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A Study on Xiang Ying's Revolutionary Activities in Wuhan During the Great Revolution

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Abstract: *Xiang Ying was an outstanding proletarian revolutionary, a famous activist of the worker movement, one of the early leaders of the Party and the Red Army, one of the founders and main leaders of the New Fourth Army, and a famous general of the anti-Japanese resistance. During the period of the Great Revolution, Xiang Ying's revolutionary activities in Wuhan were mainly in the following three areas: 1. joining the Great Revolution in response to the Northern Expedition; 2. leading the worker pickets to recover the British Concession in Hankow; 3. participating in the "Five Great Conferences" of the Chinese Communist Party. It was precisely because he had firm revolutionary ideals and beliefs that he was able to struggle fearlessly and enthusiastically in the various difficult and dangerous revolutionary struggles that followed. We must remember the nature and purpose of the Party and its original mission, pay tribute to and learn from the revolutionary martyrs, struggle unremittingly and forever, and march forward on the new journey of building a modern socialist country, towards the second century of struggle and the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation!*

Key words: *Xiang Ying, wuhan, worker revolution, event*

Introduction

Xiang Ying was an outstanding proletarian revolutionist, a famous activist of the WORKER movement, one of the early leaders of the Party and the Red Army, one of the founders and main leaders of the New Fourth Army, and a famous general of the anti-Japanese resistance. He was a member of the Third to Sixth Central Committees of the CPC, a member, standing member and secretary of the Political Bureau of the Sixth Central Committee, secretary of the Workers' Movement Committee of the CPC Central Committee, chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, acting secretary of the Central Bureau of the Soviet Union of the CPC, chairman of the Military Committee of the Central Revolution, and vice-chairman of the Chinese Soviet Republic, and is an important figure in the history of Chinese revolutions, Party history and He is an important figure in the history of Chinese revolution, Party history and military history.

Xiang Ying, formerly Xiang Delong, pseudonym Xia Ying, was born in May 1898 in Wuchang County, Hubei Province (into the present-day Jiangxia District of Wuhan City) to a family of clerks, and in 1913 she entered the Wuchang City Model Factory (textile factory) as an apprentice. During her apprenticeship, she earned a meager income, lived a hard life, and was often mistreated and tortured. Later, the victory of

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the October Revolution in Russia and the outbreak of the May Fourth Movement had a profound impact on Xiang Ying. He accepted Marxism in the night school for workers run by Dong Biwu and Chen Tanqiu in Wuhan, and began to understand the root causes of the oppression and exploitation of workers. He also began to understand the need to unite workers to overthrow the unreasonable social system. In April 1920, Xiang Ying took advantage of the discontent of the workers in the model factory who were mistreated by the foremen and received low wages to launch a successful strike. The workers' wages and working conditions were improved. The victory of the strike greatly encouraged him to start the workers' movement. Later, he met Bao Huisheng, a delegate to the "Great Committee of the Communist Party of China" and secretary of the Wuhan Local Committee of the Communist Party of China, who thought he was extraordinary, thoughtful and ambitious, and especially showed great enthusiasm for the worker movement [1]. Bao Huisheng led Xiang Ying to Jiang'an to attend the second preparatory meeting of the worker's club and to meet with the chiefs of the gangs. The chiefs knew that Xiang Ying had voluntarily given up her profession to come to Jiang'an to work in the worker movement, and they welcomed her very much and decided to hire her as the clerk of the worker club [2]. Later, in the process of preparing for the General Union of the Beijing-Hanjing Railway, Xiang Ying established and expanded the grassroots trade unions extensively and focused on training the backbone of the worker movement and developing the activists among them into members of the Communist Party.

