



# Never Forgotten

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FALL – WINTER 2014

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



*The War & Peace Park in Kaohsiung – location of the Taiwan Hellships Memorial*



*Another part of the Hellships Memorial*



*Upper left: The newly re-constructed Taiwan Hellships Memorial.*

*Left: At age 96, former Taihoku Camp # 6 POW George Reynolds returns to see the memorial erected on the site of his old camp.*

*Right: Bidding Farewell and thanks to Australian Trade Office Director Kevin Magee.*



**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](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org)

Please visit our website at:  
[www.powtaiwan.org](http://www.powtaiwan.org)

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

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

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

**Prof. Jerome Keating, PhD.** - Professor, Writer;  
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**William Wang** - Transportation Supervisor, Taipei  
American School, Military enthusiast

**Jack Hsu** - Ret. Lt. Cmdr., ROC Navy

**Stuart Saunders** - President, Esdesign Industrial  
Design

### **OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES. . .**

**UK - Cliff Foster** [Devgunner67@virginmedia.com](mailto:Devgunner67@virginmedia.com)

**Aust. - Rod Martin** [ramartin46@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ramartin46@optusnet.com.au)

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Commerce and Industry Office, Taipei

**Christopher Marut** - Director, American Institute  
in Taiwan

## **LOGO of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY**

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

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

- \* to continue the search for survivors of the Taiwan POW camps from 1942 – 45.
- \* to search for the locations of the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan. [ *completed* ]
- \* to ensure the memory of the Taiwan POWs is not forgotten. [ *ongoing* ]
- \* to help with the organization of, and participate in, the memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi every November. [ *ongoing* ]
- \* to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history.
- \* to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story. [ *ongoing* ]

## **LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . . all found !**

1. KINKASEKI #1 (Jinguashi)
2. TAICHU #2 (Taichung)
3. HEITO #3 (PingTung)
4. SHIRAKAWA #4 (Chiayi)
5. TAIHOKU #5 MOSAK (Taipei)
6. TAIHOKU #6 (Taipei)
7. KARENKO (Hualien)
8. TAMAZATO (Yuli)
9. INRIN (Yuanlin)
10. INRIN TEMP. (Yuanlin)
11. TOROKU (Touliu)
12. TAKAO (Kaohsiung)
13. KUKUTSU (Taipei)
14. OKA (Taipei)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

## *Thought . . .*

“A positive attitude may not solve all of your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.”

## **AUGUST 9, 2014 FEPOW DAY IN TAIWAN -**

On Saturday August 9th the Society held our 7th FEPOW Day event in Taiwan at the SPOT THEATRE in downtown Taipei.

The display of POW and military artifacts attracted a lot of attention and interest, and it was great to see so many old friends as well as some newcomers in attendance this year. We had the largest crowd ever with almost 70 persons present.

After a short introduction about FEPOW Day and the POW Society and the introduction of some special guests, the memorial service to honour and remember the POWs was conducted by Mark Wilkie and featured readings by Jeff Kang, Chairman of the Taiwanese Veterans Association, and long-time members Rebecca Day and Chris Teunissen before Kathleen Mackay Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office led the group in the FEPOW Memory Pledge as the FEPOW Candle was lit. This was followed by a minute's silence.



Following the service the film "**The Railway Man**" was shown and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Four things come across in this riveting film – the terrible suffering of the POWs at the hands of the Japanese, the trauma and PTSD experienced by the men on their return home after the war, the struggle by wives and families of the former POWs to understand and cope with what happened to them and to support them, and lastly that it is possible to forgive and have reconciliation and peace - "*Sometime the hating has to stop!*" - Lomax.

After a short intermission the documentary "**Enemy My Friend**" was shown. This film depicts the actual reunion of Eric Lomax and Takashi Nagase at the River Kwai Bridge in 1993 and was a compliment to the feature film.

We thank all those who came to this year's event and hope to see more of our friends and supporters out again next year, along with some more new faces as well. In the meantime –

**"Keep the candle burning"**

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .**

This has been another fantastic year for the Society with many exciting things taking place.

