

Meeting New Friends

The Service on Sunday provided an opportunity for us to meet and make contact with three new families of men of the Regiment.

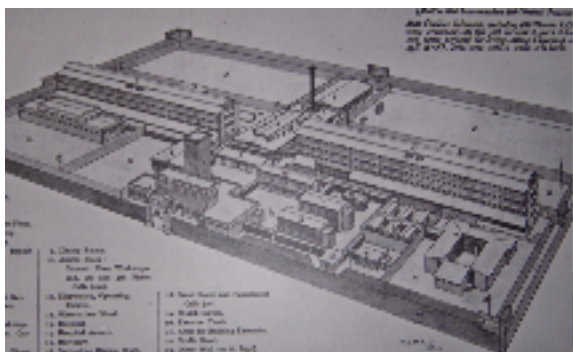
The two daughters of Gunner William Barrie, originally from Lesmahagow, came along and gave us some photographs of their father. Gunner Barrie had been one of the 155th who slaved in the Kinkaseki Copper Mine before being sent to Japan in February 1945.

Another family represented was that of Gunner Andrew Carmichael from Thornhill. Gunner Carmichael was part of the same group as those two other Dumfriesshire men, Tom McKie and Pat Campbell, and toiled as part of the track laying group on the Death Railway.

The family of Gunner Frank Kelso from Caledonian Road in Wishaw were also with us on Sunday and gave us some newspaper cuttings from October 1945 which told of the homecoming of Gunner Kelso. Frank was another of the unfortunates sent down that awful copper mine at Kinkaseki.

It was a pleasure for us to welcome the families to the Service and we will make further contact in the near future in order to learn more about those amazing Men who, sadly, are no longer with us. With the help of the families, we can ensure that a record of them is documented in the history which we are compiling on the 155th.

Another contact came out of the blue when we received a telephone call from Richard Smith, the son of former Gunner George Smith, another Dumfriesshire man who was held on the Railway. Richard had learned of us from an article published in The Dumfries Standard about Pat Campbell and the Service at Newmains. We will shortly travel to Dumfries where we hope to learn more about George Smith and Andrew Carmichael.



Changi Prison, 1942 -
home at different times to POWs and Internees

Civilian Internees

As members of COFEPOW – the Children of Far East POWs Group - we are aware that it was not only military personnel who suffered under the lash of the Japanese in the Far East. Also present at the Service on Sunday was Jenny Martin, whose mother had been interned in Changi and who had been responsible for making one of the squares on the famous Changi Quilt.



the Changi quilt

Terry Manttan of TBRC has asked us to mention that the Organisation can help relatives planning a trip to the Death Railway with accommodation, itinerary, etc. Visits booked well in advance will allow the Railway Staff to research individual POWs so that visitors can follow the footsteps of their family member. 4 or 5 days are recommended for such a visit. the website is admin@tbrconline.com

Michael Hurst's website society@powtaiwan.org contains valuable information about the POWs who suffered and died on Taiwan.

We were asked on Sunday about the FEPOW family pins which were on the table during the Service. Unfortunately there were not enough to go round but they can be obtained, cost £1.95, from.

Ron Taylor,
Chimneys,
Mill Road,
Stokesby,
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Norfolk NR29 3EY



Ron.Taylor@fepow-community.org.uk

For up to 20 pins, P&P is UK £1.35
Europe £2.00
World £2.90

Also available from Ron are:



FEPOW
Day Pin
cost £1.00



FEPOW
Day Card
cost 25p

Ron's FEPOW website includes the Roll of Honour of the 155th and is an excellent research and information aid.

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