

FROM AN ARMY CAMP TO A TEACHERS' COLLEGE

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Dedicated to all who died in the Batu Lintang Camp

"May they rest in Peace."

FROM AN ARMY CAMP TO A TEACHERS' COLLEGE

A History of Batu Lintang Teachers' College Kuching, Sarawak.

JULITTA LIM SHAU HUA

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FOREWORD

by YB DATUK DR. GEORGE CHAN HONG NAM

PNBS, KMN, PBS
Minister of Finance and Public Utilities
Sarawak



FOREWORD

BY Y.B. DATUK DR. GEORGE CHAN HONG NAM,

PNBS, KMN, PBS

Minister For Finance and Public Utilities, Sarawak.

The Content of this book entitled "From An Army Camp To A Teachers' College" has immediately attracted my attention and reminded me of the ordeal and suffering encountered by many people during the Japanese Occupation 50 years ago.

In Sarawak, the people in Miri suffered the most because the Sarawak Government ordered the technicians working for the Shell Petroleum Company to destroy the oilfields in Miri and Seria in Brunei before the Japanese army arrived. It was the oilfields that the Japanese were actually eyeing for, and they attacked and occupied Miri before other places of Sarawak. When they found that the oilfields had already been destroyed just before their arrival, they were very angry, and released their anger on the technicians and the local people, and brutally tortured them. My uncles and late father were among those who suffered the brutality of the Japanese army. As young children this was frightening and sad, we could only use "LASTICK" or catapults to hit back at the Japanese soldiers to avenge our relatives and friends who were so cruelly tortured.

After reading this book, it confirmed my belief that there were many people who had suffered more, and were even tortured to death or executed in the Batu Lintang P.O.W. Camp.

The author gives a brief but authentic account of the situation in the Batu Lintang P.O.W. Camp during the war years, including

the set-up of the camp; the different types of P.O.Ws: the ordeal they experienced; the number of P.O.Ws and the death toll. From the precious pictures and documents which are published for the first time, we can appreciate the effort Mdm. Julitta Lim has put into her research.

It is interesting to know that the first university in Sarawak is not Universiti Pertanian in Bintulu or the UNIMAS in Kota Samarahan, it is the "Undercover University of Kuching" which operated right at this P.O.W. Camp at Batu Lintang. It was started by ex-Lt. Frank E. Bell. Thus, the site of BLTC has always been a Centre of learning even while it was an internment camp. May this he a source of inspiration for the staff and trainees to ensure that BLTC will always be a centre of excellence for teacher training.

But, this is only part of the book. The history of Batu Lintang Teachers' College, especially the first few years of the College, was very interesting and informative.

Lest we forget all those who did not make it to the Liberation. this book is dedicated to their memory and to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Liberation.

I would like to congratulate Mdm. Julitta Lim on her success in writing this book. It reminds the older generation of the past, and also educates the younger generation to chart out a road for the future. As for my personal experience, nothing is more precious than peace and stability in the country. War is very cruel. It makes people cruel. I fervently hope we would not have to live through one again!

> (YB Datuk Dr. George Chan Hong Nam) Minister for Finance and Public Utilities

Sarawak

1st August 1995

INTRODUCTION

MR. ENCHARANG AGAS

Principal of Batu Lintang Teachers' College Kuching, Sarawak

The research work done on the History of Batu Lintang Teachers' College by Madam Julitta Lim and its eventual publication as a book is both meaningful and significant.

It is meaningful because it is the first book ever written about the unique history of the Batu Lintang Teachers' College from its origin as an army camp and a Prisoners of War Camp in the 1940's until today as an established teachers' college in the country. It is significant because the book is published to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Liberation of the Batu Lintang P.O.W. Camp in particular and the State of Sarawak in general. This also marks the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War; a commemoration that is being carried out all over the world this year.

Madam Julitta Lim, an English lecturer of this College, has shown keen interests in the history of the College, and this book is a result of intensive research and many months of hard and concentrated work.

Thanks to Madam Julitta Lim's hard work, we can now have a valuable monograph containing pictures and documents about the College that appear in a book for the first time. I am sure readers will not only enjoy reading the lucid, interesting and informative contents of this book but they will also find it useful for research.

Introduction

I believe the efforts made by Madam Julitta Lim would be highly appreciated, and would thus encourage more local historians to work so as to enrich our culture in time to come.

(ENCHARANG AGAS)

PRINCIPAL

BATU LINTANG TEACHERS' COLLEGE KUCHING, SARAWAK.

1st AUGUST 1995.

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I would like to thank a number of people who assisted me in bringing this research paper to completion in the form of a book entitled "From An Army Camp To A Teachers" College". Foremost among them has been my husband, Mr. Fong Hon Kah, who took many of the photographs used in this book and accompanied me on several field trips and interviewing sessions during the process of my research. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people I interviewed, particularly Mr. J.A. Kuck and Rey. Sister Helena Tan.

I am indebted to Mr Encharang Agas, our College Principal for his encouragement and support and for making available the importang documents and records of the College during my research. I am grateful to Mr. Encharang Agas also for writing an introduction to the book.

My sincere thanks go to my colleagues, especially the non-teaching staff for their kind assistance rendered to me during my field research.

I would like to thank the following persons:

- Mr. K.F. Wong, FB.LPP., FR.PS., Hon, EFIAP., Hon, O.G.PH., Hon, FR.PS., Honorary Curator of Sarawak Museum (Photographs) and Mrs. Elisabeth Bell for the valuable historical pictures used in this book.
- Mr. William Tay Siaw Hiang for making the reprints of MPBL photographs,

- The staff of the Sarawak Museum, especially Mr. Lim Yu Seng and Mr. Ahmad Junaidi Latif of the Photo Section and Mrs. Kho Tan Yang Hiok of the Archives Section.
- Miss Anna Dreba, the Principal of SMB St. Teresa, for valuable suggestions and kind help, and for being the brainchild behind the publication of this book.
- Mr. Hon Kuet Chiung, the Manager of the Borneo Press, for doing what he could to expedite the printing of this book in time for the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Liberation Day, and
- Mr. Aloysius Ho for his photographs and advice on the front cover design of this book.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to YB Datuk Dr. George Chan Hong Nam. Minister of Finance and Public Utilities. for sponsoring the publication of this book, and for having kindly consented to be the patron of this book, to grace it with a Foreword, and to launch the book on Liberation Day.

JULITTA LIM, Batu Lintang Teachers' College, Kuching, Sarawak.

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FROM AN ARMY CAMP TO A TEACHERS' COLLEGE

A History of Batu Lintang Teachers' College, Kuching, Sarawak.

By JULITTA LIM SHAU HUA

Introduction

The history of Batu Lintang Teachers' College is unique in that it has grown from an army camp to a college that has played a very important and significant role in educational, cultural, social, political and economical aspects in the State of Sarawak.

The Punjabi Camp

In September, 1959, the Second World War broke out. In 1940, Japan signed a treaty of alliance with Germany and Italy which assured each country of mutual assistance in time of war and to established spheres of influence for each other. When France was occupied by the German forces in the same year, the Japanese forces occupied part of French Indo-China, now Vietnam, in South East Asia. Japan having evidently shown its aggressive tendencies in Asia since the 19th century was meanwhile eyeing covetously the rich natural resources of Thailand, Malaya, Borneo, Philippines and Indonesia. It was in this political climate that Britain in early 1941, by the agreement of 1888 with the Rajah of Sarawak, sent the 2/ 15th Punjabi Regiment to defend Sarawak in case of attack. (Fig. 5). Thus, an army camp with barracks was built to accommodate the Punjabi soldiers at the present site of Batu Lintang Teachers' College. They fought bravely and many were killed in action, especially the Punjabi troops at Sibu Laut who fought to the last man. About 70 men were interned at Batu Lintang Camp where quite a number of them survived until the end of the war.

The Recollections of Internment Camp

Since the end of World War II many ex-internees in their recollections of the war had described the Batu Lintang Internment Camp with sketch maps. A relief model had also been made by the college students based on such maps and verbal descriptions. However, many of the ex-internees who had returned to visit Batu Lintang Teachers' College over the years and seen the model did not quite concur regarding the position of each hut on the model. The position of the huts had been adjusted. The sketch map, Figure 3, has been reconstructed by the writer based on the following: (i) an earlier sketch map drawn by Rev. Peter H.H. Howes in his article on "The Lintang Camp"; (ii) information obtained from the interviews with those who stayed there after the war and who presumably had a better perspective of the whole area, and (iii) photographs taken when the area was occupied by the then Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre (BLTTC) and School. The original camp actually occupied a much larger area but over the years the part joining the present Lintang Park, a housing estate, and Ridgeway Road had been used for roads and a larger part had been claimed by the government Agriculture Department. The area now covers approximately 47 acres.

