



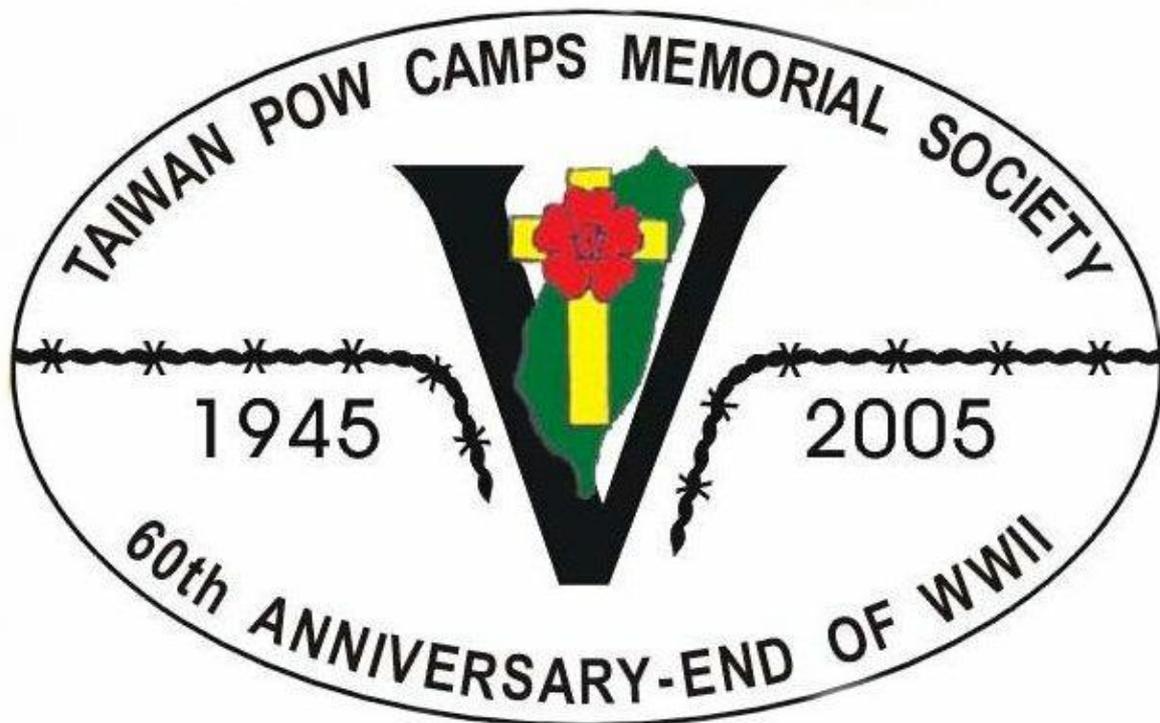
Never Forgotten

Vol. 6, Number 1

SPRING - SUMMER 2005

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

2005 - A Memorable Year !



The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society – 60th Anniversary Logo

The logo, designed from a concept suggested by our board member Mark Wilkie, depicts a “V” for victory breaking the barbed wire that surrounded and suppressed the POWs of the Japanese from 1941 to 1945. It commemorates the end of their suffering and their return to freedom – a freedom which was purchased with the lives of their friends and mates.

LET US NEVER FORGET !

2005 – The 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II

This year is the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society has planned several special events to commemorate the Taiwan POWs’ story throughout the year. Please see the homepage of our website for more details and if possible plan to be with us for these occasions. If you are interested in becoming involved in these projects, and for more information, please contact the Society by mail or email at the addresses shown on page 2 of this newsletter.

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TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

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LOGO of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

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

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

- * to continue the search for survivors of the Taiwan POW camps from 1942 – 45.**
- * to search for the locations of the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan.**
- * to ensure the memory of the Taiwan POWs is not forgotten.**
- * to help with the organization of, and participate in, the Commonwealth and Allied memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Kinkaseki every November.**
- * 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, and 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. We also have an Honour Roll with the names of many of the former Taiwan POWs.

