



Never Forgotten

Vol. 17, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2016

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

EXPLORING TAICHU . . .



At the Taichu Memorial with Mr. Shieh and Mr. Chung of the Hydraulic Research Institute.



The former flood diversion channel up-river is still partially filled in with sediment.



From the bridge, the view of the area where the POWs excavated the flood diversion channel.

View along the top of the river wall that ran next to the camp. The POWs called this the "River Wall Camp".

(See story on page 9)



Canadian Piper Mal Turner plays a lament on the bagpipes at this year's Remembrance Day service.

"If it hadn't been for those POWs and veterans doing what they did here in Taiwan so many years ago, NONE of us expats would be here doing what we are today". J. Cox



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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)

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.

Thought . . .

If the POWs could forgive all that the Japanese did to them and find peace, I find it amazing that the rest of us can't do that with those who hurt or offend us. There is no comparison whatever in the need to forgive.

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

It has been another incredible year for the Society with the various activities, contacts made and POW camp tours run. That along with trying to get time to work on the book has kept me busier than ever with little time for rest or anything else.

We have conducted a steady stream of camp tours throughout the year and it looks like the demand will continue for which we are very happy. It is such an honour and privilege to have the families of the former POWs come to Taiwan to see and explore the places where their loved ones were those many years ago.

In response to my editorial and the article in the last issue of the newsletter about declining remembrance and the lack of a Memorial Day event again this year in Taiwan, I received a number of emails from folks who I hadn't heard from in quite a while assuring me that they had not forgotten and were still remembering 'in their own way' and this is good. Also, I had a number of local American expats contact me and volunteer to help with the organizing and running of next year's Memorial Day event. So it seems that I struck a nerve and I am happy to see the reactions, and I just hope that as Jack Edwards so often repeated "None of us should ever forget".

We had a wonderful evening on FEPOW Day again in August as more people joined us in remembering those who were POWs and civilian internees in the Far East and those who didn't return.

Our Remembrance Week event in November was very special as well. As we look forward to future years knowing that we will likely never have any more POWs returning, we are seeing a growing interest by the family members in joining this meaningful event. I hope both our overseas members and local friends will come and take part with us in these wonderful programs.

For all those who are wondering and keep asking, the book is progressing well, and I I am very pleased with the way the content is coming together. As I work on the chapters and review the many POW diaries and other materials that I have in the archives, some hitherto unknown and also some forgotten material has come to light and it just keeps getting better week by week. I had hoped to have it out by this November, but what with all the other things that needed to be done during the past year, it looks as though it won't be out til sometime in the spring now.

As 2016 draws to a close, Tina and I wish you all a Merry and blessed Christmas season and all the best of health and happiness in the New Year.

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!

ERNEST A. BEEBY

GNR., 5TH FIELD REGIMENT RA
JULY 9, 2016

THOMAS F. SMITH

TPR., 18TH BTN. RECONNAISSANCE CORPS.
JULY 29, 2016

DWIGHT R. CABLE

CPL., 515TH CAC, US ARMY
AUGUST 12, 2016

"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

Ernie Beeby

I met Ernie for the first time at the Kinkaseki Reunion which was held in the UK in 1999. He and his good friend and fellow 5th Field Reg't pal George Harrison came together and I had some wonderful times talking with them both.



Ernie came to Taiwan on the *England Maru* in November 1942 and was in the Taihoku, Kinkaseki and Shirakawa camps. He was a gentle giant and a soft-spoken man and our UK rep Cliff Foster who knew him well said, "Ernie was indeed a great man, with a sense of humour that kept him going even in these days You could see in him what was embodied in all the guys that kept them going all those years ago."

(Cont'd on Page 4)

A word regarding donations to the Society:

We are now able to accept donations in **British Pounds, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars** as well as **US dollars**. So if making a donation to the Society please send the funds preferably in a bank transfer to our account here and please contact us in advance for the pertinent account information. Thank you for your support of our projects.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Thomas Smith

Thomas passed away at 96, and although I didn't get to know him until later, it was always a pleasure hearing from him. Thomas's son Brian shared with me how that during his last days occasionally his father would refer back to his time as a POW with words in Japanese asking for a drink, and on one occasion his father started singing the Kinkaseki mine song which Brian had never heard previously from him. His father specifically requested that a piece of Fools Gold that came from the Kinkaseki mine and which he valued so highly could be buried with him. All this just indicates the lasting effect that his wartime experiences had on him, and I'm sure this is true of many of the other men as well.

