



**FEPOW  
family fix  
headstone**



**Service moved by  
Changji cross  
story**



**Jill finds  
her work  
in Far-East  
bookshop**



**Last call  
to book  
weekend  
break**

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](http://www.cofepow.org.uk) and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cofepow](https://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 102 • July 2023

## Treasurer David's Coronation honour

**COFEPOW trustee and Treasurer, David Brown, reports on the privilege of participating in the King's Coronation, 6th May 2023**

"It was a great honour to be asked by the Royal British Legion to be a Parade Marshal in Parliament Square, as part of the Guard of Honour at the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May.

"In fact, my participation started nine days before, on Sunday 30th April, as I headed to Basingstoke for an all day full-dress rehearsal with the military at RAF Odiham.



**Above:** spotted on parade - David marches proudly in the thick of it during the pageant.

"We moved into London next, on Tuesday 2nd May, where we left the hotel with the Standard Bearers at 9.00pm for an overnight rehearsal, arriving back at the hotel at 5.00am.

"Rehearsals with the Standard Bearers took place every day after that, with kit inspection, parades in Hyde Park and other rehearsals taking place in the hotel. 100 Standard Bearers were present, which was such a spectacle around the Square, and, after an early start following a 5.00am breakfast, spirits were high, even though it was a very damp day.

"It was a long stand for us, although we got a break when the service in Westminster Abbey started. The welfare of the Standard Bearers was paramount, as for some, this was their first national event, and, to be honest, it couldn't get much bigger!

"Once the Golden Carriage, carrying both the King and Queen, had left Westminster Abbey, en-route to Buckingham Palace, we marched off Parliament Square, over Westminster Bridge and halted at Embankment.



"A truly remarkable experience for me personally, having already formed a guard of honour at the late Queen Elizabeth II's funeral last September."

**David Brown.**



**Top:** Midnight and beyond, rehearsals go on in front of the Houses of Parliament.

**Middle:** a damp day, as the gold carriage processes through Parliament Square.

**Right:** The Coronation Medal, which will be awarded to David.





## Chair's Notes

“For me, the big event this quarter was my long-awaited trip to Thailand and Singapore to see the Death Railway for myself and to visit locations in Singapore. Jill and I met some amazing people who keep the memories alive, preserve many of the locations and artefacts relating to WW2 and the lives of the FEPOWs who suffered there. It was good to see how Terry and Andrew of the TBRC are passing on the knowledge of the war to Thai personnel, who increasingly escort visitors and pilgrimages to appropriate locations. One concern I have is whilst the main locations like the museum at Kanchanaburi and Hellfire Pass are well developed, there are many other locations that are literally disappearing in front of our eyes. This is especially true of north of Nam Tok, where the line that's still in service ends. Thailand needs to move on as a country, but it would be good for information to be provided at the camps' locations to acknowledge what went on there with links to more details via QR codes or similar modern technology, so the back-story can be made available.

While visiting Singapore and particularly the museums, it was so impressive that many, many children were there, looking and learning from the depictions of the country's history. The interactions included the WW2 sections and the suffering of the local population and the FEPOWs under Japanese rule. We talked to some of the teachers and children, who were really enthusiastic about what they saw and were eager to learn more from us. Clearly, this is more central to their story than to ours, but there are lessons that can be learnt about sharing the FEPOW story from what goes on there.

We also met Jeya Ayadurai who runs the Battlebox venue and has plans for a new museum at the Kranji Memorial. With this in mind, it will be good to get more visitors to see the locations, so I am looking forward to the ideas that Nikki Archer-Waring has for trips to the Far-East so more can appreciate what FEPOWs endured and why it is important to pass it on.

David Brede, Chair, COFEPOW.

# “Remembrance - a sense of togetherness”

*New National Events Co-ordinator, Nikki Archer-Waring, outlines what 'remembrance' means to her and asks that members complete the very short form shown below and return to her to aid her communication with you about upcoming events throughout the year...*

“My name is Nikki, and I would like to welcome you to this section of the newsletter. I am the new National Events Co-ordinator and a COFEPOW member myself. I relayed some of my story to you in the April newsletter and now I'm here to start working with you on bringing us and our FEPOW stories closer together.

“COVID changed the world and we all had to adjust our lives - **however**, take a moment to think about how our FEPOW's lives were changed when they were imprisoned. It is our responsibility to rekindle memorial events, where we can all exchange stories and honour all those who gave us the freedoms we have today.

“Today's world throws many challenges at us all. However, we are united at COFEPOW events worldwide, whether it be in person or with the aid of technology - via simulcast, podcasts, YouTube etc., - don't worry those of you who feel you are technophobes, as we will make it easy for you. I have senior members of the family who have agreed to be my test guinea pigs!

**“When you joined COFEPOW, many completed a “FAR-EAST SECTION” detailing your FEPOW background information. Due to new data protection requirements, I need to ask**



**you to complete this information again, so that we can add to our database, thereby making it easy to summarise specific groups - camp, regiments, ships, etc.** (Since I first joined in 2012, I have certainly learned so much more about my FEPOW).

“I'm here to make this information collection as easy as possible:

- 1) I will be sending out an email with a form to complete and return.
- 2) We will add a form to our website in the events section for you to complete.
- 3) You can post us information about your FEPOW and post it to me at the address below.

“We already share a bond, namely our FEPOW, and I am here to encourage as many as possible to become involved. It is a **big job**, but working together, **I know** we can succeed.

**Nikki Archer-Waring, 4 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5HW. Tel: 01672 216204. Email: events@cofepow.org.uk**

Your name

Your FEPOW's name

Service No. (if known)

Branch of the Armed Forces: Navy ☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Civilian ☐

Details

*Tick box above*

Camps (if known)

Post to COFEPOW, 4 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5HW, or scan and email to events@cofepow.org.uk See www.cofepow.org.uk



# All members welcome to VJ-Day commemorations and COFEPOW AGM, NMA Sunday, August 13th, 2023

As we return to some measure of normality following the pandemic, the trustees of COFEPOW plan to return to a traditional Service of Remembrance to commemorate the 78th anniversary of VJ-Day, on Sunday 13th August, at the NMA. Marking the Allied victory over the forces of Japan allows people to come together to honour the heroism of their forbears, many of whom endured unimaginable suffering and have now passed out of living memory.

The last couple of year's restrictions have severely impacted attendance, so it's hoped that larger numbers that joined members historically can now return. Many come to meet old and new friends at the Service at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, which follows the AGM.

The Trustees would be delighted if you can attend the Service. The AGM is held in the Aspects Conference Suite (situated where the marquee used to be) where members can listen to progress made within the COFEPOW charity in furthering its aim of establishing



and maintaining memorials and promoting educational material. The Accounts will be reviewed, and attendees will see where donations are allocated and how the charity is run generally. The trustees and other officers of COFEPOW will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available after the AGM, when you can chat and get to know other members and learn more of the work of the charity.



## Agenda of the day's events

National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Nr. Lichfield, Staffordshire.

- 10.30** - The AGM will commence in the Aspects Conference Suite
- 12.00** - Break for lunch
- 13.00** - Salute at the FEPOW Memorial Building - The Last Post
- 13.45** - Return to the Aspects Conference Suite to attend the VJ-Day Commemorative Service
- 14.00** - Tea/coffee and biscuits and a chance to gather and meet friends
- 16.00** - Finish

The AGM will commence at 10.30 a.m., and should terminate at around 12.00 noon. Lunch can be obtained at the NMA restaurant, after which, members will be able to make the short walk to join the service at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, whereafter the laying of wreaths will take place. If you think you would like to attend the AGM and/or the Remembrance Service, it would help us in reserving seating and organising catering if you would contact the following as soon as possible to provisionally reserve a place: **Nikki Archer-Waring, COFEPOW National Event Co-ordinator, 4 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5HW. Tel: 01672 216204. Email: events@cofepow.org.uk**



## Remembrance Day Service and Parade

### Whitehall, 2023

COFEPOW asked the Royal British Legion for tickets to the Cenotaph Service and Parade in Whitehall on Sunday November 12th., now that the situation regarding Covid is allowing for a resumption of normality.

Acknowledgement of our application has been received from the RBL, and we are expecting to receive further instructions from the Remembrance Events Team from May, as follows:

**5th May** - All association ticket requests submitted. Any requests received after this deadline could not be accepted.

**25th May** - RBL should confirm 2023 ticket allocation to each association.

**25th August** - Deadline for associations to complete individual participant information.

**30th-31st October** - Registration closes.

E-tickets and instructions sent to individuals.

**For those who registered interest by the 20th April, David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, will respond to you in due course. His address is 3, Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northamptonshire NN3 9ET, email is at [cofepow.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:cofepow.chairman@gmail.com) and phone number is 07930 960241.**

Please be aware that:

- Those who applied to attend and are successful in obtaining allocated tickets 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 dismissed at about 12.45.

- Once COFEPOW tickets are allocated, personal details are submitted to the RBL for security. Tickets are strictly non-transferable as they are issued to people by name and proof of ID will be required.



## Remembrance Sunday, NMA November 12th, 2023

Following the last couple of years, where attendances at the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA have been hampered by Covid, we will be organising a normal wreath-laying on the 12th November, 2023, offered alongside the Cenotaph Parade in London.

We will meet at 10.15 a.m., in readiness for when the general Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffs., commences at 10.30 a.m.

