



# Never Forgotten

The Official Newsletter of the TAIWAN P.O.W. CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY  
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FALL 2000

## *Remembering*

Why do you march old man, with medals on your chest?  
Why do you grieve old man, for those friends you laid to rest?  
Why do your eyes still gleam old man, when you hear the bugles blow?  
Tell me, why do you cry old man, for those days so long ago?

I'll tell you why I march young man, with medals on my chest,  
I'll tell you why I grieve young man, for those I laid to rest.  
Through misty fields of gossamer silk come visions of distant times  
When boys of such a tender age marched forth to battle lines.

We buried them in a blanket shroud, their young flesh scorched and  
blackened.

In a communal grave so newly dug in bloodstained gorse and bracken.  
And you ask me why I march young man - I march to remind you all  
That but for those apple-blossomed youths, you'd never know freedom at all  
!

***Freedom Isn't Free!***

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY**

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**LOGO** of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS  
MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Our logo - a poppy cross superimposed on a map of Taiwan was chosen because in the fall of 1998 the returning POWs laid poppy crosses at all the former campsites they visited. The poppy cross is recognised worldwide as a symbol of remembrance to war veterans.

**THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TAIWAN  
POW CAMPS MEMORIAL  
SOCIETY. . .**

- to continue the search for survivors of the Taiwan POW camps from 1942 - 45
- to search for the locations of the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan
- to ensure the memory of the Taiwan POWs is not forgotten
- to participate with the Commonwealth and Allied community each year in a memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Kinkaseki
- to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history
- to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL  
SOCIETY ON THE 'NET!**

We welcome you to visit our website. There you will find a list of all the POW camps that were on Taiwan. 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.

<http://www.powtaiwan.org/>

Please sign our guestbook and give us your comments, questions and suggestions.

Our email address is -  
[society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Thought...**

***"The secret of happiness is not  
doing what we like, but in liking at  
we do."***



# POW CAMP SEARCHES . . .

## TAIHOKU-MOSAK CAMP # 5 -

On Sunday June 25, acting on the information provided a couple of weeks earlier by Mr. Lin, the local historian, and his father, who had been a conscript in the Japanese Army, Stuart Saunders and Tina and Michael Hurst made the journey out to the site of the former Taihoku Mosak Camp #5. With a little effort they located the old camp situated on a little knoll in the community of Mucha - southeast of Taipei City.

The site now consists of several broken-down and derelict houses - left over from the influx of squatters who came to Taiwan with the Chinese Army from Mainland China after the Chinese Civil war in 1949. The site still belongs to the ROC military although there is not an actual base there anymore. They were not surprised to find that this was military property as most of the former POW camps are controlled by the Taiwan military today. Although there are no actual buildings remaining from that former time, one of the present buildings could be standing on the same site as one of the two main buildings from that earlier time. In fact they wondered if it might even be a remodelling of the original building, as it was located in the same place and measured about the same as the main POW hut which was described by one of the POWs from that time.

Engineer Stuart measured the area of the compound and found it to be just about exactly the size described in an earlier report. They also talked to one of the neighbours who confirmed that the area had been occupied by the military in earlier times, although he had no knowledge of the POWs as he had come later. Michael and Stuart started poking around the site -



**Stuart Saunders(I) and Michael Hurst on the site of the former Taihoku-Mosak camp #5**

despite Tina's warning about possible snakes in the long grass. They were looking for anything that might have been left from earlier times. They turned up some pieces of old black slate roof tiles and some bits of old water pots. The roof tiles were definitely from the Japanese era as the postwar Taiwanese roof tiles were made of cast concrete. The pieces of the old water pots were similar to those found at Kinkaseki and which were common for storing water at the POW camps.

No snakes were encountered and all counted the day's exploring as very worthwhile as they were able to add another camp to our list of those found.

## TAIHOKU-OKA CAMP -



**Terrain of the mountains in the area of OKA Camp.**

In mid-August Michael made a further trip up into the mountains north of Taipei City in search of the elusive OKA Camp. Altogether, two separate days were spent looking for more clues to its location.

