



Headlines

Qingming Festival: A Memorial That Must Not Be Missed

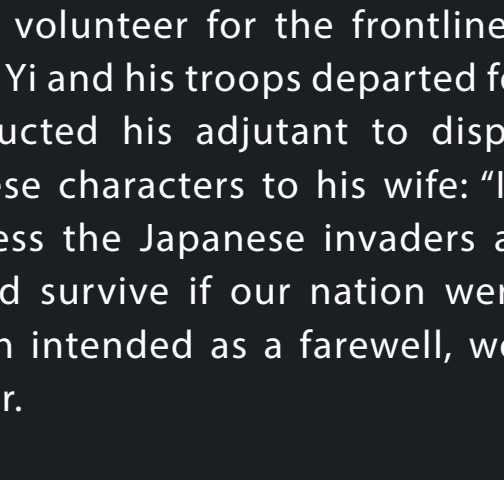
On April 3, a light rain fell in Nanjing, marking the day before Qingming Festival, also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day, a traditional Chinese festival where people pay tribute to the dead and honor their ancestors. The Memorial Hall held a Tomb-Sweeping Memorial ceremony in memory of the victims of the Nanjing Massacre in front of the Wall of Tears. More than 60 people attended the ceremony, looking solemn and sorrowful during the event. Among them were Nanjing Massacre survivors, relatives of victims of the Nanjing Massacre, advocates of peace and friendship from Japan, and student representatives, both Chinese and foreign.



Japanese advocate Matsuoka Tamaki, who has dedicated herself to spreading awareness of the massacre in Japan since 1988, delivered a poignant speech at the ceremony. She emphasized that the mistakes of past wars and atrocities of the Nanjing Massacre must never be repeated, highlighting that it is imperative to continually educate more people about this tragic history of the Nanjing Massacre and the global desire for peace.



Young people today are increasingly taking on the responsibility of preserving historical memories. International students from countries like Bangladesh, Iran, Yemen, and Afghanistan had face-to-face exchanges with their Chinese counterparts. Despite their different nationalities, their feelings about this history resonate.

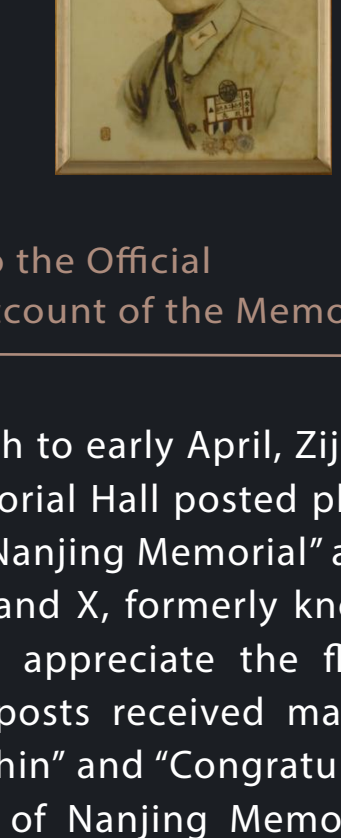


Memory Inheritance

The Last Letter Home

April 2 marked the birthday of Yi Anhua, a Chinese officer who stayed behind to defend the city of Nanjing during the Battle of Nanking. Revisiting the last letter he wrote to his wife, one cannot help but be moved to tears.

On July 7, 1937, the Lugou Bridge Incident occurred, prompting Yi to volunteer for the frontlines. On the night of August 10, 1937, Yi and his troops departed for Shanghai. Before leaving, Yi instructed his adjutant to dispatch a letter with merely 20 Chinese characters to his wife: "I swear I will never return alive unless the Japanese invaders are annihilated. No household would survive if our nation were conquered." This message, though intended as a farewell, would indeed be his final words to her.

