

The Road to Success of the *TuMuXi* Faction in the National Revolutionary Army of the Republic of China

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Abstract: The paper traces the rise, development, and decline of the Tumu-xi faction led by Chen Cheng within the National Revolutionary Army. Formed from Whampoa and Baoding-trained officers, the faction became Chiang Kai-shek's most loyal and organized military bloc. It expanded through the Central Plains War, played key roles in the anti-Communist Encirclement Campaigns, and served as a major force in the War of Resistance against Japan. After 1945, despite reaching peak influence, the Tumu-xi weakened due to political dispersion, battlefield losses, and strategic misadaptation during the civil war.

Keywords: Chen Cheng; national revolutionary army; Republican China military politics; China civil war

1. Introduction

During the prolonged period of political fragmentation in the Republic of China, in addition to regional cliques such as the Guangxi Clique, Shanxi Clique, Yunnan Clique, and the Northwestern Army, even Chiang Kai-shek's own Central Army was far from monolithic. Within the Central Army, four major factions dominated the power structure: He Yingqin's *Huangpu Clique* (based on the 5th Army), Tang Enbo's faction (based on the 13th Army), Hu Zongnan's faction (based on the 1st Army), and the most loyal, earliest formed, and most ideologically cohesive of them all—Chen Cheng's *TuMuXi* (based on the 18th Army) [1]. The *TuMuXi* was composed primarily of officers and instructors from the Whampoa Military Academy and the earlier Baoding Military Academy, men who had long served at the heart of the Kuomintang (KMT). They became one of Chiang Kai-shek's most trusted politico-military groups. Rising in the late 1920s, flourishing during the Anti-Japanese War, and declining at the end of the Chinese Civil War, the *TuMuXi* represented the most modernized and centrally controlled faction within the Nationalist Army. Its key figures—including Chen Cheng, Lin Wei, Guo Chan, and Zhou Zhirou—played crucial military roles within the Nationalist Army [2]. Beyond the battlefield, they also intervened actively in political affairs and emerged as pivotal actors shaping the governance of the Kuomintang. Just as the Guangxi Clique dominated its provincial stronghold, the *TuMuXi*, under Chiang's patronage, controlled large portions of the Central Army and oversaw key strategic regions such as Central China, South China, and the Northeast. Many of its officers simultaneously held posts such as Deputy Directors of Pacification Commissions, Commanders of Reorganized Armies, or Provincial Governors. Thus, the *TuMuXi* evolved into a de facto warlord faction characterized by a strong integration of Party and Army power—a true embodiment of “Party-Army unity”.

2. The Origin of the *TuMuXi*

The institutional origins of the *TuMuXi* lay in the Baoding Military Academy, the Whampoa Military Academy, and their institutional successor, the Nationalist Army Officer Academy. The group was led by General Chen Cheng, a senior officer of the Kuomintang. Within this leadership structure, Chen was supported by the so-called “Four Guardians”: Luo Zhuoying, Lin Wei, Guo Chan, and Zhou Zhirou. Below the Four Guardians was a younger cohort commonly referred to as the “Thirteen Young Generals”. This group included Fang Tian, Liu Yunhan, Luo Zekai, Yang Yekong, Shi Zuhuang, Lü Wenzhen, Zhao Guisen, Guo Rugui, Liu Jinshi, Che Fanru, Hong Maoxiang, Li Zhongxin, and Wu Zhongzhi. In addition to this core leadership, a broad network of officers was associated with the *TuMuXi*. These included Fu Zhongfang, Li Shusen, Guo Siyuan, Zou Hong, Huang Wei, Xia Chuzhong, Fang Jing, Li Shuzheng, Huo Kuizhang, Mou Tingfang, Song Ruike, Hu Lian, Luo Guangwen, Zhu Dingqing, Que Hanqian, Luo Youlun, Shen Fazao, Qiu Hangxiang, Yu Jinyuan, Xiao Qian, Mo Yushuo, Li Ming, Li Shilin, Liu Jiming, Dai Zhiqi, Mei Chunhua, Yin Zuogan, Peng Shiliang, and Wang Jiaben all served as senior officers or commanders within the *TuMuXi*’s affiliated forces [3] (Table A1). Most of these officers had previously served in academy headquarters or the Instruction Regiment, where they established early institutional and personal ties with Chen Cheng. The term *TuMuXi* derived from the combination of “Wood (Mu)” —representing the 18th Army, Chen Cheng’s core force—and “Earth (Tu)” —representing officers from the 11th class of the Army University. Militarily, the *TuMuXi* excelled in formal operational tactics; politically, it followed Chiang Kai-shek’s directives with unwavering loyalty [3].

3. Early Development of the *TuMuXi* (1927–1936)

3.1. *The Central Plains War Period*

In June 1928, the National Revolutionary Army underwent its first major reorganization. The former 17th Army of the First Group Army and the General Headquarters Guard Regiment of the Northern Expeditionary Army were merged to form the 11th Division, with Cao Wanshun as Division Commander. Chiang Kai-shek appointed Chen Cheng as Deputy Division Commander, but Chen quickly consolidated his control within the unit and was soon promoted to full commander. By early 1930, the 11th Division had been expanded to two brigades and six regiments, with Luo Zhuoying serving as Deputy Division Commander [4]. That same year, disagreements in military and political strategy between Feng Yuxiang, Yan Xishan, Li Zongren, and Chiang Kai-shek led to the outbreak of the Central Plains War. Following the outbreak of hostilities, the 11th Division was ordered to garrison at Nanhu in Wuhan and, in March, advanced to Bengbu for combat operations. In April, it absorbed the New Guangxi Clique’s Independent 13th Brigade, expanding to three brigades and nine regiments. In early May, now under the 2nd Army Corps commanded by Liu Zhi, the division advanced westward along the Longhai Railway as the corps’ main strike force. During this advance, it launched a surprise attack on Shangqiu and destroyed Wan Xuancai’s 6th Route Army. On 23 May, Yan Xishan ordered Li Shengda’s 2nd Route Army to attack along the Jiaoji Railway in Shandong. Unable to hold its positions at Yucheng and neighboring areas, the Central Army retreated consecutively toward Qufu. On 6 July, the 11th Division was urgently ordered to cooperate with Xia Douyin’s forces to relieve Qufu. On 11 July, the 11th Division successfully repelled Li Shengda’s Jin (Shanxi) troops. On 14 August, the 11th Division launched offensives toward Jinan and Tai’an, defeating Fu Zuoyi’s Shanxi-Suiyuan Army and subsequently garrisoning in Shandong. By the end of August 1930, Chen Cheng was appointed commander of the 18th Army, which incorporated the 11th Division. Luo Zhuoying was promoted to deputy army commander and simultaneously served as division commander. Xiao Qian was appointed deputy division commander of the 11th Division. In October 1930, the army captured Zhengzhou; in November, it advanced to Wuhan. The former 3rd Instruction Division was reorganized into the 14th Division and placed under the 18th Army, with Chen Cheng concurrently serving as its division commander and Zhou Zhirou as deputy commander [4]. By late 1930, Zhang Xueliang’s telegraph of allegiance to Chiang Kai-shek led to the resignation of Yan Xishan and Feng Yuxiang, marking the end of the Central Plains War.

During the Central Plains War, the *TuMuXi*’s core unit—the 11th Division—performed exceptionally,

winning nearly every engagement. Upon learning of the division's achievements, Chiang Kai-shek placed even greater trust in Chen Cheng. Many *TuMuXi* officers, such as Que Hanqian, Guo Siyuan, Zou Hong, and Huo Kuizhang, were transferred to officer positions within the 11th Division during this period, thereby laying an institutional foundation for the *TuMuXi*'s subsequent prominence within the military establishment.

3.2. *The First Chinese Civil War*

After the Central Plains War, Chiang Kai-shek launched a large-scale campaign to “encircle and suppress” the Chinese Communist Red Army. *TuMuXi* forces served as the principal spearhead of these operations, although their subsequent performance during the Jiangxi Encirclement Campaigns proved uneven. On 7 April 1931, the Headquarters of the 18th Army was formally established in Wuhan. Chen Cheng as the army commander, with Luo Zhuoying serving as deputy commander. Liu Shaoxian assumed the post of chief of staff, assisted by Guo Siyen as deputy chief of staff. The army administered the 11th Division (commanded by Luo Zhuoying, with Li Ming as deputy commander, Zou Hong as chief of staff, Xiao Qian as commander of the 31st Brigade, and Li Ming concurrently commanding the 32nd Brigade, with Huo Kuizhang as commander of the Independent Brigade), and the 14th Division (commanded concurrently by Chen Cheng, with Zhou Zhiyu as deputy commander, Guo Rugui as chief of staff, Chen Lie as commander of the 41st Brigade, and Que Hanqian as commander of the 42nd Brigade [5]. In an effort to consolidate his authority within the Nanjing National Government and marginalize left-wing forces associated with Wang Jingwei, Chiang Kai-shek intensified military operations against the Chinese Communist movement. In October 1930, he launched the First Jiangxi Encirclement Campaign, ordering Lu Diping to lead a large Nationalist force against the Central Red Army. By 3 January 1931, the First Front Army of the Red Army had consecutively defeated the Nationalist troops at Longgang and Dongshao, achieving a complete victory in the first counter-encirclement campaign.

In April 1931, Chiang Kai-shek appointed Minister of Military Affairs He Yingqin as director of the Nanchang Field Headquarters. He Yingqin was placed in command of Wang Jinyu's Fifth Route Army, Zhu Shaoliang's Sixth Route Army, Lu Diping's Ninth Route Army, Jiang Guangding's Nineteenth Route Army, and Sun Lianzhong's Twenty-sixth Route Army.