On the first day he found and talked with a local resident who had been a former conscript of the Japanese, and had served with the army in Taipei City. He had also been a worker for a time at Taihoku Camp #6. He was not a guard but did other jobs in the camp. He told of the sad plight of the prisoners - how thin they were, and how sick they looked much of the time. Mr. Li also told the story of how the Japanese guards used to like to slap the faces of the British prisoners as hard as they could, as they enjoyed seeing how red the "white faces" got when slapped. He noted that the Japanese worked the prisoners very hard. On the second day, meetings were held with two of the local school teachers and historians from the area who have become vitally interested in the POWs' story and in helping us find the location of this camp.

*(con't. on page 4 )*

# POW CAMP SEARCHES . . .

## POW CAMP SEARCHES . . .

### **OKA CAMP (con't.)**

Much discussion was held and phone calls to local residents were made to try to obtain as much information as possible. With this information they poured over maps of the area and formulated ideas as to where the camp may have been located, based on their knowledge of the local terrain.

They took a trip to the top of one of the nearby mountains by car, and examined a potential site from there. It is possible that some of the POWs may have gone up to that area to gather the abundant elephant grass to make the attap huts, but at this time it is just speculation.

Further study is ongoing at the moment and efforts are being made to find more local people who knew about the POWs or who can lead us to further sources of information. They have a pretty good idea as to where the location "might be", and that is a good 2 1/2 hour climb up into the mountains behind the village where the old school and temple were located. The saga continues!

### **SHIRAKAWA CAMP # 4 -**

One of the last major Taiwan camps that we needed to find lies in the vicinity of the city of Chiayi in the south-central part of Taiwan. This was the camp where many of the senior officers stayed for a time, and was also considered to be a rest camp for those too weak or sick to work in the mines at Kinkaseki. In March 1945, Dr. Wheeler took the last sick party from Kinkaseki to Shirakawa, and this move is credited by many of the current survivors as the only thing that saved their lives.

After many months of research, pouring over POW diaries and gathering information from interviews with surviving POWs from the camp, we felt we were ready to make a stab at pinning down its location.

On the weekend of September 15 - 17, when we took the Taichu POW Memorial stone down to the camp (see story on page 6), we planned to explore the area where we believed the Shirakawa Camp was located to see if we could find the site.

On Saturday the 16th, committee members Stuart Saunders, Dominic McAllister, and Michael and Tina Hurst, began the search. After driving for some time around the area, they talked with workers at the county government office and a local historian who was finally able to direct them to the site of the former camp. It is now occupied by an active ROC Army Base.

Their hopes were dim as they approached the base to see if it would be possible to go inside and have a look around. However, once the right officer was found and they explained their mission, they were welcomed inside. After having some lunch they were escorted around the base to the area where the former camp was located.

Of course there were no buildings left from that former time, but one spot appeared to have been left untouched even after all these years. The POWs had mentioned that at the back of the camp was a hill that they called "Yasume Park" ("Yasume" means "rest" in Japanese). They would often go there for walks, and church services were held there every Sunday.

From a drawing of the camp that Michael had been given by one of the POWs, the layout of the former camp was easily recognized. The large grassy knoll and the spindly trees atop it seemed to come to life right out of the drawing. They also saw the place where the former camp hospital had been, along with the isolation huts for diphtheria and TB. They took a lot of photos of the area and then left the base thanking the officer and making arrangements to come again.



***"Yasume Park" - unchanged after 55 years!***

On leaving the base they encountered an elderly local farmer who remembered the camp and the prisoners well. He gave them the name of a former camp guard who lived in the area and the instructions on how to find him.

The team wasted no time in tracking this man down, and he was very kind and helpful in telling them his experiences and his feelings from that time. After having some tea together in his home, he offered to show them more of the area around the camp, including the cemetery where the POWs had been buried before their removal to Hong Kong after the war.

*(con't on page 5)*

# POW CAMP SEARCHES . . .

## LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . .

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

## POW CAMP SEARCHES . . . SHIRAKAWA CAMP # 4 (con't.)

Returning to the camp area, the former guard took them to the location of the original camp gate and pointed out where the POWs' huts had been. He re-confirmed the location of the Japanese barracks where he was quartered during his time there.

