

INFORMATION

Hours: 10:00~17:00

Closed on every Monday

- Adult NT\$20, Student NT\$10

- Student group (20 or more) NT\$5 per person

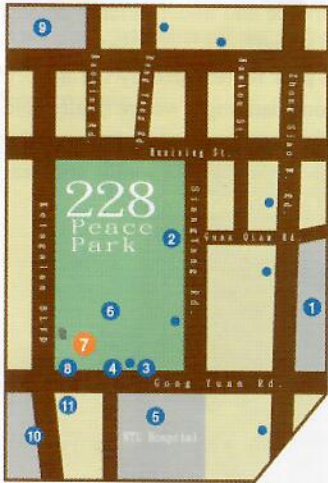
- Free admission for the following categories:

- Victims of 2-28 incident and their families
- Person age 65 and over
- Preschool children
- Disable persons
- Holders of children's passport of Taipei city government

- Free admission days

The February 28th Memorial day

December 10th Human Rights Day



MAP

- 1 Taipei Main Station
- 2 Taiwan Provincial Museum
- 3 MRT Station (NTU Hospital- Exit 4)
- 4 MRT Station (NTU Hospital- Exit 1)
- 5 NTU Hospital
- 6 228 Monument
- 7 Taipei 228 Memorial Museum
- 8 Police Sub Station
- 9 Presidential Office
- 10 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 11 Taipei Guest House
- 12 Bus Station

TAIPEI 228 MEMORIAL MUSEUM

No.3 KETAGALAN BLVD., TAIPEI, TAIWAN

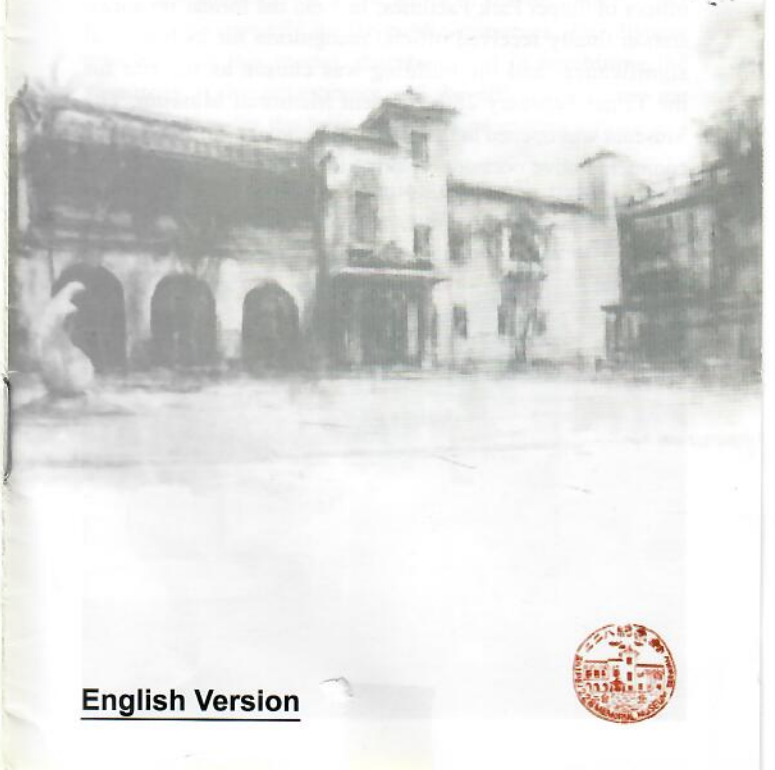
TEL:886-2-23897228 FAX:886-2-23895228

<http://228.culture.gov.tw/>

Exhibition Guide



台北二二八紀念館
TAIPEI 228 MEMORIAL MUSEUM



English Version



The February 28th Memorial Museum

The present building was first constructed by the Japanese colonial government in 1930 as the Taipei Broadcasting Bureau. After World War II, the Nationalist party (KMT) expropriated the property and renamed it the Taiwan Broadcasting Station. It played an important role during the February 28th Incident in 1947 as the transmitter of official and public messages. Representatives from the military and the government proclaimed their authority and resolutions to appease the public, while local leaders sought reform and compromise. In 1949 the Nationalist government completed its evacuation to Taiwan, and the building facilities were used by the Chinese Broadcasting Company until 1972, when the latter was relocated and the property returned to Taipei city government. It was then occupied by the administrative offices of Taipei Park Facilities. In 1996 the former broadcast station finally received official recognition for its historical significance, and the building was chosen as the site for the Taipei February 28th Incident Memorial Museum. The Museum was opened to the public on February 28, 1997, at the commemorative occasion marking the 50th anniversary of the Incident.



