

## Arrangement and Research on Chongqing Bombing Archives

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### Abstract

Chongqing, as the provisional capital and rear center of China during the anti-Japanese war, is the main goal of the bombing of Japanese military aircraft. From February 1938 to August 1943, the Japanese aircraft bombed Chongqing wantonly and indiscriminately for more than five years, causing great loss of life and property. There are a large number of records on Chongqing bombing around the world. In recent years, the academic community has gradually sorted and utilized these related archives, achieving some results. Relatively speaking, the utilization of relevant archives collected in Japan, the United States, Britain and other countries is still quite limited.

**Key words:** Archives; Chongqing bombing; Arrangement; Research

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### INTRODUCTION

2015 is the Chinese people's 70 anniversary of the victory of the Anti-Japanese War and the world anti-fascist war. 70 years ago, after arduous bloody battles, the Chinese people and the people of the world at the expense of

extremely heavy, and blood with life defeated fascism, defeated the Japanese invaders. Time passed, but history can not be forgotten. But seventy years later, some people are denied Japan invaded China's basic facts, denying nature of the war of aggression, lacking of sincerity of grave disasters apology and remorse to Chinese and other Asian people, visible to strengthen "the history of World War II" and China on the history of the war is still a long way to go. In the current academic history research progress, further promote the "World War II" and the history of Chinese Anti Japanese War research, the collation and utilization of archival information still have a vital position. Historical archives are the basis of historical research, while historical research is the driving force to facilitate the development of historical archives, and also an important way to achieve the value of archived historical data. In view of this, this article in a major field in the research of Chinese history of the war of resistance against Japan—Chongqing bombing, for example, which relevant documents finishing, research and utilization and how to promote Chongqing bombing research, slightly my humble opinion.

### 1. CHONGQING BOMBING

Chongqing is a cultural city with a long history. Located at the intersection between Yangtze River and Jialing River, Chongqing is traversed by both rivers, controls north and south, and is surrounded by mountains on three sides, which are known as the "natural barrier". In the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC, Ba built a capital here, and Qin set the Ba District here. Sui and Tang Dynasty named it Yuzhou, and Chongqing was first named in the Southern Song Dynasty. After modern times, Chongqing opened ports in 1891, and Nanjing National Government approved to build the city in 1929. In addition, Chongqing is the largest industrial and commercial city and economic center in the southwest region with close contact with the southwestern provinces and abundant human and material resources, convenient transportation, which is a goods distribution

center in Southwest China. Along with Japan's occupation of Central China and South China during the anti-Japanese war, especially after the fall of Wuhan and Yichang, Chongqing more became the shipping center of Yangtze River and Jialing River. It is precisely because of Chongqing's own favorable conditions that Chongqing is inevitable to be later selected as the provisional capital of the National Government.

After July 7 incident of 1937, the Anti-Japanese War broke out. On October 29, 1937, in view of the adverse situation of Chinese army in battlefield of Shanghai battle and increasingly threatened Nanjing, taking into account of the advantages of Chongqing, Chiang Kai-Shek issued a speech of *National Government's Transfer to Chongqing and Prospect of Anti-Japanese War* at the National Defense Supreme Council, and determined Sichuan as the rear area of Anti-Japanese war and Chongqing as the station of National Government. In December 1938, Chiang Kai-Shek led the principal organs of military committee of National Government to arrive at Chongqing, and the westward transfer of National Government ended in victory. Chongqing became the wartime China's political and military center as well as a veritable wartime capital. In September 1940, the National Government stipulated Chongqing as a permanent provisional capital, so that the political status of Chongqing was enhanced unprecedentedly.

As Chongqing became a center of China's politics, economy, cultural education, social activity and diplomatic activity during the Anti-Japanese War, it has become the focus of attack in Japanese invasion of China (Xu & Wang, 2002). In October 1938, after Japan encroached Wuhan and Guangzhou, it occupied vast territory and cities of North China, Central China and South China. The Japanese troops were unable to re-expand the war of aggression against China. Internationally, the Soviet Union continued to assist China's anti-Japanese war. In addition, the United States, Britain and other countries expressed some degree of support of China's anti-Japanese war because of dissatisfaction with the threat of Japan's aggression against China to their interests in China, and imposed sanctions against Japan with the help of the League of Nations Council, so that Japan was in the isolated status in the diplomacy. As a result, the Sino-Japanese war entered a stalemate state, and Japan's quick policy failed (Wang, 2003). Thus, under the general policy of adhering to subjugate China, Japan made an important adjustment to the policy of aggression against China, and its military strategies were also adjusted accordingly. Japan stressed to limit the size and intensity of the war in order to reduce consumption, and carried out the political policies and strategies with the background of strong military power, transferring the focus of military attack to the reared anti-Japanese guerrilla war. Therefore, while turning the military attaches to the rear battlefield, Japan tried to

shake the anti-Japanese will of the National Government by non-military political policies supplemented by military strikes, in order to force them to abandon the anti-Japanese position and compromise with Japan.

