



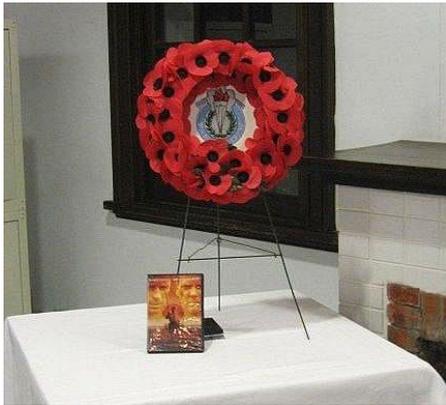
# Never Forgotten

Vol. 11, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2010

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

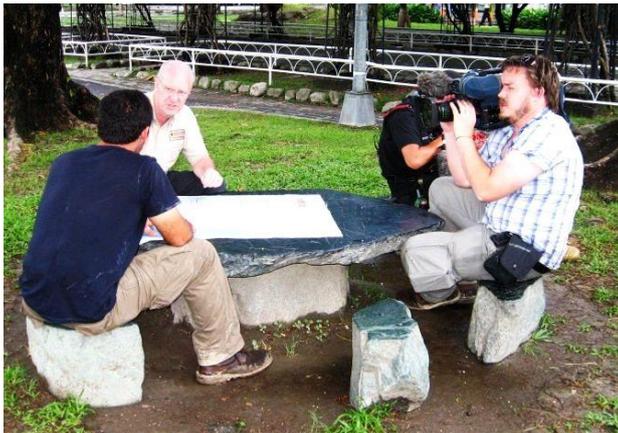
## 2010 - the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII!



*FEPOW DAY draws record crowd*



*Piper & Trumpeter at Remembrance Day Service*



*Filming "Hidden Cities" show for History Channel*



*Gov't Reps lay wreath on Remembrance Day*



*UK Reunion - POWs at the Hebburn Cenotaph*



*FEPOW Families and Friends on Remembrance Day*

**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)**

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**UK - Cliff Foster** [cliffoster\\_600@hotmail.com](mailto:cliffoster_600@hotmail.com)

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

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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. [ *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 Chinguashi 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 . . .*

Everything looks impossible for  
people who never try anything!

# FEPOW DAY 2010

FEPOW Day took place on Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> this year as the venue was not available on the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was held in the evening and perhaps because people are used to going out to a movie on a Saturday night, the crowd was larger than in previous years, in fact the largest ever with nearly 50 people present.

As usual the Society had a few items from the POW museum collection for the visitors to look at to enable them to learn a little more of what life was like for the POWs who were held in Taiwan.

The evening started off with a short memorial service in honour of the FEPOWs. Following this the film “*To End All Wars*” was shown and everyone was moved by the story. Below are a few photos that tell the story of this year’s FEPOW Day. We look forward to another great event next year.



*A part of the POW Society’s museum artifact display*



*Board member Jerome Keating presides over the service*



*Bob Weir gives a reading and a prayer of remembrance*



*Board member Mark Wilkie reads a tribute to the POWs*



*A part of the crowd at FEPOW Day 2010*



*With veterans Phil Moriarity (l) and Art Scholl (c)*

# 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!*

**BROWN F. DAVIDSON**

SGT., 24<sup>TH</sup> PURSUIT GRP., US ARMY AIR CORPS  
DECEMBER 24, 2008  
(Not reported earlier)

**RALPH W. WALDEN**

PFC., 59<sup>TH</sup> CAC., US ARMY  
AUGUST 22, 2009  
(Not reported earlier)

**LOUIS N. CURTIS**

PFC., 4<sup>TH</sup> US MARINES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2010

**BENNY D. OSECKY**

S/SGT., 24<sup>TH</sup> PG, 20 PS, US ARMY AIR CORPS  
MARCH 7, 2010

**GEORGE R. OWEN**

LIEUT., ROYAL ENGINEERS  
APRIL 14, 2010

**JIM BRENNAN**

BDR., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REGIMENT, R.A.  
JUNE 14, 2010

