

# Tang Jiyao's Attempt At Canton Usurpation

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## Li Zongren Frustrating Tang Jiyao's Attempt At Canton Usurpation By Defeating Dian-jun

Tang Jiyao, who declined the post of "deputy marshal" for disliking Hu Hanmin's "proxy marshal" title, would attempt at an usurpation of Canton government after Sun Yat-sen passed away in Peking on March 12th 1925. (During a military meeting in Sept 1924, Sun Yat-sen conferred the "deputy marshal" post as well as the post of commander-in-chief of Yunnan-Guizhou-Sichuan "jian [building] guo [country] jun [army]" onto Tang Jiyao. In Jan 1925, Tang Jiyao proclaimed himself commander-in-chief of seven provinces and borrowed a path from Guizhou Prov to invade Hunan Province with joint armies of Sichuan-Guizhou-Yunnan, including Xiong Kewu's remnant Sichuan army. After Feng-xi's Zhang Zuolin toppled Zhi-xi's Cao Kun & Wu Peifu, Tang Jiyao's "jian [building] guo [country] jun [army]" was disliked by Hunan Prov. Hence, Tang Jiyu & Zhang Ruli led their Yunnan Province army into northern Guangxi Prov.)

Different reasons were given for Tang Jiyao's invasion of Guangxi Prov. Li Zongren memoirs claimed that Tang Jiyao intended to usurp Canton government. However, "Biography of Tang Jiyao" cited Huang Shaohong in stating that Tang Jiyao intended to reign in Guangxi for solving fiscal difficulty. Li Zongren memoirs touched upon numerous visitations by Tang Jiyao emissaries in regards to borrowing the path from Guangxi. Clearly, Tang Jiyao, after the death of Sun Yat-sen, believed that he was the only surviving heavy weight leader without regard for the rising new generation militarymen of Guangxi [i.e., Li Zongren, Bai Chongxi & Huang Shaohong] and Guangdong [Li Jishen & Chiang Kai-shek]. Six days after the death of Sun Yat-sen, on March 18th 1925, Tang Jiyao declared the assumption of "deputy marshal" post that he had refused previously. In Canton, Hu Hanmin rebuked Tang Jiyao's attempt. Hu Hanmin sought the assistance of Li Zongren in impeding Tang Jiyao's possible eastward campaign. Militarily, Chiang Kai-shek had pacified Liu Zhenhuan & Yang Ximin remnant troops and consolidated control over the "guest troops".

From the southern side, Tang Jiyao dispatched 30000 troops [led by Hu Ruoyu & Long yun] against Guangxi by taking advantage of Huang Shaohong's chasing Shen Hongying in northeastern Guangxi. Nanning of Guangxi was taken without any significant fight on Feb 23rd 1926. From the north side, about 40000 troops, led by Tang Jiyu, Zhang Ruji & Wu Xuexian, attacked Liuzhou of Guangxi Province from eastern Guizhou & western Hunan provinces. In

May 1926, Huang Shaohong launched a sudden attack at Wu Xuexian who had encircled Liuzhou in vain. Bai Chongxi's Guangxi Province army came over from Guizhou Province to attack Tang Jiyu's Yunnan Province army and drove him back to Yunnan. With northern route defeated, Tang Jiyao ordered a retreat of southern route from Nanning. In Aug 1926, Long Yun fled back to Yunnan Prov.

After failures in both Sichuan & Guangxi provinces, Tang Jiyao abandoned "allying multiple provinces for self-determination" and advocated for "stateism". On Dec 25th 1926, Tang Jiyao established "People's Governance Party". KMT dispatched emissaries to Yunnan Province for instigating the rebellion against Tang Jiyao. Tang Jiyao further compressed the armies led by Hu Ruoyu [2nd corps], Long Yun [5th corps] & Zhang Ruji [10th corps]. More, Tang jiyao dispatched Hu Ruoyu, Zhang Ruji & Li Xianting to Mengzi, Shaotong & Dali as "zhen shou shi" [i.e. garrison general]. Hu Ruoyu, Zhang Ruji & Li Xianting, together with Kunming garrison general Long Yun, staged a bloodless coup on Feb 6th 1927. Long Yun joined in the coup at the persuasion of cousin Lu Han. The main demands included the liquidation of Tang Jiyu's assets; the payment of owed military stipends; and the cooperation with Canton government. Tang Jiyao passed away shortly afterward on May 23rd 1927 at age 44.