



# Never Forgotten

Vol. 6, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2005

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

## Commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of World War II



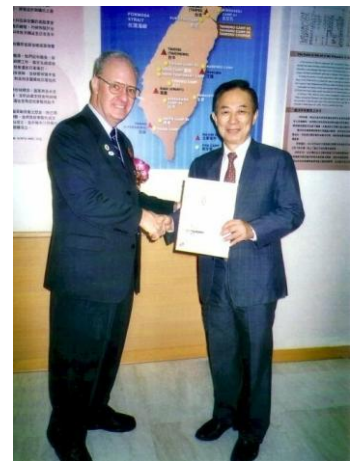
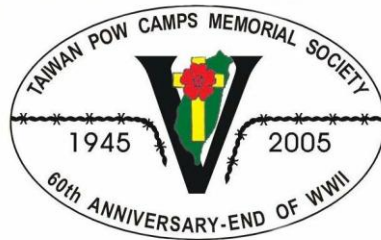
*Enoura Maru Memorial Service - Kaohsiung, Jan. 9*



*POW Execution Memorial Service - Taipei, June 19*



*Opening of the POW Display at the ROC  
Armed Forces Museum, Taipei - Aug. 15*



*Unveiling the TPCMS Stamp Sheet - Aug. 15*



*60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Evacuation of the Taiwan  
POWs – Keelung Harbour - Sept. 4*



*POW Remembrance Week – November 16 - 23*

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**TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS -**

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**Prof. Jerome Keating, PhD.** - Writer; Historian; Professor  
**Mark Wilkie** - Educational Development and Training Practitioner; Historian; former soldier  
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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 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 . . .*

**“Let us pray that we may become more worthy of the sacrifice made for us by those who we specially remember.”**

## From the Director. . .

In this year that has marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, there have been numerous activities and commemorations in many countries around the world.

2005 has also been another wonderful year for the Society and the Taiwan POWs as well. Through all the events that have taken place and the ceremonies that we have held, we have tried our best to remember the POWs and what took place in the Taiwan camps those many years ago.

The first event was the memorial service held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, at Kaohsiung Harbour to remember the more than 300 POWs who died when the hellship Enoura Maru was bombed by American carrier-based fighters. Then we held a ceremony to commemorate of the execution of the fourteen American flyers at the old wall of the Taipei Prison on June 19<sup>th</sup> with three family members of one of the airmen present.

On August 15<sup>th</sup> we participated with the ROC Armed Forces Military History and Translation Dept. in the opening of the newly renovated Armed Forces Museum in downtown Taipei, by providing a special exhibition on the "Japanese POW Camps in Taiwan in World War II" which will run to the end of this year. We also took the opportunity to unveil our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative stamp sheet which was very well accepted and is now completely sold out.

On Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup> a service was held on the docks at Keelung Harbour to commemorate the evacuation of the Taiwan POWs by the US and British navies. Several former Royal Navy crewmembers of the ships which took part in the evacuation returned to Taiwan to take part with us, and we had participation from the R.O.C. Navy and the R.O.C. Veterans Affairs Commission as well.

Throughout September and October we had the privilege of working with the Taipei County Gov't. in the planning and re-design of the park that surrounds the memorial at Chinguashi (Kinkaseki). We want to thank the county gov't. and the Idea Design Co. and its president Mr. Yang Kuo Hao for allowing us to be involved in this wonderful project and for their fine work in making this a true place of remembrance. The park will now be known as "Prisoner of War Memorial Park" and will honour all those who were POWs in all of the fifteen camps on the island during World War II.

November featured our annual "Remembrance Week" event with fifteen overseas guests in attendance. This year a special honour was bestowed on the Society and our guests with a reception at the Presidential Office given by Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. The work of the POW Society was recognized as well as the suffering and courage of the three POWs and their family members who were present.

Along with the usual POW Banquet and Remembrance Service, a special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary POW camps tour was organized by the Society. In addition to Kinkaseki, the camps at Kukutsu, Taihoku # 6, Taichu, Shirakawa and Heito were visited and special memorial services were held at each one.

It has truly been a great year for bringing the story of the Taiwan POWs to the forefront and to making sure that the POWs and what they suffered here is not forgotten. I want to thank all those who have helped us in our work, and those who have supported us and participated in the events.

