



CoFEPOW Quarterly

Carol honoured in NMA feature

The National Memorial Arboretum has introduced a remarkable remembrance exhibition, designed to feature women who have contributed to the development of the Arboretum and its constituent objects of remembrance.

The exhibition, within the NMA building, is entitled **'25 Years of Celebrating Women'**, and runs from the 16th May to the 15th November, 2026. It explores the Arboretum's history, told through the experiences of 25 inspiring women who have played an important role in its evolution.

Selected by members of the Arboretum's management and staff team, those featured include women who have established, nurtured, created and campaigned for notable causes and significant memorials.

Women whose passion, resilience and generosity have resulted in service, very often unrecognised by the community: principally of course, those unheralded ordinary volunteers who give of their time freely and without fanfare.

COFEPOW Events Co-ordinator and trustee, Chris Wills and trustee husband Alan, visited recently and were delighted to find that founder and former Chair of COFEPOW, Carol Cooper, had been given pride of place in a graphic display panel next to those of the late Queen Elizabeth II and Catherine, Princess of Wales. Chris describes the visit...

"When we walked in, the first item we saw was a video loop of NMA founder and former patron and padre of COFEPOW, David Childs, narrating the story of his original idea to build a dedicated place of memorial for the UK, following his retirement from the Royal Navy.

"As we turned left into the 'Drum,' we found the panel featuring Carol. On taking another look - almost as a double take, in fact - we realised Carol, who died in November 2025, is actually positioned adjacent to displays of both the late Queen and the Princess of Wales."

Wow, I thought. Carol's in good company!

"The inclusion of Carol in such a prominent position really highlighted to us the importance of her achievements. She stood out as someone different. Someone whose persistence and contribution to the remembrance of a specific field of service is almost unequalled."

Alongside are examples of the display panels, showing the one devoted to Carol and her personal story, perfectly positioned next to two extremely prominent royal family members! Chris concludes with the fitting words of a short epithet, her and Alan came across during their visit...

**We all remember.
Together and alone.
From a single name etched on a wall,
to a national ceremony and the
unifying silence of quiet contemplation,
remembrance has many voices.**



Carol Cooper

The Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOW) Memorial Building owes its existence in part to the efforts of Carol Cooper. Carol's father went to war when she was two years old, and she never saw him again. He died in 1942 as a prisoner of war while building the Thailand-Burma Railway, but a chance story in a local newspaper in 1994 led to Carol obtaining a copy of his wartime diary.

That began a personal journey of rediscovery and Remembrance that took Carol to Thailand, and to the foundation of Children Of The Far East Prisoners Of War (COFEPOW). Led by Carol, COFEPOW lobbied for official recognition of their sacrifice, and raised funds for the construction of the FEPOW Memorial Building at the then-new National Memorial Arboretum. The building was finally opened in 2005, on the 60th anniversary of VJ Day. Carol died in 2025 but COFEPOW continues her work of commemoration.



Carol Cooper



Queen Elizabeth II



Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales

REMEMBRANCE

Over period three, people, communities, landscapes and places have experienced pain, by commemorating or memorialising them.

Remembrance is part of our shared heritage. From ancient burial grounds and religious rituals, through mourning and war memorials to today's social media posts and memorial stones, humans have created many ways of remembering.

Remembrance has its own language. It is filled with symbols, imagery and motifs that begin to tell us who and what we are remembering as they are repeated and shared around the world.

Commemoration is a personal. Remembrance means different things to different people, how and what we remember is up to us.

Remembrance is a shared. It is the thing who connect us to ourselves and what to forget. The things that become part of our shared past are those that people decide they are important and worth remembering.

Memorialisation is a public. It is the thing who connect us to the world. It is the thing who connect us to the world. It is the thing who connect us to the world.





Chair's Notes

"For me, this time of year is a moment for reflection and looking forwards at the same time.

"In August, we have the COFEPOW Annual General Meeting, so it's the time to review the past year and consider what's been achieved. After the highs of last year with the VJ80 commemorations, having a relatively normal year is a change and a relief.

"The new personnel on the trustees team are now settling in well and we're seeing the benefits of Graham Robertson at the helm of the membership system. Several issues have now been ironed out and numbers are increasing, so some good news there.

"Similarly, with John Rutherford taking charge of the COFEPOW Area Co-ordinator team, new life is being breathed in there, starting with 'zoom' meetings, for example. This gives the ACs the opportunity to share best practice and discuss ideas about making membership more interesting and enriching in their areas. The charity is looking for more Area Co-ordinators, so if there isn't one in your patch, perhaps you'd like to step up yourself? Why not give John or myself a call to see what it's all about and what you might be able to offer?

"We're also looking forward to the Cenotaph March in November. Once again, we have a fully-subscribed contingent of 60. The Royal British Legion will be sending out requests for information for the all-important security checks soon, and this year, the after-march lunch is at a new venue - we have the whole floor of the 'Sherlock Holmes' pub in Northumberland Street. Many thanks to Barry Cracknell who helped with all the research in finding it!

"Best wishes to everyone and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM".

David Brede
COFEPOW Chair

RBL renames the Arboretum

Plans are moving forward rapidly as the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) is to be rebranded later this year. Founded 25 years ago and now home to more than 400 memorials, the location will be renamed the 'Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens' from September, 2026. Mark Atkinson,

Royal British Legion Director General, commented:

"The National Memorial Arboretum is a remarkable place. Founded on an inspirational vision, its dedicated team has worked tirelessly over the past 25 years to solidify the site as the nation's year-round place to remember. This integration of governance places the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens at the heart of our remembrance work and strengthens our ability to invest in the site's long-term future."

Commander (Rtd) David Childs CBE, founder of the National Memorial Arboretum and former patron and padre of the COFEPOW charity, said:

"When the Arboretum was founded, my ambition was to create a living place of remembrance, rooted in trees, offering a dedicated space to reflect on service and sacrifice for our nation. Over time, that vision has grown organically, shaped by those who cared for it and by the many communities who found meaning here. Today, the site is defined by its trees, sculptures, symbolic planting and gardens, that together encapsulate the spirit of remembrance. In 2003, the Royal British Legion became our parent charity.....and has provided the care, stewardship and investment needed. I am excited to see how this inspirational place will continue to grow and evolve in the next chapter of its journey."

The RBL has provided more than £34m of funding to the NMA since 2003. The trustees of COFEPOW expect that the support given and contracts negotiated in perpetuity will continue to be maintained to the long-term benefit of the charity. These changes within the NMA will ensure that all relevant parties can merge formally to work together, with the rebranding an important step towards the projection of an improved visitor experience: the COFEPOW trustees wish every success to the future of the RBL National Remembrance Gardens.

Note: see page 13 for varying reaction to the branding proposal.



Photograph courtesy of the National Memorial Arboretum.

Join us for VJ-Day Remembrance and the COFEPOW AGM

Sunday, August 16th, 2026, NMA

The COFEPOW commemoration of the Allied victory over brutal Imperial Japanese forces at the end of the Second World War encourages members and their friends and families to come together to remember the heroism and suffering of their forbears, who were held captive for many years by their nation's enemy.

The charity will mark the 81st anniversary of VJ-Day on Sunday 16th August this year, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. This short Service is combined with the formal Annual General Meeting of COFEPOW, which is held in the Aspects Conference Suite at the NMA. Last year's event was particularly well-attended and enjoyed, as it coincided with the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day.



“...witness the roles of the charity's trustee board, in furthering COFEPOW's aims...”

This year, the trustees of COFEPOW again invite you to attend the AGM, wreath-laying and the Service. The day gives all attendees a perfect opportunity to meet old and new friends, listen to brief but relevant and informative presentations about the progress of the charity during the preceding year, and witness the efforts of trustees on the management board in furthering COFEPOW's aims: ensuring the suffering and sacrifice of FEPOWs is never forgotten, and educating the public about the Far East war which lasted from 1941-1945.

Accounts will be reviewed, and attendees

will see where donations are allocated and how the charity is run generally.

The AGM will commence at 10.30 a.m., and should terminate at around 12.00 noon, when members will be able to make the short walk to the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove, where the laying of wreaths will take place at 1.00 p.m.

A Service of Remembrance back at the Aspects Conference Suite at 1.30 p.m., will be held by new COFEPOW padre, the Reverend Richard Brooker.

The trustees and officers of COFEPOW will also be on-hand to answer any questions you may have. There will also be a range of COFEPOW-branded merchandise on sale at the AGM to help bolster the charity's funds. Refreshments will be served during and after the proceedings.

If you think you would like to attend the AGM and/or the Remembrance Service, it would help us in reserving seating and organising catering if you could reserve your place as soon as possible. Reservations can be made with **Chris Wills, COFEPOW National Event Organiser, 74 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6SG. Tel: 0121 244 7263 or email: events@cofepow.org.uk**

Agenda of the day's events

National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire DE13 7AR.