**GUY G. WRIGHT**

PVT., 31<sup>ST</sup> INF., US ARMY  
JUNE 21, 2010

**GORDON MCALPINE**

SGMN., ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS  
JULY 3, 2010

**EUGENE L. DAVIDSON**

PVT., 194<sup>TH</sup> TANK BTN., US ARMY  
AUGUST 7, 2010

**GEORGE DALGLIESH**

GNR., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REGIMENT, R.A.  
August 26, 2010

**EMANUEL N. (BOBBY) WOOLF**

CPL., ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

**HARRY G. BLACKHAM**

L/SGT., 5<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

**ARTHUR TITHERINGTON**

SGMN., ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

**ROGER MANSELL**

POW RESEARCHER AND HISTORIAN  
OCTOBER 25, 2010

*"We Will Remember Them"*

*Please let us know if you hear of the passing of any former Taiwan POW as we want to make sure they are remembered once more on this page.*

## REMEMBERING DEAR FEPOW FRIENDS. . .

**JIM BRENNAN** - 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REGIMENT, R.A.

Jim was a dear FEPOW friend and a great entertainer. He played piano and had a marvelous voice and I will always remember the lively positive attitude he had towards life and everything he did. He will be missed.

**GUY G. WRIGHT** - 31<sup>ST</sup> INF., US ARMY

Guy's sudden passing was a real shock to us all. Just last year he was involved with us in the dedication of the Toroku POW Memorial. We kept in touch often and he was a great help with his recollections of the hellships and Toroku Camp. He was one of the youngest POWs.

**GORDON MCALPINE** - ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

I first met Gordon at a POW reunion in London back in 1999. He was a cheery man who kept in touch every now and again and was always grateful for what we were doing for him and his former mates of Kinkaseki.

**HARRY G. BLACKHAM** - 5<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.

Harry was a longtime friend and avid supporter of our work. He was one of our historical advisors for many years until his passing. He had a wealth of information and was a storehouse of knowledge. I will miss him and his keen sense of humour very much.

**EUGENE DAVIDSON** - 194<sup>TH</sup> TANK BTN., US ARMY

Eugene and his wife Helen were dear friends who I used to call every summer when I was in Canada. Our friendship spanned many years. Gene was one of the last surviving Karenko POWs. He will be missed but not forgotten.

**ARTHUR TITHERINGTON** - ROYAL CORPS SIGNALS

No stranger to most in FEPOW circles, Arthur crusaded long and hard for an apology from the Japanese gov't for the POWs. He wrote an excellent book on his time at Kinkaseki and Kukutsu Camps.

### ROGER MANSELL

The entire FEPOW world mourns the passing of one who did so much to help unfold the story of the FEPOWs over the past 15 years. Roger became interested in the story of the Guam and Wake Island POWs and from that he developed one of the largest and most comprehensive FEPOW websites in the world which chronicles the story of the men who suffered in the POW camps across Asia from the Burma Railway to Japan.

He was a dear personal friend who, once we became acquainted in the early days of both our projects, did so much to help me. Whenever he went to the National Archives in Washington DC he would look for and copy anything he could find on the Taiwan POWs and send it to me. He encouraged me in my work and we worked together on many projects over the years. We roomed together at a conference in Shenyang China several years back and became life-long friends. Only time will reveal the tremendous contribution that Roger has made to history and the story of the FEPOWs and the help he has provided to so many. Like the POWs, he will never be forgotten!

## FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

This 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the end of World War II has been a great one, with a lot of good things happening for the former Taiwan POWs and for the Society as well.

