



Never Forgotten

The Official Newsletter of the TAIWAN P.O.W. CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 665, YUNG HO, TAIPEI 234, TAIWAN, R.O.C.
TEL. 886-2-8660-8438 FAX: 886-2-8660-8439 E-mail: society@powtaiwan.org

Page 1

WINTER 2001



THE TAICHU POW MEMORIAL STONE - dedicated on Monday, November 20, 2000,
on the site of the former camp near the Tatu River, Taichung County, Taiwan.

THE TAICHU MEMORIAL

It was here at Taichu, in nineteen forty-two
We toiled as slaves, and it is true -
Starved and beaten, it's our story to tell
Of years long ago in this place of hell.

We return this day , and now once more
Through the portals of time, unlock memory's door.
As we stand by this stone, we remember with pride
All of our comrades - especially those who died.

Those who pass by, and linger to stay
To read the words that this stone displays
Will understand why our ties will not sever
While it stands here - now and forever.

*- penned specially for the dedication of the memorial
by Taichu survivor, Maurice Rooney,
who visited the site of the former camp in 1998.*

TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 665, YUNG HO

TAIPEI 234, TAIWAN,

R.O.C. TEL. 8660-8438 FAX. 8660-8439

E-Mail: society@powtaiwan.org

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY -
BOARD OF DIRECTORS -**

Michael Hurst, Director - VP and General Mgr. J. Chen Enterprises Taiwan; Writer, Historian

Dominic McAllister - Administration Director, British Trade & Cultural Office, Taipei

Prof. Jerome Keating PhD. - Writer, Historian, Professor, Chinese Culture University

Stuart Saunders - President, Esdesign Industrial Design

Gerard Norris - Pharmaceutical Executive

Jack Hsu - Supervisor. Admin Dept., SEMPO, DORTS, Taipei City Gov't.

HISTORICAL ADVISORS. . .

Prof. Jack Geddes - Professor, Historian, Writer, Missionary

Harry Blackham - FEPOW, England

POW REPRESENTATIVES. . .

Maurice Rooney - UK

Sid Dodds - Australia

Geoff Monument - USA

Lawrie Philpott - New Zealand

EX-OFFICIO. . .

David Mulroney - Director, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei

Sam Gerovich - Representative, Australian Industry and Commerce Office, Taipei

Nick Bridge - Director, New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office, Taipei

David Coates - Director-General, British Trade and Cultural Office, 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 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
- to ensure the memory of the Taiwan POWs is not forgotten
- to participate with the Commonwealth and Allied community each year in a memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Kinkaseki
- 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

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL
SOCIETY ON THE 'NET!**

We welcome you to visit our website. There you will find a list of all the POW camps that were on Taiwan. By clicking on the name on the list, you will be able to read more about the camps and the men who were interned in them.

<http://www.powtaiwan.org/>

Please sign our guestbook and give us your comments, questions and suggestions.

Our email address is -
society@powtaiwan.org

* * * * *

Thought . . .

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of will!"

This year's annual remembrance week activities were very special, and reflected the growing awareness of what is being done here in Taiwan to remember the men who were imprisoned in these little-known camps.

A total of twenty-nine overseas visitors converged on Taiwan this past November to take part in the activities that were organized by the Commonwealth Remembrance Committee and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society. The POWs and their wives and families came to re-visit the areas of their former captivity and to lay ghosts to rest. Twenty-one came from the UK, six came from Australia and there was one each from New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Harry Leslie was the first to arrive from "down under", and members of the TPCMS had the great privilege to be able to take Harry for a visit to the sites of all of the camps that he had been interned those many years ago.

First was a visit to the hills north of Taipei to the area of the Oka Camp. Harry reminisced as to how his time there had been the worst of his captivity and that if the atomic bombs had not been dropped when they had that he and countless others would have surely died.

Next it was off to the south of Taiwan to visit the site of the former Heito camp at PingTung. Once again the R.O.C. military was wonderful with us, allowing us to visit the base. Harry was the first ex-POW to return to Heito Camp since the war, so his visit was quite a celebrated event.

Joining us were two of the former Taiwanese camp guards, and the men were quite excited to see each other again after such a long time. There was a great spirit of friendship and reconciliation, and it was a very moving experience for all concerned.

