Thursday 31 July 2025

This afternoon I watched a movie entitled Empire of the Sun which was first released in 1987 when I was just born. It was about a British boy who was captured by Japanese in Shanhai, China during the World War II. He was born with a silver spoon and had been living in China since he was born with his family who were colonists then. His forebears had settled in this country for over a hundred years since the Opium War. This boy was fascinated with planes and he knew about some Japanese war planes such as the Zero fighters.

At the beginning of the scene, the boy played his toy planes outside his home, a villa located on the suburben area of Shanghai, and accidentally run into a Japanese troop. Presumably, they were preparing for attacking the city. It was a bragade by the number of soilders. They were shocked and confused when they saw the British boy. After a few days, Japanese occupied all of Shanghai, including the colonial area which had been taken by western countries for over a hundred years. The boy was seperated with his parents when they were escaping and was captured by Japanese thereafter. He was able to speak many academic words in such a young age, which astounded an American citizen and his friends who was struck in the city, too. Unfortunately, they were all captured by the Japanese army and were forced to build airports in Suzhou, a city near Shanghai in southern China.

Though I haven’t finished this movie yet, I’m impressed by this British boy and other captured westerners. He was born in a noble family and lost contact with his parents; whereas, he show great determination of survival just like his ancestors who had built the empire of sun. One of the unforgetable scenes in the movie is that the boy was attracted by a Zero fighter when he was working and walked towards it to see. He touched it and didn’t realised that he was risking his life because a Japanese was aimming him with a rifle. Surprisingly, the soilder stopped when he say the boy saluting two pilots passing by and the the pilots saluting back.