



Never Forgotten

Vol. 18, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2017

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

“20th Anniversary of the Taiwan POW Memorial * 1997 – 2017”



November 23, 1997 – the Kinkaseki / Taiwan POW Memorial is dedicated on the site of the former POW camp in Jinguashi. Currently there are thirteen POW memorials situated at former camp sites around the island, ensuring that the men who suffered and those who died as prisoners of war on Taiwan, have not, and will not, ever be forgotten!



Celebrating 20 years of researching and telling the story of the Taiwan POWs to the world!

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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 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 . . .

***“Do not confuse knowledge with wisdom. With knowledge, we make a living -- with wisdom, we make a life.”
Harvey L. Murdock, Gunners Mate 3c,
USS Block Island - CVE-106.***

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

This second half of the year continued to be extremely busy! The work on the book has been moving along well albeit more slowly, but I am working on it as much as possible. The exact date of publication is still unknown as there a great deal of work yet to be done on it, and we'll continue to keep our readers informed of the progress.

We had a great FEPOW Day event again in August with a record crowd, including many more Taiwanese friends, and I am so pleased to see that the story of the Taiwan POWs and our work to make that story known is spreading across the island. I hope that more local folks will join us in remembering those who were POWs in Taiwan.

Our POW camp tours were down a bit these past few months for several reasons. First of all, Taiwan experienced one of the hottest and most humid summers on record for the last 100 years with the temps reaching 38 C and more on many days. Coupled with our 80% humidity, that forced many people to just stay indoors and try to keep cool. I was also away in Canada for my annual holiday for three weeks in mid-summer – a nice break from the extreme heat. From September 1st things were somewhat back to normal again.

Another development was the initial final approval by the new Punchbowl director in August of the revised wording on our proposed memorial stone to be placed at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii in honour of the men who died in the bombing of the hellship *Enoura Maru* in Kaohsiung Harbour on January 9, 1945. However on review by the VA Director of Western Cemeteries, the approval was rescinded because the word 'hellship' was still included. (See the story at right)

This year's 20th Anniversary Remembrance Week event was a huge success with eight overseas guests taking part. A special Remembrance Day ceremony was held at the POW Park in Jinguashi with a record attendance, despite the rain. In addition, visits were made to several of the camps down-island,

A highlight during the tour was the re-dedication of the Taichu POW Memorial after its renovation in May of this year. Two of our guests had relatives at that camp and took part in the ceremony.

2017 was the 20th Anniversary of the effort to remember the men from many nations who suffered as POWs in Taiwan in WWII. It is thanks to you - all of our overseas members, as well as local friends and supporters, that we have reached this great milestone. Thank you for your support.

Tina and I wish you all a Merry and blessed Christmas and all the best in the coming year.

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst* MBE

Honoring the Memory of Those Who Died on the Enoura Maru – UPDATE

The project to place a memorial stone in honour of the men who died in January 1945 when the hellship *Enoura Maru* was bombed in Kaohsiung Harbour and who lie in 20 communal graves at the *National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific* (the Punchbowl) in Hawaii, has taken a sad turn.

In August, the inscription for the memorial stone - including the word "Hellship", was approved by the new Punchbowl director. However when the VA Director of Western Cemeteries - the one who rejected our initial proposal because the inscription contained the word 'hellship' saw it, he promptly over-ruled the cemetery director, rejecting it again.

An appeal has been launched with the VA, and it is doubtful that it will do any good, so a campaign is being organized to gain the support of senators and Congress people as well as many well-known personalities who want to see this travesty overturned.

The inscription on the memorial stone reads:

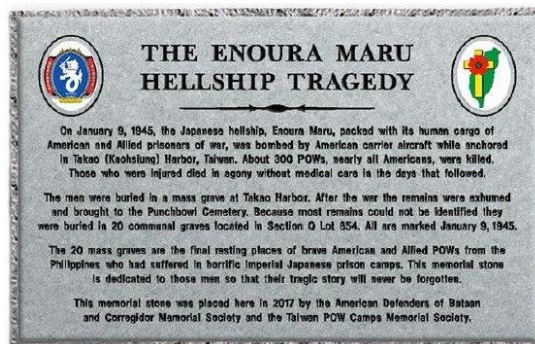
"On January 9, 1945, the Japanese hellship Enoura Maru, enroute from the Philippines to Japan and packed with its human cargo of American and Allied prisoners of war, was bombed by American carrier aircraft while anchored in Takao (Kaohsiung) Harbor, Taiwan. About 300 POWs, nearly all Americans, were killed. Many of those who were injured died without medical care in the days that followed.

