

**Living in Burma during WWII:
An Interview with Jimmy Chao
(interviewed by Ryan Chao)**

Person being interviewed: Jimmy Chao

1. Did any country invade Burma during World War II?

Yes. The Japanese invaded Burma and succeeded. They occupied Burma until the end of the war.

2. What were the living conditions like?

The living conditions were horrible because Japan occupied Burma at that time. Because there was not much food, many died of starvation. Many Burmese people died at the hands of Japanese soldiers. The soldiers tortured many Burmese people to death.

3. Did villagers ever try to resist?

No, the villagers never resisted. The villagers could not stand up to the Japanese soldiers.

4. Did the Japanese soldiers ever come to your village?

No, the Japanese soldiers never came to my village. They were concerned with the cities and not the small villages such as the one that I lived in. However, living conditions were still poor even though the Japanese were attacking cities.

5. Did you know what anything about the war?

Yes, we got news during the war. However, it was not much. We could not really keep up with the news. We knew that Japan was attacking the Burmese cities and that Burma was occupied by Japan. We also knew what was happening in China. We heard that Japan was also attacking China. They invaded China, but because China was so large, it was a difficult task. Japan had many problems in holding on to China. They had succeeded in capturing the cities, but holding on to the government was another problem.

6. What did you and your family do to keep yourselves safe during the War?

We had to flee to China. The Japanese made living in our village unsafe and intolerable. China was safer. Japan was invading China, but they had trouble controlling the country. This made it a lot safer to live in China.

7. What did you do after the war?

After the war, we went back to Burma. My father owned a business in our village, so we had to go back.