



# Never Forgotten

Vol. 22, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2021

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

## 2021 – 80th Anniversary of the start of the Pacific War



*Photos from the first day of the Pacific War - December 7th / 8th 1941 - in order of time sequence:  
Top Row: Japanese attack Kota Bahru, Malaya – 5th Field Regt RA defends. Attack on Pearl Harbor,  
Middle Row: Devastation at Hickam Field and ships on battleship row. Japanese attack Hong Kong,  
Bottom Row: Canadians fighting in Hong Kong. The Japanese attack Clark Field and the Philippines.*

\* \* \* \* \*

2021 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Remembrance Poppy.

We wear a Poppy as a symbol to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. May we never forget what they have given to us and our future generations.



**TAIWAN POW CAMPS  
MEMORIAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 665, YUNG HO DISTRICT**  
**NEW TAIPEI CITY, 234, TAIWAN, R.O.C.**

**E-MAIL [society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org)**

Please visit our website at:  
**[www.powtaiwan.org](http://www.powtaiwan.org)**

## **TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Michael Hurst, MBE** - Society Director -  
VP and General Mgr., J. Chen Enterprises Taiwan;  
Writer; Editor, Historian.

**Mark Wilkie, M.A.** – Deputy Director, University  
lecturer, Historian, Screenwriter, Former soldier.

**William Wang** - Transportation Supervisor, Taipei  
American School, Military enthusiast, ROCAF Veteran.

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

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

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

### **OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES...**

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

**Aust. - Rod Martin** [ramartin46@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ramartin46@optusnet.com.au)

### **EX-OFFICIO...**

**Jenny Bloomfield** - Representative, Australian  
Office, Taipei

**John Dennis** - Representative, British Office,  
Taipei

**Jordan Reeves** – Executive Director, Canadian  
Trade Office in Taipei

**Guido Tielman** – Representative, Netherlands  
Trade and Investment Office, Taipei

**Stephanie Lee** – Acting Director, New Zealand  
Commerce and Industry Office, Taipei

**Sandra Oudkirk** - Director, American Institute 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 (Sanxia)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

### ***Thought . . .***

“We should strive to live in such a way that we may be proud of ourselves, and to act in such a way that some part of us lives on.” [Oswald Spengler]

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Following the launch of 'Never Forgotten' last December, I am pleased to see the wonderful response and the number of copies that have gone out - here in Taiwan, and all over the world. Finally in September, copies could be sent to the UK. The comments and reviews have been very positive and it is gratifying to see people finally learning about the little-known story of the former Taiwan POW camps. This is the sole purpose for the book.

Life has been pretty much normal in Taiwan, despite the temporary spike in Covid cases in May which disrupted our events and tours slightly this year. We were able to hold our 14th FEPOW Day event in August which once again turned out to be a great success. (See report on page 4.)

Sadly, we are still not able to host overseas POW family visitors due to the lingering effects of the pandemic and its ongoing problems overseas. In 2020 we had a large number of folks who wanted to attend the 75th anniversary end of WWII Remembrance Week event and that didn't happen, and again this year it was the same story. Only a few local tours were able to take place. Hopefully in 2022, as more people get vaccinated and travel to international destinations can open up once again, we will see things improve.

2021 is also a special anniversary year in that it was 10 years ago in 2011 when we dedicated the POW Memorial Wall and sculpture.

People are always asking, "How many former Taiwan POWs are now still with us?" Up to late last year there were still six remaining Taiwan POWs, but sadly five of them have passed on, leaving Adam Houston as the last surviving Taiwan prisoner of war that we are aware of. Previously he had also been the last remaining Kinkaseki POW. At 100 years young, he lives in Canada and is doing very well – still bright and full of his native Scottish humour. (See story on page 5)

It seems that we are coming to the end of an era of world history as so many of the former WW II veterans are passing on. It was only a few years ago that the last of the WW I veterans died. We must re-dedicate ourselves especially at this time to making sure that the men of both those world wars will always be remembered for their service.

We had another great Remembrance Day this year, with a good turnout to remember and honour those who gave their lives for the freedom that we enjoy – and sadly so often take for granted today.

