



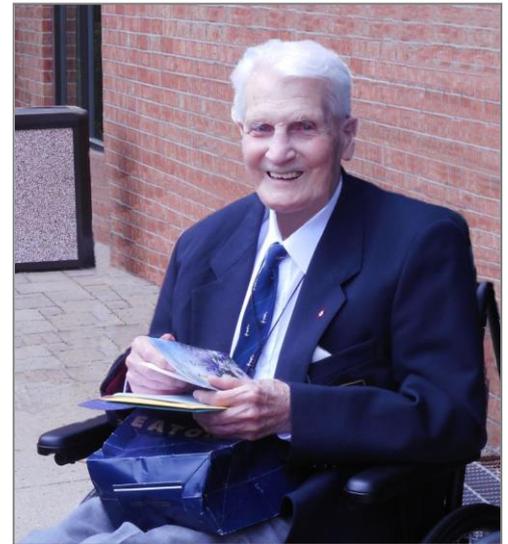
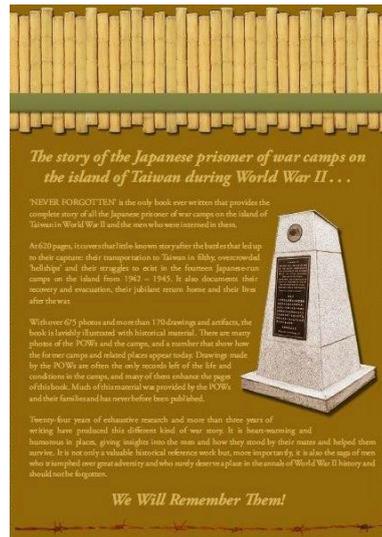
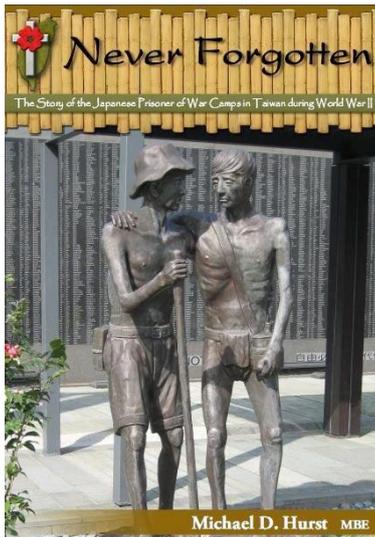
# Never Forgotten

Vol. 22, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2021

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

## 2021 – 80th Anniversary of the start of the Pacific war.



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

*Sgmn. Adam Houston – The last Kinkaseki POW, celebrated his 100th birthday.*



**Remember Them!**

*This year's FEPOW Day features the movie "They Were Expendable" on Saturday August 14th.*



*American Airmen's Memorial Service - June 19th.*

## TAIWAN REMEMBRANCE WEEK – NOVEMBER 10th - 17th, 2021

Former Taiwan POW family members are invited to join with us for the week of November 10th – 17th as we celebrate the 24th 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 14th. 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](http://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!

Note: the above event is subject to the situation with the Covid-19 virus and its status at the time.

**TAIWAN POW CAMPS  
MEMORIAL SOCIETY**  
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[www.powtaiwan.org](http://www.powtaiwan.org)

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SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Prof. Jerome Keating, PhD.** - Professor, Writer;  
Historian.

**Jack Hsu** - Ret. Lt. Cmdr., ROC Navy.

**Stuart Saunders** – Pres., Esdesign Ind. Design.

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**UK - Mike Heather** [mph1003@hotmail.com](mailto:mph1003@hotmail.com)

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in Taiwan

**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 . . .*

*Dying for freedom isn't the  
worst thing that can happen.  
Being forgotten is!*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

Following the launch of 'Never Forgotten' last December, I am pleased at the wonderful response we have had and the number of copies that have gone out all over the world. The comments and reviews have been very positive. Our thanks to those who have purchased copies. Sadly, up to now, no copies have been sent to the UK because of the covid mail service suspension there.