We had a great **FEPOW Day event** in August, with the showing of the movies "**The Railway Man**" and also "**Enemy My Friend**", and the largest crowd ever. Interest in the Taiwan POWs' story just continues to grow, our membership is rapidly expanding as well and I'm sure that the former surviving POWs and their families are glad to see this as well – as further assurance that they and their mates will not be forgotten.

As mentioned in our last newsletter we have basically completed building the POW memorials around the island, but there was one project which remained unfinished at that time. Our **Taiwan Hellships Memorial** that we had erected in the *War and Peace Park* at Chijin, Kaohsiung Harbour back in 2006, needed to be moved due to extensive coastal erosion which threatened to wash the memorials into the sea. So in the summer of 2012 our original memorial was dismantled and the green marble plaques were put in storage. We are happy to report that in summer the park has been refurbished and the plaques from our memorial have been re-set into a secure stone wall well away from the seashore.

This of course necessitated a re-dedication of the memorial in its new location and this was done on Tuesday November 11th during our annual visit to the POW camps in the central and south part of the island. After visiting Heito Camp in the morning we went over to Kaohsiung and held the dedication ceremony before returning to Taipei later that afternoon. (See the full story on page 5)

**Remembrance Week** was another huge success. We had fifteen guests including our old friend and former POW George Reynolds who came back for what he says should be his last visit, but at 96 nothing seems to be slowing him down.

This year we visited the sites of six POW camps and held memorial services at each one. The POW banquet was well attended as was the Remembrance Day service at Kinkaseki with so many coming to remember and pay their respects to the POWs and the veterans. (See page 6 -7)

Our POW camp tours are very popular with individuals, local groups and schools, and during the summer and fall we ran a number of them.

Lastly, my book on the Taiwan POW camps and the men is well underway and we expect to have it out in the spring. Stay tuned for further information.

Tina and I would like to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and all the best in 2015.

Sincerely,

*Michael Hurst MBE*

# In Memoriam

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

*We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families of these men and assure them that although they are no longer with us, they will not be forgotten!*

## **RAYMOND J. HARPER**

Y1C., US NAVY  
FEBRUARY 4, 2014

## **PHILLIP W. COON**

PFC., 59TH CAC, US ARMY  
JUNE 23, 2014

## **MERLE E. LYPE**

SGT. 17 PS 24 PG US ARMY AIR CORPS  
AUGUST 13, 2014

## **N. STANLEY VICKERSTAFF**

SGMN., 9/11TH INDIAN DIVISION SIGNALS  
NOVEMBER 5, 2014

*"We Will Remember Them"*

## PLEASE HELP US - NOW!

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

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

## BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

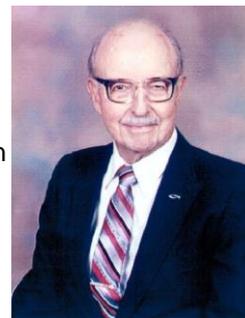
### A word regarding donations to the Society:

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

## MORE FRIENDS GONE!

### RAY HARPER. . .

On February 4th of this year my good friend Ray Harper passed away. I have known Ray since 2005 and of all the American ex-POWs on Taiwan he was one of my dearest friends. Whenever I went to Canada every year I would always phone him - as I do many of the former POWs who live in the States, and we always had such great chats.



He was a POW at Toroku Camp, arriving off the hellship *Hokusen Maru* in November 1944. He remained at that camp until January 1945 when he was sent on to Japan.

He told me many things about his time as a POW and shared a lot of valuable material and information with me. He was always such an encouragement to me in my work. He was a fine Christian and a good friend and I will not forget him!

### STAN VICKERSTAFF. . .



Stan - as he was known by so many in the FEPOW world, was one of my oldest and dearest friends. He was one of the first to come to Taiwan back in 1998 and he returned again on three more occasions.

Tina and I also stayed with him and his son Roger in their home in Nottingham on several of our visits to the UK, and we enjoyed many a pleasant time together.

He had an incredibly good memory and shared so much of his story and that of the camps he was in with me. He was instrumental in helping us to verify the location of the Taihoku # 6 Camp and also the area where the POWs dug the man-made lake for the Japanese victory park near there.

