

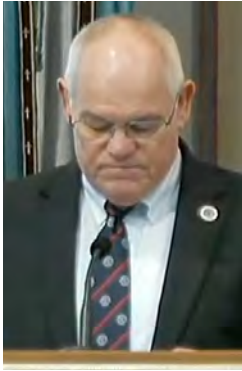


CoFEPOW Quarterly

Every tribute talks of thanks



Rev. Richard Brooker



Graham Robertson



Leanne Carver



Sir Terry Waite



Sir Henry Every



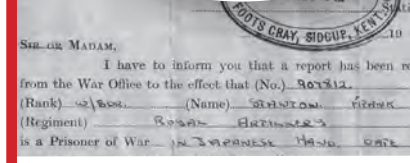
Brian Hume

Following the loss in November of COFEPOW's founder Carol Cooper, the charity's trustees resolved to ensure that such a sad but significant moment in its near 30-year history was honoured appropriately and with the blessing of Carol's family. A special Memorial Service was arranged to take place at Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Wymondham, Norfolk, the National Memorial Church of Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOW), on Sunday, 15th February 2026.

All were welcomed, and the trustees were encouraged to report a significant number of current and former COFEPOW patrons, trustees, officers and members were in attendance, to pay their respects.

The trustees wish to thank Father Denis Gallagher and Peter Wiseman of the church, Reverend Richard Brooker, COFEPOW Padre, who led the service, Leanne Carver, Carol's daughter, who delivered her family's tribute, Sir Terry Waite KCMG CBE, patron, Sir Henry Every Bt. DL FCA, patron, David Brede, Chair, Brian Hume, trustee (retired) and Graham Robertson, trustee, for their eulogies, tributes and memories of Carol on the day. Sincere appreciation is given, also, to organist, Ann Reid, and to the Catholic Women's League for the catering.

The service is available to view via your computer search engine, at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Co-jN2AVtw_o This issue carries a further report and a number of personal tributes to Carol.





Chair's Notes

This quarter, David takes a moment to reflect on the origins of his participation in COFEPOW, particularly in the wake of the loss of the charity's founder, Carol Cooper, and the focus on her legacy. The Chair of the charity thinks of his own relationship with his father, and how very different it might have been for him....

"Spring is sprung, the grass is ris, I wonder where the birdies is." So my father used to say when I was small and is one of my earliest memories of him. He always seemed remarkably stable and comfortable with his life after being a FEPOW, and I wonder if returning to his career in the RAF, after a brief break following his 1945 homecoming from Japan, was therapeutic in a way. Apart from his incarceration, it was all he had known since leaving school and joining up in 1938.

"My father-in-law was a career railwayman and resumed work after returning from, as he said, 'his walking tour of Germany and Europe'. It was years before he would venture onto the continent again.

"Both men appeared to put their experiences behind them and resume their lives and, while it shaped their careers, they seemed to absorb the bad experiences and move on. I am fortunate with this: for so many fathers, their war-time experiences came back to haunt them and their families.

"In April, it would have been Dad's 105th birthday, so on the day, I will toast him with an appropriate beverage!

"Happy Birthday, LAC Edward 'Ted' Brede, 100 Squadron RAF Seletar and later, Chief Technician Brede, until retirement from RAF Cranwell in 1976."

David Brede
COFEPOW Chair

2025 was a special year: security, commemoration, renewal and sadly, loss

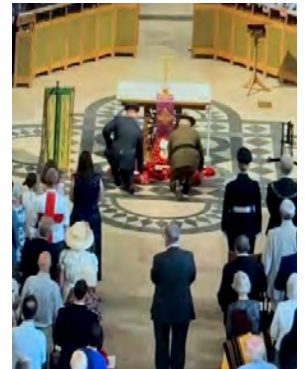
On reflection, 2025 was a very significant year in the annals of the COFEPOW organisation. The 12 months following January 2025 included impressive and thoughtful commemoration and remembrance services, which have been encouraging in reaffirming a valid place in society for the work of our charity. There has also been enough financial support received to embark on maintenance works of high quality, which have helped sustain the primary objective of COFEPOW.

2025 witnessed a number of significant occurrences. Firstly, and chronologically, the receipt of a recent large bequest allowed the trustees to negotiate a guaranteed contract with the NMA to maintain the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove 'in perpetuity'. This will take a massive weight off the trustees' shoulders, as most children of FEPOWs are now themselves of advancing years and so, hopefully, as the grandchildren gradually take over the administration of the charity, they can rest easy knowing the Building, its exhibits and gardens will remain in dignified order for a long time to come. As part of that renewal process, work was completed during the year in refurbishing the Thai/Burma railway exhibit and many visitors have commented on its presentation, given its history and gruesome origins.

Secondly, came the 80th anniversary of VJ-Day in August. Following continued campaigning by COFEPOW and others, greater recognition of the day was seen in the unprecedented series of events which marked eight decades since the surrender of Japanese forces in 1945. Trustee and treasurer David Brown was also proud to meet His Majesty the King at the NMA on the day.

Finally, came the very sad announcement of the death of COFEPOW's founder, Mrs Carol Cooper. Members will be aware of how this then 58 year-old British woman overcame all odds to procure the land, the finance and the political support to build this permanent memorial.

Ironically, a formal invitation to COFEPOW trustees to attend an evening reception at Windsor Castle arrived, just one day after her passing.



The Carol Cooper memorial service

Carol's story is fully documented on the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk which outlines the fascinating and, quite frankly, difficult to comprehend, series of events that led her to embark on her journey. The story is fully-illustrated there and also on a number of public access points.

Following the Memorial Service in February to honour the memory of Carol, Chris Wills has prepared this personal report of the day, although by her own admission, it's a little tempered by her own tears on a very moving day.



Photo courtesy of Jill Robertson. Peter Wiseman and Leanne Carver.

She continues...

"Alan and I drove to Norfolk on 15th February for the service. We left home in Sutton Coldfield in heavy rain, which moved to sleet, and by the time we got to Wymondham, became a blizzard.

"Peter Wiseman, the Archivist of the Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church, welcomed us and introduced us to Father Denis Gallagher, the Parish Priest. Father Denis was to take the prayers, whilst the service was led by the COFEPOW Padre, Reverend Richard Brooker.

"Richard welcomed everyone, especially Carol's family, to the service, and was followed at first by trustee, Graham Robertson, who read Psalm 121. Carol's daughter, Leanne Carver then gave a brief history of the joyful lives of her Mum and Dad, Ron, and delivered a very emotional personal tribute on behalf of all her family.

'Sir Terry Waite, a long-time patron of COFEPOW, gave a very moving eulogy and was followed by Sir Henry Every, also a long-time patron, who read a tribute on behalf of David Childs (founder of the National Memorial Arboretum, a retired COFEPOW patron and former Padre) and then gave his own very eloquent memorial and tribute to Carol.



Photograph courtesy of Jill Robertson. Sir Terry Waite with Leanne Carver.

"David Brede, the third COFEPOW Chair in its history, praised the work of Carol in establishing the charity, handing down a legacy the trustees maintain today in both her memory, and in that of all FEPOWs. Brian Hume, a recently retired trustee, was heavily involved in the creation of COFEPOW with Carol and husband Ron, in the 1990s. He praised Carol's determination to obtain a permanent memorial to FEPOWs, and remembered how she stipulated the FEPOW Building first must be well-funded and then completed in 3½ years - the same length of time for which most FEPOWs were incarcerated.

"All of those who provided spoken tributes on the day ex-

pressed their gratitude to Carol and Ron for their persistence and courage, alongside a relentless determination to establish a permanent memorial to those who suffered and to the very many who were lost in the Far East in the Second World War, over 80 years ago.



Carol "gets to work" in the Nineties.

"Peter Wiseman presented a certificate confirming that the name of Lance Corporal William 'Bill' Smith (Carol's father and Leanne's, Adele's and Adam's grandfather), has been included into the Book of FEPOWs held within the church, which Leanne received on behalf of her family.

“ Anyone who doubts the impact Carol's efforts made, just needs to remember what it was like before... ”

"After the service, we left the church and made our way a few yards to the church hall through slushy snow, where the Catholic Women's League, led by Teresa Wiseman, had laid on a wonderful finger buffet and a very welcome, hot cup of tea and chat with everyone who attended."

For those who couldn't attend but would like to feel part of the memorial service, please input the link given on the front cover (entitled 'Memorial Service on Sunday 15 February') into your computer search engine.

Today, the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the NMA stands as testament both to the British and commonwealth POWs captured by Japanese forces in Far East Asia who endured so much, and in good measure to the work of Carol Cooper in establishing it. The current board of COFEPOW trustees, whose work continues to be sustained solely by membership fees, bequests and donations, were gratified by this special service in recognition of Carol's efforts in garnering support, influencing sponsors and 'worthy cause' distributors, and overseeing the building construction, two decades ago.



COFEPOW and the Cooper legacy

Following the sudden and saddening advent of the death of COFEPOW founder and former Chair, Carol Cooper, a significant number of those who got to know and work alongside her in the operation of the charity, were anxious to let their tributes to her be recorded.

Some of these comments, from the huge number received by the trustees, are reproduced below. They help illuminate the journey and the character of Carol and, of course, the debt we all owe her.

Sir Terry Waite KCMG CBE, patron



"I came to know Carol through my association with COFEPOW, which she guided for many years. Carol displayed many fine qualities, not least her leadership and determination never to forget those who gave their lives in the Far East and their families.

"She continued to be active with COFEPOW until ill-health forced her to take a less prominent role, but her commitment remained to the end. Although we have said farewell to a loyal and trusted friend, we shall not forget her, as she did not forget."

Lieutenant General C.G. (Kit) Stallard, patron

"My name is Carol Cooper and I want the Changi Gate"

"So started my week at work. I was nominally in charge of Bassingbourn Barracks, whilst it was being handed over. The FEPOWs had placed the gate there as it was central to the home of 18 Division.

“We were convinced if anyone deserved an honour, Carol did.”

"Carol was charming, enthusiastic and determined. She kept my nose firmly to the grindstone whilst I checked with the FEPOWs, found the Sappers who had built it in Changi and would move it to Alrewas. The FEPOWs in East Anglia were a quiet lot, not given to high emotion, but they were all in awe of Carol's achievement, her recognition of them and her determined enthusiasm. Once met, never forgotten."

Rod Beattie, Terry Manttan, Andrew Snow and all the team at Thailand-Burma Railway Centre (TBRC).

