



Reports of November Events of Remembrance



China delivers



Plans for VJ80



Part II of Brian Hill's story

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

CoFEPoW Quarterly

The official newsletter of the Children, Families and Friends of the Far-East Prisoners of War and FEPOW Associations • Issue 106 • January 2025



VJ-DAY

EIGHTY YEARS ON, WE REMEMBER.



Please join us at 2.00pm on 16th August 2025, for a special commemorative Service of Remembrance at Lichfield Cathedral.

For the families of those once held as Prisoners of War in the Far-East during World War II, the landmark 80th anniversary of VJ-Day provides an opportunity to come together in remembrance.

A short service will also be held on the 17th August, at the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

For details, please contact Chris Wills, COFEPOW National Events Co-ordinator, on 0121-244 7263 or email: chriswills5071@gmail.com



When the National Federation of FEPOWs was closed due to age and infirmity, COFEPOW was entrusted with ensuring former Far-East Prisoners of War were never forgotten. Please join us, so we can fulfill that trust and pray for their eternal peace.

Managed by COFEPOW - the Children, Families and Friends of Far-East Prisoners of War organisation. Registered charity, number 1074474.

As we enter the 80th year...

2025 represents a very significant date in the calendar of the COFEPOW charity. In August this year, we will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the unconditional surrender of enemy forces in the Far-East theatre of the Second World War.

With that, came an end to almost four years of captivity for thousands of British and Commonwealth military personnel, civilian internees and indigenous communities across lands occupied by a cruel and fearsome regime. For those POWs who came home, the date marks the beginning of a remaining life frequently impacted by unforgiving mental trauma, and a lifelong physical legacy.

On page 4, you can see how COFEPOW is planning to mark this important occasion of remembrance alongside the FEPOW family.



Chair's Notes

“ This quarter is the season of commemorations, as we have the Cenotaph march and the Southampton Quay-side event, to name just two. These are momentous in their own right, and in particular, the parade at the Cenotaph represents us giving our thanks for the sacrifice made by so many over the years, and at Southampton, where we express our gratitude that so many service personnel and civilians returned there.

Looking forward into 2025, the trustees enjoyed a very productive meeting at the NMA recently, which has helped sort the future location of the Changi Shutters. This has been a contentious subject for so many years and getting an agreement on this now means we can proceed to negotiate a care plan for the shutters with the Royal Navy, who kept them previously in its Gosport museum until we asked that we exhibit them at the NMA. We also shared our plans for the care of the Sumatra and Thai/Burma Railway memorials. These need some care and attention, after so many years in the open. We can now proceed with the work.

This promises to be a major step forward as we're enjoying a very good relationship with the NMA and this will be of lasting benefit to the charity and the NMA.

Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

David Brede COFEPOW Chair.



2024 Remembrance Day at the FEPOW Building & Grove, NMA



David Sartin stands in at the FEPOW Memorial - at very short notice!



Member and active contributor to the COFEPOW cause, David Sartin and wife Cherry, took on emergency duties at very short notice, to officiate at the FEPOW Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 10th November.

COFEPOW Head of Research, Keith Andrews, had been designated as overseer of events following Chris and Alan Wills' trip to Malaysia to visit family. Unfortunately, a last-minute personal problem for Keith resulted in a late phone call on Saturday lunchtime to ask David to take over the reins.

Following a few urgent enquiries by Cherry and David, in an attempt to find a suitable wreath for the next day, they



finally managed to acquire one from a poppy stall in their local town. Cherry inscribed the label with the COFEPOW title, followed by the FEPOW prayer.

After gathering at the Memorial, David recited the FEPOW prayer before laying the wreath.

Those who attended then laid their personal tributes. They included COFEPOW members Caroline Aston, Jack Blay, Shirley Barnes and Mike Wilson, as pictured in the top photograph, with David and Cherry - a few hardy souls as the weather stayed kind but cold!



Picture: Courtesy of Clare Stanton.

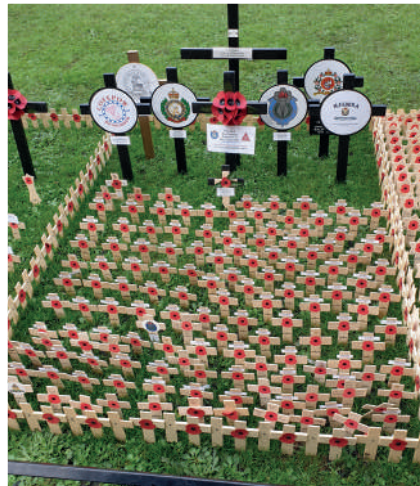
Great attendance for 2024's Whitehall Cenotaph march and parade

COFEPOW Chair, David Brede, reports on the Remembrance Day march and service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall in November...

"This year was my sixth march. The build-up was marred by difficulties with the administration, in getting everyone on the Royal British Legion lists and ensuring everyone had joining instructions, etc.

The muster was again at Horse Guards Parade in a new position at the top, near the arch leading to Whitehall. As last year, we set up a Whatsapp group for attendees to contact each other and pass around information and advice. It was good to welcome new marchers, including younger people to share the experience.

Arriving in London on Saturday,



One of the most moving features of the annual Remembrance Sunday event is the laying of many thousands of crosses, which are lovingly pressed into the lawns of the Poppy Field of Remembrance in Westminster.

we found that it was the day of the Lord Mayor's Show so the authorities were stretched to accommodate all the events and ensure they were completed safely.

The big day was quite cold at the start and slightly damp prior to the big march. There had been changes to the check in and security location due to works at Admiralty Arch.



David Brede, COFEPOW Chair.



However, the security seemed much more fluid than before.

We marched from Horse Guards to Whitehall near the memorial to the women of WW2. We had several suppliers of sweets to sustain the contingent during the wait and others had thought the same.

It is a great relief when the bands start to strike up and we know that the formalities of the ceremony are due to start. Our location again was in view of the large TV screens so we could see the events at the Cenotaph itself. On completion of the service and wreath-laying by the dignitaries, the march commenced. We were in the fourth line so one of the last to leave Whitehall, but in due course we set off with a quick march at 100 paces, past the Cenotaph. The wreath was handed over and we proceeded apace to Parliament Square and right into Great George Street, then right back to Horse Guards parade ground. This year, things were quite smooth and we kept going back to the dispersal point.

The salute was taken from HRH The Prince of Wales and then back to Horse Guards for stand down and dispersal. Many of us re-grouped at the 'Ship and Shovell' for well-deserved after-march refreshments and again they came up trumps with their Ploughman's plates, with thick doorsteps of ham or cheese with salad and pickles.

In due course and after much conversation and banter, we made our way home from an eventful day.

Thanks again for the great help from the attendees, who make it a serious yet joyful event and it is a pleasure to organise it.



Countdown to VJ80 commemorations

Plans come together for 2025's important FEPOW anniversary

Saturday 16th and Sunday, August 17th, 2025
COFEPOW service and AGM at the NMA



joined the trustees at the 70th anniversary and we are hoping for that number to be exceeded this time.

The Annual General Meeting at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire, will take place on the Sunday morning, which, apart from learning of the charity's activities and reviewing its annual events and finances, gives members the perfect opportunity to join and meet old and new friends.

The AGM will be held in the Aspects Conference Suite (situated where the marquee used to be at the NMA) and is usually very well-attended. Members can listen to progress made within the charity's objectives, in furthering its aim of

New COFEPOW VJ80 A3, A4 & A5 posters available

The trustees of COFEPOW have produced a new poster and leaflets to advertise and promote its plans to hold a special 80th anniversary commemorative service at Lichfield Cathedral.

The service, which will be held on 16th August this year, will accompany the COFEPOW AGM as usual, over the same weekend.

The poster has been produced free of charge, bar the printing, and is sized in A3, A4 and A5, in full colour. Copies are available to all Area Co-ordinators to distribute and post (where permission has been obtained) in local community halls, church receptions, schools, colleges, sports halls, leisure centres, clubs, pubs and so on, to inform the general public of the event, and to encourage participation in this commemoration.

General members of the COFEPOW charity are also eligible to distribute the poster. Please contact Chris Wills on email: chriswills5071@gmail.com for more information.

COFEPOW will mark the 80th anniversary of VJ-Day on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th of August this year. This special commemoration of the Allied victory over Japanese forces at the end of the Second World War, marks the 80th year since hostilities ended as the United Kingdom and its empire, now commonwealth of nations, and its Allies finally defeated a brutal enemy.

The commemorative services will allow people to come together to remember the stoicism and bravery of their forbears, most of whom have now

passed out of living memory, and to dwell for a moment once again to honour their immense fortitude during a period of unimaginable suffering.

The trustees of COFEPOW would ask that as many members as possible attend the specially arranged commemorative service at the magnificent Lichfield Cathedral. Over 600



establishing and helping to maintain memorials and promoting the education and awareness of its work.

The Accounts will be reviewed, and attendees will see where donations are allocated and to what purpose. The trustees and other officers of COFEPOW will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have. There will be a range of COFEPOW branded merchandise on sale, too, following the meeting, to help bolster the charity's funds.



Proposed early itinerary for the weekend of August 16th/17th 2025



The following is an approximate outline of events COFEPOW is planning for the VJ Day 80 weekend, which are largely based on 2015 (70th anniversary) and 2021 (76th anniversary) commemorations.

At this early stage, it is difficult to set any individual item in stone, although Lichfield Cathedral has now been firmly booked. As the months go by during 2025, the trustees will bring further detailed information on final plans, as and when they can be reported, and these will be published in the next two quarterly newsletters and on the COFEPOW website and Facebook page.

If you believe you would like to attend any or all of the events even prior to their confirmation, please email Chris Wills at the address given below. Thank you.

Saturday 16th August: Lichfield Cathedral.

2.00pm - We will start with the **Staffordshire Military Wives Choir** accompanying the service.

The wreath-laying will take place.

Bugler - Anthony Socci.

COFEPOW Standard Bearer -

David Brown (trustee and Treasurer)

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided after the service.

Saturday Evening 16th August

7.00pm for 7.30pm -

Dinner at the National Memorial Arboretum Aspects Conference Suite.

Our MC for the evening is COFEPOW patron **Sir Henry Every** Bt DL FCA.

Sir Henry is the 13th Baronet in line to his family's title, and is a retired Chartered Accountant, having been a Partner with Deloitte in Birmingham. He is a Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire since 2006 and served as High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 2009/10. Sir Henry was a founding Trustee of the National Memorial Arboretum and played a significant part in the formation of the site at Alrewas. He helped to raise funds for and project-manage the building and the commissioning of the FEPOW Museum.

