



Never Forgotten

Vol. 15, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2014

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



Memorial Day celebration at the old Taipei Prison wall



Adding a bit of atmosphere to ANZAC Day



Sharing the Taiwan POWs' story with TES students . . .



. . . and the European Chamber of Commerce

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2014

Be sure to mark the week of November 5 – 12 on your calendars and in your date books, and plan to be with us for another wonderful annual event which will feature visits to the POW camps and the Remembrance Day service at the Prisoner of War Memorial Park at Kinkaseki on the 9th. We hope that former POWs and their families will make an effort to come as we have a special program prepared for these guests. If you are interested, and for more information, please contact the Society by Email or mail at the address shown on page 2 of the newsletter. We look forward to having you with us in November!

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS
MEMORIAL SOCIETY**
P.O. BOX 665, YUNG HO
TAIPEI 234, TAIWAN, R.O.C.
TEL. 8660-8438 FAX. 8660-8439
E-MAIL society@powtaiwan.org

Please visit our website at:
www.powtaiwan.org

TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Hurst, MBE - Society Director -
VP and General Mgr., J. Chen Enterprises Taiwan;
Writer; Historian

Mark Wilkie - Educational Development and
Training Practitioner; Historian; former soldier

Prof. Jerome Keating, PhD. - Professor,
Writer; Historian

William Wang - Transportation Supervisor, Taipei
American School

Jack Hsu - Ret. Lt. Cmdr., ROC Navy

Stuart Saunders - President, Esdesign Industrial
Design

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES. . .

UK - Cliff Foster cliff.foster34@virginmedia.com

Aust. - Rod Martin ramartin46@optusnet.com.au

EX-OFFICIO. . .

Kevin Magee - Representative, Australian
Commerce and Industry Office, Taipei

Chris Wood - Director-General, British Trade and
Cultural Office, Taipei

Kathleen Mackay - Executive Director, Canadian
Trade Office in Taipei

Hans Fortuin - Representative, Netherlands Trade
and Investment Office, Taipei

Stephen Payton - Director, New Zealand
Commerce and Industry Office, Taipei

Christopher Marut - Director, American Institute
in Taiwan

LOGO of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

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

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

- * to continue the search for survivors of the Taiwan POW camps from 1942 – 45.
- * to search for the locations of the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan. [*completed*]
- * to ensure the memory of the Taiwan POWs is not forgotten. [*ongoing*]
- * to help with the organization of, and participate in, the memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi every November. [*ongoing*]
- * to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history.
- * to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story. [*ongoing*]

LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . . all found !

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

Thought . . .

“History matters because it is our collective memory which is the best weapon against tyranny. Without history, anyone could tell us anything and we would not know if it were true or not. By knowing history we can know the truth.”

UPCOMING EVENT

FEPOW DAY – AUGUST 9, 2014

This year will be the seventh time that *FEPOW Day* is celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we will meet at the Spot Theatre - 18, Chungshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei on Saturday evening August 9th. There will be a display of WWII POW and military artifacts; we will have a short memorial service to remember the POWs and then the movie **“The Railway Man”** will be shown. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the program will begin sharp at 6:00 pm.

This much-acclaimed film tells the story of former POW Eric Lomax and his quest for release from his wartime memories. It is based on the true story from a book of the same name written by Lomax in 1995.

Lomax was a POW on the infamous *Death Railway* in Thailand, and after the discovery of a home-made radio in the camp he was brutally tortured by the Japanese. His interrogator Takashi Nagase was unceasingly cruel and Lomax vowed that someday he would find him and kill him.

After the war Lomax continued to suffer terribly from the memory of his experiences, as most of the Far East POWs did. Finally after finding out that Nagase was still alive and with the help of his wife Patti, the two former enemies met at the *Bridge on the River Kwai* in Thailand in 1993. There Nagase apologized and begged for forgiveness and Lomax forgave him and the two men remained friends until Nagase died in 2010. Eric Lomax died in 2012. **Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman and Jeremy Irvine** (*War Horse*) star in the film.

Following the showing of the movie there will be a short break and then the 40-minute documentary **“Enemy My Friend”** will be shown. This film shows the actual reunion of Eric Lomax and Takashi Nagase and is a supplement to the feature film. It's a double-feature film night you won't want to miss. The evening should finish at around 10 pm.