Brian then ended with *"I just want to add my thanks to your efforts in remembering these men, and I'm absolutely sure my father, although he only rarely spoke of his experiences, greatly appreciated all you have done."*

THESE TOO ARE PASSING...

While we always try to remember the former POWs who have passed away, we also want to pay tribute to the former camp guards who we have come to know over the years and who, like the POWs, are in the sunset years of their lives. These men have bravely come forth to tell us their stories and have been a great help in learning more about the camps in those days. They have also become great friends with the visiting POWs and their families, Sadly they too are now passing away and we would like to remember them as well.

MR. HOU, LIAN-DUI

Back in December 2009 I received an email from a young lady, Ching-ching Hou in Taichung, who had found our website and wrote to tell me that her grandfather - Mr. Hou, Lian-Dui, had been a POW camp guard at both Karenko and Shirakawa camps. I was pleased to learn that he was still alive and wanted to meet me, and later I had the privilege of interviewing him at his home near Chiayi in April of 2010.



We had a most wonderful day together going over his papers, hearing his stories and sharing information on the two camps. I learned so much from him then and also later on subsequent visits with him. Through his warmth and friendliness and that of his whole family, we all soon became great friends.

Over the past few years, whenever we would go down to Shirakawa Camp with the former POWs and their family members, Mr. Hou and his family would always come and join us and take part in our memorial services. He would always lay a wreath on behalf of the former camp guards in tribute, honour and memory of the POWs, and everyone loved his cheery disposition.

The Hou family was also instrumental in helping to get the Shirakawa POW Memorial erected in 2013, and also helped to arrange our visits.

Mr. Hou passed away on August 24th aged 91 after a short illness. He had been remarkably well up until then. With his passing we have lost a dear friend and one who did so much to help tell the POWs' story. I will miss him and remember him always.

MR. LIN, CHUEN-HSIN

Mr. Lin passed away September 2, aged 96. He was the first former POW camp guard that we came across way back in September 1999 when we were searching for the location of the former Heito Camp. Through contacts made with the local PingTung County government we were introduced to him and he gladly showed us the camp which at the time was still an ROC Army base. Once permission was granted for entry he showed us all over the site and where things were all those years ago. Over the years he shared so much information about the camp and what took place there.



As a young lad of 20 he read an ad placed by the Japanese military in a local newspaper looking for men to 'work' as camp guards. Along with a number of his friends he joined up and was sent to Heito Camp and trained under the brutal Lt. Tamaki and Sgt. Shiba who treated them very badly. His job was as a perimeter guard outside the camp and also guarding the prisoners while they worked.

He was a Christian and several of the POWs have told of how he tried to help them by giving them a thumbs up or sneaking cigarettes to them when he could. One such case was that of Lt. William P. Steele who was about to give up hope one day when Mr. Lin gave him a verse from the Bible to comfort him and that turned him around. Lt. Steele's son Kent and his wife from Canada visited Taiwan in March 2003 and met with Mr. Lin.

Whenever POWs and their families would come to PingTung and Heito Camp, Mr. Lin would always be there and he also introduced us to a couple of other guards, Mr. Yang and Mr. Huang with whom we also became good friends. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

FEPOW DAY 2016

On Saturday evening August 13th the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society held the 9th **FEPOW** (Far East Prisoner of War) **DAY** event at the SPOT THEATRE in downtown Taipei. More than 40 people - including a number of newcomers, gathered for the program and it is great to see the broadening interest in the community and also around the island as we also had guests from as far away as Tainan in the south of Taiwan this year.

As usual, an exhibition of WWII military and prisoner of war artifacts from the Society's growing museum collection was on display, and this year there were quite a number of new acquisitions on view.

