

Rotary under the Communist Guns

-- a Taipei Rotary Club outpost of mercy thrives

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In the January 1965 Issue of 《The Rotarian》 magazine, there was a report from an American newspaper columnist Tom Dammann with such a title: “Rotary Under the Communist Guns – on Matsu within artillery range of the Communist China, a Rotary outpost of mercy thrives”. That was Tom’s observation on a “medical aid project to the local community supported by The Rotary Club of Taipei (臺北扶輪社)” in Taiwan (臺灣).

Prior to reading Tom’s report on Pages 3-6, it is better to learn more about the historical background on the reasons why such a medical post was so significantly needed which was resulted from the Taiwan Strait Crisis happened in the summer of 1958. China’s civil war between the two parties was practically not ceased though the Communist had already controlled the entire Mainland.

The Second Taiwan Strait Crisis 1958 (金門八二三砲戰)

The Second Taiwan Strait Crisis, also called the 1958 Taiwan Strait Crisis, was a conflict that took place between the Republic of China (ROC or the Nationalist China) (中華民國) and the People’s Republic of China (PRC or the Communist China) (中華人民共和國) in which the PRC shelled the islands of Quemoy (金門) and the nearby Matsu Island (馬祖) along the east coast of the Mainland (in the Taiwan Strait) to “liberate” Taiwan from the Chinese Nationalist Party, also called Kuomintang (KMT) (中國國民黨), and probe the extent of the United States defense of Taiwan’s territory.

The crisis started with the 8.23 Artillery Bombardment at 5:30 pm on 23 August 1958, when the PRC’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) began an intense artillery bombardment against Quemoy. The KMT troops on Quemoy dug in and then returned fire. In the heavy exchange of fire, roughly 440 KMT soldiers and 460 PLA soldiers were killed. This conflict was a continuation of the First Taiwan Strait Crisis, which had begun immediately after the Korean War was over. The KMT had begun to build on the island of Quemoy and the nearby Matsu archipelago. During 1954, the PLA began firing artillery at both Quemoy and some of the nearby Matsu islands.

The U.S. carrier USS Lexington (CVA-16) with a supply ship and USS Marshall (DD-676) were off Taiwan during the crisis. The American Eisenhower Administration responded to the request for aid from the ROC according to its obligations in the Mutual Defense Treaty that had been ratified in 1954. U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the reinforcement of the U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet in the area, and he ordered American naval vessels to help the KMT government to protect the supply lines to the islands.

Also, under a secret effort called “Operation Black Magic”, the U.S. Navy modified some of the F-86 Sabre fighter planes of the ROC Air Force with its newly developed AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles (early models). These missiles gave the KMT pilots a decisive edge over the Soviet-made MiG-15 and MiG-17 fighters in the skies over the Matsu Islands and the Taiwan Strait. The KMT pilots used the Sidewinder missiles to score numerous kills on PLA Air Force MiG aircraft.

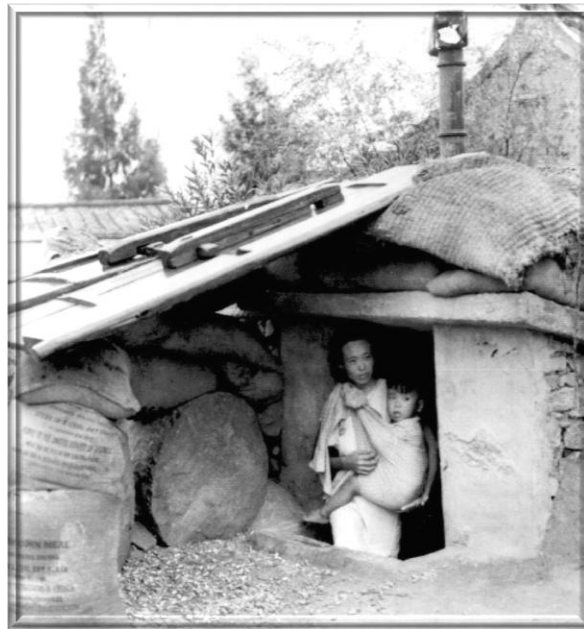
The U.S. Army’s contribution was to reinforce the strategic air defense capability of the ROC. A provisional Nike battalion was organized at Fort Bliss, Texas, and sent via The United States Modified Touring Series (USMTS) USS General J. C. Breckinridge (AP-176) to Taiwan. The 2nd Missile Battalion was augmented with detachments of signal, ordnance and engineers, totaling some 704 personnel.

Twelve long-range 203 mm (8-inch) M115 howitzer artillery pieces and numerous 155 mm howitzers were transferred from the U.S. Marine Corps to the KMT Army. These were sent west to Quemoy Island to gain superiority in the artillery duel back and forth over the straits there. The impact of these powerful (but conventional) artillery pieces led some members of the PLA to believe that American artillerymen had begun to use nuclear weapons against them.