Everyone is invited to our event, but space is limited to 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.

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

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

We hope and expect to have a large turnout and so **reservations are a must.**

The deadline for reservations is set at 9 pm Wednesday August 6th.



FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

With the dedication of the Shirakawa POW Camp Memorial last fall, one large part of the Taiwan POW Remembrance Project – the building of memorials, is now completed. But there is still so much to do. The building of memorials is only about 1/3 of the goal of the POW Society – there is still the publication of a book on the Taiwan camps and the men, and also the future POW museum to be developed, so our work is far from done yet.

With things being a bit quieter early in the year, a lot of time was spent in January and February finishing up a number of research projects that had been ongoing for a number of months and one that had been on the 'back burner' for almost 10 years.

I have known for many years that in addition to the US and British navies coming in to Keelung to evacuate the POWs in September 1945, there was also an air evacuation that took place at the Matsuyama (Sungshan) Airport at the same time. I had photos of the planes and some names of the crews, but was never able to find out what squadrons and units they belonged to or where they came from - although I was pretty sure it would be the Philippines.

Thanks to an inquiry from a man in the US late last year whose father had been involved in that operation and who had provided some additional information, I spent several weeks checking my records, the archives and of course the net, and finally found the answers to my longstanding questions. The aircraft – a C-46 and C-47, were part of US Navy Transport Squadron VMJ-253 based at the Samar Naval Air Station in the Philippines. They were sent to help rescue the POWs and were accompanied by three Catalina aircraft from VP-53 one of the famous “Black Cat” squadrons. So another part of the POW story is finally in place. Now to add that info to the book!

Our POW camp tours are doing well and during the spring we had a number of overseas guests – POW family members and also official visits from the American VFW, as well as several tours for individuals, local groups and schools. (See page 8)

We are looking forward to a fantastic **FEPOW Day** in August, with the showing of the movie **“The Railway Man”**, and also to **Remembrance Week** in November. We already have sixteen guests lined up and we are planning for a wonderful event.

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of WWI and the 75th Anniversary of the start of WWII. It is hoped that with all the attention these events receive that more people will be made aware of the service and the sacrifice which was made for our freedom – remember
“Freedom Isn't Free!”

Sincerely,

Michael Hurst MBE

In Memoriam

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

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

JOHN M. MARSHALL

GNR., 155TH FIELD REG'T. R.A.
DECEMBER 15, 2013

LEONARD JACK PAGE

PTE., 4TH BTN. SUFFOLK REG'T.
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

"We Will Remember Them"

Please let us know if you hear of the passing of any former Taiwan POW and send us the information as we want to make sure they are remembered.

PLEASE HELP US - NOW!

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

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

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

A word regarding donations to the Society:

Due to some banking changes recently we are now able to accept donations in **British Pounds, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars** as well as **US dollars**. So if making a donation to the Society, please send the funds preferably in a bank wire / transfer to our account here and please contact us in advance for the pertinent account information. Thank you for your support of our projects.

AN OLD FRIEND



It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of my good friend John Marshall from Bellshill Scotland. I have known John almost from the beginning of my work to find and remember the former Taiwan POWs. We met several times in the UK and John came to Taiwan in 1999 for our Remembrance Week and helped dedicate the Kukutsu POW Memorial. He was always smiling and cheery, and he loved his harmonica which he played in the camps to help lift the spirits of his fellow POWs. He will not be forgotten!

The Vagaries of Politics

There are a number of distinctions made on a regular basis that must cause a question mark to arise in the mind of the thinking Britisher. Especially the ex prisoner of the Japanese.

Such as:-

Why is it that the word Holocaust has been used over the years to describe the treatment, of the victims of the Nazis, mainly the people of Jewish faith. The number of such victims is usually put at 6 million. When the deaths caused by the treatment by the Japanese can safely be put at around 34 million non-combatants. Yet this is never stressed when the actions of the Japanese are discussed?

Why is it that the word Gestapo is well known. Yet the word Kempitai, the Japanese equivalent, is almost unknown?

