



Never Forgotten

Vol. 7, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2006

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

The War Cemeteries in Asia ...where former Taiwan POWs are remembered



CWGC Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery – Hong Kong



CWGC Yokohama War Cemetery – Yokohama, Japan



American War Cemetery – Manila, Philippine Is.



CWGC Singapore War Cemetery – Kranji, Singapore



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TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

Michael Hurst, MBE – Society Director - VP and General Mgr., J. Chen Enterprises Taiwan; Writer; Historian
Prof. Jerome Keating, PhD. - Writer; Historian; Professor
Mark Wilkie - Educational Development and Training Practitioner; Historian; former soldier
Jack Hsu – Supervisor, Admin Dept., SEMPO, DORTS, Taipei City Gov't.; Ret. Lt. Cmdr., ROC Navy
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Menno Goedhart – Representative, Netherlands Trade and Investment Office, 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

Please give us your comments, questions and suggestions.

Our email address is -

society@powtaiwan.org

* * * * *

Thought . . .

“To live in the hearts of those we love – is to never die.”

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. Ron MacIntosh, the new Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei as an ex-officio member of our board of directors.

Ron replaces Gordon Houlden who left Taiwan this past summer for a new posting. We want to specially thank Gordon for the interest and support that he gave to our Society and we wish him well. We are looking forward to working with Ron and the staff of the CTOT in the coming year.

We also want to welcome Mr. Menno Goedhart to our ex-officio board as of this fall. Mr. Goedhart is the Representative of the Netherlands Trade and Investment Office in Taipei and is stepping in to fill the shoes of his former deputy Mr. Henk Nouwens who left Taiwan this past summer.

Henk had a keen interest in the POWs' story and was a tremendous help to us over the years he was here. He wrote articles about the former Taiwan POW camps and our Society for the Dutch national veterans' magazine, keeping the members informed of our activities and trying to help us find former Dutch POWs and their families. He also obtained books and articles in Dutch and spent hours translating them into English for our archives. His wife Beppie was also a great help in spreading the word about the camps and our work among the Dutch community in Taiwan and also by encouraging local school children here to learn more of the story. Their contribution was invaluable and we thank them for their efforts, and are looking forward to working with Menno in the future.

A word regarding donations to the Society:

Banks in Taiwan are reluctant to accept anything other than US dollars, so if making a donation to the Society please send the funds in US\$ - preferably in a bank draft/cashier's cheque - made payable to - " J. CHEN ". Thank you.

TU TAN DISTRICT RESIDENTS HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE AT KUKUTSU CAMP

The Tu Tan District is a rural area on the outskirts of Hsintien City, south of Taipei, where the former "Kukutsu" POW Camp was located. In early November I received a call from one of the residents asking if there were any former Taiwan POWs returning and if we were going to be holding a memorial service on the site of the camp this year. Sadly I had to tell them that there were no POWs coming and our other visitors had no-one who was in the camp, so we likely wouldn't be holding a service there this time.

Then on Sunday November 12th to my great surprise, I received an email with some photos attached saying that the local residents had held a memorial service on their own on Saturday November 11th at 3pm in the afternoon. They wanted to remember the men who suffered and died in the camp, and needless to say I was very moved to see what they had done. It certainly shows the support we have from the local people in Taiwan, and to my knowledge this is the first time that local Taiwanese have observed our western Remembrance Day by themselves. It seems that the message of remembrance is spreading, and I'm sure that the former Taiwan POWs who were in the Kukutsu Camp and their families will be as thrilled as I was to hear the news. May God bless all the residents for their thoughtfulness!

Some photos from the Kukutsu Remembrance Day service - November 11th, 2006



A traditional Chinese musical ensemble plays a hymn

Honouring the memory of the Kukutsu POWs



Floral arrangements on the memorial



Our faithful friends at Kukutsu



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!

