



HAPPY EASTER TO ALL MVG MEMBERS

With Spring just around the corner, our plans for the MVG Garden Plot at the National Memorial Arboretum are beginning to take shape. It will give us a place we can call our own, where we can achieve one of our aims which is "to commemorate the Volunteers." As well as this, we have approached the directors of the Changi Museum in Singapore, seeking permission to put some information about the Malayan Volunteer Forces in the Museum, and present a memorial plaque.

As always with a Group as diverse as the MVG, there is sad news to report about the death of Ian Mitchell, a much valued member, but also good news to record about our oldest member, Kathleen Reeve (widow of Lt. E.W. Reeve) who will be 100 in May.

New members continue to join the MVG from all parts of the world, and we now have over 100 members. Several new members have come through word of mouth from existing members, but also from our excellent website. Please continue to pass on news of the MVG to other British Malaysians and their families, so that our efforts to "gain recognition" for the Volunteers will start to gain momentum.

We still have a long way to go to achieve another of our aims, which is "to raise historical awareness of the Volunteers in this country." Someone recently made the remark, when the newsletter was mentioned, "What on earth do you find to write about?" Well, thanks to you all for making the newsletter so easy to write, with the wealth of information which you send in. This information has opened many avenues, and reunited several families and acquaintances.

THE GARDEN PLOT IN THE NMA.

Following the report in the January edition of "Apa Khabar" about the Garden Plot, we received no requests **not** to proceed with its development, and on 3rd February, SVC Landscaping was given the contract to landscape the plot. Unfortunately, the exceptionally wet winter has meant that the firm has been unable to proceed beyond marking out the plot, at the time of writing, due to the waterlogged ground.

On 22nd March, Jonathan Moffatt and Rosemary Fell visited the Arboretum to check on progress, and to deliver the trees and bamboo. On that day, the plot had only been marked out, but the Landscaper, who was on site, promised that work would start as soon as the site was dry enough. Both the Grounds Manager, Paul Kennedy, and the Works Manager, Barry Jones, know the problem and have said that they will make sure that the work is be done as soon as possible.

Despite a very good response to our plea for funds in January, **WE ARE STILL £1000 SHORT OF OUR TARGET OF £3,829.** We are indebted to those members who unfailingly give so freely and willingly, but we would urge those who have **not donated** to the Garden Plot to help, if at all possible. Efforts have been made to secure funding from various other sources, but without success. Our endeavours to commemorate the Volunteers must, therefore, be self-funded, and our success in doing so depends on every single MVG Member.

If you would prefer to "donate" one of the trees or bamboo, the costs are as follows:-

6 x <i>Betula albosinensis</i> cost	-- £13 each
1 x <i>Magnolia wilsonii</i> costs	-- £30
2 x <i>Fargesia simba</i> cost	-- £12.50 each
2 x <i>Fargesia bimbo</i> cost	-- £12.50 each
2 x <i>Fargesia rufa</i> cost	-- £18 each

Tags recording the names of the donors can be attached to the trees and bamboo.

We also still owe the Arboretum £2,000 for the allocation of the Plot, which is a good site for us, and adjacent to the NMBVA Plot. While payment of this fee has no time-scale, nevertheless, it would be satisfying to discharge this debt as soon as possible. Please be aware that the plot will take a few years to mature. The Birch trees are only saplings at this stage and the bamboo are still small.

Our grateful thanks also go to Maurice Humphrey of the Doncaster and South Yorkshire Branch of the NMBVA, who has so kindly and generously made and donated 2 plaques for the Garden Plot – one bearing the MVG logo and the other with the SSVF badge. As a master stonemason, Maurice designed and created the stone cross with the Malay Kris in the NMBVA Plot, which was dedicated last year.

We plan to have the Plot dedicated on V-J Day, Wednesday 15th August 2007, at 12p.m. We have been offered the services of a padre by the National Memorial Arboretum, called the Revd. Tony Wood, whose father was a FEPOW. He will also be taking the Shropshire FEPOW Service of Remembrance at 2.30p.m. in the FEPOW Plot, on that day. The Arboretum is now charging for the use of a padre at Remembrance and Dedication Events, and the fee for this event is £41.12 (£35 + VAT).

Please would you let Rosemary Fell or Jonathan Moffatt know **if you are able to come to the Dedication. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this important occasion.** Details of the event will be sent to those who wish to come. We will be joining the Shropshire FEPOWs at their Service after lunch.

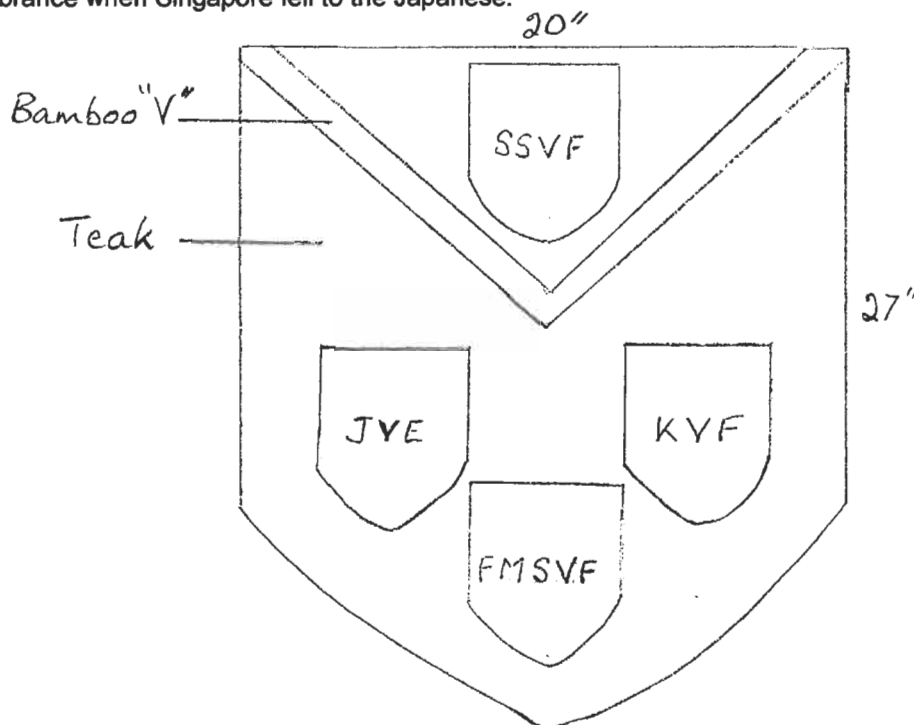
VISIT TO CHANGI MUSEUM - SINGAPORE.

Last year, Jonathan Moffatt met the Director of the Changi Museum, Mr. Jeyathurai, in London. The idea of the Malayan Volunteers Group presenting a Plaque to the Museum, to commemorate the Volunteers, was discussed and agreed in principle.

During a recent trip to Singapore, Donald and Rosemary Fell visited Changi Museum to have further discussions about the size and type of plaque which would be acceptable. At a meeting with Simon Goh, the Manager, and his Assistant, Lydia, it was agreed that the MVG may present a plaque, bearing the various badges of the Volunteer Forces, subject to the approval of the Museum. We also asked if it would be possible to have a board in the Museum with information about the Volunteer Forces, similar to the one in the Library of the Thailand Burma Railway Centre Museum. Again this was acceptable to them, provided they were able to find the room to display such a board.

It is proposed that the plaque will be "shield-shaped", with a "V" across it made of split bamboo, and bearing the 4 badges of the SSVF, FMSVF, JVE and KVF. The plaque will be made of teak and measure 20 inches wide by 27 inches long. The cost of making the shield is estimated to be £400 including the cost of the 4 badges. Each badge will cost about £35. Offers to donate the cost of the SSVF and the KVF badges have already been given, but if anyone would like to offer to donate the cost of the FMSVF and JVE badges, we would be very grateful. If we are able to find the art work for the badges of the Kelantan Volunteer Force, the Malayan Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve and the Malayan Volunteer Air Force, we will ask if we can fix these to the wall underneath the shield.

Please let Rosemary Fell know if you have any queries about the proposed plaque, or if you are not happy with the design. Once the Museum has also accepted the design, we plan to present the shield to the Museum next year on 15th February, the Day of Remembrance when Singapore fell to the Japanese.



The Changi Museum is dedicated to:-

"All who suffered in Singapore during the dark years of World War 2."

It is most impressive and well worth a visit. The museum itself is arranged in a rectangle around the central Chapel, which is a replica of the Changi Chapel, built by the Prisoners of War. The outer walls of the Chapel are painted a brilliant white, giving a very real sense of freedom as one enters the open air, after the darkened area of the museum itself.

