

THE BURMA CAMPAIGN SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

September 2007

Number 11

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

At this year's AGM, there were most important personnel changes on the Committee. We sincerely hope that the functions of the departing BCS Officers will be taken up as soon as possible by their successors, with whom I greatly look forward to working. We wish to express our warmest thanks to the outgoing members for their contributions during the last five years, and I propose that we hold a thanksgiving luncheon for them in the coming months.

Above all, I am very happy not to have heard any motions for the dissolution of BCS from amongst our Committee Members. Now we should, as soon as possible, find as many young members as we can to carry on the aims of BCS.

The All-Burma Veterans' Society will be sending a pilgrimage team to Kohima and Imphal in February 2008, and the Catholic Cathedral in Kohima will hold Joint Memorials there and at Imphal on the 5th and 8th of the month respectively. It is also reported that the local Nagaland State Government has donated a piece of land to a Japanese NGO to erect a Memorial to the Japanese war dead.

On Sunday, May 27th, 2007, from 5-5.30 pm. the Emperor and Empress of Japan interviewed a hundred Japanese residents. When I told him of my report on the Imphal Campaign to the Crown Prince, many years before, the Emperor repeated his apology to the victims and his thanks to the veterans for their contribution to the rebuilding of the country. He gave five minutes to me personally.

Masao Hirakubo

FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BCS.

Thursday 10th May 2007.

The Chairman introduced the Meeting, recalling the joint memorials at three Wheels Buddhist Temple and at Canterbury Cathedral, attended respectively by Minister Hiramatsu and Ambassador Nogami. In the autumn, a very successful event, involving entertainment and a tea party, was held at St. Ethelburga's Church on the anniversary of the unveiling of the BCFG/ ABVAJ joint memorial plaque. The Chairman also spoke about the various Discussion Meetings held throughout the year, including two in Japan, in the second of which he himself had been the speaker.

The Honorary Treasurer presented the Accounts and reported that there had been an excess of expenditure over

income. The situation was not drastic, however, because of the profit made on the Symposium in the previous financial year, but efforts needed to be made to increase subscriptions, which provide the Society with its only regular income.

The Deputy Chairman and the Honorary Secretary, having given two months notice of their intention, announced their resignation from the Committee. The Deputy Chairman had made efforts to find a successor, so far without success, and said that he would stay on until the end of the year so that more time could be given to the search. It was agreed that, ideally, he should be replaced by a British veteran, but at least by a British person whilst the Chairmanship was held by a Japanese.

Mrs. Akiko MacDonald agreed to stand as a Committee Member, and subsequently took over as Honorary Secretary. Keichiro Komatsu was voted in as a Committee Member and Akemi Solloway resigned her position.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Lord Weatherill, a committed member of BCS, whose death on 6th May had recently been announced.

Phillida Purvis

AKIKO MACDONALD

Honorary Secretary of BCS

It is splendid news that Akiko Macdonald has agreed to take up the post of Honorary Secretary so memorably held by Phillida Purvis. We are fortunate indeed to have such a talented and energetic successor in this vital post.

Akiko has a very special connection with the Burma Campaign, since her father, Taiji Urayama, who became eighty-six last month and lives in Tokyo with his ninety-one year old wife Tatsuko, served during World War Two as a Lieutenant in Burma, where he was Veterinary Officer, 2nd Battalion, 31st Mountain Artillery Regiment, 31 Division. It is indeed an extraordinary coincidence that he was in the same Army Unit as Masao Hirakubo, as Akiko found out after making contact with Masao in 1998 as a result of an article that he wrote for the Japanese Community Newspaper regarding the Japanese Emperor's visit to Britain.

It is no surprise that, like so many, who as nineteen or twenty year olds in what Akiko refers to as that "atrocious and reckless war", he found it extremely hard to re-start his life when it was over. He saw innumerable dead when marching towards the fighting up the jungle path known as

Hakkotsu Kaido, Bleached Bones Avenue, because of the many men who had died on it of such diseases as cholera or malaria, or from dehydration or starvation. Akiko's father was himself a victim of numerous tropical diseases including malaria, being on the point of death in a field hospital when a shot of penicillin saved his



Mrs. Akiko Macdonald

life. Finally, not yet fully recovered, he went on to Kohima and was subsequently a Prisoner of War of the British for about half of the four years that he spent in Burma. In Akiko's own words, it was a war which, like many other young men, "he could not comprehend completely what the purpose was and how to achieve their mission. Some 60% of the Japanese soldiers who fought in Burma died, and at Imphal a total of 72,000, or 83.7% of those who took part, perished".