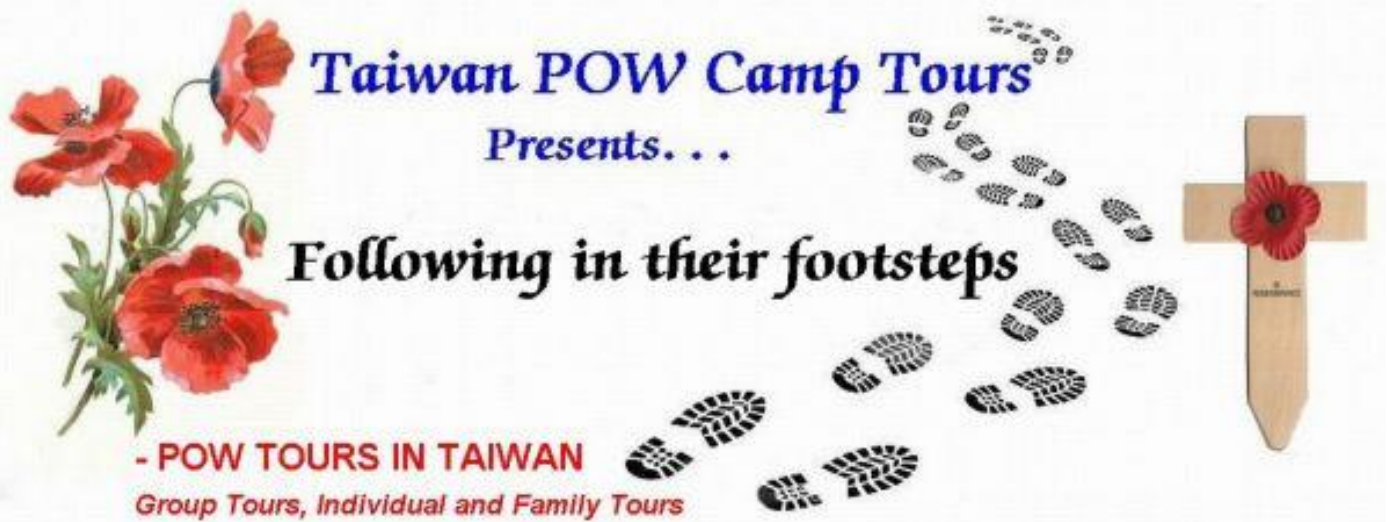
Why, almost 60 years later, there is still so much written and discussed about the deaths caused by the two atomic bombs, yet the appalling massacres committed in South East Asia and China by the Japanese is a non-subject?

Why is it that Nazi Gold is a subject of documentaries and discussions, when the stories are told and retold. But the even greater, and 'official' looting throughout twelve countries, not only during the war but for some years before by the Japanese, is never a subject for debate? Of course Japan is on the other side of the world, but is that a reasonable excuse for the attempts to hide the facts of history?

Why is it a matter of open record that Germany has apologised for, and has permitted visible evidence of the actions by the Nazis. Added to which that Germany has paid reparations to thousands of its victims, and in some cases is still paying. Whilst Japan has neither apologised properly or paid compensation to the slave labourers forced to work for the Japanese industrialists.

Why is it that any action to seek out justice and truth by any prisoner of war organisation is obstructed not only by Japan but by both the governments of the USA and Britain? Every action taken in the courts of Japan and America is, in one way or another, obstructed by political interference.

TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY LAUNCHES OUR OFFICIAL POW CAMP TOUR PROGRAM



Over the past 17 years the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society has researched and documented the history of the 16 former World War II Japanese prisoner of war camps on the island of Taiwan, then known as Formosa. During this time we have conducted many tours to the camps and related areas during our annual November "Remembrance Week" events, and also throughout the year at the request of individuals, families and groups.

On January 20th of this year we launched our official **POW Camp Tours Program** and a new page was added to the menu on the homepage of our website outlining the program and how those who are interested in visiting the Taiwan camps can participate.

We specialize in the WWII history of Taiwan and can research the stories of individual POWs, something that those with a family connection to the camps will find valuable, fulfilling and meaningful. Our tours are personally planned and tailored to meet the special and individual needs of the participants. We not only try to provide knowledge about the POWs and the camps, but peace and closure for our visitors as well.

