

A Review of Yan Changyi's Military Career, a Member of the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China

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Abstract: As an important early - stage military cadre of CPC and a military talent who studied in the Soviet Union, Yan Changyi actively participated in the establishment of the Military Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and did a good job in the internal construction and system improvement of the Military Department. During his tenure as the head of the Military Department of the Hunan Provincial Party Committee, he attached importance to the peasant movement, went deep into the countryside to mobilize the masses, and vigorously promoted the construction of the workers' and peasants' armed forces. As a member of the Special Military Commission, he participated in leading the armed uprising of Shanghai workers, trained military backbones, and organized and armed the working class. As the Party representative of the troops, he coordinated and participated in the Nanchang Uprising, and did a good job in the ideological and political work of the troops in the uprising. As a member of the Dongjiang Special Committee, he participated in the establishment of the Haifeng - Lufeng Workers' and Peasants' Democratic Regime, making sacrifices and contributions to the cause of the Party and the military.

Keywords: Yan Changyi; Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China; military work; armed struggle

DOI: 10.69979/3041-0843.25.04.016

In the early days of the ups - and - downs Chinese revolution, countless aspiring people bravely took on heavy responsibilities, fought tenaciously and one after another for national independence and liberation. Yan Changyi was one of the outstanding representatives. Born in Anxiang, Hunan in 1898, Yan Changyi went to France to work and study in his early years, seeking the truth of saving the country and the people. In 1922, he joined the Communist Party of China and has since dedicated his life to the Party's revolutionary cause. In 1925, Yan Changyi returned from the Soviet Union after studying military affairs and participated in the preparation of the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China. In the following years, he participated in important tasks and actions such as the Shanghai Workers' Armed Uprising and the Nanchang Uprising, making important contributions to the Party's leadership of armed construction and struggle and the development and growth of the early - stage military forces of the Communist Party of China.

1 An Elite with Military Knowledge from the Soviet Union: Participating in the Establishment of the Central Military Department of the Communist Party of China

In June 1925, facing the severe domestic revolutionary struggle, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China instructed Yan Changyi, Wang Yifei, Nie Rongzhen and more than 20 other people who were studying military affairs in the Soviet Union to return to China for work. They set off from Moscow in August and returned to Shanghai in September. After returning from the Soviet Union, Yan Changyi immediately devoted himself to the preparatory work of the Central Military Department of the Communist Party of China (later renamed the Central Military Commission). At that time, the Party was facing an increasingly complex revolutionary situation and was in urgent need of establishing a full - time leading organ to coordinate military work. As the number of comrades engaged in military work within the Party gradually increased, Wang Yifei proposed the establishment of the Central Military Commission. Chen Duxiu accepted his proposal

and instructed him, Yan Changyi and others to stay in Shanghai to start the preparation of the Central Military Department.

Yan Changyi gave full play to his organizational and coordination abilities, actively recruited military talents, and enriched the strength for the establishment of the military department. In specific work, Yan Changyi used his military talents to assist in doing a good job in the organizational system, work planning and top - level design of the Central Military Department of the Communist Party of China, laying a solid foundation for the establishment of the military department.

In October 1925, at the second enlarged meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, it was decided to establish a Military Commission. On December 12 of the same year, the Central Committee announced that the "Military Movement Commission" in the resolution of the enlarged meeting in October was misprinted and should be changed to the "Military Department". In December of that year, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held a meeting and proposed the establishment of the Central Military Department.

The minister of the Central Military Department of the Communist Party of China was concurrently held by Zhang Guotao, but he did not actually participate in the relevant work. Wang Yifei was responsible for the preparation, Yan Changyi served as the technical secretary, and more than a dozen people worked in it. In February 1926, through the unremitting efforts of Yan Changyi and others, the Central Military Department was officially established in Shanghai, providing an important and strong organizational guarantee for the Party's leadership of military work.

2 Military Minister of the District Committee: Promoting the Construction of Workers' and Peasants' Armed Forces

In March 1926, during the brewing period of the Northern Expedition, the Central Military Commission sent Yan Changyi to Hunan to serve as the military minister of the Hunan District Committee of the Communist Party of China, doing a good job in the formation of workers' and peasants' armed forces in Hunan, the training of military backbones, winning over the local troops to the revolutionary road, and helping He Long hold a political workshop in Changde.

After the Northern Expeditionary Army entered Hunan, Yan Changyi mobilized the masses to set up military supply stations, provided material support and logistical support, organized reconnaissance teams to participate in the war directly, and confiscated the guns of the routed enemy to establish workers' and peasants' self - defense armed forces. With his efforts, the peasant revolutionary armed forces in Hunan continued to develop and grow, the peasant movement was unprecedentedly prosperous, and the well - trained peasant self - defense forces actively supported the Northern Expeditionary Army, making sacrifices for the victory. The organized and armed peasant self - defense forces also laid the foundation and accumulated strength for the Party to open up revolutionary bases in rural areas and carry out armed struggles in the future.

