



Never Forgotten

Vol. 16, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2015

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



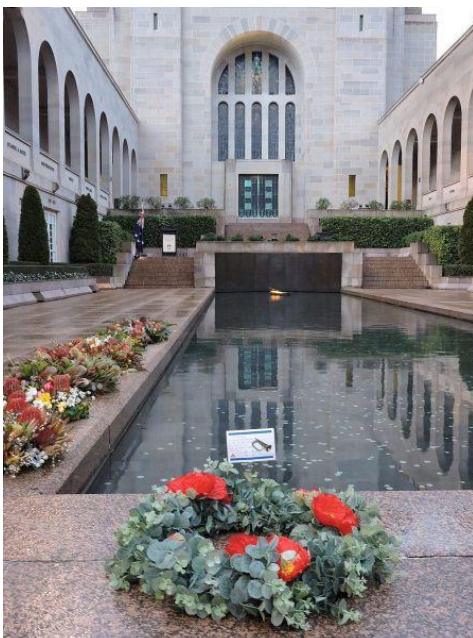
Lecture on the Taiwan POWs at Zhongshan Hall



LEST WE FORGET !



TPCMS staff with POW Ken Pett and POW family members at this year's Remembrance Day Service



The Taiwan POW Wreath at the Australian War Memorial

Lest We Forget

In Honour and Memory of the 55 Australian Prisoners of War held in Taiwan during WWII.



Michael Hurst MBE
Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Wreath card dedicated to the Australian POWs at the AWM Last Post Ceremony – July 24, 2015 (See story pages 5 – 6)

**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

Please visit our website at:
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;
Historian

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

Aust. - Rod Martin ramartin46@optusnet.com.au

EX-OFFICIO. . .

Catherine Raper - Representative, Australian
Office, Taipei

Chris Wood - Representative, British Office, Taipei

Mario Ste-Marie - Executive Director, Canadian
Trade Office in Taipei

Guy Wittich - Representative, Netherlands Trade
and Investment Office, Taipei

Si'alei Van Toor - Director, New Zealand
Commerce and Industry Office, Taipei

Kin Moy - 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 the poppy and the poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols of remembrance to war veterans. In the fall of 1998 the returning POWs laid poppy crosses at all the former campsites they visited.

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

- * to 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 . . .

“We get so caught up in our life and so busy living that we just don't remember to remember. It's sad and tragic.” . . . Rev. David Homer

AUGUST 15, 2015 FEPOW DAY IN TAIWAN -

On Saturday August 15th, the 70th Anniversary of the Japanese surrender which ended World War II, the 8th FEPOW Day event in Taiwan was held at the SPOT THEATRE in downtown Taipei.

The display of POW and military artifacts – with many newly added items, 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. Over 40 people were present to view the film “*Unbroken*” and the short documentary entitled “*The Real Louis Zamperini Story*”.

After a brief introduction about FEPOW Day and the POW Society, and the introduction of some special guests and the veterans, the memorial service to honour and remember the POWs took place. It featured readings by long-time Society member David Geddes, Major Norm Beckett of the Salvation Army and Luke Leonard from the New Zealand Commerce & Industry Office. Catherine Raper, Representative of the Australian Office led the group in the FEPOW Memory Pledge at the FEPOW Candle ceremony. This was followed a by a minute's silence accompanied by the playing of “*Abide With Me and Last Post*”.



Photos: Clockwise from top left: David Geddes, guests, Norm Becket, Catherine Raper reads the FEPOW Pledge.

Following the service everyone said how much they thoroughly enjoyed the two films and how much it opened their eyes to the sufferings the POWs endured.

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, let us

"Keep the candle burning"!

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

One of the highlights of the second half of this year for me was my trip to Australia to meet family I have known about there for years, but never had the chance to meet, and also to have the opportunity to share with the folks 'down under' a little of the Taiwan POWs' story. It was a wonderful experience and I met so many great people and had a fantastic time. (See story on pages 5 & 6)

Of course August 15th was a special day all over the world this year with many celebrations and commemorations of the 70th Anniversary of the Japanese surrender which ended WWII. In Taipei we celebrated another FEPOW Day which was a great success, while in the UK and other Allied countries huge events were held to remember the day which marked the end of the worst conflict the world has ever seen.

