



Never Forgotten

Vol. 25, Number 1

SPRING-SUMMER 2024

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



REMEMBERING D-DAY 80 YEARS ON.

British 3rd Division landing on Sword Beach, D-Day.



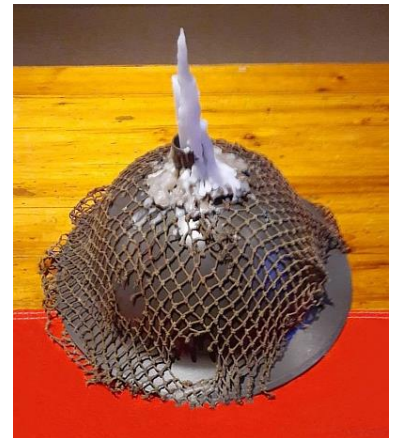
Memorial Day Service - May 26th.



Airmen's Memorial Service - June 16th.



**Remember
Them!**



What is this? See page 9 for details.

Be sure to join us for this year's FEPOW DAY event – Saturday August 10th, 6 pm – Spot Theatre, Taipei. (For further details see page 3.)

TAIWAN REMEMBRANCE WEEK – NOVEMBER 6th - 13th, 2024

Now that Taiwan is once more open to international visitors with no restrictions, family members of former Taiwan POWs are invited to join with us for the week of November 6th – 13th as we celebrate the 27th annual *Remembrance Week* event in Taiwan. Featured are 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 10th. 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 to register. Be sure to book early and we hope to have you with us in November!

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

E-MAIL society@powtaiwan.org

Please visit our website at:
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.

Bernie Moore - Teacher, New Zealand Army
Veteran, NZ Returned Services League Rep.

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

Stuart Saunders – Pres., Esdesign Ind. Design.

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES. . .

UK - Mike Heather mph1003@hotmail.com

Aust. - Rod Martin ramartin46@optusnet.com.au

EX-OFFICIO. . .

Robert Fergusson - Representative, Australian
Office, Taipei

John Dennis - Representative, British Office,
Taipei

Jim Nickel - Executive Director, Canadian Trade
Office in Taipei

Mark Pearson - Director, New Zealand Commerce
and Industry Office, Taipei

Guido Tielman - Representative, Netherlands
Trade and Investment 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 . . .

*People forget that to get somewhere there is
sacrifice.
The path to freedom is paved with blood, and
people don't recognize that anymore because they
already have the freedom.
They can't relate to the concept of giving your life
for a cause.*

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

Well, a lot has NOT happened with regards to the new Chinese version of 'Never Forgotten'. It has all been formatted and is ready to print but sadly due to issues with the publisher we are currently stalled once again. They seem to want / need to re-format the whole book again and requested that we provide all 850 + photos separately for them to arrange. That could take most of a year's work to find and format them again. The book is formatted exactly in the same way as the English version and is ready to print.

All we need is for some publisher / distributor to take the project on so the Chinese edition can get into the bookstores here on the island, as this is the best way to reach the Taiwanese people with the story. Sadly we have been held up far too long.

If any of our members / readers have any suggestions or recommended publishers we can work with, please contact us ASAP so we can get this project completed. We are also going to look for a publisher in the UK and maybe the USA, for the English book, so again, any / all advice is requested and welcome.

Our 17th FEPOW Day event will once again be held on August 10th. This year the movies "Unbroken" along with "The Real Louis Zamperini Story" will be shown – a double feature night. Be sure to reserve your seat early.

We are happy to see more people coming to Taiwan for our POW camp tours. We have already run a number of tours for overseas visitors as well as domestic ones this year and we hope the trend will continue.

Our 27th Remembrance Week event will take place from November 6th to 13th, and we encourage overseas POW family members to take part. We already have a number interested in this year's event and it is hoped that more will join with us, so be sure to let us know in advance as early as possible if you are interested in taking part.

Finally, in this troubled world, let us continue to remember those fighting in Ukraine to defend their homeland and for those suffering in Israel and Gaza. Let us also be prayerful for the many national elections being held around the world this year, that the right leaders – those who cherish peace and stability, will be elected and that the sad state that so many countries now find themselves in may be rectified for the good of all people. Let us remember the sacrifices of so many in past wars to try to bring freedom to the world and let us hope that in remembering, those sacrifices will not have been in vain.

