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RECORD OF OPERATIONS  
AGAINST SOVIET RUSSIA,  
EASTERN FRONT  
(AUGUST 1945)

PREPARED BY  
MILITARY HISTORY SECTION  
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY FORCES FAR EAST

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RECORD OF OPERATIONS AGAINST SOVIET RUSSIA,

EASTERN FRONT (AUGUST 1945)

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                  (9-15 August 1945)

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#### NB

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## Preface to Monograph No 154

Monograph No 138, which preceded this monograph, dealt with the preparations of the Kwantung Army in Manchuria for operations against the Soviet Union. This monograph (No 154) as well as its sequel (No 155) deal with actual operations.

Monograph No 154, except for the first chapter which covers operations of the Kwantung Army throughout Manchuria, deals exclusively with the eastern front under the jurisdiction of the First Area Army. It covers preparation for operations as well as the operations themselves.

This monograph actually consists of eleven monographs. Aside from the Kwantung Army and the First Area Army, the units covered are Third Army, Fifth Army, the following divisions: 79th, 127th, 124th, 126th, 135th, 128th, and the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade. The monograph is the product of twelve former officers in the Japanese Army. All served in Manchuria during the brief war that lasted from 9 August to 15 August 1945, all were taken captive by the Soviets, and all were subsequently repatriated to Japan.

Each of the contributing authors has dealt with his subject separately, following a prescribed outline, and providing as much detail as was available to him through notes or memory. Naturally, the quantity of detail varies with each author. The burdensome repetition inevitable in accounts of operations in the same area and under the same command characterized the original translation. In eliminating much of this repetition, the editor felt that to excise too much would run the risk of denying to the historian and military student the different points of view presented by each author. Furthermore, the editor recognized that when the historian can get confirmation of statements from different sources, he feels freer and more confident in assessing facts and in condensing his material.

The consultants who assisted the editor believe that the monograph is the best that could be compiled from the source material now available. Its weaknesses are that it was compiled mostly from the notes of a limited number of participants, supplemented by their memories. Furthermore, no participants other than the authors checked the manuscript (a weakness partially remedied in editing), and many of the leading participants, still in captivity, were unable to express their views. The outstanding omissions in the monograph are accounts of the operations of the 134th Division in Chiamussu and of the 112th Division; no survivors of these two operations were available

for the preparation of these accounts, although 112th Division operations are partly covered in the section on the 79th Division.

In a sense this monograph had to be almost completely re-written. It must be remembered that the losing side during military operations is always too preoccupied with tactical matters to devote much attention to the preparation of records. From such circumstances very little precision writing can be expected. Hence, although voluminous, the monograph had many omissions. Gaps had to be filled, inconsistencies reconciled and, where the author jumped headlong into a subject, prefatory notes had to be inserted by the editor. Still, the historian will not find all the answers here. For example, in view of the short duration of operations in Manchuria, the editor felt that the time element was of great importance. But the time is often missing. Instead, such generalities as "morning," or "early evening" occur. Nevertheless, enough information is provided to give the reader a fairly accurate picture of what took place. Furthermore, the editor has attempted to retain Japanese mentality throughout the monograph.

The original Japanese monograph, written between 1949 and 1951 by the Japanese former Army officer whose names appear at the beginning of each sub-monograph, was prepared under the supervision of the Report and Statistical Division of the 1st (Army) Demobilization Bureau in Tokyo at the direction of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. The untranslated manuscript was turned over to the Army Translator Intelligence Service on 29 May 1951. The translated manuscript was edited early in 1954 by the Military History Section, Headquarters Army Forces Far East. Assistance to the editor was provided by ex-Colonel Muraji Yano and ex-Lieutenant Colonel Ko Takahashi.

The wide range of map scales used in this monograph was dictated by the fact the sub-monographs deal with organizations vastly different in size. For an over-all picture of Kwantung Army operations on all fronts in Manchuria a scale of 1/9,000,000 was used; for the operations of two regiments near Yehho on the eastern front a scale of 1/100,000 was used. Intermediate size maps were used for the area army, armies, divisions, and smaller units.

If one lesson stands out above all others in this monograph it is that the best antitank weapon is a tank. Japanese attempts to stop Soviet tanks with suicide squads, though heroic, were futile. Their lack of adequate antitank defenses left them at the mercy of Soviets tanks.

6 April 1954

Monograph No 154-A

CHAPTER I

Kwantung Army Operations in Manchuria<sup>1</sup>  
(9-15 August 1945)

Preliminaries to Invasion

During May 1945 the Intelligence Section of Kwantung Army Headquarters, reporting on the Soviet build-up along the border, estimated that war with the Soviets during 1945 was unlikely. Nevertheless, it recommended close surveillance of Soviet actions particularly after August 1945.

On 14 June Kwantung Army Headquarters furnished each area army and army under its direct command with a copy of the outline of its new operational plan calling for delaying operations on all fronts, and set the latter part of September as the deadline for the completion of major preparations.<sup>2</sup> The fact was, however, that the completion of necessary preparations in 1945 was impossible and, in view of the growing tension caused by Soviet preparations, Kwantung

---

1. The information in this chapter about the over-all operations of the Kwantung Army was furnished by the following former staff officers of Kwantung Army Headquarters: Lt Col Genichiro Arinuma (air), and Major Kyoji Takasugi (operations).

2. Kwantung Army Headquarters had earlier notified each major subordinate command of the new plan, informally during March 1945 and officially during May. The major subordinate commands were First and Third Area Armies and the Fourth and Thirty-fourth Armies (the latter was transferred to Kwantung Army, from China on 17 June 1945). The other armies were under one of the area armies--the Third and Fifth under the First Area Army, and the Thirtieth (established 31 July 1945) and Forty-fourth under the Third Area Army. (A Japanese army is equivalent to a US corps; a Japanese area army is equivalent to a US army.)

Army leaders could not help but feel impatient and uneasy.

Following the Potsdam Conference in July, the Intelligence Section amended its May estimate. The possibility of war with the USSR in the early fall, it stated, was extremely great.

By late July the Soviets had virtually completed the build-up of ground combat troops in eastern Siberia. Thereafter they accelerated the build-up of aircraft and antiaircraft gun units. Intelligence concluded from this that the Soviet Army would be capable of attacking Manchuria during August.

Meanwhile, border incidents occurred with increasing frequency. Toward midnight on 6 August, one company of Soviet troops crossed the eastern Manchurian border near Kanhsiatur (south of Hutou) and attacked a lookout position there. Fifth Army was alerted. But Soviet troops withdrew on the following night and the incident ended without mishap. From the brazenly provocative attitude displayed by the Soviets during this incident, Kwantung Army Intelligence concluded that hostilities were close at hand. The scale of the incident convinced Intelligence that it was more than a simple reconnaissance. Kwantung Army Headquarters instructed all commands to give increased attention to surveillance along the borders.

The army areas and armies, however, regarded this latest incident merely as a prolongation of the earlier series of incidents and felt that with prudence and patience it would pass without difficulties. (See Monograph 138, pp 82-87.)

None of them drew the conclusion that the opening of hostilities was imminent. Hence, they did not take adequate emergency measures to meet the situation.

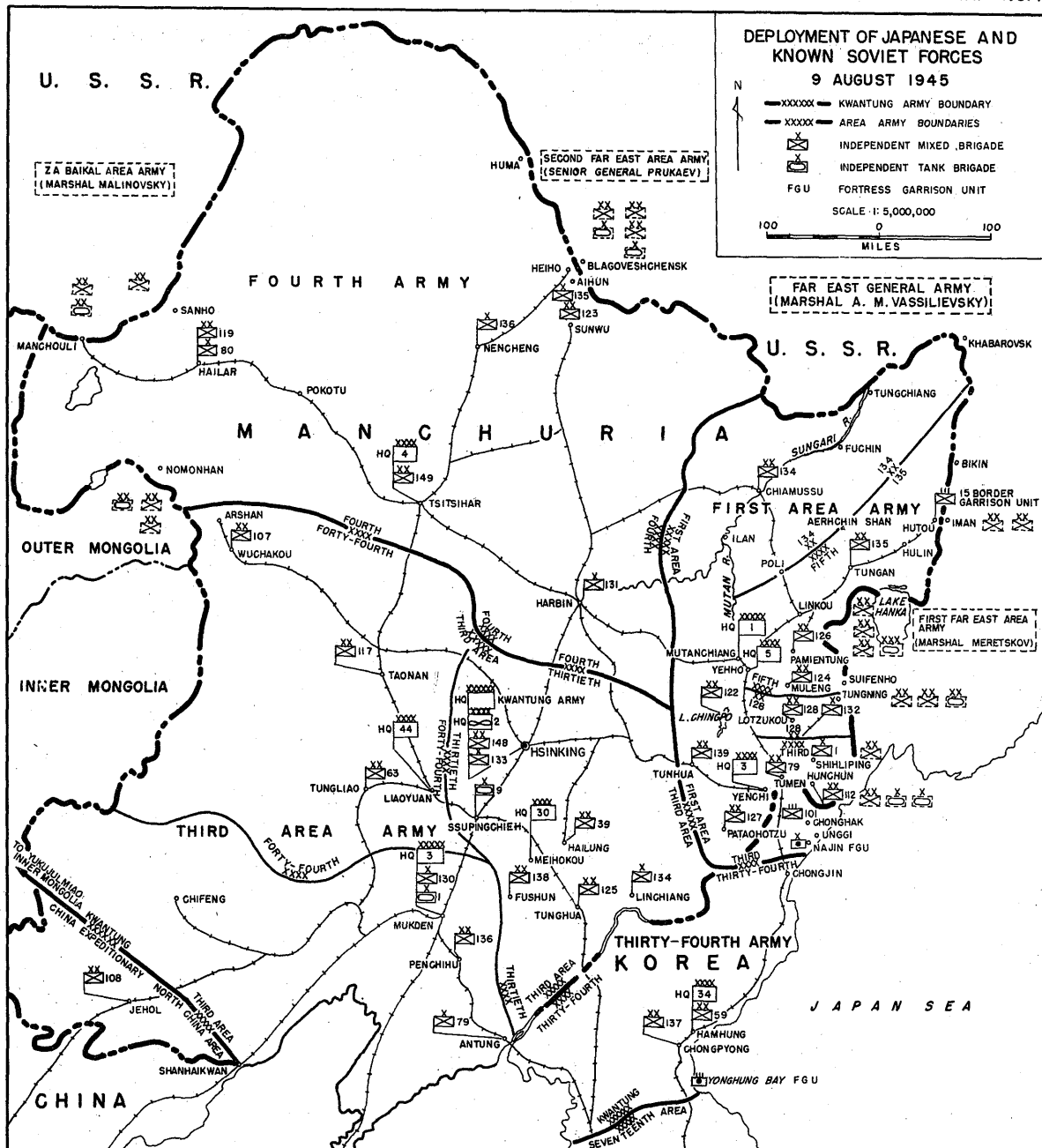
Kwantung Army Headquarters, however, felt the growing tension sharply and cautioned the Commander in Chief against taking a scheduled trip to Dairen. He refused to cancel the trip, however, and departed Hsinking on the 8th.

First Reports of the Soviet Invasion (See Map No 1.)

At about 0100 hours on 9 August, a telephone report from the First Area Army stated: "The enemy in front of Tungning and Suifenho has launched an attack," and then, "the city of Mutanchiang is being bombed by the enemy."

These reports came in to a Headquarters which for years, pursuant to Japan's national policy of maintaining peace with the USSR, had sought not only to prevent war but to prevent border disputes as well. Standing orders of the Kwantung Army strictly forbade untoward acts in the border areas. Frontline commanders, frequently admonished to localize incidents instigated by the Soviets, were submitting these reports. It became necessary, therefore, for Kwantung Army Headquarters first to remove these restrictions and cautions and second to direct commanders to offer resistance.

At about 0130 hours Hsinking, site of Kwantung Army Headquarters, and Kuanchengtzu, a suburb to the north of the city, were bombed by several enemy planes. Members of Kwantung Army Headquarters hurried



to their offices. At 0200, although it had not as yet received official instructions that a state of war existed, Headquarters issued the following order:

The enemy on the eastern front has launched an attack. All area armies, armies, and units under the direct command of Kwantung Army will immediately check the enemy advance in the border areas, and will prepare for war in all other areas.

Following these preliminary reports, which were confined to the eastern front, word was received from other areas making it clear that Soviet armed forces had launched an all-out offensive on all fronts. At 0400 Kwantung Army radios monitoring Moscow broadcasts picked up a Tass Agency report stating that the Soviet Union had declared war on Japan as of 1700, 8 August, Moscow time (0000, 9 August, Tokyo time).<sup>3</sup>

If there had been any doubt up to this time of the nature and extent of the hostile acts reported by the various fronts, it was completely dispelled by the Tass announcement. At 0600, Kwantung Army Headquarters, although it had still not received official notification of a state of war, placed emergency measures into effect: it ordered all commands to comply with the plan for carrying out delaying operations, and placed into immediate effect the Wartime

---

3. The Japanese use of 0000 (instead of 0001) to signify the beginning of the day takes into account the one-minute lapse between 2400 and 0001.

Defense Regulations, and the Manchukuo Defense Regulations.<sup>4</sup> At the same time it rescinded the Guide for the Defense of the Manchukuoan-Soviet-Mongolian Border, drawn up in August 1944 to prevent the spread of border incidents.<sup>5</sup>

Placing into effect the 30 May 1945 plan for delaying operations was the signal for the Second Air Army to search for and attack enemy armored units on the western front, to conduct strategic reconnaissances on the eastern front, and to assign some "direct-cooperation" planes to the First and Third Area Armies and the Fourth Army. Another matter clarified by placing the plan into effect was that control of line of communications units and supply depots would shift from the Kwantung Army Headquarters to the area armies or armies in whose areas they were located.

In view of the danger that Hsinking might again be bombed after dawn, Kwantung Army Headquarters ordered its command post removed to Nanling, a southeast suburb.<sup>6</sup> In the evening, however, when General Yamada returned from Dairen, he went direct to the Hsinking head-

---

4. The Wartime Defense Regulations outlined emergency measures to be taken at the outbreak of hostilities, such as added protection for key communications centers, railroads, and reservoirs. The Manchukuoan Defense Regulations empowered the Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army to assume control of Manchukuoan Army troops, and also to assume limited control over the civil administration.

5. The Guide for the Defense of the Manchukuoan-Soviet-Mongolian Border had been adopted following the Wuchiatzu and Mongoshile Incidents. These incidents are described in Monograph 138.

6. This emergency command post had been constructed in 1942. It had fallen into disrepair, however, and was found unsuitable at this time. It was closed on 10 August mainly because of poor communication facilities.



quarters.

In Tokyo, meanwhile, Imperial General Headquarters first learned of the existence of hostilities from the Domei News Agency which had picked up the Tass 0400 broadcast. Kwantung Army Headquarters transmitted word of the Soviet attack to Imperial General Headquarters, including the action it had taken, but the latter did not receive the message until after it learned of the Tass broadcast.<sup>7</sup>

In view of the Kwantung Army report and the Tass broadcast, Imperial General Headquarters issued emergency orders to commanders of all theaters involved. Besides the Kwantung Army in Manchuria, these included the Seventeenth Area Army in Korea, the China Expeditionary Army, the Fifth Area Army in Hokkaido, and homeland armies. These orders, the first issued by Imperial General Headquarters after the Soviet attack, were signed by the Emperor early in the afternoon of the 9th and transmitted promptly. The text follows:<sup>8</sup>

The Soviet Union declared war on Japan and launched attacks at several places along the Soviet-Japanese and Soviet-Manchukuoan border at 0000, 9 August. However, the scale of these attacks is not large.

---

7. When Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo was aroused from sleep to be given the news of the Soviet invasion he expressed complete astonishment in view of the fact that the Soviets knew that Japan was then considering whether to accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration. The formal note of a declaration of war was not handed to the foreign minister until 1115, 10 August by Ambassador Jacob Malik.

8. IGH ADO No 1374, 9 Aug 45. (Soviet-Japanese border here means the border in Sakhalin.)

Imperial General Headquarters will make immediate preparations for all-out military operations against the Soviet Union, while checking the enemy's advance with troops stationed in the border areas.

The Seventeenth Area Army will enter the order of battle of the Kwantung Army, the transfer to be effective at 0600 hours on 10 August.

The Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army will immediately prepare to carry out all-out military operations against the Soviet Union; using troops stationed in the border areas he will check the enemy's advance for the time being. The principles to be followed in these operations are: the Kwantung Army will direct its major operation against the Soviet Union in such a manner so as to defend the Japanese territory of Korea; meanwhile, a minimum number of troops required to check a US invasion will be stationed in the South Korea area.

The Commander in Chief of the China Expeditionary Army will immediately make preparations to transfer a part of his troops and munitions to the South Manchuria area, while checking a possible Soviet invasion of his own area of responsibility utilizing troops stationed there.

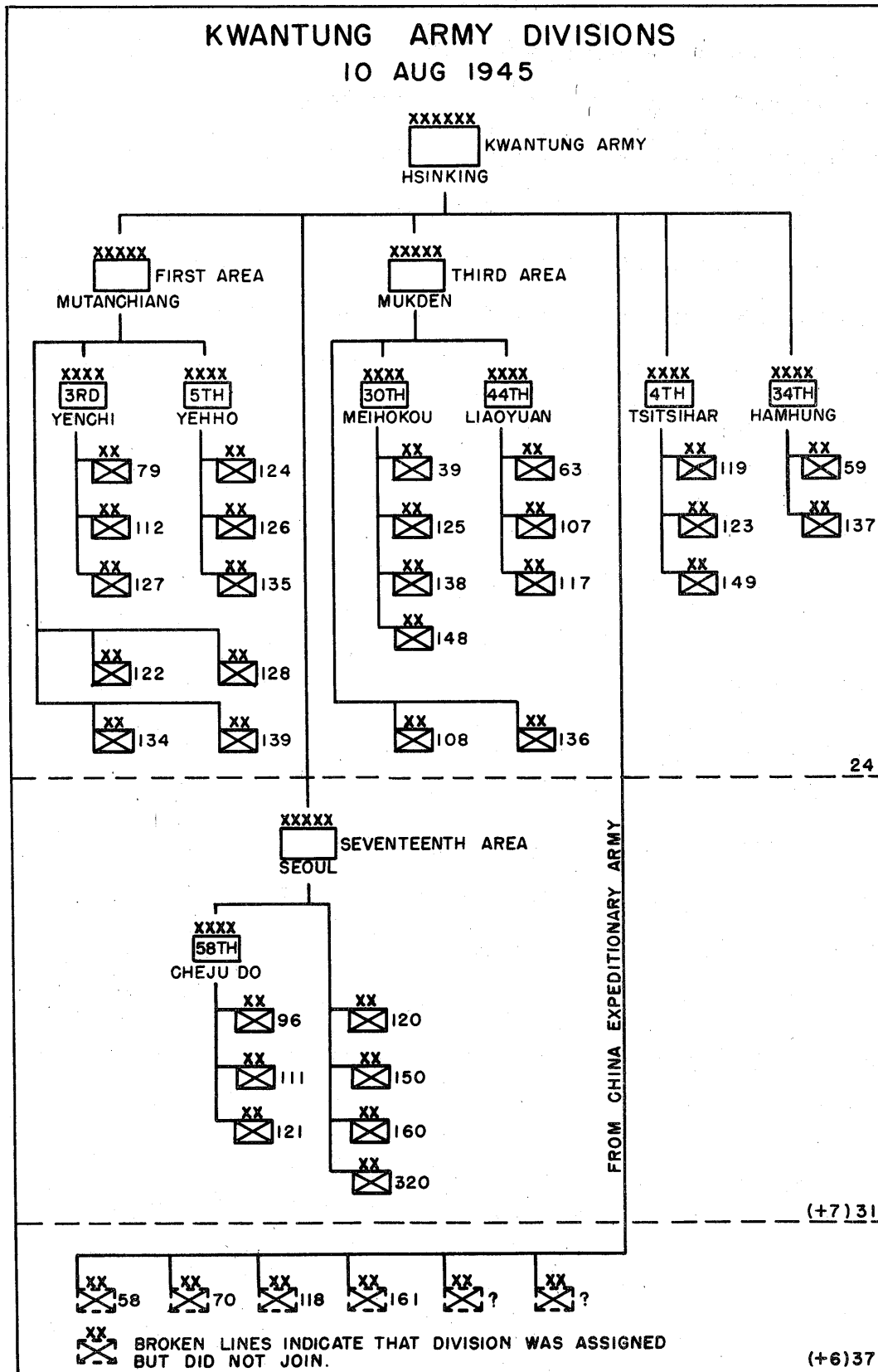
The demarcation line of the operational area between the Kwantung Army and the China Expeditionary Army is as follows: Shanhaikwan, Tachengtzu, the eastern end of Lake Taerhhu, and the Yukujuru Mausoleum. The area falling on the boundary line shall be under the jurisdiction of the China Expeditionary Army.

The Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army will place under the command of the Commander in Chief of the China Expeditionary Army all units stationed in the area newly assigned to the China Expeditionary Army.

This order had the effect of changing the primary mission of the Kwantung Army to one of defending "the Japanese territory of Korea." The object of placing the Seventeenth Area Army under the

# KWANTUNG ARMY DIVISIONS

10 AUG 1945



24

(+7) 31

(+6) 37

Kwantung Army was to establish a unified structure for the conduct of operations in Manchuria and Korea. By this action the Kwantung Army acquired the seven divisions of the Seventeenth Area Army, bringing to thirty-one the number of divisions under its control.

The units which the China Expeditionary Army was to transfer to South Manchuria under the Kwantung Army were one army headquarters, about six divisions and six brigades. (The munitions mentioned in the order consisted principally of ammunition for the divisions to be transferred.) These additions, had they been actually effected, would have given the Kwantung Army a total of thirty-seven divisions. (See Chart No 1.) In addition to these orders, Imperial General Headquarters directed the Commander in Chief of the Fifth Area Army to make immediate preparations for all-out military operations against the Soviet Union and, meanwhile, to resist enemy attacks.

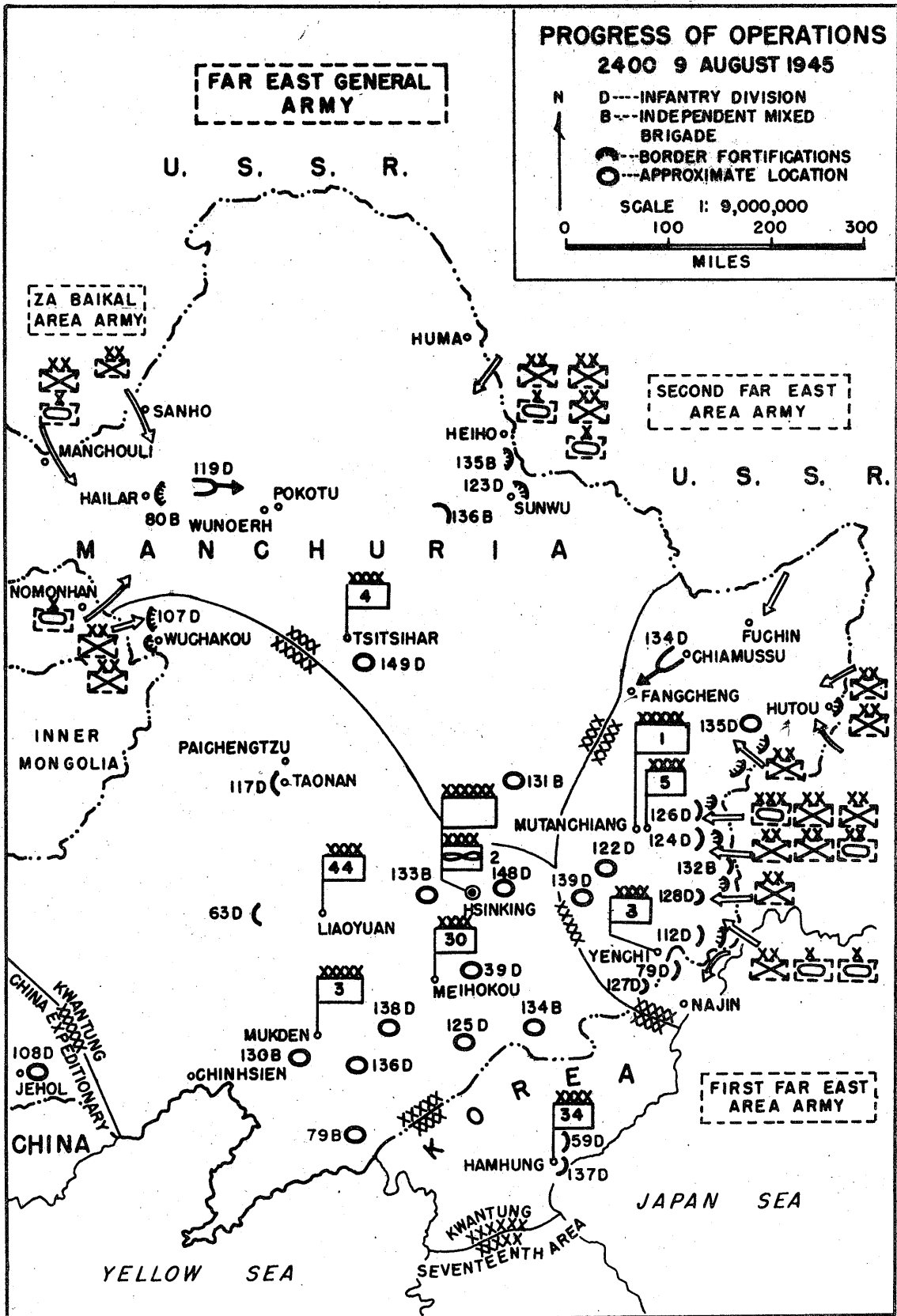
#### First Estimate of the Situation

From reports received from various fronts, Kwantung Army General Headquarters on the evening of the 9th was able to piece together the situation on the eastern, northern, northwestern, and southwestern fronts, and in the north Korea area. (See Map No 2.)

In the north Korea area, the enemy had opened hostilities by shelling the Wuchiatzu positions, following through with small scale attacks.

The main force of the enemy on the eastern border was attacking between Pingyangchen and Tungning (in front of Fifth Army and the

**MAP NO. 2**



128th Division.)<sup>9</sup> The Soviet force attacking this front was estimated at the time to be three infantry Divisions, and between two and three armored brigades, although later the estimated number of infantry divisions was revised upward to five, and the number of armored brigades to five. The enemy facing the Third Army in the southern sector was not active as yet. In the northern sector, the 134th Division at Chiamussu was withdrawing toward Fangcheng as planned, having set fire to Japanese houses in the city. Several border observation units seemed to have been totally destroyed while defending their assigned posts. Conditions in the Hutou area remained unknown.

On the northern front an enemy force of undetermined strength crossed the Amur River south of Huma. No enemy troops were observed crossing the river in the Heiho or Sunwu areas, however, where the initial attack was expected, and our troops there seemed to be launching operational actions in comparatively good order. The enemy force in this area was estimated to be three infantry divisions and two armored brigades. Hailar, which on the morning on the 9th had been bombed heavily by enemy planes, by evening had become the objective of enemy tanks rushing from the Sanho, Manchouli and Nomonhan areas. The 80th Independent Mixed Brigade was ordered by the 119th Division to defend the positions at Hailar as planned. The 119th Division itself began leaving Hailar by train in the morning for Wunoerh, and

---

9. By a pre-arranged plan, the 128th Division had come under the direct control of the First Area Army at the outbreak of hostilities. At the same time, the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade was assigned to the 128th Division.

the last train departed in the evening when enemy tanks were in the outskirts of Hailar. Conditions in the Manchouli area remained unknown.

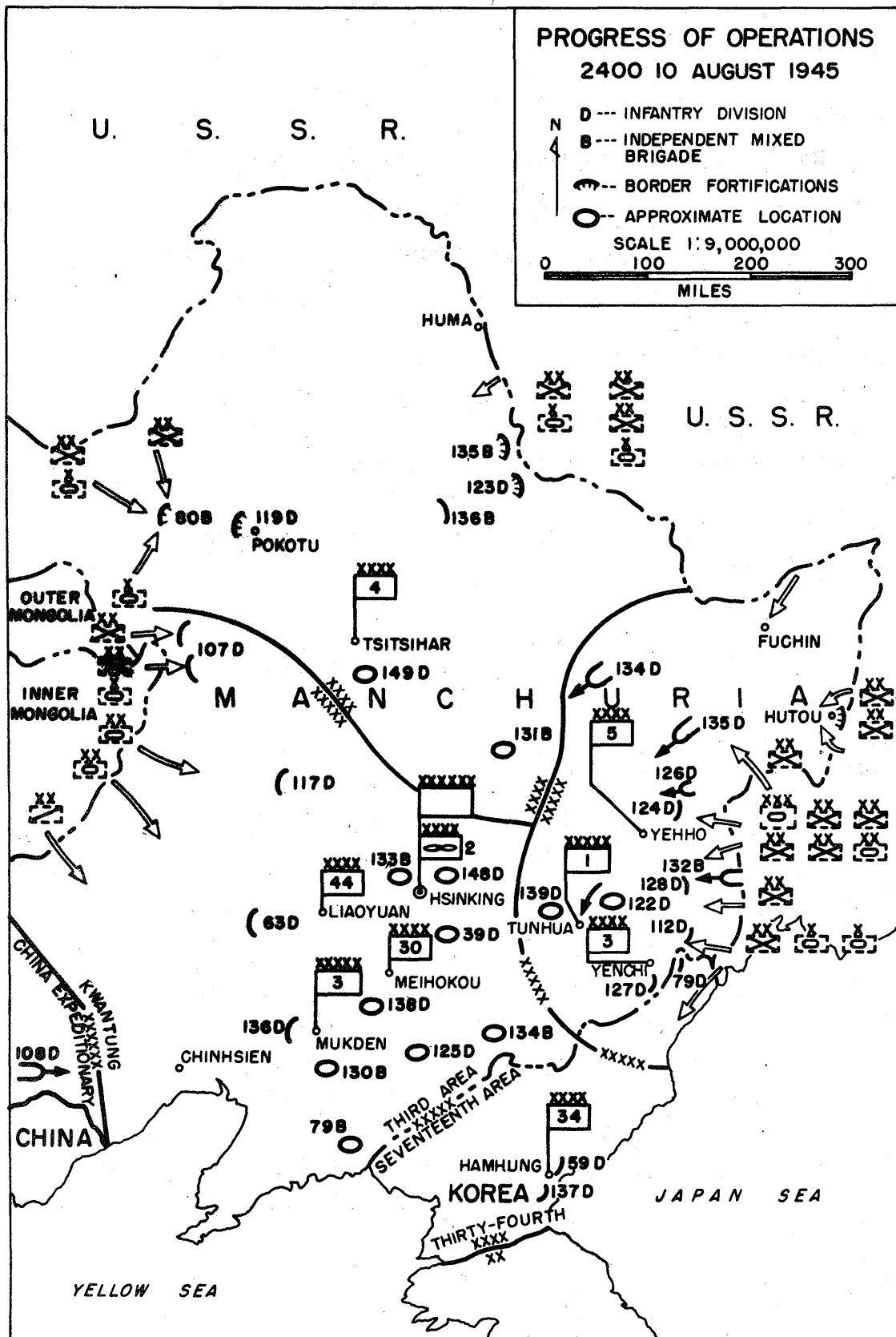
Reports from the western front indicated that the enemy was attacking Wuchakou. However, no confirmation of these reports could be obtained since reconnaissance planes sent to this area on the 9th had not yet returned. On the 10th, observation planes located a powerful enemy armored unit which had crossed the border and was advancing eastward in the direction of Paichengtzu. Our air force could not attack this column on the 10th because of incomplete preparations.

The southwestern front had not yet been attacked. In this sector, however, the redeployment of the 108th Division began according to plan. One regiment passed to the control of the China Expeditionary Army, while the remainder of the division prepared to concentrate in the Chihnsien area. (See Map No 3)

#### Change in Plan for the Western Front

The Kwantung Army's plan for operations on the western front was to occupy important points (chiefly towns, villages, and natural obstacles) on the enemy's anticipated route of advance and, with air support, to delay the enemy. This was to be accomplished by establishing guerrilla positions in depth and by conducting continuous large-scale attacks against enemy armored units.

General Jun Ushiroku, Commander of the Third Area Army, was





opposed to this plan.<sup>10</sup> First, his Forty-fourth Army was not prepared for guerrilla warfare: the 63d and 117th Divisions which composed this Army had only recently arrived from the China area where their experience consisted principally of offensive-type operations. Second, Kwantung Army's plan requiring the dispersal of troops over a wide area far to the west would mean committing troops in small numbers and would result, General Ushiroku felt, in their piecemeal destruction. Furthermore, General Ushiroku did not wish to leave the approximately 1,100,000 Japanese residents along the Dairen-Hsinking line to their fate, nor did he believe that withdrawing both military and civilian personnel to the redoubt was practicable from the standpoint of housing or supply.

General Ushiroku therefore recommended that the Forty-fourth Army be pulled back to the line of the Dairen-Hsinking Railway, stationing the main force at Mukden with elements at Hsinking, and counterattacking after the enemy had extended his supply lines to the limit. On the morning of 10th, General Ushiroku acting independently ordered the Forty-fourth Army to withdraw to the Dairen-Hsinking line, and advised Kwantung Army Headquarters of this action.

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10. General Ushiroku was a classmate of Premier Tojo at the military academy. When Tojo was chief of the Army General Staff in 1944 he created the position of 1st Deputy to the Chief of the Army General Staff, superimposing it on the long-standing position of Deputy Chief of the Army General Staff. The newly created position was given to General Ushiroku. (During November 1953, when this monograph was being edited, word was received in Japan that General Ushiroku was scheduled for early repatriation by the Soviets.)

Confronted with this illegal order, Kwantung Army Headquarters promptly held a staff conference, during which the following opinions were voiced: a sudden change in pre-arranged plans would inevitably cause confusion; an attempt to counterattack after the withdrawal would end in failure if the enemy's advance were rapid; the early abandonment of forward airfields would allow the enemy to advance at will. To most conferees, General Ushiroku's decision appeared to strike a fatal blow to the Kwantung Army Headquarters' over-all direction of operations. However, since the Forty-fourth Army had already begun the withdrawal ordered by General Ushiroku, Kwantung Army Headquarters was confronted with a fait accompli, and therefore upheld the decision of the Third Area Army Commander. This action was approved by General Yamada.

On 10 August, Imperial General Headquarters followed up its orders of the preceding day by announcing to the Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army that:<sup>11</sup>

The plan of Imperial General Headquarters is to bring about a successful completion of the war against the United States, its main enemy, and at the same time to destroy the Soviet Army by launching all-out military operations against the Soviet Union to frustrate its inordinate ambition and thus preserve our national polity and protect Imperial territory. The Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army will direct his main operation against the Soviet Union and will protect Korea by destroying the invading enemy everywhere.

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11. ADO No 1378, 10 Aug 45. This order was signed by the Emperor on the morning of the 10th.

This order was followed by a directive the same day authorizing General Yamada to transfer his headquarters to other areas within his zone of operation at any time to keep pace with the progress of operations.<sup>12</sup>

At the same time, Imperial General Headquarters ordered the Commander in Chief of the China Expeditionary Army (General Yasuji Okamura) "to carry out a protracted war against the US, the Soviet Union, and China, thereby contributing toward the operations of the whole army on the mainland." Operations against the Soviet Union, it informed General Okamura, would have the object of facilitating in every way the operations of the Kwantung Army in South Manchuria and North Korea. In this connection he was instructed to send troops and munitions to these areas as quickly as possible.

#### Transfer of General Headquarters

On 11 August the Intelligence Section, reporting on the tactical situation, stated that enemy armored units in the west were making an unexpectedly swift advance and could be expected to arrive in Hsinking on the 14th or 15th. Standing plans called for the transfer of General Headquarters to Tunghua, approximately forty miles from the Korea border, immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities with the Soviets. By 11 August, reconnaissance and field investigation of the Tunghua area and (also of the Linchiang area) which

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12. AD No 2539, 10 Aug 45 (p 186, Imperial General Headquarters Army Directives, Vol III, hereafter referred to as IGH AD Vol III).

was to be the site of the final stand, had been completed. General Headquarters therefore ordered the transfer to begin. The entire headquarters except for the general staff and other essential personnel was directed to move by rail on the 12th.<sup>13</sup>

The transfer to Tunghua, however, did not mean that Hsinking was to be abandoned. This city was the capital of Manchukuo, and had many strong buildings suitable for street fighting. General Ushiroku, in connection with his plan to defend the Dairen-Hsinking line, on the morning of the 10th pulled the Thirtieth Army Headquarters out of the redoubt area and ordered it to move to Hsinking to direct its defense. He also ordered several tactical units to move to Hsinking to support the 148th Division there.

On the evening of the 11th, the Intelligence Section summarized the progress of operations on the various fronts. An enemy force of approximately brigade size had carried out an amphibious assault against Najin in northern Korea, and was advancing southward. On the eastern front proper the enemy's strength was estimated to be eight infantry divisions and four to five tank brigades; in the Fifth Army sector the enemy had advanced to positions near Muleng after destroying our advance forces in the border area; in the northern sector, an enemy unit proceeding up the Sungari River was attacking our garrison unit in the Fuchin area; the Third Army area had been

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13. The Emperor of Manchukuo together with the ministers of the Manchukuoan Government had left for Linchiang by train on the 10th, escorted by the Kempei-tai Training Unit of the Kwantung Army. Vice ministers and other officials, however, remained in Hsinking.

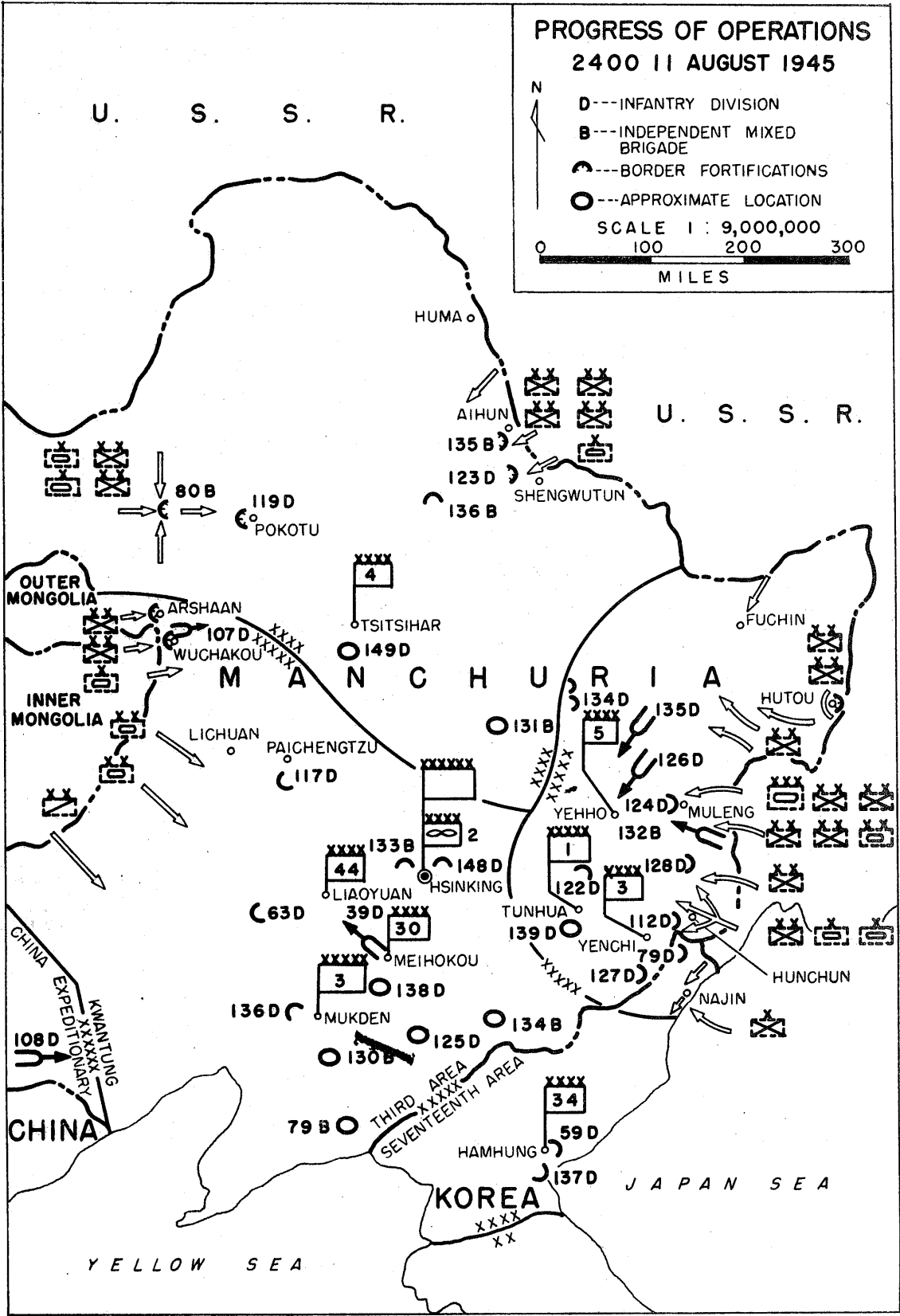
penetrated and the enemy was occupying a hill west of Hunchun in front of the 112th Division. The First Area Army Headquarters had moved to Tunhua on the preceeding night. On the northern front the enemy had crossed the river near Aihun and near Shengwutun, but had not yet launched a full-scale attack. No report was received from Hailar because of the interruption of communications with the 80th Independent Mixed Brigade. On the western front, enemy armored columns had reached a speed of 100 kilometers a day, and leading elements were approaching Lichuan. The 107th Division had withdrawn from the Wuchakou area and was engaged in close fighting with enemy armored units south of the Paichengtzu-Arshaan railway line. (See Map No 4)

#### Situation on 12 August

By 12 August problems confronting the Kwantung Army began to mount. General Yamada feared that the counterattack which General Ushiroku had decided to launch from the Dairen-Hsinking line might develop into a decisive battle there, completely upsetting the over-all plan for Kwantung Army operations. On this basis, he made several appeals to General Ushiroku to reconsider, but the latter remained adamant.

