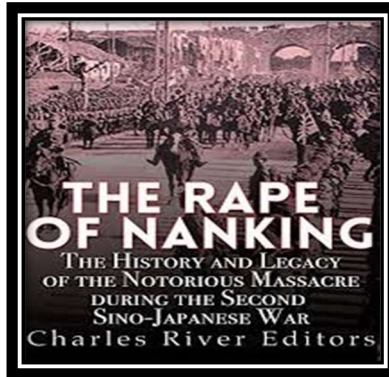


GENOCIDE AND WAR CRIMES OF THE JAPANESE

THE MASSACRE AT NANKING

THE WORST JAPANESE MASSACRES OF WW2

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ARTICLE UPDATED 7/28/19

THIS ARTICLE IS IN THREE PARTS

PART ONE – THE NANKING MASSACRE

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PART THREE – JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS HANGED IN TOKYO

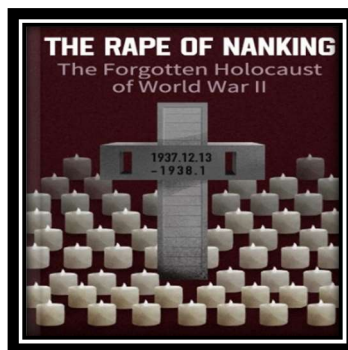
The Japanese Army during World War II committed many crimes against humanity that were ordered by the government and high command. In the Japanese equivalent of the Nurnberg Trials, held in Tokyo in 1946, many of the high-ranking officers and government officials were found guilty of genocide and war crimes and executed.

Today, in a controversial act, as many as 14 of them still hold a place in the National Shrine, which celebrates the heroes of the Japanese people.

Some of the most infamous atrocities include the 1937-1938 Nanking massacre, which claimed the lives of more than 300,000 Chinese civilians, and the notorious Unit 731 Experimental facility in which many hideous experiments were conducted on Chinese, South East Asian, Russian and Allied prisoners with an overall death toll of 250,000 men, women and children. (The Unit 731 Experimental Facility will be covered in a later article)

PART ONE

THE NANKING MASSACRE



UPDATED JUN 7, 2019

NOTE: *I have chosen not to include any detailed pictures in this article. Many are way too graphic to view. If you have any desire to see the pictures that support this article I'm sure they will be available by merely typing "Pictures of the Nanking Massacre" in a Google search. I would suggest that you not view them around younger children. It's almost unbelievable that people can commit these atrocities against any human being.*

In late 1937, for six weeks, Imperial Japanese Army forces brutally murdered hundreds of thousands of people—including both soldiers and civilians—in the Chinese city of Nanking (or Nanjing). The horrific events are known as the Nanking Massacre or the Rape of Nanking, as between 20,000 and 80,000 women were sexually assaulted. Nanking, then the capital of Nationalist China, was left in ruins, and it would take decades for the city and its citizens to recover from the savage attacks.

PREPARING FOR THE INVASION

Following a bloody victory in Shanghai during the Sino-Japanese War, the Japanese turned their attention towards Nanking. Fearful of losing them in battle, Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek ordered the removal of nearly all official Chinese troops from the city, leaving it defended by untrained auxiliary troops. Chiang also ordered the city held at any cost and forbade the official evacuation of its citizens. Many ignored this order and fled, but the rest were left to the mercy of the approaching enemy.

Did you know? Once one of China's most prosperous cities and industrial centers, Nanking took decades to recover from the devastation it experienced. Abandoned as the national capital in 1949 for Beijing, it grew into a modern industrial city during the communist period and today is home to many of China's largest state-owned firms.

A small group of Western businessmen and missionaries, the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone, attempted to set up a neutral area of the city that would provide refuge for Nanking's citizens. The safety zone, opened in November 1937, was roughly the size of New York's Central Park and consisted of more than a dozen small refugee camps. On December 1, the Chinese government abandoned Nanking, leaving the International Committee in charge. All remaining citizens were ordered into the safety zone for their protection.

ARRIVAL OF THE TROOPS

On December 13, the first troops of Japan's Central China Front Army, commanded by General Matsui Iwane, entered the city. Even before their arrival, word had begun spreading of the numerous atrocities they had committed on their way through China, including killing contests and pillaging. Chinese soldiers were hunted down and killed by the thousands, and left in mass graves. Entire families were massacred, and even the elderly and infants were targeted for execution, while tens of thousands of women were raped. Bodies littered the streets for months after the attack. Determined to destroy the city, the Japanese looted and burned at least one-third of Nanking's buildings.

