

A Report on the Ho-nan Huai-pei Mongol Army

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The Ho-nan Huai-pei Mongol army 河南淮北蒙古軍 was one of the main Yüan armies. According to chüan 86 of the *Yüan-shi* 元史, which contains details pertaining to all of the Yüan armies, it consisted of four units of 10,000 soldiers and two additional units of 1,000 soldiers. Hsiao Ch'i-ch'ing 蕭啓慶 has already pointed out that the army was one of the Mongol armies concentrated in the Yellow River valley to separate the capital ta-tu 大都 from the southern region. My concern in this article is with the formation of the Ho-nan Huai-pei Mongol army and its activities under Mongol rule.

There were two groups of army commanders. One group belonged to a family of Ta'achar from the Hü'üshin tribe, the other belonged to a family of Temütei from the Jalair tribe. Ta'achar and Temütei commanded armies at the campaign against the Chin 金 from 1231 to 1234 in the reign of Ögetei Qa'an. After the conquest Ta'achar built his base at Wen-hsi circuit 聞喜縣 to guard the region along the Yellow River between P'u Tsao 濮曹 and T'ung-kuan 潼關. The army of Ta'achar became one of the so-called Tammachi armies which was stationed in the frontier regions.

The earliest record that lists the organization of the army into four units of 10,000 soldiers is dated at 1252. Two of the units were almost entirely made up of Han chinese soldiers 漢軍. The organization seems to have been formed after the conquest of the Chin, incorporating Han chinese.

After the conquest of the Southern Sung, the new headquarters of the army was constructed south of Lung-men 龍門. Soldiers of the army were regularly stationed in the Chiang-nan 江南 and Kan-su 甘肅 regions. The army was also often temporarily dispatched to areas far from the bases along the Yellow River. (For examples: Annam 安南 and north-western Mongolia). Although soldiers of the army gradually became impoverished due to such excessive military operations, the organization of the army remained in existence till 1350's.