

## Second Northern Campaign - 1928

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On Dec 12th, Heh Yingqin's 1st Route began to attack Xuzhou and took over the Xuzhou airport, and four days later, took over Xuzhou with sacrifice of life by 65th Regiment Chief Cheng Shi in the Battle of Zhilan. On 14th, KMT government rescinded all relationships with USSR. KMT leadership had dispute in regards to Soviet involvement, with Wu Jingheng and Whang Jingwei against each other. Senior KMT leaders, including Deng Zeru and Gu Yingfen, rebuked nine KMT commissars including Whang Jingwei. Whang Jingwei resigned his post for an overseas trip to France on Dec 17th.

On Jan 2nd 1928, Chiang Kai-shek was restored the post of commander-in-chief for Northern Expeditions. Chiang Kai-shek was invited to Nanking from Shanghai on 4th. Chen Guofu, from 1927 to 1929, was responsible for setting up KMT's "party & administration training institute" which expanded to KMT "party affairs academy", a school that was renamed to KMT "Central Politics Academy" in 1938 and "National Politics University" after 1942. ("National Politics University" was re-launched in Taiwan in 1954.)

On Jan 13th 1928, Chiang Kai-shek re-organized Heh Yingqin's 1st Route Corps into 1st Group Army, with three echelons headed by Liu Zhi, Chen Diaoyuan and Heh Yaozu, respectively. On 28th, Chiang Kai-shek assumed the post of commander-in-chief for 1st Group Army and assigned Heh Yingqin the post of proxy chief-of-staff, while Feng Yuxiang was conferred the post of commander-in-chief for 2nd Group Army, Yan Xishan the post of commander-in-chief for 3rd Group Army, and Yang Shuzhuang the post of commander-in-chief for Navy. 1st Group had about 18 corps or 290,000 soldiers; 2nd Group 25 corps or 310,000 soldiers; and 3rd Group 11 corps or 150,000 soldiers.

Confronting the Nationalist Army would be Zhang Zuolin's Anguo-jun (i.e., pacifying nation army) comprising of seven corps-conglomerates headed by Sun Chuanfang, Zhang Zongchang, Zhang Xueliang, Yang Yuting, Zhang Zuoxiang, Wu Junsheng and Chu Yuepu. Anguo-jun, claiming 1 million strong, exerted about 600,000 army against the Nationalist Army.

On Feb 2nd 1928, KMT Fourth Plenary of 2nd Congress was held in Nanking. Tan Yankai was made into chairman for the 46-person National Committee [i.e., chairman of the National Government], while Chiang Kai-shek was made into chairman for the 73-person military commission. Among the KMT Central's standing committee would be Ding Weifen, Dai Chuanxian [Dai Jitao], Tan Yankai, Yu Youren and Jiang Zhongzheng [Chiang Kai-shek]. KMT party apparatus was re-organized, with the rescission of the departments of peasants, workers, merchants, youth and women.

On April 1st 1928, Chiang Kai-shek issued the order of Second Northern Campaign in Xuzhou of Jiangsu Province. Fightings broke out on April 7th, with 1st Group Army attacking along Jin-Pu Railroad, 2nd Group Army along Jing-Han Railroad, and 3rd Group Army along Zheng-Tai Railroad. 1st Group Army took over Tai'erZhuang on April 10th. Hu Zongnan, who was in charge of 4 regiments (under 22nd Division, 1st Corps, 1st Corps-Conglomerate, 1st Group Army), attacked enemies at Houmengdu Crossing on the Canal on April 11th. Liu Bing, 2nd battalion chief under 2nd regiment of 22nd Division, sacrificed his life in charging towards the positions of Zh-Lu-jun (Zhili & Shandong Province armies). Hu Zongnan's 4th regiment beat off a relief enemy column from the upstream, crossed the river at Liushizi, and took over Hanzhuang.

On 16th, Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi were conferred leadership of 4th Group Army for joining the Jing-Han Railroad Campaign. 4th Group 16th had corps or 240,000 soldiers. Zhang Xueliang, before retreating towards Peking, left a note with Bai Chongxi, stating that 1) he was not to destroy the Yellow River Bridge to slow down the Revolutionary Army because the bridge was the property of the country, and 2) he was not to burn the grains because the people would need it for a living.

On April 28th, Hu Zongnan's 22nd Division departed Zhonggong for the north. On 29th, en route towards Jinan city, Hu Zongnan killed several hundreds of enemies and discovered that some of the dead bodies were Japanese soldiers disguised as Zhi-Lu-jun army. On the early morning of 30th, 22nd Division reached the south and west city gates of Jinan. To avoid conflict with Japanese concession territory at the west gate, Hu Zongnan circumvented towards the north gate while having Li Tiejun's 4th regiment attack the south city gate. 22nd & 3rd Divisions took over Jinan. Zhang Zongchang and Sun Chuanfang remnants fled to Dezhou. Chiang Kai-shek made the Shandong Province's governor office into his command center, but had to relocate to Dangjiazhuang after Japanese military intervened on behalf of the warlord armies.