



Never Forgotten

The Official Newsletter of the TAIWAN P.O.W. CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY
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Spring/Summer 2000



Alice Myerscough at the site of the former Heito Camp #3 in southern Taiwan where her fiancée died in 1944.

ALICE COMES TO TAIWAN !

.. AND HONG KONG!



Alice standing by the grave of L/Sgt. Alan T. Bowman at Sai Wan Bay Cemetery, Hong Kong

TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

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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 participate with the Commonwealth and Allied community each year in a memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Kinkaseki
- to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history
- to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story

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

The former Kinkaseki Memorial website has been enlarged and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society has become the "umbrella" site for all the POW camps on Taiwan. The address has been changed from the previous Kinkaseki site.

Please visit our homepage at -

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

Please sign our guestbook and give us your comments and if there is anything you would like to see added.

Our email address is - society@powtaiwan.org

* * * * *

Thought...

**" YOU MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT
YOU GET - YOU MAKE A LIFE BY
WHAT YOU GIVE "**

A LOVE TO REMEMBER . . .

On February 20, 2000 as the big Boeing 747 touched down at Chiang Kai-shek International Airport Taiwan, Alice Myerscough's wait of more than fifty years had ended! At last she would be able to fulfill the dream that she had waited so long to realize, and it was hard to believe that the day had finally come!

It all began back in 1939 when Alice's best friend Alan T. Bowman - who was in the Territorial Army at the time, was mobilized for active duty with the 125th Anti-Tank Reg't., Royal Artillery. Alice and Alan and several of their friends, most of whom were called up together, had always been pals and done everything together. The boys were filled with anticipation at the thoughts of going off to fight for king and country and the girls were proud of their "men" - who were all of twenty years of age!

Soon the call came for the men to leave, and before going off to war, Alan - in true romantic fashion, proposed to Alice on one of their last dates together. There was no question in his mind that they should and would always be together - it seemed they had been friends forever. They were a young couple in love and all the world lay before them, but that was soon to change.



In the fall of 1941, Alan, with the rest of his regiment and the entire 18th British Division, embarked for destinations unknown. They crossed the Atlantic in convoy, then followed the coasts of North and South America into the South Atlantic where they crossed over to Capetown, South Africa. After four wonderful days and a chance to mail his letter home to Alice, they were off again, this time up the east coast of Africa, heading presumably for the Middle East. Then things changed and their course was re-directed - to India for further training. While in India he wrote his last letter to Alice before embarking again for Singapore where the ill-fated Division landed on January 29, 1942.

The last part of the journey had not been an easy one, for a short way out from Singapore their ship was bombed by Japanese aircraft and sank. Alan and the rest of his unit were rescued, but all of

was lost. They made it to shore and were assigned to different units, but two weeks later the surrender came and they all became prisoners of war.

The regiment did their best to stay together, and as a result almost all of the 125th were sent "up north" to work on the infamous Burma-Siam Railway - the "Railway of Death". Alice received a postcard telling her that Alan was in No. 2 Group, Thailand. She later learned that this group was the one responsible for the construction of the struts on the main bridge across the River Kwai, and also the work on the notorious Chungkai cutting. Two of her and Alan's best friends died at Chungkai on that job.

After the work in Thailand was finished, many of the POWs who were considered fit and well enough to work, were returned to Singapore in July 1944 and from there dispersed to other places in the Far East to continue their slave labour for the Japanese. Many were put on the old tramp steamers known by the POWs as "hell ships", because of the awful conditions in which the prisoners were forced to exist while being transported to such places as Taiwan and Japan. Alan was on one of those ships - the Rakuyu Maru.



The sea voyage from Singapore was long and hard - they left in late August but because of the danger of Allied shipping, had to make their way very slowly up the coast of Indo-China and past Hainan Island into the Taiwan Straits, hugging the coast and taking shelter in bays wherever possible.

In the waters east of Hainan Island, just as they were moving up into the South China Sea, the Rakuyu Maru was torpedoed by an Allied submarine on September 12, 1944. Of the 1214 POWs on board, 1179 were listed as dead or missing - only 35 survived - and Alan was one of them!

