



# Never Forgotten

Vol. 5, Number 2

FALL 2004

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

## 2004 - Another Memorable Year !



*Re-dedication of the Kukutsu POW Memorial*



*Trip to North China and former POW camp sites*



*Opening the Museum at Chinguashi*



*POW Remembrance Week – November 2004*



*Dedication of the Heito Memorial*

[See Photos' Stories on Pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8]

## 2005 – The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II

Next year – 2005 – is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II. Numerous celebrations and events are being planned all over the world for the coming year to commemorate this memorable event in history. The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society is also working on several projects and planning several special events to commemorate the Taiwan POWs' story next year. Please watch the homepage of our website for more details and if possible plan to be with us for these occasions. If you are interested in becoming involved in these projects, and for more information, please contact the Society by mail or email at the addresses shown on page 2 of this newsletter. Hope to see you next year!

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**Gordon Houlden** – Executive Director, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei  
**Clare Fearnley** - Director, New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office, Taipei

**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 help with the organization of, and participate in, the Commonwealth and Allied memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Kinkaseki every November.
- \* 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 . . .*

“Success – is the reward for turning believing into achievement. Success is measured not in the size of the outcome, but in the depth of the effort to achieve it!

# 2004 . . . the Year in Review

The year 2004 has been a banner year in our quest to tell more of the story of the Taiwan POWs and to make sure that these wonderful men are never forgotten. Much new material has been gathered from the POWs and their families, from archives around the world and from other sources as well. In addition, several more surviving Taiwan POWs were found.

The Honour Roll has grown from around 2900 names at the beginning of the year to over 3700 at present writing, and we are now very close to having most of the names of the former POWs who were interned on Taiwan from August 1942 until September 1945.

Our POW Memorial building program was finally completed as the Kukutsu POW Memorial was re-dedicated in May, and in November, the fourth POW memorial on the island was erected and dedicated at the site of the former Heito Camp.

Early in September the Taiwan POWs were represented at a World War II conference in Beijing. After this, a visit was made to two POW camps in north China where former Taiwan POWs were held, and also to the infamous Unit 731 at Harbin. We are working with another group to try to get memorials erected on the sites of these two former camps in China.

On November 4<sup>th</sup> the new 'Museum of Gold' was opened in Chinguashi (Kinkaseki), with the POW display being one of the featured attractions. The exhibit provides the people of Taiwan with more information about the Taiwan POWs and this little-known part of their history; as well as creating a permanent memorial to the POWs who suffered so much there.

A most wonderful and memorable Remembrance Week was held from November 10 – 17 with nineteen overseas guests present this year. Visits to seven of the former POW camps were made and memorial services held at six of them.

As you will note, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society is continuing to fulfill its goals and the aims and objectives that were sent forth when the Society was first formed. We want to press on to that end and to fulfill all the objectives we have set out to do. Thanks to all of those who have had a part in this wonderful work.

## KUKUTSU POW MEMORIAL RE-DEDICATED



*The newly re-dedicated Kukutsu POW Memorial*

Sunday May 16 was a beautiful sunny day for the re-dedication of the Kukutsu POW Memorial. More than fifty friends and supporters gathered with us on the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day the POWs moved into the camp from Kinkaseki, to witness the dedication ceremony.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the Kukutsu Memorial stone - which had originally been dedicated on the site of the former camp back in 1999, had to be relocated due to a government construction project and so on February 17 this year the former Kukutsu POW Memorial stone was re-mounted into a new permanent base constructed last year.

The ceremony began with a march to the memorial led by piper Mal Turner. Master of ceremonies, TPCMS board member Jerry Keating, welcomed everyone, and following the opening remarks by Michael Hurst, Director of the POW Society, Mr. Rod Bunten, Deputy-Director of the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei spoke on behalf of the Commonwealth and Allied representatives. Then Deputy Director of the Taipei County Gov't. Culture Bureau, Mr. Bob Tang, brought greetings and good wishes from the

county government. Following the reading of two poems, wreaths were laid on the memorial.

Richard Chen then played taps and reveille and a minute's silence was observed to remember the men in this camp who had suffered, and those who had died so near to the end of World War II.



*Trumpeter Richard Chen plays taps and reveille - in tribute to the POWs*

A special thanks to all those who took part on the day and those who came to show their support, including the people of the Tu Tan Community where the memorial is located. - the community chairman and his wife, and many of the local residents and friends.