Following this he led the group to the site of the former camp cemetery and showed them the exact location on a hillside where the prisoners had been taken from the camp to be buried. After they had thanked him for all his kindness and help, he returned home, and the team made their way to Chiayi for the night - thankful for a great day and elated that another major camp had been found. Of those POWs and next-of-kin who are returning for the Remembrance Week in November this year, several were among those who went to Shirakawa with Dr. Wheeler - Ben Slack, Dr. Peter Seed, George Reynolds, Jack Fowler and also Jim Scott - who was with us last year. Sid Dodds was so sick and weak that he had gone to Shirakawa with an earlier thin-man party in October 1944. When he got well enough, he was shipped off to Japan to work in the coal mines. There was no mercy!

Now that we have located the camp, we plan to take the returning POWs and Mrs. Seed down to Shirakawa following the dedication of the memorial at Taichu Camp. (con't. on page 6)

## UPDATE ON POW CAMPS...

*We now have fifteen POW camps on our list!*

From information that has continued to come in over the past several months from various sources, we have now concluded that there were five more POW camps on Taiwan during World War II - making a total of fifteen altogether.

As mentioned in our last issue, one of these other camps was called TOROKU and was situated in the vicinity of the town of Touliu. This camp was located in September. (See story page 6.)

Also mentioned was another camp in the Yuanlin area which was called the INRIN CAMP. It has turned out that there were two camps at this locale. One was the camp that the POWs from Taichu were moved to after floods partially destroyed that camp in the spring of 1944. Most of the Taichu POWs were sent to Kinkaseki and Heito after the camp finally closed.

The other was the INRIN TEMPORARY CAMP, which was close to the main camp and which was also used in late 1944 for two months by American and British POWs in transit on their way to Japan.

At the INRIN camps, the POWs were housed in schools as at the Toroku Camp. We tried to find the location of these former schools on our September trip, but our time ran out. To date we have found one American survivor from the Inrin Temporary Camp.

There had also been rumours of another temporary camp in TAKAO (Kaohsiung). It was known that POWs were held there while awaiting transshipment to Japan, but with the recent discovery of a POW in the States who was actually interned in the camp for nine weeks, we can now list it as a temporary camp. We have a good idea as to the exact location of the camp and expect to make confirmation soon.

In the last days of the war following the Japanese surrender, POWs from all over the island were rounded up and sent to a large holding camp - called "CHURON", near the Matsuyama Airfield in Taihoku (Taipei) - today's Sungshan Domestic Airport.

Following further research at the Japanese Archive Section of the Taiwan Provincial Library, and with help from the Taipei City Government Archives, the location of this camp has been identified.

A trip to the area revealed that today it is covered with houses! From material gathered from various sources over the past three years, and from interviews with almost two hundred former POWs and their next-of-kin, we now finally believe that these were all of the POW camps that were on Taiwan during World War II.



# POW CAMP SEARCHES . . .

## POW CAMP SEARCHES . . . (con't.)

### TOROKU and INRIN CAMPS

Following the great day at Shirakawa, the team were eager to locate the other camps at Touliu and Yuanlin.

Information received from two of the survivors of the Toroku Camp stated that the camp was in operation from November 1944 through January 1945, and was used to house 294 American POWs who were on their way from the Philippines to Japan.

The temporary camp was located in a one-story school near a sugar factory, and the POWs were billeted in the school buildings during their time there.

Michael had contacted his sources at Taiwan Sugar Corp. and they confirmed the existence of the camp and gave the name of the school where it was located.

Leaving Chiayi they made their way along the highway towards Touliu. Suddenly they came upon a road sign that gave the name of the village they were looking for. Just up the road on the right was the school and about 200 yards on was the remains of the old sugar factory. Eureka - they had found it!

They went into the school grounds for a closer look. The oldest part of the school at the front was still a single-story concrete building - just as one of the POWs had described it. There were newer two-story buildings added on to the end and behind the main building, and the parade ground which had been in front of the building was now the school's athletic field. A local neighbour confirmed that the layout of the school was the same today as in wartime years.

After taking some photographs the team laid a poppy cross in the garden in front of the school, and paused to remember the men who had been interned there. Now at last they would not be forgotten!



*The Poppy Cross in the garden at Toroku Camp*

Then the team headed north toward Yuanlin to try to find the two camps there, but as the day wore on they simply ran out of time. Another effort will be made as soon as possible to try to find those camps.

## NEW POW MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE TAICHU POW CAMP 2

Finally, after almost a year of negotiations and suspenseful waiting, permission was granted by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the ROC government, for the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society to erect a memorial stone on the site of the former Taichu POW Camp #2.

