
2. WWII: A list of publications


5. Great Departure of Michael Vickery (1931-2017)


7. INTG CONTACTS: CONVENOR - SECRETARY - WEBSITE.

1. MINUTES of the 419th INTG MEETING:

Tuesday, 13 June, 2017:

“A Travelogue of WWII Sites in Northern Thailand”

= “World War II in Northern Thailand 1941-1945”

A Talk by Jack Eisner


1.2. THE TALK: “A Travelogue of WWII Sites in Northern Thailand” Or “World War II in Northern Thailand 1941-1945”

This year we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the early stages of World War II in the Pacific – which the Japanese named the “Greater East Asia War” and, in the West called the “Pacific War”.
However, at the time the Japanese attacked the American fleet at Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, much of East Asia was already in a state of war. The Sino-Japanese War had been raging since 1937, with about one million Japanese troops fighting in China. The Japanese advance into Southeast Asia had already taken place with the invasion of northern French Indochina in September 1940. And Thailand had fought a war with French Indochina from late 1940 to early 1941. The Franco-Thai war saw close Japanese-Thai military and diplomatic cooperation in achieving Thailand’s objective of regaining what was called “lost territories” in Laos and Cambodia.

The topic of World War II in Thailand, is a broad one, and my talk this evening will focus mainly on the war’s history in the northern part of the country.

The talk is based on my visits to some key WWII-related sites in the north in 2008-2009. At that time, I was doing research on the history of the northern Thailand operations of the American Volunteer Group, a unit in the Republic of China Air Force, more commonly known as the “Flying Tigers”.

Something that may strike you as you view tonight’s presentation is that there were no major dramatic WWII land battles in Thailand on the scale of what took place in the rest of East Asia. There was the Japanese invasion of December 8, 1941 however, the losses were relatively small – in the hundreds on both sides. The Allied campaign against Thailand during the war years was almost entirely an aerial campaign against strategic targets. This was because the high razor-back north-south mountain ranges between Burma and Thailand made a land campaign extremely difficult.

In this evening’s talk, I will be using place names as they were commonly known during the war period. I would also like to point out that December 8, 1941 local time in Thailand corresponded to December 7, 1941 in Hawaii and the United States – the difference being due to the International Date Line. The Japanese invasion of Thailand took place at the same time as the attack on Pearl Harbour, and may even have slightly preceded it.

I will first present some background information, and then we will begin looking at some maps and the photos.

**WWII in East Asia**

When we look at Sir Martin Gilbert’s map of the Far East between the years 1937-1945, and we compare the number of military and civilian war dead country by country, we see that the figures for Thailand are relatively minimal compared with all the other East Asian countries.

According to Gilbert, 5,600 Thai military and 300 civilians lost their lives during World War II. Most of the Thai military deaths were probably due to malaria in Burma’s Shan States. If we look at some neighbouring countries, Thailand’s losses compare with 272,300 in Burma, of which 250,300 were civilians; 20 million in China of which 3.8 million were military and 16.2 million were civilians; and 1 million civilian deaths in French Indochina.

However, when we look at the figure of Thai civilian deaths in Gilbert’s map, we should keep in mind it does not appear to take into account three groups of statistics: 1) local Thais in northern Thailand who were forced to work as porters and road labourers for the Japanese invasion of Burma, many of whom died from ill-treatment and malaria; 2) the construction of the infamous “Death Railway” – the Thai-Burma railway line; and 3) more than 300 civilians were reported to have been killed in the December 21, 1943 Allied bombing of the Chiang Mai railway station in which the station and surrounding neighbourhood were destroyed.