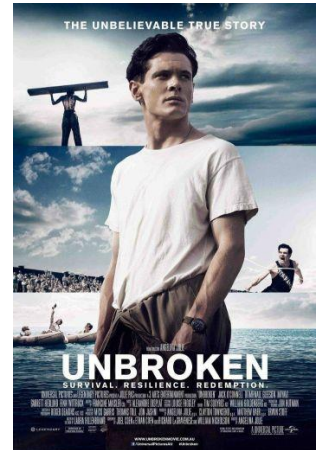
Warmest wishes,

Michael Hurst MBE

UPCOMING EVENT

FEPOW DAY – AUGUST 10, 2024

This year will be the 17th time that FEPOW Day is celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again we will meet at the **Spot Theatre – #18, Chungshan North Road Sec. 2** in downtown Taipei on Saturday evening August 10th. There will be a display of WWII POW and military artifacts; we will have a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs and then the movie "**Unbroken**" will be shown.



This much-acclaimed film directed by Angelina Jolie tells the story of former POW Louis Zamperini and his experiences and triumphs as a prisoner of the Japanese in WWII. It is based on his true life story from the award-winning book by Laura Hillenbrand.

Louis Zamperini started out his life as a rebellious youth, but then realized his goal was to become an Olympic runner. At 19 he took part in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, shattering a world track record which resulted in a meeting with Adolf Hitler.

With the outbreak of war Zamperini joined the US Army Air Force and was involved in several bombing raids over Japanese-held islands in the Pacific. On a search and rescue mission his B-24 was forced to ditch in the ocean, and he and the pilot spent 47 days adrift at sea in a rubber raft surrounded by sharks before being captured by the Japanese. He was first sent to the Ofuna POW Camp and later the infamous Omori Camp, and finally to Naoetsu Camp – one the worst POW camps in Japan, where he was tormented and tortured by prison guard Mutsuhiro Watanabe, nicknamed "*The Bird*", who was later featured on the list of the 40 most-wanted war criminals in Japan. This is a story of Zamperini's struggle for survival, resilience and triumph over oppression by the Japanese.

Following the feature movie a short documentary on the life of Louis Zamperini will also be shown.

Everyone is invited to our event, but space is limited to a maximum of 70 persons, so please kindly let us know **by email** if you're planning to attend so we can reserve a seat for you. We hope and expect to have a large turnout and so **reservations are a must**.

The deadline for reservations is set at 5 pm Wednesday August 7th. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the program will begin promptly at 6:00.

There is no charge for this event, and please note that this film is not suitable for young children.

*** There are no Chinese sub-titles on the film.**

ANZAC VETERANS HONOURED IN TAIWAN

Once again as in many previous years, ANZAC Day was commemorated here in Taiwan. This year the Australian Office was in charge of the ceremony with assistance from the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office. The event was held on Thursday April 25th at the *Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab* on Jenai Road in downtown Taipei. Participants gathered at 8.45am for the commencement of the service at 9am.

Australia Office Director Robert Fergusson gave the key address with New Zealand Representative Mark Pearson sharing some thoughts on ANZAC Day.

Mr. Muhammed Berdibek, the Turkish Trade Representative in Taiwan, read Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's Tribute. The Society was once again honoured to lay a wreath in tribute to the 55 Australians (3 of whom died), and the 2 New Zealanders who suffered as POWs of the Japanese in the prison camps on Taiwan in WW II.

Following the reading of 'In Flanders Fields', the hymn 'Abide With Me' was sung and the Ode of Remembrance was read. Last Post, a minute's silence and then Rouse was played before the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand were sung. The service ended with the playing of Amazing Grace by Mal Turner.

The service was followed by refreshments, and a time of fellowship and remembering was shared by all.



A Moment of Silence in tribute to the ANZACs Mal Turner plays Amazing Grace TPCMS at the ceremony

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATED IN TAIWAN

This year for the third time, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America, Taipei Post #9957, organized and hosted this annual event to honour and remember all those Americans who gave their lives in all wars for the freedom that America – and all the free world have today.

