In 2012, we had series of events throughout the year. Started from York, London and Bedford and later in the year Akiko, the chairman of the BCS visited Yamagata Prefecture, Japan.
Kohima Memorial Service took place outside the building at York Minster in April 2012.

Mr Sawamura, Head of Asahi Newspaper Europe

York Station and York Minster
Two great books changed the perception of War with Japan.

From left: Chairman of BCS Akiko Macdonald, Brigadier Bibby, Former Deputy Chairman of BCS Jeff Bates, Kohima Veteran Roy Welland, Akiko, and Ruth Smith

Miniature Replica of Kohima Epitaph. “When You Go Home, Tell Them of Us, and say... For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today”

British Kohima Veterans Line Up
at York Minster in April 2012
Sankei Newspaper, the article – described quite articulately about my view throughout my living experience in the UK.
New Three Projects launched:

**A:** To make an Anglo-Japanese cultural bridge between York and Shonai, Yamagata (to enhance historical education) – Link between Shonai Library and York Kohima Museum

**B:** To make a Japan/UK-India cultural bridge to enhance friendship
(battle places of Imphal/Kohima)

**C:** To organise and archive BCS' historical data/books/letters/photos/memos of late M. Hirakubo (commissioned to Prof. R. Matsui of Ryukoku Univ. and Prof. K Murakami of Copenhagen Univ.)
4th of March 2012, Akiko and Prof. Ryogo Matsui visited late Masao Hirakubo’s grave to give a full report of the launching three projects.

LATE MASAO HIRAKUBO, the pioneer of reconciliation R.I.P. and his bench at Hendon Cemetery, London.

New Projects Report visit to Masao’s memorial site.
200-400 books were sent from Japan by former soldiers of Burma/Imphal Campaign at SOAS (The Imphal Campaign Memorial Library).

**Project B** - Discussion about linking UK & India/Imphal with a member of BCS, Chris Johnson, son of C.D. Johnson (Kanglatonbi Battle) at Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London.

**Project C** – above right is the book of “The Truth of Imphal” by Masao Hirakubo, above left is by C. D. Johnson’s “Forgotten Army of Admin Box”.

Imphal Campaign Memorial Library at SOAS University - Burma Campaign Fellowship Group
CHAPTER 6

2012

Held a War Discussion Meeting at Nippon Club March 2012.
FOR THE GENERATIONS WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT WW2
Meeting at Union Jack Club with Chris Johnson, a member of BCS and a son of Imphal Campaign Veteran C. D. Johnson – Discussing about Project B making bridge between **UK-India-Japan**

**Discussion Meeting on “For the Generations who don’t know about WW2”**

Guest Speaker, Tony Redding a son of Chindits Veteran of Burma Campaign and Journalist and Author of War History “War in the Wilderness” March 2012 at Nippon Club

Photo left: Tony Redding
Making Friends
(The time for understanding each other)

Get Together for the first time since WW2 to know each other at Nippon Club in London 2012.

The 16th Regiment of Burma Campaign congregates and line up the standards. Members of Burma Star also attended. Marking the day for a remarkable reconciliation event.

Burmese BBC Journalist U Kyaw Thein above with Akiko and below with former deputy chairman of BCS Jeff Bateman
Lucien Chocron, Editor of BCS (left by the door) and former Deputy Chairman Jeff Bateman chatting with BCS member, U Kyaw Thein, BBC Burmese Reporter (above)
2012

British Guests:
- Tony Redding
- Philippa Redding
- Bill Smith (Absent)
- Corinne Simons
- Peter Heppell
- Sally Lockhart
- John Hutchin
- Anne Hutchin
- Ian Swann
- Jim Lambert
- Claire Lambert
- Susy Lambert
- Steve Legate
- Sarah Legate
- Malcolm Smith
- Di Smith
- Mike Shuker
- Frank Anderson
- David Anderson

Mixed British and Japanese UK residents assembled total of over 50 people in Nippon Club