As one enters the museum, the story of the fall of Singapore and life during the Japanese occupation unfolds. Several of the sections have a commentary which one can listen to on the audio tapes provided, together with a small card explaining the various sections of the visual material on display. In the commentary, there are taped interviews with Brian Farrell (who wrote "The Defence and Fall of Singapore. 1940-1942"), Elizabeth Choy (Living in Fear) and our own Sheila Allan (Changi Quilts). There are murals on display and many other paintings depicting life underneath the Japanese. Altogether it is a very moving experience. At the end of the Singapore story there is a small shop, with books and other goods for sale, and a Library. On the inside wall of the last section of the museum there is an impressive display of badges of all the units involved in the Malayan Campaign. However, no-one from the Volunteer Forces had presented their badges to the museum, and the 2 badges on display, of the Malay Regiment and the SVC, had been put there by the museum itself. This omission has given the MVG a wonderful opportunity to try to redress the situation by presenting the Changi Museum with our proposed shield and badges of all the Volunteer groups.

Outside the museum, there is a pleasant, open-air coffee shop, serving a good selection of local and other food and drinks.

THE 40TH MEMORIAL SERVICE for CIVILIAN VICTIMS of the JAPANESE OCCUPATION.

On the 15th February, we attended this service which was held at the War Memorial Park on Beach Road. It was a simple yet very moving service, attended by a large gathering of people, mainly local but with several visitors and over 1200 school children. The Guest of Honour was Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts.

The Service started with the "All Clear" signal sounded by Singapore Civil Defence Force, followed by the Honour Guards taking their place around the Memorial with Buglers and Bagpipers. Prayers were said by the Inter-Religious Organisations, before the wreath-laying ceremony by:-

Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League.

Religious Organisations.

National Cadet Corps.

Schools.

The wreath-laying was accompanied by Bagpipers playing the "Lament."

At the end of the Service, all guests took 3 bows and the Buglers played the "Rouse." We waited for the Honour Guards to march off, marking the end of the ceremony.

After the Service, we met Mr. Jeyathurai, the Director of the Changi Museum, and other British and Australian visitors, including 2 Australian War Widows who attend this ceremony every year. We also met an Australian called Ian McGregor, son of Sylvia Muir, one of the Australian Nurses who survived the massacre on Banka Island because she was still swimming out at sea. She was subsequently captured and imprisoned in Sumatra as a civilian POW. Her name is mentioned in the book "White Coolies" by Betty Jeffrey. Later we met another Australian called Rhys Williams whose father was captured in China and imprisoned in Shanghai as a civilian POW.

The following is a cutting from The Straits Times, dated 16th February 2007.



PHOTO: EDWIN KOO

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

A large crowd gathered at the War Memorial in Beach Road yesterday to remember victims of the Japanese Occupation 65 years ago.

It was on Feb 15, 1942, that Singapore fell to the Japanese.

Among those present were war survivors who had lost loved ones. They lit joss sticks, burnt incense and offered silent prayers to the war dead.

Also at the event were some 1,200 students from various schools, national servicemen and religious leaders.

The simple yet powerful ceremony emphasised the importance of peace and total defence.

SINGAPORE REMEMBERS VICTIMS OF JAPANESE OCCUPATION, HOME #3

OBITUARY.

IAN HAROLD MITCHELL
1925-2007
Pte 13893 1/SSVF [Singapore]

Jonathan Moffatt writes:-

We were very sorry to hear in February of Ian's death. Ian, brother of Ron, was a founder member of the MVG. Ian was educated at St. Andrew's School, Singapore and had only been working for Fraser & Neave for a short time when hostilities commenced. He and his brothers Ron and Malcolm joined the Intelligence Section 1/SSVF. He was a prisoner of war at Changi and River valley Road, Singapore. Sent to Thailand in October 1942 he was at Ban Pong and Wampo before being evacuated to the "hospital" at Chungkai where he owed his survival to the decision of a medical officer to give him emetine. He had no doubts that this was at the expense of other patients, perhaps older or less likely to recover. Ian was later a POW at Tamuang and on the Tavoy Road, ending the war at Takli. In 1966 he wrote of his wartime experiences in "Prisoner of the Emperor" but never quite felt happy with his account, so in 2005 wrote an "unrestrained" limited edition of the book that a number of us are privileged to possess. In recent years I met Ian a number of times at the annual Parrot Society Show at Stafford – we shared a common interest in parakeets – and he was able to tell me a lot on the subject. Our condolences to Ian's wife Midge and family, and to Ron and his sister Jean.

Sandy Lincoln, who wrote the *Introduction* to the unrestrained second edition of Ian's book, says:-

"I suppose the thing I recall most was his sense of humour, we seemed to spend a lot of time on the phone rocking with laughter. He had a terrific sense of the ridiculous."

Rosemary Fell writes:-

Ian will always remain a very special person to me. Soon after the MVG was formed, Ian rang me up to say that he was quite convinced that he knew my father, Eric Reeve, while they were together in the dysentery hut in Chungkai hospital. He also related the story that, as a much younger man than my father (who was 36), he was allocated the emetine which cured his dysentery, but my father was not considered likely to survive, and therefore was not given the drug. This was a difficult story to tell anyone, but Ian told me in such a sympathetic way, I shall always be grateful to him. He was the only person I have met who probably knew my father in Thailand.

Thursday February 22 2007

The Gazette

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Tributes to a 'great man of courage'

A FORMER prisoner of war who endured the brutality of the Japanese torture camps has died.

Tributes were today paid to Ian Mitchell as family and friends gathered to say their farewells to a man described as "a true hero" of the war in the Far East.

The 82-year-old Marton man died surrounded by his family on February 1.

In 1942, aged just 17, Mr Mitchell was captured along with his brother Ron when Singapore fell to the Japanese.

They were both imprisoned at the notorious Changi Prison for almost three years.

He and his fellow prisoners of war were forced to eat "starvation" rations, which consisted of rice and bugs, while working in sweltering conditions on some of the "death-bridges" being built to assist the Japanese war machine.



A TRUE HERO

Ian was born in Bangalore and educated at St Andrews school in Singapore where his father worked as a public service officer in the British colony.

His mother Constance was evacuated from the colony when war was declared and spent the rest of the conflict in India.

But it was Ian's bravery at the hands of his brutal Japanese captors which have led to the tributes today.

The Rev Cliff Johnson, chaplain for the Blackpool Burma Star Association, said: "Ian was one of the true heroes of the war in the Far East.

"He endured so much pain and sacrifice at the hands of his captors but he never gave up the belief that he would be back with his family again.

"He was an honest and courageous man who helped so many people while he suffered in the prisoner of war camps.

"I had the pleasure of knowing Ian for a long time and he was a great man.

"I remember him telling me that when the war ended all the men in the camp cried, not through pain but through sheer joy that it was all over and they would be going back to their loved ones."

Ian returned to the UK after the war and married his beloved Mabel in London.

He joined the civil service and moved up to the Fylde shortly afterwards.

Ian worked as a senior executive officer at Premium Bonds in Marton until he retired. During his retirement he published a diary on his experiences in the Japanese camp – Prisoners of the Emperor – which was published in The Gazette in August 1995.

He is survived by Mabel, or "Midge" to her family and friends, his two sons Peter and Keith and his brother Ron.

His other brother Malcolm, died in a POW camp in Borneo during the war.

Blackpool South MP Gordon Marsden, who met Ian during his election campaign in 1997, has written a letter of condolence to his widow which will be read during the service at Lytham Crematorium today.

Last Updated: 14 February 2007

EVACUATION SHIPS.

The following information has been received about MVG members' evacuation details. If anyone else can send more details about the ships they were on, please let Jonathan Moffatt or Rosemary Fell know.

DESTINATION ENGLAND.

<u>Empress of Japan</u>	Jill Gibson; Bill Vowler; Gillian Bullivant.
<u>Duchess of Bedford</u>	Penny Dembrey; Gareth Owen; Dr.Malcolm Read.

DESTINATION AUSTRALIA.