"All of the team at Thailand-Burma Railway Centre (TBRC) in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, wish to send the highest tribute to Carol Cooper for her great work and passion in establishing COFEPOW from the beginning, and paving the way for the wonderful support establishment it has become.

"Her father would be enormously proud of the young girl he left at home when he went to war, sadly never to return. Carol in turn has paid her father the highest tribute in ensuring his, and very many others' sacrifice will never be forgotten. Your legacy lives on Carol. Rest in peace."

Reverend Richard Brooker, COFEPOW padre

"Like all of us I'm sure, I was shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Carol Cooper. I wanted to write to pass on my condolences and to say that I'm thinking of you



all. Sadly, I never had the privilege of meeting Carol, but I've listened to many stories of her determination, commitment and devotion, to both the FEPOW community and especially to the establishment of the Memorial Building.

"During a recent visit to the NMA I met a FEPOW daughter and her son making their first visit. We chatted and I mentioned COFEPOW to them and encouraged them to join! Discussion then turned to the building.

"Where are all the other memorial buildings?" she asked. I explained about Carol's work, the half a million pounds that was raised and the opening in 2005. As the conversation progressed I could see her becoming emotional. She said she felt as if she had found a 'home' for her Dad and for the first time saw a part of the railway that cost his life.

"When I learned of Carol's passing, it was this event that came to mind and of how Carol's legacy lives on, even today. We can perhaps never know the extent of the impact her efforts, and those of others, have on the lives of those affected by the war in the Far East.

"Loss is never easy, but there is an old Hebrew saying that I feel is relevant to us... "May her memory be a blessing".

Hilary Cunningham, New Zealand Area Co-ordinator

"I feel so privileged to have known Carol. I'll never forget the day I came to the Norfolk COFEPOW meeting for the first time - and as I walked in through the door, there was Carol carrying a cup of tea and heading back to her seat. I couldn't have been more shocked - in the first instance, that she was there in the flesh, and then that she was doing such a mundane task! She was a superstar in my eyes. I think I almost curtsied when she turned and welcomed me. Just the start of some lovely memories of my time with her. A sad day indeed".



Joanne and Russell Lambert

"What a remarkable lady Carol Cooper was and what a wonderful legacy she has left in making sure that FEPOWs will be remembered far into the future and that next generations will be aware of the sacrifices our loved ones made.

"My own father was a FEPOW, so from a personal point of view, I would like to thank you all for carrying on Mrs Cooper's wonderful work and very much appreciate all that you do in keeping our loved ones' memories alive with the amazing memorial at the Arboretum, and making people aware of all that they endured is recognised.

“ They are no longer the ‘Forgotten Army’ because of this amazing lady.

"Our sincere condolences and much respect, may she rest in peace.

Jenny Martin, civilian child internee

Jenny was interned with her mother in Changi camp and later in Sime Road camp, from 1942 to 1945. Her recollection of release at war's end were carried in the January edition.

"I discovered the FEPOW Memorial Building in the NMA in a search for records of my father, and saw a leaflet about COFEPOW. Previously, I had been a member of ABCIFER, as my mother was, but that was folding due to the advanced age of the committee! "I thought it might be a good thing to join COFEPOW, and it certainly was. I was asked to convene the Scot-

tish area, organising meetings for members north of the border and made only a few journeys south in the process.

"So regretfully, I am not aware of ever meeting Carol, but I am very grateful her."

Ian Bridgeman

"Thank you for forming COFEPOW and all the work you put in to ensure they wouldn't be forgotten."

Richard Hugh Morling

"Carol, your early work in setting up COFEPOW was extremely wonderful, bringing together all those families who lost a loved one in those Japanese camps. Your legacy is that fantastic memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum".

“ Your legacy is that fantastic memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Norman and Judith (Judy) Craik

"We have known Carol since she arranged the very first meeting of relatives of Far East Prisoners of War in Norwich in 1997, where about 25 people attended the birth of COFEPOW. Within a year this number had risen to around 100 and so it went on to be where it is today.

"The first permanent memorials were a memorial tree at a Crematorium in Norwich and another at a church in Bedford, both of which are now firmly established. These are no ordinary trees, but are Liquidamber Styracifluaand (sweet gum trees). A ceremony at the tree in Norwich has taken place every year since (other than a break during Covid).

"During the next few years, the objectives of Carol and members grew much greater and it was decided to aim for a permanent memorial. The birth of our memorial building at the NMA did not happen easily and involved a great deal of time and hard work. Carol and the trustees spent a great deal of time in London meeting MP's and architects, before getting the go-ahead for the memorial and also for obtaining a slot in the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph. Since then, many people have contributed to the success and indeed still do.

"There's too much to go into any detail today, but we are certain that, without Carol, none of this would have ever happened. Carol, along with help and now the 'changing of the guard', has ensured that "The Forgotten Army" will, in fact, never be forgotten."

David Brede

"You achieved a a great deal in life, so RIP Carol."

Chris and Gill Barford

"Thank you, Carol, for all your work and dedication you put into establishing the FEPOW memorial building in the National Memorial Arboretum. The FEPOWs will not be forgotten."



Jeanne Kelly and family

"Thanks for all you did. Carol."

The thanks go on...

Continued from previous page...

Gillian Leggett

"Thank you, Carol, for your tireless efforts to keep the memory of our loved ones alive and for shedding light on all they endured during their captivity. You truly made a difference."

Robin Thoms

"Thank you, Carol, for everything you did to make COFEPOW such a success. You did so much to ensure that the FEPOWs will never be forgotten. May you rest in peace."

Terry Mc

"May Carol rest in eternal peace and the legacy of COFEPOW continue in her memory."

John Tuck and family

"Thank you, Carol Cooper, for your love and dedication of our Lord and all FEPOWs and their families. You did so much with compassion and love. God bless."

Gill Leighton, Kwai Railway Memorial, Three Pagodas Group.

"Thank you, Carol, for bringing together the COFEPOW family. I have fond memories of her, in the early days of her project at Alrewas. My earliest memory of Carol was the Kwai railway memorial meeting at Alrewas in 1996. At this time Carol was contacting the children of FEPOWs to form the COFEPOW organisation. She also presented ideas for a FEPOW Building there, to David Childs.

"The photograph here was taken in the early days at Alrewas, at the meeting. She is accompanied by Ron to her right and Dennis Carter, secretary of the Kwai railway Memorial. He passed away some time ago, like so many. When we did the pilgrimage to Singapore and Thailand for VJ50, Dennis and my Dad, Frank Champkin, were the only people allowed to visit Changi Gaol. This was because they were the only ones on the trip who had been put in there by the Japanese. That would have been in about May 1944, after returning down from the railway. The civilians were moved to the camp at Bukit Timah.



"Carol was a very special person, with determination, enthusiasm, drive and an amazing vision. She has left a remarkable legacy to be proud of. I feel sure she will be missed by many."

Graham Robertson

"I first became aware of COFEPOW in 2000, through an article in our local newspaper, advertising an exhibition of FEPOW memorabilia. I knew nothing of my Dad's time in the Royal Norfolk Regiment

during World War two, not even his rank or service number, and sadly, he died in 1997, so I was very interested in going along to the event.

"Literally, the first person I met on the day was Carol, who was so welcoming and enthusiastic. From that day, I and my wife Eileen became members and after a while were made trustees and membership secretaries. I remember with fondness meetings at a community centre in Norwich, with 20 to 30 members including FEPOWs and wives. Those meetings could be lively with many decisions made, but the laughter we enjoyed at Christmas parties was one of the highlights of the year.

"Long weekends away were always well-attended. In spare moments, Carol, husband Ron, Eileen and myself would walk around shops, with the ladies darting into jewellery stores as Ron and I were left to roam the streets. Once, we visited Beaulieu Motor Museum, where the staff suggested we act as Carol and Ron's carers for cheaper entry. We took their advice, as they must have felt sorry for us. We laughed throughout the visit.

"So many good times, but let's not forget the legacy they and the earlier trustees and patrons have left. The creation of the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA is the icing on the cake, with so much work involved, fund-raising, meeting influential people, so much travel and so on. The move of the AGM from a small hall in Norwich to the NMA, including the annual memorial service, was a great success and continues to be so, with the relentless work of Chris Wills.

"Carol could, at times, be difficult to reason with, but in the end, with Ron by her side, she got the job done, building the charity from a small group in Norfolk, to the worldwide membership we have today.

"So to Carol and Ron, thank you for everything you achieved. Rest in Peace. As COFEPOW says, we will remember you.

Steve Riley

"I first discovered the FEPOW Memorial Building in 2011, joined COFEPOW and received a first newsletter a few weeks later. In honour of my Dad, but also as I'd retired from my design business, I looked for a way I could help, and so speculatively, I put a couple of newsletter

Continued from previous page...

pages together, sent them off and volunteered. At the time, Carol assembled each edition and, understandably, was perhaps a little hesitant at my approach as COFEPOW was her baby: she'd worked tirelessly to get it to where it was and may have objected to some newbie sticking his oar in. So I was delighted when she welcomed me to the fold and accepted my contribution with grace and gratitude.

“ So thank you Carol. I'm inspired by your endeavours.

“Even though my Dad was scarred both physically and mentally by his war experience, he was a terrific father, and by allowing me to contribute in a small way, Carol helped me honour both him and all those other young brave men and women who suffered so unimagineably in the Far East.

“So thank you Carol. We never met, but every time I sit down to put the newsletter together, I'm inspired by your endeavours.”

Gerry Lewcock

“I thought I would share one of the memories I have after hearing about the sad passing of Carol in November, just after we marched at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

“I have been a member of COFEPOW since 1999 and last year was the 25th year I have marched in the COFEPOW group, my first time being in 2000. The only one I missed was when we weren't allowed to march, during Covid in 2020.

“It has been a very humbling experience to be part of the COFEPOW group in the parade at the Cenotaph for all these years and especially when Terry Waite was also present on one occasion in the early days of us marching.

“On another occasion, behind the Foreign and Commonwealth offices as we were passing along Horse Guards (in 2007, I think), David Cameron, who was leader of the opposition at that time, shouted “Who Are You?” to the group. I broke rank and explained who we were and then rejoined the parade.

“Afterwards, I wrote to Mr. Cameron and after some correspondence about COFEPOW, I contacted Carol to say that he would like to



visit our memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. Carol subsequently arranged a meeting with him in 2008 at the FEPOW Building, which Carol, Ron and I attended. A photograph of the occasion is shown above, which I thought would be nice to share in memory of Carol and Ron.

“Keep up the good work all those members on the committee, which is greatly appreciated.”

