

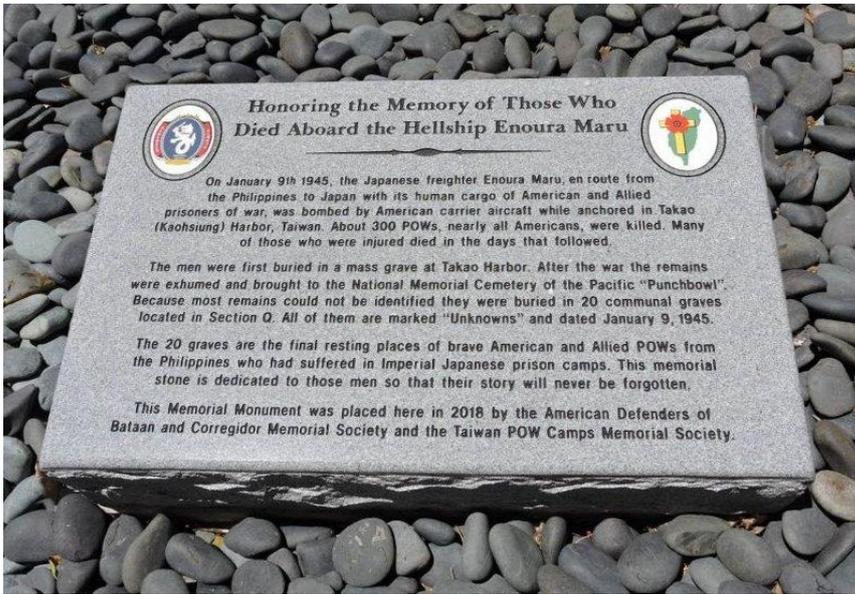


Never Forgotten

Vol. 19, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2018

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



The Enoura Maru Stone on the Memorial Walk at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii.

HAWAIIAN ODESSY

(See report on pages 5, 6 and 9)



Jan Thompson ADBC-MS addressing the crowd.



Congratulations to our own George Reynolds who turned 100 on July 21st this year.



TPCMS Wreath

With Jan Thompson (l) & Nancy Kragh - ADBC Memorial Society



2018 Remembrance Day Service - marking one hundred years since the end of WWI. (See story on page 8)

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in Taiwan

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.

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 MOKSAK (Taipei)
6. TAIHOKU #6 (Taipei)
7. KARENKO (Hualien)
8. TAMAZATO (Yuli)
9. INRIN (Yuanlin)
10. INRIN TEMP. (Yuanlin)
11. TOROKU (Douliu)
12. TAKAO (Kaohsiung)
13. KUKUTSU (Taipei)
14. OKA (Taipei)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

Thought . . .

**“VINCIT QUI PATITUR”, is Latin for
“Who Endures Conquers”.**

When you believe in your heart and soul that what you are trying to do is good and right, then don't ever give up until that task is done and you achieve your goal.

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

The year has unfolded as usual, busy on all fronts, with some very special events taking place.

FEPOW Day was a wonderful event again in August with another record crowd and a lot of interest being shown by more people in learning the FEPOWs' story. This year we focused on the civilian internees with the film 'Paradise Road'. I hope that more local folks will join us next year for our 12th FEPOW Day to remember those who were POWs and civilian internees in the Far East.

The biggest event of the year was the completion of the *Enoura Maru Memorial Project* at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii. After seven long years of trying, the memorial stone was finally approved and installed on the Memorial Walk at the cemetery. The dedication ceremony took place on August 15th - VJ Day, and a wonderful ceremony it was. While there I was also fortunate to be able to visit Pearl Harbour with its various museums, ships and air fields. There is a full story on our website in the **Articles & Stories section** as well as the report here on pages 5, 6 and 9.

Remembrance Week was very special as always. We only had one overseas guest this time and she was from the USA. Dr. Elizabeth M. Pepe - Granddaughter of Col. Frank M. Brezina, QMC US Army Luzon Force who came to Taiwan with General Wainwright and was interned at Karenko and Shirakawa Camps where he died in June 1943 after the move from Karenko. We visited his former camps in Hualien and Bai-He during the week. More than 120 people turned out for the Remembrance Day service which also featured remembrances of the end of WW I, 100 years ago.