A Cornerstone of Taiwanese History

The long shadow cast by the February 28th Incident has contributed to the alienation from, and ultimately apathy towards, the island's history and public affairs by the Taiwanese people. Upon assuming the operation of the Taipei February 28th Incident Memorial Museum, the Taiwan Peace Foundation became the first publicly founded but privately administered cultural and educational institution in Taiwan. In taking such an approach, the Foundation hopes to inspire greater interests hence participation in public affairs.

For the existing or future cultural and educational institutes throughout Taiwan, the Taipei February 28th Incident Memorial Museum serves as a model in which the government assists as well as oversees the operations administered by the private sector. In order to attract experts in the private sector to involve themselves in the arena of public culture, it is necessary to properly utilize public resources. The distinct advantage of this model, therefore, lies in combining the resources of the government and the efficiency of private administration for the joint venture of promoting culture and educational activities.

Dedication to the promotion of human rights, peace, and justice is more than just domestic consensus for the developed nations; it has become more or less an international concern. Many nations have erected memorials or museums in the effort to reflect upon the cruelty of war, to preserve historical records, and to serve as a reminder not to repeat the same mistakes. The Taipei February 28th Incident Memorial Museum, dedicated to the promotion of culture and education, belongs to all Taiwanese.

We sincerely invite public participation and interests in all our events and activities, through which we can grow together and also record our efforts to promote peace.



The Tragedy of 2-28

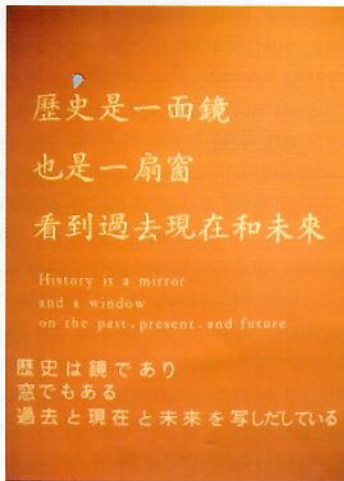
The February 28th Incident of 1947 is a bloodstained page of history waiting for cleansing. It is a blank page in history waiting to be written. And it is an episode without details, awaits clarification.

Briefly, the February 28th Incident is a tragedy of severe cultural clash due to forceful reunification of two areas after long-term separation. It seemed inevitable and progressed in three stages: conflicts between people and the government, military suppression, and massacre of the innocents.

The immediate reason that led to the Incident occurred when Monopoly Bureau officials attempted to arrest a woman peddling smuggled cigarettes. Insensitive to the growing discontent among the populace, officials stalled and waited for reinforcements, continuing their tradition of rule through the barrel of the gun. Following the arrival of reinforcements from China on March 8, troops slaughtered innocent people island-wide. On the other hand, many of the Taiwanese elite were systematically arrested—then killed or disappeared.

The ensuing full-scale cleansing of the land and White Terror cast Taiwan into a forty-year spell of darkness. Poet Wu Ying-tao wrote: "There \ like a corpse on the street \ I lay on the ground. \ The sun scorched my life, \ the cold night froze my spirit. \ On, I truly died one death then."

Indeed, the dead became lost souls, and survivors died a death of their own. Poet Chen Fang-ming wrote: "In 1947 \ the island greeted my birth with muffled echoes. \ Looking back, my father said: \ 'That wasn't the thunder of spring storms; \ it



was the elegy of a funeral procession. \ The spring cultivation had yet to begin. \ And weeds had overgrown the island's cemeteries.' \ In a quivering voice, Father said: \ 'An early harvest of death arrived in 1947.'"

The most deeply betrayed and hurt are the countless wronged souls and dead, and their shattered families. Death without recourse took away sons from mothers, husbands from wives, fathers from children, and older brothers from younger siblings. For them, after thousands of sleepless, tearful nights, the dawn may seem like it may never arrive. Taiwanese society, suffering varying degrees, thus entered a long period of cleansing, to await the warmth of spring to bring flowers to bloom.