A letter from Mr. Chang Yao-Tse, Chief of the Hydraulic Research Station - the present site of the former camp, was received this summer. Naturally the committee was elated at the news and wasted no time in passing it on to several of the FEPOWs who had a part in helping to locate the camp in the first place.

In early September another piece of beautiful green Taiwan marble was procured and taken to the engravers for carving. After this was finished Stuart, Dominic and Michael took the stone down to the site of the former camp and installed it in a garden which is located along what was formerly the back wall of the camp.

The location is adjacent to where the former prisoners' huts were located, and near the little stream that flowed just outside the wall. The stream is still there but has since been shored up with concrete to form an irrigation canal. Flowers have been planted around the memorial stone as a further tribute.

This November, when several of the FEPOWs return to Taiwan for the annual Remembrance Week, a service of dedication will be held on the site of the old Taichu Camp. Expected at the time of writing, are Sid Dodds - who was instrumental in helping us find the camp through his recollections and drawings of the surrounding area, and Ben Slack, who spent almost thirty days in solitary confinement in this camp, and might have died if his mates hadn't saved enough of their food for him.

Jack Fowler, who is coming with the Royal British Legion group, was also in the camp. Jack and Ben were sent to Kinkaseki in August 1943, while Sid went later in November of that same year.

We want to thank Mr. Chang and the government authorities for their kindness and generous assistance in helping to make this memorial for the men of Taichu a reality at last.

A full report of the dedication service with photos of the memorial will be included in our next issue of ***Never Forgotten.***

## HOW THE WORLD LOOKS AFTER ITS HEROES . . .

**AMERICA** - Veterans of all US wars are looked after at a cost of 23 billion pounds. This includes healthcare, disability pensions, education, psychiatric counselling and job training. Parents and widows of dead soldiers receive a pension. There is a homebuying loan programme for veterans and their dependants.

**AUSTRALIA** - Servicemen returning from the Second World War were offered blocks of land with easy-to-pay terms. They were given free tuition and provided with loans on favourable terms to set up businesses. Medical problems from war service are treated free and they receive disability pensions of up to 60 pounds per week.

**CANADA** - Canada's veterans are paid up to 240 pounds per month. Regular pensions are topped up by an extra 41 pounds veteran allowance. Disabled or low income veterans get an 'independence' allowance to finance house-keeping and nursing to enable care at home instead of in institutions. Recently Canada led the world in paying compensation to all former POWs of the Japanese or their widows at 13,000 pounds each.

**FRANCE** - Priorities in queues, taxis, shops and public offices. Reserved seats and reductions on public transport. Some jobs reserved for veterans in the private sector. Exemptions from tax, car and TV licences. Free parking. Reduced rates for cinemas and sporting events.

**GERMANY** - Disabled servicemen receive 10 pounds a week more than their British counterparts. War disabled get free public transport for journeys up to 30 miles. They are eligible for tax relief. More than 500,000 veterans and war widows draw a 64 pound a week benefit. Some needy widows get an extra 71 pounds a week.

**ITALY** - Veterans get free travel on trains and buses and free medical treatment. They are allowed to retire seven years early. Pensions are based on the salary they would have earned at the height of their careers. Local authorities help veterans with housing.

**JAPAN** - Disability pensions of 227 pounds a week are paid to almost 100,000 former soldiers. A further 124 pounds a week is allocated to each of close to 885,000 war widows and other family members of dead veterans. Special government bonds provide lump-sum cash benefits for war widows and families.

**UNITED KINGDOM** - Able-bodied veterans receive only the basic state pensions. Local authorities can disregard disabled veterans' pensions when assessing housing benefit and council tax, but forty percent of councils allow only the 10 pounds they are obliged by law to disregard. War widows receive an average of 73 pounds per week.

*Statistics - Courtesy of International Express, UK*

What a sad indictment on the UK that of all the Allied and Axis countries who fought in World War II, the British government looks after their veterans the worst. Compared to what the Japanese provide their veterans and families with - the British government should be deeply ashamed.

