



Map 3. Nanking and its environs

tier. If the Ming army pursued them on land, they risked exhausting themselves and leaving themselves open to a Han attack. Chu Yüan-chang's generals offered essentially desperate counsel, some advising an overland march to T'ai-p'ing while the rest proposed abandoning Nanking and holding out on the Purple Mountain east of the city.

Chu disregarded these proposals and instead put into effect a scheme concocted by Li Shan-ch'ang and K'ang Mao-ts'ai, which involved luring Ch'en Yu-liang to land at a predetermined point where he could be ambushed. K'ang had served with Ch'en before surrendering to Chu in 1356; he had a servant who was a double agent, reporting to Ch'en but coming back to the Ming with intelligence on Han affairs. Evidently his