



## Shanghai Masonic Hall Revisited - Lest We Forget



By Bro. Brian L. Coak

Hon. PGD: PPAGM FE; GML; PM 712 IC; Hon. PDGJD HKFE; PM 5391EC

### Preface

The events depicted in the following pages deals with the erection of the third Shanghai Masonic Hall constructed at 30 The Bund in 1865, its reconstruction, and its successor constituted in 1931 at Avenue Road, now Beijing Road West.

From the early days of the International Settlement to the Pacific War Shanghai was probably one of the most successful, prosperous and cosmopolitan cities in Asia. In

1937, Japanese forces captured Shanghai and following the attack on Pearl Harbour, life was bluntly transformed. (Fig.1 Japanese soldiers attack Shanghai in 1937 left).



By 1942, the Japanese military authorities became paranoid about sabotage or espionage. Consequently many office bearers of clubs or societies were arrested and roughly investigated.

It was not until May 2001 when a group of Freemasons under the banner of the District Grand Lodge of Hong Kong & the Far East and their ladies visited Shanghai to see the old Masonic Hall. Half a century has passed since a group of Masons

assembled informally inside the old building.

Sixty years ago, in 1942 the Shanghai English senior brethren were rudely commanded to appear at the Masonic Hall by the Japanese forces. At the hall a naval officer from the Japanese Navy Bureau subjected the brethren to interrogation. The following pages describe what happened on those fateful nights followed by internment until 'light' was restored.

After the visit to the hall and an opportunity to enter those very rooms where the interrogations took place, one felt obliged to recall again those alarming events but sad chapter in the Masonic Hall's history. Lest we forget!

## Dedication

This paper is dedicated to the Shanghai brethren and their families who lost their personal liberty following the outbreak of the Pacific War and interned from 1942 to 1945 and who suffered grievously during the period of enemy activity.



## Contents

Frontispiece	Page 1
Preface and Dedication	Page 2
Contents	Page 3
Illustrations	Page 4
The Shanghai Bund	Page 5
The Shanghai Club	Page 5
The Shanghai Masonic Hall & The Good Life	Page 6
The Dedication of the Bund Hall	Page 6
Demolition of the old Hall and the new Hall	Page 7
The Foundation Stone Laying	Page 7
The Mukden Incident & Consecration of the Hall	Page 8
Shanghai Captured by Japanese Forces 1932	Page 8
Prelude to War	Page 9
Nanjing Massacre & Difficult Times	Page 9
The Dogs of War Unleashed	Page 10
Shanghai Masonic Hall Revisited After Half a Century	Page 10
Shanghai Masonic Hall in 1942	Page 11
The Interrogations at the Masonic Hall	Page 12
Notorious Bridgehouse Prison & Conditions	Page 14
The District Grand Master	Page 15
Internment	Page 15
Escape	Page 16
A Change in the Fortunes of War	Page 16
Freemasonry from the Ashes	Page 17
Shanghai Endures	Page 18
References	Page 19

