



**Weekend
break on
course...**



**VJ Day
75+1 plan
to go
ahead**



**Eden
Camp
Museum
invite**

COFEPOW Quarterly is a review magazine, informing members of events and opinions expressed over a three-month period. Please visit the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cofepow for regular updates.

CoFEPOW Quarterly

The official newsletter of the Children, Families and Friends of the Far East Prisoners of War and FEPOW Associations • Issue 94 • July 2021

New globe arrives



▲ A digital realisation of the new display globe to be installed in the FEPOW Memorial Building. New display panels ▶

The trustees of COFEPOW are delighted to announce that the revamping of the globe display in the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA is nearing completion and will soon be installed and operational. This brings to a close a very long process, as the production of a new globe has taken a significant amount of time, largely because the manufacturers of the original globe were no longer available. Sourcing a company that could provide the technical and manufacturing intricacies required, proved a very time-consuming affair.

Fortunately, Vertigo Creative Studios of Leicester took on the challenge and, after almost two years of research, design, suitable materials identification, gaining various approvals

and authorities, the construction of the display has now been completed.

A major issue with the previous display was that unsupervised or uncontrolled children used the globe as a climbing frame, denting it and erasing place names, causing it to look extremely tired and worn. The new display has taken several of these issues into account and its exciting new functional design makes a brilliant addition to the artefacts on display on the ground floor of the building.

Trustee, Chris Wills commented: "It's an invaluable enhancement to the display and clarifies the scale of the Far-East war, optimising the visitor experience."

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

In mid-April, the country lost an extraordinary person in the form of the Duke of Edinburgh. The prince dedicated his life to Britain and the Commonwealth, beginning with his distinguished career in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, where, amongst other postings, he served as a First Lieutenant aboard HMS Whelp, supporting air raids on Japanese shore installations and rescuing British air crew shot down by Japanese fighters. The ship was present in Tokyo Bay to witness the surrender of Japanese forces on September 2nd, 1945. Thereafter followed almost three quarters of a century of public service by the prince. He will be remembered most of all for his extraordinary commitment and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen, at whose side he stood for over seven decades. Their marriage was a symbol of strength, stability and hope as the world around changed. On behalf of COFEPOW, our thoughts are with the Queen and the royal family as we mourn and remember the life of Prince Philip.

David Brede, Chair of Trustees.

This photograph shows a moment captured between member Mervyn Hardwick's father, former FEPOW Sid Hardwick, and the Duke.



It was taken in 1978 at a garden party held in the Duke's honour at Newnham College, Cambridge, where Sid was Head Chef. The Duke specifically asked to speak to kitchen staff as well as dignitaries.

Mervyn's father was interned on Haruku and both he and the Duke were mentioned in despatches during the war.

Commemorating the anniversary of VJ75+1

Sat. 14th & Sun. 15th August 2021



Chair's Notes

“ We're still waiting to confirm that the events for VJ75+1 are going ahead. From the perspective of the events, we hope that we can hold the great commemoration that was planned for last year. However, with so many of our members and FEPOWs being vulnerable, we can't be too careful.

You will note from the role adverts in the newsletter that I am seeking to step down from the charity's Secretary role. Doing the two jobs of Secretary and Chair was never intended to be a long-term arrangement, but with the departure of Paul Watson, both roles needed to be covered and at the time, I had the capacity. Times have changed and, as many of you know, I have found a new partner in life in the form of Jill Robertson, the Area Co-ordinator for West Sussex. No-one told me that involvement with COFEPOW could have such unexpected outcomes! So, I can't carry out both jobs anymore, plus it will be beneficial to have the roles covered by different people.

Similarly, we are separating the Archivist and Researcher roles, both of which have been served with distinction by Keith Andrews for several years. Unfortunately, they have now outgrown one person's capacity, with more requests for COFEPOW to take artefacts into the archives and even more people requesting research. We've found that the VJ75 anniversary created great interest in the story of the Far-East war, which will most probably happen again with the 80th anniversary of the fall of Singapore on the 15th February 2022. By separating the roles, Keith will be able to focus on the research, which he loves doing and which he does so well.

May I also put on record my thanks to Catherine Penketh, who is stepping down as Membership Secretary due to increasing family commitments. She has served COFEPOW with distinction for many years and will be missed for all the hard work and diligence she puts into the role.

The above posts are very important to COFEPOW and anyone keen to take one on will find them interesting and rewarding, so please do give them serious consideration.

David Brede, Chair, COFEPOW.
cofepow.chairman@gmail.com



Last year, the planned commemorations of the 75th anniversary since the end of the Second World War were hugely compromised by the coronavirus pandemic.

Assuming the measures of protection established over the infection risk during this year succeed, COFEPOW will mark the commemoration of one of the twentieth century's most momentous events with renewed vigour in August.

The weekend of 14th and 15th August has been chosen to mark the 76th anniversary of the Allied Victory over Japan and will be commemorated as people come together to remember the heroism and suffering of their forbears, many of whom have now passed out of living memory.

Saturday 14 August 2021.

At time of going to press, COFEPOW is planning for the service at Lichfield Cathedral to start at 2.00 p.m. and finish around 3.00 p.m. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept aisles for all COFEPOW members and their guests.

Dinner at the Aspects Conferencing Suite, NMA, will commence at

7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. There will be a three-course evening dinner at a **cost of £23.25 per person**. Dinner will be followed by tea and coffee.

For our after-dinner speaker, we are delighted to have secured Jon Cooper, a battlefield archaeologist who has spent many years researching Singapore's wartime history, which culminated in the launch of the Adam Park Virtual Battlefield Museum and the publication of 'Tigers in the Park'. Now a Researcher/Lecturer and PHD student at Glasgow University, Jon is investigating the role of Scottish regiments in Singapore, sourced primarily through adjutants' paperwork.



Sunday 15 August 2021.

The AGM will be held in the Aspects Conferencing Suite in the NMA building at 10.30 a.m. This should terminate around 12.00 noon and the service at the FEPOW Building and the laying of wreaths will follow at around 12.30 p.m.

A two-course lunch will be held in the Aspects Conferencing Suite at 1.30 p.m., at a **cost of £19.00 per person**. This will be followed by tea and coffee, with local historian and professional genealogist, Keith Oseman, providing a fascinating talk on the 'Hope Robinson Letters'.

Chris will contact each person who has put their name on the provisional list, to let them know how we will be proceeding with the events. Please can you keep an eye on the website for further updates.

Please note: Due to possible on-going Covid restrictions, numbers may be limited.



VJ 75+1 discounted rates for local hotel

Many of the hotels are not letting us reserve rooms and are not providing preferential rates.

Consequently, we were unable to get an allocation of rooms again at the Holiday Inn Express, Burton-on-Trent or at the Holiday Inn Express, Lichfield (0871 902 1545).

They may have individual rooms available if you would like to try them but they will not be at a preferential rate.

Holiday Inn Express Tamworth

The Holiday Inn Express, Leisure Island, River Drive, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7ND, has agreed a rate of £72 per single and £79 per twin/double, which will include breakfast, Wi-Fi and parking.

We have provisionally booked 20 rooms for the nights of 13th and 14th August 2021. To book, please contact Jordan Newell on email at: reservations@hiextamworth.com or tel: +44 (0)1827 303220. Fax: +44 (0)1827 303221. Please use the booking code 'COFEPoW'.

This allocation will be held until 28 days prior to 13th August.

Any rooms not booked by this date will be released back into general circulation.

URGENT NOTE!

The table below is a comprehensive list of all provisional bookings made to date. Please check to see whether your details are included and are correct. If not please contact Chris Wills on the email below.

Also, two provisional forms have been received without names, if you submitted a form and your name is not on the list below, please contact Chris on 0121 244 7263 or email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk

Name	Date booked	Lichfield Cathedral	NMA Dinner	AGM	Service	NMA Lunch
??? - no name provided	08.01.21	0	0	2	2	2
??? - no name provided	28.01.21	4	4	4	4	4
Aldred, Penny	08.02.21	5	5	1	5	5
Andrews Keith	06.04.21	0	1	1	1	1
Barker David and Heather	07.01.21	2	0	0	0	0
Barnes Shirley and Jack	17.02.21	0	0	2	2	2
Bestwick Gordon	05.01.21	2	0	2	2	2
Bird Kerry and husband	17.02.21	2	2	0	0	0
Brede David & Robertson Jill	06.02.21	2	2	2	2	2
Brooks Alasdair	05.04.21	8	8	8	8	8
Brooks Ron and Margaret	09.04.21	2	2	2	2	2
Childs David and Jane	07.04.21	2	2	1	2	2
Clark Ann and John	03.01.21	4	0	0	4	4
Cocker Glynn and Judith	04.04.21	0	0	2	2	2
Cooper Carol and Adele	04.05.21	2	2	2	2	2
Craig Norman and Judy	20.03.21	2	2	2	2	2
Cusumano Sharon	17.02.21	2	2	2	2	2
Dann Sylvia and Melvyn	05.01.21	4	4	2	4	4
Darby John	04.05.21	2	0	0	0	0
De Tisi Pat and John	04.04.21	0	0	2	2	2
Edgar Pat	05.01.21	4	4	0	4	4
Entwistle Denise	09.01.21	3	0	0	0	0
Every Henry and Susan	19.04.21	2	2	1	1	1
Garratt Judy and sister	05.01.21	2	2	2	2	0
Gilbert June (Carruthers)	04.01.21	2	0	0	2	0
Grant Penny	17.02.21	0	0	1	1	1
Harbird Roger and Kay	26.04.21	2	0	2	2	2
Harrison Jean	04.01.21	2	0	0	2	0
Haslop Nigel	02.01.21	2	2	2	2	0
Hawke Robert and Wendy	05.05.20	2	2	2	2	2
HMS Exeter Tom Jowett	06.01.21	0	0	0	?	?
Hooker Martin	28.03.21	1	0	0	0	0
Hume Brian, Jo and Guy	01.06.21	9	9	9	9	9
Hutchinson John and June	07.01.21	2	2	2	2	2
James Barbara and George	08.01.21	3	0	1	3	3
Johnson Thelma	11.01.21	1	2	0	1	1
Kelly Jeanne	21.01.21	2	6	6	2	6
Kiddle Wenda and Don	11.01.21	4	2	0	0	0
Laland Brenda	22.03.21	2	0	0	2	0
Lewis David and Diane	12.01.21	2	2	2	2	2
Morris Tony & Henderson Olga	08.11.20	2	2	0	2	2
Norman Sandra and 1	18.01.21	2	2	0	2	0
Oseman Keith & Kate	04.04.21	0	0	0	2	2
O'Connell Steve	01.05.21	0	0	1	1	1
Powles Anne and Roger	07.04.21	2	2	2	2	2
Robertson Graham	02.03.21	1	1	1	1	1
Rowling John	14.04.21	2	2	0	0	0
Rowling Peter and Pat	09.02.21	2	2	2	2	2
Rutherford John	06.04.21	2	2	2	2	2
Sartin David and Cherry	07.04.21	0	0	2	2	2
Saunders David and Judy	21.02.21	2	?	2	2	2
Saunders P & G O'Leary	08.01.21	3	3	3	3	3
Smart Mary and Smith Susan	30.05.21	2	0	0	2	2
Snowdon Kevin	04.04.21	2	0	2	2	2
Stemmer Annette and Steve	17.02.21	2	2	2	2	2
Strowler Paul	28.01.21	2	2	2	2	2
Sutherland Jackie and George	07.03.21	2	1	2	2	2
Taylor Dave	11.03.21	1	1	1	1	1
Trollope Ian	11.01.21	1	1	1	1	1
Ward Toni	06.04.21	1	1	1	1	1
Watson Andrew and Mary	05.01.21	2	2	0	0	0
Williamson Jean & Irene Clarke	05.01.21	3	0	3	3	0
Wills Alan and Chris	23.02.21	2	2	2	2	2
Wills Irene & Sambrook Marilyn	23.02.21	2	0	0	2	2
		130	100	96	128	117



Due to Covid-19, Chris Wills is only accepting provisional bookings and will not be taking any payment for the meals until it's known what's happening with the pandemic.

She will contact members who have returned the form below, to update them and ask for payment at that time.

Should the event go ahead and you would like to attend any of the events, please complete the form below and return to: Chris Wills, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG, or telephone 0121 244 7263, or email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk.

Name
Address

Post Code

Email

Tel: no.

Lichfield Cathedral:

Number attending

Dinner at the NMA:

Number attending

AGM:

Number attending

Service at FEPOW Building:

Number attending

Lunch at the NMA:

Number attending

Please tick appropriate top box in each category for which elements you wish to attend, and indicate the quantity of guests you will be bringing in the lower box. Please indicate any dietary requirements you may have (show separately).

Please see alongside to the left of the table for details of special deals available at a local hotel for the weekend.



Wymondham FEPOW Memorial 16 May 2021

On 16th May, COFEPOW trustees, Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell, visited Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, Wymondham FEPOW church in Norfolk, for the Memorial Service and to lay a wreath on behalf of COFEPOW. Nick reports...

"Initially, we arrived at another church in the town, expecting it to be in the centre. So, we stopped a lady to ask directions, thinking she would not know of it, but were pleasantly surprised when she said with pride, "Oh yes, the FEPOW church, there's a service there today".

"We took her instructions and found it with ease. On entering the church, after the usual Covid-related protocols, we were shown to our socially-distanced seats by Theresa Wiseman. We waited for a few minutes before a very heartfelt service began.

