

Nanchang Mutiny – Aug 1927

by Ah Xiang

[Excerpts from “Red Terror & White Terror”]

Wang Jingwei [Wang Ching-wei] Government in Wuhan, per Jiang Yongjing, did not have a real separation from CCP till the outbreak of 'August 1st Nanchang Uprising' in Jiangxi Province. However, by late July of 1927, Wang Jingwei already sensed an incoming uprising by the communists inside of the armies that Wuhan government controlled, and Wang Jingwei ordered a real-sense purge of communists that unfortunately came too late to stop the locomotive. On July 26th, Heh Long's 20th Corps arrived in Nanchang from Jiujiang after allowing Ye Ting's 24th division (subject to 11th Corps) board the train for Nanchang earlier. On the same day, Wang Jingwei officially expelled Mao Tse-tung, Li Lishan, Zhou Enlai and Peng Pai etc from KMT, and wired to Russian advisers as to the truth of the rumor about possible communist uprising. Wang Jingwei's most wanted list issued on Aug 8th 1927 would include 197 communist members.

In Nanchang of Jiangxi Prov, CCP-controlled armies numbered at 30000, while KMT-controlled forces numbered at 5000-6000 (per Zhu Zeyun's writing on Heh Long's Memoirs). On July 27th, CCP decided to delay uprising to the 30th. On July 29th, Wang Jingwei arrived in Jiujiang from Wuhan at the invitation of Zhang Fakui and held a meeting with Zhu Peide etc, with an order issued in asking Heh Long/Ye Ting relocate back to Jiujiang. Meanwhile, Zhang Guotao was in Jiujiang negotiating with Zhang Fakui who had always hoped to utilize communists for fulfilling his dream of going back to Guangdong Province in the south. On 29th, Zhang Guotao requested for a delay of uprising till he came over to Nanchang. On 30th, Zhang Guotao arrived in Nanchang from Jiujiang and argued against the uprising with Zhou Enlai. Zhou Enlai stated that Zhang Guotao should not trust in Zhang Fakui standing on the same side as communists and CCP should not let down He Long (Heh Long) who had brought over his 20th Corps for sake of Nanchang Uprising. On 31st, Zhang Fakui invited Heh Long/Ye Ting for a military meeting on Lushan Mountain and claimed that he would personally come to Nanchang the next day (Aug 1st). By noon of July 31st, Zhang Guotao gave in to majority CCP members and agreed to launching the uprising at 4:00 am on August 1st, with a CCP team consisting of Zhou Enlai, Ye Ting, Heh Long, Zhu De, Liu Bochong, Nie Rongzhen, Li Lishan, and Zhang Guotao. Chen Geng participated in this uprising. Uprising pulled ahead by two hours as a result of defection of deputy battalion chief Zhao Fusheng who was later caught and executed.

About 3000 soldiers of Zhu Peide's army were disarmed, and about 300 soldiers belonging to Cheng Qian's 6th Corps were killed. KMT lost altogether 6 regiments. Heh Long's army destroyed 79th & 80th regiments of KMT 9th Corps, and Ye Ting's army destroyed 53rd regiment of KMT 6th Corps and 23rd & 24th regiments of KMT 3rd Corps. Xu Zhen claimed that altogether 8000 KMT officers and soldiers were killed by the communists, and Jiangxi provincial banks and finance agencies were pillaged.

Heh Long asked Zhou Yiqun send telegraph to Ye Jianying in Jiujiang and Lu Deming in Wuhan, and then declared the founding of KMT Revolutionary Committee, with him acting as one of the seven member committee and generalissimo of so-called "National Revolutionary Army Second Flank". KMT Revolutionary Committee was launched on Aug 2nd. When Zu Peide's troops in Ji'an counter-

attacked the communists, Zhu De & Chen Yi fled towards the Fujian-Guangdong border.

Xu Xiangqian recalled that Zhang Fakui, angry over communist rebellion, had made a speech to all officers, stating that he could only guarantee protection for CCP members for "three days". Hearing of this, Xu Xiangqian slipped to Wuhan and Shanghai consecutively. In Shanghai, Xu Xiangqian encountered Li Chubai on the street and was asked to relocate to Guangzhou (Canton) in Sept 1927 for the upcoming Canton Commune Uprising.