We are not a "tour company" for normal tourist activities such as sight-seeing etc., but we provide specialized tours and personal pilgrimages to the camps, as well as behind-the-scenes insights into what took place here in World War II.

We cater to individuals and families, as well as small and large groups. We can also advise on tours to sites in Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines and Japan which may relate to a Taiwan POW's experiences.

Tours are expertly guided by Michael Hurst MBE, Director of the POW Society and the foremost authority on the Taiwan POW camps. Michael has lived in Taiwan for over 25 years and knows the island well, having also worked in the tourism industry for a number of years.

We try to bring alive the story of the former Taiwan POW camps - and the men who were interned in them, through a moving and enriching experience. It will give veterans and widows, and their children and grandchildren, a chance to retrace the footsteps of brave comrades and beloved family members.

No-one is more knowledgeable or qualified to conduct tours to the former Taiwan POW camps than the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society . . . the 'reputable' local Taiwan tour companies don't even offer POW Camp tours, as their guides have little or no knowledge of the FEPOWs' story or the camps and what happened in them. They usually refer inquiries for POW camp visits to us. So for the most authoritative, comprehensive and 'personal' tour possible, be sure to contact us for help with your visit.

For individuals, families and groups we offer 1 day tours to camps that can be visited in a short time and also 2 and 3 day tours that require more travel time and overnight stays at various places around the island. In addition to seeing the former POW camps, visitors can also experience a panorama of scenery and culture from all across Taiwan.

Costs vary according to the visitor's requirements, length of the tour and number of camps visited, so please contact us for more information and a quote.

Also, there are currently grants available for UK visitors from **Heroes Return** and the **War Widows Aid Scheme** which are listed on our website, so please check there for more details and information on how to obtain a grant and also to register for a tour.

Once you have decided to visit Taiwan, kindly get in touch with us so that we may provide a further explanation of your tour and arrange an itinerary for you. We look forward to hearing from those who are interested in our **"Following in their Footsteps"** program and tours - we are here to serve you!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED – THE “TAIWAN POW WAR GRAVES PROJECT” IS FINALLY COMPLETED!

On Saturday morning January 25th we received an email that ended more than four years of work and two years of searching for a last Taiwan POW's grave photo.

As a bit of background – in 2010 Society Director Michael Hurst went to Hong Kong for four days and photographed all of the graves of the former Taiwan POWs who now rest in peace in the Sai Wan War Cemetery there. It was the start of a program to find the final resting place and provide grave photos of all of the 430 former prisoners of war who died in POW camps on Taiwan from August 1942 to September 1945.**

With the British, Australian and Dutch POWs who died here taken care of, the next move was to try to find the grave locations and obtain photos of the graves of all of the former American POWs. That would not be easy, as in contrast to the British and Commonwealth policy of the time which was to bury those who died “close to where they fell”, the Americans allowed for the remains to be repatriated home to the US for burial either in a national veterans' cemetery or a local family plot. We knew this part was going to be difficult.

Some of the American POWs' grave locations were obtained by searching the records of the American Battle Monuments Commission and the US Veterans Administration. Some were found in the *Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines*, and many were located in the *National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific* at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu Hawaii.

However that still left all the others and so a huge search began. Early in the quest we came in contact with Mrs. Debbie Gibson in the USA who helped us find our first unknown grave in a cemetery near where she lived. She then asked why we wanted this information and upon hearing of our mission she quickly volunteered to help. Debbie had many years of experience with the *Find-A-Grave* website and had many contacts there, and within a few days was able to provide the locations of nine more graves. Later she also helped to provide more grave locations and photos, for which we thank her so much.

Then it became a long slow process of searching websites, and cemeteries, and slowly we began to get more results. Then our good friend Jim Opolony - the director of the Proviso High School 192nd Tank POW Memorial website, became involved and helped us to get more names and photos. It finally came down to just two names that we did not have grave locations for and a few where we were lacking the grave photo. Late last year we finally got all the grave locations and had all but one photo, so it was down to just one to go.

That belonged to ARM1C Frederick Earl McCreary of Bomb Squadron 18, USS *Intrepid* who was shot down on a raid over Taipei and was captured and interned in the Taihoku Prison. He was one of the 14 young men needlessly murdered by the Japanese firing squad inside the prison walls just 58 days before the end of the war.