An Impression of The Camp

A description of the Internment camp would only be meaningflow if given in relation to the present College site in Figure 4.
The Punjabi Camp consisting of several barracks occupied the lower
relatively level ground near to the present Government Fishery Department. When the lapanese took over they built their own quarters and main office on the higher ground to the east. At approximately the place where the Science Block now stands was the Administrative Office of Colonel Suga who was then the Japanese
Commander of the prisoners of war in North Borneo including those
in Kuching. His sitting-room was at the spot where the octagonal
building now stands. This octagonal building (Fig. 38) which is
now used as a classroom for the music students was originally constructed as a library and used as such from the 1960's to the 1970's.
Then in the 1980's, it was used as the Staff Conference Room. The

mosaic murals on the outer walls depicting the traditional designs of the major ethnic groups were constructed by the college students with black and white quartz taken from the quarry in Bau. The mosaic murals were made in the early 1960s under the guidance of Susie Heinze, now Mrs John Dunsmore, living with her husband in Surrey, England.

The remains of the Japanese flag-post (Fig. 9) which was in front of Colonel Suga's Administrative Office can still be seen rising to about two metres above the ground and about seven metres north of the present Science Block. Just in front of this block an iron cockerel (Fig. 10) made by Mr. Matthew Teo in the 1960's can be seen standing on a cement structure with its tail pointing to the remains of the flag-post. According to Mr. LA. Kuck who was undergoing an in-service training course in 1951, many students having heard of the treasure looted and amassed by the Japanese during the war attempted to dig for treasure. They dug around the flag-post a depth of more than one man's height and still could not get to the base of the concrete structure holding the flag-post. After a few attempts they had to abandon the project of treasure-hunting.

At the place where Brooke Hall now stands were the Japanese Guards' Houses and Quarters. A parade ground where the Japanese soldiers had their flag-raising and anthem-singing ceremony covered roughly the area where the Music Room. North Lecture Block and tennis courts now stand. When earth-levelling work was carried out at the site of where the New Lecture Hall stands there was evidence of some concrete structure similar to those of the Japanese Torture Cells found on an island near Kota Kinabalu. As no photograph was taken of the suspected concrete structure that was said to be about 10ft x 10ft x 5ft high, there is no way of verifying it. On slightly lower ground near Colonel Suga's Office was a roundabout driveway for the Japanese cars.

A gravel road ran from the Japanese Quarters cutting through the middle of the present Sports Field to the Ammunition Bunker (Fig. 8) which can still be found near the double-storey wooden building that was used as the School Broadcasting Centre in the 1950s till early 1960s. After that this wooden building was used first as an Agriculture Science Block in the 1960s and then by ITM (Institut Teknologi Mara) in the 1970s. It is now being utilised as the Agriculture Science Block with a green house next to it. The same gravel road extended from the lapanese Quarters to another gate behind the present Home Science Block leading onto Ong Tiang Swee Road. This gravel road was called the Punjabi Road after the Punjabi Regiment.

During the Japanese Occupation the boundary of the Internment Camp which was marked by double barbed-wire fences was divided into six areas called 'compounds' according to Rev. Peter Howes's map. These compounds which were individually surrounded by barbed-wire fences all opened on to the only gravel road, the Punjabi Road. The compound for the Dutch, Australian and British Officers was nearest the Japanese Quarters. The Camp Master for the Dutch Officers was Lt. Col. Mars, Lt. Col Walsh for the Australian Officers, while R.S.M. Sunderland was Camp Master for the British Other Ranks. Not far down the road were the Beat-up House and the Japanese Military Store. Opposite them were the Japanese Administrative Office and Quartermaster's Store for keeping rice and other foodstuff. Within sight of the Japanese was the compound for the Catholic priests and religious who were mainly Dutch. Not far from the Beat-up House were three compounds: the smallest one for the Indonesian regular soldiers, one for the civilian prisoners of war and the largest one for the British lower ranks soldiers with the remnants of the Punjabi troops (Fig. 6). All these compounds were partitioned by double barbed-wire fences.

The path between the fences of the different compounds was patrolled and lapanese guards were posted at sentry boxes built at strategic spots. The whole camp was surrounded by trenches and double barbed-wire fences. Communication between the prisoners in the different compounds was extremely difficult. Initially, when patrolling was not very strict, some prisoners could sneak in and out of camp after dark and formed a network with the civilians to get information, medicines and food. This network was called 'Burma Road'. This was the name of an actual supply route linking Burma and the Yunan Province in China during the war. As the

sea-routes to China were all under the control of the Japanese, the only road for the Allied Forces in India to get supplies to China was through the Burma Road. The persons involved in this network "Burma Road" must have adopted the name fully aware of the war situation.

Another parade ground about the size of four basketball courts according to Howe's record was located in front of the main sentry box and had a gravel road going around it. There, the selected prisoners, meaning those able and fit ones, assembled at dawn and marched to Green Road where they were taken by train to work at the airstrip at the 7th Mile. The main sentry box sat atop a 12-feet high artificial hill which was hand-built by the civilian prisoners. This artificial hill was levelled and became part of the Softball Pitch now. This parade ground separated the Catholic Priests' Compound from the rest of the Camp. The entrance to the camp was at about the site of the present college gate. On the higher ground to the west where the present Staff Quarters No. 12 stands was the Guards' house.

On the lower ground next to this guards' house were 12 wire cages measuring 20ft x 20ft x 7ft high according to Mr. Paddy Fung who was a member of the North Borneo Volunteer in the antilapanese resistance of Sandakan. He was interned with his elder brother John and younger brother Alexander. The prisoners were shipped from Sandakan to Kuching. On arrival at the Batu Lintang Camp in October, 1943, they were squeezed into the cages, 25 men in each cage and were made to sit crosslegged. These cages were 'Torture Prison' where the prisoners were kept awaiting trial or rather final judgement to be passed by the high-ranking Japanese Military Officers. They stayed in these cages from October, 1943 until July 1944. Mr. Paddy Fung's younger brother Alexander was executed together with an Australian, Captain L.C. Mathews. An Australian ex-POW, Bill Young, whom I met recently (July 17, 1995) related his experience of having spent 6 months in the camp. He was only 17 years old then. When he arrived from Sandakan he was brought to the Japanese Court which was at the present Catholie Centre building (Fig. 11). The whole proceeding was conducted in Japanese and he was only told about his sentence afterwards. So,

he ended up in another type of cage where he and seven other Australians sat crosslegged in silence everyday from morning till night. He was sentenced to do hard labour in the prison camp in Singapore where he was imprisoned until the end of the war. His experiences as a prisoner of war in Sandakan, Kuching and Singapore were recorded in his book entitled "Return To A Dark Age" (1991, Bill Young). Another young internet from North Borneo, Stephen R. Evans, in his book entitled 'Sahah Under The Rising Sun Government' (1990), described the atrocities committed by the lapanese and the methods and forms of torture and execution employed by the lapanese. This is something we cannot imagine nowadays.

At the end of the Punjabi Road near the ammunition bunker was the compound for the women and children together with about 160 Catholic nuns who were mainly British and Dutch subjects. Here in the Women's and Children's Compound, the Sisters ran a school for the children who were interned together with their mothers. Sisters Francis and Cletus from Sandakan (Sabah) and Dominica from Sibu (Sarawak) taught their class in a corner of the chapel barrack (p.64, Heidi Munan, 1987). The Sisters were ingenious people; they made letter blocks from wood for teaching and they even manufactured toothbrushes from pig bristles for the children! This elementary school was approved by the lapanese authorities and the teachers were allowed to take their class for a walk from time to time. Their usual and only route was along the Punjabi Road, walking past the Civilian Prisoners' Compound and occasionally allowing the fathers a quick glance at their children. The eldest child was seven when she entered the camp and at liberation she was ten plus. In the first year there, Mother M. Bernadine was the Camp Mistress. But, in 1945 when another nun, Sister de Padua, who suffered from tuberculosis had to be sent back to St. Teresa's Convent at Rock Road, now Tun Haji Abang Openg Road, the Japanese authorities considered Mother M. Bernadine and Mother M. Clare too old and frail for the hard life in the Camp. So. Mrs Adams became the Camp Mistress.

The condition of life there was recorded in the book entitled 'Three Came Home' by Mrs Agnes Newton Keith. As many as 250 were put there. This compound too was surrounded by barbedwire fences. Not far from this compound were Dr. Yamamoto's office and his 'laboratory' which occupied what was once one of the Punjabi soldiers' barracks. Next to it was the Camp Hospital which was also once a Punjabi barrack. One of these barracks remains standing (Fig. 7), the main structure is as it used to be though the atap roof had been replaced by asbestos sheets.

The whole area had been under rubber plantation with some bamboo thickets, tall lalang grass and other tropical trees dotted here and there. When the lapanese had the aiap huts built for the prisoners of war, as many trees as possible were left standing to camouflage the camp.

