

GOULD John Brookfield

Name: John Brookfield Gould

Born: 28 August 1908

Rank: Sapper

Service Number: 681

Unit/Regiment: 14th Battery, Royal
Artillery, Johore Volunteer
Engineers

Died: 15 August 1948



Pre-War:

John Brookfield Gould was born in Singapore, the first child of Ralph Colin Gould and Edith Emily Gould. His father was a Legal Advisor to the Straits Settlements working in various areas of Malaya but with the family home in Malacca. His father died in 1923 and there are no details of his education. However, John embarked on a career on the Rubber Plantations. In 1934 (from the 1935 Directory) he was an Assistant Planter, Craigielea Estate responsible for the Kim Kee, Gan Tian and Colinsburgh Divisions. By 1940 he was Manager, 10th Mile Division, Kempas Ltd, Jasin, Johore.

Wartime experience:

John was conscripted into the Johore Volunteer Engineers in October 1941 as Sapper 681. He was captured in Singapore by the Japanese in February 1942. He is listed on the Johore Volunteer Engineers medal entitlement roll and JVE Changi BRE roll. There are accounts by JVE members Willacy, Archer, Hutchinson and the captivity diary of A McKenzie was recently published.

John was in overland Party 'M' from Singapore to Thailand on 5 November 1942 under Lt Colonel G E Swinton (2nd East Surreys). In May 1944 he was in a party sent from Thailand to Ube POW Camp #7 at Hiroshima in Japan. Ube was reported, by the Red Cross delegate, in April 1943 as being in a "sunny and healthy location" within the Ube industrial district, close to the inland sea about 50 miles from Shimonoseki. In fact, this was the worst of the camps visited, with the men being underfed and overworked, with even the sick being forced to work in the coal pits. Due to its location, the camp was possibly subject to air raids.



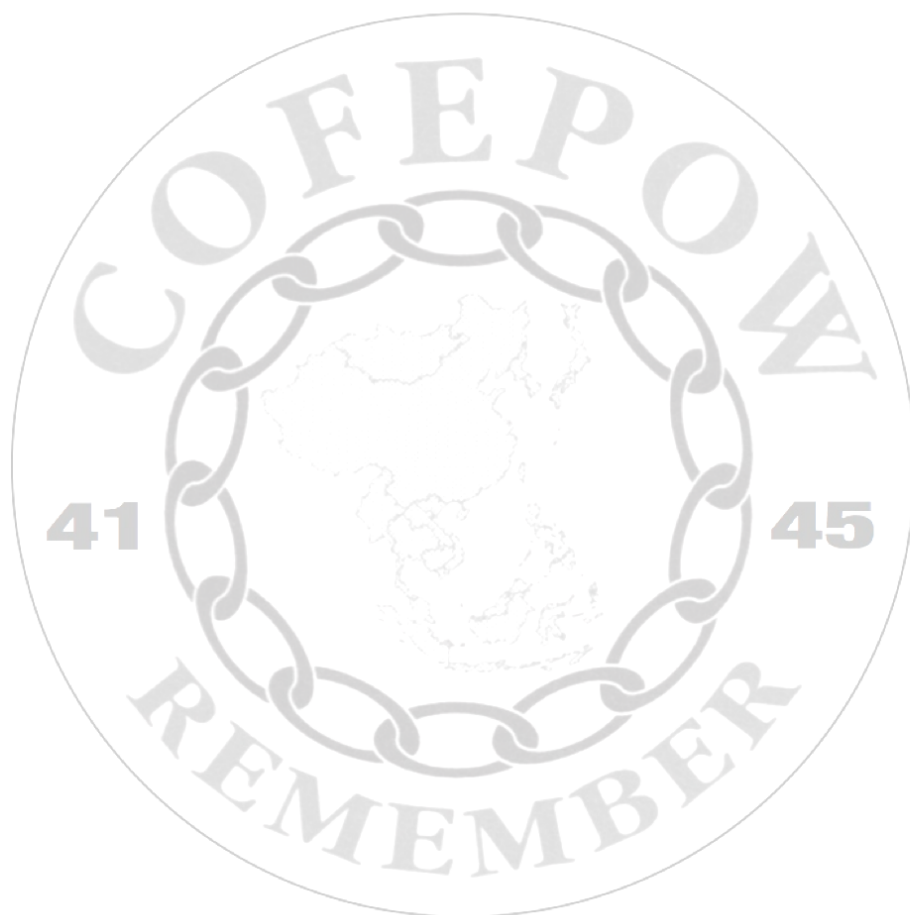
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Civilian life after return:

He was repatriated in 1945 having survived his imprisonment and returned to his employment with Sime Derby in Malacca in 1946. He married Marjorie Welch in Singapore in 1946.

Sadly, John died on 15 August 1948, just 13 days short of his 40th birthday, and is buried in the Malacca Cemetery.

The above information and wording has been provided by Anthony Parrini (Nephew)



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