His ashes had been returned home and were buried in the Warfield Cemetery in Knox County Kentucky, and we just needed a photo of his grave to complete the task of

making sure that every former Taiwan POW's grave location was identified and the grave photographed.

We had tried in vain for more than two years, making appeals in our newsletters and on the website, and then this past November after escorting the National Commander and Executive Director of the AMVETS on a tour to Jinguashi, they asked if there was anything that AMVETS could do to help us. We told them about McCreary's grave and how we had tried long and hard to get a photo and they said they would try to help.

November 2, 2013 - the AMVETS Group visiting Jinguashi with Director Nick Chang (l) of VAC.



Up to this point we had tried everything - *Find-A-Grave*, emails to veterans in the area, and even the Town Office. Friends in the US phoned one of the cemeteries in nearby Barbourville and a man said he would take a photo but we never heard from him again. We wrote to the top two funeral homes in Barbourville who pledged to care so much and give such good service, and yet we never even heard from them about our simple request for someone to drive the 2 miles from town out to the cemetery and take a photo of the grave for us - some service! Finally the AMVETS did come through for us, but not in the way we had expected.

In that email of January 25th was a beautiful photo of Freddy McCreary's gravestone. In talking with AMVETS Executive Director Stewart Hickey shortly after, I asked how they got the photo and he said that National Commander John Mitchell had personally gone and taken the photo for us. Now this is incredible, as in addition to being so busy in his role with AMVETS, John lives in Knoxville Tennessee, and so he drove 150 miles one way to Knox County Kentucky just to take the grave photo for us. In an email to me he said that he did it in respect for what we are doing here in Taiwan to remember the POWs. Talk about true dedication to the cause of remembering a veteran who has served and died for his country!



AMVET's National Commander John Mitchell

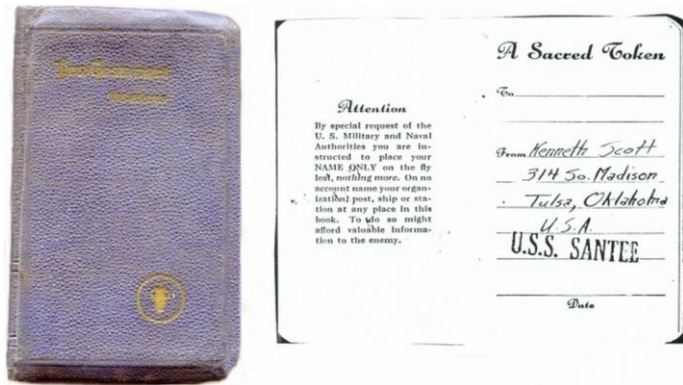
We cannot thank John and Stewart and the AMVETS enough for this help and their wonderful mark of respect for the work we are trying to do, and also to ensure that Freddy McCreary is remembered along with his mates who gave their lives for their country. [Now if only the VA would think the same way and give us permission to place the *Enoura Maru Memorial* at the Punchbowl !]

**** Note:** POWs who died on hellships in transit to Japan after leaving Taiwan, and those who later died in camps in Japan or Manchuria – or after release and leaving Taiwan, are not included in this figure.

A CARING SAILOR and the “REST OF THE STORY”

Many years ago, back when I first started my work of finding and contacting the former Taiwan POWs, Gnr. Ken Pett of the 80th Anti-tank Reg't. told me in a letter how that when he was evacuated from Keelung in September 1945 on the aircraft carrier *USS Santee*, one of the American sailors had given him a little blue Gideon's New Testament to help and comfort him.

He was so grateful for that act of kindness and had cherished the Testament all those years, and in gratitude and respect he wanted to try to find that sailor who had signed the testament and thank him. So he asked for my help in locating its owner - AOM3c Kenneth Scott of Tulsa Oklahoma



The little blue Testament signed inside by Kenneth Scott

Try as I may for a long time, I could never track down sailor Scott. and so we finally had to give up on our quest. Later Ken (Pett) presented me with the Testament for our POW museum collection, and now whenever I visit schools or speak at events or have artifact displays, I always have the Testament on display and tell its story, to show the compassion and kindness that one sailor had for the POWs.