When this Service ends, we will parade to the nearby FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, to lay our wreaths, after which, if you wish, you can rejoin the main body of the congregation at the end of one of the walks, to take part in the march-past and salute back closer to the entrance of the main NMA building. The COFEPOW trustees are hopeful more members will be encouraged to attend, following the removal of almost all government regulations after the pandemic which have severely hampered the charity's ability to conduct these important memorial services.

If you are interested in attending any or all of the Remembrance Service/Parade, please contact **Nikki Archer-Waring**, 4 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5HW. Telephone: 01672 216204. Email: [events@cofepow.org.uk](mailto:events@cofepow.org.uk)

COFEPOW Quarterly is available either as a printed multi-page A4 magazine, or as a PDF, emailed to your online address.

Published in January, April, July and October, it is edited and assembled by Chris Wills and Steve Riley, 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: [chriswills5071@gmail.com](mailto:chriswills5071@gmail.com) or [sriley.beeches@btinternet.com](mailto:sriley.beeches@btinternet.com) Thank you.

# Important information about 2023 COFEPOW membership - payments and renewals

After reviewing the current membership payment schemes, it's been decided that the process should be slimmed down to make it more manageable for members, the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer. Currently, the charity has a number of payment methods, namely cheque, PayPal, BACs and the online system, via the COFEPOW website. So many forms of payment are making the process of tracking payments much more difficult.

**For this year's membership payments, which start on 1st August, there will just be two payment methods available, either by cheque or the online system via the COFEPOW website.** Some members may already have automatic payments set up with their bank or through a PayPal account, so any payment that comes via these routes will be refunded. **The trustees would ask members that have previously paid by BACs or PayPal therefore, to please cancel these automatic payments before 1st August 2023 and make payment only by cheque or the online system.**

Those that have already paid this year on the new system need do nothing, as payment will be automatically taken on the 12 month's anniversary of the payment you made this year. You needn't

make a payment on 1st August as it will be taken automatically when your renewal is due.

So, for example, if you paid on 18th September 2022, a payment will be taken on 18th September 2023. You will remain a fully paid up member until your fees are due for renewal on the new system. Even if you didn't make payment until early this year, your renewal will not be due until the date you paid your fees this year.

For those paying by cheque, please make payment to 'COFEPOW' and post to the Membership Secretary, Karen Brown, 14 Ridgcroft, Ashton under Lyne, OL7 9TG. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Karen on 07935 312349 (email: [cofepow.membership@gmail.com](mailto:cofepow.membership@gmail.com)) as she will be able to help you.

Make sure that, whichever of the two methods of paying you take, please pay promptly and in full and include any other donation you would like to make, to help give COFEPOW the finance to maintain the FEPOW Memorial Building, Garden and Grove at the NMA and other projects around the UK, whilst also funding commemorative services.

Please also note all FEPOWs, civilian internees, spouses and widows are not required to pay for their membership.

## Applications for Secretary

Applications are invited for the role of Secretary to the COFEPOW charity.

David Brede has resumed the role of interim Secretary alongside his position as Chair, until such time as a successful candidate can be appointed. This is a very important post within the charity, which will bring its own satisfaction. You will experience genuine pleasure in helping COFEPOW members, knowing that they will value and appreciate your input. The role involves the following:

- **Supporting the Chairman and trustees**
- **Preparing documents and taking Minutes at the AGM and trustee meetings**
- **Handling correspondence, telephone calls, emails from members and external bodies**
- **Issuing access to the FEPOW**

### database

- **Maintaining the data protection database.**

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

The position is a voluntary one and no remuneration is available, as the charity derives its income entirely from memberships and donations. If you are interested in the role, please contact:

**David Brede in writing, by the end of July 2023, at 3 Blossom Way, Little Billington, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN3 9ET, or by email at [cofepow.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:cofepow.chairman@gmail.com)**

Should you wish to discuss the role first, please call **07930 960241**.





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

The hotel offers a traditional flavour, breathtaking sea views, and high standards of service and cuisine with an award-winning chef.

The Livermead House is one of three Rew Hotels, a family-owned and managed group of hotels on Torquay's water's edge. There's a pleasant level walk to the town centre, free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi internet access in all public areas. Tea/coffee will be offered on arrival.

A full English or continental breakfast will be served each morning and a four-course table d'hôte dinner each evening.

On the Saturday, there will be a complimentary drinks reception before dinner with entertainment on Friday and Saturday night and a complimentary meeting room for Sunday.

**The Livermead House Hotel,  
Sea Front, Torquay TQ2 6QJ.**

**Friday 6th October to  
Monday 9th of October 2023.**

**Two nights' dinner, bed and  
breakfast, just £176 per person.**

**Three nights' dinner, bed and  
breakfast, just £242 per person.**

**Reservations are on a strictly  
first come, first served basis.**

### Please note for 2023...

Due to last minute cancellations in 2022, the hotel lost almost £2,000 in business, and they can't afford for the same to happen again this year. Chris Wills would like to stress that this was no-one's fault, but with many cancellations being close to the date of the weekend, the hotel was unable to re-let the rooms or use the food already bought.

So, as part of the contracted agreement with Livermead House, COFEPOW guests who cancel within one calendar month prior to the next weekend (6th October 2023), will be liable to pay the full amount directly to the hotel. Whether or not you or your partner have any health concerns, it may be beneficial to take out holiday insurance for your stay next year.

Thank you.



# COFEPOW Weekend Break - rebooking for 2023!

If you wish to extend your stay, extra nights will be £66 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast, for up to a maximum 7 night stay in total. There is no supplement for the first 6 single rooms (on a first come, first served basis) and any single rooms over will incur a supplement of £15 pppn. Sea view rooms carry a supplement of £10 pppn.

To secure your place, simply send your name, address, email (if you have one), telephone number, the number of people attending, the number of rooms required, the number of nights you wish to stay, the type of room, special requirements, i.e. sea-view, walk-in shower etc., together with a deposit of £25 per person to: **Chris Wills, 74, The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG. Tel: 0121 244 7263. email:**

**chriswills5071@gmail.com** Cheques should be made payable to COFEPOW.

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

We look forward to seeing you there later this year!



✂

Name		
Address		
		Post Code
Tel no.	email	
No. of people	No. of rooms	No. of nights
Type of room (special requirements)		



## Sandakan-Ranau VJ-Day Remembrance Service

**12.30pm, 15th August,  
at St. Clement Danes  
RAF Church,  
Strand, London.**



*Picture: National Churches Trust.*

Hazel Braund wishes to invite COFEPOW members to the VJ-Day Remembrance Service for the families and friends of those who never returned from the Sandakan-Ranau Death Marches in Borneo. Almost 2,500 Allied POWs lost their lives at the Sandakan camp during the Japanese occupation.

The Service will be held on Tuesday 15th August at St. Clement Danes RAF Church, Strand (at the end of Fleet Street), London WC2R 1DH, at 12.30pm (although this is an RAF church, all services are welcome).

For details, please contact Hazel at [hbraund@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hbraund@hotmail.co.uk)

*Records show that just six men survived out of 1,496 Australians and 1,004 British POWs. The remainder were starved, shot, beaten to death or otherwise killed by an unimaginably sadistic enemy, while they were POWs in what was formerly British North Borneo, between July 1942 and August 1945.*



## Mission finds wreckage of Australia's biggest maritime disaster

The Montevideo Maru sank in July 1942, just off the coast of the Philippines, on its way from Papua New Guinea. On board were an estimated 979 Australian POWs, who died alongside 33 Norwegian sailors and 20 Japanese guards and crew.

Silentworld Foundation, an Australian maritime archaeology group, and Fugro, a Dutch deep-sea survey company, organised the mission to locate the wreck by Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, searching at a depth of more than 4,000 metres, deeper than lay the remains of the Titanic. The search began on 6th April in the South China Sea, 68 miles north-west of Luzon, and the wreck was located after 12 days.

The closest the search vehicle got to the wreck was 45 metres. The site will not be disturbed and human remains or artefacts will not be removed, Silentworld has confirmed. It took several days to verify the wreck using expert analysis from maritime archaeologists, conservators and other specialists, including ex-naval officers.

The ship was sunk by torpedoes from the USS Sturgeon. After being hit, the vessel assumed a steep angle very quickly and disappeared below the waves in 11 minutes.

Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, commented:

"At long last, the resting place of the lost souls of the Montevideo Maru has been found. We hope today's news brings a measure of comfort to loved



*Pictures:  
Silentworld  
Foundation.*



ones who have kept a long vigil."

The search crew were well aware during the rediscovery process that many families had waited years for news of their missing loved ones and by finding the vessel, they hoped to bring closure to the families and now descendants devastated by the consequences of the sinking. The more than a thousand victims came from 14 nations and it has not been possible to trace all of their next of kin. However, descendants of the victims can register with the Australian Defence Force to get updates on the investigation and information on any future commemorations.

Silentworld Foundation Director, John Mullen, summarised the importance of the project:

"Many years were invested in this, and more than that, the descendants of the victims number in the thousands. We had two people on board who had family members who were lost, so while on the one side there were cheers, on the other, there were a few tears. It was very emotional."

In this one incident, Australia lost nearly twice as many service personnel as in the whole of the Vietnam War, so "it's extraordinarily significant for families and descendants," he added.