Sincerely,

Michael Hurst MBE

## THE "NEW" PRISONER OF WAR MEMORIAL PARK

In early September the Society was asked to help re-design the park in Chinguashi which surrounds the Taiwan POW Memorial - to make it a place for reflection and remembrance of the men who suffered as prisoners of the Japanese in the fifteen POW camps on the island during World War II.

The park was dedicated on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> with three former POWs, family members and gov't. officials present.



*The area around the memorial gets a new look*



*View from the hill above shows the new overall layout*



*The Taiwan POW Memorial at the opening of the new "Prisoner of War Memorial Park" at Chinguashi Taiwan - November 20, 2005*

## 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 Mr. Steve Waters, the new representative of the Australia Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei as an ex-officio member of our board of directors as of September this year.

Steve replaces Frances Adamson who left Taiwan in the summer for a posting in London. We want to express our appreciation to Frances and her husband, Rod Bunten - formerly Deputy Director-General of the British Trade and Cultural Office, for their interest and support for our Society over the past three years and we wish them well and look forward to working with Steve and the ACIO staff in the days ahead.

### The passing of a friend...

We would like to inform our readers of the passing of a dear friend, **Mr. Lawrie Philpott**, the New Zealand rep for our POW Society. Lawrie passed away on September 5<sup>th</sup> - the day after our special service to commemorate the evacuation of the Taiwan POWs from Keelung Harbour. Lawrie was involved in that wonderful operation as a member of the Royal New Zealand Navy on loan to the HMS Bermuda.

In the past few years Lawrie has been instrumental in helping us locate former Taiwan POWs living in New Zealand, and he was able to help us trace New Zealand's only Taiwan POW. He worked very hard to tell the story of the Taiwan POW camps there as well.

He also helped to put former POWs who had been transported on the New Zealand Hospital Ship Maunganui – which carried POWs from Taiwan to Manila, and later Australia and New Zealand - in touch with former crewmen.

He was a dear friend and I will miss him. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Rita and the family. Another brave seaman has “crossed the bar”.

## Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society Issues Commemorative Stamps

On August 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:15am the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society held the unveiling of its special stamp sheet to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. The event was held in conjunction with the opening of the special exhibition on the “Japanese POW Camps on Taiwan in World War II” put on by the Society at the Taiwan National Armed Forces Museum in Taipei. (See article on page 6.)



*Acting Director-General of the ROC Armed Forces Military History and Translation Dept. Mr. Fang Yung, and Taiwan POW Camps Society Director Michael Hurst, pose at the unveiling of the Society's commemorative stamp sheet.*

The commemorative sheet features ten different NT\$3.50 Taiwan cultural stamps along with wartime photos and a map showing the location of all of the Taiwan POW camps. The photos include scenes of the camps and the men, and also the Japanese signing the surrender on the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay - September 2, 1945.

Also featured are colour photos of the four memorials that have been erected to the Taiwan POWs at their various locations on the island.

This is a very unique set of stamps as the Republic of China - which moved to Taiwan in 1949, following the usurpation of the mainland by the Communists, was one of the five big Allies that helped defeat the Axis powers in WW II. No “official” stamp from the ROC was issued this year, so this will be the only souvenir set that commemorates the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WWII to come out of Taiwan.

# 二次大戰日本在台 戰俘營文物展

## Exhibition of Japanese POW Camps in Taiwan in WWII

On August 15th 2005, the world celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II. In many countries parades, marches and memorial services were held to commemorate the end of the bloodiest and most costly war in human history.

The Republic of China under the leadership of Chiang Kai-Shek was one of the five major Allied powers in World War II, fighting alongside the United States and the British Commonwealth Forces to defeat the then “axis of evil” – Germany, Italy and Japan. The Chinese actually began their fight with Japan on September 18, 1931 when Japan invaded Manchuria and their war carried on for fourteen long, hard years until the dropping of the atomic bombs which brought the war to an end. During World War II more than 30 million Chinese were killed. Following the Chinese Civil War the nationalists moved the government of the Republic of China to Taiwan.

One of the ways in which the Republic of China on Taiwan celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war was to carry out major renovations to the National Armed Forces Museum in downtown Taipei and put together a large display commemorating the 14 year “War of Resistance against Japan”.

In recognition of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society’s work of uncovering and telling the story of the former Japanese prisoner of war camps on Taiwan during World War II, the ROC Ministry of Defense, Historical and Translation Dep’t. asked the Society if we could contribute a special exhibition for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year – to which we readily agreed.