W.M.G. (MIKE) BROWN
LIEUT., 155TH FIELD REG'T. R.A.
JANUARY 5, 2006

W.A. (ALBERT) BLACK
PTE., ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS.
MARCH 31, 2006

MANUEL CARRILLO
PFC., 200TH COAST ART., US ARMY
MAY 14, 2006

RITCHIE MIDDLETON
PTE., 2ND BTN. GORDON HIGHLANDERS
MAY 15, 2006

JOSEPH GOUGH
PTE., 1ST BTN. MANCHESTER REG'T.
JULY 21, 2006

FRED HOLDSWORTH
GNR., 80TH ANTI-TANK REG'T. R.A..
JULY 29, 2006

JACK EDWARDS O.B.E.
SGT., ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS
AUGUST 13, 2006

BASIL BAKER
SGT., 80TH ANTI-TANK REG'T. R.A..
OCTOBER 13, 2006

BEN SLACK
L/SGT., 1ST/5TH SHERWOOD FORESTERS
OCTOBER 28, 2006

The following names of former US POWs on Taiwan who passed away in 2005 were obtained from the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. We wish to honour and remember them at this time. May they rest in peace!

LEWIS C. HAMBLEY
SM1C, US NAVY
JANUARY 16, 2005

JOHN J. STENSBY
TECH. SGT., 60TH COAST ART., US ARMY
FEBRUARY 27, 2005

ALBERT PERRI
SGT., 4TH MARINES
APRIL 28, 2005

JUAN A. TRUJILLO
CPL., US ARMY
MAY 7, 2005

ROBERT T. SCOTT
PVT., US ARMY AIR CORPS
JUNE 6, 2005

DONALD H. THOMAS
PFC., 4TH MARINES
JULY 8, 2005

OTIS H. KING
PFC., 4TH MARINES
JULY 25, 2005

FRANK A. KAZERSKI
SGT., US ARMY
AUGUST 24, 2005

GEORGE L. YAKOPCIC
CPL., 59TH COAST ART., US ARMY
SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

RAYMOND A. HUFSTUTLER
M/SGT., 4TH MARINES
OCTOBER 14, 2005

BRAVE MEN

No honours were they given, no glory did they find.
Though cruelty abounded, no heads were bent in shame.
Their bravery was unheralded, comradeship and loyalty never waned.
I am proud to say I knew them - these men who were so brave.

by Jill Horn

"We Will Remember Them"

The Dedication of the "Eternal Flame of Peace and Remembrance" at the Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial Park

Last year - the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, the Taipei County Government renovated and re-constructed the former park around the Kinkaseki / Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial in conjunction with the continued development of the Gold Ecological Park, to further enhance tourism and promote the history of the area. It was decided to make the park a place of remembrance and tribute to all the men who suffered so much in the Kinkaseki Camp - and all the other POW camps on the island in World War II. The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society was pleased to have had a part in the re-design and reconstruction of the beautiful POW memorial park.

During the construction of the park, a cone-shaped dome was erected in the central plaza area, and in discussions with the designer, the idea developed that it would be good to have some kind of "image of tribute" to the Taiwan POWs placed on the dome.

Society Director Michael Hurst visited Corregidor Island this past January, and seeing a sculpture of a memorial flame at the "War Memorial of the Pacific" there, decided that this is what could be done at Chinguashi as well.

Since it was impossible to have a real natural gas "eternal" flame, it was decided to go with the idea of a 'flame sculpture' to represent an "Eternal Flame of Peace and Remembrance" - in honour of all the former POWs.

On learning of the idea Mr. Yang thought it would be a wonderful way to "finish off" the center dome. A well-known Taiwanese sculptor, Mr. Lai Chi-man, was contacted and he agreed to do the work. Meetings were held with the Taipei County Government and the final approval for the project was received in September of this year.

Over the next two months work on the flame sculpture progressed. First a clay model was made from preliminary drawings to finalize the design and then a ceramic actual-size sculpture was made. From this the flame was cast in bronze - which is comprised mostly of copper, and as such is very significant as the POWs at the Kinkaseki POW Camp slaved and suffered in the nearby copper mine for more than two years.

On November 14 the flame - which measures 60 cm / 2 feet high, and the black polished granite inscription stone that accompanies it, were mounted on the dome in the park, and on Sunday November 19th the dedication ceremony took place prior to the annual Remembrance Day service.

Following the welcome and introduction of the sculpture by Society Director Michael Hurst, Maj/Gen. (Ret.) Chi Chin-chang, Deputy Secretary-General of the R.O.C. Veterans Affairs Commission spoke on behalf of the gov't., and Richard Holt, Director of the Admin Section of the Australian Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei brought a message on behalf of the Commonwealth and allied governments. The sculptor of the flame, Mr. Lai Chi-man spoke prior to the unveiling of the flame which was followed by a prayer of dedication by Rev. Edmund Ryden.

