

# SEAMAN Leonard Arthur

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**Name:** Leonard Arthur Seaman

**Born:** 16 July 1920

**Rank:** Corporal

**Service Number:** 5773320

**Unit/Regiment:** 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
The Royal Norfolks

**Died:** 12 September 1995



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## Pre-War:

Leonard, better known as Len, was born in Harleston, Norfolk in 1920 to parents William and Agnes. Len, like his father was a farmer and army reservist.

## Wartime experience:

Len was posted overseas with his regiment and was part of the 'bloody' battles in Singapore before being forced to surrender in February 1942. Originally held in the infamous Changi PoW Camp, he was then taken to work on the Thai/Burma railway which came to be known as the 'Death Railway'. Assisting in the construction through 'Hellfire Pass', named as such due to the horrendous brutality and conditions and many deaths. Many of Len's comrades perished at the hands of the Japanese. In October 1943, following the completion of the railway, he returned to Changi PoW Camp. On the surrender of the Japanese in 1945, Len was eventually repatriated to England, leaving Singapore in September 1945, arriving in Liverpool having travelled by ship for many weeks.

No heroes welcome for the Japanese PoWs, known today as the 'Forgotten Army'

## Post War:

Initially, Len settled in Blackburn for a few years, with his first wife and had 3 sons. He later divorced and subsequently met Ethel the love of his life, they were together for over 30 yrs and had a daughter, Joanne. Len worked for the Ambulance Service and latterly for many years after, until his retirement, the County Council. Len was actively involved with helping the local Lancashire community of Darwen, a committee member at the Liberal Club, often seen tending the gardens and bowling green. A familiar figure to many in Darwen, he would often be the go-to person for help, always had a kind word or useful advice or right piece of equipment for a job... usually found in his garage where he spent many an hour just pottering around.

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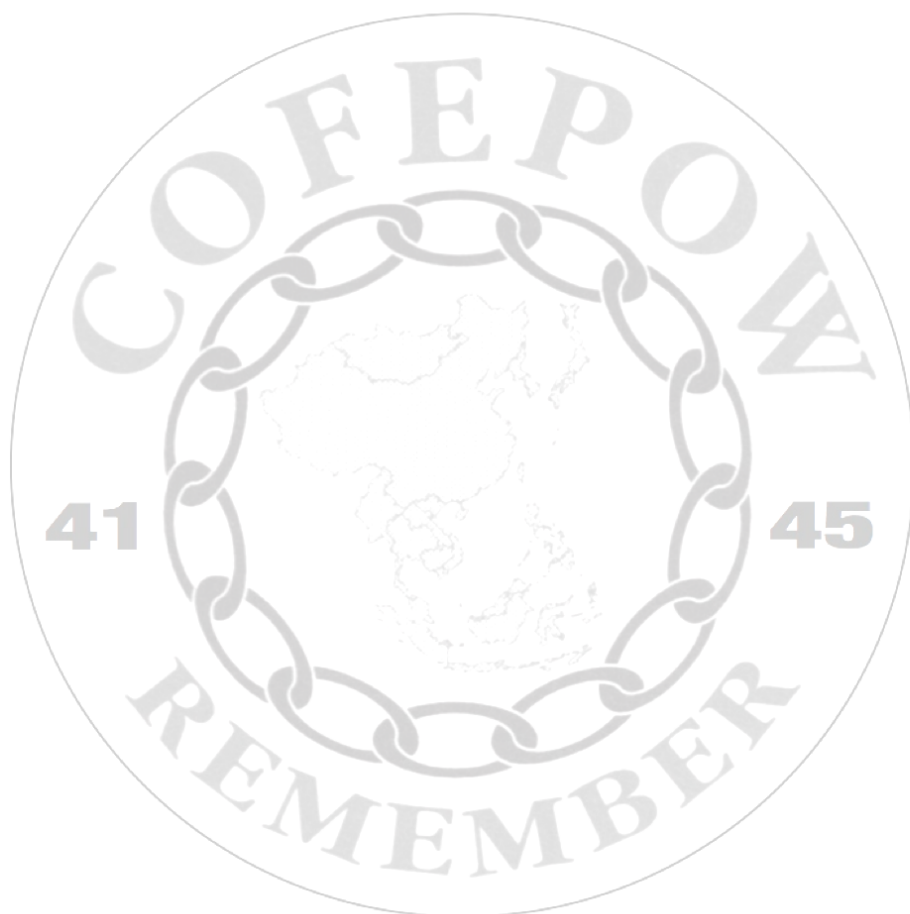


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Sadly, Len passed away in September 1995 with a befitting tribute and turnout at his funeral showing how much he was thought of and respected, he is buried in Darwen Cemetery.

At The Going Down Of The Sun We Will Remember Them

*The above information and wording has been provided by Joanne Lambert (daughter)*



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