

**Medals
claim
process**



**Rebooking
for York**



**VJ-Day
services
and
AGM**



**Gurkha
Veteran
home now
built**

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 99 • October 2022

A tribute to Her Majesty

1926-2022



HM Queen Elizabeth II's reign was marked by extraordinary dedication and commitment to duty, borne out of graceful strength and admirable determination. She ruled through decades of change, from the dark post-war era, to the new horizons of the 21st century, providing steadfast continuity for the nation. Following her recent death, COFEPOW Chair, David Brede, pays a heartfelt personal tribute to Her Majesty, and, as senior representative of the COFEPOW charity and on behalf of all trustees, officers and members, expresses our sincere condolences....

"On behalf of the trustees and members of COFEPOW, may I pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, following her passing on 8th September, 2022. We are deeply saddened by the loss.

"My first memory of the Queen is recalling that I got a day off from school to attend the Coronation Party in our street in Tottenham, north London, in 1953. A family picture shows a shy child with his mother on the edge of the party, with others in fancy dress. I wonder what happened to him?

"Since then, the Cold War has been and gone, fourteen Prime Ministers have kissed hands and departed, and an empire has evolved into a Commonwealth, with more nations as members than it started with. Such is the success of the organisation of which the Queen was a proud and enthusiastic leader.

"Most people who met the Queen have such fond memories of the encounter and this enriched theirs and, by recounting the episode, our lives. So 'Rest in Peace' Queen Elizabeth, after such a long and fruitful service to our nation and countries across the globe, and long live King Charles III."

New online membership system update

The trustees are delighted with the progress being made in introducing a major technological improvement to the system used to record, retain and inform new and existing members. As Memberstack is a significant move forward for the charity, inevitably, with all things new, it is taking time to integrate it into the existing method.

This sea-change in how COFEPOW logs its membership data is compounded currently by the well-earned retirement of Membership Secretary, Catherine Penketh, and the adoption of the role by new Membership Secretary and trustee, Karen Brown.

Whilst work is progressing, the trustees have decided to delay the reporting of new members, their contact details (if consented) and the brief description of their FEPOW relative's war-time experiences, until the January edition of the newsletter. October's issue is always very full, as it includes reports about VJ-Day commemorative services, the annual report and accounts following the AGM, and in this particular edition a full copy of the charity's Governance Document, included on the last two pages where normally all new members are listed.

The trustees would like to assure new members that their details will be included in the January edition of the newsletter, should they have indicated their consent during the joining process.

Joint Editors of COFEPOW Quarterly.



Chair's Notes

“ The AGM gives me an opportunity to look back on what has been an eventful year. Clearly last year's VJ75+1 commemorations were such a high point that what has followed would have to go some. However, the old favourites - the Torquay weekend away, organised by Chris Wills, the commemoration events at the Cenotaph, organised by Pam Gillespie (who stepped down in 2021, after many years organising, for which we thank her), the waterfront at Southampton, organised by Walter Tuttlebee, and the Plymouth event organised by Lisa De-Lar were all successful. My thanks go to Guy Metcalfe-Hume, too, as lead on the website and dealing with IT issues. All these people make the arrangements and ensure these events run smoothly.

“The 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore at York was a new event. This is such a significant date in our calendar and was overdue a commemoration of its own. With the service at York Minster and a visit to the Kohima Museum, it was made very special. It was also good to meet attendees from Scotland and the north of England. Also on 15th February, we held a service to mark the 80th anniversary in the NMA Chapel, with a magnificent address from one of our Patrons, Terry Waite. Many thanks to the organiser of these events - Chris Wills.

“The big change in the trustee team was the departure of Brian Hume and Keith Andrews, who have given sterling service over many years. I was so pleased to support the request from the floor of the AGM that they be offered honorary membership of the charity, which was approved unanimously.

In their place, we welcome as trustees, Alexandra Metcalfe-Hume, focusing on Area Co-ordination, and Karen Brown, who is also our Membership Secretary, so it will be helpful to have trustees reporting directly to the team on both issues, helping improve retention of members and our offering to all.

“As this is the last newsletter before Christmas and the New Year, may I wish you all the compliments of the season.

David Brede, CoFEPOW Chair.”

Scorching summer sun as members....



From left to right: Bugler Antonio Socci, three Standard Bearers (at rear) Nick Roberts, David Brown and Paul Collins, COFEPOW Padre David Childs, and retiring trustee Brian Hume, endure the heat.

Trustee and current COFEPOW National Events Co-ordinator, Chris Wills, takes up the story of the day's events for the charity at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffs...

“Despite a few lingering fears over the persistently-infectious Covid virus, the trustees are delighted to report that visitors to this year's AGM and VJ-Day commemorative service on Sunday 14th August, showed signs of returning to near normal.

“On a mid-heatwave morning, members arrived for the AGM, held in the Aspects Conference Suite at the NMA. And what a blisteringly scorching day it was! The Arboretum agreed to provide an area under the portico of the FEPOW Building, with all seating, lecturns and sound amplification in place for the VJ-Day service which followed the AGM. This was really helpful, as members could shelter from the sun, although speakers, three standard bearers and the bugler could only take refuge under the trees.

“The AGM was excellent, though it was an occasion to say goodbye to two of our long-serving trustees. Brian Hume has been a trustee since the inception of COFEPOW, and has decided that now he's become an Octogenarian, it's time to step down. Keith Andrews has also elected to retire from his trusteeship, but fortunately for us, has decided to concentrate on research and will remain as COFEPOW's

Head of Research. The trustees would like to offer their wholehearted gratitude to Brian and Keith for all their years of unstinting dedication and service to the charity.

“The meeting was pleased to welcome and elect as new trustees, Karen Brown, who also takes over as Membership Secretary, and Alexandra Metcalfe-Hume. It is both rewarding and very satisfying to know that COFEPOW now has two grandchildren of FEPOWs as trustees - Guy Metcalfe-Hume and now, Alexandra. This ensures both the longevity of COFEPOW's work, and we hope, helps the charity to engage with the current young generation into the future beyond.

“During the meeting, former Chair, Paul Watson, gave a presentation about the Liberation Questionnaires and proudly announced that this project,



Continued on next page...

...meet for AGM/VJ-Day service at NMA

Continued from previous page...

after 15 years hard work, has now come to an end. 38,000 names and details have now been completed and the list of FEPOWs totals 58,290, having added another 2,670 names. Paul thanked Tony McQuaid and his team, Ivor Watson, Valerie Rogers, Sacha Bedford, Jane and Roland Stuart, Anne and Nigel Peters, Chris Stevens, John Tuck, David Brede, Jill Robertson and Peter and Sandra Norman for their invaluable help during the process.

"Thanks were expressed equally from the trustees and members to Project Leader Paul and his team, for all their dedication and commitment in finally bringing this project to fulfilment. It has been a particularly difficult and arduous task to achieve our original objective of converting official record files of FEPOWs over to COFEPOW's own archive for future reference for members.



Setting up equipment - aiming for the shade!

"The VJ Day Commemorative Service, led by COFEPOW Padre, David Childs CBE, was worthy of the event and was followed by an address given by Brian Hume, during which he told attendees how he originally became involved with COFEPOW at the beginning of the charity's life, alongside Carol Cooper. It was a very emotional address, which had many of those in attendance in tears. It was good to see Nick Roberts and Paul Collins, too, after so many years of absence.



Standard Bearer, trustee and Treasurer, David Brown.

carrying their Standards with our very own David Brown.

"Following the service, we held a mini Book Fair, where authors, Ken Hewitt, Jill Robertson, Christine Bridges and Ray Withnall sold their books. Trustee, Sharon Morris-Mee, sold books on behalf of John Willis, who was not able to be with us on the day. All-in-all, it was a great day and it was lovely to see so many people and friendly faces there. Thank you to everyone who attended."

Chris Wills

The minutes of the AGM and a synopsis of the 2021 financial performance of the charity are reproduced later in this issue.

Remembrance Day Service & Parade Whitehall, 2022

COFEPOW will be asking the Royal British Legion for tickets for the Whitehall Service and Parade in November, assuming the prevailing situation regarding the pandemic allows for a resumption of normal activities. Until we receive full details, we are not sure whether the RBL will return to the stipulation that tickets will only be given to veterans, their widows and first generation descendants.

In the event that that may be the case and you would like to be considered for a ticket, **please register an interest by contacting David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, by post at 3, Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northamptonshire NN3 9ET or by email at Cofepow.chairman@gmail.com or by phone on 07930 960241.**

Please include your connection/relationship to the FEPOW you wish to represent in your message and tickets received will be distributed subject to the revised arrangements, on a first come, first served basis to those eligible.

The procession along Whitehall is scheduled for Sunday November 13th. If the event returns to its regular form, please be aware that:

- Those who wish to attend are advised that they must be on Whitehall by 9.00am: extra time is needed to go through security so it is an early start on what could be a cold and wet morning.
- There is a great deal of standing about, from assembly, through the 11.00 Silence and Service and until the final march-off. The parade is usually dismissed at about 12.45.
- Once COFEPOW is able to confirm the number of tickets and allocate them, personal details have to be submitted to the RBL for security checks. Tickets are strictly non-transferable as they are issued to people by name and proof of ID will be required.



Remembering those who served and suffered

Liz Sumner, an admirer of the work done by COFEPOW, forwarded this poignant image to Chris Wills, just before last August 14th.

She added: "With tomorrow being VJ-Day, I just had to post this."

The picture underscores why we continue to hold services of commemoration for VJ-Day and reflects why, even after more than three-quarters of a century, the memory of all FEPOWs must be enshrined in our hearts forever.

Lest we forget.

Picture credit: Americasbestpics.com

Album Pages

This comprehensive collection of individual A4 sheets holding brief facts about each FEPOW's incarceration and service is written by their immediate relative, collated by COFEPOW and held on show in the FEPOW Building museum at the NMA, and available for all to read. You can view the link on <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/fepow-photo-album>

Chris Wills would like to remind members that anyone who contributed previously and would like their FEPOW relative to be included again, or those new to COFEPOW who would like a page produced for their FEPOW, to contact her at chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk

Lanarkshire Yeomanry Group VJ Day 2022 service



St. Brigid's Centre, Newmains, Lanarkshire.

On Sunday 14th August, a gathering was held at the above to commemorate VJ-Day and to remember those who had suffered in the Far-East. The service was attended by family and friends of POWs and told individual stories of those who suffered and whose relatives were able to be present at the service. FEPOWs who were honoured included:

Neil Moore - present were his daughters, Susan, Liz and Ellen, and three grandchildren.

Gordon Brown - present were his daughter, Clare and her husband, Scott.

Dr Jack Ennis and wife Elizabeth - present were their daughter, Jackie and her husband, George.

William Thomson - present was his daughter, Carole.

James Fegan - present were his niece, Mary and her husband, and his nephew Thomas and his wife.

James Currie - present were his son and grandson, Craig.

Andy Carmichael - present were his niece, Anne and her husband, Jim.

Andrew McKay - present were his grandson, Douglas and his wife, Margaret.

George Reynolds - present was his friend, Eileen Bacon.

Frank Kelso - present were daughters Patricia and Linda, his son, Roy and other family members.

Andy Coogan - present were his daughters, Christine and Jean.

Andrew Hiddleston - present was his daughter, Rosie.

William G. Anderson - present were his granddaughter, Sally and husband, Gerry.

John Marshall - present was his son, John.

Johnny Kane - present was his daughter, Kathleen.

John McEwan - present were his daughter, Agnes and his son-in-law, Campbell.