Extracts from the tribute paid by former trustee Brian Hume, at the Memorial Service held for Carol Cooper in February.

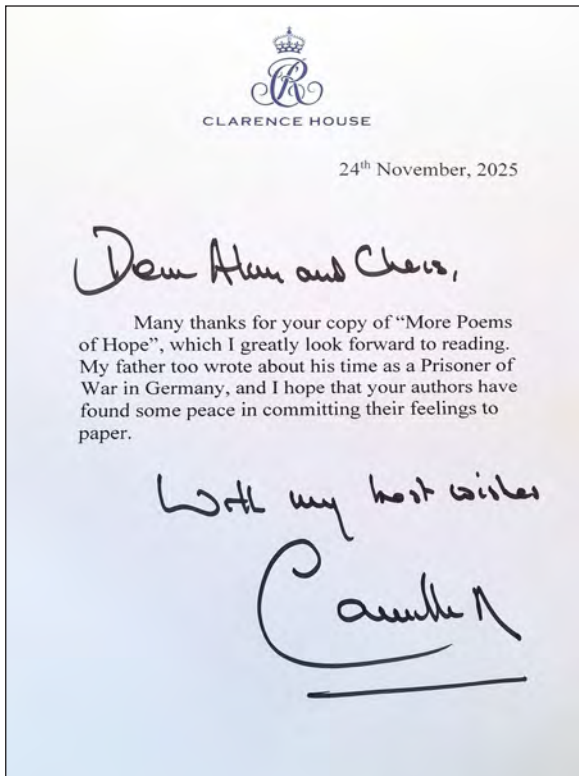
“I first met Carol at the inaugural meeting at the Royal British Legion, Norwich, which pre-dated the formation of COFEPOW. It was here Carol outlined her vision to create a memorial to all Far East prisoners of war and in particular those who had perished at the hands of the Imperial Japanese army. I was immediately moved and found that emotions within me, that had hitherto never surfaced, were suddenly brought into focus.

“We discovered we had a strong bond, in that she never knew her father and I never knew mine. Over the years as a trustee, I got to know her and her dear husband, Ron, better and better as together, with countless others, we worked towards Carol's original vision. She was tireless in creating an organisation worthy of our fathers and capable of delivering on her promise to complete the memorial building in a timescale which mirrored that of the FEPOWs' time in captivity.

“I fondly remember countless journeys and meetings across the country with her and Ron, visiting a multitude of organisations in our quest. She was the most single-minded and driven person I have ever had the privilege of working with. Woe betide anybody who was perceived in any way to be obstructing the cause, and yet, underneath, was a generous, kind hearted, loyal person who adored her family. She will always be remembered by me as the most inspiring person I have ever known and her legacy will be forever embodied in the FEPOW Memorial Building.

“Carol, you were the best of us. We miss you dearly and you will forever be in our hearts.”

Brian Hume



'More Poems of Hope' elicits royal response

At the recent evening reception for COFEPOW trustees and other Far East POW organisations, National Events Co-ordinator Chris Wills was relieved to discover a copy of the charity's latest work, "More Poems of Hope", produced to aid its fund-raising activities, eventually found its way into royal hands.

Chris, with husband and fellow trustee Alan, took a copy of "More Poems of Hope" with them to the event, but in the excitement and intensity of the day, forgot to take it to the castle and left it in their hotel room.

Using her pretty advanced sense of initiative, Chris spoke with HRH the Queen Consort Camilla's Equerry, Major Oliver Plunkett, who confirmed that if the anthology was posted to him at Buckingham Palace, he would ensure it found its intended recipient. He also told them that the Queen was starting her own library and was sure the work would enter her collection. So, alongside a covering letter, a compliment slip was placed inside the anthology, asking the Queen to accept it formally from the COFEPOW trustees.

Chris and Alan were delighted to receive the above letter, which came in reply!

Changi shutters: new fund-raising initiative

The story of the Changi prison bars and shutters needs no further addition and is well-known to COFEPOW members: briefly retold, it describes how a Royal Navy Officer in Singapore requested some remnants of Changi Gaol whilst witnessing its demolition, and how the navy then obtained two sets of shutters and bars, transported them to the UK and held them in their Gosport museum.

Since that initial journey, events became ever-more complex, and if nothing else, the on-going tale of these artefacts serves to reflect the determination and resilience of a number of COFEPOW trustees in their attempts to bring this important historical relic to the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the NMA.

COFEPOW trustee Nick Bullen-Bell presided over tricky early discussions to try and bring the sizeable shutters to a new and appropriate home at Alrewas. Protracted talks eventually gathered momentum and draft plans, visits, discussions and eventual agreements ensued. Progress was made, but reached stalemate when cost entered into the negotiations: unfortunately, one condition always remained - the shutters would only ever be loaned to COFEPOW.

“ **The shutters would only be loaned to COFEPOW, even if they were moved to the FEPOW Building.** ”

So today, the shutters remain in Nick's shed. The navy museum has insisted that any display at the NMA must adhere to its specifications, which will entail spending five figure sums to construct an appropriate display, even though many of the personnel involved so far have given their services to the project free of charge.

The trustees have resolved therefore, that these sums **must** be raised and this artefact **must** be displayed at Alrewas. So the only option is to seek sufficient additional funding to complete this ambition.

Trustee Alan Wills is preparing the charity's application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Navigating one's way through the application process is proving challenging, but Alan is working hard alongside a very useful ally from the Staffordshire Heritage Society, who has already offered significant help, even down to advising on phrasing approaches and responses and how to use 'buzz' words to assist in the case.

In Alan's words, "it's a very hard slog at the moment" but collectively the trustees are determined to turn all Nick's early work into a successful new exhibit, in its rightful place for members and visitors to see.

Further progress on all fund-raising initiatives for this venture, including establishing crowd-funding pages, etc., will be reported in subsequent issues of this newsletter, and online. Should anyone wish to donate specifically to this project, please email Alan at:

alanwills291@gmail.com

COFEPOW Break Rebooking for 2026!



Weekend of 2nd to 5th October 2026.

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 two 'Rew' Hotels, a family-owned and managed group of hotels on Torquay's water's edge.

There's a pleasant walk to the town centre, free on-site parking (as long as you provide your car registration number on arrival) and free Wi-Fi internet access in all public areas.

A full English or continental breakfast will be served each morning and a four-course table d'hote dinner each evening. On the Saturday, there will be a complimentary drinks reception before dinner with entertainment on Saturday and Sunday nights and a complimentary meeting room provided for the Sunday meeting.

The Livermead House Hotel, Sea Front, Torquay TQ2 6QJ.

Friday 2nd to Monday 5th October, 2026.

2 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast @ £190.00 per person

3 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast @ £285.00 per person (not £280 as was stated)

Extra nights @ £70.00 per person per night for dinner, bed and breakfast, for up to a maximum 7 night stay in total. If you live locally and would like to come to the Saturday dinner, there is a special price of £30 per head, £9 less than the normal price. Reservations are on a strictly first come, first served basis.

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 £15 pppn. To secure your place, simply send your name, address, email (if you have one), phone 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 B73 6SG. Tel: 0121 244 7263. email: events@cofepow.org.uk** Cheques should be made payable to COFEPOW. For more information or to book, contact: Chris Wills, details above.

We look forward to seeing you there later this year!

Please remember when booking

Last minute cancellations are still costing the hotel revenue and although the management of the hotel understands the difficulties involved in having to look after someone who is ill, or being ill yourself, 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 2nd October 2026, will be liable to pay the full amount directly to the hotel. Therefore, it may be beneficial for you 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)	



Part II of a series

On to Thailand, and emotions heighten

The second in a two-part serialisation of a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Second World War POW camps and battle sites in Singapore and Thailand. Nick Bullen-Bell, COFEPOW trustee and Merchandise Officer, completes his report about this unforgettable and highly emotional trip.

Organised by Gerry and Linda Norden, the party of 38 ventured on to this comprehensive and relentlessly moving tour to the far east, which took place in November 2025. The first part of the report was featured in January's issue of the newsletter. This quarter, Nick closes the story...

"On Sunday, 9th November, we were up before dawn for a 6.00am visit to Kranji War cemetery again, to attend the Remembrance Sunday Service. Such an honour for us to be invited and to take part in the service and wreath-laying ceremony, along with other members of our party. Thank you, Gerry and Lynda.

"We made an early start to avoid the intense heat, but it was still hot, so hot, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world, having to keep pinching myself to check if I was really there, at such pertinent locations on Remembrance Sunday.

I have to admit I found it difficult to keep my composure often, whilst at the same time thinking of COFEPOW members simultaneously marching at the Cenotaph in London.

'FEPOW Ted' was highly honoured to be photographed with the British Ambassador to Singapore, Nikesh Metita OBE. The photograph appeared in January's newsletter, by kind permission of his wife!

"On visiting the Thai/Burma Railway Centre (TBRC) we were greeted by Terry, Andrew and Rod, enlightening us on our relatives' whereabouts, camps and suffering, endured whilst POWs. There was also a quick visit to Kanchanaburi Cemetery, before being whisked off 'Up country' and to a rail journey of a lifetime, on the last working section of the infamous 'Death Railway', ending up back at Kanchanaburi.

"It was a near two-hour journey along mile after mile of rail tracks, initially cut through virgin jungle, around a mountain (the

Wampo Viaduct), the Chungkai cutting and the 'bridge'. Nigel and I found it hard to comprehend the enormity of it all, the scale of the railway and the endurance of our Dad and thousands of other POWs,



The five day hell on earth cattle truck journeys to reach camp.

working mile, after mile, after torturous mile, to construct this monstrosity of forced labour, slavery, starvation, torture, disease, thirst and beating. That is not intended to overshadow any of the other dreadful destinations and above-mentioned endurances anywhere else in the Imperial Japanese Army's realm of hate. What a hideous bunch of thugs the Japanese army was at the time, we thought. No wonder my Dad said: "Even if I told you, you wouldn't understand." (from the foreword to 'Poems of Hope' and 'More Poems of Hope' anthologies). In the evening, we were all honoured again, this time 'entertained' by the British Ambassador to Thailand, Mark Gooding, with his Defence Advisor, Colonel Anna Janes in attendance. We were treated to more amazing hospitality, a sumptuous buffet with each of us jostling to chat with Colonel Anna and Mr. Gooding. Thank you again, Gerry and Linda.



The infamous Hell fire Pass.



Ban Pong railway siding.

“On to Thailand, thinking it couldn't get more emotional. Mistake.