Together, these forces comprised approximately 20 divisions and 300,000 troops, advancing in four directions toward Ningdu. This deployment marked the beginning of the Second Jiangxi Encirclement Campaign. Chen Cheng's 18th Army was ordered to garrison Fuzhou, Jiangxi, as the main reserve force. By 31 May, Mao Zedong and Zhu De led the main force of the Red First Front Army to capture Jianning, forcing another collective retreat of the Nationalist forces. The Red Army once again secured a decisive victory. On 21 June 1931, upon hearing of the repeated failures of the “encirclement” operations against the Central Soviet Area, Chiang Kai-shek responded sharply to the repeated failures of the encirclement operations. He immediately appointed himself Director of the Nanchang Field Headquarters to personally direct the campaign. Chiang ordered the mobilization of a massive Central Army force, composed largely of *TuMuXi* officers trained at the Whampoa Military Academy. These forces were organized into two group armies, totaling 23 divisions—approximately 300,000 troops—for a large-scale “mopping-up” campaign against the Central Soviet Area. He Yingqin commanded the Left Group Army, which included the 18th Army and six Central Army divisions plus one Sichuan division. Chen Mingshu commanded the Right Group Army, with one Central Army division and six provincial divisions. Two Central Army divisions—the 10th and 53rd—served as reserves [6]. On 1 July, the Nationalist offensive began. After twenty days of fruitless searching, they still failed to locate the main Red Army force. On 28 July, 11th Division commander Luo Zhuoying suddenly reported to Chen Cheng that the Red Army's main force had detoured to Xingguo. Chen reported the intelligence to Chiang, who concluded that the Red Army intended to cross the Gan River westward and thus ordered his troops to trap and annihilate them east of the river.

On 29 July, the 11th and 14th Divisions of the 18th Army, serving as the vanguard, advanced to Futian to encircle the Red Army's main force. Facing the overwhelming enemy, Mao Zedong immediately changed strategy: the Red 35th Army feigned the main force and crossed the Gan River, while the true main body shifted to the Liantang area by 4 August, just before the encirclement closed. From 7 to 11 August, the Red First Front

Army destroyed two divisions of the Nationalist Right Group Army at Liangcun and Huangpi. On 12 August, Chen Cheng reached the Gan River, only to discover that the Red Army's main force had already withdrawn. He hurriedly turned north, and when he reached Le'an at the end of August, he again found no Red Army. By the time the 18th Army returned to Xingguo, it was already exhausted. In early September, Hunan warlord Tang Shengzhi, along with Guangxi's Li Zongren, Guangdong's Chen Jitang, and Northwest Army's Shi Youzan, supported Wang Jingwei's rival Guangzhou National Government and launched a campaign against Jiangxi in the name of "suppressing the rebels". The Nanjing Government was forced to suspend its "anti-Communist" operations, leaving only three divisions in Jiangxi. The 18th Army moved south with the main force. From 7 to 15 September, the Red First Front Army destroyed the Nationalist 9th and 52nd Divisions; the 52nd's commander Han Deqin escaped in disguise. Meanwhile, the Mukden Incident (18 September 1931) broke out. Chiang Kai-shek, unable to continue the encirclement campaign, returned to Nanjing with his confidant Chen Cheng to handle political affairs. The National Government shifted its military focus northward to deal with Japan, turning defensive in Jiangxi. Thus, the Third Counter-Encirclement Campaign likewise ended in a decisive Red Army victory [7].

The 18th Army's performance in these three campaigns was average. Though twice deceived by the Red Army's diversion tactics, it maintained discipline and composure under pressure and avoided major losses. In contrast, other units such as the 47th and 58th Divisions of the Right Group Army were completely destroyed, while the 8th Division of the Central Army on the left flank was nearly annihilated. Chen Cheng and many *TuMuXi* officers demonstrated calmness and clear tactical thinking, which laid the foundation for their later success. Chiang Kai-shek was impressed by the 18th Army's steadiness and ordered Luo Zhuoying and Zhou Zhiyu to carry out reorganization and absorption of other units in Jiangxi—a move that allowed the *TuMuXi* faction to expand both its manpower and influence. By the time of the Fourth "Jiangxi Encirclement" Campaign in June 1932, Chen Cheng's *TuMuXi* forces had already implemented the "Four Transparencies" policy—transparency in personnel, finances, opinions, and rewards and punishments—attracting large numbers of young officers and soldiers. This policy laid the groundwork for the later *TuMuXi* Youth Army.

In October 1931, the 18th Army added the reorganized 52nd Division, with Li Ming promoted to its command. In November, the 43rd Division was added under Liu Shaoxian. Thus, the 18th Army now comprised the 11th, 18th, 43rd, and 52nd Divisions [4]. While Hu Zongnan was still a brigade commander and Tang Enbo merely a divisional commander, the *TuMuXi* faction had already become one of the first well-structured and unified military cliques within the Central Army through successive absorptions of miscellaneous units. At the beginning of 1932, the 18th Army was assigned to Liu Zhi's Second Route Army, responsible for anti-Communist operations in western and southern Jiangxi. In late February, the Red Army attacked Ganzhou, and the 18th Army rushed to reinforce it overnight. By 8 March, the Red Army had withdrawn after suffering setbacks. The 11th Division captured Red Third Corps First Division commander Hou Zhongying, Red Fourth Corps 17th Division commissar Zhang Chinan, and Red Fifth Corps 13th Division commissar Ouyang Jian, among other senior commanders [8]. From May to July, the 43rd and 52nd Divisions of the 18th Army were stationed in western Jiangxi for "mopping-up" operations. In August, Chen Cheng personally absorbed the 59th Division into the 18th Army, appointing Chen Shiji as its commander.

Following the 18 September and 28 January Incidents, the Nanjing Government signed the "Shanghai Ceasefire Agreement" with Japan in May 1932. Chiang Kai-shek, adhering to the principle of "pacify the interior before resisting external aggression", resumed his preparations for renewed anti-Communist campaigns.

In June 1932, the Fourth "Jiangxi Encirclement" Campaign began. In October, Mao Zedong was wrongly dismissed from his military command at the Ningdu Conference by the temporary CCP Central Committee, leaving Zhu De and Zhou Enlai in charge of the Red First Front Army. In October 1932, the 14th and 52nd Divisions of the 18th Army assembled at Linchuan, while the 11th and 59th Divisions gathered at Yihuang to participate in the new campaign. In January 1933, the Red Army's temporary Central Committee ordered the Red First Front Army to destroy the main Nationalist forces along the Fu River and seize all of Jiangxi. Chiang, perceiving the Red Army's movement, decided to fight a decisive battle.

In February 1933, the 11th, 52nd, and 59th Divisions were detached from the 18th Army to form the 5th

Army, with Luo Zhuoying concurrently serving as its commander. On 9 February, the Red First Front Army attacked Nanfeng but was repulsed. Chiang then ordered Chen Cheng to personally lead the Central Route's First Column—comprising the 5th and 18th Armies—southward toward Nanfeng, supported by two flanking columns. In mid-February, Chen Cheng mistakenly identified the Red 11th Army as the main force and ordered his First Column to assemble south of Yihuang, while the Second Column struck from Nanfeng toward Jianning and the Third advanced frontally on Lichuan—intending to encircle and annihilate the Red Army there. On 27 February, the First Column's right flank was exposed. The Red 3rd and 5th Corps surrounded the advancing 5th Army main force at Huangpi. By 1 March, the 5th Army's 52nd Division was destroyed at Jiaohu Lake; its commander, Li Ming—a major *TuMuXi* figure—was captured and died of wounds, becoming the first senior commander from Chen Cheng's inner circle to fall [9]. On 2 March, the 5th Army's 59th Division was likewise wiped out near Huoyuan; its commander, Chen Shiji, was captured [10].

Hearing that two of his elite divisions had been destroyed, Chen Cheng panicked and hastily called for reinforcements from the Second and Third Columns. The Red Army withdrew to rest. In mid-March, Chen Cheng regrouped and ordered the Second Column to advance as the vanguard, with remnants of the First and Third Columns as the rear, moving toward Guangchang. The Red Army once again used the 11th Army to feign its main force, while the true main body maneuvered north of the rear column.

Chen fell for the deception once more, ordering his front column to accelerate, leaving a 50-km gap between the two main forces. On 20 March, the 5th Army's only remaining unit, the 11th Division, reached Caotaigang. At that time, Luo Zhuoying was resting nearby at Wulipai with remnants of the 59th Division. Acting commander Guo Siyen suddenly detected a large Red Army movement toward Caotaigang. Luo ordered the 11th Division to retreat, but commander Xiao Qian, fearing exhaustion among his men, refused.

At dawn on 21 March, the 11th Division was encircled and attacked by the combined Red 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th Corps. After fierce fighting, the division suffered severe losses. Xiao Qian was shot in the abdomen while commanding the battle and gravely wounded. Only about 3000 soldiers managed to retreat to Wulipai. Xiao barely survived after receiving emergency treatment. In early April [11], Nationalist forces completed a general retreat. The Fourth Jiangxi Encirclement ended in another major setback Chiang Kai-shek confessed: "This defeat, so miserable and tragic, is the single deepest pain of my life".

After the campaign, the *TuMuXi* 5th Army was disbanded, and its three divisions reabsorbed into the 18th Army. The losses were catastrophic—three divisions destroyed and two major commanders dead—due to overconfidence. Having achieved success in the first three campaigns, the *TuMuXi* forces had grown complacent. The arrogance of 52nd Division commander Li Ming twice led his troops into Red Army traps, costing him his life. Following the debacle, Chen Cheng was harshly scolded by He Yingqin and criticized by Xiong Shihui and Gu Zhutong. Though Chiang continued to value him, to ease factional tensions he left Chen only the title of 18th Army commander. Chen resigned and withdrew from public view. His setbacks reflected not only military reverses but also his limited political leverage within the party leadership. In 1933, he recommended Zhou Zhiyu to study aviation in Europe and America, facilitating the later establishment of the National Government Air Force—an initiative that allowed the *TuMuXi* forces to enjoy privileged access to air support in the years to come.

