

APA KHABAR

Patron: Her Grace The Duchess of Norfolk

www.malayanvolunteersgroup.org.uk

29TH EDITION
JANUARY 2012



THE FALL OF SINGAPORE 15TH FEBRUARY 1942

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED AND
SUFFERED AS FEPOWS 70 YEARS AGO

SOME HEADLINES FROM "THE DAILY TELEGRAPH" 70 YEARS AGO

LONDON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941

JAPAN DECLARES WAR ON BRITAIN & U.S.

LONDON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1941

JAPANESE STILL TRYING TO LAND IN MALAYA

FROM OUR OWN
CORRESPONDENT, SINGAPORE,
Monday

An official communiqué issued here to-night says that the extensive bombing of Japanese transports and troops attempting to land in Northern Malaya continues. The first attack in the early hours of this morning was a failure.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1941

COMMUNICATIONS CUT WITH HONG KONG

At 7.20 last night the Colonial Office issued the following announcement:
"The report from Japanese sources that Hong Kong has been in Japanese hands since this morning cannot be confirmed or denied as no communication has been received from the colony since early this morning."

'GRAVE' SITUATION

Mr. Duff Cooper's Broadcast

"The news is grave to-night. Our forces have been obliged to retreat in North-West Malaya, and, as this exposes Penang to attack and we have not sufficient troops to garrison it, it has been necessary to evacuate the majority of the civilian population.

Let us not blind ourselves to the gravity of the situation, or the seriousness of the task that awaits us. Let us frankly admit that so far the Japanese have been extremely successful."

LONDON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1941

GREAT STAND AT HONG KONG

CANADIAN GENERAL FEARED KILLED

The latest news from Hong Kong is that the British garrison, fighting with the utmost gallantry against great odds, is still holding out in three main positions in the western part of the island, and exacting a heavy toll on the Japanese assault troops.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore on the 15th February this year, a group of nearly 40 MVG members from Australia, Malaysia and the U.K. are travelling to Singapore to attend the Memorial Service to be held in Kranji, the Commonwealth War Cemetery, on the evening of Wednesday 15th February 2012. For many of the veterans of the disastrous Malayan Campaign, it may be the last occasion on which they will be able to travel to Singapore in memory of their fallen friends and fellow prisoners of war. Our own remarkable veteran **George Hess'e** is one of those who is travelling from Perth, Western Australia, to attend the Service. As one of the few who successfully escaped from Changi in the first days after capitulation, **George** spent the rest of the war behind enemy lines in the jungles of Malaya with the communist guerrillas and SOE personnel. [See separate leaflet for details of other events planned for MVG members attending the Service.]

The National FEPOW Fellowship Welfare Remembrance Association (N.F.F.W.R.A.) is holding a Service to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore in **Ely Cathedral on Sunday 12th February 2012 at 3 p.m.** A buffet lunch will be provided for FEPOWs/Wives and Widows, plus refreshment for the congregation after the Service. This is a **Ticket Event with Reserved Seating**. If you would like to attend this Service please send your Name, Address and Tel: No: to:- **Mrs. Pauline Simpson**, FEPOW Chaplain, White Rose Cottage, King Street, Neatishead, Norfolk NR12 8BW.

Tel: 01692 630674/07818 260835 Further details regarding transport, parking and ticket application to be given later.

On Saturday 10th December 2011 a special service was held at the National Memorial Arboretum to mark the unveiling of a small memorial to the 2,081 survivors from the battleship **Prince of Wales** and battlecruiser **Repulse**, codenamed **Force Z**. About 40 of these men are thought to be still alive, and only a handful of these were expected to attend the ceremony, with the Royal Navy represented by a single Petty Officer.

The story of the sinking of these two capital ships is well known – it was the Royal Navy's greatest single defeat of the Second World War. Having sailed from Singapore under grey tropical clouds with no air cover, Force Z found itself on the morning of 10th December 1941 sailing under cloudless blue skies with Japanese reconnaissance aircraft circling lazily on the horizon.

Attacked at 11 a.m. by scores of enemy aircraft, it was over in a matter of just over two hours, with 840 men dead. Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, commander of Force Z chose to go down with his ship. Sir Winston Churchill, who had sent these great ships to their doom, was awoken to be told of the tragedy, and later wrote of the news, "In all the war I never received a more direct shock. As I turned over and twisted in bed the full horror sank in upon me." Worse, of course, was to come.

The memorial has been paid for by the relatives of the Force Z survivors, but there is a shortfall of over £2,000. If any one would like to donate money to this fund, cheques payable to HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse Survivors Association, should be sent to: Force Z Survivors Association, 19, Crossways, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JP.

It was announced in the Malaysian newspaper "The Star" on 28th October 2011 that British War Veterans can now wear the "**Pingat Jasa Malaysia [PJM]**" medal, after a six-year campaign to overturn the ruling by the British Government's Honours and Decorations Committee (HD) that the medal could be accepted but "not formally worn". Chairman of the U.K.-based **Fight4the PJM Campaign** Barry Fleming said that the landmark decision was made in the House of Lords in time for the medal to be worn officially from Remembrance Day on 11th November 2011.

On a glorious autumn day, in brilliant sunshine, the unveiling of the Repatriation Memorial on Liverpool Pier Head took place on 15th October 2011. Witnessed by over 600 hundred invited guests, FEPOW and members of the public, including MVG members whose father had been repatriated to Liverpool after the end of the war, the dignified Service was very moving. It was the culmination of a campaign by the Researching FEPOW History Group to commemorate the 22 ships which brought back so many men, women and children who had been prisoners or who had been evacuated from their homes in the Far East during the war.

We are pleased that regular lunches and get-togethers are taking place in Perth, Western Australia for MVG members there, and also in Kuala Lumpur for our Malaysian members. Reports on these, and the U.K. Annual Lunch in London on 29th October 2011 are included in this newsletter.

We are very grateful to **Judy Balcombe** for her work in preparing the four Memorial Plaques which are being presented to the people of Bangka Island and Palembang in Sumatra during the week beginning Monday 20th February. The wording for each plaque has been chosen with great care and thought.

Following a rejection by **Mark Webb**, the Chief Executive Officer of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, in Perth, Western Australia, of our proposed Memorial to the Australian members of the Malayan Volunteer Forces, we are delighted to announce that representation has now been taken up on our behalf by Australian member **Bill Adamson, President of Malaya Borneo Veterans Association Western Australia Inc.** In a very short space of time, **Bill** has contacted the authorities in the City of Fremantle and the City of Stirling, and received a positive response from the latter. In January, it is planned to have the Memorial Plaque designed and made ready for presentation during the week starting the 20th February 2012. We thank **Bill** very much for his expertise in getting this project off the ground so quickly, and we look forward to reporting on both presentations later in the year. **WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

Finally we would like to note the following:-

The United States marked the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbour with Memorial Services and lowered flags across the country.

In Britain the 70th anniversary of the Japanese invasion of Malaya, her sovereign territory, on 8th December was largely ignored. Is this not a tragedy and a disgraceful indictment of the United Kingdom at the lack of remembrance not only for those who fought, died or became prisoners in the Malayan Campaign, but also for the local population of Malaya and Singapore who suffered great hardship, cruelty and deprivation as well?

A very happy New Year to you all

THE PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES

1. MUNTOK.

Images of the four plaques which have been designed and ordered by **Judy Balcombe** are shown below:

In loving memory of the men, women and children who suffered at the hands of the Japanese between 1942 and 1945.

Many were bombed and drowned in the Bangka Straits, others were killed after landing at Muntok while many suffered from deprivation, disease and death in internment.

Their friends cared for them in the camps and in the Tinwinning building hospital wards but many died and were buried in Muntok, in Palembang and in Loebock Linggau and are now at rest.

'These hearts were woven of human joys and cares,
washed marvellously by sorrow' (Rupert Brooke)

Dedicated to their memories by the
Malayan Volunteers Group, February 2012

Tinwinning Building.

In loving memory of the women and children interned in Muntok by the Japanese between 1942 and 1945.

Civilians and army nurses were held captive here, experiencing hardship, ill-health and often death. They cared for one another and shared the very little they had.

Despite the squalor, they sought beauty in song.

'As blended voices filled the air
the soul could soar to worlds more fair,
escape from prison bounds.'
(Margaret Dryburgh, camp internee)

Dedicated to their memories by the
Malayan Volunteers Group, February 2012

Women's Camp

In loving memory of the civilian men and boys interned in Muntok by the Japanese between 1942 and 1945.

They experienced sickness, starvation and often death but they showed great care for one another and courage in the face of such adversity.

'Who would true valour see, let him come hither'
(John Bunyan)

Dedicated to their memories by the
Malayan Volunteers Group, February 2012

Muntok Jail

In loving memory of the men, women and children, internees of the Japanese between 1942 and 1945 who were cared for in the Charitas hospital, Palembang and with thanks for the bravery and skill of the nuns and doctors who cared for them.

'And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain.'
(Revelations 21:4)

Dedicated to their memories by the
Malayan Volunteers Group, February 2012

Charitas Hospital

Judy would be grateful if any former internees or their families could let her have any photographs taken from around 1942, as well as a small biography which could be displayed in the newly created Museum in the Tinwinning Building, formerly used as the Muntok Jail Hospital during the war. This is to enable visitors to the Museum to learn about the internees and the camps in which they were imprisoned, as well as the effects of the war. Also, if anyone has any postcards or letters sent from the camps which they would allow **Judy** to photocopy for display, she would be grateful. Other items of clothing or memorabilia would also be gratefully received. **Judy** is visiting the U.K. in April and would be happy to meet up with any MVG member who could help her with exhibits for the Museum. She can be contacted by e-mail: balcombe@netspace.net.au

Judy also reports an interesting story. She has been in contact with **Dr. Ian McPhee** in Australia, whose mother, **Cecilia May Delforce**, was one of the Australian nurses who was mentioned in despatches possibly for stopping a Japanese soldier from shooting British and Dutch men who had been lined up against a wall in Muntok town (although the Australian War Memorial cannot verify what the mention in despatches was for!). The details are unclear but an Australian doctor came up to **Cecilia** afterwards and thanked her for saving his life. Possibly this was **Dr. Albert McKern**, grandfather of new MVG member, **Bill McKern**.

In another query, **Judy** asks whether anyone knows the history of a **June Brown (nee BOURHILL)** who, aged 9, was on the Vyner Brooke when it was bombed. Her mother was drowned but she reached the shore with **Ralph Armstrong** and his family. She lost two fingers when 2 rafts collided. **Ralph** has recently located her in Northern Ireland.

The plaques are to be presented by **Judy** during the week beginning Monday 20th February, to the 4 venues:

- Tinwinning Building – the new Museum in Muntok
- Site of the Women's Camp in Muntok
- Muntok Jail
- Charitas Hospital, Palembang.

On behalf of the MVG, we thank **Judy** for her time and expertise in designing and creating these beautiful plaques.

2. MEMORIAL TO THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS

This has taken some time to come to fruition, but now that MVG member **Bill Adamson – President of the MBVA WA Inc** – has kindly taken up the application on behalf of the MVG, the Australian Authorities are finally taking notice of the fact that there are no memorials in Australia to the Australian members of the Malayan Volunteer Forces, nor is there a memorial to the civilian population which gladly accepted responsibility for looking after the many hundreds of evacuees fleeing from war torn Malaya and Singapore. We are now very hopeful that the MVG's proposals to present the Australian people with this memorial will finally happen.

On 6th September 2011 a letter was sent to **Richard Simpson – Chairman of the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens in Perth WA** – by MVG Secretary **Rosemary Fell**. This explained MVG's position, following the refusal by the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to accept a memorial to honour Australian Volunteers, and asking whether Kings Park would consider a similar memorial, which would also include honouring the Australian civilian population of WA. No reply or acknowledgement to the letter was received, so a further e-mail was sent on 4th October enquiring whether the letter had been received.

By coincidence this e-mail crossed with a letter (dated 30th September) from **Mark Webb** Chief Executive Officer of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens. The letter said that the MVG's request was being investigated and that a reply would be given **"...once I have considered all the available information."**

Towards the end of October there was still no answer from the CEO of Kings Park, and another letter was e-mailed to **Mark Webb** seeking a meeting in February 2012 when the Secretary was planning a visit to Perth. Finally on 17th November 2011, **Mark Webb** wrote turning down the proposed memorial saying....

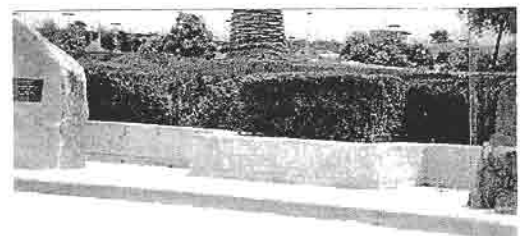
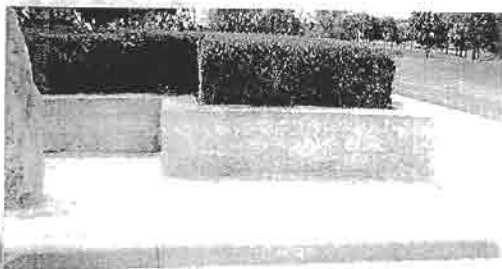
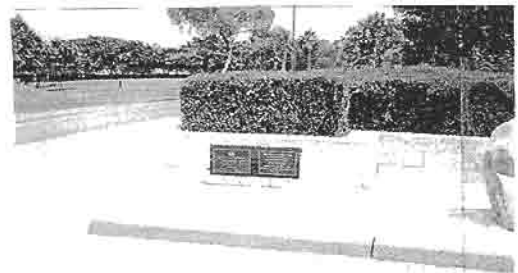
"I acknowledge and understand the intent of your request and while it certainly has merit, it is our assessment that for the reasons outlined in our Policy, that Kings Park and Botanic Gardens is not a suitable place for its location. The Board is very keen to limit any new memorials in Kings Park and any proposal for a memorial must be absolutely compelling and exceptional."

He went on to suggest other locations in Perth such as the City of Fremantle and the City of Stirling where there are important war memorials.

It then seemed sensible to hand over the applications to these Authorities to **Bill Adamson, Elizabeth Bunney MVG Australia Secretary** and **George Hess'e**. **Bill**, in his capacity as President of the MBVA WA Inc has many contacts with ex-military Associations. On behalf of the MVG he has written to the Mayors of both the City of Fremantle and the City of Stirling; the Naval Association of Australia; the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated; the Far East Strategic Reserve Navy Association; and Major-General J.C. Hughes, AO, DSO, MC, who is Patron of the MBVA WA Inc.

Elizabeth Bunney kindly visited both War Memorials and sent photographs so that their respective merits could be assessed. The general consensus was that the War Memorial at the City of Stirling would be better than the City of Fremantle, despite the latter's obvious link with the arrival of the evacuees, due to two factors – firstly there is room for additional plaques on the walls around the Memorial itself, and secondly there is a memorial plaque dedicated to the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

The Malaya Borneo Veterans Association Western Australia Inc has agreed to associate with and strongly support the proposed memorial in conjunction with the **Malayan Volunteers Group**. A clearly worded document, written by **Bill Adamson** in support of our combined proposal for the presentation of this memorial, has been sent to the City of Stirling.



LIVERPOOL PIER HEAD FEPOW REPATRIATION MEMORIAL DEDICATION & UNVEILING 15th October 2011 Report by Jonathan Moffatt

In bright morning sunshine some 650 people including 25 FEPOWs and internees attended the unveiling ceremony on the Pier Head of this unique memorial to some 40,000 FEPOWs and civilian internees who returned to Liverpool & Southampton between October and December 1945. The first of these ships being **Monowai** on 8th October 1945 with the **Nieuw Holland** arriving on 15th October 1945.

A Royal Navy officer involved in the repatriation process reported to the Vice-Admiral, Pacific Fleet:

"...I would like to end with a final tribute to the men I liberated. Their spirit, their humour in the worst of adversity, their sticking power, made one feel but half a man compared with them. If the British and Allied nations can make men like these, who can be as fine in peace as in war, then we need have no fear for the future..."

Thirteen MVG members were among those attending, four of them members of the organizing committee for this project:

Meg & Mike Parkes, Keith Andrews and Sarah Hawkin

A procession of clergy, Merseyside dignitaries and other participants in the service made its way from the Cunard Building to the Pier Head for the service conducted by the Rector of Liverpool, Revd. Steven Brookes & Lay Minister Mrs. Pauline Simpson who is Chaplain to FEPOWs & Secretary to the National FEPOW Fellowship Welfare Remembrance Association. The Scripture reading Luke 1: vs 68-79 was by MVG member **Merle Hesp**, whose late husband **Harry** left Liverpool in 1941 as a 17 year old crew member of the **Empress of Asia**, and after internment in Changi Gaol & Sime Road Camps returned to Liverpool on the **Nieuw Holland** on 15th October 1945.

The hymns "Jerusalem" and "I Vow to Thee my Country" were led by the Liverpool Shanty Kings who had entertained the spectators before the service.

The younger generation played a special part in the service with girls from the Pensby High School reading Margaret Dryburgh's "The Captives' Hymn", 9 year old **Erin Hawkin** reading a tribute to her great grandfather, **Jack, Zac and Eliza Parsons**, aged 9 & 7 (great grandchildren of **Brigadier Toosey**) laying a wreath together with FEPOW **Maurice Naylor**. **Maurice**, formerly of 135 Field Regiment RA, gave a superb address.