Post Commander Lt. Col. (Ret) Scott Ellinger US Army, led the service, with participation by several of the Post members reading memorial selections. In addition, the POW Society director read the names of the 57 Americans who died in Taiwan's prison camps, and Eric Hsu played Last Post followed by a minute's silence, A recording of the American National Anthem concluded the service. With 20 in attendance it was the largest Memorial Day event in the past several years. Hopefully even more will attend next year. A few photos -



TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN AIRMEN AT TAIPEI PRISON

On Sunday June 16th, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society held its annual service of remembrance to honour the American airmen who were shot down over Taiwan during raids on the island from October 1944 to May 1945 and held by the Japanese in the Taihoku Prison. We especially remembered the 14 young airmen who were needlessly murdered there on June 19th 1945.

The commemoration service took place by the American Airmen's plaque at the former Taipei Prison wall commencing at 11 am and more than 25 people turned out for the event

Emcee Mark Wilkie welcomed all the guests on the sunny, warm morning. The Society director shared the story of the downed airmen, their capture and imprisonment, and particularly the fake trial of 14 of the 25 airmen who had been held captive and their subsequent murder by a Japanese firing squad on June 19th 1945.

Tributes were rendered by Col. Felix Wang (Ret), Deputy Director of General Services, ROC Veterans Affairs Council. The names of the 25 airmen who were held in the prison were read by Society board member Bernie Moore also representing the New Zealand Returned Services Association. Then Chris Teunissen read the poem 'Remember Us' followed by Rebecca Day reading the poem 'Miss Me But Let Me Go'.

Lt/Col. Scott Ellinger (Ret) Commander of the Taipei VFW Post #9957 shared a challenging message and a prayer of remembrance. Finally, wreaths were laid by the wall in honour of the airmen. Taps was played by Eric Hsu and a minutes' silence rounded out the program, after which Kevin Chang read the 'Ode of Remembrance'. The finale was the recorded playing of the American National Anthem – appropriately by the US Air Force band.

Interest in this event and the attendance are growing every year, and our thanks to those who attended and those who took part. We look forward to another great event next year.

Scenes from this year's American Airmen's memorial service.



THE JAPANESE PRINCE WHO MURDERED THE AIRMEN

The story of the American airmen who were shot down over Taiwan in the latter part of 1944 and the early months of 1945 during air raids over Taiwan, and were subsequently held in the Taihoku Prison with 14 being murdered by the Japanese, is well known thanks to the efforts of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society and our many local friends and supporters. What is not well known is how this all came to take place, and that a member of Japan's Imperial Family was responsible for the murders of those airmen.

On May 29th 1945, fourteen of the American airmen being held in the Taihoku Prison were taken before a Japanese military tribunal, given a false trial with no defense and sentenced to death by firing squad for 'indiscriminate bombing' over Taiwan. This act was carried out in accordance with a Japanese policy decreed in the spring of 1942 that all captured fliers bombing Japan or its territories were to be executed. That policy was promulgated by a member of Japan's Imperial Household.

Following the famous Doolittle raid in April 1942 when American B-25 bombers flying off the carrier USS *Hornet* bombed Tokyo and other targets in Japan, the Japanese war cabinet was incensed and an order was issued that any of those Doolittle raiders who were captured were to be executed and that in the future, all captured airmen were to be killed. Leading this effort in the war cabinet was a member of the Imperial Family - Prince Naruhiko Higashikuni - Emperor Hirohito's uncle.



B-25 taking off from the carrier USS Hornet for the Doolittle Raid over Japan.

Prince Higashikuni (December 3rd 1887 – January 20th 1990) was a Japanese imperial prince and a career officer in the Imperial Japanese Army. He was the father of the future Empress Kōjun, the wife of Emperor Hirohito. His half-brother was Prince Asaka, who ordered both the infamous Nanking

Massacre in 1937 and also the massacre of thousands in Hong Kong following its surrender in December 1941. Prince Asaka – as a member of the Imperial Family, was never brought to trial for his part in these heinous atrocities.

Following earlier military service, in 1926 as a colonel, Prince Higashikuni was assigned to the Imperial Japanese Army General Staff Headquarters. He was promoted to major-general in August 1930 and appointed commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade (1930–1934). He was promoted to lieutenant-general in August 1934 and given command of the Imperial Japanese Army's 4th Division (1934–1937). After the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, he headed the Imperial Japanese Army Air Service (1937–1938), and the Imperial Japanese 2nd Army stationed in China from 1938–1939.