In addition, the British government has never provided one memorial - either at home or abroad, to the men who were POWs of the Japanese. The more than 125,000 British servicemen who were made slaves of the major Japanese corporations and subjected to heinous crimes against humanity, have never been acknowledged by any British government since the end of World War II. Their deeds and their sacrifice for their country have gone unnoticed and unthanked. One wonders whether the British government - like the Japanese, who constantly refuse to admit their guilt or apologize, are simply waiting for all the old soldiers to die so their problem will go away.

Hopefully, as more information continues to come to light about the atrocities committed against the POWs by the Japanese, and as more exposure is given to the POWs' cause all over the world, and with the mounting pressure on Japan to really apologize and make restitution, perhaps the British government will be forced to own up to their gross negligence of their own servicemen as well - let's hope so!

***"We shall not sleep, though poppies grow - in Flander's fields"***



## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NUMBERS IN SINGAPORE !

Recently, I watched a historical documentary on the Pacific War. The show was produced by a reputable filmmaker and was shown on a prominent channel.

Not far into the film they highlighted the Battle for Singapore and I was shocked at what I heard. Once again, as so many times before, the statement was made that the British "lost" Singapore to a Japanese force that numbered one third that of the British forces defending the island fortress. I was outraged that after all this time and with so much accurate information available, such a blatant mistake would be aired.

However, this is not surprising, for in the words of one of my American researcher friends, "many 'so-called historians' today never bother to really dig into the stories or check the facts for themselves. They just use information already published and repeat it again, thus perpetuating the errors of those who have gone before."

This is what I have found to be the case with many of the the Allied intelligence reports on the Taiwan POW camps, and a great deal of other information supposedly 'documenting' the war in the

Pacific. In the interests of truth and to hopefully help stop the continued perpetration of this myth, I have researched the numbers involved in that famous battle and submit them here for our readers to draw their own conclusions.

First of all, it should be emphasized that the British army did not "lose" Singapore. If General Percival had not surrendered, then thousands more would have died - including innocent civilians. The Japanese army had overrun most of the island, captured the water reservoirs and surrounded the main city itself. The British were very low on ammunition, food and other necessary supplies, so it would have been suicidal to have fought on as the Japanese would have killed all the soldiers and most likely many of the civilians too. The fault for the "loss" of Singapore lies squarely with Winston Churchill and the British government!

The poorly equipped RAF had been ordered out of Malaya and Singapore, and without adequate air support, the navy's only two ships that could have made any difference were easily sunk by the Japanese Navy Air Arm. The Japanese had complete mastery of the air and could bomb and strafe at will. The land forces could not hope to win any kind of battle as they had little equipment to fight with. They had no tanks, and much of the equipment that accompanied the ill-fated 18th Division was never unloaded but was returned to England or other theatres.

Churchill and his advisors knew that Singapore could not be defended but ordered that the army 'fight to the last man'. Of course, that way there would be no one left to tell of their betrayal. It was fortunate indeed that General Percival had the good sense to surrender!

**As to the numbers** - by the first of December 1941, the Japanese had amassed more than 250,000 trained soldiers in Indo-China. On December 7 the landing force at Kota-Bahru, Malaya numbered 12,000 men, and as well, 50,000 troops had been secretly moved across Thailand to launch a simultaneous invasion on the west coast near Alor Star and Jitra.

A detailed breakdown of Japanese forces in Malaya on December 7, 1941 reveals that - the 25th Army under General Yamashita and Count Terrauchi had 83,000 men, the 15th Army commanded by General Lida had 55,000 men, the 26th Infantry Division led by General Mataguchi had 28,000 men, the Imperial Guards under General Nishimura had 38,000 men and they were re-inforced by 50,000 Korean soldiers. In addition, the Japanese forces had one armoured division with 500 tanks, two regiments of artillery, 500 aircraft with 80 in reserve, ten destroyers, two aircraft carriers, five submarines plus other support vessels. In total the Japanese had more that 265,000 men plus the 50,000 Korean conscripts - totalling more than 300,000 trained soldiers.



*(con't. on page 9)*

## NUMBERS IN SINGAPORE ! *con't...*

In his report to parliament after the fall of Singapore, Churchill concocted the figures - which seem to have remained in many historians' books until the present - that a mere force of 30,000 Japanese defeated the 120,000 British and Allied forces on the island - implying a shameful defeat of the British army.