Though the Japanese initially agreed to respect the Nanking Safety Zone, ultimately not even these refugees were safe from the vicious attacks. In January 1938, the Japanese declared that order had been restored in the city, and dismantled the safety zone; killings continued until the first week of February. A puppet government was installed, which would rule Nanking until the end of World War II.

AFTER THE MASSACRE

There are no official numbers for the death toll in the Nanking Massacre, though estimates range from 200,000 to 300,000 people. Soon after the end of the war, Matsui and his lieutenant Tani Hisao, were tried and convicted for war crimes by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East and were executed.

Anger over the events at Nanking continues to color Sino-Japanese relations to this day.

The true nature of the massacre has been disputed and exploited for propaganda purposes by historical revisionists, apologists, and Japanese nationalists.

Some claim the number of deaths has been inflated, while others have denied that any massacre occurred.

PART TWO

STORIES OF 10 OTHER JAPANESE MASSACRES

During WWII, and especially before the inevitable defeat, the monstrosities became more frequent and violent. Below are the atrocities with the most victims.

10. PARIT SULONG MASSACRE

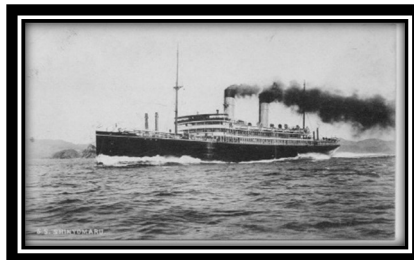
In January 1942, during the Allied Malayan campaign, the Battle of Muar was raging. Members of the Australian 8th Division and the 45th Indian Infantry Brigade were outnumbered and began to withdraw.

Near the bridge at Parit Sulong, they were surrounded by the Japanese, who had superiority both in numbers and in supplies.

After two days of fierce fighting, they ran out of ammunition and food. Able-bodied soldiers were ordered to disperse into the jungle, and head for the Allied lines. About 150 Australians and Indians were too seriously injured to move, and their only option was to surrender and take their chance. Some accounts estimate that as many as 300 Allied troops were taken prisoner at Parit Sulong.

Various testimonies confirm that the Imperial Guards mistreated the wounded prisoners by beating them with rifle butts and tying them up with wire, placing them on the bridge, and executing only one of them so he could serve as ballast for the rest to drown. The bodies of the executed men were poured with petrol and set alight.

9. SHINYO MARU INCIDENT



SS Shinyo Maru

The Shinyo Maru incident occurred on September 7, 1944, and it involved the SS Shinyo Maru, a transport ship carrying around 750 POWs to Manila. These transport ships were often called “Hell Ships” due to their extremely hard living conditions and the cruelty of the crew.

The ship and its escort had been met by an American submarine, USS Paddle, which engaged in a torpedo attack, unaware of the POWs aboard. Two torpedoes out of four fired managed to hit Shinyo Maru, and the ship started sinking.

The Japanese commander responsible for this transport mission was informed of a possible submarine presence and ordered the immediate execution of all prisoners aboard the moment the ship was fired on.

Some prisoners managed to escape the ship but were later gunned down by a Japanese rescue mission that came for the surviving sailors. Out of 750 Allied POWs, 668 were executed, and only 82 managed to escape.

8. SANDAKAN POW CAMP

The Sandakan Death March refers to a series of forced marches that occurred in 1945, in which the remnants of the Sandakan POW camp on the island of Borneo were forced to march until they died. Sandakan POW camp was built in 1942 for the Australian and British captives.

The POWs were first engaged in forced labor, building an airstrip next to the camp, during which they were beaten, poorly fed, and received medical attention next to none.



Battle of Muar

What followed was the true horror of their imprisonment. The strategy of the Death March was to torture the prisoners by constantly moving them on foot, to brutalize, demoralize, and finally kill them through a lengthy process of the march.

In three consecutive death marches that were imposed on the Sandakan POWs in 1945, the Japanese managed to cause the deaths of 2,345 Allied prisoners who had fallen to dehydration, disease, and exhaustion. The ones who would lag behind the column were either executed or left for dead.

7. JESSELTON REVOLT



Jesselton's revolt was a multiethnic uprising on the occupied island of Borneo in October of 1943. The revolt was led by a guerrilla force mainly consisting of indigenous Suluk people and ethnic Chinese. The rebels were mainly armed with spears and Indonesian swords called parang, with little or no firearms.