Now married to an Englishman for about twenty-five years, Akiko came here with him, together with her three year old son, in 1988, and in the following year gave birth to a baby daughter. She has since thought much about the many common interests and traditions shared by the British and the Japanese who, as island people, in her own words "tend to think of themselves as different from continents. Our mentality and attitudes are also similar, but yet the Japanese army's behaviour during the 2nd World War was so different from what I know of the Japanese character. I could not help asking myself and grew more interested in knowing why, and trying to understand our identity, our integrity and our honour".

Speaking of last autumn when Masao Hira Kubo eagerly asked her to help organise a Tea Party Event at St. Ethelburga's Church, she somewhat modestly remarks that "this event went surprisingly well" and goes on to say, "with this event the BCS committee members recognised that BCS activities must go on and develop more for the future as well. I do not know what I can do to help this most prestigious society which was already established and organised so well thanks to so many honourable people and members of BCS over the past five years. I would like to congratulate Mr. Philip Malins and Mrs Phillida Purvis, who are retiring after giving much of their time and effort to BCS, on doing such a superb job. I hope there will be someone about my age whose father was in the Burma Campaign, who could find BCS activities meaningful and help develop BCS further by taking over Mr. Philip Malin's position, so that we can cooperate together to inherit the legacy of reconciliation and friendship between Japanese and English".

Finally she says "I would like to extend my personal view if I may. It would be ideal if BCS could invite more people from Burma, India, China, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, Australia and America to share views and opinions about the Burma Campaign."

John White

RECONCILIATION CEREMONY AT THREE WHEELS.

Saturday, 18th August 2007.

The Annual Ceremony to pray for world peace and reconciliation was attended by some fifty people. The Japanese Consul General, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, was again present, together with another representative of the Embassy, and opened the proceedings with a short address. Reverend Professor Sato, who conducted the ceremony, gave a highly pertinent talk on *Inner Peace in Living Buddhism*, and a moving message from Satoru Yanagi, who was unable to come from Japan because of ill-health, was read out.

The veterans of the Burma Campaign were represented by Mr. Masao Hira Kubo, Mr. Philip Malins and Mr.

and Mrs. Maurice Frances. Reverend Fumihito Ando, a priest from one of the oldest Shin Buddhist Temples, also took part. Mr. Kazuo Tamayama, the author of *Tales by Japanese Soldiers*, was also among those present, and Mr. Thein Chu, from the organization Asia Pacific, was amongst those who spoke, saying a few words on behalf of the Burmese people and praying in front of the Buddha Shrine.



John White

Mr. Kazuo Tamayama

PHILIP MALINS MBE MC.

Philip Malins, now eighty-eight, and, as Deputy Chairman of the Society, with me since its formation, will be retiring at the end of the year. I thank him most warmly for all that he has done during his period in office.

He joined the Territorial Army in March 1938 and was mobilised at the beginning of the war, going to France with the British Expeditionary Force. On May 25th 1940, in the centre of Armentières, he was the only survivor out of eight when a German bomb scored a direct hit on the truck he was in, carrying three tons of petrol.

He was evacuated from the beaches north of Dunkirk and volunteered for the Indian Army, commanding 42 Indian Mule Company and becoming Adjutant of 20 Indian Divisional Regiment, Royal Indian Army Service Corps in Burma. In September 1945, after the end of the war, he commanded a mixed force of some hundred and fifty Gurkhas, volunteer Dutch ex-prisoners of war and Japanese infantry, in French Indo China, later Vietnam, bringing in, despite continual ambushes, a thousand rifles, a hundred machine guns and ammunition for the defence of Saigon.

Philip later made notable contributions to post-war reconciliation. As Chairman of the International Friendship and Reconciliation Trust, he initiated, with the great help of John Bynoe and others, services of reconciliation at Canterbury, Coventry, Chichester, Durham and Rochester Cathedrals and at Westminster Abbey. In 1997, he arranged the first ever visit of a Japanese Ambassador to Coventry Cathedral, where Sadayuki Hayashi spoke from the pulpit and shook hands publicly with three ex-prisoners of the Japanese.



Mr. Philip Malins

He was also responsible for the creation of the Grove of International Friendship and Reconciliation at the National Memorial Arboretum, including German and Japanese sections.