3.3. *He Yingqin's "Whampoa Clique" Loses Its Chance to Compete for Military and Political Supremacy within the Central Army*

After the failure of the Fourth Encirclement Campaign, Chiang Kai-shek was eager to immediately launch the fifth operation. However, the Japanese seized the opportunity to invade and prepare for the occupation of parts of North China. In March 1933, He Yingqin's *Whampoa Clique* reorganized its 2nd and 25th Divisions into the 17th Army. Together with He's loyal subordinates—Xu Tingyao, Liu Jiashu, Huang Jie, Guan Linzheng, Du Yuming, Qiu Qingquan, and Zhang Yaoming, they marched to the Great Wall front to resist Japanese aggression [12].

By the end of April, under the joint command of the Central Army and Song Zheyuan's 29th Army of the Northwestern faction, the National Revolutionary Army achieved partial victories in the battles of Xifengkou,

Gubeikou, and Nantianmen. Yet the cost was enormous. Despite heavy casualties, these battles greatly boosted the nation's confidence in resisting Japan. Nevertheless, in line with his policy of "pacifying internal disorder before resisting foreign aggression", Chiang was ultimately compelled to sign the Tanggu Truce. The Great Wall campaign inflicted grievous losses upon the *Whampoa Clique*. Xu Tingyao, Du Yuming, Guan Linzheng, and Zheng Dongguo were dispatched to South China to organize new mechanized units; Huang Jie, Liu Jiashu, and Zhang Yaoming were stationed in East and Northwest China; Qiu Qingquan, Zheng Tingji, and Liao Yaoxiang were transferred to the Central Training Corps. The three groups were largely separated, significantly weakening coordination among them. Key advisors in He Yingqin's inner circle, such as Xiao Yisu and Leng Xin, were reassigned to political posts, while officers from other factions seized the chance to infiltrate *Whampoa* units. He Yingqin himself, burdened by administrative responsibilities, saw his ability to coordinate the clique substantially diminished. After his officers were dispersed and assigned to different commands, the few armies reestablished during the War of Resistance were again divided between East and South China. Communication among commanders was rare, leading to the *Whampoa Clique*'s disintegration during the later stages of the Second Chinese Civil War.

Thus, even before the outbreak of the Anti-Japanese War, the *Whampoa Clique* had already forfeited its opportunity to dominate military and political power within the National Government, leaving the field clear for the *TuMuXi* faction to rise uncontested. In this sense, Chen Cheng's *TuMuXi* effectively outpaced its first potential rival within the Central Army, without direct confrontation.

3.4. *The End of the First Civil War and the Rise of the Hu Zongnan Faction*

Despite criticizing Chen Cheng after the Fourth Encirclement Campaign, Chiang Kai-shek continued to regard the 18th Army as the model formation of the Central Army. In August 1933, Guo Siyen's 59th Division was redesignated as the 99th Division and formally detached from the 18th Army, yet all key personnel appointments remained under Chen Cheng's control, and the senior officers were almost entirely *TuMuXi* members. From the 11th Division's 32nd Brigade and independent units of the 18th Army, a new 67th Division was established under Fu Zhongfang; from the 14th Division's 41st Brigade and independent units, a new 94th Division under Li Shusen was formed; and the remnants of the 52nd Division were reorganized as the 98th Division under Xia Chuzhong. By October 1933, the 18th Army commanded five divisions—the 11th, 14th, 67th, 94th, and 98th [4]. In late September 1933, Chiang Kai-shek launched the Fifth Encirclement Campaign. Once again, the 18th Army assumed a central role in the offensive. Chiang appointed Gu Zhutong as Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Route Army, with Chen Cheng serving as frontline commander. This command structure encompassed Gu Zhutong's 1st, Chen Cheng's 3rd, Xue Yue's 6th, Sun Lianzhong's 26th Route Armies, as well as Qian Dajun's general reserve. Jiang Dingwen commanded the Eastern Route Army, including his own 2nd and Wei Lihuang's 5th Route Armies, while the Western Route was under Xiang warlord He Jian, and the Southeastern Route under Guangdong's Chen Jitang. Meanwhile, the "Old Triumvirate" of Bo Gu, Otto Braun (Li De), and Zhou Enlai persisted in their doctrinaire "Leftist" line. Instead of confronting only the Central Army, the Red Army now faced simultaneous offensives from regional warlords. The main force—the First Front Army, including the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th Corps—remained in Jiangxi. On 25 September 1933, Chiang ordered Chen Cheng's 3rd Route and Xue Yue's 6th Route to strike Lichuan. By mid-November, the Nationalists adopted a defensive strategy coupled with a steady strategic advance. Bo Gu nonetheless insisted on positional warfare, ordering the Red Army to assault heavily fortified areas—resulting severe losses. On 11 December, eight Nationalist columns left their defenses and pressed forward. The Red Army was forced into frontal engagements against the superiorly equipped Nationalist troops. Ultimately, the Red First Front Army was forced to withdraw southward under pressure from five divisions of the 18th Army. After the Fujian Incident, in April 1934, Chiang ordered the creation of two fast columns based on the 18th Army to penetrate deep into the Soviet zone. Even then, Li De stubbornly persisted with regular positional warfare, costing the Red Army five key strongholds. On 27 April, Gu Zhutong and Chen Cheng captured Guangchang, inflicting over 5000 casualties. The fall of Guangchang provoked fierce disputes within the Red Army—Peng Dehuai quarreled bitterly with Li De, and Zhang Wentian openly opposed Bo Gu's political and military line. In May 1934, Bo

Gu convened a meeting of the CCP Central Secretariat in Ruijin and decided to evacuate the Soviet base areas. Between June and September, the Nationalists committed 12 columns—over 500,000 men—to attack the Central Soviet Region. On 7 October, the Central Military Commission ordered all Red Army forces to shift positions and regroup. By mid-October, the Red 24th Division was left behind to form the Soviet Central Bureau in Jiangxi, led by Xiang Ying, Chen Yi, and others.

On 17 October, the Central Red Army began crossing the Gong River from Yudu County, marking the beginning of the Long March. The Nationalists occupied most of Jiangxi within days. By January 1935, during the Zunyi Conference, Mao Zedong was reinstated and, together with Wang Jiaxiang and Zhou Enlai, formed a new Triumvirate to direct the Long March. The 18th Army did not participate but remained in Jiang-Zhe to suppress residual Communist forces. In March 1935, Xiao Qian, commander of the New 10th Division and a key *TuMuXi* general, drowned during a river crossing [13]. That same month, Lin Wei was promoted to Lieutenant General and Director of the First Bureau of the Military Affairs Commission, allowing Chen Cheng direct access to strategic and personnel information, and elevating him to Chiang's senior advisory circle, marking the *TuMuXi*'s entry into the political core of the National Government [14]. In July 1935, Xia Chuzhong's 98th Division left the 18th Army's command to join the Anti-Bandit Forces. In January 1936, the 67th and 94th Divisions merged into a restructured 67th Division, and on the 28th of the same month, Chen Cheng was promoted to full General of the Army. By late 1935 and 1936, the First, Second, and Fourth Front Armies of the Red Army had reached northern Shaanxi after overcoming great hardship. In June 1936, Hu Zongnan was appointed commander of the 1st Army, stationed in the Northwest for "Communist suppression", forming the *Hu Zongnan Northwest Clique*, with key lieutenants such as Ding Delong, Liao Ang, Luo Lie, Dong Zhao, Liu Kan, Liu Chaohuan, Chen Julv, Zhong Song, Yang Dingnan, Sheng Wen, Xu Bao, Li Riji, Li Kungang, and He Wending [15]. This faction would soon become one of the few capable of rivaling the *TuMuXi*. In October 1936, after the Red Fourth Front Army rejected Zhang Guotao's plan to establish a "Second Central Committee", it rejoined the Red First Front Army under Xu Xiangqian at Huining. The combined forces—headquarters and the 5th, 9th, and 30th Corps—formed the Western Route Army, but were later forced westward into Xinjiang by Zhu Shaoliang and Hu Zongnan's encirclement. On 22 October, the Red Second Front Army united with the others at Jiangtaobao, officially ending the Long March and inaugurating the Yan'an period.

Following the Luochuan and Fushi conferences, Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng resolved to negotiate with the CCP and persuade Chiang Kai-shek to resist Japan. In December 1936, Chen Cheng accompanied Chiang, Jiang Dingwen, Wei Lihuang, Chen Jicheng, and Zhu Shaoliang to Xi'an to discuss reorganization of the Northeast Army. On 12 December, when Zhang and Yang's repeated remonstrations failed, they launched their "military admonition". That night, Chen Cheng and other senior Central Army officers were detained; Central Committee member Shao Yuanchong was killed on the spot. During his captivity, Chen told Zhang Xueliang: "You have detained the Generalissimo. Even if you were to rule China, how could you manage it well?" and swore to share Chiang's fate: "If Chang dies, shoot me first" [16]. Upon hearing of the incident, He Yingqin reacted with alarm and ordered Hu Zongnan to advance from the northwest, while Gu Zhutong led Jiang-Zhe forces northward. *TuMuXi* commanders such as Luo Zhuoying, upon learning of Chen's capture, were enraged and immediately led the 18th Army's 14th Division to Huayin and Tongguan. On 14 December, the crisis was peacefully resolved. Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng were arrested and tried, while the Northeast Army was reorganized into the 51st, 57th, and 67th Armies under Yu Xuezhong, He Zhuguo, and Wu Keren respectively. The Second United Front between the National Government and the Shaan-Gan-Ning Border Region (the CPC) was formally established, bringing a temporary end to prolonged internal conflict. The *TuMuXi*'s rapid mobilization to protect Chiang during the Xi'an Incident earned his deep gratitude. Chiang never forgot Chen Cheng's pledge to "live and die with the Generalissimo", which further cemented the *TuMuXi*'s dominance over the military and political apparatus. Chen's later success under Chiang reflected not only his rhetorical skill but also his political judgment in navigating elite power relations.

