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 Treasurer - Mrs Margaret Walton
 Committee Members - Mr Keith Andrews
 Ms Angela Lane

Vice Chairman - Mr Kenneth Coy
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BAFEPOW NEWS SHEET FOR MAY 2022

HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY, RON. WITH LOVE FROM ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT BAFEPOW!

Our Honorary Chairman, Ron, will celebrate his 99th Birthday on 02/05/22 and a birthday card has been sent on behalf of us all to let him know that we are wishing him happiness on his special day.

The photograph below is one from the collection of items that were accumulated by Bill Wheale during his time as the chairman of the W'ton FEPOW Association and member of BAFEPOW .



**HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY,
 RON! xx**

The above photograph was take at the NMA just by the FEPOW Hut - Ron is centre left and centre right is Bill Wheale. If anyone can recognise the gentlemen to the left and the right of Ron and Bill, please let me (BJ) know.

NEWS SINCE APRIL'S NEWS SHEET (BJ)

What a lovely Easter we had with warm sunshine and dry weather - just what we needed after lockdown etc and, hopefully, everyone was able to make the most of it!

Following on from my query about our FEPOW being more than 'just FEPOW' I was so pleased to receive two replies almost immediately and I have included them both in this news sheet. Tony Truett had received some very interesting photos from Wei Shin Leong in Singapore which he forwarded to me and I have included those too, plus the news from our most recent discussion group.

THE THIRD DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING ON APRIL 26TH

We welcomed a new member, Rowford Bowditch, to this meeting and he is looking into the WWII history of his father, Samuel Bowditch who was taken prisoner in Java whilst serving with the Canadian Airforce. I had fortunately been able to put some information together for him in advance with help from Kevin Snowdon and Keith Andrews. The mystery is how Sam came to join the Canadian Airforce after joining the RAF prior to the start of WWII - much very interesting discussion arose from this and it will be fascinating to discover more. Kevin brought in some really interesting old newsletters from the now closed Newcastle FEPOW Association and also some copies of the Scottish POW WOW one. Margaret talked about her Dad, Fred Camp, and Kevin discovered that his Dad had been in a similar role in Kuala Lumpur as Fred before captivity. James had brought in his Dad's military history and some of his information was very useful during a discussion on repatriation. Almost four hours of constant chatter and discussion - a very enjoyable and meaningful meeting! The next discussion meeting is on Tuesday, May 24th.

NOT JUST A FEPOW

From Keith Bettany about his father, Des Bettany:-

Dad's Medals



From left to right:

- 1) 1938- 1945 Star
- 2) Pacific Star
- 3) 1939 - 1945 War Medal
- 4) Efficiency Medal
- 5) 1940 Dunkirk Medal (Dunkurque Medal)
- 6) Medal of Federation Nationale Les Veterans Du Roi Albert (National Organisation of Veterans of King Albert 1 National Federation of Veterans. Issued for services in France/Belgium)
- 7) Commonwealth POW Association Medal

Dad saw action in Europe - France & Belgium then evacuated from Dunkirk to UK.

He was then posted to guard the South of England at various towns from Devon to Mouth of Thames. This was at the time of the Battle of Britain & The Blitz.

You can hear dad address his Rotary Club about this 'Talks by Des Bettany 1995 pt2 27/11/95', you will find it under <https://changipowart.com/exhibitions>

Here's some images dad did

<https://changipowart.com/archives/4519>

<https://changipowart.com/archives/1194>

<https://changipowart.com/archives/128>

<https://changipowart.com/archives/5764>

<https://changipowart.com/archives/5776>

Thank you so much, Keith, for your reply and for all of the links to further explore Des's amazing artwork!

From Chris Best:-

Malcolm Ingleby Scott left North Shields, Tyne and Wear aboard the merchant ship S.S.Kirkpool on 27 January 1942 (the day after his 36th birthday). He was the ship's Radio Officer.

SS Kirkpool was originally en route from the U.K. to Lorenzo Marques in Mozambique, Africa. However, her orders were changed at Cape Town to go to Durban to pick up coal bound for Montevideo, Uruguay, S. America (River Plate).

She was nearing the Cape on 16th March and was in Durban on 24th March. After picking up her cargo and heading back out into the South Atlantic ocean, the SS Kirkpool was tracked near Tristan da Cunha and torpedoed by the German raider 'Thor'.

