



Never Forgotten

Vol. 10, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2009

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

More Projects Completed!



Satellite locations and views of all the former Taiwan POW camps now up on the Society's website



*Dedication of the Taiwan War & Peace Park at Kaohsiung Harbour – May 20th
- Site of the Taiwan Hellships Memorial*



Dedication of the POW Memorial on the site of the former Toroku POW Camp – June 6th



Please join us for
FEPOW Day
Sat. Aug. 15



TPCMS Staff and Friends at the Toroku Camp Dedication

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2009

Be sure to mark the week of November 11 – 18 on your calendars and in your date books, and plan to be with us for this great annual event which features a banquet on November 14th and the Remembrance Day service at the Prisoner of War Memorial Park at Kinkaseki on the 15th. We hope that former POWs and their families will make an effort to come as we have a special program prepared for these guests. If you are interested, and for more information, please contact the Society by mail or email at the addresses shown on page 2 of this newsletter. Hope to see you in November!

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL
SOCIETY**

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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 in the fall of 1998
the returning POWs laid poppy crosses at all the
former campsites they visited. The poppy cross is
recognised worldwide as a symbol of
remembrance to war veterans.

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

- * to continue the search for survivors of
the Taiwan POW camps from 1942 - 45.
- * to search for the locations of the
former Japanese POW camps on the
island of Taiwan. [*completed*]
- * to ensure the memory of the Taiwan
POWs is not forgotten. [*ongoing*]
- * to help with the organization of, and
participate in, the memorial service for
the Taiwan POWs at Chinguashi every
November. [*ongoing*]
- * 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. [*ongoing*]

**LIST OF TAIWAN POW
CAMPS. . . all found !**

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

Thought . . .

Talk is cheap! We must show
by our actions that we mean
what we say.

RETURN TO THE RIVER KWAI by Michael Hurst

In the last week of February this year I had the wonderful privilege of visiting my longtime good friend Rod Beattie who manages the Commonwealth War Cemeteries near the Bridge on the River Kwai in Thailand, and who is also the founder and director of the Thai-Burma Railway Centre there. Rod has been a real inspiration to me in my work for the Taiwan POWs.

I arrived in Bangkok on February 23rd and was kindly driven to Kanchanaburi by the driver of my wife's aunt and uncle who live there. On the way we stopped at Ban Pong – the original staging center for the railway where the first POWs from Singapore were sent to start construction north to Burma (Myanmar). Then I wanted to try to find the old station at Non Pladuk where the first POW camp was constructed, and after a bit of searching we finally found it. From there we went on to Kanchanaburi and met Rod and Terry Manttan, the manager of the Thai-Burma Railway Centre.



WWII train cars at Non Pladuk



Thai-Burma Railway Centre, Kanchanaburi, Thailand

The next day was filled with activities in and around the war cemeteries at Kanchanaburi, Chungkai and the museum. A lot of time was spent exploring the town and the cemeteries with Rod and another of the staff – Derek Lawson, as my guide. It is wonderful to see all that Rod and his staff have done to tell the story of the Death Railway in an honest, truthful, objective and yet moving way. The museum is a gem and is a must for every visitor to Thailand.



Bridge on the River Kwai

One of the reasons for my visit was because Rod had invited me to go up-country with him – to further explore the railway as far as the Burma border. I was also hoping to see the area - and possibly some of the camp sites, where my two second-cousins John and Burke Cobon had been while working as part of the “No. 1 Mobile Force” which laid the rail line down from Burma into Thailand in the spring of 1943. Later they were lost at sea when the hellship *Rakuyo Maru* was torpedoed by the American sub *Sealion* in September 1944 en route to Japan.

So, on the 25th we packed up the Rover and headed out. We had a couple of other guests along for the first part of the trip and then we were on our own. We

stopped at Hellfire Pass, and explored the area around Hintok Camp, the famous Three-Tier Bridge and Hintok Cutting.



Hintok Cutting

We then tried to walk part of the old railway bed, but unfortunately, in their zeal to try to “restore” the old track bed from Hellfire pass to Hintok, the Australian Gov't. has hauled in very large and rough rock and laid it down along the route. The idea was to make a nice walking trail, but the stones are so large and rough – not at all like the original ballast, that walking the trail has become very difficult. Where the original ballast remains there is no difficulty with the walk. I would not advise anyone to do it unless they have very good ‘mountaineering’ style footwear.