## Illustrations

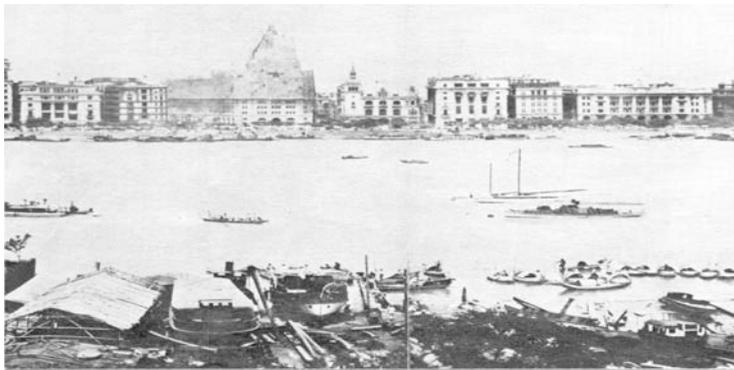
Figure 1.	Japanese attack on Shanghai 1937	Page.2
Figure 2	The Bund	Page.5
Figure 3	The Shanghai Club	Page.5
Figure 4	The Masonic Hall 30 The Bund	Page.6
Figure 5	The Masonic Hall after reconstruction	Page.6
Figure 6	Foundation Stone Laying	Page.7
Figure 7	Japanese Soldiers at Mukden	Page.8
Figure 8	The Avenue Road Masonic Hall 1931	Page.8
Figure 9	Japanese in Shanghai in 1937	Page.9
Figure 10	Map of Southern China	Page.9
Figure 11	Japanese enter Nanjing & Nanjing Memorial	Page.9
Figure 12	Qingdao Masonic Hall 1935	Page.9
Figure 13	Pearl Harbour & Bombing of Hong Kong	Page.10
Figure 14	Masonic Hall in 2001	Page.10
Figure 15	N. E. Corner Stone in 2001	Page.10
Figure 16	The Church in 2001	Page.11
Figure 17	The Hall Surrounded by Japanese forces	Page.11
Figure 18	Shanghai Masonic Hall Entrance	Page.11
Figure 19	Masonic Hall Corridor	Page.12
Figure 20	District Grand Secretary EC Office	Page.12
Figure 21	Japanese search of the hall in 1942 sketch	Page.12
Figure 22	Hall Floor Plan	Page.13
Figure 23	Lt. Inoye & Mrs. Nogami sketch	Page.13
Figure 24	Peace Hotel	Page.13
Figure 25	Bridgehouse Hotel drainage cover	Page.14
Figure 26	Bridgehouse Prison 1940	Page.14
Figure 27	Bridgehouse Prison Cell	Page.14
Figure 28	Bridgehouse Prison Records	Page.14
Figure 29	Bridgehouse Prison Manacles	Page.14
Figure 30	Vault used by the Scottish	Page.15
Figure 31	Door Handle	Page.15
Figure 32	Lunghua Camp	Page.16
Figure 33	Woosung Camp	Page.16
Figure 34	John Cecil Conder	Page.16
Figure 35	Ohel Moishe Hall	Page.16
Figure 36	Staircase	Page.17
Figure 37	Wall etchings	Page.17
Figure 38	The Ground floor entrance inside	Page.18
Figure 39	People's Square	Page.18
Figure 40	Bridgehouse Prison Execution Chamber	Page.18
Figure 41	Shanghai Masonic Hall on the Bund 1886	Page.19

## Shanghai Masonic Hall Revisited - Lest We Forget



*"Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves"*

Abraham Lincoln (1809 1865)



*(Fig.2 The Shanghai Bund circa 1900)*

### The Shanghai Bund

The Bund or 'Wai Tan' since time immemorial was no more than a towpath along the Whangpoo River. Later, many of the buildings erected near the river were jetties and bungalows with deep verandahs. Very little was done in regards to sanitation and rubbish was just deposited on the foreshore. Today, the Bund is still synonymous with Shanghai's early 30's International Settlement elegant life style, high finance on business thrived.

### The Shanghai Club

One of the first elegant buildings erected along the Bund was the Shanghai Club constructed in 1862. It was planned on an extravagant scale, far beyond the means of those who called upon to support it. It was not until 1870 that it was put on a sound financial basis. *(Fig.3 The Shanghai Club below)*



## The Shanghai Masonic Hall

In July 1865, a Foundation Stone for another elegant structure was laid further along the Bund at Number 30 The Bund - the Shanghai Masonic Hall. The Hall was to have a commanding view of the Whangpoo River opposite the Public Gardens on The Bund esplanade. The ceremony of the Foundation Stone laying was accompanied by great pageantry. Before the corner stone was finally lowered in place, a 'phial' containing a number of items was placed in the cavity below.

## The Good Life

Rough shooting was a favourite outdoor pastime in Shanghai at the time, even more pleasing if you could take an excursion into the country and stay on a houseboat. Following the construction of the Masonic Hall in 1866, the first cricket interport match with Hong Kong took place and a football club was formed.

It is said that when the British move overseas they take with them their church and horse racing. The British in Shanghai followed this practice and three horserace courses were laid out over the years. Rowing races were keenly competed in Soochow Creek and a pack of beagles had already been introduced. Many Clubs and Societies came into existence in the early years of the Settlement, such as the Royal Asiatic Society and the Amateur Dramatic Club. Following the establishment of Northern Lodge No. 570 EC in 1849 and Royal Sussex Lodge No.501 EC in 1863 Masonry also became an important part of the fabric of the Shanghai social scene.