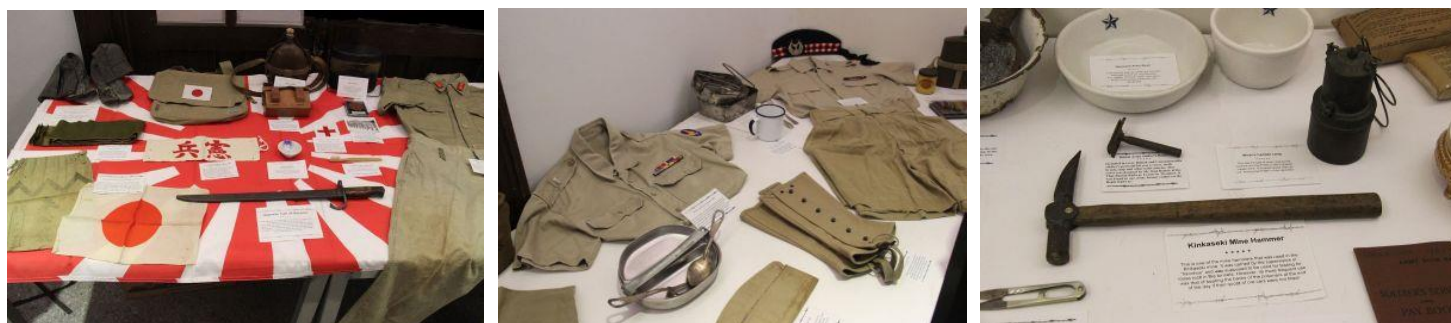
The program started with a welcome and a brief address by Society Director Michael Hurst, and this was followed by the memorial service to pay tribute to the former prisoners of war.

Rosemary Susa of the Taipei Community Services Centre led off with the reading of "*What is a FEPOW*", followed by Michael Boyden reading "*A Time to Remember*". Kevin Gallagher then brought the "*Tribute to the POWs*". The service finished off with the lighting of the FEPOW Candle and Jim Ascencio led everyone in the FEPOW Day Pledge which was followed by a minute's silence to remember and reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of the FEPOWs.

The feature film this year was "**The Great Raid**" which tells the story of the mission to rescue the POWs from the Cabanatuan POW Camp in January 1945. In all more than 500 prisoners of war were saved from being murdered by the Japanese which they intended to do when the American forces landed on the northern Philippine island of Luzon.

Following a short intermission, the documentary entitled "**The Ghosts of Bataan**" was shown. It portrayed the Battle of Bataan, the surrender, the infamous Death March and the suffering experienced by the former POWs.

Everyone said how much they enjoyed the films and how much more they learned about the story of the Far East prisoners of war. Below are a few photos taken at the event courtesy William Wang, TPCMS Board Member. We will be holding another FEPOW Day event next year and we look forward to seeing you there.



Some of the Society's future POW museum artifacts



The audience and the memorial service with the lighting of the FEPOW candle in remembrance.



Reading the FEPOW Pledge

The candle burns brightly

Discussing the POWs' story

A WORD ABOUT POW CAMP TOURS IN ASIA

It is wonderful to see the increase in the number of visitors coming to Taiwan to take part in our POW remembrance programs and tours, and it is exciting to spend time with them 'following in the footsteps' of the former POWs. It is an honour and a privilege to host our guests and guide them on tours to the various camps and areas of interest where the story of the Taiwan POWs unfolds.

However, we have also found over the past months that some folks have come to Taiwan and tried to find and visit the camps on their own. This of course concerns us in that while it is certainly possible for anyone to easily come to Taiwan, by trying to do it on their own they will not get the most out of their trip, and certainly not see the places where their loved one was or learn about and understand what they experienced - something we try to make sure all our tour visitors are able to do.

For example, one day this summer while conducting another tour to Kinkaseki I met a couple who come to Taiwan from the UK to visit family here every couple of years. The husband's father had been a POW in Kinkaseki Camp and they told me that they visit Jinguashi every time they return to pay their respects, and how thrilled they were to see the Memorial Wall with his name on it. I told them to contact me on their next trip and I would give them the complete tour and they were pleased as they said they really didn't know a lot about what they were looking at and wanted to learn more.