[Thor was a German disguised merchant cruiser, 3,862 tons, Built by Deutsche Werft AG Hamburg-Finkenwarder in 1938, 379.7' x 54.8' x 26.5', 17 knots, Six 5.9 inch, one 60mm, one twin 37mm, four 20mm, two 21-inch torpedo tubes, One Arado 196 aircraft. Captain Gunther Gumprich.]

Thor sighted Kirkpool on the afternoon of April 10th in poor visibility and tracked the vessel until near dark when she closed to track again using her early version radar. She closed range until 2007 hrs at 2,420 yards range torpedo launched, for a miss, and gunfire opened up. Of four shells fired in second salvo, three struck the Kirkpool. Thor ceased fire at 2011hrs with the ship on fire. The Kirkpool turned to ram or maybe lost steering control and gunfire was resumed for another minute. The Kirkpool then sank stern first.

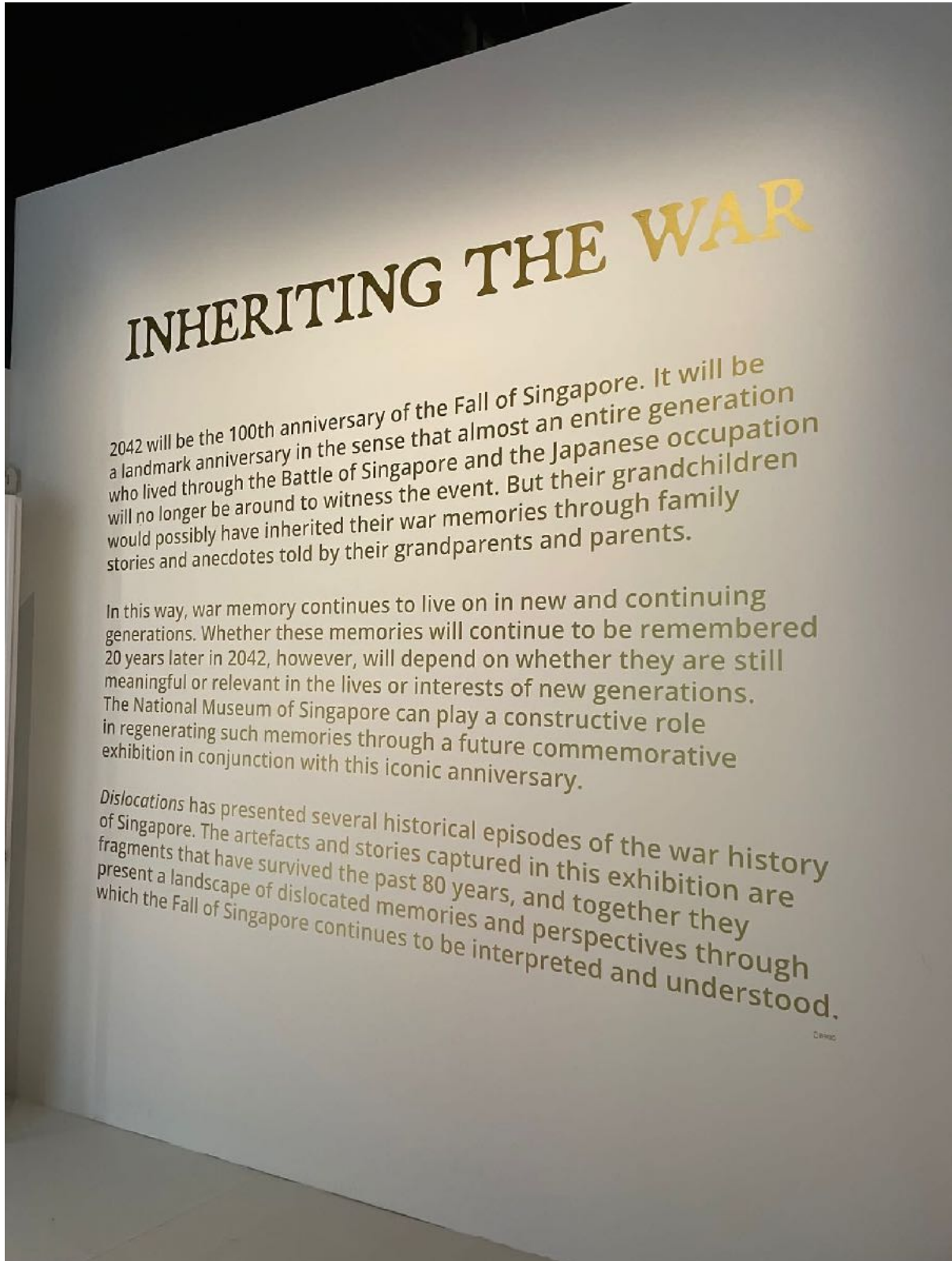
Thor stayed for three hours searching for survivors. The 17 survivors (out of 46 crew) were picked up from the sea and placed in the ship's hold. After sailing south, Thor later transferred the survivors to the SS Regensburg. This ship already held POWs from the sinking of the Nankin, (who were also held in Fukushima camp). They were then moved again, this time to the SS Dresden, a merchant ship bound for Japan, and then finally transferred to SS Ramses.