The POW inquiries from family members and researchers keep coming, and it is so great to see the interest in the Taiwan POWs' story growing. We are over 800 POWs and families contacted now. I am always pleased to help folks with information on their FEPOW relative - some who died in the camps, and others who returned but never spoke of their experiences with their families.

The work on the book is progressing well. The exact date of publication is unknown as there is still a lot of work to be done on it. The target date is now early next spring and once completed announcements will be sent out to all our members and friends worldwide. Stay tuned!

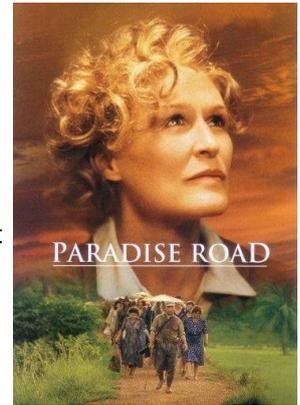
This has been another wonderful year, with the continued interest and support from so many of our members and friends helping us achieve our goals. We are looking forward to another great year in 2019. Thank you again for having a part with us in this work. Tina and I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and all the best in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Michael Hurst MBE

FEPOW DAY - AUGUST 11, 2018

This year was the 11th time that *FEPOW Day* has been celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again, we met at the Spot Theatre - #18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei on Saturday evening August 11th. Featured was a display of WWII POW and military artifacts; and after a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs, the movie "*Paradise Road*" was shown.



This excellent film, directed by Academy Award-winning Australian Bruce Beresford, told the story of the civilian women - including the Australian nurses, who were captured by the Japanese in Sumatra and how they formed a choir to help overcome their situation and torment and survive. Based on a true story, it accurately portrayed the brutality shown even to women and children by their Japanese captors. It also shows how they triumphed over their adversity.



The 48 guests who came out to the event.

The memorial service featured readings by Susan Moore, Deputy Representative, Australian Office, Chris Teunissen, Society member, and Yuchieh Ke of the AMA Museum to the Taiwanese Comfort Women with whom we work closely to share our mutual stories of the Japanese atrocities committed against them and the POWs. Sophie Lin and Robert Read of the British Office, our co-host for Remembrance Day this year, led in the FEPOW candle lighting and prayer. It was a great evening and everyone said how much they enjoyed themselves and the presentation.

FEPOW Day is a day that has been set aside every August to remember all those who were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese during World War II. We invite you to come out again next year to learn more of the story of the Far East prisoners of war (FEPOWs) and their service and sacrifice, and pay tribute to those who suffered and those who died, for the freedom we now enjoy.

LEST WE FORGET!

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!

THEODORE (TED) KAMPF
PVT., 59TH CAC, US ARMY
APRIL 15, 2018

"We Will Remember Them"

WELCOME... NEW TRADE OFFICE DIRECTORS

We are pleased to welcome Jordan Reeves, the new Executive Director at the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, and Brent Christensen the latest Director at the American Institute in Taiwan, as ex-officio members to our board.

Jordan replaces Mario Ste-Marie and Brent replaces Kin Moy, and like their predecessors, they have pledged their support and that of their facilities to helping our Society in its work of honouring and remembering the former Allied POWs who were held here in WWII.

We express our appreciation to Mario and Kin for the interest and support that they have given to our Society, and we look to working with the new directors in the days ahead to make sure that the former Taiwan POWs from these countries will never be forgotten.

IMPORTANT EMAIL NOTICE...

On sending previous newsletters to our many friends and supporters worldwide, we have received a number of bounce-backs and rejections with the reason stated as:

"451-4.3.0 Multiple destination domains per transaction is unsupported. Please try again."

It seems that these emails eventually do go through, but if you or your server have set your system security in this way, then please kindly inform your server that all emails from 'society at powtaiwan.org' are safe or you may no longer be able to receive notices of our newsletters or events.

