

**A READER IN THE NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE  
TO THE VICTIMS OF THE NANJING MASSACRE**

**(CONCISE EDITION)**

EDITORS OF A READER IN THE NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE NANJING MASSACRE

12-13



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## **NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY**

### **Designation of National Remembrance Day**

On February 27, 2014, the Seventh Conference of the 12th Session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress decided to appoint December 13 as National Remembrance Day for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre. Memorial events are held on December 13, in remembrance of the victims of the Massacre and all who died in the hands of Japanese aggressors during the War of Resistance Against Japan.

### **Ceremony of the First National Remembrance**

On the morning of December 13, 2014, the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the National People's Congress Standing Committee, the State Council, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee and the Central Military Commission held a National Remembrance ceremony for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre in Nanjing. Xi Jinping, Secretary-General of the CPC Central Committee, President, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, addressed the ceremony.

## FOREWORD

A major birthplace of Chinese civilization, Nanjing has a long history, with 600,000 years of human history, almost 2,500 years of city history, and about 450 years of capital history. The city is one of the four ancient capitals of China, and is known as the “Capital of Six Dynasties” and the “Capital of Ten Dynasties.”

Starting December 13, 1937, the Japanese army carried out a 6-week massacre in Nanjing, producing the world-shocking Nanjing Massacre, and spelling out an unheard-of disaster to the historical and cultural city.

To extend attitudes of the Chinese to human rights and civilization to the rest of the world, and to express their determination to love and keep peace in remembrance of history, in February 2014, the Seventh Conference of the 12th Session of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress appointed December 13 as National Remembrance Day in honor of the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, and decided that memorial events be held nationwide on that day. As part of National Remembrance Day, the Department of Education of Nanjing, and the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall invited experts and teachers to write *A Reader in the National Remembrance to the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre*, intended for elementary, middle and high school students.

The book has six chapters: “Pre-War Nanjing” “The Battle of Nanjing” “The Nanjing Massacre” “Relief and Exposure” “Trials of History” and “Memories and Remembrance.” With a full display of history to promote its awareness, each chapter is composed of three sections: GUIDE TO YOUR READING, body text, and LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS in chronological order, and in point-line format, where points combine to form a clear line, to help learners understand the process of history based on knowledge of historical facts.

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# PART ONE: PRE-WAR NANJING

## Historical and Cultural City

### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

In the 1930s, Zhu Ziqing wrote in *Nanjing*: “Browsing Nanjing is like browsing an antique shop, where some trails of erosion are left behind each era. You can caress it, pay tribute to it, or engage in its leisurely reveries...”

Do you know what kind of an “antique shop” Nanjing is?

### Ancient Capital

The unearthing of ape-man skulls at Hulu Cave of Tangshan in the eastern outskirts of Nanjing is evidence to ancient human habitation in Nanjing 600,000 years ago. Archaeological data reveal that dating back to more than 6,000 years ago, in the Neolithic Age, primitive villages emerged at Beiyinyangying. In the Warring States, after Yue replaced Wu, Yue City was built in 472 BC, nearly 2,500 years ago, in the southwestern corner of present-day Zhonghua Gate, thus signifying the beginning of the history of Nanjing being a city.

Nanjing was once known as Jinling, Moling, Jianye, Jianye (of a different Chinese character), Jiankang, Baixia, Jiangning, Jiangzhou, Shengzhou, Shangyuan, Jiqing, Yingtian, Tianjing, etc. in chronological order. The city has been entitled “soil of beauties, land of lords,” and has been one of the “Four Capitals of China,” the other three being Beijing, Xi’an and Luoyang, respectively.

Dynasty	Duration
Eastern Wu	229-280
Eastern Jin	317-420
Southern Dynasties: Song	420-479
Southern Dynasties: Qi	479-502
Southern Dynasties: Liang	502-557
Southern Dynasties: Chen	557-589
Southern Tang	937-976
Early Ming	1368-1421
Taiping Heavenly Kingdom	1853-1864
Republic of China	1912-1949

In 229, Sun Quan, king of Eastern Wu, made Nanjing the capital of his state, and renamed it Jianye. Following Eastern Wu, Nanjing was also the capital of Eastern Jin and Southern Dynasties consisting of Song, Qi, Liang, and Chen, hence the “Six Dynasties”. In the 1,000 plus years after the Six Dynasties, the Southern Tang period of Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms, as well as Early Ming, Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and the Republic of China made Nanjing their capital. For that reason, Nanjing has also been known as “Capital of Ten Dynasties”.

### Cultural City

Nanjing has deep-rooted traditions of culture and of schools of thought. Since the Six Dynasties great cultural masters emerged, such as Xie Tiao, Liu Xie, Kong Shangren, Wu Jingzi, Cao Xueqin, Yuan Mei and Wei Yuan. Numerous masterpieces were handed down the pipeline of history, such as *The Zhaoming Collections*, *The Literary Mind and the Carving of Dragons*, *The Yongle Encyclopedia*, *The Unofficial History of the Literary World*, *The Story of the Stone*, *An Illustrated Record of Maritime Nations*, and so forth. Commensurate with its outstanding culture, Nanjing boasts many cultural relics and scenic attractions, including the Ming Tombs, the Ming City Walls, Confucius Temple, Xuanwu Lake, Mochou Lake, Jiming Temple, Inscriptions on the Tombstones of the Southern Dynasties, Egret Park, Gulou Park, and so on. These buildings, relics and scenic attractions demonstrate the long history and culture of the city, and reflect the extent of prosperity in the evolution of Nanjing.



Confucius Temple

The Qinhuai River, aka the Huaishui, the Hidden Dragon River, or the Small Sea, is the mother river of Nanjing. The river has its origins in East Lushan Mountain in Lishui and Baohua Mountain in Jurong, the two branches converging at Fangshan Mountain in Jiangning and running northwest through Nanjing. The section of the Qinhuai River inside the city enters at Dongshuiguan and exits at Xishuiguan, a length of ten li (a Chinese unit of length, approximately equal to 590 yards), so the river is commonly known as “the Ten-li Qinhuai,” aka “the Inner River.” The quarter on both sides of the Inner Qinhuai was inhabited by aristocratic families and civilians from the Six Dynasties onwards, a section where merchants assembled, and where scholars gathered, leading to a zenith of Confucianism.

At the turn of Late Qing and the Republic of China, Nanjing retained its own charm as a political center and a historical and cultural city in Southeast China, and preserved a rich heritage for itself when it later became the capital of the Republic.



The Qinhuai River

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### The Ming City Walls

The Ming City Walls, an ancient defense facility of China, is a model of supremacy in city wall technology, and the product and symbol of the city being adopted as the capital of the Ming by Zhu Yuanzhang, the first emperor of the dynasty. The walls took 21 years to complete, whose construction started in 1366 and ended in 1386. The Ming City Walls have four sections: Palace City, Imperial City, Capital City and Outside City. The walls of the Capital City have a perimeter of 33.676 km with a height of 14 to 21 meters, and is proud of 13 gates: Chaoyang, Zhengyang, Tongji, Jubao, Sanshan, Stone City, Qingliang, Dinghuai, Yifeng, Zhongfu, Jinchuan, Shence, and Taiping. The Outside City walls have a perimeter of 60 km, with 18 gates: Qilin, Xianhe, Yaofang, Guanyin, Foning, Shangyuan, Cangbo, Gaoqiao, Shangfang, Jiagang, Shuangqiao, Zhalan, Fengtai, Great Ande, Small Ande, Great Xunxiang, Small Xunxiang, and Jiangdong. They have been commonly known as “inner 13, outer 18.”



The Ming City Walls by Xuanwu Lake

## Toward a Modern City

### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

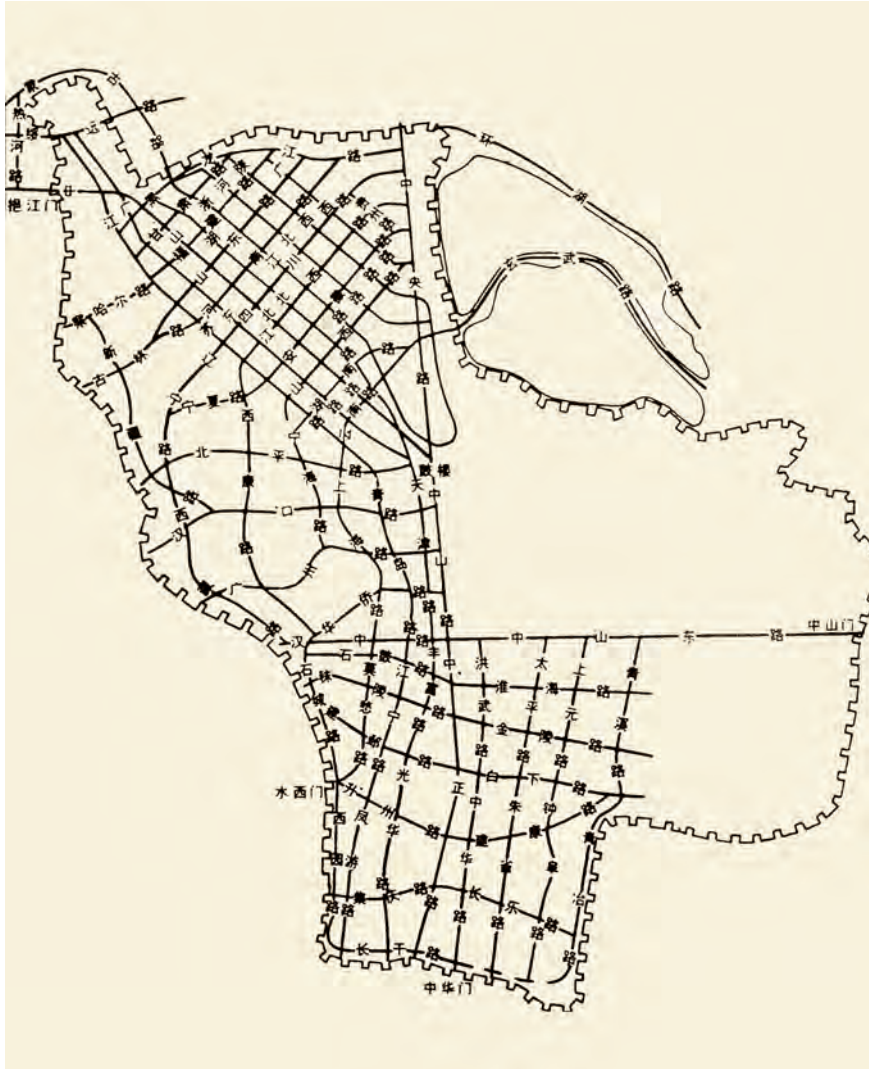
A German Special Correspondent to the *National Observer* said after his interviews in Nanjing in late November 1937: Nanjing is not just a capital; it has become a concept. Nanjing was once the concept of a new system in China, the concept of a place where the most excellent gather... Roads, bridges, railroad tracks, and the airlines bound for the most distant parts of the vast country... Nanjing witnessed a period of new prosperity in commerce, transportation, agriculture and industry.

How did Nanjing advance toward modernization in the 1920s and 1930s?

### Urban Construction

On January 1, 1912, Dr Sun Yat-sen declared the Provisional Government of the Republic of China in Nanjing, and became Interim President of the Republic. Nanjing became the birthplace of China's republican system. In 1927, after Nanjing became the capital city, the Chinese Government revitalized city planning and urban construction to reflect the status and functions of the capital and to adapt itself to a sharp increase in its population and number of institutions.

In 1928, the Chinese Government constructed Coffin-Welcoming Avenue (aka Zhongshan Road) in Nanjing to welcome Dr Sun Yat-sen's coffin from Beijing to be buried at Dr Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum. The avenue was 12 km long and 40 m wide, starting at Xiaguan Wharf (aka Zhongshan Wharf) in the northwest, and ending at Zhongshan Gate in the east. Zhongshan Road had an avant-garde design; it not only solved the problems of traffic congestion caused at the time by an explosion of the city's population, but was also known nationwide for its green, width and tidiness.



Map of capital road system (Drawn in February 1931)

The *Capital Layout* issued at the end of 1929 divided Nanjing into six districts according to modern-city functions, i.e. the central political district which covered the areas outside Zhongshan Gate at the south foot of Purple Mountains, the city-level district which covered the Gulou and Fuhougang areas, the industrial zone which covered the area on both sides of the Yangtze River, the commercial district which covered an area of both sides of the avenue, the Ming Palace and Xinjiekou, the educational district which covered the Gulou and Wutaishan areas, and the new residential district which covered the Shanxi Road area.

## Economic Growth

With the impressive growth of urban construction, and a rapid increase in population, business in Nanjing saw an unprecedented prosperity. The city business district formed along the Confucius Temple area, Taiping Road, and Zhonghua Road areas, where shops gathered with a full range of goods, a prosperous market and shopping crowds. Afterwards, Nanjing formed the Xinjiekou business district themed on Central Mall, Bank of Communications, Juxingcheng Bank, Postal Savings Bureau, Dahua Theater, New Capital Theater and Fuchang Hotel. It was known at the time as “China’s largest shopping area.”

John Rabe, a German working in Nanjing before the war, wrote in his diary: “Taiping Road used to be the main shopping street, and was the pride of Nanjing. The neon lights could be compared with those on Nanjing Road in Shanghai...”

Industries in pre-war Nanjing had also developed greatly, including Yongli Ammonium Factory, which went ahead of the nation’s chemical industry, Puzheng Machinery, Jinling Arsenal, and China Cement Plant, all of which had a long history in the area.

Before the fall of Nanjing in December 1937, after a full decade of construction between 1927 and 1937, Nanjing showed signs of a modern city.

## Population Fluctuations

After 1927, Nanjing became the political, military and cultural center of the nation, with a rapid increase in civil and military authorities, research institutions, and schools of various categories, social groups, and businesses. Embassies and consulates from other countries and other foreign



Yongli Ammonium Factory (Partial)



affairs agencies rushed into Nanjing. National conferences were held in the city, and foreign dignitaries and friends visited in large numbers, bringing in a rapid increase in urban population. By June 1937, the population exceeded a million, and Nanjing became a densely-populated city.

