



Never Forgotten

Vol. 12, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2011

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

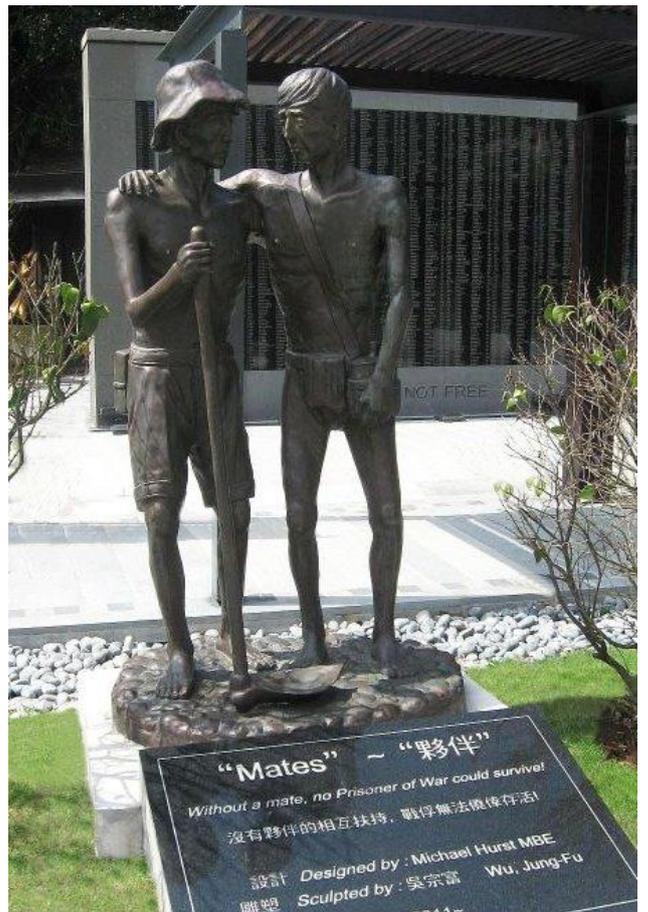
The new Taiwan POW Memorial Park



*Views of the POW Memorial wall looking both ways
– over 4350 former prisoners of war are remembered here.*



*Map of Taiwan etched in granite showing the location
of all the former Taiwan POW Camps*



*The purpose of the sculpture is to compliment the beautiful memorial wall in the park by showing people now - and in future generations, an image of the POWs, so they may better envision the suffering and sacrifice endured by those men to bring us the freedom that we enjoy today. . .
" Lest We Forget! "*

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VP and General Mgr., J. Chen Enterprises Taiwan;
Writer; Historian

Mark Wilkie - Educational Development and
Training Practitioner; Historian; former soldier

Prof. Jerome Keating, PhD. - Professor,
Writer; Historian

Jack Hsu - Supervisor, Admin Dept., SEMPO,
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William Stanton - Director, American Institute in
Taiwan

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 Jinguashi 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 (Jinguashi)
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. 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)

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 and the poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols of remembrance to war veterans.

Thought . . .

Passion has to be
your fuel to succeed!

Welcome...

We are honoured to welcome Mr. Kevin Magee, the new representative of the Australia Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei as an ex-officio member of our board of directors as of this past summer.

Kevin replaces Alice Cawte who left Taiwan for another posting in July. I want to express my appreciation for the interest and support that Alice and her husband and family gave to our Society. We look forward to working with Kevin and the staff of the ACIO in the days ahead.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMORIAL DAY – MAY 28, 2012

Once again this coming spring there will be a Memorial Day service held at the site of the old Taipei Prison Wall where American airmen were held after being shot down over Taiwan during bombing raids, and where 14 of them were needlessly executed only a short time before the end of the war.

We will meet at the north wall of the old Taipei Prison – Lane 44, Chinshan South Road, next to the Chunghua Telecom Building at 11:30 on Monday May 28th for a short service of remembrance.

Following the service a time of fellowship will be had over lunch at a nearby restaurant and everyone is welcome to join us for this event to celebrate the US Memorial Day in Taiwan. An email will be sent out locally closer to the time of the event as a reminder. We hope to see you there!

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. . .

This November was the 15th anniversary of the first Remembrance Day service here in Taipei where we learned about the notorious Kinkaseki Prisoner of War Camp in the village of Jinguashi, Taiwan. It was from that service and the interest that followed, that the Kinkaseki / Taiwan POW Memorial was built and dedicated on the site of the former POW camp.

