



Global Call for Historical Documents on the Nanjing Massacre

To further locate, recover, and preserve historical documents relating to the Nanjing Massacre, and to advance historical research and international communication, the Nanjing Massacre Documents Research and Communication Center of the Memorial Hall of the Nanjing Massacre Victims is now inviting contributions of relevant documentary materials from around the world.

Scope of Collection: The Center welcomes paper-based and digital materials related to the Nanjing Massacre and the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, including archival records, books, newspapers and periodicals, academic papers, correspondence, manuscripts, memoirs, audiovisual materials, and other documentary resources. Priority will be given to original archival materials and documents relating to the "Sex Slaves" issue, the Battle of Nanking, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo Trial) and the Nanjing War Crimes Tribunal (Nanjing Trial), materials related to memorial education, research, and public communication, as well as historical materials concerning the War of Resistance in Jiangsu Province and Nanjing. Unpublished archives, privately held collections, and overseas materials are especially encouraged.

Methods of Contribution: Donation of original materials (a certificate of donation will be issued); digital reproduction (materials will be scanned or copied and the originals promptly returned); acquisition with compensation (subject to professional evaluation and mutual agreement). Materials may be submitted either by post or delivered in person. All related expenses will be covered by the Memorial Hall.

Mailing Address: Gate 6, No. 418 Shuiximen Street, Jianye District, Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China, 210017.

Collection Management: All collected materials will be used for academic research, exhibitions and educational programs, as well as the development of digital resources. The Memorial Hall will properly preserve and manage all collected materials in accordance with applicable laws while fully respecting the lawful rights and interests of donors. Donors will be invited to participate in relevant research projects and public programs. Individuals making particularly significant contributions will be awarded a Certificate of Special Contribution.

Collection Period: This call for contributions is open on a long-term basis.

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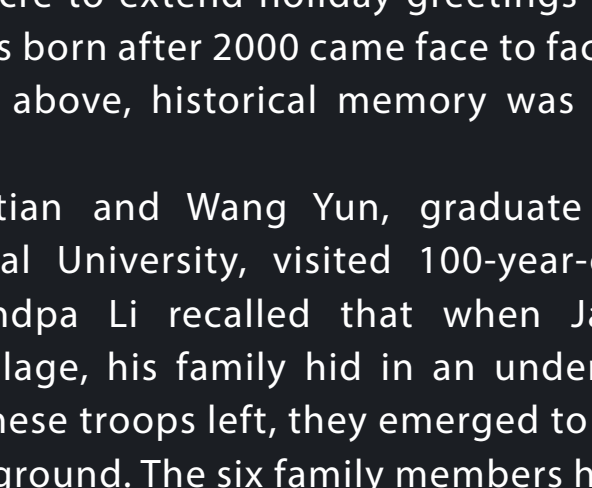
The "Battle for the Archives" During the Tokyo Trial

June 9 marks International Archives Day. As the "living witnesses to history", archival records play a decisive role in the prosecution of war crimes. Eighty years ago, a silent "battle for the archives" unfolded in Tokyo, Japan.

In the period immediately before and after Japan's surrender in 1945, the Japanese military launched a systematic campaign to destroy official records. Large quantities of confidential documents documenting the atrocities committed by Japanese forces were deliberately burned. By the time American forces officially entered Tokyo, more than three months had elapsed since the large-scale destruction of documents, leaving the Allied powers with only limited original materials. As a result, the evidence-gathering efforts of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo Trial) were, for a time, confronted with enormous difficulties.

Faced with Japan's deliberate destruction of evidence, the Chinese prosecution team fought a painstaking "battle for the archives" during the Tokyo Trial. After obtaining permission to enter the former Imperial Japanese Army archives, which had been sealed off, they conducted around-the-clock searches through the remaining files and ultimately uncovered a number of crucial documents. Ni Zhengyu, Chief Adviser to the Chinese prosecution, discovered the military directive Restrictions on Statements by Military Personnel Returning to Japan from China, which explicitly prohibited returning soldiers from discussing the atrocities committed in China. The document directly refuted the defense's claim that the Japanese military had maintained strict discipline and had never engaged in indiscriminate killings. Meanwhile, Gao Wenbin, a translator of the Chinese team, came across the Tokyo Nichi Nichi Shimbun while reviewing newspaper collections. There he discovered the newspaper's notorious series of reports on the "Hundred-Man Killing Contest", which included photographs of Toshiaki Mukai and Tsuyoshi Noda posing with their swords, together with detailed accounts of the so-called "contest". These reports later became key evidence in the Nanjing Trial, leading to the execution of the two war criminals.

