



Never Forgotten

Vol. 21, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2020

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

AUGUST 15TH 2020 – THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY AND THE END OF WORLD WAR II



Renovation to the Taipei Prison Memorial Park.



Taipei Prison Wall Memorial Service - June 13th.



FEPOW Day - Coming AUGUST 15TH.



POW Radio Interview goes worldwide on YouTube.

“We need to remember that the soil we stand on, the air that we breathe and the life we live is FREE - because people who went before us gave up their freedom to win ours!

If we forget, we shamefully trample underfoot their precious blood, we make their life meaningless, their death senseless. If we fail to remember, we do not deserve the freedom they paid so dearly for.”

Rev. David Homer

TAIWAN REMEMBRANCE WEEK – NOVEMBER 11th - 18th, 2020

Former Taiwan POW family members are invited to join with us for the week of November 11th – 18th as we celebrate the 23rd annual *Remembrance Week* event in Taiwan. We feature visits to the former POW camps, memorial services, local sightseeing and a very special Remembrance Day service in the Prisoner of War Memorial Park located on the site of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp on Sunday the 15th. We have a special program prepared for our guests and offer assistance in arranging your visit. For more information, please visit our website at www.powtaiwan.org and contact the Society by email or mail at the address shown on page 2 of the newsletter. Be sure to book early and we hope to have you with us in November!

**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

TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 (Taipei)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

Thought . . . One of the FEPOW children recently wrote, “*Many of us have researched our own relatives, but it seems all the more poignant when a stranger keeps someone’s memory alive by piecing their life together.*” We at the TPCMS are honoured to do this and help share the Taiwan POWs’ story with the world.

UPCOMING EVENT

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

This year will be the 13th time that FEPOW Day is celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we will meet at the **Spot Theatre – #18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2** in downtown Taipei, on **Saturday August 15th**.

This year being the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II, we have expanded the day's program to include two seminars relating to Taiwan in World War II, and these will take place in the afternoon.

The first will be a special guest presentation on the bombing of Taiwan and Taipei by noted Taiwanese military aviation historian Chang, Wei-Bin. This will be followed by a presentation on the story of the Taiwan POWs' and the camps by the Society director.

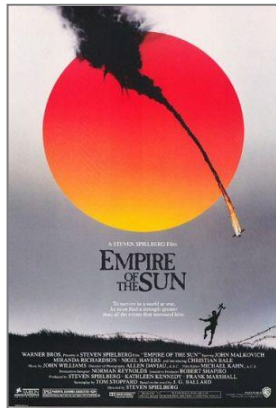
The afternoon activities will begin sharp at 2:00 pm and we ask everyone to be seated by 1:50. There will be a short intermission between the presentations and following their conclusion we will break for supper (OYO) around 5:00 pm and gather again at 6:00 pm for the regular evening activities.

There will be a collection of WWII POW and military future museum artifacts on display as usual, and in the evening we will have a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs and civilian internees, and then the movie **"Empire of the Sun"** will be shown.

Made in 1987, produced and directed by Steven Spielberg, it stars a very young Christian Bale and features John Malkovich as his tough American POW friend. 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.

You won't want to miss this great movie. In this special anniversary year, it covers both the military and civilian aspects of being a prisoner of war of the Japanese. Like *Paradise Road*, it shows the treatment meted out on the civilian populace by the cruel Japanese during their wartime occupation of China.

Everyone is invited to our event, but space is limited this year to a maximum of 50 persons, due to the covid-19 virus, to easily allow for more spacing. **Reservations are required for both events**, so please kindly let us know ASAP **by email** if you're planning to attend so we can reserve a seat at one or both for you. We are hoping to have a large turnout.



The deadline for reservations is set at 5:00 pm Wednesday August 12th. Doors open at 1:30 pm for the afternoon program and 6:00 pm for the evening event which will begin promptly at 6:30.

There is no charge for this event, and limited snacks and fruit drinks will be available.