"Tuesday 11th November, Remembrance Day, and honoured beyond my comprehension again, to lay a wreath (with Ted) on behalf of COFEPOW, along with other members of our party at both the Kanchanaburi service and later on at Chungkai. Again, I had
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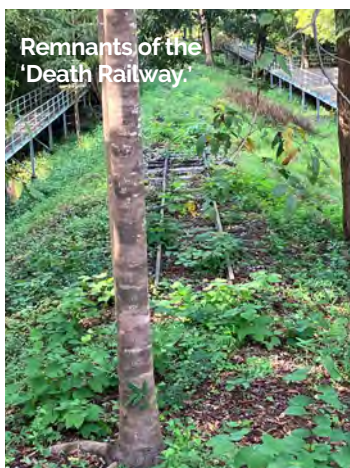
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to admit it was a struggle to stay composed at times. After a splendid lunch and a change into more appropriate clothing, we embarked on a 'long-tail boat' cruise on the Kwai Noi river, disembarking at 'the bridge' and feeling humbled again, with a sense of immense pride in Dad and his fellow FEPOWs.

"Another early start and we were off on a long coach trip north, following the path of the 'Death Railway', exploring bridges, former camps, preserved railway remnants and embankments, including the notorious Songkurai camp location. Having read books about the place, I found it very harrowing, as did others.

"At this camp, there were 1600 Allied prisoners of which only 400 survived. We drove through stunning scenery, arriving at the Suan Magmai resort in Sangkhla for an overnight stay. More amazing hospitality and even more amazing food.

"Next morning, we climbed aboard the coach for the journey back to the Dheva Mantra Hotel Resort, going via the Three Pagoda's Pass and almost stepping into Burma (now Myanmar). We were closely watched by a somewhat evil-looking Burmese individual,



being pulled back by 'knowing' colleagues and then having to do the same with Nigel. Phew! A lucky escape. Once again, more travelling through the stunning landscape, stopping at Hell-fire Pass, with deep feelings of inadequacy at the enormity of the undertaking of the POWs and their labours, under near impossible conditions. Our last stop was at Wampo Viaduct, where we experienced more of the same emotions.

"The last day we chose to revisit the TBRC, for more research and to look round at leisure. The wonderful Terry Mantann had come up with more information about Dad, his camp commanders and his forced movement to various hideous locations at the behest of the Japanese army. Back to our hotel resort and then out again to a gala dinner hosted by Terry, Rod and Andrew. What these three men accomplish in their outstanding work in remembering all FEPOWs is quite astonishing.

"To Terry, Andrew and Rod: we are humbled by your passion, perseverance and patience, in your research to remember all FEPOWs who died or suffered at the hands of an evil enemy. You are without doubt a credit to their memory; without you all, we wouldn't be here and the forgotten war, the 'Forgotten Army' and forgotten FEPOWs would, it has to be said, be even more forgotten.



"On behalf of Gerry, NFFWRA and COFEPOW, whose members made up the party, we cannot thank you and the people of Thailand enough for the amazing kindness and hospitality you have shown us. We are honoured.

"So the trip is almost over. One more taste of Thai hospitality at the Bangkok British Club for a delicious breakfast and then back to Bangkok with brief stops at Wang Po and Non Pladuk. At least this time I had a window seat, as did 'FEPOW Ted', who was not confined to the hold of our giant Airbus A380 this time.

"We started this journey as mostly complete strangers (apart from a few brief previous liaisons) and ended up as a group of friends with a common cause and goal; to honour our FEPOWs. Thank you sincerely to Gerry and Linda Norden for organising this immense undertaking, and to the people of Singapore and Thailand for their hospitality, kindness and generosity. To Jeremy, Anthony, Poom, her colleagues and drivers, to Terry, Andrew, Rod and Ambassadors Nikesh, Mark, Colonel Anna, 'Tats' and everyone else, thank you all (and apologies if I have forgotten anyone). I hope I got the names and places correct and this is as true representation of our trip as my (often appalling) memory will allow. A final thanks to all who joined us and made it into the incredibly emotive and powerful trip it turned out to be."

Nick Bullen-Bell.

Scarborough's 'Esplanade Hotel' - an extra weekend reunion in a fresh location



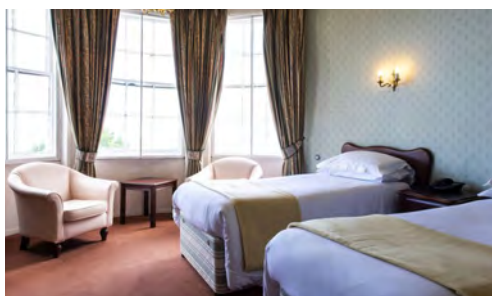
Photographs courtesy of Daish Hotels.

COFEPOW has decided to try to put together another weekend reunion, this time in Scarborough. This popular north Yorkshire east coast location retains all the old world charm of an English seaside resort and is perfectly located for COFEPOW members to enjoy a Spring break with old and new friends, over a relaxing few days.

Chris Wills reports on a trial weekend at the Esplanade Hotel to appraise for a possible weekend event...

"The Esplanade Hotel has picture-postcard views, charming Victorian elegance and the warmest of welcomes, and is the perfect place to enjoy a traditional weekend break.

"Overlooking the sweeping sands of the South Bay, it's the ideal spot to take in the idyllic scenery around this resort. The hotel is situated in a quiet part of the town, with little or no through traffic. There is nightly entertainment in the Belmont Suite, featuring some of the best live acts around the area, including singers, bands and comedians. With such a scope there is always something to entertain you - enjoy a drink from the bar and take a spin around the dance floor!



Sample Menu

The three-course meals are simple, traditional fayre and are well-cooked and substantial. The menu changes on a daily basis and there is usually a roast dinner, with a couple of other options. A typical menu is shown below.

Starters

Home Made Vegetable Soup (V)

served with a warm bread roll and butter.

Caprese Salad (V)

mozzarella and tomato served with basil oil.

Deep Fried Whitebait

served with salad garnish and lemon mayonnaise.

Fruit Juice

choose from a refreshing glass of apple or orange juice.

Main Meal

Traditional Roast Pork

served with cider gravy, roast potatoes, caramelised apple, chef's seasonal vegetables and apple sauce.

Italian-style Beef Lasagne

served with dry red cabbage and kale slaw and garlic bread.

Breaded Cod Fishcakes

served with dressed green leaves, cold potato salad and cucumber dipping sauce.

Three Cheese Macaroni (V)

served with dry red cabbage and kale slaw and garlic bread.

Ham or Cheese Ploughman's

roast ham or Cheddar and Red Leicester served with pickles, mixed salad, coleslaw and new potato salad.

Desserts

Warm Chocolate Brownie

served with homemade toffee sauce and vanilla ice cream.

Citrus Eton Mess

served with zesty whipped cream.

Fruit Jelly and Ice Cream.

Fresh Fruit Salad.

Ice Cream Trio

chocolate, vanilla and strawberry.

Cheese and Biscuits

Cheddar, Brie and Red Leicester served with assorted crackers.

"The dining room has been refurbished to a high standard and the helpful, courteous, friendly waiting staff are delightful."

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The Esplanade Hotel, Belmont Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 2AA. Friday 12th March 2027 to Tuesday 16th March 2027.

4 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast @ £179.00 per person

No supplement for a sea view or single room.

If you wish to stay for only 1, 2 or 3 nights, the price will remain the same at £179 per person.

Premium rooms carry a supplement of £20 per person.

Superior rooms carry a supplement of £25 per person.

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



"The hotel has received excellent reviews and is complimented on its cleanliness and comfort. If guests experience any problems whatsoever, the hotel staff will be only too happy to help put things right.

"If you are interested in joining us on this break, please let me know. A £30 per person deposit will be needed to secure your place, with the remaining balance due to be paid in advance by 1st August, 2026. If anyone wishes to book after 1st August, then the full amount will be due immediately. If you wish to have a chat about this, please contact **Chris Wills on 0121 244 7263 or by email at events@cofepow.org.uk.**

"Please send your deposit by cheque, made payable to '**COFEPOW,**' to **Chris Wills, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG or by bank transfer to A/c name COFEPOW. Bank: Lloyds Bank. Sort Code: 77-66-08. Account number 391557268.** Please indicate it's for Scarborough and include your name.

"I have until 16th May this year to confirm whether this will go ahead. If not enough people indicate their interest, the event will be cancelled. I hope you can join us. Thank you."

Chris Wills, National Event Co-ordinator.

85th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore

A Special Service of Remembrance will be held, Sunday 14 February 2027, NMA Chapel, 12 noon



Photo: courtesy IWM.

COFEPOW is proud to announce that an important date in the FEPOW commemorative calendar will be marked with a special service, which will be held at the Millennium Chapel within the

National Memorial Arboretum, at Alrewas Staffordshire.

Commencing at 12.00 noon, on Sunday 14th February 2027, this 85th anniversary service will be followed by a laying of wreaths at the FEPOW memorials within the grounds of the Arboretum. Attendees will then return to the Founders' Room, at the main building, at approximately 1.30 p.m., where a light lunch will be available for £12.00 per person. A voucher will be provided which will be redeemable for either soup, a sandwich or salad, and cake, plus a hot or soft drink (any food purchased extra to this, will be charged to you by the NMA).

The Chapel is the only place in the country where an Act of Remembrance is observed every day, with people of all faiths and none, welcomed. The aim is to provide a quiet, reflective space during whichever service you are attending.

Please bear in mind, seating space is limited, so ensure you have reserved your place by following the booking process detailed below. Should you wish to attend, please forward a cheque, made payable to 'COFEPOW,' to Chris Wills, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield B73 6SG or transfer directly by bank transfer to:

Bank: Lloyds. Account name: COFEPOW. Sort Code: 77-66-08. Account No: 391557268. If you choose to pay by bank transfer, please make sure you include your name and title '85th Anniversary'.

If you have any queries with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Wills by email via events@cofepow.org.uk or by phone on 0121 244 7263.

The event is a good length of time away, but it is important that a measure of potential attendance is obtained early, to organise catering needs. We look forward to joining you next February.

Chris Wills, National Events Co-ordinator

email events@cofepow.org.uk



Photo: courtesy NMA

Paul's new book and how COFEPOW helps

Chris Wills provides an example of how the charity responds to queries and requests from members, whether new, old or rejoining. One letter here, from Paul Murray, is a good example, with her response in blue to Paul's letter below in black...

"Dear Chris - I was last in touch when I'd planned to attend a VJ Remembrance Day Service at Lichfield Cathedral, and I thank you for how helpful you were in facilitating my visit. I had looked forward to meeting you then, but fractured my hip while volunteering in a donations' pilgrim hostel in Spain.