The February 28th Incident is a page of history that as yet to be written. The depth of the pain and the magnitude of the tragedy demand that we reflect on events and attempt to heal our wounds. Most of the problems in Taiwan today, such as national identity, political structure, thinking modes, and other social and cultural problems can be traced back to this dark time. Therefore, all residents of Taiwan must honestly confront this historical issue and work together to make a fresh start at building a society of shared destiny, as this is the only way to ensure a healthy, civilized, peaceful future for Taiwan.



Terrifying Inspection (The Taiwan February 28th Incident)

—Li Jun—



Huang Rong-chan, known by the nickname “Li Jun”(Powerful Soldier), arrived in Taiwan from China in 1945. Employed at the Provincial Teachers College (now National Taiwan Normal University), he witnessed the events of the February 28th Incident. Based on this experience, Huang created a series of woodblock prints, and published an account of the horrors he experienced, entitled “Terrifying Inspection (The Taiwan February 28th Incident),” in the April 28, 1947 edition of Hong Kong Wen Wei Po newspaper.

Ground Floor Exhibition

Historical Setting

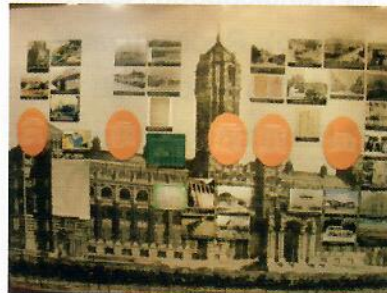
More than three decades before the outbreak of the February 28th Incident in 1947, Taiwanese intellectuals, though under Japanese colonial rule, were inspired by the global trend of self-determination and had begun advocating social and political modernization. Their actions reflected Taiwanese aspiration for democracy, freedom, equality, justice, as well as new ideals.

It is evident that prior to the February 28th Incident, Taiwanese were experienced in resisting injustice and in questing for equality and freedom. The incident was just another episode along this line.

Modernization under Colonial Rule

After fifty years as a Japanese colony, Taiwan had experienced a structural change in every aspect. The Japanese government had established a tight network among government, judicial, and police agencies, as well as household administration organs, farmers’ associations, and other financial system. It also instituted island-wide elementary education and constructed infrastructures such as large-scale irrigation system, highways and railroads, utility plants, etc. These developments had a significant impact on the lifestyles as well as value systems of the Taiwanese people.

In fact, Taiwan was more modernized than the Chinese mainland since the late Ch’ing period when Liu Ming-chuan was governor. Half a century of development under Japanese rule further widened the gap between the island and the



mainland infected by continuous turmoil. Keeping this historical background in mind is crucial in understanding the cause of the February 28th Incident.

Taiwan Under Japanese Rule — Clashing Identification

In order to understand the background of the February 28th Incident, it is necessary to understand the colonial experience of the Taiwanese people under Japan which left a deep cultural imprint. After the end of the Second World War, officials and people from the mainland regarded Taiwanese identification with Japan as a form of "subjugation." Such misinterpretation inevitably caused frictions and set the stage for cultural conflicts preceding the eruption of the Incident.

Welcoming a New Era

Japan declared unconditional surrender on August 15, 1945. Fifty days would pass before Nationalist officials and soldiers arrived in, and took over the administration of, Taiwan. In the interim, Taiwanese formed various organizations to maintain local order and security around the island.

Chinese troops landing on October 16 were greeted by Taiwan's elite and the majority of the populace, who welcomed the arrival of the Chinese government with great enthusiasm and expectation. Few expected their enthusiasm would soon be diminished, and their expectation of a new era proved to be the beginning of a tragic period. Neither the elite nor the people could foresee that the "motherland" they wholeheartedly embraced and welcomed would turn her gun against them before long.