NOTE: This film is not suitable for young children and there are no Chinese sub-titles on the film.

An email notice will be sent out locally prior to the event and we look forward to seeing many of our friends and supporters – and some new faces too.

We invite you to come and spend this memorable day to learn more about WW II in Taiwan, the story of the Far East prisoners of war (FEPOWs) and their service and sacrifice. We hope to see you in August.

LEST WE FORGET!

THE TAIPEI PRISON MEMORIAL PARK UPGRADE



Newly re-constructed park by the old prison wall.

During the spring months of this year the Taipei City Government has been hard at work upgrading and renovating the little park that lies adjacent to the old Taipei Prison Wall on Jinshan South Road.

The new park was created to take in and reflect more on the historical area that surrounds the former old Taipei Prison from the Japanese Occupation Period in Taiwan. The remaining walls were declared a historic site in 1998 and are an important part of Taipei City's history.

The park replaces a group of old Japanese residences that formerly occupied the site, and features a children's playground at the far end. The functional elements of the park have been integrated with its historical surroundings to establish public awareness, remembrance and recognition of the site. There is a map of the layout of the former prison set in concrete in the centre of the park and the historical information compliments the plaque we erected on the old wall in 2009 to remember the American airmen held there - just one small part of the prison's history.

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

2020 - the 75th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II. I know that all of us and many veterans' organizations, including a number of FEPOW clubs and associations, were looking forward in anticipation to holding wonderful events to commemorate the coming of peace in 1945.

That was until sadly, this terrible corona virus broke out in China and rampaged across the globe causing hundreds of thousands of deaths, and the changes to millions of peoples' lives through loss of business, work and their accustomed ways of life, particularly in light of all the lockdowns.

While Taiwan has triumphed over the virus with only four hundred cases and just seven deaths – the lowest per capita in the entire world, and has not had to undergo a lockdown, for me little has changed. I was already practically 'self-isolated' at home every day working on the book anyway. It has still been an incredibly busy spring as you will see from reading the article in the next column.

With life pretty much normal here, plans for our commemorative events have gone ahead, albeit with some adjustments for safety and distancing. We had a nice turnout for Memorial Day and a wonderful event to again remember the American airmen who were held in the Taipei Prison and the 14 who were murdered there on June 19th 1945. (See the reports of these events on pages 6 & 7.)

We are planning an enlarged FEPOW Day event in August, with some special seminars in addition to the regular program, and another great Remembrance Week in November, even if it is not possible to host guests from overseas at this time.

So in spite of all the turmoil, let us still take time throughout this year to remember the FEPOWs. I wish you all the best and please stay safe.

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst MBE*

UPDATING OUR E-MAIL LIST

We are updating the e-mailing list for our **Never Forgotten** newsletter and announcements of our various events and activities as we want to make sure that we have everyone's details correct.

If you are receiving our emails alright and everything is fine, then you do not need to respond, but if there are any changes, or you no longer wish to receive our info, then please let us know ASAP.

May we remind you that if you change email addresses, please advise us, otherwise emails that bounce back to us will be dropped from the list.

Thanks so much for your help in this matter. Your co-operation is needed and much appreciated.

CORONA VIRUS EXPANDS POW RESEARCH. . .

They say that "*There is a silver lining behind every cloud*", and for certain that has been the case with the terrible corona virus that has ravaged so much of the world and caused so many tragic deaths. While the majority of countries have been in lockdown for many weeks, it seems that it has given people the time and the opportunity to spend more time with their families, and also to catch up on and do many of the things they may have been putting off due to the normal 'busyness' of life.

One of these things it seems is looking into family histories and resuming searches for information on family members who were former veterans and in many cases Far East prisoners of war. In the past months I have been swamped with inquiries from families looking for more information on their relatives who were POWs in Taiwan.