"There were hymns (sung by a professional singer, due to 'no singing' restrictions), including 'All people on earth do dwell', 'The day thou gavest, Lord is ended', and 'I vow to thee' and also a special hymn called "The Captives Hymn", composed by Margaret Dryburgh in the Palembang 'houses' camp in 1942 and first sung by herself, Shelagh Brown and Dorothy MacLeod at a Sunday service there. Thereafter the hymn was sung by the women



every Sunday even throughout their later years in captivity, when they encountered suffering and death all around them. When, in 1943, some internees were repatriated from Palembang to Singapore, the hymn was taken with them and, as a result, it found fame in camps there, too.

"The remembrance wreaths were laid at the memorial inside the church, The Last Post was sounded, then two minutes silence, Reveille, and the Kohima Epitaph. The whole service was managed and partly conducted by Peter Wiseman, along with a few words by Pauline Simpson.

"Canon Patrick Cleary invited Michael Ipgrave, the Bishop of Lichfield and the son of a former Far-East POW, to share a few reflections, and, in doing so, he saluted the commitment of the parish and of

the Far-East Prisoners of War Committee. He recalled the time he worked in Japan and his father, aged 65 at the time, came out to stay with him and his family - a remarkable act of courage and imagination on the part of a recently-bereaved man (he had just lost his wife), coming to a country which, in the past, had caused such damage to him and his friends. Whilst there, he met with people of his own generation who had experienced the brutality of the Japanese military in their own country and to their own people. He never forgot what he and his mates had been through, but he was committed to reconciliation with the Japanese people, and proof of that was the new friendships he formed and which he sustained in the last years of his life.

Also featured was the Wymondham FEPOW Memorial Epilogue, which included a reading of George Cocker's post-war poem, which resonates well with FEPOWs, recalling how fortitude bred resilience, inspired courage to endure the suffering, and gave hope to sustain a vision of beauty in the future....

*Remember us; not by a day
Extolling war's horror and blight.
No prayers will restore us from clay;
No anthems will shorten death's night.*

*In the dust, we are brothers in dust,
Death treats us the same, friend and foe.
Our weapons are soon turned to rust,
On our graves, the same grasses grow.*

*Remember our youth at the dawn;
At twilight, remember our pain.
Plead not that we fought the good fight,
For we are all brothers of Cain.*

*Let the word prevail o'er the sword
And the lowly and meek have their say.
The future is yours - we are dead.
Remember us; not by a day.*

"This church is a 'living memorial' to FEPOW and civilian internees of all faiths and none, built and paid for by those who loved and cherished their memory. The overall service was very moving and was well organised and attended, particularly considering the circumstances. Perhaps the pandemic affected the proceedings most noticeably in that usually there would be tea/cake after the service, but this was regrettably cancelled!"

Next year's service is on 15th May 2022 at 12:30pm.

Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell
COFEPOW trustees.

The Album Pages - a case history to help compile your FEPOW record

Taken from an email trail between Linda Hamilton and Chris Wills, to encourage members to submit details of their FEPOW relative for the Album Pages held at the FEPOW Building and online.

Enquiry from Linda Hamilton...

"Can you tell me if you are still accepting entries for the Photo Album? I've only just discovered my grandfather and I would love for him to be included in this tribute."

Reply from Chris Wills...

"If you look on the COFEPOW website you will see the information to create one."

Follow up from Linda...

"I've written a few notes down about my grandfather. Unfortunately, I didn't know him, and neither did my mother. I've only just 'found' him by researching my family history."

Reply from Chris...

"Please find attached the Album page for your grandfather, Robert Morris. I hope you find this to be in order. Please let me know if there are any amendments that need to be made. If you go on to the COFEPOW website you'll see his questionnaire in his own handwriting. Complete the Data Protection form. On approval of you album page, I will forward it to the website at <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/fepow-photo-album> and, I will take it and put it in the FEPOW Building."

Response from Linda...

"Many thanks for sending the proof page. It looks good. The photo came out so well! I need to print out the Data Protection pages as I can't complete them via my iPad. I'm not a COFEPOW member either, do I need to enlist?"

Answer from Chris...

"You don't have to be a member. Just put your grandfather's details and yours. I have made the amendment you requested. Thank you for the information and allowing us to put him in our Album in perpetuity."

Response from Linda...

"I can't thank you enough for the chance to include my grandfather in the Album. It means a lot to me and my daughters, and this way he won't ever be forgotten again."

Special weekend for Fall of Singapore 80th

Friday 11th, Saturday 12th and/or Sunday 13th February 2022, at the Novotel York Hotel and Centre, Fishergate, York.

COFEPOW trustees have decided that the 80th anniversary of the fall of Singapore, which occurs on 15th February next year, should be commemorated by a specially arranged weekend for members and families.

New National Event Co-ordinator, Anthony Morris, has been working hard to identify suitable venues and York has been selected as the perfect location. Discussions are ongoing, both with York Minster to hold a short service and lay a wreath and with various places such as the Jorvik Museum to obtain special Group discounts.

The **Novotel York Hotel and Centre** has been identified as the ideal base. The hotel overlooks the River Fosse and is situated close to the historic city walls, and is well-positioned for exploring the culture of York. There is excellent accessibility for those with reduced mobility, and Wi Fi/internet access is available.

Prices are on a bed and breakfast basis:
Single room (price per room): Friday night - £75, Saturday night - £90, Sunday night - £75. So two nights Fri/Sat - £165 or Sat/Sun - £165. All three nights - £240.

Double/Twin room (based on 2 people sharing, price per room): Friday night - £95, Saturday night - £110, Sunday night - £95. So two nights Fri/Sat - £205 or Sat/Sun - £205. All three nights - £300.

£30 per person will be charged for the evening 'Cabaret Meal' on Saturday, which includes canapés, 3 course dinner, coffee & petit fours. The meal would be served in the Fishergate Suite with its own dance floor and private bar. Other bars and restaurants are available in the hotel - any drinks and/or meals are to be paid for at the time.

There is limited parking at the hotel but additional spaces will be available nearby (at an extra cost).

A deposit of £30 per person is required with your booking here, with the balance paid on arrival. Please complete this form, clip it from the newsletter or print it from the email and enclose with your cheque, made payable to **COFEPOW**, and post to Tony Morris, 33 Manor Green Walk, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 3BW. If you would like to pay by transfer or Direct Debit, COFEPOW bank details are: Sort Code: 77-66-08. Account no: 39157268.

Please make sure you add 'York' as the reference and let Tony know what you've paid and when, with a note of your requirements, to **Anthony.Morris33@hotmail.co.uk**. Cancellations will be accepted up to 28 days prior to arrival.

Your name

Address

Post Code

Email

Tel: no.

Number in your party attending

Single room(s)

No. of nights Fri Sat Sun

Double room(s)

No. of nights Fri Sat Sun

No. for dinner on Saturday night

Please tick the appropriate box in each category for the elements you wish to book, and indicate the quantity of guests you will be bringing.

If you are unsure of any details, price combinations or you need to detail your booking more fully, please email Tony Morris at: Anthony.Morris33@hotmail.co.uk

TBRC/POW enquiry form service - New form boosts member enquiries....

Another update from Terry Manttan, General Manager of the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre at Kanchanaburi...

"The enquiries are still going strongly, especially soon after the issue of newsletters. This has certainly proved to be a service very welcomed by your members/readers and a lot of detailed and personally significant information has been provided and gratefully received by family members."

One matter that's surfaced is that some people have been unclear on how to lodge the form, asking for clarification on where the completed form printed in the COFEPOW newsletter should be sent to and other related uncertainties.

The enquiry form located on the COFEPOW website in its previous format had to be printed, scanned and emailed, potentially making it an arduous and perhaps unclear process.

However, a new interactive form is now up and running, making the process quick and easy. On the COFEPOW website, simply go to the "More Links" click on the "TBRC Portal", then to the "Online POW Enquiry Form". Just complete the required data online and hit the "Submit" button and the form goes instantly to the inbox of Terry Manttan at TBRC for researching.



An acceptable alternative is to email Terry direct at **admin@tbrconline.com** with your POW relative's known details, such as full name, date of birth, military service number and any additional information you may know already, which is always helpful in the research process.

Terry concludes:

"Thanks again for the support with this for a great outcome for everyone."

Terry Manttan, General Manager

The Thailand-Burma Railway Centre (T.B.R.C. Co. Ltd.) is located next to the main Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Should you wish to send your enquiry form by post, the address is: Thailand-Burma Railway Centre, 73 Jaokunnen Rd, Ban Nua, Kanchanaburi 71000 THAILAND. The centre's web site is at: www.tbrconline.com

 THAILAND-BURMA RAILWAY CENTRE (TBRC) Kanchanaburi, Thailand. P.O.W. enquiry 	
Your name	
Contact details (email)	
Your relationship to the POW?	
Did he survive the war?	
Please complete, to whatever extent possible, the following information about the veteran:	
Surname	
Other names	
Nation served with	
Date of birth	
Army/Navy/Air Force	
Name of his military unit	
Rank	
Any other information that may be of assistance or interest	
ABOUT TBRC:	<p>TBRC is a privately operated, world-class Museum and Research Centre (opened in Kanchanaburi, Thailand in 2003) with a few long-serving Researchers dedicated to ensuring the story of the Thailand-Burma Railway (1942 to 1945) is never forgotten and to providing ongoing research to enquiring families for present and future generations.</p>
ABOUT OUR RECORDS:	<p>While our research is ongoing and our records continue to grow, we currently have in excess of 106,000 individuals of all serving nationalities in our database with detailed information added to each record as found. Additionally we have over 95,000 hospital admission and discharge records now individually identified and digitally recorded. In conjunction with all available Japanese Index Cards and Liberation Questionnaires plus a large number of Books, Personal Accounts, Diaries and Reports, we are in a unique position to offer rapid, comprehensive, factually based and researched information to related family members who we believe have a right to know.</p>
<p>Please contact TBRC Research Department staff (in the Research Centre on the second floor of the Museum or by email).</p> <p>Thailand-Burma Railway Centre (T.B.R.C. Co. Ltd) 73 Jaokunnen Road, Ban Nua, Muang, Kanchanaburi 71000, THAILAND. email: admin@tbrconline.com website: www.tbrconline.com</p> <p>All information is gathered during extensive research by TBRC, relying on both official and unofficial sources and with in-depth accumulated personal knowledge. Such information is offered in good faith and while great care is taken in recording facts, absolute accuracy cannot be guaranteed in every instance.</p>	

**LEST WE
FORGET**

....but the work needs constant finance support

COFEPOW initiative to encourage donations to the Centre

The successful provision of information regarding FEPOW relatives to many COFEPOW members in return has encouraged a number of members to ask how to make a donation to the Centre.

COFEPOW is also aware the pandemic has caused financial hardship for TBRC and the lack of international travel and few local visitors unfortunately means the Centre's reserve private funds are progressively running down.

TBRC is a significant and valuable source of accurate historical facts about British and Commonwealth POWs during the war, facts which are researched, compiled and provided entirely free of charge.

Details of how to make a donation to The Thailand-Burma Railway Centre's (TBRC) Bank account are therefore included here:

Bank of Ayudhya PCL (Krungsri Bank),
Head Office, Bangkok, Thailand.

Bank A/c name: T.B.R.C. Co. Ltd.

Current A/c No: 152 0 01323 6
(10 digits – no spaces)

Swift Code (11 digits): **AYUDTHBKXXX**

Some online systems require an 8 digit SWIFT Code in which case simply delete the 'XXX' on the end.

SWIFT Code (8 digits): **AYUDTHBK**

Note: Thailand does not use IBAN or BSB system but uses **SWIFT**.

International Money Transfers (IMT) via on-line Banking can be available from Banks. There are also non-bank online IMT options. TBRC has had good long term experience with a non-bank online service called "Wise" <https://wise.com> which has proven to be efficient and very economical. They have the best exchange rates to Thai currency that TBRC has experienced with negligible fees deducted from the transfer.

Please notify any transfers to TBRC by email at admin@tbrconline.com to help confirm receipt and acknowledge donors. Any support would be very welcome.

Learn the Alexander Technique with member Sandra and raise funds for the museum

"My father, Lance Corporal Arthur Cole of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, worked on the Railway for the duration of his captivity. I first visited the Thai/Burma Railway Centre Museum in 2008, with my family, as part of a British Legion Pilgrimage Tour. That afternoon changed my life!

Upon our return, in 2013, Terry Manttan arranged a fantastic trip, including accommodation and airport transfers. Two truly memorable visits followed in 2017 and 2019. The museum and all those connected with it have done so much for me, providing information and taking me to places of huge importance to my late Father. Without the existence of the Museum, none of us would ever have known all that we do now. Their care and dedication is phenomenal and their database equally so. The running costs of the museum are substantial and revenue from international visitors is crucial. During lockdown it has been non-existent. The Museum needs our help now!

Please join me and support my idea to raise as much money as we can. I am an Alexander Technique Teacher. Lessons are normally 'hands on' but lockdown has forced me to learn to teach via Zoom. So, I am inviting all members, families and friends to have fun together and join with me for 'Sandra's Worldwide Alexander Lie/Sit in Lessons via Zoom'. It is simple! Learn the technique in your own home, help the museum and improve your posture, health and wellbeing. A minimum donation of 10.00 GBP Sterling or equivalent per person for each lesson will be extremely welcome. All proceeds will be sent straight to the museum.

Join 'Sandra's Worldwide Alexander lie in/sit in via zoom' on 15th July at 16.30 BST - have fun, learn something new and make a donation to TBRC. Contact Sandra at: sandranorman@alexandertechnique4all.co.uk See website at <https://alexandertechnique4all.co.uk> Check out 'Alexander Adventures' and 'My Blog'."

Note: The trustees of COFEPOW are entirely supportive of Sandra's goal and will offer help in any way possible.



Eden Camp VJ Day - join COFEPOW at Annette's display

11th August 2021 Malton, North Yorkshire - a brilliant family day out!