The service ended with the Last Post, Reveille & the National Anthem. There was then a Walk Past of the Memorial and a flotilla of waterboats sailed past along the Mersey.

After the service a reception was held for over 300 guests in the former customs hall of the Cunard Building. Conversations, as ever, led to unexpected links being made.

Jonathan Moffatt was asked to escort the Deputy Vice Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool & his wife, a Dutch Lady. In conversation it emerged that not only were two of her uncles interned in Java but her father had, in 1945, been 1st officer of the repatriation ship **Tegelberg**.

Congratulations to **Meg Parkes** and her Researching FEPOW History Committee on achieving the creation of this memorial and on an extremely well organized event.

Photos of the event and plaque may be viewed at:

<http://www.researchingfepowhistory.org.uk/news/stories/news17oct2011.html>



MVG LONDON LUNCH 29th October 2011

A most successful lunch took place on 29th October 2011, with over 60 MVG members and friends attending the function which took place in the Ballroom of the RAF Club in Piccadilly. There was a good mix of "old hands" and recent members with photos, documents and memoirs exchanged. As often happens at such MVG gatherings, many unexpected connections were made.

An hour and a half of chatting and mingling before lunch, brought together old family friends who had not met for many years, or indeed since they were children.

After a delicious lunch, rounded off with petit fours and coffee, **Hugh Chaplin** asked us to stand for the toast to the Volunteers. The raffle draw then took place, with many lovely prizes to be won, all donated by members. We thank **Becca Kenneison** and **Donald Fell** for selling the raffle tickets and extracting an excellent sum of **£281** for MVG funds. Our

thanks also go to the "backroom boys" – **Penny Dembrey** and **Anthony Jackson** – for the tedious task of folding up the many dozen tickets which had been sold, and to **June Jackson** for her help with arranging the floral posies on each table. The members then settled down to listen to **Datuk Anthony Cooper's** talk about his mother's experiences in 1941-1942 leading up to her evacuation on the **Duchess of Bedford**. Taken from her memoirs, the talk centred on her personal views and experiences rather than from official documentation of the progress of the war. **Anthony's** father was a Major in the Manchester Regiment who died in captivity in Thailand and is buried in Kanchanaburi Commonwealth War Cemetery. At the end of the talk, each family present was presented with a book, "**The Fight for Malaya: the Jungle War of Maurice Cotterill**" by **R.W. Holder**. The books had been donated to **Anthony** by **Dato' Zed Cama** of the HSBC and the British Malaysian Society, who had written a foreword to the book. Finally a big thank you to **Hugh Chaplin** for organizing the venue and menu once again, and for keeping members in touch about the change of date.

Next year's lunch has already been booked for **Saturday, 20th October 2012 - same time & venue**. Please note the date. [N.B. A small blue ringed notebook was left on the table shown in the photo after the lunch. Does anyone own it - I have it! Ed]



MVG MALAYSIA INFORMAL LUNCHES – ANDREW HWANG, MVG MALAYSIA

During **Rosemary Fell's** last visit to Kuala Lumpur in January 2011, the MVG Malaysia members living in K.L. and Selangor decided to organize 2-3 hour lunches from time to time to get to know each other better and to discuss Volunteer topics, share historical research and reading material and to introduce new people to MVG with the intention of inviting them to join MVG. The lunches sometimes go hand-in-hand with outdoor activity. For example, the 2nd lunch followed the exploration of the abandoned former headquarters building of the FMSVF in Kuala Lumpur. After clambering around the hot dusty building taking photographs for over an hour, we adjourned to the Selangor Club for much deserved lagers and Hainanese chicken rice.

On average, we have between 3 and 6 people attending our lunches, which are either held at the Hakka Restaurant at No. 6, Kia Peng Road (a few doors away from Elizabeth Bunney's former home), at the Selangor Club, or at Chinoz (a fusion restaurant in the KLCC Shopping Centre). The latest lunch, the 5th this year, was held on Thursday 17th November 2011 at the Hakka Restaurant. **Ian Richardson** showed us part of the unpublished memoirs of his father (**Louis**) **Alexander Richardson** of 2/FMSVF, which included a fascinating, previously unknown, eye-witness account of the Alexander Hospital massacre. There were also discussions about the recent Remembrance Sunday ceremony and about MVG members participating in a WW2 Singapore tour which is being organized in February 2012. The tour will be the perfect vehicle to highlight **Romen Bose's** book "**Fortress Singapore: The Battlefield Guide**" which is now in its 4th edition (revised 2011) and should be purchased by every MVG member visiting Singapore!

MVG AUSTRALIA LUNCH AT FREMANTLE – by Elizabeth Bunney

Today – 28th September – eleven members met for lunch and a chat in a restaurant in Fremantle. After a squally day yesterday, today is a lovely Spring day down by the Swan River (which flows through Perth with its mouth at Fremantle).

Those present were: **Rosemary Schulstad, Lorna Raeburn, Patricia Giudice, Des & Gillian Woodford, George Fearby, Patricia Wood, Tony Brand, Bill Adamson, Sheena Wheeler and myself.**

There were apologies from **Joan Forman, Ian Peek, Richard Talalla & visitor Paddy Backskai, and from George and Hyacinth Hess'e**. Both George and Hyacinth are struggling with a bout of 'flu and are quite unwell. We sat talking about our connections with Malaya and war experiences at a young age.

We send our greetings to MVG members everywhere.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 13TH NOVEMBER 2011 – Report by Rosemary Fell

The sun was starting to shine through the early morning mist at about 8.30 in the morning, as we made our way through Green Park and St. James's Park to Horse Guards Parade. As the sun filtered through the trees, some of which were still quite leafy and green, the air felt warm and more like summer than autumn. Horse Guards was already filling up with military personnel, both currently serving and ex-servicemen and women, and the whole area was bustling with humanity. The van with the marker boards was in a different part of the parade ground, but a policeman let us through the barrier and we made our way into Whitehall via the security arches in Whitehall Place.

We took up our place outside the Old War Office and were shortly joined by **Anne Hinam** who was marching for the first time. Other members started to arrive – **Merilyn Hywel-Jones, Graeme & Nikki Archer-Waring, Karen Harney, Christine Cavender & friend Gwen, Pat Wilson, Sandy Lincoln and Yvonne Wurtzburg**, who was also marching for the first time. **Donald & Rosemary Fell** made up the 12 marchers.

Soon after 10 a.m. the military sections, which had been forming up on Horse Guards, were marched into their positions in Whitehall. Then came the order for us all to move forward into our positions nearer the Cenotaph for the Service and march past. By this time the crowds were packed along the pavements, patiently waiting for the service to start. There were young and old in the crowds, and it was good to see quite young children waiting and watching. The sun shone from a cloudless blue sky, and some of the normally bare plane trees were still covered with green and brown leaves.

As eleven o'clock approached, the bands played their usual mix of solemn and inspiring music, and the Ambassadors marched out of the Foreign Office carrying their poppy wreaths, followed by the Choirboys from the Chapel Royal and Clergy. At precisely 2 minutes to eleven, the Royal Family took their places, lead by Her Majesty The Queen. The crowds fell silent and, as Big Ben struck the hour, the guns boomed out. Nothing stirred in the whole of Whitehall and Parliament Square for the 2 minutes silence. It is a very moving moment, with thousands of people silent, still and deep in their own thoughts and memories of loved ones lost or thankfully returned from conflicts past or still ongoing.

The Queen laid her wreath exactly as she has done every year for nearly 60 years. We were able to watch on huge screens placed in Whitehall. After the members of the Royal Family had placed their wreaths on the Cenotaph, Government Ministers, Politicians and Ambassadors lined up to lay theirs in turn. The Duke of Cambridge was there, watched for the first time by the Duchess from the Foreign Office balcony, with other Royal Ladies. After the wreath-laying, the short simple service was conducted by the Bishop of London, ending with the National Anthem. After the dignitaries had all departed, the march past began.

The wait before it was our turn to march didn't seem as long this year – probably due to the mild weather. The sun shone brightly as we marched and handed in our wreath, watched by a huge crowd who clapped each group of marchers as they passed the Cenotaph.

The Prince of Wales took the salute at the end of the march in Horse Guards this year. As we were near the end of the column of marchers we didn't have to wait long before it was all over for another year. We said goodbyes to **Merilyn and Gwen**, and 10 of us made our way to the "All Bar One" near the London Eye for lunch. It was good to sit down, catch up on news and enjoy what has now become a traditional lunch at the end of a long, but very special day. Although MVG marchers were not shown on the main BBC broadcast, we were mentioned by David Dimbleby and filmed "on the red button".

We thank **Merilyn** and **Yvonne** for attending the Service in Westminster Abbey and Cross Planting Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 10th November. As usual HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was present at this ceremony, and planted his own cross. **Merilyn** planted a cross on behalf of the MVG in the FEPOW Plot.



L to R, Yvonne, Nikki, Karen, Pat, Christine, Gwen, Sandy, Anne and Rosemary.

7. *Left. Yvonne at the Cross Planting.*

REPORT ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2011, IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.

By Andrew Hwang, Kuala Lumpur

The multi-faith Remembrance Sunday service at the Kuala Lumpur Cenotaph opened with the singing of "Abide with Me" led by the Garden International School Choir. The MVG Malaysia contingent consisted of **Andrew Hwang** (great nephew of **Captain Cho Seow Lim** and **CQMS Tan Kim Tee**, both of 4/SSVF) and his wife **Lisa**, **Ian Richardson** (evacuated on the **Orion**, son of **Louis A.L. Richardson** and son-in-law of **Ismail Karana**, both of 2/FMSVF) and Malayan Campaign historian **Romen Bose** and his daughter **Lara**. The turnout was somewhat less compared with 2010 due to the ceremony clashing with the ever popular Terry Fox Run and the British Christmas Bazaar.

The British High Commissioner to Malaysia, His Excellency **Mr. Simon Featherstone**, read excerpts from the Pericles Eulogy, followed by prayers by Anglican, Muslim and Sikh clerics, reflecting the religious backgrounds of the fallen soldiers who had served in Malaya/Malaysia. "In Flanders Fields" and "To the Fallen" were recited by the Defence Attaches of Singapore and Australia respectively.

The hymn "O God, our help in ages past" was sung before the laying of wreaths. Thirty six wreaths were laid in all representing the various Commonwealth High Commissions, Embassies, MVG, the Perak Veterans, the ex-British Army Association Malaysia, British Regimental Associations, the various British loyal societies, British schools in Kuala Lumpur and St. Mary's Anglican Cathedral. The Malaysian Ministry of Defence, armed forces and police did not send representatives to lay any wreaths in accordance with new Malaysian government standing orders discouraging participation at remembrance ceremonies at cenotaphs and memorials. It was also very noticeable that the Malaysian federal flag and states' flags had been removed from around the cenotaph, giving rise to the speculation among the participants that the Remembrance Sunday ceremony no longer enjoys the support of the Malaysian government and leaving the future of the Kuala Lumpur ceremony very much in doubt but for the untiring efforts of the British High Commission. Some of the assembled participants then adjourned to the British High Commissioner's residence for a traditional cooked English breakfast and a chat, whereas others headed for the Christmas Bazaar which was held at a hotel. There were enquiries about MVG at the breakfast, including one by the Dutch Ambassador, His Excellency **Mr. Paul Bekkers**, who was a special guest of MVG Malaysia. There was, however, a great deal more interest in the books written by various Volunteers and MVG members from Andrew's collection, and WW2 documents of the late **Ismail bn Karana** which were on display at the MVG table.



Back L to R: Andrew, Ian and Romen
Front: Lara.

British Deputy High Commissioner. The Australian High Commission was represented by Air Vice Marshal Warren Ludwig RAAF, Commander Integrated Air Defence Systems (IADS), Butterworth. Other diplomatic or consular representatives laying wreaths included Fiji, Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia. A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Commander 6th Malaysian Infantry Brigade by a senior Malaysian army officer. MVG member Leslie A.K. James laid a wreath on behalf of the MVG.

There was significant participation in the ceremony by the Malaysian armed forces. A four-man catafalque honour guard as well as buglers were provided by sailors of the Royal Malaysian Navy.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY IN PENANG 2011 Report by Leslie James

The Penang Veterans Association (PVA) organized a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph on the George Town Esplanade on Saturday morning 5th November. The programme began at 7.30am with the arrival of the Chief Minister of Penang, **Mr. Lim Guan Eng**. There followed a brief welcome address by the President of the PVA, **Mr. Sivarajan Ramanathan**, and a reading from St. John's Gospel by the British Deputy High Commissioner before the Penang Chief Minister delivered his address. In his remarks the Chief Minister spoke of peace with justice and freedom; justice and freedom not being possible without peace and the latter not possible without justice and freedom. After the reading of Laurence Binyon's ode by PVA founder member **Mr. Harold V. Speldewinde**, the Last Post was played and two minutes silence was observed. Wreaths were laid by the Penang Chief Minister and members of the diplomatic and consular corps beginning with the



Sacrifices recognised: War veteran William David Dass, flanked by sons Kapitan Christopher Ravindran Dass (left) and Kol (Dr) Alexander A. Dass, laying a wreath during the Remembrance Day ceremony at the cenotaph at the Esplanade.



Not forgotten: Several wreaths placed at the cenotaph to honour those who died fighting for the country.

While no Muslim "doa" (prayer) was offered, the RAAF Butterworth chaplain offered multi-religious prayers of thanksgiving. After the ceremony, breakfast was served nearby on the Esplanade by the Eastern and Oriental Hotel. In the printed programme booklet circulated by the PVA the list of acknowledgements included "Mr. Leslie James - Malayan Volunteers Group".

RUSSIAN "ZHEMCHUG" CEREMONY AT WESTERN ROAD CEMETERY, GEORGE TOWN, PENANG. – 28th Oct. 2011

The Russian Ambassador to Malaysia, **Lyudmila Vorobyeva**, and a group of embassy staff from K.L., visited the Western Road Cemetery in Penang on 28th October, to lay a wreath on the tombstone of the sailors who fell in action during the 1914 Battle of Penang, and to unveil a plaque to the memory of these men who died when the Russian light cruiser **Zhemchug** was sunk at the outset of World War 1. Many men were saved by local Penang fishermen, and cared for by local civilians, forging close links between Russia and Malaysia from that moment 97 years ago until the present day.

The **Zhemchug** had been deployed as part of the Allied Forces against Germany to provide sea support to British and French transport vessels carrying troops and military cargo in the Indian Ocean.

After intense campaigns, the Russian cruiser arrived in Penang harbour for repairs. German warships entered the harbour in the early hours of 28th October 1914, and sunk the **Zhemchug** with the loss of 82 lives. The men were buried in 2 cemeteries, the Western Road Cemetery and on Pulau Jerejak. Their graves are also visited on 9th May every year.

INAUGURATION OF THE NEWLY RESTORED "SOOK CHING" MEMORIAL AT AYER ITAM – PENANG



From L to R, front row: Leslie James (PHT Newsletter Editor & MVG); Tan Kim Hong (local historian); Clement Liang (PHT Hon. Sec.) bearing wreath; Ho Sheau Fung (PHT Office Manager). Back Row: Pow Lin James & Helen Foong (PHT members)

Wreaths were laid at the Chinese Anti-War Memorial at Ayer Itam on 11th November 2011 by members of the Penang Heritage Trust, (some of whom are also members of the MVG), which had been instrumental in the restoration of this important memorial to the Chinese who died in WW2. The Memorial now has explanatory signs in Malay, English, Japanese and Chinese. Assistance with the English version was given by **Leslie James**.

PAT GARDEN and THE PUDU EXECUTIONS – by Audrey Holmes McCormic

Boris Hembry's book "*Malayan Spymaster*" is a spell-binding account of the development of a young planter in Malaya from peacetime experience into war and further remarkable endeavours he was fortunate to survive, before ultimately returning to the (different) peacetime Malaya, and its subsequent CT period and Independence.

In one respect however, in regard to the POWs who escaped from Pudu Jail, **Hembry** was not correct in believing that the men were beheaded when they were recaptured. This evidence which follows is, however, first hand to a large degree, and indicates that the recaptured prisoners were in fact executed by firing squad at or near Cheras Cemetery in K.L. And there was no doubt the Japanese concerned, who had been fooled, wished the matter over with quickly.

Closely assisting in the escape – which he thought a bad idea nonetheless – was New Zealander **R.J.P. "Pat" Garden**, a friend of mine in his later years, and a leader of one of (then) **Major F.S. Chapman's** "Stay Behind" Parties, based in the Bentong area of north Malaya, with their main camp in the Sungei Gow valley area.

Pat was Chief Engineer of a group of mining companies and trained with STS (Special Training School 101), run by **Major Jim Gavin: Spencer Chapman** was **Gavin's** 2nd in command then. **Garden** enrolled on 10th December 1941. When after training he was commissioned, and he left Singapore on New Year's Eve "perched on a railway van full of explosives, to meet **Chapman** at Kuala Lumpur". He led the third of **Chapman's** teams. With him were **Frank Quayle** also a New Zealander and

STS instructor (who survived the entire war in the jungle), also **Bob Crystal** a Scottish planter in N. Perak (who had been a pupil of Bellahouston Academy in Glasgow) who was also a WW1 veteran (with stomach ulcers...but who survived the entire war in the jungle – sometimes alone after he'd left the Chinese guerrillas he had spent some time with): also alongside was planter "**Robbie**" **Robinson** – who died in Perak State in September 1943. **Pat's** friend and 2nd i/c was **Lt. E.C. "Clark" Haywood**, a Borneo Company engineer later killed while with Chapman – but who suffered from malaria at the time. (**Pat's** comment of that time – in his personal post-war account "**Survival in Malaya**" – was that their Force 136 was under the authority of the **Ministry of Economic Warfare, Col. Alan Ferguson Warren**: but that "co-operation from Army Command in Malaya was not forthcoming" – which sums it up neatly).

