

The Bridge on the River Kwai: The Man, The Bridge - Joe Conlon

- a) Movie is a must-see
 - i) Made in 1957
 - ii) It is a fictionalized account of what really happened
- b) Book was written by Pierre Boulle in 1952
 - i) Lived in the area
 - ii) Train saboteur
 - iii) Also wrote Planet of the Apes
- c) The reality
 - i) Railway built by Japanese in Thailand and Burma
 - ii) Bridge built in Tamarkan
 - iii) Used primarily British POW labor
 - iv) The battalion leader
 - (1) LtCol Nicholson in the movie was really LtCol Philip Toosey
 - (a) Artillery command
 - (b) War hero
 - (c) Respected by Japanese
 - (2) 80000 prisoners put into camp in Singapore
 - (3) Prisoners under LtCol Toosey's command were sent to work on the railroad at Tamarkan - volunteered by Toosey
 - v) The camp
 - (1) 12 guards
 - (a) 6 Japanese
 - (b) 6 Korean
 - (2) Camp commander
 - (a) Saito
 - (b) Engineer - Futamatsu
 - (3) Tamarkan Camp
 - (a) Freshwater spring
 - (b) Camp above flood level
 - (c) Temporary housing
 - (d) Near river - allowed to fish
 - (4) Toosey enforced discipline and military bearing
 - (5) Officers were kept separated, but Toosey made the officers stay with the men
 - vi) Diseases
 - (1) Beri-beri
 - (2) Malaria
 - (3) Cholera
 - (4) Dysentery
 - (5) Pellagra (vitamin B deficiency)
 - (6) Tropical ulcer
 - (7) Worm infestation
 - vii) PTST was a problem after the war
 - viii) Situation was very primitive

- (1) Boon Pong, a local mayor, smuggled in food and meds
- (2) Civilian casualties were horrific
- (3) Toosey talked Japanese into giving the prisoners better food to keep them healthier so they could work better
- ix) Japanese mentality
 - (1) Made prisoners work to humiliate them
 - (2) Toosey volunteered his men to work, removing that humiliation
- x) Wooden bridge had to be rebuilt 9 times due to storm damage and bombing
- xi) Steel bridge was built after the wooden bridge - still there today
- d) The movie
 - i) LtCol Toosey didn't know the movie was about him
 - (1) Saw many inconsistencies in interaction between Japanese and British in movie
 - (2) Thought it was an anti-British movie
 - ii) Col Saito was actually a Sergeant Major in the cavalry
 - (1) Hard but fair
 - (2) Could be trusted
- e) What happened afterwards
 - i) Toosey
 - (1) Toosey was demoted and had his pay docked
 - (a) Eventually he was reinstated and made a Brigadier
 - (b) Suffered from a multitude of problems associated with his time as a prisoner
 - (2) Toosey got his men seen at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
 - (a) Was appointed president of school
 - (b) Got Japanese reparation for the treatment of prisoners
 - ii) Saito
 - (1) Toosey testified on his behalf in the war crimes trials because he felt that Saito treated the prisoners fairly
 - (2) Converted to Christianity because of Toosey
 - (3) Was treated well by Toosey after the war ended