Since our last newsletter, we have been involved in the production of a program for the *History Channel* which premiered on November 14th and has been well watched and received throughout all of Asia. It focused on the POW camp at Heito (PingTung) and the suffering the men endured there. (See story opposite)

Throughout the summer meetings were held with the Taipei County Government and the architect for the additional development of memorials in the POW Park in Jinguashi on the site of the old Kinkaseki POW Camp. Unfortunately things did not progress smoothly or quickly enough to enable us to have even a part of the work completed in time for our Remembrance Week event, but I'm happy to say now that the work is underway and it will certainly be completed by this time next year.

(See story on page 9)

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> FEPOW Day event on was held on Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> with the largest turnout ever and plans are underway already for next year's event.

We have received a great deal of encouragement for the ROC Ministry of Defense to erect a POW memorial on the site of the former Taihoku Camp 6 in Tachih. Currently the new MOD headquarters complex is being built there and when finished we hope to have a memorial stone placed somewhere on the property signifying its historical location and to remember the men who were interned and slaved there. It has long been a goal to have a memorial placed at this former camp location, as it was one of the main camps in Taiwan and the headquarters camp in Taihoku. We hope to complete it next year.

Also, in the coming year and as time, resources and finances permit, we are also hoping to erect memorial stones on the sites of the two Inrin Camps in Yuanlin. Initial reception has been favourable, it is just finding the time to get on with the project considering everything else there is to do.

Once again this fall we have been involved with lectures at high schools and universities on the island. In October I went to Taichung and delivered a lecture on the POW camps to students at the National Chung Hsing University there. It was a delightful time.

Our Remembrance Week event was a huge success this year with 13 overseas guests from the UK, USA and Australia in attendance. There were no POWs this time as most are getting beyond the point of travelling now, but it was a very informative and emotional time for the family members.

(See story on pages 6, 7 and 8)

In closing I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best of health and happiness in the coming year!

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst*

## SOCIETY ASSISTS IN THE PRODUCTION OF FILM FOR THE HISTORY CHANNEL . . .

Late last year I was approached by Beach House Pictures, a well-known film production company in Singapore, to ask if I would help with a program they were producing on Taiwan for the History Channel. In one of the segments they wanted to feature a story on one of the POW camps on the island and asked for my assistance both as a consultant and also to be in the film.

Throughout the spring of this year we worked together on the idea and came up with a script for the POW part. I suggested to them that since the Kinkaseki Camp at Jinguashi has been featured before that we focus on a different camp and so we chose the Heito Camp in PingTung as our subject.

In July the film crew came to Taiwan and I went down to PingTung to meet them. The producer/director was Nick McInerney from Australia and the host of the show was Anthony Morse. The segment on the story of Heito Camp in PingTung was the last in the program dealing with places in the ROC from the Japanese colonial period up to the end of World War II, and the Cold War. Also included were segments shot in Cihu where former President Chiang Kai-shek is buried, Kinmen and an old Japanese community near Hualien.

Basically in the film I took Anthony on a tour of the area with a visit to the former PingTung sugar factory, the POW camp and later to an area of the vast river valley where the POWs were forced to slave clearing the land for sugar cane. Anthony re-enacted what it must have been like for the POWs at the time. All in all I was very pleased with it all.

It was a great opportunity to be able to tell the story of Heito Camp and the Taiwan POWs to the world through this History Channel program. I have received a lot of good comments on the show and I am pleased with that. Whether it will ever be shown in North America or the UK is uncertain, but people here in Asia will certainly be able to know the story.

Below are a couple of photos from the shooting.



# REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2010

This year being the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II, we had thirteen overseas guests come to Taiwan for our Remembrance Week event. Most were from UK with one from the USA and one from Australia. As usual, we had a wonderful group of very lively and enthusiastic folks. Sadly, there were no former POWs in the group this time as it seems that now being on average about 90 years old, they are getting past the point of traveling this far.

The family members who came were on a pilgrimage to see and experience the places where their husbands, fathers, grandfathers and an uncle were held for three long years while prisoners of the Japanese here on Taiwan.