So despite all our worldwide problems, let us all pray and work for 'peace on earth and goodwill toward men' at this upcoming Christmas season.

Best wishes, *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!

**JOHN THOMAS BAILEY**

18TH BTN. RECON. CORPS

JULY 26, 2021

**WILLIAM 'BILL' OVERMIER**

S/SGT., 200 CAC, US ARMY

AUGUST 2, 2021

"Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten."

*"We Will Remember Them"*

## WELCOME... NEW TRADE OFFICE DIRECTORS

We are pleased to welcome John Dennis, the new Representative at the British Office in Taipei, and Sandra Oudkirk, the latest Director at the American Institute in Taiwan, as ex-officio members to our board.

John replaces Catherine Nettleton and Sandra replaces Brent Christensen, and like their predecessors, they have pledged their support and that of their facilities to helping our Society in its work of honouring and remembering the former Allied POWs who were held here in WWII.

We express our appreciation to Catherine and Brent for the interest and support that they have given to our Society, and we look to working with the new directors in the days ahead to make sure that the former Taiwan POWs from these countries will never be forgotten.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TAIWAN POWS?

If your school, club or organization would like to know more about the Taiwan prisoners of war, the POW camps and the work of the Society, we would be very pleased to come to a meeting of your group and give a power-point presentation and feature some artifacts from our research. It is our aim to share the POWs' story with as many as we can in Taiwan, so that more people will know and understand this part of their history. For more information, please contact us.

Tel. (02) 8660-8438

Email [society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org)

# FEPOW DAY - AUGUST 14TH 2021



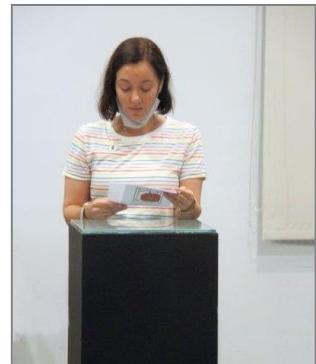
On Saturday August 14th the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society held the 14th annual FEPOW (Far East Prisoner of War) Day event to be held in Taiwan. As usual, it was held at the SPOT THEATRE (台北之家一光點電影院) - 18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 (台北市中山北路二段18號) in downtown Taipei.

Being that this was the 80th Anniversary of the start of the Pacific War, this year we featured 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 focused on the battle of Bataan and the demise of Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron-3 and its men, who expend themselves trying to slow the Japanese advance in the Philippines. It was a famous WW II movie.

Due to covid-19, space was limited this year to a maximum of 30 persons and 26 registered for the event. Doors opened at 6:00 pm to allow time for people to view the WWII military and POW artifact display before the program began at 6:30.

As usual, a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs and civilian internees took place. Readings of remembrance and tribute to the POWs were rendered by local members Dan Villarreal, Rebecca Day and Karl Yeh, and then the FEPOW candle was lit and Hans Song read the FEPOW Day prayer and led the group in the FEPOW Candle pledge.

Following the service the movie was shown and everyone commented on how much it moved them. *THEY WERE EXPENDABLE* provided the audience with entertainment and also a message. It depicted the dedication to duty and the sacrifice of the men who served, fought and died in the early days of World War II. This film honoured those men and women who served their country as its first line of defense. 80 years later, let us not forget that sacrifice for the freedom they have given us!



*A few of the museum artifacts / Dan Villarreal - What is a FEPOW / Rebecca Day - Time to Remember*



*Karl Yeh - Tribute to the POWs / Hans Song reads the FEPOW Pledge / Remembering with a moments' silence.*

Although the event was scaled-down this year, hopefully by next year life will be back to somewhat normal and we can look forward to our usual great FEPOW Day event for the 15th time.

# **TAIWAN'S LAST SURVIVING POWS**

Over the past several years we have lost so many of the former Taiwan POWs as time has marched on since the end of the Second World War. Being that most were in their early twenties when they were first here as POWs, and with the passage of 75 years, most were in the high 90's with several turning 100 in recent years.