<u>Orion</u>	Grandmother, Mother and Brother of Sandy Lincoln
<u>Aorangi</u>	Ann Catchpole; Christine Edmondson; Rosemary Fell; Kathleen Reeve; Susan Whitely.
<u>Narkunda</u>	Peter Gray; Roger Barrett
<u>Empire Star</u>	Alice Nelson (mother of Mason Nelson)

DESTINATION AUSTRALIA via CEYLON and INDIA

<u>Felix Rousse!</u>	Diana Mirkin; Jean Lips; Joan Forman.
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John Warden sent the following information:-

I noticed that you were researching evacuation ships from Singapore. I left with my mother and brother on the **WOSANG**, a small, largely cargo ship of (I believe) the Indo-China line, arriving at Calcutta around the time of the capitulation. I cannot be sure of the actual dates, but there had been continuous bombing of the harbour and we were lucky that the day we left there was no bombing. Everyone kept looking at the sky. I think the voyage, avoiding the Straits of Sumatra took about 3 weeks. I was told we were saved by the very bad weather, having passed through a convoy (presumed Japanese) in the night. The wells fore and aft were crowded with Tamils who were constantly wet through but somehow managed to cook chupattis. We travelled with a French/Swiss family, mother and 2 daughters called Mange. The father (Free French) was a prisoner in the Dutch East Indies but survived. The family stayed with us for the next 2 years in India. Most of the time we were in Wellington in the Nilgiris, not far from Ian Mitchell's family at Lovedale School. (Incidentally, I enjoyed his book most of all about the Prisoners; it deserves more success than it had.) The elder girl, Claudie Mange (now Erskine) is alive in Geneva. Also on board, were a Eurasian family – I can't recall the name (Portuguese). They were a mother and 2 boys. At least the elder was a boy, who played with me a great deal of the time. Their father was a doctor who stayed behind. We lost touch with them. I can't remember the other passengers. We were repatriated to England in 1944 on the Stratheden, in the first convoy through the Suez Canal. There was one family from Wellington (Goddard??). I wonder if there were others known? P.S. I founds this among allied shipping losses:-

Wosang (3,448 tons) – Freighter
Date of loss – February 26th 1942
Reason for loss – Sunk by gunfire from IJN ships in the Java Sea.
We were very lucky! Captain must have gone back for more?

Enid Innes-Ker wrote about her evacuation experiences:-

I left Singapore on the 1st February 1942 on the KPM cattle boat **ROCHUISSEN** bound for Batavia. This small ship had no passenger cabins at all and there must have been around 200 passengers on that ship. We had been told to bring our own bedding and food for a week, and people were putting their mattresses down anywhere on deck or on hatch tops or in the cattle stalls on the deck below. I was one of a party of about 50 staff from the Malaya Broadcasting Corporation being sent to Batavia to run a ghost station, broadcasting on Singapore's wave length, so that if Singapore was bombed off the air, there would still be some broadcasting coming through. We arrived in Batavia on the 5th February and immediately started getting a studio arranged and ourselves on air. When Singapore fell there was no point in our continuing and I was put in charge of 6 women in our party to get them to Sydney and report to Mr. Bearap, the acting manager of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. We left Batavia on the 16th February and sailed from Tjilatjap, a small port on the southern coast of Java, on the SMN ship **JAGERSFONTEIN** on the 21st February. The Javanese crew had run away and we had to wait till we got a Dutch crew from a ship just sunk by the Japanese. When we got to Sydney we learned that my boss, Mr. Reid, the Chief Executive Officer of the MBC, had arrived in Perth and was making his way to Sydney. The ABC lent us offices and we tried to find out what had happened to members of staff who had been left in Singapore and not been heard of since. We also waited to hear what the Ministry of Information wanted to do with our small broadcasting party. The answer, when it came, was that Mr. Reid should make for the BBC Offices in New York and the rest of us be paid off. If we should wish to return to England, our passages would be paid for. Accordingly, some of us sailed from Sydney towards the end of June on the New Zealand shipping company ship **RIMUTAKA** – A JOURNEY WHICH TOOK US VIA Wellington in New Zealand (where we spent a month taking on cargo and having repairs done), the Pacific, the Panama Canal, and the Atlantic. We finally arrived in Stranraer about the 21st August. It had taken 3 ships and several months to get from Singapore home to England.

MEMORIES OF MALAYA 1940-42

In August 1940 my sister and I returned to Malaya to a rubber estate, Escot, at Tanjong Malim. My other two sisters were already back in Malaya. We travelled out on "The Viceroy of India" which was full of children like us being evacuated from England to parents overseas.

We went to school at the Convent in the Cameron Highlands. Holidays were spent at Escot, an old wooden bungalow built by my father in 1911 and by 1940 surrounded by endless rubber trees. There were no English girls of our age anywhere near and very little for us to do. We walked with my father on his early morning rounds, played tennis, read detective stories and visited in the district. Every afternoon we all had a "lie off" on our beds as the heat was so intense, re-appearing at tea-time and then usually visiting the Tanjong Malim Club. The heydays of the 1920s were long over but the Club was always a meeting place for the European community. On the veranda upstairs I remember a row of long rattan chairs with holes in the arms for glasses where in the old days planters could recline in the cool of the evening and talk. The chairs were empty in 1940 and old magazines lay on the table unread.

Most evenings after dinner we sat in Escot's vast veranda room, the bedrooms leading off in all directions through half swing doors. We listened to a crackly radio (the reception was never good) read books in the dim light, dodged the insects flying in and out and, in spite of the Flit Gun constantly in use, were bitten by mosquitoes all evening. When we went to bed my father

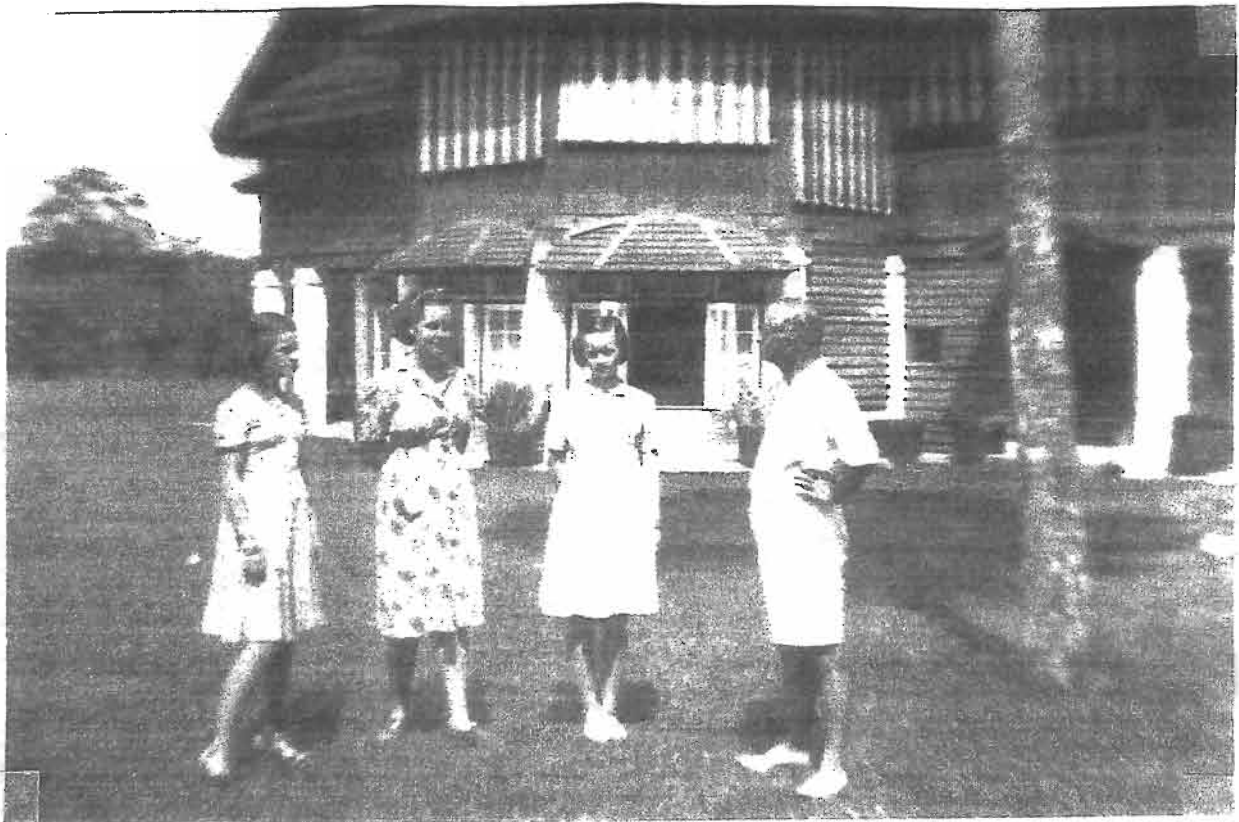
called out to someone at the back to turn off the generator and the engine slowly died down and all was quiet. Safe under my big white mosquito net, I listened to the sounds of the night outside. The jungle was never far beneath the surface in Malaya. A "special" day was driving the 52 miles into Kuala Lumpur to shop and go to the cinema, sometimes in my mother's open topped Austin Seven, for visiting locally, or with my father if he had to go into K.L. We used the Selangor Club (the Dog) as a base, leaving our things in the Ladies' section where curtained cubicles with a divan were provided for up-country people like us to rest and change in before going on into the evening. We took rickshaws to the Batu Road to buy cotton material for dresses, returning to the Club to change our library books and sit at tables in the long room overlooking the Padang. My sister and I ordered Eskimo Pies (choc ices), unavailable in Tanjong Malim in those days, signing my father's name on the Bar chit. "I don't remember having all these Eskimo Pies!" he said when he got the bill. Later we'd go to the cinema, returning home in the evening in the back of the Austin Seven. I remember the scents of the evening air, magnificent starlit skies, long dark stretches of rubber estates and jungle along the verges of the road and the smell of cooking at the stalls in the brightly lit kampongs we passed on our way. I noticed too the bends of old road as we drove on the new – and wondered if they were there when my father had arrived in 1904 – it was bicycles and horses then. After the war I heard that Japanese tanks had hidden in these bends to make surprise attacks.

