

# Agape World

**New Website: [agapeworldreconciliation.org](http://agapeworldreconciliation.org)**



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Dear Friends

How have you spent the spring holiday time? Although April was rather cold, I hope you are well and enjoying life. We are all well in the Agape World team here in London. Kiku has started to work on our new website and it is coming out great. We are asking you to send your essays, letters, poems, endorsements, photos and the like.

Thank you for those who have already sent your pieces. We appreciate it very much and they are on our website or coming up soon. Please send us your news as well. We have an excellent editor who goes through every piece you send us. She is an English teacher, lecturer and a bookworm.

Sadly we had had to cancel this year's Agape Pilgrimage of Reconciliation this year, but we are planning one in 2018. We hope some of you will join us. There is a brief outline at the end of the newsletter.

Take very good care of yourselves and hope on 13 May if you are coming to the Paradise Lunch.

## **Agape World and I Kaz Mihara**

I was born immediately after "the War in the Pacific". Having heard about my parents' experiences when I was still young, I read a number of books on the war while studying at university. Not much is written about the camps for POWs and civilians set up by the Japanese Army. It was after moving to London in 1973 that I became fully aware of the British people's view on my country. Also, I came across some legacy of the war when I travelled in south-East Asia in the 1990s.

I happened to read a Japanese newspaper article about Keiko's work in around 2000.

After I left my job a few years later, I contacted her and started helping her in back-office work. I mainly translate documents and newspaper articles for her publications and activities. I find my work interesting and rewarding, and hope it contributes to Agape's reconciliation work in some way.

I'm married to Margaret who is originally from Lincolnshire. We met when she visited Japan in 1970 and started teaching at a women's college in Kyoto. She checks my English translation so that the documents I prepare are accurate and

readable. We have two grown-up daughters, one of whom lives with us and the other in Barcelona.

### William Mundy's Story - Part II

I think I should give credit to one of the guards in charge of the working parties on the airfield. He spoke English and explained that his father was a doctor in Japan, having trained in Edinburgh, UK, and it was his intention to follow suit after the war. He was very thoughtful for his working group and would leave them to work whilst he went to scrounge food for them. All went well until on one occasion a senior Japanese officer group seeing the group not at work and unguarded, enquired of the Japanese guard's location. Of course he was disciplined in the usual Japanese way: a severe beating. The result was no further consideration for the workers.

Improving a road surface had once seen us working through the village of Wai, where when working near a hut, a hand would pass some gift under the attack wall. Ambon was, at that time, a Christian community and in spite of the risk the villagers showed great kindness.

Not all working parties had pleasant endings; on one occasion a group was taken to Ambon to unload petrol drums from a ship onto layers of bamboo, which sprung up when its load was made lighter. The result was having the flesh torn from the inside of both legs, which turned into tropical ulcers.

On another working party collecting wood for the cook-house, the "mad sergeant major" as we called him, tried to show off his swordsmanship by tackling a banana plant, bending the sword completely out of shape as a result. He proceeded to bend it straight again by standing on one end. Gradually as the months went by, malnutrition, the glare from the white coral and the rough brittle surface on which one walked without footwear, took its toll. I myself had the two ulcers already mentioned, beriberi which caused my legs to rub together from the knees up, and eyes which were badly infected by pellagra. Nevertheless, I had to keep going until the end of November 1943 when I was advised I was to return to Java on a Sick Draft. I was most disappointed when shortly afterwards I was told that I would no longer be going as a more serious case had taken my place.



Left: William with Keio students

However, God was still directing my paths because I later learnt that the Americans torpedoed the ship I would have been on, and a Japanese plane machine-gunned those in the water. It was reported that all who had been on board perished, though a rumour told that one prisoner got to safety.