Another couple came and stayed at a very expensive hotel in Taipei and on arrival did not even know where Jinguashi - the site of the former Kinkaseki Camp was, or how to get there. Finally the hotel desk was able to arrange for a taxi to take them to the village. It is not known which route the driver took, and as he likely spoke little or no English, and with no knowledge of the POWs, he wouldn't be able to tell them about the route the men took to the camp or point out anything along the way. Also, the taxi ride would not be cheap.

On arrival at Jinguashi they were unable to find the location of the camp until a staff member at the museum pointed the way. That person would know nothing about the camp or the POWs' story, so the couple had to just wander around on their own, probably not really knowing what they were looking at and what things had been like there in WWII.

They would have seen the old camp gatepost, the Memorial, the Wall, the POW Sculpture and the Flame of Remembrance of course, but without any guidance or commentary. They would not have seen the actual route the prisoners took to reach the camp, the school where they were first assembled, the bridge they crossed, the locations of the entrances, where the various buildings had been in the camp, where the prisoners left the camp every day to go to the mine, or the route they took to the mine. Sadly they had no-one to show or

tell them where these places were, as well as share the stories of the POWs' life in the camp. They would not have been shown the location of the former Kinkaseki Cemetery, nor the death tunnel that was meant to annihilate the POWs when the Allies landed; the exact location of which even few local people know today.

*Old Bridge
to the
Kinkaseki
POW
Camp*



They wanted to see and learn more about the mine and what the POWs experienced there so they decided to return again - by taxi, the next day. They visited the mining museum which houses the Society's POW exhibit, and paid to go down the nearby # 5 mine tunnel - which they would not have had to do if they were on our tour. They would not likely have gotten full value from the museum and mine tunnel exhibits either, without someone to explain the workings and how the POWs survived their ordeal from day to day. In all they spent two days and several expensive taxi rides to first find the camp and then return again on the second day to explore Jinguashi more fully. With our tour we do it all in one day - smoothly, conveniently and in proper order, leaving other days free for more camp visits or further sightseeing, shopping etc.

Many times when our guests visit the camps they want to leave poppy crosses on the memorial and we are glad to help them with this. Sadly though, with a strange and nasty neighbour who lives near the park, any crosses or mementoes left on the memorial are picked up and thrown away soon after the visitors leave. On our tours, we lay the crosses, have a short memorial service to remember their loved one, then take the crosses back to keep, and when our future POW museum opens, all the crosses and mementoes left by our visitors over the years will go into a special memorial garden display. Sadly, crosses left on their own will not be among those placed there.

We have also had local people tell us that they have visited Kukutsu Camp - again sometimes by an expensive taxi ride, and that they saw the POW Memorial erected by the Society on the side of the road. They would really only have seen the general environs around where the camp was located, but they would not have been able to see inside the former camp area where the POW huts were as it is private property and permission - which is easily obtainable for the Society's guests, is required.

(Cont'd on Page 7)

POW CAMP TOURS . . . (from page 6)

They would not have seen the actual trail the POWs took to reach the camp from Hsintien, or known about the 'halfway house' where the local family smuggled food to the prisoners in the town parties on their journey to the camp. They would not have seen the route the men followed every day to the old tea plantation up on the mountain where they slaved to plant sweet potatoes and peanuts, or even the area itself.

For the POW family members who visit, we can often introduce them to some of the local folk who still remember the POWs.



The 'real' trail to Kukutsu Camp

I felt sad as I imagined the difficulties these folks must have had and of the few things that they actually managed to see and do at the camps by trying to visit on their own. How I wish they had contacted me for help with their visits as I could have shown and told them so much more about both the camps and what the POWs experienced here. It seems such a waste of time and money to fly all the way to Taiwan and then perhaps only see and learn a fraction of what they could have if they had had someone to guide them.

For visits to other POW camps outside the Taipei area, again, this is best done with the help of our Society, and is no problem for us to arrange and handle. For all the camps, having someone to help you "follow in your loved one's footsteps" as our tours do, is really the best way to go. Most of the camps are not easy to find as they are located in out-of-the-way places, and some are situated on current military bases where permission is needed for access. In most cases it is also not possible to visit these camps by public transportation. We arrange private transportation, meals, and hotels if required, and visitors not only get to see the camps where their loved ones were, but also a good part of the island as we travel to the various sites.

While in Taipei it is also nice to visit some of the local tourist spots, and this too can easily be done on your own with our excellent subway system and good public transportation. The attractions are easily found on the internet, but again without a guide or local person to show you around and explain things, you will miss so much. There is not much printed interpretive material available in English, and while there are local tour companies that can take you on half-day sightseeing tours, they are expensive and you don't get to spend much or enough time at any one place. Our Taipei

City tours last a whole day, are cheaper, and you get to see and do a lot more, plus we can take you to places the others do not because their tours are fixed while ours are more adaptable and flexible.

Also, it should be known that the Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial is located inside the Ministry of National Defense Headquarters and thus is not accessible without special permission, and which for POW guests must be arranged with the MND through the Society. The local tour companies do not do tours there. In addition, the Keelung Harbour docks area is now undergoing extensive renovations and will be closed off until 2020, so it is now no longer possible to visit that location.

Contacting our Society can thus be a great source of information and help for Taiwan visits, and I also recommend that for visits to the Death Railway in Thailand that the *Thai-Burma Railway Centre* can assist visitors there as well. Some of the camps along the railway are more difficult to find, there is so much one can see and do there, and the staff at the Centre will expertly guide you on your visit. Both our Society and the *Thai Burma Railway Centre* can arrange 'reasonably priced' hotels, camp tours and other sightseeing packages for our guests, along with a specifically researched and very knowledgeable commentary that is custom-tailored to each visitor based on their needs and the POW they are honouring with their visit.

Yes, we do charge for the tours in most cases, as does the *Thai Burma Railway Centre*, but then I believe that people expect to pay when they go on specialized tours anywhere - for the service, and also for the expert knowledge that can be gained from qualified guides. Our POW camp tours are very specialized and our prices - and those of the TBRC, are very reasonable, and any proceeds go to help fund the various projects that we are involved in. So I would recommend that wherever you want to visit POW sites in Asia you should enlist the aid of those who can help and are most knowledgeable, experienced and qualified to show you the way.

We have a POW Camp Tours page on our website at www.powtaiwan.org which we invite folks to look at and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us for more information. Please contact us before your visit so that we can tailor make an itinerary to fit your needs. We look forward to assisting with your visit.

One final thing to mention is that in November every year the Society hosts our annual **Remembrance Week Event** and we encourage people to join us for that. We have visits to many of the camps, and memorial services are held at each one. There is also some local sightseeing and a great time of fellowship for the POWs and family members as they share their experiences together. We always encourage visitors to come at this time if at all possible as we do more and it is cheaper for everyone then. We hope you will make plans to join us here in Taiwan in the future.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2016

Another wonderful Remembrance Week event took place between November 9th and 16th. Although there were no former POWs present with us this time, the family members who came to follow in their father's footsteps and visit the places where they were held as POWs, greatly contributed to the success of the event.

This year we had a diverse group representing men of various regiments and former POW camps. There was Robert and Caroline Little from Aberdeen Scotland - Caroline is the daughter of Gnr. Andrew Hiddleston of the 155th Field Reg't. R.A. who was in Kinkaseki and Shirakawa Camps. Mike and Hilary Clayton from Sheffield, whose father Gnr. Ernest Clayton of the 125th Anti-tank Reg't. R.A. was held in Taichu, Heito and Taihoku #6 Camps, and finally Neil and Joy Sheldon of Stockport near Manchester. Joy's father Robert Forrester, a Sgt. in the Indian Army Corps of Clerks was attached to the 11th Indian Division Headquarters and was held in Taihoku #6, Kinkaseki and Kukutsu Camps.

The Little's and Sheldon's arrived on Wednesday the 9th and the Clayton's arrived on Saturday the 12th. From our correspondence together I just knew that we were going to have a great time this year - and we did !

Thursday was spent visiting Kinkaseki - the Gold Museum, the POW Memorial Park and the area around the old #6 mine - in the rain! Seeing the former POW camp and touching their father's name on the Wall was a very special and meaningful experience.

