



Never Forgotten

Vol. 18, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2017

The Official Newsletter of the TAIWAN P.O.W. CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

“20th Anniversary of the Taiwan POW Memorial * 1997 - 2017”



With Mr. Shieh MOEA, shoveling the first cement into the new Taichu Memorial base.



The newly refurbished Taichu POW Camp Memorial. It will be dedicated on Monday November 13th 2017.



George Watson's College Junior High Students and teachers from Edinburgh lay a wreath at the memorial.



Sharing the POWs' story with a very appreciative group of interested Taiwanese at Jinguashi.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2017

Be sure to mark the week of November 8 – 15 on your calendars and in your date books, and plan to be with us as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the building and dedication of the Taiwan POW Memorial. We will feature visits to the POW camps and the annual Remembrance Day service at the Prisoner of War Memorial Park at Kinkaseki on the 12th. We hope that former POWs and their families will make an effort to come as we have a special program prepared for these guests. For more information, please contact the Society by Email or mail at the address shown on page 2 of the newsletter. Be sure to book early and we look forward to having you with us in November!

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LOGO of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Our logo - a poppy cross superimposed on a map of Taiwan - was chosen because the poppy and the poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols of remembrance to war veterans. In the fall of 1998 the returning POWs laid poppy crosses at all the former campsites they visited.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY. . .

- * to search for the locations of all the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan. [*completed*]
- * to search for the survivors of the 1942 – 45 Taiwan POW camps.
- * to ensure that the story of the Taiwan POWs is told and they are not forgotten.
- * to help with the organization of and participate in the memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi every November on Remembrance Day.
- * to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history.
- * to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story.

LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . . all found !

1. KINKASEKI #1 (Jinguashi)
2. TAICHU #2 (Taichung)
3. HEITO #3 (PingTung)
4. SHIRAKAWA #4 (Bai He)
5. TAIHOKU #5 MOSAK (Taipei)
6. TAIHOKU #6 (Taipei)
7. KARENKO (Hualien)
8. TAMAZATO (Yuli)
9. INRIN (Yuanlin)
10. INRIN TEMP. (Yuanlin)
11. TOROKU (Touliu)
12. TAKAO (Kaohsiung)
13. KUKUTSU (Taipei)
14. OKA (Taipei)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

Thought . . .

**Four things you can't recover:
The stone.....after the throw.
The word.....after it's said.
The occasion.....after it's missed.
The time.....after it's gone.**

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

This year started off pretty much as every other year – extremely busy! The work on the book has been first and foremost and it is progressing well. The exact date of publication is still unknown as there a great deal of work yet to be done on it, as I want to make it as complete and correct in every way possible as I can.

As usual, the local annual ANZAC Day and Memorial Day ceremonies were held this spring. Both of these events were well attended. See the reports on page 7.

Two notable events for our Society took place this spring. In January a further exploration of the former Kukutsu 'jungle' Camp was carried out and most of the original trail that the POWs used to go to and from the camp was retraced and recorded.

Perhaps the biggest and most significant project was the renovation of the Taichu POW Memorial which was finished in early May. We will be having a dedication ceremony for the new memorial during our visit there in November. See the story on page 6.

This spring there has been an increase in POW inquiries from family members and researchers, and although it does take considerable time away from my work on the book, it is so great to see the interest in the Taiwan POWs growing. I am always pleased to be able to help folks with information on their FEPOW relative - some who died in the camps here, and others who returned but never spoke of their experiences with their families. There is almost never a day goes by that I don't get some kind of inquiry.

The demand for our POW camp tours is on the rise too. We have run a number of tours throughout the spring - some for individual POW family members, and other overseas visitors, as well as for local schools and associations. We have a number already lined up for the rest of the year.

We are anticipating a wonderful event on FEPOW Day again in August and hope that more local folks will join us in remembering those who were POWs and civilian internees in the Far East.

A number of folks have already signed up for this year's Remembrance Week event in November, and a bit earlier than usual, so this shows a growing interest by families in taking part.

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the building and dedication of the Taiwan POW Memorial on the site of the former Kinkaseki Camp, and we are hoping to have a very special program to mark the occasion. I hope folks from overseas as well as our local friends and supporters will come and take part with us in celebrating this milestone.

