

CHAPTER XIX—SINO-JAPANESE HOSTILITIES

[The only way in which the outbreak and development of Sino-Japanese hostilities in 1937 can be dealt with in a work of this kind is documentarily. But there has been such a mass of official documents relating to these hostilities that it is out of the question to include them all, and it has therefore been necessary to make a selection which presents the facts from the Chinese and the Japanese point of view. A brief summary of the actual course of hostilities is added.—ED.]

Summary of Events

NORTH CHINA

- July 7 Lukouchiao incident.
 25 Japanese attack Langfang with troops and planes.
 26 Japanese detachment ambushed and attacked in the Kuang An Men, Peiping.
 28 Mutiny of East Hopei Peace Preservation Corps and massacre of Japanese at Tungchow.
 28-9 Pao An Tui at Tientsin attack Japanese who respond with heavy aerial bombing.
 Aug. 12 Japanese occupy Nankow Pass.
 27 Kalgan occupied by Japanese.
 Sept. 24 Paotingfu and Tsangchow occupied.
 Oct. 2 Japanese cross Shantung border.
 14 Kweihua occupied.
 27 Japanese occupy Niangtzekwan Pass.
 Nov. 9 Occupation of Taiyuanfu completed by Japanese.
 Dec. 18 Destruction of Japanese cotton mills and other industrial plants at Tsingtao.
 27 Japanese occupy Tsinanfu.

MID CHINA

- Aug. 13 Outbreak of hostilities at Shanghai.
 14 Chinese planes drop bombs in International Settlement, causing 729 deaths and wounding 861 between Cathay and Palace Hotels in Nanking Road, and killing 1,012 and wounding 1,007 at junction of Avenue Edward VII and Boulevard de Montigny.
 23 Japanese troops force landing near Woosung.
 Chinese plane drops bombs in International Settlement: one (which did not explode) behind Hamilton House, and another on

- Sincere Co.'s Emporium, killing 215 and wounding 558 persons.
 Aug. 30 President Hoover bombed by Chinese planes outside Woosung.
 Sept. 7 British Ambassador shot and seriously wounded by machine-gunning from Japanese plane while motoring from Nanking to Shanghai.
 12-13 Chinese withdraw from Shanghai Civic Centre and Far Eastern Race Course.
 19 Japanese announce intention to bomb Nanking.
 20 Four air-raids, in which 80 Japanese planes took part, on Nanking, which hereafter was bombed almost daily.
 Oct. 24 British soldier (Rifleman W. McGowan) killed outside Q. Post in Keswick Road, Shanghai, by machine-gunning from Japanese plane.
 26-7 Chinese evacuate Chapei and Kiangwan (Shanghai), withdrawing south of Soochow Creek.
 29 Three Ulster Riflemen mortally wounded by Japanese shell-fire near Jessfield Park, Shanghai.
 31 Japanese force crossing of Soochow Creek, Shanghai.
 Nov. 5 Surprise Japanese landing near Chapoo.
 8-9 Chinese withdraw from Hungjao area, Shanghai, beyond Lungliwa and Tsingpu.
 12 Chinese resistance in Nantao, Shanghai, ends.
 13 Kiating captured.
 15 Quinsan falls.
 19 Changshu and Kashing fall.
 20 Japanese capture Soochow. Only 500 out of population of 200,000 remain in city.
 25 Wusih captured.
 Dec. 3 6,000 Japanese troops parade through International Settlement from Brenan Road to Garden Bridge. Bomb outrage in which several Japanese soldiers and on-lookers were wounded in Nanking Road.
 12 U.S.S. *Panay* sunk by Japanese aerial bombing above Nanking. H.M.S. *Ladybird* badly damaged by Japanese shell-fire off Wuhu.
 13 Nanking occupied by Japanese.

