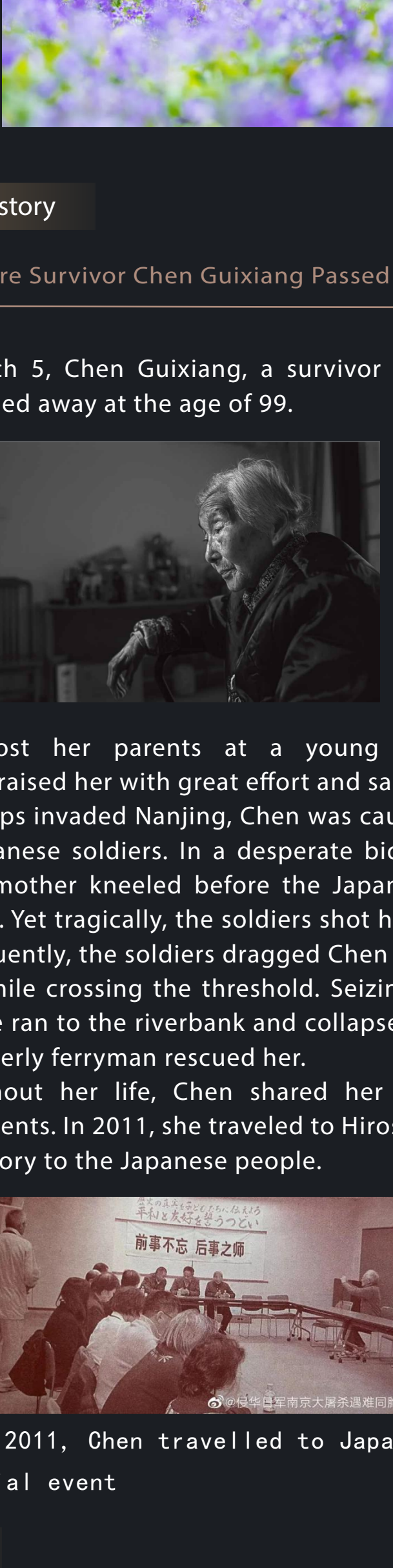




Headlines

Flower of Peace, Zijin Grass in Full Bloom

In many places of Nanjing, Zijin Grass is in full bloom, a powerful expression of the vitality of life and the springtime. Along the road through the Peace Park of the Memorial Hall, these gorgeous flowers have attracted numerous visitors.



Witnesses to History

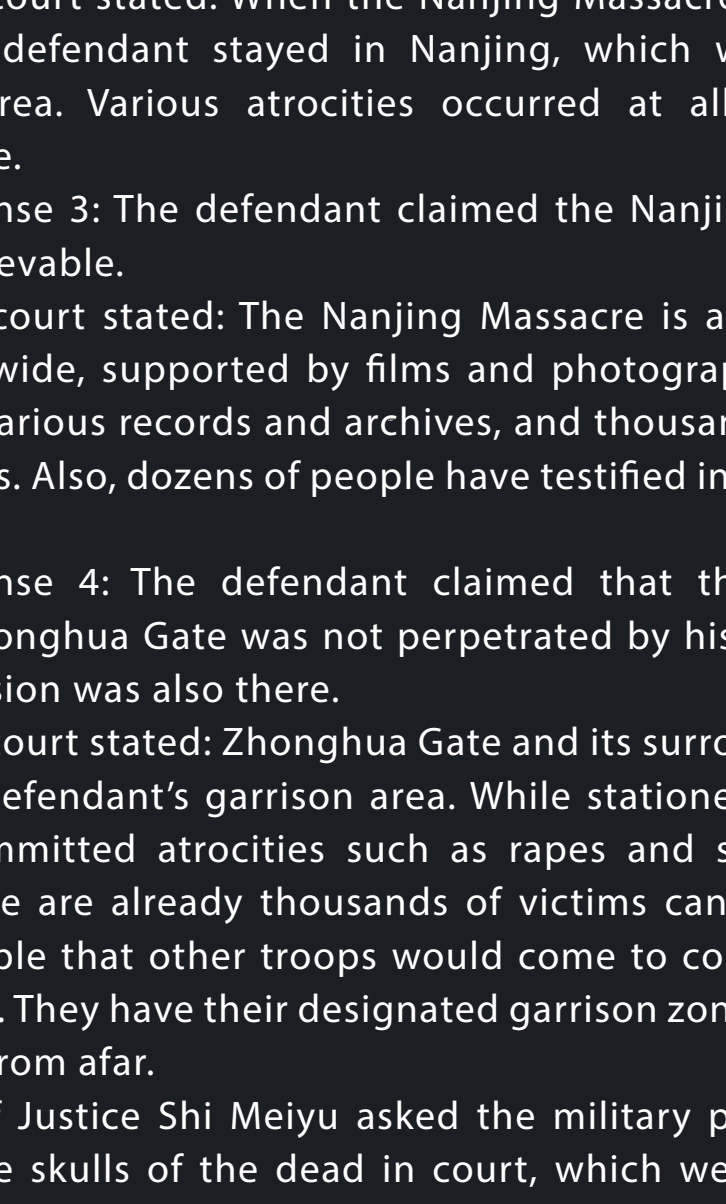
Nanjing Massacre Survivor Chen Guixiang Passed Away

