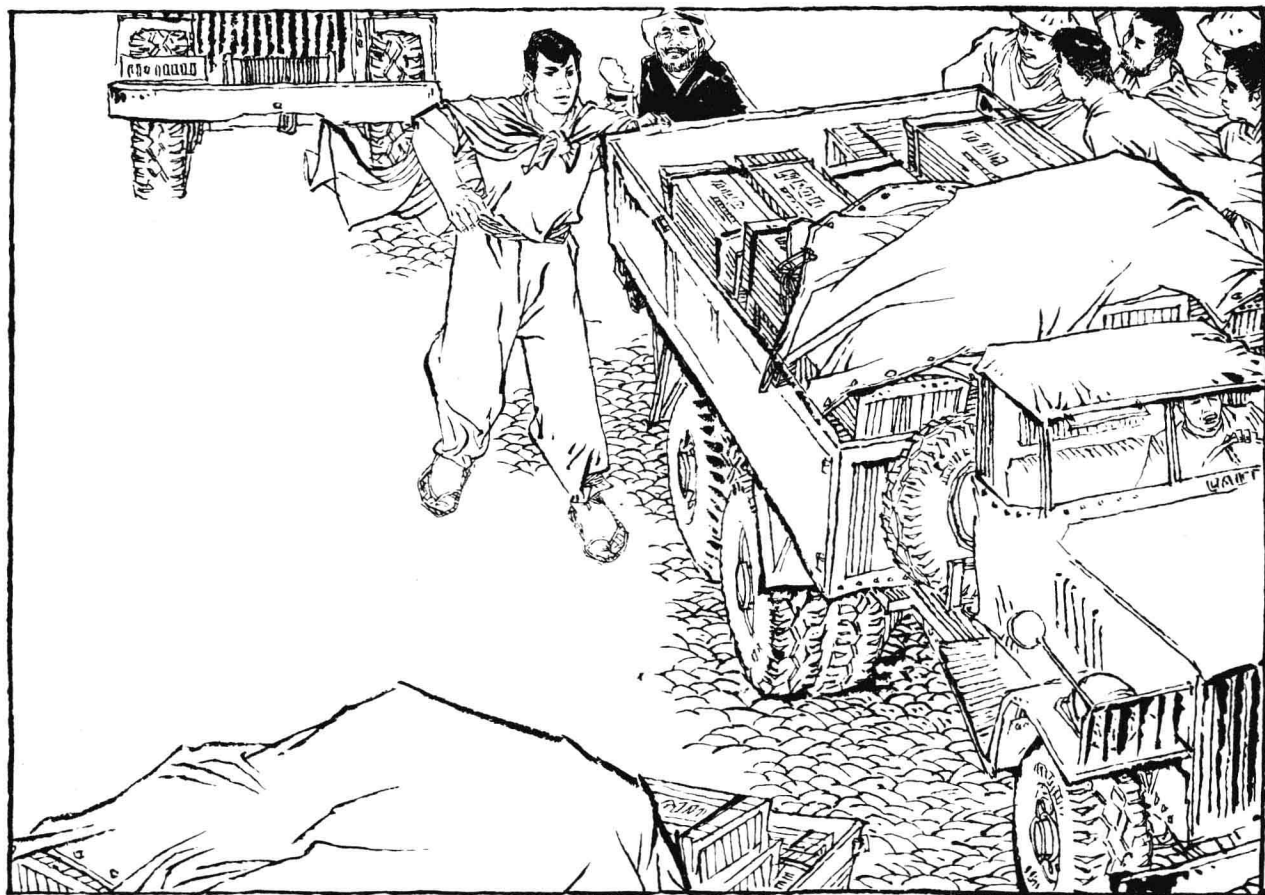
4. A shortish man climbed out of one of the cabs. The workers recognized him at once as Whiskers Wang, a notorious boss in the Chinkiang docks.