Harry spoke of his experiences in this camp where he was interned for most of his time as a POW and was interviewed by a local reporter. The story of his visit made the national newspapers.

Next to arrive on November 15, was the major contingent from the UK and also the group from Australia and New Zealand. Some of the FEPOWs in this year's group - Sid Dodds, Stan Vickerstaff and Ben Slack had been to Taiwan before - in 1998.

The day after their arrival, the TPCMS arranged for a visit to Kinkaseki Camp for all our guests. We visited the site of the mine and then the former camp and memorial. Memories were rekindled of the hard times endured and the mates left behind, and it was a sombre moment for many.



Harry Leslie with two former guards at Heito Camp

The weather was rainy, causing the comment from the POWs that this is the way they always remembered Kinkaseki.

On the way back to Taipei, we stopped at the port city of Keelung to visit the old harbour where many of the men had first arrived on Taiwan, and also from where they were rescued at the end of the war. It was the first time we had been able to take FEPOWs to Keelung as we had only recently come across a local historian who knew the area and how the harbour had been during the war years.



FEPOWs on the docks at Keelung Harbour

Our historian friend met us at the docks and showed us the very wharf where the American destroyers had docked to evacuate the POWs. The buildings and rail lines were still there from those former times and it was quite an experience for the POWs to stand in the exact same place where they had been those 55 years ago.



The former FEPOWs at the entrance of the Kinkaseki Mine
(l-r) H. Brant, W. Notley, R. Goodman, G. Reynolds, J. Fowler, B. Slack,
S. Vickerstaff and S. Dodds

REMEMBRANCE WEEK . . . (con't.)

On Friday November 17 a busload of FEPOWs, family members and TPCMS staff travelled into the hills south of Taipei for a visit to the Kukutsu POW Camp. Their first stop was the village of Hsintien where the group got to see once again the old suspension bridge that the POWs used to cross on their way to the camp up in the hills. After walking across the bridge the group re-boarded the bus for the six-mile journey up the narrow winding road to the site of the former camp where the men from Kinkaseki were sent after the mine closed. Despite the drizzling rain, a very meaningful service of remembrance was held. Former Kukutsu POW Ray Goodman read a poem, Stan Vickerstaff spoke of his memories, and Katherine Heard read a poem in memory of her late husband who was also in the camp.

On Saturday November 18, a Royal British Legion group joined us as a part of their Far East POW tour. The twelve members of the group were warmly welcomed at a small reception put on by the TPCMS. Saturday evening saw everyone gathered at the Banker's Club once again for the annual POW Memorial Banquet. Following a lovely buffet dinner, several of the FEPOWs reminisced about some of their POW experiences. Everyone was moved as they listened to the stories of hardship and suffering, and how the men had pulled together to help each other to survive those awful times.

Sunday, November 19 dawned clear and bright as more than eighty people gathered at the site of the memorial at Kinkaseki for this year's Remembrance Service. With eleven former POWs, four POW widows and six POW sons and daughters, the ceremony was a very moving tribute to those who had suffered so much in Taiwan's fifteen POW camps.

After some words of welcome from Nick Bridge, Director of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taiwan, each of the former POWs read poems or stories to honour the memory of those we were remembering that day. Father Louis Gendron, a Canadian missionary and long-time resident of Taiwan, gave a very meaningful address and led in the prayers of remembrance.

Following this, the wreath-laying ceremony took place at the memorial. Wreaths were laid by the FEPOWs, war veterans, representatives from the Commonwealth and Allied governments, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, The Royal British Legion and the wives, widows and sons and daughters of the FEPOWs.

The local government officials and the people from the village of Chinguashi also paid their respects with many floral tributes being placed on the site, and the Kinkaseki Memorial looked resplendant with all the wreaths and flowers surrounding it on that sombre November morning.

Following the service, a visit was made to the entrance of the mine where the POWs had a glimpse back in time, and for some it provided a further opportunity to lay some ghosts to rest.

The following week held a lot of activities for the guests. On Monday November 20 everyone journeyed to the site of the former Taichu Camp for the dedication of the new POW memorial there. (See story on page 7.) Local sightseeing tours, and a visit to Taihoku #6 Camp rounded out the week's activities.