Although life has been pretty much normal in Taiwan, we have had a recent spike in cases which have disrupted our events and tours this spring. Memorial Day had to be cancelled but we were able to hold our annual event to remember the American airmen who were held in the Taipei Prison and the 14 who were murdered there on June 19th 1945. (See report on page 9.)

On a personal note, we want to acknowledge former Sgmn. Adam Houston as the last remaining Kinkaseki POW. He celebrated his 100th birthday on May 22nd, making him the oldest living Taiwan POW survivor. Sadly, the second last survivor, Dennis Ratcliffe passed away last November.

We are now planning for our 14th FEPOW Day event in August, and another great Remembrance Week in November, and we hope that this year it will be possible to host guests from overseas again as we have previously for more than 20 years.

So despite our worldwide problems, let us not forget those who suffered and died over the past decades to bring us our freedom. I hope that you all have a great and safe summer!

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst* MBE

## 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!*

### **DENNIS RATCLIFFE**

GNR., 5TH FIELD REG'T., R.A.  
NOVEMBER 16, 2020

### **JOE BERNSTEIN**

SGT., US ARMY SIGNAL CORPS  
DECEMBER 10, 2020

### **ALEXANDER MURRAY**

LIEUT., 9/11TH INDIAN DIVISION SIGNALS  
JANUARY 25, 2021

*"We Will Remember Them"*

## UPCOMING EVENT

### **FEPOW DAY - AUGUST 14th 2021**

This year will be the 14th 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 14th.

Being that this is the 80th Anniversary of the start of the Pacific war, we are featuring the award-winning movie "**They Were Expendable**".



Made in 1945, produced and directed by John Ford, it stars Robert Montgomery and John Wayne. The film focuses on the battle of Bataan and the demise of MTB-3 and its men, headed by Lieutenants Bulkley and Ryan, who expend themselves trying to slow the Japanese advance in the Philippines. It is a famous WW II movie.

There will be a collection of WWII POW and military future museum artifacts on display as usual, and a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs and civilian internees will take place prior to the movies being shown.

An email notice will be sent out locally prior to the event and everyone is invited, but space is limited this year to a maximum of 50 persons, due to the covid-19 virus. Reservations are required, masks are mandatory and registrants must give their mobile phone numbers for contact tracing purposes. Temperatures will be taken on arrival. Please kindly let us know ASAP by email if you're planning to attend so we can reserve a seat for you. We are hoping to have a good turnout again.

The deadline for reservations is set at 5:00 pm Wednesday August 11th. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the event will begin at 6:30.

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

NOTE: These films are not suitable for young children and do not have Chinese sub-titles.

We invite you to come and spend this memorable evening to learn more about one of the early conflicts of World War II, the story of the men who fought and died and those who became prisoners of war - and what they suffered and sacrificed for the freedom that we so often take for granted today. We hope to welcome many friends and supporters - and some new faces too. See you in August!

# 'NEVER FORGOTTEN' BOOK LAUNCH A BIG SUCCESS

Saturday, January 9th was the formal launch of the new book by the Society director titled **'Never Forgotten, The Story of the Japanese Prisoner of War Camps in Taiwan During World War II'**. More than 60 friends and supporters turned out for the ceremony and to obtain their copy of this long-awaited book.

The program got underway with Jordan Reeves, the Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, introducing the author. Michael then shared a little about the need for the story of the former Taiwan POWs to be told to the world and how he has been working on that for the past 24 years. Due to the fact that the men rarely ever talked about their experiences and time as POWs, their families and others worldwide have never known what really happened in the 16 prisoner of war camps on the island. Many know of the 'Bridge on the River Kwai' and camps in the Philippines, Borneo, Japan and Manchuria, but few know about the camps on Taiwan. Now, through this book, that situation has been rectified and for the first time ever people can learn about another key part of the history of the war in Asia.