- 10.30** - The AGM will commence in the Aspects Conference Suite at the National Memorial Arboretum
- 12.00** - Break for lunch before making your way to the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove for the laying of wreaths
- 13.00** - Salute at the FEPOW Memorials - The Last Post
- 13.30** - Return to the Aspects Conference Suite for the VJ-Day Commemorative Service
- 14.30** - Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available, giving you a chance to gather and meet friends and acquire merchandise
- 16.00** - End of the day, and your journey home.



Sandakan-Ranau VJ-Day Remembrance Service

12.30pm, Friday, 14th August, at St. Clement Danes RAF Church, Strand, London.



Picture: National Churches Trust.

Hazel Braund wishes to invite COFEPOW members to the VJ-Day Remembrance Service for the families and friends of those who never returned from the Sandakan-Ranau Death Marches in Borneo. Almost 2,500 Allied POWs lost their lives at the Sandakan camp during the Japanese occupation.

The Service will be held on Friday 14th August at St. Clement Danes RAF Church, Strand (at the end of Fleet Street), London WC2R 1DH, at 12.30pm (although this is an RAF church, all services are welcome).

For details, please contact Hazel at hbraund@hotmail.co.uk

Records show that just six men survived out of 1,496 Australians and 1,004 British POWs. The remainder were starved, shot, beaten to death or otherwise killed by an unimaginably sadistic enemy while they were POWs, in what was formerly British North Borneo, between July 1942 and August 1945.

Part of 'Death Railway' emerges after dam works



After the Second World War, parts of the Thai/Burma 'Death Railway' were dismantled, while others were submerged following the construction of the Vajiralongkorn Dam.

Sections of the railway have re-emerged in Thailand's Rantee River for the first time in 42 years, after water levels dropped significantly due to maintenance of the dam. The resurfaced structures were discovered near Sangkhlaburi district, following the release of water from the dam, exposing parts of the historic railway route that had long been submerged.

The phenomenon marks the first time since 1984, when the dam was completed, that such features have become visible. Authorities say the site will remain accessible only between April and June, depending on levels. Today, the route remains a stark memorial to the human cost of the 1941-45 conflict, and is one of Southeast Asia's most significant wartime legacies.

BBC's 'The Repair Shop' airs 'Raggle Taggle' restoration

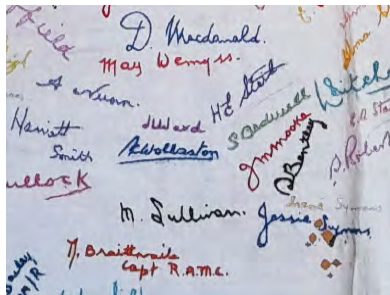
As previously reported, the BBC's "The Repair Shop", featured the story of how Peter Moss' father, Capt. John ('Jock') C. Moss, 9/11th Indian Army, Royal Corp of Signals, brought home copies of 'Raggle Taggle,' a camp magazine produced in 1943. Containing stories, articles, poems, jokes and puzzles, illustrated in colour, often hand-written and then ingeniously bound together with rice-paste glue, brown paper and covered in mosquito netting, miraculously, four months' issues were retrieved despite hell-ship transportations and many more camps.

Thanks to the skill of Chris Shaw and the production team at 'The Repair Shop', the tatty magazine remnants are being rebound and saved, with the story featuring on the popular TV programme in late April. COFEPOW Head of Research Keith Andrews commented:

"Brilliant to see this on the programme last night, and it has survived all of these years.....it was a miracle it survived bearing in mind the Japanese attitude to writing of any kind by the FEPOWS."



The embroidered sheet ready for framing.



Close-up of a few of the signatures.

Changi embroidered tablecloth to be displayed in special frame

Whilst held prisoner in Changi Gaol, men, women and children were encouraged to 'autograph' a large tablecloth, which was then buried for safety until liberation. Following its journey back to the UK, Clara Harris and her two daughters, Helen and Eileen, embroidered over the names and this 42" x 35" cotton tablecloth has until recently been folded in a display case and held in the FEPOW Building. The Trustees have now decided to frame it in its entirety, making all the names visible, even those that remain only in pencil, as originally made.

The tablecloth has now been taken out of the showcase and given to frame manufacturers, who are expected to have completed the project by the end of June. Arrangements will then be made with the NMA for mounting the frame on a wall within the FEPOW Building.

Visitors will be able to see all the signatures for the first time in over two decades, with a special non-reflective glass being used to protect the fabric from UV rays and display the tablecloth for photography. As it is embroidered on all four sides, taking pictures will be easy, as visitors can capture images in their cameras and enlarge them for easy reading.

Photographs will appear in the October newsletter edition.

2027 wreath-laying Service for 'Exeter' at Exeter Cathedral

To tie in with other organisations, the 2027 service to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the sinking of HMS Exeter, is now booked for 11.00am on Saturday 6th March. This 'early warning' is to allow those who travel any distance, the time to arrange leave, return from holiday or make bookings, etc. The date moves away from the regular 'closest Saturday to 1st March', arrangement, but it is the only booking date available. Apologies if this date clashes with services in the USA for the USS Houston, although the Exeter service is at 6.00am Houston time, so should not coincide time-wise.

The service will be streamed on the Cathedral's facebook page. Please see overleaf for more detailed arrangements, timings, etc in **'Memorial diary for the year.'**

Arrangements for the 2028 service are also on-going. Relevant members will be emailed before the event but meanwhile, please contact Tom Jowett to advise of potential attendance for 2027 and 2028 as soon as possible at: tomjowett54@gmail.com

Remembrance Day Service and Parade

Whitehall, 2026

Sunday November 8th.

COFEPOW Chair, David Brede, has been looking for COFEPOW members who would be interested in marching at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday in November. He's received confirmation of the proposed allocation of places, and now has candidates' names in hand to progress the formalities.

For interest, anyone related to a FEPOW may be allowed to march. Please note, however, that if the quota of tickets isn't taken up, the quantity allocated will be reduced the following year. If you would like to be considered for a place in the future, please register an interest with **David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, by post at 3, Blossom Way, Little Billing, Northants NN3 9ET, by email at cofepow.chairman@gmail.com or by phone on 07930 960241.**

For next year, please include in your message your connection/relationship to the FEPOW you wish to represent. Tickets received will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Expressions of interest will not guarantee a place, however, until numbers are confirmed at the time with the Royal British Legion.

For those who wish to apply for consideration to join the procession along Whitehall each November, you should be aware of the following:

- Those who wish to attend must be on Whitehall by 9.00am: time is needed to go through security so it is an early start on what could be a cold and wet morning.
- There is a great deal of standing about, from assembly, through the 11.00 Silence and Service and until the final march-off. The parade is usually dismissed at about 12.45 p.m.
- Once COFEPOW is able to confirm the number of tickets and allocate them, personal details have to be submitted to the RBL for security checks.
- Tickets are strictly non-transferable as they are issued to people by name and proof of ID will be required.

Remembrance Sunday, NMA November 8th, 2026, 10.15am.

Attendances at the FEPOW Memorial Grove at the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens (formerly the NMA) for this particularly important day in the remembrance calendar, have been impacted by significant world events over recent years. The trustees believe, however, that it's important as many members as possible, and naturally those who live locally in the main, attend the Annual Remembrance Service on the 8th November, 2026, at the above, and at the wreath-laying at the FEPOW Memorial Grove, or both.

It's appreciated that with the weather, and with Services on TV providing a challenging alternative, the prospect of a drab, rainy, cold day has little appeal. We would remind members however, that it is all of our solemn duties to remember those who suffered at the hands of this country's enemy in the Far East, and for it not to be left solely to hardy volunteers within the charity to attend on other members' behalves.

So please join us, as you will be made very welcome. We meet at 10.15 a.m., in readiness for when the general Service of Remembrance commences at 10.30 a.m. Following this, we move together to the FEPOW Memorial Grove, lay our wreaths, after which, if you wish, you can rejoin the main congregation at the the RBL National Memorial Gardens Building.

If you are interested in being at all or any part of the Remembrance Service/ Parade or wreath-laying, please contact **Chris Wills** at events@cofepow.org.uk

Please remember it's always easier to pre-book your car parking space online, especially on days when there is likely to be significant activity and few spaces. Although there are overspill car parks, the walk to the NMA is a good distance.

Memorial diary for the year

A comprehensive calendar of forthcoming commemorative/remembrance events for the coming months. Hope it helps!

15th August 2026, 11.00am, VJ Day Service at the Litten Gardens War Memorial, New Park Road, Chichester PO19 8EY.

Contact: emailcofepowsussex@gmail.com

15th August 2026, 12.00 noon VJ Day Service,

National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire DE13 7AR.

16th August 2026, 10.30am to 12.00 noon, COFEPOW AGM.

Followed by at 1.00pm, the wreath-laying service at the FEPOW Memorials, followed by the VJ Day Service in the Aspects Conference Suite, National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire DE13 7AR.

Please contact: Chris Wills at: events@cofepow.org.uk

17th October 2026, 12 noon, Malayan Volunteer Group (MVG) Annual Reunion Lunch and AGM at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PPY. Speaker: Gautam Hazarika, author of 'The Forgotten Indian Prisoners of World War II', published last year. Gautum acquired the 'We Published in Prison' manuscript – a series of newspapers published by Straits Times Journalists while in Changi during 1942. Membership of MVG £30 year.