As this year's activity came to a close and each of the FEPOWs returned home, everyone felt that this had been a most memorable time and an unforgettable experience. We will not forget the FEPOWs either!

POW CAMP SEARCHES . . .

LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS . . .

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

TPCMS HOPES TO COMMEMORATE HEITO POW CAMP # 3 WITH NEW POW MEMORIAL

The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society is currently negotiating with the R.O.C. military to try to obtain permission to erect a fourth POW memorial at the site of the former Heito Camp near the city of PingTung in the southern part of Taiwan.

As our regular readers know, the site of the former camp - which is a current R.O.C. army base, was discovered in September 1999 with the help of some local friends and one of the former camp guards who live in the PingTung area. Since that time we have visited the camp on several occasions and have been warmly received by the officers and base personnel. In February 2000 we took Alice Myerscough to see where her fiancée had died and was first buried before later being re-interred at the Sai Wan Bay Cemetery in Hong Kong after the war. Then this past November Harry Leslie became the first ex-POW to re-visit the camp during his visit during Remembrance Week.

Initial response from the army has been good and we are hoping to receive permission to erect the memorial in the next few months. If all goes well, perhaps we'll be having another POW memorial

UPDATE ON POW CAMPS...

Twelve out of the fifteen Taiwan POW camps have been found! On January 4, Michael Hurst went down to Kaohsiung, and together with Ms. Li Su Mei, who has supported the Society's work for several years, discovered the location of the site of the former Takao POW Camp. (See complete story on page 6.)

This brings to twelve the number of former Taiwan POW camps that have been found to date, with just three more to go until they have all been uncovered. The remaining three consist of the two Inrin Camps in the Yuanlin area, and a third - the Oka Camp, which we believe is in the Waishuangshi area in the mountains north of Taipei city.

On our trip to Central Taiwan last fall in search of the Shirakawa and Toroko Camps we tried to find the location of the camps at Yuanlin, but ran out of time. A bit more research has yet to be done, but we have a good idea of where these camps might be. We hope to continue the search as soon as time and resources permit.

The Oka Camp is proving to be more difficult. In November when Harry Leslie was with us we drove him up into the mountains to the area where we believe the camp may have been located. Some things looked a bit familiar, but with his limited eyesight it was difficult for him to be sure, plus the fact that so much has changed over 55 years.

The situation is more complicated because the camp was located deep in the forests high up in the mountain and was only accessible by a 2 1/2 km. walk through the bush and over a mountain trail.

We need to have a good idea as to the exact location of the camp before venturing out to find it.

Another problem is that we are unable to find any local residents who remember the POW camp or the prisoners. Try as we may no-one seems to have any knowledge in the areas which we have searched so far. So we will keep trying and would ask that anyone having any information or ideas on this elusive camp please contact us as soon as possible.

Hopefully we'll have more to report in our next issue.

Persistence - Nothing in the world can take the place of

dedication in November of this year. We'll keep you informed!

persistence. Talent will not - nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not - unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not - the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are the power that will bring results!

DISCOVERY OF THE TAKAO POW CAMP SITE

As mentioned in our last issue, there had been evidence of another temporary POW camp in TAKAO - the modern day city of Kaohsiung at the southern end of the island. It was known that POWs were held there while awaiting transshipment to Japan, but with the discovery of a POW in the States who was actually interned in the camp for nine weeks, we added this site to the list as a temporary POW camp. We had a good idea as to the exact location of the camp from a drawing that was obtained after the war from one of the POWs, and also from a U.S. Air Force aerial reconnaissance photo taken in late 1944. On January 4, armed with the available information we had, Michael Hurst set off for Kaohsiung on the early morning train, arriving around noon. He was met by Li Su Mei, who has been interested in the Society's work for several years, and who has arranged some TV coverage of our work.

They set off for the port area as that is where the camp had been located - right down at the waterfront in a warehouse on the wharf. They rode around for some time searching the harbour area for clues as to the whereabouts of the docks they were looking for. Being temporarily stymied, they dropped in at the local county government office to see if they could get some additional help.

The district office staff were most helpful and provided an up-to-date map for the area of the harbour where they were searching. When Michael overlaid his old maps with the current one, the location became readily apparent. Positive identification of the location of the area was made and after thanking the staff, they set off for the harbour again.

