



# Never Forgotten

Vol. 8, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2007

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

## Revisits, Reunions and Remembering!



*Revisiting the site of the former Yokohama Shipyard Camp where POWs from Taiwan were sent in November 1942*



*Remembering former mates and fallen comrades on the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mukden POW Camp Tour & Reunion*



*Shipmates of the USS Block Island with Cecil Clarke - one of the POWs they rescued – reunited again after 62 years.*



*Remembering the hellship victims on the submarine USS Lionfish at Battleship Cove Naval Museum.*

### REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2007

Be sure to mark the week of November 14 – 21 on your calendars and in your date books, and plan to be with us for this great annual event which features a POW banquet on November 17th and the Remembrance Day service at the Prisoner of War Memorial Park at Kinkaseki on the 18th. 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 mail or email at the addresses shown on page 2 of this newsletter. Hope to see you in November!

**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. [ *completed* ]
- \* 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 Chinguashi every November.
- \* to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history.
- \* to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story.

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

We welcome you to visit our website. There you will find a list of all the POW camps that were on Taiwan, and by clicking on the name on the list, you will be able to read more about the camps and the men who were interned in them. We also have an Honour Roll with the names of many of the former Taiwan POWs.

Please visit our homepage at -

**[www.powtaiwan.org](http://www.powtaiwan.org)**

Please give us your comments, questions and suggestions.

Our email address is -

**[society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org)**

\* \* \* \* \*

*Thought . . .*

**In this life...**

**There are those who make it happen...**

**Those who watch it happen...**

**And those who wonder “what the heck happened”.**

## 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)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

As you will see from the contents of this newsletter, it has been another very busy year so far. We have had a large number of overseas visitors this year, as well as local groups and individuals taking tours of the camps.

I have been travelling much more this year too – to Japan, Northeast China and the USA and Canada, exploring WWII campsites, meeting with former POWs and veterans and holding memorial services to remember the men. I have had some wonderful and memorable experiences, as you will see from the reports on the following pages.

As well as the routine daily work of answering inquiries on the POWs and the camps, working on the archives and constantly updating the POW Honour Roll on our website, we have also been busy with several new projects that have come up.

We are currently doing more research on the Karenko Camp at Hualien and looking at possibly erecting a memorial there. We are working to place a plaque on the old Taipei Prison Wall to commemorate the 14 American flyers executed there in June 1945, and also pursuing possible memorials for Toroku and Taihoku Camp # 6.

We are looking forward to our Remembrance Week event in November. We already have fifteen overseas guests coming and we hope more POWs and family members will avail themselves of the opportunity to attend this year's event.

There is still so much that needs to be done however, and I want to thank all of those who continue to give us help, encouragement and support. Thanks to those who continue to send us information, photos and other items to help tell more of the Taiwan POWs' story. It is because of this that we will accomplish our goals to make sure that the men who suffered as POWs are "never forgotten".

## TAIWAN POW CAMPS DRAWING MANY VISITORS. . .

The first few months of this year have seen a large number of visitors coming to Taiwan to learn more about the story of the Taiwan POW camps and to remember and pay tribute to the POWs - most often family members, interned in them.

Most visitors pay a visit to the infamous Kinkaseki POW Camp at Chinguashi - about 30 miles from Taipei, as it is fairly accessible, but Society Director Michael Hurst also takes some to other parts of the island as well.

Some of the overseas visitors this year have included Ms. Anneriet de Pijper and Jose Adriaansen – two Dutch ladies who had been former civilian internees of the Japanese in the Dutch East Indies in WWII, Ms. Tang Xiaohui Deputy Curator and Ms. Duan Xiaowei Manager of Acquisitions for the 'Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in WWII' in Beijing, noted British historian and professor Michael Hoare, and Shane Boyd and Nick Dodich, nephews of former Taiwan POW Capt. Clyde V. Kern US Army Medical Corps who came to Taiwan in the fall of 1944 on the hellship Hokusen Maru and was held in camps at Shirakawa, Kinkaseki and Kukutsu.

Shane and Nick were on a real quest to find out more information about their uncle who survived the war but passed away many years ago without talking much about it.



*Nick Dodich(l) and Shane Boyd (r) remember their uncle at Kukutsu*

They visited the sites of the Shirakawa, Kinkaseki and Kukutsu POW Camps, as well as Keelung Harbour where Capt. Kern was evacuated at the end of the war. A short memorial service was held at each place, and the men learned much more about their

uncle than what they previously knew.