On March 5, Chen Guixiang, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre, passed away at the age of 99.



Chen lost her parents at a young age, and her grandmother raised her with great effort and sacrifice. After the Japanese troops invaded Nanjing, Chen was caught and almost raped by Japanese soldiers. In a desperate bid to rescue her, Chen's grandmother knelt before the Japanese soldiers to beg for mercy. Yet tragically, the soldiers shot her grandmother dead. Subsequently, the soldiers dragged Chen into a room but tripped up while crossing the threshold. Seizing the moment, Chen fled. She ran to the riverbank and collapsed on the shore. Luckily, an elderly ferryman rescued her.

Throughout her life, Chen shared her experiences at testimonial events. In 2011, she traveled to Hiroshima, Japan, to recount her story to the Japanese people.

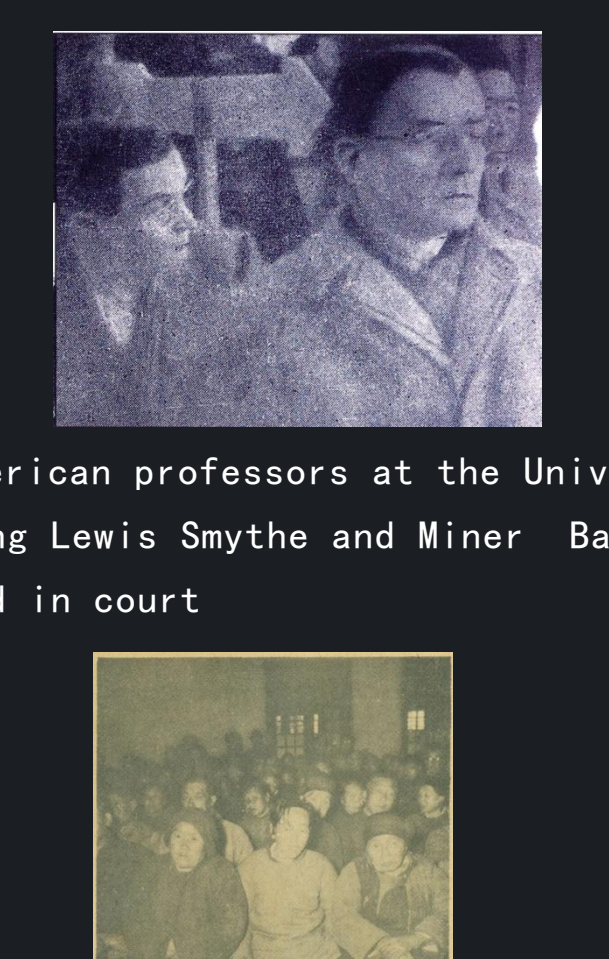