After weeks of preparation the display was completed just on time for the opening ceremony which was held on Monday August 15<sup>th</sup>.



*Michael Hurst speaking at the opening of the POW display*

Following the opening address by Acting Director-General of the ROC Armed Forces Military History and Translation Dept. Mr. Fang Yung, Michael Hurst shared a few words on behalf of the POW Society. Also present that morning were representatives from Australia, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The POW display features artifacts, documents and photos depicting the story of the 15 Taiwan prisoner of war camps and the men who suffered in them. There is a map showing the location of all of the camps on the island and also a copy of the Japanese “Order to Kill All the Prisoners” which was found in the Kinkaseki Camp by the War Crimes Investigation Team in 1946.

The display will run until December 31<sup>st</sup> and it is hoped that many Taiwanese as well as foreign visitors – including many Japanese, will view the display and learn more of this little-known story of World War II.



*Views of the Taiwan Prisoner of War display in the ROC National Armed Forces Museum, Taipei*

# Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society Commemorates POW Evacuation



During World War II, more than 4300 British Commonwealth, American, and Dutch POWs spent time in Japanese prisoner of war camps on Taiwan. Some stayed only a few months before being moved to other camps in Japan or elsewhere; while others were here for the duration of the war.

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945 - three weeks after the Japanese surrendered on August 14<sup>th</sup>, Allied ships began evacuating the 1500 POWs that had survived the war in Taiwan. It took four days for the US and British Royal Navy to evacuate all of the prisoners and send them on their way to Manila for medical treatment and care before they returned to their homes again.

*With the captain and officers of the former WWII destroyer 'Sheng Yang'*

from Taiwan. The ceremony was organized by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

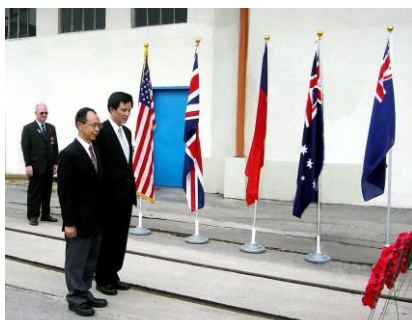
We were especially honoured to have five British Royal Navy crewmembers who had participated in the evacuation of the POWs 60 years ago come back to join with us for the event. These men: Ken Connolly, Peter Longhurst, Stan Morriss, and Sam Pearsall of the HMS Barle, and Denys Carden of the HMS Bermuda, were only 18 and 19 years old at the time, but they still remembered the emotions of those days. During the week that they spent in Taiwan they visited the sites of some of the POW camps and were hosted by the ROC Navy for a tour of their last US World War II destroyer the *ShengYang* – DDG923.

The weather was sunny as the group gathered on the dockside and Master of Ceremonies Jerome F. Keating Ph.D. of the Board of Directors of the POW Camps Memorial Society welcomed those who turned out for the event. Michael Hurst MBE, the Director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society presented the story of the evacuation of the POWs and the prison camps in Taiwan. Art Scholl, a WWII US Navy veteran who served on a sister ship of one of the US aircraft carriers that took part in the evacuation, read the poem, "A Veteran Speaks;" Larry Mitchell Chief of the Liaison Affairs Section at the American Institute in Taiwan brought a message on behalf of the United States Navy and Marines, and Charles Garrett, Deputy Director-General of the British Trade & Cultural Office in Taiwan spoke for the Commonwealth Nations who took part in the rescue - Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

Following this Lt. General Abraham Lee (Ret.) spoke for the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission. Then the crewmembers shared their thoughts and Denys Carden showed a handkerchief that he had been given sixty years ago by the first prisoner he helped aboard at that time and which he has kept since then as a remembrance of the occasion. Mark Wilkie, also a Society Board member, concluded by reading the poem "What is a Veteran?"



*Royal Navy crewmembers pay tribute to the POWs at the Kinkaseki Camp Memorial*



*Lt. Gen. Lee of the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission lays a wreath.*

The ceremony ended with the laying of wreaths to commemorate the suffering of the POWs and to honour the brave men who came to rescue them. Closing remarks were made by Michael Hurst. Also present and representing their countries were Steve Waters, Representative of the Australian Commerce and Industry Office, Robert Kaiwai, the Deputy Director of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office and Gordon Houlden, Executive Director, Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.

On Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>, the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission hosted a dinner in honour of the veterans. We are grateful to the

Veterans Affairs Commission for their interest and continued support of our Society and its work. We will also not forget the courage of the men of the US and British navies who played such an important part in the evacuation of the POWs. The POWs have always praised the efforts of those who came to rescue them and called them "angels of mercy". It is these "angels of mercy" that we salute on this the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the great task they performed.



*Remembering the POWs and their comrades of 60 years ago.*

The ships that took part in the evacuation were the USS Block Island, USS Brister, USS Finch, USS Kretchmer, USS Santee, and USS Thomas J. Gary from the United States. From Great Britain were the HMS Argonaut, HMS Barle, HMS Belfast, HMS Bermuda, HMS Colossus, HMS Helford, HMS Tumult, HMS Tuscan, HMS Tyrian and the Tanker San Amado. From Australia was the HMAS Quiberon, and from New Zealand was the HMNZHS Maunganui.

# 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2005

“LEST WE FORGET” – has a new meaning for the fifteen overseas visitors who came to Taiwan this year for the annual ‘Remembrance Week Event’. For several of them it was a time of visiting former POW camps and remembering past times and old friends. For others – like Sally Dorrian, it provided closure, as her grandfather died in the Kinkaseki Camp just a few months before the war ended in January 1945. Others, having seen the terrible conditions their fathers had to endure, had a new understanding of why they came back so different after the war.

This year’s Remembrance Week ran from November 16<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> and was the biggest and best ever. Of the fifteen overseas guests who were on hand to take part in the events three were former Taiwan POWs, two from the UK and one from Canada. In addition we had two wives, five FEPOW “children”, one brother, one friend and three guests from Apage Reconciliation Ministries in Japan, join us.

The events began with a trip to Kinkaseki on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> - to view the area and site of the former POW camp. A visit to the Museum of Gold allowed the guests to see the display that honours the POWs and their mates. Later a stop at Keelung Harbour reminded the men of the day they were liberated and began their long journey home to their loved ones – and freedom, once more.

This was followed by a visit to the ROC Armed Forces Museum to see the special exhibition of POW photos and artifacts put on by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.



*Former POW Ernie Agass reflects on memories of times past at the POW museum display*

On Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the group took a trip to the countryside south of Hsintien to the location of the former Kukutsu “jungle” Camp for a memorial service beside the Kukutsu POW Memorial and a walk about the former camp.



*Site of the former Kukutsu “jungle” Camp and POW Memorial*

Later in the evening more than 50 people gathered for the annual POW Banquet at the Imperial Hotel, where those in attendance had the opportunity to meet the former POWs and listen to their stories. Greetings were read from many of the POWs who had previously been to Taiwan and who wished to be remembered to their friends here.

Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> saw more than 120 people gathered in Chinguashi for the annual Remembrance Service, which was co-hosted this year by the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei. In addition to the regular Remembrance Day Service, this year a special ceremony was held under the auspices of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, to dedicate the new “Prisoner of War Memorial Park” which has recently been re-constructed on the site of the former POW camp. In addition to the FEPOWs and their families, we had the government representatives from a number of Commonwealth and Allied nations, the Deputy Secretary General of the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission, and officials from the county and local district governments on hand for this important ceremony. *(con’t on page 9)*



*Visiting the Gold Museum in Chinguashi*

On Friday the group had the honour and privilege of meeting Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian at the Presidential Office Building, where they were warmly received.



*Group photo in front of the Presidential Office Building*

## REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2005 (cont'd.)



*Cutting the ribbon at the dedication of the new "Prisoner of War Memorial Park" at Chinguashi.*

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Service featured tributes to the former POWs by Michael Boyden, one of the former Kinkaseki Committee Chairmen, Bill Funk on behalf of the United States Marine Corps, and Michael Hurst MBE, Director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

Following the addresses and reading of poems by the POWs and Stuart Saunders of the POW Society, wreaths were laid to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country and also those who returned home, scarred and marked for life because of their ordeals here in Taiwan's prisoner of war camps.

Once again Canadian piper Mal Turner played the marches and accompanied the laying of the wreaths on the bagpipes, and Roy Guillen played Taps and Reveille. Major Henry Silcock of the Salvation Army – the son-in-law of a former Taiwan POW, gave the message and led the Prayer of Remembrance at this year's service.



