



# Never Forgotten

Vol. 4, Number 1

FALL-WINTER 2002

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



**The Kinkaseki / Taiwan POW Memorial at Chinguashi, Taiwan**

**“We Will Remember Them”**

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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 !**

We welcome you to visit our website. There you will find a list of all the POW camps that were on Taiwan, and by clicking on the name on the list, you will be able to read more about the camps and the men who were interned in them. We also have an Honour Roll with the names of many of the former Taiwan POWs.

Please visit our homepage at -

**[www.powtaiwan.org](http://www.powtaiwan.org)**

Please give us your comments, questions and suggestions.

Our email address is -

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

\* \* \* \* \*

*Thought . . .*

**“ Happiness isn't found by searching for it. It comes quietly while you are helping others. ”**

# 2002 – A VERY BUSY YEAR

by Michael Hurst

This past year has once again been an extremely busy time for us and for the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

It all started last February with an invitation from the Singapore National History Society and Tourism Board to come to Singapore and take part in the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of that city to the Japanese in 1942. I was pleased to do this and very surprised find some former Kinkaseki POW friends there as well.

On the first morning, while on a visit to Changi Chapel and Museum, I was greeted by Pearl and Jack Fowler. Later in the day I also met Jack and Polly Edwards from Hong Kong, and Keiko Holmes who had come from the UK with a Royal British Legion delegation.

The anniversary events were well organized and very meaningful – especially the dawn memorial service put on by the Australian government at Kranji War Cemetery on the morning of February 15. It was very moving to see the homage being paid to those who suffered so much in the battle for Malaya and Singapore and as POWs following the surrender. While at the ceremony I also met a former Australian POW who was in the same regiment as my cousins who were lost aboard the Rakuyo Maru. It was a very sobering time for me.

During our stay there we visited Selarang Barracks, The Changi Murals in Roberts Barracks, the opening of the new exhibit on the monster guns of Singapore, the Changi Chapel and Museum and finally the Changi Jaol. Most of all it was so great to talk with so many of the former POWs and to learn more of their experiences. All in all it was a wonderful, never to be forgotten trip.

During the spring we made several trips to the mountains north of Taipei in search of the OKA Camp but were still unable to turn up any more clues. We're still trying!

On June 21 – 22 Tina and I journeyed down Taiwan's East Coast for a visit to the former Tamazato POW Camp. After having tried for several years to obtain permission for a visit inside the camp, we finally received approval in April and wanted to go as soon as possible. The former camp is now administered by the Taiwan Army, but the base was closed several years ago. There is nothing left from the former times but the surrounding hills and the views over the campsite are the same.

In July we went to Canada to visit my family and while there I accidentally stumbled on the story of a former German POW camp that was located in the same town where my mother now stays. I took the opportunity to visit the former campsite which is now a college campus. The buildings were made of brick and so are all still there and have been converted for educational use. As I looked into the story of the camp and its prisoners, I found that they were treated so much better than what the Taiwan and other Far Eastern POWs experienced at the hands of the Japanese.

Also, while in Canada, we paid our annual visit to former Kinkaseki POWs John Emmett and Ken Davis and their wives and had a delightful time together as always.

I was shocked and surprised by the announcement in June that I had been awarded the MBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee. This came about because so many of the FEPOWs added their support to the proposal put forth by Maurice Rooney for the

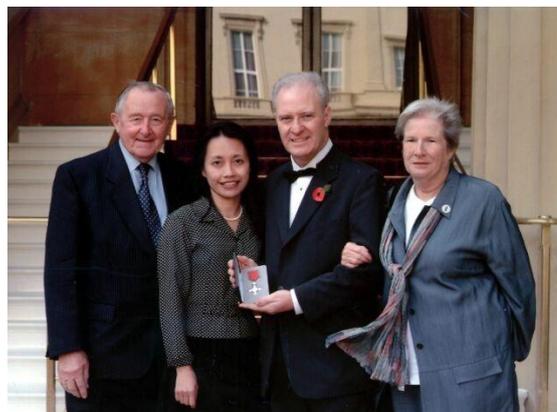
award a couple of years ago. To have this award is very special, but to have it at the recommendation of so many of my FEPOW friends is a great honour indeed, and I am so humbly grateful to them for thinking of me in this way. Of course I have to share the honour with Tina, for it is also largely due to her invaluable help that we have accomplished what we have here in Taiwan.

