



Never Forgotten

Vol. 19, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2018

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



The Enoura Maru Stone on the Memorial Walk at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii.



Wreath layers at the Anzac Day service.



VFW National Commander Keith Harman (r) and Executive Director Bob Wallace (l) at the Memorial Wall in the POW Park standing by the name of Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright.



Veterans line up for a photo following the Memorial Day service held by the Society at the old Taipei Prison Wall. VFW National Commander Keith Harman is holding the wreath.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2018

Be sure to mark the week of November 7 – 14 on your calendars and in your date books, and plan to be with us as we celebrate the 21st annual Remembrance Week event. We will feature visits to the POW camps on the island and the Remembrance Day service at the Prisoner of War Memorial Park at Kinkaseki on the 11th. We hope that former POW family members will make an effort to come as we have a special program prepared for these guests. For more information, please contact the Society by Email or mail at the address shown on page 2 of the newsletter. Be sure to book early and we hope to have you with us in November!

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LOGO of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Our logo - a poppy cross superimposed on a map of Taiwan - was chosen because the poppy and the poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols of remembrance to war veterans. In the fall of 1998 the returning POWs 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 (Touliu)
12. TAKAO (Kaohsiung)
13. KUKUTSU (Taipei)
14. OKA (Taipei)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

Thought . . .

A good researcher believes nothing just because a so-called wise person said it, believes nothing just because a belief is generally held, believes nothing just because it is said in other books, believes nothing just because someone else believes it. He believes only what he himself finds, tests and judges to be true.

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

The year started off pretty much the same – extremely busy, and has continued thus throughout the spring. The work on the book has been first and foremost and it is progressing well. The exact date of publication is still unknown as there a great deal of work yet to be done on it, as I want to make it as complete and correct as I can in every way possible. The target date is the end of this year.

The POW inquiries from family members and researchers keep coming, and although it does take time away from my work on the book, it is so great to see the interest in the Taiwan POWs' story growing. I am always pleased to be able to help folks with information on their FEPOW relative - some who died in the camps here, and others who returned but never spoke of their experiences with their families.

We have had a number of visitors for our POW camp tours this spring as well. Individual POW family members and other overseas visitors, as well as local schools and associations are learning more about the Taiwan camps. (See page 7.)

The annual local ANZAC Day service was held in April at dawn at the Australian Representative's home, and as usual was a great event. A Memorial Day service was hosted by the Society this year at the American Airmen's Memorial Plaque on the wall of the old Taipei Prison. A featured special guest was the National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America and the VFW Executive Director. Both of these events were well attended. (See the reports on pages 6 and 7.)

The biggest item of news this spring is the completion of the Enoura Maru Memorial Project at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii. All of the necessary funds for the memorial which was finally approved in January have been raised, the memorial stone has been completed and shipped to Hawaii and installed on the Memorial Walk at the cemetery. I will be going to Honolulu to take part in the dedication on August 15th – VJ Day!

We are anticipating a wonderful event for FEPOW Day again in August and hope that more local folks will join us in remembering those who were POWs and civilian internees in the Far East.

Some folks have already signed up for this year's Remembrance Week event in November, and a bit earlier than usual, so this shows a growing interest by families in taking part. We hope to have a few more join us this year.

Now in our 21st year, it is so good to see the continuing interest and support from so many of our members and friends. Thank you again for having a part with us in this wonderful work.

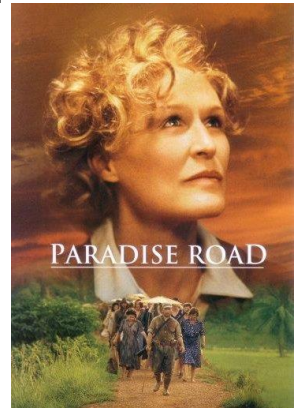
Sincerely,

Michael Hurst MBE

UPCOMING EVENT

FEPOW DAY - AUGUST 11, 2018

This year will be the 11th time that *FEPOW Day* is celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we will meet at the **Spot Theatre – # 18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2** in downtown Taipei on Saturday evening August 11th. There will be a display of WWII POW and military artifacts; we will have a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs and then the movie "**Paradise Road**" will be shown.



This excellent film, directed by Academy Award-winning Australian Bruce Beresford, depicts the lives of the civilian women - including the Australian nurses, who were captured by the Japanese in Sumatra and how they formed a choir to help overcome their situation and torment and survive. The film stars Glenn Close and Frances McDormand.