Railway workers were the most dominant and advanced part of Chinese industrial workers, so when the Chinese trade union movement began to develop, railway unions were first organized in various places. Between 1921 and 1922, trade unions were established on the Beijing-Han Road, the Longhai Road, the Yuehan Road, the Jinpu Road, the Jingfeng Road, the Zhengtai Road, the Daoqing Road and the Jingsui Road, but the Jinghan Road Trade Union was the leading trade union with the most unified and solid unity among the railway unions. The entire road was divided into three major sections, centering on the three major stations of Changxindian, Zhengzhou and Jiangan, and a total of 16 unions were organized, with a total of more than 20,000 members. The vast majority of Chinese railways were held in the hands of imperialism, either by debt or by direct operation, and the Chinese warlords saw them as a source of military pay and a means of military transportation, and contested and cut each other's dramas [according to]. At this time, the Beijing-Hanzhou Railway was controlled by the forces of Cao Kun and Wu Peifu, the warlords of the Direct Line. They tried their best to take over the railway, ignoring the repair of the railway, and were even more cruel to the exploitation of workers, often using force to suppress the resistance of workers, in order to maintain his exploitation and domination of the railway [3].

On February 1, 1923, the founding convention of the General Union of Beijing-Han Railway was held triumphantly under the forceful suppression of the reactionary warlord Wu Peifu. After they risked their lives, they suddenly broke through the blocking line and rushed towards the venue. Xiang Ying and the others smashed open the doors of the venue and tore off the seals on the doors, and the delegates and guests poured into the venue [3]. In his article "A Brief History of the February 7th Tragedy" written in 1926, Bao Huisheng, the head of the Wuhan Labor Union, described the situation: "Comrade Xiang Delong, the director general of the Jiangan Labor Union, led thousands of workers to break through the cordon of Wu Peifu's army, walked through the mountain of guns and swords, opened the seals of the venue, and the masses of workers and representatives of workers from various places The masses of workers and representatives of workers from all over the world entered in a stream of five to six thousand people" [3].

In May 1925, the Second National Labor Congress was held in Guangzhou. At this congress, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) was elected as the general organ to direct the national workers' struggle, and Xiang Ying was elected as the executive member of the ACFTU. After attending the congress and returning to Wuhan, Xiang Ying, together with members of the Hubei Local Committee of the CPC, quickly restored and established some of the grassroots trade unions, using his years of experience in the worker movement. He was involved in leading worker strikes in cigarette factories, match factories, etc., and won considerable victories.

During the Great REvolution period, Xiang Ying's REvolution activities in Wuhan were mainly in the following three areas.

Commitment to the Great Revolutions in response to the Northern Expedition

In May 1926, the Third National Labor Conference was held in Guangzhou. This conference was held at a time when the revolutionary situation and the situation of the labor movement in China were facing new changes. The national revolution was developing rapidly, but there were dark tides within the united front of the Communist Party of China, and contradictions and conflicts were intensifying.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the "Letter of the Communist Party of China to the Third National Labor Congress", calling for the "great unity of the workers, peasants and all the toiling masses of the country" and "resistance to the oppression of all the privileged classes". At this congress, 18 resolutions were discussed and adopted, including the Resolution on the General Strategy of the Chinese Workers' Movement, and the Petition to the National Government for the Promotion of the Northern Expedition was submitted to the National Government, expressing support for the National Government's deployment of troops to the Northern Expedition and calling on workers all over the country to join and support the Northern Expedition. Vice chairman of the committee.

The situation of the WORKER movement in Wuhan is growing day by day, and "a walk through the REVOLUTION situation will show one how striking the rippling Wuhan WORKER movement is. The lowest strata of the masses are organizing themselves into unions without the consent of the higher authorities, and the unions in each factory are organized by industry. No matter how much you enquired about the number of unions and the number of union members, it was fruitless, and you could only roughly estimate from your impressions that the number of workers in the big factories participating in the unions was about 160,000 or 70,000. The strike struggle swept through the whole of Wuhan, and the WORKER organization was strengthened and consolidated in the strike struggle." [4]

