



30/2 ANGWIN STREET,
EAST FREMANTLE W.A. 6158
TEL/FAX 9339 8237
EMAIL ericjoybtrma@optusnet.com.au
web site <http://www.btrma.org.au>

BURMA THAILAND RAILWAY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION (Inc)

**TWENTY - NINTH NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2012**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN POW REMEMBERED

The 2011 Quiet Lion Tour to Thailand for the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Hellfire Pass and the Wreath Laying ceremony at Kanchanaburi (both attended by the Governor General Quinton Brice) was significant to a South Australian couple from Port Pirie; Jenny and Peter Caddy.

Jenny's uncle was Edward Thomas Sorrell, SX8795 of the Second Third Machine Gun Battalion and Dunlop Force on the Burma Thailand Railway. For many years the family only knew the basic details of Eddie's service and the manner of his death on the Railway. They knew he died at Tarsau Hospital on 11/11/43. It was a source of much pain that they thought he may have died from cholera as the date of death coincided with the latter end of the cholera epidemic.

The Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association (Inc) (BTRMA) from Western Australia has for many years conducted their Quiet Lion tours to Thailand and has also assembled an extensive data base on prisoners of war of the Japanese. They also have a strong working relationship with the Thai Burma Railway Centre in Kanchanaburi which has become an authority on the Railway under the management of Australian ex-pat Rod Beattie.

Jenny contacted the Association regarding Eddie Sorrell and within days had comprehensive details of Eddie's service and the manner of his death. Not only that but one of the founders of the BTMRA and an originator of the Quiet Lions Tours, the late Bill Haskell, personally knew Eddie. They became friends from the early days of the formation of the 2/3 Machine Gun Battalion and their course was parallel through to the Hintok Mountain Camp near Hellfire Pass.

Eddie was much older than most of the rest and became critically ill at Hintok. He was transferred to Tarsau Hospital camp where he died of dysentery. (This news afforded some relief to the family because of the fear that he died of cholera). Eddie was buried at Tarsau but his remains were recovered after the war and interred at Kanchanaburi Hospital.

Jenny and Peter then decided to travel with the Quiet Lion Tour and were able to visit the camps where Eddie had worked, travel the majority of the remaining railway and lay a wreath on Eddie's grave after the ceremony at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. They were able to spend time at the sites of both the Hintok Mountain Camp, the Kinsayok Camp and the Tarsau Hospital camp as well as walking the Heritage Trail from Hintok Cutting to Hellfire Pass (Konyu) Cutting.

Unfortunately Bill Haskell had to pull out of the tour due to illness and he died as the tour finished. Jenny and Peter did get the chance to speak with Bill by telephone before the tour.

Jenny and Peter Caddy have expressed their deep gratitude for the help of the BTRMA and for the experience of the Quiet Lion Tour. Excerpts from their summary of the tour and their observations follow.

To perpetuate the memory of the privations and sacrifices of Allied Prisoners of War and the selfless dedication of the medical personnel during the construction of the Burma Thailand Railway by informing current and future generations through all forms of education and particularly with Quiet Lion Tours to the Burma Thai Railway; The River Kwai; The Three Pagoda Pass; Anzac Day at Hellfire Pass and Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.

“THOUGHTS ON THE QUIET LION TOUR 2011

We were first time participants in a Quiet Lion Tour and returned home from the 2011 tour enriched, extended and satisfied. Eric Wilson's summary of the tour in a BTRMA newsletter reignited these feelings. Through our initial contact with Eric Wilson and the BTRMA, we learned of the mission of the Association, "to perpetuate the memory of privations and sacrifices of Allied Prisoners of War and the selfless dedication of the medical personnel during the construction of the Burma Thailand Railway by informing current and future generations through all forms of education and particularly with Quiet Lion Tours" ... idealistic and admirable aims.

These aims were achieved with excellence on the Quiet Lion Tour 2011. From our first enquiry of Eric Wilson regarding the tour, it was obvious that we were dealing with both a person and an association possessing exceptional passion for their cause. Then, as soon as we met Eric Wilson, David Piesse, ex POW Neil McPherson and all the group members we knew we had made the best decision of our lives and that we were in for a memorable time. These wonderful people gave their all to make our tour worthwhile, well organised, enjoyable and unforgettable.

We marveled at the knowledge of Eric and David and their success in ensuring that all group members gained the utmost from each session. Neil MacPherson supported Eric and David as they told the story of the Railway.

