



Never Forgotten

Vol. 14, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2013

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



The American VFW Commander-in-Chief visits Jinguashi



TES Children's Roses on the Memorial



School children by the POW Memorial Wall



The way to the Mine . . . view down the old tramway at Kinkaseki

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2013

Be sure to mark the week of November 6 – 13 on your calendars and in your date books, and plan to be with us for another wonderful annual event which will feature a POW banquet on November 9th and the Remembrance Day service at the Prisoner of War Memorial Park at Kinkaseki on the 10th. We hope that former POWs and their families will make an effort to come as we have a special program prepared for these guests. If you are interested, and for more information, please contact the Society by Email or mail at the address shown on page 2 of the newsletter. We look forward to having you with us in November!

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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 and the poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols 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. [*completed*]
- * to ensure the memory of the Taiwan POWs is not forgotten. [*ongoing*]
- * to help with the organization of, and participate in, the memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi every November. [*ongoing*]
- * to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history.
- * to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story. [*ongoing*]

LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . . all found !

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

Thought . . .

Quitters never win . . .

Winners never quit!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEPOW DAY – AUGUST 10, 2013

This year will be the sixth time that *FEPOW Day* is celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we will meet at the Spot Theatre - 18, Chungshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei on Saturday evening August 10th at 6 pm. There will be a display of POW and military artifacts, we will have a short memorial service to remember the POWs and then the POW film "*Prisoners of the Sun*" will be shown.

The film stars Russell Crowe, Bryan Brown and George Takei, and tells the story of the massacre of Australian POWs in WWII and the subsequent war crimes trials. It is based on a true story.

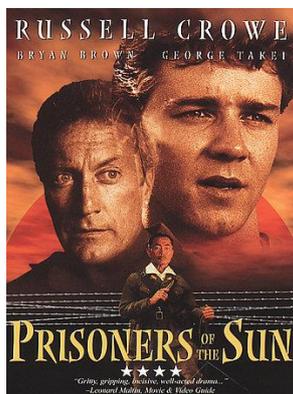
After World War II, a mass grave was uncovered on the Southeast Asia island of Ambon containing the bodies of hundreds of Australian POW's who were captured by the Japanese.

The war crimes trial and other events portrayed in this film are based on the recollections of Captain John Williams, the Australian prosecutor during the war crimes trials on Ambon, and on official records. The trial was a significant one for Australia, convened due to the fact that three-quarters of the Australians captured on Ambon died before the war's end. Most of the Japanese characters are based on real Japanese soldiers. Ninety-three Japanese soldiers were tried and four were executed for their mistreatment of soldiers and civilian prisoners.

Everyone is invited to our event, but space is limited to around 75 persons, so please kindly let us know if you're planning to attend so we can reserve a seat for you. We hope to have a good turnout again this year.

An email will be sent out locally as a reminder prior to the event and we look forward to seeing many of our friends and supporters once again.

We invite you to come out and learn more of the story of the Far East POWs and their service and sacrifice.



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 wire / transfer to our account here. Please contact us for the pertinent account information. Thank you.

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

It seems that instead of things winding down for the POW project as the years go on, it is getting busier every year, and this year is no exception.

January was a bit quieter and so I was able to get a lot of research done in final preparation for putting my book together. February saw several local promotional events take place, and we were privileged to help host the US Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary President on a day visit to Jinguashi and the POW memorials there.

In March I was interviewed for radio programs with the local English language station telling about our work, I gave lectures on the POWs at the European International School and led a subsequent visit to Jinguashi, and had several other opportunities to lead visits to the POW Park as well. It was my honour to share the POWs' story with US Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton and his adjutant, who came to Taiwan that month. (See story on page 5)

April was more of the same with visits from other overseas guests – one a reporter from the US Stars & Stripes Magazine, and the family of a former POW who had been interned in Taihoku Camp 6 before being sent to Japan in the spring of 1945. There was another school lecture and the completion and publication of a small book I wrote on my family veterans of the two World Wars.

I was in Canada in May and happy once again to make contact by phone with many of my FEPOW friends and family members there and in the USA. Sadly some had passed on since my last visit.