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst* MBE

WELCOMING THE NEW UK SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

After many faithful years of service as our UK Rep, Cliff Foster has had to relinquish his duties for medical reasons. It has been wonderful working with Cliff all these years. He has helped find former Taiwan POWs, facilitated communications with them and their family members and the Society, and assisted with several special projects.

Perhaps the biggest was arranging an official memorial service and the interment of the ashes of ex-Kinkaseki POW George Harrison, the medical orderly who did so much to save lives in the copper mine. In addition, a memorial bench dedicated to George as well as Cliff's father Alfred and the other men of the 5th Field Reg't. RA was placed in the memorial garden there. We thank Cliff for his dedication and service to the POWs, their families and our Society. and we wish him well in the future.

We now welcome on board Mike Heather who is well-known in FEPOW circles in the UK for his diligent research work and the knowledgeable help he has provided over the years to the former Taiwan POWs and their families.

The son-in-law of Gnr. Ken Pett, 80th Anti-Tank Reg't., he and his wife Lynn have accompanied Ken to Taiwan on several occasions and he has also been involved with a number of the reunions and events that we have held in the UK.

Mike has been a close and dear friend and a real help to me and the Society over the years. His many trips to the NA at KEW have turned up some wonderful archival material and helped to further the knowledge of the Taiwan POWs' story. His support, ideas and suggestions have been a great encouragement in this work, and at the core of it all is his love, admiration and respect for the former POWs – the men who suffered so much in the Taiwan camps those many years ago.

Mike will continue to help FEPOWs and family members, in addition to being a contact for them with the Society and our representative in the UK. We have already decided on some further research projects and are looking forward to working on them to the end that even more material on the Taiwan camps will be forthcoming in time.



Exploring Keelung Harbour / At Kinkaseki

We welcome Mike to the team and anticipate the fine contribution he will make to our work.

IMPORTANT EMAIL NOTICE...

On sending the previous Fall & Winter Newsletter to our many friends and supporters worldwide, we received quite a number of bounce-backs and rejections with the reason stated as:

"451-4.3.0 Multiple destination domains per transaction is unsupported. Please try again."

If you or your server have set your system security in this way, then please kindly inform your server that all emails from 'society at powtaiwan.org' are safe or you will no longer be able to receive notices of our newsletters or events.

Also for those in the USA with AOL, Bellsouth or other large servers, please inform them that mail from POWTaiwan is safe, otherwise they will automatically reject our return emails as they seem to reject any / all emails from China and Taiwan as being spam. In addition, putting our email address in your address book should also prevent this from happening.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Taiwan POWs and our work, and we look forward to keeping in touch in the future.

WELCOME... NEW TRADE OFFICE DIRECTORS

Over the past few months we have had several changes in personnel at the various Commonwealth and Allied Trade Offices here in Taiwan. We are honoured to welcome the new directors as ex-officio members of our board, who like their predecessors, have pledged their support and that of their facilities to helping our Society in its work of honouring and remembering the former Allied POWs who were held here in WWII.

First came Miss Catherine Nettleton, the new Representative of the British Office in December replacing Mr. Chris Wood, followed by Ms. Moira Turley the new Director of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei, in February replacing Ms. Si'alei Van Toor,

We express our appreciation to Chris and Si'alei for the great interest and support that they have given to our Society and we look to working with the new representatives in the days ahead to make sure that the former Taiwan POWs from these countries will never be forgotten.



(L) Catherine Nettleton
(R) Moira Turley

In Memoriam

The following former Taiwan POWs have passed away since our last newsletter.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families of these men and assure them that although they are no longer with us, they will not be forgotten!

ANDREW COOGAN

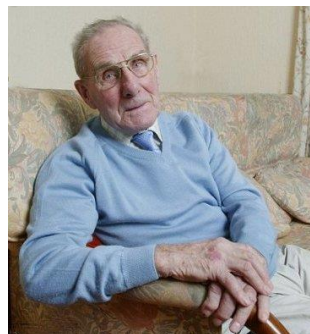
GNR., 155TH FIELD REGIMENT RA
MARCH 20, 2017

One will see that there are fewer death notices in our newsletters lately. This is because so many of the former Taiwan have passed on. There are so few of them left now.

"We Will Remember Them"

Notice: *If you know of a former Taiwan POW who has passed on, please kindly get in touch with us and give us the pertinent information so that we may remember them here. Thank you.*

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



ANDREW COOGAN, 'Andy' as he preferred to be called, had been an outstanding runner in Scotland in the years before the war and was looking forward to competing for the UK in the 1940 Olympic Games. However, that was not to be as the games were cancelled with Europe mired deep in the war.

Andy was a gunner in the 155th Field Reg't and was sent to the Far East - to Malaya in 1941. He fought in the battles there and on Singapore Island before the surrender, followed by 3½ horrific years as a POW, most of the time in Taiwan.

His story is told in a book he collaborated on at the age of 94 titled "Tomorrow You Die". In it he tells of the hardships and how he was almost killed by the Japanese on several occasions.

After the war he returned home but he was never able to run competitively again due to the mistreatment he had suffered as a POW. He encouraged and coached young people to run though, and also carried the Olympic torch for the 2012 Olympics.

I met Andy several years ago on a POW visit to Edinburgh and we had a wonderful time together. He was a good friend and I will miss him.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEPOW DAY – AUGUST 12, 2017

This year will be the tenth time that *FEPOW Day* is celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we will meet at the **Spot Theatre** - 18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei on **Saturday evening August 12th at 6 pm**. There will be a display of POW and military artifacts, we will have a short memorial service to remember the POWs and then the film "**A War Story**" will be shown.

Major Benjamin Wheeler from Egerton Alberta Canada was a doctor in the British Indian Medical Service and was sent to Malaya in 1941. He was with the men who fought so gallantly down the Malay Peninsula and onto Singapore Island before the final surrender on February 15th 1942.

In November of that year he was taken to Taiwan and held first in Taihoku Camp 6 before being sent to the infamous Kinkaseki Camp in August 1943. There he toiled to treat the sick and injured and saved many lives. He was called "*The Man Sent From God*" by his fellow prisoners.

In 1996 the story of Kinkaseki and Dr. Wheeler came to our attention, and it became the basis for starting this work to tell the story of the Taiwan camps and to make sure that the men were remembered. Ben's daughter Ann Wheeler had made a documentary of her father's wartime experiences and this film was shown at the first memorial weekend in May 1997. This led to the building of the POW Memorial at Jinguashi and the formation of the POW Society and its future work.

Being that this is the 20th anniversary of that first event, we are pleased to show the film once again. It is also a prelude to our upcoming 20th Anniversary Remembrance Week event which will be held this November. You won't want to miss this moving docu-drama and love story which gives more insight into the Kinkaseki Camp and what the POWs suffered there.

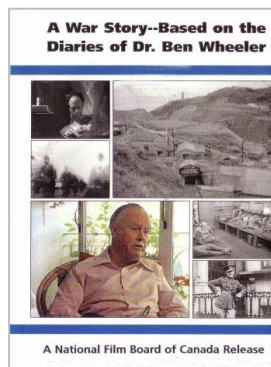
Everyone is invited to our event, but space is limited to 70 persons, so please kindly let us know **by email** if you're planning to attend so we can reserve a seat for you. We hope to have a good turnout again this year.

There is no charge for this event, and coffee and fruit drinks will be available.

An email will be sent out as a reminder prior to the event.

The reservation deadline is set at 5 pm Wednesday August 9th.

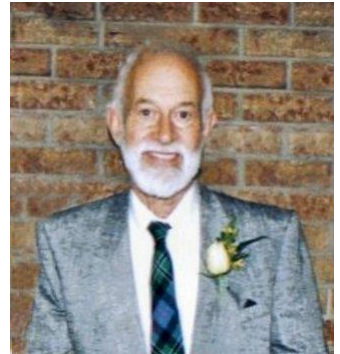
Note: There are no Chinese sub-titles on the film.



A DEAR FRIEND PASSES ON

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Jack Geddes on March 27th of this year.

Jack and I were good and close friends for many years, and in fact he was my first Canadian friend when I came to Taiwan over 28 years ago.