Meanwhile, General Yamada flew to the new headquarters at Tunghua in company with his deputy chief of staff and his operations chief. The Intelligence Section remained in Hsinking because communications in the Tunghua headquarters were not adequate for its operations. The Civil Affairs (Fourth) Section also remained in

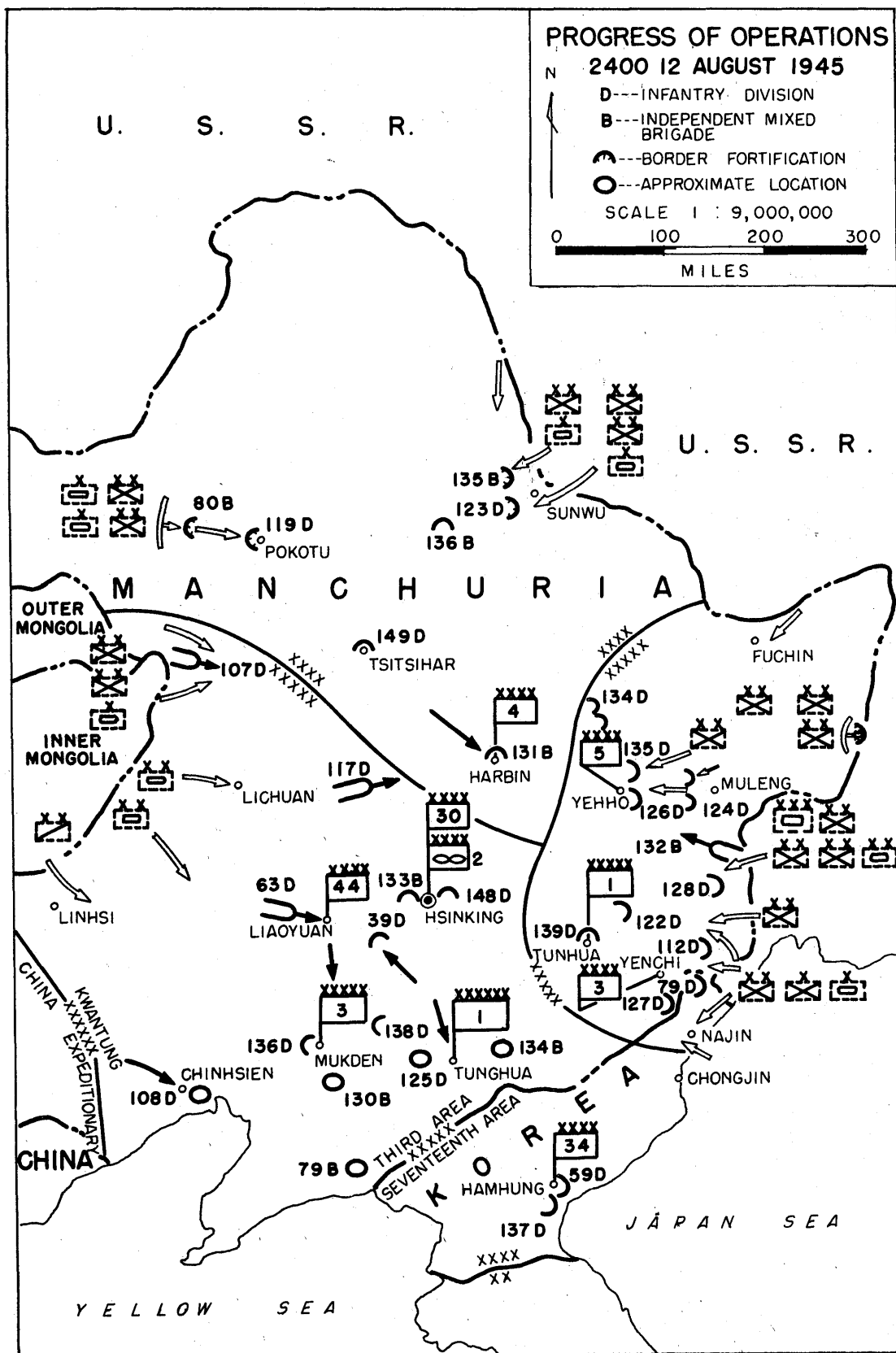
MONOGRAPH NO.154-A  
MAP NO.4



Hsinking and continued liaison activities with the Manchukuoan vice ministers. On the evening of the 12th, the commander and key staff officers of the Thirtieth Army arrived in Hsinking to direct the defense of that city.

The Intelligence Section's estimate of the tactical situation on the evening of the 12th was substantially as follows. On the eastern front, although reports were fragmentary, it appeared that the Fifth Army was engaged in a fierce battle at the Muleng positions. On the northern front the situation remained unchanged in the Sunwu area; in the Pokotu area, where the 119th Division was in position, the enemy had not yet commenced his attack. On the western front the speed of the enemy armored column advancing toward Lichuan was slowed down by the Second Air Army whose 15th Independent Air Brigade had attacked the armored unit in the Linhsi area while its 101st Air Training Brigade was striking in the Lichuan area. Altogether, fifty-six planes were flown and succeeded in destroying twenty-seven guns and forty-two vehicles. (See Map No 5)

The drive of the enemy armored columns in the west was hampering the evacuation of Japanese nationals. On the 10th Kwantung Army had asked the Manchukuoan Government to evacuate Japanese residents in Hsinking and vicinity and directed the Continental Railway Command to place ten trains at its disposal, scheduling the first train to leave Hsinking that day. The Manchukuoan Government found it quite impossible to carry out the withdrawal promptly, however, and





was able to transport only the families of officers and civilians attached to the army. These families had to flee with only a few hours notice and with practically only the clothes they wore on their backs. On the 12th, there was a great deal of confusion in Hsinking. The advance of the enemy armored columns and the withdrawal of the main force of the Forty-fourth Army, together with the evacuation of the capital by Kwantung Army General Headquarters and the arrival of the first refugee trains with Japanese evacuees from the west border areas spread alarm among the local residents, many of whom promptly rushed to the crowded train station.

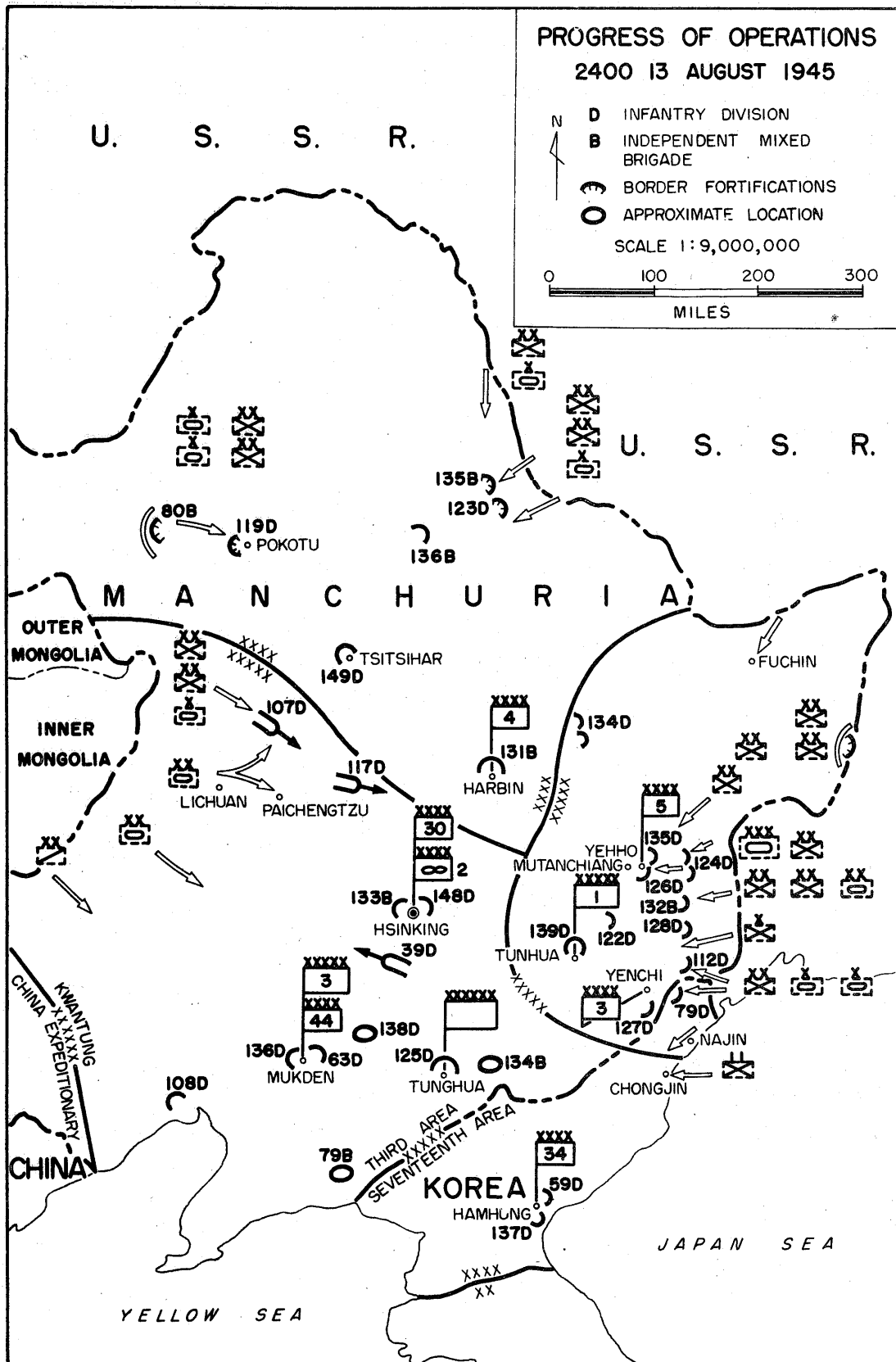
Compared with the enemy advance in the west, his advance in the north against the Fourth Army was relatively slow. The arbitrary decision of General Ushiroku to make the Hsinking-Mukden area the major battlefield meant that a counterattack structure had to be established there. The Thirtieth Army which at first had been designated as a counterattack force in the Meihokou area in the redoubt, had already advance to Hsinking as ordered and was preparing to defend the capital. In consequence of these moves, Fourth Army Headquarters, which on the night of the 10th had been ordered to fall back from Tsitsihar to Harbin, was now ordered by Kwantung Army to withdraw to Meihokou to take up the positions left vacant by the Thirtieth Army's removal. In the southwest the main body of the 108th Division assembled at Chihhsien and established contact with the Third Area Army.

The situation on the 13th was as follows. At about noon the enemy carried out a second amphibious operation, this time at Chongjin where a battalion-size infantry unit made an assault landing. On the eastern front, Mutanchiang was shelled by enemy tanks. On the northern front an enemy force in the Hailar area advanced to the front of the outpost positions of the 119th Division. On the western front, only one element of the 101st Air Training Brigade sallied forth on this day, owing to bad weather, and the enemy armored column which had been slowed down in the vicinity of Lichuan resumed its advance and was approaching the Paichengtzu area. On the following day, however, air strikes were resumed and resulted in damage to forty-three armored vehicles. (See Map No 6.)

On 14 August a Kwantung Army staff officer was sent to Mukden to urge General Ushiroku to reconsider his determination to wage a decisive battle along the Dairen-Hsinking line. The staff officer pointed out that General Yamada, while upholding the arbitrary order, felt that the consequences of it might jeopardize the over-all operations of the Kwantung Army. General Ushiroku, swallowing bitter tears, responded that he would submit to the opinion of the Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army. As a result Third Area Army Headquarters began formulating a new plan providing for a withdrawal toward the Hunjen area, a plan which because of the abrupt end of the war was never carried out.

On the 14th, the tactical situation on all fronts became critical. In the afternoon the Manchurian News Agency reported that the war might shortly be terminated and that an important announcement

MONOGRAPH NO. 154-A  
MAP NO. 6



would be broadcast at noon on the following day. In the evening, General Yamada, accompanied by his deputy chief of staff and important staff officers, returned to Hsinking from Tunghua. Third Area Army Headquarters, meanwhile, misunderstanding a message from Tunghua, had issued orders to cease hostilities; later in the day, however, on the advice of Kwantung Army General Headquarters, it rescinded the order.

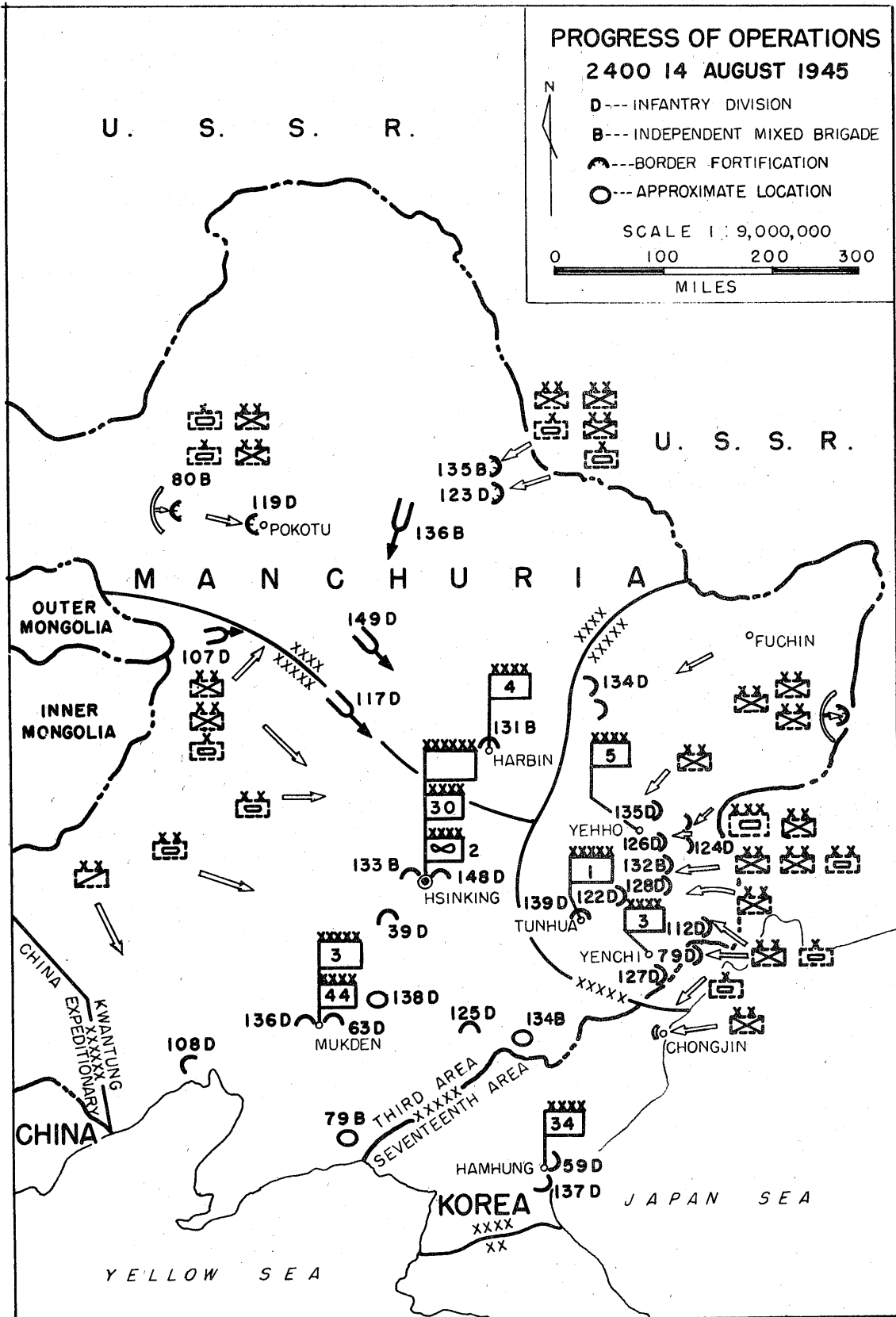
On the night of the 14th the enemy followed up the earlier amphibious operation at Chongjin by landing approximately one infantry division. This was the third enemy amphibious operation along the north Korea coast. (See Map No 7)

#### The War Ends

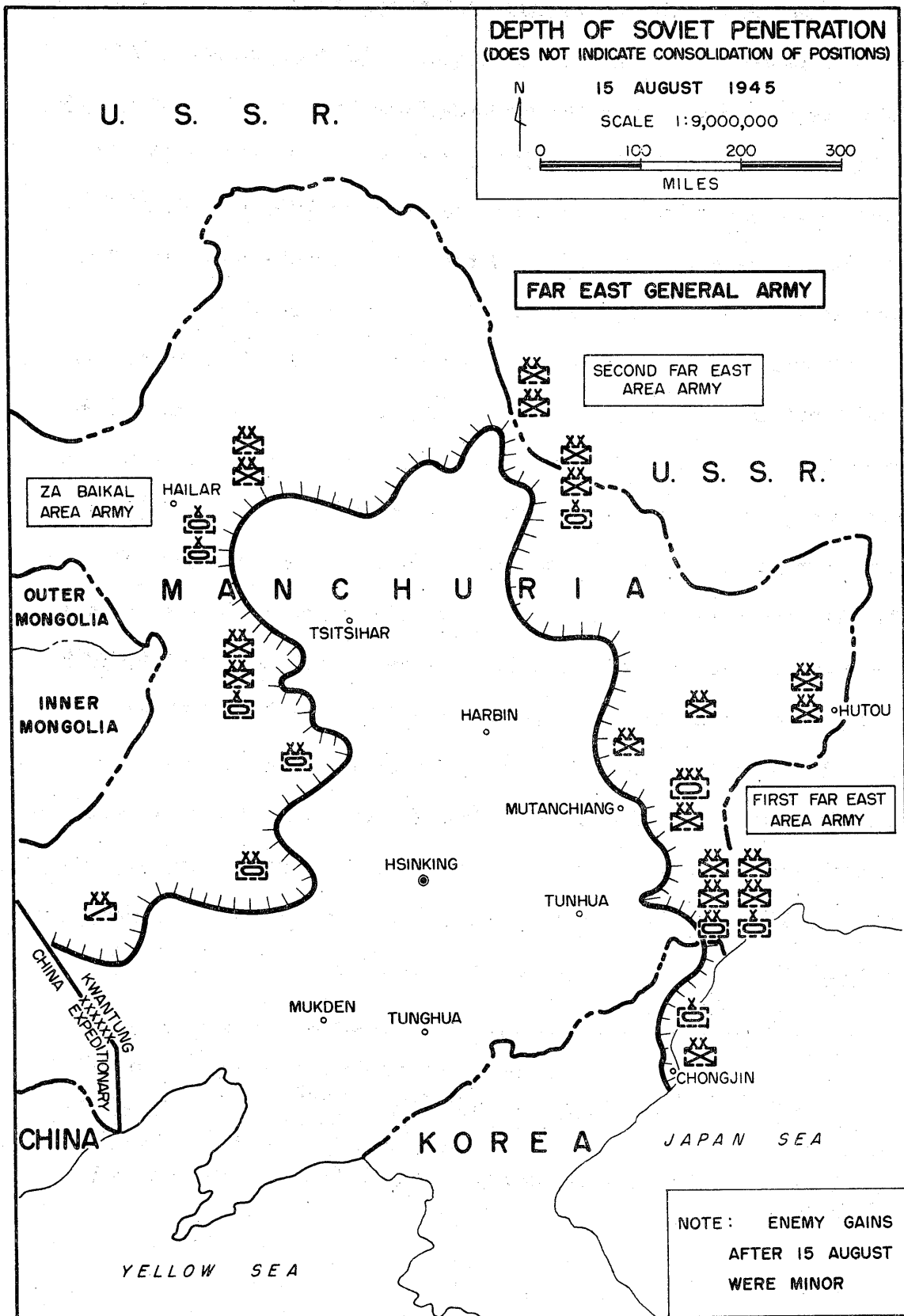
At noon on the 15th, Kwantung Army Headquarters listened to the Emperor broadcasting the Imperial Rescript Terminating the War. Staff officers still at Tunghua promptly began to depart for Hsinking by air, while other personnel entrained for the capital.

Meanwhile, during the morning of the 15th, the Second Air Army carried out thirty-nine sorties against enemy armored and air units in the Paichengtzu area, damaging three planes and 135 vehicles. After receiving the Imperial Rescript, however, it withheld further assaults. (See Maps No 8 and No 9.)

By the 16th no cease-fire order had been received from Imperial General Headquarters in Tokyo. Having heard the Imperial Rescript, however, Kwantung Army Headquarters was in a dilemma. A staff conference was held to discuss possible courses of action. The majority of the conferees felt that we should offer resistance to the last ditch, win or lose, thus leaving in the hearts of the people a flame to be kindled in the future for the reconstruction of our nation.







On the other hand, some staff officers, including the chief of the Operations Division of the Operations (First) Section, Colonel Teigo Kusaji, opined that since things had come to this end and since the Imperial Rescript had already been issued terminating the war, they had no alternative but to obey the Rescript respectfully.<sup>14</sup> As for the reconstruction of Japan, these officers declared, that was a matter which only future policies could realize.

A grave discussion ensued, both factions adhering stoutly to their opinions for a long time. Finally, the deadlock was broken when the Chief of Staff, General Hikosaburo Hata, with hot tears in his eyes, ruled: "We the military men have no alternative if we are to retain our loyalty but to obey the command issued by His Majesty the Emperor. Those who disobey the Imperial Rescript will be branded traitors for all time. Therefore, those who stubbornly insist upon continuing the operations of the Kwantung Army may do so only after killing us." The Commander in Chief, in obedience to His Majesty's wishes, also decided to exert every effort to terminate hostilities. In this way, the policy of the Kwantung Army was settled.

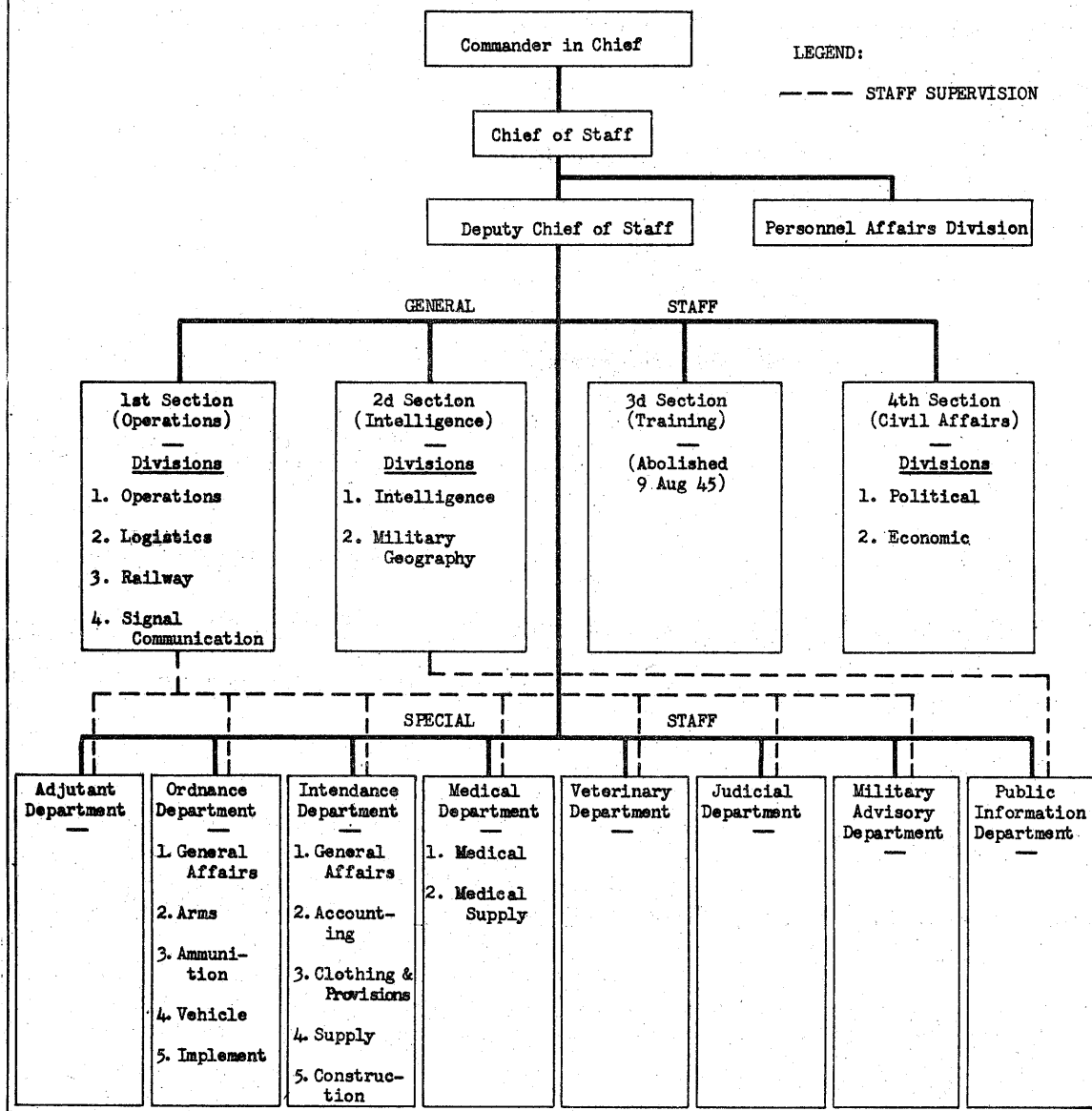
On 17 August, His Imperial Highness Prince Tsunenori Takeda, on behalf of His Majesty the Emperor, flew from Tokyo to Hsinking to

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14. The Operations Section of Kwantung Army Headquarters was divided into four divisions--operations, logistics, railway, and signal communication. Other sections of the Headquarters were: Intelligence (Second), Training (Third), and Civil Affairs (Fourth). See Chart No 2 for Organizational Chart of Kwantung Army General Headquarters.



**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, KWANTUNG ARMY  
AUGUST 1945**



MONOGRAPH NO. 154-A  
CHART NO. 2

deliver a message to the Army pertaining to the Imperial Rescript.<sup>15</sup>  
The message was ready by Prince Takeda in a ceremony held at Kwantung  
Army General Headquarters

Imperial General Headquarters orders to terminate "active  
offensive operations," though issued on the 15th, were not received  
by Kwantung Army Headquarters until the 17th. The orders, addressed  
to all major theater commanders, stated:<sup>16</sup>

Imperial General Headquarters intends to carry out  
completely the purport of the Imperial Rescript of  
14 August.

All armies will continue their present mission until  
further orders. Active offensive operations, how-  
ever, will cease. Strict military discipline and  
strong esprit will be maintained in order to insure  
coordinated action.

Every effort will be made in the homeland, Sakhalin,  
Korea, and Formosa to prevent disturbances of the  
public peace.

On the same day, Kwantung Army Headquarters also received  
Imperial General Headquarters Army Department Order No 1382, dated  
16 August 1945, which directed all army commanders to cease hostili-  
ties immediately and to report the time of the cessation. This

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15. A lieutenant colonel, Prince Takeda had served with Kwantung  
Army Headquarters as assistant operations officer until March 1945  
when he was transferred to Imperial General Headquarters.

16. Though read by the Emperor at 1200 on 15 August, the Imperi-  
al Rescript was signed by the Emperor at 2300 on 14 August, was im-  
mediately transmitted to the four major powers, through the Swiss,  
and normally carries that date. See ADO No 1381, 15 Aug 45.

order did not, however, cancel operational missions. It stipulated that the cessation did not apply to unavoidable acts of hostilities carried out in self-defense during enemy attacks made before the completion of armistice negotiations.

Also received on the 17th was Army Directive No 2544, dated 16 August, which stated:

The Commander in Chief, Kwantung Army, is authorized to conduct on-the-spot negotiations for armistice with the Russian Army, and to surrender arms and equipment.

Similar orders issued to the Commander in Chief of the China Expeditionary Army and the Commander of the Fifth Area Army directed them to maintain liaison with the Kwantung Army regarding negotiations with the Russian Army.

On 18 August the chiefs of staff of the First Area Army, the Third Area Army, the Fourth Army, the Second Air Army, and Seventeenth Area Army were called to Hsinking to be informed of His Majesty's wishes, and were given Kwantung Army's orders relating to the cease-fire and disarmament.

On the same day, the Kwantung Army Chief of Staff, accompanied by several staff officers, flew to the advance command post of General Headquarters of the Soviet Far East Army at Zharkovo in compliance with a demand transmitted through the Soviet Consul-General in Harbin. There they held an interview with Marshal A.M. Vassilievsky, supreme commander of the Far East Army. After conferring on procedures

for disarmament, protection of Japanese nationals in Manchuria, and other related matters, they returned to Hsinking.

Meanwhile, Kwantung Army Headquarters made extensive efforts to transmit to its subordinate commands as much information as it had on the termination of hostilities and disarmament, using all possible means of communications. It was hampered in these efforts by the wide dispersal of its forces and also because Soviet troops while disarming our units failed to observe the standards of discipline agreed upon at Supreme Headquarters of the Soviet Army.

#### Cancellation of Operational Missions

On 18 August Imperial General Headquarters advised the Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army together with other army commanders that at a time to be announced later all operational missions were cancelled and all military actions were to cease. At the same time, it cautioned that:<sup>17</sup>

None of the Japanese Army personnel and civilian employees coming under the control of enemy forces after the promulgation of the Imperial Rescript will be considered prisoners of war. All subordinates down to the last private will be immediately cautioned against rash actions and will be made to realize the necessity for fortitude with a view to the future prosperity of Japan.

On the 19th, Imperial General Headquarters announced the effective date for the cancellation of missions and the cessation of military actions in the Kwantung Army as 0000, 25 August 1945.<sup>18</sup>

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17. IGH ADO 1385, 18 Aug 45. (P 238, Vol III).

18. For homeland areas the time set was 0000, 22 Aug 45.

On the same day, a delegation of the Soviet Army arrived at Hsinking and directed Kwantung Army Headquarters to assemble in the suburb north of Hsinking all Japanese forces in the general vicinity, and to disarm all troops. The Soviet delegation also forbade the Japanese forces to use any means of communication. At this point, General Headquarters of the Kwantung Army ceased to function. Late in the day Major General Tomokatsu Matsumura, the Kwantung Army deputy chief of staff, together with several staff officers went to GHQ Far East Army by Soviet airplane.

In Hsinking, the buildings of the Kwantung Army General Headquarters were taken over by the Soviet Army. In order to maintain liaison with the Soviet Army, several staff officers, including the Chief of the Intelligence Section, retained space in the western building. Personnel of the General Headquarters were moved to the office of the Resident Naval Officer.

Severed communications prevented Kwantung Army Headquarters from transmitting the cease-fire order and military actions were still in progress in the sector northeast of Hsingan. The 107th Division had not been heard from since its retreat from Wuchakou. The Thirtieth Army, in compliance with a Soviet demand, dispatched one of its staff officers in a plane of the Manchurian Air Transport Company to stop the fighting. The division was located near Chalaichichi, and the plane made a forced landing between it and the opposing Soviet force, whereupon the staff officer delivered orders terminating hostilities in that sector.

On 5 September all generals in Hsinking, including General

Otozo Yamada, Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army, and some staff officers were taken to the Soviet Union by air. Other personnel of Kwantung Army Headquarters were interned at the Nanling Concentration Camp after disarmament.

#### Dissolution of the Kwantung Army

On 22 August Imperial General Headquarters removed the Seventeenth Area Army from the order of battle of the Kwantung Army, but authorized the Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army to retain control of this area army for the purpose of terminating hostilities with the Soviet Army. The effective time of this transfer of command was 0000 hours, 25 August.<sup>19</sup>

On 13 September orders were issued by Imperial General Headquarters dissolving the order of battle of the Kwantung Army effective 0000 17 September. The same orders dissolved the China Expeditionary Army, the Southern Army, and other major commands of the Japanese Imperial Army.<sup>20</sup>

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19. ADO No 1388, 22 August 45.

20. Army Department Order Special No 3, 13 Sep 45.

CHAPTER II

The First Area Army in Eastern Manchuria<sup>21</sup>

Military Geography of Eastern Manchuria

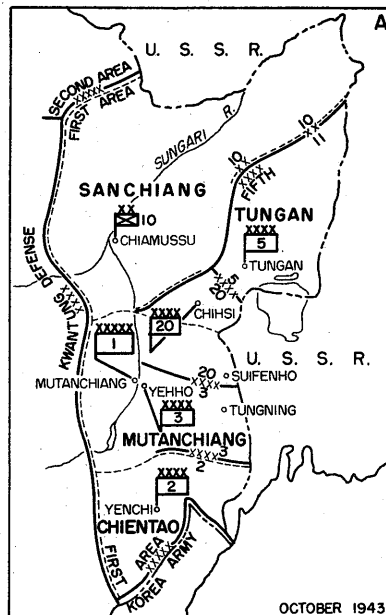
Until March 1945 the territory under the jurisdiction of the First Area Army consisted of the four administrative provinces in eastern Manchuria.<sup>22</sup> From north to south these were Sanchiang, Tungan, Mutanchiang, and Chientao. The rear boundary of the Area Army conformed generally with the province boundaries. During March, in preparation for the transition from a holding operational plan to a delaying operational plan, Kwantung Army authorized the First Area Army to expand rearward. The rear boundary of the Area Army was consequently extended to include the eastern parts of the Pinchiang and Chilin provinces. This gave the Area Army approximately 100,000 square miles to defend. (Map No 1 shows Army boundary changes from 1943 to 1945.)

In planning military operations on the eastern front, as on other fronts, it was necessary first to determine what might be

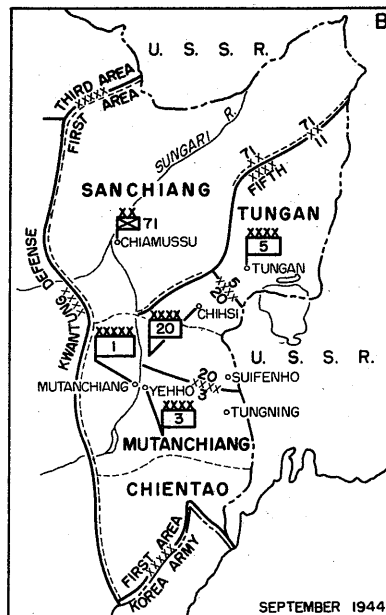
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21. The information in this chapter about the operations of the First Area Army was furnished by Colonel Hiroshi Matsumoto.

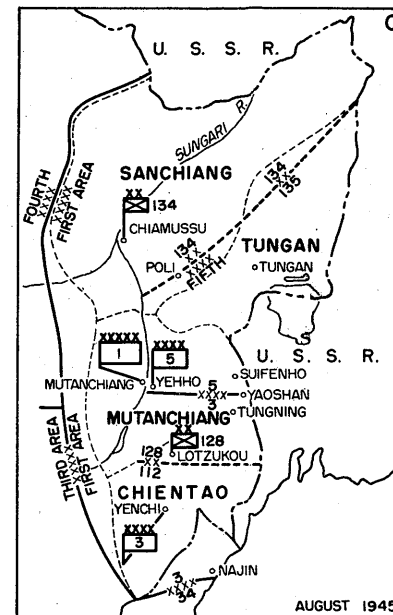
22. Kwantung Army jurisdiction over the northern part of Hamyong Pukto (north Korea) had not been clearly established at this time. The Commander in Chief had been given authority on 18 Sep 44 to issue orders to the Commander of the Korea Army in those "areas which will become Kwantung Army operational zones in the event of war," by which was meant northern Hamyong Pukto province. (See AD No 2164, 18 Sep 44). This did not include control of the area. The four northern provinces of Korea were not placed under Kwantung Army jurisdiction until 30 May 45, and the Seventeenth Area Army not until 9 August 1945.



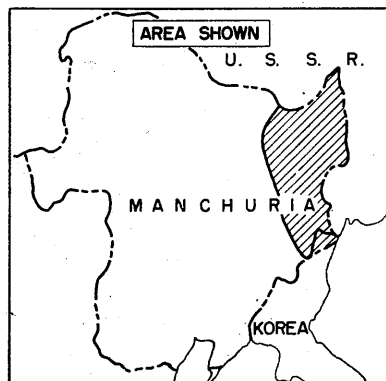
Boundaries of Second, Third, Fifth and Twentieth Armies and 10th Division.



Boundaries of Third, Fifth, and Twentieth Armies. After Twentieth Army Headquarters was transferred in late September 1944, the boundary line between Fifth Army and Third Army was established roughly along the line dividing Tungan from Mutanchiang Province.



Boundaries of Third and Fifth Armies. In February 1945 First Area Army began to assume control of portions of northern Korea and extended Third Army's area southward. Simultaneously, Third Army relinquished to Fifth Army responsibility for the border of Mutanchiang Province almost to Yaoshan. On 25 April Third Army Headquarters moved to Yenchi, and Fifth Army moved to Yehho.



### ARMY BOUNDARY CHANGES EASTERN MANCHURIA



----- PROVINCE BORDER

(MAP C: UNTIL THE WAR STARTED, THE 128TH DIVISION WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THIRD ARMY, AND THE 134TH DIVISION UNDER FIFTH ARMY.)

SCALE 1:7,000,000





called "essentials of operations." Among other things this involved a study of natural and man-made features, including mountains, forests, rivers, roads, railroads and fortifications, which would have a direct influence on operations.

In climate and geography, the various regions of Manchuria present many contrasts, and the eastern region presents many within itself. The highlands of eastern Manchuria form a rugged upland barrier between the central lowlands and the Siberian maritime province. They attain their greatest width--approximately 220 miles--in the center. Most of these highlands consist of mountains, high, steep, and rugged in the center; along the margins they are penetrated by broad valleys.

Many of the main river systems of Manchuria head in the eastern highlands. The central section of these highlands is drained largely to the west by the headwaters of the Sungari River, a tributary of the Amur River. In the northern part of the highlands, drainage is mostly northward via the Mutan, Muleng, and Ussuri Rivers. The Amur approaching from the west and the Ussuri from the south provide Manchuria with a natural boundary in the northeast. (Khabarovsk, near the confluence of the Amur-Ussuri, was the site of the headquarters of the Soviet Far East Army.) Lowlands in the northeastern tip of Manchuria are covered with vast stretches of marshland. Drainage in the south is by the east-flowing Tumen River which empties into the Sea of Japan.