Lunch £60 each. Contact Colin Hygate. [email: secretary@mvg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mvg.org.uk)

5th November 2026, 11.00am, Cross Planting Ceremony at the FEPOW Plot in The Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, cared for by the RBL Members can place remembrance crosses at the plot. Contact Rev. Pauline Simpson. [email: pauline761@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline761@btinternet.com)

8th November 2026, Remembrance Sunday, 10.30am, RBL National Remembrance Gardens (formerly NMA).

Contact Chris Wills, Event Co-ordinator [email: events@cofepow.org.uk](mailto:events@cofepow.org.uk)

8th November 2026, Remembrance Sunday Cenotaph Parade, Whitehall London. Contact David Brede, Chairman COFEPOW

[email: chairman@cofepow.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cofepow.org.uk)

18th November 2026 FEPOW Repatriation Memorial Ceremony (where the ships arrived with FEPOWs in 1945 and 1946). 11.00am Wreath-Laying Service next to the plaque, Town Quay Park, French Street, Southampton SO14 2DY. Contact Walter Tuttlebee. [email: walter@tuttlebee.com](mailto:walter@tuttlebee.com)

10th December 2026, Commemoration Service for the sinking of HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales at the National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire DE13 7AR.

14th February 2027, 12 noon, 85th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore a service of remembrance to be held in the chapel at the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffs DE13 7AR. The chapel holds 125 people, so please let Chris Wills know early if you wish to attend. Soup and a sandwich lunch will be £12.00 pp. If you wish to attend please contact: **Chris Wills** at: events@cofepow.org.uk

6th March 2027 HMS Exeter. The plan for 2027 would be very similar to 2026, with the Guildhall being open at around 10am (to be confirmed) to view the model of HMS Exeter, and to be in the (our) North Chapel for the service at 11.00am, followed by the obligatory refreshments and chat at a local hostelry. Aiming to ease the bottleneck at the hostelry by arranging a buffet lunch in a ground floor private room (with bar!). Please contact Tom Jowett at: tomjowett54@gmail.com

1st March 2028. 'Early Warning'. The 80th Anniversary of the Dedication of the 'HMS Exeter' window. If you've any thoughts on what should be done for the occasion, please contact Tom Jowett at tomjowett54@gmail.com

Note: In September 2026, the NMA becomes The Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens.

Tommy awarded city freedom

In July last year, COFEPOW featured the story sent in by Brian Buick, about his neighbour, Tommy Doherty, a proud former RAF Serviceman.

At the time, Brian related the story of his own Uncle Joe, who served in the Far East.

Now, Brian has splendid news about Tommy.....



"I am privileged to be a friend and neighbour of Tommy Doherty, a 99 year-old ex-militaryman, who served in the RAF. I gave Tommy a COFEPOW branded tie in 2024 which he wears with pride today, as often as he can, with many people asking him about it. I am now delighted to report that on 16th April, Tommy was awarded the Freedom of the City of Lisburn in Northern Ireland. The ceremony took place at Lagan Valley Island, celebrating one of the area's most respected residents. We are very proud of him. Tommy's been in and out of hospital recently but thankfully he was able to attend in person. Congratulations Tommy - all the more occasions to wear your tie with pride again!"

Objectives of the COFEPOW charity

The principal objectives of COFEPOW are

- 1) To provide and maintain a memorial in memory of all British Servicemen, women and civilians who were prisoners of war in South-East Asia under Japanese occupation during WWII and
- 2) To advance the education of the public about prisoners of war in South-East Asia whilst under Japanese occupation in WWII, from '41-'45.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

'Lotus-Eating Days:

from Surrey to Singapore 1923 - 1959'

Caroline Repton's powerful narrative of how her parents came to meet in Singapore, after both enduring the deprivations of war.

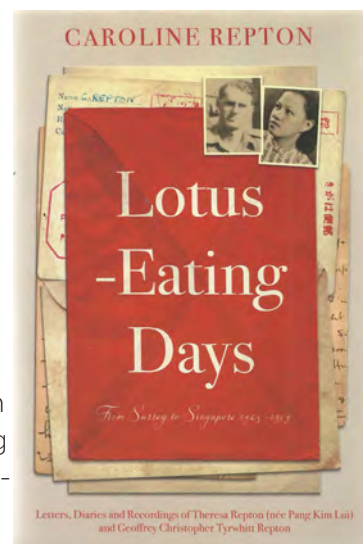
463 pages, first published by The Book Guild, now on special offer to COFEPOW members at £12 (reduced from £16.99) plus £3.99 post and packing.

'Lotus-Eating Days: from Surrey to Singapore 1923 - 1959' is the story of how Caroline's parents met after having both survived the Second World War in Asia - Christopher as a British soldier and POW on the 'Death Railway' in Thailand, Theresa, a young Chinese woman working in Japanese-occupied Singapore. The memoir is based on their letters and diaries, dating from the 1930s until 1959, interspersed with Theresa's tape-recordings about her life, which were made in 2000.

Christopher wrote home frequently as a soldier with the Queen's Royal Regiment/8th Indian Infantry Brigade based in India and then Malaya from 1939 - 1942, right up until his last telegrams written under duress in February 1942, just days before the Fall of Singapore.

In 1997, the year before he died, Caroline's father wrote to a former POW friend, recounting in brief his experiences as a POW (which he never spoke of to Caroline!). After the war, there is a wide variety of letters from former POW comrades, in addition to correspondence between friends and family, which gives a vivid picture of post-war life in Singapore and England. Caroline has written a 'backstory' and historical notes are included at the end. This comprehensive hardback features 16 pages of black and white photographs, and is available at a **discount for COFEPOW members, at £12 plus £3.99 p&p each.**

Only 40 unsold copies remain of this book, which is now no longer available online or from the publishers. To buy or reserve your copy, please **email: carolinerepton1@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

Letters

John raises trip query

Member John Hanson writes to offer thanks to COFEPOW and to the Thai Burma Railway Centre (TBRC) in Kanchanaburi, Thailand, and takes the opportunity to ask if any further trips are planned for groups to the Far East in the next two years....

"Many thanks to the COFEPOW team for another very informative newsletter. I was very interested to hear about the Changi prison shutters and hope progress can be made.

"I agree on the comments made on the fantastic work done by Terry and the others in Singapore. They have so much knowledge and have been so helpful in finding out how my father survived his time. How he was moved around from camp to camp, all given by date and with a listing of his sicknesses - it's invaluable in understanding the suffering imposed on him and experienced by all other FEPOWs.

"I would be interested to know if any further visits to Thailand (Kanchanaburi) are to be organised. If so, could I be kept informed or will it be published in future newsletters?

"Many thanks again for all your hard work on this excellently-produced communication."

John Hanson

johnhanson21@yahoo.co.uk

Ed note: all trips that are planned by reliable bodies and authoritative sources relevant to the membership of COFEPOW are featured at preliminary planning stage in this quarterly newsletter and on the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk

Booking then takes place once sufficient numbers make the trip viable, when direct correspondence follows between members and the organiser. Recent trips to Thailand were arranged by Gerry Nordon of NWFFRA and were very successful, with many members congratulating Gerry on the venture. If any future trips are planned, they will be advertised here in good time, with all relevant contact details.

Update on progress

Changi Prison Bars and Shutters

Many members ask the trustees about progress that may or may not have been made in relocating the Changi prison bars and shutters to a permanent home at the FEPOW Building and Grove at the NMA.

Previous reports in this newsletter have highlighted the extraordinary difficulties being encountered in agreeing the terms of the transfer from the Royal Navy, and the likely costs of creating an installation which will be suitable to house this treasured artefact.

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.

“ The application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been submitted.

COFEPOW trustee Alan Wills has prepared and submitted the charity's application to the NLHF, with the help of a useful ally from the Staffordshire Heritage Society. After an extremely arduous process, the charity can now do no more than wait for the outcome.

Further progress on fund-raising initiatives for this venture 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

Carol Cooper

For anyone who missed or would still like to view the memorial service held for COFEPOW founder and former Chair, Carol Cooper, please use the following link: [ukhttps://www.cofepow.org.uk/news/mrs-carol-cooper-memorial-service-stream](https://www.cofepow.org.uk/news/mrs-carol-cooper-memorial-service-stream)

Sumatra railway refurbishment

Negotiations are taking place between COFEPOW and Volker Wessel (who carried out the Thai/Burma refurb), but personnel changes have hindered progress so far. Ben Lockwood from the company is currently investigating possibilities and will report back.

Military Nurses database

Work has begun on this project, with names being assembled at the FEPOW Memorial Building. Many nurses names were designated as 'Alex' (Queen Alexandra Hospital in Singapore), but others, listed with a service number, provides grounds to believe they are the military nurses required for the database, with the remainder being civilian or foreign nurses.