In addition to the surviving Japanese archives, the Chinese team also undertook an extensive search for diplomatic records from third parties, including reports filed by the United States Embassy on conditions in Nanking after the city's fall and top-secret telegrams and accompanying documents sent to Germany by the German Ambassador to China, Oskar Paul Trautmann. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that, although Germany was Japan's wartime ally, its diplomatic missions objectively documented the killings, arson, rape, and looting committed by Japanese troops in Nanking. These records, originating from different sources and different perspectives, corroborated the surviving Japanese documents and together formed an unbroken chain of evidence, providing indispensable evidentiary support for the historic judgments rendered by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

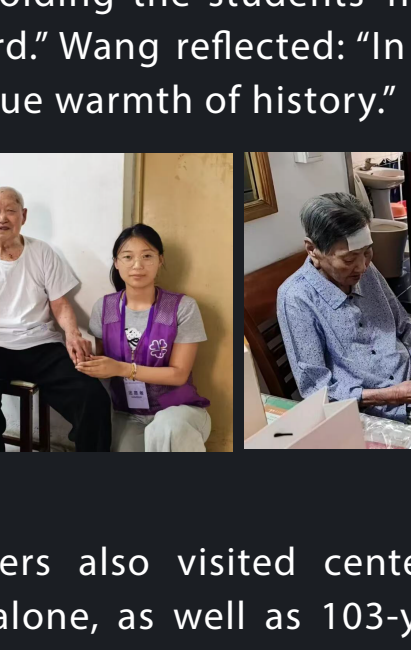


The Chinese Prosecution Team at the Tokyo Trial

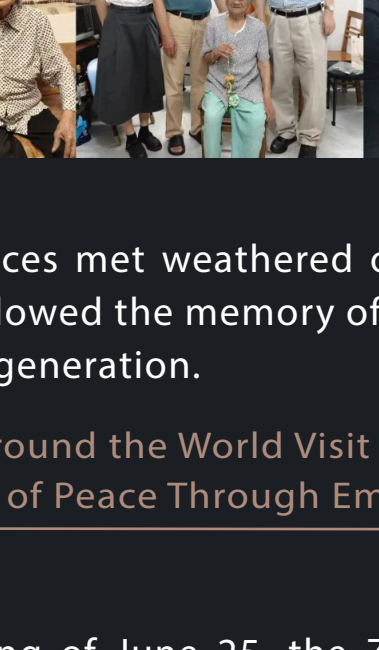
When the Post-2000 Generation Meets Centenarians Born in the 1900s...

Ahead of the Dragon Boat Festival, staff members of the Memorial Hall and the Association for Aiding Survivors of the Nanjing Atrocities by Japanese Invaders and Inheriting Historical Memory of the Nanjing Massacre (AASIMNM), together with university student volunteers from Nanjing and representatives of caring enterprises, visited survivors of the Nanjing Massacre to extend holiday greetings and support. As young students born after 2000 came face to face with survivors aged 100 and above, historical memory was passed on with warmth.

Pei Tiantian and Wang Yun, graduate students from Nanjing Normal University, visited 100-year-old Grandpa Li Changfu. Grandpa Li recalled that when Japanese troops entered his village, his family hid in an underground shelter. After the Japanese troops left, they emerged to find their house burned to the ground. The six family members held one another and wept. Before the students left, he urged them: "Study hard and cherish peace."



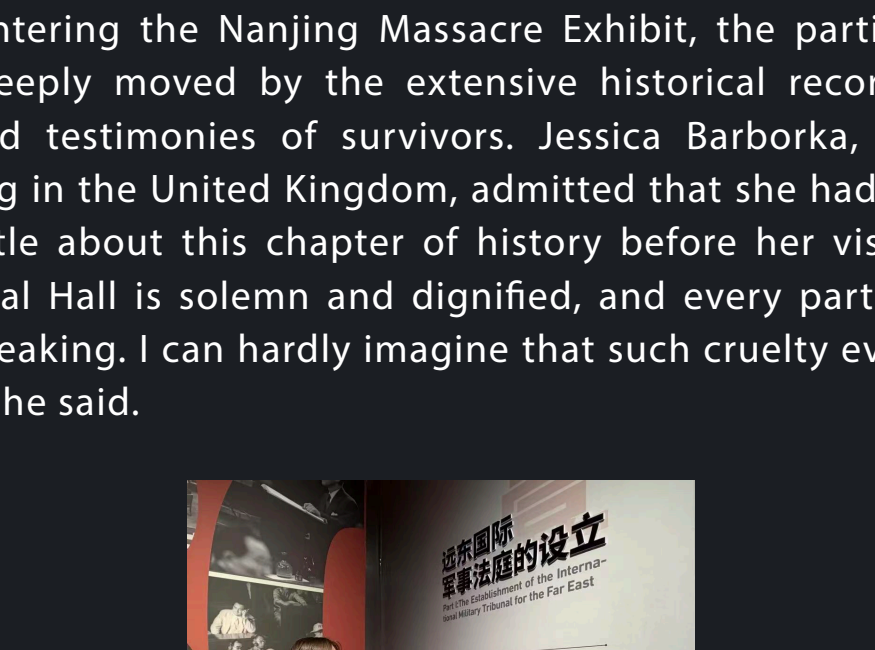
Yuan Zhixuan and Zhang Xiaonan visited Grandpa Gong Denian, who had once served as a school principal. Nearly 100 years old, Grandpa Gong keeps a copy of Qiushi Journal by his bedside. He encouraged the university student volunteers to become good teachers. Yuan said: "From Grandpa Gong, I saw the unyielding spirit of the Chinese people. We must move forward with memory."