George Reynolds was our first POW to turn 100 back in July of 2018. Sadly, he passed away seven months later in February 2019. Several others had nearly reached 100 – like Ken Pett, who passed away on April 12th 2019 at 98 – just a week short of his 99th birthday; Roland Hollis – April 26th 2019 at 98; Geoffrey Blain – 98 on September 6th 2020; Dennis Ratcliffe – 99 passed away on November 16th 2020; and Alexander Murray who passed at 99 on January 25th this year.

One other former Taiwan POW – John Thomas Bailey came to our attention several years ago when his son found our website. He was still very spry at 94, even taken to kicking a soccer ball around with his grandchildren. He had a terrific memory for details and although he never talked much about his experiences with his family, as he got older and after we made contact and he saw that people really were interested in his stories, he began to gradually open up to his son David who passed his stories on. John became our second centenarian on November 12th last year.

By last autumn we were down to four remaining British Taiwan POWs – Dennis Ratcliffe, Alexander Murray, John Thomas Bailey and Adam Houston – who in May of this year celebrated his 100th birthday as well. Dennis and Adam were the last two remaining Kinkaseki POWs, John Bailey was the last of the Heito Camp POWs and he and Alexander Murray were the last of the Taihoku Camp #6 men. There were also two American ex-POWs who we were aware of – Joe Bernstein, US Army Signal Corps and S/Sgt. William 'Bill' Overmier, who fought on Corregidor with the 200th Coast Artillery Corps of the US Army. Bill was very active for many years and a faithful attendee with this son Alan at the ADBC POW reunions. He passed away on August 2nd this year.

With the passing of Dennis and Alexander that left John and Adam. Sadly, John Bailey passed away on July 26th this year leaving Adam as the last remaining former Taiwan POW that we know.

I am left with so many wonderful memories of all these great men. I am very sad now, as I knew Dennis very well for many years since 1998. Adam and I were dear friends who I visited many times on trips to Canada. He and his late wife Agnes, attended the opening of the POW Memorial Park in 2005. I also had some good interaction with John Bailey through his son. I was not so familiar with Alexander Murray though. Over the years so many of these wonderful men that I have known both personally, and through years of correspondence and interaction together, have made a great impression on me. Right now I'm feeling a big void in my life. One thing is for certain, and that is that I will never forget them and their effect on my life. May God richly bless them and all the former Taiwan POWs.

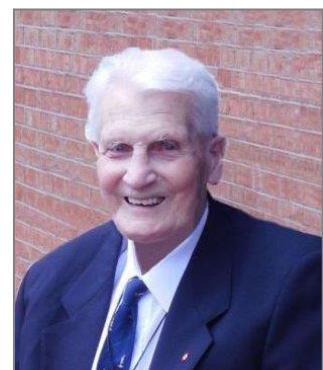


*Dennis Ratcliffe – then and in 2018*

*Sgt. William 'Bill' Overmier and in 2020*



*John T. Bailey postwar 1945 and in 2018*



*Adam at 19 in 1940 - and at 100 in 2021*

## POW CAMP TOURS

Happily, with the former spring outbreak of the virus here in Taiwan reduced and under control again so quickly, we were able to run the annual COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER tour on Thursday October 7th as planned. Fourteen enthusiastic and deeply interested participants took part in the day's event, first visiting the Gold Museum and spending a lot of time at the POW display learning the story of the POWs and the camps. This was followed by a walk to the overlook of the former mine and the trail the POWs had to trudge every day to reach the workings. Following lunch the group toured the POW Memorial Park and learned more first-hand about the life of the POWs at Kinkaseki and the sufferings they endured.

The tour finished off with the group gathered around the memorial to lay a poppy spray and have a period of silence to remember the POWs and all those who have suffered and died for our freedom. It was a great day and we look forward to hosting the Community Services Center tour again in 2022.