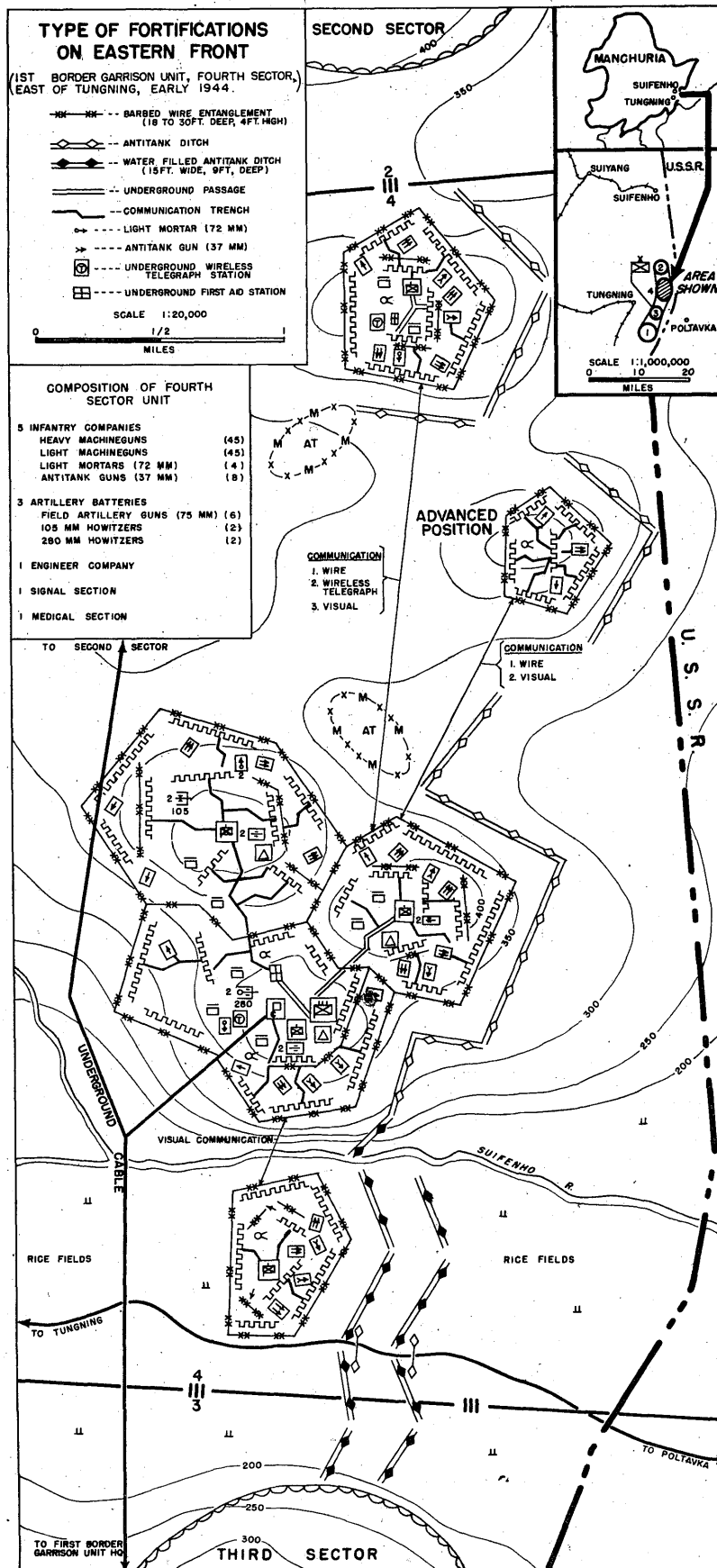
All rivers are deeply frozen during the winter. During summer, the high water and flood season occurs, although during the spring, floods follow any pronounced thaw of winter snows. During March-April and July-August wheeled vehicles will mire almost everywhere off the established roads. From November-December to March-April trafficability in most of the area is aided by deep soil freezing. Precipitation is greater in this area than in any other region of Manchuria; snow seldom exceeds 2 feet, however, even in the northern mountain valleys.

Japan had begun constructing fortifications of various kinds along the eastern border about 1935, the first positions being constructed near Suifenhö where the double-tracked Eastern Chinese Railroad crosses into the maritime province of eastern Siberia.<sup>23</sup> These fortifications may be classified into three grades, first, barbed wire entanglements for minor defense positions, second, resistance nests consisting of concrete pillboxes, and third, strong points which consisted of a series of resistance nests. (Sketch No 1 contains a diagram of a strong point east of Tungning.)

The defense positions around Suifenhö were gradually enlarged

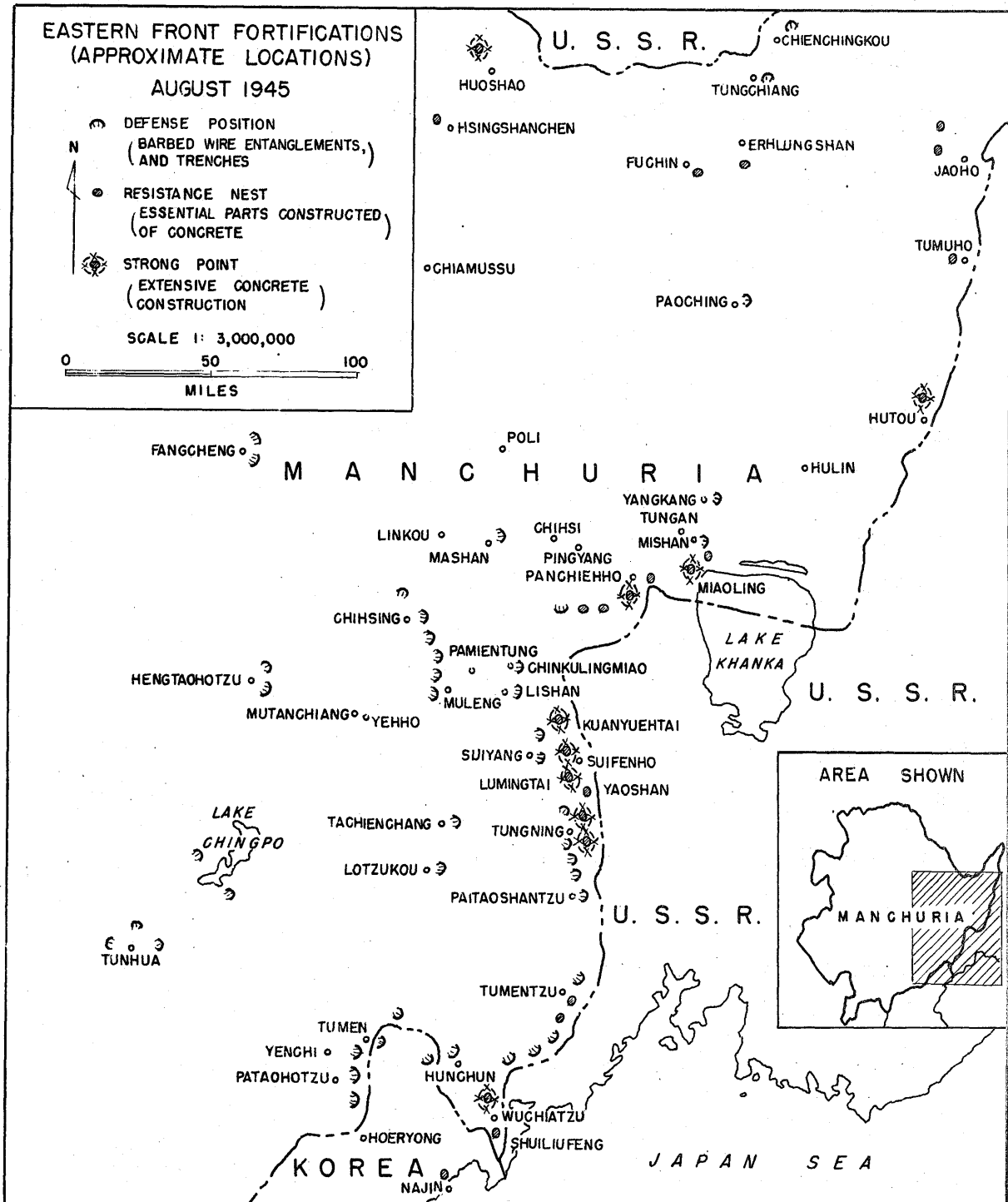
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23. This is the line which provides the Trans-Siberian Railroad with a short cut through Manchuria to Vladivostok. It enters Manchuria in the west at Manchouli. In 1935 when Manchukuo purchased this line from the USSR, the Japanese tore up the rails between Suifenhö and the border. The Soviets, on the other hand, left the tracks on their side of the border in place.



into resistance nests and strong points and these were extended northward about 15 miles and southward about 40 miles, although defense positions and resistance nests continued for about another 10 miles. Ultimately the defensive structure in this area stretched a distance of approximately 65 miles. Later, when Soviet counter-construction in this area partly offset these fortifications, the Japanese began building a new series of intermittent fortifications farther north. Fortifications of all types were constructed from the heights east of Pamientung to the area south of Tungan City for approximately 100 miles, with strong points at Panchiehho and Miaoling. Unlike the fortifications near Suifenhoh, these new positions were somewhat to the rear of the border. By 1944, therefore, there were two major fortified areas on the eastern front. Between them was a forested mountain area approximately 45 miles long, unsuitable for large-scale military operations, but suitable for border incursions. (Sketch No 2 shows the location of defense positions, resistance nests, and strong points.)

Between the southern point (Tungning) of these fortifications and the northern point (Tungan) ran a single track railroad more or less parallel to the border and approximately 35 miles to its rear. It was within the area bracketed by this railroad and the border that the fortifications described above were constructed. At distances ranging from 30 to 60 miles to the rear of the track ran another single track line from Korea north to Chiamussu. These



parallel single track lines were connected in two places--from Mutanchiang to Hsiachengtzu, by the Harbin-Suifenhao Railway, and from Linkou to Chihsi by a line constructed by the Japanese for military purposes. In addition, a single track line from Tungning looped southward, connecting with the Tumen-Mutanchiang line at Wangching.

There were no paved roads in eastern Manchuria. Even dirt roads were few and the most important of these ran more or less parallel to the two north-south railroad lines, and to the east-west connecting lines. Two major tactical roads extended from Mutanchiang, one to Tungning eastward to the border, the other northeastward to Hulin, also near the border.

Manning this eastward-facing front in July 1945 were the First Area Army's Third and Fifth Armies, the latter on the left. On its extreme left flank the Fifth Army had the 134th Division. The extreme right of the area of the Third Army extended into Korea (see below), and on its right flank was the Thirty-fourth Army (organized on 17 June 1945) which was entirely in Korea and directly under the Kwantung Army.

#### Operational Planning

The vast area controlled by the First Area Army gave it a front facing the USSR approximately 800 miles in length. Operational planning had never been based on defending every inch of the border, however, since vast stretches of the border terrain were totally un-

suit<sup>24</sup>ed for military operations. As one of the "essentials of operations," therefore, the First Area Army had early adopted a concept of defending only key sectors. It was as a result of this concept that the strongly fortified positions in the Suifenh<sup>o</sup> and the Pamientung-Tungan sectors had been developed.

Naturally, this concept left gaps in the front. But the natural obstacles in the gap areas were sufficiently formidable to deter an enemy from undertaking major military operations in those sectors. Besides the natural boundary formed in northeast Manchuria by the Amur and Ussuri Rivers, the vast expanse of swamps and marshlands beginning at the Amur and extending almost as far south as Tungan accounted for almost one-third of the border. Along the Ussuri River border, however, the swamp land begins considerably to the rear of the border, making an incursion of the border at Hutou very likely.

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24. The force necessary to hold every inch of such an extensive front would be prohibitive. By Japanese tactical principles of defense, one division was to be deployed for every 6 miles of front. At this rate, the number of divisions that would be required to defend the eastern border alone would be 133, almost half the total number of divisions that Japan was able to mobilize during the entire war. Furthermore, the largest force ever envisaged for use in all of Manchuria never exceeded fifty divisions, and the largest ever planned for use on the eastern front never exceeded twenty. This number was planned for the Hachi-go plan, the most ambitious of the many Japanese plans for Manchuria. It called for the deployment of twenty divisions on the eastern front and fifteen each on the northern and eastern front. However, this plan was offensive in concept, the objective being the capture of the territory east of Lake Baikal. This plan was drawn up in 1938 for implementation in 1943. It was never used.

In view of this, strong points with emplaced guns of very large caliber had been constructed in the vicinity of Hutou.<sup>25</sup>

Between the Tungan area and the Pamientung area stretched the fortifications described above. South of these latter-day fortifications was an area of impenetrably dense forest reaching south to the northern extension of the Suifenhong fortifications, the earliest and stoutest. South of the Suifenhong fortifications and extending into the mountains of Korea stretches another heavily forested region. Aside from the key defense sectors, outpost positions or resistance nests had been constructed at various points along the border, especially at points where the Soviets had created incidents at one time or another. (See Sketch No 3, Terrain Analysis)

Another "essential of operations" that appeared in almost every First Area Army plan was the differentiation between the operational roles of "main forces" and "elements." Elements normally manned the front line strong points; main forces were generally concentrated in areas where decisive battles were expected to take place. This differentiation was made also by armies and divisions in their planning. The principal use of elements by both armies and divisions was to station them in the long-established border fortifications in their

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25. The map of Manchuria prepared by the Army Map Service, scale 1/2,000,000, 1950, shows Hulin at the border. The Japanese renamed this city Hutou, and built another city about 30 miles to the southwest and called it Hulin.



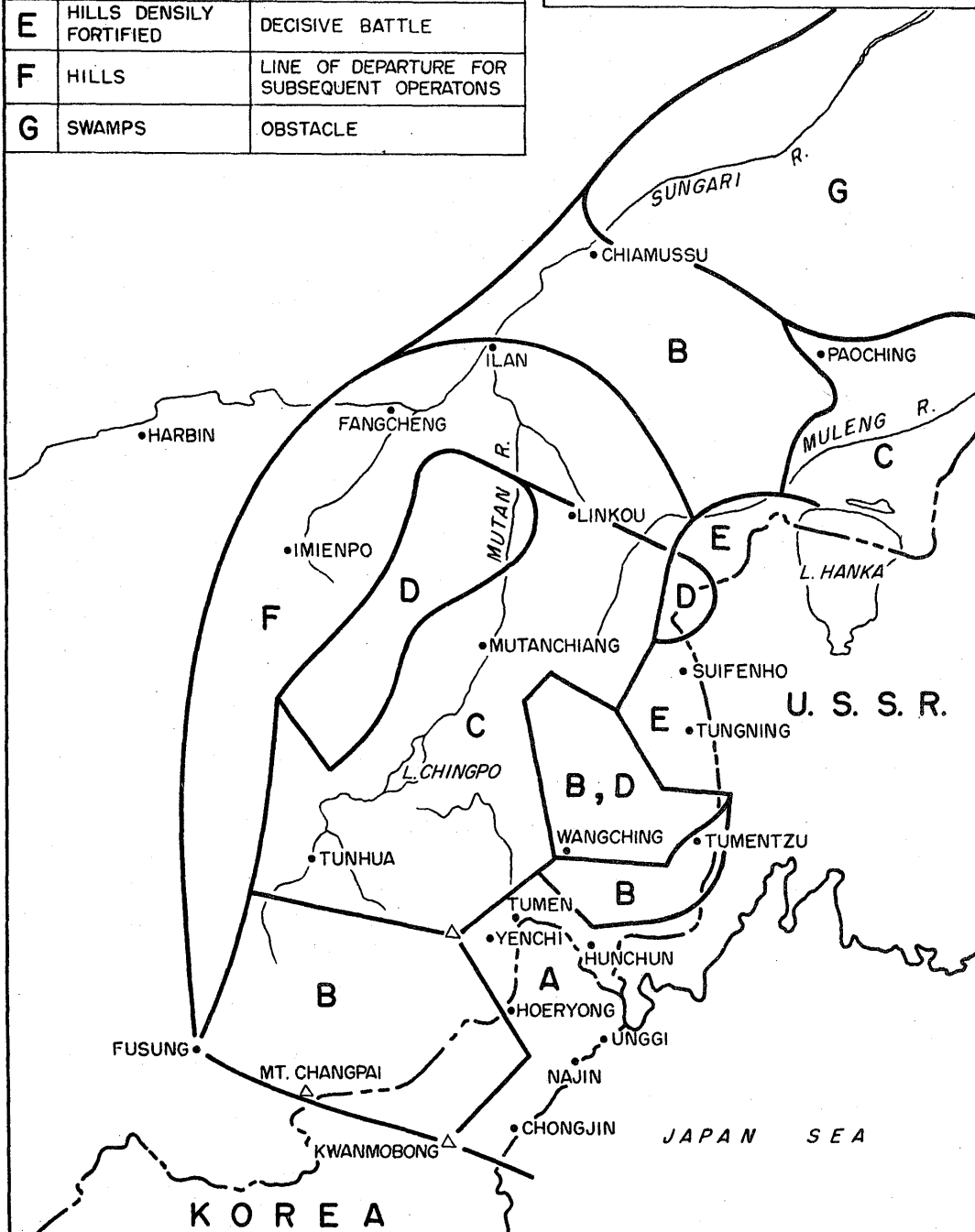
MONOGRAPH NO. 154-B  
SKETCH NO. 3

	PREDOMINANT TERRAIN CHARACTERISTICS	TACTICAL SUITABILITY
A	COASTAL	LANDING OPERATIONS
B	MOUNTAINOUS	DELAYING AND GUERRILLA OPERATIONS
C	LAKE, RIVER, AND HILL REGION	DECISIVE BATTLE
D	DENSE FOREST	DELAYING OPERATIONS
E	HILLS DENSELY FORTIFIED	DECISIVE BATTLE
F	HILLS	LINE OF DEPARTURE FOR SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS
G	SWAMPS	OBSTACLE

# TERRAIN ANALYSIS, EASTERN FRONT

SCALE 1:4,224,000  
0 100 200  
MILES

SKETCH BY  
MAJ. GEN. SADATAKE NAKAYAMA  
C/S THIRD ARMY



respective sectors. These elements in turn supplied personnel for the many lookout posts that dotted the border zone. In all operational plans drawn up after September 1944, the elements deployed in these fortifications constituted the first, but not the major, line of defense. Although comparatively small in numbers, their fortifications gave them advantages not enjoyed by the main force.

#### Operational Plans

In drawing up operational plans the First Area Army generally followed a broad outline prepared by the Kwantung Army. Whenever it learned that higher headquarters was discussing a change in operational plans it would initiate a draft of plans along similar lines, not waiting for the formal outline to arrive. In this way it kept pace with higher Headquarters. When in mid 1944, for example, Kwantung Army realized that offensive operations were no longer possible and began formulating a plan for holding operations, the First Area Army followed the same course, so that by the time the Kwantung Army plan was approved on 18 September 1944 and a copy furnished to subordinate commands, the First Area Army had already drawn up an outline of a holding plan for the eastern front.

All First Area Army plans drawn up during this period called for elements to defend the border area utilizing the fortifications there. As to the positions to be held by the main force, the plans differed somewhat. In a plan drafted during September 1944, main

forces were to hold the Pamientung-Suiyang-Tungning and the Lishuchen-Linkou sectors. In a plan drawn up towards the end of 1944 and distributed to subordinate commands during February 1945, the Hoeryong-Tumen-Hunchun sector was added as a main force position in Third Army's sector on the right. In this plan provision was made, in the event of an enemy advance, for the area army to gradually shift its line of resistance rearward; with Tumen as the anchor of the line, it was to swing first to a line through Lake Chingpo to Fangcheng, then to a line connecting with Tunhua. (See Sketch No 4, Major Defense Lines of First Area Army.) This was done in conformance with Kwantung Army's plan of putting up final resistance in Manchuria in the area which, with Hsinking as its vortex, extended eastward to Tumen and southward to Dairen.

Upon closer examination of this plan, First Area Army Headquarters found that the central sector of Pamientung-Suiyang-Tungning was too long to be defended with available forces. It decided, therefore, to move the main defense line about 35 miles to the rear to a line connecting Chihsing (south of Linkou), the mountain ridges west of Pamientung, Muleng, Tachienchang, and Lotzoukou. This would reduce the 82-mile length of the central front sector to about 52 miles. No change was to be made in the southern front sector.

During April 1945 Kwantung Army notified the First Area Army that it was recommending to Imperial General Headquarters the abandonment of the holding plan and the adoption of the delaying



plan shelved in September 1944. Immediately upon receipt of this information First Area Army Headquarters began to draw up a delaying operational plan, and alerted its subordinate commands accordingly. After Imperial General Headquarters approval was received, Kwantung Army changed the mission of the First Area Army to one of conducting delaying operations in eastern Manchuria.

The delaying plan, though somewhat similar to the holding plan since both were defensive in nature, differed in several respects. Many of the steps taken since the adoption of the holding plan were equally valid for the delaying plan. The disposition of troops was to remain the same. Elements would still man border fortifications, and main forces would still take up positions to the rear. The important differences were that no last ditch stand was to be made in position, and provision was made for withdrawal to new positions. In this lay the principal difference between the two plans. For the First Area Army this meant that two operational bases would have to be prepared in the redoubt, one at Tunhua and the other at Antu.

The missions assigned to various units in this plan stipulated that elements of each unit were to utilize the fortifications in the first line of defense and to destroy the enemy at the border. The missions assigned to the main force of the Third Army were to take up positions in the Hoeryong, Tumen, and Hunchun sectors, and to destroy the enemy. The main body of the 128th Division was to take up positions in the sector of Lotzukou and Tachienchang between

the Third and Fifth Armies to cover the inner flank of both armies. The main force of the Fifth Army was to occupy positions in the sectors west of Muleng west of Pamientung, and south of Linkou.

The mission assigned to the 134th Division, deployed on the left flank of the Area Army, was to delay the enemy who was expected to launch an invasion along the Sungari River, then offer resistance successively in the vicinities of Chiamussu and Fangcheng, finally withdrawing to the Chiaoho area via Imienpo, at the same time covering the left flank of the Area Army. In the rear areas, the 122d Division was to take up positions on both banks of Lake Chingpo to cover the retreat of the Area Army during the final stages of operations. The 139th Division was to construct positions for the Area Army's final stand in the vicinity of Tunhua.

Other changes adopted during the transition from a holding plan to a delaying plan were: the northern half of Hamyong Pukto in north Korea, including the units stationed there (79th Division, 101st Mixed Regiment, and the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit) were to be placed under the command of Third Army;<sup>26</sup> the front of the Third Army was to be most strongly fortified to become the right flank pivoting point of the Area Army; no limited offensives were to be

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26. These units passed to Kwantung Army control on 10 June 1945. No exact information can be obtained regarding the manner in which north Korea gradually came under Kwantung Army jurisdiction and control, because available documents do not mention specific areas. According to the "best judgments" of consultants, only the northern part of Hamyong Pukto province was placed under Kwantung Army juris-

undertaken in the area of the Third Army because they would be unremunerative and would detract from the strength needed in subsequent operations elsewhere; units and operations in the Sanchiang area were to be placed under the direct control of the Area Army during wartime, but for peacetime preparations the units (principally the 134th Division) and area would remain under the control of Fifth Army; the 1st Mobile Brigade was not given a separate sector but was to be disposed in the area around Langchi (southeast of Lotzukou), where the terrain allows the widest scope of action, and was to be attached to Third Army; and the 128th Division and 132d Independent Mixed Brigade upon the opening of hostilities were to be grouped under the commander of the 128th Division (Lt Gen Yoshishige Mizuhara) and assigned directly to the Area Army, but until then were to remain as separate commands under the Third Army.

These modifying instructions were furnished to each Army during

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diction on 18 Sep 44. Orders issued on 30 May refer to the Kwantung Army's mission in "northern Korea" and to the Seventeenth Area Army's mission in "central and southern Korea." The term "northern Korea" is believed to mean the four northern provinces of Korea. On this date the "Outline of the Plan for Operations against the USSR in Manchuria and Korea" was issued, and although this document is not available, it is believed to have specifically mentioned the four northern provinces. (Pertinent documents are Army Department Orders Nos 1130, 1131, and Army Directive No 2164, all dated 18 Sep 44, Army Department Orders No 1245, 6 Feb 45, Army Department Orders Nos 1338, 1339, 1340, all dated 30 May 45.) Orders No 1374, 9 August placed the entire Seventeenth Area Army under the Kwantung Army. The editor assumes that the Kwantung Army received limited jurisdiction over all forces in Korea on 18 Sep 44, the limitation being on matters relating to preparations against the USSR.

April, and later in the month First Area Army Headquarters conducted "table-top" maneuvers to determine the effectiveness of the new plan and the missions assigned to units. These exercises were attended by staff officers from the Third and Fifth Armies and from the Area Army itself. Controversy aroused regarding the right and left flanks of the Area Army left several questions open for further examination.

Meanwhile, First Area Army Headquarters was confronted with other problems connected with the transition from a holding to a delaying plan. Enormous stockpiles of war supplies in the border areas had to be removed to the rear, requiring additional transportation. Road improvement projects under way had to be re-evaluated, and those considered unessential for defensive operations abandoned, for example the road from Muleng to Tungning, and from Tungning to Shihou (south of Ningan). A communications net had to be established at Tunhua to which the Area Army was to fall back. In addition, the training of troops was hampered by the lack of competent instructors as well as by the indecision to change the operational plan, and the fear that an abrupt change to defensive training might disclose operational plans.<sup>27</sup>

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27. Another problem created dealt with the settlement of border disputes. Following the Wuchiatsu incident, Kwantung Army drew up a "Guide for the Defense of the Manchurian-Soviet-Mongolian Border." (See pages 82-87, Monograph 138.)



## CHAPTER III

### Composition of Major Units

#### General Structure

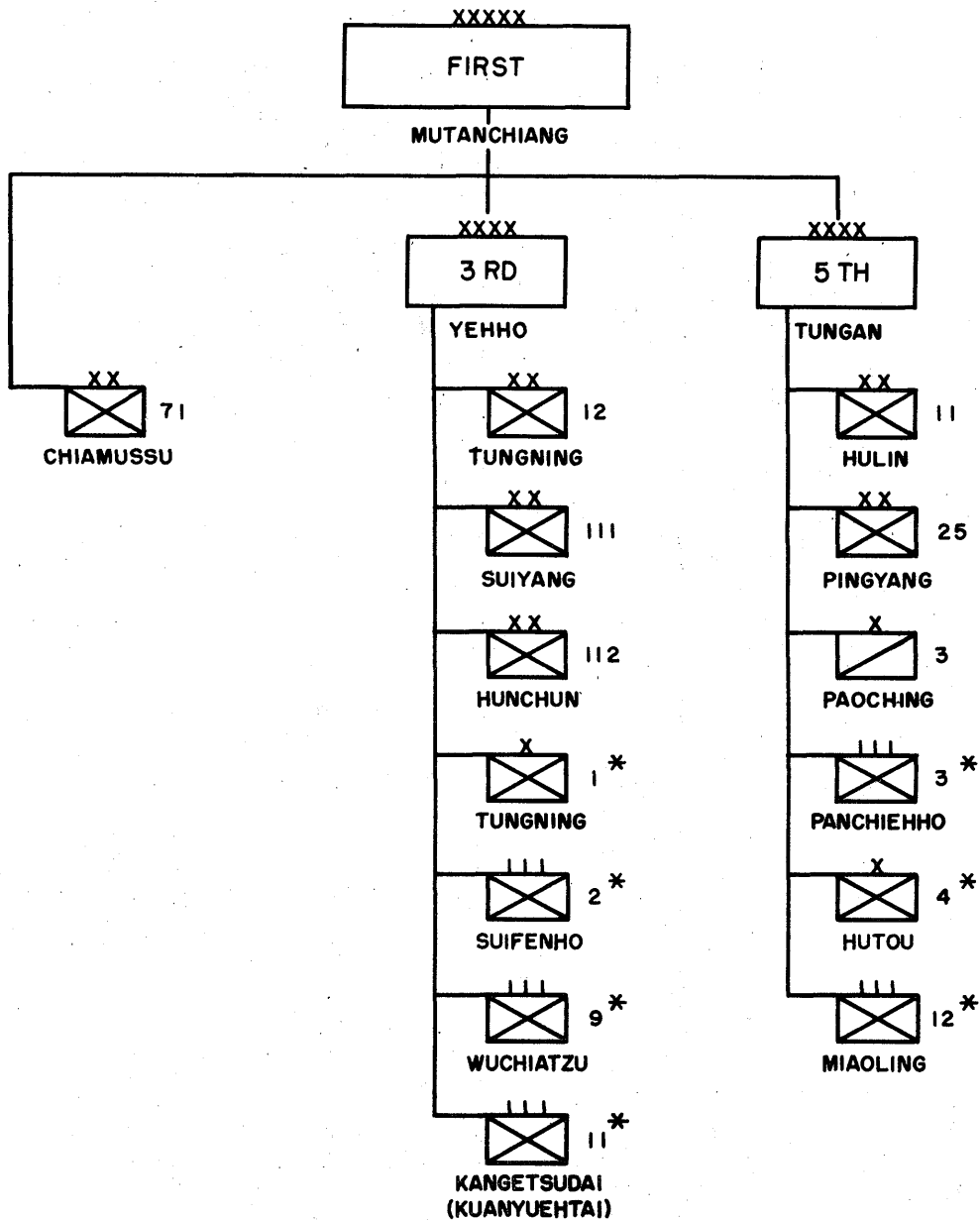
On 26 September 1944, when General Seiichi Kita<sup>28</sup> assumed command, the First Area Army consisted principally of six divisions, one cavalry brigade, and seven border garrison units. The divisions were, in Third Army, the 12th, 111th, and 112th; in Fifth Army, the 11th and 25th. The 71st Division was under the direct command of the Area Army. All of these divisions except the 112th were first-class divisions and were destined shortly to be transferred from Manchuria. The border garrison units (the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 9th, 11th, and 12th) were destined to be used as the nucleus of some of the new divisions that would be organized to replace the first-class divisions. (Chart No 1 shows the organization of the First Area Army in September 1944.)

At the beginning of August 1945, the month of the Soviet invasion, the First Area Army consisted of ten divisions, plus several independent units: one mobile brigade, one mixed brigade, one mixed regiment, and two garrison units of regimental size. This constituted

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28. General Kita had commanded the Twelfth Army in North China. From there served briefly on the Army General Staff in Tokyo. He assumed command of the First Area Army on 26 Sep 44. In August 1945 he was taken captive by the Soviets. During 1951 word was received in Japan from a repatriated POW that General Kita had died in captivity.

ORGANIZATION CHART  
FIRST AREA ARMY  
DIVISIONS DOWN TO BORDER GARRISON UNITS,  
SEPTEMBER 1944



\* BORDER GARRISON UNITS WERE OF DIFFERENT SIZE

almost half of the tactical strength of the Kwantung Army. With auxiliary and supply units the First Area Army had a personnel strength of approximately 160,000.<sup>29</sup>

Although the intervening year had wrought little change in the numerical strength of the Area Army it brought about vast changes in qualitative strength. None of the First Area Army's major tactical units had been in existence more than seven months, except the 112th Division and the 1st Mobile Brigade which had come into existence about a year prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Six of the divisions had drawn their personnel from recruited Japanese residents in Manchuria formerly deferred. The remainder of the divisions and other major tactical units had been organized from border garrison units or rear echelon units; this included the 79th Division, the 101st Mixed Regiment, and the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit which, however, had been transferred intact to the Area Army on 10 June 1945.

None of the Area Army units had had any combat experience.

None was up to authorized strength and none was fully equipped.

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29. The other principal tactical units were assault (raiding) units and independent artillery regiments. One raiding unit (infantry battalion size) were assigned to each of the following divisions: 112th, 122d, 124th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 134th, 135th, 139th. One artillery regiment (three battalion size, 36 pieces) was assigned to the 124th, 126th, 127th, and 128th Divisions, since these divisions had no divisional artillery and were not stationed near artillery units.

Although there were ten divisions compared with six during the preceding year, the number of garrison units had dropped from seven to two. And all of the new divisions, except the 79th (and the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade) were from 25% to 50% under-strength. The 128th Division, for example, with an authorized strength of 23,000 had only 12,634. Almost none of the commanders had been with their units a year.

At the time of the Soviet invasion, therefore, the First Area Army was a relatively new command. Aside from its newness, it had had scarcely any time for welding the various units under its command into an effective fighting machine. The Area Army's attention had been engaged by other activities, such as arranging for the transfer of its long-established elite units to Pacific fighting areas, organizing and training new units, and constructing new fortifications. In almost every respect the First Area Army was below standards.

The Headquarters of the First Area Army was located in Mutanchiang City. Its major subordinate commands were the Third Army with headquarters at Yenchi, and the Fifth Army with headquarters in Yehho.<sup>30</sup> Under the Area Army's direct command were the 122d,

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30. Until April 1945, when the Kwantung Army decided that at the outset of hostilities Tungan Province would be abandoned, Fifth Army Headquarters was located in Tungan City. At this time the boundary between Third and Fifth Armies was moved southward about 35 miles.

134th, and 139th Divisions.

Of the three divisions under the Area Army's direct command, only the 134th had been formed from tactical units, possibly explaining its assignment to the front. Its source of personnel were the 78th Independent Mixed Brigade, the Fuchin Garrison Unit, and the 14th Border Garrison Unit. The division was organized during July-August 1945 and was stationed in the Chiamussu area.<sup>31</sup> Its commander was Lieutenant General Jin Izeki. Although directly under the First Area Army, the 134th Division was attached to the Fifth Army for operational preparations until the outbreak of hostilities.

Both the 122d and 139th Division were deployed in the rear areas. The 122d was detailed to construct covering positions in near Lake Chingpo, and the 139th to construct redoubt defenses in the Tunhua area. The 122d Division, organized during February 1945, was formed from recruits while the 139th Division, which was not formed until July-August 1945, drew its personnel from the 77th, 79th, and 80th Guard Units. Personnel in units directly under the Area Army totaled 55,000.

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31. Until July 1944, Sanchiang Province was garrisoned by the 10th Division. It was replaced by the 71st Division which garrisoned the area until its transfer in February 1945. Pending the assignment of another division to the area, it was garrisoned by the Fuchin Garrison Unit and other smaller elements.

Third Army (See Map No 2.)

The Third Army, since 22 November 1944 commanded by Lieutenant General Keisaku Murakami, had four divisions--the 79th, 112th, 127th, and 128th--and the 1st Mobile Brigade, the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade, the 101st Mixed Regiment, and the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit (regimental size). Personnel in units assigned to Third Army totaled 50,000.

The 79th Division was one of the units acquired by Third Army from the Seventeenth Area Army (Korea) on 10 June 1945. It had been organized at Nanam, Korea, from the 19th Depot Division on 10 March 1945. It was transferred to Tumen, across the Korea-Manchuria border, at the end of July. Its commander was Lieutenant General Teisho Ota.

The 112th Division had been organized in August 1944 from newly-recruited personnel, and its main body stationed near Hunchun with a plan to withdraw to Michiangtun. The division was commanded by Lieutenant General Jikizo Nakamura.

The 127th and 128th Divisions were two of the eight divisions organized during January-February 1945 from newly-recruited personnel and cadres from various border garrison units to give the Kwantung Army the semblance of strength. The 127th, commanded by Lieutenant General Ryutaro Koga, was stationed near Pataohotzu, not far from the Korea border, and the 128th, commanded by Lieutenant General Yoshishige Mizuhara, at Lotzoukou.<sup>32</sup>

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32. The 128th Division replaced the 120th Division in March 1945, which in turn had replaced the 12th Division in December 1944.

**DEPLOYMENT OF TACTICAL UNITS  
OF FIRST AREA ARMY**  
9 AUG 1945

BGU --- BORDER GARRISON UNIT  
FGU --- FORTRESS GARRISON UNIT  
--- BORDER FORTIFICATIONS AND  
LOOKOUT POSITIONS  
--- M.L.R. POSITIONS

SCALE 1:2,000,000  
0 20 40 60 80  
MILES

**AREA SHOWN**  
MANCHURIA

MONOGRAPH NO. 154 - 8  
MAP NO. 2

The 1st Mobile Brigade had completed its organization toward the end of August 1944. It consisted of picked troops and was to be assigned special missions. For this reason its training was supervised directly by Kwantung Army Headquarters. In June 1945 it was transferred from Kirin to the Shihliping area and placed under Third Army.

The 132d Independent Mixed Brigade, consisting mainly of four infantry and one raiding battalions plus three artillery companies, had been organized on 10 July 1945 from elements of the 1st, 2d, and 11th Border Garrison Units. It was stationed at Tungning with the mission of defending the border in that area.

The 101st Mixed Regiment and the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit, like the 79th Division, were acquired from the Seventeenth Area Army on 10 June 1945. The 101st Mixed Regiment was stationed near Chonghak, and the Najin Garrison Unit at Najin, both in Korea.

#### Fifth Army (See Map No 2.)

The Fifth Army's principal units were the 124th, 126th, and 135th Divisions and the 15th Border Garrison Unit (regimental size). It was commanded by Lieutenant General Noritsune Shimizu who had assumed command on 17 June 1944. Personnel in units assigned to Fifth Army totaled 55,000

The 124th and 126th Divisions were also organized from Japanese residents in January-February 1945 to give the Kwantung Army the semblance of a powerful force. The 124th Division, although



initially assigned to Third Army, was transferred to Fifth Army shortly after it was organized; the division was commanded by Lieutenant General Masatake Shiina, and its main body was stationed near Muleng. The 126th, whose main body was near Pamientung, was commanded by Lieutenant General Kazuhiko Nomizo.<sup>33</sup>

The 135th Division had been organized during July-August 1945 from the 77th Independent Mixed Brigade, 3d and 4th Border Garrison Units, and the 46th Guard Unit. It was commanded by Lieutenant General Yoichi Hitomi, and its main body stationed near Tungan.<sup>34</sup>

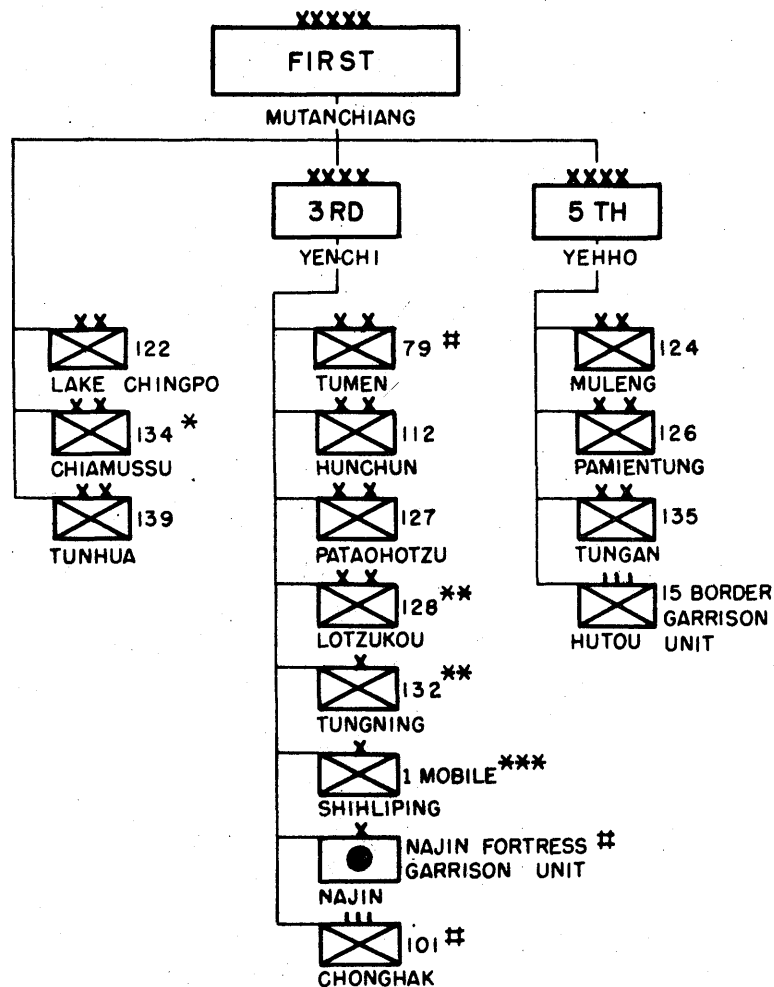
The 15th Border Garrison Unit had been organized during July 1945 from elements of the 4th Border Garrison Unit. It consisted principally of one infantry battalion and two artillery companies, and garrisoned the Hutou border fortifications. Among its weapons were several emplaced guns of large caliber, including one 410-mm howitzer. Its mission was to sever the trans-Siberian railway near Iman which was within its range, and to place interdictory fire on enemy positions to the rear of Iman to prevent the massing of Soviet force there. (Chart No 2/ shows the organization of the First Area Army in August 1945.)

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33. The 124th Division while in the Third Army's sector had replaced the 111th Division in March 1945. The 111th, in turn, had replaced the 8th Division in July 1944. The 126th Division replaced the 25th Division in March 1945.

34. The 135th Division replaced the 11th Division which was transferred in March-April 1945. Until the 135th Division was organized the area was garrisoned by the 77th Independent Mixed Brigade.