With the August 13 Incident in 1937, particularly after the first Japanese aerial bombardments against Nanjing on August 15, 1937, some of the well-off and dignitaries began to leave the capital, resulting in a sharp decline in the city's population, which had totaled about 600,000 before the fall of Nanjing.

Before that, the population had consisted of three sections: urban and rural residents, transient population, and the officers and soldiers defending Nanjing. The resident population was more than 500,000, and was unable to relocate because of no relatives to take refuge from, or for economic reasons. The transient population was tens of thousands of people, mostly refugees from the occupied areas of Shanghai, Suzhou and Wuxi. The officers and soldiers defending Nanjing were about more than 100,000 people, mostly the capital garrison force of the Chinese Government, injured soldiers shipped to Nanjing from the Battle of Shanghai after the August 13 Incident, and there were 13 divisions and 15 regiments of the Nanjing garrison force after the fall of Shanghai.



Shuiximen, corner of Nanjing in the 1930s

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Central Mall

Central Mall, which opened in 1936, is a corporation limited created with private funding. At the time, Central adopted the model of department hire, large scale and new facilities to attract the lease of major firms from Peking, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong and elsewhere. Jingdezhen porcelain, Hunan embroidery, Zhang Xiaoquan scissors from Hangzhou, Chinese jewelry, and tea from southern Anhui were a feast for the eyes. Central was the first and biggest mall in Nanjing, and one of the largest and most influential businesses in Asia and the Far East.

## PART TWO: THE BATTLE OF NANJING

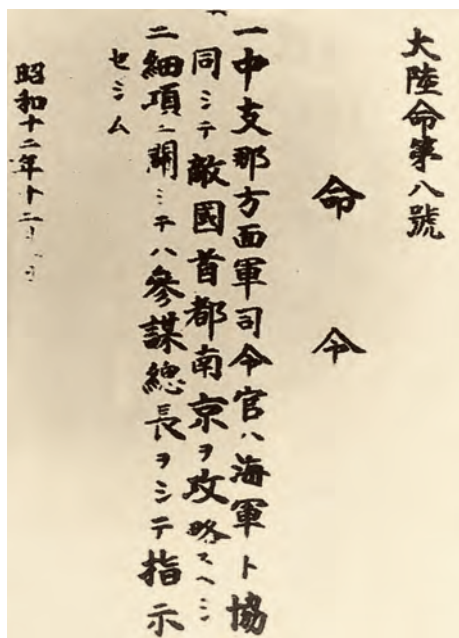
### Japanese Military Assault on Nanjing

#### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

On December 1, 1937, the Japanese headquarters ordered Iwane Matsui, Commander of the Central China Area Army: “to capture Nanjing the enemy’s capital” in collaboration with the Navy.

How did the Japanese come to decide to assault Nanjing? What atrocities did the Japanese army commit on the way to capture Nanjing?

In the 1860s, after the Meiji Restoration, Japan gradually took a militarist path. In the 1930s, Japan sped up aggression against China. On September 18, 1931, it launched bombardments at Liutiao Lake, Shenyang, and thus started the process to invade China. On July 7, 1937, Japan created trouble at Lugouqiao Bridge in Beijing and formally began aggressive war against China. On August 13, the Battle of Shanghai occurred. Iwane Matsui was appointed as Commander, formed the Shanghai Expeditionary Force, and began to invade Shanghai. After three months of the Battle of Shanghai, the Japanese met stubborn resistance from the Chinese army, and suffered heavy casualties. The dream to “conquer China within three months” was shattered, but the Chinese troops were inflicted serious casualties. On November 12, 1937, Shanghai fell, and the Battle of Shanghai ended. Afterwards, the Japanese army advanced westward to assault Nanjing.



Order to capture Nanjing issued by the Japanese headquarters

## Decision of Assault

Back in August 1936, when the General Staff Headquarters planned for war against China to be staged in 1937, the Japanese had expected “to support the assault on Nanjing with two armies and to occupy the triangle of Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing.” Iwane Matsui was a firm advocate of assault on Nanjing.

After the Japanese army successfully captured Shanghai, Iwane Matsui demanded the same fate for Nanjing even more vigorously, to exert further political pressure on the Chinese Government, and to annihilate the military elite forces in Nanjing. He repeatedly stressed in the report submitted to the General Staff Headquarters: “Capturing Nanjing the capital of China will add the greatest value.” To that end, he was ready to “pay the greatest sacrifices of the forces” to the battle, and he assured the Headquarters that “our target can be reached within two months at the latest”.

On November 28, 1937, Iwane Matsui received the decision in telegram from the General Staff Headquarters to assault Nanjing. He was very excited, and wrote in his diary: “Receiving the decision to assault Nanjing from the undersecretary, I am pleased that my advocacy in the past days have finally paid off. Liaison of the armies with the rear areas is taking shape, so that once the order is given, the order to assault Nanjing can be issued on the fifth of next month at the latest.”

On December 1, 1937, the Japanese headquarters issued the order that a division be kept in Shanghai and that the Shanghai Expeditionary Force and the rest of the 10th Army assault Nanjing, commanded by Iwane Matsui and in collaboration with the Navy. Afterwards, the Central China Area Army started the assault in multiple directions.

## Advance on Nanjing

Southern Jiangsu was the first to be assaulted by the Japanese army. At the time, the Chinese Government created the two defending lines of Wufu and Xicheng in southern Jiangsu in defense of Nanjing, but for various reasons, the two lines did not play much of a role. On November 19, Suzhou and Changshu fell into enemy hands. The Chinese army fought seriously against the pursuing Japanese several times in retreating from the Xicheng line. On November 27, Wuxi was captured by the Japanese. They then pursued the Chinese troops along the Beijing–Shanghai Railway, the South Grand Canal, Taihu Lake and the roads north of Taihu Lake, and captured Changzhou on the 29th.

Meanwhile, the Japanese who had captured Changxing and Huzhou of Zhejiang took Yixing on the 28<sup>th</sup>. On December 2, Jiangyin fell, and on December 9, Zhenjiang fell.



Sketch route of the Japanese assault on Nanjing

To assault Fort Jiangyin at the northernmost end of the Xicheng line, the Japanese advanced jointly with one brigade along the Xicheng Highway and two infantry regiments along Changcheng Highway. Approximately two Chinese infantry divisions stationed in Jiangyin fought fiercely against the Japanese, the battle positions lost and regained several times, and heavy casualties inflicted upon both sides. After December 1, the fighting went even more intense. The Japanese, for its advantage of air, river and artillery fire, destroyed the guns and telecommunications facilities at Jiangyin Battery. Forced by disadvantage and heavy casualties, the Chinese retreated from the battle.

The successive fall of southern Jiangsu, northern Zhejiang and eastern Anhui meant the loss of outside protection for the capital, and exposed Nanjing to Japanese assault.

### Atrocities along the way

In their advance on Nanjing, wherever they went, the Japanese massacred, raped, looted and burned, and as a result, the population in the areas south of the Yangtze fell into misery.

Known as land of fish and rice, or country of silk and paradise on Earth, Suzhou had long been coveted by the Japanese for its economic resources and cultural wealth. After the Battle of Shanghai began, the city became a prime target of the Japanese. From August to November 1937, around the fall of Suzhou, the Japanese created a series of tragedies here, and brought disasters to the age-old city and its hundreds of thousands of residents.

The 5-year-old Lu Lulan, of Zhujiazhuang outside Changmen Gate of the city, was playing outside, and the roar of Japanese airplanes was heard. Before she knew where she was, bombs were dropped in numbers, and houses collapsed to the raid. The thick smoke and sea of fire were accompanied by injured crowds lying at sixes and sevens on the street. The shrapnel came along, and the left arm of Lulan went into two, with only a little skin still connected to her shoulder. She lost much blood, fainted, and was finally taken to Boxi Hospital (now Suzhou University First Hospital). When she woke up on the hospital bed, she realized she had lost her left arm for good.



Liu Lulan, only 5-year-old, lost her left arm to Japanese bombardments

After the occupation of Changshu, the Japanese burned down 30,000 plus civilian houses in the county seat, killed more than 3,000 civilians and raped 374 women. After occupying Wuxi, the Japanese looted, raped and burned in the city. From Lvkouqiao to Wuqiao alone, over 2,000 civilians were killed for no reason. After Jiangyin was captured, the Japanese set fire for half a month, burned down over 1,000 houses and killed more than 1,000 civilians.



The Japanese burned down the county seat of Jiangyin

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Iwane Matsui, Principal Criminal of the Nanjing Massacre

Iwane Matsui (1878–1948), Army General and principal criminal of the Nanjing Massacre. After the August 13 Incident in 1937, an exception was made, and the 59-year-old was appointed as Commander of the Japanese assault on Shanghai. He was Commander of the assault on Nanjing and the Nanjing Massacre, and ringleader of the Massacre. In November 1948, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East sentenced Iwane Matsui to death by hanging for “not fulfilling the duties of a commander to stop inhuman atrocities.” On December 23, 1948, Matsui was hanged in Tokyo as a Class-A war criminal. In 1978, with the scheme of Japanese nationalists, the memorial tablets of Iwane Matsui and other Class-A criminals were relocated to the Yasukuni Shrine.



Iwane Matsui

## The Chinese Garrison Force Defends Nanjing

### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

On November 20, 1937, the Chinese Government declared: “To adapt to the current situation and a protracted war, the capital is to be relocated from this day onwards to Chongqing. Thereafter, this government will be engaged on the longest-term warfare on the grandest scale, and with the size of the Chinese population, the vastness of land and the determination of sacrifice for the interests of the nation, with warm blood bonded with land, inseparable by any act of violence, with international support and popular unity, will render further resistance against the Japanese to maintain national integrity and independence.”

Did this mean that the Chinese Government was giving up on Nanjing? What initiatives were taken by the Chinese to defend Nanjing?

### Eve of the Battle of Nanjing

After the Battle of Shanghai, Nanjing became a prime target of Japanese air raids. On August 15, 1937, in addition to the bombardments on Daxiao and Ming Palace airports, 20 Japanese assault planes of the naval aircraft forces flew from Omura and launched a transatlantic aerial bombardment on Nanjing. They bombed the densely-populated Bafutang, Daxinggong and Zhongshan Road East. Afterwards, Japanese planes stepped up its massive air strikes upon Nanjing and its neighboring areas. In mid-September, the Japanese strengthened its air assault on the city. The political, military and transportation facilities, as well as radio stations, factories, shops, hospitals, schools and civilian homes went under air assault.

The bombardment of the greatest scale since the aerial bombardments fell on September 25. The Japanese sent nearly 100 planes from half past nine in the morning to half past four in the afternoon, with constant sirens in Nanjing. According to a report by the *Shen*



*Bao*: “Our cultural, health and charity institutions were practically destroyed by the enemy, many shops and civilian homes were bombed, and more than a hundred civilians died from the atrocities.”



Bombardment of Central University

From August 15 to December 13, Japanese planes staged air strikes for nearly four months, and caused a huge disaster to Nanjing. At a disadvantage, the Chinese air force and the air defenses of the city confronted the incoming Japanese with strong fire, delivering a hard blow to the arrogant Japanese and greatly inspiring the fighting spirit of the Chinese military and civilians.

Facing the westward Japanese, while organizing the retreat of Shanghai garrison force, the Chinese Government made it clear to relocate its capital to Chongqing and to fight a protracted war, and put defense of Nanjing on the agenda. To determine the strategy of defense, Chiang Kai-shek, Chairman of the Military Committee of the Chinese Government, summoned a number of meetings attended by his senior staff. Of top-rank generals, Tang Shengzhi shared his view with Chiang.

Tang Shengzhi, Director of the Executive Branch of the Military Commission, said: “Nanjing is our capital. The city has international impact, and is where the mausoleum of Dr Sun Yat-sen stands. If we are to give up on Nanjing, how will we live up to the soul of the late Prime Minister? “



Wreckage of Japanese aircraft shot down by the defending Chinese Army

On November 26, 1937, Chiang Kai-shek wrote in his diary: “Nanjing cannot be defended, but must be defended. Otherwise we can’t live up to the expectations of anyone, the nation and the people.” He also said: “Nanjing is not a matter of whether to defend but an issue of how long to defend it. In a situation when enemy fire exerts superiority and the Yangtze River is free for navigation, it is extremely difficult to defend for long, thus short-term defense of the city is preferable.”

On November 20, 1937, the Chinese Government announced to relocate its capital to Chongqing. On November 24, Tang Shengzhi was officially appointed commander of the Nanjing garrison force, leading 13 divisions and 15 regiments to defend the city. Tang took the oath “to stand or perish with Nanjing” . He ordered blockade of the Yangtze River and withdrawal of ferries, to show his determination to defend the city.

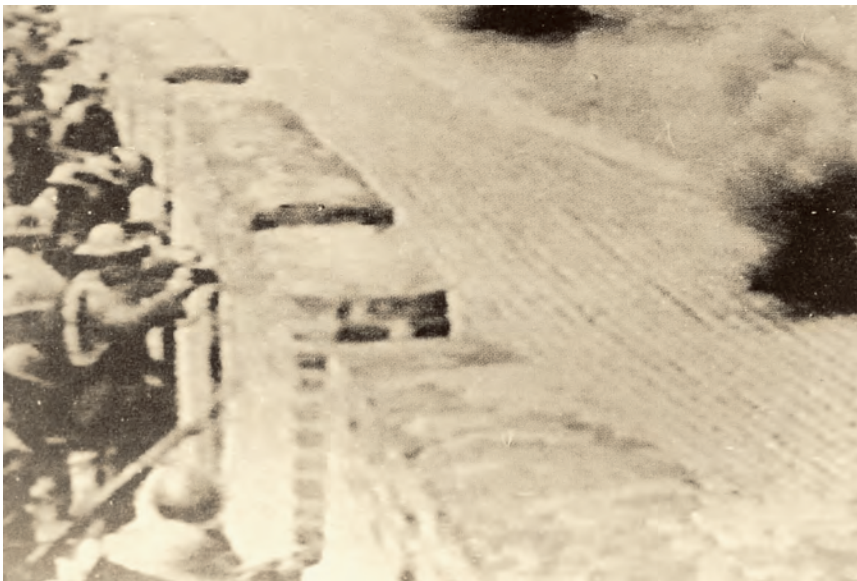
### **Fierce Fighting in the Outskirts**

After December 6, 1937, on the peripheral positions extending from east to west in Jurong, Hushu, Chunhua, Molingguan, Tangshan, Qixia Mountain, to Niushou Mountain, the garrison engaged in fierce fighting against the Japanese in the assault on Nanjing. After huge casualties, the Japanese army captured the peripheral positions.

