



# Never Forgotten

Vol. 20, Number 2

FALL – WINTER 2019

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



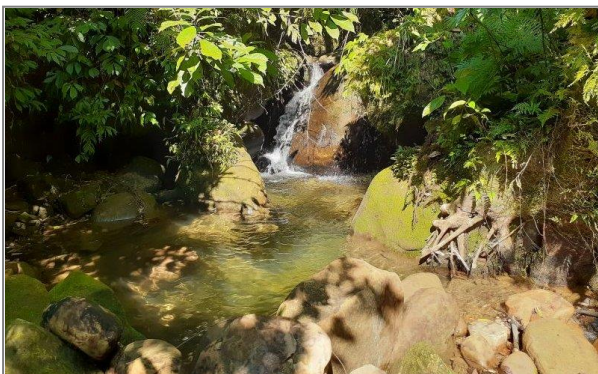
*20th Anniversary of the Kinkaseki Reunion held at Lowestoft, Suffolk, UK - July 1999.  
Sadly, none of these wonderful men are with us now.* (TPCMS)



*The restoration of the POW Memorial Wall.*



*The new POW display in the renovated Gold Museum.*



*The pool and falls near the former Oka POW Camp.*



*Remembrance Day 2019 in the renovated POW Park.*

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

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

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

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

## **OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES...**

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in Taiwan

## **LOGO of the TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY**

Our logo - a poppy cross superimposed on a map of Taiwan - was chosen because the poppy and the poppy cross are recognised worldwide as symbols of remembrance to war veterans. In the fall of 1998 the returning POWs laid poppy crosses at all the former campsites they visited.

## **THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE TAIWAN POW CAMPS MEMORIAL SOCIETY. . .**

- \* to search for the locations of all the former Japanese POW camps on the island of Taiwan. [ *completed* ]
- \* to search for the survivors of the 1942 - 45 Taiwan POW camps.
- \* to ensure that the story of the Taiwan POWs is told and they are not forgotten.
- \* to help with the organization of and participate in the memorial service for the Taiwan POWs at Jinguashi every November on Remembrance Day.
- \* to help educate the people of Taiwan in a little-known part of their history.
- \* to provide information to researchers, scholars, museums and POW groups on the Taiwan POWs' story.

## **LIST OF TAIWAN POW CAMPS. . . all found !**

1. KINKASEKI #1 (Jinguashi)
2. TAICHU #2 (Taichung)
3. HEITO #3 (PingTung)
4. SHIRAKAWA #4 (Bai He)
5. TAIHOKU #5 MOKSAK (Taipei)
6. TAIHOKU #6 (Taipei)
7. KARENKO (Hualien)
8. TAMAZATO (Yuli)
9. INRIN (Yuanlin)
10. INRIN TEMP. (Yuanlin)
11. TOROKU (Douliu)
12. TAKAO (Kaohsiung)
13. KUKUTSU (Taipei)
14. OKA (Taipei)
15. CHURON Evacuation Camp (Taipei)
16. MARUYAMA Evacuation Camp (Taipei)

*Thought* . . . It is said that every person dies two deaths. The first is when breath leaves us for the last time. The second comes sometime later when no one speaks our name or tells our story ever again. We don't want our POWs and veterans to suffer that second death. **REMEMBER THEM!**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

Things have been fairly quiet over the summer and this has enabled me to spend a lot of time working on the book. I am pleased to report that it is nearing completion, and realistically I think it should be ready early in the new year. At this time I am thinking, that if all goes well, we might have the launch on February 15th - the 78th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, as this is a very relevant date in the FEPOWs' story. Once the book is done and ready for distribution, announcements will be made on the website and emails will be sent to all of our members and friends worldwide with details of how it may be obtained.

Once again we have had a number of visitors on our POW camp tours and this fall we were pleased to host the national and regional commanders of the US Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS and the American Legion, along with several family members as well.