Following the fantastic success of the COFEPOW stand taken at the Eden Camp Modern History Theme Museum for their 2019 VJ-Day commemoration, COFEPOW member Annette Hughes has been invited to re-run the exhibition again in 2021, having missed 2020 when the museum was closed.

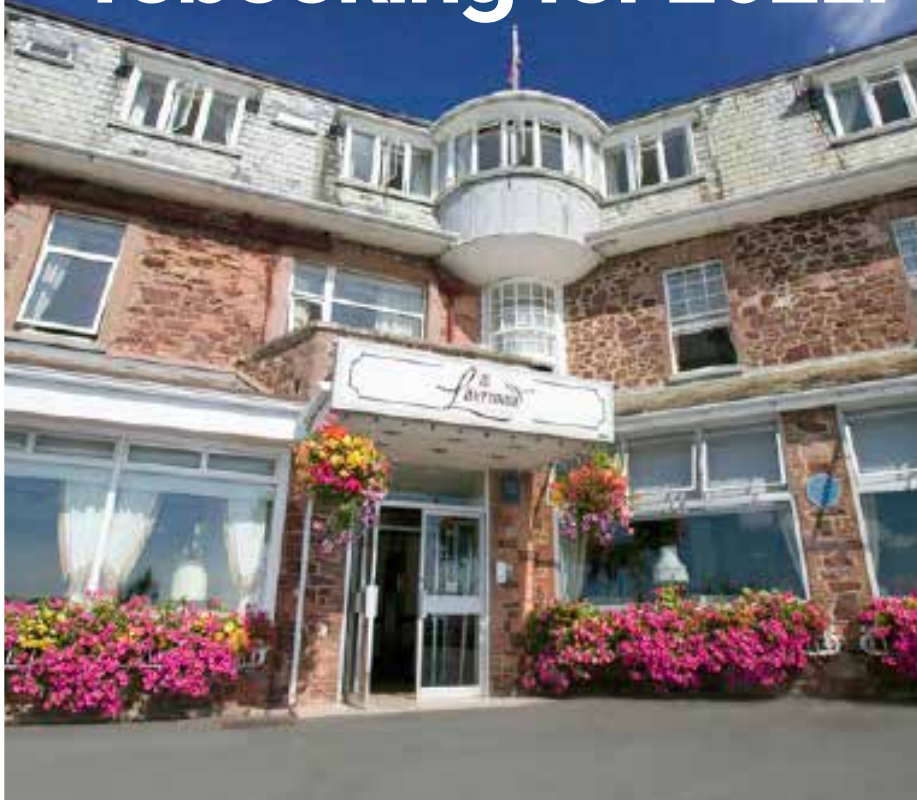
Needless to say, Annette is delighted to accept on behalf of the charity, subject to prevailing conditions following the pandemic, of course.

The museum occupies a former WWII POW Camp in Malton, North Yorkshire and was closed in 2020 because of the virus. It will open again this year to visitors, and COFEPOW Birmingham/West Midlands Area Co-ordinator Annette and husband Stewart will set up an information point again in a gazebo outside the Far-East hut.

The COFEPOW display will include maps of the Thai/Burma railway, photos from Thailand, VJ commemorative DVDs, branded material, newsletters and COFEPOW membership forms, plus the 'Gallery of Heroes' and, hopefully the impressive new 1000 FEPOW collage.

Planned for Wednesday August 11th., Annette and Stewart would like to invite all for a family day out at the museum in Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 6RT. Tel: (01653) 697777. See the website at: www.edencamp.co.uk or for more details, email Annette at: cranedriver1964@live.com
Annette Hughes
B'ham/West Midlands Area Co-ordinator.

COFEPOW Weekend Break - rebooking for 2021!



**The Livermead House Hotel,
Sea Front, Torquay TQ2 6QJ.
Friday 1st to Monday 4th
of October 2021.**

**Two nights' dinner, bed and
breakfast, just £150 per person.
Three nights' dinner, bed and
breakfast, just £205 per person.
Reservations are on a strictly
first come, first served basis.**



For more information or to book, clip the coupon below and return to:
Chris Wills, 74, The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6SG.



Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

email _____

Tel no. _____

No. of people _____

No. of rooms _____

No. of nights _____

Type of room (special requirements) _____



The Livermead House Hotel in Torquay is an elegant hotel, built in 1820 on the edge of Cockington Valley on Torquay Sea front in the heart of the English Riviera, Torbay, Devon.

The hotel offers a traditional flavour, breathtaking sea views, and high standards of service and cuisine with an award-winning chef. The Livermead House is one of three Rew Hotels, a family-owned and managed group of hotels on Torquay's water's edge.

There's a pleasant level walk to the town centre, free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi internet access in all public areas. Tea/coffee will be offered on arrival. A full English or continental breakfast will be served each morning and a four-course table d'hôte dinner each evening. On the Saturday, there will be a complimentary drinks reception before dinner and a glass of wine with dinner.

If you wish to extend your stay, extra nights will be £55 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast, for up to a maximum 7 night stay in total. There is no supplement for the first 6 single rooms, any single rooms over will incur a supplement of £15 pppn. Sea view rooms carry a supplement of £10 pppn. To secure your place, simply complete your details below, cut where shown and post back to Chris Wills, with a deposit of £25 per person. Cheques should be made payable to COFEPOW.

If you live locally, and would just like to come to the Saturday night dinner, we can offer a special price of £25 per head – £9 less than the normal price.

For more information or to book by phone or email, contact: Chris Wills, telephone: 0121 244 7263. email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you there later this year!



Pam's Page

Pam Stubbs is the former Secretary of the Birmingham Association of FEPOWs, an Honorary Life Member of COFEPOW, and contributes regularly to COFEPOW Quarterly.

In December 2020, Pam celebrated her 90th birthday. Along with her late husband and former FEPOW, Les, Pam is the author of a number of books about the FEPOW experience and its particular relevance to the various branches of the military.

“Because of my failing eyesight due to macular degeneration, my television viewing is very restricted and I mostly watch quizzes.

“So, soon after the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, I put channel 3 on shortly before 4.00pm, to listen to ‘Tipping Point’ and caught the end of an interview in which it was said that the Duke’s ship had been in Tokyo Bay when Japan’s surrender was signed, and that two FEPOWs had swum out to his ship.

“This reminded me of the occasion when the Duke was the Guest of Honour at one of the reunions of the National Federation of FEPOW Clubs and Associations in Blackpool when, in recounting this story, he departed from his written speech and said “I don’t suppose either of them is here.”

One was.

“Oh!” he said “See me afterwards”.

“Another FEPOW occasion involving the Duke was at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, commemorating the fortieth anniversary of VJ Day. Noticing F. C. (Pat) De Paeztron’s French decoration, he said to him “Out of the frying pan into the fire”.

“In the January and April Quarterlies there was much information about Pat De Paeztron. After his death in 1987, the floral tributes were placed on the FEPOW plaque at the Burma Campaign Memorial in Bromsgrove, with which he had been very involved.

“A memorial fund was then established, with which a memorial seat was purchased. This was placed in Bromsgrove and I quote from the Birmingham Association of FEPOW



Newsletter – November/December 1988.
F C (Pat) De Paeztron Memorial Seat.

“Our thanks to all who made the 16th October such a successful occasion - to FEPOW Rev. Ray Rossiter for conducting the service, to Harold Payne, President of the National Federation of FEPOW Clubs and Associations, for unveiling the plaque and speaking so kindly of Pat, to Councillor and Mrs Beresford Green for attending, although this meant rushing from a family party in celebration of the Councillor’s birthday, to Joan De Paeztron and other members of the family, some of whom had travelled from France to be present, to the Salvation Army for providing the music, to the Bromsgrove and Birmingham Branches of the Burma Star Association and the Bromsgrove Branch of the British Legion, whose standards were present, to Reg Dunne, Bert Humphries and Steve Cairns, who, with Harold Payne, represented the National Federation of FEPOW Clubs and Associations, of which Pat was a Life Vice-President, to members of other associations both FEPOW and Burma Star who attended and to the ladies of Aston Fields British Legion for the refreshments served in the adjacent Amphlett Hall.”

“Harold Payne (whose birthday it also was) spoke of how very well Pat was respected in the FEPOW National Federation, in which he was involved right from its commencement, and said,

“His wisdom was always gladly accepted and his smile was infectious. Now that Pat is no longer with us, it is very appropriate that this beautiful memorial seat, situated in this peaceful memorial garden, should be dedicated to his memory. I feel sure that Pat would wish that those who rest upon it may spare a thought not only for him but for all those who died as a result of war service, thereby keeping to the motto “to keep going the spirit that kept us going.”

“We thank God for the life of Pat De Paeztron.”

Pam Stubbs.



Important date for Sandakan-Ranau VJ Day service - Monday August 16th

Hazel Braund wishes to invite members to the VJ-Day Remembrance Service for the families and friends of those who never returned from the Sandakan-Ranau Death Marches in Borneo.

Almost 2500 Allied POWs lost their lives at the Sandakan camp during the Japanese occupation.

The service will be held at St. Clement Danes RAF Church, Fleet Street, London at 12.30pm (although this is an RAF church, all services are welcome). Depending on government guidelines at the time, it is hoped attendees may be able to go to a nearby pub for a light lunch. For details please contact: hbraund@hotmail.co.uk
Hazel Braund

Author seeks POW family members for new book

Journalist, author and ghost-writer, Julie Cook, is writing a book about POWs' mental health, when they returned home. She's focusing on interviewing family members of British POWs who were captured and asking what help they were offered and how it affected the rest of their lives. Julie has approached the charity to invite the families of ex-servicemen who were FEPOWs and who might be interested in speaking to her about how their relatives' captivity affected their life. Julie is looking for sons/daughters/grandchildren, to describe how their family member who had been a POW behaved on their return, and throughout their life, and how being a POW impacted men's mental disposition and that of their families, during the years that followed.

If you're interested in participating, it would simply involve either a face-to-face (if Covid allows), Zoom or phone interview, whichever is preferable. The book will be published by a major history publisher in 2022.

Please contact Julie for more information at julie_cook@outlook.com or if via Facebook @julieauthorjourn.

Changi Bars & shutters progress report

For members wondering what progress has been made in bringing the Changi Gaol bars and shutters to the FEPOW Memorial Building, the trustees are delighted to announce a partnership has been formed with a Birmingham architectural practice. We now await approval from the Royal Naval Museum to move the artefacts to the NMA.

The challenges of FEPOW research



Keith Andrews, COFEPOW trustee and Head of Research, outlines the difficulties that can be experienced in identifying information about those held in captivity in the Far-East during the war, and how best to approach it...

"Singapore, February 15th 1942. Singapore has fallen, and the defeated forces march into captivity. From that moment, the British Army etc. ceased to exist, as they were under new masters (that is how a Royal Artillery Officer explained it to me, very early on in my research).

"It soon became apparent that the Japanese were not going to let the POWs languish about in Changi, as there was work to be done. And as far as the Japanese were concerned, there in Changi was the workforce needed.

"It was soon realised that records would need to be compiled, not only to include those men in Changi, but those who were listed as missing, and those known to have been killed in the battles for Malaya and Singapore. That was the starting point for the BRE in Changi.

"As the Japanese initially moved men into Singapore on work parties, a record needed to be kept of those men, although it does not look as if these survived. This would later have been expanded to cover the men who were moved to French Indo-China, Thailand, Japan and other areas.

"However, a detailed search of the files has sadly confirmed this was not always the case for parties leaving Singapore from camps other than Changi. As men were moved into Changi from Java for instance, information was obtained from those parties regarding men listed as missing, and the rolls updated. Rolls were kept of these Java parties moving in and out of Singapore, but not all are at the National Archives, for whatever reason.

"A Regimental Nominal Roll is, if you like, the address book of the regi-

ment, as at the 8th December, 1941. This lists the men by number, rank, name, next of kin, plus any remarks and destination. As information became available, the rolls were updated.

"The BRE compiled a series of index cards for use in forwarding post. These are not the cards at the National Archives. The Japanese were aware of these cards, although they were not aware of the rolls referred to here, as far as I know.

"The Master Rolls was an A to Z of POWs in Changi, compiled as a straight alphabetical list. There are also Master Rolls and Pilot Rolls, an alphabetical list by regiment, both also updated. Please refer to the lists on the COFEPOW website. These are a portion of WO361, which contains numerous files other than those mentioned previously, which it is not appropriate to list here.

"Those files for the RAF and Royal Navy were handed over to their respective representatives on the 3rd September, 1945. Likewise, the rolls of troops of other nationalities were given to their respective governmental representatives.

"The very big question mark is over what happened to the British Indian Army files. I make reference to File 97 in the nominal rolls, which is listed as Indian Army Personnel.

"There is another file series as well, WO347, 1 to 3. These books (yes books - very heavy they are, too!) were compiled after all the parties had departed Singapore in 1942. We think they were compiled at the end of December 1942, and are very handy for tracking those who left Changi in 1943.

"However, a number of these files have been digitised on 'Find My Past' and other organisations, so you cannot see original documents like POW Index Cards. The problem with that is, if you wanted to search for free, you would have to go to Kew and use their computers.

"The other issue is that most searches are by name, which you would expect, although you can use a service number. If there is a misspelling or the number is incorrect, it's a problem. There are ways of getting around that, however, if you know how. I hope you find the above to be of use."

Keith Andrews.

COFEPOW Head of Research
Far East Prisoners of War.



Calling all members – COFEPOW needs your help in the Archives

Have you ever thought of volunteering to help COFEPOW members source and identify information about FEPOW relatives? Do you have any spare time and would like to help us for a few hours a month? If so, would you like to be a volunteer Archive Assistant?

This would entail manning the Archives in the FEPOW Building at the National Memorial Arboretum on occasion, and helping members to research their FEPOW - an essential role for COFEPOW. You will gain a great deal of personal satisfaction and gratitude from the people you help. Full training will be provided.