Tommy Gordon - present was his nephew, Tom Gordon.

VJ-Day, Civic Centre, Motherwell



On Monday 15 August, North Lanarkshire Council held a Service at the Far-East Memorial at the Civic Centre, Motherwell, to commemorate VJ Day - the first full Service since the outbreak of Covid, and there was a very good attendance. The Service included addresses by Councillor Anne Thomas, Deputy Provost of North Lanarkshire Council, Campbell Thomson of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Group, Colonel Stuart Roberts, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Provost of South Lanarkshire with the Act of Remembrance read by The Rev. Dr. Shaw Paterson. Pipe Major Ross Cowan of North Lanarkshire Schools Pipe Band played 'Flowers of the Forest'.

Thanks to Sally Dorrian, John Marshall, Anne Carnochan, Mary McParland and Thomas Fegan and Tom Gordon. for their generous donations which will be used for the purchase of wreaths.

Plymouth Remembers

VJ Day – 14th & 15th August 2022

On a hot and humid day in Plymouth, VJ-Day was remembered on two occasions. The first was a service in the Minster Church of St. Andrew, led by Mac Forsyth, and attended by FEPOW families, Deputy Lieutenant of Devon Brigadier Simon Young CBE, Lord Mayor of Plymouth Cllr Sue Dann, Brigadier Mike Tanner OBE ADC RM (Naval Base Commander of HMS Drake), members of the Royal Navy from HMS Drake, Royal Marines from 42Cdo RM Bickleigh, Army RA from the Royal Citadel and the Royal Monmouthshire Regiment, RAF from RAF St. Mawgan, and the RFA from Portsmouth.

A very special VIP, 102 years young former Royal Marine, Jim Wren, lead the VIP procession down the aisle with daughter Dee and son-in-law Andy by his side. Jim held the VJ-Day wreath until Dee placed it on the altar table.

Members of the serving Armed Forces who had given up their summer leave to take part in the Act of Remembrance were very much appreciated by all. At a moment's notice, they can be called away to anywhere across the globe, so to have them attend VJ-Day was extra special as they represented past members of the military who took part in the Far-East conflict. Candles were carried by Arie, a child civilian prisoner of war and by the members of all branches of the Armed Forces. Flowers were carried by Chloe and Miles to remember the children in the camps. A DVD showed photos of the military and civilians in the Far-East - appreciated by all.

After the service, all joined together at the Rowan Tree, where Deputy Lieutenant of Devon Brigadier Simon Young laid the VJ-Day wreath and took the salute, and a beautiful floral tribute was passed to Jim by Cpl Hunter RM.

Invited guests then made their way to the Plymouth Guildhall for a reception. Jim, was then presented with an outstanding gift of a RM dagger in a case by Naval Base Commander Brigadier Mike Tanner of HMS Drake.



Brigadier Simon Young CBE & Brigadier Mike Tanner OBE with former Royal Marine, Jim Wren and members of 42Cdo RM Bickleigh.

VJ-Day - Monday 15th August.

The official VJ-Day saw FEPOW families return to the Rowan Tree for a small service of remembrance, where tributes were laid and the FEPOW prayer spoken. Organiser Lisa De-Lar would like to thank everyone who attended both services.

She commented: "Although it was hot, we kept in our hearts and thoughts what our families went through out in the Far-East, where they could not receive comfort from the heat."

Attendees then retired to the Treasury Bar and Restaurant for tea before Jim, Dee and Andy headed back to Salisbury after a long weekend spent in Plymouth. Lisa continued:

"We look forward to seeing our FEPOW families and guests at the Rowan Tree on Remembrance Sunday at 15:00."

COFEPOW at embassy's Annual Reunion for Peace and Friendship



Above: Sharon Morris-Mee, COFEPOW trustee, is photographed with the Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency Hayashi Hajime and Erina Semanaj, Assistant to the Defence Team, Political Section/ in London.

COFEPOW trustee, Sharon Morris-Mee, accepted an invitation to the Japanese Embassy in Piccadilly, London, for the Annual Reunion for Peace and Friendship, which took place on 1st July 2022. Sharon takes up the report...

"The Annual Summer Reunion for Peace and Friendship at the Japanese Embassy in London is normally attended on the charity's behalf by Christina McClellan. As she was unable to make it this year, I volunteered to represent the COFEPOW trustees.

"At first, I wasn't sure if I should put my name forward. I am proud and honoured to be a COFEPOW trustee, especially as I am not a child of a FEPOW, so I didn't know if it would be appropriate for me to attend. Fortunately, I received a courteous invitation from Keiko Holmes, so off to London I went.

"The event was well-attended and the hosts were most welcoming and engaging. The Japanese ambassador and his wife were very pleasant and, all in all, it was an enjoyable experience.

"Through the evening, my thoughts were very much with the FEPOWs, their families and friends - some whom have embraced reconciliation, whilst others are still unable to do so. Everybody's journey is different and that has to be respected."

Sharon Morris-Mee
Trustee.



Brian gives moving retirement address

The following is an excerpt from the moving retirement address given by long-serving and oldest trustee, Brian Hume at this year's AGM...

"In the mid-Nineties, my wife had noticed a piece in the local paper advertising a meeting to be held at the Norwich branch of the Royal British Legion, in connection with the Far-East POWs, which is where I first met Carol Cooper. After she explained about her dad's diary, Carol outlined her vision to create a memorial to FEPOWs from the British Armed Forces, captured by the Japanese in WWII. Carol asked us to stand up to introduce ourselves and state our connections, and as I began to speak about my Dad, my emotions welled-up and I began to weep, pretty uncontrollably. This was the first time that I can remember ever crying for my father, who I never knew, nor he me. My Mum and Dad were married in Sept '41 and my Dad left the UK in late October '41. He was captured at the Fall of Singapore and died on the 1st August 1943 at the age of 28, at the Tamarkhan prison camp in Thailand, having been transported there in the infamous steel cattle trucks from Changi Gaol in February of that year. The cause of death was cited as beri -beri. I was once rou-

tinely asked by my GP what the cause of my father's death was and when I replied beri-beri, he simply said, "Oh, starvation then." He was finally laid to rest in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Kanchanaburi.

"Like a lot of people of my generation, I suspect that we just got on with our lives post-war, not really knowing anything different. It wasn't until that inaugural meeting that my subconscious thoughts that had lain dormant for so many years were sharply brought into focus. This was the missing link. I then began to focus on how I could offer a meaningful contribution to our then, embryonic organisation. A follow-up meeting was held, where Carol asked if anyone was interested in becoming a trustee. My then 10-year-old daughter, Alexandra, jumped up and said "My Dad will do it" and that's how I became a trustee!

"The group, still largely Norwich-based at this time, quickly got into fund-raising mode. We were invited by the RBL to participate in the annual Cenotaph march. Since that time, I have been joined by the rest of my children. Words cannot express the gratitude and pride (and here I know I speak for my kids as well) that we get from marching in the memory of my Dad and their Grandad, Pte Harold Hume, 6th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment.

"Minds were now focused and the fundamental question of what type of memorial was discussed. Carol discovered that the Memorial Arboretum was in the fairly early stages of being constructed at Alrewas. We received a charming letter from Commander David Childs, whose vision it was to create an arboretum on a disused aggregate pit. David's letter was extremely positive, and he concluded by saying that he would be delighted if we wished to locate our 'shed' at the site.

"It was agreed that an ATAP hut, depicting the type of huts the FEPOWs were housed in, would be in keeping, taking our inspiration from the Samarkand Memorial Pavilion in Borneo. David Childs, and then Sir Henry Every, were deeply involved with fund-raising, together with all the detailed minutiae required to get the project funded. Very wisely, as it turned out, we decided to engage the services of a professional designer - the man responsible for the design of the famous Sutton Hoo Saxon museum. Carol's plan was for the building to be constructed and fully-functional in a timeframe of three and a half years - that being the time that the FEPOWs were held in captivity.

"The opening was to coincide with the 60th anniversary of VJ-Day.

So it was on 15th August 2005 that the Building was officially opened and dedicated. I remember that the wonderful Keith Andrews and I were delighted to be invited to help lay the rails on the Thai railway section at the FEPOW site. There is a picture of us in the act of carrying and laying a rail on the track, in the archive section of the Building. We both look considerably younger then and I doubt that either of us could manage that lift today.

"It is still a wonder to me that we ever managed to achieve the construction of our wonderful Memorial Building. I shall count this second only to my children as being the finest contribution I have been able to make during my lifetime.

"How wonderfully fitting it was, when the circle was completed with David Childs accepting our invitation to become Chaplain to COFEPOW.

"Since this time, there have been numerous events all over the country, amongst the most memorable being the VJ-Day celebration and remembrance weekends at Lichfield Cathedral and the Arboretum. I cannot let this reference pass without saying a huge thank you to Chris Wills and all her team for creating such truly professional standout events. Over time, the Arboretum has been added to and improved exponentially and has quite rightly become the accepted National Memorial Centre. It is truly inspirational to see it in its present form and all that it represents. Carol and David - we owe you an immense debt of gratitude.

"I must also pay tribute to the hundreds of members both at home and abroad for their truly inspirational contribution through the years to our cause.

"Who'd have thought it everyone. Hey, we did it!

"I have enjoyed immensely my time as a trustee. My contribution has been modest compared to many other members past and present but I have been honoured and proud to have had a small part in perpetuating the memory of our beloved FEPOWs and hope that I have managed to contribute a little something along the way to our inspiring charity.

"Since becoming an octogenarian, I now feel the time is right to hand over the baton to someone younger, and it gives me great pleasure to see that my daughter, Alexandra (yes that 10-year-old who was at the inaugural meeting) is joining her younger brother, Guy, as a trustee.

"To my fellow trustees and members through the years, it's been a privilege and an honour flying with you."

**Brian Hume - former trustee and now
Honorary Life Member.**

'22 York weekend reunion planned again for '23



Novotel York Hotel and Centre, Fishergate, York YO10 4FD

After a very successful reunion in York this year, COFEPOW has decided to do it again next year...

The hotel overlooks the River Foss 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; WiFi/internet access is also available. There are bus-stops very close to the hotel. For those that haven't been to York before, there is much to see and many museums to visit. For those that have been before, well, there is always something you've missed on previous visits and then there's always Betty's Tea Shop!

York Minster has, again, agreed to hold a short service and wreath-laying on the Saturday morning at 10.00 a.m.

Itinerary:

Friday 24th – Monday 27th March 2023:

Prices are for Bed and Breakfast per room.

Single for 2 nights Fri & Sat - £290.

Double for 2 nights Fri & Sat - £310.

Single for 3 nights Fri, Sat & Sun - £415.

Double for 3 nights Fri, Sat & Sun - £445.



Dinner on Saturday night will be £30 per head, which will include canapés, 3 course dinner, tea/coffee and mints. The meal will be served in the Fishergate suite with it's own private bar.

Other bars and restaurants are available in the hotel - please note any drinks and/or meals are to be paid for at the point of sale.

Car parking at the hotel is £12.50 per night. A deposit of £30 per person is required when you book.



Please complete the form below, clip it from the newsletter or print it from the email and enclose with your cheque, made payable to COFEPOW and post it to Chris Wills, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG.

If you would like to pay by Bank Transfer or Direct Debit, the COFEPOW bank details are: Sort Code 77-66-08 and the account number is 39157268.

Please ensure you add 'York' as a reference and let Chris know what you have paid and when, together with a note of your room requirements for your reservation.

