

Manchurian Incident

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Mukden Incident - 9/18/1931

Japanese militarists had been fomenting calls for war against China throughout 1931. Liu Feng stated that in May 1931, Itagaki Seishiro, a colonel equivalent of Kwantung Army, was responsible for devising the one-night provocation and occupation of major cities. In June, Japanese spies, Nakamura Shintaro and etc, were caught, and later shot dead. At Mt Wanbaoshan, near Changchun, Koreans forcefully dug a ditch for irrigating their fields. One month later, on July 2nd, Japanese police shot dead Chinese peasants who were in conflicts with Korean. Further, Japanese incited massive ethnic cleansing against Chinese on Korean peninsula. Chinese newspaper pointed out that it could very well be the signal portending the start of full Japanese invasion against China.

On July 12th, Chiang Kai-shek instructed Zhang Xueliang by stating that "this is not a time for war [against Japan]". **To quell Shi Yousan rebellion in Henan Prov, Zhang Xueliang relocated 60,000 more troops to northern China, in addition to 120,000 troops that were steered away on Sept 18th 1930 from Manchuria for the "War of the Central Plains".**

Beginning from July 1931, Japanese army conducted military exercises without notifying Chinese in advance. Per Bi Wanwen, 2nd column of Shenyang garrison army of Japanese Kwantung Army had shipped over heavy cannons in July in preparation for attacking Shenyang city. Japanese newspaper reported that Japanese infantry ministry chief had called for war against China on Aug 4th 1931. In late Aug, 7th brigade chief Wang Yizhe reported to Zhang Xueliang about Japanese military movements by going to Peking per per BWW. On Aug 17th, Japanese military published a report in regards to the truth of Nomura's death. Numerous Japanese officers drank blood-dripped wine as a show of revenge against China. Japanese infantry minister claimed that war was the only option as to solving the Manchurian problem. In Sept, Japanese secretly ordered that their citizens converge onto Manchurian provincial cities and relocated their armies towards Shenyang city. Bi Wanwen cited General Heh Zhuguo's memoirs in stating that on Sept 12th, Chiang Kai-shek and Zhang Xueliang held a secret meeting in Shijiazhuang of Hebei Prov, after which Zhang Xueliang disclosed to Heh Zhuguo that "extraordinarily bad thing was to happen ... Japanese were to attack [us] any time now" but also instructed Heh Zhuguo that Northeastern Army should not fight back for avoiding trouble at the League of Nations. Liu Feng stated that Kwantung Army pulled ahead the provocation to Sept 18th from Sept 28th as a result of an investigation by emissary of Japanese government. With increasing Japanese provocations, Zhang Xueliang [Chang Hsueh-liang], who was enjoying his life with women as well as drugs in Peking, just repeated his cliché order: exercise tolerance and no fight back.

Kwantung Army pulled ahead the provocation to Sept 18th from Sept 28th as a result of the arrival of an investigation emissary from Tokyo. At around 10:20 pm, on Sept 18th 1931, Japanese Kwantung Army blew up railway tracks at Liutiaogou ["Ryujoko", a name devised by Japanese to hint at a ditch or bridge whereas the spot of sabotage was a flat land close to a place named Liutiaohu without the actual 'hu-lake' or 'gou-ditch'] of northern Shenyang City, i.e., 'Liutiaogou Incident' [i.e., Mukden Incident], and then accused Chinese troops of sabotage. Liutiaohu Lake was about 800 meters away from Chinese armies of 'Bei-da-ying' [north army camp] in Shenyang city. Japanese Kwantung Army used the blast as the signal

for charge. With 24 centimeter cannons, Japanese bombarded and attacked the 7th Brigade of Chinese armies inside of "north army camp" as well as Dongta Airport while 2nd independent garrison Daitai attacks the barracks, 29th Rentai from 2nd Shidan attacked Shenyang city. At 50 minutes past midnight, on Sept 18th 1931, three Japanese columns attacked Shenyang city. Back on Sept 16th, Japanese had obtained advance information that Chinese armies would not resist in any circumstance.