With little food and fresh water, and disease rife in the dark, damp holds of the ship, Alan had contracted dysentery, and by the time he was torpedoed was already in a sickly weakened state.

their equipment

It is really a miracle that he survived the sinking at all. ([con't on pg. 4](#))

con't... A LOVE TO REMEMBER . . .

The survivors were brought to Takao, Formosa (now Kaohsiung) and most were in terrible condition. For Alan it had been his second time to be rescued from the sea, but this time he was not in good shape.

From Takao the 35 survivors were taken to Heito Camp, where they were kept isolated from the rest of the prisoners. There are survivors today who remember Alan's group being brought in, but have stated that they never knew those men, as a short time later most were moved out and shipped on to Japan.

Alan survived only two weeks at Heito before his weakened body succumbed to the ravages of dysentery. He died on October 6, 1944 and was buried in the Heito Camp Cemetery several kilometers away. One of the surviving POW's diaries recorded his death:

"Oct. 6 - Third death of the new batch of men". Alice received word of Alan's fate in a brief note from the War Office after the end of hostilities. It gave the name and date of death, place and where buried. Later she was informed that his body had been removed from its resting place in Taiwan and re-buried at Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery in Hong Kong.

The young lovers' dream had been shattered, but the hope of being re-united was not gone. For many years Alice hoped that one day she would be able to travel to the place where Alan had died and was first buried, and then to see his final resting place as well.

She contacted the Royal British Legion several times, and was told that they had no plans to visit Taiwan as there were no war cemeteries there.

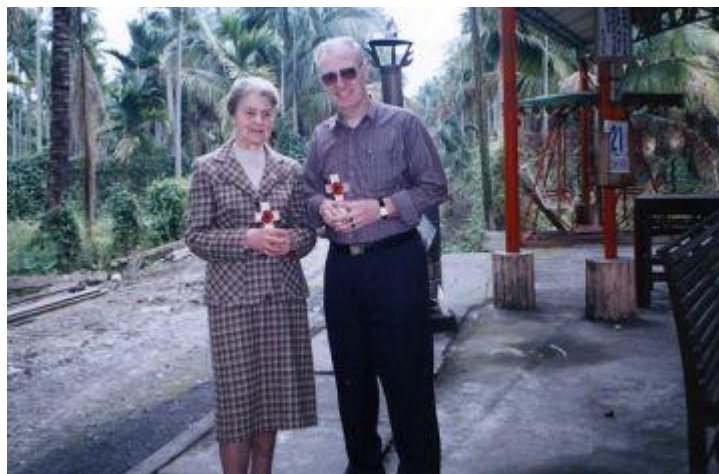
Finally, she contacted the Taiwan government office in London. They did not know anything about the former POW camp or cemetery, but were kind enough to send her a map of Taiwan and wished her well.

Alice was just about to give up, when last summer someone told her about the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society and of our work, and directed her to contact Maurice Rooney, our rep in the UK. Maurice gave her our address in Taiwan and we received a letter from her - coincidentally - just two days before we were scheduled to make our trip to PingTung to find the location of Heito Camp!

Later that evening, after reading her letter, I called Alice in the UK and told her that we were about to embark on a trip to find the camp, and when we did I would notify her. She was overjoyed.

A few days later I called her again to confirm that we had found the camp and also the location of the camp cemetery. There are no words to express the joy she felt at that moment - now at last she could finally come to Taiwan!

After several months of planning Alice wrote advising us of her flight schedule and the plans for her visit to Taiwan and Hong Kong.



Alice and Michael Hurst at former Heito POW camp cemetery

The years went by and Alice never married. As time wore on she busied herself with her work and

Now the day had finally arrived, and when Stuart and I met her at the airport she gave us both a big

her life, but she never forgot the man she had loved.

After retirement she began in earnest to try to find the place where Alan had died. She contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but they did not know where the Heito Camp or the POW cemetery were located. They gave her some information about the cemetery where Alan had first been buried and a map reference, but that did not help much. Next, she contacted the Imperial War Museum who admitted they couldn't help either, but suggested she contact a certain ex-POW who might know. He told her there was nothing left of the former camp and cemetery.

hug!

