

Shanghai Provocation - 1/28/1932

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Excerpts from "Resistance Wars: 1931-1945" at <http://www.republicanchina.org/war.html> For updates and related articles, check <http://www.republicanchina.org/RepublicanChina-pdf.htm>

On Jan 6th, Jiang Guangnai's 19th Route Army was relocated to Nanking-Shanghai area for countering possible Japanese invasion while KMT central politics meeting made a decision in inviting Chiang Kai-shek back to the military leadership. Whang Jingwei and Sun Ke etc personally went to Hangzhou for persuading Chiang Kai-shek into a return.

Liu Feng pointed out that Japan provoked Shanghai Incident for distracting the attention of the "League of Nations" which planned to dispatch an investigation team to Manchuria. Itagaki Seishiro contacted a military attaché of Japanese consulate in Shanghai with an offer of 20000 yens for sake of provoking an incident. Military attaché Tanaga colluded with Chuandao Fangzi [Kawashima Yoshiko] in hiring rascals for attacks at Japanese citizens. On Jan 18th, Kawashima Yoshiko's rascals attacked five Japanese monks on Mayushan Road in Shanghai, near Sanyou Enterprise Company which was noted for "desisting from Japanese commodities". On 19th, Japanese consulate raised a protest. On early morning of 20th, Tanaga dispatched over thirty Japanese ronin [vagrants] for setting fire on the Sanyou company. Japanese killed a police and injured two. In the afternoon, Japanese societies further rallied 4000 residents in front of Japanese consulate in demand of protection by Japanese military as well as punishing the Chinese 'culprits'. On 21st, Japanese consul-general Murai delivered a four-demand protest to Shanghai mayor Wu Tiecheng. Subsequently, Japanese First Overseas Fleet commander Shiozawa issued an ultimatum for capturing the culprit. On 24th, Japanese claimed that one monk was dead.

Frank E. Smitha stated that "a rise in hostility toward the Japanese among the Chinese had resulted in some incidents in Shanghai, including an attack of five Japanese persons, two of them Buddhist priests, one of whom died. The Japanese consul-general in Shanghai demanded reparations, and Japan's navy, encouraged by the success of the army in Manchuria, sent ships and over a thousand marines to Shanghai to backup the consul-general... The army sent reinforcements to Shanghai and started a drive from the city's International Settlement against one of China's armies".

On Jan 26th, Prince Kan'in-no-miya Kotohito authorized Shiozawa to exercise self-defense if necessary. On 27th, Japanese consul delivered an ultimatum good till 6 pm of Jan 28th. Japanese attacked Shanghai on the evening of Jan 28th of 1932. After one night and one day's street battles, 156th Brigade recovered North Train Station at 5 pm on 29th, drove Japanese away from the railway line, and pressed Japanese back to the east of North Sichuan Road. Frank E. Smitha mentioned "Japanese using their navy guns, aircraft, incendiary bombs and bombing China's capital, Nanjing." Japanese indiscriminate bombing destroyed Dong Zhujun's factory which was said to be the first woman enterprise in Shanghai.

In Feb, Chiang Kai-shek relocated his capital to Luoyang and did not move it back to Nanking till Dec 1st. Shanghai-Wusong Campaign ended in about one month after the intervention of Western powers in the interests of safeguarding their extraterritories [i.e., concessions or international settlements]. To avoid acceleration of conflicts, Chinese armies who fought Japanese in Shanghai were numbered under the 19th Route. Zhang Zhizhong's 87th Division and Yu Jishi's 88th Division, which relocated from Nanking, were organized into 5th Corps for Shanghai battles. Hu Zongnan's 1st Division, re-numbered 43rd Division, was shuttled to Changzhou, Wuxi and Jiangyin from Henan Province as well. Hu Zongnan took charge of paving the roads between Nanking and Shanghai as well as digging in at positions in Jiangyin

city on the Yangtze Bank. On Jan 29th, Chiang Kai-shek assumed the post of generalissimo of the military commission which also comprised of Yan Xishan and Feng Yuxiang. 5th Corps entered the battle in Feb 1932.

After occupying the whole area of Manchuria by Feb 5th 1932, Japanese pushed against northern China and Inner Mongolia. In February, Japan renamed Manchuria an independent country of "Manchukuo" with Changchun as the capital and claimed that Manchukuo territory would cover Rehe [Jehol] and Inner Mongolia. Across the nation of China, populace, especially the students, conducted waves of demonstrations and protests in demand of a confrontation with Japanese aggressors.

