

ENNIS Jack Eric

Name: Jack Eric Ennis

Born: 25 July 1911

Rank: Captain, Pathologist

Service Number:

Regiment: 20 Mobile Bacteriological
Laboratory, Indian Medical Service
(IMS)

Died: 16 September 2007



Pre-War:

Jack, also known as John, was born in Rawalpindi (British India). He was initially educated at the Lawrence School, Ghora Gali (Murree, now in Pakistan), and then trained as a doctor in London.

Wartime experience:

Jack enlisted in the Indian Medical Service and was posted to Malaya. Following the Japanese invasion in Malaya, Jack and his staff were moved back to Singapore. On 11 February 1942, in a hastily arranged ceremony, he married his fiancée, Elizabeth Petrie. Four days later, Singapore fell to the Japanese. On 2 March, Jack and Elizabeth were separated, Jack to Roberts Barracks and Elizabeth to Changi Gaol. Throughout internment, Jack kept a detailed diary. His daily observations record his work, general life in the camp, nutrition, activities such as gardening, football games, church services and concert performances and his observations of wildlife.

Finally, after 3½ years of separation, on 5 September 1945, Jack and Elizabeth were reunited and on 11 September they boarded the SS Monowai, where they began their journey back to the UK.

Civilian life after return:

After a break, Jack and Elizabeth returned to work in India, but, with partition in 1947, they returned to the UK for the final time.

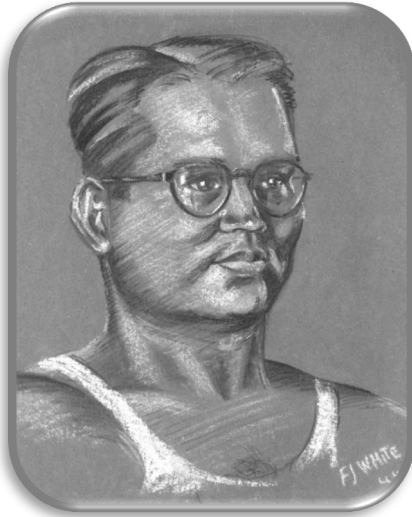
Settling back in England, Jack began work in Durham, eventually becoming Director of Pathology for Durham Group of Hospitals. He also lectured at King's College Medical School, Newcastle and worked on many (often high profile) forensic cases throughout the northeast of England.



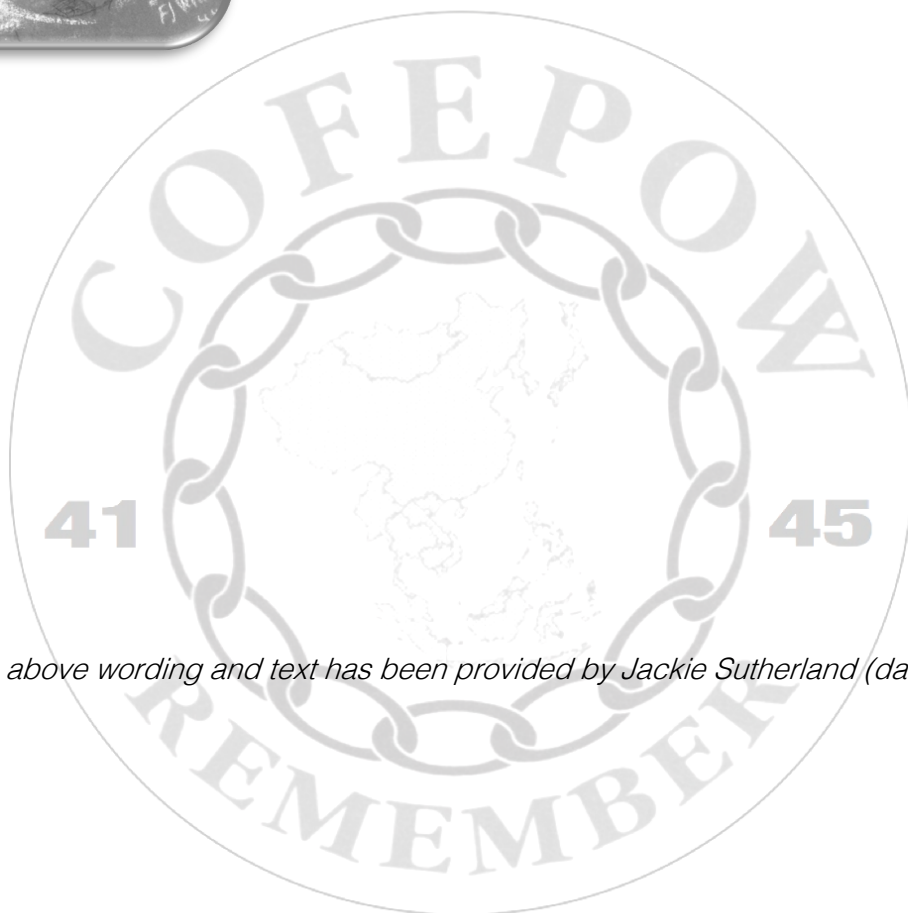
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On retirement, they moved to Edinburgh, where sadly, Jack died on 16 September 2007 at the age of 96.

Following his death, his Singapore papers were collected together and proved an important source of information – medical records, sketches, cartoons and of course his diaries. The diaries have now been transcribed and form the basis of the book 'Doctor Behind the Wire', publication date July 2021, Pen and Sword.



Left: A drawing of Jack by F J White (Willie) while they were prisoners in Changi



The above wording and text has been provided by Jackie Sutherland (daughter)



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