It is based on a true story, and accurately portrays the brutality shown even to women and children by their Japanese captors. It also shows how they triumphed over adversity. It is a very moving film and provides another aspect of the POWs' story, this time as pertaining to the civilians.

Everyone is invited to our event, but space is limited to a maximum of 70 persons, so please kindly let us know **by email** if you're planning to attend so we can reserve a seat for you. We hope and expect to have a large turnout and **reservations are a must**.

The deadline for reservations is set at 5 pm Wednesday August 8th. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the program will begin promptly at 6:30.

There is no charge for this event, and coffee and fruit drinks will be available.

NOTE: This film is not suitable for young children and there are no Chinese sub-titles on the film.

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

We invite you to come out and learn more of the story of the Far East prisoners of war (FEPOWs) and their service and sacrifice.

FEPOW Day is a special day that has been set aside to remember all those who were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese during World War II. We hope that many of our members and friends will take this opportunity to join us for a memorable evening of remembering and paying tribute to those who suffered and those who died, for the freedom we now enjoy. Hope to see you in August!

In Memoriam

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

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

FRANCIS 'FRANK' ASHBY

SGMN., 11TH INDIAN DIVISION SIGNALS
JANUARY 17, 2018

JOHN LOWE

GNR., 5TH FIELD REG'T. R.A.
FEBRUARY 21, 2018

DAVID PRESTON

PTE., 1ST/5TH SHERWOOD FORESTERS
APRIL 4, 2018

"We Will Remember Them"

It will be noted that we are listing fewer and fewer of the POWs passing in recent issues. This is because sadly, so many of these dear men have already passed on, but they are not being forgotten!

Notice: *If you know of a former Taiwan POW who has passed on, please kindly get in touch with us and give us the pertinent information. Thank you.*

FRANK ASHBY, 1920-2018

One of my dearest and long-time FEPOW friends, Francis D. 'Frank' Ashby, formerly of the 11th Indian Division Signals and a POW in Taihoku Camp #6, Taichu, Inrin and Shirakawa camps, passed away peacefully on January 17th of this year in his 98th year - just three days short of his 98th birthday. He had enjoyed reasonably good health right up to the end of his life.

He had an amazing memory, and not only did he share so much of his knowledge of the camps he was in with me, but he was a devoted and wonderful friend as well. We had several phone conversations over the years whenever I was in the UK, and I even called him a time or two from Taiwan directly. I had always wanted to go and visit him in person, but sadly never had the chance.

During his time here as a POW he kept a meticulous diary of the daily happenings in the camps he was in, and this has provided one of the best sources of information I have on those camps. This has also been a tremendous help to me while writing the book. In addition to the diary, he has furnished sketches, drawings and other information which supports and verifies official records as well as other POWs' stories. He left a truly remarkable record of Taiwan's POW history, and I will miss him dearly as I do all of my former Taiwan FEPOW friends.

JOHN LOWE, 1919-2018

I first met John at the POW Reunion held in July 1999 at Lowestoft, Suffolk in the UK. Like a number of the men who were present, he was in the 73rd Field Battery of the 5th Field Reg't. Royal Artillery. L/Sgt. Lowe was in that famous group of men who were the first to meet the Japanese when they landed on the shore at Kota Bharu Malaya on the morning of December 8th 1941, and fired the first shots of WWII in Asia - 70 minutes before the attack began on Pearl Harbour. We had a good chat then and kept in touch in the years after.

John came to Taiwan in November 1942 on the *England Maru* and was sent to Taihoku Camp #6 where he remained for the rest of his time in Taiwan. Why he was never sent to Kinkaseki as so many of his regiment mates were is unknown. Perhaps being smaller in stature the Japanese didn't think he could stand up to the rigors of the copper mine, or he may have had a useful trade in the camp that they needed. Later in February 1945 he was sent to Japan on the *Taiko Maru*. The painting he later did of the hold of that hellship is among the best and most realistic of any I have ever seen. With his kind permission it will be featured in my book.

John was a man of many talents and interests. Later in life he decided to take up ballet dancing and became quite well-known in the UK for his prowess. He was 'one-of-a-kind' and will be sadly missed.

DAVID PRESTON, 1920-2018

I only came to know David in 2013 after his grandson David found our website and informed me that at 93 his grandfather was alive and well and thrilled to see what had been done here in Taiwan to remember him and his comrades.

