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<th>Year</th>
<th>Name of documentary heritage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td><em>The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong</em></td>
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**Nomination form**

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register  
(revised October 2016)

(Nominations must be received by 31 August 2017 for consideration for inscription in 2018)

**Office Use Only**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ID code:</th>
<th>Item or collection short title:</th>
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Nomination form

Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1. Summary (max 100 words)
Please give a brief description of the nominated documentary heritage and the reasons for nomination. The nature, uniqueness and significance of the documentary’s heritage should be highlighted.

_The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong_ is a set of original records of over 3,000 overseas Chinese, who left their wealthy life in Southeast Asia and served as volunteer drivers and mechanics for their fatherland, China in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in 1937-1947. It is the only documents that truthfully record these volunteers’ brave engagement in and special contributions to the war in full and therefore is of great value.

2. Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

_Yunnan Provincial Archives_

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

_Owner Custodian_

2.3 Contact person(s)

_Huang Fengping Director General of Yunnan Provincial Archives_

2.4 Contact details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huang Fengping</td>
<td>No. 119 Xihua Road North, Xishan District, Kunming City, Yunnan Province</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Facsimile</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(0871) 64184418</td>
<td>(0871) 64184107</td>
<td><a href="mailto:849664935@qq.com">849664935@qq.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong has 850 files in total, which are preserved in the Yunnan Provincial Archives under Fonds 1054 (created by the Southwest Transport Agency (STA), Military Commission), Fonds 1044 (created by the Social Affairs Office of Yunnan Province), Fonds 1092 (created by the Expatriate Chinese Affairs Office of Yunnan Province), Fonds 1093 (created by the Kunming Customs), and Fonds 1107 (created by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China in Yunnan Province), mainly including telegrams and official letters and correspondences concerning the recruitment of Nanyang volunteer drivers and mechanics between the STA and the Nanyang Overseas Chinese General Association for the Relief of Refugees in the Fatherland; original copies of recruitment registration forms; photos and name lists of recruited volunteers, and orders and instructions of the STA concerning volunteer training and management; letters and correspondences and telegrams from Tan Kah Kee concerning collecting and purchasing trucks; records of supplies transportation, reports of the Burma Road conditions; ordinances and telegrams about the comfort and compensation for families of deceased drivers and mechanics; telegrams and official letters about improving the living conditions of Nanyang drivers and mechanics; telegrams of the Nanyang Overseas Chinese Consolation Delegation visiting the Burma Road; ordinances on establishing the Overseas Chinese Mutual Aid Association; ordinances and registration forms concerning the demobilization of Nanyang drivers and mechanics; applications of Nanyang drivers and mechanics for leave and study; petitions for issuing subsidies.

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage. At least three digital photographs of the documentary heritage should be provided. By providing the photos you are agreeing that they can be used by MOWCAP for the purposes of promoting Memory of the World e.g. newsletters, website etc. Please note on the form if you do not wish MOWCAP to use the photos for publicity or promotional purposes.

See the appendix for photographs

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

In July 1937, the Japanese army launched a full-scale invasion of China, and by December 1938, they had occupied China's major port cities such as Shanghai, Hangzhou, Qingdao and Guangzhou, cutting off the supply routes linking China to the outside world. At that time, China had to import aircrafts, trucks, heavy weapons, and daily necessities such as cotton, fuels, and medicines. To secure supplies to China, the
nationalist government, in consultation with the British government, built a 1,154km road connecting Lashio, Burma and Kunming, China, known as the Burma Road. Completed in September 1938, the road conveyed immense supplies landed at Rangoon (now Yangon) to China. Thereafter, the STA was relocated from Guangzhou to Kunming. As a result, a wealth of STA records, including those about the recruitment and management of Nanyang drivers and mechanics were created and kept in Yunnan.

According to the records, to ease the dearth of skilled drivers and mechanics, the STA turned to Tan Kah Kee, head of the then Nanyang Overseas Chinese General Association for the Relief of Refugees in the Fatherland to recruit drivers and mechanics. As these drivers and mechanics were from Nanyang (today's Southeast Asia) they were known as “Nanqiao Jigong”. Most of the drivers and mechanics were overseas Chinese. There were over 100 Malayan, Indonesian, Indian and Burmese volunteers as well. From February to September 1939, more than 3,200 drivers and mechanics came to China in 15 batches and served on the Burma Road with the transportation of international aid and war materials of the Allies. In December 1941, the Pacific War broke out and China became the main battlefield in Asia and Nanyang drivers and mechanics transported huge war materials to the Allies. In May 1942, the Japanese invaded Burma, cutting off the Burma Road. Some drivers and mechanics were dispatched to transport goods for the Allies, some transported for the Chinese Expeditionary Force and some infiltrated the Japanese-occupied regions in Southeast Asia as intelligent agents, making remarkable contributions to the victory of World War II. According to the records kept by the Expatriate Chinese Affairs Office of Yunnan Province, one third of these drivers and mechanics returned home after the Japanese surrendered in August 1945.