Dinner: A 3-course dinner is for members of COFEPOW and their family and friends. As yet, the menu has not been

agreed on or priced. An example of the type of menu is as follows:

Menu

*Ardenne Pate
Trio of Arancino (v)*

~~~~~  
*Chicken Chasseur  
Goats Cheese and Red Pepper Tart (v)*

~~~~~  
*Fruits of the Forest Cheesecake
and Fresh Cream*

~~~~~  
*Tea and Coffee*

### After Dinner Speaker:

We have **Louise Cordingly** (nee Reynolds) giving an after-dinner talk. She has written 3 books -

*'The Changi Cross: A symbol of Hope in the Shadow of Death.'*

*'Down to Bedrock: The Diary and Secret Notes of a Far-East Prisoner of War Chaplain 1942 - 1945.'*

*'Echoes of Captivity 2020: In 1945, Far-East Prisoners of War returned to their families. But their war was not over...'*

The evening will finish between 10.00 - 10-30 p.m.

*NB: All photographs included here are from the 2015 commemoration of VJ70.*

## Sunday 17th August

**10.30am** - AGM.

**12.00 noon** - Comfort break -

**12.15pm Service at the Memorial Building/FEPOW Grove.**

A short service will be taken by the COFEPOW Padre, David Childs, with the re-laying of the previous day's wreaths.

**Fly-Past**- A Fly-Past has been agreed by the Royal Air Force, although we won't know which aircraft we'll get until the day.

**1.30pm** - Lunch

MC for the lunch has yet to be arranged. Again, this is for members of COFEPOW and their family and friends.

A 2-course lunch, which as yet has not been agreed on or priced, will be served.

An example of the type of menu is as follows:

### Menu

*Roast Beef and all the trimmings*

~~~~~  
A vegetarian option (Chef's Choice)

~~~~~  
*Gateaux or Fruit Crumble  
(Chef's Choice)*

~~~~~  
Tea and coffee.



3.00pm - After-lunch speaker

We have Alexandra Metcalfe-Hume - a current trustee who has been associated with COFEPOW since its inception. She will tell the audience how COFEPOW was started and of the fund-raising she took part in to help raise funds for the FEPOW Building.

3.30pm -

The draw for the raffle will take place.

4.30pm - the afternoon's events will draw to a close.

As soon as details are confirmed through the coming months, it will be possible for you to gauge the cost of attendance. You will only be required to pay for the cost of your meals. Further details will be provided in later issues of the newsletter and on the website. Once the costs have been confirmed, you will be asked to forward the amount for the meals and the number of people attending. Further details will be provided in due course. If you are certain you wish to attend and would like to book your place(s), **please contact Chris Wills by phone 0121 244 7263 or email chriswills5071@gmail.com**



Talking Torquay: fewer regulars but new faces join the weekend party

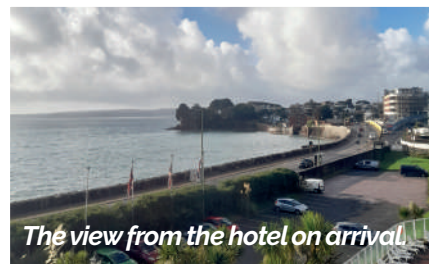


Once again, COFEPOW members keen to meet up with fellow FEPOW families, joined the annual 'Weekend Away' at the Livermead House Hotel in Torquay, in the heart of the English Riviera in Devon.

Held over the first weekend of October, the hotel made all guests very welcome, as usual.

Chris Wills, National Events Co-ordinator, couldn't attend this year as she was abroad, so Area Co-ordinator Jill Robertson and Chair, David Brede, share some of the pictures from the weekend, and report on the event...

"When COFEPOW members arrive at the Livermead House Hotel, the staff hone themselves for the fun band of annual visitors, coming in from all directions. Anything could happen!



"The Friday arrivals, after a pleasant, dry day re-acquainting with each other and the surrounding beauty that is Torquay Bay, were happy to meet the Maitre D' at dinner. Entertainment for

the evening was a Frank Sinatra 'imposter', who crooned and jazzed his Swing music to encourage folks to dance, being the excellent tribute act that he was.

"But this year was different. National Events Organiser, Chris Wills and husband Alan, did not attend, as Alan's mother, FEPOW widow Irene, was gravely ill and sadly passed away on September 24th. Everybody who knew her from previous years was most upset and contributed words in her memory, at each table. A toast was raised, with each one fondly recalling happy Torquay days in the company of 'The Spice Girls' (Irene and younger sister Margie who is 88).



When they attended previous weekends away, Bill Bromidge, Bill De Lar and David Hutson, (the 'Three Amigos') always bantered with them. Before she died, Irene asked Chris to donate to the Gurkhas Charity, which David Hutson collects for, as she really loved the Gurkhas.

BAFEPOW Meeting Dates in Birmingham

BAFEPOW would like to remind members of the dates of meetings scheduled for the first four months of 2025. They are:

Social meetings -

January 14th, February 11th, March 11th and April 8th.

Discussion meetings -

January 28th, February 25th, March 25th and April 22nd.

Welfare grants for FEPOWs, wives and widows

If you need help with a grant towards hospital stays, nursing home costs, alterations to the home, mobility aids etc, for your FEPOW relative, then please get in touch with Mr Stephen John, at the Java Club, by email at: stephen.SLL47@gmail.com or Mrs Pauline Simpson, NFFWRA, by email: enquiries@nationalfepowfellowship.org.uk

Please note that Margaret Martin has now retired from the post of Welfare Officer of the Java Club.

More brief news....

Leicestershire COFEPOW group.

The Leicestershire group of COFEPOW laid a wreath at the FEPOW Memorial in Peace Walk, Leicester on 11th November.

The Suez Maru Memorial Group.

A decision was reached to postpone the November 2024 605 SQN gathering until Spring 2025.

The HMS Exeter Memorial Weekend.

The Exeter/Macassar reunion will take place over the weekend of Saturday 1st March. Due to the cathedral being fitted with under floor heating, it is yet to confirm the time and venue for wreath-laying services at the 'Exeter' window. Lunch however, has been arranged afterwards for the White Hart Hotel (just opposite the White Ensign Club).

In the week before she passed away, both she and Margie received a 'flapper girl' china mug from Bill Bromidge. He'd planned to present them to the 'Spice Girls' in Torquay but as they couldn't make it, he posted them. Irene was absolutely thrilled, as was Margie. David also sent her the 2025 Gurkha Calendar, which she was so pleased to receive from him.

"Against this sad loss, the smaller 2024 party welcomed new Torquay attendees, Myra Banks and her daughter, Joanne, Wenda Kiddle, and the return of Roger Price to the Livermead House weekend.

"The Edwardian-style grandeur always exudes delight; especially the corridors and public areas which are very well kept. The staff dressed in their smart period uniforms, with button-holes for some, completing the picture.

"After breakfast on Saturday, the various groups were left to their own choices in the area.

Whilst some visited further afield, others went into Torquay. Normally, on a Saturday afternoon, Chris would have arranged a coach trip, but with numbers being slightly lower than usual, this wasn't cost-effective. The Torquay weather held up and whatever the guests chose to do, it was a pleasant day for all.

"A few more arrived later on Saturday afternoon. Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell came with their boxes of merchandise, and Jill Robertson and David Brede arrived with copies of her own book 'Captured at Singapore', the story of her FEPOW father, Stan.

"The meal at dinner was exceptional, as expected, and the puddings on display were completely amazing. The piano player tinkled away in the background, and then burst into songs from West End musicals, such as 'Les Miserables', or hits of the 60s and 70s, including those by Elvis, enticing some seated at our tables to break into song!

"A substantial raffle was arranged by Nick and Sylvie, and Chair, David, called the numbers. The entertainer for the evening was a Country and Western act, who sang upbeat 60s and 70s songs as lots more guests took to the dancefloor. The performer announced he'd had a brilliant evening with us all.



The weather turns against us.

Some of our party stayed up late chatting, whilst others retired to their beds, elated and satisfied. It was good to catch up with old acquaintances.

"After breakfast on the Sunday, it was obvious the sun wasn't going to come out; torrential rain had set in during the early hours and wasn't going to go away. It didn't matter, as the usual Sunday morning



Jill and Nick sell merchandise and books.

get-together with groups showing their Far-East wartime memorabilia, networking and hoping to find out more about their own FEPOW got underway. A photo was taken indoors this year, and Jill then gave a short talk on her book.

"The commonality of what all our FEPOWs went through, is the glue that really keeps COFEPOW members coming back, such as Bill Bromidge, the De Lar's, the Rowling's, the Bullen-Bell's, the Hutson's and Roger Price, all of whom were joined by regulars Christina O'Leary, her sister Geraldine and husband Philip, Ian Trollope, Paul Werlemann – our child internee – now in his 80s, and Area Co-ordinator, Mike Clarke.

This weekend break takes a lot of organising, and many attendees come from far away. Although the reunions will always be a place of special memories,



those who came seemed to intimate that travelling so many miles was becoming a little restrictive. Indeed, some expressed an interest in identifying a different location, of a comparable standard of accommodation, entertainment, cuisine and so on, but perhaps more equidistant to everyone. With the passing of one of the 'Spice Girls', and no veterans to reunite, maybe an alternative location, perhaps at least every other year, might ease in the change."

Later note from Jill.

"COFEPOW meetings always emanate 'small world' remarks, and this year was no different. Another hotel guest told us at Sunday's breakfast, that he knew Zak Toosey, the grandson of Patrick Toosey, as he is married to his daughter! We were unable to catch up with the gentleman again to take a picture. He knows Monica and Patrick Toosey, and obviously Zak's parents. We think he and his wife were only there on the Saturday night. They lived in the southern counties.

"The Far-East connection is greater than many expect, but laying in the shadows of history more light is definitely needed."

Jill Robertson and David Brede

Note about hotel location...

Chris Wills commented:

"Whilst I appreciate that Torquay might be quite a distance for some, it is very difficult to find a hotel which will even engage with me, let alone do a deal! Historically, weekends in other locations have not been successful for a number of reasons. There are few hotels that would accommodate us at a reasonable cost and with a good level of varied cuisine, the lure of the seaside, entertainment on two nights, flexible booking and comfortable, en-suite rooms. Plus, I might add, a hotel that allows me to divide the one free place into raffle prizes! I will email those that went this year and collect up their thoughts. If they are all up for a change, I'll see what I can do! Meanwhile, if anyone can suggest a suitable alternative that's easy for most of the country to access, please email me at:

chriswills5071@gmail.com

"As the event has to be arranged so far in advance, Torquay has been booked for this year. Once I have emailed those that attend and received their replies, a decision will be made to either go for another hotel somewhere else in the country, or to remain at Torquay."

Chris Wills



25th Norfolk Service of Remembrance in 2024

Singapore's Adam Park preserved



COFEPOW is delighted to learn that 19 pre-war bungalows at Adam Park in Singapore have been identified for conservation. Built in 1929 by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) as housing for families of officers from the Municipal Council and SIT, the site became a battlefield in the days leading up to the fall of Singapore during WWII. The bungalows have remained largely intact since the end of the war, according to Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

After the surrender of Singapore in 1942, Adam Park became a Prisoner of War camp, holding up to 3,000 British and Australian POWs, many of whom were put to work on the Syonan Jinja shrine at nearby MacRitchie reservoir.

After the POWs were moved to the Sime Road camp, the houses were used for employees of major Japanese companies, who stayed there until the end of the occupation in 1945. When the British returned, the estate was rehabilitated and the bungalows leased out to private tenants or companies who used them to house their employees.

Evidence of the POW camp still exists at Adam Park today, including the remnants of a POW calendar etched into the wall at the outhouse of 5 Adam Park, and a painted chapel wall mural on the upper storey of 11 Adam Park.

The site was identified for conservation as a lead-up to the Draft Master Plan 2025, which details land use and development plans for Singapore over the next 10 to 15 years.



Above: a dozen members gather for photographs around the memorial tree. Left: the wreath and crosses laid on the day at the base of the tree.

Norman Craik reports on the latest Remembrance Service held at the site of the very first COFEPOW gathering. The service was held on Sunday 27th October 2024, as members of COFEPOW gathered at Earlham Crematorium, Norwich, for a short service beside the tree, which was planted there in 1998.

"Although this is one of the first memorials that COFEPOW created, the actual first one was another tree planted by our very first patron, Terry Waite, in the grounds of Elstow Abbey, Bedfordshire.