4. The Rise of the *TuMuXi* (1937–1945)

4.1. Units Controlled or “Core-Ized” by the *TuMuXi* in the Early Stage of the War of Resistance

After the First Chinese Civil War, Chen Cheng—by then Chief of the General Staff of the Military Affairs Commission with the rank of full general—used the reorganization of the National Revolutionary Army to embed large numbers of *TuMuXi* core units within newly established Central Army formations. Before 1940, the following army- and division-level units were either incorporated into the *TuMuXi*’s basic force structure or were commanded by officers affiliated with the clique:

6th Army. In the July 1939 order of battle, only the 93rd Division belonged to the *TuMuXi*. Its commander, Lü Guoshen, had previously served as a brigade commander in the 98th Division of the 18th Army. As the 6th Army was initially subordinated to the 32nd Army Group, whose commander Guan Linzheng and army commander Gan Lichu were both “Whampoa Clique” officers, it was not fully absorbed into the *TuMuXi* until the eve of the Second Chinese Civil War [4].

18th Army. A core *TuMuXi* formation. Huang Wei served as army commander (20 May 1938–5 July 1939), with Chen Pei as deputy commander. By July 1939, it comprised the 11th Division (Peng Shan), the 18th Division (Luo Guangwen), and the 199th Division (Song Ruike). The latter two divisions were newly incorporated and fully integrated into the *TuMuXi* structure, and all three division commanders were clique members [4].

54th Army. Another core *TuMuXi* force. Huo Kuizhang served as army commander (9 August 1937–July 1939), with Chen Lie as deputy commander. In July 1939, it included the 14th Division (Que Hanqian), the 50th Division (Zhang Qiong), and the Newly Organized 23rd Division (Zhong Zuyin). The latter two had originally been Hunan and Jiangxi troops but were fully absorbed into the clique during the later stages of the war [4].

75th Army. In the May 1939 order of battle, only the 13th Division belonged to the “*TuMuXi*”. Its commander, Fang Jing, was a close confidant of Chen Cheng. The army was fully integrated into the clique only in the middle phase of the war [4].

79th Army. A core *TuMuXi* formation. Xia Chuzhong served as army commander (September 1937–March 1943), with Wang Jiaben as deputy commander. By July–September 1939, it included the 82nd Division (Luo Qijiang) and the 98th Division, which Wang Jiaben concurrently commanded. The 82nd Division originated from Guizhou troops, while the 98th Division was a core “Tumu” unit. The army was fully absorbed into the clique during the mid-war period [4].

86th Army. In late June 1939, only the 67th Division belonged to the “*TuMuXi*”, commanded by the formidable clique officer Mo Yushuo. The army commander at the time was Yu Jishi, with Feng Shengfa as deputy, both affiliated with the “74th Army” faction. The 86th Army was fully “Tumu-ized” during the middle stage of the war [4].

87th Army. In July 1939, only the 43rd Division belonged to the “*TuMuXi*”. Its former commanders Liu Shaoxian, Zou Hong, and Zhou Xiangchu were all close associates of Chen Cheng. Although the incumbent commander Jin Dezhe was temporarily assigned from the Central Military Academy, the 43rd Division itself was built on a “Tumu” core. The army was fully absorbed in the later stages of the war [4].

94th Army. A core *TuMuXi* unit. Guo Chan served as army commander (April 1938–January 1940), with Li Jilan as deputy. In April 1938 it comprised the 55th Division (Mou Tingfang) and the 185th Division (Fang Tian), both commanded by leading “Tumu” officers. The army served as a mainstay of the clique throughout the war [4].

99th Army. A core *TuMuXi* formation. Fu Zhongfang served as army commander (June 1938–April 1943). In July 1939 it included the 92nd Division (Liang Hanming), the 99th Division (Jiang Dunheng), and the 118th Division (Wang Yan). All three were core “Tumu” divisions; the 118th was newly formed from personnel of the 18th Army. After Jiang Dunheng’s brief tenure, he was replaced by Gao Kuiyuan, another “clique officer” [4].

Temporary 2nd Army. Commanded by Zou Hong, a *TuMuXi* officer. Its subordinate Temporary 7th and Temporary 8th Divisions were newly organized Central Army units without prior factional affiliation [4].

Temporary 5th Division. In January 1940, both its commander Guo Ruguai and his successor Peng Shiliang were key *TuMuXi* officers [4].

4.2. Performance of the *TuMuXi* in the Early War Years

In contrast to its difficult early development, the *TuMuXi* during the War of Resistance was oriented almost exclusively toward combat. Factional struggles within the Kuomintang, which had continued for several years, came to a halt, and the Central Army and regional forces united to resist the Japanese invasion.

On 22 August 1937, Japanese forces launched amphibious landings from the waters outside Shanghai, landing at Wusong and Chuansha to begin their offensive. Chen Cheng was appointed by Chiang Kai-shek as Forward Commander-in-Chief of the Third War Zone and was ordered to lead the Fifteenth Group Army and the Nineteenth Group Army as the left-wing forces defending Shanghai. The core *TuMuXi* units—the 18th Army and the 75th Army—were both subordinate to these two group armies. The two sides fought fiercely for several months. During this period, Xia Chuzhong’s 79th Army was ordered to transfer to the Fifteenth Group Army. Before departing, Xia Chuzhong issued an order to officers and soldiers at all levels: “If we do not avenge our national humiliation, we shall not return home!” Cai Bingyan, brigade commander of the 110th Brigade of the 67th Division of the 18th Army, was killed in action and sacrificed his life for the nation. Huang Wei, Chen Pei, Luo Guangwen, and others were all seriously wounded. On 11 November, the Nationalist forces were encircled by the Japanese army, and the Third War Zone headquarters ordered a general withdrawal. Shanghai subsequently fell. Although the Battle of Shanghai ended in defeat, it successfully pinned down and exhausted the main forces of the Japanese invaders, thereby shattering Japan’s strategic plan of “defeating China within three months”. The Battle of Shanghai instead laid the foundation for a protracted war of resistance.

On 25 November, Chen Cheng was temporarily transferred to serve as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Liu Xiang’s Seventh War Zone. Luo Zhuoying and others succeeded Chen Cheng and continued to command *TuMuXi* forces in combat. On 15 December, Nanjing fell, and Luo Zhuoying and others attempted to relieve the troops trapped within the city, but the effort failed [17].

After the fall of Nanjing, most of the Kuomintang’s military and political leadership organs were relocated to Wuhan. On 15 January 1938, the National Government established the Wuhan Garrison Headquarters, appointing Chen Cheng as Commander-in-Chief with the rank of full general. Thereafter, he concurrently held multiple key posts, including membership in the Military Affairs Commission and the chairmanship of the Hubei Provincial Government. He also served in senior roles within the General Political Department, the Aviation Committee, and the Central Training and Youth Corps institutions. At this point, Chen Cheng had already entered the inner political circle of the Kuomintang, and figures such as Qian Dajun referred to him as the “Little Chairman”.

On 18 June, the Wuhan Garrison Headquarters was reorganized into the Ninth War Zone Headquarters, with Chen Cheng continuing as Commander-in-Chief with the rank of full general. He commanded one million troops in a decisive battle against the Japanese army in the Wuhan area. The Japanese forces, consisting of nine divisions, three brigades, and elements of the navy and air force—approximately 300,000 troops—advanced westward along the northern foothills of the Dabie Mountains and both banks of the Yangtze River, attempting to encircle Wuhan from the north and south. The Chinese forces, with a total strength of about one million men, organized four operational groupings and conducted defensive operations by utilizing natural barriers such as Poyang Lake, the Dabie Mountains, the Mufu Mountains, and the rivers, mountains, and lakes along both banks of the Yangtze River. Chen Cheng commanded the Jiangnan defenses east of Wuhan. The core *TuMuXi* units—the 6th Army, 18th Army, 54th Army, 75th Army, 87th Army, and 94th Army—all participated in the Battle of Wuhan. Before the battle began, Chen Cheng convened a meeting of *TuMuXi* generals including Luo Zhuoying, Fang Jing, and Huang Wei, at which he stated: “Our Central Army must charge at the forefront and set an example for other units, especially the 18th Army. We must fight with backbone and never allow the Japanese to look down on us. This time, our troops must hold their ground and resist at all costs”. The *TuMuXi* commanders were greatly encouraged and actively engaged in combat [17].