In addition, putting our email address in your address book should also prevent this from happening. Thank you for your continued interest in the Taiwan POWs and our work, and we look forward to keeping in touch in the future.

The Takao 400 . . .

Just over 300 men died in the bombing of the *Enoura Maru*, but there are actually 400 sets of remains buried in the 20 communal graves at the Punchbowl Cemetery. Not all were from Taiwan or the *Enoura Maru*. Here's why. . .

On researching the initial story of the *Enoura Maru*, and by perusing all the declassified military and National Archives documents pertaining to the recovery of the remains of the men who were buried on the Takao spit, it was learned that in the spring of 1946 the American War Graves Recovery Team came to Taiwan and exhumed 311 sets of remains from the mass grave at Chijin and another 33 sets from two grave sites in the Fukuteikin Cemetery in Takao City. This made a total of 344 men who had either died from the bombing on January 9th or in the days previous from disease and starvation.

After exhumation, the 344 Taiwan remains were first stored in Warehouse #9 at Keelung Harbour Taiwan, and later in September 1946 they were transferred to the Graves Registration Depot in Shanghai to await identification and re-burial. In late 1948 the staff at the Shanghai Graves Depot gathered up 400 sets of remains and shipped them to the Punchbowl in a group which **they** labeled the 'Takao 400'. There were actually 56 sets of non-Taiwan remains included from other unknown places, and they were subsequently all buried together in the 20 communal graves in Section Q. Now, there is no way of knowing who those additional 56 were, but we do know the names of the 344 from Taiwan.

There has been some confusion with this issue over the years, but having the actual exhumation records and the numbers, one can clearly see that all 400 did not originate in Taiwan. Hopefully this will help to finally clarify the story.

May they all rest in peace!

GEORGE REYNOLDS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

One of my dearest and long-time FEPOW friends, George Reynolds, formerly a POW at Taihoku Camp 6, Kinkaseki and Shirakawa, celebrated his 100th birthday on July 21st this year. He has been in reasonably good health and was looking forward to getting the special Centenarian birthday card that is sent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to those who reach that magic year mark.

It was a momentous day, as he celebrated with family and friends from all over the UK - and a number of the friends he has made on his seven return trips to Taiwan over the years also conveyed their best wishes to him through the Society director.

We wish George all the best of continued good health and happiness in the days to come.

THE ENOURA MARU HELLSHIP MEMORIAL DEDICATION

As many of our readers will know, after seven years of hard work, lobbying and waiting, earlier this year we finally received approval from the Veterans Administration in America to place a stone on the Memorial Walk at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Hawaii in honour of the men who died in the bombing of the Japanese hellship *Enoura Maru* in Kaohsiung Harbour in January 1945. The long and hard effort was initiated by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society back in 2011 at the request of some of the family members of those who died, and we were later joined in the effort by the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society, who were eventually able to successfully lobby the government in Washington to get the final approval. It was a long time in coming but certainly worth the effort.

Once the approval was granted in January of this year, both Societies went to work to raise the necessary funds to build the memorial, get it shipped to Hawaii and installed on the Memorial Walk. The ADBC Memorial Society took on the responsibility for organizing the dedication ceremony which would take place on August 15th – VJ Day, as it was mostly their members who had relatives on that ship that would be taking part. Vice President of the ADBC-MS Nancy Kragh, headed the effort and did a wonderful job in bringing everything together for the event. Nancy had worked with me almost from the beginning of the project as well, as her father was one of those who died in the bombing, and she was keen to make sure his story was told and he was remembered.

Seeing the project to completion was a milestone for both POW societies in making sure that this little-known hellship story was told, and the men who had been buried in the 20 communal graves at the Punchbowl – unknown for so many years, were honoured and remembered. After several months of preparation things finally came together for what would be a wonderful event.

I flew to Honolulu on August 14th right after our FEPOW Day event on the 11th, and was joined there by society member and supporter Tony Hu who wanted to attend as well. One of my aims in going to Hawaii - aside from the memorial dedication of course, was to visit the sites of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and take in the museums and memorials. There are a number of such places around Honolulu that are under military control so the average tourist cannot go there, but being a retired Lt/Col. in the US Air Force, Tony had access to these places and offered to take me on a tour of them.