This year has been an incredible one with so many things being accomplished – the building and dedication of the Taiwan Hellships display in the War and Peace Park Museum in Kaohsiung, our first ever Memorial Day event, a larger than ever turnout for FEPOW Day in August and the wonderful group of events which took place in November.

October 1 saw the launch of our newly updated website. Please be sure to check it out.

I want to thank the ROC Ministry of Defense for allowing us to build a POW memorial near the site of the former Taihoku #6 Camp in the Taipei suburb of Tachih. This was the main camp in Taipei and saw the movement of hundreds of POWs through it from 1942 – 45. The memorial was built during the summer and dedicated on Friday November 11th during our Remembrance Week event. (See story on page 5)

Our Remembrance Week event was one of the most significant in recent years. With the completion of Phase II this spring, our Taiwan POW Memorial Park – the only one of its kind in the world in memory of the Far East POWs, was dedicated on Sunday November 13th prior to the Remembrance Day Service at Jinguashi. (see pages 6 & 7)

When our Spring-Summer newsletter came out in June we were swamped with emails and also a number of letters from former POWs and family members in regards to the beautiful POW Memorial Wall with the names of more than 4350 allied POWs who were interned here during WW II inscribed on it. The life-size bronze sculpture of the two POWs has also generated a great deal of interest. We are happy and honoured to have been able to erect these monuments to the former Taiwan prisoners of war. We invite those who are interested in the story of the Taiwan POWs and who want to honour the POWs to visit the memorial park and view these sites.

As we look forward to 2012, we are hoping to erect two more POW memorials on the sites of the Inrin and Inrin Temporary Camps in Yuanlin south of Taichung, and to having more memorial events take place. We welcome and encourage the participation of our friends and supporters in Taiwan in these events, as well as overseas guests when possible.

In closing I would like to wish all our friends and supporters a very Merry Christmas and all the best of good health and happiness in the coming year. Thanks once again for your encouragement through your emails and your financial gifts toward our work. Together we are making certain that the Taiwan POWs will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Michael Hurst MBE

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!

ALTON C. HALBROOK

CPL., 4TH US MARINES
MARCH 18, 2011

NORMAN J. BROOME

CPL., ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS
JULY 5, 2011

WALTER KIRKBY

GNR., 80TH ANTI-TANK REGIMENT, R.A.
AUGUST 4, 2011

JOHN YOUNG

PTE., 2ND BTN. GORDON HIGHLANDERS.
NOVEMBER 30, 2011

OTHER DEAR FRIENDS

CHARLES "CHUCK" BARTLEY –

F6F HELLCAT PILOT – USS SANTEE
AUGUST 14, 2011

TEDDY CHEN

TPCMS BOARD MEMBER
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

"We Will Remember Them"

Please let us know if you hear of the passing of any former Taiwan POW and send us the information as we want to make sure they are remembered once more on this page.

PLEASE HELP US - NOW!

In the past few months we have received a number of first time emails from people telling us that their father, grandfather, uncle etc. has just passed away. It is always sad when we hear of a POW's passing, but in response I write to them and ask "Why didn't you write to us sooner and tell us about your relative while he was still alive?" "We want to hear from them, and about them, so we can learn more of the POWs' stories to further insure that they are recorded and that the men are not forgotten."

So PLEASE - if you have a loved one who was a Taiwan POW and who is still living, please send us a letter or an email and tell us about him -

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

REMEMBERING DEAR FEPOW FRIENDS. . .

WALTER KIRKBY -

GNR., 80TH ANTI-TANK REGIMENT, R.A.

I first had the honour of meeting Walter when he and his wife Mary joined us for the first ever Kinkaseki POW Reunion at Gunton Hall in Lowestoft UK back in 1999. During the years that followed we became close friends and kept in touch through many letters and Christmas cards. We finally met up again at the POW reunion held in Newcastle in 2008. Following that wonderful reunion Walter decided to come to Taiwan for a visit along with his family and was our only POW guest that year.

Walter was in the first draft of men sent to Kinkaseki and slaved there down the mine until February 1945 when he was sent to Japan where he finished the war.

Walter was very involved with the Halifax FEPOW Club in the UK and shared many memories and stories with me. He also presented me with his POW name tag and other artifacts over the years which I treasure. Like so many of my old friends he is gone but not forgotten.