This was with the invaluable help of Nobuko Kosuge who, in 2002, to mark the centenary of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, arranged for him to plant an oak, grown from seed in Britain, at Yamanashi Gakuin University, and address over seven hundred people. Two years later, he organised the first visit of a Japanese Ambassador to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, where the Japanese flag was flown for the day.

He initiated the Royal British Legion Campaign which resulted in ex-gratia payments to surviving British prisoners of war and their widows, and was made Honorary Life Vice-President of the National Federation of Far East Prisoners of War. In 1989, with the help of Vera Lynn, he organised a national appeal on behalf of the FEPOW General Welfare Fund, and in 2001 arranged for the Royal British Legion to provide free two-week welfare breaks at its residential homes for the ex-POWs, their widows and long term carers. He is also a former President of the Birmingham Branch of the Burma Star Association, President of Birmingham Dunkirk Veterans Fellowship and former Chairman of Birmingham Forward Branch of the Royal British Legion.

He passionately believes that when war is over, reconciliation is the final victory for both sides, and has been deeply moved by the many kindnesses he has received from his former German and Japanese foes, who became his great friends. In innumerable ways, BCS, and the country at large, owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Masao Hirakubo

PHILLIDA PURVIS MBE.

Phillida stood down as Honorary Secretary of BCS at the Annual General Meeting after five years of superb service. It was due to Masao Hirakubo and Phillida that it was possible to form BCS to follow the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group of which she was a Committee Member.

The daughter of an Army Officer, she grew up in Jamaica and graduated in Theology at Durham University. She joined the Foreign Office and studied Japanese at the School of Oriental and African Studies. After, posting to Japan, she spent the first year continuing her Japanese language studies in the Embassy language school in Kamakura and then worked in the Economics Section of the Embassy. Following a posting in Singapore, she returned two years later, married to Christopher, whom she had met in Japan, and accepted a job teaching international relations at a private university.

After two years back in London, they returned to Tokyo, where she became a postgraduate foreign student at Tokyo University on a scholarship researching the development of Japanese/Asian relations. The students, mainly from China, Taiwan, Korea, Burma and the Philippines, had heated debates about Japanese foreign policy. Much of her focus was on Japanese development aid. She helped found an international students club at the University and represented GAP, the main gap year out providers in Japan. She also talked to schools, hospitals and community associations throughout Japan to find volunteering opportunities for British young people. Two of her four children were born in Japan, which became her home from home with friends of every age, from many parts of Japan and from every walk of life, literally from princess to pauper.

From 1993 to 1998, Phillida was Deputy Director of the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation in London, responsible for programmes encouraging understanding between the United Kingdom and Japan. She became Founder and Director of Links Japan in 1998 to help to promote voluntary and community sector exchanges with Japan on a wide range of social welfare, community regeneration and international cooperation issues. She is a Trustee of the International Refugee Trust, a non-governmental organization working with refugees and displaced people, and for ten years has been a Council Member of GAP Activity projects, organising opportunities for young people in many different countries, including Japan. She is on the International Advisory Board of Global Links Initiative, with responsibility for Japan/China exchanges and is Executive Director and Trustee of Japan Arena, a project in progress, working to create a Japanese cultural, sporting and recreational centre in London. She is also Advisor to the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organizations, Representative for the Asia/Pacific section of the Global Diaspora Coalition, a Member of BUILD (Building Understanding through International Links for Development) and on the Japan Society Lectures Committee.



Mrs. Phillida Purvis

In the midst of all that, together with bringing up her children, she has found time for great service to BCS. She virtually alone conceived, and organized to perfection, the outstandingly successful Symposium in the Cabinet War Rooms on *Enemy and Friend: Britain and Japan at War and Peace*, with eminent British and Japanese speakers and a Foreign Office Reception.

What a pleasure it has been to work with her, the epitome of kindness, cooperation and effectiveness.

Philip Malins

LORD WEATHERILL OBITUARIES

By Philip Malins

Lord Weatherill died, aged eighty-six, on 6th May, a greatly loved and admired man. He became the most eminent of the British who fought against the Japanese in Burma and then sought reconciliation with their former foes.

A member from the beginning of both Burma Campaign Fellowship Group and of its successor, the Burma Campaign Society, he gave them unstinting support and encouragement. As member of the BCFG party to Japan in 1992, he handed back his treasured possession, a Japanese sword acquired at the surrender of the Japanese in Kuala Lumpur, to the Yushukan, the Museum of the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, where it is permanently displayed as a symbol of reconciliation.