So, on arrival at Honolulu airport, Tony picked me up and we went for a visit to Hickam Air Force Base and the Pearl Harbour Navy Base. At Hickam we saw where the Japanese had strafed and bombed the hangars and buildings - the bullet and shrapnel holes are still in the walls of the buildings as they have been since that fateful day of December 7th 1941. We toured the base and saw a number of aircraft, and then we visited the naval base and the submarine base and saw various types of ships. Then over to Ford Island where the main Japanese attack on battleship row and the air base took place. We viewed the USS Oklahoma Memorial and the Ford Island Control Tower which can be seen in all the movies, along with the hangars which still had bullet holes through the windows of the hangar doors. It was really a step back in time and one got the feeling of what it must have been like to be there on that fateful Sunday morning. It was a fitting beginning to a wonderful week of learning and remembering. My thanks to Tony for a great day.



Hickam AFB HQ still bears the scars of the December 7th strafing.

When booking my reservation at the Pagoda Hotel several months previous to the event, I was fortunate to come into contact with Jana Duncan, one of the sales team and whose father had been a Pearl Harbour veteran and survivor. She also works as a volunteer at the USS Arizona Memorial and was very interested in our event and asked if she could attend, and I told her of course she could.

So on Wednesday August 15th, a beautiful Hawaii morning, Jana and I drove out to the cemetery a little after 10 am. We had plenty of time to visit the 20 graves of the *Enoura Maru* men, and while there I took the opportunity to find the graves of some other Taiwan POWs and take photos of them to send to their families. We then made our way to the Memorial Walk and the Overlook and spent much time there taking photos of the memorials and also the wonderful views of Honolulu, Waikiki and Diamond Head. My thanks to Jana, I certainly couldn't have done all that without her help. While at the memorial I met Jim Erickson, a fellow researcher and long-time friend and authority on the hellships. It was great to finally meet him after many years of working together on so many POW projects.



With Jim Erickson at the memorial.

(Cont'd on page 6)

ENOURA MARU HELLSHIP MEMORIAL DEDICATION *(cont'd)*

On arrival at the big tent that had been set up for the ceremony, I met the folks from the ADBC Memorial Society. What an honour to finally meet my fellow co-workers in this wonderful project - Nancy Kragh and Jan Thompson the President of the Society, and a number of those who would be taking part in the program.

Former POW Dan Crowley 96, was present for the occasion, although he had not been a POW on either hellship. A number of family members of the *Enoura Maru* POWs were in attendance, as well as many dignitaries from the military, the government, AMVETS, the VFW and several other veterans' organizations.

ADBC Memorial Society President Jan Thompson began the ceremony by welcoming all those present, and after the opening formalities concluded, Jim Erickson shared the story of the hellship voyages of the *Oryoku*, *Enoura* and *Brazil Marus*. Then I had the privilege of telling how the *Enoura Maru* tragedy had first been commemorated in Taiwan in 2005, which led to the building of the Taiwan Hellships Memorial in 2006, and the subsequent plan for the building of the memorial at the Punchbowl which we were dedicating that day. I was also privileged to read a message of congratulations sent to our gathering by the Taiwan Minister of Veterans Affairs, General Chiu, Kuo-Cheng (Ret.)



Jan Thompson addressing the crowd.

Statements from some of the *Enoura Maru* survivors were read by Jan and Jim, and then Lisa Pozzebon, Executive Director, Cemetery Operations of the Veterans Administration addressed the gathering. She was followed by Brigadier General Thomas J. Tickner of the US Army, Director General of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu Michael Tseng, and finally Captain John Shimotsu of the US Navy Chaplain Corps. The formal service concluded with the flypast of a World War II era Mooney aircraft over the site.

A special tribute was rendered when the Governor of the State of Hawaii David Y. Ige, proclaimed August 15th 2018 as **Pacific War Heroes Day** - "In recognition of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society dedicating a memorial stone at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in memory of the American and Allied POWs who died in Takao Harbour".

