



八月十四日,中美論壇社委會在 Bob Hope Patriotic Hall 會議室開會

# A Narrative of the War with Japan, 1931-1945

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1. Introduction (前言) This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. We believe it is important to remember the close bond between Americans and Chinese during WWII, which was based on a common desire for peace, justice and freedom.

2. The Mukden Incident (九一八事變) For Americans, WWII started on December 7, 1941 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. However, China's war with Japan started more than 10 years earlier when the Japanese Kwantung Army engineered the Mukden Incident on the night of September 18th, 1931 as a pretext for the Japanese invasion of northeastern China, known as Manchuria.

At the time, China was militarily and economically inferior to Japan. Therefore, Chiang Kai-shek tried his best to avoid an all-out war with Japan, and instead relied heavily on diplomacy and international pressure. However, Japan's encroachment into China was non-stop. Serious battles along the Great Wall occurred and stopped short of Peking (Beijing) when a truce was arranged. Under the terms of the truce, Chinese troops were barred from the areas of northern China occupied by Japanese armies.

3. The Marco Polo Bridge Incident (七七事變) A full scale war with Japan was avoided for six years. During that period China built up her industrial bases, modernized her armed forces and unified her people. Japan's hardline military leaders felt that they needed to accelerate their pace of aggression before China became too strong to conquer. On July 7, 1937 they engineered another incident at the historical Marco Polo Bridge near Peking. Peking fell to the Imperial Japanese Army on August 8, 1937.

4. Battle of Shanghai (八一三淞滬會戰) The Japanese Army originally planned to attack from northern China to southern China, as it would be difficult for the poorly equipped Chinese army to defend against mechanized Japanese forces on flat land. General Chiang Kai Shek decided to initiate another battle front in Shanghai on August 13, 1937 in order to divert the Japanese direction of attack and force them to attack from east to west, which would be more favorable to the Chinese defenders. The battle of Shanghai lasted three months and incurred about 200,000 Chinese and 70,000 Japanese casualties. Dogged Chinese resistance at Shanghai was aimed at stalling the rapid Japanese advance, giving much needed time for the Chinese government to move vital industries to the interior. The Chinese soldiers had to rely primarily on small-caliber weapons in their defense of Shanghai, against an overwhelming onslaught of air, naval, and armored striking power from Japan. In the end, Shanghai fell and China lost a significant portion of its best troops. The resistance put up by Chinese forces, however, came as a massive shock to the Japanese invaders.

5. The Chinese Air Force prior to 1941 (1941年前的中國空軍) The young Chinese air force fought bravely and brilliantly and incurred heavy losses on a much larger and more experienced Japanese air force in the first 6 months of the all-out war. However, as the war progressed the Chinese air force faced the loss of their most experienced fighter pilots and rapid depletion of their combat capable airplanes, as China didn't manufacture any aircraft. At this critical moment the Soviet Union not only supplied aircraft to China but also sent a volunteer air group to fight secretly against Japan until they were withdrawn by the summer of 1940. In total, there were 237 Soviet airmen who died in China during this period.

September 13, 1940 was the darkest day for the Chinese air force when the Soviet made Chinese fighters first encountered the legendary Mitsubishi A6M Zero fighters. Within several minutes 13 Chinese fighters were shot down by Zeros, which suffered only one loss. From that time on, the Chinese air force was unable to put up any organized resistance against the indiscriminate Japanese bombing of Chinese cities. This dire situation lasted until the arrival of the Flying Tigers in December 1941.

6. First Air Raid on Japan (到日本空投傳單) The one rare bright moment was on May 20, 1938, when Captain Huansheng Hsu and Captain Yanbo Tong flew two U.S. made Martin B-10 bombers to execute a secret mission - to drop leaflets over major cities of Japan. These leaflets were "Open Letter to the Japanese People" to expose the war crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial Army in China. This mission was the very first air raid by the anti-fascism allied forces over Japan during WWII, almost 4 years before the Doolittle Raid on April 18, 1942.

7. Doolittle Tokyo Raid On April 18, 1942 sixteen U.S. Army Air Forces B-25B Mitchell

# 紀念二戰結束七十週年特刊

前言 我們深感榮幸,由中美論壇主辦所組成的「南加州紀念二戰結束七十週年委員會」,能與洛杉磯郡退伍軍人協會合辦這次極具歷史意義的活動,這次活動的目的有下列幾點:

1.喚起人們對二次大戰的歷史記憶,明白戰勝果實的來之不易。中國從蘆溝橋到全面抗戰,美國從珍珠港被擊到原子彈轟炸日本,美兩國軍人合力抵抗,才制止了日本的侵略,贏得了最後勝利。

2.在享受二戰結束七十多年來世界和平繁榮的美好生活中,我們不能忘記那些曾經為世界和平去流血犧牲的二戰老兵們,為了感激,我們要借這次紀念活動,向南加州現在仍存於世的美中老軍人們致以最大的敬意!

3.前事不忘,後事之師,我們要從戰爭的歷史吸取教訓;中國在抗日戰爭中犧牲了近千萬軍民,美國傷亡也有數十萬之譜,日本自己更遭到了滅頂之災。孫子曰:兵者,國之大事,死生之地,存亡之道,不可不察也。在我們紀念二戰結束七十週年的這一刻,我們衷心

祈禱,希望世界能夠永遠和平。 中美論壇全力促成這次二戰結束七十週年活動,是要為美國主流社會提個醒,美中合作在過去是世界的基石,要維持今後的世界繁榮和平,同樣的需要美中兩國的繼續合作。

整個活動節目及其內容如下: 八月七日到八月二十五日,圖片展覽,包括飛虎隊等二戰珍貴歷史照片,還有一幅由王康率領的五十位畫家合力完成的長卷巨畫"正氣長存",其中包括國共雙方,像張自忠,左權等抗日有功的一百多位烈士們畫像。據估計,參觀者超過數千人。

八月十四日,中美論壇兩週年社慶午餐會,下午有由中美論壇和南加州大學美中學院合辦的時事演講討論會,來賓們有百餘人到會。

八月十五日,除早上的演講討論會,中午餐會外,下午的壓軸戲是向曾參加二戰的美中老兵們致敬大會,許多政要都到場致詞,洛杉磯郡行政長官 Michael Antonovich,眾院國會議員 Edward Royce,眾院國會議員 Judy Chu,洛杉磯郡退伍軍人協會主管 Ruth Wong將軍等人為

老兵們頒發感謝狀及紀念章,全部美中老兵共一百一十一人,加上他們的家屬和朋友,聯同採訪記者及工作人員,參加大會的人數近六百人,場面熱烈感人。

後記 1.中美論壇籌劃這次二戰結束七十週年大會,沒想到臺灣官方的態度竟是抵制,大陸官方的態度也是不理不睬,還好我們得道多助,得到兩地一些民間團體的支持。

2.有幾位中國老將軍,在領到感謝狀和紀念章後,感動得淚流滿面,他們很感慨,他們的功勞為什麼沒有得到中國政府的表彰?而這種遲來的榮耀卻來自中美論壇這樣的一個小小的海外華人組織?

3.中美論壇此次主辦二戰勝利七十週年會,我們得到最大的幫助是來自美國主流的核心力量,我們能夠在美國退伍軍人大樓內 (Bob Hope Patriotic Hall),在美國政要及美國老兵及其家屬朋友前,宣揚中國在二次大戰中的犧牲和貢獻,讓主流社會能聽到我們的呼喚,讓他們知道美中兩個偉大國家保持合作的重要。(請參閱中美論壇在大會上所發表的中國抗日戰爭史簡介)



八月十五日,為二戰美中老兵頒發感謝狀和紀念章典禮的盛況。



接受紀念章的中國老兵們,右一為陳光斗將軍



一群參與協助工作的年青志願者



莊嚴肅穆的大會,由三軍儀仗隊開導,行禮如儀。

medium bombers were launched without fighter escort from the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier USS Hornet deep in the Western Pacific Ocean, each with a crew of five men, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James "Jimmy" Doolittle. The plan called for them to bomb military targets in Japan, and to continue westward to land in China. Fifteen of the aircraft reached China, and the other one landed in the Soviet Union. All but three of the crew survived, but all the aircraft were lost.

