

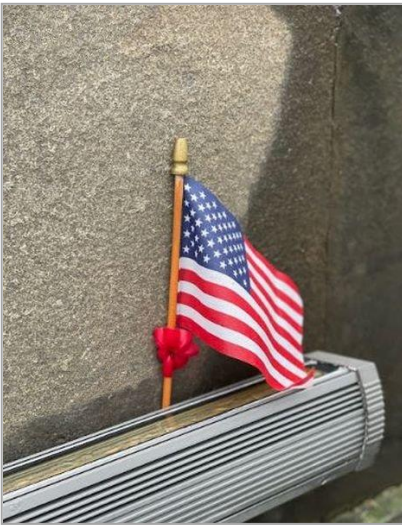


# Never Forgotten

Vol. 25, Number 2

FALL-WINTER 2024

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



*Flag left by the wall & the Memorial Bench.  
(Phillip Lin)*

*We Will Remember!*



*Taiwan B-24 crash site explored  
- more on Page 3*



*Remember  
Them!*



*Ohka 'Baka' Suicide Planes were used in  
Taiwan. (See story page 7)*



*Veterans on Remembrance Day*



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Trade and Investment Office, Taipei

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

Our logo - a poppy cross superimposed on a map  
of Taiwan - was chosen because the poppy and the  
poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols  
of remembrance to war veterans. Over the years  
the returning POWs and their families laid poppy  
crosses at all the former campsites they visited.

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

- \* to search for the locations of all the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan. [ *completed* ]
- \* to search for the survivors of the 1942 - 45 Taiwan POW camps.
- \* to ensure that the story of the Taiwan POWs is told and they are not forgotten.
- \* to help with the organization of and participate in the memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi every November on Remembrance Day.
- \* 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.

**LIST OF TAIWAN POW  
CAMPS. . . all found !**

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

*Thought . . .*

Life is short.  
Live it to the fullest.  
It has an expiration date.  
You can only consider yourself alive if  
you actually go out and live.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

GOOD NEWS! The Chinese version of '*Never Forgotten*' is coming soon. We have finally found a publisher who we are happy with, the book is in the process of formatting and should be available in mid-spring 2025 - sometime around March or April. We believe the best outreach to the Taiwanese community will be through direct sales at bookstores all over the island. Arrangements for copies to be sold through our website to overseas Taiwanese have not been finalized yet.

Finally now at last, another one of the Society's objectives - "*To help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history*" will be accomplished. Exciting days ahead next year!

For those who are on the waiting list for the English book reprint, we expect these to be available in January and you will be notified by email when they are ready for purchase.

We are also looking for a publisher in the UK and maybe the USA, for the English book, so again, any / all advice is requested and welcome.

The 17th FEPOW Day event was again held on August 10th. This year, the movies "Unbroken" along with "The Real Louis Zamperini Story" were shown – a double feature night.

We are happy to see more people coming to Taiwan for our POW camp tours. We have hosted a number of tours for overseas visitors as well as domestic ones this year, and we hope the trend will continue. A number have already booked tours for 2025.

Our 27th Remembrance Week event took place from November 6th to 13th. We had six overseas POW family guests who took part. We already have a number who are interested in next year's event for the "*80th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War*" and it is hoped that more will join with us. Be sure to let us know in advance as early as possible if you are interested in taking part. Next year's program dates are Nov. 5 – 12.

Finally, following a number of national elections held around the world this year, we hope that the right leaders - those who cherish peace and stability, have been elected and that the sad state that so many countries now find themselves in may be rectified for the good of all their people. Let us remember the sacrifices of so many in past wars to try to bring freedom to the world and let us hope that in remembering, those sacrifices will not have been in vain.

In closing I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and the best in the coming year.

Warmest wishes, *Michael Hurst MBE*

## Seminar on the POW B-24 crashes in Taiwan. . .

On **Saturday September 7th** the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society held a special presentation telling the story of the US Army Air Force B-24 aircraft that crashed around Taiwan while transporting evacuated prisoners of war from Okinawa to Manila in the Philippines for medical care and treatment before their onward journeys home.

On **September 10th 1945**, eleven B-24's from the 494th Bomb Group US Army Air Force stationed in Okinawa – including several from 866th squadron, were loaded with 20 POWs each for such a transport mission. Each plane had a crew of five in addition to the POW 'passengers'.

