Nearly 1,800 POWs were buried who died in Japan or some were brought from Sea route and died on board.
CHAPTER 14

2015
My Mentor, Gordon Graham passes away at the age of 94 in April 2015.

Gordon supported Akiko since she became the chairman of the Burma Campaign Society in 2008. He advised and both discussed a lot about cultural gap between British and Japan. We both agreed to fill the gap of differences.

The tribute to Gordon who left enormous legacies. Gordon was the founder of the Kohima Educational Trust which help Kohima’s children’s education. He was also a British Kohima veteran, Lieutenant Colonel 1st Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders.
Thank you

Connecting India: Japanese Ambassador and Australia Diplomat

WWII Imphal Campaign 71st Anniversary Took place every battlefields in Manipur
It all started from Imphal with volunteers to leave memory alive.

Left Mr Shishak, the former fighter for Indian National Army and donator of his land and epitaph for the Japanese war dead at Battle of Sangshak. About 400 Japanese soldiers died.

Thank you

Top from right Mr Arambam Bangamba Singh and Mr Yumnam Rajeshwor, the leaders of Excavation team and WW2 Imphal Campaign Foundation.
Pay a visit to the Japanese Cemetery in Hendon, northern London where Late Masao Hirakubo rest in peace.

Junichi Kajioka, actor, film director and producer who helped make a short film of Imphal 1944. Junichi was inspired by Masao’s reconciliation achievement. Junichi pays respect to Masao’s resting place.

Casual visit to Bill Smyly and his wife Diana at his home in Bedford. Long chat about Burma Campaign and WWII history.
CHAPTER 15

2015

Big Highlight of My Life!

British Embassy
Tokyo

2015
WWII 70th ANNIVERSARY took place also in British Embassy in Tokyo. Akiko’s farther Taiji Urayama shakes hand with Roy Welland, both are Kohima veterans.
British Embassy invites a British veteran and two Japanese veterans to shake hands at the Embassy in Tokyo on 12th of Nov. 2015.

To mark the 70th WW2 anniversary.

British Ambassador to Japan, Mr Tim Hitchens gave a reception and a speech in front of world media.

Akiko’s father Taiji Urayama 93 was exhausted to be out from his nursing home fell asleep while Akiko battles with interview.
Remembrance Day and 70th anniversary of the end of WWII: British and Japanese veterans reunite at British Embassy Tokyo

On the 11 November the UK remembers those that have given their lives in service to their country. This year is the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, when we remember the tremendous loss on all sides, but also recognize the enormous changes that have occurred through reconciliation.

On 12 November 2015, the British Embassy Tokyo welcomed 94 year old Mr Roy Welland, a former Sergeant from the Royal Berkshire Regiment and Mr Taiji Urayama, a former Lieutenant of the Mountain Artillery and Veterinary of 31 Regiment. Both men fought at one of the most bloody battles of the war at Kohima in 1944. Also joining the reconciliation event was Mr Mikio Kinoshita, a former Sergeant of the 5th Regiment, Railway Construction Army. Mr Kinoshita recently travelled to the UK to meet a British former prisoner of the Thai-Burma railway.

Although these men were on separate sides in Burma, they met at the embassy as old soldiers, and in friendship. Mr Welland brought with him photo folders of the Battle of Kohima memorial, a cemetery set at the exact spot of the famous battle. He gave one each to the Japanese veterans, while Mr Kinoshita brought a Kimekomi Ningyo doll made by his daughter. Mr Urayama brought with him a reconciliation tie specially made to give to Mr Welland.

In his opening remarks at this special event, British Ambassador to Japan Mr Tim Hitchens said:

"Today we can remember the past, but we can also honour the change through reconciliation between people."

Japanese veteran Mr Kinoshita said:

"I am very grateful for being invited to today's reconciliation event. It is a great pleasure for me to meet Mr Welland, Mr Urayama and their families."