Please visit our homepage at -

www.powtaiwan.org

Please give us your comments, questions and suggestions.

Our email address is -

society@powtaiwan.org

* * * * *

Thought . . .

“Opportunities are never lost – someone will always take the ones you miss!”

From the Director. . .

The year 2005 is proving to be another banner year for the Society and the Taiwan POWs. With the events that have taken place and the upcoming ceremonies that we have planned, it will truly be a great year for bringing the story of the Taiwan POWs to the forefront and to making sure that they and their mates and what they suffered is not forgotten.

On January 9th, the first of several 60th Anniversary commemorative events that we are holding this year took place with a memorial service on the docks at Kaohsiung Harbour to remember the more than 300 POWs who died when the hellship Enoura Maru was bombed by American carrier-based fighters. See the story on page 4.

Then in March I was privileged to be able to visit Kyushu Japan, where I was ably assisted by several local historians and POW supporters in visiting three of the former camps there where the Taiwan POWs were sent after leaving Taiwan in the spring of 1945. Explore these camps with me on page 6 – 7.

Also, as a result of further searches and with the help of fellow researchers in the USA – in particular Roger Mansell of the “Center for Research – Allied POWs under the Japanese”, we have been able to identify many of the former Taiwan POWs who were sent to Japan in the closing months of the war, based on their names being recorded in the camps on Kyushu and having been noted that they came on a certain hellship on a specified date from Taiwan. Thus I was able to take those names from the Japan POW camp rosters and add them to the Honour Roll of Taiwan POWs since we know that they came from Taiwan originally.

The Honour Roll has now reached almost 4100 names at present writing, up from around 3700 names at the beginning of the year, and we are now very close to having most of the names of the former POWs who were interned on Taiwan from August 1942 until September 1945. Please check out the Honour Roll at <http://www.powtaiwan.org/men.html>

As mentioned in our last issue, we were trying to work with the Taiwan Post Office to have a special stamp issued this August to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the End of WWII. Several meetings were held and a proposal was put forth, the main emphasis being that in WWII the Republic of China was one of the five major Allied World Powers, and is still today the bastion of freedom and democracy for the world's Chinese peoples. Our point was that although the Republic of China is not recognized as much now as it was in the past, this could be an excellent opportunity for the government to once again highlight the contribution of the R.O.C. towards world peace and to take its place in history.

However, the committee that decides on such matters turned down the idea saying that they felt that the issue was not significant enough or broad enough in scope to warrant a special commemorative stamp. We argued that World War II was probably one of the biggest and most significant events in the 20th Century, and it affected the lives of those in Taiwan at the time as well. We also mentioned that all of the world's major powers would be having special events and commemorations – including special postage stamps this year, and that we felt that this was an excellent opportunity for the R.O.C. to once again be viewed on the world stage. However that was the decision and we accept it, although we hope that they don't regret it later. I think that any stamp to commemorate such an important event in our history would be a very popular one.

That said, the ROC Post Office has a program where organizations and individuals can have special stamp sheets issued and we had already decided to do this regardless of whether the government chose to issue an “official” stamp or not. To see our design and for more information, please look on page 5, and if you are interested in obtaining one or more of these special stamp sheets, please let us know and we'll reserve one for you. They will be issued on August 15th.

Over the past several months I have been co-operating with Phoenix Television in Hong Kong and Taiwan in the production of a five part, five hour documentary film on “Taiwan in World War II”. One of the one-hour segments will highlight the Taiwan POWs' story and will feature film footage of some of the former camps, old photos and interviews with several former Taiwan POWs. The film is scheduled for release sometime this summer and will be in Chinese for showing all across Asia. I am hoping that perhaps we might have the POW segment subtitled in English and released separately at some time in the future, but we will have to see how things work out. Phoenix Television has been excellent to work with and is truly dedicated to helping tell more of this hitherto largely unknown story.