On the night of 22 July, Japanese forces landed at Gutang on the shores of Poyang Lake and subsequently occupied Jiujiang. They then deployed five divisions, advancing westward along the southern bank of the Yangtze River in two columns, launching a fierce offensive. Chen Cheng ordered his troops to withdraw to

positions on both sides of Mount Lu and along the Nanxun Railway, relying on favorable terrain to hold off the enemy's left-wing forces advancing toward Nanchang for more than a month. In early August, the Japanese concentrated two divisions to attack Ruichang, which subsequently fell. Thereafter, Chen Cheng ordered two group armies together with the 18th Army and the 54th Army to block the advancing enemy along the Matou Town–Zhuxi line in northern Jiangxi. The two sides fought fiercely for more than twenty days. On 14 September, Matou Town fell. On the 24th, the Japanese captured Fuchiankou. The Second Corps immediately redeployed the 6th, 53rd, 54th, 75th, and 98th Armies as reinforcements, and the two sides confronted each other in the Daye and Yangxin areas of southeastern Hubei. In early October, the 4th, 18th, 32nd, 54th, 66th, and 94th Armies were redeployed to the Wanjialing area northwest of De'an to conduct an encirclement counteroffensive, inflicting heavy losses on four Japanese regiments. As key positions on the outskirts of Wuhan fell one after another, of particular concern to Chiang Kai-shek was that the Japanese were still able to detach forces southward to conduct amphibious landings in Guangdong, rapidly capturing the key South China port of Guangzhou on the 21st. The Nationalist forces urgently organized Mo Yushuo's 86th Army and telegraphed Xia Chuzhong's 79th Army to reinforce Guangzhou. After learning of Xia Chuzhong's southward movement, Chen Cheng ordered Zhou Zhirou to provide air support. However, the 12th Group Army under Yu Hanmou held out for only ten days before being defeated and forced to withdraw. Guangzhou consequently fell on the afternoon of the 21st. After the fall of Guangzhou, the Yue–Han Railway was severed, greatly weakening Wuhan's strategic position. In light of the precedent of the doomed defense of Nanjing, Chiang Kai-shek decided not to defend Wuhan to the last and ordered its abandonment on 25 October. The following day, Japanese forces occupied Wuchang and Hankou, and on the 27th they entered Hanyang. Thus, the Battle of Wuhan formally came to an end.

The performance of *TuMuXi* units during the Battle of Wuhan was widely regarded as notable, particularly in terms of combat effectiveness and morale. Taking the 18th Army as an example, Huang Wei repeatedly led the army headquarters and its three divisions into battle. On 9 July, the 31st Brigade of the 11th Division repelled counterattacks by elements of the 145th Infantry Regiment of the Japanese 106th Division and the 2nd Taiwanese Infantry Regiment of the Hatakeyama Detachment at Yangjiashan between Hukou and Pengze, killing Major Fukushima Tachima, commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 145th Regiment. In November, the 16th Division and the 60th Division were successively detached from the 18th Army's organizational structure. During the Battle of Wuhan, the 11th Division suffered 2072 casualties and missing, the 16th Division 4108, and the 60th Division 4280. The 60th Division was awarded a banner inscribed "Invincible Army" by Xue Yue, Commander-in-Chief of the First Corps of the Ninth War Zone [18].

According to the final combat statistics, the 18th Army lost 10,460 men, the 54th Army lost 10,092 men, the 75th Army lost 12,565 men, the 87th Army lost 10,114 men, and the 94th Army lost 14,395 men [17].

After the Battle of Wuhan ended, most *TuMuXi* units withdrew to southwestern China and the Central Plains for rest and reorganization. The 79th Army and the 86th Army subsequently participated in the Winter Offensive of December 1939, successfully recapturing multiple cities in South China.

4.3. *The Hu Zongnan Clique and Its Failure to Compete for Central Army Leadership*

In mid-October 1938, Hu Zongnan's forces withdrew to Shaanxi, with units stationed in the vicinity of Xi'an and the corps headquarters garrisoned in the city. On 14 January 1939, the Seventeenth Corps was expanded into the Thirty-Fourth Group Army and placed under the Tenth War Zone, with Hu Zongnan serving as Deputy Commander-in-Chief while concurrently acting as Commander-in-Chief. On 4 August, Hu Zongnan was promoted to Commander-in-Chief of the Thirty-Fourth Group Army, which came under his command with the 1st, 16th, and 90th Armies as its core units, while he also exercised command over the 76th Army, the Newly Organized 12th Army, and the 3rd Cavalry Army. At the same time, after two years of "infiltration", Luo Zekai successfully penetrated Hu Zongnan's factional network and was appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Thirty-Fourth Group Army, assisting Chen Cheng in monitoring and reporting on the activities and internal dynamics of the Hu Zongnan faction.

On 23 March 1942, Hu Zongnan was appointed Acting Director of the Xi'an Office of the Military Orders

Bureau of the Military Affairs Commission, bearing actual responsibility and becoming the highest-ranking military authority in the Xi'an area. On 23 July, Hu Zongnan was promoted to Deputy Commander of the Eighth War Zone and established a Deputy Commander's Headquarters in Xi'an. The Commander of the Eighth War Zone was Zhu Shaoliang, who held a nominal post and was stationed in Lanzhou. Li Yannian's Thirty-Fourth Group Army, Tao Zhiyue's Thirty-Seventh Group Army, Fan Hanjie's Thirty-Eighth Group Army, and Li Tiejun's Twenty-Ninth Group Army—together numbering more than 340,000 troops—were all placed under Hu Zongnan's command [19]. From this point onward, Hu Zongnan could only rely on colleagues and trusted subordinates to control the northwest region. Thereafter, Hu Zongnan no longer conducted major operations in the Central Plains and did not secure control over the Kuomintang's central leadership.

4.4. The TuMuXi in the Middle and Late War Years

After the fall of Wuhan, Chen Cheng handed over military affairs of the Ninth War Zone to Xue Yue as acting commander and immediately went to Chongqing to receive instructions. However, Chen Cheng was still repeatedly ordered to travel to Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, and other regions to participate in and command military operations. During this period, his formal military rank was adjusted to Lieutenant General of the Army. In September 1939, the First Battle of Changsha broke out. Chen Lie led the 54th Army, Xia Chuzhong led the 79th Army, and Jin Deze led the 43rd Division of the 87th Army to participate in the battle. Chen Cheng returned to command at the invitation of Xue Yue. After fighting until early October, the Japanese forces withdrew from the battlefield, and the Nationalist forces secured a decisive victory. Chen Cheng was simultaneously promoted to Full General of the Army.

In November 1939, the Guangxi Southern Campaign broke out. Fu Zhongfang led the 99th Army into battle, and Chen Cheng went to the front to supervise operations. Fighting continued until the end of the year and included the Battle of Kunlun Pass, the Defense of Nanning, the Defense of Guilin, and the Battle of Binyang. Ultimately, the Nationalist forces were defeated. Chiang Kai-shek reacted strongly and dismissed the Guilin Field Headquarters, transferring command of the troops to the Fourth War Zone. Fu Zhongfang was immediately dismissed from his post and placed under investigation, while Chen Cheng was demoted to Lieutenant General of the Army. However, because Chen Cheng made strenuous efforts to plead on Fu Zhongfang's behalf, Fu ultimately was not brought to trial and returned to his original position. The Nationalist forces could only turn southward to seek assistance from Britain and the United States and prepare for the formation of the Chinese Expeditionary Force.

At the end of 1939, the Japanese army planned to open up a southern passage through China and therefore deployed the First Northern Guangdong Campaign. At this time, Chen Cheng was serving as Commander of the Sixth War Zone and, under orders from Chiang Kai-shek, led Chen Lie's 54th Army and Zou Hong's Temporarily Organized 2nd Army to South China to participate in the fighting. On 26 December 1939, Yu Hanmou ordered a general counteroffensive, splitting the northward-advancing Japanese forces into two groups and then concentrating forces to encircle and annihilate them one by one. Due to losses suffered by the Japanese forces in northern Guangdong and difficulties in supply, the Japanese troops withdrew toward Guangzhou on 1 January 1940. The First Northern Guangdong Campaign ended in a Chinese victory.

In May 1940, when Luo Zhuoying and Huo Kuizhang had already transferred to Yunnan to prepare for the formation of the Expeditionary Force, the Japanese army took advantage of the situation to launch the Zaoyi Campaign. Chen Cheng led Peng Shan's 18th Army, while Guo Chan led the River Defense Forces together with Liu Jimin's 75th Army and Li Jilan's 94th Army into battle. After three months of fighting, the Nationalist forces suffered heavy losses. Zhang Zizhong, Full General and Commander-in-Chief of the 33rd Group Army, was killed during the fighting, after which the Nationalist forces withdrew. The 18th Army alone suffered 7344 casualties. Zhang Ziyun, commander of the 595th Regiment of the 199th Division, died heroically in action. After the battle, due to the severe losses, the 18th Army was placed under the fourth phase of the Military Affairs Commission's Direct Reorganization and Training Program in November. The army headquarters and the 199th Division were stationed in Wanzhou, the 11th Division was redeployed to Liangshan, and the 18th Division was redeployed to Zhong County for reorganization and training while serving

as the general reserve for eastern Sichuan. The 75th Army and the 94th Army withdrew to the upper reaches of the Yangtze River and to the northwest to replenish manpower.

In October 1940, Chen Lie, Lieutenant General and commander of the 54th Army, suffered from a severe tooth infection accompanied by high fever after having a tooth extracted in Funing in late October. Upon hearing the news, Chiang Kai-shek immediately dispatched a special aircraft to transport Chen Lie to Chongqing for treatment, but Chen Lie had already passed away before the aircraft arrived. News of Chen Lie's death caused widespread shock within the 54th Army and the local community in Funing. In accordance with Chen Lie's will, his remains were transported to Luositang in Nanyue for burial. Upon learning of his death, Chen Cheng was deeply affected and withdrew from public duties for several days. Huang Wei urgently succeeded Chen Lie as commander of the 54th Army [20].

In September 1941, the Second Battle of Changsha broke out. Chen Pei, former deputy commander of the 18th Army, was promoted to commander of the 37th Army and took control of that force. At the same time, Luo Zhuoying led the Nineteenth Group Army, while Chen Cheng commanded and led Chen Pei's 37th Army, Xia Chuzhong's 79th Army, Fu Zhongfang's 99th Army, and Zou Hong's Temporarily Organized 2nd Army—four main *TuMuXi* forces—into battle. After a month of bloody fighting, the Nationalist forces ultimately recaptured Changsha and inflicted approximately 20,000 casualties on Japanese forces. During this period, *TuMuXi* generals such as Lin Wei and Yang Yekong vigorously secured military resources and supported the frontline battlefield.