The summer is going to be incredibly busy with the building of the new Shirakawa POW Memorial, FEPOW Day, more overseas guest visits in August and September, and the preparations for our fall events.

Shirakawa Camp was where the senior officers went after Karenko Camp was closed in June 1943 and is the last major memorial we need to erect. It will be dedicated in November at Remembrance Week and more information will be forthcoming.

Our annual event in November is going to be another outstanding one. This year we are expecting to have one former Taiwan POW with us, plus a number of family members as well. We anticipate a great turnout for this event to remember those soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought - and those who died, for the freedom that is ours today.

In closing I would like to thank all our members and friends for their continued interest and support and I wish you all a very safe and happy summer.

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst* MBE

In Memoriam

The following former Taiwan POWs have passed away since our last newsletter.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families of these men and assure them that although they are no longer with us, they will not be forgotten!

BEN DARBY

SPR., ROYAL ENGINEERS
DECEMBER 9, 2009
(Not reported earlier)

ARTHUR ELVIDGE

CQMS., 3RD INDIAN CORPS SIGNALS
AUGUST 2, 2012

GLENN S. OLIVER

PVT., 194TH TANK BTN., US ARMY
NOVEMBER 25, 2012

FRANK H. DEVIVO

PFC., HQ CAC, US ARMY
DECEMBER 1, 2012

JOSEPH D. LAJZER

PVT., 192ND TANK BTN., US ARMY
MARCH 16, 2013

CYRIL UPCHURCH

PTE., 1ST BTN. CAMBRIDGESHIRE REG'T
APRIL 8, 2013

WILLIAM ROY

BDR., 5TH FIELD REG'T. R.A.
MAY 4, 2013

"We Will Remember Them"

Please let us know if you hear of the passing of any former Taiwan POW and send us the information

PLEASE HELP US - NOW!

In the past months we have received a number of first time emails from people telling us that their father, grandfather, uncle etc. has just passed away. It is always sad when we hear of a POW's passing, but in response I write to them and ask "Why didn't you write to us sooner and tell us about your relative while he was still alive?" "We want to hear from them, and about them, so we can learn more of the POWs' stories to further insure that they are recorded and that the men are not forgotten."

So PLEASE - if you have a loved one who was a Taiwan POW and who is still living, please send us a letter or an email and tell us about him -

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

REMEMBERING . . .

The POWs are passing on in even greater numbers these days as the men are either entering or in their 90's. Looking at the names that come in every month brings back so many wonderful memories of previous contacts and friendships made.

Ben Darby was one of our earliest Kinkaseki contacts and shared info on his experiences at that camp. Arthur Elvidge in Australia was a great supporter and friend.

Glenn Oliver was one of only eight survivors of the terrible *Arisan Maru* hellship tragedy and shared his story with me many years ago. Frank DeVivo and Joe Lajzer were American FEPOW friends; Cyril Upchurch was a later find and told me that he always enjoyed our newsletters. William Roy came to Taiwan in 2010 – one of a very few who worked in the Taipei Railway Yards as a POW, and it was a delight to take him back there again.

The memory of these wonderful men will always live in my heart and I hope others will remember them too!

AMAZING - ANOTHER FORMER TAIWAN POW FOUND . . .

In early June we had an email from a lady in the UK letting us know that her father, a former Taiwan POW is still alive at 93 and doing well. As I told her in my reply, it is so amazing that we are still finding former Taiwan POWs after more than 16 years doing this work, as I would have thought that with the internet and our website that by now we would have found all that we were going to find, but obviously that is not the case.

As people continue to search the net for information on loved ones who were veterans and FEPOWs, perhaps as they try to put together their family trees, or just to see what info is available out there, I continue to get emails. Basically there is not a day goes by that I don't get at least one email inquiry, and often there are two, three, or more. It is a real surprise when I get one telling me that the former POW is still with us, as so many are about men who have passed on years ago.

Our latest find is Mr. Jack William Blowers who now lives in the south of England. He was a POW at Heito, Kinkaseki and Kukutsu Camps, and has many bitter memories of his time as a POW here.