June 19th saw more than 30 people gathered at the site of the old Taipei Prison to commemorate the needless execution of 14 American airmen by the Japanese. The brother of one of the executed POWs was present with us for the ceremony. See the report on page 8.

The rest of this year has many more exciting things in store. We are planning a special ceremony on Sunday August 14th in one of the local parks in Taipei to remember the end of WWII, and it is hoped that the R.O.C. Veterans Affairs Dept. and also the military will take part with us. Details will be announced later.

I will be putting some POW artifacts, documents and photos in a special World War II exhibition in the National Armed Forces Museum in downtown Taipei from August 15th to the end of the year, and will be one of the speakers at a symposium on “Taiwan in the Second World War” at the National Central Library in Taipei on August 18th and 19th.

On Sunday September 4th there will be a service on the docks at Keelung Harbour to commemorate the evacuation of the Taiwan POWs by the US and British navies. Several former crewmembers of those ships will be returning to Taiwan to take part with us, and we have the co-operation of the R.O.C. Navy to make the day's event very special.

Of course our biggest event of the year is the annual Remembrance Week event that will be held from November 16 – 23 this year. The POW banquet will be held on Saturday the 19th and the Remembrance Ceremony will take place at the Taiwan POW Memorial at Chinguashi on the 20th. We already have a number of FEPOWs and their families registered for this event and we hope that more will join us for this special 60th Anniversary celebration.

One last thing to mention is that I am also hoping to have the book on the Taiwan POW Camps – entitled “Never Forgotten”, finished and ready for release by mid-November – just before our Remembrance Week activity begins.

So with all these things to do, I guess I'd better get back to work. Til next time – God bless and let us not forget our beloved Taiwan POWs.

Sincerely,

Michael Hurst MBE

Enoura Maru Memorial Service - January 9, 2005

by Jerome F. Keating Ph.D.

There is a time to tear things apart and a time to sew them back together; a time for war and a time for peace. Now is a time for peace; but it is still a time to remember those who went to war and why they went to war, as well as the sacrifices they made to give us what we have.

On January 9th, 1945, the Enoura Maru lay at anchor in Kaohsiung Harbor. A Japanese prisoner hellship, the Enoura Maru was bound for Tokyo with a cargo of American Prisoners of War (POWs) from the Philippines. It had come to Kaohsiung on December 31 and remained at anchor while the Japanese celebrated the New Year. During this time, the 1170 prisoners on board were not allowed to go ashore and were given no food and water and many men died.

At 11 am on that January 9th, American planes from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet came in from the east and commenced a bombing raid on Japanese targets in the Kaohsiung area. Taking the Enoura Maru for a cargo ship, several planes went straight for it, and the Enoura Maru took several hits. One direct hit went into the forward hold, killing over 250 men in one blast and injuring many others. After the planes had gone, the Japanese left the prisoners in the holds with the dead and mutilated bodies until January 12th when they began to remove the dead from the ship. More than 300 were buried on the outer spit of Kaohsiung Harbor in a mass grave. The surviving 890 POWs were finally put on board another hellship, the Brazil Maru, and taken to Japan. By the time they reached Moji only 450 were alive and within three months after arriving in Japan another 100 had died.

In 1946 the American Graves Recovery Team exhumed the bodies buried in Takao (Kaohsiung) and they were later re-interred in the US National War Cemetery in Hawaii.

Honoring the men who died...



The ceremony on the dock at Kaohsiung Harbor

On January 9th, 2005, the 60th anniversary date, 40 to 50 people gathered at Kaohsiung Harbor for a remembrance service and the laying of two wreaths on the waters. Opening remarks were given by Michael Hurst, Director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society; Terry Crutchfield of Kaohsiung read the poem "The Man We Never Knew." Robert W. Forden, head of the Kaohsiung

branch of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), gave a special message from AIT. Keith Burell read the poem "We Will Remember Them". Dr. Melody Ching-wen Yeh, Director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau read a message from the city of Kaohsiung. Orville Humfleet, Commander of VFW Post #727 read the poem "What is a Veteran?" Rev. Craig Clark gave a message and offered a prayer for the victims and the families, and Mark Wilkie read the poem "POW Tribute." Master of Ceremonies was Jerome F. Keating of the Board of Directors of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

