

## **Dongji Museum of History and Culture**

A translation of the museum's Chinese website  
(<http://www.dongjido.com/zt/bowuguan>) by Brian Finch

The Dongji Museum of History and Culture is in Mountain Road in Zhouzi Lake Street Central, Dongji Town. Site inspection began in 2008 and construction started in September 2008. The Museum is divided into three exhibitions: the Lisbon Maru Commemoration Exhibition; the Folk and Customs Exhibition; and the Fishermen's Picture Exhibition. There are altogether nearly 240 exhibits. The exhibitions have a strong regional flavour, the exhibits come from daily life, reflecting the local people's enjoyment of their lifestyle; it is a history and culture museum that integrates the characteristics of art, interest, knowledge and culture, and is hailed by outsiders as: "The most easterly beautiful"<sup>1</sup>. The museum will be formally open to visitors on 10 July 2010. Tickets 30 yuan.

Ticket office: 0580-3826641  
Helpline: 63075840

– 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 – 0 –

### **The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru**

Following the release of thorough scholarly research into and historic documents of the sinking of the Lisbon Maru, the history of the Lisbon Maru incident has gradually clarified. The Lisbon Maru was originally a postal service ship, 135.64 metres in length, with two reciprocating main engines, a maximum power of 4,684 horsepower, a speed of 12 knots, and a total tonnage of 7,053 tons. At the time of World War II it was requisitioned by the Japanese militarist government and later turned into a cargo ship. In 1942 it set out from the Philippines' capital Manila via Hong Kong bound for Tokyo in Japan. On 27 September the Lisbon Maru was loaded with 778 officers and men of the Japanese army relief troops as well as 1,816 British prisoners of war and cargo. On 1 October, as the ship's route took it to the sea off Dongji (Qingbang Island), Zhoushan, it was hit by a torpedo from an American submarine; the ship's hold immediately took in water, which was extremely dangerous. The majority of the prisoners of war were in the ship's three holds; not only did the Japanese army not release them from the holds, they sealed the holds tight. Through the constant battering by the prisoners of war using their whole strength, eventually they opened one hatch to escape. During the process of escaping, because they were tightly packed one can imagine the sounds of their desperate calling out (this detail comes from oral accounts of British prisoners of war who were saved). On the morning of 2 October the ship sank. At that time the prisoners of war jumped into the sea to flee for their lives; many fishermen from Miaozihu Island and Qingbang Island witnessed this tragic scene with their own eyes. Large quantities of goods and prisoners of war were drifting on the surface of the sea. Fishermen

---

<sup>1</sup> Dongji Island is the most easterly part of China – the name means "extreme East" (trans)

from Dongji township heard the news and, using all kinds of small boats did all they could to rescue altogether an estimated 384 British prisoners of war, and took them to the fishing villages for succour. On 2 October the Japanese army went to the island to track down and arrest them; the vast majority of the British were caught and taken prisoner, but three British men, Johnstone, Evans and Fallace<sup>2</sup>, were hidden by the local fishermen and, after passing through many places, escaped via Chongqing and returned to the UK.



### The Fall of Hong Kong

On 7 December 1941 Japan carried out a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour, and within hours launched attacks on a number of nations and regions in Asia, including Malaysia<sup>3</sup> (sic), Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. On 8 December US President Roosevelt declared war on Japan and the Pacific War officially began. At 8:00 am that morning, Lieutenant General Takashi Sakai<sup>4</sup>, stationed at 23rd Army Headquarters in Guangzhou, ordered the 38th Division to cross the Shenzhen River and invade Hong Kong. At that time there were only 15,000 troops defending Hong Kong, and only five old usable military aircraft. Taken by storm, the British troops steadily retreated in defeat and Kowloon fell after 5 days. The Japanese army ceaselessly attacked the north shore of Hong Kong Island by shelling and air attack, and on the evening of 18 December, six battalions of Japanese troops crossed Victoria Harbour in the dark. They landed in the area from North Point to Aldrich Bay and after a further five days they occupied Wongnaichung Gap, killing the Commander of the Canadian troops, Brigadier Lawson, and the British troops lost the last line of defence. On Christmas Day, 25 December, the Governor, Sir Mark Young, surrendered to the Japanese army and Hong Kong fell under Japanese occupation. In January 1942 (sic)<sup>5</sup>, when British Far East Headquarters had requested that two Canadian regiments [brigades?] be sent to reinforce Hong Kong, Churchill had considered this would be a meaningless sacrifice and raised objections; but in the end, reinforcements of

---

<sup>2</sup> William Johnstone, Arthur 'Bill' Evans and Jim Fallace, the details of whose escape is recorded on pages 112 and 143-144 of Tony Banham's book 'The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru' (trans).

<sup>3</sup> Malaysia did not exist until 1963 (trans)

<sup>4</sup> Sakai was Japanese Commander in Chief, South China (trans)

<sup>5</sup> The website indeed says 1942, but this should clearly be 1941 (trans)

3,000 Canadian officers and men were sent; with the result that they had been in Hong Kong just two weeks when the Japanese attacked Hong Kong; and although the Canadian officers and soldiers, who were unfamiliar with the place, offered heroic resistance, under enemy bombing more than half were killed or wounded, the commander was killed, and the remainder were taken prisoner. Just like in other Asian cities, after the Japanese occupied Hong Kong they carried out all kinds of atrocities, rape and pillage, massacring prisoners of war and civilians. Throughout the whole of Hong Kong about 2,000 defending troops were killed in battle, and more than 4,000 civilians were slaughtered; more than 10,000 soldiers became prisoners of war, of which more than 5,000 were British prisoners of war, including the 1,816 young men later sent on the Lisbon Maru. None of these around 20-year olds knew that from that day forward they would have to pay a great price to survive each day.



This is Shamshuipo prisoner of war camp. After Hong Kong was occupied, the Japanese army set up the biggest prisoner of war camp here. Large numbers of British prisoners of war lived here. The prisoner of war camp was comparable to a refugee camp: sewage overflowed; disease spread, and food was in short supply. For every one the Japanese discovered who, unable to stand the suffering, tried to escape, they killed one; the gentlemanly bearing which the British officers still maintained at the beginning was gone after a few weeks; they traded their smart boots for cigarettes and food; that was war. Faced with war, the losing side has no dignity, quite a few prisoners died through lack of food; they got thinner every day, and became debilitated, and in the summer of 1942 the Japanese government decided to send the prisoners of war to Japan to work as coolies.

In 1942 the Lisbon Maru received its first transportation task. The Captain was Shigeru Kyoda, the 77 crew were responsible for taking to Japan 1,816 British prisoners of war, 778 Japanese army troops and 1,676 tons of cargo. On 27 September the Lisbon Maru, loaded with British army prisoners of war and cargo, left Hong Kong and sailed East. It passed the East Island Lighthouse off the northern tip of Taiwan and the North Yushan Island Lighthouse off Xiangshan County in Ningbo. The bodies of the prisoners of war on board were emaciated, burdened by sickness; with dull expressions,

these British youngsters did not yet know that they were headed for a calamity, sailing towards hell.

According to the recollections of survivors, the prisoners of war were locked up separately in three holds, each containing around 600 men. No 1 Hold, forward, mainly held sailors of the Royal Navy and an infantry regiment; the prisoners in No 2 Hold, amidships, were mainly from the Royal Scots; and those locked in No 3 Hold, aft, were mainly from the Royal Artillery. This arrangement created a crucial impact on the fate of each person when the Lisbon Maru sank. And before this, locked in any one of these unbearably crowded holds, there was no difference between them, it was not only space that was lacking, but even light became a luxury. No space, no light, not knowing the time; sweat, body odour, vomit and faeces, were even more suffocating; what the prisoners of war most wanted at this time was to be able to get out on deck. Not long after setting sail, the conditions of the prisoners of war locked in the holds began to get more and more wretched. Dennis Morley<sup>6</sup> used the word 'zoo' to describe the conditions in the hold at that time, in his recollection they were not as good as those of animals in the zoo. In this dark and stinking space, he and his comrades could only watch helplessly as the shadow of Death hovered above them.



In order to control the situation 2nd Lieutenant Wada got the Japanese army to begin nailing battens on the closed hold hatches. The commander of the British prisoners of war, Colonel Stewart<sup>7</sup>, immediately protested, demanding that the Japanese army should at least remove one batten to allow fresh air in so that they could breathe. As a result, Captain Shigeru Kyoda and 2nd Lieutenant Wada quarrelled; 2nd Lieutenant Wada insisted, saying: "It is very difficult to control 1,816 prisoners of war and I order the holds to be sealed." 2nd Lieutenant Wada issued orders for the three holds to be completely sealed with battens; there was no way for air to get into the holds, the prisoners of war in the holds were helpless; the air became more and more foul, the prisoners of war became weaker and weaker, and they began to get confused and lose consciousness. At this time, in No 2 Hold people had begun to die of sickness; the leaders of the British Army prisoners of war and their interpreters constantly demanded air and water, but the Japanese did not

---

<sup>6</sup> Private Dennis Morley, Royal Scots, reported in 'The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru' (trans)

<sup>7</sup> Lt Col Henry 'Monkey' Stewart, Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) *ibid* (trans).

pay the slightest attention; in their eyes the prisoners were basically not human.

On 30 September 1942, a wet and windy night, in the waters in the region of Xiangshan County, Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, just as the USS Submarine Grouper was at the edge of its hunting ground in Chinese waters, the Lisbon Maru came into the field of vision of the USS Grouper's periscope. Everything was set for its doom: the Lisbon Maru was already completely exposed in range of attack by the USS Grouper. At this time the 1,816 British prisoners of war and the 778 Japanese troops on the Lisbon Maru did not know they had been locked onto by the USS Grouper; the lifespan of the Lisbon Maru was coming to its end; the torpedoes of the Grouper would decide whether it lived or died.

After several hours of pursuit, the submarine sailed rapidly in a straight line, and went ahead to await the ship's arrival. They got as close as they could to the field of fire of the torpedoes; but because it was not yet light, they had no way of accurately determining the torpedo range, the line of sight was not very good, so they could only sail ahead and wait in the water to fire. At 7.04 am, three torpedoes were fired at the Lisbon Maru from 3,200 metres. After the three torpedoes were fired, the Lisbon Maru continued sailing intermittently, the commander judged that they had not hit the target, and without the slightest hesitation the Grouper fired the fourth torpedo, hitting the Lisbon Maru in the stern; after two minutes and 10 seconds a loud explosion sounded on the sea. Seen from the periscope the Lisbon Maru, which had stopped, showed no obvious signs of damage on the surface. At 8.45 the Grouper fired a fifth torpedo from 1,000 metres but did not hit the target. At 9.38 they discovered a Japanese bomber flying towards them, whereupon they immediately fired the sixth torpedo, and the Grouper immediately dived to 100 feet. After 40 seconds there was the sound of the torpedo exploding: the Lisbon Maru had been hit again, and this time the ship had begun to list; and after midday the likelihood of the Lisbon Maru sinking became more and more apparent. Several Japanese destroyers sailed from Shanghai and carried out a rapid transfer of the Japanese military on board.

The six torpedoes turned the Lisbon Maru into an inferno. At the time of the calamity the British troops were tightly locked in the holds by the Japanese army; hopes of survival were uncertain; would they be able to see the sun the next day?

On 2 October 1942, the sun rose as usual; the prisoners of war who had all along been walled up in the leaking holds had to use the utmost strength to take turns in pumping out the water, some died from exhaustion whilst pumping; how tragic that was. When the morning came and the Lisbon Maru suddenly shook every prisoner was unnerved: they knew the last moment was coming. The holds took in more and more water, the air became more and more scarce; when the Lisbon Maru began obviously to list, hopes of survival became increasingly uncertain. The commander of the British prisoners of war, Colonel Stewart, decided that all efforts should be made to

break out of the holds; at this time Lieutenant Colonel (sic) Howell<sup>8</sup> took a knife and volunteered to take the vanguard in the breakout; he not only opened No 2 Hold, where he was, but with others also opened No 1 Hold and No 3 Hold. The first British Army prisoners of war to break out of the holds immediately came under rifle fire from the Japanese military; Lieutenant Colonel (sic) Howell was injured, Lieutenant Colonel (sic) Potter<sup>9</sup> was killed. Other men were blocked by the Japanese troops in the entrance to the hold and shot; more and more prisoners of war came out through the hatches, by now the Japanese military had no way of preventing a bloody massacre; the deck became a scene of carnage flowing with blood. In the midst of this fierce battle, the Lisbon Maru once again violently submerged, and everyone realised it was about to sink; all the prisoners of war in the three holds broke out disregarding their own safety, and the most desperate were the prisoners of war in No 3 Hold.

The explosion had penetrated the Lisbon Maru precisely in No 3 Hold in the stern. Because of this the seawater gushed in there first and the fiercest. Because the personnel in the hold were already unbearable weak from having been locked in for a long time and rapidly pumping water, some people could plainly see that the hatch was open, but whilst the spirit was strong, the flesh was weak. The breakout was already too late as far as they were concerned; over 200 people who barely had enough strength to move could only rely on mutual support to climb out. Just at this crucial moment, they heard a cracking sound coming from the wooden ladder in the hatch, and the ladder broke, and the more than 400 men in the hold completely lost all vitality. The Lisbon Maru listed heavily to port; like all the other soldiers, the soldiers from No 3 Hold instinctively surged towards the ship's bow after they emerged, or jumped directly into the sea. A few prisoners of war still struggling to climb out of the holds called out "Goodbye, Piccadilly; farewell Leicester Square; it's a long, long way to Tipperary....". The Lisbon Maru went to its doom amidst the sound of the prisoners of war singing. The ship's stern sank completely, and at this time the more than 400 British prisoners of war still inside Hold No 3 had no chance of escape; a huge plume of water came out of the bow of the Lisbon Maru and after a few final struggles it slowly sank into the sea. All the more than 1,200 prisoners of war fell into the sea, maybe they were not destined to die. Unexpectedly there were witnesses to this maritime tragedy in broad daylight; who actually were they? When the Lisbon Maru sank, seeing the sinking with their own eyes were not only Japanese and British, but also Chinese; they were Chinese fishermen from Dongji Island.

On that morning, 2 October 1942, almost all the villagers saw the Lisbon Maru from the distance; it was in fact about to sink. Just as the people were watching from a distance, more than 1,200 prisoners of war, weakened beyond endurance, fell into the sea one after another following the sinking of the Lisbon Maru. Just at that time, Japanese troops on a warship were still shooting the prisoners of war who had fallen into the water; and the whole scene left the Chinese people dumbfounded. The Lisbon Maru incident

---

<sup>8</sup> 2nd Lieutenant Hargreaves Miles Howell, Royal Army Service Corps *ibid* (trans).

<sup>9</sup> Corps Officer Alan Stanley Potter, St John's Ambulance Brigade *ibid* (trans).

happened during a rising tide in a northeast wind. The prisoners of war, tormented by extreme hunger and sickness, basically could not control their direction and speed in the vast expanse of the sea, and only drifted with the tide, floating in a southwest direction. To the southwest lay Qingbang Island and Miaozihu Island of Dongji District. As far as the prisoners of war were concerned they offered a slim chance of survival; if they could swim to the small islands in the vicinity and cling onto the rocks or even get ashore, perhaps they could still manage to escape death. Before long, residents on the island first saw a large amount of cargo floating past on the surface of the sea, amongst this flotsam were prisoners of war struggling to save their lives, and floating corpses, as well as cargo. 67 years ago, the local residents lived in straw houses and lived off sweet potatoes; they had never seen foreign goods. Watching the goods float past on the sea, they still did not know that there were also people floating on the sea; and the gathering of foreign goods finally unexpectedly turned into rescuing foreign people, news that there were people in the sea quickly spread all over Qingbang Island and Miaozihu Island. The fishermen spontaneously organised themselves, rowed out on dilapidated sampans; although in the huge sea they seemed extremely insignificant, yet in the life and death rescue that was developing in the Dongji sea, they helped 384 British Army prisoners of war to become lucky ones in the rescue. And all this was seen by the Japanese, the Japanese warship(s) gradually went further away. And the Chinese fishermen were still rescuing the British prisoners of war in the maritime disaster, but their simple craft could not catch up with the speed at which the great sea swallowed up life, and when dusk arrived on 2 October not one person was left on the surface of the sea; and the Lisbon Maru had already gone forever.

At the crucial moment the small wooden boats of the Chinese fishermen had appeared. 384 British troops were saved and taken to Dongji Island; the 46 fishing boats launched by 198 Dongji Island fishermen made 65 journeys to sea to carry out the rescue. Amongst these 278 people were rescued to Qingbang Island, 106 to Miaozihu Island; this incident became big news on Dongji Island. Sheltering these 384 men, some young, some in the prime of life, presented tiny Dongji with some difficulty. At that time Dongji Island had only 1,000 residents, there was little farmland on the island, and they grew only a small amount of sweet potatoes; the islanders lived in straw houses, and most years they were underfed. But when saving people no-one thinks so much, when there are so many refugees, first get on with saving them and leave the worrying till later.

384 British Army prisoners of war slowly walked into the fishing village(s) in Dongji Island and came to the doors of the homes of the villagers. Since conditions in the village houses were so cramped, some of the British Army prisoners of war were diverted to the Tian Hou (Tin Hao) Temple.<sup>10</sup> This mass of utterly exhausted British youth slept peacefully in this small temple in a foreign land far from home, whilst over their heads the oriental gods quietly blessed and protected them. It was very lucky for them that they were able to

---

<sup>10</sup> A temple dedicated to Tian Hou (Tin Hao in Cantonese), Empress of Heaven, Goddess of the Sea and the patron of Chinese fishermen. Such a temple is an important feature of every Chinese fishing village (trans).

sleep in the Tian Hou Temple in Qingbang Island; think of those of their comrades who jumped into the sea to flee for their lives and met death from Japanese barbarous fire, and others who climbed the sides of Japanese ships with great difficulty, only to be kicked back into the sea again. Those who were not saved and taken ashore had no hope of survival. That same evening, 1,432 souls were consigned to the Dongji Island seas<sup>11</sup>.

After the sinking of the Lisbon Maru, a section of the mast emerged from the water, as if this were a symbol of Death, a constant reminder that the problems for the British troops were not yet over. After the prisoners of war had been rescued and taken to the islands, they were finally able to recover their breath having been clothed and fed by the villagers. On Qingbang Island, the majority of the prisoners of war prepared to go to the Tian Hou Temple as temporary accommodation, some split up and lived in the fishermen's houses. Nearly all the prisoners of war on Miaozihu Island lived in the fishermen's houses. The 1948 Dongji District, Dinghai County investigation report described it thus: "Residents of the two islands witnessed the sufferings of the British soldiers who were not only ill-clothed and soaking wet, many were even completely naked and in a miserable condition. The fishermen voluntarily gave them clothes, cotton padded clothes, boiling water and food, and gave them shelter." Actually, the situation at that time in the fishing village which was so generous in helping to solve their difficulties, was such that they barely had enough for three meals a day, just half a bowl of rice; a person could not eat his fill. Suddenly there were two mouths to feed, was this not one disaster after another? But the kind-hearted Dongji people took the chickens and dried fish which they had collected and treasured and served them to the visitors. This could be described as using up all their resources. The British prisoners of war spent one night in Dongji and formed a dying friendship with the fishermen.

The Japanese troops could not ignore the prisoners of war who had been rescued by the Chinese people. So the next day at first light, more than 200 Japanese soldiers took 5 naval ships and went straight to Dongji Island and on the way in the morning light gave a demonstration of firing their rifles. The villagers, whose feelings had long been awakened, tried to find places to hide. But contrary to expectations there was nowhere to escape on this small desolate island, and running off to sea would be even more of a dead end. 200 Japanese troops began a house to house search, and the island filled with a tense atmosphere. The prisoners of war who were hiding in secret places knew they would not be able to remain, and without any force, without any complaint, the prisoners of war gathered themselves together and went outside. To the survivors, disasters never come singly; this was the fate of the British prisoners of war on the Lisbon Maru and the summary of the destiny of people in war. Ordinary people, lacking strength, have kind and courageous hearts; but they don't have the ability to resist firearms and bayonets. Under brutal armed force, the Japanese troops did not need to injure even one soldier, but simply seized and took away the British prisoners of war on Dongji

---

<sup>11</sup> According to Tony Banham's book a total of 828 were lost and 1,006 survived out of a total of 1,834 prisoners of war on board. Some of the survivors were picked up by Japanese naval ships, a fact of which the islanders might well have been in ignorance (trans)

Island; but what they had not reckoned with was ordinary Chinese saving other people in the face of the jaws of death.

Under the guidance of Tang Ruliang, the Qingbang Island fishermen took three British men to Xiaowandong, situated near Nantian Bay, and three men, Evans, Fallace and Johnstone, hid from the Japanese blanket search.