Friday, our guests enjoyed some local sightseeing - a Chinese temple, the National History Museum for a guided tour through 5000 years of Chinese history (in about 1 1/4 hours), and then the sumptuous buffet lunch at the famous Grand Hotel before proceeding to the National War Memorial to see the changing of the guard. Following this we made our way to Taihoku Camp #6 for a visit and memorial service.



With MND Admin Staff at the Taihoku # 6 Memorial.

The Taihoku # 6 Camp Memorial is located on the site of the ROC Ministry of National Defense Headquarters, and on arrival we were met by some of the Admin. Dep't staff who joined us for the service. After a brief introduction of the Taihoku Camp, poems

were read and then Joy Sheldon gave the "Tribute to the POWs". Following this, poppy clusters were laid on the memorial, including one on behalf of the Ministry of Defense. Last Post was sounded, two minutes of silence was observed and Reveille brought the service to a close. The day finished with a tour of the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, and later in the evening, a visit to a night market.



The colourful, crowded night market was enjoyed by all.

On Saturday morning we took a trip to Hsintien to see the old street where the POWs loaded up with supplies for the camp and the suspension bridge across the river where they started their arduous journey up into the mountains beyond. We explored the route the POWs took to the camp and once there a short memorial service was held, followed by a walk around the camp area. Saturday evening our guests were treated to a wonderful dinner put on by our co-host, the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei.



Exploring the area inside the Kukutsu Camp. (R. Little)

Sunday was a lovely sunny, warm day and more than 100 people gathered in the POW Memorial Park at Jinguashi for the Remembrance Day service. After the usual service in the marquee, wreaths were laid on the memorial and the Ode of Remembrance carried out. A great time of fellowship was had by all who took part and at the lunch which followed in the community centre. (cont'd on page 9)

REMEMBRANCE WEEK *(Cont'd)*



The families with the musicians after the service.

On Monday we began our journey to visit the camps at Taichu, Shirakawa and Heito. After an early start we arrived at Taichu Camp around 10 am where Mike Clayton's father had slaved on the river project. We had a walk-about of the camp, held a short memorial service and then further explored the area along the river wall and the river.

From Taichu we moved on to the Shirakawa Camp and had a walk-about of the area prior to our service. Caroline's father had finished the war here after leaving Kinkaseki in late October 1944.



Caroline and Bob Little by the Shirakawa Memorial.

The rest of the day was spent driving to PingTung where we had a lovely dinner and spent the night. Early next morning we visited the old Taiwan Sugar factory where Mike Clayton's father spent so much of his time while a prisoner there. He was there when Heito Camp was bombed which probably saved his life. Then we made our way to the former camp where we were met by our local friends, a representative of the PingTung County Gov't. and 91 year old former camp guard Mr. Yang. After the usual walk around the camp a short memorial service was held and Rev. Maurie Sween offered a message and prayer of remembrance before the laying of the wreaths.

Mike Clayton places a wreath on the Heito Memorial in remembrance of his father.

(R. Little)



It was a great trip with nice weather, and everyone was happy to have visited the places where their fathers were back in those dark days of World War II.

As she was leaving to go home, Caroline Little said, "Now I have found peace. Before my visit to Taiwan I had so many questions about my father and his time here as a POW and what he went through, and now that I have seen and experienced the places where he was, I can rest."

This is why our *Remembrance Week* event was created 19 years ago - to give the former POWs and their family members peace and closure from a difficult time in their lives, and also to help family members understand what their loved ones went through here those many years ago. That is why we are now running so many POW camp tours 20 years later, to continue with this mission and most of all - to make sure that the men and what they endured here in Taiwan is never forgotten!

EXPLORING TAICHU . . . *(See cover photos)*

This summer while taking the Dixon family on a tour of the Taichu Camp, I took a bit of time to re-explore the area where the POWs slaved to excavate the flood diversion channel in the massive riverbed that ran next to the camp.

In September 1999 Taiwan experienced a powerful earthquake which destroyed the main highway bridge across the river near the former Taichu Camp. As a result, a huge reconstruction project to rebuild the bridge and re-direct the main channel in the river bed was undertaken. In the end the old flood diversion channel that was built by the POWs – and which was still evident right up until 1999, was filled in and the riverbed leveled.