The aircraft took off early in the morning and while en route some of them ran into a typhoon and thus had to divert their courses to try to avoid danger. Most made it through or around the typhoon but three planes – two from the 866th Squadron, 494th Bomb Group and one from the 98th Squadron of the 11th Bomb Group were lost.

One had to ditch in the Taiwan Strait, and despite high seas and typhoon winds, 13 were saved by a nearby British destroyer - including the crew of five and eight of the POWs. The other 12 POWs were lost. Another B-24 was lost over Taiwan when it crashed into a mountain in the storm. The crew and passengers were found and subsequently buried in war cemeteries in Hong Kong and America. The whereabouts of the third aircraft was never located.

Our special guest, Mr. Walter Liu, shared with us the story of the ill-fated planes and the accounts of his explorations to the crash sites high in the mountains near Taitung. An exhibition of photos and artifacts from the crashed B-24 was on display. A crowd of nearly 40 people turned out to the SPOT THEATRE to hear more about this little-known part of Taiwan's wartime history.

Following his presentation, the new POW Association in Taiwan - the "MOTH", held a special zoom meeting to induct some new members and also to present the Society director with an Associate Member status, which was humbly and gratefully appreciated. Following this a presentation was made by Mark Wilke on the disappearance and fate of a Royal Australian Air Force Catalina seaplane while on a mission to mine the waters off Penghu. All of the crew were lost and no trace was ever found of the plane. The granddaughter of one of the missing flyers joined the online meeting and it was nice to hear from her as well.

It was a great afternoon spent learning more of Taiwan's WWII history.

**See photos on page 4. . .**



# FEPOW DAY 2024 – A SPECIAL EVENT

On Saturday August 10th at 6:00 pm, the *Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society* hosted the 17th FEPOW Day event to be held in Taiwan. The event took place at the SPOT THEATRE – 18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei. As usual, there was a display of POW and military artifacts, a short memorial service to remember the POWs, and then the award-winning film “*Unbroken*” was shown.

This much-acclaimed film directed by Angelina Jolie tells the story of former POW Louis Zamperini and his experiences and triumphs as a prisoner of the Japanese in WWII. It is based on his true life story from the book by Laura Hillenbrand. Then following a short intermission the 30 minute documentary on the life of Louis Zamperini entitled “*The Real Louis Zamperini*” was shown. The program finished about 10 pm.

Society Deputy Director Mark Wilkie emceed the memorial service and John Ecclestone began by reading “What is a FEPOW”. Then Bernie Moore, who joined our board late last year, read “A Time to Remember”. This was followed by Monty Ring rendering the “Tribute to the POWs”.

Then a special presentation was made to the Society director from Frederic Delort, the Taiwan representative of the *French War Graves Memorial Society*. A few weeks earlier, when Frederic was back in France, he made a special effort to visit Michael’s uncle’s grave at the La Deliverande War Cemetery in Normandy. His uncle was killed on D-Day, although not on the beach, but rather as his group were making their way inland toward Caen. Much to Michael’s surprise, Frederic sent him a lot of wonderful photos of the grave and the war cemetery, and also placed a lighted candle on the gravestone in honour and memory of his uncle’s sacrifice. Frederic brought that same candle to the service and it was used in our candle-lighting ceremony in remembrance of all those who suffered and those who died as POWs and then he read the FEPOW Prayer and Pledge.

It was a great event with over 30 in attendance and we look forward to another great event for our 18th FEPOW Day next year. Lest we forget!