The guest of honor at the ceremony was Charles Towne one of the 18 remaining POW survivors of that day still alive. Eighty-four years old, Towne still spry and jovial, had made the trip to Taiwan to specifically attend the service and remember his comrades. Sixty years previous Towne had had to remain on board the prison ships, so in a touch of irony, it was the first time he actually set foot on Taiwan soil. Present also was the seventy-six year old Taiwanese Sun Shui-lian who as a teenager had witnessed the bombing sixty years ago.



Former POW survivor Charles Towne sharing memories of the fateful day on the Enoura Maru in 1945.

After the ceremony on the docks of Xinguang wharf, the group boarded a cruise launch to lay wreaths on the waters where the Enoura Maru had been anchored. It was a time for all present regardless of country to remember the many from the past that had sacrificed both for their own countries and for the cause of freedom.



*Laying a memorial wreath in the harbor at the spot where the Enoura Maru was bombed.
(Photo courtesy – Taiwan Apple Daily Newspaper)*

Trip to Kyushu, Japan – March 2005

By Michael Hurst, MBE

On March 3rd 2005, after several months of preparation and study, I boarded a plane in Taipei for the two-hour flight that would take me to Fukuoka Japan and a step back through the pages of time to World War II.

I was going to the southern Japanese island of Kyushu to visit some of the Japanese POW camps where former Taiwan prisoners of war were held after leaving Taiwan in early 1945.

Many of the POWs who had gone from Taiwan to Japan had recounted their experiences to me, and for several years I have wanted to visit the camps there to see where they had been imprisoned so as to finish that part of their story. The idea to visit the camps in the spring of 2005 came after talking with Keiko Holmes who was planning to take a group of British POWs and their families there at that time.

As it turned out Keiko's group did not have the time in their schedule to visit those camps that I wanted to see, so with the help of Wes Injerd – a fellow POW researcher from the USA who used to live in Fukuoka for many years, I began to plan a private visit.

Wes put me in touch with Mr. Koshi Kobayashi – a member of the Japan POW Research Network and a great friend to all the POWs. He is a real authority on the camps, particularly in the areas of Hiroshima and Kyushu and was a tremendous help in arranging things for my visit.

Koshi contacted a friend and fellow Research Group member Prof. Bert McBean from Oita University who agreed to help show me around the various camps I wished to see. He enlisted the help of Mr. Takamitsu Hirano, also a group member, to act as interpreter and together we finalized the schedule for the visit.

Coincidentally, at that time Mrs. Sandra Humphrey, the daughter of former Taiwan POW and our Society rep in Australia, Sid Dodds, was signed up to go on Keiko's tour. When she and her dad found out that I was going to be visiting the camp at Miyata where he was, we discussed the possibility of her joining the group I was in too. She was warmly welcomed and met me in Fukuoka the next day after flying up from Australia.

On Saturday March 5th we set out with Bert and Mr. Hirano for the site of the former Omine 5B POW camp at Soeda in the interior of the island. We had to cross over the mountains and on the way we were treated to a lovely soft snowfall as we wound our way through the mountain roads. For Sandra and I - who rarely see snow in Australia or Taiwan, it was a unique experience.

Arriving at Soeda we met our host, Mr. Takeo Shiba who took us to his home and showed us a lot of information and old photos of the former coal mining area. Later we drove to the area of the former POW camp, the cemetery and the old mine works.

Our first stop was the place where the old POW cemetery had been located. There is still a Japanese cemetery nearby, but the bodies of the 21 POWs who died at Omine Camp now rest in the Yokohama War Cemetery. We explored the area and left a poppy cross on a tree at the edge of the hillside in remembrance of the men who died in the camp.