ORGANIZATION CHART  
FIRST AREA ARMY  
DIVISIONS DOWN TO SEPARATE REGIMENTS  
8 AUGUST 1945



\* Under control of Fifth Army for operational preparations until outbreak of hostilities.

\*\* Transferred to direct command of First Area Army at outbreak of hostilities, at which time the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade was assigned to the 128th Division.

\*\*\* Assigned to Third Army in June 1945.

# Assigned to Third Army when northern Hamyong Pukto was included in the operational area of Kwantung Army.

## CHAPTER IV

### Status of Preparations<sup>35</sup>

#### Fortifications

In addition to attempting to keep in readiness the old fortifications in the border zones, the First Area Army was busy during this period pushing to completion new fortifications, particularly in the positions to be used by the main forces, and those in cities and towns, in the redoubt area, in North Korea, and in the Area Army's operational bases. None of this work, however, was in satisfactory condition at the time of the Soviet invasion.

To begin with, the fortifications in the border zones had gradually been stripped of machine guns, artillery pieces, and other weapons in order to equip newly-organized forces. Stocks of ammunition kept in the fortified areas had dwindled. As a result these border positions were considerably weakened.

Construction of fortifications in the newly-designated positions to be used by main forces in accordance with the operational plan was begun in March 1945. In carrying out this work emphasis was placed on underground defenses in view of the enemy's superior capability for artillery and air bombardment. Although this work

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35. More detailed information on the status of preparations in each unit is provided in subsequent chapters.

was pushed, it was hindered by the shortage of mason's tools and dynamite, and required more time than was expected. By the time the Soviet Union entered the war, although almost all caves for emplacing large guns had been completed in each position, other important installations such as communication trenches, field positions, and, what was particularly important, tank obstacles, were in imperfect condition.

As regards the fortification of Manchurian cities and towns which were scattered in an area of extensive depth and would constitute the strongpoints for sustained warfare, and also as regards the construction of positions in the Tunhua and Antu sectors which would constitute the redoubt for the Area Army, no work had been begun by the close of July because of the shortage of manpower and materials. The only thing completed by this time was the reconnaissance of the intended locations for positions.

Fortification of the North Korea sector which had only recently come under Kwantung Army jurisdiction was somewhat behind schedule. The Area Army Commander conducted an inspection of this sector shortly after he was given control of this area, and as a result of his encouragement and that of the Third Army Commander the work gradually took on a definite shape.

To accelerate the construction of positions by the 122d Division in the sector bordering on both banks of Lake Chingpo, the 6th Unit (about three infantry battalions and one motor transport company)

of the Manchurian National Army located in the vicinity of Mutanchiang was placed under the 122d Division.

#### Revisions in Logistical Planning

To bring the logistical plan in line with the new operational plan, First Area Army had to consider relocating its supply installations, including its depots and dumps and those of the Third and Fifth Armies. In view of previous plans for offensive operations, most of these had been established in forward areas. But with the adoption of the plan for delaying operations, a plan was worked out to move them rearward. This applied not only to the depots and dumps as units but also to the supplies stored therein. Accordingly, a withdrawal schedule was drawn up, but before it could be fully met for any item of supply, hostilities commenced.

Kwantung Army Headquarters had hoped that the enemy could be delayed for about three months, but from a logistical viewpoint--especially as regards ammunition and fuel--it was realized that one month was all that could be expected before the defenders would have to withdraw to the redoubt astride the Manchurian-Korean border.

From the First Area Army's viewpoint it was necessary to develop two supply bases in the redoubt area, one in the Tunhua vicinity, the other at Antu. Within the Tunhua area, supplies were to be dispersed in three sectors: the sector south of Lake Chingpo, the vicinity of the airfield at Shahoyen, and the Tunhua sector itself. Items most needed were arms, ammunition, and medical supplies, and although the movement of all supplies was to begin simultaneously, priority was assigned to these items.

Supply installations under the Area Army's direct control (hos-

pitals, construction units, and depots for transport, ammunition, food, clothing, medical and veterinary supplies) began to move to the Tunhua area during April.. By the time hostilities opened the percentage of principal types of supplies move to the Tunhua installations was roughly as follows:

Arms and ammunition	50%
Medical supplies	50%
Veterinary supplies	30%
Food and clothing	10-20%

The problem of provisioning Antu with food and fodder was investigated jointly with Manchukuoan Government authorities, from whom much of these provisions had to be purchased. In addition to looking into the matter of stockpiling provisions, investigations considered moving civilian-owned weapons repair shops in Tunhua, Chilin, and Yenchi to the Antu base. Before any visible results could be achieved in provisioning this base, however, the Soviet invasion began.

Third and Fifth Armies were to move their depots beginning in April also. The depots concerned maintained stocks of food, fodder, clothing, fuel, arms, and ammunition, and also medical and veterinary supplies. Third Army depots in the vicinity of Hunchun and Tungning were to withdraw to the vicinity of the Army's new headquarters at Yenchi. Fifth Army depots in the vicinity of Suiyang, Tungan, and Chihsi were to withdraw to the area around Mutanchiang and Tunhua. In view of the supply support that would be needed while the Area Army was withdrawing, however, branch depots of some classes of supply were to be established at Shitou and at Imienpo.

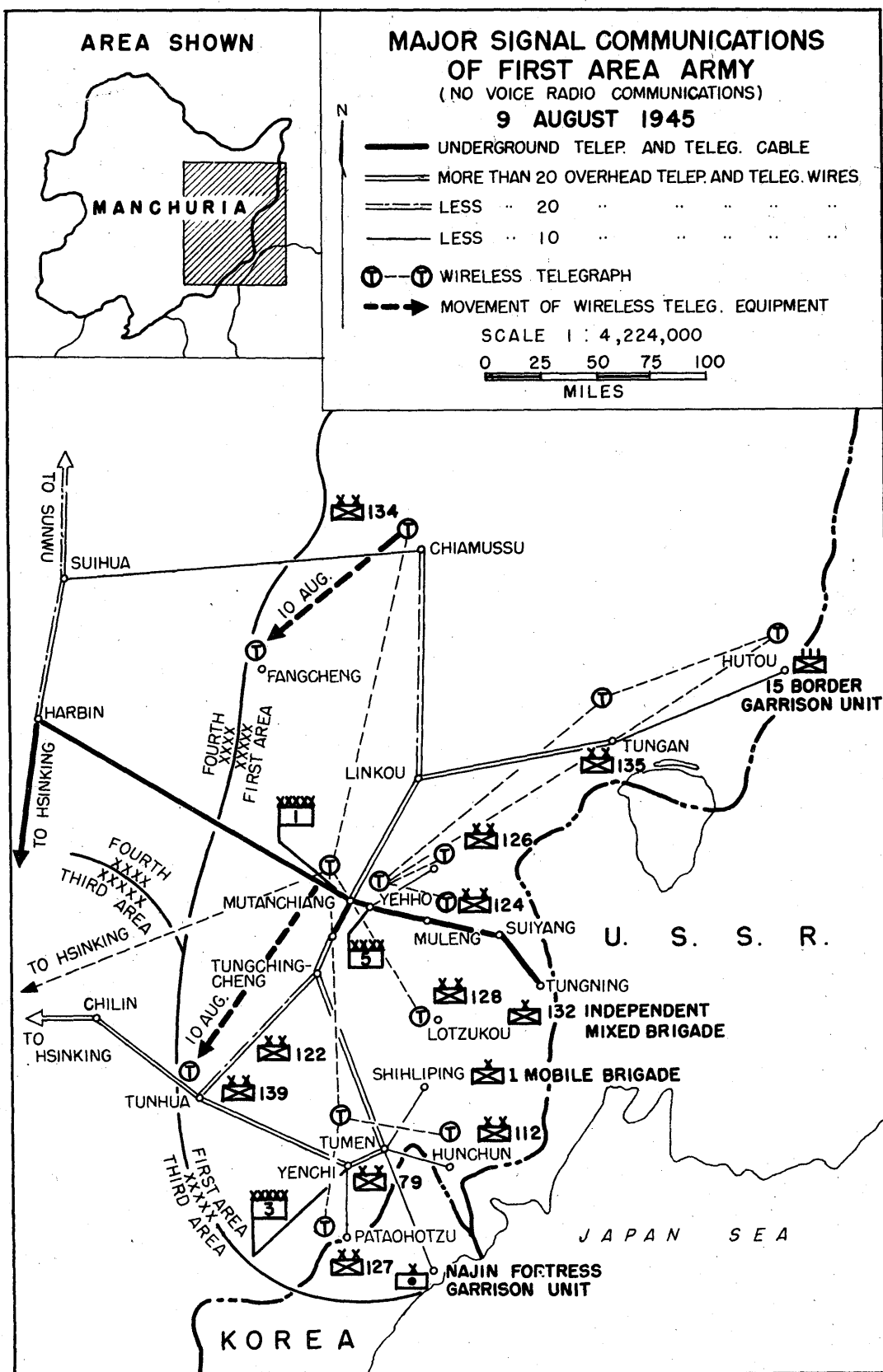
No breakdown of the types of supplies actually moved by the armies is available. Generally speaking, however, the volume moved back by Fifth Army by 9 August was between 70 and 80 per cent, and by Third Army approximately 50 per cent.

Meanwhile, during April medical agencies of the area army and both armies began a rapid evacuation of patients to rear areas. By the close of July no patients remained in forward area hospitals.

Communications (See Sketch No 5)

From the decision to put up only nominal resistance in Sanchiang, the northernmost of the eastern front provinces, stemmed the requirement that the Headquarters of the First Area Army and of the Third and Fifth Armies move south where a more determined defense was to be made. The plan called for First Area Army Headquarters to move to Tunhua, for Third Army Headquarters to move to Yenchi, and for Fifth Army Headquarters to move to Yehho. These moves could not be made, however, until the communications network was adjusted so as to permit communications between higher and lower headquarters.

The main communications link between Kwantung Army Headquarters in Hsinking and First Area Army Headquarters at Mutanchiang was principally an underground cable via Harbin and, secondarily, overhead wires via Chilin, Tunhua, Yenchi, Tumen, and Tungchingcheng. By moving to Tunhua, First Area Army Headquarters could maintain contact with Hsinking by this secondary link, which consisted of





more than twenty overhead wires and which for great distances followed the railroad tracks.

First Area Army Headquarters had no voice radios. While at Mutanchiang, it maintained forward communication with Fifth Army Headquarters by means of overhead wires strung to Tungan via Linkou, and with Third Army Headquarters at Yehho (just across the river) by several adequate methods. It also had direct wires to the 134th Division at Chiamussu. Contact with the 128th Division at Lotzoukou was by wireless telegraph. A signal regiment for servicing communications installations was attached to the Area Army and stationed near Mutanchiang.

Before First Area Army could move its headquarters to Tunhua, it had to transfer the center of the communication network from Mutanchiang to Tunhua. Between Tunhua and Mutanchiang, direct lines connected Tungchingcheng with Mutanchiang, but no wires connected Tunhua with Tungchingcheng. To close this gap, therefore, and provide direct lines from Tunhua all the way to Mutanchiang, sixteen wires were laid between Tunhua and Tungchingcheng. This was the principal signal installation needed to permit the Area Army Headquarters to communicate with Fifth Army Headquarters. This work was completed in early August. As for direct communication with Third Army Headquarters, the secondary overhead link from Hsinking to Mutanchiang ran through Tunhua and Yenchi and would be ample.

Communications with the 134th Division in Chiamussu and the 128th Division in Lotzoukou would have to be the same from Tunhua as it had been from Mutanchiang, wire to Chiamussu and wireless telegraph to Lotzoukou.

However, since the 134th Division was to withdraw to Fangcheng during operations, communications from Tunhua to Fangcheng would also have to be by wireless telegraph. First Area Army Headquarters had almost no confidence in its wireless contacts with these two places, a condition created partly by the fact that wireless equipment in those areas was operated by inexperienced personnel.

Since Fifth Army Headquarters was to move to Yehho, forward communications would be as good as they were while Third Army Headquarters was there: wireless to the outpost at Hutou where the 15th Border Garrison Unit was stationed, wire to the 135th Division at Tungan, and wireless to the 124th Division at Muleng and 126th Division west of Pamientung. To improve communications with the latter division, however, signal units began to lay wire to Pamientung; this was the second major wire installation preparatory to the moves.

Forward communication for the Third Army Headquarters from its new base at Yenchi were adequate for contacting the 112th Division in Hunchun and the 79th Division in Tumen. However, for the 1st Mobile Brigade at Shihliping and for the 127th Division at Pataohotzu wires had to be laid, the third and fourth installations required preparatory to the move.

By mid-April changes in the communications network to permit the Third Army Headquarters to move were completed, and on the 25th it vacated Yehho and moved to Yenchi. Soon afterwards, Fifth Army

Headquarters moved into Yehho.

Although it was urgent that the Area Army Headquarters move to its new base in Tunhua, it had to remain at Mutanchiang until the communication network centering around Tunhua could be completed. It did not move until 10 August. Earlier, however, it established an advance command post at Tunhua.

### Training

From the time of the receipt of the operational plan until the beginning of hostilities, training was conducted concurrently with the construction of fortifications. After the issuance of the revised Combat Manual of the Kwantung Army in June, training was patterned after the principles laid down in the manual, emphasizing particularly actions against armored units, raiding tactics, and antiaircraft defenses. In addition, lessons learned from the battles of the Pacific war were incorporated into training schedules and applied in training exercises; these lessons pertained to the construction of fortifications as well as to tactics. At the same time, the First Area Army introduced several specialized subjects into the training programs for units scheduled to be transferred to other areas.

### Border Garrisoning

During the period of the Soviet build-up in Siberia which began after the end of the war with Germany, Soviet forces along the Manchurian border began to show an increasingly challenging attitude.

On about 20 July 1945 Soviet troops crossed the border at Chiungshan, south of Panchiehho. For almost one week more than 300 of them were engaged in constructing fortifications inside the border at distances ranging from 100 to 300 meters and with a frontage of approximately 500 meters. This bold action not only displayed a flagrant disregard for Japanese troops in the area but also showed the hostile intent of the Soviets.

Farther north along the border, at Kanhsiatur, 40 kilometers south of Hutou, Soviet troops trespassed the border at several points on 5 August. Within view of our thirty-man observation team, about twenty Soviet officers approached the Ussuri River border in motor vehicles, observing the Manchurian terrain through binoculars. About 100 Soviet infantrymen then crossed the river and commenced firing at our observation team from a distance of 500 or 600 meters. Our team restrained themselves and did not return the fire. As night fell, the Soviets showed little intention of retreating, and lay prone on the grass.

Fifth Army Headquarters dispatched one of its staff officers, Colonel Akiji Kashiwada, to the area to observe the situation for awhile. On the following day, however, information was received indicating that no Soviet troops were observed in the area; apparently, they had withdrawn during the night. Consequently, the Fifth Army staff officer was recalled.

During these provocative incidents our border troops, in com-

pliance with Kwantung Army regulations, refrained from any positive actions. Nevertheless, throughout the incidents our troops remained vigilant. This alone was apparently sufficient to prevent a recurrence or at least to limit the scope of the incidents.

#### Changes in Strength and Materiel

The organization of new forces in February 1945 and the mass mobilization of all available manpower in July of the same year had practically exhausted all sources of personnel. During this period an almost complete turnover had taken place, both as regards units and personnel. Elite units had been transferred and in their place came newly-formed units; with these elite units went most of the experienced personnel, and these were replaced largely by recruits.

With the transfer of troops from Manchuria went also large quantities of weapons and ammunition. By the summer of 1945, supplies of arms and materiels in the First Area Army had become so scanty that guns necessary to equip newly-organized artillery units had to be obtained by dismantling gun emplacements at border fortifications. Since even this expediency provided an insufficient number of guns, the weapons of artillery units in some cases were supplemented by mortars, some of which had to be manufactured locally. In such cases, though the units may have had enough weapons, the types of weapons varied.

To remedy the shortage of swords and bayonets, various expedencies were taken, such as forging them out of the springs of

scrapped motor vehicles. Even with the adoption of such expedencies, however, about one-third of communication zone personnel were left without bayonets.

#### Combat Effectiveness

Aside from the fact that almost half of the tactical units of the First Area Army (134th, 135th, 139th Divisions, 15th Border Garrison Unit, and the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade) did not begin to be organized until just one month prior to the outbreak of hostilities, each existing division was under strength. Furthermore, the recruits brought into the new units had had no prior military training, and the ability and morale of officers left much to be desired. A great deal of effort was yet needed to organize the new units and to whip the existing divisions into efficient fighting units.

In addition to the shortage of artillery weapons, there were virtually no antitank guns, and almost all infantry guns were obsolete models. The number of heavy and light machine guns and grenade dischargers was less than half of the amounts authorized. Ammunition amounted to slightly more than 100 rounds per rifle and 500 to 600 rounds per field artillery piece. Automobile fuel available for the entire Area Army amounted to 6,950 kiloliter, light oil to 764 kiloliter.

Provisions in the First Area Army were ample. Based on the number of days one standard division could be sustained there were

enough staple rations to feed one division for 8,200 days, enough supplementary rations for 4,800 days, enough Manchurian rations (kaoliang, millet, wheat flour) for 5,300 days,<sup>36</sup> and enough forage for 8,000 horses for 9,000 days.

On the basis of the First Area Army's quality of troops, organization, equipment, and training, its combat effectiveness was estimated to be equal to that of 2.75 first-rate divisions. The estimated combat effectiveness of units was:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Per cent of Combat Effectiveness</u>
79th Division	55
112th Division	35
122d Division	35
124th Division	35
126th Division	20
127th Division	20
128th Division	20
134th Division	15
135th Division	15
139th Division	15
132d Indep Mixed Brigade	10

The effectiveness of operational preparations was hindered by the fact that while considerable progress had been made on underground fortifications in the three months prior to August, scarcely

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36. These three figures show an abundance of provisions in the First Area Army, an abundance prevalent throughout Manchuria, the "storehouse of the Japanese Army." They can roughly be equated, respectively, as 1,281, 750, and 828 US Army theater days of supply. However, approximately 300,000 Japanese residents also had to be fed from these stores.

any above-ground installations, such as positions for heavy weapons, communication trenches, and obstacles, had been completed. Perhaps the greatest hindrance was that the construction of roadblocks had to be delayed in order to keep the main roads open to traffic as long as possible. This accounted partly for the failure, when operations began, to delay enemy armored columns. Our preparedness to meet the enemy was further hindered by the fact that when main forces withdrew to construct new positions for the main line of defense, they left approximately one-third of their principal firearms in barracks areas to be used in training recruits. Furthermore, because of the lack of storage space near the new positions, large quantities of ammunition stocks were also left in the barracks areas by each unit. Hence, when hostilities began these supplies were between the forward elements and the main forces at the new positions, but were immediately available to neither.



## CHAPTER V

### First Area Army Operations on Eastern Front

#### Opening of Hostilities

A little after midnight of 8-9 August 1945 (it had been raining heavily during the night) a report from the Fifth Army stated that its positions in the Hutou area were under attack by Soviet artillery. This was followed by another report from Third Army stating that its positions in the Wuchiatzu area were being shelled by enemy artillery. The Area Army immediately relayed these reports to Kwantung Army Headquarters and summoned personnel of its own headquarters to their offices. It had not as yet definitely ascertained that an all-out invasion had begun.

As more and more reports came in, however, some of them stating that hostile planes were making sorties deep into Manchuria, First Area Army Headquarters concluded that the enemy was attacking in earnest along the entire border and that the invasion had begun. Wasting no time, Headquarters telephoned Operational Order No 1 to the Third and Fifth Armies, the 122d and 139th Divisions, the 134th and 128th Divisions, and also to smaller units under its direct command.

Operational Order No 1 placed into effect the plan for delaying operations, and called upon all units to resist the enemy invasion. It formally placed the 128th and 134th Divisions under the Area Army's

direct command, and the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade directly under the 128th Division.

From reports that continued to come into the Headquarters, First Area Army learned of the developing situation. Along the Third Army front the enemy crossed the border at four points: Shuiliufeng Peak and Wuchiatzu in the 127th Division's sector, and at Hunchun and Tumentzu in the 112th Division's sector. The enemy forces that penetrated the border at the base of Shuiliufeng Peak (430 meters) crossed the Kyonghung Bridge and marched into North Korea. Those that penetrated the border at Tumentzu (6 miles inside the border) were advancing toward the Tuhuangtzu-Chintsang area; these towns are respectively 30 and 40 miles from the border. Other troops gradually pushed toward Tumen by way of Hunchun. To meet the enemy advance, each division of the Third Army took up its respective positions.

In the 128th Division sector the enemy surged in towards Tungning (9 miles inside the border) but was checked by the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade's Tungning Detachment consisting of two infantry battalions, two field artillery batteries, two heavy artillery batteries (280-mm howitzer), and two engineer platoons. The Brigade's main force, meanwhile, began withdrawing to Tachiengchang. Another enemy attack farther south, at Paitaoshantzu, was met by a company of the 128th Division.

In the Fifth Army's area, the enemy broke through the border

at six points: Suifenho and Kuanyuehtai in the 124th Division's sector, Jumonji Pass near the boundary of the 124th and 126th Divisions, Chingkulingmiao and Panchiehho in the 126th Division's sector, and near Hutou in the 135th Division's sector. The most powerful and speediest thrust in the Fifth Army's area was that at Suifenho, where armored columns threatened the Suifenho-Mutanchiang-Harbin railroad and highway, the most important east-west arteries in eastern Manchuria. All divisions of Fifth Army took up previously designated positions to meet the enemy. On the afternoon of the 9th, however, one major disposition change was made when the Fifth Army Commander reinforced the 124th Division front with approximately two infantry battalions from the 135th Division.

In the northern sector, the 134th Division confronted enemy elements pushing along the Sungari River, but was compelled to begin withdrawing from Chiamussu towards Fangcheng.

Border defense units all along the eastern front of Manchuria heroically resisted the enemy's opening onslaught. Each continued to report its situation until communications were severed.

One addition was made to the strength of the First Area Army on the 9th, when the Kwantung Army assigned the 2d Noncommissioned Officer Candidate Unit stationed at Shihtou. Notwithstanding the title of this unit, at this time it consisted only of reserve officer candidates. The unit was organized into two infantry battalions, and one battalion of heavy weapons. Each battalion had approximate-

ly 1,000 personnel.

Operations - 10 August

On 10 August, the main force of Third Army continued to check the enemy advance in the Tumen area. In the 128th Division sector north of Third Army the situation was unknown because communications were temporarily out.

In the Fifth Army area the enemy by the evening of the 10th advanced as far as the Hsiachengtzu-Pamientung-Chihsi line, approximately twenty-five miles inside the border. The situation in the sector occupied by the 124th Division along the Suifenho-Mutanchiang road was becoming critical. In view of the enemy's major armored thrust in this sector and the threat it posed to the important east-west arteries, the Fifth Army commander during the evening of the 10th ordered the 126th and 135th Divisions to withdraw their main forces to Yehho, and to leave only small elements in forward areas. The withdrawal began immediately but was hindered by enemy action.

The Army commander reported these withdrawals to General Seiichi Kita, the Area Army Commander, and asked for any reinforcements that could be spared. The only divisions not then engaging the enemy were the 122d and 139th Divisions, but neither of these divisions could be spared: the 122d was rushing to completion the construction of positions in the Lake Chingpo area, and the 139th was at Tunhua, too far away to be brought up in time to be effective.

The only other unit not engaged was the 2d Noncommissioned

Officer Candidate Unit, assigned to the Area Army on the preceding day. Since this unit was the only reservoir of reserve officers available to the Kwantung Army in the event of a protracted war, the Area Army Commander hesitated to commit the whole unit for initial operations. The unexpectedly swift advance of the enemy reported by the Fifth Army Commander, however, became such a threat that General Kita decided to assign part of it to Fifth Army. Accordingly, he issued orders assigning one infantry battalion (about 1,000 men), commanded by Major Araki, to Fifth Army. General Kita also visited Fifth Army Headquarters to encourage its commander, Lieutenant General Noritsune Shimizu.

Following General Kita's return to his headquarters at Mutanchiang, he prepared for the scheduled move of First Area Army Headquarters to Tunhua. Leaving some of his staff officers and enlisted personnel at Mutanchiang, he departed for Tunhua, via Lake Chingpo, on the evening of the 10th.

Information from the 134th Division in the north sector of the Area Army's front was meager on the 10th. A report from the Chi-mussu signal station, however, confirmed earlier reports that the division was withdrawing to Fangcheng.

#### Operations - 11 to 14 August

From 11 to 14 August events moved rapidly. Reports to First Area Army Headquarters often were sketchy, and the situation was sometimes obscure. The cause of this is traceable to both the send-

ing and receiving ends. On the one hand, enemy action cut communications with some units; on the other hand, the newly-installed communications center at the new headquarters in Hunhua was not what it should have been.

Enemy pressure continued to be applied in three sectors of the Third Army front. In north Korea the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit and the 101st Mixed Regiment were forced to retreat gradually towards Musan. The large enemy armored column which had crossed the border south of Tungning, in the 128th Division sector, headed for the Third Army boundary and Chientao Province. On the evening of the 13th it reached Mt Laohei (800 meters). Here the enemy tank force supported by infantry divided into two units. The unit going north of the mountain began a fierce attack against 128th Division positions near Lotzoukou early the following morning. Colonel Matsuyoshi, commander of the 128th Division's right sector regiment (284th), and his men fought desperately to stem the enemy attack, but by evening it became impossible to hold the positions and the entire division fell back to its second line of defense in the neighborhood of Huapitientzu. From this second defense line the 128th Division fought against a superior enemy from 16 August until hostilities ceased.

While the attack on Lotzoukou was taking place on the morning of the 14th, the main body of the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade, which at 1400, 9 August had been ordered to withdraw, arrived at Tachienchang. There it took charge of the 283th Regiment (less one

battalion) of the 128th Division stationed there. This combined unit, called the Tachienchang Detachment, took up defense positions in this sector. On the 16th it engaged some hostile tanks sweeping southward from Muleng and routed them.

The other enemy column, proceeding south of Mt Laohei, continued in the direction of Chientao Province in the Third Army sector. In the vicinity of Shihliping the 1st Mobile Brigade attacked the column, repulsing it and inflicting heavy losses. The Third Army's main force, meanwhile, continued to prevent a breakthrough of the Area Army's right flank, the 79th Division holding its positions near Tumen and the 112th Division delaying the enemy in the sector west of Hunchun.

On the Fifth Army front the main body of the enemy armored force, consisting of no less than two divisions, advanced along the Suifenho-Mutanchiang road reaching Muleng on the evening of the 11th. At dawn on the following day it laid down a heavy artillery barrage upon our positions on a plateau west of Muleng. The enemy followed through with an attack that finally broke through the 124th Division's positions, and by the evening the enemy was in front of Motaoshih.

In the vicinity of Motaoshih the Fifth Army Commander on the 11th had deployed the infantry battalion of the 2d Noncommissioned Officers Candidate Unit, commanded by Major Araki, and reinforced it with the Intendance Reserve Officer Candidate Unit. This combined unit, beginning on the 12th, carried out repeated desperate attacks

against an enemy tank unit and succeeded in repulsing it.

North of the breakthrough on the 124th Division's defense line, the enemy severely attacked our artillery position near Hsiaotushan on the 13th. A majority of the officers and men, including Colonel Matsumura, commander of the 20th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment, and Colonel Koketsu of the Mutanchiang Heavy Artillery Regiment, died heroically manning their guns. In the evening the position fell into the enemy's hands.

On the evening of the 13th the enemy broke through the Motaoshih position and continued to attack Fifth Army's new position stretching from Yingchitun to an upland south of Hualin via Ssutaoling and 371 Meter Hill. At this time the rear of the Army's operational zone was the Mutanchiang River. General Kita, the Area Army Commander, planned to follow the operational plan and withdraw Fifth Army from its positions east of the River at the appropriate time, its main force to a sector south of Lake Chingpo and an element to Hengtaohotzu. On the evening of the 14th, while he was studying this problem at the headquarters in Tunhua, a telephone report was received by Staff Officer Hiroshi Matsumoto from Staff Officer Akiji Kashiwada of the Fifth Army. The telephone had been inoperative until this time, and Staff Officer Kashiwada summed up the situation since the 12th. He informed Colonel Matsumoto of the enemy breakthrough of the 124th Division's position at Muleng on the 12th, of the enemy attack on



the Army's main position near Yehho on the 13th, adding that "today, (the 14th) the enemy overran the 126th Division's main position in the vicinity of Aiho and nearly annihilated the division's artillery." Colonel Kashiwada ended his report by stating that "the commander of the Army and all personnel are now ready to die in the area east of the Mutanchiang River; the fate of the Fifth Army will be decided tonight or tomorrow."

After receiving this report, Colonel Matsumoto asked Colonel Kashiwada to hold the phone, and reported the Fifth Army's situation to General Kita. After some minutes, Colonel Matsumoto resumed the telephone conversation, and transmitted the following instructions from the Area Army Commander:

Soviet forces have broken through the Manchurian border at several places. The Kwantung Army plans a protracted war, using the mountainous zone around Mt Changpaishan and the Manchuria-Korea border zone as the last redoubt.

The First Area Army plans a long resistance, using the area around Tunhua as the last redoubt.

The Fifth Army will secure positions east of the Mutanchiang River as long as possible, and when the position becomes untenable will gather as many troops as possible and retire to the vicinity of Tunhua or Hengtaohotzu.

These instructions took into account the possibility that enemy pressure might prevent the Fifth Army from withdrawing to Tunhua, and left to the Army Commander's discretion the decision to with-

draw, the place to withdraw to, and the timing of the withdrawal.<sup>37</sup>

In the meantime, Area Army Headquarters ordered the 122d Division to haul ammunition, fuel, and other materiel stored in the Hsinglung and Shihtou sectors for the use of units directly assigned to the Area Army, to the rear areas. It also directed the 122d and 139th Divisions to take up their defense positions in the Lake Chingpo and Tunhua areas respectively, the 122d to facilitate the withdrawal of the main force of the Fifth Army, and the 139th to hold the enemy.

The 122d Division, using all available motor transport facilities, did its utmost to carry supplies to the rear, all the time fending off enemy harassing attacks. An element of its engineer unit destroyed two bridges, one at Ningan, and the other across the Mutanchiang River, west of Tungchingcheng.

At the time that one infantry battalion of the 2d Noncommissioned Officer Candidate Unit was assigned to Fifth Army, the remainder of the Unit was assigned to the 122d Division. Commanded by Colonel Komatsu, this unit consisted of one infantry battalion and one battalion of heavy weapons and infantry guns; each battalion had approximately 1,000 reserve officer candidates who although well

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37. Normally, the Chief of Staff (Major General Ryoze Sakurai) would transmit these instructions. However, since he could not conveniently use the telephone, (he was hard of hearing) he permitted Colonel Matsumoto to transmit them.

trained were not fully equipped. On about 13 August, this unit was detached from the 122d Division and ordered to reinforce the Manchurian troops (three infantry battalions - about 3,000 men) defending the western shore of Lake Chingpo. Just before this "Komatsu unit" reached its assigned position, it encountered an enemy tank force racing down the left bank of the Mutanchiang River. The Manchurian troops fell into confusion and dispersed beyond control.

#### Estimate of Losses

Japanese losses in the First Area Army are not fully known. There are several reasons for this. The battlefield was extremely wide; we were unable to control the movements of subordinate units; the clearance of battlefields was impossible; no well-prepared reports were preserved for the completion of available records; the Soviets destroyed our army organization immediately after the cessation of hostilities; small-scale battles raged for over a month here and there throughout Manchuria because the ceasefire order could not be relayed to outlying units, and many soldiers deserted their units or otherwise could not be accounted for.

Although exact figures are not available, it is estimated that our losses (dead, wounded, or missing) in men were 15,000 in the Third Army, 20,000 in the Fifth Army, and 5,000 in units directly under the Area Army--for a total of 40,000. Soviet losses were estimated as 10,000 men killed or wounded, and 600 tanks destroyed.

### Situation at the End of Hostilities

At the time of the cessation of hostilities the main force of the Third Army was still holding the line of Hoeryong, Tumen, and the heights west of Hunchun, respectively about 50, 40, and 20 miles inside the border. The 128th Division was in the vicinity of Huapitientzu, about 60 miles inside the border. The main force of the Fifth Army, after abandoning its positions near Yehho, was concentrated in the neighborhood of Hengtaohotzu, while the 124th Division was in the vicinity of Tungchingcheng; both these towns are about 100 miles inside the border. The 134th Division was concentrated near Fangcheng. The main body of the 122d Division was holding its positions at Lake Chingpo, and the 139th Division was at Tunhua.

The most hopelessly disorganized of the Area Army forces were the 1st Mobile Brigade and the 112th Division of the Third Army, the 128th Division, all the divisions under the Fifth Army, and in addition those units attached to the divisions mentioned above. Accurate estimates of the combat effectiveness of each unit at the end of the war are not available, but according to rough estimates the Third Army retained about two-thirds of its pre-hostilities combat effectiveness, the 128th Division and the Fifth Army each about one-half, and the 134th Division about two-thirds.<sup>38</sup> The

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38. Cf combat effectiveness prior to hostilities, page 56.

122d and 139th Divisions retained their original combat effectiveness.

#### Cease Fire Measures

On 15 August the commander and all personnel of the Area Army Headquarters heard the broadcast of the Imperial Rescript announcing the end of hostilities. They were so stunned that they stood speechless, weeping bitterly at the thought that their negligence of duty as subjects of the Emperor had caused defeat, for which they justly deserved death.

Some members of the staff insisted that the Area Army should continue military operations if the Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army decided to disregard the Imperial Rescript and fight. On receiving the Kwantung Army cease-fire order, however, the Area Army made every effort to transmit the order to all units under its command, even using planes to drop copies of it.

On the 18th General Sakurai, the Area Army Chief of Staff, went to Kwantung Army Headquarters at Hsinking. After being informed of the Imperial Will, the intention of the Commander in Chief of the Kwantung Army, and the substance of the cease-fire memorandum exchanged between General Hata, Kwantung Army Chief of Staff, and the Soviet Supreme Commander, General Sakurai returned to Tunhua.

At the same time that the Commander of the First Area Army issued the cease-fire order, he issued instructions to burn the colors, important documents, and maps. Despondency filled the soldiers of the Area Army. Lieutenant General Jikizo Nakamura,

commander of the 112th Division, and his chief of staff, Colonel Kameji Yasuki, committed suicide. Colonel Watanabe, commander of the Tungning Heavy Artillery Regiment, as well as officers and men of the regiment, blasted themselves to death. Lieutenant Colonel Mitsunori Wakamatsu, Commander of the 3d Mobile Regiment, also killed himself. Many others deserted and after leaving their units acted as they pleased.

The delivery of the cease-fire order to some of the small frontline units was delayed because of the lack of communication or liaison. While the Soviets made repeated protests, small-scale resistance continued at various places even after 20 August. The bulk of the Tungning Detachment died defending its border position, while one of its elements, holding a position south of Sanchakou, offered determined resistance until about 27 August.

Communications with the 134th Division were out since about 11 August because of the breakdown of the division's wireless. On 19 August one of the division's staff officers, Colonel Saito, arrived in Tunhua by airplane and was given a copy of the cease-fire order to take back to Fangcheng.

#### Negotiations with the Soviet Army and Disarmament

The First Area Army Headquarters prepared for negotiations with the Soviet forces by establishing a liaison agency at Tunhua. The Third and Fifth Armies and each frontline group negotiated and made arrangements for disarmament with the commanders of the respective

Soviet forces confronting them.

On 17 August the commander of the Soviet tank battalion which had raced down the west coast of the Mutanchiang River a few days earlier met Colonel Komatsu, whose 2d Noncommissioned Officer Candidate Unit was then occupying established positions near Lake Chingpo. Asking the colonel not to offer any resistance, the Soviet commander hurriedly led his battalion away towards Kirin without demanding disarmament.

On the 18th the commander of the Soviet division which had entered Tunhua met with General Sakurai, Chief of Staff of the Area Army, to give instructions on disarmament and other matters. The substance of the Soviet commander's instructions was:

The troops around Tunhua will be disarmed by 1200 hours on the 19th and be bivouacked near the Tunhua airfield.

Officers will be permitted to wear swords. The guards of the headquarters will be authorized to carry rifles and bayonets to maintain peace and order.

Military supplies stored in each depot will be delivered in accordance with instructions to be given by the Soviet officers in charge.

The Area Army shall be permitted to communicate by telephone with the Third and Fifth Armies for several more days.

After that, Soviet units came into Tunhua in a continuous stream from the directions of Mutanchiang and Yenchi, and then proceeded towards Kirin and Hsinking. This coming and going meant

so many changes in negotiators that it became extremely difficult for us to execute agreements or to maintain peace and order.

By 19 August the Soviets began moving Japanese forces to concentration points. For the 139th Division and other units under the direct command of the Area Army in the Tunhua area, the concentration point was Shahoyen Airfield, about 16 kilometers north of Tunhua. All lieutenants and enlisted personnel were formed into labor battalions of 1,000 each and marched to Shahoyen where they were bivouacked. During late August and September these battalions were marched to unknown destinations, presumably in Soviet territory. Officers of the grade of captain and higher were temporarily assembled in barracks of the Shahoyen airfield. In mid-October they were marched to the concentration center at Mutanchiang where the main forces of other First Area Army commands were being assembled. During early November the officer units assembled at Mutanchiang as well as the troop labor battalions formed there were transported in a steady stream by train to Soviet territory.

Meanwhile, on 21 August, approximately half of the generals and staff officers of the First Area Army, accompanied by some orderlies, were flown to the Dokhodskoi airfield (about 23 miles northeast of Suifenho) to receive cease-fire orders. They were brought back to Tunhua on the 22d, but on the following day were again sent to Soviet territory by air, this time for interrogation and internment, presumably to Pokrovka (about 20 miles northwest of Voroshilov), where



the Soviet Far East Army's advance command post was located.

#### Civil Affairs

Kwantung Army Headquarters early recognized that in the event of a war with the Soviets it would be responsible for the safety of Japanese residents in Manchuria, including Army dependents, immigrant farmers, and businessmen. During the late spring of 1945, when the build-up of Soviet troop strength in Siberia was being accelerated, it took several steps to assure the safety of Japanese residents.

First Area Army Headquarters, with more than 300,000 Japanese residents in its zone of responsibility, was no less keenly aware of the restrictions on freedom of operational movement that the presence of large numbers of civilians would impose. During the spring it discussed the problem of evacuating non-combatants (to either the Japanese mainland or the interior of Manchuria) with Manchukuoan administrative authorities and with the president of the Manchuria Agriculture Development Company, the latter being responsible for the farmers brought to Manchuria from Japan for agricultural reclamation projects.

The program of evacuating non-combatants had several disadvantages. It would place an additional drain on transportation facilities already taxed by the withdrawal of military supplies to rear areas. The evacuation of Japanese residents from zones in front of military positions would reveal a defensive attitude and perhaps encourage

the Soviets to encroach the border. Moreover, it was felt that the evacuation of only the dependents of Army personnel would have an adverse effect upon other Japanese residents.

Speaking for the immigrant farmers, President Saito of the Manchuria Agriculture Development Company, stated that these cultivation groups had no intention of retreating and that they were determined to remain behind and defend their own land in the event of an enemy invasion. Nevertheless, plans for prior evacuation of Japanese residents were drawn up.

Enforcement of the plan, however, was slow. When the enemy invaded Manchuria, his advance was rapid. Japanese residents showed no signs of remaining on their land and began to abandon everything and to rush to the rear areas in search of safety zones. Extreme confusion prevailed.

Since the railroads could be expected to be bombed before long and possibly rendered inoperative, it was imperative that they be used, while still in operation, for only the most urgent purposes. The withdrawal of war supplies to the rear areas was urgent in order to prevent seizure by the enemy and to make possible a prolonged resistance. Nevertheless, the evacuation of Japanese residents could not be disregarded. Consequently the transport of war supplies was suspended and the evacuation of non-combatants was given priority. As many freight trains as possible were placed in operation to evacuate civilians.

Even with this measure, train space was insufficient for transporting all Japanese residents. Those who missed trains began evacuating on foot towards the west and south. Facing hostile enemy plane attacks, being plundered by enemy ground units and hostile Manchurians and Koreans, and suffering from hunger, these people were in wretched condition.

Those who managed to board trains eventually got to Harbin or Hsinking. Assembly areas for other Japanese evacuees were Kirin for those in that vicinity, Chiaoho and Tunhua for those in the Fifth Army's area, Tungchingcheng for those from the areas of the 122d and 128th Divisions, and Tunhua for Japanese residents fleeing from Chiamussu and Mutanchiang; those in the Third Army area assembled in the vicinity of Yenchi.