We stayed that night in Sangklaburi and the next day we headed north toward Three Pagodas Pass and the border with Burma (Myanmar). On the way, Rod pulled the Rover off the main road and headed down a narrow dirt trail til we came to the site where the old railway bed had been. This was the area where my cousins



Searching for rail spikes



had worked! We hauled the metal detector out of the vehicle and soon Rod had dug up several spikes remaining from that time which he presented to me to share with the family in Australia. I knew they would really appreciate that so much. Continuing on, we passed the sites of several of the camps my cousins had stayed in and then arrived at the border.

After spending some time looking around, we headed back south and soon Rod pulled off the road again. We traveled across country for quite a while and finally ended up in the area of the three Tha Khanun Camps. We spent several hours exploring the old rail bed for a considerable distance – we discovered a lot of things and were both happy doing what we like best – exploring for the evidence of, and uncovering history.



At the Myanmar Border

Later on the way back to Kanchanaburi we received a phone call from Terry saying that my mother had passed away. I want to thank Rod and his lovely family and Terry for their care and compassion during the hours that followed. It was a wonderful trip, and like I try to do here in Taiwan for the families of the former Taiwan FEPOWs, Rod has done for me. I am very grateful and looking forward to returning again.

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 Never Be Forgotten!

ALMA GLENN PRATT

S1C., US NAVY
JULY 15, 2004
(Not reported earlier)

DONALD DAVIDSON

CPL., 9/11TH INDIAN DIV. SIGNALS
September 11, 2008
(Not reported earlier)

JAMES L. WATSON

SGT., 155TH FIELD REGIMENT, R.A.
JANUARY 22, 2009

GEOFFREY MONUMENT

PTE., ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS
APRIL 18, 2009

JOHN C. DOUGLAS

L/BDR., 155TH FIELD REGIMENT, R.A.
APRIL 24, 2009

"We Will Remember Them"

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO POW AIRMEN AT TAIPEI PRISON WALL

Finally, four years after our initial memorial service for the 14 executed American airmen at the wall of the old Taipei Prison on June 19, 2005, the dedication of a plaque to honour the memory of all the American airmen who were held in the former prison and the 14 who were needlessly executed there by a Japanese firing squad 64 years ago will take place on Saturday June 20th at 3 pm.

The ceremony will be held with the co-operation of the City of Taipei, the ROC Dep't of Veterans Affairs and the American Institute in Taiwan. Local Taiwan friends and supporters of the Society have been notified of the details of the ceremony and we are hoping to have a good turnout for the event. This is the first of several memorials that we hope to erect in Taipei city in the next couple of years.

A word regarding donations to the Society:

Banks in Taiwan are reluctant to accept anything other than US dollars, so if making a donation to the Society please send the funds in **US\$** - preferably in a bank wire / transfer to our account here. Please contact us for the pertinent account information. Thank you.

REMEMBERING DEAR POW FRIENDS. . .

Several of my dear FEPOW friends have passed away lately. They have been very special friends and have helped so much in my study of the former Taiwan camps. Here are tributes to a few of them . . .

JAMES WATSON –

I have known and corresponded with Jim Watson for over twelve years, as he was one of the first POWs I contacted when I started this work. He was always so kind and helpful to me, and he shared so much of his experiences with me. The several times we have met over the years were truly memorable events.

A quiet and gentle man, he was well-liked and respected by all the POWs and those who knew him. The other POWs who were with him at Kinkaseki and Shirakawa Camps have told me what a caring man and what a leader he was in the camps. I will always remember his gentle nature and smiling face and the twinkle in his eye when he would look at me. God bless him - I will miss him dearly.

GEOFFREY MONUMENT –

From the first contact I had with Geoff over ten years ago we became the greatest of friends. He was our POW Society rep in the United States when he lived in Florida where he emigrated after the war with his beloved wife Millie. When she passed away a few years ago he returned to the UK and lived near the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas.