Jack came to Taiwan on the hellship *Dainichi Maru* in November 1942 from Singapore and was first sent to Heito Camp in the south of the island. In September 1943 he was transferred to Kinkaseki where he remained until the mine closed and the men were moved to the Kukutsu 'jungle' Camp in June 1945. He finished the war there and was evacuated to Manila by the US Navy on the 6th September 1945.

His daughter says that at 93 he is now "becoming a little frail" but that he is thinking of going back out to Singapore as he wants to say goodbye to his friends. Talk about strength, stamina and courage!

THE AMERICAN VFW STAFF VISITS TAIWAN

The Society often works with the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission and the Ministry of Defense to help when they have visitors that want to see the POW camp and memorials at Jinguashi. It is an honour to accompany them and explain the POWs' story to their guests.

On Sunday February 24 the Society was pleased to be able to conduct a half day tour to Jinguashi for the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission who were hosting Mrs. Leanne Lemley, National President of Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Mrs. Kathryn Schreiber, National Chief of Staff of Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

We got an early start and arrived at the Gold Ecological Park and toured the museum and the mine. Then we made our way to the POW Park and spent considerable time as we explored the camp and they learned about the life of the POWs who had been there.



With Leann (l) and Kathryn (r) in the Gold Museum

The ladies were very moved as they stood at the wall gazing at the names of the more than 4000 Taiwan POWs inscribed there, realizing the sacrifice that those men had made for their countries and freedom.



Following this the ladies laid a bouquet of flowers on the POW Memorial and we had a moment's silence. Then we returned to the city for lunch. It was a good day for us all.

THERE'S MORE . . .

A little over a month later on March 25th I again had the pleasure of conducting another tour for the VAC, this time for the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, John Hamilton and his Adjutant General, Allen "Gunner" Kent.

Once again we headed out to the hills surrounding the mining town of Jinguashi and found ourselves in the all too familiar rain that often plagues that area of the island.

It wasn't too bad as we made our way to the museum where we spent quite a bit of time viewing the exhibits and talking about the POWs and their experiences. We went down the mine tunnel and the men got a feeling for what the POWs must have felt as they trudged to work in the dark depths every day. It was a moving experience for them.

C-inC Hamilton studying the POW artifacts in the museum.



Inside the mine at Kinkaseki.



Then it was on to the site of the No. 6 Mine where the POWs actually went to work. We gazed over the valley and down the old tramway tracks to the bottom of the hill where POWs trudged every day.

Once down in the POW Camp the men had more questions and were riveted by the POWs' story and what they had experienced.



After spending time at the memorial wall the group made its way to the memorial where flowers were laid in honour and memory of the Taiwan POWs. Both men said how moved they were by their experience and it was an honour for me to be able to show them around.



(l-r) Tim Liao VAC, Allen Kent VFW, John Hamilton VFW, Nick Chang VAC

[All photos by Leo Liou]

A DAUGHTER REMEMBERS

On April 21st Victoria and Rhys Hamilton arrived for a week-long visit to Taiwan. They had come to see where her father had been as a POW and to learn more about what he had experienced during his time here.

Her father, Bdr. John Roland Nelson of the 5th Field Reg't. R.A. had come to Taiwan on the hellship *England Maru* in November 1942 and was interned for all of his time here in Taihoku Camp 6. It is interesting that he was never sent to Kinkaseki as so many of his 5th Field Reg't. mates were. We think he may have had a particular skill or trade that the Japs needed so they kept him at Taihoku until he was finally sent to Hokkaido Japan on the *Taiko Maru* in February 1945.

The first day we took a trip to Kinkaseki to see the POW Memorial Park and then on to Keelung to view the harbour and the very docks where Bdr. Nelson had arrived and departed from Taiwan.

The following day was filled with some local sightseeing and a visit to the Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial where we remembered Vicki's father and the other men of that camp.

With Victoria at the Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial



Below: A tribute to her father.



Then they were off for a week of sightseeing around the island before heading back home. They were thankful and happy to be able to follow in her father's footsteps.

REACHING THE SCHOOLS

Once again this spring I was pleased to be able to speak to both the Grade 5 and Grade 9 classes at the Taipei European International School about the Taiwan POWs' story. I also got to accompany the Grade 5's to Jinguashi on another great day trip. The kids are so interested and attentive and a pleasure to work with. At the end of the camp tour they read poems they had written in tribute to the POWs and laid roses on the memorial. It was a very moving time for everyone and I look forward to working with them again next year.



A NEW POW MEMORIAL IN LANARKSHIRE, SCOTLAND

From Agnes Dougan, Lanarkshire Yeomanry Assoc.

"On Friday 21 June 2013, a monument in memory of the men of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry was unveiled by the Provost of South Lanarkshire, Councillor Eileen Logan, in the Market Place at Carluke, Lanarkshire.

Present were over two hundred invited guests and local townsfolk; an Army Cadet Force platoon from Motherwell; the 449th [Lanark] Squadron Air Training Corps; regimental associations from all over Scotland and the Royal British Legion.

Among the veterans was Andy Coogan from Carnoustie who had been held as a POW at Kinkaseki on Taiwan, one of the very worst of the Japanese hell camps. Sadly, the only other surviving Lanarkshire Yeomanry POW held on Taiwan, 93 year old John Marshall, was unable to be present as he was in hospital.

Following a moving dedication service by the Rev. Paul Grant from Stonehouse St. Ninians Church of Scotland, the memorial was unveiled by the Provost after which Col. David Cranstoun, whose family have long links with the Lanarkshire Yeomanry, laid a wreath on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire. Thereafter wreaths were laid by both the Provost of South Lanarkshire and by North Lanarkshire Councillor Jim Robertson. Mrs. Margaret Kelso, widow of the late Frank Kelso, another Taiwan survivor, accompanied by her great grandson Corey Kelso, laid a wreath on behalf of the families of the men of the regiment.

Other personal tributes came from the families of Captain Fraser Stewart, Jim Cowan, Tom Gordon and George Brown who died as POWs on Taiwan, and the families of Lt. Col. James Fasson, RSM Peter Scullion, John McEwan, William Barrie, Jock Brodie, Sam Frew, Bill Shields, Jim Fergusson, Benny Gough, Fred Norbury and Hodge Mitchell. These men were among the fortunate few to return from that terrible place.

South Lanarkshire Council later hosted a reception for the families and guests during which Andy Coogan and other veterans of the regiment who had been POWs on the Death Railway, told something of their experience as 'guests of the Japanese'."

The memorial is one of a number of recent projects initiated by the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Association which was formed several years ago to remember the men of the regiment. It is wonderful to have this memorial in the local area where the men came from in addition to those we have built for them here in Taiwan. (Ed.)



The Lanarkshire Yeomanry Memorial – Carluke, Scotland

COMINGS AND GOINGS – THANKS AND AWARDS

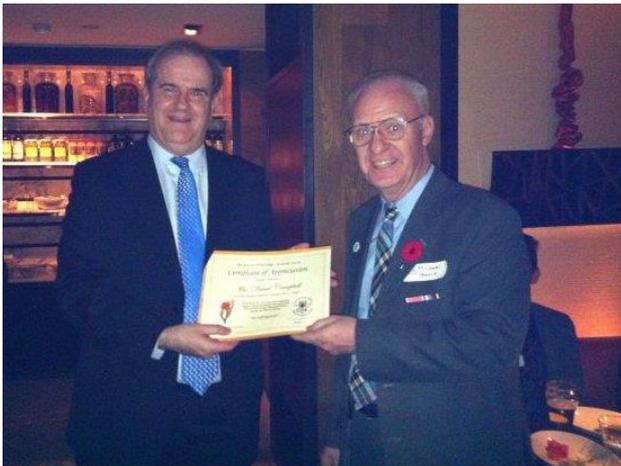
WELCOME... NEW TRADE OFFICE DIRECTORS

Over the past fall and winter months we have had several changes in personnel at the various Commonwealth and Allied Trade Offices here in Taiwan. We are honoured to welcome the new directors who, like their predecessors, have pledged their support and that of their facilities to helping our Society in its work of honouring and remembering the former Allied POWs who were held here in WWII.