*TPCMS Staff with piper (l-r) Jerry Keating, Mal Turner (piper), Michael Hurst, Stuart Saunders*

# JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY – TRIP TO NORTH CHINA

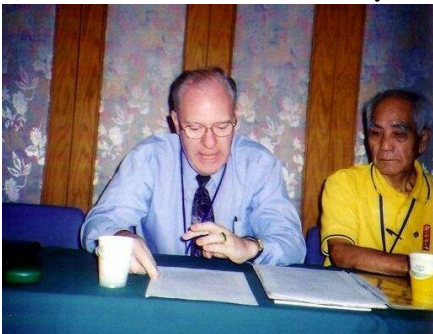
By Michael Hurst MBE



*At the Marco Polo Bridge outside Beijing*

truth about the Second World War and the atrocities committed by the Japanese upon the Asian people - and prisoners of war, is known and told to the world.

The conference lasted three days and was attended by more than 400 people – scholars, historians, those concerned about human rights, former POWs and civilian internees of the Japanese, witnesses to the horrible atrocities such as the Rape of Nanking and government officials. It was my privilege to have a part in one of the seminars and to be able to relate the story of the Taiwan POWs to those present, many of whom had never heard the story before.



*Sharing the Taiwan POWs' story at the conference in Beijing*

present day Liao Yuan, as that is where all of the top generals and the governors of all the Asian colonies were sent after they left Taiwan in the fall of 1944. A.O. agreed.

On the evening of September 20<sup>th</sup> we left Beijing on the overnight train, arriving in Shenyang the next morning. Our first stop was the 918 Memorial Museum, followed by a visit to the home of former General Zhang Hsue Liang. The next day we met the US Consul General for tea at his residence and then proceeded to the site of the former Mukden POW Camp where more than 1500 allied POWs were held and used as slave labour during the war years. Of special interest to the Taiwan POWs' story is the fact that about 300 higher-ranking officers and men were sent to Mukden from Shirakawa camp in the fall of 1944. We had a memorial service and then went to the former factory for a look around. We visited the former Ching Northern Palace and Tombs, as well as the prison at Fushun where the Last Emperor Pu-Yi was interned after the war, before heading north to Liao Yuan the next day.

At Liao Yuan we found the POW camp and although we weren't allowed to take photos because it is a PLA army facility, we met with gov't. officials who expressed interest in erecting a memorial to those famous POWs who were housed in the camp.

From Liao Yuan we drove to Changchun for the night and the next morning had a tour of Pu-Yi's Manchukuo Palace before moving on to finish our tour at Harbin.

The site of the former experimentation center is un-nerving and the evidence of the horrible atrocities we viewed on our tour of the facility left a lasting impression. I remarked to another member that "if Gen. Douglas MacArthur had seen this place he would have had the perpetrators executed on the spot, rather than pardoned as he did".

It was a wonderful and very worthwhile trip and I thank GA and A.O. Wang for their kindness in inviting me, and also for their interest and support in helping us to know more about the Taiwan POWs' story and to make it known. Now I only hope that we will get the memorials at the Mukden and Hsi An POW camp sites after all!

From September 16th to 27th I had the wonderful privilege of being invited to China to participate in a world conference on 'Sino-Japanese Relations, Past and Future'. The conference was held in Beijing and sponsored for the most part by the *Global Alliance for Preserving the Truth of History in World War II*, a non-governmental organization consisting of several associations and groups that want to ensure that the



*Telling the story of the Taiwan POWs at the site of the former Mukden Camp*



*Mukden Camp Remembrance Service*



*Former POW Barracks Building - Mukden*



*Presenting Gov't. officials at Liao Yuan with the plan for a POW Memorial*



*Remains of the infamous Unit 731 at Harbin*

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

1. KINKASEKI #1 (Chinguashi)
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. KUKUTSU (Taipei)
10. OKA (Taipei)
11. TOROKU - (Touliu)
12. INRIN - (Yuanlin)
13. INRIN TEMP. (Yuanlin)
14. TAKAO (Kaohsiung)
15. CHURON (Taipei)

## Welcome...

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Clare Fearnley and Mr. Gordon Houlden as new members of the Society's ex-officio Board of Directors. Clare is the newly appointed Director of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei, replacing Mr. Charles Finny, and Gordon takes over the reigns at the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei from former Executive Director Ted Lipman. We thank Charles and Ted for their support and wish them well in the future and now look forward to working with Clare and Gordon in the days ahead.