*Former POWs Adam Houston, Ernie Agass and George Reynolds remember former times and mates.*

The week of remembrance continued on Monday and Tuesday with a special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour to the central and southern parts of the island to visit more of the camps in which the men were imprisoned. The first stop on the tour was the Taichu Camp south of Taichung. The group visited the memorial erected in 2000 by the POW Society and held a memorial service by the stone.

After lunch the group moved on to Bai He to visit the site of the former Shirakawa Camp. After a brief walk around the area which is currently an active R.O.C. military base, a short memorial service was held outside the gate which marks the former entrance to the camp.



*Memorial service by the former entrance to Shirakawa Camp*

The group continued on to PingTung and after an overnight stay there, made their way to the site of the former Heito POW Camp east of the city. The site is also an army base and the group was warmly welcomed by the commander and the local government officials. With an R.O.C. military honour guard standing by the memorial, a very moving ceremony of remembrance was held. The Deputy Mayor of PingTung County, Dr. Michael Guu, gave a special address to those present. Mrs. Ann Silcock, whose father was a POW at Heito, read a moving poem entitled "POW Tribute" in honour of the men in this camp.



*Ann Silcock - whose father was a POW at Heito Camp, pauses to remember at the memorial following the service.*

This year's event was the largest ever, showing the increased interest in the story of the Taiwan POWs and the camps where they were interned – not only by the foreign community here, but also by the local Taiwanese. We are also very grateful for the interest and support being shown for our work by the government of Taiwan at various levels, and most of all by the people of Taiwan. We want to make sure that the story of the Taiwan POWs will endure and live on forever, and that they will "Never be Forgotten"!



# 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 - Never Be Forgotten!*

**WILLIAM HAY**

GNR., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
DECEMBER 3, 2001 (Not reported earlier)

**ADRIAN (DAVE) DAVIDSON**

SGT., US MARINES  
FEBRUARY 29, 2004

**E. R. ANDREW SEWELL (MC)**

CAPT., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A.  
APRIL 25, 2005

**JUAN A. TRUJILLO**

PVT. US ARMY  
MAY 7, 2005

**RONALD AMOS**

GNR., 148<sup>TH</sup> FIELD EG'T. R.A.  
JUNE, 2005

**KEN BUTTERS**

PTE., 4<sup>TH</sup> BTN. NORFOLK REG'T.  
JUNE, 2005

**DONALD THOMAS**

PFC., US MARINES  
JULY 8, 2005

**BOB HAMMERSLEY**

PTE., 4<sup>TH</sup> BTN. NORFOLK REG'T.  
JULY 13, 2005

**WILLY (TINUS) EXMANN**

SGT., ROYAL NETHERLANDS INDIES ARMY  
JULY 24, 2005

**FRANK A. KAZERSKI**

SGT., US ARMY  
AUGUST 24, 2005

**GEORGE L. YAKOPCIC**

PFC., US ARMY  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

**JACK CATHERALL**

SGT., ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS  
OCTOBER 31, 2005

*Also*

**RON BADGER**

CREWMAN ON THE  
NEW ZEALAND HOSPITAL SHIP MAUNGANUI  
JANUARY, 2005

**LAWRIE PHILPOTT**

SEAMAN, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2005

## POEM FOR A BELOVED BROTHER . . .

We would like to include the poem sent to us by Sarah Parker McAdams, the sister of John R. Parker, the American airman from the "Queen Bee" aircraft of VPB-117 who was executed at Taipei on June 19, 1945. The poem was read at the memorial service held by the wall of the old Taipei Prison on June 19, 2005 – 60 years to the day after the event. It captures both the importance of commemoration and remembrance, as well as the necessity of going on with life.

### *"Miss Me, but Let Me Go"*

*When I come to the end of the day,  
And the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little, but not for long,  
And not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the times that we once shared,  
Miss me, but let me go.  
For this is a journey we all must take,  
And each must go alone.  
It's all a part of the Maker's plan,  
A step on the road to home.  
When you are lonely and sick at heart,  
Go to the friends we know,  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,  
Miss me, but let me go!*

## POW HONOUR ROLL

The POW Honour Roll on our website now contains over 4100 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.

## A New Ex-Officio Board Member...

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Henk Nouwens, the Deputy Representative for the Netherlands Trade and Investment Office in Taipei as an ex-officio member of our board of directors as of September this year.

