

# The Little Coast Guards



# **The Little Const Guards**

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1. One morning a girl named Little Hung stood, a red-tasselled spear in her hand, guarding her home, a fishing village on the east coast of China. In spite of the thick fog, she was very much on the alert.



2. She pricked up her ears at the sound of footsteps and as they got nearer she shouted out: "Halt! Who goes there?"



3. Oh! It's Platoon Leader Chang of the People's Liberation Army and Grandad, who was in the same production brigade as Little Hung. The girl dashed up to them happily.



4. “What got you up so early on a foggy morning like this?” asked Platoon Leader Chang. “I wanted to catch crabs!” she teased him, assuming that the platoon leader knew that she was really on guard against enemy spies.



5. Platoon Leader Chang joked, "Oh, I see. You want to catch two-legged crabs." The platoon leader and the old man burst out laughing.





6. Their laughter surprised Little Hung, who demanded, "Haven't you often told me that we should be particularly careful on foggy days?" Chang nodded, "That's right! We must maintain revolutionary vigilance all the time!"



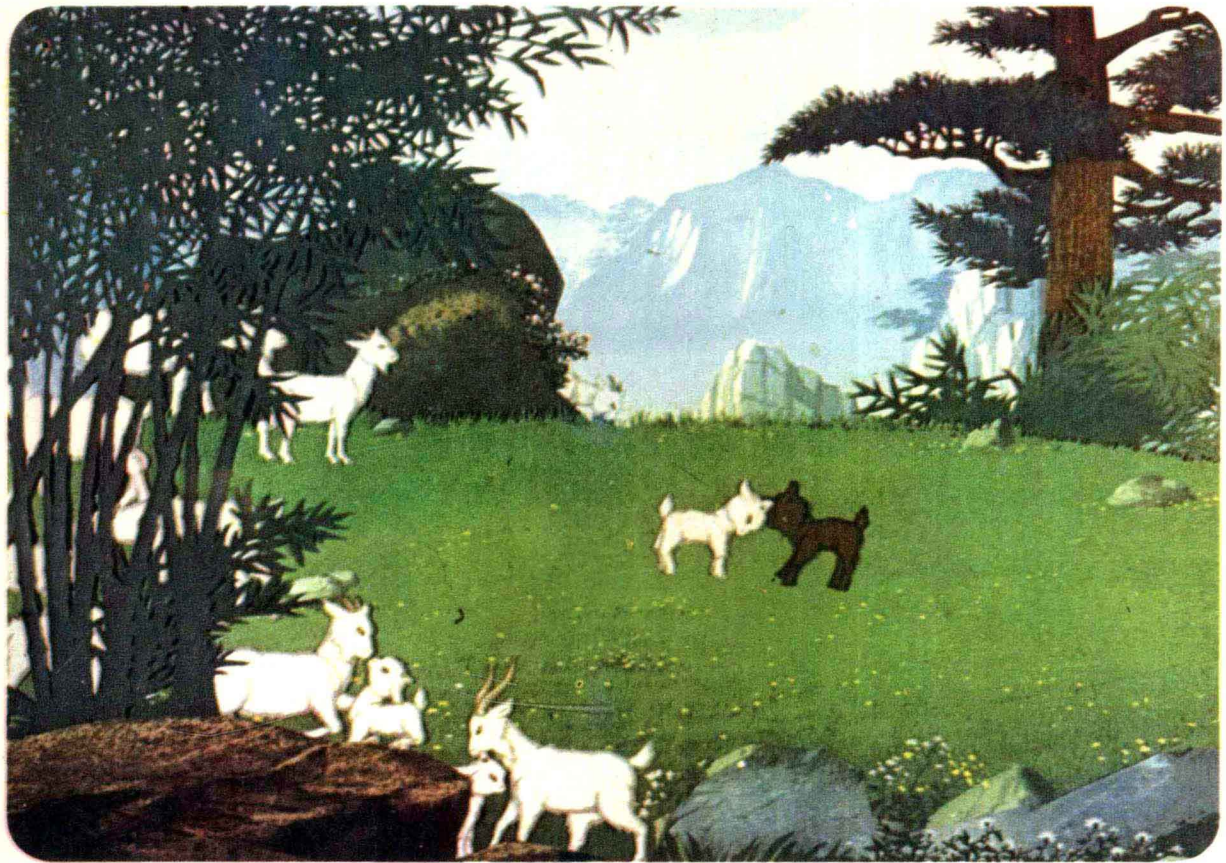
7. Grandad asked Little Hung where Little Lung and the other children were. She pointed to some big boulders and whistled.



8. Immediately the young guards, Little Lung amongst them, jumped out from behind the rocks and lined up.



9. One Sunday morning, Little Hung drove the brigade's sheep up the hill. All the way she sang cheerfully, "I want to learn from the PLA to guard the east gate of our land. I stand sentry with a red heart!"



10. She took the flock to Chilipo Slope, where there was plenty of grass.



11. Suddenly, she heard bleating from the other side of the hill. She turned but the sheep were still grazing quietly, so she said to herself, "It must be that naughty Little Lung!" Sure enough he appeared and said with a salute, "I've come to help you with the sheep."



12. Meanwhile, Platoon Leader Chang had got word from the leadership that the army had discovered a group of armed spies sent by the Kuomintang bandits. They had landed in Yunyakang defence zone before dawn. Chang immediately lined up his platoon and the militia to give them their orders.



13. “Most of the agents have been killed, wounded or captured, but three of them are at large somewhere in our defence zone. We have orders to blockade the coast at once, search the hills and wipe them out!” said the platoon leader. Pistol in hand, he led his comrades into action.





14. Badly shaken by their encounter with the PLA fighters, the three panic-stricken agents ran for their lives. When their chief, and one of his accomplices, a bearded man, sat on some rocks to try to catch their breath, the third, a short fellow, demanded, “What do we do next with only three of us left?”