## Dedication of the Bund Masonic Hall



The dedication of the Bund Masonic Hall took place on 27 September 1867. In 1895, it was discovered, however, that the back portion of the block of the buildings was found unsafe. Rebuilding commenced and the Large Hall and the godown below were reconstructed. On 19 June 1897, a large gathering assembled at the site to witness the formal deposition of a leaden casket containing Masonic and other documents were placed into a specially prepared cavity in the walls of the new building 'in order to 'record our work to the distant future'. *(Fig.4 The Masonic Hall 30 The Bund)*

Despite the threat of bubonic plague in 1910 carried to Shanghai by rats from the ships. The early part of 1911 marked the opening of the new Shanghai Club. As if not to be outdone, the Fraternity decided once again to undertake extensive alterations to the Masonic Hall. This time it involved taking down the whole of the front portion of the building. The new interior doorposts, frames and lintels were exquisitely carved and teak paneling was used in the North Room. The new Hall was spacious and lit by electricity and a heated system for the Shanghai winters was installed.



On the completion of the new Masonic Hall in 1912, the Hall committee faced a deficit and struggled to meet expenditure. By 1917, the Hall's heating system deteriorated and white ants were discovered, and a year later, a fire broke out above the main hall. *(Fig.5 left the new hall repaired)*

In 1916, it marked the beginning of the 'Warlord Era' in China and in 1917 with it the formation of the Nationalist Party. It was not until 1921 when the Chinese Communist Party was formed in Shanghai.

### Demolition of the Masonic Hall

The possible sale of the 30 the Bund property was discussed over the years and it was not until 1926 when an offer was received from a Japanese company at the sale price of Taels \$410,000 clean of the land. A formal agreement was finally signed and arrangements were made by the Fraternity to move to temporary premises before the old hall was scheduled for its demolition in 1928. On 3 February 1927 an earthquake shook Shanghai residents. This was followed by the crunching sounds of men under arms when Chiang Kai-shek entered Shanghai with his Army. Before demolition of the Hall in 1928, the 1912 Foundation Stone and the metal box placed in the cavity still intact beneath it was carefully taken away and stored until it was ready for the construction of the new building.

### The New Hall

The new committee found a site for the proposed new Hall at an extension of Avenue Road now Beijing Road West and the ground was handed over in 1929 - the same year of the Wall Street stock market crash! The plans called for an architectural competition. Out of the six competitors who submitted drawings, the plans finally chosen by the committee and accepted by the Lodges were architects, Messrs Spence Robinson and Partners.

### The Foundation Stone Laying

It was a chilly day on 17 January 1931 when the District Grand Lodge of Northern Grand Lodge opened in their temporary premises and proceeded to assemble with other members of the public at the site of the new hall in Avenue Road. The Fraternity wore overcoats with their regalia outside their heavy coats. The District Grand Master of the English Constitution, R.W. Bro. Clarke, was unwell and so his Deputy, W. Bro. Nation carried out the ceremony at short notice. He was accompanied by the District Grand Master of the Scottish Constitution R.W. Bro Penfold and W. Bro. Young W.M. of Lodge Erin No.463 representing the Irish Constitution.

The foundation stone laying was conducted in ample form. In his address, the Deputy Grand Master said that he hoped that *"the fourth Masonic Hall will be a permanent home for a great many years to come"*. (Fig.6 Foundation Stone Laying 17.1.1931)



Once this important step was accomplished, the construction of the new Hall continued quickly. No doubt, the Shanghai Brethren after their long endeavours in 'the quarries' were looking forward with pride to the Consecration of the new building later in the year.

## The Mukden Incident

On the map, the Liaodong Manchurian Peninsula looks like a finger of land pointing towards Shandong Province on the mainland of China. However, Japan held a lease for many years on the Peninsula together with mining rights in southern Manchuria, as the latter was rich in natural resources and raw materials.

The Consecration of the Shanghai Masonic Hall was planned for September 1931. However, during this period, the Japanese Commander of the Liaodong Peninsula decided to take control over Manchuria by force. He was ordered by the Emperor to stop but the order arrived late and the invasion continued. Unfortunately, on 18 September 1931, a bomb exploded on the railway at Mukden in Southern Manchuria. The Japanese claimed that Chinese soldiers fired on Japanese but within a week the entire region was occupied by Japanese forces. *(Fig.7 Japanese soldiers at Mukden)*



## The Consecration of the Avenue Road Masonic Hall

Following the Mukden incident, hardly a week passed when on a warm evening on Saturday 26 September 1931, 247 Brethren assembled at the Avenue Road Shanghai Masonic Hall for a special meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Northern China E.C. for the purposes of consecrating the new Hall. *(Fig.8 Avenue Road hall 1931)*



During the ceremony and in reply to the District Grand Master's address, The District Grand Chaplain, R.W. Bro. The Rev. Turner responded in his oration and said

*"We implore His aid in all our undertakings, and look up to Him in every emergency for comfort and support".*

Those so assembled could hardly foresee the political situation in China would deteriorate to such an extent and with such speed so that the Shanghai brethren would soon face a severe test of their precepts. A month later, the District Grand Lodge meeting was held in Tienjin.

## Shanghai Captured by Japanese Forces 1932

In March 1932, only five months after the dedication of the new Shanghai Hall, Japanese Marines landed and captured Shanghai. The Japanese Emperor then declared the establishment of an independent state, Manchukuo, in Manchuria. Puyi, the Last Emperor of the Qing Dynasty living in exile in the Japanese Concession in Tienjin was placed as head of State of Manchukuo.

However, the military and political power remained in the hands of the Japanese. In Shanghai, a curfew was in force and Masonic activities were curtailed. Whatever meetings could be held at that time started at 6.00 p.m. rather than the usual 9.00 p.m. and 'easy dress' was more the norm during this troubled period.

By 1933, Hitler and his Nazi cohorts made further gains in Europe while in China; the better-armed KMT forces gained an increasingly stranglehold on the Communists.

Mao's forces were forced to either leave from their positions or obliterated. In 1934, Mao decided to make a break for it and the Communists started on their perilous 'Long March'.

### Prelude to War

As part of the prelude to war, Mussolini invaded Ethiopia in 1935 and the DGM EC Bro. Clarke who played such an important part in the construction of the new Shanghai Masonic Hall died. Germany signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Japan in 1936 but on 29 April 1936, Bro. William Nation, Bro. Clarke's Deputy was installed as District Grand Master of the English Constitution. A year later, Italy signed the Pact with Japan.



On July 1937 the Japanese engineered another incident at the Lugouqiao (Marco Polo Bridge) and this marked the beginning of the second Sino-Japanese War and with it the opening of a second front by landing Japanese troops in Shanghai. (Fig. 9 Japanese in Shanghai 1937)

By 1938, the Japanese forces already occupied most of northern and southern China. Chinese civilians were bombed; their fishing boats sunk as the Japanese killed disarmed soldiers and maimed many innocent civilians. (Fig. 10 Map of South China in 1938 showing Japanese occupied areas shaded and Japanese)



### Nanjing Massacre 1937



In Nanjing alone, the Japanese subjected thousands of non-combatants and Chinese soldiers to unpardonable and barbaric atrocities! At the time, the Japanese Prime Minister announced that the military action in China was not to conquer but aimed at 'economic co-operation' and to bring about a 'new order in Asia'. (See below Fig.11 the entry of Nanjing by Japanese forces and the memorial to the dead.)



### Difficult Times

Despite the chaotic situation in China between 1937-38 the Installation of Bro. Hawthorne Master Elect of Northern Star of China Lodge No. 2673 EC was deferred in 1937 and was finally held on 1 February 1938. Bro Higgs the English District Grand Secretary journeyed from Shanghai to officiate at the ceremony. The Masonic Hall in Great Chan Shan Road in Qingdao was found undamaged despite Japanese Military occupation of the city following the withdrawal by the Chinese Administration.