"Just before Christmas, I suddenly realised that I had stopped receiving the COFEPOW newsletter, as I hadn't had a reminder to renew membership for a number of years.

Chris: "The membership problems have now been resolved via Memberstack and reminders are now automatically issued."

"Now that I have renewed, it was great reading the January 2026 newsletter to learn of everything that's happening. Could you put my name and my wife's down for this year's Cenotaph March on 8th November at Whitehall? I have watched the march-past on TV, but have never taken part before."

Chris: "I've asked Chair, David Brede, to add yourself and your wife to the list for ticket applications for the 2026 Whitehall March-past."

"Over the past six years, there has been a huge amount of publicity about my father's experiences as the CO of 350 British POWs in two prison camps on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. This dates from my brother, Carl, setting up the website: thebelfastdoctor.info

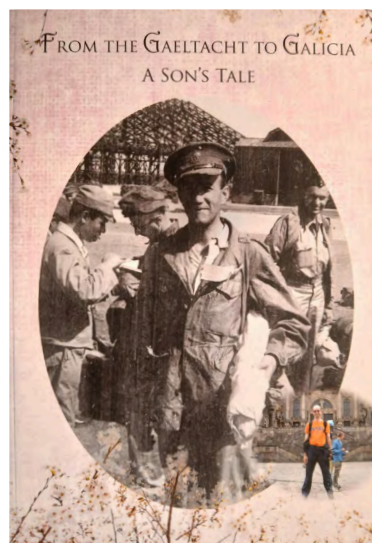
"Dad was Major Francis J. Murray, known to all his friends as Frank. He was in the RAMC and was also the chief medical officer in the camps. A two-part article about a talk I gave in Gloucester was printed in the COFEPOW newsletters of July and October 2018.

"In 2021, I published the book **'From the Gaeltacht to Galicia, a Son's Tale'** shown alongside. The following year, a documentary in Irish with English subtitles was broadcast, called "Litir Ghra on Dara Cogadh Domhanda" ("Love Letter of the Second World War") and has now returned to BBC iPlayer. It relates the story of my parents' romance and focuses on the secret daily diary that Dad wrote to Mum during his captivity, every day for 42 months."

"Could you let me know how I could publicise my book in a future newsletter?"

Paul Murray
mutil1@hotmail.co.uk

Chris: "COFEPOW is happy to help in promoting your book. Published by Honeybee Books, it is available from Amazon, priced at £11.99 plus p&p."



New work, highly acclaimed

'The Japanese Pacific War 1941-45 - Courage in Adversity'

Part-time author, James Robertshaw has now completed his work on the Pacific war. His father served in the RAF in Burma for four years. James is now a County Councillor in Oxfordshire and also on Witney Town Council and was on the VJ 80 Committee.



Following extensive research, he discusses why Japan started the war, what happened to POWs and how the Japanese gained initial victory and were eventually overcome.

The retail price per book is £19.95 plus p&p, but is now available to COFEPOW members for £15.95, plus p&p. To purchase at this substantial discount, please **email: James Robertshaw FCMA, at www.dday-wardiaries.co.uk**

Ray Hubbard's family now found

Linda Cracknell, the daughter of COFEPOW Honorary Life member, Pam Stubbs, issued an appeal at the turn of the year, to trace the family of Raymond Stanley Hubbard, who was with the 77th HAA and was captured in Java.

Pam had some items that belonged to Ray, and so Linda issued an appeal in the newsletter to help trace any of Ray's family, to ask if they wanted them.

COFEPOW is delighted to announce that Linda has now managed to track down Ray's daughter and grandson, and her son has now taken the items down to the family.

Linda wishes to thank COFEPOW and its members, for their help with the appeal.

New guidance for book ads in Quarterly

Following the significant increase in requests for advertising space to promote books related to the FEPOW experience, the trustees of COFEPOW have unanimously agreed that this facility will forthwith be open only to COFEPOW members who have paid their current annual membership fee of £15.00.

From April 1st., all books submitted by non-members and accepted for promotion within the newsletter, will be subject to a once-only fee of £20.00. This will ensure that the submission receives a comparable size of space and scope of promotional copy, including a picture of the cover, to that enjoyed by qualified paid-up members promoting their books. Placing a small advertisement (up to a third of a page) for your work to appear in the newsletter, allows you to reach a market of almost a thousand committed and relevant members. Just one price for this size (unless used within another COFEPOW feature). Promoting it as a member therefore, would be the sensible option, as you would save £5.00.

Please contact either **Chris Wills at email: events@cofepow.org.uk or Steve Riley at sriley.beeches@btinternet.com**

Access to Memorial Building archive suspended

The trustees need to take this opportunity to inform all members that accompanied access to the archive material held in the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA has been withdrawn for the foreseeable future. Access without a COFEPOW officer is prohibited.

COFEPOW wishes to apologise, but is unable to provide an alternative to cover for Keith Andrews, head researcher for COFEPOW, whose temporary incapacity has necessitated this action. Alternative arrangements will be advised in future newsletters, accordingly.

Last quarter in Scotland

Remembrance Day

Scotland Area Co-ordinator, Jackie Sutherland, reports on some significant COFEPOW membership events of the last quarter....

"It was an honour to represent COFEPOW on Sunday 9th November, at the Stone of Remembrance, Edinburgh. Ranks of serving military personnel gathered with hundreds of members of the general public. The service was followed by the laying of wreaths by the Right Honourable Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh, the First Minister of Scotland and various dignitaries. A service was held afterwards at St Giles' Cathedral, where many wreaths are laid at individual memorials. Here, the COFEPOW wreath on the FEPOW Chair near the East Door, which was placed by FEPOW Jenny Martin on VJ Day 2025, remained in place."

Local engagement

"At the Remembrance Day service for Perth Academy pupils, I invited them to join me in honouring all those service personnel who died or were injured in the Far East, and to remember those from all walks of life who served there to defend our liberty and way of life.

"Looking forward, I hope we can all continue to engage with family, friends and neighbours in our communities - young people in particular - however scattered we are across Scotland, as COFEPOW members. We have welcomed new members, some of whom we have met already. There are plans for more social gatherings - if you would like to contact members in your area, please email me."

'Witnesses to History'

"This excellent film, made by Generating Opportunity CIC, was premiered at the Soutar Theatre, Perth. Elderly ladies and gentlemen who lived through World War Two and their descendants recounted their experiences and their stories of courage and hardship.

"I particularly liked the old lady who reported the end of the blackout was not welcomed by courting couples! What a contrast to the delight of those who were much younger and saw street lights on for the first time in their lives. My late mother (Elizabeth Ennis) and the Changi quilts also feature in the film, followed by a reference to COFEPOW. The film will be available for viewing to COFEPOW members in the future.

Jackie Sutherland

COFEPOW Co-ordinator Scotland skyscapeg6@gmail.com

The COFEPOW quarterly newsletter is available either as a printed multi-page A4 magazine, or as a digital PDF, emailed to your on-line 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: events@cofepow.org.uk or sriley.beeches@btinternet.com

One man, one regiment and the forgotten of war

This is the war-time story of one of many brave young men, shipped with a regular regiment to an indeterminate destination half a world away, to face years of merciless cruelty, depravity and unthinkable hopelessness. It is a well-documented and archived timeline of a man's regiment, from recruit training to abolition, but speaks little of that man's suffering in the hell that was WWII's Singapore and beyond. This feature will be a valuable research reference for any FEPOW family keen to establish more about their relative, particularly if held in Korea, who may have served in the same unit. The story is told by Craig Bedford, grandson of W/Bdr 907812, Frank Stanton, shown alongside.



Frank Stanton was posted with 278 Battery, 122 (West Riding) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (TA), to Singapore in 1941. The regiment had been formed in May 1939 in Halifax, and after training, embarked from Glasgow on the ironically-named Canadian Pacific liner 'Empress of Japan', arriving in Malaya on 11th March to become part of the 12th Indian Brigade. When the Japanese invaded in December 1941, the battery was sent 'up country' to face them, fighting a rear-guard defence down the peninsula then to rejoin 280 Battery in the grim battle for Singapore Island.

At this stage of the war, British and Commonwealth forces in Malaya were inadequately prepared for the scale and speed of the oncoming Japanese offensive. The 122nd Field Regiment and its 278 Battery and 280 Battery were positioned to provide artillery support to other infantry units, but while doing so, faced shortages of equipment, limited training in jungle warfare, and a huge underestimation of the Japanese threat. By early 1942, those surviving elements of the regiment were engaged in the defence of Singapore, enduring a period marked by heavy Japanese air attacks, artillery bombardment, and ferocious fighting on the ground.



“ Effectively, the regiment ceased to exist and was never re-formed.

Despite determined resistance, Allied forces were short of supplies and under immense pressure, and were inevitably defeated. Effectively, the regiment ceased to exist as a fighting force with the surrender of this empire fortress.

It was never re-formed and came to be called 'The Forgotten Regiment' by its survivors, placed in suspended animation in February 1942 and formally disbanded in January 1947.

The 122nd had suffered 13 casualties during the Malayan Campaign until surrender. However, far greater losses were to come during the years of captivity that followed.

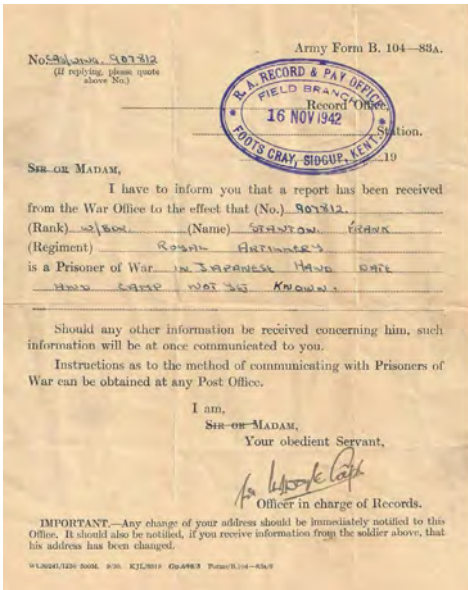
After capitulation, members of the regiment were scattered all over the Far East, with many sent as slave labourers to build the infamous Thai/Burma Railway. More than 200 died, mainly as a result of their treatment. Today, 41 soldiers of 122 Field Regiment lie buried in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand. Another 13 are buried at Chungkai. There are graves of 17 others in Kranji Cemetery, Singapore and the Kranji Memorial "to those with no known grave", lists another 43.

