

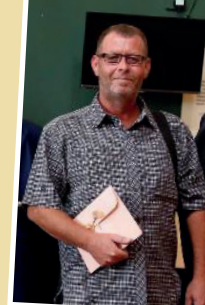
**Retro 50's  
party for  
FEPOW  
Grandad**



**Frame response  
encouraging**



**Last  
call for  
Devon  
break**



**Steve  
offers to  
share  
research**

COFEPOW Quarterly is a review magazine, informing members of events and opinions expressed over a three-month period. Please visit the COFEPOW website at [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk) and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cofepow](http://www.facebook.com/cofepow) for regular updates.

# CoFEPOW Quarterly

The Official newsletter of the Children of Far East Prisoners of War and FEPOW Associations • Issue 86 • July 2019

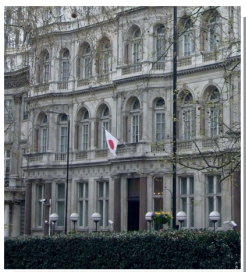
## Members meet Ambassador

### 23rd 'Reception for Peace and Reconciliation' at the Japanese Embassy, London, 14 June 2019

Trustees and other active members of the COFEPOW charity have met with officials from the Japanese embassy in London, following an invitation from Ambassador Koji Tsuruoka. Events Co-ordinator, Chris Wills reports...

"Alan and I, Head of Research Keith Andrews and Chairman, Paul Watson and wife, Linda, travelled to London where, after a pleasant lunch of fish and chips, we met up with Frank Clarke and Chris Beer.

At 4.00 p.m., we attended the Cavalry and Guards Club for an afternoon reception. We were welcomed at the top of a very grand staircase, given tea/coffee, scones, jam and cream which were on offer. The next hour and a half were spent chatting to various people



from different FEPOW organisations, and to Keiko Holmes, (more of Keiko later) who organised the event. She has done so much for FEPOWs, having given many peace of mind and exorcised their 'demons'.

Immediately after, we walked



**Top: the Japanese Ambassador to the UK, Mr. Koji Tsuruoka, greets his guests. Below: the Japanese Embassy in Piccadilly, London. © Embassy of Japan.**

a few doors further along Piccadilly, to the Japanese Embassy. We were greeted with great courtesy and were made to feel very welcome. We met the Ambassador, Koji Tsuruoka, and his wife, who were delightful. You couldn't help but notice that Mr Ambassador had a twinkle in his eye. He gave a welcoming speech, which included his belief that, quote: "We couldn't altar the past, but all sides must strive to come to terms with it, and move forward in order to make the world a better and safer place".

There followed a speech by a Shinto priest, who had been presented with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays by the new Japanese Emperor, for his services to peace and reconciliation. Refreshments followed, including wine, fizz and canapés (some sushi!), as we met up with more members of COFEPOW - Ian and Patricia

Fergusson, Pam Gillespie, David Brede (COFEPOW Secretary and Trustee) - and other people from different organisations. Some were present because Keiko had taken their FEPOW and/or them to Japan, to help them come to terms with their experiences.

It was a delightful evening and one we will be happy to repeat, should we receive an invitation. We made our way finally to Euston, where we had to wait for our train home. We rolled into bed at 1 minute to 1.00 a.m. totally exhausted - a long day, but thoroughly enjoyable.

Invitations are provided each year to families of FEPOWs. If you are related to a FEPOW and would like to be invited, please contact: [agape.kingdom@gmail.com](mailto:agape.kingdom@gmail.com) - giving the name of your FEPOW." **Chris Wills.**

### The AgapeWorld story: How it all started...

In 1988, Keiko C. Holmes, who lives in London, visited Japan soon after her husband's death, and in her home county 'Kiwa-Cho', she found a rebuilt memorial grave of sixteen FEPOWs, who died working in the Iruka copper mine during WWII. Inspired by this moving sight, she founded 'Agape Pilgrimage of Reconciliation' in October 1992, and has worked towards reconciliation ever since.

Her full story is inspirational and important and so will be covered more fully in the next issue of COFEPOW Quarterly, which is due for publication in October 2019.



## Chair's Notes

“July sees the last month for the petition for official acknowledgement of a VJ Remembrance Day, as shown below.

Ellie Taylor, a member of COFEPOW and a celebrated author, had instigated the online petition and although almost 9,000 signatures have been obtained, a late push might force the government to at least respond to it. We have informed members and other interested parties via the COFEPOW Twitter and Facebook accounts and on the website. It would be very helpful, therefore, if members could encourage their own contact lists to visit the petition site and click support. It only takes a minute! Details of how to access the site are given alongside.



**Petitions**  
UK Government and Parliament

**Establish a national day commemorating the significance of 15th August 1945.**

Thousands of servicemen were held as Far-East prisoners of war from 1941-1945, caught up in a conflict that endured long after the celebrations for VE-Day. The contribution of those who had the misfortune to be held as POWs, many of whom did not survive, deserves to be remembered nationally.

[More details](#)

Over 50,000 UK servicemen were held as Japanese Prisoners of War in South-East Asia between 1941-1945, of whom twenty-five per cent were either killed or died during captivity. With few survivors now left, this conflict is fast disappearing from living memory. These brave men felt cruelly overlooked upon their repatriation and beyond, and a national day of commemoration would go some way to putting that right.

**Sign this petition**

**At 10,000 signatures...**  
At 10,000 signatures, the government will respond to this petition

**At 100,000 signatures...**  
At 100,000 signatures, this petition will be considered for debate in Parliament

Share this petition on Facebook Email Twitter

Created by  
**Ellie Taylor**

Deadline  
**17 July 2019**

All petitions run for 6 months

May I also inform members that we shall soon be able to announce progress concerning the Album Memorial Pages held at the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA, which were removed a short time ago, following difficulties raised by a former member.

It is also very pleasing to see we have had the most advanced bookings for the reunion weekend in October, which is to be held again this year by popular demand at the Livermead Hotel, Torquay.

**Paul Watson, Chair, COFEPOW.**

# New national event co-ordinator needed

Chris Wills, the current COFEPOW National Event Co-ordinator, has announced plans to retire from the role in 2020, after the 75th Anniversary commemoration of VJ-Day.

Chris will have been in the role for nearly 15 years and feels it is now time to encourage other members to take up the position and bring fresh impetus to the challenge. As she says "I've done my bit - let someone else have a go!".

If you would like to be considered for this highly rewarding position, there are one or two characteristics you will need to possess, Chris adds.

- **You will need to be organised**
- **You must be able to speak and negotiate with people at all levels**
- **You will need to approach the role in a methodical way**
- **You will need to be diplomatic.**
- **You will need to have the use of a computer.**

There are three main annual events which will require time commitment from you, as well as an ability to encourage others within the association to help, both prior to the event and during its occurrence.

In previous years, the charity has organised extra services every five years at the NMA on the 15th February to commemorate notable anniversaries of the fall of Singapore.

- 1. The AGM and Service for VJ-Day which occurs around the 15th August each year at the National Memorial Arboretum.**
- 2. The COFEPOW weekend away, held at a seaside hotel in October each year.**
- 3. Remembrance Sunday at the NMA in November**

COFEPOW also organised a large event to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VJ-Day (VJ70) in 2015 and a similar event will need to be created and managed for the 75th anniversary (VJ75) in 2020.

These events mean a great deal to COFEPOW members, in ensuring remembrance. COFEPOW will expect anyone who takes on this role, therefore, to demonstrate true commitment.

If anyone is interested and would like to apply or have a preliminary chat, please contact Chris Wills on 0121 244 7263 or [chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Final push for petition numbers

It has been reported that the government is considering holding a national day of commemoration for VE-Day in 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary, by renaming the early May Bank Holiday and merging with May 8th.

Whatever one's feelings are about this seemingly ungenerous act, COFEPOW trustees believe it is all the more important to petition for a National Memorial Day to commemorate the significance of VJ-Day next year.

The petition, initiated earlier this year by Ellie Taylor, is now approaching 9,000 signatures, but has to top 10,000 before the government needs to take any action. It is hugely important therefore, that if you agree with the drive to establish a special memorial day to mark the end of the war

in the Far-East by declaring a working day date around August 15th 2020 a national holiday, that you visit the site and urge all family members and friends to add their name. The petition has to close on July 16th 2019, as laid down in the rules governing public access initiatives - so please hurry!

Ellie has also engendered interest in the petition from BBC West Midlands and has been working on locating a FEPOW in the area who would be prepared to be interviewed. So please visit the page and add your name. Here's the link to the petition, which is entitled: 'Establish a national day commemorating the significance of 15th August 1945'.....

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/236760>



# VJ-Day Service and COFEPOW AGM, NMA, August 18th, 2019

## AGENDA OF THE DAY'S EVENTS

at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Nr. Lichfield, Staffs.