COFEPOW trustee and Education Officer Karen Brown has assumed responsibility for the project and is creating a spreadsheet to begin to build a database of those military nurses involved.

Further reports on this and other COFEPOW projects will appear in subsequent issues of the newsletter.

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'hôte 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)	



Area Co-ordinator initiative steps-up

In the first of a new feature following on from renewed contact between Area Coordinators and the new AC Officer, John Rutherford, COFEPOW has created a permanent spot in the newsletter, devoted to the activities of ACs around the country and abroad.

John reports on progress...

"It was great to see such a strong presence of Area Co-ordinator material in the newsletter in April, raising the profile of the role. Hopefully, this will encourage readers to step forward in areas where we have members but no co-ordinator to bring them together.

"COFEPOW Quarterly carried very moving articles from ACs, paying tribute to Carol Cooper. Jackie Sutherland wrote an informative report on her engagement with Scottish remembrance events, including involving young students in Perth Academy, and Rob Golding shared his thought processes as a newly appointed AC, working hard to get a local group off the ground in Hampshire. Not only do these articles make very interesting reading, but we can all learn from them, too. Please can I encourage you to provide more material like this for future issues. They let members see what a valuable asset a regional COFEPOW group is and, hopefully, motivate them to join one or set one up."



John Rutherford

“ Our first Zoom meeting was held on April 15th, and was an interesting start...”

For members keen to witness the efforts of COFEPOW officers in return for their annual membership fee, the initial formal meeting by Zoom was joined by 10 Area Co-ordinators and covered a broad range of initiatives.

John commented that it was great to see the people behind the email addresses and talk directly with them. Some genuine ideas were generated and he is now very optimistic that the role of Area Co-ordinator will start to go from strength to strength.

The Area Co-ordinator's Role Guidance Document was discussed, which represents a set of suggestions for local activity, based on what is already taking place. This will continue to be modified as required to include and share what works well in different areas. It's hoped that this will stimulate the establishment of regional groups in areas where there are members, but no AC.

The widely different context in which ACs operate was also

recognised, both geographically and socially. In north America, for example, there are three ACs for a vast area, who plan to co-ordinate their activities, reach out to American and Canadian FEPOW groups, and share information about their events and commemorations, which are not the same as those in the UK.

Effective methods of promoting COFEPOW, including links with local heritage groups, museums etc, talking to students in schools, and attendance at local events such as Forces Days, Remembrance Days, Memorial Commemorations, Armed Services Days, VJ Days, etc. ACs could also publicise their region's meeting dates and topics so that members in neighbouring regions, without an AC, could join them, as could visiting members. These opportunities were all explored in the interests of not only recruiting more members, but also educating the general population as to the objectives of COFEPOW.

Resources available to AC's, old and new, include roll-up displays, leaflets and sellable merchandise. COFEPOW Chair, David Bredde, has prepared presentations for delivering to groups outside COFEPOW, the material and content for which he is happy to share. The ACs would like an area on the COFEPOW website for storing these resources, with details of how they can be accessed.

Promotional 'business cards' to distribute at events and so on were suggested, to point recipients to the COFEPOW website and Facebook page. David informed the group that COFEPOW has a template for stationery which may be adapted. ACs also described how they held meetings in homes, hotel reception areas or over a meal in a restaurant with local members who wish to be part of the COFEPOW conversation, to avoid having to pay a room hire fee.

The group agreed to four Zoom meetings a year. This will enable timely resolution of any issues that need to be taken to the trustee board. The meeting also agreed to a WhatsApp group for communication, on a strictly business rather than social basis!

On behalf of the trustees, John would like to thank everyone for their commitment and energy given to COFEPOW: it is all very much appreciated.

John Rutherford

Area Co-ordinator Officer, COFEPOW.

Continuation of Regional report: Derbyshire

In April 2024, we took a buggy tour at the NMA. COFEPOW's head researcher, Keith Andrews, led the way, followed by a lovely cream tea with Chris and Alan Wills.

In August, Keith Oseman and John Rutherford represented COFEPOW at VJ80 Commemoration Services at the University Hospitals in Derby and Burton. These services were led by Chris Upton, Armed Forces Covenant Manager. Keith and John spoke formally of the anguish of the families at home while their loved ones were in captivity.

In August, we visited Lichfield and the NMA for the VJ80 Commemoration, taking a regional group table for Sunday lunch. We met Phil Bradshaw, who had researched his grandfather's and several other RAMC men's time as FEPOWs. He visited the group in October for a talk on local POWs,

In November, we visited the Erewash Museum in Ilkeston, and were joined by the daughter and granddaughter of Hope Robinson (Penny and Sophie). Keith is curating the collection - such a valuable resource for understanding the impact of the war on families. He's also developed a classification system to simplify the process of finding letters.

Most recently, we met in January 2026 in the lovely Heritage Centre in Diseworth. Vicki Allison gave us a presentation with photographs, about her trip to Singapore, Thailand and Burma. Additional contributions came from Ruth and Robert Bushnell, welcome guests from Leicestershire, who were on the same trip. A theme throughout the presentation was how the trips were cathartic in helping people come to terms with the impact captivity had on their family members. We finished the session with 'show and tell' where people bring material related to their family members' captivity and open discussion with the rest of the group.

It has been a very fulfilling year, beautifully complemented by the national programme provided by COFEPOW. Names and contact details of Area Co-ordinators are on the back page of this newsletter. If there isn't a coordinator for your area and it's a role you would like to consider, please contact John to discuss it

Photographs: Top: Derbyshire group members visit the FEPOW Building with Keith Andrews and Chris and Alan Wills. Middle: Keith Oseman at the Erewash Museum, Ilkeston, with a display of Hope Robinson Letters, with Penny and Sophie, daughter and granddaughter of Hope Robinson, Bottom left: Vicki Allison recounts her pilgrimage. Bottom right: Phil Bradshaw shares his research into his Grandfather's time as a FEPOW.



Call for all members' entries into the 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 from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 is £17.50p for the full name (1 line) and £12.10p for rank and service number (2nd line), making a total of £29.60p.

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**



Cambridgeshire Andrew Sharpe would like to inform all members in his region that he now has a dedicated email address for all matters relating to COFEPOW. It is: **Cofepowcambridgeshire@hotmail.com**

Books for children - and adults

COFEPOW Area Co-ordinator for Scotland, Jackie Sutherland, heartily recommends three COFEPOW member-authored books which help illustrate the experiences of FEPOW, internee and post-war life, and which are particularly relateable for young readers.

Each is suitable for different young age groups, and offers an easy reading perspective on the Far East conflict and its consequences.

As the charity looks to find ways of perpetuating interest in COFEPOW beyond to the next generation, all three books provide worthy introductions.....

"Many COFEPOW members will own a library of works on World War Two in the Far East - historical works, novels, diaries - but how many can find stories suitable for young people, grandchildren and great grandchildren? I offer three titles.

"Firstly, while the experiences of Chaplain Eric Cordingly, a POW in Changi and on the Thai/Burma Railway, are described in his book **'Down to Bedrock'**, much more appropriate for children, and another aspect of his separation from home and family, is well illustrated and described in the children's book **'Eric and Scrunchball'**.

"Published in 2017, this work is written and illustrated by two of Eric's grandchildren, James and Alice Reynolds, for his great grandson.

Simple text and engaging illustrations draw the reader (who will be probably aged 5 to 7 years) into the true story of love between a man and his dog, that waited patiently for four years.

"I have to confess to personal interest in the next two books.

In 2019, Olga Henderson (nee

Morris, former Changi internee) gifted me a book called **'Cloud Boy'** by Marcia Williams. That very evening, I began to read it and by early the next morning, I finally laid the book down.

It's written as the diary of a young girl, Angela Moon, and is a powerful story of friendship, joy, courage, sadness and, of course, coming to terms with loss.

The diary is interspersed with letters written by Angela's grandmother whilst a POW in Changi, and describes the sewing of the Girl Guide quilt. Grandma Gertie's letters are based on Olga's own experiences, and it was my late mother, Elizabeth Ennis, who ran the Girl Guide group within Changi Gaol.

"The wisdom of Grandma Gertie, who says 'much of the sadness

will get caught up and carried away by the stitching,' reflects the camaraderie of the young girls in Changi who gathered to sew hexagons for the quilt. The story is brought up to date as Angela decides to sew a quilt to capture the memories of her late friend. Even though aimed at readers between 9 to 12 years old, I would recommend it to anyone!

"Earlier this year, I received a book from Claire Saxby, an Australian author. For readers age 7 years and upwards, this book is also inspired by the Girl

Guide quilt, made by the young girls in Changi Gaol.

The simple text describes how the girls were taught to sew and do patchwork ('She said cut the day in pieces, trim long hours with your threads') and then decided to sew the quilt as a surprise gift - 'I have a secret - we have a secret - in this place where secrets are not allowed'.

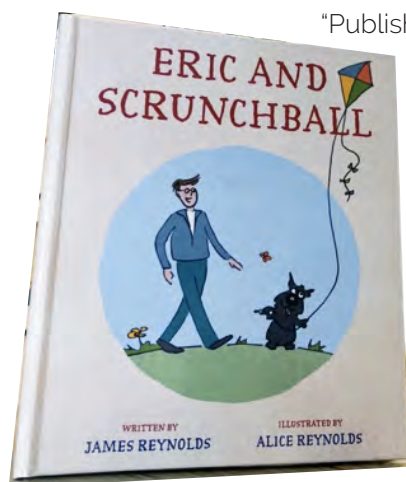
"The illustrations are gentle, with childish faces and smiles, while in the background remain the stark concrete walls of Changi Gaol and the dark silhouettes of the Japanese guards.

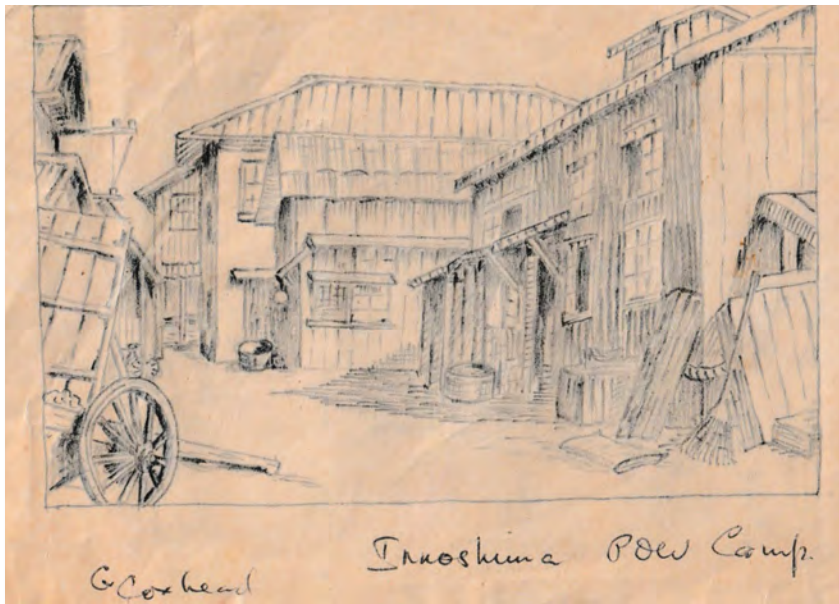
"**'The Flower Garden - a Changi Secret'** is a really beautiful book, published by Walker Books Australia. Unfortunately, there are currently no plans for sales in the UK - so please ask your Australian relatives and friends to send you a copy!

"The quilt that inspired these last two books is in the Imperial War Museum and can be viewed on their website at: (www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/30088773)

Jackie Sutherland

COFEPOW Area Co-ordinator, Scotland.





Camp art survives guards and over eight decades

The editors of COFEPOW Quarterly received a letter from David Young who had made contact on behalf of John Anton Smith. John's father, Raymond Smith, was an engineer at the Hong Kong Electric Company and a member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Force. He was taken prisoner in December 1941, when the Japanese captured Hong Kong, and was transferred from there to Innoshima POW Camp.

G. Coxhead, the artist, gave him this skilful and adept composition depicting the camp, which, remarkably, has survived for over 80 years. The sketch represents the broad spectrum of activity and skill possessed by inmates of the camps, from poetry, illustration and well-hidden technical achievement such as radio building. Despite the depraved and pre-medieval behaviour of some of their captors, the indomitable human spirit is one of earth's great wonders.

Donations

Our thanks go to the following donors who can be identified: A **£100 donation** has been made **by Sally Stringer**. Thank you Sally! **Jim Race** has completed a funder-raiser and divided the proceeds between a number of charities, donating **£2,000 to COFEPOW**, for which the charity is both delighted and truly grateful. Thank you, Jim!

On behalf of the trustees of COFEPOW, thank you for your generosity. Every penny donated to the charity goes towards funding the increasing costs of revitalising areas of the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove and for the upkeep of other FEPOW memorials around the country.

Many members, old and new, contribute an additional amount to the charity at the time of joining or when renewing their membership. This is particularly important to mention as we approach the date when annual renewal fees are paid by existing members who are keen to renew, and who may wish to donate a few extra pounds towards the continuation of COFEPOW and its work.

The NMA name change - your thoughts?

Page Two describes the background to the Arboretum's name change announcement. So far, reactions have been mixed...

Following the National Memorial Arboretum's decision to rebrand the location as 'The Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens', many of those who hold visiting the Alrewas site close to their hearts have expressed misgivings about the change.

The principle reservation surrounds the loss of the word 'Arboretum' and its replacement with 'Gardens'. The RBL claims many visitors are unsure of the meaning of the word 'arboretum' and believe 'Gardens' is less formal, perhaps more accurate descriptively and generally more welcoming. The decision to change 'Memorial' to 'Remembrance' is less straightforward. Both words have slightly different meanings, in that 'Memorial' engenders an image of constructed monuments, tombs and collective, formal parades: 'Remembrance' as a word evokes an atmosphere of personal reflection and quiet, individual thought. It is possible, therefore, that the RBL's intention is to promote the site more as a place for individual rather than organised, reflection.

Other reaction to date has been fragmented, with cancelled subscriptions and discontent posted quite openly: some claim introducing 'The Royal British Legion' to the title will enforce the image of the location as a military provision, when clearly many memorials there are of civilian origin. Arguments against the change claim the location is built within the National Forest: the founders wished to keep the land's history but differentiate it, thereby entitling the original project 'Arboretum'. Many suggest leaving out the RBL from the title would ease through the name change. Others suggest just adding 'The Royal British Legion' as a prefix to 'National Memorial Arboretum' would work just as well.

This is a business decision, of course, and the result of extensive research. But as a COFEPOW member, what do you think?

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



Photographs courtesy of Daish Hotels.

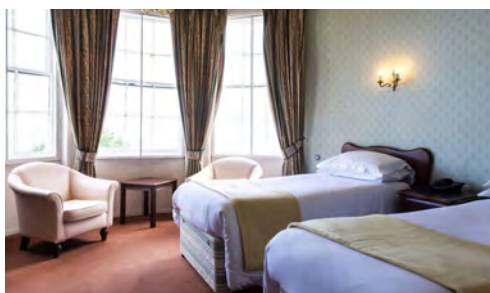
COFEPOW is putting together another weekend reunion, this time in Scarborough. This popular north Yorkshire east coast location retains all the old world charm of an English seaside resort and is perfectly located for COFEPOW members to enjoy a Spring break with old and new friends, over a relaxing few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

Chris Wills reports on a trial weekend at the Esplanade Hotel to evaluate the hotel as a weekend location...

"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." Continued overleaf.....

Continued from previous page...

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. 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, whilst if anyone wishes to book after 1st August, the full amount will be due immediately.

"I have now received the contract for Scarborough, confirming that our reunion will be going ahead. There is an amendment to the information provided in the last newsletter. The £30 per person deposit is now due to be paid by 1st September and the remaining balance due by 12th January 2027. So, if you wish to join us, please forward your deposit, as indicated below to secure your place. Any rooms booked from now, will be booked only on availability."

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 3915726.** Please indicate it's for Scarborough and include your name. When payment is made by direct debit, please let Chris know that it has been made. Thank you.

Chris Wills, National Events 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 and a sandwich/salad and cake, plus a hot or soft drink (any food purchased on top of 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 contact Chris Wills, as shown below. Should you wish to join us for the lunch, 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: 39157268. 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

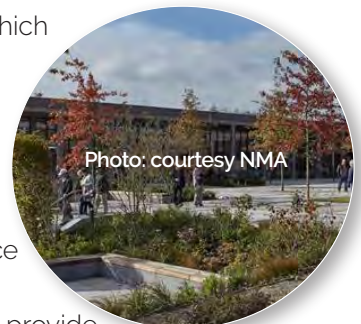
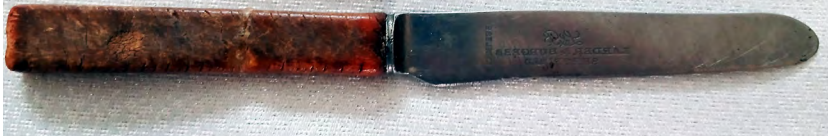


Photo: courtesy NMA

Butter knife or surgical scalpel?



Daughter leaves legacy of chilling artefact for charity's safekeeping

Nick and Sylvie Bullen Bell are proud to be current custodians of a small number of precious mementoes from POW camps in the Far East, treasured for over eight decades by FEPOWs and their families.

The items are deeply significant relics of a profoundly evil military force during the war in the Far East, and are examples FEPOWs would be entirely familiar with during their captivity. Nick takes up the story of the items coming to COFEPOW, and the recent hand-over....

"Thomas Arthur Marshall, service no. 6027108, served as a Surgeon's Assistant with the RAMC on the Death Railway in the Far East. Lewisham-born Tom died in 1968 from complications after ulcer surgery, attributed to his time as a POW.