On September 27, 1926, Yan Changyi was transferred back to the Central Military Commission for work. On November 9, he submitted a military report on the situation in Hunan and Hubei to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The report covered the political and military situation in Hunan and Hubei, the political attitudes and countermeasures of various factions of the Kuomintang, the development of the Party organization, the workers' and peasants' movements, and the situation of the united front, with a focus on introducing the political attitudes and military strength of He Long's troops in western Hunan. Later, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China made a resolution on important issues concerning the current situation, and Yan Changyi's military report provided an important reference for the resolution.

3 A Member of the Special Military Commission: Participating in Commanding the Shanghai Workers' Armed Uprising

In October 1926, the first armed uprising of Shanghai workers failed due to insufficient preparation and lack of struggle experience. After that, Yan Changyi was transferred to the Shanghai District Committee to be in charge of military work. Facing the previous two failures, on February 23, 1927, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Shanghai District Committee decided to launch the third workers' armed uprising, and established a special committee and a special military commission composed of five people headed by Zhou Enlai. Yan Changyi was one of the members of the

special military commission.

On March 21 of the same year, the third armed uprising of Shanghai workers broke out. Yan Changyi actively assisted Zhou Enlai and others in commanding the third armed uprising. In the preparatory stage of the uprising, Yan Changyi deeply mobilized the masses, publicized revolutionary ideas among the workers, stimulated their fighting spirit, and organized worker - pickets to carry out targeted military training. Yan Changyi personally participated in the armed uprising, commanding the workers' armed forces to fight a life - and - death battle with the enemy. In the battle, he was brave and tenacious, inspiring the soldiers' courage and confidence to win with practical actions, which greatly boosted the soldiers' morale.

Under the command of Zhou Enlai, Yan Changyi and others, more than 5,000 worker - pickets fought simultaneously in seven areas. After more than 30 hours of fierce fighting, the third armed uprising of Shanghai workers was a success.

4 Party Representative of the Troops: Supporting and Participating in the Nanchang Uprising

In May 1927, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China moved to Wuhan, and the organs of the Central Military Commission moved there accordingly. On the 25th, the Central Military Commission was renamed the Central Military Department, with Zhou Enlai as the minister, and the personnel of the Hubei Provincial Military Commission were supplemented and incorporated into the Military Department (still commonly known as the Military Department). The department had a military commission, with Zhou Enlai, Nie Rongzhen and Wang Yifei serving as the director, chief of staff and secretary - general respectively, and Yan Changyi and others as members. In June, Yan Changyi arrived in Wuhan to assist Zhou Enlai in doing a good job in the organizational liaison of the army and the allocation of cadres.

In July 1927, in order to resist the bloody massacre of the Kuomintang reactionaries by force of arms, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China decided to hold the Nanchang Uprising and form a revolutionary armed force led by the Party itself. Zhou Enlai instructed Yan Changyi, Nie Rongzhen and He Chang to form a front - line military commission, and go to Jiujiang in advance to convey the decision of the uprising and make preparations. The next day, Yan Changyi and the other three arrived in Jiujiang, first notifying Ye Ting, the division - commander of the 24th Division, of the decision of the uprising, and at the same time notifying the Party members in the local garrison, and supporting the uprising through them. On July 20, Yan Changyi participated in the special meeting on the uprising held in Jiujiang to determine the relevant arrangements. In Jiujiang, Yan Changyi quickly carried out his work, closely contacted the local Party organizations and the Communist Party members in the garrison, and timely grasped the local military situation and the enemy's dynamics. Yan Changyi also actively assisted in organizing the assembly and preparation of the uprising troops, creating favorable conditions for the smooth progress of the Nanchang Uprising. On July 26, Zhou Enlai went to Jiujiang and instructed to mobilize the 25th Division to go to Nanchang to participate in the armed uprising. Regarding the division of labor between Nie and Yan, Nie Rongzhen went to Mahuiling to mobilize the 25th Division, and Yan Changyi stayed in Jiujiang to provide support.

As the Party representative of the 24th Division of the uprising army, Yan Changyi attached great importance to the political construction of the troops. Ideologically, he publicized the Party's revolutionary purpose and the significance of armed struggle, fully strengthened the political beliefs of the officers and soldiers, inspired their ideological consciousness, and strengthened their revolutionary will. Organizationally, he enriched the Party member team and consolidated the branch construction, ensuring the play of the fighting - fortress role of the Party organization in the uprising.

After the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China returned to Shanghai. After completing the task of transferring the troops, Yan Changyi was ordered to rush from Jiujiang to Shanghai and return to the Central Military Commission to continue working. Although the Nanchang Uprising ultimately ended in failure, it left a glorious page in the history of the Chinese revolution. From then on, the Communist Party of China established its own revolutionary armed force, and the people's army led by the Party was born.

