

Force 136 monument to commemorate nation's warriors

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A monument was built in Puncak Mas Camp to commemorate the country's warriors in Force 136, who fought against the Japanese army during World War 2. - BERNAMA Pic

RAUB: A monument was built in Puncak Mas Camp to commemorate the country's warriors in Force 136, who fought against the Japanese army during World War 2.

The 505 Regiment of the Territorial Army commander Tengku Panglima Raja Colonel Tengku Amir Nasser Ibrahim Shah Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah said the names of 244 warriors, comprising 27 officers and 217 personnel were inscribed on the monument.

He said Force 136 was secret operations, intelligence and sabotage unit that was established on March 16, 1944, and was headed by Yeop Mahidin Mohd Sharif.

Other national figures in its ranks included Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, Tun Ghazali Shafie and Datuk Abdul Rahman Ismail.

He said on Dec 1, 1945, Force 136 was disbanded after the Japanese army surrendered and the force was retained in the Territorial Army, with Lt Col Yeop Mahidin appointed as its commander and the late Sultan Sir Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al Muadzam Shah as the honorary colonel.

"The Pahang Force 136 Monument was built to commemorate the fighters of the country who were made up of Pahang citizens. The construction of this monument was inspired by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah) while serving as the commander of the 505 Regiment of Territorial Army," said Tengku Amir Nasser at the inauguration of memorial, which was officiated by the Regent of Pahang Tengku Hassan Ibrahim Alam Shah, today.

Tengku Amir said, the opening ceremony was held in September, in conjunction with the 89th anniversary of the Malaysian Armed Forces which is celebrated on Sept 16.

Meanwhile, actress and radio presenter Sharifah Shahirah Syed Abu Bakar Al-Khaired, 47, as a descendant of a Force 136 member, said she was honoured that her grandfather, Syed Abd Rahman Syed Mohamed, was immortalised on the monument.

Affectionately addressed as Shiera, she said the services of past warriors should be appreciated, especially the current generation.

"I am proud even though my grandfather who served the country, did not talk about it, I think they are unsung heroes... the difficulties they faced," she said.

She said Syed Abd Rahman, who was the penghulu of Kampung Segu, died in 1988. - Bernama