The 850 files recorded the recruitment and training of the drivers and mechanics, their engagement in supplies transportation, deaths and death gratuity, demobilization and allowance distribution and were taken over by the People's Government of Yunnan Province before they were handed over to the Yunnan Provincial Archives after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949.

3.5 Bibliography
3. Yunnan Provincial Archives, Tan Kah Kee Memorial Hall and Xiamen Historical Society, *Selected Documents from Archives Concerning Nanqiao Jigong* (Yunnan Provincial Archives), Beijing, the Chinese Overseas Publishing House, August 2009.
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3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary's heritage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wu Qiang</td>
<td>Research Fellow of Yunnan Provincial Archives</td>
<td>No. 119, Xihua Road North, Xishan District, Kunming City, Yunnan Province</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: 13330463313</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:307340535@qq.com">307340535@qq.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xia Yuqing</td>
<td>Professor of the Department of History of the School of Humanities of Xiamen University</td>
<td>Tel: 15987100799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:say329@163.com">say329@163.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yunnan Society of Nanyang Volunteer Drivers and Mechanics Who came to China During the War Against Japanese Aggression</td>
<td>A civil organization</td>
<td>Tel: (0871) 63541828 (Tang Xiaomei)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature
Huang Fengping

Full name (Please PRINT)

Date

---

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)
4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name | Address
---|---
Yunnan Provincial Archives | No. 119, Xihua Road North, Xishan District, Kunming City, Yunnan Province

Telephone | Facsimile | Email
---|---|---
(0871) 64184418 | (0871) 64184107 | 849664935@qq.com

4.3 Legal status

Details of legal and administrative powers for the preservation of the documentary heritage

The Archive of Nanqiao Jigong is kept and maintained by the Yunnan Provincial Archives under the laws and regulations on national archives management and intellectual property protection. Yunnan Provincial Archives has the right to manage and use the archives.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

Open to Public

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

no
4.5 Copyright status
Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong is kept in the Yunnan Provincial Archives, and the copyright is owned by the Archives.

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity. Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Has its identity and origin been reliably established?

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong are original documents. It is first-hand accounts of the recruitment and organization of the Nanyang drivers and mechanics. The archives were created by the STA from 1937 to 1947. In 1949 the People’s Republic of China was founded, these archives were transferred to the People’s Government of Yunnan Province before they were handed over to the Yunnan Provincial Archives. All the records have been organized and examined by experts and their sources and authenticity have been proven.

5.2 Second criterion: world significance. Is the documentary heritage unique and irreplaceable, something whose disappearance or deterioration would constitute a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created a great impact over a span of time and/or within a particular supra-national cultural area of the region? Is it representative of a type, but it has no direct equal? Has it had great influence – whether positive or negative – on the course of history?

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong is the only existing original records of the Nanyang drivers and mechanics who came to China to fight against the Japanese invaders in the World Anti-Fascist War, and it is authentic and unique.

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong recorded the enormous bravery and courage the Nanyang volunteers showed on the treacherous Burma Road. One third of these heroes gave their lives to the battle to safeguard the only lifeline of China for international aid. The records reveal that these volunteers transported as many as 500,000t war materials and 15,000 trucks on the Burma Road just within the period from 1939 to 1942. Let alone other supplies and goods that were not counted in. Without their logistic support, there would be no victory. They are indispensable to the victory of World War II in the Asian battlefield.

According to the records, the Nanyang drivers and mechanics were a group of volunteers primarily of overseas Chinese from Southeast Asia with a few Malay, Burmese, Singaporean, Indonesian, and Thai. Despite their colours, cultures and beliefs, in face of the atrocious Fascism and Japanese militarism, people in the region united and stood out to fight against the evil in pursuit of justice. These records are truthful accounts of the bravery, integrity, solidarity and greatness of humanity of people in the region.
The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong also reveals that the Nanyang volunteers are an integral part of the world anti-fascist allies. After the outbreak of the Pacific War, some volunteers were dispatched to transport military supplies for the Allies and some were sent to infiltrate the Japanese-occupied regions in Southeast Asia as intelligent agents. In May 1944, a volunteer named Cai Hanliang was dispatched to Thailand to spy on Japanese military bases in Thailand. In the end of 1943, a volunteer named Yu Hanzhou and some other volunteers transported goods around the clock for the Allies in the Battle of Mount Song. In 1943, Wang Yunfeng and some volunteers served in the India-China airlift transporting military supplies to the Allies.

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong is the only verified existing records of that history. Without them, we will lose the memory of that history concerning the Nanyang volunteers’ engagement in the world anti-fascist war along with the memory of their courage, integrity, sacrifice and dedication.

5.3 Third, world significance must be demonstrated in meeting one or more of the following criteria. Because significance is comparative, these criteria are best illustrated by checking them against items of documentary heritage already inscribed (for example) on the International Memory of the World Register:

**Time:** Is it especially evocative of its time (which may have been one of crisis, or significant social or cultural change; it may represent a new discovery or be the “first of its kind”)

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong were generated from 1937 to 1947, witnessing the dramatic changes to the world order, the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the Second World War. All events in the archives are original records of this particular historical period.