On Thursday October 10, I was presented with the MBE by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, at a wonderful ceremony at Buckingham Palace. With me were Tina and former Taiwan POW Stan Vickerstaff and Mrs. Joan Seed, the wife of former Kinkaseki POW doctor Peter Seed. I selected these two to represent all of the Taiwan POWs and their wives.



*Receiving the MBE from His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, at Buckingham Palace - October 10, 2002*

Prior to our arrival in the UK Maurice Rooney had organized a gathering of some of the FEPOWs who live close to the London area or who were easily able to get down to London, to join us at the Union Jack Club on the day of the award for a reunion dinner. Some also came and stayed for a day or two with us. In addition to Maurice and Barbara Rooney, Joan Seed and Stan Vickerstaff, we were so pleased to have about fifteen former FEPOWs and their wives and Dominic McAllister – a former TPCMS Board member and friend, now living back in the UK - with us for the event.



*With Tina and Stan Vickerstaff (l) and Joan Seed (r) at Buckingham Palace following the presentation of the MBE by HRH, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales.*

(con't. on page 4)

## A VERY BUSY YEAR . . . (con't.)

Following our stay in London we spent a couple of weeks visiting with family and some of our FEPOW friends in the UK. Our first stop was at the home of Maurice and Barbara Rooney where we spent a relaxing few days catching up on all the POW news – and playing around with Maurice's computer! We also had a day out with Gaye Brown, Diane Frost and her husband visiting my maternal ancestral home at Blakeney on the north coast of Norfolk.

Following our stay in Norfolk, we took the train to Long Eaton and spent a few days with Stan Vickerstaff and his son Roger. While there we visited with Jim and Lynn Brennan on the first afternoon, and the next day we went to Shrewsbury to see Katherine Heard and her daughter Pat Riley and husband John. On the way we stopped at the National Arboretum at Alrewas for a brief look around (see article on page 6). The following day was spent with Eric and Joan Carter and Paul Morrell, a young man who is keenly interested in the Taiwan POWs' story.

We then stopped by Stoke-on-Trent to visit some family, before moving on to Manchester where we stayed for several days with Joan Seed. We got to see Alice Myerscough as well while we were there. One day we took the train north to St. Annes and spent a couple of hours with Jack and Doris Catherall. Jack was in the senior officers' camps, and has been a great source of information on these camps and an invaluable help to me.

Our time in the UK drew to a close all too quickly and we were sad that we did not have enough time to visit more of our FEPOW friends, but that only made us more determined to return again – as soon as possible - for another visit!

## REMEMBRANCE WEEK – 2002

Once again this year our Remembrance Week was a great success. We had fourteen overseas guests – including four former FEPOWs - from the UK, Australia and Hong Kong. The number was fewer than previous years, but the group was no less enthusiastic, and everyone said that they had a wonderful time.

The events started with a day trip to Kinkaseki and then to Keelung Harbour - where many of the men who were sent to Kinkaseki, arrived in November 1942. It was also from here where all those POWs who remained on Taiwan at the end of the war, departed on their way home to freedom.

The next day was spent on local sightseeing and visiting the site of the former Taihoku #6 Camp. In the evening the award-winning film "A War Story" about Kinkaseki and Dr. Ben Wheeler – was shown to a group of about 100 people, and afterward the visiting FEPOWs and their families were interviewed by members of the media who were present.

Saturday evening featured the annual POW banquet put on by the Australian Industry and Commerce Office in Taipei and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society. A display of POW artifacts – British and Japanese uniform items and other items used by the Taiwan POWs, which was put on by Michael Hurst, generated a lot of interest among those who were present. These items will form part of the future POW display at the new museum presently under construction in Chinguashi (Kinkaseki), which is scheduled to open in 2004.

After dinner, the four former POWs gave us a treat by singing "Down the Mine" before each one spoke in turn.

Sunday, November 17 saw more than 80 people gathered at Chinguashi for the annual Remembrance Service. Present on the day were former POWs Harold Brant, Les Davis, Jack Edwards and William Kingate, the family of Arthur Robinson and the daughter of Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes. Rev. Edmund Ryden conducted a moving service and wreaths were laid to remember the men who suffered so much here so long ago. In the words of Major Ben Wheeler,

**" May we never forget it"**



*Former Taiwan POWs at Kinkaseki Memorial Service, Sunday November 17, 2002 – from left to right – Les Davis, Jack Edwards, Harold Brant, Bill Kingate.*

## DUTCH POWS ON TAIWAN...

The Dutch made up the third largest number of allied POWs to be held on Taiwan during WWII, after the British and the Americans.

According to the information we have gathered, we have been able to place 70 former Dutch POWs onto our Honour Roll of the Taiwan POWs.

Most of the Dutch POWs who were held here came from the Netherlands East Indies following its surrender in March 1942, and the group was largely made up of the most senior officers and also the top civilian personnel from the Dutch East Indies including Governor Van Starckenborgh Stachouwer.

To date the TPCMS has been unable to find any former Dutch survivors from the Taiwan camps and our only contact has been with the son of Maj. Gen. Hans de Fremery who now lives in Australia.

The Netherlands Trade & Investment Office in Taipei has a keen interest in our project and have given us a lot of help. We have placed notices in several veterans magazines in the Netherlands, but so far there has been no response. If anyone knows of any former Dutch POWs who were interned on Taiwan, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. We want these men to know as well that they and their comrades have not been forgotten!

## LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . .

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

## UPDATE ON POW THE PROJECT...

Although we have found almost all of the fifteen former Japanese POW camps on Taiwan, there is still much work that needs to be done to ensure that what went on in those camps is known and recorded for history, and the memory of the men who were interned in those camps is not forgotten.

It is taking longer than anticipated, but we have been encouraged by recent developments and are optimistic that we should be able to get approval from the Taiwan military to erect a fourth POW memorial stone on the site of the Heito Camp in Southern Taiwan sometime in the coming year.

Because local construction made it necessary to relocate the Kukutsu Memorial stone, we had been discussing alternate locations with the local county government, but now some renewed interest has been shown and the authorities are asking us to work with them to have the site of the former camp declared as a historic area. This is a real encouragement as well.

There is also interest from a local film company in making a documentary film about the POWs and the Kinkaseki and Kukutsu Camps, and meetings are scheduled to start early in the new year in this regard. We have been asked to provide historical and technical help with the film so this could be a big project as well.

Work is progressing well on the new museum building in Chinguashi and it is expected that the facility will open in the spring of 2004. We will have a display of POW artifacts, photos and documents in the museum to help Taiwanese learn more about this untold part of their history.

It looks like some exciting times are ahead for the Society in the coming year – we'll keep you informed!

## In Memorium

*The following former Taiwan POWs have passed away since our last newsletter. We extend our sincerest sympathy to the wives and families of these men and assure them that although they are no longer with us, they will Never Be Forgotten!*

**STANLEY BESZANT  
PTE., ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS  
POW CAMP NO. 38  
MARCH 2001**

**GEORGE HINTON  
LIEUT., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
POW CAMP NO. 241  
APRIL 2001**

**FRED DOWN  
SPR., ROYAL ENGINEERS  
POW CAMP NO. 728  
JUNE 2001**

**SIDNEY EDWARDS  
GNR., 80<sup>TH</sup> ANTI-TANK REG'T., R.A.  
POW CAMP NO. 160  
AUGUST 9, 2001**

**LESLIE EARDLEY  
GNR., 7<sup>TH</sup> COAST REG'T., R.A.  
POW CAMP NO. 729  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2001**

**BERNARD JAMES WILSON  
CPL., ROYAL ENGINEERS  
POW CAMP NO. 938  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2001**

**ARTHUR SMITH  
GNR., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T., R.A.  
POW CAMP NO. 432  
OCTOBER 2001**

**FRED MOORHOUSE  
GNR., 80<sup>TH</sup> ANTI-TANK REG'T. R.A.  
POW CAMP NO. 350  
NOVEMBER 20, 2001**

**WILLIAM R. EVANS  
200 COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
DECEMBER 2, 2001**

**HARRY AUTY  
TPR., 18<sup>TH</sup> BTN. RECON. CORPS.  
POW CAMP NO. 946  
MAY 19, 2002**

## TRUTH in the NUMBERS . . .

A recent article in a UK FEPOW publication once again talked about the number of Kinkaseki survivors, but unfortunately the figures quoted were again incorrect.