If you need any further information, clarification or If you just wish to discuss the above, telephone Chris on 0121 244 7263 or email: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. You can cancel free of charge up to 4 weeks prior to arrival; after this point all reservations would be fully chargeable.**
- 2. The £30 deposit is for the cost of the meal, so that would also be forfeited.**
- 3. Payment for the rooms must be paid for on arrival.**



Name

Address

Post Code

Tel no.

email

No. of people

No. of rooms

No. of nights

Type of room (special requirements)

Annual General Meeting Sunday, 14th August 2022,

at the National Memorial Arboretum,
Alrewas, 10.30am - 12.00am.

DRAFT Minutes.

The COFEPOW Annual General Meeting was held in the Aspects Conference Suite, at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, on Sunday 14th August 2022, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Present:
David Childs DLitt (Patron and COFEPOW Padre)
David Brede (Chairman)
David Brown (Trustee and Treasurer)
Nick Bullen-Bell (Trustee and Merchandise Secretary)
Sylvie Bullen-Bell (Trustee and Merchandise Secretary)
Robert Hawke (Trustee and Secretary)
Guy Metcalfe-Hume (Trustee and Web Master)
Sharon Morris-Mee (Trustee)
Chris Wills (Trustee,
Co-editor of the newsletter and National Event Co-ordinator)

1. Apologies:

Lt. Col. C. Stallard (Rtd); Steve Riley; Terry Waite; General Sir James Everard (Rtd); Sir Henry Every; Alan Wills.

2. Minutes from the 2021 AGM:

The minutes from the meeting held on Sunday 15 August 2021 were upheld as being a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Jill Robertson and seconded by Keith Andrews.

3. Matters Arising:

3.1 Poems of Hope -

Nick Bullen-Bell (NBB).

"Sales are steady and we have sold approximately half of the books printed, including 18 sales since last year's Torquay weekend. We have plans for a 2nd edition but as yet we have done little about it as we have only just started to receive poems. I have quite a few of the first volume with me today, including some signed by Terry Waite.

"The merchandise in general; we sold £462.26 worth at the VJ76 weekend last year, plus a £155.49 worth at the Torquay weekend, as well as receiving £196.01 in donations at both events. Since VJ76, we have had a further £574.91 worth of post-

al sales. Considering the merchandise is only on sale to members, Sylvie and I are quite pleased with that figure. I would like to thank all those who continue to support us through all these events and sales. We appreciate every sale and every donation no matter how big or small."

3.2 National Event Co-ordinator:

Chris Wills (CW) "Sadly, the new National Event Co-ordinator didn't work out, so we are still looking for someone to take over. If anyone is interested in either doing the whole job or even part of it, please contact Chris Wills by email."

4. Chairman's Report

David Brede (DBr) "After the stunning success of last year's VJ75+1 we are back to normal, or at least what passes for it, in COFEPOW. This year we have had old favourite events like the weekend at Torquay. We have also had new events like the commemoration of the Fall of Singapore in February. This is especially apt as without this occurring we would of course, not be here. The trustee team has continued to meet quarterly to keep an eye on the charity and ensure it works smoothly.

"May I thank the departing trustees, Brian Hume, Keith Andrews and Steve O'Connell, and offer thanks for so many years of service to the charity. May I introduce you formally to Karen Brown and Alexandra Metcalfe-Hume who are seeking to become new trustees. May I commend these two ladies to you. They have been interviewed by the trustees and we are pleased to recommend them to the membership.

"The trustee board is seeking re-election this year, so can I commend to you the magnificent team I have the pleasure of working with, who rise to challenges and solve problems – a real 'can do' attitude.

"The main practical activity has been the long-awaited revamp of the membership system. This has been led by Guy Metcalfe-Hume (GMH) with support from the outgoing Membership Secretary, Catherine Penketh, and the incoming one, Karen Brown (KB). This is still a work in progress but most of the core issues have

been solved, so it is now a case of ironing out the wrinkles and getting real value from it for the charity.

"We are looking for new officers to cover the roles of National Events Co-ordinator and an Archivist to support our work in those areas.

"We have had a lively discussion about reconciliation and whilst this has not resulted in a change in the approach taken by the charity it was most thought-provoking and impassioned, reflecting the level of feeling this evokes, which is the mark of this organisation.

"The saga of getting the Changi Shutters to the NMA is long and drawn-out and shows no sign of ending. The offer from the RN museum is not satisfactory, so we are engaging some 'big guns' to help with the case.

"Thanks again to the Area Co-ordinators for their work with members in their localities. Thanks to the amazing team who edit the newsletter, in particular Steve Riley.

"We still have spaces for the ceremony of remembrance at the Cenotaph in November, if there are any more takers. I am co-ordinating this year as Pam Gillespie has retired.

"I hope everyone will stay for the book fair. We are blessed with several authors so you have a chance to listen to their stories and purchase some fascinating reads for the darker evenings.

"May I also flag up the Rocks by Rail event at Cottesmore on the 25th August at 10.00am. As well as the human FEPOWs, there is a mechanical one in the form of a locomotive that worked on the Singapore Quayside during the war, initially for the Royal Navy and, after the surrender, with the Japanese Imperial Army. So, if you can attend, the museum will be pleased to see you."

Barbara James proposed that Brian Hume and Keith Andrews should be made Honorary Members following their long service. This was put to the meeting and unanimously approved. Proposed by Barbara James and seconded by Jane Stuart. A discussion followed about the condition of the railway sleepers on the Thai/Bur-

ma Railway Memorial. DBr told the meeting that the sleepers are original and we need to find out if they can be preserved. Network Rail sleepers do not meet requirements. COFEPOW has only recently inherited this memorial in a poor condition. The trustees are continuing to investigate all possibilities, with regard to either replacing or preserving the sleepers. Jane Stuart suggested that a small platform could be allocated on the track for poppy crosses. DBr stated the trustees will look into this idea.

5. Treasurer's Report:

An overview of the 2021 Accounts was given to everyone attending the AGM. The Trust's total assets as at 31 December 2021 were £197,654.

The Membership A/c £67,621

Membership Fees received £28,251

Memorial A/c £130,033

Donations received £3,561

Expenditure £43,232

There was investment income of £13,226. It was agreed the accounts would be accepted. Proposed by Brian Hume and seconded by Keith Andrews.

Ken Hewitt (KH) told the meeting that stamps without the barcodes will only be valid until 2023 but it is possible to exchange them at the Post Office.

He also stated that he appreciates the introduction of the new electronic membership system, but there is still no clear idea how many members there are, how many have left and how many new members COFEPOW gets each year. KB told the meeting that, as she has only been in post since 1st July when the new membership system came into force, she asked everyone to bear with her while she gets to grip with the new system and will hopefully be able to provide this information at the next AGM.

6. Election of New Trustees:

The members agreed to elect Karen Brown and Alexandra Metcalfe-Hume (AMH) as trustees.

Proposed by Michael Wilson and Seconded by Wendy Hawke

7. Re-Election of current officers /trustees:

7.1 Trustees:

David Brede

Robert Hawke

David Brown

Guy Metcalfe-Hume

Sylvie Bullen-Bell

Sharon Morris-Mee

Nick Bullen-Bell

Chris Wills

Proposed en bloc by Paul Watson and seconded en bloc by Jane Stuart

7.2 Officers re-elected:

Chair: David Brede

Web Master: Guy Metcalfe-Hume

Treasurer: David Brown

National Event Co-ordinator (Interim):

Chris Wills

Secretary: Robert Hawke

Proposed en bloc by Paul Watson and seconded en bloc by Tom Jowett

8. Events:

CW reported that our annual weekend in Torquay in 2021 was well-attended and everyone enjoyed themselves, despite the weather. The first weekend in York went really well, with a short service in York Minster, followed by a trip to the Kohima Museum. There was a service at the NMA for the 80th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore and that also went well. Yet to come this year is the annual weekend in Torquay and in March 2023, another trip to York.

9. Any Other Business:

9.1. Plaque Regarding the plaque for Romusha Labourers and other British Forces held prisoner in the Far-East, the meeting was asked if it would approve appropriate plaques. Barbara James told the meeting that there was already a Romusha Labourers plaque. This was adjourned for further investigation.

9.2. New Membership Secretary

DBr informed the meeting that Karen Brown was now in place and thanked her for taking up the post.

9.3. Amendments to the COFEPOW Governance Documents

Robert Hawke (RH) told the meeting that a copy of the proposed amended document was attached to the agenda and asked if there were any questions. A copy of the new document is to be published in the October Newsletter (see back page spread). Proposed by David Childs and seconded by Jane Stuart.

9.4. Liberation Questionnaires (LQs)

A presentation by Paul Watson (PW) and Guy Metcalfe-Hume (GMH) followed.

PW, as Project Leader, told the meeting it would be difficult to condense 15 years into 15 minutes. After the Japanese surrendered, FEPOWs were liberated and were all asked to complete questionnaires, providing information of where and when they were, during their captivity, including any behavioural issues by

their captors. No-one knows how many LQs were issued, as they are not consecutively numbered. Some FEPOWs did not arrive home immediately and not everyone completed one, so it has been difficult to know how many completed ones exist. There were 98 boxes at the National Archives and the contents are not in any specific order. Good and bad examples were shown on screen to show just how difficult the job has been. When documents were opened, they could be difficult to read, due to the writing being faded or in a damaged document. 15 years ago a university offered to do this as a project and create a database and a team went to the NA to photograph the documents. 4 years on, the database wasn't working and it was only up to the letter 'C'; when COFEPOW was told it would not be able to be improved, and it was obviously 'not fit for purpose'. After many years of painstaking work, PW proudly told the meeting that this project has now come to an end. **All LQs in the NA at Kew that were legible have now been photographed, re-named and uploaded to the database on the COFEPOW website.** 38,000 have now been completed and the list of FEPOWs now totals 58,290 - we have added 2,670 more names. PW would like to extend his thanks on behalf of the trustees and membership to Tony McQuaid and his team, to Ivor Watson, with special thanks for his many years of volunteering, and taking photos at Kew until the Covid pandemic. Thanks go to Valerie Rogers for re-naming the LQ's and updating the FEPOW lists for many years, until earlier this year when her eyesight began to fail, to Sacha Bedford, for 3 years' re-naming images, and special thanks to Jane and Roland Stuart for their work on the LQs from the very beginning until today, including taking images, re-naming and updating the master FEPOW list. And to volunteers from last year's newsletter appeal for volunteers: Anne and Nigel Peters (who were also part of Tony McQuaid's original team), Chris Stevens, John Tuck, David Brede, Jill Robertson, and Peter and Sandra Norman (Peter saved a lot of work by taking images, editing and re-naming them). Phillip Saunders told the meeting that some university educationalists would like to do a PHD on this subject. DBr said it would be worth looking into. John Barlow would like the Minutes to record sincere thanks on behalf of the members, to all involved in the project.

10. Next AGM:

To be held on Sunday 13th August 2023 at 10.30 a.m. in the Aspects Conference Suite, at the NMA.

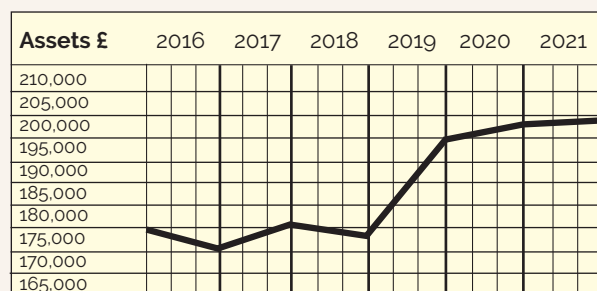
Synopsis of performance

The table below is a summary of the accounts of COFEPOW for the year 2020-2021.