He was a wonderful man who helped me with many things - including helping to arrange my wedding ceremony. Over the years we worked on many community projects together. We were both heavily involved in the former *Canadian Society in Taiwan* - he being one of the founders. He and his wife Betty and family began the effort to save the *Tansui Foreigners' Cemetery* which eventually led to its restoration, preservation and dedication as a national historic site in 1998. He has certainly left his mark and his legacy on Taiwan and on all those who had the privilege to know him.

He was keenly interested in Taiwan history and when I started the Taiwan POW Society his support and encouragement were invaluable. He was a member of our board until he retired and re-settled in Canada, and we had kept in touch after that until he was taken ill several years ago. I am still in touch with his wife Betty, and his son David supports our POW work as well. Our condolences to all the family and they can be assured that he will not be forgotten.

ANOTHER PASSING OF NOTE



Many of our long-time members and friends will no doubt remember Mr. Charles 'Buddy' Parker who visited Taiwan with his sons in 2005. They came for the first memorial service held at the old Taipei Prison wall to honour his brother John Parker and his mates who were murdered by the Japanese inside the prison walls just a few weeks before the end of the war.

Charles had shared the almost unknown story of the PBY4-1 bomber the '*Queen Bee*' and its crew, how they were shot down, captured and later murdered on June 19, 1945, and this led to further investigation of the other downed Americans and their subsequent fates. It turned out there were 25 of these shot down airmen held in the prison and that 14 of them were needlessly murdered. Many others were shot down as well and sent to Japan.

In 2009 a memorial plaque was placed on the old wall of the prison to honour and remember the men held as POWs there, and Memorial Day services are usually held by the wall. This has all come about as a result of Charles' contacting us, and the story of the downed fliers is now a real part of Taipei city's history. Charles passed away on January 10th of this year at 88 years of age. He is finally reunited with his brother and now they both rest in peace.

TAICHU POW CAMP MEMORIAL RENOVATION

Over the past number of years we have visited the Taichu POW Camp Memorial many times, either during our annual Remembrance Week event in November, or throughout the year by family members of the POWs who were formerly in that camp.

Located on the site of the Ministry of Economic Affairs Hydraulic Research Experimental Centre at Wufeng, just south of Taichung city, the memorial stone was placed in a little garden along the back wall of the research facility in the spring of 2000 and dedicated that November with a number of the former Taichu Camp POWs present.

In the early days, when placing memorials at the sites of the former camps, due to a lack of funds and also the uncertainty as to whether the memorial stone would later be moved, we did not place the stones in concrete bases as later happened, but rather just put them in the gardens prepared for them.

Over the years the Taichu stone had sunk into the ground further and with the grass that so lavishly grew up around it, parts of the inscription in Chinese were obscured. We looked at the situation last year and discussed with Mr. Shieh, Tian-Yuan, the manager of the Research Centre about the possibility of lifting the stone from the garden and placing it in a permanent concrete base similar to the other memorials that we built in recent years.

The MOEA has always been very supportive of our work and respectful of the memorial and what it represents, and so after further discussion late last year, following our visit during the Remembrance Week event, an application was submitted in January of this year to have this done.

We received word from Mr. Shieh on February 15th, the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, that the application was approved, and then at once we began working with the Research Centre on a plan to design and build the base.

In March the memorial stone was lifted from the ground and its measurements taken. A design for the base was put together and the drawings were submitted and approved in early April.

Within a couple of weeks the Research Centre workers had completely excavated the site where the memorial was to be located and poured in a cement foundation. The exact location for the base was set and work began on the mold.

Once the mold was finished I traveled down to Wufeng for a couple of days to work with the team and oversee the pouring of the cement base and the mounting of the stone.

The stone also needed to be cleaned up and polished to restore it to its former appearance, so while the workers finished up with the base I took the opportunity to do this.

Then it was time to pour the cement and Mr. Shieh joined me to shovel the first cement into the new base. (See photo on the cover of this issue.)



Helping (?) the workers on the job in my lucky 'Just Do It' t-shirt I always wear on these jobs.

After letting the base dry and cure overnight, the next day the stone was set in place.



Mounting the stone in the base.

It was a wonderful feeling to finally see the stone in its new base in the garden not far from where the prisoners' huts had previously been located those many years ago. It is a great tribute to them.