Also this fall there have been a number of renovations, additions and improvements to the POW Memorial Park and the Gold Museum. Finally, after years of pleading and working with the New Taipei City government, a new lawn has been planted around the POW memorial, a concrete flag base has been built and the Memorial Wall has been cleaned (See story on pages 5 -7).

We had a wonderful FEPOW Day event in August, and another great Remembrance Week event in November, and we are looking forward to a momentous year ahead with some events for the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

In closing Tina and I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and all the best in the coming year.

Sincerely, *Michael Hurst* MBE

## UPDATING OUR E-MAIL LIST

We are updating the e-mailing list for our **Never Forgotten** newsletter and announcements of our various events and activities, as it is necessary to make sure that we have everyone's correct details. Also, if for whatever reason you no longer need or wish to receive our emails, we need to know this so we can remove you from the mailing list.

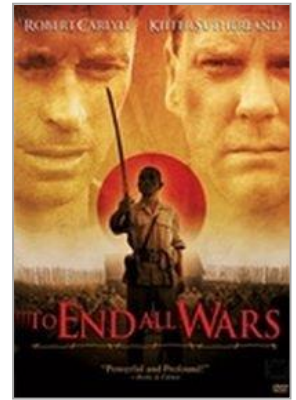
If you are receiving our emails alright and everything is fine, then you do not need to respond, but if there are any changes, or you no longer wish to receive our info, then please let us know ASAP.

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

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

## FEPOW DAY - AUGUST 10, 2019

This year was the 12th time that *FEPOW Day* has been celebrated here in Taiwan. Once again, we met at the Spot Theatre – #18, Zhongshan North Road Sec. 2 in downtown Taipei on Saturday evening August 10<sup>th</sup>. Featured was a display of WWII POW and military artifacts; and after a short memorial service to honour the FEPOWs, the movie “*To End All Wars*” was shown.



The memorial service featured readings by longtime Society member James Spencer, Oliver Stewart a new member whose great uncle was a POW in Taiwan at Kinkaseki, Heito and Shirakawa camps, and Hans Song of the Veterans Association of the Republic of China. Felix Wang from the ROC Veterans Affairs Council led the FEPOW candle lighting.

Starring Golden Globe winner Kiefer Sutherland, Robert Carlyle and Ciaran McMenamin as WWII POW Ernest Gordon, the powerful movie, based on the true story by prisoner of war survivor, Ernest Gordon (author of *Miracle On the River Kwai*) told about four Allied POWs in Thailand, who endured brutal, inhumane treatment at the hands of their Japanese captors while being forced to build a railroad through the jungle, and trying to survive the living hell of their POW camp and finally being triumphant in the end.

It was a great evening and everyone said how much they enjoyed themselves and the presentation.



*Some of the group enjoying a time of fellowship at the end of the evening.* (Photo courtesy Wm. Wang)

*FEPOW Day is a day that has been set aside every August to remember all those who were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese during World War II. We invite you to come out next year to learn more of the story of the Far East prisoners of war (FEPOWs) and their service and sacrifice, and pay tribute to those who suffered and those who died, for the freedom we now enjoy.*

**LEST WE FORGET!**

## 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!*

**JACK D. WARNER**  
PFC., 4TH US MARINES.  
MARCH 23, 2019

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

*"We Will Remember Them"*

## HELP WITH POW RESEARCH IN THE UK

Perhaps a legacy that our late dear friend, former Taiwan POW Ken Pett left - and which he might not have fully realized the importance of, was nurturing the interest and desire of his son-in-law Mike Heather to also do what he could to help make the Taiwan POWs' story better known. Through the internet and several FEPOW sites, as well as through personal contacts, Mike has worked tirelessly for many years helping the families of the Taiwan men to know more about their relatives and what they experienced as prisoners of war. He has made numerous trips to the National Archives in the UK to find documents and POW Record Cards for people, and he has also greatly contributed to the material in our Society's collection and archives as well. Mike has recently been working on the repatriation ships the men took after disembarking in Manila from the six evacuation ships from Keelung, and has now identified the onward ships of approximately 70% of the UK men - about 700 so far. He is also beginning the same task for the men who had previously left Taiwan for Japan. Mike is the UK representative for our Society and a special friend. He loves researching and helping folks find info on their FEPOW loved ones, so if you need some help, you can contact him at:

**mph1003@hotmail.com**

### 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.

## DISCOVERY OF THE OKA CAMP

Members of the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society began searching for the site of the Oka Camp in 1999. The former prisoners had mentioned how they believed their camp was in the mountains 'north' of the city of Taipei, so that is where our search began and was concentrated.

In 2000, in the Waishuangshi area north of the city, a village which matched the description the POWs gave was located. However, it took another year of searching to find a location that seemed to be the most likely place where the camp might have been. We accepted it as such, but could never really verify it for certain, because none of the local residents had lived there during the war.

Then quite unexpectedly, early this year, I got an email from my Taiwanese military historian friend Wei-Bin Chang telling me that he had found documents in the US National Archives issued by the Japanese which revealed a branch of Taihoku Camp #6 in the mountains near the small town of Sanxia which is located 'southwest' of Taipei.

Then some time later I got another email from a professor Kao who was doing research on the aboriginal people up in the mountains in that same area, and apparently the local people remembered a POW camp and seeing the POWs there, so then I was convinced that we now had the right location.

Professor Kao and I made several trips to the area, exploring and talking to a number of the local older people who confirmed the direction the POWs marched to the camp, the school they stayed in at first while they built the huts for the camp, and the river into the mountains where the camp had been.

Further exploration led us to 88 year-old Mr. Wang who lived in the mountains above the area of the camp. He showed us the river and the trail leading into the jungle where the camp had been. He also showed us the location of the camp cemetery. So from there we set out to find the camp and after hiking for over five hours and two attempts, we finally found the camp's location.

After 74 years the jungle has mostly overgrown everything that was previously there, but I am happy that at last



*On the site of the former Oka Camp*

the location of that former long-lost POW camp has been found. Now the men who suffered and those who died in Oka Camp will also not be forgotten. There's more on this camp in my upcoming book.



# RENOVATIONS TO THE TAIWAN POW MEMORIAL PARK

Over the past few years with the passage of time and the constant rainy weather as experienced so often at Jinguashi and all along Taiwan's northeast coast area, the POW Memorial Park was starting to show some signs of wear and was in need of some renovation and upgrading. The following is a report of what has been done this fall to bring the POW Park up to respectable standards befitting a war memorial park once again.

## The lawn surrounding the POW memorial:

One of the major issues ever since the lawn around the main memorial was planted in 2005 has been the preponderance of weeds constantly growing up in the lawn. With the rainy, hot weather the grass and weeds grew prolifically and were basically out of control. The New Taipei City government's park maintenance programs could not keep up with the massive weed problem and most of the time the area looked very unsightly as they only had the budget to cut the grass a few times a year and at Remembrance Day.

For example, I would lead a tour to Jinguashi one week when the grass had just been cut and things looked fairly good, but then on another tour two weeks later the grass and weeds had overgrown the place again, being some 18 inches to two feet tall and the place was a disgraceful mess.



*Photos of the memorial lawn the way it has typically looked over the past fourteen years.*

I made constant complaints to the government Tourism Bureau, showing with many accompanying photos the unsightly appearance of the area. I was often embarrassed to take people to the park because it looked so unsightly and uncared for. A number of our overseas guests also noticed it and commented that a park of this importance should be better cared for. I also pointed out to the gov't that if they were to re-plant the area with a more hardy grass then they wouldn't have to cut the grass so often and they could save on maintenance costs.

I spent a great deal of time studying the situation and found that a local Asian grass called 'carabao grass' was the ideal kind to plant in this kind of environment as it does not grow tall but rather spreads out sideways and lays flat. It has a very tight and strong root structure that inhibits weeds from sprouting up. I checked dozens of lawns at many parks and memorial sites around New Taipei City and found that they had planted these areas in carabao grass and that in every case there were **no weeds** growing in all those lawns. I took many photos and sent them to the bureau, but still no action was ever taken despite the proof I gave them.