Geoff helped me so much with my work in finding out more about the Taiwan POWs and trying to put former American POWs in touch with me. He sent me his book and some other items for our POW museum here in Taiwan. He used to help me with eBay purchases I made for our museum when the seller would not ship to Taiwan - I would have them send the article to Geoff and he would send it on to me.

We finally met last year at the POW reunion in the UK and I was so looking forward to seeing him again this year. He was one of my most special FEPOW friends and I am just so happy now that I got to meet him at the reunion last year. Rest in peace, dear friend!

JOHN DOUGLAS –

I had corresponded for many years with John Douglas and his wife Audrey, before finally being able to meet them last year at our POW reunion in the UK. After all those cards and letters it was so great to sit face to face and chat with another one of my many FEPOW heroes. John always encouraged me in my work and provided whatever information and help he could.

He had an infectious smile and a great sense of humour and our time together was not nearly long enough as we tried to catch up on so many wonderful years. We were looking forward to seeing each other again this year, but sadly it was not to be. I am proud to say that he was my friend and I am surely much richer for having known him.

Welcome...

We are honoured to welcome David Campbell, the new Director - General of the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei as an ex-officio member of our board of directors as of this January.

David replaces Michael Reilly who left Taiwan for another posting. We want to express our appreciation for the interest and support that Michael and his staff have given to our Society over the past several years and we wish him well and look forward to working with David and the staff of the BTCO in the days ahead.

TAIPEI EUROPEAN SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT POW HISTORY

Once again this year on May 26 and 27 the junior high history students of Taipei European International School took part in a 2-day program to learn about the story of the Taiwan POWs. Society director Michael Hurst went to the school and gave a PowerPoint talk and displayed some POW artifacts. The second day the group was taken on a tour of the former POW camp and mine and museum at Jinguashi. A short Remembrance Service was held at the POW Memorial with several students taking the leading roles. The challenge was given for them to “take up the torch of remembrance” and carry it in the future.



The students outside the mine entrance

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TAIWAN POW CAMPS AND THE POWS?

If your school, club or organization would like to know more about the prisoners of war, the POW camps on Taiwan and the work of the Society, we would be very pleased to come to a meeting of your group and give a talk and show pictures and artifacts from our research. It is one of our aims to share the POWs' story with as many as we can, so that more people in Taiwan will know and be able to better understand this part of their history. For more information, please contact us.

Tel. (02) 8660-8438 Email: society@powtaiwan.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

Another exciting year is unfolding for the Society and our work as we continue to research and tell the story of the former Taiwan POW camps and the men who were interned in them.

Further information has been received from fellow researchers and also official sources such as NARA and the National Archives in the UK, so thankfully more of the story is coming together now.

We still continue to receive a lot of enquiries from family members and friends of the former POWs seeking information, and it is not only a challenge but also a pleasure to be able to tell them more about a loved one who was a former POW on Taiwan.

In February I had the great pleasure of visiting my good friend Rod Beattie in Kanchanaburi Thailand. We spent several days together in and around the wonderful museum he has set up adjacent to the war cemetery near the Bridge on the River Kwai. We also spent two wonderful days “up country” exploring along the length of the Death Railway right up to the Burma (Myanmar) border. We dedicated some time to the area where my two Australian second cousins worked laying track as part of the No. 1 Track Laying Squad.

It was while we were on the way back to Kanchanaburi that I learned that my mother had passed away in Canada. I went back for her funeral and spent the month of March there settling her affairs. She was in her 92nd year and passed away peacefully in her sleep. She was a wonderful mother and I will miss her very much.

This spring has seen much progress with the dedication of the War & Peace Memorial Park at Kaohsiung Harbour – the site of the Taiwan POW Hellships Memorial (see story on page 7), the dedication of the Toroku POW Memorial (see story on page 8) and the upcoming dedication of the plaque on the old Taipei Prison Wall. I have also been privileged once again to be able to share the story of the Taiwan POWs with the students of the Taipei European School Junior High history class and take them on a tour of Kinkaseki. So the story is being told to all ages!

There is still much work to do however. We are now making plans to erect two more POW memorials at the two schools which were the sites of the former Inrin and Inrin Temporary Camps. We have already approached the schools and the reaction was favourable. We will be looking to complete these two memorials sometime in the next 12 months.

