

APA KHABAR

Patron: Her Grace The Duchess of Norfolk

www.malayanvolunteersgroup.org.uk

28TH EDITION
OCTOBER 2011



CAPTAIN DAVID NELSON'S
LOST RECORDS FOUND

MUNTOK MEMORIALS

REMEMBERING
THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS

On an ordinary day in May this year, in the National Archives at Kew, Far East researcher and MVG member, **Keith Andrews**, made the kind of discovery which most historians would die for. Amongst the files of new documents which had recently been released, he came across a number of nominal rolls including those of the **JVE** and **FMSVF**. These turned out to be the lists which **Captain David Nelson** of the **SSVF** compiled while a POW in Changi, and kept at the **BRE** [Bureau of Records and Enquiry]. Called "the Great Migration" by **Capt. Nelson**, the records contain the names of all POWs in Changi and chart their movements across S.E. Asia. **Rod Beattie** describes their find as "the holy grail" of FEPOW history, and researcher **Michael Pether** calls them a "treasure trove of information". Without doubt, **Keith's** find is of epic importance. The MVG congratulates **Keith** on identifying and realizing the significance of the missing documents. A full report by **Jonathan Moffatt** and **Keith Andrews** on the discovery can be found on Ps. 3 & 4. The Times newspaper and Dominion Post in New Zealand also carried articles about the find, and these can be read on their websites shown on P.12. The MVG is very grateful to **Judy Balcombe** for her research into her grandfather's grave in Muntok. This has resulted in the plan to present the people of Muntok with plaques to remember those who suffered and died during their incarceration in POW camps, both military and civilian. Interest in this investigation has been shown by **BACSA** [British Association of Cemeteries South Asia] who helped **Anthony Pratt** (who travelled with **Judy**) in his quest to locate and visit his father's grave in Muntok. The MVG has established good contacts with BACSA, with an exchange of newsletters, and other relevant information which we can share. Details of **Judy's** plans can be found on P.5. A new application has been sent to the **BGPA** [Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority] which manages King's Park in Perth, Western Australia, for permission to present the Park with a Memorial, not only to commemorate the Australian Volunteers, but also to thank the peoples of WA for taking in and caring for the many thousands of evacuees from Singapore in 1941-42. We have not yet received a reply from the Chairman of the Board of Management. We thank **Merilyn Hywel-Jones** for visiting the Park and meeting the RSL representative for Perth who showed her around the Park. Her first-hand account of the best way to approach the **BGPA** was very helpful. **Bill Adamson** (President of the NMBVAA), **Elizabeth Bunney** (Australian Secretary) and **Veteran George Hess'e** may be able to help in getting this long overdue memorial established. We also thank **Liz Moggie** for sending a newspaper cutting from K.L. reporting on **Warriors Day** in Malaysia. This is held on 31st July every year to pay tribute to Malaysia's fallen heroes. Ceremonies are held throughout the country and include parades and wreath laying. For the second year, the ceremony was held in **Dataran Merdeka**, instead of at the **National Monument**. It was attended by the King, Prime Minister and other members of the government. The King, **Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin**, gave an address in which he said that the nation was grateful for the sacrifices made by their fallen heroes. We have received an outline of events which are planned in **Singapore** for February 2012. The details have not yet been finalized, but for all those members who have made arrangements to travel to Singapore to remember this important occasion there will be a series of events to attend. The MVG is planning to arrange an informal lunch gathering for members at the Bark Café next to the Changi Museum. It will be a good opportunity to see the Plaque presented to the Museum in September 2008 by the MVG, and the Museum itself which is very well worth a visit. If anyone else would like a ticket to attend the Service at Westminster Abbey and Cross Planting Ceremony on Thursday 10th November, please let **Merilyn Hywel-Jones** know. The special 8" cross which **Merilyn** has designed and ordered, will be planted by her in the **FEPOW Plot** at the ceremony. We hope that as many of you as possible will visit the Field of Remembrance to see the Cross. We are very grateful to **Merilyn** for her time and expertise in organizing this for the MVG. A reminder that the unveiling of the Repatriation Memorial Plaque is taking place on 15th October 2011 on Liverpool Pier Head. Some MVG members are attending this special event. The second edition of **Anak Apa Khabar** can now be read on the website. We thank **Elizabeth Bunney** and **George Hess'e** for keeping our Australian members in touch, and for encouraging Australians with Volunteer connections to join the Group. Thanks to **Pauline Berkhout**, we are pleased to have made contact with **Drs. Pim ten Hoorn** who runs the Netherlands-Malaysia Association. Its members have worked in Malaya or Malaysia or have connections there, and the Association has a close relationship with **Dennis de Witt**, historian and founder of the Malaysia Dutch Descendants Project (MDDP). Finally, we congratulate **Veteran Volunteer John Mackie** on celebrating his 101st birthday earlier in September. We understand from **Michael Pether** that he is very well and enjoying life.

V-J DAY SERVICE - MONDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2011. Report by Rosemary Fell

On a beautiful summer's day, a good crowd of 37 members, friends and visitors to the Arboretum, assembled at noon in the MVG Memorial Garden for the annual Service of Remembrance, on the 66th anniversary of V-J Day, Monday, 15th August. Members had come from all parts of the U.K. and from overseas to attend the Service.

When all were present, the service began with Jonathan's opening remarks, followed by the wreath laying and 2 minutes silence. This year the wreath was laid by Veteran Volunteer Ron Mitchell and his son Brian - a poignant moment for everyone present. Ron, with his wife Bea, has attended every V-J Day Service arranged by the MVG, and it was very fitting that Brian was with him this year so that they could carry out the wreath laying together.

An arrangement of "Abide with Me" by Lisa Ho, wife of Malaysian Secretary Andrew Hwang followed. It was intended that the congregation would listen to a recording of the hymn played

on a CD, and sung by the Chagford Choir from Devon, but everyone spontaneously started to sing with the Choir. It was a moving moment. The MVG is grateful to Lisa for dedicating this arrangement to the Volunteers of both World Wars.

Jonathan introduced the various readings and readers which followed the hymn, and we thank them all for taking part and for making the Service a truly family affair.

After the Service we made our way back to the Visitor Centre where an amazing array of picnic food was produced from a variety of cold boxes and bags. We sat down at 3 long tables to enjoy a veritable feast in glorious sunshine, amid much laughter and conversation - members and visitors joining together to partake. New acquaintances were made and friendships forged - a wonderful finale to a lovely day.

The Memorial Garden is beginning to take shape, with the trees and shrubs growing well. We are grateful to everyone who has helped to keep the Garden looking good, especially to Anthony & June Jackson and Simon & Lynda Moss who tidied the plot and repaired the benches earlier in the summer. Unfortunately, moles are still a problem which must be dealt with.

[Ed: A fuller report and copy of the Service Sheet can be viewed on the website.]



MERDEKA DAY SERVICE – a report by George Hess'e

It rained all week before the Service and besides **Bill*** and me I do not know how many more "*bomohs*" were called on to keep the rain away. But as the 31st August dawned, the sun came through and it turned out to be a beautiful day.

Elizabeth turned up at my place complete with 4 plates of food (Kebabs) as **Bill** had asked us to contribute towards the light meal (finger food) which was to be served after the Service. **Hyacinth** took a great big dish of "*Nasi Goreng*". She also had the wreath which she had made to order. These were loaded into my car and off we went.

We arrived at the Cenotaph where the Service was to be held at 10.30 a.m. **Elizabeth**, **Hyacinth** and I made our way to the Flame of Remembrance around which the wreaths were to be laid. When the call for the wreath bearers was made, **Elizabeth** went off, and we had a very clear view of the Flame as the Service was to be conducted around it. We met up with MVG members **Geoff & Sheila Wheeler**, **Lorna Raeburn**, **George Fearby** and some other friends. The Selangor Philharmonic Society Choir entertained the crowd until 11.15 a.m. The wreath bearers then formed up and made their way towards the Memorial Flame to arranged seats, ready to be summoned by the Master of Ceremonies who called them out in order one by one to lay their wreaths.

For the first time in Australia, the Malayan Volunteers laid a wreath, and I, without shame, shed a tear for those that I knew who had passed away, as I watched **Elizabeth** walk towards the Flame and lay our wreath. I just could not control my emotions – I choked up and the tears came to my eyes. All told, there must have been 50 or more wreaths, but to me only one mattered.

The Service was conducted by Revd. Barry May OAM., JP – the former Police Chaplain who conducted our MVG Memorial Service on 15th August 2010. The usual lowering of the Flags and Bugle calls were most impressive, and this was followed by the usual speeches and prayers. After the Service, all who attended were invited to a light lunch, where a wonderful spread of Asian food and a BBQ was offered in the Wildflower Pavilion.

It was a beautiful Service and ***Bill Adamson** did a wonderful job in organizing it.

[Ed: Full reports of Bill's & Malaysia's Consul General's speeches can be found in "Australia Asia Business Weekly" (a Chinese-English Bilingual Newspaper) dated 1/9/11. E-mail: editor@ausasiabusinessweekly.com]

THE DISCOVERY OF CAPTAIN NELSON'S MISSING PAPERS

Many of you **will have seen** the Times article of 30th July 2011 'The Captain, the trunk & the secret Singapore papers'. This can be viewed online at:

<http://www.researchingfepowhistory.org.uk/pdfs/TimesArticle30July2011.pdf>

The New Zealand media has also taken an interest in the story.

In this article **Jonathan Moffatt** outlines the story of the Nelson papers and their discovery; and **Keith Andrews** summarizes the papers found, & those elsewhere and still missing, with particular reference to **Malayan Volunteer** related material.

In the early hours of 14th September 1945, New Zealander **Captain David Nelson** of the **Singapore Volunteer Corps** and his deputy **Flight Lieutenant Stanley Pratt**, newly released from Changi POW camp, boarded a flying boat at Seletar Airbase, Singapore, with two trunks. The trunks contained the bulk of the records, with duplicates, of the **Changi Bureau of Records & Enquiry [BRE]**, a small team led by **Nelson** that, under the guise of a camp information office, clandestinely and meticulously recorded the movements of over 100,000 Allied POWs of the Japanese who passed through Changi 1942 – 45, as well as processing over 2 million letters to POWs and internees.

In Kandy, Ceylon, **Captain Nelson**, a Singapore Improvement Trust land surveyor in civilian life and a World War 1 veteran of the 1st NZEF at Gallipoli and later the Royal Flying Corps, handed the 14cwt. of records over to **Major-General Maclean** of Mountbatten's Headquarters, Southeast Asia Command. At this point they disappeared from view for over 65 years. Researchers and historians were only able to locate dispersed fragments of these papers at the Imperial War Museum and National Archives. Other documents such as POW index cards and Liberation Questionnaires were released but all enquiries to locate the missing **Nelson** papers drew a blank.

In May 2011, **Keith Andrews**, the son of a FEPOW and a weekend researcher at Kew, was made aware of documents newly released by the Ministry of Defence. **Keith** has spent many years getting to know his way around FEPOW documents at Kew in his spare time. He has assisted literally hundreds of FEPOW relatives and veterans to obtain information at no cost to themselves. He has been active in FEPOW related organizations including the Researching FEPOW History Conference, COFEPOW, the Malayan Volunteers Group and the Java 42 Club.

Keith immediately sensed that he was looking at the missing **Nelson** papers; this being further confirmed with reference to a surviving list of contents of the papers which were published in **David Nelson's** posthumously published, but not widely known, memoirs "The Story of Changi".

Keith says, "This large collection of over 2,000 documents is not only the **Nelson Papers**, there are many others as well and I have spent the past two and a half months assessing what there is just to make sure. The **Nelson Papers**, however, are not complete but a vast amount is there. I hope that these documents will help those researching the Prisoners of War in the Far East to add to the information they may already have, and perhaps bring their long search to a close. In my own study of my father they have in a small but important way".

Mason Nelson, an MVG member in Taupo, New Zealand, recalled his father's dismay at the disappearance of the **Nelson** papers and spoke of his own pleasure at **Keith's** find. He remembered his father as 'a very quiet self-effacing and rather shy man with a dry sense of humour, much liked by his local staff'. He was an exceptional mathematician with photographic memory – traits somehow recognized by someone in high places – hence his posting in 1941 to **Lt. General Percival's Battle HQ** to operate one of the two high cipher machines in the Battlebox at Fort Canning. The only mention he ever made of this work being the message he handled – back to **Winston Churchill** from Australian Prime Minister **Curtin** in 1941 – "Not even your well known rhetoric would persuade me to divert more Australian Troops to Singapore!"

On the significance of this find, **Roderick Suddaby**, recently retired Keeper of Documents at the Imperial War Museum, says:

"After several decades, during which it has been widely believed that the massive collection of documents about Far Eastern prisoner of war so assiduously compiled and assembled by the staff of the Bureau of Records and Enquiry in Changi camp had been lost to posterity, all those academics and family historians with an interest in this aspect of the Second World War will rejoice at the news that the great majority of these very important records have, in fact, survived and can now be assessed at The National Archives".

Keith writes:

It was a normal Saturday at Kew in May – nothing special. I was still going about my usual research on a number of projects, searching through files in the hope of something new and interesting.

It was a chance comment by a professional researcher (one of several I have got to know over the years) that changed that Saturday and the months that were to follow.

"The new releases look interesting, don't they?" was the comment, to which my reply was, "What new releases?" It would appear that around 2,500 files covering all theatres of war had been released into the public domain on 22nd April, so he gave me the file reference on the chance there may be something of interest to do with the Far East. We tend to help each other out that way.