Prince Higashikuni

During this time he authorized the use of poison gas against the Chinese on August 16th 1938. Prince Higashikuni encouraged the use of and enabled human experiments - providing advice, money, men and equipment. He personally witnessed human experiments conducted by the military physicians at Unit 731 during his tours in Manchukuo. He was promoted to general in August 1939, and then held the post of Commander of the General Defense Command from December 1941 to April 1945.

The General Defense Command was a headquarters organization of the Imperial Japanese Army, established to control all land and air units stationed within Japan proper, Korea and Taiwan during World War II. It was responsible for anti-aircraft defenses, and for organizing civil defense training.

He was also head of the Army Air Service throughout the war. In this position and given the mandate of the General Defense Command, he was responsible for ordering the illegal executions of captured Allied air crews as war criminals. This included the murder of the American airmen in the Taihoku Prison on June 19th 1945.

Although recognized as a war criminal, he was never tried, as General MacArthur actively colluded with his own intelligence organizations and the Japanese gov't. to protect all the Imperial Family from being prosecuted.

Following Japan's surrender, Emperor Hirohito appointed Prince Higashikuni to the post of Prime Minister and he became the 30th Prime Minister of Japan from August 17th 1945 to October 9th 1945, a period of 54 days - the shortest term of any Japanese prime minister in history. Prince Higashikuni was the only member of the Japanese Imperial family to head a cabinet and was the last general officer of the Imperial Japanese military to become Prime Minister. He died in 1990 at age 102, and at his death he was the last surviving full general of the Imperial Japanese Army. He was also the longest-lived member of any royal family.

WYMONDHAM FEPOW MEMORIAL CHURCH

In the village of Wymondham in rural Norfolk England, the memory of those who suffered and died in Japanese POW and civilian internment camps in World War II, is kept alive at the only Memorial Church in the world dedicated to the Far East Prisoners of War. This church is a 'Living Memorial' to all WWII FEPOW and Civilian Internees of all faiths and none.

Father Malcolm Cowin, formerly chaplain to the 2nd Cambridgeshire Regiment, 18th British Division - and himself a survivor of the Japanese POW camps, had built chapels in three different camps to serve the spiritual needs of the men and he made a promise that if he survived, he would build a church in memory of all those who died in the Japanese POW and internment camps.

Returning from the war, he set about to accomplish his goal. Much of the money to build the church came from donations by surviving FEPOWs, and the church, *Our Lady and St. Thomas of Canterbury*, in Wymondham, Norfolk, was dedicated in 1953.

From 1948 he had begun the monumental task of bringing together the names of all the POWs and civilian internees, from whatever country, who died in the camps of the Far East, and in those early years altogether more than 24,000 names were compiled into hand-written memorial books. In addition to British Army, Navy and Air Force, the books include Singapore, Malay and Hong Kong Volunteer Forces, Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and Indian Forces, Dutch Forces and Civilians. This was a long way short of all who died in the camps however, and continuing efforts are being made to finish the work started by Father Cowin in completing the *Books of Remembrance*. Today there are well over 35,000 names and the books are housed in a specially dedicated chapel which opened in 2000 within the Memorial Church.

Each year in May, a memorial service is held on the Sunday nearest to the 14th, the date of the relief of Rangoon. Many FEPOW friends attend this service, search through the Roll of Honour for the names they knew; and when the last post is sounded, recall their suffering. The Ecumenical service is hosted by the parish priests, Fr. Pat Cleary and Fr. Denis Gallagher. They are joined by the Anglican FEPOW Chaplain Rev. Pauline Simpson, whose father was a FEPOW survivor.

During the service members of different FEPOW organisations around the world - lay wreaths on behalf of all who died in captivity as well as those who have died after returning home from the war. In 2020, Peter Wiseman the archivist of the chapel, invited our Society to lay a wreath on the altar during the service and one was purchased for that purpose. Since then Mrs. Pearl Fowler, widow of former Taiwan POW and dear friend Jack Fowler, has laid our Society's wreath in memory of all the former Taiwan POWs. The photos below are from this year's service. We are honoured to be able to do this in honour of all those who died in the Taiwan camps.