Then this spring as I worked on our POW archives – sorting and cataloguing all the documents and artifacts, I came across files from two other men who had also received Testaments from Kenneth Scott. This piqued my interest and as it had been years since my first search, I decided to try Googling his name to see if by any chance he might come up on some ship's list or whatever.

Well much to my surprise his name did come up but not in the way I had expected. I found sadly a funeral announcement and obituary stating that he had recently passed away on December 28, 2013.

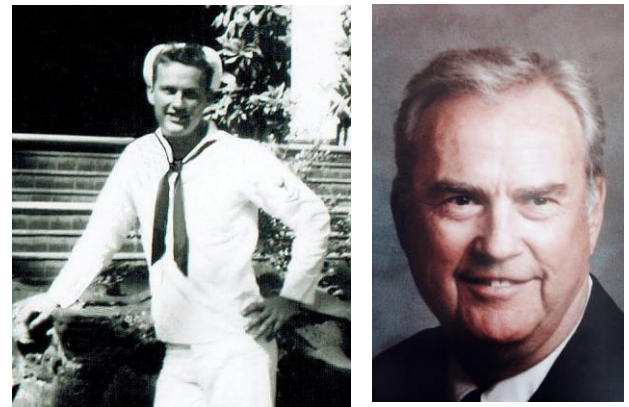
At the bottom of the announcement was the name of Kenneth's church in Hot Springs Arkansas where he had lived, so I wrote to the pastor and told him who I was and the story of the Testament. The pastor put me in touch with Kenneth's daughters and several heart-warming emails followed.

His daughter Patricia told me that he had never talked much about the war and had never mentioned giving away the Testaments to the POWs, but this was characteristic of her dad – a selfless, humble and caring Christian man. The family, the pastor and

Kenneth's church were thrilled with this story and it just shows the influence that we can have in our lives by doing good for others, even though we may never know the results in our lifetime. Kenneth's name and legacy live on because of those acts of kindness on the *USS Santee* nearly 70 years ago.

It is unfortunate that we were unable to find Kenneth Scott before he passed away as it would have been wonderful if the “two Kens” could have been in touch. I contacted Ken Pett through his son Mike Heather and they have been in touch with Ken Scott's family, so in the end there has been some closure for this amazing story.

This is just another example of the wonderful way in which researching and sharing the POWs' story touches lives and brings people together from all over the world and we are glad to have a part in that.



AOM3C Kenneth Scott in 1945 and later in life

Note: I had also found out a number of years ago that Chaplain Gordon MacInnes on the *USS Block Island* also gave away New Testaments to some of the POWs aboard that ship on the journey from Taiwan to Manila.



A VERY BUSY SPRING

It seems that every year it just gets busier and busier, and no matter how many projects we complete, there is always so much more that needs to be done. In addition to completing the organization of the archives and getting ready to finally start putting the book on the Taiwan POW camps together, there were still lots of other activities to keep us busy this spring.

With our Taiwan POW Camp Tours program in full swing, we were busy with a number of visits to the camps, as well as speaking at several schools and community events. Here are a few of the activities –

JANUARY 26 - Tour for Mrs. Sissy Borel, President of the US VFW Ladies Auxiliary to visit Jinguashi.



(Con't. on page 8)

BUSY SPRING (con't.)

In February we had visits from two former POW family members. First on February 8th Katie Bellamy, granddaughter of Lieut. Jack Bellamy of the 1st/5th Sherwood Foresters visited the POW Park in Jinguashi while on a business trip here, and she hopes to return again in the future to travel to Taichu and Shirakawa to see the camps her grandfather was in.

Then from February 16 – 20 Kathleen Kane, the daughter of Gnr. John Kane of the 155th Field Reg't. RA made a special trip to Taiwan to visit the sites of the Kinkaseki and Kukutsu camps.



Kathleen pointing to her father

While touring the museum at Jinguashi and the POW display she was thrilled to see a picture of her father in the camp.



Visiting the POW sculpture and the Memorial Wall was another highlight of her visit. She was able to visualize just what her father and the other men must have looked like during their time in this terrible camp.

Her father survived the war and returned to his family and his life in Scotland again. She was one of the lucky ones!