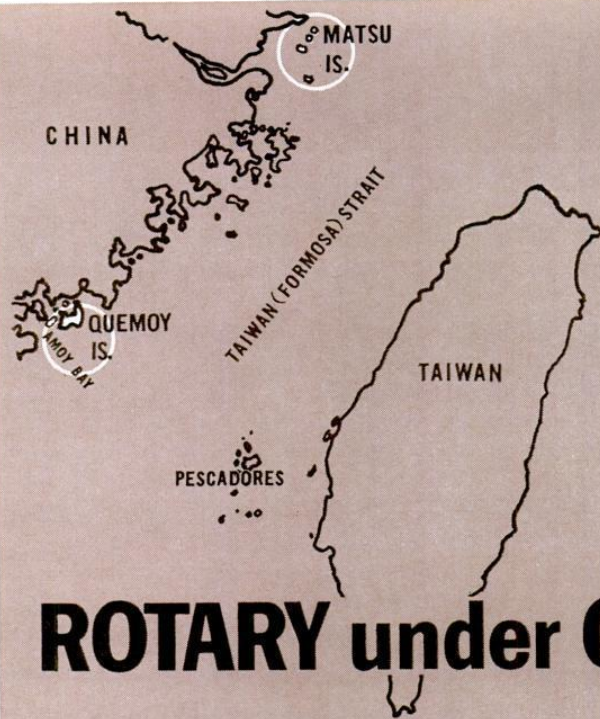
On 22 September 1958, the Sidewinder missile was used for the first time in air-to-air combat as 32 KMT F-86s clashed with 100 PLA MiGs in a series of aerial engagements. Numerous MiGs were shot down by Sidewinders, the first “kills” to be scored by air-to-air missiles in combat.

Soon, the PRC was faced with a stalemate, the PLA’s artillerymen had run out of artillery shells. The PRC government announced a large decrease in bombardment levels on 6 October 1958. Afterwards, both sides continued to bombard each other with shells containing propaganda leaflets on alternate days of the week. This strange informal arrangement continued until the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People’s Republic of China in 1979.

The question of “Matsu and Quemoy” became an issue in the 1960 U.S. presidential election when Richard Nixon accused John F. Kennedy of being unwilling to commit the using nuclear weapons if the PRC invaded the Nationalist outposts.



躲藏在掩體的婦女和孩子。 2 October 1958 -- Fortified Home on Quemoy: Woman with four-year old son looks out from entrance to one of the shelters in Kwan Li, Quemoy small village of some 45 families which is one of the hardest hit by Red artillery fire from Communist China mainland. The natives are kept busy digging additional trenches and shelters to protect them against heavy shelling by the Reds. (Photo source with caption from unknown American newspapers)



ROTARY under COMMUNIST GUNS

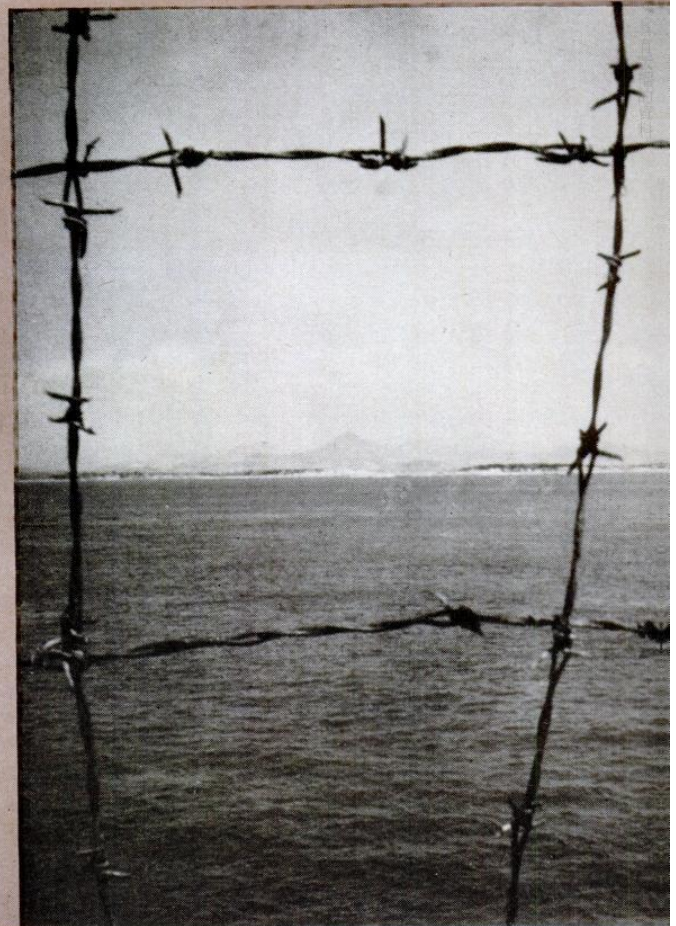
On Matsu, within artillery range of Communist China, a Rotary outpost of mercy thrives.

By TOM DAMMANN

DURING the past three years, as newspaper columnists, my wife, Harle, and I, usually accompanied by at least one of our three children, have covered close to 100,000 miles in Europe and Asia, traveling by donkey, camel, automobile, jet clipper, and our feet.

We have met all kinds of people, and somewhat to our surprise we have found Rotarians among them everywhere (excepting Kabul and Moscow).

A case in point is Taiwan. I went there to have a glimpse of Nationalist China and to interview President Chiang Kai-shek, and found myself being expertly guided by Rotarian James C. H. Shen, who is director of the Government Information Office and a secretary to President Chiang Kai-shek. San Francisco, California, Rotarians will remember that he served as consul in their city from 1943 to 1947. He invited me to attend a luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Taipei—the one



Two faces of Taiwan: workers labor on a defense installation (above left) as a farmer strolls along a new irrigation project (above right). Meanwhile, across the Taiwan Straits, in clear view of the island outposts, looms the Chinese mainland.



out of the 23 Clubs on Taiwan which is English speaking.

The first order of business was a ten-minute showing of color slides of the Matsu Island Complex and the basic work that the Club is financing and sponsoring on these small, struggling islands. Here I had run into a story of civic activity far more impressive to me than all of Taiwan's military hardware. The Nationalist Chinese are so proud of their formidable fortifications and their Navy and Air Force that they tend to overlook their vitally important accomplishments in other fields—such as the Rotary-sponsored clinic within sight of the menacing mainland of Communist China.

My journey to this story began with a visit to Quemoy. Quemoy and its sister island, Matsu, are island outposts of the Republic of China, nestled against the mainland under the Communist guns and guarding the southern and northern approaches, respectively, to the strategic Taiwan Straits. Quemoy was in the headlines in 1958 when, between August 23 and October 6, Chinese Communists fired 474,910 high-explosive shells on the island. In the air they took on the Nationalists and lost 31 MIGs to one and a half Nationalist planes (the "half" is used because one pilot parachuted to safety.) The hollowed-out island fortress withstood the attack, and since 1958 the only thing fired at it has been propaganda. Not a plane has ventured over.

I was picked up before dawn at my hotel and taken to Taipei's airport where I boarded an ancient C-46, the flying workhorse of the Burma Hump during World War II. Together with more than a score of Nationalist naval and army personnel, I donned a life jacket and strapped myself into a bucket seat in which I sat for the next hour and a half, my knees cramped against a load of freight piled to the cabin roof. We flew south at 5,000 feet along the coast to the Pescadores Islands, then dropped to only 50 feet above the water so we could approach Quemoy below view of Communist radar. After 30 minutes of such water skimming we landed and taxied to hide the plane in an open-air bunker.

Still trying to straighten my stiffened legs, I was hustled into a jeep and whisked along a well-paved road through neat farms and villages to the north end of the island. There I was escorted through a series of tunnels to an underground radio studio where a young man and woman took turns playing records of Chinese classical music, opera, and popular songs, and voicing newscasts.

It seemed an odd place for a radio station.

Outside, I was led to a lookout post surrounded by barbed wire and bristling with machine guns. The air was filled with the dissonant sounds of Chinese music, interrupted frequently by voices. Then I realized that the work I had watched in the studio below was not performed for ordinary radio, but was going out over giant loud-speakers aimed at the Chinese mainland 2,300 yards away.

During pauses in the blast from the horns behind me,

I heard a similar tinny cacophony coming across the placid water from the Communist side. The two giants were shouting at each other through megaphones! Searching with field glasses, I spotted several fishing boats, bobbing around between the shores. I still wonder whether the men aboard wear ear plugs or have simply become deafened as people do to the polemics of a national Presidential campaign.

At a shelter exhibiting propaganda techniques, a man stepped forth with a cluster of brightly colored balloons. A dozen or so were bunched together and from them dangled small packets containing food, medicines, and matches. When the wind was favorable, they would be released to float gayly across the straits to the Chinese on the mainland.

Next I was shown an array of angry-looking guns pointed menacingly toward the coast. This, I thought, was more like it; more like the military preparations one would expect to find in such front-line trenches. But again I was in for a surprise. They pulled out an empty shell, opened it, and showed me not a lethal explosive charge, but a stack of cardboard disks bearing propaganda messages waiting to be shot over the Straits to scatter explosively down on the mainland.

Such is the strange never-never-land warfare that goes on day in and day out in this offshore outpost.

But, lest I give the impression that this is all child's play, I was walked through miles of very businesslike underground passageways with all the equipment for serious warfare at a moment's notice. Then, still underground, I was given a sumptuous lunch in the officers' club, hosted by Lieutenant General Wang, commander of Quemoy's defense.

This was all very impressive, but still, for me, the exciting part of the Quemoy story is taking place above ground, on the peasants' farms. Twelve years ago, Quemoy's 40,000 civilians lived mostly by fishing and on remittances from overseas relatives. Today Quemoy is on the verge of self-sufficiency, actually exporting pork to Taiwan.