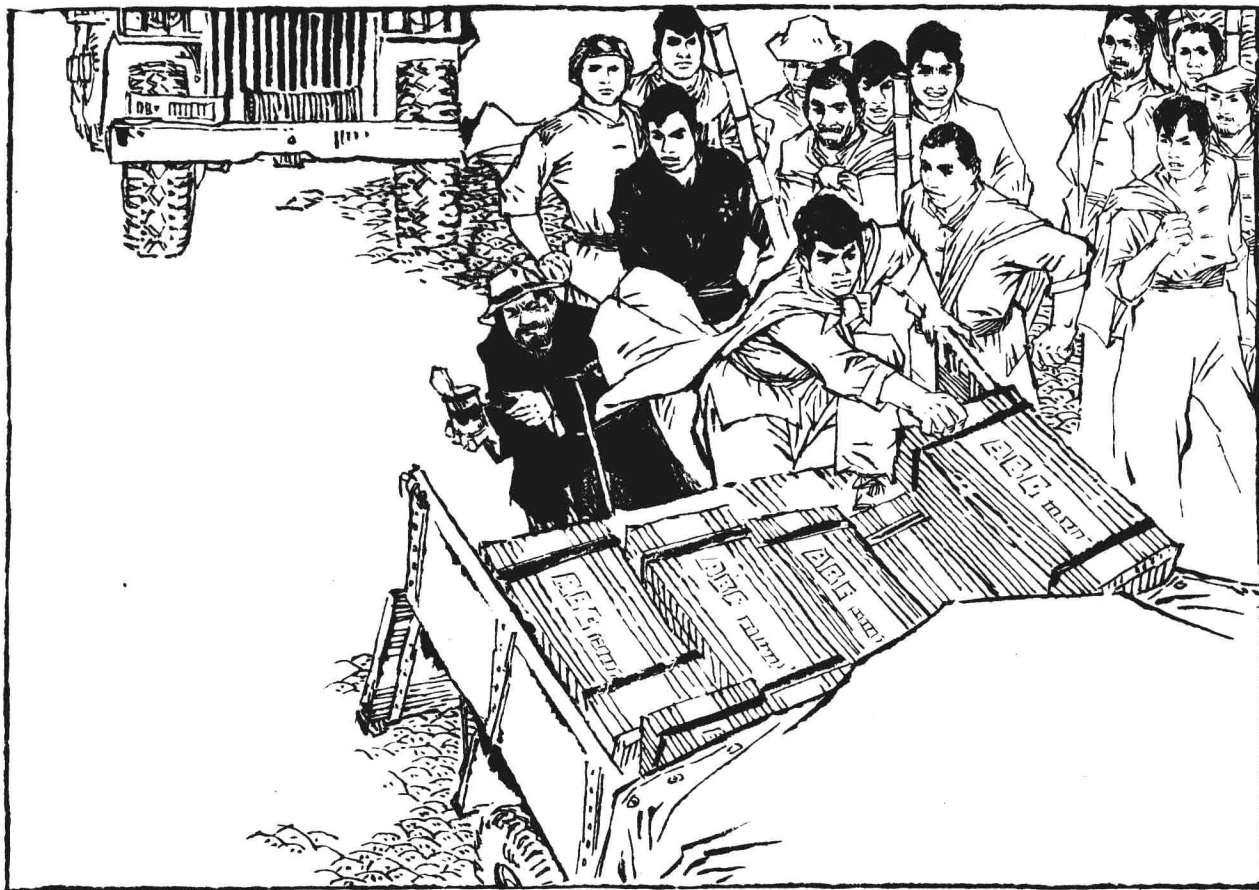
5. He was a sworn brother of the commander of the Kuomintang garrison at Chin-kiang. Normally he was so overbearing he had only to see a worker to start swearing and hitting out at him. Today, however, stretching out his hands towards the dockers he addressed them humbly: "Brothers, I have a favour to ask. . . ."



6. As he spoke he wrenched open a crate, pulled out a can and continued with a false smile, "This is a consignment of canned food which has to be shipped out. After you've loaded it, you can have a taste."