Others from the regiment, including Frank Stanton, were transported in appalling conditions to Korea and mainland Japan and 10 are buried in the War Cemetery at Yokohama. Many were conveyed in overcrowded, unsanitary "hell ships", with little food or water and no Red Cross markings, so that some were lost when Allied submarines or aircraft attacked them, unaware POWs were on board.

Determining Frank Stanton's exact movements and ultimate experience whilst a POW, requires intense consultation of individual service records and POW lists held by official archives such as the UK Ministry of Defence, the National Archives at Kew, and records compiled by organisations such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Research material sets out what happened to Frank's regiment, but is less forthcoming with details of individual POW soldiers' whereabouts, perhaps understandably.

Describing the conditions and likely events faced by men as POWs in less well-documented arenas such as Korea, can often be based on the

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location of the regiment rather than on its soldiers. Available material documents the location of Frank and many of the men with whom he served in the years as prisoners of war of Imperial Japan in Konan camp, in the far north east of Korea. The camp was opened in September 1943, on reclaimed land. The 350 POWs incarcerated there, including Frank, were expected to work 15 hours a day, 7 days a week, tending lime kilns, blacksmithing or stoking the carbide furnaces. This camp was constructed adjacent to a swamp and the men were accommodated 40 to a

room in which they slept, lived and ate. These huts were about 50 feet long by 25 feet wide and arranged in such a way that they formed the letter H. Work at Konan often consisted of 3-men teams stoking one of the four electric furnaces operated at a temperature of 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. In each 8-hour shift, each POW would stoke the furnace 8 times, bringing his total time at the heat face to 2 hours and 20 minutes. The shifts on the limestone kilns were also on three 8-hour shifts. Whereas men on the Thai/Burma railway had to endure tropical heat and monsoonal rains, POWs in Korea and Japan had to endure extremes of cold. In an effort to keep warm, men huddled around stoves with several blankets issued to help men stay warm during winter. Many POWs suffered from frostbite, respiratory illnesses, and general debility brought on by inadequate clothing, poor diet, and exhaustion.

The POWs at numerous camps across Asia, including Frank's, had been made aware of the Japanese War Ministry's sinister intentions, should their forces be overcome by the Allies. All POWs were to be executed, thereby wiping out any evidence of the atrocities. In response to a warning from a Korean guard at Konan camp, where Frank was held...

“...the POWs had made plans to resist any attempt to execute them, arming themselves with clubs and bricks.

It is recorded that the Japanese commandant, Captain Otaki, reportedly issued such an order at Konan. The camp doctor, Captain Morris, had already begun to prepare an emergency medical kit for the treatment of any casualties that would occur in resistance.

Following Japan's surrender in August 1945, Allied forces made efforts to locate and evacuate POW camps across Asia. For the men at Konan and other remote camps in Korea and Japan, liberation did not come immediately. Some camps were first reached by Soviet forces advancing into northern Korea; others awaited Allied recovery missions arriving by air or sea. Survivors of 122 Field Regiment returned home profoundly changed by their experiences. Many carried lifelong physical and psychological scars. Yet, their story remained relatively little-known, especially compared with more famous regiments.

Of the approximately 500 men who had sailed out to the Far East, 132 did not return. The regiment's dead are commemorated in war cemeteries and memorials in Thailand, Japan and Singapore, as well as on local memorials in the UK. The survivors, including Frank Stanton, bore witness to the courage, endurance and quiet solidarity displayed by fellow POWs, in the face of years of scandalously brutal captivity. Their suffering must be acknowledged in equal measure to that experienced elsewhere in the Far East war, between 1941-1945.



Photographs (provided by Lois, Frank's daughter): **Top left**, Frank Stanton in 1941. **Circled left**: Konan camp in Korea. **Above top left**: inmates at camp Konan. **Above centre**: the letter informing those at home. **Bottom left**: home on a US Navy carrier. **Bottom right**: a memorial to the 122nd, in the Far East.

POW statue unveiled after Burnie campaign



An imposing statue, commemorating a North East WWII hero, has been unveiled in South Shields. This near 9ft (2.74m) tall sculpture celebrates the life of Len Gibson, who survived being a Japanese POW whilst slaving for over three years on the notorious Thai/Burma railway. It was unveiled at the spot where he used to visit with his family in North Marine Park.

Len passed away, aged 101, in 2021. His bravery and kindness in the face of extreme cruelty, inspired so many over the years and the sculpture depicts the music teacher at the time of his liberation, handing his home-made banjo to a young local boy as a symbol of peace and forgiveness.



Renowned sculptor Ray Lonsdale created the work, from his South Hetton workshop, and is well-known in the region for his other public artworks. Speaking of the piece, Ray commented that: "The importance of this particular statue is that it's for 'The Forgotten Army', it's for the people who were captured, tortured and worked to death in many cases".

Philanthropist, Brian Burnie, who founded the cancer charity 'Daft as a Brush', commissioned artist Ray to pay tribute to his "wonderful" friend. More than 100 people, including veterans, turned out to mark Mr Gibson's life as the sculpture was revealed at a special ceremony.

"He was in captivity for three and a half years, and must have buried someone every day of his life there," said Mr Burnie.

"He was a wonderful gentleman and seeing this today, really depicts him as a person. You see all the First World War statues, you see all the different aspects that are commemorated on a regular basis, so it's nice to bring this story to the fore."

Lapel pins

Members may be aware that COFEPOW often issues a commemorative pin/badge or medal during significant anniversaries, as a memento of a special day in the FEPOW calendar.

2025, the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, was no exception and a member of the trustee team was duly tasked with the design of a new VJ80 lapel pin. A competition was organised and held for schoolchildren to create the design, and the winning entry was chosen and a suitable manufacturer identified.

Unfortunately, and, for an undetermined reason, the pin badges have not been distributed to all members. The trustees have experienced extraordinary difficulty in establishing who has, and who hasn't, received their lapel pin, where remaining pins are held, and why the monitoring of distribution has faltered. To add to the difficulties, the trustee responsible for the successful creation of the pins, and who had driven the whole process during extremely difficult personal circumstances, has now sadly had no alternative but to leave the team.

Subsequently, COFEPOW Membership Officer, Graham Robertson, has assumed leadership of the project and has endeavoured to retrieve the situation, with little success to date. However, a small number of members have contacted Graham and, while most have been sympathetic, others have been unnecessarily a bit sharp, considering the item was, indeed, free. The trustees appreciate that many members may be disappointed, especially with the early fanfare that accompanied the promise of this pin, but must express as a body that abuse of this nature cannot be tolerated. The trustees would like to remind those members, that officers of COFEPOW are volunteers and give of their time, and often money, freely. They are dedicated to the charity, and do not warrant such treatment.

As the VJ80 milestone has long since passed, reluctantly the trustees have decided to draw a line under the episode. Graham will continue to investigate and report his findings, if any, at a later date. The board of trustees apologises unreservedly to members and deeply regrets this project's failure.

Should you need more information, please contact David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, by email at: chairman@cofepow.org.uk

How one Area Co-ordinator is tackling the job

Rob Golding, newly appointed COFEPOW Area Co-ordinator for the Hampshire region, has set about the task of organising group meetings with some degree of enthusiasm! The trustees thought, therefore, it might be beneficial to outline his efforts as a guide for others around the country.

Firstly, he emailed all members on his list who were happy to be contacted, with a simple invitation....

"Thank you all for responding so positively. Out of 28 existing COFEPOW members with Hampshire addresses, a group of 8 have expressed very positive interest in moving forward on the idea. There were no 'negative' responses, so I take that as a good thing.

"So the first question is whether as an initial group we have sufficient numbers to move ahead. My feeling is that we probably have, and that once established others may follow in the fullness of time. I have taken over from Walter (one of our group of 8) the responsibility for the Southampton FEPOW repatriation event on 18 November, so that is an event we can 'own' and even use as a meet-up opportunity over lunch on that day (venue 'Dancing Man', Town Quay, Southampton) for those that can make it.

Next steps?

1. Do you think we have sufficient numbers to proceed?

2. Should we have an initial meeting to introduce ourselves and see what people want to get out of the group? If so, should it be a physical meeting (we would need to think about a convenient venue), or a 'Teams' virtual video meeting initially over the internet if I set one up and sent a link to click by email?

3. Should we extend a welcome to FEPOW descendants who are not formally signed up to COFEPOW. I have had some interest from two people who would want to engage with us but are not signed up to COFEPOW just yet. Possibly associate or honorary members of our group? I would only want to go down that route with agreement; saying 'no' is OK,

won't be offended!!! In the mean time (and with thanks to the Sussex COFEPOW group for some of the information), here is a list of some FEPOW events, though not exhaustive.

Other sites of possible interest:

www.cofepow.org.uk. The website of the Children of Far East Prisoners of War or COFEPOW. Responsible for the outstanding memorial hut and part of the Burma railway, a stretch of the Sumatra Railway and the Changi Lychgate, which was at the gates of the Changi cemetery, relocated to the UK at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

www.limma.org.uk. Commemorates the POWs from the sinking of the Hell-Ship Lisbon Maru. There is a stone memorial adjacent to the FEPOW hut at the NMA. The 2023 inauguration service is available on YouTube. There is an annual memorial service at the Lisbon Maru memorial on 2nd October.

Chinese New Year (March) Lisbon Maru reception at the Chinese Embassy, Regent Street, London. June or July, 6pm to 8pm. Very well supported by the British military. A sister memorial was inaugurated earlier this year at Zhoushan (Donji Island) off Shanghai dedicated to the Chinese fishermen who rescued some 300 POWs. Obviously supported by the Chinese Government, nationally and locally.

Annual Reception at the Japanese Embassy, London, will be held on Monday 22nd June this year, for Peace and Friendship between the nations, organised by Mrs Keiko Holmes OBE and attended by about 200 people with a FEPOW connection.

Please visit **kch4jc@icloud.com**

15th August - Annual VJ Day War Memorial Services at the NMA and throughout the country.

October Saturday Annual Malayan Volunteer Group Lunch and Speaker at the RAF Club, London, attended by the Patron, Georgina, Duchess of Norfolk.

November Sunday, nearest to 11th - Remembrance Services. COFEPOW is usually allocated about 60 places to march past the Cenotaph, London, followed by a sandwich lunch in a pub. Lisbon Maru memorial association allocated up to 30 places for the march past.

Friday 6th November, Royal British Legion Lloyds of London Service and Lunch (in 2025 only six places were allocated to people with a FEPOW connection).