Pearl Fowler, widow of ex-Taiwan POW Jack Fowler, lays the POW Society's wreath on the altar. The altar.

For more information regarding the FEPOW Church, please visit the website or contact Peter Wiseman by email.

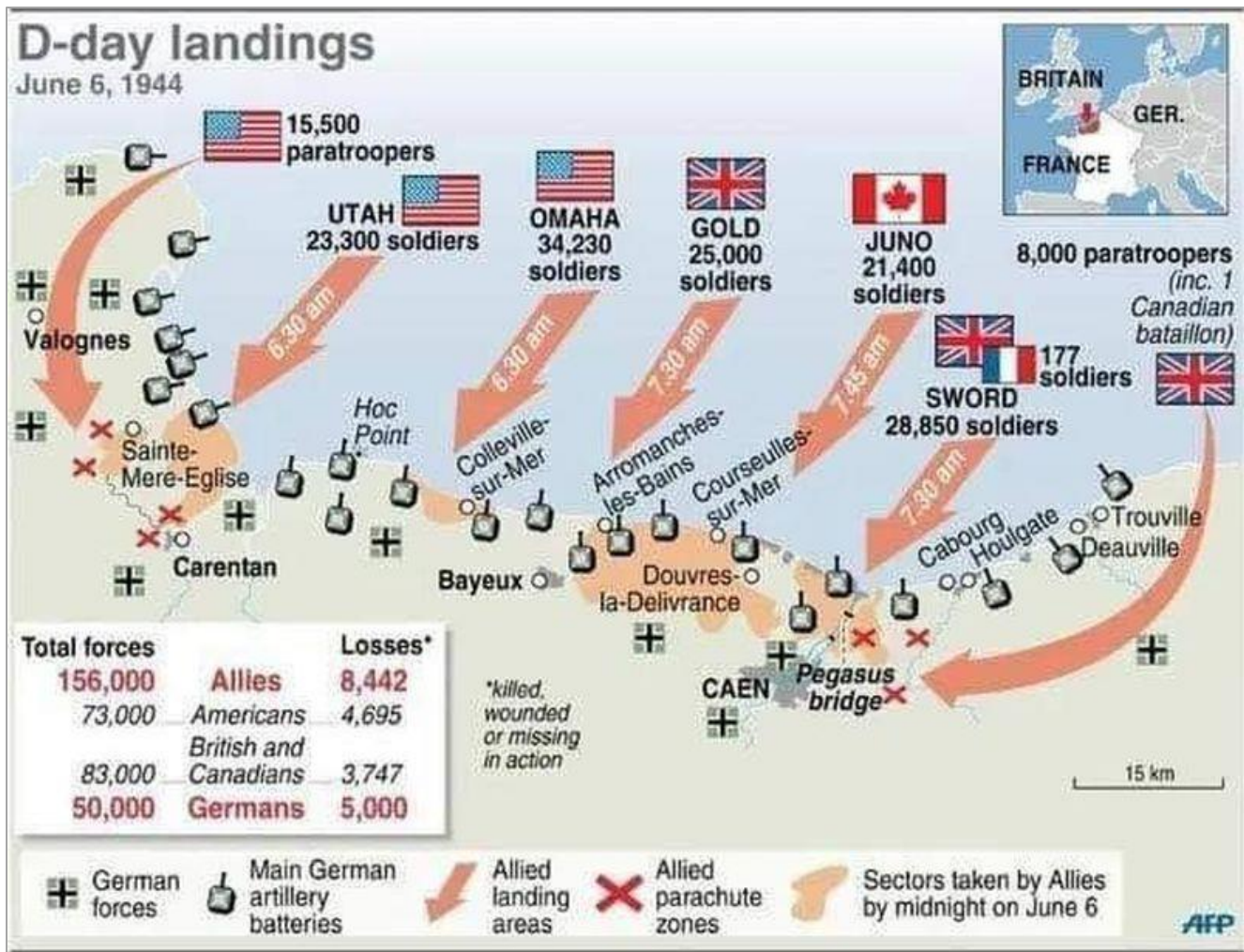
The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury

1, Norwich Road | Wymondham | Norfolk | NR18 0QE

Email: fepow@wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk

Web Site: <https://www.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk/fepow>

THOUGHTS ON THE 80th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY



Map of the assault beaches at Normandy showing the attacking Allied Forces.

