Yue Fei (1103 - 1141 A.D.) was a native of Tang-Yin (汤阴) in He-Nan (河南). When he was born, Sung Empire had been defeated by Tartar (鞑靼) and had withdrawn all its troops to the southern part of China. He was very courageous and fond of military tactics in his youth. At the age of twenty, he joined the army attached to General Zong Ze (宗泽) and subsequently conducted several expeditions which pacified the pirates on the Yellow River (黄河) and the Yangtze River (扬子江). His accomplishment had stabi-lized the unrest internal situation of the Sung Empire. Emperor Gao Zong (高宗) wrote personally the characters "Loyal and Patriotic Yue Fei" (精忠岳飞) embodied on a flag to reward him.

With the instruction "to be patriotic to the country and loyal to the Emperor (精忠报国) which his mother tattooed on his back, Yue Fei made himself responsible for rescuing Emperors Hui Zong (徽宗) and Qin Zong (钦宗) who were then held prisoners in the hands of the Tartars, and the recovery of lost Sung territories. Several times he defeated Tartar invasions commanded by Wu-Zhu (兀术). The battle of Yan city (燕城) was an especially important victory, in which the Tartar invaders were totally defeated and were chased to Zhu Xian Zhen (朱仙镇). People from all points came to join Yue Fei's army, which resulted in the strengthening of the morale of the Sung Empire. By 1140 A.D., Yue Fei had repossessed much of the territories that the Sung Empire 

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had lost. While Yue Fei was directing an offensive to take the Tartar capital, peace negotiation was initiated and announced by Qin Kuai (秦桧), Prime Minister of the Sung Empire. The latter ordered him to withdraw his troops. Yue Fei ignored the order as he saw no reason for the peace negotiation. He then received twelve imperial orders (十二金牌) by Emperor Gao Zong, arriving one after another within one day, for his withdrawal. Yue Fei had to give in, once back to the capital, an unknown charge concocted by Qin Kuai resulted in an order of execution of the 39-year-old Yue Fei.

In 1194 A.D., seven years after the death of Emperor Gao Zong, Emperor Ziao (孝宗) declared Yue Fei's innocence when he ascended to the throne and canonized him as a Marquis as well as conferred on him the posthumous title of Wu-Mu (武穆). Yue Fei's famous poem 'Man Jiang Hong' (满江红) and essay 'Wu Yue Chi Meng Ji’ (五岳祠盟记) inspired later generations with their patriotic expressions.

Certainly, we cannot judge a hero by measuring his achievement. Although Yue Fei failed in totally defeating the Tartars due to the obstructions imposed by Emperor Gao Zong and Qin Kuai, he nevertheless was an skillful, loyal and patriotic General.