*Gabriella Torreto and daughter Lily lay a spray of poppies on the memorial. / The group at the day's end .*

\* \* \* \* \*

## The last former Taiwanese POW camp guard passes on -

After the war, Mr. Yang, Dun-Chin (楊登清), a former Heito POW Camp guard, still lived near the village of Lin-Luo in the Ai-Liao District of Pingtung County near the site of the former camp. Whenever we would bring POWs and their families on visits back to the camp, he and other of the former camp guards would always come out to meet them and express their sorrow and apologize for the way the men had been treated in the camp. Some wonderful times of fellowship and friendship ensued, and it was great to see the reconciliation between the former enemies take place.

### **Mr. Yang (left) meeting with former Heito POW John Emmett in 2003**

I first met Mr. Yang back in 1999. He was very helpful in sharing information about the camp - its layout, what the conditions were like and some of the things that took place there, including the bombing of the camp by American planes on February 7th 1945.



He was a very special man. In his mid-nineties he was still riding his scooter around the district - much to the worry of his family, and he often visited the camp site to remember the old days and also to keep an eye on our POW Memorial there. He would always attend our remembrance services at the camp – however, in later years his daughter would drive him in the car.

I have been down to PingTung many times over the years and it seemed that with each visit we became closer friends. It was a very special moment when as we parted after a visit two years ago in 2019, he gave me a big hug - which he never did before. We hugged again on what turned out to be our last visit later as well. It seems as if he knew his time was coming too and he was reaching out to me in true friendship. This is incredible when you think of how unusual it is for the Taiwanese elder generation to hug, and it touched me very deeply!

He was a dear and respected friend, always smiling and cheerful and I will miss him very much. I'm sure a number of those reading this will remember meeting him on their visits to Heito Camp as well.

Now all of the POW camp guards that we knew of have passed on, and at 101 years of age he was the last, and may he rest in peace.

### **Yang Dun-Chin as a camp guard in WWII and 70 years later in 2015**



# REMEMBRANCE DAY IN TAIWAN 2021

On Sunday November 14th, with almost all covid restrictions in Taiwan having been lifted, more than 120 people gathered once again at the *Taiwan Prisoner of War Memorial Park*, located on the site of the infamous former Kinkaseki POW Camp in Jinguashi to remember and honour all those who have suffered and died for freedom in the many wars and conflicts of this century and the last. This is the 24th time the ceremony has been held, and under the Society's direction this year was co-sponsored by the Canadian Trade Office in Taiwan and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The initial address was given by CTOT Executive Director Jordan Reeves.

Taiwan's Minister of Veterans Affairs, Gen. (ret) Feng, Shih-Kuan spoke, along with the Vice President of the Veterans Association of the ROC, Maj/Gen (ret) King, Kuo-Liang, bringing tributes to the former Taiwan POWs and all those who have served. A message on remembering was given by the Society director, and this was followed by tributes from various members of the community. American Institute in Taiwan Director Sandra Oudkirk and Representative John Dennis of the British Office shared appropriate remarks on this 80th Anniversary of the start of the Pacific War. Other members of the community also shared readings in honour of the veterans. The service concluded with a message on remembrance and a prayer by the Society's chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Herbert Barker.

Following this, wreaths were laid on the memorial, the Act of Remembrance was carried out, Last Post, Silence and Rouse was rendered by Ray Heberer and the service concluded with the playing of *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes by Piper Mal Turner. Here are a few photos of the event:



*The crowd of more than 120 gathered on the day, TPCMS emcee Mark Wilkie, and Canadian Piper Mal Turner.*



*Minister of Veterans Affairs Gen. Feng, Shih-Kuan and Veterans Assoc. of the ROC Vice President Maj/Gen. King, Kuo Liang laying wreaths in honour of the veterans.*

*CTOT Executive Director Jordan Reeves leading the Commonwealth and Allied leaders in laying a memorial wreath.*

We are hopefully looking forward to another great event next year!