There are numerous stories of exceptional courage on D-day that are documented in the history books, from the paratroopers who landed behind enemy lines to secure key bridges and roads, to Lord Lovat's Special Service Brigade who, accompanied by a bagpiper, stormed the guns at Sword beach. Remember the Canadians who were able through bravery and fierce fighting to penetrate further inland on D-Day than any other unit, and the Americans who fought and died on Utah and Omaha – the deadliest of the beaches. It becomes ever easier as time passes to relegate these tales to another age, a different era of patriotic duty and unquestioning service. But this would be to drain these historic events of their all too human struggles, of resolve over fear, of fortune over tragedy, and ultimately of good over evil.

As we remember D-Day, I think of the uncle I never knew – Corporal Jack Cobon of the 1st Btn. Royal Norfolk Regiment from Blakeney, Norfolk who gave his life for freedom on that day. Jack was part of the British 185th Brigade, 3rd Division that landed on Sword Beach in the second wave of the attack. Jack and his unit landed safely on the beach with only a few casualties, and then moved inland off the beaches toward their objective – Ouistreham and Caen. It was while going forward to Ouistreham that Jack and a number of his unit were killed. The Germans had set up a concealed machine gun nest in a corn field and as the unsuspecting allied troops drew near they opened fire. He was only 27 years old when he died. He is buried near where he died - in LA DELIVRANDE WAR CEMETERY, Douvres, France just inland from Juno Beach – which you can see on the above map.

There is no need for deliberation in recognising those men as heroes, nor should we forget that they were also just like us, young men with hopes and dreams and an unquenchable desire to go on living. They sacrificed their young hopes and dreams so that we who are living today would not have to sacrifice ours.

We will remember them – Lest we forget!

Memorable Order of Tin Hats (M.O.T.H.) established in Taiwan.

The **Memorable Order of Tin Hats**, or the **MOTH** as it is more popularly known, is an ex-servicemen's and women's organisation founded in Durban, South Africa, in 1927 by Charles Alfred Evenden. He was born in London and as a young man immigrated to Australia, later serving with the Australian forces at Gallipoli during World War I. He was wounded and evacuated to England. After convalescence, he returned to Australia, and was discharged from the army.

Witnessing the annual ANZAC parades, Charles Evenden turned his thoughts to the formation of an association of front-line soldiers to perpetuate the comradeship gained from their service together. Later, he settled in South Africa where he worked as a cartoonist for a morning newspaper in Durban.

In 1927 he saw a war film that included an impressive scene of marching troops wearing steel helmets (commonly called 'tin hats') dressed in muddy uniforms, and all carrying trench equipment. Looking at the scene, it made him wonder what had become of his comrades in the army; where were they now, and what were they doing? This line of thought inspired a cartoon illustrating the forgetfulness of the comradeship that had apparently ceased to exist. From this one idea, other ideas came to the fore, and led to the founding on May 7th 1927 of an ex-service organisation known as the '*Memorable Order of Tin Hats*' or '*MOTH*'.

The Order is based on concord and harmony and operates independently of race, religion, or politics in the same way as front-line service, but with full democracy. The three MOTH ideals are - True Comradeship, Mutual Help, & Sound Memory. Its aim is to protect and advance the interests of war veterans and their kin by carrying out benevolent activities of an ex-service character.

MOTH Emblem



In the centre of the emblem is the Tin Hat, topped by a candle – the Light of Service. The complete emblem includes the crossed rifles of sacrifice, surrounded by 12 stars that signify Mutual Help, the whole within an unending circle, expressing life and harmony without end.

The local 'chapters' are called 'Shellholes' – a term emanating from the craters that the soldiers sought refuge in with their mates during the battles in WWI. The leader / chairman of the shellhole is known as "Old Bill", a name likely derived from Bainsfather's cartoons.

The MOTH enjoys affiliation with the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League. Outside of South Africa, MOTH Shellholes exist in Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, The United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and now also in Taiwan. 'Cyber Shellhole' is a virtual shellhole and has MOTH members from around the world that meet virtually. Cyber also has a subgroup operating in New Zealand.

