

The Functions of Hedong Military Officers in Early Song

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Abstract: in the First Three Reigns of Early Song, There Were More Than 130 Hedong Military Officers, Many of Whom Were in High Positions. They Were a Powerful Force in the Politics of Early Song. They Played Important Roles in Participating in and Leading Wars, Guarding the Border, Managing the Central Armies, Governing the Prefectures and Counties, They Made Great Contributions to the Establishment and Consolidation of Song Dynasty.

1. Introduction

The Hedong Military Officers in Early Song Played Important Roles Not Only in Major Military Operations At Home and Abroad But Also in Guarding the Border, Commanding the Central Armies and Governing the Local Areas.

2. Participate in and Lead Wars

In Early Song, Hedong Military Officers Took Part in and Commanded Many Significant Wars, Such as Took Part in the Chenqiao Mutiny, Put Down Rebellions or Vanquished Separatist Regimes, Resisted Liao and Xia Aggressions, Who Made Great Contributions to the Establishment and Consolidation of the Song Dynasty. Next, I Will Focus on Some Wars in Which Hedong Military Officers Played Greater Functions. the Main Military Officers Who Participated in the Chen Qiao Mutiny Were Li Chuyun, Luo Yanhuan, Li Hanchao, Zhang Guanghan, Murong Yanzhao, Etc. Li Chuyun is an Important Aides and Staff of Taizu, the Chief Planner of the Mutiny. "Foremost Meritorious Statesman in Early Song", "When the Opportunity Comes, he Grab It Properly." the Other Four Are High-Ranking Military Officers of Central Armies. Luo Yanhuan Was Scattered Command Du Yuhou, Zhang Guanghan Was the Top Officer of Tiger Left Wing Army, Li Han Chao Was the Third Ranking Officer of Palace Front Army, Murong Yanzhao Was the Second Ranking Officer of Palace Front Army. Li Yun Rebellion Took Place in Hedong, So Hedong Military Officers Were Paid More Attentions Because of Knowing the Local Situation Well. the Main Military Officers Who Participated in Include Nine People, Murong Yanzhao, Wang Quanbin, Li Chuyun, Fu Chao, Tian Shaobin, Luo Yanhuan, Wu Tingzuo, Li Chongju, Zhedong, Etc. Taizu Assigned the Front Army and Back Army to Attack Liyun, the Two Highest Generals of the Back Army Are Murong Yanzhao and Wang Quanbin. Li Chuyun's Greatest Contribution is That he Successfully Broke the Alliance between Li Chongjin and Li Yun in Yangzhou, and Didn't Make Taizu to Be Attacked from Two Sides. Wu Tingzuo, Privy Council Chief Executive, Guarded Capital Kaifeng, Ensuring the Safety of the Rear Area.

In the Process of Wiping out the Separatist Regimes, the Hedong Military Officers Had the Highest Achievements in the Wars of Conquering Jinghu, Shu and the Northern Han. There Were Only Three Hedong Generals Who Took Part in the Jinghu War in the First Year of Qiande (963), However, They Were All Important. Murong Yanzhao and Li Chuyun Were Appointed to Be the Top and Second Officers Respectively, So This War Was a War Led by Hedong Military Officers. in the Winter of Second Year of Qiande(964), Song Sent Two Arms (Fengzhou and Guizhou Road Army) to Attack Shu. 9 Hedong Military Officers Took Part in This Battle, Including Wang Quanbin, Li Jinjing, Zhang Tinghan, Yuan Jizhong, Huiyuan, Yang Mei, Xue Chao, Tian Shaobin and Zhang Yantong. Wang Quanbin Was the Chief Commander of Fengzhou Road Army, under His Effective Command, Song Won during Only Sixty-Six Days. Hu Yanzan Played a Vanguard Role of

Fengzhou Road Army. Li Jinqing Was the Chief Infantry Commander of Guizhou Road Army. Zhang Tinghan Was the Chief Sowar Commander of Guizhou Road Army. Yang Mei Was the Chief Commander of the Zhanzhao Left and Right Army in Guizhou Road Army. Zhang Yantong Was the Overseer of Another Big Army Sent by Taizu in the Fourth Year of Qiande to Suppress the Quanshixiong Mutiny. from the First Year of Kaibao (968) to the Fourth Year of Taiping Xingguo (979), Song Attacked the Northern Han Dynasty Four Times. the Scale of the Last Attack in the Fourth Year of Taiping Xingguo Was Huge, and There Were 12 Hedong Military Generals Took Part in It. They Are Li Jilong, Guo Shouwen, Yuan Jizhong, Wang Gui, Hu Yanzan, Yang Chongjin, Yin Xian, Peiji, Fu Chao, Xue Chao, Yang Qiong and Fu Yuqing, Etc.