The men were buried in a mass grave at Takao Harbor. After the war the remains were exhumed and brought to the Punchbowl Cemetery. Because most remains could not be identified they were buried in 20 communal graves located in Section Q. All are marked January 9, 1945.

The 20 communal graves are the final resting place of brave American and Allied POWs from the Philippines who had suffered in Imperial Japanese prison camps. This memorial stone is dedicated to those men so that their tragic story will never be forgotten.

This memorial stone was placed here in 2018 by the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society."

Hopefully our dream to erect a memorial to the *Enoura Maru* men will still come true. Stay tuned!



FEPOW DAY 2017

This year was the tenth time that *FEPOW Day* has been celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again, we met at the Spot Theatre - 18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei on Saturday August 12th.

The evening featured a display of POW and military artifacts from the Society's growing museum collection, a short memorial service to remember the POWs, and then the film "*A War Story*" was featured. Following a brief intermission, the documentary entitled "*Kinkaseki Then and Now*" was shown.

Sue Babcock of the Taipei Community Services Centre opened the memorial service with the reading of "*What is a FEPOW*", followed by Richard Arnold - a history teacher from Taipei American International School reading "*A Time to Remember*". Board Member Mark Wilkie then brought the "*Tribute to the POWs*". The service finished with the lighting of the FEPOW Candle as Tamarie Senadeera, from the Australian Office - our co-host for this year's Remembrance Day event, led everyone in the FEPOW Day Pledge. This was followed by a minute's silence to remember and reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of the FEPOWs.

We had a record turnout this year with more than 50 people in attendance, and many stayed afterward to talk and learn more about the POWs and the camps in Taiwan during WWII. Below are a few photos taken by TPCMS Board Member William Wang. We plan to hold another FEPOW Day event next year and we look forward to seeing many of our local friends and supporters again then.



Wartime artifacts
On display



Sue Babcock
"What is a FEPOW?"



Richard Arnold
"Time to Remember"



Tamarie Senadeera
FEPOW Pledge



Part of the crowd
remembering the POWs

In Memoriam

The following former Taiwan POW 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!

THOMAS WHEATLEY

GNR., 5TH FIELD REGIMENT RA
FEBRUARY 25, 2010
(Not Reported Earlier)

"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 so that we may remember them here. Thank you.*

May we never forget them – ever!

IMPORTANT EMAIL NOTICE...

On sending the previous two newsletters to our many friends and supporters worldwide by email, we received quite a number of bounce-backs and rejections with the reason stated as:

"451-4.3.0 Multiple destination domains per transaction is unsupported. Please try again."

If you or your server have set your system security in this way, then please kindly inform your server that all emails from '*society at powtaiwan.org*' are safe or you will no longer be able to receive notices of our newsletters or events.

Also for those in the USA with AOL, Bellsouth or other large servers, please inform them that mail from POWTaiwan is safe, otherwise they will automatically reject our return emails as they seem to reject any / all emails from China and Taiwan as being spam. In addition, putting our email address in your address book should also prevent this from happening.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Taiwan POWs and our work, and we look forward to keeping in touch in the future.

TWENTY YEARS OF RESEARCHING, REMEMBERING AND HONOURING THE TAIWAN PRISONERS OF WAR

1996

Nov. - The Kinkaseki Prisoner of War Camp is mentioned at the Remembrance Day Service. The Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei Hugh Stephens, conceives an idea to hold a memorial service for the men of Kinkaseki and talks to Michael Hurst at the Canadian Society who takes on the project with CST assistance.

1997

Jan. - Michael Hurst forms the Kinkaseki Memorial Committee to organize a memorial service for the men of Kinkaseki, and to let local people know about the infamous Kinkaseki POW Camp.