On March 18th I visited the Taipei European School Grade 5 Class for a presentation on the POWs and then on the 20th guided the class on a tour to Jinguashi. Handling 90 kids, teachers and parents was a challenging and interesting experience, but the kids were good and we had a great time.



The kids reading poems and carrying roses



Ceremony at the POW Memorial

On March 23rd I was honoured once again to accompany VFW Commander in Chief Thien and retired VFW Adjutant Allan Kent on their visit to Jinguashi.

The VFW C-in-C pays an annual visit to the ROC VAC and we are always glad to assist.



On Thursday April 3rd another presentation was made, this time to the ROTARY CLUB OF TAIPEI. (Sorry, no photo available.)

April 25th was ANZAC Day and with the blessing of Australian Office Director Kevin Magee, I wore an Aussie 'digger's' uniform to add a bit of atmosphere to the service. (See photo on the cover of this issue.)

April 30th saw another school trip to Jinguashi, this time with the Taipei European School Grade 9 Class. Another good time with a great bunch of kids.



Finally on May 26th we celebrated US Memorial Day with a short service by the Airmen's Memorial at the old Taipei Prison Wall.



Memorial Day at the prison wall

It is so great to see so much interest in the local community here for our work to remember the former POWs and the veterans. We look forward to many more opportunities to share their stories –
Lest We Forget!

ARCHIVES and MEMORIES!

Over the past three months I have been frantically working to get all the Taiwan POW materials that I have collected over the years, sorted and catalogued into a proper 'archive'. This needed to be done, first of all because it is necessary and long overdue, and also to facilitate an easier and more efficient way for me to readily access data and information as I try to finally finish my book on the Taiwan POW camps this summer.

The project has just now been completed, and in addition to the more than 200 POW personnel record files, there are dozens of POW diaries collected from high-ranking officers to privates. There is a huge volume of historical documents and records in hard copy obtained from the National Archives in the US and the UK with the kind help of fellow researchers and friends.

This material only covers the hard copy and artifacts and ephemera that I have been given. In addition to all that, I have over a half million files – documents, photos and correspondence from POWs, their family members and fellow researchers on my computer – and yes I do have a substantial back-up system in place!

During this process as I have gone through every former Taiwan POW's files reading, sorting and organizing the things they and their family members have sent me over the past 17 years, it has caused me to have many precious memories of former FEPOW friends – some who are no longer with us. As well, there are the family members who have kept in touch and the tremendous help I have had from fellow researchers. I thank you all for those 'precious memories'.

AMVETS - INTRODUCTION



AMVETS or American Veterans - founded in December 1944 by World War II veterans of the United States is a volunteer-led organization committed to serving veterans.

AMVETS MISSION STATEMENT: *To enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorably and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live through leadership, advocacy and services.*

As one of America's veterans' service organizations, AMVETS has a proud history of assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve America and its citizens. The helping hand that AMVETS extends to veterans and their families takes many forms.

AMVETS is active in U.S. politics. It advocates for its members as well as for causes that it deems helpful to the nation at large. Its primary political activity is lobbying for the interests of veterans, including support for veteran's benefits such as pensions and the Veterans Affairs Hospital system and in addition, it has promoted other causes.

Helping others is not limited to fellow veterans. AMVETS members in more than 1,400 posts nationwide also promote and support "quality of life" community-service programs ranging from Special Olympics and ROTC to Scouting and organ-donor projects.

With a current membership of over, 180,000, membership in AMVETS is open to anyone who is currently serving, or has honorably served, in the U.S. Armed Forces from World War II to present, It also includes those in the National Guard and Reserves.



*Stewart Hickey
National
Executive
Director*

A MEMORIAL FOR POWS FROM TAIWAN IN HAWAII – UPDATE

In our previous three issues we have featured articles on the proposed memorial to be erected to the men who died in January 1945 when the hellship *Enoura Maru* was bombed by American carrier aircraft while laying over in Kaohsiung Harbour en route to Japan with prisoners of war. These men lie in 20 unmarked graves at the Punchbowl.

At this time we have nothing further to report as we are still awaiting further developments from the US government. The VFW unanimously passed the resolution to endorse and support our memorial project at their annual meeting last July. They have taken up our cause to try to help us get the memorial we so desire – with the proper and correct wording, and without giving in to the liberal revisionists in the VA and the government who are more concerned about "offending the Japanese tourists that visit the Punchbowl Cemetery" rather than honouring and caring for the very veterans that the ancestors of those Japanese tourists put in that cemetery!

