

(4066.62, 62)

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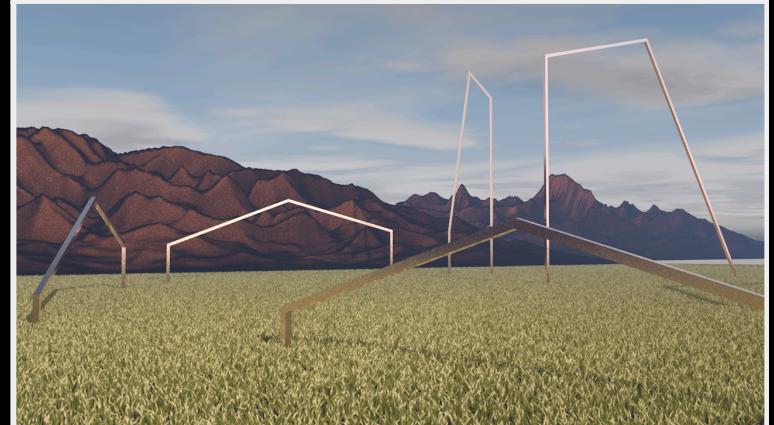
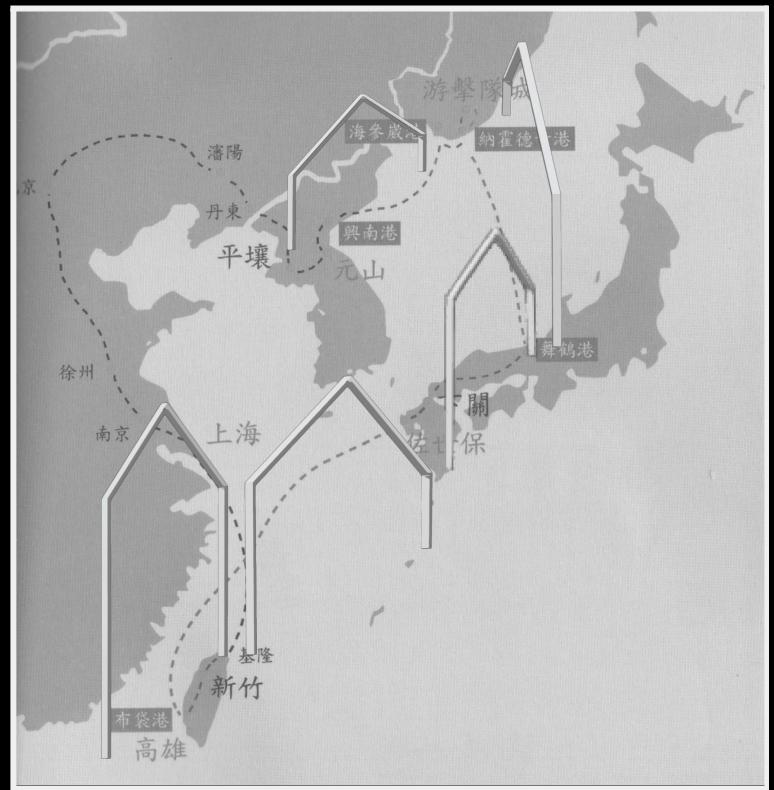
4066.62 marks the geographical distance between Tai-Japanese Hakka soldier Lai Xingyang and his hometown of Guanxi when he was captured by the Soviet Union and sent to Siberia. The repeated 62 signifies the 62 difficult months Lai Xingyang endured from the time he was called up by the military until he finally returned home.



Recruited by the Japanese colonial government during the Pacific War, Lai traveled with the Japanese army from Zuoying through Shanghai, Beijing, to Pyongyang and Wonsan in North Korea. On August 15, 1945, Japan declared surrender, and Lai, along with

other prisoners of war, was taken through Vladivostok, Sukhoy Nos, and Nakhodka before being sent to three years of labor camp in Siberia.¹ These numbers not only record a historical event but also encapsulate the life journey of Lai Xingyang while witnessing all the struggles and suffering of displacement.