On December 2, 1938, the Emperor of Japan issued the *No.241 Mainland Decree* to Japanese troops invading China to command the organization of "air attack" against the National Government who moved to Chongqing and never compromised, in order to achieve the purpose of "suppressing, destroying the remnants of the anti-Japanese forces". On the same day, the Chief of Staff of Supreme headquarter of Japan issued *No.345 Mainland Decree*, and announced that "destroying the anti-Japanese will of the enemy" is the main purpose of air attack; the target of the attack is "attacking the enemy's center of strategies and political policies, and "especially capture and exterminate the highest political authority of supreme commander". Japan also developed detailed implementation plan, and stipulated that the land, naval and air forces should coordinate and carry out air attack on strategies and political policies resolutely around China (Maeda,1989). As Chongqing was at the center position during China's Anti-Japanese War, Chongqing became the main objective of the Japanese bombing.

From February 1938 to August 1943, China's wartime capital - Chongqing suffered wanton bombing of Japanese fascist. Its length of bombing, many times and heavy loss caused not only topped the list of China's major cities, but also ranked the first in the world anti-fascist cities. (Tang,1995)in five and a half years, Japanese aircraft bombed Chongqing 203 times, and launched 9166 sorties, bombed and burnt down 17,542 houses, 37,182 rooms (Chongqing Civil Air Defense Office, 1994) and killed 11,889 persons and injured 14,100 persons (Xu & Wang, 2002).

Chongqing Bombing caused enormous impacts on Chongqing. First, it had a significant impact on the development of the city of Chongqing and the changes of public life. On the one hand, it seriously damaged and hindered the city's development and construction; resulting in unnatural deaths and mobilization of a large number of citizens; causing serious social problems; on the other hand, the process fighting against the Japanese aircraft bombing also accelerated the enhancement of Chongqing's city status and the expansion of city size in a certain sense, promoting the urbanization of Chongqing; and inspired Chongqing people's infinite anger and hatred, enhancing the national consciousness and patriotism of the general public (Pan, 2005). Second, Chongqing Bombing produced a huge and far-reaching psychological impact on Chongqing residents. On the one hand, it caused tremendous psychological panic and mental stress, and on the other hand, it stimulated the psychology of national hatred and spirit of fighting to the bitter end (Pan, 2005). Finally, during the Chongqing Bombing, Chongqing people's heroic anti-bombing struggle won widespread

sympathy and support from the international community on the one hand, and on the other hand, it also restricted the achievement of Japan's established military strategic objectives, and promoted the adjustment of the Far East strategy of America and Britain and the formation of Far East anti-Fascist front to a certain extent (Pan, 2015).

## 2. ARRANGEMENT OF ARCHIVES RELATED TO "CHONGQING BOMBING"

Archive is one of the most important historical data in the history research, and Marx and Engels regarded historical archives as a necessary condition for their scientific research and creation of the revolutionary doctrine (Xie, 1983). There are diverse sources of historical data that historical research is based on, such as cultural relics, books, archives, folklore and so on. However, the archive is undoubtedly the most important historical data. Compared with other historical data, archival data has the following features. First is the original records. Archival historical data is the original record formed by people directly in the social practice, and it was less tampered, distorted and ornamented, which is the historical data closest to the historical facts, and known as "non-watered materials" by historians. The second is the richness. Since ancient times, the archival is long-standing and well-established, and its long history, vast quantity, rich content, diverse carriers cannot be compared with that of other historical data. It is inexhaustible treasure trove of scientific culture for history researchers. The third is the organic connection. There are organic links no matter among general archive or all files in general archive (Dai, 1997). Thus, archival historical data after the systematic arrangement can be fully and systematically reflect the historical features. Because of this, archival historical data has become one of the most important files required by historical research, and also the basis and sources of historical facts recorded on other books and documents.