Despite what he suffered as a POW, Stan enjoyed remarkably good health throughout the rest of his life. The only time he was ever in hospital up until this year was to visit other friends who were there. He was a member of several FEPOW Clubs and drove everywhere around the country to meetings and POW reunions. The photo above was taken this past August as he attended the Java Club FEPOW event.

He always had a smile and an encouraging word for those he met. His soft-spoken manner endeared him to everyone he came in contact with and he will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved him.

He passed away on November 5th - the first day of this year's Remembrance Week event, and our sympathy goes out to Roger and the other members of his family. He was one-of-a-kind and I will never forget him - rest in peace my friend!

# THE RELOCATION OF THE TAIWAN HELLSHIPS MEMORIAL



*Above: 2012 Photo showing extensive erosion damage to the coastline at the back of the War & Peace Park, which was endangering the memorials.*

*Below: Removing the green marble plaques from the original memorial.*



*Reconstructed War & Peace Park at Chijin, Kaohsiung – the Hellships Memorial is on the wall at the right.*



*The participants in the War & Peace Park Museum*

Our Taiwan Hellships Memorial that was erected in the *War and Peace Park* at Chijin, Kaohsiung Harbour back in 2006, needed to be moved due to extensive coastal erosion which threatened to wash the memorials into the sea. So in the summer of 2012 our original memorial was dismantled and the green marble plaques were put in storage. We are happy to report that early this year the park was refurbished and the plaques from our memorial have been re-set into a secure stone wall well away from the seashore.

On November 11th – Remembrance / Veterans Day, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society held a ceremony to re-dedicate the new "*Taiwan Hellships Memorial*". Society Director Michael Hurst introduced the story of the Taiwan hellships, and following this the poem "A Song of the Sea" was read by Gail Myers whose father Gnr. Norman Scott of the AIF came to Kaohsiung on the *England Maru* with Gen. Percival's group in August 1942.

Messages of tribute were offered by representatives of the United States and British Governments and the Taiwan Veterans Association, and then Lin Mount - whose father Jack Farmer of the 155th Field Reg't. RA, came to Keelung Harbour on the second voyage of the *England Maru* to Taiwan in November 1942, read the poem "Dare We Forget".

Following a prayer of remembrance and dedication, poppy wreaths and white roses were laid on the newly built memorial. The very moving ceremony concluded with the playing of Last Post, a moment's silence and Reveille, and then the "Ode of Remembrance" was read by everyone present. Our thoughts were with all those men who were on the hellships that passed through Taiwan, and those who had fathers or other relatives on those ships.



*Orville Humfleet, local VFW Commander at the new Taiwan Hellships Memorial.*

The *Taiwan Hellships Memorial* complements the *World War II Hellships Memorial* located at Subic Bay in the Philippines, to further tell the story of this tragic part of history and to ensure that the memory of those who suffered and died on the hellships will never be forgotten!"

# REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2014

Once again this year we had a wonderful Remembrance Week event with 15 overseas guests from the UK and Australia taking part.

We were especially privileged to have 96 year-old former Taiwan POW George Reynolds return once again for his seventh visit. He had told me earlier this year that he wanted to come back one more time to see the Memorial Wall that we had erected in the POW Memorial Park at Kinkaseki in 2011.

In addition to George, we were pleased to also have with us the families of British POWs - Sgt. William Anderson, L/Sgt. John Farmer, Pte. Robert McAdam, Gnr. Ken Pett, Brigadier Claude Richards, L/Bdr. Russell Ward, and Australian POW Gnr. Norman Scott of the AIF - who made the journey back to Taiwan this time.

Our event started off as usual with a visit to Jinguashi and shortly after arrival, on finding a group of local residents busily engaged in some landscaping work, George treated us to a demonstration in the use of one of their chunkels – the same slave tool he had once used down the mine.



Later we were hosted by the Deputy Director and staff of the Gold Ecological Park and toured the museum and mine tunnel together before moving on to the site of the former camp where George finally got his wish to see the wall. Needless to say, he - and the other POW family members spent a lot of time there and the memories of former mates and family members occupied everyone's thoughts.



*The Group by the POW Memorial Wall*

The next day was spent in some local Taipei sightseeing before visiting the site of the former Taihoku Camp #6. Besides George, several of our visitors had family members who were there at various times, so the visit was important to them. We were joined by personnel from the Ministry of Defense who welcomed the guests and also took part in the wreath-laying ceremony.



*Rob McAdam (l) and Eric (& Mair) Ward (r) had fathers at Taihoku Camp before and after Kinkaseki.*

Saturday morning saw the group pay a visit to the Kukutsu 'jungle' Camp for another memorial service with our local friends there. The Community Chief presented a floral tribute from the government, several members read poems and tributes, and Rev. Barker, our chaplain, brought a prayer of remembrance. Following the service we had a walk-about tour of the former campsite.



The POW Banquet that evening was well attended with the family members and George sharing thoughts and memories and what their visit meant to them. We want to thank the Howard Plaza Hotel for their help in making the banquet the great success that it was.

The weather had been perfect all week thus far but on Sunday morning things changed and we were greeted with an early morning rain. Fortunately it stopped in time for the Remembrance Day service which was attended by well over 100 people.

This year's co-host for the event was the British Trade & Cultural Office in Taipei, and Director Chris Wood and his staff were a wonderful help in making sure that everything ran smoothly. Our special thanks to Irene Yang for her untiring efforts. The ROC Veterans Affairs Commission once again helped out by providing the flag poles and assistance in setting things up. They were ably assisted by a number of the veterans as well.

*(cont'd on page 7)*

# REMEMBRANCE WEEK *(con't.)*

Here are a few photo memories from the service:



Monday morning ushered in another nice day as the group began to go their separate ways. While some departed for Singapore and home, Rob McAdam stayed in Taipei and had the opportunity to visit the old Taipei Railway Repair Shops where his father had worked while a POW in Taihoku Camp. He was finally able to complete his quest to walk in the footsteps of his father in all of the places where he was while here in Taiwan years ago. Rob left Taipei later that evening.

The rest of the group set out to visit the sites of other camps on the island where their loved ones had been. The first stop was the former Shirakawa Camp near Chiayi where we met the Hou family and our military hosts for a walk around the area of the former camp and a service of remembrance. Former camp guard Mr. Hou Sr. shared some pictures and stories with the group as we walked and then the service took place.

Shirakawa was a camp for the senior officers after they left Karenko Camp in Hualien, and guest Fleur Stephenson's grandfather Brigadier Claude Richards, a high-ranking British officer, was imprisoned there until leaving for Manchuria in late 1944. In fact Fleur as a child and her parents were also imprisoned as civilian internees after the fall of Hong Kong from 1941-45.



*The group at Shirakawa Camp with Mr. Hou*

Fleur's husband Gordon, who has written a book on the senior officers in the camps entitled "*The Fatal Flag*" shared some 'memories' from the diary of Brig. Richards and Fleur read the poem "Remember". It is not often that we have the families of senior officers here so this was a special occasion.

Next we were off to PingTung – the site of the former Heito Camp and on arrival spent a bit of time visiting the former PingTung Sugar Factory where many of the POWs worked. Our hosts from the PingTung County Gov't. made us welcome as usual.

Early next morning we went to Heito Camp for a walk around and another service. Here it was L/Sgt. Jack Farmer of the 155th Field Reg't and Gnr. Norman Scott of the 2/10th Field Reg't AIF who were specially remembered. Farmer was remembered by his widow Eileen Astley and daughter Lin Mount, and Scott by daughter Gail Myers and her husband Ian.



*Lin by the old barracks / Gail reads at the service*

Being that we were at Heito Camp at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we arranged the service to take place with the 2 minutes silence at exactly that moment, and it was very moving for all to be in that special place at that very hour.

With one more stop on our itinerary that day we headed off to Kaohsiung for the dedication of the newly re-constructed Taiwan Hellships Memorial. We were hosted by the Taiwanese Veterans Association, treated to lovely lunch and given a tour of the museum before the service. We want to thank Jeff Kang, Chairman of the TVA and Jeff Juang director of the War & Peace Park and museum for their dedication and help.