In 1940 he was commissioned in the 47th Royal Dragoon Guards, but transferred to the Indian Army, serving as a Captain in 19 King George V's Own Lancers with 25 Indian Division in Burma.

Becoming Conservative MP for Croydon North-East in 1964, he was elected Speaker of the House in 1983, and in 1992, on his retirement, was made a Life Peer. As Baron Weatherill of North East Croydon, he was elected convener of the cross-bench Peers until his retirement in 1999.

He was a devoted churchman, and from 1989 to 1999 was High Bailiff of Westminster Abbey. As Patron of the International Friendship and Reconciliation Trust, with Lady Weatherill he attended services of reconciliation, initiated by John Bynoe at Canterbury and earlier, at Rochester Cathedrals, together with the Japanese Ambassador and members of the Embassy and of BCS. He took part in the debate in the House of Lords which led, in 2000 to ex-gratia payments of £10,000 to each surviving Far East Prisoner of War, civilian internee or widow.

He touched the lives of all whom he encountered by his charm, modesty and selfless humanity,

by Phillida Purvis

In 2005 Lord Weatherill was a principal speaker in the Symposium to commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Second World War.

His reflections on his time in Burma were typical of the humility and compassion he clearly displayed in all his dealings with the people with whom he worked throughout his life, and of the very important part he played in strengthening British-Japanese friendship. In his own words, “Our Regiment, the 19th KGV Lancers, saw action in the Arakan and subsequently down the coast to Akyab and Ramree Island, and finally down to Rangoon. I learned Urdu and made many close friendships with the men of my regiment. The loyalty and bravery of our soldiers formed a bond with British officers which none of us who were privileged to serve with them can ever forget. My five years in the 19th Lancers was the great turning point in my life. But for me a very sound maxim has been, in defeat, defiance, in victory, magnanimity”.

After the war was over, it was important to work with the Japanese and we very soon established common ground to build on for the future. Now Japan is one of this country’s closest friends. Across all different sectors many personal relationships and partnerships have been built which bring great mutual benefit. In my own case, when I was Speaker at the House of Commons, I met several of my opposite numbers in the Diet in Japan. I visited Speaker Fukada in Japan in 1983, and subsequently always carried his fan in my inside pocket when I was in the Chair in the Commons.

In spite of our strong ties and overlapping interests there has remained an antipathy to Japan in some quarters, based on wartime experiences, mostly of prisoners of war. Thankfully, with the work of AGAPE and the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group and others, reconciliation of that generation has, to a large extent, been achieved.”

I shall always recall with enormous gratitude how, in the midst of his tremendously busy life, he found time to show me and my four children around the Houses of Parliament, and to give us tea in the House of Lords afterwards. He told us that he regarded it as a pleasurable duty, in his retirement, to introduce young people to

the workings of the Houses and to encourage respect and understanding of our parliamentary democracy.

His dealings with me, as Honorary Secretary of BCS, of which he was a founding member, were always punctilious and full of humour. In April, he took the trouble of sending his apologies that he would not be able to attend our AGM because of ill-health. 'I am off games' he said. In the event he died four days before it took place, and at the meeting a minute's silence was held in his memory.

A Memorial Service for Lord Weatherill will be held at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 23rd October at noon. (For details, see *Coming Events*.)



Lord Weatherill and the Japanese children who had laid paper cranes at the High Altar

A PRISONER OF THE JAPANESE

At a **Discussion Meeting** held at the Oriental Club, London, on March 22nd, **George Housego** spoke of his experiences as a prisoner of war. Although terribly treated in captivity, when speaking from the Great Lectern of Coventry Cathedral, he had been one of the first prisoners of the Japanese to seek reconciliation and to publicly shake hands with the Japanese Ambassador.

A Gunner, he was captured in Java. Before surrendering, he destroyed his lorry and Bofors gun. They marched to Tantock Priok and were set to work in the docks, without much food and with much sickness, particularly malaria. They were then taken to another camp, where they made string out of sisal. There he met a Sergeant, a coffin maker in civilian life, and they planned to escape together. However, a British officer found the boat and it was immediately destroyed because of potential reprisals against all the prisoners in the camp had it been found by the Japanese.

The Japanese issued papers for the prisoners to sign saying that they would obey all Japanese orders and never attempt to escape, and said that if the officers refused, they would be taken away and shot. The prisoners agreed that they should sign under duress.

