

# BUDENBERG Herbert James

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**Name:** Herbert James Budenberg

**Born:** 22 February 1906

**Rank:** Lieutenant

**Service Number:** 201522

**Regiment:** 118 Regiment,  
Royal Artillery

**Died:** 17 July 1975



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## Wartime experience:

21 July 1940 - Enlisted in Manchester

15 August 1940 – posted to 341<sup>st</sup> Field Survey Training Reg. Brighton

28 March 1941 – Posted to 121<sup>st</sup> OCTU (Officer Cadet Training Unit) at Stone.

15 August 1941 – Commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

16 August 1941 – Posted to 118<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Milford.

27 October 1941 – Embarked at Liverpool - Convoy WS12X Sailing on HMS Orcades to Halifax. Then convoy BM11 to Singapore on USS West Point.

29 January 1942 – Disembarked at Singapore.

15 February 1942 – Singapore surrendered and taken prisoner.

April 1942 – Went to Towner Road under Lt Colonel McKellar to work on the Japanese War Memorial.

June 1942 – Railway started.

May 1943 – Kinsayok under Lt. Colonel C Carpenter.

August 1943 – Tasau under Lt Colonel A Knights.

17 October 1943 – Railway completed.

August 1944 – Tasao to Tauang under Lt Colonel Toosey.

January 1945 – Kanburi under Lt Colonel Toosey.

July 1945 – Nakon Nayok under Lt Colonel Toosey.

15 August 1945 – Japan Surrendered.

16 October 1946 – Arrived in Liverpool, repatriated on HMS Worcestershire.



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## Notes from Roger Budenberg

My Dad came home after the war (I was told) a bag of skin and bones. He never talked about his time as a POW and, regretfully, I never asked.

A long time afterwards I found that, a fellow officer (78474 Lieutenant Theodore Roy) who slept next to my Dad in one camp, only lived a mile from where we lived but they never met up after the war. It was a remarkable story how I met this man's daughter and we compared notes back in 1970. They were together in Tamuang, Kanburi and Nayok camps.

Although he had reasonable health he suffered from frequent attacks of malaria and later from angina. He died on 17 July 1975 at the age of 65.

In 2005 Rev Ray Rossiter was interviewed in our local paper and this sparked my interest and he recommended people to read 'The Railwayman' by Eric Lomax. This I did and following a talk by Ray Rossiter I joined COFEPOW.

It didn't take long before I was contacted and received guidance from Keith Andrews. First came the Release Form, which was like finding gold! Followed by the Japanese card.

Now I was really on a roll!

Later, Dad's war record gave me precious information and, from his embarkation date in Liverpool, Keith was able to name the ship he sailed on and from the date he arrived back in the UK, he was again able to identify the ship he came home on.

When doing my National Service in 1960, I was posted to Singapore. Dad, did say that he had worked on a Japanese War Memorial in Singapore on the Bukit Timah Road. I walked miles in the hot sunshine looking for it and did eventually find a flight of steps leading up a hill with nothing but rough ground at the top. I took a photo and years later I confirmed that it was the actual place where he had been.

Since then I have collected extracts from any book, which tells of life in the various camps where Dad had been. Also reports of the voyages from the ships he sailed in. I have a copy of an article by a Japanese officer about the building of the Memorial. Also, a collection of photos of the Nature Park which is there now.

Research never ends. It is surprising how often, even years later, that something crops up. Only last year a magician was on TV and introduced the man who had inspired him – Fergus Anckorn – an ex-FEPOW. On U-tube he tells part of his story but, in the book I found he had sailed out with my Dad! It's an incredible story.

A few years ago, I found that I could still claim my Dad's war medals on line. What a delight to receive them a few weeks later!



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