First came Ms. Kathleen McKay of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, replacing Mr. Scott Fraser in the early fall, followed a month later by Mr. Christopher Marut of the American Institute in Taiwan replacing Mr. William Stanton.

Scott and William both gave outstanding support to our work and still continue their interest in our efforts.

In Mid-February we bid goodbye to former British Trade and Cultural Office Director Mr. David Campbell. He had been here for an extended term and during his time in Taiwan had done so much to advance our cause. He attended every event we put on, and ably assisted in the opening and dedication of the Taihoku Camp 6 and Karenko POW memorials. He gave of himself wherever and whenever he could, and we are very grateful for all he did for us.



Presenting David with a thank-you certificate at his farewell party held by the British Chamber of Commerce.

David was replaced by Mr. Chris Wood and all three new directors have become ex-officio members of our board on assuming office.

It has been wonderful working with the various trade offices over the years, and at this time I want to express my appreciation for the interest and support that they have given to our Society. We look forward to working with all the offices in the days ahead to make sure that the former Taiwan POWs from these countries will never be forgotten.

THANKS TO THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

During the past several years the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense under Minister Kao Hua-chu, has given us tremendous support and aided in the building of the Taihoku Camp 6 and the Karenko POW Memorials.

I wanted to thank the Minister and his staff for their help and had asked for a meeting with him to show our appreciation. On February 27, I was invited to come to the Ministry of Defense Headquarters to meet with the minister and his staff. His office is located in the same building which was formerly the Japanese Military Headquarters during World War II, an appropriately historic venue for our meeting.

After a time of sharing and fellowship, I presented the minister with a gold coin commemorating the POW Memorial at Kinkaseki and a certificate of appreciation for all he and his department have done for our Society over the years. We will always be grateful for their support.



MND Headquarters – the former WWII Japanese Army Headquarters Building

Visiting with Minister Kao



Presenting the medal and certificate

We also discussed my future plans for a Taiwan POW Museum and how the ministry could assist with that project. We are looking forward to continuing our work with the MND in the days to come.



(Cont'd on page 8)

THANKS AND AWARDS...

(Continued from page 7)

In addition to saying thanks to the Ministry of Defense I also wanted to show our appreciation to one particular individual from the Taiwan military who has done so much to aid us in our work over the past number of years. He was instrumental in helping to get the Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial built and also greatly assisted in the Karenko Memorial in Hualien last year.

He is Col. Yi-chien Tsou who formerly worked for the Armaments Bureau and now works at the headquarters complex of the MND in the procurement department. It was my honour and pleasure on the day I visited MND HQ to present Col. Tsou with a thank-you certificate as well.

In addition to being a great help to us, he has become a close personal friend and continues to offer his services to our Society as a translator and wherever else he is needed. It is volunteers like this who really help to make our work a success!



FURTHER AWARDS FOR SOCIETY DIRECTOR

Last December, while attending an event hosted by the Taiwanese Veterans Association in Kaohsiung, Society Director Michael Hurst was awarded the **Taiwan Veterans Memorial Medal** by the association for his support to their organization.

Then in February - on the day he went to the MND Headquarters to present the Society's thanks to Minister Kao, the Minister in turn presented him with the award of the **ROC Ministry of National Defense Badge of Honor** in recognition of his efforts to tell the story of the Taiwan POWs and for building memorials on the island in their honour. It was a huge surprise and shock, and a great honour to have bestowed.



Taiwan Veterans Medal



ROC MND Badge of Honor

TAIWAN WAR GRAVES PHOTO PROJECT - Update

In the past month we received some good news from fellow researcher and friend Jim Opolony in the US that he had found the grave of Adam E. Pliska located in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit Michigan.

He contacted the cemetery staff for verification and then opened a memorial page on the Find-A-Grave website in honor of Adam and placed a request there for a photo of his grave. To date we are still waiting and hoping.

A couple of weeks later he surprised us with yet another find – the grave location for Frank H. Leroy in the Park View Cemetery in Manteca, California. A memorial page was posted on Find-A-Grave by our friend Debbie Gibson and two days later she got us a photo of Leroy's grave. One more done!