△In 2011, Chen travelled to Japan for a testimonial event

Warning Calls

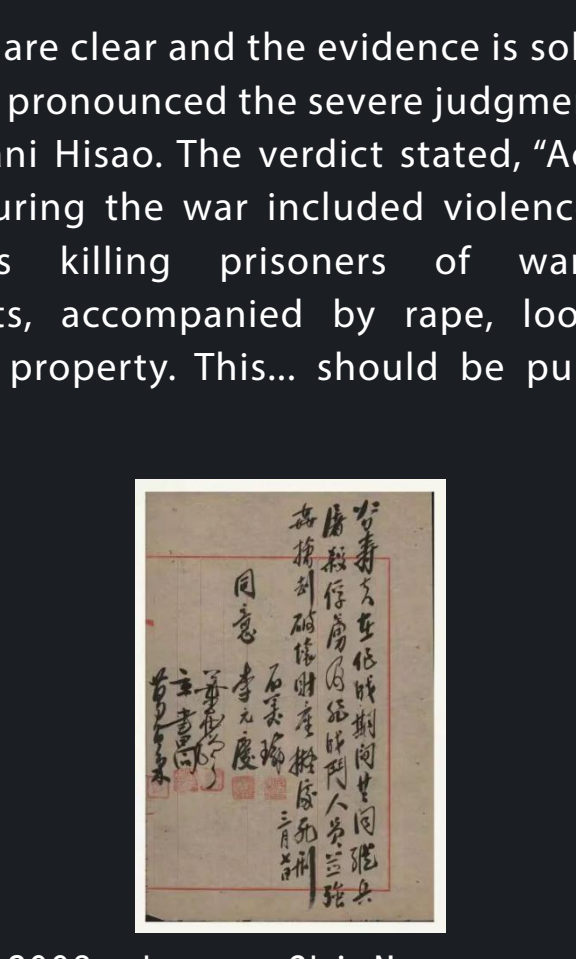
The Trial of Tani Hisao: A Fight Inside and Outside the Courtroom

On March 10, 1947, Tani Hisao, a chief culprit of the Nanjing Massacre, was sentenced to death by the Military Tribunal of the Ministry of National Defense for War Crimes (also known as the Nanjing War Crimes Tribunal).



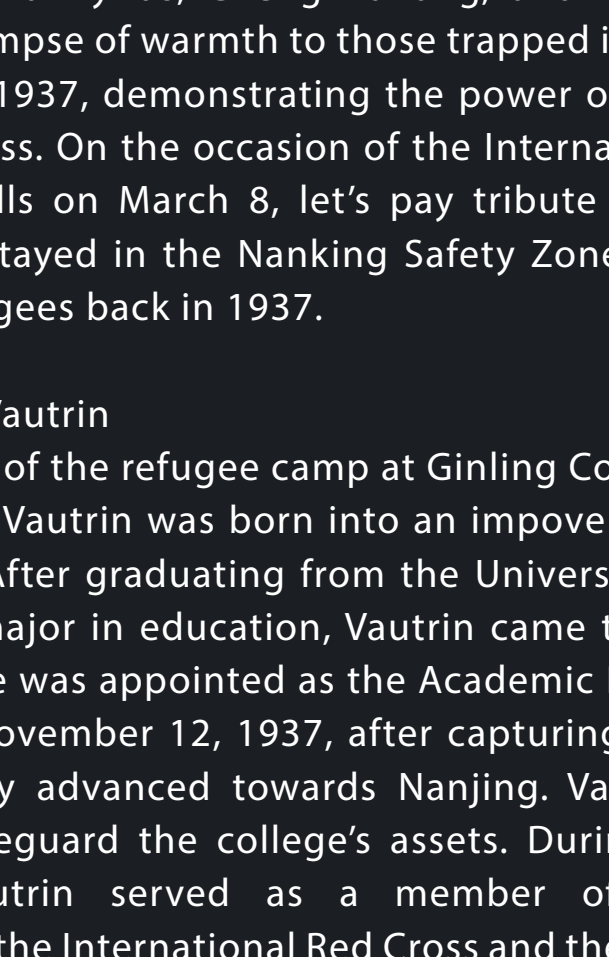
△Tani Hisao was to be tried in court

Tani Hisao, commander of the Japanese Army's Sixth Division in Nanjing, led his troops to invade Nanjing and commit atrocities that shocked China and the whole world. On October 3, 1946, Tani Hisao was extradited to Nanjing.



△Tani Hisao was transported to Nanjing

On February 6, 1947, the Nanjing War Crimes Tribunal began a three-day public trial of war criminal Tani Hisao at the Lizhishe Auditorium, located at No. 307, Zhongshan East Road, Nanjing.