"In 1997/98, when these trees were planted, COFEPOW was made up of a small group of people in Norfolk, who then became the first 25 members of the charity, founded and led by Carol Cooper.

"The size of the charity today shows just how far COFEPOW has come since then. Other than an enforced break due to covid, a service has been held here in Norwich every year since the tree was first planted 26 years ago.

"This short service is always very moving and provides an opportunity to meet up with other members who have not seen each other for a while. It's followed by a visit to a local pub for lunch and more chat and laughter. Our thanks go to Thelma Johnson, our Area Co-ordinator, for organising the service and lunch.

"A reminder to our members that our Christmas dinner will be held on Sunday 26th January at The Old Rectory, North Walsham Road, Crostwick, Norwich, NR12 7BG. Anyone interested in joining the Norfolk group for meetings, meals, outings, etc., please contact Thelma on 01603 743640 or email tjohnson4btinternet.com.

Norman Craik

The objectives of the COFEPOW charity are:

B1: To provide and maintain a Memorial in memory of all British Servicemen and civilians who were prisoners of war in South-East Asia under Japanese occupation, during World War II.

B2: To advance the education of the public about prisoners of war in South-East Asia, whilst under Japanese occupation during World War II, from 1941 – 1945.

Booking now for 2025 COFEPOW Weekend Break

**Hotel prices held
the same as last year!**



B73 6SG. Tel: 0121 244 7263.
email: chriswills5071@gmail.com
Cheques should be made payable to COFEPOW.

If you live locally, and would just like to come to the Saturday night dinner, we can offer a special price of £30 per head – £9 less than the normal price.

For more information or to book by phone or email, contact: Chris Wills, telephone: 0121 244 7263, or email: chriswills5071@gmail.com
We look forward to seeing you there later this year!

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

The hotel offers a traditional flavour, breathtaking sea views, and high standards of service and cuisine with an award-winning chef. The Livermead House is one of three Rew Hotels, a family-owned and managed group of hotels on Torquay's water's edge. There's a pleasant level walk to the town centre, free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi internet access in all public areas. Tea/coffee will be offered on arrival. A full English or continental breakfast will be served each morning and a four-course table d'hôte dinner each evening. On the Saturday, there will be a complimentary drinks reception before dinner with entertainment on Friday and Saturday night and a complimentary meeting room for Sunday.



**The Livermead House Hotel,
Sea Front, Torquay TQ2 6QJ.
Friday 10th October to
Monday 13th of October 2025.**

**Reservations are on a strictly
first come, first served basis.**

**Two nights'
dinner, bed and breakfast, just
£180 per person.**

**Three nights' dinner, bed
and breakfast, just £270 per
person.**

**This year there will be a charge of £5 per
day for the car park.**

If you wish to extend your stay, extra nights will be £70 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast, for up to a maximum 7 night stay in total. There is no supplement for the first 6 single rooms (on a first come, first served basis) but any single rooms over this will incur a supplement of £15 pppn. Sea view rooms carry a supplement of £10 pppn. To secure your place, simply send your name, address, email (if you have one), telephone number, the number of people attending, the number of rooms required, the number of nights you wish to stay, the type of room, special requirements, i.e. sea-view, walk-in shower etc., together with a deposit of £25 per person to: Chris Wills, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield



**Please remember
when booking...**

Last minute cancellations are still costing the hotel revenue and although it understands the difficulties involved in having to look after someone who is ill, or being ill, if cancellations are made close to the date of the weekend, it is impossible for the hotel to re-let the rooms or use food already bought. As part of the contracted agreement with the hotel, guests in the COFEPOW party who cancel within one calendar month prior to 10th October 2025, will be liable to pay the full amount directly to the hotel. Therefore, it may be beneficial to take out holiday insurance.

Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Tel no. _____ email _____

No. of people _____ No. of rooms _____ No. of nights _____

Type of room (special requirements) _____





Southampton 2024 Repatriation Service

FEPOW Repatriation Commemoration service on the 18th November 2024

Walter Tuttlebee reports on the annual Southampton repatriation and memorial ceremony held in Southampton, organised for 2024 on Monday 18th November....

"Over the final three months of 1945, over 22,000 Prisoners of War and civilian internees arrived in Southampton aboard repatriation ships from the Far-East. Many of the ships were welcomed by crowds and local dignitaries. A large temporary camp was established on Southampton Common, where the men stayed for a night or so, were fed, entertained and processed, with many given a train ticket for their onward journey.

"The arrival of the ships was reported in the local newspaper, the Southern Daily Echo. Microfiche copies of the newspaper are today held in Southampton Central Library and were



the source of information about the ships, when the memorial was established in 2013. "Once again this year, one week after Remembrance Day, on the 18th November, the annual Southampton FEPOW repatriation event took place in Town Quay Park, near the waterfront. A crowd of around 30 people, plus children and teachers from the neighbouring school, gathered for the short service of commemoration.

"The Lord Mayor of Southampton again participated and laid a wreath on behalf of the city. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of COFEPOW, NFFWRA, the Poole branch of the Royal Marines,

the Friends of Town Quay Park and also for "Those who did not return" and by individual relatives.

"Young children representing their classes from St John's school, located next to Town Quay Park, also laid wreaths made by their individual classes.

"The memorial plaque is located in a beautiful setting, cared for by the Friends of Town Quay Park. Nearby in the park is a cherry tree, planted in memory of FEPOW Bob Hucklesby, who was instrumental in encouraging the Researching FEPOW History Group to establish the memorial and who passed away in 2021. With all the rain this past year, the tree had grown substantially, now towering above the adjacent wall.

"Folk gathered for coffee/tea beforehand and for lunch afterwards, alongside some good conversations, with several attendees learning new things about the events of 1945 and the FEPOWs who arrived home here."

Walter Tuttlebee.

Photographs courtesy of Elizabeth Hallett, Gail Johnson, Ros Cassy and David Brede.

More news.... ...and a photo op

Leighanne McKinlay-Wilkins, whose grandfather and great uncle both survived the tragic sinking of the Lisbon Maru, has extended an invitation to COFEPOW members to provide them with photographs of their loved ones' graves or memorials in the Hong Kong area. They are willing to take photographs on behalf of those who cannot make the journey themselves.

If any COFEPOW members would like to take up this offer, please get in touch. Weather may impact access to certain sites, as the cemetery is located on a steep hill. However, every effort will be made to complete your request.

This very thoughtful gesture gives members an opportunity to honour and remember loved ones. For more information, please contact Leighanne as soon as possible. Email: mckinlaysjewellers@gmail.com WhatsApp: +447724269933



MBE for Lynette

Lynette Silver is a renowned writer in Australia and has produced a number of books about her father and the Far-East POW experience. She has finally been able to attend the ceremony to receive her MBE...

In June, Lynette and husband Neil, flew to London to receive her MBE, granted by the Queen just before she died. The investiture was held in Windsor Castle by Princess Anne. This was the first time Lynette had visited the castle, other than on a visit to the rooms open to the public in the 1980s, and so found the event fascinating.

They were taken through the state apartments, including the throne room, into the restored Grand Reception Room, to receive the award. Three of Lynette's British Sandakan POW relatives - Claire, Mark and Hazel, joined them on the day.

Congratulations Lynette!

Chilling proof for us all

For those who doubt the then urgent need to drop two atomic bombs on Japan to end the relentless Second World War, member David Sartin has forwarded a copy of a telling letter that has come into his possession. COFEPOW Quarterly featured the story of David's father, Lt John Sartin (MC) of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), over three parts, in the second half of 2019.

That same year, David travelled to Thailand and Malaysia, discovering some of the places relating to his father's sabotage operations with the SOE behind enemy lines. Lieutenant Sartin was captured at Kuala Kubu Bahru and eventually ended up at Ubon, forced to build an airstrip with thousands of other FEPOWs.

David continues: "Having read the recent COFEPOW Quarterly edition, I was interested to see a couple of references to Japan's intended extermination camps, in particular Ubon camp, where my Dad was held and from where he was repatriated.



Top: Lt. John Sartin.
Above: David on the Ubon airstrip.
Middle: Friend Ray stands in the perimeter ditch around the Ubon camp.
Bottom: Bricks have been recovered from the small shelter, where the camp kitchen was thought to be.

"When I visited Ubon, I could not help but notice the huge ditch around the site, which at the time I thought had a

THE EXECUTION ORDER

UNDER THE PRESENT SITUATION, IF THERE WERE A MERE EXPLOSION OF FIRE, A SHELTER FOR THE TIME BEING COULD BE IN NEAR-BY BUILDINGS SUCH AS THE SCHOOL, A WARE-HOUSE OR THE LIKE.

HOWEVER, AT SUCH TIME AS THE SITUATION BECAME URGENT, AND IT BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, THE P.O.W.'s, WILL BE CONCENTRATED AND CONFINED IN THEIR PRESENT LOCATION AND UNDER HEAVY GUARD, THE PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL DISPOSITION WILL BE MADE.

THE METHODS OF DISPOSITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

WHETHER THEY ARE DESTROYED INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS, OR HOWEVER IT IS DONE, WITH MASS BOMBING, POISONOUS SMOKE, POISONS, DROWNING, DECAPITATION, OR WHAT, DISPOSE OF THEM AS THE CASE DICTATES.

IN ANY CASE IT IS THE AIM NOT TO ALLOW THE ESCAPE OF A SINGLE ONE, TO ANNIHILATE THEM ALL, AND NOT TO LEAVE ANY TRACE.

sinister purpose during the days of the camp, and of course, the recent article confirmed my suspicions. I have a copy of a translated mass execution order,

which was to be carried out by the Japanese if they were losing the war. The copy is shown above. It is quite harrowing to read.

"The execution order was sent to me by Malay Volunteer Group member, John Hembry, whose father, Boris Hembry, was an acquaintance of my Dad, and also served with the SOE.

"Boris later became an agent with MI6 in Malaya. It's not known where John got the translated copy of the letter from."

COFEPOW Quarterly is grateful to David for forwarding a copy. Even 80 years later, the consequences of its contents remain difficult to grasp.



Part 2:
After believing his father died at the fall of Singapore, Brian discovers the true location of his father's loss...

After 75 years, Brian finally finds where his POW father was lost

In the second part of a two-part serialised report, COFEPOW Quarterly reproduces Brian Hill's remarkable story of his father, Frank Hill, who was reported and certified as lost during the Fall of Singapore, only Brian to discover 75 years later that his father had been shipped to, and died, on Ballalae Island, many months later. Brian continues his report of his experiences when visiting the locations in 2024...

"After some time waiting at the airstrip, a destination card 'BALLALAE' appeared on the check-in desk but there was still no sign of check-in staff. Eventually it stopped raining, staff arrived and we were checked-in but not allowed to proceed anywhere. Solomon Airlines marketing team representative, Jenny Lobo, arrived and said she was coming to Ballalae with us.

We were then allowed to enter the security check area and quickly boarded the Twin Otter. Our seats were in the front row behind the cockpit. The co-pilot came in through the seated passengers and gave

safety instructions. The engines started and we were very quickly on the runway and then airborne. We could see the joystick and other manually-operated lever controls. I could not believe after so much research and planning we were finally, joyfully on our way to Ballalae! The plane was generally flying below the clouds and it was breathtaking looking down on the spectacular Solomon Islands. One and a half hours later, we landed on Gizo atoll airstrip to re-fuel and let a few passengers disembark. Refuelling was carried out manually from two drums rolled up to the plane with two men taking it in turns to pump fuel into the plane. On completion of refuelling, the plane took off for Ballalae.

40 minutes later, we could see Ballalae Island and the runway came into sight. After landing, the plane taxied close to the small memorial. I could not believe we were on the WWII runway constructed by British POWs! On deplaning, we

expected the memorial to be deserted, as no one lives on Ballalae Island. However, there were groups of people from the nearby Shortland Islands Group. Jenny, of Solomon Airlines' marketing team, said she had informed the Chiefs of the nearby islands of our visit. Natalie and I walked to the memorial and embraced for a while in respect. The fabric wreaths from last year's HMS Tamar crew refurbishment were still on the memorial. When opening my tool boxes and preparing to start fitting the plaque, we were quickly surrounded by local islanders.

"I positioned my plaque under the existing plaque which honours the members of the Royal Artillery. The excited local bystanders were eager to join in and after a while two of the men were invited to help. The plaque was finally fixed

to the memorial! We shook hands with the two local helpers and thanked them for their assistance, then laid the poppy wreath at the base of the memorial so that we could pay our final

respects. The heat and humidity were intense and new passengers were sheltering in the shade under the wings of the aircraft. Photographs were taken and as we rushed to embark, we took one last look at the memorial. We could not believe what we had achieved. We thanked the pilots, through Jenny, for allowing us sufficient time.

We sank gratefully into our seats. The engines started, the aircraft manoeuvred into position on the runway and we began our take-off. Natalie made an excellent video of the plane departing. We were able to have a final look as the plane gained speed travelling past the memorial. As we left the island, I looked back and was able to take a poignant photo showing the airstrip. We drank a lot of water on the way to Gizo as we cooled down.

We returned to Gizo atoll for re-fuelling. During the time on the ground, we were introduced to a Shortland Is-

lander who had embarked at Ballalae. His name was William Morgan, age 72, who told us he had helped to construct the original memorial on Ballalae in 2003 for three relatives of the Royal Artillery Gunners Group. He lives in the village of Maleai in the nearby Shortland Islands and was going to visit his niece in Honiara. He remembers his father often visited Ballalae Island during the war and could see white men being used as slave labour by the Japanese Army. We landed at Honiara at 17:10.

Jenny's partner met us at the airport to take us back to our hotel. On the way they kindly took us to see the Guadalcanal American Memorial, the Pride of the Nation Monument which includes the Coastwatchers Memorial and Unity Square, which features the National Solomon Islanders flag and the flags of the nine provinces and cultural totems.

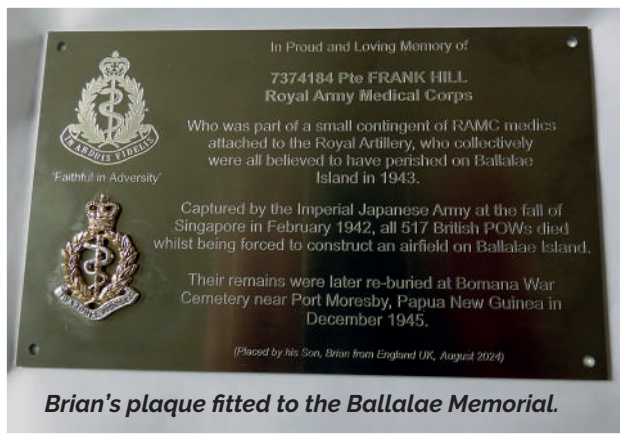
The visit to Ballalae Island memorial was extraordinary and very emotional. It gave great satisfaction to pay final respects after all this time and have peace of mind. It was good to have my daughter, Natalie, share it with me. It was a day we will never forget.

I thanked the British High Commissioner and Solomon Airlines management for their considerable assistance in making it possible for us to visit Ballalae Island. Jenny made a remarkable video which captured the events of our day and my story was in the local print news. Our visit created a lot of interest and raised awareness of Second World War history in the Solomon Islands and Ballalae. Everyone we met there greeted us with kindness and smiles.

Visit to Bomana War Cemetery near Port Moresby, 15th August, 2024.

In May, the British High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands introduced me to his colleague, the British High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, based in Port Moresby, who in turn, passed my request for information on to the Australian War Graves Commission Manager at Bomana War Cemetery. On the day, a secure escort guide picked us up from our airport hotel and took us by car to Bomana War Cemetery.

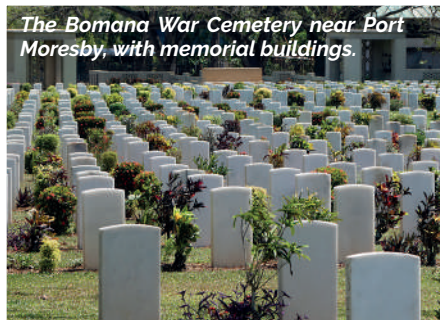
At the entrance, there are two open walk-in memorial buildings. One included the cemetery register safe which houses the burial register. Above the register is a Royal Artillery plaque to commemorate



the 438 British soldiers of the Royal Regiment of Artillery unidentified by name.

A Stone of Remembrance with the words 'THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE' is located at the front of the Cemetery, which contains 3,824 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 699 of which are unidentified. The graves are laid in three blocks at the head of which stands the Cross of Sacrifice. Beyond is Port Moresby Memorial, which commemorates almost 750 men of the Australian Army (including Papua and New Guinea local forces), the Australian Merchant Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force, who have no known graves.

The remains of the 438 Ballalae British POWs are buried in individual graves in plots C2, C3, C4 and C5, and are marked by white marble headstones, each of which has a cross and is inscribed simply 'A SOLDIER OF THE 1939-1945 WAR KNOWN UNTO GOD'.



The Bomana War Cemetery near Port Moresby, with memorial buildings.

Natalie and I walked along every row of the 438 headstones (17 rows) in respect of those men so far from home. It was very emotional. We placed a poppy wreath under the cemetery register in the memorial building and left a double-sided laminated copy of my father's Ballalae Roll of Honour/brief story inside the burial register in the cemetery register safe. The gratitude of the Papua New Guinea nation to those Allied Forces who prevented their country from being taken over by the Japanese, is strong and their immaculate care of the cemetery is testament to that. Whilst it is most probable that my father is buried here, I cannot be absolutely sure. Of the 438 remains repatriated from Ballalae after the war, it didn't account for everyone believed to be there in 1943.

One of the Gunners survivors at Rabaul, Alf 'Blackie' Baker, wrote a book entitled 'What Price Bushido', first published in 1991, which tells the story of life in the POW Camp and what happened to the 517 POWs taken from Rabaul to Ballalae Island. It also mentions that an engraved stainless steel plaque recording the history of their capture in Singapore and death in the Solomon Islands has been erected in Bomana War Cemetery. The War Graves

Commission Manager at Bomana could not find this plaque within the cemetery. The Commonwealth War Graves website states: *'The unidentified soldiers of the United Kingdom forces were all from the Royal Artillery, captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore; they died in captivity and were buried on the island of Ballalae in the Solomons. These men were later reburied in a temporary war cemetery at Torokina on Bourgainville Island before being transferred to their permanent resting place at Port Moresby.'*



Laying the poppy wreath in the memorial building.

A known number of Royal Army Medical Corps servicemen are not commemorated at Bomana. There were 6 RAMC, my father being one of them, attached to the Royal Artillery and taken by the Japanese from Singapore to Ballalae Island. It would be fitting if there was a permanent tribute to the RAMC fallen at Bomana War Cemetery.

In July, I had communications with the Australian War Graves Commission regarding the above. They are planning appropriate signage at Bomana War Cemetery to tell the history of more than 3,800 Commonwealth war casualties at rest. This would include the stories of the British servicemen at Ballalae Island in 1943. During the development of this signage they say reference can be made to those others who were with the British artillerymen at Ballalae Island in 1943.

The journey exceeded my expectations and was a once in a lifetime opportunity to honour my father.

Frank Hill is remembered at Kirkburton, Huddersfield, where he was born. Kirkburton's Second World War fallen were added to the cenotaph in 2009, and in 2021 a WWII memorial board was unveiled with photographs and details, including those of my father. The names of the Kirkburton fallen in both world wars are read out every year during the Remembrance Sunday Service".

Brian Hill, born 2nd March 1939, son of Frank Hill. Bournemouth, 2024.

Footnote: Brian posted his father's story on FEPOW Family Facebook, in February 2022.



VJ80 call for members' entries into FEPOW Building Book of Remembrance



Laid out and open for visitors to view on a presentation table within the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA, is a substantial COFEPOW Book of Remembrance.

Each page of this impressive document is dated and turned over to the next leaf when the FEPOW Building is opened to visitors each morning.

If you haven't yet submitted an entry for your FEPOW to be put into this special volume, but would like to, the cost will be £15 per line, per entry (at time of going to print).

The date of entry is entirely up to you and is generally chosen to be on either the date of birth or the date of death of the FEPOW.

The trustees would like to accumulate as many FEPOW names and include them within the book, before the important services take place for the 80th anniversary of VJ-Day, in August 2025.

If you're interested in commemorating your FEPOW's name in this way, to appear alongside the many that are already honoured here, please contact Chris Wills by phone on 0121 244 7263 or by email at chriswills5071@gmail.com



Save the Date!

The Researching FEPOW History Group (RFHG) is organising a Service of Re-dedication for the new bronze Repatriation Memorial installed on Liverpool's Pier Head. It will be held at:

**Liverpool Parish Church
(The Church of Our Lady
and St Nicholas)**

on the 13 June 2025 at 2.30pm.

We will be notifying all donors to the fund-raising appeal and will post details of how to reserve a place etc, early in the New Year.

NOTE: RFHG's VJ80 Conference starts in Liverpool on the evening of 13th June (see page 17). Those booked to attend may like to arrive in time for the service. For details email:
researchingfepowhistory@gmail.com

Interested in new pilgrimage tours?

August 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and the planning of services of remembrance across the UK. Gerald and Lynda Norden are assessing demand for the resumption of an organised pilgrimage tour to the Far-East, following the cancellations brought about by covid. They are now looking to assess whether there are sufficient numbers who wish to join them on another bespoke pilgrimage to Singapore and Thailand.

The itinerary would be very similar to the cancelled event planned for 2020, with the travel dates being around the first two weeks in November, in order to be at Kanchanaburi for a Remembrance Service on 11th November 2025.

Although open to everyone, we would especially welcome relatives, friends, supporters and those with a keen interest in the story of Far-East prisoners of war. Costs are yet to be finalised, but the 2020 tour was priced at £2,800 pp (plus additional single traveller supplements). A similar tour this year is likely to be higher.

If you're interested and would like more information, please contact Gerald and Lynda as soon as possible at:

**email: yasume@hotmail.co.uk
Mobile: 07736 085860.**



BBC seeks FEPOW candidates for anniversary TV interviews

BBC News is planning a number of programmes to recognise the significant role played by British forces in the Burma Campaign during the Second World War, as part of its coverage of the 80th anniversary of VJ-Day in August 2025.

Simon Lister, Senior BBC News Producer, contacted COFEPOW Chair, David Brede to explain the project. Simon is producing a network TV documentary for broadcast this summer, and explains:

"We would dearly like to speak to veterans in the coming months, and hope that their families will be happy to help us to meet these extraordinary people to preserve their memories permanently – to be enjoyed and understood by future generations."

Simon continued his quest, emphasising the BBC's connection to COFEPOW founder, Carol Cooper. The BBC is trying to gather as many first-hand accounts from surviving veterans as possible, to preserve them for future generations.