Normally I would receive inquiries at the rate of perhaps 4 – 5 week, but this spring at times there have been 2 – 3 a day! It has been wonderful getting these requests and being able to tell people more about their POW relations – to see people learning for the first time what took place in the lives of their loved ones in those 3½ years of captivity, and to finally have some closure.

Nearly every query stated how the man never talked about his time as a POW, and so, having passed on now, the families still know little or nothing of what the men experienced. Thankfully I have been able to provide some knowledge based on 23 years of research and study into the camps and what took place in them.

This exercise has also helped me to glean more knowledge into the POWs' experiences after their return from the war, their interaction with their families and the difficulties they found after returning home. Also, as I have made these additional contacts, I have been able to learn some things about the former POWs as well. Many of the families have supplied photos which I have added to our archives and uploaded to the POW listing on the website. There are now more than 600 photos shown there. I think we have all become richer for the knowledge we have gained, even in these difficult times. I hope that people will continue to inquire and I look forward to helping them if I can.

However, that said, all these inquiries have impacted on the time I have been able to devote to the book, and sadly in one way, it has fallen behind schedule again. I was hoping to have it out this summer, but it now looks more likely to be sometime in the fall if all goes well. Once the book is available we will have an announcement on the website and also send a direct email to all our members and friends worldwide. Stay tuned!

FATHERS AND SONS, BROTHERS AND COUSINS WHO WERE POWS TOGETHER IN TAIWAN



Over the many years of research that has gone into learning and telling the Taiwan POWs' story, a number of interesting prisoner of war family groups have been discovered. There were fathers and sons, brothers and cousins that were found to have been interned in a number of camps on the island from 1942 to 1945.

FATHERS AND SONS

Brigadier Alec W.G. Wildey had been the commanding officer of the anti-aircraft defenses in Singapore during the conflict. In August 1942 he came to Taiwan with the senior officers' group on the *England Maru*. His son, **Capt. John P.A. Wildey** of the Royal Army Service Corps was on the same hellship, but was left in Heito Camp on arrival while his father was sent on to Karenko. Alec was moved to Tamazato Camp for two months in April 1943, and then in June he was sent to Shirakawa Camp. He stayed there until October 6th 1944 when he transferred briefly to Heito, from where he was flown to Kyushu, Japan. From there he went on to Manchuria.

John and his father would have met briefly when the senior Wildey came to Heito for the flight to Japan. Following that, John remained at Heito until October 24th when he was moved to Shirakawa along with 99 other men. Then on February 21st 1945 he was sent to Keelung and put aboard the hellship *Taiko Maru* for a voyage to Japan. After a short time there, in April he went with a group of 103 officers via sea and rail through Korea to Manchuria where he re-joined his father once again. They were both repatriated in mid-September 1945.

Col. Alfred P. Derham and his son **Thomas P. Derham** both served in the AIF medical corps in Malaya and Singapore. Alfred was the Deputy Director of Medical Services, AIF and Thomas was a Pte. in the 2/9th Field Ambulance. They also came to Taiwan with General Percival's group in August 1942. Prior to their departure from Singapore, Alfred had selected his son to be his batman so they could stay together. They were first sent to Karenko Camp and then in June 1943 after Alfred returned from a temporary two-month stay at Tamazato Camp, they were both sent to Shirakawa. On October 9th 1944, both men were sent to Keelung and put aboard the hellship *Oryoku Maru* and sent to Japan. From there they went on to Manchuria to join the others who had gone before. They both finished the war in Mukden and were liberated by Russian troops.

BROTHERS

Air Vice-Marshal Paul C. Maltby had been the commanding officer of the Royal Air Force in Java and came to Taiwan on February 1st 1943 from there in a contingent of 74 men via Singapore. He was interned in Shirakawa Camp. As the highest-ranking officer, he took over as prisoner camp commander. Then on August 9th of that year, his brother **Major General Christopher M. Maltby** arrived at the camp in a group of 21 POWs from Hong Kong. Maj/Gen. Maltby had the distinction and misfortune to be the one to have to surrender Hong Kong on its defeat on Christmas Day 1941. In October 1944 both men were sent - first by air to Japan, and then from there by sea to Korea and on to Manchuria where they finished the war and were flown out to freedom.