**10.30 - The AGM will commence**

**12.00 - Break for lunch**

**13.00 - Salute at the FEPOW Memorial Building - The Last Post**

**13.15 - Return to the Marquee for the VJ-Day Service**

**14.00 - Tea/coffee and biscuits**

**16.00 - Finish**

The Trustees of COFEPOW would be delighted if you should wish to attend this year's VJ-Day Commemoration Service and AGM. The AGM and Service will be held in the new conferencing facilities recently built in the Aspects Building (situated where the marquee used to be). Following the service, there will be tea, coffee and biscuits and the opportunity to chat to other members. The Trustees and other Officers of COFEPOW will also be on hand. You are very welcome to come and join us. If you think you would like to attend the AGM and/or the Remembrance Service, it would help us enormously with planning, such as reserving seating and organising catering, if you would please contact the following as soon as possible to provisionally reserve a place: Chris Wills, COFEPOW Event Organiser, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6SG. Tel: 0121 244 7263 or email [chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk) Thank you.

## Remembrance Day Service & Parade Whitehall, November 10th, 2019

COFEPOW has been represented at Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday every year since 2000. This year, the Royal British Legion has made the decision that tickets will only be given to groups for use by:

- **Military and civilian men and women from the UK and the Commonwealth that served the Crown on Military Operations.**
- **Bereaved Spouses and first-generation descendants of the above.**

This will affect COFEPOW, as only sons and daughters of FEPOWs will be able to take part and we will be unable to give tickets to grandchildren and great grandchildren as in previous years. Tickets will not, therefore, be in such demand by COFEPOW members. 60 tickets have been applied for, but we will not know how many (if any) we will be given until the end of June. Pam Gillespie has a list of people wishing to attend and will get in touch with them as soon as she knows the ticket allocation. If any other COFEPOW members meet the above criteria and wish to register an interest in attending, please contact Pam on 07712 647892, 01279 864334 or [pg.cofepow@gmail.com](mailto:pg.cofepow@gmail.com) with your email address and phone number - ASAP!

## Remembrance Sunday, NMA, November 10th, 2019

Maintaining a COFEPOW presence on Remembrance Sunday at the well-known London locations is vital, but for those many members who live outside the capital, travel and cost are becoming increasingly prohibitive.

Following the last couple of years' improved attendances at the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA, offered alongside the Cenotaph Parade in London, we will be organising

ing a similar wreath-laying at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove on the 10th November, 2019. We will meet at 10.15 a.m., in readiness for when the general service of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum commences at 10.30 a.m.

When the service ends, we will parade to the FEPOW Grove to lay our wreaths, after which, if you wish, you can rejoin the main body of the congregation

## Diary Dates for fellow organisations for 2019/2020

### Borneo death marches - Sandakan-Ranau

**August 15th** VJ-Day Remembrance Service for family and friends of those who never returned from the Borneo death marches - Sandakan-Ranau, to be held at St Clement Danes RAF church, Fleet Street, London, at 12.30pm (although this is an RAF church, all services are welcome). This is followed by a light lunch in a local pub. For details, please contact [hbraund@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hbraund@hotmail.co.uk)  
**N.F.F.W.R.A**

**October 21** (date t.b.a.)

Birthday Reunion in Liverpool.

**2020 - April** (date t.b.a.) Possible return to Grand Hotel, Scarborough

**August 15** - 11.00am - VJ-Day 75th Anniversary commemorative service - Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

### M.V.G.

**2019 - August 15** - VJ-Day Service, 12.00 pm, NMA Chapel with wreath-laying.

**October 12** - Reunion/lunch - RAF Club, Piccadilly - 12.00 to 5pm.

**December 10** - Anniversary of sinking of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse.

**2020 - August 15** - NMA - VJ Day 75th Anniversary commemorative service.

**September 12** - service - Kranji, Singapore - 75th Anniversary of Japanese Surrender.

### Researching FEPOW History Group.

**October 19, 2019 - June 2020** - Liverpool, 'Secret Art of Survival' - LSTM/Liverpool University's Victoria Gallery/Museum.

**2020 - June 5 - 7** - 7th International FEPOW History Conference - Liverpool. Bookings open Spring 2019.

### Java Club

**2019 - July 19 - 22.** AGM/Reunion weekend at Bank House Hotel, Worcester.

### General

**November 7** - Cross-planting ceremony, Westminster Abbey.

**November 10** - Remembrance Sunday Service/Veterans' Parade at the Cenotaph. See feature alongside for details of changes to ticket allocation.

at the end of one of the walks, to take part in the march-past and salute.

We are hopeful more members will be encouraged to attend, following the recent increase in numbers.

If you are interested in taking part in any or all of the Remembrance Service/Parade, please contact Chris Wills by phone on 0121 244 7263, or by email at [chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk)

Thank you.

# COFEPOW Weekend Break - rebooking for 2019!



**The Livermead House Hotel,  
Sea Front, Torquay TQ2 6QJ.  
Friday 4th to Monday 7th  
of October 2019.**

**Two nights dinner, bed and  
breakfast just £130 per person.  
Three nights dinner, bed and  
breakfast just £180 per person.  
Reservations are on a strictly  
first come, first served basis.**

For more information or to book, clip the coupon below and return to:  
Chris Wills, 74, The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6SG.



The Livermead House Hotel in Torquay is an elegant hotel, built in 1820 on the edge of Cockington Valley on Torquay Sea front in the heart of the English Riviera, Torbay, Devon.

The hotel offers a traditional flavour, breathtaking sea views, and high standards of service and cuisine with an award-winning chef. The Livermead House is one of three Rew Hotels, a family-owned and managed group of hotels on Torquay's water's edge. There's a pleasant level walk to the town centre, free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi internet access in all public areas. Tea/coffee will be offered on arrival.

A full English or continental breakfast will be served each morning and a four-course table d'hôte dinner each evening. On the Saturday, there will be a complimentary drinks reception before dinner and a glass of wine with dinner.

If you wish to extend your stay, extra nights will be £50 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast, for up to a maximum 7 night stay in total.

There is no supplement for the first 6 single rooms, any single rooms over will incur a supplement of £15 pppn. Sea view rooms carry a supplement of £10 pppn.

To secure your place, simply complete your details below, cut where shown and post back to Chris Wills, with a deposit of £25 per person. Cheques should be made payable to COFEPOW.

**If you live locally, and would just like to come to the Saturday night dinner, we can offer a special price of £25 per head – £9 less than the normal price.**

For more information or to book by phone or email, contact: Chris Wills, COFEPOW National Events Organiser, Telephone: 0121 244 7263. email: [chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you there later this year!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Tel no. \_\_\_\_\_

No. of people \_\_\_\_\_

No. of rooms \_\_\_\_\_

No. of nights \_\_\_\_\_

Type of room (special requirements) \_\_\_\_\_



# A day with the Trustees

## 27th April 2019

COFEPOW Quarterly co-editor and designer, Steve Riley, was recently invited to spend the day at one of the regular Trustees' meetings, held at the Royal British Legion Club in Alrewas, Staffordshire. The idea was for Steve to unofficially record his observations of the discussions and decisions made, as a witness to how the trustees work in the interests of the charity. His report is not intended as official minutes.

"The day started with a mug of tea and welcomes/introductions all round, then straight down to business. All COFEPOW's trustees were present, bar one, with many travelling significant distances across the country to attend. A formal agenda listed three pages of items for discussion, ranging from upkeep of the FEPOW Building garden to serious concerns over copyright and security.

As an observer, I was impressed with the level of diligence shown by all trustees in attempting to govern the charity with both the best interests of members at heart and with an eye on maintaining the original purpose of COFEPOW, which is to remember the many FEPOWs who suffered during the war at the hands of a particularly vicious enemy. Quite frankly, it was encouraging to watch the level of commitment shown.

Much of the discussion focussed on how to sustain the physical upkeep of the FEPOW Building at the NMA; items on the agenda included maintaining the immediate garden around the building (for interest, a new volunteer had contacted Keith Andrews to offer his services); whether to install further CCTV within the building, on both floors, to prevent vandalism and theft, and to appraise the cost implications; how to cajole the NMA maintenance team to fill in large gaps in the paving slabs of the new path to the building to prevent accidents; how to renovate the damaged and abused globe within the building, since the original manufacturers no longer exist; how to train other volunteers who had come forward to man the building when visitors wanted archival information; how to transfer the new database on to the wall projector to update the facility for members and visitors (plans are for it to go live before the end of the year); and not least, how to relocate 1 tonne of window bars and shutters from Changi Gaol to the NMA, recently retrieved from a naval museum. Detailed reports were presented on potential sites, with



Some of the trustees who were able to attend: Paul Watson, Keith Andrews, David Brede, Chris Wills, Nick Bullen-Bell, Sylvie Bullen-Bell, Chris Wills, Brian Hume and Paul Housden.

more competitive repair and installation quotes being sought to secure value and protection of the charity's funds.

