

Chinese Communists & Feng Yuxiang's Chahar Allied Army

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

Feng Yuxiang sold himself to Russians back in mid-1920s. With Russian money, weapons and advisers, he re-entered the "Northern Expedition" wars. The price he paid was the infiltration of Northwestern Army by Chinese communists. He politely expelled all "manifest" communists from his army in 1927, and then had trouble re-establishing contacts with communists because the mastermind spy Li Dazhao was killed by Zhang Zuolin in 1927. However, the seeds of communism stayed on around him. Though, northern communists were in factions, reporting to Moscow, to Russian embassy, to CCP Central in Shanghai and acting as independent communist. After a defeat in 1930 Wars of Central Plains [which was partially instigated by Chinese Communists], Feng Yuxiang again had trouble re-establishing contacts with communists since his best pal Zhang Jinren was dismissed from CCP SHUN-ZHI (Hebei) Commissariat. Feng Yuxiang nominally sought retirement in Fenyang of Shanxi Province, where he set up a Fenyang military school. After 1931 invasion of Manchuria by Japanese, Feng Yuxiang went to nation's capital before returning to northern China for nominal retirement again. En route to Nanking, Feng Yuxiang took with him a dozen bodyguards who were communists, not to mention his military academy that was run by communists.

Before the 1931 Japanese invasion of Manchuria, Chinese communists set its objectives as instigating rebellions by provincial and regional militarists. There was slight difference in the approaches adopted by southern and northern communists. In southern China, where communist armed struggles and the Red Army enclaves were most significant, the emphasis had been to instigate the rebellion of provincial and regional armies, such as the Yu Zuobo and Li Mingrui Rebellion and the Ningdu Rebellion. In the case of latter, i.e., northern Chinese communists, the strategy was to convert or mix up with Northwestern Army generals, such as under Yang Hucheng's Northwestern Army and constabulary forces. **To lend support to the besieged Red Army in southern China, northern communists instigated the 1930 Wars of the Central Plains. While attempting to avoid high-profile rebellions, northern communists were asked to stage an operation in 1932 to echo the anti-4th Siege in Jiangxi Soviet Enclave. Hence, Chinese communists converged upon Kalgan in the autumn of 1932.** Liu Zhidan's Red Army re-assembled some of the guerrilla fighting force, which acted as constabulary force at peace time in northern Shenxi counties, and sent to Kalgan as well.

Under communist auspice, Feng Yuxiang, on October 9th, 1932, visited Chahar provincial chair Song Zheyuan, his former subordinate general, for rallying 'anti-Japan' resistance movement and reviving his army. CCP sent over top agents including zhang1 cun2 shi2; xu3 quan2 zhong1; zhang1 jin1 REN4; and WU2 hua4 ZI3. At about this time, Xie Hegeng was asked by Xuan Xiafu to go to Chahar Province for assisting Feng Yuxiang in reviving the Northwestern Army. In Dec, with 10 yuan fund from Du Keming, Xie Hegeng, as representative of Peking students, arrived at the camp of Northwestern Army and assisted in establishing the Chahar Populace Anti-Japanese Allied Army. In Feb 1933, Xie Hegeng was accepted into CCP as a member. In

January 1933, Chinese communists organized Kalgan Special Commissariat. Communist agent Wu Zhige was sent to Outer Mongolia for liaison with Russians. In Tientsin, undercover communist Ji Hongchang raised money to buy weapons which were later shipped to Kalgan via a trucking company under Japanese Southern Manchurian Railway. Chinese communists also sent agents to Zhang Tingshu and Huang Xiansheng of Northeastern Army to seek for concerted action. In warlord Sun Dianying's army, Li Dazhao's pal took up the post of political commissar and called over Peking-Tientsin students for political work.

On May 24th, Feng Yuxiang held a meeting on the organization of the Chahar people's anti-Japanese allied army. On 26th, Feng Yuxiang, at a rally, issued a public wire for assumption of commander-in-chief of "Anti-Japanese Allied Army", with Fang Zhenwu acting as omnipotent director and Ji Hongchang as frontline commissar. Tong Linge, another former subordinate, was made into acting chair for Chahar in lieu of Wu Yong. **Comintern, closely observing the Japanese invasion into Jehol as well as the Battles of the Great Wall, instructed CCP agents to check out China's fight-or-peace move. CCP agents contacted negotiator Huang Fu's secretary. After Tang-Gu Truce, CCP pushed the war against Japanese and the puppets in Chahar.**

On June 15th, the first meeting of military and civilian representatives, mapping Chinese communists' Soviet scheme, was held in Kalgan in regards to military affairs, fiscal and financial policies, political work, organization guideline for military committee. An eleven member military committee was made into the supreme council for the Anti-Japan Allied Army. **During the Chahar campaign, Hebei Provincial Commissar Committee of Chinese communists dispatched Ke Qingshi to Kalgan for instigating the rebellion of Feng Yuxiang's allied army into the Red Army.** Senior communist leader Zhang Jinren, who was responsible for instigating 1929-1930 rebellion by Feng Yuxiang, disagreed with the new orientation and was consequently kicked out of the communist party.