In December 1941 we came home for Christmas. On the 8th we woke to the news that the Japanese had bombed Singapore and landed at Kota Bharu. Pippa and I walked down the long drive to the main road to wave to the British Army lorries filled with troops going up to the North. When they saw us they all waved back and cheered as two English girls were a rare sight then. Very soon refugees from the North began coming the other way – and the soldiers in the returning army lorries no longer waved. The Rest House was full to overflowing with women and children every night and everyone in the district offered beds. I think we had twelve one night.

We left Escot on Christmas Eve, my mother, sister and I, with suitcases and a tin trunk of silver (soon abandoned under a staircase in Singapore) and made our way down the country. We thought we'd soon be back. At 62, my father, a former Volunteer, was now in the Local Defence Corps. As the situation worsened it was decided to send Pippa and me to Australia, my mother intending to follow. When she was queuing at the shipping office, Mrs. Violet Payne, travelling with her baby, kindly offered to keep an eye on us on the ship. We knew no-one in Australia. We boarded the "Aorangī" the day after the army disembarked. There had been no time to clean the ship and there were piles of dirty cooking pans in the galleys. We sailed out of Singapore on 16th January and our old way of life had gone forever.

Susan Whitley, January 2007.

AT ESCOT IN 1940



PIPPA ELIZABETH SUSAN and MARK JOHN KENNAWAY

The FMSVF: Early Days

In 1893 the GOC Straits Settlements gave a challenge shield to be competed for by tug-of-war teams from army, navy or volunteer force units within his command. The editor of the *Selangor Journal*, a fortnightly magazine that preceded the *Malay Mail* newspaper, commented that 'this might be an inducement to work up a corps here, the nucleus of which is ready at hand in our present Rifle Association and Kuala Lumpur Fire Brigade.' Captain Lyons, an ex-regular who was acting head of the Selangor police, offered to organise such a corps 'if a sufficient number' of members was forthcoming and the state government undertook to pay for arms and ammunition. But, as it turned out, the response was insufficient, which was hardly surprising since the European population of Selangor, men of all ages, women and children, from which most of the support was expected, numbered only 191, at the recent census (1891).

What of the 'nucleus' whose existence indicated that the project was at least in the spirit of the times? In December 1891 'the more energetic of our sporting community' (the *SJ* again) had met to discuss the formation of a Selangor Rifle Association 'to practise rifle shooting at the target...and {clay} pigeon shooting.' Members of the SRA turned out on Saturday afternoons to shoot on the police rifle range. None were 'quite up to Bisley form' but some got 'quite fair' results. The SRA prospered under the leadership of Harry Syers, a legend in his lifetime, who had arrived in Singapore in 1872 as a private of the Lincolnshire Regiment and ended his career (in 1897) as the first commissioner of police of the FMS – a genial and immensely popular figure, and an excellent shot.

The Kuala Lumpur Fire Brigade was a volunteer, predominantly European, body that met the needs of a town which had been largely rebuilt in brick and tile but still had many inflammable wood and atap shanties here and there. The style was military - the chief of the brigade was the Captain, and his deputies were Lieutenants. The sight of the fire engine going to a fire, drawn by a pair of shire horses (the kind that pulled brewers' drays in England), with Captain Bellamy (of the PWD) on the box, was impressive as well as reassuring. It was expected of young European men that they would do a stint of service in the brigade, which had public drills and parades, and a social life of its own.

In 1900 in the patriotic fervour arising from the war in South Africa local committees met in Selangor and in Perak to discuss a scheme, prepared by the commandant of the Malay States Guides, for forming a volunteer force in each state. The MSG, a gendarmerie with an entirely north Indian rank and file, was the only standing military unit in the Malay states, and it was based in Perak with a detachment in Selangor. The proposals were accepted by the two state governments which then prepared to put the necessary enactments before their state councils. Meanwhile enthusiasts began to implement the plans informally. But the Perak government delayed so much that its volunteers disbanded and formed a rifle association instead (though later on they rejoined the volunteer movement). Selangor did enact the legislation and on 1st May 1902 enrolment forms were distributed for a 2 year initial enlistment in a Selangor division of the Malay States Volunteer Rifles. 57 recruits came forward.

But setbacks disrupted a promising start. The MSG had just adopted the British army's standard Lee Enfield rifles to replace its Martini Enfield rifles which had been in use for five years. These obsolete arms, no longer in good condition, were issued to the volunteers as they were deemed sufficient for drill purposes, though a discouragement to anyone who took a pride in his marksmanship.

The other problem was the appointment, as the first commandant, of Francis Caulfeild, the director of public works. Caulfeild had distant links with an Irish titled family. In his time as state engineer in Perak there had been criticism that he built bridges that sometimes fell down. But when the FMS was formed, in 1896, he got the top job in the combined PWD. He and his wife, a vivacious and socially ambitious figure, were close friends of Swettenham (governor 1901-1904), who at this period was a grass widower. On occasion Isabel Caulfeild acted as Swettenham's hostess and they exchanged valentines. Gossip may have been unkind but it suggested that feminine influence secured for the husband more than he deserved. At all events there is no obvious other explanation for his appointment as commandant (it lay in the gift of government). His ideas on training were limited to holding drills and parades, in the hot sun, that he himself rarely attended. His services to the MSVR were limited to lobbying government over such matters as the dud rifles, though it took two years to obtain replacements.

At the start volunteers who lived in Kuala Lumpur were joined by men came in from outstations to attend parades and cycled home 20 miles afterwards. But disappointed of the training that they looked for, they lost enthusiasm and by the end of 1904 the MSVR strength had dwindled to 24 and there was talk of disbandment. However Caulfeild was approaching retirement and the other officers reorganised the corps on a programme of 'monthly camps of instruction in field manoeuvres, a reduction in the number of "barrack square" drills, and a special allowance of ball ammunition for musketry practice.' A 'semi-permanent camp' was built on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. Morale and enrolment recovered and by 1907, when Caulfeild retired, strength had increased to 105, comprising four infantry sections, a 'mounted infantry' section and a machine gun section. The reports of the annual inspection by the GOC were very favourable.

The new commandant (formerly 2i/c) was Arthur Hubback, son of a Liverpool merchant and former lord mayor, who as government architect designed many of the public buildings erected in Kuala Lumpur at this period in the 'neo-Saracenic' style. He had a hand in the offices, with the clock tower, facing the Padang, and his most notable legacy is the railway station, still standing, where in the days of steam columns of vapour rose between the minarets.

Hubback's achievement in command of the volunteers was recognised in 1911 when he marched at the head of a detachment through the streets of London in the coronation procession of King George V. In 1912 the volunteers were called out to support the police in dealing with a serious riot in Kuala Lumpur. Among the overseas Chinese there had been a bitter division between those who still supported the failing imperial regime in China and the adherents of what became the Kuo Min Tang led by

Sun Yat Sen. At Chinese New Year there was always some exuberance but in February 1912 it got out of hand. KMT supporters dragged a rickshaw cooly into a nearby barbers' shop to cut off his 'pigtail', the cherished indication of an adherent of the old regime. The ensuing disturbance, known as the Tauchang (pigtail) riot, lasted some days. When the call went out to the volunteers 130 men reported at the armoury with their arms in spite of the pouring rain and were issued with live ammunition. Some had come from as far away as Carey Island in Kuala Langat and it is said one came from Kuala Kangsar! Hubback, supported by an honorary medical officer (the celebrated Dr Travers) and the vicar of St Mary's as chaplain, divided his men into two companies. One marched along Batu Road and Hubback led the other to Petaling Street in the heart of Chinatown. Although 'many rumours were afloat in town' and Chinese women and children had been assembled for safety at the mansion of the millionaire Loke Yew, this demonstration of force met no resistance. Fifty Europeans who had not enlisted in the MSVR came to the armoury to ask for arms but their request was declined.