*POW Artifacts on display*

*Monty Ring*



*Emcee Mark Wilkie*

*Frederic Delort*



*John Ecclestone*

*The Candle*



*Bernie Moore*

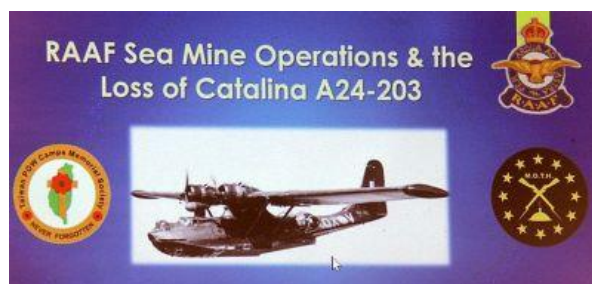
*The evening crowd*



## PHOTOS FROM PAGE 3 . . .



*Walter giving his presentation*

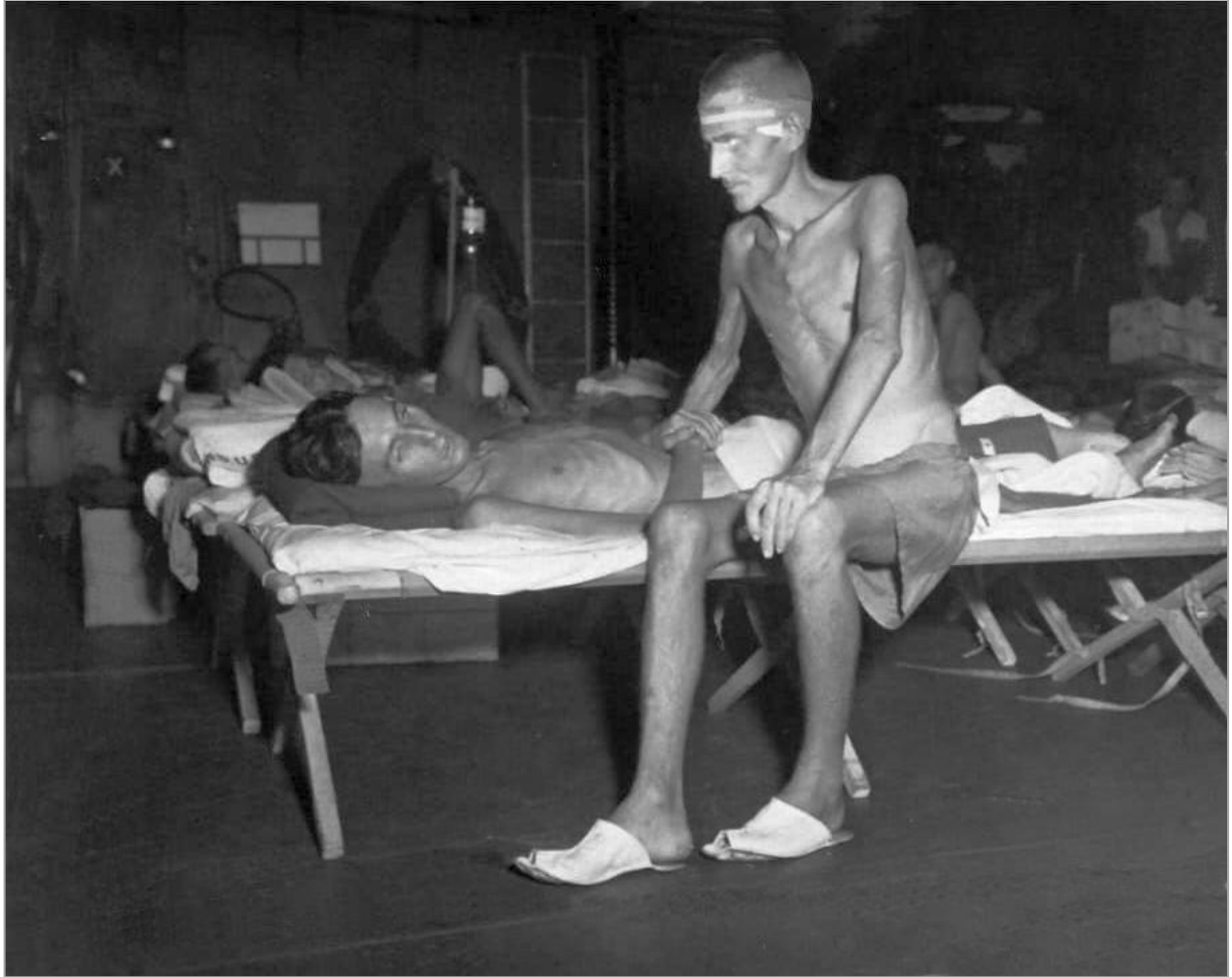


*The Story of the Lost Catalina*



*Taiwan MOTH Members*

## INFO ON FAMOUS WWII PHOTO COMES TO LIGHT FOR FEPOW'S FAMILY



**Caption:** Allied Prisoners of War, Formosa, 1945. CP1 Gordon James Clark and Gunner R.A. Norman Hill, from England, are walking skeletons as they relaxed at last on the hangar deck of USS Block Island (CVE 106), which liberated them from Formosa. These men were captured at Singapore. Photograph released September 5, 1945. Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

*Gnr. Norman Hill, 80th Anti-Tank Reg't. RA pre-war.*



The famous World War II photo above of two former prisoners of war relaxing on the hangar deck of the USS *Block Island* – one of the two American carriers that helped to evacuate the POWs from Taiwan in September 1945, has appeared countless times in articles on the internet, including in stories about the evacuation at other places. It shows Cpl. Gordon Clarke (L) of the 5th Suffolk Reg't. who was held in Heito and Taihoku Camp 6, and Gnr. Norman Hill (R) of the 80th Anti-Tank Reg't; RA who was interned at Kinkaseki and Kukutsu camps, recovering from their ordeal en route to Manila in the Philippines for medical care..

In October this year we received an email from the daughter of Gnr. Hill who had found our website after her daughter found a copy of the photo on the net. We were able to fill her in on more of her father's story.



# OKA 'BAKA' KAMIKAZE AIRCRAFT IN TAIWAN

While doing some research recently, I came across some interesting information regarding how Japanese fighter, bomber and kamikaze aircraft were brought to Taiwan later in the war. Of course in late 1940 and throughout 1941, hundreds of aircraft were sent to Taiwan to gear up for the invasions of Malaya, Singapore and the Philippines. Several hundred aircraft were carried on Japanese ships from Taiwan and Hainan and used to attack Malaya on December 8th 1941, and the attack on the Philippines later that morning came directly from air bases in Kaohsiung, Pingtung and Tainan.

Later in the war however, as the supply of aircraft became depleted, re-enforcements were needed and the question became how to transport replacement aircraft to the island's bases. One Japanese aircraft carrier was tasked with that job. It was the aircraft carrier *Ryuho*.

The Japanese aircraft carrier *Ryuho* was originally the submarine depot ship *Taigei* built in 1933. From 1938 to 1940, *Taigei* performed operations in both northern and southern waters off Japan, and supporting submarine operations off the coast of China. She was based at Kwajalein Atoll from November 1940 until April 1941. Shortly before the start of hostilities in the Pacific War, *Taigei* was ordered back to Japan for conversion into a light aircraft carrier. The conversion was completed a year later in November 1942 and the vessel was renamed *Ryuho*. She was first sent to the area around Truk on operations.

On December 12th, she was hit by a torpedo from the American submarine USS *Drum* and was forced to return to Yokosuka for repairs, and remained out of operation until early 1943. On returning to service she was involved with a number of patrols in the western Pacific and also tasked with ferrying aircraft to Japanese bases in the region.

*Ryuho* participated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea on June 19th 1944, against Task Force 58, and nearly all of her aircraft were shot down by the swarms of American F6F Hellcat fighters and the anti-aircraft guns of the American fleet.

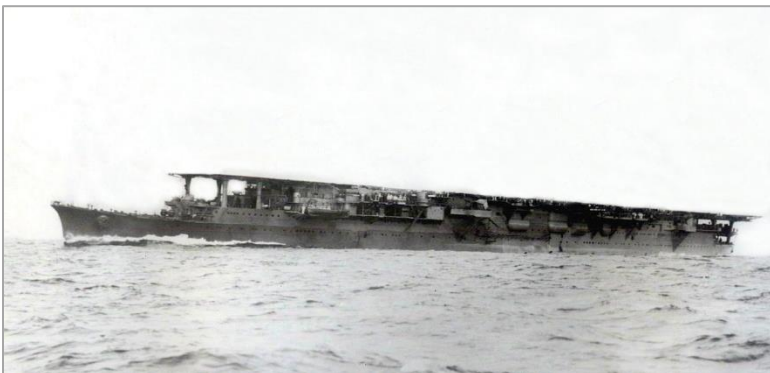
On October 25th 1944, with another escort carrier. . . "*Ryuho* set sail from Sasebo Naval District on 'another aircraft ferry mission to Keelung, Formosa". This indicates that she had done this earlier as well.