"The heart of this coverage will be this testimony, filmed by a small, experienced team from BBC News, which has been responsible for the successful 'We Were There' project. Curated over the past three years, the project aims to record the memories of as many surviving British Second World War veterans as possible."

Working with a number of partners, the BBC has already spoken to many men and women who served during the war. Some of the contributions are available to watch at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c2x-639z8vkvt>

As COFEPOW exists to represent the families of those FEPOWs captured earlier in the war in Singa-

pore, etc., David Brede has enquired as to whether interviewee participants will include former FEPOWs captured in other theatres of the Far-East war, alongside those who fought solely in the Burma Campaign, and commented:

"We have to remember of course, that some who took part in the Burma Campaign also became FEPOWs; their efforts prior to capture helped defeat the Japanese, which led to a lowering of enemy morale and feeling of invincibility, and brought about the end of atrocities in the Far-East leading ultimately to the release of all FEPOWs."

David would like to take this opportunity to ask members if anyone knows of persons who could be interviewed for the programme? Has anyone got thoughts about who could be approached?

At the recent Torquay weekend, David spoke with Paul Werlemann, a former child internee, and Jim Wren, who was a veteran of HMS Repulse; both are happy to be approached for an interview. Some of the stories collected will be shared with BBC partners and used on all BBC News platforms.

Please include a contact number if you are willing to speak to a BBC journalist. You can also get in touch via **WhatsApp: +44 7756 165803**. **Tweet: @BBC_HaveYourSay** or via **Simon Lister, Senior BBC News Producer, BBC News, New Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA.**

If you have a story to share, or know someone who does, please let Simon know, or if you prefer, email David Brede at:
email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com

Remembering Gunner Vic Jelfs - a superb day at the NMA

ITV news item, broadcast in December - ITV's Beijing reporter planned interview with Fang Li.



David, his wife Rosanna and his cousin Ann



Gunner Vic Jelfs

Paul Hughes is a volunteer at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA).

On the 22nd November last, he greeted the family of Vic Jelfs (pictured above) at the NMA, on the very day it would have been Vic's 104th birthday. Whilst there to commemorate the life of their FEPOW relative and remember his service, the family were photographed alongside the original section of the Thai/Burma Railway, on which Vic had worked in 1942/43. They also saw his name in the Book of Remembrance in the FEPOW Memorial Building, at which Vic's son, David Jelfs, was delighted.

Paul relates the story of the day...

"On Friday 22nd November 2024, I met the family of Gunner Vic Jelfs, formerly of the Royal Artillery, who was posted to the Far-East during the war. I was able to book a buggy and drive them around on a tour of the NMA, before visiting the Far-East section.

Vic was captured on the 15th February 1942 at the Fall of Singapore. On 30th October 1942, he left Singapore for Thailand, as part of "S Party" commanded by Lt. Col. Mackellar, to become part of "Work Group 4." Upon arrival, he was forced to work on the Thai/Burma Railway. He survived the war and was handed over to the Allied Powers on 6th

September 1945.

"When Vic came home, he married Iris and lived in Worcester. He initially worked on the buses and then became a furnaceman at a foundry. Sadly, Vic died on 19th January 1985 aged 65.



"A few weeks ago, David, Vic's son, paid £15 to COFEPOW to have his father's name added to the Book of Remembrance, on display in the FEPOW memorial museum. David, his wife Rosanna and his cousin Ann, were all delighted on their visit, to see Vic's name on display in the cabinet.

"The party of three all had a wonderful day at the NMA - the weather was kind, the lunch excellent and everything in the FEPOW Memorial Building museum and Far-East section was perfect. David was extremely gratified to discover and be reassured that his father would not be forgotten at the NMA.

"By the way, Vic was my great-uncle!"

Paul R Hughes
NMA Sunday Volunteer

Long-awaited 'The Sinking of The Lisbon Maru' film gets first UK showing

'The Sinking of The Lisbon Maru' was shown as the closing film in 'Electric Shadows 2024', in Leicester, on 1st December 2024. Subsequently, the UK premiere is set for around 17th March 2025 with general release on the 20th March.

In the meantime, the film has been entered for the BAFTAs and eligibility has been confirmed. As part of this process, there will be a number of screenings around the UK ahead of the premiere, as follows:

22 January: Oxford; the Ultimate Picture Palace at 6.00pm

27 January: Hereford; the Courtyard Cinema at 5.30

3 March: Birmingham; the Everyman Cinema at 6.00pm

Manchester; the Everyman Cinema at 6.00pm

Leeds; the Everyman Cinema at 6.00pm

Glasgow; the Everyman Cinema at 6.00pm (this venue is not yet confirmed).

Bookings for these cinemas can be made now. In addition, it may be possible to arrange a small number of charitable screenings, for example in local arts centres, where hopefully a percentage of the takings would be donated to the Lisbon Maru Memorial Association. If anyone wants to organise such local screenings, please contact Brian Finch on 0136383078, mobile 07740844666 or email at bfinch1941@gmail.com

Since its release in China, many very positive comments about the film have been made. However, a small number of negative reviews have been received, mainly by critics who failed to understand the project. The UK distributor, Chan Hiu Man, is now preparing a campaign to support the film at the BAFTAs.

It would be helpful if those who have seen the film could email him at h.m.chan@ukchinafilm.com giving your opinion. Please copy in Brian at bfinch1941@gmail.com You can give your name and details of a loved one who was on the Lisbon Maru, or write anonymously. Just short comments with your views and, if appropriate, your link to the Lisbon Maru story.

On the following page, Brian reports on the unveiling of the memorial in China.

Memorial unveiled in China

Brian Finch reports on December's completion and unveiling of the impressive memorial to Zhoushan fishermen



"Dennis Morley was the last survivor of the sinking of the Lisbon Maru. He died peacefully in 2021 at the age of 101. After the ship sank, he was picked up by a Japanese naval ship, but he has always been very clear that he owes his survival to the Chinese fishermen of Zhoushan.

"In rescuing 384 British prisoners of war, their intervention also provoked the Japanese army to abandon their policy of slaughtering the men in the water and, instead, start picking up survivors. Dennis said of these brave fishermen: *"They don't know it, but they saved a hell of a lot more lives than they thought they'd saved."*



A descendant of one of the heroic fishermen.

"After he died, his daughter, Mrs Denise Wynne, wrote to President Xi Jinping of China, explaining that her father's dying wish was for a memorial to be erected in China, to honour the courage of the Zhoushan fishermen. In August 2022 the Chinese Ambassador in London, Zheng Zeguang, travelled to Mrs Wynne's home in the West Country, to hand over, in per-

son, President Xi's reply, which said that a suitable memorial would be built. On the 6th December 2024, the memorial was unveiled in a local ceremony. Photographs herewith show the local gathering before the unveiling and the memorial itself, overlooking the East China Sea, where the Lisbon Maru sank in 1942.

"It is a thoughtful and sensitive work, honouring the courage of the fishermen and stressing the importance of friendship between Chinese and British people. Alongside the tributes in Chinese and English, is a depiction of the arm of a fisherman grasping that of a British POW, pulling him out of the water.

"Links to local Chinese newspaper/English language reports on the ceremony are available at:

- * [Memorial commemorating heroic WWII rescue unveiled in E China - CGTN](https://www.chinanews.com.cn/tp/2024/12-05/10331185.shtml)
- * [Memorial commemorating heroic WWII rescue unveiled in China - Chinadaily.com.cn](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn)
- * <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/tp/2024/12-05/10331185.shtml>
- * <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/gn/2024/12-05/10331449.shtml>

"The last link leads to a video clip which has a section showing the location of the cave where three of the POWs were hidden before being taken to the mainland to make their way to the wartime capital of Chongqing and broadcast to the world what had happened on the Lisbon Maru.

"Following this local ceremony, there is to be a formal unveiling in 2025, which will be the official inauguration of the memorial. The date has not yet been decided, as much will depend on forecasts of weather conditions nearer the time.

"Once the date has been confirmed, as much notice as possible will be given to allow time for those who want to attend the ceremony, and to make the necessary arrangements to take time off work. In particular, relatives of British POWs who were on the ship will be encouraged to attend.

"Further announcements will be made in due course".

Brian Finch.
E: bfinch1941@gmail.com



Liverpool VJ80 Conference Still a few places - register without delay!

The Researching FEPOW History Group (RFHG) is pleased to confirm the VJ80 conference, 14-15 June 2025, is on! As veterans of our conferences know, we are self-financing and rely on sufficient registrations to cover the costs of the conference.

Once again, the conference is hosted by the world-renowned Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). As well as marking the 80th anniversary of the ending of the war and the release of military and civilian survivors of Far-East captivity, it is also 80 years since the start of LSTM's link with FEPOW patients. Clinical work began in late 1945 with the first of many sick FEPOWs seeking help from doctors at the LSTM. This had a pivotal role to play in the work of generations of LSTM doctors and scientists over the decades, encompassing tropical medicine, scientific and diagnostic research, as well as a wide range of medical specialties from psychiatry to ENT. Latterly, LSTM's focus has shifted to recording the medical history of what has been a unique collaboration between doctors, scientists and patients, and to supporting the families of FEPOW wishing to understand this history.

In 2025 it will also be 20 years since the RFHG conferences were inaugurated. We are proud that, over the years, we have brought together almost 1,000 delegates and speakers from around the world to share the history of Far-East captivity during WWII. The majority of delegates are personally related to this history and, as well as seeking to understand, have so much to share with the academics, curators, archivists, researchers and authors who attend each conference.

Over the years, RFHG has highlighted many of the themes of captivity and its aftermath, inviting both UK-based and international experts in FEPOW research to share this still little-known aspect of WWII history. This year's conference is looking at aspects of trans-generational trauma, forgotten experiences, medicine, creativity in captivity and remembrance and reconciliation, and the speakers alongside have now been confirmed.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/researchingfepowhistory/1313289>

Please copy the link above to go to our 'Ticket Tailor' site, where you can register for the conference. There are two ticket options to choose from:

Conference Admission at a cost of £180 per person includes:

1. Optional welcome reception at *The Liner Hotel* Friday evening.
2. Entrance to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine for our main conference programme on Saturday and Sunday.
3. Access to the Saturday evening talks only at *The Liner Hotel*.

Conference Admission plus Saturday Buffet at a cost of £200 per person includes:

1. Optional welcome reception at *The Liner Hotel* Friday evening
2. Entrance to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine for our main conference programme on Saturday and Sunday
3. Access to the Saturday evening talks at *The Liner Hotel*, plus a buffet meal included.

For further information, you can contact the team by email at: researchingfepowhistory@gmail.com or visit our website at fepowhistory.com

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5QA.

ANDREW RICE

Andrew Rice is a medical doctor and Professor of Pain Research at Imperial College London, where he has led the Pain Research Group since 1995. He is the incumbent President of the International Association for the Study of Pain. Aside from his mainstream medical research, Andrew has published on pain aspects of nutritional neuropathies in Far-East Prisoners of War 1942-45, in particular using the invaluable accounts of Nowell Peach. Further details may be found at: <https://profiles.imperial.ac.uk/a.rice>



DR ALAN JEFFREYS

is the Head of Equipment and Uniform at the National Army Museum and a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Greenwich. He has worked on the POW and civilian internee experience in south-east Asia during the Second World War, and has published a number of highly-regarded papers.



GAUTAM HAZARIKA

is a history enthusiast, researching aspects of World War II in the Far-East and the life of civilians interned in Singapore.