Picture left – Hideko Hayasaka (Hon. Secretary of BCS), Mr Ohara (volunteer) and Mrs Sachiko Fujita (a Member of BCS). Picture right- Mrs Keiko Kato Warburg (a Member of BCS) all got together to help organise the wonderful event at Nippon Club in March 2012.
Akiko, the chairman of the BCS and a daughter of Japanese Burma veteran meet a veteran of Chindits, British Burma former captain, Bill Smyly. The first meeting took place at Bill's home to plan the reconciliation event at Bedford Church for their first time attending 16th regiment and Burma Star.
Bedford, Bedfordshire

Bedford 16th Regiment Chindits Veterans and Japanese Assemble for Peace and Reconciliation

Lay up the Standard and UK-Japan Reconciliation Ceremony held at St Peter de Merton Bedford on the 14th of August 2012

Invitation to the “Laying up the Standard” at St Peter le Marten Church in Bedford and to commemorate the UK and Japan praying to peace and war reconciliation. For the first time a Japanese Buddhist Prof. Kenmyo Sato recites a Buddha’s sutra in a Christian church.
Capt. Bill Smyly and Akiko

Chindits veteran Captain Bill Smyly (91), 5th Column Gurkha Rifles and the 16th Regiment on the left, Akiko’s speech and High Sheriff of Bedford.

Mayor of Bedford, Dave Hudgson in the middle before the start of the Service at St Peter’s church. Vice Lord-Lieutenant Col. Colin Mason OBM and Akiko below.
Akiko returned to Shonai, Yamagata to report Lt. General Sato on UK-Japan War reconciliation. Akiko also gave a lecture at High school students in Sakata City.

Shonai dignitaries welcome Akiko's visit and re-establishing the friendship.
Revisit Shonai Cho – Reporting the Projects to Lt General Kotoku Sato’s Tomb Stone

Lt. General Kotoku Sato, 31st Division, 15th Imperial Japanese Army

Interviewed by Asahi Newspaper

Visiting Chairman Sato of Lt General Sato Dissemination Restoring his Honour Association

Meeting Chairman Sato with Imphal veteran Mr Wajima

British Troops moving passage to China from Ledo in Northern Burma
Shonai Town Public Library
Head of Curator, Mr Hino,
Chairman of the Local History
Studies Association.

Lt Gen. Sato’s War Memorabilia
Looking forward to establishing the firm relationship between UK and Japan. Met so many decision makers with high spirit.

Mr Machida, the Mayor of Shonai gives a speech.

Welcome reception dinner, Shonai Mayor Mr Harada, Chairman of Shonai Council Mr Togashi, Chairperson of Shonai Education Committee Mt Sugawara, Head of International Exchange Association Mr Umeki, Chair of Anglo-Japan Friendship Mr Hoshina and Mrs Ikeda and many dignitaries and members of local council.
Cross Cultural Education creates Friendship

Making a Bridge between Shonai And York on the basis of War Historical Study - With the help of Deputy Okuyama enhances the project.

Project A

Tohoku University of Community Service and Science

Left visiting Professor Machiko Ito, the Tohoku Koueki Bunka University. (Tohoku University of Community Service and Science) – Making Educational Bridge between UK and Japan

Yamagata Prefectural Sakata Higashi High School
It is important to learn about the World History both in Japanese and in English.

Gave a lecture of International concept and importance of communication in the world history class at Sakata High School.

English is not difficult to express your feelings....

It is OK to say “NO” to anything you aren’t sure. It is better to say “Don’t understand” rather than “pretending that you know it all” think deeply and not to worry too much about what the correct answer would be....

But to master English takes a life time. You will learn a lot more than relying on just one language.

Deeper you dig in about your adolescent period and you may be straying too far from the main stream or you may hit the bottom of the deepest ocean, do not worry you will be able to come out of surface in due course with full of knowledge and wisdoms and self-confidence. CONFIDENCE means in Japanese “Self-belief”.

LTAC Concept:
L – To Learn
T – To Think & To Think Critically
A – To Assess and to Act
C – To Check

Purity is power, the question is how to maintain it when you grow-up...
Without people's involvement, nothing can be done.
Without people's understanding, nothing can be achieved.
Without people's spirit and high hope, nothing can make a path.
Without establishing the goal, people do not know where they are heading for.
Without persuasion, no one would be interested.
Without belief, you will lose where you stand and can't make a correct decision.
Without ardent and relentless quest and pursue your dream, the truce can't be found.
Enthusiasm and Persistence always pays off.