Reaching the eastern side of the Kaohsiung Export Processing Zone, they were able to look across the



The site of the former Takao POW Camp at Kaohsiung

waters of the harbour and see where the location of the former campsite had been on the opposite shoreline. The warehouses and wharves were all gone - and in their place stood a fertilizer factory and Taiwan Sugar Corp. storage facilities.

Visits were made to both the Taiwan Sugar Corp. location and also that of Taiwan Fertilizer Co., where more information about the postwar development of the area was obtained. It seems that the area had been heavily bombed by the Allies, and that most of the buildings and warehouses along that side of the harbour had been either destroyed or damaged and were pulled down after the war. Subsequently these factories had been built in their place.

While there is nothing at all left from those former times, it is still good to have identified the location of the old camp. Our special thanks to Li Su Mei for all her assistance in helping us find the site of the Takao POW Camp. That brings the number of camps we have located to twelve - just three more to go!

Important Notice for FEPOWs from the War Pensions Agency

Ex-Gratia payment for British groups held prisoner by Japanese

On the 7th November 2000, the British Government announced that it would make a single ex-gratia payment of BP10,000 to the surviving members of the British groups who were held prisoner by the Japanese during the Second World War. This scheme is being administered by the War Pensions Agency (WPA) and you can contact the War Pensions Agency on Freeline 0800 169 22 77 for more information and to request a claim form. Those calling from overseas please telephone - 44 1253 866 043.

How can the claim be made?

A claim form will have to be completed which may be obtained by any of the following methods:

- Phone the free WPA Helpline on 0800 169 22 77
- Faxing the War Pensions Agency on 01253 332 014
- By accessing the web site www.d.ss.gov.uk/wpa/index.htm
- Sending an e-mail to warpensions@gnet.gov.uk
- Writing the War Pensions Agency, Norcross, Blackpool, FY5 3WP

IMPORTANT - PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO ANY BRITISH FAR EASTERN PRISONER OF WAR OR CIVILIAN INTERNEE - NO MATTER WHERE IN THE WORLD THEY MAY LIVE !



(l-r) FEPOWs Sid Dodds, Jack Fowler and Ben Slack pose by the Taichu Memorial stone. (Photo A. Currey)

TPCMS DEDICATES TAICHU POW MEMORIAL

The site of the Taichu POW Camp was located in the late October 1998, when Michael and Tina Hurst made a trip to the countryside south of Taichung City in search of the camp. After much driving around, and talking with several of the local area residents in the area that they believed the camp to be, positive identification was made. During the next two years several visits to the former campsite were made by Michael and other members of the TPCMS.

In the fall of 1999 on a visit to the site, a group from the TPCMS asked for permission to erect a memorial at the former camp and after a year in process, permission was finally granted by the Taiwan government. A piece of green Taiwan marble was procured and transported to a local stonework factory for engraving.

On Monday, September 18, 2000 the Taichu POW Memorial stone was installed in a garden near the place where the POWs' huts had been in the former camp those many years ago.

On Monday, November 20, 2000 with three former POWs of the Taichu Camp present - the POW Memorial was dedicated. Sid Dodds, Jack Fowler and Ben Slack all took part in the ceremony which featured comments from TPCMS Director Michael Hurst, and the Director of Administration for the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei, Mr. Dominic McAllister.

Ex-POWs Harold Brant, Jack Edwards, Ray Goodman, Harry Leslie, Bill Notley, George Reynolds, Ron Venton and Stan Vickerstaff who were not in the Taichu Camp, joined their mates in remembering their former comrades. Several wives and sons and daughters of the FEPOWs were also present, along with members of the TPCMS and dignitaries from the Taiwan government and the Water Conservation Agency that administers the site of the former camp.

After a prayer of dedication by Keiko Holmes, poppy wreaths were laid in honour of those who did not return and for those who still survive.

To date we have located 26 survivors of the former Taichu POW Camp and all have been sent a letter notifying them of the building and dedication of the memorial, along with a photo of the Taichu POW Memorial stone, so that they will know that they and their mates have not, and will not ever be forgotten.

In Memorium

Mr. George Williams
- 155th Lanarkshire Yeomanry

We are sad to announce the passing of Mr. George Williams on January 9, 2001. George was a POW at the Kinkaseki and Kukutsu Camps. He attended the dedication of the Kinkaseki Memorial in 1997, along with his son and daughter. Over the past three years George became a close and valued friend. He was known to many of the Kinkaseki POWs and he will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.

