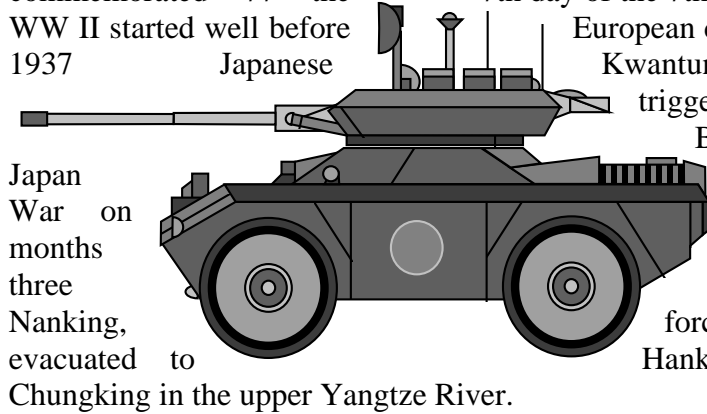


CHINESE AIRMEN TRAINED IN US LEND-LEASE ACT PACKAGE

More than half a century after the Second World War, ordinary people on the street all over the world still puzzle what the exact date the war had started. Europeans point to the day when German Panzer entered Poland September 1939 while the Americans mark the Day of Infamy, Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. The Chinese, who suffered the most, commemorated “77” the 7th day of the 7th month in 1937. As a matter of fact, WW II started well before European conflict or Pearl Harbor. On July 7, 1937 Japanese Kwantung Army created an incident to trigger off a conflict near Marco Polo Bridge, southwest Peking. Imperial

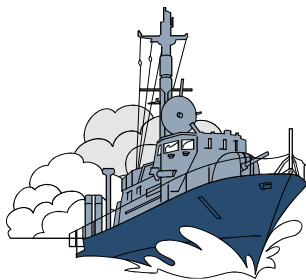


Japan War on months three Nanking, evacuated to Chungking in the upper Yangtze River.

launched a Total Aggressive Mainland China. In about three Japanese troops had overrun major cities, Peking, Shanghai and forcing Chinese Central Government Hankow, central China, and later to

With superior weapon system and a well-trained army Japanese offensive had won a number of battles. Nonetheless, the war was still no end in sight. Chinese scorching earth strategy had bogged down hundreds of thousands of Japs in China. Contrary to what the Japanese militarists plan “To subdue China in three months” as what they did to Manchuria overnight in 1931, the aggressors had paid dearly.

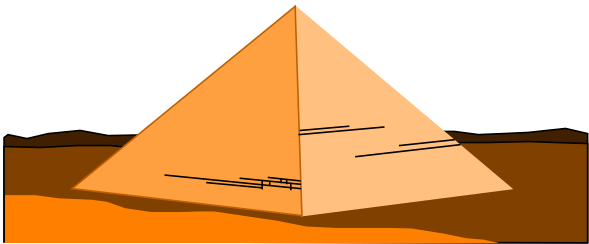
At the very beginning Chinese government did call for international tribunal to settle the dispute but the impotent League of Nations turned a deaf ear. Major powers of the world busily nursed their appeasement policy. People of China had to fight their just and lengthy resistance war alone. With meager American loan and some Russian weapon system, the Chinese fought with blood and sweat against a formidable and military superior enemy. Only American Volunteer Group (AVG, known as the Flying Tigers, the forerunner of US 14th Air Force) came for assistance. Chinese people were highly grateful to these gallant Americans who, under General Chennault’s leadership, risked their lives to fight alongside with the ill-equipped Chinese Air Force against the invading air fleet. They fought a number of campaigns in central and south China.



As the war dragged on tremendous casualties were caused for the Chinese, both on the ground and in the air. To maintain a minimum combat effectiveness, replacements must be continuously trained. Foot soldiers, the army, could be trained in country but air force combat crew, pilots in particular, could not be trained due to airplane, part and fuel shortage. Japanese naval blockade extended from Tientsin to Canton had cut off all the sea lane outlet which rendered Chinese supply almost impossible. Only outlet open was through Siberia or the rugged and twisty Burma Road.

The situation changed as ambitious Japan tried to swallow up the world. In the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese naval carrier forces initiated a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor that made the world stun. In concert with the sneaky attack, massive Imperial convoys deployed into South China Sea. Soon afterward Hong Kong was taken, Singapore sacked. Subsequently the oil rich Dutch East Indies was occupied, the Philippines invaded. Japanese troops in Indo-China marched into Malay Peninsula and pushed northwest. The Kingdom of Thailand declared neutral and let pass to prevent bloodshed. Japanese invaders would, then, march free to Rangoon. Burma and India became immediately targets of Japanese Empire.

This appalling situation caused Allies grave concerned. Combat units of the British Empire (Commonwealth in particular) and the United States were deployed to the scene. To help check the Japanese offensive onslaught, Chinese Government was asked to send troops to tropical Burmese jungle. Chinese government responded generously and sent in her crack New First Army, composed most of the one hundred thousand (100,000) patriotic youths (Volunteer young intellectuals). To scratch each other's back, Chinese Government received a handsome supply of war material (aircraft and armament) over



the hump of the Himalayas under US Lend-Lease Act. To keep China at war, President Roosevelt invited Chinese leaders to Cairo on 23 November 1943, four days before Tehran Conference, to affirm China a Big-Four major-power status even Churchill felt unpleasant. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek was given

a fancy title "Supreme Commander of China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater" with an American general served as his chief of staff.

Except war material, the Act also provided training packages to Allied countries for air force combat crew in the United States. From 1942 to 1945 tens of thousands of Chinese Air Force pilots and crewmembers had been trained in this package. I was one of these trainees traveling from southwest China via India and south Pacific to the United States to receive the training. When I completed all the stipulated courses and OJT (On the job training) I received my pilot wings and was qualified as a P-38 photo reconnaissance pilot. China the summer of Chinese Air Force and had successfully hundred and fifty mission during my major general before



Returned to Nanking, 1946, I served the for thirty-five years flown more than one sorties of combat tour of duty. I made my retirement.

Time and tide wait for no man, I am getting in age and memory deteriorates. Nevertheless, I tried hard to write a memoir

of my long journey and training in the States more than half a century ago. Chronicles of the Second World War history have been widely written but more or less for European Theater or regional campaigns in the Pacific Ocean. Little, if any, touches on China-Burma or China Theater. There is nothing mentioned to the Lend-Lease Act training. This manuscript, I hope, would serve as the missing bits and pieces of post World War II historical document.