(Fig.12 Qingdao Hall 1935)

In September 1940, the M.E. Grand Superintendent, English Constitution, Companion William Nation was still able to consecrate Royal Sussex Chapter at the Shanghai Avenue Road Masonic Hall

### The Dogs of War Unleashed

In 1941 Germany attacked Russia but in September the advance was stopped at Moscow. Germany requested Japan to attack the east of Russia but Japan continued its expansion in Indo-China. At first, despite many restrictions on travel, Masonic activity continued in Shanghai. While Japanese diplomats were still laboriously negotiating in Washington, the Japanese military staged its surprise attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941. (Fig. 13 Pearl Harbour and bombing of Hong Kong below)



Singapore and Hong Kong was bombed and Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese forces on 25 December despite no formal declaration of war from either side.



The Japanese then seized foreign concessions in Tienjin and the International Settlement in Shanghai.

By mid-1942, Japan had control over much of the East and Southeast Asian mainland and islands. Shanghai became virtually one huge internment camp. At first, the inhabitants were left more or less to themselves. Their first worst hardships they faced were the lack of food and heating.

### The Shanghai Masonic Hall Revisited After Half a Century

On 12 May 2001, the District Grand Lodge of Hong Kong and the Far East Delegation comprising brethren and ladies alighted from our coach at a side street on the west side of our former Shanghai Masonic Hall just off Beijing Road West. My first thought was to locate the NE corner of the building. It was easy to recognize the stone despite the fact that the inscription had been practically obliterated by heavy white paint. Fortunately, one could clearly see in bold letters -'Shanghai Masonic Hall'. Presumably, the other two Canton Road Hall cornerstones were still behind the facade and the Bund Hall 1865 copper box was still in the cavity. However, it was clear that an extra storey had been added to the building but otherwise the facade had not been altered greatly since it was constructed in 1931.



(Fig. 14 The Masonic Hall in 2001) & ( Fig. 15 The NE Corner stone in 2001)

## Shanghai Masonic Hall 1942



One's thoughts jumped again to 1942 during the Japanese occupation of Shanghai. I attempted to imagine the street as I walked around the corner site occupied for many years by the First Church of Christ Scientist left. (Fig.16 the church)

One night in early 1942, the President of the Avenue Road Hall W.Bro. J. J. Evans, received a trite message from W. Bro. Sampson, a Past Master of Royal Sussex Lodge No. 501 and Secretary/Treasurer of the Masonic Hall and to come to the Hall immediately and to remove all valuables! When Bro. Evans arrived at the hall a guard of a hundred Japanese Marines with fixed bayonets and a group of Naval; Military and Gendarmerie officers confronted him.

(Fig.17 see sketch the Masonic Hall surrounded by soldiers and officers below)



This meeting was the first of many demands on the senior Masonic administrators for immediate attendance at the Hall and on each occasion the interrogations often took place far into the night.



I entered the main entrance to the hall almost reverentially with these thoughts in mind. Number 1623 is still displayed proudly above the door between the large Ionic columns straddling the entrance (Fig.18 above). It was with almost a sense of relief when I entered the vestibule.

Following a briefing on the Chinese Medical Association who are now the de facto occupants of the Hall and after sitting in the former large Lodge room my thoughts darted back again to the past. I slowly left the north of the door main room and walked across the corridor (Fig.19 right) to enter the former English District Grand Secretary's office. (Fig.20 left)