Pat Garden with **Bill Harvey** were captured in an ambush on the evening of 19th March, near Kuala Kubu Bahru, and arrived at Pudu five days later on 24th March 1942. The prison boundary walls were some 15 ft. high, topped by broken bottles: but its garden grounds were retained: it was vastly overcrowded, with many sick: food was next to zilch... In Pudu were other SOE personnel, **Frank Vanrenen** and **Ronald Graham**; **Ted Elkan** and **Pearson** (the sole survivors of the Stubbington party). Coming in also, of course, were captured soldiers, one of whom – an Argyll Private "**Jockie**" **Bell** – later saw from where he lay ill in an outer corridor, the removal of the recaptured escapees of Pudu on to a lorry accompanied by armed guards, and witnessed the guards' return without the prisoners, and spade-cleaning then being undertaken.

Pat Garden wrote later that, in Pudu, 8 men were enthusiastic about escape: **Bill Harvey** and **Frank Vanrenen**, when out on working parties, were 'often' telling the locals that the British would return before 1942. With them were **Ron Graham**, **Captain Dick Nugent** and **Captain Hancock** (ex Shanghai and in the Indian Army); and **Sgt. Bell** of 4 AT AIF, also a Dutch Air Force Officer – correctly **Capt. Van Crevald** – but posing as a Sgt. and concealing his identity; also **Capt. G.D. MacDonald** a planter and Kedah Volunteer attached to 28 Gurkha Brigade.

The Escape Organization:

With help, they "collected gear of various kinds and interfered with the works of a Yale padlock which they substituted for the existing lock on a door through the big wall of the gaol". This would then open to any key of approximately the correct proportions. "The Japanese would not suspect it had been changed." In fact, the padlocks were changed on **two** doors, sawing off the originals at night, while friends kept watch. A doctored padlock only appeared to be shut but did not lock. **Pat** had donated some money to the group, but refused to join as he thought them "ill-organized and hopelessly optimistic about outside conditions and about the war situation ... with no purpose that seemed likely of achievement".

The Camp C.O. **Lt. Col. Hartigan** was opposed to escape plans, and either was not informed – or had advised against it.

Pat did agree to help, however. His offer was accepted and he was asked to be a watcher – one of four to warn of any approach of Jap guards, with two tunes to be whistled either as an "all well", or as a warning. The other three watchers were **Bill Bateman** of the East Surreys, **Maurice Burns** from a Punjab Regiment, and **Ted Elkan** of the FMSVF and a "stay-behind" party. Outside, Chinese had already been in touch with Pudu POW officers, by passing notes to work parties. **Ron Graham** got the first note. The Chinese then sent in money, also a sketch map of the Pudu area, when the 8 men decided to escape.

The escape at 10 pm went off "without a hitch", the gang taking packs out on their backs. **Bill Bateman**, one of the 4 helpers, was responsible for shutting the door behind them, and padlocking it on the inside. The escape route was on the opposite side of the compound to Pudu Road, through the garden area on to the branch railway line adjacent to a concrete-lined drain from the Golf Links. Five of the men moved along this watercourse and up to the Links, with some seclusion – once Pudu Road was crossed. The other three escaped at the same time i.e. **Captain MacDonald** (the Australian rubber planter in Kedah V.F.) with the two Air Force Officers – with a different route in mind – so there were now eight men whose absence needed to be accounted for.

The Chinese, who had previously first dropped a contact note near **Ron Graham** on a work party, aided. (*"This first contact from the Chinese was a remarkable document for us to receive", Pat wrote me later: "It was a very kind exhortation telling us to keep cheerful – assuring us of the general dislike towards the Japanese...commenting on the Nips latest beheadings and the mounting of 15 heads on display in prominent places in the town".... he went on "this would intensify the resistance against them. I had seen five of these (heads) mounted on a bench at the roundabout at the town end of Pudu Road, near the picture theatre...and another five were on show at the bottom of Batu Road and another five elsewhere".*)

The escape party received much Chinese help, and detailed maps and guidance. Unfortunately, there was also carelessness: **Garden** and **Capt. Ian Grimwood** (Indian Army Frontier Force – later promoted to Lt. Col., and post-war better known for saving the Arabian Oryx from extinction) found they had to dispose of incriminating evidence against the Chinese, left behind in the escapees' shared cell within Pudu, which included a cheque stub with a Chinese name on it, showing he had cashed a cheque for them....but it also included a small sack of grenades! These **Pat** – checking the cell later that night – scrambled to find a hiding place for. (He luckily found a place underwater, on the inner side of a concrete water tank where the men washed, setting the grenades inside the tank, down against its inner wall!)

The watchers helped the men out of the Pudu garden and growing grounds, via the doctored padlocks: watching and signalling with a soft whistle, for all clear – then closed the gates behind the escapees, now padlocking the locks properly on the inside. With the escapees gone, there followed a long argument with the senior British Officer: it was decided to fake two roll calls the next day, bringing in prisoners who were normally ill. Thus they would postpone knowledge of the real day of departure. So fake roll calls were held next day, with help from the senior British Officer **Lt. Col. Fitzgerald**, and others.

The next evening, those who assisted the escape, went out again. They unlocked the gate again, to help in fudging the escape times. It was left a little ajar, to avoid the necessity of POWs being questioned. It was therefore only the next morning at roll call, that the "high class flap" developed..... POWs had vanished!

The first re-captures were the next day: they were the Australian **Sgt. Bell**, and the airman who had accompanied **Macdonald** of the KVF out. (Incidentally – **Macdonald** was not caught for nearly two weeks, "well on the way to Malacca!" He was the longest out). Unfortunately, of course, the dates they gave, did not tally with the faked dates organized by the British, showing the escape to have taken place a day later. It seems too, a careless diary was recaptured from them. The group of four stay-behind assistants now admitted helping the escapees – including **Pat Garden** of course – but they did **not** admit the real date. If they had, the Japanese would know prisoners had falsified the tenkos, and general punishment would have been imposed on everyone by the now-present Kempeitai – including the Japanese i/c Pudu, who had fallen for the trick....

BUT, as the men were also aware (and particularly **Pat Garden** who had owned up to leadership in the escape plan) the resident Japanese did not want it known they had been caught out – especially by their Kempeitai, who hastened in to take over examination. *(The new Prison Overseer at Pudu was a Japanese Air Force officer, and it was clear to most of the escape party helpers, he also did not wish to be caught out by his Kempeitai: he and Pat Garden both understood this, without verbal confirmation between them, so there was – one might call it – a form of unspoken collaboration between them. This allowed Pat to be sent to Curran Punishment camp in Singapore, without losing his own life in punishment, and no-one else suffered the worst of the Kempeitai attentions - neither the escape helpers - nor the Japanese officers over-seeing the prisoners, nor the Senior Superintendent who had been so easily fooled. It was not voiced, but Garden was certain it existed, when the Japanese Superintendent tested Garden's subterfuge under severe threats and questioning – clearly testing, Pat thought, that the story would be strictly adhered to.)*

A BBC history radio programme recently also laid out this point of view.)

A visibly falsified tenko would have meant general punishment imposed on everyone. So the "correct" date of escape was kept at 14th August 1942, and not the true date of the 13th. The four helpers were also sent down to the Curran Punishment Camp (plenty of starvation) on 17th September 1942.

That same evening the recaptured 7 men (the 8th, **Capt. Nugent**, was in Bentong Hospital with a bullet wound) were all taken out of Pudu without any personal possessions. **Pte. Jockey Bell** saw them being loaded on to a truck, with armed guards, and taken from Pudu. They vanished. **Nugent** also disappeared, then or soon after, from Bentong Hospital.

But a Malay chauffeur to the Japanese at Pudu, later told that he drove a car out to Cheras Cemetery on the outskirts of K.L., where the Europeans were taken, for some Japanese that evening. He said: "Shots were fired, and afterwards the Japanese appeared without the Europeans". The Japanese at Pudu would only say that the Kempeitai had taken the matter out of their hands....

Pat Garden took the first train to Thailand he could get, with J Force, after release from the starvation and exposure of Singapore's Curran Camp – to avoid the Kempeitai in Singapore. (A Tamil sweeper in the camp left him a cigarette now and then). One great blessing came for him when he returned briefly to "normal" Changi life before heading north: he received an Australian bush hat from Red Cross stores released to POWs. It carried water: it carried eggs: it shielded from the sun and rain. Few more such stores came, alas.

First hand account given to Audrey McCormick by R.J.P. Garden, 'Jockie' Bell and later, in Malaya, a second-hand account of the driver.

R.J.PATERSON "PAT" GARDEN FNZIE. MICE. AMISE. MNZIS.

Pat Garden was a qualified Civil Engineer. He joined the General Mining & Agency Co. and within six months was promoted to Chief Engineer as his education and training had been in design of machinery type and structures used in tin mining. General Mining & Agency Co. employed ten graduates from the same Otago School of Mines in Dunedin. It controlled a group of Mining Companies and was an off-shoot of Straits Trading Co. A director of many of these companies was the ex-millionaire **J.B. David**, who also had separately managed mines.

While tin and rubber became restricted occupations at the outbreak of war with Germany, **Pat Garden** got into training with the SSVF as a gunner and attended six-monthly camps with 14 hours training at weekends. When the Japanese attacked, he enrolled with the Special Training School 101, (a part of Special Operations Executive) training on the west coast of Singapore at **J.B. David's** country house property at the mouth of the Jurong River. He was commissioned and later led a "Left Behind Party" in the Malayan Jungle. He was captured in a road ambush – riding a bicycle – on the 19th March 1942 at Kuala Kubu Bahru. He arrived at Pudu Jail, Kuala Lumpur, on 24th March 1942. On the 17th September he was sent to the Curran Punishment Camp, Singapore – manned by Indian deserters. After 5 weeks he went to Changi and on the 28th October he entrained for Thailand, ending up at the Kanyu River camp.

Pat Garden worked out his likely survival rate as being 53%

When the war ended and while recuperating in New Zealand however, he was struck by polio. He was in hospital for a year and lost the total use of his legs. He got about again using crutches and callipers and by sheer determination – and re-trained as a structural engineer via correspondence courses from London. Thus he could do desk work as an engineer, and became a design engineer in the Dunedin Consultancy of his brother. In particular, as a member of a research group at the School of Engineering in Canterbury University, he was devising and testing new methods of reinforcing concrete structures to better resist earthquakes.

Many young engineers were inspired by him. And his designs of bridges and buildings withstood severe reality tests. He retired in 1976 and died on 29th June 1998. He was survived by his wife and four adult children. His obituary was later offered to the Times, but it was not published on the grounds that they did not present obituaries more than a month after the death of the person, and it was too late.

Post war, no prosecutions were made, nor remains found of the Pudu victims at Cheras or anywhere else – so far as is known. **Obituary by Audrey McCormick, who corresponded with Pat Garden and became a friend.**

THE LAST DAYS OF FREEDOM – SINGAPORE TO SUMATRA - 15TH FEBRUARY TO 17TH MARCH
Excerpts from the Diary of John Hedley JVE & 1st Mysore Infantry

Before the Japanese attack on Malaya in December 1941, I had been on leave to Australia after completing my four year contract as a Rubber Planter in Malaya. I returned from leave just in time to be mobilised with my old territorial unit – the Johore Volunteer Engineers, on 1st December 1941.

The main Japanese land attack on Malaya came on 8th December on the North East Coast. One of the units of the defending force in that sector was the Indian State Force of the 1st Mysore Infantry. They were defending the air strips at Gong Kedah and Machang. Unfortunately, the invading forces proved too overpowering and a phased withdrawal of our troops was ordered and within a week the Mysore Infantry had been relocated to defend the western sector of Singapore Island. The unit had been quite severely shaken and the Officer Commanding – **Colonel Preston** – and his second in Command – **Major Burrows** – considered it necessary to strengthen up the officer ranks by recruiting some local Territorials. They had had some experience and contact with my unit, the Johore Volunteer Engineers as, earlier in the year, the Mysore Infantry had been stationed in Kluang in Johore. The result of this was that ten members of the J.V.E. were invited to join the 1st Mysore Infantry. I was among them and we were commissioned to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the army General List on 18th December 1941 at Fort Canning in Singapore.

We immediately joined our new unit. My own appointment was to be attached to, and to command “C” Company, alongside **Captain Bintory**.

Our role, to defend the north west of the island, was not an easy one. No major defence work had been done. The coastal area was mangrove swamp and it has been thought that the swamps in themselves were an adequate defence. The Japanese knew better. However our stay in this area was not for long. We were transferred to the Pengarang Garrison. This Garrison lies across the Straits of Johore and opposite Changi Point which is the eastern most point of Singapore Island. Thus we were back on the mainland of Malaya at the most south easterly point, and in the State of Johore. Pengarang was a hill on a promontory and housed a battery of 9.7” guns at the top with 4.6” Howitzers at sea level with the task of defending Singapore from sea attack from the south.

The Garrison, up to the time we arrived, had been manned by a detachment of the Gordon Highlanders. However, it was thought that the Gordons would be better deployed on Singapore Island where they would give greater support to the defending forces.

One other Indian Unit was to accompany us into Pengarang – a company of the Madras Sappers and Miners. This transfer took place in mid-January 1942. Pengarang base, apart from the gun positions, consisted of a hutted camp laid out below the hill. Here we had our quarters and mess rooms. The units’ Headquarters and Administration Offices were situated at the top of the hill from where our Commanding Officer, **Colonel Preston**, operated. Communication between the bottom and top of the hill was by field telephone.

Initially life in the garrison was fairly routine and it didn’t take us long to get organized with the various patrols. It was our task to carry out land patrols through the territory north of the garrison and well into Johore. Most of the area was flat, consisting as it did of well cultivated rubber plantations, and so there was very little secondary jungle. It became the practice twice a day to take out a section on patrol and do a reconnaissance to see that there had been no intrusion from the Japanese into that area. These patrols were routine. The exception was the finding one day of an abandoned Model T Ford lorry. The extraordinary part was that it was in working order and we were able to start the engine and get it running. The old Model Ts has four controls, two on the steering column and two foot pedals. The two on the control column were the accelerator and the choke, and the two foot pedals were, I believe, the gear and the brake. By trial and error we started this lorry, and it was going so slowly we were able to jump on to the back of it, and proceeded to carry out our patrol work as a mobile unit! However, the problem came at the boundary fence of the plantation. We didn’t know how to stop. No matter how many times we pressed the pedals, no matter how much pressure we put on the brake, or twiddled the hand controls, we were just unable to stop it, so we had to “abandon ship” and jumped off. The thing that did stop it, however, was a large rubber tree into which it crashed. The lorry finally came to rest. We left it there. It might well be still in the same place to this day.

One other incident on these patrols that I recall was being “buzzed” by one of our own Hurricane fighters. We had very little air power in Malaya. The only planes were some Brewster Buffalos and Wildebeeste aircraft. No match for the modern aircraft of the Japanese. The most urgent need for Singapore at that time was for a reinforcement of air power. It was eventually accepted in London that for Singapore to survive, it would need reinforcements of Hurricanes. It was only by this that we would have been able to combat the Japanese fighters. A few Hurricanes did arrive in mid January, but too late. I suppose to be buzzed by a modern Hurricane was, in retrospect, quite an honour.

There was always a little bit of fear and trepidation in setting out on later patrols as we had to pass unknown land mine fields, and though the path was reasonably well defined, one tended to expect the worst. Eventually, the infamous Sunday of 15th February 1942 came upon us and whilst I have no doubt that **Col. Preston** in the “battle box” knew exactly what was taking place, he certainly had not divulged anything to his officers, or if he had, it certainly wasn’t to those of us who had recently joined him as Special Service Officers. I was the duty officer on that day and as part of that duty it was my job to listen to the various news bulletins from London.