Guy Metcalfe-Hume presented detailed reports of website and social network activity, which he manages on behalf of COFEPOW, reporting an upturn in visits in most areas. Significant discussion followed regarding uploading almost 19,000 liberation questionnaires to the website completed to date, and almost 3,000 new images added. The sheer volume of work done was extraordinary.

Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell detailed a good level of sales of merchandise items and of new products introduced recently, particularly the picture/cap badge frames introduced in the last issue of this newsletter. Members had asked if a facility could be added to include FEPOW medals, an idea which was met with a positive response, with Nick and Sylvie able to provide adapted frames if required.

Members may remember the Educational Package that was introduced in 2016, in an attempt to get schools to include information about the history of the Far-East war into their schedule of lessons, running a competition as part of the scheme to help foster awareness amongst the young. Uptake to date has been disappointing, but the initiative will be rolled out again in 2020, to coincide with the commemorations of VJ Day 75.

The new poetry anthology was discussed, too. There's been an excellent response to the call for poems, written either by FEPOWs during and since the war, and indeed by their families, and so the book will go ahead, with an intended

launch date for sale prior to the 75th Anniversary of VJ-Day in August 2020. The charity hopes to make a significant profit from the sale, with as many contributors to the production of the book as possible providing their services free of charge. All profits will, of course, boost COFEPOW's coffers in a year where additional funds need to be raised to mount special remembrance services for the special anniversary.

After a sandwich and sausage roll break, the meeting continued to discuss various minor items on the agenda and cover as much as possible of the minutiae of running the COFEPOW organisation. All trustees give of their time freely and copiously and it is evident in their debates how much effort is required to cover every element of management considered necessary in continuing remembrance. Trustees who are holidaying in Singapore, for example, have volunteered whilst there, at their own expense, to meet with the National Museum of Singapore (which includes Changi, the Battlebox and various other sites on the island relevant to the FEPOW experience) in an attempt to develop a formal link between the museum and COFEPOW, helping spread the word and keeping interest alive.

Finally, lengthy discussion ensued regarding the dilemma presented by an ex-member, who has been engaged in a war of words for sometime with the trustees. Having consulted solicitors following the individual's belief he is entitled to sue the charity for a perceived act of copyright infringement, the trustees have offered to take the matter to formal mediation, avoiding the need for litigation expenses. It was admirable how the trustees spent a significant period of time attempting to minimise the impact of such an action on the finances of the charity in the unlikely event they would lose. So, may I say, on behalf of all members, thank you!"

## COFEPOW's objectives

COFEPOW is a registered charity, established to **a)** preserve and promote the memory of all British and empire service-men and women, and civilians, who were Prisoners of War in South-East Asia under Japanese occupation during World War II, 1941-45, **b)** provide and maintain memorials and **c)** advance the education of the public about the suffering and sacrifices Far-East POWs endured during their incarceration.

# In my father's footsteps. A trip to southeast Asia - pt 1

By David Sartin

"The seed of an idea for my trip to south-east Asia was sown about 5 or 6 years ago, when I decided to research my father's wartime exploits. My father, Lt. Ronald John Nicholas Sartin MC, was born in Monmouth, in 1909, and upon leaving school, joined the army as a boy bugler, and continued his education in the army. He later became a sapper with the Royal Engineers, and in 1938 he was posted to Singapore.

Like many ex-FEPOWs, my dad never talked about his war experiences, and I later learned that upon repatriation, FEPOWs were told not to speak of events in the Far-East. I later learned that another reason for my father's silence was that he had been part of a top secret organisation, the Special Operations Executive, and was forbidden to talk about his activities. Of course, as a child growing up, I showed little interest in my father's military life. However, I was aware that he had been awarded a special medal (the Military Cross), although as a child, it held little significance for me.



When I was about 13 years of age, I accompanied my father, as he had been chosen to appear as a guest on the BBC programme "This is Your Life", hosted by Eamonn Andrews. The subject of the programme was Lt. Colonel Freddie Spencer Chapman, with whom my father had worked during the war. Even at that point I still did not quite grasp what my Dad had done during the war. Freddie Spencer Chapman had written a book entitled "The Jungle is Neutral", of which my father had a copy. In the late 1970's, my father was again contacted by the BBC, and was flown out to Malaya where he was filmed for the documentary "S.O.E - Arms and the Dragon". Some years after my father's death in 1989, I again read "The Jungle is Neutral" and decided to do some research online, trying to find out if there were any organisations which catered for families of ex-FEPOWs. I came across the



Above: Lieutenant John Sartin.  
Left: John's son, David, who made the trip. Right: Lt. Sartin's medals, including his Military Cross.

COFEPOW website, which I joined immediately.

In the book, I'd discovered that my father had been a member of a three man patrol, or 'Stay behind Party', one of several engaged in sabotage operations behind enemy lines. The other two members of his particular party were Major Freddie Spencer Chapman and Lt. William Percy Harvey (a pre-war rubber planter). Chapman was the leader of the party, and my father was the demolition expert.

Prior to going into the jungle, my father had been a demolitions instructor at 101 Special Training School at Tanjong Balai, in Singapore. His job was to train Chinese guerillas, Malays, local plantation owners, etc., in the art of demolition. Lt. Harvey (Bill), would be later captured and executed by the Japanese, following his escape from Pudu Prison, near Kuala Lumpur.

On joining COFEPOW and checking the list of members, I noted the name of a FEPOW called Bill Harvey, with contact details for his niece. I duly wrote to her, and she replied, confirming this was the same Bill Harvey who had been in my father's 'Stay Behind Party'. A week or two later, I was contacted out of the blue by a chap called Stephen Snelling, an author from Norfolk, who was researching local men who had fought in the Second World War, including Bill Harvey. Stephen had come across my details on the COFEPOW members' list and he and I corresponded. He provided me with numerous sources of information and books etc., which I



duly followed up.

The next strange coincidence occurred at the COFEPOW 70th anniversary of VJ-Day. My wife and I partook of the excellent meal in the marquee and were seated at the table, when a gentleman called Ray Withnall, who was on his own at the event, asked me about my father's Military Cross. I explained about my father's service in SOE, and told him at which camps he'd been imprisoned, one of which was Ubon in Thailand. By coincidence, Ray was researching Ubon camp, and in particular Major David Smiley, also of SOE, who had helped to liberate the camp. Ray was married to a Thai lady, Khamma, and they had a house not far from Ubon. Ray and I struck up a friendship, and he was a mine of information about Ubon camp and the airstrip on which my father had been forced to work.



Sometime after meeting Ray, I was transcribing some of my father's notes, and accidentally stumbled across a website for Commando Veterans, including an entry from Richard Parry in Penang, Malaysia, who was seeking information on Freddie Spencer Chapman and the 'Stay Behind Parties'. I posted a reply, not holding out much hope, but was surprised to receive a response from Richard, thus striking up another friendship. Richard and his wife, Terry, were later to prove crucial in mine and Ray's trip to Malaysia and our search for places mentioned in "The Jungle is Neutral".

About a month after contacting Richard, I received an email from a Layne Winning in Australia, who was also researching the Spencer Chapman story. I was able to put Layne in contact with Richard as they had similar interests in the story. Following contact with Ray, and further research, he asked if I would ever consider a trip to south-east Asia to follow my father's story from beginning to end. After a short discussion with my wife who told me to go for it, I contacted Ray and we began planning in earnest. Following meetings and discussions, Ray came up with an itinerary for a three week trip, beginning 5th February 2019. We flew out to Bangkok for a two night stay and some sightseeing, and then to Singapore to pick up my father's 'trail'.

**Continued....**



The 'trail' began in Singapore, but our first objective, to find 101 STS, could not be achieved, as over the years the peninsula which had been Tanjong Balai had become a large port, and could not be accessed. We did, however, visit the Alexandra hospital, the location of a Japanese outrage against staff and patients, and also the Kranji war memorial where I found the names on the memorial wall of Bill Harvey, Frank Vanrenen and Ronald Graham, all SOE men murdered by the Japanese following their escape from Pudu Prison with five others. We also located and photographed the names of three soldiers on behalf of two COFEPOW members and laid remembrance crosses.

We visited the Battlebox where the decision to surrender Singapore to the Japanese was made - an excellent tour and presentation which put into perspective the difficult decisions taken - and the Old Ford Factory where the surrender to the Japanese was signed. We also met up with two of Ray's friends, Shaun and Jess Heng, who took us out and showed us the sights of the city including the Cathay Building, now a cinema complex. In 1939, part of the Cathay building had been the headquarters of S.O.E's Orient Mission.