AT an experimental agricultural station, which compares favorably with the best in the United States, I gathered some significant figures: in 1952 Quemoy produced 7,212 tons of sweet potatoes, while in 1962 it produced 44,441 tons, an increase of 516 percent; the rise in hog production in the same period was from 2,581 to 27,710 animals, or an increase of 974 percent; wheat rose 64 percent, from 68 tons to 112.

These and similar statistics tell the real story of Taiwan, Quemoy, and the Matsu Island Complex. It is a story of rural development, the direct result of U. S. aid and technical assistance. It is an example of what the United States hopes to accomplish in the strategic hamlets of South Vietnam and in the villages of Thailand along the Laotian border.

The Matsu Complex comprises a group of tiny islands. Like Quemoy it is primarily a military defense post. The



Chinese Communists attacked it with artillery, planes, and ships in May, June, and July, 1959, not so heavily as Quemoy and with no more success.

Its civilian population numbers about 14,500, inhabiting the islands of Nankam, Peikam, Tungksichu, and Tungying. The principal industry is fishing, and with the help of the Central Government in Taiwan (supported by U. S. AID) the islanders have built up a fleet of more than 300 boats, one-third of them motorized. In 1961 the catch totalled 2,389 tons, compared to a mere 100 tons in 1953. The islands suffer from a lack of tillable soil, yet with improved techniques and Government assistance, more than 1¼ million pounds of vegetables are now produced annually and the Complex is self-sufficient in pork.

具有敵艦的資料

But compared with people elsewhere in the Republic of China, the Matsu folk are poor, with a real deficiency in medical care. The Government has recently built a health station at Fushing village on Nankam, and substations on it and each of the other four inhabited islands. The medical service has been run entirely by the Army Medical Corps, which supplies general practitioners, a surgeon, medical corpsmen, midwives, nurses, a pharmacist, and orderlies. However, these people are also required to help in the care of military personnel, who obviously outnumber civilians. So, in 1963, the Matsu authorities issued an appeal for help.

The Rotary Club of Taipei promptly answered, agreeing to supply a doctor, medicine, and other materials. Under the direction of Hermann F. O. Noether, Chairman of the Matsu Project; Calvin C. Chang; Paul A.

Collyer, of Taiwan Christian Service; and the then President Benjamin S. J. Cheng, the Club set about to raise money in the ingenious methods familiar to Rotarians the world over. By April, 1964, it had raised about \$50,000 (U. S.) and gathered a substantial quantity of supplies.

In March, after months of search and interviews, the Club signed a six-month contract with a civilian general practitioner, Dr. Ti Chen, and established him on Nankam to care for the civilians under the over-all direction of the military chief of the health station. It is hoped that he will be able to visit other villages and at least one of the other inhabited islands every week, but when I was there he lacked the transportation to do so (the ambulance and jeep were both broken down and boats were not readily available).

On April 20-22 Hermann Noether and Paul Collyer went to Nankam on an inspection trip. They returned to Taipei bringing a seriously ill man who had been unable to obtain proper treatment at the Health Center, demonstrating one of the problems the Club faces: the evacuation of people requiring better attention than Matsu presently offers. At the meeting I attended the Club agreed to share in paying the sick man's medical and hospital expenses as well as find 3,000 cubic centimeters of blood necessary for his transfusions.

Rotarians Noether and Collyer reported to the Club that Matsu authorities urgently request an obstetrician or university-trained midwife, a dentist, and qualified nurses.

"The five substations have only the most elementary equipment and not even proper equipment for sterilizing instruments and needles necessary for injections," they wrote.

"Neither the main health station nor the substations have any plasma or blood bank.

"No X-ray equipment is available."

In conclusion, the Chairman and his colleague stated frankly:

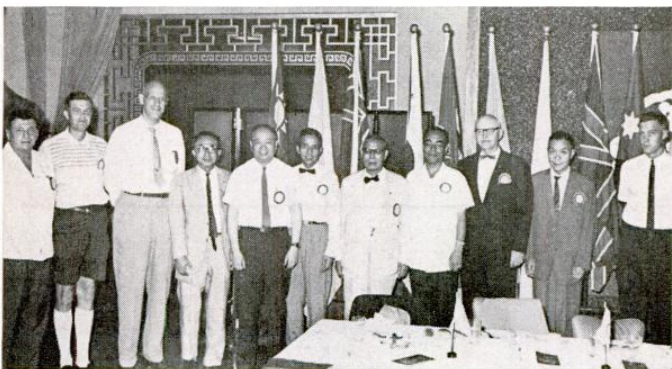
"From the above observations it is evident that our Club's Matsu Project is of such magnitude that it exceeds the means at our disposal. Our Club, therefore, must try to enlist help of other Rotary Clubs in Taiwan or even our whole Rotary District. The Rotary Club of Patchogue, New York, through the Chairman of its Medical-Supplies Committee, John R. Shannon, M.D., has already offered us a shipment of mixed pharmaceutical drugs, which is most welcome."

I left Taiwan impressed with the array of military might, but also with the strong conviction that the economic progress and such work as that of the Rotary Club of Taipei will have a more durable and telling effect in the long run.