I found myself in the mess at 6 o'clock in the evening with the radio on as usual. When the News bulletin from London came through, I was more than surprised to hear that the bulletin, because of its importance, was going to be read at dictation speed. I had never heard of this before, nor have I ever heard of it since, on any BBC bulletin. The bulletin went on to say that the BBC had heard from reliable sources in the Far East that Singapore had surrendered and that **Lieut. General Percival G.O.C. Malaya** had surrendered that afternoon. The BBC had the decency to say this was an unconfirmed report, but they thought that, in the circumstances, it was so important that people should have the opportunity of taking a note of the bulletin. I immediately rang through on the field telephone to **Col. Preston** to report what I had heard, and got the reply back that it was, in fact, true and that he would be sending down orders to us within the next few hours. I then told the rest of our group from the Johore Volunteer Engineers the news. The almost unanimous reaction was to say that there didn't seem any point in us staying around any longer. Besides, we felt it our duty to escape capture so as to continue the battle against the Japanese, so the sooner we could make our way out of the area the better, and escape the ignominy of being captured. The nearer we would get to freedom, i.e. Australia or India or wherever, the better. We made some pretty rapid plans and we each packed a haversack with a change of clothing. We informed the second in command, **Major Burrows**, of our plans and asked him not to say anything about our plans until after we had left. In the early morning, and before dawn, we moved off, twelve of us, through the minefield to the eastern side of the Pengarang promontory. During our stay in Pengarang, we had been joined by two other Special Service Officers, **Messrs Martin** and **Browning**. These two made up our escape party to the round dozen. We felt that if we could get along to a village that we knew from our patrols, we would be able to persuade one of the Chinese boatmen there to take us down through the islands to, if possible, Sumatra. We arrived at the village of Tanjong Ramunia as dawn was breaking. We felt it unwise to make too much movement during daylight for fear of being spotted from the air, and we lay up and rested that day, but did make contact with our Chinese boatman friend, who agreed to take us down to an island in the Riouw Archipelago, where he knew larger steamers called, and where he felt certain we would get passage to Sumatra. Then came dusk, and we boarded his junk and made ourselves as comfortable as possible for the journey. We sailed throughout the night and in the morning found ourselves at the small sea port of Tanjong Pinang at the southern end of the Riouw Archipelago. True to his word, the owner of the junk linked up with a coastal steamer which was then going to Sumatra. We therefore said farewell and trans-shipped. It turned out that this coastal steamer was going to sail into the Indragiri River, on the east coast of Sumatra. This suited our book and so we found whatever space there was available on the deck and waited events. We sailed up the river, the mouth of which was fairly wide. Mangrove swamps lined the banks on either side. It was a dull sort of landscape. We arrived at the first town of Tembilahan, approximately 30 miles up the river. We stayed one night alongside the small jetty before proceeding up river. The next town, which is Rengat, boasted a hospital and a police station. We disembarked here to await events. We were billeted in one of the warehouses alongside the river with only a bare concrete floor to sleep on. None of us had any sleep that night because the mosquitoes in that area appeared to have had no food for years and years. They certainly made a meal of us. The result of this was that being unable to sleep we sat up, smoked, talked and wondered about the future.

During the course of the next day, three other fairly large boats arrived, but carried on further up river without disembarking passengers. However, a "**pigi bus**" shuttle service also operated between Rengat and the next village, Ayer Molek, up the river. We had been asked by the Dutch Controller (Senior Administrative Officer) if one of our officers could, or would, volunteer to act as liaison officer between the Dutch and British at Rengat. Problems were arising with the "**pigi busses**" which were being overloaded, or even hi-jacked. I volunteered for this job and so I stayed behind at Rengat, but as I never saw a "**pigi bus**" for the rest of that day, it didn't appear to be much of a duty. My other colleagues, meanwhile, proceeded up the Indragiri and onwards to India. I found myself some accommodation quite near to the quay where I thought I'd have a reasonable night's rest on a bed for the first time for days. However, this was not to be. A group of Royal Air Force and Naval Officers came through, and they considered that as they had been ordered out of Singapore by their senior officers with instructions to get to India, that they had precedence over everyone else. The result of this was that a junior 2nd Lieutenant had a chair rather than a bed that night and it didn't please him at all!

During the following day a further contingent came up in three more quite large boats, and these had aboard a **Colonel Dillon** and a **Colonel Sydenham**. I met them on the quayside and was fairly curt in my remarks about some officers coming through Rengat without troops or papers, and about their attitude in general. Both **Col. Dillon** and **Col. Sydenham** were gentlemen. They said that they would be taking over control of the organisation required for ferrying groups further up the river. Whilst on the quayside with the two Colonels, I spotted two of my own rubber planter friends from Malaya, **Tex Poole**, a Canadian, and **John Parsons** who came from Huntingdonshire. We were all more than delighted to meet each other and it wasn't long before we knew exactly what we were going to do. None of us, I suppose, has really been involved in the war and we wondered what our contribution could be. It seemed fruitless to link ourselves to the big group of soldiers who were being moved further up towards the centre of Sumatra. We felt that there must be more people out on the islands needing help, so we decided that we would look over some of the smaller boats that had arrived from Singapore with the aim of using one of these to return to the islands and ferry any fellow escapees onward to Sumatra. The small boats had arrived carrying small groups of people all bent on the same objective of escaping from

Singapore, and by hook or by crook, getting to India or Australia. The first stage was to get to Sumatra. Unbeknown to ourselves, the route that was being taken by the bulk of the people was a route that had been planned out in advance as an escape route from Singapore. It was amazing to see the motley collection of vessels that had been used to come out of Singapore. The one we would have liked was an RAF air/sea rescue launch. This was a beautiful streamlined twin-engine job. We would have loved to have taken this boat – it looked beautiful and seemed perfectly designed. Our problem was that we were unable to find out how to start the engines. In the end we had to abandon the idea of sailing this boat.

We eventually found a Singapore Harbour Board Red Cross launch. It was broad of beam, approximately 30 feet long, 8 feet wide, with a draught of 18 inches. It had an awning to give a certain amount of shade, if one was prepared to lie down on the seats alongside the engine. Its role in peacetime was to ferry stretcher cases from the islands in the Singapore Roads for hospitalization on the mainland of Singapore. It had a Thorneycroft engine, petrol driven, and as this started almost first time, we decided that this was probably the boat for us. We then had the problem of fuel, and here we found that the tanks of the RAF air/sea rescue launch still contained some. Having collected 20 x 5 gallon drums, we proceeded to syphon out the petrol from the launch into the drums. We stowed these in the forward end of our own boat. The fact that the octane content of the RAF launch petrol was 80 didn't worry us unduly. It was for certain that the octane content of the petrol normally used on the small Thorneycroft would be only 60 or 65 at the most. However, we didn't worry about small details like this. Having obtained our boat, and having fuelled it, we then wondered what was going to be our first assignment. It wasn't long in coming.

Our contacts with the Dutch Police bore fruit in that the Officer in Charge came down to the quayside and asked if we would be prepared to take a party of Dutch Policemen down to Tembilahan. This we readily agreed to do, and so that afternoon we embarked 17 policemen, making a total of 20 passengers and crew. We set off down the Indragiri to Tembilahan, possibly 40 miles away. With our little engine and the flow of the river, we had little difficulty in maintaining an adequate speed and were in Tembilahan within three hours. Here, the Dutch Police disembarked, and we also went ashore for a short spell. We re-embarked and continued down the river before heading across to the islands where we had heard there were a number of survivors from ships that had been sunk by Japanese aircraft. At this time we were not too well equipped for navigation. We knew that the tide was fairly strong and flowed at approximately 4-5 knots in the straits. We knew that we could make about the same speed in our boat. So, if we wanted to cross the water between the mainland and the islands, and we headed at 45 degrees into the tidestream, we ought, in the course of time, to hit the islands at the place we had aimed for. Fortunately for us, the first night of crossing was a fine night, and there were stars to guide us. However, we didn't quite hit land in the morning at the place at which we had hoped, but we were certainly within two miles of it, which wasn't bad navigating. What we did see, however, was one of our gun boats which had been bombed and disabled and beached on the west of **Singkep Island** – the most southern of the islands that make up the Lingga Archipelago. She must have been beached at high tide, for her bows were almost in the jungle which, at this place, came right down to the shoreline. We thought we would go and see if there was anything for us to scrounge from the boat. It was hard to believe that **HMS Grasshopper** could have been beached where she lay because, looking back out to sea, there was only one of the narrowest of gaps in the reef. **HMS Grasshopper** was one of the fleet of the **Yangtze River** gunboats that operated in the China station. We climbed up on board only to find that anything that was removable had already been taken. She had obviously been ablaze at some stage as there was a lot of charred paint and wood about. We found nothing of value to us except a small binnacle compass which we were able to take and which was to stand us in good stead on our second trip to the islands. With nothing else of value on **HMS Grasshopper**, we re-embarked and set off for the north of the island. We *made this in reasonable time, but went to the smaller island just north called **Senayang**, where there was a small village with a fairly large landing pier. We pulled up alongside the pier, tied up and went exploring. The first thing we looked at was a Japanese fishing trawler which appeared to have been abandoned alongside the jetty. We went on board, and though it was quite a short, stubby type of vessel, we were amazed at the power of its engines. These were of the Maybach Diesel type, and I suppose, when operated, could have moved that boat along at about 30 knots if it had need to. It really was a powerful little boat. Again we thought of commandeering it, but found ourselves unable to start the engine and probably would have been unable to maintain it should it have broken down.*

We moved into the village and met the Head Man and talked with him. He told us that the Japanese were supposed to have landed on the island at the north but that he hadn't seen any as yet. There were always rumours that the Japanese were just north or just south of wherever one was at the time. However, he hadn't seen any more survivors. We bought food stocks in the village shop with what little money we had remaining, and we also had the use of the communal showers in the village to give ourselves a good wash down in fresh water. We stayed the night tied up alongside **Senayang**, and the following morning set sail for **Dabo** which is the capital of **Singkep Island**, and situated on the east coast of that island. **Dabo** had a Dutch Administrator, known as the Controller, with administrative offices, a jetty, hospital, and other public office.

We pulled up alongside the jetty and made our way to the Controller's office, and whilst there we learnt that there were a number of British Army and Civilian Nursing Sisters, Civil Servants and others who had got so far on their route out of Singapore, and no further. **[To be continued in April]**

THE MALAYAN CIVIL SERVICE

By Roderick MacLean MCS in conjunction with other MCS colleagues & first published in the "Overseas Pensioner"

When the Settlement of Penang was founded in 1786, it was a dependency of the Government of Bengal and administered by covenanted officers of the East India Company. This pattern continued when Sir Stamford Raffles founded Singapore in 1819 and when the Company took control of Malacca from the Dutch in 1824. The three Straits Settlements continued to look to this organisation until it was abolished in 1858. Control then passed to the India Office and the Viceroy until 1867. The Colonial Office then took over, and officials from the Indian Establishment were gradually replaced by officials appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The British then became increasingly involved, initially much against the British Government's will, with the internal affairs of the Malay States which formed the hinterland of the three Settlements.

This situation was formalised by the Pangkor Engagement of 1872. This led to the appointment of British Residents in Pahang, Perak, Selangor and the loose federation later to be called Negri Sembilan, and their joining together to form the Federated Malay States in 1896.

By the end of the 19th century, separate civil services administered the Straits Settlements and the FMS as the Federation was usually called. However, they increasingly became to be regarded as a single service with a common establishment. With the inclusion of Johore and three northern States under British suzerainty in 1910, a single service evolved, providing an administrative cadre to serve in both Malaya and Singapore.

In 1920, the Secretary of State accepted recommendation that a single Malaya-wide service should be recognised. The style Malayan Civil Service (MCS) was formally adopted. From its inception Malays were eligible to become members, and they usually achieved this by promotion from the Malaya Administrative Service (MAS).

The Service remained a small cadre and by 1940 it numbered only 200 officers. Of these, 40 lost their lives during the Pacific War. Some died as members of the Forces, others as prisoners on the Burma Railway and from Japanese brutality. They are commemorated by a plaque subscribed for by their colleagues and installed in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore in 1989. Post-war, the number of MCS officers increased considerably to meet the demands on the administration created by the "Emergency" and needs of the economy. Many of those appointed by the Colonial Office had served in the military administration which ran the country to the end of March 1946, but they also came from an ever-increasing number of Malaysians of all races, many of them new graduates. Those appointed by the Colonial Office, were transferred to the newly created Overseas Civil Service to provide a future to those who wish to continue in the Colonial Service after Independence. The latter was achieved in 1957.

Malayanisation was achieved very successfully by 1963. The Senior Administrative Service and the newly-created Malayan Foreign Service were merged. Nevertheless the high traditions were maintained.

From pre-war days, former members of the MCS met annually in London for a formal black tie dinner. By 1990 it was accepted that a more informal gathering should take place so that wives and widows might take part, including female MCS cadets previously excluded. Highly successful lunches were organised in May each year at the Old Ship Hotel in Brighton. A debt of gratitude is owed to the various honorary convenors who kept these reunions going.

However, it had to be recognised that time was not on our side. The last lunch held on 18th May 2002, showed the average age of former members was 79.7 years!

It was hoped then to continue with regional "get-togethers" to maintain the camaraderie of a Service which could claim a direct descent for over 200 years, from those early officials of the long vanished John Company.

[Edited by Audrey Holmes McCormick, who had the honour to be invited to the last formal dinner in Brighton as the guest of Roderick MacLean OBE, MA Cantab. We thank Audrey for her permission to use this report].

RODERICK MACLEAN MCS

Roderick also served in the Indian Army during the war (Baluch Regiment), going through the Burma, Chin Hills and Imphal Campaigns, as Company Commander, Adjutant and reaching the rank of Major. On his release from the Indian Army, he continued with his education and was appointed to the Malayan Civil Service, becoming Private Secretary to the Colonial Secretary before his appointment as Administrator in the Cocos-Keeling Islands. Later he went on to the North Borneo Civil Service, and launched a National & Rural development programme throughout Sabah. He prepared and implemented the first Five-Year Malaysian Development Plan there and was awarded the OBE in 1968. Between 1969 and 1975 he worked for the Hong Kong Administrative Service and undertook responsibility for all aspects of the Education Policy in Hong Kong, finally ending his career there as Senior Administrative Officer.

However, his concern for the people of the Cocos-Keeling Islands remained with him throughout his life.

[N.B. See Edition 16 October 2008 for more details about his administration of the Cocos-Keeling Islands.]

WEBSITES TO VISIT

<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Japanese-prisoner-war-unveil-tribute-survivors/story-13520403-detail/story.html> - article on

Maurice Naylor who gave the address at the Service held on Liverpool Pier Head to unveil the Memorial to the Repatriation Ships

<http://picasaweb.google.com/102179612329317550658/RepatriationMemorialDay?feat=flashalbum#> - Photos of above event

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/8894964/Dulcie-Gray.html> - Telegraph obituary for Dulcie Gray, born in K.L. 1915

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/world-war-2/8940665/At-last-a-memorial-to-the-forgotten-heroes-of-Britains-Pearl-Harbour.html> - Force Z Memorial in the NMA to the men from HMS Prince of Wales & HMS Repulse.

http://www.kinokuniya.com.sg/membersite/2c4c27991724d4d70b1a202580bef74d1211/review_frenchspore.html - details about the book, "The French in Singapore" reviewed on P.20.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Gerald Bruce-Smith writes:

My father, **Donald Bruce Smith**, was born in Christchurch, New Zealand on 3rd March 1913 and died in June 1987. He studied Engineering at Canterbury University during the 1930s Depression, and, given the scarcity of employment opportunities following graduation, headed to England in 1938 – working his passage as an engine room greaser on the NZSC merchant ship vessel “**Rotorua**”. Following his arrival in the U.K. he secured work with C.H. Bridges, until, yearning for the East, resulted in his being accepted for a Malayan PWD position, stationed near Taiping. His sister **Phyllis** and brother-in-law **Charles Rudd** – also a PWD Engineer – were living near Ipoh, so the move had good omens. Life was good. He relished the work, related well to the staff within his Krian district territory of Bagan Serai, Kroh, Parit Buntar and Batu Gajah, and with the darkening clouds of war, he joined the SSVF. **Despite the latter, he always told us that this period was the happiest of his life.**

Following the invasion, an increasingly defensive work role was performed by the PWD Engineers and their staff at the various withdrawal points to Singapore – where one of their tasks included the destruction of the large alcohol stocks. Thankfully his sister secured a passage out on the 11th/12th February 1942 to Australia, following much persuasion. At 1300 hrs on the 13th February 1942, the younger PWD Engineers, including my father, reported at the Cricket Club to receive their passes for their evacuation prior to capitulation, together with verbal instruction for their movements. **Charles** was not included in this group, and, despite both their best efforts to secure a pass for him at the wharf, where these were checked at gunpoint, he was interned in Changi for the duration.

Dad was assigned, with so many others, to the “**Kuala**”, and, following the attack at Pompong Island, assisted with helping the needy and organization on the island, before being evacuated by **Bill Reynolds** to the mouth of the Indragiri River. Like others before, he and his mates made slow passage across Sumatra to Padang, where, thankfully, after a testing spell they were evacuated by destroyer, jumping on to the “**Hobart**” mid Indian Ocean for passage to Colombo. Most of the PWD evacuees joined the Indian Army, my father receiving a commission in the Indian Engineers, specializing in railway construction work and bridging school instruction until war’s end – in Upper Assam, on the Burmese border, at Gauhati, Delhi, and Calcutta.

Following the Japanese surrender, he returned to Singapore, and, under the BMA, worked with the Malayan Railway Dept. on bridge and workshop reconstruction until April 1946, when he rejoined the Malayan PWD, based in Singapore, until his return to New Zealand in 1949. His sister **Phyllis** and **Charles** remained in Singapore until their deaths, **Charles** contributing an enduring engineering legacy to the City they both loved.

Note: Our father never really talked about his wartime experiences, focusing on the tasks at hand, and became a workaholic. He only noted his memoirs in the latter years, and died prior to their completion.

June Jackson sent the following extract from her father’s memoirs – E.G. Hebditch, who was taken by the Kempeitai during the “Double Tenth” raid on Changi Prison.