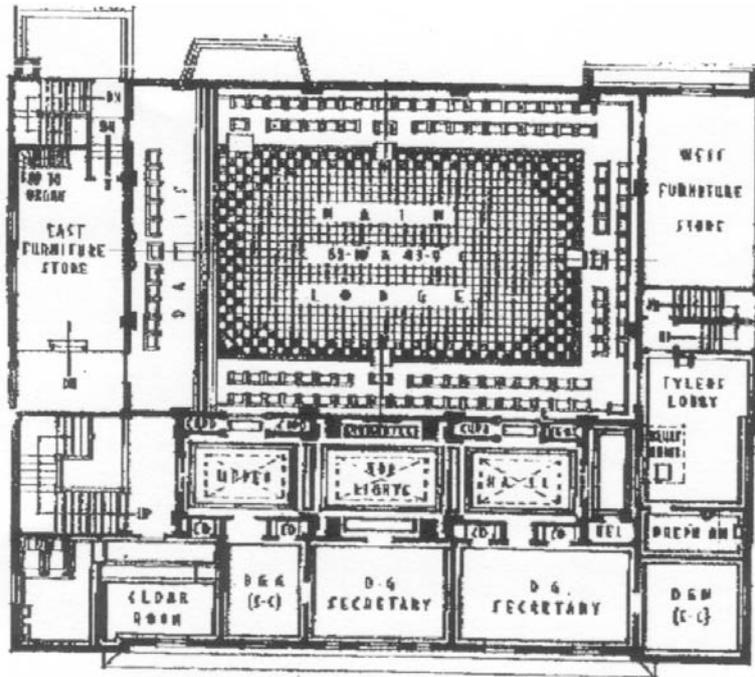


### The Interrogations at the Masonic Hall

The first investigation undertaken by the Japanese was held in the Masonic Hall. Bro Higgs, the District Grand Secretary English Constitution gained the impression that none of those present knew what they were looking for, or why they were searching the building. The soldiers pulled regalia out of cupboards and storerooms and left them strewn all over the floor. There seemed to be no system. (See Fig. 21 sketch search below) The only man who kept at all cool and collected was the young Naval Bureau Officer in charge, Lieutenant Inoye.



Lieutenant Inoye eventually spent some three hours questioning Bro Higgs in this office and examining all his files and the regalia belonging to the District Grand Master. Eventually, after about five hours in the hall, the Japanese sealed all the rooms. Strangely enough, it appeared to me that many of the old wooden cupboards and storerooms were still intact. See First Floor Plan below. (Fig. 22 Hall Floor Plan)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

MASONIC HALL, AVENUE ROAD, SHANGHAI

Later, Bro. Higgs was summoned again and spent five hours in the Hall, but this time the Japanese brought with them a woman secretary, a Mrs. Nogami, who, it soon became apparent, was not only a trained investigator, but also one who had specialized knowledge in Freemasonry. (Fig. 23 Lt. Inoye & Mrs. Nogami sketch)



Bro. Higgs later reported after the war 'that I thought that I knew as much as anyone in Northern China about Freemasonry but that girl could make rings round me'. She knew degrees and branches of Masonry about which I had never heard. I was glad to have her present for she knew exactly what was useful and what was not worth examining.



Bro. Higgs received two more calls lasting two or three hours each. These interrogations were held at the Naval Bureau's Headquarters at the Cathy Hotel along the Bund now the Peace Hotel. The investigators found a circular issued by Bro. Higgs suggesting that Lodges should place their warrants in safety such as a bank vault. The Lieutenant demanded immediately which banks the Lodges had deposit boxes. He then threatened to send Bro. Higgs to the infamous Bridgehouse Prison! He many times repeated that

he wanted to know the information immediately. The Lieutenant was very insistent! The interrogation lasted two hours and Bro. Higgs was given instructions to bring to Lieutenant Inoye the information by 9.00 am the following morning at the Cathy Hotel. Bro. Higgs managed to get hold of the last Lodge secretary for the information just in time! (Fig.24 left the Peace Hotel former the Cathy Hotel)

### The Notorious Bridgehouse Prison



The Bridgehouse Prison was an institution set up by the Japanese Gendarmerie where all their investigations were carried out. (Fig.25 Original Bridgehouse Prison drainage cover 1901)

The headquarters were situated in the Bridgehouse Hotel on North Szechuen Road. Dozens of men and women of all nationalities were arrested soon after the outbreak of war and imprisoned there while their cases were being investigated. The Japanese regarded any society or club, however innocent its real purposes was a cloak for spying. (Fig.26 The Prison below circa 1940)

### Prison Conditions

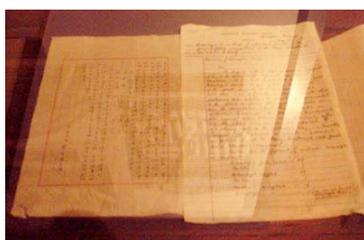


Conditions in this prison were appalling! People of both sexes were crowded into rooms where there was just sufficient space for them to lie down some cells were only 3.2m2. (Fig.27 Bridghouse Prison Cell)

Everything was taken away from them; shoelaces, braces, spectacles or anything else with which they might attempt to commit suicide. They had to sleep on the floor with only one blanket in winter, while the only food consisted of two small bowls of rice and two cups of tea daily.