The memorial flame sculpture was funded by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society from donations received from former POWs, their families and interested friends and organizations. We are very thankful to the Taipei County Government – in particular the Cultural Affairs Bureau, for their extensive support and to the Gold Ecological Park for giving us the opportunity and the location to further tell the POWs' story to the people of Taiwan and the world.

We sincerely hope that all who pass by this place will stop to reflect on the "**Eternal Flame of Peace and Remembrance**", and remember the price that was paid by the former Taiwan POWs for our freedom, and say a prayer on this spot that we all may continue to live in peace in the world.

This park is a permanent memorial to the Taiwan POWs, and we believe and sincerely hope that this flame will serve to help keep the memory of those wonderful men alive in our minds and hearts – forever! "LEST WE FORGET!"



Rev. Ryden leads in a prayer of dedication following the unveiling of the "eternal flame" sculpture.



The inscription stone for the memorial flame.

(More photos on page 6...)

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2006 – A Wonderful Event!

By Michael Hurst MBE

On Wednesday November 15th I went to the Chiang Kai-Shek Intl. Airport to meet the first overseas POW guests, but this year – for the first time in 10 years, I wouldn't be meeting any former Taiwan POWs. There were none coming this year, due mainly to age and health reasons, but also partly due to the recent terrorist activities in the UK and the new regulations, which made some feel that all the hassle at Heathrow Airport was just too much trouble.

I was glad to welcome Isabel Winstanley, the daughter of former POW James A. Winstanley of the 18th Btn. Recon. Reg't. and her best friend and travelling companion Cindy Ruth from Wales in the UK. When Isabel first heard of our work last year she was determined to come to see where her father had been kept as a prisoner of war and to find out more information for herself and her family members who knew so little about their dad.

This year's event began on Thursday November 16th with a day trip to Kinkaseki. We took in all the sights of the Gold Ecological Park – including the museum and the old mine tunnel. This was Isabel's first glimpse into what her father went through as a POW at Kinkaseki those many years ago, and she had a chance to see and feel what it must have been like for her father. Later we toured the area of the former POW camp and the mine before returning to the city.



Our guests by the POW Wall of Remembrance in the museum

Friday was spent in sightseeing around Taipei city visiting the world famous National Palace Museum, Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, and the Dragon Mountain Temple, with a visit to a night market rounding out the day's activities.

Later in the evening, we met the other overseas guests who had arrived that afternoon - Jim Ferguson from Hong Kong, and his brother Brian and his wife Sylvia from Scotland. Their father, L/Bdr. George Ferguson of the 5th Field Reg't. R.A. had been in the Taihoku # 6 Camp for all of his time as a POW on Taiwan.

On Saturday morning we made a trip to Keelung Harbour, where George and 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. On the way back to the city we drove by the site of the former Camp # 6.

Sunday morning was a beautiful day - warm and bright and one of the nicest we have ever had for our Remembrance Day service. Around 80 people turned out for this year's event which began with the dedication of the new "Eternal Flame of Peace and Remembrance" - erected by the Society in memory and honour of all those who suffered and those who died in the POW camps on Taiwan during WWII.



The Memorial Flame before the unveiling ceremony

After welcoming everyone to the dedication ceremony and sharing a little of the story of how the memorial flame came to be, words of tribute were given by Maj/Gen. (Ret.) Chi Chin-Chang, Deputy Secretary-General of the R.O.C. Veterans Affairs Commission and Richard Holt, Director of the Admin Section of the Australian Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei. Mr. Lai Chi-Man - the sculptor, also spoke prior to the unveiling.

On this the 10th anniversary Remembrance Service, the POW Society chose to honour three local Chinguashi residents who have helped us so much over the years. Mr. Chang In-Jie, Mr. Chang Ah-Hui, and Mr. Cheng Ching-Mou were recognized for their support and dedication to the POWs and the work we are doing to remember them. Each was presented with a small gift in appreciation from our Society. Following the unveiling, a prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. Edmund Ryden SJ.



