

Japanese Provocation In Shanghai

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Excerpts from Resistance War – <http://www.republicanchina.org/war.html> For updates and related articles, check <http://www.republicanchina.org/RepublicanChina-pdf.htm>

Shanghai, after 1932 truce, had been garrisoned by Wang Weiming's constabulary regiment [troops from Peking and under Interior Ministry] and Qi Xueqi's taxation police regiment [under Finance Ministry]. Japanese combined its First and Second China Fleets in Shanghai and Qingdao into Third Fleet, with marines stationed at Hankow, Shanghai, Qingdao and Canton. About one year earlier, Japan had tried to echo the provocation in Northern China, i.e., Second Fengtai Incident, with military maneuvers, exercises and survey in Shanghai on the pretext that two marines were wounded and one killed near Shanghai train station on the night of Sept 23rd, 1936. As precautionary measures, Zhang Zhizhong moved 36th Division to Suzhou from Wuxi, 87th Division to Changshu-Fushan from Jiangyin, and 88th Division to Jiangyin-Wuxi. Zhang Zhizhong re-aligned troops again in early November of 1936.

After the July 7th, Marco Polo Bridge Incident, some Chinese reinforcements had come to the airport disguising as constabulary force. Zhang Zhizhong returned to Shanghai to assume the post of garrison commander on July 13th and made arrangement for one regiment under 61st Division [backup brigade of 2nd Division per Zhang Zhizhong] to be secretly sent to Hongqiao Airport as 'security forces'. Another regiment was shipped to Songjiang. Ammunition was distributed among the security forces and police forces in Shanghai for countering possible Japanese attacks. By this time, 87 Division was in Changshu-Suzhou area, but 88th Division had relocated back to Wuxi-Jiangyin.

Chiang Kai-shek, after Mt Lushan Speech of July 17th, had returned to Nanking and consequently went to Shanghai for a dental treatment as well as a liaison with Shanghai business and government leaders, and stayed in Shanghai till July 27th. Mayor Yu Hongjun was in constant touch with Chiang Kai-shek in regards to dealing with Sino-Japanese conflicts.

In Yangtze Delta area, Japanese planes, which took off from Taiwan, conducted numerous flights. Chinese airforce, which was originally planned for departure to Northern China, had to make preparation for fighting in the south. Japanese Marines staged the incident of Chinese tearing up a Japanese national flag as well as the disappearance incident of a marine by the name of Miyazaki who failed to commit suicide as ordered. On July 28th, Japanese merchant ships in Hankow suddenly unloaded goods and then transported Japanese nationals downstream in a hurry. Japanese marines and gunboats also hastily vacated Hankow. The rumor went that China's consulate had learnt the previous night that China's Navy Minister Chen Shaokuan proposed a blockade of the Yangtze River

course at Jiangyin for rounding up Japanese in Central China as a bargaining chip. Last batch of Japanese, numbering about one thousand, vacated Hankow, Jiujiang, Wuhu and Nanking by Aug 9th.

In Japan, Japanese infantry ministry had received a donation valued at 7.56 million yen by August 12th.¹

On Aug 9th, 1937, a Japanese car, with a captain called Oyama Isao [[[Dashan Yongfu]]], intruded into Shanghai's Hongqiao Airport. When Japanese car refused to stop, Chinese security forces shot dead the driver. The Japanese captain jumped off the vehicle and was shot dead when fleeing.² The Hongqiao Incident on August 9th, 1937 completely changed China's war strategy.³ China's airforce, which was routed for Northern China on August 11th, returned south on 12th.

On Aug 9th, right after the Hongqiao Airport Incident, Mayor Yu Hongjun called Japanese Consul-general as well as Japanese Marine Commander with a protest but omitted the truth of deaths of two Japanese. Both Japanese consul-general as well as Japanese Marine Commander, stunned by the protests, sent investigators to the airport, separately. To delay the eruption of war in Shanghai, Yu Hongjun was ordered to defer the Japanese response as much as possible. After couriers reported that Japanese Marines had sounded the 'massing' siren, Yu Hongjun immediately contacted the Japanese consulate to notify an in-person protest. Upon arrival at the Japanese consulate, Yu Hongjun walked through the bayoneted guards with a cynical laughter, and then pressed the Japanese party as to their intent of war versus diplomatic settlement. A bilateral investigation committee was formed. On Aug 10th, Japanese government ordered an on-spot investigation of the incident at the airport. On Aug 11th, Japanese Third Fleet converged upon Whangpu River and the Liuhe rivermouth of lower Yangtze River. Yu Hongjun received a briefing that thirty Japanese warships and five transporters from Japanese 1st & 3rd Fleets were coming towards Shanghai. At the request of Japanese consul, the International Joint Committee for Shanghai Truce Enforcement [1932] convened a meeting at 3:00 pm of Aug 12th. At the meeting, Mayor Yu Hongjun forced the Japanese consul into acknowledging that Japanese

¹ Wu Hsiang-hsiang, op. cit., 1:386

² Japanese revision history, "THE NANKING MASSACRE: Fact Versus Fiction - A Historian's Quest for the Truth" [by HIGASHINAKANO Shudo, Professor of Intellectual History, Asia University, Tokyo (Translated by Sekai Shuppan) Sekai Shuppan, Inc., Tokyo] claimed that "Navy Sublieutenant Oyama Isao and 1st Class Seaman Saito Yozo were murdered by Chinese Peace Preservation Corps soldiers." This, even if it might be true, did not change the picture of escalating conflicts between Japan and China. Jung Chang's clinging to the said incident to paint Zhang Zhizhong a Red 'mole' was farfetched as well. See <http://www.republicanchina.org/MarcoPoloBridgelIncident.pdf> for **seeds of mutual destruction as well as Japanese-Communist collusion in provoking an inevitable war.**