The first search results came up with a list of nominal rolls, and I knew these were the rolls of the units captured at the Fall of Singapore, and I started to hope they may be the long missing **Nelson Papers**, so I ordered two copies there and then. They eventually arrived at 4.30 p.m., time enough for me to look at them and realize that by the appearance of the documents and the paper used, they may be the **Nelson Papers**. From then and for the next 2 month period I was at Kew every Saturday, so much so that those whom I have got to know knew I had hit something of great interest.

The fact that some of these files bore the names and signatures of BRE Staff and the use of target paper for the pages and old Changi Prison correspondence cards bearing pre-war dates helped to authenticate the files as being part of the now no longer missing **David Nelson BRE Papers**.

The release came from the Ministry of Defence Casualty Branch (L), and included within this large release were the **Nelson Papers**. All except 7 of the Nominal Rolls are there, sadly the two that would be of great interest to the MVG are those of the SSVF (missing since 1945) and the Kedah Volunteer Force. I will be searching the files to confirm these rolls are, in fact, missing.

However, the FMSVF and the Johore Volunteer Rolls are there, and the FMSVF Roll lists **Captain David Nelson** as having been transferred to them in February 1942.

As I am sure the reader can appreciate, it is going to be a long task going through these files to index what is actually there, be they the Nelson files or Casualty Branch files, and list what is in each file.

However, to give an insight as to what has been uncovered so far, the following may be of interest to the Group and all from the **Nelson BRE papers**:

WO361/2127 – FMSVF nominal roll (includes 31 New Zealanders)

WO361/2128 – Johore Volunteer Engineers

WO361/2025 – Allied POWs transferred overland 1942 – F Force

These are the nominal rolls for each train:

WO361/2233 – H Force

WO361/2202 – K & L Force Nominal Rolls

WO361/2193 – Civilian Internment Camp, Sime Road, nominal roll.

This is, in fact, a complete list of internees from 17/2/42 to 14/8/45

There are many more files that will be of interest, both ex-BRE and ex-Casualty Branch, and I am still in the process of going through a very long list and indexing what is there, as is another MVG member.

Once complete, the information will be made available.

POSTSCRIPT

On 13th September, Jonathan and Keith met Mason Nelson at the National Archives, Kew, to view and discuss some of the Changi BRE material. Roderick Suddaby, David Tett and Yvonne Wurtzburg also participated. Jonathan photographed the FMSVF, Malay Regiment and JVE rosters, and images are available to interested MVG members.

[Ed: Websites for the Times article and the New Zealand newspaper article are given later in the newsletter]

WHO WAS CAPTAIN DAVID NELSON? – Information taken from the New Zealand Dominion Post.

He was born in Invercargill in 1890. At the outbreak of WW1 he enlisted and fought at Gallipoli. In 1916 he joined the RAF and trained as a pilot, flying missions along the western front in 1917. He returned to New Zealand in 1918 and worked as a surveyor. In 1928 he took a job in Singapore with the Singapore Improvement Trust doing town planning, and joined the Volunteer Corps (SSVF). With the outbreak of WW2, he became full time with the Singapore Volunteer Corps working in Intelligence. He was one of only two men to operate the encryption cipher machine. After the Fall of Singapore he became a prisoner of war of the Japanese, and was one of the older men imprisoned in Changi along with more than 52,000 Allied personnel.

With the daily running of Changi largely left to the POWs, the disbanded command took over its administration. The **Bureau of Records and Enquiry** was formed with its headquarters in the mess, and **Captain Nelson**, who had a good photographic memory and was an excellent mathematician, was put in charge. His first task was to collect a record from all unit commanders of everyone in the camp with casualty details and information on missing civilians. The use of paper was banned, so the records were written on whatever was available including toilet paper. Rolls and casualty figures were recorded for POWs sent to other parts of Asia to work in labour camps. The Japanese actually discovered the operation but chose to let the group continue. After the war, he resumed his old job, but returned to New Zealand in 1949, where he worked in planning until his death in 1973.

Captain Nelson's son Mason said that his father had not said much about his time in the camp, but had mentioned the records and how he used to scrounge paper. His granddaughter, **Diana Okeby**, said she remembered hearing stories about how he had recorded all this information and would hide pieces in his shoe until he could find a safe place.

At the end of the war, the records were handed over and disappeared without trace. **David Nelson** died believing the records to be lost. As news of their discovery broke, not only **Mason** travelled to the UK to see them, but also **Rod Beattie** of the TBRC, where **Captain Nelson's** typewriter is on display at the Museum.

MUNTOK MEMORIALS

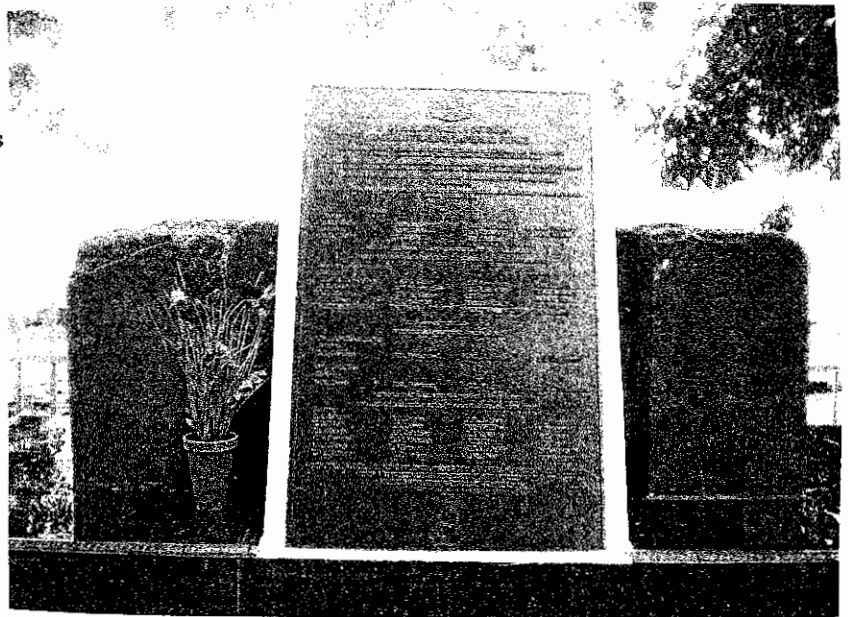
As a result of **Judy Balcombe's** article in the July edition of A.K. it was decided that the MVG should approach the Muntok Authorities for permission to present them with a plaque to the POWs, both military and civilian, who were imprisoned there by the Japanese.

On 1st August, **Judy** wrote:

"I have sent a message to the friends in Muntok, in particular asking them to let me know if any human remains come to light when the café is built behind the petrol station. The grave which we saw, where the remains from the petrol station had been placed, said there were the bones of '25 people' interred inside. There were more than 25 people who died and were originally buried there, so I expect some further remains may be found. Personally, I think that a memorial and/or plaque to remember the civilians would be appropriate and I would like to help start up a small memorial fund to help the townspeople, maybe in the form of equipment for a hospital, school or library. We were in Muntok on Anzac Day and I wondered whether there might be a ceremony at the Nurses' Memorial. There was not, and no flowers or wreath placed to the nurses, apart from the artificial poppies I had brought from Melbourne. I am sorry to say that not even the nurses, who were military personnel, were thought of by their governments, let alone the civilians who died there.

There is a wreck of a boat which has been washed up near the Muntok lighthouse in recent years – I don't know if this could be the **Vyner Brooke? Is it possible for someone to identify it?** There were, of course, many boats bombed and sunk in the Bangka Straits in February 1942.

MEMORIAL TO THE MURDERED AUSTRALIAN NURSES



In a more recent e-mail, **Judy** feels that it would be more appropriate to present 4 plaques to commemorate the POWs, both military and civilian, at the following buildings:-

- **The Tinwinning Building** – which is being converted into a museum with the help of the local Heritage Community.
In the summary of Muntok internee **J.C. Brodie's** diary (held at the IWM) it states that the Tinwinning Building was used as the **Muntok Jail Hospital**.
- **The site of the former Women's camp** – the concrete well used by the women is still there. This is the suggestion by **Mr. Rizki**, Manager of Bangka Tin & member of the Muntok Heritage Community.
- **Muntok Jail** – this is still being used as a jail, and the plaque may need to be placed in the office rather than outside the building. Permission for this would have to be sought from the Department of Justice.
- **Charitas Hospital in Palembang** – this hospital was used to treat civilian internees from Muntok.

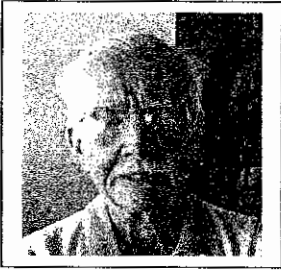
Judy has offered to have the plaques made in Melbourne, once the wording has been agreed by all those with a personal interest in the project. She has also offered to contribute towards the cost of the plaques. However, it is felt that the plaques should be paid for by the MVG, as several members have a personal involvement with the POW camps in Muntok. **Judy** also feels that the plaques should be presented as soon as possible – once permission has been granted – while the local community is still interested in the project.

If anyone has any objections to these proposals – please let **Judy** or **Rosemary** know.

We are very grateful to **Judy** for taking on this project and back her fully in her undertaking.

KINGS PARK MEMORIAL TO THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS

As reported in the July 2011 edition of Apa Khabar (P. 3), following the refusal by the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to allow the MVG to present a memorial to the Australian Volunteers there, the MVG has now approached the **Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA)** in Perth, Western Australia. We await a reply from the Chairman of the Board of Management, **Richard Simpson**. The concept of the memorial has been **widened** to include an acknowledgement of the local people for looking after the hundreds of Singapore evacuees who arrived in Fremantle in 1941 – 42. We hope to have more details to announce in the January 2012 newsletter.



The Life and Times of N H Hobbs

By Kevin Carter

For years I have known our Sunshine Coast Sub-Branch member, Neal Howard Hobbs, as a pleasant lunch companion who plays a good game of golf. It was only recently when we were discussing genealogy that I gained a glimpse of the depth and breadth of his experience and adventures. He spoke of his life as it moved from childhood to song and dance entertainer to sportsman to prisoner of the Japanese and after.

Neal was born in Kuala Lumpur on 6th July 1924. His father was a jockey living and working in Malaya. During that year his father suffered a very bad fall which fractured his spine and placed a continuing strain on the family income. Neal's other Christian name, Howard, was appropriately derived from the racehorse which provided his father with his first winner as a jockey at the age of sixteen. The horse's name was Sir Howard. Good sense prevailed and the first part was omitted!!!

After a long recuperation his father returned to riding but the Straits Racing Association soon withdrew his licence to avoid responsibility for any subsequent fall which could prove fatal. His father then turned to training. The great depression was about to begin and as Neal said, "it caused the family great hardship and living off the smell of an oily rag had real meaning for us". As a child they lived in the San Peng Flats, Circular Road in KL and Neal had mostly Malay children as playmates. He had a number of friends amongst the locals at school but in those days it was not socially acceptable to visit Asian homes so associations were virtually confined to sporting arenas. In his last year at school Neal became a prefect which he found very rewarding.

Neal excelled in sports. Sport was always at the top of his agenda. He is most proud of his cricket achievements. He represented the State (Selangor) and the North in the annual North/South encounter between 1948 and 1955. He was also selected to represent Malaya/Singapore against Hong Kong.

He also did extremely well in hockey, golf, swimming and diving. He was school diving champion in 1941 which caused him to be encouraged by 1924 Olympian E.M. Macdonald to train for the Olympic diving competitions. Neal declined because the training regime would inhibit his other sporting activities.

Neal's mother, Elsie, had an attractive soprano voice and appeared in a number of amateur musicals staged in Kuala Lumpur in the mid 1930s. This bent towards music in general gave her the notion that her offsprings should also get involved so she launched a cabaret act for them. She named it "The Hobblets". Neal's sisters, Joyce and Audrey, were learning ballet at the time so Neal was taught to tap dance and with a reasonable singing voice the show took to the road in 1935. They performed mostly at the Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur and in 1938 they performed at Raffles Hotel, Singapore. This was followed by a live on-air show at the Radio Malaya studios in Singapore to celebrate Australia's 150th anniversary. The song and dance routine lasted a little over two years. Neal was glad when it ended because, as he said, "my nerves were frazzled".



Neal was living in Kuala Lumpur when in late 1941 the Japanese invaded Malaya. The aggressors advanced rapidly south toward Singapore. They were preceded by a steady stream of refugees making for Singapore seeking safety or evacuation. Singapore was surrendered to the Japanese on 15 Feb 1942.

Among the panic stricken civilians anxious to escape were Neal and his father. His mother and two sisters were successful in boarding the MV Charon and departing for Perth on 10th Jan.

Neal and his father embarked on the Mata Hari, tonnage 800 approximately, on 12th Feb. Two other ships of similar size joined the Mata Hari in convoy. They were the Vyner Brooke and the Gian Bee. The former had on board the Australian nurses who were to suffer so much tragedy and about whom a lot would later be written.

The Mata Hari became lost navigating through the minefields off Singapore so that when it reached safe waters the other two vessels were several hours ahead. This undoubtedly saved Neal and his father from the same fate that the other two vessels suffered when they were sunk by Japanese aircraft off Bangka Island. The murderous savagery visited upon those that survived the sinkings has been well documented.

After dodging bombs and machine gun fire from Japanese planes which had left holes in the starboard lifeboats, the Vyner Brooke received three direct hits at 2pm on the 14th of February. All night long, exhausted survivors from the Vyner Brooke and other shipwrecks kept coming ashore and by morning almost sixty men, women and children and 22 members of the AANS including Vivian Bullwinkle were gathered on Radji beach.