All the prisoners were suffering from malnutrition and tropical diseases, including dysentery, pellagra, beri-beri and cholera, many of them dying. He himself became so weak he could not stand up and his weight had gone down to six stones. However, he improved slightly and was chosen to be shipped from Batavia to Singapore under unbearable conditions. From there they sailed for Formosa and then Japan. During the voyage there was a tremendous explosion and a brilliant flash of light as a torpedo hit the middle of the ship. The prisoners struggled to reach the deck, and he started to climb the rigging, but the ship went down beneath him. He clung to a piece of wreckage and was eventually picked up by a small whaler.

On arrival in Japan, he was given clothes and began work in a Mitsubishi iron foundry in Nagasaki. They were always hungry, living fifteen to a room in two-tier bunks. Later, they were taken to Omine, a mining village, where many were maimed or killed in accidents. They received some Japanese cigarettes or tobacco, and to help prevent infestation, were also given cigarettes for every forty fleas or thirty lice that they caught.

Rumours began to spread that the Americans had invaded Okinawa, the most southerly of the main Japanese islands, and the Japanese guards began to behave better. Suddenly, the prisoners were told that there was no work for the following day, and then that the war was over, the Japanese guards disappearing. Two weeks later, the prisoners were located by the Americans, taken to Nagasaki and then sent home.

George Housego was awarded an MBE for his services to Far East prisoners of war and is the founder and Chairman of the London FEPOW Remembrance Social Club 'to keep going the spirit that kept us going.'

Philip Malins

MEMORIES OF THE BURMA CAMPAIGN

At a **Discussion Meeting** at the Nippon Club on July 3rd, **Tom Bruin**, aged 92, 17 Indian Infantry Division, **Masao Hirakubo**, aged 87, 31 Japanese Division, and **Philip Malins**, aged 88, 20 Indian Infantry Division, described some of their most outstanding and vivid memories of the campaign.

Tom Bruin, Infantry Officer, 7/10 Baluch Regiment, described how in October 1943 he joined a Mounted Reconnaissance Battalion of 17 Indian Division, known as the Black Cats because of the badge they wore. Although he finally left Burma in February 1946, he confined his memories to 1944. In March his Division was ordered to abandon its positions a hundred and seventy miles south of the Indo-Burmese base at Imphal on the borders of India. He described the sudden withdrawal of the divisional column through the Japanese road-blocks over a precipitous mountain road. During the withdrawal he commanded a Company of Pathans recruited from the tribal areas of Waziristan on the borders of Afghanistan. He sometimes wonders about the allegiance of their grandsons now!

When shells landed near them, two horses pranced and reared across the narrow, congested road and fell down into the valley far below, one of them nearly taking him with it. On one occasion the enemy, using a loud hailer, urged the Indian troops to desert and join them on the 'March to Delhi', but they remained loyal.

He was involved in two of the last battles near Imphal. at Bishanpur and Red Hill, which was ten miles south of Imphal and the nearest point to it reached by the Japanese. He was wounded there and flown out to hospital in India, but recovered to take part in the capture of Meiktila by the Division, the drive south to near Rangoon, and the surrender of the 18th Japanese Division. In 1944 a monument was erected on Red Hill.

Masao Hirakubo, Accounts Officer, 58 Infantry Regiment, described how his environment changed in 1942 from a quiet, peaceful and academic existence into a violent militaristic life. He took fifty days, via Singapore, to reach his first combat post with 31 Division in north west Burma, moving to capture Kohima. He was responsible for providing food for the thousand officers and other ranks of his Battalion from captured supplies or, where possible, by local purchase. When they collected rice at Gaziphema, the RAF bombed and destroyed the village. Officers and men, each carrying twenty pounds of rice and salt, were accompanied by as many Burmese cattle as there were men in the Battalion. They found it highly dangerous marching over mountainous jungle country at night in order to avoid allied air raids. The cattle with their loads often fell down the mountainside.

After crossing the Chindwin, his Battalion was hurrying to capture Hill 7378 when he fell three hundred feet down the hillside into the valley, hitting a big rock which turned him upside down, unconscious. He walked in the stream, still unconscious, until coming to and realising what had happened. He was treated by the Battalion Medical Officer, and three Onshim villagers were employed to carry him on a stretcher, and he recovered..

The Battalion approached Hill 5120 on April 4th and the Commander ordered them to sleep until 2 am. They then captured the hill with no resistance from the Indian troops. His Battalion chased them, and at the foot of Treasury Hill he found a very large tented warehouse containing enough rice and salt for three years for his entire Division. He took enough for his Battalion, handing the rest to Divisional Headquarters, but the rice was bombed and totally destroyed by the RAF. On April 5th, 1944, he followed Lieutenant Fukuda, the Senior Accounts Officer, to inspect the enemy position on Jail Hill at Kohima. They started round the hill and after a few yards he felt a sniper's bullet pass just inches in front of him. He felt that God had helped him achieve his duty.