Then on December 31st 1944, *Ryuho* sailed for Formosa with a load of **58 Ohka kamikaze planes**. Upon reaching Formosa and unloading her cargo, *Ryuho* was among the targets of a major series of American carrier-based air raids all over the island, but was not damaged. She departed for Japan on January 2nd 1945 and on arrival at Kure on January 18th, she gained the distinction of being the last Japanese aircraft carrier to venture outside the home waters of Japan.

She had also previously gained the distinction of being the only major warship damaged in the Doolittle Raid of April 18th 1942. She received one direct hit from a 500 lb (230 kg) bomb on the bow, plus several small incendiary bomb hits, with seven casualties among her crew.

*Ryuho* was attacked by Task Force 58 aircraft on March 19th 1945 near Kure, suffering hits by three 500 lb bombs and two 5.5-inch rockets. The damage was severe. Upon returning to Kure on April 1st, *Ryuho* was considered to be a total loss. Moored as an abandoned hulk off of Eta Jima, she was attacked by American aircraft again on July 24th and 28th. She was struck from the navy list on November 30th 1945 and scrapped in 1946.

So this confirms how re-enforcement kamikaze aircraft were brought to Taiwan late in the war, and of particular interest are the Oka suicide planes she transported. It was unknown to me before that this type of aircraft flew suicide missions from Taiwan. You learn something new every day!



*Japanese aircraft carrier Ryuho*



*Hangar deck of the carrier Ryuho, 1945*

# REMEMBRANCE WEEK A GREAT SUCCESS ONCE AGAIN

For the second year after the terrible covid epidemic we once again had six overseas guests for this year's 28th annual Remembrance Week event – two from the UK and four from Australia whose father / grandfather were former British POWs.

From the UK were Lynne Hawkins & Maureen Warren – daughters of Pte. Joseph O'Neill RAMC held in Taichu, Inrin and Shirakawa camps before moving to Miyata Camp 9 in Japan. Hailing from Australia were Jackie and Dick Campion – Jackie's father, Gnr. Peter Sorrell 80th Anti-Tank Reg't. RA was a POW at Kinkaseki and Heito and finished the war at Senryu Camp 24 in Japan. Finally, Matt Osborne the grandson of Gnr. Harry Webster, 118th Field Reg't. RA who was held in Taichu, Heito and Taihoku Camp 6 with his partner Geoff Glicksman came to remember and honour his grandfather.

A full program which began with a tour to Jinguashi to see the POW exhibit in the Gold Museum, and experience the feelings the men must have endured down the number 5 mine tunnel before moving on to the site of the former Kinkaseki Camp. On the Friday the guests were treated to a bit of sightseeing before lunch at the Grand Hotel and afterward a visit to the National War Memorial and Taihoku Camp 6 hosted by the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense. Saturday was a free day for sightseeing and exploring, and then on Sunday they boarded the buses for the return trip to Kinkaseki for the annual Remembrance Day service organized by the Society and assisted this year by the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei.

Once again rain plagued us on the day, but as the POWs did decades ago, we got through it – again. The service - which was attended by more than 150 people, commenced at 11:00 am and began with a traditional New Zealand Maori ceremonial welcome put on by Tina Wilson of the New Zealand Trade Office and her family. A speech from New Zealand director Mark Pearson was followed by addresses from representatives of the ROC Veterans Affairs Council and Veterans Association of the ROC. The Society director then reflected on 'Remembrance'. The family members of the former POWs did readings and spoke of what the trip back meant to them. In Flander's Fields was rendered and the service part finished with a message and prayer of remembrance.

Wreaths were once again laid on the memorial despite the rain, Last Post, two minutes silence and Rouse was played to bring the event to a close. Once again so many folks came up afterward and said how much they enjoyed our simple yet sincerely moving ceremony. This is only fitting and what those soldiers, sailors and airmen deserve for their service. Following the service, those in attendance were invited to gather together for a picnic lunch in the nearby community centre and a nice time of fellowship was had by all.