Shortly after this, I was walking along the perimeter fence when the guard in the tower bawled at me for not bowing as I passed. He indicated that I was not to move but stand where I was. When he was relieved from duty he marched me back to the guard room and made me stand outside. I stood there for two or more hours, not being able to understand why I had not been beaten, though God knew. Then I was dismissed making sure I bowed correctly before departing.



My opportunity to return to Java came in April 1944 when I went on board the *Techno Maru*. We sailed from Ambon on 1 May and slept on the open deck with those who were very ill “housed” under hung tarpaulin. During the journey there was one most horrific incident. The first I knew of it was when one of our Warrant Officers rushed past, pursued by the “mad sergeant major.” Apparently a drunk Japanese soldier had challenged one our colleagues to a jujitsu fight. Having thrown him around the deck, he finally cut off his head with his sword. The Warrant Officer had tried to intervene but under Japanese Marine law the Sergeant Major, not the Captain, was in charge. Other Japanese guards were able to restrain him for the rest of the journey.

(to be continued)

### Keio University



Keio University is one of the best known private Universities in Japan. William Mundy has visited there in Tokyo. Keiko is often invited to talk to the students. We would like to show you a photo of those days.

### Linda & Kevin

We first made contact with Keiko via the British Embassy in Tokyo in March 2010. We had asked the Embassy if they knew of any way that we could visit Japan, and hopefully go to the site where Linda's father Arthur Jones was a POW. Within a matter of weeks of making our initial contact, Keiko had incorporated us into the group that she was taking to

Japan in October 2010. Whilst in Japan, we visited a number of places where POWs were held all of which had a memorial for the POWs. The final place was where Linda's father was held in Omi camp 13b, Niigata prefecture, but sadly no memorial.

It was during our visit that we decided that

we would like to see a memorial in the area where the camp was located in honour of the sixty POWs who had died there (58 British and 2 American), and for those who survived and returned home to continue their lives, like Linda's father.

It was early in 2014 that we heard that the



company the POWs had worked for was willing to erect a memorial close to where the camp was located. We then contacted Keiko and asked if she could do something to help us so that we could attend the unveiling. As usual, she came back to us with a proposal which we very gratefully accepted. On 6th September 2014, we, and two sons of

POWs also held at the same camp, attended the ceremony for the unveiling. During the ceremony, speeches were made and it was Keiko who translated Kevin's speech.

We are sure those family members who attended the unveiling along with us will agree that Keiko is a remarkable lady because without her

this memorial may not have been achieved. Since getting to know Keiko we have made a number of friends, both British and Japanese, and still keep in contact with most of them. We cannot say how grateful we are for the help this lady has given us and many other POWs and their families

**Paradise Lunch: at 13.00 on 13 May    Venue: 35 Leyburn Gardens CR0 5NL**

### Brief Plan of the Agape Pilgrimage of Reconciliation September 2018

Date	Detail	Stay
Wed 5	Evening: Depart from London	
Thue 6	Arrive@ Haneda Transit to Fukuoka	Fukuoka
Fri 7	Visit Camp site etc move to Nagasaki	Nagasaki
Sat 8	Memorial Service @ Koyagi    Sightseeing    Million Dollar night view	Nagasaki
Sun 9	Own morning.    Afternoon: Sightseeing	Nagasaki
Mon 10	Depart from Nagasaki for Kyoto	Kyoto
Tue 11	Sightseeing, Shopping etc	Kyoto
Wed 12	Might stay one night @ host families	Kyoto
Thur 13	Depart from Kyoto for Kiwa-Cho	Kiwa-Cho
Fri 14	Visit Mining Museum, etc.	Kiwa-Cho
Sat 15	Memorial Service @ Little Britain	Kiwa-Cho
Sun 16	Depart from Kiwa-Cho for Tokyo	Tokyo
Mon 17	Sightseeing, Shopping@Oriental Bazaar	Tokyo
Tue 18	University ? & British Embassy?	Tokyo
Wed 19	Depart from Haneda for London.    Arrive @ London	UK