David was a Private in the 1st/5th Sherwood Foresters Reg't. and came to Taiwan in November 1942 on the *Dainichi Maru*. He was first sent to Taichu Camp and then later in August 1943 was moved to Kinkaseki where he slaved down the mine until the camp was closed and then finished the war in the Kukutsu 'jungle' Camp.

He passed away peacefully at home in his favorite chair on Wednesday April 4th; he was 98 years of age. I wish that I had been able to meet him or speak with him at some point, and I can say the same for a lot of other former POWs. Fortunately I have had the honour and privilege of meeting quite a number and speaking and corresponding with even more over the past 21 years.

With his passing the number of former Kinkaseki POWs who remain now stands at only 4 - that I know of. There are a few other POWs from other camps still with us as well, but an era is slowly coming to an end.

We must never forget their sacrifices for us!

THE ENOURA MARU MEMORIAL PROJECT IS COMPLETED!

On January 9, 1945 the hellship *Enoura Maru* was anchored in Takao (Kaohsiung) Harbour, Taiwan. It was part of a convoy of ships that had left the Philippines on December 27, 1944 carrying mostly American POWs bound for Japan. 1,040 men had been crammed into the second hold of the *Enoura Maru*, and a further 240 men were on another ship, the *Brazil Maru*. On January 6th the men from the *Brazil Maru* were transferred to the *Enoura Maru* and about 470 men were moved from the second hold up to the first hold of that ship.



The Enoura Maru

Then in the early morning of the 9th, just as the men were consuming their meagre breakfast ration of rice, American aircraft from the *USS Hornet* launched an attack on Takao Harbour and bombed and strafed many of the ships. Several bombs fell on the *Enoura Maru* and one exploded near the edge of the first hold killing and wounding more than 300 of the POWs. The ship did not sink and the remains of the dead POWs were removed and buried in a mass grave at Chijin. Later they were exhumed and re-buried in 20 communal graves at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii.

On January 9, 2005 - the 60th anniversary of the bombing, a memorial service conducted by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society was held at the harbour in Kaohsiung with one of the former POWs who survived the bombing in attendance. Following that it was decided to build a **Taiwan Hellships Memorial** to remember the men of the *Enoura Maru* and all the others who suffered and died on hellships in Taiwan waters. The memorial was built later that year and dedicated on January 26, 2006 with several family members present.

In 2011 the Society received inquiries from some of the families of the men who died on the *Enoura Maru* as to whether some kind of memorial could be built specially for them, and it was decided to try to have a stone placed on the Memorial Walk at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) to let people know who it was that were buried in those 20 communal graves in Section Q of the cemetery.

The Society then contacted the Punchbowl and submitted the necessary application, but there was an issue with the wording on the stone when the former cemetery director and the Veterans Administration felt that having the word 'hellship' on the stone might be an offense to the Japanese tourists who visit the cemetery for sightseeing. We tried to explain to them the historical significance of the word 'hellship' but to no avail.

Thus began a struggle with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and their National Cemetery Administration (NCA) which lasted for seven years. During that time the Society contacted the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society – many of whose members had relatives on that ship, to enlist their aid in lobbying the necessary government departments to try to get the memorial built. Finally in January 2018, after a visit to Washington by a delegation from the ADBC-MS in the fall of 2017, approval was given by the VA's National Cemetery Administration, Dep't. of Memorial Affairs.

Once the approval was granted, a budget of US\$6,000.00 was formulated for the memorial stone construction, its transport to Hawaii and the costs for the dedication ceremony, and a fund-raising campaign was initiated between the two Societies and their members. By June the necessary funds were received and the stone was completed and installed on the Memorial Walk.

Preparations are now being made for the dedication ceremony to be held at the Punchbowl on August 15th of this year. We are expecting to have several former POWs and also family members of the *Enoura Maru* POWs in attendance, and further information on the ceremony itself will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Please watch the website for details. Email announcements will also be sent out to all Society members and friends worldwide. A full report of the dedication ceremony will be featured in our next newsletter.

It has been a long and hard struggle, and by working together with the ADBC-MS we have finally been able to realize our dream, and that of the families of the *Enoura Maru* men - to have this very fitting memorial stone placed on the Walk of Remembrance in their honour. **They will not be forgotten!**



(L) One of the graves of the Enoura Maru men at the Punchbowl.

(R) The Enoura Maru Memorial Stone on the Walk at the cemetery.

(Photo K. Mathieu, TPCMS)





MEMORIAL DAY 2018

Once again this year Memorial Day was celebrated here in Taiwan. In the absence of any other organizer, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society put on a special program which took place at the site of the *American Airmen's Memorial* (which was erected by the Society in 2009) at the old Taipei Prison Wall, to honour those

who gave their lives for their country - and our freedom!

About 25 people gathered by the wall around 11:00 on a very hot Monday May 28th for the ceremony and our special guests for the event were Keith Harman, the National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and Robert Wallace, the VFW Executive Director. We also had a number of veterans present - some having served in Vietnam, and others in more modern conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The ceremony began at 11:15, and after a brief welcome and introduction of the guests, the Society director told a little of the story of the American prisoners of war in Taiwan and also of the American flyers who had been held in the prison, and those who had been murdered there on June 19th 1945.

To begin the service, President Truman's pledge to the American people at the end of WWII was read by Jason Cole Mager – the Society's newest member. It is something we should all be mindful of today and reads:

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." President Harry S. Truman

Following this Warren Brewer gave the reading "What Is a Veteran?", and then Col. Joe Schweitzer (US Army, Ret) read the poem "May We Never Forget". The list of names of the 57 Americans who died as prisoners of war in Taiwan was read by Lt. Col. Tony Hu (USAF, Ret). Rev. Herbert Barker our Society Chaplain brought a message and prayer of remembrance. Rev. Barker was in the US Army as a chaplain in the Vietnam era and then served as a US Navy Chaplain after that.

VFW Commander-in-Chief Harman then gave a brief tribute to the fallen and laid a wreath at the base of the wall by the memorial plaque. This was followed by the Act of Remembrance with everyone reading the Ode together. Following the service photos were taken by the wall around the plaque. Here are a few photos of the event. We look forward to another great event next year and hope that many more will join with us then.



(L) The crowd gathering at the site. (C) Warren Brewer reading "What is a Veteran?" (R) Joe Schweitzer reads "May We Never Forget".



(L) Tony Hu reading the names of the 57 Americans who died in Taiwan in WWII. (C) Rev. Barker addressing the crowd. (R) VFW CiC lays the wreath by the memorial.

(Photos Courtesy Judy Chen and Nick Kan)

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES AND POW CAMP TOURS

BEN HRUSKA – DECEMBER 20 – 22, 2017

American naval historian Ben Hruska has done a lot of research and writing about the story of the *USS Block Island* CVE-106, one of the ships that assisted in the evacuation of the POWs from Taiwan in September 1945. He came to Taiwan late in this past December and first visited the American Airmen's memorial at the old Taipei Prison Wall before spending a day with the Society director on a trip to Kinkaseki. Having been friends for many years it was great to be able to share a little of what has been done here in Taiwan with him.



COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER CLASS & TOUR

In January I was privileged to be invited to give a talk on the Taiwan POW camps to a group of interested expats at the Community Services Center monthly coffee hour. This was followed up on March 21st with the annual trip to Kinkaseki and the POW Park. There was a good turnout both days and a good time was had by all as people learned more of the POWs' story. We are grateful to the CSC for their support in helping to make that story better known.

ANZAC DAY – APRIL 25TH

Once again the annual ANZAC Day service was held at the residence of the Australian Representative in Taipei. It was a dawn event and participants arrived before 6am.

It was a lovely day and a very moving service with more than 60 people present.



Poems and readings were rendered and wreaths laid by representatives of both the allied and axis countries who are now friends. As Last Post and Reveille were played, the Australian and New Zealand flags were lowered to half-mast and then raised again.

The service ended with the singing of the Australia and New Zealand National Anthems, and following this a great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all over the traditional ANZAC Day 'gunfire' breakfast. This event is always a highlight of spring and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society is honoured to be a part of it.

TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL GR. 9 POW CLASS

In March, at the invitation of the history department of TAS, a class on the Taiwan POWs' story was given to about 100 Grade 9 history students and their teachers.



They listened with rapt attention and asked questions, and the time flew by all too quickly. It is so great to see the enthusiasm for history which they have and how they appreciated the opportunity to learn about a part of World War II history firsthand.