For a change the Taiwan POWs were well represented at ceremonies held in London and which were attended by the Royal Family, the Prime Minister and thousands more. While it is usually POWs from the Death Railway that get all the recognition, this time the Taiwan POWs were in the forefront with our own George Reynolds and Ken Pett and several Taiwan family members taking part. George was introduced to the Queen and figured prominently in the media that day.

POW camp tours kept us busy this year and we have had several prominent overseas guests - most notably Dr. Peter Pedersen, the famous WWI historian who was in Taiwan for a conference on Gallipoli in October, and also the VFW Pacific Region Commander Homer Kemp, as well as several POW family members, and a number of other individuals and local groups.

Finally, our annual Remembrance Week event was a huge success. We were pleased to welcome once again former POW Ken Pett who at 95 surprised us with his 3rd visit. (See pages 7 & 8)

As this 70th Anniversary year of the end of WWII comes to a close, and as there has been so much “remembering” of the past events of that war this year, I only hope that it has re-awakened people to the need to continue to remember the suffering and sacrifices made by so many for the freedom we have in our world today. Let us strive to keep the flame of remembrance burning brightly in the years to come, so that what all the veterans – and the many thousands of FEPOWs went through, will not have been in vain, and they also will not be forgotten! Remember - “Freedom Isn't Free!”

I want to wish all our members and friends a very blessed Christmas season and all the best of health and happiness in the coming year.

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!

WILLIAM T. WILLIAMS
SPR., ROYAL ENGINEERS
March 23, 2015

STANLEY WOOD
SGMN., 9/11TH INDIAN DIVISION SIGNALS
JULY 5, 2015

JACK W. BLOWERS
PTE., 4TH BTN. ROYAL NORFOLK REG'T.
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

"We Will Remember Them"



THE PASSING OF A FRIEND

I didn't get to know Stan Wood until later on in my work of finding and remembering the former Taiwan POWs, but oh, how I wish I had met him sooner. He was a storehouse of knowledge and memory about his time as a POW in Taiwan, and he gladly shared what he knew with me. Over the years we became good friends, especially after his visit to Taiwan in 2009. We also met at POW reunions in the UK.

Stan was a real handyman and craftsman and he would make collage art in his workshop out of all sorts of bits and pieces. Having been in Shirakawa Camp when it was strafed, he later gave me a brass shell casing from the raid mounted on a plaque which I treasure.

He was a loving family man who doted on his children, grandchildren and great-grand children. He was much loved and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace my friend!



A word regarding donations to the Society:

Due to some recent banking changes we are now able to accept donations in **British Pounds**, **Canadian dollars**, and **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 continued support.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE POW MEMORIAL PARK

For the past several years since the building of the POW Memorial Wall in the park at Jinguashi, we have wanted to have a bench placed there so that people who come to visit can sit and remember and reflect on their loved ones and the service and suffering they went through as POWs here so many years ago. We had repeatedly asked the New Taipei City Gov't. to provide such a bench when we were constructing phase 2 of the park in 2011, but budget restraints and other issues seemed to get in the way.

So we asked the gov't if our Society could place a bench there which we would provide, and finally on October 27th of this year permission was granted. Two days later on the 29th our good friends Deryk and Jean Walker drove me out to Bali to look for a suitable bench. I wanted a granite one and had seen several varieties in the outdoor garden shops there over the years when we worked on other memorial projects.

After visiting several places we came across a beautiful granite bench with a polished black base and white and black flecked seat that matches both the wall and also the POW Memorial. We purchased the bench and it was taken to the engravers to have the words "LEST WE FORGET" engraved on the back.

One week later on November 5th, the bench was installed in front of the wall in the park and will remain there forever as a place for rest and remembrance.