On the evening of December 8, the Nanjing garrison force ordered the soldiers to retreat to the Fuguo positions in which the city walls acted as a barrier, with intent to “concentrating forces and solidifying Nanjing.” At noon on December 9, Japanese aircraft dropped surrender – inducing

leaflets into Nanjing, and issued an ultimatum to the garrison troops, but the ultimatum was ignored.

The fiercest fighting occurred at Guanghua Gate. At the time, the garrison troops were Brigade 259 of the 87th Infantry Division in the Ninth Group Army of the Nationalist Revolutionary Army. Yi Anhua, Brigadier, was a graduate of the Huangpu Military Academy Stage 3. Before the war, he sent his wife and children back home in Yichun, Jiangxi, and wrote a message resolutely to his wife and children: “Wait for my pension, in support of the family.” On December 9, 1937, the Japanese Army launched three assaults in a row on Guanghua Gate, but they were repulsed by Brigade 259 led by Yi. On the 10th, at Guanghua Gate two gaps were blasted in the walls by Japanese artillery, and about 150 of the Ito Brigade broke into Guanghua Gate. After eight hours of fighting, Yi and his Brigade forced the Japanese into the city wall tunnel, killed Ito, the captain, and saved the Guanghua Gate positions. In the end, however, Yi was struck by a bullet and died a heroic death.



The Chinese garrison force fought against the Japanese on the city walls

On the afternoon of December 10, Iwane Matsui ordered a general offensive on Nanjing. During the Japanese bombardment and assault on Nanjing, the city walls became a prime target. Under heavy Japanese fire, the city walls of Nanjing were destroyed at several points, including the gaps at Zhongshan Gate. Guanghua Gate fell in ruins, the city tower at Zhonghua Gate disappeared,



The Japanese assault on Guanghua Gate

and the walls at Tongji, Yuhua and Shuixi gates were also severely damaged. Further fights occurred in the east, south and west outskirts of the city. There was fierce fighting at Purple Mountains and Yuhuatai, as well as at Tongji, Guanghua, Zhonghua and Shuixi gates.

Purple Mountain, home to Dr Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum, serves as a natural barrier in the east of Nanjing, and Chiang Kai-shek's "Iron Guard" was stationed here. From December 8 to 12, 1937, the Chinese defended Purple Mountain positions, and fought with the Japanese, with heavy casualties on both sides. Later, Matsui had to admit: "The Chinese corps rendered fierce resistance against us." The Ninth Division who participated in the assault on Purple Mountain wrote in its war history: "The enemy holding Purple Mountain was the enemy, but it was bold indeed. They fought to the last man. They knew the consequence would be death, but they resisted stubbornly against our assault." On the evening of the 12th, the Chinese were ordered to retreat, and Purple Mountain positions were lost.

Although the Chinese fought tenaciously in defense of Nanjing, their resistance did not stand the crazy assault of the well-equipped Japanese. On the night of December 12, the Japanese broke the defensive positions at different points.

### The Fall of Nanjing

On December 13, 1937, the Japanese army captured Zhonghua and Yuhua gates on the south,

Zhongshan Gate on the east, Taiping Gate on the north, Guanghua, Tongji and Wuding gates on the southeast, and Shuixi Gate and Hanxi Gate (near present-day Hanzhong Gate) on the west, and broke into the city of Nanjing. The city fell into Japanese hands.

With intent to offering protracted resistance and saving the military forces, Chiang Kai-shek issued on December 11 three evacuation orders to the Chinese garrison troops. However, due to poor command, the troops retreated in disorder, with many soldiers unable to cross the Yangtze river. Statistics showed that, of the 100,000 plus officers and ranks stationed in Nanjing, more than 10,000 died in action, a few broke the siege with success while most of the remaining soldiers were trapped in the city.

After the fall of Nanjing, on December 17, 1937, the “Nanjing Entrance Ceremony” was held by the Central China Area Army and Navy under Matsui’s command.

For various reasons, the Battle of Nanjing ended in failure for the Chinese. However, the heroic and unyielding fighting spirit of the soldiers in action is wealth for the Chinese nation. By incomplete statistics, more than 10 generals and over 50 commanders above the regiment died in battle. Their souls and those of all who died in action remain in the admiration and memory of the Chinese.



The Japanese held the “Nanjing Entrance Ceremony”

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Bloodshed at Yuhuatai

On December 12, 1937, the Japanese army concentrated many aircraft and dozens of heavy artillery, coordinated with thousands of infantry, and at absolute superiority, launched a frenzied assault in three directions on the Chinese garrison force defending the Yuhuatai positions. According to the *Beijing and Shanghai War Records of the 88th Division*: “The enemy troops launched fierce assaults with vehicle, aircraft, cannon and elite troops. Zhu Chi, Brigadier of Brigade 262, Gao Zhisong, Brigadier of Brigade 264, and Han Xianyuan of its regiment commander, Li Jie and Hua Pinzhang, Zhao Hanxing Lieutenant Colonel and Staff Officer, Huang Qi, Fu Yiting, Zhou Hong, Su Tianjun, Wang Honglie, Li Qianghua, battalion commanders, led their troops in fights with repeated advances and retreats. In the morning, Huang Qi, Zhou Hong, and Fu Yiting died in succession, and in the afternoon, Zhu Chi, Gao Zhisong, Hua Pinzhang, Su Tianjun, Wang Honglie, and Li Qianghua either committed suicide or died tragic deaths. More than 6,000 officers and soldiers of the Division dedicated their lives to the nation. Regiment commander Li of Regiment 527 broke the siege toward the airport, and wounded by the enemy, committed suicide.”

## PART THREE: THE NANJING MASSACRE

### World-shocking Massacre

#### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

On December 28, 1937, a Chinese newspaper in a Shanghai concession published the translation of an article from *The Times*: “The Fate of Nanjing.” The article exposed the horror in Nanjing under Japanese atrocity: “Corpses of innocent residents in the city paved the streets. At city gates next to the River, corpses formed mounds a meter high. Cars and trucks crushed over the corpses. Japanese officers brought together the Chinese soldiers and police they caught and shot them on the streets.”

What appalling atrocities do you know that were committed in Nanjing by the Japanese?

#### Mass Murder

Before the Japanese Army captured Nanjing, they had already carried out brutal mass murders outside the city.

Nakayama Shigeo, of the Japanese chariot troops, was there to witness the mass murder committed at Yuhuatai. He recalled: “I won’t forget the first two days after our entrance into Nanjing, what I saw at Yuhuatai. Japanese soldiers ordered the Chinese who held white flags here to sit by the trenches, and then stabbed them to death with bayonets one by one. They kicked those who did not die from one sword stab into the trenches and buried them with earth. The killings, regardless of age, lasted for about four hours.”

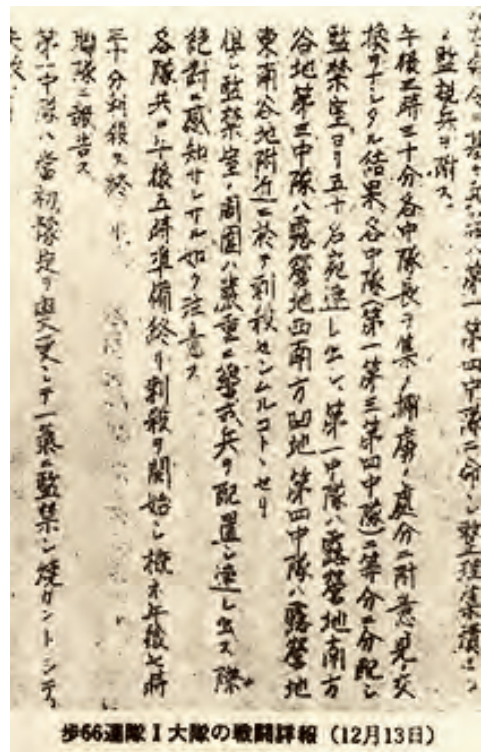
On December 13, 1937, the Japanese army entered the city from Zhonghua, Yuhua, Guanghua, Zhongshan, Taiping and Shuixi gates. The navy went upstream on the Yangtze River for control of the waters at Xiaguan. Two detachments captured Pukou and Wulongshan, respectively. Faced with the large number of prisoners of war in China, the Japanese failed to comply with

international conventions, but pursued a kill-all policy. Mass murders were committed against soldiers who had thrown down their arms, as well as innocent civilians.

On the morning of December 13, the Japanese who had captured Taiping Gate massacred some 1,300 prisoners of war in the city wall trenches near Taiping Gate.

Ikehata Masami, veteran of the Second Battalion of the 33rd Infantry Regiment of the 16th Division recalled: “They came to Taiping Gate and were disarmed. There were many prisoners of war, and loot. So how to dispose of the prisoners of war became a problem. We were outnumbered, fewer than 100. So many prisoners of war, over 1,000, it’s impossible to provide them with meals... We ourselves had a food problem, so we reported to the Division about what to do with the POWs. The order from the Division is, ‘Dispose of them all...’”

To “mop up the enemy troops”, after the occupation of the city gates on the east, south and west of Nanjing, the Japanese army “swept” repeatedly over streets of various sizes and the International Safety Zone in their respective “mopping-up” areas, searched and mass-murdered Chinese soldiers who had thrown down their arms and ordinary civilians suspicious of military status.



*Battle Details* of the Japanese army contained information about killing all prisoners of war

Masuda Rokusuke, veteran of the 20th Infantry Regiment of the 16th Infantry Division, wrote in his notes: “Tens of thousands of remaining soldiers resisted fiercely well into yesterday, but surrounded in multiple directions, they were unable to run away, but fled into the refugee area. Today, even when we have to cut through the grass, we must track them down to avenge our fallen comrades. We were divided into teams, searching door to door... At nightfall, nearly 600 soldiers were taken to the area near Xuanwu Lake, and were all shot.”





Burned corpses and Japanese coaches at Xiaguan Wharf

Apart from mass murders on the spot, more were sent to the outskirts for the mass slaughter, after capturing the Chinese soldiers who had thrown down their arms and civilians suspicious of military status.

Wu Changde, survivor, was traffic policeman of the International Safety Zone during the fall of Nanjing. He was captured by the Japanese on December 15. He recalled: “About eight in the morning, more than 10 Japanese soldiers appeared out of the blue. They drove young men with bayonets to the outside, and concentrated them on the roads... In front of the Capital Cinema, a few trucks came from behind the troops, and brought Japanese soldiers and machine guns... At one in the afternoon, they got to Hanzhong Gate, and ordered us, the more than 2, 000 people, to stop inside the City Gate and sit down. Then, two Japanese soldiers, with a long piece of string, each holding an end, circled out over 100 people from the crowd, surrounded by Japanese soldiers. They were marched outside Hanzhong Gate and shot with machine guns...”

As Nanjing’s most important hub of transport, Xiaguan is a major channel for the Chinese army to retreat from and for refugees to flee north. The area next to the Yangtze on the north of Nanjing, centered on Xiaguan, became the most concentrated where the Japanese committed their mass murders. On the afternoon of December 13, the Japanese army outflanked and reached Xiaguan. Many Chinese soldiers and civilians, unable to find ships and equipment to cross the river with, were trapped beside the river. The Japanese immediately shot violently with armored vehicles and machine guns. Large numbers of Chinese soldiers and civilians died on the wharf, in the river, or on the shore. For a while afterwards, the captured Chinese soldiers and civilians suspicious of military status were driven to Sanchahekou, Zhongshan Wharf, Coal Port, Straw String Gorge, Yanziji and other spots for a mass murder.

Suzuki Jiro, Japanese war correspondent, gave a detailed account of the massacre in the Xiaguan area: “The scene is bloodier than elsewhere. Thousands of soldiers and civilians who had no place to hide after being chased by Japanese troops were shot here with machine guns. Bloodshed looked like river water and corpses piled high. Even the yellow waters of the broad Yangtze were dyed red, with countless corpses floating on the river. In this area, where warehouses concentrated, soldiers killing with bayonets were seen everywhere. The streets became a zone of gruesome death. ”



Chinese soldiers who had thrown down their arms were concentrated at Mufushan, to be massacred

Miyamoto Seigo, second lieutenant of the 4th Battallion of the 65th Infantry Regiment of the 13th Division who participated in the massacre at Straw String Gorge of Mufushan, recalls in his diary: “December 16: ... At 3 in the afternoon, the battalion decided to take extreme measures, and killed about 3,000 prisoners beside the Yangtze river. It was like a battlefield scene. December 17: The forces held the Nanjing Entrance Ceremony today. Most of the troops participated in the execution of prisoners of war... When we returned in the evening, we had to set out again at once to join in the execution of prisoners of war. As they had already killed more than 20,000 people, soldiers went unrestrained...”

### Sporadic Slaughter

At the fall of Nanjing, although there were many civilians taking shelter at the International Safety Zone, there were still some people who, for various reasons, had to live in their homes outside the safety zone. The Japanese also slaughtered civilians randomly by repeated “mopping-ups” of streets and alleys, houses and courtyards, temples and nunneries, and villages and fields, in addition to wiping out the Chinese soldiers who had thrown down their arms and civilians suspicious of military status.

Xia Shuqin was a typical example of survival from sporadic slaughter. As she recalled: On the morning of December 13, a group of about 30 Japanese came to knock at doors at 5, Dongxin Road, Zhonghua Gate. The owner of a neighbor, named Ha, was shot once

he opened his door. The father of Xia, who had pleaded with the Japanese not to kill him, was shot also. One Japanese soldier seized her one-year-old little sister from her mother's arms and dropped her dead on the ground. Her mother was stripped of her clothes and was gang-raped. She was killed with a bayonet afterwards. In the next room, her grandparents who tried desperately to protect her two elder sisters, were also shot to death. The two sisters were gang-raped and were then stabbed to death with bayonets...