He is currently researching about Indian FEPOWs in Singapore and his book on this matter is scheduled to be published in the summer of 2025. His sources include under-utilised interrogation reports, trial transcripts and interviews with family members of over 30 veterans.





Letters

The October edition of the newsletter included Part One of Brian Hill's remarkable story of his father Frank Hill, who was certified as lost during the fall of Singapore but, in fact, died on Ballalae Island.

Colin Docketty is one of the volunteers listed on the outside back cover of each newsletter, ready and willing to help with any information members may require, with specific reference to Ballalae and Rabaul. He has written to COFEPOW Head of Research, Keith Andrews, to congratulate Brian on the story. Part Two is included in this quarter's newsletter...

"Dear Keith

"I read with great interest the article in our latest COFEPOW Quarterly about Brian Hill's travels to Ballalae and was moved by his determination at his advanced years to visit the island where his father had perished, along with all those other unfortunate gunners fit enough to work! As you may remember, my own father was 'lucky' enough to be unwell on the day the 599 were split into two groups at the Vunapope mission near Rabaul. I understand Brian had tried to contact me but to no avail. Please could you add my email address to the list on the back page of the newsletter as it is missing. Thanks."

Colin Docketty
colin.docketty@gmail.com

Editor note: the trustees of COFEPOW would like to promote the fact that all members listed on the back page of the newsletter, under the 'Help and Information' heading, are willing to volunteer any information they may possess on FEPOWs held in their relevant locations. Colin's email address was missing from the list but has now been added. We would like to encourage members who may want to track down additional information about their own FEPOW relative, to make contact. Information held is not exhaustive, but may help in research.

Please email those named individuals most appropriate to your FEPOW's service background.

Following the inclusion of Brian's story he has kindly forwarded subsequent correspondence from the Solomon Islands. His emails are reproduced here, below his own letter to the editors.....

"Chris and Steve

Thought you may be interested to see below email from Solomon Airlines Marketing. Please click on the two links to see their story and video. They have remarkably captured the events of the visit to Ballalae WWII Memorial. They have now sent an updated video incorporating some of my photos which makes it a personal treasure."

Brian Hill

From: marketing@flysolomons.com.sb

"Dear Brian,

We are incredibly proud to have played a part in your journey to honour your late father. It's moments like these that remind us of the powerful role Solomon Airlines can play in helping our passengers connect with their roots and experience truly life-changing moments. In addition, I wanted to let you know that ABC News is interested in interviewing you following your emotional journey to the Solomon Islands. Do you have a WhatsApp number that the ABC team can use to reach you? Please let me know what works best for you, and I'll make sure to pass along the details.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this significant chapter in your life. The story by our team is available here: <https://www.flysolomons.com/about-us/news/general/solomon-airlines-supports-passengers-emotional-journey-to-honor-wwii-hero-august-2024>

Video available here: <https://www.facebook.com/solomonairlines/videos/874412767891422>

"Chris and Steve

Further to my email of 3rd November regarding Solomon Airlines Marketing's story and video of my journey to Ballalae Island. Below is the Solomon Airlines Marketing email giving the link to their In-Flight Magazine which features my journey to Ballalae. Thought you may be interested to see the article in the magazine."

Brian

"Dear Brian

We're able to publish our last in-flight mag for this year which features your story as well.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2ik-kd7xqfb6qe6503r4sb/13093-FS91-FIN-LR>

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2ik-kd7xqfb6qe6503r4sb/13093-FS91-FIN-LR.pdf?rlkey=yncz5hdu8rz5sz0qqf1ruh-p02&e=1&dl=0>

Both emails are from **Jenny Lobo**
Solomon Airlines Marketing Supervisor

Below follows additional correspondence Brian sent and received, including from Tom Coward, the British High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands, who wrote....

"Dear Brian

I am so glad that you were able to follow you father's wartime journey and pay your respects. Now that you are back home, I hope the journey was what you hoped. Your story and that of your Dad has certainly grabbed interest. You were in the print news here over the weekend and I saw the email about ABC. I hope you had a great trip home and please do send me any good photos from your visit!" Link to the story: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hms-tamar-crew-refurbish-ballalae-war-memorial>

Tom.

Excerpts from Brian's email to David Green, Marketing Manager, Solomon Airlines.....

"Dear David

I wish to thank you for your help in making my visit to Ballalae Island such a wonderful experience.....I appreciate the great lengths you went to manage our flights and do everything possible to ensure smooth operations.....we were impressed with seeing the skills displayed by the pilots in making our flights so enjoyable. I wish to thank Jenny of your Marketing team for joining us on the flight and all the help in accomplishing my tasks.....I would like to thank Tom Coward for the introductions."

Brian

David Green's response to Brian.....

"Dear Brian,

I am so glad it all went smoothly. We agree Jenny did a remarkable job. We feel so very privileged to have played a small part in your journey, and to be able to honour your father alongside you. There is so much history in the Solomons that is forgotten, and thanks to you we've been able to bring some to the surface and also support awareness of fallen heroes including your father. I have great respect for both you and your daughter for making the remarkable journey. 'Tagio tumas' for allowing us to assist."

David Green

Lieutenant Colonel Sophie Waters UK
Defence Adviser to Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, who gave permission for Brian's memorial plaque.

"Dear Brian,

Thank you for keeping us in the loop with your extraordinary journey...it is incredibly moving that you could conduct this pilgrimage and I have the utmost respect for your efforts. This now becomes part of the story that those of us connected with the Solomon Islands will tell and the instalment of your plaque ensures a lasting tribute."

Lieutenant Colonel Sophie Waters



Letters

The following is a trail of correspondence initiated between COFEPOW members and trustees, and officials of the Royal Albert Hall, following promotion of the RHA's forthcoming event to commemorate "the end of the Second World War" in May 1945. The letters show the work being done to sustain remembrance of Far-East POWs to this day. The trail starts with a letter to David Brede, Chair of COFEPOW, regarding the event.....

David,
VE Day 80: The Party | Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is currently promoting the below event as "the final major Second World War anniversary", and I can't help but draw parallels with the recent experience of GB Paralympians who were not invited to an event hosted by Fortnums.

I have already written to them suggesting that the event be retitled and the contents amended to reflect the fact that the war didn't end until VJ Day on 15 August 1945.

Just like the Paralympians, those that continued to serve or remained in captivity have to be remembered and their stories told. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,
Tony McQuaid

This was followed by a second communication from Tony...

David,
Please see below an email that I have just sent to the Burma Star Association regarding an event being hosted by the Royal Albert Hall next year.

I fully appreciate that no disrespect was intended by the RAH, but that doesn't change the fact that this event is yet another slap in the face to FEPOWs and those that continued to serve in the Far-East. I have posted about this on the COFEPOW website and other FEPOW related Facebook pages, but wanted to make you aware directly.

Regards,
Tony McQuaid

David's reply to Tony...

Good afternoon Tony,
Thanks for your email. I will add our dissension regarding this event to the RAH management.
David.

This was followed by a letter from David to the RHA....

To: James Ainscough OBE,
Chief Executive, Royal Albert Hall.

Dear Sir,
VE Day 80: The Party | Royal Albert Hall

I have come across this event that is being promoted at your venue.
<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2025/ve-day-80-the-party/>

The event is promoted as 'The final Second World War anniversary'. Clearly it is not, as the war did not finally end until the 15th August 1945, when the Japanese surrendered to the Allies.

This is seen as another insult to the brave service personnel and others who fought against the Japanese and those that were captured who were used as slave labour in intolerable conditions, and, as a result of which, many did not survive.

This promotional information should be amended to suit, to show what it is actually about. Would there be any scope to have a commemoration for VJ Day as a separate event?

Regards
David Brede
Chair of Trustees

Chris Wills, COFEPOW National Event Co-ordinator, wrote seperately to reinforce the complaint...

Dear Sirs
I have read with interest your advertisement for your VE Day 80: The Party. However, I wish to make a comment.

I quote:
"Exactly 80 years on, it is the final major Second World War anniversary for the country to mark alongside those who lived through it; the 'Greatest Generation.' 8th May 1945 was a day of celebration with the streets brimming with people singing and dancing; bittersweet for many who had lost loved ones in the war or were waiting for their safe return."

I hate to disagree with you, but the war didn't end until 15 August 1945, when the Japanese surrendered to the Allied Forces in Singapore.

The 8th May was the end of the war in Europe, but it was NOT the end of WWII. At this time, there were still thousands of British and Allied Servicemen, including civilian men, women and children, suffering terrible privations as prisoners of war in the Far-East.

It is generally overlooked by this country and these men, women and children have always been forgotten. Only

after much campaigning did we have a 76th VJ Day Celebration at the National Memorial Arboretum, attended by the then Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla, in 2021. The 75th Anniversary was cancelled due to Covid 19.

If you have to ignore the Far-East Prisoners of War, then at least do them the courtesy of getting your facts right – 8th May 2025 is the 80th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

Chris Wills (Mrs)
Trustee COFEPOW

The following is the response received by Chris from the event's co-ordinators...

Dear Chris,
Thank you for your e-mail about the recently announced VE Day 80 concert. I was sorry to learn of your concerns that the experience of those men and women who fought in the Far-East Asian front during World War II is not being commemorated at this event.

As you might be aware, the Royal Albert Hall is a venue used by third party concert promoters to stage concerts and in this instance, the concert promoter, *The Makers Of*, are bringing the VE Day 80 concert to the Hall. We shared your feedback on the event with the concert promoter. The promoter has replied and asked us to share their reply with you -

"It is very much our intention to include the events leading to VJ Day in the VE Day event on 8th May 2025 and we have updated the copy on the Royal Albert Hall event page to make this clear. We certainly didn't wish to cause any offence to those with family involved in the continuation of the war, post VE Day 1945."

Michael Traboulsi - 'The Makers Of'
Thank you for taking the time to write in with your feedback, it is very much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you to the Royal Albert Hall.
Mark Preston, Customer Services
Co-ordinator, Royal Albert Hall.

The COFEPOW Quarterly newsletter is available either as a printed multi-page A4 magazine, or as a digital PDF, emailed to your online address. Published at the beginning of January, April, July and October, the newsletter is edited and assembled by Chris Wills and Steve Riley, who are keen to receive all material from members to contribute towards the content of the newsletter. Please send all photographs, illustrations, articles, notices and event information to either: chrswills5071@gmail.com or sriley.beeches@btinternet.com Thank you.



COFEPOW and the huge challenges of tomorrow

Please join us in helping to develop new fund-raising initiatives, to ensure the charity's survival and prosperity into the future.



Witnessing the intensely moving commemorative events during the recent 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, few could have failed to notice the increasing frailty of those brave, though now aged, souls who once stormed the beaches of Normandy in 1944. By their own admission, numbers are thinning rapidly now, as the vast majority of remaining participants in those days of liberation on the French coast are reaching, and often exceeding, a hundred years of age.

2025 will see the 80th anniversary of the end of the war against Japan. Our preparations for commemorative services and events are well under way and it will be our honour and duty to mark this special occasion with both vigour and determination. We now therefore, have just over a year to stage a commemorative service which does justice to the thousands of servicemen and women who gave up many years of their life suffering the depravity, cruelty and starvation meted out by this country's wartime enemy. Many gave up their life and this should never be forgotten.

