



The well-maintained grave of the two doctors.

Grim story of two doctors

THERE is a grim story behind this grave, which occupies a very special corner within the compound of Hospital Permai in Tampoi.

It is the common grave of two doctors, Dr J.D. Perinbam and his brother-in-law, Dr S.D. Luther, who were both executed by the Japanese military police during the early morning hours of March 12, 1942.

The story goes that the two doctors were forced to dig their own grave by the Japanese before they were executed and pushed into it.

The two doctors, who were attached to the hospital, were tortured and killed by the Japanese because they had been accused of supporting the British and the Chinese.

A retired hospital attendant, who was a witness to the execution, recalled that the Japanese military police marched into Dr Perinbam's office in the hospital and escorted him to their makeshift "torture chamber".

This was the former Senior Civil Service Club, a building which is now unoccupied and reputed to be haunted.

Dr Perinbam was tortured for four days before he was brought back to the hospital. There, the Japanese ordered the doctor to dig his own grave in front of the hospital's administrative building.

Dr Luther, who was in the hospital at that time, pleaded with the Japanese to spare Dr Perinbam's life.

They proceeded to gun Dr Luther down and then bayoneted Dr Perinbam to death. Their bodies were dumped into the grave.

"It was a ghastly sight," said the retired hospital attendant who did not want to be identified.

"Some of us who saw the act took days to get over with the nightmare," he added.

The hospital authorities later erected a headstone in memory of the two doctors. The grave is always well-maintained.

According to the retired hospital attendant, the children of the two doctors, who are believed to be living in Canada, visit the grave, without fail, just before Christmas every year.