David lays crosses at Pudu Prison.

From Singapore, we travelled to Kuala Lumpur for two nights. We visited the remains of Pudu Prison. The main gate and a wall was all that was left of the former prison, but preserved for posterity. I laid two remembrance crosses near the prison gate, one for the 8 murdered escapees (and my father), and one for all the FEPOW prisoners of Pudu. I stood for a few moments in silent contemplation and "whispered a prayer for the boys".

The next leg of our journey would take us to Raub and The Gap road, to search out my father's areas of operations in the jungle against the Japanese. Here, we would meet up with our friends Richard and Terry Parry."

**Parts Two and Three of David's story will appear in the October and January issues of COFEPOW Quarterly.**



## Pam's Page

**Pam Stubbs, former Secretary of the Birmingham Association of FEPOWs, was made Honorary Life President of COFEPOW in 2007. Pam is now 87 and an Honorary Life Member of COFEPOW.**

### “Borneo

I was pleased to read in the last COFEPOW newsletter that Lynette Silver and her husband have received Australian awards. Lynette's book **"Sandakan – A Conspiracy of Silence"** was published in 1998 and was a remarkable achievement.

Sandakan lies on the north coast of Borneo and one of the first books to be published about captivity in the Far-East was **"Three came Home"** by Agnes Keith, the American wife of a British diplomat. It was the first book I read about the Far-East in World War 2. And many years later, I was told by Alex Bourne, who I mentioned in my last 'Pam's Page', that before war broke out in the Far-East, his ship was in the Pacific showing the flag in British territories and he was selected to visit the Keiths in their bungalow at Sandakan.

On the west coast of Borneo lies Kuching and between Kuching and Sandakan lies Jesselton (now Kota Kinabalu). These three places were where FEPOWs were taken from Singapore. Four transports are listed in David Nelson's book **"The Story of Changi Singapore"** as leaving Singapore for Borneo.

The FEPOWs on the first transport, which left Singapore on 8th July 1942, were all Australian, who disembarked at Sandakan. Those on the second, which left Singapore on 9th October 1942, and the third, which left Singapore on 3rd February 1943, were all British who had been

held in Java, before being moved to Singapore. Some 1,048 on the second transport disembarked at Kuching and 838 continued to Jesselton.

Those on the third transport all disembarked at Kuching. The fourth transport left Singapore on 28th March 1943 with 500 British and 500 Australians on board. All disembarked at Kuching, but the Australians went later to Sandakan.

At Jesselton, 51 FEPOWs died due to disease during the six months the group was there. The others were moved to Sandakan.

The story of Sandakan is very sad. The only British survivors were those transferred to Kuching in January 1945 after the discovery of a secret radio. Among these was Flight Lieutenant Peter (Ernest I.) Lee, who kept a diary and this is contained in Don Wall's book **"Kill the Prisoners"**.

Previously, 100 British had been moved from Sandakan to Labuan Island, where they were joined by 200 FEPOWs from Kuching. There were no survivors from this group. The only Australian Sandakan survivors were six who escaped from the three death marches to Ranau, in the North West of Borneo. Many died en route to Ranau, where eventually the few survivors also died violently.

In her book, Lynette Silver lists all 1,787 Australian and 641 British Sandakan FEPOWs who died, with details of where this happened. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, for all those who died in Borneo, is sited on Labuan.”

## Poetry anthology progresses...

Response to the call for poems written either by FEPOWs during and after incarceration, or by their families and friends since the war and even more recently, has been magnificent.

Work on design and compilation of the anthology has commenced, with well over 80 poems already included. Many describe conditions in camps and factories, mines and railways whilst in captivity, whilst others talk of missing home and loved ones; several span from despair to hope, from desolation and to humour to help the writer-POWs get through it. All of the modern family-authored poems are filled with respect and love for their forbears. Completion is scheduled for Spring, 2020, in time for the VJ Day 75th anniversary in August.

# Wenda and Don thank TBRC for their personalised Thai trip

This February, long-term member, Wenda Kiddle, made the journey of a lifetime to Thailand, to visit the 'Death' Railway, in memory of her father, Private Lionel Lambert Margrave, 5th Battalion Beds & Herts Regiment. She read with interest where members had undertaken similar pilgrimages, organised by the Thailand Burma Railway Centre.

Wenda has written her personal experience, omitting camp names, etc., as she didn't want to repeat what members had already read. It's written from the heart, as both her and her husband were greatly moved by the experience....



"My first recollection that my Dad had done something remarkable in his life happened when I was seven years old. I had acquired my first atlas. My Dad came over, flicked through the pages, found the map of Thailand and said, "See that black line – I built that railway." I felt the enormity of what he'd said, but as a young child, didn't know how to respond. Likewise, my Dad remained silent about his life as a FEPOW for the rest of his life.

He died, aged 66, in 1979. Ten years after his death my Mum found a diary that he'd kept, written in pencil on the thinnest of paper. A concise record of his years in captivity; list of dates, camps (names written as they 'sounded'), the work he was involved in, poignant detail of the food (or rather, the lack of it), his weight, illnesses he endured and the number of deaths in his camps.

When my Mum passed away recently, we found a box crammed with all their war memorabilia: diaries, letters, telegrams, documents and press cuttings. I had talked for many years of wanting to see some of what my Dad had experienced. Our children said, "You have talked about this for long enough; you need a bit of a push. We will pay for your flights for your 70th birthday present." There was no turning back!

Through COFEPOW, I contact-

ed Martin Prechner, who put me in touch with the Thailand Burma Railway Centre in Kanchanaburi. I sent them Dad's details and a copy of his diary. Within days, I had a reply from Terry Manttan, the General Manager at the museum, which included a very detailed itinerary, personal to my Dad. I knew it was going to be a very special and unique experience. Never having been to Asia before, this was quite an adventure for my husband, Don, and myself – we are in our early seventies! Any expectations we may have had were surpassed a hundred times over.

We spent the first morning, visiting Ban Pong Station. (My Dad would have arrived here from Singapore in Oct 1942, having spent 4 days and nights cramped in a rice wagon, with 27 other POWs. We arrived in an air conditioned car). Then we spent a very interesting afternoon with Terry at the museum. We were amazed at his knowledge and the time he had spent researching information about my Dad. The Museum, which is the inspiration of Rod Beattie and the result of his dedicated research, was an excellent starting point for what was to follow. We spent the next two days following in my Dad's footsteps. We felt very privileged to be accompanied by Rod himself, a historian, researcher and the world expert on the Railway. For every word in Dad's diary, he was able to tell a complete story.

Rod's knowledge and attention to detail cannot be faulted. Where my Dad had written 'worked on low embankments,' 'quarry work,' 'bridge work,' etc., Rod was able to locate the exact place. We saw those same embankments, walked through the same cuttings, stood overlooking the same ravine. Although we were seeing it 77 years later, Rod explained that in many ways little had changed – the countryside was still the same. We were seeing what my Dad would have seen – except we were seeing it in peacetime. We were incredibly well looked after by all the staff at the Thailand Burma Railway Centre. If anyone is thinking about making such a trip, I would recommend that you do it! We very much hope to go back again in a few years, taking our children and grandchildren with us. It is so important we keep these memories alive. I would like to thank COFEPOW and TBRC for all the dedicated work they do."

**Wenda Kiddle**



## Invite to Nagasaki Fukuoka 14 memorial unveiling, from Dutch FEPOW's daughter



Maureen Hoyer, whose father and uncle were both Dutch FEPOWs interned in Fukuoka 14 Camp, alongside other Dutch, Australian, US and British POWs, is appealing for relatives of those held in that camp during the war to contact her.

She is currently working with and helping a committee in Holland to organise a memorial for all ex-POWs who were held in the camp, near to Nagasaki, target of the second A-bomb in 1945. Entitled, 'Project Nagasaki 2020', Maureen and her colleagues are trying to find FEPOWs and relatives to inform them about the memorial planned for Nagasaki's Peace Park, and to ask if they would like to be present at the scheduled, but as yet unconfirmed unveiling on 9th August 2020. Maureen is particularly interested in locating the family of the only serviceman killed by the bomb, named as Shaw.

The father of the Chairman of the committee was also in the camp and it is the wish of an ex-POW to unveil the memorial in his 100th year and send a message of peace. If any member is interested in knowing more about the memorial or attending the unveiling next year, please email Maureen at: [mhoyer@hetnet.nl](mailto:mhoyer@hetnet.nl)





Steve Denton, with Keith Andrews on the left, Major Brian Finch (Rtd) on the right and members of the production company making a documentary about the Lisbon Maru, shown at the FEPOW Building Alrewas in 2018.