*Pictures by Silentworld Foundation:*

*Top: The Montevideo Maru prior to the disaster. Middle: Specialist photography of the wreckage. Bottom: The research team at work.*

# Internee ladies' POW treasure spotted in Dutch museum



NMA founder and COFEPOW padre, David Childs, recently took a trip to Amsterdam with his wife Jane, to visit the Vermeer Exhibition at the Rijksmuseum.

Whilst there, they came across a children's cloth alphabet book, which had been created in an internment camp for Dutch civilians in Indonesia in 1944/45.

This remarkable children's book was made collectively and secretly by the female prisoners of Brastagi Japanese internment camp, located on an old plantation in Northern Sumatra, 37 miles south of Medan on the road to Lake Toba. The book was conceived by Maria Petronella Aalbersberg to mark the occasion of the fifth birthday of her daughter, Pem Hagers. Maria made the original design drawings and

templates, and from then on it became a collaborative project, with different women working on different pages. Maria drew the designs and then marked them out in pencil, whilst fellow women internees gathered old rice bags and jute for the binding and thread, and all sorts of fabric and material for the pictures, including pieces of macaroni and yellow wool for the hair. The book measures 23.5 cms by 33.5 cms and is entitled 'Kinderboek van textiel' and was donated to the Amsterdam Rijksmuseum by P. Hagers in August, 2018.

The whole process was hidden from the Japanese guards and became one of the few possessions that Maria and her daughter were able to bring back to the Netherlands after the war.

## Would you like to start organising COFEPOW events in your area?

As well as the large national events that are and will be organised by new National Events Co-ordinator, Nikki Archer-Waring, several local meetings, functions, talks and trips are initiated and managed by our many Area Co-ordinators, listed by region on the back page of this newsletter.

If you would like to help the COFEPOW charity by starting to arrange events in your part of the country, which are not covered in the existing list, please visit the COFEPOW website at: <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/cofepow-events> and fill in the form,

giving us as much information as you can which you think is relevant to taking on one of the posts.

We'll then get back to you as soon as we can, to give you as much background information as you might need and assist in bringing you up to speed on the kinds of things you can do to help you and your local COFEPOW members enjoy their membership more.

We'll also provide as much help in supplying material, information on venues and the types of small events other Area Co-ordinators manage across the country.



## VJ-Day 80th anniversary

### - New Pin Design Children's Challenge



Left: the boxed VJ-Day 75th anniversary pin, produced in 2020.

August 15th 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of VJ-Day. As in the past, COFEPOW will be commemorating this next significant anniversary with a special new COFEPOW lapel pin.

To add an extra element to its creation, and with an eye on the future of the charity, the trustees would like to encourage children to participate in the pin's design. So later in the year we will introduce a competition for kids from 11 to 18, with the winning design being made into the new COFEPOW commemorative pin.

We would like members' help to contact all secondary schools, cadet groups, Scout groups and any youth groups across the country to invite them to get involved. Private entries will also be welcomed and we would ask any COFEPOW members who would like to offer help getting the message across, to get in touch. The challenge will have three age brackets - 11-13, 14-16 and 16-18 years - and a winner will be selected from each group to go forward to be judged in the final. The overall winner will have their design crafted into the commemorative COFEPOW VJ-Day 80 pin, which will then go on sale as part of the COFEPOW commemorative merchandise collection. More information will appear in the October '23 newsletter and details will also appear on the COFEPOW website before the competition is launched at the COFEPOW AGM in August this year. Please encourage your children, grandchildren and even your great grandchildren to get involved - ask them to get practicing or thinking of ideas now!



# Commemoration of Piper James McLean

## Granddaughter, Serena, remedies her FEPOW grandfather's unrecognised grave in West Sussex.



*Piper James McLean during the war.*

*In mid-April, COFEPOW was represented by Chair, David Brede and member Jill Robertson at the dedication of a once-forgotten FEPOW veteran's unmarked grave. Army serviceman 2979505 Piper James McLean of the 2nd Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, deserved recognition and respect for his exceptional service and assurances that his extraordinary story was told. A new headstone, therefore, organised by his descendants and his regimental family, was piped in at Snell Hatch Cemetery, Crawley, West Sussex, with full military honours.....*

James was a Glaswegian, born in June 1915, who enlisted with the army in January 1934. He trained in Stirling, had his first posting in Karachi, Pakistan, in June 1935 for three years, where he was awarded the 1936 Indian General Service medal and the 1936/37 Northwest Frontier Clasp. In August 1939, the 2nd Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were deployed to Malaya under the Command of Lt. Col. Ian Stewart. The battalion, known as the Jungle Beasts, was part of the 12th Infantry Brigade. It was during this time that the Japanese invaded the Malay Peninsula and subsequently, Commonwealth

forces conducted a tactical withdrawal to Singapore throughout late January 1942.

Overnight, 30,000 British and Commonwealth troops retreated across the Johore Causeway to Singapore Island, without casualties or fatalities. At 7:30 on that day, two pipers, Piper James McLean and Piper Charles 'Boy' Stewart demonstrated their calmness, stoicism and courage, as both men escorted the 21st/26th Australian Battalion, followed by the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders, across the Causeway, playing 'A Hundred Pipers' and 'Hielan Laddie', the regimental march.

Lt. Col. Stewart was the last to cross the Causeway initiating a detonation which resulted in a twenty-yard gap in the link between the mainland and the island. Stewart stated that history would tell of the Argylls being the last battalion over the Causeway and, as this historical act occurred, Piper McLean played a pivotal role. Upon capitulation over 85,000 British and allied soldiers became POWs



*The rededication service and headstone.*



including Piper McLean.

From Changi POW Camp, on 1st October 1942, James was transported to Thailand to labour on the Thai/Burma Railway, returning to Singapore camps in October, 1943. The eulogy address described how James had many near misses. The Hofoku Maru, one of the many hell-ships sailing from Singapore to Ja-

pan in convoy, was attacked and sunk by US forces with the loss of nearly a thousand POWs. James survived and was taken to Cabanatuan POW Camp in the Philippines.

McLean had a lucky streak: he was next aboard the Oryoko Maru, which was hit during another attack, where more PoW's were killed. He then survived an attack on the Enoura Maru stationed in the Philippines for the journey to Japan.



*James McLean's daughter Mary, his granddaughter Serena and great granddaughter.*

On January 9th, 1945, US forces attacked Japanese ships in Taiwan harbour. Again, the Enoura Mura sustained significant damage and further POWs died. James narrowly survived and from there was sent to Heidi Camp, where his name is now engraved on the Taiwan POW Memorial Wall. James also survived challenges on the Melbourne Maru in January 1945 and in Japan at Moji, and then Fukoka 17B, the hellish mining camp, in incredibly cold, harsh conditions. Through all these hardships, malnutrition and disease, Piper McLean displayed a POW's much-lamented resolve, through so much adversity. He was transported back to the UK via San Francisco.

On his return, James met Mary McCuaig Durnan and they were married on 28th June, 1946. Their daughter Mary arrived in 1947, and James remained in

*Continued overleaf...*



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the military until 1960. It was not until the passing of his daughter, Mary, in December 2021 that his granddaughter, Serena Gear, began the search to find her grandfather's remains. She discovered that he had relocated to Crawley, Sussex, where he had died in solitude, and was subsequently buried in an unmarked communal grave by local authorities. This newly discovered information caused understandable upset to the family and the process to honour James began. His undeniable courage, perseverance, commitment to service and a tenacity to survive, which had aided his survival in the war, sadly did not prevent him dying in solitary circumstances.

James McLean's granddaughter, Serena Gear, a woman with an indomitable driving spirit, fought to have the headstone commissioned and her ancestor commemorated in style. After much persistence on her part, involving Scottish Ministers, Westminster MPs and the MOD in Whitehall, Crawley Council granted permission to Serena to mark his grave with a black engraved headstone. She campaigned with her grandfather's grit and determination and shared information regarding his story. In turn, she was helped with real passion by Chair John Graham, Lynn Connelly of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and the Grangemouth branch of the regimental association which fund-raised for the headstone and made the event possible, plus the valued support of Denise Reekie from Crawley Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club and Council officials.

A wreath was also laid by overseas visitor Michael Hurst, MBE, who had already laid tributes at Kranji Cemetery, Singapore and the Taiwan POW Cemetery. In the presence of the Mayor of Crawley, Cllr. Jilly Hart and other officials, civilians and in service personnel watched as the pipers sounded their haunting music, standards were lowered by bearers, and the tartan cover unveiled to reveal the black marble and gold engraved headstone. Serena's entire family is eternally grateful to all those who have contributed to make the commemoration of her Grandad a reality. Now, in 2023, he is no longer in an unmarked grave but is remembered forever in a small, peaceful, little-known enclave of West Sussex.

**Jill Robertson.**

## Former NMA FEPOW gardener raising funds for very poorly son



Tom Price is the Head Gardener at the NMA and his team keeps the COFEPOW Grove and Garden particularly neat and tidy, as his grandfather was a FEPOW.

In fact, Chris Wills has written to Tom to congratulate him, saying:

"The garden looks amazing – please convey the thanks of the COFEPOW trustees to your team, as we very much appreciate the work that they do. I was very impressed with the tree – it is looking lovely in bloom. Thank you once again for all the hard work you do for COFEPOW."

Recently, however, Tom has received news of an old colleague, Adrian Sharratt, who worked with him on the Burma War and FEPOW gardens at the NMA and helped and guided Tom around the site when he joined the team.