Our thanks to all those who have shared our vision about the bench, and to those who generously donated to its procurement. I also want to thank Deryk and Jean for their help and advice on the day.

Here are a few photos the new memorial bench –



The Memorial Bench - Lest We Forget Jean & Deryk



The bench in place by the wall in the POW Memorial Park

TAKING THE TAIWAN POW'S STORY 'DOWN UNDER'

In July of this year I had the pleasure and the privilege to be able to travel to Australia - not only for a wonderful vacation, but also to share a little of the Taiwan POWs' story "down under".

Back in 2000 while working on my family tree, I discovered a 'branch' of Australian relatives and among them were two distant uncles who had been POWs of the Japanese and had died on the way to Japan in 1944 when the hellship *Rakuyo Maru* was sunk by an American submarine.

These uncles – who are featured in the story - **"A Family Connection"** on our website, were twin brothers John and Burke Cobon of the 2/10th Field Reg't. R.A.A. They fought in Malaya and S'pore before being captured by the Japanese, and were first sent to Burma to work on the Death Railway. Following the completion of the railway they were moved back to Singapore, and in September 1944 were being transported to Japan for slave labour there when their ship was sunk by the submarine *USS Sealion II*.

Over the years through correspondence with another uncle living in Brisbane, I got to know more of the family, and finally after many repeated invitations and postponements, this summer I was able to go.

In addition to having the opportunity to meet my 'long-lost' relatives, this year is the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the 2/10th Field Reg't. RAA. The Lord Mayor of Brisbane was hosting a luncheon for the 2/10th Field Reg't. Association and the former POW survivors and their family members, and I was privileged to be included as a guest of the Cobon family. I was also asked by the Lord Mayor's Office if I would give a short PowerPoint presentation on the Taiwan POWs, which of course I was honoured to do.

I arrived in Brisbane on July 11th and spent several wonderful days with friends Gail and Ian Myers from the Sunshine Coast. Gail's father was in the 2/10th Field Reg't. and they came to Taiwan last year for our Remembrance Week event. On the 15th I went back to Brisbane to finally meet my family, and after a few days of fellowship with several of my cousins and an aunt, the day of the Lord Mayor's luncheon arrived.



Koala up a tree at the Queensland Zoo- Sunshine Coast

On Sunday July 19th approximately 150 people gathered in the beautiful old Brisbane City Hall for the luncheon hosted by Lord Mayor Graham Quirk. Five former 2/10th POWs were present along with many family members and guests. Primarily representing the Cobon twins at the lunch was their brother, my Uncle Keith and his wife, who live in the town of Stanthorpe.

The 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery Band provided the entertainment during the sumptuous lunch, and afterward the Lord Mayor gave a moving address which was followed by the presentation on the little-known story of the Taiwan Prisoners of War.



Lord Mayor Graham Quirk (centre) and wife Anne with five of the surviving 2/10th POWs at the luncheon



Sharing the story of the Taiwan POWs

- Photo courtesy of the Lord Mayor's Office



Uncle Keith on the range

Following this very memorable event I went down to Stanthorpe to spend some time with my uncle and aunt, and I got to learn a lot more about the family and the Cobon twins.

During my stay we went 'kangaroo hunting' (with a camera) and I got some great photos of several of them and a kookaburra in the wild.

(cont'd on page 6)

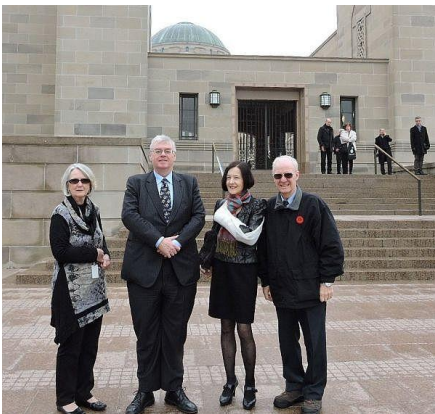
‘DOWN UNDER’ (cont'd rom page 5)



Kookaburra and Kangaroo in the wild

From Stanthorpe it was back to Brisbane and then on down to Canberra where I was the guest of former Australian Office in Taiwan Admin. Director Dianne Cornell and her husband Philip, and former Australian Office Representative Kevin Magee and family. When they heard I was going to Australia they told me I “must come to Canberra and go to the War Memorial”.