Distribution of Assets £						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Memorial accounts	157,260	149,134	146,814	152,537	141,904	130,033
Membership account	17,753	26,943	28,652	42,344	55,296	67,621
Total	175,013	176,077	175,466	194,881	197,200	197,654

Income derived from memberships/donations £						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Donations	12,444	5,862	3,363	8,018	1,349	3,567
Membership fees	9,901	14,842	19,330	19,417	19,317	28,251*
Total	22,345	20,704	22,693	27,435	20,666	31,818

Activities for generating funds £						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Investment income	351	7,649	3,537	1,341	13,226	
Merchandise/Book sales	778	1,717	3,815	11,130	3,063	
Gift Aid	325	343	395	425	640	
Memorial weekends	-	-	-	4,519	5,328	
Total	1,454	9,709	7,747	12,896	16,929	



Total Assets £	
2016	175,053
2017	176,077
2018	175,466
2019	194,881
2020	197,200
2021	197,654

Overall Expenditure	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Charitable Activities**	22,512	18,303	15,116	24,797	43,232
Support costs***	1,791	16,639	7,377	13,878	7,991
Total	24,303	34,942	22,493	38,675	51,612

* An increase in membership income has been achieved during the year, which is particularly welcome in view of the effects of closure throughout the Covid pandemic period. The membership fee has not increased in this time. Donations have increased from the significant fall in 2020, which may be accounted for by a slow return in traffic at the NMA, which was re-opened gradually after the peak of the pandemic.

** Charitable activities include items such as purchase of merchandise to sell on to raise funds, printing and duplication, printing of the quarterly newsletter for those who specify a preference for hard copies (the majority of newsletters are now emailed to members), publicity material for events, etc., wreaths and crosses, the NMA fee, website and social media construction and maintenance, various memorial events expenditure, maintenance of the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA and the cost of the AGM. Increases during 2021 have been mainly experienced during events and in the maintenance of the Memorial Building.

*** Support costs include postage and stationery, hall hire for meetings and IT Support and equipment. Significant savings have been achieved in postage and stationery, whilst other costs have remained stable. The one-off significant increase in cost has been as a result of updating exhibition displays in the FEPOW Memorial Building during the year, on a non-recurring basis.

The trustees of the COFEPOW charity are pleased with the manner in which the charity has sustained and survived the dreadful impact of the Covid pandemic, particularly when visits to established memorials and commemorative establishments across the country have been so ravaged by lockdown and staffing shortfalls. Consequent revenue streams have largely been maintained and member recruitment has continued at significant levels throughout. Net assets remain intact.

Overdue membership fees payable please!

It is now possible to renew your membership and have an on-line membership account with COFEPOW. The COFEPOW Membership Officer would like to remind all members that, for those not using the on-line membership facility, please remember to renew your membership; annual renewal fees were due on August 1st. Please make sure your full payment is made promptly and includes any other donation you would like to make, to help give us the finance to maintain the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the NMA and other projects around the UK, whilst also funding commemorative services elsewhere.

The new online system and how to use it.

In its efforts to keep up with the times, COFEPOW is now able to offer members online membership, where you can create an account and have access to the newsletters and the FEPOW database.

Your membership will run from the day you join for 12 months and prior to the anniversary, you will receive an automatic reminder to renew your membership. The trustees hope that this move towards a more technology-driven membership system, as opposed to a labour intensive one, will prove successful.

For those who have yet to renew for 2022/23, could we ask that you fill out the sign up form and create your unique log-in credentials for the new self-service dashboard.

Information can be obtained at <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/membership-sign-up-form-single> for single memberships, and for joint memberships: <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/membership-sign-up-form-joint>

Membership help page

A collection of screen videos showing how to set up a COFEPOW membership and also how to interact with the self-service dashboard is available at: <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/cofepow-membership-help-page>

Please also note that all FEPOWs, civilian internees, spouses and widows are **not** required to pay for their membership. Full details of how to renew are available on the back page of this newsletter, or on the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk

Thank you very much.

New National Event Co-ordinator needed

Applications are invited to fill the role from suitably committed members who wish to help the COFEPOW charity fulfil its annual event calendar.

Chris Wills, former and now temporarily re-installed National Event Co-ordinator, had announced plans to retire from the role in 2019, and was scheduled to step down after the 75th Anniversary commemoration of VJ-Day in 2020. With the turmoil caused by the Covid pandemic however, the event was postponed until August 2021, and so Chris agreed to stay on to help the charity through this difficult period.

Having been in the role for 16 years, Chris felt it was time to encourage other members to take up the position and bring fresh impetus to the charity's events. Although two new members had accepted the challenge, both decided they could not proceed for varying reasons. Therefore, the position is once again vacant.

If you would like to be considered for this highly-rewarding role within COFEPOW, there are one or two characteristics it would be an advantage for you to possess:

- You will need to be an organised, methodical and enthusiastic individual.
- You will be comfortable speaking and negotiating with people from all backgrounds and levels.
- You will need to be diplomatic whilst possessing a degree of tenacity.
- You won't necessarily need any experience, but will need to be imaginative and able to give up a little of your time through the year and keen to help members enjoy their participation.
- On a more pedestrian level, you will need to have access to a computer.

There are three main annual events which will require time commitment from you, as well as an ability to encourage others within the association to help, both prior to, and during their occurrence.

The three are:

1. The AGM and Service for VJ-Day which occurs around the 15th August each year at the National Memorial Arboretum.
2. The COFEPOW weekend away, held at a seaside hotel in October each year.
3. Remembrance Sunday at the NMA in November.

In previous years, the charity has also organised extra services every five years at the NMA on the 15th February, to commemorate notable anniversaries, such as the fall of Singapore.

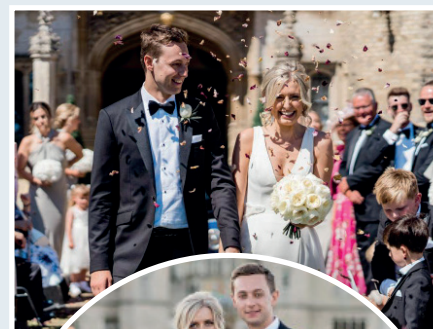
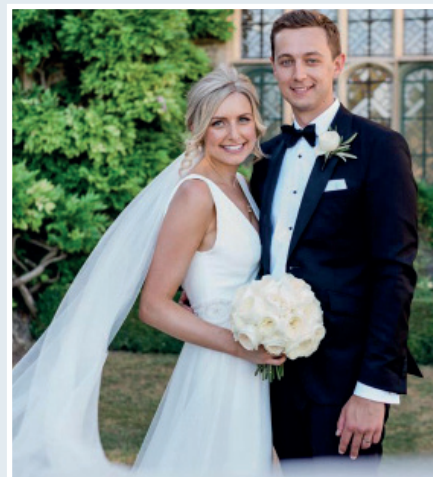
These events mean a great deal to COFEPOW members in ensuring remembrance. COFEPOW would prefer anyone who takes on this challenge, therefore, to be willing to demonstrate true commitment.

If the thought of assuming responsibility for the entire event itinerary for a year seems a little daunting, we would be happy to welcome anyone who might like to take over part or individual management of specific events.

So if you are, or know someone who might be, interested and feel that you/they may have the organisational skills or is/are willing to learn them for this significant role, you may like to have an informal chat with Chris Wills to see what's involved. If so, please contact Chris on 0121 244 7263 or by email at: chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk



Congratulations Mr and Mrs Metcalfe-Hume!



The trustees of COFEPOW, and we're sure all members of the charity, would like to offer our heartiest congratulations to COFEPOW's youngest trustee, Guy Metcalfe-Hume and his beautiful wife Rachel, on the occasion of their wedding on August 10th.

Guy, son of recently retired and long-serving trustee Brian Hume, runs the website and social media functions of the charity. May the couple have a long and happy marriage together.

The three principal objectives of COFEPOW

COFEPOW is a registered charity, first established in 1997 to preserve and promote the memory of all British and, at that time, empire service and civilian men and women, who were Prisoners of War in South-East Asia under Japanese occupation during World War II, 1941-45. Secondly, the charity exists to provide and maintain memorials to the above, and thirdly, it aims to advance the education of the general public about the suffering endured and sacrifices made by Far-East POWs (FEPOWs) during their incarceration and as a consequence of their wartime hardship.

Loss of POWs also Australia's worst ever maritime disaster

The Montevideo Maru, pictured in 1941.



The National Archives of Australia acquired what is now reliably thought to be the most complete list of those who were aboard and tragically lost their lives during the sinking of the Montevideo Maru in July 1942, and which is believed to be the worst ever disaster in Australian maritime history. The Archive has recently introduced a facility whereby relatives may visit a special website to establish confirmation of the names of those who were lost...

At the time of the Japanese attack in New Guinea in January 1942, amongst the Australian defences were 2/22 Infantry Battalion, 1st Independent Company, New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and smaller anti-aircraft and ambulance units.

Following a resolute rearguard action, in which many lost their lives, remaining troops were captured near the town of Rabaul, at the northern tip of the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain, in New Guinea. 850 were taken as POWs, alongside over 200 civilian internees.

In June, all were herded aboard the Montevideo Maru, a freighter requisitioned by the Japanese. Within ten days of setting sail to Hainan, off southern China, the ship was torpedoed near Luzon by the submarine, USS Sturgeon, unaware that the vessel was carrying Allied prisoners, all of whom died in the sinking.

The deaths on the Montevideo Maru were not revealed in Australia until after the end of the war, largely as a result of there being no reliable manifest of those on board available to authorities. Only limited information had come from New Guineans who had reached safety, captured Japanese personnel, surviving civilians in Rabaul and POW officers who had returned from Japan.

In September 1945, Army officer, Major Harold S. Williams, a pre-war resident of Japan, was sent to Tokyo as a liaison officer with the Australian POW Contact and Enquiry Unit, to investigate. The story, now described in full on the NAA archive



The location of the sinking.

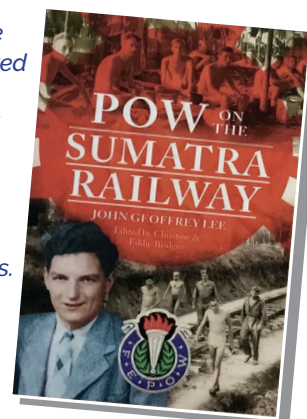
website, catalogues Williams' journey in identifying and confirming the names of those on board, translating from Japanese files, and of the harrowing process of informing relatives.

After collation of accurate and reliable data about the military personnel lost on the ship, those individual files are now available for relatives and researchers to view on the NAA website at:

<https://montevideomaru.naa.gov.au>

The Sumatra hell no-one believed

Member, Christine Bridges, is delighted to announce the publication of her FEPOW father's book, written by him with two fingers on a type-writer in the 1990's. Unable to get it published before he died in 2002, the book is now available through Pen and Sword from June 2022.....



"John Geoffrey Lee, (known as Geoff), joined the RAF on his 20th birthday in June 1941. He left Liverpool on a troopship in December that year, with no idea of his destination. Eventually arriving in Java, he was soon captured by the Japanese, along with many others.

"During his time in captivity, he survived several camps in Java, Ambon and Singapore, and three 'hell-ship' journeys.

