

Communist Attacks On KMT Troops In Early 1945

by Ah Xiang

[Excerpts from "Civil Wars: 1945-1950"]

Back in late April 1945, Mao Tse-tung, at communist 7th Session, pointed out that the four provinces of Northeast China were very important ... Even if we [communists] lost all enclaves, we could still build a solid base for the Chinese revolution by relying on Northeast China alone..." [Per ZZR's citation of a communist internal document at Memorial Hall of Liao-Shen Campaign].

Communists never stopped its friction warfare with KMT forces. Hu Zongnan had fought several wars with communists in Henan Prov in April-May 1945. Taking advantage of Japanese attacks, communist contingents, numbering 30,000, under Pi Dingjun, Wang Shusheng & Han Jun, attacked Hu Zongnan's forces in Luoyang, Xin'an, Yiyang and Defeng areas. Japanese, after two time frustrations in the Qian-Gui [Guangxi-Guizhou] Campaign and E-xi [Western Hubei] Campaign, decided to score some points by attacking Shaanxi Province. In lieu of crossing the Yellow River in western Shanxi Province or marching towards Tongguan from Luoyang, Japanese amassed 70,000 troops from 110th, 69th, 114th, and armored 3rd division-conglomerates and 4th cavalry brigade for launching attacks at Nanyang, Laohekou, Xiangyang, Fancheng and Xixiakou, i.e., the Xixiakou Campaign. Japanese, after wrestling over Nanyang from Liu Ruming, pushed on towards Shaanxi Province. Hu Zongnan's troops defeated Japanese 110th Division-conglomerate at the Battle of Xixiakou. While KMT forces were encircling Japanese, communist troops under Haan Jun, about 5000, came out of Mt Funiushan, arrived at Doufudian-Taihangmiao-Lianghekou-Chencun area from Songxian, and then attacked KMT temp 66th Division at Heiyu-Miaozi area. In April, Haan Jun attacked KMT forces in Mianchi, Luoyang, Xin'an area; in May, Wang Shusheng attacked KMT forces at East Zhaobao, West Zhaobao and Jiujianfang of Yiyang county; and Pi Dingjun, with about 10000 troops, attacked KMT forces at Dengfeng and Mixian and sacked the county capital before fleeing under KMT counterattacks.

On July 13th 1945, at the blockade line in Shaanxi Province, communist troops suddenly attacked KMT constabulary regiment at Fanglizhen, and two days later, continued to sack Ronglunzhen town from KMT constabulary regiment. 78 kilometers of blockhouses fell into communist troops. On July 19th, Hu Zongnan wired to Zhu De with a rebuke, and ordered that Sheng Wen recover the lost territories. On July 21st, Hu Zongnan's troops moved against Chunhuaxian county. On 21st, Sheng Wen's 123rd Division recovered Fanglizhen, and then attacked high hills outside of Chunhuacheng town. In July, CCP refused to attend the "participation in administration" meeting held by KMT in Chongqing. On July 21st, Hu Zongnan's troops moved against Chunhuaxian county. Li Ao claimed that Albert Wedemeyer deliberately sent US servicemen to the region to segregate KMT from CCP. After the loss of Mt Yetaishan, communists sent over two reinforcement brigades from Yen-an. Hu Zongnan accordingly sent over Chen Ju brigade of temp 3rd Division. Three days of fightings ensued. Communists accused KMT of breaking peace and demanded that Hu Zongnan punish Sheng Wen. Hu Zongnan, preoccupied with the continuing battles against Japanese at Xixiakou, went on a tour of his troops at Dinghekou on Aug 6th, and then held a corps-level meeting at Xiping.

On Aug 9th 1945, Mao Tse-tung gave a speech entitled "The Final Battle Against Japanese". On Aug

10th, Zhu De, communist commander-in-chief for Eight Route Army, issued No. 1 Order, calling on Eight Route armies, New Fourth armies, communist militia, and communist guerrillas to attack Japanese and the puppets and to recover territories. On Aug 11th, CCP commander Zhu De issued Order No. 2, with instructions that communists march into Liaoning and Jilin provinces. Chiang Kai-shek, having issued a hollow order to communist-controlled 18th Group Army [i.e., Eighth Route Army] in cease-and-desist as to acceptance of Japanese surrender, naively thought that the Chinese communists, under the pressure of Russians, would observe the "exclusive surrender acceptance" order which was just a carbon copy of McArthur's Supreme Command Center order. Japanese at Tianjin [Tientsin] resisted communist attempt at disarming them. On Aug 13th, Mao Tse-tung issued an article via Xinhua News Agency entitled "Chiang Kai-shek Is Fomenting Civil War". Mao & Chiang traded accusations by calling each other "public enemy of the people".

On Aug 13th 1945, communist party committee for Hebei-Rehe-Liaoning regions, at a meeting held in Fenglunxian county, made a decision to dispatch to Manchuria 8 regiments, 1 battalion, and two contingents, totalling 13,000 men or 2/3rd of the regional force, to be commanded by four commanders for military sub-districts, four CCP regional secretaries and 2500 cadres. Li Yunchang, i.e., commander-in-chief of Hebei-Rehe-Liaoning district, was put in charge of "Eastward March Work Committee". In late Aug, 14th, 15th & 16th military sub-districts under Li Yunchang exited the passes of the Great Wall for Manchuria. Zeng Kelin & Tang Kai, with 12th & 18th regiments, Korean contingent & Lin Fuchang's contingent, circumvented Shanhaiguan Pass by exiting the Jiumenkou gate. After meeting 5 trucks of Russians, the communist forces proposed an attack at the Japanese guarding the Shanhaiguan Pass. The first echelon, together with 50 Russian soldiers, fought Japanese at Shanhaiguan Pass and took control of the link. 16th military district, separately, already entered Rehe and Manchuria, forcefully taking over Fangezhuang, Haiyang, Liumen & Shimenzai from Japanese and puppet Manchukuo forces along the way.

At coastal Huludao, a city about 15 kilometers away from Jinzhou, communist forces successfully drove back the Nationalist Army which had landed ashore with the help of American transporters. In Benxi city, i.e., Japanese-controlled coal mine, Heh Juemin [a KMT colonel captive], Xing Fangyin [a CCP New Fourth Army deputy regiment chief captive], and Tao Shouchong [a CCP Shandong District cadre captive] staged an uprising against the Japanese on the night of Aug 14th; however, with the arrival of Zeng Kelin's communist forces, the KMT elements were soon purged and executed. About 50000 American marines took charge of controlling major railways around Peking-Tianjin and Shanhaiguan areas.

Li Zongren memoirs stated that the first shot of the civil war was fired at Fu Zuoyi's troops in Shanxi Province by communist forces. Communist documents treated the Battle of Handan in Hebei Province as the first shot. Chinese communists, throughout the years of resistance wars, had attempted to cross the North Yellow River Bend for linking up with Outer Mongolia and USSR. However, General Fu Zuoyi, with two corps of his 12th War Zone, had been able to defend his territories of Inner Mongolia against both the Japanese and the communists. Fu Zuoyi, before the 1937 war outbreak, had enjoyed good reputation as a resisting general: On Nov 24th 1936, Fu Zuoyi's Suiyuan Prov army sacked Bailingmiao from "Inner Mongolia puppet army". Fu Zuoyi retook Wuyuan in 1940 and defended western Suiyuan and Mt Daqingshan against Japanese throughout the resistance war. Battle of Wuyuan, like Battle of Lanfeng, should be counted as success recovery of a city by Chinese forces, something that soundly beat the national-anilists' claim that Chinese troops never ever retook a city from Japanese during WWII.