FEPOW Day 2009 is also being planned for Saturday August 15th and local friends and supporters will be notified of the event and the details closer to the time. We are hoping for a good turnout this year too.

I am very grateful for all the interest and support that is being shown to us from various organizations such as the Taipei City Gov't., the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission, The Kaohsiung City Culture Bureau, local schools and many individuals – without whose support our work would be much harder. Thanks to you all, the POWs' story is being told

At Peace at Last - the ongoing love story of MARJORIE GARNER

- by Christine Wood

Our late mother Marjorie's first husband, Ernest Parker of the Royal Corps of Signals and a former prisoner of war in Taiwan, is buried in Sai Wan War Cemetery on Hong Kong Island. Since 1991 she had travelled to Hong Kong three times to visit his grave and I had accompanied her on two of those occasions.



Marjorie & Ernest Parker at their wedding in 1941.

One such visit in 2000 included a trip to Taiwan to visit some of the prisoner of war camps - the sites of which Michael Hurst of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society had identified. When we visited Taiwan we didn't know exactly which camp Ernest had been in. We found out later through an appeal in the Society's newsletter, that Ernest had been held in Taichu Camp.

Michael did more research and was able to fill in the rest of the story. He told us that Ernest had come to Taiwan from Singapore in November 1942 on the hellship *England Maru*. He was first interned in Taihoku Camp 6. Later he was sent from Taihoku to Taichu in the fall of 1943, and worked there until June 1944 when the camp was flooded and the men were dispersed to other camps. Ernest was moved to Heito Camp in the south of the island and it was here that he died on September 26, 1944. After the war the remains of those men who had died in Taiwan were re-interred in Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong.

Sadly, in April 2008 our mother passed away. We had talked prior to her death about where she wished her ashes to be scattered. It was her wish that half were to be placed with our father in

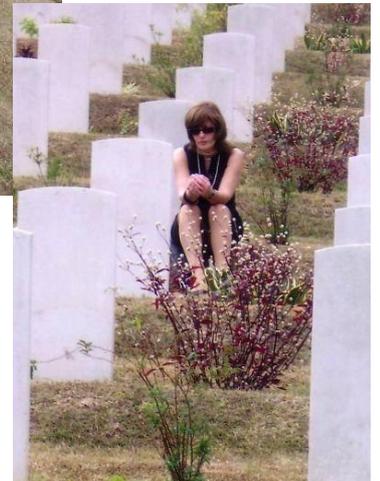
Cheshire and half would be taken to Hong Kong to be with Ernest.

My sister, Rosemary and I travelled to Hong Kong last Christmas to carry out her wishes. The morning we chose to visit Sai Wan Cemetery was beautiful. The sun was shining and the cemetery looked and felt so peaceful. Once we had placed Mum's ashes on Ernest's grave, Rosemary read a poem from Mum's *'Golden Treasury'* and as we sat quietly by the grave, suddenly three butterflies appeared, flew around Ernest's headstone and then disappeared. We felt that this was very symbolic and represented the spirits of our Mother, Father and her first love Ernest. May they all rest in peace.

We would like to thank the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for their help and also Mr. Derek Cheung who assisted us during our visit to Sai Wan War Cemetery.



Rosemary reading the poem . . .



Remembering!

Editor's note:

We ran the story of Marjorie's efforts to find out about her first husband and the camp he was in – in the *Spring Summer 2001 newsletter* - see <http://www.powtaiwan.org/newsletters/2001%20Spring%20Summer/page4.htm> . It is so wonderful to be able to complete the story and to know that Marjorie and Ernest are at peace together at last.

Kaohsiung War & Peace Park Dedication Event

After several years in planning and construction, the Kaohsiung War and Peace Memorial Park was dedicated on Wednesday May 20th. The park is located by the seashore in Chijin - the spit of land that forms the outer boundary to Kaohsiung Harbour.

Over the past few years several memorials have been erected to war veterans from several different conflicts on this tract of land set aside by the city to be used as a park to remember the suffering and sacrifice of Taiwanese in war.