From there we visited the site of the former POW camp. The area had been occupied by a small factory after the war, but is now abandoned except for several old dilapidated buildings. We walked around the site and imagined what things must have been like for the POWs in those days.



Entrance and view of the former Omine 5B POW Camp

From the camp it was just a short ride down the road to the site of the former mine works. There is almost nothing left of the workings now. The tunnel was sealed off years ago, and the buildings have all disappeared – even the huge coal slag heaps have been removed over the years. It was good to see the area though and to trace the steps of the men from the camp to the mine and see the area where they worked each day.

Thanking our host we left Soeda and re-traced our steps back through the hills to the city of Izuka where we had a very tasty Japanese evening meal and spent a restful night.



(l-r) Bert McBean, Mr. Shiba, Mr. Hirano & Michael Hurst studying the history of the Omine 5B POW Camp.



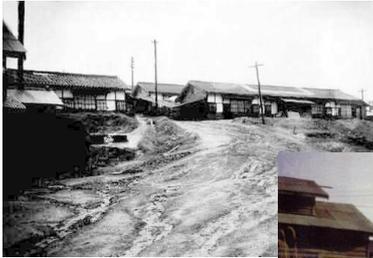
Meeting with Miyata Mining Museum staff and former workers

(con't on page 7)

Trip to Kyushu (cont'd.)

On Sunday morning we drove to Miyata and made our way to the local mining museum where we met the director Mr. Enokida and his assistant Mr. Okamoto. They had invited two former mine workers to tell us firsthand about the mine and the POWs. After some discussion and study in the museum office we made our way to the sight of the former POW camp and what a surprise I got.

The camp at Miyata had been occupied after the war by miners and their families right up until 1984. In 1985 the buildings were all torn down and the land cleared but one of the men's daughters had taken photos of the camp and it had changed little since the photos of it we had from 1945. Even today the roads and hill are easily recognized from the old days.



Miyata - 1945



Miyata - 1984



Miyata Today

It was so wonderful to be able to walk in the very places where the POWs walked and it was especially meaningful for Sandra to be in the place where her father was those many years ago.



Sandra Humphrey places a poppy cross in remembrance of her father and the other Miyata POWs.

Following our very successful weekend we bid goodbye to Bert and Mr. Hirano and thanked them for their friendship and help.

We certainly couldn't have accomplished all that we wanted without their knowledge, dedication and help. We returned to Fukuoka by train and had the pleasure of meeting Koshi Kobayashi at the hotel later in the evening. We had a wonderful time together – he is truly a remarkable man.

The following day we set off to visit the Senryu # 24 POW Camp at Emukae – another place where some of the former Taiwan POWs were sent in March 1945. We were met at the station by Mr. Akihiro Shizuma and Ms. Yoko Sonoda who kindly showed us the area. We visited the site of the old entrance to the mine and the previous POW burial ground before moving on to the site of the former camp.



With friends in remembrance of the Senryu POWs

The site of the former camp is now occupied by new buildings and a kindergarten, but the surrounding area and hills are unchanged from those many years ago. I was able to do some survey work and plot the location and area of the former camp to fix it permanently in the records.

After our brief time in Emukae we took the train back to Sasebo and then another down to Nagasaki where we spent the night at a Ryokan or Japanese Inn and sampling some of the local lifestyle which we thoroughly enjoyed.

All of the next day was spent visiting the sites of the atomic bombing in the city and several other historic sites as well. It was sobering to view the exhibits and see the destruction left by such an awesome weapon. Never again!

On March 10th we visited the old port city of Moji on the north end of the island. It was here where most of the hellships docked bringing POWs to Japan. The wharves at the harbour have changed little since those times, but the rest of the area has been made over into a modern tourist venue.



Nagasaki – A-Bomb Epicenter



Moji Harbour Docks

This trip was a wonderful experience and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to visit these former POW sites. It certainly helps to complete the story of the Taiwan POWs.