△Nanjing citizens gathered outside the Lizhishe Auditorium to track the progress of the trial

During the trial, Tani Hisao continued to deny and deflect blame for the crimes he and his troops had committed in Nanjing. The prosecution's indictment refuted his crafty defenses:

Defense 1: The troops didn't commit a similar massacre in other places.

The court stated: This could not prove that no massacre occurred in Nanjing. Moreover, the defendant's troops had already plundered civilian property and slaughtered Chinese people in Baoding before invading Nanjing.

Defense 2: The troops knew and heard of nothing about the Nanjing Massacre.

The court stated: When the Nanjing Massacre reached its peak, the defendant stayed in Nanjing, which was also his garrison area. Various atrocities occurred at all times and everywhere.

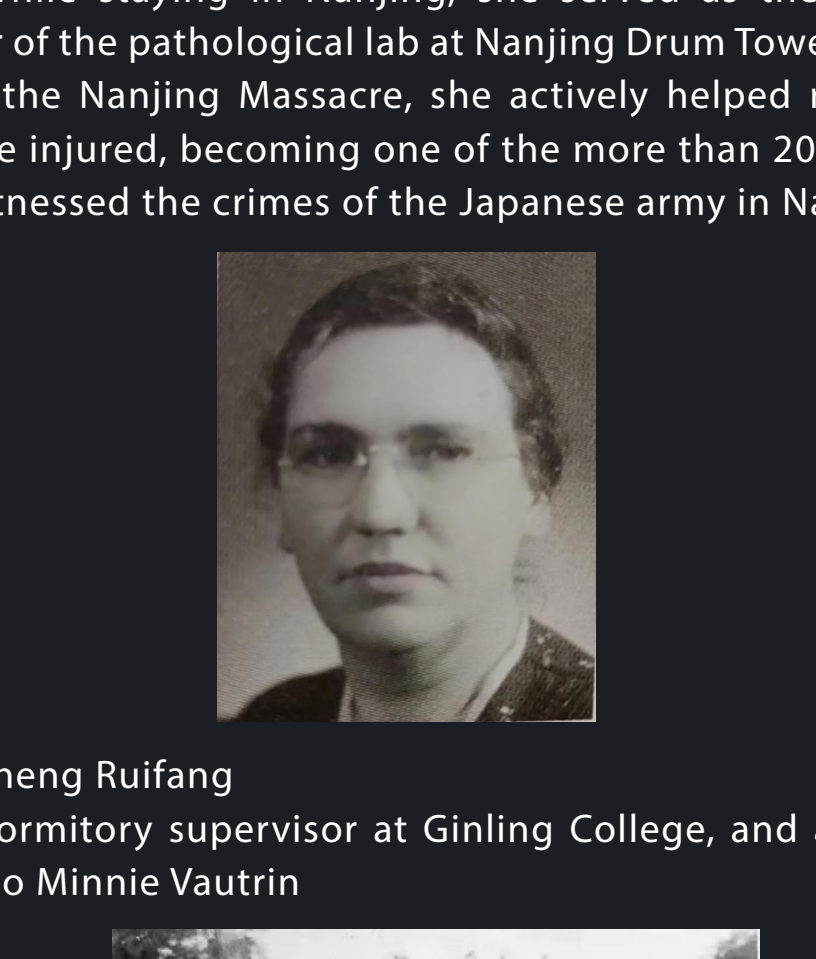
Defense 3: The defendant claimed the Nanjing Massacre was unbelievable.

The court stated: The Nanjing Massacre is a well-known fact worldwide, supported by films and photographs taken at the time, various records and archives, and thousands of sworn testimonies. Also, dozens of people have testified in court about it.

Defense 4: The defendant claimed that the slaughter around Zhonghua Gate was not perpetrated by his troops. The 114th Division was also there.

