

for almost four years is the Yellow River itself down to the city of Kaifeng, which has long been in Japanese hands. The enemy has for a considerable time made no serious and sustained attempt to cross the river at points in southern Honan.

Fighting in Taiheng Mountains

However, a considerable effort is at present going on to consolidate Japan's inner positions within the Yellow River bend by relatively large mopping-up operations against the great and compact area of resistance and counter-attack in the Taiheng Mountain Range. Here guerrillas of various inner political complexion are still supported by units of regular Chinese troops. Several Japanese divisions fighting in dozens of small columns, and recently co-ordinated

and generally aided in their diffuse action by several scores of reconnaissance planes, fighters and bombers, have been concentrated against these mountain strongholds, so far with limited success.

This is the only important military operation at present taking place in China. The main aims of the Japanese in the region seem to be to strengthen their western flank against the Soviet Union, and to remove the constant danger of Chinese guerrilla raids in areas where they are endeavouring to exploit valuable coal and iron resources.

The third front, north of the Yellow River, borders on the first and second to the east. It comprises Peiping and strips of the land along the railroads from Peiping, northward to the border of Jehol Province, and southward to the

