



Never Forgotten

Vol. 23, Number 1

SPRING – SUMMER 2022

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

2022 – 80th Anniversary of the surrenders of Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.



Sgmn. Adam Houston, the last Taiwan POW, has passed away.



Exploring Taiwan's only concrete POW gravestones.



Memorial Day Service – May 30th.



This year's FEPOW Day event features the movie "Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence" on Saturday August 13th.



10th Anniversary of the dedication of the Karenko POW Camp Memorial.

TAIWAN REMEMBRANCE WEEK – NOVEMBER 9th - 16th, 2022

Former Taiwan POWs' family members are invited to join with us for the week of November 9th – 16th as we celebrate the 25th 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 13th. 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!

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

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MEMORIAL SOCIETY**
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www.powtaiwan.org

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

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VP and General Mgr., J. Chen Enterprises Taiwan;
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lecturer, Historian, Screenwriter, Former soldier.

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

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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 . . .

**Heroes never die, they live
as long as we remember
them!**

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

Work is ongoing with the Chinese translation of '*Never Forgotten*', I am pleased to see how it is progressing and I hope it will have a wonderful response when it goes out - here in Taiwan and to those in other countries of the world. Finally people in Taiwan and Chinese readers overseas can learn about the little-known story of the former Taiwan POW camps. This is the sole purpose for the book and one of the main 'aims' of our POW Society.

Life has been pretty much normal in Taiwan, which has continued to handle the pandemic well with high rates of vaccination and daily simple precautions. Hopefully this year, as more people overseas get vaccinated and travel to international destinations can open up once again, we will see things improve even further.

Preparations are being made to hold our 15th FEPOW Day event on August 13th which we hope will once again be a great success. This year we plan on showing the movie "*Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence*" starring David Bowie and Tim Conti.

2022 commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, and the surrender of the Dutch East Indies and The Philippines to victorious invading Japanese forces. These defeats resulted in tens of thousands becoming prisoners of war and being shipped all over the Japanese Empire to work as slaves and thousands perished. About 4,370 POWs ended up in the 14 Japanese-run camps in Taiwan with 10% of those men dying.

2022 is also the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the *Karenko POW Camp Memorial* in Hualien. Karenko Camp held all the highest-ranking military officers and also the governors of all the Asian colonies the Japanese conquered.

On April 13th, Taiwan's last remaining POW (that we are aware of) Adam Houston, passed away quietly in hospital in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. He had also been the last remaining Kinkaseki POW and would have been 101 on May 22. He was a dear friend and I mourn his passing. (See story on page 9)

Plans are also underway for another great Remembrance Day event this year, and it is hoped that this time we may be able to host international visitors once again.

Let us all continue to remember and honour those to who we owe the very lives that we live today in this troubled world. Let us especially remember those fighting in Ukraine to defend their homeland and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. May we emulate their courage as we seek to bring peace to our world.

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!

HENRY T. CHAMBERLAIN
PVT. US ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
AUGUST 31, 2021

ADAM HOUSTON
SIGMN., ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS
APRIL 13, 2022

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

"We Will Remember Them"

WELCOME... NEW TRADE OFFICE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to welcome Mark Pearson, the new Representative at the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office in Taiwan, as an ex-officio member to our board.

Mark replaces Stephanie Lee and like his predecessors, he has pledged his support and that of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office 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 Stephanie for the interest and support that she gave to our Society, and we look to working with Mark in the days ahead to make sure that the former Taiwan POWs from New Zealand and all the allied 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

UPCOMING EVENT

FEPOW DAY - AUGUST 13th 2022

This year will be the 15th time that *FEPOW Day* is celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we will meet at the **SPOT THEATRE** - 18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 (台北市中山北路二段18號) in downtown Taipei near the Zhongshan MRT Station (台北之家—光點電影院).



This year we are showing the award-winning movie **"MERRY CHRISTMAS MR. LAWRENCE"** - featuring the late renowned British rock star David Bowie in probably his best ever movie role, Japanese rock star Ryuichi Sakamoto – who wrote the music score for the film, Jack Thompson, Takeshi Kitano and Tom Conti in a superb performance as Mr. Lawrence. This captivating World War II drama is based on the lives of allied prisoners of war in a Japanese POW Camp in Java.

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 movie 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 40 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 by email if you're planning to attend so we can reserve a seat for you.

The deadline for reservations is set at 5:00 pm Wednesday August 10th. Doors open at 6:00 pm on Saturday and the program will begin at 6:30.

