

FULLER Frederick James

Name: Frederick James Fuller

Born: 09 February 1911

Rank: Lance Bombardier

Service Number: 1653632

Regiment/Unit/Station: 242nd
Battery, 48th Light Anti-Aircraft
Regiment, Royal Artillery

Died: 24 June 1944



Wartime experience:

Fred was the son of George and Carmelia Fuller and husband to Iris Fuller of Burwell, Cambridgeshire.

Wartime experience:

Fred's Regiment left Gourock, Scotland, on 8 December 1941, on board a very crowded Duchess of Atholl, as part of a convoy, bound for Freetown. The convoy arrived on 20 December and remained there until the afternoon of Christmas Day.

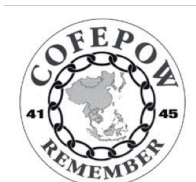
4 January 1942 saw the convoy off Cape Town and by 8 January the Duchess berthed at Durban. On 9 January the whole Regiment transferred to the SS Dunera, sailing on 12 January arriving in Tandjong Priok on 8 February, two calendar months after leaving the UK.

Fred was captured on Java, and held in a Java POW Camp, it is not known which one. It is difficult to pinpoint which camps he would have been held in, but Boei Glodok might have been his first camp, unfortunately, there is no guarantee this is correct.

He became part of Java Party 20 that left Batavia on 19 May 1944 on board the Kiska Maru. The ship to Singapore would have sailed from Tandjong Priok, the docks in Batavia, which also had a POW Camp. He may have been held there but there is no way of knowing. This ship arrived in Singapore around the 21 May, and the men it appears were held in River Valley Road.

In the meantime, Convoy HO-02 was forming up in Keppel Harbour, and was a very large convoy, 19 ships and 5 escorts.

There were four ships carrying cargo and POWs:- Kokusei Maru - 456, Hiyoki Maru - 450, Hozan Maru - 451, and Miyo Maru - 776.



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It is thought that Fred was on the last one.

The following is speculation from the information and data known:-

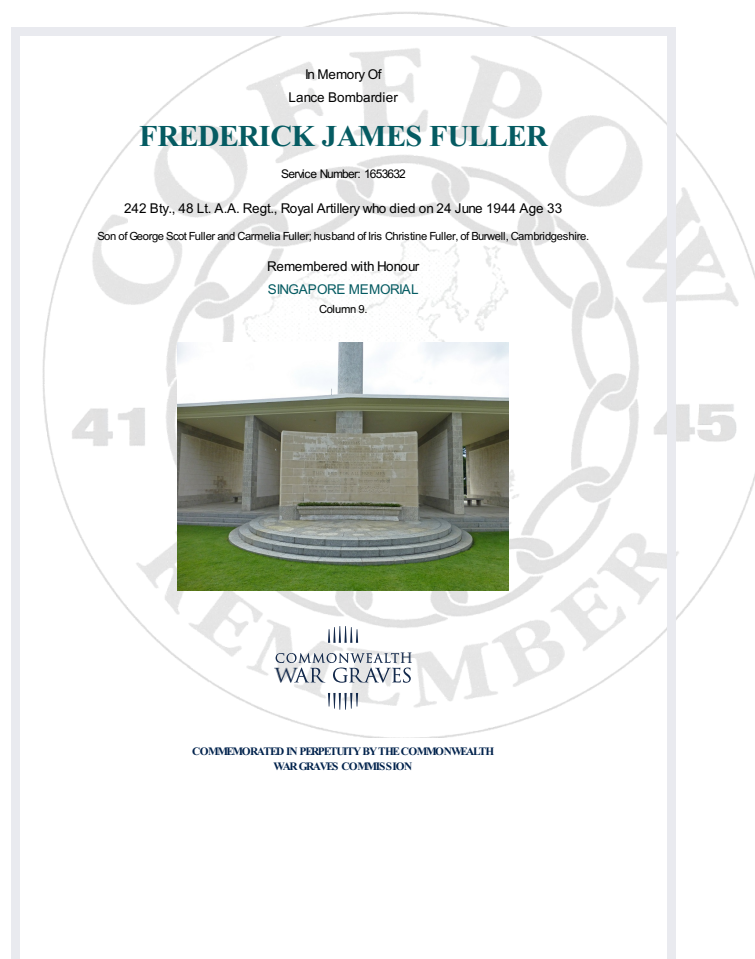
The convoy reached Manila on 11 June, where it spent the next three days while the Tamahoko Maru loaded 7,500 tons of copper ore. The convoy, less several ships, left on the 14th and ran into a Typhoon, which as good as wrecked the Miyo Maru. While the other POW bearing ships continued, the Miyo Maru struggled into Takao harbour, Formosa and would have needed to be unloaded.

The Tamahoko Maru had the most room to take the bauxite (the ore) and POWs, so, on the 18th, the prisoners were transferred.

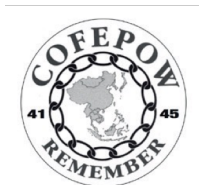
The remaining six ships of HO-02 left on the 20 June, called at Keelung on the 21st, then headed north across the East China Sea.

On 24 June 1944 at 11:50 pm, in the Koshiki Straits 40 miles SW of Nagasaki the Tamahoko Maru was torpedoed by the USS Tang and sank in less than 2 minutes. 560 POWs, 35 crewmen and an unknown number of Japanese soldiers were lost

Sadly, Frederick, was among the POWs that died – he was 33 years old. He is remembered on the Memorial at Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore on Column 9.



The above text and wording has been provided by Kay Sadler (daughter) and by Keith Andrews, Head of Research, COFEPOW



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