

withdrawal into a rout. On 20th, Chinese fighters again appeared at LANGFENG and engaged Japanese bombers.

14. In spite of the strenuous efforts of the Japanese Air Services to cut off the retreat of the Chinese forces, they failed to attain their object and major military operations were brought to a standstill along the LUNCHAI Railway after the occupation of KAIFENG at the end of May, owing to the cutting of the YELLOW River dykes and the subsequent flooding of a large area of country between CHENGCHOW and KAIFENG thereby rendering it unfit to support the contemplated Japanese advance on CHENGCHOW.