

General Frederick Townsend Ward.

W. B. Burke,

Sungkiang, Ku.



執筆者パーク氏

Frederick Townsend Ward was born in Salem, Massachusetts, U. S. A. in 1831. At an early age he took to the sea and made his first trip to China as second mate of a sailing vessel when only fifteen years of age. After several years of seafaring, during which he became first mate, more exciting adventure called and Ward joined the forces of Garibaldi in South America. When that attempt to establish the Roman Republic failed, Ward joined the French army and served with distinction in the Crimean War until its close in 1856. He then returned to America and saw service with Walker in his campaign in Nicaragua. After Walker's death Ward returned to the sea, but the military experience which he had gained eminently fitted him for the great achievements which were to follow.

In the year 1859 an extraordinary struggle was going on in China. It was no mere contest between rival war-lords ; it was a fight that threatened the very existence of the Manchu government. The Taiping crusade had started in 1851 and by 1859 had reached its height. Whole sections of the country lay desolate. The rebels were daily gaining in power and even Shanghai was being threatened with destruction. Its loss would probably mean the overthrow of the Government. It was into this picture that Ward stepped in the fall of 1859. After having served for some time as first officer of the Chinese gun boat "Confucius" Ward was commissioned to raise a force to save Shanghai from the Taipings. This force consisted of 100 whites, 200 Filipines and 200 Chinese, but such was Ward's power of leadership and such was his daring that after some reverses he defeated a force of 10,000 rebels strongly intrenched behind the walls of Sungkiang and took possession. The fighting was so severe that out of the 500 men led by Ward only 120 survived and only 27 escaped without wounds. But the sacrifice was justified for Sungkiang remained until the end of the conflict a base for operations against the enemy.

Encouraged by the capture of Sungkiang, Ward began to enlarge his force, to better its equipment and to improve its discipline. In particular he

recruited Chinese and he found that with proper training they developed into excellent soldiers.

The system adopted by Ward for the training of his men con-



sisted of the development of well trained and competent non-commissioned officers and the enforcement of rigid discipline.

But even with so auspicious a start, Ward met many reverses and only his Yankee grit and determination enabled him to finally gain general recognition for himself and his men and to make his force into an army worthy of the name. His official Chinese backers deserted him. He was tried by the American Consul for breach of neutrality and acquitted. Then he was imprisoned aboard a British man-of-war until he contrived to escape. He made five separate attacks upon Tsingpu, (青浦) some fifteen or twenty miles from Sungkiang, before he finally succeeded in the early part of 1862. But his dauntless persistence finally overcame all obstacles and in the summer of 1862 he found himself in command of a well-trained and well-equipped force that had earned for itself the title of "Ever Victorious Army," a name that has lent romance to the pages of history.

With this army Ward marched in September 1862 to the relief of Ningpo, which was being threatened by the Taipings. On the morning of the 20th while attacking the town of Tsz Ki (慈谿) which was strongly defended by the rebels, Ward was severely wounded but refused to leave the field until the battle was won. He died that night in the hour of victory. Ward died, but his spirit carried on. The Ever Victorious Army continued its triumphal march led by that great British general, "Chinese Gordon." By following the tactics employed by Ward and by employing the forces he had trained, the great Taiping rebellion was suppressed within two years of Ward's death and the threat to the Imperial government of China was removed.

After peace was established, the Chinese government had a shrine built at the grave of Ward and the officials came here to offer reverence. As Ward had first saved Sungkiang from the Taipings, it was thought fitting that he should be buried here. His faithful dog was also buried by the graveside. It is said that the dog after going up and down Sungkiang looking

for his master and failing to find him refused food and died of a broken heart. By 1888 the grave had become sadly neglected and gradually it became



右に立てるは中山氏

a beggar's retreat. In 1919 a post of the American Legion was organized in Shanghai and it was decided to name it the Frederick Ward Post and one of its avowed objet was to keep alive the memory of that early American in China who seventy odd years ago laid down his life for an alien nation and established a friendship between America and China that has become proverbial. After the establishment of the Post, the tomb was taken under their care and they put a care taker on the place to keep it in good condition. The Chinese friends in Sungkiang had collected a sum of money and had the buildings and the tomb put in good condition. The Members of the Fred-

erick Ward Post had a suitable stone made which now marks the grave. Trees had been planted on the lot and fine plans weae made for beautifying the place, but the ill fortunes of war have played great havoc with the place and it is now in sad need of much repairing. Thanks are due to Mr. Nakayama, (中山四郎) head officer of the Special Service Section in Sungkiang, for having had the place cleaned up and the stone re-set. It is greatly to be hoped that we will not let this great man's memory be kept alive by a ruined tomb only, but may some kind friends undertake to have it completely renovated.