The Japanese Imperial Guards managed to crush the insurrection, after which they launched a genocide campaign against the Suluk population, as a punishment for participating in the uprising.

The infamous Kempeitai, whose methods of torture and interrogation were very similar to the German Gestapo, conducted the systematic Massacre of the Suluks while pursuing the remnants of the Chinese guerrillas.

They bayoneted and beheaded the Suluks and burned their villages to the point that the indigenous people were almost completely wiped out. Around 3,000-4,000 of Suluks were exterminated.

"The Tokyo war crimes trial" index described Japanese atrocities as "a systematic attempt to exterminate the Suluk race between February and June 1944".

6 .BATAAN DEATH MARCH



*This picture, captured by the Japanese, shows American prisoners using improvised litters to carry those of their comrades who, from the lack of food or water on the march from Bataan, fell along the road.”
Philippines, May 1942.*

Another Death March, similar to the Sandakan one, happened in the Philippines in 1942. Some 20,000 Philippine soldiers joined with about 1600 American POWs who died during the 66-mile march from Mariveles to Camp O'Donnell at the city of Capas.

Soldiers were forced to walk under extremely bad conditions with little food and drinking water. In some cases they were transported by cattle trains, cramped in boxcars in extremely high temperatures. Many died of exhaustion, heat, dysentery, starvation, and dehydration.

The ones that didn't succumb to disease, hunger, or fatigue, were either bayoneted by the Japanese soldiers or were used as practice for the officers who wanted to improve their katana skills. Trucks drove over the ones that fell behind and cleanup crews would put to death those who couldn't keep up.

5. SOOK CHING MASSACRE



The moment Britain surrendered Singapore to Japan in 1942

“Purge through cleansing” - Sook Ching, was a Japanese military operation directed towards the “hostile elements” in Singapore after the fall of the city to Japanese rule. The massacre lasted from 18 February to 4 March 1942 and claimed the lives of as many as 30,000 to 100,000 people.

The exact number is murky due to insufficient evidence, but all sides agree that the purge happened and that it was extremely bloody. The operation was led by the Japanese secret police, Kempeitai. The secret police used a web of informants who would often sell information, accusing innocent people for their gain.

Those who survived the inspection walked with “examined” stamped on their faces, arms, or clothing.

4. CHANGOJIAO MASSACRE



Victorious Japanese soldiers after the battle of Battle of Beiping

During WWII, the Japanese Imperial Army imposed a scorched-earth strategy on China. It was called “The Three Alls Policy” - “kill all, burn all, loot all”. In just four days (9-12 March 1943), the Changjiao Massacre claimed the lives of 30,000 people and was infamous for its Army-approved mass rape campaign which affected thousands of women.

It was conducted under the command of Field Marshall Shunroku Hata, who was at the time the head of the China Expeditionary Force.

The testimony of a Japanese Kempeitai officer, Uno Shintaro, who participated in the massacre, gives us a truly chilling feel:

“I severed more than forty heads. Today, I no longer remember each of them well. It might sound extreme, but I can almost say that if more than two weeks went by without my taking a head, I didn’t feel right. Physically, I needed to be refreshed.”

3. THE MANILLA MASSACRE



Manila Walled City Destruction May 1945

In the Battle of Manila from February to March 1945, the United States Army and the Philippine Commonwealth Army advanced into the city to drive out the Japanese.

During lulls in the battle for control of the city, the Japanese under the command of General Yamashita took out their anger and frustration on the civilians, demonstrating the true madness of war and defeat. Mutilations, rapes, and massacres occurred in schools, hospitals, and convents. A local hotel was used as a “rape center”.

These women, many of them 12 to 14 years old, were then taken to the hotel, where they were raped. The estimated total number of civilian casualties was over 100,000, and the city was left utterly destroyed.

2. BURMA RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the Burma Railway, which was a vital Japanese supply route at the time, 80,000-100,000 of the local Malayan population and more than 13,000 Allied POWs (British, Dutch, Australian, and American) lost their lives in a year-long period from 1943 to 1944.

The workers were molested, malnourished, refused medical care, and executed in the most brutal ways.

In popular culture this event was immortalized by Pierre Boulle in his 1952 book (and later a film) “The Bridge on the River Kwai”, but it sparked controversy depicting the working camps in a very unrealistic way and therefore, diminishing the suffering of the victims and the survivors.