Monday, February 21 - we took Alice by train to Kaohsiung and then to PingTung. She enjoyed the journey and said it was one of the bonuses of coming - to be able to see so much of Taiwan in just one trip.

We visited the old Taiwan Sugar Co. Factory in PingTung that afternoon to show her where some of the Heito POWs had worked.

The next morning our friend Miss Huang picked us up at the hotel and took us out to the site of the Heito Camp where we were met by several friends - among them two of the former camp guards who really wanted to meet Alice. ([con't. on pg. 5](#))

con't... A LOVE TO REMEMBER . . .

As we walked around the camp and the men told of the former times, Alice's emotions ran high, but our Taiwanese friends were very comforting and understanding, and she really felt the love and compassion that they showed to her that day.

Later we visited the site of the former POW cemetery which still adjoins a present Chinese cemetery and we laid poppy crosses in memory of Alan and his comrades - and all of the men who died at Heito Camp. Alice was glad that finally she had been able to visit this special place and felt that her dream was now being fulfilled after all these years.

Back in Taipei, we did a little sightseeing and also took Alice out to Kinkaseki one day for a look at the POW Memorial and the site of the former camp there. Her last evening was spent with the Society members at a dinner given in her honour; everyone had a great time and we wished her well.

Friday, February 25 Alice began the next leg of her journey as she moved on to Hong Kong for her visit to the cemetery where Alan's grave was located. My wife and I had previously decided to accompany her.

We arrived in Hong Kong in the early afternoon, and after settling in at the hotel and a short rest, we took the tram up to Victoria Peak where we had a lovely dinner while watching the skyline of Hong Kong below. As the daylight turned to darkness the spectacle of Hong Kong at night unfolded before our eyes. It was truly an unforgettable experience.

The next morning after breakfast, we took the subway to the last stop at the eastern end of Hong Kong Island and from there walked the rest of the way up the hill to Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery.

grave. When she was ready, we joined her to pay our respects to this brave soldier and the man she had loved for so long.

Alice talked more about Alan and shared her memories and thoughts with us. Hearing more of this wonderful story made us feel very blessed.

Later, we walked among the graves and paused again and again as we saw so many headstones marking the final resting place of men from the Taiwan POW camps. I took the opportunity to photograph many of the headstones - particularly of those men whose families and friends I knew, and also those of whom I had read in some of the POW's accounts. The hours passed swiftly and as the shades of afternoon sun began to fade, we made our way back down the hill to the city once more.

Alice was at peace now that she had finally - after all these years, been able to see Alan's final resting place. We were happy too, that we had been able to have some small part in helping her to fulfil her dream.

The next day was spent sightseeing around Hong Kong and we had a great time visiting various places of cultural interest which Alice enjoyed very much. Then the following day it was time to say goodbye. As we left for the airport - each to go our separate ways, we reminisced about our time together over this past week and what it had meant to each of us. For Alice it was the realization of a lifetime wish, and for the members of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, the culmination of our efforts to find the Heito Camp so that one wonderful lady could have some closure in her life.



L/Sgt. Alan Bowman's grave at Sai Wan Bay Cemetery

On entering the cemetery we paused to reflect on all the headstones we saw before us - more than 1500 of them! We looked over the memorial panels displaying additional names of those who had no known grave - some we recognized as men who had been on Taiwan.

Alice made her way quietly down the rows of headstones until she found the place where Alan lay. We left her alone with her thoughts and her memories and she spent considerable time just sitting by his

This is another reason why we try so hard to find the camps and research the POWs' stories. We want everyone to know - and no-one to forget - what went on here those many years ago, and also of the bravery and needless sacrifice of so many brave young lives.

**May their memory live on
forever in our hearts!**

LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . .

1. KINKASEKI (CHINGUASHI) - found
2. TAICHU #2 (TAICHUNG) - found
3. HEITO #3 (PINGTUNG) - found
4. SHIRAKAWA #4 (CHIAYI)
5. TAIHOKU #5 MOSAK (TAIPEI)
6. TAIHOKU #6 (TAIPEI) - almost
7. KARENKO (HUALIEN) - found
8. TAMAZATO (YULI) - found
9. KUKUTSU (TAIPEI) - found
10. TAIHOKU - OKA (TAIPEI) - almost

UPDATE ON POW CAMPS...