Sadly, Adrian's son, Ben, has been diagnosed with a grade 4 tumour. The latest news is difficult as he has been

undergoing six weeks of radiotherapy at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Adrian devotes his time to Ben's care now and wants to give him the best experiences possible. He's hoping the family can go on the holiday they paid for just before this nightmare began, to either Disneyland Paris or New York or both. Ben is so brave and is much loved by all.

Adrian is a fantastic father and could really do with as much support as possible. As a result, Tom has decided to do the Peak District fundraising challenge – a 50km walk which takes place on July 8th and 9th. Tom has sponsor forms for the challenge for those that do not have the internet (Chris Wills has details) and he has sent emails to radio stations, newspapers and so much more, to gain interest.



Below is the link to a GoFund Me page to donate to the cause to help Ben and his family.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bensfamily?utm\\_term=dXP26j4W6](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bensfamily?utm_term=dXP26j4W6)

## The two principal objectives of COFEPOW

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.



## Fund-raiser to replace Liverpool Repatriation Memorial plaque

Due to the effects of weathering, the original engraved granite Repatriation Memorial plaque on the Pier Head in Liverpool needs to be replaced. In October 2011, the plaque was unveiled in front of a crowd of over 650, following a successful national fund-raising appeal organised by the Researching FEPOW History Group.

The RFHG, working in partnership with other FEPOW groups, is planning to launch a national fund-raising campaign at the Liverpool conference this June, details of which are shown in the article above.

More information will follow from the RFHG in the coming months, which can be found on the RFHG and FEPOW club websites and via social media.

## FEPOW Album Pages

The FEPOW Album Pages is a comprehensive collection of individual A4 sheets, holding information and facts about each FEPOW's incarceration and service overseas. Each is written by their immediate relative, collated by COFEPOW and held on show in the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove 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 [chriswills5071@gmail.com](mailto:chriswills5071@gmail.com)

# Send your FEPOW story to the Changi museum



The database of FEPOWs and civilian internees available at the Changi Chapel and Museum contains information accumulated from available records. The curators apologise that some COFEPOW members' relatives' information could not be viewed or retrieved and have asked for members to send information about their FEPOW relative to them, including contributions of stories and photographs about POWs and civilians interned in Changi during the war, and relevant donations which document the internees' experiences. If you would like to contribute a story to the CCM database, please complete use form below or a plain sheet of paper and post to the museum at **1000 Upper Changi Road North, Singapore 507707** marking your submission as 'COFEPOW RESEARCH DATA'. Or please scan the form or your sheet of paper and email to: **NHB\_NMS\_Curatorial@nhb.gov.sg**

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

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.



# Lynette's new book examines harrowing consequence of war

*Lynette Silver is a renowned writer in Australia and has produced a number of books about her father and the Far-East POW experience over the last few years. Her latest has now been released, entitled 'At War With My Father' and although a war story, it differs from her normal projects. Lynette takes up the description...*



"My new book has three voices - me as narrator, Fred Howe as a POW, who had the worst possible battle and POW experience, and his daughter, Di Elliott, who was affected by her father's trauma. It starts in Malaya in February 1941, and covers the story of Fred and 2/19 Battalion, and his first-hand accounts of the bitter fighting at Parit Sulong, the attack on Singapore Island, and the ill-fated X Battalion - the only first-hand account I have ever come across, as they were all but wiped out. The POW section covers Selarang Camp, then moves in May 1942 to Burma and on to Thailand, where Fred remained until the war's end. My new work is a story of war and reconciliation, and an epic exploration of survival on the infamous Thai/Burma railway. Read the prologue and you'll wonder if, and how, Di can ever forgive her father. But by the end, you know why she does.

"I inherited the very special

task of writing this story when Di, who had fortunately recorded most of her thoughts, was diagnosed with incurable brain cancer. I promised her before she died that I would 'finish Dad's story'. So I did".

A quotation from the book in Di's voice reads...

"As a young girl, I had no understanding of the war. All my father had ever told me was that his mates had been shot and killed on either side of him during the fighting.....I never asked any questions, so received no answers, answers that I would come to crave. I now realise why, for so much of my life, I have been at war with my father, literally and by following in his footsteps. I am also finally understanding the degree to which his experiences impacted our relationship. Fred Howe was a prisoner of war for more than three years. I have been a virtual prisoner for sixty."

To purchase a copy of this insight into the consequences of the war, please email Lynette for details.

The book is available in Australia from

[https://www.](https://www.searchpress.com.au/)

[searchpress.com.au/](https://www.searchpress.com.au/)

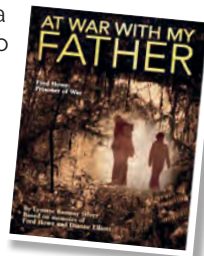
[book/9781863515016/at-war-with-my-father](https://www.searchpress.com.au/book/9781863515016/at-war-with-my-father) (RRP \$39.85 plus \$7.95 delivery)

and in the UK: from Gazelle Book

Services [https://gazellebookservices.](https://gazellebookservices.co.uk/products/9781863515016)

[co.uk/products/9781863515016](https://gazellebookservices.co.uk/products/9781863515016)

or online from Amazon UK.



## 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](mailto:scubaka@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone 01530 450621, or Chris Wills by email at [chriswills5071@gmail.com](mailto:chriswills5071@gmail.com) or telephone 0121 244 7263.

*The editors of COFEPOW Quarterly wish to clarify that the opinions, stories, features and information reproduced in this newsletter are generally submitted by contributors and do not reflect or otherwise, the opinions of the trustees of the charity. Whilst every effort is made to verify factual accuracy and content of material published, the trustees accept no responsibility for errors or beliefs printed here.*



## Friend of COFEPOW awarded medal

Congratulations to Tham Yau Kong on receiving an honorary medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia (OAM) in April. Tham was advised in April that his work to commemorate the sacrifice of Australian POWs in Malaysia, particularly along the Sandakan-Ranau Death March had been rewarded. Lynette nominated him in 2019 and it has now been approved by the Governor General under a 'special awards' section of the Australian Honours system. Congratulations!



## 80th anniversary of Suez Maru atrocity to be commemorated

29th November 2023, sees the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the hell-ship, Suez Maru, by an Allied submarine.

Families will gather to lay a poppy cross in a 'Tide of Poppies', representing the 414 British men who were killed that day, some 250 of whom struggled in the sea, forming long lines.

For more information, contact Jacquelyn via [@suezmaru](https://www.facebook.com/suezmaru) on Facebook or phone 07565 333215. More details will be published in the October 1st edition of this newsletter.

# Jill's journey - and a long-awaited return

*If it hadn't been for Covid in 2020, COFEPOW Area Co-ordinator Jill Robertson would have been to Thailand, and back to Singapore, three years earlier. The plans made with the Thai/Burma Railway Centre were still roughly the same, with just a couple of date alterations. So, when she finally made the trip in March this year, it was a long-awaited 'pilgrimage,' as Terry Manttan reminded her....*

"We flew out from Heathrow on a direct overnight flight to Bangkok. We were met by a taxi service arranged by the team, and taken to the Century Park Hotel, about 45 minutes' drive northwest of the airport.

"The hotel was well-established, had a lovely pool and was to be our accommodation for 3 nights. Bangkok is a hot and busy place, but we had no complaints and soaked up the warmer weather, which was up in the late 20s. The nearby Victory Monument had an impressive walkway bridging system around the circular junction, and the obelisk linking up with the station displayed bougainvillea and exotic plants everywhere.

"Spending time by the pool at the end of a busy walking day was essential. Nonetheless, the last afternoon, we took a long riverboat ride along the wide Chao Phraya river and up one of the numerous canals, possibly the Khlong Bang Son through a lock system, that leads to the Bangkok Yai, to a juncture with the Chao Phraya again. This enabled us to see plenty of temples and embellished Buddhist monuments rising above the small stilted dwellings along the bank. It was so colourful, hot, yet comfortable and the camera didn't stop. This river trip filled all the necessary 'touristy' gaps, and was worth it, especially for the sight of COFEPOW Chair David riding pillion on a moped, legs stuck out as he was whizzed off to get cash at an ATM for the excursion.

"On March 20th, at 7:30am, we were met by Tour Guide Boom and driver Nim, and taken through the city westwards to Ban Pong/Non Pladuk. This was to see the mustering area for all the up-country POWs before they were sent to Kanchanaburi. She showed us the temple that has been built there and a large padang (park) area, where the men would have been lined up, counted and separated off to go in the metal boxcars,

at the start of the railway. The empty meadow is peaceful, and the temple on the side is painted in vibrant colours; its red roof gables rose majestically about 50ft above us. The first feeling that made the hairs on the back of your neck rise up, started right there.



*Jill and David on the bridge.*

*"Note: the report given in last quarter's newsletter by Alan Durden and his siblings is very much the same guided trip that we undertook, therefore some of the descriptions are curtailed, as Alan's report covers these areas and can be referred to.*

"Boom, who is a well-known Thai national tour guide, was asked by a film production company to take a British man on the guided trip, who turned out to be Michael Portillo on his railway journeys around the world (wearing his bright clothing). She was recognised by two Australian women at a roadside café who had seen the programme months ago, and that made her day. The team also hosted 'The Railway Man' cast during filming.