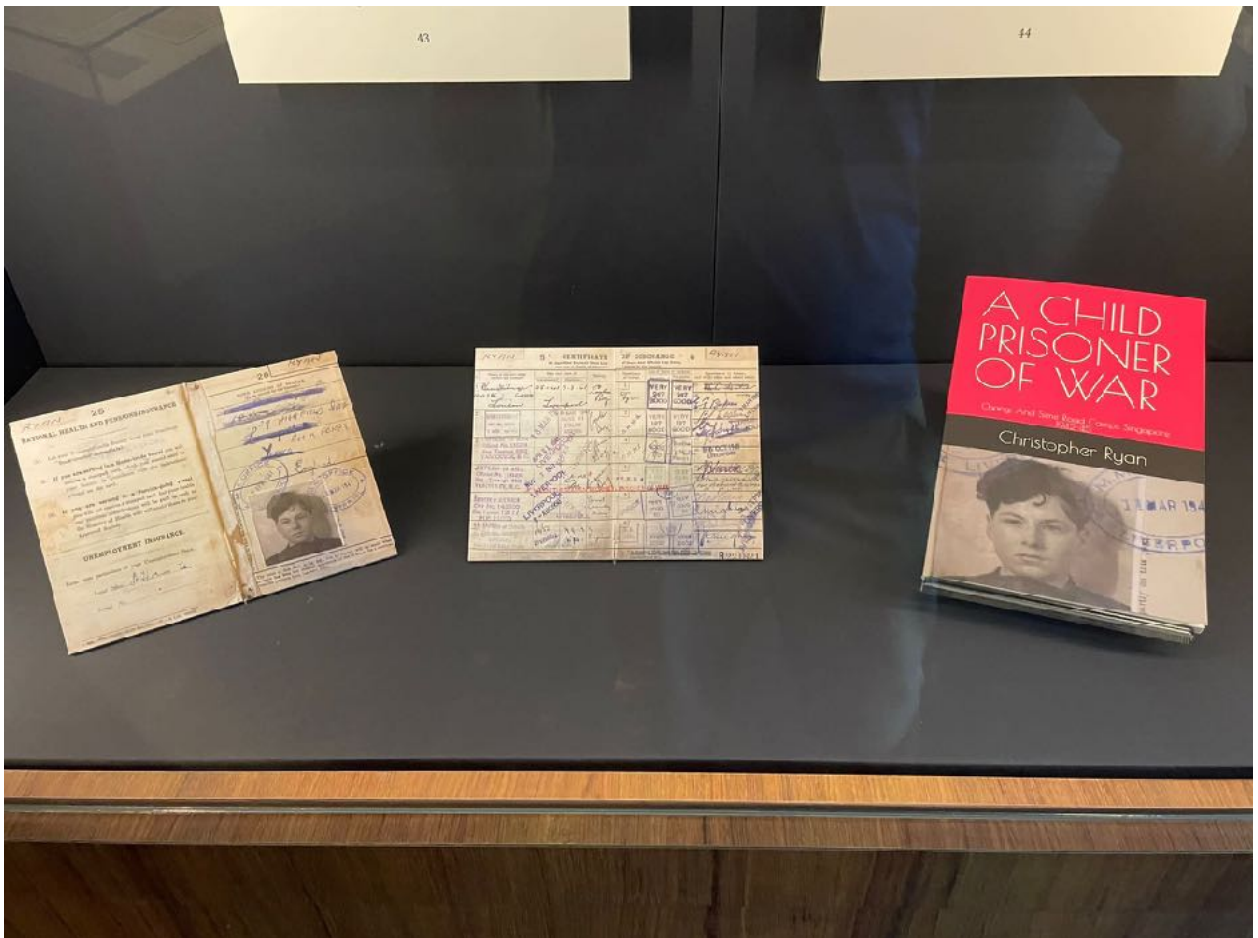
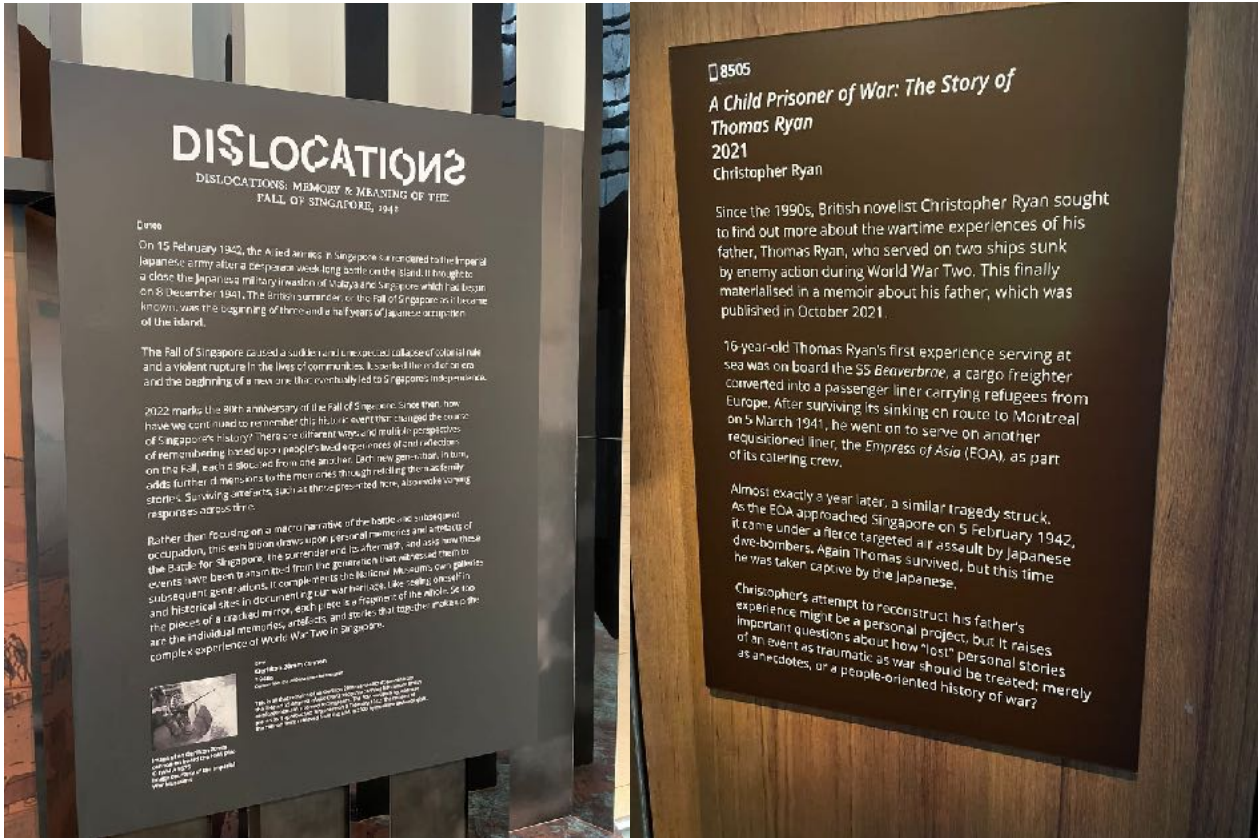
They were handed into Japanese custody by the German authorities on the 10th of July 1942 on board the S.S. Ramses in Yokohama harbour. On the night of the 10th /11th July 1942 they were taken north by train from Ueno station in Tokyo to the town of Fukushima and reached their destination, a Roman Catholic convent on the outskirts of town which had been turned into a Civilian Internment Camp. There, the civilians were placed in the charge of a special branch of the local police force. One death and one birth were reported shortly after arrival.