You will notice that the above list of Taiwan POW camps has been shortened by one this issue, compared to what it has been in previous issues.

As a result of more ongoing research and study into the camps and their locations, it has been confirmed that Taihoku Camp # 5 and the Taihoku-Mosak Camp are one in the same.

Also, there was no Taihoku Camp #1. Camp #6 was the main camp in Taihoku for most of the war, until right at the very end when all the remaining POWs from all over Taiwan were gathered together into one main holding camp to await rescue and repatriation when the war finished in August 1945.

For more on this story, see the article below -
"A MYSTERY SOLVED"

We are continuing our search worldwide to try to find out as much as possible about all the Taiwan POW camps, and thanks to our many friends and the POWs and their families, we are really making progress.

A MYSTERY SOLVED - FINALLY!

For a long time now there has been some difficulty in sorting out the discrepancies with the various Allied intelligence reports that were gathered on the Taiwan POW camps at the end of WW II.

As mentioned in an earlier article, most of the information was hastily and often inaccurately gathered in an effort to put a speedy end to the

Most of the Allied reports show a Taihoku Camp #1, as well as a Camp #5 and Camp #6. These were even shown erroneously on maps of the time. There were great mixups between Camps 5 and 6 as well. Some reports listed Camp 5 as having all British POWs and Camp 6 having a mixture of Dutch, American and British, while other reports suggested the opposite.

Even the map references were wrong - sometimes as much as one or two degrees or several minutes out - in the opposite direction! (In fact, we have now found that ALL of the map references supplied for the locations of all the Taiwan camps in the Allied intelligence reports were wrong!)

There never was a Taihoku Camp #1 - in Taihoku! That was Kinkaseki, which was Taiwan Camp #1 and was administered from Taihoku because of its remote location and the wish of the Japanese to hide its whereabouts from the Red Cross and others.

Camp #6 was the main POW camp in Taihoku for most of the war - and it contained almost entirely British POWs for most of its time in existence. In the last months of the war a few Americans were also interned there.

Camp #5 contained the senior American, British and Dutch officers, along with the Governors of Singapore and Hong Kong, plus a few other high ranking military and civilian officials. The camp was small, numbering only 32 POWs, and all were treated fairly well during their time there. These men had been moved to Taihoku after their previous internment in Karenko, and Tamazato camps. They were held in this camp for more than a year before they were moved on to Mukden in Manchuria via Japan and Korea, where they finished out the war.

So now that we have these camps sorted out, all that remains is to make a positive identification as to their location. We have recently had some good leads as to the whereabouts of Taihoku Camp #5 and we hope to follow up on these as soon as possible.

We are just waiting for some more corroborating evidence before the location of Taihoku Camp # 6 can be confirmed and announced.

It has been a real struggle and a lot of work to sift through all the old records and try to sort out the accurate details. Thanks to the POWs' stories and diaries, and information provided from other

paperwork and to bring the whole Pacific War to a close. Also, much of the material was copied from inaccurate and falsified reports which had been supplied to the Red Cross by the Japanese.

sources, more pieces of the puzzle are coming together now. We invite anyone with any information on the camps or the POWs to contact us as soon as possible.

MORE POW CAMPS...?

While sorting through a new bunch of records obtained from the National Archives in Washington and also from some other sources, I have recently discovered that there may have been a couple of other small temporary POW camps on Taiwan during late 1944 and early 1945.

In addition, we have recently been in contact with the family of an American ex-POW who has supplied names and information of which a part pertains to one of these other camps.

It seems that only Americans were held in these camps, and only for a short period of time. The name of one of the camps was "TOROKU" - not to be confused with Taroko - the popular scenic spot on Taiwan's East Coast. Toroku is the Japanese word for the present town of Touliu. The other camp is reported to have been located somewhere near the present city of Yunlin in South-central Taiwan.

So with these additional possibilities, the number of Taiwan POW camps could now total 12.

We are continuing our search for information on these two new discoveries, and would ask if anyone has any knowledge of the whereabouts of either of these two camps or any men who were interned in them, to please contact us as soon as possible. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS. . .

