

APHAFIC winter meeting was held on February 23rd, Saturday from 1:30-3:30pm at University Community library, 4155 Governor Dr. San Diego, 92122, CA, close to 30 people attended the meeting. Nancy Lo gave a brief report of the activities of APHAFIC in 2018 before Jack Meng introduced the speaker, Mr. Lei Liu (劉磊). Mr. Liu, a car mechanic, has been collecting WWII relics for the last 20 years, including over 10,000 photos, and more than 4000 objects, Although not a historian, he knows many of them. He has the story behind each item collected. He brought with him photos of Sino-Japanese war, military knives of Japan and diaries of some Japanese soldiers in China during Sino-Japanese war.

He showed the diary of a Japanese veteran out of 200 diaries collected. He felt that there must be some errors in history of Sino-Japanese war. During that time, Chinese army didn't have enough guns, e.g. a third of the 29th army unit had guns from Qing dynasty, which had no ammunition or bayonet mount. Those soldiers had to carry knives as weapon. Manchuria extended to Miyun (密雲區) right outside of Beijing. Only one road from Beijing south, that's through Marco Polo Bridge (芦沟桥) where the **Lugou Bridge Incident** took place on July 7, 1937, invaded by Japanese Imperial Army. He mentioned the Kuomintang **Anti-Japanese War** (国民党的抗戰), The Battle of Shangha (沪淞戰役) and others.

He gave a 25 minutes talk at US Congress in 2015 and mentioned American assisting China to fight against Japanese Imperial Army: Some American marines who were dressed in English military uniforms in his hometown Qingdao ; He once received a photo of a 19 year old marine who died in China, and once said that "I will always remember my mission in China"..... , others like Flying tiger... The Hump (驼峰航線), and Aluminum Valley(铝谷), a valley under the most dangerous route in history paved with aircraft wreckage(历史上最危险的航线, 航线下有一条“铝谷, 是用飞机残骸铺成的), as planes crashed there. America and China were allies during Sino-Japanese war.

Regarding his collection, Mr. Liu mentioned that professor Tai-Chun Kuo(郭岱君), Stanford Hoover institute researcher on WWII, recommended to include dates on his collection of WWII photos, important for history. The same for the diaries, which recorded where the Japanese military advanced to every day. He showed a service bag(奉公袋) of the Japanese soldier which contained his birth certificate, etc. He bought this at an auction after the mother of the soldier passed away. During Nanking massacre, 18.5 million Chinese deaths according to Japanese document (歷史写真), 35 million including injuries. He got the numbers after adding the counts in the documents by Japanese documents. The speaker showed a photo sample from the phone. The total mortality in Nanking massacre could be 20% more, (南京大屠殺数字還要高, 至少20%). During Yuan dynasty, the war against the Japanese gave rise to the name of divine wind (kamikaze, 神風).

The meaning of what Mr. Liu is doing is "for those who died before me". He asked "Should I donate my collection?" His grandma, a graceful girl of noble birth (大家閨秀), never went to school but taught him this when he was little. The family donated 10,000 sets of military uniforms

including quilts made by themselves.

He explained some of his objects he brought with him on display at the meeting:

軍刀 (Guntō, **military** sword) owned by the Japanese soldiers, with house pattern (家紋) mark of Chinese parasol tree (wutong tree, 梧桐樹) leave and flower, symbol of Japanese surrender.

A picture of Japanese flag with places Japanese army attacked is an evidence of the rape of Nanking. Another one was signed by Japanese officers. He has over 200 such flags including the banner of invasion of Wuhan (武漢入城紀念) held by Japanese soldiers, a knife with American and Kuomintang, (國民黨) flags and eagle, the US marine symbol and others.

He showed the original diary of a Japanese soldier (that has been reproduced). The last page was about how he wrote the diary during the war from 1937-1939 after he returned to Japan: e.g. Cooking water contaminated by blood from the dead, lucky to have survived, the misery of Chinese people (中國人的至悲至慘), the sinful war(戰爭仍罪惡) and others. Mr. Liu hopes to have it translated into English, Chinese and Japanese. In coming June, the diary will be displayed at the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders (南京大屠殺紀念館). He also hopes to have the diary digitized, costly from pen marks and encourage people to join the effort, The name of participants will be added to the associates' page.

Other things he brought were: stamps from each city entered by Japanese army, many photos: like people carrying the planes uphill to save gasoline, communists fighting in the war; US stamp from 1942 of Chinese WWII, memorial of occupancy of Shanhaiguan Pass (山海關佔領紀念), hospital, more diaries, Hangzhou Bay(杭州灣) photos by Japanese military journalist, When Japanese soldiers killed people in Beijing, others turn away (北京殺人時別人扭頭就走), Shanghai publisher building bombed by the Japanese, photo by American journalists before the US declared war. Photos also need to be digitized.



Mr. Lei Liu gave a talk on 'One person's fight against Japan'



Mr. Lei Liu explained the displayed objects collected by him



Mr. Liu showed pictures during Sino-Japanese war.



Mr. Liu with APHAFIC present and past board members Lilin Wang, Howard Chang, Jen-shih Lee, Mr. Lei Liu, Nancy Lo, Jack Meng, David Hu and Lily Ronghui Xu



Display of pictures and documents and



An airplane carried by people to go uphill to save gasoline



Some of the places that Japanese Imperial army invaded in China during second Sino-Japanese war, a Japanese document.

Photos provided by Holly Jing, Alice Keyes and Siu-fong Evans