"Our next destination was the Jeath Museum in Kanchanaburi, before being taken inside the TBRC building. We met our second guide, Andrew Snow, and Terry Manttan. In the afternoon, we visited Wang Yai station, and were taken via a speeding longboat on a sometimes bumpy ride, to the marvellous Bridge on the River Kwae, formally known as the Mae Khlong. As the view ahead revealed the eight black iron original half-moon shapes of the iconic bridge, it was a breath-taking sight, knowing where you are and hearing the sound of an approaching train chugging across

the structure, is atmospheric, while the hot sun beats down on one's shoulders. Notably, two of the bridge sections are rectangular, which replaced the part bombed by the Allies in 1945. Off the boat, we climbed the steps up the small embankment and waited in the gap for the train, possibly eight carriages long, to move past us, just a foot away from our faces. The last people follow behind the train over the bridge, whilst onlookers on our bank walk over the steel structure in the other direction. Everyone strolls along, dodging each other walking on the sturdy side plates. There's no rush as there isn't another train passing for over an hour, when the engine returns.



*The Kwae bridge at night.*

"The night's accommodation was in the resort at Tah Makan. Andrew informs us that "it is pretty much on the site of the actual camp". The Thai village and resort is well-equipped and the delight of taking breakfast on the riverbank with the bridge in the background, started a perfect second day. We had two separate nights there and were able to leave our heavy luggage in storage, while we travelled up to Three Pagodas pass.



"We took in several camp locations, where remnants of the railway could be seen. As Andrew pointed out, the line of the railway would have been visible in the distance, if not for jungle re-growth, or the land sold off for farming or now put to a

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different use. Imagination in these parts was advisable. At Songkurai, we stopped and walked to the river tributary, where many of the friends my father knew would have stood in the river working hard. Some didn't make it, and for me it was the place I needed to visit to remember them. Nowadays, it is a peaceful, almost babbling stream, with no feet trampling the undergrowth down. It was a time for reflection. As we drove north towards the Thai/Burma border, the thickening jungle was more apparent and the sharp hill peaks made them look mountainous, fierce and uninhabitable. No escape, undoubtedly, we thought.

"We headed to the Magmai Resort for the night, in the Sangkhlaburi region, by a large lake now used for calm water activities. In the morning, Andrew took us for a walk across the Mons bridge that was built over the Kwaie Yai, and to the indigenous Mons peoples' Kampong, who sold wares from their front doors. These people had to sell whatever they could to exist. Once through the narrow streets, we headed back on to the van and proceeded to the no-man's land of the Thai/Burma border, where an covered local market was ready for visitors.



Three Pagodas Pass

A plaque has been laid in among the stalls by TBRC's founder, Rod Beatty, dedicated to the men who lost their lives. This was well-appreciated and the locals look after and respect the memorial. The journey up to the Three Pagodas Pass was worth the checks made by the military at a couple of points on entry and exit. The guides travel there weekly and are known to the guards, cracking jokes etc. The border area is akin to a small rural service area on an A-road country junction at home, but the surrounding hills, views and the costumes of the visitors from Burma make the experience unique. Andrew pointed out many of the notable points of interest, but the one under the Myanmar border sign had the remnants of the actual railway, extending into the distance through the flowers and fauna and beyond, on to the side of the border where civil war rages a few miles away. It was hard to reconcile that fact with the peacefulness where we stood safely.

"On the return leg south, we travelled for three hours, which gave us, Boom and Andrew time to cool off. Their roles are to take several pilgrimages in a month and, for Andrew, it is a labour of love as he told us how he would be back up that way in a few days' time, with someone who was returning once again, and they would be 'going off-piste' into the jungle. We stopped next at Kannyu (Hell-Fire Pass) - an immersive experience. There is no denying the cloying heat in the narrow cutting (which must be over a hundred feet down on to a wide, flat ledge with a sheer drop) and the atmosphere is ghostly. The railway ran through the large rocky outcrop, decimated for its continued purpose, heading north. The evidence of how the men had to drill and tap to insert sticks of gelignite, remain in the rock face, leaving one with a tingling feeling of past terrors. Back at the Tah Makan resort, we re-familiarised ourselves with the village, and found street food for the evening meal.



Ray Parkin's statue, 'Two Malarias and One Cholera'.

"The next morning, we returned to the museum at Kanchanaburi. The museum is so well-curated. There is the statue by Ray Parkin, 'Two Malarias and One Cholera', taking pride of place, and some nice touches to the exhibits. The café area and shop are well-staffed and all are helpful. I presented a copy of my book 'Captured at Singapore' to the museum before we left, as a thank you for the great experience.



Jill and David with their superb tour guides.

"Next stop - Singapore...."



## Part Two.... setting off for Singapore

*Jill Robertson continues her report on the trip to both Thailand and Singapore, which she and COFEPOW Chair David Brede made in March this year...*

"What you have to remember with Singapore is that there's 12 hours of darkness or more, almost all year round. A 6:30am., night-time makes way for the heat of the day, and some rain that regularly starts mid-afternoon and into the darkness that begins to fall at 6:30pm to 7pm. Don't get caught out with visits at the end of the day to remote places - my tip is to be in places to enjoy the glittering light shows, as there are plenty.

"We arrived in Changi airport in the evening, flying over the sea and the dots of fishing boats lit up, which added to the sparkling spectacle that is night-time Singapore. The warm evening, possibly humid if rain has occurred, hits your senses and frizzes your hair, and the need for a hotel to refresh is always present. The first hotel on this trip was in the central shopping district of Orchard and Cuppage, close to Dhobi Gault and Somerset on the Singapore Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system. Our first day was exploring the new-to-us area and the first task was to buy travel cards, which can be topped up the same as London's Oyster cards.

"We took the transit to Seletar to discover if the old RAF Seletar married quarters base still existed. David's parents were posted there in the late 1960s and he would visit as a teenager from the UK, as he had stayed there working. Getting off at Ferndale, we found the Seletar Shopping Mall was still there, although much larger than he remembered - it was modern, and surrounded by tower blocks. We asked a puzzled taxi driver to take us to the Jalan Kayu area, with

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Jill meets Michelle Lim, a senior manager of the National Museum.

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using an approximate postcode. We managed to pull into Hampstead Gardens off that main road to find his parent's home of two years was still there! Trying to get the taxi driver to understand that all we wanted to do was take a couple of photos for old time's sake proved difficult, especially as heavy rain had started. To see how little it had changed after 55 years, was worth the 15 minute, \$12 SGD cab ride and getting wet!

"The taxi took us back to the mall, and a bemused driver must have thought 'happy days' for such a short trip. To congratulate ourselves and to dry off a bit, we went to eat in the mall and found Song Fa, a street food shop, with comfortable seating and the smell of delicious repasts. On the wall were history boards, demonstrating how the company had started in 1969 on Jalan Kayu, and David could remember the founder in the photograph he'd bought food from, all those years ago. He had come full circle.

"Clarke Quay was close to the hotel. The order of the next morning was to find the No.2 bus stop to go to Changi. After a 5 minute walk and timetable checking, we got our bus. Travelling on the top deck, it was easy to take in the sights, and to relax as the journey takes about an hour and 15 minutes, depending on traffic. You get off at the stop after the Changi Jail building has been sighted, on the right-hand side, and then cross the road into the Museum. The last time I was there was 2014 and the frontage hasn't changed much, except for a new plaque on the front. Inside, the foyer is much bigger and lighter, with no real artefacts apart from some sparsely set out merchandise. The reception counter is

long, with glass doors to the right looking through to the Changi Chapel and the Changi Cross. There are sliding doors to the left where visitors are guided to begin their immersive experience.

"The Changi Chapel Museum has been revamped, with more of an Australian bias to the stories being repeated, and as the leaflet says, the CCM tells the story of the POWs and civilians interned during the Japanese occupation. It didn't go unnoticed, that new content and artefacts, including stories and personal objects shown by families of former internees, emphasised their experiences, in an intimate and engaging format.

"There was little in the way of British military or POW artefacts, as before. The modernised immersive experience is quieter, more streamlined and minimalistic by comparison. The heavy cell door and peephole into the concrete block for a bed is still there, with

staff on the reception, I was pointed in the direction of a poster of my and my sister's book 'Captured at Singapore' on a stand inside the front door, which I had missed on entry. I had arranged a 30-day promotion with instructions for purchasing on-line through Amazon and the Book Depository. I had already arranged an official appointment with Michelle Lim, Senior Manager, Partnerships for the Museum and the Singapore National Museum, for that week, and we met two days later. During our visit, Michelle was advised by a colleague that copies of 'Captured at Singapore' had been seen in Kinokuniya, a major Singaporean bookstore, which was a complete surprise. This part of our trip was partly networking for book promotion, as the stories we all have to 'tell' about our POWs effectively start in Singapore and I believe without the terrible wartime atrocities starting at Pearl Harbour in December 1941, the 18th



Jill and David at the Changi Chapel and Museum entrance.

moodier lighting, and yellow walls with the POW artwork are still in existence. A set of wartime crockery presented by Rosemary Southworth is in a perspex cabinet, but the large sketch of 'Two Malaria and One Cholera' - the Ray Parkin statue - is not shown, something I particularly missed. Towards the end of the 'experience' is a magnificent interactive touch screen research tool across a large wall, where visitors can tap in their POW's first name, and find their ancestor. I found my father, Stanley A. W. Moore, but it had him as an American. Other names I wanted to find were not recorded. Further contact with the museum's staff is much needed in order to rectify this. After an hour of looking at the exhibits and speaking with the

Division would not have been on the Island, and there would be no Changi Chapel, let alone a museum. With new contacts made for future dealings with the national exhibits, we are hopeful to still keep the Western soldiers' stories alive.