There is no charge for this event, and please note that these films are not suitable for young children and do not have Chinese sub-titles.

We hope to welcome many members and friends – and some new faces too. See you in August!



"Victory - The War Is Over" – Celebration banners in downtown Taipei on August 15, 1945.



The American Consulate in Taihoku 1928 - Japanese era postcard



The former American Consulate – now the SPOT Theatre - location for FEPOW Day.

A word regarding donations to the Society:

Due to a number of banking changes in Taiwan we are now able to accept donations in British Pounds, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars as well as US dollars. So if making a donation to the Society, please send the funds preferably in a bank wire / transfer to our account here and please contact us in advance for the pertinent account information. Thank you again for your support.

9th Btn. Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in Taiwan

In World War II, after the Fall of Singapore, the men of the 9th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers joined thousands of other British and Commonwealth military personnel as prisoners of war of the Japanese. Eventually, most of the regiment went to Thailand and Burma (Myanmar) to work on the infamous Death Railway, but nine members were sent to Taiwan and held as prisoners of war on the island. Here is their story. . .

The nine men of the 9th Btn. who were POWs in Taiwan – Fus. William J. Coyne, Fus. George Davison, Cpl. Richard Fawcett Fus. John Kerr, L/Cpl. George King, L/Cpl. James Powton, Fus. Victor Talbot, Cpl. William E. Ward and Fus. William B. Young.

The Battalion trained in England for some time before embarking aboard the liner *'Warwick Castle'* at Liverpool on October 24th 1941 as part of the British 18th Division being sent overseas. It sailed its last leg of the voyage on the *'Felix Roussel'*.

Approaching Singapore on the 5th of February 1942, the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft, but they were effectively fought off and the ship docked at Keppel Harbour later that day. From February 6th to the 15th the battalion helped to try to stem the Japanese onslaught, but it was too little too late and Singapore was surrendered later that day and they all became prisoners of war.

After spending some time confined in the Changi area, the captured prisoners were put to work on the docks at the harbour - loading ships of materials being looted by the Japanese. During this time they were billeted in a warehouse nearby. On October 24th they were moved to River Valley Road Camp to continue other labours for the Japanese.

Then, just four days later on October 28th, a large contingent of POWs from the camp - comprised of men of many regiments, was gathered together and sent to the docks to board the hellship *Dainichi Maru*. Included in the group of about 1,200 men were POWs also from the camps at Havelock Road and Tanjong Rhu, and their destination was supposedly Japan. Among this group of men were the nine members of the 9th Btn. The group was led by Major Thomas W. Moore of the 85th Anti-Tank Reg't. RA.

After 18 agonizing days at sea under horrifically crowded conditions, with little food or water and many men sick with dysentery, the ship pulled into the harbour at Takao (Kaohsiung today) on November 14th 1942, and a large group of about 500 men disembarked. It turned out that not all the men on the ship were destined for Japan.

About 300 men were grouped together – including all nine of the 9th Btn. Fusiliers, and put aboard a train for an overnight journey that would take them to Taichu Camp in the central part of the island, south of the city of Taichu (Taichung today). They would be replacing about the same number of American POWs who had been brought to the camp in September and who were now going to move on to Japan. The other approximately 200 men were sent to Heito Camp near the present-day city of Pingtung.

The main work the men had to do at Taichu Camp was the excavation of a flood diversion channel in the vast riverbed that ran near the camp. Critical road and railway bridges crossed the river about a mile from the camp and the Japanese were afraid that floodwaters during the monsoon and typhoon seasons could knock out the bridges, so they proposed to dig a channel in the riverbed to divert the rushing waters away from the bridge abutments and this work all had to be carried out by the POWs - and done by hand! It was back-breaking work in the hot sun with scant meals and guards who treated the men badly under the cruel camp commandant. Major Moore who was in charge of the prisoners in the camp, tried in vain to get the conditions improved and the beatings stopped, suffering many himself for his efforts.

Conditions were so bad that two men tried to escape from the camp on February 28th 1943. They were soon captured and severely beaten up, and on April 1st they were murdered by a Japanese firing squad. Later, in early June, the first Japanese commandant was replaced by another who was much more fair and reasonable. Though having to follow orders, he still tried to make life bearable for the men. The beatings stopped for the most part, the food improved and there was a better atmosphere in the camp after that.

On August 12th 1943, Fus. George Davison and L/Cpl. George King were sent to Kinkaseki, and on November 11th Fus. Victor Talbot followed them to that camp. Fus. John Kerr died at Taichu on November 14th 1943 – one year to the day after his arrival in Taiwan.



9th Btn. Royal Northumberland Fusiliers training in England. Note the British 18th Division shoulder patch on the gunner.

(IWM)

(Continued on page 6)

9th Btn. Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in Taiwan

(con't from page 5)

In June 1944 during a huge typhoon, the camp was in danger of flooding and the men were moved to a nearby school on higher ground. Shortly thereafter most of the men were transferred to Heito Camp, including four of the Fusiliers – William Coyne, Richard Fawcett, James Powton and William Young. There were 99 men at Taichu who were too sick and weak and thus could not be sent to Heito where the work of picking rocks from an old river bed so sugar cane could be planted was very hard. On July 1st, these men were moved to a new camp at Inrin (Yuanlin today) to try to recover their health, and one of those who was included in that move was Fus. William Ward. Then Taichu Camp was closed. Later, when Inrin Camp was closed, Ward moved first to Toroku and then finally Shirakawa to the makeshift 'hospital camp' where he finished the war.

One of the men who moved to Heito Camp in June, Richard Fawcett, died there on December 4th 1944. Later, on February 7th 1945, Heito Camp was bombed, and when that camp closed on March 11th, the remaining three 9th Btn. men - William Coyne, James Powton and William Young, were moved to Taihoku Camp #6. While at this camp the men worked at farming and Coyne and Powton also worked in the railway repair Shops until the end of the war. William Young was moved to the mountains to help build the Oka Camp.

Fus. George Davison died at Kinkaseki on March 4th 1945 just as the copper mine was closing. Finally with the closing of the Kinkaseki Camp and the movement of the POWs to Kukutsu Camp in May and June 1945, George King and Victor Talbot spent the rest of the war there, barely surviving in that camp.

After the Japanese surrendered, all of the POWs from the various camps were congregated in Taihoku to await evacuation. American B-29s from Saipan dropped food and supplies on the camps in Taihoku on the 28th and 30th of August. From this the men started to get their strength back. On September 5th and 6th, ships from the US and British navies came into the nearby port of Keelung to rescue the men. Most were evacuated by the Americans on two aircraft carriers and four destroyer escorts, a few were flown out, and the rest taken by hospital ship – all to Manila in the Philippines for medical treatment and care before starting out on their homeward journeys. William Coyne went on the destroyer escort USS *Thomas J. Gary*, George King and Victor Talbot went on the carrier USS *Block Island*, William Ward was transported on the DE USS *Kretchmer* and we are not sure which ships carried James Powton and William Young.

After a time of medical care, treatment and recovery, the remaining six 9th Btn. men started on their homeward journeys from Manila. Fus. William J. Coyne, L/Cpl. George King and Cpl. William Ward sailed directly back to the UK on the SS *Empress of Australia* on September 18th. L/Cpl. James Powton went to Vancouver Canada on the British carrier HMS *Implacable* which left Manila on September 26th. Fus. Victor Talbot went on the USS *Marine Shark* to San Francisco on October 8th and finally the next day on October 9th, Fus. William B. Young sailed for Victoria Canada on the HMS *Glory*. From those places the men went across the continent to Halifax or New York where they boarded the luxury liners *Queen Mary*, *Queen Elizabeth* and *Ile de France* among others, for their final voyage home to the UK – all arriving home before Christmas.

These men are just a few of the many who suffered and died as POWs in Taiwan and we want to make sure they are never forgotten!

Graves of the three 9th Btn. men who died in Taiwan at Sai Wan War Cemetery in Hong Kong. . .



Fus. Richard Fawcett's grave.



Fus. John Kerr's grave.



Fus. George Davison's grave.

Note: A 'Fusilier' is equivalent in rank to a Private, Gunner, Sapper or Signaller in other regiments.

MYSTERY OF THE LOST TAIWAN POW GRAVESTONE

In early April I received an email from Huai-Cheng Kuo, a young man who is very interested in history and particularly that of World War II in Taiwan. It turns out that in response to reading an article in the news from the city gov't. that the old Taipei #4 Cemetery was going to be demolished in May, and that those having relatives buried there should re-locate the remains to another place, and also that anything "of value" should be removed before that date, he decided to visit the old place and have a look around.