With the help of the villagers, the three British men hid in Xiaowandong by day and food was sent to them by the local women, and went back to Nantian Bay to spend the nights. Although the villagers did everything they could to take care of them, the three British men still got weaker by the day and started to become ill. Therefore the fishermen tried every means to get the three British men away as quickly as possible under the noses of the Japanese Army. This needed to be done urgently, Shen Pinsheng, a prominent figure in Dongji Island, took personal charge and went to Hulu [Calabash] Island to ask for Liao Kaiyun. This Liao Kaiyun was no insignificant person; the area around Zhoushan had its own Japanese resistance force. Once Shen Pinsheng had explained why he had come, Liao Kaiyun immediately went to Dongji and had a meeting with the three British men; seeing that they all had a fever, Liao Kaiyun made a quick decision immediately to make arrangements to move them. At dusk on 9 October he dressed the three British men in local fishermen's clothes, let them hide in the hold of a sampan and flee directly to Hulu Island. Liao Kaiyun personally took his own forces to act as escort and did all they could to avoid the Japanese, making a dash to get to Hulu Island before first light. When the three British men got to Hulu Island, they were immediately sent into the home of Liao Kaiyun's father-in-law Yang Fulin. The sick Evans lay on the bed of the head of the household, unable to stir. Just when they were busily clustering about in a group giving the three some hot water for a bath, cooking and changing their clothes, another boat silently crept into Hulu Harbour. Originally Liao Kaiyun had made two decisions: one was to move the men immediately, the other was to send someone to inform his father-in-law, Yang Fulin, who was the town head where Shen's home was, and ask him to get a doctor. Because at that time the Japanese were watching everything very closely, Dr Li Qiliang, who was the appointed doctor, was not willing to go; Yang Fulin then gave a direct order calling Li Qiliang to Hulu Island, and Yang Fulin also took five gold bars as a gift for him. Through Li Qiliang's diagnosis and treatment, the three men's sickness was rapidly brought under control, and by morning Evans' high fever had abated. After a few days, Liao Kaiyun sent Evans and the others to the 4th Regiment concentration area – Guoju. Under arrangements made by Wang Duanneng, Commander of the 4th Regiment, the three British men were transferred via many places and finally were sent to Chongqing Radio Station, where they narrated the incident of the sinking of the Lisbon Maru, sharing with the whole world the atrocity of the Japanese bandits' slaughter of the prisoners of war; afterwards the three men were handed over to the British Embassy in China by the Guomindang<sup>12</sup> government.; the survivors of the disaster returned to the UK.

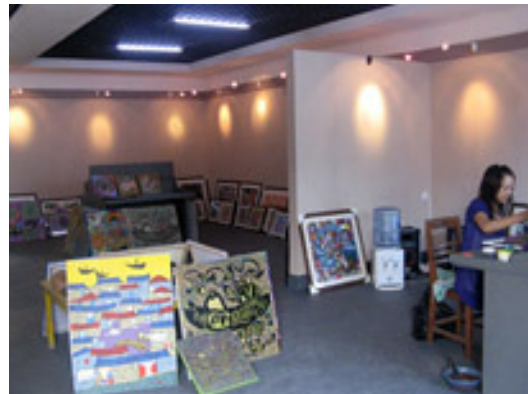
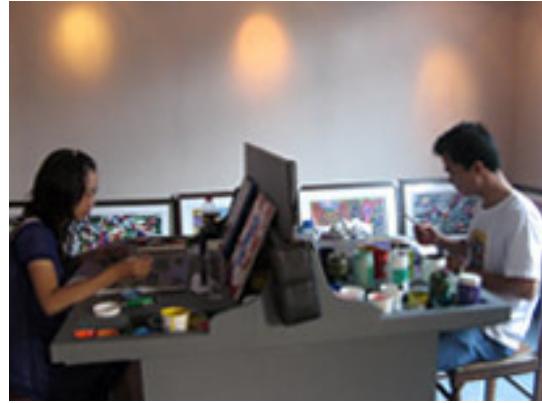
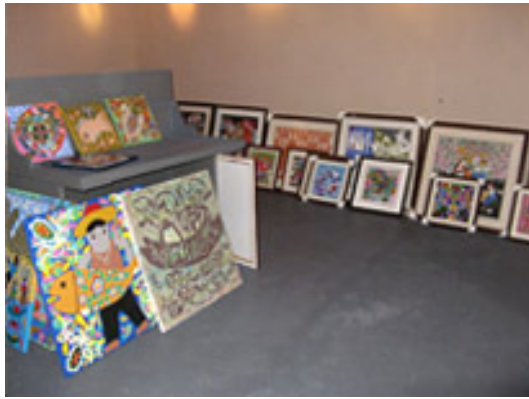
---