The Camp was so well camouflaged that it looked more like a might averame. It might have been bombed by the Allied planes on Palm Sunday, March, 1945, had it not been for an aerial photograph of the camp that showed a glimpse of a nun's habit (clothes). Only after the war did some of the prisoners learn that how close to death they were.

When food was scarce many prisoners were reported to have eaten the rubber acorns as well as any other edible living creatures like snails and lizards.

According to Datuk J.R. Baxter's recollection, he and two other civilian internees had to look after after 50 pigs for the Japanese. One evening they lured a pig which was purposely let loose from the pig-sty of the friendly Chinese Towkay (businessman). He was later verified as Mr. Ong Tiang Swee who was living on his own farm outside the camp. When the ill-fated pig got through the fence, a New Zealander, Sam Chisholm killed it with an axe and Baxter cut it into pieces and put them into two drums. Then they covered the meat with sacks and filled up the top with pig manure. On entering the gate to the Civilian Compound, they were asked what they were carrying, they said that it was pig manure for their vegetable garden. They sent a note to the Towkay to say that they would pay for the pig when the war ended but a reply came telling them not to worry about paying and that he would try to send another.

That was the story about the ill-fated pig being chased into the Civilians Compound and landed in the pot.

Another ex-internee related that one late afternoon, a pony belonging to the Japanese fled from the stable. It was chased to the bush where there was a work-party of prisoners at the outer fence far away from the Japanese. They were collecting firewood. They caught it and chopped it up into pieces at an amazing speed and with an incredible skill. The pieces of meat were hidden in the bundles of firewood which they carried back to their compounds. They did it under great risk to their own lives because on entering the gate of their compound they had to let the bundles down before bowing at 90 degrees to the Japanese guard. Miraculously, they were safe and had a little real protein that evening.

There was another story about a cat owned by a prisoner of war. That cat would bring back a few rats for its master's dishes, However, when food was difficult to come by it was lured into a neighbouring compound and ended up in another prisoner's pot. These snippets and other books written by the ex-prisoners of war would give us some idea about the conditions in the camp and the hardships the internees had experienced. One of the Australian exinternees who came back to visit Batu Lintang recently (July 1995) wrote in the Visitors' Book saying, "Please teach your students what happened here."

Two things that helped to raise the morale of the prisoners were the wireless-set nick-named "The Box" in the officers' compound and the magazine called "Adversity" in the civilians Compound. "The Box" (Fig.12) was made by Warrant Officer Beckett from odd pieces of wire and metal including the hearing-aid of a prisoner. It was a well-guarded secret that supplied a few chosen persons with valuable information about the progress of the war. The magazine in the Civilians Compound was produced quarterly from 1945-1944. A few copies were carefully hidden until after the war. These are now kept in the Surawak Museum Archives.

Apart from the elementary school run by the nuns, another exinternec, ex-Lt. Frank E. Bell in the British Officers' Compound started his school where all sorts of subjects including various European languages as well as Urdu were taught. His experiences were well documented in his book entitled "The Undercover University". He took great pain in raising the morale of his friends by organising lessons and teaching some himself. In his hand-written little book of "Miscellaneous Notes on Literature' (Fig. 44) he dealt at great length the Russian Literature and the poems written by H. G. Wells, John Donne and the Russian poet Pushkin (1799-1857). These notes were written on pieces of old newspaper and tobaccowrapper (Fig. 14). We can discern the sufferings and fears of the internees and the hope they were hoping. The poem "An Elegy on Life" by Pushkin was one of those poems Frank Bell had copied into his little book:

"As bitter as the aftermath of wine Is the remembrance of delirious days And as wine waxes with age, weighs The past more heavily on my decline The path grows dim. And like a rising sea. Labour and trouble are awaiting me. But oh! My friends! I do not want to die! I have more life, more dreams, more agony! In spite of care and panic and distress, I know that I shall taste of happiness. Once more I shall be drunk on strains divine, Be moved to tears by musings that are mine: And haply when the last sad hour draws nigh. Love with a farewell smile shall light the sky."

(p. 45-46 Miscellaneous Notes On Literature, handwritten by Frank Bell, Camp 1B (3))

After the war, Mr. Frank Bell established in Cambridge, England, "The Bell School of Languages" for students from all over the world. He believed that when people could communicate and understand each other better there would be less conflict. When he visited Batu Lintang again with his wife, Elisabeth Bell, in March 1984, he was pleased to see that Batu Lintang had become a Teachers' College, though very different from his Undercover University

of Kuching, Mr. Frank Bell died in Cambridge on 14th July, 1989.

The total number of prisoners at the Batu Lintang Camp was something difficult to verify. However, according to Rev. Peter Howes, civilian internees in Kuching were moved from the Roman Catholic Convent and Mission Quarters in Padungan to the Batu Lintang camp on July 14. 1942. In the same year many prisoners of ovar and civilian internees arrived from Sandakan and Pontianak, By the end of 1942, the Camp was estimated to have about 2,400 internees and this number was enlarged in early 1943 by many from Changi. Singapore. The estimated numbers of 250 in the Women's and Children's Compound, 70 Punjabi, about 120 Indonesian, 250 Dutch civilians, 1,500 British Other Ranks, about 500 local civilians, including the many Dutch, Australian and British Officers and the Catholic Priests would make it safe to say that there were about 4,000 prisoners.

Within the boundary of the Camp, there were two burial grounds. One covered the land occupied by the present staff-flats. groundsmen's barracks, gymnasium and library block and the other extended from the basketball and tennis courts to the present administrative blocks as far as the Ridgeway area. In the early days, life was harsh and the conditions in the camp steadily deteriorated as the years passed. Everyone suffered. Many died of diseases as a result of malnutrition, others of starvation and still others died because of torture. The Civilian Compound suffered least casualties according to Howes's records at that time; about 25 out of the 282 died during the course of the war from December 25, 1941 to August 15, 1945. This small number of deaths could be attributed to the fact that the civilians who were mainly from this part of the world were accustomed to the climate and could adapt better to the appalling camp conditions. The number of deaths occurred at the British Other Ranks Compound was estimated at about 550 before the end of the war. The worst was at the beginning of 1945 when death-toll in the Camp reached as high as 30 per day. At first the lapanese allowed the dead to be buried in their respective cemeteries with full military honours. As the number increased, funeral ceremony was abandoned. As there were not enough coffins for every dead, one with a detachable bottom was used. Often the grave was not very deep and some were buried in the ground between rubber trees. After the war, their remains had been exhumed and entombed at the War Memorial grave on Labuan Island. Sabah. The number of deaths was not conclusive, as the records were not complete. Besides, in the early years of the Batu Lintang Training Centre, students while digging in their garden plots dug out human skulls and bones, and during the levelling of the ground for the new Administrative Building four years ago many human bones were unearthed. Even just after liberation J.K. Baxter, an estate manager (now Datuk), also an internee himself in the Civilians Compound, while helping an Australian Officer found a prisoner squatting in a drain dying. It is possible that there were many unrecorded deaths. A few hundred deaths would not be a true picture, however, one could safely estimate the death-toll to be about a thousand or more.

On September 11th, 1945, at about 2.30 p.m., Major General Hiryoe Yamamura, Commanding General of all the Japanese forces in Kuching signed the document of surrender on board the H.M.A.S. Kapunda at Pending (Fig. 17). Immediately afterwards, Brigadier-General Eastick, Captain Jennings, Senior U.S. Navy officer, Colonel Suga and an interpreter went to the Batu Lintang Camp. There were about 2,500 prisoners in the camp. Only slightly more than half of them were able to walk out of the different compounds to hear Brigadier-General Eastick read to them a message from General Wootten, the General Operation Commander for the area. These prisoners, according to the reminiscences of Datuk J.R. Baxter,"... were walking skeleton, no back side, where their spine ended their legs started..." (p.90, Stephen R. Evans, 1990). An aerial photograph (Fig. 15) taken on 30th August, 1945, showed that they were like match-stick figures. The seriously ill prisoners were moved to Labuan as soon as possible (Fig. 20). Those in better condition were taken to the Convalescent Camp on Labuan Island before they were repatriated to their own countries (Fig. 25).

While the message from General Wootten was being read. Colonel Suga remained in the background. According to an entry in ex-Lt. Frank Bell's diary. Colonel Suga had on Friday August 24th 1945, announced to them the news of the Japanese Emperor's decision to accept the Potsdam Declaration and that peace was coming. His speech was given after the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by atomic bombs on 6th and 9th respectively, and the exprisoners learnt later on that all of Colonel Suga's family died at Hiroshima. On 12th September, 1945, General Wootten went to meet the ex-prisoners at the Batu Lintang Camp. A detachment of Punjabi soldiers, all were ex-prisoners, armed with rifles taken from the lapanese guards, and formed the Guard of Honour to welcome General Wootten. This photograph (Fig. 19) evidently refutes some writing by earlier writers that the Punjabi soldiers were taken to Labuan before the end of the war and were never heard of again. Colonel Suga was present, standing in the background while General Wootten was talking about the treachery of the Japanese.