Be sure to mark the weekend of November 18 - 19, 2000 on your calendars and in your date books. That is the date of the annual POW Remembrance Weekend which will feature a FEPOW memorial dinner on Saturday the 18th and a memorial service at the POW monument at Chinguashi on Sunday the 19th. Plan to be with us for this great event. More details to follow.

FROM "DOWN UNDER"

We have recently had word that Bert Martin, the ex-Kinkaseki POW that we had found just a couple of months ago, passed away on April 29. He had been in poor health for some time and was in a nursing home. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Our Australia rep, Sid Dodds had been in contact with Bert by letter, but another ex-Kinkaseki POW, Ray Goodman, was able to visit him personally as they lived close to each other. Ray reports that Bert was thrilled with the news of the memorial and so happy to know that he and his mates had not been forgotten.

On another note, Ray and his wife are hoping to come to Taiwan this November for the annual Remembrance Weekend, and could possibly be bringing the widow of another ex-Kinkaseki men who died at Heito camp in 1944 after leaving the mine.

In recent weeks Sid has also been in contact with former POW Harry Leslie, who was not at Kinkaseki but was in several of the other camps - including the OKA Camp in Taipei.

Harry has done a lot of research and writing about the POW camps on Taiwan in connection with the Australia War Memorial in Canberra, and is a storehouse of knowledge on the POWs. He has already shared a lot of his material with us.

After hearing of our work, and although nearly completely blind, Harry wants very much to come to Taiwan to visit again the places of his former imprisonment.

Harry is also helping Sid in his efforts to find the former Taiwan POWs. He has many contacts from his years of fellowship with the veterans' associations in Australia, and we are hoping he might be able to lead us to many other ex-POWs.

All of the work that Sid has done is finally starting to bear some fruit, but that's what it takes - lots of patience and perseverance. In addition, there are still a lot of people who have never heard of the hardships suffered by the men in the Taiwan POW camps, and we certainly intend to rectify that in the days to come.

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

If your club, school or organization would like to know more about the prisoners of war, the POW camps on Taiwan and the work of the TPCMS, we would be very pleased to come to a meeting of your group and give a talk and show pictures and artifacts from our research. It is one of our aims to share the POWs' story with as many as we can, so that more people in Taiwan will know the story too and be able to better understand a part of their history.

For further information, please contact us.

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

POW CAMP SEARCH REPORT. . .

BREAKTHROUGH ON OKA CAMP

On Friday June 2, we took another step forward towards locating the site of the former OKA "jungle" Camp in the hills north of Taipei City. Equipped with some new information recently supplied by several of the FEPOWs, along with the leads we had discovered late last year on our first trip, I decided to try to locate the school where the prisoners were billeted while they laboured to build the huts at the OKA campsite. I figured if we could find the school where the POWs stayed, then perhaps it could lead to finding the POW camp site nearby. I also hoped to find the small temple where the POWs who died at the OKA Camp had been temporarily buried.

Setting off by motorcycle I followed the winding roads into the mountains on the other side of the valley to where the team had explored last fall. Noting the comments provided by some of the local people on that earlier trip, I made a number of inquiries along the way about the school and after a couple of hours found myself in a small village where the old school was located. A new school has long since replaced the one that stood on the site in the Japanese occupation time, but the foundations of the old buildings and some of the walls and the gate were still there.

One of the teachers became very interested in the POWs' story once I explained it to him, and he vowed to help us contact some of the older people in the area who might remember the prisoners. He knows the surrounding area well and has also offered to help us find the location of the former camp site once we have more information from the local people. He supplied me with some local historical materials on the village and the school, and we are currently looking this over to see if any more leads can be found.

While at the school I met a man whose father had told him that some foreign soldiers had been buried behind the nearby temple in the village and he gladly pointed it out. The old temple still stands, although it now has a new addition attached to the front. He also showed me the spot on the hillside near the temple where the men were buried - it is still just a garden today, as no-one would build a home on that place.

I am very pleased and grateful once again for the co-operation of the local Taiwanese people, without whose help finding these POW camps would not be possible. Hopefully later in the summer, we will be able to further follow the trail and find the actual location of the OKA camp.