At mid-morning February 16, the survivors were confronted by about twenty Japanese soldiers. The Japanese separated the men from the women prisoners then divided the men into two groups and marched them along the beach and behind a headland. The nurses heard a quick succession of shots before the Japanese soldiers came back, sat down in front of the women and cleaned their bayonets and rifles. A Japanese officer told the women to walk into the water. A couple of soldiers shoved those who were slow to respond. Twenty-two nurses and one civilian woman walked into the waves, leaving ten or twelve stretcher cases on the beach. Vivian later said that when the women were up to their waists in water the Japanese started firing machine guns up and down the line. She survived and was taken POW and ultimately survived the hell camps of Sumatra.

The Mata Hari was halted and captured by an enemy cruiser and a destroyer in the early hours of Saturday, 14th February. After daylight arrived a party of Japanese boarded the ship.

Prior to the boarding the skipper of the Mata Hari warned that the Japanese troops would search and confiscate all articles of value. Neal's father had two diamond rings left with him by his wife to assist them should they be captured. These were secreted between Neal's toes in his tennis shoes and survived the search to provide vital assistance when disposed of on the black market when things got particularly grim later.

An incident, one of many at around that time which Neal will always remember, was that during the inspection a Japanese sailor with a rifle and fixed bayonet was checking out the passengers lined up on deck. When he got close he lunged at Neal and the tip of the bayonet struck an object inside his shirt which happened to be his drinking utensil. Tins of 50 cigarettes were common in those days and as there was nothing else available to use as a cup Neal had improvised by cleaning out an empty one of them to drink from. When the lunge came he jumped back and, just as well, otherwise he would be sporting a scar today. His immediate reaction was to fetch the tin out to show that it was not a grenade.

Eventually the Mata Hari was escorted into Muntok harbour, Bangka, where the captives caught up with the survivors from the "Vyner Brooke", "Gian Bee" and various other craft. Within hours the men had been separated from the women and children and placed in Muntok gaol.

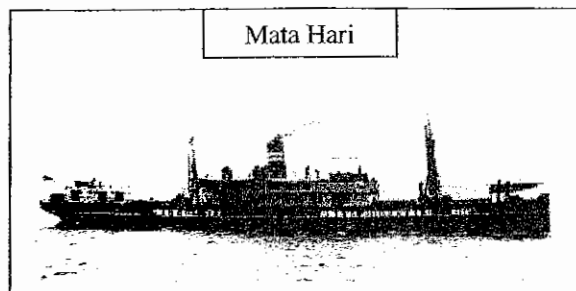
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After the Mata Hari was captured by the Japanese on 14 Feb 1942, with Neal and his father on board, it was escorted into Muntok harbour, Bangka where the captives joined the survivors from the "Vyner Brooke", "Gian Bee" and various other craft. Within hours the men had been separated from the women and children and placed in Muntok gaol.

After dark, about 7.30pm, yells and blood curdling screams were heard from the direction of the gaol entrance. According to Neal their first thought was that their captors had drunk too much sake and were on a rampage that would "see us cut to pieces". It transpired that the unnerving noise had come from a horde of Asian prisoners who had been brought to the gaol to spend their first night.

Neal's group was segregated from them. That night they all slept on the bags of pepper that were stored in most of the cells. "Talk about sleeping on hot stuff", Neal said.



They were in for an even bigger shock next morning when, at daybreak, all the prisoners, excluding the Asians, were put into trucks and taken to a large expanse of flat ground where several trenches had been dug. They were lined up in front of the trenches so that, as Neal said, "the first thing that came to mind was a bullet in the back of the head and a topple into the trench. It really looked like the end". He added, "as it happened we were on an airfield and the Dutch had dug the trenches to prevent its use by the enemy. Our job was to fill in the trenches and we were provided with tools to do it. Oh, what a relief".

Six weeks later they were transported to a gaol in the city of Palembang on the island of Sumatra. They were there for the next ten months. Soon after arriving Neal contracted amoebic dysentery and was extremely ill. On 4 May he was moved to the Charitas Hospital in Palembang which was fortunately still in operation. He was in hospital for nine weeks. "It was a Catholic hospital staffed by nuns who did a marvelous job" he said. He was cared for by Dr Goldberg, a woman. He added "I cannot thank her enough for getting me through the illness. When taken back to prison I had shed 2 stone 7 lbs (16 kg) from my weight of 7 stone 10 lbs (49 kg). It took a long time to recover fully and coincidentally when the war ended I had got back to my exact original weight BUT in the meantime had grown six inches in height!!!"

Their group was next moved to a camp that they had helped to build in the city. They called it "Barracks Camp". They were there for the next eight months, until Sept 1943, when they were returned to Muntok gaol on Banka where they languished until March 1945. Neal said "this was a horrific period which saw an immense acceleration in the death rate". One of Neal's tasks during his second stay at Muntok gaol, for about eight months, was to be a member of the burial party. He recalls that "it was particularly harrowing when now and then I had to place someone who had become a close friend in a coffin but after a time it became less sad and depressing. The overall British mortality rate in the men's camp was 54½% and, in the women's camp 30%. Malnutrition was the main cause but greatly exacerbated by the lack of medical supplies needed to cope with diseases like dysentery, beri beri and malaria. It was fortunate that many more didn't die".

Finally they were moved by sea, rail and truck to a disused rubber estate at Belalau in central Sumatra where they were accommodated in workers quarters. The area was surrounded by barbed wire.

The Belalau location afforded the opportunity to break out to raid local small-holdings in order to pilfer produce such as tapioca, papaya (paw paw), bananas and any other edible crops. Those game enough to take the risk were able to augment their meagre camp diet. Neal said "my partner on these missions was a chap by the name of Les McCann from Western Australia. I would emphasize that the risks were real. Two persons who were caught were removed from camp and were not seen again. Japanese soldiers needed little excuse when it came to exercising their brutality.

“There was **an occasion** when I could have been strung up. On one of our daylight excursions (we would go out at **night as well**) when McCann and I were returning with our spoils, McCann made it safely into camp. It was **always arranged** that we would receive a wave from someone inside to indicate that the way was clear. **When it was** my turn, I got the signal but unfortunately for me the guard who had passed by decided to **turn back just** as I was stepping through the fence and he saw me. I got in all right but a roll call was **immediately** brought on to see if the guard could pick me out and he did.

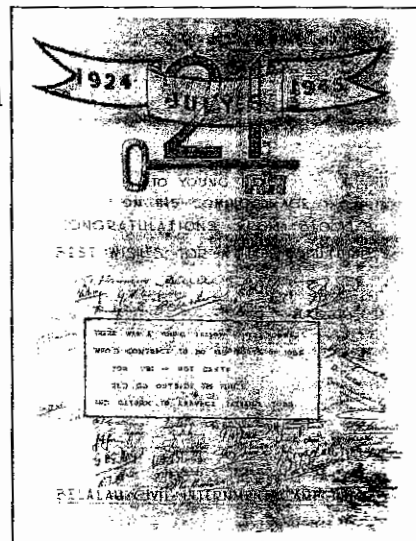
“I was marched off to the guard house and kept there overnight. Efforts were made periodically by my captors to get me to admit that I was the culprit with assurances that no harm would come to me but I had the good sense to deny being the person. Meantime I was getting beaten up on a fairly regular basis. Eventually when daylight came I was released and I owe this to our British camp leader, Hal Hammett, who worked on the Jap camp commandant for most of the night pleading my case. Incidentally, I was Hal’s bridge partner so he obviously didn’t want to lose me!” I was extremely fortunate to escape a greater mauling and possible death and I put it down to these three things: firstly, Hal Hammett’s unstinted efforts; secondly, the approaching end to the war when the Japanese were being hammered in the Pacific, and thirdly, although around twenty-one year old at the time, I was a slow maturer and have always tended to appear much younger than my years”.

After this incident Neal considered it prudent to give away the excursions for fear that any suspicion of again being involved would weigh heavily against him if he was again hauled up before the camp guards. Fortunately, the war was nearing its end.

“I suppose McCann and I had made about seven trips beyond the wire and that was stretching our luck. One dangerous aspect in breaking out which we seemed to ignore was the wildlife out there in the jungle. Sumatra at that time was known for having a significant number of tigers and others of the cat family plus a few bears and snakes but we never gave it a thought. Obviously the desire to survive starvation was more compelling.

“Getting the extra rations from the outside had the additional benefit of being able to use the tapioca to make up and cook potato cakes for sale for a few cents. This enabled us to purchase through the black market a few edible items not provided in our diet such as sugar, onions and chillies.” Rice was the staple food but there was never enough. Meat and vegetables were at starvation levels. There was no bread available and almost no fruit. Many tons of Red Cross parcels should have been distributed to them but each prisoner received only about ½ lb butter, ½ tin bully beef and one packet of cigarettes in 3½ years. According to Neal “the Japanese polished off the rest”.

Neal celebrated his 21st birthday as a prisoner a month before hostilities ceased and received, on probably the last sheet of paper available, a memorable birthday card to celebrate the occasion. He now has it framed on a wall at his home. The card is signed by all 43 members in his Block and it reads:



“1924 – 6th July – 1945

*To young Neal on his coming of age
Congratulations from Block 8
Best wishes for a happy future*

*There was a young fellow named Hobbs
Who’d contract to do all sorts of jobs
For Ubi not cents he’d go outside the fence
And return to assuage father’s sobs.”*

The “Ubi” in the limerick is the Malay/Indonesian word for potato and in this case specifically refers to tapioca root.

In early October 1945 the Hobbs family was reunited in Perth, WA. After a year in Perth recuperating from his debilitating internment by the Japanese Neal returned to KL where he worked for George Blunn, a fellow internee, in his import/export company for a couple of years before moving to sports writing for the Straits Times newspaper in Singapore. Having to write on sporting matters instead of taking part discontended him so he returned to KL and joined a stock broking firm (Charles Bradburne) and later returned to Singapore as a rubber broker.

Neal's daughter Pauline entered the world in Kuala Lumpur on 12th July 1962 on the back seat of an MG Magnette. He said "it was necessary to make an unscheduled visit to a nearby hospital so that it was about seven minutes before mother and daughter were separated. Mother and infant were fine but it took father about three weeks to recover". On New Year's Day 1965 the Hobbs family returned to Australia permanently.

After his return to Australia he worked in the air conditioning industry for about twenty years prior to retiring from the workforce. Living alone he moved to a delightful spot just north of Caloundra to be closer to his daughter who lived in Brisbane

Neal maintains "I have never had any regrets about spending all those years in Malaya, except for being nabbed by the Japs of course. It was an immensely interesting life and even involved, during my spare time on race days, a two year stint in 1948/49 as a horse racing commentator over Radio Malaya for the Selangor Turf Club".



THE ADVENTUROUS LIFE OF ANNE VANRENNEN

"Age gap no barrier to Anne and Donnie" – stated the headlines on 21st April 2011 in the Essex Chronicle newspaper. 70 years ago, in April 1941, the same newspaper ran a small article about the romance between an Essex teenager and a Malayan plantation manager more than twice her age. It also mentioned that **Anne Vanrenen**, aged 19, younger daughter of **Humphrey and Frances Nash Phillips** of Woodham Ferrers, had become the first woman to join the Malayan Volunteer Air Force. **Anne** had been exceptionally keen on flying since childhood, and her mother said of her, "She took to flying and riding horses almost from a baby – these are her great hobbies".

The full story of that romance was revealed in April this year by **Anne's** daughter **Philippa Schmiegelow**, who now lives in Canada, and has recently joined the MVG: In September 1935, **Anne**, then just 14, accompanied her mother **Frances** on an epic journey from their home in Perak, Malaya, to Ireland in a Ford 8. The car was delivered to **Walter and Mabel Vanrenen**, friends of the family who had previously lived and worked in Malaya. It was here that **Anne** first met their son **Donald**, who was home on leave from Malaya where he was a rubber planter. It was love at first sight, and 2 years later **Anne** told an admirer that she was going to marry a planter from Malaya. Despite her father's disapproval, fearing that she was too young and the age gap too great, their mothers, who had been friends in Malaya, won the day. The couple were married in Chelmsford on 14th September 1939 – **Donald** aged nearly 38 and **Anne** just 18. They sailed for Malaya three months later as Britain was drawn into war. Their wedding was reported in the Straits Times on 27th September – the day Poland surrendered to Nazi Germany.



COURAGE: Malayan Mer Anne Vanrenen poses with her biplane



HUSBAND: Donald Vanrenen

LOVE: Anne Vanrenen in 1946

Donald (known as '**Donnie**') was Manager at the Rubana Rubber Estates in Perak. **Anne** threw herself into her new life with enthusiasm. Tutored by **Lydia Woods**, she learnt to fly in Tiger Moths, becoming a member of the Perak Flying Club, where she gained her pilot's licence. She had the honour of becoming the first woman to accomplish a solo flight, and was the first woman to join the Malayan Volunteer Air Force.

Two years later, as the Japanese invaded Malaya's north-eastern coast, **Anne** and her 6-month old baby daughter **Philippa** travelled down to Singapore by train and were evacuated to Australia in early January 1942. **Donald** was interned as a civilian in Singapore for the duration of the war, and on his release in 1945, he returned to Ireland to meet up with **Anne**, and their son **Peter** was born.

In 1946, the family resumed their former lives in Malaya, where **Donald** continued in his job as a planter. Despite the dangers from the Communist Chinese Insurgents, they continued to live in Perak, where several planters were murdered by the Communists, until the early fifties, when they retired to Northern Ireland.