There was still one more camp to be visited and so on Wednesday we were off to Hualien on the train for a visit to the former Karenko Senior Officers' Camp. Here Fleur got to see where her grandfather was as we did a tour around the ROC MP Base which now occupies the site. There are a number of things still preserved on the site like the former camp commander's house and foundation of the Japanese guards billet. After the tour we held a short memorial service before returning to Taipei again.



*Gordon and Fleur on the docks of the old Hualien Harbour where her grandfather and the other senior officers would have come ashore back in 1942.*

All in all it was a wonderful Remembrance Week event this year and we hope to continue to host many more in the years to come!

## AMAZING EVENTS – BELIEVE IT OR NOT!!!

Many years ago as a boy, I grew up reading a fascinating column which appeared daily in the newspaper entitled "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" The articles featured stories of incredible things and happenings that were literally almost unbelievable, and of course they captivated a young inquisitive mind. Well over the past couple of months two things have taken place which show once again how strange things can happen through coincidence and chance, and both took place during my ongoing search for artifacts for our future POW museum.

### THE 'BOMBS' AT THE VATICAN EMBASSY

On October 6th I was invited by the Netherlands Trade Office in Taipei to attend a dinner concert featuring some young Dutch musicians who were touring Asia. The seating for the dinner was assigned and I found myself seated next to the Deputy Ambassador of the Holy See – The Vatican Embassy, Rev. Ivan Santus. During the meal we talked about our work and as I shared with him what I do, his interest piqued. He then told me that their old embassy building was being demolished to make way for a new building and that they had two old 'bombs' in storage that had been there for over 50 years and they were wondering what they could do with them. Of course I asked if I could see them and offered to take them off their hands for our museum, not knowing at the time what or how big they were.

A couple of weeks later I went over to the old embassy for a look at this 'treasure'. It turned out that they were not bombs but some kind of artillery / mortar shells – deactivated and inert, and very heavy. I decided to take them - much to the delight of Rev. Santus. We found a box that fit the shells and I made two trips home with my new artifacts strapped on the back of my motorcycle. They now have a proud place in a corner of my office and will certainly be displayed in our museum in the future.

I did a bit of research into what these shells might be, but at this point I have not been able to determine what they are. Further investigation - with experts who know more than I, is ongoing at this time, but isn't it amazing who you can find yourself seated beside at a dinner and what can come of it for the benefit of both parties – *Believe It or Not!!!*



(L-R) The shells at the embassy, interior view, with my treasure, the 'bomb disposal' crew

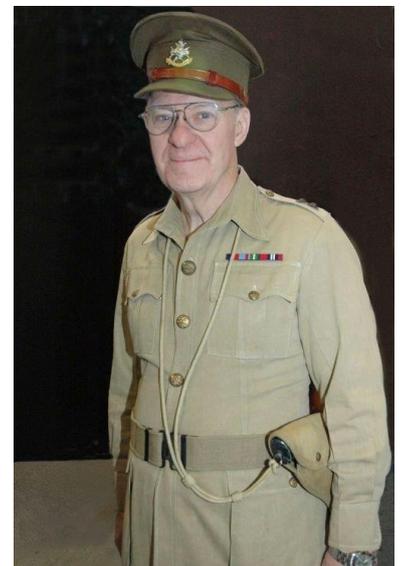
### AN AMAZING FIND

In 2012 I joined a military re-enactors club here in Taiwan that is dedicated to the hobby of correct historical re-enactment, and also education and remembrance of those who fought and died in the various military conflicts. Activities include actual battle re-enactments, as well as appearing at other events and shows to add atmosphere and help educate the visitors. It is also a great chance to further tell the POWs' story.

Recently I took part in a plastic model show with some of our club members. I was dressed in my 'British Officer in S'pore 1941' outfit, and a young Taiwanese man approached me to see if I needed or wanted any more equipment. He had previously been a British army re-enactor 10 years ago and didn't need his gear any longer, so being interested I made an appointment with him to see what he had.

It turned out that he had all the necessary equipment for an officer as well as a regular soldier, and as it was almost all genuine WWII equipment, I ended up buying everything he had. Basically it was purchased for our museum displays, and it will also work for events, educational visits to schools, and museum promotion.

One of the items that he had aroused both our curiosities. It was a typical British "Tommie" helmet from WWII, but the inside liner was different from the usual ones you see, and there were three holes drilled in the back rim which I had never seen or heard of before. My new friend David\*\* also did not know anything about them or what they were for.



British Officer – Singapore 1941

(Cont'd on page 9)

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT *(Cont'd)*

After several days of study and a lot of 'Googling', I was finally able to find out that it was a South African helmet adapted from a WWI British Mk I Brodie for use in the deserts of North Africa. It was originally painted a sand brown colour and the lining was an unusual early WWII British Mk.I version. The three holes were to attach a back flap or 'Havelock' for protection from the sun, but strangely enough that was never done.

Later many of these South African helmets found their way to other theatres of war and many were painted over in green for use in Italy and Europe.

Another little-known fact is that when war broke out with Japan, the British troops and units that were en route to N. Africa and the Middle East and were diverted to Malaya and Singapore, re-painted their 'desert tan' equipment and vehicles in green to prepare for jungle warfare and this included their helmets.

The painting was crudely and hastily done, and such is characteristic of the paint job on the helmet I bought. On close inspection one can see traces of the sand brown colour under the green paint where it has chipped or flaked off.

Now while the Allies in the North African campaign did not use the back flaps, it appears that at least a few men of the Royal Artillery in the Far East did, as there are photos extant of gun crews with helmets with back flaps in the battles there.

At any rate this Mk. I\* Brodie helmet is the exact type of helmet that the British used in Malaya and Singapore in those early days of WWII – with or without the three holes for the flaps, so once again we have a true historical piece for our museum collection.

Who would have thought that such a treasure would come from such an unsuspecting source as a former Taiwanese re-enactor 70 + years later. Who knows where this helmet had been before he purchased it from a source in Hong Kong those many years ago. Wouldn't it be incredible if this helmet was actually one of those used out here in the Far East? This is just another one of the many mysteries of World War II –

*Believe It or Not!!!*



*(L) WWI British Brodie Mk. I helmet as refurbished prior to the outbreak of WWII. This helmet type was used by all early war troops in the Far East.*

*(R) The inside liner of the early WWII Mk. I \* helmet.*

\*\* My thanks to David Kung for sharing all this wonderful WWII gear and his knowledge with me and our POW Museum.

## Small World for Former POW Mates . . .

Back in 2011 I received an email from Elizabeth Vickers in Wales, the daughter of former Taiwan POW Bdr. Eifion Roberts of the 80th Anti-tank Reg't. informing me that her father was alive and well and very happy to see that he and his mates were no longer forgotten thanks to our work and our website.

In subsequent emails he mentioned his good friend L/Bdr. Russell Ward of the 5th Field Reg't. from the same hometown who he first met at Kinkaseki Camp and who worked with him as a driller down the mine.

Then earlier this year I was contacted by Eric Ward, the son of L/Bdr. Ward indicating an interest in joining our November event and also telling me about his father's good friend Eifion Roberts and how the two men had stayed close friends after the war until Ward's death in 1992. Eifion passed away in April 2013.

Eric and Eifion's wife Pat have been in touch and Eric's trip to Taiwan in November was made in honour of both men – friends to the end.



*Eifion Roberts and Russell Ward*

## WELCOME... NEW TRADE OFFICE DIRECTORS

Over the past few months we have had several changes in personnel at the various Commonwealth and Allied Trade Offices here in Taiwan. We are honoured to welcome the new directors who, like their predecessors, 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.

First came Ms. Si'alei Van Toor - Director, New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office, replacing Mr. Stephen Payton, followed by Ms. Catherine Raper - Representative, Australian Office, replacing Mr. Kevin Magee.

I want to express my appreciation to Stephen and Kevin for the great interest and support that they have given to our Society and we look forward to working with the new representatives in the days ahead to make sure that the former Taiwan POWs from these countries will never be forgotten.