**Place:** Does it contain crucial information about a locality important in the history of the region and its cultures? Or did the location have an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the documentary heritage? Or is it descriptive of physical environments, cities or institutions since vanished?

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong documented transportation in the Southeast Asian Theatre of the Second World War. It is a verified record of the supply routes of the Allies, such as the Burma Road, Sichuan-Yunnan Road, the “Hump” Route, and Ledo Road.

**People:** Is it related to people in a social and cultural context that reflects significant aspects of human behaviour, or social, industrial, artistic or political development. It may reflect the important roles and impact of key or certain individuals or groups.

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong is also a collection of heroic stories of overseas Chinese and young people of other ethnic groups in the Southeast Asia. It showcases their commitment to justice and resistance to the evil as well as their dedication to and sacrifice for peace and freedom and, moreover, the glorious humanity in ordinary people. Apart from such important figures of the nationalist government like Chiang Kai-shek, Soong Mei-ling, He Yingqin, Song Ziliang and Mr. Tan Kah Kee, the noted

www.mowcapunesco.org
leader of overseas Chinese, what is even more heart-warming was the dedication of these ordinary drivers and mechanics. There was a volunteer named Li Yuemei, who disguised herself as a man to come to China to support her motherland.

Subject and theme: The subject matter may represent particular historical or intellectual developments in natural, social and human sciences, politics, ideology, sports and the arts.

The archives of the Nanyang Overseas Chinese General Association for the Relief of Refugees in the Fatherland, and the records of the drivers and mechanics provide a new perspective to study the economic and cultural links between Southeast Asian countries and China.

Form and style: The item(s) may have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value, be a typical or key exemplar of a type or presentation, custom or medium, or of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format.

Formed between 1937 and 1947, the Archives of Nanqiao Jigong are all paper-based. The archives also include some photographs which are of historical value.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity Does the content or physical nature of the documentary heritage make it a rare surviving example of its type or time?

As the Archives of Nanqiao Jigong are the only surviving documents of a specific group, they are rare and unique.

Integrity Within the natural physical limitations of carrier survival, is the documentary heritage complete or partial? Has it been altered or damaged?

The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong consists of seven parts including recruitment, training management, vehicle donating and purchasing, transportation of supplies, pension to the dependents, living conditions and demobilization. The archives are complete and comprehensive.

Threat Is its survival in danger? If it is secure, must vigilance be applied to maintain that security? Detail the nature and scope of threats.

Because of the age and the heavy usage of high-acid paper, carbon paper, and photographic materials, the Archive of Nanqiao Jigong are facing the threat of deterioration.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!
Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES

If yes, describe or attach a summary of the plan. If no, please provide details about current method of storage and custody of the materials.

The archives are preserved in dedicated storage boxes and racks in the warehouse with controlled temperature and humidity. It has been microfilmed to protect the original documents.

Plans are underway to protect these archives with technological means, such as acid removal. As for yellowing, deteriorating, and aging documents, the plan is to preserve them with paper mounting and digitalization.

Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific Memory of the World Register. Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

1. The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong was enlisted on the Register of Archives and Documentary Heritage of China in March 2003.

2. “Exhibition of the Archives of Nanqiao Jigong” was held in China and Singapore in 2009, which were jointly organized by the State Archives Administration of China, the National Archives of Singapore and Yunnan Provincial Archives.

3. Dozens of descendants of these volunteer drivers and mechanics living in Singapore, Malaysia, China, and other countries paid a special visit to Yunnan Provincial Archives to view the archives, reminisce on the history and recall their predecessors.
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The documents of *The Archive of Nanqiao Jigong* preserved on the compact shelves in the warehouse of Yunnan Provincial Archives

[www.mowcapunesco.org](http://www.mowcapunesco.org)
Sample 1 of The Archive of Nanqiao Jigong: 1054-010-00537 Letter from Tan Kah Kee (Chairman of the Relief Committee of Nanyang Expatriate Chinese for China’s Refugees) to the General Manager’s Office of Southwest Import-Export Commodity Transport Management on Participation from Drivers and Mechanics Group of Wang Yalong (Indian) and Ma Yasheng (Malay)
2017 | The Archives of Nanqiao Jigong | www.mowcapunesco.org

Sample 2 of The Archive of Nanqiao Jigong: 1054-010-00538 Letter from the Relief Committee of Nanyang Expatriate Chinese for China's Refugees to Song Ziliang (Director of the Office of Southwest
Import-Export Commodity Transport Management) about returning second batch of drivers and mechanics to China
the recruitment of 50 drivers and mechanics by the Relief Committee of Nanyang Expatriate Chinese for China’s Refugees

Sample 4 of The Archive of Nanqiao Jigong : 1054-030-00946 Registration form of the Relief Committee of Malaya Expatriate Chinese for China’s Refugees on recruiting drivers and mechanics to return to China (Zheng Shiwan)