

JONES Glyn

Name: Glyn Jones

Born: 1915

Rank: Private

Service Number: 3534703

Regiment: Manchester Regiment

Died: 6 June 1971



Pre-War:

Glyn was born in 1915 in the Old Village West Kirby and went to school at Saint Bridget's, where he sang in the choir. When he left school, he went as an apprentice to Bibbys in the oil mill, Liverpool. He met his future wife, Nelly Broster, who was working, at the time, in a bakery shop in Banks Road, West Kirby. They married in 1939 as the war was about to break out.

Wartime experience:

Glyn was called up to join the Manchester regiment for training at Moseley Road School, Fallowfield, Manchester. He managed to get home on leave most weekends.

After the completion of his basic training, the regiment went overseas sailing from Liverpool on August Bank Holiday Monday 1940 at 10.15 p.m. Nelly had no idea where he was going to as they were never allowed to give away any information, so she just had to wait to find out. A letter finally came from him dated 29 August 1940 telling her about some of the places they had dropped on the way to Singapore.

"First stop was at Freetown, where we were not allowed to go ashore, we only stayed long enough to take on oil and water and now we are in Cape Town. It is a wonderful place, all the buildings are modern and up to date and everything is so cheap food and furniture.

The people here are very good. Last night my mate and I went out to have a look around. We had only been out half an hour when a car pulled up and asked us if we were doing anything special, 'if not then jump in'. He took us to his home, where he and his wife gave us a lovely dinner, then they took us around Cape Town until 11.00 o'clock and then they took us back to our ship.



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk

We went on to Bombay then and stayed there for a week. Nell I have bought you a pair of sandals made of leather from Bombay. Then we went on to Colombo, where I have got you two silk hankies, a string of what are called moonstones, a brass ashtray and an ivory fan with a ribbon of your favourite colour pink.

Well Nell, all these places are very nice but they will never be as nice as West Kirby and Hoylake, Oh to be home. I believe we are going to Singapore, our officer has told us. I haven't written to the family in West Kirby yet, so will you tell them? We are leaving on Saturday, don't worry I'll be ok cheerio for now, Glyn. “

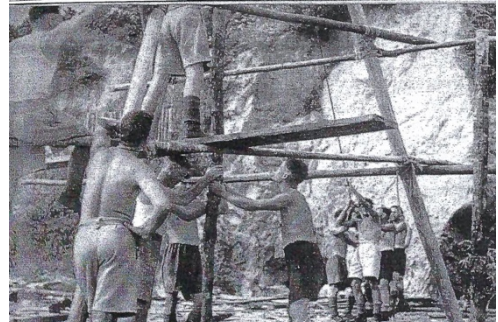
They duly arrived in Singapore where Glyn was stationed at Tanglin Barracks. They were keeping fit as the battalion were putting up defences along the beaches. As it turned out, the beaches they were protecting were on the wrong side of Singapore and the Japanese Imperial army attacked the other side and overtook Singapore in February 1942.

After some time, Glyn became unwell. He wrote to Nell to tell her that he had been in hospital for some time – a problem with his back and something called ‘Singapore Ear’ (a kind of fungal infection of the ear) but she was not to worry. He was, in fact, about to be sent back home by ship a few days before Singapore fell but obviously, this didn’t happen. While he was in hospital he met two men who were in the RAF who had been stationed at West Kirby camp. He had a long talk with them and they told him that everything was okay in West Kirby and Hoylake. Glyn was so pleased to hear from someone who had come from home and that everything was still okay.

He sent a letter to Nell saying that if he was able to get a ship home he would send a telegram with a special message and number so that she would know when he would be arriving. Nell never did receive that telegram and that was the last letter she received from Glyn until the war was over.

After Singapore had fallen to the Japanese, nobody knew where Glyn was as all contact with home had ended. His parents, together with Nell, contacted the local Hoylake and West Kirby Advertiser saying he was missing and published photos of him - everyone expressed support for them and hoped that he would survive the war.

One day, a Sunday newspaper put in a photo of several British soldiers standing around a grave outside of Changi prison burying some of their comrades. Nell was convinced that one of them was Glyn. She wrote to the MoD, the British Red Cross, etc., to ask if there was any news of where he was imprisoned. Eventually, she was proved right and the first card started to arrive from Glyn. It was very heavily censored by the Japanese, but also very, very welcome. At this time, he had been imprisoned for a year.



Glyn is at the back, 2nd man with black shorts

WEST KIRBY SOLDIER MISSING



News has been received that Private Glyn Jones, of 5 Cable Road South, Hoylake, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, 18 Old Village, West Kirby, has been reported missing while on active service in Malaya. Aged 25, he was employed by Messrs. James Bibby and Sons, oil cake mills, Liverpool, prior to the war, and had been abroad for nearly two years. His parents naturally hope that he may have been taken prisoner of war and thus be safe. May they soon have better news of their son!

WIFE'S HOPE FULFILLED

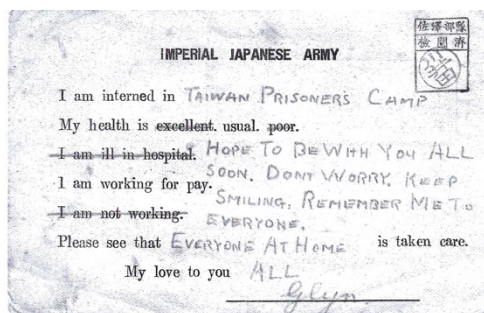


PTE. GLYN JONES

Although Pte. Glyn Jones had been “missing” ever since the Japs “moved in,” his wife, residing at 5 Cable Road, Hoylake, all along felt certain that he was alive and well. She had seen a picture in a newspaper—one of the few pictures that came out of Singapore after the Japanese occupation—showing several British soldiers standing round the graves of some of their comrades. Mrs. Jones was convinced that one of the soldiers was her husband. Evidently she was right, for she has now been officially informed that her husband is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk



Glyn had initially been imprisoned in Changi and then moved on to various camps. He had sailed from Singapore on 28 October 1942 on the hellship the England Maru, after a very long and difficult journey, in which many men died. They arrived in Formosa and Glyn was sent to Taihoku Camp No. 6 and then to Heito Camp No. 3 in the South of the island. He was very badly treated, beaten on the back by rifle butts and had had all his teeth filed down.

Finally, when peace was declared Glyn was taken off Formosa by the US aircraft carrier USS Block Island to Manila, where he was assessed. They decided he was too ill to go straight home so he was put on HMS Formidable and taken to Australia for treatment. He was in the RNA hospital, Herne Bay in Sydney, until the end of 1945.

By the time Glyn began his journey home to Southampton, on board the hospital ship NZHS Maunganui, he weighed about 6 stone and had shrunk in height. He shared a cabin with another soldier, Alf Baker, who had been imprisoned in the Solomon Islands and was also in bad shape - he had been so badly beaten that he had developed ulcers and had very nearly lost both legs. They got on very well during their trip home, landing in Southampton in January 1946.

Civilian life after return:

Nell and their daughter, Helen, never knew about Alf as Glyn never spoke about him until many years later.

Unfortunately, Glyn suffered with bad health for the rest of his life, mostly with malaria.

Sadly, Glyn died on 6 June 1971, aged 55.

Helen joined COFEPOW in the 2000s and put an article on their website about her Dad. One day, following that, she had a phone - it was Alf, he had seen the article and decided to ring her. They went to see him in Plymouth and had a lovely day meeting him. Sadly, Alf died later on the same year - they felt extremely lucky that they got to meet Alf.



Above: Alf Baker showing Helen some of his memorabilia.

The above information and text has been provided by Helen Carr (Glyn Jones' daughter)



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk