

CAMPBELL Colin Bruce

Name: Colin Bruce Campbell

Born: 7 November 1920

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Service Number: E.C. 3047

Unit/Regiment: 2nd Battalion of
the 2nd Gurkha Rifles

Died: 18 June 2011



Pre-War:

Colin was born in Peking (now known as Beijing).

Wartime experience:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Nov/ Dec 1941 | Colin was with his Gurkha unit in Dehra Dun preparing to go to the North West Frontier |
| 15 December 41 | 'Volunteered' to take two platoons to reinforce the 2 nd Battalion in Malaya and sailed from Bombay (Mumbai) arriving in Singapore on 29 January 1942. |
| 29 January 42 | Joined the Battalion guarding the naval base facing the Japanese on the south coast of Johore Bahen |
| 30 January –
5 February 42 | Withdrew and eventually reached the town and dock area. |
| 16 February 42 | Separated from his men and marched to Changi. 3 rd Indian corps were all British officers with no troops to administer. |
| 5-17 May 43 | Left Changi on H Force Train 5, (the 80th train to leave Singapore) on 12 May 1943 and reached Ban Pong on 17 May 1945. They spent five days in a cattle truck train – 30 men and all possessions to a truck.
This journey was followed immediately by a two nights march to Kanchanaburi and then seven more nights into the jungle to start work. He was initially taken to Tonchan and then Kanu (Kannyu), Camp 5, (Hell Fire Pass) where he appears on a roll taken on 21 June 1943. (WO 361/2233) |



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- 21 June 1943 *'I was evacuated back to a base hospital with a spot of fever and tropical ulcers (small) and was perfectly fit when our working party returned to Singapore Island.'* (Letter home). Assumption is this was typhoid.
- December 43 He returned to Singapore Island living in a small camp outside the town. *'Dec 1943 to May '44 we lived on much better rations in a small camp and made very good vegetable gardens.'* Letter home
- New PoW number: I 160
- May 1944 *'Returned to Changi and lived just outside the gaol walls in an officers' area.'* (Letter home)
- 6 September 45 In a letter home he says he is *'going back to India and then on leave'*, but was unsure of his future beyond that.

Civilian life after return:

In 1946 Colin joined Jardine Matheson and was posted to the Far East. He married Elizabeth Joyce Anderson (who had herself been interned by the Japanese) in Shanghai in June 1948. He worked in Taiwan (Formosa), Hong Kong and Tokyo before returning permanently to the UK in 1959. The family lived in Blackheath and Kingston-upon-Thames.

Sadly, Colin died on 18 June 2011 and is survived by his wife Elizabeth and his two children Caroline (born 1950) and Andrew (born 1952).

The above wording and information has been provided by Andrew Campbell (son)



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