"After being washed ashore in Sumatra (as the ferry on which he was being transported blew up), he was recaptured and suffered the hell of working as a slave on the Sumatra Railway. He endured bouts of malaria, beri-beri, tropical ulcers and a starvation diet, intensified by searing heat and the extreme cruelty meted out by Japanese and Korean guards.

"Geoff miraculously survived, weighing just 6 stone when he arrived back in Liverpool in December 1945.

"After his release, he found it difficult to convince people where he'd been held, as no-one had heard of the 'Sumatra Railway'. His letters to newspapers were returned as 'Just another Burma Railway story'. The Ministry of Defence, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Imperial War Museum had no records of POWs building railways in Sumatra.

"So began Geoff's journey, his aim - to prove to the establishment what he knew to be true, and bring awareness of the horrors of the Sumatra Death Railway."

Christine Bridges

For more information on **"POW on the Sumatra Railway"**, please contact Christine by email on cab486@gmail.com or via the publishers at: <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/POW-on-the-Sumatra-Railway-Hardback/p/21393> Also available from Amazon and all good book shops.



1000 Upper Changi Road North,
Singapore 507707.

The database of FEPOWs and civilian internees available at the Changi Chapel and Museum contains information accumulated from 'Findmypast', which has digitised a number of Kew Military Archive records.

Given the nature of the records, the National Museum of Singapore is aware that the database is incomplete and views it as a 'living' one, which invites contributions from visitors and family members to expand it.

The curators apologise that a number of COFEPOW members' relatives' information could not be viewed or retrieved and have asked for COFEPOW members to send information about their FEPOW relative to them, so they can include the data directly into their database within the museum.

The information the Changi Chapel and Museum invites you to provide includes contributions of stories and photographs about POWs and civilians who were interned in Changi during World War Two, as well as relevant donations which document the internees' experiences or are otherwise related to the internees.

If you would like to contribute a story to the CCM database, please complete the form alongside, print or cut out this page, and scan or reproduce the appropriate facts on a plain sheet of paper and post to the museum at the address above, marking your submission as 'COFEPOW RESEARCH DATA'. Or email to:

NHB_NMS_Curatorial@nhb.gov.sg

Contributions of stories and photographs

Full name of internee:	
Nationality:	
Date of Birth:	
Date of Death:	
If internee was a soldier:	Unit: Rank: Service No.: Occupation:
If internee was a civilian:	
Internment camp(s) and dates:	
Period of Internment:	
Personal story: (Related to war experience and internment in Singapore)	
Objects/images related to the internee's experience in Changi: Softcopy files can be emailed to the following email address: NHB_NMS_Curatorial@nhb.gov.sg	
Contributor details:	Name: Relation to internee: Contact details (for internal reference only):

Changi Chapel and Museum is managed by the National Museum of Singapore.

☐ I am agreeable to the information I have provided being added to the internee database for public access at the Changi Chapel and Museum.

Thai/Burma Death Railway Centre - fundraising update



The Thai/Burma Death Railway Museum and Research Centre near Kanchanaburi in Thailand is a renowned facility, dedicated to providing permanent testimony to the conditions endured and fortitude shown in captivity by British and Commonwealth POWs in the Far-East. Previous COFEPOW Quarterly newsletters have carried fundraising appeals whilst promoting the centre's research work in helping families learn more about their FEPOWs.

Terry Manttan, General Manager of the TBRC, wishes to thank everyone who is contributing to Sandra Norman's 'gofundme' page, so far raising £2,831 towards keeping the museum alive. Check out Sandra's gofundme page for the latest news.

A Day of Remembrance at the 'Rocks to Rail' Museum

Jill Robertson reports...

"Several members made their way to the 'Rocks by Rail' museum in Cottesmore, Rutland, on August 25th, for their Conflict Remembrance Day. Enthusiastic steam railway buffs mixed with members of COFEPOW and official military representatives to remember fallen service personnel in the Far-East campaign 1942-1945, and the Falklands War in 1982.

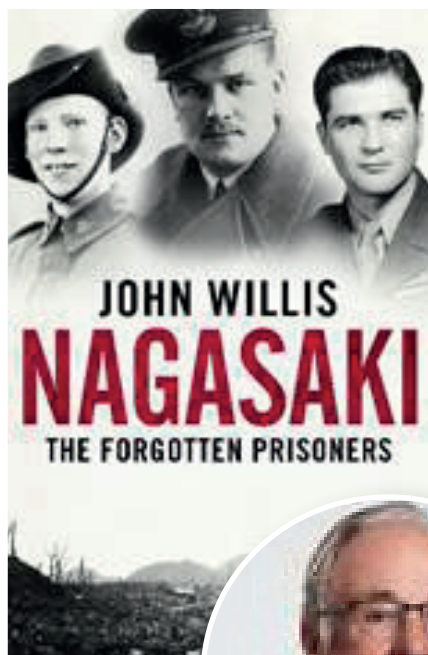


Some of the COFEPOW GROUP: L/R Judith Cocker, Virginia Mackwood, Glynn Cocker, Christina O'Leary, Melanie Martin, Christine Bridges, Jill Robertson and David Brede.

"Steam locomotive 'Singapore' was the star of the commemorations. However, the weather did not come up to scratch - the day of long-awaited rain fell on the 25th! The ceremony was therefore held in the engine shed workshop, cleaned up for the occasion, which gave it an almost reverential feeling, especially when the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' were played later.

"The parade of Standards marched along the workshop platforms between several 'iron-beasts' of the railway industry, acquired from various international locations, there to be taken care of for posterity. The Singapore seemed to be the pride and joy, festooned with flags and guarded by Standard-bearers. After a poignant reading by Volunteer Curator, David Atkinson, others read passages and prayers, including our own Chair, David Brede, before the traditional laying of 'orchids' on the engine in commemoration. Everyone who attended including new COFEPOW members, were able to put their own orchid on the side of the locomotive."

For more information on 'Rocks by Rail', please go to www.rocks-by-rail.org/virtual-site-tour/workshop-tours.



John Willis is one of Britain's best-known television executives. He is a former Director of Programmes at Channel 4 and Director of Factual and Learning at the BBC. He was also Vice-president of National Programs at WGBH Boston, and in 2012, he was elected as Chair of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). He is currently Chair of Mentorn Media, producers of 'Question Time' for BBC and he also chairs the Board of Governors at the Royal Central School for Speech and Drama. Willis is the author of 'Churchill's Few' and 'Secret Letters'. He divides his time between London and Norfolk.

John's new book tells the forgotten story of the prisoners of war who, against all odds, survived the devastating Nagasaki nuclear bomb. During his research for the work, he spoke to many children of POWs, and, using unpublished and rarely seen notes, diaries, interviews and memoirs, he tells the harrowing stories of the forgotten Nagasaki captives, in their own voices.

At 11.02 a.m. on an August

morning in 1945, America dropped the world's most powerful atomic bomb on the Japanese port city of Nagasaki. The city was flattened to the ground 'as if it had been swept aside by a broom'. More than 70,000 Japanese were killed.

At the time, and unbeknown to the pilots carrying the bomb, hundreds of Allied prisoners of war were working as forced labourers in the shipyards and foundries of Nagasaki, close to the bomb's detonation point.

These men, from the Dales of Yorkshire and the dusty outback of Australia, from the fields of Holland and the remote towns of Texas, had already endured an extraordinary lottery of life and death that had changed their lives forever. After living through nearly four years of malnutrition, disease, and harsh labour, their prison home was now the target of America's second atomic bomb.

In one of the greatest survival stories of the Second World War, we trace these prisoners' astonishing experiences: bloody battles in the Malayan jungle; the Fall of Singapore; the brutal working conditions on the Thai/Burma railway; the dangerous journeys in the overcrowded "hell-ships" to Japan; and to top it off, the world's second atomic bomb.

The prisoners in Nagasaki were eyewitnesses to one of the most significant events in modern history, but writing notes or diaries in a Japanese prison camp was dangerous and sources are scarce.

Now, using unpublished and rarely seen notes, interviews, and memoirs, this unique book weaves together a powerful chorus of voices, to paint a vivid picture of defeat, endurance, and survival, against astonishing odds.

'Nagasaki: The Forgotten Prisoners' by John Willis, published August 2022. Hardback, £25.00. ISBN: 9781912914425 Mensch Publishing. Or for further information, contact Amy Stewart, Ruth Killick Publicity, rkpublicity.co.uk Tel: 01865 985756 or 07780 673956.

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, who 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.

FEPOW families claim for relative's medals



An interesting note was received by member Dave Sartin, following his successful claim for the World War Two Defence Medal for his FEPOW father; for interested members, Dave describes the process...

"I would like to mention the following, which may be of interest to COFEPOW members who may not be Malay Volunteers Group (MVA) members.

"In the April MVG newsletter, there was an article about how to claim for a relative's war medals that they may not have been awarded, and how and where to apply. As a result of the article, I was able to apply for, and received, the Defence Medal, to which my father would have been entitled.

"For any COFEPOW members who would like to track down any medals entitlement for their relatives, they can download the

application form from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-medals>, and attach any relevant documentation. In claiming you must be able to:

1. Prove that you are the legitimate next of kin.
2. That no-one else in the family has claimed the medal/medals. If so you need go no further.
3. Ascertain whether their relative undertook military service that qualified for issue of the medal/medals (include unit, service number, date of enlistment etc.).

"An accompanying letter mentioning the uncertainty of the issue of medals might be appropriate. I included a copy of my father's death certificate, his army pay book and details of his unit, service etc., which I think speeded things up. Complete the online application form and send everything to Innsworth Barracks, the address of which is on the form, and then just await a reply.

"Had I not been a member of MVG and seen the article in the newsletter by Chris Rundle, I would have been none the wiser. As it is, I now have another medal that my father would have been entitled to.

"Hope this is of use to any COFEPOW members."

Dave Sartin

The Changi Bars and Shutters

A further update on the quest to bring them to the NMA

Huge efforts have been made to bring the shutters and bars salvaged from the old Changi Gaol in Singapore, to the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove. A rough draft of drawings of how the artefacts could be safely and permanently displayed has been provided to the National Royal Navy Museum (RNMN) at Gosport.

After many months they have finally approved these and agreed that we could get proper architect's drawings drafted.

Unfortunately, they have now sent us a Loan Agreement for 12 months. The trustees are not going to spend the charity's precious money on architect's drawings and employ a builder to erect the appropriate casing, just for 12 months.

As it would take longer than that for an architect to balance the needs of the NRNM with those of the NMA before we can even start on the building stage, you can see this is very much an ongoing project.



Note to all members...

The COFEPOW charity has now been registered with AmazonSmile, a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk

The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the COFEPOW charity, at no cost to you. So any purchases you would normally make through Amazon can now be made through smile.amazon.co.uk in exactly the same way.

Simply copy this link - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1074474-0> and it will take members directly to AmazonSmile to order whatever you require, whilst supporting our charity organisation at the same time. Thank you for supporting us. Remember, always start at smile.amazon.co.uk



Give as you Live online helps raise COFEPOW funds

'Give as you Live Online' is a free and easy way to help raise vital support funds for COFEPOW's work in maintaining memorials across Britain.

