

MONEY George Leonard

Name: George Leonard Money

Born: 30 June 1921

Rank: Leading Aircraftsman

Service Number: 958510

Regiment/Unit/Station: 84 Squadron
Royal Air Force

Died: 5 September 2012



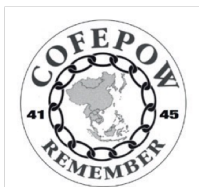
Pre-War

George, an only child, was born in London. After leaving school at the age of 14, in 1935, he started an apprenticeship as an electrician with Maples Furnishers where his grandfather, father, uncle and cousin also worked.

Wartime experience:

George volunteered for the RAF in April 1940 to avoid being called up for the Army or Navy. In July 1940, he met Pat, his wife-to-be, on a blind date roller skating at Alexandra Palace. They continued to see each other until George was sent abroad in October 1940. By early 1941, George had served in Egypt, Greece (where he narrowly escaped capture by the Germans) and Iraq, servicing his squadron's Blenheim aircraft. While in the Middle East, George sent Pat money to buy an engagement ring. Theirs was a whirlwind romance and George proposed before his initial posting overseas, just three months after they met.

George continued his service in Sumatra and at the time of the fall of Singapore was in Java. After nearly escaping capture, he was eventually caught by the Japanese and imprisoned at Tjilajap, Boi Glokok and Changi before being forced to work on the Death Railway in Thailand. He then returned to Changi and was liberated from there. It was not until July 1943 that George's parents received a telegram telling them that he was a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. There were no communications from him before or after this so they did not know if he was still alive until his return home. He returned home in October 1945 and said that it was the thought of Pat back home that kept him going during his time as a FEPOW.



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

Civilian life after return:

On his return, George met up again with his beloved Pat and they were married in July 1946. He picked up his apprenticeship where he had left off and qualified as an electrician and eventually set up his own business as a consulting engineer. He was a workaholic and his final job before retiring was designing the electrical services for NatWest Tower (now Tower 42) in London. He was instrumental in founding the West Essex and South Herts branch of FEPOW.

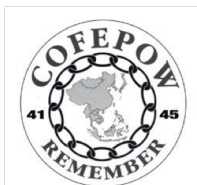
After reading an article in a DIY magazine in the mid 50's he started a self-build housing group of 28 people who built new homes for their families. This prompted the move for George and his family to Harlow in 1960.

George's world changed when Pat was diagnosed with dementia in the early 90's. He understood what was to come and devoted his time to caring for her. He found it difficult to adjust to life without her, after she died in 2000, but remained fiercely independent. Following a fall in 2010, a stay in hospital left him confused and it became obvious that he would never return to living on his own at home again and he went to live in a local care home.

George died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 91, of old age, on 5 September 2012. He left 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren all of whom are immensely proud of him, his achievements and his wartime experiences.

George's funeral was held on 18 September 2012 and what could be more appropriate for the music during the Service than 'You'll Never Walk Alone' for the time spent with Pat and the theme tune from Bridge on the River Kwai'?

The above information and wording has been provided by Pam Gillespie (Daughter)



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