A man who had satisfactorily completed his training was graded an 'efficient', a much esteemed reward for hard work. It is estimated that during the 1914-18 war one fifth of the European men of military age in Malaya went back to join up at home where the value of volunteer training was fully recognised. Among them was Hubback who in 1914 obtained an immediate commission in a London territorial battalion in the rank of major. He served on the western front throughout the war, rising to the command of an infantry brigade. He was wounded, six times mentioned in despatches and awarded the DSO and CBE. At the end of the war he elected to continue his career in the army, and retired in 1924 from the command of the London brigade of the territorial army. When war returned in 1939 he found a useful job as the administrator of the Hertfordshire branches of the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Association, serving – as his widow said – to the end. He died in 1948.

When war had broken out in 1914 it aggravated a crisis in the tin industry due to a sharp fall in the price of tin a few months earlier. There were 55,000 miners in Selangor and it was feared that if unemployed they would riot. A delegation from the chamber of commerce proposed to the chief secretary, who was distinctly unreceptive, an emergency programme that included mobilising the volunteers. One volunteer recalled receiving from his sergeant a postcard bidding him be prepared 'with haversack packed with spare boots, puttees, shirts, socks, breeches, shaving materials etc.' He wondered whether he would have any room left for rations. But the crisis passed and the MSG went off to strengthen the Singapore garrison, leaving the volunteers the humdrum task of guarding essential installations and so on. It was fortunate that throughout the war Edward Broadrick, who earlier in his career had commanded the SS volunteers in Singapore, was Resident of Selangor. He was thus well placed to keep a helpful contact with a force that had lost some of its best officers.

The men who had gone off to the war included some of the most dedicated and efficient soldiers among them. One who remained recalled that 'the general standard of drill, discipline and turnout... was modest in the extreme.' But, in contrast to the SS volunteers, they kept up their training programme, including musketry. The key event in peacetime had been the despatch to Singapore each year of an MSVR detachment for a

month's training among the regulars there. So it was that on 9th February 1915 4 officers and 81 men of the MSVR settled in at Normanton barracks next door to the Alexandra barracks occupied by an Indian army battalion. On 15th February after a strenuous morning's exercises the MSVR were cooling off in their camp when there was a sound of firing; they soon found that their Indian neighbours had mutinied, and so the MSVR became part of the force which a harassed British commander deployed to suppress the rising. They gave a good account of themselves; at a farewell parade the governor mentioned that one 'crack shot' among them was reported to have hit five men. Less congenial had been the task of providing a firing squad to execute mutineer leaders condemned to death by a court martial.

A more welcome consequence of wartime conditions was increased Malay participation in the corps. In a district where the number of volunteers could make up a platoon the command was often assigned to the assistant district officer. During the war Malay officers of the Malay Administrative Service, recruited from the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar ('the Malay Eton'), were appointed to fill these posts, made vacant by the European exodus to the war in Europe. In Seremban in 1916 the ADO, with responsibility for a platoon made up almost entirely of Malays from the government service, was Tunku Abdul Rahman, a member of the Negri Sembilan ruling family (not to be confused with the prime minister of the same name from Kedah). Later on this Abdul Rahman would be the first Yang di Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaya (1957-59). Down at Tampin was his close friend of college days Mahmud bin Mat – later Dato' Sir Mahmud, speaker of the parliament of independent Malaya. In his memoirs Mahmud recalls that 'I had an urge to join the volunteers.' He did so, making a return journey by train between Tampin and Seremban to attend the weekly parade. His friend took him on his motor bike down to the station to catch the evening train back to Tampin, unless the day's programme included musketry which obliged Mahmud to stay overnight. Later on Mahmud would himself command a volunteer platoon at Kuala Lipis.

As the war dragged on and the casualty lists included an increasing number of former colleagues and friends, the men who remained to do necessary jobs in Malaya, came under increasing strain. Overwork and extended tours of duty in the tropics were probably only part of the pressure. This brings us to the sad story of J W C Ellis, a junior official in the Labour Department. In mid 1918 Ellis became involved in a bitter quarrel with a planter over labour questions on his estate and there was an official enquiry. Invited to put his case the overwrought Ellis became confused, and went home utterly humiliated (quite unnecessarily). He brooded through the night and at dawn put on his volunteer uniform, took his service pistol, cycled up to the hills and shot himself. It is probable that he was too confused to know why he did it, but the uniform cannot be ignored. Putting it on eased the pain.

At last the war ended and men like Broadrick could take an overdue retirement. To make up numbers there was extensive recruitment to all occupations in Malaya of ex-servicemen. It was the beginning of another era with a large admixture of new men.

John Gullick. MCS.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

Lt.Col. Miles Thomson writes:-

I am not sure whether you will feel that I am submerging in "anorak" type detail, but having served in the Royal Artillery for 34 years, I have a tiny comment to add to the interesting FMSV Light Battery article. The 3.7 inch howitzer was not really "then the British Army's most modern artillery piece." It was a specialized weapon developed mainly for warfare in mountainous terrain where long range is not so important as the ability to get to difficult firing positions, and then to fire at targets over intervening high ground i.e. on the North West Frontier of India. The gun was first introduced into service in 1915. It was known officially as a "mountain howitzer" and could be broken into eight loads for mule, or even man pack transportation. It could fire a 20 pound shell out to a range of 5,900 yds. The howitzer was widely used in India between the two wars, and did sterling service in Burma, and elsewhere during WW2. It was not declared obsolete until 1960 although it was little seen after 1945.

Charles Dickens writes:-

I am registered blind but can read with the aid of a video magnifier which I also use for writing. On a 10 inch screen I can read a couple of words at a time which makes reading somewhat laborious. But I try to read "Apa Khabar" seeking for names I recognize. I have not found any that I know personally; this is largely because the majority are those formerly in the SSVF with which I had no contact during my years in Malaya and not even when I was in Singapore in Jan. & Feb. 1942 (when I was attached to 3rd Corps)

I had hoped to contact one or two of my fellow escapees when I contacted you last year, when I was engaged in writing my memoirs. I have not heard from any of them, or from their families. However, this is not so surprising since all were about my age and I am 95 in April.

On the very day the Japs invaded I had traveled from K.L. to Jasin (Malacca) to take up an appointment as an assistant on Diamond Jubilee Estate. In the middle of dinner on my first night I was telephoned and ordered to return to K.L. but by the time I got back there the next day, my company had moved out. I never saw anything of them during the Malayan Campaign, nor did I meet any former Malayan Volunteers in India (1942-1945). There was none in the group of administrators who formed the 1st re-occupiers of Malaya after the atom bombs were dropped.

Sir Roger Moon writes:-

I start on a slight note of discord i.e. CHIN PENG. Well, he should have gone to the gallows years ago. An extremely evil person and the sooner forgotten the better. 12 years of Emergency, many of which were spent under curfew; the death of at least 5 friends and the death of many more ex-Volunteers who had luckily survived (myself 3 weeks in hospital); the economy of the country ruined etc. – all due to Chin Peng. I wrote to the Times complaining but received no answer.

The name Rowland Lyne rings a bell. Quite a lot of what he wrote I disagree with! I, different from him, actually laboured at K2 (not K3) for some weeks during the speedo and this is a period one does not easily forget.

Now to the good bits. I guess that when you started "Apa Khabar" you did not know what you were letting yourself in for.

[Ed: How true!!] Nor, do I imagine, the pleasure it has brought to so many. After reading them, I always want to take up my pen and write to so many. I have just heard from Marilyn Hywel-Jones, and I want to write to Mary Harris as well.

Perhaps I should note that my father-in-law, an Australian Colonel A. Maxwell DSO (all 6' 8" of him) was in Changi Prison.

Mason Nelson writes:-

Ref: "The Times" obit on John Davis, felt at the time the photo poor of himself and Chin Peng. By chance have just turned up a much better one – facing P.49 in Dennis Holman's "The Green Torture" – his account of (and sub-titled "The Ordeal of Robert Chrystal") rubber planter in Force 136 and in the Malayan mainland jungle throughout the 1942-45 occupation.

Recently was in contact in Perth with his son and daughter.

In an e-mail to Jonathan Moffatt, Mason reports:-

Further to Sir Roger Moon's mention of Charles Letts, although slowed down physically by health problems in recent years, Charles is otherwise in good spirits and continuing to lead a very active and successful business life in Singapore. Am in regular contact with him.