CHARLES "CHUCK" BARTLEY –

F6F HELLCAT PILOT – USS SANTEE

Back in 2005 while organizing our 60th anniversary of the end of the war and the evacuation of the Taiwan POWs event, I had an email from Charles (Chuck) Bartley a former USN F6F Hellcat pilot aboard the aircraft USS Santee. He told me that he took part in the air cover and show of force over Taipei during the evacuation of the POWs and was honoured to have taken part. We became friends and finally met at the reunion of the USS Block Island in the USA in 2007. We shared a love of aviation and flying among other things. He was a good friend and I will always remember him.

TEDDY CHEN –

BOARD MEMBER,
TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Our dear friend and fellow board member Teddy passed away suddenly on September 1st. We first met when he came to one of our POW events a number of years ago. As a historic researcher working at Academia Sinica, he was keenly interested in the little-known story of the Taiwan POWs and wanted to do all he could to help us tell their story. After repeated participation in our events and with his willingness to help wherever he could, we asked him to be a part of our board in 2007.

Teddy served our Society and the former POWs faithfully, always showing up for every event and doing everything he could to assist in our work. He read a poem on remembrance at our FEPOW Day in August just two weeks before he passed away. He was such a kind and happy person and he will be sorely missed by all the board and those who knew him.



DEDICATION OF THE TAIHOKU CAMP # 6 MEMORIAL



Taihoku Camp # 6 was the main POW camp in the capital area, and one of the principal camps in Taiwan. At first the camp was comprised mainly of men from the 5th Field Reg't., R.A. and the 9/11th Indian Division Signals. Over the next three years men from other regiments were moved in from other camps. The men slaved at building a memorial park and a man-made lake for the Japanese. They were also engaged in farming, and some later worked in the railway and bus repair shops. The population of the camp averaged around 500 men for most of the time it was in existence and 74 POWs died there.

For many years the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society has desired to build a POW memorial there. When the ROC Ministry of National Defense started to build a new headquarters complex on the site, a request was made to erect a POW memorial – a plan which was readily accepted and supported by the MND. We are grateful to the ministry and the minister for taking such an interest and giving support to this project so that the men of Taihoku Camp # 6 will always be remembered.

On November 11, 2011 – 69 years after the first POWs arrived at Taihoku Camp # 6 from Singapore on the hellship *England Maru*, the memorial was dedicated by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society and the ROC Ministry of National Defense. Present for the ceremony was one former Taiwan POW, several POW family members, Ministry of Defense personnel and other dignitaries. It was great to have a number of friends and supporters with us for the occasion, as well as some media.

The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Herbert Barker of the Church of the Good Shepherd (Anglican). Society director Michael Hurst MBE gave an overview of the history of the former camp and spoke of how much the memorial meant to the former POWs and their families. Then the Deputy Minister of National Defense, Lt./Gen. Hsiung Shang-Tai brought greetings and a message from the Ministry and the Minister. Following this Mr. Kevin Magee, Representative of the Australian Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei spoke on behalf of all the Commonwealth and Allied countries that had POWs in the camp.

The poem "Who Will Remember Them?" was read by a very emotional Jim Ferguson whose father

was in the Taihoku Camp, and this was followed by a speech by Mr. Jack Lu, Deputy Secretary-General of the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission. Ken Pett, a former gunner with the 80th Anti-Tank Reg't. R.A. who was interned in the Kinkaseki and Kukutsu camps, spoke on behalf of his comrades who were interned at Taihoku, many of whom later joined him at Kinkaseki. Harold Brant Jr. whose father Harry Sr. had also been in the camp, brought the "Tribute to the Prisoners" before Rev. Barker rendered the prayer of dedication for the memorial.

Wreaths were then laid on the memorial and this was followed by the playing of Last Post and Reveille by a trumpeter from the ROC Navy Band. Two minutes of silence was observed and in closing the FEPOW Prayer was read by Mr. Brian Ferguson, Jim's brother.



Deputy Minister Lt./Gen. Hsiung Shang-Tai lays a wreath on behalf of the MND.

It was a wonderful ceremony and we are grateful to all those who came out to support us on the day, to remember and honour the men of Taihoku Camp 6.

The Society is very thankful to the Ministry and Minister Kao, Hua-Chu for help in getting this long overdue memorial erected. We would like to also thank the MND construction team led by Maj./Gen. Tsai and his staff, and project architect Jonathan Lin for all their help and support in this project.



Former POW Ken Pett & other POW family members stand by the newly dedicated memorial

We would encourage our friends here in Taiwan to visit the Taihoku Camp 6 POW Memorial. The address and directions to the site can be found on our website. For more details please contact us.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2011

November 9-16 was the date for this year's "Remembrance Week" event which was organized by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, and co-hosted this year by the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.



