

FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

For Thai English Students



Faithful Love for a Soldier

A True Story about WW II in Thailand



Many soldiers who were in Thailand during WW II, have returned to see the places where they served as Prisoners of War (POWs) of the Japanese army. One Englishman named John visited Thailand several years ago, with his wife, Betty. Here is their story.

John was a soldier in the British army during WW II. Before he left England to go to war, he asked his girlfriend, Betty, to marry him. They planned to get married when he returned from the war. Betty would wait for him.

John was sent to Singapore and there, along with many other soldiers, was captured by the Japanese army. He was then sent to Thailand. He spent his days as a POW in Nakhon Pathom. There he worked hard alongside many other POWs to help get supplies to the soldiers who were being forced to build the bridge over the River Kwai.

The Japanese officers did not let John and the other POWs send any mail to their families and friends back home. Because John's family did not receive any news from him, they thought that he had died in the war. But Betty had a strong faith in God. Even though many people told her that John was probably dead, she believed that he was still alive. She showed her faith by writing many postcards and sending them to John in Thailand.



John was a POW in Thailand for three and a half years. During that time, Betty mailed 180 postcards to him! She learned later that he received 150 of them! She loved John and her faith in God helped her keep writing faithfully. She wrote often, even though she did not hear any news from him or about him. She wrote that she was praying daily for his safety and asking God to help him. Of course, she also told him of her love for him! These messages and her faith that he was still alive were a great encouragement to John in those difficult days as a POW.



1. What important thing did John do before he left for the war in Asia?
2. Where did he go first and what happened to him and many other soldiers there?
3. How long was John a POW? Where was he during this time?
4. How did Betty show that she still believed that John was alive? (Give details)
5. What did she write about in her postcards?
6. If you were John, how would you have felt when you received Betty's postcards?