## "YORKY" – who was he?

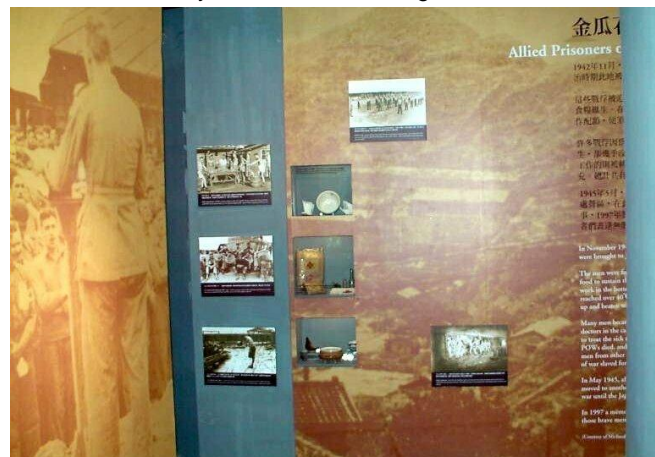
Former Taiwan POW Geoff Monument recently wrote and said that he remembered a POW at Heito Camp whom everyone called "Yorky", and that he was the first death at the camp in the fall of 1942. He said he never knew the man's real name and thought it would be nice - if someone did, and could tell us so that we could enter his record correctly in our Honour Roll. If anyone has any knowledge of this man or what his full name could have been, please contact us with as much information as possible including his rank and regiment.

## POW HONOUR ROLL

The POW Honour Roll on our website now contains almost 3800 names of former Taiwan POWs. It is searchable, thus making it easier to find names and details of the former POWs. Click on the section entitled "THE MEN" to view the Honour Roll.

## "Museum of Gold" Opens at Chinguashi (TP)

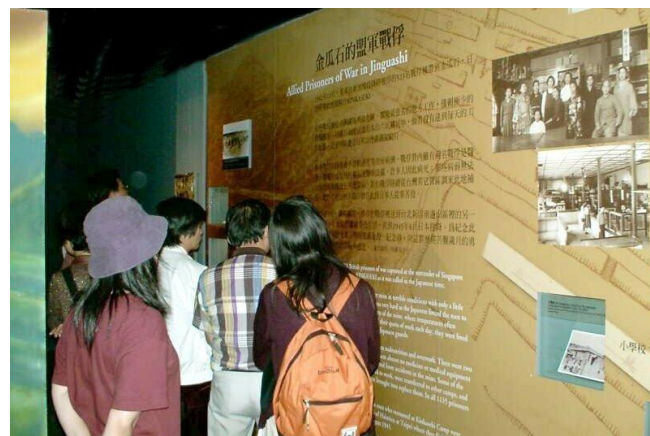
Thursday November 4 – after several years in planning and development, the Museum of Gold, located in the village of Chinguashi has opened. . . Included among the displays in the new mining museum is a special one featuring the story of the allied POWs brought here to work as slaves in the copper mine. Their story is portrayed through pictures and artifacts supplied by Michael Hurst MBE of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, so that Taiwan people will know more about this little-known part of their history, and also as a permanent tribute to the men who suffered such hardships and died here. . . As the inscription on the POW Memorial Wall states - "May none of us ever forget their sacrifice".



The main display wall with photos and artifacts



The POW "Memorial Wall"

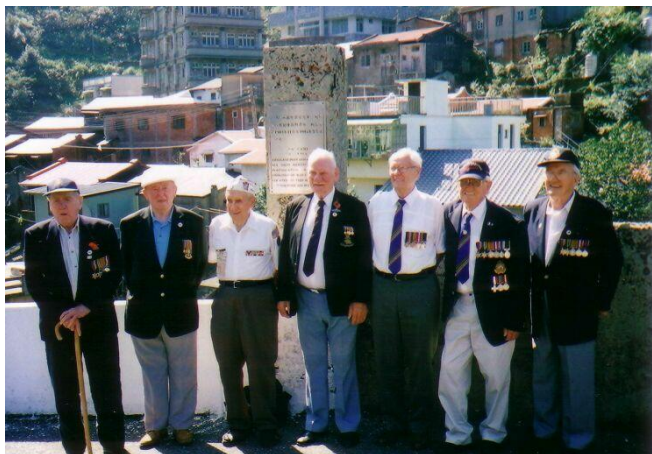


Visitors show great interest in the POW display at the museum

# REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2004 – One of the best ever!

This year's Remembrance Week ran from November 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> and was one of the biggest and best ever. Nineteen overseas guests were on hand to take part in the events and the weather co-operated beautifully. We had seven former Taiwan POWs, five from the UK, one from Australia and one from USA – our first ever American ex-POW to return to Taiwan. In addition we had two wives, six FEPOW "children", one brother, one sister, one nephew and special guest Mrs. Keiko Holmes, the founder and director of Agape Reconciliation Ministries, with us for the event.

