

Mukaishima Camp (Hiroshima No.4 Branch Camp) Memo (Mrs. Lora Cummins's late husband, Ferron Cummins was held)

1942.11.27 Established as Mukaishima Branch Camp of Yawata Temporal POW Camp in the site of Mukaishima Boseki (spinning company), Mukaishima-cho (present day Onomichi City) , Hiroshima Prefecture. 100 British arrived from Java.

1943.1.1 Reorganized as Mukaishima Branch Camp of Fukuoka POW Camp.

1943.3.1 Renamed as Fukuoka No.11 Branch Camp.

1943.7.14 Reorganized as Zentsuji No.1 Branch Camp.

1943.12.1 Renamed as Zentsuji No.1 Dispatch Camp.

1944.9.4 116 Americans arrived from the Philippines.

1945.4.13 Reorganized as Hiroshima No.1 Dispatch Camp.

1945.8. Renamed as Hiroshima No.4 Branch Camp.

1945.8.15 The war ended.

1945.8.20 10 crews of B-29, who were shot down during the war, arrived.

1945.9.12 POWs left Mukaishima.

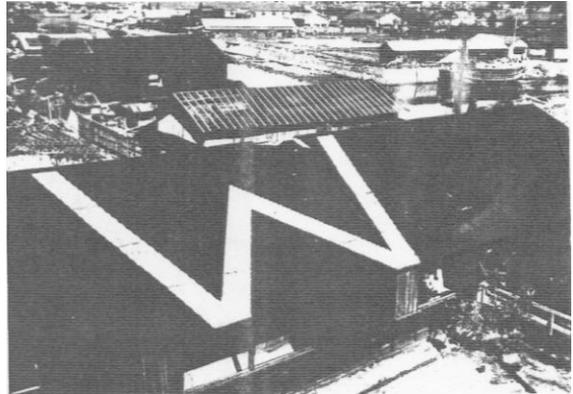
●At the end of the war, 194 men (116 Americans, 77 British and 1 Canadian) were being held.

●POWs were forced to labor in the Mukaishima Shipyard ran by Hitachi Zousen Company. They were engaged in cleaning the ships, carrying the building materials, welding etc.

●24 men (1 American and 23 British) died from malnutrition, beri-beri, enteritis, pneumonia etc during imprisonment. 15 men of them died in two months after they arrived.

●In 1998, a British ex-POW visited Mukaishima with Mrs. Keiko Holms who was working for reconciliation between ex-POWs and Japanese in England. Taking this opportunity, the local people built a monument for peace and friendship in a park and placed a memorial plate for 23 British deceased on a wall of the warehouse of Mukaishima Boseki in 2002. However, Mukaishima Boseki went out business in 2012, and the warehouse was demolished and a supermarket was built in the former camp site. The local people made every effort again. At last, they succeeded to move the memorial plate to a plot of the supermarket. What's more, they built a new memorial plate for an American deceased next to the old one for British. The unveiling ceremony was held on 15th April 2013.

(Research by Taeko Sasamoto)



Mukaishima Camp soon after the war



Monument for peace and friendship



Two memorial plates for the British and Americans