



Sketches on  
**THE  
LONG  
MARCH**

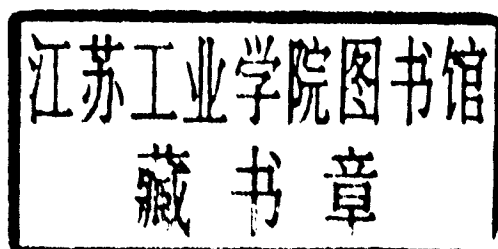
*by HUANG ZHEN*



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

长征画集 / 黄镇 绘. — 北京: 外文出版社, 2006

ISBN 7-119-04514-8

I. 长... II. 黄... III. 素描 - 作品集 - 中国 - 现代 IV. J224

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2006) 第 076854 号

责任编辑: 李 芳

英文责编: 贺 军

封面设计: 蔡 荣

印刷监制: 韩少乙

### 《长征画集》

黄 镇 绘著

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© 外文出版社

外文出版社出版

(中国北京百万庄大街 24 号)

邮政编码 100037

外文出版社网址: <http://www.flp.com.cn>

外文出版社电子信箱: [info@flp.com.cn](mailto:info@flp.com.cn) [sales@flp.com.cn](mailto:sales@flp.com.cn)

北京京都六环印刷厂印刷

中国国际图书贸易总公司发行

(中国北京车公庄西路 35 号)

北京邮政信箱第 399 号 邮政编码 100044

2006 年(16 开)第 1 版

2006 年第 1 版第 1 次印刷

(英)

ISBN 7-119-04514-8

06800 (精)

84-E-572S

First Edition 2006

Home Page:

<http://www.flp.com.cn>

E-mail Addresses:

[info@flp.com.cn](mailto:info@flp.com.cn)

[sales@flp.com.cn](mailto:sales@flp.com.cn)

ISBN 7-119-04514-8

Published by the Foreign Languages Press

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation

35 Chegongzhuang Xilu, Beijing 100044, China

P. O. Box 399, Beijing, China

*Printed in the People's Republic of China*

## Sketches on THE LONG MARCH

## ***Note on the New Edition***

In 1982, the Foreign Languages Press published the English edition of *Sketches on the Long March*, which included 24 sketches drawn by General Huang Zhen as an authentic record of the Long March. Over the past two decades, the English edition has proved popular with readers both at home and abroad. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Long March. To commemorate this great event and Red Army officers and men like General Huang, we are presenting a new edition of the album with revisions and a new design.

Besides recording the heroic undertaking of the Long March, the album is also a commemoration of the Long March spirit.

Foreign Languages Press  
July 2006

# ***Publisher's Note***

The Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army undertook the world-shaking 25,000-// (12,500-kilometre) Long March from 1934 to 1936. The 24 sketches by Huang Zhen collected in this album are a fragmentary but true record of the Long March. At the beginning of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-1945), the sketches were collected in book form and published in Shanghai. In 1958, nine years after the founding of New China, the People's Fine Arts Publishing House, Beijing, republished them using the Shanghai edition as the master copy. Since then, the sketches have been reprinted twice, and we are publishing this book on the basis of the 1962 edition, *Sketches on the Long March*, printed by the People's Fine Arts Publishing House with a preface by Xiao Hua and a history by A Ying, editor of the original Shanghai publication.

The artist himself has provided captions for each picture. A cadre at the time of the Long March, Huang Zhen went on to become a general before assuming diplomatic and then ministerial positions.

# ***Preface***

*by Xiao Hua<sup>1</sup>*

This *Sketches on the Long March* was originally entitled *Sketches on the Journey to the West*. When its second edition was prepared in 1958, it was not known who the artist was. He was thought to be a comrade doing publicity work in the Fifth Army Corps of the Red Army. Now we are delighted to learn that the painter is Comrade Huang Zhen.

As a participant in the Long March, I was asked to write a preface for the 1962 edition of *Sketches on the Long March* by Comrade Huang Zhen published by the People's Fine Arts Publishing House to

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<sup>1</sup> Xiao Hua (1916-1985) was director of the General Political Department of the People's Liberation Army and a member of the Standing Committee of the Central Military Commission.



commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the publication of "Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Literature and Art" by Comrade Mao Zedong. I am delighted to do so.

Thumbing through this book, I can hardly hold back my heartfelt emotions. These drawings and paintings revive my memory of things more than twenty years ago. Many unforgettable scenes again appear before my eyes: the all-year-round snow-capped Jiajin Mountains; the endless grasslands; the turbulent Dadu River; the bonfires in the deep mountains and forests; the wind and sandstorms on the northwest plateau;... Many comrades rest forever in the frozen snow. And many comrades left the road of the Long March stained with their blood. When they fell down, they all cherished deep in their hearts the firm belief: The Chinese people will surely stand up and get rid of the fetters of thousands of years and build a new state of their own.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China headed by Comrade Mao Zedong, the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, after experiencing untold hardships and surmounting innumerable and incredible difficulties, concluded successfully the Long March covering a distance of 25,000 *li*, thus accomplishing a miracle unique in history.