Before the Storm

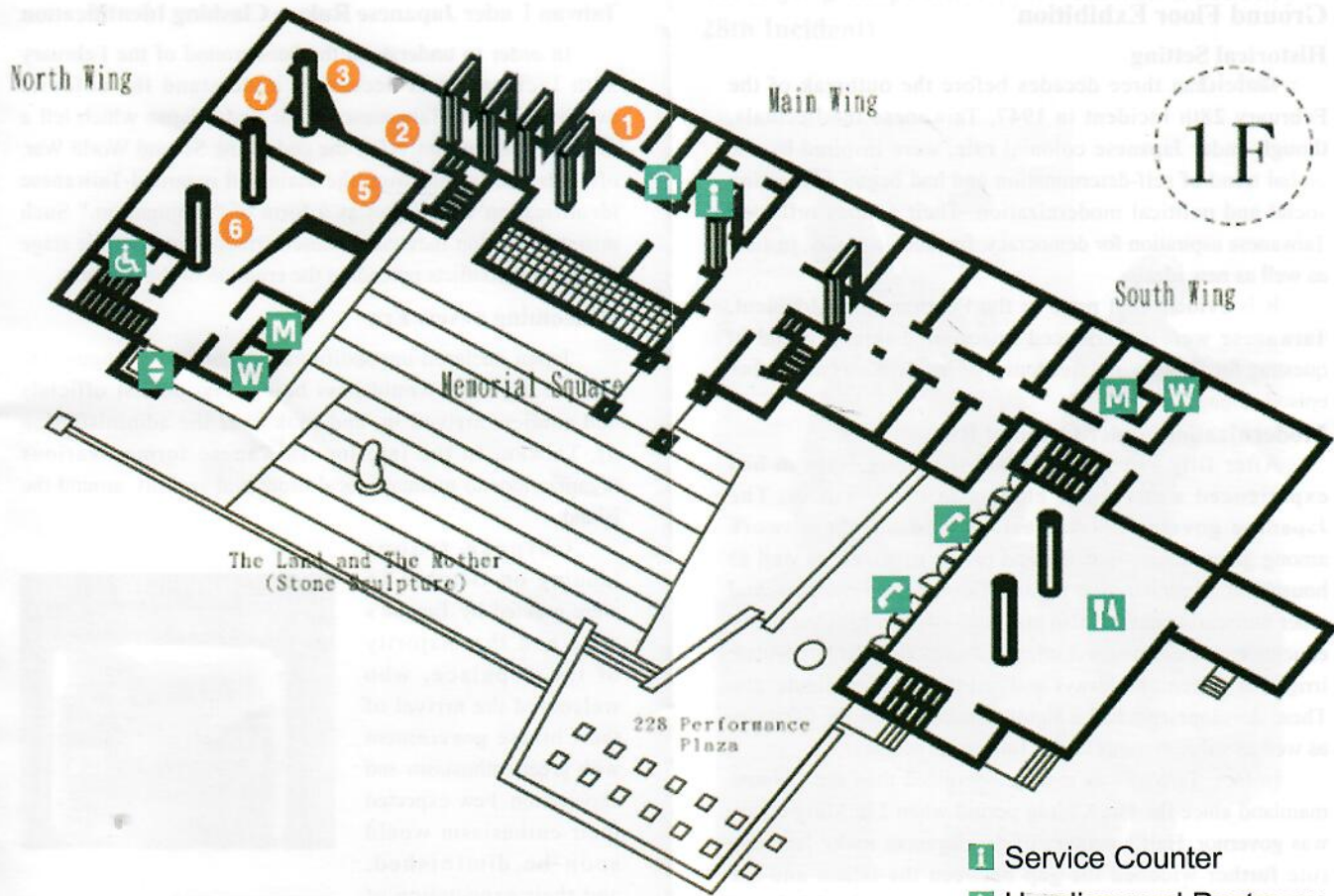
It did not take long for the Taiwanese to realize that the motherland they had pictured in their minds was far removed from the reality. Also, even though the local populace embraced the "motherland," the newly arrived Nationalist government obviously treated Taiwan as a conquered territory.

Soon after the Nationalist government took over Taiwan, signs of deterioration became apparent: political corruption, economic depression, and increase of crime rate—the number of criminal cases increased 28 folds within a year. In 1946, the second year since the "retrocession" of Taiwan, skirmishes and conflicts between the people and the police or the military became frequent throughout the island. The air was thick with tension. Any incident could flare up. In light of this background, the eruption of the February 28th Incident is not completely unexpected.

