

FINAL

NANKING NEWS

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WEATHER: Sunny, windy, mild

THE MASSACRE OF NANKING

PREFACE

(By Ryan Xia)

I should begin by saying that this book is about the Massacre of Nanjing. Though we tend not to teach it in school here in the United States, you probably have an idea of what it was, and what happened. The question is why am I talking about it, and why now?

As you probably know, history has seen its fair share of tragedies, massacres, and genocides, and many have been criticized, recognized, and remembered to the extent that they deserve. However, many haven't.

The Massacre of Nanjing, the Uighur crisis, the Cultural Revolution, the Great Leap, etc. China has a history of tragedies that are often not talked about nor recognized. This series of books seeks only to talk about them as events in ways that the Chinese or Japanese government have refused to.

This book, specifically, talks about the Nanjing Massacre and the intricate relationship it has created between Chinese and Japanese people. I hope that, after reading it, you will get a good idea of what happened and what it was like for those that experienced it and for those that continue to be affected by it now.

NUNAI

'Truly Chinks'

Story on Page 7

'Chasti



JAPS TAKE SHANGHAI

(By Fujiwara Akira)

In August 1937, naval marine units took the war to Shanghai on the pretext of protecting Japanese civilians against popular Chinese unrest. Army hawks dismissed opposition from more cautious elements such as Ishiwara Kanji, and boldly extended the scope of operations from northern to central

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'Chastise the Unruly Chinks'

Story on Page 6



Japs break peace: "Chastise the unruly Chinks"

By Fujiwara Akira and Ryan Xia

Despite a local truce shortly after the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, the Japanese have resolved to expand aggression and send troops into China to "Chastise the unruly Chinks".

Modern Japan's aggression against China began with the Meiji-Ch'ing or First Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95, and continued with the Twenty-one Demands of 1915, the Shantung Expeditions of 1927-28, and the Manchurian Incident of 1931-33. But an all-out war of aggression began with the 7 July 1937 armed clash at Marco Polo Bridge outside Peking. Culpability for turning that minor skirmish into an all-out war lay with Japan—primarily the imperial government and central army authorities. Although a local truce settled the affair on 11 July, Prime Minister Konoe Fumimaro's government expressed "grave resolve" in passing a cabinet resolution to send more troops on that same day.



Portrait of the Japanese Emperor Hirohito in Military Uniform

Japan's hard line created a sense of crisis in China. Chiang Kai-shek of the Kuomintang (KMT) regime or Nationalist government met with Chou Enlai of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on 17 July to discuss stepped-up efforts for a united front and Chiang made a speech on the need for resolve in resisting Japan. The Chinese people's will to resist heightened as two more armed clashes broke out in the north China tinderbox. By 27 July, reinforcements from Korea and Manchuria had arrived, as did naval air force units; and the Shōwa emperor or Hirohito, as he is known in the West, issued Army Chief of Staff Order 64.

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Marco Polo Bridge Incident Escalates

By Fujiwara Akira and Richard Cavendish

Japan flexed its muscles and launched a full-scale invasion of China following an incident on July 7th.

The Japanese drive to become a great power required the domination of China. They defeated the Chinese in war in the 1890s and took away Korea. They soon infiltrated Manchuria, which had rich reserves of coal and other minerals, and began to build up industry there. In 1931 they took over Manchuria altogether, before expanding south.

A key moment came in 1937. Under agreements going back to the beginning of the century countries with legations in China had the right to keep troops there in modest numbers for protection. Small numbers of both Japanese and Chinese soldiers were stationed near what in the West was called the Marco Polo Bridge, because the explorer had seen and described its predecessor, near the town of Wanping outside Beijing.

What happened that July night is not entirely clear, but the Japanese were carrying out training exercises without giving the customary notice and a few shots were exchanged between them and the startled Chinese troops. The Japanese discovered that one of their soldiers was missing, thought the Chinese might have captured him and demanded to be allowed to

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No Military Police in Japanese Armies

The SEA and the Tenth Army have no liaison staff or units trained in diplomacy; so relations with local Japanese diplomatic officials are sour.

Furthermore, Japanese forces are failing to uphold troop discipline and morality. There are few to no specialized military police units in the invading army. As an interview MP told us: "with less than 100 of us to control 200,000 men in several divisions, what can we do?"



Japanese infantry bombarding Wanping during the Marco Polo Bridge Incident

THE JAPANESE MANIFEST DESTINY

(By Iris Chang)

With their country suffering from overpopulation, Japanese writers point to the spacious territories of other countries, complaining about the injustice of it all, especially since these other countries were not making the most of their land by achieving the high per-acre yields that Japanese farmers had obtained. They looked enviously upon not only China's vast land resources but those of Western countries. Why, the military propagandist Araki Sadao asked, should Japan remain content with 142,270 square miles, much of it barren, to feed 60 million mouths, while countries like Australia and Canada had more than 3 million square miles to feed 6.5 million people each?