Honjo Shigeru, at 1 past midnight, issued attack orders to all troops in Manchuria after Itagaki Seishiro contacted Kwantung army commander-in-chief at Luushun for approval of war. Honjo requested reinforcements with Korean garrison commander. Japanese attacked major cities including Andong, Yingkou, Fenghuangcheng, Andong, Liaoyang, Benxi, Haicheng, Yingkou, Tieling, Siping, Gongzuling and Changchun. At 2 am on Sept 19th, more garrison troops came over from Anshan and Tieling to attack the north army barracks. Regiment commander Wang Tiehan resisted Japanese attack to 5:00 am. Brigade tactician Zhao Zhenfan then ordered the withdrawal from the barracks. Japanese took over barracks at 5:30 am. At 4:45 am, 2nd Shidan commander Tamon Jiro arrived at Shenyang and ordered the occupation of arsenal, airport and east army barracks. 29th Rentai intruded into Shenyang through southwestern city wall, took over police headquarters and telegraph station, and surrounded provincial governor mansion and Manchuria state-owned bank. By 6 am, Shenyang fell into Japanese hands

By 19th, Japanese took over Shenyang city, including 262 airplanes of Northeastern Army, 1.7 billion yuan of money from major banks such as Agriculture Bank, Bank of China & Border Enterprise Bank, 3091 cannons, 26 armored vehicles, 118000 guns, 5800 machineguns, and ammunition. Chinese side, civilians and police included, incurred a casualty of 800. [Frank E. Smitha](#), stated that "the Kwantung army drove the provincial government, headed by Zhang Xueliang, out of Mukden and occupied a number of strategic points, including all Chinese towns within a radius of 200 miles north of Mukden, which they accomplished in four days..." Doihara Kenji assumed the post of Shenyang mayor on 19th. On same day, Andong, Yingkou, Fenghuangcheng & Changchun were taken.

With relief troops from Korea military garrison, Japanese occupied over 30 cities within one week. Frank E. Smitha cited the usual Japanese cover-up wording as follows: "the Emperor [Hirohito] ordered the army chief of staff to prevent the expansion of 'the Manchurian incident', but later that same day Prime Minister Wakatsuki Reijiro reported to the emperor that the cabinet had no alternative but to approve the move of ...[troops]... from Korea because the transfer of reinforcements was already under way. And out of respect for the authority of the prime minister, the emperor gave his approval to the army, but Emperor Hirohito told the army chief of staff that the Kwantung army must exercise the utmost restraint." **On Sept 24th, Japanese government issued a statement claiming that China had sabotaged railway and attacked Japanese on the midnight of Sept 18th, emphasizing the contrast of 10,400 Japanese soldiers versus 220,000 Chinese troops.** Further, it claimed that Japanese action was for protecting million Japanese citizens inside of Manchuria; that the occupation of outlying cities were rumors; that Japanese troops sent to Jilin Province on Sept 21st would return to Changchun once they finished the policing job; that 4000 relief troops from Korea did not exceed the total number allowed to station in Manchuria per treaty; and that Japan had no ambition for Manchuria territory. On Sept 29th, USSR declared neutrality on Mukden Incident.

When Japan invaded Manchuria, Zhang Xueliang possessed about 12 brigades and 3 cavalry brigades or 179,505 troops in Manchuria, in addition to 12 infantry brigades, 2 cavalry brigades and 3 cannons brigade that stationed in northern China. Per Li Dongfang, Chiang Kai-shek did send a telegraph to Zhang Xueliang on Sept 12th, stating that "Now is not a time to wage a war against Japan"; however, the telegraph was sent in response to Wanbaoshan Incident, not 9-18-1931 incident, per LDF. (Zhang Zhenglong cited a similar telegraph from Chiang Kai-shek that was dated Aug 16th 1931.) Further, Li

Dongfang claimed that it was Rong Zhen who misread Zhang Xueliang's Sept 6th telegraph as to "10000 degree tolerance [of Japan's provocations]". Regiment Chief Wang Tiehan under 7th brigade did resist Japanese attack at "North Camp" from 1:40 am to 5:0 am on Sept 19th 1931; but, Rong Zhen forcefully issued the withdrawal order. Tang Degang pointed out that Chiang Kai-shek faced the same pressing matter as Yuan Shi-kai at the time when Japan raised "21 Demands" by taking advantage of WWI in early 1915. Chen Bulei drafted "Chiang Kai-shek Open Letter To Chinese Nationals", i.e., stating that **"It is government's crime to have lost [the Chinese] statehood when it refuses to fight while still capable of fighting, and it is also government's crime to have lost statehood when it fights while incapable of fighting."** Tang Degang's whole class of students were in tears when the teacher read the open letter.