In the recent 30 years, the study of researchers at home and abroad on the history of Chongqing Bombing showed a gradually deepening overall situation, yielding fruitful results. Works mainly include *Study on Chongqing Bombing during Anti-Japanese War* (Pan, 2013), *1938-1943: Chongqing Bombing* (Zeng, Peng, & Wang, 2005); *The War Years: Chongqing Bombing* (Li, 2005); *Chongqing Bombing* (Xu & Wang, 2002), *Chongqing Air Defense Records* (Chongqing Civil Air Defense Office, 1994) etc.. Thesis primarily include *Vision-Philosophy · Historical Data: Reflections on Deepening Study of Chongqing Bombing* (Pan, 2014), *Discussion on Chongqing Bombing* (Pan & Yang, 1999), *Discussion on Impact of Chongqing Bombing on Chongqing Citizens' Psychology* (Pan, 2005), *Discussion on Impact of Chongqing Bombing on Social Change of Chongqing* (Ibid.), *Loss and Leftover Problem of Chongqing Bombing*

during Anti-Japanese War (Pan & Peng, 2005), *Japanese Aircraft Bombing of Chongqing* (Tang, 1985) and so on.

However, more and more scholars began to focus on mining data on Chongqing Bombing from the archive, and arrange and study the archives, such as the *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing · Property Loss (Education and Sanitation Section)* (Tang, 2012), *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing · Property Loss (Trade Association Section) (Volume I and II)* (Tang, 2013), *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing · Bombing Process and Causalities (County Section) (Volume I and II)* (Tang, 2015), *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing · Bombing Process and Causalities (Volume I)* (Tang, 2011), *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing · Property Loss (Military Enterprise Section)* (Tang, 2013), *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing · Property Loss* (Tang, 2011) chiefly edited by Tang Runming. Another examples are the *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing: Witness and Testimony* (Zhou, 2011) chiefly edited by Zhou Yong, and *Archival Literature of Chongqing Bombing: Chongqing Bombing Logs During Anti-Japanese War* (Pan & Zhou, 2011), etc..

Through the above information, it is easy to see that there are very rich records on Chongqing Bombing in the archive, and Chongqing Bombing can be studied more comprehensively only by fully mining the archives.

## 3. PROBLEMS IN THE ARCHIVES ARRANGEMENT OF "CHONGQING BOMBING"

The exploration, opening and provision of access to archival data will often promote the prosperity of historical research work, and further explore new areas of historical research. After the founding of New China, especially after promulgating "Archives Act" on September 7, 1987, the release of historical archives got the legal basis, thus providing a wealth of little-known historical data for the historical research. As a result, a lot of research areas have made breakthroughs.

With regard to the study on Chongqing Bombing, with the publicity of part of the archives, many unknowns doubts have been confirmed, opening a new vision and new areas for the research on Chongqing Bombing. As of the investigation and statistics of Chongqing Bombing, due to the continuous publicity of investigation and statistics of Chongqing Police Station, Chongqing Municipal Air Defense Command, Chongqing Garrison Headquarters, Airstrike Service Agency of Provisional Capital and other data, scholars have further research and verification of casualties, property loss caused by Chongqing Bombing. In addition, in recent years, Ms Robin Lung found image data about the history of Chongqing Bombing in the US National Archives—"Hard Work", a film shot by foreigners, which truly and accurately records the scene

of Japanese bombing of Chongqing, providing valuable information to the research on Chongqing Bombing.

Although there are extremely rich and complex data on Chongqing Bombing, the academia's exploration, arrangement and utilization of archives on Chongqing Bombing are very limited, and has just begun the systematic arrangement of relevant archives. The archives of Chongqing Air Defense Command and Chongqing Garrison Headquarters collected in Chongqing Municipal Archives are not fully open; a large number of archives on Chongqing Bombing in the Second Historical Archives of China, Sichuan Provincial Archives and Taiwan's National Museum of History has not been excavated and arranged systematically; a lot of information about Chongqing Bombing are saved in many foreign archives, but did not get corresponding excavation and arrangement. For example, there are a lot of raw data on Japanese troops' strategies and action policy of Chongqing bombing, but relatively speaking, Japan's archives will have even greater value. For the loss of the Japanese bombing, the investigation and statistics data of Chongqing Police Station, Chongqing Air Defense Command and Chongqing Garrison Headquarters is undoubtedly the core of the original data (Pan, 2014). As for the international repercussions caused by the Chongqing bombing, foreign archives and press information are naturally the most important. Thus, in the research on Chongqing Bombing, we should not only pay attention to mining and using domestic archives, but also put emphasis on the exploration, arrangement and utilization of archive of Japan and even United States, Britain and other countries.

## CONCLUSION

Although the research on Chongqing bombing is fruitful, part of archival data such as data in some domestic archives, data in Japan, the US and Britain National Archives was not fully reflected and utilized, many research gaps have been left behind. Only by historical research based on comprehensive and detailed data, relevant historical facts can be verified and analyzed, and the history of Chongqing bombing can be restored, in order to have a correct understanding of Chongqing Bombing. Therefore, in the future research on Chongqing Bombing, the research on Chongqing Bombing can be enhanced to a new high only by systematic excavation and arrangement of archival data.

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