

of the Kiangsi<sup>130</sup> bandits, he was always in the forefront of  
 the onslaught. As a result of his accumulated merit,  
 Mu Ch'un was appointed Assistant Commander-in-chief of the  
 Chief Military Commissioner of the Rear Army 後軍都督府  
 僉事.<sup>131</sup> The assembled officials at court requested that he  
 be examined as to fitness for his post; but the emperor said:  
 "This is a son of a member of my household; he is not to be  
 examined." Mu Ch'un was thereupon granted a substantive post.  
 On one occasion he was assigned to review the sentences passed  
 in the Lieh-shan 烈山<sup>132</sup> case and on another ordered to  
 carry out a judicial investigation of the rebellious factions  
 in Yü-chou 蔚州;<sup>133</sup> he released several hundred persons.<sup>134</sup>  
 When Mu Ying died, Mu Ch'un was confirmed in his father's  
 titles,<sup>135</sup> and took up the garrison command. In Hung-wu 26  
 [1393], when the eleven stockades of the Wei-mo 維摩<sup>136</sup>  
 subprefecture rebelled, he sent Ch'ü Neng 程能<sup>137</sup> to punish  
 the rebels. The next year, he pacified the Yüeh-sui 越隗<sup>138</sup>  
 aborigines and established the Lan-ts'ang 濼滄<sup>139</sup> guard (wei).  
 That winter, A-tzu again rebelled,<sup>140</sup> and Mu Ch'un, jointly  
 with Ho Fu 何福,<sup>141</sup> suppressed him. Mu Ch'un said: "For  
 many years, these bandits, whom we have been punishing, have  
 evaded punishment because, connected in marriage with all the  
 local chiefs, they go here and there and are able to hide.  
 Now, let us, by attacking all local chieftains to the army  
 and keeping a tight rein on them, as well as by setting up

numerous military stations, control their comings and goings; inevitably, we will have their heads." Then, hastening to Yüeh-chou, these forces closed in on the walled city by different routes; with his crack troops waiting in ambush alongside the road, he baited the bandits with his most bedraggled troops, and wiped the enemy out with a lateral attack. A-tzu had fled into the mountainous terrain, but Mu Ch'un, by covertly organizing the surrounding local chieftains, had intelligence on A-tzu's whereabouts, so could set up barricades to cut off his supply routes. The bandits suffered extreme duress. After a while, Mu Ch'un's forces, quite fortuitously, while overrunning their dens, captured A-tzu and executed 240 men of his band.<sup>142</sup> Yüeh-chou was then pacified. When Nung-ch'en-yu 儂貞佑, the chieftain of Kuang-nan 廣南 prefecture, banded aboriginal tribesmen together to resist official forces, Mu Ch'un defeated them and the numbers captured and beheaded was reckoned by the thousands.<sup>143</sup> When Tao-pai-lan 刀排爛, the chieftain of Ning-yüan 寧遠,<sup>144</sup> relying on support from the kingdom of Annam, refused to comply with obligations of suzerainty,<sup>145</sup> Mu Ch'un sent Ho Fu to force his submission.

In Hung-wu 30 [1397], the Pacification Officer 宣慰使 of Lu-ch'uan, Ssu-lun-fa, was expelled by his subordinate Tao-kan-meng 刀幹孟,<sup>146</sup> and came running to Mu Ch'un. Mu Ch'un took him under his wing and went to court with him where he received a plan of action from the emperor,<sup>147</sup> who then appointed Mu Ch'un