However, over the years nature and the river have taken their course, undoing some of that construction project and this time when we were there in July I noticed that the old flood diversion channel that the POWs dug was once again back and a huge amount of water was flowing through it down to the sea.

For the past number of years whenever I would take visitors there, I had to try to explain where the flood diversion channel had been, but now once again it is clearly visible as the photos on our cover page show. A bit of the upstream section is still filled with sediment but downstream of the bridge the channel is open and running freely once again.

I am so pleased to see the old channel back again as it will enable the family members of those men who spent nearly two years slaving on the project to see exactly what their relative was involved in and the kind of back-breaking work they had to do, as well as the old river wall that ran alongside the camp and the area of the former camp itself. It's great to see nature lending a hand in helping to preserve history!

POW CAMP TOURS

Here are several of the visitors we had during the second half of the year taking part in visits to the POW camps and the Memorial Park at Jinguashi.

ANDREA DIXON FAMILY – UK



At the Taichu POW Camp Memorial.

Sapper John Dixon of the Royal Engineers came to Taiwan on the hellship *Dainichi Maru* in November 1942 and was imprisoned first in Taichu Camp and later in Kinkaseki Camp. From July 4 - 9 his daughter Andrea and her husband Paul and children Amber and James came to Taiwan to see and explore the places where he had been those many years ago.

On Tuesday July 5th we went to Kinkaseki under beautiful blue skies and very warm temperatures. An emotional time was spent at the wall and memorial as they remembered her father and the other men.

On Thursday we visited the site of the former Taichu Camp. We walked around the expanse of the former camp and observed a minute's silence in remembrance of the men who suffered and died in that place. Following this we explored the area along the river wall and where the POWs excavated the flood diversion channel. Then after lunch we did some local sightseeing before returning to Taipei. The family spent a couple of days exploring Taipei and said how much they enjoyed their time and the experience here.

GRIMAUD-BERNARD - ENGLAND



Siobhan and John at the old camp gatepost

experience the camp and the POWs' story too.

In mid-June we received an email from Siobhan Grimaud requesting a tour of the POW camp at Jinguashi for her and her boyfriend when they came to Taiwan on their summer holiday.

Siobhan was one of the Grade 9 students at Taipei European Intl. School who had been on one of my tours there years before and she wanted her boyfriend John Bernard, a history major, to see and

On Friday July 15th we went to Kinkaseki and had a great time exploring all around the area of the POW camp and the mine.

BOB AND LORNA FINDLAY - SCOTLAND

Sapper James Findlay of the 288th Field Company Royal Engineers also came to Taiwan in November 1942 on the hellship *Dainichi Maru*. He was first interned in Taichu Camp and later transferred to Kinkaseki and later Kukutsu where he remained for the rest of the war.

He had never spoken to his family about his time in Taiwan or his experiences as a POW, so in early September his son Bob and his wife Lorna paid a visit to Taiwan enroute to a holiday in Vietnam.

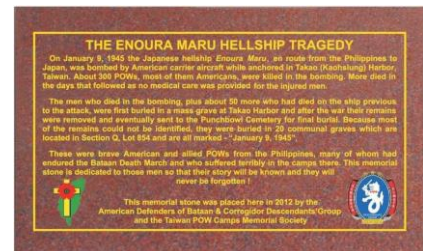
They wanted to see the places where his father had been and learn more about what he went through those many years ago.

The weather was gorgeous on the day we visited Kinkaseki and they had a wonderful and very moving experience. As Bob touched his father's name on the wall he felt as if they had been re-connected again. Lorna said they had always wanted to visit Taiwan but that they could never have done it or learned so much without our help and guidance. It was an honour to have a small part in helping them fulfil their dream.



Bob laying a tribute to his father on the memorial

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 at the Punchbowl National War Cemetery in Hawaii, is now moving forward again.

The *American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society* has taken on 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 they are pursuing the case again. We are trying to get support from US Senators and Congress people, and now we hope we may finally be able to see this memorial for the men erected.

NOTE: Americans reading this newsletter and viewing our website should contact their senators and congress-people urging them to support the Enoura Maru Memorial project.