Singapore finally surrendered on Sunday, February 15, 1942 and on Tuesday all whites were rounded up on the Padang at 8 a.m. Men were separated from their wives and finally at about midday all of us were marched off. Women went to Katong Sea View area and the men further out to Joo Chiat Police Station and the buildings around it. We were there for about 10-14 days and then all of us were marched to Changi Prison Gaol. There were say 2,000 men and 250 females. They had kept all the electrical, gas, water, sewage and food engineers out to carry on working at all the stations as there was so much damage to clean up, but after a year they all came into camp so we had 3,000 and 350 in total.

On October 10, 1942 at 8 a.m. the Gestapo raided the camp and finally took about 65 of us, including myself (I was second or third to go) as they found a Red and Black Flex by my bed and thought it was a radio aerial. They ill-treated and tortured all 65 of us and finally killed off 16. Although I had dysentery for two months and weighed below 90 lbs., I managed to get through and was sent back to camp on July 12, 1944. Then I struggled to keep alive until the end on August 16, 1945 by working in the garden, fatigues or hauling firewood. When I was coming back to camp at 5p.m., a Chinese boy cycled past us and shouted “Nippon Surrender” and it began to be over. What a relief and to have food to eat once more. We sailed home about September 15th on the SS Dutch KPM **Tegelberg**, arrived at Liverpool on October 12th and met **Pegs** at Euston the next afternoon. From September 1945 to September 1946 my time was taken up in the first three months with just trying to get fit and putting on weight. I had to be careful not to eat too much, with nothing too fatty or greasy. Liked rice, but could not get much of it. Then started trips around GEC works trying to see what was new since in four years things had changed so much. My first spell in October was with various visits to see parts of the family near Norton. **Harold** lent us his little Rover car and we drove **Bet**, his wife, around but petrol was scarce. **David** was at Sherborne Prep School and **June** at Pippins School near Axminster. Finally in about May or June I had a company medical examination and was finally told that I was unable to return East due to incessant stomach trouble. This trouble went on and off for two or three years so I had to be careful with what I ate and how much I ate. Finally GEC found a position for me as Deputy Sales Manager with the Sales manager at Pirelli General in Eastleigh, where I stayed until 1951 when we emigrated to Montreal and I started up the GEC office there.

Terry de Souza telephoned to say:

I was extremely interested to read about the discovery of the **Nelson papers** in the October newsletter. When I left school, I worked for **Captain David Nelson** for 6 months at the Singapore Improvement Trust, until war broke out. The Singapore Improvement Trust offices were housed on the 6th Floor of the Fullaton Building. My father, who had been born in Malacca, worked for the Land Office at the Naval Base in Singapore for 40 years, and we lived in Queen’s Street.

Neal Hobbs writes:

I was happy to see the **Grisoni** badminton sketch (of the final in Palembang Jail on 15th October 1942 which was included in Edition 28) and, to clarify something, I should point out that the **Hobbs** in the winning team was my father. Having spent nine weeks in hospital with dysentery two months prior to the game, I was in no shape to be a participant.

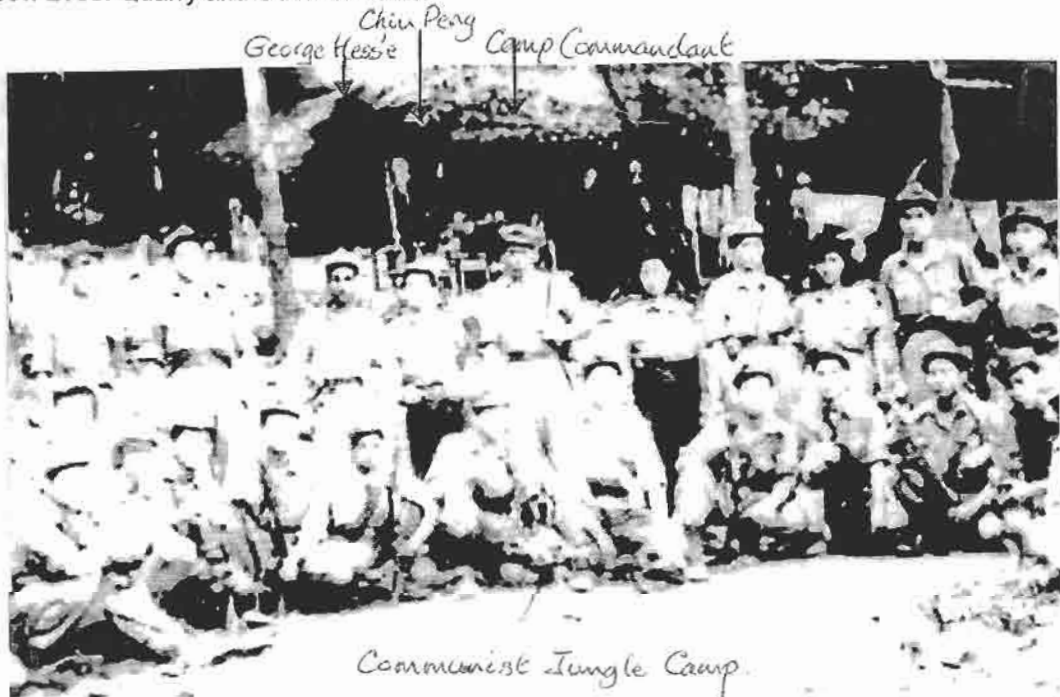
Pippa Schmiegelow writes:

The article in the October 2011 edition of *Apa Khabar* about the **Adventurous Life of Anne Vanrenen** was an excellent rendition of the Chronicle's article but, through no fault of yours, there was a glaring error in the second paragraph. This, I believe, comes from an unedited version of the original 2011 article. My mother did not accompany, indeed could not have accompanied her mother from Malaya to Ireland to deliver the car. Although her mother had spent some time in Malaya, by this time she was living in Woodham Ferrers with her second husband, my mother's father. It was from Woodham Ferrers that she travelled with the fourteen year old **Anne** to Ireland to deliver a new Ford 8 to my paternal grandmother, **Mabel Vanrenen** and her husband **Walter Vanrenen**. My mother, **Anne Vanrenen**, did not go to Malaya until after she married my father. We do not know where my father, **Donald "Donnie" Vanrenen**, was interned. Rumour has it that he, like many others, was sent to work on the infamous railway. I would be very interested in hearing from anyone who met him during those years.

George Hess'e writes:

This is the only photograph of me in a kind of uniform in a Communist Jungle Camp before Force 136. Why I was there and what I was doing – is another story! I tried to get the original photo, but it is not available. This photo is from the print and further enlargement distorts the picture (and does not improve my good looks!)

I am in the middle of the photo, and on my **left** is **Chin Peng** the number 1 Communist in Malaya (who, I believe, is still alive in Thailand and must be about 90 years old). Next to him, on **his left**, is the Camp Commandant, with the rifle slung over his shoulder. The Camp was in the **Selayang/Gombak area**, probably as the crow flies 4 miles from Batu Caves and 5 miles from the **Kenneison Bros. Quarry and Cement works**.



In the October 2011 edition of the *ex-POW & RA News Bulletin*, there was a short piece about **George's** escape from Changi, written by **Ron Murphy**, who wrote:

"At a time when 21 men have been recently honoured for bravery during failed escape attempts, it is opportune to mention a successful escape from Singapore. On 25th January 2010, the *Western Australian* carried an article about **George Hess'e**, an 18-year-old gunner with the Federated Malayan States Volunteer Force (FMSVF), who escaped from Changi Barracks on 18th February 1942. The great advantage he had with his escape bid was that he was of Indian-Malay heritage and had a chance to blend in with the locals, unlike those of Anglo heritage. After three days in Changi, he had endured enough and escaped by taking off his shirt and wrapping it round his head like a turban, then mingled with some Indian labourers working near the camp. When it was time for the group to return to town, he simply jumped on their truck with them. When he tried to walk off, after the group was dropped off, one of the Japanese guards called out to him. With trepidation he walked back to the soldier, who then gave him 50 cents for his work that day. He then beat a relieved retreat. Having escaped, he then made his way north into Malaya and eventually joined the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army and fought guerrilla warfare against the Japanese occupation from a jungle camp near Kuala Lumpur. Despite some close shaves he managed to stay at large and was Mentioned-in-Dispatches for his distinguished service with the British Army's Force 136, which he joined in the closing days of the war. In 1967 he moved his family to Perth WA to provide their three children with a better life."

Susan Rutherford wrote in her Christmas letter:

I thought you would be interested in this occasion which we attended last week. The organization has been operational (initially under a different name) since immediately post war. It is for all ex-POWs both in Europe and the East and in subsequent wars since. The occasion was a special lunch at the Windsor Hotel in Melbourne – held in the Grand Dining Room. It was a 65th celebration of the founding of the **Ex-Prisoners of War and Relatives and friends Association (ex-POW RA)**. I joined the group about 3 years ago, feeling that I wanted to support a local organization too. A small number of the group, including very elderly ex-POWs, will be attending the Fall of Singapore 70th anniversary ceremony in Kranji next February. The lunch was a most heart warming occasion with 33 local ex-POWs in attendance plus numbers of family and other 'Supporters'. We sat at a table with 2 ex-POWs, one of whom had been on Ambon, scene of an horrific massacre. When not eating or occasionally entering into conversation, he spent time sketching planes and maps of Australia and adjacent islands, including Ambon, on paper he had brought with him. His wife explained that he always does this when he feels anxious. Despite his apparent anxieties, he did appear to enjoy himself. It was chastening to be witness to the long term effects of this man's incarceration.

[N.B. The Ex-POW RA Association held its annual Breavington Service at All Nations' Park, Melbourne, on 6th September 2011 to commemorate the execution of 4 recaptured POWs on Selarang Beach on 2nd Sept 1942. A wreath was laid to commemorate all POWs in all theatres who had been executed in captivity for attempted escapes.]

BOOKS

"THE FIGHT FOR MALAYA. The Jungle War of Maurice Cotterill." By R.W. Holder. Published by Editions Didier Millet Snd.Bhd. ISBN 978-981-4217-20-0 196 pages.

Reviewed by MVG member Ian Stitt:

This book is well worth reading giving vital illumination on a number of aspects of Malayan history. The backbone of the book is the story of Maurice Cotterill, who with a few other Europeans who were living in Malaya through the Japanese invasion, decided to move into and live in the jungle and carry on the fight. It vividly relates the difficult conditions under which they lived and their dependence on the support provided by the guerrilla movement. The majority of the guerrilla movement originated from the Communist Chinese, the discipline of their force and the development of their post war aims, attributed to the application of the Communist ideology, is well covered. It describes the limited effect of the guerrilla actions until contact was achieved in 1944 with the British S.O.E. Force 136 organisation, which provided expertise and weaponry, allowing the guerrilla to be well enough armed and lead, to mount more effective actions.

Attached to this backbone are a series of excellent outlines covering the political developments in Asia. In Malaya, the acquisition of power and an acknowledgement of the benefits brought by British rule. In Japan, the changes leading to the invasions of Manchuria, China and the Colonial Nations to the south, and, for a change, indicating the decisive role played by Emperor Hirohito. The Japanese invasion and occupation of Malaya and their conquests then defeat in the Pacific. The events from the post war recovery to the award of Malayan Independence are all neatly summarised.

It is a pity the map provided contains errors and omissions. Firstly, Kota Bharu is on the Kelantan – Siamese border, not the border with Trengganu. By a landing at Kota Bharu, General Yamashita ensured that, if necessary, his troops had an escape route to the safety of Siam. Secondly, the outline of the Island of Singapore is unclear. If the town of Singapore, with the location of the civilian docks required for the off-loading of the reinforcements promised in the overall defence plans, and the Naval Base had been marked on the map, the problems facing the defenders would have been made much clearer.

Indicating the Naval Base location on the north side of Singapore Island, would have shown its vulnerability to an enemy occupation of Johore, as well as the devastating effect of an enemy landing on the beaches on the south east of the peninsula. The necessity to prevent such a landing was probably in Admiral Philip's mind when he decided to investigate the reported possible landings at Kuantan the day before his fleet was destroyed. It also provides the answer to the author's question why Percival did not reinforce his front line by moving the two Australian Brigades from Johore.

Now, some 60 years after the event, it is a pity General Percival is portrayed in the terms used by Churchill, who was seeking to deflect blame, of being solely responsible for the defeat, the scapegoat role. It should be noted that the prime objectives handed to Percival were to defend the Naval Base and to defend the airfields used by the Air Force. There is a paragraph mentioning the resources promised by the Chiefs of Staff, well before the campaign, which did not materialise by the scheduled date of the end of 1941, leading to the subsequent limitations in the defence capability. A more even-handed view would have included some paragraphs possible summarising items from Percival's Despatch (The London Gazette dated February 1948) and summarising the strategic position in which Percival had to operate, namely: defending a peninsula with no navy, very limited air power, the failure of command structure and the policies over which he had no control. Although not an excuse, such hints would show that he was not totally to blame. The book defines the size of the British Army in Churchill's terms of the number of troops who were imprisoned in Singapore, totalling some 125,000 British Troops. These numbers include the British 18th Division which arrived in Singapore from the middle of January 1942, too late to be effective. Any discussions on force levels need to be very carefully defined, and it is possibly more informative to try to define the strength of the forces at the initial point of contact. It is difficult to really extract the strength of the front lines in Northern Malaya so the figures following are approximations. At the opening of the campaign, the British front line on the northern border comprised the 3rd Indian Corps comprising two, rather than the nominal three Divisions. One Division comprising three Brigades, and the other Division only two Brigades, one of which was at Kota Bharu, the other guarding Kuantan. Thus the British strength at the point of the Japanese attack was four under-strength Brigades – a nominal count of about 20,000 men - with the fifth Brigade in Kuantan and a sixth in reserve in Ipoh. The Japanese fielded their 5th Division from Singora and

Patani in Siam, who headed for Kedah and North Perak. From their 18th Division landings in Kota Bharu, the Takumi detachment, troop numbers approximated to a very well equipped Brigade (in British Army terms) of about 6,000 troops. In all, the Japanese forces were fully manned and trained with a nominal strength of about 26,000 troops. These were followed up by the remainder of the Japanese 18th Division and the Imperial Guards Division with the 56th Division held in reserve. From the start the Japanese strength was superior and apparently continued to grow with fresh reinforcements throughout the campaign. Thus Percival had a strategic imperative to conserve his strength to ensure the defence of the whole of the Malayan Peninsula. A factor he must have had in mind, once the Air Force had withdrawn from the airfields around Kota Bharu, thus removing one of his main defence objectives, was to save a better part of a Brigade by withdrawing it from the unnecessary defence of Kuantan. There is one major error in the summary of the Campaign, the 40 modern fighters arriving in crates to be assembled at Kallang airfield in January 1942 were Hurricanes not Spitfires, not that it would have made a difference, being too few and too late.

The interregnum period before the return of the British Forces is well covered; describing the blood letting from settling old scores particularly the killing of police officers, the attempts to set up soviet style villages and a number of inter-racial conflicts. The role of the British Military Administration (BMA), particularly the hints at the Army role in providing man-power, expertise and administrative capability in starting to restore the damaged infrastructure, is also well, but sketchily, described. The BMA employed local labour on an unstructured, temporary basis. However, it was the UK Government policy of rapidly restoring the Malayan economy to generate material wealth for the sterling area, which provided for the long term employment. This policy was implemented with the Malayan Civil Service (MCS) covering infrastructure renewal and industry restoring the major industries of tin and rubber to full production. Earlier in the book, Somerset Maugham's description of "the Europeans" is correctly disparaged, so it is a pity the two examples given of the Europeans post-war are sketched like characters from Somerset Maugham. Like Maurice Cotterill, the majority of the post-war Europeans, most of whom had been imprisoned and returned, could speak the local language, respected their staff, and, importantly for Malaya's future, resumed the company pre-war training and promoted the education of their employees. They also restored their clubs, no bad thing as these were, to them, important venues for relaxation.

The book outlines the early post-war civilian Government's dilemmas, as they tried to implement the policy espoused by the UK Government, of a Malayan independence that gave the population fair representation. It indicates the initial plan, embodied in the Malayan Union, as being flawed. The efforts at economic restoration were being undermined by the Communist-led industrial strife, attempting to stifle the economy in order to impose on all, their political philosophy. It notes the conjunction of: the UK military forces being run down; the fear of world-wide Communist uprisings; and a possible repeat of the bloody partition of India at Independence, all of which impacted on the Government's policies. The role of local politician's efforts are described, particularly the need and the time required to evolve local, sufficiently mature, co-operative, party political structures to take over the reins, which the UK Government had proffered to them. The Communist Party's leadership decided to embark on their long planned military style action, returning to the jungle, recovering the hidden wartime weapons, and attacking both the local population and the economy's capital assets, leading to the Government to impose the "Emergency", the measures by which the uprising was eventually suppressed. The ending of the "Emergency" is described, including the roles played by some of the European stay-behind survivors. Throughout the "Emergency", the whole civilian population had to bear the brunt of the "Emergency" measures. In the circumstances, this was done with fortitude, and it deserves to be properly acknowledged. It resulted in an Independent and prosperous Nation.

The Author has already written a book about the British Military Administration, which may be the reason why more information on the BMA is not included, but a more integrated discussion about this period would be useful. Hopefully, the author will write a sequel, using his undoubted skill in summarising difficult historical events covering the post war years up to and beyond Malayan Independence.

[N.B. The author R.W. Holder also wrote, "Eleven Months in Malaya. September 1945 to August 1946" – an intriguing and anecdotal account of the important role the BMA gave its ordinary soldiers during the crucial post-war period before Malaya embarked on her journey towards nationhood.]