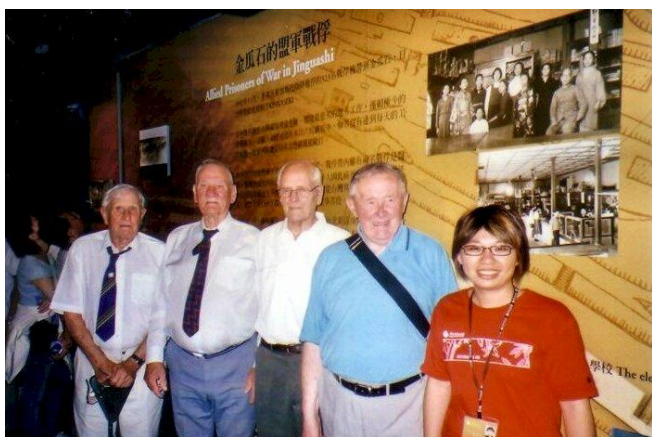
We started our tour on Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup> with a visit to Kinkaseki and Keelung Harbour. After arriving at Chinguashi we made a tour of the former POW camp and held a short private service by the memorial as it was actually Remembrance Day.



*Seven POWs re-unite at the old Kinkaseki Camp gatepost*

Following lunch in the pavilion next to the memorial, the group made its way to the top of the hill for a look down on the area of the former mine, and then it was off to the newly opened Museum of Gold. (See story on page 5)

The group was met at the museum by the Curator, Miss Chang and the Deputy Director of the Taipei County Culture Bureau, Mr. Bob Tang, who extended a warm welcome to the POWs and their families. A tour of the mining museum was first on the agenda and everyone was very moved as they saw the display dedicated to the POWs inside. While not a large display, they felt it was a fitting tribute and memorial to what had happened here and to the men who had suffered so much in this place those many years ago.



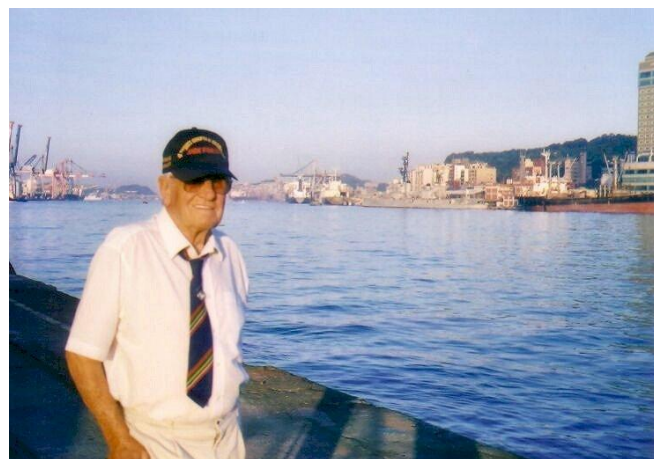
*Former Kinkaseki POWs with Museum Curator Miss Chang*

Following the museum tour the guests went outside where they were given safety helmets and an invitation to go into the mine. While not exactly the same entrance where the POWs actually worked 59 years ago, the entrances all look identical, so the feeling was one of similarity for the men and of apprehension for the family members. For the first time since the end of the war the men had a chance to go back into the mine again, and their families had a chance to see and feel what it must have been like for their fathers.



*Group photo in front of No. 5 Mine Entrance tunnel*

Later in the afternoon we made our way to Keelung Harbour, where many of the men had landed when they first arrived in Taiwan aboard the *England Maru* in November 1942, and where all the remaining Taiwan POWs were evacuated from at the end of the war. It brought back a lot of memories – mostly happy ones of going home - for the men.



*Jack Fowler reminiscing on the docks at Keelung Harbour*

Friday was spent in sightseeing around Taipei city with visits to Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, a temple, lunch at the majestic Grand Hotel, a visit to the National War Memorial and the world famous National Palace Museum rounding out the day's activities.