The Thai-Railway Railway was administered by the Japanese Army and the labourers came from outside Thailand. It is beyond the scope of this talk, but because it is part of the history of WWII in Thailand, I would just like to give some statistics which in themselves tell a great deal about this tragic chapter. More than 60,000 Allied POWs – mostly British and Australian but also including Dutch and American - were forced to work under the worst conditions for 14 months during 1942-1943, constructing a 258-mile stretch of rail line from Thailand to Burma. About 16,000 died. In addition to the Allied POWs, there were also an estimated 270,000 civilian labourers from Thailand, Malaya, Burma and the Dutch East Indies of which about 100,000 died as a result of the harsh conditions and malaria.
WWII in Thailand

WWII in Thailand began on December 8, 1941 and ended on August 15, 1945. Throughout this period the Japanese allowed the Thais to govern themselves, even when the pro-Japanese prime minister Field Marshal Plaek Phibunsongkhram was forced to resign in 1944 and his military-dominated government was replaced with a civilian one.

Prime Minister Plaek Phibunsongkhram (1897-1964) ordered a ceasefire, five hours after the Japanese attacked, thereafter entering into an armistice that allowed the Japanese army free passage through Thailand, and the use of Thai military installations in their invasion of Malaya and Burma. Several studies now conclude that Phibun had offered a secret verbal agreement to Japan in 1940, to allow their military forces free passage through Thailand in return for supporting Thai aims in regaining lost territories in French Indochina.

Thirteen days after the Japanese invasion, on December 21, 1941, Thailand concluded a military pact with Japan and established the Phayap (Northwest) Army under the command of General Jarun Rattanakul Seriroengrit. The Phayap army consisted of as many as 70,000 troops including an air force. It was assembled in northern Thailand with headquarters in Lampang, which also served as the headquarters of the Japanese Army and Air Force. On May 10, 1942 the Phayap Army crossed into British Burma’s Eastern Shan States. Kengtung was captured on the 27th. The Phayap Army would remain till the end of the war.

Apparentely convinced that Japan was going to win the war, and grateful for Japan’s support in regaining the lost territories in Laos and Cambodia, on January 25, 1941 Thailand declared war on Great Britain and the United States.

The declaration of war was communicated to the Americans via Switzerland, as the Thai minister in Washington, Seni Pramot, who would later become one of the leaders of the Free (Seri) Thai, had publicly repudiated Prime Minister Phibun’s decision to ally with Japan. The British considered themselves at war with Thailand, but the Americans did not. The Americans chose to consider Thailand an occupied country with a puppet government, in the same category as Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, the latter also having declared war on the United States.

Between 1941 and 1943, Thailand expanded its borders by 54,000 square kilometers acquiring two provinces in Laos and two-and-a-half in Cambodia, through the Japanese mediated Franco-Thai Peace Treaty concluded in Tokyo in May 1941. The Tokyo peace treaty ended a two-month long border war between Thailand and French Indochina. In 1943 Japan granted to Thailand the eastern Shan States of Kengtung and Mongpan in Burma, and four provinces in northern Malaya.

However, at the end of World War II Thailand relinquished all the territories annexed during the war period and returned to the pre-January 1941 borders.

During the war, the average Thai probably knew very little about the world war raging about them. At war’s end the Japanese Ambassador Kumaichi Yamamoto and the commander of the Japanese Thailand Garrison Army, General Aketo Nakamura (1889-1966), ensured that the Japanese army maintained discipline and departed quietly.

General Aketo Nakamura returned to Thailand in June 1955 as an official state guest.

From the point of view of leadership and diplomacy, what we can say was perhaps Thailand’s greatest accomplishment was the ability of its government, despite fierce infighting, to maintain the alliance with Japan, yet at the end of the war they were able to come to an agreement with the Allies and prevented the British from occupying the country, preserving independence and the pre-1941 borders.
Towards the end of March 1942 the small Allied air force in Burma was forced out of the country. The squadron of Flying Tigers operating with the Royal Air Force (RAF) retreated across the border to China, the RAF to India.

The commander of the American Volunteer Group (the official name for the Flying Tigers) in Kunming, Col. Claire Lee Chennault, ordered a revenge raid on airfields in Chiang Mai and Lampang, where he believed the main concentration of the Japanese air force was located.

Two squadrons totaling ten P-40 Tomahawks were sent on the mission. Travelling from their base in Yunnan, they would spend the night at an abandoned RAF airfield in Namsang, near the Thai border, and make their attack early next morning.