But even the figures he attributed to the Allies were incorrect. Allied forces in Malaya and Singapore on December 1, 1941 were as follows - 19,000 British, 15,000 Australian, 37,000 Indian Army - including the 11th Division which was largely made up of British soldiers trained in India, and 17,000 Malay Volunteers.

Approximately 25,000 Allied soldiers were killed, wounded, escaped or were listed missing in the Battle of Malaya. On February 29, 1942 approximately 20,000 green troops of the 18th Division arrived in Singapore, bringing the total Allied strength up to around 85,000 men. After Singapore fell, a tally of Allied losses revealed 7,000 killed and 2,000 wounded or missing.

On the Japanese side - more than 25,000 were killed or wounded in Malaya, while on Singapore the total reached more than 20,000 men killed and 5,000 wounded or missing.

As further proof and documentation of these numbers - the Japanese War Memorial at Tebong remembers 30,000 men who died in the Malaya campaign and 25,000 who died in Singapore. This figure alone is more than the number quoted by Churchill!

All of the above figures are verified by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and also in Sir Basil Liddle's 'History of the Second World War'. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the numbers cited by Churchill were pure lies and fabrication.

So why did he do it? At the time, with things not going well for Britain, Churchill's image and position were on shaky ground. Had the British public known that he and his government had betrayed thousands of young British servicemen and sacrificed them to the Japanese, it would have likely caused his political downfall. Better to distort and cover up the truth to save his own skin. (Sadly, it's still the same today!)

The sad part is that many of those old soldiers have died believing that what Churchill said was true, and also that subsequent generations have been deprived of the knowledge and the truth about the Battle of Malaya and Singapore. It's time to let the facts speak for themselves, and to correct the fallacies of history!

Michael Hurst - With thanks to A. Lane

## Questions at a Soldier's Grave

One time, as I sat alone by a grave in a war cemetery, I began to ponder the fate of the young man whose grave I rested beside. As I sat there in quiet meditation it became clear I was not alone and from the stillness came the answers to my questions. As I gazed on his grave I wondered -

### **"WHERE DID YOU DIE?"**

"I died where two strong men stood face to face, though they came from the ends of the earth."

### **"DID YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS?"**

I was sad to die young, broken-hearted for my family and aghast that all my dreams were shaken."

### **"BUT WAS YOUR DEATH WORTHWHILE?"**

I defended my family and fought for my friends. The world is a better place because of my sacrifice. All it takes for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing, as the man said - and we triumphed over evil."

### **"HOW IMPORTANT IS REMEMBRANCE?"**

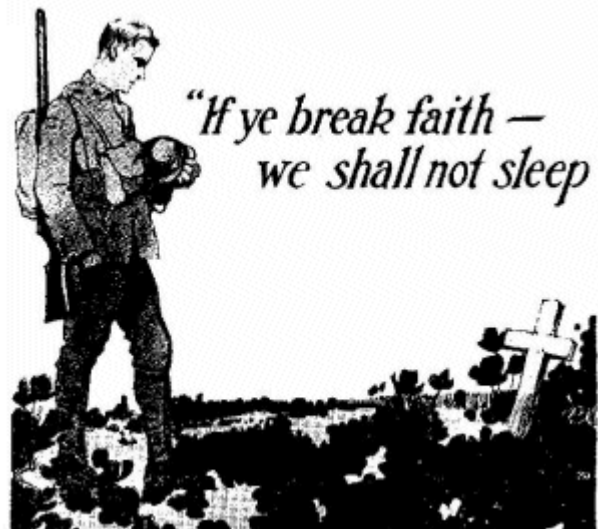
"Everyone remembers a death in the family.

Remembrance is the nation as a family remembering its dead. If ever you forget our sacrifice it is because you have become morally corrupt, and are not the people we died for!"

### **"DO YOU HAVE ANY DREAMS?"**

"Dreams are for the living. Ponder your future and, just occasionally, those who died to remove the tyrannies who would have crushed those dreams."

*I left that cemetery a changed person! Anonymous*



## **In Memorium**

### **Mr. Jack Butterworth**

- The Manchester Regiment

The FEPOW world was saddened this summer to learn of the death of Jack Butterworth on July 13.

Jack was a vital force in FEPOW circles, and very dedicated to "keeping the POW spirit going" among his comrades. For many years Jack was the editor of the Oldham and District FEPOW Newsletter which was always interesting and informative.