Bill Haskell and ex POW Snow Fairclough was referred to frequently. We heard of Bill's death at the end of the tour and we mourned with those who knew him personally. We rejoiced for the remarkable person that Bill was. There were so many truly memorable moments for us on the tour, not the least of which was unraveling so much of the story, with Eric's help, of an uncle who died on The Line and whom we discovered was not only in Dunlop Force, but who was also a good friend of Bill Haskell. Finding Ted Sorrell's grave at Kanchanaburi Cemetery was a particularly poignant moment. So very memorable, too, were the Anzac Day services, the Heritage Walk, the train journey along The Line, the Hellfire Pass Museum, beautiful and serene Home Phu Toey, Chungkai Cemetery and the gradual piecing together of the puzzle through sites at Nakom Patom, Non Pladuk, Banpong, Tamuan, Kanchanburi, Tamarkan, Chungkai, Wampo, Tarsau, Konyu, Hellfire Pass, Hintok, Kinsayok and Takanun.

The whole tour was a highlight for us. We feel greatly privileged to have been given this opportunity to learn at first hand the rigours and hardships of the POWs and medical teams on The Line, the beauty yet the challenges of the Thai jungle, the selfless contributions of wonderful local people such as Kun Kanit Wanachote and Boon Pong Sirivejaphan, and, last but not least, the inspiring life of Weary Dunlop and his fellow medics such as Arthur Moon and Ewen Corlette."

Jenny and Peter Caddy Port Pirie SA

DESCENDANTS OF POWs ON THE BURMA THAILAND RAILWAY RETURN.

The Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association (Inc), a group of veterans and supporters who have resolved to perpetuate the memory of the Burma Thailand Railway and the ordeal of Prisoners of War of the Japanese, once again took a tour to Thailand for the 2011 Anzac Day Dawn Services at Hellfire Pass and the Wreath Laying ceremony at Kanchanaburi.

The Association has conducted annual pilgrimages to Thailand in the form of Quiet Lions Tours (named for Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop regularly since 1997. High School students have always been a priority in order to perpetuate the story. The numbers of juniors have increased each year, partly due to a number of generous sponsors and contributing groups.

The 2011 Quiet Lion Tour to Thailand was significant due the attendance of the Governor General Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, who was accompanied by a group of survivors of the Burma Thailand Railway; the Hon. Tom Uren, Lex Arthurson, Cyril Gilbert and Bill Schmitt. Another survivor present was Neil MacPherson who traveled with the Quiet Lion Tour. Regular ex POW travelers Bill Haskell and Milton Fairclough were unable to travel due to illness.

Over the years a host of people who had kin on the Railway have achieved closure on the tours.

This was the case in 2011 when the following traveled:-

Richard and Sally Steel of Toowoomba Queensland, Richard's father was John Hart Steel VX24121 of 2/2 Pioneers who died at Tamarkan;

Ron and Bronwen Walker of Mildura Victoria, Ron's father was Harry Walker VX 22708 of 2/2nd Pioneers. Harry went to coal mines in Japan after the railway was finished and survived).

Jenny and Peter Caddy of Port Pirie, South Australia, Jenny's uncle was Edward Thomas Sorrell, 2/3MGB Dunlop Force. Ted died at Tarsau Hospital on 11/11/43 after time at Hintok. (Bill Haskell knew him well from Java on);

Jan and Phillip Burbury of Woodbury Tasmania,. Phillip's kin was Claude Samuel Iles, TX4214 CCS.

John and Francis Kennedy of Arcadia, Victoria and their daughter Bronwen Stewart and grandson Matt of Sebastopol, Victoria. John Kennedy's uncle (Crocodile Kennedy) was a padre and prisoner captured in Java and later sent to Mukden (Manchuria).

Max and Sue Cunnington, Max's father was Sandy Cunnington of the 2/3MGB.

David Piesse. His father was Ron Piesse of the 2/3 MGB.

Susan Harrington was part of a large contingent from the Harrington family. Her father was Frank Thaxter. Frank Thaxter was also a member of the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion. Frank Thaxter and Susan returned on an earlier occasion to the Railway on a Quiet Lion Tour before Frank passed away.

Jan and Phillip Hawkins and Jan's brother, Terry Cant, of Melville. Jan and Terry's father was Albert Ronald Cant 2/7th Field Battery.

Neil MacPherson of the 2/2 Pioneers has been a member of the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association and travels each year. **His son Alan and grand-daughters Gypsy O'Dea, Krishna Vanderweide, Shannon Pearce and Jemima Butterworth** toured.

Emma Egerton-Warburton. Her Grand Father is Wally Holding of the 2/4MGB who is a member of the Burma Thailand Memorial Association management committee.