At present the executive of the VFW have told us that following their convention last year, the minutes of that convention and all recommendations and endorsements were sent to the United States Congress for their perusal and action. We have also learned that this has supposedly been passed on to the US Veterans Administration (VA) for their information and follow-up, and that is where the trail ends – for now!

It is our sincere hope that within the next few months something can be done to overturn the stand taken by the Punchbowl Cemetery director and the US Veterans Administration favouring Japanese tourists over the men who lie buried in the cemetery and who died for America's freedom. We will keep you posted – please watch our website for more info.

NOTE: Americans reading this newsletter and our website could and should write / email to their senators and congress-people letting them know about this travesty and urge their support for the *Enoura Maru Memorial* at the Punchbowl. That will also greatly help us to succeed with this project.

Another great source for FREE worldwide War Grave & Memorial photos . . .

This spring we learned of another excellent organization offering thousands of **FREE** war grave and memorial photos worldwide. **British War Graves - War Graves Photographs**, founded and operated for over 10 years by Mick McCann in the UK, provides free photos for almost all the world's war cemeteries and more. With over 200 volunteers worldwide contributing photos to the collection, this is truly the place to look **first** to find a war grave or memorial photo – **FREE !**

Mick says, "If the photos are seen, then the men whose graves are in the photograph are remembered."

Although the organization and site says 'British' War Graves, they have so much more, and include all the men of all Commonwealth nations in cemeteries all over the globe – from Europe, the Middle East, the Americas, Africa and Asia – truly a one-stop shop for your war grave and memorial photo needs. The quality of the photos is excellent, the response to requests is prompt, the service is great - and it's **FREE !**

We can't recommend **BWG** highly enough – for more information on **free war grave and memorial photos** visit their website at: **www.britishwargraves.co.uk**

ATTENTION – ASIA WAR GRAVES PHOTOS AVAILABLE

In June 2012 * the **ASIA WAR GRAVES PHOTO GROUP (AWGPG)** was launched with the aim of providing good quality photos of war graves and the names on the various memorials from the war cemeteries located all across Asia **FREE OF CHARGE** to POWs, family members, relatives, researchers and historians – with the sole aim of keeping the memory of the veterans and POWs alive, so present and future generations will not forget the sacrifices they have made so far from home. We want to help ensure that they are not forgotten.

We offer **FREE photos** of **ALL the war graves** and **ALL the names on ALL the memorials** from the following Asian cemeteries:

THAILAND - Kanchanaburi and Chung Kai

BURMA - Thanbyuzayat, Rangoon, Taukkyan

MALAYSIA - Taiping, Cheras Road, Terendak, Malacca, Labuan-Borneo

SINGAPORE - Kranji + pre/post WW2 sites

HONG KONG - Sai Wan, Stanley, Happy Valley - 12 cemeteries in total

INDONESIA - Jakarta, Ambon, ANCOL Netherlands Field of Honour

JAPAN - Yokohama

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Port Moresby (Bomana), Lae and Rabaul (Pika Pata)

INDIA - Kohima and both cemeteries at Imphal

SRI LANKA: Colombo, Kandy and Trincomalee

In addition, grave photos of the **AMERICAN POWs who died in Taiwan** are available from the POW Society.

We have all 25,000 names on the SINGAPORE / KRANJI MEMORIAL, all 27,000 names on the TAUKKYAN / RANGOON MEMORIAL, as well as all the other memorials such as SAI WAN, LABUAN and YOKOHAMA.

* **Since the launch of the Asia War Graves Photo Group we have given out over 12,300 FREE photos.**

For photos of graves and names on memorials in these respective areas, please contact:

Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society - society (at) powtaiwan.org

Thai-Burma Railway Centre - admin (at) tbrconline.com

Tony Banham - Hong Kong War Diary - tony (at) hongkongwardiary.com

Tony Beck - All Asia Cemeteries & Memorials - nt872b (at) Hotmail.com

Please help us to spread the word about the Asia War Graves Photo Group around the FEPOW Community and we hope that many will avail themselves of our services.