Shunroku Hata

1. ZHEJIANG-JIANGXI CAMPAIGN

In 1942 the American Air Force was planning to construct clandestine airstrips on Chinese territory that wasn't under full control of Japan. These airstrips were to serve as a landing pad for US bombers after bombing missions on the Japanese mainland conducted from the USS Hornet aircraft carrier during the Doolittle raid.

Because the raid had to be launched earlier than planned, and because the Japanese Army was already in the process of locating and destroying the Chinese airbases, most of the aircraft ran out of fuel and crash-landed in the provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangxi. Surviving airmen parachuted and hid among the Chinese civilians who sheltered them.

Out of 64 that managed to bail out, eight were captured and executed almost immediately by the Japanese. In the search for the remaining US airmen, the Japanese conducted a thorough search, executing, pillaging, and burning entire villages as an act of retribution for aiding the Americans.

The result was a devastating trail of 250,000 dead Chinese civilians. The Commander-in-Chief at the time was Field Marshal Shunroku Hata, the man behind the Changjiao Massacre.

After the war, in 1948, he was sentenced to life in prison but was paroled only six years later, in 1954. Until he died in 1962, he was a respected public figure and a head of the charitable organization “Kaikosha”, established to aid the Japanese war veterans.

APOLOGY REBUFFED BY GENERAL MACARTHUR

Since the war ended there have been many discussions concerning apologies that were /were not offered/received or accepted by the Japanese for their atrocities during WW2. Probably the earliest attempt at an apology from the Japanese was made under the circumstances outlined below.

In one version of the formal apology, Emperor Hirohito, the Japanese monarch, is reported to have said to General MacArthur: "I come before you to offer myself to the judgment of the powers you represent, as to bear sole responsibility for every political and military decision made and action taken by my people in the conduct of the war."

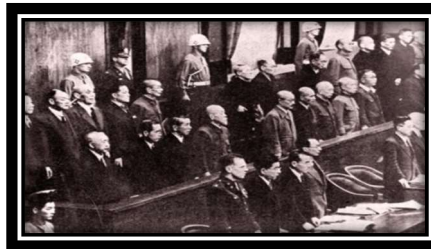
In a second version of the formal apology, Patrick Lennox Tierney claims that he was an eyewitness when the Emperor came to the Allied Supreme Commander's headquarters to present this apology. Tierney was in his office on the fifth floor of the Dai-ichi Insurance Building in Tokyo. This was the same floor where MacArthur's suite was situated.

Tierney reported that when the emperor arrived, MacArthur refused to admit him or acknowledge him, and the pivotal moment passed.

Many years later, Tierney made an effort to explain his understanding of the significance of what he claimed he had personally witnessed: "Apology is a very important thing in Japan. [...] ***It was the rudest, crudest, and most uncalled-for thing I have ever witnessed in my life.***" ***Whether true or not***—issues that might have been addressed were allowed to remain open and unanticipated consequences have unfolded across the decades since then.

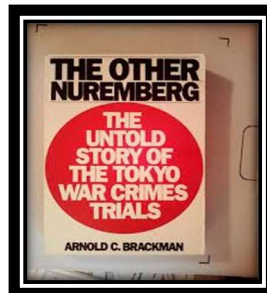
PART THREE

JAPANESE WAR CRIMINALS HANGED IN TOKYO



In Tokyo, Japan, Hideki Tajo, former Japanese premier and chief of the Kwantung Army, is executed along with six other top Japanese leaders for their war crimes during World War II. Seven of the defendants were also found guilty of committing crimes against humanity, especially regarding their systematic genocide of the Chinese people.

On November 12, death sentences were imposed on Tajo and the six other principals, such as Iwane, Matsui, who organized the Rape of Nanking, and Hectare Kimura, who brutalized Allied prisoners of war. Sixteen others were sentenced to life imprisonment, and the remaining two of the original 25 defendants were sentenced to lesser terms in prison.



Unlike the Nuremberg trial of German war criminals, where four chief prosecutors were representing Great Britain, France, the United States, and the USSR, the Tokyo trial featured only one chief prosecutor-American Joseph B. Keenan, a former assistant to the U.S. attorney general. However, other nations, especially China, contributed to the proceedings, and Australian judge William Flood Webb presided. In addition to the central Tokyo trial, various tribunals sitting outside Japan judged some 5,000 Japanese guilty of war crimes, of whom more than 900 were executed.

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HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM WHAT APPEARS TO BE AUTHENTIC WEBSITES
I CANNOT ENSURE THAT ALL THE DATA IN THIS ARTICLE IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT.