

BATTLE OF SHANGHAI, 1937, part 3

by Ah Xiang

Excerpts from <http://www.republicanchina.org/war.html>

On Oct 30th, Japanese forcefully crossed the Suzhouhe River at Zhoujiazai and Yaojiazai. The bulk of Chinese army retreated to the south of Xinjingzhen Town. Zhang Fakui, the commander-in-chief for the Right Flank defense, was transferred to the Middle Flank defense in place of Zhu Shaoliang.

At the segment where Sun Liren's taxation regiments were defending, 4th Regiment, with the firepower of company commander Li Hong's machineguns, successfully maintained the position till 3rd. Left flank positions held by 1st, 2nd and 3rd taxation regiments were breached by Japanese. 5th Regiment failed to hold the line at Liujiashai where Japanese established a beachhead. To destroy the Japanese beachhead that was entrenched for three days, Sun Liren, with Li Bangqin's battalion of four hundred soldiers, mounted an attack from 9 am to 4 pm after dissuading Huang Jie from a suicide over loss of the riverbank. With a casualty by half and the death of the battalion commander, Sun Liren recovered the beachhead. On the night, Sun Liren was wounded by thirteen shrapnels of a Japanese howitzer blast while attempting at destruction of Japanese convenience bridge on the river and a holdout in a nearby two-storey building. By night of Nov 3rd, 36th Division took over positions of Sun Liren's taxation regiments which relocated to Xujiahui of western Shanghai. TV Soong made arrangement for Sun Liren to be flown to a hospital in HK before Japanese took over Shanghai airport.

To thwart Chinese defense in Shanghai, Japan diverted two *Shidan* of 6th and 16th and Kunizaki *Ryodan* from Northern China. Japanese 16th *Shidan*, diverted from Northern China on Oct 17th, landed at Baimaokou on the Yangtze Bank on Nov 12th, then attacked towards Changshu and later participated in the Nanking Siege as part of the middle prong.

On 20th, Japan organized 10th Army, commanded by **Yamagawa Heisuke**, for the Jinshanwei Landing on Hangzhouwan Bay. Included in the landing force would be Japanese 18th *Shidan*, 114th *Shidan*, 6th *Shidan*, Kunizaki **Detachment**, 9th Independent Light Armor Company *Chutai*, 2nd Independent Mountain Gun Regiment *Rentai*, 6th Independent Heavy Artillery Brigade *Ryodan*.

On 8th, Third War Zone command center issued the order of abandoning the Shanghai battlefield. Bulk of the Chinese army withdrew towards Qingpu-Baihegang on the morning of 9th, but went into disarray under Japanese plane bombardment. Japanese then continued on towards Songjiang where they defeated Wu

Keren's 67th Corps. **On the night of 9th, Japanese took over Songjiang. On 11th, Qingpu-Baihegang was abandoned.**

On Nov 12th, Chinese armies on the left flank withdrew further west, while right flank retreated to Suzhou-Jiaxing Railway Line where **Prepatory 11 th Division** relocated earlier as a safeguard. On the night of 13th, Chinese armies moved to Zhapu-Pinghu-Jiashan line in Zhejiang Province and Suzhou-Fushan line in Jiangsu Province. On Nov 12th, battles in Shanghai ceased.