British veteran Mr Roy Welland said:

"It's wonderful to be here in Japan. Everyone has been so friendly. As for today's meeting, well there are no words. It's rather overwhelming. But this is why we do it. It's about these simple moments which carry a lot of meaning. I'd like to thank everyone involved in making this happen and I want to keep doing things like this for a few more years if I can. It just keeps getting better."
英日元軍人の和解の茶会を開催

英国と日本の退役軍人と家族の方々をお招きし、駐日英国大使館で和解の茶会を開きました。

英国では、毎年11月11日、戦争で命を落とした人々を追悼します。今年は第二次世界大戦終結から70年という節目であり、日本、英団はじめ世界各地で失われた多くの命の記憶を胸に、大きく前進し変化を遂げたことを認識する機会となります。

駐日英国大使館では、11月12日(木)、第二次世界大戦終結70周年と戦没者追悼記念日(Remembrance Day)に関する様々な行事の一環として、英国陸軍ロイヤル・パーソン・コング・リージヨンに所属していた元兵士ヨーリ・ウェランド氏(94歳)と旧日本陸軍第31連隊に所属していた浦山泰二氏(93歳)を和解の茶会へお招きし、多くの兵士が亡くなった1944年ヒロマ(ビルマ)の戦いを英国・日本それぞれの立場から振り返りました。この茶会には、旧日本陸軍鉄道第6連隊に所属していた木下幹夫氏(95歳)も参加されました。木下氏は、当時、ビルマ・タイ鉄道の建設に従事し、そこで労働を強いられた英軍の戦争捕虜との再会を求め、渡英した経験をお持ちです。

彼らはビルマでの戦いに於いて敵対する立場にいましたが、この茶会では同じ元兵士として、また友人として再会を果たしました。ウェランド氏は英軍より持参したヒロマの戦いが行われた地に建つ記念碑の写真集を、旧日本軍の元兵士の両氏へそれぞれ記念品として贈呈しました。木下氏は自作の絵と手作りの木目込み人形を、浦山氏は和解を記念して作ったネクタイをウェランド氏へ贈呈しました。

和解の茶会を主催したティム・ヒッチンズ駐日英国大使は、次のように述べました。

「本日、私たちは過去を忘れることなく、人と人の和解を通じた進歩によって得られた変化を、誇りに思います。」

ウェランド氏は次のように述べました。

「日本を訪問できることは、大変素晴らしい思い。本日の和解の茶会は、歴史にせよ今世、感情的につながれます。多くの意味合いを持たずにこのような素朴な瞬間々々に意義があるのです。この茶会を実現して下さった関係者の皆様へ心より感謝申し上げます。出来る限り、この先も同様の和解の交流を続けていきたいと思います。」

木下氏は次のように述べました。

「和解の茶会へお招きいただき、ありがとうございます。ウェランドさんと浦山さん。それぞれのご家族にお目に掛かることができ、大変光栄に思います。」
CHAPTER 16

2016

71st Anniversary of WW2 Annual British Kohima Memorial Service in York
Hon. Secretary, Hideko Hayasaka and Akiko Macdonald attend annual Kohima memorial service.

Akiko making new friends whose fathers went to Imphal/Kohima campaign.

Having a chat with ex-military service man, too.
Roy Welland and Ruth Smith with happy smile. Still strong enough to travel to York from Essex.

Akiko and Hideko presented each white rose for the respect of the fallen soldiers.

Solemn, but relaxed and happy mood to get together at the service.
CHAPTER 17

2016

71st Anniversary of WW2
War Exhibition on the 15th of August at
British Army and Navy Club in London
Akiko and a Chindits veteran, Mr Peter Heppell, 15th August 2016, WW2 Memorial Day at Army & Navy Club in London.

Akiko guided a family from Japan who are interested in war history. They were very excited for the rare opportunity to be there.
New Beginning with Myanmar
Visiting his excellency, the ambassador
U. Kyaw Zwar Minn at Myanmar Embassy in London
At the end of summer, Burmese, Japanese and European Buddhist monks and two Christian Dignitaries gave religious war memorial service at Three Wheels in Acton, London.

His Excellency, the Ambassador of Myanmar U. Kyaw Zwar Minn invited Akiko to discuss further development of reconciliation and international friendship activities. They promised two young first secretaries will assist Akiko for future.
Encouragement from Sankei Newspaper 26 Sept. 2016
Designing a Reconciliation badge
Left: Akiko’s farther, Taiji Urayama (Lieutenant of Mountain Artillery, 31st Regiment of 31st Division) unites with late Masao Hirakubo (Lieutenant of Supplier Officer, 58th regiment of 31st Division, 15th Japanese Imperial Army) back in 2001 in Tokyo.

**Tow old Japanese Imphal/Kohima Veterans reunite**

祖 国に帰ったら、我々の事をつたえよ。
あなた達の明日のために

**WHEN YOU GO HOME TELL THEM OF US AND SAY FOR YOUR TOMORROW WE GAVE OUR TODAY**