* * *

EDITORS' NOTE: According to a later report from a Club spokesman, Dr. Ti treated about 1,500 patients during the initial three-month period, operating an open-air clinic as he travelled to isolated villages through the islands. He is known as the "Rotary doctor" though he himself is not a Rotarian.

On Matsu, principal industry centers in fishing villages such as the one shown above at left. . . . The clinic (left) is badly needed to provide medical care for the 14,500 civilians of the Matsu Island Complex. Dr. Ti and his assistants stand beside their ambulance (below) outside the Rotary clinic on Matsu. . . . Taipei Rotarians (bottom) raised \$50,000, have agreed to supply a doctor, medicine, and other materials.



Glossary

(1) **President Chiang Kai-Shek** = 蔣中正總統

(2) **James C. H. Shen** = 沈劍虹

James C.H. Shen (2 July 1909 Shanghai – 12 July 2007 Taipei), an Active Member of Taipei Rotary Club, was a diplomat. Shen served as the last official Republic of China ambassador to the United States before the U.S. A. switched its diplomatic recognition to the People's Republic of China in 1979.

Shen was an under-graduate of Shanghai University, as well as Yenching University in Peking, and was a post-graduate in journalism at the University of Missouri, U.S.A., in 1935. Shen served for a time as an English-Chinese language interpreter and secretary for Chinese President Chiang Kai-Shek. He was then appointed spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of the Government Information Office in 1961, and followed by Ambassador to Australia in 1966.

沈劍虹（1908年7月2日—2007年7月12日），臺北扶輪社現職社員，中華民國外交官，末任中華民國駐美國大使，任內經歷了聯合國大會 2758 號決議、美國與中華民國斷交。1908 年生於上海，先就讀上海滬江大學，再轉學到北平燕京大學。曾在上海英文報《大陸報》服務，工作兩年後，就讀美國密蘇里大學新聞研究院。1956 年出任總統府秘書，1961 年出任新聞局局長。1966 年出任中華民國駐澳大利亞大使。1968 年回國任外交部次長，1971 年出任駐美國大使。

(3) **Quemoy Island** = 金門島

(4) **Matsu Island** = 馬祖島

(5) **Pescadores Islands** = 澎湖列島

(6) **Nankam Island** = 南竿島

(7) **Peikam Island** = 北竿島

(8) **Tungksichu Island** = 東莒島

(9) **Tungying Island** = 東引島

(10) **Calvin C. Chang** = 張長昌

President 1961-1962 of Taipei Rotary Club; Rotary International District 345 Governor 1970-1971

臺北扶輪社 1961-1962 年社長；國際扶輪 345 地區 1970-1971 年度總監

(11) **Benjamin S. J. Cheng** = 程樹仁

President 1963-1964 of Taipei Rotary Club 臺北扶輪社 1963-1964 年度社長；電影導演





*1958年八二三金門炮戰時國軍的運輸機，在共軍的猛烈炮擊下，降落金門機場達成運輸的任務。
During the August 23 Quemoy Artillery War in 1958, the Nationalist army's transport aircraft landed at Quemoy Airport to complete its transportation mission under the fierce bombardment of the Communist army.*



*金門島上的國軍炮兵陣地
The Nationalist Army artillery position on Quemoy Island*



1964年2月4日 -- 金門八二三砲戰期間，中華民國新聞局局長、臺北扶輪社員沈劍虹，帶領各國駐華記者團 20 餘人前往馬祖、北竿採訪戰況，國軍司令官迎接代表團一行。

4 February 1964 - During the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis, Taipei Rotarian James Shen, Director of the Government Information Office, led a delegation of 20 plus foreign journalists to Matsu and Peikam to cover the artillery facts. The delegation was greeted by the frontier army commander.



國軍軍官在砲兵行動簡報會上 (LIFE 雜誌)

The Nationalist army officer in a briefing session of artillery action (LIFE magazine)



第二次台海危機期間，美國海軍道格拉斯 F4D-1 天光號裝備了響尾蛇飛彈，並在台灣海峽巡邏。
Armed with Sidewinder missiles, a US Navy Douglas F4D-1 Skyray patrols the Taiwan Strait.



第二次台海危機期間，美國海軍阿盧德拉號與一艘驅逐艦和潛水艇在台灣附近合影。
The USS Aludra is pictured with a destroyer and submarine near Taiwan during the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis.