By using this online site, you can shop at over 5,500 stores and whatever you purchase - from holidays and travel, to clothing and gifts - a small percentage from the sale goes to help raise significant sums from your everyday shopping, all at no extra cost to you. Simply sign up for an account and start shopping to make a difference. Visit the website now to register at: <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/cofepow>

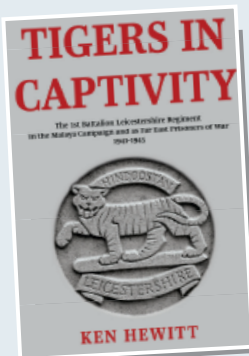
The fate of the 936 men of 1st Leicesters in Malaya - new book details all

Ken Hewitt's new book is strongly focussed on the men of the 1st Leicesters, helping to provide descendants of these men with a better understanding of the battalion's role in the Malaya Campaign and their fate as POWs. Hopefully by sharing his research, it will save relatives having to repeat the many hours of research Ken devoted to assembling this new book....



Following his retirement in 2006, and 20 years after his father's death, Ken started to research his father's military career with the Leicestershire Regiment, which led to an interest in the entire battalion during the Malaya Campaign and in captivity under the Japanese.

Entitled "**Tigers in Captivity**", the book offers a detailed understanding of the fate of all 936 men of the battalion in Malaya - the 70-day withdrawal, the surrender of Singapore, forced labour on the Thai/Burma railway and the movement of POWs around the Far-East.



An A-Z listing of every man summarises their fate and charts detail the statistics regarding those who died or survived.

Ken retraced his father's steps as a POW with visits to Singapore and Thailand, and at the 70th anniversary of VJ-Day,

he presented an illustrated talk on his findings to FEPOW relatives in Leicester. Afterwards, he was encouraged to formally document his findings both for the regiment's archive, and for descendants.

Ken, a COFEPOW member since 2007, commented, "This project has been compelling and has resulted in a much better understanding of what these men experienced. The book cannot possibly tell the full story of every man, but I hope it will help others understand the part their relative played in the war in the Far-East."

For further information visit:

www.tigersincaptivity.co.uk

The book is available at a cost of £25 plus P&P from the author at kenhewitt@ntlworld.com or at www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop

Charity night for Gurkha veterans on HMS Ganges



A new home nearing completion.

Dave Hutson reports on the HMS Ganges charity night held in July in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, and completion of achieving the target objective....



The previous standard of housing for the Gurkha veterans.

"The Gurkha Welfare Trust has been raising funds to help build earthquake-resilient homes for Gurkha Veterans or their widows. A special Charity Night in aid of the fund was held at the Mount Edgecombe Masonic Hall, on 15th July 2022.

Having previously accumulated £4,600 of the original target of £6,000, the evening target was set at raising the balance. We achieved £1,535, after expenses, making an overall total of £6,135, which has now been sent to and receipt acknowledged by the Trust.

The event was supported by 67 members and supporters of the Federation of Plymouth & District Ex-Service Associations. An excellent dinner was provided by the Masonic Hall and thanks go to Roger, Barbara and their team. Entertainment was supplied by Brian Burley and his

associate, Mike Stott (thank you both).

My sincere thanks to HMS Ganges for providing the platform for this event to go ahead. Donations on the night were received from "Commando Gunners Regroup" the Royal Artillery Association, Arie Den Hollander (FEPOW) and Mike and Carol Dinham. The raffles and auction raised £408 and thanks go to all those who donated a multitude of prizes.



The new homes under construction.

The project is now complete and Gurkha Veteran, Chhatrabahadur Limbo, has moved into his new home. The photographs above are three of many which have been forwarded to the trust, demonstrating the conditions in which veterans were housed and the new buildings being erected.

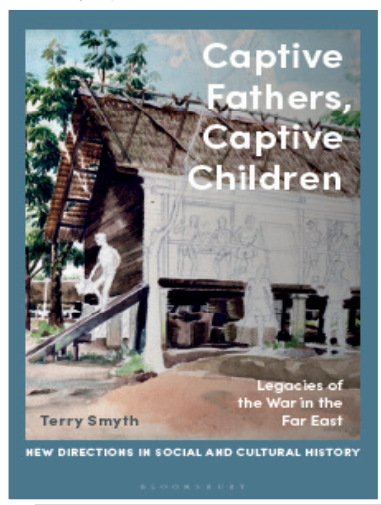
Finally, my sincere thanks again to all who have made this project possible and I will continue to watch as the Trust continues its work supporting and caring for these veterans in a far-away land and to whom we owe so much."

Dave Hutson

'Captive Fathers, Captive Children: Legacies of the War in the Far-East'

Terry's new book explores children of FEPOWs psycho-social legacy

"Terry Smyth's book is a deeply personal, yet scholarly account of trauma, intergenerational memory, and the lasting effects of wartime captivity. The emotions expressed and experienced are raw and often overwhelming, but his message is hopeful: through empathy and imagination, recovery is possible."
– Joanna Bourke, Professor, Birkbeck, University of London, UK.



Why are the daughters and sons of Far-East prisoners of war still captivated by the stories of their fathers? What is it that compels so many of the children, after so many years, to search for the details of their fathers' captivity? And how, over the decades, have they come to terms with their childhood memories? Terry takes up the story....

"Somewhere in the heat and humidity of Java, my father, Edwin Smyth, was captured by the Imperial Japanese Army, and was to spend the next three and a half years as a POW. His traumatic wartime experiences had a profound effect on me and on the wider family. As the years rolled on, I continued to wonder why seven decades after the war so many of us remained fascinated by our fathers' experiences.

"After retiring from full-time employment, my wife and I travelled to Japan in 2010 where we were able to visit the site of my father's incarceration (Hiroshima 6b camp, near Mine City). In 2013, I started a full time PhD in the Sociology Department at the University of Essex, graduating in 2017.

"Over the next three and a half years, I made contact with almost one hundred children of FEPOWs, and

interviewed forty. I listened to what they told me about their childhoods and the changing relationship they'd had with their fathers. As expected, interviews were wide-ranging, challenging and emotionally demanding, made more so by the fact that they covered several decades of lived experience. Without exception, each interview offered new insights and fresh understandings, and I am exceedingly grateful to every participant for their trust and openness.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first book which aims to show how memory and trauma became 'worked into' the psychic, social and cultural lives of the children.

During the interviews, I revealed very few of my own experiences, aside from basic facts such as which camp my father had been in. However, once I started to put pen to paper, I realised that I would need to share more of my personal memories and feelings with readers, and that this would be consistent with the psychosocial approach. Every family was affected in one way or another by their father's FEPOW trauma, and I have not shied away from describing and analysing the more troubling aspects of the children's experiences, my own included. But, taken together, these examples provide incontrovertible evidence of the incredible strength, resilience and courage of the participants in this research.

"Although the book is being published by Bloomsbury Academic, I have written it in such a way as to attract a wider audience. At the moment, the book is only available in hardback and digital forms, but I do hope that a soft cover version might become available in future.

"Sir Tim Hitchens, British Ambassador to Japan from 2012 to 2017, was kind enough to write the foreword. You can find further details on the publisher's website: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/captive-fathers-captive-children-9781350194243/>

"In conclusion, I'd like to thank everyone in the COFEPOW community for their inexhaustible willingness to share information and experience – online, in newsletters and face to face – without which I would never have started, or finished, this book."

Terry Smyth

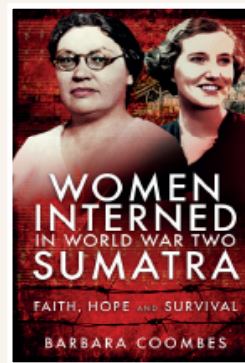
Sumatra women internees' spirit - Barbara's new book sheds light

Barbara Coombes completed her MA in 2010, during which she researched into women's internment in the Far-East. Her new book, 'Women Interned in World War Two Sumatra - Faith, Hope and Survival'



recounts the lives of Margaret Dryburgh, a missionary and teacher, and Shelagh Brown, a secretary at the Singapore Base. They composed music to lift the spirits of those held captive with them in South-East Asia.

Thousands of women and children were among those who struggled to leave Singapore in the hope of reaching safety before capitulation in 1942. Countless drowned as fleeing ships were bombed and sunk on their way. Those aboard who survived would be captured and interned and many would not live to see the end of the war. Two of those women were Margaret and Shelagh. Their paths had crossed briefly prior to the surrender and they met again in internment.



The 'Captives Hymn', composed by Margaret, was initially sung by herself, along with Shelagh and friend Dorothy MacLeod in July 1942, and then at Services throughout internment. It continues to be sung at Services all over the world. Margaret's creative talents had

lifted everyone's spirits during those dark days.

In a remarkable partnership, Margaret and fellow internee Norah Chambers also produced a 'Vocal Orchestra' using women's voices in place of instruments. The first performance stunned the entire camp; they had never heard anything so beautiful and momentarily made them feel that they were free and floating away with the music.

This true account, using personal diaries and family documents, traces Margaret Dryburgh's and Shelagh Brown's journey from childhood through to adulthood and internment. Early life shapes adult life and perhaps contributed to their response to captivity which showed courage, tenacity, perseverance and surprisingly, given the appalling conditions, a good deal of humour.

For more information, please contact **Lucy May** at promotions@pen-and-sword.co.uk

89 years-old Catherine tells her story as a 'Daughter of the Regiment'



Catherine today, at home in Reading.

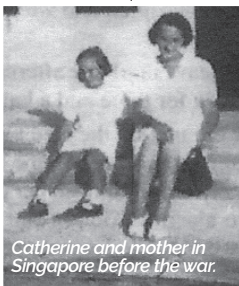
Catherine Butcher, of Tilehurst, Reading, and daughter of Regimental Sergeant Major, Alexander 'Sandy' Munnoch of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, tells of her escape from Singapore, aged 8, with her mother, and the events that led to her eventual return home to the UK.

She recounts her father's experiences as a POW in Thailand, too, which led to him receiving the MBE...

"I was eight years-old, an only child, living with my parents in Singapore, when the Japanese invaded. My father was RSM Alexander 'Sandy' Munnoch of the 2nd Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, stationed in Tanglin Barracks.

"A day or two after, my father had written to my mother asking her not to be scared of the war as he thought the Japanese were being 'cornered all roads'. Unfortunately, the bombers came over Singapore, which I remember well, as my mother woke me and told me to go on to the balcony. A few seconds later we heard the first bombs drop. From then on, there was panic, with everyone trying to leave the island. My friends were all evacuated, as the bombing continued day and night. With no air-raid shelter, a mattress was put on top of me and then someone would lie on top of that to protect me, as we sheltered under a billiard table.

"We heard my father had been transferred from the frontline to Queen Alexandra Hospital with severe malaria and we visited him. I remember passing cigarettes round to the soldiers. Later, we learned the Japanese had massacred many patients, doctors and nurses. My father told my mother to pack and be ready to leave as soon as



Catherine and mother in Singapore before the war.

possible. He discharged himself from hospital and we left in the early hours to the docks and boarded the Narkunda.

"We were bombed constantly and unable to leave until late afternoon. We waved goodbye and I didn't see my father again for three and a half years. Eventually, we arrived at Freemantle and were met by the Red Cross and taken to Perth. We stayed with different families for the duration of the war. My mother worked hard, completely different from her previous life in the Tropics, but finally she succumbed to a serious illness and decided we had to come home. The day before we were due to leave for Britain, I went down with German Measles and we were unable to travel. We heard later that the ship we would have been on had been sunk with heavy loss of life, in shark-infested waters.

"We did leave eventually, saying goodbye to our friends who had been so kind to us. We travelled to

Sydney by train over the Nullarbor Plain, on to Wellington and finally through the Panama Canal to Bermuda where news reached us that the war in Europe was over. We arrived in Liverpool and travelled to Kent where we were reunited with grandparents, aunts, uncles and a cousin - none of whom I knew.