*Act of Remembrance carried out and Commonwealth and Allied leaders with Gen. Feng.*

# THE UNUSUAL STORY OF GNR. HARRY RAE

On November 3rd 2021, I received an email from Chief Petty Officer Christopher Wilson - currently serving with the Royal Navy at US Air Force Base Buckley, Colorado, USA. He had recently discovered a World War II Commonwealth War Grave belonging to Gunner Henry William Whyte Rae of the 80th Anti-Tank Reg't. RA - a former Taiwan POW, at Fairmount Cemetery in Denver, Colorado. He began to look into Rae's story with assistance from researchers Keith Andrews, Ron Taylor, Wes Injerd, Mike Heather and myself. With Remembrance Day approaching he wanted to visit the grave - one of only two British World War II graves in the USA, and pay his respects.

The discovery of a British World War II grave of a former Taiwan POW in Denver was a surprise to me, so I began some further research into Gnr. Rae's story to find out why this man was laid to rest in Colorado, USA. Up to then Gnr. Rae had just been another name in the long list of former Taiwan POWs, but now suddenly he became alive again.



**Gnr. Harry Rae**

Henry (Harry) William Whyte Rae from Glasgow, Scotland joined the Royal Artillery 80th Anti-Tank Regiment and was sent to Malaya as part of the 11th Indian Division that fought the Japanese. On the 15th of February 1942, the Commonwealth allied forces were surrendered in Singapore, and Gnr. Rae became a prisoner of war. Then, like so many from his unit, in November 1942, he was transferred to Taiwan on the hellship *England Maru*.

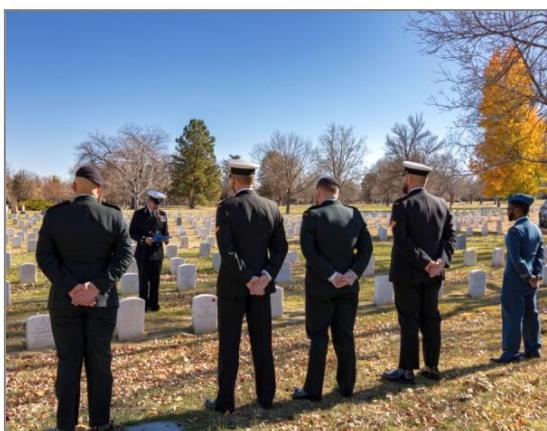
He was in the first group of POWs sent to Kinkaseki, for what was to be a two year ordeal slaving down the notorious copper mine. In the end more than 1,000 POWs worked down that mine. Many men died in the camp and when others became too sick and weak to work in the mine, they were moved out to other camps and replaced with fitter men.

By the 25th of October 1944, Gnr. Rae's health had deteriorated, and he was unable to work down the mine any longer. He was transferred to Shirakawa Camp, a kind of hospital camp in the south-central part of the island. He remained there until the 21st of February 1945, when he was transported on another hellship - the *Taiko Maru*, to Moji Japan. He arrived at Miyata Camp on the island of Kyushu on the 9th of March 1945 and remained there slaving in a coal mine until the end of the war.

After the Japanese surrendered on the 15th of August 1945, following the dropping of the atomic bombs, the evacuation of the prisoners of war in Miyata began in September. Too ill to be evacuated by sea, on the 15th of September he and 15 others were flown to Okinawa for medical care in the 381 Station Hospital. In a very bad condition, he was soon flown again to the 148th General Hospital in Saipan on the 23rd of September 1945. On the 22nd of October, the USS *Refuge*, an American hospital ship loaded with wounded and sick men - including Gnr. Rae, departed from Saipan for San Francisco arriving there on the 18th of November.

On arrival he was scheduled to go across the continent by train to New York for final repatriation back to Scotland. Sadly, he never made it home. He got as far as Denver, and then being so sick he was off-loaded from the train and sent to Fitzsimmons Military Hospital which specialised in TB care. He died there - most likely due to tuberculosis, on the 16th of December 1945. He was laid to rest with full military honours in Fairmount Cemetery.

Gnr. Rae's wife Sadie, was made aware that he was seriously ill in the hospital at Denver from letters written to her from a nurse there. On his death at the age of 30, Gunner Rae left behind a young widow and two children. This information was obtained by Christopher from the Denver Library.