When he arrived he got quite a surprise. There, near the main path, was a gravestone clearly marked to a World War II soldier. This peaked his interest causing him to search for more information and he soon found our website and sent me an email telling me of his discovery. He asked if I knew anything about the gravestone, and said there were two more similar stones but that they were weathered so badly that they were impossible to read.

I immediately knew who the grave stone belonged to – Signalman Eric A. Clack of the Royal Corps of Signals - one of the six men who died right at the end of the war in August and September, and who had been buried in the old Shokoshihi Cemetery just before all of the other Taiwan POWs were evacuated to safety in the first days of September 1945. I had known about these graves for many years, but was unable to find this elusive cemetery because no-one I had asked knew anything about the cemetery or where it was located. With Huai-Cheng's discovery that mystery had been solved.



The mystery grave stone at Shokoshihi Cemetery.

So on Thursday April 7th, accompanied and guided by my new friend, we visited the cemetery. On looking at the stones, from the outset I knew this to be a very strange thing to have Taiwan POWs' graves marked with a concrete stone. In all of the former camp cemeteries I have visited over the years, none had ever been discovered previously. When the POWs died their graves were always marked with either a 'wooden' cross or plaque stating four things – carved or painted on. There would be the man's name, his army serial number, his rank and his date of death. This concrete stone had far more information carved into its surface. It not only gave the above details, but it also stated his religion as Church of England, his regiment – that he belonged to the 'Royal Corps of Signals and that he was attached to the 155th Field Reg't. Royal Artillery. Finally, and most significantly, it had his Taiwan POW Headquarters' master registration number '1759' at the top.

This was the number that each POW was assigned by the Japanese POW HQ in order of arrival on the island. Each POW also had a record card which was kept at the HQ as well, and this number was marked at the top of the card. When we checked Clack's record card, there was '1759' at the top. Now these cards or numbers were not made known or available to the POWs or the individual POW camp staff. Instead every POW had a certain number issued to him when he arrived in his actual camp. Clack's number at Kinkaseki was "103". No-one would have known the '1759' number except for Japanese HQ. So neither the Commonwealth nor the American burials would have had those registration numbers and all the extra details on their original wooden burial markers. Up to this point it had been a mystery as to where these three stones came from, who made them, and when were they placed there. So after discovering this, I knew that these stones could have only been made by the Japanese after the POWs went home after the war. Another mystery solved!



White wooden plaques marked the graves at Kinkaseki Camp.



After carefully studying Clack's stone, I moved on to inspect the other two which were very worn and at first sight there was no discernable text on them that could be read. So I set to work on them, carefully brushing and cleaning the stones and after some time and considerable effort, I was finally able to see bits of the names and details revealed. The one stone belonged to Gunner Thomas A. Biggin of the 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Reg't. who had previously been held in Taichu, Kinkaseki and Kukutsu camps. The other was made for Gunner John T. Howe of the 5th Field Reg't. Royal Artillery who was interned in Taihoku Camp #6, Kinkaseki and Kukutsu.

Carefully cleaning the gravestone.

(Cont'd on page 8)

Mystery of the Lost Taiwan POW Gravestone . . .

(Con't from page 7)

Now the first thing that needs to be pointed out is that there are now no existing actual POW graves anywhere in Taiwan – there are no remains still buried here. In the spring of 1946 both the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission from the UK and the American Graves Recovery Team came to Taiwan and removed all the remains from all of their respective graves and now the 360 British, 3 Australians and the 10 Dutch have been re-buried in the Sai Wan War Cemetery in Hong Kong. The Dutch gov't requested that their fallen be buried there as at the time the situation was too unstable with the rebellion in Indonesia to safely return them there. The Americans allowed their fallen to be repatriated home, and a lot of their 57 deceased were returned to the States for re-burial – many to veterans' cemeteries there and others to family plots. Those not claimed were sent to Manila or Hawaii.

The story of the six men who were buried in the Shokohihi Cemetery. . .

After the war ended, on August 24th, the former Kinkaseki POWs who were being held in the Kukutsu Camp in the hills south of Xindian, were brought back to Taihoku (Taipei) and placed in an old factory building located in the Chunglun area near present-day Songshan. They had to carry the sick men down the mountain on makeshift bamboo stretchers and then once back at Xindian, they were transported on a rough truck ride to the evacuation camp by the Japanese. As a result two of the men did not survive the trip. Gnr. Thomas Biggin died the same night (24th) after they reached the camp, and Signalman Eric Clack died the next day (25th). The other sickest men were placed on the second floor of the factory building so they could rest quietly and be cared for while awaiting evacuation.