From the Fourth Year of Taiping Xingguo to the First Year of Jingde (1004), the War between Song and Liao Lasted for More Than 20 Years. in the Battle of Gaoliang River, Li Jilong Used Right Methods and Made Great Success, Saved All of His Soldiers. in September of the Same Year, Western Road Army Attacked Hedong. 4 Hedong Military Officers, Xue Chao, Li Jilong, Guo Shouwen and Yang Ye, Took Part in the Anti Liao Campaign. Xue Chao Fought in Xuhe as a Subordinate of General Liu Tinghan. Li Jilong Was the Military Chief of the Important Area Hebei, and Guo Shouwen Was the Main Military Chief of Ding Prefecture. in the Battle of Mancheng, Li Jilong Supported the Temporary Change of Array in the Case of Violating the Imperial Edict, Which Played a Decisive Role in the Victory of the Battle. on the Other Hand, Yang Ye Resisted in Hedong and Defeated the Liao Army Several Times, Making Them Return Empty-Handed. Liao Sent 100 Thousand Troops to Attack Hedong Road in the Fifth Year of Taiping Xingguo. under the Attack of Yang Ye, the Liao Army Suffered Heavy Losses, Liao' Chief Commander, Xiao Jingli Was Killed by Song Soldiers. in the Seventh Year of Taiping Xingguo, Liao Army Aimed to South from Three Directions, the Middle and West Armies Were Respectively Defeated by Yang Ye and She Yuqing. in Xinze Stronghold, the Liao Soldiers Were Defeated, "Beheaded 700 People, Captured More Than 100 Chieftains, and Gained More Than 10000 Weapons, Sheep and Horses." in the First Year of Duangong (988), Liao Attacked Song Again. Li Jilong and Yuan Jizhong Jointly Defeated the Liao in Tanghe Battle. in the Second Year of Xianping, Khitan Attacked Sui City and the Siege Was Very Urgent. At That Time, Yang Yanzhao, a Patrol Inspector At the Border of Baozhou, Happened to Be There. he Made Enemy Retreat without a Soldier by Using a Clever Trick. the Case Had Become a Classic City Guarding Battle in History. in the Battle of Wangdu in the Sixth Year of Xianping (1003), Wu Mi, the Surrendered General of the Northern Han Dynasty, Died in Battle. in the First Year of Jingde, Liao Invaded Song with Great Power Again. the Emperor, Songzhenzong, Personally Led His Soldiers in a Military Operation. 7 Hedong Military Officers, Including Li Yanwo, Li Jilong, Li Jichang, Yang Yanzhao, Shi Pu, Xia Shouyun and Li Jihe, Participated in It. the Liao Attacked Yingzhou City from Four Sides, Which Was Very Fierce. Li Yanwo, the Highest Political Officer of Yingzhou, Led His Soldiers to Resist. "over Ten Days, Many Enemies Were Killed." the Khitans Were Forced to Retreat When They Saw No Chance. Li Jilong Was Appointed as the Platoon Emissary Before Driving. he Went to Chenzhou First, Arranged His Army Outside the North City, and Soon Fought with the Qidan Army in the North of the City. Li Jilong's Troop and Other Troops Were in Line to Defend Enemy. They Guarded Each Place with Powerful Crossbow Soldiers and Controlled the Key Points. under His Wise Command, Xiao Talan, the Chief Military Officer of Qidan Army, Was Shot to Death, Which Greatly Frustrated the Spirit of Liao Army, Made Liao Determine to Ask for Peace, and Also Made Song Zhenzong, Who Was Unwilling to Move to the North City, Eliminate His Worries, and Quickly Went to the North City to Comfort the Soldiers and Boost Morale. during the Period of Emperor Zhenzong's Stay in Chan Prefecture, Xia Shouyun Was Responsible for Protecting the Emperor. Li Jichang Was the Minister of Peace. Mozhou's Military Chief, Shi Pu, Delivered a Letter for Negotiation. in Order to Cooperate with the Whole Battle, the Emperor Ordered She Weichang "Led His Troops from Volcano Prefecture into the Land of Khitan, Shuozhou. the Front Army Broke into the Wolf Water Stronghold, Killing Many People." "Khitan Heard the Failure, Then Run Away".

Since the Seven Years of Taiping Xingguo, There Were 22 Years of Intermittent War between Song and Tangut. Eight Military Officers Successively Participated in the Series of War, Including

Yin Xian, Li Jilong, Tian Shaobin, Li Shouen, Pei Ji, She Weichang, Hou Yanguang and an Shouzhong. Li Jilong and She Weichang Took Part in It Several Times, Pei Ji and Li Shouen's Family Sacrificed.