<sup>12</sup> Also known as the Kuomintang or KMT (trans)



### **Introduction to Information on Dongji Folk Customs**

This small sampan came from Qingbang Island. It is a small sampan peculiar to early fishermen; for several decades it has been a tool of production on which Dongji fishermen have relied for their survival. On 2 October 1942, when the incident of the sinking of the 'Lisbon Maru' occurred in the Dongji seas, fishermen from the island rowed out in this sampan and rescued dozens of British soldiers from the disaster. The land of Dongji is situated in the most easterly extremity of the Zhoushan group of islands. The majority of Dongji Island citizens come from migrants from the mainland, with more than 200 years of history. All the items in this display are original appliances for the daily life, production and work of the island people in the last 200 years. The stone cookers, bamboo baskets, wooden buckets, net shuttles, beds, wardrobes, combs, dresses and makeup in this display are originals and are the cultural origins of the nature and character which has long sustained the people's existence and has maintained the unsophisticated national life: kindly, hard working and healthy. Thus, everything shown here today cannot be ignored by us; despite the changes of the times, these articles are rooted in the lifestyle of the island people and we must look after them for all time.



### **The Beauty of the Most Easterly Part of the Motherland – Paintings of the Dongji Fishermen**

Paintings of the Dongji Fishermen originated in the late '80s. In the last 20 years, creative groups have been formed to foster more than 200 fishermen painters, nearly 20 of whom are key figures who have exhibited at more than 30 national, provincial and regional events. For many years, a total of over 100 works have gone to many countries for exhibitions or have been bought by collectors. 36 works have repeatedly won national, provincial and municipal prizes and publicity. So far, 1,300 works have gone on the market and are used to decorate hotels, restaurants, offices and residences. Over 200 works have become the town's friendly ambassadors for outside exchanges, and have received the admiration and critical acclaim of people from all walks of life.

The beautiful scrolls of the conditions in fishing villages painted by the Dongji fishermen are brim full with the modern flavour of folk painting. With the sea as a background, and the theme of fishermen's production and daily life, they show that they are definitely neither the ordinary skills of the common techniques of traditional folk art, nor are they constrained within academic bounds; they unwittingly reveal the freedom of the vast seas and pure feelings; they are innocent and lovely, full of poetry and distinct individuality. Whether abundant with themes or distinct local colour or displaying skills of unique art, all are models of unique fishermen's art, a product of ocean culture, an 'exotic flower' in the garden of folk art. The painting skills of the Dongji

fishermen come forth in large numbers; the waves of the Great River<sup>13</sup> push each other forward. In the 90s noteworthy representative artists were: Zhang Dingkang, Weng Mengchang, Zhang Meidi, Ren Linlong and others. After the 20s Liang Gendi, Wu Xiaofei, Hu Zhanglan, Wang Yazhen, Teng Huifen and so on emerged and were outstanding in leading the flock of painters; nowadays new people such as Zhang Huiping and Guo Lingna are springing up one after the other in large numbers, becoming a main force contingent amongst the creative talent of Putuo fishermen painters, making a positive contribution to the constant flourishing development of the Dongji “folk painting creative base” and the “fishermen painting art community”. They are making a positive contribution to the building of the Three Civilisations<sup>14</sup>.

### **Labels on the Lisbon Maru Exhibits**

1. Present to the family of Yan Quanmin from British Army victims of the Lisbon Maru.
2. Small wooden bucket used to send drinking water to the British soldiers hiding in Xiaowandong.
3. Fruit bucket given by the Weng Achuan family to the British soldiers in hiding used for storing rice and sugar.
4. A rice bucket used for supplying rice to the British soldiers in hiding.
5. A basket used by the Weng Achuan family to send tea to the British soldiers in hiding.
6. A wooden tub for serving tea given by the fishermen of Qingbang Island to the British soldiers in hiding.
7. A beer keg that floated ashore from the sunken Lisbon Maru
8. Qingbang Island fishermen used this jug to carry hot water for the British soldiers to drink.
9. Model of a small sampan which saved British Army survivors at the time.
10. News published by all major British newspapers after the sinking of the Lisbon Maru.
11. News published by the Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao about the presentation of the boat “Sea Peace” to the Dongji Island Fishermen after the sinking of the Lisbon Maru.