It's almost three decades now since COFEPOW was formed, and sadly those servicemen and women who served

and who survived the camps of the Far-East, are, as with Normandy veterans, also moving towards their final days. As a consequence, our ability as a charity to gain and retain new members and generate significant donations to the cause is under increasing pressure. We now have to re-evaluate the work of COFEPOW going into the future and how best we can maintain the drive for existence, once all living memory of the harrowing events of 1941 to 1945 have passed into eternity. Work has already begun in seeking out ways to sustain our mission. Encouraging grandchildren of FEPOWs for instance, not only as new members, but also as serving trustees and officers. It is only with their fresh approach to continuing our work, that the charity can survive.

You may have read in the previous two issues of the COFEPOW newsletter, a detailed analysis of the state of play. If not, we encourage you to do so. The article, by COFEPOW Chair, David Brede, outlines a number of reasons which have combined to make the sustenance of the charity a grave challenge. We do not need to go over those reasons here, as we suspect many will be wholly aware of the pressing set of circumstances which now affect us.

We put out a plea to members in that article, to offer any help you can, and that message we will repeat: donations, continuing your membership, contributing your time, offering ideas for fund-raising events or indeed creating initiatives to help the charity raise cash - the very lifeblood of the cause - all will be considered. To date, response has been limited. Understandable, of course, as pressures on time and cash in modern life are considerable. Nevertheless your contributions are vital if we are to continue the work of maintaining memorials and services of remembrance beyond the end of 2025.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see the evening held in Nairn in Scotland recently, organised by Jane and Roland Stuart, which raised not only money for the event's performers, but also for the hall in which it was held, and a valuable £411 towards the maintenance of the FEPOW Building at Alrewas (as we're sure most members are not aware of the significant rental we have to pay). This is the kind of commitment for which the trustees are deeply grateful and one which must be supported elsewhere. Help will be given by the trustees, organisationally and financially, if the return exceeds the outlay. Our expertise can also be borrowed with a full measure of enthusiasm, to help whatever it is you have in mind as a fund-raiser. Even providing support in appealing for donations through any local organisation of which you are a member - schools, clubs, pubs and so on.

We hope in subsequent issues to report on new ideas generated and those that have been put into practice for the charity's benefit. But please see this as an appeal to you. We know how much your family FEPOW meant and it is essential that we optimise remembrance of them as far into the future as we can. Please be assured that whatever contribution you make to COFEPOW, large or small, financially or creatively (perhaps an idea you could carry over from your professional life that would contribute to our continuation) all will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Please contact David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, at cofepow.chairman@gmail.com Finally, thank you so much for reading this.
David Brede
On behalf of the trustees of COFEPOW.

New members



NAME	LOCATION	EMAIL	FEPOW (if applicable)
Dr Leo McGarity	Leicestershire	leomcgarity@btinternet.com	Father - Joseph McGarity - Indian Medical Service
D Jones	New South Wales	djones8@bigpond.net.au	Father - Trevor Jones - 1st Batt South Wales Borderers
James Harvey	Ripple, Kent	jamesharvey1975@yahoo.co.uk	No details given
Bryan Horton	Queensland	bryanghorton@hotmail.com	Father - Eric Horton - R.A.O.C Malayan Com. Signals
Dariel Francis	Tunbridge Wells	broomdenvilla@virginmedia.com	Father - Philip Richard Peachey - Suffolk Regiment
Mark Taylor	Hayle, Cornwall	hotspur1970@hotmail.co.uk	Grandfather - Albert Stuchbury - Leics. Regiment
Stephen Monument	Westcliff on Sea	stephenmonument@hotmail.co.uk	Father - Geoffrey Allan Monument - RASC
Miles Searle	Wimbledon	milessearle@gmail.com	Great Grandfather - Harry Searle - Royal Artillery
Alexis McCarthy	Victoria, Aus.	alexis_mccarthy@hotmail.com	Grandfather - James Joseph McCarthy - Royal Artillery
Terri Pike	New York, USA	terrigutshallpike@gmail.com	Mother - Irene Elizabeth Jarrett - Student/internee
Christine Bowkett	Stevenage	christine.bowgett@sky.com	Father - Charles Hibbert - East Surrey Regiment
Peter Bowkett	As above	As above	Father-in-law - Charles Hibbert
Glenn Croston	Gr. Manchester	g_croston@yahoo.com	No details given
Christine Tuffin	Bedford	christine.tuffin@ntlworld.com	Father - Francis McGee - Beds & Herts Regiment
John Ferry	Plymouth	ferry1955@yahoo.co.uk	Father - Peter Ferry - Royal Navy
John & Ann Quin	Leigh-On-Sea	john.quin53@yahoo.com	Father - Alexander Dawson - Royal Norfolk Regiment
Jim Sherrard	County Down	jim.sherrard@btinternet.com	Father - John Sherrard - RAF
Daniel Gascoyne	Colchester	dan.gascoyne@gmail.com	Grandfather - Frederick Gascoyne - 151/153 FEC RAF
Michael Reeves	Pontypool	michael.reeves262@btinternet.com	Uncle - Cuthbert Edward William Jones, 84 Squadron, RAF
Penelope Reeves	As above	As above	Uncle-in-law - Cuthbert Edward William Jones
Mark Waltenberg	Sunderland	markwaltenberg@live.co.uk	Father - Alexander Waltenberg - Merchant seaman
Jackie Budd	Shepperton	buddjackie@aol.com	Father - John (Jack) Pound - Private (No details given)
Cheryl Hickman	Mildenhall	cheryl@redsquirrel-hospitality.co.uk	Grandfather - Ronald William Hickman - 5th Suffolks
Ralph Hawes	Norfolk	ackerhawes@googlemail.com	Father - Malcolm A. Hawes - Royal Navy
Sue Martin	Letchworth	suebrader.hertford@gmail.com	Grandfather - Thomas Walter Rogers - 35 LAA/RA
Sonia Holmes	Peterborough	sonia.holmes@blueyonder.co.uk	Father - Roland John Wise - Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Dave Tilley	Auckland, NZ	davetille62@xtra.co.nz	Arthur Leslie Saunders - Royal Artillery
David Tindsey	Kenilworth	david.tindsley@yahoo.co.uk	Father - John Thomas Tindsley - 9/11th Ind. Div. Signals
Richard Harris	Marlow	rap.harris@yahoo.co.uk	Grandfather - Frederick Harris - Civilian
Jane Clatworthy	Worthing	jane.clatworthy@hotmail.co.uk	Father - Douglas Henry Noel Barrett - Royal Artillery
Stephen Clatworthy	As above	As above	Father-in-law - Douglas Henry Noel Barrett
Richard Charles Thompson	Aylesford	tommoteleport@gmail.com	Father - Richard Charles Thompson - RASC
David Thorne	Rothbury	david.thorne@hpexp.com	Father - Roy Thorne - The Royal Signals
Christopher Mitchell	Bromley	mdvdthms@aol.com	Father - Donald Frank Mitchell - The Royal Signals

DATA PROTECTION: please read the following carefully: COFEPOW only publishes details of new members in this quarterly newsletter. Each new member is given the option on the application form to stipulate that their personal address/telephone/email details are not included in the listing. If you are happy for your details to be included in the newsletter when you join, your local Area Co-ordinator will also be informed within their region. Each Co-ordinator is conversant with data protection legislation and your details are not shared again. Only officers of the charity will have access to this information going forward and all information is protected in accordance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Any bylines, credits and contact details within articles and features are included with the originators' approval.

Perfect gifts and fitting mementoes

A comprehensive selection of quality COFEPOW branded merchandise, priced competitively to help the charity.

New books added!

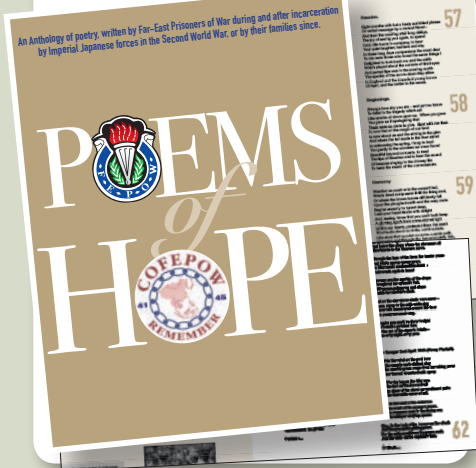
1. Range of books at COFEPOW prices!

'Eric and Scrunchball' new price to COFEPOW...£4.90
'Echoes of Captivity' new price...reduced to £9.50.



18. New range of Christmas cards at COFEPOW prices!
£5 for a pack of 5 inc. envelope - 15 x 10.5 cms'

2. 'Poems of Hope' - an anthology of over 80 poems written by FEPOWs both whilst in POW camps or once home, or by family members since.



16. Polo Shirt



7. Polo Shirt



8. VJ70 mug



9. Car sticker



10. Tie clip



11. Lapel badge



12. Badge



13. Badge



14. Trolley coin



15. Tie

3. Cloth shopping bag 37cm (14½") x 47cm (16")



16. 30mm diameter 75th anniversary of VJ Day commemorative enamel pin badge in blue velvet presentation box.



5. Key ring



6. Blue pen with logo



17. VJ70 Medallion



Through your generosity, a substantial quantity of COFEPOW-branded merchandise is being sold every year to help COFEPOW funds. Merchandising Officers, Sylvie and Nick Bullen-Bell, would like to thank all members who have purchased merchandise, to wear or use with pride, and to all those who have made additional donations to the charity (however big or small), when merchandise is purchased through the year. Details of ordering/payment methods for all items, including Paypal and overseas postage costs, can be obtained by emailing Nick or Sylvie at: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, or telephone 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501.

Information is also available on the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk For general information, or if you would like to submit ideas for merchandise, please also email us. Items shown are not to scale.

Revised merchandise price list

1.	BOOKS - Title	List Price	COFEPOW	P&P
	<i>New books in the merchandise range include:</i>			
	'Echoes of Captivity'	£12.99	£9.50	£3.49
	'Eric and Scrunchball'	£12.99	£4.90	£3.49
	both by Louise Reynolds			
	'Conjurer on the Kwai'	£9.99	£3.50	£3.49
	'Surviving the Japanese Onslaught'	£19.99	£6.50	£3.49
	'Escape from the Japanese'	£19.99	£6.50	£3.49
	'When You Go Home'	£5.00	£3.49	
	'Nagasaki'	£20.00	£3.49	
	'In the Shadow of the Rising Sun'	£9.00	£3.49	
	'Under the Heel of the Bushido'	£10.00	£3.49	
	'Fighting Back'	£10.00	£3.49	
	'Unsung Heroes of the RAF'	£10.00	£3.49	
	'Unsung Heroes of the British Army'	£10.00	£3.49	
	'Unsung Heroes of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines'	£7.50	£3.49	
	<i>*Europe £6.00, elsewhere £10.00.</i>			
	GENERAL ITEMS	Price	P&P	
2.	FEPOW Poetry Anthology book	£11.99	£3.49	
3.	Cloth Shopping bag 14.5" x 16"	£2.50	£1.55	
4.	Pack of 10 Notelets, inc. envelopes	£2.50	£1.55	
5.	Key ring, fob	£3.50	£1.55	
6.	Blue pen with logo and website	£1.00	£1.55	
7.	Unisex Polo shirts (B/W) M, L, XL.	£16.00	£3.49	
8.	VJ 70 Mugs	£8.50	£3.49	
9.	Car Sticker	£1.00	£0.75	
10.	Tie clip	£3.00	£1.55	
11.	Lapel Pin Badge	£2.00	£1.55	
12.	Poppy Woven Badge	£2.50	£0.75	
13.	Woven COFEPOW Badge	£3.50	£0.75	
14.	Trolley coin	£3.25	£1.55	
15.	Tie	£12.99	£1.55	
16.	Special VJ Day 75 pin badge	£4.00	£3.49	
17.	VJ70 Medallion	£7.50	£3.49	
18.	Christmas cards (pack of 5)	£5.00	£1.60	
	15cms x 10.5cms when folded and inc. envelope.			