3. Guard the Frontier

Some Military Officers Are Also Responsible for Guarding the Border and Protecting the Country. Many of Hedong Military Officers Fulfilled Their Duties in This Aspect, and Served as Soldiers Model. Li Hanchao, Who Guarded the South of the Pass for 17 Years, Was Awarded Stele Commemorating the Merit of a Good Official What the Military People Are Proud of Obtaining. he Weizhong Had Been Working in Yi Prefecture. he “Has a Great Reputation in the Northern Border, So Qidan Did Not Dare to Invade Area under His Jurisdiction for More Than Ten Years.” during Taizong Reign, Hou Yun Has Been “Guarded Shuofang for More Than Ten Years” as Ling Prefecture Governor. Li Qianpu Has Been Guarding Xi Prefecture for Ten Years during Taizong Reign. the Enemy Dare Not Break the Border. Yang Ye Has Been Guarding Yanmen Pass Since Surrendered Song. His Son ,Yanzhao, Almost Served in Hebei for His Whole Life. “ Had Been Guarding the Border for More Than 20 Years, Khitans Feared Him and Called Him Yang Six Lang. after he Died, the Heshuo People Missed Him Very Much.” an Shouzhong Also Served in the Northern Border for Many Years. When he Was Transferred from Cangzhou, Local Officials and People Would Not Like Him to Leave. Yuan Jizhong Guarded the Northern Border in Taizong Reign. “he Gave a Lot of Money Which the Emperor Reward Him to His Soldiers. on the Day of His Death, There Was No Money Left in His Family. the Gentry Praised Him.” Li Chongju Was the Patrol Officer of Qiong, Ya, Dan and Wansi Prefectures. When the Local “Thieves Rioted, Chongju Went to His Cave to Comfort Himself, Gave His Money to the Chief, and All the Them Submit Himself to Him.” She Family Kept the Fu Prefecture for Many Generations and Fought Against the Liao and Xia.

4. Command and Train the Central Army

There Were Quite a Number of Hedong Military Officials Who Served as Officers in Central Armies, Even as Top Class Military Officer. Murong Yanzhao Held the Post of Second Ranking Officer of Palace Front Army from the First Year (960) to the Second Year of Jianlong. after Chen Qiao Mutiny, Zhang Guanghan Was Transferred from the Commander of Tiger Left Wing Army to the Chief Commander of Central Sowar Army, But he Was Dismissed after Only Five Months. in the Fifth Year of Qiande, Li Was Promoted to Be the Third Commander of Central Infantry after Wiping out Shu. Later, Li Was Promoted to Be the Third Commander of Central Sowar Army, the Chief Commander of Central Infantry. after the First Year of Jianlong, Luo Yanhuan Was Promoted to Be the Chief Commander of Central Infantry Army. Bai Jinchao Was Promoted to Be the Chief Officer of the Front of Palace Army in the Third Year of Taiping Xingguo. Li Jilong Served as the Third Commander of Central Sowar Army, the Chief Officer of the Central Infantry during Songtaizong Reign. Xia Shouyun and Xia Shouen Ever Were Senior Officer of Central Infantry, Sowar, the Front of Palace Army. Yang Mei Served as Chief Commander of Tiger Jie Left and Right Army in Song Taizu Reign.

5. Manage Local Military and Political Affairs

Many Hedong military officers took up military positions in local government to manage their people and ensure them safety. An Shouzhong once was local officer of Yong, Han, Pu, Song, xingyuan prefecture. After Shu was destroyed, Shouzhong was appointed as local chief officer of xingyuan and Han prefecture. “At that time, the government was short of money. Shouzhong take out his own money to make up for the public expense”. His ability and conducts won the trust and appreciation of Taizu. Whenever the emperor sent messengers to local government, he would say”An shouzhong can strict with himself in Shu,you should learn from him when you meet him.”

Guo Shouwen was appointed as local chief officer of Jian prefecture after Shu was destroyed. "At that time, the culture of Jian is backward and there are many bandits." "he eventually eliminated bandits, the society became very stable." Yao Jineng, Li Jichang, Wu Yuanzai and Wu Yuanyi are respectively appointed as local chief officer of Quan, Qing, Chengdu and Heyang prefecture. When Wu Yuanyi served in Heyang, the heavy rain broke the river bank. He personally went to the front line and urged the workers to repair it. The people lay on the branches to avoid the rain. He ordered the officials to give the people boats and foods. At that time, there were floods in both Da and Shan prefecture, and his people finally got through the crisis safely. "After Li Chongjin was defeated, Li Chuyun was appointed as Yangzhou governor. "After the war, the territory was broken. He used a variety of policies to appease the people. For example, cutting down the housing tax of the residents in the city. the people were very happy and praised him."

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