Those who assembled in the vicinity of Tunhua were accommodated in official houses, hangars, schools, temples, and whatever other places were suitable. During September, however, at the direction of the Soviet Army, they began to move to Kirin or Hsinking. The behavior of the officers and men of the Soviet Army was quite brutal and inhuman at that time. Babies died one after another owing to malnutrition and other diseases.

Relations with agencies of the Manchukuoan government were relatively smooth during this period. The direction of these agencies within the First Area Army's zone of responsibility was in the hands of the army commander in whose area they were located. These agencies

cooperated fully with the Army in the maintenance of peace and in preparing for the defense of cities. This applied particularly to the Japanese officials of these organs. After the war's end, they were busily engaged in carrying out negotiations with the Soviet Army, with Manchurians, and with Koreans for the relief of refugees.

On the other hand, relations with the Manchukuoan National Army and with Manchukuoan police deteriorated rapidly. The Manchukuoan troops stationed in the vicinity of Paoching, Mishan, and Poli under the command of the Fifth Army had been engaged in the construction of positions, but upon the outbreak of war they rose in revolt, dispersed, and became bandits. However, those stationed in the vicinity of Mutanchiang and helping the 122d Division construct positions, continued their work in earnest until hostilities were suspended. The efficiency of the work of this group was superior to that of the Japanese Army. Upon the termination of the war, however, they too rose in revolt and became uncontrollable. The Manchukuoan police likewise turned on the Japanese. After the Soviet invasion began, they abruptly changed their attitude, began to despise and resist Japanese, and in general obstructed the activities of Japanese residents.

Most Manchurian and Korean civilians assumed an indifferent attitude toward the Japanese when the invasion began. When the Soviet Army marched into their towns however, they welcomed it by displaying red flags at their houses, and were generally hostile to

the Japanese. However, there were not a few Manchurians who secretly entertained goodwill towards the Japanese people.

Most White Russians, fearing Soviet retribution, assumed an indifferent attitude towards the Japanese. There were some, however, who remained friendly and afforded us conveniences of various kinds.

CHAPTER VI

The Third Army<sup>39</sup>

Composition of Third Army

The Japanese Third Army which in August 1945 under the command of Lieutenant General Kiesaku Murakami was to bear the brunt (together with Fifth Army) of the Soviet invasion of Manchuria was organized on 13 January 1938, with Headquarters at Mutanchiang. During the entire period of its existence, Third Army was deployed along the vital eastern front of Manchuria, undergoing in the meantime several boundary changes. It moved its headquarters across the river to Yehho when the First Area Army Headquarters was organized on 4 July 1942 as its parent organization. General Murakami assumed command on 22 November 1944.

At the beginning of January 1945 the principal tactical units of Third Army, and their stations, were

111th Division	Suiyang
112th Division	Hunchun
120th Division	Tungning
1st Border Garrison Unit	Sanchakou
2d Border Garrison Unit	Suifenho
9th Border Garrison Unit	Wuchiatzu
11th Border Garrison Unit	Kuanyuehtai
12th Hv Arty Bn (150-mm guns)	Pamientung
13th Hv Arty Bn (150-mm guns)	Pamientung

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39. The information in this chapter was furnished by Lieutenant Colonel Naotomo Hosokawa, Third Army operations officer.

Mutanchiang Hv Arty Regt (240-mm how)	Hsiachengtzu
3d Hv Arty Regt (240-mm how)	Hsiachengtzu
Tungning Hv Arty Regt (240-mm how)	Tungning
2d Hv Arty Regt (240-mm how)	Acheng
2d Ind Hv Arty Btry (240-mm how)	Acheng

The area of responsibility of the Third Army in the right sector of the First Area Army (the Fifth Army held the left sector) covered the southeastern border provinces of Mutanchiang and Chientao. Its northern boundary ran approximately 10 miles north of Pamientung. Its southern boundary, until September 1944, followed the line of the Manchuria-Korea border but subsequently, because of the gradual manner in which Kwantung Army jurisdiction over north Korea was granted, followed no determinable line.<sup>40</sup>

Except for the 112th Division and the 9th Border Garrison Unit, all of the principal units of Third Army were deployed in the Army's northern sector. The 112th Division and 9th Border Garrison Unit were stationed in the south between Hunchun and Wuchiatzu. The gap between these two forces was manned by small units (from squad to company size) at key defense points along the border. (The 2d Heavy Artillery Regiment and the 2d Independent Heavy Artillery Battery, although assigned to Third Army, were undergoing training at the heavy artillery training center near Acheng in January 1945.)

In February when the southern extension of Third Army's juris-

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40. See footnote 26, Monograph 154-B.

diction (over the northern part of Hamyong Pukto Province in north Korea) took on added importance, Third Army relinquished the northern segment of its border sector to Fifth Army. Fifth Army's border garrisoning responsibilities were extended correspondingly southward to a point north of Yaoshan, and in conjunction therewith was given control of the units in its new sector--the 111th Division and the 2d and 11th Border Garrison Units.<sup>41</sup> This reduced to two the number of divisions and the number of border garrison units remaining with Third Army.

To replenish Third Army's strength Kwantung Army late in February directed Third Army to organize the 124th, 127th, and 128th Divisions. Although these divisions were built around a nucleus of disbanded units, they consisted principally of recruits, and, therefore, did little to improve the Army's fighting effectiveness. Furthermore, the 124th Division, the first to be organized, was transferred to Fifth Army during March.

#### Preliminary Operational Planning

At about this time, Third Army Headquarters was informally advised that the delaying plan which the Kwantung Army had shelved at the time of the adoption of the holding plan in September 1944 was being reconsidered in view of adverse developments in the war situation. On the basis of this informal advice, Third Army Headquarters drafted a tentative delaying plan with the following pro-

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41. The 111th Division remained with Fifth Army only about one month and was then transferred to Korea.



visions:

Each border garrison unit will firmly hold existing border positions.

The 111th Division will secure the sector north of Suiyang and maintain contact with the right flank of the Fifth Army; heavy guns now in the Acheng and Hsiachengtzu area will be redeployed to the Suiyang area.

An element of the 120th Division will secure the vicinity of Mt Laohei, while the main force of the division will secure positions in the vicinity of Chengtzukou. If isolated by enemy action, the division will hamper the enemy's advance.

The 112th Division will operate independently in the Hunchun sector.

Although the assignment of the 111th and 120th Divisions to Third Army was shortly to be terminated, this tentative plan formed the basis for constructing new defense positions and establishing appropriate line of communications facilities.

#### The Hsinking Conference

Late in March, when the troop exodus from Manchuria was at its peak, Kwantung Army Headquarters summoned key staff officers of subordinate commands to a conference in Hsinking. The Third Army sent its chief of staff and its operations and logistics chiefs.

The conference was to have a material effect on Third Army's composition and disposition of forces. Kwantung Army Headquarters outlined its new operational plan calling for delaying instead of holding operations, then being prepared for submission to Imperial General Headquarters. To Third Army representatives it issued in-

structions to the following effect:

Third Army Headquarters will move from Yehho to Yenchí.

Third Army's strength will be augmented in the near future by the addition of the 79th Division and other units in Korea presently under Seventeenth Area Army.

Kwantung Army's limited jurisdiction in north Korea will be extended to the four northern provinces.

A new Army headquarters will be organized to command the four northern provinces on Third Army's flank, except the northern part of Hamgyong Pukto Province.

Certain units in Third Army will be transferred; others will be re-deployed.

Third Army will prepare its own delaying operational plan.

Upon the return of Third Army representatives to Yehho, the effects of the conference began to be felt. Towards the end of March the 120th Division was transferred to south Korea. At the same time, large quantities of guns and ammunition were shipped to the homeland, and in addition all Third Army's 150-mm gun units were transferred to Japan. Of the heavy artillery units the 3d Regiment and the Tungning Regiment (less one battery, which was scheduled for transfer to Fifth Army) were transferred to the Tumen area, arriving there late in April;<sup>42</sup> the Mutanchiang Heavy Artillery Regiment was ordered to move to positions in north Korea, but pending completion

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<sup>42</sup>. These two regiments were attached to the 79th Division on 9 August.

of its new positions remained near Hsiachengtzu.<sup>43</sup> The 2d Heavy Artillery Regiment and the 2d Independent Heavy Artillery Battery were recalled from Acheng and attached to the 127th Division near Pataohotzu. On 25 April Third Army Headquarters moved to Yenchi, close to the Korea border.

The Final Operational Plan (See Sketch No 1.)

On the basis of Kwantung Army's instructions relative to the delaying operational plan, Third Army Headquarters mapped out its own plan, integrating portions of its own draft plan previously prepared. The plan contained the following provisions:

The main force of the Army will be disposed in the sectors on both sides of the Hunchun-Tumen road and will destroy the enemy invading these sectors, and will also secure communications between Manchuria and Korea.

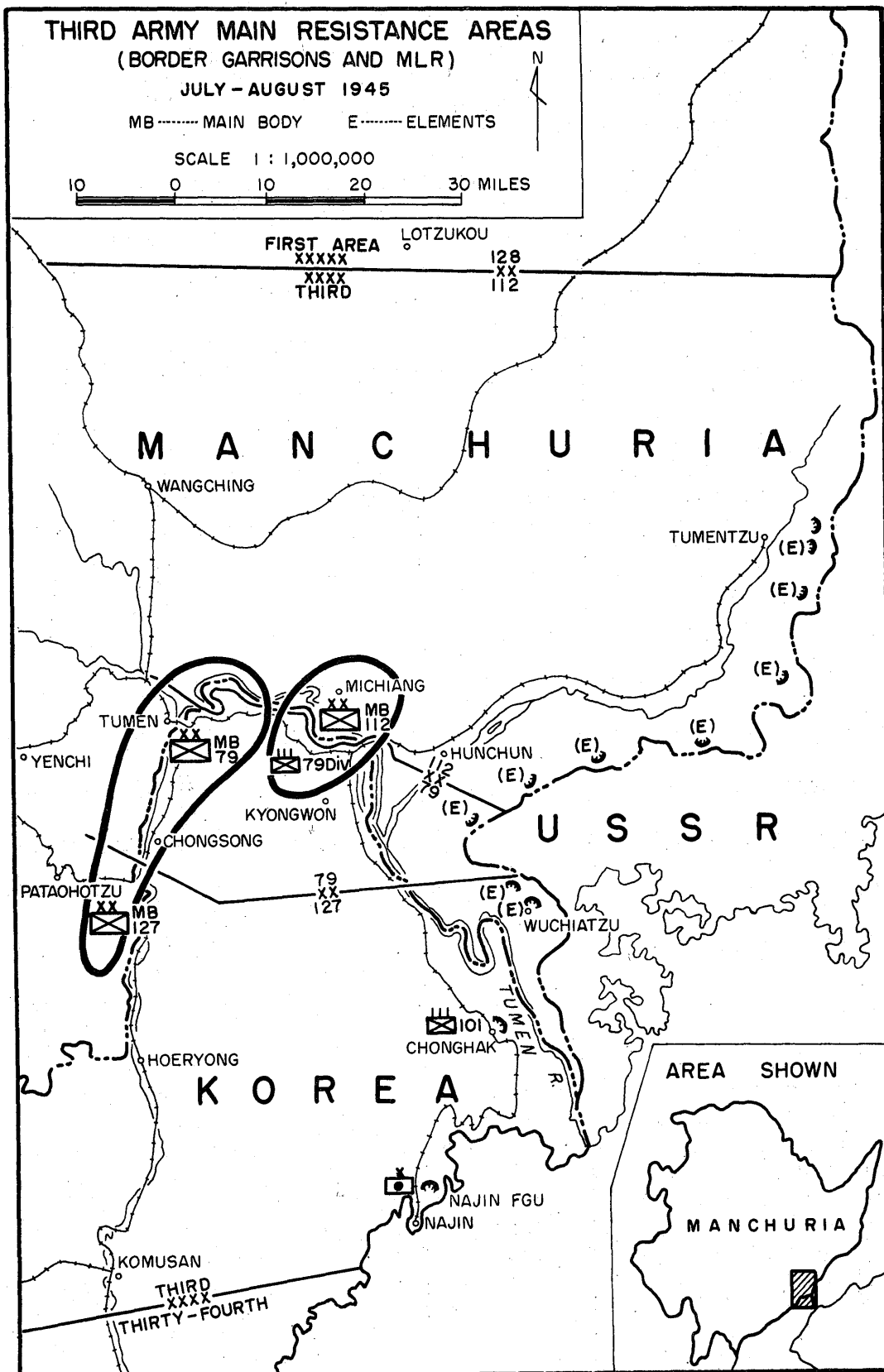
Small elements will be disposed along the border to maintain watch against, and to obstruct, possible enemy action.

The main body will take strong positions along a line running north and south from Hunchun to Unmurei, and from Tumen to Kyodaiho. From this line it will destroy the invading enemy.

With the outbreak of the war the 128th Division and the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade will be placed

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43. On 18 June, while still at Hsiachengtzu, the Mutanchiang Heavy Artillery Regiment was attached to the Thirty-fourth Army Headquarters (transferred from the China Expeditionary Army to Kwantung Army on 17 June 1945, with station in north Korea.) This regiment did not start to move to its new positions, however, until the war started. On 13 August, while en route, it was annihilated west of Muleng.



under the direct control of the Area Army.

The 127th Division will be reinforced by the 2d Heavy Artillery Regiment and the 2d Independent Heavy Artillery Battery, and will operate in the Patahotzu sector.

The 79th Division (less its Cavalry Regiment, assigned directly to Third Army) will be reinforced with the Tungning Heavy Artillery Regiment (minus one battery), and with the 3d Heavy Artillery Regiment, and will operate in the Tumen sector.

The 101st Mixed Regiment and the 112th Division will operate in their assigned sectors, respectively near Chonghak, and Hunchun.

The mission of the 1st Mobile Brigade will be to operate in the sectors along the Tumentzu-Wangching road and the Laoheishan-Wangching road in order to obstruct the enemy invasion along these roads.

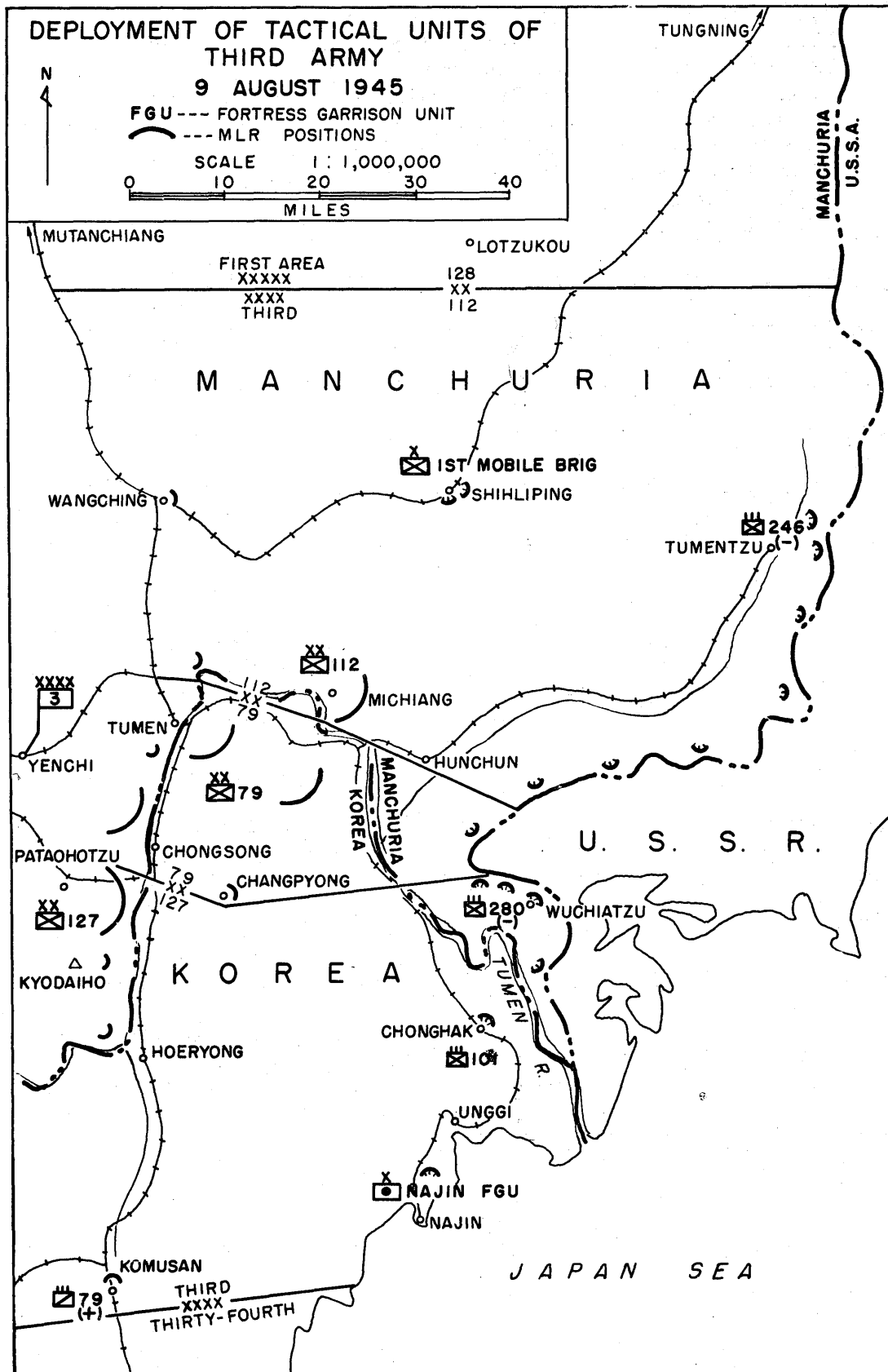
The main body of the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit will hold out in the vicinity of Kantohe and deny the enemy the use of Unggi Port and Najin Port.

On 10 June a major augmentation of Third Army strength took place. From the Seventeenth Area Army it received the 79th Division, the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit, and the 101st Mixed Regiment in north Korea, and from the Kwantung Army it received the 1st Mobile Brigade. On 30 July it obtained the newly organized 132d Independent Mixed Brigade. (See Map No 1.)

By the time the war started, therefore, the principal tactical units under Third Army were:<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>. The 128th was under Third Army only for operational preparations and was to be placed under the direct command of the First Area Army at the outbreak of hostilities, the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade was assigned to the 128th Division at the outbreak of hostilities. The 1st Border Garrison Unit had been disbanded and its personnel assigned to the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade; the 9th Border Garrison Unit had also been disbanded and its personnel assigned to the 127th Division.



<u>Unit</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Station</u>
79th Division	Lt Gen Teisho Ota	Tumen
112th Division	Lt Gen Jikizo Nakamura	Hunchun
127th Division	Lt Gen Ryutaro Koga	Pataohotzu
128th Division	Lt Gen Yoshishige Mizuhara	Lotzukurou
1st Mobile Brig	Col Hideaki Kinoshita	Shihliping
132d Ind Mixed Brig	Maj Gen Goichi Onitake	Tungning
101st Mixed Regt	Col Shizuo Yamanouchi	Chonghak
Najin Fortress Garrison Unit	Lt Gen Kei Seya	Najin

All of these units were of recent origin. On the Third Army's right was the Thirty-fourth Army (with two divisions present and one independent mixed brigade on the way), and on its left was the Fifth Army (with three divisions and one border garrison unit).

In addition, the Third Army had the following separate artillery units, all with weapons of 240-mm:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
3d Hv Arty Regt	79th Division
Tungning Hv Arty Regt	79th Division
2d Hv Arty Regt	127th Division
2d Ind Hv Arty Btry	127th Division

Main forces of Third Army units were deployed in rear positions where new fortifications were being constructed. Elements manned border fortifications as follows. The strong points north and south of Tungning were manned by the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade. One company of the 128th Division held positions north of Paitaoshantzu, and one company south. The resistance nests at the border east of Tumentzu were manned by one regiment of the 1st Mobile Brigade. At lookout posts and defense positions south of Tumentzu and in front

of Hunchun were two companies of the 112th Division. In the Wuchiatzu-Shuiliufeng sector one regiment (less one battalion) of the 127th Division was in the border zone, and in the Najin coastal area the entire Najin Fortress Garrison Unit consisting of five infantry companies and an artillery regiment was in position. (See Map No 2, Monograph 154-B.)

#### Construction and Improvement of Defense Installations

The adoption of the delaying plan at the Hsinking conference meant that Third Army's main body would have to be redeployed to the rear, along a new defense line. This in turn meant the construction of new defense positions.

Shortly after the Hsinking conference the Army commander inspected the new defense zones, and ordered each unit to initiate new fortification work as promptly as they could move to the new areas. He also conferred unofficially with commanders of units scheduled to come under his command, and discussed with them the same matter.

In carrying out this work, emphasis was placed on the construction of positions for artillery and other heavy weapons. These were principally caves dug into earth or into natural rocks to offset the anticipated superiority of the enemy in aircraft, artillery, and tanks. This type of heavy construction was hampered, however, because of the shortage of rockdrills and explosives.

To facilitate the construction of defense installations in north Korea, Third Army was given command of the Nanam Divisional District Unit late in April. Early the following month, Headquarters dispatched the staff officer in charge of operations to Nanam to outline the construction work needed in north Korea.



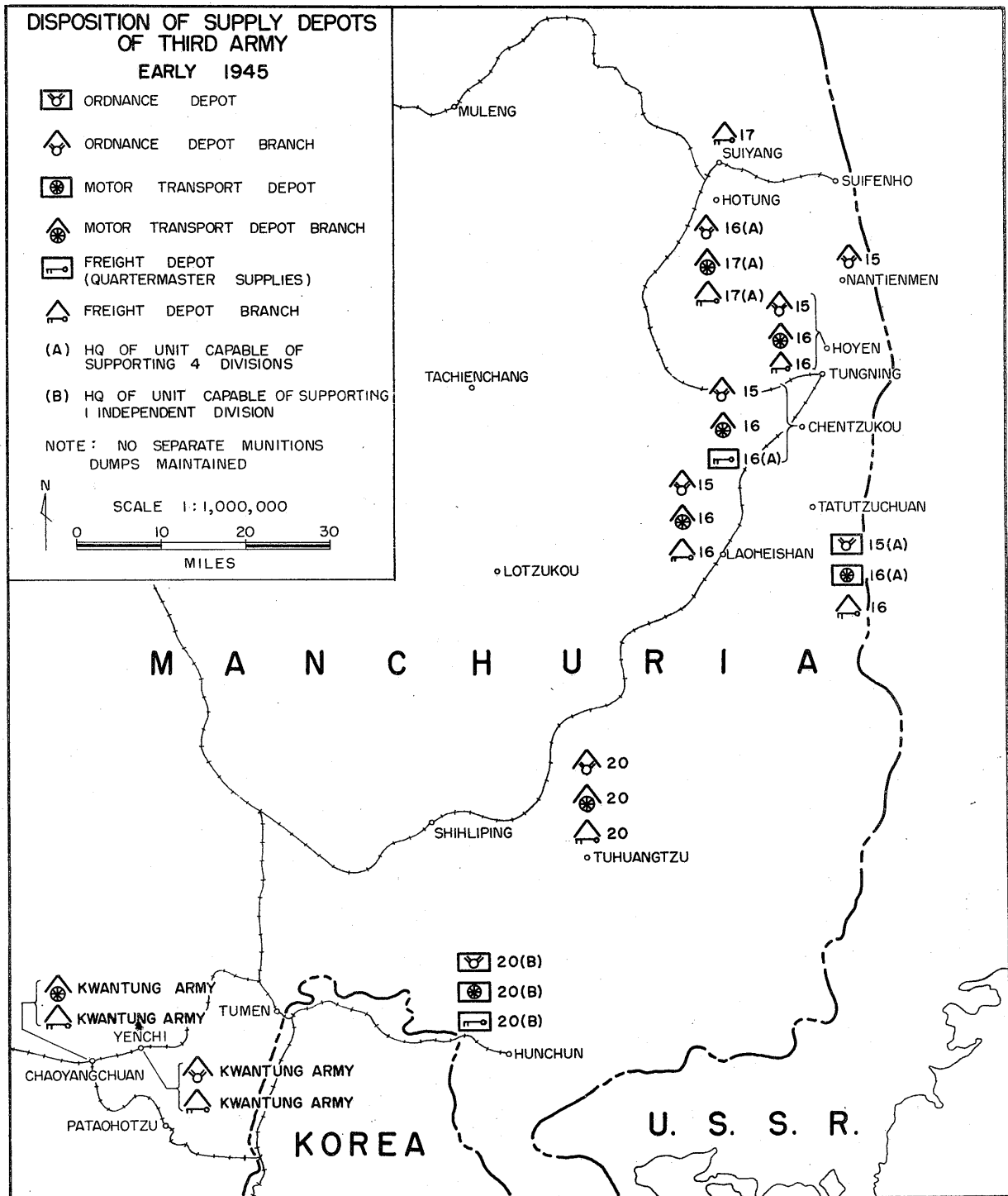
In July First Area Army directed Third Army to prepare defense installations in the vicinity of Antu and Musan where a second line of resistance was to be established. Although these areas were reconnoitered shortly thereafter, not much work had been done by the time hostilities broke out.

### Logistical Plan








In April 1945 a new logistical plan was drawn up in accordance with the new operational plan. It called for (1) the evacuation of munitions and materiel accumulated in front line areas and their redistribution based on the new plan, (2) adjustments in the command structure of the supply depots in the Tungning, Hunchun, Chaoyangchuan, and Yenchi sectors, and (3) modifications in the disposition and missions of other zone of communication units.

As a result, new dumps were established at Tachienchang, Huapiti-entzu, Lotzoukou, and Shihliping, principally in support of the 128th Division; these dumps were to be re-supplied by depots in the Tungning sector. Other dumps were established at Chaoyangchuan, Patachotzu, and Mingyuehkou under the main depots in the Hunchun sector. In addition, stocks of munitions were accumulated at Langchi in the vicinity of which the 1st Mobile Brigade was to conduct operations. (See Sketch No 2 and No 3 for the disposition of depots prior to and after the delaying plan was announced.)

Like tactical units, zone of communication units were transferred

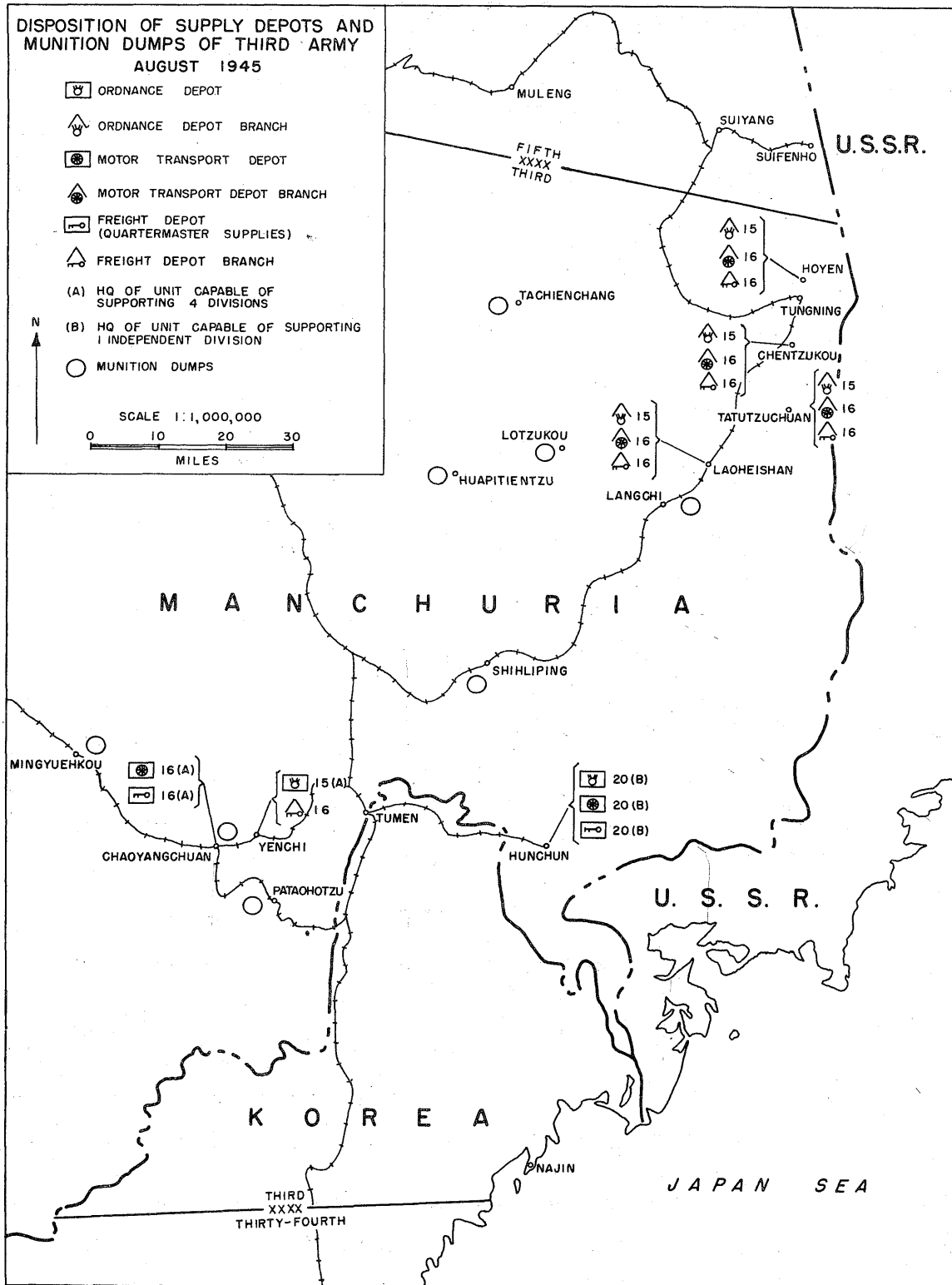


DISPOSITION OF SUPPLY DEPOTS AND  
MUNITION DUMPS OF THIRD ARMY  
AUGUST 1945

-  ORDNANCE DEPOT
-  ORDNANCE DEPOT BRANCH
-  MOTOR TRANSPORT DEPOT
-  MOTOR TRANSPORT DEPOT BRANCH
-  FREIGHT DEPOT  
(QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES)
-  FREIGHT DEPOT BRANCH
- (A) HQ OF UNIT CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING 4 DIVISIONS
- (B) HQ OF UNIT CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING 1 INDEPENDENT DIVISION
-  MUNITION DUMPS



SCALE 1:1,000,000  
0 10 20 30  
MILES



one after another to areas outside of Third Army. Moreover, the large-scale transfer of war supplies to the homeland resulted in acute shortages, especially in motor fuel, and in railway and truck facilities. These shortages were aggravated by a shortage in laborers.

Hampered by these limitations, Third Army had great difficulty establishing new supply dumps. A goal of October was set for the completion of the stockpiling of materials but by the onset of the war only about 50 per cent of the goal had been reached. All tools and equipment in depot machine shops used for making simple weapons such as bayonets and antitank mines were to be removed last. By the outbreak of the war they had not been moved, and almost all of them were deliberately destroyed.

Of all the materiel shortages, those that it was feared would particularly hinder operations were weapons, especially artillery and other heavy weapons, automobile fuel, helmets, and winter clothing. Strenuous efforts were made to compensate for these shortages by local procurement or manufacture. Except for a number of mortars and bayonets, however, no great quantity of weapons were produced. Automotive fuel requirements were barely met by producing an alcohol substitute at each area and also by converting to charcoal-burning engines.

#### Status of Training and Other Preparations

In May and June Third Army conducted a series of conferences at Nanam, Tumen, and Yenchi with division commanders regarding the new

operational plan, with particular emphasis on the Army Commander's view as regards fortifications and training requirements.

During this period training was based on the Kwantung Army Combat Guide. This was a set of rules, issued about June, corresponding to those in the Japan Army manuals but supplemented by experiences gained in the Pacific fighting and by the special training needs of Manchuria. (See Appendix No 5, Monograph No 138.)

Most of the troops in the Third Army at this time were recruits, and their skill in arms was minimal. Basic training was given, but group training could not be carried out effectively since some of the units were in the process of being organized.

New construction lagged behind schedule. Emplacements for artillery pieces and heavy weapons had barely been begun, while the construction of auxiliary structures, such as underground storage dumps and living quarters, had scarcely gone beyond the planning stages. At the beginning of hostilities, therefore, practically no arms, ammunition, or explosives were underground in the new positions.

In some types of weapons, units were almost up to the level of tables of equipment; in others they were seriously short. For example, the authorized and actual weapons of the 127th Division, one of the last to be organized, were:

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Heavy grenade-launchers (mortar-type)	108	48
Light machineguns	108	81
Heavy machineguns	24	18
Infantry battalion guns (37-mm)	6	6
Infantry regiment guns (75-mm)	4	6
Artillery (75-mm guns and 105-mm how)	36	32

As close as can be determined, the actual strengths of major tactical commands of Third Army just prior to the beginning of hostilities were: (Standard organization of Japanese infantry division may be found in Chart No 3, Monograph No 154-F.)

79th Division	15,633
127th Division	13,130
112th Division	16,218
132d Independent Mixed Brigade	5,545
128th Division	12,634

## CHAPTER VII

### Third Army Operations

#### Situation at the Start of the War

Shortly after 0000, 9 August, Lieutenant Colonel Fujimoto, Third Army's chief of intelligence, on night duty in Headquarters Third Army in Yenching, received a report from a unit in the Wuchiatzu area stating that it was being shelled by the Soviet Army. (The 280th Regiment, less one battalion, of the 127th Division was guarding this area.) He immediately went to the quarters of Lieutenant Colonel Naotomo Hosokawa, operations chief, and told him of the report. Both staff officers then proceeded to the quarters of Major General Hanjiro Iketani, chief of staff, and after informing him of the matter, together returned to Army Headquarters where they took measures to summon all personnel to the office.

Normal procedure required that higher headquarters be given first a report of the incident and second an account of the action taken or planned. Colonel Hosokawa, upon arriving at the Headquarters, promptly telephoned the details of the incident to the First Area Army Headquarters in Mutanchiang, giving the message to the chief of operations, Lieutenant Colonel Hideo Shibo. He then told Colonel Shibo that Third Army intended to order its units to stop all construction work and to assume their battle positions. According to a prearranged plan, this meant that the 79th Division would take up positions near

Tumen, the 112th Division near Hunchun, and the 127th Division near Pataohotzu; border units were not, of course, engaged in any major construction, and since they were under attack were presumably holding their positions and awaiting further orders.

After concluding his report to First Area Army, Colonel Hosokawa notified all Third Army divisions by phone to occupy predesignated positions according to the Army's plan, and to repel the enemy invasion. Shortly thereafter the Commander of the Third Army arrived at his office, and at about 0530 Third Army issued its Operational Order No 1. The salient points of this Order were immediately transmitted by telephone; the complete text was telegraphed later.

Details of the incident were explained personally to the Thirtieth Army commander, chief of staff, and other staff officers. These officers had come to Yenching the day before to attend a ceremony marking the completion of Headquarters Thirtieth Army's organization, which had been carried out under the supervision of Third Army Headquarters. Immediately after daybreak these officers departed from the Yenching airdrome bound for their headquarters in Meihokou.

Consolidation of various items of information received from frontline areas revealed that Soviet forces were attacking in force. By 0500 Soviet troops had penetrated the border in the vicinity of Paitaoshantzu where elements of the 128th Division were stationed, and near Tumentzu in the sector manned by one regiment of the 1st Mobile Brigade. Farther south enemy troops, after making a circuit



around Shuiliufeng Mountain, at 0200 crossed the Kyonghung Bridge spanning the Tumen River and forced our 9th Casualty Clearing Unit to evacuate towards Hoeryong. Communications with the 280th Regiment in the Wuchiatzu area had been interrupted since receipt of the first report of hostilities and the situation thereafter in that sector was never clear.

By the evening of the 9th no further word had been received from the Pataoshantzu area. On the Tumentzu front the enemy was making a frontal attack against our positions. In front of Hunchun where two companies of the 112th Division were manning border defenses, he was advancing slowly. The enemy force that marched across the Tumen River bridge near Kyonghung was moving towards either Hoeryong or Unggi, it was not clear which. However, on the probability that he was headed for the coast, it was estimated that he was going in the direction of Unggi to take that port. On the evening of the 9th, the 79th Reconnaissance Regiment,<sup>45</sup> which had just arrived in the vicinity of Komusan, was ordered to reconnoiter the movements of the Soviet force in the Kyonghung and Agochi areas on the theory that if headed for the port of Unggi the Soviet force would have to pass near those towns.

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45. Normal strength of a reconnaissance regiment was 689. It consisted of a headquarters (144 personnel), two mobile infantry companies (168 each), two reconnaissance armored car companies (52 each), and one motor transport company (105).

On the night of the 9th, Third Army Headquarters dispatched three raiding parties with the mission of blowing up railroads in Soviet territory.<sup>46</sup> Each raiding party, whose members were well trained and well briefed for their mission, consisted of from five to ten men and one radio set. Also during the night, hostile planes flew to Yenchi and dropped bombs but did not cause serious damage.

Situation from 10 to 13 August

In view of the enemy's air raid on Yenchi, Army Headquarters decided on the 10th to establish an alternate command post at the Army Officers Club of Yenchi. Beginning at noon all key sections began transferring personnel to the Club. Meanwhile, the 112th Division Headquarters, which had been in Hunchun, moved to Michiang.

Reports from the front indicated that the Soviet Army had broken through the vicinity of Laoheishan. In the Tumentzu sector our troops were withdrawing. Late in the day, Hunchun, about ten miles inside the border, fell into the enemy's hands. Along the coast of northern Korea, Chongjin was subjected to enemy naval bombardment and air attack.

On the 11th, Army Headquarters intercepted London and New Delhi broadcasts announcing Japan's unconditional surrender but dismissed the report as false propaganda, and continued hostilities.

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46. Presumably the trans-Siberian stem from Razdolnoye to Posyet Bay.

The main body of the infantry regiment of the 1st Mobile Brigade on the Tumentzu front reported that it was beginning to retreat to Shihliping. In the Hunchun sector the enemy infantry division supported by a tank brigade that had entered the city the preceding day began advancing toward 112th Division positions near Michiang. An artillery unit of the 112th Division engaged several hostile tanks leading the advance, and destroyed them. This action raised the morale of our men.

In the Unggi area, elements of the Soviet infantry division and tank brigade that had crossed the Kyonghung Bridge on the 9th, reached Unggi-ryong, pushing back elements of the 101st Mixed Regiment and heading for the commercial port of Unggi. From reports received from the area, Army Headquarters estimated that a sizable enemy mechanized unit was passing through this coastal valley.

Between 1000 and 1100 hours of the 11th, a Soviet amphibious battalion began an assault landing at Najin, the naval base directly south of Unggi.<sup>47</sup> The Najin Fortress Garrison Unit offered slight resistance to the attackers and then began to retreat south along the coast towards Chongjin, another commercial port. The situation in that area was not clear thereafter.

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47. On 13 August a Soviet force (about division size) carried out an assault landing at the commercial port of Chongjin in the Thirty-fourth Army's area. These were the only two amphibious assaults or landings carried out by Soviet forces.

Reports to Army Headquarters dwindled. The Army Commander dispatched Colonel Hosokawa, his operations chief, to the 112th Division's sector to survey the situation in front of Michiang. The 112th Division Commander, Lieutenant General Jikizo Nakamura, asked Colonel Hosokawa how much resistance the division should offer at the battle line, then in front of Michiang, adding that if the division offered stubborn resistance at that line it would be in a weaker position to offer organized resistance later at the Tumen line. Colonel Hosokawa, considering the over-all trend of the Army's situation and the conditions prevailing in the division's area, replied that the division should offer the utmost resistance at its present battle line.

On the 13th, Army Headquarters received a report that the enemy tank unit with "about 300 tanks"<sup>48</sup> that had penetrated to the rear of Hunchun was turning north towards the mountainous area. Also on the 13th, in the evening, the commander of the 3d Regiment of the 1st Mobile Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Wakamatsu, returning from Kirin stopped briefly at Army Headquarters before proceeding to Wangching, where the main body of his regiment was then located.