It was the dream of Taiwanese veteran John Hsu (*Hsu, Chao-Jung*) to see a memorial erected to honour those Taiwanese men and women who were conscripted into the Japanese army in WWII, those who later fought with the Nationalist Army in the Chinese Civil War, and finally some of those captured by the Communists and forced to fight for the North in the Korean War. In addition, our Taiwan Hellships Memorial was located there in 2006 and just recently another memorial to all Taiwan veterans was erected there by the government.

The area has now been turned into a beautiful park with lovely landscaping complete with walkways, park benches and a small museum to further tell the story of those who were involved in the conflicts of the 20th Century. The Society will also be contributing some materials to the museum to help tell the story of the Taiwan POWs.



Museum for the Taiwan veterans in the park

More than one hundred people gathered at the park on a beautiful sunny afternoon for the ceremony. There were Taiwanese veterans from all of the conflicts, plus a former nurse who had served with the Japanese army in China in WWII. Kaohsiung Mayor Chen and Deputy Mayor Lee, Cultural Affairs Director Hsih, as well as Maj./Gen.

Chang of the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission were in attendance, and Michael Hurst MBE, Director of the Taiwan POW Society was also a special guest.

The ceremony began with a drama put on by several young men to re-enact the service of the Taiwanese veterans during the last half of the 20th Century, and then tributes were presented by the Taiwan veterans, Michael Hurst and finally Mayor Chen. The former Taiwanese vets then sang an old wartime song. Flower wreaths were laid on the three memorials as piper Mal Turner played *Amazing Grace*. A local band also played to close out the ceremony.

The Society is proud to be associated with the city of Kaohsiung in this venture and to have our memorial to the POWs located here. We look forward to more co-operation together in the future as we remember our veterans together.



The veterans singing their song



Hurst speaking at the ceremony



The band playing by the memorials

Return to Heito Camp

On Thursday May 21 following the dedication of the War & Peace Park, I took the opportunity to make a short trip to the nearby Ping Tung area for a visit to the site of the former Heito Camp. It has been several years since I had last visited the site and in that time a number of things had changed.

First of all, the ROC Army had closed the base and the property was left in the care of the Ping Tung County Government, who have pledged to still take care of our memorial. Then over a year ago due to a huge typhoon that damaged their village, a community of Taiwan aboriginal people were moved into the former camp and housed in the buildings. I was concerned about the status of our memorial.

Upon arriving at the former camp we met and chatted with a number of the very warm and friendly local folk and told them a bit more of the story of the former POWs who had been there many years before them. I was pleased to see that the area and the memorial are being very well kept up.

The POW Memorial on the site of the former Heito Camp – now in the care of the Pingtung County Government



A Daughter Returns at Last

On Sunday April 5th Aveline Ainslie, the daughter of former POW L/Bdr. William B. Blair of the 155th Field Reg't. was able to fulfill a wish that she had for nearly 50 years – to visit the place where her father died as a POW. That day - when their cruise ship docked at Keelung Harbour, we picked up Aveline and her husband Sandy and took them to Kinkaseki for a visit.

Her father was at Kinkaseki from Nov. 1942 until his death on Feb. 6, 1945. Upon her return to the UK she wrote – “I am glad I have seen where the camp was and the mine was. It is so real in my mind and I think of it such a lot. Thank you for guiding me through it.” We were very pleased to help Aveline remember her father this way.



Aveline and Sandy at the Kinkaseki Memorial

Dedication of the Toroku Prisoner of War Memorial

It was 64 years ago on November 9th 1944 that the first group of 294 American POWs came into the Toroku POW Camp. They had come from Kaohsiung by train after disembarking from the Japanese hellship “*Hokusen Maru*”.

More than 1100 men had been crammed into the holds of this small, old cargo vessel, and during its 39 day voyage from Manila to Taiwan, 39 men had died of starvation, thirst, disease and overcrowding. The men were in such terrible condition that the Japanese decided to off-load them in Taiwan to get them well before taking them on to Japan to continue their work as slaves for the war effort there.

The men occupied the former buildings of what is now the Gou-Ba Elementary School. The school had been in operation then for 26 years under the Japanese occupation, and the students were moved out so the prisoners could be housed in their classrooms. The men slept on the cement floor of the classrooms and each was given 2 – 3 cotton blankets – that was all they had for a bed.



Old Japanese school building – the last POW structure in Taiwan – torn down in November 2003.