If expansion westward to the Pacific Ocean was the manifest destiny of the nineteenth-century United States, then China was

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Popular support for Expansionist actions in Japanese Army

Lieutenant Colonel Hashimoto Kingoro writes: "There are only three ways left to Japan ... emigration, advance into world markets, and expansion of territory. The first door, emigration, has been barred to us by foreign anti-Japanese immigration policies. The second door ... is being pushed shut by tariff barriers and commercial treaties. What should Japan do when two of the three doors have been closed against her?"

China. During the Japanese onslaught, the terrifying might of the Japanese Army was revealed. Apparently, Japan was far more superior in air power and number of combat troops and China was helpless at stopping the Japanese forces from occupying Shanghai. China had to brave hell and high waters to prevent the invasion of Japan on the capital.

China, despite its bold stand against Japan, was at the losing end. Japan had been making attempts into Chinese territory since 1932. The Chinese are no strangers to the military might of Japan. They tried to protect important industries by removing them from the capital and into the interior China. They aimed their defenses at Shanghai to buy time to move their industries and make allies of the Western powers.

Phases of the Battle

The Battle of Shanghai lasted for three months in three strategic areas in the city — downtown Shanghai, the towns surrounding the city, and the Jiangsu coast where the Japanese amphibians made their offensive landings.

The Chinese desperately relied on small caliber weapons against the heavy artillery fire power, air and naval might and armored defenses of Japan. The bravery, stubbornness and determination of China made it possible for the country to withstand three months defending Shanghai.

At the end of the battle, Shanghai fell and Japan gained control over the city. The best of its troops were defeated. However, the Japanese were surprised at the length of time that the Chinese troops were able to make a stand in the city. They expected a short battle and a swift victory given their military superiority. They did not expect to receive such a blow from China and even tried to grab victory using all means at their disposal even the "less honorable" actions. Their morale drastically fell over the heavy losses they incurred.

Japanese Manifest Destiny

twentieth-century Japan's manifest destiny. It was almost inevitable that this homogenous people of high personal esteem would see the socially fragmented and loosely governed expanse of China as having been put there for their use and exploitation. Nor were Japan's covetous intentions limited only to Asia. In 1925, just a short three years after Japan entered into a capital ship limitation treaty with the United States, Great Britain, France, and Italy that afforded it a distinctive role as the world's third largest naval power, Okawa Shumei, a national activist, wrote a book that insisted not only on Japan's destiny to "free" Asia but also on the inevitability of world war between Japan and the United States. In the concluding chapter of his book, he was more prophetic than he realized when he predicted a divine—almost apocalyptic—struggle between the two powers: "Before a new world appears, there must be a deadly fight between the powers of the West and the East. This theory is realized in the American challenge to Japan. The strongest country in Asia is Japan and the strongest country that represents Europe is America. . . . These two countries are destined to fight. Only God knows when it will be."

Japan Sends More Troops

By Fujiwara Akira

On 7 November, two days after the Tenth Army landed, it and the SEA combined to form a Central China Area Army (CCAA) under Matsui's overall command, with Prince Asaka Yasuhiko taking over the SEA.

At its height, this newly-formed CCAA numbered an estimated 160,000 to 200,000 men. The reorganization signified that Japanese forces were not just on an expedition to Shanghai, but would operate in a broader "central China area." Even so, the CCAA was still an impromptu amalgamation (hengō), not a formal battle formation (sentō joretsu), as reflected in its mission. Its orders read: "Destroy enemy forces in the Shanghai area, break their will to fight, and thereby bring an end to the conflict." Also, six of the CCAA's ten and a half divisions were "special divisions," weak in firepower, limited in maneuverability, and manned by second- or thirdpool reservists hastily assembled. They were not officers and men on the active list, in the fighting prime

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INVASION OF NANKING UNDERWAY WITH CHINESE RETREAT



After being stripped and raped by one or more men, she was bayoneted in the chest, and then had a bottle thrust into her vagina. Her whole family — including her one-year-old baby — was massacred.

By Fujiwara Akira

When the entire Chinese army began to retreat, the Japanese Forces ignored orders and gave chase westward toward Nanking. Eguchi Keiichi cites Chief of Staff Iinuma Mamoru's

diary to show that, as early as 18 August, SEA (Shanghai Expeditionary Army) commander Matsui Iwane already aspired to capture the enemy capital although central army leaders had no such plans, and even before the CCAA (Central China Area Army) came into being. Matsui, disgruntled by the narrow scope of SEA operations, had to be chastised: "orders for military operations are no different from imperial rescripts; it is impudent to criticize these." But later that same day Matsui openly declared: "We must resolve to order troops into action as needed based on our traditional spirit of 'instant engagement, instant victory' by shifting our main forces from northern China to Nanking. We can debate the issue of where best to deliver the knock-out blow, but right now we absolutely must make Nanking our main target."

Japanese troops advancing from Shanghai and their reinforcements

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THE RACE TO NANKING

By Iris Chang

The Japanese Strategy for Nanking was simple. The imperial army exploited the fact that the city was blocked by water in two directions.