The morning of March 24, 1942, the 1st American Volunteer Group (AVG) squadron with six aircraft attacked the Japanese 64th Sentai at Chiang Mai airfield – the same location as today. A sentai is an air regiment with 30-40 aircraft organized in three squadrons called “chutai”. The Japanese were caught off guard.

One P-40 piloted by “Black Mac” McGarry was hit by ground fire. McGarry tried to make his way back to Namsang but was forced to bail out when his plane began to go down in Mae Hong Son province, near the Burma border. McGarry was taken prisoner by the Thai police and would be imprisoned on the grounds of Thammasat University in Bangkok until the Seri Thai helped him escape in 1944.
Wat Phra Yuen = วัดพระยืน, Tambon Wiang Yong = ต.เวียงยอง, Lamphun City

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} AVG squadron, comprised of four P-40s, was tasked with hitting targets in Lampang. However, it is believed they only went as far as Lamphun, where they found very little. Following the railroad north back to Chiang Mai, there was an exchange of fire at the Ban Tha Lo railway bridge over the Mae Kuang River, where an anti-aircraft gun, presumably a Thai unit as the Phayap Army was responsible for guarding the railway line bridges, was located.

Squadron leader Jack Newkirk circled round for a dive at the bridge. As he dived, he saw what he probably believed was an armoured car. As he dove onto the road, his right wing hit a tree just outside the west gate of Wat Phra Yuen, and he crashed into the rice field ahead. The oxcart and its driver, mistaken for an armoured vehicle, were killed by the P-40s gunfire.

The Thais buried Newkirk’s remains in a Western-style grave, on the edge of the rice field, and there it remained till the end of the war. Eventually his remains were reburied in his hometown of Scarsdale, New York.

The wreckage of Black Mac McGarry’s P-40 was found by villagers in 1991. The wreck was gathered up and brought to Chiang Mai, where it can be seen today at the Tango Squadron Museum at the Wing 41 air base, which is the north end of Chiang Mai airport. In 1994, a delegation of Flying Tigers pilots and their wives came to Chiang Mai to view the P-40 remains at the Tango Squadron Museum, and participated in a ceremony at Jack Newkirk’s former gravesite in Lamphun.

Wat Muen San = วัดหมื่นสาร, Wualai Road = ถนนวัวลาย, Chiang Mai City

Wat Muen San is south of the moat, off Wualai Road. During the war it served as a Japanese Army base including a military hospital and an Allied POW compound.

Today one of the temple’s buildings serves as a World War II museum. In front of the temple are two war memorials erected by private Japanese citizens.
Present day Highway 1095, much of which is a mountainous switchback, forms the north side of the “Mae Hong Son loop” linking Chiang Mai with Mae Hong Son province to the west. The beginning of Highway 1095 goes back to WWII when the Japanese cut a dirt track through the mountain jungle in an attempt to build their own supply road linking Chiang Mai with Japanese-occupied Burma. The supply route ran through Mae Hong city, southward down what is today Highway 108, to Khun Yuam, where the Japanese cut another dirt track due west, into Burma.

Thousands of Thais in Khun Yuam District were forced to work on the construction of the road into Burma. Many died of malaria. The road was not finished before the war ended.

The Chiang Mai-Burma Road had been intended not only for logistical support of the Japanese occupation Army in Burma, but also to supply the Japanese army in its disastrous Imphal Campaign, an attack into Northeast British India overland from Burma.

The British success in stopping the Japanese offensive into India at Imphal in July 1944 began a disorderly retreat from, first India and then later Burma, to Thailand. The invasion route became an escape route after the Japanese drive into British northeast India was stopped at Imphal in July 1944. The Chiang Mai-Burma road was named in Japanese “Skeleton Road” because, all along the route through Burma and northern Thailand, it became littered with the bodies of retreating Japanese soldiers who died of their wounds, malaria and exhaustion. Their bones remained unburied, where they had fallen.

The Thai-Burma railroad further south, in Kanchanaburi, also became an escape route for the defeated Japanese soldiers rather than fulfilling its intended mission as a supply route for a victorious army.