On Feb 4th, Shiozawa, for receiving Shimomoto's landing force which was en route from [[Sasebo]] two days before, launched an attack at the Wusong Battery. On 7th, Nomura arrived at Shanghai on Matsuno's flagship Idzumo. To pave the way for 24th Mixed Ryodan to land at Wusongkou rivermouth, Japanese marine units attacked the area to the west of Wusong railway wharf at 9 am. 19th Route army commander ordered 156th Brigade of 78th Division to continue defense of Wusong battery and 60th Division to defend the railway line from Jiangwan to North Train Station, while having two brigades of 87th Division guard the open country from Wusong battery to Jiangwan.

On the afternoon of Feb 13th, Ueda Kenkichi, under the escort of 1st minesweeper unit, arrived with 6th Ryodan of 9th Shidan. On Feb 20th, at 7:30, Ueda Kenkichi, from his command center at Gongda Cotton Mill, ordered a diversionary attack at Zhabei-Baziqiao by special landing force and Shanghai-based marines and **a two-prong attack at Jiangwan and Miaohang by 6th Ryodan of 9th Shidan and 24th Mixed Ryodan**. On 22nd, at dawn, Japanese intruded into eastern Miaohang town and Maijiazhai under the cover of mist. Zhang Zhizhong brought Gui Yongqing's teaching column to the front as well as sent over Sun Yuanliang's 259th Brigade of 87th Division. Song Xilian's 261st Brigade of 87th Division, from north of Yunzaobang River, crossed the river at Jijiaqiao to attack the Japanese flank, while 19th Route Army commander Cai Tingkai pincer-attacked from Jiangwan to the south. **24th Mixed Ryodan** was thoroughly routed under Chinese three-route counterattack.

To counter Japanese attacks, Chinese armies were arranged into right flank and left flank, with Shenjiahang-Jiangwan-Dachang towns as the division line. Though Japanese were aided with reinforcements from Japan as well as airforce/navy support, they failed to break Chinese defense line while changing commanders several times and incurring heavy casualties. Chinese organized a dare-to-die force, raided the Japanese command center, and broke one leg of Japanese division-conglomerate commander Ueda.

Chiang Kai-shek, to counter Japanese reinforcements, relocated Xu Tingyao's 4th Division, Zhao Guanshou's 6th Division and Tang Yunshan's 33rd Independent Brigade away from the siege campaign against the Red Army. To cover the stealthy troop movement, Japan accepted British fleet commander's mediation again. Nomura and Matsuoka held a talk with 19th Route Army tactician Huang Qiang and Wellington Koo on board a British ship. Since Koutou's 11th Shidan was not expected to arrive till Feb 29th, Japanese put off peace talks till March 2nd. On 29th, Shirakawa, upon arrival at the Yangtze river mouth under the escort of 4th Navy Battle Group and minesweeper units, immediately ordered Ueda's 9th Shidan to attack Zhangjiaqiao-Xiamawan line while having Koutou's 's 11th Shidan land at Qiyakou to take over Liuhezhen town on the Yangtze bank. At 9 pm, on Feb 1st, Jiang Guangnai issued the order of general retreat after learning of the loss of Liuhe at the hind. On March 2nd, Japanese 9th division-

conglomerate circumvented around Jiangwan to take over Dachangzhen town. By this time, 19th Route incurred a casualty of 8000, while 5th Corps 5000. On the night, 19th Route and 5th Corps evacuated from their positions. On 3rd, a regiment under Sun Yuanliang's 259th Brigade incurred a casualty of close to one thousand near Gelongzhen Japanese took over Zhenru and Nanxiang, and slaughtered civilians, women and children included, to avenge on their casualty of about 17%. Massacre and burning occurred throughout Wusong, Jiangwan, Zhabei, Hongkou & Dachang.

On March 6th, Okamura Yasuji received Kawashima Yoshiko in appreciation of her sabotage work in Shanghai. (Kawashima Yoshiko, i.e., Aishingiro Xianyu [aka Jin Bihui] was executed as a traitor by the Nationalist Government in 1948.) In Manchuria, on 9th, Pu-yi got enthroned as emperor of Manchukuo, nine days after the proclamation of the puppet regime. On March 16th, Japanese emperor congratulated the invasion forces.

On March 14th, Lytton Commission arrived in Shanghai. Western powers brokered an informal peace talk between Chinese and Japanese. On 24th, the two parties started official negotiations. Having reached the objective of detaching Manchuria from China, Japan announced troop withdrawal from Shanghai, withdrawing 11th Shidan and 24th Mixed Ryodan to Japan while forwarding 14th Shidan to Manchuria for the crackdown on Chinese volunteer fighters.

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