Michael also pointed out that from the very beginning the Canadian Trade Office has supported this work of making the Taiwan POWs' story better known. In 1996, the then CTOT director, Hugh Stephens, approached him with the idea of doing something to make sure the forgotten men were remembered and Michael took up the challenge. He organized a memorial event which later evolved into what the POW Society has become today. The 13 memorials erected at various locations around the island on the sites of the former camps, and the annual commemoration events and services of remembrance held to make sure that the Taiwan POWs are 'never forgotten', further highlight Taiwan's history in World War II.

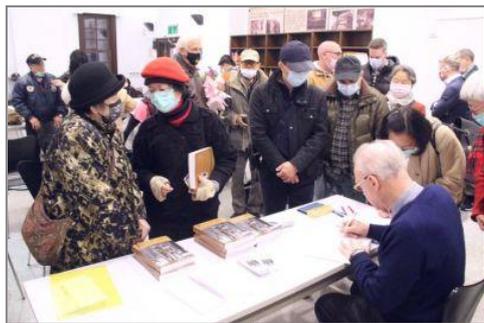
Following the introductions, the guests lined up to have their books signed by the author and many new friends were made and old acquaintances renewed. A good time of fellowship was had by all. Announcements on further book signings will be forthcoming later. Here are a few photos of the event from Society photographer William Wang.



*CTOT Director Jordan Reeves opens the ceremony and introduces the author.*



*Telling the story of the book.*



*Signing books and chatting with and thanking supporters. With Scott Ellinger, VFW Commander, Post 9957.*

Thanks to all those who turned out to help make the event a success. Please refer to the Society's website on 'THE BOOK' page for more information on how to order the book.



## REVIEWS FOR 'NEVER FORGOTTEN'



*Here are some of the comments and reviews received from those who have purchased the book. . .*

"You have done the men's stories justice. It is so important that their stories are told and remembered." CR

"The book looks good. An admirable tribute to the Taiwan POWs. Really a lot of information packed into it. Nice to see a book with such quality photos. So often in war books today the quality of photos and pictures is extremely poor. The choice of paper is very good." MW

"Congratulations on your book! This is a major milestone in the research on the POWs in Taiwan." CWB

"Michael is extremely articulate and knowledgeable about this subject, which is not surprising because he has done more than perhaps anyone else to document the history of the Japanese POW camps in Taiwan. He tells the personal stories of the men who suffered and died here. It is this kind of anecdotal interpretation that drives home the courage and fortitude of these men in the face of their unimaginable hardship." FS

"What you have created is a true gift to those POWS, their families, friends and others. Thank you for all that you have done for them, their place in history here and their memories." SB

"The books have arrived. Tremendous amount of research, well put together." AG

"I highly recommend the purchase of Michael Hurst's book. I was impressed with the quality of photos; book pages are high-quality, photo-type paper...tons of photos!" BM

"I found the book well written and very interesting. Your detail is amazing and I am really enjoying the read. It is not just the POWs' story, it is also your story for about a third of your life !!!!!" MH

"It is a marvelous publication! The printing is excellent and especially poignant to have the photos that enhance the importance of the text. What a powerful memorial and treasure this historical account is!" PP

"I can tell you it is hard for me to put your book down. I am confident many copies will find a home on bookshelves of those interested in the plight of Allied POWs during WWII." LP

"Thank you so much for the two copies of 'Never Forgotten' I received this week and congratulations on such a thorough and historical document. It is appreciated." BP

"My first reaction was, "Wow, this book is HEAVY! I guess that's because it is loaded with awesome history! I was astounded by what's included and especially with all the personal contacts with POW's and their family memories!" PP

"I just wanted to say what an utterly moving and compelling experience 'Never Forgotten' is. I am full of admiration at the depth of research, your passion and your dedication. It is a book I shall treasure." HG

*We are honoured to have received this review from Dr. Peter Pedersen, formerly Head of the Research Centre at the Australian War Memorial, one of Australia's leading military historians, author, and also a former assistant director of the Australian War Memorial. He writes. . .*