So this sheds some light on the case of what happened to the remains of Pliska and Leroy and also George Retchless who only has an inscription on the memorial at the Punchbowl rather than being properly buried in a "named grave".

Initially, as stated in earlier newsletters, it was believed that the remains of these three men who had previously been buried in the Taihoku Camp 6 Cemetery, had been mis-handled by the American War Graves Recovery Team, but now it seems that at least in the case of Leroy and Pliska, that the remains were properly cared for and in fact returned to the US for proper burial. Our apologies for the wrong assumptions, but that is often what happens when researching this kind of old wartime history.

We are also still waiting and hoping for a photo of the grave of Freddy McCreary in Warfield Cemetery, Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky. We contacted the cemetery months ago and even spoke to someone there about taking a photo of the grave for us, but until now they never came through. If anyone can help us obtain a photo of this grave it would be much appreciated.

Photo of the Warfield Cemetery near Barbourville Kentucky from Google Earth – now we just need a photo of McCreary's grave!

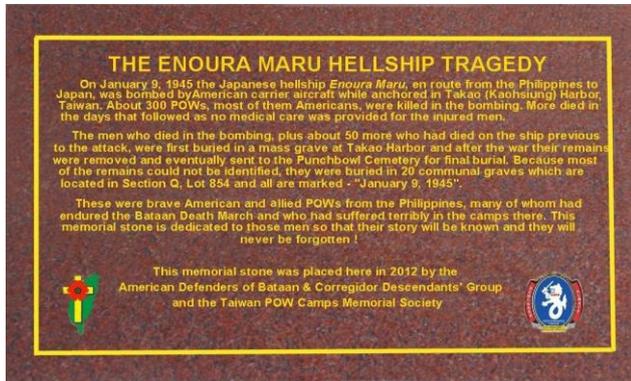


At this point we now know where all of the former American POWs in Taiwan are buried and we need just 2 more actual grave photos to complete the Taiwan War Graves Photo Project.

If any of our readers can help with photos of Pliska's grave in Detroit and McCreary's grave in Barbourville Kentucky, please contact us. Thank you!

A MEMORIAL FOR POWS FROM TAIWAN IN HAWAII – THE SAGA CONTINUES!

In our last two issues we featured articles on the proposed memorial to be erected to the men who died in January 1945 when the hellship *Enoura Maru* was bombed by American carrier aircraft while laying over in Kaohsiung Harbour en route to Japan with prisoners of war.



Mockup of the *Enoura Maru* Memorial stone

As you will recall, a lot of effort has been put forth by the Society and the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society - formerly the Descendants Group, towards placing a stone on the Memorial Walk at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii in honour of the *Enoura Maru* men. We want to let people know who those 400 men are in the 20 communal graves which contain the remains of the men who died and were first interred here in Taiwan so long ago.

We submitted our initial application in December 2011 and all through 2012 we were embroiled in discussions with the Punchbowl staff over the single issue of the use of the word "HELLSHIP" on the memorial stone. The cemetery felt that the use of that word would be "offensive" to the Japanese tourists who visit the cemetery to enjoy the scenic views available there.

After satisfying the cemetery's request that the word "HELLSHIP" is a valid word and correct historical term for the horrible, unmarked Japanese cargo ships that carried thousands of prisoners of war to their deaths through overcrowding, starvation, thirst and beatings, they still would not accept that, but without the word HELLSHIP on the memorial we feel it would have little meaning and not tell the true story.

So now the key point that we are stressing is the position of the Punchbowl Cemetery director and his superior, and in fact the **Veterans Administration in the USA**, whose job and mandate it is to recognize the suffering and sacrifice of their veterans and see to it that they are honoured and remembered. It seems to us that the VA and the Punchbowl are more concerned about not offending Japanese tourists than they are about remembering their own veterans who lie in that cemetery! This is very wrong in our opinion.

In June last year the Punchbowl formally rejected our application and told us to re-apply without the

word HELLSHIP on the stone. We were not prepared to do that and then sent an appeal to Sen. Patty Murray (D) who was chairwoman of the Veterans Affairs Committee at the time. About a month later a very blunt and cold reply came back from them, "Change the wording or NO Memorial!"