金門八二三砲戰

「金門八二三砲戰」，又稱「第二次臺灣海峽危機」(Second Taiwan Strait Crisis)指1958年到1979年(戰況最烈為1958年8月23日至10月5日之間)發生於金門、馬祖及其他中國大陸東南沿岸與島嶼的一系列戰役總稱。中國人民解放軍與中華民國國軍以隔海砲擊為主要戰術行動，因此稱為砲戰。

1958年8月23日解放軍首先發起砲戰，國軍隨即開始反擊。砲戰初期，解放軍攻擊島上軍事目標。後期著重封鎖海運線，以圍困金門。在砲戰初期，國軍猝不及防，隨著戰事繼續，逐漸恢復戰力；維持金門補給線。砲戰期間，雙方海軍艦艇和空軍也多次戰鬥。美國第七艦隊協助補給運送金門，而解放軍則以艦艇和砲轟封鎖。10月初，解放軍宣布放棄封鎖，改為「單打雙不打」(逢單日砲擊，雙日不砲擊)，逐漸減少攻勢。至此，中華民國成功守衛金馬地區。解放軍維持單打雙不打，直到1979年1月1日和美國建交當天，通過《告臺灣同胞書》正式宣布停止砲擊。

金門砲戰是國共雙方陸海空軍，至今最後一次大型軍事衝突。期間雙方的軍事衝突侷限於海上，並逐漸停止。

背景

1949年古寧頭戰役，解放軍進攻金門失敗，國軍成功將兵力集中到臺灣。1950年，韓戰爆發。朝鮮停戰後，美國一方面在亞洲實行戰略收縮，一方面謀求建立共同防禦體系。中共開始宣傳美國製造「一中一臺」或「兩個中國」。

中華民國總統蔣中正在1953年6月7日寫信給美國總統艾森豪威爾(U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower)，建議美國同中華民國等國訂立雙邊或多邊共同安全條約。11月，美國副總統尼克森(Richard Nixon)訪問臺灣，表示重視臺灣之戰略地位，12月臺灣向美國政府正式提出中美共同防禦條約草案。



1954年9月3日起，解放軍大規模砲擊金門，國軍轟炸廈門反擊；9月9日，美國國務卿杜勒斯(John Foster Dulles)由菲律賓(The Philippines)返美國，途中臨時往臺北逗留5小時，與蔣中正會面。10月底，中華民國外交部長葉公超與美國國務院高層在華府談判協防條約，11月1日解放軍轟炸大陳島。12月2日，《中華民國與美利堅合眾國間共同防禦條約》(Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of China)(中美共同防禦條約)在華盛頓(Washington D.C.)簽訂。第七艦隊調入臺灣海峽，解放軍渡海攻臺難度倍增。海峽兩岸對峙，雙方再也沒有大型軍事衝突或敵對緊張狀態。

中共國防委員會副主席彭德懷責成中央軍委總參謀部，在1953年10月制定出關於攻擊金門作戰的準備工作計劃。要在1955年1月以前完成進攻金門的一切準備工作，並報中華人民共和國主席毛澤東審閱。毛澤東並未急於表態，乃請有關部門負責人認真考慮攻打金門的問題，多方徵求意見。1953年12月19日，彭德懷將華東軍區參謀長張震上報中央軍委來信給毛澤東看，列舉攻打金門的各種不利因素，並建議：一、在攻打金門之前，可以先攻克上下大陳島，使兵力可以集中使用；二、節約攻打金門的戰費，先修通福建鐵路。毛澤東將信退彭德懷，批：「此意見可注意。」後來經毛澤東同意，貫通福建的鷹廈鐵路破土動工。1957年12月28日，由鐵道兵承建的鷹廈鐵路正式通車。北京政府在東南沿海修建浙閩、贛閩、粵閩戰備公路，及福州、龍田、漳州、晉江、惠安、連城等機場。在金門八二三砲戰前，雙方有不少砲戰，以九三砲戰規模最大。

砲擊金門，原定在1954年8月10日前後開始。後因發生洪水，交通受阻，兵力調動困難，推遲到9月上旬。9月3日和9月22日，解放軍分兩次開始連續多日砲擊金門。

毛澤東指導實施一江山島戰役，1955年1月18日解放軍陸海空軍協同作戰，一舉攻取一江山島。1月30日解放軍下達命令準備進攻大陳島，美國向臺灣施壓，國軍只好在2月11日撤離大陳島。解放軍連續作戰，到2月下旬佔領浙江沿海全部島嶼。1955年至1956年，鐵路、公路及六大機場相繼完成。在接近金門的石井、澳頭等地，也皆填海築堤，掘山置壘。1956年，解放軍仿製蘇聯米格17的殲-5試飛成功。1957年12月18日，毛澤東對彭德懷轉來之《副參謀長陳賡一九五七年十二月九日關於臺灣飛機侵入大陸活動情況和加強內地防空作戰部署的報告》的批語手稿：「退彭德懷同志。非常必要。請你督促空軍全力以赴，務殲入侵之敵。請考慮我空軍一九五八年進入福建的問題。」有關臺海尤其金門的作戰準備，都已部署完成。

1955年3月3日「中美共同防禦條約」生效以後，美國設立美軍協防臺灣司令部。美軍駐臺軍事顧問團擴大到2,600人，美國空軍第十三航空隊進駐臺灣，駐臺美軍總人數超過6,000人。4月26日，美國國務卿杜勒斯發表聲明，表示不排除同中華人民共和國雙邊談判。7月13日，美國通過英國向北京政府轉達以下口信：「中美雙方各派一位大使級代表，在日內瓦舉行會談。」8月1日，中美大使級會談在日內瓦(Genève)正式開始。