Marilyn Hywel-Jones writes:-

We did look for you at the Remembrance Day Parade – and listened for a comment. Also we were looking out for Fred Ryall – but he did not march – or go in a wheelchair. Also he was not at the Field of Remembrance at the FEPOW Plot. It was the first time, as far as I know, that he was not there. The day (Thursday before Remembrance Day) is really quite special.

There are a few old ex-prisoners there, but fewer every year. I missed Frances being there with me last time. It would be good to have more of us "children" there. Maybe you could put it in the newsletter "Apa Khabar?" You need to be at Westminster Abbey by 10 o'clock on the Thursday morning. There is a security check to go through. It is very cold on that grassy area next to Westminster Abbey, so wrap up warm and wear warm boots or shoes for the damp grass. You can buy the British Legion wood crosses inside. You need a waterproof felt tip pen to be able to write on them. The FEPOW Plot is

usually on the long path facing the Minster, and usually next to the Burma Star Plot. I take money to pay for your cross or crosses. You stand on the grass behind the plot and chat, and there is a fanfare and then after some prayers the Queen walks around to see all the plots.

Thank you so much for all the information about Sir Roger Moon. I have written to him and sent a copy of a photograph of us all on Hillside Estate in early 1953. In the photo he is with his wife and my parents, my brother, sister and myself, the office staff and all the house guards and police who guarded us. We are all in lovely garlands. I can remember the day. It is interesting to read his comments on the list of names. I was able to set him right. My mother was very interested to hear that I had been in touch with him

Re the Remembrance Day and Field of Remembrance, I may not be there next time – November 2007. I have been invited to go out to Aden to join the British Legion, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and others to take part in the ceremonies to commemorate the 40 years since the British left Aden. I have done a great deal of research on the cemeteries there and particularly the big Commonwealth War Graves and Civilian one. But even if I am not at Westminster, it would be lovely if I knew some of us were at the FEPOW Plot.

One of these days, I must write up some of my parents' experiences of Malaya before, during and after the war. My father's memories are on tape in the Imperial War Museum, and both he and my mother have written everything down for us. Quite exceptional, I know.

Audrey Holmes McCormick writes:-

Does anyone know of relatives of **William and Alice Birtwhistle**? Alice was a sister in the Singapore General Hospital pre-war. Her husband William was the Director of Fisheries Straits Settlements prior to the Fall, when he was well written-up in history books for his efforts to assist in those last days. He stayed out, along with botanist **John Corner** and a handful of others, during most of the internment period. Like **John Corner**, he was cleared of collaboration charges for his work in saving much scientific and other empire heritage for Singapore. **John Corner's** son was **William Birtwhistle's** godson, and seeks contact for any relatives of either. William was apparently Irish, and died in Cork in March 1953, buried at Creagh Burial Ground. Alice returned to England, where she died a few years later. But they had no children. Does anyone know of Alice in her last retirement? Or of any relations of **William Birtwhistle**?

Please write to Audrey McCormick, 30, Kirk Brae, Kincardine on Forth, Alloa FK10 4 PX.

Jonathan Moffatt gives the following information about the **Birtwhistles**:-

BIRTWISTLE W. [William] b. 1890 Blackburn, Lancashire. Educated Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn and Liverpool University. WW1 Service 1914-19. Assistant Naturalist, University of Liverpool 1919-25. Fisheries Economist SS and FMS 1925. Wife Alice evacuated to U.K. Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Dept. SS & FMS 1929-42 not interned. He died 4.3.53 [61] Skibbereen, Co. Cork. Alice died 10.1.68 Bristol.

Penny Dembrey writes:-

It was lovely to see the Group Photograph of the Malacca Volunteer Corps, together with most of the names given too. Dickie Frampton was my godfather and Bill Ross a great friend who managed a rubber estate near Malacca and which I visited several times after the war. The Duchess of Kent (Marina) "tapped" a tree there and I remember seeing a little plaque on it, the only year we went out for our school summer holiday in 1953. Both Bill Ross and Dickie Frampton with my father (Dan Todman) were all lucky enough to survive the war, and the Ross's returned to Malacca. (A Dunlop Estate, I am sure). I also saw Bill Ross and family in 1959 with my parents in 1959 when we went to stay in Malacca (from K.L. where my father was then working).

It was nice to know the actual date of arrival at Liverpool of the Duchess of Bedford (4th April, 42). My mother said the Captain had promised to get us home for Easter and we arrived on Good Friday, she said. Have met no other "children" who stayed on the "Duchess" all the way to Liverpool, most seem to have disembarked in South Africa which I know my mother was told to do as they said we would be torpedoed in the Atlantic and anyway we would be "taking the food out of the peoples' mouths in England!!" However, she was determined to get home to her own mother who she hadn't seen since 1935 when she sailed to Malaya as a young bride! Also, how interesting that only the Empress of Japan (which Gill Gibson was on) and Duchess of Bedford were the two liners to make it back to England, and most of the others went on to Australia.

Terry de Souza phoned to say:-

I was delighted to see my cousin, Captain H.M. de Souza (Herman), in the Group Photograph of Officers, at the Malacca Volunteer Corps HQ in June 1938. He was a school teacher in Malacca when he joined the Volunteers.

New member Jean Lips writes:-

What a lot of interesting things to read. The SSVF news is of particular interest. I have been getting to "know" **Joan Forman** (another new member) in Fremantle. So much so, that we have exchanged images of each other. Thanks for the introduction. I am feeling quite chuffed to be a member of MVG. Ron (Mitchell) is still in hospital having his knee re-fixed. He is progressing well, but I feel sure he must be in great pain when he has to bend the knee.

The plan for the MVG Plot is really attractive, with the magnolia, birches and bamboo. Naturally the bamboo was a must! It'll be lovely from the onset, but a few more years down the road it'll be even better.

Bill Vowler writes:-

I have a big bee in my bonnet! I was reading in the US papers last week something which infuriated me. They were reporting on the fact that the residents of Tokyo, during the fire bombing of the city, were suing the Jap government for lack of attention to the survivors and lack of immediate attention to the damage after the war. What bloody cheek! If they get away with this I think the British, Australian and USA governments should take serious offence for the appalling treatment received (by POWs) under their time of imprisonment. My case rests on the fact that, sure, give them compensation, BUT after they have recognized their compensation to the POWs. It's too late now for their families to receive this after all the time and suffering they went through. My approach is to campaign for a memorial to be set up in Britain, Australia and the USA to commemorate this period of harsh and cruel imprisonment suffered by the POWs. This to be financed by the Jap Government PRIOR to any attempt of this Tokyo bunch receiving any attention. I would suggest One Million Pounds be asked for each memorial. Is this something you or the association would be interested in furthering somehow?? It's off my chest now – maybe temporarily!

Ian MacKenzie writes:-

My Uncle **Harold Edwin MacKenzie** had a long and distinguished career in Malaya. He lived and worked as a rubber planter in Johore from 1928 to 1955. Between 1930 -1940 he was a Volunteer in the Johore Volunteer Engineers, rising to the rank of Captain. From 1940-1942 he was a member of the Johore Defence Corps (South Johore Group Commander). He was interned as a civilian POW in Changi Jail from 1942-1945. While in Changi Jail, he produced a detailed drawing of the Jail in September 1943, and, later, a drawing of Sime Road Internment Camp in June 1945. The drawing of the Jail was subsequently published in the Illustrated London News.

Post-war, in 1951, he was given the title of "The Honourable Dato" by the Sultan of Johore – the highest Malayan honour which could be bestowed. His wife was afforded the title of "The Honourable Datin MacKenzie." She was equally well known for her work in the Girl Guide Movement, becoming Johore State Commissioner of Girl Guides. At that time they were the only two Europeans to hold this title in Malaya. Uncle Harold passed away in 1964, but his wife, Margaret, is still alive, and now aged 97.

An interesting little anecdote from a columnist called "Billy Budd" in a local newspaper on 30th October 1955, sums up the high esteem in which he was held by his workforce on the Rubber Estates he managed. "Billy Budd" wrote:-
"Last Sunday, sitting and sipping in Johore Bahru's splendid new Rest House, I saw a knight and his lady who have been in Malaya for a long time and are about to depart. Dato and Datin MacKenzie, expatriates, are "withdrawing gracefully." They have *lived* here gracefully, giving to the land and its peoples as well as taking. If I might defy the wrath of our frenetic collection of Malayanisers, race-baiters and just plain nuts, I would say that these two Europeans have done more for Malaya than all the heavens-rending politicians of the country rolled into one solid lump (a formidable thought, you will admit). I wonder what Appalasamy is thinking just now. Appalasamy and his wife are labourers on Dato MacKenzie's estate. Appalasamy followed the Dato from estate to estate for 26 years. He first met the Dato in Kedah, and when the Dato was transferred to Kerling, in Selangor, Appalasamy turned up there. Years later, when the Dato went to Nam Heng Estate, Johore, Appalasamy trailed him at his own expense. Finally, when the Dato took over Ulu Tiram, the faithful Appalasamy followed him there as well."