18th November - Annual Southampton Town Quay Memorial Commemoration by the plaque where ships arrived with FEPOWs in 1945/6, followed by lunch. Foregathering at the Dancing Man from 10.00; event commences 10.45. (my father arrived on the Queen Elizabeth from Halifax, Nova Scotia on 5th November 1945, after being a POW in Changi, Singapore and Hokkaido, Japan).

To be advised - Annual Liverpool Repatriation memorial

If anyone has events or web links to add to this starting list, please share. For those that want to research their relatives history, there are, I know, many helpful sources we can share and discuss in due course. As a group we'll all have fascinating histories of our relatives' FEPOW experiences, which, if willing, we can share and add to. Once again thank you all for responding so positively.

Robert Golding, PhD, M.A., B.A (Hons), Dip App Crim (Cantab), FHEA

Call for all members entries into FEPOW Book of Remembrance



The Book of Remembrance is open for visitors to view within the FEPOW Memorial Building at the NMA. There are two dates per page and it is turned over to the next leaf every fourth day, when the FEPOW Building is opened to visitors.

If you haven't yet submitted an entry for your FEPOW, the cost is £16.50 per entry, from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. The date of entry 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. 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 events@cofepow.org.uk**

Objectives

COFEPOW was established in 1998. As a charity, its principal objectives are to:

- Build a memorial to honour those who lost their life in captivity.
- Ensure the suffering and sacrifice of 'FEPOWs' is never forgotten.
- Educate the public about the Far East theatre in World War II.
- Help support veterans and their families.

Reminder note: paying for membership and making donations

COFEPOW Membership Secretary, Graham Robertson, would like to bring to attention various issues currently being experienced regarding the payment of annual membership fees and the gifting of donations.

COFEPOW no longer takes Payment by PayPal:

Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, COFEPOW closed its PayPal account in early 2025. The administration and costs made this system untenable for the charity.

If you are still paying your membership fee by this means, please revert to either paying online or by cheque. The charity's preferred means of payment is via the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk where a simple guide to joining and donating is included. Once you join online, you will automatically create a Direct Debit for renewals a year later. For cheques, please see below.

Payment by Direct Debit:

Currently, some Direct Debits are being received into the COFEPOW bank account, with no reference to, or identification of, the payer. Could you please amend your bank DD to indicate your name.

Payment by Bank Transfer (BACS):

For anyone paying their membership via BACS, please ensure that you clearly indicate what your payment is for, and give your name, e.g., '**Membership and John Smith**'. The Membership Secretary will then be able to easily identify who has made the payment.

Payment by cheque:

For those who prefer to pay their membership subscription by cheque, please send your cheque, made out to COFEPOW, when it's time to pay.

The fees are £15.00 for single membership and £21.00 for joint. Please include a note of who you are paying for. For more details, please see the back page of this newsletter or visit us online at www.cofepow.org.uk

Please forward all payments to: **Graham Robertson, Membership Secretary, 1 Curlew Close, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6TQ. Telephone: 07786 051573. email: membership@cofepow.org.uk**

The FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the NMA in Staffordshire is a wonderful achievement and greatly admired, and acts as a physical reminder of the bravery, suffering and sacrifices our Servicemen and women made during the Far-East war. Every penny we receive by way of membership fees and donations goes towards ensuring that we can maintain the building and its grounds and environment, and pay for the daily running of the site into the future.

COFEPOW thanks you for your support over the past year and we sincerely hope you will feel able to continue with your membership.

Graham Robertson, Membership Secretary

New members

DATA PROTECTION.

COFEPOW only publishes new members' details in this newsletter. Each new member can stipulate that their name, general location, email and FEPOW relationship are either included or withheld, during application. If your details are included when you join, your local Area Co-ordinator will also be informed. Each Co-ordinator is conversant with data protection legislation and your details are not shared again. Only officers of the charity have access to this information going forward, all of which 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING MEMBERSHIP LISTINGS.

Following the switch to the new Memberstack membership recording system, an error in the way the computer viewed applicants' completed forms was discovered. Members have been ticking the check box on the forms for details to be included in the newsletter, but the logging system misinterpreted instructions. This has now been rectified. Any new members of those listed below without details, or indeed those going back to last September who would like to have their details included in the next newsletter, please contact Graham Robertson, Membership Secretary, by email at: membership@cofepow.org.uk. The charity can then remain compliant with data protection legislation, whilst providing an email address should one member wish to contact another, in full confidentiality (one of the original benefits of COFEPOW). The trustees of COFEPOW welcome each new member and offer thanks for the financial contribution each membership fee and donation provides to the continuing work of the charity. All new memberships listed here are up to and including 15th March 2026.

Name	Location	e-mail	FEPOW (if applicable)
David Jones	South Wales	coedyt1@yahoo.co.uk	Father - Hugh (Hughie) Jones - 95th Bty., 48th LAA.
Paul Murray	Gloucestershire	mutil1@hotmail.co.uk	Father - Francis J. Murray - RAMC.
Caroline Walker	Norfolk	carolinejdwalker77@gmail.com	Grandfather - John Howes - Royal Norfolk Regt.
John Wright	North West USA	johnswright60@gmail.com	Father - Albert Harold Wright - Suffolk Regt.
Heather McKenzie	New Zealand	skymolenz@gmail.com	Father - Leslie Haig McKenzie - N/A.
Caroline O'Flynn	Australia	carolinerko@icloud.com	Father - Patrick Henry O'Flynn - Fed. Malaya Police.
David Man	New York, USA	davidgordonman@gmail.com	Grandfather - Gordon Reis - Civilian.
Catherine Williams	Kent	cwilliams71@btinternet.com	Great Uncle - Raymond Darrall - 18th Div., Signals D Sec.
Ian Topliff	Norfolk	itopliff@yahoo.co.uk	Father - Arnold Osmond Topliff - Royal Corps of Signals.
Nick Tolley	Somerset	nick_tolley@btconnect.com	Friend - Steve Cairns - N/A
Hedley Novis	Northumberland	hedley.novis@sky.com	Father - Stephen Percy Novis - Royal Artillery.
Michelle Metz	Hertfordshire	michelle77metz@gmail.com	Father - Alan Ivor Forestier-Walker - The Punjab Regiment.
Lois Bedford	West Yorkshire	cbedford2005@yahoo.gmail.com	Grandfather - Frank Stanton - 122 West Riding Regt.
John Duresky	Mid West USA	johnduresky@hotmail.com	Researching - Louis Beckers - Netherlands Army Cavalry.
Alan Ford	Hampshire	alanford@doctors.org.uk	Father - Ernest Ford - 211 Sqn., RAF.
John Tupper	Kent	john.tupper1956@outlook.com	Father - Charles John Tupper - 118 Regt. RA.
Alvin Fountain II	East Coast USA	afountain@mindspring.com	Uncle - Ronald G.G. Stanton - Merchant Seaman.
Steven Crain	California USA	gallowglass11@comcast.net	No relation - J. G. Davies - Royal Artillery.
Stephen James	Wiltshire	stevejames7@gmail.com	Father - Arthur George James - 35th LAA. RA.
Julie-Ann and Dacia Cook	Lancashire	julieswindlehurst1975@gmail.com	Grandfather - Joseph Swindlehurst - Royal Signals.
Helen Evans	Burnley	hhalstead03@aol.com	No relation - Henry Dewhurst - 48th LAA RA.
Susan Stoneham	West Sussex	stoneham.susan@gmail.com	Father - Leslie Alec Worley - Civilian.
Andrew Anderson	London	andy@ganticc.com	Grandfather - Michael Clarke - Royal Corps of Signals.
Stuart Bagley	West Yorkshire	stuart@topbrandfoods.co.uk	Father - William Bagley - Royal Engineers.
Robert Mills	South Yorkshire	robertpmills@msn.com	Grandfather - Joseph Fearnough - R.A.S.C.
Carl Murray	London	carlmurray@mac.com	Father - Frank Murray - R.A.M.C.
Jonathan Smith	West USA	jes@jono.us	Uncle - Robert Smith - N/A.
Lynda & Stephen Knowles	Gr. Manchester	lynda_guk2003@yahoo.com	Grandfather - Earnest Dalton - Manchester Regiment.
Louise Burton and Pamela Hendrickson	Bedford	louiseburton404@gmail.com	Charles Davies - Beds & Herts Regiment.
Maureen Hawkins	Devon & Cornwall	hawkins_maureen@icloud.com	Father - Alexander Hosford - 118 Field regt., RA.
Mary Pearson	Suffolk	marypearson279@hotmail.co.uk	Uncle - John William Keeble - Suffolk Regiment.
Dr. Charles A. Hedge	West Berkshire	tony.hedge.cah@gmail.com	Father - Charles Adams Hedge - N/A
Keith Piggott	Gloucestershire	keithpiggott@hotmail.co.uk	Father - Dennis Douglas Piggott - RAF.
Michael Doherty	Lancashire	michaeldoherty666@btinternet.com	Uncle - John Royston Walton - 1st Btn. Manchester Regt.
Lesley Hounsome	-	-	Details withheld.