One Monday November 11th, the group visited the sites of the former Taichu and Shirakawa camps and after a walkabout of the area, held a short memorial service to remember the fathers and grandfathers who had been there 80 years previously. At Taichu there are still some things to see which relate more to the former camp and the river where the POWs slaved to build the flood diversion channel in the vast nearby river bed. Shirakawa has been completely changed with nothing of the former camp remaining thanks to recent construction. It was an enjoyable day and our guests also got to see another part of the island during the trip.

2025 is the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, and we are hoping to have a large turnout for that event. A number have expressed interest already and we encourage people to get in touch with us ASAP if they are interested in coming. We hope that many will come out to remember and honour the men to whom we owe a debt that can never be repaid. *A few photos from the activities during this year's Remembrance Week event:*



# Christmas Day in Taiwan

By Maurice Rooney

Christmas comes but once a year,  
As a prisoner of war it was not of good cheer.  
When you read these few lines you'll no doubt  
understand  
How Christmas was spent in this far distant land.

Reveille was sounded an hour before dawn  
And roll call was taken, t'was a bitter cold morn.  
Number! (or Bango!) in Japanese  
We did as were bid, and not as we please.

We returned to our huts when dismissed from  
parade  
To find on the tables our breakfast was laid,  
One bowl of rice, one bowl of stew  
That's all we got, but what could one do.

The meal completed we could only patiently wait  
For dinner in a bowl instead of a plate.  
'Twas not Christmas for the Nips, but it so happened  
the date  
Was a day in the year which they celebrate.  
So out on the parade ground we stood in the cold  
Bowling our heads and hearing strange stories told.

This over, a service for us we requested  
And for once in our lives we were left unmolested.  
Dressed in our clothes of no great apparel  
We sang 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful' and two other  
carols.

Mid-morning the 'hut leaders' by the bugle were  
called  
And five fags per man in their hands were installed;  
Then dinner-time came, a delightful surprise  
"There's meat in the stew", from the cookhouse  
came cries.

It was the first we had seen for over six weeks  
And greatly preferred to 'potato tops' and leeks.  
Never before had we been given a sweet  
But today we had bananas, it was such a lovely  
treat.

The afternoon was quiet, with so little to be said  
And with nothing better to do, we lay on our beds.  
Sleep I am sure only came to a few  
As in our minds were our loved ones, and also we  
knew  
That back in dear 'Blighty', our country, our home,  
They were thinking of us, as we were of them.

Six o'clock came, we thought our meals to complete  
And with chopsticks not spoons our tea we did eat.  
Instead of rice and veg stew, it was rice and fish  
sauce  
With a rabbit stew at seven as an extra course.

With eating completed we all started singing  
Hark! what is that sound, is it not church bells  
a-ringing?  
Alas no! T'was the bugle being blown, for roll call is  
at eight,  
Then an order was shouted "It will be an hour late".

So we kept on with our singing as if we didn't care  
For all that was missing, yes even the beer.

We sang 'Auld Lang Syne' a few minutes before nine  
And as the bugle call sounded we fell into line.  
The Jap officer came round and to end our delight  
Came "roll call is over, put out the light".

So that's how we spent Christmas; you'll no doubt  
say a hard case,

But we're not too down-hearted, we  
know a change must take place,  
And when that time comes, how  
happy we'll be  
To return to our homes contented  
and free.

~

*Written by Taiwan POW  
Maurice Rooney (POW No. 766)  
at Kinkaseki POW Camp on  
Christmas Day in 1943. ©*



*Christmas Eve in Kinkaseki Camp, 1943*

*(Courtesy the NFB film 'A War Story' by Anne Wheeler)*



# TAIWAN POWS' STORY FEATURED IN 'BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINE'



In August, the Society director contributed an article to the popular British family history magazine "WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?" which is affiliated with the TV series of the same name. Having done the research for one of their recent episodes on Taiwan, the magazine asked him if he would do an accompanying article for their September issue.

The monthly family history magazine goes out in hard copy all across the UK and also overseas to more than a dozen countries including the USA, Canada, Australia, Ireland and the Netherlands with subscriptions in the thousands. Almost 11,000 copies circulate every month - 9,000 going out to subscribers, and over 2,000 distributed at newsstands in the UK and overseas.