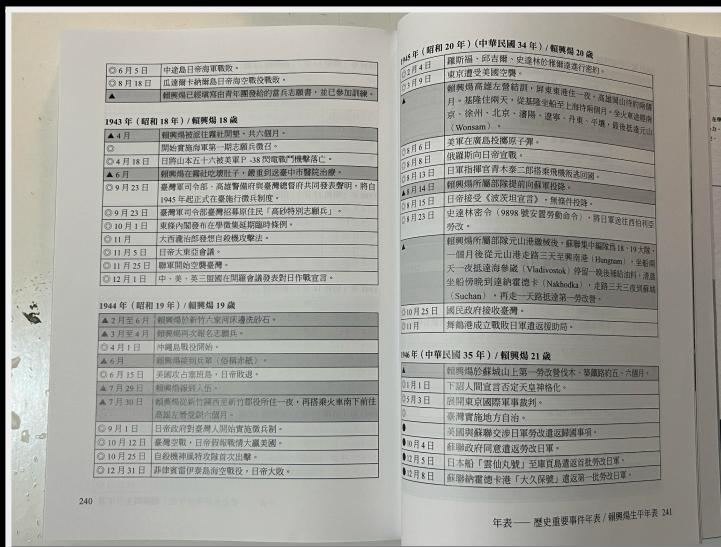
The complex and conflicting identity of Tai-Japanese Hakka soldiers holds a unique position in history.² They were not acknowledged as Japanese due to segregation during the colonial time, and they did not identify as Taiwanese or Chinese themselves even after the KMT government took over the islands. This entangled string of history was suppressed for nearly 50 years due to its political sensitivity under martial law and is still neglected and marginalized today.



The Guanxi project aspires to uncover this hidden story through research and establish a community-based non-institutional monument that honors and memorializes this important Hakka history of the past. The project visualizes Lai's several twists and turns and long journeys home through a parametric design system. Taking the distance of movement as the width, and using the time of stay as the height variable, each data point is built into a deformed house that reflects the chaos of the war and the uneasiness between each migration.



The scattered coordinates represent not only Lai's fluctuating journey home but also the last trail of countless Tai-Japanese soldiers at that time. Just as these soldiers were forced to leave their hometowns and drift to foreign lands, many people were forced to leave their hometowns because of politics, the economy or simply seeking a better life.



Does the shape of the home gradually change through each departure?

We invite participants to interact with our website to document their journey of leaving and coming home by inputting these data and sharing their personal stories. Each data point will then be fed into the parametric system and added to a collection of uniquely generated deformed houses on the website. These data will also be uploaded to the cloud and captured by the physical installation in Guanxi, presented in continuously flashing telegraphic signals.

