



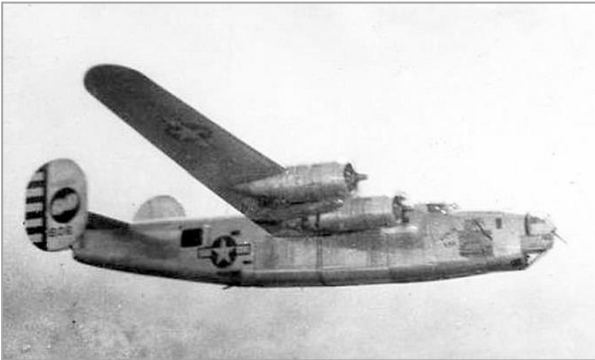
Never Forgotten

Vol. 26, Number 2

FALL-WINTER 2025

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

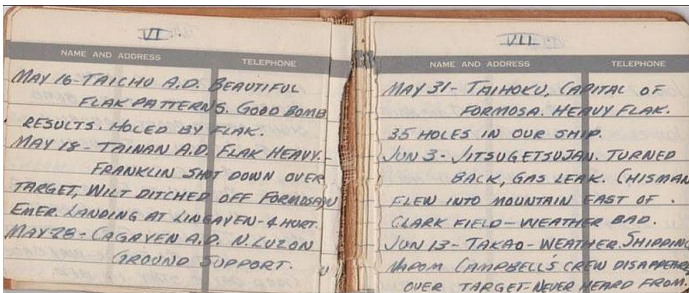
2025 – The 80th Anniversary of VJ Day and the end of World War II



The story of a B-24 raid on Tainan. Pg 6.



28th Remembrance Day Service at the Kinkaseki Camp.



USAAF pilot's logbook entries for bombing raids made over Taiwan in May – June, 1945



With Carol and Ron Cooper – UK, 1999 - RIP



Former Taiwan POWs - 80 Years - Gone but not forgotten!

We get so caught up in our life and so busy living we just don't remember to remember. It's sad and tragic.



**TAIWAN POW CAMPS
MEMORIAL SOCIETY**
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www.powtaiwan.org

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SOCIETY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**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 . . .

It's not what you take when you
leave this world behind, but what you
leave behind when you go!

FROM THE DIRECTOR. . .

The reprint of the 2nd edition of the book '*Never Forgotten*' has been selling well. Orders are currently being filled and you can find a description of the book and how to obtain one from '*THE BOOK*' page of the website.

Unfortunately the publishing of the Chinese edition has been stalled once again. After the original publisher backed out because of time constraints, we started our search for another and were introduced to one that was very interested in doing the book at first, but sadly that fell through as well. So the search continues and just recently one of our members has come up with some further possibilities which we will be checking out in the new year. Any help, ideas, suggestions in this regard will be much appreciated.

We are also still interested in finding a publisher in the UK and possibly the USA, for the English book, so any help, recommendation and advice in that regard is also requested and welcome.

It is amazing that even after 28 years, I am still getting 2 – 3 emails every week from new people looking for help in knowing more about their POW relative who never talked about his experiences. They had found our website or were searching for info on the internet when their relative's name came up through the site. It is incredible and wonderful that we are still being able to help more families in their quest. When they inquire, I always prepare a synopsis with as many details as I can of their POW's time in Taiwan. I hope this part of our work will never end as I love hearing from these folks and helping them. If you or anyone you know is seeking info on a POW relative, please feel free to contact us though the website or by email.

Our events of this year have all gone well with increased attendance. The 80th Anniversary of the VJ Day and the end of WWII was very special, and we are looking forward to our future events throughout 2026.

The POW camp tours have increased this year. and we hope the trend will continue. More folks are inquiring and planning trips to Taiwan, and we welcome the opportunity to help them "follow in the footsteps" of their POW relative.

At this time of uncertainty and turmoil, when peace seems so far away and the future looks uncertain in many areas around the globe, let us turn our attention to remembering the Prince of Peace who came into this world to bring peace as we celebrate Christmas this year. Let us all say a prayer that the coming year may see an end to these conflicts. Tina and I wish you a blessed Christmas and all the best of health and happiness in 2026.

Michael Hurst MBE

THE PASSING OF A DEAR FRIEND

The trustees of COFEPOW (Children, Families and Friends of Far East Prisoners of War) are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Mrs. Carol Cooper, founder and former Chair of the charity.

Carol, who died on November 10th 2025 at her care home in Norfolk, worked tirelessly to establish and build a permanent memorial to those who had served in the Far East theatre of the Second World War, and who endured such unimaginable suffering. Her own father died during the conflict and a remarkable series of events led Mrs. Cooper to discover a diary written by him, during every day of his captivity. The diary inspired her in her mission to complete the project.

Carol had retired from her work for the charity in 2019 and handed over the reins to a team of trustees, officers and over a thousand members, established during her time as Chair. Her relentless and often stubborn enthusiasm to raise both the funds and the organizational structure to create the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum, was inspirational. Countless families who are proud to include a FEPOW in their ancestry, plus many who don't, are deeply grateful to her for the contribution she made to facilitating continued remembrance.

To honour her legacy, the next COFEPOW quarterly newsletter will include this announcement in the January edition, with a more comprehensive tribute in the subsequent issue.

I had the privilege to meet Carol at one of our early POW reunions held in the UK. We were both new to our respective endeavours – I began my work for the Taiwan POWs in January 1997 and Carol founded COFEPOW in November of that same year. We shared the same passion for telling the POWs' story and I became an early COFEPOW member at that time. I was privileged to help with information on the Taiwan POWs. We kept in touch all those years until her retirement. She was truly a remarkable woman.

We join the trustees and members of COFEPOW in expressing sincere condolences to Carol's family.

Carol's funeral will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 2.00 p.m. at Gorleston Crematorium, Oriel Avenue, Gorleston-on-Sea Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 7JJ.

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WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TAIWAN POW CAMPS AND THE POWS?

If your school, club or organization would like to know more about the Taiwan prisoners of war, and the POW camps, we would be very pleased to come to a meeting of your group and give a presentation and also feature some artifacts from our research. For more information, please contact us.

Tel. (02) 8660-8438 Email society@powtaiwan.org

80th ANNIVERSARY FEPOW DAY IN TAIWAN

On Saturday August 16th at 6:00 pm, the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society hosted the 18th Annual FEPOW Day event at the SPOT THEATRE in downtown Taipei. As usual, there was a display of POW and military artifacts; a short memorial service to remember the POWs, and then the film **THE GREAT RAID** was shown. This year we focused on the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII. More than 30 turned out for the evening event and once again it was great to see new faces, along with the 'regulars'.

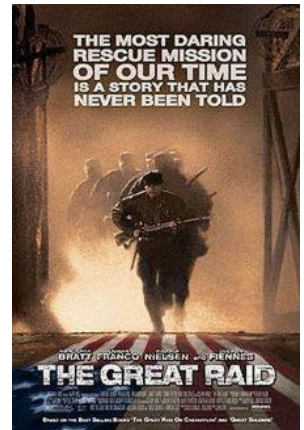
Chris Teunissen began the memorial service by reading 'What is a FEPOW?', followed by Ross McCarry's rendition of 'A Time to Remember'. Sandy Hsieh brought the 'Tribute to the POWs'. Finally Tony and Mayumi Hu read the Pledge as the FEPOW candle was lit and a moment's silence was observed for all those who suffered and those who died as POWs.

This year we showed the award-winning movie **"THE GREAT RAID"**. This much-acclaimed film tells the story of the rescue and evacuation of more than 500 mainly American POWs from the horrific Cabanatuan POW Camp in the Philippines. It is based on the true story of the daring rescue which most likely saved the POWs from annihilation by the Japanese as the war drew to a close.

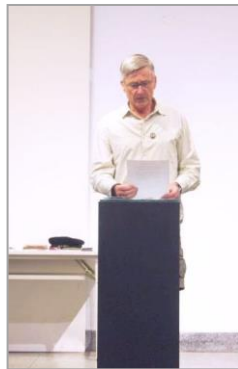
After the Americans landed in the Philippines in early 1945 word was received about the massacre of POWs at Palawan and so it was decided to try to rescue and free the POWs who were being held in the various Japanese POW camps as soon as possible in order to keep the same thing from happening again.

Under the command of Lt. Colonel Henry Mucci and Captain Robert Prince, the 6th Ranger Battalion along with Filipino guerrillas, undertook a daring rescue mission against all odds. Traveling thirty miles behind enemy lines, they planned to liberate over 500 American soldiers from the Cabanatuan Japanese POW camp in the raid that many say was the most daring rescue of WW II - and the most successful rescue in US military history.

This year as always, there was a good crowd, many of whom come year after year and so these FEPOW Day gatherings are a kind of mini reunion of friends and supporters and a warm spirit always fills the room. We hope to welcome our many members and friends – and some new faces again too next year. See you in 2026! Some photos from the evening . . .



Another good crowd for the event.



Chris Teunissen



Ross McCarry



Sandy Hsieh



Mayumi Hu



Tony Hu



A moment of silence in remembrance.



Welcome to FEPOW Day

LEST WE FORGET!

80th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE WEEK WAS SPECIAL

This year we had five overseas guests for the 28th annual Remembrance Week event – four from the UK and one from Australia, whose fathers / grandfathers were former British POWs.

From the UK - Robin Lenaghan the son of Sgmn. Robinson Lenaghan RCOS, who was held in Taihoku Camp 6 for most of his time in Taiwan. In the last months of the war he was sent into the mountains near Sanxia to build the Oka Camp. Robin was accompanied by his nephew and Robinson's grandson, Josh Quinn.

Rebecca Scott, the granddaughter of Cpl. Leonard Scott – 9/11th Ind. Div. Sigs., who was initially held in Taihoku Camp 6 before being moved to Kinkaseki in August 1943 and later transferred to Shirakawa Camp.

Irene Watson, the daughter of Spr. George Watson RE, who was held in a number of camps. He started out in Taichu Camp in November 1942 and moved to Kinkaseki in August 1943. On December 6th, 1944 he was transferred to Taihoku Camp 5. On January 22nd 1945, the men were transferred to Taihoku Camp 6 from where on February 21st he was sent on the hellship *Taiko Maru* to Hakodate, Japan.

Andrew Coogan Jr. from Australia, the son of Gnr. Andrew Coogan, 155th Field Reg't. RA. He slaved in the Kinkaseki and Heito camps, before finally being sent on the *Taiko Maru* to Senryu 24 Camp in Japan.

A full program began on Thursday with a tour to Jinguashi to see the POW exhibit in the Gold Museum, and the number 5 mine tunnel before moving on to the site of the former Kinkaseki Camp. On the Friday the guests were treated to a bit of sightseeing before lunch at the Grand Hotel and afterward a visit to Taihoku Camp 6 Memorial for a short service. Saturday was a free day, and then the return to Kinkaseki for the annual Remembrance Day service organized by the Society and assisted this year by the Australia Office in Taipei.

For once it did not rain on the day, and the service - which was attended by more than 140 people, commenced at 11:00 am with a speech from Australia director Robert Fergusson. Commemorative messages of tribute in this 80th Anniversary Year were rendered by British Office Director Ruth Bradley-Jones and the Netherlands Trade Rep Bas Pulles. Addresses from representatives of the ROC Veterans Affairs Council and Veterans Association of the ROC followed. The Society director then reflected on 'Remembrance'. The family members of the former POWs did readings and spoke of what the trip back meant to them. *In Flanders Fields* was rendered by Canadian Trade Office Executive Director Marie-Louise Hannan and the service part finished with a message and prayer of remembrance from Simon Stopps.

Wreaths were once again laid on the memorial, Last Post, two minutes silence and Rouse was played by Eric Hsu to bring the event to a close. Following the service, those in attendance gathered together for a picnic lunch in the nearby community centre and a nice time of fellowship was had by all.

One Monday November 11th, the group visited the site of the former Taichu Camp and a memorial service took place to remember the fathers and grandfathers who had been there 80 years previously. It was an enjoyable day and our guests got to see another part of the island during the trip.

We are hoping to have a large turnout for next year's event. Some have expressed interest already and we encourage people to get in touch with us ASAP if they are interested in coming. We hope that many will come out to remember and honour the men to whom we owe a debt that can never be repaid.

A few photos from the activities during this year's Remembrance Week event



UNKNOWN B-24 RAID ON TAIWAN - MAY 18th 1945

It is wonderful when one can work with other fellow researchers in uncovering more of the FEPOWs' story and sharing it with others. One such fellow researcher is my good friend Jim Opolony who has a wonderful website - <https://www.bataanproject.com/> - telling the story of the American POWs who were part of the 192nd and 194th tank battalions in the Philippines. We have kept in touch for years and have shared a lot of POW information together. He has been a great help many times.

This summer, Jim sent me an article about a B-24 that was shot down during a raid over Taiwan. It is one of the few aircraft accident reports I have seen on planes that were shot down in air raids and what happened to the crews that didn't involve those where men were captured and later interned in the Taihoku Prison. There were many crashes in raids all over Taiwan, and many aircrews were killed, but sadly there are few records in most cases, so we don't know who they were and thus have no way of remembering them.

On May 18th 1945, an air raid was carried out on the Tainan airfield by B-24 aircraft of the 65th Bomb Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group - belonging to the Far East Air Force (FEAF) from Clark Field in the Philippines. Over the target, the formation was hit by accurate anti-aircraft fire that scored a direct hit on and exploded B-24J 44-42358 piloted by 1st Lt. James J. Franklin. Damaged by the explosion was B-24J "Petty Gal" 44-40373 piloted by Lt. Rudolph J. Cherkauer that was flying on the right wing and was riddled with debris and shrapnel which also injured four of the crew. Also damaged was B-24J "Smitty Jr." 42-109864 piloted by 2nd Lt. Charles H. Wilt which managed to reach the sea where the crew bailed out. *Petty Gal* safely returned to the Philippines after the raid. All eleven members of the Franklin crew were killed and listed as KIA. They were found by the locals and buried until 1946 when they were exhumed by the American Graves Recovery Team.

Lt. Rudolph J. Cherkauer later stated, "I flew *Petty Gal* on its last mission on May 18, 1945. It was so badly battered up from ack ack and shrapnel from the bombs in the plane on whose wing I was flying. The ack ack blew Franklin's plane and crew to bits. Several hundred fragments of the fragmentation bombs he was carrying hit *Petty Gal*. We lost the two port engines although I was able to get some power out of #2 about halfway home to the emergency strip at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippines. Two planes went down, Franklin's and Wilt's. Wilt's crew bailed out and two of the men were never found by the rescue planes. We made it back with two severely injured gunners. Twelve good men were killed or MIA that day."

Following the end of the war, the American Graves Recovery Team, China Theatre Search Detachment #9, was responsible for the recovery of the 11-man crew. After exhumation, the remains of the deceased were sent to the AGR HQ in Shanghai. There they were eventually identified and later sent to the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii for permanent burial. Now at last we know who those men were and we can remember them!

Having this information about another aircraft that was shot down over Taiwan in World War II and which occurred in so many other cases, helps us to know more about this part of the Pacific War and to remember the terrible price that was paid by those aircrews in giving us the freedom we have today.

The 43rd Bomb Group carried out many raids across Taiwan in the spring of 1945. On May 16th planes from the 43rd attacked Taichung, on the 18th it attacked Tainan, on May 31st it took part in the huge 200-plane raid on Taipei, on June 3rd the power plants at Sun Moon Lake were attacked and heavily damaged and finally on June 13th Kaohsiung was bombed.

Although we may never know who those brave men were who died doing their duty, one thing we do know is that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Remember the crew of Franklin's B-24 - 44-42358.

Available information as follows:				
(coord 23.0N- 120.11E)				
B-24M - 44-42358 crashed over Tainan, Formosa on 18 May 1945				
(Place of death on B/R's - Ishinai, Formosa, Coord 120.11'30"E- 22.53'30"N)				
Crew:				
Pilot	Franklin, James J	1/Lt	0-708 861	X-97
"	Smith, Francis J	2/Lt	0-833 831	X-101
Bombr	Hoffman, Darrell F	2/Lt	0-785 671	*(Op X-95-X-98-X-99-X-100)
Nav.	Duff, John R	2/Lt	0-2072 346	X-94
R/O	Gichy, Henry A	T/Sgt	36 763 659	(Group) *
M Gnr	Dougherty, Francis J	T/Sgt	33 789 880	X-96
Arm Gnr	Arie, Lloyd B	S/Sgt	37 345 570	Group *
Aer Gnr	Byrd, Frank D	S/Sgt	36 836 408	X-102
Gnr	Gayle, Donald G	S/Sgt	33 484 243	X-103
Gnr	Magiera, Sigmund J	S/Sgt	33 796 450	XXXXXX X-104
Radar Mech				
Nav.	McKay, Walter L Jr	Cpl	35 679 747	X-100

REACHING OUT...

This year the Society conducted several seminars for different groups who wanted to know more about the Taiwan POWs' story.

Gold Museum Special 80th Anniversary of VJ and the end of World War II – August 9th



In order to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the End of WWII, the Gold Museum hosted a series of relevant WW II seminars at their education learning centre in Jinguashi. The Society was invited to conduct a seminar at one of these events on Saturday August 9th.



Over 40 people registered for the event and all were very keen and interested to know about this part of Jinguashi's and Taiwan's wartime history. It was a privilege to be included in this program to share the POW story.

Community Services Center – August 14th

The Community Services Center in Taipei holds a regular monthly 'coffee morning' and on Thursday August 14th, the Society was invited to share the story of the camps and its work to honor and remember the men who were held in Taiwan's POW camps, their suffering and their triumphs through adversity. There was a good gathering of folks from around the international community who showed great interest and the session and the Q & A period lasted long after the conclusion of the main lecture.

The CSC has been a great supporter of our society for many years, we run POW tours for them every year and they also carry copies of the *Never Forgotten* book for sale.



