

GOODMAN Lawrence James

Name: Lawrence James
Goodman

Born: 27 June 1906

Rank: Petty Officer

Service Number: J106065

Regiment/Unit/Station:
HMS Exeter, Royal Navy

Died: 4 May 1945

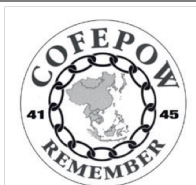


Pre-War:

Lawrence James was the son of James and Agnes Goodman and husband to Hilda Goodman. He volunteered as a 'Boy' in 1922 and trained initially at HMS Ganges and later at the torpedo school on HMS Defiance in Devonport and then briefly at the anti-submarine school on HMS Osprey. His tours of duty included two years in China on HMS Cicala, two years at the Mediterranean base in Malta, a year on HMS Rodney and 3 years on HMS Devonshire stationed in Malta.

Wartime experience

At the outbreak of war, he was serving on HMS Norfolk, which was then deployed on Northern Patrol. In March 1940, she suffered bomb damage and was under repair on the Clyde until June, so, Lawrence James was returned to HMS Defiance until February 1941. He then joined HMS Exeter, which had been repaired and modernised after being badly damaged at the battle of the River Plate. Initially deployed on the Northern Patrol, Exeter was transferred to the East Indies Squadron and escorted a military convoy to Aden. She was then deployed on convoy operations, bringing troops to Singapore, until January 1942, when she was transferred to ABDA Command at Tangjong Priok for convoy duties with the Western Striking Force. Suffering damage in action against Japanese cruisers on 27 February 1942, in the battle of the Java Sea, she was ordered to return to Surabaya for repair and, on the 28, she was ordered to take passage to Australia. The Exeter encountered Japanese forces in the Sunda Strait where she was torpedoed and scuttled on 1 March 1942.



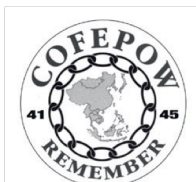
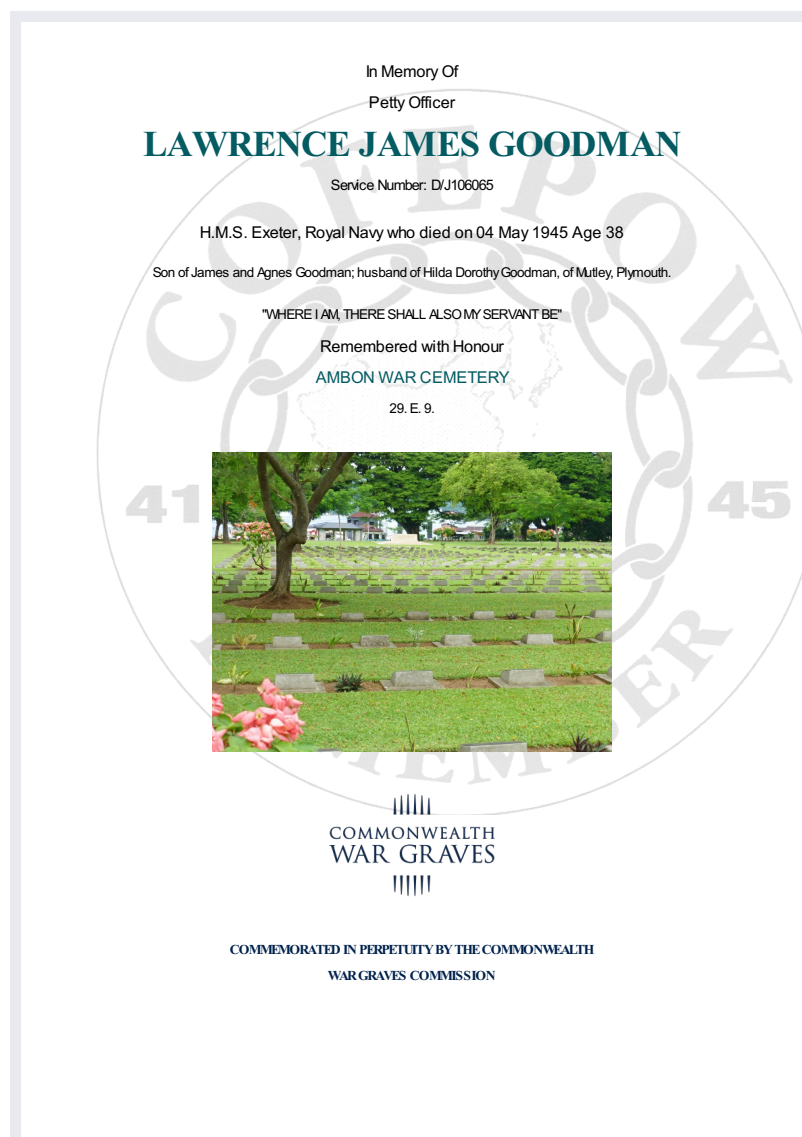
COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information,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

Along with other survivors, Lawrence James was taken prisoner and held in Makassar camp where he died on 4 May 1945, at the age of 38. He is buried in Ambon War Cemetery 29.E.9.

His headstone reads: **'Where I am, there shall also my servant be'**

The wreck of HMS Exeter was located in 2007 and a Royal Navy Ensign attached to her port torpedo tubes. In February 2009, three of the surviving Exeter POWs took part in a wreath-laying ceremony over the site of the wreck and the Ensign was presented to all survivors on the deck of the current but soon-to-be-decommissioned Exeter, in Portsmouth. Since then the wreck has been illegally scavenged and nothing now remains of her.

The above information and wording has been provided by Valerie Rodgers (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