#### Situation from 14 to 16 August

Army Headquarters estimated that enemy pressure on Tumen would be relatively small compared with the powerful hostile effort being

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48. This number appears to be an exaggeration, since only one enemy tank brigade (about 140 tanks) was in the area.

made in the Chongjin area. A hasty study was made of a plan to send the main force of the 127th Division plus an element of the 79th Division to the Najin area to intercept the enemy. However, in view of the fact that no definite estimate of the enemy strength in that area had been made and considering reports that hostile tanks were converging on the Wangching area from both the north and east this plan was cancelled. Instead, Army Headquarters took measures to cope with the threat to Wangching, located some twenty-five miles northeast of Army Headquarters at Yenchi: it directed the 79th Division Commander to send one artillery battery to reinforce his infantry company in the Chiulungping area about half-way to Wangching; it asked First Area Army Headquarters to furnish reconnaissance planes to reconnoiter the movements of the enemy advancing along the defile from Paitaoshantzu, Laoheishan, to Wangching, and also of the enemy force in the Najin area,<sup>49</sup> (only the Paitaoshantzu area was actually reconnoitered); and it directed zone of communication units to improvise antitank mines for use against enemy tanks threatening the area.

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49. Third Army had no tactical air support, and only rarely had the use of a reconnaissance plane. Kwantung Army had only 360 tactical planes (225 fighters, 40 bombers, 45 reconnaissance planes, and 20 assault aircraft) and about 640 training planes. For the entire First Area Army on the eastern front only two planes (reconnaissance) were provided, but no assault aircraft. A direct support air unit with ten training planes was organized at Tunhua (First Area Army Headquarters) on 12 August, but it was never used. During hostilities the 2d Air Army devoted its main efforts to attacking the enemy invading from Outer Mongolia.

Beginning on the morning of 15 August, enemy air activity against Army Headquarters became very intense. Meanwhile, the Army Commander and several staff officers departed via Patachotzu to inspect the defenses in the Hoeryong area, towards which the 101st Regiment was retreating from the Chonghak sector.

At noon, while at Headquarters of the 127th Division in Patachotzu, General Murakami and staff officers accompanying him heard the Emperor's broadcast concerning the termination of the war. Opinion was divided as to the truth of the broadcast and, after a brief discussion it was decided to continue military operations according to existing instructions until a formal cessation order was received.

A formal order directing that all active resistance be stopped but that self-defense measures should be taken when necessary arrived that night from First Area Army Headquarters. Simultaneously, a report was received from the 1st Mobile Brigade stating that its positions in the Wangching area, about 25 miles northeast of Army Headquarters at Yenchi, were under attack by a sizable Soviet tank force. Hastily, a counterattack force consisting of about two infantry battalions of the 127th Division was formed and directed to proceed to Wangching along the Yenchi-Chiulungping road to meet the enemy tanks.

On 16 August the enemy tanks broke out of Wangching in two columns, both converging on Yenchi, one via Chiulungping, the other via Tumen. As a result of this breakout, there was great confusion in the area

between Wangching and Hunchun as fighting raged for the positions of the 112th Divisions. The vanguard of hostile tanks proceeding south on the Wangching-Chiulungping-Yenchi road made its appearance in the Chiulungping sector where one infantry company of the 79th Division was awaiting the arrival of a supporting artillery battery. The counterattack force of the 127th Division ordered to this sector, meanwhile, had started out in trucks provided by the 113th Independent Motor Transport Battalion bound initially for Yenchi; it arrived at Yenchi about noon but because of the end of hostilities did not continue to Chiulungping.

In the afternoon a report was received that enemy tanks from Wangching had arrived in the vicinity of Tumen. This brought the double threat to Army Headquarters to within 15 miles, and also posed an immediate threat to the 79th Division's rear. To cope with it Army Headquarters, utilizing locally available troops, organized one force to cover the road approaches to Yenchi from Chiulungping, another to cover the road approaches from Tumen, and a third (composed of Army Headquarters guards) to protect Yenchi itself; meanwhile, the 79th Division Headquarters organized its own headquarters guards into a special force for the defense of Tumen. By the time fighting stopped one enemy armored column had reached Chiulungping and the other was on the outskirts of Tumen.

Summary of Movements and Disposition  
of Zone of Communication Units

The 113th Independent Motor Transport Battalion had been stationed in Yenching since the beginning of its organization late in April as Third Army's temporary transport battalion. At the beginning of August, when its organization was completed, it was transferred to the Chaoyangchuan and Yenching sectors where it took charge of the new supply accumulation operations and of maintaining daily supply to those sectors. It was this unit that on the night of 15 August was given the special mission of rushing elements of the 127th Division to Yenching.

The 52d Independent Transport (packhorse) Battalion, with headquarters at Tatutzu-chuan and one platoon (about fifty men) each at Shihli-ping, Tumen, Chaoyangchuan, and Yenching, was in charge of supply and transportation operations in these sectors. At the outbreak of the war each platoon was placed under the operational control of the local tactical unit.

The 69th Independent Transport Company was stationed in Laoheishan and was charged principally with transporting timber from Suwonshan to Laoheishan for use in constructing underground pass ways of supply depots. With the outbreak of the war it worked with the 128th Division.

The 77th and 79th Zone of Communications Duty Companies, stationed respectively at Chengtzukou and Laoheishan, were in charge of



guarding the supply depot in their respective areas.

The 46th Field Road Construction Unit, its main body at Tungning and an element in Yenchi, was responsible for constructing and repairing roads in their respective areas. An element of this unit was formed into close-quarter combat squads on 16 August and sent out to locate and destroy hostile tanks invading from the direction of Wangching-Chiulungping.

The 84th Land Duty Company, stationed near Tuhuangtzu, guarded the branch supply depots there; one element of this company was assigned to guard the new dumps in Mingyuehkuo. The 95th Land Duty Company at Laoheishan guarded the supply depot located in that vicinity, and also helped in loading timber. The 32d Construction Duty Company was responsible for constructing barracks and reconstructing warehouses for the supply depots in the Yenchi and Chaoyangchuan areas.

The 13th Zone of Communication Medical Unit Headquarters, stationed in Mutanchiang, administered hospitalization in that area. The 97th Zone of Communications Hospital had been divided in the spring of 1945, half going under the command of the Haicheng Army Hospital in southern Manchuria, and the other half under the Ningnan Army Hospital which was directly under the First Area Army.

The 9th Casualty Clearing Unit stationed in the vicinity of Agochi in northern Korea, although a medical unit, was given the duty of transporting supplies daily for the regiment (less one battalion)

of the 127th Division that was guarding the border near Wuchiatzu. At the outbreak of the war this unit was attached to the Wuchiatzu unit.

Of the Army hospitals near Tungning, the 1st had been moved in May 1945 to Lungching, and after the outbreak of war was sent to Yenchi. The 2d remained in its station at Langtungkou at the outbreak of war in support of the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade. The 3d, stationed in the Chengtzukou area, at the outbreak of the war furnished hospitalization service to the 128th Division. The Laoheishan Army Hospital established a dispensary at Changchiatien; after the war started both the hospital and dispensary serviced the 128th Division. The Hunchun Army hospital was annexed to the Yenchi Army Hospital. The Tumentzu Army Hospital supported the 112th Division.

The 15th Veterinary Quarantine Station at Shentung was preparing to move to either Mingyuehkou or Lungching when the war broke out. It remained at Shentung, however, in support of the 128th Division.

#### The Cessation of Hostilities

Shortly after midnight of 16-17 August a second order relating to ending hostilities was received from First Area Army. This directed that all hostilities be stopped. At daybreak General Murakami sent his intelligence chief, Lt Col Fujimoto, to Chiulungping to notify the Soviet tank battalion commander there of the end of hostilities. At the same time he directed all divisions under

his command to stop all fighting.

At about 1600 hours the Soviet tank battalion commander arrived at the Army Officers Club in Yenchi and conferred with Major General Hanjiro Iketani, the Army Chief of Staff. On the following day General Iketani went to Wangching to conduct armistice negotiations. There, General Chushchakov, commander of the Soviet 25th Army and senior Soviet commander in the area, issued disarmament instructions to the following effect:

By noon of 19 August the Army must be completely disarmed; arms will be piled in the Hunchun, Tumen, and Yenchi areas. Officers will be permitted to carry swords.

Officers holding positions higher than that of regimental commander will assemble in the Army Headquarters at Yenchi.

Pursuant to the Soviet commander's directions, Army Headquarters at about 2300 hours sent one officer to the 79th Division and another to the 112th Division to transmit Soviet disarmament instructions.

On 19 August General Kita, the First Area Army Commander arrived in Yenchi from Tunhua to see the Soviet 25th Army Commander. But since a meeting could not be arranged, he paid his respects to General Murakami and then returned to Tunhua.

For the next few days disarmament procedures were gradually carried out. On the 20th the building which housed Third Army Headquarters was turned over to the Soviet Army. On the 21st all officers (except generals) and men in Yenchi were interned in the

barracks in the compound formerly occupied by the 281st Infantry Regiment (127th Division). On the next day, all noncommissioned officers and men (except orderlies) were separated from officers and organized into labor battalions; at a later date they were removed from Yenchi, presumably to the USSR.

On the 24th, with fighting still raging in areas with which there was no communication, the Soviet Commander requested that liaison officers be sent to those areas. Accordingly Third Army Headquarters sent its logistical chief, Lieutenant Colonel Kono, to Kachidoki-yama, south of Sanchakou in the Tungning area, to deliver cease fire orders to Japanese forces there. It sent Colonel Hosokawa, operations chief, on a similar mission to the 1st Mobile Brigade still holding out north of Wangching.

Officers were detained in Yenchi until 3 November when about 50 per cent departed Yenchi for internment in camps at Rada in Tambov Oblast, southeast of Moscow. About two weeks later the rest of the officers followed.

#### Civil Affairs

After the end of hostilities about 16,000 of the 32,000 Japanese in Chientao Province began to assemble in Yenchi city. Of the 16,000, about 11,000 were commercial residents (mostly employees of municipal offices, or of the Manchurian Railroad Company), and about 5,000 were personnel connected with the Army (dependents of military personnel and of civilian personnel, and female civilian employees attached to

the Army. Male civilian employees of the Army were regarded as prisoners of war by the Soviets and were interned).

Providing shelter for the 16,000 Japanese in Yenchi developed into a major problem. On the evening of 17 August, in view of the threatening attitude of the natives, especially of the Koreans, all personnel connected with the Army were moved to the Army camp in Yenchi. Commercial residents remained in official residences or in company houses except that the overflow was housed in the Army camp.

With refugees from the border districts continuing to pour into Yenchi, the problem of sheltering all Japanese was aggravated. On the 18th the problem was discussed at Army Headquarters with Vice Provincial Governor Nishio of Chientao Province and Provincial Councillor Hattori. Since it was the responsibility of the Province to care for all Japanese not directly connected with the Army, they decided to house the overflow of commercial residents in the Japanese primary schools and in the local prison. Even with this expediency, however, some of the commercial residents had to remain in the Army camp. On 20 August military dependents were moved to a separate area of the Army camp and occupied the barracks formerly used by the 281st Infantry Regiment; on the 21st, as noted above, officers, male civilian employees of the Army, and local troops, were interned in the same compound but in separate buildings.

Because of the general decline of nutritional standards and the

abrupt change in living conditions the sick rate rose sharply among both the commercial residents and military-attached personnel. Particularly prevalent were acute cases of pneumonia and diphtheria; most children under five years of age were suffering from one of these diseases. Among the dependents of the military personnel and civilian employees, whose sanitary facilities were comparatively good, deaths among their children numbered 500 or thereabouts. Japanese commercial residents who became ill could not receive satisfactory medical treatment because of the lack of medicinal supplies and equipment, and those that consulted native physicians were charged exorbitant fees. Many died of unidentified diseases.

Beginning late in September, shortages of food, winter clothing, fuel, and other necessities of life began to be felt. At about this time, Soviet officers visited the army barracks and made a list of dependents, including name, age, permanent address, and relatives. Soon afterwards, military-attached personnel were moved to the German church in Yenchi. In the middle of October some dependents were again moved, this time to the Kempeitai buildings or to the municipal office buildings. About ten medical officers and three intendant (supply and finance) officers were given permission to accompany the Army dependents and civilian employees in their new quarters.

Early in October the plight of the commercial residents worsened, and the number who became day laborers or street peddlers gradual-

ly increased. Among the young girls those who cropped their hair or dressed like men increased in number. A dance hall was opened in the city through arrangement with the Soviet Army, and several women worked there ostensibly as dancers. These women often visited the dependents of Army personnel in efforts to persuade the young girls to become "dancers."

By mid-October the lives of even the dependents reached bottom. To make ends meet some parted with their last valuable possessions, including such items as clothing. Some began to look for odd jobs; some took to rolling cigarettes. All were faced with the serious problem of earning a living.

As for the natives, at first both Manchurians and Koreans showed bitter resentment and antipathy towards the Japanese. The Manchurians, however, later showed a gradual softening of their attitude towards us. The Koreans, on the other hand, continued to bear malice, particularly the members of the Korea Youth League who under the influence of the Russians oppressed the Japanese. Meanwhile, between the Manchurians and Koreans there developed increasing signs of animosity.

CHAPTER VIII

The 79th Division<sup>50</sup>

Origin of the 79th Division

To trace the origin of the 79th Infantry Division, one must go back to the 19th Infantry Division of Japan's Korea Army. On 22 November 1944 Imperial General Headquarters directed the 19th Division, stationed in Nanam, to prepare for movement to a southern theater of operations; in December the division left the continent for the Philippines. To replace it, the 19th Depot (Training) Division was organized in Korea shortly thereafter with personnel furnished largely by the 2d Divisional District.<sup>51</sup> In February 1945 the Korea Army was reorganized into the Seventeenth Area Army (responsible for operational preparations) and the Korea Administrative District Army (responsible for maintaining peace and order). The 19th Depot Division, as a training unit, was assigned to the latter.

On 10 March 1945, on orders from Imperial General Headquarters, the 19th Depot Division was reorganized into the 79th Division at

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50. No monograph on 112th Division operations has been prepared. As the left flank of the 79th Division, however, its role was closely related to that of the 79th, and a considerable amount of data on the 112th Division is contained in this section, which was prepared by Colonel Takaharu Shinabe, former chief of staff, 79th Division.

51. The 2d Divisional District was a geographical area centering around Sendai, Japan, responsible for furnishing personnel to the 19th Division (and also to the 2d Division).



full T/O strength. About 35 per cent of its personnel were regulars, about 50 per cent reservists, and the remaining 15 per cent Korean recruits. Like its predecessor, the 79th Division was stationed at Nanam near the east coast of north Korea. During the five months of its existence before hostilities began it was given missions primarily of organizing other units and constructing fortifications.

On 20 April the 79th Division was directed to organize the Nanam Divisional District Unit and, in addition, to furnish approximately 500 personnel to the Taegu Divisional District Unit.<sup>52</sup> The Nanam Unit trained recruits for the 79th Division, and in this respect took over some of the functions formerly performed by the 19th Depot Division. The mission of organizing the Nanam Divisional District Unit was the forerunner of similar missions that were to be assigned to the 79th Division.

#### Third Army Commander Announces New Plan

On 1 May 1945 Lieutenant General Keisaku Murakami, Third Army Commander, accompanied by several of his staff officers, arrived at the hot springs resort of Chuuronbo, about 8 kilometers south of Nanam. There he called together the commanders and chief of

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52. There were three other such units in Korea: the Kwangju, the Seoul, and the Pyongyang Divisional District Units. Each of these units, consisting of 10,000 personnel, was given the missions of maintaining peace and order and of training recruits for tactical units.

staff of the 79th Division, the Nanam Divisional District Unit (then being organized), and the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit, as well as the commander of the 101st Mixed Regiment.

Since at this time none of these units was under the command of Third Army, General Murakami conducted the conference informally and unofficially. He outlined the delaying operational plan newly adopted by the Kwantung Army and in conjunction therewith announced that each of the units represented at the conference was scheduled to come under Third Army's control. He explained the details of Third Army's operational plan and outlined what he regarded as the essentials of the defensive disposition of units in Hamyong Pukto Province. In this connection he advised the 79th Division that at a subsequent date it was to move farther north and take up positions immediately south of the Korea-Manchuria border where it would be called upon to begin extensive fortification construction for Third Army and also to assist the Nanam Divisional District Unit in its fortification work. Although this was merely advance information of future action, for all practical purposes these units came under the jurisdiction of Third Army at this time. Instructions took the form of requests rather than orders. Meanwhile, the 79th Division would continue to receive orders from the Seventeenth Area Army.

Instructions were not long in coming. In late May, Third Army sent an urgent request for an engineer construction unit to assist the 127th Division in its fortification work near Patahotzu for

about one month. The 79th Division quickly organized a unit of about 200 men selected from its infantry regiments and dispatched it to Tumen.

On 18 May the 79th Division was directed by Seventeenth Area Army to organize the 20th Independent Mountain Artillery Regiment. At this time it was still organizing the Nanam Divisional District Unit, and assigned the work of organizing the new artillery unit to the 79th Mountain Artillery Regiment. The formation of these units was carried out promptly. Each unit was fully equipped, and the condition of equipment was generally good.

Early in April, meanwhile, all units under the division had moved to training areas for one month's training. They returned in mid-May. In June, all units again went to the camping site for an additional three week's training. But orders received by Headquarters caused it to suspend this training and to direct the return all troops to their regular stations to prepare for the movement north. Elements and units of the 79th Division at this time were:

- 289th Infantry Regiment
- 290th Infantry Regiment
- 291st Infantry Regiment
- 79th Mountain Artillery Regiment  
(two battalions of 75-mm guns)
- 79th (horse) Cavalry Regiment
- 79th Engineer Regiment
- 79th Transport Regiment
- Division Signal Unit
- Division Ordnance Duty Unit
- Gas Control Unit
- Veterinary Depot (Hospital)

All these elements were stationed in Nanam except the 290th Infantry Regiment and the 79th Engineer Regiment which were in Hoeryong, and the 79th Transport Regiment which was in Kyongsong, 4 kilometers south of Nanam. (The Transport Regiment was moved to Nanam after the organization of the Nanam Divisional District Unit was completed.)

#### Organization of Division into Engineer Sector Units

As explained by General Murakami, the area in which the 79th Division was to undertake fortification construction projects was divided into four sectors. The size of the projects made it clear that almost the entire division would have to be used in this work.

As a first step the division late in May formed a Fortification Headquarters. Headed by the chief of staff, it consisted of the commanders of the Engineer Regiment and the 1st Mountain Artillery Battalion, members of each special staff section of division headquarters, and other officers. The Fortification Headquarters was responsible for directing the entire fortification work of the division, and for collecting and distributing equipment, materials, as well as for supplying weapons, ammunition, and provisions to each position. It established itself in Tumen, which subsequently was to become the site of the division's headquarters.

Next to be formed was an engineer construction unit for each of the four sectors. Upon being formed, these units immediately dispatched necessary officers to the scene where the unit was to work,

with instructions to make full preparations, and also to assume the duties of the former engineer unit there. At about this time the division was given advance notice that it would be required to furnish a detachment of troops for the Komusan area, on the Army's extreme right. (The composition and location of these sector units and the Komusan Detachment are shown in Chart No 1.)

As part of the project, the construction of a number of artillery positions was allotted to each sector. This work was to be directed by the commander of the 79th Mountain Artillery Regiment whose headquarters was at Tonggwan. To handle signal communications, the division signal unit was to be stationed in Tumen near division headquarters, and was to maintain wireless telegraph contact with Sector A, C, and D, and telephone contact with Sector B. To handle transportation the main body of the Transport Regiment was also to be stationed in Tumen; its commander was to exercise general control over transportation between Fortification Headquarters and the supply base of each sector. To each sector was attached an ordnance duty unit principally to repair equipment.

While making preparations for the move, the 79th Division received orders assigning it officially to Third Army effective at 0000, 10 June.

Before the move began, Third Army formally ordered the division

Construction Sector Units  
79th Division

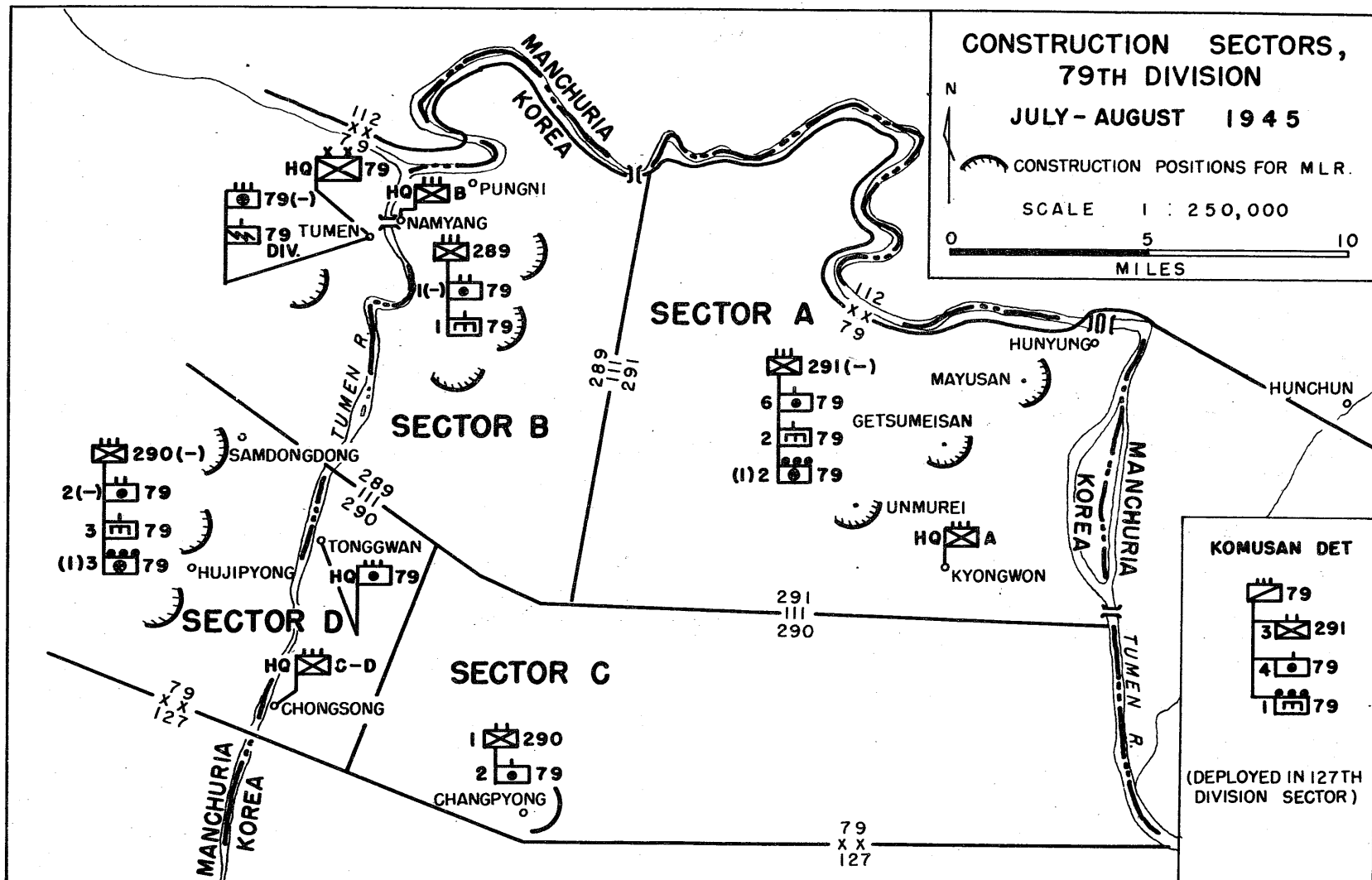
<u>Sector</u>	<u>Components</u>	<u>Comdr</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>	<u>Supply Base</u>
A	291st Regt (-3d Bn) 6th Btry, 79th Mt Arty Regt Main Body, 2d Engr Co One-third, 2d Trans Co 2 Squads, Div Sig Unit Gas Control Unit	C.O. 291st Regt	Unmurei, Getsumeisan, and Hunyung areas	Kyongwon	Kyongwon
B	289th Regt 1st Mt Arty Bn (-2d Btry) Main Body, 1st Engr Co	C.O. 289th Regt	High ground south of Namyang and south- west of Tumen	Namyang	Tumen and Pungni
C	1st Bn, 290th Regt 2d Btry, 79th Mt Arty Regt	C.O. 290th Regt	Changpyong area	Chongsong	Tonggwan
D	290th Regt (-1st Bn) 2d Bn (-4th and 6th Btries), 79th Mt Arty Regt One-half, Ammo train, Arty Regt Main Body, 3d Engr Co One-third, 3d Transport Co	C.O. 290th Regt	Samdongdong area and high ground near Hujipyong	Chongsong	Tonggwan
Komusan Det	79th Cavalry Regt 3d Bn, 291st Regt 4th Btry, 79th Mt Arty Regt One Platoon (60 men), 79th Engr Regt	C.O. 79th Regt	Komusan area	Komusan	Komusan

to send a detachment of troops to Komusan. Although the Komusan area was a considerable distance from the new positions of the division, the Komusan Detachment was to remain under divisional control; at the outbreak of hostilities, however, it was to be attached directly to Third Army.

Movement to the sectors by the main body of each unit began in late June, and was carried out under the code name of Maneuver No 11. According to plan, the Komusan Detachment began the move at the same time as the rest of the division; at the appropriate time, it left the convoy and proceeded to Komusan. Part of the division headquarters and some personnel of each divisional unit remained at Nanam to help organize and supply the newly activated 137th Division and other smaller units. In addition, a small number of personnel of the 290th Regiment and the 79th Engineer Regiment remained at Hoeryong.

In moving to the construction area, the normal amount of ammunition was taken, except that the transport regiment took only half its normal load. Arrangements were made to store a two-month supply of provisions at each supply base and at each engineer sector unit. All men wore summer uniforms; winter uniforms were stored in Hoeryong. All units reached their respective sectors in early July. (See Map No 1.)

Upon arriving at its new area in north Korea, the division occupied positions already begun by the 127th Division, and resumed the construction work in those positions. Once the move was com-



MONOGRAPH NO.154-D  
MAP NO. 1



pleted, no radical changes were made in the planned disposition of troops, although several minor changes were made as a result of reconnaissance. Furthermore, a priority was assigned to the construction of antitank positions, based on Third Army's plan which emphasized the frustration of assault and breakthrough attempts by hostile mechanized units.

In mid-July Third Army unofficially informed the division that at a later date the Tungning Heavy Artillery Regiment and the 3d Heavy Artillery Regiment, then in the 79th Division area, but directly under Third Army, would be assigned to it. Negotiations were begun immediately with these artillery units in order to prepare them for close cooperation with the division.

#### Operational Preparations

During July Third Army announced that its operational plan called for disposing its main strength on both sides of the Hunchun-Tumen line, astride the Korea-Manchuria border, and designated two defense lines within this area linking 79th Division positions with those of adjacent divisions. The forward line connected the 112th Division's Hunchun area with the Unmurei area (Sector A). The rear line connected the Tumen area with the Tonggwan area (Sectors B and D), and in the south linked with the 127th Division positions west of Sambongdong. (See Map No 2.)

In both the forward and rear defenses where the 79th Division front was linked with that of the 112th Division, there was some

imbalance in each line. In the forward line, the positions of the 112th Division were relatively strong, manned as they were by almost the entire division and supportable by elements in the 79th Division sector. On the other hand, the positions of the 79th Division sector were held by less than a regiment whose lines were overextended and on whose right flank was approximately an 8-mile gap resulting from the adoption of the principle of defending key points only; this portion of the forward defense line was therefore extremely vulnerable.<sup>53</sup>

In the rear defense area the reverse was true. The 79th Division positions formed a strong divisional defense line, being held by the main body of the division, while the neighboring positions of the 112th Division, held by only small elements, were vulnerable. Hence neither the forward defense line nor the rear defense line designated by Third Army was satisfactory as the Third Army's main

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53. The adoption of this principle was made necessary because of inadequate strength for such a wide front. According to Japanese Army tactical principles, in an ideal defense situation the normal width of a front for a division was 5 to 8 miles. By these standards the 79th Division, assigned a front which was between 15 and 20 miles wide, did not have an ideal defense situation. Adjustments were therefore necessary. Although the division did not abandon the principle of a continuous line of defense, it was necessary in view of the limited strength at the division's disposal for deployment along such a wide front, to adapt its capabilities to the requirements of its mission. Like many other divisions in Manchuria, therefore, the 79th Division adopted the principle of selecting, fortifying, and defending key points, devoting maximum attention to the skillful use of terrain.



line of resistance. Nevertheless, the rear defense line was satisfactory as a divisional main line of resistance, and actually was part of the First Area Army's main line of defense.<sup>54</sup>

In view of the fact that Third Army designated two defense lines, the 79th Division Headquarters decided to establish two subordinate command posts, one near each of the junctures with the neighboring 112th Division, and to construct positions for these posts. The construction unit assigned to work on the command post positions at Unmurei in Sector A consisted of the Divisional Signal Unit, Gas Control Unit, and one-third of the 2d Engineer Company; it was led by the commander of the Division Signal Unit. That for Sector D, near Samyanggok, consisted of the 3d Engineer Company (minus ferrying personnel), and was commanded by the engineer company commander. Construction of these command post positions was started in late July. To provide the timber for these positions, the division formed a timber unit from the main body of the Ammunition Train of the 79th Mountain Artillery Regiment, to be led by the commander of the 2d Mountain Artillery Battalion. The timber was to be gathered from the forests in the Samsangsan maneuver area (east of Hoeryong). The division also assigned one transport company to haul the timber from Samsangsan to the Hoeryong railway station.

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54. This would seem to indicate that the deployment of the main strength of the 112th Division along the forward defense line thwarted the design of the First Area Army of offering the main resistance along the rear defense line.

Another unit was diverted at this time when the main body of the 79th Engineer Regiment, then scattered among the various sectors, was withdrawn and dispatched to Musan to direct and assist the fortification work being done there by indigenous coolies under direct control of the Army.

#### Training, and Changes in Organization

With almost the entire division diverted to some type of fortification construction work, training was minimal. The division therefore decided to inaugurate a special training program in defensive combat techniques, emphasizing antitank defense, hand grenade throwing, and sniping. A training unit was formed at Hoeryong with a cadre of about twenty officers and men selected from various divisional units. About 3,000 trainees (70 per cent from infantry units, 30 per cent from other branches) were to be given this specialized training, which was to be conducted from mid-July through mid-October, with a total of 250 men being accommodated each week. Each Sector was authorized to send a certain number of selected troops to the training center for the one-week course. This training program began on schedule.

Meanwhile, during July, two changes took place in the organization of the 79th Division. About the middle of the month, a rocket-launcher unit (of about 600 troops) was attached to the 290th Infantry Regiment. The unit was not equipped with its main arms, however. Late in the month, the division was required to transfer

about 1,000 of its personnel to the 139th Division for the formation of a raiding battalion. Toward the end of the month, 79th Division Headquarters moved from Nanam to Tumen; its offices were set up in the primary school there.

#### Status of Preparations

In number of personnel and level of equipment, the 79th Division was perhaps the best in Third Army. The division had the advantage over other divisions in the matter of unity since most of its officers and men were recruited from the three prefectures of Miyagi, Fukushima, and Niigata, representing the old recruiting districts of the 19th Division. Its personnel, moreover, were generally superior in quality to those of other divisions. Particularly, the quality of its officers was considered equal to that of officers of the old 19th Division. In view of the fact that much of its personnel had come from the 19th Depot Division in November 1944, it was considered one of the oldest divisions remaining in Manchuria. In addition, the division was fully equipped. Each of these factors contributed to raising the morale of the division and to making its fighting capacity excellent. The division's medical unit and its field hospital, however, were as yet unorganized.

By the end of July, the construction of new field positions, such as trenches, was nearing completion. The construction of new permanent defense fortifications (cement structures, etc.) however, lagged behind because of delays in the delivery of materials, particularly cement. The completion rate of the latter fortifications was

below the 10 per cent mark, only one or two pillboxes having been completed in each sector.

#### Opening of Hostilities

With the completion of the organization of the 137th Division, the commander of the 79th Division, Lieutenant General Teisho Ota, accompanied by his chief of staff and special staff section chiefs went to Nanam on 6 August for talks with the commander of the new division and his staff. On the following day, they left Nanam for Hoeryong to inspect the newly formed training center. On 8 August, they inspected the progress of fortification work in the Changpyong Sector C and passed the night there.

At midnight the sound of distant bombing or shelling was heard. In the early morning hours of 9 August, General Ota received a telephone report from Division Headquarters in Tumen that Soviet forces at midnight had crossed the Kyonghung bridge into Korean territory. He immediately cancelled scheduled inspection tours of Sectors A and B, and hurried to Tumen. There he ordered all Sector Units to remain in their present positions and to take emergency defensive measures.

Later in the morning 79th Division Headquarters at Tumen received its first operational order from the Third Army Headquarters at Yenching. Confirming earlier reports that the Soviets had launched the invasion and were rushing into Korea and Manchurian territories, the Army's order stated that its immediate intention was to strengthen its posi-

tions and halt the enemy invasion. The order also announced that:

The Komusan Detachment will be attached directly to the Army.

The main force of the 79th Cavalry Regiment (at Komusan) will scout the enemy situation in the Najin area.

The main body of the Tungning Heavy Artillery Regiment and all of the 3d Heavy Artillery Regiment will be assigned to the 79th Division.

The main force of the Engineer Regiment previously dispatched to direct and assist fortification work of the Army in the vicinity of Musan will be returned to the 79th Division.

The 79th Division will dispatch to front areas a security force, an observation party, and other small units for reconnoitering purposes. It will also dispatch liaison officers to establish contact with the 101st Mixed Regiment and with the Komusan Detachment.

Later in the day, the division issued its own orders to the following effect:

The commander of the 291st Infantry Regiment (Sector A) will be assigned the duties of blowing up vehicular and railway bridges over the Tumen River at Kyongwon and Hunyung.

All units of the division remaining in Nanam and Hoeryong will immediately take up defensive positions.

The Timber Unit in Samsangsan will be recalled and assigned a defensive mission.

The Gas Control Unit and the Division Signal Unit helping in the preparation of fortifications for the division command post in Sector A will rejoin their organization.



Each sector engineer unit will become a sector defense unit and be ready to go into defensive action at any time, and meanwhile will complete such emergency fortifications as are necessary.

The Engineer Construction Unit in Sector C will be organized for tactical employment as the Changpyong Detachment and will be directly attached to Division Headquarters.

### Progress of Operations

Although the enemy was reported to be attacking at various points along the eastern front during the first few days, he was not active in front of the 79th Division positions.<sup>55</sup> On 11 August, however, he advanced toward Hunchun in the 112th Division's sector on the left and toward Wuchiatzu and Najin in the 127th Division's sector on the right flank, thereby threatening both flanks. On that day the front line subordinate command post at Unmurei was ordered to move back a short distance to Getsumeisan.

Until the 15th no engagements were fought in the 79th Division sector. The division during this period was preoccupied with preparations to meet the enemy; meanwhile, it kept informed of the developing enemy situation, particularly in the 112th Division area on the left and the 127th Divisions area on the right.

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55. The positions of the 79th Division were well shielded by natural barriers, particularly the Tumen River which looped in an inverted U that inclosed most of the division's area and protected it from the enemy infantry and tank units that routed the 112th Division on the 79th Division's left flank.

On the 12th, after several unsuccessful attempts by the 291st Regiment to blow up the vehicular bridge east of Kyongwon and the railroad and vehicular bridges north of Hunyung, the Engineer Regiment Commander was ordered to try; late in the day the mission was successfully completed. This action contributed largely to denying the enemy egress into the 79th Division's sector until 15 August.

Also on the 12th, the division chief of staff went to Third Army Headquarters for information on the general situation. On the 13th he returned and proceeded to Sector A to observe the enemy situation and to inspect defensive structures there. On the same day most of the engineer units previously dispatched to Musan, Kyodaiho, and Unmurei, the Timber Unit, the training center unit, and personnel still in Nanam and Hoeryong rejoined their respective units.

Forward elements of the 112th Division under pressure from the enemy withdrew on the 13th to their main positions (the Army's forward defense line) in front of Michiang. The attacking enemy force, meanwhile advanced to the vicinity of the river bank on the north side of the bridge near Hunyung.

On the same day, reports were received that the Wuchiatzu regiment of the 127th Division was engaging the enemy in a fierce battle. In the Unggi area where the 101st Mixed Regiment was being attacked by an enemy force of approximately regimental strength, the progress of the battle was unknown because of loss of contact with the liaison officer sent to the regiment.

On the 14th the enemy captured the Hunchun airfield; Soviet planes promptly began to use the airfield. Meanwhile, west of Hunchun an enemy infantry force supported by tanks began concentrating. Although all this action was taking place across the Tumen river, it directly threatened our positions. By the close of 14 August the 79th Division had not received any enemy attacks. However, two were forming, one against our front near Hunyung, the other against our left rear flank near Tumen. Both attacks were threatening from the 112th Division's sector, and both were impeded by the natural barrier of the Tumen River.

On 15 August an enemy force of approximately battalion strength supported by about ten tanks attacked positions of the 112th Division in the vicinity of Unggidong on the opposite bank from Hunyung. Artillery units of the 79th Division on the south side of the river opened fire and threw the enemy back. Another element of the enemy fired on a security unit guarding the south side of the river in the vicinity of the destroyed bridges at Hunyung. Shortly thereafter the Soviet force, after repairing the vehicular bridge, crossed the river and entered the 79th Division sector. This first and only serious penetration of the division's area was aimed at our Mayusan positions. (See Map No 2.)

Meanwhile, in the Tumen area there was considerable bustle and commotion on 15 August. In the morning the 79th Division, in response to a Third Army order of the preceding day, sent one mountain artil-

lery battery north to Chiulungping to support an infantry company guarding the approaches to Yenchi.

At about 1300 hours on 15 August several hostile planes bombed Tumen, site of division headquarters. The planes directed their main effort on the railroad station, causing the explosion of a large number of artillery shells on military freight cars parked in the station. The explosions continued sporadically for more than three hours showering the town with shell fragments. The confusion resulting from the explosions was relatively minor, most of the inhabitants having already evacuated to the suburbs. The arrival and departure of evacuation trains, however, plunged the entire neighborhood into wild confusion. Coincidentally, at the Army supply depot about 3 kilometers north of Tumen, a gasoline tank exploded, gushing columns of black smoke into the air that could be seen for miles.

During the day the division chief of staff received a message from the branch manager of the Manchurian Telegraph and Telephone Company making reference to an "important broadcast." He gave the message to the division commander and recommended that the news be kept from subordinates.

With the bombing of Tumen, with artillery shell fragments showering the city, with the explosion of a gas tank within 3 kilometers, and with reports of tanks approaching Tumen, 79th Division decided to open a command post across the Tumen River in Namyang. Late in the afternoon it established a command post in the primary school

there. The tactical reason for this move was that it placed the Tumen River between the division command post and the advancing enemy tanks, then threatening Wangching and capable of attacking the 79th Division from the rear.

To protect the division's rear several other steps were taken. Orders to blow up the vehicular bridge which crosses the Haerhpatung River (a narrow river between Tumen and Yenchi) about 2 miles north of Tumen were promptly carried out. A company of the Nanam Divisional District Unit (equipped with eight machineguns) charged with the air defense of the Tumen River railway-vehicular bridge connecting Tumen to Namyang was placed under the 79th Division's command. (Farther to the front, and apart from the action developing near Tumen, a platoon of the 280th Regiment at Wuchiatzu, having become separated from its parent organization on this day, was placed under the command of the 291st Infantry Regiment.)

#### The Attack on the Mayusan Positions

On 16 August division headquarters received a report that the Soviet force which had crossed the River near Hunyung on the preceding day was beginning to attack. About two battalions of enemy infantry with an estimated twenty to thirty tanks and supported by artillery fire from across the river were striking towards the Mayusan positions west of Hunyung. These positions were the most northeasterly in the 79th Division's forward defense line.

General Ota took several steps to meet this threat to Mayusan.

He ordered the main body of the 2d Engineer Company,<sup>56</sup> then in Tumen en route to its Sector A positions, to proceed immediately toward Hunyung by train with the mission of demolishing strategic points along the road and railroad between Tumen and Hunyung, and also of seeking and attacking enemy armored units. This unit succeeded in blowing up at least one strategic point--the small railway bridge at Hwangpa, thus denying the enemy the use of this railway in his advance westward. The company commander, reporting the demolition of the bridge by one of his advance platoons, stated that the main part of his company was then near Onsong; he was thereupon given responsibility for controlling railway transportation in that vicinity.