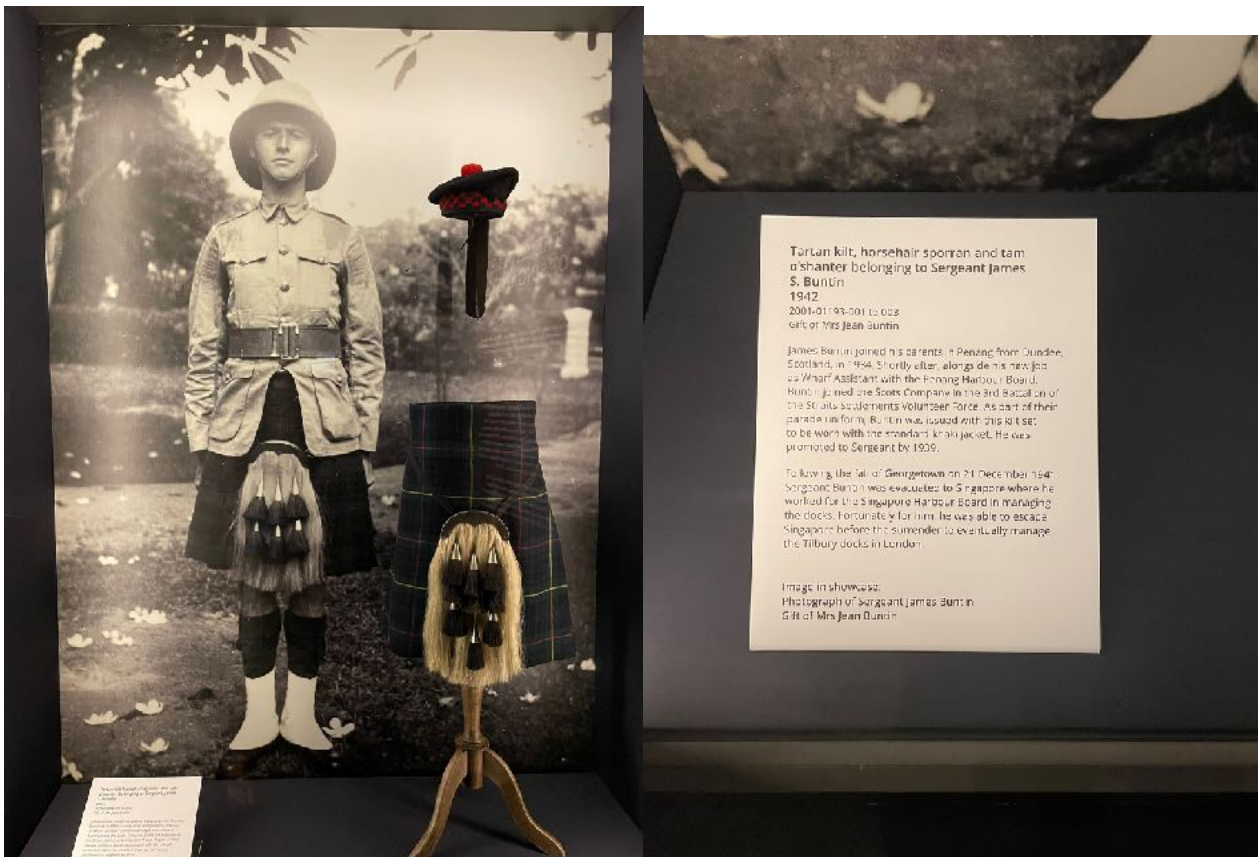
Thank you , Chris, for sending in your Dad's story prior to his transfer to Japanese captivity - his whole story is fascinating and his links to the FEPOW Association in Newcastle is also very interesting.