John Magee, American missionary and member of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone, wrote in a letter to his wife: "Japanese soldiers slaughtered all POWs they could lay their hands on; they also captured and slaughtered civilians of all ages. Just like hunting rabbits in the wild, many people were killed on the streets by Japanese soldiers. From south of the city to Xiaguan, the whole city was covered with corpses."

In the safety zone and outside the city, no discipline was exercised at all by Japanese military officers and ranks, and, under the pretense of "mopping-up," they wandered around, gang-raped, looted, and killed randomly. Sporadic slaughter was committed everywhere.

Sun Baoqing, of Nanjing, said in a description he submitted to Nanjing Municipal Government on November 5, 1945: "The incident occurred unexpectedly. Nanjing was in a critical situation. My father asked my brother Sun Baoxue and my sister-in-law and nephew to take shelter in the refugee camp at Hanzhong Road. My father stayed home. Japanese soldiers entered the city. They went brutal, and killed my old father with a



Xia Shuqin, massacre survivor



Corpses were seen everywhere in front of Zhonghua Gate

sword. As the saying goes, troubles never go alone. The Japanese went to the camp. They executed my brother, who didn't flee the city to attend to his obligations in the military training regiment, and my sister-in-law.

### Unyielding Resistance

The many atrocities committed by the Japanese shrouded Nanjing in horror and despair, but the population exercised all forms of resistance. Compatriots such as Liang Zhicheng fought against the Japanese, and showed the fighting spirit of a warrior. Li Xiuying would rather die than obey the insult imposed on her. While family and relatives tried to help her, most of them were killed by the Japanese. The invaders also forced cooperation or solicited service from local residents, who they did not oblige but resist to the best of their ability.

According to the *Xinhua Daily* (March 3, 1951), on the morning of December 17, 1937, Liang Zhicheng, driver, was carried off by the Japanese from his home. The Japanese ordered him to drive a truck loaded with machine gun bullets to Xiaguan, to kill people there. At the wheel, he ignored the danger of death, knocked down the Japanese officer who was watching him, swooped on him and took him by the throat with both hands. He was found out, and was cut with swords. The Japanese officer struggled to stand up and shot Liang. Liang fell in blood. It was not until in the afternoon before he came to. He struggled to climb toward home, leaving behind a long trail of blood in the snow. At dawn the following day, Liang felt that his day was in, and gritting his teeth, said to his sister: "Live on, and tell my friends: I was killed by the Japanese, and I never helped do a single thing for the Japs."

Bai Wu wrote in *Nanjing Today*: Once, a traitor ordered his fellow countrymen to hold "Welcome to the Imperial Army" flags, and to stand in front of the Grand Palace to "meet" the Japanese army newly stationed in Nanjing. Then an old man broke out from the crowd, and shouted with pride: "Peace! Fight! Save China!" The old man was killed, but the indignation radiated the strong will of Chinese people to resist and the heroism of no surrender.

The horrible massacre continued until the end of January 1938, and lasted for about six weeks. The Nanjing Massacre was the most typical and prominent of all massacre cases, committed by the Japanese in China.

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Major massacres committed by the Japanese invading troops (Partial)

Serial #	Massacre	Time	Location	Death Toll
1	Luojing Massacre	August 1937	Baoshan County, Shanghai	Over 10,000 people
2	Baoding Massacre	September 15, 1937	Baoding, Hebei	Over 2,000 people
3	Ningwu Massacre	October 1937	Ningwu County, Shanxi	Over 4,800 people
4	Cheng'an Massacre	October 24, 1937	Cheng'an, Hebei	Over 5,300 people
5	Jinshanwei Massacre	November 15, 1937	Hangzhou Bay, Zhejiang	Over 2,900 people
6	Ji'an Massacre	January 21, 1938	Ji'an, Zhejiang	Over 2,800 people
7	Fengyang Massacre	May 2, 1938	Fengyang County Seat, Anhui	Over 5,000 people
8	Hanwang Massacre	May 20, 1938	Xuzhou, Jiangsu	Over 2,000 people
9	Zhumadian Bombardments	May 20, 1938	Zhumadian, Henan	Over 1,500 people
10	Guangzhou Bombardments	May 6, 1938	Urban Guangzhou	Over 9,000 people
11	Jincheng Massacre	July 20, 1938	Jincheng, Shanxi	Over 5,000 people
12	Wuhan Bombardments	October 25, 1938	Wuhan, Hubei	Over 3,000 people
13	Hengyang Bombardments	April 6, 1939	Hengyang, Hunan	Over 9,000 people
14	Baoji Bombardments	July 1939	Baoji County Seat, Shaanxi	Over 2,000 people
15	Qinxian County Massacre	December 1940	Qinxian County, Shanxi	Over 5,000 people
16	Chongqing Tunnel Choke Massacre	June 5, 1941	Chongqing	Over 9,000 people

Serial #	Massacre	Time	Location	Death Toll
17	Changde Gas Massacres	December 24, 1941 and November 26, 1943	Changde, Hunan	Over 2,000 people
18	Huainan Coal Mine "Mass Grave"	March 1943	Huainan, Anhui	Bones of more than 13,000 people
19	Datong Coal Mining "Mass Grave"	September 1937 – August 1945	Datong, Shanxi	Over 60,000 miners
20	Xinhua Hospital of Jinan (POW Concentration Camp)	March 1943 – August 1945	Jinan, Shandong	Over 15,000 employees tortured to death

## Massive Acts of Sexual Violence

### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

On December 15, 1937, third day after the Japanese army entered the city, 9-year-old Yang Mingzhen hid herself at home, with her parents. Her father was stabbed to death, and she and her mother raped by the Japanese. Yang Mingzhen took the witness stand:

“After what had happened, my mother was frightened and went insane. Her eyes went blind from too much crying, and she died soon. After my parents’ deaths, I became an orphan, and helpless, had to beg everywhere for food. Later, to eke out a living, I did small business, selling sesame cakes and deep-fried dough sticks. The rapes affected me greatly, and as a result, I suffered from urinary incontinence and psychological trauma.”

Do you know about the miseries many Chinese women suffered in the Nanjing Massacre?

### Japanese Atrocities of Rape

While carrying out a massacre to military and civilians, the Japanese army also raped Chinese women. Their sexual atrocities were brutal and uncontrolled, regardless of age or status, pregnant or sick. The degree of violence was indeed rare in human history of civilization.

In June 1938, Guo Moruo wrote “A Letter to World Allied Powers About Japanese Atrocities” : “In the areas from which the Chinese troops had retreated, acts of rape became common. Aged women and young girls were raped, let alone mature women. Everywhere, they were either gang-raped to death, or were killed for refusing the demands. Such acts would be impossible for any civilized individual, but the Japanese army never felt shame about them.”

Japanese atrocities of rape were not random or accidental cases, but were committed with the connivance of Japanese military officers. It was a collective crime of the invaders in Nanjing. After the fall of Nanjing, thousands of the Japanese army broke into the city and, within a week, had raped more than 8,000 women.

Ippei Mikimoto, veteran of the Second Battalion of the 33rd Infantry Regiment of the 16th Division, recalled: "In Nanjing, as we had nothing to do, we would rape girls. Soldiers might go out for girls. Officers were aware, but they said nothing, which meant tacit consent... We went out in units or in groups to look for girls."



An 18-year-old girl, who had been carried off by the Japanese army for 38 days, was at the University of Nanjing Hospital

To escape the acts of rape, terrified women had to flee to Jinling College to seek protection, a safety zone camp designed specifically for the female and children. However, the wandering Japanese might appear out of the blue. They broke into the campus several times almost every day, and raped on the spot, ignoring westerners who tried to stop them. Or they might take away large groups of women for later use or try to rape women by climbing over walls in the evening.



Jinling College classrooms became shelter for female refugees

Minnie Vautrin, American teacher at Jinling Women's College wrote in her diary on December 19: "Today many terrified women and girls flooded in. Last night was another night of terror. Many people went down on their knees to request to be admitted. We let them in, but I did not know where they would sleep tonight..."

For the rest of the morning, I would run from end to end of the campus, to drive away one group of Japanese after another. I went to South Hill three times, and then behind the campus, followed by urgent visits to the faculty building. Two Japanese





Refugees inside Jinling College

soldiers were said to have climbed upstairs. In classroom 538, I saw a guy standing at the door, another raping a girl. Seeing me and the letter of the Japanese Embassy in my hands, they fled. Deep in my heart, I really wanted to have the power to beat them. If Japanese women knew these terrible things, they would feel ashamed!”

In late December, most of the Japanese army retreated from Nanjing, leaving behind the officers and ranks of the 16th Division, to perform police duties, but who still continued to rape women. In late January 1938, after the 10th Brigade–Regiment replaced the 16th Division to perform Nanjing police duties, the atrocities of rape still occurred from time to time.

The gang rape atrocities, committed by the Japanese in the Nanjing Massacre, not only inflicted lasting pains to the Chinese, but became Japan’s criminal history. The New York Times reported on December 19, 1937: “The Battle of Nanjing won’t be written as a glorious record of Japanese war history; it will be a page that the entire nation will regret forever.”

### Establishment of Nanjing Comfort Stations

The massive acts of sexual violence penetrated by Japanese officers and ranks laid bare Japanese shameless cruelty. On December 28, 1937, the Shanghai Expeditionary Force Headquarters adopted the Proposal on the Establishment of Comfort Stations in Nanjing. The establishment of comfort stations signified the beginning of Japanese army to fully promote sex slavery in the occupied areas.

With the support of civil and military authorities, a full range of comfort stations were erected on the streets of Nanjing. The city became one of the regions with the greatest number of such stations and “comfort women”. Many women from China, the Korean Peninsula, and other countries served as “comfort women,” and suffered from the



Former site of Japanese comfort station, Liji Lane

ravages of the Japanese.

The practice of forced “comfort women” was rare in the history of human civilization, and was a desecration of human dignity, a violation of human rights, and a great physical and psychological harm to the majority of women victims.

Coercing thousands of women to serve as comfort women on a long, open and organized scale demonstrated the cruelty and savageness of Japanese militarism.

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Pak Yong-sim

#### — Former North Korean Comfort Woman in Nanjing

Pak Yong – sim, North Korean “comfort woman”, spent more than three years at Liji Comfort Station. Afterwards, she was transferred to Songshan, Yunnan, and continued to serve as “comfort woman”. In 1944, pregnant, she escaped with three other “comfort women” from the Japanese army, and was transferred for temporary shelter after she was found by Chinese troops. At the shelter she was imprisoned for a year, then took the route to Chongqing and Shanghai in September 1945, and returned to Incheon in April 1946. In November 2003, with the help of Japanese and Chinese friends, Pak Yong – sim visited Nanjing, returned to the house about which she felt ashamed again, and identified where she had suffered immensely at Liji Lane. She condemned the atrocities in those years and became a witness to what happened at the station.



Pak Yong-sim identified herself in the old “comfort woman” picture

## Looting and Burning

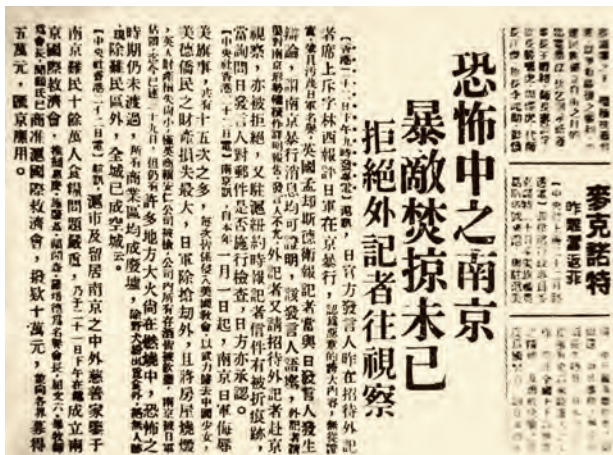
### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

The Nanjing War Crimes Tribunal pointed out: “Wherever they went, the Japanese burned and massacred. The capital became a target of terror, and fierce burning was unheard-of. In the early days after the fall of Nanjing, from Zhonghua Gate to Xiaguan along the banks of the Yangtze extended big fires and flames, and half the city was in ashes. There was a staggering amount of loss of public and private property.”

Can you imagine the horror of such a modern city in its early stage?

### Looting

Apart from weeks of shocking massacres and rape, the Japanese army looted and burned wantonly.



The Ta Kung Pao reported on Japanese atrocities in Nanjing on January 23, 1938

Kazuo Osone, veteran, later wrote: “The distance of the fighting forces assigned to assault Nanjing... widened from the army service station forces... The commanders did not allow troops to rest, but gave the order “to recruit crops from local residents for self-survival”. The order sounded reasonable, but it was no different from looting crops from the local population. Similar orders had been given before, but

everybody had felt guilty each time before an order was given. Once the order was given, however, the sense of guilt had vanished into air, and the troops immediately had become bandits who stole and looted grains and livestock to quest hunger.

After Nanjing fell to Japanese hands, massive and repeated looting in which many officers and men participated soon ransacked every corner of the city. They used trucks, rickshaws, bicycles and even baby carriages, as their vehicles. They flocked into institutions, companies, shops and residences to wash away everything they could lay their hands on, such as vehicles, food, clothing, beddings, money, watches, carpets and paintings, indeed anything worth a cent. Then, they burned the sites to destroy crime evidence. The items that Kesago Nakajima, Commander of the 16th Division, looted from Chiang Kai-shek's residence and elsewhere, were packed into 32 boxes to be delivered back to Tokyo, including many antiques and works of art.



The Japanese delivered looted items

On December 14, John Rabe, Chairman of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone, witnessed many small-scale robberies when he drove through the urban area. He wrote in his diary: "Every 10-20 people formed into a team, and they moved through the city, and looted shops. If I hadn't seen it, I wouldn't have believed my eyes. They smashed shop windows and doors, and took anything, possibly because they needed food... The case was the same for almost every store on Zhongshan and Taiping roads. Some Japanese soldiers carried away the loot in boxes, and some hired rickshaws to

deliver the goods to safe ground.”

