



Remembrance Day 2015 – Order of Ceremony by Mike Chapman

[Sections marked in blue will be repeated in Thai]

10:45 Laying of Wreaths

Before we begin the main part of the ceremony, some wreaths will be laid by members of the farang community.

1. Operation Crown, laid by John Hamnett [0' 50"]

2. Farangs of Ubon, laid by Julian Strathearn [0' 50"]

3. The American Legion, laid by Larry Edmonds [0' 50"]

4. National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association, laid by Mrs. Barbara Knowles. [0' 50"]



10:48 Introduction

Good morning governor (khun poo wa rachagan changwat Somsak Changtragul), honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, children, and welcome to the Ubon Ratchathani Remembrance Day Ceremony, 2015. This is the tenth year that we have held this celebration in Ubon Ratchathani.

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. This year marks 70 years since the end of World War II. Sadly, there are still armed conflicts in progress around the world; today, we will remember the casualties of all armed conflicts, wherever they may be.

We are very honoured to have amongst our guests today a contingent from Operation Crown. They have travelled here from the UK especially for this event. Operation Crown involved the construction of an airfield in Amphur Loeng Nok Tha, in Yasothon. We are also honoured to have as guests representatives of the community of Ban Kok Talat, which is near the airfield. This year is the 50th anniversary of the official opening of that airfield, which took place on June 17th, 1965. We are also very thankful that Operation Crown count amongst their numbers Neil Campbell, who will play The Lament on bagpipes later in the ceremony. Some of you will remember his fine playing in 2011. Thank you Neil.

On this day we recall those, who, in the great tragedy of war, gave their lives for their countries, and for the freedom of mankind. We remember those who sleep in unknown resting places in many lands and in every sea. And we offer our thanks to the people of Ubon Ratchathani.

During the Second World War, forced labour was used by Japan to build the infamous 'Death Railway' from Thailand to Burma. Approximately 90,000 civilians and 12,000 Allied prisoners of war died of malnutrition, sickness and torture. The Allied POWs included British, Australian, Dutch, American, Indian, New Zealander and Canadian personnel.

Beginning in February 1945, some of the POWs were transferred to a new camp at Ubon Ratchathani, where they were tasked with the building of an airstrip. The camp held about 2,000 British, Dutch and Australian prisoners of war, still sick and under-nourished from their



horrific experiences. The people of Ubon Ratchathani took pity on the inmates and helped them, by bringing food, often at great risk to themselves. Survivors told of "Little Mother Ubon" and her daughter who repeatedly brought fruit for the prisoners. The kindness and generosity of the people of Ubon Ratchathani renewed the spirit of the prisoners, helping them to withstand their circumstances.

When these prisoners were eventually released in August 1945, a number of them made donations for the construction of a monument, as a token of their thanks to the people of Ubon Ratchathani, for their selfless acts of humanity. The monument that was constructed is the "Monument of Merit", which still stands here today.

It is for these reasons, ladies and gentlemen, that we are gathered here today.

[3' 50"]
[+ Thai 3' 50"]

10:52 Guest Speakers

I would now like to invite Jim Curtis to say a few words on behalf of Operation Crown.

<----Op Crown---->

[3' 00"]



10:55 Thanks

This ceremony would not be possible without the efforts of a dedicated group of people. It is not possible for me to mention them all, but I would like to mention a few.

Khun Panya has regularly, and with great patience, organised the ceremony and accommodated the wishes of the farang contingent. Thank you Khun Panya.

Khun Saratsawadee Thumwaree has given many hours of her time in preparations, translations, ordering wreaths, and providing her tireless support in so many different ways. Thank you Tom.

For all the others who have helped, thank you.

Finally, a very big thank you to the Governor and people of Ubon Ratchathani for the support you have given this ceremony. For we 'farang' it is a very special day. You have recognised the significance of the day and contributed generously. Without you we would not have the wonderful commemoration that we have today. Thank you.

[1' 00"]

10:56



10:56 Roll of Honour

This year, sadly, we have lost a few good friends; but I would like to mention one in particular. Ian Louis Llewellyn (he would not forgive my mispronunciation) (1948-2015) was a long standing and respected member of the farang community in Ubon Ratchathani. He had served in the Australian armed forces, and was a regular attendee of the Remembrance Day ceremony.

[0' 25"]

Either

Today we remember our friend Louis.

or

I would like to dedicate this poem to Louis.

When we are weary and in need of strength,
When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember him.

When we have a joy we crave to share,
When we have decisions that are hard to make,
When we have achievements that are based on his,
We remember him.

At the blowing of the wind, and in the chill of winter,
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,
We remember him.

At the blueness of the skies, and in the warmth of summer,
At the rustling of the leaves, and in the beauty of autumn,
We remember him.

At the rising of the sun, and in its setting,
We remember him.

As long as we live, he too will live,
For he is now a part of us,
As we remember him.

[0' 50"]



10:57 Silence Phones

We will shortly hold a two minute silence; one minute as thanksgiving for those who returned home, and one minute to remember the fallen. May I take this opportunity to remind you to please silence your telephones.

[0' 20"]

10:57 Optional gap filler:

In the words of Pericles, who was writing two and a half thousand years ago:

"Each has won a glorious grave - not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined."

or

"For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity. Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it."

or

"For heroes have the whole earth for their tomb; and in lands far from their own, where the column with its epitaph declares it, there is enshrined in every breast a record unwritten with no tablet to preserve it, except that of the heart."

[0' 45"]



10:57 Optional gap filler:

Every year, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, or on the nearest Sunday, this silence is respected in countries around the world. It coincides with the timing of the signing of the armistice that ended the First World War in 1918.

It is respected not only at ceremonies such as this one, but by ordinary people going about their daily business, who might pause for at 11 o'clock to remember the fallen.

The custom was instituted in 1919 by HM King George V, at the suggestion of South African statesman Sir Percy Fitzpatrick. In the words of Sir Percy:

It is due to the women, who have lost and suffered and borne so much, with whom the thought is ever present.

It is due to the children that they know to whom they owe their dear fought freedom.

It is due to the men, and from them, as men.

But far and away, above all else, it is due to those who gave their all, sought no recompense, and with whom we can never re-pay - our Glorious and Immortal Dead.

[1' 15"]

10:57 Optional gap filler:

Go out into the world in peace.

Be brave; keep hold of what is good.

Never pay back wrong for wrong.

Encourage the faint hearted; support the weak and distressed.

Give due honour to everyone.

Be always joyful and give thanks whatever happens.

[0' 25"]



Please stand. Garuna yuen keun kap.

10:58 The Exhortation

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Response : We will remember them.

[0' 35"]

10:59 Bugler Sounds the Last Post



[1' 20"]

11:00 Two minute silence



[2' 00"]

11:02 Piper Plays The Lament



[3' 00"]

11:05 Bugler plays the Rouse (Reveille)



[0' 50"]

11:06 Dedication

When you go home, tell them of us and say -
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Thank you, please be seated.



Release of doves of peace.

Presentation of bouquets.

Photos.

Dispersal.