The POWs were divided into nine ‘squads’ for administration purposes and each group had different tasks to do in and around the camp. Because most were too sick and weak to do heavy work, they were engaged in various jobs including growing vegetables, cleaning and maintenance, gathering wood and bringing supplies from town. Some also worked in the nearby sugar mill up the road from the camp.

Two of the classrooms were set aside as ‘hospital wards’ for the sickest prisoners. Despite the terrible ordeal they had been through, only one of the American POWs died during their time at Toroku Camp. He was buried in the local cemetery. Most of the others managed to regain some of their former strength, due to an increase in food, better treatment and living conditions, and less work. Most of the prisoners have said that this was the best POW camp they were ever in and wished they could have stayed there for the remainder of the war, but sadly, such was not to be.

In mid-January 1945, almost all of the POWs except those still sick, were removed from the camp and sent to either Kaohsiung or Keelung and put on ships destined for Japan. Several more men died at sea on the way there.

In early March 1945 the remaining POWs at Toroku were joined by a group of British POWs from Inrin Camp. During the next month two British and two Americans died

and were also buried in the village cemetery. After the war the remains of all five POWs were removed and sent to either Hong Kong or Manila for re-burial. The POWs stayed at Toroku until April 11th when they were all moved to Shirakawa Camp and the Toroku Camp was closed.

~

The site of the former Toroku Camp was discovered by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society team in September 2000. We re-visited the school again in September 2003 and suggested then that a memorial stone might be erected here to mark the school’s place in history. Sadly, in November 2003 the old Japanese school building was torn down – it was the last POW building remaining from all of the former camps on Taiwan.

In 2005 another suggestion was made to the school to erect a memorial and in December 2008 permission was finally given. We were thrilled to be able to gather at the school on June 6th to dedicate the memorial to the men who had previously been in that camp.

A group from Taipei travelled to Touliou on the day and at 1:30 pm the dedication service was held. Society Director Michael Hurst told a little of the story of the camp and thanked those who had given their support in the building of the memorial. In addition, speeches from Maj/Gen. Pang of the R.O.C. Veterans Affairs Commission, Douliou City Councilor Chang Cheng Shen and school and community reps paid tribute to the men who had suffered and those who had died in the camp. Some of the students from the school were involved in the ceremony as well, and we hope they will always remember the men who helped to win the freedom and peace for us that we enjoy in Taiwan today.

Poems were read by Society board member Mark Wilkie and a poem in Chinese written especially for the occasion was read by one of the teachers from the school. A prayer of dedication for the memorial was rendered by Rev. Diane Wong, followed by the laying of wreaths on the memorial.

We want to thank the county gov’t., the school board, Principal Hsu and Mr. Liu, the Deputy Chairman of the Parents’ Association, for their support in getting the memorial erected. We also want to thank the local people of Gou-Ba community for the stories and details of the former camp and the POWs which they have shared with us.

Thanks also go to all our board members and other supporters who have helped so much to bring about this memorial. POW Society board member Mark Wilkie has been a driving force behind getting the memorial built and an American friend Gene Hirte and his wife Anton, helped us find a suitable stone for the memorial, get it engraved and transport it to the school. We appreciate all their efforts.

There are still a number of the former Toroku Camp POWs with us, but sadly none were able to be here for the dedication as we would have liked. We sincerely hope that seeing the photos and knowing that there is a memorial in their honour in their former camp, will bring them lasting peace and closure to those terrible days they spent here so long ago. May God bless them all!

(For more photos of the dedication ceremony see page 9.)

Photos of the Toroku POW Memorial Dedication. . .



Principal Hsu addressing the gathering



Emcees Jerry Keating & Jack Hsu



Gou-Ba students present the history of the POW camp in English and Chinese



*Memorial Dedication
Rev. Diane Wong*



*Lt/Gen. Pang - ROC Veterans Affairs Dept.
laying a wreath in tribute to the POWs*



*Last Post, 2 mins. Silence & Reveille -
paying respect to the men of Toroku Camp*

The inscription on the memorial reads:

1944 - 1945

**IN MEMORY OF ALL THE MEN WHO WERE INTERNED
BY THE JAPANESE DURING WORLD WAR II
IN THE TOROKU PRISONER OF WAR CAMP, FORMERLY LOCATED ON THIS SITE.**

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

FEPOW DAY 2009

Once again this year we will be celebrating FEPOW Day in Taiwan – this time on Saturday August 15th.