The ancient capital lay south of a bend in the Yangtze River that first coursed northward and then turned to flow east. By converging upon Nanking in a semicircular front from the southeast, the Japanese could use the natural barrier of the river to complete the encirclement of the capital and cut off all escape. In late November, three parallel Japanese troops rushed toward Nanking. One force traveled west under the southern bank of the Yangtze River. Its troops poured into the Yangtze Delta, through the Paimou Inlet

northwest of Shanghai, and along the Nanking-Shanghai railway, where the Japanese air force had already blasted away most of the bridges. These troops were led by Nakajima Kesago, who had worked as a member of Japanese army intelligence in France and later as chief of the Japanese secret police for Emperor Hirohito. Not much has been written about Nakajima, but what has been written is overwhelmingly negative. David Bergamini, author of Japan's Imperial Conspiracy, called him a "small Himmler of a man, a specialist in thought control, intimidation and torture" and quoted others describing Nakajima as a sadist who packed for his journey to Nanking special oil for burning bodies.

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The Marco Polo Bridge Incident Brews further conflict

to search Wanping for him. The Chinese said they would do the searching themselves, with one Japanese officer accompanying them. Japanese infantry then tried to force their way into Wanping, but were driven back. Both sides sent more troops to the area and early in the morning of July 8th Japanese infantry and armoured vehicles attacked the bridge and took it, but were driven off again.

Attempts were made to settle things, but the incident gave Japanese hawks the excuse to mount a full-scale invasion of China.

Interview: Japanese Division Commander Nakajima



Commander Kesago Nakajima in Military Uniform

Nakajima - We see prisoners everywhere, so many that there is no way we can deal with them... the general policy is: "Accept no prisoners!" so we ended up having to take care of them lot, stock, and barrel. But they came in hordes, in units of thousands or five thousands; so we couldn't even disam them... Later I heard that the Sasaki Unit [The thirteenth brigade] alone disposed of about 1,500. A company commander guarding T'ai-ping Gate took care of another 1,300. Another 7,000 to 8,000 clustered at Hsienho Gate are still surrendering. We need a really huge ditch to handle those 7,000 to 8,000, but we can't find one, so someone suggested this plan: "Divide them up into groups of 100 to 200, and then lure them to some suitable spot for finishing off."

南京大屠杀

Translates to mean the Massacre of Nanking. However, a more literal translation would probably be the great slaughter or great butchering of Nanking. This is why Iris Chang refers to the event as the Rape of Nanking, as it reflects the brutality implied in the Chinese name given to the incident.

JAPS REACH NANKING BOMBS SET CITY ON FIRE

By Lloyd Lehrbas (Associated Press Foreign Staff)

Shanghai, Dec. 7 (Tuesday).—the vanguard of Japan's legion today reach the massive walls of nanking and prepared to lay siege to the capital from which the Government of China fled two weeks ago.

Japanese correspondents with the troops reported Nanking's easter suburbs, including the mausoleum of Sun Yet-sen, father of the Chinese Republic, and the mansion of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, already were in the invaders' hands. They predicted capture of the capital by tonight.

The \$3,000,000 tomb of Sun Yat-sen, one of the world's most impressive monuments, set on the slope of the famous Purple Mountain, has been considered the shrine of modern china.

Correspondents said fires were raging in Nanking, throwing up smoke columns that could be seen miles away. The United Press reported that seventeen Japanese bombing planes dropped tons of bombs on the Nanking waterfront Monday, setting numerous fires. Explosives fell not far from where the american gunboat Panay waited with full steam up to remove Americans from the capital.

A brief dispatch from within the city said the great gates were being closed and strengthened with sandbag barricades. The Chinese apparently were preparing for a stand within the city, with its thirty-two-long walls, from 30 to 50 feet high, the greatest in China.

Nothing was known of the whereabouts of Generalissimo Chiang, who had declared China's determination to resist to the last.

Japanese correspondents predicted capture of Nanking by tonight. A Japanese Army spokesman in Shanghai said fighting in Nanking streets was to be expected today.

The last stage of the Japanese
Continued on Page 9 col. 1

involved in the Rape of Nanking, his life during the invasion is veiled in mystery. According to his biographer, Sugawara Yutaka, the fascist clique that took control of the Japanese military had expelled Yanagawa from their ranks because he attempted to stop their 1932 coup. After his marginalization and demotion to the reserves, Yanagawa served as a commanding officer in China and performed "great military achievements . . . including the surrounding of Nanking," but the

Invasion of Nanking underway following Chinese Retreat

Japanese Troops in Hangchow Bay repeatedly indulge in rape, arson, plunder, and mass murder. Massacres take place all the way from Shanghai to Nanking.

Under cover from naval artillery fire, Japanese invasion forces move towards the Chinese capitol along the Yangtze and major roads, enveloping the retreating Chinese forces and the civilians still inside Nanking.

The Chinese have made a big strategic blunder by deciding to defend the capitol city out of pride instead of retreating, recognizing the tactical disadvantage they have placed themselves at.

At this point, there are still hundreds of thousands of civilians inside Nanking, many of whom are sure to suffer from the looming battle. If current behavior is a good indicator, the Japanese will undoubtedly brutalize those in the city should they succeed in taking Nanking.