The lavatory was simply a pail in the corner of the room, and this had to be used by men and women alike, in all view of other occupants of the room. The place was infested with lice and other vermin and there was no heating during winter. Men were kept there for periods varying from a week to six or seven months while their cases were being investigated. (Fig.28 Prison records shown below) In winter the cells were freezing and suffocating in summer.



During the interrogation, most were ill treated, stripped naked, flogged while others were subject to electric shocks or their hands and feet burned or compelled to kneel on the unyielding hard floor for long periods. Sleep was disturbed by endless roll

calls. Men who fainted or become unconscious during torture were revived so that the interrogations could continue (Fig. 29 Manacles used at the prison above)

### District Grand Master



As I stood in Bro. Higg's room it was not too difficult to imagine Lieut. Inoye and Mrs. Nogami confronting Bro. Higgs during those long probing interrogations. Fortunately for Bro. Higgs, he was not ill treated it seems! After leaving the room, I walked further along the corridor outside the former large Lodge meeting room and towards the former Tyler's Room in the west. As I approached the room, the door was open and I turned to the north side. In doing so, I crossed the wooden floor and over the brass edges of the closed vault used by the Scottish Chapter workings. Apparently, the current occupants have not opened the vault since they occupied the building many years before. It crossed my mind fancifully, whether the remains of a Scottish companion might have been forgotten and accidentally interred therein. (Fig. 30 vault used by the Scottish)

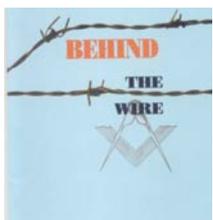
There was a door at the northwest corner and with it a sense of deja vu as I grasped the cold brass handle embossed with the standard of David (Fig.31 below) and entered the small room formerly occupied by The District Grand Master of the English Constitution.



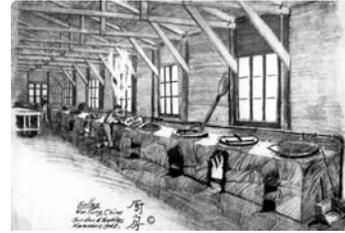
During the period of these investigations, the District Grand Master made a visit to the hall and Lieut. Inoye demanded the DGM to deliver up the contents of his files in his office. The District Grand Treasurer also spent an hour or so explaining the accounts.

Similar investigations were carried out at the American Masonic Hall, and the District Grand Master and his Secretary spent a very unpleasant ten days in the Bridgehouse Prison in consequence! The District Grand Master of the Philippine Constitution also spent a most uncomfortable sojourn in this unnerving prison.

### Internment



Towards the end of 1942, the Japanese attitude changed for the worse. All British residents male and female were interned. The leaders of the British community among them prominent Masons were arrested and interrogated. There were two camps for civilian prisoners, one in Haiphong Road and another in Fengtai. Military prisoners were held outside Shanghai. There were about 110 Masons from all jurisdictions interned in the Haiphong Road Camp including a number of members of Tuscan Lodge No.1027 EC. Only a few Masonic gatherings took place due to strict supervision at the camps. However, a ritual was smuggled into one camp and was used in the rehearsal of ceremonies under the guise of a game of cards.



(Fig.32 & 33 Lunghua & Woosung POW Camps)

There was another well-known organization working in the camps whose tenets were similar to those of the Craft. Their members also distinguished themselves using a method of recognition - a 'left handshake' - these were the Scouts. They undertook some excellent work in raising the morale of the internees.

Brethren were generally left alone in the camps but it was reported there were two exceptions when two brethren were tortured and interrogated in the presence of Mrs. Nogami. Interrogations of Masons, of course, were not confined to Shanghai and one recommends to you Bro. Keith Flynn's book regarding Masonic activities in Prisoner of War Camps entitled "Behind the Wire". (All proceeds of the sale of the book are donated to the New Masonic Samaritan Fund).

### Escape



The camps were closely guarded and attempts to escape were brutally punished. A former member of the Shanghai Municipal Police, one Bro. Jack Conder, (Shamrock Lodge No.712 IC) smuggled out 500 French crewmembers to escape Shanghai until his arrest. He was interned but he made a daring and well-planned escape in March 1943 from a concentration camp. He traveled 1,200 miles joining up with BAAG in April

1944. (Fig.34 John Cecil Conder 2<sup>nd</sup> front row Hong Kong 1954).