May - The memorial service for the men of Kinkaseki takes place on May 16th with the showing of the film "A War Story". Former Taiwan POW Jack Edwards is in attendance and assists in leading a tour to the former Kinkaseki Camp site on May 18th.

- Location of the former Kukutsu Camp is found.

Jun. - A meeting of the committee is held and it is decided to build a formal memorial for the Kinkaseki and Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi.

Oct/Nov. - The memorial is constructed

Nov. - The **Taiwan POW Memorial** is dedicated at Jinguashi on November 23 with three former POWs present. News of the memorial spreads to the UK, Canada, the USA and Australia.

1998

Jan. - The project to find the former Taiwan POW survivors and locate the sites of all the POW camps on the island is initiated by Michael Hurst.

- The location of the former Karenko Camp is discovered.

Mar. - **POW information plaques at Jinguashi** are completed and installed.

Jul. - Launch of the original Kinkaseki POW Camp Memorial website, enlarged in 1999 to the current "Never Forgotten" site.

Oct. - The location of the former Taichu Camp is found south of Taichung.

Nov. - The first annual Remembrance Week event is held with five former POWs in attendance. Three former Taichu POWs return to that camp for a visit after 56 years.

1999

Mar. - The wall and landscaping project at the Jinguashi POW memorial is completed.

Apr. - The original Kinkaseki Committee closes down - its work is done.

May - The **Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society** is launched to continue the work started by Hurst and the Kinkaseki Memorial Committee.

- The Commonwealth Remembrance Committee is also formed to assist the Society with the annual Remembrance Day Services.

Jul. - The first ever Kinkaseki POW Reunion is held in the UK and Michael and Tina Hurst attend.

Sep. - Discovery of the former Heito Camp.

Nov. - The second Remembrance Week is held with four former Taiwan POWs present.

- The **Kukutsu POW Memorial** is dedicated with three former POWs in attendance.

2000

Jun. - Discovery of Taihoku Camp # 5.

Sep. - The locations of the Shirakawa and Toroku Camps are uncovered.

Oct. - Verification of the site of Taihoku Camp # 6.

Nov. - Third annual Remembrance Week takes place with eleven former POWs and eighteen family members and friends in attendance. This figure includes three POWs and nine family members and friends from the first Royal British Legion tour to Taiwan.

- The **Taichu POW Memorial** is dedicated with three former POWs from that camp, eight other POWs and eighteen family members present.

2001

Jan. - The site of the Takao Camp is discovered at Kaohsiung Harbour.

Aug. - The Inrin and Inrin Temporary Camps are located.

Nov. - The fourth Remembrance Week brings five POWs and fifteen family members to Taiwan.

2002

Feb. - The Society director is invited to Singapore for the 60th anniversary commemoration of the surrender.

Jun. - The site of Tamazato Camp is discovered and explored.

Aug. - The location of the Churon Evacuation Camp is verified.

Oct. - HRH Prince Charles presents the MBE to Michael Hurst for his work with the POWs at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace.

(Cont'd on page 6)

- The location of the *Taiwan POW Memorial Tree* at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffs., UK is confirmed.
- Nov. - 60th Anniversary of Singapore Surrender year draws four POWs and ten family members back to Taiwan for the fifth annual Remembrance Week Event.

2003

- Apr.** - The *Taiwan POW Memorial Tree* is dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum in the UK.
- Sep.** - Toroku POW Camp is explored more thoroughly.
- Nov.** - One POW and his two family members return to Taiwan for the sixth annual Remembrance Week.

2004

- May** - Re-dedication of the *Kukutsu POW Memorial* following its relocation.
- Oct.** - Location of the Oka Camp is finally confirmed after a 5-year search.
- Nov.** - Seventh annual Remembrance Week sees seven former POWs and twelve family members return to Taiwan. Dedication of the *Heito POW Memorial* with six POWs present.