I am often asked by former Kinkaseki POWs, their families and other interested people, if I know the exact number who survived and I have to say that I don't. No-one can be absolutely sure what the exact number was.

It has often been stated that of the original 524 (should be 523) men who first went into Kinkaseki in November 1942, that only either 40 or 64 came out at the end, and that only five are alive today. From the contacts that we have made over the past five years there are currently 36 still living from that original group – that we know of for sure, and there could still be more that we haven't found yet.

Over the past five years I have personally come in contact with another 14 men who were in that original group and who are no longer with us, having passed away since we started our research, so that brings the total of recent living survivors to 50 from the original group of 523 men.

In addition to this, there were about 50 men from that first group who left Kinkaseki in February 1945 and went to Japan where they finished out the war, and most of those men survived.

Then there were the 115 men, also from this first group, who made up part of the contingent of men who went to the Kukutsu "jungle" Camp when the Kinkaseki Camp was closed in May 1945, and only two died there leaving 113, so one can easily see that the oft-quoted figures in the article are incorrect.

As to the number of men who survived out of the 1135 in total who went into Kinkaseki, no-one can ever really be sure. According to the official camp records verified by Major Crossley, there were 87 deaths and recorded burials in the camp itself, another two men died at Kukutsu, three died on the return trip to Taihoku and a further three were killed by a food-drop from allied planes while awaiting evacuation in the Taihoku Churon Camp, bringing the known total of actual Kinkaseki deaths to 95.

There were also many men who were sent out from Kinkaseki at various times in the "thin man" parties, as they were too sick and weak to work down the mine any longer, and many of these men died in other camps on Taiwan as a direct result of their time at Kinkaseki, but the exact number is unknown.

Some died not long after the war ended and some soon after they had returned home – again as a direct result of their time spent at Kinkaseki and the other camps on Taiwan. It is impossible to really know for sure, but taking into consideration the number of graves of Taiwan POWs at Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery in Hong Kong and the other records that we have, I feel that it can be estimated that approximately half of the men who went to Kinkaseki at one time or another may have died prematurely from causes related to their experiences as POWs on Taiwan.

I hope this helps to clarify the numbers and set the record as correct as is humanly possible. What is more important is that all of the Kinkaseki men are remembered!

"It is not necessary to exaggerate or embellish on the stories of the Far East Prisoner of War Camps or the men who were interned in them – the story is unbelievable enough as it is! - from a FEPOW

## Taiwan POWs to be Remembered with a Memorial Tree at the National Arboretum. . .

During our recent visit to the UK, we were fortunate to be taken by former Taiwan POW Stan Vickerstaff to the National Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire.

While there I noticed the trees planted on behalf of many branches of the British Armed Forces and other worthwhile organizations. I was especially impressed with the wonderful displays erected along the south side by the Far East Prisoner of War Associations.

As I stood there with Tina and Stan, a thought came over me. "There are wonderful memorials to the men who slaved on the Thai-Burma Railway, the Sumatra Railway, and the Children and Families of Far East POWs (COFEPOW), but there is nothing to commemorate the Taiwan POWs." Right then and there I said to Stan – we must have a tree for the Taiwan POWs! Stan completely concurred with me on this.

I found a spot right up at the front alongside the memorial stone to the Thai-Burma Railway POWs where there was no tree and decided to apply for this place for a tree to remember the Taiwan POWs.

Upon returning home to Taiwan I contacted David Childs the director of the Arboretum regarding the planting of the Taiwan POW tree. David was most helpful, and on November 25 we were granted permission for the tree to be placed on the spot that I requested.

I have requested that a **red maple tree** be planted to honour the Taiwan POWs. Not only because I am from Canada and the maple is our national emblem, but also because maple trees are to be found in every country that had POWs on Taiwan – including Taiwan itself! I also asked for a "red" maple to remind us all of the blood that was shed for our freedom by the Taiwan POWs.