- Michael Hurst

TAIHOKU CAMP # 5 - PRELIMINARY FIELD TRIP

On Wednesday June 14, three members of the Society drove to the countryside east of Taipei City in search the whereabouts of the former Taihoku Camp #5. This was the camp where the 32 senior officers and civilian officials were interned for more than a year before being sent on to Japan and North China.

The POW camp was reported to have been built on a knoll between a set of hills in an orange grove. The POW quarters were better built than in most of the Taiwan camps, being of wood construction in typical Japanese style. We had the hope that some of the buildings might still remain to this day.

From a study of some Japanese era documents and wartime records, we had been able to ascertain the general area where this camp was believed to have been located. Our idea, once we got there, was to ask some of the older local people if they recalled anything of the camp and the POWs.

When we reached the town where we believed the camp to be located, we went to the local government office to make some inquiries. One of the men there kindly put us in touch with a local historian who told us that his father and mother had known of the camp and had seen the prisoners there.

He took us to his home to meet his father who is 86 years old and who was a conscript of the Japanese. He had nothing to do with the POW camp or the prisoners, but had spoken to one or two of the guards on occasion. He told us about the camp and its construction. The buildings were made of wood and there were orange trees all around the area. He also said that the POWs were well treated in this camp and were allowed to go for walks and even taken fishing once in a while. This substantiates the information reported in the Red Cross visit reports and the words of the former POWs themselves.

He knew the exact location of the camp, and gave us directions on how to find it. However, time did not permit us to track down the actual site of the camp, so we plan to return another time to complete the task. For now it is sufficient to say that we know the location of the former Taihoku Camp # 5, and can add it to our list of those we are very close to confirming.

Once again it is the local people who have been so helpful, and we are grateful for their assistance in helping to track down and verify yet another piece of evidence of Japanese cruelty during World War II.

"BETRAYAL IN HIGH PLACES"

- by James MacKay
(A Book Review)

For those interested in the story of the POWs of Japan and what happened to the war criminals who committed such atrocities against them and thousands of innocent civilians, this book is a must.

It clearly chronicles - with documented information stolen at the time from General MacArthur's headquarters - the cover-ups and deals made between MacArthur and Gen. Willoughby, his second in command, with the Japanese government and the Emperor, to absolve hundreds of known war criminals from ever being brought to trial, and those who were tried, being let off or given lenient sentences.

It is a story of the lies, deceit and cover-up perpetrated by the US and British governments, the release of known war criminals and the hindrances to justice committed by the US State Dep't. and the War Crimes Investigation Dep't. This book, carefully compiled from official records "removed" from the War Crimes headquarters by James Goodwin, a New Zealand war crimes investigator, and hidden for over fifty years, tells that story. The reader will be shocked to learn that Class A war criminals including some of the Imperial Princes of Japan, and indeed the Emperor himself, were never even accused of the heinous crimes they ordered.

The doctors who ran the infamous Unit 731 in north China were released - and in fact rewarded, for turning their materials over to US Intelligence sources after the war. Investigators like Goodwin found that Unit 731 had killed more people than some of the infamous German concentration camps, but nothing was ever released to the world about this.

There were more than a quarter of a million "comfort women" - all nationals of conquered territories - forced into sexual slavery, many just children, who were subjected to every kind of horror, torture and experimentation as well. This book reveals the corruption that existed at the very highest levels of government and the collusion that made a travesty of justice - which still haunts the world today - more than fifty years later as Japan still refuses to acknowledge, apologize or pay compensation to its thousands of victims. Even today this is still being supported by the highest levels of government in Washington and Britain, despite all the information currently being released and lawsuits in the courts today.

AMERICAN LEGION AND VFW DONATE TO TAIWAN POW CAMPS SOCIETY

In June a reception was held at the Post Home in Taipei as members of the Gen. Claire Chennault American Legion Post #49, along with members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Flying Tiger Post #9957, gathered to welcome American Legion National Commander Al Lance on his visit to Taiwan. Another feature of the evening was a report on the work of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

Society Director, Michael Hurst shared the story of how the Society came to be formed and of the continuing work they are doing to find information on the former Japanese POW camps on Taiwan. The Society has also undertaken the task of searching for and documenting the sites of the former camps, and is also trying to locate the former POWs to let them know that they and their mates have not and will not be forgotten! So far six of the ten major camps have already been located, and almost 200 former POWs have been contacted.