## Steve offers help to research Osaka 2b, Kobe POW relatives

Member, Steve Denton, writes that he recently renewed his yearly subscription to Forces War Records at a cost of £50. He's also been using the free COFEPOW database in his investigations, which he states has been "just as, if not more, important for my research". As a result, Steve has made a significant donation to COFEPOW, for which the trustees would like to express their gratitude for his generosity.

Further to that, Steve has very kindly offered help to any other member who wishes to find out more about their COFEPOW relative, should they have been held in the same location in the Far-East as his grandfather.

He continues: "My grandfather was a prisoner in Osaka 2b, Kobe House and all records were lost when the camp was bombed and burnt out in 1945. There has never been any record therefore, of the British POWs for this camp. From various sources, I have managed to identify over 200 British prisoners that were held in Kobe House. Through the COFEPOW database and in conjunction with the Hong Kong War Diary Garrison search, I was able to confirm the presence of 139 of these men. My roster is in a spreadsheet format, so I may be able to link each man to his Liberation Questionnaire held on the database".

Steve asked if he could have the COFEPOW members' list, as he wanted to get in touch with any member whose own FEPOW was held in Osaka.

Unfortunately, with new data protection laws introduced this year and so many privacy demands these days, the charity is not at liberty to give out this information any more, but is happy to publish Steve's plan here so that members can contact him if they so wish.

"I have accumulated quite a lot of information on the Lisbon Maru/Kobe House POWs. If any member would like to contact me, I'd be more than happy to hear from them and share what I have".

Having contacted Hilary Cunningham first, as she distributes the digital form of the COFEPOW newsletter from her home in New Zealand, he generously researched her father and found the passenger entry for the ship which brought him and other POWs from the Philippines to the UK via America/Canada - HMS Implacable - which was new information to her.

Steve continues: "I'm currently putting a PDF together of all my research for my family and I hope to distribute it to the relevant families (for free) so that we can all get a better understanding of the jigsaw. Subject to copyright, I hope to donate the finished document to the charity's database."

Should you wish to get in touch with Steve if your FEPOW relative was held at the above same locations as his grandfather, please email him at: [powresearch2016@gmail.com](mailto:powresearch2016@gmail.com) or check on the **COFEPOW Facebook page, Twitter feed or website.**



## The 7th International FEPOW History Conference

**'Making and marking memory: widening perspectives on Far-East captivity'**

**5 – 7 June 2020, Liverpool.**

Co-hosted by the Researching FEPOW History Group (RFHG) and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), our 7th international conference will focus on the stories and creativity that sustained prisoners, internees and forced labourers throughout captivity.

We will also look at the made, recorded and preserved memories that subsequent generations have drawn upon in their own responses to this rich and moving history. In doing so, we will look for different perspectives and new voices to shed light on all that is yet to be learned about, and from, the experiences of captivity, internment and forced labour across Southeast Asia and the Far-East.

Spaces are limited, and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. More details are available on the RFHG website ([www.fepowhistory.com](http://www.fepowhistory.com))

The registration form can also be downloaded at: <https://fepowhistory.com/2020-conference/>

The form includes details on fees, and a special discount code at The Liner for conference delegates. For further information, email Dr Lizzie Oliver at: [researchingfepowhistory@gmail.com](mailto:researchingfepowhistory@gmail.com).

The editors of COFEPOW Quarterly would like to clarify that the opinions, stories, features and information reproduced in this newsletter are generally those submitted by contributors and do not reflect or otherwise, the opinions of the trustees of the charity. Whilst every effort is made to verify the factual accuracy and content of material published herein, the trustees do not accept responsibility for errors or beliefs printed here.

## New book tells of Australian nurses' hell in captivity

### 'Angels of Mercy - Far West Far East'

Lynette Ramsay

**Silver** - Paperback - Sally Milner Publishing

978186315009

- 442pp. A\$39.99.

For UK buyers,

email: [lynettersilver@hotmail.com](mailto:lynettersilver@hotmail.com)



**"These two remarkable, highly resilient women may not be remembered as great Australians, but they will be remembered for making Australia great."**

Lynette Ramsay Silver's new work tells the gripping stories of two Australian nursing sisters, who overcame the challenging adversities of two very different circumstances. In the 1930s, Marjorie Silver was employed by The Far West Children's Health Scheme and became their first permanent flying sister, based in Bourke.

Whilst Sister Silver was fighting a battle against the harsh elements of the bush, another dedicated woman had graduated as a Nursing Sister and would shortly embark on a voyage to the exotic Far-East, where she would engage in a battle for survival.

Sister Pat Gunther served on the battlefields of Malaya and Singapore. She was taken prisoner at Bangka Island, Sumatra. The story of the nurses imprisoned in various camps in Sumatra is not unknown, but this book delves far deeper than any other story to date and reveals the 'secret' that the nurses kept throughout their lifetimes. Author and military historian, Lynette Ramsay Silver, has an entire 'forensic' chapter devoted to the unravelling of this secret.

The book also lists the names of nurses who served in WW2, and includes the fate of other internees Sister Pat met during her captivity and of the nurses evacuated from Singapore. It also includes the 29 women that served as doctors in the Australian Army Medical Corps as well as the names of the women who served as nursing sisters in the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Airforce, Australian Army Nursing Service and the Army Hospital.

#### **Angels of Mercy: Far West Far East**

is a tribute to the huge contributions made by nurses in the Australian Outback, and to those who served during wartime.



## Letters



...from previous column...

...that came home and those that didn't. This is followed by a darts match, with trophies for the winner and runner-up. Everyone had a great time and we are all looking forward to VJ Day 2019 - our last 'practice run' before VJ Day 2020."

**Annette and Stewart Hughes.**

Originally, member Steve Denton had requested a copy of the members' list to share his comprehensive research about Kobe 2, Osaka and the Lisbon Maru with other members. New data protection laws now prohibit the list's distribution, so the offer was made to feature Steve's research, as shown on page 9 in this issue, to help members with their own research. Steve sent a very gracious email after this solution was found...

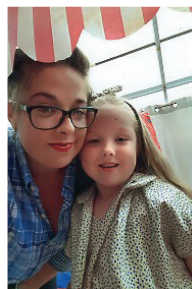
"Hi Steve,

Thank you for your help and Hilary's and Chris's help. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. I'm in touch with probably a dozen families and have learnt so much already. With this, we should all get something more from it. Please go ahead and print this email - I'm chuffed to be able to help."

**Steve Denton**

A card received by Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell to tell them of the party organised each year by Annette and Stewart Hughes to honour FEPOW Grandfather, Bill Everall...

"We decided to have our garden party for VJ Day in 2018, after we went to Thailand and the TBRC. We have two days one for family and neighbours and one for friends.



The garden and pub are covered with bunting and wartime posters and a map of the Thai/Burma Railway. Everyone is invited to wear period clothes or red, white and blue. Our granddaughter, (and Bill's great great granddaughter) Felicity, pictured with Holly, had two changes of clothes, from army uniform to 50's-style party dress.

We then have the party that my Grandad, Bill Everall, never had. We have an old-fashioned English Garden Party with tea, coffee, homemade cakes and Vera Lynn records! We then have a toast to Grandad and all our veterans - those

*Continued....*

## Volunteers needed!

The trustees are seeking volunteers to act as **Archive/Building Liaison Officer(s)**, to help maintain the FEPOW Building at the NMA.

Reliable, trustworthy and friendly members who can donate a few hours at the FEPOW Building once a month, to ensure everything is functioning, that the garden is maintained and ensuring leaflet and membership form dispensers are full.

You'll enjoy liaising with members at the Building Archive, helping them navigate research facilities, whilst helping 'man' the Building on important commemorative days through the year.

Full training and support will be provided for this sociable role and requires people who thrive on meeting the public and members.

A parking permit for the NMA will be applied for on your behalf.

#### **Research Assistant(s)**

To assist COFEPOW's Head of Research in providing information to, and liaising with, members and other organisations.

You will need access to a computer, enjoy searching for information, plus there may be a need to visit Kew National Archives occasionally. It's a rewarding role, and you can spend as much or as little time on it as you can fit in.

If you'd like to help by taking on one of these worthwhile voluntary roles at the NMA in Alrewas, please email Keith Andrews on [scubaka@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scubaka@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible. The few hours a month spent will be richly rewarding to you. Thank you.



Buy the new cloth bag, new pen, pack of notelets & VJ70 Medallion (total worth £13.50) to qualify for free VJ-Day DVD and CD (normal cost £9.90)!  
Total p&p add £3.45.  
Total cost for 6 items  
£16.95.

Items shown are not to scale.