"It's a fine piece of work and a tribute to you and the men whose story you are telling. The detail is tremendous and reflects just how much effort you've devoted to this project. I was particularly struck by the way you related what the men experienced through their own words whenever possible. That approach really brings the narrative alive. Without doubt, your book will be the standard reference for the POW experience on Taiwan. No longer will that be treated almost as an afterthought to the much better known story of events in Thailand, Burma and Singapore. You have truly ensured that the Taiwan POWs will never be forgotten." - Peter Pedersen

"I received your book yesterday. Thank you very much. I am very impressed. A very high quality publication, easy to read, and heaps of good info." SS

"Wow. Your book is an amazingly well researched slice of Taiwan and WWII history. Excellent work." CC

"It was a privilege to get a copy of the book. I'm really taken by it. If I hadn't studied history and hadn't read the book, I'm not sure I'd believe these things actually took place. The brutality was so great and terrible. Thank you for honoring these men and preserving their stories, especially since it seems like there is almost nothing else out there in terms of books that cover this subject." BL

*From Canadian filmmaker, producer, director Anne Wheeler - the daughter of former Kinkaseki hero, Major Ben Wheeler, "Your book is so impressive, so full of hard work and important research. The quality is first class - I will cherish it as a resource and record that would not otherwise exist. You have done a terrific job, covering all the camps, honouring so many, and giving context to the history. Thank you." - Anne Wheeler*

**NOTE:** The link to Anne's film "A War Story" is the first item in the **LINKS section** of the society website and the Reader's Digest story "The Man Sent From God" is the first article in the **ARTICLES and STORIES section**.

# ANZAC DAY 2021 CELEBRATED IN TAIPEI

On Sunday April 25th, the 106th anniversary of the ANZAC forces landing on the Galipoli Peninsula, a very moving remembrance service was held at the Taipei Artist Village - #7 Beiping Rd., Zhongzheng Dist. Taipei at 9 am. Due to Covid-19, participation was restricted to invited guests with many heads of mission representing countries that took part in both World Wars in attendance.

The service began with a traditional New Zealand Maori welcoming ceremony - a processional march and the blowing of a conch shell by society member Bernie Moore, who then addressed the gathering in the native language. Tributes were paid by New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office Interim Director Stephanie Lee and Australian Representative Ms. Jenny Bloomfield. The Turkish representative in Taiwan, Mr. Muhammed Berdibek, read '*Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's tribute to the ANZACs*'. The poem '*In Flanders Fields*' was read by Deputy Representative of the Australian Office, Michael Googan.

Wreaths were laid by Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Poland, Slovakia, the Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Taipei, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society, and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association. The 'Ode of Remembrance' was carried out, the Australia and New Zealand national anthems were sung and piper Mal Turner brought the service to a close with a Lament. William Wang TPCMS Board Member substituted for the Society director who was in hospital having back surgery. He is recovering nicely and now working again.

Once again as last year, the service was live-streamed, allowing people in Australia and New Zealand the opportunity to witness the event as well. Here are few photos of the day's event:



*Bernie Moore NZRSA welcoming guests.*



*Processional.*



*Ceremony in the park.*



*The laying of the wreaths - Australia & New Zealand,*



*Turkey,*



*Canada, United States & Britain.*



*Taiwan POW Society & NZ RSA*



*Last Post - Ray Heberer*



*Australia / New Zealand staff*

This year's event was a little different and very special and thanks to all those who came to honour and remember the ANZACs.

# THE PASSING OF A DEAR FRIEND – DENNIS RATCLIFFE



*Gnr. Dennis Ratcliffe*

Gunner Dennis Ratcliffe, formerly of the 5th Field Reg't. Royal Artillery, passed away peacefully at his nursing home in Scarborough, England on November 16th 2020 at the age of 99. His unit was the first to fire on the Japanese as they landed on Khota Bahru and they fought all down the east coast during the battle of Malaya. After capture in Singapore he came to Taiwan in November 1942 on the hellship *England Maru* and was first sent to Taihoku Camp 6. Later he was transferred to Kinkaseki where he worked down the mine until later moved to Kukutsu Camp near the end of the war. He was evacuated from the island in September 1945 on the American aircraft carrier USS *Santee*.