Saturday morning dawned clear and bright and we were off to the hills south of the city to visit the former Kukutsu POW Camp where the men of Kinkaseki Camp were moved in the spring of 1945 after the mine closed down. After a walk around the former area of the camp a short memorial service was held at the newly re-dedicated memorial.

*(con't on page 7)*

# REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2004 (cont'd.)



*POWs honour former mates at Kukutsu memorial service*

After our visit to Kukutsu on Saturday morning, the POW banquet was held that evening and everyone enjoyed a sumptuous buffet dinner followed by some wonderful and often amusing anecdotes from the POWs.

Sunday morning saw around 100 people gathered at the site of the memorial at Kinkaseki for a very moving service of remembrance. Following the welcome from New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office Director Ms. Clare Fearnley, the POWs each rendered readings in tribute to their mates and their time together as POWs on Taiwan almost 60 years ago. The wreath-laying ceremony was followed by Taps and a minute's silence before the Reveille sounded.

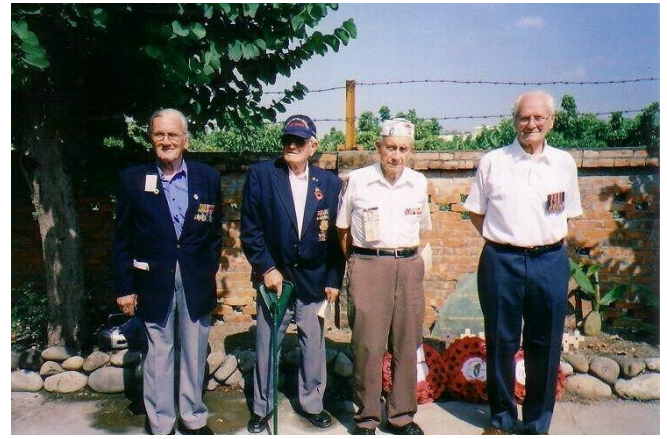


*Remembering former mates and times. . .*

This year we had a special task to perform and that was the dedication of the Heito POW Memorial, and since we had never visited the site of the Shirakawa Camp with any of the visiting POWs who had been interned there, it was decided to run a trip down the island and visit the sites of the Taichu, Shirakawa and Heito Camps. On Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> we set out by chartered coach and after a couple of hours reached the location of the former Taichu Camp.

It was Taichu Camp where our first returning American ex-POW Clement Schmitt, was interned for a brief period in the fall of 1942. He came to Taiwan on the Lima Maru from the Philippines and stayed at Taichu until November when he and the other Americans were sent back to Takao and put on a hellship called the Dainichi Maru which had brought 300 British POWs to replace them at Taichu Camp. The Americans were then sent to Japan to work as slaves there.

From Taichu we moved on to Shirakawa Camp which is located on a Taiwan military base. We could not get access



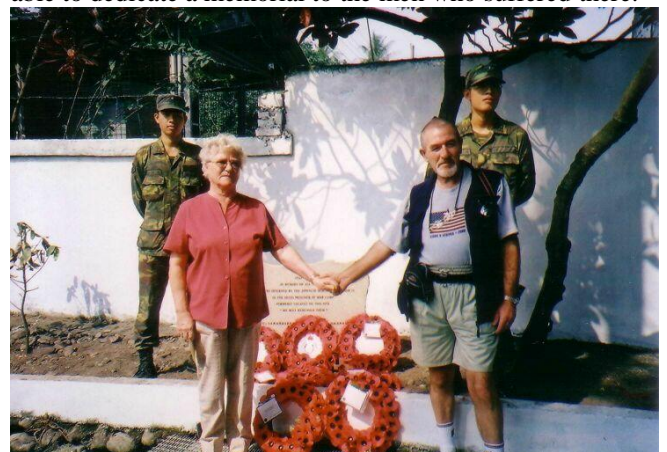
*Former POWs (l-r) Sid Dodds, Jack Fowler, Clement Schmitt and Ben Slack remember the old days at Taichu Camp*

to the camp but we visited the area and held a memorial service at the old main entrance to the camp. One of the former camp guards was also present for the ceremony.



*Former Camp guard joins the POWs by the old camp entrance*

Heito Camp was one of the most significant camps on the island and saw a lot of POW "traffic". It was the only POW camp on the island to be bombed, and its story has been well documented in earlier issues of our newsletters. After 3 ½ years of work, it was a great thrill to finally be able to dedicate a memorial to the men who suffered there.