The Royal British Legion benefitted from his service for many years as one of their Far East tour leaders as Jack led many tours to Singapore, Thailand, Burma and Hong Kong. He had wanted to be part of the RBL's first ever tour to Taiwan this November, but sadly his dream could not be realised.

Jack was also one of the organizers of last summer's most successful and first ever Kinkaseki POW Reunion that was held at Gunton Hall. Afterward it was his suggestion to the Legion that prompted them to set up this year's Taiwan visit. Jack was a POW in the Heito and Kinkaseki Camps. He provided much information that led to finding the former Heito Camp last year. He was delighted when we told him it had been found.

I am proud to say that I knew Jack Butterworth and that he was a friend. He will be sadly missed by all his comrades and all who had the privilege of coming in contact with this wonderful man. - Michael Hurst



Jack Butterworth at Gunton Hall - July 1999

## **TAIHOKU # 6 CAMP**

### **- CONFIRMED AT LAST!**



#### **The view from the site of the former Taihoku #6 Camp**

The news that so many have been waiting so long to hear - the confirmation of the location of No. 6 Camp at Taihoku, can now finally be announced. The No. 6 Camp at Taihoku was the main POW camp in the capital area, and the one to which the first party - mainly comprised of men of the 5th Field Reg't., R.A. and the 11th Indian Division - were sent upon arriving in Taiwan off the hellship "England Maru" in November 1942.

This camp was the main transit camp for the movement of POWs to and from Kinkaseki, and it was also the camp that the POWs passed through from the other camps on their way to Japan. It was from this camp that 150 men were sent - in July 1945, to build another "hill camp" - where the Japanese intended to kill the POWs if the Allies landed on Taiwan.

This camp holds much significance for a great many of the former Taiwan POWs, but has been very hard to find as so much has changed in the area since the war.

Late this summer more local research was conducted, several new leads from former POWs were followed up, and the eyewitness report of a former camp worker was obtained, enabling the site to at last be verified.

There is nothing left on the site itself - in fact it is now just a huge open field. The area had, until recently, been a part of the site of the ROC Navy training base, with several old buildings scattered on the grounds. Last year the buildings were torn down and the area has remained an empty field since then. However the hills and roads in the area must look very similar to what they did fifty-five years ago.

We are looking forward to taking our POW visitors to the site of Taihoku Camp No. 6 when they are here with us in November.

## Historical Treasures . . .

My good friend and fellow historian / researcher, Mr. Roger Mansell of the USA, has just recently returned from a visit to the National Archives in Washington. During the two weeks he spent there, he went through stacks and boxes of files on the Far East POWs - some for the research he is doing into the fate of the American POWs in the South Pacific, and some for the information I am trying to collect on the POW camps and the POWs of Taiwan.

Roger has made several trips to the Archives over the past couple of years and each time he has sent me copies of items he felt might be of interest - including all the official intelligence reports gathered after the war. This time however, I was able to give him some suggestions on things to look for and also some direction as to where these items might be found. This info was supplied by another POW historian friend.

When Roger returned this time he couldn't wait to email me with a list of all the "goodies" he had been able to find. He got copies of the official order by the Japanese High Command - to kill all the prisoners if the Allies landed, and also documents trying to cover up the atrocities committed by the camp guards. He uncovered a photo collection, previously unknown, and sent some very unique and interesting photos.

One that really got me was a photo of a Japanese guard and one of the senior officers by a stream - fishing! If our readers will recall, in the last issue we had an interview with the former Taiwan soldier who told us the location of Taihoku-Mosak Camp. In the interview he mentioned that one day as he passed the camp, he saw a guard and one of the officer-prisoners going down the road and he asked the guard where he was taking the prisoner. "Fishing", the guard replied - and now we have a photo to prove it!

This is the kind of thing that seems to happen all the time in this work. It is really amazing what can turn up unexpectedly in a FEPOW's letter. Stories of people, places and incidents that we had only heard about, are now documented with photographic proof!

Over the past couple of years I have received from other POWs - copies of their diaries with daily entries describing the beatings and the suffering that the POWs endured through lack of food and medicines. Incidents record the death of a friend and the conditions in the camps, as well as movements from one place to another. All of this material contains first-hand accounts of what really happened during those awful times and soon will be the subject of a historical book on the POW camps of Taiwan. The story will be told!