POSTSCRIPT

Donald's brother **Frank Vanrenen**, also a planter, was a member of the FMSVF, but joined the SOE's "stay behind parties". He was part of **F. Spencer Chapman's** group, but due to various unfortunate incidents, he was captured and eventually executed by the Japanese. **Frank's** wife, **Margaret**, was driven to Singapore by **Donald**, and their daughter **Sheila** was born later in 1942.

Both **Philippa** and **Sheila** are members of the MVG.

GUY MELDRUM BRAND - Major 2/FMSVF Born 1901 in England; died 1958 in Western Australia

Guy Brand settled in Malaya in early 1920 on the staff of Harper Gilfillan in Telok Anson. He moved to Ipoh to become Manager, before being appointed to the staff in Kuala Lumpur. In the post-war years he became Managing Director. He was a well know sportsman and played rugby and cricket for Selangor. In 1928 he captained the FMS Cricket team which played Australia. He was also a member of the Selangor Golf Club, the Selangor Club (the Spotted Dog) and the Lake Club. In 1930 he married **Corona Hilda Graydon** – born in Argentina in 1912. She managed a real estate business in K.L. before the war, in between having three children – **John Anthony (Tony) Guy** (1932); **Eric Peter Grayden** (1933) and **Corinne Barbara** (1937).

Tony Brand takes up the story of their family life:-

"The period just prior to and during the war years in Malaya have always been hazy or sketchy, as I was 9 years old when we left K.L. and I spent the next 7 years at boarding school. Both my mother and father were reticent about what transpired. I will take this opportunity to record what I understand, in the hope that others in the MVG will be able to confirm or otherwise let me have the information to the contrary.

My recall of the first knowledge we siblings had of the war was at the end of 1941, when my father dashed into the house one evening and told us the Japanese were coming down the rivers and on bicycles and would arrive in K.L. within a few hours. We were given 2 hours to pack only what was necessary and to catch the train to Singapore.

My mother, with the three of us, left Kuala Lumpur train station at midnight. I understand that 2 hours later it was bombed by the Japanese. My problem is I cannot recall whether it was Christmas night, 25th December 1941, or New Year's Eve, 31st December 1941, when we left K.L.

The train was held up the next day at Johore Bahru when my father miraculously appeared on the station platform for a short

time to see whether all was well. I remember him in his uniform of the FMSVF and I think he was a Captain at that time. This was the last time we saw him until he arrived temporarily in Perth after the war. I do remember the train was strafed by Japanese planes for most of the day while all the passengers lay underneath and protected by the train. I used to laugh at war movies when I saw trains 'blown up' by strafing. We stayed in one of the Harper Gilfillan bungalows during January, spending most nights under the beds and protected by mosquito nets in case of shrapnel. The house, I remember, was very close to a major fuel storage depot, which the Japanese strafed and bombed night after night.

I recall waiting for weeks in the hope of boarding a ship to Perth. We eventually boarded the "Centaur" and found a spot in one of the cargo holds. I remember the ship entering Lombok Straits with its huge paravanes either side of the bow – ostensibly to ward off sea mines – but because the Japanese had extensively mined the Straits the ship returned to Batavia. From Batavia, we went around and through the Sunda Straits and approximately 3 weeks after leaving Singapore arrived in Perth. The "Centaur" had one gun perched on the aft deck! We were lucky to get through as we were buzzed by planes on a number of occasions and sea mines were a menace.

We arrived in Perth, staying at Dick Hearty's Adelphi Hotel, and went to school (Hale School in my case) - well into the first term 1942. The "Centaur" went east and was turned into a hospital ship, but it was sunk on its first voyage of care. I note, and am surprised, that in the list of members dated July 2011 – 2012 that there is no mention of any other member being evacuated on the "Centaur", and yet my constant memory of the ship was on it being crowded to the gunnels. My problem is that I was always given to understand that the last voyage of the "Centaur" from Singapore occurred early in February 1942 – a week or so before Singapore fell – which ties in with our arrival at the end of February in Perth.

I understand that we may have arrived in Perth on 13th January 1942. If this is the case, it seems to make nonsense of my mother's advice that we left K.L. on either 25th or 31st December 1941 when you take into account the period of stay in Singapore and the long 3 week journey of the "Centaur". It would be of immense comfort to know the date of departure of the last voyage of the "Centaur" from Singapore.

My father was captured and spent the early days in Changi before going to the Burma rail camps with so many others. He did not like speaking of his internment other than to say that it was the Korean guards manning the camps who were brutal and sadistic and not necessarily the Japanese. Interestingly, my father-in-law – a Lieutenant Colonel in the Australian 2nd/4th Machine Gunners who fought in Singapore – was also in Changi and in the Burma rail camps, and he confirmed the same point of view.

One day, soon after the Japanese surrender, my father appeared at my school in Perth, having "cadged" a lift in one of the Catalina flying boats leaving Malaya, knowing it was flying down to the Catalina base at Crawley near Perth. He stayed in Perth recuperating before going back to continue his career at Harper Gilfillan and Co.

We three siblings sailed back to Malaya on the "school ships" Charon and Gorgon for the Christmas holidays in 1946, '47 and '48 and I worked for a year in an architect's office (Booty and Edwards) during the whole of 1949 in KL.

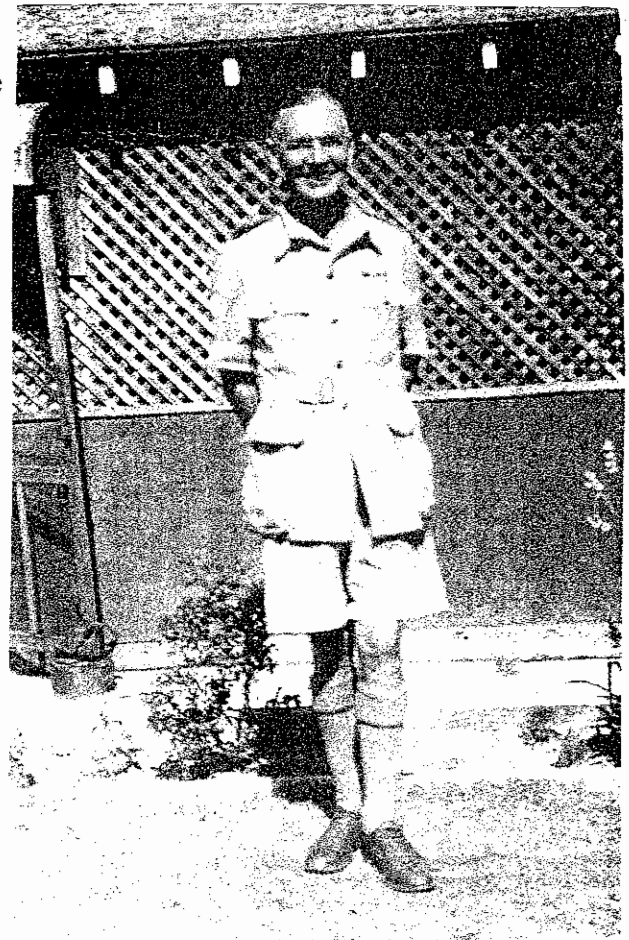
I do not recall, and was never told much of my father's history during the war, so if there is anyone out there that has any record whatsoever of **Guy Meldrum Brand** I would appreciate any information about his war career prior to and during the Malayan Conflict.

As an interesting aside, my father invited my best friend at school in 1948 (my last year), to Kuala Lumpur for a holiday. It was this friend who saw the "Malayan Volunteers Group" advertisement placed in the West Australian by Elizabeth Bunney, and it was he who rang me some 63 years later! Thank you Stan and Elizabeth Bunney.

[Ed: If anyone can help Tony – please get in touch with him. His e-mail is on the list of new members.]

WEBSITES TO VISIT

<http://www.researchingfepowhistory.org.uk/pdfs/TimesArticle30July2011.pdf> - the Times' report on the Nelson papers
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/5433037/Prisoners-secret-war-dossier> - The NZ Dominion Post's report on the Nelson papers
http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_700578.html - Tay Ah Soey's Straits Times obituary
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2038221/Amazing-sketches-British-PoWs-held-Japanese-camp-revealed-ex-prisoner-takes-Antiques-Roadshow.html> - Antiques Road Show FEPOW Sketches - by artist **John Mennie**, (www.johnmennie.co.uk) they show sketches of POWs – many of them Volunteers. The original owner of the sketches was **Eric Lancelot Stuart JENNINGS** – a Straits Times journalist and 2nd Lt. 1/SSVF. POW in Singapore & sent to Thailand. Repatriated on HMS Cheshire. Wife Alison (nee Dyas) to WA on "Gorgon". Post-war Chairman of Malayan Assn. of Journalists. One sketch has been identified as Gunner A. Oppenheim of Raffles College and a member of the Singapore Royal Artillery Battery [V].



REPORT BY C.P. EDWARDS OF THORNEYCROFTS – SINGAPORE ON THE FAMILY'S ESCAPE FROM SINGAPORE - By kind permission of his daughter Patricia Guidice

The confidential report (No: 49) was sent to the MALAYAN RESEARCH BUREAU in Sydney N.S.W. and received on 9/9/43

A brief outline of our parties' escape from Singapore is as follows, I am leaving out minor details of hardship and despair etc. as they are things of the past.

On Thursday, 12th February, the situation in Singapore was rather bad, my flat, at that time, had no water for more than 6 hours.

At about 3 o'clock after inquiry at the P. & O. officer I was told to have the women and children at Clifford's Pier for evacuation. There were hundreds of women and children there and the final outcome was No boat that evening. By that time it was 8 o'clock p.m.

Conditions were such that it was considered unsafe to move children, in any case there were no trams or buses and the direct road to my flat was out of use.

My family, Mother, sister and 2 little girls – 5 and 3 ½ years – (see A. Herbert's letter) just laid on the cement floor while I went and managed to get from home something for them to eat that night and next morning (Friday 13th).

FRIDAY 13th, was just what one could expect – Aircraft were over every few minutes, but by noon there was very little hope of even getting food.

In the meantime I had managed to get a message to my sister and brother-in-law at St. John's Island and he suggested coming over on a launch that way bringing over some rice. This launch left at about 5 p.m. and we reached the island just before dark.

My mother, who was then 62, was in a fairly bad condition.

There was no sleep that night because the large guns on Blakan Mati kept on firing.

About 1 a.m. Saturday 14th the island was attacked by tongkongs and it was a grand sight to see the boats being shot up by the small 6" batteries.

On Saturday morning I examined an R.A.F. Patrol tender which was tied up alongside the water jetty in a damaged condition.

Well, to cut a lot of details, working single handed and almost non-stop for 56 hrs. I put the boat into running condition and steering with one rudder and running on one engine, as I considered our chances better in that boat than surrendering on the island.

It was then 1 a.m. MONDAY 16th. We started to load up what were considered essentials. However, just as we got the stuff down to the Pier, a watchman reported that Japanese soldiers had landed and were asking for Europeans. Well, then it was a case of leave everything and jump on board and cut the ropes.

That morning I steered by the fires on Singapore and other oil fires heading for Raffles Light, then by keeping the fires on my left, turned due south over the minefield and put my chances of getting over in the hands of fate. It turned out that we crossed over at low tide, so we pushed fate to the limit, there being about 6" difference between the mines and our boat which drew more than 5' of water.

I repaired the engine on Monday – 16th February – and we then cruised all day trying to get our bearings as we only had a 10% Change Ally Compass.

From then on it was a matter of island hopping until we reached the Sumatra mainland and after going up a couple of wrong rivers, about 4 days later (**reached**) an Army outpost, then we were taken in charge and passed down the line until we reached Perth five weeks later.

Water and food was our main worry, we found that we only had 3 bottles of drinking water which I decided to give to the children.

No smoking was another factor which showed up the weak ones – as we had 850 gallons of petrol in the front tank "no smoking" was the order of the day.

We were picking up other men as we went along and finished up with 37 in a 35 feet boat and among them were many wounded.

The following men were fit and well on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th:-

Mr. Eves – Mechanical Engineer, P.W.D. Johore.

Dr. H. Stubbs – Medical Officer – Chan Wing Estate, Polap, Johore.

Dr. Nicholas – Health Officer – Malayan Medical Services.

Mr. S. Edlin – Municipal Workshops, Singapore.

Mr. Robey – Commission Agent, Singapore.

Mr. Read – Survey Dept.

I trust that these names will be of assistance to you and wishing you success in your undertaking.

Signed C.P Edwards.

Pilot Officer R.A.A.F.

[Ed: Letter re-typed exactly as written]

Patricia adds her own version to her father's official report above:

"There is further information about the survivors my father rescued from the sea on that terrible night/morning as Singapore burned. I can see it still. I was six and a half years old.

Late in the evening of Friday the 13th February 1942, after waiting for weeks, and all that day on Clifford's Pier, like hundreds of others, for berths on any ship, my father knew he would have to attempt to rescue us himself. The family consisted of my unwell grandmother, my aunt and my sister and me. My father decided that this was more important than staying with the Volunteer Engineers to defend Singapore. Towards the late afternoon, my father decided to pay a barge handler to take us to St. John's Island where another aunt and her husband were staying. As fate would have it, there, tied up to the Water jetty, was an abandoned British Navy launch that had many problems. My father, a mechanical engineer, worked day and night on the launch from late on Friday the 13th until it was ready, around 1 a.m. on the morning of the 16th February. This was just hours after the Surrender to the Japanese was signed. My small family of 7 escaped from St. John's Island, bound for Sumatra. Soon my father was to pick up from the sea surrounding Singapore, around 30 people who had been trying to escape in anything that floated, but had been bombed. Some were to live and arrived with us in Sumatra, others died on board.