*Moira Webster (l) and Malcolm Ross at the Heito Memorial dedication remember a father and uncle who didn't come home.*

This year's Remembrance Week was a huge success and we are looking forward to next year, and hope that many more POWs and their families will join us at that time.

# HEITO POW MEMORIAL DEDICATED. . . AT LAST!



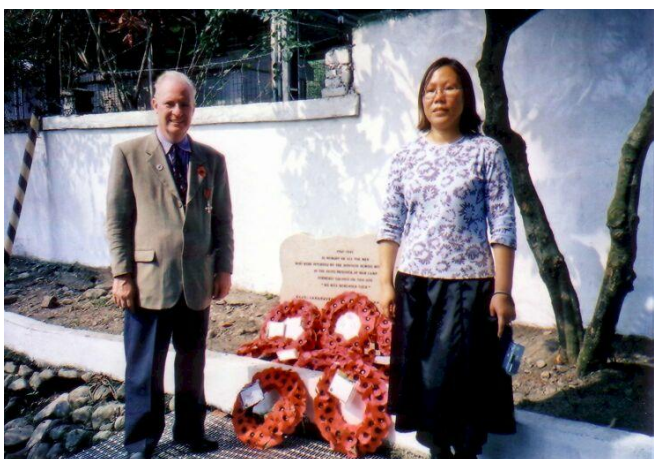
***R.O.C. Military Honour Guard stands by the new Heito POW Memorial located outside the present gate of the former camp***

Tuesday November 16, 2004 saw the culmination of more than five years of effort as the Heito POW Memorial was finally dedicated. For the past 3 ½ years the Society has been trying to obtain permission to erect a POW Memorial on the site of this important camp, but had always met with obstacles and delays. This year in October, permission was finally granted.

The 350 lb. memorial stone was transported to the site on the bus carrying this year's POW guests on their visit to the southern camps. It was "planted" in the garden just outside the main gate of the current army camp with the help of the R.O.C. military.

More than fifty people were present for the ceremony and listened to addresses from Michael Hurst of the POW Society, the Vice Governor of Pingtung County, the local community chairman and the commander of the military base. All honoured the POWs for their sacrifice and promised to care for the memorial in perpetuity. Poems and readings were rendered by three of the former Heito POWs children, and wreaths were laid to honour the men who had suffered and died in this camp. A minute's silence followed the playing of taps, and then reveille sounded to awaken everyone to a new day of remembrance for the Heito POWs.

We want to thank all those who have had a part in making the Heito POW Memorial possible, especially to Ms. Lisa Huang a local conservation authority manager in Pingtung County. She was a great help in finding the camp initially, and has been instrumental in contacting some of the former camp guards and setting up visits to the camp for POWs and their family members. She also enlisted the aid of local and government officials and the military to help get permission for the memorial to be placed outside the camp entrance. We could have not done it without her.



***TPCMS Director Michael Hurst with Lisa Huang***

To those who have contributed towards the cost of the memorial we say thank you as well. It is a fitting tribute to the men of Heito and just further helps to ensure that these men are "never forgotten".

## A Father Found . . .

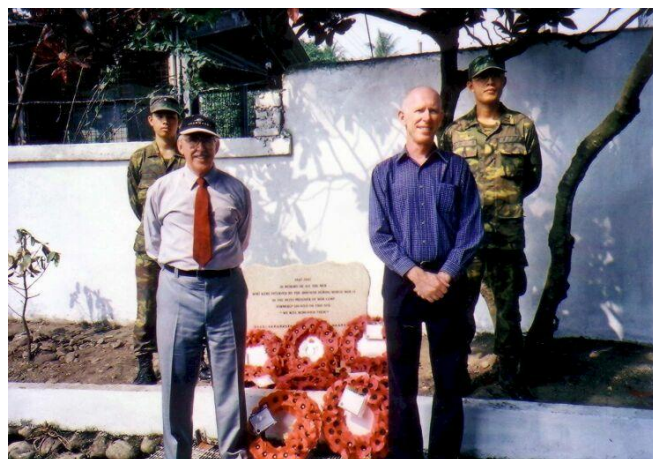
A special story to come out of this year's Remembrance Week event is that of Moira Webster and Lindsay and Stuart Edwards. All of them had a father who was a POW on Taiwan. Lindsay and Stuart Edwards' father – Pte. George W. Edwards of the 18<sup>th</sup> Btn. Recon. Reg't., came home after the war, but he was a very different man than when he left. Moira's father – Gnr. Robert Glendinning of the 155<sup>th</sup> Field Reg't. R.A., didn't come home!