TAIPEI EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Every year in the spring TES arranges for the Society director to give a lecture on the POWs to the Grade 9 history students and this is always



followed up with a visit to Jinguashi. This year it was on May 3rd and 4th, and with beautiful weather for a change, the group of about 40 students enjoyed exploring the former WWII POW camp in person. It is a great opportunity for them that they would not have in their home country and it is our honour to do it.

VFW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TOURS KINKASEKI

On May 29th, the day after taking part in the Society's Memorial Day event, VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman and Executive Director Bob Wallace were taken on a tour of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp courtesy of the ROC Veterans Affairs Council and the POW Society.

They were pleased to see the museum and former camp, the POW Park and Memorial Wall and to know that those men who had suffered and those who died here in Taiwan would not be forgotten. We were honoured to be able to share this part of our work with them and we thank the VFW for its support.



VFW CiC Harman lays flowers at the Memorial.

COMPARING THE TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY 'REMEMBRANCE WEEK' AND TOUR COSTS WITH OTHER POW REUNIONS, CONVENTIONS AND WEEKEND RETREAT EVENTS

Every year many POW and veterans' groups hold reunions, weekend getaways and annual conventions for the former FEPOWs, their families and friends. In browsing through some of those offered in the past and for this year, I noticed the very high costs imposed on people wishing to participate in these events. While the costs may not be unreasonable or high for the locale in which they take place, when comparing them to similar programs offered here in Taiwan, I was motivated to make a comparison in order to show folks that coming to Taiwan and taking part in our activities can be much cheaper than one might expect. Here is a list of only a few of the other organizations' events compared to our annual **Remembrance Week** and other private guided tours in Taiwan – for your reference.

USS Block Island Reunion

Registration Fee - \$15.00 per person.

Room Rates: \$125 and \$135 plus 12% tax & plus resort fees. Parking available at discounted price of \$5 a day.

A light lunch of sandwiches in the Hospitality Room at \$15/per person.

Tour #1 - \$25 per person - lunch not included in tour price; Lunch will be at an 'Eatery & Pub'. Cost \$60 per person.

Tour #2 - Price is \$35 per person; Lunch is not included in price of tour. Cost is not noted but surely expensive as it has fresh local seafood and Angus beef.

Tour #3 - Tour price is \$15 per person. No lunch stop - lunch back at the hotel or on your own.

Closing Dinner - Cocktail Hour. \$3 for soft drinks; \$4 for bottled water; \$5 for Domestic Beer, \$6 for Imported Beer, House Wines \$7.25/glass.

Dinner prices – Chicken - \$41.00, Steak - \$52.00, Salmon - \$49.00, Ravioli / Pasta \$41.00

COFEPOW Weekend Break

A deposit of £25 per person is required when booking.

£119.00 per person for 2 nights or £159.00 per person - double occupancy + £20 for single supplement.

Dinner on the Saturday night, the cost is £33.00 per person.

JAVA Club AGM

For one night the price is £136 per person, two nights £209 per person, and 3 nights £263 per person. The single supplement is £20 per night. 3 nights single room £323. (Note cost is for double occupancy, not the room cost.)

For those attending the Saturday night dinner only, you will need to pay £34.00

ADBC-MS Annual Convention

Hotel costs not stated. Registration fees and banquet ticket:

Member early bird per person received by April 15 (*free to pows, spouses, widows*) \$60.00 - after April 15 \$85.00.

Non-member early bird per person received by April 15...\$85.00 - after April 15...\$110.00.

9th annual banquet May 5, 2018 per person (deadline to order April 15)...\$50.00.

I wish to join / renew ADBC-MS membership with emailed Quan\$40.00 / with USPS mailed Quan\$50.00.

Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society

No membership fees – more than 1,200 newsletters are sent - most by email, and some by mail – all at no charge.

No registration fees for our Remembrance Week or any event or tour.

Room Rates in our hotel - US\$110 - \$132 / GBP £85 - £100. Prices are for the room per night - not per person!

Airport transfers are arranged for all guests and included in the cost.

Same price for rooms every night, weekdays and weekends included - no difference in charges for weekend stays.

Buffet Breakfast is included in the room rate and the non-alcoholic mini bar and daily water is free!

There is no deposit to pay and no charge for cancellations advised up to 2 weeks before arrival.

Meals - compared to UK and USA, the cost for meals in Taiwan is very reasonable and certainly cheaper than anything you would get of comparable value in those other countries. Also, the cost of lunches on all the tours is included. I would encourage you to visit Taiwan for our annual events or for a tour to follow in the footsteps of a loved one.