"PLAYING FOR MALAYA. A Eurasian Family in the Pacific War" By Rebecca Kenneison. Published by NUS Press (University of Singapore). Paperback. Also available on AMAZON BOOKS at £20 and an online seller at £15.

Reviewed by Brian P. Farrell, Department of History, National University of Singapore.

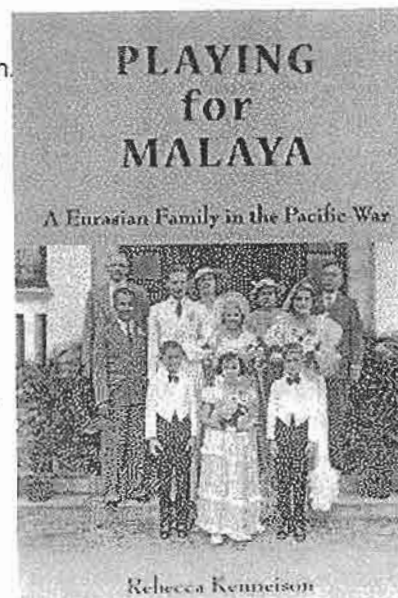
"Reggie, according to his niece Wendy, 'only told what Reggie wanted you to know.'

Reggie was my father. He had honed the technique of talking with apparent openness and using that talk as a decoy duck: while you were listening to it quack around the pond, you weren't noticing all the others hiding in the reeds. What follows includes tales that Reggie told repeatedly but, on the whole, it's about what Reggie didn't tell me."

So begins a stunning personal account of a Eurasian family living in Malaya. Reggie was the author's father, and one of the many gaps in his account of his family was that his mother was Eurasian. When Rebecca Kenneison discovered this omission after his death, she set out to learn more about her extended family on the other side of the world.

Her voyage of discovery is compelling in itself, but "Playing for Malaya" has a much larger purpose. Set in the 1930s and 1940s, it recounts the experiences of an extended Eurasian family during the invasion and occupation of Malaya by the Japanese.

Colonial society considered Eurasians insufficiently European to be treated as British, but



during the Pacific War they seemed all too European to the Japanese, who subjected the Eurasian community to discrimination and worse. Because many Eurasians, including members of the Kenneison family, supported the Allied cause, their wartime experiences are an extraordinary account of tragedy, heroism and endurance, presented here with great eloquence and clarity.

The Author connects her family story to larger social and political events with insight, and with a strong sense of fair play and natural justice. She allows emotion, deeply personal, to drive the whole project – and it works all the better because of it. Beautifully written and based on sound critical research, the book presents an account of the war years that is both fresh and riveting.

[Ed: Becca Kenneison is a member of MVG]

“CHARLES JOSEPH PEMBERTON PAGLAR.” By Chia, Joshua Yoeng Jia in 2008. National Library Board, Singapore. Born 1st September 1894, Alor Gajah, Perak. Died 9th December 1954 Singapore.

Surgeon, Member of the Legislative Council, Philanthropist, Sports Patron and prominent Eurasian Leader.

Coerced to serve as President of the Japanese-sponsored Eurasian Welfare Association during the Japanese occupation, for which he was indicted for treason by the British after the war. **Paglar** was not convicted and the case was withdrawn.

Born of a British father and an Indian mother, he was orphaned and adopted by **Alexander John Francis Paglar**, a Catholic Eurasian planter, miner, magistrate, and J.P in Malacca. He was educated in a Penang Convent and at the St. Francis Institution in Malacca. He won a Scholarship to study Medicine at King Edward V11 College in Singapore, graduating in 1917. In WW1 he served with the Field Ambulance Unit on Blakan Mati (1914-1916) & on graduating worked as assistant house surgeon at the Singapore General Hospital.

On 1920 he set up his own private practice at Joo Chiat & the Paglar Maternity & Nursing Home (now East Shore Hospital). He ran other clinics and pharmacies, and in 1926 studied gynaecology in Edinburgh. He also studied in Java, Syria, France & Germany. His excellent skills resulted in his appointment to the Sultan of Johore as personal physician, and in 1948, he was given the title of ‘Dato’.

At the onset of war, he worked with the wounded in Tanjong Katong, but after capitulation he was ordered to work for the Japanese during the occupation as President of the EWA. Regarded as pro-British by the Japanese, **Paglar** realised that the Eurasians needed a go-between with the Japs to assist their cause, and agreed to accept the position offered to him. His role was viewed with suspicion and he was regarded as a collaborator. Although implicated in the resettlement of Eurasians at Bahau, he helped his community by providing medical aid, money, clothing and other necessities – taking them in person. During his trial, the Japanese Welfare Officer gave evidence exonerating **Paglar**, and the case was dismissed.

After the trial, **Paglar** continued to lead the Eurasian community – supporting it in many different ways, by providing money for sport, Youth Clubs, Schools etc. In 1951 he was elected to the Singapore Legislative Council for Changi. He died aged 60.

“ESCAPE FROM HONG KONG: Admiral Chan Chak’s Christmas Day Dash, 1941.” By Tim Luard. Published by Hong Kong University Press.

It was one of the greatest escapes of WW2 by more than 60 British servicemen and a one-legged Chinese Admiral, who slipped out of Hong Kong and broke through Japanese lines to freedom.

Tim Luard’s father-in-law was one of the escapers, and **Tim** describes how the plan was hatched as the Japanese prepared to take the island. The British Government realised the importance of evacuating **Chan Chak**. He was the most senior Chinese officer on the island and a key member of **Chiang Kai-Shek’s** Government. His capture might have wrecked Anglo-Chinese relations.

The plan was to organise a flotilla of high-speed motor torpedo boats, the remnants of the British Navy on the island, to spirit **Admiral Chan** and his aides to the mainland, to rendezvous with Chinese Guerrillas and dash for unoccupied China. In the confusion, a group, including the Admiral, had to abandon a launch and swim across Aberdeen harbour, under intense Japanese fire, to where the boats were moored. The Admiral, having abandoned his wooden leg – stuffed with money to pay off the guerrillas – dived into the water and made it across despite being shot in the wrist. After boarding the boats, the party slipped across the straits at night, and eventually landed at Nanao, where they scuppered the craft and set off across the Chinese countryside with the Admiral in charge – the first Chinese Officer to command a British Force. Four days later, 68 out of the original 72 arrived in Chinese-held Waichow. Their route was subsequently used by other escapees from Japanese prison camps in Hong Kong.

“THE FRENCH IN SINGAPORE.” By Maxime Pilon & Daniele Weiler. Published by Editions Didier Millet. Available in French & English at Kinokuniya Singapore main store from December 2011.

In 1819, when **Sir Stamford Raffles** founded Singapore, he was accompanied by two French naturalists. Ever since, French missionaries, merchants and other pioneers have contributed to the economic, educational and cultural development of Singapore. This book features inspiring stories of personalities such as **Father Jean-Marie Beurel**, who constructed the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd and St. Joseph’s Institution, and **Alfred Clouet**, who started the well-known Ayam Brand canned sardines business. Amply illustrated with photographs, paintings, sketches, old documents and maps. **“The French in Singapore”** is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to discover the little-known history of the French in the Singapore we know today.

“IM HERZEN WAREN WIR INDONESIER. (At Heart we were Indonesians). The Diary of Gret Surbak.” Published by the Limmat Verlag, Zurich. Not available in English, but if you can manage the German, it is a vivid and fascinating account of occupied Sumatra, and the chaotic conditions that prevailed at liberation.

It is worth remembering from time to time that witnesses to the occupation of South East Asia were not only English-speakers. I have recently read the diary of **Gret Surbak** who, with her doctor husband, lived in Indonesia from 1920 to 1945. The Swiss couple were in Padang before, during and after the fall of Singapore, and describe the arrival of British and allied refugees there seeking to escape from the port – including my father.* The couple had enormous difficulties convincing the Japanese that they were Swiss, therefore neutral and should not be interned. This they eventually managed, but not without the help of a Japanese soldier who had taken a shine to their teenage daughter **Gladys**.

[* Please let the Editor know who this is – for acknowledgement in April 2012].

The following 3 books are by Australian Authors, and reviewed by Liz Moggie:

“DEADLY SECRETS. The Singapore Raids 1942 – 1945.” By Lynette Ramsey Silver. Published by Milner in 2010 ISBN 978 186 351 41 01 Paperback.

As its title suggests, this book is primarily about the **Jaywick** and **Rimau** Raids on Singapore. But, the earlier chapters give a very comprehensive account of evacuation and escape routes from Singapore. There is frequent mention of Volunteers. There are helpful, clear sketch maps and much useful material on the fate of both vessels and personnel. Along the way, the author describes the roles of the various military and special organisations. An excellent book.

“KEEP THE MEN ALIVE. Australian POW Doctors in Japanese Captivity.” By Rosalind Hearder. Published by Allen & Unwin in 2009. ISBN 9781 74175 738 5

This is a comprehensive study of the Australian POW doctors and their care of their fellow POWs – their devotion, their innovativeness and their dilemmas. The great usefulness of this book is that it looks at POWs, not only in Changi and on the Railway, but also wherever Australians were prisoners – on Sumatra and other Indonesian Islands and in Japan itself.

“UNsung ORDINARY MEN. A Generation Like No Other.” By Sally Dingo. Published by Hachette in 2010. ISBN 9780 7336 2524 4

This book focuses on the experiences of men from Tasmania. The author's style of writing engages one's patience, but her empathy with the men wins one over. In great detail, she describes the small town lives of the men (including her own father) as the background to their WW2 experience. The book also covers some of the lesser known POW theatres such as Ambon, Timor and, in particular, the Mergui Road.

[Ed: Liz Moggie says that the above two books were recommended to her by Mike Dewe, son of major Dr. D.P. Dewe of the IMS who served as a POW doctor on both the Burma-Siam Railway and the Mergui Road. Both well worth reading]

“SCORPION ON THE CEILING. A Scottish Colonial Family in South East Asia.” By Roddy Martine. Published by Librario Publishing Ltd. ISBN 1-904440-56-8 Paperback with 260 pages.

Charles Martine arrived in Singapore in 1922 to work for the Borneo Company, one of the great UK-financed merchant venture companies of South East Asia. It was a golden era, with Singapore becoming one of the most successful multi-racial co-operatives that have even been known. Later on, **Charles** and his wife **Pat** were stationed in Penang, where their two daughters were born. In 1939, the family moved to Sarawak, ruled over by **Vyner Brooke** – the third and last of the legendary White Rajas.

When the Japanese invaded north Malaya, **Charles** and their eldest daughter **Virginia** were trapped in Singapore. **Pat** and their youngest daughter **Patricia** in Sarawak, escaped the advancing Japanese on foot across 140 miles of dense jungle. Re-united on Java, **Pat** and the children sailed to Australia but **Charles** returned to Singapore where, on the fall of the island, he was interned in Changi Gaol. As Communications Officer of Changi D-Block, **Charles** survived the Japanese purge of the Double Tenth. Using family letters, diaries, contemporary accounts and interviews, the author pays tribute to the courage of those caught up in this terrible conflict – providing at the same time, a remarkable insight into a vanished way of life.

“AN AWKWARD TRUTH. The Bombing of Darwin February 1942.” By Peter Grose. Published by Allen & Unwin in 2009. ISBN 978-1-74237-607-3 Paperback with 258 pages.

The bombing of Darwin on 19th February 1942 is the battle Australia tries to forget. Although there was much to be proud of that day – courage, mateship, determination and improvisation – the dark side of the story lingers: looting, desertion and a calamitous failure of Australian leadership.

The Japanese struck with the same carrier-borne force that devastated Pearl Harbour only 10 weeks earlier. There was a difference: they dropped more bombs on Darwin, killed more civilians in Darwin, and sank more ships in Darwin than in Pearl harbour. Yet the story has remained in the shadows. Absorbing, spirited and fast-paced, this is a compelling read and reveals the story of the day war first came to Australia, and of the under-armed and unprepared soldiers and civilians who faced their toughest challenge on home soil. [Ed: See report by Marea Smith in *Apa Khabar* October 2009 P.19]

Two other new Pen and Sword books have recently been published:

“HEALING IN HELL. The Memoirs of a Far Eastern POW Medic.” By Ken Adams - edited by Mike Adams. ISBN 184884575-8 Hardback.

An exceptional memoir that demands reading. It details the author's medical work in Changi and on the Burma-Siam Railway. **“CAPTIVITY, SLAVERY AND SURVIVAL AS A FAR EAST POW. The Conjuror on the Kwai.”** By Peter Fyans. ISBN 184884622-3 Hardback.

A Biography of **Fergus Anckorn** – in 1937, the youngest ever member of the Magic Circle – and today its oldest member!

OBITUARIES

RICHARD MIDDLETON SMITH MCS 1914 – 2011

Richard Middleton Smith was born in Hong Kong on February 3rd 1914, the son of **C.A. Middleton Smith M Sc**, Professor of Engineering, University of Hong Kong. [Obit P.8 of TheTimes, 13/8/51] **Richard** was awarded a scholarship to Wrekin College, Shropshire, then studied law at Lincoln College, Oxford. He joined the Malayan Civil Service in 1936 and was sent to Madras to master Tamil. In 1937 he was appointed Assistant Controller of Labour, Klang and Seremban, Negri Sembilan, then in 1939, Malacca. In 1940 he was appointed Press Censor, Singapore, joining the Colonial Secretariat in 1941.

Enlisting as Private 13876 1st Battalion, Straits Settlements Volunteer Corps, he became a POW at the Fall of Singapore in February 1942, and was sent from Changi POW Camp overland to Thailand on June 26th 1942.

In September 1945 in Thailand, as the repatriation of Allied prisoners of war got underway, a small group of Malayan and Straits Settlements Volunteer Force members took the selfless decision to stay behind to locate and repatriate to Malaya the surviving 27,000 Asian labourers who had been impressed as slave labour by the Japanese for the construction of the Thailand-Burma Railway. These Volunteers, all of whom spoke Malay & Tamil, considered this task as a debt of honour. Among them was **Richard Middleton Smith** of the Malayan Civil Service who had enlisted in December 1941 as a Private in the Singapore Volunteer Corps [1/SSVF] but was newly promoted 2nd Lieutenant for this task. He had already earned a reputation in the POW camps for selfless conduct, regularly making trips to the river to obtain buckets of water for sick men. Formed into two groups under Lt. **Col. W.M. James FMSVF**, they left Bangkok Railway Station on August 28th 1945 to locate the labour camps from Kanchanaburi to above 185 Kilo Camp where **Richard** had ended his time as a POW. He recalled: "At every camp, the labourers seemed overjoyed to see us and meet those of us who could speak to them in their own language. In a number of camps they seemed unaware the war was over. Their first wish was to get back to Malaya and see their relatives. We ordered the Japanese to continue to provide work and pay them and also to improve their rations and medical treatment. We heard accounts of the hardship they suffered, that of gangs of 100 men only 4 to 10 remained. This did not surprise us as we had seen thousands of them die during the cholera epidemic of 1943 when the Japanese made the POWs bury them in huge pits. There were some 150 orphans and in each camp, we made sure someone was caring for the children."

Richard then headed for the Kra Isthmus in the south of Thailand to assist Javanese labourers. In late October 1945, he contracted amoebic dysentery and malaria and was hospitalised in Kuala Lumpur then Singapore. He arrived in Southampton in February 1946, four months after other liberated POWs.

On his return to the UK he married **Eileen Norah Cooper** in 1946. She was the widow of **Major G.D. Cooper** of the Manchester Regiment who died in captivity in Thailand.

Returning to Malaya in 1946, **Richard** opened a new labour office in Kluang, Johore, then served as Labour Commissioner for Kedah & Penang, based at Sungei Patani. In 1950, he moved to Singapore, and was appointed Deputy Labour Commissioner. In May 1952, in a crackdown against police corruption, he was given 'special investigation duties', and taken out of the Secretariat, to organise the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau. Corruption was rife in 1940s and early 1950s Singapore. Prior to 1952, all corruption cases were investigated by a small police unit known as the Anti-Corruption Branch. Members of the public did not co-operate as they were sceptical of its effectiveness and were fearful of reprisals.

Richard set up an organisation separate from the police, to investigate all corruption cases as an independent body. It was a small unit consisting of civilian investigators and seconded senior police officers with **Richard** reporting directly to the Colonial Secretary. Its location in an office in the Supreme Court building would be of psychological importance to the public.

At this time his boss, **Mr. Davis**, noted that "in conciliation work, his patience and obvious sympathy with the difficulties and problems of others were of great value in winning the confidence of both sides in disputes."

In 1953, **Richard** was appointed Secretary for Defence and Internal Security and in 1954 Deputy President, Singapore City Council, also acting as President in 1956. In these roles and later as Chief Administrative Officer of the City Council he was instrumental in the 'Malayanisation' of the City Council. **Sir Percy McNiece**, President of Singapore City Council at the time, referred to his ability to maintain "an unruffled demeanor" in difficult negotiations, and also to keep his "gift of keeping discussions alive when they are in danger of breaking down."

Richard was chosen in 1957 as one of only two experienced ex-pat officers to stay on – the other being **Jams Taylor Rea**. He disagreed with the Mayor of Singapore, **Ong Eng Guan** of the PAP over the role of the Information Bureau. Council sessions were often turbulent but he and **Ong** became good friends in later years. Retiring in 1958 he correctly sensed that the demise of Singapore City Council was near.