In addition to the former British POWs who have been the main focus of the Society's efforts thus far, there were also a large number of Americans held on Taiwan, particularly in the camps at Heito and Shirakawa. The Society has been searching for these Americans and has recently made some good contacts. The members are hoping to be able to erect a POW Memorial on the site of the former Heito Camp, which they discovered last September, and efforts are planned for later this year to try to locate the site of the former Shirakawa Camp.

The Taipei Posts of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars made a most generous donation of NT\$66,000.00 towards the work of the Society from proceeds raised at their annual dinner/dance which was held last November, and also from a special gift by a Legion member who wished to remain anonymous.

The Society is very grateful for the support of these two very prominent veterans organizations, and counts it a real honour to have been chosen to receive the gift in recognition of its efforts to remember the men of all Allied nations who suffered so much here on Taiwan during World War II. The money donated will be used for further research and also to help with the construction of one and possibly two more POW memorials on the island of Taiwan.

Ed. Note 2007 - It has come to our attention that

James Goodwin did NOT steal the documents, nor did he even investigate some of the cases McKay attributes to him. Other discrepancies have also been found in the book, although many of the facts and certainly the cover-ups actually occurred. This book should now be read with these new facts in mind.

HONOURING THE VETERANS

The following article was sent to us by Mr. Roger Mansell, a fellow POW researcher and writer in the US. It sure is something to think about.

"I thought you would like to see San Francisco's efforts to honor our fallen military. This is from the San Francisco Chronicle. The following gives you an idea:

"Memorial Day commemorates those brave Americans that gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country - their lives." Yet according to a front page story that appeared in the S.F. Chronicle on May 27th 2000, veterans had to beg the city for funding in order to put on their annual Memorial Day Parade.

San Francisco Veterans have received a pitiful \$1,000 from the City to put on their annual commemorative parade. How does this compare to the other parades and cultural events that the city funds? Read on

The organizer for the Cinco De Mayo and Carnival Parades gets a combined: \$162,500. The Gay Men's Chorus get \$49,000 and not to be undone, their rival group the S.F. Chanticleer gets a whopping \$116,000! But that pales in comparison to what this foursome makes on a per capita basis: the Kronos Quartet - \$96,000 (4 lucky musicians).

Now check out what these groups receive ---
S.F. Film Society - \$94,000; Chinese New Year Parade - \$77,000; S.F. Mime Troupe - \$76,400; Lesbian Gay Freedom Parade - \$67,000; Frontline (Gay Film Festival) - \$54,000; Columbus Day Parade - \$45,000; Asian American Film Fest - \$40,000; Jewish Film Festival - \$35,000; Cherry Blossom Parade - \$40,000; The Cartoon Museum - \$34,000; Theater of Yugen - \$30,000; The Climate Theater - \$30,000; Autumn Moon Festival - \$30,000; St. Patricks Day - \$29,200; The American-Indian Festival - \$27,000; The S.F. Youth Arts Fest- \$23,000; Martin Luther King Observance - \$21,000; Philipino Arts Fest - \$18,000; Juneteenth Fest. (African) - \$13,000; Samoan Flag Day - \$12,000; S.F. Butoh Fest - \$12,000; El Grito (Mexican) - \$10,000; Russian Festival - \$8,000; Min Sok Korean Fest - \$7,500; Aloha Festival - \$7,000; Vietnamese Lunar Fest. - \$5,000 - and FINALLY --- MEMORIAL DAY - \$1,000!!!

Some honour , eh!!! Way to go San Francisco - where's your heart?

In Memorium

Since our last issue we have lost several more of our beloved FEPOW family. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to their families and next-of-kin, with the assurance that they will not be forgotten!

Geoffrey Quilter - Bdr., 5th Field Reg't., R.A. - passed away in early January this year. A friend to all FEPOWs and one who could always be counted on to cheer others when the going got rough - both as a POW and also throughout his life after the war. I had the privilege to meet Geoffrey last year and he was always smiling. A supportive member of the Norwich FEPOW Club, he will be missed by his many friends and former mates.