In early 1942, the Third Battle of Changsha broke out. Due to various difficulties and dissatisfaction, Xue Yue repeatedly requested to resign, but Chen Cheng repeatedly comforted and persuaded him to remain, making great efforts to mediate on his behalf. The relationship between the two thus moved beyond their previous mutual suspicion and rivalry. Chen Cheng once again led three main *TuMuXi* armies into battle, and the campaign once again ended in victory, bringing the fighting around Changsha to a temporary conclusion. Chen Cheng was commended by Chiang Kai-shek and promoted once again to Full General of the Army.

From 1942 to early 1943, both Chen Cheng and the *TuMuXi* forces remained in a state of rest and reorganization and did not participate in any major campaigns.

In April 1943, the Japanese army launched a massive offensive in western Hubei, aiming to threaten Chongqing, the wartime capital. Chen Cheng and Guo Chan led the Sixth War Zone in resolute resistance. At this time, the 66th Army had already come under the control of Fang Jing and Shi Zuhuang and had become a *TuMuXi* force. Among the *TuMuXi* main units participating actively in the fighting were Fang Tian's 18th Army, Fang Jing's 66th Army, Liu Jimin's 75th Army, Wang Jiaben's 79th Army, Zhu Dingqing's 86th Army, the 43rd Division of the 87th Army under Li Shilin, the 118th Division under Wang Yan, Mou Tingfang's 94th Army, and Peng Shiliang's Temporarily Organized 5th Division. The 18th Army in particular inflicted heavy losses on the Japanese forces during the Battle of Shipai, achieving a major victory. Fighting continued until early June, and the Japanese army failed to achieve its objective of heavily damaging the main Central Army forces of the Sixth War Zone or breaking through the Shipai stronghold, the essential route for an advance on Chongqing. This made subsequent Japanese operations increasingly passive, and the Western Hubei Campaign concluded with a Nationalist victory [21].

In 1943, Chen Cheng was ordered by Chiang Kai-shek to go to Yunnan to reorganize the army and establish the Expeditionary Force. During this period, Huang Wei, commander of the 54th Army, quarreled with Guan Linzheng, Commander-in-Chief of the Ninth Group Army, due to disputes over allegations against the 54th Army and reductions in its logistical allocations. However, Guan Linzheng and Du Yuming were both members of He Yingqin's Whampoa faction. As a result, Chen Cheng could only temporarily transfer Huang Wei away, and Fang Tian succeeded him as army commander [20].

In November, the Battle of Changde broke out, and Chen Cheng led his forces into battle. During the campaign, Luo Guangwen's 18th Army, Fang Jing's 66th Army, Liu Jimin's 75th Army, Wang Jiaben's 79th Army, and Peng Shiliang's Temporarily Organized 5th Division fought under the Sixth War Zone, while Liang Hanming's 99th Army fought under Xue Yue's Ninth War Zone. On November 8, the Japanese army concentrated a large amount of artillery and personnel to attack the Shimen stronghold of Changde. Peng Shiliang, commander of the Temporarily Organized 5th Division of the 73rd Army, led his troops in a steadfast

defense for six days and nights. On the morning of the 15th, Peng Shiliang gathered the few remaining troops and attempted to break out toward the western outskirts of Shimen in an effort to recapture a position to establish a foothold. When they reached the area near Yanmankou south of Xin'an, Japanese aircraft conducted low-altitude reconnaissance and carried out bombing and strafing attacks. Peng Shiliang fell amid the rubble, struck by multiple bullets. Despite being severely wounded, he continued to shout orders to attack. His conduct was widely remembered as exemplary among officers and soldiers present. Lieutenant General Peng Shiliang, commander of the Temporarily Organized 5th Division, was killed in the action [22]. From 15 to 25 November, forces of the Ninth War Zone held on with great difficulty. Liang Hanming, commander of the 99th Army, requested assistance from Chen Cheng, who immediately ordered Guo Chan to lead the River Defense Forces and *TuMuXi* units to reinforce the Ninth War Zone on the 25th. The two sides continued fighting until 12 December, with Changde changing hands repeatedly. The defending 57th Division of the 74th Army under Yu Chengwan vowed never to retreat. It was not until the 13th that Yu Chengwan led a small group of close followers in a breakout. The Nationalist forces then took the opportunity to execute flanking maneuvers along both banks of the river to encircle the Japanese army.

Japanese forces hastily withdrew under mounting pressure. After receiving pursuit orders on the 13th, units of the Sixth War Zone discovered that the Japanese had halted along the Lishui River line and adopted a defensive posture. The campaign thus came to an end. During the battle, *TuMuXi* units played a prominent role in the fighting and constituted a key component of the Central Army's combat strength.

In early 1944, the Fourth Battle of Changsha broke out. However, all Nationalist forces displayed signs of decline. The River Defense Forces' 94th Army failed in its defense, allowing the Japanese to exploit the weakness and penetrate the lines. The campaign ended in a Nationalist defeat.

In September 1944, the Battle of Hengyang broke out. Wang Jiaben received orders to independently lead the 79th Army to protect the flank of the 10th Army defending Hengyang. On August 8, the defending forces of Hengyang under Fang Xianjue's 10th Army exhausted their ammunition and provisions and surrendered, and Hengyang ultimately fell. Wang Jiaben's forces were ordered to advance southward from the outskirts of Hengyang on a 300-li forced march and deploy defenses near Lengshuitan in an attempt to block the Japanese westward advance and safeguard the strategic rear area of Guangxi. With the strength of two divisions, the 79th Army defended a 50-li frontline and engaged in fierce combat with elements of the Japanese forces advancing in a pincer movement along both sides of the Hunan–Guangxi Railway, killing Watanabe Yoshio, commander of the 3rd Battalion of the 116th Regiment. On September 6, Army Commander Wang Jiaben personally went to the front and led his headquarters troops into a village in Dong'an County, southern Hunan. At that time, fighting was intense on all fronts, and alarms sounded continuously. At dawn on the 7th, the advance elements of the 79th Army moved forward under the guidance of the headquarters pistol unit, with Wang Jiaben accompanying them to command. When they reached the area around Shangkoupu between Honglusi and Dong'an, they encountered a Japanese flanking cavalry reconnaissance unit. Because the 292nd Regiment of the 98th Division failed to arrive on time, the force initially mistook the enemy for friendly troops and only realized the truth upon close contact. A fierce battle suddenly erupted. All 20 members of the headquarters pistol unit were killed in action, and Wang Jiaben was struck by machine-gun fire, sustaining wounds to his arm and leg. Supported by his aide-de-camp Wu Zhenke, Wang Jiaben withdrew to a slope near Yujiting, where he continued to engage the pursuing Japanese troops in hand-to-hand combat despite his injuries. He was ultimately killed in close combat. When reinforcements arrived, they found Wang Jiaben leaning against the railing of the mountain pavilion, his body covered in knife wounds and both hands bloodied and mangled, clearly the result of grappling barehanded with bladed weapons. Aide-de-camp Wu Zhenke also died on a nearby hillside. Following his death, Chiang Kai-shek and Chen Cheng posthumously promoted Wang Jiaben to Full General of the National Revolutionary Army [23].

At the end of 1944, the Henan–Hunan–Guangxi Campaign subsequently broke out. The First War Zone under Jiang Dingwen lost hundreds of towns in succession, directly enabling the Japanese army to open up the overland transportation route across China. Chen Cheng was urgently transferred by Chiang Kai-shek to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the First War Zone with the rank of full general, as the Nationalist forces faced a severe

strategic crisis.

In 1945, the global anti-fascist alliance entered its final counteroffensive stage. With British and American assistance, the Nationalist forces launched counterattacks. The *TuMuXi* 54th Army achieved notable successes in Burma. The 18th Army, 75th Army, 79th Army, 94th Army, 99th Army, and the Temporarily Organized 2nd Army advanced eastward from the northwest and southwest to recover lost territory, while the 86th Army and the 87th Army advanced northward from the south to reclaim occupied areas.

On 15 August 1945, Japan officially announced its unconditional surrender, and the Second World War came to an end.

Throughout the entire War of Resistance, *TuMuXi* forces long bore the heavy burden of the main front. Their sacrifices and losses cannot be adequately captured by simple dichotomies of “success” or “failure”. From Shanghai and Wuhan to northern Hunan and northern Jiangxi, *TuMuXi* armies were consistently deployed at the most critical points of the front lines. Under conditions of inferiority in manpower, equipment, and air cover, they repeatedly conducted attritional defensive operations and mobile blocking actions, winning invaluable time for the national war effort. Their operational characteristics did not lie in achieving victory through surprise attacks, but rather in delaying Japanese advances through solid defensive positions, layered fortifications, and repeated counterattacks. This “hard-resistance” style of warfare, though extremely costly, effectively tied down the main Japanese forces at the strategic level.

It is particularly noteworthy that the number of general officers killed in action within the *TuMuXi* during the war was extremely rare among all Nationalist factions. Whether army commanders, division commanders, or brigade- and regimental-level officers, many frequently went to the front lines, directly participating in command and even close-quarters combat. The death of General Wang Jiaben stands as one of the most symbolically significant examples. This practice of “generals sharing life and death with their soldiers” on the one hand reflected the limitations of the Nationalist system and command structure, and on the other hand vividly demonstrated the courage and sense of responsibility displayed by the *TuMuXi* during the war. Amid the heavy casualties among mid- and high-ranking commanders, the faction gradually exhausted its own core leadership, laying the groundwork for subsequent changes in the influence of the *TuMuXi* after the war.