There had been several versions of how and when Colonel Suga died. He could not have shot himself because he would have been disarmed of all weapons. The writer thinks that what was recorded in ex.Lt Frank Bell's diary seems to be more likely. In his diary entry on Monday. 17th September. 1945, written while he was convalescencing on Labuan Island, he said, "Suga has committed hara-kiri by means of a table knile" and that "he has taken 20 mins over the job, with the aid of his batman" (1991, Bell, p. 145). Thus, Colonel Suga's suicide added one more to the death-toll in the Batu Lintang Camp.

Photographs and Maps



Fig. 1 The Batu Lintang Camp Monument was unveiled by YB Mayor Sor Swee Guan J.B.S., P.B.J. on 30th November, 1989. Photo: Mr. Lim Yu Seng



Fig. 2 Silent prayers for those who had sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom at the Unveiling Ceremony of the Memorial Monument, 30th November, 1989, Leading a group of 55 Australians, mostly ex-POWs is Mr. Bruce Ruxton, the State President of Returned Soldiers League (RSL), Victoria, Australia.
Photo: Mr. Lim Yu. Seng



Fig. 5 Map of Batu Lintang Camp 1941-45 Superimposed BLTTC 1948 - Early 1950s By Julitta Lim

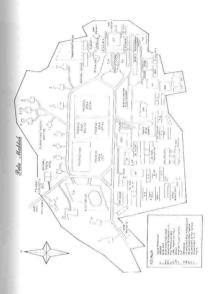
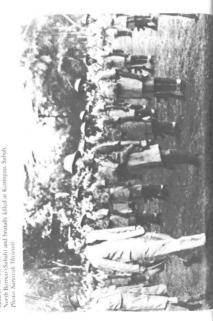


Fig. 4 Map of Batu Lintang Teachers' College 1995 Map: Courtesy of MPBL

Batu Lintang Camp but before the end of the war he was taken to 2/15th Punjabi Regiment at the Kuching Padang Royal Family leaving the Administration of Sarawak in the (Square) in late 1941. After the Centenary Celebration of the Brooke Rule of Sarawak in late? Rajah, Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke went to Australia with his hand of Mr. C.D. Le Gros Clark. He was interned at the The Chief Secretary of Sarawak, C.D. Le Gros Clark,

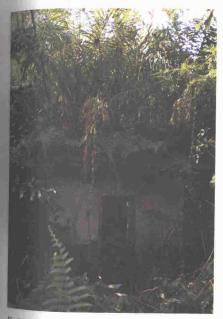




The Punjabi Prisoners of War Photo: Sarawak Museum



Fig. 7 The Last of the Punjabi Barracks The Oldest Building in BLTC Today. Photo: Mr. Aloysius Ho



The Ammunition Bunker in BLTC as old as the Punjabi Barrack.

Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kuh



Fig. 9 Remains of the Japanese Flag-Post near Colonel Suga's Office where the present Science Block stands. Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah



Fig. 10 The Iron Cockerel made in the early 1960s is standing outside the Science Block with its tail pointing to the Japanese Flag-Post.

Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah



Fig. 11 The Catholic Centre, Built in 1913, along Tun Hj Openg Road near to St. Teresa's Secondary School Hall, used as the Japanese Court House during the War.

Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah

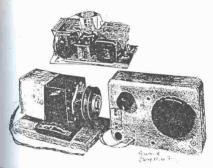


Fig 12. The much valued wireless-set, "The Box" made by W.O. Beckett, R.A., sketch by POW Dornald Yates, L.R. Generator, Receiver (mess tim), (back) Transformer—an assembled collection of wires, shairpins and metal pieces. "The Box" gave the P.O.Ws news of the progress of war. Photos: Wir. Elisabeth Bell



Fig. 15 A 1944 sketch of the British Officers' Hut, Batu Lintang Camp, by S.E. Bagnall, R.A. Compare this with the sketches by Mr. A. Ho. Photo: Mrs. Elisabeth Bell

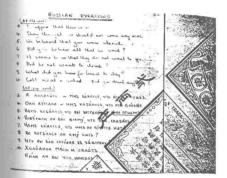
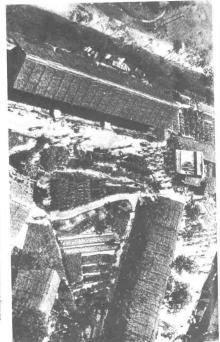


Fig. 14 Tobacco wrapper, Camp stationery used by Ex-Lt. Frank Bell for most of his notes. He also wrote on blank patches of old newspaper and other old pieces of paper.

Photo: Mrs. Elisabeth Bell







Major General Hiryoc Yamamura, Commanding General of all Japanese Forces in Kuching, on his way to sign the Surrender Papers on board the Royal Australian Navy Corrette the H.M.A.S. Kapunda at Pending, now the Datuk Sim Kheng Hong Port, on September 11, 1945. Photo: Surawak Misseum



Fig. 17 Major General Hiryoe Yamamura, Commanding General of all Japsnese Forces in Kuching, signing the Papers of Surrender in front of Brigadier-General Thomas Charles Eastick, Commander of the Australian 9th Division, on board the Royal Australian Navy Corvette the H.M.A.S. Kapunda at Pending on September 11, 1945, Photo: Sarawak Museum

Photographs and Maps



Hoisting the Flag of Sarawak at the Camp after the Surrender of the lapanese on September 11, 1945. Note the temporary Bamboo Flageot used: L.R. H.C. Ward, 2 Australian soldiers, D.C. White, J.R. Aree and D.R. Lafscelles. Photo: Sarawak Association.



Fig. 19 On 12th September 1945. A detachment of the 2/15th Punjabi sed diers, ex-prisoners, carried rifles with fixed bayonets, taken from the Japanese guards. They formed the Guard of Honour to welcome the Joreneral Wootten whose message was read to them by Brigader General Eastick the previous day.

Photo: Mrs Elisabeth Bell



Fig. 20 Evacuation of ex-prisoners from the Batu Lintang Camp to the Labuar Convulescent Camp before being repatriated to home countries.

Photo: Mrs Elisabeth Bell



Fig. 21. The residents of Kutching watching the Japanese Prisoners of War sliting on the road between the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Tua Pek Kong Femple. These POWs waiting to be sent to face trial at the Allied Military Court in Labana. Photos Mr. K. F. Wong.

Photographs and Maps



Fig. 22 A Close-Up of the lapanese Prisoners of War awaiting to board an Australian Warship bound for Labuan, pulling to calm their nerves. What was awaiting them at the Allied Military Court?

Photo: Wh. K. F. Wong.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The year and I hid you a very warm veloces howimmost all the great trials and saferings which you have undergone at the heads of the Japanese, you and your commands have been constantly in our thoughts. We know from the scrumints we have already received have heavy those sufferings have been. He know also that those have been endanced by you with the highest courage.

We now n wit: you the deaths of so many of your gallant courades.

with all our hearts, we hope that your return from captivity will bring you and your families a full seasure of happiness, which you may long enjoy toget er.

September 1945.

George R.I

Fig. 25 Royal Message from King George VI of Britain to the returned British soldiers.

Photo: Mrs. Elisabeth Bell



Fig. 24 Recollection of the Batu Lintang Camp Barracks to the South of the Camp. The Hut in the middle was used as the 1st R.C. Chapel in 1949. Sketch: Mr. Aloysius Ho



Fig. 25 Sketch of the Batu Lintang Camp Barracks, about 21 of such huts were converted for use as class-rooms, hostels for students and staff, school office, and library. Different sections were used for religious instruction and worship.

Sketch: Mr. Aloysius Ho



Fig. 26 Sketch of another Hut used as the 3rd R.C. Chapel in the late 1950s. It was demolished to give way to more permanent buildings. The Surau and the Anglican Chapel were built at about the same site by early 1960s.

Sketch: Mr. Aloysius Ho



Fig. 27. On October 10, 1952, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent Inspecting the Girl Guides at BLTTC Sports Ground (the site of the Parade Ground where the internees had to assemble before going to work at the 7th Mile airstrip)

Photo: Courtesy of MPBL



Fig. 28 H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent Inspecting the Boy Scouts at BLTTC Sports Ground during her Visit on October 10, 1952, (second left) The Governor of Sarawak Sir Anthony Abell. Photo: Courtesy of MPBL.



Fig. 29 HRII the Duchess of Kent watching a Dayak Dance during her visit to BLTTC on October 10, 1952. Photo: Courtesy of MPBL.



Fig. 30 HRII the Duchess of Kent watching a Malay Dance during her visit to BETTC on October 10, 1952. Please note the atap barracks converted for use as offices and classrooms, those barracks behind were used as hostels.