Lieut. Alexander E. Murray and his younger brother **Sgt. Douglas A. Murray** were both members of the 9/11th Indian Division Signals and came to Taiwan in November 1942 on the hellship *England Maru*. On August 20th 1943 Lt. Murray was transferred to Shirakawa while Douglas remained at Taihoku Camp # 6 until the end of the war. In February 1945 Lt. Murray was moved to Japan on the *Taiko Maru*. He was interned at Miyata Camp on Kyushu Island for the rest of the war. Both men met again in Manila and returned to the UK together. Douglas passed away some years ago, but Alexander is still with us and living in Scotland at the age of 98.

COUSINS

Sgt. Jack Catherall, Royal Army Service Corps, and **Sgt. Stanley Catherall** - 18th Btn. Recon Corps, led very different lives as POWs in Taiwan. Jack came with General Percival's group as batman to Canadian Brigadier Torrance. He was held with the senior officers at Karenko and Tamazato camps before moving to Shirakawa in June 1943. His cousin, Stanley, came to Taiwan later in the fall of 1942 on the hellship *Dainichi Maru* and was first held in Taichu Camp. When that camp was closed due to flooding he moved with 99 other sick men to Inrin Camp where after a while he recovered. When that camp closed in March 1945 he transferred to Toroku Camp for a month before finally moving to Shirakawa, where the two men met up. Neither knew the other was on the island. When the war ended they were evacuated to Manila together on the destroyer escort USS *Finch*. They later both returned to the UK on the SS *Empress of Australia*, arriving home in October 1945.

Sgmn. Francis (Frank) Ashby, 9/11th Indian Division Signals came to Taiwan in November 1942 on the *England Maru* and spent time in Taihoku Camp # 6, Taichu, Inrin and Toroku before finally meeting his cousin **Lt. Thomas J. Milner** of the Royal Engineers at Shirakawa in April 1945. Milner had come to Taiwan on the hellship *Dainichi Maru* in November 1942 and went to Heito Camp. In October 1944 he was moved with other officers from that camp to Shirakawa. Thomas ran the camp library and Frank mentioned that having been sick for much of his time as a POW and not fit to work on the camp farm, he worked with his cousin taking care of the books. At war's end they were first moved to the Maruyama Evacuation Camp in Taihoku and then taken to Manila on the USS *Block Island*. From there they returned across the Pacific to Canada and home to the UK.

TAIWAN POW INTERVIEW GOES WORLWIDE ON YOUTUBE



With program host Ross Feingold and Ms. Tina Chen, Director of the Taipei Broadcasting Station after the show.

Answering questions and talking about the Taiwan POWs.

On Friday May 22nd 2020, the Society director was invited by the Taipei Broadcasting Station to share a little of the story of the Taiwan POWs and the camps on their weekly radio program called 'Resident's Messenger'. It is aired live every Friday evening between 6 and 7 pm at prime time during rush hour to reach people as they are making their way home from work. The show - which runs about 45 minutes, is also video-taped and subsequently uploaded to the internet. The interview is available for viewing on YouTube at the following link - <https://youtu.be/GW1piZc7Qkg>

Various topics relating to the men who were captured in Hong Kong, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and the Philippines and brought to Taiwan to work as slaves for the Japanese were discussed – along with Taiwan's significance in World War II. Also covered is the story of many of the former POW camps located around the island, the conditions the POWs suffered in them and how the men survived.

It is a great honour and privilege for the Society to be able to share the story of the Taiwan POWs with the world on YouTube, and our thanks go to the Taipei Broadcasting Station. The video can now be seen by millions of people worldwide, and hopefully this will let more people know the story of the Taiwan POWs and the camps in Taiwan.