The retreating Japanese also had to contend with Karen and Karenni guerillas, organised and armed by the British, who had a particular score to settle. The Japanese had drafted many of these tribespeople into forced labour, during which they died from the hard work, harsh conditions and malaria. The tribal guerillas killed an estimated 12,500 Japanese troops as they retreated in disarray from Burma into northern Thailand.

Present day Highway 108 was completed in the 1960s. Highway 1095 remained a dirt track until the early 1990s.

Khun Yuam, Mae Hong Son Province

Khun Yuam is located 62 km south of Mae Hong Son city. During the war period Khun Yuam’s population was entirely Thai Yai.

An estimated 100,000 Japanese soldiers passed through Khun Yuam on their retreat from Burma. One of the town’s temples - Wat Muay Taw - became a makeshift hospital for the many wounded and sick Japanese soldiers who could go no further. It would take up to two years until the last was able to leave.

In 1978 a team came from Japan to search for graves. They found the remains of 300 soldiers. These remains were cremated. Some of the ashes were sent to Japan, the remainder was put into a single urn and buried at Wat Muay Taw, at a spot marked by a stone memorial. In 1989 more remains were found by another group from Japan. The remains of up to 7,000 Japanese soldiers are now buried at 39 grave sites in Khun Yuam District, according to the Thai government’s Fine Arts Department which surveyed the area with representatives of Japan's Ministry of Welfare in 1998.
One of the many Japanese veterans who came to Khun Yuam in the post-war years was Takashi Nagase, made famous in the 2013 film *The Railway Man*, based on Eric Lomax’s autobiography.

The Allied war cemeteries in Rangoon, and the two “Death Railway” railheads - Thanbyuzayat, near Moulmein in southern Burma, and Thailand’s Kanchanaburi province - are serene, well-maintained parks. The graves are identified by headstones, each bearing the name of a soldier. In contrast, thousands of unknown Japanese soldiers were buried in pathetic unmarked mass graves.

The present-day World War II museum was the personal creation of Police Lt. Col. Cherdchai Chomtavat, who was the Deputy Superintendent at the Khun Yuam police station in the late 1990s.

During that time Lt. Col. Cherdchai served at Khun Yuam, he began collecting Japanese military artefacts and equipment leftover from the war, much of which he found along the old road to the Burma border.

**Ban Kat = บ้านกาด, Amphoe San Pa Tong [Now in Amphoe Mae Wang since 1995], Chiang Mai Province**

Ban Kat Wittayakom (Technical) School is located about 20 km southwest of Chiang Mai, now in Amphoe Mae Wang, on Highway 1013. The school was built in 1975 on the former temple site of Wat Lang. During the excavation for a large well behind the school, a large number of human bones were discovered.
In 1992, a Japanese Shinto priest – Mr. Chinabay – came to Ban Kat. During the war he had been one of the Japanese soldiers on the retreat. Too ill to go further than Ban Kat, the local villagers there took care of him, as they did for many other sick and wounded Japanese soldiers. On his 1992 visit Mr. Chinabay saw the bones found during the well excavation, and sent some back to Japan for DNA testing. He organized the construction of a memorial which was dedicated in 2001. The Japanese Ministry of Health & Social Welfare helped with part of the construction cost.

Ban Kat is northern Thailand’s largest Japanese war memorial, and perhaps the largest in Thailand.

Fujita Matsuyoshi, Ban Nakhon Chedi (Highway 106), Amphoe Pa Sang, Lamphun Province

Approximately 26 km west of Lamphun city, on Highway 106 as it passes through Ban Nakhon Chedi in Amphoe Pa Sang, stands a memorial to fallen Japanese soldiers. This memorial was the creation of one individual. Mr. Fujita Matsuyoshi (Thai pronunciation Matsukishi).

Mr. Fujita, who was born in Nagasaki, Japan in 1918, served with a reconnaissance unit in Burma during the war. He retreated from Burma with the rest of the Japanese army, and by the time the war was declared ended, he found himself in the Lamphun area.