Then a few days later on the 28th of August, B-29s from Saipan came over the camps and dropped 50 gallon drums and pallets of food, clothing and medicines to the starving POWs. Unfortunately some of the huge canisters crashed through the roof of the building and struck the POWs lying there. Tpr. Bernard Beardsworth was killed instantly by a canister and many were injured including two others seriously. Gnr. John Howe and Pte. Basil Leggett were in critical condition and were taken to the Japanese Army Hospital in the city and both died the next day on the 29th. There were many other serious injuries as well – one man had an arm taken off when hit, but he survived.

Finally on September 4th, the day before the men from Kinkaseki were moved to Keelung and the aircraft carriers that would take them to Manila and safety, Pte. Alfred Kerr passed away from acute appendicitis and starvation. The men were all subsequently buried in the Shokoshihi Cemetery, until their recovery in the spring of 1946.

The rest of the story . . .

After all my work to study the graves, and considering that the stone was “of value” - and the city gov'ts' request for the clearing of the cemetery, I decided that since no-one else would likely care or bother to save the gravestone that I would take it to my home for temporary safe storage. I planned to contact the City Culture Bureau on the following Monday to let them know what I had done and to follow things up with them for the safe-keeping of the stone.

However, it seems that someone visited the cemetery on the Saturday, and seeing that the stone had been removed, decided to make a post on Facebook telling how the stone had been “stolen”. Well of course with Facebook there is no control over real or fake news as anyone can post anything they want, and sadly today too many people put their trust in what they read on Facebook. Of course with most people in Taiwan knowing little or nothing about the POWs and the camps, in their ignorance they would not think to check further with someone who might know what happened. Hence CNA also got wind of the Facebook story and ran an article stirring everyone up to the ‘hot news’ of the gravestone ‘theft’ – again without verifying the true story for themselves. No-one it seems, thought to contact the Society to see if we knew anything about the stone, least of all the CNA reporter who tried to make a sensationalistic story based on the false information he got from Facebook. This is even more surprising when you consider that for the past 20 years CNA and other Taiwan media have been covering our events, so they surely should know about us and our work. It seems that today the media prefers to get their stories from Facebook rather than research the correct information for themselves. It just shows that you should not believe much if anything you read on Facebook.



Pte. Basil Leggett's stone.

going to decide what to do with it. For now it is in safe-keeping at the Xinyi Police District office and I am very happy how everything has worked out. May all those men rest in peace!

Anyway, “all's well that ends well”. On Monday the 11th I contacted the Culture Bureau and met with them to explore the old cemetery and spent about an hour sharing the story of the graves with them, as everyone present admitted they knew nothing of the POWs' story. They were pleased that I had saved the stone and are



(l) Gnr. Howe's stone. (r) Clack's grave in Hong Kong.

(All photos by the author)

ANZAC DAY 2022

The annual ceremony to commemorate the ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) landings on the Galipoli Peninsula in Turkey in WWI and the subsequent sacrifice of their precious sons in further campaigns in WWII and later conflicts, was held on Monday April 25th at the *Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab* (the former ROC Air Force Headquarters), commencing at 9am.

The ceremony which was live-streamed, featured addresses given by the representative from Australia, Jenny Bloomfield and New Zealand's Mark Pearson. The representative of the Turkish Office in Taiwan, Mr. Muhammed Berdibek, read *'Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's tribute to the ANZACs'*, and the poem *'In Flanders Fields'* was read by Michael Googan of the Australian Office.

Wreaths were then laid by representatives of Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, France, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society and the Australian and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Taipei,

Finally the *Ode of Remembrance* was carried out and the ceremony finished with the Australia and New Zealand national anthems. The service was followed by light refreshments and all those present enjoyed a good time of fellowship. Once again it was wonderful to be able to honour those who have given themselves for our freedom.



TPCMS, RSL and Anzcham lay a wreath.

CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY IN TAIWAN



Sadly, last year's Memorial Day event had to be cancelled due to the covid virus, but this year it took place once again. For the first time ever, the event was organized by Taiwan Post # 9957 of the American Veterans of Foreign Wars. The service was led by Lt/Col. Scott Ellinger US Army (Ret.), Post Commander.