Ideally, we would be looking for several people for this role, so if you think you might like to help, please contact Keith Andrews, Archivist, by email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk or by phone on 01530 450621.

Donations of Artefacts:

The COFEPOW charity has accepted and continues to accept relevant donations of FEPOW authored publications, personal artefacts, souvenirs, mementoes and military keepsakes. While donations of these items are gratefully received, the trustees cannot guarantee that they will be put on display in the FEPOW Building at the NMA, as we are unable to change the display cases in the downstairs exhibition area.

Please be assured that any donations will be stored safely in the archives (upstairs in the Building) under lock and key, and monitored by security cameras.

Unfortunately, the space in the archives is also limited and, although we are not yet full, once the archives reach full capacity we will regrettably have to turn down further offers of donations.

If you wish to donate any artefact, please contact either Keith Andrews by email scubaka@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01530 450621, or Chris Wills by email at chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 0121 244 7263.



VJ Day 75th+1 Anniversary...

Sunday 15th August 2021

Minster Church of St. Andrew Memorial Service



The Minster Service

Only a restricted service in 2020 could be held to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. 2021 now sees a more positive environment to hold this important memorial in the Minster Church in Plymouth, on Sunday 15th August. All are welcome, but please be seated by 2.15pm. A fund-raising mission has been launched to help pay for the church, order of service booklets, service personnel, entrance wristbands and afternoon/evening entertainment. Donations would be appreciated therefore, however small, and can be made by cheque to 'Support for Heroes', 29 Waring Road, Southway, Plymouth PL6 6NQ, or by the [Crowdfunder](#) website, under 'VJ 75+1 - End of WW11'. Thank you.

Plymouth Guildhall Celebration

Live performances from 4.30pm to 9.00pm. by amazing acts, including '2Unique' and Neil Kristopher, taking you through the Forties, Fifties, Sixties and more!



Entry £3.00 by purchased wristband only, available from the Treasury Bar & Restaurant, PL1 2AD, on Wednesday 28th and Saturday 31st July, and Wednesday 4th and Saturday 7th August, between 12.00pm to 2.00pm.

For more details visit the website:

www.vjday75plymouth.co.uk

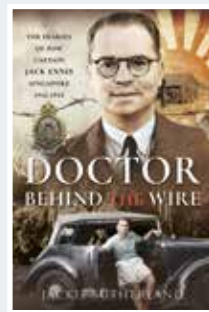
Contact: 07398 057074.

The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry. **Organiser Lisa De Lar would like to thank sponsors, Plymouth Argyle FC and Audax.**



Doctor Behind the Wire - The Diaries of POW Captain Jack Ennis, Singapore, 1942-1945

A true story featuring people brought together in a time of war, authored by Jackie Sutherland, Jack and Elizabeth's elder daughter.



Although other books have featured Jack and Elizabeth Ennis, this is the first complete account of their story and is based on Jack's diaries compiled before, during and after the war.

Jack Ennis was born in Rawalpindi and completed medical training in London. In 1939, he was posted to India, and although still a young officer, was diverted to take control of the Far-East Pathological Laboratory in Singapore. In 1941, he met Elizabeth Petrie, a young nurse from Edinburgh, and after a short courtship, they married in Singapore. The inspiration for the 'Changi Quilts', the story of the Girl Guide quilt, is told by Elizabeth, written after the war. Her former employer, Robert Heatlie Scott, a distinguished Far-East diplomat, was also a POW in Changi, much of the time in solitary confinement or under interrogation by the Japanese.

Following the capitulation, Jack and Elizabeth were separately interned by the Japanese. Jack continued his diaries throughout his time as a POW, and form the basis of daughter Jackie's book, which is illustrated by a collection of postcards, letters, photographs, sketches and an index of the names of over 400 fellow internees. Each page records the daily struggles against disease, injury and malnutrition, alongside the support and camaraderie of friends. The individual experiences of the three combine in an amazing story of courage, love and life-long friendship.

Reunited after the war, Jack and Elizabeth lived in Durham, moving back to Scotland on Jack's retirement. He died in 2007.

RRP: £25. ISBN: 9781399010283.
Hardback, published July 2021,
by Pen & Sword Military.
www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

COFEPOW Quarterly is available either as a printed multi-page A4 magazine, or as a PDF, emailed to your online address. Published in January, April, July and October, it is edited and assembled by Chris Wills and Steve Riley. We are keen to receive all material from members, to contribute towards the newsletter. Please send all photographs, illustrations, articles, notices and event information to either: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk or sriley.beeches@btinternet.com Thank you.

Lee Nash seeks Dad's RAF Officers' photograph

Member Lee Nash is trying to locate a photograph of his father, Private Harold Nash, service number 7617158, R.A.O.C. 18th Division.

In his father's notes, it mentions RAF officers in camp and a group photograph. Lee hopes that this picture is still in existence, possibly in the collections of fellow COFEPOW members whose fathers may have been in the same unit or camps, before or during the war.

Harold was captured at the fall of Singapore, held in Changi, was sent as part of R Party under Lt-Col. A. A. Johnson, of the 4th Suffolks, bound for Ban Pong, and assigned to Camp No. 1 on the Thai/Burma railway.

He arrived back in Singapore on July 11th 1944, as part of Major Seekings group from Nong Pladuk, and was sent to River Valley Road Camp.

From there he sailed on the Haruyasa Maru - destination French Indo-China. The ship made it to Saigon, where he was held in Camp No. 8 and was liberated between 12th and 15th September, 1945. Lee's father's notes are comprehensive and detailed, and are available by email to any member who might be able to help identify the whereabouts of the photo.

If anyone can help, please email Lee on lee.nash@lnesystems.com

Donations

On behalf of COFEPOW, thank you for your generosity. Every penny goes towards the maintenance of the FEPOW Memorial Building and Gardens and other memorials in the UK.

Only two donations are listed this quarter, as the remainder are awaiting transfer to a new Paypal account held in the COFEPOW charity's name, rather than in the trustees'. All donations will be listed next quarter.

Jenny Todhunter - £325 for slate house signs she painted, as she couldn't hold her normal garden party, and Shirley Barnes - residual £100 donated by Leicester COFEPOW group after raising funds for the Leicester Far-East Memorial.

Changi Chapel and Museum reopening ceremony - May 18th.

The Changi Chapel and Museum has successfully established itself as one of the must-see World War II sites in Singapore, and has received international praise for its sensitive and poignant portrayal of the war years in Singapore. More than 100,000 visitors, both local and foreign, experience the Museum annually.

In 2018 the museum closed to undergo a major programme of refurbishment, with the intention of reopening in 2020. Unfortunately, the extent and consequences of the pandemic put paid to any plans to reopen by that date.

Now, the Chapel and Museum is at last delighted to announce that all works are now complete, with the reopening ceremony transmitted 'live' on the Changi Chapel and Museum (CCM)'s Facebook and YouTube pages, on 18th May 2021 at 9.00 a.m. UK time.

Those who watched enjoyed an informal address by guest of honour, Mr. Edwin Tong, the Singaporean Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, who

described the overhaul and role of the museum and how over 80 new exhibits had been included in the displays.

There was also a highlight tour of the museum by Rachel Eng, Assistant Curator, and tributes to the POWs, civilian internees and the work of the museum via personal accounts from families of POWs and organisations across the world, who have contributed in a number of ways to the revamp.

The sounding of The Last Post by a lone bugler in the grounds of the chapel completed a fitting finale to the initial ceremony.

The opening programme will continue to be available for viewing on CCM's Facebook page and YouTube page. Details are as follows:

CCM's Facebook page
(go.gov.sg/ccmfb) and **YouTube page**
(go.gov.sg/ccmyoutube)

For further information, please visit www.changi_museum@nhb.gov.sg

The Changi Museum, 1000, Upper Changi Road North, Singapore 507707. Admission is free.

Dave thanks supporters on behalf of Gurkhas

COFEPOW Member, Dave Hutson, recently launched a fund-raising drive to help the Gurkha Welfare Trust generate funds to build Gurkha veterans' homes in Nepal, recently lost during earthquakes and monsoons. Dave is delighted with the response to date and has sent the following message of gratitude to all COFEPOW members who have donated.

"The members

and supporters of COFEPOW have responded to my appeal in support of my project to provide an earthquake resilient home for a Gurkha veteran with great generosity, for which you all have my heartfelt

thanks. My target was to raise £6,000 and thus far, with your help, the total is £4,000. Donations are beginning to dry up now and I feel this will probably be my final total. The money raised will help provide



all the materials required, transport and a portion of the labour involved to help establish another new home.

"I will hold the appeal open until the end of July, at which time it will be closed and the total raised will be forwarded to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

"Finally, I send my thanks to you all."

Shown above is battle veteran, Sher Bahadur of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, with his wife Agya. Their house has been rebuilt utilising financial support derived from drives such as this.



Fred Ransome Smith - Part Two of David Everett's account - "The good friend I never got to meet"



The beginning of a unique and special friendship.

David Everett continues the story of his
rewarding FEPOW friendship.

"I received a reply to my letter to Fred a few weeks after my first approach. Yes, he definitely recognised Dad from the picture I sent, spoke very well of him and also remembered his death at the Chungkai Military Base Hospital in 1943. We soon got to know one another very well through our letters, particularly when we found out we had a few things in common.

"Prior to contacting Fred, I had been in touch with and got to know Lieutenant Philip Peachey and the daughter of Lieutenant Hugh Collins, the officer who had been with him the night he died. At one time or another, Dad had served under both of these officers in the 5th Suffolks, too and they had spoken glowingly of him as a fine and devoted family man. Fred had known both of these men well and often referred to them in our correspondence. Hugh had unfortunately passed away but his daughter has since become a good friend.

"Prior to joining up, Fred had studied at Chelsea Art School under Henry Moore, one of Britain's leading sculptors and artists, who I actually met in the 1960s whilst helping out in my uncle's hardware shop on a Saturday, where he was a regular customer. Like Fred, I had, upon leaving school, embarked on a career in commercial design and publicity, whilst Fred put his artistic skills to good use with various London advertising agencies. So, we always had lots to talk about in our letters.

"Like myself, he had also continued his creative pursuits during retirement, but left me in the shade a bit there! Whilst my time was taken up for several years, just designing promotional literature for a local Hospice, Fred, (now well into his 90s) always seemed to have a multitude of different projects on the go.

Illustrating a book about stage shows at certain POW camps (brief respites from the horrors of captivity) to a booklet of scenes he had drawn of his Battalion leaving England bound for Singapore in 1941 were just a few of these!

"During this time, because I was getting more good information than I had bargained for, I started on a second book and Fred contributed a sketch of Dad he had specially prepared for inclusion in this one. We also engaged in some mutual book swapping! I sent him copies of mine and he sent me two he'd had published of sketches he'd done (unbeknown to the Japanese!) whilst in captivity.

"A few years into our relationship, I realised one day I had no idea at all of what Fred looked like! That was soon remedied one memorable Saturday evening when I settled down to watch a film made by an Australian company, Electric Films, called 'The Fall Of Singapore - End Of An Empire'. Half an hour into the film, an officer who had been there at the time of the surrender explained how it had all come about. That officer was Fred Ransome Smith!

"In December 2017, I was fortunate to actually see TV film footage of Fred being interviewed at the Melbourne Shrine where the sketches he had made during captivity were on display to the general public. I believe my last letter to him was just before Christmas 2018.

"To say I miss him is an understatement. Like good friends with so much in common, it was always a pleasure to get up-to-date with our latest news and other topics of mutual interest.

"I can remember in one of my early letters to him saying it was a shame I didn't live just down the road so I could drop in and see him, have a cuppa and a good old chinwag every now and again. Sadly, he passed away in August 2019 at the grand old age of 99, a month short of his 100th birthday.

"Whilst I never got to meet him, nevertheless through our correspondence he became a really good friend, his letters always so interesting and full of life and enthusiasm. I am so privileged and proud to have known such a remarkable man as Fred and to have enjoyed his unique friendship for all those years."

David Everett



1000 FEPOW Gallery call

Many COFEPOW members may already be aware of a Facebook group set up to provide an online digital memorial to Far-East POWs - in effect, a photo album, as a tribute to those who suffered so much. We hope to provide a fitting tribute to the many FEPOWs who lost their lives and to those who survived who were scarred mentally and physically. We're hoping that more of those with relatives who were held as Far-East POWs will help us.

The VJ Day FEPOW's Gallery group is hoping to collect 1000 photos of Far-East POWs, both service personnel and civilian internees, which will be presented as a collage in memory of them - 1000 to represent the many thousands held captive. We've already collected over 500 photos, submitted by proud sons, daughters, grandchildren or family friends. But, with the anniversary of VJ Day fast approaching, we still need many more.

We're asking those who have/had a relative who was a FEPOW, of any nationality, to please contribute a photo of them together with brief details of their service. Although photos of service personnel in uniform are preferred, this is not essential - we understand that some families have so few photos of their FEPOW relatives, so any will suffice. If you wish to contribute a photo of a FEPOW who was not a family member, please ensure you have the permission of the family concerned. We also need to point out that the completed collage may be made public.

The brief stories that accompany many of the photos already submitted underline the need to ensure that those who endured captivity continue to be remembered. They are stories that make heartbreaking reading - so many lives lost at a tragically young age and in horrendous circumstances - whilst stories of those who survived tell of lives forever scarred, and many cut short, and of those unable to put their experiences behind them.

If you would like your FEPOW relative to be a part of this tribute, please either join the VJ Day FEPOW's Gallery group on Facebook and then post a photo of them together with brief details about them or, alternatively, send their photo and details to us by email at

fepowgallery@outlook.com



Membership Officer required

Catherine Penketh undertook this role over 5 years ago, despite having young children. Due to the increasing demands of her family, she has reluctantly given the trustees 12 months' notice before stepping down.