There is a parallel between Mr. Fujita’s story and the character of Private Mizushima in Michio Takeyama’s 1948 Japanese novel “Harp of Burma”, which was made into a film in 1956, directed by Kon Ichikawa. Like Private Mizushima, Mr. Fujita chose not to return to Japan He remained in the Lamphun area, married a Thai woman and had a son. Like the novel’s Private Mizushima, Mr. Fujita collected the remains of the Japanese soldiers who died along the “Skeleton Road”. The remains of approximately 100 soldiers were sent to Japan in the late 1980s.

The memorial which Mr. Fujita erected with his own funds was dedicated in 1988. The memorial’s inscription in Japanese reads “Monument for the spirits of the loyal brave soldiers who died in battle.”
Chiang Mai Foreign Cemetery

The Chiang Mai foreign cemetery is located on the Chiang Mai - Lamphun Road, immediately south of the Gymkhana Club. A black obelisk honouring the American Volunteer Group, more commonly known as the Flying Tigers, was dedicated on Remembrance Day November 11, 2003. Veteran AVG pilots in attendance were Major General (retired) Charles Bond, Dick Rossi, Bob Layher, and Peter Wright. Major General Bond, who was one of the pilots of the AVG 1st squadron that attacked Chiang Mai airport on March 24, 1942, spoke on behalf of the American Volunteer Group veterans. Wreaths were laid by Darryl Johnson, US Ambassador to Thailand, Maj. Gen. Bond, and by the senior Free (Seri) Thai representative, Prince Bhisatej Rajani.

The AVG memorial has become a focal point for the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies held at the Chiang Mai Foreign Cemetery.

2. World War II: a list of publications

From the editor's desk: Please find a list of publications on WWII in European languages available either at the EFEO library, opposite the Alliance Française, in Chiang Mai, or at my own library in Sansai through the link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/uk04kdg1s3szg2h/World War II-20170709-PDF copie.pdf?dl=0
3. Next meeting (420th)

Tuesday, 11 July, 2017, 7:30 pm at the Alliance Française, Chiang Mai:

“Yangon Echoes, Inside heritage homes”
A Talk by Virginia Henderson and Tim Webster

The Talk:

*Yangon Echoes* takes readers behind the façades of Yangon’s heritage buildings, to offer intimate views of life in the cosmopolitan city formerly known as Rangoon, Burma. An unprecedented work of oral history, this is a rich anthology of fascinating stories exploring notions and values of heritage and home.

Storytellers speak of joy and tragedy, simple pleasures and aching issues. They share thoughts and feelings of living through Yangon’s emergence from decades of stagnation to engagement with a rapidly spinning world. Told with courage and charm, these informal stories of home offer insight into what has happened and is happening to the city.

This popular history of buildings charts social space and urban folklore, linking past to present via living memories. It records everyday life through domestic connections to old places.

The Speakers:

**Virginia Henderson** works with local communities and development agencies to facilitate and document cultural projects. Raised in rural Southland, New Zealand, she has a doctorate in architectural heritage management, is an oral historian and has lived in Southeast Asia more than 25 years.

Writer and photographer **Tim Webster** specialises in archival heritage documentation and environmental portraiture. His extended research into the lives of people working in the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne is being published by Thames & Hudson in 2017. Tim has degrees in physics and mathematics with experience in journalism and education.

Virginia and Tim moved to Yangon in January 2013 to volunteer in heritage conservation efforts in Myanmar.

