

FOLEY John Joseph

Name: John Joseph Foley

Born: 7 April 1912

Rank: Gunner

Service Number: 851322

Unit/Regiment: 32nd Coast Battery
9th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery

Died: 13 July 1996



Pre-War:

John was born in Brownstown, County Wexford to James and Mary Foley. Sadly, James and Mary both died in 1917, leaving James's sister, Kate, to bring up John and his two sisters Mary-Kate and Anastasia. When John enlisted, on 2 December 1935, he was living in Liverpool as a Night Waterman. 12 months later, on 2 December 1936, he embarked for Malaya and Singapore.

Wartime experience:

From the Regimental nominal roll, the 32nd Coast Battery was responsible for the Pengerang Battery (Kota Tinggi, Johor, Malaya) – 2 x 6 inch guns; Changi Fort– 2 x 6 pounder guns; Changi Inner – 2 x 6 pounder guns; Changi Outer – 2 x 6 pounder guns. John was in Singapore when it fell on 15 February 1942, and would have been held in Changi POW Camp, probably the Southern Area which was where they put the Malaya Command troops. He left Singapore as part of 'G' Force, commanded by Major R Glasgow, AIF on 25 April 1943, this party was made up of 300 British, 200 Australians and 1,000 Dutch. They boarded the Imperial Japanese Army controlled ship, the 6,783 ton cargo ship Kyokko Maru set sail on 26 April for a 25 day voyage. On 21 May, after an uneventful trip, they docked at Moji; the POWs were then moved by train to other camps, many of them crossing the Shimonoseki Straights. On 22 May 1943, according to records, it appears he was one of 296 British men who arrived at what was then Tokyo 9B Camp, Omi Pow Camp. At the site of the Electro-Chemical Industry Company, now called the Denki Kagaku Company. They were put to work in a Quarry and Cement factory; open hearth furnaces – chipping out the carbon ingots. On 1 August 1943, the camp was renamed Toko 7-D and changed again on 1 August 1945 to Tokyo 13-B Omi Pow Camp. The senior officer was Lt. Stephen Abbott. The camp was liberated on 6 September 1945 and the men were sent by train to Yokohama, from where many of the ships sailed, carrying the POWs from Japan.



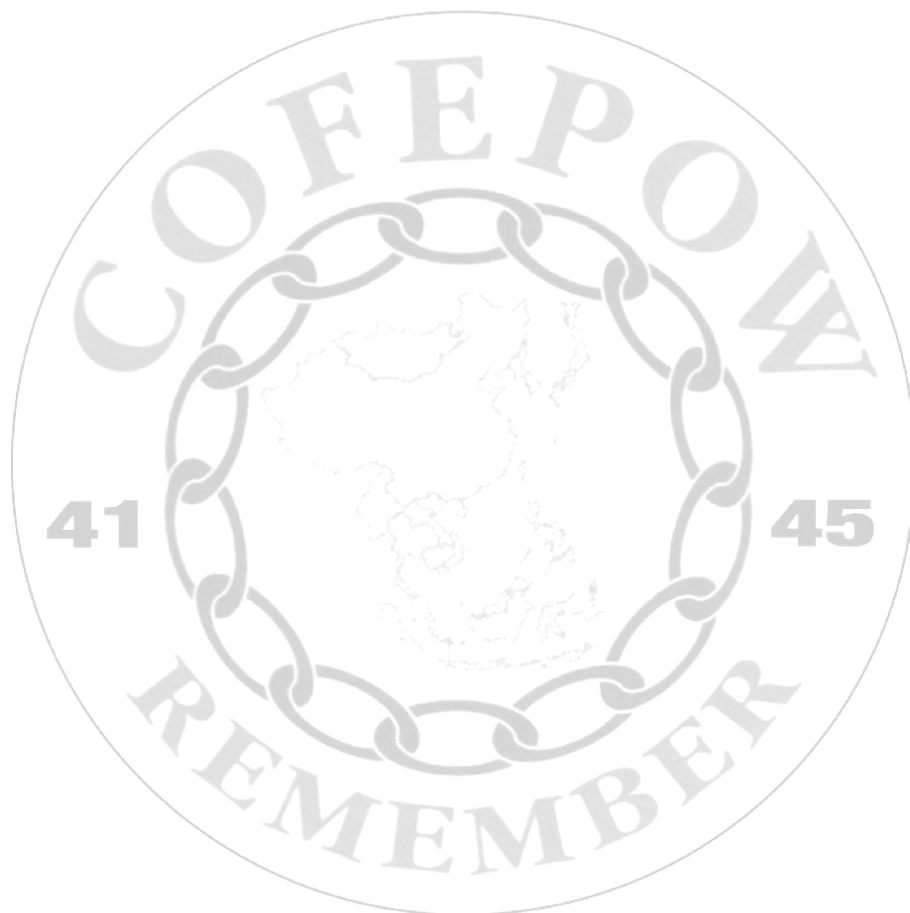
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Civilian life after return:

Following the end of the war and his re-patriation, John returned to his sister's house in Newcastle, County Wexford. In 1949, he emigrated to New Zealand, where he became a psychiatric nurse.

Sadly, John died on 13 July 1996 at the age of 84. At his request, his ashes were returned home to Ireland.

The above information and wording has been provided by Norah Littler (Niece) with additional information provided by Keith Andrews COFEPOW, Head of Research.



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