In connection with the Mayusan threat, General Ota also ordered the commander of the 289th Regiment to delay the main body of his antitank gun unit in the vicinity of Pungni and to continue to direct the main defense effort in that sector. He also ordered his chief of ordnance to prepare improvised antitank mines and packaged explosives, his intendance chief to transport by rail to Tumen about eight carloads of rice, wheat, red beans, then standing in the Onsong freight yards, and other provisions in various localities east of Tumen, and his medical department personnel to establish a dispensary at Tumen. Meanwhile, a liaison officer dispatched to 112th Division Headquarters at Michiang reported that division to be under attack in all its sectors.

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56. An engineer company's normal strength is 254.

Details of the action fought in the Mayusan positions are not known. What is known is that the engagement began on the morning of 16 August and lasted one day; that the Soviet attacking force consisted of two columns each with one infantry battalion and one tank company; that the Japanese force consisted of approximately one battalion (Headquarters of the 1st Battalion of the 291st Regiment, the 4th Infantry Company, one company of regimental guns, one company of engineers, and two platoons of the division signal unit); that on the 15th (when the Soviet river crossing began) one platoon of infantry from the Getsumeisan area was sent to the Mayusan area; that on the 16th the Soviet forces captured the outworks of the Mayusan defenses; that on the morning of the 17th one platoon of the 5th Company of the 291st Regiment was sent to the Mayusan position where it encountered the right column of the Soviet force which after capturing the outworks had continued westward to flank our positions, and that this platoon was annihilated. The Soviet penetration did not reach the main defense positions of the Mayusan sector by the time hostilities stopped, although it had begun to by pass some of them. The 79th Division losses, all in this Mayusan sector, totaled about 140 officers and men killed or wounded; Soviet losses were estimated at about fifty.

#### The Enemy Crossing near Tumen

On the evening of the 16th, Division Headquarters received a report that an enemy armored force from Wangching was headed south

along three roads and threatened not only division headquarters but also Third Army Headquarters at Yenchi. (See Map No 2.) General Ota immediately ordered the assembling in Namyang of the 2d Battalion of the 289th Regiment, one-half of the 3d Mountain Artillery Company, and one platoon of the engineer unit in Sector B. He then ordered these units to deploy along the Tumen-Yenchi road across the Tumen River to check a breakthrough by enemy armored forces into the rear of the division. At the same time division headquarters organized one platoon of its guards into a close-quarter combat unit, for use in Tumen. Until this time, although hostilities had technically ended, fighting had continued. Late that evening, however, General Ota, on instructions from Third Army, ordered each infantry regiment to commit its colors to fire, and gave orders to refrain from active operations.

Early on the morning of 17 August an enemy mechanized division rushed down along the Wangching-Tumen road. The vehicular bridge 2 miles north of Tumen having been blown up earlier by our engineers, the enemy column of infantry, tanks, and self-propelled guns halted on the road. At about 0900 hours, however, an infantry unit forded the river and launched an attack against us under the covering fire of the self-propelled guns.

Meanwhile the force assembled by General Ota at Namyang had been ready since about 0400 but, in view orders from the Army to cease active operations, was not employed. However, one platoon of the engineer regiment was dispatched under the escort of a platoon of



headquarters guards to blow up a railway bridge about 6 miles northwest of Tumen.

#### Cease-fire Order

Shortly after 0700 hours on 17 August, Third Army orders were received directing that all operations be stopped. Division Headquarters transmitted it to each Sector, and also sent instructions to prepare to assemble troops. The assembly areas designated were: for Sector A, Kyongwon; for Sector B, Namyang, and for Sectors C and D, Chongsong. The Mountain Artillery Regiment Headquarters and the main body of the Regimental Ammunition Train were to assemble in Tonggwan, the Engineer Regiment in Sugupo, the main body of the Transport Regiment in Sanyanggok, west of Tumen, and the Tungning and 3d Heavy Artillery Regiments in their respective positions. The units stationed in Tumen (headquarters guards, the Gas Control Unit, a part of the Ordnance Duty Unit, the Dispensary, and the Veterinary Hospital) were ordered to return to Namyang; meanwhile, the 2d Battalion of the 289th Regiment was ordered reinforce the defense of the vehicular-railroad bridge connecting Tumen and Namyang, the only one (other than the Onsong vehicular bridge) which had not been destroyed.<sup>57</sup>

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57. Battle reports sent in during the actions lacked exactness. The condition of these combat units after operations is not known in detail because the troops were interned in Hunchun following the cease-fire order and acted independently of the division headquarters.

Hostilities were brought to a halt with little confusion. The two enemy thrusts into the 79th Division positions had not gotten very far. In the Mayusan sector the enemy was in front of the inner defenses. In the Tumen area, where the enemy's advance was slow, he was on the outskirts of the city, but all Japanese units had been withdrawn to Namyang or to the area west of Tumen and the opposing forces were never joined in battle. Hence the cease-fire order was issued not only before the Soviet forces reached the main defenses, but also before they reached the main body of the 79th Division. Except for the losses in the Mayusan outworks, the 79th Division's fighting capacity remained unimpaired.

#### Negotiations with the Soviet Army

Shortly after noon on the 17th, the 79th Division chief of staff together with the senior staff officer and officer-interpreters went to Tumen where they conferred with the Soviet division commander.

An agreement to the following effect was reached:

Japanese and Soviet divisions will immediately stop hostilities.

The Soviet force in Tumen will not cross the Tumen River into Namyang.

The 79th Division Headquarters and units directly attached thereto will be assembled in the Tumen camps during the day for disarmament.

Other divisional units will be assembled in front of the Tumen railway station on 18 and 19 August to be disarmed.

All the Japanese officers who took part in the negotiations were detained by the Soviets, except the senior staff officer who was ordered to deliver the agreement to the 79th Division commander.

The Soviet commander's orders were carried out immediately. Division Headquarters and units attached thereto were disarmed upon their arrival in Tumen on the evening of the 17th. The Veterinary Depot commandant and one noncommissioned officer committed suicide. On the same evening almost all of the officers and men of the Tungning Heavy Artillery Regiment, including the commander, gathered around their artillery pieces and blew themselves up at their positions, one battery north of Tumen, two batteries south of Namyang. (One of the regiment's four batteries had been left at Tungning.)

In view of the possibility that the message transmitted to divisional units requiring them to assemble in Tumen might not have reached them, Division Headquarters on 18 August dispatched officers to deliver the cease-fire order as well as the Soviet commander's instructions. One officer was sent to each of the following places: along the Namyang-Chongsong Railway line, along the Tumen-Onsong-Changpyong road, along the Tumen-Onsong-Kyongwon road, and along the Tumen-Samyanggok-Chongsong road, including the Tumen River's left bank.

Meanwhile, a number of soldiers committed suicide. The commander of the 79th Engineer Regiment and several headquarters officers blew themselves up at Sugupo (presumably by hand grenades). The main body

of the 3d Engineer Company, the commander included, blew itself up at the site of the division alternate command post west of Samyanggok.

In many units, soldiers of Korean nationality were released from service. The remaining troops of each unit arrived at Tumen on 18 and 19 August and were disarmed. In all units there was a large number of desertions because orders were either not fully understood or were utterly ignored. Many of the deserters were later interned at the Komusan Internment Camp, which had been organized principally for the internment of personnel of the Divisional Districts Units.

Captain Senda, commander of the 1st Battalion of the 291st Infantry Regiment, and about 150 of his men who survived the engagement at the Mayusan outworks were interned in Hunchun by order of the local Soviet force commander.

On 20 August officers and warrant officers of the division were transported by train to Yenchi. Officers and men suffering from self-inflicted wounds were sent to Tunhua by train. All able bodied men accompanied by some officers were marched to Yenchi on 21 and 22 August; upon arrival there, officers and men were interned separately.

Other Third Army units began to arrive at Yenchi for internment in succession, including the 101st Mixed Regiment, and elements of the 1st Mobile Brigade and of the Nanam Divisional District Unit. They remained there until the end of September.

In early October evacuation to Soviet territory began. The first group of officers, numbering some 2,000, were sent, via Hsin-

king, to Lada on the outskirts of Tambov City in European Russia. A second group, with about an equal number of officers, was transferred to the same destination via Hunchun, Kraskino, and Khabarovsk.<sup>58</sup>

Men were organized into labor battalions of approximately 1,000 each, with several officers as leaders. In organizing these labor units, the Soviets destroyed the original organization of units so that each unit was formed from a mixture of various branches of the services. The battalions were then marched to different places in succession.

#### Japanese Residents in the 79th Division Area

At the opening of hostilities in Manchuria, the greater part of Japanese civilian residents in the division's operational zone voluntarily moved to the Hoeryong and Nanam areas. The remainder moved either to the Tumen or Yenchu areas or to nearby villages, particularly to positions of the 3d Heavy Artillery Regiment in Samyangok. On about 16 or 17 August, none but men in the prime of life were to be found in Tumen, Namyang, Onsong, Hunyung, Kyongwon, and neighboring positions.

Dependents of officers of the division had remained in Nanam and

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58. In July 1946 about 7,500 officers, warrant officers, and civilians interned at the Lada Camp moved in four groups to the Yerabuga (No 97) Camp in Tatar Republic, where they joined about 2,000 other officers and civilians. The internees were put into Camps A or B. Of them, some 6,500 were repatriated to Japan between October and November 1947, about 1,000 in May 1948 (after first being moved to Kazan), and about 1,600 in July of the same year; about 300 were moved in July to Khabarovsk for internment at sub-Camp No 14 of the 16th District.

Hoeryong when the division moved to north Korea in June-July. On 14 August most of the dependents in Hoeryong were returned to the homeland arriving there toward the end of the month; those that remained committed suicide at Sugupo with the Engineer Regiment Commander. Dependents in Nanam, including those of officers of the Nanam Divisional District, moved to Hyesanjin. They were detained by Soviet troops at Paegam, and interned at Hamhung at the end of the war. Although they were to have been sent home in successive groups after May 1947, many died of illness during the intervening period.<sup>59</sup>

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59. There were no cultivating parties in the division's operational area, most of which was in Korean territory; such groups were used only in Manchuria.

CHAPTER IX

The 127th Division<sup>60</sup>

Organization and Source of Personnel

The 127th Infantry Division was organized beginning in February 1945 at Hunchun under the supervision of Third Army. It was one of the eight divisions organized in Manchuria in early 1945 to give the Kwantung Army some semblance of strength after it had been seriously weakened by repeated withdrawals.

The first two regiments organized by the division was formed principally from the disbanded 9th Border Garrison Unit which had been stationed in the Hunchun area, plus some personnel from the 112th Division. They later acquired a considerable number of recruits.

On 26 February, while the division was still in the process of being organized, it was assigned to the Third Army. By the end of March the two initial regiments--the 280th and 281st--were ready. Early in May an additional regiment, the 282d, was formed from two independent battalions that had been stationed at Fuchin, plus some personnel from the two regiments formed earlier.

In mid-May, when the organization of the Division was completed, the three regimental commanders went to Tokyo where they were received

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60. The information in this sector was prepared by Major Masao Sakai, staff officer of the 127th Division.

by the Emperor at the Imperial Palace and presented with the regimental colors.

The division's strength was reinforced in June by the assignment of the 2d Heavy Artillery Regiment and the 2d Independent Heavy Artillery Battery, (both 240-mm howitzer). During the July mass-mobilization in Manchuria when many new units were being formed, the division's organic strength was filled out by the assignment of the 37th Artillery Regiment and one Raiding Battalion. Arms and equipment for the division were acquired gradually, and by late June the authorized levels had been reached.

Meanwhile, division headquarters, originally at Hunchun, had been transferred to Tumen. During June-July, when the 79th Division moved to north Korea and took up some of the positions being prepared by the 127th Division, division headquarters moved to Lungching. It remained there only a short while, and was then moved to Pataohotzu, where it remained.

#### Deployment of 127th Division

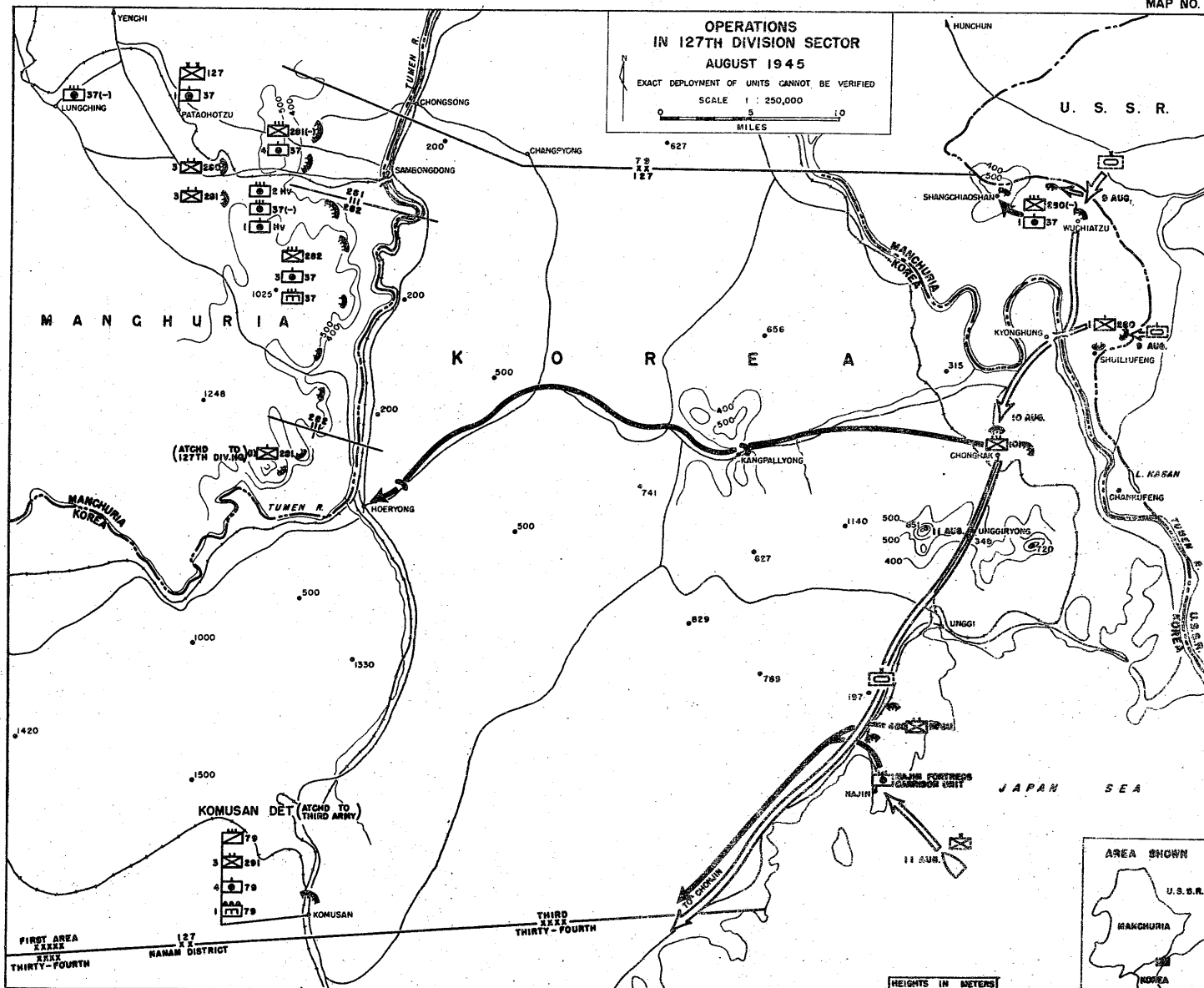
The area of responsibility initially assigned to the 127th Division consisted of the entire Third Army area south of the Tumen-Hunchun line. After the 79th Division moved to Tumen in July, and its southern boundary established along the Chongsong-Changpyong line, the 127th Division maintained control of the area south of that line, and hence held the Third Army's extreme right flank. This area was partly in Manchuria and partly in Korea. Between the



Korea and Soviet border a part of Manchuria stretches to south of Lake Hasan (site of a major border incident in 1938). From there the Korea border is contiguous to the Soviet border and follows the line of the Tumen River to the Sea of Japan. South from the mouth of the Tumen to slightly north of Chongjin the 127th Division's boundary was the north Korea coast, along which, as it turned out, the Soviets were to make two amphibious assaults.

The 127th Division's front extended from north of Wuchiatzu to north of Chongjin, a distance of about 40 miles. The main body of the division, including the 281st and 282d Regiments plus one battalion of the 280th Regiment, were deployed inland west of the Tumen River. Along the border were deployed the 280th Regiment (less one battalion) near Wuchiatzu, the 101st Mixed Regiment near Chonghak, and the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit at the naval base at Najin; along the 127th Division's (also Third Army's) boundary with the 34th Army, the 79th Division's Komusan Detachment was deployed. (See Map No 1.)

Both the 101st Mixed Regiment and the Najin Fortress Garrison Unit were under Third Army's direct control. At the outbreak of hostilities the 127th Division was to be given control of the 101st Mixed Regiment, and Third Army was to assume direct control of the Komusan Detachment and retain control of the Najin Fortress Garrison



Unit. 61

### Operational Preparations

Since the time it was organized the 127th Division was engaged principally in the construction of fortifications. All personnel of the division remained in bivouac during most of this period, and each unit was assigned specific construction missions. Initially this work was carried out in north Korea, but after the 79th Division moved there the 127th Division concentrated on the fortifications in the sector west of the Tumen River, from Sambongdong to Hoeryong.

Concurrent with the construction mission, which was pushed resolutely, the division conducted education and training programs with the objective of strengthening the solidarity of the command. Emphasis was placed on defensive combat training. All men were trained to become proficient in close-quarter combat and to discipline their minds for this type of fighting. Even units stationed along the border, whose positions were camouflaged, were given

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61. The 101st Mixed Regiment had been organized on 28 Sep 1942, at Chonghak, north Korea. It consisted of three infantry battalions, one mountain artillery battalion (75-mm guns), and one engineer company. It was transferred to Third Army on 10 June 1945 from the Seventeenth Area Army. The Najin Fortress Garrison Unit was an old-established unit. It consisted of four batteries (two of 150-mm howitzers, two of 280-mm howitzers, all emplaced), and the 460th Specially Established Guard Battalion of five infantry companies. For the Komusan Detachment's organization see Chart No 1, Monograph No 154-D, page 116.

appropriate training; in order to conceal training activities from the Soviets particular advantage was taken of foggy weather.

Meanwhile, in view of the shortage of arms, the Ordnance Duty Unit and Veterinary Depot were ordered to improvise weapons for close-quarter fighting. These included metal-tipped bamboo spears (about 6 feet in length), and hurling-type explosives for use against tanks; the latter were to be made from air bombs, a supply of which was stored at the Air Supply Depot in Hoeryong.

In carrying out its border garrisoning duties, the division maintained close liaison with the Nanam Divisional District Unit and the 101st Mixed Regiment, as well as with the 112th Division up until the time the 127th Division moved south. The policy of exchanging information was strictly observed, and the rapidity with which the exchanges were carried out left nothing to be desired. Along the border, efforts were made to avoid any action that might provoke the Russians, in compliance with border garrison regulations of the Kwantung Army.

#### Status of Preparations Prior to the Outbreak of Hostilities

Immediately prior to the Soviet entry into the war, the principal weapons (other than individual weapons) in the hands of the divisional units were as follows:

Each Infantry Regiment	
Grenade launchers	48
Light machineguns	81
Heavy machineguns	18

Infantry battalion guns	
(37-mm guns and 75-mm how)	6
Antitank guns (37-mm)	6
37th Artillery Regiment	
Field artillery (75-mm guns)	18
Mountain artillery	10
105-mm Howitzers	4

Ammunition was stored mainly in forward positions, particularly in Wuchiatzu. It was planned to store enough ammunition for 1.5 engagements (one engagement is considered to last three months) in the divisional area, and to keep sufficient ammunition for .5 engagements in division reserve. The withdrawal of supplies to rear areas after the adoption of Kwantung Army's delaying plan of operations had proceeded slowly, and a major part of the division's ammunition supplies remained in forward positions when the war broke out. Food and fodder sufficient for one month were stored in the rear areas. Although the division was relatively well supplied it did have shortages of automotive fuel and signal batteries, shortages which prevailed throughout Manchuria.

Construction work of the division consisted principally of positions in caves where arms larger than heavy machineguns could be installed. Approximately one-third of this type of construction work was completed. The construction of fortifications in general was unsatisfactory. The work was hampered by lack of equipment and supplies. These difficulties could not be overcome even though the various facilities of local coal mines were available.

During June and July, training in field tactical exercises was given to commanders directly under division control as well as to battalion commanders and company commanders. All training was conducted in the respective areas of units. By the end of July all training exercises planned by the division for officers had been completed. Officers of the lower ranks did not react spiritedly to this training and it was felt that they had not gained confidence. The training of troops was not thorough in view of the fact that much time had to be devoted to organizing units and to constructing fortifications.

#### Situation at the Outbreak of Hostilities

At midnight of 8-9 August the barracks in Wuchiatzu were subjected to concentrated fire by Soviet heavy artillery. Although the 280th Regiment (less one battalion) there got through a message reporting the enemy shelling, its wireless apparatus was destroyed shortly thereafter. The enemy initial shelling was followed by limited attacks on our positions at Wuchiatzu and Shuiliufeng.

The Soviet Army, it was later determined, had massed a force of one infantry division and two tank brigades in front of the Wuchiatzu positions; one of the tank brigades was in position between Wuchiatzu and Shuiliufeng. Although the attack was launched from the Wuchiatzu area, the infantry division plus one of the tank brigades turned north immediately upon entering Manchuria and headed for the 112th Division sector. The other tank brigade crossed the

border near Shuiliufeng, turned south, by-passing our sector, and then crossed the Kyonghung Bridge to join, as it later turned out, the Soviet force making the amphibious assault landing at Najin and Chongjin. Thus the 127th Division did not receive a major attack.

Meanwhile, after Third Army received word of the invasion it placed the main elements of the 280th Regiment (less one battalion) in the border areas under its direct command. (The division nevertheless continued to supply these elements with ammunition and provisions). After the Soviet attack, this regiment withdrew to Shangchiaoshan, northwest of Wuchiatzu, and made that its base of operations. The attacks ceased on the 11th; thereafter elements in the Shangchiaoshan positions, although subjected to occasional shelling, did not participate in any engagements.

The Army also changed the status of the 101st Mixed Regiment at Chonghak, attaching it to the 127th Division. This regiment fell back gradually and took up positions near Kangpallyong and Hoeryong. By the time hostilities ended, the enemy had not attacked the area held by the division's main body.

On 11 August a Soviet amphibious force of about battalion size made an assault landing at Najin. Details of this action are not known except that the landings occurred between 1000 and 1100 hours and that the defending force fell back towards the south.

### Situation After the War

Almost all of the KIA casualties sustained by the Division were borne by the 280th Regiment (less one battalion) guarding the border. It counted about thirty killed and about 100 missing. Other divisional units, principally the 281st and 282d Regiments, sustained approximately 500 missing, mainly as a result of the fact that they sent guerrilla troops far ahead of the front line.

The cease-fire order could not be promptly disseminated nor properly carried out because of the hordes of Japanese refugees who kept surging into the division's operational area from such places as Hunchun, Tumen, Unggi, and Najin. Supplies that had been accumulated near Pataohotzu in the division area, including medical supplies, clothing, and food, were distributed among the various units; some supplies were also given to Koreans residing in the locality.

Weapons were collected on 19 August and, after the number was ascertained, were turned over to a Soviet cavalry lieutenant (company commander) who arrived at Pataohotzu for negotiations. On the 20th, officers and men of the division were interned in barracks.



Monograph No 154-F

CHAPTER X

The Fifth Army<sup>62</sup>

Organization

Ever since the "special maneuvers" held by the Kwantung Army in 1941 the Fifth Army, in northeastern Manchuria, had maintained a powerful force. After the unfavorable turn of the war in the Pacific and in China, Kwantung Army units were transferred one after another to reinforce these active operational areas. These transfers sapped the strength of Fifth Army along with other armies in Manchuria.

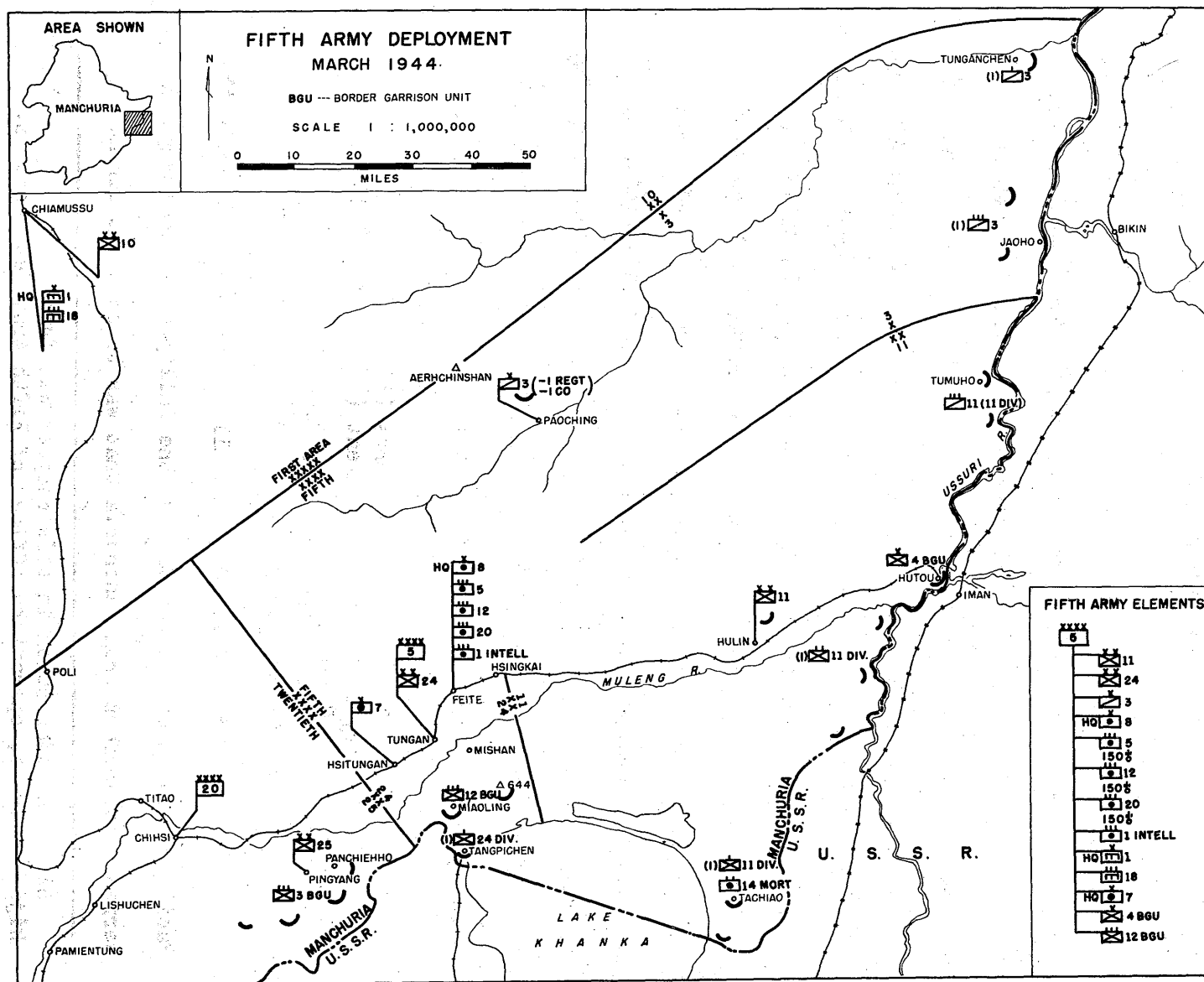
By the end of March 1944 Fifth Army consisted of three main tactical units, all in the eastern part of Tungan Province: the 11th Division deployed in the Hulin sector, the 24th Division in the Tungan sector, and the 3d Cavalry Brigade in the Paoching sector. (See Map No 1.) In addition it had numerous zone of communication units and the following auxiliary units:

- Artillery Command (1)
- Heavy Field Artillery Regiments (3)
- Artillery Intelligence Regiment (fire-control) (1)
- Engineer Command (1)
- Independent Engineer Regiment (1)
- Transport Headquarters (1)

In the summer of 1944, when the Allied counteroffensive in the Pacific was well on its way towards the Philippines there began a series of transfers from Manchuria that was to continue for more

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62. The information in this chapter was furnished by Colonel Akiji Kashiwada, operations officer of Fifth Army Headquarters.



than a year. The first major unit to go was the 24th Division which was sent to Formosa about the middle of July. At about the same time the 12th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment (150-mm howitzers) was transferred to the 14th Army in the Philippines. Several zone of communications units were also transferred. At the beginning of September the land survey company of the 1st Artillery Intelligence Regiment was transferred to the Thirty-second Army in Okinawa.<sup>63</sup>

Until September 1944 there were three armies in Eastern Manchuria-- the Third, Fifth, and Twentieth. Toward the end of September, Twentieth Army Headquarters was transferred to the Sixth Area Army for the "Ichigo" operations in the China area, (See pages 52-3, Monograph No 138.) Twentieth Army itself was disbanded and its units assigned to neighboring commands in Manchuria. The Fifth Army got the 25th Division, deployed in the Pingyang sector, two border garrison units, one heavy field artillery regiment (150-mm howitzers) and several zone of communications units.

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63. An Artillery Intelligence Regiment, with a total of about 667 personnel had a headquarters (258), one Ground Survey Company (93), one Plotting Company (225), and a Sound Locating Company (91). The Ground Survey Company, by triangulation of landmarks in both the enemy and friendly positions surveyed the general field of artillery fire. The Plotting Company plotted the exact positions of enemy weapons in relation to friendly weapons. The Sound Locating Company determined the range of enemy guns by sound devices. Each artillery battalion and regiment had equipment and personnel to perform similar functions (except sounding), but on a smaller scale. An artillery intelligence regiment was usually assigned to an Army, and was deployed in the area where it was most needed.

Since only the Third and Fifth Armies were left in eastern Manchuria (from the four in 1943), the eastern front was divided between these two armies, the Fifth Army getting control of the two northern provinces, Sanchiang and Tungan, and Third Army getting control of the southern provinces of Mutanchiang and Chientao. (See Map No 1, Monograph 154-B) Actually, the Sanchiang Province--northernmost on the eastern front--was the responsibility of a separate division, which was to remain under Fifth Army jurisdiction only until the opening of hostilities at which time it was to revert to the control of First Area Army. On the Fifth Army's right flank a similar situation existed, with a division holding a sector of the front between the Fifth and Third Armies, assigned to the Third Army until the opening of hostilities.

In February 1945, Fifth Army was ordered to activate the 126th Division, the 77th Independent Mixed Brigade, and the 31st Independent Antitank Battalion. The Army organized the 126th Division mainly with surplus personnel of the 25th Division, then being reorganized for transfer to the homeland, and began organizing the 77th Independent Mixed Brigade with men of the 3d Cavalry Brigade. The latter brigade was inactivated.

Towards the end of February another boundary change was made when Third Army's area was extended southward into northern Korea, and it relinquished the northern sector of its front--to a point north of Yaoshan--to Fifth Army. Thus, Fifth Army was given the

additional duty defending eastern Mutanchiang Province. With this added responsibility it was given command of the 124th Division in the Suiyang area, the 2d Border Garrison Unit near Suifenho, and the 11th Border Garrison Unit near Kuanyuehtai. The addition of the 124th Division gave Fifth Army four divisions, two seasoned and two in the process of being organized. But this harvest was soon to be consumed by further transfers.

During March 1945 transfers from Fifth Army reached a peak. About the middle of the month the 25th Division, acquired six months earlier upon the disbandment of the Twentieth Army, was transferred to the Sixteenth Area Army in the homeland, while the 14th Mortar Battalion was transferred to the Thirty-sixth Army, also in the homeland. At the end of the month the 11th Division was transferred to Fifteenth Area Army in Japan, the 8th Artillery Command and the 11th Independent Heavy Artillery Battalion (150-mm gun) to the Twelfth Area Army, the 10th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment (150-mm howitzer), the 1st Artillery Intelligence Regiment, the 7th Signal Regiment, and the 7th Field Transport Headquarters to Sixteenth Area Army. Since the 25th and 11th were the only seasoned divisions in Fifth Army, (the two other divisions--the 124th and 126th--were then in the process of being organized) their transfer had a paralyzing effect on the strength, organization, and combat effectiveness of Fifth Army. Toward the end of April, furthermore, additional units (principally zone of communication units) were transferred to the Twelfth, Six-

teenth, and Seventeenth Area Armies.

As a result of all these organizational changes the Fifth Army late in April 1945 consisted of the following units (in addition to zone of communication units):

- 124th Division
- 126th Division
- 77th Independent Mixed Brigade
- 2d Border Garrison Unit
- 11th Border Garrison Unit
- 15th Border Garrison Unit (provisionally organized)
- 9th Raiding Unit (provisionally organized)
- 31st Independent Antitank Battalion
- 20th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment (150-mm how)
- 5th Independent Heavy Artillery Battalion (300-mm how)
- 8th Independent Heavy Artillery Battalion (300-mm how)
- 1st Independent Heavy Artillery Battery (150-mm gun)
- 13th Mortar Battalion
- 1st Engineer Command
- 18th Independent Engineer Regiment (bridge-building)
- 3d Field Fortification Unit
- 46th Signal Regiment

After the peak withdrawals of March no major transfers were made. In mid-June, however, several non-tactical units were transferred to the Seventeenth Area Army in Korea. These were the 70th Independent Motor Transport Battalion, the 72d and 74th Independent Transport Companies, the 19th Construction Duty Company, and the 71st Zone of Communications Hospital.

In early July, in accordance with War Office Order No 105 (Imperial General Headquarters), the 135th Division and 15th Border Garrison Unit were formally activated. On the 30th, when their organization was completed, they were assigned to Fifth Army. Personnel for these two units were obtained from the recently organiz-

ed 77th Independent Mixed Brigade and the 3d and 4th Border Garrison Units which were inactivated the same day.<sup>64</sup> On 30 May, meanwhile, an Order of Battle had been issued to Fifth Army signifying that it was in a war status. (See Chart No 1.)

#### Operational Preparations

From the time of Kwantung Army's "special maneuvers" in 1941, the Fifth Army had maintained the operational plan calling for offensive operations on the eastern front. This plan remained in effect until at least the spring of 1944. After the spring the Army's fighting effectiveness was drastically reduced by the transfer of numerous units to active operational areas. Fifth Army, foreseeing the need for revising its plan, and acting independently of higher headquarters, originated a plan for holding operations, and used it for its map maneuvers held in June. This revised plan required border garrison units to hold key defense positions along the border to facilitate a counterattack by two divisions of the Army, the objective being to destroy in Manchurian territory the superior Soviet force which was expected to surge in from the eastern half of Tungan province.

Kwantung Army, meanwhile, itself beset with transfers from all

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64. The 3d Border Garrison Unit had been stationed at Panchiehho, and the 4th at Hutou. The Fifth Army's 2d and 11th Border Garrison Units were formed into the 132d Independent Mixed Brigade which was assigned directly to the First Area Army, and later attached to the 128th Division.

Order of Battle of the Fifth Army  
(Issued on 30 May 45)

Fifth Army Commander: Lt Gen Noritsune Shimizu

Fifth Army Headquarters  
124th Division  
126th Division  
135th Division\*  
15th Border Garrison Unit\*  
9th Raiding Unit\*  
31st Independent Antitank Battalion  
20th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment (150-mm howitzers)  
5th and 8th Independent Heavy Artillery Battalions (300-mm howitzers)  
1st Independent Heavy Artillery Battery (150-mm guns)  
13th Mortar Battalion  
1st Engineer Command  
18th Independent Engineer Regiment (heavy bridge building)  
3d Field Fortification Unit  
46th Signal Regiment  
Zone of communications units under direct command of the Fifth Army  
46th and 80th Zone of communications Duty Companies  
64th Independent Transport Battalion (horse drawn)  
70th and 71st Independent Transport Companies  
45th Field Road Construction Unit  
64th and 92d Land Duty Companies  
19th Zone-of-communications Medical Unit  
47th Casualty Clearing Platoon  
2d and 3d Mutanchiang Army Hospitals  
Hulin, Hutou, and Paoching Army Hospitals  
Pingyangchen, Chining and Müleng Army Hospitals  
Suiyang and Pamientung Army Hospitals  
20th Veterinary Quarantine Station (Second Class)  
17th Field Ordnance Depot (First Class)  
    (minus a mobile repair section)  
17th Field Motor Transport Depot (First Class)  
    (minus a mobile repair section)  
17th Field Freight Depot (First Class)  
    (minus a mobile clothing repair section)  
628th and 629th Special Guard Companies\*  
630th and 641st Special Guard Companies\*

\* Added 30 July 1945. These units, though not formally organized until July 1945, were mentioned in April planning outlines.



parts of Manchuria to the active operational areas, had developed a similar plan for all of Manchuria, and during its October map maneuvers simulated the conduct of an all-out protracted war of resistance (holding operations). As a result of these maneuvers, Kwantung Army unofficially chose as the Fifth Army's main line of resistance (MLR) the line connecting Linkou, Pamientung, and Hsiachengtzu, and instructed Fifth Army to begin studies along these lines. The line chosen, however, was only a starting point. Further study of it, together with reconnaissance of actual positions, were to lead Fifth Army to change the line repeatedly.

Kwantung Army got Imperial General Headquarters approval for the concept of its holding plan on 30 September 1944. But it was not until January 1945 that it drew up a draft of the plan, and not until February that it showed the plan to First Area Army. On the basis of this plan, which First Area Army showed to Fifth Army, as well as the First Area Army's plan resulting therefrom, Fifth Army made various studies, and finally drew up its own outline of the plan. The gist of it was:

Elements of each main force will check and destroy the advancing enemy by taking advantage of border positions and the terrain. The main bodies will smash the enemy by quickly massing troops at the main defensive positions to be established on the eastern side of Pamientung, the eastern and northern side of Lishuchen, and Mashan (about 20 kilometers east of Linkou.)

This outline thus contained the initial revision of the Army's

main line of resistance. The principal change was that the center of the line was projected forward to Mashan and Lishuchen, a step Fifth Army was compelled to make when Third Army designated the border positions along the Tungning-Suifenho line as its main line of resistance. The forward projection of Fifth Army's MLR was unsatisfactory because it was too extensive a line to be defended by three divisions and, furthermore, from the viewpoint of terrain was unsuitable for prolonged resistance. Nevertheless the terrain and positions along the line were reconnoitered, and the preparation of fortifications was begun.

About the beginning of April 1945, however, First Area Army Headquarters revealed that it had been informed by Kwantung Army that a plan for delaying operations had been submitted to Imperial General Headquarters for approval, to supersede the holding plan. In transmitting this information First Area Army redesignated Fifth Army's MLR as the line running from the southwestern sector of Muleng north through the mountainous region west of Pamientung, to the area south of Linkou. This was the second revision, but it was based on a delaying plan rather than a holding plan. It differed from the preceding plan primarily in that the southern end of the line at Hsiachengtzu was extended to Muleng. Even this second revision, however, was subjected to further study and revision.