2005

- Jan.** - 60th Anniversary of the bombing of the hellship Enoura Maru in Kaohsiung Harbour. A memorial service is conducted at Kaohsiung Harbour. One former American POW who survived the bombing returns to Taiwan for the event.
- Feb.** - The American Institute in Taiwan presents the 'Liaison Affairs Medal' to Society Director Michael Hurst in recognition of and gratitude for his services to the former American POWs who were held in Taiwan and their surviving family members.
- Mar.** - Trip to Kyushu, Japan to find and research the camps where Taiwan POWs went after leaving camps in Taiwan in 1945.
- Jun.** - Memorial service to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the execution of 14 American flyers is held at the Taipei Prison. The brother of one of the executed airmen and his two sons from the USA attend.
- Aug.** - **60th Anniversary End of WWII Taiwan POW Exhibition & the launch of the *TPCMS WWII 60th Anniversary Commemorative Stamp Sheet*** at the National Armed Forces Museum, Taipei.
- Sep.** - 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the evacuation of the POWs from Keelung Harbour. Five former crewmembers of the Royal Navy evacuation ships which took part, return for the memorial service held by the Society.
- Nov.** - Three POWs and fourteen family members are present at the eighth annual Remembrance Week event.
 - Dedication of the *Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial Park*.

2006

- Jan.** - Dedication of the *Taiwan Hellships Memorial* at Chijin Beach, Kaohsiung.
- Nov.** - No POWs were in attendance for our ninth Remembrance Week, but five family members took part.
 - Dedication of the *Eternal Flame of Peace and Remembrance* at the POW Memorial Park, Jinguashi.

2007

- Apr.** - Trip to Tokyo and Yokohama Japan to find and research the camps where Taiwan POWs went after leaving camps in Taiwan in 1942.
- May** - Trip to Shenyang (Mukden, Manchuria) China to visit the former Mukden POW Camp. Many of the senior officers from Karenko and Shirakawa camps finished the war there.
- Nov.** - One former POW and sixteen family members return for the **10th Anniversary** event.
 - Dedication of the *Taiwan POW Memorial Tree* at the POW Memorial Park, Jinguashi.

2008

- Aug.** - The first ever FEPOW Day event is held in Taiwan at the Spot Theatre in Taipei.
- Sep.** - Michael Hurst attended the Taiwan POW Reunion at Newcastle in the UK.
 - Internment of ashes & memorial service for George Harrison - organized and sponsored by the Society, is held at Crawley, Sussex. UK. A *FEPOW Memorial Bench* erected by the Society in honour of George and Alfred J. Foster and the men of the 5th Field Reg't. R.A. is dedicated.
- Oct.** - Return trip to Shenyang and Liao Yuan, China to study and explore the camp sites where Taiwan POWs went in 1944 – 45, and to assist the Chinese gov't. in preserving the sites and building museums there.
- Nov.** - One POW and his two family members take part in the 11th Remembrance Week event.

2009

- May** - Dedication of the War & Peace Park and Museum at Chijin Beach Kaohsiung Harbour where the Taiwan Hellships Memorial is located.
- Jun.** - Dedication of the *Toroku POW Memorial* at Douliou.
 - Dedication of the *American Airmen's Plaque* on the former Taipei Prison Wall, in honour of the American Airmen held - and those executed, in the former Taihoku Prison in 1944-45.
- Jul.** - Discovery of the Maruyama Evacuation Camp location in Taipei.

(Cont'd on page 7)

- Aug.** - The second Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei.
Nov. - Six POWs and sixteen family members take part in the 12th Remembrance Week event.

2010

- Apr.** - All the graves of the former Taiwan POWs are photographed at the Sai Wan War Cemetery in Hong Kong.
Aug. - The third Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei.
Nov. - Thirteen family members take part in the 13th Remembrance Week event. No POWs were present this year.

2011

- May** - Completion of the construction of Phase II of the *Taiwan POW Memorial Park*.
- Dedication of the **Taiwan Hellships Display** at the War & Peace Park Museum, Kaohsiung.
- First US Memorial Day celebration takes place at the old Taipei Prison Wall.
Aug. - The fourth Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei.
- Project to place a memorial stone at the Punchbowl War Cemetery in Hawaii for the POWs killed in the bombing of the 'hellship' Enoura Maru in Kaohsiung Harbour is initiated.
Sep. - The completion of construction of the *Taihoku Camp 6 POW Memorial*.
Oct. - Launch of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society's new updated website.
Nov. - One POW and thirteen family members take part in the 14th Remembrance Week event.
- Dedication of **Taihoku Camp 6 POW Memorial** at the Ministry of National Defense Headquarters in Taipei.
- Dedication of **Phase II of the Taiwan POW Memorial Park** - the **POW Memorial Wall**, **POW Camps Map** and **"Mates" Sculpture** at Jinguashi.