The Conflagration

The Taiwanese people experienced all sorts of hardships since the arrival of the Nationalist government: all positions of power were monopolized by the mainlanders who also exploited the island economically, living standards were lowered, society became less stable with widespread corruption, etc. By early 1947, high expectations were given way to disappointment, teetering on the brink of desperation. The growing resentment finally erupted on February 27, 1947, in a bloody confrontation over the arrest of a woman peddling smuggled cigarettes. The flood of crashes soon overwhelmed the whole island, growing into a series of violent confrontations known collectively as the February 28th Incident.

Around 2:00 P.M. on February 27, 1947, six agents of the Taiwan Monopoly Bureau, including Fu Hsueh-tung, Yeh Teh-ken, and Cheng Tse-fu, went to the Tamsui Harbor to trace cigarette smuggling without much success. About 6:00 P.M., they came upon a forty-year old woman named Lin Chiang-mai peddling smuggled cigarettes under the walkway near the Tien Ma Tea House by the intersection of Yenping N. Road and

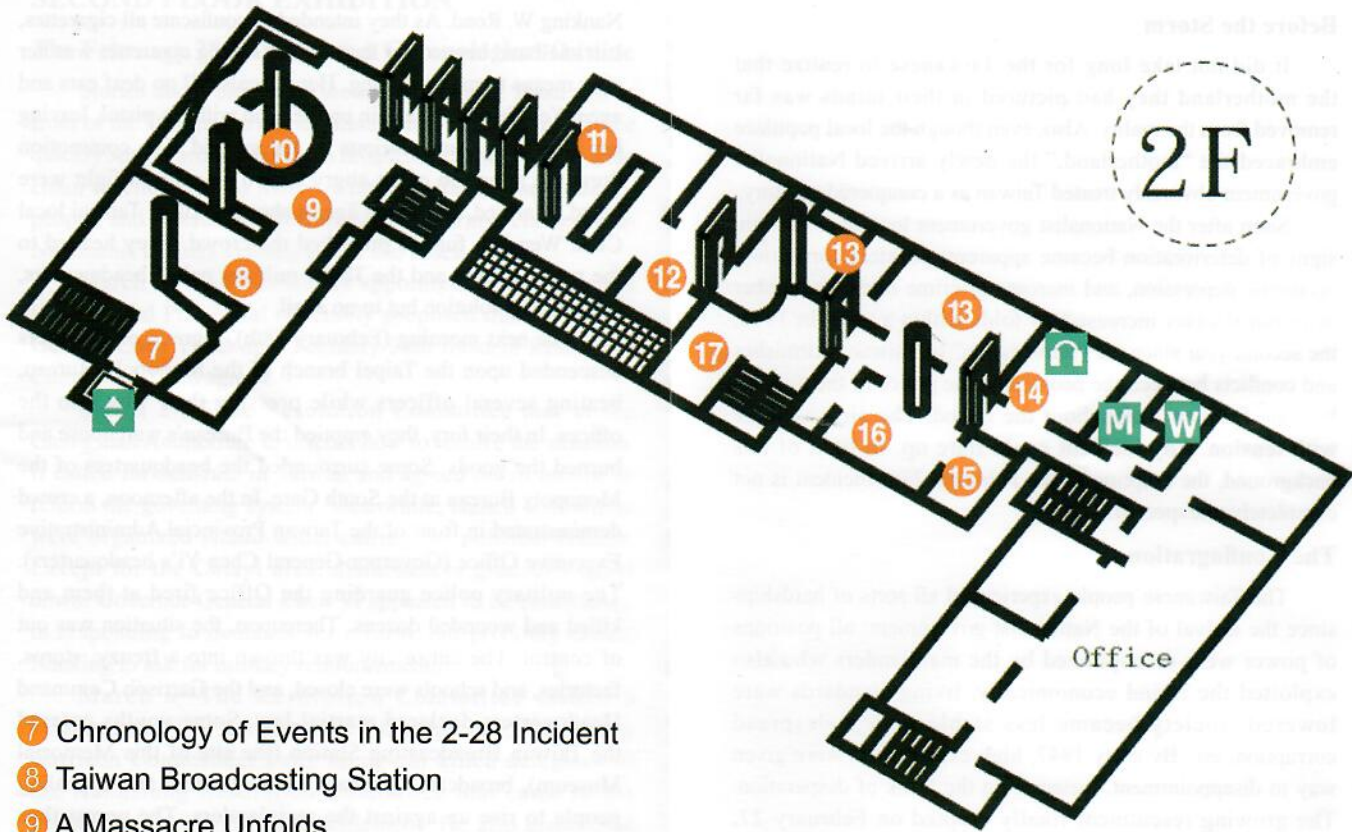


- ① Museum Guide Film Room
- ② Modernization Under Colonial Rule
- ③ Taiwan During the 2nd World War
- ④ Welcoming a New era
- ⑤ Before the Storm
- ⑥ The First Casualty Monopoly Bureau Agents Fire on Crowd

- i Service Counter
- ♿ Handicapped Restroom
- M Men's Room
- W Ladies' Room
- ⬆ Elevator
- v Video Room
- t Public Telephone
- c Museum Cafeteria

SECOND FLOOR EXHIBITION

2F



- 7 Chronology of Events in the 2-28 Incident
- 8 Taiwan Broadcasting Station
- 9 A Massacre Unfolds
- 10 Mourning and Remembrance
- 11 Terror and Resistance
- 12 Witnessing 2-28
- 13 The Struggle for Justice and Movement for Peace
- 14 Historical Film Theater
- 15 2-28 Research and Scholarship
- 16 Reverberations of 2-28
- 17 Remembering 2-28

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Nanking W. Road. As they intended to confiscate all cigarettes, Lin knelt and begged for leniency, as selling cigarettes was her only means to make a living. Her appeals fell on deaf ears and agent Yeh Teh-ken beat Lin on the head with his pistol, leaving her bloody and unconscious on the ground. The commotion drew the attention of an angry crowd as calls to fight were heard. Alarmed, one of the agents shot and killed Tamsui local Chen Wen-hsi, further provoked the crowd. They headed to the police station and the Taipei military police headquarters, demanded a solution but to no avail.