Battle Of Jiangqiao

On Oct 5th, Doihara Kenji proposed a bombing of Jinzhou City for testing the response of China, US and USSR. Three days later, Kwantung Army commander ordered that two Japanese bomber groups attack Jinzhou. Northeastern Army countered the bombing with field-to-air cannon shooting.

Even though USSR had declared neutrality on Mukden Incident, Japanese took care to invade Amur Province with Zhang Haipeng's puppet troops initially. The puppet force, attacking north on Oct 13th, was routed to the south of Jiangqiao Bridge on 16th. Ma Zhanshan was conferred the post of acting provincial chair on 16th. Kwantung Army, in the name of repairing railway and bridges, joined the battle against Ma Zhanshan after Hirota Koki confirmed with Soviet foreign minister as to Russian strict observance of neutrality. On Oct 20th, Japanese decided to attack Qiqihar for testing Russian response. On Oct 30th, 1500 Japanese went to Jiangqiao for attacking Qiqihar. General Ma Zhanshan constructed defense positions at Daxing. On Nov 4th, with air support, Japanese launched first attack at Ma Zhanshan but incurred a casualty of 20 during the first engagement. In the afternoon, machinegun fire wounded a Japanese pilot in his leg. Japanese sent reinforcement to Daxing. On Nov 5th, 2000 Japanese, with 5 planes, fought against Ma Zhanshan till dawn at Daxing Train Station. On the night, Chinese 1st cavalry brigade mounted a counter-attack and inflicted a casualty of 1000 onto Japanese. Two more Japanese reinforcement columns were attacked by Chinese army.

On Nov 6th, Honjo Shigeru dispatched an infantry Daitai from 39th Mixed Ryodan and most of Tamon Jiro's 10,400 compressed Shidan to Jiangqiao area. Around noon, Ma Zhanshan evacuated to Sanjianfang, midpoint between Daxing and Angangxi train stations. On Nov 13th, Kwantung army decided to route Ma Zhanshan's army and take over Qiqihar. On Nov 15th, Ma Zhanshan, as provincial chair for Heilongjiang, declined Japanese emissary's demand as to Qiqihar. On 18th, at 9 am, Tamon's 2nd Shidan breached Chinese first line defense at Sanjianfang. Ma Zhanshan evacuated towards Angangxi and Yushutun. On 19th, at 4 am, Ma Zhanshan's troops relocated towards Hailun and Baiquan. At 3 pm, Japanese entered Qiqihar.

Chiang Kai-shek's Central Army withdrew from the 3rd Siege of communists in Jiangxi Province and rerouted towards Manchuria, while communists mounted counter-attacks against KMT positions. Li Dongfang pointed out that Zhang Xueliang held a long meeting in Peking on Sept 18th. The second day, Gu Weijun proposed that Zhang Xueliang ask Chiang Kai-shek raise the issue with the League. Li Dongfang covered up Chiang Kai-shek by claiming that a special committee, consisting of Song Ziwen, Dai Jitao, Gu Weijun & Yan Huiqing, had reached a decision as to Manchuria by mid-Nov. However, Li Dongfang did point out that Hu Shi & Hu Hanmin gave the right opinion that was not adopted, i.e., dealing with Japan direct rather than through the League. Chiang Kai-shek's KMT government resorted to the League of Nations for arbitration. ROC representative Shi Zhaoji, who succeeded Wang Zhengting on

Sept 30th [? per LDF], raised a protest at the League of Nations on Sept 19th 1931. Frank E. Smitha stated that "the United States attacked Japan verbally. Japan's move in Manchuria was in violation of the League of Nations covenant against making war, and its making war was a violation of Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 -- to which Japan was a party ... on October 24, 1931, the League passed a resolution demanding that Japan withdraw from areas it had conquered. Japan voted against the resolution..." Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 stated "the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy". Japan later announced exit from the League as a show of disdain for world opinions. (In late February 1933, the League of Nations Assembly voted on no recognition of Manchukuo, and on March 27 1933, Japan announced exit from the League in two years after taking over Rehe [Jehol].)

Chiang Kai-shek, in party internal speech, emphasized the necessity of forbearance in face of Japanese invasion by means of "exhibiting justice against hegemony and countering barbarity with peace". Populace, however, increasingly demanded that Chinese government should fight a war with Japan for recovering lost territories. Taking advantage of Japanese invasion, on Nov 1st 1931, CCP held the First Congress of Representatives of Soviet Territories and on Nov 7th 1931, held the First National Congress of Representatives of the "Chinese Soviet Republic of Workers and Peasants" in Ruijing of Jiangxi Prov, with Mao Zedong elected chairman for both the executive committee and the people's committee of the Soviet republic. Zhang Guotao and Xiang Ying assumed vice chair posts. CCP called for overthrowing the KMT government as well as militarily defending the USSR [against Japan's ambition for USSR]. On Nov 27th, Red Army 3rd Corps-Conglomerate sacked Huichang city. In early 1932, Peng Dehuai lead Red Army First Flank [Red Army First Front or Central Front] for four futile attacks at high-walled Ganzhou.

