

JAMES Leslie

Name: Leslie James

Born: 2 April 1915

Rank: Bombadier

Service Number: 1556296

Regiment/Unit/Station:

89 Battery, 35 Lt A A Regiment

Royal Artillery



Died: 5 March 1943

Pre-War:

Leslie was the son of John Charles and Lottie James of Radipole, Dorset. He married Florence Mary James of Weymouth, Dorset.

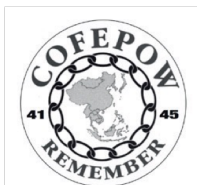
Wartime experience:

On the 13 November 1941, Leslie, along with the rest of the 35th LAA went to Gouroch overnight and embarked on the Empress of Japan. The ship was originally bound for Basra but that all changed, as on 8 December, at Durban they were trans-shipped onto the Narkunda. This ship then became part of convoy DM1 which arrived in Singapore on 13 January 1942.

The 89th Battery went to Kallang airfield and Leslie's troop would remain in Singapore while the other two troops went to Java. 'A' Troop consisted of 4 x 40mm Bofors guns - 3 Troops to a Battery. Leslie was captured at the Fall of Singapore and, it is believed that he would have been marched to Changi POW Camp and become part of a party now known as the 'Gunners 600 Party' that would be shipped overseas.

The party left Singapore on 18 October 1942 on a ship believed to be the Kenkon Maru, destined for New Guinea. The Battle of the Coral Sea changed that plan and they arrived at Rabaul on 5 November 1942.

Towards the end of November 517 men were selected to go to Ballalae to construct an airfield, they were to leave leaving the remaining 82 men on Rabaul as they were too sick to travel. These 517 men, Leslie included, never left Ballalae – sadly they all perished.

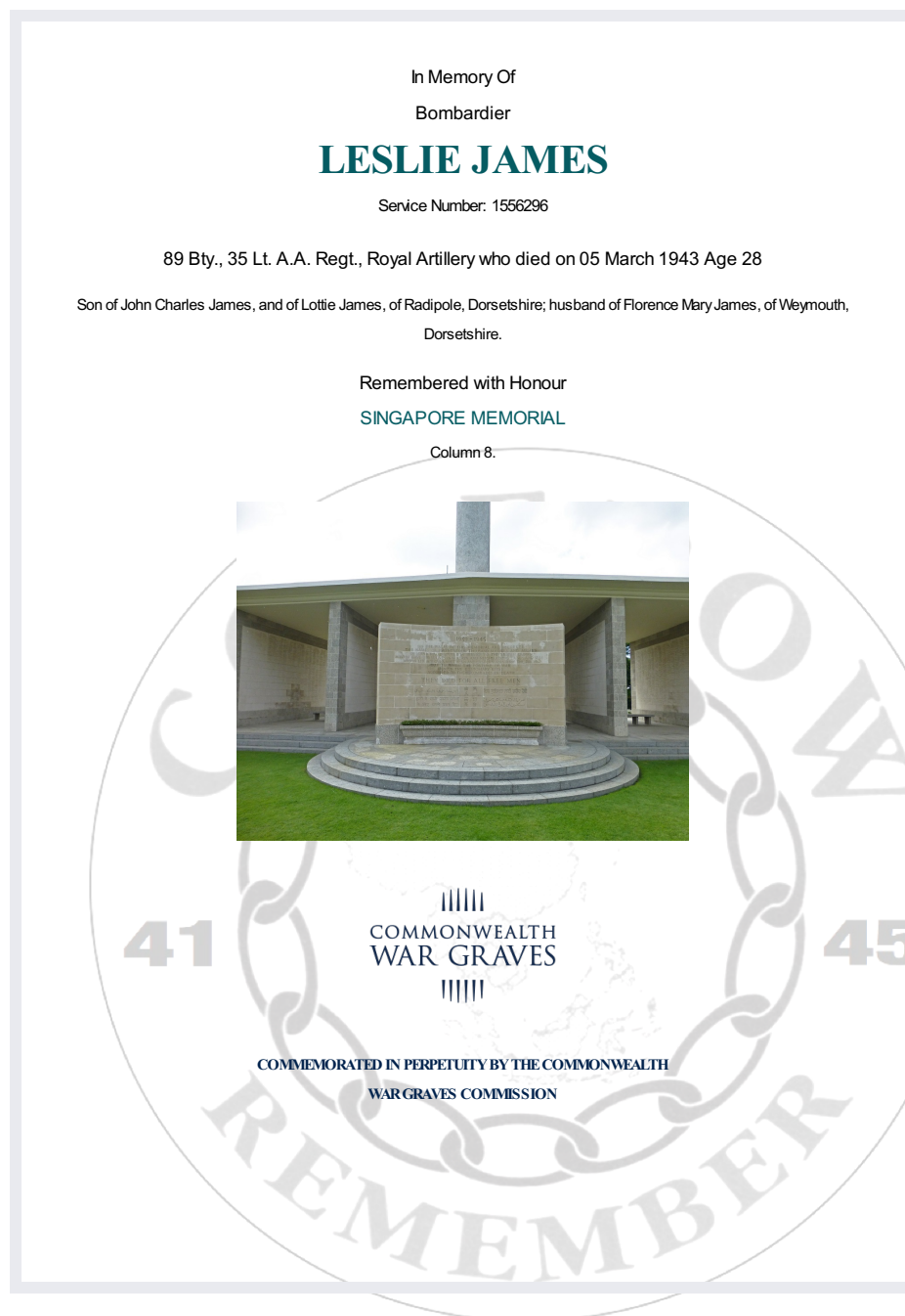


COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk

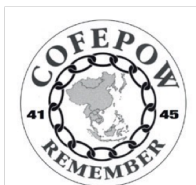
The Japanese spread a story that these men had been on a hospital ship that had been sunk by an American submarine on 5 March 1943 and that was used as the date of death for those men.

Sadly, Leslie was 28 years old when he died – 5 March 1943.

Leslie is buried in Port Moresby (Bombana) War Cemetery , Papua New Guinea and listed on the Singapore War Memorial in Kranji, Singapore Memorial – column 8.



*The above information and wording has been provided by Richard James (Son)
with additional information from Keith Andrews COFEPOW Head of Research*



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk