



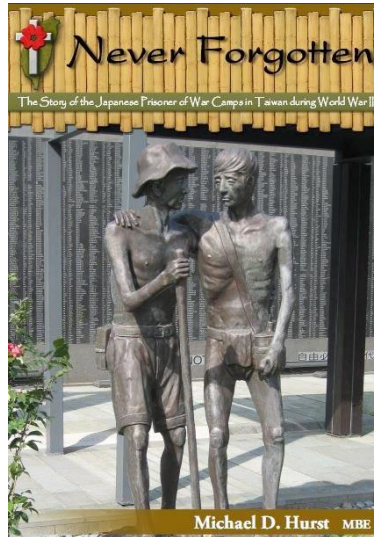
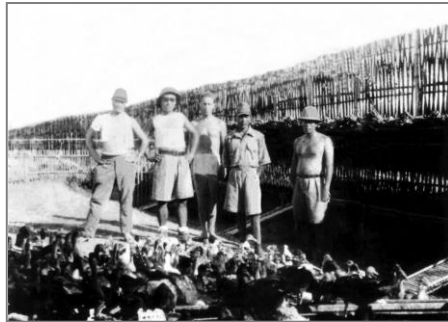
Never Forgotten

Vol. 21, Number 2

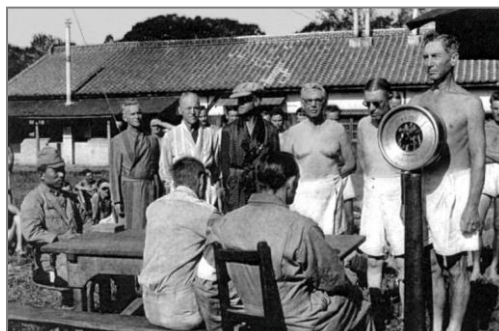
FALL – WINTER 2020

The Official Newsletter of the TAIWAN P.O.W. CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

2020 – THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY AND THE END OF WORLD WAR II



'Never Forgotten' – The Story of the Japanese Prisoner of War Camps in Taiwan during World War II.



VJ Day – the last day of the world's longest, most terrifying and most costly struggle for freedom.

LEST WE FORGET!

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS
MEMORIAL SOCIETY**
P.O. BOX 665, YUNG HO
TAIPEI 234, TAIWAN, R.O.C.
TEL. 8660-8438 FAX. 8660-8439
E-MAIL society@powtaiwan.org

Please visit our website at:
www.powtaiwan.org

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LOGO of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Our logo - a poppy cross superimposed on a map of Taiwan - was chosen because the poppy and the poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols of remembrance to war veterans. Over the years the returning POWs and their families laid poppy crosses at all the former campsites they visited.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY. . .

- * to search for the locations of all the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan. [*completed*]
- * to search for the survivors of the 1942 – 45 Taiwan POW camps.
- * to ensure that the story of the Taiwan POWs is told and they are not forgotten.
- * to help with the organization of and participate in the memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi every November on Remembrance Day.
- * to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history.
- * to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story.

LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . . all found !

1. KINKASEKI #1 (Jinguashi)
2. TAICHU #2 (Taichung)
3. HEITO #3 (PingTung)
4. SHIRAKAWA #4 (Bai He)
5. TAIHOKU #5 MOKSAK (Taipei)
6. TAIHOKU #6 (Taipei)
7. KARENKO (Hualien)
8. TAMAZATO (Yuli)
9. INRIN (Yuanlin)
10. INRIN TEMP. (Yuanlin)
11. TOROKU (Douliu)
12. TAKAO (Kaohsiung)
13. KUKUTSU (Taipei)
14. OKA (Sanxia)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

Thought . . .

God help us to remember the sacrifices made by those we do not know for those of us they did not know.

Rev. David Homer

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

Well, needless to say, I am ecstatic that finally the long awaited book on the story of the Taiwan POW camps and the men has been completed. It was finished on Remembrance Day - November 11th as I had hoped. More about it on page 7.

2020 has certainly been an interesting year with the Corona virus and the many worldwide disruptions it has caused. Very saddening are the statistics of those who have died from the disease.

However, with life pretty much normal in Taiwan, all of our 75th anniversary commemorative events went ahead as planned, albeit with some adjustments for safety and distancing. We had a great turnout for FEPOW Day with a lot of interest being shown in the two afternoon seminars – the first on the 'Air Raids Against Formosa – 1943-45', and the second, a presentation on 'The Story of the Taiwan POW Camps and the POWs'. The evening program was also a success once again.

Another great Remembrance Day service was held on Sunday November 15th, and even though it was not possible to host guests from overseas this time, it was still a very special and moving event with a record crowd in attendance.

(See the reports of these events on pages 4 & 8.)

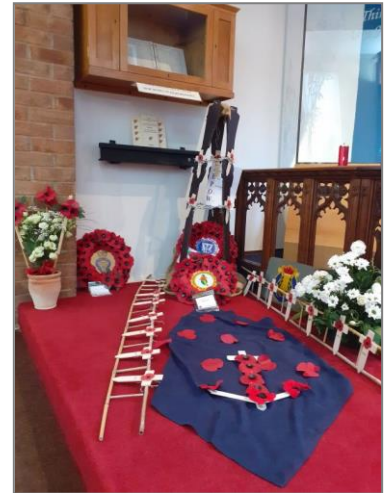
We are looking forward in anticipation to holding wonderful events next year with hopefully many folks visiting throughout the year on POW camp tours, as well as for Remembrance Week 2021.

So despite the world unrest, let us still take time to remember those who suffered and died over the past decades to bring us our freedom, and I hope that indeed 'Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men' will prevail at this Christmas season - and in the coming year. Merry Christmas everyone!

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst MBE*

VJ75 COMMEMORATED AT THE FEPOW CHURCH IN WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK

The *FEPOW Memorial Church* located in Wymondham, Norfolk UK, was built after the war as an official place of remembrance for the FEPOWs. Every year in May the church hosts a remembrance service for the FEPOWs. I have attended the service on two occasions when I was in the UK for POW reunions or events. This year with the Corona virus, the service had to be cancelled. However, that did not deter the church from holding a smaller service on August 15th to remember those who suffered as POWs of the Japanese in World War II.



The FEPOW Day memorial display on VJ75.

Archivist, Peter Wiseman had invited our Society to take part in May, but of course distance and the virus prohibited that. After discussing the options, he procured a poppy wreath from the RBL on our behalf and it was placed in the church in May and also laid again at the August 15th VJ75 service. We are grateful to Peter and the church for inviting us to participate in these meaningful events and we are always honoured to do so.

The church is hoping that next year's service slated for Sunday May 16th 2021 will go ahead as usual and everyone is welcome to attend. The FEPOW Church has a website with more info at: <http://www.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk/fepow> and invites anyone interested to visit for further details.

In Memoriam

The following former Taiwan POWs have passed away since our last newsletter.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families of these men and assure them that although they are no longer with us, they will not be forgotten!

GEOFFREY BLAIN
GNR., 5TH FIELD REG'T., R.A.
SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

"We Will Remember Them"

Tpr. John Thomas Bailey - 100 years young!

On November 13th we received an email from Michael Bailey, the son of former Taiwan POW John Thomas Bailey of the 18th Btn. Recon Corps, informing us of his 100th birthday on the 12th. He was thrilled to receive his birthday card from the Queen and was in good spirits. John keeps very well and still has an excellent memory and has shared some of his POW experiences with me. Michael said that due to the virus the family was unable to visit him at the nursing home, but that they did all get together via video on WhatsApp.



75th Anniversary End of WW II FEPOW DAY AUGUST 15th 2020



This year was the 13th time that *FEPOW Day* has been celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we met at the Spot Theatre - # 18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei, on Saturday August 15th.

Being the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II, we expanded the day's program to include two seminars relating to Taiwan in World War II, and these took place in the afternoon.

The first was a special guest presentation on the bombing of Taiwan and Taipei by noted Taiwanese military aviation historian Chang, Wei-Bin. His presentation was titled '*Air Raids Against Formosa - 1943-45*' and his excellently illustrated talk was very informative and revealed a lot of details that most people do not know about Taiwan, or what took place here in World War II. He has authored a comprehensive book on the subject (in Chinese).

The second part was a presentation on '*The Story of the Taiwan POWs*' by the Society director. As usual, a collection of WWII POW and military artifacts was on display.

In the evening our regular FEPOW Day program commenced with Society deputy director Mark Wilkie emceeing. We had a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs and civilian internees and Richard Arnold, Bernie Moore, Hans Song and James Baron brought tributes to the POWs. Then the movie "*Empire of the Sun*" was shown.