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

If your club, school or organization would like to know more about the prisoners of war, the POW camps on Taiwan and the work of the TPCMS, 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 the story too and be able to better understand a part of their history. For further information, please contact us.

Tel. (02) 8660-8438 Fax. (02) 8660-8439 Email society@powtaiwan.org

Further Japanese Atrocities on Taiwan During WW II Recently Come to Light. . .

In a letter received last fall, we learned of further atrocities committed against prisoners of war on Taiwan by the Japanese in the closing days of the war.

We received a letter from Mr. Charles D. Parker of Florida, USA asking for assistance in finding more information on his brother who had been executed by the Japanese in Taihoku in June 1945. This was the first time we had heard anything about other POWs being executed. To our knowledge there were only the two POWs who had tried to escape from the Taichu Camp that had been executed, but Mr. Parker's letter revealed otherwise.

It stated that his brother - John Roberson Parker - was part of a crew of 11 in a PB4Y-1 Liberator aircraft called the "Queen Bee" of US Navy Squadron VPB117 that was shot down on January 28, 1945 over the waters north of Taiwan on a routine patrol. Five of the crew died and the other 6 were taken prisoner. They were moved to Taihoku (Taipei) where they were held as POWs after being "interrogated" by the Kempetai.

One of the group, Ensign John Bertrang was severely injured in the crash of the aircraft and was taken to a local hospital. Later he was sent on to Japan where he finished his days as a POW in hospital there. After the war he was returned to the US Navy Hospital in Chicago where he subsequently recovered. He passed away some years later.

On June 19, 1945 - less than two months before the Japanese surrender, John Parker, the rest of his crew, and nine other captured Americans were brought before a Japanese "War Disciplinary Tribunal" and found guilty in a brief, mock trial and executed that same day by a Japanese firing squad. In addition to the five Navy crewmen of the Liberator, three other US Navy and six US Army personnel were executed that day.

The names of the Japanese who committed this mockery of justice are known. The tribunal was comprised of Lt. Col. Naritaka Sugiura, Chief of the Tribunal; Col. Seiichi Furukawa former Chief of the Judicial Dep't. of Japan's 10th Army; Lt. Gen. Harukel Isayama, Chief of Staff, 10th Army; and Capt. Yoshio Nakano, Judge.

All of these facts were obtained in the fall of 1945 by the father of one of John's crewmates who visited the navy department at that time and received excellent

US Navy department documents were obtained, and Charles has sent the TPCMS copies of all this material to us to help verify the story.

In the past few years Charles Parker has tried to obtain more information about his brother but upon approaching the War Department and the Navy Department he was told that somehow all of the pertinent records had "gone missing" so no information could be given about John Parker or the incident of his trial and execution. It seems not only the Japanese want to cover up these atrocities, but so now does the US government!

So Charles, who had been referred to the TPCMS by the University of Florida Research Center, turned to us to see if we could find anything more about his brother and the camp in which he might have been interned.

By examining records obtained from the US National Archives and another source, we found that the Japanese had turned the cremated remains of 15 American military personnel over to the Allies after the Japanese surrender on Taiwan. In a careful check of the Japanese records on the same incident we found that although the names had been badly misspelled due to poor phonetic skills, the names on the captured Japanese list matched the list of the men executed in June 1945.

By checking the POW camp records and from accounts from other POWs, these 14 men were not held in the main Taihoku #6 camp, and the only other camp in the Taihoku area was Camp #5. This would fit as Camp #5 would have been empty at the time the crew of the Liberator were captured in January 1945. All the senior officers who had been held there had been moved to China in September 1944, and the only other group of POWs to go there were a group of 14 men who had been sent to Mosak Camp #5 from Kinkaseki in November of that year. They had been moved out in early January, so by then Camp #5 would be empty again. It is most likely that the crew of the Liberator and the other Americans were taken to this camp in late January and remained there until their execution in June of that year.

We are pleased to be able to help Charles with this information, and very grateful to him for sharing this story with us. Now maybe his brother John and the others will always be remembered.