It was a long and hard struggle to get this memorial done, but by working together with the ADBC-MS we have finally been able to realize our dream, and that of the families of the *Enoura Maru* men - to have this very fitting memorial stone placed on the Walk of Remembrance in their honour. **They will not be forgotten!**

The following day, Thursday the 16th at 3:15pm, our group was treated to a specially arranged boat tour around Ford Island. Prior to meeting the group at 3 pm I decided to go to the 'World War II Valour in the Pacific' Centre and visit the *USS Bowfin* submarine and Museum, and also the *USS Arizona* Museum. I got to thoroughly explore the sub and took some wonderful photos. It was a sub like this - the *USS Sealion II*, that had torpedoed the hellship *Rakuyo Maru* on which my two Australian uncles died in September 1944. After lunch I visited the *USS Arizona* Museum and then met our group for the tour.



USS Bowfin – SS-287

The boat trip around Ford Island was fantastic as we got to see the remains of the sunken battleship *USS Utah* and the airfield and hangars just as they had been on December 7th. We sailed up battleship row seeing where all of the former great ships had been berthed and passed the *USS Missouri* from the waterside before coming upon the *USS Arizona* Memorial. Somehow being out on the waters of Pearl Harbour itself made one able to imagine a bit more and feel closer to what had happened there 77 years ago.

Later that evening I was privileged to be able to share a little of the Taiwan POWs' story with the Hickam-Pearl Harbour Rotary Club District 5000 of which Jana is a member. She is one busy lady and involved in so many things in the community.

On Friday the 17th I once again made my way back to the 'Valour in the Pacific' Centre to visit the *USS Missouri* and Pacific Air Museum which are located on Ford Island. The *USS Missouri* had looked majestic from the waters of Pearl Harbour the day before, but now being up close it was huge! I took in the excellent docent-led tour and then afterwards I further explored the ship inside and out. Especially meaningful was the surrender deck where the peace treaty with Japan was signed at the end of the war. The *Missouri* has been placed strategically in front of the remains of the sunken *USS Arizona*, thus signifying the beginning of the war for America in 1941 and its end in 1945.

(Cont'd on Page 9)

NEW MEMORIAL FOR L/BDR. GEORGE HARRISON, GNR. ALFRED FOSTER AND 5TH FIELD REG'T. MEN IN THE UK



George Harrison

L/Bdr. George Harrison, a medical orderly attached to the 5th Field Reg't. Royal Artillery, was truly one of the heroes of the Kinkaseki and Kukutsu POW Camps. Working alongside the doctors and the other orderlies in the camp, and also as the only medic down the mine at Kinkaseki, he helped save the lives of many of the men who

otherwise might have died from accidents, unattended injuries or disease.

Following our first meeting at a reunion in the UK in 1999 we became close friends and kept in touch often. He offered many stories of the camps and his time in them, as well as drawings of which being a commercial artist, he was ever prolific in doing. He had also made many sketches and drawings as a POW and shared those with me as well.

He passed away in December 2006, and when it was discovered that he would have no final resting place, the Society decided to have his ashes and also those of his wife who had pre-deceased him a year earlier, interred at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium in Crawley, Sussex where he had lived all his life.

Working with the Society's UK rep of the time, Cliff Foster, who was also Chairman of Royal British Legion Crawley Branch #2185 back then, we also learned that due to lack of finances in the family at the time, Cliff's father - also a Gnr. in the 5th Field Reg't., and his wife had never had a proper memorial either. So it was decided to erect some kind of memorial to the two men, and on working with the crematorium staff and at their suggestion, it was decided to place a memorial bench in the garden in their honour and in remembrance of them and the other Taiwan POWs.

Over the next year the plan was announced by the Society and the necessary funds were raised to cover the cost of the interment service and the memorial bench. Thus on September 30th 2008, while on a visit to the UK for a Taiwan POW Reunion in Newcastle, the interment of the ashes and dedication of the memorial bench took place.