5 A Member of the Dongjiang Special Committee: Participating in the Establishment of the Soviet Regime

In the middle of October 1927, Yan Changyi was ordered to go to Zhongdong, Huiyang via Hong Kong to do a good job in the reorganization of the remaining forces of the 24th Division of the Nanchang Uprising army, and reorganized it into the 4th Regiment of the Workers' and Peasants' Revolutionary Army. Dong Lang and Yan Changyi served as the regimental commander and Party representative respectively. Yan Changyi went deep among the officers and soldiers, widely carried out ideological and political work, and did a good job in the supply of provisions. With the cooperation of the workers' and peasants' militia in Haifeng, Lufeng, Huizhou and Zijin, he and Dong Lang led the troops to attack Nanling, Zijin and other places, and launched the third armed uprising in Haifeng and Lufeng, which was a success after six - day fighting.

On November 7, Peng Pai arrived in Haifeng and Lufeng and concurrently served as the secretary of the Dongjiang Special Committee. On the 13th and 18th, under the leadership of Peng Pai, Yan Changyi and others, the Soviet governments of Lufeng and Haifeng were established respectively, which were the early - established workers' and peasants' democratic regimes of the Communist Party of China. Yan Changyi delivered a speech at the Haifeng Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Congress, putting forward constructive suggestions for consolidating the regime. In the second half of the month, the Dongjiang Special Committee was reorganized, with Peng Pai as the secretary, and Yan Changyi as a member and in charge of the work of the military commission. At the beginning of December, the 2nd Red Division was officially established, with Dong Lang and Yan Changyi serving as the division - commander and division Party representative respectively, and the number of troops expanded to 1,800.

Yan Changyi attached great importance to the ideological and political construction of the 2nd Red Division. He established Party branches in companies, battalions and regiments, established the Party representative system, the economic public - disclosure system and the soldiers' club, and transferred military and political cadres to assist the local areas in training workers' and peasants' armed forces, and taught military courses in the Dongjiang Party School. After the failure of the Guangzhou Uprising, he organized to receive the remaining forces of the uprising army (later reorganized into the 4th Regiment of the Workers' and Peasants' Revolutionary Army), and the two armies met in Longwo, Zijin County in early January 1928.

In the second half of February 1928, the Enemy troops launched a heavy - handed "encirclement and suppression" of the Haifeng and Lufeng base areas. Yan Changyi and Peng Pai commanded the Red Army and the masses to fight a bloody battle in Daan, Lufeng, Gongping, Haifeng and other places. Due to the superiority of the enemy in number, he was unfortunately seriously injured and sent to the hospital for treatment. In the middle of July of the same year, due to the enemy's repeated attacks and the poor medical conditions, the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee decided to let him go to Hong Kong for treatment. After arriving in Hong Kong, due to the change of the address of the Party organization, Yan Changyi was temporarily out of touch with the Party organization. In November 1928, Yan Changyi managed to get back to Shanghai, and was appointed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China as a member of the Central Military Commission and a member of the Jiangsu Provincial Military Commission.

6 Conclusion

On August 24, 1929, Yan Changyi and others who were participating in the joint meeting of the Military Commission in Jingyuanli were unfortunately arrested due to the betrayal of a traitor, and they remained unyielding in the face of the enemy's interrogation. In prison, Yan Changyi wrote a letter of last words to his parents: "Son has been away from home for a long time and has not returned. I can't serve you by your side and bring you happiness. I have made my elderly parents worry day and night. You have repeatedly written to urge me to return. According to human feelings, I should obey and enjoy the happiness of family reunion. However, son has long devoted himself to society, traveled north and south, and is determined to serve the country, so it is difficult to take care of myself and my family. I hope my parents can understand the great righteousness, consider the overall situation, understand the difficulties of the time, give priority to national affairs and the interests of the people, and don't worry about me. I hope my brothers can take my place to fulfill the responsibility of serving you." On August 30, Yan Changyi, together with Yang Yin, Peng Pai and Xing Shizhen (the "four martyrs of the Central Military Commission"), sang the "Internationale" loudly, shouted slogans such as "Long live the Communist Party of China!" and heroically sacrificed their lives in Longhua.

As an important early - stage military cadre and a military talent who studied in the Soviet Union of the Communist Party of China, Yan Changyi actively participated in the establishment of the Central Military Department of the Communist Party of China, and did a good job in the internal construction and system improvement of the military department. When serving as the military minister of the Hunan District Committee, he attached importance to the peasant movement and vigorously promoted the construction of workers' and peasants' armed forces. As a member of the special military commission, he participated in leading the Shanghai Workers' Armed Uprising. As the Party representative of the troops, he supported and participated in the Nanchang Uprising and did a good job in the ideological and political work of the troops in the uprising. As a member of the Dongjiang Special Committee, he participated in the establishment of the Haifeng and Lufeng workers' and peasants' democratic regime. During his work in the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China and other military posts, Yan Changyi made sacrifices and contributions to the cause of the Party and the army.

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