從1957年開始，在美國對華政策之鼓勵下，國軍飛機深入中國大陸內地。達到雲南、貴州、四川、青海等地，空投特務，散發傳單，甚至出動飛機到福建沿海轟炸。4月2日，美國國務卿杜勒斯在記者招待會上說：「在一定情況下我們將會去防守沿海島嶼；那就是，如果這些島嶼的防守看來同臺灣和澎湖的防守有關。」4月22日，杜勒斯發表演說《動態和平》(Dynamic Peace)，聲明要讓共產主義陣營的人民知道，「他們並沒有被忘記，我們永遠不會做出任何犧牲他們的利益的政治協議。隨著他們進一步獲得自由，衷心的歡迎和新的機會在等待著他們」。5月，美軍公開宣佈，在臺灣部署可攜帶核彈頭之鬥牛士導彈和電導導彈。6月28日，杜勒斯在舊金山(San Francisco)發表對華政策演說：「我們可以有信心地把這樣一種假設，作為我們的政策的根據：國際共產主義的強求一致的統治，在中國和在其他地方一樣，是一種要消逝的，而不是一種永久的現象。我們認為，盡一切可能使這種現象消逝，是我們自己、我們的盟國和中國人民的責任。」12月起，美國先是中斷中美大使級會談，繼而支持臺灣對中國大陸沿海騷擾破壞。12月12日，在第七十三次中美大使級會談中，美方代表、駐捷克斯洛伐克

(Czechoslovakia)大使約翰遜(Ural Alexis Johnson)通知中方說，他已經調任駐泰國(Thailand)大使。美國政府已經委任副手馬丁參贊為美方代表。在多方挽回無效下，中國外交部在1958年4月12日聲明公佈，大使級會談長期陷於停頓之經過。

到1958年夏季，金門、馬祖國軍達到10萬人，佔其地面部隊總數三分之一；毛澤東和北京政府不能不適當調整對美政策，從爭取和平協商到加強對美鬥爭。毛澤東此時之決策，包括通過砲擊金門迫使國軍從金門、馬祖等沿海島嶼撤走之意圖。6月16日，毛澤東在中南海游泳池召開會議，討論外交問題。1958年6月26日，福州軍區獲悉，國軍飛機和砲兵可能轟擊黃岐半島解放軍陣地，為此提出對策，或疏散隱蔽，或積極組織砲火還擊，彭德懷批示：「即送主席閱後批審。我同意採取積極還擊並加強對空火力」；毛澤東批示：「退彭照辦。」6月30日，中華人民共和國政府發表《關於中美大使級會談的聲明》：「中國政府要求美國政府在從今天起的十五日以內派出大使級代表，恢復會談。否則，中國政府就不能不認為美國已經決心破裂中美大使級會談。」

7月15日美國海軍陸戰隊登陸黎巴嫩(Lebanon)首都貝魯特(Beirut)附近，同時美國宣佈在遠東之陸海空軍進入戒備。7月17日，臺灣宣佈：三軍已處於「特別戒備狀態」，全體官兵停止一切休假；高級將領巡視金門、馬祖地區。

7月18日晚，毛澤東召集軍委領導和空軍、海軍領導人開會，說伊拉克(Iraq)發生革命後，美軍登陸黎巴嫩，英國出兵約旦(Jordan)，我們要以實際行動支援阿拉伯人民；決定在金門、馬祖地區主要打擊蔣中正，牽制美國；地面砲兵第一次打10萬至20萬發，以後每天打1,000發，準備打兩三個月；兩個空軍師，準備在砲擊同時或稍後轉場到汕頭、連城。彭德懷當晚主持軍委會會議，部署空軍要在7月27日轉場。砲兵準備於7月25日砲擊金門艦艇，封鎖港口，斷其海上交通。7月19日總參開會，作進一步具體部署。毛澤東設想，以地面砲兵實施主要打擊，準備打兩三個月。以兩個空軍師於砲擊的同時或者稍後，轉場南下，分別進駐汕頭、連城。當晚中共中央軍委召開會議，部署砲擊金門作戰。經中央軍委批准，組成以葉飛為首之福州軍區前線指揮所。還分別組成以福州軍區空軍司令員聶鳳智為首之空軍前線指揮所，和以東海艦隊副司令員彭德清為首之艦隊前方指揮所。7月19日葉飛一行人趕到廈門，指揮部署砲擊金門之作戰行動。7月20日，毛澤東在游泳池召開中央政治局擴大會議，討論目前國際形勢和我軍準備問題。黃克誠向軍委擴大會議主席團，傳達毛澤東於7月19日關於中東局勢之估計。略謂「有小打、中打、大打三種可能，我們不想打，但要有應付戰爭的準備。」