**Honours being paid at the grave of Gnr. Rae. CPO Christopher Wilson reading his memorial tribute.**  
*(Courtesy CPO Wilson)*

Although many of the former UK Taiwan POWs died in the early years after the war and were laid to rest in cemeteries all across that nation, this grave and this story is special. It is thanks to Christopher and his research and efforts to remember Gunner Rae that his story has finally been told and his memory has now been preserved.

*He will not be forgotten!*

**Memorial Scroll awarded  
by the King to Gnr. Rae.**



## MORE COMMENTS ABOUT 'NEVER FORGOTTEN' . . .

"Thank you so much for the prompt delivery of your fabulous book. Such a marvellous looking book, how pristine in every way. I know how hard you worked to put this book together and possibly the emotions you had to deal with when you knew so many of the men personally. How very proud you must feel that you have done what you did for our brave men who were held in Japanese hands, and they would have shook your hands and said: "Well done, well done". " BM

"The book has arrived, and will be a fascinating, if an unsettling read. You have obviously invested a lot of time and effort into this and we thank you for respecting the memories of people like my dad and his fellow prisoners." FD

"What a fantastic book! Many congratulations on the production of such a detailed and interesting book on a subject so dear to my heart....It was how I eventually managed to find out what exactly happened to my father during his time as a POW in Japanese hands and which I could not have done without your help." RP

"A great book. For the first time, a thorough and detailed account of the camps on Taiwan and the conditions the prisoners had to endure. I am particularly impressed with the unblemished and accurate details of the actions of Churchill and MacArthur and their part in the war. As far as I am aware nobody else has told the full story of their ineptitude and blundering. A thoughtful and very well researched book which should become a text book for future historians." DC

"No one can accuse Michael Hurst MBE of ever doing a half-effort job of research when he wrote this nonfiction narrative. Spending almost 25 years on this effort, the author has produced one of the most detailed stories of POWs being held by the Japanese during World War II that I have ever read. It is at times a heart-wrenching story that takes a group of little-known POWs and presents them in a way that you truly come to know them. One can really feel the strong sense of respect the author holds for the men whose story he is telling." GM

"Michael, I thought your book was really three books in one:

- a) A meticulously researched history full of facts, dates, events etc.
- b) A collection of memories and reminiscences of the PoWs
- c) A personal memoir of your search for the camps' locations, the PoW survivors and families, and your work in establishing memorial monuments and events.

These are very different genres of book and required different writing styles. I thought that no teacher of writing skills or literary critic would have recommended trying to combine these in one volume, but by adopting the format that you did, you succeeded brilliantly in what should have been an impossible task. Congratulations!" RW

"Thank you so much, Michael. The book is full of detail and the photos you have included are incredible. It's a wonderful tribute to the POWs." RD

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

In our last newsletter we mentioned that the Thai-Burma Railway Centre and Museum in Kanchanaburi Thailand is in need of urgent financial support due to the COVID pandemic leading to a huge decrease in visitors to the museum. There is still an ongoing need for more funds at this time.

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.

Appeals have been initiated to help the TBRC by other FEPOW organisations and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society also stands together with them to urge our members, friends and supporters to help out in this emergency. A generous sum of over GBP15,000 has already been donated to the TBRC up to this point and let us continue to support the museum as we look forward to things getting better with the virus in Thailand so people can start to visit the museum once again.

To make a donation please contact [rosemaryfell11@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryfell11@gmail.com) of the Malayan Volunteers Group in the UK for details. Your caring and support are much appreciated. Thank you.



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

# 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, and how to obtain a copy is posted on the website featuring a new additional menu ‘BOOK’ page. Overseas it is only available by direct order from the publisher through the Society. Those in Taiwan can contact the Society directly by email to order a copy

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** As of September 15th the suspension of mail services to the UK was lifted and so those in the UK who want copies are now able to order them. The postal policy is: **only one book can be shipped at one time to one address - separate orders must be placed for each book required.** A direct email was sent out to all our worldwide members and friends letting them know the book is available.

**Note:** Those wishing to have a copy and who live outside the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands and most East Asian countries, please check with the Society before placing an order to make sure it is possible to ship to your country and what the cost for the book will be, thank you.