*The Bowkett family arrives*

Our program began on Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day, with a tour to Jinguashi to visit the Gold Ecological Park with its mining museum and tunnel and the site of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp and the mine area where the POWs worked.

Everyone was moved as they saw the POW display and the model of the mine workings in the museum, and then to actually go into the mine tunnel and experience a little of what the POWs must have felt going to work each day – the sights, sounds, smells and the acid water drips, gave them a greater appreciation for the sufferings of the men.

Later we took a walk around the valley overlooking the sea to view the actual mine area where the POWs trudged every day through all kinds of weather, rain cold and blistering heat, to slave for the Japanese. Then it was down to the camp for a look around the former POW site. After a walk about of the area we held a short service by the memorial and had a moment's silence to remember the POWs on the actual Remembrance Day.

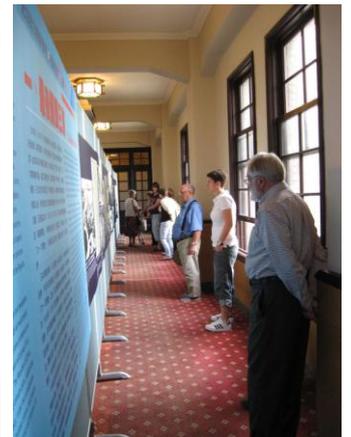


*November 11<sup>th</sup> - the group together by the POW Memorial*

On the return trip to Taipei we stopped off at the port of Keelung to visit the docks where the POWs who first came into Kinkaseki landed and from where all of the POWs who were left on Taiwan at the end of the war were evacuated.

Friday morning dawned sunny and warm again as the group headed out for a day of sightseeing around Taipei City. First on the tour was a stop at the famous Lungshan Temple with its marvelous carvings of dragons on the pillars and eaves. Next stop was the National Museum of History at the Botanical Gardens. An excellent interpretation of 5000 years of Chinese history through the museum's collection of artifacts was rendered by the guide to everyone's enjoyment.

Our last stop before lunch was a special one just for this year's guests. Located in the central part of the original city is the Chungshan Hall – formerly a venue built by the Japanese in 1933 as an assembly hall for important civic events. On October 25<sup>th</sup> 1945 it was the scene of the signing of the Japanese surrender on Taiwan and the handing back of Taiwan to the Republic of China. This year, being the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event, the hall had a special exhibition running which we were kindly invited to by one of the Society's longtime supporters Mr. Tom Tien who now works there. In addition to viewing the historical display we were given the special privilege of actually going into the chamber where the surrender was signed. It has had some renovation from the former times but basically remains the same to this day. Naturally we had to take a group photo there.



*(l) The group in the surrender chamber, (r) Viewing the exhibits*



*(l) Chungshan Hall today, (r) Gen. Ando signs the surrender*

## REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2010 cont'd. . .

The next stop was lunch and as usual it was the sumptuous noon buffet at the majestic Grand Hotel on the north side of the city. The opulence of the hotel which contains the largest single-span Chinese roof in the world had the guests in awe. Following lunch it was off to the National Military Memorial to see the changing of the guard, an impressive ceremony which takes place every hour on the hour.



Next stop on the tour was the site of the former Taihoku Camp # 6 nearby in the suburb of Tachih. There is nothing left of the former camp now, in fact the ROC Ministry of Defense is building their new headquarters on the site. We hope to be able to erect a POW memorial there in the coming year.

The last venue to explore on the tour was the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall back in downtown Taipei. On the way there on the bus we drove past the site of the Maruyama Temporary Evacuation Camp which housed the men who were left at Shirakawa Camp and moved to Taipei when the Japanese surrendered. The site – a former military hospital, is now occupied by the Taipei Soccer Stadium which this year is part of the World Flora Expo being held in the city.

Arriving at CKS Memorial Hall we took a walk through the magnificent gardens to the memorial where the 125-ton statue of former President Chiang Kai-shek occupies the upper level. Again we witnessed a changing of the guard here as well.



*The group in front of the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall with the National Concert Hall and the National Theatre left and right in the foreground*

That evening we finished off a wonderful day with a trip to the Wanhua Night Market – an interesting experience to say the least. Some enjoyed a delicious street meal and all had a good time!

Saturday weather was not as pleasant as it was overcast when we headed off to Hsintien and the former Kukutsu “jungle” Camp where the men of Kinkaseki were sent after that camp was closed. We spent a bit of time exploring the pedestrian bridge that spans the river and which the POWs had to cross both ways on their journey into the village every couple of days to get supplies for the camp.

Later, after tracing the route the POWs had to walk, we arrived at the former camp site and did a walking tour of the area. The Bowkett family was the only one who had a POW at Kukutsu and so it was especially meaningful for them to see where their father and grandfather spent his time.

We held a short service by the memorial and various members of the Bowkett family took turns at reading or speaking

in honour of the men of Kukutsu. By this time it had started to rain and with the conclusion of the ceremony we returned to the city once again.



On Saturday afternoon many of the guests enjoyed some free time visiting the world’s currently tallest building, Taipei 101.

Saturday evening featured our annual POW Banquet and this year it was held at the Grand Hotel. Once again a small display of wartime and POW artifacts were on display and the more than 50 guests enjoyed a lovely buffet dinner and good fellowship. After dinner the family members spoke telling a little about their loved one who was a POW and sharing what their visit to Taiwan meant to them. It was a moving and emotional time for some and knowing that they were among friends really helped.



*POW Banquet at the Grand Hotel*

## REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2010 cont'd. . .

Sunday morning started out a bit damp but it later cleared for our Remembrance Day ceremony at Jinguashi. The service got underway with Piper Mandy Roveda playing *Flowers of the Forest*. Alice Cawte, Representative of the Australia Commerce and Industry Office and our co-host for this year's event, addressed the crowd of more than one hundred who attended. ROC Veterans Affairs Commission Deputy Secretary-General Jack Lu brought greetings from the government and then the POW family members rendered tributes to the POWs, veterans and their loved ones. Rev. Herbert Barker, our new Chaplain, brought a message and prayer of Remembrance and then the wreath-laying ceremony took place at the POW Memorial to the tune of *Dark Island* on the bagpipes. Following Last Post, the Silence and Reveille, the *Ode of Remembrance* was read and the service closed.



*(Above) Last Post is played and (r) Sons and daughters of former POWs pay tribute at the memorial.*



Following the service a time of relaxation and refreshment was enjoyed during the picnic lunch in the nearby community center.

On Monday the Bowkett's left for home and the remainder of the group boarded our chartered bus for a trip down-island to visit three of the other camps and hold memorial services at each one. Our first stop was at Wufeng where the Taichu POW Camp is located. We were treated to a nice reception by the MOEA who administer the research center where the camp was located.

From Taichu we moved on to Bai He and the Nei-Jiao Military Base which is the site of the former Shirakawa Camp. There to greet us were two of the former Taiwanese camp guards and their families who wanted to meet the POW family members. The base commander and his staff gave us a warm welcome and allowed us to look around the former campsite before we held our memorial service. There was a wonderful spirit of friendship between the former guards and the visitors, and on leaving they received gifts from the guards.



*Family members with former camp guards*

Our final stop of the day was at PingTung where we were hosted at a lovely dinner put on by the Governor of PingTung County, Mr. Tsao Chi-hung.



The next morning we visited the former PingTung Sugar factory before going out to Heito Camp for a walk about and service.

Sisters Bessie Malkin and Carol Evans lost their father when he was killed in the bombing of Heito Camp in February 1945 by American Forces. Wilf Robinson's uncle died later at Shirakawa Camp most likely due to injuries suffered there also. After an emotional and heartwarming service we said goodbye to our hosts and returned to Taipei.