After the '9-18 Incident' (i.e., Japanese invasion of Manchuria on Sept 18th of 1931), Hu Hanmin and Li Jishen were released from house arrest in Nanking consecutively. Li Zongren memoirs stated that Tang Shengzhi's army, which already engaged with Chiang Kai-shek's KMT Central Army in Hunan Prov, immediately stopped civil war. KMT held the Fourth National Congress in Nov of 1931 for uniting various factions, including the faction of Xi-shan [West Hill] Meeting Participants and the faction of 'KMT Re-organizers'. To counter Japanese invasion, Chiang Kai-shek sought for reconciliation with Canton KMT rebels who later forced Chiang Kai-shek into a step-down on Dec 15th 1931. Li Zongren memoirs stated that Chiang Kai-shek, before step-down, ordered the execution of Deng Yanda who was caught in Shanghai in a similar fashion as the 1928 execution of Wang Tianpei & Lai Shihuang. Chiang Kai-shek resigned the posts of Chairman for the National Government, Commander-in-chief of Infantry-Navy-Airforce, and the House Leader for "*Xing Zheng Yuan*" (i.e., Administrative Agency). Chiang Kai-shek assumed the post of commissioner-in-chief of the KMT Military Committee instead. Chiang Kai-shek did not get back the post of House Leader for "*Xing Zheng Yuan*" till Dec 1935 and did not assume the post of KMT Chairman ("*zong cai*", i.e., generalissimo) till 1938.

Campaign Against Jinzhou

Smitha stated that "a month into the crisis, the Emperor Hirohito was angry over the commander of the Kwantung army, Honjo Shigeru, Honjo Shigeru, declaring his intention to pacify all of Manchuria and Mongolia". Japan's ambition in 1931 was more than the territory of Manchuria and Mongolia. Doihara Kenji planned the "Tianjin Incident" for fetching last Manchu emperor. By mid-November, Japanese controlled northern Manchuria.

On December 13th, Kwantung Army devised the Jinzhou Campaign guidelines with additional troops consisting of 8th Mixed Ryodan, one armored unit, a 15-cm howitzer Daitai, a 10.5-cm cannons Chutai, 20th Shidan headquarters troops, 38th Mixed Ryodan and a heavy bomber squadron. On 18th, Kwantung Army refined the attack plan to make it two-stage campaign. On December 24, Japanese planned to

solve the problem of Jinzhou city in southern Manchuria. 2nd Shidan, attacking from Yingkou, began to mop up Chinese volunteer fighter resistance along the costal Yingkou-Goubangzi Road on Dec 28th. 39th Mixed Ryodan, departing Xinmin and Shenyang on 30th by train, pushed southwestward along the railway. Zhang Xueliang, however, ordered that his army at Jinzhou withdraw into Shanhaiguan Pass on Dec 29th. 44 trains were arranged for transporting the bulk of army. Japanese then moved southward along the coast towards Shanhaiguan Pass of the Great Wall. On Jan 1st 1932, Japanese reached the outskirts of Jinzhou, and on 3rd, took over Jinzhou [Chinchow]. (Alternative account stated that Japanese took over the city on December 28 which was wrong date. Per Jung Chang's "*Wild Swans*", Zhang Xueliang did resist the Japanese at Jinzhou for which Japanese burnt, killed, pillaged and raped the city as a revenge. NOT TRUE! Zhang Xueliang did abandon Jinzhou without a fight on his own accord.)

On January 4, 1932, Japanese reached Shanhaiguan [Shanhaikwan] Pass. Japanese did not get to take over the Pass till Jan 3rd 1933, on which occasion they issued 10 postcards about the Battle of Mountain & Sea Pass in memoration of the fierce fighting with KMT forces. A whole battalion, headed by An Deqing, died to the last person at Shanhaiguan Pass. On Jan 24th, League of Nations, in the name of 19 countries, refused to acknowledge Manchukuo. Japan announced its intent to exit the League.

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