"The Ford Factory (now labelled as the 'Former Ford Factory') meant another afternoon spent on the MRT and a bus. Again, the factory had been revamped with more of a Singaporean bias, although the room of the capitulation is still there, but the tableau of the 12 officers is not. Days later, a booking to see inside the Battle Box, up on Fort Canning, was hampered by only being able to buy a ticket on one specific day....

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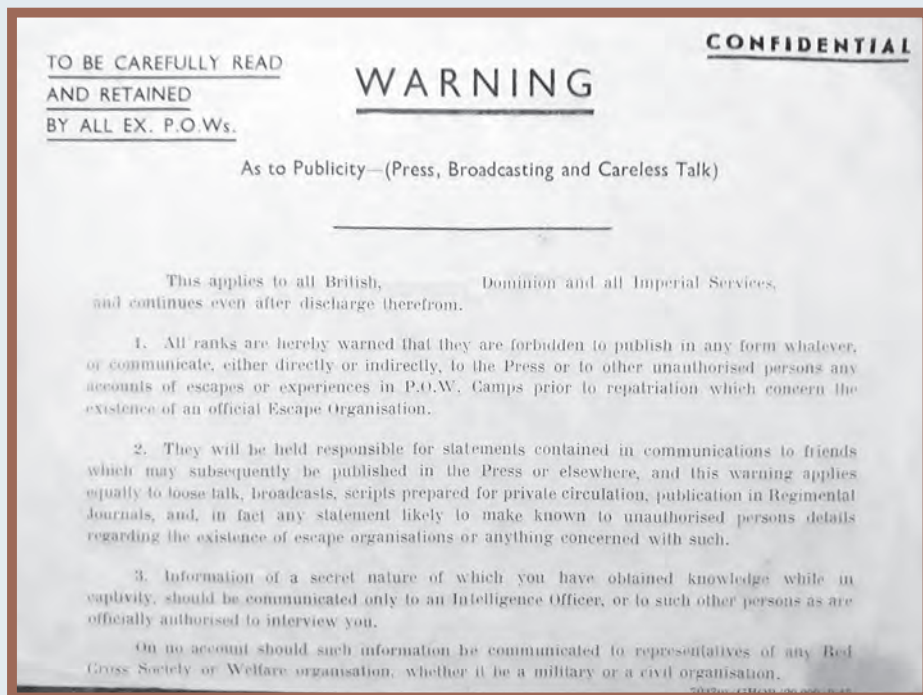
.....which was unexpected. Despite the slim availability, it meant our short walk from the Fort Canning Hotel, where we spent the last 5 days of the trip, was actually a bonus. The second bonus was when we spoke to the tour guide on the desk (Joanne) and said we were members/Chair of COFEPOW, we were greeted extremely well. While we were walking round in the first 5 minutes, Joanne came in rushing to find us to say that coincidentally their director, Jeya Ayadurai MBE, was coming in shortly and he would like to meet us. We knew he had a major history with our association when being at the CCM since its inception, and this was the third bonus now, as he was in charge of the Battle Box. We sat with Jeya for a good 25 minutes, discussing the possibilities for COFEPOW to continue to liaise with him, even though his next task in June 2023, is to set up a new and vital exhibit at the Kranji War Memorial.

"The Battle Box was the older raw style of wartime exhibiting, similar to the war rooms in London, with the 12 officers' tableau intact in the war room, where the decision to surrender was taken.

"Generally, across all the museums we visited (including the National Museum) the Singaporeans are now taking pride in their own wartime history, with the result that they are teaching upcoming generations about the battles and this was recognised as an incredible step forward in perpetuating the WW2 story in Singapore, including the suffering of FEPOWs and the local population.

"There was little time left, unfortunately, but we did find time to get to the massive Kinokuniya Bookstore, of course!"

**Jill Robertson/David Brede.**



## COFEPOW's Nick puts out call for 'lost' government warning

COFEPOW Merchandise Officer and trustee Nick Bullen-Bell, is at a real loss as to the whereabouts of a treasured letter received by his FEPOW father at the end of the Second World War, following his return from captivity to UK shores. These letters were issued to all FEPOWs by the government of the day, to prevent Servicemen telling the Press or other organisations of their POW camp experiences, about escape attempts and day to day life at the hands of their captors. The command included no "loose talk, broadcasts or scripts prepared".

Sadly, Nick has mislaid his copy of the letter, which is believed to be an important document in revealing attitudes to the Far-East war and has always been explained by official sources as a necessary means of preventing bias or misinformation influencing war crimes trials of camp guards after the war. However, some have proposed that there was a more malign purpose to the despatch of such instructions.

Part of a copy of the letter is shown above as Nick comments:



"The 'warning notice is an important constituent of my family's mementoes of Dad's time in the war, and is relevant to all COFEPOW families who are interested in the post-war experiences of their fathers. I seem to have 'lost' the original copy which I

used to have on display in a frame, mainly on the merchandise sale tables at AGMs and the Torquay weekend away in October. The letter was sent to my Dad after the war and I have kept it safe with other items. It was copied and put into the back of the "Poems of Hope" book too, when production was in process.

"I realised it was missing a short time ago and despite extensive searching at home, I cannot locate it. I can therefore only assume it has disappeared mysteriously at one of these events. I'd like to enquire whether anyone inadvertently 'borrowed' it, or has it in their possession, and would ask that if so, could it please be returned."

Please email Nick at: [tickles.sbb@gmail.com](mailto:tickles.sbb@gmail.com) or phone 07721 067501.

# Annual Wymondham Remembrance Service

*A report on Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell's visit to the annual Service of Remembrance at the 'Our Lady & St. Thomas of Canterbury' church in Wymondham, Norfolk, on Sunday 14th May, and the extraordinary story of one of those who addressed the congregation on the day...*

"It was the second time we had been invited to the church, which is ordained as the 'National Memorial to the FEPOWS'. The service was in honour of those who had suffered and died at the hands of the Imperial Japanese Army. Our first visit, two years ago, was during the Covid period, but this time, it was far more open. It was well-conducted by Pauline Simpson and Peter Wiseman, with a reading by a very able young lad (whose name I can't remember!) and we all enjoyed a talk by Louise Cordingly (author of 'Echoes of Captivity') - see alongside.



"The service culminated with wreath-laying by various organisations, including COFEPOW, and the Last Post, Reveille and the Kohima Epitaph - fitting tributes to all FEPOWs in a wonderful church built and dedicated to them. The FEPOW church also houses volumes of Books of Remembrance for those FEPOWs that gave the ultimate sacrifice, along with those that returned home.

"After the service, there was a small buffet laid on by volunteers, for which we were extremely grateful. It also allowed us to chat with others to remember all our FEPOWs. A heartfelt thank you to Peter Wiseman for inviting us again."

For details of the remembrance books and lots more about the FEPOW church, along with details of the service, please visit:

[www.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk](http://www.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk)



Louise Cordingly relates her intriguing FEPOW story.

The following is an abbreviated version of the talk given to the congregation at the church by Louise Cordingly....

"Today, I thought I'd tell you the story of a small brass altar cross which was made by three POWs in the early days of their captivity and, 55 years later, performed a small miracle by bringing a man in Wales in contact with the POW father he never knew.

"My father was 31, and a parish priest in the Cotswolds when he went off to war as an army chaplain. From the very first days of captivity, he kept a diary and said that after being imprisoned in Changi, he discovered a small abandoned mosque and gained permission to convert it into a little church. He called it 'St George's' and it soon became popular with the imprisoned men, because, he said 'it reminded them of home.'

"As they were basically a civilian army, there were many skilled craftsmen in their midst, so my father sketched the design for an altar cross and took it to an engineer POW who undertook the task of constructing it using odds and ends of brass and a 4.5" Howitzer shell case. It was then handed to a craftsman from the Sappers, who engraved it with the badges of the four regiments in that 'parish', as my Dad called it, and commented: "The cross is now finished and its workmanship is first rate. Our altar is now most dignified."

"As the months went by, the prisoners were sent away to be used as slave labour. When it was my father's turn to go with F-Force on Easter Day

1943, he packed away the portable parts of St George's, taking special care of the cross. He then spent a harrowing year in Kanchanaburi, close to the River Kwai, with the medics in the 'hospital' there. He was appalled at what he saw, and drew up orders that he should be informed if any patients were dangerously ill or dying and he tried to be at their bedside whenever possible, and took their burial services. In his diary, he recorded: "As I write now in this makeshift hospital, I wonder what will be the outcome. In the past several months, I have buried over 600 men".

"As time went on, the POWs constructed a little open air chapel and, calling it 'St George's Mark II', set the cross on the altar once again.

"On completion of the Thai/Burma railway, the surviving men were sent back to Singapore and this time confined within the grounds of Changi civilian gaol. My father arrived with the last transit and once again found volunteers to put together 'St George's Mark III,' which was then moved again to become 'Mark IV'.

"My father brought the cross home with him and after he died in 1976, my mother heard about the newly-created museum in Changi and asked my brother and I to take it out to them. Before we left, I searched in vain for the man who had made the cross, but then I heard of Tim Hemmings, a stonemason, now living in Surrey. He was the Sapper who had inscribed it with the regimental badges. I wrapped the cross up and took it to him and, as he opened it, he said:

"You know it's amazing, I couldn't visualise whether the letters were cut deep enough to withstand all this time and cleaning, but there it be. Of course, I had no tools or anything but I found an old umbrella stem. The centrepiece was quite good steel, so I made a couple of engraving tools out of that. I buried them all in the bottom of the hut (when he went up-country). I expect they are still there!"