*'Carabao grass' (foreground) planted elsewhere in the park - note the absence of weeds!*

*(Cont'd on page 6)*



# POW Park Renovation *(cont'd from page 5)*

Finally this year, with a change in personnel at the Tourism Bureau and with my constant prodding, they started to listen and looked into the situation more carefully. The result is that a new lawn was re-planted in October and the area surrounding the POW Memorial now finally looks much better after 14 long years.



*The new lawn around the memorial as it looks now.*

## **A base for the flags on Remembrance Day:**

Another thing I had been asking the government for ever since 2011, was to have a concrete flagpole base built on the lawn next to the memorial to hold the flags at the Remembrance Day service and other events. I was told at that time - and every year after, that there was no budget to cover it.

So I took it upon myself to solve the problem and meet the need. I bought a piece of plastic plumbing pipe, cut it into 12-inch lengths, got a bag of ready-mix concrete and sand, and went to the park one summer day to make holders for the flags. I dug eight holes, mixed the cement, filled the holes, inserted the plastic pipes, waited for things to set and then filled the holes in again. Then I went to a local flower market and purchased eight large, strong plastic plant pots, drilled out their bottoms and set them over the top of the pipes, filled the pots with stones, and voila - we had our flagpole bases!

Having a proper cement base would require only a small effort and cost very little money to build, as the design was so straightforward and simple. It would be 30 cm wide by 15 cm high and about 15 metres long, constructed of concrete - which could easily be done, and would cost a fraction of the millions of dollars that have been spent on other things in the Gold Ecological Park in past years.

Gradually over the past eight years, the pots succumbed to the ravages of the weather and were in need of replacement. So once again I asked the government if, when they re-planted the lawn, they could build the flag base for us. I gave them the drawings of what was required as I had done previously, and now I'm pleased to say that finally the flagpole base has been built. It will be a permanent feature of the park and useable for years to come. The new base is also more proper and fitting for an official international memorial park of this kind and importance.



*The original flag base pots in the weed-covered memorial park.*



*The new flagpole base on the new lawn in the Memorial Park.*



*Flower pots - a poor substitute for a proper flagpole base for an international memorial park, but they worked for eight years.*

*(Cont'd on page 7)*



## **POW PARK** (cont'd from page 6)

### **The Memorial Wall:**

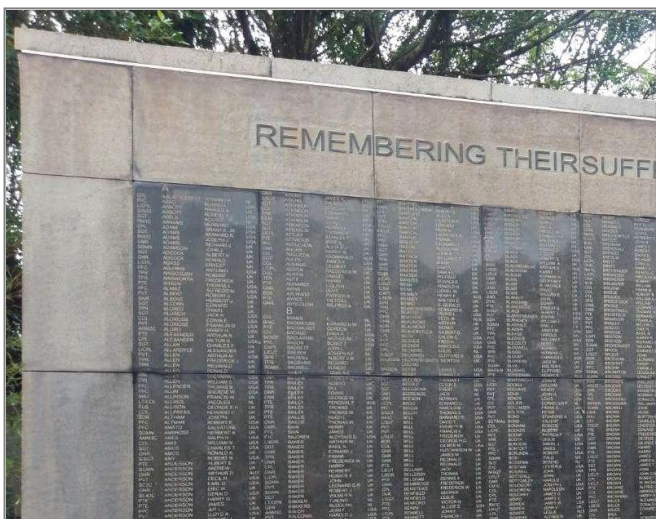
Our magnificent POW Memorial Wall looked beautiful for the first few years after it was erected in 2011. Gradually it too began to fall into disrepair when a metal strip placed along the top of the wall started to rust and rot and hence stained the entire upper part of the structure. In addition to looking very unsightly, the rust streaks covered much of the lettering, obliterating it from view.



*The Memorial Wall before - dirty and rusted.*

I had mentioned the problem to the government previously on several occasions, and earlier this year I brought it to the urgent attention of the Tourism Bureau again as the wall was really looking bad. I reminded them of the importance of the park and its place in history and that as a tribute to the men whose names were on the wall, it should be properly maintained. Their staff responded and looked into the problem.