Kevin kindly arranged for me to have a VIP tour of the AWM in the morning and then to spend the rest of the day exploring the galleries on my own. I had also arranged to meet my long-time friend and AWM researcher Di Elliott who had helped me so much in the early years of my work with info on the Australian POWs. We had a great time together that day.

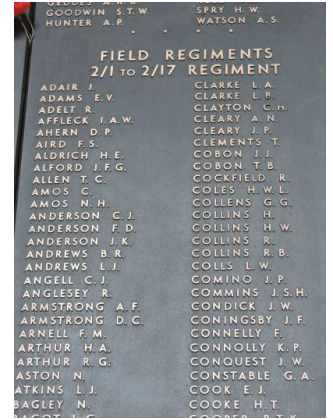


With Di Elliott (l), Kevin Magee and Dianne Cornell outside the entrance to the Australian War Memorial

The AWM truly is a world-class museum, and it is also a fitting memorial to all Australians who have fought and those who died to keep their country free.



Roll of Honour Wall dedicated to the Australians who gave their lives for peace and freedom



Inside the Memorial dome & Cobon names on the wall

After my tour in the morning I had the privilege to meet Historian Dr. Lachlan Grant of the Military History Section, whose special interest is in the Far East Prisoners of War. We had some discussion on the Taiwan POW camps and what took place here.

I spent more time going through the galleries in the afternoon. As I also had three great uncles – two Australian and one British who were at Gallipoli, I was impressed with the excellent and very detailed exhibits portraying this battle and also many others from WW I.

At 5 pm when the memorial closes every day, the “Last Post Ceremony” is held where the life and service of someone on the Honour Roll is featured. It is also possible for visitors to lay wreaths during this service and I was honoured to be able to lay a wreath for the 55 Australian POWs who were held in Taiwan. It was a very moving moment which I will never forget.



Laying a wreath at the AWM in honour of the 55 Australian POWs who were held in Taiwan

I must say that this long-awaited trip ‘down under’ to meet family that I had not previously known, and the opportunities I had to take in so much Aussie culture, will stay with me forever. My thanks go to my family for their warm and loving hospitality, and to all those who made every aspect of my visit a success. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been able to share a small part of the Taiwan POWs’ story with the folks there, and also to learn more about the sacrifices that Australians have made and their contribution to world peace and freedom. May we never forget it – ever!

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II REMEMBRANCE WEEK EVENT

This year's Remembrance Week event was undoubtedly one of the very best ever, and once again it was the people attending who made it so special.

Returning for his third visit to Taiwan was 95 year-old former POW Ken Pett, along with daughter Lynn and son-in-law Mike Heather. Ken was a Gunner in the 80th Anti-tank Reg't. RA, and was held at Kinkaseki and Kukutsu Camps. This year we had another POW from that regiment - Capt. Richard G. Bartelot, who was first held in Kinkaseki and then later moved to the officer's camp at Shirakawa, before finally being sent to Manchuria where he finished out the war. He was represented by his son Richard Jr. and wife Cheryl.

This year we were privileged to have three brothers - Gordon, James Jr. and Robert Simpson with us to represent their father - Cpl. James S. Simpson of the famed Gordon Highlanders Reg't., who first came to Taiwan on the *Dainichi Maru* and was held at Taichu Camp before being transferred to Kinkaseki and later ending up at Kukutsu as well.

Finally, Chris Agass, the grandson of L/Cpl. Ernie Agass of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps who was held at Kinkaseki and later at Taihoku Camp #6, and who returned to Taiwan in 2005 with his wife Marjorie. Chris joined us from his post at the British Embassy in Beijing.