The new Taichu POW Camp Memorial.

We would like to thank Mr. Shieh and his staff and workers, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Republic of China for their kindness and cooperation in getting this important memorial finally set in stone for all time. It joins all our other memorials now as a permanent reminder of the locations of the former Taiwan POW Camps, and most importantly, it helps to ensure that the men who were in this camp and all the others, will have their story told and will not be forgotten.

EXPLORING THE KUKUTSU CAMP TRAIL

On January 10th I went to Hsintien to meet our good friend and avid supporter Shawfong Chen and Miss You, the granddaughter of 'Grandma' You who used to give the POWs on the town party bits of food and water on their journey to and from the POW camp.

Miss You has lived on the same homestead all her life and is well acquainted with the area and the old trail that used to run from the village of Hsintien up into mountains past their home - known to the POWs in those days as the 'halfway house', and on to the Kukutsu POW camp. She wanted to show us the old trail which runs mainly along the existing road today but also in places goes off into the bush.

We decided to take the easy way and rode the local community bus up the mountain to the former campsite, and after exploring the area for a while, we started to retrace the old 10 km. track back down to Hsintien.

The trail begins in the lower end of the camp and winds its way through the bush til it joins the main road. It follows the narrow road for a time until it again veers off into the forest which the POWs called the jungle. Then it comes back out to the road again.

Shawfong & Miss You enjoying a lunch break along the old trail.



*(L) Part of the old trail winds through the bush.
(R) The former boat landing as it looks today.*

We followed the trail for a number of miles and then where it descended to the river, we found the old boat landing where the POWs were supposed to have had boats waiting for them on their return to Taihoku. We carried on as they did - on foot, finally reaching Hsintien again about dusk, tired but happy to have been able to really follow in the footsteps of the men of Kukutsu. It was not an easy trek and it gave us a real appreciation for what the men had to go through in their weakened and emaciated state. We must never forget the hardships they suffered.

ANZAC Day April 25th

Taipei's National Central Library was the venue for this year's ANZAC Day celebration. A good crowd assembled at 9 am for another memorable service hosted this year by the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office. Tributes were rendered and poems were read in honour and memory of the New Zealand and Australian forces who fought and those who died for our freedom.

Wreaths were laid by Australia, New Zealand and the Commonwealth and allied representatives, as well as from former enemies such as Turkey and Germany who are now allies and friends. As always, it was a very moving service which was followed by a morning tea and a time of fellowship.



As Last Post is played the audience remembers and the ANZAC's are honoured. (Courtesy NZCIO)

US Memorial Day May 29th

On a sunny Monday May 29th morning participants and friends from the American and foreign expat communities gathered by the American Airmen's Memorial plaque on the old north wall of the former Taipei Prison to honour and remember all those who have given their lives in past wars and those who are still serving today.

As the American flag hung from the wall beside the memorial plaque, tributes were given and a list of all the American POWs who died in Taiwan was read by the Society director. Taps was played and a moment of silence observed. The ceremony, organized by *Democrats Abroad Taiwan*, was simple and sincere and was followed by a lovely fellowship lunch at the nearby Kao-Chi restaurant.



Some of the participants pose for a photo at the wall after the Memorial Day event.

UPDATE ON THE 'ASIA WAR GRAVES PHOTO GROUP'



Labuan War Cemetery, Malaysia

Since 2012 the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society has been a part of the **Asia War Graves Photo Group**, along with the Thai-Burma Railway Center, Tony Banham of the Hong Kong War Diary and Tony Buckley from Malaysia - who has for the past seven years photographed tens of thousands of war graves and names on memorials in 17 countries across Asia.

Our principal mission in joining together was to provide free war grave photos to those in need of them, as we all strongly object to people and organizations who charge veterans and their families for photos of their loved one's grave just because they are unable to travel to the cemeteries to obtain photos themselves. It is for this very reason that we wanted to provide such photos free of charge – in honour and respect for those veterans.

