



Thai-Burma Railway Military History Tours and the Anzac Day Memorial Tour - 'Hell Fire Pass' Western Thailand.

After the fall of Singapore to the invading Japanese Imperial Forces in 1942, large numbers of Allied troops (approximately 130,000) became prisoners of war to the Japanese. Of these large numbers of POWS held in 'Changi' prison Singapore, some 61,000 Australian and other Allied troops were transported to either Thailand or Burma and forced to work on the construction of the Thai-Burma Railway. By the end of the war in August 1945 about 16,000 of these Allied POWS had died as a direct result of the imprisonment and atrocious conditions they were forced to endure - combined with virtual starvation, the presence of rampant diseases such as cholera with medical supplies denied and the horrendous cruelty, beatings and executions by their Korean and Japanese guards during their captivity. The bulk of these to pass away was during the very short period of May 1943 - January 1944, where over 10,000 Allied POWS died. This time frame included the brutal 'speedo' period, where the Japanese Imperial Army became desperate to get the railway finished in preparation for the invasion of India as the war was turning against them.

Of the 16,000 Allied POWS to perish during the construction of the Thai-Burma Railway, nearly 3,000 Australians died here, almost 4,000 Dutch, approximately 135 Americans and the British with the greatest loses of more than 6,900 lives. The other remaining numbers of Allied prisoners to perish were made up of other Allied countries such as New Zealand, Canada, India, Belgium, Malaysia and Singapore etc.



An Anzac Day Dawn Service is held every year at 'Hell Fire Pass' to remember those who never made it home and to the survivors whom suffered so much. Private pilgrimages and respects can also be paid at original grave sites at some of the former POW camps during the course of our tours.

We provide four tours per year; includes 3 daily meals, bottled drinking water, all accommodation etc. Visit our website www.tuandor-tours.com for more information on tours dates, group sizes, pricing, tour highlights, photographs and more. Or contact our friends at Boronia Travel (the official travel agent for the **Australian War Memorial** Gallipoli tours). Ph: 1800 035 350 ask for John.