4. August meeting (421th)

Tuesday, 08 August, 2017, 7:30 pm at the Alliance Française, Chiang Mai:

“The Shan and Not-So-Shan Rebellions in Chiang Rai: Buddhism, Borders, and Beheadings in the Early Twentieth Century”
A Talk by Anthony Lovenheim Irwin

The Talk: During the early years of the twentieth century, numerous settlements in the Kok River Valley were besieged by groups of rebels. These rebels made their base in old walled city of Chiang Saen, on the banks of the Mekong river, and within the twenty-five kilometer no-man’s land between Monthon Phayap and French Indochina. During the first wave of attacks, the rebels conspired with the Shan residents living within the walled city of Chiang Rai to lay waste to the town and slaughter the ruling Siamese administrators. The rebels were held off at the bridge leading into the city while their coconspirators were arrested and held at Wat Phra
Singh. While primarily Shan, there is evidence to suggest that local people were also involved in the uprisings. The final uprising was led by a Mon monk named Thu Sala Muang Oot, the abbot of the now abandoned Wat Phra Jao Thong Thip in wiang Chiang Saen. While in robes, Thu Sala Muang Oot led bands of tattooed, sword carrying rebels against local defensive forces and Siamese soldiers from the south. Spoiler Alert: Things did not end well for this monk.

This presentation contextualizes the uprisings in the broader reconfigurations of power taking place in northern Thailand, and the specific collaborations and contestations between local Chao, monks of disparate affiliations, Siamese administrators, British officials, and American missionaries that emerged in Chiang Rai at the time.

The Speaker: Anthony Lovenheim Irwin is a PhD candidate in the department of Languages and Cultures of Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

5. GREAT DEPARTURE OF MICHAEL VICKERY (1931-2017)

On June 29, Michael Vickery—a pillar of Cambodia and Southeast Asian studies—left this world from Battambang, Cambodia. A resident of Chiang Mai for many years, INTG attendees remember well his talks on Cambodia and the Chams.

The scope of his work and knowledge can be explored at: http://www.michaelvickery.org

While holding writers to standards not always met, his tough criticism was mediated by the help and good cheer he always offered to colleagues and friends.

The loss of this great scholar is shared by us with Otome Klein Hutheesing and Mimi Saeju. We reproduce below an article written by Alessandro Marazzi Sassoon & Rinith Taing, published in Phnom Penh Post on July 3, 2017.

Cambodia bid farewell to a giant of Southeast Asian scholarship on Thursday with the death of the American historian Michael Vickery in Battambang, where his funeral ends today. He was 86.

Colleagues, friends and family remembered him for his fierce intellect, unapologetic devotion to the truth, encyclopaedic memory and mastery of over a dozen languages, many of which — it was said — he picked up through various romances.

“On the pillow,” as Vickery’s close friend Olivier de Bernon put it. De Bernon, a professor at the French School of the Far East, recalled Vickery as a prodigious debater who would entertain lively wine-fuelled conversations.

“He had a unique talent for polemics,” he said.

Born on April 1, 1931, in Billings, Montana, Vickery came from modest means, but his family’s progressive values shaped Vickery’s scholarship, which is often viewed as falling into Marxist schools of thought — although, de Bernon noted, “he was not a communist”.

Vickery taught English, lectured and studied around the world, but much of his life was spent in Thailand and Cambodia. Starting from 1960 to 1964 as an English teacher at the Lycée de Kampong Thom, he would count among his students Kaing Guek Eav, later known as Duch, the infamous S-21 prison director. After doctoral studies at Yale University in 1977, he established himself as an expert on Cambodia and the region. His dissertation, de Bernon said, was remarkable as a rigorous analytical comparison of the Thai and Cambodian Royal Chronicles.
An old portrait of the historian Michael Theodore Vickery, who passed away on Thursday in Battambang. Photo supplied

Pre-Angkorian history drew Vickery’s focus, culminating in the book Society, Economics, and Politics in Pre-Angkor Cambodia. When he died, Vickery was writing a companion book on Angkorian Cambodia. Noting Vickery was a scholar of Cambodian history up through the present, de Bernon said “the spectrum of his interests was very unique”, adding that Vickery could read ancient texts “like reading a newspaper”.

His principal scholarly contribution, de Bernon said, was that he was the first to have methodically described the social structures of ancient Cambodia.

But Vickery “was blunt”, de Bernon recalled.

Indeed, in frequent editorials in The Post he took aim at politicians, scholars, journalists and the paper itself. In one 2001 letter, he labelled an article “the filthiest piece of pseudo-journalistic hack work and character assassination I have seen in years”, and accused then-owner Michael Hayes of selling his soul.