## A MEMORIAL FOR POWS FROM TAIWAN IN HAWAII – UPDATE

In our previous issues we have featured articles on the proposed memorial to be erected to the men who died in January 1945 when the hellship *Enoura Maru* was bombed by American carrier aircraft while laying over in Kaohsiung Harbour en route to Japan with prisoners of war. These men lie in 20 unmarked graves at the Punchbowl.

At this time we have nothing further to report as we are still awaiting further developments from the US Veterans Administration. Even though the VFW unanimously passed a resolution to endorse and support our memorial project and their recommendations and endorsements were sent to the United States Congress for their perusal and action, and this has also supposedly been passed on to the US Veterans Administration (VA) for their follow-up, still nothing more has been done by them up till now.

It appears that a full concerted drive will be necessary to make this story known, and so within the next few months another effort will be launched through contacts with senators and congress people to hopefully get this project completed sometime in 2015. We will keep you posted – please watch our website for more info.

**NOTE: Americans reading this newsletter and our website could and should write / email to their senators and congress-people letting them know about this travesty and urge their support for the *Enoura Maru* Memorial at the Punchbowl. That will also greatly help us to succeed with this project.**

## FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS – POW TOURS IN TAIWAN

*Group Tours, Individual and Family Tours are available.*

Having researched and documented the history of all 16 former Taiwan POW camps for the past 17 years, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society offers tours to all of the former POW camps and related sites on the island. We have been conducting these tours for the past 15 years and cater to individuals, families, and small and large groups.

Our tours are personally planned and tailored to meet the special needs of our visitors. We specialize in the WWII history of Taiwan and we can research individual POWs, something which those with a family connection to the camps will find fulfilling and memorable.

Tours are expertly guided by Michael Hurst MBE, Director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society who has lived in Taiwan for 25 years. He is the foremost authority on the Taiwan POW camps, and living here, knows Taiwan best!

We try our best to provide a memorable experience for former POWs and their family members. We want to provide not only knowledge about the POWs and the camps, but peace and closure for our visitors and those on a pilgrimage as well.

If you want to follow in the footsteps of a mate or a loved one, or just learn more about the Taiwan POWs' story, then please contact us for more information and a cost estimate.

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## ASIA WAR GRAVES PHOTOS GROUP - UPDATE

The **ASIA WAR GRAVES PHOTO GROUP (AWGPG)** provides good quality photos of war graves and the names on the various memorials from the war cemeteries located all across Asia **FREE OF CHARGE** to POWs, family members, relatives, researchers and historians – with the sole aim of keeping the memory of the veterans and POWs alive, so present and future generations will not forget the sacrifices they have made. We want to help ensure that they are not forgotten.

We offer **FREE photos** of **ALL the war graves** and **ALL the names on ALL the memorials** from the following Asian cemeteries: **NOTE THIS UPDATED LIST OF CEMETERIES**

**THAILAND** - Kanchanaburi and Chung Kai; **BURMA** - Thanbyuzayat, Rangoon, Taukkyan

**MALAYSIA** - Taiping, Cheras Road, Terendak, Malacca, Labuan-Borneo; **JAPAN** - Yokohama

**SINGAPORE** - Kranji + pre/post WW2 sites **HONG KONG** - Sai Wan, Stanley, Happy Valley - 12 cemeteries

**INDONESIA** - Jakarta, Ambon, ANCOL Netherlands Field of Honour; **ISRAEL** - Ramlah and Khayat Beach

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Port Moresby (Bomana), Lae and Rabaul (Pika Pata)

**INDIA** - Kohima and Imphal; **SRI LANKA:** Colombo, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Trincomalee

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA:** United Nations Military Cemetery (UNMCK) in Busan, and all 41,000 names on the

Wall of Remembrance; **CAMBODIA:** Killing Fields (Choeung Ek) and S.21 (Toul Sleng Genocide Museum)

**VIETNAM** - VC/ARVN cemeteries, Reunification Palace, HCMC museums and Qu Chi tunnels

In addition, grave photos of the **AMERICAN POWs who died in Taiwan** are available from the POW Society.

**Please help us to spread the word about the *Asia War Graves Photo Group* around the FEPOW Community and we hope that many will avail themselves of our services.**