Forward General for the Barbarian Campaign <sup>征虜前將軍</sup>,  
 along with Ho Fu and Hsü K'ai <sup>徐凱</sup>, on the punitive campaign.  
 First Mu sent Ssu-lun-fa to the Chin-ch'ih tribes, under mil-  
 itary escort, to summon Tao-kan-meng to come out and welcome  
 [Ssu-lun-fa back to his position as commander]. Tao-kan-meng  
 did not respond. Then Mu Ch'un selected 5000 troops, and, with  
 Generals Ho Fu and Ch'u Neng in command, they crossed the  
 Kao-liang-kung <sup>高良公</sup> mountain, <sup>149</sup> they proceeded directly  
 to strike Nan-tien <sup>南甸</sup>, <sup>150</sup> where they won a great victory,  
 and beheaded the chieftain, Tao-ming-meng <sup>刀名孟</sup>. <sup>151</sup>  
 Returning, the army attacked the Ching-han <sup>景罕</sup> <sup>152</sup> stockade.  
 The bandits, with the advantage of high ground, defended  
 themselves resolutely. Moreover, the provisions of the  
 official forces were exhausted. Ho Fu sent an urgent appeal.  
 Mu Ch'un, leading 500 cavalry to rescue Ho Fu, forded the <sup>153</sup>  
 Salween River <sup>怒江</sup> by night and arrived at the post at dawn.  
 Mu Ch'un ordered the cavalry to charge, raising so much dust  
 that the sky was darkened. The bandits scattered in great  
 fright. Mu Ch'un took advantage of that victory to attack the  
 K'ung-t'ung <sup>空山同</sup> <sup>154</sup> stockade, where the enemy once again  
 scattered. Altogether, some 70,000 men surrendered. The gen-  
 erals and officers wanted to execute them, but Mu Ch'un would  
 not allow it. <sup>155</sup> Tao-kan-meng begged to surrender, but the  
 emperor would not grant permission to accept his surrender. In-  
 stead, he ordered Mu Ch'un to take overall charge of the troops

of Yunnan, Kweichow, and Szechuan, and attack Tao-kan-meng.<sup>156</sup>  
 Before he could set out, Mu Ch'un died at 36 sui.<sup>157</sup> He was  
 granted the posthumous honorific of Hui-hsiang 惠襄.

During his seven years as garrison commander in Yunnan, Mu Ch'un, in large part, reformed the administration of the [military] farming colonies. He opened to cultivation more than 300,000 mou of fields, and channeled the T'ieh-ch'ih 鐵池<sup>158</sup> River to irrigate tens of thousand mou of dry land in I-liang 宜良,<sup>159</sup> allowing over 5000 families to return to work in the area.<sup>160</sup> For his achievements, they set up shrines to offer sacrifices to him. Since he had no son, his younger brother, Mu Sheng, succeeded to Mu Ch'un's rank.

Mu Sheng [1368 - 1439], whose tzu was Ching-mao 景茂, when young was sober, taciturn, and fond of reading. T'ai-tsu loved him. Mu Sheng rose through the official ranks to the post of Left Commander of the Rear Army 後軍左都督.<sup>161</sup> In Chien-wen 1 [1399], Mu Sheng inherited the Hsi-p'ing marquisate.<sup>162</sup> When he arrived at the garrison command [in Yunnan, he found that] Ho Fu had already defeated and captured Tao-kan-meng, and had restored Ssu-lun-fa.<sup>163</sup> Shortly afterwards, when Ssu-lun-fa<sup>164</sup> died and various aborigine tribes had divided and occupied his territory, Mu Sheng conquered the area, dividing the territory into three prefectures, two subprefectures, and five native chieftainships;<sup>165</sup> then, west of the Salween River, he established a military guard colony and a battalion to protect

that frontier.<sup>166</sup> Thereby, he secured Lu-ch'uan. Previously,  
 [Chu Pien 朱便]<sup>167</sup> the Prince of Min 山民王, enfeoffed in  
 Yunnan, had acted illegally and had been imprisoned by Hui-ti.  
 When Ch'eng-tsu ascended the throne, he sent the Prince of Min  
 back to his enfeoffed territory where he became increasingly  
 irresponsible. Mu Sheng restrained him somewhat. The prince,  
 angered, impeached Mu Sheng. The emperor, considering that a  
 prince had submitted the complaint, issued an edict admonishing  
 Mu Sheng, but also sent a letter to the Prince of Min which  
 praised Mu Sheng's father's achievements and did not reprove  
 Mu Sheng for any faults.<sup>169</sup>