Postscript - After the war Col. Furukawa and Lt. Col. Sugiura were both executed by an American firing squad, while Lt. Gen. Isayama and Capt. Nakano

co-operation from them. Copies of official

were sentenced to life in prison. So some justice was done!

The site of the former Taihoku Mosak Camp #5 was found in June of last year.

THE TRUTH AT LAST!

by Michael Hurst

Early in December, I read an article in an American POW newsletter by historian Greg Michno, who has written a book soon to be published on the subject of the hellships, called "Death on the Hellships".

Greg has somehow obtained official Japanese records and decrypts of sailing rosters and orders for all of the convoys and ships carrying POWs. He also has captured records and documents, plus official US Navy records showing ships sunk, places and dates. His research is exhausting, and he finally corrects all the myths about the hellships - their names, numbers of POWs carried, dates and places of sinking, so in my opinion this is the most exhaustive and accurate work of its kind ever done.

For more than a year I had been searching to try to find out which hellship Alice Myerscough's fiancée Alan had been on when he was brought to Taiwan in mid-September 1944. (See Spring/Summer 2000 Issue) Greg sent me copies of some of his material for my research, and was extremely useful in helping to track down Alan's ship.

So now here is the story as I have been able to put it together after working with Greg (we sent emails back and forth to each other for more than 20 days in December over this issue).

Alan Bowman was one of a group of so-called "fit" POWs that were returned to Singapore from Thailand upon completion of the Death Railway. He was held in River Valley Road Camp until the summer of 1944, when on July 4, he and 1286 other POWs were put aboard the Hofuku Maru, which was a 5825 ton cargo ship. It was in convoy SHIMI-05, consisting of 10 ships - 5 of which carried POWs. There were about 5000 POWs in total, making this the largest group of POWs shipped at one time during the war. The convoy left Singapore and made for Miri, Borneo which it reached on July 8. There the Hofuku Maru and another ship (not carrying POWs), dropped out to wait for another convoy. The rest of the ships reformed into convoy MI-08 and proceeded to Manila in the Philippines which was reached on July 16. For a week this convoy lay at anchor in Manila harbour with the men suffering disease, starvation and thirst. After another re-organization, convoy MI-08 with two ships carrying POWs for a total of 19 vessels, sailed from Manila on July 23 and reached Takao, Formosa on July 27. Here the convoy was re-organized again, and on July 30, 16 ships left Takao

and waited there until the 4th when they set out across the East China Sea for Japan. On August 9 the convoy was attacked and two cargo ships were sunk - neither of which carried POWs. On August 13 the convoy reached Moji, Japan.

On September 4, convoy HI-72 set sail from Singapore. There were two ships carrying POWs - the Rakuyo Maru with 1317 POWs and the Kachidoki Maru with 900 POWs aboard. On the 12th of September the Rakuyo Maru was torpedoed by the US submarine Sealion at around 5:00am and the Kachidoki Maru received hits from the submarine Pampanito at around 11:00pm. The Rakuyo Maru lost 1159 POWs while more than 400 perished from the Kachidoki Maru. The Japanese rescued some of the POWs from these two ships, and all were transferred to the Kibitsu Maru and taken on to Japan. None were ever taken to Formosa. The American submarines later returned to rescue a number of British and Australian POWs.

Meanwhile the Hofuku Maru had completed its journey to the Philippines, arriving on July 19. It lay in Manila harbour until mid-September while its engines were repaired. The POWs on board suffered terribly from disease, hunger and thirst and finally a number were removed to the Bilibid Prison hospital in Manila. These men were replaced by a similar number from the Philippines making a total of 1289 POWs on board.

On September 20, Convoy MATA-27 - with 11 ships including the Hofuku Maru (the only one carrying POWs) sailed from Manila and anchored at Subic Bay for the night. On the 21st as it headed for Takao Formosa the convoy was attacked by American carrier aircraft about 80 miles north of Corregidor. At 10:35 am the planes attacked the Hofuku Maru and before the day was finished the entire convoy had been sunk by more than 100 American planes.

About 200 of the POWs either swam to shore or were picked up by the Japanese and taken back to the Philippines. 42 other POWs - Alan was in this group - were picked up and taken by the Jap escort ships to Takao, Formosa - arriving on September 25th.