I first came to know Dennis back in 1998 and with much correspondence over the years and the sharing of his stories, we became close friends. We finally met at a POW reunion in England in 2009. He was always a cheery man who had good words for everyone. He was proud of his service to his country.

Dennis was a great encouragement in my work over the years and we grew closer as time passed. I was able to keep in touch with him in his last years with the help of one of the FEPOW daughters who lived near him. He was the second last surviving former Kinkaseki POW and I will miss him very much.

## URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP FOR THE THAI-BURMA RAILWAY CENTRE MUSEUM

It has come to our attention that the Thai-Burma Railway Centre Museum is in need of urgent financial support at this time due to the COVID pandemic.

Despite re-opening six months ago, the lack of international travel and just a few local visitors unfortunately means that the museum's reserve funds are running out. We understand that such financial hardship could result in the Centre losing staff and possibly even closing.

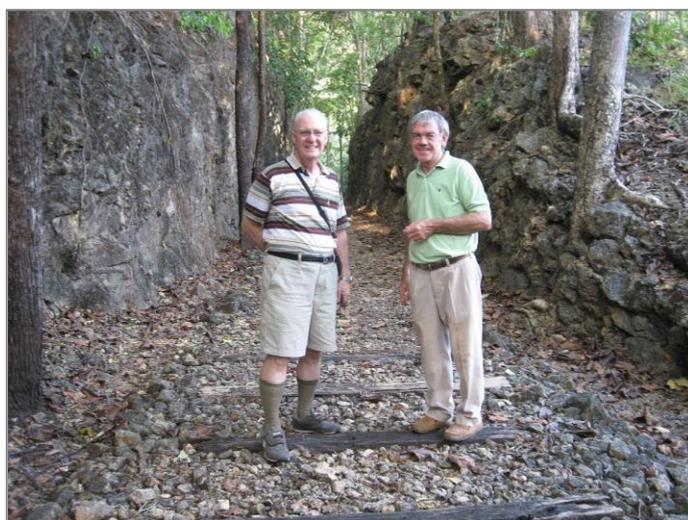
I am sure that all those involved with the FEPOW story, whether for personal, academic, or a combination of reasons, are aware of the incredible work that TBRC and its staff have done and are doing. Rod Beattie, Andrew Snow, Terry Manttan and the wonderful dedicated Thai staff have been a huge help to so many over the years, and the knowledge that TBRC freely shares, and their work in preserving the railway and its story, is truly remarkable.

Several other appeals have been initiated to help the TBRC by the Malayan Volunteers Group, COFEPOW, the Java FEPOW Club, the Researching FEPOW History Group and other FEPOW organisations, to support the TBRC. The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society also stands together with these other organizations to urge our members, friends and supporters to help out in this emergency - so that the story of the Death Railway and the men who suffered and those who died building it, will always be remembered

To make a donation please contact [rosemaryfell11@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryfell11@gmail.com) of the Malayan Volunteers Group in the UK for details. Let us all do what we can to help so that the Thai-Burma Railway Centre can continue in operation. Your caring and support will be much appreciated. Thank you.



*The Thai-Burma Railway Centre and Museum, Kanchanaburi, Thailand.*



*With Rod Beattie at Hintok Cutting.*

# **TAIWAN'S LAST SURVIVING KINKASEKI POW TURNS 100**

On Saturday May 22nd, the last remaining Kinkaseki POW, Adam Houston - formerly a signalman in the Royal Corps of Signals and attached to the 80th Anti-Tank Regiment RA, celebrated his 100th birthday.



