

Chapter Eight

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A lot happened between July and August of 1937, more than anyone could ever have dreamed of. The sudden speed with which everything unfolded was just as startling as what actually unfolded. As far as the people of Nanjing were concerned, August 13, the day fighting broke out in Shanghai, was the day they finally realized that the war had truly begun. Even after the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, people more or less still thought there was some hope for peaceful resolution, but once there was bloodshed in Shanghai this hope was gone. As far as the army general headquarters was concerned, the war machine had long been in motion; it had picked up speed with the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, and by the time Tianjin and Beijing fell, a full-blown war was already inevitable. Armed resistance was now China's only course of action. On August 6, the Japanese government had ordered all Japanese expatriates living in the Hankou concession to evacuate. The very next day, when the Chinese police drove into the concession area, they discovered that the doors and