"My brother and I travelled to Singapore and presented the cross to Changi Museum in 1992. That could have been the end of the story - but it wasn't.

"In Pontypridd, South Wales, Bernard Stogden had begun his own research into his father's POW years. Tragically for Bernard, his father, Harry, did not return home, having died, aged 38, on the boat on the way home. Bernard and his two sisters were born before the war. Theirs was a double tragedy because



Continued from previous page...

their mother died of pneumonia a year after their father left. The orphans were separated and Bernard was sent to live with his grandmother.

"I was only 4 years old when he went to war" he said. "I have gone through life without a father. I missed him then and I still miss him now. I found out about my Dad and the cross by pure accident. I read a POW newsletter about the St George's Cross, Changi, of how it was made by a Staff Sergeant in the RAOC, but the only name they had was his Christian name - 'Harry'. The words were jumping out of the page, I knew this man must be my father. On telephoning the man who wrote the story, we had quite an emotional chat. He told me how my father used to come back to the hut of an evening and show how he had progressed in the making of the cross. He told me how my father used to make sewing needles for the machines that they had managed to scrounge and how he had made artificial limbs for the men. Believe me, I couldn't have felt more proud to listen to all the marvellous things that my Dad had done."

"Bernard took his family out to Singapore to visit the Changi Museum in 2001. "It was a very moving time for me" he said. "When I finally got to the place, I absolutely broke down. I held the cross. It was a wonderful day. I felt that my father had held it and he'd made it and that meant a lot to me, and I felt I was walking in his footsteps. Everywhere I went, my father had been there. I had tears in my eyes the whole time we were there."

"Bernard and I began a friendship which only ended last June when he sadly died of cancer in hospital, close to his home in Pontypridd. The Changi Museum director wrote the following in his introduction to a book I wrote about the cross.....

Hundreds of men living under the deepening shadow of death bent their knee before this cross and in return were given strength of spirit to go on; just enough to last another day, just enough to see them through. One cross, one simple piece of metal work, is a bond to a tragic event almost beyond our understanding. As you pause before it, reach out and remember them.

Louise ended her talk in the church on the day with the following:

"I know that many of you have your own special person to remember today. And I hope that today we have all reached out to remember them."

Nick Bullen-Bell.

# Bletchley Park: code-breaking in the Far-East

*COFEPOW co-editor, Steve Riley, recently took a trip to Bletchley Park museum near Milton Keynes, and was surprised to learn that this world-famous wartime facility featured a small, but nevertheless fascinating section about the code-breakers' work in the Far-East during the war.*

Unlike the USA and Australia, Britain lacked early linguistic preparations for war with Japan, so from December 1941, new measures were taken to train men and women to read Japanese and work as linguists, code-breakers, interrogators and translators. The courses were very successful, and many of the people chosen for them contributed enormously to the cryptography at Bletchley Park and at similar secret organisations in India, Mauritius and Australia. It's a story of success against the odds and of resilient and resourceful people whose achievements were neglected for decades and kept secret.

It's no secret that the work that went on to crack enemy codes at Bletchley Park during the war, concentrated on the European theatre, unravelling the complexities of the captured German 'Enigma' machine to intercept communications in advance of enemy action. However, the impact of Bletchley Park's Japanese code-breaking operation was just as significant. In co-operation with America, thousands of personnel at Bletchley Park and at outposts in India and across the Indian Ocean, targeted Japanese naval, military and diplomatic signals, with efforts intensifying in the latter years of the war after VE Day, when staff working on German ciphers were retrained for Japanese

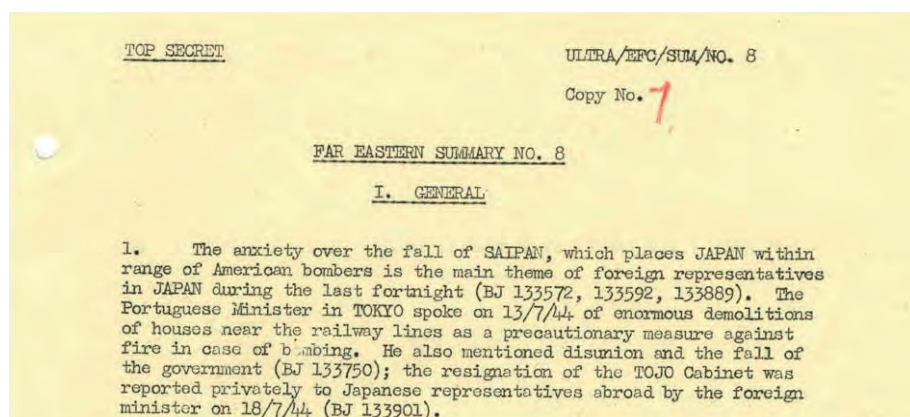
code-breaking. The intelligence gained through this US/UK partnership turned the tide of the war in the Pacific, paving the way to Japan's surrender.

The museum itself, a huge complex of buildings that housed almost 9,000 operatives in 1945, had a much more difficult role to play in breaking Japanese codes than those used by European enemies. A hugely different language and alphabet, for example, and a severe dearth of Japanese speaking personnel in the UK at that time; the sheer distances involved and Churchill's alleged commitment to winning the European war 'first', all added to the problem.

Unfortunately, some early communication blunders, outside of the Bletchley facility, had a serious impact. The British Cabinet had already recognised in 1940 that Singapore would be unprotected in the event of a Japanese attack, as the naval and air reinforcements needed to defend Singapore were already committed to the struggle with Germany. Owing to a chance set of circumstances, the minutes of that Cabinet meeting fell into Japanese hands in that December, giving their military planners proof that Singapore was vulnerable. The consequences are well-documented.

The museum is well worth a day out and occupies considerable acreage, all peppered with 'huts', artefacts, cafes and bewildering machinery displays, with a smaller section devoted to its work in the Far-East. For further information, opening times, prices and directions, please email:

**[enquiries@bletchleypark.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bletchleypark.org.uk)**  
Bletchley Park, Sherwood Drive, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB. Satnav: MK3 6DS.



# 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



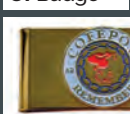
4. VJ70 mug



6. Tie clip



8. Badge



9. Badge



12. Note holder



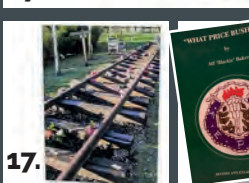
13. Trolley coin



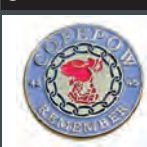
14. VJ70 Medallion



17. Notelets



5. Car sticker



7. Lapel badge



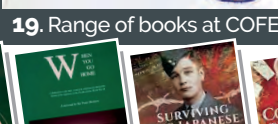
10. Key ring



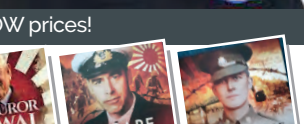
15. Tie



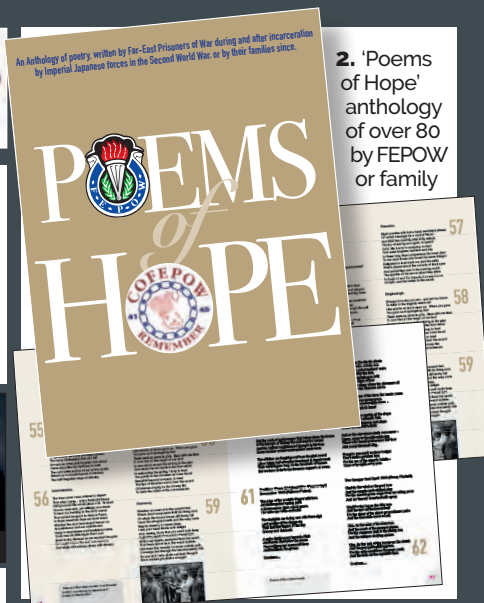
18. Polo Shirt



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



Merchandising Officers, Sylvie and Nick Bul-len-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.

Besides the 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 at the address below, 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 for all merchandise, including Paypal and overseas postage costs, can be obtained by emailing Nick or Sylvie at: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, post or phone 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 also email us.

Items shown are not to scale.