During the War of Resistance, the *TuMuXi* was both one of the most heavily relied-upon main forces of the National Government and the faction that paid the heaviest price. It did not necessarily achieve tactical victories in every campaign, but through sustained attrition and steadfast defense, it fulfilled its historical role: supporting the overall national strategy of resistance through sustained organizational commitment.

Looking back over more than a decade of the *TuMuXi*'s development, it becomes evident that this was not only the growth of a military faction, but also the maturation and steadying of Chen Cheng himself. It was the result of the respective efforts of Chen Cheng and the *TuMuXi*, developing through mutual reinforcement and constraint. The *TuMuXi* thus stands as a microcosm of Chen Cheng's own true image.

5. The Inevitable Decline and Demise of *TuMuXi* (1946–1949)

The Fate of TuMuXi Units in the Second Chinese Civil War

After the end of the War of Resistance Against Japan, the Military Affairs Commission of the Kuomintang was dissolved, and the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of China was consequently established, with the Ministry divided into the General Defense Headquarters and the General Staff Headquarters. Chen Cheng was appointed as the General Chief of Staff of the Ministry of National Defense, holding command over the army, navy, and air force, thereby placing him at the center of the Kuomintang's postwar military decision-making structure [24]. *TuMuXi* simultaneously reached the apex of its military influence, exercising control over a broad network of core and semi-controlled formations. The core units consisted primarily of Central Army formations commanded by long-serving *TuMuXi* affiliates. These included, among others, the 14th Army under Yu Jinyuan, the 18th Army under Hu Lien, the 31st Army under Huang Wei, the 54th Army under Que Hanqian, and several rapid-deployment divisions. The semi-controlled units included the 6th Army under Liu Anqi, the 9th Army under Fang Tian, the newly-formed 1st Army under Sun Liren, and the newly-

formed 6th Army under Liao Yaoxiang; these were mostly expeditionary and youth army units. During Chen Cheng and Huo Kuizhang's service in the expeditionary army, they had placed trusted affiliates in key positions, although all unit commanders except Fang Tian were not direct members of *TuMuXi*.

However, Chen Cheng faced immense difficulties during the Second Chinese Civil War. As *TuMuXi*'s influence expanded, Chiang Kai-shek initiated a series of personnel reassignments that effectively diluted the faction's cohesion within the command structure. Luo Zhuoying was transferred to the Beijing administrative office and left idle, Huo Kuizhang resigned due to involvement in the Li Dazhao incident, Huang Wei was politically sidelined after the war, and Fu Zhongfang, Guo Siyuan, and Zhu Dingqing were reassigned to Central Military Officer Training Corps, holding nominal positions without real power. Only Zhou Zhirou retained the post of Chief of the Air Force, and Guo Chan and Lin Wei remained deputy ministers in the Ministry of National Defense. In late 1947, Chen Cheng volunteered for duty in Northeast China; however, with Luo Zhuoying and Huo Kuizhang absent to assist him, military operations repeatedly failed. Du Yuming's Fifth Army and figures associated with the Whampoa faction seized the opportunity to launch political accusations, alleging that Chen Cheng had deliberately undermined Nationalist deployments in Northeast China. Consequently, Chen Cheng lost influence and was reassigned by Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan as Commander of the Garrison and provincial governor until the end of the civil war.

In May 1946, the 14th Army was reorganized into the 10th Reorganized Division, with Yu Jinyuan transferred and Luo Guangwen appointed as division commander. This unit operated mainly in Shanxi, Hebei, Shandong, and Henan, participating in encirclement campaigns against Communist forces. In February 1948, Xiong Shouchun became division commander; in September, it regained its former army designation. The unit participated in the Battle of Xuzhou-Bengbu, and at Shuangduiji, it was destroyed in the combat; its commander Xiong Shouchun was killed. Both divisions of this army were no longer part of *TuMuXi* control [4].

In May 1946, the 18th Army was reorganized into the 11th Reorganized Division, commanded by Hu Lien, operating in Shandong and Henan without major losses. In November 1948, it participated in the Xuzhou-Bengbu campaign, regaining its previous army designation, with Yang Botao as commander. In December, it was annihilated at Shuangduiji, and commander Yang Botao was captured. In January 1949, the unit was reconstituted in Nanjing under Guo Rugui. In January 1950, Gao Kuiyuan became commander in Taiwan [4].

In August 1945, the 31st Army was disbanded, and Huang Wei was transferred to the Ministry of National Defense as a Lieutenant General senior advisor [4].

From 1945 to early 1947, the 54th Army operated in Shandong and the Jiaodong Peninsula. In July 1947, it was reorganized into the 54th Reorganized Division under Que Hanqian, participating in the Jiaodong Campaign. In January 1948, the 54th and 35th Reorganized Divisions temporarily exchanged designations. In March, the 54th Reorganized Division restored its original designation, with Que Hanqian leading reinforcements to Northeast China. In November, it participated in the Xuzhou-Bengbu Campaign. In early 1949, the 54th Army took part in the Crossing of the Yangtze River Campaign and in May participated in the Battle of Songhu, later transported by sea to Taiwan [4].

At the end of 1945, the 66th Army was stationed in the Henan-Hubei border region for anti-bandit operations. In May 1946, it was reorganized into the 66th Reorganized Division, with Song Ruike as commander. In February 1947, it took part in operations in northern Henan; in July, it fought in southwestern Shandong and was annihilated at Yangshanjie, commander Song Ruike captured. In September 1947, the division was reconstituted in Shangqiu under Li Zhongxin. In March 1948, it regained its army designation, and in June, it was annihilated in the Kaifeng Campaign, with commander Li Zhongxin killed. In July, it was rebuilt. In early 1949, it participated in the Crossing of the Yangtze River Campaign; by the end of April, the army headquarters and the 13th Division were mostly destroyed in southern Anhui, with commander Luo Xianda captured, and the remnants pushed to Fujian. In July, the 66th Army headquarters, 13th Division, and 185th Division were abolished [4].

In early 1946, the 75th Army participated in intercepting Communist forces in central China. In June, it was reorganized into the 75th Reorganized Division; in August, it cleared Daxiongshan, with commander Liu Jiming resigning, replaced by Shen Chengnian. By early 1948, the division fought in Shandong and Henan and was

annihilated at Suixian, with commander Shen Chengnian captured. After rebuilding in July, it left *TuMuXi* control [4].

In early 1946, the 79th Army was assigned garrison duty in Sichuan, reorganized into the 79th Reorganized Division in May under the Xichang Garrison Command, with Fang Jing as division commander. This unit performed long-term garrison duties and did not participate in encirclement campaigns. In July 1948, it was transferred under the Xi'an Pacification Headquarters in the Guanzhong region, and in November to the Central China Pacification Headquarters, stationed in Shashi. In February 1949, during withdrawal, the army headquarters and the 98th Division were annihilated in Jingmen, and Fang Jing was captured. After rebuilding in July, it left *TuMuXi* control [4].

In 1946, the 94th Army was transferred to North China, stationed along the Pinghan Railway for encirclement operations. In February 1947, Zhu Dingqing left, replaced by Zheng Tingfeng. In January 1949, Zhu Jingmin became commander, and the army was restructured during the peaceful surrender in Beijing [4].

In 1945, the 98th Army headquarters was established in Fujian, with Duan Linmao as commander, operating mainly in Shandong. In May 1946, it was reorganized into the 57th Reorganized Division, with Duan Linmao as division commander. In August 1947, it was annihilated at Shatuzhi, and Duan Linmao was captured. In October, the division was reconstituted, with *TuMuXi*'s "Thirteen Tiger Guards" member Liu Jinchu as division commander. In March 1948, it was under Xi'an Pacification Headquarters; in October, it restored its army designation, and in December, Liu Jinchu led the army headquarters in the uprising at Zitong, with the two divisions rebelling separately in Chengdu and Tongguan [4].

In May 1946, the 99th Army was reorganized into the 69th Reorganized Division. In August, part of the 60th Division and most of the 92nd Division were annihilated at Chaoyangji, and Liang Hanming was transferred, replaced by Dai Zhiqi under Chiang Ching-kuo's youth faction. The 99th Army left *TuMuXi* control [4].

The defeat of *TuMuXi* was not the result of a single day's events, but a consequence of multiple interwoven factors. First, the expansion of the faction provoked Chiang Kai-shek's suspicion; a dynamic long noted in Chinese political discourse, in which concentrated military success invited suspicion from the supreme leadership. From the late stages of the war, *TuMuXi* controlled multiple elite units, with Chen Cheng holding military and political authority across the army, navy, air force, and administrative systems. To consolidate his dictatorship, Chiang naturally moved to restrain and disperse the faction's power, fragmenting its command system during the civil war. Second, tactical rigidity prevented adaptation to changing forms of warfare. *TuMuXi* rose within the framework of conventional warfare, excelling in positional defense and layered resistance during the War of Resistance; however, this operational model proved ill-suited to the civil war, in which Communist forces emphasized maneuver, dispersion, and avoidance of fixed engagements. *TuMuXi* commanders remained constrained by doctrinal habits formed during the War of Resistance, relying on positional defense and firepower, neglecting mobility and intelligence assessment, resulting in repeated entrapments such as the Shuangduiji encirclement during the Xuzhou-Bengbu Campaign and the Yangshanjie defeat in southwestern Shandong. Third, the faction's internal foundations weakened, with talent gaps. *TuMuXi* lost many senior officers in the War of Resistance; although replacements were appointed, most lacked battlefield experience or faction loyalty. With Chiang Kai-shek deliberately dividing the leadership, core members were either transferred or sidelined, weakening cohesion among the "Four Great Generals" and the "Thirteen Tiger Guards". Fourth, losing the support of the people meant losing the state. The Kuomintang regime became increasingly corrupt post-war, overtaxing the population. *TuMuXi*, as the elite force, though valiant in the War of Resistance, became increasingly associated with coercive state power, which eroded civilian support and undermined its legitimacy. In contrast, the Communist forces adhered to strict discipline and conduct, amplifying *TuMuXi*'s disadvantage.