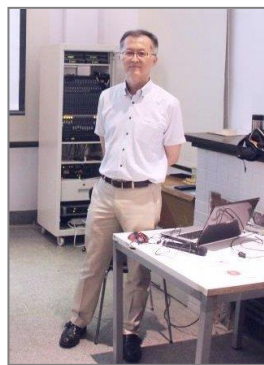
Produced and directed by Steven Spielberg, the story is loosely based on the true life episodes of James G. Ballard, a young British boy growing up in Shanghai who suddenly found himself plunged into war. He and his family were interned with other foreign civilians at Lunghua Camp outside Shanghai, where they remained until August 1945. It showed the treatment meted out on the civilian populace by the Japanese during their wartime occupation of China.

It was a great event and especially significant being on the actual day 75 years after the Japanese surrender. A capacity crowd was present for both events, breaking all previous attendance records. There were 61 present at the afternoon seminars and 44 remained for the evening event. Everyone said how pleased they were with our program this year and that they were able to learn and understand more of what the POWs and the civilians suffered. Thanks to all those who attended and to Wei-Bin Chang, Mark Wilkie, William Wang and Judy Chen who helped make the day such a great success. Our thanks to the Spot Theatre and manager Susan Hsu for their assistance as well.

Some photos from the day courtesy POW Society photographer William Wang –



The capacity crowd in the afternoon.



Wei-Bin Chang



Sharing the story of the Taiwan bombings.



Telling the Taiwan POWs' Story.



A moment of silence for the POWs.



A few friends after the service.



PAYING RESPECT TO 'GRANDMA' YU



After leaving Kinkaseki Camp in May and June of 1945 and moving to the Kukutsu 'jungle' Camp, the prisoners were divided into three working groups. The first was tasked with building huts for the camp as there were not enough for all the men. The second group had to dig up an old unused tea plantation for the planting of food – basically sweet potatoes and peanuts.

Since there was so little food available, the third group had to make a trip down the mountain to Shinten (Xindian) every day to bring back rice and other necessities. This group was known as the 'Town Party' - although I know that these daily treks to carry bags of rice and other things which often weighed more than the thin and starving men themselves - was no 'party'! They would go down to the village in the early morning, load up with supplies and food from the Japanese storehouses and then trek back up the mountain to the camp in afternoon, often arriving just in time for supper.

On the trail to Shinten there was one farmhouse near the road belonging to the Yu family who worked the land nearby growing rice and other vegetables. It was situated about half way between Shinten and the camp and when the POWs would reach there in mid-afternoon they and the guards would stop and rest. They soon nicknamed it the 'Halfway House'.

As the men trudged past the house every day or stopped nearby to rest, the Yu family noticed the sick and emaciated state of the men. One member of the family - Grandma Yu, was especially touched with their plight and began to give the men a bit of rice that was left over from the noon meal. The POWs really appreciated this and some, if possible, would rush ahead of the rest of the party to reach the house before the guards arrived to get a bit of food and some water or tea. Seeing this, Grandma began to cook extra rice at lunch to give to the men and they really appreciated it. The Taiwanese guards accompanying the men would look the other way as Grandma doled out the snacks, but the Japanese guards could get upset if they thought she was giving the men too much. However, they never harassed Grandma for what she did - and which took a lot of courage.

Later, when the war ended and the men were leaving the camp for the last time, when they reached the house they gave Grandma a little doll they had made from old rice sacks with a face painted on in charcoal. She was very touched with this kind gift and treasured it for years. Later, when I interviewed members of the Yu family, they told me how happy she was to have been able to do that for the men.

So while working on the story of the Kukutsu Camp for my book and reviewing this account again, I got the idea that it might be nice to visit Grandma's grave - if she had one (she died long ago back in 1958), and to pay respect and thank her with some flowers on behalf of the Kukutsu POWs for what she had done for them. In Chinese custom, even though she had passed away many years ago, this would still be a great honour for her.

With help from Society member Chiang, Hsiao-Feng we found out that indeed Grandma did have a grave and the Yu family were pleased that I wanted to remember Grandma in this way. So on July 15th we travelled out to the countryside and the cemetery where Grandma's grave was located. The family had gone out the week before to clear away the long grass and tidy up the grave. A lovely, moving, little ceremony was held at the graveside and I presented some flowers and said a few words of tribute about a gallant and brave lady. I'm sure the snacks that she gave to the men surely helped them a little in their starved and weakened condition.

This is just another example of how the Taiwanese people sympathized with the POWs in Taiwan during their time in the camps and tried their best where possible to help them. For that we are very grateful.



Grandma Yu's grave.