Philip Malins, Commander of 43 Mule Company and later Adjutant of 20 Indian Division Royal Indian Army Service Corps Regiment of some fifty officers and three thousand men, recalled outstanding memories of both appointments. He believed his proudest moment was when his Company was drawn up, loaded, on a sandbank in the dark, as on a parade ground, after swimming their mules across the six hundred yards wide, fast flowing Chindwin River.

On Christmas Day, 1944, they were wading up the Pondaung Chaung, up to their knees in water, when fresh mutton carcasses were were air dropped as a special treat. But the nine hundred Indian troops refused to eat them because there was no Certificate as to how the animals had been killed, leaving all the mutton to fifteen British officers. On one occasion, the total silence at night was broken when an officer having a tooth extracted became intoxicated by excess anaesthetic and shouted "whoopie" several times, causing everyone to stand to, thinking it was a Japanese jitter party.

He himself had given the order to open fire when his Company killed twenty two Japanese in an ambush south of Budalin, during which he was shot through his ammunition pouch. He went to bed sad at the loss of life,

but in 1992 rejoiced on meeting a Japanese survivor from Budalin in Japan.



The July Discussion meeting with Tom Bruin, Philip Malins and Masao Hirakubo.

On one occasion, he galloped three quarters of a mile across the sands on the southern bank of the Irrawaddy, not knowing that they were full of uncleared mines. He also described how he had been the Prosecuting Officer in a dramatic court martial for rape, lasting seventeen days, of four men who were found guilty at separate trials.

Philip Malins

As I Remember
TWO SIDES OF A SINGLE COIN.

The opening line of Keiko Itoh's meticulous translation of Fukunaga Utata's reminiscences on Page 1 of the March 2007 Issue of the Newsletter, reads "On the day we took Kohima, the Regiment received the most gracious Imperial Edict."

However, in a letter to the Editor, Peter Gadsdon MBE MC points out that "As someone who was there I can say that the Japanese never "took" Kohima. They entered the outskirts and surrounded the perimeter which they caused to shrink over days of severe fighting, but they never captured Kohima."

In fact, it seems that this apparent contradiction is not simply a straightforward example of what are referred to in Sir Hugh Cortazzi's Review Article in the same Newsletter, when he states that "assessments based on wishful thinking, combined with the cover up of failures made defeat inevitable". To the Japanese at the time, in the heat of battle, it did indeed seem that their territorial gains in Kohima constituted the capture of the village, whilst it is equally true that they never subsequently succeeded in overrunning the perimeter set up by

their opponents and so gallantly defended.

It is often the case that different perspectives on the changing fortunes of war, separated only by a matter of days, can be reconciled, and Reconciliation is the purpose for which BCS was brought into being half a century later.

John White

COMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, 25th September: 12.00 Noon: A Luncheon will be held to celebrate Masao Hirakubo's 88th Birthday, and to thank Phillida Purvis and Philip Malins for all they have done for BCS.

(Phoenix Palace Chinese Restaurant, 3 Glentworth Street, London, NW1 5PG, a few minutes walk from Baker Street and Marylebone Stations. RS.V.P. Masao Hirakubo with a cheque for £30 per head payable to BCS.

Sunday, 14th October: A Tea Party at St. Ethelburga's Church will be held to commemorate the 4th Anniversary of the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque celebrating Anglo/Japanese reconciliation.

(Full details will follow.)

Tuesday, 23rd October: 12.00, Noon: A Memorial Service for Lord Weatherill will be held at Westminster Abbey.

(Applications to attend should be sent to Mr. M. Arnoldi, Room 23, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3PA, enclosing an s.a.e. Tickets will be issued ten days before the Service.)

Thursday, 29th November: 6.00 - 8.00 pm: A Discussion Meeting and Seminar on 'Japanese Soldiers' by Masao Hirakubo and Philip Malins will be held at the Nippon Club.

Editor's Note.

For comments, criticisms, and questions concerning the Newsletter, please contact John White, 25 Cadogan Place, London, SW1X 9SA, Tel/Fax 020 7235 4034. Material for inclusion in the March 2008 Issue should reach me at the above address by 29th February at the latest.

Edited and Produced by John White and Lucien Chocron

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