*Bessie & Carol*

The pilgrimage did not end there for on Wednesday three of us went to Hualien to visit the site of the former Karenko Camp where the senior officers and governors were held. Tim Hunt's father was interned there and also at Heito and Shirakawa, and he was anxious to see where his father had been and pay his respects. The MP Base and two of the city gov't. officials hosted us. We had a fitting memorial service and afterward, a good look around the camp too.



*Tim at the camp wall*

It was a wonderful week and all our guests said that they were happy with the time spent with us. We look forward to having more of them next year!

## Welcome...

We are honoured to welcome Mr. Hans Fortuin, the new Representative of the Netherlands Trade & Investment Office in Taipei as an ex-officio member of our board of directors as of this November.

Hans replaces Menno Goedhart who retired from the post after many years here in Taiwan. Menno and his wife were tremendously supportive of our work over the years and I want to express my appreciation for the interest and support that they have given to our Society. We look forward to working with Hans and the staff of the NTIO in the days ahead.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE . . .

When the war was over many of the Taiwan POWs who were evacuated from the island went to the Philippines on the **USS Block Island CVE-106**. Of course the surviving POWs know which ship they went on, as do many of the family members of the former POWs who have since passed on. However, there may be some who do not know which ship their loved one was evacuated on and would like to know.

Recently we have received from the USS Block Island Assoc. the list of the men transported on that ship, and after going over it, sorting it and correcting the many errors, we are now in a position to help those who wish to know if their loved one was on that ship. We also have a list of the 50 men carried by the DE **USS Thomas J. Gary**. As of now we don't have any info from the other ships, but we hope that will change in the future. More info will be forthcoming as we find details on the other ships.

You may contact us via the information on page 2 of the newsletter or from the "Contact Info" section on the homepage of our website to inquire about your loved one. **Please do not ask about the other ships as we have no information on them.**

### A word regarding donations to the Society:

Banks in Taiwan are reluctant to accept anything other than US dollars, so if making a donation to the Society please send the funds in **US\$** - preferably in a bank wire / transfer to our account here. Please contact us for the pertinent account information. Thank you.

## CORRECTION

In the last issue in the story of Brooke and Steve Chilcott's visit to Taiwan, I mis-named her father Louis Hambly by calling him Stuart. I wanted to make the correction so people will know his correct name and to further insure that he is not forgotten.

## NEW POW MEMORIALS PLANNED FOR TAIWAN POW MEMORIAL PARK . . .



*View of the present POW Memorial Park at Jinguashi*

Late in 2009 I got a call from the Taipei County Gov't. telling me that they wanted to further upgrade the POW Memorial Park in Jinguashi and asked for my help in designing some new features that could be added to enhance the appearance of the park.

During the spring I met with the architect of the project Mr. Yang Kuo Hao who I had worked with before back in 2005 when we renovated the park to its present state. Mr. Yang had some great ideas as well, and together we came up with a plan which was approved by the county gov't this summer.

The plan is to build a polished black granite memorial wall similar to the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC, with the names of all 4365 Taiwan POWs to be engraved on it. Near the wall there will be a meditation square with gardens and benches where visitors may sit and relax and reflect on the lives and the sacrifices of the POWs. This area will contain an information board briefly telling the story of each of the 16 camps so people can learn about all of the camps in Taiwan, not only Kinkaseki.

Nearby there will also be a large map of Taiwan showing the location of all 16 former POW camps engraved on a granite plinth. Finally there will be a life-size bronze statue, a sculpture of two POWs struggling to help each other survive. The statue will be entitled "Mates" and will hopefully convey to visitors the plight of the POWs.

The additions will be located on the site of the presently unused basketball court at the back area of the park. There will also be some upgrading done to the landscaping and walkways.



This POW Memorial Park in Jinguashi Taiwan is the only park in the world dedicated to the Far East Prisoners of War. We are very proud and happy that it is located here in Taiwan and that we have had a part in making it a reality.