2012

- Aug.** - The fifth Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei.
Nov. - Four POW family members take part in the **15th Remembrance Week event** celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the building and dedication of the Kinkaseki / Taiwan POW Memorial.
- Dedication of **Karenko POW Camp Memorial** at the site of the Military Police base in Hualien.
Dec. - The Society Director is awarded the 'Taiwan Veterans Memorial Medal' by the Taiwan Veterans Association.

2013

- Feb.** - R.O.C. Minister of Defense, Gen. Kao Hua-Chu, presents the 'ROC Ministry of National Defense Badge of Honour' to Michael Hurst for his work with the POWs, at a ceremony at Ministry of Defense Headquarters.
Aug. - The sixth Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei.
- Completion of construction of the Shirakawa POW Camp Memorial.
Nov. - Seven POW family members take part in the 16th Remembrance Week event.
- Dedication of the **Shirakawa POW Camp Memorial** in the village of Nei-Jiao on November 11th.

2014

- Aug.** - The seventh Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei.
- Largest turnout ever to see the films "*The Railway Man*" and "*Enemy My Friend*".
Nov. - Fourteen family members and one former POW take part in the 17th Remembrance Week event.
- Re-dedication of the rebuilt **Taiwan Hellships Memorial** at Chijin War and Peace Park, Kaohsiung.

2015

- Jun.** - 70th Anniversary Commemoration at the former Taipei Prison wall in honour of the American airmen who were held in the Taihoku Prison in 1944-45 - and those who were needlessly murdered there on June 19, 1945.
Aug. - The eighth Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei. The films "*Unbroken*" and "*The Real Louis Zamperini Story*" were shown.
Nov. - Installation of the **Memorial Bench** in front of the Taiwan POW Memorial Wall in the POW Park in Jinguashi.
- Nine overseas guests including one former POW take part in the 18th Remembrance Week event.

2016

- Aug.** - The ninth Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei. The films "*The Great Raid*" and "*The Ghosts of Bataan*" were shown.
Nov. - Six POW family members take part in the 19th Remembrance Week event.

2017

- Apr.** - The renovation of the **Taichu POW Memorial** is completed.
Aug. - The tenth Taiwan FEPOW Day event is held at the Spot Theatre in Taipei with a record crowd of over 50 in attendance.. The film "*A War Story*" was shown again. It was this film that helped to start the work of telling the Taiwan POWs' story back in 1997. It was followed by "*Kinkaseki Then and Now*" which was made in 1998.
Nov. - Eight POW family members take part in the **20th Anniversary Remembrance Week event**.
- The renovated **Taichu POW Memorial** is dedicated on Monday November 13th.

"We Will Remember Them"

20th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2017

Eight overseas guests, all family members of four former British POWs, honoured us with their presence at this year's 20th Annual Remembrance Week event. They represented **2nd Lt. Thomas Becroft**, 5th Field Reg't. RA, a POW at Taihoku Camp 6 and Shirakawa; **L/Bdr. George F. Ferguson**, 5th Field Reg't. RA from Taihoku Camp 6; **Pte. Alfred J. Follon**, 1st/5th Sherwood Foresters who was held at Heito, Kinkaseki and Shirakawa; and **Spr. Frederick West**, 288th Field Company RE who was a POW at Taichu and Taihoku Camp 6.

We started off the week's events on Thursday with a tour to Kinkaseki visiting the Gold Museum and #5 Mine Tunnel, the POW Memorial Park and the area around the old #6 mine - once again in the rain! Seeing the former POW camp and touching their fathers' names on the Wall was a very meaningful experience.

Friday, our guests enjoyed some local sightseeing - a Chinese temple, the Lin Family Chinese home and gardens, and then the sumptuous buffet lunch at the famous Grand Hotel before proceeding to the National War Memorial to see the changing of the guard. Following this we made our way to Taihoku Camp #6 for a visit and memorial service.