Do you think you could take over this very important role for COFEPOW? The person required needs to be computer literate and very organised. Catherine would like to step down next year, so applicants will have 12 months to 'learn the ropes' for a smooth hand-over. You would be required to:

- **Answer membership enquiries by phone, email or letter.**

Maintain membership list

- Add/remove/amend members' details and record membership payments (using Excel)
- Share membership list with COFEPOW officers, trustees and Area Co-ordinators
- Understand data protection needs.

Maintain FEPOW list

- Add/amend details for FEPOWs (using Excel)
- Share FEPOW list with COFEPOW officers and trustees

Newsletters

- Send out COFEPOW Quarterly by post (around 600 newsletters 4 times a year)
- Liaise with COFEPOW officer who sends the newsletter out by email
- Purchase stamps, envelopes and labels and submit receipts to treasurer
- Use Excel to record number of stamps, envelopes and labels purchased and used
- Print address labels using mail merge
- Prepare newsletters and other mailings, stuff in envelopes, add labels and stamps
- Take newsletters to post office or arrange collection via Royal Mail

Payments

- Receive and record payment of membership fees
- PayPal - record and archive payments
- Cheques - record and pay in to the bank
- Bank transfers - request statements from the treasurer and record.

If you would enjoy the challenge, contact David Brede at cofepow.chairman@gmail.com

Urgent help required...

Former Chair Paul Watson has issued an urgent plea for volunteers to come forward to help complete the Liberation Questionnaire files at the National Archives at Kew.

"Members will be aware that, for a number of years, COFEPOW has been building a master FEPOW list and producing copies of Liberation Questionnaires (LQ) completed by service personnel at the end of the war in the Far-East. There are 96 file boxes at the National Archives at Kew, containing files of FEPOWs, estimated to be 58,000 personnel, approximately 30,000 of which completed a questionnaire.

"None of the LQs has been officially digitised. COFEPOW has permission from Kew to photograph the questionnaires, and those that have already been photographed have been processed and added to the website.

"There are 8 file boxes yet to be processed with questionnaires to be photographed and a few other boxes to be checked, where some names have not been assessed.

"We are so close to completing the process after more than 10 years. For the last five or so years, only one volunteer, namely member Ivor Watson (no relation!) has been going to Kew three or four times a year and taking images for as long as his camera battery allowed!

He then forwarded them to me and on to members Valerie Rodgers, Jane and Roland Stuart, who helped to

convert the camera image number to the name of the FEPOW. This enabled COFEPOW trustee and webmaster, Guy Metcalfe-Hume, to upload the image to the website.

"Sadly, as we all know, March 2020 changed the world. Along with all the adversity the public faced, the project was suspended and Kew was closed.

"We are now finding a new normal evolving and with it, freedoms are returning. We are now able to plan future actions. Kew is re-opening soon but has restrictions on its opening hours and the number of items to be made available. I understand each item has to be sanitised after use.

"Therefore, I am asking for help from members. I am looking for volunteers who are willing to visit Kew to help with the photography of the LQ's. Ivor will still carry out his long-running task but the restrictions at Kew will prevent him covering the numbers required.

"We are so close to completion of this project but additional help from members is essential for the final phase. COFEPOW would be grateful for any help you can give.

"I am heading the project and if you are interested and would like to know more, please feel free to contact me via email at:

paulwatson2241@gmail.com

Thank you."

Paul Watson

Vacancy for COFEPOW Secretary

David Brede has been the COFEPOW Secretary for the past three years, and when Paul Watson resigned in 2018, he gallantly stepped into the breach and became the acting Chair of Trustees, which was ratified in 2020. As a result, David has been performing the dual roles for over 18 months, and has decided it is time to relinquish the role of Secretary. The Trustees would like to thank David for all his excellent work over the past years.

This is a very important position which will bring its own satisfaction. You will derive real pleasure in helping members, knowing that they value and appreciate your input.

The role involves supporting the Chairman and Trustees, taking

the minutes at the AGM and Trustee Meetings, preparing documents for these meetings, handling correspondence, telephone calls, emails from members and external bodies, issuing access to the FEPOW Database and maintaining the Data Protection Database.

Full support and guidance will be offered to the successful candidate. The Trustees are a friendly bunch and will welcome anyone who has the best interests of the charity at heart.

If you are interested in the role, please write to David Brede by the end of July 2021, at 3 Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northampton NN3 9ET, or by email to **cofepow.chairman@gmail.com**. Should you wish to discuss the role first, please call **07930 960241**.

John Crooke's War: Part 1

From Home Counties Britain to the Fall of Singapore

Roland Crooke, a member of COFEPOW for over twenty years, has written a telling account of the events leading up to and beyond captivity, as seen through the eyes of his father, John Crooke. In Part 1, Roland describes John's experiences prior to capture in Singapore in 1942. Part 2, which will appear in the October issue of COFEPOW Quarterly, moves on to his father's incarceration as a POW.

Details of how to purchase the book appear at the end of this feature.

"My Father, John Crooke, was born in 1920 into an upper class but faded Anglo-Irish family living in Berkhamsted. His father, Roland Crooke, was the only surviving brother of three who had served as officers in the First World War, and himself died from meningitis in 1930, leaving the family impoverished.

"As was customary then, John had to become the head of the family at the age of 10 and was expected to go out to work in an insurance company at 16. He hated this and volunteered for the Territorial Army in 1938. His 5th Battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment became a regular army unit in 1939 and trained for mobile desert warfare, with John becoming an officer and in command of the signals platoon in the middle of 1941. He also volunteered for the Parachute Regiment and the Commandos, but his services were not required by them.

"In October 1941, his battalion, part of the East Anglian 18th Division, embarked at Liverpool for a sea voyage which was probably intended to end in Basra, as reinforcements for a perceived German threat to the Iraqi oilfields. That all changed when the Japanese Air Force attacked Pearl Harbour. A few days later HM Ships Prince of Wales and Repulse, lacking air cover because their aircraft carrier had been sunk weeks earlier, were themselves sunk and the Japanese Army invaded Malaya.

"By the time 18th Division had

reached Cape Town on 10th December 1941, it had been decided to divert the Division to Singapore.

"By this time, it was clear that defeat for the combined British, Australian and Indian forces was inevitable. Why? There were nearly twice as many of them as were on the enemy side, but the Japanese, contrary to the arrogant ignorance prevalent in British military circles, were battle hardened troops, utterly ruthless and highly skilled in tropical fighting.

"The Allied command was divided and uncoordinated, with troops who were untrained for the task they faced and ill-equipped to fight in tropical conditions. Most fighter aircraft had by now been shot out of the sky or on the ground, and all the armoured vehicles in the colony had been sent to Russia the year before. Churchill, in my view, chose to send reinforcements into Singapore



The USS West Point, photographed by a NZ Air Force Hudson bomber, took the 5th Beds & Herts Regiment to Singapore.

to certain defeat, because he needed to show he was an equal strategic partner to the US and the USSR.

"From Cape Town, one brigade was sent in the fastest ships directly to Singapore, where it was pitched into action in Southern Malaya and torn to pieces. The rest were sent to India for some frenzied tropical acclimatisation, pretty useless given the very different climates of central India and Malaya, before being shipped to Singapore. On the way, John and his comrades were treated to some "intelligence" briefing, which sought to convince them that the Japanese posed no threat because they couldn't see in the dark, were riddled with disease and used aircraft which were bamboo copies of ours.

"The Beds and Herts land in



J. E. Crooke in uniform before the war.

Singapore on 30th January, during a bombing raid, on the last ships into the impregnable fortress. They have no heavy equipment, so will go into action carrying only their personal weapons. They march to their barracks at Changi through a city burning and being looted by deserting troops. The next day they form part of the defensive perimeter around the northern coast of Singapore island, gradually being split up into smaller and smaller pockets to respond to the latest panicky changes ordered by Malaya Command.

"On the 9th February, the Japanese invade the island and the Allied defences crumble. John's signals platoon tries to keep communications open from a position at one of the city's main reservoirs, until General Percival, GOC Malaya, orders an unconditional surrender, to take effect on 16th February 1942. John is not yet 22 years old, but later says that he had the best sleep of his life that night, with a stone as a pillow.

"He doesn't know it, but ahead of him lie three and a half years of captivity and a narrow escape from death in the jungles of Thailand while building the Siam/Burma Railway. All followed by a new life back in Malaya as a rubber estate manager."

Roland Crooke

Roland's book, *'After the Railway, One Man's Journey through World War and Civil Conflict at the end of Empire'*, deals with John's story before, during and after the war. If you would like a copy, please contact Roland by email at:

rj.crooke@gmail.com

The Story of the Hellships and the Enoura Maru Bombing

By Michael Hurst MBE, Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society



Taiwan Hellships Memorial, Chijin Beach, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

destination for POWs being used as slave labour for the Japanese war effort. More than 4,350 prisoners of war were brought to Taiwan to toil in the fourteen Japanese-run camps located on the island. Almost every POW on Taiwan came by hellship, and most left the same way - some



The 'hellship' Enoura Maru.

Michael Hurst MBE has lived in Taiwan for over 30 years and the past 24 have been spent researching the little-known story of the Japanese prisoner of war camps on the island and the men who were interned in them. He has also made a study of the hellships that transported the POWs to Japan and in particular the saga of the bombing of the Enoura Maru in Kaohsiung Harbour in January 1945. He shares that story with our readers...

"From mid-1942 to the spring of 1945, the Japanese moved their prisoners of war by sea to various places in their empire to be used as slave labour for their war effort or to get them away from allied forces.

"Tens of thousands of prisoners were transported on dozens of Japanese cargo ships - 'Hellships' as they were called - because the conditions aboard them were horrendous. POWs were crowded into holds with no room to sit or lie down. They were starved and beaten and given very little water to drink. Disease was rampant and no medical care was provided to the POWs. Many thousands perished from starvation, sickness, neglect and murder - or were killed when the unmarked ships they were traveling on were torpedoed by submarines or bombed by aircraft and sunk by allied forces.

"Taiwan played a significant role in the story of the hellships. Being a Japanese colony and secure base, it served as a haven and stopover point for many ships en route to Japan, as well as a prime

later going to Japan and Manchuria, where they stayed until the end of the war. Archival records show that, in total, more than 30,000 POWs were transported to and from and through the Taiwan ports during the war - more than any other place in Asia except for Moji, Japan.

"Conservative estimates suggest that, in all, more than 60,000 allied POWs were transported on hellships during the war, and that more than 21,000 perished - 'more deaths than were sustained in combat by the US Marines during the entire Pacific campaign!' (*Excerpt taken from the writer's book 'Never Forgotten.'*)

"A little-known event - the bombing of the hellship Enoura Maru, took place in Takao Harbour Taiwan in January 1945. The ship was carrying 1,070 POWs recovered from the sinking of the Oryoku Maru in the Philippines in December 1944. Another 236 men off that ship were also being transported on the Brazil Maru. The ships reached Taiwan and lay at anchor from December 31st 1944 through the first week of January 1945, and during that time men on both ships died from starvation, thirst and disease.

"On January 6th 1945, the remaining men from the Brazil Maru - including 37 British and Dutch POWs, were moved to the Enoura Maru. Then on the 7th, those men were taken off the ship and sent to Heito Camp, and thus escaped the bombing.

"On the morning of the 9th about 10:45, American aircraft from USS Hornet attacked shipping in Takao Harbour and, among many others, the Enoura Maru was hit at least four times.

"The hatch cover of No. 1 hold was blown off and men were killed and injured by the falling steel girders and hatch planks. Men in the second hold were killed by shrapnel from flying bomb fragments and ship's debris. In the first hold around 250 were killed outright, along with a number in the second hold, and with those who died from their wounds over the next two days because the Japanese would not give or allow any medical aid to the prisoners, this brought the total dead to 311.

"For three days the dead and dying remained in the holds of the ship and finally on the 12th the dead were lifted out of the holds in cargo nets, dumped into barges and taken to the Takao spit to be buried in a mass grave in the sand. Contrary to many reports, the corpses were not cremated but buried as they were. In the spring of 1946 the US Graves Registration Task Force came to Taiwan and exhumed 311 remains from the big mass grave and 33 from another cemetery in Takao City where they had first been buried. This totalled 344 recovered remains. Later they were sent to the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii for final burial as 'unknowns' as the remains were unable to be identified.

"Following the burials the remaining approximately 900 survivors were loaded onto the Brazil Maru for the journey on to Japan. It was a horrible voyage and about 450 of those men perished and were buried at sea. Some died as a further

Continued from page 16...

result of their wounds suffered in the bombing, others died of disease, starvation and thirst, and more died from the cold as they got near to and arrived in wintertime Japan. Of the original 1,619 men who started the journey on the Oryoku Maru, only about 400 survived and about 150 of those died in Japan that following winter.

"Contrary to many stories, the Enoura Maru did not 'sink at its moorings'. It was towed to an inside pier in the harbour where it remained afloat until the war ended. The Japanese had planned to repair it and keep it in service, but the war ended too soon. So about a year later it was scrapped.

"I have been fortunate over the years to be able to research the complete story of this tragedy. Having found the site of the bombing in the harbour, the location of the two cemeteries and the mass grave where the bulk of the men were first buried, I have followed their story right to their final burial place at the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii.

"In 2006, the Taiwan Hellships Memorial was built and dedicated in the War and Peace Memorial Park, situated across the road from the previous location of the former mass grave. It commemorates all of the men who suffered and those who died on hellships in Taiwan waters.

"You can read more details of the story of the "Enoura Maru" at this link on our website - http://www.powtaiwan.org/archives_detail.php?THE-STORY-OF-THE-BOMBING-OF-THE-ENOURA-MARU-17

"There are also a number of other stories and commemoration events listed in the Articles and Stories section of the website if you care to read them as well.

"So many of the men have said that their time on the hellships was the worst they experienced as POWs - even surpassing that of the Bataan Death March, the Thailand-Burma Death Railway, the Kinkaseki mine and all the starvation, disease and beatings in the prison camps. We must make sure that the saga of the hellships is told so that what the POWs suffered - and also the men who died on them - are never forgotten."

You can visit the website at:

www.powtaiwan.org
Michael Hurst MBE.

A reminder of the COFEPOW objectives as we ask you to renew your membership again

To coincide with VJ Day in August each year, existing COFEPOW members are asked to send their membership renewal payment to the COFEPOW Membership Secretary, Catherine Penketh.

A number have yet to forward either their Paypal payment or cheque - **so please stay with us and renew for 2021/22.**

We ask you to remember that the COFEPOW organisation is a registered charity, established to preserve and

promote the memory of all British and Commonwealth servicemen, women and civilians who were POWs in South-East Asia during World War II, providing and maintaining memorials and advancing the education of the public about the suffering and sacrifices Far-East POWs endured during their incarceration.

If you haven't already, please see the back page of this newsletter for details of how to continue your valued membership. Thank you very much.

Tributes to captain and crew Wreath laying at the grave of Captain Beckett on 80th anniversary of re-commissioning

History books record the very important part that HMS Exeter played during the 'Battle of the River Plate' in December 1939, and in her final action during the 'Battle of the Java Sea' in March 1942 and the consequences that each crew member had to endure afterwards.

After the damage sustained during the Battle of the River Plate, temporary repairs had been carried out in the Falklands and the ship was then recovered to Devonport Dockyard, where full repairs and refitting took place ready for her next Commission. Captain W.N.T. Beckett MVO DSC RN was given the task of overseeing these repairs, with a re-commissioning service scheduled to take place on the 10th March 1941. Captain Beckett had been awarded the command to then take HMS Exeter to sea again.

Sadly, the Captain was taken ill two days before and taken to Saltash Hospital, where he died on the same day as the service, which went ahead without him. Captain Oliver Gordon was then given command of HMS Exeter the following day. The ship set sail for the



Far-East and was sunk in the Battle of the Java Sea.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the re-commissioning, an HMS Exeter poppy wreath was secured to the memorial cross on the grave of Captain Beckett in Warblington Cemetery, near Portsmouth. The wreath was placed on behalf of

Captain Beckett's daughter, Rowan, and grandson, Blaise, who live in Australia, and by the HMS Exeter (Macassar) Association to remember all the ship's company in recognition of their efforts in preparing and crewing the ship.

The wreath will remain in place until the same time next year when it will be replaced.

The poppy cross at the base of the Memorial was placed by local church staff on Remembrance Sunday 2020, as it is a military grave.

Rowan and Blaise are truly grateful to all concerned and send their wishes to everyone from their Australian homes.

Peter Cox, on behalf of the **HMS Exeter (Macassar) Association** via COFEPOW member **Tom Jowett**.



Letters

Letter to Chris Wills from Chris Pitchford about the Yasume Club of South Shields and Fulcrum...

"My father, Sidney Maddison, was in the 125th Anti-Tank Regiment and arrived at Singapore on the Empress of Asia, then had to abandon ship having been bombed in the harbour. Marched to Changi, then sent in cattle trucks to Ban Pong and luckily survived to tell the tales as we know them today. He died suddenly from the effects of a fall just short of his 99th birthday, his attitude to life and living, and his dry wit made him a favourite at the golf course!

"Whilst clearing out his home of 40 years, I found a box containing copies of 'FEPOW Fulcrum' from Autumn Winter '90 (Issue 34) and June '03 (Issue 71). These all bore the heading of Japanese Labour Camps Survivors Association (JLCSA). There are also copies of Yasume Club of South Shields papers from July '98 to July '03. I feel sure that you will have copies of Fulcrum from many sources, but just in case you are missing any odd dates, or want duplicates to give other people who are researching.

"Whilst my father was born and brought up in Sunderland, his work took him to Letchworth Garden City in Hertfordshire and whenever visiting his family, he would attend Yasume meetings that coincided. I have always noted with COFEPOW that there is an area gap in the North-East, so it may be you do not have so much from there.

"Whilst I'd read about Carol Cooper and her father's diary with great interest, I first became a member of COFEPOW when my elder daughter and I visited the site in February 2003, after hearing about it on the local Midlands Today news. We drove right up to a reception which was a very large room full of plans and books and we read all about the imminent arrival of the Changi Lychgates and the fundraising for the Memorial Building.

"I gave a donation to the building and joined, and received a nail from the spare pile left from the relaying of a piece of rail track. Whilst extremely rusty, it sits on my bookcase with pride.

"Having made several visits over the years, when my father was 90 in 2009, my brother and I and our families took Dad to see the Memorial Building and he, and the grandchildren, really enjoyed the visit. The upstairs just housed research and a gentleman working there was

amazed how many camps my father was in. He replied that obviously the longer you lived the further up the track you worked!

"All the bits of humour and small stories he would tell anyone asking about life as a prisoner appear in the building and in the film 'The Railway Man' – lining up and counting to 10, then Jack, Queen and King, for example.

"Again, I always mention the lovely wall where I can put my father's name, and his best friend who died, and the name and service number lights up. This is so unusual as the names of ALL the prisoners must be there, where normally it is only those who died who are remembered, and this has such a great meaning to us all – thank you.

"I have told so many people about the building and Arboretum in general as I feel so much has been achieved and congratulate all who have been, and are, so involved in creating it and now maintaining everything that has been achieved.

"It was wonderful to see the COFEPOW site used for the VJ75 commemoration at the National Memorial Arboretum – recognition at last!

Thanking you again".

Christine Pitchford

A letter to COFEPOW Chair, David Brede from Mary Harris, following the obituary to Sir John Baird published in the newsletter in April...

"Dear David,

"May I record through the Quarterly, my sadness at reading of the death of Sir John Baird. I want to record his personal kindness and understanding of the effects of Japanese imprisonment of their menfolk on the lives of wives and daughters who cared for them post-war.

"Both my father and the man I was to marry later were prisoners and I am a child escapee from Singapore myself. I was an early member of COFEPOW, now an Honorary Life Member because I'm possibly one of the few widows left, and I worked with Carol and Ron Cooper, and Keith Andrews in cataloguing the artefacts upstairs in our wonderful FEPOW building. The day of the formal opening was very emotional, of course, and when the formalities were over, I went outside to be on my own, not knowing about the Spitfire that was to come over for its salute. It came in so low that I feared for it and we could see the pilot clearly. It circled our building, twice so far as I remember then, gaining enough height for safety, it did a victory roll as it flew off. It was the victory roll that finished me off and I stood there on my own, crying my heart out. Sir John came up and put his arm round my shoulders.

"You are way behind the RAF you know" he said. "We all start crying as soon as we hear the engines".

"I loved him for that, and for noticing me, white-haired among the uniforms, a woman whose whole life has been dominated by WWII in the Far-East".

Mary Harris.

Letter to Chris Wills from David Everett following part 1 of the Fred Ransome-Smith article in April's edition (part II on page 13...)

"Hi Chris

"Just to let you know that the latest edition of COFEPOW News arrived this morning and I was so pleased to see Fred's article and the wonderful design treatment Steve has given it. Thank you so much for this. It really has brightened up my week, along with this rare burst of sunshine!

"Once again, thanks for including Fred's story. He was a remarkable man and I was proud and very fortunate to know him".

David Everett

A letter from Frank Williams following the article on 'H' Force by Jill Robertson, which appeared in the April issue of COFEPOW Quarterly...

"Dear Editor,

"I was very interested to read the account about 'H' Force by Jill Robertson in the latest Quarterly. My late father was a Lieutenant in Lt. Col. H.R. 'Bob' Humphries' Regiment, the 77th HAA, Royal Artillery. Bob Humphries was a bank manager' before the war. The Regiment had been captured on Java in March, 1942. Lt. Col. Bob Humphries had been tasked by the Japanese to lead the next overseas 'slave labour' force to Siam (Thailand). Officers were selected by fitness levels and other ranks through their individual units. My father was recovering from 'black-water' fever and considered too unfit to go on the draft. He was most unhappy, as other ranks' fitness did not seem to count. A large group of artillery men, with some Australians, Americans and locals, left Batavia, Java in May 1943. They joined up with Lt. Col. R.F. 'Roley' Oakes, of the AIF, in Singapore to form 'H' Force. Some stated the 'H' stood for Hell.

"My father was desperate to join one of the drafts overseas, not knowing the horrors that would ensue. He very nearly joined a medical officers' draft to Japan, but fortunately for both my father and me (!), he failed. That draft went on the prison ship, Tamahoko Maru, sunk by the submarine USS Tang, off Nagasaki, with all lives lost."

Frank Williams

Ffawyddog, Crickhowell, Powys.

PS: 'I sent Jill a series of newspaper articles, from September, 1945, about the 77th RA Regiment, as they formed a large part of 'H' Force. I noticed that Lt. Col. Bob Humphries was described as a Post Office official, before the war, rather than a bank manager."

Highlighting 'H' Force

The in-depth account of endurance continues....

West Sussex Area Co-ordinator, Jill Robertson, concludes the second and final part of this fascinating serialised account:

"Hintok Camp, H1 and H6 parties' camp, was the worst of all H force camps. Its survivors call it "Death Valley" - a grimly apt name to give to that scene of misery and suffering."

Pilot Officer R T Bainbridge, October 1944.

Jill would like to thank members, Sally McQuaid and Clare Stanton, for their permission to reproduce their fathers' stories - Captain Horner and Pilot Officer Bainbridge...

"Four months had passed and both H1 (albeit a month earlier) and H6 groups tell of an arduous trek from Hintok Valley camp to Hintok River. First a 50 kilometre train journey along the extended track, then a 10km walk to the first rest halt. Two and a half days more, full of obstacles - mud, slime, boggy paddy fields, thick bamboo and a mountain. Many desperately-ill men in H1 endured this torturous route, which at one point involved ascending an 80 ft. ladder up a cliff-face, in pouring rain and with hardly any cover. Several died over the following few days as a result of this inhuman treatment. The camp was in virgin jungle, and 200 feet from the river. 'H' Force built camps and did not carry out bridge work for ages. Cholera injections were given.

"But at Hintok River camp, conditions were considerably better. It was a composite camp recruited from H1, H5 and H6 parties. H6 probably replaced H1 at this point, as they were evacuated to Kanchanaburi on the 28th August. The fittest were left behind to carry on, forming the start of what would become known as 'the fit camp'. Work was undeniably very hard. 'Speedo' demands by the Japanese Army involved building a large embankment. The camp was situated on a calling point for river barges, and the rations and canteen supplies were easily obtained. The hospital was cleaner, but the men were still hopelessly overcrowded in leaky tents. Manual work was ordered, and cholera deaths continued, but not as rife as they were at Hintok Valley.

"Captain Horner was mainly supervising and supplying wood from cut-down jungle trees, felling up the mountain slope, trekking back and forth through fallen bamboos and creepers.

It was very difficult and arduous, twice a day. Wild pig, deer (Samba) and turtles were in the area, plus snakes, butterflies and mosquitoes. They had to contend with many red ant nests, called Koringa, and not recommended as something to make contact with, or you were bitten all over. Endless rain caused painful Trench Foot. 'Speedo' on the railway continued, hair grew long and matted and personal hygiene was a thing of the past, so they always felt unkempt.

"The last party of 26 RAF officers and men, the only remaining fit men of H1, left Hintok River camp for Kanchanaburi on about the 20th September. It was a four to five day journey, again arduous and in appalling conditions.

"In October, Horner, unkempt and donning a thick beard and head of hair, writes that the River Kwai Noi had dried up, preventing food barges arriving in the next camp, Konkoita, where he was now. The camp was 257 miles from Nong Pladuk. Three bridges were completed and a few days later on 14th October, a rail carriage passed over the bridges. 35 sick men were evacuated to hospital camps.

"Ten days later, dignitaries arrived and all men were confined to camp, as no-one was allowed within sight of the 'big-shot' who was opening the railway. The 'speedo' demands were getting on the prisoners' nerves. Rations deteriorated - rice, dried greens, potatoes and towgay (like a lentil) then soya beans and sugar, but no meat or fish. H6 were then waiting to go down to Kanchanaburi.

"P.O. Bainbridge writes that RAF airmen left Hintok with hopes of recovery and recuperation in a hospital, with good food and medical supplies. Morale was wonderfully lifted on evacuation, but conditions on arrival at Kanchanaburi were disappointing. Many of the airmen casualties at Kanchanaburi died because the evacuation took place far too late and had no means of bringing them back to health. The formal start of the 'fit camp' began, and grew to 50 men as more came down from up the railway line.

"Conditions at Kanchanaburi were good: fair accommodation, very good rations, excellent canteen and much needed eggs and milk could be bought. It was a muster camp - men were discharged here from the hospital, as they again became well. Soon, small

parties of cooks and engineers arrived from up the line, and the Konkoita party arrived. Although the Konkoita men had had a hard march to their destination and endured hard labour, reasonable rations were experienced. Only one airman died from this party.

"H6 officers' group left for the muster camp on the 6th November, and arrived on the 9th after two and a half days of walking - 200m kilometres - with the comparable luxury of a steam train for 2/3rds of the journey - with cramped conditions, no doubt.

"The Kanchanaburi 'fit camp' soon expanded to 600 men. These were congregated and eventually moved to Singapore on the 19th November. Conditions on their train journey back were not as bad, but food rations were poor. The main contingent of H1 arrived back at Sime Road on 25th November.