Three former Taiwan POWs - George Reynolds, Stan Vickerstaff and Jack Fowler, made the special effort to be with us on the day. The RBL Padre officiated at the service, along with an RBL Standard bearer - in all a very formal, proper and fitting ceremony. There were also representatives of the local Horley Branch of the Royal Artillery Association present to honour the men. Maj/Gen. Michael Steele, President of the branch paid tribute to George, his life and his service. George Reynolds, former Bdr. 5TH Field Reg't. R.A. also brought a tribute to his friend.



Service of interment for George & Gladys - 2008



The original wooden bench.

In the years that followed, with the weather and the fact that the bench was only meant to last ten years, it was decided to replace the wooden bench with one made of granite and which would remain there in perpetuity to honour and remember the men. Working with the crematorium staff once again, arrangements were made and a beautiful granite bench was procured and installed in July 2018.



The new granite memorial bench with plaques honouring George and Alfred and the 5th FR men.

We are very grateful to the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium management for coming up with this plan and for donating the new memorial bench on our behalf in honour of the Far East prisoners of war. Now the memory of George and Alfred will live on, and in keeping with our aims, they will never be forgotten.



REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2018



This year's Remembrance Week event was unique as we only had one overseas guest, and this time from the USA rather than the UK or the Commonwealth. It is only the second time in 21 years that we have had an American take part in our November event. This year's guest represented one of the high-ranking American officers.

Col. Frank M. Brezina, QMC US Army Luzon Force, came to Taiwan with General Wainwright from the Philippines in August 1942 and was interned first at Karenko Camp. After 10 months of poor treatment and abuse by the Japanese, the men were moved to Shirakawa Camp near Bai-He on June 8th 1943. Sadly, he was the first to die there on June 26th. His granddaughter Dr. Elizabeth M. Pepe from Florida came seeking to follow in his footsteps.

As usual, the first days of the tour were spent with a visit to the former Kinkaseki Camp and POW Memorial Park at Jinguashi, some historic sightseeing in the Taipei area and a lovely dinner hosted by the representative of the British Office Catherine Nettleton.

Remembrance Day November 11th 2018 was also a bit different from those held over the past 20 years. This year was the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I exactly to the day, and we wanted to have a special commemorative event to remember this milestone of history. More than 120 people turned out for the service which featured remembrances of WW I 100 years ago, in addition to the usual POW tributes.

The service started at 10:45 and after opening remarks and welcome by Mark Wilkie and a number by our Canadian piper Mal Turner, exactly at 11:00 am the bell from the nearby Chiyaji Temple tolled to commemorate the time exactly 100 years ago, when the guns finally fell silent after four bitter years of war, and bells rang out all across Britain, France and Belgium as the people celebrated the end of what was then called 'the war to end all wars'. All across the UK, France, Belgium, Canada, Australia, the United States and other countries, bells were scheduled to ring out at that exact same time on this date, and in Taiwan we wanted to join with them on the day in this act of celebration and remembrance. A minute's silence was observed in gratitude and respect for those who fought and died in that war. Representative Nettleton and the Society Director both shared first-hand stories of family members who had served and died in WW I, and this was followed by a recitation of "In Flanders Fields" by the Director.

Tributes were also rendered by the Taiwan Minister of Veterans Affairs Gen. Chiu, Kuo-Cheng (Ret.) and Lt/Gen. Liu, Ai-Di (Ret.) Vice-President of the Veterans Association of the ROC. Then Dr. Pepe spoke about the grandfather she never knew and her trip back to Taiwan to trace his footsteps, before reading 'A Time to Remember'. Society member Lt/Col. Tony Hu USAF (Ret.) read 'What is a Veteran?' followed by member Rebecca Day with the 'Tribute to the POWs'. Finally, nine year-old Abigail Cowan read for us 'Remember' - our pledge to always remember those who served, those who fought, and those who died for the freedoms that we enjoy today. Abigail is symbolic of the new generation who will carry on the tradition and make sure that in the next 100 years those who fought in all these wars will never be forgotten!