Young Chinese men with their hands bound together are piled into a truck. After this photo was taken, the group was driven out to the outskirts of Nanking and killed.

military withheld his name and photograph from publication at the time. Thus Yanagawa was known to many in Japan as "the masked shogun."

Little was spared on the path to Nanking. Japanese veterans remember raiding tiny farm communities, where they clubbed or bayoneted everyone in sight. But small villages were not the only casualties; entire cities were razed to the ground. Consider the example of Suchow (now called Suzhou), a city on the

The Race to Nanking

Even his biographer, Kimura Kuninori, mentioned that Nakajima had been described as "a beast" and "a violent man."

Another force readied itself for a bold amphibious assault across Tai Hu, a lake situated halfway between Shanghai and Nanking. This force moved west from Shanghai in a route south of Nakajima's troops. Directing the movement was General Matsui Iwane, a frail, slight, tubercular man with a tiny mustache. Unlike Nakajima, Matsui was a devout Buddhist from a scholarly family. He was also the commander-in-chief of the Japanese imperial army for the entire Shanghai-Nanking region.

A third force traveled further south of Matsui's men and swerved northwest toward Nanking. Heading this force was Lieutenant General Yanagawa Heisuke, a bald, short man with literary interests. Perhaps to a greater degree than most other Japanese

Continued Below

east bank of Tai Hu Lake. One of the oldest cities of China, it was prized for its delicate silk embroidery, palaces, and temples. Its canals and ancient bridges had earned the city its Western nickname as "the Venice of China." On November 19, on a morning of pouring rain, a Japanese advance guard marched through the gates of Suchow, wearing hoods that prevented Chinese sentries from recognizing them. Once inside, the Japanese

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JAPS PUSH NANKING BOMBS SET CITY ABLAZE

The last stage of the Japanese surge apparently met with almost no resistance. From Kuyung, twenty-two miles to the east, which fell yesterday, the little brown warriors of Nippon must have advanced almost as fast as they could march. They approached Nanking by way of Kaochiaomen, a village three miles to the southeast.

The Japanese reported destruction of the barricade across the Yangtze River at Kiangyin, ninety miles east of Nanking, which

hitherto had prevented Japanese warships from steaming to attack nanking. Already Japanese men-of-war were reported moving upstream to bombard Chinking, forty miles from Nanking.

A Chinese report that Japan's 32,270-ton battleship Nagato had been sunk by Chinese air bombs. Has so far not been verified by the Japanese authorities but has been used as a morale booster and propaganda for local Chinese forces.



A Japanese rifleman approaches a Chinese farmer. Soon after this photo was taken, the Chinese farmer was shot dead.

The Race to Nanking: Suzhou

murdered and plundered the city for days, burning down ancient landmarks and abducting thousands of Chinese women for sexual slavery. The invasion, according to the China Weekly Review, caused the population of the city to drop from 350,000 to less than 500. A British correspondent had the opportunity to record what was left of Pine River, (Sungchiang, a suburban city of Shanghai), nine weeks after the Japanese had passed through it. "There is hardly a building standing which has not been gutted by fire," he wrote. "Smoldering ruins and deserted streets present an eerie spectacle, the only living creatures being dogs unnaturally fattened by feasting on corpses. In the whole of Sungchiang, which should contain a densely packed population of approximately 100,000, I saw only five Chinese, who were old men, hiding in a French mission compound in tears."

He denied that the Japanese Consul General at Hong Kong, Britain's fortified Crown colony, had said Hong Kong might be drawn into the conflict.

London, Dec. 6 (U.P).—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, attempting to allay fears the Great Britain might be drawn into armed conflict with Japan, told the house of Commons today that he is maintaining constant contact with the United State Government.

Facing a barrage of questions over Anglo-Japanese tension, aggravated by serious incidents in the Far East during the last forty-eight hours, Eden said he was "unable to accept the suggestion" that British possessions were in imminent danger.

The Foreign Secretary asserted that before last Friday's Japanese

The Japanese Emperor says to "Chastise" the Chinese

It read: "Along with its present duties, the China Garrison Army (CGA) shall chastise Chink forces in the Peking-Tientsin area and pacify [i.e., occupy] strategic points." The emperor used the term chastise that Prime Minister Konoe later made famous. On 27 July, the government decided to send reinforcements from Japan proper. Chief of Staff Order 65, as issued by the emperor, called for sending three divisions and mobilizing another 209,000 men plus 54,000 horses. Real fighting began on 28 July with a general offensive in the north that saw imperial troops occupy Peking and Tientsin.

This course of events was the converse of that which began the Manchurian Incident. In September 1931, the imperial government and central army authorities had wanted to settle that conflict quickly whereas field armies were intent on expanding it. Now, in July 1937, it was the government in Tokyo that escalated the war by sending massive reinforcements to northern China even though field armies had reached a settlement on 11 July.