A diary entry by surviving Heito POW Basil Baker states on September 26 - "about 49 new prisoners due tonight - rumoured to be shipwrecked - all very sick, one dead." These were the men from the Hofuku Maru who had arrived the day before. The next day another of the men died and several days later, Alan died.

So finally we have it - from the official records - what

heading for Japan. On August 1 they pulled into Keelung, Formosa

happened to all these hellships we have been reading about and talking about over the past year or so. It is so great to finally be able to bring this story to a close for Alice.

HELP WANTED. . .

FROM MRS. MARJORIE GARNER, Cambridge

Mrs. Garner has asked us for help in trying to find out in which camp her first husband - Driver Ernest Parker, 2587178, Royal Corps of Signals - was held while a POW on Taiwan. They were married shortly before he left for the Far East and although she wrote many letters to him, never did receive a reply. It was only after the war she learned that he had died as a POW on Taiwan on 26 September 1944 - aged 24 years. He was a Territorial and could likely have been in the 9th or 11th Indian Division Signals in Malaya and Singapore.

Mrs. Garner and her daughter travelled to Taiwan this past November with the RBL Tour to take part in our Remembrance activities. We have promised to try to do all we can to help her, but so far no leads have turned up. If there is anyone who may have known Driver Parker or may have been in the same unit with him, please contact us as soon as possible and we will put you in touch with Mrs. Garner.

SEARCHING. . .

I have recently been told of a book called "Captive in Formosa" written by a former Taiwan POW, Mr. Norman Cliff. The book was first published in 1994 and I am trying to locate the author, Mr. Cliff, or as second best - a copy of the book. I have contacted the publisher in the UK but they cannot help with either info on Mr. Cliff or a copy of the book. If anyone can put me in touch with Mr. Cliff or advise where I might get a copy of his book, I would be very grateful.

I am also looking to obtain a copy of the book by George D'Arcy entitled "Reveille to Sunset in the Yellow Hell". I had a lead on one through the internet but the distributor has not been able to come through with it yet and several months have gone by. If anyone can help please get in touch by email.
- Ed.

BRAVE MEN

No honours were they given,
No glory did they find.
Though cruelty abounded

--- from the Director

What a wonderful time we have had these past several months here in Taiwan. First, there was the very successful Week of Remembrance this past November, along with the dedication of the POW memorial on the site of the former Taichu Camp, and then the discovery of the Takao camp in January of this year.

Current projects underway are the application to erect another POW memorial at the site of the former Heito Camp, and also the continued search for the two Inrin Camps in Central Taiwan and the Oka camp near Taipei.

We have heard from several more FEPOWs, and more Americans as well, including a former crewman from the USS Santee - the ship which helped rescue the POWs from Taiwan after the war. With each of these new contacts more information is being learned and the story of the Taiwan POW camps is coming together more and more.

It has also been wonderful over the past few months to be able to help FEPOWs and their families find the answers to questions about their mates or a former loved one. This is now a big part of our work. In closing this issue I would like to draw your attention to the following article. In a nutshell it sums up why we do what we do so that the memory of these great men will "never be forgotten".

Let Us Never Forget !

What it Meant to be a FEPOW. . .

25% of FEPOWs captured by the Japanese were killed or died in captivity, compared with 5% of those captured by the Germans and Italians. FEPOW deaths as a percentage were the highest rate of all the World War II battle fronts involving British troops.

FEPOWs suffered trauma 24 hours a day, with the constant threat of death, disease, beatings, torture, starvation, seeing their comrades dying around them, burying them and even being forced to dig their own graves.

It is doubtful that any other group of our citizens in this century has suffered such appalling trauma. There was no "post traumatic syndrome" counsel when the FEPOWs returned - they were simply sent home after 3 1/2 years of horror and told to get on

No heads were bent in shame.
Their bravery was unheralded,
Comradeship and loyalty never waned.
I am proud to say I knew them -
These men who were so brave.

by Jill Horn, Nov. 2000 - for her father,
L/Sgt. Ray Goodman, 155th Field Reg't. R.A.

on with their lives. It is to their credit and the
benefit of later generations that they did just that.
Surely it is time to recognize their suffering and the
tremendous contribution they have made to peace
and to our life in the 20th century.

Adapted from the Halifax Dist. FEPOW Beacon