In 1926, the Northern Expeditionary Army sang its way northward and in August captured the southern gateway to Wuchang - Tingsi Bridge and Hesheng Bridge in one fell swoop. After this battle, Wu Peifu's army was forced to retreat to Wuhan, part of which fled north; part retreated into Wuchang to defend the city. Wuchang had extremely strong walls, with protective trenches beyond them. Inside the city was Snake Hill,

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which overlooked the entire city, and outside the city was flat, making it easy to defend and difficult to attack. At this time, the city was stationed with more than 10,000 heavy troops led by Wu Peifu's general Liu Yuchun and Chen Jiamu, which could be considered as a solid gold fortress. The Northern Expeditionary Army suffered heavy casualties during several strong attacks. The Northern Expeditionary Army finally adopted the art of siege - the siege of Wuchang City for more than 40 days.

Workers from all walks of life supported the Northern Expedition under the leadership of local trade unions. On the Hanyang side, the trade unions led ship workers, dock workers and rickshaw drivers to assist the Northern Expeditionary Army in transporting personnel and supplies, and also organized guide teams to guide the Northern Expeditionary Army into the city. In addition, the Hanyeping General Union organized the ships and dock workers along the river section from Jijiazui to Yijiadun to stop giving boats to the Northern Expeditionary Army, delaying Wu Peifu's reinforcements to Hanyang. on the night of September 5, Hanyang arsenal workers opened the arsenal, armed with the advance guard of the Northern Expeditionary Army to seize the arsenal, dock workers also killed and wounded many routed soldiers in the subsequent pursuit battle with flat stretches. On the Hankow side, workers assisted the Northern Expeditionary Army in maintaining local order once they entered the city. In Wuchang, the initial attack by the Northern Expeditionary Army was thwarted, and Zhang Fa-kui, a Nationalist general involved in the attack, said he "saw miners involved in digging in". At the same time, the worker pickets under the Wuhan trade union also organized stretcher teams to accompany the Northern Expeditionary Army in transporting the wounded, helping to gather information on the enemy and recovering weapons hidden by the enemy [5]. He organized workers in the arsenal to conduct strikes against Wu Pei Fu, leaving the warlord army short of guns and ammunition; organized strikes by railway workers to paralyze enemy munitions transport; and organized workers to dig pits and open up access roads to hand over train cars to the Northern Expeditionary Army for use [6].

With the victorious progress of the Northern Expedition War and the improvement of the revolution situation in Hubei and Wuhan, the worker movement in the whole province of Hubei developed rapidly, and the Hubei Provincial Federation of Trade Unions was formally established on the day of the conquest of Wuchang, i.e. on October 10, 1926, with Xiang Zhongfa as chairman, Li Lisan, Liu Shaoqi and Xiang Ying as vice-chairmen, and Xu Baihao as secretary-general. Xiang Ying also served as secretary of the Communist Party League of the General Workers' Union. Under the leadership of Xiang Ying and other leaders Hubei industrial workers and handicraft workers were organized within the scope of the trade union, amounting to 500,000 in the province, with 280,000 trade union members in Wuhan alone, forming a powerful political force for revolution.

"A kind of plainclothes worker picket was organized in the Hubei worker movement only from the February 7 General Strike" [7] In the winter of the same year, in order to cooperate with the Northern Expeditionary Army in maintaining social order in Wuhan, the Hubei District Committee of the CCP and the Hubei Provincial Federation of Trade Unions decided to organize a general armed worker picket team in Wuhan, with Xiang Ying as Xiang Ying was the chief captain. This REVOLUTIONARY armed force amounted to more than 4,000 men at many times and was equipped with more than 1,000 guns. These weapons were partly made by the workers themselves at the Hanyang Arsenal and partly issued by the 24th Division of the National Revolutionary Army with Ye Ting as its divisional commander, which was tasked with the garrison

of Wuhan. The revolutionaries' aspirations were greatly boosted, and the residual forces of the warlords and the black forces of society were extinguished, which played an important role in stabilizing the situation in Wuhan at that time [6].