A—Chinese Documents

1.—STATEMENT OF WAICHIAOPU* CONCERNING RENEWAL OF SINO-JAPANESE HOSTILITIES

(July 11, 1937)

According to reports received, the Japanese military have, in violation of the arrangement reached for suspension of hostilities at Lukouchiao, refused to carry out the complete withdrawal of their troops to the designated points. They have maintained more than 200 troops at Wulitien and have further effected a concentration of over 1,000 men at Tawayao, both points being a little to the north-east of Lukouchiao.

Beginning from 6 p.m. yesterday (July 10), Japanese troops launched a series of fierce attacks on Chinese soldiers at Lukouchiao. In the meantime, large numbers of Japanese troops have been ordered to the Peiping-Tientsin area from stations both at home and in Manchuria. Such military activities, indicating as they do that a large-scale military campaign was contemplated, have further increased the tension brought about by the Lukouchiao incident. For this the responsibility rests solely with the Japanese.

The Lukouchiao affair, it may be recalled, broke out late in the night of July 7, when a number of Japanese troops were engaged in illegal manoeuvres at Lukouchiao. In the course of their war exercises the Japanese demanded to enter the walled city of Wanping for a search, on the pretext that one of their men had been missing. How this could have happened is beyond comprehension.

Upon this demand being refused by the Chinese authorities, the Japanese immediately launched an artillery attack upon the city, thus giving rise to the outbreak of hostilities. It appears quite obvious that the Japanese troops acted in accordance with a preconceived plan.

It is to be pointed out here that the presence of foreign troops at Lukouchiao is without treaty sanction, and still less the holding of manoeuvres there. The action on the part of the Japanese troops is undoubtedly illegal.

Acting in self-defence, Chinese troops at Lukouchiao put up a stern resistance. At the same time the Foreign Ministry lodged a vigorous protest with the Japanese Embassy demanding immediate cessation of military activities on the part of the Japanese and reserving for China the right to make legitimate demands.

Meanwhile, Chinese local authorities have been engaged in patient negotiation with the Japanese with a view to an early and amicable settlement of the affair. Our firm deter-

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mination and painstaking efforts to preserve the peace must be obvious to all impartial observers.

On the evening of July 8 an understanding was reached by the two parties on the following basis:—

- 1 Cessation of military activities on both sides
- 2 Withdrawal of troops on both sides to their original positions
- 3 Lukouchiao (Bridge) to be guarded, as heretofore, by Chinese soldiers

But, unfortunately, the tranquillity thus restored was short-lived. As indicated by subsequent developments, the Japanese military, instead of showing the least effort to bring about a peaceful settlement, appear to have entered into the understanding with no other object than that of gaining time to call up reinforcements for a fresh offensive.

The policy of China is, internally, economic reconstruction and, externally, the maintenance of peace. So far as our relations with Japan are concerned our policy is to seek a peaceful settlement, through diplomatic channels, of all outstanding issues on the basis of equality and reciprocity.

Such being the case, the Chinese Government earnestly desires that the Japanese will immediately cease all military activities, and, in accordance with the understanding previously reached, withdraw their troops from the scene of conflict.

Furthermore, with a view to avoiding the possibility of future conflict, it is also to be desired that the Japanese will refrain from stationing troops or holding military manoeuvres in those parts of China where no foreign troops are allowed.

The carrying out of the above measures may be confidently expected to bring about an improvement in the situation and facilitate the liquidation of the unfortunate affair. On the other hand, failure to take such action is likely to further aggravate the situation and increase the danger to the peace of Eastern Asia, in which eventuality the heavy responsibility will rest with Japan.

2.—GENERAL CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S STATEMENT ON LUKOUCHIAO INCIDENT

(July 17, 1937)

At the Kuling "summer conversations" on July 17, 1937, General Chiang Kai-shek defined China's "limit of endurance." The full text of his statement follows:—

Just when China was striving for the maintenance of external peace and internal unity the Lukouchiao incident suddenly broke out, throwing not only our nation into a state of profound indignation but also causing great concern to the world. The future consequences of this incident will threaten not only the very existence of