The Rev. Dr. Herbert Barker, the Society's Chaplain, brought a wonderful message and the Prayer of Remembrance, and this was followed by the laying of the wreaths and the carrying out of the Act of Remembrance. Another special feature this year was re-enactor Deryk Walker dressed as a WW I soldier standing guard at the memorial during the wreath-laying ceremony. After the service a great time of fellowship followed over lunch.



(L – R): Piper Mal Turner, the crowd at the ceremony, Deryk Walker, Minister Chiu, and Abigail Cowan.

On Monday and Tuesday we visited the former camps in Hualien and Bai-He, and after a walk-about around the former camp sites, a short memorial service was held at each. We want to thank members John Collins in Hualien and Warren Brewer of Huwei and the Ministry of National Defense for their help in making these visits for Elizabeth a great success. Our Remembrance Week event was very special and we look forward to another great time next year.



Remembering Col. Brezina at Karenko & Shirakawa

ENOURA MARU MEMORIAL DEDICATION *(Cont'd from Page 6)*

Then it was over to the Pacific Air Museum, and having worked in aviation for a number of years and loving airplanes, I was in another world for a couple more hours. The two hangars of the museum contain a number of historic World War II aircraft and excellent dioramas, as well as a range of more modern jets and helicopters.



The Battleship USS Missouri BB-63



The USS Arizona Memorial



The Pacific Air Museum



The Enoura Maru Stone on the Memorial Walk

During my stay in Hawaii I met a lot of folks at various places, and whenever they would ask what I was doing there, I would share the story of the Taiwan POWs, the Enoura Maru tragedy and our mission to make sure that the men were remembered. Those I talked with were both interested and fascinated in what I had to say, and it was rewarding to see their response knowing that a bit more of the Taiwan POWs' story was now better known to them.

It was a wonderful tour and I was pleased that I was able to see and do all I wanted. Having witnessed so many aspects of the Pacific War first-hand made a lasting impression on me which I won't soon forget. We must never forget the sacrifices made for our freedom!

[For more of the story please see the article on our website.]

WHAT OUR POW CAMP TOURS MEAN TO THE STUDENTS

Every year in the spring the Taipei European International School arranges for the Society director to give a lecture on the POWs to the Grade 9 history students and this is always followed up with a visit to the former POW Camp and mine and the POW Memorial Park in Jinguashi. This past year the group of about 40 students enjoyed exploring the former WWII POW camp in person. It is a great opportunity for them that they would not have in their home country and it is our honour to do it.

Noa Shumueli, one of the Grade 9 students wrote a report of what the tour meant to him and shared it with us, and we would like to reprint it here. . .

The sun shone high above as the bus full of Year 9s drove up the winding slopes of Ruifang, passing through JiouFen and finally arriving at our destination: Jinguashi. Kindly accompanied by Michael Hurst, the Founder and Director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, we left the bus and stepped into the Jinguashi Gold Ecological Park. The view surrounding us was stunning - wooden structures and red ruins tracing their way down the looming mountains in the distance. Mr Hurst - who had already given us a fascinating introduction and background about the involvement of Asia in WW2 - told us about the unbelievably horrifying conditions and treatment of the Prisoners of War in Taiwan during the Japanese rule.

The memorials, mines and artifacts made the stories real and alive as our voices echoed in the dark mines. We learned how the prisoners were beaten and humiliated, and we stood in silence in respect for their sacrifice and suffering. The combination of the stories with the fact that we were there - stepping where the starving soldiers stepped, tracing their names on the wall inscribed in their honour - touched me personally, very much. The trip was heartbreaking and yet a very essential part of our learning. It connected what we learned in class - from textbooks, from presentations - with a place we've now been in, and with people we've never met. The beauty and the history behind Jinguashi will always remain in our minds. As Mr Hurst said: we should forgive but never forget.

We Will Remember.

Knowing that we are reaching this younger generation with the POWs' story, and that they are the ones who must carry the story on for future generations, makes our work worthwhile and stories like this so rewarding.