Nick and Sylvie are also investigating the feasibility of producing new FEPOW



# Additions!



**37cm (14½") x 47cm (16") Cloth shopping bags, with the official COFEPOW logo/badge, website and charity number printed on it.**



Pen, blue with  
'COFEPOW'  
41-45  
REMEMBER'  
above www.  
cofepow.org.u  
See alongside



## LSTM's Secret Art of Survival Exhibition - 25 October start

25 October 2019 – 20 June 2020 -  
Victoria Gallery & Museum,  
Ashton Street, Liverpool L69 3DR.

Special FEPOW Descendants' Weekend  
– 16, 17, 18 November 2019.

**SATURDAY 16th** - A FREE programme of activities on FEPOW family histories - short talks, practical workshops, exhibition tours, sharing memories and stories, archive and documentary films, digital archiving of stories, artwork and artefacts. Note - this is a drop-in session.

**SUNDAY 17th** - FEPOW Remembrance Service, Liverpool Parish Church.  
Special FEPOW Evening at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BP.

Welcome presentations, and the RLPO Youth Choir's performance of Dvorak's Largo in memory of all Far-East captives.

### Feature film –

**"Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence"**  
starring David Bowie, Tom Conti  
and Ryuichi Sakamoto.

The booking line for this film at the RLPO Hall is now open - <https://www.liverpoolphil.com/whats-on/film/merry-christmas-mr-lawrence/3459>  
Tickets must be booked with RLPO, either online or by telephone: 0151 709 3789. There are no reserved seats.

**MONDAY 18** - Private guided viewings of the Secret Art of Survival exhibition - places limited, so must be pre-booked.

### IMPORTANT!

For further information and to register your interest visit [fepow.project@lstmed.ac.uk](mailto:fepow.project@lstmed.ac.uk) now, stating which events you wish to attend.

## Obituary Notices

COFEPOW is sad to inform members of the recent passing of the following members.



### Roland Hollis

Son-in-law, Martin Hickey has informed us that Roland Hollis passed away on 26 April in St Mary's Hospital Paddington, aged 98.

Roland was born in Fulham on 23 June 1920 and was educated at Latymer School. Whilst training to become an architect, he married Ada Susan Gordon in 1940. Theirs was a wartime marriage and Roland left shortly after to join the artillery as a Gunner Signaller. He was shipped to India before being transferred to Singapore in February 1942, just in time for it to fall. He suffered brutal treatment at the hands of his captors, and was seriously wounded by the US Air Force in a bombing raid. His life was saved by a fellow prisoner who was a highly skilled surgeon.

He finally returned home in the summer of 1946 after crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Mary, and was discharged and went home to his wife and now five-year old daughter Noreen. His mother had passed away in 1943.

Roland went on to a career in politics, becoming the political agent for Lord Baker, Sir George Young, and was an adviser to many in the Tory Party, including the Iron Lady herself. He retired due to ill health in 1968, fifty one years ago, which is a testament as to how tough a man he was to survive so long.

He leaves behind one surviving daughter Marianne, two sons-in-law, six grandchildren and ten great grandchildren, plus many friends, all of whom will miss his sense of humour and sharp mind, both of which he retained up until his passing.

### Kenneth Pett

We are sad to report the passing of FEPOW Ken Pett of Petersfield, who has died just days before his 99th birthday. Ken died of pneumonia at Queen Alexandra Hospital. The funeral took place on 29th April at St Peters Church, Petersfield.

Ken was one of a family of nine, and he and three brothers were sent to an orphanage when his father died. When war broke out, he joined the army, and in August 1941, his anti-tank regiment sailed from Scotland to the Far East. He believed that of the 523 POWs interred in Kinkaseki in 1942, he was one of just 113 still alive in 1945.

Ken became a Post Office engineer, married Peggy, and had three children. Aged 89, he returned to Singapore and Formosa, a trip he made three times again in his Nineties.

### Rosemary Winifred Sammons

Donald Sammons has told us of the passing of his mother, Rosemary, who was born on 4th July, 1929, in Plaistow, and died on 15th April, 2019 at Willow Grange Residential Care Home, Olton, Solihull, following a chest virus. She was the widow of Alan Bernard Sammons of the RAF, who died on the 5th January, 2013.

She leaves three sons; Donald born in 1950, Brian born in 1952 and Mark born in 1960, all married with adult children and grandchildren.

COFEPOW has also been notified of the deaths of members,  
**Alan Taylor and Sally Pursell.**

On behalf of the trustees and all members of COFEPOW, may we express our deepest condolences to the families of all

COFEPOW Quarterly is available either as a printed 16 page A4 magazine, or as a PDF, emailed to your online address. Published in January, April, July and October, it is edited and assembled by Chris Wills and Steve Riley. We are keen to receive all material from members, to contribute towards the newsletter. Please send all photographs, illustrations, articles, notices and event information to either:  
[chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chriswills@blueyonder.co.uk) or  
[sriley.beeches@btinternet.com](mailto:sriley.beeches@btinternet.com) Thank you.



# New members



The 'New Members' section incorporates information on each member's FEPOW relative and is taken from their application form. If known, the FEPOW's regiment or service area, where he/she was held and whether he/she returned home is given.

Member	Address	Tel no.	Email	Relation
<b>NUTTALL</b> Stuart	85, Highways Avenue, Euxton, Chorley, Lancs PR7 6QD.	07785 752739	stuart.cani@virgin.net	Father - Raymond Nuttall
Raymond Nuttall served with the RAF and was taken prisoner in Singapore. He was aboard the Haruku Maru. He returned.				
<b>JAFFE</b> Samuel	Flat 21, Wexner Building, 2 Strype St., London E1 7LF.	07535 297968	skjaffe@gmail.com	Grandfather - Nathan Jaffe
Nathan (Napthali) Jaffe served aboard HMS Exeter and spent 3 years in Macassar/Maros camps on Celebes/Sulawesi. He returned.				
<b>ARCHER-WARING</b> Nikki	Details supplied.	Details supplied. Details supplied.		Great Grandfather - Samuel Yeomans Mother - Anita Harrison Aunt - Hilda Harrison
Samuel Yeomans, a Planter and Journalist, was held in Changi Gaol no. 1979 and then Sime Rd. Nikki's mother Anita and Anita's sisters, and Hilda (Anita's mother) were evacuated from Singapore on the Nestor. They all returned. Hilda's husband, Cedric Clarkson, died aboard Rakuyo Maru.				
<b>KELLY</b> Catherine	Flat 7, 203 Hornsey Road, London N7 6RA.	07423 079224	chkelly92@gmail.com	Grandfather - John Kelly
John Kelly, of the Royal Corps of Signals, was reported as a POW on 15.5.42, and was held in Malai 3 Camp until liberation in 1945. He returned.				
<b>BELL</b> David	9, Cavendish Avenue, Harrogate, N. Yorks HG2 8HX.	07976 901039	daveebell@yahoo.com	Father - James Bell
James Bell served with the 3rd North Yorkshire Artillery AA, and was held in Malai Camp. He returned.				
<b>SMITH</b> Diane	5, Boundary Park, Seaton, Devon EX12 2UN.	01297 21973	di.s.smith@btinternet.com	Father - Charles Bolton
Charles William Bolton, a Driver/Gunner with the Royal Artillery, was captured in Singapore, held in Changi and forced to work as a driver. Returned.				
<b>CLEVELEY</b> Erika Jayne	Details supplied.	Details supplied. Details supplied.		Father - Norman Cleveley
Major Norman Cyril Bruce Cleveley, of the Royal Signals, was captured on 15.2.42 aboard SS Mata Hari, and held in Malai 2 Camp. He returned.				
<b>HUTCHINSON</b> Ian	29, Greenwood Drive, Alveston, Nr. Bristol BS35 3RH.	07795 515841	ijhutchinson@hotmail.com	Uncle - Frederick Lewis
Frederick Thomas Lewis, of 137 Field Reg't, Royal Artillery, was captured at the fall of Singapore and released in 1945. He returned.				
<b>ALDRIDGE</b> Julie Frances	21, Marlborough Road, Chiswick, London W4 4EU.	0208 9950884	jfaldridge@btinternet.com	Father - John White
John Wilbye Benson White, 88th Lancs Reg't, RA., captured at Singapore and held in Towner Rd Camp, Thai/Burma Railway, then Changi. Returned.				
<b>KELLY</b> Norma	Peacock House, Wainstalls, Halifax HX2 7TB.	01422 882252	normakelly409@btinternet.com	Father - Norman Overton
Norman Edward Overton, of the Leicestershire Reg't., was captured at the fall of Singapore and held there till liberation in 1945. He returned.				
<b>BATTEN</b> Nadia	41,Clarinda Street, Parkes NSW, Australia 2870.	+61423 392135	nadiab1082@gmail.com	Great Uncle - Thomas Scott
Thomas Scott, of the Australian Army, was held in Changi. He died on 12th September 1944 aboard the Rokuyo Maru and is buried at sea.				
<b>McNALLY</b> Martin	1, Webb Ellis Road, Rugby CV22 7AU.	07891 581259	martinmcnally_1999@yahoo.com	No relation
<b>HALLIDAY</b> Jo	Primrose Hill, Wood Lane, Blue Anchor, Minehead, Devon TA24 6LA.	01643 821200	joey.halliday@gmail.com	Father - Raymond Salsbury
Raymond Frederick Salsbury, of the Sherwood Foresters, was captured at the fall of Singapore, and was held in Thailand/4D Camp. He returned.				
<b>GRAHAM</b> Florence	41, Dougans Road, Kilkeel, County Down, Belfast BT34 4HN.	07718 997140	grahamfloreance@hotmail.com	Father - William Wilson
William Wilson served with the Royal Naval Yard Police and was captured and imprisoned in Hong Kong. He returned.				
<b>KITT</b> Jane	118, Waltham Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 1PT.	07957 494560	kittfamily@btinternet.com	Father's Cousin - Horace Sugden
Horace Alfred Sugden of the RAF Volunteer Reserve, was captured on 8.3.42 and held in Camp Haroekoe and Camp Ambon. He died on 10.10.1944.				
<b>GARDNER</b> Lewis	69, Horsley Avenue, Ryton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE40 4XQ.	07753 210979	lewiscgardner300@gmail.com	No relation
<b>FARRELLY</b> Simon Anthony	15, Seven Sands, Longton, Preston PR4 5BQ.	07907 715029	simon.farrelly@btinternet.com	Cousin - William Dixon
William Dixon, of the RAF Volunteer Reserve, was held in Ambon, Java, in either Liang or Haroekoe and died aboard the Suez Maru on 29.11.1943.				