Many of the regular participants were away this year and due to the late notification and some emailing issues, only four people turned up for the event which was once again held by the old Taipei Prison wall. The Society director shared a little of the story of the American POWs who were held in Taiwan and this was followed by the reading of the names of the 57 American POWs who died in Taiwan as POWs during WWII. Readings of tribute were brought by William Wang and Kevyn Kennedy, also a VFW member. A prayer of remembrance was offered by Lt/Col. Ellinger. Wreaths were laid against the old prison wall, Taps was played, a moment's silence observed and then the group read 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

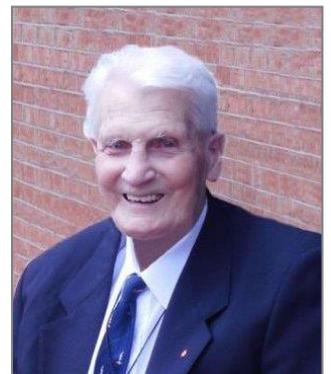
It is great to see an American group finally running this event and despite the low turnout, it was a meaningful service. The Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society has been happy to do it all these years in the absence of any other American sponsor, and we are looking forward to the VFW carrying it on in the future. LEST WE FORGET!

TAIWAN'S LAST REMAINING POW PASSES AWAY

Adam Houston, the last remaining Taiwan POW, formerly a signalman in the Royal Corps of Signals attached to the 80th Anti-Tank Regiment RA has passed away. He and his wife Agnes visited Taiwan in 2005 to take part in the dedication of the Taiwan POW Memorial Park. My wife and I visited them many times on our summer visits to Canada.

He was pre-deceased by Agnes and for the past few years has been cared for by his daughter Marie Smith. Last year on May 22nd 2021 Adam celebrated his 100th birthday. We covered that story with an article in the Spring-Summer 2021 newsletter. Adam did quite well in the past year but just recently began having some medical issues. He was admitted to the hospital in early April and this time was just not strong enough to endure. He passed away peacefully on the morning of April 13th 2022.

I, and all who knew and loved him, will miss him dearly. He shared so much of his story and more with me and I have lost a true friend. One thing is for certain – he, like all of the other Taiwan POWs, will never be forgotten. Our condolences go out to all the family.



Adam at 100 in 2021

POW CAMP TOURS

Happily, with the Covid virus here in Taiwan coming under control, we are able to start running our POW camp tours again.

The first one for this year was on April 28th when I hosted AIT Navy Affairs Officer Cdr. Robert Hochstedler and his son Christopher on a day trip to Kinkaseki. Robert has been very involved with the Society and our events over the past couple of years and we appreciate the contribution he has made.

Christopher is an aspiring historian, and as Robert and his family will be leaving Taiwan in June after his term with AIT finishes, he wanted to give Christopher an opportunity to experience an onsite visit to a WWII historical location before they left. The weather was overcast but we spent an enjoyable day together visiting the POW display in the Gold Museum and the various sites in the area. Christopher was very moved by the POW wall.

I was happy and grateful to see the enthusiasm in Christopher and his fascination as he learned the POWs' story firsthand. It is the young generation who must learn and carry on the story of our veterans and all that they have done for their countries and for our freedom. We wish Robert and his family all the best for their future.



Father and son by the Wall

TAIWAN TOUR GUIDES ASSOCIATION CLASSES

With Covid suppressing much of the inbound travel industry over the past 2 1/2 years, Taiwan's inbound tour guides have basically found themselves out of a job. With the more positive outlook emerging these days that tourism may start up again, the Taiwan Tour Guides Association has been gearing up.

Being that it is desired that more tours to Jinguashi and the POW Memorial Park can be featured in Taiwan's tourist itineraries, the association, having heard of our Society, asked me to run some courses to let the guides know more about the real story of the Taiwan POW camps so as to assist them in their knowledge and work.

The first informal class was held on February 24th with about 30 people present. Then again on April 13th the first official class was held at the Tour Guides Association headquarters where about 20 were in attendance. In both classes the guides listened intently and afterward told me that their new-found knowledge will really help them to be able to tell the folks they guide the correct story of the camps, and they were grateful for the opportunity to learn this new information. I was happy to contribute what I could because it is so important that they tell visitors to Taiwan the true story of the camps and the POWs so that more people worldwide will learn it as well.



The group after the class.



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

'NEVER FORGOTTEN' tells the story of all 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.

Information on the book, how to obtain copies, its cost and payment instructions are posted on the **'BOOK'** page in the website menu. Overseas it is only available by direct order from the publisher through the Society. Local copies for Taiwan may also be obtained by contacting the Society directly. The book has done well, the first run is almost sold out and at this time it is not sure if or when a second run might be done.