Submissions invited for second 'Poems of Hope'

In 2019, the trustees of COFEPOW initiated a drive to collate as many poems written by FEPOWs and their families as possible, to create an anthology of poetry. The collection featured over 80 poems, many of which were written during captivity, or were based on recollections or emotions experienced by former FEPOWs on their return or by their close family since the war.

Naturally, the idea behind the anthology was to preserve the poetry written by FEPOWs and their families, and to act as a fund-raising vehicle to gain a consistent income for the COFEPOW charity to carry on its work.

Whilst some copies of the first volume are still available, it is thought that a second edition will help protect more poems and reinvigorate the fund-raising drive.

Currently, the second volume is being assessed for viability and is hoped to contain not only poetry by captives, but also stories, and thoughts or memories of loved ones in poetry form.

Merchandising Officers, Nick and Sylvie Bullen-Bell are asking for contributions of any new or freshly discovered poetry to be included.

Any originals will be returned, but in the interests of protecting family heirlooms, they would prefer if rewritten or typed contributions could be submitted.

If you would like to provide any poems, please contact them at the merchandise office by emailing: tickles.sbb@gmail.com, phone 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501.

More information will also be available on the COFEPOW website in due course, at www.cofepow.org.uk

Donations

On behalf of COFEPOW, thank you for your generosity. Listed below are the donations made to COFEPOW during the last quarter of the year, which can be identified as being from specific members or friends.

Every penny goes towards the maintenance of the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the NMA in Alrewas, Staffs., and for other memorials in the UK.

Warren Osborne gave £30, £15 for an entry into the Book of Remembrance and the rest as a donation. **Rory Laird** has paid £50, £15 for an entry into the Book of Remembrance and £35 as a donation, and **Mary Boswell** donated 45.00.

Other significant and identifiable contributors include Dianne Williams, Yvonne Smith, Anne Fuller, Barry Townley, Brian Barlow, Gordon Bestwick, Christine Harfoot and Marion Love.

Donations of artefacts

The COFEPOW charity has accepted and continues to accept relevant donations of POW-authored publications, personal artefacts, souvenirs, mementoes and military keepsakes. Whilst donations of these artefacts are gratefully received, the trustees cannot guarantee that they will be displayed in the FEPOW Memorial Building at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), as we are unable to change the display cases in the downstairs exhibition area, and, of course, we are limited by space.

Please be assured that the donations of artefacts will be stored safely in the archives (upstairs in the Building) under lock and key, where there are security cameras. Unfortunately, space in the archives is also limited and although we are not yet at full capacity, when it is full, we will regrettably have to turn down any further offers of donations. If you wish to donate an artefact to the charity, please contact either Keith Andrews by email at: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone: 01530 450621, or Chris Wills by email at chriswills5071@gmail.com or by telephone: 0121 244 7263. Thank you.

Album Pages...

Just provide simple, brief details about your family FEPOW member, which will be collated by COFEPOW. View the link on <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/fepow-photo-album>

Obituaries

Mrs Irene 'Joan' Wills

The trustees were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Irene Wills on September 24th, after a short illness. Irene, known as 'Joan', was the mother of former trustee, Alan Wills and mother-in-law of National Events Co-ordinator, Chris Wills. Our heartfelt condolences go to Alan, Chris and their family.

Joan was the widow of FEPOW George Wills, who had enlisted in Birmingham, was captured in Singapore and shipped to Saigon aboard the Nissa Maru. He was then sent to work on the Thai/Burma Railway and finally to Sakata in Japan until liberation. Irene always looked forward to the weekends away, particularly those in Torquay. She and her sister, Margie, were firm favourites with many of the members and also the staff.

Roland Stuart

Jane Stuart has informed the trustees that her husband Roland sadly passed away on 28th of November at 4.00 a.m. in the morning. Along with wife Jane, Roland was a keen fund-raiser for the charity and organised the concert in Nairn last May which raised a significant amount for COFEPOW.

Roland went in to hospital in Fort William, for a hernia operation, on 14th August, and subsequently suffered a stroke which took his sight. He died in hospital with Jane and his family around him. All at COFEPOW send their deepest condolences to Jane and her family.

Nick Roberts

It is with great sadness that COFEPOW has learned of the passing of Nick Roberts, on September 17th. Nick was a long time member of various FEPOW groups and well-known throughout the community as the FEPOW Standard Bearer, fulfilling his duties at a number of remembrance services around the country, over many years. A sizeable parade of Standards were in attendance at the funeral to pay tribute. The celebrant spoke with great warmth about Nick and of his dedication to the FEPOW cause.

Nick had been unwell for quite some time, until his health eventually forced him to drop most of his duties. He remained always cheerful and positive, however, and was determined to keep on going - "To Keep the Spirit Going That Kept Them Going".

Patrons, trustees, members, officers and officials.

COFEPOW: Children, Families and Friends of the Far East Prisoners of War, incorporating FEPOW. Registered address: 3 Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northampton NN3 9ET. Tel: 07930 960241. email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com Website: www.cofepow.org.uk Registered charity, number 1074474.

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gmetcalfehume@gmail.com **SHARON MORRIS-MEE** email: sharonmorrismee@outlook.com

and **CHRISTINE WILLS** email: chriswills5071@gmail.com

Chairman and interim Secretary: **DAVID BREDE**: email: cofepow.chairman@gmail.com

Secretary. Vacant at time of going to press.

Treasurer: **DAVID BROWN** email: medalchart@live.co.uk

Head of Research: **KEITH ANDREWS** email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk

Honorary Life President: **CAROL COOPER**.

Honorary Life Members: **PATRICK TOOSEY**, **PAM STUBBS**, **RON TAYLOR** AND **BRIAN HUME**.

COFEPOW Padre: **DAVID CHILDS** CBE, D. Litt.

National Events Co-ordinator: **CHRISTINE WILLS** email: chriswills5071@gmail.com

Merchandise Officers: **NICK AND SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL** email: tickles.sbb@gmail.com

Area Co-ordinator Officer: **ALEXANDRA METCALFE-HUME** email: ametcalfehume@gmail.com

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Membership Officer: **KAREN BROWN** email: cofepow.membership@gmail.com M: 07935 312349.

Asst. Membership Officer: **GRAHAM ROBERTSON** email: gemats1@outlook.com M: 07786 051573.

M: 07935 312349. Membership fee per annum: **£15** per person, or **£21** per joint membership.

Payments can be made annually in August by cheque, payable to COFEPOW:

please post to: COFEPOW, 1 Curlew Close, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6TQ.

Or please visit the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk for easy online payment.

Donations are also welcome and can be made to the Assistant Membership Officer by cheque, payable to COFEPOW, or at the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk

The FEPOW Memorial Building Archives at the NMA are open to visitors by arrangement.

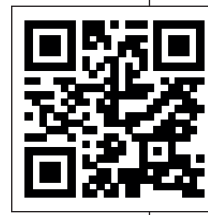
If you would like access to the material held there, you must be accompanied by a COFEPOW officer. If you would like to visit, on a Sunday preferably, please arrange with Keith Andrews.

Head of Research, on 01530 450621. Thank you.

Area Coordinators. Please note: the list of Area Co-ordinators is provided to facilitate access to a local group for members. The trustees are also anxious to recruit Co-ordinator volunteers for overseas, and for regions in the UK not covered below, particularly in Beds, Bucks, Herts, Staffs, Warwicks, Wilts, West Hants, East Somerset and Yorks., where we enjoy existing groups which no longer have a Co-ordinator. If you have a Co-ordinator near you, they would welcome you making contact, with a view to meeting and sharing knowledge and memories about your FEPOWs.

Area	Name	Email
1. Birmingham and the Black Country	Annette Hughes	cranedriver1964@live.com
2. Derbyshire	John Rutherford	Joruth27@gmail.com
3. Devon and Cornwall	David and Val Warner	davalofcedartree@gmail.com
4. Dorset	Ann Whiteside	louisewhiteside7426@gmail.com
5. Essex	Nick Bullen-Bell	bullenbell@btinternet.com
6. Gloucestershire	Diane Vear	dianevear@yahoo.co.uk
7. Greater Manchester and east Cheshire	<i>New vacancy</i>	<i>Please apply to David Brede, Chair.</i>
8. Herefordshire and the Wye Valley	Kerry Bird	hanjoem@gmail.com
9. Kent	Brian Faulkner	faulkner2021@btinternet.com
10. Leicestershire	Shirley Barnes	shirleyb60@virginmedia.com
11. Lincolnshire	Hazel Taylor	hazel.taylor@yahoo.co.uk
12. Merseyside and Lancashire	Colin Coleman	colin.colemanuk@mac.com
13. New Zealand	Hilary Cunningham	hilarycunningham1@gmail.com
14. Norfolk	Thelma Johnson	tjohnson4@btinternet.com
15. Northamptonshire	David Brede	davidbrede@yahoo.com
16. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	mikejclarke27@hotmail.com
17. Scotland	Jackie Sutherland	skyscape96@gmail.com
18. South Wales	Tony Jukes	bajukes@tiscali.co.uk
19. Surrey	Jill Robertson	jillrobooks99@yahoo.com
20. Sussex	Elizabeth	cofepowsussex@gmail.com
21. Yorkshire	<i>New vacancy</i>	<i>Please apply to David Brede, Chair.</i>
22. USA (East coast)	Jan Slimming	jslimming@comcast.net
23. USA (West coast)	Sharon Cusumano	lestweforget1941@gmail.com

Donations can be made to COFEPOW via cheque or transfer. See above.



Help and information

While researching personal information, the following members have accumulated data which they are happy to pass on and share with others.

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

email: amanda@dcodetranslations.co.uk

Agnes Dougan: 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry)

Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

email: agnes.dougan@live.com

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

email: jeanadrianroberts@gmail.com

Steve Mockridge: Jesselton, Sandakan and Kuchin.

email: smockridge@sky.com

Keith Andrews: Singapore Coast Regiments and A.A.

Artillery and Thailand. email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk

Colin Docketty: Rabaul and Ballalae Island.

colin.docketty@gmail.com

Frank Clark: Saigon.

email: paghamfrank@gmail.com

Thailand-Burma Railway Centre:

All things related to the Thai-Burma railway.

email: admin@tbrconline.com

Address: Thailand-Burma Railway Museum,

Kanchanaburi, Thailand: www.tbrconline.com

Derek Lawson: Deaths in captivity.

email: lawsonderek@hotmail.com

Michael Hurst MBE: Director, Taiwan POW Camps

Memorial Society, email: society@powtaiwan.org

Web: www.powtaiwan.org

Hong Kong:

Tony Banham, email: tony@hongkongwardiary.com

Web: hongkongwardiary.com

David Tett: The subject of 'mails'.

Also: www.fepowmail.com may be useful.

Welfare Grants: Grants are available from the

FEPOWs' Central Welfare Fund for all FEPOWs,

wives and widows. It covers hospital stays, carers,

care homes, sheltered accommodation, etc.

For further information contact:

Stephen John of the Java FEPOW Club

email: stephen.su.47@gmail.com

or **Pauline Simpson** of NFFWRA,

email: pauline761@btinternet.com