AMERICAN MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION 2020



On Monday May 25th, despite the ravages of the covid-19 virus worldwide, a Memorial Day commemoration was held at the wall of the old Taihoku Prison in downtown Taipei. Sponsored by the Society, it took place by the plaque on the wall that was erected in 2009 to remember and honour the American flyers who were held in the prison from October 1944 to September 1945 and the 14 airmen who were murdered there on June 19th 1945 by the Japanese. Also remembered were the other American POWs held in Taiwan. We paid tribute to all those Americans who gave their lives in defense of their country and freedom in all of the wars of the past century and those who are still fighting today to bring peace to the world.

The gathering was small due to late notice, but it was one of the nicest and most sincere events commemorating the day that we have had. Our thanks to all who participated in the event, and hopefully many more will join us next year.



Gathering to remember those who served and died. / Veterans salute during the playing of the national anthem.

75TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR THE AMERICAN AIRMEN HELD IN THE TAIHOKU PRISON

On Saturday June 13th a wonderful memorial event took place at the wall of the old Taipei Prison. It was held to remember and honour the 25 American airmen who were kept in the confines of that terrible place after being shot down and captured while on missions over Taiwan from October 1944 to May 1945. A special commemoration was also held for the 14 young men who were needlessly murdered by the Japanese just 58 days before the end of the war. A memorial plaque was placed on the old prison wall by the Society in 2009.

Thanks to the co-operation and assistance from Chunghwa Telecom, Taiwan's national communications provider, as with the event held in 2015, we were able to go inside the company compound - which now occupies a part of the former prison that was built in 1910, to view the location where the murders took place. It was a solemn moment as the more than 60 participants reflected on the terrible things that happened that day and our thoughts and prayers went out to the families of those men who gave their lives for our freedom.

Piper Mal Turner rendered '*Amazing Grace*' and then a minutes' silence was observed for people to reflect on this tragic sacrifice. He then led the procession from the compound to the memorial on the bagpipes.

We were honoured to have as special guests, the Minister of the ROC Veterans Affairs Council - Gen. Feng, Shih-Kuan (Ret.) and several VAC staff, Cdr. Robert Hochstedler, Navy Liaison Officer representing The American Institute in Taiwan, and Lt. Col. Tony Hu, USAF (Ret.), the Acting-Commander of Taiwan Post 9957 Veterans of Foreign Wars, to take part in the program.

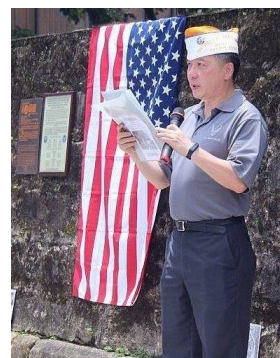
The POW Society director shared the story of the captured airmen, their trial and their needless murder, and then Cdr. Hochstedler brought a tribute from the US Government. Mrs. Morgan Everett read the poem entitled '*Miss Me But Let Me Go*' - contributed by the sister of one of the slain airmen. Then Minister Feng brought a message from the ROC Government and Veterans Affairs Department, followed by a greeting from Director Chou, Wan-Min of the Chunghwa Telecom Administration Department.

Tony Hu read the poem '*Remember Us*' and this was followed by a stirring message on remembrance and a prayer by Rev. David Homer of Grace Church in Taipei. Wreaths were then laid against the old wall and this was followed by the playing of '*Taps*' and a minute's silence. Richard Arnold, a history teacher from the American International School, led the reading of the '*Ode of Remembrance*', and to end the service the American National Anthem (recorded) was played - fittingly by the United States Air Force Band.

Taiwan's Central News Agency produced a video of the event - click this link to go to the Facebook video - <https://www.facebook.com/focus.tw/videos/3037698936308823/?> Here are a few photos from the event -



On the former prison execution grounds.