With MND Admin Staff at the Taihoku # 6 Memorial.

The day finished with a tour of the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, and later in the evening, a visit to a night market.

On Saturday morning the 11th our guests were taken on a walking tour of the historic downtown area inside the perimeter of the former old city walls. We walked along the historic streets of the old inner city and among other sites, the presidential building and the residence of the former Japanese governors of Taiwan were viewed. The tour finished up at the famous Zhongshan Hall, formerly the old Taipei City Hall in the Japanese time, and the location of the signing of the Japanese surrender on Taiwan in October 1945.

A tour of the hall and the surrender chamber were arranged and we had the rare and unique opportunity to observe Remembrance Day exactly on the 11th hour while inside the historical former chamber. It was an experience that won't soon be forgotten.



Inside the Zhongshan hall – 11am, November 11th

Saturday evening our guests were treated to a wonderful dinner put on by the Australian Office in Taipei, our co-host for this year's Remembrance Day event. Representative Catherine Raper and her husband Gary welcomed us to their home for a lovely dinner and an evening of fun and fellowship.

Sunday found us back at Jinguashi again for the Remembrance Day service and once again it rained, this time heavier than it has in the past except for 2011. Despite this, we had a record turnout of more than 150 people and everyone said how much they enjoyed the service and that the rain somehow added to the atmosphere of the former gloomy POW camp.

After the usual service in the marquee, wreaths were laid on the memorial and the Ode of Remembrance carried out. A great time of fellowship was had by all who took part and at the lunch which followed in the community centre.

Monday dawned a much better day and we set off to visit the camps down-island and to pay tribute to the men who were enslaved in them. Our first stop was Wufeng and a visit to the former Taichu Camp. An additional feature of the visit was the re-dedication of the memorial which had been completed earlier in the year. (*See the story on page 9*)

From Taichu we moved on to the former Shirakawa Camp at the Nei-jiao Military Base near Bai He. We were warmly welcomed by the base commander and an interested and attentive group of soldiers, and after a walk about of the former POW camp site, a meaningful service of remembrance was held.



With MND personnel at the Shirakawa Memorial.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK *(Cont'd)*

Following our time at Shirakawa we drove down to PingTung where we spent the night before going to Heito Camp the next morning. On the way to the camp we stopped once again at the old Taiwan Sugar Co. factory where many of the former POWs worked. After a walk about in the former camp site, a memorial service was held. In attendance once again was one of the former camp guards, now 96 who warmly welcomed our visitors.



The group by the Heito Memorial after the service.

This year's Remembrance Week was a very special one, with everyone saying how much they got out of it and we are looking forward to many more years of memorable events like this one. Our thanks to the Australian Office in Taipei for their assistance this year.

TAICHU POW MEMORIAL DEDICATION

In April of this year the renovation of the Taichu Memorial at the Water Resources Facility in Wufeng was completed, and so on Monday November 13th a small, simple and sincere ceremony was held to re-dedicate it.

Ann Buckles' father Frederick West was in this camp so this event was very significant for her. She assisted the Society director and the assistant to the director of the facility, Mr. Chang, Hong-Chang, in cutting the ribbon.



There were more than 300 POWs held at the Taichu Camp at various times. First there were nearly 300 Americans who came in 1942 and later went to Japan.

Then British POWs arrived in late 1942 and remained til June 1944. We want to remember all of these men with this memorial.



The group by the newly dedicated memorial.

POW CAMP TOURS. . .

JANET TOKER - UK, June 9th - 13th

Janet's father, Gnr. Ernest Haslem of the 5th Field Reg't. R.A., was held in Taihoku Camp 6 and later he was moved to Hakodate in Japan to finish out the war.

She came seeking to re-connect with her father who had passed away in 1980, and to stand in the places where he was so many years ago. On the first day we visited Camp 6, and she was excited and moved by being there and seeing the hills that surrounded his camp and imagined walking in the places he did. After enjoying a nice visit with the Ministry of Defense personnel, a short memorial service was held with Janet laying a personalized wreath provided by the Society on the memorial and then we all observed a moment's silence in honour and memory of her dad,

The next day we visited Kinkaseki Camp and the POW Memorial Park, and once again she was moved as she touched her father's name on the wall. Although her dad was never sent to Kinkaseki, she was pleased to learn of its story and the conditions that so many of her dad's mates had experienced there.