Christian Kroeger, German and author of the *Days and Nights of Suffering in Nanjing*, wrote on January 13, 1938: “These degenerated beasts called soldiers continued to break into refugee camps and houses canned with refugees, and did not even spare what was ignored on an earlier looting spree. In Nanjing today, it was almost impossible to find a house that remained intact without being damaged, searched and looted. Locked doors and cabinets were forced open, and the items inside went into disorder, and were either carried off or damaged.”



After a Japanese looting spree near Hanzhong Gate

In accordance with the provisions of international law, in times of war, third – country diplomats and diplomatic organizations are entitled to immunity and the right to protection. The Japanese ignored international conventions and looted even the property of foreign nationals and international diplomatic institutions in Nanjing while they looted Chinese offices, factories, shops, schools and homes. For example, on December 14, the Japanese army broken into the British Embassy, and emptied the items there. The same happened to the United States, Germany, France, Italy and Spain; houses were broken into and anything worth a cent was swept away.

The outskirts of Nanjing were looted. Almost all farming tools and crop seeds were taken by the Japanese. Cattle, donkeys, pigs, chickens and other livestock and poultry were victims also. The looting of the Japanese army in the outskirts and villages inflicted heavy losses to local farmers, which laid waste to much farmland in the outskirts and seriously affected the summer harvest of 1938.



The University of Nanking Institute of Chinese Studies after a Japanese loot

The Japanese army also looted many books and cultural relics in Nanjing. By incomplete statistics by Nanjing Municipal Government, about 150,000 copies of private books, more than 2,800 sets in 1,800 boxes of books, and more than 35,800 pieces of calligraphy, paintings and antiques were lost during the war. The massive looting and burning of public and private books, antiques, calligraphy and paintings by the Japanese caused immeasurable losses to Chinese culture.

### Burning

Following crazy looting, the Japanese would burn down the sites, to destroy evidence, including burning down civil and military buildings, shops, cultural sites, houses, and so on.

On the morning of December 13, Heisuke Yanagawa, Commander of the Tenth Army, ordered in Moling: "All means should be employed to annihilate the enemy. To this end, burn the city where necessary, especially not to be cheated by the defeated remnants." Once the order was given, the Japanese army committed widespread arson.

War correspondent Minamata recalled: "When I first came into the city, there were many buildings, but on the following day, they began to be set on fire. All major buildings were burnt to cinders. The soldiers rushed into courtyards, turning things upside down in houses, stealing valuables and setting fire to the houses."



House debris on Taiping Road



Fire on Nanmen Avenue



Corner of Confucius Temple after Japanese devastation

Under the command of officers, the soldiers set fire wherever they went. Judging from the scale of arson, there was fire from Zhonghua Gate in the south to Xiaguan in the north. Large numbers of offices, shops, companies, schools and homes were burnt down. On December 21, John Rabe and westerners who stayed behind went to the Japanese Embassy in Nanjing, and demanded that the Japanese stop arson or any organized damage, but to no avail. Looting and burning continued.

The most seriously– damaged area was the business district in the south of the city. On some broad streets, such as Confucius Temple, Zhonghua Road, Taiping Road, Zhongshan Road and others, only a few buildings survived, but the other structures were burnt to cinders.

After the fall of Nanjing, Central Mall was looted, and the upstairs section was burnt to cinders, when the downstairs section was taken as a stable.

Robert O.Wilson, doctor of Gulou Hospital, wrote in his diary on December 19 about the fire near Taiping Road: “Another amazing thing would be a fire somewhere today. Yesterday, many fires were set, but around dinnertime, a fire rose from several blocks near Taiping Road. A house about 200 yards away was on fire.”

In February 1938, after the climax of the massacre, social order began to stabilize. The crazy burning, killings, acts of sexual violence and looting had spread over almost every corner of the city. In the frightening six long weeks, Nanjing had grown into “hell on Earth”. As John Rabe said: “It is a time of endless terror, unimaginable no matter how people imagine all this to be. “

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### A Survey Report on the Extent of Destruction of Nanjing

Lewis S.C.Smythe, American professor at the University of Nanking, conducted a survey on the outskirts of Nanjing in spring 1938, and later put together a report, "A Portrait of the War in Nanjing." According to the report: For various reasons, 89% of housing in Nanjing was destroyed, 2% for war reasons, 24% for arson, and 63% for looting. The losses Nanjing residents suffered from amounted to 40 million yuan, including 19 million yuan in commercial property and 21 million yuan in residential property. The city's housing and property losses totaled 246 million yuan. (*Note.* 3.5 yuan was equivalent to 1 US)



## PART FOUR: RELIEF AND EXPOSURE

### Humanitarian Relief

#### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

Just before the fall of Nanjing, over 20 people risked their lives to stay behind. They used their special status, established the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone, created the Nanjing Safety Zone, and contributed immensely in humanitarian relief, refugee protection, and prevention, complaint and exposure of Japanese atrocities.

When Nanjing became hell on earth, what humanitarian help was brought to the people in Nanjing by westerners in the city?

#### The International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone

On November 12, 1937, the Japanese army captured Shanghai, and then advanced quickly on Nanjing. The westerners in Nanjing unanimously agreed that a safety zone be established in the city following the example of Nanshi Refugee Camp in Shanghai. With the efforts of W.P.Mills, United States Presbyterian and M.S.Bates, professor of the University of Nanking,



Headquarters of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone

the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone was established. On December 2, the International Committee headquarters moved to 5, Ninghai Road. On December 8, the Japanese reached the outskirts of Nanjing. The Committee released “Notice to Nanjing Residents” to inform the public that a safety zone was established. Large numbers of citizens and refugees began to pour into the safety zone.



Photograph of Minnie Vautrin (left), with staff of Red Cross Porridge Factory

The area had many public buildings, such as the University of Nanking, Jinling Women's College, Jinling Seminary, Gulou Hospital, and Overseas Chinese Guest House, convenient for admitting refugees. More importantly, the United States, Italy, Japan, Germany and other consulates and parts of the western church were located here. During the war, thanks to its diplomatic characteristics, this was the safest area in Nanjing.

The International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone did much work in humanitarian relief, refugee protection, and prevention and complaint of Japanese atrocities. More than 70, 000 refugees stayed in the 25 refugee camps in the safety zone, and other refugees stayed at private homes or schools. The largest number of refugees in the safety zone was as many as 250, 000.

The refugees at Jinling Women's College were managed by Minnie Vautrin, with an estimated 2,000 women who sought refuge here, but there were more than 10,000 of them here at the most.

As most refugees who stayed behind were unable to move elsewhere, food aid was one of the most important jobs of the International Committee. In addition to food relief, the International Committee provided relief in cash, kind and epidemic prevention.

From December 1937 to February 1938, the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone distributed food to the 25 camps and five porridge factories in the safety zone, open to all refugees, free of charge except for a small part of it.



Refugees received relief supplies outside the International Committee headquarters

After the capture of Nanjing, under the pretense of “mopping-up,” the Japanese broke brazenly into the safety zone, searched, killed, raped and looted, posing a great threat to the lives and property of refugees. Refugee protection and prevention of Japanese atrocities was another major area of work for the International Committee.

In some places outside the safety zone, refugee areas formed, such as Jiangnan Cement Plant, Qixia Temple, Union International Co.Ltd, and Getang and Shuangtang Presbyterian Church. The biggest refugee camp was at Jiangnan Cement Plant outside the city. From the end of 1937 to the spring of 1938, with the assistance of the International Committee, Karl Gunther, German, and Bernhard Sindberg, Danish, admitted and protected some 20,000 Chinese refugees at the cement plant.

At the refugee camp, a five- or six-year-old child was injured by a grenade. Sindberg rode to town with the child, to Wilson, American doctor of Gulou Hospital. Wilson not only saved the child, but gave medicine and bandages to Sindberg and sent two nurses to Jiangnan Cement Plant.

In addition to the International Committee, there were some charity organizations, such as International Red Cross Nanjing Chapter, World Swastika Society Nanjing Chapter, Red Cross of China Nanjing Chapter, and so on.

With the support of the International Committee, a group of westerners headed by American missionary John G. Magee established the International Red Cross Nanjing Chapter on December 13, 1937. In two months, the Chapter provided rice relief, opened porridge factories and clinics, and buried corpses, which strongly supported the work of the International Committee of the safety zone.



Refugees and refugee sheds at Jiangnan Cement Plant

### “Living Buddha” of Nanjing Refugees

During the Nanjing Massacre, out of a sense of justice and humanitarianism, Westerners who stayed behind ignored their own safety, and made every effort to protect the refugees living under Japanese terror and expose Japanese crimes. They helped thousands and thousands of refugees, and were called “living Buddha,” or “patron”.

John Rabe, born in 1882 in Hamburg, Germany, was head of the Foreign Office of Siemens in Nanjing from 1931 to 1938. In November 1937, he was elected Chairman of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone. He witnessed the killing, burning, acts of sexual violence and looting of the Japanese, complained to the Japanese Embassy, and was involved in the relief of hundreds of thousands of refugees in Nanjing. Rabe admitted more than 600 refugees at his home, set up a grass-mat shed in the courtyard, and named it “Siemens Courtyard Refugee Camp” to avoid the bombardment of Japanese aircraft.



John Rabe

According to the *Diaries of John Rabe*: “On January 7, 1938, Mr Riggs brought his report for today. A woman in a trance ran around the streets, and she was sent to hospital. I heard she was the only survivor of a family of 18. 17 of her family were either shot or stabbed to death. She lived near Nanmen. Another, who was from the same area, being housed in a refugee camp together with his brother, had lost his parents and three children. They were all shot by the Japanese.”

Minnie Vautrin was from Illinois. During the Nanjing Massacre, thousands of women and children flooded into Jinling Women's College. The college was one of the most major targets of Japanese brutality. At the gate, Vautrin tried several times to stop the Japanese from breaking into the campus. When Japanese soldiers ordered her to move, she refused: "This is my home!" "I can't leave here!" Even when she was cursed and threatened with a dangling bayonet, she would not back off.

Vautrin wrote in her diary on December 18, 1937: "These days, I've been running from one place to another on campus, shouting: 'This is an American school!' In most cases, it's enough to make the Japanese leave, but sometimes they ignored and stared fiercely at me, sometimes waving their bayonets at me." According to the *Diaries of John Rabe*, Vautrin protected the refugees at Jinling like a brooding hen to protect her chickens: "When Japanese violence became worse, I saw her walk in front of more than 100 female refugees toward the university refugee camp."

During the Nanjing Massacre, the University of Nanking Hospital (now Gulou Hospital) became the only hospital open to the civilian population in Nanjing, and was the only medical institution in the Nanjing Safety Zone. At the time, many refugees were injured by Japanese swords or bullets. Robert O. Wilson was the hospital's only surgeon, and imagine what a workload that was for him. In times of electricity and water-supply shortage, he worked day and night to treat Li Xiuying and other Chinese who suffered Japanese shooting, stabbing, burning or raping. He did not leave Nanjing until early June 1938.

Wilson wrote in his diary on December 18, 1937: "Today was Day 6 of contemporary Dante's purgatory, and was written in bloodshed and pornography. Large groups of people were killed, and thousands of women raped. It seems that nothing could stop the beasts from cruelty, lust and brutality... Let me recount some instances occurring in the last two days. Last night the house of one of the Chinese teachers of the university was broken into and two of the women, his relatives, were raped... This morning, I spent an hour and a half performing mending surgery on an eight-year-old boy. They bayoneted the boy who had five bayonet wounds including one that penetrated his stomach, and a portion of omentum was outside the abdomen. I think he will live, though."



Minnie Vautrin

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Robert de Besange and Nanshi Refugee Camp (Robert de Besange Camp)

For the Battle of Shanghai, August 13, 1937, nearly a million Chinese and Japanese troops were used to fight for the city. People fled to concessions. But the concessions were still too small for all refugees. All road junctions were blocked. Refugees had to stay in the vicinity of the concessions, especially Nanshi.

On October 2, Red Cross of China International Committee Shanghai Chapter was established.

On October 4, the Refugee Relief Committee formed a committee with French missionary Robert de Besange as Chairman, and started to set up refugee camps.

On November 2, Robert de Besange recommended to Mayor Yu Hongjun that part of Nanshi be set aside to host refugees. The proposal was accepted. Then de Besange went to Japanese military and diplomats, and explained that China had agreed to build camps at Nanshi, which would admit refugees only. After consultations with the Japanese leaders the Japanese Consul-General agreed. By November 4, Shanghai Municipal Government approved the establishment of Nanshi Refugee Camp.

On November 8, the agreed areas of the International Relief Committee Shanghai Chapter raised the flag of the International Relief Committee. The official formation of Nanshi Refugee Camp (Robert de Besange Camp) was on November 9 at 5 pm. It would be bounded by Fangbang Road on the south and Minguo Road on the north (present-day People's Road). On the same day, Chenghuangmiao, Yu Garden, Small World, schools and churches set up camps. This continued into June 1940, which protected more than 300,000

refugees in China altogether.

Nanshi Refugee Camp made a successful case in human history of international relief to refugees. John Rabe, who saw the success of Robert de Besange in Shanghai, began to develop the idea of forming the International Safety Zone. Rabe asked Robert de Besange to contact Japan, who became the contact link between Rabe and Japan, which helped promote the formation of Nanjing Safety Zone.

Robert de Besange, advocate of fraternity, charity and dedication, was a great example of 20th-century world humanitarianism. He was known as “Father of refugees” and “Friend of China,” for his ingenuity, perseverance, talent and sense of wartime responsibility. Nanshi Refugee Camp was a classic example of civilian relief in times of war. The model was then extended to Nanjing, Hankou and Guangzhou, as well as to France and Germany, and contributed to the map-out of the Geneva Convention, so that protection of civilian population in times of war would become international consensus, contributing to human progress.