A Needless Sacrifice

On Tuesday May 29th 1945, fourteen American airmen were brought before a Japanese military tribunal in Taihoku (Taipei) and put through a mock trial accusing them of “indiscriminate bombing” and killing innocent civilians. With no-one to defend them, they were quickly found guilty and sentenced to die. In the early morning of June 19th at approximately 6:15 am – inside the walls of the old Taipei Prison, the sentence was carried out. Only 57 days before the end of World War II, all 14 were executed by a Japanese firing squad. Most of the “men” were only “boys” – ranging from 19 to 24 years of age!

Who were these men? They were the pilots and aircrew of American Army Air Force and Navy planes that had been shot down while attacking shipping and airfields and targets on the Island of Formosa as part of the effort to defeat the Japanese and put an end to the war.

One group of five airmen was from a PB4Y-1 bomber – the “Queen Bee” of US Navy Squadron VPB-117 that was based in the northern Philippines and which had been attacking Japanese shipping in the waters around Yung Kang Harbour on January 28, 1945. During the attack on what the Japanese court called “civilian” shipping, the “civilian” ship opened fire on the aircraft and brought it down into the sea with the loss of the pilot and three crewmembers. The rest of the crew were picked up by Japanese naval vessels and taken to Takao Navy Garrison HQ where they were interrogated by the Kempetai. One of the men died a few days later from burns suffered in the crash, one was sent to Japan, and the others were transferred to Taihoku where they were incarcerated in the Taihoku (Taipei) Prison until their mock trial and execution.

Of the other men in the group, some were individual pilots, and others were members of aircrews – both Army Air Force and Navy who had been shot down and captured. All were needlessly executed as part of the Japanese policy of not treating captured aircrews as POWs but as war criminals. It was common for captured airmen to be tortured and eventually killed, and this took place all over Asia - especially in the homeland of Japan.

It was a needless killing as the Japanese knew they were losing the war and the men could have been held for just a few more weeks and then set free. It was a great travesty of justice and POW treatment, and fortunately in the end, the Japanese who perpetrated this heinous crime were arrested, convicted and executed - ironically by firing squad as well!

This story came to our attention in 2000 through the efforts of Mr. Charles Parker of Florida USA - the brother of one of the young airmen who had been executed. We decided in this 60th Anniversary year that something special should be done to remember these brave men who died, and so the memorial service was announced. We were pleased that Charles and his sons Jeff and Rob Parker could join us on this special occasion, to represent the families of the men who were executed.

So on Sunday morning June 19th 2005 – exactly 60 years to the day the men were executed, a memorial service was held in

Taipei beside the remnant of the old north wall of the former Taipei Prison on Chinshan South Road.

The group assembled at the Chunghwa Telecom building and was led down the lane next to the wall by Canadian piper Mal Turner to a small bricked-over doorway, formerly one of the entrances to the prison compound. There an American flag stood solemnly at one side and 14 poppy crosses – with the name of each man who was executed inscribed on it, were lined across the bottom the doorway. A Navy uniform jacket and cap hug on the wall – the kind the Navy men would have worn.

TPCMS board member Jerome Keating opened the ceremony and Michael Hurst, Director of the POW Society, related the story of the trial and execution of the men. The poem “We Will Remember Them” was read by Society board member Mark Wilkie, followed by a message from Laurence W. Mitchell of the American Institute in Taiwan.



Memorial to 14 American Airmen at the old Taipei Prison Wall

Then the three members of the Parker family shared their thoughts on this solemn occasion and expressed their thanks on behalf of all the families of those killed for what has been done here in Taiwan to make sure that these men were not forgotten. A prayer of remembrance and consolation for the families was offered and then the poem “Miss Me, But Let Me Go” was rendered by Sally Mitchell.

Three wreaths were laid in the old doorway – one each representing the family members, the American Government and the POW Society. Then a moment’s silence was observed before the piper played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes.

As we look back now – 60 years after this terrible event, we wonder why such things had to happen; why such precious young lives had to be sacrificed in this way. But we know that these men were brave right to the end. They gave their lives for the cause of freedom, for their country and their families, so that we could all live in peace.