These POW "children" came to Taiwan this year searching to know more about their fathers and their time as prisoners of the Japanese. They wanted to get to know and understand them more, and hopefully to be drawn closer to them.

Moira's search for her father began several years ago, and after first making contact with the Taiwan POW Camps Society, she longed to come to see where her father had died and was first buried. At that time the camp he was in when he died had not even been found. Last year the site was confirmed and this year she was determined to come. Her father had been in Kinkaseki, Heito, Taihoku Camp 6 and Oka Camp – where he died, and this year Moira got to visit all of those camps. She was able to see the place where her father was first buried, and later a very meaningful service of remembrance was held at the site of the Oka Camp at which she read a tribute to her father.

Lindsay and Stuart's father was in Taichu, Heito and Taihoku Camp 6, and they got to visit these sites during their time here and also take part in the various memorial services.

They all told us afterward how grateful they were for the opportunity to be able to come to Taiwan and learn more about their fathers. We are very glad they were able to come too!



***Lindsay (l) and Stuart Edwards at the Heito Memorial***



***Moira and cousin Malcolm Ross at the Oka Memorial service***



# In Memoriam

*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!*

**LARRY PLUMRIDGE**

155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
JUNE 1, 1999

**GEOFF HORSFALL**

148<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
MAY 31, 2001

**HUGH CARROLL**

155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
FEBRUARY 14, 2002

**JOHN EMMETT**

2<sup>ND</sup> BTN. GORDON HIGHLANDERS  
APRIL 9, 2004

**KEITH LESLIE**

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS  
APRIL 17, 2004

**B.J. "BERT" MOULE**

5<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
JUNE 16, 2004

**BISHOP McKENDREE**

60TH COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
JUNE 26, 2004

**WILLIAM KINGATE**

5<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
JULY 4, 2004

**M.W. CHAPMAN**

2/15<sup>TH</sup> PUNJAB REG'T. I.A.  
JULY 23, 2004

**JOHN S. MILLBURN**

148<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

**HARRY ROSENBERY**

U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS  
NOVEMBER 11, 2004

*"We Will Remember Them"*

## POW helps to tell the story...

Several years ago Mrs. Marjorie Garner contacted us and asked for any help that we could give in helping her to find out what happened to her husband, Ernest Parker of the Royal Corps of Signals, who had died as a POW on Taiwan. It took more than a year but we finally established that he was at Taichu Camp and then was moved to Heito after Taichu was flooded in June 1944. He died at Heito in September 1944.

When we first found out that Ernest had been at Taichu camp I studied his story further, and I wondered how it was that he came to be at Taichu Camp in the first place. He was in the Royal Corps of Signals and pretty well all of the RCS men who came to Taiwan were sent to Taihoku Camp # 6. Then from there many were sent to Kinkaseki, a few went to Heito and Shirakawa, but I had never heard of any being sent to Taichu.

I have just kept wondering all this time and hoping that maybe someday and in some way I would find out how he got there. Well just before leaving for our annual holiday in Canada at the end of June, I was contacted by Mr. Frank Ashby, a former Taiwan POW with an incredible memory. He had not heard of us or the work we're doing up until then, but when he did, he wrote to us right away.

It turns out that he too was in the Royal Corps of Signals – and in that same group that was sent to Taihoku Camp # 6 off the England Maru in November 1942. He mentioned that later – on November 11, 1943, he and a party of 50 men left Taihoku Camp # 6 for Taichu Camp – and that they were mostly all Royal Corps of Signals men.

I firmly believe that Ernest was also moved to Taichu on November 11, 1943, although Frank did not know him personally. He said that he did not know several of the men – including Ernest, because they were in the 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Division Signals while he was in the 11<sup>th</sup>.

From here the story continues the same as before. Ernest was likely put to work in the river bed, clearing the flood diversion channel and then when the camp was flooded in June 1944, he and the other more "fit" men were moved to Heito. It is quite likely due to overwork at Taichu, and also the possibility that he contracted malaria at Heito, which caused his death in September of that year.