"By the 26th November, Horner and the H6 Officers' Party was also back at Sime Road. The rest of the RAF sick men were brought down but didn't leave until the 18th December. From 261 RAF airmen and officers that went up country as part of 'H' Force, 179 came back to Singapore, and 2 more died as a result of illness contracted up-country. The 104 airmen of H1 and 800 mixed servicemen of H6 that passed away on this infamous expedition died as a direct result of inhuman treatment. They had been away from Changi for seven months or more.

"In conclusion, as the above article was shown to Clare, I was warmed by her insightful thought.

"As we know only too well, the sad losses from POW times, anywhere, can never be brought back and the impact on those who survived, yet said little, will never truly be quantified or appreciated fully."

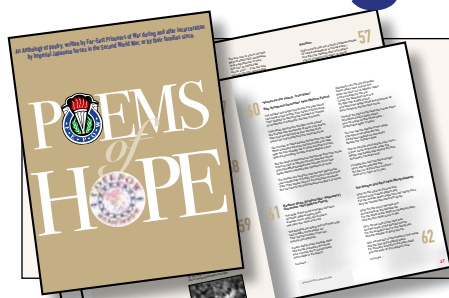
"This brings my account of 'Highlighting 'H' Force to a close. My thanks to Clare and Sally for sharing with me and enabling me to use extracts from their fathers' stories."

Jill Robertson

West Sussex Area Co-ordinator.

If any member has any further information on H2, H3, H4 and H5, please email Jill as she would like to hear more of these working parties, the dates and camps involved. Please contact: Jill Robertson on: jillfly777@hotmail.com

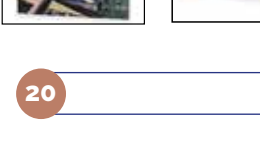
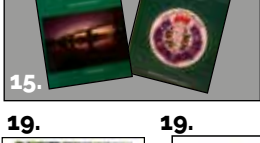
Perfect gifts and fitting mementoes



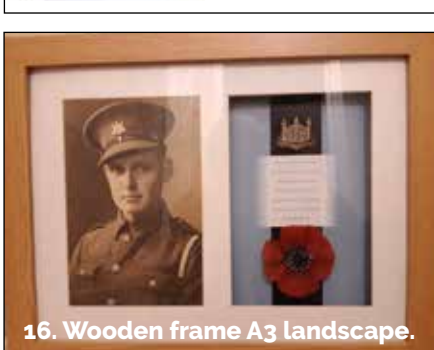
Don't miss the new Anthology of FEPOW poetry, 'Poems of Hope', priced at £11.99 plus p+p

A number of copies are signed by Terry Waite and are available on a 'first come, first served' basis at the normal price! Each book also comes with a free VJ Day 70 CD (while stocks last).

3. 'COFEPOW 41-45 REMEMBER'



Special VJ75 badge



17. 37cm (14½") x 47cm (16") cloth



20. Range of books at COFEPOW prices!



Merchandising Officers, Sylvie and Nick Bullen-Bell, would like to thank all members who have purchased COFEPOW merchandise to wear or use with pride and to those who have made additional donations to the charity. Through your generosity, a substantial quantity of merchandise is being sold over the year to help COFEPOW funds.

FEPOW photo-frames are available to include your FEPOW's photograph, cap badge, regimental colour, FEPOW medals, the COFEPOW poem and a poppy, in an elegant frame. Please email Nick and Sylvie, indicating whether you have a suitable photograph and badge, and we'll get back to you with a price.

Details of ordering/payment methods, including Paypal and overseas postage costs, can be obtained by emailing bullenbell@btinternet.com or by phoning 01245 222 604. Information is also available on the COFEPOW website. For general information or if you would like to submit ideas for merchandise, please email: Nick and Sylvie at: bullenbell@btinternet.com

Items shown are not to scale.

Current merchandise price list

ITEM	Price	P&P
1. NEW FEPOW Poetry Anthology book	£11.99	£3.00*
2. NEW Special VJ Day 75 badge	£4.00	£3.10
3. Blue pen with logo and website	£1.00	£0.88
4. VJ 70 Mugs	£8.50	£3.10
5. Tie clip	£3.00	£0.88
6. Car Sticker	£1.00	£0.65
7. Woven COFEPOW Badge	£3.50	£0.65
8. Poppy Woven Badge	£2.50	£0.65
9. Lapel Pin Badge	£2.00	£0.88
10. Note Holder	£2.50	£0.88
11. Key ring	£3.50	£0.88
12. Trolley coin	£3.25	£0.88
13. VJ70 MEDALLION	£7.50	£3.10
14. Tie	£12.99	£0.88
15. Books:		
When You Go Home/Arthur Lane	£5.00	£3.10
What Price Bushido/Alf Baker	£5.00	£3.10
16. FEPOW Photo Frame	TBA	
17. Cloth Shopping bag 14.5" x 16"	£2.50	£0.88
18. Unisex Polo Shirts - M, L, XL	£16.00	£3.10
19. Pack of 10 Notelets, inc. envelopes	£2.50	£0.88
20. NEW BOOKS		
Title	List Price	COFEPOW price
'Conjurer on the Kwai'	£9.99	£3.50 + £3.10 p&p
'Surviving the Japanese Onslaught'	£19.99	£6.50 + £3.10 p&p
'Faith, Hope and Rice'	£19.99	£6.50 + £3.10 p&p
'Escape from the Japanese'	£19.99	£6.50 + £3.10 p&p

*P&P in Europe £6.00, elsewhere £10.00.



POEMS of HOPE

A poignant, often emotional and always thought-provoking collection of poems written by Far-East Prisoners of War during and after incarceration by Japanese forces in the Second World War, or by their families since.

Compiled by COFEPOW, this anthology has been meticulously designed and curated by volunteers within the charity and incorporates almost 90 poems, written by FEPOWs held captive by one of history's most brutal enemies, or whilst trying to forget the horror following their return home. Some have also been composed by wives, children and grandchildren, inspired to put pen to paper by their relatives' stoic resolve.

This hardback volume features poems by 36 different authors, lovingly transcribed often from the scribbles of men at their most desperate. Worked almost to death whilst racked with disease, they never gave up hope. Assembled from sources including Cambridge University library, COFEPOW archives and family treasures, the work features a preface by Terry Waite, moving testimonies, photographs and illustrations. The book will be a permanent memento for those fascinated by the human condition and for students of hope above adversity. The anthology measures 270mm x 210mm, and is priced at £11.99 plus £3.00 p+p (£6.00 Europe, £10.00 elsewhere). Please allow 14 days for delivery. All proceeds will go to the COFEPOW charity. **To order your copy now, visit www.cofepow.org.uk or contact Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell at bullenbell@btinternet.com or by telephone on 01245 222 604.**

COFEPOW Patron, Terry Waite CBE, has signed 100 copies of the Anthology. 50 will be retained for the VJ75 +1 commemorations in 2021, with the remaining 50 on sale now on a 'first come, first served' basis, all at the original price.

Poems praised

COFEPOW trustee, Sharon Morris-Mee has received the following letter regarding the 'Poems of Hope' Anthology produced by COFEPOW. See page 20 for details of how to purchase.

General Sir James Everard KCB CBE

Retired senior military leader and accomplished strategist, responsible for the direction and training of large UK and multi-national military organisations.

"This anthology is about lives skewered in their prime. It is not an easy read, but it demands to be read because those who endured the deprivations of captivity in the Far-East too often found it difficult or impossible to talk of their experiences. These poems, both first and second hand, open a door that has for too long remained shut, and bring us all a little closer to understanding not only the horror, but the courage of the Far-East Prisoners.



Rory Lewis Studio

"For those who have conducted a pilgrimage to see the locations where the prisoners were held, I applaud your endeavour. But the Far-East, including the fall of Singapore and the subsequent actions of the 14th Army, has always lacked visibility. This is unsurprising as Germany was the primary threat to the UK, but we should work harder to redress the balance - and 'Poems of Hope' is a very good place to start."

Obituaries

Mrs Eileen Bullen-Bell

Sadly, Eileen has passed away. The trustees would like to express their deepest sympathies to Nick and Sylvie (fellow Trustees) and all their family and friends. Eileen came every year to our weekends away before her illness and we always enjoyed her delightful company. She will be missed by all who knew her.

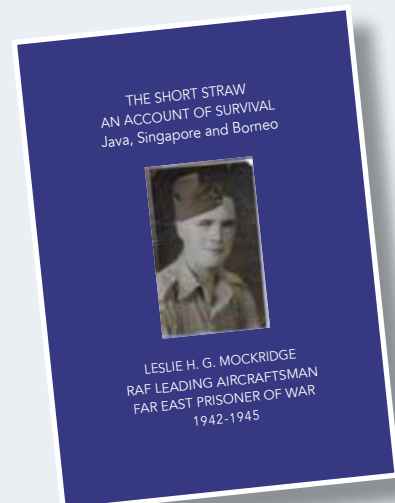
Mrs. Joan H. G. Gillan

The COFEPOW Trustees would like to extend their sincere condolences to the family of Mrs. Joan H. G. Gillan, who has recently passed away. In writing to the friends and family of Joan, David Brede, Chair of COFEPOW expressed his deepest sympathies, and in doing so, added:

"We were very proud to have had Joan as one of our members. She will be sadly missed both by her family and friends within the COFEPOW community."



Steve donates remainder...



COFEPOW member, Steve Mockridge, has written a fascinating account of his father's survival in Java and Borneo POW camps during the Second World War, and has now decided to give away any remaining copies he holds to COFEPOW members, free of charge*.

RAF Leading Aircraftsman Leslie Mockridge was one of the 784 British POW other ranks transported after capture by the Japanese to Jesselton and Sandakan in British North Borneo. Of that number, only two came home, one of whom was Steve's father, Leslie.

Steve's account is called 'The Short Straw', so called after his father picked the short straw which set him off on a mission that resulted in an amazing chain of events - ultimately saving his life.

Steve has several booklets to give away, entirely free of charge to COFEPOW members, on a first come, first served, basis and while limited stocks last*. To register an interest in receiving a copy, please email Steve on smockridge@sky.com giving your name and address or telephone him on **0238 083065**.

The editors of COFEPOW Quarterly wish to clarify that the opinions, stories, features and information reproduced in this newsletter are generally those submitted by contributors and do not reflect or otherwise, the opinions of the trustees of the charity. Whilst every effort is made to verify the factual accuracy and content of material published herein, the trustees do not accept responsibility for errors or beliefs printed here.

New members



DATA PROTECTION: please read the following carefully:

COFEPoW only publishes details of new members in this quarterly newsletter. Each new member is given the option on the application form to stipulate that their personal address/telephone/email details are not included in the listing. If you are happy for your details to be included in the newsletter when you join, your local Area Co-ordinator will also be informed within their region. Each Co-ordinator is conversant with data protection legislation and your details are not shared again. Only officers of the charity will have access to this information going forward and all information is protected in accordance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Any bylines, credits and contact details within articles and features are included with the originators' approval.

LODGE Peter	46, Trinity Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 5FB.	0151 355 5059	peterjlodge@timpson.plus.com	Father - Arthur Lodge	March
Arthur Lodge, service no. 910864, 88th Field Regiment, RA, 18th Division, was captured at the fall of Singapore. He returned.					
HARLEY Carol	14, Camel Road, Littleport, Cambridgeshire CB6 1PU.	01353 863575	carolh42@btinternet.com	Great Uncle - Ernest Firmage	
Ernest Edward Firmage, 5th Battalion, Royal Norfolk Reg't., was held in Changi and River Valley camps, and at Nong Pladuc. Returned.					
SCARLETT Jane	3, Bullards Lane, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4HE.	01394 383328	jane.scarlett55@btinternet.com	Father - Joseph Whiting	
Joseph Charles Whiting, 288th Field Company, Royal Engineers, was held at No. 4 Camp, Thailand. Returned to the UK on 28.10.45.					
LUCKHURST Raymond	62, Barewell Road, Torquay, Devon TQ1 4PA.	-	info@scriptit.uk	Great Uncle - William David Camp	
William Camp, 2nd Batt'n, Camb's Reg't., was held as a POW in Thailand and died on 30.11.43. He is buried at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery.					
FOUNTAIN Alvin	103, Birkhaven Drive, Cary, N. Carolina 27518, USA.	(919) 6377069	afountain@mindspring.com	Uncle by marriage - Ronald Stanton	
Ronald George Gladstone Stanton, DSO, Sub-Lieutenant and 2XO aboard HMS Li Wo, was captured at Bangka Island on 3.3.42 and held in Changi. He was liberated around 29.9.45 and returned.					
BRIND Robert	22, County Road, Stafford ST16 2PU.	07799 457588	robert.brind@icloud.com	Father - Patrick Brind	
Patrick James Brind, 2nd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, was captured in Singapore and held as a POW until VE Day. He returned.					
RHODES Alan	24, Bolingbroke Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 5JD.	01582 296179	crystal1309@gmail.com	Mother - Gerda Mieka Kraay	
RHODES Hilary Jane	As above	As above	As above	Mother-in-law - Gerda Mieka Kraay	
Gerda Mieka Kraay/Rhodes was a civilian. No details of captivity were provided. She returned.					
HAMILTON Catherine	172, Snake Track, North Lilydale 7250 Tasmania.	(+61) 4483262258	cathhamilton@ozemail.com.au	Father-in-law - Mervyn Hamilton	
Mervyn James Hamilton, 2/10th Field Reg't., 8th Division, AIF, captured in Singapore, held on the Thai/Burma railway and Changi. Returned.					
CAUSEBROOK Charlie	46, Camp Hill, Bugbrooke, Northampton NN& 3PH.	01604 830376	charliecausebrook@hotmail.com	Father - William Causebrook	
CAUSEBROOK Jane	As above	As above	As above	Father-in-law - William Causebrook	
William (Bill) Causebrook served with the Royal Corps of Signals and was held on the Thai/Burma railway. He returned.					
CURTIS Gordon	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Grandfather - Oliver Curtis	
Oliver Sydney Curtis of the RASC, 18th Division, was captured in Singapore and held in Changi and on the Thai/Burma railway. He survived.					
HEYWOOD Myles	10, Namu Road, Winton, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2QU.	01202 240340	m.f.heywood@ntlworld.com	Cousin - James Sweeney	
James Sweeney served with the 18th Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police. Details of captivity are unknown, but he died on 14.9.'43 and is buried at Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar.					
NOAKES Sarah	39, Ansford Avenue, Abram, Wigan, Lancashire WN2 5PQ.	01942 864338	debsandsarah@gmail.com	Grandfather - Victor Littlewood	
Victor William Littlewood, no. 5823841, Driver, 2nd Cambridgeshires, was captured at Singapore and held as staff at the POW hospital at Roberts Barracks, Selerang Barracks and then Kranji. He returned.					
FARLEY Alan	23, Rubens Close, Haydon Hill, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8SW.	01296 429962	alanfarley@btinternet.com	Uncle - Harry Farley	April
Harry Farley is believed to have served with the Worcestershire Regiment and was forced into Death Marches. Further details are unknown.					
INGLEFIELD Charlie	Schilfmattweg 2, Zug 6300 Switzerland.	(0041) 7866 858058	charlieinglefield@gmail.com	Grandfather - Gilbert Inglefield	
Gilbert Inglefield, of the Sherwood Foresters, was captured at Singapore, worked on the Thai/Burma railway and was held in Wang Lan, Wang Yen, Tha Kilen, Wang Pho, Tha Khanun, Chungkai, Kanchanaburi and then Nakhon Nayok. He returned.					
HOLLIDAY Elizabeth	Caradon, Jubilee Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5BW.	01803 863455	holliday@one-name.org	Granddaughter's grandfather - George Bownes	
George Alan Bownes served with the Royal Artillery. Details of captivity are unknown. He returned.					