This year the weather was very good the whole week with the exception of some rain which fell on the day we visited Kinkaseki, but that as they say, is typical of the Kinkaseki weather the POWs experienced, so no-one minded the rain that much.



The group about to go "down the mine" during the Thursday visit to Kinkaseki.

Thursday was spent visiting Kinkaseki - the Gold Museum and POW Memorial Park, with a stopover at Keelung Harbour on the return journey to Taipei. As everyone had some connection with Kinkaseki Camp, the day was very meaningful for everyone.

Friday our guests enjoyed some local sightseeing – a Chinese temple, the National History Museum for a guided tour through 5000 years of Chinese history (in about 1 ½ hours) and then a sumptuous international buffet lunch at the famous Grand Hotel before proceeding to the National War Memorial to see the changing of the guard. Following this we made our way to Taihoku Camp #6 for a visit and memorial service.

This visit was much anticipated by Chris Agass who had the only relative at this camp this year. His grandfather came here in August 1943 after nine months slaving at Kinkaseki, and toiled on various hard labor projects for the Japanese. Later he worked in the Taiwan Railway Repair Shops.

Being that the Taihoku # 6 Memorial is located on the site of the ROC Ministry of National Defense Headquarters, we were met on arrival by some of the Admin Dep't staff who joined us for the service.

After a brief introduction of the Taihoku Camp, poems were read and then Chris shared some thoughts about his grandfather and gave the "Tribute to the POWs". Following this wreaths were laid – including one by Col. Cheng, Kuei-Ming on behalf of the Ministry of Defense. Last Post was sounded, two minutes silence was observed and Reveille brought the service to a close.



Chris laying a wreath for his grandfather, and Col. Cheng laying one on behalf of the ROC Ministry of National Defense.

A good time of fellowship followed with the MND staff, and many photos were taken by the memorial.



With MND Admin Staff at the Taihoku # 6 Memorial.

(Cont'd on page 8)

REMEMBRANCE WEEK *(Cont'd)*

On Saturday morning we once again returned to the site of the former Kukutsu 'jungle' Camp in the hills south of Hsintien. On arrival we were met by our longtime friends who were thrilled to see Ken Pett again and to meet the Simpson brothers whose father had been a POW there as well. Jim Simpson read the poem "Kukutsu Stone" and Lynn Heather read "Our Feathered Friend the Sparrow" both traditional poems we read every time we visit there. Ken spoke and then Mike Heather shared his 'lasting impressions and memories' of Kukutsu. He spoke of how it was the local Taiwanese people who have made this place so special to him and how they have cared for the POWs from the time they were there back in 1945, and right up until now – 70 years later!

Robert Simpson shared some of former POW Bert Moule's memories and then the local Er-hu Orchestra played Amazing Grace during the wreath-laying.



Mike sharing his thoughts and the Simpsons with Ken Pett

We want to thank our hosts the Lai's and the Chen's and all our Kukutsu friends for another wonderful day.

Saturday evening was another highlight as the group was treated to a lovely dinner at the Howard Plaza Hotel by the Canadian Trade Office – our co-hosts for this year's Remembrance Day event. New Director Mario Ste-Marie and his wife Polly were gracious hosts and were eager to learn more of the FEPOWs' story from Ken and the other family members.

More than 120 people gathered for the annual Remembrance Day Service at the POW Memorial Park in Jinguashi. It was cloudy but there was no rain – a nice day, and very comfortable weather for a change.



Ken by the POW Sculpture

what their journey back to Taiwan had meant to them. Rev. Herbert Barker, the Society's chaplain, gave a timely message on remembrance.

Messages were brought from the Director of the POW Society, Director Mario Ste-Marie of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, Director Lin Kao-Chih, Veterans Affairs Council and Frank Kao, Vice President of the World Veterans Federation in honour and tribute to the POWs and the veterans. Then Ken spoke and shared some memories, and the family members also shared readings and poems and

The wreaths were laid accompanied by Mal Turner our piper. Last Post and Reveille were played by Ray Heberer, two minutes silence was observed and the Ode was read. It was one of the best and most moving Remembrance Day services ever, and it is so wonderful to see the growing interest in our event from year to year.



