

CAVE Thomas Gordon

Name: Thomas Gordon Cave

Born: 4 September 1913

Rank: Lance Corporal

Service Number: 4982051

Regiment: 1/5th Sherwood
Forresters

Died: 1996



Pre-War:

Gordon as he was known, was born on 4 September 1913. He married in 1937 and was training to be a tailor when he enlisted in June 1940 at the age of 27.

Wartime experience:

The 1/5 Sherwood Forresters left Liverpool on 30 October 1941 on board the SS Orcades, as part of Convoy CT5, which was later designated as WS12X. They arrived in Halifax on 8 November 1941, and then boarded the USS West Point, which formed part of Convoy BM11 and arrived in Singapore on 29 January 1942. Just 18 days later, on 15 February 1942, Singapore fell and Gordon and his comrades were captured.

An anecdote –

Apparently, according to his fellow POWs, Gordon was quite handy at shortening his officers' trousers to make them into shorts and using the offcuts to make shorts for his fellow prisoners. It was also said that, one day, when he ran out of material, he was able to make his fellow prisoner, a pair of shorts out of a kit bag. The person, for whom the 'kit bag' shorts were made, said that "he used an old inner tyre to hold them up and, at nights, stepped out of them and, in the morning stepped back into them"!

Civilian life after return:

When he returned home to his wife and family, Gordon continued as a tailor. He had a keen interest in DIY and even built his own caravan, in which, he and his family had many happy holidays. He was a very resourceful man who enjoyed doing woodwork and engaged himself with many DIY projects. Gordon had a gift for living a very fulfilling life, and, like others did not speak of his experiences during the time he was a prisoner of war.

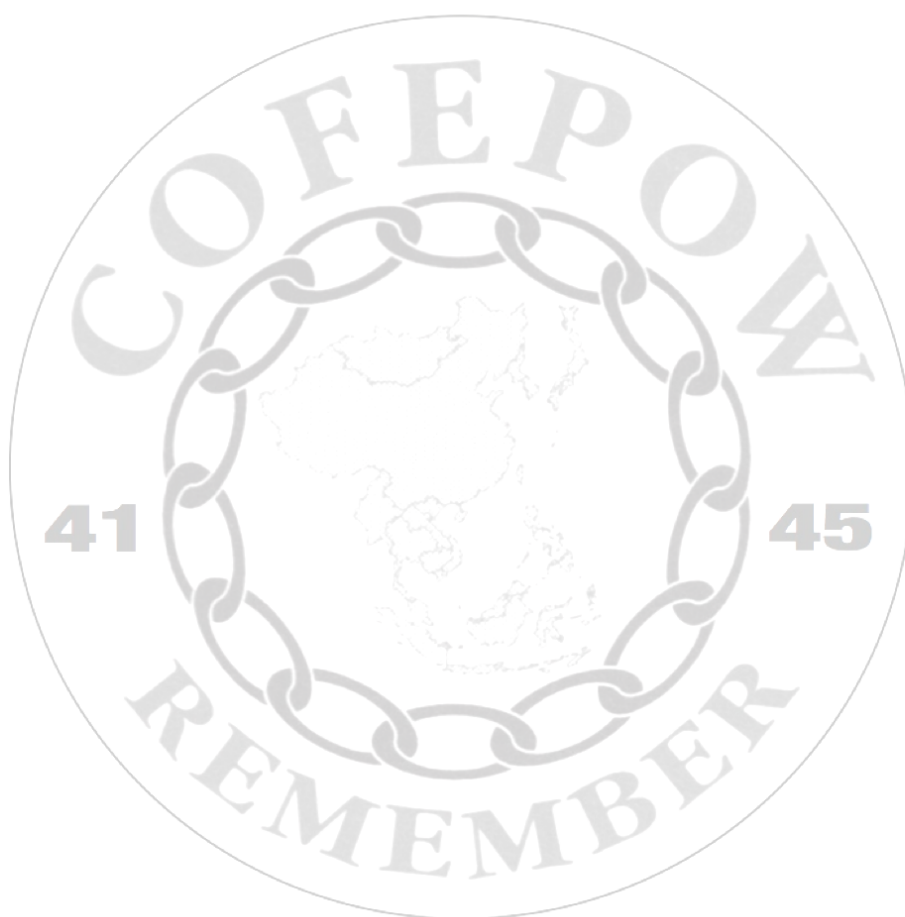


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He went on to purchase the tailors' shop where he trained and continued working there until his retirement.

Sadly, Gordon passed away in 1996 at the age of 83.

The above information and wording has been provided by Helen Foster (daughter) and additional information provided by Keith Andrews COFEPOW Head of Research



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