Captions - clockwise from top left: The group gathered at the execution site, Mal Turner playing 'Amazing Grace', Cdr. Hochstedler speaking for AIT, Mrs. Morgan Everett reading 'Miss Me But Let Me Go', VAC Minister Feng paying tribute to the airmen, Tony Hu - VFW reading 'Remember Us', Rev. Homer encouraging remembrance and the group by the wall.

POW CAMP TOURS

Due to the terrible corona virus which initiated in China - and subsequently spread to the rest of the world early this year, resulting in the closure of Taiwan and many other countries to international travel and visitors, sadly a number of folks who had booked POW camp tours this spring were forced to cancel. Fortunately all of them were able to receive full refunds in some manner and they are planning to come again once this pandemic has subsided to a safe level again. We are hoping that things will be suitable for them to return for our Remembrance Week event in November.

We also had several local schools that had visits for their students planned and confirmed back out, despite the fact that the virus really posed no threat in Taiwan due to how well the government and the people on the island have worked together to combat it. Taiwan has had the lowest per capita rate of infections and deaths in the entire world, and at the time of writing the virus has all but been eliminated here with almost all recovering and no new incidences in more than two months.

Fortunately, just before the virus hit epidemic proportions and Taiwan was closed, we were able to work in a tour for one overseas visitor.

BRENT WHEELER - the grandson of Canadian doctor Major Ben Wheeler made a quick trip to Taiwan from Malaysia on February 24th to 26th. He was on a business trip and wanted to take the time to visit Taiwan and the site of the former Kinkaseki POW Camp at Jinguashi.

We had a wonderful time together as we toured the museum, mine tunnel, POW camp and Memorial Park. We were able to share things that we both knew about his grandfather – him from personal family knowledge, and I from the things I had researched on the major from his diaries and the reports that he gave at the end of the war.

Brent had a great camera and a lot of expertise in photography and film-making, so he filmed a lot of the tour. His intention was to put the photos and footage into a film to commemorate the visit to share with the rest of the Wheeler family. Unfortunately with the virus and lockdowns it has not been produced thus far, but I am awaiting it with great anticipation. On returning to KL he emailed, “Michael, Thanks again for your hospitality. That was a phenomenal tour. All the best and many thanks, Brent”. It was my honour and privilege to host him.

IAN TURNER - AIT

Then early in March I got a call from Ian Turner, an American expat working with AIT (the defacto American Embassy) inquiring about a tour to Kinkaseki. Under normal circumstances this would be no problem, but the Gold Museum and the mine tunnel exhibit at Jinguashi had been closed due to the virus. So as he was so keen to start learning more about the military history of Taiwan in WW II, we decided to visit the memorial on the wall of the former Taipei Prison and talk about the American airmen’s story, and so we scheduled March 24th for the tour.

We spent an entire afternoon with the tour, and over a coffee discussed some of the little-known parts of Taiwan’s wartime history. Although further exploration was hampered for a time, we have pledged to get together when things are clear again.



Ian Turner at the old prison wall.

COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER ANNUAL TOUR

Finally, after several postponements due to the closure of the Gold Museum because of the virus and the terribly inclement spring weather, on Tuesday June 2nd we were able to conduct the annual tour for the Taipei Community Services Center. The Center provides information and resources to local expats to help them adapt to life in Taiwan and also provides opportunities for them to explore the island, learn more of its history and experience its culture. I have been pleased to conduct annual spring tours to Jinguashi for the Center for many years and share the Taiwan POWs’ story with local expats, and once again this time we had a great group take part.

Despite a somewhat uncertain weather forecast we left Taipei under beautiful sunny skies and were greeted by lovely weather in Jinguashi. We toured the museum, but were unable to go into the mine tunnel due to some late construction work taking place there. It is expected that the tunnel will open again around the 1st of July. It was a great time of fellowship and learning for the group, and I look forward to next year’s tour.



The group enjoying a time of learning about the POWs.