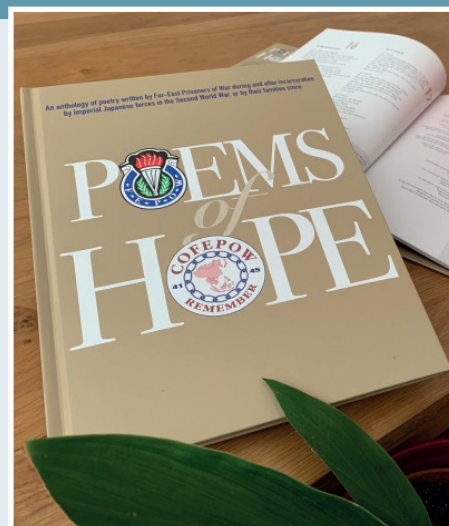
"The bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the war was over in the Far-East. My father was a POW and had been sent to Thailand to build the Thai/Burma railway. In the camp, they put on shows to try and boost the morale of the men and my father was in all of them. Cholera had broken out in the camp and he carried out cremations and cared for the graves, receiving an MBE for his work. I understand he had a 40ft-high cross built and collected the ashes and placed them in a cairn underneath. A sign read 'In Memory of our Fallen Comrades'.

"After the war, he was a military instructor at Bradfield College and sadly passed away in 1956, six months after my marriage.

"I was proud to attend the opening of the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA at the 60th Anniversary of VJ-Day in 2005."

Catherine Butcher.

Submissions invited for second 'Poems of Hope'



In 2019, the trustees of COFEPOW initiated a drive to collate as many poems written by FEPOWs and their families as possible, to create an anthology of poetry. The collection featured over 80 poems, many of which were written during captivity or based on recollections or emotions experienced by close family since the war. Published under the title "Poems of Hope", it went on sale via the merchandising office at £11.99 and has sold well to raise funds for the charity.

A second volume is being assessed for viability and is hoped to contain not only poetry by captives, but also stories, and thoughts or memories of loved ones in poetry form.

Merchandising Officers, Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell are asking for contributions of any new or freshly discovered poetry to be included. Any originals will be returned, but in the interests of protecting family heirlooms, they would prefer if rewritten or typed contributions could be submitted.

If you would like to provide any poems, please contact them at the merchandise site by emailing: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, phone 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501.

Information will also be available on the COFEPOW website in due course at www.cofepow.org.uk

Perfect gifts and fitting mementoes

A comprehensive selection of quality COFEPOW branded merchandise, priced competitively to help the charity.

1. Blue pen with logo



3. 30mm diameter 75th anniversary of VJ Day commemorative enamel pin badge in blue velvet presentation box



4. VJ70 mug



6. Tie clip



8. Badge



12. Note holder



13. Trolley coin



14. VJ70 Medallion



17. Notelets



17.



5. Car sticker



7. Lapel badge



10. Key ring



15. Tie



18. Polo Shirt



19. Range of books at COFEPOW prices!



2. 'Poems of Hope' anthology of over 80 by FEPOW or family



11. Wooden frame A3 landscape



16. Cloth shopping bag 37cm (14½") x 47cm (16") cloth



18. Polo Shirt



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.

A further big thank you to all those who add a donation (however big or small) to the COFEPOW funds with their merchandise purchase. Every penny donated helps the charity. Donations and merchandise sales are recorded on the AGM minutes earlier in this newsletter. A massive THANK YOU to you all for and on behalf of all the trustees.

Besides the newer additions of the Anthology of FEPOW poetry, 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 or Sylvie, indicating whether you have a suitable photograph and badge, and they'll get back to you as soon as possible with a price for your frame.

Details of ordering/payment methods, including Paypal and overseas postage costs, can be obtained by emailing Nick or Sylvie at tickles.sbb@gmail.com or by phoning 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501. Information is also available on the COFEPOW website. For general information, or if you would like to submit ideas for merchandise, please email: Nick or Sylvie at: tickles.sbb@gmail.com

Current merchandise price list

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

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



Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine announces new date for RFHC conference

10th and 11th June 2023.
The long-awaited
Researching FEPOW
History Conference
(postponed from 2020,
following Covid)
hosted by the LSTM.

Once again, this is an in-person event and places will be limited. Registration opens on 1st October and closes on 30th November 2022.

Visit <https://fepowhistory.com/> for all updates. To assist with planning, please email mike.parkes@talktalk.net now if you are intending to register (non-binding). Please help us to spread the word.

Southampton Commemoration

The annual commemoration of the return of the FEPOWs from Singapore will be taking place on the Friday 19th November 2022.

This is the anniversary of the return of Bob Hucklesby from the Far-East to Southampton. Bob was the inspiration of the event.

For further information, please email Walter Tuttlebee at: walter@tuttlebee.com

Jill & Jan bring Dad's story to print



'Captured at Singapore'

By Jill Robertson & Jan Slimming

COFEPOW member Jill Robertson tells of the twists and turns of bringing her and her sister Jan's story to print from their father's notes, and how it eventually got published...

"It wasn't until 2005, when my elderly mother was preparing to move from the old family home, that the small diary that was in my parent's bureau came to light, after it had been kept safely underneath other memorabilia. My mother agreed that I should take charge of it and also the Red Cross box that kept my late father's war mementoes safe. There in my own mementoes' metal cabinet, they sat for another six years.

"The book took another ten years to get published. I had begun to collaborate with my sister, Jan Slimming, typing and transcribing the tiny diary and the tape Stan, our Dad, had recorded in 1990. I tapped away with a couple of fingers on to a laptop, while holding a tape cassette play button down – stop, start, stop, start. The collection of Dad's words evolved, but it took several days.

"Within the book, there are valuable references that move in line with Stan's diary, making his account especially poignant. There are thousands of stories to be told, of course, which could be construed as all the same, but they are not. So many experiences, feelings and opinions from the POWs provide so much for posterity about this period in the Far-East. And each book that's written is another gem, whether written by a veteran or a descendant.

"Stan's story starts in Mitcham, South London, as a young motorcycle despatch rider for RASC, moving on to Liverpool and across the oceans, finally reaching Singapore.

"The diary was started as an address book, which had 38 army friends' wartime homes written inside, but on leaving Liverpool, he flipped it over to write of his new sailing adventure which forms the basis of this book. He was a lucky survivor, able to write a Liberation Questionnaire, now kept at the National Archive, and micro-fiched on to the COFEPOW database.

"Pen & Sword has produced a well-formed publication which is now on sale via their website or through Amazon. In July, book promotion events were held at W. H. Smith in the Weston Favell Centre, Northampton; at a coffee meet-up at Glasgow Central Station with other COFEPOWs from Scotland, and more recently, an interview on BBC Radio Northampton, to commemorate VJ Day. The book fair at the August 15th VJ Day commemoration and the Conflict Remembrance Day at the Rocks by Rail Ironstone Museum, Cottesmore, Rutland on August 25th. As always I am grateful to be able to have many opportunities to promote the courageous lives of all FEPOWs."

If you would like more information on the book, please contact Jill at: cofepow.westsussex@gmail.com



COFEPOW Chair, David Brede, Jill and Lee Lawrence, nephew of Stan Moore, pictured in July with the new book and Christine Bridges' book, in Glasgow. David and Jill also met Jackie Sutherland, Jon Cooper, Sandra Guthrie and son, David. Picture courtesy of Jackie Sutherland, Area Co-ordinator, Scotland.

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.

Letters

A letter to Chair, David Brede, and newsletter co-editor, Chris Wills, in July from Keiko Holmes of Agape World, on whom we reported in the July 1st edition of the newsletter.

Keiko works tirelessly to help bring FEPOW families together with visits to the Japanese Embassy in London.

"Dear Chris and David

"Thank you very much for sending me your newsletter, and putting my article in the issue. I appreciate it very much. It is always very interesting and it is professionally done - I am kept amazed.

"I have had a slight accident recently and my action is slowed down.

"I do hope I could see you next year at the Japanese Embassy reception. Many blessings."

Keiko

Donations of Artefacts

The COFEPOW charity has accepted and continues to accept relevant donations of POW authored publications, personal artefacts, souvenirs, mementoes and military keepsakes.

Whilst donations of these artefacts are gratefully received, the trustees cannot guarantee that they will be displayed in the FEPOW Building at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), as we are unable to change the display cases in the downstairs exhibition area, and, of course, we are limited by space.

Please be assured that the donations of artefacts will be stored safely in the archives (upstairs in the Building) under lock and key, where there are security cameras.

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

If you wish to donate an artefact to the charity, 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.

Donations

On behalf of COFEPOW, thank you for your generosity. Every penny goes towards the maintenance of the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the NMA in Alrewas, Staffs., and for the upkeep of other FEPOW memorials across the UK.

Major donations:

A payment of £4,400.00 has been made into the charity's Memorial Account from Patricia Robertson.

Up to £100.00.

June Ames, John Johnson, Alan and Jennifer Wade, plus a payment of £47.88 has been received from Much Loved, and cheques totalling £95.00 from the funeral of George Henry Hawkwood. G and J Robertson, Malcolm and Rosemary Watters, Thomas Foy and Mary Harris.

Up to £50.00.

Nigel Johnson-Hill, Gordon Bestwick, Patricia Beinkowski, Kathleen and Idris Booth, D and M Bowden, Lindy Bradley, Gillian and Tim Bullivant, Lin Byrne, Frank Clarke, Diana Docwra, Peter East, Susan Emeny, Peter Felton, Yvonne and Michael Grimble, Margaret and Peter Hall, Elaine Howard, Jackie Johnson, Jeanne Kelly, Henry Langley, Marilyn Leigh, Hazel Luscombe, Maureen Mahar, Linda Mapp, Jennifer Neild, Cedric and Pauline Palfrey, Linda Peach, Ann and Roger Powles, Judith Pringle, Bea Richardson, Hefna Roberts, Carol and Chris Rundle, Donald



and Brenda Sammons, Barry and M Saunders, Sybil and Pheobe Shaw, Carl Short, Helen Smith, Jane Stuart, Gillian Summers, Barbara and Gerry Summons, Janet and Antony Tomlinson, Patrick and Monica Toosey, Dean and Joan Turner, Barbara Wealthy, Eileen Weir, Juliet Weller, Jean Williamson and George and Jo Worrall. Michael Brown, Robert Richards, Jane Gill, Susan Wright, Louis Colwill, Marie and Colin Edwards, Anne Penney, Roger and Una Price, Barbara Hassan, Raymond Thorogood, Paul and Kathryn Garnham, Robert Sivewright, Philip Moore, Norma Unwin, Christine Davis, J and V Bucknell, Edward Hale, Ken and Barbara Presland, Caroline Aston, Gaynor Campion, Pauline Briggs, Susan Brannan, Muriel Blandford, Patricia Rankin, Claire and Roger Smith, Mr and Mrs Hawke, Anne Wilson, Gerry and Anne Lewcock, Veronica Cornelious, Patricia Edgar, Janet Smith, Henry Every, Joyce Wilson, Mary and Ray Turpin, Muriel and Sheila Wigham, Tony Hazzard, Geoffrey Hoskins, Barry Townley, Julia and Richard Cook, Glynn Cocker, Clare Stanton, David Jayes, Brenda Hynds, Fred Brazendale (non-member), Richard Morling, David Millar, Robert Raft, Måary Boswell, Greta and Walter Palmer, Mr Mercer and Mrs J Brown, David Bacon, Dianne Williams and Michael Wilson who has donated his deposit for Torquay to the FEPOW Building as he is now unable to go on the weekend.

