



# A.L.P.H.A. BITS

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Edmonton Association for the Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia  
<http://edmontonalpha.org> [info@edmontoalpha.org](mailto:info@edmontoalpha.org)

## Special links

[Douglas Todd: Lest we overlook the 'Asian Holocaust'](#)

[Past issue of A.L.P.H.A. Bits](#)

[Support Edmonton ALPHA](#)

## Unit 731

by Sarah MacQuarrie, 2015 study tour teacher

Leefong Ching was in her mother's womb when she lost her father. I lost my father when I was eight months old and he left my mother. She was born in China in 1941. I was born in Canada in 1974. Yet both of our lives were unequivocally and irrevocably altered by these two events. The difference is that I was the lucky one. My father chose to remain a presence in my life, even if he was not married to my mother. Leefong Ching never saw her father again. He was a victim of Unit 731—the Japanese Imperial Army's top secret WWII research unit on bio-chemical warfare that . . .

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A1.pdf>

## Reflection on Comfort Women

Dana Bettac - Grade 12 student, Alberta

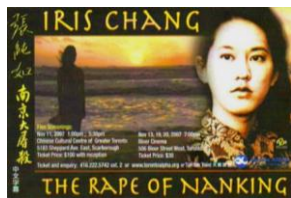
*"It is possible for today's Japan to offer a genuine, healing apology. But it will take courage and honesty."*

Throughout the world, every single person shares one thing. No matter what country, ethnicity, class, or family you are born into you are born with dignity. Every single human on earth has this natural dignity, and to lose it is to lose an irreplaceable piece of who you are. When the Comfort Women of World War Two were forcibly taken from their homes to be repeatedly beaten and raped by the Japanese Imperial Army, they had this dignity ripped from them, leaving them bare and alone. These women faced an unbelievable amount of pain, unimaginable to regular people. Often being promised work in factories, young girls were taken . . .

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A2.pdf>

## Remembering the Nanjing Massacre

### Synopsis by Edmonton ALPHA



How did students of history from the West view the Nanjing Massacre? Many students (from earlier study groups) felt that the Chinese government paid insufficient attention to this terrible yet important chapter of Chinese history. This was because the massacre museum in its earlier days was little more than a small collection of rooms with disorderly sets of truly horrid photographs tended by a handful of untrained workers . . .

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A3.pdf>

## Latest on the Status and Statues of Comfort Women

### Synopsis by Edmonton ALPHA

The governments of South Korea and Japan have supposedly signed a "final and irreversible" agreement to put to rest the issue of Comfort Women between Japan and South Korea.

<http://news.yahoo.com/south-korea-japan-strike-deal-wartime-sex-slaves-065734226.html>

Is the agreement really genuine and sincere if payment to compensate the comfort women is contingent upon the removal of a statue in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul?

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A4.pdf>

## Special video, photos, and presentations from BC ALPHA

The 7th International Human Rights Day Symposium - Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific 1931-1945 was held at Windermere Secondary (Vancouver) for the 1st time. Thanks to the staff and students for hosting this meaningful educational event!

Our organization have completed the video of this meaningful event . . .

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A5.pdf>

## POWs and Forced Slave Labour

### Synopsis by Edmonton ALPHA

"UNBROKEN" is a book written by Laura Hillenbrand that tells the story of American soldiers captured by the Japanese Army during World War II. A major motion picture was recently produced to portray the same story on the big screen.



Japan initially refused to have this movie shown within Japan. As a result of worldwide petitions the ban was eventually . . .

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A6.pdf>

## 放生 Giving life to humanity

### Dominic Cheng, Edmonton ALPHA

Most Buddhists practice releasing captured animals or fish back to their natural environment 放生 and/or not killing life 不殺生. It is for this reason most Buddhists are vegetarians for life.

Likewise Christians have something similar in their faith. It is "Giving life to humanity" by walking/taking the 8 paths to Life as proclaimed in the Beatitudes note 1.

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A7.pdf>

## Reflection on Women of Sexual Slavery

### April Tremain – Grade 12 student, Alberta

The Japanese Imperial Army used Korean, Japanese and other Asian women during World War Two as comfort women. These women often were convinced to enlist and help with war efforts promised they'd be helping with manual duties when in reality they were being unknowingly forced into sexual slavery. In addition to enlisting, women also were abducted from their homes to become comfort women. These women were used . . .



Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201602/A8.pdf>