Piper Mandy Roveda

We were pleased to have fourteen overseas guests with us for our activities. Former POW Ken Pett, Mrs. Pearl Fowler, widow of the late Jack Fowler, and the family members of other POWs made the journey

from the UK and Canada to be with us.

This year's Remembrance Week event was special as it was the 15th anniversary of the first memorial service held to remember the POWs – truly a milestone event.

There were three major events held in conjunction with the regular program that the POW Society provides for its overseas guests. The first was the dedication of the Taihoku Camp # 6 POW Memorial on Friday afternoon, November 11th, then the dedication ceremony for the new Taiwan POW Memorial Wall and Sculpture which was erected earlier this year in the POW Memorial Park, at 10:00 am on Sunday November 13th, and finally the Remembrance Day Service which followed at 11:00 am.

The program began on Thursday November 10th with a tour to Jinguashi to visit the Gold Ecological Park with its mining museum and tunnel, and the site of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp and the mine area where the POWs worked. On the return trip to Taipei we stopped at the port of Keelung to visit the docks where the POWs who first came into Kinkaseki landed, and from where all of the POWs who were left on Taiwan at the end of the war were evacuated.

Friday involved a half day of sightseeing around Taipei City, highlighted by a buffet lunch at the Grand Hotel and followed by the dedication ceremony for the new Taihoku Camp # 6 POW Memorial. For a report on the dedication ceremony see page 5.

Saturday morning we visited the Kukutsu "jungle" Camp, for a memorial service and had a wonderful time of fellowship with the local residents of the area.



With local Taiwanese friends at the Kukutsu Memorial

In the evening the POW banquet was held in honour of the POWs and their family members.

On Sunday morning the dedication of Phase II of the POW Park was held and the POW sculpture unveiled (see details on page 7). After this, our annual Remembrance Day Service took place by the POW Memorial. This year we were honoured to have Gen. Tseng Jing-Ling, Minister of the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission present to speak to us at the ceremony. In addition a message from the Commonwealth and Allied representatives was brought by Scott Fraser the Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.

Former Kinkaseki POW Ken Pett and several members of the POW families rendered readings and shared their feelings with us on this great occasion. Rev. Herbert Barker gave a poignant message on remembrance which was followed by the laying of the wreaths and Last Post, two minutes silence and Reveille.



The ceremonies were followed by a picnic lunch in the nearby community centre with food and beverages being graciously provided by the four Commonwealth Trade Offices. This is a day that those who have been involved in the work to honour the Taiwan POWs will long remember.

On Monday November 14th the group headed south to visit the former Taichu and Shirakawa Camps. The weather was sunny and warm, and very meaningful and memorable services were held at both sites. Our thanks to the MOEA at Taichung and the Commanding Colonel and the staff at Nei-Jiao Army Base for their kindness and co-operation in helping us with our program for the day. As last year, we were joined by two former POW camp guards and their families and we had a nice time together.



With local Taiwanese friends at Shirakawa

Despite the weather everything went pretty well this year and our guests all said how much they enjoyed themselves. We already have some more lined up for next year and we are looking forward to that event.

THE DEDICATION OF THE TAIWAN PRISONER OF WAR MEMORIAL PARK - PHASE II

On Sunday November 13th, more than 140 participants and friends gathered for the Remembrance Day events which were held in the POW Memorial Park on the site of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp in the village of Jinguashi near Jiufen.

Especially significant this time was the dedication ceremony for the latest upgrade to the POW Park. After more than a year in planning and construction, the second phase of the Taiwan POW Memorial Park was completed this past summer with its magnificent POW Memorial Wall and Sculpture, plus some additional new landscaping. Due to the inclement weather the dedication ceremony had to be held inside a tent rather than in the plaza in front of the wall as planned by the organizers, but even with the rain, it seemed that spirits were not dampened.



Society Board member Mark Wilkie directs the proceedings of the dedication ceremony.

After some opening remarks by the Society director, Mr. Chen, Kuo-Chun, Director of the New Taipei City Government Tourism Bureau told how pleased the government was to have co-operated with the Society and the architect in building such a beautiful memorial park for those who suffered here in WWII. The representatives of the four allied countries that had the most POWs in Taiwan - the UK, USA, the Netherlands and Australia each gave a brief message and also read greetings and congratulations from their home governments. This was a great honour for the Society and the New Taipei City Gov't. to know of the appreciation and respect held for what we have jointly done together here in Taiwan.