Recently, we have decided that since Tony Buckley has all of the photos from all of the cemeteries and memorials across Asia, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication he would take over the project and set up a dedicated website to provide all Asian war grave photos and we would support him in this important mission. So effective January 1st 2017, the **ASIA WAR GRAVES** website was launched as – <http://www.asiawar Graves.com/>. We encourage anyone who needs photos of veterans' graves and memorials in Asia to contact Tony and he will be happy to supply what you need – **FREE OF CHARGE!**

The **Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society** also has photos of every former Taiwan POW's grave. We have all the British, Australians and Dutch from the Sai Wan War Cemetery in Hong Kong, and all of the American war graves from the Manila American Cemetery, the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii, and the various Veterans Affairs and private cemeteries in the USA.

In addition to the photos, we can also supply more detailed information about the POWs who died here, with the sole aim of keeping the memory of those veterans alive, so present and future generations will not forget them and the sacrifices they have made. Please contact us if we may be of service to you, and please help us to spread the word about the new **Asia War Graves** website around the FEPOW Community.

POW CAMP TOURS. . .

This spring we have seen a further increase in our POW camp tours. Our visitors are most often the family members of the former Taiwan POWs, but we do get other visitors from all walks of life as well.

Visits by local school groups are usually an annual event and sometimes these involve overseas students who are in Taiwan for educational exchange programs as well.

We also get requests for visits to the camps by government officials and visiting overseas dignitaries and we are always honoured to conduct tours for them. Here are some of those we have hosted this spring:

February 17th - Ms. Catherine Coll, United Airlines Flight Attendant, USA.

Catherine has been a flight attendant for United Airlines for many years and has made many trips to Taiwan in that time.

She heard about the POWs and the American Airmen and wanted to pay tribute to them. She did not have time for a full day tour to the POW Memorial Park at Jinguashi, but we were able to take her to the American Airmen's Memorial at the old Taipei Prison Wall where she placed some flowers in honour of those who gave their lives there. She is hoping to stay longer next time.



March 23rd - 26th - Mrs. Niccola Swan, son Fin and partner Kirsty Opperman, UK.

Niccola, the Granddaughter-in-law of Gnr. Walter G. Swan Sr., of the 155th Field Reg't who had been a POW in Kinkaseki, Heito and Taihoku 6 camps, contacted us last year to inquire about a visit to the camps where he was held.

Her son Fin, Walter's great-grandson, and his partner were attending a friend's wedding in Hong Kong so they invited 'mum' to come along. They had a wonderful tour through China before their visit here.

Time did not permit a visit to all three of Walter's camps, but they were able to see the Taihoku Camp 6 area and also spend a whole day visiting Kinkaseki and the POW Park. It was a very informative and moving experience for all of them, and we had a great time of fellowship together during their stay.



At Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial.

(Cont'd on page 10)

Student Photograph of POW Camp Memorial Takes Prize



Nicole's Photo: Mates Sculpture at Kinkaseki
(Courtesy Nicole & Gilder Lehrman Institute)

We are pleased and honoured to announce that one of the students from the Taipei American (International) School in Taipei has won a top prize in an international student contest with a photo of the 'Mates' sculpture taken at the Taiwan POW Memorial Park. The following comes from the school's website regarding the award:

*"Junior, Nicole C.'s photo **Kinkaseki POW Camp Memorial - Mates in Jinguashi, Taiwan** was selected as one of ten winning photographs for the Gilder Lehrman Institute's Military Monuments Student Photography Contest for 2016.*

The contest invited K-12 students to submit photographs of military monuments or memorials. Nicole's photograph was selected from among 130 submissions and will be displayed in the annual Gilder Lehrman 2017 calendar.

The photograph itself depicts the memorial erected in Jinguashi, Taiwan on the site of the Kinkaseki POW Camp. The Kinkaseki POW camp housed over 1,100 Allied prisoners of war from November 14, 1942 to June 30, 1945. Prisoners at the camp toiled under deplorable conditions in a local copper mine.

The winners of the photography contest were announced on Veterans Day in America, a national holiday in the United States that honors Veterans. Nicole is one of Mr. Arnold's history students. Congratulations Nicole!"

Our congratulations as well as our thanks to Nicole for choosing as her subject this poignant statue of two former prisoners of war struggling to survive and supporting each other as created by the Society director. It is a great encouragement to the Society and our work that the youth of today are recognizing the importance of learning about World War II history and remembering those who suffered and those who died for our freedom! As the calendar and the photo will have a worldwide audience, it is also helping us to further make the story of the Taiwan POW camps known to the world.