Leading Worker Pickets to Recover the British Concession in Hankow

The arrival of the climax of the Great Revolution in China aroused great panic among the imperialists. In order to defend their colonial rights and interests in China, the British imperialists repeatedly made armed provocations and interfered with the Chinese Revolution by all means. thus, the Hubei Provincial Federation of Trade Unions initiated an anti-British rally in Wuhan on December 26, which was attended by 300,000 people, and strongly demanded that the government take back the British Concession.

On the afternoon of January 3, the propaganda team of the Central Military and Political School gave a lecture by the clock tower of Jianghan Pass near the British Concession in Hankow. Heavily armed British sailors rushed out of the concession and pounced on the unarmed audience, stabbing one person to death and injuring more than 30 others on the spot, causing the "January 3" tragedy in Hankow. On the day of the "January 3" tragedy, the first congress of the Hubei Provincial Federation of Trade Unions led by the Chinese Communist Party was being held in Hankow. Immediately after learning of the tragedy, Li Lisan, Liu Shaoqi, Xiang Ying and Xu Baihao, who presided over the congress, led all the delegates to denounce the atrocities of British imperialism and issued a telegram that night to oppose the brutal killing of compatriots by British sailors, putting forward six demands such as asking the National Government to take back the British Concession in Hankow and implementing five measures such as boycotting British goods and blocking the British Concession. On January 4, more than 500 representatives of more than 200 organizations, including the Hubei Provincial Federation of Trade Unions, the Provincial Peasants' Association and the Provincial Students' Federation, held a joint meeting in Wuhan and, in accordance with the demands and measures put forward at the first congress of the Provincial Federation of Trade Unions, proposed to ask the National Government to lodge a serious protest with the British Consulate, to have the National Government On January 5, 1927, a strike was held in Wuhan. Under the leadership and organization of Li Lisan, Liu Shaoqi, Xiang Ying and Xu Baihao, an anti-British demonstration meeting was held in Hankow at Jisheng Sanma Road with 300,000 participants, followed by a demonstration. Worker picketers were the first to rush into the British Concession, followed by the masses, who climbed to the top of the buildings, tore down the British flag and occupied the Concession. British officials and patrolmen and sailors in the concession fled to British warships on the river. The British Concession in Hankow was controlled by the patriotic masses. After a fierce struggle, the Wuhan National Government, with the support of Wuhanworker and the masses from all walks of life, forced the representatives of the British government to sign the Agreement on the Hankow Concession on February 19, agreeing to return the Hankow British Concession to China. on March 15, the Wuhan National Government officially took back the Hankow British Concession. In early January 1927, the struggle to recover the Hankow British Concession was a major victory in the history of the Chinese people's anti-imperialist diplomatic struggle since the Opium War, and greatly encouraged the Chinese people. In this struggle, the Wuhan armed worker pickets led by Xiang Ying were an active supporting force of the masses and played an important role in the victory of the struggle for the recovery of the British Concession in Hankow.

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Participation in the "Big Five" Conference of the Chinese Communist Party

At the urgent moment when the Revolution was facing defeat, the Fifth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was held in Wuhan from April 27 to May 19, 1927. Delegates from 11 provinces and regions and the Communist Youth League, Xiang Ying and Chen Duxiu, Cai Hesen, Qu Qubai, Mao Zedong, Ren Bishi, Liu Shaoqi, Deng Zhongxia, Zhang Guotao, Zhang Tailei, Li Lisan, Li Weihan, Chen Yannian, Peng Pengpai, Fang Zhimin, Yun Daying, Luo Yinong, Dong Biwu, Chen Tanqiu, Su Zhaozheng, Xiang Guangyu, Cai Chang, Xiang Zhongfa, Luo Zhanglong, He Chang, Ruan Xiaoxian, Wang Haibo and Peng Shuzhi, attended this congress, representing 57,967 Party members. They represented 57,967 members of the Party. The Congress and the subsequent Plenum and Politburo of the Central Committee adopted eight resolutions, including the Resolution on the Political Situation and the Tasks of the Party, and elected a new Central Committee; put forward the correct principles of fighting for the leadership of the proletariat in the revolution, establishing a revolutionary democratic regime and carrying out an agrarian revolution; decided to establish a Politburo in the Central Committee and to elect a Central Supervisory Committee; decided that the Party organizations at all levels should adopt It was decided that the Party should exercise collective leadership and establish democratic centralism as the guiding principle of the Party. The Congress criticized the right-leaning errors represented by Chen Duxiu, but failed to propose concrete ways to save the revolution.