Photo: Courtesy of MPBI_



Fig. 51 Teaching and Non-teaching staff of BLTIC, November, 1952. Front Rowe Mr. Wilson, the Principal, in seademic robe: Vincont Uzaraga: William Duncan (Clerk): Awang Jaya: Rev Fr. Galvin, 1st Ass. Principal: Lilian Harrison: Father Rawlins, 2nd Ass. Principal: Mr. Morgan, Valya (Office Boy): Moklar (Cook)

2nd Row L.-R. Mahmud (Carpenter); Rangkap Mai: Cook No. 1; Cook No. 2; John Timban, Wong Syn Ted; Abang Naim; Edwin Enggu: Groundsman No. 1.

5rd Row L-R: Mobil Hj Baris, Groundsman No. 2; Cook No. 5; Abang Said, J.A. Kuck.

Photo: MPBL



7. The Brooks Hall completed in 1960 was built with donation from Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke, the Third Rajah of Sarawak, and the last of the Brooke Raj.

It was officially declared open by Lord Selkirk on 5th September, 1960. Behind it are two lecture blocks running parallel to each other. Photo: Mr. Lim Yu Seng



for the last time, 19th November, 1959.

L-R: Miss L. Lim (graduand): the Principal, Mr. A.H. Weeks, delivering his speech, Mr. M.G. Dickson, the Director of Education, Sarawak: the VVIP Datuk Abang Haji Openg who became the 1st Governor of Sarawak in 1965; Encik Abang Naim (tutor): En. Wan Morshidi (graduand).

Photo: MPBL



Fig. 54 The VVIP Data-Abang Haji Openg, the late father of Datak Abang Islant, presenting a Teaching Certificate to the Senior Student, Henry Wei, at the 11th Graduation Ceremony held at the William Tan Auditorium of St. (seeph's Secondary School, Kuching, 19th November, 1939, Back to the camera, Mr. 1A. Kuck (tutor) who graduated in

Photo: MPBL



Fig. 55 The old Surau built in 1960, had been demolished to give way to the Tun Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruse Auditorium. A new Surau is being built behind the Men's Hostels at the time of writing. Photo: Mr. Lim Vu Seng



Fig. 36 The Catholic Chapel Built in 1962. The Oldest Place of Worship on the Campus today. Under repair at the time of writing. Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah



Fig. 37 The South Lecture Block completed in 1960. The North Lecture Block is parallel to it.

Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah



Fig. 38 The famous Octagonal building with traditional designs representing the various ethnic groups in Sarawak was built in 1960. The mosaic murals were made of local black and white quartz collected from the quarry in Bau and under the supervision of Miss Susie Heinze. Photos: Mr. Foug Hon Kah



Fig. 39 The new 4-storey Administrative Block completed in 1991, consisting of all the Academic Department Rooms, the Conference Rooms, the Principal's and Vice Principal's Offices, Staff Rest Room and other Utility Rooms.

Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah



Fig. 40 The 6 Million Ringgit Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Auditorium, completed in 1994, occupying the ground on which once stood the Surau, the Ladies' Hostels, the wooden classroom Blocks, and the Anglician Chapel. The new Anglican Chapel just to the right of the Auditorium and near the Principal's Residence was built at the same time as the Auditorium. A new Surau is being constructed at the time of writing. Behind the Auditorium part of the old war trenches is still visible. Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah



Fig. 41 The new Anglican chapel built in 1994. Photo: Mr. Aloysius Ho

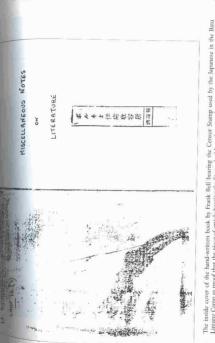


Fig. 42 The 45th Graduation Ceremony held in the Tun Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Auditorium, 18th May, 1995. The VVIP Datuk Abang Johani Bin Tun Ahang Haji Openg, Minister of Industrial Development, Sarawak, admiring the painting presented to him by the Principal of Batu Lintang Teachers' College, Mr. Encharang Agas. Photo: Mr. William Tuy Stan Hian

Fig. 43



The Baru Lintang P.O. W. Camp Stone Tablet erected by the Japanese possibly at the entrance to the Camp. It was found in the drain during the construction of the new Baru Lintang Road and put up by the residue ent of the Telezon Headquarters in Kuching, facing the direction of his oldinger Road. The lower part of the stone tablet had been enterented and the Road. The lower part of the stone tablet had been enterented to the Broad. The lower phonetically sound "Baru Linna", and the next two which are of Chinese origin or "Kariji" mens. "While the last character, also in Kaniji when combined will be the wind the stone that the standard of the standard that the standard of the standard that the standard that



The line of characters reading top-down has 9 characters and the first 7 match those on the stone Tablet in Fig. 43. Below this are 3 characters, also in Kanji, reading from Right to Left horizontally mean "inspection" or "checked". This book is Lintang Camp as proof that the piece of article bearing the Stamp had been inspected and approved for use in the Camp. now kept in MPBI

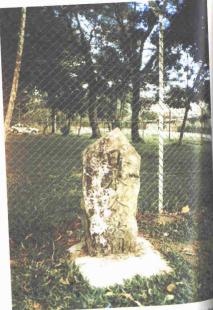


Fig. 45 The front view of the Stone Tablet has 5 characters in Kanji whetemean "Nippon people together" and it is possible the buried character means "erected".
Photo: Mr. Fong Hon Kah



79. 46 The ex-P.O.W. Attending the Monument Unveiling Ceremony 30 November, 1989. R-L: (1) Ray Topham and (2) Ian Pryce, Ex-Officers of the 8th Australian Division, who were captured in Singapore, the sent to Sandakan and finally to the Batu Lintang Camp. (3) Ex-Captain John Searles, satif officer, 9th Australian Division under Brigadier General T.C. Eastick whose army liberated Kuching. Photo: Wr. Lim Yu Sent.



Fig. 47 Ex-Lt Frank Bell with wife Elisabeth at home in Cambridge. England. They visited Batu Lintang Teachers' College in March 1984, Frank Bell died on 14th July. 1989, leaving the Bell Trust Foundation to carry on with the teaching of English to the International students at the Bell School of Languages set up by him in pursuit of peace and understanding among nations.

Photo: Courtesy of Mrs. Elisabeth Bell.



Fig. 48 Mrs Elisabeth Bell presenting a copy of her husband's book, "The Undercover University" to the writer who visited her in Cambridge in 1991.

The Post War Period

When the relieving force entered Kuching, the structure of Military Government was gradually established in Sarawak. Matters concerning education in British Borneo, including Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei, came under the control of Major R.E. Parry, an officer of wide educational experience in East Africa, who was assisted by Captain J. Paisley, formerly headmaster of St. Thomas's School, Kuching. In Sarawak, the post war period under the British Military Administration saw a rapid re-opening of schools. The Sarawak Government resumed authority on April 10, 1946. The tasks for the establishment of an adequate Educational Service for Sarawak were recommended in the 1946 Annual Education Report, though during the Third Rajah's reign, various reports and commissions such as, the Swayne Commission of 1927, the Blue Report compiled by Mr. C.D. Le Gros Clark of 1934 and the Hammond Report of 1936, were made regarding a long term education policy for Sarawak. These had laid the ground work for education service in Sarawak. (C.D. Le Gros Clark, the Chief Secretary of Sarawak, was interned in the Batu Lintang Camp and later brutally killed in Keningau, North Borneo (Sabah) together with four other fellow internees. They were Cho Huan Lai, Consul for the Republic of China; V.A. Stookes, Medical Practitioner, Sandakan; W.H. Webber, Civil Engineer, Manila, Philippines and D. MacDonald, Planter, Kuching, Sarawak. As their bodies were so brutally mutilated beyond recognition that they were buried together and a monument was erected in Keningau in memory of them.)

The British Colonial Time

The Japanese Occupation of Sarawak had caused total disruption to the development of education in the country. After the war there was an urgent need to train teachers especially for the rural primary schools and to get started with post-primary education. Among the tasks specified in the 1946 Annual Report of The Education Department were "the extension of Primary education to all native races, the erection of Government secondary schools to eater for selected rural boys and the establishment of a centre for ruraling mative teachers". Thus, decisions were made to turn the then Batu Lintang Internment Camp into a government-run teachers' training centre with an affiliated school. The Woodhead Report, which was prepared in 1954 and passed by the Council Negerin 1955, also recorded in detail the recommendations made in 1946 pertaining to the establishment of a teachers' training centre which would have a government Education Officer as the Principal, a Catholic Priest as First Assistant Principal and an Anglican Priest as Second Assistant Principal tp. 25. Woodhead 1954). So, in 1947, under the Colonial Development and Walfare Act, tp. 15 Woodhead 1954) a grant was approved for the establishment of the Teachers' Training Centre and School at the site of the Prisoners of War Camp at Batu Lintang.