The tree will be planted in December and a plaque with the following words will be placed in front of it –

**"In Memory of the Taiwan Prisoners of War - those who died and those who returned"**

**Donated by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society**

Later I hope to be able to have a small memorial stone carved from Taiwan marble – similar to the various Taiwan POW memorial stones that we have erected, and personally place it at the base of the tree at a dedication service sometime in the future. I am so pleased that we can further help to remember the Taiwan POWs in this way.



*Standing on the spot where the Taiwan POW tree is to be planted.*

## Comings and Goings. . .

Over the past year there have been several changes in the personnel of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

Just after our last newsletter, we were pleased to welcome Ms. Frances Adamson as the new Representative for the Australian Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei, and she immediately became involved with our Society. This year's Remembrance Weekend activities were under the auspices of the ACIO and Frances took a leading role in organizing and carrying out this very successful event.

We also lost an Aussie from our crew when Andrew Currie left us for greener pastures in Mainland China. Although only with us for a short time, Andrew contributed a lot in the way of ideas and support and we will miss him very much on our team.

In June of this year David Coates finished his term as Director-General of the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei, and returned to the UK. David has been very supportive of our work over the past three years and has been a tremendous encouragement to me. I am very grateful to him for all his help, and I will certainly miss him.

Very shortly after David's departure, his replacement, Derek Marsh, arrived on the scene. Derek is keenly interested in the POWs' story as well, and has been very supportive in many areas already and we look forward to his continued help and support in the future.

Our UK Rep., Maurice Rooney has asked to be relieved of his job as he has not been feeling quite "up to par" these past few months. Maurice has done a tremendous job over the past five years in helping us contact former Taiwan POWs and their families in the UK, arranging reunions, taking care of our UK finances, and handling the day to day operation of our Society in the UK. His contribution has been immense and we are very grateful to him for all his support and for his assistance in helping to make the story of the Taiwan POWs better known. Thank you Maurice for all you have done!

We are currently looking for a replacement for Maurice, so if anyone in the UK is interested and willing to volunteer, please contact the Director, Michael Hurst, as soon as possible.

## AS TRUE TODAY AS THEN...

Lt. General Jonathan Wainwright had the painful duty of surrendering the Philippine islands to the Japanese when it became apparent that to continue fighting would be disastrous - not only for all of his troops, but also for the people of the Philippines.

Following the surrender some of the American POWs had to endure the Bataan Death March - one of the most hideous acts of barbarism of the Pacific War, and many hundreds of others died of starvation and beatings in the various camps in which they were confined.

General Wainwright was sent to Taiwan, along with nearly 300 senior officers and men in the fall of 1942 where he remained for most of his time as a POW. He witnessed first hand the cruelty and depravity of the Japanese during those awful times.

On September 13, 1945 he attended a banquet in New York given in his honor upon his return home, and following the dinner he gave a speech challenging the world to remember what the men of the Pacific theatre had suffered under the Japanese. It went like this -

" Before the Japanese again are allowed to take their place among other respected nations, they must be made to realize that their medieval ways have no place in our modern world. Japan must be made to realize on every step of her long road back to acceptance among civilized nations, that government does not indulge in the excesses she has loosed on the world these past fourteen years, and call it quits when her leaders have had enough. They must not be permitted for one moment the illusion that we let them view the cessation of hostilities as merely a brake, and not a stop to their ambitions.

She must learn truth and humanity and righteousness rather than deceit and cruelty and treachery, are the basis of international relations and way of life.

The Japanese are not sorry for what they have done to countless thousands in populations of the countries they have occupied. They are not sorry for the torture they have inflicted on our soldiers. It simply could not occur to them to be sorry, because they have done nothing which is at variance with their accepted philosophy. That is the point which should be clearly understood."

It seems that nothing has changed since Wainwright's speech and the American government still hasn't understood the point which he tried to make back then. They are still looking the other way when it comes to Japan - putting business and self-interest ahead of truth and justice when it comes to former POWs. Some things never change!