Today, the ideal of those comrades who laid down their lives during the Long March has come true. The Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China are pioneering a cause unprecedented

in history. Socialist construction is marching forward in big and stable strides. The heroism displayed by the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army during the Long March will always inspire our people to brave all difficulties and hardships, confront dangers and obstacles and work hard and diligently to create a still better life. In this book, the artist writes: "High as the snow mountain is, still higher is the iron will of this iron Red Army!" These proud words from the bottom of the Red Army fighters' hearts will remain loud and inspiring forever like a clarion call. These 24 sketches are a fragmentary record of the great Long March. They supply important data of revolutionary history and are precious works of art.

With hundreds of thousands of fighters, Huang Zhen travelled thousands of miles in this militant army, recording these touching scenes of history. These sketches are indeed soul-stirring. The artist depicted in bold relief the revolutionary optimism of the Red Army fighters. He also recorded scenes of those areas where the national minorities lived and the sufferings of the poor people. Even today there are not many works of art like these. We sincerely hope that comrades will follow this example to produce more works that give more vigorous expression to the new life in our great socialist age.

April 1962

Comrade Lin Boqu (1885-1960), a Chinese proletarian revolutionary, in his early days joined the Revolutionary League to help lead the Revolution of 1911. In the 1920s, he played an important role in helping Sun Yat-sen formulate his Three Principles – unite with the Soviet Union, unite with the Chinese Communist Party and support peasants and workers – and in reorganizing the Kuomintang. In 1927, he took part in the Nanchang Uprising and after that served as Minister of Finance of the Central Democratic Government in Jiangxi.

Like veterans Xu Teli,<sup>1</sup> Dong Biwu<sup>2</sup> and Xie Juezai,<sup>3</sup> Comrade Lin Boqu was a grey-haired man of over 50 during the Long March. Near-sighted, he always wore a pair of thick glasses and often carried a barn lantern in his left hand and held a stick in his right. The participation of these old men in the Long March gave great inspiration to both commanders and fighters of the Red Army.

The world-shaking Long March also found the participation of celebrated leaders, including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi and Zhu De. They were not only commanders directing the Red Army but also ordinary people who fought and lived side by side with thousands of other commanders and fighters, really living in the hearts of all the Red Army soldiers. They shared the joys and sorrows of their men, giving them boundless confidence and strength. Together with the Red Army soldiers, they entered the Miao villages, slept by the fire in the Yao people's kitchens and put up for the night in Yi huts and Tibetan "cow dung houses." They climbed the snow-covered Jiajin Mountains, crossed untrodden grasslands, led soldiers into battles, braved violent storms to hold meetings in the remote mountains and rode rafts to cross the turbulent rivers. Side by side with the soldiers, they conquered the high peaks of Mount Liupan to arrive finally at the border of the Shaanxi-Gansu Revolutionary Base Area.

<sup>1</sup> Xu Teli (1877-1968) was a proletarian revolutionary and educationist. He was a member of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party before his death.

<sup>2</sup> Dong Biwu (1885-1975) was a founder of the Chinese Communist Party. After the founding of new China in 1949, he held a number of posts such as Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman of the People's Republic of China as well as Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

<sup>3</sup> Xie Juezai (1883-1971) was the President of the Supreme People's Court of China before his death.

# *Contents*

*Publisher's Note*

*Preface by Xiao Hua*

- 1 Comrade Lin Boqu — an Old Hero on a Night March
  - 2 Crossing the Xiangjiang River
  - 3 Great Victory at Zunyi
  - 4 A Miao Woman from Guizhou
  - 5 A Poor People's Home on the Sichuan-Yunnan Border
  - 6 Salt Carriers in Guizhou and Sichuan
  - 7 A Yi Guide
  - 8 Yi Guerrillas of the Red Army
  - 9 Anshunchang (name of a wharf)
  - 10 Luding Bridge
  - 11 A Night at Paotonggang
  - 12 Climbing the Jiajin Mountains
  - 13 Conquering the Snow Mountains
  - 14 In a Tibetan Village
  - 15 Three Kinds of Pots
  - 16 A Yak
  - 17 Using Herbs as Tobacco
  - 18 Grinding *Qingke* Barley
  - 19 Making Pancakes
  - 20 Carrying Grains Across the Grasslands
  - 21 Camping in the Grasslands
  - 22 March in the Grasslands
  - 23 Comrade Dong Zhentang
  - 24 Arriving at Hadapu in Minxian County
- History of the Long March Sketches

*About the Author*



夜行軍中的老英雄

1 Comrade Lin Boqu — an Old Hero on a Night March

On October 16, 1934, the First Front Army of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army left the Central Revolutionary Base Area in south Jiangxi and Fujian provinces to start the world-renowned Long March. After thirty-eight days of fierce fighting, the troops broke through the enemy's encirclement by crushing three so-called strategic blockade lines, crossed the Xiaoshui River in Daozhou in Hunan and headed for the Xiangjiang River. The victory of the Red Army startled the Kuomintang reactionaries. Chiang Kai-shek hurriedly dispatched 400,000 troops, divided into three routes, to pursue and intercept the Red Army. Pouring in from all directions, they merged to form a fourth-line of defence on the east bank of the Xiangjiang, between the Xiangjiang and Xiaoshui rivers, in an attempt to trap and eliminate the Red Army by using the Xiangjiang as a natural barrier.