Photos (L-R): Ken saluting his mates, the POW family members paying their tribute, the Last Post is played and the Commonwealth & Allied reps by the POW Memorial

We would like to thank the Canadian Trade Office for their help with the Remembrance Day event this year.

On Monday the 16th, the group embarked on a journey to Taichung and Bai He to visit the sites of the former Taichu and Shirakawa Camps.

At Taichu we toured the former camp area and then held a short service by the memorial. Robert and Jim Simpson took part in remembering their father and we later stopped to visit the river area where he slaved.



The Simpsons by the Taichu Memorial and at the river

On arrival at Shirakawa we were met by the Hou family once again, and following a walk about inside the Nei-jiao Army Base, a memorial service was held with members of the ROC Military taking part. Gen. Chang the base commander, was very interested in the POWs' story and laid a wreath in tribute to the men who had been in this camp. Richard Bartelot paid tribute to his father as did Mr. Hou, one of the former camp guards. A nice time of fellowship followed and we want to thank the Hou family and the military for their help in making our visit a great success.

Richard, Cheryl & Ken with the Hou family

This year's event is one that will be remembered for a long time to come.



SHARING THE TAIWAN POWS' STORY LOCALLY...

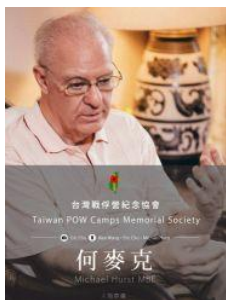
This summer and fall we were very privileged to be able to share more of the Taiwan POWs' story with audiences here on the island.

Centered On Taipei Article



The August issue of 'CENTERED ON TAIPEI' - the Community Service Center's magazine, featured a full-length story of the Remembrance Service held at the old Taipei Prison Wall in June and information on the Society and its work. We are grateful to the Center for its continued support.

QRF Magazine Interview and Video



In its inaugural edition on August 15th 'QRF MAG' - a new Taiwanese war history magazine, featured an in-depth interview with the Society director. The interview was also recorded on video and will be available later on the magazine's website. The story of the Taiwan POWs was

outlined and what has been done by the Society over the years to make sure that the men who were imprisoned here in Taiwan will not be forgotten.

70th Anniversary Conference on the End of WWII at the Zhongshan Hall

On Saturday September 12th at the invitation of the Taipei City Gov't. Zhongshan Hall, the Society director was asked to give a 2-hour PowerPoint history lecture on the Taiwan POWs' Story at the famous old building in downtown Taipei. Built in 1936 it served as the Taihoku City Hall during the Japanese period and was the site of the surrender of the Japanese on the island on October 25, 1945.



Japanese Surrender



Zhongshan Hall today

More than 20 people attended the event and many stayed afterward to look at the display of POW artifacts and to ask questions about what they had seen and heard. It seems that Taiwanese are hungry for more knowledge of their WWII history and we are glad to be able to help with that.

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 as ex-officio members of our board, 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 Mr. Guy Wittich, the new Director of the Netherlands Trade & Investment Office in September, replacing Mr. Hans Fortuin, followed by Mr. Mario Ste-Marie - Executive Director, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, replacing Ms. Kathleen McKay,

We express our appreciation to Hans and Kathleen 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.

POW CAMP TOURS

Once again this summer and fall we've had a busy time helping individuals, families and groups learn more of the Taiwan POWs' story and the former POW camp sites.

Cole and Ruby Anderson - Canada

Two teachers from Vancouver with a keen interest in military history and particularly that of Taiwan in WWII, paid us a visit in August and a delightful day was spent exploring the former POW camp and environs in Jinguashi. They plan to tell their students the story of the Taiwan POWs in their history classes.