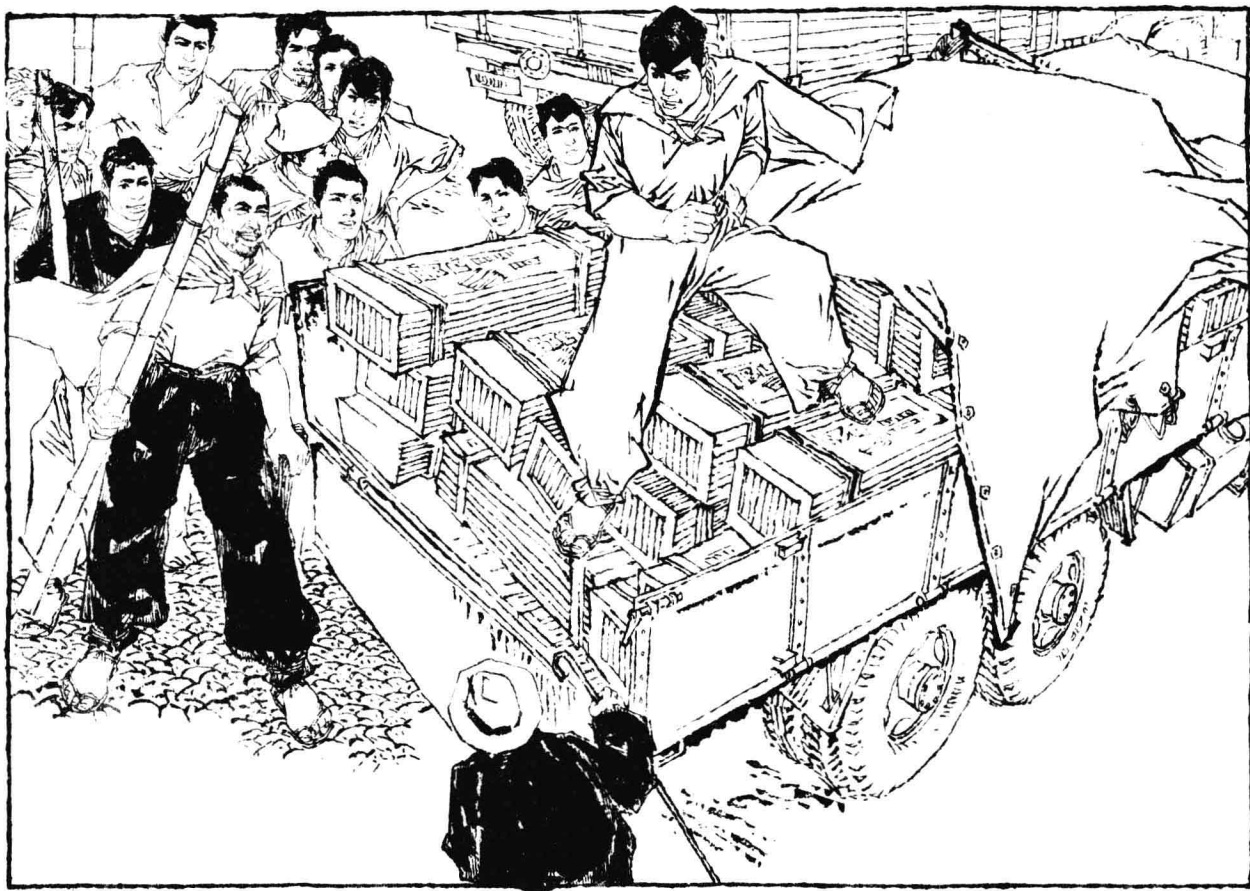
7 At that moment a strongly-built young man stepped out from among his mates. He was Heitze, deputy leader of the dockers' patrol. Looking into the trucks he saw they were loaded with securely closed crates stamped with the trademark of a U.S. canning company.