More New members



PARVIN Mark	20, Hazle Close, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2XX.	07736 000980	mark.parvin@gmail.com	Father - George Roland Parvin	April Continued
George Parvin, 118th Field Reg't, Royal Artillery, was captured at Singapore, worked on the Thai/Burma railway and was aboard the Kachidoki Maru when torpedoed. He was rescued, taken to Japan and ended the war in Tokyo. He returned.					
PARSONS Helen	32, Butcher Close, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6ED.	07710 581481	hel23@ymail.com	-	
served with the 4th Suffolk Regiment, was captured at the fall of Singapore and liberated on 2nd September 1945. He returned.					May
FAIRWEATHER Jane	Flat 4, St. Peter's House, 23, St. Peter's Road, Sheringham NR26 8QY.	01263 821434	dusty64@btinternet.com	Grandfather - Stanley Goodwin	
Stanley Goodwin, 2nd Cambs Reg't., was captured at Singapore and held on the Thai/Burma railway at Chungkai, Wang Pho, Prang Kasi and Kroeng Krai. Shipped to Osaka POW camp and liberated from Hiroshima Tamando No. 3 camp. He returned.					
McDERMOTT Eilis	20, Harberton Drive, Belfast, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland BT9 6PF.	07710 474696	eilis.mcdermott@barlibrary.com	Father - James McDermott	May
James Conleith McDermott served with the RAF. Details of captivity are not known. He returned.					
DYE Sally	Two Hoots, Fir Covert Road, Taverham, Norwich NR8 6HT.	-	dyesally@aol.com	Father - Bernard Wilson	
Bernard Wilson, of the Royal Engineers, was captured in Singapore, held in Changi, shipped on Nichi Maru to Taiwan and worked in Kinkesaki copper mine and Shirakawa. He returned.					May
STELL Simon	The Brambles, Forest Rd., Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8DZ.	01425 674496	simon.stell@btinternet.com	Uncles - Henry Scurr Patrick Crosby	
STELL Jean	As above.	As above.	As above.	Uncles-in-law - Henry Scurr Patrick Crosby	
Henry 'Harry' Scurr served with the Merchant Navy. His ship was torpedoed and he was held as a POW in Japan. He returned. Patrick J. Crosby served with the RAMC, was captured in Singapore and worked on the Thai/Burma railway. He returned.					May
SIMMONS MaryEllen	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Stepfather - Ferdinand Wolpert	
Ferdinand Sebastian Wolpert, Battery M, 60th Coast Artillery Reg't, was captured on 6.5.42 at the surrender of Corregidor. Returned.					
HERSCHEL-SHORLAND Will	The Old Spinney, The Street, Mendham, Suffolk IP20 0NH.	07717 534074	will@insighttrack.co.uk	Grandfather - Noel Nicholls	May
Noel Nicholls served with the Malayan Police, and was captured in Singapore and interned in Changi for the duration. He returned.					
HIRST David	11, Queen Elizabeth Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4NF.	07572 154449	davidhirst2003@gmail.com	Grandfather - William Hirst	
William Hirst, HKVDF, was shipped aboard the Tatsuta Maru on 23.1.43 to Fukuoka Camp 12, Japan, later named Hiroshima 5 Camp. Returned.					May
MONAGHAN John	3, Montrose Close, Artane, Dublin, Ireland DO5YK72.	(353 1) 8477737	flojohn840@gmail.com	Father - Philip Henry Monaghan	
Philip Monaghan, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, was captured at Singapore, worked on the Thai/Burma railway and was lost aboard a Japanese 'hellship' transport ship in September 1944.					
KEYZAR Max	22, Piplar Ground, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1XF.	01225 869171	maxkeyzar@yahoo.com	Father - George S. Keyzar	May
KEYZAR Jeanne	As above.	As above.	As above.	Father-in-law - George S. Keyzar	
George Keyzar, Section Commander, Singapore RA., was captured at the fall of Singapore and was held on the Thai/Burma railway. Returned.					
WOOD Margaret	5, Monkside Rothbury Tce, Heaton, Newcastle NE6 5DF.	0191 2765819	mgtinthehouses5@hotmail.com	Father - Evan Llewelyn Hughes	May
Evan Hughes, RA., captured shortly after arrival in Singapore and worked on the Thai/Burma railway. He returned.					
HADDEN-WIGHT Paul	11, Murray Court, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berks SL5 9BP.	07734 113182	pablohaddenwight@icloud.com	Great Uncle - Harry Wight	
Harry Wight's regiment and service is unknown, but he was held on Haroekoe until September 1945. He returned.					May
WATKINS Gregory	33, Lucas Street, Scarborough, Queensland 4020, Australia.	(+61) 0475 261429	greg.watkins1957@hotmail.com	Grandfather - William Watkins	
William Herbert Watkins, 1st Perak Batt'n, FMSVF, was captured in Singapore, held in Changi and on Malai camp. He returned.					

Important notice

If any COFEPOW member changes his or her postal address, telephone number or email address, would they please inform Membership Secretary, Catherine Penketh, as soon as possible in order that records and contact details can be kept up to date. Catherine can be emailed at cofepow.membership@gmail.com Thank you.

Patrons, trustees, members, officers and officials.

COFEPOW: Children, Families and Friends of the Far East Prisoners of War, incorporating FEPOW. Registered address: 3 Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northampton NN3 9ET. Tel: 07930 960241. email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com
Website: www.cofepow.org.uk - registered charity, number 1074474.
Patrons: **TERRY WAITE** CBE, **LIEUTENANT COLONEL C.G. STALLARD** (Rtd.),
DAVID CHILDS CBE D. Litt., **SIR HENRY EVERY** Bt. DL FCA.
Chairman: **DAVID BREDE**: email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com
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Treasurer: **DAVID BROWN** email: medalchart@live.co.uk
Head of Research: **KEITH ANDREWS** email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk
Trustees: **KEITH ANDREWS**, **DAVID BREDE**, **DAVID BROWN**, **NICK BULLEN-BELL**, **SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL**, **BRIAN HUME** email: brian@lockwoodhume.co.uk **GUY METCALFE-HUME** gmetcalfehume@gmail.com **SHARON MORRIS-MEE** email: sharonmorrismee@outlook.com
STEVE O'CONNELL email: steve.oconnell@hotmail.com and **CHRISTINE WILLS**.
Honorary Life President: **CAROL COOPER**.
Honorary Life Members: **PATRICK TOOSEY**, **PAM STUBBS** AND **RON TAYLOR**.
COFEPOW Padre: **DAVID CHILDS** CBE, D. Litt.
National Event Co-ordinators: **CHRISTINE WILLS** email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk and **ANTHONY MORRIS** email: Anthony.Morris33@hotmail.co.uk
Merchandise Officers: **NICK AND SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL** email: bullenbell@btinternet.com
Far East Travel Adviser: **MARTIN PRECHNER** email: roquefort44@hotmail.com
Membership Officer: **CATHERINE PENKETH** email: cofepow.membership@gmail.com
Tel: 01279 830672. M: 07798 894408. Membership fee per annum: **£15** per person, or **£21** per joint membership. Payable annually in August.
Please send to: 50a St. John's Avenue, Harlow, Essex, CM17 0BB, with payments made to COFEPOW. See COFEPOW website www.cofepow.org.uk for Paypal payments.
Donations are also welcome and can be made via cheque or Paypal to the Membership Officer above or registered address, shown at the top of the page.
Please remember to use AmazonSmile for purchases - 0.5% of each buy goes to COFEPOW.

The FEPOW Memorial Building Archives at the NMA are open to visitors by arrangement. If you would like access to the material held there, you must be accompanied by a COFEPOW officer. If you would like to visit, on a Sunday preferably, please arrange with Keith Andrews, Trustee and Head of Research, on 01530 450621. Thank you.

Area Coordinators. Please note: the list of Area Co-ordinators is provided to help facilitate access to a local group for members. The trustees are also anxious to recruit Co-ordinator volunteers for overseas, and for regions in the UK not covered below, particularly in Beds, Bucks, Herts, Staffs, Warwicks, Wilts, West Hants and East Somerset, where we enjoy existing groups which no longer have a Co-ordinator. If you have a Co-ordinator near you, they would welcome you making contact, with a view to meeting and sharing knowledge and memories about your FEPOWs.

Area	Name	Email
1. Birmingham and the Black Country	Annette Hughes	cranedriver1964@live.com
2. Derbyshire	John Rutherford	Joruth27@gmail.com
3. Devon and Cornwall	David and Val Warner	davalofcedartree@gmail.com
4. Dorset	Ann Whiteside	slaterlilian@outlook.com
5. Essex	Nick Bullen-Bell	bullenbell@btinternet.com
6. Gloucestershire	Diane Vear	dianevear@yahoo.co.uk
7. Greater Manchester and east Cheshire	Robert McGechan	bobmcgechan@yahoo.co.uk
8. Herefordshire and the Wye Valley	Kerry Bird	hanjoem@gmail.com
9. Kent	Brian Faulkner	faulkner2021@btinternet.com
10. Leicestershire	Shirley Barnes	shirleyb60@virginmedia.com
11. Lincolnshire	Hazel Taylor	hazel.taylor@yahoo.co.uk
12. Merseyside and Lancashire	Colin Coleman	colin.colemanuk@mac.com
13. New Zealand	Hilary Cunningham	1hilaryc@gmail.com
14. Norfolk	Thelma Johnson	tjohnson4@btinternet.com
15. Northamptonshire	David Brede	davidbrede@yahoo.com
16. Nottinghamshire	Anthony Morris	Anthony.Morris33@hotmail.co.uk
17. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	mikejclarke27@hotmail.com
18. Scotland	Jackie Sutherland	skyscape96@gmail.com
19. South Wales	Tony Jukes	bajukes@tiscali.co.uk
20. Surrey	Una Price	trryroger@aol.com
21. West Sussex	Jill Robertson	jillfly777@hotmail.com
22. Yorkshire	David and Jill Everett	everettd717@gmail.com
23. USA (East coast)	Jan Slimming	jslimming@comcast.net
24. USA (West coast)	Sharon Cusumano	lestweforget1941@gmail.com



Help and information

While researching personal information, members below have accumulated data which they are happy to pass on and share with others.

They are as follows:

Amanda Johnson: Haruku/Ambon and Moluccas (Spice Islands)
email: amanda@dcodetranslations.co.uk
Agnes Dougan: 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.
email: agnes.dougan@live.com
Jean Roberts: 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Saigon Party.
email: jeanadrianroberts@gmail.com
Steve Mockridge: Jesselton, Sandakan and Kuchin.
email: smockridge@sky.com
Keith Andrews: Singapore Coast Regiments and A.A. Artillery and Thailand. email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk
Colin Docketty: Rabaul and Ballale Island.
Frank Clark: Saigon.
email: paghamfrank@talktalk.net
Thailand-Burma Railway Centre:
All things related to the Thai-Burma railway.
email: admin@tbrconline.com
Address: Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, Kanchanaburi, Thailand: www.tbrconline.com
Derek Lawson: Deaths in captivity.
email: lawsonderek@hotmail.com
Michael Hurst MBE: Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society. email: society@powtaiwan.org
Web: www.powtaiwan.org
Hong Kong:
Tony Banham, email: tony@hongknwardiary.com
Web: hongkongwardiary.com
David Tett: The subject of 'mails'.
Also: www.fepowmail.com may be useful.
Welfare Grants: Grants are available from the FEPOWs' Central Welfare Fund for all FEPOWs, wives and widows. It covers hospital stays, carers, care homes, sheltered accommodation, etc.
For further information contact:
Margaret Martin of the Java FEPOW Club, email: enquiries@thejavafepowclub42.org
or **Pauline Simpson** of NFFWRA, email: pauline761@btinternet.com

Donations can be made to COFEPOW via cheque or Paypal. See above.