³ Jung Chang and Jon Halliday had a Russian conspiracy theory in stating that Chiang Kai-shek's top general Zhang Zhizhong, a Russian mole, had provoked the Sino-Japanese War in Shanghai on Aug 9th 1937. The fallacy of this theory would be to make Japanese cry foul play in a revisionist school text environment. The truth of the Sino-Japanese War could be found in Shanghai Mayor Yu Hongjun's account as well as records of the colonial powers with heavy economic and commercial stakes in Shanghai.

warships were on their way to Shanghai. During the uproar, Yu Hongjun declared that Japan had broken the truce agreement and that China was no longer bound by the treaty. While newspapers printed about the truce breaching, Sun Yuanliang's 88th Division of 72nd Corps and Wang Jingjiu's 87th Division of 71st Corps entered Shanghai at dawn of Aug 13th. Sporadic conflicts broke out around Northern Train Station after 9:30 am, and more serious fighting broke out near Baziqiao Bridge and Chizhi University in the afternoon. At 4:01 pm, Japanese Marine Headquarters put out a flag as the signal for war.⁴

Japanese Marine Commander Denshichi Okawachi initially had five *Daitai* Marines stationed in Shanghai by citing the 1932 ceasefire agreement. Back in Sept of 1936, Japan had increased its troop level in Shanghai on the pretext of the injuries and death of the IDZUMO marines. Inside of Japanese Settlement of Hongkou, hidden fortifications and blockhouses were already in place. Other than reinforcement by marines who had withdrawn from Hankow, two “Special Marine *Daitai*” arrived in Shanghai on Aug 11th, with each *Daitai* totaling 540 soldiers. Inside of the concession, Japan expanded the recruitment of Japanese civilian fighters as righteous and brave fighters column and the militarymen force in civilian mode, after sending home women, elderly and children. Total Japanese men in arms could amount to 18,000, counting those on Japanese Third Fleet.⁵ On 11th, Japanese Third Fleet converged upon Whangpoo River and the Yangtze River Segment below Liuhe rivermouth. Total forces composed of 10th Navy Battle Group, 11th Navy Battle Group, 8th Navy Battle Group, and 5th and 1st Torpedo Group.

On the night of Aug 11th, Zhang Zhizhong received authorization to send in three divisions towards Shanghai as commander-in-chief of 9th Group Army which superseded the Nanking-Shanghai Garrison Command Center. Past midnight, 87th Division and 88th Division took ride of trains for Shanghai. By dawn of 12th, one regiment of 87th Division arrived at Wusong rivermouth, while the majority entered downtown Shanghai; and 88th Division took over positions between North Train Station and Jiangwan. Separately, units from 3rd Cannons Regiment of 2nd Artillery Brigade, 10th Cannons Regiment and 8th Cannons Regiment were deployed across the northern Shanghai area. From Bengbu of Anhui Province, 56th Division, with 39th Corps Chief Liu Heding acting as Yangtze bank defense commander, was sent to the defense of northern Yangtze segment from Liuhe to Baoshan.⁶ On the night of 11th, Navy was ordered to dismantle all lighthouses from Jiangyin down the Yangtze and erect blockade at Jiangyin.

⁴ Wu Hsiang-hsiang, op. cit., 1:386

⁵ Guo Rugui p 1:523 5000, 3000, 3600 to 10000 headcounts, i.e., ??????

⁶ 87th Division and 88th Division were “adjusted divisions” that possessed two brigades of two regiments each, with a total staff of 10923 soldiers and 3800 rifles, while 56th Division, totally a staff of 8170, was a “rectified division” that was built on top of formerly northern armies. Under 88th Division would be Peng Gongying's 262nd Brigade and Huang Meixing's 264th Brigade, and under 87th Division would be Liu Anqi's 259th Brigade and Shen Fazao's 261st Brigade.

Pre-emptive attack at Japanese in Hongkou and Yangshupu, originally scheduled for the dawn of 13th, was delayed as a result of proposals by authorities of international settlements in making Shanghai an international neutral zone. Sporadic conflicts broke out around Northern Train Station after 9:30 am, and more serious fighting broke out near Baziqiao Bridge and Chizhi University in the afternoon. At 4:01 pm, on 13th, Japanese Marine Headquarters put out a flag as the signal for war.⁷ Japanese marines launched several excursions out of the Japanese concession territory; at 4:50 pm, Japanese 3rd Marine *Daitai* attacked 88th Division's positions at Baziqiao; and cannons from Japanese warships blasted into Zhabei residential area and continued through the night. At night, Zhang Zhizhong received the go order after reporting the Central Committee that Japanese had attacked 87th Division around Qiujiang Bridge and Jungong Road.

Chiang Kai-shek, in order to deflect Japanese forces in the north as well as burn the fire towards the Shanghai international settlements, finally authorized Zhang Zhizhong in launching a second front in Shanghai on August 14th. Shanghai Battleground was zoned as the Third War Zone. Zhang Zhizhong, whose armies were reorganized as 9th Group Army, immediately launched attacks at Japanese in Yangshupu and Hongkou at dawn. On the same day, China issued the Statement of Self-Defense.

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⁷ Wu Hsiang-hsiang, op. cit., 1:386