Richard was the Bursar of Cheltenham College from 1960 – 1974. He died on Christmas Day 2011 at **Wadhurst, East Sussex**. He was predeceased by his wife **Eileen** who died in April 2008, and is survived by his stepchildren **Anthony Cooper** and **Susan Vaux** and his two daughters **Virginia** and **Caroline**. We send them our very sincere condolences. His POW captivity papers are at the IWM and Oral History Interviews at Singapore National Archives.

Compiled by **Jonathan Moffatt**.

ISMAIL bn KARANA.

Ismail bin Karana J.P who was a Private in the 6th Platoon, B Company of the 2nd Battalion (Selangor) FMS Volunteer Force, died on 26th September 2011 at the age of 91. His diary of events that included the Fall of Singapore was published in the July 2010 issue of *Apa Khabar*.

He studied at the prestigious Victoria Institution in Kuala Lumpur, was an active member in the Boy Scout organisation and in post-war years, managed several orphanages, for which he received several public awards from the Selangore Sultinate.

Ismail's wife, **Ayum**, whom he married in January 1943 to avoid being press-ganged into Japanese work-parties for the

Thailand Death Railway, died in 2001. They are survived by five daughters and a son who gave him 19 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren to date. **Ismail** was a revered and loved patriarch and as an astute property investor continues to benefit his descendants today. *Al-Fatihah – May his soul rest in peace.*

ROSEMARY LLOYD-WILLIAMS

We are sad to report the death of MVG member **Rosemary Lloyd-Williams**, daughter of **Thomas Edward (Eddie) UPTON** who was a member of the Selangor Civil Defence Unit. Captured at the Fall of Singapore, he was interned as a civilian in Changi Jail. We send our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to her husband and two daughters.

Rosemary was a loyal member of the MVG and will be missed by other members who lived near her.

SHIRLEY JOICE

The death of **Shirley Joice** has been announced by her son **David**. **Shirley Joice** died in Western Australia on June 28th 2011, just two weeks short of her 92nd birthday. In September 1941, aged 23, she married **Jack Joice**, a tin mining engineer with Anglo-Oriental, at Malim Newar. **Shirley** was evacuated from Singapore on December 23rd 1941 on the **Cremer** and arrived in Sydney from Batavia on the **van Heutsz** on January 26th 1942. **Shirley's** evacuation account appears in our website stories [Ed: Extracts from **Shirley's Diary** also printed in A.K. No 19 July 2009. Ps. 12-14]. **Jack Joice** and his brother **Jim** served in the FMSVF and escaped from Singapore on the **Celia** on 14th February 1942. The family returned to Malaya in 1945-1946 and son **David** was born in 1948 at Batu Gajah. We send our sincere condolences to **David** and family. We also report the death on Tuesday 15th November 2011 of **Dulcie Gray**, aged 95, who was born in Kuala Lumpur on 20th November 1915. She was educated in England but returned to Malaya in her late teens and began work as a journalist for the **Malaya Tribune**. She also wrote and broadcast songs on the radio, including, "You tickle Me Spittless, Baby" which achieved some local acclaim. Although keen on amateur dramatics, she wanted to go into journalism or teaching rather than acting, and she held a teaching post in the Malayan jungle for a while.

On returning to England to teach, she broke her arm badly and couldn't take up her position. Instead, after trying her hand at art, she tried for a place at drama school where she met **Michael Dennison** whom she later married. She became a prolific writer of murder mysteries. She also wrote radio plays and short stories and was an expert on butterflies.

The death of SOE saboteur **Peter Tindley** was reported in the Telegraph on 28th November, aged 94. In December 1941, when the Japanese landed in south Thailand, **Tindley** was working in Bangkok for British American Tobacco (BAT). With no evacuation plans organised, he escaped to Kanchanaburi with some colleagues, and eventually reached Tavoy on the coast of Burma. After many months he reached Kunming – much of the journey on foot – and was flown to India, where he was commissioned into the 6th Field Regiment RA. Later he was recruited by the Inter Services Liaison Department (ISLD) – the cover name for MI6. His first mission was to land 2 spies by submarine on Phuket, and subsequent missions were to drop agents into Thailand and down the Indo-China coast to report on enemy shipping.

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of FEPOWs **John Pratt**, who attended the Researching FEPOW History Conferences, and **Ronald Searle**, whose obituary may be read in the **Daily Telegraph (Wed 4th Jan 2012)** or online.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT BIRD-WATCHER – GUY CHARLES MADOC CBE, KPM, JMN, MBOU (1911 – 1999)

Born in January 1911, last year saw the 100th anniversary of his birth. He was noted for his pioneering of Bird Watching in Peninsular Malaysia, producing his first book in 1947 called, "An Introduction to Malayan Birds, Malayan Nature Society." Reprinted in 1956 and again in 1976, his book is still in demand by dedicated bird watchers, because he was the first man to encourage "depth" in bird watching. His book is now regarded as a classic in its field.

Madoc joined the Federated Malay States Police as a probationer in 1930 and arrived in Malaya in January 1931. After 18 months at the Police Depot in KL, he was sent to **Jelebu**, in Negri Sembilan, as Officer in Charge of Police District from 1932 – 1935. There he met **Viv Ryves** a Game Warden and keen naturalist who fostered **Madoc's** love of ornithology. In 1935 on home leave **Guy** married **Nancy Farrant**, and on their return to Malaya, he was posted to Kuala Selangor, Klang, and Kuantan, before ending up in Alor Star when the Japanese invaded in December 1941. Following the retreat down the peninsula, **Guy** ended up in Singapore and was seconded to the British Army in the capacity, as he put it later, as "their mangrove expert", based on the fact that he had studied birds in such places and knew more about the terrain than the recently arrived soldiers of the 18th Division. He was captured at the fall of Singapore and became a POW in Changi where he shared a cell with **Harvey Ryves**, son of **Viv Ryves**. By coincidence, **Harvey** had been **Guy's** junior officer in the Police at one time. It was while in Changi Prison, that he wrote the first edition of his book on birds. Limited to one copy, it was published in May 1943, on paper which had been stolen from the Japanese Commander's office, and using a secret typewriter. **Dr. D.B. Molesworth** provided the illustrations and diagrams and **Dr. C.A. Gibson-Hill** helped in compiling the definitions in the Appendix. It was bound in red leather by 2 French POWs who acquired the leather from the seat of a wrecked car in Singapore City! Acknowledgements were made to...."the kind gentleman who has lent me his typewriter, and to whose identity must remain a secret lest he be overwhelmed by many machine-less typists in Changi"

During the first 18 months of internment many classes and societies flourished – this period being referred to as the "university" period. **Madoc** gave talks to prisoners about birds and his book was widely circulated. On one occasion he was given permission to lecture in the Women's Camp. As he was demonstrating the whooping call of the Hornbill and rising (as it does) to a crescendo, the Japanese Guard, who had been seated behind **Guy** with his rifle and fixed bayonet, leaped to his feet shouting "Curra" and waving his bayonet until **Guy** ceased his whooping and returned to his lecture without sound effects! Sadly, much of his material collected in Changi was lost, but he did send important records to **Chasen** at Raffles Museum and was able to retrieve some of his notes from there.

Much of his later work from 1946 – 1948, plus additions until 1959, is now in the British Natural History Museum in London.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please note Jonathan Moffatt's new e-mail address, now in operation
JonathanMoffatt@btinternet.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

The details for the events during the week from Sunday to Saturday 12th - 18th February 2012 are enclosed on a separate sheet. For those attending this week, please return your cheques to Rosemary Fell by Friday 27th January 2012.

We are pleased that MVG members from Australia and Malaysia will be joining those from the U.K. So far 35 members have indicated that they will be in Singapore for the Service at Kranji on 15th February.

SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2012 – SERVICE IN ELY CATHEDRAL TO COMMEMORATE THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

The Service is being arranged by the NFFWRA, and is by ticket entry only. Details of where to apply are given on P.2 of the newsletter. Registration for the Service is recommended as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

WEDNESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2012 – V-J DAY SERVICE IN THE MVG MEMORIAL GARDEN AT THE NMA

Our usual service, with its special remembrance to mark the fall of Singapore, will take place at noon in the Memorial Garden, followed by the now traditional picnic in the grounds of the Arboretum. This may be altered nearer the time, due to the extensive building works which are planned to start this year to extend the Visitor Centre.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8TH- 9TH SEPTEMBER 2012 – 4TH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHING FEPOW CONFERENCE.

As reported in the October 2011 edition of Apa Khabar, the Conference is being held at the **Whitemoor Lakes Conference & Activity Centre**, due to the building works at the NMA. This is adjacent to the NMA, and there will be a chance to visit the Arboretum on the Saturday before the Conference Dinner, which is being held in the Restaurant there. (Cost approx £25 pp)

For further information about charges & accommodation – either refer to the last newsletter or contact Sarah Edwards on:- sarah@researchingfepowhistory.org.uk or Tel: 01743 791508 Registration forms can be downloaded from RFH website:

www.researchingfepowhistory.org.uk Please return **ONE form per person** with a cheque for £50 pp (non-refundable) to: Mike Parkes, 34, Queens Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH47 2AJ

70 YEARS ON: FAR EAST CAPTIVITY EXPLORED

International speakers

Professor Sears Eldridge from the USA – concert parties in Thailand and elsewhere
Dr. Rosalind Hearder from Australia – the work of the Australian Medical Officers in camp

Special Guests include

Dr. Bernice Archer – civilian internees
Rod Beattie – Director, Thailand-Burma Railway Centre, Kanchanaburi
Dr. Geoff Gill – Professor of International Medicine, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Mr. Jeyathurai A. (Jeya) – Director of the Changi Museum, Singapore

Once again we hope to welcome former FEPOW and civilian internees as guests of the conference.

The MVG highly recommends members to attend this conference. Speakers are all top researchers in their respective fields, and this is a unique opportunity to meet them and listen to them. You can be sure of a fascinating and fulfilling week-end, packed full of memorable talks by expert speakers.

SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2012 – LONDON REUNION AND LUNCH AT THE RAF CLUB, PICCADILLY

Hugh Chaplin has booked the Ballroom for the Annual Reunion and Lunch on 20th October. Please note this date in your diaries. The last lunch was a great success and we hope to see as many again in October. Further details will be given later.

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2012 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT THE CENOTAPH IN LONDON

We have a group of regular marchers every year. If you would like to join us, please let Rosemary know as soon as possible.

SUBSCRIPTIONS – DUE IN APRIL 2012 - PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY

U.K. Rate - £15 per family membership. Cheque payable to Mrs. R. Fell Malayan Volunteers Group or by standing order.

Australian Rate – AUS \$30 per family membership. Payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Bunney as requested.

Malaysian Rate – RM \$75 per family membership. Payable to Andrew Hwang as requested.

Members in other non-sterling countries may pay Rosemary in their own currency as long as it converts into £15 sterling.

Receipts for subscriptions may not be acknowledged, but thanks for donations will be e-mailed to the best of my ability.

If UK members wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail – please let Jonathan/Rosemary know & notify of change of e-mail.

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ITINERARY FOR THE VISIT TO SINGAPORE TO COMMEMORATE THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE FEBRUARY 2012

A group of about 40 members of the MVG from the U.K., Malaysia and Australia are travelling to Singapore in February 2012, to attend the Memorial Service in Kranji Commonwealth War Cemetery to mark the 70th anniversary of the fall of Singapore.

The following events have been arranged for MVG members:-

1. MONDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY - HISTORICAL TOUR OF SINGAPORE

This tour has been arranged by MVG member **Jane Nielsen**. It has been designed to take in as many of the sites as possible, where the wartime camps and other noteworthy wartime buildings were. Some areas have now been completely changed and built over, so that it will only be possible to look at the area while driving past.

We will have an expert guide on the coach, which is air conditioned, who will be able to explain where these sites were, and the historical nature of them.

The tour will take about 5 hours, with time for lunch (**at your own expense**) after visiting the Ford Factory Museum on Bukit Timah Road. Entry to the Museum is also **at your own expense**.

Start of Tour: Members who have booked to go on this tour are to meet at the Welcome Centre in North Bridge Road, outside St. Andrew's Cathedral (Next to the MRT Station City Hall) **at 10am**

End of Tour: The coach will drop members at Raffles Hotel **at about 3pm**, where they can stay for tea or disperse as wished. Formal attire is needed for High Tea inside the hotel, but visitors to the coffee shop may be dressed informally.

Attached is the proposed itinerary for the Tour and a map of Singapore showing the places being visited.

Cost of Tour: £16 sterling – payable IN ADVANCE to Rosemary OR Elizabeth in AUS\$ dollars as requested OR Andrew in RM\$ ringgit as requested.

Please note: a). The items on the tour are not yet finalized, and may be changed on the day.
b). The Map of Singapore is only provisional, and is subject to corrections. The authorized version of the map will be sent to all MVG members when ready.

2. TUESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY – LUNCH AT THE BARK CAFÉ AT THE CHANGI MUSEUM

A Buffet-style Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 2pm.

You are asked to make your own way to the Bark Café for lunch. This is an open air café adjacent to the Changi Museum, with access from the shop area of the Museum. The menu (which is halal) is as follows:-

Miniature snacks of:-

Grilled teriyaki chicken skewer

Crispy mango prawn roll

Assorted portions of cake – of 3 types

Wholemeal club sandwiches with chips

Chicken siew mai in bamboo steamer

Freshly brewed coffee, English tea and soft drinks will be served with the buffet lunch.

Any alcoholic drinks must be bought separately.

Cost: £6 sterling payable IN ADVANCE to Rosemary, Elizabeth in AUS\$, OR Andrew in RM\$

One wing of the Café will be reserved for the MVG. You may wish to visit the Museum while you are there. It is well worth a visit. It is NOT on the site of the former prison camp. It was built in 2001 in the shape of a simple white rectangle, enclosing in the centre, a replica of the open-air Chapel, as built and used by the POWs.

Opening Hours are: 9.30am to 5pm

Transport: a). By MRT to Tampines and Bus 29 to the Museum

b). SBS Bus No:2 from Singapore Town Centre

c). Taxi to 1,000, Upper Changi Road North, Singapore 507707

3. **WEDNESDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY – SERVICES COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SINGAPORE.**

a). **9.00am – Civilian War Memorial (The 4 Chopsticks)**

Service of Commemoration at the Civilian War Memorial opposite Raffles City Shopping Mall. You are advised to get there early, if attending, to get a seat. This is a short multi-faith service, but well worth attending.

b). **5.30pm – Kranji Commonwealth War Cemetery**

Main Service of Commemoration at the War Cemetery. We have ordered a 45-seater coach to take us to the Cemetery. This will pick us up in North Bridge Road, outside St. Andrew's Cathedral **at 3.30 pm sharp**. It is available for all members who wish to avail themselves of this service.

If you wish to make your own arrangements for travel to Kranji, you can take the MRT to Kranji where there will be shuttle busses laid on to take you to the Cemetery. Or you can arrange a taxi to drop you off and pick you up.

For those who have not been to Kranji before, the cemetery is on a hill, and there is quite a long walk uphill to reach it. The tour busses will have to drop people at the end of the road leading to the Cemetery. So there will be a walk involved, and you are advised to wear comfortable shoes and take some water with you.

We have booked a block of seats for MVG members. If you are traveling independently, please make sure you ask one of the Ushers, who will be there, to show you to the right seats.

The Service is due to start at 5.30 pm and finish at about 6.10pm which was the actual time of the signing of the surrender by General Percival.

We plan to be at the cemetery early so that we can walk up the hill slowly, and find our seats without hurrying. You may also wish to have time to look for your own special graves and lay some flowers.

Payment for this coach will be taken on the day as we don't yet know the cost.

Members will be returned to St. Andrew's Cathedral by coach, unless you wish to be dropped off somewhere on route.

4. **THURSDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY – VISIT TO THE ADAM PARK PROJECT**

9.30 – 11am. Please meet at No: 7, Adam Park promptly. This tour is free.

A tour of the Adam Park Project has been arranged by MVG member **Anthony Cooper**. This is a Singapore Heritage Project which is coming to an end in February 2012 in time for the 70th Anniversary. The findings of the battlefield archeological survey are being put on a new website, which is being launched in February, following a three year long investigation. The site is still a residential area, and the tour takes us round the estate looking at the roll each of the houses had in the three days of fighting which took place in this area, and which houses were part of the POW Camp which was later set up on the site. Most of the beautiful pre-war black and white houses were destroyed during the battle, and have now been restored. The tour of the estate **is on foot** and usually takes about 1½ hours. Members who have booked to go are advised to wear sensible walking shoes, and take water, sun hats/umbrellas or rain wear (if needed), mosquito spray and sun protection. It will be interesting for those members who once lived in Adam Park.

Famous ex-tenants of Adam Park include:-

David Nelson (No: 14); Dutch Consular General, HMJ Fein (No: 16); Dr. Hugh Rintoul Morrison & his wife Tibbie (also No: 16); Joseph Bateman Potter SRA (No: 7); Albert Cannell, Passive Defence Force; C.F. Snell, Scottish Coy (No: 9); A. Gill, Scottish Coy & Flt. Lt. S.J. Beattie, MVAF (No: 18).