At the traditional Concert held on the final night of the stay at the Home Phu Resort all of the above performed a joint item as direct descendants of prisoners on the Railway.

On 17th April 2012 the Quiet Lion Tour will again take many such travelers to the Railway.

2012 QUIET LION TOUR AND ANZAC DAY PILGRIMAGE BRIEFING AND GET-TOGETHER

All past travelers on Quiet Lion Tours to Thailand for Anzac Day at Hellfire Pass and those on the 2012 tour are invited to a briefing, re-union and get-together to be held at the Lecture Theatre at Hollywood Private Hospital on Sunday 18th march 2012 commencing at 2pm.

Afternoon tea will be provided after the proceedings.

Contacts. Eric Wilson, Chairman of Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association (Inc). on Tel 9339 8237, e mail ericjoybtrma@optusnet.com.au or

Honorary Secretary Krishna Vanderweide on 9256 1436, e mail kimkrishna@iprimus.com.au.

ITINERARY QUIET LION TOUR OF THAILAND 2012

- DAY 1 TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2012**
1.45PM Arrive Perth International Airport (Perth Travelers)
4.45PM Depart Perth International Airport. TG482
10.45PM Arrive Suvarnabhumi Airport Bangkok.
Overnight accommodation Royal Benja Hotel Bangkok.
- DAY 2 WEDNESDAY 18th APRIL 2012**
9AM Briefing and get-together after breakfast.
Day in Bangkok Itinerary to be arranged.
Arrival dinner.
Overnight accommodation at Royal Benja Hotel.
- DAY 3 THURSDAY 19th APRIL 2012**
Visit the Royal Summer Palaces at Bang Pa-in & the ancient capital Ayutthaya. Lunch cruising down the Chayo Phraya River. Some free time after cruise to shop. (Juniors under supervision).
Overnight accommodation at Royal Benja Hotel.
- DAY 4 FRIDAY 20th APRIL 2012**
7.30 AM To Nakom Pathom, Ban Pong, Nong Pladuk and Kanchanaburi. Lunch at Baan Rao Restaurant. Kanchanaburi Cemetery and Thai Burma Railway Centre. Chunkai Cemetery and cutting.
7.30PM Welcome party at Pung Waan Kanchanaburi
- DAY 5 SATURDAY 21st APRIL 2012**
8am. Check-out. 9am Football match. 11.30am Train to Wampo Viaduct with lunch by River near viaduct. Visit Tarsao hospital and camp sites (Pung Waan Kwai Noi Resort), **Thadan Bridge & Elephant Park. Tarsao & Sai Yok Noi Falls (Tonchan South Camp). (To be visited as time permits). See Day 9.**
19.00 hrs Light and sound show. Welcome Dinner as guests of Khun Kanit.
Overnight accommodation at Home Phu Toey
- DAY 6 SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2012**
8AM Visit scene of Hintok Road POW Camp, Kinsayok Camp area, Sai Yok Yai Waterfalls, Houseboat trip and lunch on River Kwai terminating at Hintok River POW Camp. Return to Home Phu Toey via Konyu River Camp and Hintok Road.
Overnight accommodation at Home Phu Toey

- DAY 7 MONDAY 23rd APRIL 2012**
 8AM Walk the Burma Railway Heritage Trail from Hintok Road through Hintok Cutting to Hellfire Pass Museum. Lunch at Home Phu Toey. Visit Jack Chalker gallery and other displays at Weary Dunlop Park. Overnight accommodation at Home Phu Toey
- DAY 8 TUESDAY 24RD APRIL 2012**
 8AM Obelisk ceremony, Oonjai Memorial and Buddhist ceremony at Home Phu Toey. Takanun Camps and Khao Lam Dam (lunch overlooking dam wall). Pass Brankassi and Hindato camps. Concert rehearsals. Overnight accommodation at Home Phu Toey.
- DAY 9 WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2012**
 3.30AM Early wake-up for Dawn Service in Hellfire Pass. Breakfast at Home Phu Toey.
 8.30AM To Kanchanaburi for 10AM Anzac Day Ceremony at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Lunch at Tida Loa Riverside Restaurant. Visit Bridge over River Kwai. Lat Ya Shinto Shrine (Peace Park). **Thadan Bridge & Elephant Park. Tarsau & Sai Yai Noi Falls (Tonchan South Camp. See Day 5.**
 Farewell dinner and concert as guests of Khun Kanit Wanachote.
 Dinner and overnight accommodation at Home Phu Toey.
- DAY 10 THURSDAY 26TH APRIL 2011**
 8.30am Leave for Bangkok.
 Thailand Burma Railway Centre Visit Tamuang, Floating Markets and Craft Workshop. Lunch and cultural show at Rose Gardens.
 Overnight accommodation at Royal Benja Hotel
- DAY 11 FRIDAY 27TH APRIL 2011**
 Free day and to be advised.
 7.00.PM Final dinner and hotel check out.
 11.45 PM Depart Bangkok for Perth per TG485.
 Arrive Perth International Airport 7.30am Saturday 28th.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE QUIET LION TOUR APRIL 2012 BOOKING CONDITIONS
TOUR COST FOR AIRFARE AND LAND CONTENT WILL BE: ADULTS
\$2600.00, JUNIORS \$2300.00.