Let us never forget this supreme sacrifice they made.



J.C. Buchanan



Delbert Carter

*The five crewmembers of the PB4Y-1 “Queen Bee”
who were executed by firing squad at Taipei Prison
– June 19, 1945*

“We will remember them”

Wayne W. Wilson (No Photo)



Don Hathaway



John R. Parker

In Memoriam

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

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families of these men and assure them that although they are no longer with us, they will - Never Be Forgotten!

W. KEN SHORTO

9/11TH INDIAN DIV. SIGNALS
OCTOBER 29, 2004

IRVING L. BEATTIE

US MARINE CORPS
OCTOBER 2004

SYDNEY F. THOMPSON

ROYAL ENGINEERS
MARCH, 2005

WILLIAM McSHANE

2ND BTN. GORDON HIGHLANDERS
APRIL 17, 2005

Also

MRS. ELSIE BINGHAM

- Widow of former Kinkaseki POW
Jim Bingham (Died 1990)

The following former Taiwan POWs passed away over the past number of months – courtesy the ADBC “Quan”

ANTHONY CZERWEIN

US ARMY AIR CORPS

JOHN F. DONOVAN

US NAVY

JOSEPH R. GAGNON

US ARMY AIR CORPS

PHILTON J. HEBERT

US MARINE CORPS

GRADY U. INZER

US ARMY AIR CORPS

BARNEY D. McCLURE

US MARINE CORPS

T.S. SAAVEDORA

US ARMY

“We Will Remember Them”

POW Society Director Honored by American Institute in Taiwan

The Liaison Affairs Section of the American Institute in Taiwan recently presented Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society director Michael Hurst with its Liaison Affairs Medal in recognition and appreciation for his service to the Taiwan POWs, and in particular the American ex-POWs over the past number of years. In the photo below, AIT Liaison Affairs Section Chief Laurence W. Mitchell is shown presenting the medal at a ceremony at the AIT office in Taipei.



The American Institute in Taiwan was founded in 1979 to promote commercial, cultural and other relations between the United States and Taiwan. The Liaison Affairs Section serves as the representative of the US Dep't. of Defense. The office continues a long tradition that began in China long before WWII and which lasted until 1978 with the cessation of formal diplomatic relations between Washington and Taipei.

The medal which was issued on July 4, 2004 symbolizes the four branches of the US Armed Forces and over 100 years of American military history and service in China.

The front side of the medal displays the symbol of the famous Flying Tigers and the US 14th Air Force atop the symbol of the China-Burma-India theatre of operations in WWII overlaying the island of Taiwan. The reverse side shows the eagle from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard China Service Medal.

The Americans had the second highest number of POWs on Taiwan during WWII, including Generals Wainwright, King and Moore, plus many scores of high-ranking officers.

Michael was very grateful for the honor and accepted it on behalf of those POWs who he is proud to serve.



Front Side



Reverse Side

The Liaison Affairs Medal

The Hellships Memorial

As early as the spring of 1942, only a few months after the fall of the Allied territories in the Far East, the Japanese began moving POWs by sea out of all the areas they had conquered - Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Java, and other places, and sending them to Japan, Taiwan, Burma, the Dutch East Indies and other areas to be used as slave labor.

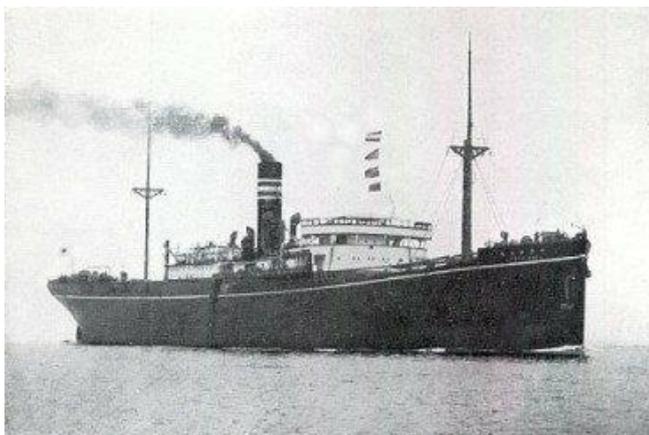
Thousands of prisoners were transported on dozens of Japanese "Hellships", and many thousands of those perished from murder, starvation, sickness and neglect - or were killed when the unmarked ships were attacked unknowingly by friendly forces. Some of the cruelty they experienced was extraordinary, even for prisoners of the Japanese.