In the critical battle that ensued, the commanders and fighters fought heroically against the enemy for seven days and nights at Quanxian County in Guangxi and suffered heavy casualties before they defeated the forces of the Kuomintang warlords by breaking through the fourth blockade line, the last line after leaving the Central Revolutionary Base Area, and forcing their way across the Xiangjiang. Thus the Red Army shook off 400,000 enemy troops and put an end to the enemy's scheme to destroy the Red Army. This victory testified once again: Before the iron and invincible will of the Red Army soldiers, all the enemy's plans of pursuits, encirclements, obstructions and interceptions were in vain.



After crossing the Xiangjiang, the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee decided, at a meeting in Liping, Guizhou Province, to head straight for Guizhou where the enemy force was weak. In January 1935, the Red Army crossed the Wujiang River and captured the city of Zunyi.

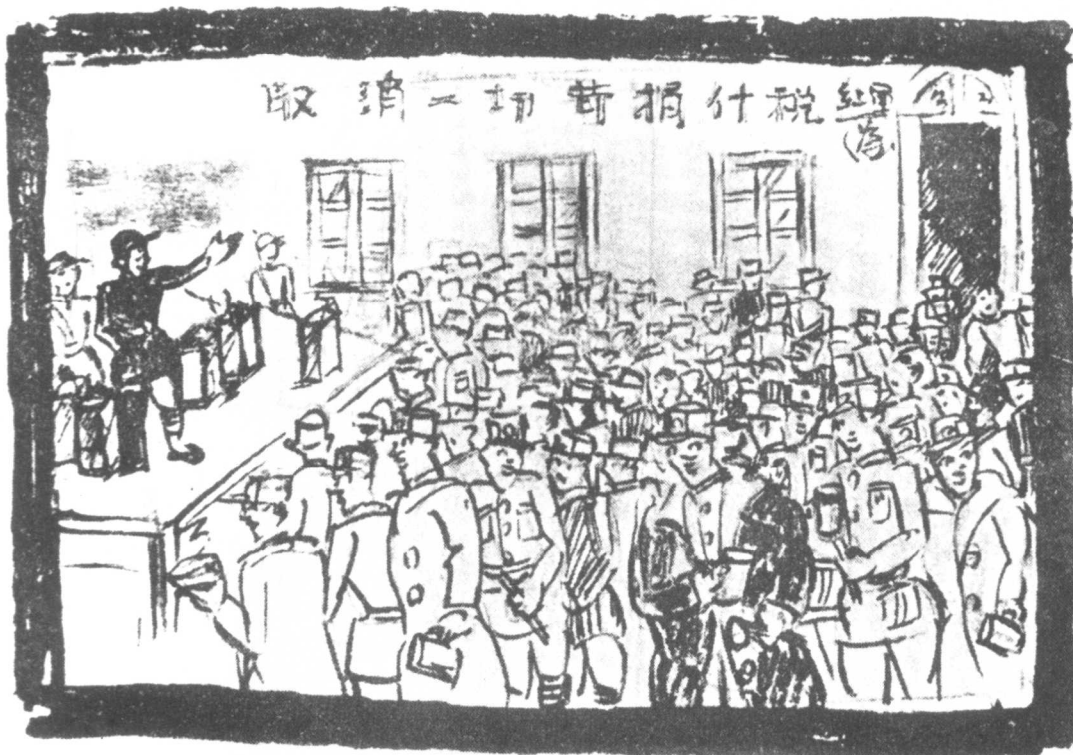
At Zunyi the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party convened an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau which ended the "Left" opportunist line led by Wang Ming and established Chairman Mao Zedong's leading position in the Red Army and the Central Committee. The decisions made here saved the Red Army and Central Committee at a critical moment and ensured the successful conclusion of the Long March to open a new way for the Chinese revolution. This was a turning-point of vital importance in the history of the Chinese Communist Party.

The decisions of the Zunyi Meeting filled the whole army with hope. It was as if the troops gained a new life with Chairman Mao as their leader. They became courageous as a dragon and lively as a tiger. On February 28, in the battle to recapture Zunyi, we won our first great victory since setting out on the Long March by destroying 20 regiments of the enemy troops and taking some 3,000 captives.

The captives, formerly labouring people who served in the Kuomintang army under force, were deeply affected by our rules for treating prisoners of war: "Do not kill or humiliate prisoners of war or search their pockets. Welcome those who are willing to join us and offer travel fees to those who want to go home." After a short period of education, most of the captives volunteered to join the Red Army.

This sketch shows captured officers and soldiers gathered before a meal.





飯前

(選我的偉大勝利)  
家長想來吃粥前的情形