In addition to the overseas guests, the Society runs local tours to Chinguashi and other camps as required. In the past students from the International School and the Taipei Intl. Women's Study Group have visited Kinkaseki, and this spring a group of staff from the American Institute in Taiwan, the Taiwan Dutch Association and a number of individuals, visited the camp and memorial park.

*In May members of the Taiwan Dutch Community visited the Kinkaseki Camp and held a memorial service.*



While the visitors are learning more about the Taiwan POWs' story, the Society can also learn from their experiences and gain new information and insights as well. We welcome all visitors. Please contact us well in advance if you are coming so we will have time to schedule and prepare for your visit.

# Visit to Japan - April 18 – 22, 2007

In April of this year I had the opportunity to go to Japan for some further research. I also wanted to re-visit the Yasukuni Shrine – the place of so much controversy between the people of Japan and its Asian neighbours. I had visited there back in 1992 and didn't know at that time what the Shrine really was or what it stood for. It was simply just another "tourist spot" in the city. Now knowing what I do about it, I wanted to pay another visit to the Shrine and the adjacent War Museum to check them out for myself.



*Visitors pay homage at Yasukuni Shrine*

Aspects to it. I spotted an old Japanese soldier, attired in his WWII uniform talking to people and obviously bragging about his wartime exploits. I saw groups of Right Wing soldiers marching around the compound, and at the entrance there was a group of fanatics trying to convince passers-by that the Rape of Nanking was a hoax. (See photos on page 5). In my opinion, this is the true meaning of the Yasukuni Shrine in Japan today – a place to honour those who invaded, murdered, raped, tortured and looted wherever they went, and also those war leaders who had planned it all.

The museum was actually very well done and one of the best military museums I have been to. However, the blatant lies and numerous statements made to mislead and cover up Japan's wartime atrocities could not be ignored. They are there – for all to see – as I had read and seen reports of elsewhere. It's sad that Japan can't face up to its past history and acknowledge and apologize for the suffering it caused.



*Old engine from the Thai – Burma Death Railway on exhibit at the War Museum.*

## POW Camps and Hellships

Part of my reason for visiting Tokyo this time was to try to find the location of the Yokohama-01D Camp, often referred to by the POWs as "the shipyard camp". 286 American POWs who had first been in Taichu Camp, plus several hundred British, Dutch and Australian POWs formerly from Heito Camp, were transported there in November 1942, and I know some of these men personally.

One morning I set out to find the location of the camp. I had a rough idea where it was located and after checking with several local people who were very helpful, I took a train to the Higashi-Kanagawa Station and from there I hired a taxi to take me the rest of the way.

When I arrived at the site of the former camp I found that it was now lovely residential apartment complex with a park and water fountains. I wonder if the people who live there now know that this was once the site of a former POW camp and what went on within its boundaries, which are still clearly visible today.



*Site of the former Yokohama - 01D POW Camp today.*

While leaving the area of the camp I got a real surprise. Nearby was the old harbour and the docks and the Mitsui Factory where the POWs used to work every day. Pictured below it seems to have changed little in all these years.



Later that same day I made my way back to Yokohama Port to explore that area, noted where the site of the Ofuna Camp had

been and then visited Yamashita Park. There, anchored by a pier, was the Hikawa Maru - one of the old Japanese transport ships that had been involved in WWII. It had not been a "hellship" as such, but it was used as a hospital ship and bore strong resemblance to the other hellships that the POWs were carried on.

*The Hikawa Maru – former Japanese wartime transport, preserved in memory of a bygone era.*



All in all, this trip to Japan was very successful and helped to further connect the thread of the Taiwan POWs' story together. I met and talked with some lovely, friendly Japanese folk as well, and I hope that someday soon I can return there again.

## The “REAL” Yasukuni Shrine



*Extreme Right-Wing soldiers parade at the shrine*



*In WWII uniform, an old soldier still proudly brags of his exploits and experiences during the war.*



*A radical Right-Wing Group displays propaganda and posters that deny the “Rape of Nanking”*

This is what the “real” Yasukuni Shrine stands for in modern Japan today – a denial of Japan’s wartime atrocities and the resurgence of its militaristic past. Japan MUST acknowledge its past - and apologize, if it is to ever take its place again as a trusted and valued member of the world community!

## 40 Year Old POW Mystery is Finally Solved. . .

Back in the summer of 1999 we received an email from Mr. Russell Brooke of Atlanta Georgia, USA. He was looking for information on Pvt. Harry R. Browning, of the US Army Medical Corps who had been a POW on Taiwan.