See: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/battlefieldarchaeology/centreprojects/singaporewwiiproject/>

Historical Tour of WWII sites in Singapore for The Malayan Volunteers Group

Monday the 13th of February 2012

1. 10:00 am:

Meet outside **The Welcome Center, North Bridge Road, St. Andrew's Cathedral.**

See: <http://www.livingstreams.org.sg/sac/info/map%20rooms.html>

Short look inside St. Andrews Cathedral. First erected in 1837 by Indian convicts, the church was based on the 13th-century Netley Abbey in England. It was eventually consecrated as a cathedral in 1870. The four paths that lead to the cathedral form the Cross of St. Andrew. During the Japanese invasion, the church served as a hospital.

2. Short stop at steps of City Hall (then known as The Municipal Buildings) and the Padang.

City Hall. Built by British architect A. Gordon, the neoclassical structure was erected in 1929 and originally served as a municipal office. On September 12, 1945, this is the place where Lord Mountbatten accepted the Japanese surrender. A Victory Parade was held on the Padang.

3. River Valley Road. Drive past Great World City. Site of Great World Amusement Park POW Camp:

Area of 1. Kim Seng Rd. Promenade, Zion Rd. Use: Work Camp. POW's worked in docks, godowns. Only used for 6 months in 1942. Closed Dec. 1942.

4. Drive past and if possible stop at River Valley Road POW Camp: Area of Dragon View Park, Nathan Rd., River Valley Rd.
Largest of work camps, 8,000 men at peak, mostly British and Australian.

5. Drive past Haverlock Road POW Camp. Area of Indus Road, Indus Garden. Use: Work camp, later a transit Camp.
Formerly Indian Army Camp and then refugee camp.

6. Tanjong Pagar Railway Station: Keppel Road. (it is unfortunately not open to the public at present.)

Short look at building from outside. From here all the POWs left by train for Kanchanburi, Thailand to work on the Siam Burma Railway. **Keppel harbour:** Across road from Tanjong Pagar Station. Main harbour in World War II.

7. Alexandra Hospital, 378 Alexandra Rd.

In 1938, the British built this as a military hospital. Japanese troops attacked the hospital on 14 February 1942 in retaliation against retreating Allied soldiers who had fired at them from the hospital grounds. They killed an estimated 50 staff and patients. The following morning, the Japanese soldiers killed another 150.

8. Visit for 1 hour. Memories of The Old Ford Factory Museum, 351 Upper Bukit Timah Rd.

See: <http://www.s1942.org.sg/s1942/moff/index.htm>. The Ford Motor Factory most notably served as the venue for the formal surrender of Malaya by the British General Officer Commanding Malaya, Lt.-Gen. Arthur Ernest Percival, to the Japanese Commander of the 25th Army, Gen. Yamashita Tomoyuki.

9. Lunch: Coffee/tea or cold drink and sandwiches or light snack in Bukit Timah Village area. About 40 mins.

10. Stop and look at Sime Road POW Camp: Sime Rd, Adam Drive, Sime Golf Club, Bukit Golf Course.

Use: Work and transit camp for 4,507 mixed nationalities. First used April 1942. By 1st. May 1944 used by more than 3,000 civilians who had been in Changi Camp. Then used later by POW's returning from working on the Burma-Thailand Railway, Thailand.

11. Thompson Rd. POW Camp, 3 Lornie Road. (Across road from Sime Road) Use: Work camp

12. Drive out to Changi: After the Fall of Singapore 40,000 men were marched to the north east tip of the island known as Changi. This area comprised of many POWs camps.

Drive past **Changi Goal, Changi Barracks, Seletang Barracks, Upper Changi Rd., Robert Barracks, Loyang Avenue** (Can one come into Robert barracks area?), **Kitchener Barracks, Loyang Avenue.**

13. Ice Cream or drink Changi Beach Park. Toilet visit.

14. Drive past Malay Volunteers's HQ, St. Patricks Secondary School: 490 East Coast Road. First headquarters in 1942-43.

15. Look at The old Kallang Airport Buildings, area of 9 Stadium Link off Geylang Rd. (old "Peoples Association headquarters") When the Japanese launched their invasion of Malaya and Singapore on 8 December 1941, Kallang was the principal fighter airfield. By January 1942, it was the only operational fighter airfield in Singapore.

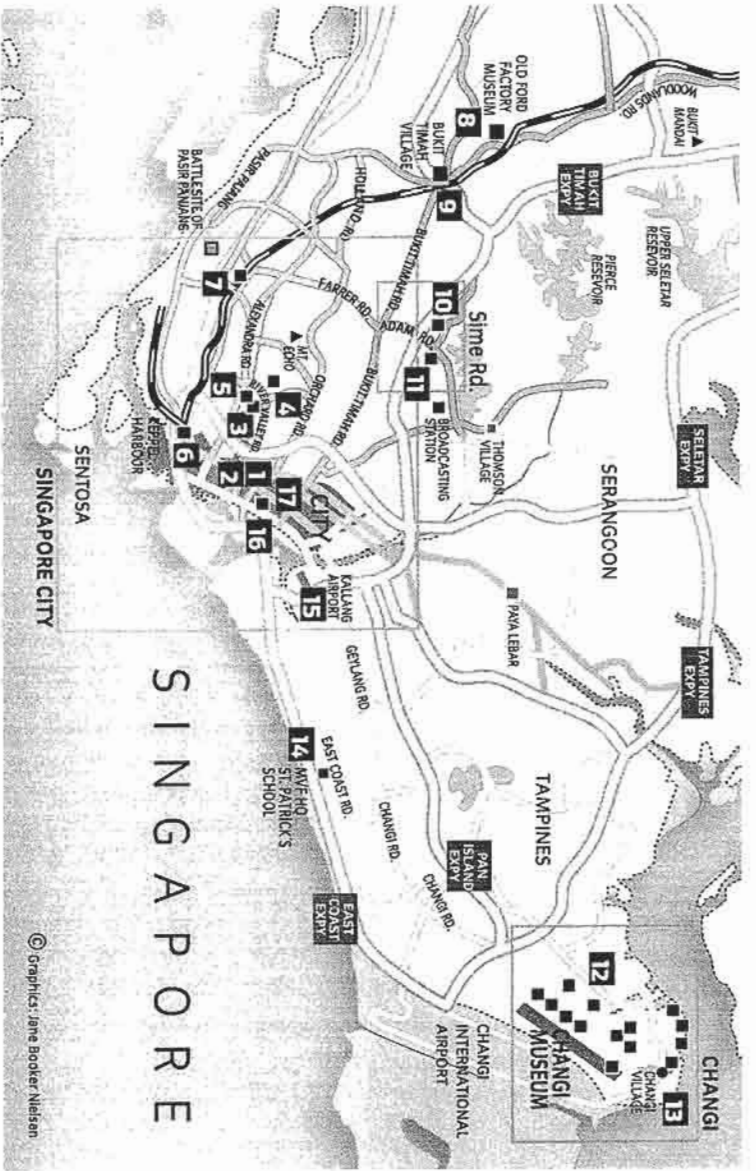
16. Drive past Straits Settlements Volunteer Force HQ: 20, Beach Rd.

17. 3:00 pm: End of Tour: The Raffles Hotel, Beach Road

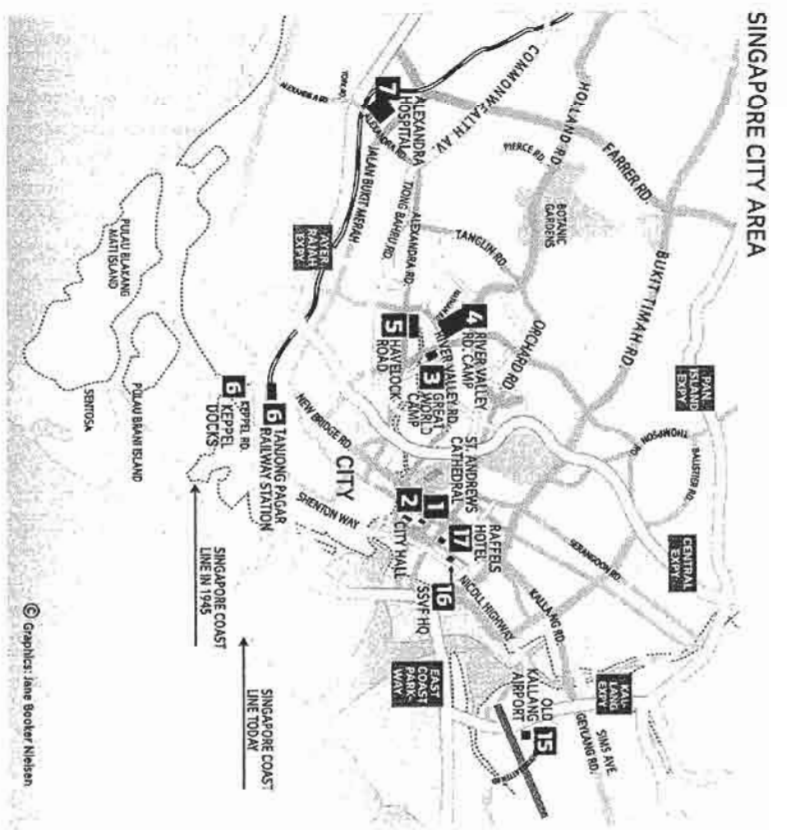
Optional: If one would like one can finish the tour with a cup of tea in The Raffles Hotel.

The Empire Cafe, (casual dress)

or **The Tiffin Room High Tea** from 3:30 pm. One needs to book. (Formel dress only)



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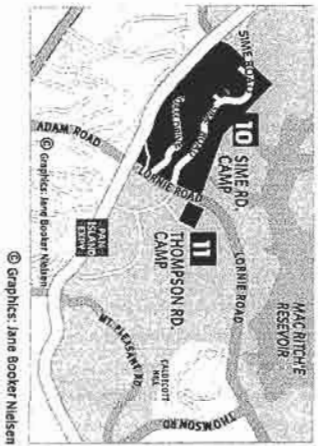


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Historical Tour of WWII sites in Singapore for The Malayan Volunteers Group

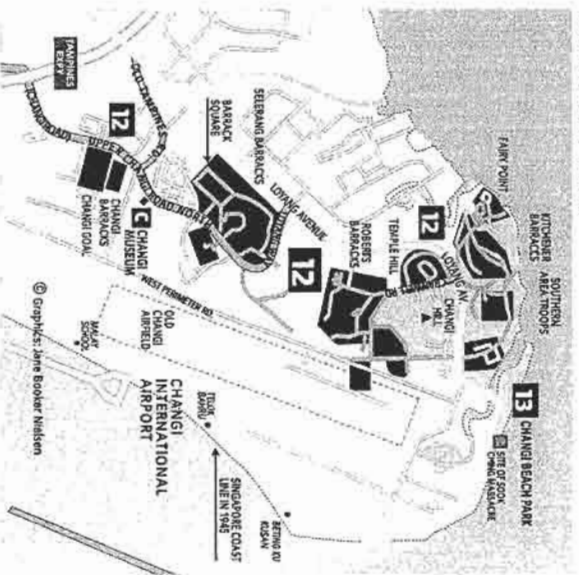
Monday the 13th of February 2012

SIME ROAD AREA



© Graphics: Jane Booker Nielsen

"CHANGI CAMP" AREA



© Graphics: Jane Booker Nielsen

MALAYAN VOLUNTEERS GROUP
NEW MEMBERS – OCTOBER 2011 TO JANUARY 2012

CALDICOTT, Steven and Margaret (nee LEA). Mother & Grandmother evacuated on the "Vyner Brooke" Brook House, Priors Leaze Lane. Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8RQ.
Tel: 01243 572947 e-mail: margiecaldicott@hotmail.co.uk

Daughter of **Shelagh Lea (nee Brown)**. 1936 – 1942 worked in HM Naval Office & later Censorship Dept. under the Trade Commissioner, Singapore. Evacuated on the "Vyner Brooke" on 12/2/42. POW Muntok - Palembang – Loebbuk – Linggau. 1945 returned to England landing Southampton via Madras & train to Bombay. Granddaughter of **Major E.A. Brown OBE Singapore Volunteers 1901 – 1923**. Wrote account of the Mutiny of 5th Light Infantry, Singapore 1915 (copy in IWM). Choirmaster of St Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore 1910 – 1942. Municipal Commissioner from 1924. Interned Changi & Sime Road. Returned with **Shelagh** to Northern Ireland & died in 1955. Also Granddaughter of **Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Brown** – evacuated on the "Vyner Brooke" and interned at Muntok – Palembang. Died Muntok 17/1/45 on Bangka Island.

COOMBES, Barbara.

Southview, Nyton Road, Aldingbourne, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 3UA.

e-mail: barbara.coombes@btinternet.com

Author researching the lives of **Sheila Lea (nee Brown)** and **Margaret Dryburgh**, former missionary in Singapore, who, along with **Norah Chambers**, instigated the "vocal orchestra" whilst in POW camps in Sumatra.

DIAMOND, Dato' Jeremy D.C. and Datin Kalsom.

Evacuated on the "Orion"

21, Jalan Permata 7/1, Section 7, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia.

Tel: 6 03 5511 9008 e-mail: jdiamond12@hotmail.com

Son of **Dr. William Campbell Elliott (Cam) Diamond, Malayan Medical Service (1931 – 1948)**. Last posting being as Consultant in Social Hygiene to the Federation of Malaya. Interned in Changi as civilian POW.

My mother, sister and I were evacuated on the "Orion" landing in Fremantle on 6th January 1942. After education in England, I returned to Malaysia in 1963 to work for SOCFIN. Retired in 2001 as General Manager – now a Director of United Plantations.

Godson of **Tan Sri Herbert A. (Jock) Campbell** who had such a distinguished Planting Career with SOCFIN; also during the war on the 'Jaywick' and 'Rimau' operations.

FITZWILLIAMS, Virginia (nee Martine).

24, Gorwell, Watlington, Oxon OX49 5QD.

Tel: 01491 613085 e-mail: virginiafitzwilliams@btinternet.com

Daughter of **Charles Martine, Borneo Co.** POW Changi & on the Burma-Siam Railway, survived. Mother **Pat** trekked through jungle from Kuching to Pontianak with younger sister **Patty** on her back to meet **Virginia** in Batavia and escape to Australia. Younger brother **Roddy** born post-war. Wrote about his parents' lives in the book, "Scorpion on the Ceiling".

MCKERN, Bill.

10, O'Meara Court, Parkwood, QLD4214, Australia.

e-mail: bmckern@gmail.com

Grandson of **Dr. A.S. McKern** of Penang, who died in Belalau Camo in Sumatra, and **Noel McKern RAF**.

MUHRIZ, Major (Hon)Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Ibni Tunku

Istana Munarah, Jalan Tun Dr. Ismail, Seremban 70200 Malaysia.

Tel: +60 17 304 6006 e-mail: tunku.zain@istanamas.gov.my

Honorary Major in 508 Battalion, Askar Wataniah (Malaysian Territorial Army) Grandson of the late Tuanku Munawir Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, the Yang Di-Pertuan Besar (Ruler) of Negeri Sembilan (1960 – 1967) who had served in the FMSVF.

POLGLASE, Robin.

15, Couvreur Street, Garran, ACT 2605, Australia.

Tel: (02) 6281 5828 e-mail: polglases@bigpond.com

Son of **John Henry Polglase**, a tin mining engineer who worked for Singei Besi & joined the **FMSVF Armoured Cars Regiment**. POW Singapore to Thailand with 'H' Force. Postwar, Manager of Kampar Section of Tronoh Mines.

REEVE, Christopher and Ann.

51, Appleton Road, Upton, Chester CH2 1

Tel: 01244 343061 e-mail: canda.reeve@o2.co.uk

Nephew of **Lt. E.W. Reeve 4/SSVF Signals Officer** and cousin of **Rosemary Fell**.

SCHMIEGELOW, Philippa (Pippa) (nee Vanrenen).

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

e-mail: schmiegelow@powergate.ca

Daughter of **Donald (Donny) and Anne Vanrenen**

SMALLSHAW, Graham and Louisa.

Trader, G10 Trading Asia, Global Markets, Standard Chartered Bank, Marina Bay Financial Centre (Tower 1),
8, Marina Boulevard, Level 18, Singapore 018981

Tel: (65) 6557 8141 e-mail: Graham.Smallshaw@sc.com

Son of **Richard and Jill Smallshaw (nee Wright)** and grandson of **Ronald Wright OBE, MRCVS** Colonial Vet in
Malacca 1937 – 1941. (See under **Jill Smallshaw** for further details]

Awaiting details from:

BARTLEY, Phyllis (nee RUSSELL)

13, Forge Way, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9LT

e-mail: peabea@tiscali.co.uk

Evacuated on the “Empress of Japan”

Re-joining:

MACKINNON, Lachlan.

44, Blaenau Road, Llandybie, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, South Wales SA18 3YR

Tel: 01269 851091 e-mail: ljmack@live.co.uk

Son of **Lachlan MACKINNON FMSVF**

Apologies to:

CARMICHAEL, Jim and Rosa (nee ALEXANDER)

Who are still members of MVG in Australia and who were mistakenly deleted from the List of Members.

Change of e-mail address:

Ian MacKenzie's new e-mail is:

ian.ingel@btinternet.com

**PLEASE NOTIFY JONATHAN AND ROSEMARY OF ANY CHNGES IN YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS,
TELEPHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS.**