I would love to hear from any relations of those who were saved, and who were probably taken to India, Africa or England on various ships from Padang. So far, none of the names in the list of MVG members mentions "**The Zandaam**" a Red Cross troop ship which took us to Fremantle. Fortunately my aunts had practised First Aid and were able to help others.

When he settled us in Perth, my father joined the Australian Air Force and was in Intelligence with the rank of F/O, probably because of his jungle experience and the fact that he spoke Malay and a dialect of Chinese. My father's name was **Pat Edwards**, his sisters were **Marguerite, Clare** and **Kathleen**. As children they all went to the Holy Infant Jesus Convent. **Pat** went to the De La Salle Brothers.

I went back to St. John's a few times and relived my experience; and the cottages were still there".

Patricia goes on to say:

"The men my father picked up were from yachts, small motor boats and launches which had been sunk by the Japanese bombing. He did not mention any women and children amongst those rescued. I am guessing that by the early hours of the sixteenth, the men, women and children who were left on Clifford's Pier would have been on their way to Changi. Those men who did escape, would have jumped into whatever they found leaving the docks or coastline. Many boats were bombed or captured, including the **Carruther's family**. I can also remember the Australians put a huge gun in our front garden in Upper East Coast Road. It was something I had never seen before. Then they put rolls and rolls of barbed wire right up to our sea-wall. We lived there facing the sea for a couple more weeks before we moved into some flats in Bras Basah Road – near to Raffles. This was how my father was able to run back and get us some food. We must have left in extreme haste across the Padang to the Pier, probably because a ship was due to come in. My father paid numerous times for our passages, but we always missed out. We were lucky in the end to escape on the launch which my father fixed."

Patricia also asks:

"I am looking for the children of **Dr.** and **Mrs. Stubbs**. I am not sure whether he was the **Dr. H. Stubbs** of Chan Wing Estate, Polap, Johore, but **Mrs. Stubbs** was imprisoned on Bangka Island and in Palembang. I think she had 2 children, maybe a boy and a girl, one born around 1938 or '39? The **Stubbs** were friends of my father, **Patrick Edwards** of Upper East Coast Road. I would be grateful for any information about the children.

AN INTERVIEW WITH 1ST LT. W.B. "BILL" BEVIS, MRNVR – By kind permission of Audrey Holmes McCormick

PART 1 – RAFFLES

One of the most irritating of impressions carried to outsiders, of civilian behaviour in the last days of Singapore – is the tale recounted of how "everyone" was out enjoying themselves – in particular, dining and dancing at Raffles to the end, while Rome burned around their ears. It was so easy to make, if there was no understanding. The truth was different. You had to realize the position of mothers with young children and what the civilian men were undertaking at that time. The women and children from upcountry were sleeping on floors in friends' homes, or were crowded into Raffles bedrooms as they waited a ship out – or were trying to find their husbands from upcountry. One Navy Volunteer Officer now south from Penang, came on this highly criticised scene – before the band vanished. The conditions in Singapore were very bad, as he said. Upcountry refugees were crowded into homes, or hotel rooms, sleeping on floors with their children, desperately seeking news of lost husbands in the Volunteers, and feeling they must make way in the crowded homes, sometimes at least, for the sake of the occupants, and asking if others in town knew of their menfolk.

Singapore by then was getting bombed daily. Some news of the shocking events of the "Rape of Nanking" would have been known to some by then. The civilian men were working every hour they could remain awake: they were on watch duties: they were dealing with the vanishing water supplies: fire-fighting with lessening pressure in the hoses: keeping vital services going: on ARP duty on rooftops and still expected to keep offices open and working. The Volunteers had their own fighting and other

duties to do. **Men seen going** into a club to snatch a drink or food were criticized – but were emerging again on night duty for essential repairs or **sabotaging** where works of value had to be denied the enemy e.g. smelting works on Pulau Branni and fuel dumps. **They also needed** to say goodbye to their families and, if possible, help them board ships where last partings took place.

The cinemas **still played**: if there was nowhere else to go, the mothers took their children there to occupy them. One mother, who went to a **matinee**, reported to me that it was full of Australian troops. This may have coincided with the time there was a strike by some Australian troops. Their lorries were lined up on the seafront road and the soldiers were seen brewing up. They informed two civilians I knew – who stopped to remark they were “glad to see them getting a break” – they weren’t going back. At Raffles, the music was by only two or three of the most elderly musicians of the group originally contracted to play, and who had no other employment. When they finally left, a gramophone was found. The husbands and fiancées there were saying goodbye to their loved ones, and for some it would be for the last time. And there were those who had married just prior to this parting. Many women and children would die on the escape routes – their ships sunk or sinking with fractured decks and children with broken limbs. The ocean currents could and did wrench babies from their mothers’ arms: the kapok lifebelts only lasting 12 hours or so as flotation aids. But, perhaps what most did not know then, it was not the sharks which took the human flotsam – because they fled from the shockwaves of the bombs – it was the huge strength of the currents between the islands as they travelled south.

More decently understanding of the situation, was the Volunteer RN Lieutenant whose vessel had been mine-laying in Penang waters. He told me this:

“They were not enjoying themselves to the end, sleeping on floors and desperately trying to find lost husbands. No-one berated Londoners for keeping the dance halls, theatres and hotels open during **their blitzkrieg** – quite the contrary! These people too were being hugely courageous.

Singapore got a very rude awakening when the daily bombing raids began, but they did their damndest to keep going despite the partings and deaths that were then happening.....and some were simply torn away by the needs of their children. I saw the last “dancing” at Raffles among silent dancers. They were evidently making their farewells as best they could, and it was tragic and brave. I felt heart-broken for them.”

These remarks were made by **W.B. “Bill” Bevis**, who had been 1st Lt. SSRNVR (which amalgamated with the mainland force to become MRNVR) and was on the “**Malacca**” which had been converted into a minesweeper doing ‘stream sweeps’ in an 8-hour day. She was skippered by **Lt. John Morphett. MRNVR***. One of its jobs was to sail north from Penang to rescue a dozen or so E. Surrey troops trapped by the Japanese, who were then brought south to rejoin their unit at Port Dickson. The “**Malacca**” was one of the minesweepers which had been “de-gaussed” in Singapore. This nullified her magnetic field, so that she would in theory – and hopefully in practice – be safe from triggering magnetic mines. “**Malacca**” was an ex Straits Steamship vessel, coal-fired with steam engines and a crew of 2 officers and 15 – 20 men.

* **J.W. Morphett was an Australian architect and geologist.**

PART 2 – 1ST LT. “BILL” BEVIS’S ESCAPE STORY

After spending some time in Singapore “doing everything but minesweeping”, they took part in the late general evacuation of around 40 vessels, with over 30 HQ staff on board their small ship. They too were bombed and leaking, but got up the Indragiri River on the Sumatra escape route (as originally established by **SOE Colonel Warren**). There they were asked to become a hospital ship and take the more “lightly” wounded 120 miles upriver to Rengit where there was still some medical assistance. So **MRNVR Lts. Bill Bevis** and **John Morphett** took 60 men upriver, having eventually found a local pilot who was “very good”.

“We had to anchor part way. If these men were the “lightly” wounded, I was glad not to have the others”, **Bill** said. “The mosquitoes were terrible – but for the wounded, there was not a sound out of them: they must have been eaten alive with all that blood.....When we got to Rengit the Dutch didn’t want us to stay long as they were not going to put up any resistance. They wanted us all to go back to the estuary, so we did. Because we had wounded, we were given a couple of lorries, and we had two RAMC officers who were marvellous. We scuttled the “**Malacca**” and I took one of the lorries with the wounded. Half way across Sumatra, a Dutch District Officer gave us a wonderful “**rijsttafel**” – steaming hot. We hadn’t eaten for several days....”

Bill reckoned he would check first, however, that the troops were also eating.....He found them opening tins of bully beef instead of taking the **rijsttafel**, so he remonstrated that they were eating the last of their tinned store.

“Can’t eat this ‘eathen muck, sir....”.

Bill demonstrated by wolfing some of the “heathen muck” himself.

“You can’t kid us, sir”, they said – and continued opening bully beef....

“When that Dutchman was giving us a special treat!”, **Bill** exclaimed, “We officers wolfed the stuff, and it was lovely!”

They finally got across Sumatra’s mountains to the train to Padang, and met “**Hookey**” **Bell** (F.B. Bell) of “**HMS Exeter**” who had been in command at the Battle of the River Plate “and was the only man on the bridge left alive”. He received a CB for this. (This was the action in the Montevideo area where the German pocket-battleship the **Graff Spee** was finally scuttled in late 1939). In Singapore, **Bell** was Naval Chief of Staff to **Admiral Spooner**. **Bill** and **John** wisely decided they would keep him in sight. But after they boarded “**HMS Danae**” they were then all put off at Java. “**HMS Danae**” was supposed to go to fight in the Java Seas Battle, but instead, after leaving Java, she ran aground.

Next they found a Blue Funnel ship. So **Hookey Bell** went aboard again and said ‘I commandeer this ship’ – just like **that**. They didn’t mind because it meant going towards safety. However, unfortunately there was a General on shore **who was**

senior to **Bell**, and he wanted this ship. So they all had to land again, very down in the mouth – but in getting out of the harbour she was torpedoed and sunk.

"We then got on to a little flat-bottomed pig-boat called the *Kohinoor*, and on this nobody came near us. At 5 knots flat out, it took us 10 days to get down from Java to Fremantle.....we'd found it just lying at anchor, with a Dutch Captain. **Hookey Bell** just commandeered it again, and the Dutch Captain didn't mind a bit, as he was getting out to safety. She had enough coal on board to get us down to Oz, and had stokers. We also had *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* survivors with us – and they were willing to do anything to get us away from mosquitoes, the Far East and the tropics!"

There were a handful of other small vessels with refugees, which were heading for Australia too – some of which made it.....On every one of these where a report was later written, with book following, the vision of this puffing billy, with its clouds of smoke seen on the horizon and eventually passed by, was mentioned with astonishment!

"We heard another ship being blown up. The Jap submarines had got amongst them. But we just crept on, belching smoke – you could never stop that, not in this pig-boat. In its first rough weather its bridge started to fall to bits. But by that time we'd learned how to manage without one, thanks to a very old friend of mine **Frank Mann**. Frank had been given a Motor Launch which had broken down. He was told to get on another RNVF vessel, so he asked me for a lift. The CO said "Oh yes – two more officers!" So **Frank** joined us, which was our luck because without his No. 1 we'd never have got away from Java, except in two small boats – which could never have held our group of 70.

Well, we got to Fremantle, but didn't want to leave our old friend the pig-boat.....we had an escapist complex.....but they had no Navy facilities for us in Fremantle. All they could do was to sign us on, with all the RN paraphernalia, and pay us. Eventually we heard that an armed merchant cruiser was going round to Melbourne, and we were advised to take it. **Frank** and I went aboard, but she had a very, very fierce and very hostile skipper – to the enemy that was! It turned out that there was, in fact, an enemy ship in the vicinity, as there was smoke reported when we were half way to Melbourne. So the skipper turned round and went hell-for-leather after it. Now, if it had been anything of importance – say Germans – we'd have been blown out of the water, so we sincerely hoped that he wouldn't catch her and luckily he didn't. (You never want to be under a very brave commander – a *sensible* one, yes, but *not* a very brave one....)"

So **Bill** and **John** reached Melbourne – and had to stay there 3 months.

But their luck still held. They next took off again in a vessel turned troopship. This was the *S.S. Ceramic*, a ship carrying Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops to England, plus survivors from the *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*. It was a long but uneventful trip to New Zealand, then across the Pacific, through the Panama Canal, up the coast of America and across the Atlantic to Liverpool where they landed at last and could ring their parents, and **Bill** his wife **Gabrielle**. She told **Bill** that at one point he had been reported dead. Their luck held to the end, for the unfortunate *Ceramic* would soon also be sunk. She loaded some troops for the Middle East and sailed. The first rough day out, she was torpedoed and went down with all hands, and "With the officers we'd known so well. There was only one survivor", said **Bill**.

POSTSCRIPT

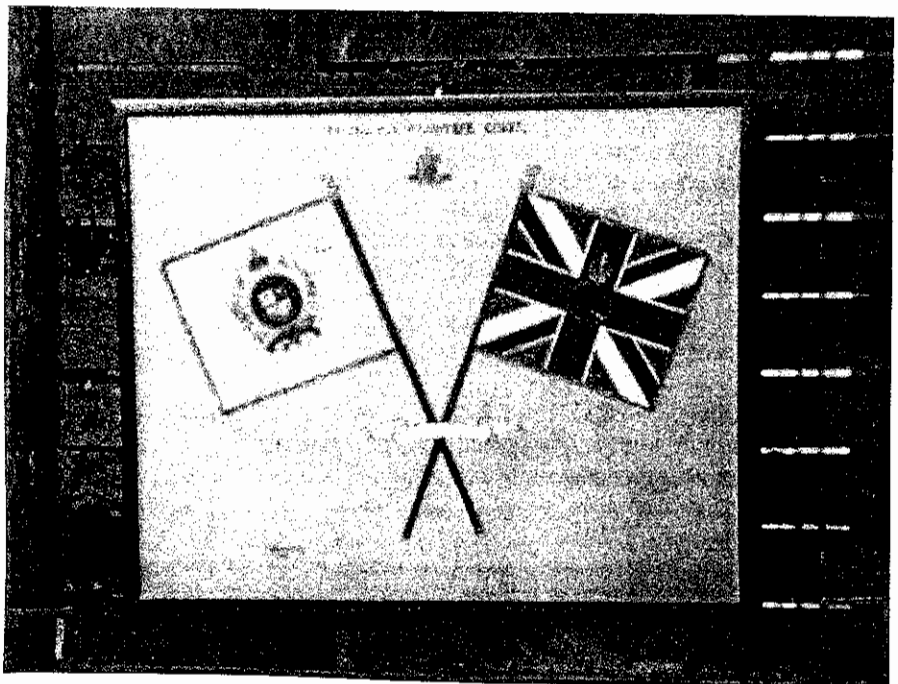
Bill's wife has a story too – as she was also in the Penang Navy Office. She had a different escape from there – the one that some people were critical about. She and **Bill** had been married just as the invasion had begun, but she and her mother had a civilian escape by ferry to Butterworth and then by train to Singapore. They were told to take a weapon with them. Mother armed herself with a tomato sauce bottle! **Gabrielle** carried a secret naval manuscript to Singapore for safe delivery to a senior officer – in her knickers, and handed over warm!