Laying the wreath on the T6 Memorial and touching her dad's name on the Memorial Wall at Kinkaseki.

The next couple of days were spent in leisurely sightseeing before she moved on to Singapore and Malaysia to further enjoy more of Asia's cultures.

VALOR TOURS GROUP - USA, June 23rd - 27th

The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society is honoured to have been chosen by Valor Tours – one of America's oldest, best and leading battlefield and memorial tour companies, to host their clients on a tour of some of Taiwan's POW sites.



Happy guests enjoying a typical Taiwanese lunch.

This year they offered an extension to Taiwan on their regular Okinawa Tour, and we were pleased to handle everything for them as we do for all our guests.

POW CAMP TOURS . . . cont'd

In addition to a visit to Kinkaseki and the POW Memorial Park, the tour featured a trip to the Taichu POW Camp and the Taiwan Earthquake Museum near Taichung, a great day trip in all.



USMC Veteran Mike Finnie and Military Historian Kent Knudson lay a wreath on the Taichu Memorial in honour of the Americans held in the camp.

Finally we conducted a full day Taipei city tour for our guests and they got to see and do much more than is the case with the usual city tours here.

We look forward to working with Valor Tours in the future and to assisting them on their next Taiwan tour.

NICOLE SCALA – USA / S. KOREA, – Oct. 5th

Renato R. Scala, a PFC in the 20th Bomb Group US Army Air Corps was captured in the Philippines and after spending over two years there as a POW he was moved to Taiwan on the hellship *Hokusen Maru*. He was interned at Inrin Temporary Camp where conditions weren't too bad as it was a rest camp and the men were not required to do slave work. After a couple of months there, he was moved to Japan where he finished the war.

His granddaughter Nicole is teaching in South Korea and as part of a school holiday this fall she contacted us to see about a possible camp tour for her and fellow history teacher Tori Lands. While visiting Inrin didn't work out, we did have a nice day together at Kinkaseki and she was able to see and stand by her grandfather's name on the wall and learn a little more of what the men went through back, then.



*Above: Tori (l) and Nicole ready to go down the mine.
Left: Nicole laying a Poppy spray on the memorial in memory of her grandfather.*

VFW ASIA PACIFIC COMMANDER - VAC

As part of Taiwan's Double-Ten National Day event every year, the ROC Veterans Affairs Council invites the Asia-Pacific Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America to participate and we are always privileged to host a tour to Kinkaseki for them. This year John M. Gilbert who is based in the Philippines and his wife Carmen paid a visit.



John laying flowers and saluting the POWs.

After spending time in the Gold Museum learning of some of the POWs experiences in the mine, a moving tour of the former POW camp revealed more of their suffering and sacrifice for our freedom. Being based in the Philippines John is very familiar with the POW camps there and the story of the American POWs who came to Taiwan, and we plan to keep in touch and share more activities together in the future.

TOM BURTON – UK, OCTOBER 16TH & 17TH

Tom's father, Thomas Burton Sr., was a Signalman in the 9/11th Indian Division Signals and came to Taiwan in November 1942 on the hellship *England Maru*. He was first held in Taihoku Camp 6, then moved to Taichu Camp and later to Heito until he was transferred to Senryu Japan in February 1945.

Tom wanted to see the places where his father had been and on the first day in the morning we visited the Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial at the Ministry of Defense Headquarters. After spending time there and a short memorial service, we made the journey to Jinguashi to visit the POW Memorial Park where he was able to take in the sights of the former Kinkaseki Camp and see his father's name on the Memorial Wall.

The next day Tom took the High Speed Rail to Kaohsiung and then a local train to PingTung where he was met by Rev. Maurie Sween, our local rep there and taken to the former Heito Camp for a walk about of the camp, following which he was able to pay tribute again to his father at the memorial.



Above: Tom at the Heito Memorial in PingTung.



Right : Remembering his father at the Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial in Taipei.

We are always so pleased to have these visitors with us!