To date, there is no memorial dedicated to those who suffered so greatly and whose sacrifice must be preserved for future generations. **The time has come to set aside a place of remembrance and a lasting tribute to the POWs of the Hellships and what they suffered!** The Hellships Memorial will be a permanent tribute to the many who died and those who survived the unparalleled atrocity of the hellships.

Plans are now underway for the construction of a memorial to honor ALL persons of ALL countries who were POWs of the Japanese during World War II, and who were transported by the Japanese in the various ships they owned or controlled. This includes civilians who were transported with the POWs and were treated essentially as POWs. The Memorial is not only an American effort. There are multiple people of many countries who were either aboard various hellships, or who desire to participate in establishing this memorial.

The **MEMORIAL** is to be located on land that has been made available to the Hellships Memorial Committee by the Subic Bay Municipality Authority (SBMA) on the seashore in Subic Bay, The Philippines. It is within twenty feet of the sea wall on the eastern shore of Subic Bay in a most visible and prominent position. It is also located about 500 metres from the site of the sunken hellship the Oryoku Maru which lies at the bottom of Subic Bay.

MUSEUM: An integral part of this Hellships Memorial effort is the display of artifacts, photos and texts that will tell more of the story of the hellships. About 15 feet of wall space has been provided in a nearby Museum and it is hoped that we can obtain a good number of documents, pictures and artifacts for use within permanent or rotating displays at the museum. These hellship related displays will assist those desiring to study and those who want to know more about this little-known part of World War II history. Part of the effort will also be to establish a tribute display to those who



The hellship Lisbon Maru – sunk while carrying POWs from Hong Kong to Japan – September 1942

were on board these hellships. We expect to place a "Tribute Book" in a prominent location for viewing by visitors.

The Hellships Memorial Committee is intimately involved with FAME (Filipino American Memorial Endowment) a well known, historic and much respected organization within the Philippines which assists the establishment of WWII

memorials. They are the financial "umbrella" for the Hellships Memorial and

donations arriving at FAME will be converted into Philippine pesos for the Hellships Memorial design and construction work.

To date we have received about US\$15,000 and are seeking over US\$25,000 which we estimate will be needed to complete the project. Those choosing to assist this process can send donations by check or cash marked for the "Hellships Memorial", to FAME at the following addresses:

FAME, Inc.	or	FAME, Inc.
c/o Alex Keller		CPO Box 2565
535 Rolling Rock Lane		Makati City, 1229,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255		Philippines
Fax: (513) 231-8763		Fax (632) 811-3081

email: leslie@amchamphilippines.com

DEDICATION: The dedication of the Hellships Memorial is scheduled for mid-January 2006 with the specific date and time to be announced later. We are inviting participation from those embassies in Manila who we know had people who were affected by the Hellships. We are hopeful that representatives of other POW Groups worldwide will choose to participate in establishing this Memorial and will be present at the dedication. There is at least one tour being arranged from the United States which will be present at Subic Bay for the dedication. See www.valortours.com for more information. For those not in attendance, photos and video will be available of the dedication on the website and on CD.

The project is moving forward; however, your help is needed. Please click on this link -

www.hellshipsmemorial.org

to read current information concerning the project and find out how you can help.

The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society supports the Hellships Memorial project and is actively involved with the organizers to help bring this dream to completion. All of us involved desire to share our vision for the Hellships Memorial with all interested people and we seek your direct participation.

"May We Never Forget Their Loss"