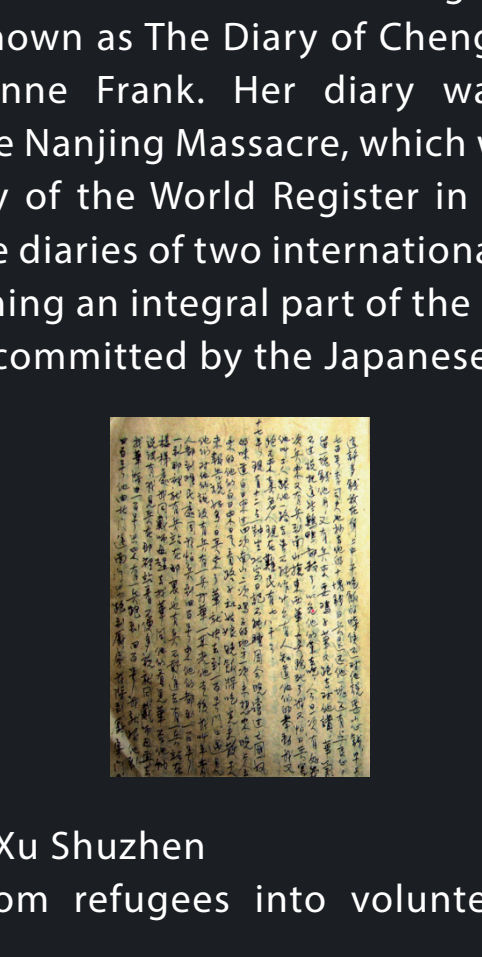
The court stated: Zhonghua Gate and its surrounding area were the defendant's garrison area. While stationed there, the troops committed atrocities such as rapes and slaughter, to which there are already thousands of victims can testify. It is unreasonable that other troops would come to commit crimes in this area. They have their designated garrison zone and would not do so from afar.

Chief Justice Shi Meiyu asked the military policemen to present the skulls of the dead in court, which were exhumed from the graveyard outside Zhonghua Gate. Forensic doctor Pan Yingcai read reports on the skulls, which affirmed the fact that those buried by the Red Swastika Society and the soldiers and civilians killed outside Zhonghua Gate were mostly shot to death and wounded by iron objects.



△The judges, including Shi Meiyu (second from right), presented the skulls of the dead in court while interrogating Tani Hisao

During the trial, Xu Chuanyin, vice chairman of the Red Swastika Society testified. The prosecution also called on foreigners who stayed in Nanjing during the Nanjing Massacre to testify. Among them were American professors at the University of Nanking Lewis Smythe and Miner Bates. From February 7 to 8, the prosecution called more witnesses to argue with the accused, with over 80 Nanjing citizens appearing in court to expose Tani Hisao's crimes.



△American professors at the University of Nanking Lewis Smythe and Miner Bates testified in court



△The plaintiff and families of the victims

△An octogenarian appeared in court to denounce the atrocities committed by the Japanese army

The facts are clear and the evidence is solid. On March 10, 1947, the court pronounced the severe judgment for the case of war criminal Tani Hisao. The verdict stated, "Acts of cruelty by the accused during the war included violence encompassing such acts as killing prisoners of war and civilian non-combatants, accompanied by rape, looting, theft and destruction of property. This... should be punished with the death penalty."

△In 2003, lawyer Shi Nanyang, son of Shi Meiyu, donated the draft of the court judgment against Tani Hisao to the Memorial Hall

Memory

The Power of Women at the Coldest Moment

Wars usually drive women away, yet some women, both Chinese and foreign, bravely came forward to save and help the refugees during the Nanjing Massacre. Among them were Minnie Vautrin (whose Chinese name is Hua Qun), Mary Twinem, Grace Bauer, Iva Hynds, Cheng Ruifang, and Xu Shude. They provided a glimpse of warmth to those trapped in the living hell of Nanjing in 1937, demonstrating the power of women in the face of darkness. On the occasion of the International Women's Day, which falls on March 8, let's pay tribute to these brave women who stayed in the Nanking Safety Zone to rescue and assist the refugees back in 1937.

Minnie Vautrin

Director of the refugee camp at Ginling College

In 1886, Vautrin was born into an impoverished family in Illinois, USA. After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1912 with a major in education, Vautrin came to China. Seven years later, she was appointed as the Academic Dean of Ginling College. On November 12, 1937, after capturing Shanghai, the Japanese army advanced towards Nanjing. Vautrin remained behind to safeguard the college's assets. During the Nanjing Massacre, Vautrin served as a member of the Nanjing Committee of the International Red Cross and the director of the refugee camp at Ginling College. The college, designated as a refugee camp for women and children, became a target for the Japanese soldiers. Thanks to Vautrin's protection, the level of sexual violence there was significantly less than in other areas of Nanjing.