"After his daughter, Judith Marshall, recently died, instructions had been left with Rhodda & Co LLP Solicitors, of High Street, Clacton-On-Sea, Essex, to facilitate the wishes in her Will, and bequeath Tom's mementoes to COFEPOW. Consequently, the firm contacted David Brede, COFEPOW Chair, who agreed that, living close by, my daughter, Maria and I might take the trip to Clacton on a sunny day in March 2026 to collect the bequest.

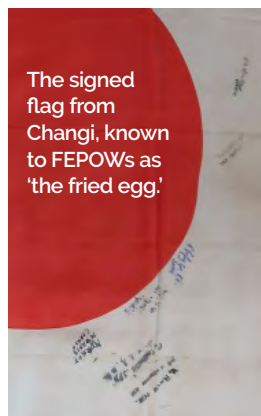
"Viewing the items, we were immediately struck by this man's bravery, resilience and compassion. We even learned how, after the war, he rejoined the service to fight in Korea, where he was wounded twice and Mentioned in Despatches. After returning from this second conflict, he re-signed up with the military for another 22 years! What an incredible man.

"Judith left correspondence from Tom's time as a POW, including bank notes, confirmation of his survival after being torpedoed, release notes, editorials, service pay books and more. The 'scalpel' - an ordinary table knife which was sharpened, honed and used whilst assisting the legendary Colonel 'Weary Dunlop' in Bandoshi, Tijmah and Bandung, and then again under RAF Flying Officer, Maurice Kinmouth, who later became a plastic surgeon. This basic, Sheffield-made knife, has many



Above: a cutting from a press article including a shot of Tom Marshall of the RAMC.

Centre: the notches on the underside of the handle.



notches in the handle. To sum up Tom's stoicism and the significance of his work in circumstances where this knife would have been used, when asked what they were for, would retort "Oh, just a few little jobs I did". One can only surmise if the notches signified the number of operations he assisted in (or worse). It is a valuable reminder of why the charity exists, and why irreplaceable evidence of the hardship endured like this, should be cherished and displayed to honour this man and his work in combatting the vile brutality of the enemy. Who can imagine the suffering of those poor souls suffering from the effects of wounding, disease, maltreatment and starvation, who were to undergo medical procedures, often with the only anaesthetic, in Tom's words, "a swift up-percut to the jaw?"

"A Japanese flag 'liberated' from Changi and signed by POWs was also amongst the material of interest in the legacy.

"On behalf of COFEPOW and all the trustees, I would like to offer a huge thank you for the kindness of Louise Lilley, Mary Liddy and all the staff at Rhodda & Co in Clacton, who were instrumental in carrying out Judith's wishes."

Thank you Jack



"By pure chance, Sylvie and I came across a gentleman and his wife whilst at the NMA, who wished to give COFEPOW a bag of items. The bag contained books - 'Kill the Prisoners' by Don Wall, and 'The Death Railway and Bridge on the River Kwai' - plus photos and a section of a railway sleeper with a plaque on it, which read "Lest we forget. Section of a railway sleeper from the Siam Burma Railway constructed by Prisoners of War 1942-1945." The man's name was Jack Everill, of Middleton, Nr. Tamworth, Staffs., and we thanked him for his kindness and care, as he wanted "a good home" with COFEPOW for these artefacts."

Colonel Rob speaks at Wymondham Service

This year's Service of Remembrance at the Wymondham Church of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury FEPOW Church on Sunday 17th May, was complemented by a speech by Colonel Robert Lucas, who was almost 3 years old during the invasion of Malaya, where he lived with his soldier father and family. Extracts are reproduced here...

"It is a great privilege and an honour to be invited to talk to you today as we remember our Far East Prisoners of War. I would like to thank my supporters club, that is my wife, my children and the granddaughter of Alan Clark for being here today. I am going to talk briefly about my father, Capt. Bob Lucas, Major Alan Clark and Capt. Stanley Pavillard. All of them were captured and imprisoned in Singapore. My father was a regular soldier in the Royal Artillery and was posted to Penang in Malaya in March 1939.

“My mother and I followed soon after. I was 6 months old at the time.

"My father was promoted to Warrant Officer and then commissioned in Sept 1940. My brother Tommy was born in July 1941, and life was idyllic and carefree. Also in Penang was Alan Clark with his wife, Daphne and son Jeremy. Alan worked as an accountant for the Municipal Government and was a Major in the Straits Settlements Volunteer Force. Our lives dramatically changed on 8th Dec 1941 when Japanese forces invaded Malaya. They advanced quickly down Malaya and Penang was heavily bombed, leading to the European population being rapidly evacuated to Singapore. My father was sent to 9 Coast Artillery Regiment in Singapore, to continue the fight.

"My mother, Tommy and I, along with many other families, arrived in Singapore in a dishevelled and bewildered state. We were then evacuated on 29th January 1942, on the liner 'Duchess of Bedford', the last ship to successfully reach England. Very sadly, my brother, Tommy, caught sepsis and died and is buried at sea off Sri Lanka. My mother and I arrived in Liverpool and stayed with my grandparents.

"Meanwhile, Daphne Clark, a trained nurse, was determined to stay in Malaya to help care for the wounded, much against her husband's wishes. Also on the train from Penang was Daphne's sister-in-law, Dorothy Clark and her son John. Daphne persuaded the authorities that she could stay, and Jeremy could become part of Dorothy's family and be evacuated with them. Dorothy, and her enlarged family, were safely evacuated to Australia. Daphnie stayed behind in Singapore and at the last minute was evacuated, along with many Australian nurses, on a ship leaving for Australia. Unfortunately, that ship was bombed and Daphnie, along with many others, was killed.

At the same time, both husbands were fighting the Japanese and were captured, ending up in Changi and then Havelock Road camp. Working parties were then selected to go to Thailand to work on the Thai/Burma railway. D Battalion was, unusually, a mixed unit, consisting of a company of Gordon Highlanders, a battery of Royal Ar-

tillery soldiers and two companies of Malayan Volunteers. Commanded by Major Clark, with my father as Adjutant, the Regimental Medical Officer was Capt. Stanley Pavillard. Most of the soldiers had been in Malaya and Singapore before the war, so were acclimatised to combat the brutal conditions ahead.

The battalion went by train to Bang Pong on 12th October 1942 and then marched 60 miles to Tarsao, the Japanese Railway Group HQ. Then by barge to Wampo Camp to start constructing the Wampo viaduct, along with other units. Fortunately, the three officers survived and came home to very different circumstances. Capt. Pavillard went to his family home in the Canary Islands, Major Clark was reunited with a young son and no wife, and my father was welcomed home by a wife and one son. What an awful shock that must have been for both men. My father, after some leave, returned to the military, which helped him lead a normal life. I did notice the continuing bond between the three friends. They would attend FEPOW reunions and meet old colleagues. Alan Clark and my father, as they got older, would stay at the Charing Cross Hotel, so they could walk over the bridge to reunions at the Festival Hall. Later, Jeremy and I would escort our fathers, mainly, of course, to ensure they returned safely to their hotel after a few drinks!

"I am indebted to four organisations that helped in my research. They are COFEPOW, the Researching FEPOW History Group, the Malayan Volunteer Group and lastly, the Thai/Burma Railway Centre, which helped me to decide to take my family, all 10 of us, to Thailand, and show them my father's journey along the railway. I timed it for my 80th birthday, which coincided with school half term so my grandchildren could go. The venture was an enormous success and the staff at the Centre were incredibly helpful. Their information on my father and D Battalion, vividly brought to life what happened and enabled me to show my family what their grandfather had been through to give more meaning to our annual 'Act of Remembrance'.

"I hope my talk in this wonderful Church of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury, which is dedicated to the memory of Far East Prisoners of War, goes some small way to keeping that memory and those of all POW's alive today and far into the future."

Colonel Rob Lucas

Zhoushan CHINA, 2026 - Lisbon Maru Memorial Association visit

Robert Golding reports on a magnificent trip to China, to the memorial created by the Chinese to commemorate those hardy, brave local fisherman who saved so many POWs lives following the 'hellship' Lisbon Maru's sinking by torpedo.

The visit sounds fascinating, and describes in detail the magnificent levels of hospitality laid on by the Chinese authorities, whether at memorial locations or on sight-seeing visits to local relevant attractions. Rob takes up the story...



Rob Golding with a wreath featuring father's picture at the memorial.

"This year marked the fourth occasion that relatives of Prisoners of War involved in the Lisbon Maru sinking have been invited by the Chinese Ambassador and the Chinese province of Zhoushan to go to China to pay respects to the POWs and Chinese fisherman involved in rescuing so many that fateful day on 2nd October 1942.

"The Lisbon Maru was a POW 'hellship' sunk by an American submarine. POWs were battered down in the holds of the sinking ship, with a few breaking out and many being machine-gunned in the sea by enemy sailors, before Chinese fishermen in sampans arrived and rescued over 300 POWs from a complement of 1,816.

"Twenty people altogether were invited on the 'China 26' group this year, funded by the Chinese, with the visit taking place between 17th and 24th May.

"The adventure started at Heathrow, boarding a 12-hour flight on Chinese Eastern Airlines to Shanghai. Fortunately, for the first time, no visas were required, so that made things easier.