We are not prepared to accept their ruling and were working on sending another appeal to other Senators and Congress people when this spring I had the good fortune to be asked by the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission to host a tour to Jinguashi for the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. (See article on page 5)

During our day together the subject of the *Enoura Maru* Memorial came up and the director and his adjutant were appalled at the response that we had received from the Punchbowl and the VA.

They asked me to give them a full report of what had taken place thus far and promised to look into the matter further, as they felt that such a fitting memorial should be placed at the Punchbowl to identify the men in those unmarked graves. So at this time the matter is in the hands of the VFW and we are hoping and praying that this great organization of American veterans can prevail on the "powers that be" to allow us to place the memorial there with the word "hellship" intact.

All we want to do is make sure that the men of the *Enoura Maru* are properly honoured and remembered by the very organization whose mandate it is to do so. We want to tell the true story on the memorial stone and not have it watered down to suit some politically correct VA people and their uncaring pro-Japanese policies.

We will continue in our efforts to have the inscription accepted as is, and are hoping that the approval will come through. We hope that many of our American readers will contact their senators and congress representatives and let them know about this travesty by the Punchbowl staff and the VA, and ask for their support in getting the matter rectified.

We hope to know sometime soon as to the outcome and we will make an announcement with more info and details at that time. Once the project is approved we will start the fund-raising to proceed with making the memorial stone and its installation at the cemetery. We hope our readers and friends will stand with us to ensure that the men of the *Enoura Maru* will never be forgotten.



Enoura Maru graves at the Punchbowl Cemetery (Photos - Kent Mathieu)

FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS – POW TOURS IN TAIWAN

Group Tours, Individual and Family Tours are available.

Having researched and documented the history of all 16 former Taiwan POW camps for the past 15 years, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society offers tours to all of the former POW camps and related sites on the island. We have been conducting these tours for the past 15 years and cater to individuals, families, and small and large groups.

Our tours are personally planned and tailored to meet the special needs of our visitors. We specialize in the WWII history of Taiwan and we can research individual POWs, something which those with a family connection to the camps will find fulfilling and memorable.

Tours are expertly guided by Michael Hurst MBE, Director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society who has lived in Taiwan for nearly 25 years. He is the foremost authority on the Taiwan POW camps, and living here, knows Taiwan best !

Our rates are reasonable and we try our best to provide a memorable experience for former POWs and their family members. We want to provide not only knowledge about the POWs and the camps, but peace and closure for our visitors and those on a pilgrimage as well.

If you want to follow in the footsteps of a mate or a loved one, or just learn more about the Taiwan POWs' story, then please contact us for more information and a cost estimate.

NOTES FOR POW VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES . . .

BRITISH GOV'T PAYMENT TO POWS, WIDOWS AND FAMILIES – STILL AVAILABLE

The £10,000 Ex-Gratia payment for British service people who were held captive by the Japanese during World War II – also known as the “special gratuity” is still available, so those who have not already claimed it - and now also family members, can apply for it.

The categories of persons eligible to make a claim for this Ex-Gratia payment include:

- 1.) Surviving former members of HM Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war in the Far East during the Second World War.
- 2.) Surviving British civilians who were interned by the Japanese in the Far East during the Second World War.
- 3.) The surviving widow or widower of a person who would otherwise have been entitled under categories 1 and 2 above.
- 4.) If both the FEPOW and the surviving widow died after the year 2000, then the eldest son or daughter qualifies.

How to claim: Telephone the free Veterans Agency helpline at 0800 169 22 77 for details. To qualify the FEPOW must have been alive in the year 2000 or the surviving widow after the year 2000.

UNCLAIMED WAR MEDALS (BRITISH)

For any Taiwan FEPOWS who do not have their medals - they can still be claimed. Also, next of kin of deceased ex-service personnel can claim their relatives' medals. Information and medals can only be released to the direct legal next of kin. A *Certificate of Kinship* form needs to be filled out and a photocopy of the relevant death certificate should also be submitted.

For further information and forms please contact - Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), MOD Medal Office Building 250, Imjin Barracks, Gloucester GL3 1HW. Telephone number 0141 224 3600, or Veterans Free phone - 0800 085 3600.