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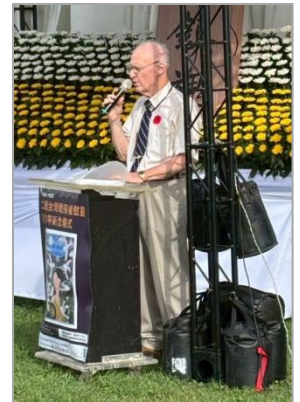
TAIWANESE VETERANS CELEBRATE THE END OF WORLD WAR II



WW II Taiwanese Veterans

The greatest casualties of war were the Taiwanese veterans, their families, and the innocent people caught in the crossfire. The "80th Anniversary of the End of the War Memorial Ceremony for the War Dead and Peace Prayer for Taiwan" honors the memory of the many Taiwanese who, many years ago, fought bravely across the oceans, following various causes and national flags, but never returned. On Sunday September 7th the director was honoured to be the keynote speaker at this special event. The Society has long been involved with the Taiwanese Veterans Association and it was good to be with old

friends again. Also present on the day were several WW II veterans all near 100 years old and Neil Gibson, the AIT Branch Chief who showed a great interest in our work. It was a great event.



WELCOME... NEW TRADE OFFICE DIRECTORS

We are pleased to welcome Marie-Louise Hannan, the new executive director at the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, and Bas Pulles, the latest Director at the Netherlands Trade Office, as ex-officio members to our board.

Marie-Louise replaces Jim Nickel and Bas replaces Guido Tielman. They have pledged their support and that of their facilities to helping our Society in its work of honouring and remembering the former Allied POWs who were held here in World War II. We look forward to working with the new directors in the days ahead to make sure that the former Taiwan POWs from these countries will never be forgotten.

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.)

Willbourn Tour – September 26th

Roger Willbourn is the Membership & Subscriptions Secretary of the Malayan Volunteers Group in the UK - www.mvg.org.uk. With wife Caroline they were on a tour of the Far East and planning a two-week stay in Taiwan for some sightseeing and requested a tour to the POW Memorial Park. Roger's grandfather was a POW on the Death Railway and survived the war so he had a POW family connection. They had a thoroughly enjoyable day on the tour and on returning to the UK Roger wrote up an account of the trip in the MVG newsletter. Hopefully more family members from the group might attend in the future.



Black Tour – October 15th

Rhona Black and her two adult children from Scotland were visiting Taiwan so that Rhona could show them where she grew up in Taichung and also do some sightseeing. Her brother who lives in Taipei had told her about the POW camps and as her son is so interested in history, they wanted to visit the Kinkaseki Camp. The weather was beautiful on the day and we had a lovely time together learning the story of the camps and the men and what they suffered as POWs. It is great to see the interest in the Taiwan POWs' story by folks who are not even related to the former POWs, and it is hoped that many more will come in the future.



Hassall Tour – November 13th

Arthur Hassall and his wife and son from Albuquerque, New Mexico USA were touring around Taiwan, and as his father and father-in-law were WWII veterans – one serving in Europe and the other in the navy in the Pacific, they were keen to learn more about the POWs. Arthur and his wife are both veterans as well. They have a great interest in the men of the 200th and 515th CAC regiments who came from New Mexico and they attend commemoration events every year. The weather was far from nice as the photo shows but despite that we had a wonderful day of learning and fellowship. It is nice to see Americans coming to visit the camps and we hope many more will come and take part in the tours.



Yasuda Tour – November 25th

Shang Yasuda is a PhD Student in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. She was in Taipei for a four-month fellowship at National Chengchi University. She is studying Taiwan history and the role and strategic value of Taiwan and colonial Taiwanese soldiers across the Japanese empire including the POW camps and thus wanted to visit Kinkaseki to learn more about the allied POWs in Taiwan during that period.

The weather was nice on the day so we could spend lots of time outdoors visiting the places that were pertinent to the POWs' story. It is great to see the interest by today's youth in these little-known parts of World War II history.



UPDATE ON 'NEVER FORGOTTEN'



The second print run of our book '**NEVER FORGOTTEN**' has been completed and it is available for purchase through the website and by direct email to the Society. Requests for the book can be made from the 'CONTACT US' page in the menu, or by email directly to society@powtaiwan.org.

A detailed description of the book and its contents can be found on **THE BOOK** page listed in the menu column. There are also a number of reviews and many comments from folks who have bought the book thus far.

For those wanting to know more about a POW relative and the camp(s) he was in and his time as a POW, or anyone wanting to know about the story of the Japanese POW camps in Taiwan in World War II, this should be an excellent reference. It is the only book ever written that tells the complete story of the camps and the men. We hope that many will be helped by the reading of it.