*Adam pre-war in 1940*

I am privileged to have known Adam for many years and would always visit him and his wife at their home in Burlington, Ontario, Canada whenever I returned there for family visits.

Adam came to Taiwan in November 1942 and was first sent to Kinkaseki Camp. Nine months later, unable to work down the mine any longer, he was transferred to Taihoku Camp 6. Then in March 1945 he was moved from there to Shirakawa Camp for further medical care.

At war's end, he was evacuated from Taiwan on the American carrier USS *Santee* and taken to Manila for medical treatment. It was determined that he was still too sick to be sent directly home so he was put aboard the Royal Navy carrier HMS *Formidable* and transferred to Australia to recover before returning home to Scotland in January 1946.

Adam immigrated to Canada in 1956, started working in the post office in 1957, and over the years rose to be the Superintendent of Operations at a plant in Toronto. He was instrumental in making innovative changes and implementing new systems, many of which are still in use today.

He and his late wife Agnes came to Taiwan in 2005 and were present at the dedication of the Taiwan POW Memorial Park on the site of the former Kinkaseki Camp. Over the years Adam was a huge inspiration and help to me in documenting the POWs' story. He also made several wonderful videos, featuring mainly interviews with other Taiwan POWs.

Adam's daughter Marie Smith, who has been staying with Adam for the past several years, caring for him at home after his beloved wife passed away, has kept me in close touch with her father. She and her family and local friends in Ontario wanted to put on a special celebration for him despite the virus limiting activities. Fortunately, restrictions had eased so they were able to hold the event outside the nursing home where Adam now resides.

Learning that her father had never claimed his medals after returning from the war 75 years ago, she contacted the British Ministry of Defense applying for his medals to be sent to her in Canada. Their response was quick and efficient and she received the medals in time to present them on his special birthday. She writes about the event - *"We had a lovely day, the weather stayed fine although overcast and a bit muggy, at least we had no rain. The medals were presented by Andrew Barber, Chairman of the Halton Ontario Naval Veterans Association. He had served as a signalman in the Canadian Navy in the Korean War, whilst dad was a signalman in the British Army in World War II. The prayer was given by the Rev. Cannon Stuart Pike who, as well as being our friend and neighbour, is also the local Royal Canadian Legion Branch Chaplain."*

Here a few photos taken on the day –



*Adam and Andrew Barber*



*Medal presentation - Adam with Andrew Barber and Cannon Stuart Pike.*



*Adam with his medals.*

Our heartiest congratulations to this warm, wonderful man - and one I am so proud to call my friend, on his 100th birthday. He also has the distinction of being the oldest living Taiwan POW and the last surviving Kinkaseki prisoner.

Over the past 24 years that I have been working on the Taiwan POW memorial project, so many of the men have said to me, "I hope I can be the last surviving Kinkaseki POW" but sadly they have passed on. Many lived well into their nineties and a couple reached 100. This is a tremendous testament to their strength that they lived to this age despite their brutal treatment at the hands of their Japanese captors in World War II. We will never forget them!

# MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION FOR THE AMERICAN AIRMEN

Once again on Saturday June 19th, the Society was pleased to hold the annual service at the old Taipei Prison wall to honour and remember those American airmen who were shot down or crash-landed during missions over Taiwan in the fall of 1944 and the spring of 1945. Of the captured downed aircrews, 25 were held in the prison, with a number of others being sent on to Japan for interrogation - and often torture, to try to obtain information from them.

On May 29th 1945, 14 of those men – US Army Air Force and US Navy, were brought before a Japanese military tribunal, accused of indiscriminate bombing and with no defense were found guilty and sentenced to death. In the early morning of June 19th they were taken into an enclosed courtyard of the prison – the killing ground – and murdered by a Japanese firing squad. Most of these ‘men’ were really only ‘boys’, averaging just 22 years of age.