### Membership of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone

Name	Country of Citizenship	Service Organization
John H. D. Rabe	Germany	Siemens
George A. Fitch	United States	Young Men’s Christian Association
Lewis S. C. Smythe	United States	The University of Nanking
John G. Magee	United States	American Episcopal Church Mission
P. H. Munro-Faure	United Kingdom	Asiatic Petroleum
J. M. Hanson	Denmark	Texaco Oil
P. R. Shields	United Kingdom	Union International Co. Ltd.
G. Schultze-Pantin	Germany	Okiaki Trading Company

Name	Country of Citizenship	Service Organization
Ivor Mackay	United Kingdom	Swire Pacific
J .V. Pickering	United States	Mobil Oil Company
Eduard Sperling	Germany	Shanghai Insurance Company
M. S. Bates	United States	The University of Nanking
W. P. Mills	United States	Presbyterian Church
D. J. Lean	United Kingdom	Asiatic Petroleum
C. S. Trimmer	United States	Gulou Hospital
Charles H. Riggs	United States	The University of Nanking
Christian Kroeger	Germany	Union International Co Ltd

Chairman: John G. Magee  
 Vice Chairmen: Li Chunnan W. Lowe  
 Secretary: Ernest H. Forster  
 Treasurer: Christian Kroeger  
 Members: Paul Dewitt Twinem (female) Minnie Vautrin (female)  
 Robert O. Wilson P. H. Munro-Faure  
 C. S. Trimmer James Mccallum  
 M. S. Bates John H. D. Rabe  
 Lewis S. C. Smyth W. P. Mills  
 Cola Podshivoloff Shen Yushu



## Exposure of Japanese Atrocities

### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

While carrying out the Nanjing Massacre, the Japanese blocked news, isolated Nanjing from all telecommunication links with the outside world, and strictly controlled the flow of domestic and foreign personnel, including Western journalists and others to and from the city. Westerners who stayed behind and several journalists not only experienced the disaster to the ancient city, but revealed the truth about Japanese atrocities in a variety of ways.

How did these people expose Japanese atrocities?

### Coverage in Western Media

On December 13, 1937, after the fall of Nanjing, five western journalists stayed behind in the city. They became the eyewitnesses and the earliest reporters of the atrocities after the Japanese capture of Nanjing. The five western journalists were Archibald Trojan Steele, for the *Chicago Daily News*, Frank Tillman Durdin, for the *New York Times*, Charles Yates McDaniel, for the Associated Press, Arthur B. Menken, *Paramount News Photography*, and Leslie C. Smith, for Reuters.

On December 15 and 16, 1937, they were forced to leave Nanjing. The first news coverage about the Nanjing Massacre was covered by Archibald Trojan Steele. He boarded the gunboat *Panay* bound for Shanghai. On the ship, he wrote the news wire of the Nanjing Massacre that the Japanese slaughtered over 10,000, and dispatched it via ship radio to the United States, published on December 15 in the *Chicago Daily News*. It was the first detailed, concrete exposure of the atrocities of the Nanjing Massacre published around the world. The other American and British journalists who had to leave Nanjing also followed with their own coverage of the Nanjing Massacre. These reports spread quickly throughout the world.

Frank Tillman Durdin, who had taken the same gunboat as Steele, published on December 18 a report based on his experiences, “All prisoners of war were massacred.” He wrote: “Prior to boarding for Shanghai, I saw 200 people executed in the river. It took 10 minutes. They were shot with their backs in a line against the wall. Then, a group of Japanese with pistols in their hands kicked the corpses with indifference, and added bullets to the corpses that showed signs of movement.” Because of the impact of the *New York Times*, Durdin’s coverage shocked the world more strongly than the other reports.

Harold John Timperley, of the *Manchester Guardian*, wrote *What War Means: The Japanese Terror in China* in March 1938, based on correspondence and reports of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone, and on the letters and diaries of the committee members, who reported for the first time in some details the facts of the Nanjing Massacre. The Chinese translation of the book was published in July 1938, with Guo Moruo’s preface to the work.

The translation was published by the International Publicity Department of the Central Publicity Department of the Kuomintang. The Department distributed 45,000 copies of the first 60,000 copies of the Chinese version to the troops in the front, which greatly boosted the morale of the Chinese troops. The department then translated the book into Japanese, distributed in Japan, Shanghai, Hong Kong and overseas.



Photograph of Harold John Timperley (right) with William Henry Donald, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Chinese Government (second from left) and others in Hawaii in 1941

## Exposures of Westerners

The westerners who stayed behind were eyewitnesses to the Japanese atrocities. They wrote many diaries, letters and other materials, and took photographs and videos, which gave a detailed and true record of the atrocities and of citizen sufferings. They sent those materials to their relatives and friends by various means to expose the Japanese atrocities.

American missionary George A. Fitch wrote in his diaries (late December 10, 1937 to January 1938): “December 19, Sunday... Some houses were broken into five to ten times a day, the poor looted, and women raped. Some people were brutally killed for no reason. Of the seven-member health team in one of our camps, six were killed and the seventh fled. He was injured, and came to tell us about it...” In 1938, Fitch returned to the United States, and wrote articles based on his own eyewitnesses and published them on *Reader's Digest*, exposing the Japanese brutality to the rest of the world.

American missionary John Foster wrote in a letter to his wife on December 19, 1937: “I never dreamed of finding such deadheads in the world, and we had to deal with them! They didn't like foreigners, because they didn't want us to see all of their atrocities and we insisted on staying behind. On 15th and 16th, they searched for soldiers, and mass-arrested regardless of whether the arrested had ever carried a gun or not. They cruelly massacred most of them. We heard they took 2,310 people to a pond and shot them one by one into the water. Another large group was forced to enter a dark shed, and surrounded by mounting a machine gun so that they were burned alive.”

Starting December 14, 1937, John Rabe, M.S.Bates, and Lewis S.C.Smythe, members of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone did their work. “Bates worked on the details, and drafted the complaints and the records of crimes, attaching a seal letter of accusation in front,” and after being signed by Rabe and Lewis S.C.Smythe in turns, under the pretense of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone, were sent personally by Rabe and Smythe to the Japanese Embassy. In addition, Vautrin, Wilson, Fitch, Smythe and Bates also visited the Japanese Embassy on several occasions, and complained to Japanese officials against their soldiers' atrocities in respective locations, and demanded for measures to stop those. In January 1938, British, German and United States Embassy officials returned to Nanjing, and westerners who stayed behind reported to the officials of their Embassy. Bates, for example, reported several times to John Moore Allison, United States diplomat, about the criminal cases conducted by the Japanese soldiers. These cases were sent by telegraph to United States State Department.

Letter of complaint from Professor Bates(December 15, 1937): Our new library accommodated 1,500 civilians. Four women were raped on campus, with three arrested, who never returned; one was carried off, but released by the Japanese military police near your embassy... There were hundreds of similar atrocities in camps elsewhere.

Starting November 1937, John Magee was Chairman of the Red Cross International Committee Nanjing Chapter, and member of the International Committee of the Nanjing Safety Zone. He risked his life, keeping a true record of the Nanjing Massacre in original film documentary with a 16–mm video camera. The film documentary was brought to Shanghai by Fitch, Director–General of the International Committee, and four copies were made by Kodak United States. Fitch also showed the documentary to the United States. He then showed the documentary to United States House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, to Wartime Intelligence Services, and to journalists, to introduce the Nanjing Massacre and reveal the truth about Japanese atrocities. In addition, he was in New York, Chicago and elsewhere to lecture on Japanese atrocities in Nanjing.

Parts #1 to #12 of the film documentary covered the half–a–year period between December 13, 1937, when Nanjing was captured, and May 1938. Filming locations included Shanghai Road, Xiaguan, and refugee camps. Scenes involved the bombardment of Nanjing by the Japanese, and Nanjing slaughter (guns, bayonets), rape, arson and other atrocities. The characters in the documentary were people familiar to us later: Li Xiuying, Xia Shuqin, Wu Changde and other survivors, which left behind hard evidence of such atrocities.



Film documentary kept by John Magee on the spot of Japanese atrocities during the Nanjing Massacre

## THESE ATROCITIES EXPLAIN JAP DEFEAT

These ten pictures are not pretty to look at, but they partially explain why Japan is now being beaten at war. They were taken after the Japanese occupation of Nanking, Dec. 13. The photographer was an American missionary whose name must be concealed. He used a 16-mm. amateur movie camera carefully hidden from Japanese eyes.

The most dreadful pictures of the rape of Nanking this amateur photographer could not take. He knew that if he filmed civilians being shot down or houses looted and burned, he would be arrested and his camera smashed. Besides, he was too busy, like other foreign missionaries and doctors, saving what civilians he could. But for two weeks he saw an army completely out of control, raping, burning, killing, robbing and destroying without check. He saw a Japanese embassy completely powerless to restrain its own men. In foreign hospitals in and around Nanking he saw hundreds of innocent victims of "totalitarian war."

But the rape of Nanking had, for the Japanese, its own devastating revenge. It 1) solidified China into an indomitable will to resist the invader; 2) so demoralized Japanese military discipline that they are now, to the world's amazement, enduring one smashing defeat after another on the 1,000-mile Shantung front.



In primitive baskets, Chinese civilians who were shot, bayoneted or bludgeoned by Japanese soldiers are transported by neighbors to an emergency village opened by missionaries.



Horrible death wiped out all but two of a Chinese family of 11 when 30 Japanese soldiers broke into the house, Dec. 13.



A bullet wound in the arm remains with this woman as memento of night when a soldier killed her husband and child.



His head burned to a cinder, this man died in a few hours. He was one of 100 tied together, doused with gasoline.



Two bayonet gashes in the throat were punishment for this home owner who refused to yield his women to Japanese.



Decapitation was barely escaped by this woman when soldiers ordered her to an abandoned house, hacked her neck.



A beating with an iron bar was given this 14-year-old boy who begged to go home when taken prisoner and starved.



Struck with an axe, this policeman was still in hospital two months later. He escaped a firing squad by feigning death.



For resisting assault, this 19-year-old woman was stabbed 29 times. She had a miscarriage in a refugee hospital later.



Typical fate met by thousands in Nanking: execution with hands tied in back, bodies left to rot in roadside ponds.

Nearly 100 photographs were extracted from the film documentary produced in Nanjing. Ten of the photographs were published in the May 16, 1938 issue of *Life*, and served as early evidence of the Nanjing Massacre by the Japanese

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### News coverage of *The Chicago Daily News* which said the Japanese killed over 10,000 (Excerpt)

“Four days in hell” was the most appropriate phrase to describe the capture of Nanjing.



The December 15, 1937 issue of the *Chicago Daily News*

I had just boarded the gunboat Panay with the first group of foreigners who were to leave the capital. The last scene when I was leaving the city was that a group of 300 Chinese were executed in an orderly manner in front of the wall by the river, and the corpses were knee-high.

This was the most typical portrayal of a scene of crazy Nanjing in recent days.

The fall of Nanjing was also a process of unspeakable panic and chaos for members of the Chinese garrison force who were trapped in the city, and was a process in which the Japanese occupation caused the massacre of thousands and thousands of people, many of whom were innocents.

## PART FIVE: TRIALS OF HISTORY

### The Tokyo Trial

#### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

About the atrocities of the Japanese army in Nanjing, it was written in the verdict of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East: “Widespread rape, arson and slaughter lasted for at least six weeks after the fall of Nanjing, and for at least another four weeks after Matsui and Muto entered the city.”

How was the International Military Tribunal for the Far East formed?  
How were the Japanese Class – A war criminals tried?

After the outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941, the discussions of the allied powers went further around how to deal with war criminals in the aftermath. In October 1943, under the initiative of the United Kingdom, the allied powers established in London the War Crime Investigating Committee of the United Nations (Signatories to the *Declaration of the United Countries*), to record war crime evidence, and to prepare for the prosecution and trial of war criminals after the war. The *Potsdam Proclamation*, issued on July 26, 1945, made it clear to punish Japanese war criminals. The declaration pointed out: “We have no intention to enslave Japan or destroy its country, but war criminals, including those who abused prisoners of war, must be punished.” According to the provisions of the allied powers, Class–A war criminals would be tried by the International Military Tribunal after the war, and Class–B and Class–C criminals tried in accordance with international and domestic criminal laws.

On August 15, 1945, Japan announced unconditional surrender. On September 2, *Documents Pertaining to the Japanese Surrender* was signed by Japan on behalf of its government, which explicitly accepted the provisions of Potsdam related to trying Japanese war criminals. Subsequently, the allies began to set up a military tribunal for the trial of Japanese war criminals.



Interior of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East

On January 19, 1946, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East was established in Tokyo, composed of representatives of 11 countries, China, the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and the Philippines, to try Class-A war criminals.

### **The International Military Tribunal for the Far East**

On January 19, 1946, the Allied Commander-in-Chief Douglas MacArthur issued a special statement to announce proclamation ordering the establishment of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, and on the same day approved its Charter, which prescribed the basic rules and procedures of the trial. The Military Tribunal appointed judges nominated by the 11 allied powers for the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, with Justice of the High Court of Australia Sir William Webb serving as President. The International Inspectorate was established, with United States Joshua Kennan appointed as Prosecutor and the nominees of the other countries acting as Deputy Prosecutors.

The Military Tribunal trial (referred to as “Tokyo Trial”) lasted for about two and a half years, from the beginning of prosecution on April 29, 1946, the trial on May 3, and the reading of the





Photograph of Mei Ju-ao, Chinese Attorney (second from right, front row) with the judges of the member states of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East

verdict on November 12, 1948. 28 Japan Class-A war criminals were indicted for crimes against peace and humanity. The Tokyo Trial used much crime evidence and many incontrovertible facts, with 818 hearings, 419 eyewitnesses, written testimony from 779 eyewitnesses and 4,336 exhibits of evidence, 48,412 pages of English tribunal records, and a 1,231-page verdict, to bring the Class-A war criminals to justice.

### **Ad Hoc Hearings of the Nanjing Massacre Case**

To find out the truth of the Nanjing Massacre, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East arranged an ad hoc trial for the Nanjing Massacre. For more than a month, the Tribunal went through eyewitness and material evidence related to the Nanjing atrocities presented by the prosecutors. For about three weeks, 13 Chinese and foreign eyewitnesses to the Nanjing Massacre took the witness stand, and more than 100 pieces of written testimony and documents were accepted. The defense lawyers of the war criminals cross-examined and defended.