△A group photo of Minnie Vautrin (fourth from left, front row) and some other staff members of the refugee camp at Ginling College

Mary Twinem

An assistant to Vautrin. Became a Chinese citizen

△A group photo of Minnie Vautrin (first from left), Mary Twinem (first from right), and some other staff members of the porridge stand at Ginling College, established by the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone and the International Red Cross Nanjing Branch. (photo courtesy of Divinity School Library in Yale University)

Mary Twinem taught at the University of Nanking, known in Chinese as Jinling University, for a long time, and eventually became a Chinese citizen. In December 1937, she became a member of the Red Swastika Society Nanjing Branch. She helped repel the Japanese soldiers who harassed women at the Ginling College refugee camp.

Iva Hynds

The only foreign nurse who stayed behind at Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital

Following the fall of Nanjing in 1937, most hospitals in the city were withdrawn to the rear, and Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital became the only one that remained open to the refugees. As the war situation worsened, only 14 Chinese female nurses, one American female nurse, three Chinese doctors, and two American doctors stayed behind. The American nurse was Iva Hynds.

Born in 1872, Hynds graduated from a nursing school in St. Paul. She came to China in 1912 and became a nurse at Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital in 1924. Despite the significant risks, Hynds remained highly devoted to her work, especially when new infants were brought into the world at the hospital.



Grace Bauer

American director of the pathological lab at Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital

Grace Bauer was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1896. She came to China in October 1919 and returned to her country in 1941. While staying in Nanjing, she served as the American director of the pathological lab at Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital. During the Nanjing Massacre, she actively helped rescue and treat the injured, becoming one of the more than 20 foreigners who witnessed the crimes of the Japanese army in Nanjing.



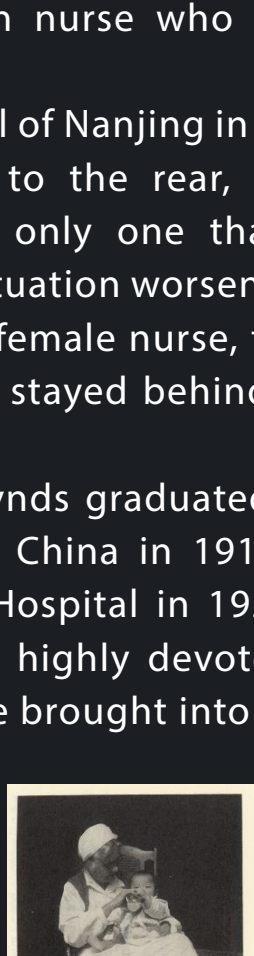
Cheng Ruifang

Dormitory supervisor at Ginling College, and a powerful helper to Minnie Vautrin



△Members of the three-person emergency committee at Ginling College. From left to right: Chen Feiran, Minnie Vautrin, Cheng Ruifang

In 1875, Cheng Ruifang was born in Wuchang, Hubei Province, China. Cheng graduated from a local nursing school. In 1924, Cheng started working as the dormitory supervisor at Ginling College. When the Japanese army invaded Nanjing in 1937, she was already 62 years old. During the Nanjing Massacre, Cheng served as a member of the three-person emergency committee at the college. She became the most important assistant to Vautrin, helping with the acceptance and protection of women and children. Cheng wrote what she saw into her diary, known as The Diary of Cheng Ruifang, or China's The Diary of Anne Frank. Her diary was included in the Documents of the Nanjing Massacre, which was inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2015. Cheng's diary complements the diaries of two international friends, John Rabe and Vautrin, forming an integral part of the irrefutable evidence of the atrocities committed by the Japanese army.



Xu Shude, Xu Shuzhen

Turning from refugees into volunteers to serve other refugees

Xu Shude was Xu Shuzhen's elder sister. After the Japanese army seized Nanjing, they came to a refugee camp. On the second day of their arrival, they applied to become volunteers, providing medical and healthcare services for the refugees there. Their father was a practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine, and Xu Shude had previously worked as a nurse at a hospital.