In Yung-lo 3,<sup>170</sup> when the Pa-pai ta-tien 八百大甸<sup>171</sup>  
 raided the border and cut off tribute envoys, Mu Sheng assem-  
 bled troops at Ch'e-li 車里<sup>172</sup> and Mu-pang [Mong-kawng]  
 木邦<sup>173</sup> and conquered and suppressed them.<sup>174</sup> The next  
 year,<sup>175</sup> when a large body of troops were to be dispatched to  
 attack Chiao-chih 交趾 [Annam] China,<sup>176</sup> Mu Sheng was appointed  
 Vice Commander of the Left for the Barbarian Campaign 征夷左  
 副將軍,<sup>177</sup> under Generalissimo Chang Fu 張輔<sup>178</sup> he went  
 into Annam from Yunnan via a separate route.<sup>179</sup> From Meng-tzu  
 蒙自,<sup>180</sup> Mu Sheng took a short cut to Yeh-p'u 野浦 by cutting  
 trees to open a road, and captured the passes at Meng-lieh  
 猛列<sup>181</sup> and Ping-hua 棚華. Portaging his boats by night  
 from the T'ao [Thao] River 洮水,<sup>182</sup> he crossed to the  
 Fu-liang River 富良江<sup>183</sup> and united his forces with those

of Generalissimo Chang Fu. Together they took the walled city of To-pang [Da-bang] <sup>184</sup> **多邦**, attacked both the eastern and western capital cities of Annam, <sup>185</sup> raided the various strongholds, and captured the pretender prince, Lê Qui-ly <sup>186</sup> **黎季犛**, which is detailed in "The Biography of Chang Fu." <sup>187</sup> In announcing rewards for merit in that campaign, <sup>188</sup> the emperor enfeoffed Mu Sheng the Duke of Ch'ien **黔國公**, and granted him an annual stipend of 3000 piculs, with a tally <sup>189</sup> of inheritance.

Chien Ting [Gian-dinh] <sup>190</sup> **簡定** in Annam, again rebelled. Mu Sheng was granted the seal of Commander for the Barbarian Campaign and sent to suppress him; doing battle at Sheng-chüeh River <sup>191</sup> **生厥江**, Mu Sheng was soundly defeated. Chang Fu, for the second time setting out with his army to join the <sup>192</sup> campaign, captured Chien Ting and took him to the capital. When Chang Fu returned to the capital, <sup>193</sup> Mu Sheng remained behind to capture Trần Qui-khoang **陳季擴**; but in successive battles, he was not able to subdue him. Chang Fu again set out to join his troops with Mu Sheng's; they pursued the rebel as far south as Champa <sup>194</sup> **占城**, where they captured Tran Qui-khoang and then withdrew the army. Mu Sheng also received highest class rewards. In Yung-lo 17 [1419], when Fu-chou <sup>195</sup> **富州** aborigines rebelled, Mu Sheng led his forces close to the enemy but did not immediately attack. Instead, he sent some of his men to spy on the enemy and, in the end,

overcame them.

With the accession of Jen-tsung [1425], Mu Sheng was further titled Tutor to the Heir Apparent <sup>196</sup> 太傅, and a seal was cast for him bearing the title General of the Southern Campaign. It had become customary to grant seals of office to whichever members of the Mu family succeeded to Yunnan's garrison command. <sup>198</sup> In Hsüan-te 1, King Lê Lo'i <sup>199</sup> 黎利 of Annam became powerful; Mu Sheng was ordered to join forces with Liu Sheng <sup>200</sup> 柳升, Marquis of An-yüan <sup>201</sup> 安遠侯, to go and campaign against him. Liu Sheng was defeated and killed, and Mu Sheng, for his part, retreated. Officials later brought impeachment charges against him. The emperor sealed the indictment <sup>202</sup> and thus closed the matter. <sup>203</sup> In Cheng-t'ung 3, Ssu-jen-fa [Thonganbwa] <sup>204</sup> 思任發 rebelled in Lu-ch'uan. <sup>205</sup> Mu Sheng arrived at Chin-ch'ih, <sup>206</sup> and joined forces with his younger brother, Mu Ang, as well as Commander Fang Cheng <sup>207</sup> 方政. Fang Cheng, as the vanguard, defeated bandits at various stockades along the river; the main army then pursued them northward to the foot of Kao-li-kung <sup>208</sup> 高黎共 mountain where he once again defeated them. The next year he again defeated them at their old stronghold. Fang Cheng fell victim to an ambush <sup>209</sup> and was killed; the government's troops were utterly defeated. Mu Sheng, leading the retreat, ashamed and fearful, took sick, and upon reaching Ch'u-hsiung <sup>210</sup> 楚雄, died. He was elevated to Prince of Ting-yüan with the posthumous honorific,