The reason? About 30 years previously in 1967 he had found an old canteen in the Georgia mountains that Browning (photo below) had used during WW2, and etched on the side of the canteen were the names of the various POW camps where he had been interned. Russell wanted to find him or his family and return it, so we posted a notice in our Fall 1999 Newsletter to see if anyone could help.

Russell told us, “Until your web site and memorial, I did not know how to look for H.R. Browning on Formosa. I hope that we can find him or at least what happened to him”

Years have gone by and Mr. Brooke and I have continued to correspond, and from the research that we have done thus far - and with help from some other American ex-POWs, we have been able to piece together more of the story of Pvt. Browning.



Harry R. Browning, a young Arkansas lad was captured at the fall of Corregidor in May 1942 and was later interned as a POW at Cabanatuan and Bilibid in the Philippines. Then he was moved to Taiwan with the second group of Americans to arrive under Major Gen. Sharp and sent to Karenko Camp. Later he moved to Shirakawa Camp and from there accompanied the senior officers to Mukden, North China, where he was liberated at the end of the war. We never heard anything more from anyone after that.

Then on February 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year I got a real shock when I received an email from Mrs. Marion BROWNING-Griffin – the daughter of Pvt. Harry R. Browning! After eight long years she had finally come across our website and through reading the newsletters found the story about her father’s canteen. I put her in touch with Russell, they have already met and on Easter Sunday he was at last able to return the canteen to the Browning family - after 40 years!



What an incredible story this has turned out to be, and to have had a part in it is such an honour and privilege for us. Marion has written, “Your work is a wonderful tribute

to all of our beloved soldiers, and I appreciate your dedication. Thank you so much for hooking me up with Russell and thank you so much for the work you do.” We are always happy to be able to do this kind of thing for the POWs and their families and we welcome enquiries and always try to help when we are able.

# 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MUKDEN POW CAMP TOUR

In November last year I received a letter from my good friends Ao and Pat Wang in the States advising me that they were organizing a tour to Shenyang in Northeast China to take former Mukden POWs and their family members and friends back for a visit to see the former Mukden POW Camp that had recently been preserved and renovated by the Chinese government. They asked if I would help in the organization and planning of the program and if I would help to lead the tour as well. I was delighted to say yes and so we spent the next seven months working together to try to prepare the best program we could.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> I flew to Beijing to meet the group of 60 Americans who would be participating in the tour. Since it had been 65 years since the first American POWs went into Mukden Camp, we decided to call it the “65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mukden Tour”. It was some of those men who first went into the camp in November 1942 that I would be meeting in two days.

On my first day I visited the historic walled city of Wanping on the outskirts of Beijing. It was here at the Marco Polo Bridge where the spark that ignited the conflict between Chinese and Japanese troops took place in July 1937. The ‘Museum of the War of Chinese People’s Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in WWII’ is located here also and I spent some time visiting the assistant curator and other staff I knew there from previous visits. Following this I returned to Beijing and visited the Jingshan Park which overlooks the Forbidden City from the hill behind. What a magnificent sight!



*Marco Polo Bridge with Wanping City in the background*

The next morning I took a walk to Tiananmen Square and the gardens around the Forbidden City, and then went on a self-guided tour of the Hutongs before going to the airport to meet the arriving guests.

After getting things organized at the airport in Beijing we flew to Shenyang where we had dinner and a time of fellowship before retiring for the night. Some of us had to stay up quite late finalizing all the plans for the next three days tour which promised to be exciting for everyone.

May 21<sup>st</sup> will certainly be a day that most won’t forget as we arrived at the site of the former Mukden POW Camp and were met by a barrage of reporters and cameramen. After a

brief tour of the museum, a ceremony was held so that the former POWs and family members could present donations of artifacts and other memorabilia to the new Mukden POW Museum. Following this there was a time for touring the camp and museum more fully.



*Former barracks building # 1 at the Mukden POW Camp*

At 11:00 am the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service commenced. Former POW Ralph Griffith read the opening poem “A Special Journey” by Maurice Rooney and following that I made some opening remarks on behalf of the former Taiwan POWs who were held in Mukden Camp. Former POW Oliver Allen then told how he and the first group of POWs got to Mukden Camp - their journey on the hellship and the conditions when they first arrived there.

Ann Lamkins, the sister of POW Charles Wilbur who died in the camp in December 1942, read the poem “The Man We Never Knew” in memory of her brother and all the other POWs who gave their lives at Mukden. Next Roy Weaver told what life was like from day to day in the camp and what the men suffered there.



*Ann Lamkins reads a poem at the POW memorial service*

Randall Edwards, also one of the original POWs, gave a rendering of the poem “We Will Remember Them” – referring to the men and their mates, and then Hal Leith, a former S/Sgt. in the OSS who parachuted into the camp to help evacuate the POWs in August 1945, told a little of that incident and how he felt at the time.

*(cont’d on page 7)*

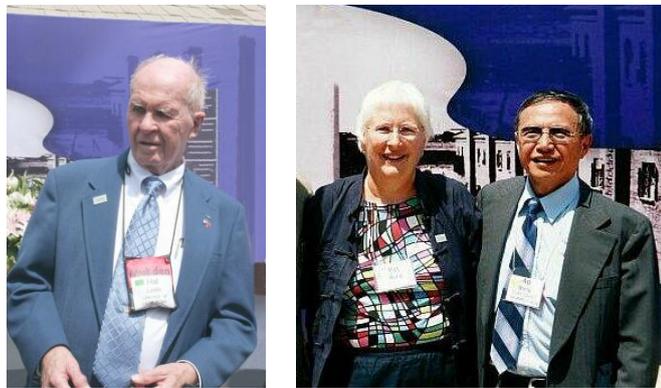
# 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MUKDEN POW CAMP TOUR *con't.*

Jerry Ostermiller, the son of former POW Leo Ostermiller, read the "POWs Tribute" and this was followed by a message and prayer of Remembrance by Shelly Zimble who, although not a POW himself, has been active for many years with the Mukden Survivors' Group helping to organize their programs.

Ao and Pat Wang then laid flowers on behalf of the entire group and POWs John Lippard and Erwin Johnson laid poppies in tribute to their mates. This was followed by taps, a moment's silence and then reveille played on a bugle.



*Nine former Mukden POWs and Hal Leith at the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mukden POW Camp Memorial Service*



*Fmr OSS Agent Hal Leith / Tour Leaders Pat and Ao Wang*

For the next couple of days we were kept very busy with press conferences, seminars at various universities, visits to the US Consulate and dinners. We did manage to do a little sightseeing one day at the Ching Dynasty Northern Palace and the Northern Imperial Tombs, and a few got to do a bit of shopping as well.

On the last day we had a tour of the 918 Museum in the morning and then returned to the POW camp for one last time in the afternoon. This was perhaps the best visit as

everyone just got to wander and see and do what they wanted. Here are a few photos from that time:



*Inside the restored barracks building*

*Randall Edwards sits on the reconstructed bed in barracks # 1 where he slept 65 years ago.*



*Robert Wolfersberger describes life in the barracks and points out the stove – the only heat they had for the – 40 C cold!*

*Roy Weaver points to his name which is listed on the Honour Roll of former POWs in the Mukden museum.*



*In the museum Erwin Johnson's thoughts go back to 65 years ago.*



Following the museum visit, we were hosted by the Mukden Study Group, a local organization devoted to the study of the Mukden Camp and to remembering the POWs. Everyone had a wonderful time and there was much warmth and friendship shown by our hosts as we fellowshipped together.

Our tour completed, the following day we returned to Beijing and I flew back home to Taiwan – to get ready for the next leg of my POW journey. I'm sure that this trip to Mukden will stay in everyone's memories for a long time to come. We wish all the Mukden Group good success and the best of everything in the future.

# USS BLOCK ISLAND REUNION - MAY 29 – JUNE 3, 2007

The aircraft carrier *USS Block Island* CVE-106 was part of a task force including another carrier - the *USS Santee* CVE-29, and several American and British Royal Navy ships, that rescued the Allied prisoners of war from Taiwan in September 1945. The former crewmembers hold a reunion every year and last fall I received an invitation from the organizers to attend this year's event in Providence Rhode Island. The theme was going to be on the POW evacuation, so I was invited to attend to meet the men who had taken part and also to share more of the POWs' story with them. In the months that followed we also found one of the former POWs, Cecil Clarke of the Royal Engineers living in the UK and he joined us for the reunion as well.



**The USS Block Island CVE-106 off Formosa in 1945**

It was such a great honour to meet the former crewmembers of the *USS Block Island* and one from the *USS Santee* who came this year. There were thirteen in all who actually took part in the evacuation of the POWs. It was wonderful to listen to their stories and I want to thank all those who took the time to talk with me and shared some of their experiences of that memorable rescue mission which meant so much to all of the POWs at that time.