Obituaries

Ron Mockford

02/05/1923 - 18/08/2022



Honorary Chairman of the Birmingham Association of FEPOWs (BAFEPOW), Ron Mockford, passed away peacefully in hospital on Thursday 18th August 2022, at the age of 99.

The COFEPOW trustees and members would like to convey their condolences to his family and friends, at this very sad time.

Ron was the most lovely, friendly and cheerful gentleman - a very special man and a member of the Association in Birmingham. He joined other members to celebrate his 95th birthday in 2018. Recently, however, he had been unable to travel to our meetings due to Covid restrictions. He was sorely missed and often spoken about with affection.

During the war, Ron served with the RAF. Whilst being transported to Singapore, the island fell and his ship was diverted to Sumatra. He was taken prisoner on the 8th March 1942 and spent much of his captivity in Singapore and Thailand.

The COFEPOW charity Governance Document

Following a meeting held in July 2022, the trustees of COFEPOW elected to print in full, in this issue of the newsletter, the articles of governance which determine the parameters within which the charity must operate.

It was deemed of benefit that all members, old and new, should be given access to the document and the opportunity to scrutinise the objectives and legal controls placed on COFEPOW as a functioning charity.

The document states:

A THE CHARITY'S NAME.

COFEPOW - THE CHILDREN, (FAMILIES and FRIENDS) OF THE FAR-EAST PRISONERS OF WAR.

B OBJECTIVES.

The Charity's objectives are:-

- B1** To provide and maintain a memorial in memory of all British Servicemen and civilians who were Prisoners of War in South-East Asia under Japanese occupation during World War II.
- B2** To advance the education of the public about Prisoners of War in South-East Asia whilst under Japanese occupation during World War II from 1941 – 1945.

C POWERS.

The charity has the following powers which may be exercised only in promoting the objectives:

- C1** To publish or distribute information
- C2** To raise 'memorial funds' (but not by taxable permanent trading activities)
- C3** To invite and receive private donations
- C4** To put aside funds for future expenditure or special purposes
- C5** To invest money raised by the charity but not immediately required for its purpose, having regard to the suitability of the investment, and having the power to reinvest any profit arising from such an investment and the power to review such investments once a year
- C6** To provide advice
- C7** To carry out research
- C8** To establish branches of the charity elsewhere
- C9** To carry out anything else

of a charitable nature, within charity law, that will further the objectives (see 'B').

C10 To acquire or hire property of any kind for the purpose of promoting the objects of the charity.

D CHARITY TRUSTEES.

D1 The charity trustees have control of the charity and its funds and any property it may at any time acquire with power to lend or dispose of.

D2 The trustees must consist of at least five members but with a maximum of ten. Trustees will be appointed, confirmed or re-appointed by all current members at the Annual General Meeting. An acting trustee, without power to vote, may be appointed at a meeting of the trustees but must be confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting.

D3 A trustee must stand down from office after a period of three years, unless re-elected to remain in office, or if they wish to stand down earlier

D4 A Trustee's term of office is automatically terminated if they:

- i) Are incapable, whether mentally or physically
- ii) Are absent from three consecutive meetings of the trustees
- iii) Ceases to be a member
- iv) Resigned by written notice to the trustees

v) Breaks any of the terms of the charity's Governance Document.

D5 Trustees taking or holding an office of the charity, namely the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, National Events Coordinator(s) and Webmaster, must have their position ratified at the Annual General Meeting

D6 The charity will have ownership of any physical, intellectual or electronic material or property developed whilst any trustee, officer or ordinary member is acting on behalf of the charity.

D7 Legal action will be taken by the charity to enforce clause D6

D8 Trustees are entitled to claim travelling expenses, when travelling on COFEPOW business, at the appropriate going rate.

D9 Any expense claims made by the trustees or an officer for reimbursement must be accompanied by a completed expenses form with accompanying invoice/receipt.

E MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHARITY'S TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS.

E1 Trustees should attend, when possible, all trustee meetings which shall take place either in person or by electronic means on four occasions in each year. Trustee meetings shall take place at a venue and time to be decided at the previous meeting except in an emergency, in which case a minimum of four days notice shall be given by the Chair or Secretary. In addition, trustees should attend the Annual General Meeting held on the nearest Sunday to the 15th August, being VJ Day, together with any commemorative occasion or especial meeting, including meetings held between the trustees and patrons

E2 Officers are Head of Research, Archivist, the editors of the newsletter, Membership Secretary, Merchandise Officer(s) and others as required in the future. Officers are entitled to attend trustee meetings if they so wish. An officer may also be a trustee

E4 The elected Chairman will take the chair at each meeting. In the absence of the Chairman, then the members can choose one of their members to act as Chairman before the start of the proceedings

E5 The Chairman has the right of a casting vote when the numbers of members voting for and against a resolution are equal

E6 If a vote is to be cast then it is suggested that at least half of the charity trustees should be present

E7 All matters will be settled by a majority of those trustees present at the meeting

E8 Minutes will be taken of all trustee meetings and copies distributed to all trustees.

F MEMBERSHIP

F1 The members of the charity will, on the whole, be family members of the Far-East Prisoners of War, namely sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and future generations, but membership is open to anyone who has an interest and wishes to participate in helping the aims of the charity

F2 All paid-up members,

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present at the Annual General or Emergency Meetings, will have the right to vote on any issue being raised and have the right to speak. The AGM minutes are published in the next newsletter following the AGM

F3 An annual subscription shall be payable, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the trustees

F4 A member can terminate his membership at any time, without any obligation to the trustees or the association.

G ACCOUNTS.

G1 The trustees will comply with the requirements of the Charity Act 1992 (for any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) by:

i) Keeping accounting records for the charity

ii) The preparation of annual statements of accounts

iii) The preparation and transmission of accounts of the charity to the commissioners.

H BANK ACCOUNTS.

H1 All bank accounts must be opened in the name of the charity. The Treasurer to be the named trustee dealing with all banks and investment accounts on a day-to-day basis, however the other trustees must be able to access these accounts in the absence of the Treasurer

H2 As the majority of financial transactions are now processed online, the Treasurer will have authority to make payments, up to the limits agreed, from time to time, by the trustees. Approval limits must be minuted at a formal meeting of the trustees and attached to the Governance Document

H3 When an amount needs to be paid, either by cheque or online transfer, which exceeds the limit set by the trustees, an authority, signed by at least two nominated trustees, should be sought, to approve the payment. The authority should be filed with the accounts for audit at the end of each financial year

I TRUSTEES NOT TO HAVE A PERSONAL INTEREST.

I1 No trustee or member of the association will receive any remuneration other than expenses or any other material benefit, whether directly or indirectly, from the charity, unless approved by the trustees. Such approval shall be minuted.

J POWER OF INVESTMENT.

J1 Power to invest the funds of the charity in any of the investments for the time being authorised for the investment of trust funds (see under 'POWER' C5).

K POWER OF AMENDMENT.

K1 No amendment may be made to 'A' (the name of the charity) and 'B' (the objectives) unless approved by the members at an Annual General Meeting and the Charity Commission, for example adding 'Families and Friends' to our name, as happened in 2020

K2 Any amendments to the Governance Document may only be made by a resolution being passed by a majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alterations proposed

K3 Any resolution that is adopted following an amendment, must be shown in the minutes of that meeting

K4 Following any such resolution a copy of the amendment should promptly be sent to the Commissioners

K5 A copy of any such amendment should be kept with the Governing Document

K6 No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the charity cease to be a charity at law.

L POWER OF DISSOLUTION

L1 If the charity trustees decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the charity, they shall call a meeting of all members of the charity of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting, the charity trustees shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the

charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred by the charity trustees to the National Memorial Arboretum with the sole purpose of maintaining the FEPOW Building.

M REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS FROM OFFICE AND MEMBERSHIP.

M1 The charity reserves the right to remove a trustee from office or a member from the membership on grounds of Gross Misconduct:

i) Under certain circumstances it may be in the interests of the charity to remove a trustee or charity officer or ordinary member from their post and membership status

ii) The removal of any trustee or charity's officer or ordinary member can only happen following a meeting of the trustees, where a formal vote will take place

iii) The reasons for any dismissal must be documented and held on record

iv) In the event of a tied vote the Chairman will have the casting vote

v) The removal of any trustee or charity's officer or member can only take place when all other avenues to resolve the issue have been exhausted. All efforts to resolve the issues must be recorded by the trustees.

M2 The list below is not exclusive but the below actions would be seen as Gross Misconduct by the trustees:

i) Bringing the interests of the charity into disrepute by word or deed

ii) Deliberately working against the charity by word or deed

iii) Removing or stealing physical, electronic or intellectual property from the charity

iv) Misleading members or trustees, by word or deed, in activities which do not represent the charity's interests.

Should any member, trustee or officer of the charity require further information regarding this document of governance, please contact COFEPOW Secretary, ROBERT HAWKE, by email at: secretary.cofepow@gmail.com

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., **GENERAL SIR JAMES EVERARD** KCB CBE.

Trustees: **DAVID BREDE**, **DAVID BROWN**, **KAREN BROWN**, **NICK BULLEN-BELL**, **SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL**, **ROBERT HAWKE**, **ALEXANDRA METCALFE-HUME**, **GUY METCALFE-HUME** email: gmetcalfehume@gmail.com **SHARON MORRIS-MEE** email: sharonmorrismee@outlook.com and **CHRISTINE WILLS**.

Chairman: **DAVID BREDE**: email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com

Secretary: **ROBERT HAWKE**: secretary.cofepow@gmail.com

Treasurer: **DAVID BROWN** email: medalchart@live.co.uk

Head of Research: **KEITH ANDREWS** email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk

Honorary Life President: **CAROL COOPER**.

Honorary Life Members: **PATRICK TOOSEY**, **PAM STUBBS**, **RON TAYLOR**, **KEITH ANDREWS** and **BRIAN HUME**.

COFEPOW Padre: **DAVID CHILDS** CBE, D. Litt.

National Event Co-ordinator: **CHRISTINE WILLS** email: chrswills@blueyonder.co.uk

Merchandise Officers: **NICK AND SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL** email: tickles.sbb@gmail.com

Area Co-ordinator Officer: **ALEXANDRA METCALFE-HUME** email: ametcalfehume@gmail.com

Far-East Travel Adviser: **MARTIN PRECHNER** email: roquefort44@hotmail.com

Membership Officer: **KAREN BROWN** email: cofepow.membership@gmail.com

M: 07935 312349. Membership fee per annum: **£15** per person, or **£21** per joint membership. Payable annually in August. Please send to: 14, Ridgcroft, Ashton under Lyne, Greater Manchester OL7 9TG with payments made to COFEPOW. See website at 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, 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, East Somerset and Yorks., 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	louisewhiteside7426@gmail.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	hilarycunningham1@gmail.com
14. Norfolk	Thelma Johnson	tjohnson4@btinternet.com
15. Northamptonshire	David Brede	davidbrede@yahoo.com
16. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	mikejclarke27@hotmail.com
17. Scotland	Jackie Sutherland	skyscape96@gmail.com
18. South Wales	Tony Jukes	bajukes@tiscali.co.uk
19. Surrey	Una Price	trryroger@aol.com
20. West Sussex	Jill Robertson	cofepow.westsussex@gmail.com
21. Yorkshire	New vacancy	Please apply to David Brede, Chair.
22. USA (East coast)	Jan Slimming	jslimming@comcast.net
23. 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@hongkwnwardiary.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.