March Continued

April

# More New members



<b>CHAPMAN</b> Diana	24, Pembrey Close, Norwich NR3 3QB.	01603 431361	johndchapman1967@gmail.com	Father - R.A. McDonald	April Continued
R.A. McDonald served with the 6th Royal Norfolk Regiment and was held in Changi Gaol and worked on the Thai/Burma Railway. He returned.					
<b>CHANDLER</b> Sue	8, Walnut Tree Close, Bassingbourn, Royston SG8 5PB.	07910 221891	susan554@btinternet.com	5th cousin - Peter John Harman	
Peter Harman was with the 5th Searchlight Reg't, RA., and died during the fall of Singapore on 13.2.1942. He is buried at Kranji War Cemetery.					
<b>SIMPSON</b> Adam	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Grandfather - John George Simpson	
John Simpson was with the 5th Searchlight Reg't, RA., and was captured in 1942. He was held in Saigon until 1945. He returned.					May
<b>NICKLIN</b> Andrew	Corner Cottage, Bassingfield, Nottingham NG12 2LG	07884 076288	musnick@aol.com	Father and Grandfather - Charles & Frederick Nicklin	
Dad Charles Frederick Nicklin & Grandad Frederick Charles Nicklin were with the Sherwood Foresters, and captured in Singapore. Both returned.					
<b>TUCK</b> John	15, Longmead, Lynton, Devon EX35 6DQ.	07774 659223	johnteamtuck@gmail.com	Father - Harold Elliot Tuck	
Harold Tuck, of the RAOC, was held in Changi, Sumatra Railway, Tjimahi Cycle Camp (as Lauren Van Der Post's batman) and Pandang. He returned.					
<b>WHITE</b> Diane	8, Orchard Close, East Budleigh, Devon EX9 7ES.	07884 076288	ppwdmw@btinternet.com	Grandfather - John Arthur Swithenbank	
John Swithenbank, Army 18th Division, was held in Changi Gaol, The Muang, Tha Sao and Nakon Pathom. He returned.					
<b>CLAMP</b> Nigel	9, Windsor Way, Broughton Astley, Leics LE9 6TN.	01455 289312	n.clamp147@btinternet.com	Grandfather - Thomas William Wadsworth	
Thomas Wadsworth was with 242 Squadron, RAF, and was held in Sumatra and Singosari drome. He returned.					
<b>HARVEY</b> Stewart	15, Brixworth Close, Binley, Coventry CV3 2GZ.	02476 453159	p.harvey57@btinternet.com	Father - John Harvey	
John Harvey was with the Singapore Searchlight Reg't, RA., and was held captive for three and a half years. He returned.					June
<b>ROWE</b> Carol	94, Cornwall Rd., Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8UZ.	07824 809147	rowec68@gmail.com	Father - Albert Earnest Green	
Albert Green, of the 6th HAA, RA., was captured in Java in March '42, taken on Singapore Maru to work in the Motoyama coal mine in Japan. Returned.					
<b>PALMER</b> Gerald Mark	1, Howard Close, Northway, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8QT.	01684 276377	geraldmarkpalmer@yahoo.co.uk	Grandfather - Donovan Clarke	
Donovan Clarke was with the 135th Field Regiment and worked on the Thai/Burma railway, Nong Pladuk, Nakom Pathom & Ubon. He returned.					
<b>KELLY</b> Martin	6, Loretta Avenue, Gelorup, Western Australia 6230.	0420 698731	martyrate.kelly@gmail.com	Uncle - James Allen	
James Allen, service no. 3525996, of the Manchester Regiment, was held at Malai Camp 4.4623 after the fall of Singapore. He returned.					
<b>HOLDEN</b> Stephen	60, Ounsdale Road, Wombourne, Wolverhampton WV5 8BH.	07894 980700	steveholden53@hotmail.com	Uncle - Reginald Thomas Holden	
Reginald Holden served with the Royal Norfolks. Whilst working as a POW on the Thai/Burma railway, he died on 6th March 1943, aged 24, during an attempted escape. He is buried at the Chungkai Military Cemetery, Thailand.					
<b>EDWARDS</b> Major (Ret'd) Robert Neal	6, Elliot Street, New Tredegar, Gwent NP24 6DP.	01443 553367	edwardst@gmx.co.uk	No relation	
<b>CRESSWELL</b> Matt	76, Kendale Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 3QD.	07872 381131	mattcresswell7@aol.com	Grandfather - Leonard Cresswell	
Leonard Cresswell served with the Royal Engineers and was held in Hakodate. He returned.					
<b>SMALE</b> Steven David	Chase Cottage, Watery Lane, Iwerne Minster, Dorset DT11 8NB.	01747 811590	sdsmales@uwclub.net	Friend - Christian Spurling	
Christian Spurling was with the 1st Battalion Straits Settlement Volunteer Force. Captivity unknown, but may have returned to the UK, late '44/early '45.					
<b>WIDDERS</b> Robert	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	No relation	
<b>CUBITT</b> Allan Donald	Willow Cottage, The Common, East Walton, Kings Lynn PE32 1PX.	07921 287601	alcubitt@aol.com	Father - Donald Charles Cubitt	
Donald Cubitt was with RAF Airforce E, and was captured in Java, held in Haruku, Ambon and liberated in Java. He returned.					
<b>THOMSON</b> Paul Scott	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	No relation	
<b>GOSS</b> Leighton Paul	167, Broadmead, Dunvant, Swansea, Wales SA2 7RB.	07584 320955	leighton.goss@mail.com	Father - Mervyn Goss	
Mervyn Goss was captured in Singapore having travelled aboard converted troop carrier, Empress of Asia. He returned.					
<b>SMITH</b> Harry	9, Heathwood Drive, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2HW.	01270 879954	harrysmith.h.k@gmail.com	Father - Harry Smith	
<b>SMITH</b> Cynthia	As above.	As above.	As above.	Father-in-law - Harry Smith	
Sergeant Harry Smith, service no. 4799017, was with the Lincolnshire Regiment, in the Hong Kong Dock Police. Harry, his wife, Harry Junior and his brother were in Hong Kong. Harry's father was taken as a POW to Osaka, Japan, and died of Beri Beri in Kobe POW hospital on 9th August 1944. He is buried in Yokohama War Cemetery, British Section BD12.					