## 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 £3.10
'Surviving the Japanese Onslaught'	£19.99	£6.50 £3.10
'Faith, Hope and Rice'	£19.99	£6.50 £3.10
Only 2 remaining		
'Escape from the Japanese'	£19.99	£6.50 £3.10

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



# Submissions invited for second 'Poems of Hope'

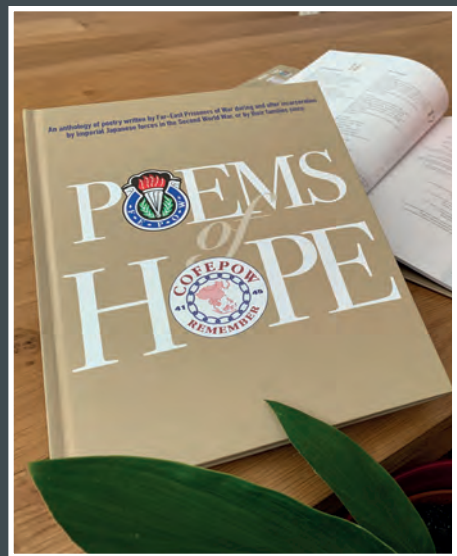
In 2019, the trustees of COFEPOW initiated a drive to collate as many poems written by FEPOWs and their families as possible, to create an anthology of poetry. The collection featured over 80 poems, many of which were written during captivity, or were based on recollections or emotions experienced by 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 office by emailing: [tickles.sbb@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.cofepow.org.uk)



## New members



### DATA PROTECTION: please read the following carefully:

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

NAME	LOCATION	EMAIL
<b>Margaret Mrongovius</b> FEPOW - Father	Blackburn, Australia James R.G. Andre	ornatataservices@bigpond.com Malay Regiment
<b>Elaine Heal</b> FEPOW - Father	Ontario, Canada Jonathan R. S. Ridley	mwkheal@hotmail.com Royal Northumberland Fusiliers
<b>James L. Clarke and Barbara H. Clarke (sister)</b> FEPOW - Grandfather	Lancing, West Sussex Lawrence George Lee	jlc.co@btinternet.com Negri Sembilan Local Defence Corps
<b>Richard Clarke</b> FEPOW - Father	Kenilworth, Warwickshire George A. B. Clarke	richard36730@gmail.com 420 Field Batt., 148 Field Reg't, R.A.
<b>Vyvyan Lucas</b> FEPOW - Father	Ross on Wye, Herefords Ronald John Brooks	vyvyanbrooks@btinternet.com
<b>Anne Whittaker</b> FEPOW - Father	Wirksworth, Derbys James Leslie Fidler	figgy47@btinternet.com Royal Artillery
<b>Dr Pam Robertson Rivet</b> FEPOW - Great Grandad	Alberta, Canada William Charles Manktelow	robertsonrivet@gmail.com RAOC, No 6078172
<b>Mary Phillips</b> FEPOW - Father	Epping, Essex Herbert Davis	mcp97531@gmail.com
<b>Nicholas John Tam Jackson &amp; Mrs Sally Ann Jackson</b> FEPOW - Uncle	Kineton, Warwick Michael Ian King Moore	tamjackson52@hotmail.com East Surreys, in Singapore
<b>Jeff Davies</b> FEPOW -	La Bastide, France Stanley Weston	jpdavies66@hotmail.com Royal Regiment of Artillery
<b>David Tait</b> FEPOW - Father	Douglas, Isle of Man Robert Tait	davestait@hotmail.com Royal Navy
<b>Elizabeth Roth</b> Grandparents Mother and Uncle	Edinburgh George & Ernestine Swan Barbara Jean & Melvin David	eli.roth.personal@gmail.com
<b>John Willis</b> Civilian internee -	Rue de Gron John Stephen Ironside	jmwillis290@gmail.com
<b>Donald Marlisa</b> FEPOW - Father	Gierlebaan 12, Belgium L.E. Marlisa	donald.marlisa@telenet.be
<b>Carolyn Langley</b> FEPOW - Father	Burcombe, Salisbury Ernest Frederick Scott	caro.langley1@gmail.com 5th Royal Norfolks
<b>James Milton</b> FEPOW - Great Grandfather	Sawston, Cambridge Harry Marks Milton	milwan_speed@hotmail.com Cambridgeshire Regiment

## Research database of FEPOW facts

COFEPOW has spent many years of unstinting dedication to assemble a comprehensive database of information on the wartime service and captivity of over 50,000 former FEPOWs. View your FEPOW facts at <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/research-database>

# 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](mailto:cofepow.chairman@gmail.com) Website: [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk) Registered charity, number 1074474.

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Secretary: Vacant at time of going to press.

Treasurer: **DAVID BROWN** email: [medalchart@live.co.uk](mailto:medalchart@live.co.uk)

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Honorary Life President: **CAROL COOPER**.

Honorary Life Members: **PATRICK TOOSEY**, **PAM STUBBS**, **RON TAYLOR** AND **BRIAN HUME**.

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

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Merchandise Officers: **NICK AND SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL** email: [tickles.sbb@gmail.com](mailto:tickles.sbb@gmail.com)

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Far-East Travel Adviser: **MARTIN PRECHNER** email: [roquefort44@hotmail.com](mailto:roquefort44@hotmail.com)

Membership Officer: **KAREN BROWN** email: [cofepow.membership@gmail.com](mailto: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. Payments can be made by cheque, payable to COFEPOW, or

please visit the COFEPOW website at [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk) for all payment methods.

**Donations are also welcome and can be made to the Membership Officer by cheque, payable to COFEPOW, or at the COFEPOW website at [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk)**

**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 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	<a href="mailto:cranedriver1964@live.com">cranedriver1964@live.com</a>
2. Derbyshire	John Rutherford	<a href="mailto:ukJoruth27@gmail.com">ukJoruth27@gmail.com</a>
3. Devon and Cornwall	David and Val Warner	<a href="mailto:davalofcedartree@gmail.com">davalofcedartree@gmail.com</a>
4. Dorset	Ann Whiteside	<a href="mailto:louisewhiteside7426@gmail.com">louisewhiteside7426@gmail.com</a>
5. Essex	Nick Bullen-Bell	<a href="mailto:bullenbell@btinternet.com">bullenbell@btinternet.com</a>
6. Gloucestershire	Diane Vear	<a href="mailto:dianevear@yahoo.co.uk">dianevear@yahoo.co.uk</a>
7. Greater Manchester and east Cheshire	Robert McGechan	<a href="mailto:bobmcgechan@yahoo.co.uk">bobmcgechan@yahoo.co.uk</a>
8. Herefordshire and the Wye Valley	Kerry Bird	<a href="mailto:hanjoem@gmail.com">hanjoem@gmail.com</a>
9. Kent	Brian Faulkner	<a href="mailto:faulkner2021@btinternet.com">faulkner2021@btinternet.com</a>
10. Leicestershire	Shirley Barnes	<a href="mailto:shirleyb60@virginmedia.com">shirleyb60@virginmedia.com</a>
11. Lincolnshire	Hazel Taylor	<a href="mailto:hazel.taylor@yahoo.co.uk">hazel.taylor@yahoo.co.uk</a>
12. Merseyside and Lancashire	Colin Coleman	<a href="mailto:colin.colemanuk@mac.com">colin.colemanuk@mac.com</a>
13. New Zealand	Hilary Cunningham	<a href="mailto:hilarycunningham1@gmail.com">hilarycunningham1@gmail.com</a>
14. Norfolk	Thelma Johnson	<a href="mailto:tjohnson4@btinternet.com">tjohnson4@btinternet.com</a>
15. Northamptonshire	David Brede	<a href="mailto:davidbrede@yahoo.com">davidbrede@yahoo.com</a>
16. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	<a href="mailto:mikejclarke27@hotmail.com">mikejclarke27@hotmail.com</a>
17. Scotland	Jackie Sutherland	<a href="mailto:skyscape96@gmail.com">skyscape96@gmail.com</a>
18. South Wales	Tony Jukes	<a href="mailto:bajukes@tiscali.co.uk">bajukes@tiscali.co.uk</a>
19. Surrey	Una Price	<a href="mailto:trryroger@aol.com">trryroger@aol.com</a>
20. West Sussex	Elizabeth Hallett	<a href="mailto:wscofepow@gmail.com">wscofepow@gmail.com</a>
21. Yorkshire	<i>New vacancy</i>	<i>Please apply to David Brede, Chair.</i>
22. USA (East coast)	Jan Slimming	<a href="mailto:jslimming@comcast.net">jslimming@comcast.net</a>
23. USA (West coast)	Sharon Cusumano	<a href="mailto:lestweforget1941@gmail.com">lestweforget1941@gmail.com</a>



## 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](mailto:amanda@dcodetranslations.co.uk)

**Agnes Dougan:** 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry)

Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

email: [agnes.dougan@live.com](mailto:agnes.dougan@live.com)

**Jean Roberts:** 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Saigon Party.

email: [jeanadrianroberts@gmail.com](mailto:jeanadrianroberts@gmail.com)

**Steve Mockridge:** Jesselton, Sandakan and Kuchin.

email: [smockridge@sky.com](mailto:smockridge@sky.com)

**Keith Andrews:** Singapore Coast Regiments and A.A.

Artillery and Thailand. email: [scubaka@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scubaka@yahoo.co.uk)

**Colin Docketty:** Rabaul and Ballale Island.

**Frank Clark:** Saigon.

email: [paghamfrank@talktalk.net](mailto:paghnamfrank@talktalk.net)

**Thailand-Burma Railway Centre:**

All things related to the Thai-Burma railway.

email: [admin@tbrconline.com](mailto:admin@tbrconline.com)

Address: Thailand-Burma Railway Museum,

Kanchanaburi, Thailand: [www.tbrconline.com](http://www.tbrconline.com)

**Derek Lawson:** Deaths in captivity.

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**Michael Hurst MBE:** Director, Taiwan POW Camps

Memorial Society. email: [society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org)

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**Hong Kong:**

Tony Banham, email: [tony@hongkongwardiary.com](mailto:tony@hongkongwardiary.com)

Web: [hongkongwardiary.com](http://hongkongwardiary.com)

**David Tett:** The subject of 'mails'.

Also: [www.fepowmail.com](http://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:

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

