

Answers please on PoW issue

DAVID Paulie's letter on PoWS (SCM Post, December 20) is reasoned and convincing, while Mr Eric Ho's was only a weak apologia, as one would expect from a Government servant who has to say what is expected of him rather than what he believes to be true.

Mr Paulie is right. Though I was in Britain at the time when Hongkong was taken over by the Japanese, I had friends involved in the fiasco.

Even then we knew that the men were sent in with the full knowledge that they would be either killed or captured.

Their relatives at home did not forgive the British Government for that.

Nor would they forgive the Hongkong Government if they knew how we now treat those "sacrificial lambs," as indeed they were.

Perhaps some Government spokesman would answer as to what happened about compensation from the Japanese?

The rumour has plagued me for years that the Japanese did pay reparations, but that it went into private pockets and not to the victims of the war.

Someone, either British or Japanese, must know the truth of this.

Having lived for a while in China, I cannot help comparing the heavy compensation paid to missionaries, companies and the British Government by the Chinese, after the various Anglo-Chinese wars of the last century.

Those wars were on Chinese soil yet the Chinese had to pay.

Why was there no compensation paid to the victims when Chinese soil was invaded by Japanese, inflicting heavy losses on Chinese and British personnel here?

Answers please.

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