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Penny Dembrey writes:

Having been doing some sorting out recently of photos, I came across these photos of the 'colours' for the Malacca Volunteer Corps, which my Mother gave to the Imperial War Museum, together with some other items. Roger has managed to read the wording which he has written on the back. When we visited the IWM after my mother's death, we didn't see the items or framed picture on display, and were very disappointed with the 'Malayan Campaign' display and POW details.

[Ed: This is a drawing of the Malacca Colours by **Barbara Everard**, mother of **MVG** member **Martin Everard**.]



Bob Brewis writes:

Thank you for **sending me the** latest MVG newsletter with the lovely (and unexpected) obituary to Penny. I will send it on to her sister **Carolyn**. I **have chosen** to place an on-line memorial for Penny on the Royal Signals Association website. You can see it if you go to:

www.royalsignalsassociation.co.uk and follow 'memorial'.

Penny would have **been so pleased** to read of Rod Beattie's award. I will send him an e-mail.

Tony Parrini writes:

You will recall that in my article "If only I had asked my mother", I left a question about **Margery Gould** whose name appears on the gravestone of **John Brookfield Gould** in Malacca Cemetery.

I'm pleased to report that I have unravelled the mystery!

Recent changes on 'Genes Reunited', caused me to seek 'Marriage and Death' details of anyone named **Margery Gould**. I'd done this on many occasions and always drawn a blank. Low and behold, having guessed a year of birth (1910 +/- 5) I found an entry of a marriage of a **Margery Gould** to a **Stanley H. Anderson** in Newcastle in 1974. I discovered that **Mr. Anderson** died in 2002 and went in search of records for **Margery Anderson**. No death record so I went onto Electoral Rolls in the North East. Bingo!!

I found her at an address in Newcastle and **have spoken with her**. She is now 97 years old, very frail and doesn't want visitors as she is about to enter hospital – but I had time to ask her for her maiden name and how she 'got involved' with **J.B. Gould**. He had come home after his internment by the Japanese, and she had met him at **J.B. Gould's** uncle's house in late 1945. **J.B. Gould** went back to Malacca and shipping records show that **Margery WELCH** followed in 1946 and they were married in Malacca. As we know **J.B. Gould** died in 1948, and **Margery Gould** returned to the U.K.

Thank you for letting me publish the earlier story – the only missing piece is the marriage certificate somewhere in Malaysia. However, perhaps I'll get to see my Aunt Margery and if so, certificates won't matter!

Neal Hobbs has sent a copy of his letter to the Editor of Trafford Publishing, concerning his objections to certain facts presented in the book, "Waiting for the Durian" by Susan McCabe.

It was felt that **Neal** has legitimate grounds for his complaints, and that his opinions should be represented.

Letter to the Editor

I wish to make your readers aware that the book "Waiting for the Durian" by Susan J. McCabe AND PUBLISHED BY Trafford Publishing in the USA is a fascinating read. Nevertheless, I believe that a book presented as factual should be accurate in its detail whereas this book follows the adage of "never let the facts get in the way of a good story".

It seems that when the author's research could not establish the facts she accepted that near enough was good enough. For example: misnaming a Japanese Camp Commandant on three pages; misnaming the British Camp Leader; misrepresenting that Mickey Donnelly died in Singapore on 21st May, 1974 as a result of an accident, whereas it was actually his brother Elliott (Porky) Donnelly.

There are other examples, but I will describe only one in detail. Chapters 38 and 39 make mention of a prisoner being caught and punished for breaching the confines of the camp and much more. He is named as Bagby, a jockey. The book describes how, when confronted outside the camp by a Japanese soldier, he overcame him in a fight, tied him up and then returned to camp. The book describes how a roll call was held and Bagby identified, interrogated, bashed and then released after admitting guilt. The possibility that a 100lb. jockey, or anyone for that matter, could lay a hand on a Japanese soldier, let alone beat him up and get away with it, is mind boggling. Nothing short of death would result. As generally accepted, the Japanese forces were rather fond of lopping off heads and they needed little excuse. This incident, as described, never occurred and is utter fantasy.

The above incident replicates my apprehension at the same prison camp except for the fact that I did not admit guilt, nor was a Japanese soldier assaulted.

I would best describe the book as a novel based on fact. I have informed the publisher of the book's misrepresentations, including once by registered mail, but I have not received the courtesy of a reply.

POT POURRI

On Saturday, 10th September in the Telegraph Magazine, a short article about **Pam Ayres** appeared, in which she reminisced about her time spent in Malaya in the Women's RAF. Sent to Seletar in Singapore aged 19, she immediately joined the base's theatre group. One of the group – a man called Clive – was in charge of a mapping project in the Batu Caves near K.L. Their job was to map Dark Cave which had no natural light. Pam joined the team of mappers. Each member of the group wore a helmet attached to which was a miner's lamp, which reflected in the eyes of the thousands of bats which inhabited the cave. It was difficult to see the ground, which was slippery with the centuries' worth of bat droppings. Pam recalled that as she slowly picked her way along a ridge, she slipped on the droppings and landed **right** in them. She was photographed in her bat covered clothes, sitting where she fell.

OBITUARIES

STANLEY JEWKES, OBE., PMN., AIA., RIBA., FASCE., FICE.
9th October 1913 – 19th June 2011

Tan Sri Stanley Jewkes, a man who made a valuable contribution to Malaya and Malaysia through periods of Colonial governance, Invasion and War, Independence and finally nationhood passed away in Florida on 19th June 2011.

His legacy of impressive buildings and constructions across many countries will endure for decades.

Starting life in the USA, he travelled as a boy with his parents to Birmingham, England, and gained a scholarship to Dudley Grammar School. After four years as a lowly apprentice in a blast furnace he read engineering at Northampton Institute and London Polytechnic before graduating as an Engineer.

Then, in a move that set the foundation for the diversity and impact of his later professional career, he undertook further study to become an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

He married **Ella** in May 1939, and his daughter **Carole** was born in 1940 as war hit the United Kingdom in the form of German bombers.

He arrived in Malaya in 1941 to join the Public Works Department in the Kerian and Keroh districts of Perak and by the time of the Japanese invasion he had been made a Lieutenant in the Federated Malay States Volunteers.

The impending fall of Singapore saw **Stanley Jewkes** and a large group of engineers from the Public Works Department instructed to escape Singapore and use their skills in the war effort in the Dutch East Indies. As part of this contingent of PWD men, he boarded the small ship "**SS. Kuala**" on the night of 13th February 1942 (two days before the Surrender) along with some 600 women and children. Under bombing and shell fire the ship left Singapore under darkness and the following day was instructed to try to hide near an island in the Rhio Archipelago. This fateful decision saw the ship at anchor at Pom Pong Island when it was located by Japanese bombers and attacked with full ferocity. **Stanley** and other men had been trying to camouflage the ship with branches and were either on the island or in the ship's life boats so were instrumental in attempting to save hundreds of women and children who had to simply jump into the sea under bombing and try to swim to the Island.

The horrors of this day, on which 135 women, children and men from the "**SS. Kuala**" lost their lives, and the contrasting behaviours of men and women during danger and hardships of the subsequent few days on the uninhabited Island, as well as the later journey through the escape route across Sumatra made a deep impression on the philosophical thinking of **Stanley Jewkes** and made for a poignant part of the major book he wrote later in life entitled "**Humankind: Planet Earth's Most Enigmatic Species**". For this book he chose the name "**ARCAS**", who in Greek mythology was the founder of Arcadia where all men and women loved in harmony, showing compassion to everyone. The epilogue in that book "**The Noble Female of the Species: The Brave Women of Pom Pong**" reveals the sensitivity of a man who would display an ability over the next few decades to work very successfully across cultural and ethnic spheres.

Having escaped safely to Colombo and then India he joined the Indian Army Engineers where he served for the duration of the war. He returned to Malaya after the War, working firstly on reinstating the railway system before settling at the PWD headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. His talent was such that in 1950 he was asked to head the Department's new Design and Research branch.

His contribution to the construction of landmark buildings in Malaya earned high praise and his designs such as Stadium Merdeka (1957) and Stadium Negara (1962) were major steps forward in architecture and engineering in Malaya.

In 1958 he was awarded the OBE for meritorious services to the United Kingdom.

Soon after he joined the major international consultancy firm of Louis Berger and his subsequent career took in most countries around the world directing projects.

He and **Ella** settled in Lady Lakes, Florida and **Stanley** completed his book in 2001.

The author of this tribute to **Stanley Jewkes** had the privilege of speaking and corresponding with him during the later years of his memorable life. From this brief interaction was developed a respect for a man of precision, deep thought and a genuine appreciation of his fellow human beings.

An insight into the man, his journey and the lessons learned from his life experience is contained in the brief annotation he provided with a copy of the Epilogue to his book:

"As a soldier in World War 11, who had Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and followers of Confucius as his comrades-in-arms and subsequently executing studies for the World Bank and the UN in such diverse places as Bali and The Sudan, I have witnessed how good people can sometimes do evil things and bad people can sometimes do good things. It is an enigmatic behaviour pervading all aspects of human society.

And I have seen the self-sacrifice and bravery of women, particularly nurses, during the tragedy and horror of war."

Stanley Jewkes leaves behind his wife **Ella**, daughter **Carole** and son **Peter**.

Compiled by **Michael Pether MVG New Zealand**.



[See Lai Chee Kien's obit of Stanley Jewkes in the Star2 K.L. newspaper on Sunday 10/7/11 – "Spaces Section"]

POSTSCRIPT

Michael knew **Stanley Jewkes** personally through e-mail and telephone contacts during his research into the **sinking of the "SS. Kuala"**, and names of the passengers on board this ship.

As a result of this research document now available on the MVG and other websites, **Michael** receives calls from other families whose relatives were on board the **"SS. Kuala"**. He writes:

"I spoke and corresponded with **Stanley Jewkes** in my research into the **"SS. Kuala"** and he was most supportive. He had not lost his "British Malayan" accent with its clipped tenor. An interesting man.

I am glad that **Gerald Bruce-Smith** contacted you – he had found the **"SS. Kuala"** document on the internet and gave me a call which (fascinatingly for me) found that his father had been nursed by **Brenda Macduff** whilst in hospital in **Batu Gajah** and then he encountered **Brenda** again nursing the many wounded on **Pom Pong Island**. They both lived in **New Zealand** for decades after the war without ever knowing each other was in the country.

The **"SS. Kuala"** document still brings contact from a new family every few weeks who had loved ones on board. About six weeks ago, I had a call from a woman in **New Zealand** who was most emotional because it contained the record of her three sisters (they were the **Sleigh** girls aged 9, 10 and 11), who had been put on the ship to get to safety and then disappeared without trace. The **"SS. Kuala"** document was the first time in 70 years that her family had ever found a record of what happened to the girls. Another contact in the last few days was from the family of **Jean Shaw** and **Ellen 'Nellie' Hill** – young married sisters, whose families had never seen any record of what happened to them – their father searched fruitlessly for years in **Singapore** after the war.

The discovery of **Captain David Nelson's** papers has also helped to solve a mystery. We now know that there was a BRE enquiry into the disappearance of a **Brigadier Fawcett**, whom I had determined had been on the **"SS. Kuala"**, although the British authorities had been very unclear as to what had happened to him. The BRE investigation shows that he had boarded the **"SS. Kuala"** and probably lost his life on the **"Tandjong Pinang"** which picked up the 180 women and children from **Pom Pong Island**. Interestingly, I was first put on the track of this man by **Brenda Macduff** who recalls nursing a Brigadier on the Island. I think the BRE records may prove to be a treasure trove of information for those seeking to clarify what happened to family members!"

OTHER OBITUARIES. We are also sad to report the death of **Tay Ah Soey**, aged 97, in **Singapore** on 10th August 2011. Mr. Tay was a WW 2 hero, who, together with 5 others, saved 62 people from the sea on 13th February 1942. He was a fisherman and had gone out in his boat with his two brothers when the Japanese dropped bombs on boats ferrying people away from **Singapore**. Despite the bullets and bombs, they pulled civilians and military personnel from the sea.