The next morning (February 28th), a group of protesters descended upon the Taipei branch of the Monopoly Bureau, beating several officers while pressing their way into the offices. In their fury, they emptied the Bureau's warehouse and burned the goods. Some surrounded the headquarters of the Monopoly Bureau at the South Gate. In the afternoon, a crowd demonstrated in front of the Taiwan Provincial Administrative Executive Office (Governor-General Chen Yi's headquarters). The military police guarding the Office fired at them and killed and wounded dozens. Thereupon, the situation was out of control. The entire city was thrown into a frenzy; stores, factories, and schools were closed, and the Garrison Command Headquarters declared martial law. Some youths entered the Taiwan Broadcasting Station (the site of this Memorial Museum), broadcasting details of the conflict and appealing people to rise up against the mainlanders. The unrest thus quickly spread throughout the island.



SECOND FLOOR EXHIBITION

The February 28th Incident: A Chronological Outline

Stories about bloodshed around Yenping N. Road and in front of the Taiwan Provincial Administrative Executive Office quickly spread around via radio broadcast, causing island-wide chain reactions. From March 1 onward, Taiwanese students, people, and veterans (of former Japanese army) clashed with Nationalist soldiers in many towns and cities.

March 1—Representatives appointed by the People's Council and Provincial Assembly proposed that Governor-General Chen Yi set up a February 28th Incident Resolution Committee. Chen agreed.

March 2-5—The Resolution Committee met at the Chungshan Auditorium to discuss how to resolve the situation. It called for self-rule in Taiwan and agreed on an outline to reform the governing system. Meanwhile, branch committees were organized island-wide, calling for political reform. Except for the Chiayi area, disturbances gradually quiet down. Governor-General Chen Yi appeared to be conciliatory in responding to demands for reform, but privately cabled Nanking to ask for military reinforcement.

March 6—The Resolution Committee issued a "Communique to All Citizens." On this day, Kaohsiung Garrison Commander Peng Meng-chi killed delegates of the Kaohsiung Resolution Committee that came to his headquarters to negotiate a settlement. He also dispatched troops to fire indiscriminately against citizens meeting at the city auditorium. Casualties were heavy.