POW widow Pearl Fowler read the poem "The Taiwan POW Park", former Gnr. Ken Pett of the 80th Anti-Tank Reg't. R.A. spoke of behalf of himself and his mates who were in the camps about what these memorials mean to them, and Major Henry Silcock read "The Voice from the Wall". Following this the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place and then the Rev. Dr. Herbert Barker offered the prayer of dedication and blessing for the park and the new memorials.



Director Chen Kuo-Chun leads the ribbon cutting

Next the POW Sculpture - a life-size bronze statue of two POWs struggling to help each other survive and entitled "Mates", was unveiled by the Society Director and Ken Pett, and finally the FEPOW Prayer was read by all present to conclude the ceremony.



POW Memorial Wall – erected in Honour of the men

This POW Memorial Park in Jinguashi Taiwan is the only park in the world dedicated to the Far East Prisoners of War. We are very proud and happy that it is located here in Taiwan and that we have had a part in making it a reality. We would like to thank the New Taipei City (formerly Taipei County) Government for their vision in helping to create this beautiful park, Architect Alex Yang for his care and concern that it would be a place of honour for the FEPOWs, and all those who have had a part in its creation. It will stand here for all time in memory and as a tribute to those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR VISITS JINGUASHI



Mr. Neil James, Executive Director of the Australia Defence Association paid a visit to Taiwan in late August. He was one of the guest speakers at a conference hosted by the ROC Ministry of Defence. He was interested in learning more about the 55 Australian POWs on Taiwan, and POW Society director Michael Hurst took him on a tour of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp during his stay here.

After a tour of the POW Park and museum, Neil placed a Poppy Cross on the memorial at Jinguashi in a tribute to the Australian POWs held here.

A MEMORIAL FOR POWS FROM TAIWAN IN HAWAII

Over the past several years I have been in touch with the brother of one of the American POWs who died when the hellship Enoura Maru was bombed in Kaohsiung Harbour on January 9, 1945. We discussed the possibility of placing a stone on the Memorial Walk at the Punchbowl War Cemetery in Hawaii to let people know who those men were in the 20 unmarked graves containing the remains of the men who died and were first interred in Taiwan.

The main obstacle to carrying out this project was a lack of contacts in Hawaii to help see it through. Then this spring I learned that one of our new members is a resident of Hawaii and spends part of his year there and he was very willing to help. So while on a trip there this past summer he contacted the cemetery for us and learned the requirements for placing a stone on the memorial walk and we have now decided to proceed with the project.

Having received the specs from the cemetery, I drew up a design for the memorial stone and contacted a stone factory to get a quote and then prepared the necessary documentation to apply for permission to place the stone on the Memorial Walk. We are currently waiting for this approval to be granted.

My next thought was to get support for the project by those who should have an interest in it, so I contacted the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Descendants Group in the States and put the proposal to them since many of their members had loved ones who died on the Enoura Maru. The ADBC-DG responded favourably and once we have received permission from the cemetery we will begin a fund-raising campaign to gather the necessary funds to pay for the stone and the shipping to Hawaii. We will place announcements on our respective websites and the ADBC-DG will be responsible for taking the donations from those who wish to contribute. Once the funds are in, we will proceed with making of the stone.

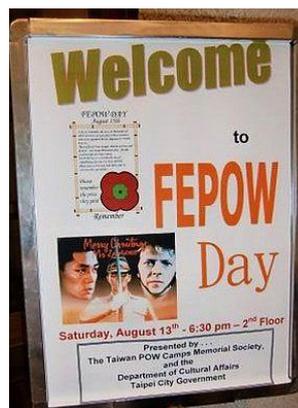
We are hoping to receive approval shortly and then we can begin to solicit funds. Announcements and emails will be sent out with more info and details on how people can donate to this worthy cause.

FEPOW DAY 2011

This year, for the fourth time, FEPOW Day was commemorated in Taiwan at the Spot Theatre again with a display of POW and wartime artifacts, a memorial service to remember the POWs and civilian internees and the showing of the classic POW film "Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence".

Attendance was up a bit from previous years and we are encouraged to see new people coming out each year. We will be holding our fifth event next August 12th, so please mark your calendars now.

The following are a few photos from the event. . .



(Clockwise) FEPOW Day poster, a part of the POW artifact display, the FEPOW Wreath, Teddy Chen reading a remembrance poem.

[Photos courtesy of Wm. Wang]