POW CAMP TOURS

TRACY BEATTIE & NICOLA COOK

On Saturday September 21st I had the pleasure to escort Tracy Beattie (r), the daughter of my good friend TBRC Director Rod Beattie and her friend Nicola Cook on a tour of the former Kinkaseki Camp and POW Memorial Park. They were visiting Taiwan on a break from university studies in Korea. It was exciting to see their enthusiasm for the POWs' story, knowing that it is their generation that will be helping to carry it on.



VFW DPA COMMANDER, MICHAEL VERVILLE

As part of Taiwan's Double-Ten National Day event every year, the ROC Veterans Affairs Council invites the Department of Pacific Area Commander of the VFW to participate, and this year we were privileged to host a tour to Kinkaseki for Michael Verville who is based in the Philippines. It was a terrible rainy day with a vicious blowing wind – as Michael termed it “sideways rain”, so we didn't actually do that much exploring. We did visit the POW camp and Memorial Park and a bouquet of flowers was laid on the memorial, so in the end it was a good day.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .

Over the past number of years as I have gone about my daily routine of life, I have often been suddenly jolted by reality as I compared what I was doing at that very moment to how it must have been for the POWs here on Taiwan those many years ago.

For example, one Monday morning I woke up, not feeling “all that well” - most likely having a touch of the flu. My body ached from fever and I felt listless and tired. I didn't feel like getting up and going to work that morning and decided to remain in the snug confines of my bed until this had all passed.

As I lay there contemplating my sorry state, my memory drifted back to one of the POW's diaries I had recently been reading. In it he told of experiences just like mine - where he and many of his mates felt so weak and ill when they heard the call for reveille each morning, that all they wanted to do was pull the blankets up over their heads and go back to sleep. But they had to get up and go to “work” anyway - most

often at the “urging” of the guards and often at bayonet point! There was no “option”, they just HAD to go, no matter how badly they felt or how sick they were.

Sometime later, for some unknown reason I contracted a case of diarrhea, and as I frequented my nice sanitary bathroom in relative “comfort” with its plentiful supply of toilet paper, I began to think of the POWs and the multitude cases of dysentery and diarrhea that they had to contend with. They had no toilet paper and no proper facilities to use most of the time. I thought of them being force-marched to work and then made to slave under horrid conditions - still plagued by the need to frequently stop and attend to the call of nature, knowing even then, that as they did so, they would not be able to complete the work required of them which would result in a further beating at the end of the day.

In December - when the weather turns quite cold in Taipei, I find myself complaining about the damp bitter cold as I put on an extra sweater and turn up the electric heater a bit more. Then my mind returns to another POW's story of his time here in the Taihoku Camp when the weather was so cold and he despaired of ever being warm again. The crude wood and bamboo huts were drafty and let in the rain and cold, and with no heaters it was impossible to get warm. This went on day after day - for many weeks!

The prisoners never had an abundance of clothes - most wore only a shirt and trousers in the coldest months of winter, sometimes augmented with a sweater or jacket if they could get their hands on one. At night they slept on beds made of planks with only a couple of rough wool army blankets to keep them warm. My bed was soft and warm and I could have all the blankets I wanted to keep warm. I thought of this POW who survived the war, and I wondered if I could have done the same under similar circumstances.

When it comes to food, I am usually fine with almost anything, and not one to complain about what I am served. However, living in Taiwan and having rice as the main staple dish did make me wish for other varieties of food now and again. Whenever I get thinking this way now, I am reminded once again of the POWs and that they had NOTHING but rice basically - three times a day - EVERYDAY for 3 1/2 YEARS! To go with this, they did have a thin watery green soup, and now and again some sweet potato tops, a bit of cabbage or other “unknown” vegetables. Occasionally they were given bananas or oranges - OF WHICH THEY ATE THE SKINS, PEELS AND ALL, and on very special occasions the POW cooks were given a bit of pork to go into the stew. One wonders what a bit of pork could do to enhance the taste and nutritional value of a stew for 700 men!

So let us all be mindful as we go about our lives today - what it was like for the POWs back then, and what they suffered in their everyday life in the camps - not to mention the beatings and the ravages of disease, to bring us our freedom and the peace and prosperity that we enjoy today –

JUST THINK ABOUT IT!