Taipei American School Class

Dressed as a captain in the US Army Air Corps in the Philippines in the spring of 1942, and armed with a number of POW artifacts, I had the privilege of once again addressing the Grade 9 history students at the Taipei American (International) School on March 17th.

As I was being introduced a young lady came forward with a thank you gift and it turned out to be Nicole who presented me with an enlarged copy of her award-winning photo (*at left*). I was humbled and honoured to receive this wonderful gift and it now proudly hangs in my office.



Nicole presenting the photo as her teacher Mrs. Darby Benedict looks on. (Courtesy Wm. Wang)

I focused on the American POWs who came to Taiwan after the fall of the Philippines and the Bataan Death March, and of the camps they were in and the things they suffered for our freedom.



Sharing the POWs' story (Courtesy Wm. Wang)

I love working with young people and it's gratifying to see their interest in WWII history. They have a rare and special opportunity living here in Taiwan to actually learn about and visit the former Japanese POW camps first-hand.

My thanks to the school and the history department teachers for inviting me, and I am looking forward to more return visits in the future.

POW CAMP TOURS. . .

(Cont'd from page 8)

April 3rd - 6th – Jennifer Read, UK / China

Jennifer is the granddaughter of former Pte. Robert Read, 1st Btn. Manchester Reg't. who was interned in Heito, Kinkaseki and Kukutsu camps. She is currently living and working in Dongguan China and took the opportunity during spring break to pay a visit to Taiwan.



A delightful day was spent touring the sights of Jinguashi as well as reveling in the experience of actually being in the place where her grandfather was those many years ago. He survived the war and she has many fond memories of him.

The other days of her visit were spent sightseeing in Taipei and on the one day we visited Hsintien and the bridge her grandfather crossed to get supplies for the camp while on the town party. She is hoping to come back again sometime in the future to see more.

May 5th – Taipei European School Grade 9 Class



Once again on May 4th I visited the Taipei European (International) School to give a class on the POWs to the Grade 9's, and the next day accompanied them on the annual tour to Kinkaseki. The weather and the kids were great, and a good time was had by all.

May 19th - VFW Commander in Chief

Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America paid a visit to Taiwan and I had the honour to accompany him and his host - the



Veterans Affairs Council of the ROC, on a visit to Jinguashi to view the former camp, lay flowers on the memorial and pay tribute to the POWs. He was keenly interested in the work we are doing to remember the men, those who suffered, and those who died in the camps here. The VFW is a strong supporter of our work.

A MEMORIAL FOR THE ENOURA MARU POWS IN HAWAII – UPDATE



The proposed memorial to the men who died in January 1945 when the hellship *Enoura Maru* was bombed by American carrier aircraft in Kaohsiung Harbour, and who now lie in 20 communal graves (above) at the Punchbowl National War Cemetery in Hawaii, is moving forward again.

The *American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society* is carrying on with the project which has been on hold for the past year. All of the former materials, documentation and application details have been passed on to them and we are happy to report at this time that under the leadership of Ms. Nancy Kragh of the ADBC-MS progress is slowly being made.

With a revised design for the stone containing some additional wording, work on a new application has begun in earnest. Having a new director at the Punchbowl, we are hopeful of getting the approval for the memorial stone with the word "Hellship" in place.

Once further progress has been made and the memorial is approved, information will be sent out letting people know the costs so they may donate to this worthwhile project through the ADBC-MS.

Thank you for your continued interest and please watch this space for further announcements.

May 28th - Edinburgh Junior High School Class

Early this spring I was contacted by the Tainan Municipal ZhongHsiao Junior High School who were hosting a group of 11 exchange students and two teachers from George Watson's College in Edinburgh Scotland. Their guests wanted to visit Kinkaseki as one of their alumni, Lt. Patrick Ronaldson of the 155th Field Reg't. RA died in that camp on January 9, 1943.

Despite some rain, the students had a good tour of the area and paid tribute to their former schoolmate with a reading and the laying of a wreath at the memorial.



Students and their teacher Mrs. Sproule (l) in front of Lt. Ronaldson's name on the POW Memorial wall.