

## BATTLE OF SHANGHAI, 1937, part 2

by Ah Xiang

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On Sept 22nd, Japanese 101st *Shidan*, which arrived Sept 7-16th, began bulk landing on Shanghai wharfs; and on 27th, Japanese 9th *Shidan* arrived. On Sept 30th, Japanese launched general attacks at Chinese armies, with main thrusts directed at Dengqiao and Liuhang front. After Japanese breached Chinese defense at Wanqiao, Yanzhai and Chenqiao and penetrated three kilometers into the Chinese line, Chinese armies realigned the defense to Chenhang, Guangfu, Shixianggongmiao and the southern bank of Yunzaobang River. On Oct 1st, Japanese 13th *Shidan* arrived at Wusongkou Rivermouth. Both Japanese 9th *Shidan* and 13th *Shidan* participated in the battles around Yunzaobang River and Dachang.

In early Oct, re-organized Hu Zongnan army took over positions held by Yang Sen's Sichuan army at Dachang, and further defended Yunzaobang River. On Oct 7th, Japanese, with addition of 9th *Shidan* and 13th *Shidan*, forcefully crossed Yunzaobang River and then launched attacks at Nanxiang and Dachang.

Yang Jie, i.e., 8th Corps Chief, was put in charge of six regiments of Taxation Police Column or 26,000 troops. On Oct 7th, upon arrival at Nanxiang, Sun Liren's 4th Taxation Police Regiment was assigned to Sun Yuanliang's 88th Division, and by following noon, the whole regiment was divided into small units for reinforcing the three regiments of 88th Division. At 2 pm, on Oct 8th, Sun Liren, with remaining twenty or so order relay staff, was ordered to go to Dingjiaqiao Bridge position where he managed to stop troop pullback at the bridge and pressed for recovery of lost positions. Sun Liren, for the bravery at the Battles of Yunzaobang River and Dachang, was promoted to the post of commander for Taxation Police 4th, 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> Regiments.

Chinese troops counter-attacked Japanese repeatedly and persisted to Oct 18th when Liao Lei's 21st Group Army came to the relief. The arrival of Liao Lei's group army temporarily maintained the defense at Dachang. One week later, out of 6 brigade chiefs under Liao Lei, three were dead, and two were wounded.

As on Oct 18th, Sun Liren's taxation police troops withdrew across Suzhouhe River while Hu Zongnan's 1<sup>st</sup> Division of Hu Zongnan's 1<sup>st</sup> Corps moved up. Sun Liren was assigned the second-line defense of Zhoujiaqiao positions, near the International Settlement in western Shanghai area. Sun Liren's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Regiments acted as right flank, while 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Taxation Regiments the leftflank. Knowing that Suzhouhe River would be next line in a matter of days, Su Liren allocated remnant soldiers from 6<sup>th</sup>

Regiment to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th Regiments and immediately dug defense positions.