Help us raise the revenue



NEW! Smart casual sweatshirt featuring the chest-borne emblem of COFEPOW and the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. Unisex sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL, manufactured in washable 50%/50% polyester/cotton. Navy blue. **£25.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**



NEW! High Quality polo shirt featuring the COFEPOW VJ Day 80th anniversary emblem on the left chest position. Unisex sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL, in washable 50%/50% polyester/cotton. Pale grey. **£20.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**



NEW! Branded wooden pens individually hand-made in differing woods, so no two are the same. All are inscribed with 'VJ80 - 2025' in white on the barrel, with gilt decoration, gold coloured nibs, clips and tips. Parker refillable, 'biro'-effect action, with dark blue ink. **£35.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**



NEW! White china mug with red and blue VJ Day 80th logo to the front and the tale of a FEPOW's arrival at Heaven's Gate on the reverse. Each weighs 11 ounces. **£3.50 plus £3.99 p&p.**



NEW! Fridge magnet Sunset picture with motif which reads: 1945-2025: At the going down of the sun And in the morning "We will remember them" plus the VJ 80 and FEPOW logos. **£3.50 plus £1.55 p&p.**



NEW! Coaster/beer mat in compacted, water-resistant card, featuring the Union Jack and VJ Day 80th logo. Stocks for both are limited. **£2.50 plus £1.55 P&P.**



Trolley coin Featuring general logo and key ring connector. **£3.25 plus £1.55 p&p.**



NEW! More Poems of Hope A new glossy hardback book, oversized A4, which features over 50 poems written by FEPOWs and their families. The anthology was launched on the VJ Day 80th anniversary, and incorporates almost 60 pages, including numerous accompanying pictures and illustrations, supplied either by members or by the Imperial War Museum library. **£12.99 plus £3.99 p&p.**



Poems of Hope The original anthology launched in 2020 and featuring over 80 poems by FEPOWS, many of which were written in captivity. Additional poems by FEPOW family members are also included. **£11.99 plus £3.99* p&p.** VJ70 medallion FREE with every sale of either of the 'Poems of Hope' books! See the Merchandise Office online at www.cofepow.org.uk



Cloth shopping bag Sized at 37cms (14½") x 47cms (16") and manufactured in hard-wearing linen, printed one side only. The bag is in a neutral beige to reflect the house colour of COFEPOW, with a red and dark blue logo image and website/charity. Help save the planet! **£2.50 plus £1.55 p&p.**



Notelets A small selection of handy paper notelet pads of 10 are available, featuring the FEPOW Memorial Building or the Thai/Burma Railway memorial including envelopes. **£2.50 plus £1.55 p&p.**



Key ring Featuring metal logo attached to a black, quality leather fob. **£3.50 plus £1.55 p&p.**



Car Sticker Plastic suction-adhesive sticker for the interior of a car window. **£1.00 plus £0.87 p&p.**



Lapel Pin Badge Pound-coin size, metallic badge with rear connector for lapel. **£2.00 plus £1.55 p&p.**

Help us ensure remembrance



White polo shirt
Unisex polo shirt in sizes M, L, XL, manufactured in washable 50%/50% polyester/cotton and featuring a COFEPOW logo to the left chest area.
£16.00 plus £3.99 p&p.



Black polo shirt
Unisex polo shirt in sizes M and L, (XL sold out) manufactured in washable 50%/50% polyester/cotton and featuring a COFEPOW logo to the left chest area.
£16.00 plus £3.99 p&p.



Poppy woven badge
featuring the COFEPOW name.
£2.50 plus £0.87 p&p.

Woven COFEPOW badge
Can be attached to clothing.
£3.50 plus £0.87 p&p.



Tie clip
The logo on a brass effect clip.
£3.00 plus £1.55 p&p.



VJ 70 mugs
Produced to commemorate the VJ Day 70th anniversary, these mugs feature both COFEPOW and FEPOW logos
£8.50 plus £3.99 p&p.



Tie
High quality, blue and red with small logo repeat and stripe.
£12.99 plus £1.55 p&p.

Enamel pin badge
75th anniversary of VJ Day special enamel 'keepsake' pin badge, in attractive display box.
£4.00 plus £3.99 p&p.



Blue pen
'Biro'-effect ink, with replaceable cartridge and printed logo and website.
£1.00 plus £1.55 p&p.



VJ70 medallion
VJ70 medallion FREE with every sale of either of the two 'Poems of Hope' books! Visit the Merchandise Office online at www.cofepow.org.uk
£7.50 plus £3.99 p&p.

How to order.

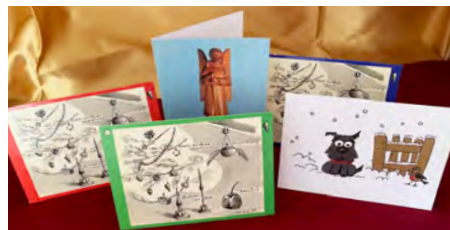
COFEPOW produces a range of merchandise to promote the charity, out in the community.

The profit from all sales goes directly to COFEPOW to maintain its work, in line with its original objectives. For further information or to order any of the items shown here, please visit the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk

Details of ordering/payment methods are also available by emailing Merchandising Officers, Sylvie and Nick Bullen-Bell at: merchandise@cofepow.org.uk or by phone on 01245 222 604/mobile 07721 067501. Thank you.

*Postage to anywhere in mainland Europe will cost £6.00. Elsewhere in the world will cost £10.00.

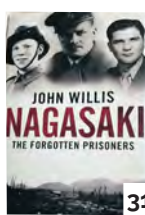
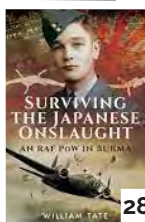
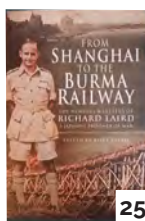
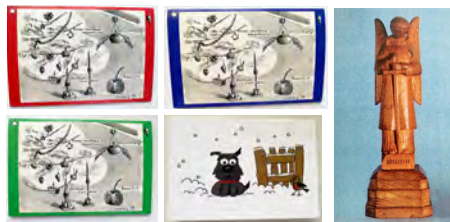
All items are not to scale.



NEW! Cards for Christmas!

Designed by member, Louise Cordingly, with all sales made via COFEPOW offered at a reduced price. The cards feature a FEPOW Christmas, in three festive colours, plus one of 'Scrunchball' and an angel figure in wood, sculpted in the camps. £5 for a variety pack of 5 cards, including envelopes. The overall folded size is approx. 15 cms x 10.5 cms.

£5.00 per pack plus £1.60 p&p.



Books.

A wide range of books written by FEPOWs or their families over the last 80 years and available to COFEPOW at a reduced price.

25 'From Shanghai to the Burma Railway' **£12.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**

26 'Echoes of Captivity' **£9.50 plus £3.99 p&p** and 27 'Eric and Scrunchball' **£4.90 plus £3.99 p&p.** Both by Louise Reynolds.

Normal retail price £12.99.

28 'Surviving the Japanese Onslaught' **£6.50 plus £3.99 p&p.** Normal retail price £19.99.

29 'Escape from the Japanese' **£6.50 plus £3.99 p&p.**

Normal retail price £19.99.

30 'When You Go Home' **£5.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**

31 'Nagasaki' **£20.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**

32 'In the Shadow of the Rising Sun' **£9.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**

33 'Fighting Back' **£10.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**

34 'Under the Heel of the Bushido' **£10.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**

35 'Unsung Heroes of the British Army' **£10.00 plus £3.99 p&p.**

36 'Unsung Heroes of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines' **£7.50 plus £3.99 p&p.**

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 AA. 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

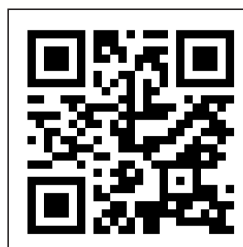
FEPOWs, wives and widows. It covers hospital stays, carers, care homes, sheltered accommodation, etc.

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

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



Patrons, trustees and officers.

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.

The charity was founded by: CAROL COOPER.

Patrons: SIR TERRY WAITE CBE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL C.G. STALLARD (Rtd.), SIR HENRY EVERY Bt. DL FCA., GENERAL SIR JAMES EVERARD KCB CBE.

Trustees: DAVID BREDE, DAVID BROWN, KAREN BROWN, NICK BULLEN-BELL, SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL, GUY METCALFE -HUME, GRAHAM ROBERTSON, JOHN RUTHERFORD, ALAN WILLS AND CHRIS WILLS.

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

Secretary: Vacant at time of going to press.

Treasurer: DAVID BROWN email: treasurer@cofepow.org.uk

Padre: REV. RICHARD BROOKER.

Merchandise Officers: NICK BULLEN-BELL & SYLVIE BULLEN-BELL

email: merchandise@cofepow.org.uk

WebMaster and Social Media: GUY METCALFE-HUME

email: webmaster@cofepow.org.uk

National Events Co-ordinator: CHRIS WILLS email: events@cofepow.org.uk

Education Officer: KAREN BROWN email: karen@cofepow.org.uk

Area Co-ordinator Officer: JOHN RUTHERFORD email: OAC@cofepow.org.uk

Membership Secretary: GRAHAM ROBERTSON email: membership@cofepow.org.uk

M: 07786 051573. Address: 1 Curlew Close, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6TQ.

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

Far East Travel Advisor: MARTIN PRECHNER email: roquefort44@hotmail.com

Membership fee per annum - £15 per single or £21 per joint (for 2).

Please visit the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk for easy online payment. Cheque payments can also be made for annual membership, which will need to be renewed in August. Cheques to be made payable to 'COFEPOW' and posted to the Membership Secretary as above, with your membership details.

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

Area	Name	Email
1. Birmingham and the Black Country	Annette Hughes	cranedriver1964@live.com
2. Cambridgeshire	Andrew Sharpe	andyjamess@hotmail.com
3. Derbyshire	John Rutherford	oac@cofepow.org.uk
4. Devon and Cornwall	Vacancy	
5. Dorset	Ann Whiteside	Whitesidelouise197@gmail.com
6. Essex	Vacancy	
7. Gloucestershire	Diane Vear	dianevear@yahoo.co.uk
8. Greater Manchester and East Cheshire	Vacancy	
9. Hampshire	Robert Golding	golding.associates@gmail.com
10. Herefordshire and the Wye Valley	Vacancy	
11. Kent	Brian Faulkner	faulkner2021@btinternet.com
12. Leicestershire	Shirley Barnes	shirleyb60@virginmedia.com
13. Lincolnshire	Vacancy	
14. Merseyside and Lancashire	Vacancy	
15. New Zealand	Hilary Cunningham	hilarycunningham1@gmail.com
16. Norfolk	Thelma Johnson	tjohnson4@btinternet.com
17. Northamptonshire	David Brede	davidbrede@yahoo.com
18. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	mikejclarke27@hotmail.com
19. Scotland	Jackie Sutherland	skyscape96@gmail.com
20. South Wales	Vacancy	
21. Surrey	Jill Robertson	cofepow.surrey@yahoo.com
22. Sussex	Elizabeth Hallett	cofepowsussex@gmail.com
23. Central USA	Gillian Leggett	gkleggett@att.net
24. Eastern USA and Eastern Canada	Jan Slimming	jslimming@comcast.net
25. Western USA and Western Canada	Sharon Cusumano	lestweforget1941@gmail.com
26. Wiltshire	Bryan Neaves	bryanneaves123@gmail.com
27. Yorkshire	Vacancy	

Area Co-ordinators.

This list of Area Co-ordinators is provided to facilitate access to a local group for members. If you live in an area where there are a number of COFEPOW members and you would be interested in becoming their Area Co-ordinator, please contact John Rutherford to learn more about what the role involves. His article in this newsletter provides an example of what the role can offer members on a regional basis. The trustees are also keen to recruit co-ordinators for overseas territories.

The areas where 'vacancy' is shown in red to the left, indicates an established COFEPOW area group, but which unfortunately no longer has a co-ordinator as a result of the former volunteer retiring from the role, for instance.

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.