# More New members



<b>BYAM</b> Dennis <b>BYAM</b> Deborah	Details supplied. As above.	Details supplied. As above.	Details supplied. As above.	Uncle - Edward Hargreaves Stott Uncle-in-law - Edward Hargreaves Stott
Edward Stott served with the 137 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. He died on 30th May 1943 and is buried at Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery.				
<b>MURRAY</b> Frances	34, Ochilmount, Bannockburn, Stirling, Stirlingshire FK7 8PH.	07738 469099	francesathome@btinternet.com	Great Uncle - Andrew Arthur
Andrew Arthur, of the Royal Engineers, was captured at the fall of Singapore, was held in Kuching (then Batu Lintang) and died on 19th July 1945. He is buried at Labuan Commonwealth War Cemetery.				
<b>CREIGHTON</b> Jennifer	21, Deepwell Bank, Sheffield S20 4SN.	07930 877647	janncreighton@aol.co.uk	Father - George Edward Parnell
George Parnell served with the 5th Royal Norfolks and was captured on 15.2.42. He returned.				
<b>CARNEY-MARSH</b> Liz	Rustic Villa, Central Avenue, Walesby, Notts NG22 9NR.	07703 334437	musicaliz@aol.com	Grandfather - Robert Philip Marsh
Robert Marsh, of the 35th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, 144 Battery, was held in Malai 1, Thailand. He returned.				
<b>JUKES</b> Sqn Ldr Bernard	Tyle, Golden Grove, Camarthen SA32 8NE.	01558 668494	bajukes@tiscali.co.uk	Father - Bernard Jukes
Bernard Jukes served with the RAF, No. 41 ASP. Captured in Java, he was taken on the Singapore Maru and held as a POW in Ohama, Japan. He returned.				
<b>COLLINS</b> Charlotte	38, Brize Avenue, Kingsway, Quedgley, Gloucs GL2 2EE.	07753 673063	charlottec1972@hotmail.co.uk	Father - Geoffrey Noel Lake
Bombardier Geoffrey Lake of 137 Field Regiment, RA., was held on the Thai/Burma railway, then taken to Ubon. Liberated 2.9.45 and returned.				
<b>DOUGLAS</b> Melvyn	23, Trinity Walk, Stowupland, Stowmarket IP14 4AS.	01449 674004	melvyn_douglas@hotmail.com	Stepfather - Leslie Wade
Leslie Wade, of the 88th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was captured at the fall of Singapore and held on the Thai/Burma railway. He returned.				
<b>GUY</b> Stuart	20, Corwen Road, Penyffordd, Nr. Chester, Flintshire CH4 0HL.	07933 795275	stuart.guy@btinternet.com	Father - Robert Guy
Robert Guy of the RAF, 153 M.U., was captured at Tasikmalaya, Java, in March '42 and held in several camps, latterly Haruku, building airfields. Near the end of the war, he was moved to Jandion Pagar POW camp, Singapore, until liberation. He returned.				
<b>SWEET</b> Lynn Elizabeth	Holly Mount, Lower Gabwell, Stokeinteignhead, Devon TQ12 4QR.	01626 872305	lyn.bob.sweet@gmail.com	Father - Kenneth A.C. Sayer-Poll
Kenneth Sayer-Poll served with the RAF, no. 624669, and was held from 1942 to 1945 in Hakodate, Japan. He returned.				
<b>FARRELL</b> Helen	38, Edmund Rice Parade, Watsonia North VIC 3087, Australia.	+61448 270755	hh_farr@yahoo.com	Uncle - Benjamin Smith
Benjamin Smith was with the 2nd Battalion, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and was held in various POW camps. He returned.				
<b>ROBERTS</b> Peter	127, Raglan Street, Mosman, NSW 2088, Australia.	+61412 443273	peterobe@bigpond.net.au	Father - Arthur Fayle Roberts
Arthur Roberts was thought to have served with 605 Squadron and was sent from Java, via Singapore, to Fukuoka-06D Tanoura, then to Fukuoka-25B on 30.6.45. Shipped home via Canada on HMS Glory, arriving 12.10.45.				
<b>WHITTAKER</b> Ian	29, Westhoughton Road, Adlington, Lancs PR7 4EU.	01257 480063	ianwhitt@hotmail.com	Father - Wilfred Whittaker
Wilfred Whittaker served with the Royal Army Service Corps and was held as a POW in the Far-East. He returned.				
<b>WAINWRIGHT</b> Jeffrey Percy	Flat 3, Didsbury Lodge Hall, 827, Wilmslow Rd., Manchester M20 2SN.	07776 235804	jeffrey.wainwright@btinternet.com	Uncle - Percy Whiston
Percy Whiston served with the RAF and was captured on 8.3.42. Details of captivity are unknown but he died on 30.10.44 and is remembered at the Kranji Memorial in Singapore.				
<b>BAXTER</b> Lewis	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Details supplied.	Father - Lewis Thomas Baxter
L/Cpl Lewis Baxter, no. 3187929, of the 2nd Batt'n, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, was captured in Malaya/Broga on 19.3.42, held in Pudu Prison, Thailand and Changi till 13.10.42, then in Ban Pong-Chungkai till 1.11.42 and finally to Osaka and Omi Camp, Japan, till September '45. He returned.				
<b>RICHARD UPTON</b> has notified us of an address change: it is now 17, Holmside Road, London SW12 8RJ.				
<b>RAY WITHNALL</b> has changed his email address to: ray.withnall@icloud.com				

June Continued

## Donations

On behalf of COFEPOW, thank you so much for your generosity. Every penny goes towards the maintenance of the FEPOW Memorial Building and Gardens at the National Memorial Arboretum and other memorials around the country.

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**The FEPOW Memorial Building Archives at the NMA are open to visitors by arrangement. If you would like access to the material held there, you must be accompanied by a COFEPOW officer. If you would like to visit, on a Sunday preferably, please arrange with Keith Andrews, Trustee and Head of Research, on 01530 450621. Thank you.**

**Area Coordinators.** Please note: the list of Area Co-ordinators below has been modified to represent regions more consistently. Where areas were once shown as towns or cities, they are now listed by county. Hopefully, this will facilitate access to a local group for members, without increasing significantly the work of individual Co-ordinators. The trustees are also anxious to recruit Co-ordinator volunteers for overseas, and for regions in the UK not covered below, particularly in Beds, Bucks, Herts, West Mids, Staffs, Warwicks, Wilts, West Hants and East Somerset, where we enjoy existing groups which no longer have a Co-ordinator. If you have a Co-ordinator near you, they would welcome you making contact, with a view to meeting and sharing knowledge and memories about your FEPOWs.

Area	Name	Email
1. Dorset	Ann Whiteside	slaterlilian@outlook.com
2. Chichester	Diane Vear	dianevear@yahoo.co.uk
3. Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, N. Durham	John Rutherford	Joruth27@gmail.com
4. Devon and Cornwall	David and Val Warner	warner.membury@gmail.com
5. Essex	Nick Bullen-Bell	bullenbell@btinternet.com
6. Greater Manchester, north Wales and east Cheshire	Robert McGechan*	bobmcgechan@yahoo.co.uk
7. Kent	Brian Faulkner	faulkner2021@btinternet.com
8. Leicestershire	Shirley Barnes	shirleyb60@virginmedia.com
9. Lincolnshire	Hazel Taylor	hazel.taylor@yahoo.co.uk
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11. Northamptonshire	David Brede	davidbrede@yahoo.com
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18. Yorkshire	David and Jill Everett	dandjeeverett@gmail.com
19. USA (West coast)	Sharon Cusamano	shashandjoey@cox.net



## Help and information

While researching personal information, members below have accumulated data which they are happy to pass on and share with others. They are as follows:

**Agnes Dougan:** 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. email: [agnes.dougan@live.com](mailto:agnes.dougan@live.com)

**Jean Roberts:** 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Saigon Party.

**Steve Mockridge:** Sandakan, Borneo.

**Keith Andrews:** Singapore Coast Regiments and A.A. Artillery and Thailand. email: [scubaka@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:scubaka@yahoo.co.uk)

**Amanda Johnson:** Haruku/Ambon and Moluccas (Spice Islands).

email: [amanda@dcodemon.co.uk](mailto:amanda@dcodemon.co.uk)

**Colin Docketty:** Rabaul and Ballale Island.

**Frank Clark:** Saigon.

email: [paghamfrank@talktalk.net](mailto:paghamfrank@talktalk.net)

**Thailand-Burma Railway Centre:**

All things related to the Thai-Burma railway.

email: [admin@tbrconline.com](mailto:admin@tbrconline.com)

Address: Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, Kanchanaburi, Thailand: [www.tbrconline.com](http://www.tbrconline.com)

**Derek Lawson:** Deaths in captivity.

email: [lawsonderek@hotmail.com](mailto:lawsonderek@hotmail.com)

**Michael Hurst MBE:** Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

email: [society@powtaiwan.org](mailto:society@powtaiwan.org).

Web: [www.powtaiwan.org](http://www.powtaiwan.org)

**David Tett:** The subject of 'mails'.

Also: [www.fepowmail.com](http://www.fepowmail.com) may be useful.

**Welfare Grants:** Grants are available from the FEPOWs' Central Welfare Fund for all FEPOWs, wives and widows. It covers hospital stays, carers, care homes, sheltered accommodation, etc. For further information contact

**Margaret Martin** of the Java FEPOW Club, email: [enquiries@thejavafepowclub42.org](mailto:enquiries@thejavafepowclub42.org)

or **Pauline Simpson** of NFFWRA, email: [pauline761@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline761@btinternet.com)