Japan sends more troops: The Army of Old Men

They were not officers and men on the active list, in the fighting prime of their early twenties. Their abrupt recall to active duty came in their mid- to late-thirties, or even their early-forties—long after they felt their military obligations were over and they had returned to civilian life as bread-winners. Hence, morale and amenability to military discipline were often poor. Amano Saburō, whose letters are translated, mentions these "old man troops" and hints at the anxieties felt by older reserve officers forced to command much younger troops years after their own twelve-month training period had ended.

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A Note on used Sources

The Rape of Nanking, by Iris Chang, is widely considered, in the academic sphere, as a polemical and controversial work in the sense that it may be overrepresentative of what happened. On the other hand, Fujiwara and Takabayashi's works are considered moderate. The excerpts are not meant to fully inform you of what happened, rather they should pique your interest so that you might pursue the events further in your own readings.

EDEN SAYS BRITAIN US COOPERATE ON CHINA

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SUMMARY I

NANKING

(By Ryan Xia)

Prior to Shanghai and Nanking, the Japanese already had significant hostilities with China, as well as a history of imperialist expansionism. They saw the Chinese as a weak, divided state that they could bully into submission through a series of swift, decisive victories.

Unfortunately, this was not the case. The battle of Shanghai lasted three months and casualties far exceeded the expectations of the Japanese leadership. Japanese soldiers were running on hatred and injured pride from losing so many brothers without a military police or diplomatic liaison to keep them in check.

Furthermore, western forces were unmoved by the Chinese stand at Shanghai and were more concerned with their own property and citizens in the area, which the Japanese intelligently left untouched.

All of this combined with an ill-advised decision by the Chinese to defend Nanking paved the way for what we know as the Massacre of Nanking.



MASSACRE IN NANKING



Bodies burnt in Kerosene along the Yangtze River



Corpses strewn across some steps



14,777 Chinese prisoners of war are gathered together after surrendering to the invading Japanese army. Few – if any – of these men were likely spared.

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DEAD

By Iris Chang

By the time the Japanese passed through the gates of the city, all those residents who possessed any degree of money, power, or foresight had already left for parts unknown.

Approximately half the original population departed: before the war, the native population of the city exceeded 1 million people, and by December it had fallen to about half a million. However, the city was swollen with tens of thousands of migrants from the countryside who had left their homes for what they believed would be safety within the city walls. Those who remained after the soldiers departed tended to be the most defenseless: children, the elderly, and all those either too poor or physically weak to secure passage out of the city. Without protection, without personal resources, without a plan, all these people had was hope that the Japanese would treat them well. Many likely

talked themselves into the belief that once the fighting stopped the Japanese would of course treat them civilly. Some may have even convinced themselves that the Japanese would be better rulers— after all, their own government had clearly abandoned them in their hour of need. Weary of fire, weary of bombardment, and weary of siege, scattered groups of Chinese actually rushed out to welcome the Japanese invaders as they thundered into the city with their tanks, artillery, and trucks. Some people hung Japanese flags from their windows while others even cheered the Japanese columns as they marched through the south and west gates of the city. But the welcome was short-lived. Eyewitnesses later claimed that the Japanese soldiers, who roamed the city in groups of six to twelve men, fired at anyone in sight as soon as they entered the capital.

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A Japanese soldier prepares to publicly behead a young Chinese boy.



A three-year-old child lies dead on the ground during the Rape of Nanking.

SURVIVOR IN TEARS BABY BROTHER DEAD

Interview transcript— I saw people charging in from over there, I saw two or three. They were carrying swords and guns. They came in, by the time everyone saw they had already shot, and the people in the front all fell limp to the ground. After that everyone panicked, started screaming and shouting.

My mother was holding onto my little brother, and my little brother started crying and crying and my mom just started breast-feeding him. She held him to her breasts and told him it was going to be okay. At that moment, the jap took his bayonet and stabbed her and she fell to the ground. As she fell she dropped my brother and she lunged and reached to try and save him

and he didn't fall. Then the jap stabbed her again, and this time she fell and dropped my baby brother.

I heard my baby brother scream and scream "don't slap her don't slap her." The soldier got annoyed. He took his bayonet, stabbed it under my brothers but, and flung him outside.

Once things cleared, I saw my mother lying against the pole, her head resting sideways, her eyes staring past me. I just watched her lie there, and I watched and I thought, my mom wasn't dead yet. I asked: "Mom are you alright?" she watched me as I cried. She couldn't speak, but she looked past me, where there was the sound of a baby crying. I understood what she meant, and told her I would go look for my little brother fafa, we all called my little brother fafa. I went to go look for him. I looked and I looked and I found piles of dead bodies and pools of blood. There were dead people everywhere, and blood

everywhere. There was so much blood that the soles of my shoes had become sticky. It was also really cold. After going around some bodies, I saw a little boy crawling around in the grave. It was my brother. He was crying and screaming, crying and screaming for his mother. I thought to myself, my brother wasn't dead yet. I yelled his name, and he turned and started straight for me going as fast as his frozen and bleeding little feet could.