Zhou Enlai's self account stated that Nanchang rebels made a mistake in re-routing towards the south instead of launching peasant revolution locally. Wen Yu pointed out that Qu Qiubai's CCP Central had disciplined both Zhou Enlai and Mao Tse-tung for "opportunist" mistakes in relying on exclusively military forces for Nanchang Uprising & Autumn Harvest Uprising. (Don't be fooled by communist acquiesce in junk propaganda of so-called peasant uprising !!! No peasants but soldiers consisted of the bulk of the rebels.)

Zhu De etc led the army to the south for sake of establishing a coastal base so that Russian military supplies could roll in. (Later, during Mt Jinggangshan guerrilla warfare, under Fu-lei-de & Li-de [Otto Braun] false promise, CCP built an airport in Ruijin of Jiangxi Province in 1933 for Russian military airplane to drop military supplies.) Marching through Chaoshan area of Guangdong Prov, the rebels suffered a defeat in the hands of KMT General Qian Dajun. (Li Zongren memoirs claimed that Heh Long & Ye Ting were defeated by Bai Chongxi & Huang Shaohong, not Qian Dajun. Further, Li Zongren believed that by pressing communists towards coastal area, they had the chance of exterminating communist insurgents.) Some remnants remained with local peasants, while the rest was taken to Jiangxi-Fujian border by Zhu De.

Zhou Enlai himself, after Nanchang Uprising, went to Shanghai in Nov 1927. Zhou Enlai organized "special task force" in Nov 1927. When Chen Geng was injured in Red Army military action, Lu Dongsheng escorted Chen Geng to Shanghai for medical treatment. Chen Geng and Zhou Yiqun rode on Japanese ship for Shanghai in Oct 1927. Chen Geng was retained by Zhou Enlai in Shanghai. At about this timeframe, CCP organizations in Shanghai and Jiangsu Province were sabotaged by KMT. CCP leaders, including Zhao Shiyan, Luo Yinong, Chen Yannian and Chen Qiaonian died in the hands of KMT. Luo Yinong's body, after his death in April 1928, was picked up by Hong Yangsheng's "section one" of "special task force division" for burial. Zhou Enlai stayed in Shanghai till 1931, during which Zhou Enlai approved the assassination of traitor Bai Xin and orchestrated the bloody extermination of traitor Gu Shunzhang family, with dozens of Gu family relatives and visitors killed and buried under the floor. (Gu Shunzhang had been personally responsible for assassinating Bai Xin.) In between, Zhou claimed that he had applied for a passport in the fake name of Chen Gengren with Nanking's KMT foreign ministry, told the clerk that he (i.e., Chen Gengren) was a Whampoa graduate who intended to go overseas for studies, and then circumvented around Europe for attending the executive meeting of Third Comintern in Moscow in 1930. Zhou Enlai met Stalin in June/July 1930.

Richard Hooker, at wsu.edu:8001/~dee/MODCHINA/COMM.HTM, naively claimed that "on August 1, 1927, a peasant army numbering 15,000 men attacked and seized the city of Nanchang in Kiangsi in southern China." We have to bear in mind that Heh Long's 20th Corps, Ye Ting's 24th division of 4th Corps, and Zhu De's Yunnan (Dian-jun) policing or garrison regiment of 3rd Corps, totalling 30,000 men, were the strongest fighting force among KMT's military ranks. Heh Long's 20th Corps alone possessed two divisions or seven regiments. Zhu De was recorded to have invited all regiment heads of Yunnan Province army to his house for ma-jiang game before the uprising, and CCP Nie Rongzhen, at Mahuiling, led his 25th division for an uprising, disarmed Zhang Fakui's bodyguard battalion on the

train, and confiscated KMT 4th Corps' military flag. (Ye Ting's detachment numbering, code-named 'tie jun' or iron army, would be inherited by CCP throughout its military establishment history. Iron Army, i.e., Li Jishen's 4th Corps, possessing 4 divisions plus Ye Ting's detached regiment at the beginning, had dispatched 10th & 12th divisions and Ye Ting regiment to Hunan-Hubei battleground in 1926. PLA's 38th Corps, which was deployed for June 4th 1989 Massacre, was derived from the Red Army 4th Corps, a unit organized on basis of the corps that Ye Ting's detachment numbering belonged to.) It was CCP which betrayed KMT Left-wing Government in Aug 1927 in observance of new Comintern and Stalin/Bukharin policies as to armed rebellion and land revolution, not the other way around.