One of the events that I enjoyed most during the reunion was a visit to Battleship Cove at Fall River, Mass. on Memorial Day – May 30th. It was great to see the mighty battleship



**Interviewing Bill Connolly (BI) & Andy Soucy (USS Barr DE-576)**

*USS Massachusetts* and the destroyer *Joseph P. Kennedy* and the PT boat exhibit, and to have a tour of the battleship, lunch in the mess, and then to go on deck and witness the 21-gun salute in honour of all the veterans.



**The battleship USS Massachusetts & submarine SS Lionfish at Battleship Cove Naval Museum. Fall River. Mass.**

Following that I had another very moving experience when I visited the submarine *SS Lionfish* that was anchored nearby. It was a sister-ship of this sub - the *SS Sealion*, which had sunk the hellship that my two Australian second cousins were on, resulting in them being lost at sea on September 12, 1944.

I had brought a "Poppy Cross" with me in memory of my cousins and I wanted to have a photo taken with it and have a moment's silence on board the sub on their behalf. It was a very solemn moment as I contemplated my cousins' last hours after the sinking of the ship. Both survived the sinking but were lost at sea in the days that followed. 159 men were eventually rescued by the *Sealion* and several other US submarines.

**Remembering the hellship victims on the submarine SS Lionfish**



Other events during the 5-day reunion included a visit to Block Island RI - the namesake of the ships, the memorial service, a city tram-tour of Boston, a visit to the Quonset Point Air Museum and the Block Island annual meeting.



**With former Taiwan POW Cecil Clarke, reading Maurice Rooney's Poem "Liberation" at the Memorial Service.**



**POW Cecil Clarke (c) is reunited with his former rescuers**



**Chuck Bartley - USS Santee, at Quonset Point Air Museum in front of 3/4 scale F6F Hellcat like he flew over Taihoku in 1945**

Ben Hruska, Ken Bruce and all of the local people on Block Island who worked so hard to put on such a great reunion, deserve a huge thank you for a job well done. The organized tours and visits and the warm hospitality we received will be memories that we will all take with us for a long time to come. I wish all the former crewmembers and their families all the best and I thank you all again for inviting me to be a part of your wonderful reunion.

# 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!*

**E.G. (EDDIE) KRAMER**  
GNR., 80<sup>TH</sup> ANTI-TANK REG'T. R.A..  
JULY 6, 2006

**WILLIAM CARRUTHERS**  
GNR., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A..  
OCTOBER 2006

**M.G. (MICHAEL) MCLOUGHLIN**  
L/CPL., ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS  
NOVEMBER 7, 2006

**R.T. (TOM) MILES**  
L/SGT., 155<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A..  
NOVEMBER 12, 2006

**GEORGE HARRISON**  
L/BDR., 5<sup>TH</sup> FIELD REG'T. R.A..  
DECEMBER 26, 2006

**FREDERICK B. TAFFS**  
SA., ROYAL NAVY  
JANUARY 31, 2007

**C. "GUS" KINGSTON**  
L/CPL., ROYAL ENGINEERS  
FEBRUARY 5, 2007

**HAROLD BRANT**  
L/CPL., 9/11 INDIAN DIV. SIGNALS  
MARCH 10, 2007

**K.A.W. (KEN) DAVIS**  
LIEUT., 80<sup>TH</sup> ANTI-TANK REG'T. R.A..  
MARCH 26, 2007

**HARRY LESLIE**  
PTE., 5<sup>TH</sup> BEDS. & HERTS. REG'T.  
JUNE 20, 2007

*The following names of former US POWs on Taiwan who were members of the 200<sup>th</sup> / 515<sup>th</sup> CAC, US Army and passed away in the past two years were obtained from the Bataan/Corregidor Memorial Foundation of New Mexico. All of these men came to Taiwan on the hellship Hokusen Maru and were interned in either Inrin Temporary Camp or Toroku Camp until moved to Japan in January 1945.*

*We wish to honour and remember them at this time. May they rest in peace!*

**TEODORO S. SAAVEDRA**  
200<sup>TH</sup> COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
JANUARY 28, 2005

**JUAN A. TRUJILLO**  
515<sup>TH</sup> COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
MAY 8, 2005

**RAMON B. CISNEROS**  
200<sup>TH</sup> COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
MARCH 13, 2006

**MANUEL A. CARRILLO**  
200<sup>TH</sup> COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
MAY 14, 2006

**ROBERT P. GARCIA**  
200<sup>TH</sup> COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
NOVEMBER 8, 2006

**JOE L. SANCHEZ**  
200<sup>TH</sup> COAST ARTILLERY, US ARMY  
JANUARY 25, 2007

## 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.

It is with much sadness that we continue to learn of the deaths of more of our beloved FEPOW friends. For me it is especially hard when I have come to know some of them so well over the past 10 years. So many have become close personal friends as we worked together to unravel and tell the story of the camps and what the men suffered in them. I miss them all so very much.