The magazine is also affiliated with the online APPLE NEWS PLUS network and hence it is on the Net globally for people to see. After only a few weeks, the Apple readership rose to nearly 30,000. This was a great opportunity to highlight a bit of the story of the Taiwan POWs and the camps for those worldwide who may have no idea that such camps and stories even existed. We are grateful to the magazine for giving us this opportunity to share the Taiwan POWs' story further.

Much of Michael's work over the past 27 years - in addition to interviewing the former POWs and getting their stories while there was still time, has been answering the questions and inquiries that the POW families put forward about their relatives who would never talk about what they experienced or their time as POWs. This work is ever increasing now that all of the former Taiwan POWs have passed on. As so many can attest to, this information has unlocked mysteries and provided knowledge and hence closure in so many instances. Hopefully this latest publication will provide the full story of the Allied prisoners that others may be seeking to find information on their own POW relatives.

## THEY WENT THROUGH HELL

Having provided the research for actor Vicky McClure's episode, Michael Hurst of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society tells the full story of the Allied prisoners' experiences

**N**ot enough people know that their were Japanese prisoners of war camps in Taiwan during the Second World War. After the surrender of Hong Kong in December 1941, and Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines in the spring of 1942, the Japanese began moving their POWs to various locations around their newly acquired empire to be used as labour for the Japanese. Many of them were sent to the infamous Death Railway in Thailand and Burma (now Myanmar).

**A** Japanese soldier from the 1st Imperial Japanese Army, who was captured in the Philippines in October 1945, later transported to one of the camps in Taiwan, Kankaseki, and then to the Philippines in August 1942. This group consisted of most of the top 15 officers and some enlisted men. They arrived at the camp of Kankaseki (Taiwan) and then were sent to Kankaseki Camp at Kankaseki on Taiwan's east coast. They were later transferred to Shirakawa Camp in the summer of 1943. Shortly after this, the first group ship from Singapore during the war, Japan on 14 of them, the other two were temporary camps set up after the

Japanese surrender to house the first POWs before enroute to the first Allied POWs to arrive in Taiwan came from the Philippines in August 1942. This group consisted of most of the top 15 officers and some enlisted men. They arrived at the camp of Kankaseki (Taiwan) and then were sent to Kankaseki Camp at Kankaseki on Taiwan's east coast. They were later transferred to Shirakawa Camp in the summer of 1943. Shortly after this, the first group ship from Singapore during the war, Japan on 14 of them, the other two were temporary camps set up after the

### The men worked as slaves surviving on small amounts of low-quality food

... officers and generals of the British, American and Dutch forces. They were accompanied by the governor of Singapore and other civilian officials from Malaya, the Straits Settlements and Borneo. Most were sent to Kankaseki Camp, while some of the captured were sent to Hainan Camp near Peking.

In mid-September, more Americans arrived from the Philippines - the officers were sent to Kankaseki and about 300 other

In February 1942 a large group of British, Dutch and Australian POWs arrived from Singapore and the Dutch East Indies. By this time there were more than 4,000 Allied POWs on the island. It is a little-known fact that the highest ranking and most famous British, Australian, Dutch and US officers, as well as civilian officials from all of the Asian colonies captured by the Japanese, were held in Taiwan. Of the camps the most had to work as slaves surviving

... on small amounts of low-quality food. Many died of starvation and disease brought about by the lack of proper food and vitamins. The Japanese without medical supplies, resulting in more deaths.

... Harry Blackham, who was held at Kankaseki, recalled: "The pain from the beatings was excruciating, unmanageable and a constant, unbearable agony." Others were beaten to the point of death, or they would die a copper penny, often in temperatures exceeding 40°C. A number of the miners died from accidents and injuries.

In Taiwan Camp the men slept in the camp. They moved from north and south by hand in the hot sun, with little or no shade.

At Hainan Camp, the POWs had to work in the fields, digging and carrying rocks and stones from a dried-up river bed that sugar cane could be planted, and they also worked in the coal fields and the sugar factory. Men died of malaria, and also malaria which was rampant in this camp.

In Taiwan Camp prisoners were forced to create a man-made lake and maintain 'scurvy' ponds dedicated to the sick Japanese convalescing in Asia. They also grew vegetables to supply the Japanese camp guards, and some later

worked in the railway and bus-transport along the city. Over the next two years many were moved between camps. This largely occurred in the case of Kankaseki. When the men became too sick and weak to work in the mine any longer, they were moved to other camps to recover, although many never did. POWs were transferred to Kankaseki from the camps at Taihoku, Taihoku and Hainan to replace the lost men.