### A Change in the Fortunes of War

Those interned in Shanghai were probably unaware that the tide of the war was turning in 1942 in the Pacific with the decisive battles of Midway and the Coral Sea and with it the Allied Pacific counter-offensive.

It fell to a distinguished American Freemason, Most Worshipful Bro. Harry S. Truman, the President of the United States, to take the terrible decision to obliterate two cities and many thousands of its inhabitants finally ending the Pacific War with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 but not before Tokyo and other Japanese cities were bombed using incendiaries causing fire storms resulting in great loss of life.



Isolated and boring camp life continued but in July 1945, there was a raid by American bombers causing great damage and loss of life in the Eastern district at the Jewish congested segregated centre of Shanghai. But three weeks later, the camp ordeal ended. (See above Fig.35 Ohel Moishe Jewish Hall)

On release from internment in Shanghai in 1945 Bro. Higgs reported that the brethren had lost all their possessions due to war activities but they were keen to resume 'work'. The two safes and all the records at the Masonic Hall disappeared. Normality returned only slowly from the ashes of the former glittering Shanghai life. Many missionaries and foreign charitable organizations gave great help to alleviate the suffering but it was not helped by rapid inflation.



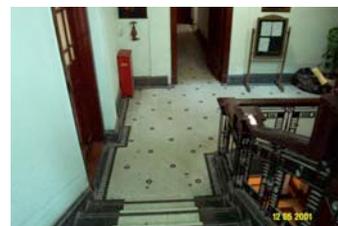
### Freemasonry from the Ashes

The first post-war meeting of Royal Sussex No. 501 was held in January 1946. The warrant of the Lodge miraculously remained intact due to the quick thinking of Bro. Moss who managed to enter the hall in 1941 and bravely walked out with it secreted in his person after where it was hidden by him undetected to the end of the war!

The first meeting of the English District Grand Lodge of Northern China after the Pacific War probably took place in March 1946 when R.W. Bro. Nation resigned. Possibly, the years of internment took a very heavy toll upon him.

It was appropriate therefore that on 12 May 2001, Bro. Russ Mason a member of Royal Sussex Lodge No.501 was able to present a gift in the presence of many English, Scottish and Irish Brethren to the Deputy Director International Affairs of the Chinese Medical Association in the new wing of the former Masonic Hall.

As I finally descended the staircase (*Fig.36 below right*) to the ground floor vestibule, I glanced at a number of Victorian style engravings that were hung on the wall (*Fig.37 left below*). It was if time had been suspended. For those who bravely faced Lieutenant Inoye and Mrs. Nagomi during the lengthy interrogations held on the floors above in 1942 the bad dream is long over but I could swear I could almost hear the sound of army boots scuffing along the tiled passages and the banging of rifle butts on doors and cupboards. Then silence!



As I walked out of the main door (*Fig.38 vestibule below*) into the warm sunshine and under the leafy tree lined street first I felt a sense of humility and pride as I reflected on those events and the Brethren who soldiered on to the end. Then a sense of futility and loss, as I contemplated the efforts made by the Shanghai fraternity during those poignant dark days and with it this spirited but doleful chapter in the Craft.



### Shanghai Endures & The Masonic Hall

Shanghai residents have endured dark times over many decades, piratical attacks, rebellion, foreign military invasions, civil war, and natural disasters. However, the Shanghai Masonic Hall made with hands remains as a fitting monument to the Craft and for what it stands. Today, the city is more stable indicated by the new steel and glass idols in the name of prosperity thrusting skywards.

*(Fig.39 People's Square - the former racecourse)*



*(Fig.40 This is the Shanghai Bridgehouse Prison Execution Chamber where many poor innocents went to their untimely death during WW II but where some Japanese War Criminals ended their life.)*

**"Do not Forget Past Events,  
Use them as Guides for the Future"**

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By

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Christopher Haffner



Behind the Wire

By

Keith Flynn OBE



Research Sketches and Photographs

By

Brian L. Coak



*(Above Fig.41 The Shanghai Masonic Hall on the Bund 1886)*

*Website*

*<http://web.mac.com/briancoak/iWeb>*