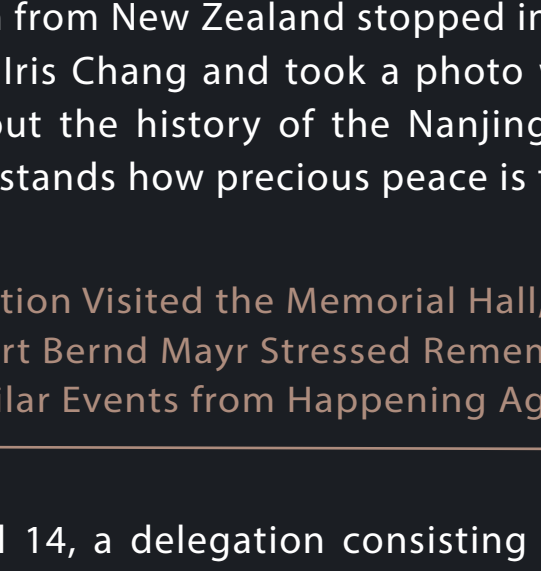


In November 1937, Shanghai fell. Chinese troops defending the city retreated to Nanjing. The next month, the Battle of Nanking began. Yi was ordered to guard Guanghua Gate and Tongji Gate. On December 12, the Yuhuatai on the right wing was lost, and the Zhongshan Gate position on the left wing was also breached by the Japanese army. This meant that the Chinese troops at Guanghua Gate were surrounded from three sides. During the fierce combat, Yi sustained injuries to his head and right arm. Noticing the severity of his wounds, his subordinates tried several times to evacuate him from the battlefield. With unwavering resolve, he declared, "I am a Chinese soldier. I will never live in vain and betray my country and my people. I swear to live and die with my men and live and die with the position." In the final charge, Yi was hit by five bullets and fell from the city walls into the moat below. He heroically sacrificed his life at the young age of 37.



Please Stayed Tuned to the Official "Nanjing Memorial" Account of the Memorial Hall

From mid-March to early April, Zijin Grass is in full bloom in Nanjing. The Memorial Hall posted photos of blooming Zijin Grass via its official "Nanjing Memorial" account on social media platforms Facebook and X, formerly known as Twitter, inviting foreigner visitors to appreciate the flower of peace at the Memorial Hall. The posts received many comments, such as "Greeting to Sister Chin" and "Congratulations again and again to the arrangement of Nanjing Memorial". Please follow our official "Nanjing Memorial" account on both platforms. You will receive the latest updates on what's happening inside the Memorial Hall.



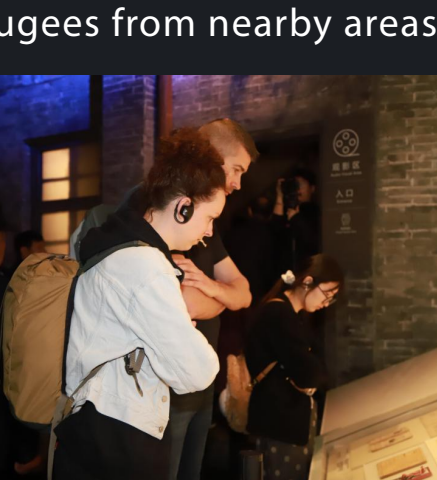
Visitors' Reflections

"Hope more people worldwide would visit the Memorial Hall"

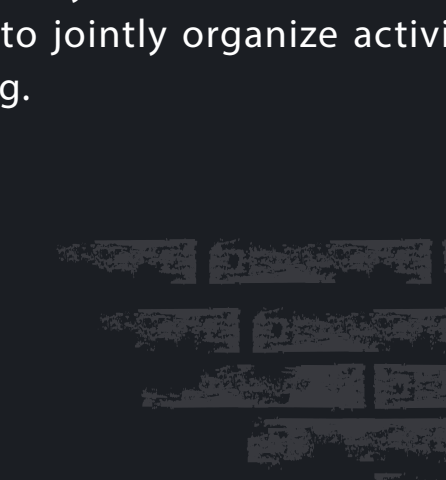
On the morning of April 6, Dr. Volker Stanzel, former German Ambassador to China, visited the Memorial Hall. He paused before the "Wall of Peace" for a long time. He said the sight filled him with sadness and depression, and expressed a fervent hope that more people worldwide would make the journey to this site in the future.



Andrea, an engineer from Italy, had already heard of the Nanjing Massacre, a series of grievous atrocities throughout human history, before his visit to the Memorial Hall. Seeing the statues there made him feel very sad. He added that the Memorial Hall is a very meaningful place where he truly felt the history and the cruelty of war.



Norman from New Zealand stopped in front of the bronze statue of Ms. Iris Chang and took a photo with it. Having read her book about the history of the Nanjing Massacre, Norman said he understands how precious peace is to everyone.



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