---

<sup>13</sup> A literary term for the Yangtze River (trans)

<sup>14</sup> A political campaign by the ruling Chinese Communist Party to promote material civilization, political civilization and spiritual civilization (trans)

12. Official letter from the National Government to the Zhejiang Provincial Government after the sinking of the Lisbon Maru.
13. Commemorative knife and fork presented to the Qingbang Island fishermen by British survivors from the Lisbon Maru.
14. Daily living utensils used by the British Army survivors at the time.
15. Small oil lamp given at the time to the British Army survivors and used in the Xiaowandong hideout.
16. Tableware given that year to the British Army survivors for eating.
17. Firelock given to the British Army survivors that year for drying trousers.
18. A copper kettle given by the kind-hearted and simple Dongji women to the British Army survivors to keep them warm during the night.
19. During WW II, the Japanese Army pillaged cloth in Asia; the simple and kind-hearted Dongji people still retain today cloth that floated ashore when the Lisbon Maru sank.
20. Bowl used by British Army survivors that year.
21. The simple and kind-hearted Dongji people gave the last of their own clothes as presents for the British Army survivors to wear.
22. Bowl used by British Army survivors at the time.
23. Tea plate used by British Army survivors at the time.
24. Decocting pot given to the three British Army survivors for antipyretic medicine decocted when they became feverish.
25. Production tools of ancient fishermen for digging up mussels, gathering conches and netting fish.
- 15
27. Clothes worn by women in ancient times.
28. Straw sandals worn by fishermen in ancient times.
29. Swaddling clothes for newborn baby in ancient times.
30. Winter dress for youngsters in the '30s.
31. Baby's trousers and tiger shoes in the '30s.

---

<sup>15</sup> The number 26 is not on the list (trans)

32. Fishermen's net weaving shuttle.
33. Ancient boat decorations.
34. Fish slaughtering knife and production tools used in boats by fishermen in ancient times.
35. Ancient make-up box for newly married bride.
36. Ancient cake mould.
37. Small stone pillar used from ancient times to now by fishermen when still in production.
38. Motorised junk steering wheel.
39. Wooden basin used by women for washing clothes in ancient times.
40. A small net for catching dollarfish.
41. Tools used by fishermen in ancient times for catching mussels.
42. Tools for pressing clothes used by master tailors in ancient times.
43. Bucket for carrying water used by fishing families in ancient times.
44. Ancient bridal foot washing bowl.
45. Ancient make-up box for women.
46. Kitchen door used by fishing families in the '30s.
47. Popular Red Light brand radio of the '70s.
48. Ancient baby's cradle.
49. Ancient camphor wood chest used by fishing families.
50. A device for lighting fireworks when a bride first leaves her old home.
51. All sorts of tools used by fishing families in the kitchen in ancient times.
52. Chopstick covers used by fishing families more than 100 years ago.
53. Ancient straw sandals worn by fishermen.
54. Ancient clothes worn by women.
55. Ancient overtrousers worn by fishermen.

56. Ancient stomach cloth worn by babies.

57. Ancient beer brewing bucket and rice steamer used by fishing families.

[About us](#). [Company culture](#). [Weather forecast](#). [Zhoushan hotel reservations](#). [Electronic map](#).  
[Contact us](#). [Site map](#). [Friendly links](#). [Comments and feedback](#).

Copyright©2004-2008 Dongjido.Com All Rights Reserved

Address: PO Box 402, Unit 1, Curtain 4, Putuo East Harbour Strand Gardens, Zhoushan City, Zhejiang  
Province. Postcode 316100 Website service QQ 82691802 Tourist Service QQ 826067163 Sponsor:  
Zhoushan Sacred Island Culture and Tourism Development Company Limited Travel Service  
Operating Licence L-ZJ-GN08091 Zhe ICP Bei number 06010129

We are grateful for the great support and assistance provided by the Dongji People's Government.