“The hospitality provided was amazing, with a doctor and nurse even included in our support team in China.

"As one of our group said:

"Wow! Luckily the Chinese professional services were not required, but they were with us - just in case".

"On arrival in Shanghai, we were met by our team of chaperones



and bussed for three hours or so to Zhoushan and our first hotel, the Sheraton, an outstanding start to our trip.

"The following morning it was 'all systems go'. Smart clothes on and we were off after breakfast to the opening ceremony of 'Friendship across Mountains and Seas,' with speeches, presentations and exchange of gifts, followed by a visit to Zhoushan City Exhibition Hall. This was a significant museum, featuring the Lisbon Maru incident ('The Lisbon Maru Rescue Incident: An exhibition of archival records'). Again, Wow! It looked brand spanking new, a real tribute to those involved in the Lisbon Maru incident. There was even a wall of POW names, where we searched out our relatives. And, of course, lots of photographs, interviews, etc., as the Chinese Press made sure that the most was made of recording and publicising the visit, and raising the profile of the Lisbon Maru story.



"Following lunch in a hotel, we were off again. This time a two-hour fast boat ride to Quingbang Island (one of the islands in the Dongji Islands group) where the Lisbon Maru memorial is sited. The memorial honours the Chinese

Continued overleaf...

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fishermen who were involved in rescuing POWs in their sampans and bringing them to the island. Quingbang Island has been described as a 'green fairyland' and is quieter than the others in the Dongji group. It's less developed and known for its overgrown, abandoned stone houses cascading down the hills.



"A shuttle-bus ride followed, then a climb to the memorial on the top of a hill, with wreaths in hand for the wreath and flower laying ceremony at the memorial. This was a solemn and heart-wrenching memorial moment for us, as we remembered our relatives, those who died, those who survived, and the Chinese rescuers, some of whose descendants joined us in what was a poignant and tearful event. A once in a lifetime moment, and very precious.

"Then came another special moment - the official tree-planting ceremony in memory of the Lisbon Maru Rescue. All of this was captured for posterity by Chinese reporters and film crews, with video, photos and interviews.

"After this emotional rollercoaster, this highlight of the trip, we were off by boat to Miaozihu Island for an overnight in the Silent Space Hotel, another outstanding venue. There we met up with descendants of Dongji fishermen and made sweet potato rice cakes, just as their ancestors had done for our Lisbon Maru survivors back in 1942, sharing all they had including food stored for winter to feed and clothe survivors who had nothing.

"The following morning, we were off to another Lisbon Maru museum, this time the Lisbon Maru Rescue Incident Memorial Hall on

Miaozihu Island. And again, wow! Artefacts and stories and, poignantly, a ladder recovered at the time from flotsam and jetsam floating in the sea after the sinking of the ship all those years ago. Then an island tour, back for lunch, followed by a two hour boat ride to Zhoushan and a visit to Xingcheng Bay, before returning to the Sheraton hotel.

"The next few days were a whirlwind of visits and tours. On 21st May, the Shenjiamen Fishing Port, the Guanyin Culture Park (and a wonderful lunch in Guanyin village, around the biggest 'lazy susan' round tables I have ever seen). Then a visit to Songhai Greenway and the Five Mountain water conservancy project, an amazing feat of engineering carefully preserving the greenery, topography and ecosystem of the area. In the evening, smart clothes again, and a banquet hosted by none other than the Mayor of Zhoushan. An honour indeed and very rare to have this happen. On behalf of LiMMA, I had the privilege of making the 'thank you' reply when the speeches came round. I was so pleased we had the opportunity to do that, as the hospitality was frankly unimaginable.

"Over the last couple of days, we were off to other venues and a whirlwind of visits around the ancient cultural city of Ningbo. Ancient and modern temples on a magnificent scale, with a Ming Dynasty Library, and, believe it or not, a fantastic modern campus of Nottingham University. Who would have thought that?

"The following day, we visited Hang Zhou, and a phenomenal silk museum, plus a boat trip on the amazing West Lake in Longing and then, once settled into a hotel, down to the street markets and to practice with the Alipay payment app on our phones!

"The next day, Sunday, we set off for Shanghai and home, taking time to process and absorb all we had seen and done and reflect on some amazing Chinese hospitality. The moments of high emotion were something never to be forgotten at the Quingbang memorial: to be there, to look out to the sea where the Lisbon Maru sank and where so many had died, just 3 miles away; to touch the rocks where survivors had been taken; to touch the memorial - and remember. As families of Lisbon Maru POWs, this is our legacy, and our responsibility to never forget those who died, those who survived, and those Chinese fishermen who risked so much and gave so much to rescue so many POWs."

Robert Golding PhD, M.A., B.A (Hons), Dip App Crim (Cantab), FHEA
COFEPOW Hampshire Area Co-ordinator

Article and photographs courtesy of the Lisbon Maru Memorial Association and the Lisbon Maru Relatives and Friends Facebook Page.

Access to Memorial Building archive suspended

Regrettably, all 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 replacement cover for Keith Andrews, who is temporarily incapacitated. Arrangements will be advised in future newsletters.

'Sparrow Force' Memorial renewed and rededicated



Michael Kramer, of the 'Friends of Sparrow Force Monument' group, has this report from Australia and Indonesia about the rededication of the Memorial built to honour those soldiers, many of whom were Tasmanians, who fought a significant battle with the Japanese during the war.....

"The 1,400 men of 'Sparrow Force' came from 14 different units, with approximately 900 of them being from the 2nd/40th Infantry Battalion, and almost all Tasmanians. Sparrow Force was sent to Timor to defend against Japanese invasion. Being forced to retreat from Kupang, they encountered several hundred Japanese, dug in on Oesau Ridge. On February 22, 1942, the battalion made a bayonet charge and overran the Japanese positions in a deadly battle. It is here that the Sparrow Force Monument is now located.

"The memorial was the initiative of the veterans' association of the battalion and was inaugurated on June 16, 1992. 'Friends of Sparrow Force' was formed and a grant obtained from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. With the assistance of Indonesian friends, renovation was completed in 2025, and rededicated this April.

"The local Indonesian community was greatly involved in planning the ceremony, with invitations sent to the local high school, residents, the owners of the land, Australians living in Timor and to several government bodies.

"About 40 attended the ceremony, hosted by Angela Hosang from Kupang, who had spent some of her childhood in Toowoomba. She held the service in both Indonesian and English, as the background to 'Sparrow Force' and the battle were described, with thanks going to the Kapitan family on whose land the monument stands and also to those involved in the renovation. Prayers were given, addresses were read by Indonesian officials, readings were made by Paul Cleary, Scott Brunner and Shelley McPhee, and a minute's silence was observed.

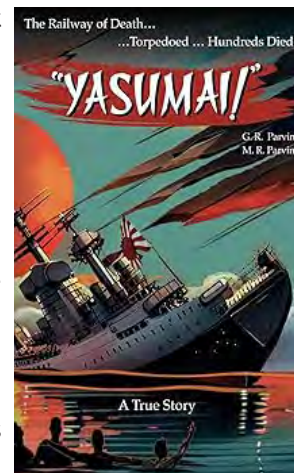
"The ceremony was organised by Frans Wayan of the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA), assisted by members of the NTA."

Michael Kramer

'Friends of Sparrow Force Monument'

Dad's 1950's book updated

COFEPOW member, Mark Parvin, has re-published his father's book, entitled 'Yasumai', the Japanese for 'Stand at Ease'. The work was originally written and published in 1958 by George 'Rol' Parvin MBE, and sold very well. Mark has added to the book considerably and it is now on sale again.



The original work covers Rol Parvin's time as a POW. First

captured in Singapore, he went on to work on the Thai/Burma 'Death' Railway, and was later on board the 'Hellship' Kachidoki Maru when it was torpedoed and sunk. Recaptured, he was taken to Tokyo, only to witness the city's horrific fire-bombing in 1945. In Mark's revised version of the book, his research into US Navy submarine Pampanito's sinking of the 'Kachidoki Maru' enables him to describe what happened to other prisoners and various Japanese guards who were aboard.

The book is augmented by the addition of Rol's biography, including his life before the war, his voyage and arrival back to a London in ruins after release, and his career path until his death in 1997.

Rol's professional life blossomed on his return, working for the 'Eagle' comic and War Picture Library magazines among many others. Life had settled down for him, until the horrific murder of his beautiful daughter in 1968, in what became a ground-breaking case.

Rol Parvin introduced a number of publishing innovations during his career and was thus awarded the MBE for services to the industry, following his retirement in 1982.