## ***ARE YOU A CHILD OR FAMILY MEMBER OF A FORMER FAR EAST PRISONER OF WAR?***

If so, then there is an organization you should know about. COFEPOW (Children and Families of Far East Prisoners of War) was founded in November 1997, and is an association dedicated to bringing the children and families of former Far East POWs together, to remembering the men who were POWs in the Far East during World War II, and also to building a permanent memorial to those wonderful men who gave so much for our freedom. The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society supports COFEPOW, its aims and its work.

For more information on COFEPOW; how it may be of assistance to you as a FEPOW family member, and how you can have a part in its work, please contact: **Mrs. Carol Cooper, 20 Burgh Rd., Gorleston, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 8BE / Tel. 01493 664116 or visit their website at [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk)**

## --- from the Director

Once again I must apologize for the delay in getting this newsletter out to our friends and supporters. This past year has been so busy - with research, travel, correspondence and other projects, so that we have had very little time to put out a newsletter. It has been a wonderful year though – full of surprises and discoveries, and warm, heartfelt moments as well.

We have found quite a few new former Taiwan POWs and our Honour Roll is now up to almost 2900 names. We still have a ways to go before we have all of the names, so if any of our readers know of anyone – of any nationality – who was a former Taiwan POW, please get in touch with us and give us the information.

The coming year is full of promise and opportunity for the Society. At present we have a number of projects that we are working on at various stages. We are still hoping to verify the location of the OKA Camp, negotiations are still ongoing with regards to placing the fourth POW memorial at the site of the Heito Camp in Southern Taiwan, we are doing preliminary work on finding the crash site of the PB4Y-1 shot down in the sea off the southern tip of the island, we are working with the government regarding preserving the site of the former Kukutsu camp as a historic site, and co-operating on the production of a documentary on the Taiwan POWs. In addition I hope to start work on the book on the Taiwan camps and the stories of the men who were interned in them, and also get more information about the camps onto our website, so it is going to be a very full year indeed.

All of the work is done voluntarily – no, this is not my “real job”, but for me it is a passion and a calling to make sure that the story is told and the truth is known, so that what happened here in Taiwan 60 years ago will not be forgotten.

I would like to thank all those who have continued to support us and encourage us in this past year. We have had some generous donations to help with funding for research and other projects, and are very grateful for those who have given so that the memory of the POWs will be remembered. There is still so much to do and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

It means so much to have you behind us, helping us with your gifts and your encouragement. I am looking forward to doing even more in the days ahead so that the memory of the Taiwan POWs will “never be forgotten”.

**Wishing you all the very best in the coming year!**

Sincerely,

Michael Hurst, MBE  
Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society

## THE TAIHOKU - OKA CAMP. . .

In June of 1945, with the war going very badly for them and Taihoku (Taipei) being constantly bombed, the Japanese POW camp HQ in Taihoku decided to “recruit” a group of POWs to go into the mountains and build huts so that men could be transferred up there “for their safety”. In fact as it is now known, that the prisoners were to be killed up there when the Allies landed on Taiwan.

A party of around 100 men left Taihoku Camp #6 on June 12 and spent all day hiking up into the mountains to where the camp was to be located. They were billeted at a school while they finished the first two huts and then they were moved into this new camp where they had to sleep on the ground in the huts and had no food to eat.

On July 2nd 50 more men came “up the hill” to add to the already overcrowded state. A third hut was finished but the food got worse. Most of the men were sick and suffered from fatigue and beatings from the guards. By July 18 more than 100 were so sick they were unfit for work. Ten men died in the camp - from starvation and beatings, and of those who went up to OKA Camp seven more would die within days of their return to the main camp at Taihoku after the war’s end.

We have found the village with the school and the temple where the ten men who died were buried, but after searching for almost three years, we have still not found the exact location of the camp. We keep searching but are finding it almost impossible to discover the location. After 57 years the forest has most likely overgrown everything that was previously there. We’re not giving up though!

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**At the beginning of the new year we are updating our mailing list. 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.**

**If we do not hear from you, then we will remove it in order to ensure the wisest use of our funds.**

**When you write please remember that it costs to produce and mail this newsletter and any gifts toward printing and mailing costs would be very much appreciated.**

**Thanks for your continued support!**

## **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 and be able to better understand this part of their history.

For further information, please contact us at -

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