In early October I received word that the problem had been solved. First the old strip of rusted metal was removed from the top of the wall and replaced by a stainless steel moulding, and then the entire wall was sand-blasted clean and restored to its former appearance. When conducting a tour to the park a week later, I almost shed tears of joy when I saw how good it looked again.



*Memorial Wall after repairs and cleaning.*

After all these years of begging and pleading with the government to fix these very serious problems, it is such a good and rewarding feeling to finally see things again as they are supposed to be. Once again it is now the fitting memorial park that it was designed to be when it was built to honour and remember the more than 4,350 men who suffered and those who died in the POW camps in Taiwan more than 75 years ago.

The Taiwan POW Memorial Park is the only park of its kind in the world and has the only complete POW memorial wall in Asia, and because it is so special, and in honour and respect for the POWs, it should look good and be properly maintained. I sincerely thank the New Taipei City Government Tourism Bureau and its staff for their help in finally making it so.

## **RENOVATIONS COMPLETED AT THE GOLD MUSEUM**

On May 1st this year the Gold Museum was shut down so that a complete renovation could take place. The last one occurred in 2009, and as the architect and designer knew so little about the POWs and their story, our POW exhibit was reduced to a fraction of the former size it was on its initial creation in 2004. After much protesting by our Society a new display was created which told story more completely and visually.

This time however, thanks to a new designer, our POW display was greatly enlarged and plays a prominent role in telling the story of Kinkaseki and the other POW camps in Taiwan.

The first floor display area has been enlarged and enhanced with several inter-active and 3D displays. It brings a different look to telling the story of Jinguashi's glorious mining days.

They were not glorious days for the more than 1100 POWs who had to slave in the dark depths of the mine though, and this is brought out well in our display.

We are very grateful to the museum staff and the designer who allowed us to work with them to create what I think is our best display ever. The museum re-opened for visitors on November 9th. Here is a photo of part of the overall display area:



Our thanks to the Gold Museum and the design firm for doing such a wonderful job on the display. We hope that many will find it informative and inspirational.

## TOSHIO KOJIMA - THE REST OF THE STORY...

In our Spring-Summer issue I shared the story of an email which I received from the granddaughter of Captain Toshio Kojima, the former Japanese camp commandant of the Heito, Taichu, Inrin, Toroku and Shirakawa POW camps from 1942 - 1945. I told how we searched for information on the captain and found that although the men suffered in all of Taiwan's POW camps, those men who were later under his care fared better than many of the rest. Overall it was found that Capt. Kojima was a more fair and somewhat kinder camp commandant than most of the others.

In response to my suggestion and invitation, Capt. Kojima's granddaughter, Dr. Rie Kamigaichi and her mother - Toshio Kojima's daughter Fumiko, came to Taiwan on August 29th for a four-day tour to visit some of the camps where he had served.

On Friday August 30th we travelled by car to visit the sites of the Taichu, Toroku and Shirakawa camps. At Taichu we were met by Director Hsu and staff from the Water Resources Agency and took a tour of the former camp and river area. From there we moved on to the village of Gou-ba near Douliou, the site of the former Toroku Camp and met Society board member Mark Wilkie. We had a delightful time over lunch with school principal Shi and two of the teachers before having a short ceremony by the memorial. Finally we moved on to the Shirakawa Camp near Bai He, only to be met by a torrential rain storm. Hence our visit there was cut somewhat short.

The next day we went by train to PingTung and were met by our member Rev. Maurie Sween who drove us out to the camp for a walk around tour and a short service by the memorial.

I had arranged for Rie and Kumiko to meet one of the former Taiwanese camp guards - Mr. Yang, who had served under Capt. Kojima, so after our visit to the camp we went to meet him at his home. He was delighted to see the ladies and they talked and shared stories of bygone days.