PHOTO GALLERY

THE OFFICERS and PERMANENT STAFF, KEDAH VOLUNTEER FORCE -- 1938

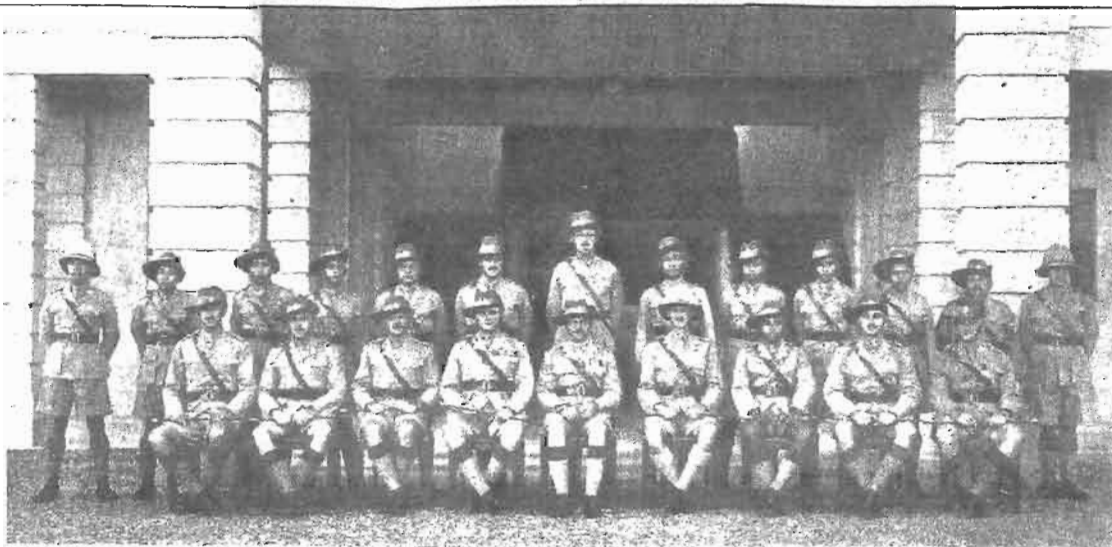
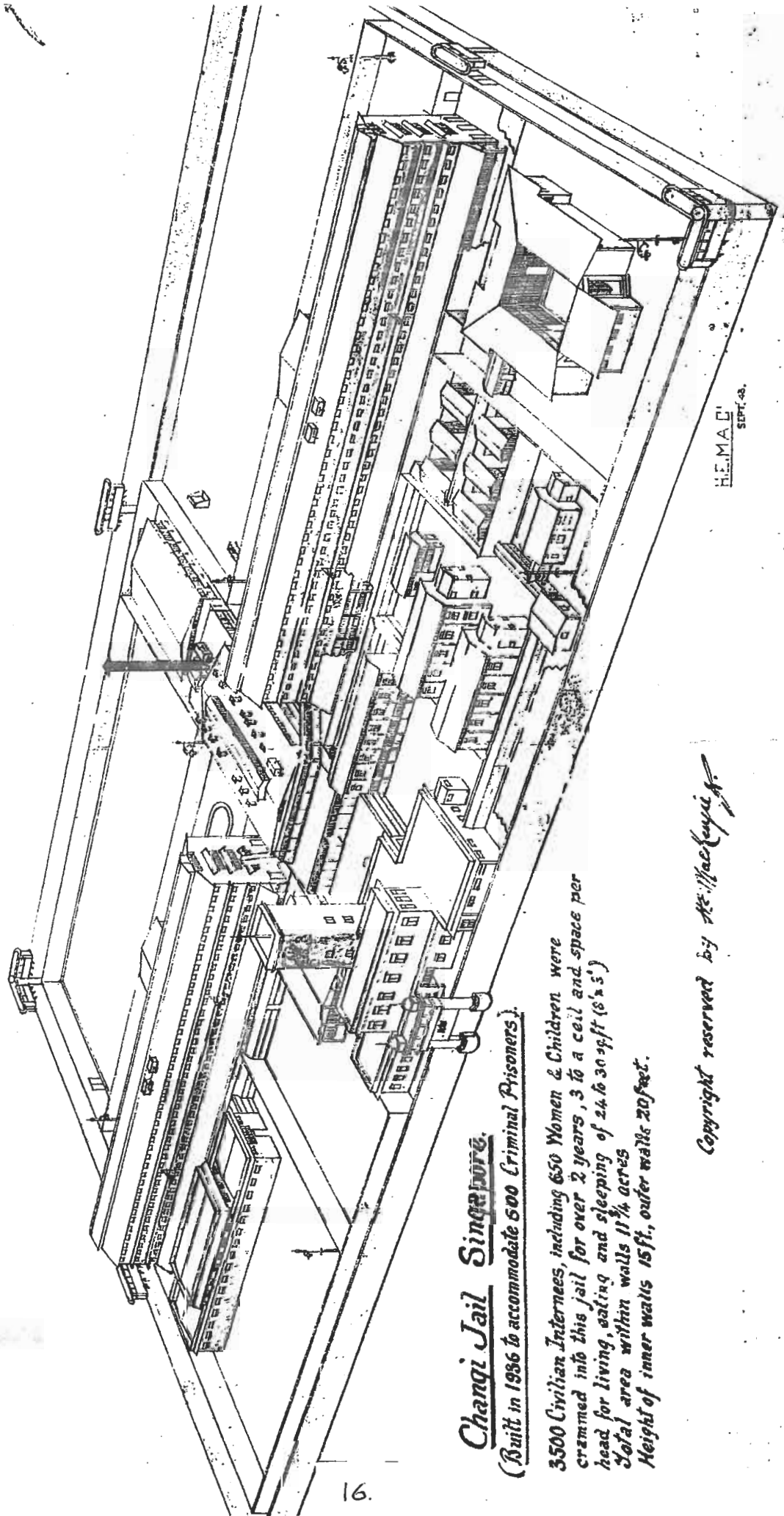


Photo courtesy of Roger Barrett. Lt. Col Malcolm Barrett, 2nd I/C of the KVF – front row, 4th from the right.

2nd Copy



Changi Jail Singapore.

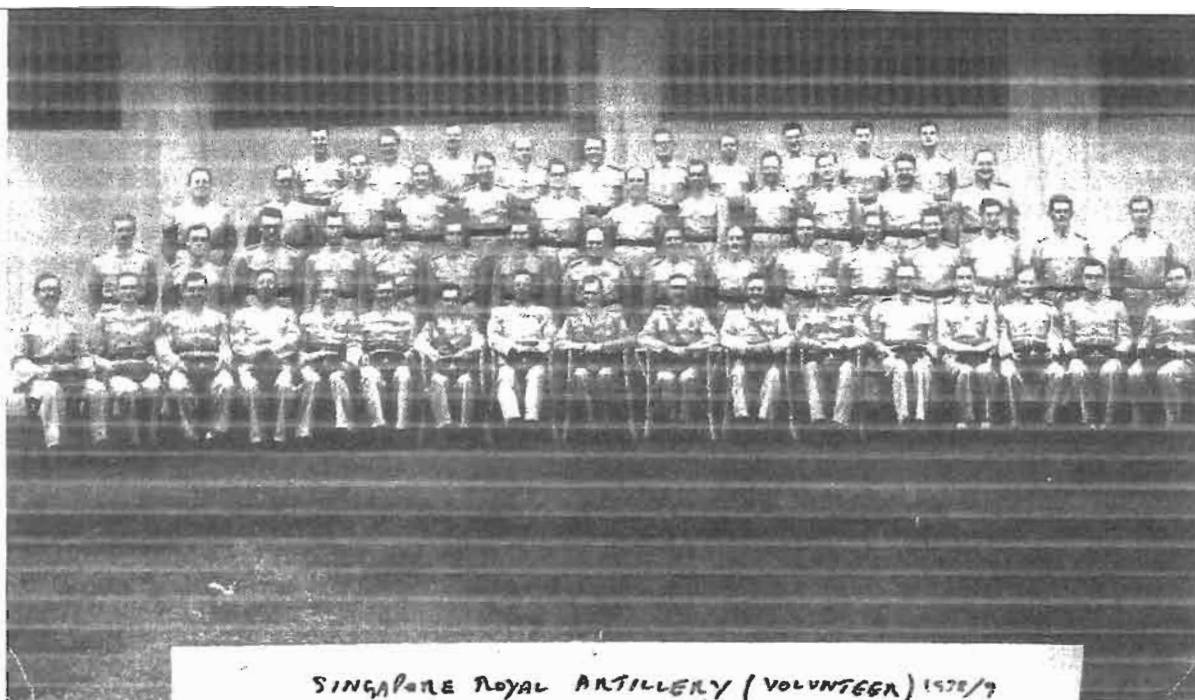
(Built in 1936 to accommodate 500 Criminal Prisoners.)

