
Wamp Writings – *Dee's Journal – by Dee Bird – 3/18/09*

Dee is currently in Thailand...she's on a land trip to Kwai (as in "The Bridge Over the River Kwai") which has a great deal of meaning to her and her family as her father was a POW in a Japanese prison camp in WWII.

"We are back from 'elefumps'. I had a wonderful time! The trip itself was fun - there were four bus-loads of us. Our bus got lost - this has been a recurring theme with our transport. The organizers bring people who are not from the area, so they get lost. Oh well, we got there. I was quite glad we were late, because everyone was already in seats in the big open arena area where we were seeing the elephants. I scooted down to the front corner. And a few minutes later, the elephants had to go for a bath...

"Any volunteers?"

OH YES, ME, PICK ME!!!

I whipped off my sandals and leapt up onto the fence, and was indeed first to climb onto the elephant, and off we waddled down to the water... thick brown murky stuff...and in waded the elephant. And in and in and in, and then she ducked down under the water and I was in this murky stuff up to my waist! (I have a nice photo.) She ducked and ducked and I got very, very wet. (That was after having been all drooled over as she tried to eat bananas from me earlier...) A mess, I was. We came on out and were off loaded...the animals (they have 33 in all at this village) did a variety of things for us that working elephants do. It was a very nice do. When that was all over, we had a ride on an elephant, two at a time on a big seat like the raj."