On 5th September, the death of **Major Bruce Kinloch** was announced in the *Telegraph*, aged 91. He was awarded the Military Cross at the Battle of Sittang Bridge in **Burma**, where his battalion (1st Battn. 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles) had been rushed into **Burma** from **India** to deny the Japanese a gateway to **Rangoon** and southern **Burma**. Attacked by Japanese bombers and fighters on 21st February, Kinloch was ordered to contact forward companies of the 1/3 GR who had been pinned down by Japanese heavy fire from a hill-top vantage point they held on the eastern side of the river. The bridge was blown, but in the ensuing battle many of his men, together with most of the 17th Indian Division were left stranded on the wrong side of the river and taken prisoner. Kinloch organised a raft to cross to the western bank and found a sampan in which the wounded were ferried to safety. However, the next night before he could organise the recovery of the rest of his men, the Japanese swarmed out of the jungle and captured the rest of the battalion. He set off with the wounded men and reached the Allied lines safely despite being bitten by a viper on the way. Post war he became a successful game warden in **Africa** before finally retiring to **Herefordshire**.

Aged 92, **Captain Douglas Stobie's** obituary appeared in the *Telegraph* on 7th September. He took part in the last major surface ship battle of WW 2. On the night of 15/16th May 1945, Stobie was the torpedo officer in **Saumarez**, one of the ships in the 26th Destroyer Flotilla. The Flotilla was stalking the Japanese heavy cruiser **Haguro** in the **Malacca Straits**. **Saumarez** became the main target of **Haguro's** 8" guns, but despite being under fire, Stobie was on the starboard bridge when the cruiser crossed the prongs of his torpedo-aiming sight. All eight of his torpedoes were fired, and together with torpedoes from several of the other destroyers, the **Haguro** was hit. At 1.15hrs. 3 huge explosions were heard; the cruiser's guns fell silent and soon after the blazing wreck capsized. For their outstanding courage, coolness and skill during the action Stobie and several other officers and men of the 26th Destroyer Flotilla received awards.

Confirmed last year by the American War Library as the oldest survivor of the **Bataan** death march, **Albert Brown** died on 14th August 2011 aged 105. Two weeks after the bombing of **Pearl Harbour**, the Japanese overran the **Philippines** and the American and Filipino forces retreated into the **Bataan** peninsula. In April 1942, some 78,000 of them surrendered. The Japanese decided forcibly to march their POWs to camps via the railway at **San Fernando** which was some 75 miles away. Many of the POWs, including **Brown**, had not eaten for 4 days, and the men struggled to keep going from day 1 of the march. On the second day they marched for 21 hours to cover the 30 miles allocated by the Japanese military. By the third day, the POWs started to die amidst appalling suffering, cruelty, and lack of human compassion from their guards. Men died as they marched or were killed where they fell. A week later, at the end of the 75 mile enforced march, 12,000 men were put on trains for the 3 hour journey to **Camp O'Donnell**, a former US Air Force Base. Many more were to die in the following 6 weeks. **Albert Brown** remained silent about his ordeal for over 50 years, but he secretly wrote about his experiences on a tiny pad of paper which he hid in the lining of his canvas bag. After his release, it took him 2 years to recover from his various diseases.

BOOKS

"AUTOBIOGRAPHY: Helen Mary Piper" – including an account of her years in Malaya up to the Fall of Singapore 1942. Softback, 95 pages, illustrated, A4 size. Compiled and published by **Helen's** granddaughter **Caroline Goulden**.

This impressive, attractively presented piece of family history provides an interesting record of the experiences of the **Pyper** family in Malaya.

Born in 1896, **Helen** grew up in Long Eaton, the daughter of a local bank manager. A VAD nurse in the First World War, in 1919 she married **Dickie Pyper**, a Captain in the London Regiment and recipient of the Military Cross & Bar. In 1920 they headed separately for Malaya where he became a rubber planter on 'Pam' Shelton-Palmer's Abaco Estate, Semenyih, Selangor, and later at Bukit Kajang Estate, Malacca.

Helen's account gives a good description of the daily life of a planter and his wife, their children & neighbours. The names of a number of planters and customs officers mentioned will be familiar to some MVG readers. **Helen** describes the less than comfortable existence in an assistant planter's bungalow and how locally purchased food was supplemented with twice weekly orders from Singapore Cold Storage delivered by train in an ice box to the nearest station.

In 1928, after an apparent disagreement with his Visiting Agent, **Dickie** switched to the Colonial Service as Temporary Supervisor, Government Monopolies, Singapore. By 1939 he was Assistant Comptroller of Customs in the RASC attached to 45 Indian Brigade. **Helen** resumed her duties as a VAD Nurse & department head in KL until evacuated from Singapore on the "**Empress of Japan**". Back home in the UK she contributed to **Sir George Maxwell's** 1944 book "The Civil Defence of Malaya". **Dickie** died days before the Fall of Singapore at Changi Military Hospital. He was nursed by a family friend, **Ethel Binnie**, lost at sea days later. **Dickie's** death was not confirmed till late 1945. The book, which includes short diary entries for 1942, letters, biographical details and family photos, will hopefully encourage others to produce their 'Malayan' family histories.

Copies of the book (£8 each) are available from **Caroline Goulden** at:-

156, Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7LA.

Cheques payable to **Caroline Goulden** for £10 which includes package and postage (UK rate). For orders from overseas, please contact her (crgoulden@aol.com) for extra postage costs.

"THAT'S HOW IT GOES: The Way of the 90-year Life Journey of a Singapore Eurasian". By F.A.C. "Jock" Oehlers.

Available from Amazon Books online at: <http://www.selectbooks.com.sg/getTitle.aspx?SBNNum=052216>

This is the second edition of this book, which has just been released, together with a 2-track mini-CD of the author's original song written in 1944 and performed by **Jamie Oehlers** on Saxophone with **Tal Cohen** on piano.

In the preface to this second edition, **Dr. Oehlers** says: "During discussions with readers of the first edition of my book, while I was encouraged by many compliments paid to the book, there was a consensus that I could have included more interesting material in some of the chapters, notably those related to the Japanese Occupation of Singapore and to the Bahau Catholic Colony, Fuji-go. I, myself, in hindsight, felt that I could have expanded on the contents of these and other chapters, and am taking the opportunity in this second edition to rectify these deficiencies...."

He goes on to say: "I have had conversations with other survivors of Fuji-go, **Gwen Lange** (nee **Perry**) and **Arthur Nunes**, concerning their memories of life while confined there, some of which have been incorporated in this second edition."

First published in 2008, the book brings the reader with the author on his life's journey from a carefree young boy growing up in Colonial Singapore, through the terror and hardship of the Japanese Occupation to becoming a respected Professor of Oral Surgery and the Founder and President of the Singapore Kennel Club for 19 years. Throughout this journey he was accompanied by his wife, **Ursula**, his childhood sweetheart and partner in life since their marriage in 1942.

In one passage, **Jock** mentions how he had to intervene in a trial; at the infamous Bahau Catholic Colony during the Occupation – helping to save innocent lives at great danger to his own.

BOOKSHOP FOR SECOND HAND/PRIVATELY PUBLISHED BOOKS

It has been suggested that we should run this in the newsletter, with a donation for advertising the books being given to MVG funds. It would be run as simply as possible, along the following lines:

- A). Book details, including price required, and contact details to **Rosemary** for inclusion in A.K.
- B). Buyers and sellers would deal with their own transactions, including cost of postage and packing.
- C). Sellers to send a donation to MVG funds.

If anyone has any better ideas or is willing to run the Bookshop for the Group, please let Rosemary know.

To date, I have several copies of the following book to offer:-

"THE AMONOHASIDATE or THE GATE OF HEAVEN" – by Richard Yardley, Veteran Volunteer. His story. New. Softback. Cost - £7 including postage and packing. Cheques to:- Mrs. R. Fell Malayan Volunteers Group and sent to the contact address on P.22. ALL proceeds to MVG funds.

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE – FEBRUARY 2012

As soon as the details for the Remembrance Events and other projects planned for February 2012 have been finalized and released for public consumption by the Government of Singapore, all MVG members who have expressed an interest in attending these events will be informed.

At present, I am still only able to tell you that the **Main Remembrance Ceremony** will take place at the **Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Kranji** on Wednesday 15th February. There will be other events during that week, and as mentioned in the Editorial, an informal get-together of all MVG members in Singapore is planned at the Bark Café next to the Changi Museum. We hope that Jeya will be able to attend this gathering.

Several members have already let me know that they will be in Singapore for these Remembrance Events. However, it would be very helpful if you would, please, give me the following details if you have not done so:-

1. Names of those attending.
2. Dates of your stay.
3. Name and address of hotel/friends where you are staying.
4. If you would like to come to the MVG gathering, so that we have an idea of numbers.

I am very sorry that I am still unable to give you more details than this.

[See last page for Rosemary's contact details]

THE NETHERLANDS-MALAYSIA ASSOCIATION – by Drs Pim ten Hoorn

The Netherlands-Malaysia Association (or in Dutch: Vereniging Nederland-Maleisie or VNM) was created out of personal interest and involvement of individuals in the Netherlands with Malaysia. Today the VNM has about 90 members in the Netherlands, some of whom have lived and worked in Malaysia, others have experienced the country as tourists or are just interested in the people and its culture. It was my personal history, being born as a Eurasian in Indonesia, and having lived there for about 10 years, that nurtured my interest in Southeast Asia.

In 2001 I met **Dennis de Witt** for the first time in Kuala Lumpur. He is a Malaysian of Dutch Eurasian descent. Of course I was aware that the Dutch had conquered Malacca from the Portuguese in the 17th Century, and had stayed there for about 165 years. But I had not realized that in Malacca, like in Indonesia, the Dutch had mixed with local people and this had led to the fact that even today there are Malaysians with Dutch surnames and a Dutch family history. **Dennis** and I had been in contact through e-mail for a couple of years and had discussed how Dutch Eurasians and others, Malaysians as well as people in the Netherlands, could be made more aware of this history and heritage.

Dennis explained to me that his wish was to establish a "centre for the history and culture of the Malaysian Dutch Eurasians". I was very much intrigued by this idea, but I couldn't see how the Dutch Eurasians, being a very small community in Malaysia, might actually manage to establish and maintain such an institution. However, I was fascinated by the multi-ethnic nature of Malaysian society and the existence of a small group with Dutch roots. So, I decided that after my return to the Netherlands, I should try to promote knowledge of the Dutch Eurasians in Malaysia and Malaysia itself amongst the Dutch public, especially amongst the Indo-Dutch Eurasian community in the Netherlands.

In order to do this, I gathered a number of people of whom I was certain that they had a profound interest in Southeast Asia (especially Malaysia) and we established the Netherlands-Malaysia Committee. The aim was to create an organization, based in the Netherlands, to inform Dutch people about Malaysia and promote friendship between the two countries.

In the meantime, in K.L. **Dennis de Witt** had founded the MDDP – Malaysian Dutch Descendants Project. In 2005 the Netherlands-Malaysia Association was founded and officially launched at the Pasar Malam Besar, the largest Eurasian festival in the world, in the presence of the Ambassador of Malaysia to the Netherlands.

The VNM is independent from government, political parties and other organizations, but will co-operate with other institutions if appropriate. For example, in 2009, the VNM took part with the Embassy of Malaysia, in a cultural project in The Hague, resulting in an exhibition and a book. The aim was to encourage Dutch artists to present their views of Malaysia, and in January 2009, eight Dutch artists visited Malaysia. They returned with 40 paintings which were exhibited in The Hague, and published in a book.

Every year the Netherlands-Malaysia Association organizes 2 lectures on Malaysia at the Pasar Malam Besar (now the Tong Tong Fair). Membership is open to all individuals worldwide, but most members are Dutch residents. In K.L. the Malaysia-Netherlands Friendship Association (MANET) was founded for Malaysians who wish to promote ties with the Dutch people to their mutual benefit.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY – 15TH OCTOBER 2011 – Unveiling of the Repatriation Memorial Plaque on Liverpool Pier Head.

If you wish to attend the Service of Dedication at 11a.m., and have not yet done so, please RSVP your intention to attend to: sarah@researchingfepowhistory.org.uk Postcode for Pier Head is **L3 1DP**.

The service is due to last under an hour and will be held in the open air whatever the weather. You are asked to arrive between 10.30 and 10.45 and will be shown where to stand facing the waterfront adjacent to the new Liverpool Museum. Please bring your own seat if required as no seating is being provided. **Final details** for parking, disabled access etc. see:- www.researchingfepowhistory.org.uk OR contact **Sarah** as above.

The grey granite plaque will be situated alongside other WW 2 maritime memorials on a raised stone structure facing the River Mersey, near to the Museum. It will bear the names of the 22 repatriation ships which docked at Liverpool between 8th October and early December 1945, listed in 2 columns on either side of a central dedication to FEPOW and civilian internees.

SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2011 - LONDON REUNION AND LUNCH, RAF CLUB, PICCADILLY.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE FOR THE LUNCH.

It is still not too late to come to this annual event, but names to **Hugh Chaplin asap**, and cheques for £31.50 pp made out to:-
Mrs. R. Fell Malayan Volunteers Group – and sent to Millbrook House, Axminster, Devon EX13 5EE.

A reminder that cheques are due now. There will be a Raffle with proceeds for MVG funds. The talk by **Dato' Anthony Cooper**, is entitled **"Malayan Memoirs from Yesteryear and Malaysia today."**

We look forward to renewing old acquaintances and to meeting new members between noon and 4p.m. in the **Ballroom.**

THURSDAY – 10TH NOVEMBER 2011 – SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY & CROSS PLANTING CEREMONY.

Tickets for the Service in the Abbey are available from **Merilyn Hywel-Jones**. Please contact her (phone no. in list of members) if you would like one. **Merilyn** is planting the MVG Cross in the FEPOW Plot after the Service. If any member is in London on that day, please try to attend this ceremony or visit the Field of Remembrance to see the Cross.

SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2011 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE AND MARCH PAST IN WHITEHALL.

We are still awaiting the tickets and instructions for this event – which are due any minute. If you have asked **Rosemary** for a ticket, you will be sent details as soon as the information arrives. Despite requests to the BBC to extend the broadcast, it may end before the civilian column, in which we march, arrives at the Cenotaph. Last year the London evening news showed a glimpse of the MVG group, so we hope to be shown again this year!

WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2012 – 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

Please send **Rosemary** the details requested at the top of P.21. You will be informed as soon as we have been given the finalized list of events which are taking place as well as the Service of Remembrance in Kranji.

SATURDAY – SUNDAY, 8TH & 9TH SEPTEMBER 2012 – 4TH INTERNATIONAL RFH CONFERENCE.

The 4th Researching FEPOW History Conference is being held at the **Whitemoor Lakes Conference and Activity Centre**, Alrewas, Staffordshire next September. It cannot be held at the NMA due to building works which are planned to start in spring 2012. However, the Centre is adjacent to the NMA, and the Saturday Conference Supper is being held there (**Price: approx £25 pp**) so there will be a chance to visit the Arboretum, see the changes taking place, & the MVG Memorial Garden. Accommodation is provided in a series of "lodges" at the Whitemoor Centre, for those wishing to stay on the spot. Amongst the many advantages for staying at the Centre are: full board; all en-suite family rooms taking up to 4 people; kitchen facilities; and 24hr. tea & coffee machines for each lodge. **However the Centre operates a strictly NO ALCOHOL policy.**

Price: Full Board for 2 or more sharing from Friday supper to Sunday lunch inc. (except Sat Supper) - £200pp

Price: Non residential £120pp including lunch both days.

Single: Full board - £260 pp

Registration forms can be downloaded from the RFH website: www.researchingfepowhistory.org.uk

For further information contact Sarah Edwards on sarah@researchingfepowhistory.org.uk or Tel: 01743 791508

To secure a place, please return one Registration form per person with a cheque for £50 pp (non-refundable) to:

Mike Parkes, 34, Queens Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH47 2AJ.

Conferences are highly recommended to all MVG members. Speakers are all top researchers in their field, and you can be sure of a week-end packed full of memorable talks and information.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

A copy of the Income and Expenditure Sheet from the MVG's Annual Accounts is enclosed with this newsletter. We are, once more, indebted to SJA Accountants Ltd., for giving their time to prepare these accounts free of charge to the MVG. The preparation of the accounts takes an increasing amount of time as the Group grows, and we are very grateful to the Accountants for waiving their fee.

If anyone would like to have a full copy of the accounts, please send a SAE to Rosemary with your request.

A REMINDER OF THE NEW PASSWORD FOR ACCESS TO THE NEWSLETTERS ONLINE – swettenham

OVERSEAS CONTACTS

MVG AUSTRALIA SECRETARY – ELIZABETH BUNNEY

5, Penistone Street, Greenwood 6024, Western Australia. Tel: 08 9247 3374 e-mail: bunneyelizabeth5@gmail.com

MVG MALAYSIA SECRETARY – ANDREW HWANG

28, Jalan Batu Laut, Taman Bukit Seputeh, 58000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. e-mail: mvg.malaysia@yahoo.co.uk

UK CONTACTS

JONATHAN MOFFATT – MVG Historian & Archivist

49, Coombe Drive, Binley Woods, Coventry CV3 2QU. Tel: 02476 545013 e-mail: JonathanMoffatt@aol.com

HUGH CHAPLIN – MVG Reunion and Annual Lunch Tel: 01865 881664 Mobile: 07740797124

The Main House, Main Road, Witney, Stanton Harcourt, Oxon OX29 5RJ. e-mail: hugh.chaplin@gmail.com

ROSEMARY FELL – Newsletter Editor/Membership Secretary/Subscriptions and Donations

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

**MALAYAN VOLUNTEERS GROUP
NEW MEMBERS – JULY TO OCTOBER 2011**

ANDERSEN, Margaret (Maggie).

17, Dandalan Close, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5BW.

Mobile No. 07877 923474 e-mail: andaya13349@aol.com

Niece of **Guy Meldrum BRAND, Maj. 2/FMSVF**. POW in Changi and then on the Burma-Siam Railway.

BIGELOW, Anthony.

Unit 2/165, Heatherdale Road, Vermont, Victoria 3133, Australia.

e-mail: anthonybigelow@hotmail.com

Great nephew of **Norman Percival BIGELOW 3/SSVF (Penang & Province Wellesley) to SRA [V]**, Singapore.

BRAND, John Anthony (Tony) Guy.

A "Schoolship Kid" & evacuated on the "Centaur"

7, Conlan Close, Mosman Park 6012, Western Australia.

Tel: (08) 9433 3852 Fax: 9433 1250

Son of **Guy Meldrum BRAND, Maj. 2/FMSVF**. POW in Changi and then on the Burma Siam Railway.

Evacuated in early February on the "Centaur" with mother, **Corona Hilda (nee Graydon)**, brother Peter and sister Corinne. Arrived in Perth WA in late February 1942. It was "Centaur's" last trip before becoming a Hospital Ship – but was sunk on her first voyage as such.

BRUCE-SMITH, Gerald.

Father evacuated on the "Kuala"

P.O. Box 51018, Arthur's Pass 7654, New Zealand.

e-mail: gbruce-smith@xtra.co.nz

Son of **Donald BRUCE-SMITH, PWD Engineer Malaya Jan 1940 & SSVF Dec. 1941**. Evacuated on the **SS**.

Kuala. Rescued from Pom Pong Island by **Bill Reynolds** and reached Padang, then Colombo and India.

Commissioned in Indian Army Engineers, specializing in bridge repair and construction. Returned to Malaya, Nov. 1945 – April 1946 with BMA Malaya reconstruction. May 1946 – Jan 1949 Malayan Public Works, then in 1949 returned to NZ. Listed as D B Smith in the **Kuala** passenger list.

Nephew of **Charles RUDD, W/O FMSVF**. PWD Malaya Engineer. Interned as a civilian in Changi for the duration. My Aunt, **Phyllis RUDD**, was evacuated on one of the last vessels sailing direct to Australia – name unknown. Both remained as Singapore residents until their passing.

BRUECHLE, Kaye (nee GLOVER).

14, Stockdale Crescent, Wembley Downs 6019, Western Australia.

Tel: (08) 9446 4310 e-mail: kaybruechle@gmail.com

Daughter of **Philip Holmes GLOVER, Private 13026 FMSVF 45 RMT Co**. Captured in Singapore. POW in Changi (1 yr) and on Blakang Mati (2 & 1/2 yrs.) Australian mining engineer at Malim Nawar. Retired to WA.

FEARBY, George. E.

26, Thomas Perrott Village, 55, Koolan Drive, Shelley 6148, Western Australia.

Tel: (08) 9361 4335 e-mail: fearby.g@inet.net.au

As an HM Armed Forces Veteran, I volunteered to join the **Malayan Auxiliary Police** in Kuala Lumpur in June 1948 and on being transferred to Singapore at the end of 1957, I volunteered for and was appointed an Officer in the **Singapore Military Forces** as from March 1958.

GOULDEN, Caroline (nee PYPER).

Grandmother evacuated on the "Empress of Japan"

156, Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7LA.

Fax: 020 8654 6799 e-mail: orgoulden@aol.com

Granddaughter of **Joseph Richard PYPER** (known as **Dickie**) and **Helen Mary PYPER** who lived in Malaya and Singapore from 1920 to 1942. Dickie was a rubber planter before becoming a Customs Officer in 1928. After Helen was evacuated on the "Empress of Japan" Dickie joined the RASC and died soon after that.

Self: Born at Batu Gajah in 1951 when father **Hugh PYPER** worked as an Electrical Engineer in Telok Anson.

Lived there till 1953 before family returned to England.

Husband lived in Singapore in 1950-53 when his Army father was stationed there. Husband's mother founded Singapore School for the Deaf in 1951 and was its Principal until 1953.

Self: Compiled Helen's autobiography (2011) – copies available – see Oct. 2011 newsletter.

HEMBREY, John.

Evacuated on SS "Kramer" to Batavia & SS "Rhyus" to Melbourne

3, rue Greffiere, 16500 Brillac, France.

Tel: (00 33) 0545 71 46 30 e-mail: johnhembrey001@gmail.com

Son of **Boris & Jean HEMBREY**. **Boris** – rubber planter in various Malay States and Atjeh (Sumatra) before the war. Spent most time at Kamuning Estate in Perak **FMSVF Kedah 1934 & Perak 1935**. **Spencer-Chapman Stay-Behind-Party 1942**. **V-Force Burma 1942**. **SIS/ISLD 1943-45**. **Head of Malaya County Section ISLD 1944/45**. post-war – present at Sungei Siput Tues 16th June 1948 DAY 1 of the Emergency. Served on local, state, and Federal War Councils. Awarded Colonial Police Medal 1950. Retired from Malaya 1956. Died 1989. Published "Malayan Spymaster – Memoirs of a Rubber Planter"

Self: Evacuated with mother (died 2002) to Melbourne via Batavia. Returned to England on the SS Strathallan.

Family returned to Malaya in 1946. Self visited Malaysia on business 1965-90. Recruited by Malaysian Government 1996 & represented UK Special Forces at Ipoh Cenotaph Ceremony 2009.

KEATING, Alison (nee HAY).

125, High Street, Riseley, Bedfordshire MK44 1DF
Tel: 01234 708267

Daughter of **Alistair William HAY, Capt. 1/SSVF to RA.** POW Singapore to Thailand. Camp Interpreter Nakorn Pathom, where he died in captivity 21/10/44. According to **M.J. HAYWARD** his funeral procession was the longest for any POW. Pre-war in MCS associated with the Chinese Community. District Judge SS/Superintendent of Prisons 1936. Chinese Protector 1937.

Mother **Joan (nee BRETT)** evacuated to Melbourne in July 1940 with children Alison, John & Sally. Repatriated to UK Oct/Nov 1945 on SS Sarpedon.

PALFREY, Hilary (nee LONG).

Vavaya, 2, Atwood, Little Bookham, Surrey KT23 3BH.
Tel: 01372 458494

Daughter of **Alfred Francis LONG**, of FMS Railways K.L. "A" Coy 2/FMSVF (1937) to Pte. SSVF. POW Singapore to Thailand with "D" battalion 12/10/42. Worked on the Burma Railway.

Self: Born in Malaya (K.L.) in 1941. Evacuated on the "Aorangi" with mother **Hilda Long** to Melbourne. Family returned to Malaya as a family to K.L. post-war.

SCHMIEGELOW, Philippa (Pippa).

24, Castle Harbour Drive, Port Perry, ON L9L 1P4, Canada.
Awaiting details.

Evacuated 1940 to Melbourne**Evacuated on the "Aorangi"****DELETIONS AND AMENDMENTS****Please delete from the Members' List:**

CARMICHAEL, Jim & Rosa of P.O. Box 279, Tolga, Queensland 4882, Australia.

GRAND, Ben & Ria of 20, Sheredan Road, Highams Park, London E4 9RW

HOWE, Jennifer of 1332, Carnsew Street, Victoria V8S 1P2 BC, Canada.

STREATFEILD-JAMES, Sally of South Lodge, Tower Road, Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6SP

Change of address:

BARKER, Heather & Hannah.

New address: 72, Park Hill, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 3RZ

New Telephone No:

Brewis, Bob 01803 558503

Corrections to e-mail addresses:

CUNLIFFE, Nick & Diana - dittyco@hotmail.co.uk

FREEMAN, Wendy - Wendy.k@sympatico.ca

HENRY, Ros - ros.henry@talktalk.net

HWANG, Andrew - ayl.hwang@gmail.com

MITCHELL, Brian & Vivien - seiftonbatch@googlemail.com

IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER ALTERATIONS TO MAKE TO THE MEMBERS' LIST, PLEASE LET ME KNOW

SOME E-MAILS ARE RETURNED AS WE DON'T HAVE YOUR UP-TO-DATE ONES.

The Malayan Volunteers Group
Income and expenditure account
For the year ended 5th April, 2011

	British £	Australian \$	Malaysian RM
Annual subscriptions	£2,105.00	\$895.00	197.10
Donations for general funds	£1,155.52		
Lunch fees	£3,082.50		
Kuala Selangor memorial donations	£200.00		
Bank interest (paid net of tax)	£0.00	\$0.08	1.10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income in the period	£6,543.02	\$895.08	198.20
Lunch costs	(£3,157.10)		
Wreath, badges, donations, garden plot	(£815.90)		(185.00)
Website costs	(£116.34)		
Printing, postage and stationery	(£2,018.17)		(35.60)
Bank charges		(\$30.10)	(8.50)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of income over expenditure	£435.51	\$864.98	(30.90)
Brought forward funds in hand on 6th April, 2010	£4,304.08	\$395.00	100.00
Transfer from Australian account to British account	£785.35	(\$1,259.98)	
Transfer fee	(£15.00)		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance of funds in hand on 5th April, 2011	£5,509.94	\$0.00	69.10
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Financed by:			
Cash in hand on 5th April, 2011	0.00	0.00	0.00
HSBC account on 5th April, 2011	770.35		
Barclays account on 5th April, 2011	4,739.59		
Affin account on 5th April, 2011		0.00	69.10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£5,509.94	\$0.00	69.10
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Sterling equivalent on 5th April, 2011			£14.02
			<hr/> <hr/>
Creditors on 5th April, 2011			
	Nil	Nil	Nil
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>