## CARDS OF THANKS. . .

*We would like to make mention of those who have made special contributions to the Society over the past year. We are grateful for the support of these various organisations and individuals.*

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CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA  
Mgr., MR. BOB HURST- for furnishing us with the various stamps and supplies required when the Society was first formed last year.

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- for valuable research assistance and for providing materials and archive records on the POWs' story.

*We are deeply indebted to these people and organisations - without them we could not have achieved all that we have thus far!*

## 2000 REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

### Attention Taipei Area Residents. . .

Since 1997, with the dedication of the now famous Kinkaseki POW Memorial at Chinguashi, a memorial service has been held on the site of the former POW camp there. Every year former prisoners and their wives have returned to Taiwan to take part in the event. This year will be no exception as we have twenty-seven returning from the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. This year the dates for the Remembrance Weekend are November 18 – 19.

The Weekend of Remembrance begins with a special POW Banquet, which is held at the Bankers' Club on Saturday evening. It is held in honour of the POWs, and provides an opportunity for those in the community to meet and talk with them and to listen to their stories. On Sunday a chartered bus takes everyone to the Remembrance Service at the memorial in the village of Chinguashi near Jiufen.

The POW Banquet commences at 6:30pm on Saturday (cost NT\$1000), and reservations are required as space is limited. On Sunday, the service will be held at 11:00 am and reservations are also required for the bus - which will depart from the Howard Plaza Hotel, Taipei - sharp at 9:00am. (cost NT\$300).

Everyone is welcome to join us for this very special occasion and we hope that many will come out to remember and honour these men to whom we owe a debt that can never be repaid.

### **“LEST WE FORGET”**

Reservations by November 15 are required for both events, and can be made by calling - Melissa or Mary at the New Zealand Commerce & Industry Office – Tel. 2757-6725 Ext. 208

## STILL NEEDED !

This is an urgent appeal to our friends and members in the Taipei area. From time to time we have videos sent to us from POWs in the UK or Australia which are in the PAL format, and as such cannot be viewed on Taiwan VHS video recorders which are of BTSC format. Sometimes we also need to send copies of videos produced on NTSC format to the UK or Australia and then they cannot be viewed on their equipment. One of our expat friends (who no longer resides in Taiwan) had a dual format video recorder, but since he left we have been unable to get copies transferred from one format to another. If anyone has a VCR that can copy PAL and NTSC formats, and would be willing to help us make copies from time to time, please drop us a note or an email. Your valuable assistance is really needed - and will be most appreciated!

## --- from the Director

What an exciting time this is for the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, and in fact for all those who have an interest in the POWs and their story.

In early August, we received a letter from the government giving us permission to erect a POW memorial on the site of the former Taichu Camp. We had been working on this project for almost a year, and are thrilled to finally see it completed.

With the installation of the POW memorial now complete, we are eagerly anticipating the dedication ceremony, which will take place this November 20 at the site of the former camp. Three former POWs who were interned in the Taichu camp will be with us for that special day.

Then there has been the discovery and confirmation of four more POW camps - Taihoku, Shirakawa, Toroku and Churon, bringing the total to eleven out of the fifteen former Taiwan POW camps that have now been found! In addition valuable leads were gathered which should enable us to locate the former Takao Camp very soon.

Although unable on the first try to locate the two Inrin Camps, we are confident that they will be found in the not too distant future. That will only leave the OKA Camp near Taipei still to be located, and then we will have found them all.

Also, over the past few months, we have continued to find more former Taiwan POWs. For a long time we had been unable to find any of the Americans who were prisoners on Taiwan, but recently, we have located six and have information on several more.

In addition, we are still finding former POWs who slaved at Kinkaseki. This is amazing considering all the effort that has gone into searching for these men, and all the publicity that has been created, especially in the UK, over the past three years since our efforts first began. Several survivors have been found by relatives who have come across our website, and to date we have been in touch with 110 living ex-Kinkaseki POWs. This is far more than we ever expected, and 35 more than we would have found if we had stopped this work following the completion of the memorial. So it does pay to persevere!

Lastly, I hope many of our members and friends in the Taipei area will come out and join us for the wonderful Remembrance Weekend that is being planned for November 18-19 - to honour those who gave so much for our freedom - it wasn't free!

Until next time -  
Let Us Never Forget !

