

TORN MEMORIES OF NANKING: A documentary film and book on Nanking Massacre," produced by TAMAKI MATSUOKA (松岡環)

In 1937, Japanese invasion of China intensified after the Luguoqiao (or Marco Polo Bridge) Incident on July 7 (七七事變) in the outskirt of Peking (Beijing). The flame of war quickly spread to the coastal cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou. For the following three months, Japanese troops carried out full-force attacks to cities in the Shanghai region. On December 13, Japanese troops surged into Nanking (Nanjing), then the capital city of China, and for six weeks, conducted the most violent and brutal slaughter on its residents. The death toll of the "Nanking Massacre" was estimated to be greater than 200,000 then, and substantiated to be greater than 300,000 in the subsequent years by historians, journalists, civilians through their letters, diaries, films, etc. collected by Chinese and foreigners.



Ms. Tamaki Matsuoka, an elementary school teacher and journalist, was born in Osaka, Japan in 1947. She started investigation of the history of the Nanking Massacre in 1988 after she read books and magazines on its history with drastically contradictory assertions. She decided to start her own investigation by visiting Nanking and listened to the recounts of the war victims. In Japan, she took the grass-root approach and set up the "Nanking Information Hotline" for three days in six major Japanese cities in order to encourage ex-Japanese soldiers to call and provide firsthand information. This won media coverage, and she received 130 calls, with 13 of those calls from ex-soldiers.

Over the following 20 years, she has dedicated herself to interviewing 250 ex-Japanese soldiers of the 3rd, 9th, 16th and 6th divisions among the divisions that attacked Nanking on December 13, 1937. Using her own money and resources, she has made more than 90 trips to Nanking, and interviewed hundreds of surviving victims. These interviews were videotaped and are the main contents of the documentary film entitled "*Torn Memories of Nanjing*," debuted in 2009. She was racing with the clock as ex-soldiers and victims are dying out one by one due to old age.

By comparing notes of the assailants and victims, Tamaki matched up records and compiled testimonies of the mass slaughter, rape, arson, destruction, plunder and other unimaginable violence committed to the unresisting Nanking residents including women, elderly and children. Her work produced numerous presentations, research articles, films and several books. Thanks to her and others, the true picture of Nanking Massacre is gradually being revealed to the world with irrefutable evidence.

Most admirably, Tamaki accomplished all of the above in a largely hostile environment within Japan where during the past 30 years, various Japanese groups and government officers have tried to deny the crime and attempted to minimize the number of victims. Testimonies by ex-Japanese soldiers were neglected, and history text books were modified to justify the atrocities occurring during the Japanese invasion of China and other Asian countries during WWII. Tamaki and her supporters received threats, attacks from media and extreme right-wingers, and mud-slinging on those ex-soldiers who spoke out. Tamaki's courage and persistence to challenge the denial by Japanese media and government are admirable.

TAMAKI MATSUOKA'S WORK (PARTIAL LIST) IS SHOWN BELOW:

2002 – Published book entitled *The Battle of Nanking – Searching for Forbidden Memories*.
Awarded in 2003 the “Japan Congress of Journalists Prize”

2003 - Published book entitled *The Battle of Nanking – Torn Souls of 120 Chinese Victims*.

2005 – Produced DVD series of *Confessions of Japanese Veterans – Nanking Massacre*.

2007 – Published article entitled “The Nanking Massacre in Letters and Diaries of Ex-Soldiers.”

2007 – Hosted the display section of “Japanese Soldiers at the Japanese Invasion into China” in
“The Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders” (侵華日軍南京大屠殺遇難同胞紀念館)

2009 – Produced documentary film *Torn Memories of Nanjing*. The film was nominated for
Documentary Film Section at the Hong Kong International Film Festival, and invited for
the Shanghai International Film Festival non-competition documentary film section, 2010.

2011 – Produced documentary film *Corporal Matsumura in Nanjing*.

2016 – Published new book in English entitled *Torn Memories of Nanking*, which encapsulates her
lifetime work of research and publications.

We salute Ms. Tamaki Matsuoka's outstanding efforts and courage in investigating the history of “Nanking Massacre” from both the perspectives of ex-Japanese soldiers and the Chinese victims. Her effort is exemplary for people who stand and fight for justice in Japan, and around the world.

HER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE A PRICELESS GIFT TO MANKIND.