For anyone interested in the journey taken by Mark's father and how the experience influenced his life, the paperback is available from Amazon at **£10.99 plus p&p**. For further details, Mark can be contacted by email at: **mark.parvin@gmail.com**

New members


www.cofepow.org.uk


Become a member

Name	Location	e-mail	FEPOW (if applicable)
Michael Mear	Wales	michaelmear1@icloud.com	Father - Walter Mead - 6HAA, Royal Artillery.
Shelyn Ponsford	Kent	tarpond@hotmail.com	Grandfather - Eric Norman Ponsford - N/A.
Frank Bigley	Derbyshire	fibigley@gmail.com	Grandfather - John Henry Bigley - 1/5th Sherwood Foresters
Dawn Marshall	Denbighshire	dawnw80@hotmail.com	Grandfather - Father - Evan Cyril Parry - Royal Signals
Joan Williams	As above	As above	As above
Kevin Gray	NSW, Australia	grayk2112@gmail.com	Uncle - Ernest John Parsons - AIF 2/30 Battalion
Jayne Nicholas	Swansea	jaynelouisenicholas@gmail.com	Great Grandfather - Thomas James Blake - Royal Artillery.
Caroline Wolfe	Staffordshire	cgwolfe125@gmail.com	Father - Peter Henry Gay Allen - 18th Division, RA.
Nicola Martin	Kent	eastbox11@gmail.com	Grandfather - Raymond James Martin - 21st Squadron, RAF.
John East	As above	As above	As above - Grandfather-in-law.
Annette Hughes	Birmingham	Cranedriver1964@live.com	Grandfather - Edwin William George Eversll - 85th Tank Regt. RA
Terry Farman	Norfolk	lynnandtel@btopenworld.com	Father - Donald Raymond Farman - 4th Btn., Royal Norfolk Regt.
Caroline Carr	Donegal	cecarrfal@gmail.com	Research.
L Elliott	Cheshire	spikeelliot@btinternet.com	Father - J ames Elliot - 1/5 Sherwood Foresters.
Stephen Paramore	Sheffield	sjparamore@googleemail.com	Uncle - Leslie - RASC.
Graeme Craig	Durham	cmagpieg@aol.com	Uncle - James Edward Hart - Royal Artillery.
Ian McCleod	Surrey	lanhulkmcleod@gmail.com	Research.
Susan Dalgliesh	Kent	Susan@dalgliesh.org.uk	Father - Norman Huston - Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.
Sharon Ingle	Lincolnshire	Sharoningle@hotmail.com	Gt. Grand Uncle - John W.S. Jolly - 5th Royal Norfolk Reg't.
Paul Harvey	Norfolk	p.s.harvey@btinternet.com	Grandfather - John Reginald Harvey - Royal Norfolk Regt.
Rebecca Donaldson	Essex	Rebecca.donaldson@mail.com	Grandfather - Edward Horace Anderson - Royal Engineers.

DATA PROTECTION: COFEPOW tries to publish brief details of new members in each newsletter, thereby providing email addresses should one member wish to contact another in full confidentiality (one of the original benefits of COFEPOW). In order to remain within the guidelines of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), each member can stipulate whether their name, general location, email address and FEPOW relationship is to be included or withheld. If included, only your local Area Co-ordinator and officers of the charity, who will be conversant with data protection legislation, will be informed. All new memberships listed here are up to and including 12th June 2026. Any bylines, credits and contact details within articles are also included with the originators' approval.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING MEMBERSHIP LISTINGS: A technical issue with the transfer to a digital membership system in September 2025 meant some new members' details were not included in the newsletter listing, despite the member's authorisation. This problem has now been resolved: any member who has joined since that date, whose details were not included in the newsletter at the time, may wish now for them to be added. If so, please contact Graham Robertson, Membership Secretary, at the email address below.

PAYMENT REMINDER TO COFEPOW MEMBERS: COFEPOW pays for the upkeep and daily running of the FEPOW Memorial Building and Grove at the NMA, to help ensure our FEPOWs are never forgotten. The trustees of the charity welcome each new member, therefore, and offer thanks for the financial contribution each membership fee and donation provides in continuing our work. We also hope you will feel able to continue with your membership into the future.

Paying On-line: The simplest means of payment is via the COFEPOW website at www.cofepow.org.uk where an easy guide to joining and donating is available. Once you join online, you will automatically create a Direct Debit for renewals a year later.

Paying by Direct Debit or Bank Transfer: Could you please ensure your bank Direct Debit or BACs mandate indicates your name or the name of the person on whose behalf you are submitting payment, and that you indicate what your payment is for, e.g., 'Membership and John Smith'. Thank you.

Paying by cheque: Please note, it's almost August and it's time to renew for 2026/27. If you pay by cheque, please forward your payment of £15.00 for single membership and £21.00 for joint, made payable to COFEPOW, with a note of who the payment is for, to **Graham Robertson, 1 Curlew Close, Watton IP25 6TQ. Tel.07786051573. email: membership@cofepow.org.uk**

Paying by PayPal: Regrettably, PayPal is no longer accepted, following administrative issues.

Graham Robertson, Membership Secretary.

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 £4.25 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 £4.25 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 £4.25 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 £4.25 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 £4.25 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 £4.25* 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. Two different packs 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 £0.91 p&p.

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

Help us ensure remembrance



...Continued from previous page.

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 £4.25 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 £4.25 p&p.



Poppy woven badge

featuring the COFEPOW name.

£2.50 plus £0.91 p&p.

Woven COFEPOW badge

Can be attached to clothing.

£3.50 plus £0.91 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 £4.25 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 £4.25 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 £4.25 p&p.**

How to order.

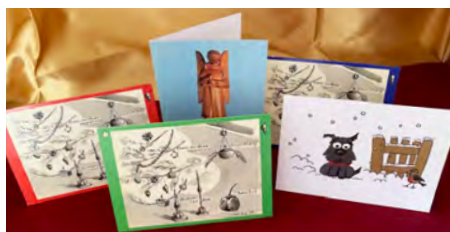
COFEPOW produces a range of merchandise to promote the charity, out in the community.

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.

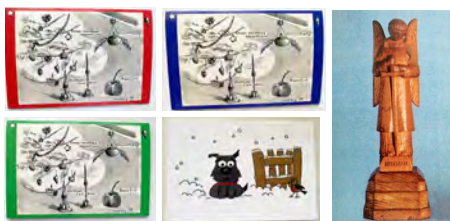


NEW!

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 £4.25 p&p.**

26 'Echoes of Captivity' **£9.50 plus £4.25 p&p.** and 27 'Eric and Scrunchball' **£4.90 plus £4.25 p&p.** Both by Louise Reynolds. Normal retail price £12.99.

28 'Surviving the Japanese Onslaught' **£6.50 plus £4.25 p&p.** Normal retail price £19.99.

29 'Escape from the Japanese' **£6.50 plus £4.25 p&p.** Normal retail price £19.99.

30 'When You Go Home' **£5.00 plus £4.25 p&p.**

31 'Nagasaki' **£20.00 plus £4.25 p&p.**

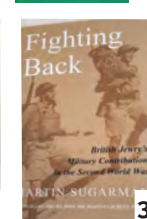
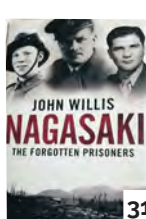
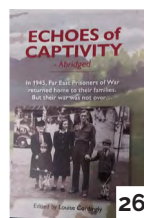
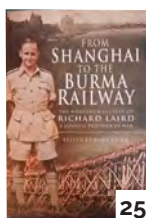
32 'In the Shadow of the Rising Sun' **£9.00 plus £4.25 p&p.**

33 'Fighting Back' **£10.00 plus £4.25 p&p.**

34 'Under the Heel of the Bushido' **£10.00 plus £4.25 p&p.**

35 'Unsung Heroes of the British Army' **£10.00 plus £4.25 p&p.**

36 'Unsung Heroes of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines' **£7.50 plus £4.25 p&p.**



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.

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Membership Secretary: GRAHAM ROBERTSON email: membership@cofepow.org.uk
M: 07786 051573. Address: 1 Curlew Close, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 6TQ.

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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**

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



www.cofepow.org.uk



Become a member

Help and information

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

Amanda Johnson: Haruku/Ambon and Moluccas (Spice
Islands) email: amanda@dcodetranslations.co.uk

Agnes Dougan: 155th (Lanarkshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment,
Royal Artillery. email: agnes.dougan@live.com

Jean Roberts: 3rd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Saigon Party.
email: jeanadrianroberts@gmail.com

Steve Mockridge: Jesselton, Sandakan and Kuchin.
email: smockridge@sky.com

Keith Andrews: Singapore Coast Regiments and A.A. Artillery
and Thailand. email: scubaka@yahoo.co.uk

Colin Docketty: Rabaul and Ballalae Island.
email: colin.docketty@gmail.com

Frank Clark: Saigon. email: paghnamfrank@gmail.com

Thailand-Burma Railway Centre: All things related to the
Thai-Burma railway. email: admin@tbronline.com
Address: Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, Kanchanaburi,
Thailand: www.tbronline.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.su47@gmail.com
or **Pauline Simpson** of NFFWRA,
email: pauline761@btinternet.com

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1. Birmingham and the Black Country	Annette Hughes	cranedriver1964@live.com
2. Cambridgeshire	Andrew Sharpe	Cofepowcambridgeshire@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
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18. Oxfordshire	Mike Clarke	mikeclarke27@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.