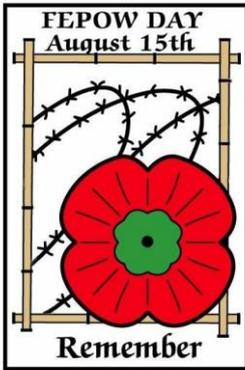
**George Harrison** – was a dear friend who shared so much with me over the years. He was one of the heroes of Kinkaseki - who, along with Dr. Wheeler and the other medical staff, saved the lives of hundreds of men. He was the first medical orderly allowed to go down the mine with the men and many owe their lives to him for his quick rescues and medical skills.

**Harold Brant** – was a long time friend who came to the first Kinkaseki reunion in the UK in 1999, has visited us here in Taiwan four times and wanted to come again last year. His colorful, optimistic character will be missed by all who knew him.

**Ken Davis** – and his wife Edith who immigrated to Canada in the 1960's, were friends for many years and we visited them when we went to Canada every summer. He was the last officer remaining from the Kinkaseki Camp and he provided a lot of useful information about the camp and its operation.

**Harry Leslie** – our dear Aussie friend who came to Taiwan on two occasions, is remembered for his colorful and cheerful personality. He also provided much information on the other Taiwan camps.

# FEPOW Day - August 15<sup>th</sup>



*“A day to remember the tens of thousands of allied prisoners of war and civilian internees who were captured by the Japanese in World War II.*

*They suffered from hunger, disease, torture and despair – and many thousands died, for the freedom that we enjoy today.*

*FEPOW Day is a worldwide day of remembrance for the Far East POWs. Please join with us this year and every year to celebrate this special day.”*

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE PRICE THEY PAID !**

The FEPOWs (Far East Prisoners of War) endured 3 ½ years of the most horrific mental and physical treatment, including starvation, diseases, over-work, beatings, torture etc. Those lucky enough to return home continued to suffer in silence with ongoing nightmares and bad health, yet they endeavored to try and live normal lives, never complaining or asking for anything. They have never been fully recognized for all the mental and physical torment they went through, and we would like to see that they are permanently honored with a memorial day in their name.

FEPOW Day is a day of remembrance for all those who were held as Japanese Prisoners of War during World War II - whatever nationality, color or religion, and whether service personnel, civilians or romusha (Asians pressed into slavery by the Japanese who overran their countries).

The idea for FEPOW Day was first conceived by a group of FEPOWs, their family members, historians, researchers and friends in the UK. August 15th was selected to be the date as it is the day Japan surrendered, and those who gained their freedom could look back and remember lost mates who did not make it through the nightmarish existence of the Japanese labor camps, and also their first day of freedom. It is not intended to minimize or replace VJ Day or VP Day - as it is sometimes referred to now, but to be celebrated equally with it.

FEPOW Day is spreading worldwide and will be celebrated for the first time this year on August 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope that veterans' organizations - like the various Legions worldwide, the RSL's from Australia and New Zealand, the allied nations' governments and all those who support and wish to remember the FEPOWs, will endorse this special day of remembrance and join with us to remember those who suffered so much.

More information may be found at <http://www.fepow-day.org> where a web petition and a draft letter are available to add your support. Please help us to make this a day when we can universally remember the FEPOWs, whether in our own home or at gatherings around the world.

Very Sincerely,

*The FEPOW Remembrance Day Group*

NOTE: The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society is proud to be a part of this project with the FEPOW Day Group, and is currently the representative for Taiwan and Asia.

## Changes...

Our Society Rep in the USA, former POW Geoff Monument, has recently relocated back to the UK so that leaves the position currently vacant. Also former Board member Gerry Norris has moved back home to South Africa and feels that he can no longer be active as well. We thank Geoff and Gerry for their many years of devoted service to the Society and wish them well in the future.

## Welcome...

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Teddy Chen, to our Board of Directors effective August 1st. Teddy has been involved as a volunteer with the Society for the past several years and has taken part in many of our events. We welcome his talents as a researcher and specialist in Taiwanese history and look forward to working together for the POWs.



**Diorama of the former Mukden POW Camp**