Wang Zihui and Xu Ke visited 102-year-old Grandpa Cen Honggui and Grandma Huang Guilan, who is of the same age. Grandma Huang had suffered a fall some time ago. After the Memorial Hall helped contact a family doctor, her health has since improved. Holding the students' hands, she said: "Study hard and work hard." Wang reflected: "In meeting witnesses to history, I felt the true warmth of history."



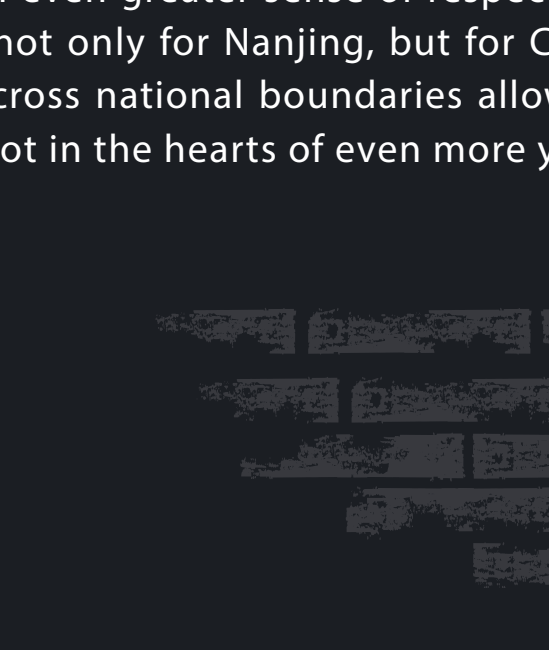
Staff members also visited centenarian Grandma Wei Guiru, who lives alone, as well as 103-year-old Grandma Xue Yujuan, 97-year-old Grandma Xia Shuqin, and 92-year-old Grandma Fang Suxia. Cao Yuli and Qian Yi, Vice Presidents of the Association, tied traditional blessing knots for the Dragon Boat Festival for the elderly and presented them with gifts. Grandma Xia thanked them repeatedly, while Grandma Xue smiled like a little girl.



As youthful faces met weathered ones, the warmth that transcended time allowed the memory of history to take root in the hearts of a new generation.

Young People from Around the World Visit the Memorial Hall and Share a Message of Peace Through Empathy

On the morning of June 25, the Zijin Cao International Peace School hosted a themed educational program at the Memorial Hall. A group of young people from around the world visited the Memorial Hall, immersing themselves in history and deepening their appreciation of peace through empathy that transcended national boundaries.



The participants first laid flowers before the statue of Iris Chang, author of *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*, in tribute to the Chinese American writer who brought the truth of the Nanjing Massacre to the attention of the Western world. Then, 12 youth representatives rang the Bell of Peace, honoring the deceased and expressing the shared commitment to remember history and cherish peace.



Entering the Nanjing Massacre Exhibit, the participants were deeply moved by the extensive historical records and firsthand testimonies of survivors. Jessica Barborka, who is studying in the United Kingdom, admitted that she had known very little about this chapter of history before her visit. "The Memorial Hall is solemn and dignified, and every part of it is heartbreaking. I can hardly imagine that such cruelty ever took place," she said.

Katie Bolland-Munro, who is pursuing a master's degree in illustration, said that as a portrait artist she naturally empathizes with the stories of ordinary people. "Looking into the faces of the victims and listening to their real experiences, I felt the immense suffering they endured as well as the resilience of the survivors. I will certainly share what I have learned when I return home."

Yasmin, from Indonesia, said the visit had given her a much deeper understanding of Nanjing. Katie added, "This visit has given me an even greater sense of respect, understanding, and empathy—not only for Nanjing, but for China as a whole." This dialogue across national boundaries allowed the seeds of peace to take root in the hearts of even more young people.