Presenting flowers and a tribute at the graveside.

THE KUKUTSU POW MEMORIAL GETS A FACELIFT

The site of the former Kukutsu 'jungle' Camp was discovered in the spring of 1997 and two years later Taiwan's second POW camp memorial was erected and dedicated on the site of the former camp on November 20th 1999. It was located in a little 'grotto' overhung by rocks and thus well protected from the elements. Three former Kukutsu Camp POWs - Gunners Ben Gough and John Marshall of the 155th Field Regiment RA – the Lanarkshire Yeomanry, and Sgt. Jack Edwards, Royal Corps of Signals were in attendance and took part in the program.



Original Kukutsu Memorial in the little grotto on dedication day 1999 - before it had to be moved.

Several years later the memorial was removed from the grotto and stored locally as the gov't wanted to carry out a construction project in the area and the grotto would have been covered in with landfill thus burying the stone. Fortunately we were informed and could deal with the situation in time.

Then in 2003 the local community chief, Mr. Lai went to work with the Xindian District Office to find a suitable place for the memorial that would be permanent and thus ensure that it would never have to be moved again. A good location was found on government land along the roadside near the site of the former camp and also close to the stream where the POWs washed every day when their slave work in the camp and on the plantation was done.

In the spring of 2004 a base was constructed on the site and the memorial stone was mounted in it. Then on May 16th - 59 years to the day after the first POWs entered the camp, having travelled from Kinkaseki all day, the new memorial was dedicated. About 50 people attended the ceremony which featured our piper, officials from the then Taipei County (now New Taipei City) government, the British Office in Taipei, the Canadian Trade Office, community representatives and a host of supporters and friends.

The memorial has endured all kinds of weather in the past 16 years and was looking a little worn, so our good friend and faithful member Chiang, Hsiao-Feng (Shawfong) and the director spent a day at the site thoroughly cleaning the entire memorial, repainting the gold lettering and putting a protective seal coating on the stone. We also wanted to clean off all the moss that had overgrown the base and the steps and this involved a lot of scraping with scrapers and a wire brush. It was good to get it done though and hopefully it will keep its lovely appearance now for many more years to come. Shawfong also had the idea to clear the area around the memorial with a view to developing a flower garden there, so he worked on that while director worked on the memorial itself and the steps.

Most of all our other memorials have withstood the ravages of weather very well over the years, with the original finish and gold lettering still well preserved. The Kukutsu Memorial is the only one that is in a mountain area with its frequent rainfalls and humid 'jungle-like' climate. We are confident now that we have it looking good again. Here are a few snaps from the day. Thanks to Shawfong once again – it could not have been done without him!



Before – the memorial faded and overgrown.



Shawfong excavating the garden.



Repainting the gold lettering.



Shawfong – master gardener!



After – the newly restored memorial.



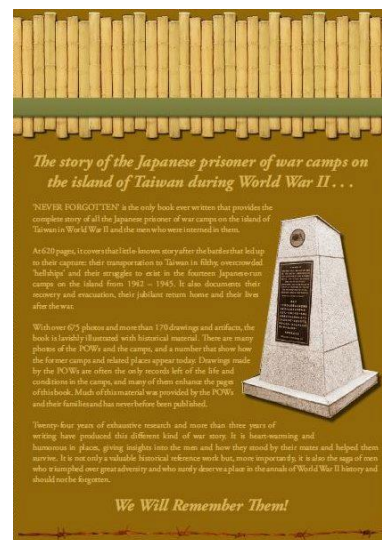
Pleased with a good day's work.

LAUNCH OF THE TAIWAN POW BOOK – ‘NEVER FORGOTTEN’



Finally, after 24 years of research and more than three years in production, we are happy to announce the launch of the new, long-awaited book by Society director, Michael Hurst, titled -

Never Forgotten. . . The story of the Japanese Prisoner of War Camps in Taiwan during World War II



‘NEVER FORGOTTEN’ tells the story of the Japanese prisoner of war camps on the island of Taiwan (Formosa) in the Second World War. It is the only book ever written that provides the complete story of all the Taiwan camps and the men who were interned in them.

Finished on Remembrance Day - November 11th 2020 - 75 years after the end of the world’s most devastating war, this book traces the story of the allied soldiers, sailors and airmen - primarily British, American, Australian and Dutch, who were taken captive by the Japanese - in Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines - and sent to Taiwan to do forced labour for their war effort.