VFW Pacific Area Commander

On October 11th, following the ROC Double-Ten Day ceremonies, Commander Homer Kemper, Veterans of Foreign Wars Pacific Area Dep't. was given a tour of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp and area hosted by the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission. Commander Kemper laid flowers on the memorial in the POW Memorial Park in Jinguashi in honour and respect of the 1553 Americans who were held in camps here in Taiwan 70 years ago.



POW CAMP TOURS *(cont'd)*

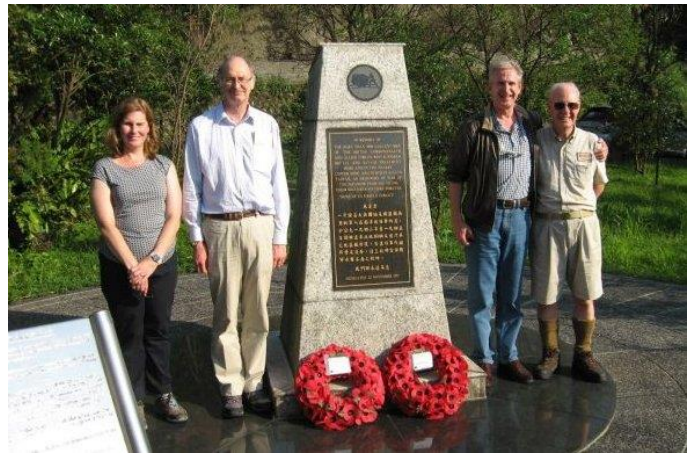
Military Historians Dr. Peter Pedersen & John Crawford

On October 14th, the Australia, New Zealand and Turkish Trade Offices in Taipei held a conference at the National Central Library in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign. Dr. Peter Pedersen, formerly Assistant Director and also Head of Research at the Australian War Memorial, and one of Australia's leading military historians, and John Crawford, a prominent historian from New Zealand, were the featured speakers.

At their request, it was my honour and privilege to be able to lead them - along with the Australian Representative and her family, on a tour of the Kinkaseki POW camp and mine. We had an enjoyable day and I was also able to learn more from these men about what my great uncles who were at Gallipoli and the Western Front experienced.



Dr. Peter Pederson (l) and John Crawford at the camp gatepost



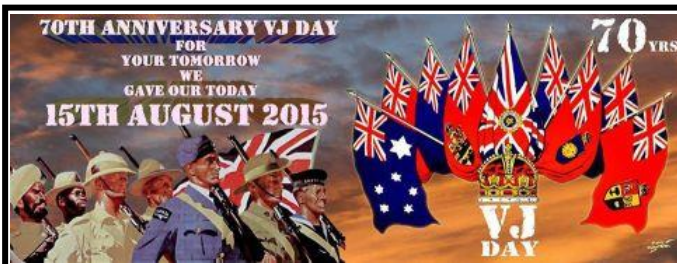
With Australian Office Rep. Ms. Catherine Raper, John Crawford and Dr. Peter Pedersen at the Kinkaseki Memorial

OTHER NOVEMBER GUESTS

This year, in addition to our overseas POW family visitors, we were pleased to welcome two other visitors to our November event. Charles Drdla a US Air Force Veteran who spends part of his time each year in Taiwan, and Caroline Weiner, a student of history traveling in Asia, joined our Remembrance Week program and they were able to learn more about the Taiwan POWs' story.



Charles & Caroline at Kukutsu Camp



UK VJ70 CELEBRATIONS HONOUR TAIWAN POWS

Former Taiwan POWs Ken Pett and George Reynolds were in London for this year's VJ70 event which took place on the August 15th weekend. George had the special honour of being introduced to the Queen and Prince Philip, and both men took part in all the activities and ceremonies. Ken was accompanied by his daughter Jill as his carer for the day, and Sally Dorrian accompanied George. This was also a special privilege for Sally as she got to represent her grandfather Sgt. William Anderson who died at Kinkaseki Camp in January 1945. With several other Taiwan POW family members also present, the Taiwan men were well represented that day. **Bless 'em all!**



George and Sally meet the Queen and Prince Philip, and Ken with Rob McAdam at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church