We are planning an event similar to last year, with a POW and military artifact exhibition, the showing of a POW film, a Remembrance Service and a time for discussion and learning about the FEPOWs.

Announcements will be sent out to local friends and supporters giving the venue for the event and the exact details, but those in Taiwan should set aside August 15th now in their date books and calendars and plan to be with us on that day.

FEPOW Day is a special day that has been set aside around the world to remember all those who were held as Japanese prisoners of war during World War II. We hope that many of our members and supporters will take this opportunity to join us in remembering and paying tribute to those who suffered – and those who died, for the freedom we now enjoy.

LOCAL VFW HONOURS POWS



On Memorial Day, three members of the local **Taiwan District IV - VFW Post** paid tribute to the former Taiwan POWs and also to the men who suffered and those who died on the hellships in and around Taiwan. Shown in the photo above is the Taiwan Hellships Memorial in the new War & Peace Park adorned with flowers contributed by the VFW. Thanks to Cmdr. Orville Humfleet, and Comrades Wichman and Malinoski for their care and dedication to the veterans.

Heroes Return 2:

Big Lottery Fund Sponsors WW 2 Veterans Pilgrimage Travel

1. What is the Heroes Return 2 scheme?

The Heroes Return 2 scheme will provide Lottery funding to help World War II veterans who saw active service to visit the areas where they served and take part in visits (within the UK and overseas) to mark the anniversary of events that led to the end of WWII.

We are proud to be able to support our veterans once again this way. Our offer includes veterans and also former POWs who saw service in overseas theatres in 1944 and 1945 such as Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Far East during WWII. We are also happy to support WWII veterans that wish to attend commemorative events in the UK.

2. How will Heroes Return 2 help?

We will make grants towards the travel and accommodation costs (including insurance) of commemorative visits to the areas where British Armed Forces saw active service during the Second World War and to attend recognised commemorative services in the UK. A fixed sum will be available for each veteran, or the widows or widowers of veterans, towards the cost of their visit. We will also contribute to spouses' and carers' travel and accommodation costs. So that as many veterans as possible get this opportunity, we can only fund one visit for each veteran, widow or widower. Visits must take place between **1 April 2009** and **31 December 2010**. We can make a grant even if you have already booked or paid for your trip, provided that you are planning to travel between these dates.

3. Who can get a grant?

WWII veterans resident in the UK or Republic of Ireland who saw active service overseas with or alongside the British and Allied Armed Forces in the Second World War. Veterans may be accompanied by a spouse and/or a carer. Widows and widowers of WWII veterans are also eligible, in most cases.

4. What are the grants for?

We will make grants towards the costs of commemorative visits. A fixed amount of

money will be available for each veteran and their spouse and/or carer towards the cost of their visit. There will be five levels of funding according to the destination. These fixed amounts have been set so that there is enough money to cover the cost of travel and insurance.

5. How much money will be offered?

There are different amounts of money for different destinations – for example - .

Destination	1 pers	2pers	3pers
United Kingdom	£150	£225	£330
Far East	£2,000	£3,700	£5,500

6. Who can I contact for more info?

If you have any general questions about the scheme and whether you are eligible, ring the application helpline **0845 0000 121**.

Also see the website at:

<http://www.heroesreturn2.org.uk/> and

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_heroesreturn_qa.pdf - for detailed questions and answers

Download the application form at:

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_heroesreturn_application.pdf

The deadline for applications is **31 Jan. 2011**.

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To all our FEPOW friends and family members - this offer from the Big Lottery Fund provides a great opportunity for you to come to Taiwan either in 2009 or 2010.

The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society organizes an annual Remembrance Week Event every year in November and visitors are also welcome to come throughout the year as well. We can help you with travel arrangements and with the application forms. If you are interested, please contact us for more info on the dates of our events and how we can help. We would love to have you with us and to be able to take you back to the site(s) of your former camp(s) and pay tribute to your mates. You may contact us by mail or email – see details on page 2 of the newsletter.