The new memorials will be dedicated in 2011 at next year's Remembrance Day service.



# 2010 TAIWAN POW REUNION

## Sept. 10 - 13 – Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

Once again this fall another Taiwan POW Reunion was held in the UK.

For the third year in a row FEPOWs, family and friends gathered at the Sea Hotel in South Shields, a suburb of Newcastle Upon Tyne, from Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> through Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Eight former Taiwan POWs were present for the event and with a good number of family members, there were over forty in attendance this year.

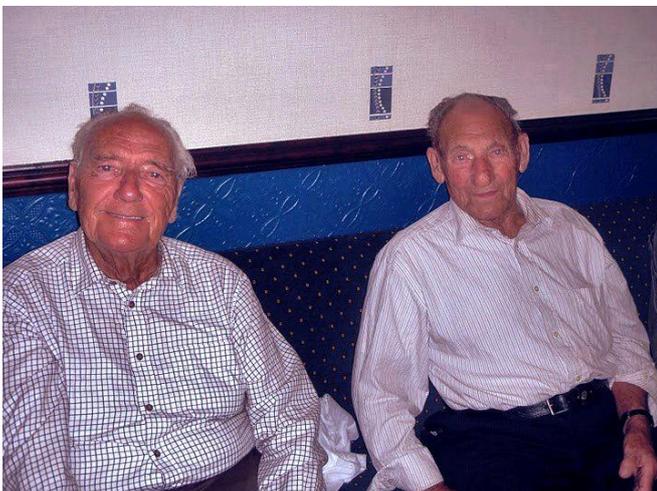
The reunion got off to a great start on Friday night with the welcome dinner and program. Saturday morning the group was taken on a leisurely tour of South Marine Park nearby the hotel. They were guided by the "Friends of the Park" in traditional Victorian costumes.



*Familiar faces - Stan Vickerstaff & George Reynolds*

Then it was back to the hotel for a traditional Fish & Chip lunch before heading off by coach for a tour of Bede's World, a popular museum of Early Medieval Northumbria at Jarrow which looks at the life and times of the Venerable Bede from 1300 years ago. The group was treated to afternoon tea there and everyone had an enjoyable outing.

Saturday evening saw the group back at the Hebburn Buffs Club for a great buffet dinner and time of fellowship.



*Dennis Ratcliffe & Walter Kirkby - relaxing*

On Sunday morning at 11:00am the Service of Remembrance was held once again in Hebburn Park.

Members of Branch 1329 of the Royal British Legion were present and provided a standard in honour of the veterans.

Sally Dorrian, the granddaughter of former Kinkaseki POW Sgt. William Anderson was the emcee for the service. Tributes were brought by the former POWs and their family members, the deputy mayor and former mayor, the Royal British Legion and on behalf of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.



*Sally leads the service*

During the laying of the wreaths the Northeast Concert Band played the hymn "Abide With Me". After Last Post, two minutes silence and Reveille – played by Ian Watson, the FEPOW Prayer was read by all those present and the service concluded.

The service was followed by lunch and a time of fellowship at the Hebburn Branch of the British Legion.



*The former POWs at the Hebburn Cenotaph*

The closing dinner was held Sunday night with a sumptuous banquet of traditional English fare put on by the hotel. It was a wonderful conclusion to a great reunion and everyone was sad to have to say goodbye to old and new friends on Monday. *Regrettably I was unable to attend the reunion this year with so much going on here in Taiwan, but if there is another one next year I hope to be able to go.*

Thanks again go to Mrs. Eileen Bacon and her daughter Clare Towns for the wonderful organization and for putting on such a good weekend.

*Following the reunion Clare and Sally started an online Forum for FEPOWs and their family members to chat and share information and photos etc. If you or your loved one was a former Taiwan POW, then you are invited to visit the forum at the following address –*

**NotForgottenHere.freeforums.org**