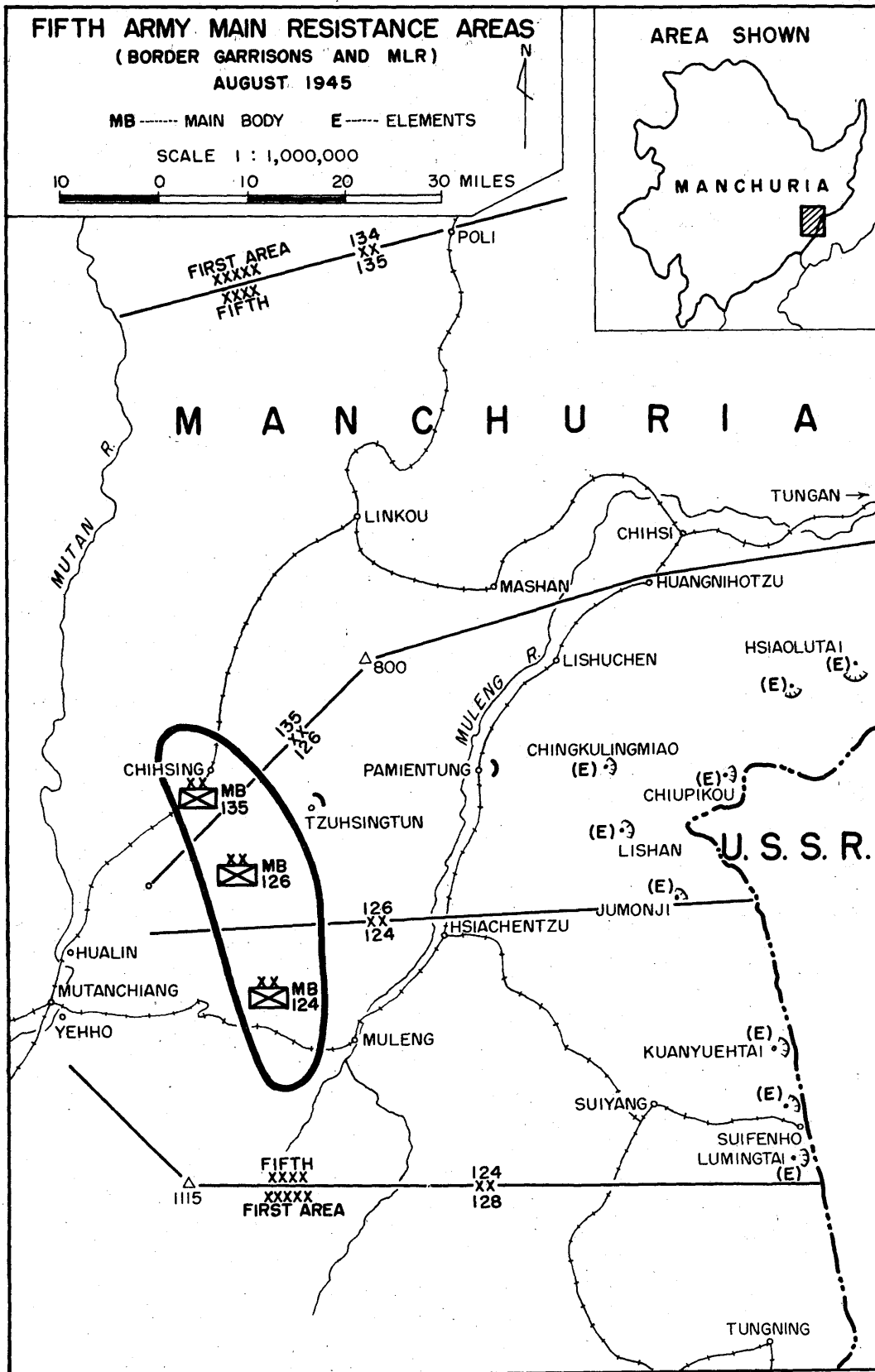
Subsequent studies by Third Army, meanwhile, had led it to discard the Tungning-Suifenho line and to select a line connecting the

west of Hunchun with Lotzukou and Tachienchang as the MLR for itself and the 128th Division. Tachienchang, being about 40 kilometers south of Muleng, Fifth Army thereupon redesignated its MLR as the line extending from west of Muleng, through the western side of Pamientung to Chihsing, thereby eliminating the Mashan-Lishuchen bulge. (See Sketch No 1.) This third revision corrected the unsatisfactory feature of the second revision, and was made in order to contract the frontage and to utilize favorable terrain for operations against mechanized units. Following this change, Fifth Army immediately reconnoitered the area designated, and made plans to organize positions there. Meanwhile, it unofficially notified each division under its command of the plan, instructing commanders to reconnoiter their respective areas and to formulate a detailed plan of operations on the basis of this line and also to make preparations for the construction of positions.

The constant study of Fifth Army's plan resulted in several changes over the outline prepared in February for holding operations. In late April Fifth Army prepared an outline on the basis of the new delaying plan, to the following effect:

Elements of the Army will crush the fighting power of the invading enemy, utilizing established border positions and terrain features. The Army's main body, formed around three divisions, will quickly dispose itself in depth along the MLR extending from west of Muleng, through west of Pamientung, to the area between Chihsing and Linkou, with the object of resisting and destroying the enemy. To accomplish this, bold and desperate raiding opera-

MONOGRAPH NO. 154-F  
SKETCH NO. 1



tions inside and outside the border will be conducted actively by utilizing dense forests and other natural terrain features. Resistance organized in depth will be carried out against the enemy to destroy his fighting power, thereby accomplishing the objective of protracted resistance.

The main effort of the Army will be directed to the sector along the road between Muleng and Mutanchiang. The Army will heavily fortify the sector of the MLR and will insure that adequate supplies are provided in that area.

Based on this plan, the deployment of units and their missions were announced. To defend the sector along the east-west road between Muleng and Mutanchiang: the 124th Division, the 31st Independent Antitank Battalion, the main force of the 20th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment, the 1st Independent Heavy Artillery Battery, one battery of the 1st Tungning Heavy Artillery Regiment, the 13th Mortar Battalion, and two provisional independent engineer battalions (temporarily activated at Chiamussu); to defend the sector along the northeast-southwest road from Pamientung through Tzuhsingtun to Yehho: the 126th Division (less one infantry regiment) and an element of the 20th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment; to defend the sector south of Linkou (the vicinity of Chushan, Chihsing, and Hsientung): the 135th Division (less one infantry regiment) and an element of the 20th Heavy Field Artillery Regiment; to hold firmly the border defense positions at Hutou and to harass and cut off the enemy's rear in the Iman area: the 15th Border Garrison Unit; to form an Army reserve which was to be attached to one of the divisions, depending on the

situation: one infantry regiment of the 126th Division and one of the 135th Division.

Units were deployed according to their missions. Main bodies moved to the rear (MLR) areas and immediately began the construction of fortifications.

By mid-June Kwantung Army Headquarters completed its draft of the delaying operational plan and summoned all Army commanders to Hsinking to show it to them. Although the Fifth Army Commander, Lieutenant General Noritsune Shimizu, attended, the Fifth Army did not find it necessary to change the plan it had previously mapped out.

#### Fortifications

Up until mid-1944 fortifications in Fifth Army's area had been constructed principally at strategic points along the border. In August or September 1944, upon learning that Kwantung Army was drafting plans for holding operations, Fifth Army came to the conclusion that it would be difficult to follow such a plan with its dwindling strength and the quality of its personnel. Specifically, the Army felt that it was impossible either to resist a powerful Soviet Army at the border in positions widely distributed over an extensive frontier, or to defeat it in detail at established strong points in the border areas. For these reasons, a proposal was put forward to call a halt to all border fortification work that was to be carried out that year but, because no definite instructions were received from higher head-

quarters, the work was continued according to schedule. (See Chart No 2.)

Following the designation of the Fifth Army main line of resistance at the beginning of April 1945 it was decided to prepare defense positions for about three divisions, the positions to extend from the sector west of Muleng to the area south of Linkou through the western side of Pamientung. Reconnaissance of the area and other preparations by Fifth Army were completed so as to launch actual fortification work as soon as the thawing season set in. The Army showed the final draft of construction plans to its divisions and other subordinate units, and issued appropriate instructions.

Priority for this 1945 construction work was to be given, the Army announced, to underground installations in view of experiences gained in Pacific operations. Such installations as dug-outs and gun shelters were to be constructed deep in the ground so that they could be safe from heavy field guns and light bombs. In selecting defense positions, particular attention was to be given to fully utilizing terrain features to cope with attacks by enemy mechanized units. Concurrent with this work, the Army announcement continued, a training program would be carried out, the training to be conducted at the scene of the fortifications.

At the beginning of May each division reconnoitered its respective area, prepared construction materials, and set to work under the personal direction of commanders. As for fortifications materials,

# New Fortification Construction in 1944

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Fortifications</u>	<u>Defense Strength</u>	<u>Unit Responsible for Work</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Mishan	Field fortifications	One infantry battalion	25th Division	Performed by one infantry battalion in March
Hutou Position	Ferro-concrete gun shelter and other types	One 410-mm howitzer section	Hutou Border Garrison Unit	Carried out from spring to autumn, the purpose being to cut off communications in the Iman Area
Jaoho Position (about 8 km west of Jaoho)	Strong point	About two infantry battalions and one artillery battalion	Kwantung Army Fortifications Department	Carried out from spring to autumn, the purpose being to check the enemy's advance from the Jaoho Area
Paoching Sector	Field fortifications	About two infantry battalions	Temporary fortifications unit	To check the enemy's advance from the Jaoho Area
Yangkang	Field fortifications	About three infantry battalions	11th Division	In cooperation with the positions near Fengmishan, to check the enemy's advance from the Hulin area.

Remarks: Besides those mentioned in this table, works were carried out to reinforce existing positions.



lumber was no problem, but cement was never supplied in the sufficient quantity.

To some extent fortification construction had to be carried out at the expense of training. Despite the Army's advocacy that training should be conducted at the site of the construction work, each unit began training recruits in their barracks areas. Consequently, considerable quantities of weapons were retained in barracks areas; relatively few weapons were taken to the construction sites. Early in July, the Army commander inspected the fortifications, and pointed out that weapons should be brought to the construction positions. Although some units promptly complied, others were not able to move their weapons. When the war broke out, about one-third of the light and heavy machineguns and about an equal percentage of the artillery guns of each unit were still at the barracks areas forward of the MLR.

By the beginning of August 1945 the slow rate of completion of construction became evident. Of the fire trenches and communications trenches for infantry troops, only about 80 per cent had been completed; of the antitank ditches and other tank obstacles about 50 per cent had been completed. Pillboxes with portholes and fire trenches were only half completed. Large caliber guns could not be mounted because of the shortage of artillery tractors. Each division spent so much time on underground work that, when the war broke out, hardly any surface wire entanglements had been erected. Excavation work for antitank ditches in the vicinity of the road running from Muleng

to Mutanchiang had to be postponed because of congested traffic. Immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, enemy mechanized units had little trouble breaking through this road and invading this area.

Those units that left their ammunition stores in barracks areas had to rely, at the outbreak of hostilities, upon whatever supplies of arms and ammunition the Army could furnish from its supply depots at Taimakou, Ssutaoling, and Hsientung, just behind the MLR.

#### Logistical Planning

During 1944, while Fifth Army was still thinking in terms of offensive operations, it moved some of its supply installations forward and enlarged them. It moved the main field ordnance depot and the field motor transport depot to Hsitungan, and the main field freight depot (general supplies) to Tungan. Furthermore, it opened sub-depots or branch depots near the regular stations of subordinate commands, for example at Mishan, Feite, Hulin, Hutou, and Paoching. Thus these huge supply dumps and their branches, although established conveniently for offensive operations, were not well placed for delaying operations, since they were located at points vulnerable to attack by the Soviet Army.

In September 1944 when the Twentieth Army Headquarters was transferred to the China area, Fifth Army acquired its field ordnance depot, field motor transport depot, and field freight depot, all at Chining. These too were in forward areas.

The changes in operational plans between September 1944 and June 1945 had just as much effect on the location of supply bases as it did no fortification construction. When, late in 1944 Fifth Army was notified that Kwantung Army was preparing a holding plan, it found that all of its supply dumps were forward of the designated MLR. It immediately began a series of conferences with First Area Army Headquarters with a view to pulling supply bases back of the main line.

According to the holding plan Fifth Army's MLR was the Muleng-Pamientung-Linkou line. Fifth Army decided therefore to move a part of war materials stored in forward supply dumps to rear sector dumps to be established at the following places: Taimakou (about 10 kilometers west of Muleng), the left bank of the Muleng River at a point about 8 kilometers west of Pamientung, Hsientung (about 40 kilometers south of Linkou), and also to a base just north of Yehho. For this purpose it set about constructing bomb-proof, tunneled shelters near the western side of Pamientung, Hsientung, and Yehho about the beginning of March 1945. (Shelters had earlier been constructed at Taimakou by Third Army). Later, when the MLR was revised, construction of the shelters west of Pamientung was stopped because they proved to be forward of it. The main effort was then directed to the shelters in the Hsientung and Yehho sectors.

With the decision to move supplies to the rear, and having ordered the construction of rear dumps the Army towards the end of

February began evacuating by train large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and provisions stored east of Linkou, leaving the rest behind for daily supply of forward units. The evacuation program was to be completed by the summer of 1945 but, because of the inefficient operation of railways, the amount evacuated monthly did not exceed 60 or 70 per cent of that scheduled.

Meanwhile, to prevent the enemy from gaining knowledge of the change in operational plans, Fifth Army in early 1945 decided not to stop construction work on several projects in forward positions begun in 1944 and employing a large number of coolies. The largest of these projects, all in the vicinity of Hsingkai (Khanka) and susceptible of observation by the enemy, were: a semi-underground field ordnance depot about 4 kilometers west of that village, and two semi-underground branch field motor transport depots, one about 4 kilometers north of it and the other about 5 kilometers to its east. These installations were pushed to completion as a ruse, and were never used.

When Kwantung Army's planning shifted from holding to delaying operations about March 1945, plans for the withdrawal of supplies were again revised, and Fifth Army designated the vicinities of Mutanchiang and Yehho as its main supply bases for depots. It also added one more dump; besides those at Tamaikou and Hsientung, it directed that one be established at Ssutaoling (about 8 kilometers east of Yehho) as a rear storage base for munitions. Accordingly,

supplies in the Hulin, Tungan, Chining, and Suiyang areas were hastily moved back to these depots and dumps after April. The quantities evacuated by the time hostilities began did not meet more than 70 or 80 per cent of the schedule. (See Sketch No 2.)

Of the amounts accumulated behind the MLR, about 30 or 40 per cent were in dumps at Ssutaoling, Taimakou, and Hsientung; the remainder was in the Mutanchiang depot. The levels of ammunition were so small, however, that there were only 100 rounds for each rifle and 500 or 600 shells for each field gun; the quantity of fuel in stock was so low that the Army had only a ten-day supply. Nevertheless, when the war broke out, the Army was able to furnish what supplies it had accumulated without much difficulty.

At the outbreak of hostilities, the Army ordered the rearward movement of considerable quantities of substitute explosives made from powder extracted from large caliber shells stored in the branch ordnance depot at Chining. The transportation of this material to Yehho by truck began on 9 August, but none of it reached there because of interception by enemy mechanized units near Pamientung.

#### Communication

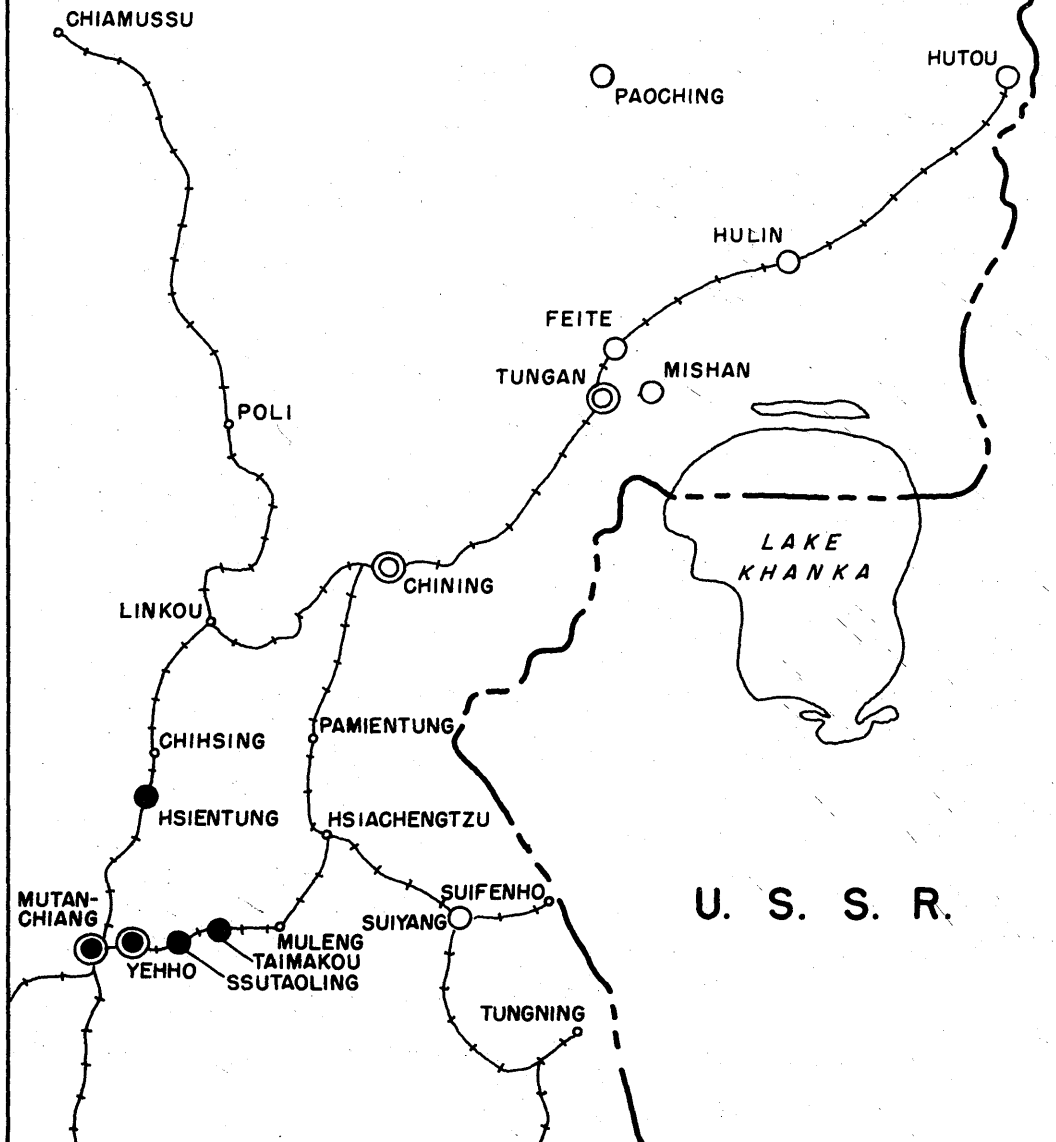
During 1944, roads in Fifth Army's operational area were considered to be adequate. Some repair work, however, was undertaken during the year. The vehicular road between Tungan and Poli, for example, important for troop movements, operations, and the transportation of supplies to the Tungan sector, had fallen into disre-

# MAIN SUPPLY DEPOTS AND DUMPS OF FIFTH ARMY

	DEPOTS	DUMP
PRIOR TO 1 MARCH 1945	○	○
AFTER 1 MARCH 1945	●	●

SCALE 1:2,000,000  
0 50 MILES

## M A N C H U R I A

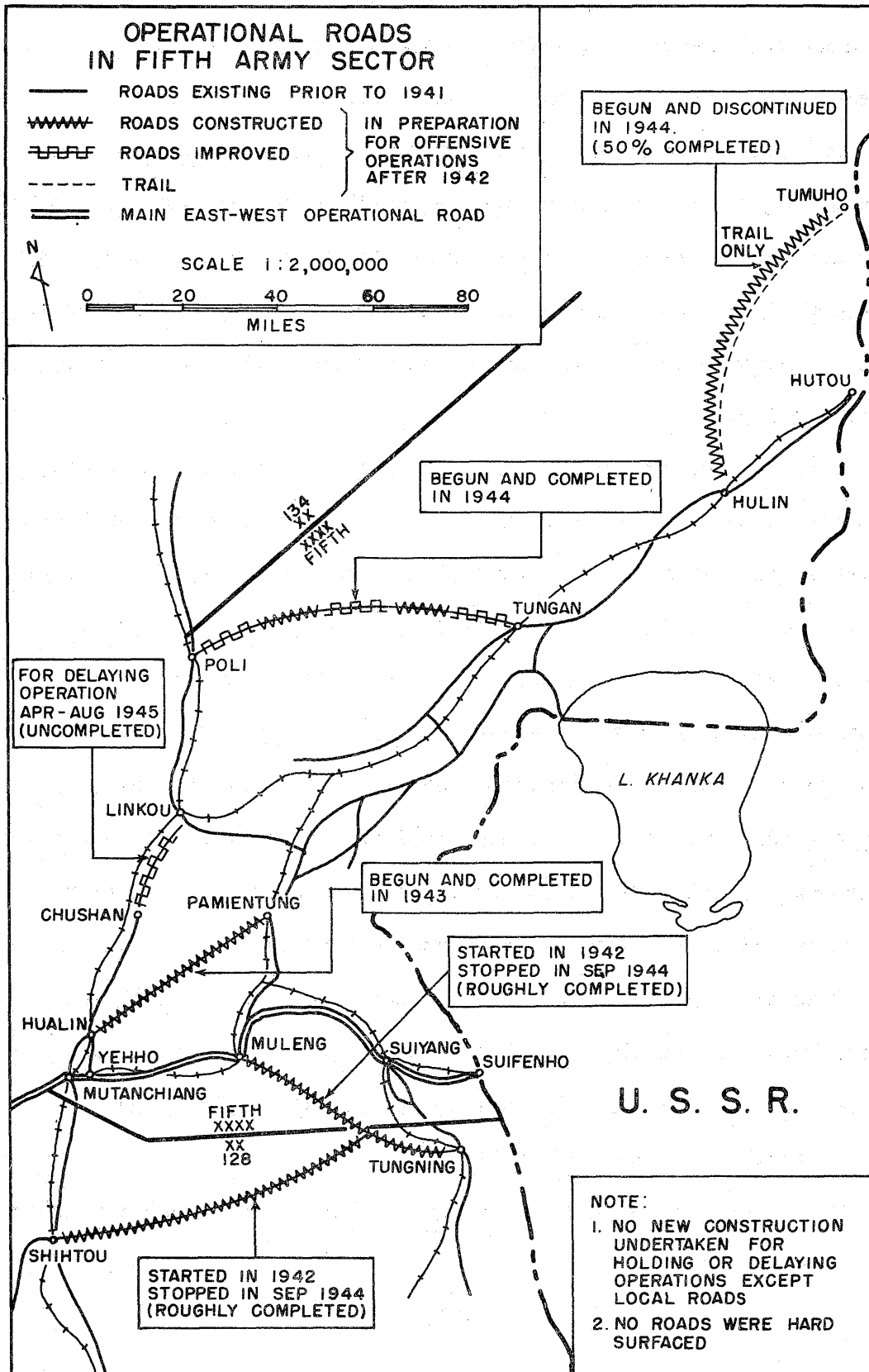


pair. During the year the Army repaired some sections of this road and undertook new construction in other sections. In addition, new arteries were needed. In particular, a path connecting Hulin and Tumuhö (about 40 kilometers north of Hutou) through the southern side of the Wanta Mountain Range was required for the transportation of supplies by packhorse. By the time war broke out only about 50 per cent of the work planned for Hulin-Tumuhö path had been completed. Both of these roads were needed in conjunction with the old (offensive) operational plan.

After the delaying operational plan was informally announced, the importance of communications within the main line of resistance was stressed. About the middle of April, work was begun to improve the road connecting Linkou, Chushan, Hsientung, and Yehho, which near Chushan was impassable for vehicles. This road paralleled the Tumen-Chiamussu Railway. The 45th Field Road Construction Unit began work to enlarge the Chushan section of the road but did not complete the work in time. Consequently, when the war started motor transport units in the Tungan area after retreating to Poli along the Tungan-Poli road, had to continue the journey to Yehho by train.

Road construction within the MLR positions of each unit was generally the responsibility of the unit. Most of the interior network within each position was in usable shape by the time the war started. (See Sketch No 3.)

Telephone and telegraph lines had earlier been established from





Yehho to Muleng and to Linkou, and consequently Fifth Army had direct lines to the 124th and 135th Division. However, it had no lines to the center division--the 126th--in Pamientung. A line was therefore needed along the operational road connecting Yehho-Hualin-Tzuhsingtun-Pamientung. To install these wires preparations were made and necessary materials were assembled during the winter months of early 1945 so that the work might be started in March by the 46th Signal Regiment after it completed the first phase of its training. Overhead wires were strung along this road during June and July.

Another line became necessary at the outbreak of the war when the 124th Division moved its headquarters from Muleng to the dense forest area about 15 kilometers northwest of that city. A service wire was hastily laid a distance of approximately 10 kilometers, tapping in on the overhead line along the main road. Yet, during operations this line could not be used even once because the wires were severed by the frequent movements of our troops in the area. Actually, neither wire nor wireless (telegraph) communication to this unit could be used, and as a result the direction of its operations was seriously obstructed.

### Training

Until the spring of 1944, Fifth Army retained many excellent units which had been organized at the time of the Kwantung Army's "special maneuvers" of 1941. Officers and men of these units were generally of good quality and well-trained. When the large-scale

transfers from Manchuria began in the spring of 1944, Fifth Army began to lose a large number of these experienced units with competent officers and men. Replacements, when available, were of poor quality. As a result of the transfer and poor replacements there was a marked decline in the combat effectiveness of each unit. Following the transfer of the 24th, 25th, and 11th Divisions in rapid succession, the strength of each Army unit was reduced below its T/O authorization. (See Chart No 3.) In addition, the sharp decline in the quality of men--the replacements were generally old and untrained--reduced the combat effectiveness of each unit, a weakness aggravated by the shortage of equipment. As a result combat effectiveness in the spring of 1945 was only-half or one-third of the 1941 level.

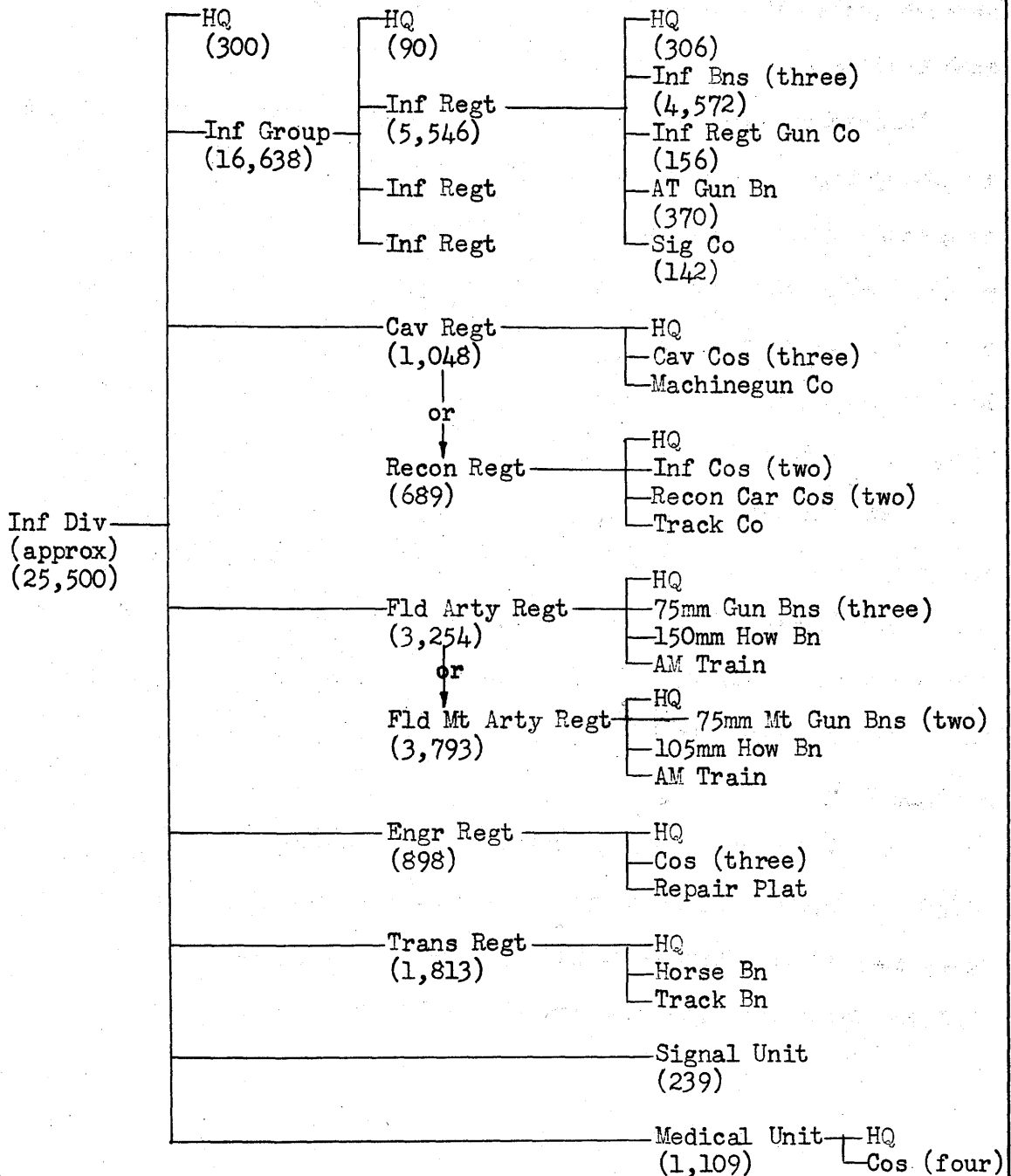
Fifth Army took steps to remedy this situation, stressing the vigorous leadership of commanders. Troops were made keenly aware of the necessity to be ready for the battles ahead. To give them confidence in victory in spite of inferiority in equipment, Fifth Army instituted rigorous training programs and stirred up fighting spirit. In accordance with the Kwantung Army's Combat Guide, each man was trained to kill ten enemy, to attack enemy mechanized units boldly from close quarters, to disperse fully during enemy bombing and shelling, and to operate under cover of darkness. However, even after some of these units had achieved some degree of unity and

Actual Strengths of Infantry Divisions  
June - August 1945

124th Div	14,442	126th Div	16,613
134th Div	14,056	135th Div	14,228

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Standard Organization of Japanese Army Infantry Divisions  
(up to Early part of Pacific War)



skill through intense training, transfers of troops continued and impaired what progress had been made. Thus, the combat effectiveness of all units remained in a highly regrettable state.

As regards the types of training given at construction sites, every spare moment was devoted to training in defensive warfare. Defense installations at the scene of fortifications were used for such training.

Throughout this period the Army strictly adhered to the principle of giving top priority to constructing fortifications, and the Army as a whole devoted too much of its efforts to construction work, particularly after April, often at the sacrifice of military training. Yet the Army tried to train its men in the field according to its slogan "Train While Fighting." When mass mobilization was enforced throughout Manchuria at the end of July and large numbers of untrained reserves were sent to the 135th Division and other units, the Army became especially busy with fortification work on the one hand and military training on the other. Such being the case, when the war began the lack of training of new personnel seriously hampered the operations of the 135th Division and other units.

#### Intelligence

Fifth Army observation units outposted in the border area extending from Jaoho southward to Lake Hanka, favored by their location near the USSR's Ussuri Railway, periodically provided useful information to the Kwantung Army General Headquarters. These units

succeeded in detecting the eastward transportation of Soviet forces from western Europe after February 1945. They smelled out even such details as the classification and number of troops and the types and amounts of equipment. Their reports provided very important data for determining Soviet plans. (See also Monograph 154-I.)

Also active in Manchuria, however, were pro-Soviet spies, especially after the spring of 1945. These spies seemed equally interested in the status of Japanese forces and in the domestic situation in Manchuria. Mainly Koreans and Manchurians, they infiltrated principally from the sector west of Lake Hanka, between Panchiehho and Mishan, and secondarily from the sector between Hutou and Jaoho. Some spies were equipped with large, stationary radios, and operated from bases in such places as Panchiehho, Chining, Poli, and Chiamussu. Although the military police searched these places, they failed to make a substantial number of arrests. Some spies also had portable radios; one such group was arrested near Motaoshih in June 1945.

After April 1945 the activity of the Russians became more positive, and the number of spies carrying radio sets increased. Their method seemed to be to hide in Manchuria for a long period and gather intelligence systematically, and then return to Soviet territory. Furthermore, in the border zone some spies made use of shooting rocket signals at night to send messages. Steps were taken several times to arrest them, but no results were achieved. Counter-espionage

was generally ineffective.

#### Border Garrisoning

During the summer of 1944, Fifth Army was given responsibility for garrisoning that part of the border extending from the vicinity of Tungancheng (about 60 kilometers north of Jaoho) south through Jaoho, Hutou, and Tachiao and westward to Miaoling (about 15 kilometers south of Tungan). Numerous border units garrisoned this extensive frontier. The 12th Border Garrison Unit was at Miaoling, the 4th Border Garrison Unit at Hutou, an infantry company, reinforced, of the 24th Division at Tangpichen (the northwestern extremity of Lake Khanka), about one infantry battalion, one cavalry regiment, and one mortar battalion of the 11th Division from the region extending from the northern sector of Lake Khanka north through Hutou to Tumuho (about 40 kilometers north of Hutou), and one cavalry regiment of the 3d Cavalry Brigade at Jaoho. In addition, some of the observation units (each with one officer and twenty to thirty men) were given the secondary mission of garrisoning the border. (See Map No 1.) Each of the units engaged in border garrison duty exercised patience and prudence, and endeavored to prevent disturbances along the border in accordance with Kwantung Army instructions.

Soviet forces, presumably taking advantage of the unfavorable progress of Japanese operations in the Pacific and of the favorable progress of their war against Germany, created a series of outrageous shooting incidents at Hutou. From Soviet territory across

the Ussuri River shots were fired once a day on 5, 6, and 10 December 1944, and twice on the 9th. In February 1945 they extended an insulated wire across the frozen Ussuri River into Manchurian territory and brazenly connected in with our telephone wire in the sector north of Jaoho. With the advent of the spring of 1945, they became bolder and bolder. They began dispatching spies more actively and constructing fortifications openly on the border; for our part, meanwhile, every means was taken to maintain calmness in Manchurian territory.

Towards the end of July, when transportation via the Ussuri Railway increased in tempo, the Soviets became so defiant as to cross the border and construct fortifications in front of Panchiehho. On 5 August about 100 Soviet infantrymen crossed the Ussuri River which separates Manchuria from Siberia and set foot on Manchurian territory, approaching within 500 or 600 meters of our outpost near Kanhsiatur, about 40 kilometers south of Hutou.<sup>65</sup>

Thus, as tenseness increased, the Soviets assumed a very imperious and insulting attitude towards us, going so far as to carry out openly and in broad daylight border movements which formerly they had conducted secretly at night.

In view of such unlawful and contemptuous acts of the Soviets and of such facts as the unilateral abrogation of the Japanese-

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65. The Kanhsiatur incident is described in greater detail under "Border Garrisoning" in Monograph 154-B.

Soviet Neutrality Pact in April,<sup>66</sup> and also in view of Germany's surrender and the unfavorable situation in the Pacific, it was considered highly probable that Soviet invasion of the territory of Manchuria was imminent. Kwantung Army Headquarters estimated that the Soviet invasion would begin after August or September.

During the months of rising tension, Fifth Army placed emphasis on the following measures:

Rapid completion of fortification construction on the main line of resistance.

Accumulation of arms, ammunition, and materiel, in the fortified areas.

Redisposition of Army units to cope with the imminent commencement of hostilities.

Transfer of Army Headquarters from Tungan to Yehho.  
(carried out 25 April)

Maneuvers for higher headquarters in accordance with the new operational plan.

Role of various Manchurian Government agencies in the event of an outbreak of hostilities, particularly as regards the evacuation of Japanese residents.

The new units that composed Fifth Army by August 1945 deployed garrisons in the border areas in substantially the same positions as the old units. These consisted principally of divisional elements, except in the Hutou sector. On the 124th Division front one infantry

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66. This pact had one more year to run, but might be denounced one year before its expiration by either party. Langer, Encyclopedia of World History, P 1143.



battalion of the 277th Regiment was deployed in the Pamientung sector from Jumonji Pass to Chingkulingmiao, and one battalion of the 278th in the Pingyang sector from Hsiaolutai to Shangchihtun via Panchiehho. On the 135th Division front one infantry battalion of the 369th Regiment was deployed at Miaoling, one company of the 368th at Tachiao, one platoon of the 368th south of Hutou, and one battalion (less one company) of the 369th in the Jaoho sector, including Paoching in the rear. The principal force at Hutou was the 15th Border Garrison Unit (assigned to the 135th Division on 9 August), which consisted of one infantry battalion (four infantry companies, one infantry artillery battery, and one antitank battery) one artillery unit (about two batteries), and one engineer unit (about one company). (See Map No 2.)

#### Status of Supplies and Equipment

The equipment of each unit of the Army was excellent and sufficient until about the summer of 1944 when the transfers to the Pacific and China areas began. Because many of the transferred units took along most of the reserve supplies and enough ammunition for two major engagements (about a six months supply) the stocks in the Army supply depots decreased sharply compared with the levels maintained during the Kwantung Army "sepcial maneuvers" of 1941.

Units departing Manchuria for active operational areas naturally had to be well equipped, and when possible, newly equipped. The surplus weapons and materials left behind by these units were given



to newly organized units. Some of the new units, even after being organized, were sorely in need of certain items. The infantry units of the 126th Division, for example, was equipped with only half of the authorized number of heavy machineguns, light machineguns, grenade dischargers, and other weapons; its artillery unit was only two-thirds equipped.

In the autumn of 1944 Fifth Army had received a verbal message from Kwantung Army Headquarters to the effect that Manchuria could no longer depend on the homeland for explosive powder, but would have to produce it locally. In this same message Fifth Army was assured an allocation of more than 10 tons from the Kwantung Army. However, until the spring of 1945 none of this allocation was received. In these circumstances the Army made efforts to prepare several tons of antitank explosives from powder charges of ammunition for large caliber guns.<sup>67</sup>

By the spring of 1945 stocks of some weapons were so low that improvisation had to be made. The ordnance depot and the motor transport depot forged swords, bayonets, and other weapons from such materials as the springs of motor cars in order to equip zone of communication units and also for the 135th Division.<sup>68</sup>

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67. Ammunition for guns of large caliber, such as 240-mm and 300-mm, useless in China and the Pacific, had been stored by Fifth Army since the Kwantung Army "special maneuvers" of 1941.

68. Although the 135th Division was not formally activated until July 1945, its scheduled activation was announced several months earlier.

After April 1945 considerable quantities of ammunition were transferred to the China area and the homeland, resulting in further shortages in Manchuria. The artillery regiment of the 124th Division, the nucleus of the Army, was only two-thirds equipped despite the fact that it supplemented its meager equipment of Model 38 field guns with Model 90 field guns, and Model 41 mountain guns (all 75-mm).<sup>69</sup>

The artillery units of the 135th Division, the last division to be organized, was the most poorly equipped unit in the Army. Organized at the end of July, it was only two-thirds equipped with cavalry guns (75-mm), trench mortars, and other weapons. The inferiority of equipment in this division, coupled with the low quality of men and their inadequate training, greatly reduced its fighting effectiveness.

Except for the supply of food, there was a shortage of almost all items of supply in Manchuria, a shortage which Fifth Army felt equally with other commands. The shortage of ammunition, explosives, and automotive fuel was particularly acute in Fifth Army, and led to the belief that it was quite impossible for the Army to fight an extended war of resistance.

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69. The nomenclature of the Model 38 gun was derived from the fact that the prototype was wrought in the 38th year of the Meiji Era (1905). The name of the Model 41 mountain gun was similarly derived. This was not a hard and fast method of nomenclature, however. The Model 90's name was derived from the 2590th year of the Japanese Imperial Era (1930). The Model 38 had a range of 11,600 meters; the Model 90, with a longer tube, had a range of 14,400 meters, and the probability of hits was better than the Model 38.

### Status of Preparations Immediately Prior to the War

Considering the newness of its units the incomplete status of training of new personnel, the unfinished fortifications, and the serious shortages of equipment, Fifth Army Headquarters believed that if the Army were to fight in earnest, its fighting power would be exhausted in less than ten days.

Compared with the combat effectiveness of the Kwantung Army's well-trained divisions of 1941, such as the 12th, the combat effectiveness of the new divisions was extremely poor. Rating the 12th Division as 100 per cent effective, the 124th Division was 35 per cent effective, the 126th Division 20 per cent, and the 135th Division only 15 per cent.

Because of construction work underway in the MLR positions, the main body of each division at the beginning of August was away from its barracks area, and was encamped at construction sites. Although the recently organized 135th Division was similarly deployed, it had a large number of recruits in barracks areas undergoing training. When the invasion began, each division headquarters was forward of its main body, with only the border elements between itself and the enemy.

Moreover, for four days in early August the Army conducted conferences, training, and field exercises at Yehho with agencies of both the Japanese and Manchurian Governments to finalize plans re-

garding evacuation of Japanese residents and cultivating groups, the handling of railroad transportation and signal communications, and other related matters.

These exercises were followed by war games for division commanders and chiefs of staff, scheduled to last for about five days beginning on 7 August. On the evening of 8-9 August, therefore, when the Soviet Army marched into Manchuria, each division commander, each chief of staff, and the commander of the 15th Border Garrison Unit were staying at Yehho. Army Headquarters was caught off guard by the invasion; it had believed that the Soviet Union would soon step into the war, but not until September.