The Taiwan "Eternal Flame of Peace & Remembrance"

(cont'd on page 7)

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2006 *(cont'd.)*

Following the dedication of the flame sculpture, we gathered for the Remembrance Day service at 11:00 am. Rev. Ryden offered an opening prayer and this was followed by a message from Harry Genn, Acting Director of the Australian Commerce and Industry Office - our co-sponsor of this year's event, on behalf of the Commonwealth and Allied representatives.

Isabel Winstanley spoke on behalf of her father and the other POWs, and told those present what coming to Taiwan meant to her. Then Jim Ferguson read the poem "We Will Remember Them" and also spoke about his father. Rev. Ryden then shared a message on the need for remembrance and for peace in the world today.

Because there were no former POWs returning this year, the wreath-laying ceremony was led by WWII veteran Art Scholl, US Navy (ret.), who was a crewmember aboard the aircraft carrier USS Sangamon which took part in the battle for Okinawa. This aircraft carrier was a sister ship to the two carriers which helped with the evacuation of the POWs from Taiwan in September 1945. Piper Mal Turner accompanied the wreath-laying with Amazing Grace on the bagpipes.

Isabel Winstanley remembers her father and the other POWs



WWII US Navy veteran Art Scholl lays wreath for the POWs

Other wreaths were laid by the Taiwan WWII Veterans, The Commonwealth and Allied Representatives, the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission, the family members of the POWs and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

Following the wreath-laying, taps and reveille were played by TAS student Wesley Lien, a moment's silence was observed

and the ceremony ended with all present reading the "Ode of Remembrance".

Following the ceremonies a fellowship lunch was held in the nearby community center. It was a wonderful day even though there were no former POWs present with us. We hope that will change next year.

On Monday the Fergusons left for home and the rest of the group travelled south to visit the other camps where Isabel's father had been held as a prisoner. Our first stop was Chiayi or Kagi, as it was known in earlier times. From there we went to Bai He to the site of the former Shirakawa POW Camp where Isabel's dad was taken in the spring of 1945 in the last sick-man party to leave Kinkaseki Camp. Being an active ROC military base we could not go inside but we had a good look at the former camp area from the grounds of a nearby school. A short memorial service was held by the original entrance to the camp before returning to Chiayi.

From Chiayi we took the train to Kaohsiung and paid a visit to the Taiwan Hellships Memorial at Chijin Beach. All of the POWs who arrived and departed from Taiwan, came by hellship, so it is fitting that there should be a special memorial here to remember those who suffered and died on them. Later we went to PingTung where we spent the night before going to the site of the former Heito Camp on Tuesday morning.

At the Taiwan Hellships Memorial



We were met at the camp by a contingent from the ROC armed forces who joined us in a walk-about tour of the old camp and also paid their respects with us at the memorial service we held later.

Even though there were no former POWs in attendance this year, our Remembrance Week was still a wonderful event. It will likely be this way permanently in a few years and it is our hope that the children and families of the FEPOWs will continue to come and share with us the experience of seeing the camps and places where their loved ones were so many years ago as Isabel and Jim and Brian did this year. No matter what, we will never forget the Taiwan POWs or their sacrifice for us.