... months in temporary camps in Doolittle and Nanking. Later in January 1945, about 100 POWs were sent to other camps in Japan. In February 1945, 701 POWs from camps all over the island were sent to the southern Japanese island of Ryukyu and worked in coal mines. There, they finished out the war until the surrender of Japan. This left about 300 POWs on Kankaseki, and all of the remaining POWs were subsequently evacuated by sea, or by John Kelly, a Royal Navy lieutenant who was involved in the evacuation, and Japanese camp were nothing when compared to their own - too weak to even lift a double arm - it was utterly right.

The POWs were taken to Manila in the Philippines for medical treatment and care, and when they were well enough and transportation could be arranged, returned to their home countries. Many struggled to cope with life back home, but gradually most of them found a life with their families and friends. Now all of us, including their descendants like Vicky McClure, need to remember that there have been as they deserve to be remembered.

If anyone wishes to know more about the Taiwan POW camps in World War II and the men who were held and suffered in them, please feel free to contact the society through the website for help.

*The work of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society began in early 1977 and for the past 27 years, research into the story of the 16 former Japanese POW camps on Taiwan has been conducted and shared with the world. Also in that time, 15 memorials have been erected at various former camp sites across the island, as well as two in the UK and one in Hawaii. These commemorate the sacrifice and suffering of more than 4,350 British, American, Dutch, Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and South African prisoners of war*

*A major achievement has been the building of the 'Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial Park' on the site of the former infamous Kankaseki POW Camp in the village of Jinguashi. The park is the only one of its kind in the world dedicated to the Far East prisoners of war. More information is available at: [www.powtaiwan.org](http://www.powtaiwan.org).*



## POW CAMP TOURS

(See the comments the Society has received from others who have taken our tours - at the bottom of the POW Camp Tours page on the website.)

### Pattinson Tour – October 17th

Nicola Pattinson was accompanying her husband on a business trip to Taiwan and contacted us to inquire about a tour to Kinkaseki to learn more about the POWs and to pay respects to her grandfather who is commemorated on the wall. She also wanted to order a book to help her learn more about him.

She knew very little about her grandfather Gnr. William Dunn and his time as a POW, so in the weeks before her visit and for several afterward we researched his story and finally were able to complete it.

Her grandfather was first held in Taichu Camp and later moved to Heito where he escaped the bombing of the camp. Then moved to Taihoku Camp 6 and finally Oka Camp which really took a toll on his health. It is believed he went to Australia for medical care after release and is not certain how he finally got home to the UK. He passed away in 2010. Nicola was very grateful for the tour as it opened a door to knowledge she had never known before.



*Nicola pointing to her grandfather's name on the wall, thereby making a connection with a man she sadly never met.*

### Taipei European International School Annual Tour – October 23rd

Once again as in every previous year, some high school students from the Taipei European International School were guided on a tour of Kinkaseki by the Society director.

The weather was good at Jinguashi for a change so we all had a very enjoyable day of exploring the POWs' story together.

It was a great group of kids we had and after getting off the bus, we had a short chat and they were so nice and polite. One young girl came up and told me how much she had enjoyed the day and thanked me for doing it.

Then there was the young man who took the train part way home with me. I had a seat and he stood by the door and then as he was about to get off the train he came over to me and thanked me for the day and reached out and shook my hand. Needless to say I was really impressed with all these kids and how nice and polite they were. This is somewhat unusual in today's world of young people, so I want to share that for all our readers to know. I'm looking forward to being their guide again next year.



### Woods Tour – November 22nd

A few days after this year's Remembrance event concluded I had the privilege of accompanying Phil Woods - a US soldier with an interest in history, and his wife Victoria and their two small children – carried in backpacks, on a tour to Jinguashi.

Once again, the weather wasn't the best – our readers must get tired of hearing that over and over again, but all in all we had an enjoyable day and nice time of fellowship and getting to know each other.

Phil is avidly interested and very knowledgeable in military history. Having Taiwanese ancestry he was keen to learn more about this little-known part of Taiwan's military history. It was my honor and privilege to help him.