Since the Nanjing Massacre was typical of atrocities committed by the Japanese in a war of aggression, the International Inspectorate visited China to investigate and collect evidence, ending up with plentiful eyewitness evidence. The Chinese Government and the Nanjing Provisional Senate provided the Inspectorate with substantial evidence as well.

The International Inspectorate put special emphasis on the evidence collected in

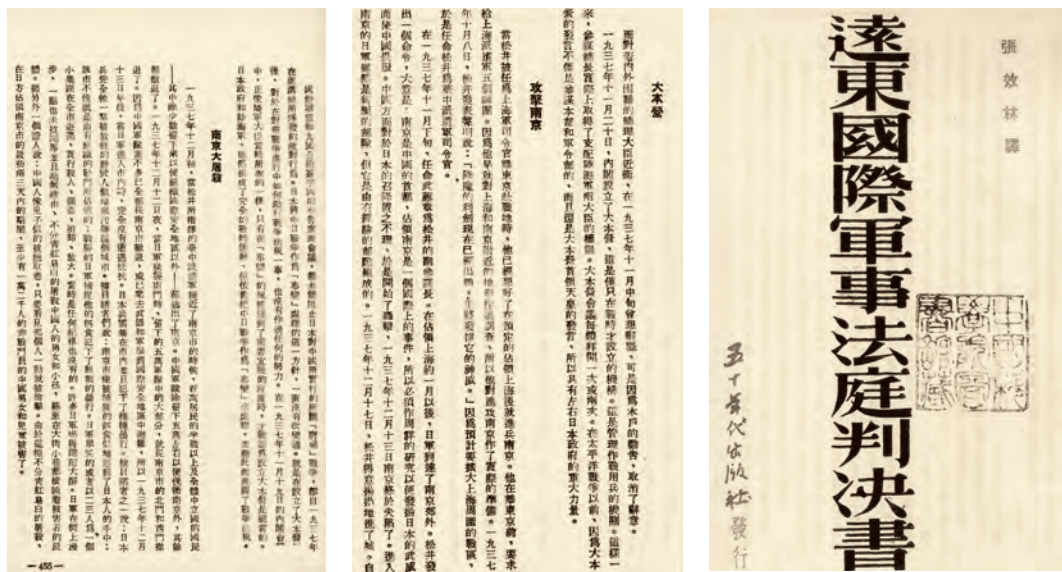
the government documents of Japan, the United States, Germany and other countries concerning the atrocities in the Nanjing Massacre, which became an important basis for the confirmation of the Nanjing Massacre and the conviction of Iwane Matsui. The evidence of Japanese atrocities in Nanjing collected by the Military Tribunal was comprehensive and sufficient.

The prosecutors identified Iwane Matsui as the ringleader of the Nanjing Massacre. The tribunal tried Iwane Matsui and other war criminals, the defense lawyers of Iwane Matsui pleaded not guilty, and 12 affidavits were fabricated in an attempt to shirk the responsibilities for the crimes committed. Brigadier Henry Nolan, Vice-Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Army, cross-examined and refuted the lies of Iwane Matsui.

### Tribunal's Verdict

In the verdict against the crimes committed by Japan in the Second World War, the Nanjing Massacre stood in a prominent position. The verdict had two chapters, entitled "Assault on Nanjing" and "the Nanjing Massacre" and confirmed the killing, burning, raping and looting of the Japanese army in Nanjing.

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East tried 28 Japan Class-A war criminals, and 25 pleaded guilty, and 7, including Hideki Tojo, Itagaki Seishiro and Iwane Matsui, sentenced to death by hanging. The 7 Class-A war criminals were hanged from the night of December 22, 1948 to the dawn of 23.



Verdict of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Chinese translation excerpt)

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Verdict of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East on “the Nanjing Massacre” (Excerpt)

According to one eyewitness, Japanese soldiers insulted this city like a group of sheer barbarians. According to eyewitnesses, Nanjing fell to Japanese hands like captured bait; the city was not captured by organized fighting; the victorious Japanese captured their bait and committed countless atrocities... Due to this indiscriminate slaughter, in the first two or three days of Japanese-captured Nanjing, at least 12,000 people were non-combatant Chinese men, and women and children were killed... According to later estimates, in the six weeks following the capture of Nanjing, a total of more than 200,000 civilians and POWs were massacred. The estimate was no exaggeration, evident in the burial of 155,000 corpses by burial teams and other organizations. According to the reports of those groups, most corpses were buried with their hands tied from their backs. The figure did not include the corpses burned by the Japanese, dumped into the Yangtze, or disposed of otherwise.

## The Nanjing Trial

### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

Starting February 6, 1947, the Nanjing War Crime Tribunal put Hisao Tani, Commander of the 6th Division, and other Japanese war criminals to trial. More than 80 eyewitnesses took the witness stand about the crimes committed by Hisao Tani in Nanjing. On March 10, the Tribunal sentenced Hisao Tani to death. He was executed at noon on April 26.

Why was Hisao Tani tried in Nanjing? How about the trials of other Japanese war criminals involved in the Nanjing Massacre?

### The Nanjing War Crime Tribunal

On December 6, 1945, to deal with Japanese war criminals, the Chinese Government appointed a special committee on war criminals. Under the terms of the committee, China arrested thousands of Japanese war criminals while accepting Japanese surrender. Starting from mid-December 1945, the Headquarters of the Chinese Army appointed a tribunal-martial for the trial of Class B and Class C war criminals, in Nanjing, Hankou, Shanghai, Peking, Guangzhou, Shenyang,



307 Zhongshan Road East, the Nanjing War Crime Tribunal

Xuzhou, Jinan, Taiyuan and Taipei. The War Crime Tribunal was established on February 15, 1946, with the full name of “The Nanjing War Crime Tribunal, appointed by the Chinese Army Headquarters,” attached to the Ministry of Defense, and later changed its name to “Department of Defense Military Tribunal for the Trial of War Criminals” (“The Nanjing War Crime Tribunal”, collectively), with Shi Meiyu as President.

By statistics, following the formation of the Nanjing War Crime Tribunal until the end of 1947, the military tribunal tried 102 Japanese war criminals, including 6 who were sentenced to death, 10 to life imprisonment, 12 to limited imprisonment.

### **Trials of Hisao Tani and Other War Criminals**

The main job of the Nanjing Tribunal was to try important Japanese war criminals extradited by the Chinese delegation in Japan and transferred from elsewhere in the country. The most influential of the trials was the trial of the Nanjing Massacre war criminals.

Hisao Tani, regiment commander of the 6th Division, led his troops to seize Nanjing, and to conduct mass slaughters. Right after World War II, Tani was defined as a major war criminal by the committee. On August 2, 1946, Tani was extradited to China. The Tribunal tried Hisao Tani several times, but he totally denied the Nanjing Massacre crimes. On December 31, the Tribunal formally charged him with crimes against peace and humanity.

The Nanjing War Crime Tribunal collected a large amount of evidence, and more than 500 people acting as eyewitnesses, as well as many reports, surveys, statistics, books, pictures, film documentaries and other evidence. Shi Meiyu led the examinations of corpse remains and evidence collection on the spot at Pude Temple and four other mass burials.



Hisao Tani, Japanese war criminal, was marched for execution

From February 6 to 8, 1947, the Nanjing War Crime Tribunal conducted a three-day trial of Hisao Tani at Lizhishe Auditorium (now Zhongshan Hotel, 307 Zhongshan Road East). The Tribunal summoned more than 80 eyewitnesses, including Lewis S.C.Smythe, Professor of Sociology at the University of Nanking, M.S.Bates, Professor of History, and Kiyoshi Ogasawara defendant witness, with fierce debates from prosecution and defense. The Tribunal tried again on February 25 and March 3, respectively. On March 10, the Tribunal gave the verdict: "The Hisao Tani troops stationed in Nanjing slaughtered more than 190,000 Chinese, including Dan Yaoting, at Huashenmiao, Baotaqiao, Shiguanyin, Straw String Gorge, and so on. They were shot with machine guns, and their corpses burned to destroy proof. In addition, the Japanese killed more than 150,000 people sporadically, whose corpses were buried by charity organizations. A total of more than 300,000 people were thus massacred." "Hisao Tani was sentenced to death, for encouraging his soldiers to massacre prisoners of war and non-combatant personnel, to commit rape, to loot, and to destroy property."

The Tribunal trial of Hisao Tani lasted for four months, with four or five thousand exhibits of evidence confirmed, and Tani sentenced to death against sufficient reliable evidence. At noon on April 26, 1947, Tani was executed at Yuhuatai, Nanjing.

In the assault on Nanjing, war criminals Toshiaki Mukai and Tsuyoshi Noda (later Iwa Noda) decided to go on a kill-100-with-only-a-sword race. War criminal Tanaka Gunkichi killed more than 300 prisoners of war and non-combatant personnel with his sword. In 1947, the three were extradited to Nanjing for trial. Thanks to full investigations, the



On December 18, 1947, the Nanjing War Crime Tribunal tried Japanese war criminals Toshiaki Mukai, Tsuyoshi Noda and Tanaka Gunkichi

Tribunal decided to try both the cases on December 18, and gave the verdict: During the war, Toshiaki Mukai, Tsuyoshi Noda and Tanaka Gunkichi, for their continuous slaughter of prisoners of war and non-combatant personnel, will be sentenced to death. On January 28, 1948, the three were executed at Yuhuatai.

## LINK TO HISTORICAL FACTS

### Surrender of the China Theater

On August 15, 1945, Japan announced unconditional surrender. According to the division of Japanese surrender zones designated by the allied powers, the Japanese in mainland China (except for Northeast China), Taiwan and French Indochina area north of 16 degrees latitude, were to surrender to the Commander-in-Chief of the China Theater (Japanese in Northeast China were to surrender to the Soviet Theater). Ho Ying-chin, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Army, was appointed by the Chinese Government as officer in charge of Japanese surrender and reception in the China Theater. On August 21, Takeo Imai, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Chinese Expeditionary Force, flew to the Headquarters of the Chinese Army in Zhijiang, Hunan, to meet Xiao Yisu, Chief of Staff of the Chinese Army. Subsequently, the Headquarters of the Chinese Army made specific arrangements for the surrender, divided the nation into 16 zones for the Japanese surrender, and specified the officers responsible, the zone of surrender and the location of reception.

At 9 am of September 9, 1945, the surrender ceremony was held at the former Central Academy Auditorium at the Headquarters of the Chinese Army. Okamura Yasuji, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese army, signed on the book of surrender and submitted it to Ho Ying-chin, and then signed the first order on the surrender of the Japanese army and aftermath. Afterwards, surrender ceremonies were held in the 16 zones of surrender and went through the procedures of surrender and disarmament. At the same time, the Japanese surrendered to the bases and to the Naval and Air forces. From August 1945 to February 1946, for more than half a year, the surrender of more than 1.28 million of the Japanese army was completed, and army, naval and air force equipment used in the aggression against China, and the Japanese organizations, industries and materials in China, were received.

**Enclosure: Officer in charge of the surrender of the China Theater, zone of surrender and location of reception**

Officer in Charge	Zone of Surrender	Location of Reception
Lu Han, Commander of the first Area Army	Area in Vietnam north of latitude 16 degrees	Hanoi
Zhang Fakui, Commander of the Second Area Army	Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Leizhou Peninsula and Hainan Island	Guangzhou
Tang Enbo, Commander of the Third Area Army	Nanjing and Shanghai	Nanjing and Shanghai
Wang Yaowu, Commander of the Fourth Area Army	Changsha, Yueyang and Hengyang	Changsha
Yu Hanmou, Commander of the Seventh War Zone	Qujiang and Chaoshan	Shantou
Xue Yue, Commander of the Ninth War Zone	Nanchang and Jiujiang	Nanchang
Gu Zhutong, Commander of the Third War Zone	Jiaying, Hangzhou, Jinhua and Xiamen	Hangzhou
Sun Weiru, Commander of the Sixth War Zone	Wuhan, Shashi and Yichang	Hankou
Li Pingxian, Commander of the Tenth War Zone	Xuzhou, Bengbu, Anqing and Haizhou	Xuzhou
Sun Lianzhong, Commander of the 11th War Zone	Tianjin, Shijiazhuang, Peking and Baoding	Peking
Li Yannian, Deputy Commander of the 11th War Zone	Qingdao, Dezhou and Jinan	Jinan
Hu Zongnan, Commander of the First War Zone	Luoyang, Xinxiang and Zhengzhou	Zhengzhou
Yan Xishan, Commander of the Second War Zone	Shanxi	Taiyuan
Fu Zuoyi, Commander of the 12th War Zone	Chahar, Suiyuan and Rehe provinces	Guisui
Liu Zhi, Commander of the Fifth War Zone	Zhengzhou, Kaifeng, Xinxiang, Nanyang, Xiangyang and Fancheng	Yancheng
Chen Yi, Chief Executive of Taiwan	Taiwan and Penghu Islands	Taipei



## Investigations of Nanjing Massacre Crimes

On June 23, 1946, in line with the trial of Japanese war criminals by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East and the Nanjing War Crime Tribunal, the Nanjing Provisional Senate appointed the Nanjing Massacre Enemy Crime Investigating Committee, dedicated to investigating the crimes of Japanese soldiers in the Nanjing Massacre... After the formation of the Committee, a notice was issued to all Nanjing residents. "In the 26th year of the Republic, at the fall of Nanjing, the enemy massacred our citizens. We are now investigating and confirming evidence, for the reference of the Military Tribunal for the Far East. The killers will be extradited to Nanjing for trial, and for execution. It is hoped that citizens offer full cooperation." The publication of the notice marked the launch of the Enemy Crime Investigating Committee. It took four months, for its inception to the transfer to the Senate on November 11, 1946, accumulating a total of 2,784 cases of crimes committed by the Japanese army in Nanjing... This investigation was in line with the trial of the Japanese war criminals by the International Military Tribunal, and provided strong evidence for the trial of Hisao Tani and other war criminals at Nanjing War Crime Tribunal.