The Congress was attended by representatives of the Communist International, such as Roy, Borodin and Vyshinsky. In the period leading up to the Congress, the rapid development of the revolutionary situation in the country frightened the right wing of the Kuomintang and directed the army under its control to suppress it directly. On April 12 of the same year, Chiang Kai-shek staged the "April 12" counter-revolutionary coup in Shanghai, massacring communists and revolutionary aspirants, and on May 17, Xia Duyin, commander of the 14th Independent Division under the Wuhan Revolutionary Government, staged a rebellion in the Yichang area in a vain attempt to overthrow the Wuhan Revolutionary Government. Ye Ting, who was in charge of the Wuhan garrison, commanded the troops and the Wuhan armed workers' pickets led by Xiang Ying, and crushed the enemy's plot, which saved Wuhan from danger but caused a serious setback to the Revolution. It was in this extraordinary state that the "Five Great Congress" of the Party was held. At this congress, Xiang Ying continued to be elected as a member of the Central Committee. Subsequently, Xiang Ying attended the First Plenary Session of the Fifth Central Committee and elected Chen Duxiu, Cai Hesen, Li Weihan, Qu Qiubai, Zhang Guotao, Tan Pingshan, Li Lisan and Zhou Enlai as members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, Su Zhaozheng and Zhang Tailei as alternate members, Chen Duxiu, Zhang Guotao and Cai Hesen as standing members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, and Chen Duxiu as General Secretary. In early June of the same year, Xiang Ying made a report on the situation of the Chinese workers' movement on behalf of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions at a congress held by the Hubei Provincial Federation of Trade Unions. He called upon the working class in Hubei to live and die with the National Revolutionary Army, to share the hardships, to work for the defeat of the reactionary forces such as imperialism, warlords and the feudal and bought-and-paid-for big bourgeoisie, to complete the National

Revolution, and to seek the liberation of the Chinese nation and the oppressed classes [6].

To sum up, Xiang Ying had made important contributions to the cause of liberation of the Chinese people and he was regarded as one of the heroic figures of the working class. At the beginning of his revolutionary journey, Xiang Ying had to report to Bao Huisheng once a week on his work after he had met him. When reporting, apart from talking about work, he also took the initiative to report what books he had read recently and what insights he had gained. In April 1922, Bao Huisheng introduced Xiang Ying to the Communist Party. Xiang Ying said with deep feelings: "I have lived a lonely life for more than twenty years and I am disgusted by the coldness and ruthlessness of the world. Now that I have joined the Party and have a revolutionary goal, I have learned the meaning of life." [8] It was with firm revolutionary ideals and beliefs that he was able to be fearless and full of enthusiasm in the various difficult and dangerous revolutionary struggles that followed.

1921-2021, from the flame of a star to the momentum of a prairie, from the opening of the sky to change the world, from the national crisis to national rejuvenation .....50 more than communists, developed to more than 91 million communists, generation after generation, millions of people to forge ahead. Their glory is forever recorded in history. We must remember the nature of the party's purpose, remember the party's original mission, pay tribute to and learn from the revolutionary martyrs, unremitting struggle, forever struggling, on the new journey of building a modern socialist country, towards the second century of struggle, towards the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation!

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