Of the numerous atap huts (Figs 24, 25 & 26) which had once housed the prisoners of war only 21 were considered fit for use. While they were being converted into classrooms and hostels for boarders, lectures were held in the classrooms of Maderasah Melayu at lawa Road, now Jalan P. Ramlee, for the first intake of 19 men students in 1947. Among the first batch of students to be trained as teachers for the rural government schools were those who came from very rural areas. They were Sain Maja, an Iban from Batang Lupur: Linton Sadin, a Land Dayak from Quop; Agan, A Kelabit from Pa Terap; Majusim Majinal and Jiwok Mukim, Dusuns from British North Borneo (now Sabah); Hyacinth Karut, a Land Dayak from Serian; Albert Graman Gelau, an Iban from Saratok; Joseph Ayah Onggot, a Land Dayak from Tebakang and Andrew Sampak. a Land Dayak from Serian. While the teachers for the Malay Schools were trained in the Malay Teachers' College or Maderasah Melayu even during the Brooke Raj, the Chinese schools recruited their teachers from the southern provinces of China (Annual Report of The Education Department For The Year 1946).

By the time the Teachers' Training Centre moved to Batu Lintang in July 1948, the population of student teachers had increased. At the same time the school section also took in pupils who had completed their lower primary education in the rural vernacular schools. This was an effort to give an upper-primary education to the selected rural boys who might be trained as teachers upon their completion of their upper-primary education. Provisions were also made

for these boys to go for secondary education. Among the 1948 intake of rural boys were Georgy Boogy, a Bisaya from Batu Mapan in Limbang; Henry Nura Girim, a Melanau from Kampung Tilian; Mesni Anselm, another Melanau from Kampung Erwad, Mukah; and two Kenyah boys. Anyi Usang from Long Sian and Oyau Nawan Ak Mui Ngaiang Lawai from Long Akar, Baram. The latter of the Kenyah boys was the younger son of the late Temenggong Aban Lawai lau, the well-known Kenyah Chief. Among the many prominant Sarawak figures who had their education in Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre and School were Tan Sri Datuk Gerunsin Ak Lembat, the Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak Tan Sri Datuk Amar Alfred Jabu, and the Federal Minister of Telecommunications and Works Datuk Leo Moggie. Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre and School had scored many firsts. Among them and seldom mentioned was the first religious nun. Sister Helena Tan, sister of Tan Sri William Tan. She too scored three firsts: the first girl who went by train and then rickshaw to school, the first who commuted by taxi to and from the Teachers' Training Centre and the first teacher who had to have her birth certificate made prior to he retirement from the government service.

By 1949 the student population of Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre had risen to 115 including 10 students from Brunci while the School section took in 27 pupils including 7 from Brunci who had completed the primary education in the rural vernacular schools. In the early years, Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre took in students from Sabah and Brunci until 1952 for Sabah and 1956 for Brunci when both states had their own teachers colleges.

The 1949 BLTTC Log Book entries reveal many interesting things about the training centre which was still occasionally referred to as the camp. The importance of BLTTC as a place of 'higher learning was shown by the fact that it had inspection visits from His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Noble Arden Clarke, (October 29, 1946 - October, 1949), officials from the Colonial Office in London (Mr Padmore, August 25, 1949), the Chief Secretary of the State (Mr. C.W. Dawson) and the Resident of the First Division (now Kuching Division). The Fasting Month for the Muslims, (Bulan Pussa) commenced on June 20 of that year. The severe storm of

August 14 hit the school section destroying two huts and badly damaging three of them while all others needing extensive roof repairs. Health care was top priority in those days as shown by some of the entries that follow. Wan Habib, a pupil, suspected of chicken-pox was taken to the hospital: all members of the hut were instructed not to have contact with others in the camp; all the beddings were put out in the sun for 4 hours and sulphur fumigation was carried out; and a later entry - all the students and pupils had their teeth examined by the Government Dentist, Dr. Harcus.

On November 25, 1949, at the First Graduation Ceremony, H. E. Governor, Mr. D.G. Stewart, presented the Teaching Certificates to 45 successful students. They were awarded a Grade III A certificate and their initial entry qualification was Standard IV. Upon graduation, they were posted to the Government Local Authority, Private and Mission schools throughout the State of Sarawak.

The qualifications of trainees at the entry point were gradually raised as the demand for higher education increased. By 1952, the entry qualification was a minimum Junior Secondary Certificate and the training course lasted two years. However, by 1954, the training course was extended to three years in order to better equip teachers in handling upper-primary classes. At the same time, the Woodhead Report of 1954 (pp 25-28) recommended that the minimum entry qualification be raised to a Junior Certificate of education and the students with a Chinese Junior Secondary qualification were to be admitted to do the two-year course leading to a Grade II A certificate. The latter would be equipped with the ability to teach English in the Chinese schools.

The School section, hitherto, admitted pupils who had completed their lower primary education in the vernacular schools. Then, upon completion of their upper primary education, many would join the Training Centre to be trained as teachers. In this respect, the School section played a very important role in feeding the Centre with candidates for teacher training. Then in 1957, a Form 4 lass was opened. In 1958, with the opening of Sedaya Government Secondary School at Ranowit, the Dragon Government Secondary School (now Kolej Tun Abdul Razak) at the 24th Mile,

Serian Road in Kuching, and the Tanjung Lobang Government Secondary School (now Kolej Tun Datuk Tuanku Haji Bujang) in Miri, all the secondary classes in the School section were transferred to these schools, thus leaving Batu Lintang Teachers's Training Centre to concentrate on the sole task of training teachers and it became known as Batu Lintang Training College.

From 1959 onwards, priority was given to the training of Grade II A teachers with an entry qualification of Form 5 for the upper primary classes and the junior secondary schools.

Prior to 1940 English was not taught in any government schools except in the Mission schools. The medium of instruction was Malay for the reason that these schools catered only for the Malay or Islanic Melanau population. In the Chinese schools the medium of instruction was Mandarin. Then in 1940 Mr Keir, the Education Offlicer, introduced the use of Iban into two schools at Lubok Antu and Stumbin respectively, and Liko or the Melanau language in a school at Oya Tanam. During 1946, as schools for the non-Malay natives were opened other vertraculars like Kayan, Kenyah, Kelabit and Murut were used as a medium of instruction.

By the time the Civil Government was restored after the Second World War a new spirit surfaced in education. Strong representations were made by the various Malay communities for the teaching of English in their schools whereas the Iban population declared that they were not interested in schools where English was not taught. The demand for more schools could not be ignored. Besides, in view of the previous educational void, there were no trained Iban teachers and only a limited number of persons with the sufficient education to run a school. Hence, the development culminated in the opening of Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre to train native teachers. The curriculum in the schools, apart from the teaching of English and the vernaculars, included subjects like Handicraft and Art, Dramatics, Agriculture, Hygience and games. The teacher training course for teachers lasted two years The first year was devoted mainly to general education and at the end of it the students were expected to have attained Standard VI. The second year was devoted to pedagogic training, and much of which was practical. There were written examinations as recorded in the BLTTC Log Book which had the entries: 18/7/49 First Year Examination Start and 25/7/49 First Year Examination Start and 25/7/49 First Year Examination Finish. For pratical teaching, students were called upon to assist schools that were short of teachers. An entry on August 27, 1949 stated that student-teacher Mamud was sent to Quop to assist Father Howes for two weeks.

Another incident recorded in the Education Report for 1946 showed how strong the new spirit for education was. One student from Daro, on returning to Maderasah Melayu in September 1946, found that he had developed leprosy. He was transferred to the leper camp where he opened a school for about 40 inmates of diverse ages and races.

One unique feature in the Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre was freedom of worship. Religious instruction was arranged for both Christians and Muslims, and chapels for different denominations of Christians were provided in sections of different thuts, Different rooms were allotted to the Anglicans. Catholics and Muslims for worship. As they were well separated from one another, religious service and prayers could be held at the same time without undue conflict. This unique feature is zealously preserved until out undue conflict. This unique feature is zealously preserved until out undue conflict. This unique feature is zealously preserved until out undue conflict. This unique feature is zealously preserved until out not be conflicted and the properties of the conflict of the conflict of the conflict of the conflicted in the properties of the conflicted to teach children to become good and useful citizens of the country.

After Independence

Batu Lintang Training College had firmly taken root at the site of the former P.O.W. Camp even before the Formation of the Federation of Malaysia in 1965. The recommendations made in the Woodhead Report (1954/1955) pertaining to the physical development of the college were realised with a further grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund in London. In 1960, two Secture blocks (Fig. 57), the Brooke Hall (Fig. 52) and the staff

quarters were completed. The opening of the Brooke Hall marked the end of having to hold the annual graduation ceremony at the Tan Sri William Tan Auditorium of St. Ioseph's Secondary School, Rock Road (now Tun Abang Haji Openg Road), Kuching, A demonstration school was built at the present site of the Auditorium Car Park. Classes for demonstrating teaching techniques were provided by the Batu Lintang Primary School just next to the college. The other building completed in 1961 included the Woodwork Room, the Domestic Science Block, the Science Block equipped with laboratories, the Art Room, the Library (the octagonal building) and the Administrative block. These specialist subject rooms indicated the diversity of courses offered by the college.