*Actual costs charged by Airline Company for taxes and fuel levies invoiced at final payment. Cost will vary according to changes of Airline and land costs.

NON GROUP FLIGHTS. Thai Air only allow limited changed flights for the Perth departure group and the agent should be informed if you intend to travel separate to the group, on either journey. There may be a surcharge applied in these instances.

ITINERARY INCLUSIONS. Return economy air fares (Perth/Bangkok/Perth). Airport and hotel transfers, Coach transport during tours are (fully air conditioned), 20kg free baggage allowance on economy class flights, Departure and Arrival taxes Australia and Thailand (Included in amount paid to travel agent) and **gratuities paid to guides and bus staff**

ITINERARY EXCLUSIONS, Travel insurance (Essential). Passport costs, supplementary (non itinerary) trips, non-group meals, drinks (other than water), laundry, 'phone calls and personal items.

FITNESS LEVELS. Activities are similar to those on any tour except for walk on Heritage Trail. All levels are catered for but the final decision on whether a particular activity will be allowed will be that of traveling nurse and Tour Leader.

ARRANGEMENTS, Firm applications to be made directly to **Allied Travel Group.** A deposit of \$250.00 required. (see below). If maximum number is reached a "wait list" will be commenced and tour places will be allocated as vacancies occur. Applicants will be notified of acceptance.

Final confirmation and payment of full balance is required no later than 10th February 2012. Airline and land content places are verified in order of receipt.

Bookings not confirmed with full payment (when due) will be deemed cancelled and only reactivated in the event of a cancellation.

JUNIORS. All juniors must be under direct supervision of a responsible adult carer/parent/teacher (No exceptions). Tertiary students (full-time) may avail of Junior tariff. Some juniors may be tripled at hotels and resorts but this is not likely.

ANIMALS. During the tour there may be occasions when animals are handled by Thai park or other venue people. Persons with firm views on such should accept that this is beyond the control of the organizers and protests are not acceptable. The only occasions normally are entertainment venues involving elephants.

CANCELLATIONS. Withdrawal of an accepted application prior to 27th November 2011 will allow return of any deposit but cancellations after that date **will** incur forfeit of the deposit of \$250.00. Cancellation after full amount has been paid by 10^h February 2011 will incur debits charged by the airline and by the Thai agent up to total paid. Cancellation once the tour has started will not mean refunds of transfer, accommodation or transportation costs. (Travel insurance **may** be a safeguard).

ITINERARIES. These may be modified due to events beyond the control of the organizers. Every effort will be made to create satisfactory alternative programs.

RESPONSIBILITY. The responsibility of **Allied Travel Group,** the BTRMA Travel Agent, is limited to arranging flight bookings and not for airline schedule changes or price increases, the organization of any ground tours or for any alterations to the itinerary or prices for any part of the tour known as The *Quiet Lion* Tour. Accommodation at Bangkok, Kanchanaburi and Tarsau and land transport is the responsibility of Pacific Horizon Tours who are not the agents or employees of the Allied Travel Group.

Payment of the deposit or final payment constitutes consent to all provisions of the tour package conditions and acceptance of general information in the tour itinerary.

The terms under which this tour is undertaken cannot be changed, upgraded or amended except by contact with the BTRMA Travel Agent or a representative of the company.

Contact: Allied Travel Group (Attention Maureen Storry), Shop 1/ 265 Canning Highway, Palmyra, WA. 6157. Tel 9339 7080. E Mail: maureen@alliedtravel.com.au

Fax. (8) 9319 3891. Copy to Tour leader David Piesse Tel.(08)9447 7505, E Mail

djpiesse@gmail.com. Details also from BTRMA Chairman/tour organizer Eric Wilson, Tel/Fax (08)93398237. E Mail ericjoybtrma@optusnet.com.au.