At 620 pages, it covers that little-known story - beginning with the battles that led up to their capture; their transportation to Taiwan in filthy, overcrowded ‘hellships’ and their struggles to exist in the fourteen Japanese-run prison camps on the island from 1942 - 1945. There is a chapter devoted to every camp and it also follows those who moved on to camps in Japan and Manchuria. The relief and evacuation of the POWs by allied forces following the Japanese surrender is also documented, along with their return home and their lives after the war.

Over 675 photos - many in colour on the book’s high-quality glossy paper - visually enhance this epic saga. With more than 170 drawings and artifacts - also mostly in colour, the book is lavishly illustrated with historical material which accompanies the text. There are photos of the POWs and the camps, all of the hellships that took them to Taiwan, the allied aircraft that brought them relief when the war ended and the ships that rescued them and took them to freedom and home. There are also many photos that show how the former camps and related places appear today. Drawings made by the POWs are often the only records existing of the life and conditions in the camps, and many augment the pages of this book, making it come alive for the reader. Much of this material was provided by the POWs and their families and has never before been published.

The cover features the sculpture of the two emaciated POW figures standing before the memorial wall in the *Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial Park* at Jinguashi, Taiwan. It seeks to evoke an understanding of the suffering that the prisoners endured and how mateship meant so much to the men, all of whose more than 4,350 names are engraved on the wall.

Twenty-four years of meticulous, exhaustive research and more than three years of writing have produced this different kind of war story. It is heart-warming and humorous in places, giving insights into the men and how they stood by their mates and helped them survive. It also tells about the Taiwanese people who had sympathy for the men and how they helped them. The book is not only a valuable historical reference work but, more importantly, it is also the saga of men who triumphed over great adversity and who surely deserve a place in the annals of World War II history and should not be forgotten.

We Will Remember Them!

Further details of the book on its release, the cost, payment instructions and how to obtain copies will be sent by direct email to all of the Society’s members and friends worldwide shortly. In addition, information will be posted on the website featuring an additional menu ‘BOOK’ page with a convenient ‘Buy Now’ button to easily order the book online. It is only available by direct order from the publisher through the Society’s website page. Please **DO NOT** send emails to the Society requesting a copy of the book as we are unable to handle such requests. Kindly follow the instructions outlined on the Society’s ‘BOOK’ webpage at www.powtaiwan.org to obtain your copy. Thank you and we hope that you will enjoy and treasure this book.

POW CAMP TOURS

Despite the terrible corona virus we were able to get in a few tours for local residents. It has certainly not been a good year for many overseas visitors who had wanted to make trips to Taiwan to follow in their loved-one's footsteps, but we are hoping that next year we can see the possibility of a return for those folks.

RAYTHEON CORP. AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN

Taiwan POW Society member and staunch supporter Tony Hu, the In-country Manager for Raytheon Corp., organized a tour for several of their employees and also some guests from the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT - the defacto American Embassy). All were interested in learning more about the Taiwan POWs' and we had a wonderful time together sharing the story of Kinkaseki and the other POW camps on the island. Following this we enjoyed fellowship over a delicious seafood lunch.

AIT has been a good supporter of our work over the years and their directors have taken part in various events we have held. It is great to be able to add Raytheon to the group of interested and involved corporate members and we look forward to sharing more of the POWs' story with other companies and their staff. For more information and to arrange a tour, please contact the society.



Tony Hu (l) and the group from Raytheon and AIT.

75TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

This year's Remembrance Day service was somewhat different from the past 22 years due to the Corona Virus which has ravaged the world. Unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate any overseas FEPOW visitors, so the service was a totally Taiwan event. Undaunted, the Society with the assistance of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office, hosted a wonderful ceremony attended by more than 150 local friends and supporters. Covid restrictions were in place and so everyone wore masks, had their temperatures taken and tried their best at social distancing.

For this special 75th Anniversary service we were honoured once again to have the Minister of Taiwan's Veterans Affairs Council with us, along with the Vice-President of the Veterans Association of the ROC. This year for the first time a delegation from the Taiwanese Veterans Association joined us from Kaohsiung. Here are a few photos by TPCMS board member William Wang of the day's event. . . Please visit our website for more of the story and photos.



Dir. Turley, NZCIO



Gen. Feng Shi-Kuan, Minister, VAC V/Adm. Chiang, VAROC



The crowd at the ceremony



Dr. Watson Zhu, TVA



Rev. Herbert Barker



*Veterans laying a wreath
LEST WE FORGET!*



Last Post, Rouse & Silence - In Remembrance