After the raid, the Japanese Imperial Army conducted a massive sweep through the eastern coastal provinces of China, searching for the surviving American airmen and applying retribution on the Chinese who aided them, and killed many Chinese civilians.

The raid caused negligible material damage to Japan, but it succeeded in its goal of raising American morale and contributed to Admiral Yamamoto's decision to attack Midway Island in the Central Pacific—an attack that turned into a decisive strategic defeat of the Imperial Japanese Navy by the U.S. Navy in the Battle of Midway.

8. Flying Tigers and 14th Air Force (飛虎和第十四航空軍) As the Soviet Union completely withdrew her fighter and bomber squadrons from China by the summer of 1940, Chiang Kai-shek asked for American combat aircraft and pilots.

President Roosevelt realized an eventual conflict with Japan was unavoidable, and therefore, recognized the importance of helping China from being totally conquered by Japan. The American Volunteer Group, or flying tigers, was the result of a covert operation directed by Roosevelt. The main mission was to defend the Burma Road, the only lifeline to China at the time. The AVG was only active between December 20, 1941 to July 4, 1942.

However, AVG pilots earned official credit for destroying 296 enemy aircraft, while losing only 14 pilots in combat. On July 4, 1942 the AVG was disbanded. It was replaced by the 23rd Fighter Group of the United States Army Air Force, which was later absorbed into the U.S. Fourteenth Air Force with General Chennault as commander.

9. The HUMP Airlift (駝峰空運) Between the closing of the Burma Road in 1942 and its reopening as the Ledo Road in 1945, foreign aid was largely limited to what could be flown in over "The Hump". The India-China ferrying operation was the largest and most extended strategic air bridge (in volume of cargo airlifted) in aviation history until exceeded in 1949 by the Berlin airlift.

It played an invaluable role in sustaining China's resistance against the aggression of Japan. Altogether, 2197 American airmen died in China during the war.

10. CBI (中印緬戰區) CBI was an umbrella term, used by the United States military during World War II for the China and India-Burma (IBT) theaters. US forces in practice were usually overseen by General Joseph Stilwell, the Deputy Allied Commander in China. Well-known US (or joint Allied) units in the CBI included the Chinese Expeditionary Force, the Flying Tigers, transport and bomber units flying the Hump, the 1st Air Commando Group, the engineers who built Ledo Road, and the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), popularly known as "Merrill's Marauders", to which the 75th Ranger Regiment traces its origin.

11. The Chinese Expeditionary Force (中國遠征軍) The overland supply route from India to China had to go through Burma. Therefore, all major battles in northern Burma between 1942 and 1945 were centered on securing a land bridge to China. After the defeat of the First Chinese Expeditionary Force in 1942, some units went through a difficult retreat to India and were re-equipped and retrained by American advisors. The Chinese troops in India, called X Force, reached three divisions in strength, and launched a major offensive in March 1943 to cover the construction of the Ledo road, advanced from Ledo, through Myitkyina, and successfully met with the Chinese offensive forces on the Yunnan front (called Y Force) at Mangyau, Burma on Jan. 28, 1945.

12. Concluding Remarks (結語) On August 14, 1945, after the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan, the Japanese emperor announced Japan's acceptance of unconditional surrender as dictated by the terms the Allies had set down in the Potsdam Declaration.

WWII was the most brutal war in human history. The United States suffered about 407,000 military deaths during the war. At least 18 generals were killed in combat related action. More than three million Chinese soldiers and over 20 million civilians perished in the war of resistance against Japan. Among them were 268 generals ranked above brigadier general. The service and sacrifice of the two countries allows us the freedom to live in peace with our neighbors. Today, we pay tribute to the heroes of both countries and to the families who sacrificed much. It is our hope that we will never again engage in another world conflict.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Rank, Service. Lists names of medallion recipients in both English and Chinese.

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紀念章及部分展出史料,美國對日宣戰及日本投降書