By 1966, the college offered 5 main courses for initial teacher training, namely, the Lower Primary; the Primary and the lunior Secondary Courses, the first being phased out in 1968. As from 1972, Bahasa Malaysia is used as the medium of instruction, a general syllabus was introduced for the subject Education and the minimum entry qualification was a Cambridge School Certificate. From 1975 when the Primary course was no longer offered at Batu Lintang, the college trained teachers mainly for junior secondary schools until 1985. The integrated Training Programme with compulsory co-curricula activities was introduced in 1975, Hence forward, it is known as Batu Lintang Teachers' College.

In 1982, with the completion of the use of Bahasa Malaysia as the medium of instruction from the primary to the university level, Bahasa Malaysia became the medium of instruction for all subjects except English in the college. In 1984, the Primary Course was again offered and the length of training was again extended to 3 years of 6 semesters, which was changed to 5 semesters in 1986, In 1991 the college took in graduates with a first degree to do a one-vear teaching diploma course.

In addition to the pre-service or initial teacher training courses, in-service courses were conducted to meet the needs and demand of the schools. In response to the demand for more teachers profit cient in teaching Bahasa Malaysia in the secondary schools. a one of the profit of t

followed by a Mathematics specialists course in 1969. With the change of the medium of instruction from English to Bahasa Malaysia, intensive courses for the primary school and secondary school teachers of Bahasa Malaysia were held in 1973 and 1978 respectively.

A shift in the needs of the schools was seen in 1982 when an inservice course for training teachers specialised in Remedial teaching in the junior secondary schools was conducted. This was followed in 1985 by the holiday courses for temporary teachers who were engaged to teach the general school subjects and the Islamic Religious knowledge without any initial teacher training. The other inservice courses offered were Guidance and Counselling. Remedial and Enrichment and Music. The integrative curricula introduced in the Primary and secondary schools required the re-training of teachers for subjects like the Living Skills in the secondary and the Manipulative Skills in the primary schools. Inservice courses for teachers of Mathematics and Science in the primary schools were offered in 1994 and the latest is a one-year diploma course in the Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL) in 1995.

The development of education in Sarawak since the colonial period and the change of educational system directly affected the programme of teacher training, as described earlier on. The development of education in Malaysia after the Second World War, especially after independence is based on the educational policy contained in the following educational reports and ordinances. They were, before Independence, the Barnes Report (1950), the Fenn-Wu Report (1951), the Education Ordinance (1952) and the Razak Report (1955), and after Independence, the Rahman Talib Report (1959), and more importantly the Education Acts (1961) which is still in force. In view of the changing times and the maturity of the Malaysians there have been talks of making some amendments to the 1961 Education Acts so as to bring about a more progressive society with the Vision of 2020, as envisaged in 1991 by the Prime Minister, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

The education system in Sarawak has its uniqueness originated from the time of the White Rajahs. The implementation of the

Sarawak Scheme (1975) which was based upon the Aziz Report in West Malaysia was the first move towards the National System, The Cabinet Report (1978) totally incorporated Sarawak education into the National System. The change of the medium of instruction carried out stage by stage was completed by 1981. The curriculum offered in the college was changed in line with the recommendations made in the various reports.

Conclusion

The development of education after Independence brought about the expansion of Batu Lintang Teachers' College. New buildings which were constructed one after another totally changed its appearance from that of an army camp with its atap huts to that of a modern college. The site where the Surau, the Anglican Chapel and the Ladies' Hostel used to occupy had seen great transformation, and now in their place stands proudly a modern, well-equipped, six million Malaysian Ringgit Auditorium. Only part of the almost filled-up trenches, a Punjabi Barrack, the Ammunition Bunker, the remains of the lapanese flag-post as well as the War Monument erected in 1989 remind one of the past.

Batu Lintang Teachers' College has expanded to one of the biggest teachers' colleges with an enrolment of about 1,600 students and a staff of about 120 (1995), offering both Primary. Secondary and Diploma courses. All the past and recent students of Batu-Lintang not only play an important role in the development of education in the country but have also made great contributions in cultural, social, political and economical fields. When amendments are made to the Education Acts (1961) in August 1995, the various recommendations will be made and when they are implemented, they will certainly affect the teachers training programme and bring about a change in teacher education in the near future.

APPENDICES

Language Classes Held At P.O.W. CAMP UNIVERSITY KUCHING

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A sample Examination Paper Used In The P.O.W. Camp University

GENKAS

alementary Examination No. 2. Two Hours.

DICTATION.

Translate into correct German : -

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4. Wive a wante showing geners and neces of aujectives precedur a neither the definite nor the indefinite article or their equivalents. Give the comparative and superlative of : (a) hooh (b) schwarz (c) gross (d) bald (e) arm.

TAMESLATION. Translate into anglish:—
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sim. Sie srachrack und Tias den birde farver: Die batte sich nicht gstausoht, beim ersten Blick, der der Diterschrift galt, sah sie, dass es van Looke war, der ang sie geschrieben hatte. Bie kounte er ihr schreiben, da er doch tot und für sie langst vergessen war.

you want want to hast things children me. heary went out of an Youn very sagrily, and sat in the garden for twenty minutes. Mudolf ate his lumch, and ate Manry's lumch too, because he was very hungry. It was not every day that he could have as much food again as he

 Black dogs cannot be seen in a dark room.
 I think the kingdom of kngland is the finest in the world. Who would have said I had a bigger book than he? Charles' book is the biggest I have seen.

I like sating, but I like drinking more, but there is something 4.

else (sonst texas) I like doing best of all.

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OFFICERS' PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP "UNIVERSITY" SARAWAK KUCHING

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Lt. D.H. Dewar R.A.

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September 3rd, 1945.

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

(Compiled and edited from dates and events recorded in the Sarawak Gazettes; BLTTC Log Book 1949, Jernal Sejarah 1976 and Stephen Evans, 1991).

1939

Sept. 1st Second World War broke out.

1941

July The Sarawak Volunteer Force was formed

The Defending Forces in Sarawak under the Command of Lt. Col. C.M. Lane:

One infantry battalion of the Indian Army A small coastal Marine service

The Sarawak Field Force The Sarawak Police

The Sarawak Volunteer force

Sept. 24th Enactment of the new constitution of Sarawak.

Sept 24th, Highlights of Centenary Celebrations of the 25th & 26th Brooke Raj.

m & 2011 Brooke Raj.

Dec. 8th (Dec. 7th, 5.15 p.m. GMT) 12.45 a.m. local time: lapanese troops landed in Kota Bharu, Malaya.

(5.55 p.m. GMT) 01.25 a.m. Japanese carrier aircraft attacked Pearl Harbour.

Destruction of Miri and Seria oilfields carried out to render them useless to the Japanese in the event of Japanese invasion. Appendix IV

Dec. 15th After sabotaging Miri airstrip, troops and officials left by sea for Kuching.

> Three infantry battalions and attached troops of the lapanese 124th Infantry Regiment, accompanied by a naval landing force, left Camranh Bay (Indo-China or Victnam now) for Miri and Seria in 10 transports with strong naval escort.

Dec. 16th

lapanese troops landed in Miri and Seria. Their ships were afterwards attacked by Dutch planes from Singkawang II in Kalimantan (60 miles east of Singkawang) sinking two lapanese transports and two others were damaged by a Dutch submarine. A second submarine sank a lapanese destroyer but was then sunk in turn.

Dec. 19th Fifteen lapanese bombers attacked Kuching.

Many people left town and escaped to the countryside.

Labour was no longer available to complete the defences of the airfield.

Dec. 22nd

The main body of Japanese troops re-embarked for Kuching, leaving one battalion to occupy Brunei, Labuan and North Borneo (Sabah).

Dec. 25rd Dutch reconnaisance planes sighted the Japanese convoy 150 miles from Kuching.

11.40 a.m. Dutch planes from Singkawang II prepared to attack the Japanese convoy, but were attacked by 24 Japanese bombers before they could leave the ground. At least 5 Japanese ships were sunk by submarines of the Royal Netherlands Navy off Tanjong Sipang, Sarawak.

The lapanese ships were also attacked by British bombers from Singapore at the limit of their range.

6.00 p.m. The Japanese convoy was seen approaching the mouth of the Sarawak River.

8.00 p.m. Col. Lane's order: To delay the Japanese as long as possible.

The Japanese landed and were vigorously opposed by gun and mortar detachments. The Punjabi troops at Sibu Laut fought to the last man.

Dec. 24th

 D.m. A Japanese flag was seen flying over Fort Margherita, Kuching.

The same night the British officers were rounded up and interned at Zaidi Building, Kuching.

Dec. 26th & 27th Local non-white government officers in Kuching were told to report for duty. The Japanese Military Administration was headed by Lt. Ito.

1942

Feb

Singapore fell.

Japanese control became tighter in Kuching.

1943

April

Lt. Gen. Yamawaki, Japanese Governor of Borneo, visited Batu Lintang Camp, Kucing.

Appendix IX 06

1945

Major Harrison, Major Carter and Major Sochon March/April were parachuted into Ulu Baram from where they

proceeded to Ulu Rajang to organise counter-at-.

tacks.

About 50,000 men of the 9th Australian Infan-June 10th

try Division landed in Brunei Bay and on the Island of Labuan.

United States and Australian troops landed in lune 15th

Borneo.

Marudi relieved. lune 16th

Limbang secured June 18th

Australian troops landed at Lutong June 20th

Australian troops entered Miri June 23rd

The Australian forces completed the occupation June 25th

fo the Miri oilfield area.

U.S. Atomic bombs dropped on Japan. Aug. 6th X Vill

lapanese Government surrendered. Aug. 15th

1600 hours: The Japanese Emperor issued an Aug. 16th Imperial Order to the entire Japanese armed forces to cease hostilities immediately.

> The 9th Australian Division was made responsible for carrying out the surrender arrangements in North Borneo (Sabah), Sarawak, Brunei, Labuan Island and the Natuna Islands.

Aug. 27th

Letters were dropped on Kuching instructing the Japanese commander to indicate that he agreed to the dropping of supplies for the prisoners of war, and that he would meet Australian representatives later.

Sept. 5th

Maj. Gen. A.G. Wilson of the 9th Division landed on the Sarawak River and conferred with the commander of the Japanese forces.

The Kuching Allied force's task was to accept the surrender of and impound Japanese forces in the Kuching area; release and evacuate Allied prisoners and internees; and establish military control with the contingent of 20 officers and 40 other ranks to assist with civil affairs.

Sept. 6th

Brigadier Eastick landed at the mouth of the Sarawak River in a Catalina flying boat. Three Japanese officers came aboard. They were instructed to prepare information under a variety of headings.

Sept. 7th

Colonel Suga, the Japanese commander of the prisoners of war at Kuching, asked for two Australian medical officers to be sent to care for the prisoners and internees. Immediately Lt. Col. N.H. Morgan and Maj. A.W.M. Huston were flown in.

Sept. 8th-9th

HMAS "Kapunda" and USS "Barnes", with Brigadier Eastick and staff officers on board, sailed for Kuching from the mouth of the Sarawak River.

Sept. 11th

2.35 p.m. Brigadier Eastick accepted the surrender of Major General H. Yamamura, commander of Japanese forces in the area. Appendix IV

Later the occupying Allied forces landed and liberated Kuching.

Colonel Suga handed over the Batu Lintang Camp to the Allied relieving force.

The internees who could walk came out of their different compounds to listen to Brigadier Eastick read out a message from General Wootten.

Sept. 12th

General Wootten visited the liberated Batu
Lintang Camp. A detachment of Punjabi soldiers,
ex-prisoners, formed the Guard of Honour to
welcome him.

Sept, 17th Colonel Suga committed hara-kiri with a kitchen knife in his office.

1946

April 15th

Rajah Charles Vyner Brooke took over the Sarawak Government from the British Military Administration.

July 1st Cession of Sarawak to the British Crown

1947 Classes of BLTTC started at the premises of Maderasah Melayu at Jawa Road, Kuching.

Students stayed in an old government bungalow called "Springfield", Kuching.

1948

July Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre and School began classes at the former Batu Lintang Camp.

Appendix IV

1963

Sept. 16th

Formation of the Federation of Malaysia

Datuk Abang Haji Openg appointed 1st Governor of Sarawak, East Malaysia. Appendix V (a)

A Programme for the official opening of the Brooke Hall



Programme

FOR

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF BROOKE HALL

AND

THE UNVEILING OF A TABLET

BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF SELKIRK, P.C., G.C.M.G., O.B.E., A.F.C.,

The United Kingdom Commissioner-General

for South East Asia

BATU LINTANG TRAINING COLLEGE, KUCHING 4 P.M., SEPTEMBER 5, 1960

PROGRAMME.

God Save the Queen

Introductory Address by the Acting Principal. (V.W. Muller)

Inveiling of the Tablet by Lord Selkirk.

Address of thanks by Senior Student Jetie Ambin.

Entertainment by students of the college.

College Song.

COLLEGE SONG

It's a far cry from Gunong Murud to Kuching.

For Kelabit, Kenyah, Chinese and Malay,

For Melanau and Dayak, Kayan and Murut,

And yet all of us are gathered here today.

From the Baram, down the Rejang, from Kalaka do we come:

And from kampongs in the hills and on the plains;

Through the jungle tracks with heavy loads but hearts both light and free,

And you hear the hills re-echo this refrain:

When from far off the Matang calls us all away.

We're soon back at Batu Lintang once again.

ENTERTAINMENT BY STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE

- Two Sarawak boating songs The Batu Lintang Singers
 Ayun Soleram
 Batak, batak
- The Zepin, a Malay classical dance, accompanied by drums and gambus.
 - A dance from the Baram River, accompanied by a sape.
 - Two Chinese songs The College Chinese choir.
 - 海 戀 . a song about the sea.
 - 江 水, a song about the Yangize River
 - Iban ngajat, accompanied by gongs and drum
 - Tinikling, a bamboo dance.
 - My Land Sarawak The Batu Lintang Singers sung in English, Malay. Iban and Chinese.

Appendix V (d)

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE TABLET

This college was constructed

with the aid of generous gifts from

H.H. Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, G.C.M.G.,

Third Rajah of Sarawak

and

the Government and people of the United Kingdom

THIS HALL WAS DECLARED OPEN

BY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF SELKIRK, P.C., G.C.M.G., O.B.E., A.F.C.

ON

5th SEPTEMBER, 1960

A copy of the Letter from the former Third Rajah of Sarawak, Sir Vyner Brooke, to the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Alexander Waddell, dated September 28th, 1960.

13 ALBION STREET LONDON W.2 PADDINGTON 0436

28th September 1960.

Dem Sir Regender,

Thank you very much for all the news you have sent to me through Mrs. Hussey about the Batu Lintang Training College. I was most interested in the photographs and the account of the opening ceremony of the Brooke Hall in the Sarawak Tribune and I congratulate all concerned in this great achievement.

Thank you for your kind birthday message.

With my best wishes for the future success of the College.

You Brothe

His Excellency Sir Alexander Waddell, K.C.M.G., Kuching. Appendix VII 105

List of Principals

NAME		YEAR
Ĩ.	Mr. M.G. Dickson	01.04.1948 -17.06.1949
2.	Mr. J.K. Wilson	18.06.1949 - 14.04.1951
3.	Mr. M.G. Dickson	15.04.1951 - 10.09.1951
4.	Mr. J.K. Wilson	11.09.1951 - 31.12.1952
5.	Rev. Father A.D. Galvin	01.01.1953 - 05.07.1953
6.	Mr. A.G. Smith	06.07.1953 - 11.02.1956
7.	Mr.D.C. Goodson	26.04.1956 - 05.06.1958
8.	Mr. A.H. Weeks	06.06.1958 - 31.12.1962
9.	Rev. Father D.R. Rawlins	01.01.1963 - 10.01.1966
10.	Mr. R.B.S. McCormick	11.01.1966 - 31.03.1969
11,	Mr. Teo Boon Heng (AMN, PPB)	01.04.1969 - 18.04.1971
12.	Mr. Alias Shamsuddin	19.04.1971 - 14.04.1973
13.	Mr. Wong Mee King (PPB)	15.04. 1973 - 23.09.1973
14.	Mr. Paul Ngui Sui Lin (PPT)	24.09.1973 - 03.04.1975
15.	Mr. Lau Kuok Ding	04.04.1975 - 31.12.1976
16.	Haji Othman Luk (AMN)	02.01.1977 - 30.06.1989
17.	Hajjah Norolah Luk (AMN, PPB)	01.07.1989 - 06.09.1993
18.	Mr. Encharang Agas (AMN)	01.10.1993 -

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10. KEMENTERIAN

Pelajaran Malaysia

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By Julitta Lim Shau Hua, Kuching, Sarawak. 25th July, 1995

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JULITTA LIM SHAU HUA, born at Tatau, Bintulu, Sarawak, was educated at St. Teresa's School and trained at Batu Lintang Teachers' College. She obtained a Diploma in TESL from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, B. Ed. St. from Queensland University, Australia, and post-graduate certificates in Testing of ESL and Self Access Learning from Reading University and Cambridge. England, respectively. Currently a lecturer of English at Batu Lintang Teachers' College, she is married with two sons and a daughter. She and her husband Fong Hon Kah are co-authors of The Biography of A Renowned Photographic Artist: K.F. Wong.



The Author at the Great Court of the University of Queensland, Australia, 1981.

