

Although Japan formally surrendered on August 15, 1945, it took some time for government and people to return home. We were among the privileged ones, and managed to fly from Chongqing to Nanjing in late January 1946.

It was the first time that I rode in an airplane. It was not a passenger plane. It was a remodeled C47 cargo plane. I was so sick during the flight that when it stopped in Hankow for refueling, I begged to let me off the plane to stay in Hankow. I got better after half an hour, and continued the trip. Fortunately the next leg of flight was much smoother.

We had no house in Nanjing. In fact, except for the old house in Shengxian, my parents did not own any house anywhere, either in Nanjing or Taipei. The first house our family member owned was the one I bought at Pasadena in 1963, and I sold it in 1969. We lived in a rented house as a ‘government dormitory’ in Nanjing. The owner of the house was ZHENG Tianxi 郑天锡 who was then an International Court Justice in Hague, and later became the last ambassador to UK from the Nationalist Government.

The house, 37 Yihe Road, was situated in an exclusive neighborhood. Across the street, the big building was at one time WANG Jinwei’s residence during the war, and later became the office of the Control Yuan of the Nationalist Government. Beyond the western end of the Yihe Road was the compound of the US Military Advisory Group.

There was a temple a little further north. Next to the temple was the heavily guarded compound of the residence of Chiang Kai-shek.

The house we lived was a second story brick building, not very big. It had only two bedrooms and a den on the second floor, and we had nine grownup persons in the family. So I had to share the garret on the landing between floors (亭子间) with my sister. Fortunately soon the school started and we students all went to live in the school dormitories.

There was a very popular library in Nanjing, the Red Cross Library, in the center of the town. It was not big, but its reading room was always crowded with readers, because it had all the current literary works. At the east end of Yihe Road, there was also a library, a branch of the Central Library. Its collections were mostly scholarly works. Almost nobody went there. It was very quiet. But it also had some translated works of Western Classics, like “Les Miserables” by Victor Hugo. I often went there to enjoy the solitude.

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尽管日本人 1945 年 8 月 15 日正式宣布投降，但国民政府和百姓返回家乡还是很费时间。我们属于优先的一群人，1946 年 1 月就从重庆飞到南京。

这是我第一次乘飞机。乘坐的不是客机，而是用 C47 型运输机改装的飞机。我晕机很严重，在汉口加油的时候，我请求下飞机留在汉口。过了半个小时，我感觉好些了，于是继续飞行，幸好后半程顺利多了。

我们在南京没有房子。事实上，除了嵊县的老屋，我父母在南京和台北都没有自己的房子。我们家里人有的第一幢房子是我 1963 年在帕萨迪纳买的，那房子我 1969 年卖掉了。我们在南京是住在一个租为“政府宿舍”的房子里。房东是郑天锡，他当时是海牙的国际法庭法官，后来出任国民政府驻英国大使。

这间房子坐落在颐和路 37 号，是高级社区。街对面的大楼曾经是战时汪精卫的官邸，后来成为国民政府的监察院办公室。颐和路西端尽头是美国军事顾问团的院子。再往北一点是座庙，庙旁边是重重把守的蒋介石的官邸。

我们所住的是一个二层楼洋房，并不太大。二楼有两间卧室加一个小房间，而我们家当时有 9 个成年人，因此我就只能和二姐合住亭子间。好在很快就开学了，我们都住到学校的宿舍去了。

南京有个很受欢迎的图书馆，红十字会图书馆，就在市中心。并不大，但阅览室里总是挤满了读者，因为这里有最新的文学作品。在颐和路东头，也有个图书馆，是中央图书馆的分馆。里面的藏书主要是学术著作，基本上没有人去，很安静。但那里有西方名著的译本，如维克多·雨果的《悲惨世界》，我常常到那里去享受这独处的宁静。