This year because of a recent spike in Covid-19 cases in Taiwan, we were limited to 10 participants, but despite that, a meaningful service was held. To begin the ceremony the Society director shared the story of the American flyers and their time in the prison. This was followed by tributes by Lt/Col. Nathan Kibby US Air Force, from the American Institute in Taiwan and Col. Felix Wang Senior Inspector from the ROC Veterans Affairs Commission. Tony Hu, Lt/Col., US Air Force (Ret.) read the poem “Remember Us”, followed by the reading of the poem “Miss me, but let me go”, read by his wife Mayumi. A message on remembrance and a prayer were offered by Lt/Col. Scott Ellinger US Army (Ret.), Commander Taiwan VFW Post # 9957. Wreaths were laid against the old prison wall, Taps was played, a moment’s silence observed and then Karl Yeh led the group in the ‘Ode of Remembrance’ before the recorded playing of the American National Anthem by the US Air Force band brought the service to a close.



*The group by the memorial.*



*Laying the wreaths.*



*Veterans saluting the airmen.*

Hopefully by this time next year Covid-19 will be behind us and we will once again be able to have a service that is open to the public. In any case we will always remember those Americans who sacrificed themselves for our freedom.

**Note:** The story of all the American airmen captured and held in the prison is featured in ‘*Never Forgotten*’.

## MEMORIAL DAY IN TAIPEI 2021



On this the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War in the Pacific, a meaningful Memorial Day service was planned to be held at the old Taipei City Prison wall. Sadly, due to the spike in the corona virus in late April and May and which has limited activities for the past couple of months, this year’s service had to be cancelled. For the first time ever, Taipei Post # 9957 of the US Veterans of Foreign Wars was going to organize and lead the event. We are looking forward to holding the event next year with the VFW in charge and we hope to see many members and friends again.



### **POW CAMP TOURS**

Sadly, with a recent outbreak of the virus here in Taiwan, we were unable to run tours that had previously been scheduled for the spring. We had planned to run the annual COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER tour on Thursday May 27th and the TAIPEI EUROPEAN INTL. SCHOOL tour on June 11th. We are looking forward to being able to run both these tours again, hopefully in the fall, so we hope that things will improve by then.

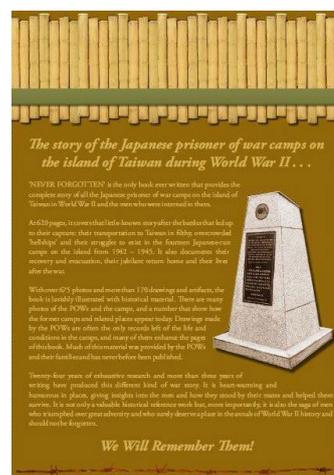
**Note:** For those in Taipei and New Taipei City wishing to buy a copy of ‘*NEVER FORGOTTEN*’ - a signed copy of the book can be purchased from the Society using Taiwan dollars. You may contact the Society directly at [society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org) to request a copy and local delivery will be arranged. Thank you.

# THE NEW 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 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 - including 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.

With over 675 photos - many in colour - on lovely gloss paper which makes them stand out beautifully, and more than 170 drawings and artifacts, the book is lavishly illustrated with historical material. There are many photos of the former 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 a number 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 enhance the pages of this book. 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 carved on the memorial 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!***

Information on the book, its cost, payment instructions and how to obtain copies is posted on the website featuring a new additional menu **‘BOOK’** page with a convenient **‘Buy Now’** button to click to easily order the book online. Overseas it is only available by direct order from the publisher through the Society website page.

**It has been unfortunate that due to the suspension of mail services to the UK effective at the end of December last year, those in the UK who want copies have thus far been unable to order them. At present, it is unknown exactly when mail service to the UK will begin again and we are sorry for this inconvenience. At such time as the mail service to the UK resumes, a direct email will be sent out to all our worldwide members and friends letting them know the book is available. Books may currently be shipped to USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, most countries in Asia and Taiwan. We hope that people in these countries will take the opportunity to purchase a copy. Thank you!**