

About The Exhibition

The February 28 Incident is an important historic event in Taiwan. It took place on February 27, 1947, and arose from a law enforcement action against the selling of cigarettes without permission. It later caused a series of resistance across Taiwan. In the end, the government launched forceful crackdowns which led to a lot of casualties and missing persons. The government's follow-up arrests had been extended as Taiwan was placed under martial law in 1949, hence the beginning of the "White Terror" which lasted for decades.

The February 28 Incident in Kaohsiung is a significant collective memory of the citizens. During the incident, the military carried out suppressions, firstly in Kaohsiung, resulting in the highest recorded number of casualties and the execution of negotiators in a single location.

The current site of the Kaohsiung Museum of History (formerly Kaohsiung City Hall) is one of the most important historical site of the incident. This exhibition represents a lamentation over the victims. Moreover, it symbolizes the hope for everyone to reflect on history, to rise above it all and move forward to a future with universal values of freedom, democracy, and human rights.



The February 28 Incident :
Witnessing a Major Moment
in the History of Taiwan

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Supervised by

高雄市政府文化局
Bureau of Cultural Affairs Kaohsiung City Government

Organizers

高雄立歷史博物館
KAOHSIUNG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

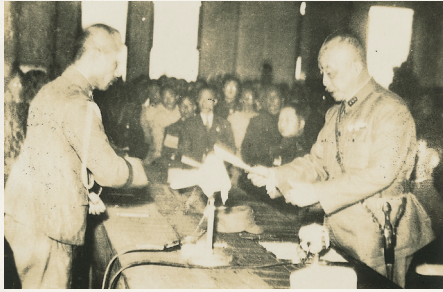
Information

KAOHSIUNG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

No. 272, Zhongzheng 4th Rd., Yancheng Dist.,
Kaohsiung City 803003

Opening Hours | 9:00-17:00, Tue.- Sun. (Closed on Mon.)

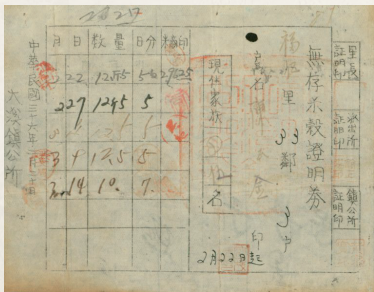
TEL | 07-5312560 **Web** | <http://khm.org.tw>



On October 25, 1945, the acceptance ceremony was held at Taipei City Public Hall (now Zhongshan Hall). The picture shows Chen Yi, the Chief Executive of Taiwan Province, accepting the surrender document from the Japanese general.

A Revisiting the era of the February 28 Incident

After World War II, Taiwan was taken over by the Nationalist Government. Taiwanese people originally expected more opportunities after the end of Japanese colonial rule. However, unreasonable governance and systems of Taiwan Provincial Executive Office, coupled with mismanagement in the post-war economic policies, led to skyrocketing commodity prices and widespread unemployment. Taiwanese people became restless, and on the evening of February 27, 1947, a case of cigarettes selling without permission in Taipei became the breaking point for many people who rose to oppose the government, resulting in the February 28 Incident.



This is a certificate for the shortage of rice grain, issued in February 1947. At that time, there was a severe shortage of rice. In order to avoid hoarding, one had to have such a certificate for the implementation of the rationing system.

The February 28 Incident in Kaohsiung

After the incident broke out, the February 28 Incident Settlement Committee was organized to resolve the protests peacefully. Nevertheless, as Kaohsiung was the first area to be subjected to military suppression before the additional army of the Nationalist Government came to Taiwan, it had a great influence on the development of subsequent events. On March 6, 1947, seven representatives negotiated with Peng Meng-chi, the Commanding Officer of the Kaohsiung Fortress Headquarter. Peng placed the negotiators under house arrest, and then sent troops from Shoushan to the downtown area to control Kaohsiung City Government, Kaohsiung Station, Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School, etc., resulting in the deaths of innocent gentry attending a city government meeting, and citizens at the station and along the streets.



As one of the important historical sites, the museum created the first theater-style miniature scene of the February 28 Incident in Taiwan. Through the use of miniature models and videos, the course of history is displayed unfolded before our eyes.



The Kaohsiung Museum of History was formerly Kaohsiung City Office during the Japanese colonial period, and later Kaohsiung City Hall in the post-war period. It is also an important historical site for the February 28 Incident.

A Review of the Historical Truth

During the February 28 Incident, there were sudden and spontaneous protests and riots all over Taiwan, which were successively suppressed by the army, resulting in countless casualties. The subsequent military crackdown operations caused panic among many people through arrests, demands for surrender, and public execution by firing squad. People were terrified and kept silent since then. Only after the lifting of martial law was the February 28 Incident gradually open for public discussion. This exhibition area is centered on the happenings in southern Taiwan, detailing the experiences and agonies of victims and their families in the February 28 Incident to display history truthfully.