March 7—The Provincial Resolution Committee passed the famous "Forty-two Demands," which included a program for political reform, a demand to dismantle the Garrison Command Headquarters, and a request to use mainly Taiwanese soldiers for the garrison of the island. Upon receiving these demands and knowing that reinforcement forces were on their way, Chen Yi renounced his promises. Chen's about-face set the stage for the bloody retribution that would soon engulf the whole island.

Slaughter and Crackdown

Arriving at Taiwan in the afternoon of March 8, Nationalist reinforcement troops began shooting their way from north to south, leaving a trail of blood in their wake. They continued on this so-called "cleansing of the land", slaughtering innocent Taiwanese. The number of death is estimated to be somewhere between ten and twenty thousands.

More than half a century has passed since this dark episode occurred. Due to the repressive political climate, discussion and research on the incident had been prohibited. As a result, historical materials were scattered. Very little visual and written materials survived the chaos. Therefore, the Museum will appreciate any information or materials relating to the incident.

Blood-stained Execution Shirt with Bullet Hole

Lu Ping-chin (1912-1947), a native of Chiayi, was a dentist in charge of a private clinic, the Minsheng Dental Hospital. Following World War Two, he was secretary of the Three Principles of the People Youth Corps. Lu was executed on March 25, 1947 in front of the Chiayi train station as part of the February 28th Incident retribution campaign. Before his death, he left a final note to his wife, Lin Hsiu-mei:

"My beloved wife: Tomorrow I will finally leave this world. I am truly sorry for all the hardship you have had to face in this life because of me. I can only hope to make it up to you in the next life..."

After the execution, Lin Hsiu-mei kept the shirt that Lu Ping-chin wore, stained with blood and marked by a hole where the bullet passed before traveling through her husband's body. She quietly held on to this piece of history for half a century before it finally saw the light of day once again.



Book Penetrated by Dum-dum Bullet



Leighton Stuart, ambassador of the Republic of China, sent the following cable to the U.S. State Department in 1947:

"Today, (March 2), a doctor in charge of a private hospital

and another Taiwanese worker approached the embassy with concrete evidence that Chinese troops use "dumdum" bullets, fired yesterday from a patrol vehicle at the hospital..."

In their crackdown on the general populace, intoxicated with the "thrill of pulling the trigger," Nationalist troops fired this 'dumdum bullet,' which penetrated this thick dermatology text book, scorching it with a frightening mark. Imagine the ghastly damage such a bullet could inflict on soft human flesh.

The text book was furnished by an American named Mr. Edward E. Paine. As an employee of UNRRA, Paine bravely came to the assistance of Taiwanese wounded by gunshot on February 28 outside the Headquarters of the Governor-General of Taiwan. Shortly after the February 28th Incident, Paine returned to the United States, where he continued to appeal to the world to confront "The savagery of the Chinese government and its devastation of the Taiwanese people" in the February 28th Incident.

Paine passed away in the U.S. in May 1998.



Hall of Remembrance

The White Terror

The wounds of the February 28th Incident had yet to heal before Taiwan was enveloped in the dark cloud of tyranny again, this time in the form of the so-called "White Terror." As the exact number of victims of the White Terror remains unclear, the cases illustrated here are merely a few examples. The exhibitions in this section intends to illustrate the linkage between the two events, and also to explain how the protracted political oppression had prevented the historical wounds of the February 28th Incident from healing.

The Struggle for Justice and Movement for Peace

Today, Taiwan had largely walked out of the shadow of martial law and White Terror. Our freedom and democracy were attained at a heavy cost, as countless lives were lost and families were shattered or sacrificed in the struggle for justice. In fact, the freedom to publicly remember the Incident and to investigate into its history has been equally hard won. Therefore, we must all strive for the peaceful coexistence of all people in the hope that such a tragic episode would never happen again.



CONCLUSION

A nation that does not understand history is a nation that has no wisdom; a nation that easily forgets history is a nation that lacks compassion. When we retrace the events of the February 28th Incident, we should ask ourselves: can we learn anything from them? Can our wisdom grow? Can we cultivate a feeling of shared community thereby promote peace and understanding among different ethnic groups on this island?

Despite the tragedy and pain represented by the history herein, by remembering this long dark night we are finally able to embrace the dawn. The most constructive way to honor the countless souls destroyed in the incident is to soothe and heal the wounds and create a brand new era in Taiwan.