7月21日，臺灣海峽暴雨滂沱，30年未遇之特大降水。國軍偵察機無法出動，屏障解放軍軍事調動，但暴雨使43座橋梁歪斜。儘管福建連降罕見暴雨，部分公路橋梁被沖垮，部隊集結遇到極大困難，但是仍在準備砲擊金門。7月24日，中央軍委命令組建福州軍區空軍司令部，由原志願軍司令員聶鳳智擔任福州軍區空軍司令員；得悉臺灣兩個師到金門換防，彭德懷向毛澤東建議，將砲擊時間推遲至7月27日，經批准後7月25日晚通知廈門前線指揮部。7月25日，彭德懷在戰備座談會上講解軍工生產問題後說，空軍7月27日進入連城和汕頭，同時進駐漳州、福州；要再準備四個師；準備他們來轟炸。7月26日，毛澤東暫停對金門開砲，

7月27日，解放軍空軍第一批轉場進駐閩粵機場；7月29日，臺灣空軍飛機4架入汕頭，被解放軍空軍擊落2架，擊傷1架。7月28日，彭德懷在軍委會會議上傳達毛澤東7月27日給彭德懷、黃克誠的信：「打金門停止若干天似較適宜……中東解決，要有時間。我們是有時間的，何必急呢？……一鼓作氣，往往想得不周。……不打無把握之仗這個原則，必須堅持」；毛澤東的信7月27日電報福建前線，令暫不砲擊金門，並交粟裕同總參作戰部研究。在7月29日到8月14日擊落與擊傷美製國軍飛機9架。1958年臺海空戰，中國東南地區到10月上旬方才結束。

當時金門擁有美式155毫米加農砲20門、155毫米榴彈砲96門、105毫米榴彈砲192門，共計308門；而解放軍有105毫米榴彈砲223門、100毫米以上加農砲73門、100毫米海岸砲4門、130毫米海岸砲19門，共計319門。解放軍空軍「迅速南移，它的轟炸機進駐路橋機場，戰鬥機則分別進駐沿海

各地的機場內。」1958年8月18日至20日，中華民國總統蔣中正巡視金、馬前線。8月20日，解放軍海軍「集中在三都港內，隨時準備出動。」8月22日，解放軍空軍三次飛入馬祖空域，並在晚間9時許向馬祖高登島方向開砲十八發，但雙方均無損傷。8月23日，解放軍突然砲擊金門，一日數萬發，並使國軍三名中將副司令當場陣亡殉職。

「八二三砲戰」自1958年開啟戰事後，斷斷續續地延續到1978年底中華人民共和國和美國建交，1979年元旦北京宣布停止砲擊後才正式終止。期間經歷過美國稱不能容忍中共對金門馬祖的砲轟、共軍宣布停火一週、停火兩週、到「單打雙不打」、以及兩岸在國際舞台上的地位扭轉，最後成為兩岸迄今為止最後一次的大型軍事衝突。

砲戰對金門居民的影響

在解放軍的砲火封鎖下，造成金門物資補給不易。為減輕前線運補負擔，中華民國臺北政府於1958年10月6日解放軍宣布停火後，即有將金門、馬祖兩地的居民、學生疏遷至臺灣。隨後即開放自願遷移者疏運來臺灣，並設下遷移原則。要求疏遷來臺灣者，需有親友在臺灣可寄養或依靠，而僅限於老弱婦孺、學生等身分。首批疏遷來臺灣的為金門中學的師生，其他居民則陸續於金門新頭搭乘軍方運輸艦抵達高雄，並獲得政府發放的3,000元安置費。隨後由中國大陸災胞救濟總會接續安置作業，將居民分別安置於臺中縣、彰化縣、雲林縣、嘉義縣、臺南縣、高雄縣、屏東縣等縣市。並另由各縣市政府成立疏遷民眾委員會，協助金門遷徙居民的生活、就學、就業等問題。據研究指出1958年10月，約金門總人口的15%，6,500人參與疏遷。但許多人在安置費用耗盡後，又回到金門生活。「八二三砲戰」中金門疏遷來臺灣的經驗，又被金門人稱為「走砲」。在砲戰的20年間，有超過100萬枚砲彈落在金門。當地的製刀廠蒐集島內的廢棄彈殼，鍛造出在兩岸遠近馳名的「金門菜刀」。

歷史影響

美國亞利桑那大學(University of Arizona)政治學教授惠廷(Allen Sues Whiting)認為，中國大陸對金門的行動事先對蘇聯(蘇維埃社會主義共和國聯盟 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)沒有任何交代，打亂了蘇聯外交安排。因此激怒赫魯雪夫(Nikita Khrushchev)，進一步引發中蘇外交關係破裂，是後來蘇聯取消對中國大陸核援助的一個重要因素。

金門砲戰另一個影響，是促成西德(德意志聯邦共和國 Federal Republic of Germany)的政治戰略改變。當時德國社會民主黨黨魁和西柏林(West-Berlin)市長、日後成為聯邦德國總理的布蘭特(Willy Brandt)特別關注此戰。以此觀察若美國毫無作為，令解放軍成功拿下金門，西德則也勢必無法堅守住西柏林。連同1961年東德(德意志民主共和國 German Democratic Republic)興建柏林圍牆一事，為布蘭特判斷日後採取修補蘇聯和東歐集團關係的「新東方政策」的關鍵事件之一。

