

China's Role in WWII

A photo exhibit commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident and U.S.-China Cooperation During WWII

July 24-28, 2017

12:00 PM Monday-6:00 PM Friday

The Exhibit is Open for Viewing During Normal Building Hours
(7:00 AM-7:00 PM)

Russell Senate Office Building - Rotunda, Washington, DC 20002



American and Chinese troops celebrating their victory in WWII

On July 7, 1937 there was a skirmish between Chinese and Japanese troops on the Marco Polo Bridge. While the initial skirmish was short lived, a Japanese soldier went missing in the aftermath and the Japanese used this as an excuse to prolong the conflict. By July 9, any pretense of a temporary truce was over and the Japanese began a full-scale invasion of China. Not long after, Beijing fell to the Japanese. While there had been previous fighting in northern China, the Marco Polo Bridge Incident marks the official start of the Second Sino-Japanese War, which later merged into the Pacific Theater of WWII.

The photos in the exhibit highlight the Sino-Japanese War as well as key events in the greater WWII. The U.S. was an important wartime ally of China. Americans even bravely volunteered to fight with the Chinese before the U.S. officially entered the war. This relationship is on full display in the exhibit. When Americans discuss WWII, very little attention is given to the role China played in the war or the deep alliance between China and the U.S. We hope this exhibit will give some much deserved attention to an often overlooked aspect of the war.