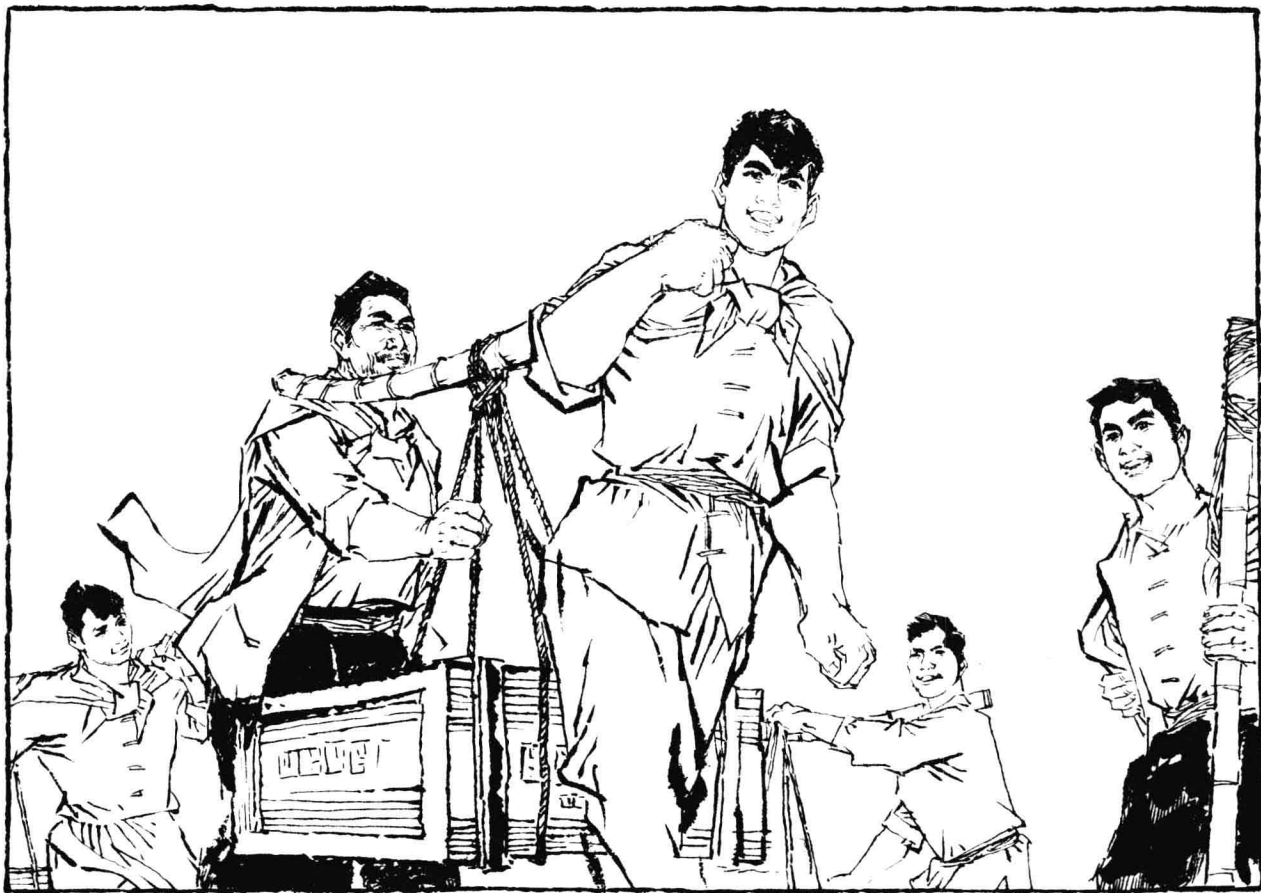
8. He remembered that a few days earlier Iron Man Cheng had warned him that the enemy was planning to smuggle a batch of guns and ammunition through the docks. The underground Party organization had asked the dockers' patrol to keep an eye out for them. Perhaps this was where they were hidden? He jumped up onto the truck for a closer look.



9. He tugged at one of the crates. Ah, it weighed a ton! How could a crate of canned food weigh so much? He looked back over his shoulder at Whiskers Wang who said shiftily: "Don't worry about the money, we'll pay handsomely."



10. Heitze looked thoughtfully around him. Then he had an idea. Beckoning to his mates he said, "Let's get on with it." They promptly joined him.



11. A crate on his shoulder pole, Heitze strode ahead of his mates singing a work-song. His song kept getting louder, so the others guessed he was telling them he was up to something.



12. Sure enough, after a few paces, the crate fell with a crash and split open on the cobble ground.



13. Everyone crowded around for a look. "Rifles, it's full of new rifles," they all exclaimed together. "Funny sort of cans."