When my mother saw my brother come over, she mustered up her strength and pushed with her arm to get upright. She clawed at her clothes and undid her buttons then ripped it open. As her chest laid bare, she turned around to breastfeed my brother who was now sprinting towards

her. When she pulled open her clothes, I remember seeing the stab wounds still bubbling and bleeding. My brother didn't understand, he just kept drinking and sucking as the blood oozed out of my mother. I went up to her crying and said "don't worry mom, I'll cover them up. Just hang on for a bit longer, everything will be alright I'm covering it for you." She couldn't speak as her tears welled up. They fell and fell and streaked down her face. Then her head fell. It toppled over, limp, and she didn't make a sound. I thought my mom was dead, and I kept shaking her to wake her up, but she wouldn't. My mom's dead. What do I do, what can I do.

Translated by Ryan Xia

Interview: Brigade Commander Maj. Gen. Sasaki Toichi

Transcript—The number of abandoned enemy bodies in our area today was ten thousand plus thousands more.

If we include those [Chinese] whose escape rafts or boats on the Yangtze were sunk by fire from our armored cars, plus POWs killed by our units, our detachment alone must have taken care of over 20,000. We finished the mop-up and secured our rear at about 2:00 p.m. While regrouping, we advanced to Ho-p'ing Gate. Later, the enemy surrendered in thousands. Frenzied troops—rebuffing efforts by superiors to restrain them—finished off these POWs one after another. Even if they aren't soldiers [medics or priests], men would yell, "Kill the whole damn lot!" after recalling the past ten days of bloody

fighting in which so many buddies had shed so much blood.

Bayonet Practice, Rape, Live Burial, Crucifixion

Survivors report Chinese men being used for bayonet practice and in decapitation contests. An estimated 20,000 to 80,000 Chinese women were raped. Many soldiers went beyond rape to disembowel women, slice off their breasts, nail them alive to walls. Fathers were forced to rape their daughters, and sons their mothers, as other family members watched. Eyewitness reports from fellow Americans and several British nationals have confirmed many of these atrocities. The Chinese continue to publicize these events in an effort to pull international support and smear the Japanese campaign into Manchuria and Southern China.



A Chinese man holds his son, who was wounded in a bombing, begs for help

CHINESE SURRENDER JAPANESE SLAUGHTER POWS AND CIVILIANS

(By Daily News)

On 13-14 December, Japanese forces encircled the Chinese army and captured Nanking. Chinese soldiers, lacking a command structure after being abandoned by their commander T'ang Sheng-chih, lost all will to resist and surrendered en masse only to suffer summary execution in an organized fashion.

More than 300,000 Chinese were known to have been slaughtered in the blood-crazed Japanese rape of Nanking in 1937 and additional investigations may increase the known figure to 500,000, the Far East International War Crimes Tribunal was told today.

The report described one instance of a group of 60,000 Chinese, including children, which was starved for several days and finally put to death by machine gun fire and bayonets. The bodies were saturated with kerosene and burned, or thrown into the Yangtze River, the report said.



The burned body of a Chinese man who'd been doused in kerosene and set on fire.

how the war situation changes—as we would do with nationals of other [Western] powers. In the absence of special circumstances, it is alright to release them on the spot or to transport them elsewhere for release. The

Chinks' domicile registration system is full of defects, and most Chink soldiers are the scum of society, so there is little way for anyone to check whether they are alive or where they are. Thus, even if you were to kill them or

release them elsewhere, no one will broach the issue. In sum, central army officials instructed field armies not to apply international laws of war. Tokyo did not deem this nonapplication in China to be a war crime, so it is natural that local commanders issued orders to "take no POWs" or to "dispose of" them. Many veterans affirm that high ranking army and division-level commanders gave such orders during the assault on Nanking. Thus Lt. Sawada Masahisa of the Independent Heavy Artillery's Second Battalion First Company states: "command headquarters ordered us to shoot to death on sight" 8,000 to 10,000 POWs taken at Hsien-ho Gate on 14 December. Or, adjutant Kodama Yoshio of the Sixteenth Division's Thirty-eighth Regiment says that, when his unit got to a point outside the Nanking city walls, the division's adjutant phoned in a command to "accept no Chink soldiers who try to surrender; dispose of them."



A grinning Japanese soldier holds the severed head of a victim in his hand.

Disregard for International Rules of Engagement

(By Bob Wakabayashi)

Despite fighting a de-facto war with China, central command in Tokyo told the China Garrison Army General Staff that: "it is inappropriate to follow all specific clauses" in international laws of war, and "our empire is not in a full-scale war with China, so we must avoid using terms such as 'prisoner of war' or 'prize of war' that may imply the intent to start one. A textbook for non-commissioned officers draws a telling distinction between Western states and China in a section titled, "Treatment of Prisoners": "There is no need to send them to the rear for confinement and wait to see

Three Hundred Thousand Dead The Story of the Slaughtered

Old men were found face down on the pavement, apparently shot in the back on whim; civilian Chinese corpses lay sprawled on almost every block—many who had done nothing more provocative than run away as the Japanese approached.

In the war crimes transcripts and Chinese government documentation, story after story of what happened next begins to sound, even in all its horrific dimensions, almost monotonous.