TEN YEARS OF REMEMBERING THE TAIWAN PRISONERS OF WAR

- 1996 - Nov.** - Kinkaseki Camp is mentioned at Remembrance Day Service. Canadian Trade Office in Taipei Director Hugh Stephens conceives the idea to hold a memorial service for the men of Kinkaseki – talks to Michael Hurst at the Canadian Society who takes on the project with the CST's assistance.
- 1997 - Jan.** - Michael Hurst forms the Kinkaseki Committee to organize the memorial service which takes place on **May 16** with the showing of the film "A War Story". Former POW Jack Edwards is in attendance and leads a tour to Kinkaseki Camp
- **May 19** - Kukutsu Camp is found.
 - **Nov. 23** - The **Taiwan POW Memorial** is dedicated at Chinguashi with 3 former POWs present. News of the memorial spreads to the UK, Canada, USA and Australia.
- 1998 - Jan.** - The project to find the former Taiwan POWs and locate the sites of all the POW camps on the island is initiated by Michael Hurst. Location of Karenko Camp is verified.
- **Mar.** - POW information plaques at Chinguashi are completed and installed.
 - **Oct.** - The location of Taichu Camp is found south of Taichung.
 - **Nov.** - The first group of former Taichu POWs returns to the camp for a visit after 54 years.
- 1999 - Mar.** - The wall and landscaping project at the Chinguashi POW memorial is completed.
- **Apr.** - The original Kinkaseki Committee closes down - its work is done.
 - **May** - The **Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society** is launched to continue the work started by Hurst and the Kinkaseki Committee. The Commonwealth Remembrance Committee is also formed to assist the Society with Remembrance Day Services.
 - **Jul.** - The first ever Kinkaseki POW Reunion is held in the UK. Michael and Tina Hurst attend.
 - **Sep.** - Discovery of the former Heito Camp.
 - **Nov.** - **Kukutsu POW Memorial** is dedicated with 3 former POWs in attendance.
- 2000 - Jun.** - Discovery of Taihoku Camp # 5.
- **Sep.** - The locations of the Shirakawa and Toroku Camps are uncovered.
 - **Oct.** - Verification of the site of Taihoku Camp # 6.
 - **Nov.** - **Taichu POW Memorial** is dedicated with 3 former POWs and 6 other POWs present.
- 2001 - Jan.** - The site of the Takao Camp is discovered at Kaohsiung Harbour.
- **Aug.** - The Inrin and Inrin Temporary Camps are located.
- 2002 - Jun.** - The site of Tamazato Camp is discovered and explored.
- **Aug.** - The location of Churon Camp is verified.
 - **Oct.** - HRH Prince Charles presents MBE to Michael Hurst for his work with the POWs at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace. The location of the Taiwan POW Memorial Tree at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffs., UK is confirmed.
- 2003 - Apr.** - **Taiwan POW Memorial Tree** is dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum in the UK.
- 2004 - May** - Re-dedication of the **Kukutsu POW Memorial** following its relocation.
- **Oct.** - Location of the Oka Camp is finally confirmed after a 5-year search.
 - **Nov.** - Dedication of the **Heito POW Memorial** with 6 POWs present.
- 2005 - Jan.** - 60th Anniversary of the bombing of the hellship Enoura Maru in Kaohsiung Harbour.
- **Jun.** - 60th Anniversary of the execution of 14 American flyers at the Taipei Prison.
 - **Aug.** - 60th Anniversary POW Exhibition & launch of the TPCMS 60th Anniversary commemorative stamp sheet.
 - **Sep.** - 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the evacuation of the POWs from Keelung Harbour.
 - **Nov.** - Dedication of the **Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial Park** – 3 POWs present.
- 2006 - Jan.** - Dedication of the **Taiwan Hellships Memorial** at Chijin Beach, Kaohsiung.
- **Nov.** - Dedication of the **Eternal Flame of Peace and Remembrance** at the POW Memorial Park, Chinguashi.

--- from the Director

As we come to the end of 2006, we can look back and see what a great year it has been. Although we have not had as many events as we held last year during the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII, it has nevertheless been an extremely fruitful year for the Society and our efforts to remember the former Taiwan prisoners of war and tell their story.

This is so important at this time as so many of our dear POW friends are passing away – among them Jack Edwards, whose inspiration helped lead to the building of the memorial that stands on the site of the former Kinkaseki Camp today. Other very dear POW friends – Basil Baker, Fred Holdsworth and Ben Slack have also passed away this year and I will miss them all. In the past year we have recorded the deaths of more than 40 former Taiwan POWs and veterans, so the number of survivors is dwindling month by month.

However, there are still more than 60 former Kinkaseki POWs with us – who we know of, and altogether more than 200 former POWs who suffered so much here in Taiwan for our freedom in those dark days. It is all of these men who we remember – both those who have died and those who remain, and we assure them and their families that although some are no longer with us, they will not be forgotten.

Many of these wonderful men and their families have shared their diaries, photos, notes, stories and mementoes with me, and this has really helped in putting together more of their story. Thanks to their help – and also that of fellow researchers, we have learned a lot more of the story and the pieces of the huge puzzle are rapidly coming together now.

I urge you to take a close look at the cover of this newsletter, and as you gaze on those war cemeteries, realize the terrible price that was paid for the freedom and prosperity that we all enjoy in our world today. If it weren't for those men – doing what they did back then, we would certainly not likely be doing whatever we are doing today! They gave everything they had – let us take a moment and give them the respect they are due and help us to make sure that they are never forgotten.

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst* MBE