Among those he sparred with was fellow historian David Chandler, who yesterday said “I miss him, regardless of his hostility to my work. Very few scholars of Cambodia have bequeathed work of such a consistently high value … His death leaves an enormous gap in my life and in the lives of many others.”

Cambodian archaeologist Chin Chanratana recalled Vickery as among his favourite professors, noting a firm but compassionate approach towards students. “I loved him from the bottom of my heart,” he said, noting that it was sad Vickery died in relative poverty.

At home, his foster daughter Amema “Mimi” Saeju, 36, recalled a warm animal-lover who raised her with his later-life partner Otome Klein, 87, a Dutch anthropologist.

“When it comes to work it was his responsibility to be extreme sometimes … [but] in the house he was quite a reasonable person,” she said. But above all she recalled his openness and candour about sex and relationships. “He loved to talk about women,” she said with a laugh.

Later, Vickery consulted with the late Ieng Sary’s defence at the Khmer Rouge tribunal. Ieng Sary defender Michael Karnavas, a friend for 22 years, said in an email that Vickery was “a fierce critic of sloppy critical analysis … a great conversationalist with a bent for provoking with off-colour and politically incorrect remarks. Yet he was a gentle and generous soul, always ready to lend an ear and share his encyclopaedic knowledge.”

“Michael was quirky and cantankerous. He could drive you crazy with his politics,” he said.
Most relevant to the trials was Vickery’s rejection of what he called the “Standard Total View”: the body of widely accepted – and, in his view, insufficiently rigorous – scholarship that suggested the Khmer Rouge was a monolithic entity. Vickery set a high bar for analysing historical facts, and challenged the popular version of Khmer Rouge history on such issues as death totals, sexual violence and how fragmented the regime was.

In all, Karnavas noted, “Michael Vickery was a Cambodian institution, an old hand, and to many, a legend.”

But for many, Vickery’s convictions that he would work only to sustain himself, his disdain for materialism and his refusal to be tenured at a university in order to maintain the independence of his voice ultimately caught up to him. He grew reliant upon the charity of his friends and relatives for support.

In his final months, Vickery lived with his brother-in-law, Meas Savuth, 72, who said that his dying wish was to have a Cambodian funeral. “He wanted to die in Cambodia,” he said, noting that many former students travelled from afar to pay their respects over the weekend.

Vickery died of a heart attack after a long period of illness at 11am on June 29. He is survived by his adoptive daughter Mimi, his partner Otome Klein, his in-laws and his ex-wife Angina Vickery, and their daughter Angelina.

5. LIST OF FUTURE INTG MEETINGS

Tuesday, 11 July, 2017, 7:30 pm at the Alliance Française, Chiang Mai: “Yangon Echoes : Inside Heritage Homes”. A Talk by Virginia Henderson and Tim Webster.

Tuesday, 08 August, 2017, 7:30 pm at the Alliance Française, Chiang Mai: “The Shan and Not-So-Shan Rebellions in Chiang Rai: Buddhism, Borders, and Beheadings in the Early Twentieth Century”. A Talk by Anthony Lovenheim Irwin.

6. INTG CONTACTS : Convenor - Secretary - Website

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3) INTG Webdoctor : Clarence Shettesworth: e-mail : <nugentsr@gmail.com>. Mobile : 0610509996.

4) INTG Website : http://www.intgchiangmai.com.
Informal Northern Thai Group (INTG)
32 years of Talks!

YANGON ECHOES: INSIDE HERITAGE HOMES

A Talk by Virginia Henderson and Tim Webster

Tuesday, 11 July 2017, 7:30 pm

At The Alliance Française - Chiang Mai
138, Charoen Prathet Road, (Opposite EFEO)
Informal Northern Thai Group (INTG)
32 years of Talks!

The Shan and Not-So-Shan Rebellions in Chiang Rai

A Talk by
Anthony Lovenheim Irwin
Tuesday, 08 August 2017, 7:30 pm

At The Alliance Française - Chiang Mai
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