

SNOWDON George Albert

Name: George Albert Snowdon

Born: July 1918

Rank: Private

Service Number: 7608946

Regiment: Royal Army Ordnance
Corps 'Z'

Died: January 1986



Pre-War:

My father came from Percy Main, Northumberland. After leaving school he was employed as an apprentice welder. He married my mother in 1938. As War with Germany became more probable, Apprenticeship's were offered in the Army RAOC workshops. He joined up to complete his apprenticeship.

Wartime experience:

Dad was posted to Bovington to undergo training. As war approached, on 24 October 1939, he was posted to the 10th Army Field Workshop. He was sent to France on 6 April and returned, as part of the Dunkirk evacuation, to England on 31 May 1940. He transferred to the "Z" Advanced Ordnance Workshop RAOC and embarked at Liverpool aboard SS Duchess of York, sailing to Singapore, via Freetown, Cape Town, Bombay and Colombo, arriving on 15 May 1941. On 13 July he went on to Kuala Lumpur to be based at Maxwell Road Advanced Ordnance Workshop.

As the Japanese fought their way down the Malay peninsula, his Unit retreated to Singapore. On 13 February 1942, along with some of the men in his unit, they boarded the Pula Sugi, headed for Batavia, Java, to set up an Ordnance Workshop. Their ship, along with many others, were intercepted by the Japanese naval forces in the Bangka Strait and sunk on 16 February. He was picked up by an RAF boat under the control of the Japanese navy and taken to Muntok, Bangka island.



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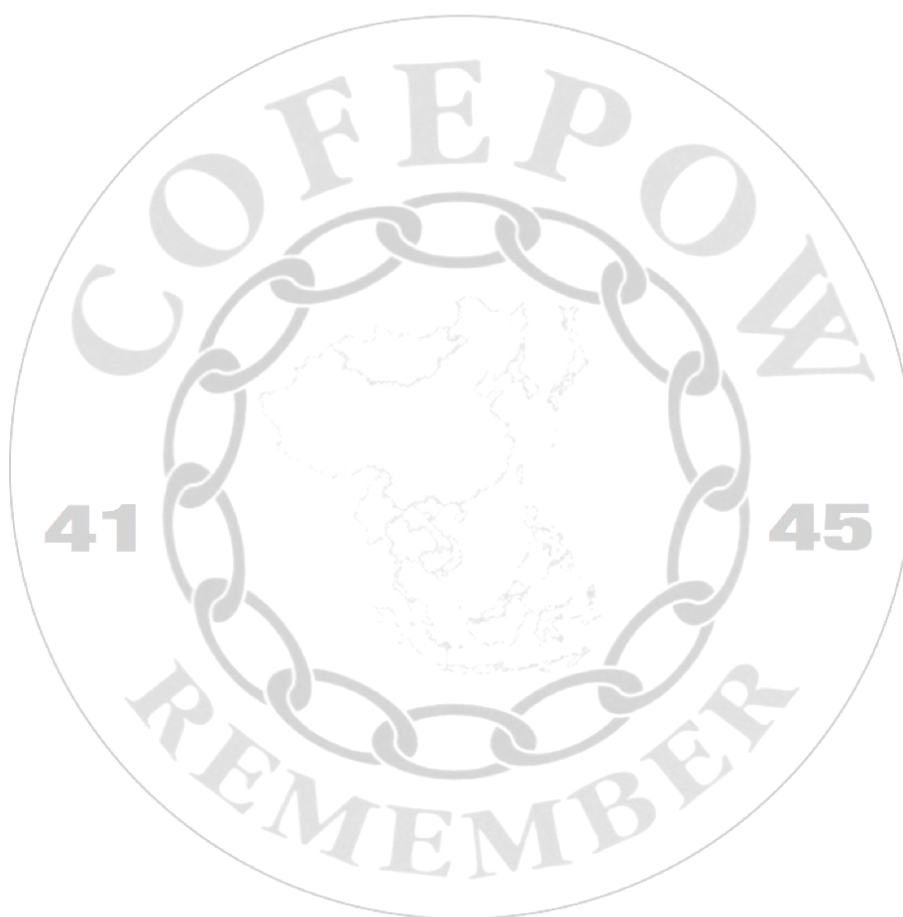
Dad was later transferred to Palembang, Sumatra and interned in Cheung Hwa school, then Mulo school, camp PI (Airstrip camp) and finally, Sungei Geron. He was Liberated on 15 November 1945, transported to Australia to recuperate, and finally, returned home on 10 of February 1946, possibly onboard HMS Formidable.

Civilian life after return:

Dad returned to work in the Tyneside Shipyards and was employed there as a welder until he retired.

Sadly, Dad died in January 1986 at the age of 67.

The above wording has been provided by Kevin Snowdon (son)



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