Feng Yuxiang expanded his headcount on basis of remnant 29th Corps troops and recruited guerrilla forces from Manchuria and Jehol. Anti-Japan Allied Army consisted of former Northwestern Army under Feng Yuxiang, and Fang Zhenwu's Resisting-Japan and Saving-China Army. Among former Northwestern Army, there would be Tong Linge's 1st Corps of 1st Division [Peng Zhengguo], 2nd Division [Zhi Yinglin], Liu Keyi's Independent Brigade, 24th Division [Fu Chun, allocated 7-25] and 25th Division [Ma Guanjun, allocated 7-25]; Ji Hongchang's 2nd Corps of 3rd Cavalry Division [Zhou Yixuan], 4th Division [Xu Ronghua], 5th Division [Xuan Xiaofu] and 6th Division [Li Tingzhen]; and Zhang Lingyun's 6th Corps of Guerrilla Division [Mie Yuling] and 2nd Cavalry Division [Hu Yunshan]; Sun Liangcheng's Herald Corps of 1st Column [Lei Zhongtian] and 2nd Column [Gao Shuxun]. Fang Zhenwu's army included Zhang Renjie's 1st Corps of three divisions and two brigades headed by Song Tielin, Du Guangming, Song Kebin, Cui Guoqing and Gu Youqi; Mi Wenhe's 4th Corps of one teaching division [Wang Zhongfu]; and Ruan Xuanwu's 5th Corps of 16th Division [Ji Handong] and 18th Division [Xu Quanzhong]. Zhi Yinglin's 2nd Division was staffed by three communist regimental commanders,

Additionally, Northeastern Loyal and Brave Army, Jehol Civilian Army, Chahar Self-Defense Army, ethnic-Mongol army, bandits, and puppet troops were incorporated as well. The First

Route Army was assigned to Wang Ying's banditry army from western Suiyuan; puppet Liu Guitang was pacified as 6th Route Army. Three ethnic-Mongol armies from Suiyuan and Mongolia were organized under Demuchukedonglupu, Zhuotebazhapu and Fulinga. Deng Wen's Northeastern Loyal and Brave Army, i.e., former Ma Zhanshan remnants, were made into 5th Route, in charge of Deng Wen's 10th Cavalry Division, Tan Zixin's 11th Cavalry Division, Wu Songlin's 12th Cavalry Division, Tang Zhongxin's 21st Cavalry Brigade and an infantry brigade.

Jehol Civilian Army included Huang Shouzhong's 18th Corps of 32nd Division [Yu Lizhi], 33rd Division [Tan Shilin] and 34th Division [Yan Shangyuan], and Yao Jingchuan's 4th Cavalry Division.

Zhang Lisheng: 1D, 2D, 3D, and two detachments

Chahar Self-Defense Army included Ren Pingzhi's 13th Independent Division and Zhang Lisheng's constabulary army of three divisions and two detachments headed by Zhang Ziguang, Cao Hanxiang, Bai Zhenbao, Wang Dezhong and Jiao Puzhai.

Dewang 1C

Zhuotebazhapu 2C

self-defense army Fulinga

Wang Ying 1st route

Liu Guitang 6th route

Having developed into over 100,000 people, Feng Yuxiang, on June 20th, ordered Fang Zhenwu and Ji Hongchang, flanked by Deng Wen and Li Zhongyi, to push against puppet troops in northern and eastern Chahar. On 22nd, Cui Xingwu's puppets were driven away from Kangbao. On July 1st, Zhang Haipeng and Cui Xingwu's puppet troops were driven away from Baochang. At Guyuan, Liu Guitang defected to the allied army. On July 4th, Ji Hongchang's army pushed against Duolun (i.e., a town in former Chahar and present Inner Mongolian and directly to the north of Peking city) with four division equivalent troops. On 7th, general attack was launched against Duolun around which units from Japanese 4th Cavalry RyoBrig had built fortifications. Allied armies pushed the Japanese and puppet troops into the city by late afternoon of 8th. Allied army, against Japanese plane bombing, engaged in days' fighting. Past midnight, on 12th, allied army breached the city in coordination with undercover agents disguised as Muslim puppets. Ji Hongchang drove the Japanese and collaborators out of Chahar Province.