Bert Martin - Gnr., 80th Anti-Tank Reg't., R.A. - passed away in Rosebud Nursing Home, Australia on April 29. A recent discovery, Bert was happy to find former POW friends Sid Dodds and Ray Goodman living near, and to know of the building of the Kinkaseki Memorial in honour of the men of Kinkaseki and the other camps on Taiwan.

Martin Kepple - Lieut., Royal Corps of Signals - passed away on May 8. Martin was one of the few officers left from Kinkaseki and the other Taiwan camps, and he has contributed a great deal to our knowledge of the POWs' story. He was very supportive of our work right from the start, and we became good friends through our correspondence. We met in England last summer and our friendship deepened. I will miss him very much - he was a real gentleman.

Peter Turnbull - L/Bdr., 3rd Anti-Aircraft Reg't., - also passed away on May 8, according to a letter received shortly thereafter from his daughter who had been trying to contact us. She said her dad did not talk of the war or his days as a POW, but it is too bad that we did not reach him in time with the news of the Kinkaseki Memorial and all that has been done here in his honour.

Whatever else we fail to do We'll never fail to think of you!

NOTICE: LAST CHANCE !

As mentioned in our last issue, we are continuing with the updating of our mailing list. A number of our friends and supporters have already contacted us, but there are still quite a few who have not responded.

If you like the newsletter and wish to continue receiving it, please let us know by letter, fax or email and we will keep your name on the mailing list.

We just want to know that you are receiving the newsletter and enjoying it. If not, there is no point in sending it and wasting precious funds. If we do not hear from you, we will remove your name in order to ensure the wisest use of our funds.

Hope to hear from you soon !

WEB-WATCH

Please check out our POWTAIWAN website in the weeks to come. We have added some new information on some of the camps and will be adding more information regarding several of the others that we have found.

The list of camps can be found on "The Camps" page and access can be gained by either clicking on the name of the camp in the list, or by clicking on the camp name on the map of Taiwan.

We have also linked several other websites that we feel might be of interest to our readers - please check them out - they have a lot to offer and need your support too.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Since several of our members will be away for various periods during July and August, we would ask you to be patient if you do not receive prompt answers to mail or emails. The society will be back in full swing again in mid-August when we hope to continue searching for the former POW camp sites. In the meantime we would like to hear from anyone with any information on the POWs or the former camps. Thank you for your continued support.

--- from the Director Well, this has been a very different spring, and one which did not really go according to plan. First we had an unusually high amount of rainfall, which curtailed our exploration activities, and even though we all had great intentions to get out and explore, it was difficult to find a time when several of us could get together to do this. It seems that spring is always a busy time of year, and since we are all just volunteers, we don't always get to do what we like. However, despite all this a great deal of progress has been made as you have read in the pages of this newsletter.

We had a great time with Alice Myerscough this spring - her coming to Taiwan indicated the fruits of real progress in our work for which we are very happy.

We are looking forward to more former FEPOWs and their families returning in the months to come, and this November promises to be a great time of reunion for Taiwan POWs. In addition to a number of FEPOWs making private visits, we are anticipating a contingent from the Royal British Legion who are making a trip to Taiwan in November for the annual Remembrance Weekend. In the coming months we hope to make further progress in locating the camps around Taipei, and also to take some positive steps toward locating the site of the Shirakawa Camp. This will be the last of the major Taiwan POW camps to be located, so we are hoping all will go well in our endeavours to find it.

We have been saddened as we have learned of the passing of several FEPOWs in recent weeks. We were able to reach some with the news of the POW memorials, but for others we did not quite make it in time. This is such a vital part of the work - to let these men know that their story is being told and that they will not be forgotten.

We are very grateful for the continued support of so many people - both here in Taiwan and also overseas. It is so great to see the interest being shown in the POWs' story through the letters, faxes and emails we receive from all over the world.

We encourage all who read this newsletter, and those who view our website, to do all they can to help spread the word and help us find out as much as we can about the Taiwan POW camps and the men who were interned in them. If you know of any former Taiwan POWs, please send us their names and addresses, or put them or their families in contact with us, so we can share our good news with them. If you have any information about the camps, then please contact us. Until next time -

Let Us Never Forget !