Henk has been involved with our Society since he came to Taiwan several years ago and has been a great help in finding and translating material on the Dutch POWs who were in Taiwan. He has used his contacts in the Dutch Community worldwide to help locate former POWs. We appreciate his dedication and assistance.

# The Hellships Memorial - Update



*The hellship Dainichi Maru – carried POWs from Singapore to Taiwan and Japan – November 1942*

From early 1942, the Japanese moved POWs by sea out of all the areas they had conquered - Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Java, and other places, and sent them to Japan, Taiwan, Burma, the Dutch East Indies and other areas to be used as slave labor. It should be noted that every POW who was on Taiwan came here by hellship, and many left the same way, being taken to Japan and Manchuria. Many came on the Dainichi Maru – which is pictured above.

Tens of thousands of prisoners were transported on dozens of Japanese "Hellships", and many thousands perished from starvation, sickness, neglect and murder - or were killed when the unmarked ships were attacked by friendly forces.

To date, there has never been a memorial dedicated to those who suffered and died on the "hellships", but this will change in January 2006 with the dedication of the World War II Hellships Memorial at Subic Bay in the Philippines near Manila.

The Hellships Memorial Committee, headed by Duane Heisinger of the USA – whose father died aboard the hellship Enoura Maru when it was bombed by US carrier aircraft in the harbour at Takao (Kaohsiung) Taiwan in January 1945, has been working for two years on this wonderful project and the memorial is near completion and will be dedicated on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006.

The memorial will honour ALL persons of ALL countries who were POWs of the Japanese during World War II, and who were transported by the Japanese in the various ships they owned or controlled. This includes civilians who were transported with the POWs and were treated essentially as POWs. The Hellships Memorial will be a permanent tribute to the many who died and those who survived the unparalleled atrocity of the hellships.

The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society has supported the Hellships Memorial and has worked along with the committee right from the start. The Society will be represented at the dedication of the memorial at Subic Bay in January and Director Michael Hurst will take part in the official wreath-laying ceremony – on behalf of all the Taiwan POWs and their families.

For further information please email the Society at:  
[society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org)

## **NEWS FLASH !!**

### **The "TAIWAN HELLSHIPS MEMORIAL"**

Following the memorial service held in January 2005 by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society to commemorate the bombing of the hellship Enoura Maru in Kaohsiung Harbour, it was suggested by the City of Kaohsiung Cultural Affairs Bureau that a memorial should be built in Taiwan to remember the men who were transported aboard the hellships that came to the Taiwan ports of Kaohsiung and Keelung and those who suffered and died on them.

Taiwan played a significant role in the story of the hellships. Being a Japanese colony and secure base, it served as a haven for many ships enroute to Japan as well as a prime destination for POWs being used as slave labour for the Japanese war effort.

During the past year the Society has kept in contact with the City of Kaohsiung in an effort to encourage the continuation of the project. At the request of Dr. Yeh, the former Director-General of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Society has endeavoured to provide advice and ideas for the memorial as well as a design and inscription.

In early November a location for the memorial was decided upon and preparations began in earnest. The memorial will be built within the boundaries of the new "War and Peace Park" as proposed by the Council of Cultural Affairs of the Taiwan National Government at Chijin Beach, Kaohsiung Harbour. The location is especially significant as the park lies just across the road from the site of the former mass grave where the men who died when the Enoura Maru was bombed were first buried. Later their remains were exhumed and re-interred in the Punchbowl National War Cemetery in Hawaii.

A budget for the memorial was approved by the City of Kaohsiung, a contractor was obtained and the construction of the memorial is scheduled to begin shortly. It is expected that the memorial will be completed by January 15<sup>th</sup> in time for the visit by the group that will come to Taiwan following the dedication of the Hellships Memorial at Subic Bay.

This group – including Duane Heisinger and his wife, will visit the city of Kaohsiung to see the harbour area where so many of the hellships docked, the site of the former mass grave where those who died on the Enoura and Brazil Marus were buried, and also take part in the dedication of the *Taiwan Hellships Memorial* hosted by the City Gov't. and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

It is intended that the *Taiwan Hellships Memorial* will compliment the main one at Subic Bay; to draw more attention to story of the hellships and the men who suffered and died on them. A full report of the dedication will follow in our next newsletter.