3500 Civilian Internees, including 650 Women & Children were crammed into this jail for over 2 years, 3 to a cell and space per head for living, eating and sleeping of 24 to 30 sqft (8' x 5'). Total area within walls 1 1/4 acres. Height of inner walls 15ft., outer walls 20feet.

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H.E. MACKENZIE
SEPT. 48.

SINGAPORE ROYAL ARTILLERY [VOLUNTEER] – THE BATTERY 1938-1939



Front Row:-?; J.K.Gale; H.J.C.K.Toms; F.C.J.Thomson;?;?; C.W.A.Sennett; D.Wilson; H.J.Rae; R.B.Henley;?; J.P.Learney;?; Johnston; D.K.Evans;

P.D.Cork; W.R.Dobbs.

2nd Row:- D.C.Davey; H.Hunter;?; J.Dredge;?; Laird;?; D.M.R.McGubbin;?;?; Thorne;?;?;?; W.H.McNeill; J.Richardson.

3rd Row:- W.S.Hoseason;?; R.S.Sykes;?; O.E.B.Crowe;?;?; D.M.Walker, E.D.Smith; W.H.Chambers;?; Crawford.

Back Row:- ?;?; McTier; N.S.Alexander; C.H.W.Goult; ?;?; C.Woodcock; G.S.Keyzar.

Photo courtesy of Mary Harris. Names from Tom Evans of SRA[V]. Any other names recognized, please inform.

THE MALACCA CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 1939



Photo courtesy of Rhona Goodfellow who says:-

I am sitting on my Amah's knee, front far left, with my sister Alison next to me. Can you identify any other children?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Researching FEPOW History for Beginners.

Saturday, 5th May 2007

Details of this one-day seminar were sent out in October last year. There are still a few places left. If you would like to attend, please contact **Meg Parkes** on mmparkes@btinternet.com or **Jonathan Moffatt** on JonathanMoffatt@aol.com

Annual Remembrance Service – Wymondham, Norfolk.

Sunday, 13th May 2007

The Annual Service of Remembrance will take place at the FEPOW Memorial Church in Wymondham, Norfolk. You will need to book to be certain of a seat in the Church, which is quite small. To book and for more details, log on to the website on www.fepow-memorial.org.uk This is a very special service, accompanied by wreath laying.

Dedication of the MVG Garden Plot – NMA, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

Wednesday, 15th August 2007

Please try to attend this **VERY** important day, when our Garden Plot will be dedicated. Details will be sent out later to those **WHO HAVE INFORMED ROSEMARY FELL or JONATHAN MOFFATT** that they wish to attend. We have to give numbers to the Arboretum.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Malaysia's Independence in the NMBVA Plot.

September 2007 – date to be announced.

Presentation of the MVG Shield in Changi Museum – Singapore.

Friday, 15th February 2008

We hope some of you will be able to join us in Singapore for this presentation, and attend the Annual Memorial Service at the Civilian War Memorial in Singapore.

MVG ANNUAL LUNCH and REUNION

The London Lunch has been arranged for Saturday, 29th September 2007. It will take place at the same Chinese Restaurant as last year – The Super Star, 17, Lisle St. London WC2H 7BE. There will again be a Guest Speaker.

Time: 12 noon – 3p.m.

Cost: £15 per person – cheques made payable to:- **Mrs. S.M.W. Lincoln**

Please let Sandy know if you would like to come by **THE END OF JULY** and include your cheque with your booking. If you require a vegetarian meal, please let Sandy know at the time of booking. There will be a bar where drinks may be purchased, but wine will not be included with the meal.

We are giving you plenty of notice this year, so that Sandy does not have to make endless phone calls to find out if members wish to attend!! The onus will be on **YOU** to let Sandy know.

MVG SUBSCRIPTIONS APRIL 2007- APRIL 2008

Subscriptions for the year 2007-08 are now due. The charge is again £10 and cheques should be made payable to:-

Mrs. R. Fell Volunteers Bench Fund

Receipts will not be sent for subscriptions, unless requested, but donations will be acknowledged. As we are still short of funds to pay for the Garden Plot, may I ask you to add a little extra to your sub. this year, if you have not yet paid. It would be much appreciated.

Important Notice to all Overseas Members.

This is a reminder that the newsletters are being posted on the website, where they can be read and printed using the password "**taiping.**" If you would prefer to receive a printed copy in the usual way, please let me know. You will be notified by e-mail when the newsletters are available on the website.

CONTACTS.

JONATHAN MOFFATT. For research on British Malaysians/Volunteer Forces/Argyll & Royal Marines
49, Coombe Drive, Binley Woods, Coventry. CV3 2QU. E-mail:- JonathanMoffatt@aol.com Tel: 02476 545013

SANDY LINCOLN. For the MVG Lunch and contacts with other Volunteer Children.

19, Burke Street, Harrogate, Yorkshire. HG1 4NR. E-mail:- anlu@globalnet.co.uk Tel: 01423 500351

ROSEMARY FELL. Editor of "Apa Khabar"/Membership Subscriptions and Donations.

Millbrook House, Axminster, Devon. EX13 5EE. E-mail:- dinraf-millbrook@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 01297 33045

MALAYAN VOLUNTEERS GROUP
NEW MEMBERS JANUARY 2007 – APRIL 2007

CONNOR, George.

35, Glenbrook Drive, Mosgiel 9024, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tel: +64 3 489 3995 E-mail: seoirse@connor.net.nz

Son of Sherwood **CONNOR** SSVF. Died Tanbaya, September 1943.

CRABBE, William G. (Bill).

29, Abbotsbury Heights, Bicknor Close, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7 UH.

Tel: 01227 456631 E-mail: anne@crabbe53.fsnet.co.uk

Son of CSM Charles Henry **CRABBE** 1/SSVF. POW died 4th January 1943 Wampo

Self: Born Singapore 1941. Evacuated by boat with mother, sister and brother, via South Africa to Scotland.

FORMAN, Joan.

5/52, Alexandra Road, East Fremantle 6158, Western Australia.

Tel: +61 8 9339 1782 E-mail: forjoan4@bigpond.com

My father was a civilian employee of the MOD – an engineer at the Naval Base. He was evacuated before Japanese occupation.

Mother and I were evacuated 8/2/42 on the Felix Roussel

My step-father was on the Burma Railway.

My great grandfather was interned in Changi and Sime Road.

My uncles and aunts were sent to Bahau (Eurasians)

Another uncle was in the Civil Defence Force (Eurasian)

I am researching family history. We are 5th generation Eurasian.

GLENCROSS, Gordon M.

3, Werambie Street, Woolwich, NSW2001, Australia.

Tel: 2 981 72212

2nd Lt. 2/SSVF

GOODFELLOW, Rhona E.B.

Cotton of Gardyne, Arbroath DD11 3RX, Angus.

Tel: 01241 828045 E-mail: igoodFellow@ossian4.co.uk

Daughter of Aden **McLEOD**, planting adviser Sime Darby & Co. Ltd. Malacca. 4/SSVF transferred to 1/SSVF. POW Singapore to Thailand with "D" Battalion. Died Lumsum, Wampo 13/11/42.

JACKSON, ASHLEY.

13/15, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, Huddersfield HD7 1JR, Yorkshire.

Tel: 01484 686460

Father in SSVF

LIPS, Jean.

Weltevreden, Millbourne Road, Cheddar, Somerset BS27 3NP.

Tel: 01934 742812 E-mail: Genielle5@apl.com

Sister of Malcolm, Ronald and Ian **MITCHELL** SSVF

TANNER, Susan.

7, London Road, Odiham, Hants RG29 1AJ.

Tel: 01256 703258 E-mail:

I am one of HFG **MALET**'s 4 daughters. My father was a rubber planter who died on the "RAILWAY." He was in the FMSVF, and wrote a diary which is in the IWM. He was known as Harry.