PHOTOS FROM WEI SHIN LEONG IN SINGAPORE

On February 15th of this year We Shin very kindly undertook, on our behalf, the laying of a memorial wreath at Kranji War Cemetery to mark the Fall Of Singapore. He has recently sent the following photographs to Tony Truett which are from the National Museum of Singapore and the first one that is below shows that the legacy and history that is so special to us, the descendants of the FEPOW and the Internees, will continue to be remembered in the future in Singapore. Take a look at the museum on this link:- <https://www.nhb.gov.sg/nationalmuseum/>







A number of us have visited Singapore in the past and will have visited Changi Museum and the Changi Chapel. Last year saw the re-opening of the revamped chapel and museum and if you follow the link below, you can follow a short but really interesting fifteen minute tour of it:-

<https://thelongwindingroad.wordpress.com/2021/05/18/the-revamped-changi-chapel-and-museum-a-quick-walkthrough/>

WELFARE GRANTS FOR FEPOW, WIVES AND WIDOWS

If you need help with a grant towards hospital stays, Nursing Home Costs, alterations to the home, mobility aids etc, then please get in touch with:-

Mrs Margaret Martin, the Java Club by email:- margaretmartin1944@sky.com

Mrs Pauline Simpson, NFFWRA by email:- enquiries@nationalfepowfellowship.org.uk

The BAFEPOW news sheet is put together by the association secretary, Barbara James, and, hopefully, it contains items of interest to members. You are very welcome to suggest future topics or to submit items for future inclusion. You can contact me via email:- bmjames142@yahoo.co.uk or by phone:- 07954104857