Due to the interest and efforts of South African veteran and Deputy Director of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society Mark Wilkie, who has lived in Taiwan for 21 years, a Taiwan 'shellhole' has recently been established, and the Society director was honoured to be present to give a tribute at the inauguration ceremony which took place on Saturday June 15th at the *Malibu West Pub* in downtown Taipei. We are pleased to have another veterans' organization represented here in Taiwan to further help to spread the word about remembrance. Congratulations gentlemen, may your Taiwan shellhole thrive and grow.



(Top left) Inaugural members of the Taiwan shellhole.



(Top right) "Old Bill".



(Bottom) Presented with a Commemorative Certificate.

In Memoriam

We are saddened to announce the passing of Michael Boyden, a long-time British resident of Taiwan and a former member of the Kinkaseki Memorial Committee that planned and oversaw the building of the Kinkaseki / Taiwan POW Memorial.

Michael passed away from an aggressive strain of Parkinson's disease on Saturday June 15th 2024.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his widow Katy and Michael's family, and assure them that although Michael is no longer with us, he will not be forgotten!



POW CAMP TOURS

(See the comments the Society has received from others who have taken our tours - at the bottom of the POW Camp Tours page on the website.)

Coll Tour – March 8th

For the second time, during a crew stop-over in Taipei, United Airlines flight attendant Catherine Coll paid a visit to the former Kinkaseki POW Camp. Catherine has worked for the airline for many years and now and again gets to work the LA to Taipei flight. After her first tour back in 2017 she was so touched by the story of the POWs and the camps that she wanted to return again to pay her respects.

She is very interested in the POWs' story and is a great supporter. In a thank-you email she said she hopes to come back again soon and visit the camp again.



VAC, AMVETS National Commander Tour – March 21st

The annual visit to Taiwan by the National Commander of the American Veterans (AMVETS), under the auspices of the ROC Veterans Affairs Council, always features a visit to Jinguashi to learn about the POWs' story and lay flowers in honour and respect to the POWs. This year's commander, William "Bill" Clark was fortunate to have lovely sunny weather on the day of his visit as March can often be very rainy.

Accompanied by the VAC staff Chiung-Kai Chang and Julio Ni, the various sites around the area were visited. After spending time in the Gold Museum the group moved on to view the area where the POWs went to work every day, before finally ending up in the former POW camp. A lovely bouquet of flowers was laid on the memorial and a moment of silence observed in remembrance of the men and their sacrifices. The tour finished up with a delicious lunch in nearby Jiufen. Thanks to the VAC and AMVETS.



I-Shou International School, Kaohsiung Student Lecture – May 28th

Back on April 25th an email was received from a group of Grade 5 students from the school who were working on a special 'History of WWII in Asia' project asking if the director could come to the school and give a talk to their class on the war and the POW camps in Taiwan.

Arrangements were made and on May 28th the director took the HSR to Kaohsiung and thereafter followed a great time of learning and fellowship for the students. With the aid of a Power Point presentation they learned about the overall war in Asia and in particular the Taiwan POW camps. Following this, several of the boys interviewed the director on video to conclude the day's activity. It was rewarding to see the interest by the students and also several of the teachers who attended the presentation.



Taiwan New School for Democracy Tour – June 6th

A truly international group of researchers and historians, led by the organization based in Taiwan, wanted to learn more about the POWs' story. In the group there were representatives from Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic and the UK. This included a couple who had previously been exiled from Hong Kong due to the Anti-Extradition Bill protests. During the tour we discussed these important issues about democracy in Asia and how it is under attack from China and others.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day exploring the POW sites and being reminded once again that "Freedom is not free".



Schmidt Tour – June 18th

In mid-May an email was received from David Schmidt and his Taiwanese wife Yuchun inquiring about a tour to Kinkaseki during their visit to Taiwan in June. David, an avid historian and President of the *American University of Ras Al Khaimah (AURAK)* in Dubai, wanted to see and learn more first-hand about the camps and the experiences the POWs went through.

We spent a wonderful day together and following the visit he wrote, "*It was such an honor and a joy to meet you and spend such a fascinating day getting to know you and the amazing work you have done*". It is always an honor and a privilege for me as well.

Laying a poppy cross on the memorial.