By late July, Feng Yuxiang and Ji Hongchang established, at Zhangjiakou, the "committee for recovering the four provinces of the Northeast". On Aug 8th, Japanese planes bombed

Pingdingbao in Guyuan area, and attacked towards Guyuan and Duolun. Chiang Kai-shek, fearing that communists had taken control of "Anti-Japanese Allied Army", would launch a concerted siege. Chiang Kai-shek, seeing that communists had dominated the Anti-Japanese Alliance Army, mobilized 16 divisions against Feng Yuxiang and Ji Hongchang.

Surrounded by government troops, communists and Japanese on all sides, Feng Yuxiang resigned his post and reluctantly left Kalgan on August 18th. Prior to the departure, Feng Yuxiang attempted to stay on under Song Zheyuan's protection by maneuvering with various military leaders as well as dispatching Gao Xingya to a futile liaison with Russian consulate in Tientsin. Song Zheyuan, upon return to Chahar chair post, reorganized remaining allied army into garrison troops for Shangdu [Ruan Xuanwu & Fu Chun], Kangbao-Baochang [Zhang Lingyun & Mie Yuling], Chahar Mobile Force [Huang SHouzhong] and eastern Chahar guerrilla force [Liu Guitang], and shrank troops under Zhang, Liu Zhendong's regiment and Tang Junwu into one regiment each. Zhang Lisheng was offered a post as provincial councilor; Sun Liangcheng gave the control of his troops to Zhang Yunrong; Fang Zhenwu was asked to go overseas via Ruan Xuanwu's mediation; Haan Qingfang's troops, Feng Yuxiang's cadet column and Tong Linge's independent brigade were dismissed. Yao Jingchuan, Su Yusheng, Song Kebin and Li Ziduo were reorganized separately. And, Tan Zixin, Zhang Renjie and Li Zhongyi were admitted to the direct control under the Peiping branch of the military committee.

Though Feng was cheated by communists again, this time for transforming the allied army into the Red Army. Feng stayed a leftist or a socialist. Feng's former army continued to carry the communists, with his general Heh Jifeng provoking the Marco Polo Bridge Incident on July 7th, 1937 and earlier. However, Feng had no control over his former generals around 1937, and never recovered leadership. After the end of WWII, Feng went to US for a tour. Before the tour, he cautioned his generals to look out against the communist hijacking their armies. Soon, he forgot about the communist trickery and engaged in open accusations against Chiang. Communists persuaded him to go back to China via USSR. Russians cheated him by saying he better ride there via Russian ships because Chiang might assassinate him. He ended up in a Russian ship. Before arriving at Odessa, the ship had arson. Liu Ruming claimed that people told him that Stalin wanted Feng killed to avenge the death of a Russian adviser that Feng killed in 1920s. At the civil war front line, Feng's wife announced through loud speakers that Feng was killed in an accident when the movie-playing equipment caught fire. -Note this cover-up version through the mouth of Feng's wife, Li Dequan, was not sanctioned by Russians or Chinese communists.

In late August, Ji Hongchang, having failed to break out towards Suiyuan under the impediment of Fu Zuoyi and Zhang Lingyun's troops, returned east with remnants to Dushikou Pass for a union with Fang Zhenwu's troops. On September 10th, Ji Hongchang, in meeting with Fang Zhenwu, Tang Yulin and Liu Guitang, reorganized the remnant allied army into the "army for resisting Japanese and campaigning against enemy [Chiang Kai-shek]". Ji Hongchang and Fang Zhenwu, either quasi-communists or special communists at the time, answered the call of Chinese communists for first a relocation towards northern Chahar and then a southern attack against Peiping. Ji Hongchang and Fang Zhenwu, at the Yunzhou Meeting, to the north of Chicheng, devised a plan to attack Peiping along two sides of the Great Wall, via Miyun-Huairou, by October 4th. On September 20th and 21st, the two columns consecutively crossed the southern Great Wall line and entered Miyun and Huairou counties. In early October, Hongchang and Fang Zhenwu, with about five to six thousand remnants, continued attacks against Peiping. At Changping, the rebels fought against troops under Shang Zhen, Guan Linzheng and Pang Bingxun. The two fought on for a while, surrendered to government troops,

escaped half way during the disarmament on October 16th, and stealthily sought asylum in Tianjin's foreign settlements in Jan 1934.

Modified on Oct 22, 2007.