So in addition to what we knew before, we also now know that he came to Taiwan from Singapore on the England Maru in November 1942 and was sent in the first draft of POWs to Taihoku Camp # 6 before later being moved to Taichu Camp. This appears to be "the rest of the story" as they say. Sometimes these things take a lot of time but gradually we are putting the pieces of the Taiwan POWs' story together.

I am very grateful that Frank wrote to us. Since his first letter he has shared so much information with me and also donated several items to our collection. Pictured below is the wooden "Bento (lunch) Box" that he used while working at Taihoku and Taichu Camps.



## --- from the Director

Once again we have a lot to report from the previous months' activities throughout 2004. It has been a wonderful year with so many things being accomplished for the memory of the Taiwan POWs.

A number of milestones have been reached in our journey to ensure that the story of the Taiwan POW camps is told, and that the men who suffered so terribly in them will not be forgotten. Projects that have been "on the go" for several years were finally completed this year, and for all those who have helped in one way or another, we say a most heartfelt thanks.

As noted in the newsletter we have re-dedicated the Kukutsu Memorial in its new location, and after 3 ½ years of work, the Heito Camp POW Memorial is finally in place and dedicated, thus bringing to a close our "POW memorial building program". There are now four POW memorials on the island – all located on the sites of the former camps and in areas that are certain to be maintained by either caring local residents, the government or the military, thus ensuring the safety, survival and care of the memorials in perpetuity.

The sites of the other former Taiwan camps are either inaccessible or are located in areas where there is no assurance of the memorials being maintained or cared for, and so we feel that it is not wise to try to locate memorials on the sites of those other camps. Should the situation change at any of the other camps in the future, then we will consider the possibilities at that time, but for now we are considering our memorial building program concluded.

Another project that was completed this year was the POW display in the new Chinguashi Mining Museum. Seven years ago I was approached by the local community with the request to collect information for the proposed museum and to possibly place some POW artifacts in one of the galleries. Over the past six years I have been working with this goal in mind, and after working with a fine group of people at the museum for several months this year, the display is finally in place and was opened to the public on November 4. In addition to the display, a brochure has been produced so that visitors may have more information about the Taiwan POWs to take away with them, thus spreading the story even further.

The POW Honour Roll on our website has been another ongoing and very time-consuming project which is getting very close to completion. We have already passed the estimated number of Taiwan POWs that we had figured according to our knowledge of the basic POW camp population figures mentioned in earlier newsletters. Almost 1000 more names have been added to the roster this year and we are now very close to having the names of most of the former Taiwan POWs. The total number to date is almost 3800 names, and with only a few more to find from a

couple of the "temporary" camps, we feel that we are getting very close indeed. We will never know of course if we have all of the men exactly, as most of the records were either lost or destroyed at the end of the war. We feel however, that we already have most of the men and will always continue to search in the future for new names to add to the Roll.

The coming year is going to be very full with many opportunities for the Society to further tell the story of the Taiwan POW camps to the world. As the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II draws near we are planning events and commemorations in several locations around the island at various times throughout the year. We will keep our friends and supporters here in Taiwan informed of these happenings and hope that you will join with us in remembering the men and learning more about this little-known part of Taiwan's history.

Preliminary work is also underway towards making a documentary film on the Taiwan POWs' story, and we are working with the Taiwan Post office to see if a special stamp can be issued next year in August to commemorate the end of the war and also to remember the Taiwan POWs.

I hope to finally have the book on the Taiwan Camps finished and published sometime during the year as well. There have been numerous delays in finishing it - partly because of key new information continuing to come to light in recent months. With the help of several fellow researchers and friends, from further materials supplied by the former POWs and their families, and from travels and further study this past year, the groundwork is pretty well complete. Now all that is left is to assemble the vast amount of data into a book that will not only tell the historical account of the camps, but which will bring out the human side of the story.

Increased interest is being shown in our work from the national government, through the Academia Historica, the Taipei County Government and also individuals and groups who care that the POWs' story should be made known.

We have had numerous offers of help from local people living here in Taiwan – both from the expat community and also from Taiwanese friends, and I am very grateful for all the care and interest that is being shown in the POWs' story. There is still a lot to do and we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead in 2005.

I want like to thank all those who have continued to support us and encourage us in our work. It means so much to have you behind us, helping with your encouragement and your gifts. We are looking forward to doing even more in the days ahead so that the memory of the Taiwan POWs will "never be forgotten".

Sincerely,

Michael Hurst, MBE  
Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

### ***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**

**Website: [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk)**