6. Conclusions

The rise and fall of *TuMuXi* mirrors the broader turbulence of Republican China. Emerging from Baoding and Whampoa, flourishing amid Central Plains conflicts, reaching its peak in the War of Resistance, and declining in the civil war, it experienced over two decades of military and political fluctuations. Its rise owed

much to Chen Cheng’s competence and loyalty, and to the core officers’ unity and bravery, taking responsibility on critical battlefronts and sacrificing in organized formations to uphold the nation. Battles such as the defense of Songhu, the struggle in Wuhan, and the victory at Shipai highlight the valor and dedication of *TuMuXi*, contributing crucial time to China’s national defense. Its decline, however, resulted from factional limitations: reliance on an authoritarian regime, inflexible tactics, prioritization of factional interests over the broader strategic picture, and loss of popular support.

The demise of *TuMuXi* was not merely the collapse of a military faction, but also indicative of the breakdown of China’s feudal military system and authoritarian rule. Its legacy demonstrates that military strength depends not only on equipment and numbers but also on alignment with historical currents. The experience of *TuMuXi* suggests that military effectiveness is inseparable from political legitimacy and strategic adaptability. Its trajectory offers a revealing case for understanding the structural limits of factional power in Republican China. The achievements and failures of *TuMuXi* remain an important reference for evaluating this turbulent era.

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Conflicts of Interest

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Appendix A

Table A1. List of major generals from the Kuomintang “TuMuxi”.

Surname and Personal Name	Year of Birth and Death	Last Position before Going to Taiwan or Defeat in 1950	Final Result
Chen Cheng	1898–1965	Taiwanese Admiral, Commander-in-Chief of the Garrison Forces, Director of the Southeast Military and Political Affairs Office	Overwork leads to death in Taiwan
Zhou Zhirou	1899–1986	Admiral Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force, Ministry of Defense	Died in Taiwan
Luo Zhuoying	1896–1961	Lieutenant General of the Southeast Military and Political Command, with the additional title of General Commissioner	Died in Taiwan
Lin Wei	1889–1995	Deputy Director of the General Staff of the Southeast Military and Political Command	Died in Taiwan

Table A1. Cont.

Surname and Personal Name	Year of Birth and Death	Last Position before Going to Taiwan or Defeat in 1950	Final Result
Guo Chan	1893–1950	The position of Lieutenant General in the Southeast Military and Political Command Office, along with the additional roles of Deputy Commander and Director of the Zhoushan Command	Died in Taiwan
Fang Tian	1902–1991	Lieutenant General Member of the Central China Military and Political Command	Died in Taiwan
Liu Yunhan	1910–1981	General of the 19th Army, 12th Corps, South China Pacification Commission	Died in Taiwan
Luo Zekai	1905–1981	Commander of the 37th Army, Songhu Defense Command, Beijing-Shanghai-Hangzhou Garrison Command	Died in Taiwan
Yang Yekong	1914–?	Major General, Commander of the 14th Division, 18th Army	Died in Taiwan
Shi Zuhuang	1905–?	Major General, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief of Defence Staff	Died in Hong Kong
Lü Wenzhen	1904–1984	Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Logistics Command	After evacuating from Beijing, he secretly contacted the underground Communist Party and died in Macau.
Zhao Guisen	1906–1980	Major General, Fourth Department of the Ministry of Defense	Died in Taiwan
Guo Rugui	1907–1997	Commander-in-Chief of the 22nd Corps and General of the 72nd Army, Southwest Military and Political Administration	The secret underground party of the Communist Party of China led the uprising in November 1949 and died on the mainland
Liu Jincheng	1904–1988	General of the 98th Army, 7th Corps, Xi'an Pacification Commission	In November 1949, he led his troops in an uprising and died on the mainland.
Che Fanru	1910–?	Chief of Staff, Guizhou Suijing Public Office	Died in Taiwan
Hong Maoxiang	1908–?	Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense	Died in Taiwan
Li Zhongxin	1912–1948	The commander of the 66th Division, a major general	He was killed in action during the Battle of Kaifeng in 1948.
Wu Zhongzhi	1905–1974	General of the 75th Army	Died in Taiwan
Huang Wei	1904–1989	General Commander of the 12th Corps, General Headquarters for the Suppression of Bandits in Xuzhou	Xu Beng was defeated and captured in the Battle of Xuzhou-Bengbu, and died on the mainland.
Xia Chuzhong	1904–1988	General Commander of the 21st Reorganized Army	He was dismissed from his post and sent to Hong Kong in 1948, returned to Taiwan in 1951, and died there.

Table A1. Cont.

Surname and Personal Name	Year of Birth and Death	Last Position before Going to Taiwan or Defeat in 1950	Final Result
Xiao Qian	1901–1935	The newly appointed Lieutenant General of the 10th Division	Drowned during a military transfer in 1935
Guo Siyuan	1899–1965	Members of the Lieutenant General's Department of the Ministry of Defense	Died in Taiwan
Fu Zhongfang	1895–1963	Brigadier General, Chief of Staff, Joint Logistics Command	Died in Taiwan
Li Shusen	1898–1964	Member of the Central Committee of the Kuomintang's Youth League	Died in Taiwan
Li Shuzheng	1914–1991	General of the 80th Army, Hainan Defense Command	Died in Taiwan
Huo Kuizhang	1902–1953	The General of the Pacification Bureau in the Hunan-Hubei-Sichuan Border Region was promoted to Commander-in-Chief.	Died in Taiwan
Zou Hong	1897–1945	The Commander-in-Chief of the Guangdong-Guangxi Border Region	Died in Northern Guangdong in 1945 due to overwork-induced illness
Fang Jing	1901–1990	Deputy Director of the Pacification Administration in the Hunan-Hubei-Sichuan Border Region and Commander of the 79th Army	Captured in Jingmen in 1949 and died on the mainland in 1990.
Wang Jiaben	1901–1944	General of the 79th Army, 10th Group Army, 6th War Zone	He was killed in action in the Battle of Changheng in 1944.
Mou Tingfang	1904–1953	Commander-in-Chief of the Tianjin Garrison Command and Lieutenant General of the 94th Army	He was dismissed from his post and sent to Hong Kong in 1947, where he died in 1953.
Song Ruike	1908–1995	The commander of the 66th Division, a major general	Captured during the 1947 Battle of Southwest Shandong, he passed away in mainland China in 1995.
Hu Lian	1907–1977	Admiral Commander-in-Chief of the Kinmen Defense Command	Died in Taiwan
Luo Guangwen	1905–1956	Commander-in-Chief of the 15th Corps and General of the 108th Army	He died on the mainland in 1949 during the Xindu Uprising in Sichuan.

Table A1. Cont.

Surname and Personal Name	Year of Birth and Death	Last Position before Going to Taiwan or Defeat in 1950	Final Result
Quan Huanqian	1902–1972	Commander-in-Chief of the Pudong Corps and Lieutenant General of the 54th Army	Died in Taiwan
Zhu Dingqing	1902–1982	General Commander of the Third Corps, Southwest Military and Political Administration	In December 1949, he led a rebellion in Jintang, Sichuan, and died on the mainland.
Luo Youlun	1912–1994	Deputy Commander of the Shenyang Defense Forces and General of the 6th Army, under the Northeast Anti-Bandit General Command	Died in Taiwan
Shen Fazao	1904–1973	General Commander of the 4th Corps, Central China Military and Political Administration	Died in Taiwan
Chen Lie	1902–1940	General of the 54th Army, 15th Army Group	Died of illness in 1940
Yang Wenquan	1905–1973	General Commander of the 72nd Army, Second Corps, Xuzhou Command, General Staff of the Army	Captured during the Battle of Tai'an in 1947 and died on the mainland.
Qiu Xingxiang	1908–1996	The 206th Reorganized Youth Division also served as the Commander-in-Chief of Luoyang City Defense.	Captured during the Battle of Luoyang in 1948 and died on the mainland.
Yu Jinyuan	1904–1951	General of the 72nd Army, directly under the Xuzhou General Headquarters	In 1948, he surrendered to the authorities in Chengguangzhuang with his troops. In 1951, he was wrongly executed by firing squad. In 1984, his wrongful conviction was rectified.
Ryu Jiming	1899–1976	Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Zhoushan Defense Force	Died in Taiwan
Peng Shiliang	1904–1943	The 73rd Army's Provisional 5th Division was commanded by a Lieutenant General.	He died heroically in the battle of west Hubei and north Hunan in 1943
Gao Guiyuan	1907–2012	General of the 18th Army	Died in Taiwan
Li Shilin	1898–1958	Commander of the 101st Division, General Headquarters for the Northern China Anti-Bandit Campaign	He died on the mainland in 1949 during the Beiping Uprising.

Table A1. Cont.

Surname and Personal Name	Year of Birth and Death	Last Position before Going to Taiwan or Defeat in 1950	Final Result
Mo Yushuo	1903–1947	Special Envoy of the Guangzhou Military Administration Department, Ministry of National Defense	In 1947, he was executed for embezzlement.
Mei Chunhua	1904–1944	Chief of Staff of the 18th Army, Lieutenant General	In 1944, he was executed for embezzlement.
Peng Shan	1902–2000	General Commander of the Wuhan Garrison Command	Died in Taiwan
Yin Zuogan	1890–1954	Deputy Commander of the 2nd Army of the Central China Pacification Headquarters and Commander of the Yichang Garrison Command	Resigned in 1949 and returned home, was wrongly executed in 1952, and rehabilitated in 1984.

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