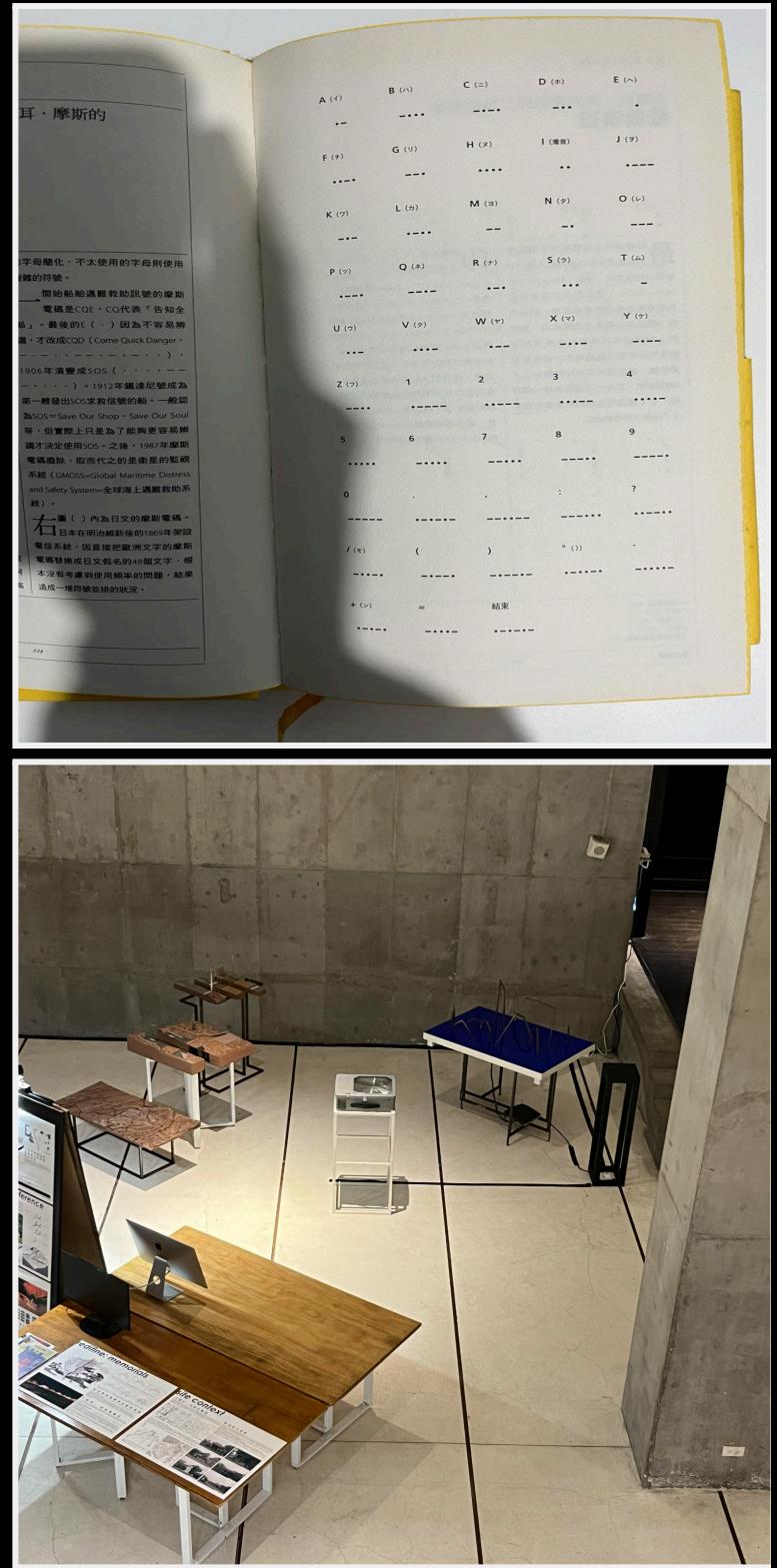


(15.98, 188)	
	居住地點 A Guanxi Township, Hsinchu County, Taiwan 306 10年 5個月
	居住地點 B Zhubei City, Hsinchu County, Taiwan 302 5年 3個月
移動距離 當時的心情	15.98 公里 插入感人的故事
Zhupei City, Hsinchu County, Taiwan 302 Guanxi Township, Hsinchu County, Taiwan 306 (24.8346871, 120.9593679) (24.8044851, 121.1481)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 依心情篩選 <input type="checkbox"/> 創建我的路徑 <input type="checkbox"/>	

We plan to produce more artifacts during our week in residence at CultureHub. Using the provided resources, we will experiment with a diverse range of materials and media, including printmaking, projection mapping, and sound while continuing to refine our current website and installation. We also wish to connect with other resident artists who explore similar topics and participate in a cooperative learning environment.

Through these actions, we want to renew the history of Tai-Japanese Hakka soldiers, and the people in migration through a wider lens, while engaging with the local context. As immigrants in NYC ourselves, we recognize the city's rich immigrant histories and many resident's different struggles with self-identification.

We want to emphasize the conversation between these two strings of history and facilitate discussions around memory, immigration, and nostalgia.



Bibliography

1. Yang, M., & Peng, Z. (2023). *One Day I'll Return Home: The Story of Lai Xing-Yang in a Siberian Labor Camp*. Wunan.
2. Wenliang L. (2019). *Becoming Taiwanese Hakka*. National Taiwan University Press.