With few variations, the story goes something like this: The Japanese would take any men they found as prisoners, neglect to give them water or food for days, but promise them food and work. After days of such treatment, the Japanese would bind the wrists of their victims securely with wire or rope and herd them out to some isolated area. The men, too tired or dehydrated to rebel, went out eagerly, thinking they would be fed. By the time they saw the machine guns, or the bloodied swords and bayonets wielded by waiting soldiers, or the massive graves, heaped and reeking with the bodies of the men who had preceded them, it was already too late to escape.

The Japanese would later justify their actions by saying that they had to execute POWs to save their own limited food supply and prevent revolts. But nothing can excuse what the Japanese did to hundreds of thousands of helpless Chinese civilians in Nanking. They had no weapons and were in no position to mutiny.

Not all Chinese, of course, submitted easily to extermination in Nanking. The Rape of Nanking is a story not only of mass victimization but of individual strength and courage. There were men who clawed their way out of shallow graves, or clung to reeds for hours in the icy Yangtze River, or lay buried for days under the corpses of friends before dragging their bullet-ridden bodies to the hospital, sustained only by a tenacious will to survive. There were women who hid in holes or in ditches for weeks, or ran through burning houses to rescue their babies. Many of these survivors later gave their stories to reporters and historians or testified at the war crimes trials held in Nanking and Tokyo after the defeat of Japan. When interviewing several of them during the summer of 1995, I learned that many of the Chinese victims of the Japanese were apparently murdered for no other reason than pleasure. Such was the observation of Tang Shun-san, now in his eighties, a Nanking resident who had miraculously survived a Japanese killing contest back in 1937.



Chinese prisoners being used as live target practice for Japanese soldiers trying out their bayonets.

KILLING CONTESTS MAN TELLS HIS STORY

Unlike thousands of hapless civilians who were bombed out of their homes and stranded on the streets of Nanking, Tang had actually secured a haven during the massacre. Then a twenty-five-year-old shoemaker's apprentice, Tang hid in the home of two fellow apprentices on Xiaomenkou, a tiny street in the northern part of the city. His friends (known to Tang as "Big Monk" and "Little Monk") had camouflaged the doorway of their house by removing the door and filling the open space with bricks so that it resembled, from the outside, a smooth, unbroken wall. For hours they sat on the dirt floor of the house, listening to the screams and gunshots outside. Tang's problem began when he experienced a sudden urge to see a Japanese soldier with his own eyes. All his life he had heard that the Japanese looked like the Chinese, but never having been to Japan, he had been unable to verify this. Here was

a golden opportunity to see for himself. Tang tried to suppress his curiosity but finally succumbed to it. He asked his friends to remove the bricks from the doorway to let him out. Not surprisingly, his friends pleaded with Tang not to go, warning him that the Japanese would kill him if they caught him wandering around outdoors. But Tang was not so easily dissuaded. Big Monk and Little Monk argued with him at length but finally gave up trying to change his mind. Risking their own safety, they removed the bricks from the door and let Tang out. As soon as Tang stepped outside, he began to regret it. A scene of almost surreal horror gripped him. He saw the bodies of men and women—even the bodies of small children and the elderly—crumpled before him in the streets. Most had been stabbed or bayoneted to death. "Blood was splattered everywhere," Tang recalled of that horrible afternoon, "as if the heavens had been raining

blood." Then Tang saw another Chinese person in the street and, behind him, a group of eight or nine Japanese approaching in the distance. Instinctively, Tang and the stranger jumped into a nearby rubbish bin, heaping straw and paper over their heads. They shivered from cold and fear, causing the sides of the bin to shiver with them. Suddenly the straw was knocked away. A Japanese soldier hovered overhead, glaring at them, and before Tang quite knew what was happening the person next to him with his sword. Blood gushed from the victim's neck as the soldier reached down and seized the head as a trophy. "I was too frightened to even move or think," Tang remembered. "I thought of my family and knew that if I died here, they would never know what happened to me." Then a Chinese voice ordered Tang out. "Gun chu lai! (Roll out!),"

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KILLING CONTESTS RAGE ON SURVIVOR TELLS HIS TALE

exclaimed a Chinese man whom Tang suspected was a traitor for the Japanese. “Gun chu lai, or I’ll kill you!”

Tang crawled out of the trash bin. Seeing a ditch by the road, he wondered whether he should fling himself into it and attempt an escape but found that he was too frightened even to move his legs. Then he saw a group of Japanese soldiers herding hundreds of Chinese people down the street. Tang was ordered to join them. As he marched next to the other prisoners, he saw corpses sprawled on both sides of the streets, something that made him feel so wretched he almost welcomed death.

Before long Tang found himself standing near a pond and a freshly dug, rectangular pit filled with some sixty Chinese corpses. “As soon as I saw the newly dug pit, I thought they might either bury us alive or kill us on the spot. I was too frightened to move so I stood there motionless. It suddenly occurred to me to jump into the pit but then I saw two Japanese military wolf dogs eating the corpses.”

The Japanese ordered Tang and the other prisoners to line up in rows on each side of the mass grave. He stood in one closest to the edge. Nine Japanese soldiers waited nearby, soldiers who presented an imposing sight to Tang with their yellow uniforms, star-studded caps, and shiny bayonets and rifles. At such proximity, Tang could see that Japanese men really did resemble Chinese men, although at this point he was too frightened to care. Then, to Tang’s horror, a competition began among the soldiers— a competition to determine who could kill the fastest. As one soldier stood sentinel with a machine gun, ready to mow down anyone who tried to bolt, the eight other soldiers split up into pairs to form four separate teams. In each team, one soldier beheaded prisoners with a sword while the other picked up heads and tossed them aside in a pile. The prisoners stood frozen in silence and terror as their countrymen dropped, one by one. “Kill and count! Kill and count!” Tang said, remembering the speed of the slaughter. The Japanese were laughing; one even took photographs. “There was no sign of remorse at all.”

A deep sorrow filled Tang. “There was no place to run. I was prepared to die.” It saddened him

to think that his family and loved ones would never find out what happened to him. Lost in such thoughts, Tang snapped back to reality when the commotion started. Two rows up from him a pregnant woman began to fight for her life, clawing desperately at a soldier who tried to drag her away from the group to rape her. Nobody helped her, and in the end the soldier killed her, ripping open her belly with his bayonet and jerking out not only her intestines but a squirming fetus. That, Tang believes, should have been the moment for them all to rebel, to do something, to fight back and try to kill the soldiers even if

they all died in the process. But even though the Chinese prisoners greatly outnumbered their Japanese tormentors and might have been able to overwhelm them, no one moved. Everyone remained eerily docile. Sad to say, of all the people around the pit, Tang remembers only the pregnant woman showing the slightest bit of courage. Soon a sword-wielding Japanese soldier worked his way closer to Tang, until he was only one row up from him. Then Tang had a stroke of luck, which was nothing short of a miracle. When the soldier decapitated the man directly in front of Tang, the victim’s body

fell against Tang’s shoulder. In keeping with the corpse’s momentum, Tang also toppled backwards and dropped, together with the body, into the pit. No one noticed. Tang ducked his head under the corpse’s clothing. His ploy would have never worked had the Japanese stuck with their original game of decapitation. In the beginning the soldiers used the heads of their victims to keep score. But later, to save time, they killed prisoners not by lopping off heads but by slashing throats. That is what saved Tang— the fact that dozens of bodies were piling up in the pit with their heads intact. The killing spree lasted for about an hour. While Tang lay still, feigning death, the Japanese pushed the rest of the bodies on top of him. Then, as Tang recalls, most of the soldiers left the scene except for one who thrust his bayonet into the mass grave repeatedly to make sure everyone was dead. Tang suffered five bayonet wounds without a scream, and then fainted. Later



This photo was captured just as a Japanese soldier’s sword sliced through the neck of a Chinese prisoner.

that afternoon, at about 5:00 P. M., Tang’s fellow apprentices Big Monk and Small Monk came to the pit, hoping to retrieve his corpse. Through a crack in the brick wall of their house, they had seen the Japanese herd Tang and the others away and assumed that he was now dead with all the others.

But when they found Tang moving under the heap of bodies, they pulled him out immediately and ushered him back to the house. Out of the hundreds of people killed that day during the competition, Tang was the only survivor.

This Final story is a full excerpt from Iris Chang’s controversial book, *the Rape of Nanking*. Whether the events are true or exaggerated, it is difficult to prove. However, it is important to note that, while peoples’ memory may be inaccurate, the experience and effect that those inaccurate memories have are very real and continue to affect survivors to this day. So even if someone proves these testimonies to be exaggerated, know that the victims and how they experience their memories remain true and heartwrenching.

Citations

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SUMMARY II

IRIS
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(By Ryan Xia)

I will not make an attempt in this section to summarize the experiences and testimonies featured in the previous spreads. Instead, I want to make clear a few things.

First, is the idea of experience and memory. In behavioral psychology, it is commonly known that, when recalling traumatic or significant events, much of the contextual information becomes skewed and warped over time. For example, when remembering 9.11, my mother has told me different versions of where we were, and what we were doing. Once, she was holding me in a park, and we could see the smoke of the buildings. Another time, I was in daycare, and she was coming to pick me up. But these lapses in memory don't change the fact that 9.11 happened, and that is what's important. The Nanking Massacre happened, there is no doubt about it.

Second, is the idea of experience and its effects. Even when the memory of some shaping experience has become warped, the psychological and emotional effects are still very real. People are affected by what they experienced in Nanking, and that is what is most important to me that you recognize.

In sum, the complete veracity of a testimony or a historical recount are not the defining objectives of this book. Rather, the recognition of those who continue to be affected by it are what I hope you can follow through with once you finish.

NUHO
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about the Massacre of Nanking, *The Nanking Atrocity, g Massacre*, by Honda Kat-
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Ending Note

Please, if you would like to learn more about the Massacre of Nanking, go read *The Rape of Nanking*, by Iris Chang, *The Nanking Atrocity*, By Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, *The Nanjing Massacre*, by Honda Katsuichi, and *The Long Defeat*, by Hashimoto Akiko.

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