



Historic Bridge Foundation Facebook Archives

Focus Bridges: Bangkok, Thailand

The Memorial Bridge crosses the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok, and was completed in 1932. The Memorial Bridge has an unusual bascule span design. Consisting of a double-leaf bascule span, the superstructure is a through truss design. Often through truss bascule bridges have overhead counterweights, and even those that have under-deck counterweights typically have above-deck operating racks that can be found at the piers. The Memorial Bridge, however, has none of these visible. The counterweight, operating rack, and all other machinery was carefully concealed under the deck. The only indication of the bridge's movable design is the sloped design of the trusses. The bridge also has a fixed polygonal Warren through truss approach span at each end. The bridge was fabricated and erected by Dorman Long, Middlesbrough, England. This company, which was also a mill, rolled the steel as well. Italian engineers from Società Nazionale Officine Savignano oversaw the construction. During World War II, approximately two-thirds of one of the bascule leaves was destroyed. A Bailey truss was temporarily installed, but later the destroyed portion of the bascule leaf was repaired in-kind.

The Krung Thep Bridge crosses the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok. It is not as old as the Memorial Bridge, having been completed in 1959. However, its bascule span remains operable, unlike the Memorial Bridge. The bridge consists of through truss approach spans and a double-leaf through plate girder bascule span.

Wat Benchamabophit is a Buddhist temple in Bangkok built in 1899. It includes on its grounds four nearly identical ornate cast iron arch bridges which were built in 1902. Larini Nathan & Company of Milan, Italy, cast the arch bridges as indicated on the end posts of the bridge railings.

Crossing the Phadung Krung Kasem canal, the Makkhawan Rangsan Bridge is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved of older bridges found on the canals of Bangkok. Originally built in 1903 to the design of architect Carlo Allegri, two bridges with similar aesthetic details were constructed parallel to the bridge on both sides in 1994. The original middle span retains its ornamental pillars, iron railings, and decorative iron panels on the fascias of the beam bridge's superstructure.



A view of the bascule span of the Krung Thep Bridge



A view of an approach span of the Krung Thep Bridge



A view beside the original span of the Makhawan Rangsang Bridge.



Railing detail of the Makhawan Rangsang Bridge.



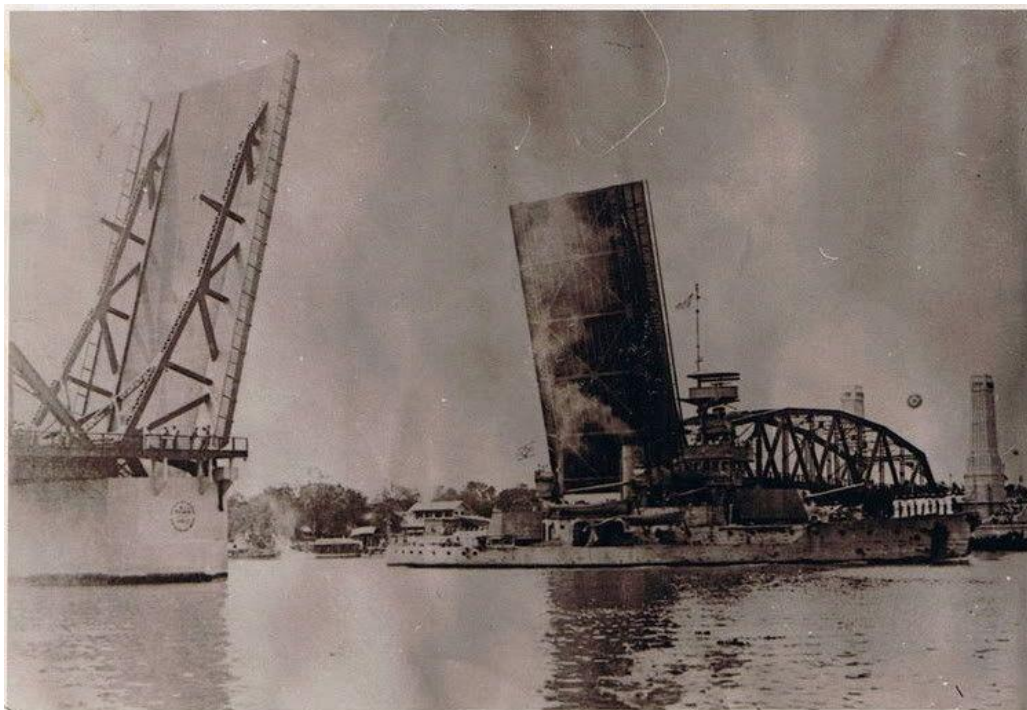
A portal view of the Memorial Bridge.



Elevation of the Memorial Bridge bascule span.



A view beside the Memorial Bridge.



This historical photo shows the Memorial Bridge's bascule span in the raised position.



This historical photo shows the World War II damage to the Memorial Bridge's bascule span.



A view beside one of the bridges at Wat Benchamabophit.



A view beside one of the bridges at Wat Benchamabophit.



The name of the builder (in Italian) of the cast iron bridges at Wat Benchamabophit as seen cast into the endposts of the railing.