## PART SIX: MEMORIES AND REMEMBRANCE

### Memories of History

#### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

Starting 1994, memorial services were organized every year, on the provincial and municipal levels, in remembrance of compatriots who lost their lives in the Nanjing Massacre. It was then decided by Nanjing Municipal Government that each year aerial bombardment sirens be sounded throughout the city starting 10 am on December 13.

Do you know why aerial bombardment sirens are sounded in Nanjing on December 13?

On December 13, 1937, the Japanese army began six weeks of killing, burning, rape and looting, and committed the world – shocking Nanjing Massacre in the city. It was a savage fascist atrocity in human history of civilization.

#### Japanese Nationalists Distort History

The Japanese nationalists have strongly denied the war of aggression, and beautified the history of aggression. Japan started the Pacific War, it was claimed, to liberate Asia from western colonialists, advocating an “outlook of liberalism” and an “outlook of greater East Asia war,” and asking to change a “self-abusing outlook of the Tokyo Trial”. Japanese nationalists have always denied the truth of the Nanjing Massacre, saying that the Massacre was a “fabrication” of the International Military Tribunal during the Tokyo Trial and “fiction” of the Chinese with ulterior motives.

Since the 1980s, the Japanese nationalists, under the pretense of academic research, have written books with intent to distorting history. They have published *Fiction of “the Nanjing Massacre,” Fantasy of “the Nanjing Massacre”* and *Fictional Evidence of the Nanjing Massacre*. In addition, sections concerning the recruitment of “comfort women” by the Japanese army during World War II were deleted from high–school history textbooks.

In 2001, the approval of *A Textbook of New History* by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology triggered immediate complaints from affected countries such as China and South Korea.

Everything was said to be a matter of “interpretation” and “performance”, and “cannot be said to be clear mistakes”. This showed that the government view of history was no different from the view of the Japanese right-wing forces of beautifying history. It not only ran counter to the earlier commitment of the Japanese Government to international conventions, but went against the historical understanding of such former heads of state as Tomiichi Murayama.

### Museum, Monument and Historiography

To foil the attempt of Japanese nationalists to deny the truth of history, and in remembrance of the victims slaughtered in the Nanjing Massacre, it was decided in 1985 by Nanjing Municipal Government that the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall be built at the sites of mass slaughter at Jiangdongmen. Since the opening of the Hall, Chinese Communist Party and State leaders, dignitaries from other countries and people from at home and abroad have paid their respects to the victims in various ways. Monuments have been erected at various mass slaughter or burial sites. Meanwhile, many scholars have conducted academic research on the history of the Nanjing Massacre, and published *Historical Materials of the Nanjing Massacre*, *Archives of the Nanjing Massacre*, *Manuscripts of the Nanjing Massacre*, *Historical Collections of the Nanjing Massacre*, *Nanjing Massacre Studies and Literature Series*, *A Complete History of the Nanjing Massacre*, and so forth.

The Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall was built on the ruins of the Jiangdongmen mass slaughter and the mass grave, and opened to the public on August 15, 1985. Afterwards, the Hall was expanded twice, in 1994-1995 and in 2005-2007, respectively. The renewed Hall opened to the public on December 13, 2007, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre. It is located at Shuiximen Avenue, and covers an area of 74,000 square meters, a construction area of 25,000 square meters and an exhibition area of 12,000 square meters. It is divided into four sections, Exhibitions, Ruins, Peace Park and Collections, and de facto, is a memorial museum built on ruins.

The Memorial Hall is shaped like a “boat of peace”, and vertically, means “turning the sword into the ploughshare”. The entire structure assumes a solemn look, with a layout full of implications. The front section of the hall means “bones as evidence and ruins as tablet”, while the rear section means “human home and human peace”. The design of the construction may be summarized with two words: “history” and “peace”. The hall has



The Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall

received the recognition of visitors from at home and abroad for three of its highlights, ie. choice exhibits, signature architecture and award – winning sculpture, and is one of the “Top Ten Black Tourist Attractions of the World”, “Class – A National Museum” and “National Institution of Cultural Relics”. In September 2014, it was enlisted in the directory of the First 80 National Remembrance Facilities and Sites of the War of Resistance Against Japan.

### People Who Defended Truth

In 1967, after a visit to Nanjing, Nijima Yoshitomo published several articles on the Nanjing Massacre. After that, Professor Hora Tomio, Waseda University, wrote *Mysteries of the History of Modern Warfare*, which described the Nanjing Massacre at full length. Starting June 1971, Katsuichi Honda, journalist of the *Asahi Shimbun*, visited China, and interviewed victim areas and survivors of the Japanese atrocities. Collecting many archival materials, oral history and pictures, he published the *China Trip* after returning home. His story appeared in serial in the *Asahi*, with ten mentions of the Nanjing Massacre, and stirred public interest. The literary report was then published in book form, and was printed 26 times in 10 years. A group of just scholars came to be known as “the massacre school” or the “believers”, and some of them formed the Nanjing Incident Investigating Society in 1984, and began to study the Nanjing Massacre. *The Nanjing Incident*, and his 2 – volume

*Materials from the Nanjing Incident*, were published in succession. As a result, the Nanjing Massacre aroused public interest in Japan.

In 1939, Chitaro Yamaguchi, military doctor and director of a Japanese military health materials factory, who came from a traditional Chinese medicine family and had visited Nanjing back in 1912, when he visited Nanjing this time, saw nothing but ruins. When he looked down at the February orchids beautiful like rosy clouds at the foot of Purple Mountain, he brought some seeds of the orchids back to Japan and grew them in his courtyard. Yamaguchi could not remember the name of the flower, but he remembered Purple Mountain, so he called the flower “purple grass”. In the ensuing two decades or more, faced with his reflections on the war and his expectations for peace, he pocketed seeds of the flower, took a train and tossed the seeds out of the train window along the way, expecting the purple grass to grow all over Japan... In 1985, in particular, at the Tsukuba Science Fair, Mr Yamaguchi’s son and many volunteers distributed a million packets of February orchid seeds to visitors at the fair. For the flower of peace to return to its home, the Sino – Japanese Peace Garden Society was formed in 1996. Elementary school teacher Daimon Takako was impressed after she heard the story of the purple grass. She wrote poems, painted comics, composed a choral suite “The Story of the Purple Grass”, in 1998, together with a composer, and formed a purple grass choir. In 1999, the choir suite was sung for the first time in a performance in Tokyo. The performance caused a great response in Japan, and more and more people joined the choir, making it a famous civil peace and anti – war group in Japan.



Copper statue of the purple grass girl was unveiled on April 18, 2009

Iris Chang, Chinese – American author, spent nearly three years before her death visiting many survivors of the Nanjing Massacre in Nanjing and around the world, searched much historical literature, and on the basis of the detailed information, published in English *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II* (1997, United States). The publication of the work aroused strong repercussions in the United States and was reprinted more than 10 times in the ensuing few years, at nearly a million copies. With her efforts and courage, she faced the traumatic memory of that period of human history. The preface was written by William Kirby, Harvard professor and historian, who said: “The Nanjing atrocities have almost been forgotten in the West, so this work is timely. Chang calls it ‘the Forgotten Holocaust’, which connected the slaughter of millions of innocents during World War II in Europe and Asia.”



On December 13, 2001, the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall and other organizations held an exhibition in St Mary’s Cathedral, San Francisco: “Never Forget: Historical Exhibits of the Nanjing Massacre Atrocities” and a ceremony of prayer for peace. (Left: Exhibition; Right: Prayer for peace)

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### Letter from city resident:

#### “Carve the blood-stained history in the land of Nanjing”

Wang Mei (young cadre in publicity work, living at 16, Wutaishan, Nanjing) wrote in her letter in August 1982:

This year is the 45th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre. As the saying goes, one learns from past experience. To commemorate the 300,000 victims of the Nanjing Massacre, and to educate future generations, I hereby recommend that the Municipal Government build “a monument to the victims of the Nanjing Massacre”, and carve the blood-stained history in the land of Nanjing. This will help both the Chinese and the Japanese to remember the lessons of history, and to prevent the resurrection of Japanese militarism. This will benefit Sino-Japanese friendship for many generations to come.

## National Remembrance

### GUIDE TO YOUR READING

At 10 am, December 13, 2014, the ceremony of the first National Remembrance Day was held at the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall. Xi Jinping, Secretary-General of the CPC Central Committee, President, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, addressed the ceremony.

National Remembrance Day is a national day designated in remembrance of major national disasters and events. After World War II, the major war participants introduced a national day of mourning in their countries, in remembrance of the victims who died in war, and to enhance the memories of the contemporary generation for the history of national war disasters and peace-cherishing emotions.

### International Practices

Around the globe, many countries, such as Poland, Germany, United Kingdom and Italy, appoint



Homepage of the National Remembrance Website



January 27 as a national day of mourning, to honor the victims of the Nazi Holocaust of World War II. Countries like Russia designated the day after German surrender as Victory Day, to mourn the victims of war, and to celebrate the victory of the anti-fascist war. In 2005, the 60th session of the UN General Assembly decided on January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Therefore, a National Remembrance Day is in line with international practices.

### People's Will

As the venue of the Japanese massacre, people in Nanjing showed full support for the decision of national remembrance day. On March 3, 2005, some CPPCC members submitted a proposal that a National Remembrance Day be set for December 13 and memorial events held at the ruins of the Nanjing Massacre, to be attended by heads of state, organizations from all walks of life and international friends, that foreign dignitaries be invited, and that the day be designated "in legal or institutional form, so that the world will never forget, and that people bear it in mind forever." The submission of the proposal was widely recognized by the society, and netizens expressed their support. It can be said, then, that National Remembrance Day reflected public will.

### Solidifying History

National Remembrance Day is to pay tribute to the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, as well as to all the compatriots killed during the War of Resistance Against Japan. Holding national remembrance events on December 13, the day when the Nanjing Massacre began, means the confirmation of the basic historical facts of the Massacre. The Japanese army began slaughter on December 13, 1937, which lasted for more than 40 days and created the world-shocking Nanjing Massacre, killing more than 300,000 people.

Holding a National Remembrance to the victims of the Nanjing Massacre is to redefine the history of the Massacre in legal form, and to confirm that the Massacre is inhuman fascist atrocities in human history of civilization. This practice is, once again, to solidify the historical facts of the Massacre, to expose the war crimes of the Japanese aggression, and to remember the suffering brought to the Chinese. This crystalizes the resolve of the Chinese to oppose aggression, defend human dignity, and keep world peace.

### Call for Peace

Secretary-General Xi Jinping stressed that the ceremony is a call for peace in the mind of every peace-loving individual. Peace is warm like sunshine and moisturizes like sweet raindrops. With the sunshine and raindrops, every creature will certainly grow; with peace and stability, mankind will better realize its dreams. Peace, not war, and cooperation, not conflict, are an eternal theme



National Remembrance Ceremony

for social progress.

At the memorial ceremony, Secretary – General Xi Jinping unveiled a National Remembrance tripod, 1.65 m high and 2,014 kg. 77 middle and high school students recited in unison the Peace Declaration, issuing a strong call for peace.

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### Poland: Auschwitz Liberation Day

On January 27, 2005, in remembrance of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, thousands of people, including German President Horst Koehler and the leaders of 43 countries, and concentration camp survivors attended the memorial events, and it was decided that events be held on January 27 in remembrance of the liberation of Auschwitz.

### Germany: Holocaust Victims Memorial Day

In 1995, Germany passed a law to set January 27 as Holocaust Victims Remembrance Day. On January 27, 2014, the German presidency, Prime Minister's Office, ministries and agencies raised the flags at half – mast. The German parliament mourned the victims killed by the Nazis, and German

President Joachim Gauck and Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the ceremony.

### **Singapore: Total Defense Day**

On February 15, 1967, Singapore erected the Monument to the Victims During the Japanese Occupation, and decided on February 15 as Total Defense Day in remembrance of the compatriots who lost their lives during the occupation and to remind the young generation to remember the tragic history in Japan's reign, to understand the value of freedom and peace, and to recognize the importance of total defense.

### **United States: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

On December 7, 2011, at the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of Pearl Harbor Incident, United States President Barack Obama declared December 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to emphasize the necessity not to forget national humiliation and the necessity to commemorate the dead and wounded soldiers.

### **Russia: Victory Day**

The Soviet Union appointed May 9 as the day after German surrender Victory Day, to celebrate the great victory of the anti-fascist war, and it is now Russia's statutory holiday. Every year on this day, a grand rally and military parade is held in Moscow, and State leaders pay tribute by offering wreaths.

## “The Peace Declaration”

“The Peace Declaration” was written by poet Feng Yitong in *Book of Poetry* style. The core idea is embodied in these lines: “The great way means that the world belongs to the people; the greatest virtue is life and harmony invites propitiousness.” “The great way means that the world belongs to the people” comes from the *Book of Rites*, and expresses the ideal of a unified world and world peace since ancient ages. “The greatest virtue is life” comes from the *Book of Change*, and expresses the Confucian notion that the greatest virtue in the world is to protect lives, and this is the most appropriate call for peace when it is used at a National Remembrance ceremony. “Harmony invites propitiousness” was created by the poet himself, and means that harmony is precious, that only peace brings propitiousness and happiness, and that peace is a theme of the age.

All that “The Peace Declaration” expresses is to pray for mankind, to stay from war, and to yearn for life.

## National Remembrance Tripod

The National Remembrance tripod has on its head a 160-character inscription, in simplified Chinese Wei font. The inscription describes the disasters inflicted on the Chinese nation by the Nanjing Massacre and radiates the anger and condemnation of the Chinese and the mourning of the compatriot victims. It records the history in which the Massacre



National Remembrance Tripod

inspired nationwide resistance against Japanese aggression to win the ultimate victory, and expresses the will to remember history, to warn of the future, to keep peace and to realize the Chinese dream. The inscription is written in *pian* prose, noted for its rhyming schemes and deep connotations, and for its magnificence, which agrees with the tripod, reflects the richness of history and culture, and enhances the appeal of national remembrance.