*Above: Rie and Kumiko by the Heito Memorial on our visit to the camp.*

*Left: Visiting with 96 year-old Mr. Yang at his home. He had served under Capt. Kojima 77 years ago.*



The next day we visited the POW Memorial Park in Jinguashi in the morning and then returned to the city in time for the ladies to do some shopping for Chinese tea, before taking their return flight to Tokyo.

Kumiko said in a later email how much they enjoyed their visit and in particular meeting with the friendly Taiwanese people.

She was grateful for our help in remembering her father and for the friendships they made. We were honoured to have them and be able to help as well.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019

This year's Remembrance event was somewhat smaller than in previous years, as our guests were only here with us for the weekend. Alistair Perkins and his wife Melissa from the UK were on a month's holiday in Taiwan and wanted to join our service as part of their time here. Alistair is the grandson of Lt. Col. David Rendle of the Royal Engineers who came to Taiwan in August 1942 with Gen. Percival's group from Singapore on the *England Maru*. He remained in Heito Camp as the prisoner camp commander from 1942 to October 1944 when he moved to Shirakawa. In February 1945 he went first to Japan and then later to Manchuria where he finished the war.

Arriving in Taipei on Saturday afternoon they were guests at a dinner in their honour hosted by Jordan Reeves the director of the Canadian Trade Office, our co-sponsor for this year's event.

Sunday morning was a beautiful, sunny day again and about 120 people gathered in the POW Memorial Park for the service. Once again it was a solemn occasion to remember all those who had served and those who gave their lives for our freedom.



*Alistair and Melissa lay a wreath on the memorial.*

Many said how much they enjoyed the service and how meaningful it was. It was great time of fellowship once again and we are looking forward to next year's event - the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.



# POW CAMP TOURS



## Kapoor Family Tour - June 14, 2019

Early this past spring I got a call from Mrs. Mascha Kapoor, who had heard from one of the participants in the tour I ran for the Olofsson family and their friends earlier in the year, asking if I could run a tour for their family. She said, *“I want to give this tour to my husband for his birthday because he loves learning about history and visiting interesting places with our girls who are 11 and 13 and now learning about WWII in school.”*

So on a bright Saturday morning after a week of incessant rain, we embarked on our journey under sunny, cloudless skies and had a wonderful day exploring the environs of the former POW camp, the area where the POWs went to the mine, the mine tunnel exhibit and finally after lunch the POW Memorial Park. The girls enjoyed themselves and remarked how good it was to see this actual place which was part of the WW II history they had been studying in school. They laid a poppy spray on the memorial in tribute to the POWs and we all observed a minute of silence in their honour.

## Douglass-Ashby Tour - June 23 - 27, 2019

One of my dearest and long-time FEPOW friends, Francis D. ‘Frank’ Ashby, formerly of the 11th Indian Division Signals and a POW in Taihoku Camp #6, Taichu, Inrin, Toroku and Shirakawa Camps, passed away in January last year. Then in June his daughter Frances Douglass contacted me about conducting a tour for her and her husband to see the camps where her father had been. They were going to be on a cruise this year from Japan that would finish in Taiwan and wanted to spend a few days ‘following in his footsteps’.

On Sunday June 23rd Frances and husband Ian arrived in Taipei from the cruise and we spent the afternoon getting acquainted and talking about her father, sharing stories and the wonderful memories we have of him. I had always wanted to visit him in person during my trips to the UK, but sadly never had the chance. Following this we enjoyed a typical Taiwanese supper in the night market.

First thing the next morning we set off to visit three of the five camps that Frank was interned in as a POW. Our first stop was at Taichu Camp amid threatening skies. After exploring the area of the former camp a short service was held at the memorial, and then just as we were leaving, the skies opened up and it poured rain.

Fortunately that was all the rain we had that day as we moved on to the village of Gou-ba a few kms outside the city of Douliou. Fellow Society board member Mark Wilkie joined us and we had a nice time of fellowship over lunch with principal Ong and teacher Lee. The story of the camp was shared and we followed up with a time by the memorial before moving on to Shirakawa.

On arrival at the village of Nei-jiao near Bai He, we were met by personnel from the military base who welcomed us and accompanied us on a short walk inside the area. Following this a memorial service was held at the site. We returned to Taipei after a very long and tiring but rewarding day.

Tuesday was spent doing some local Taipei sightseeing with a special visit paid to the Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial at the MND HQ. A short service was held with the staff who always welcome us warmly.

On Wednesday we paid a visit to Jinguashi and the POW Park. Frances was especially touched to see her father’s name on the Memorial Wall. On Thursday they spent the day wandering and shopping before leaving Taiwan for home later that evening.

Throughout his stay in Taiwan as a POW, Frank left a remarkable record of Taiwan’s POW history, and it was so good to share a part of that story with his family in person at the places where he was.



**Top: Remembering Frank at Taichu.**

**Centre: With Mark Wilkie, Principal Ong & Danny Wei at the Toroku Camp Memorial.**

**Bottom: The military staff of the Nei-jiao Army Base joined with us at Shirakawa.**

(Cont'd on Page 10)



# POW CAMP TOURS *(cont'd from page 9)*

## Stewart - Barrett Family Tour – September 18, 2019

Earlier this year contact was made with local expat Oliver 'Olli' Stewart who informed us that his great uncle - RSM Henry 'Harry' Barrett of the 80th Anti-Tank Reg't., had been a POW in Taiwan. Olli is the first person known to be living here who had a POW relative in one of the camps. He came to our FEPOW Day event and told us that his parents were coming to Taiwan in September for a vacation and would like to visit the site of the former Kinkaseki Camp and POW Memorial Park.

Olli's mother Louise, was Harry Barrett's niece and it was very special for her to be able to see one of the places where her uncle has been as a POW. He was later sent to Heito Camp and then finished up the war at Shirakawa. Louise wrote after returning home from their vacation, "*It was very special to be in the exact location and to understand what life was like for those dear men and the horror and suffering they lived with for all that time. It was an extraordinary moment for me. Thank you very much for bringing the day alive and for such an informative tour.*" It was certainly a privilege and an honour to have the Stewart family as our guests.



*Olli and his parents by the POW Memorial.*

## VFW Asia Pacific Commander Tour – October 7, 2019

Three days before Taiwan's national Double-Ten Day we were pleased to lead a tour once again for the ROC Veterans Affairs Council (VAC) who were hosting the visit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Asia-Pacific Commander Rick Farris.

We had a lovely, sunny, warm, fall day for the tour – no rain for a change at Jinguashi. Being the first Monday of the month the mine tunnel was not open to visit and as the museum was closed until November, the tour was a bit shorter, but it allowed for more time to be spent in and around the POW camp and park and the areas where the POWs lived and worked every day.

Commander Farris was particularly interested in the stories of the individual POWs and their daily life and work. He laid some flowers in tribute to all the former Taiwan POWs and we held a moment of silence as we always do to remember them.



## AMVETS National Commander – October 29, 2019

At the end of the month we joined with the VAC as they hosted the annual visit of the AMVETS first ever lady National Commander Mrs. Jan Brown, and her husband John on a visit to the POW Memorial Park.

The Browns have served their country and the AMVETS for many years. John was a former national commander in 2007-2008. Although it was another rainy day at Jinguashi, both thoroughly enjoyed learning the story of the former Taiwan POWs in Kinkaseki and the other camps.

*Commander Jan Brown and husband John with VAC staff Hope Chu and Holden Ge by the POW Memorial.*



## American Legion National Commander – November 26, 2019

Our final visitors to the POW Memorial Park for this year were National Commander James Oxford, Executive Director Louis Celli and a delegation from the American Legion who were hosted once again by the VAC.

With the Gold Museum open again they were the first of our overseas visitors to view the display and were impressed with it and how clearly it told the POWs' story.

*Commander Oxford, Director Celli and the American Legion team at the museum POW exhibit.*



It is wonderful having all three of the American national veterans' organizations interested in and supporting our work.