



A Message from our Provincial Grand Master

Brethren, I hope that you will enjoy this summer edition of the Surrey Keystone, which provides something slightly different. Our focus is on the 75th anniversary celebrations of VJ Day on 15th August and our Editor has looked at this from two differing perspectives.

We are experiencing difficult times currently but let us reflect on the sacrifice and suffering by so many during the Second World War that we may live in peace. We are provided with a short insight into the war effort of one of our members W Bro Roy Miller, the Vice Chairman of the Burma Star Association, and Bass Trevethick the father in law of our Editor. Let us celebrate the end of the war and the efforts of many such men.

Earlier this month I was pleased to visit Roy and make a donation from our Provincial Benevolent Fund to the Burma Star Memorial Fund to mark the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day.

I take this opportunity to once again thank the members of the Surrey Allied Masonic Degrees and the Surrey Scarlet Cord for their further generous donations to the 2022 MBF Festival.

We have of course sometimes missed the opportunity when not meeting during lock down for Lodges to donate charity collections, raffles and for other fund raising opportunities to the festival. I was therefore particularly heartened that in one Lodge some members have donated the cost of a missed Festive Board, together with a raffle or charity donation to their Lodge funds as a donation to the Festival. Such contributions make a huge difference and I do thank them for that, whilst appreciating that not every member is in a position to do so. It's certainly something for Lodge Charity Stewards to consider, again, as always, I stress that we should only give what we can afford.

With temperatures in the mid thirties for several days, I have been thinking of W.Bro. Simon McCarthy out riding his bike every day around the roads of Surrey and Hampshire in his quest to cycle 2022 miles for the Festival. He is over halfway there and his progress can be followed on our web site. Please support him with donations if you are able but also with encouragement, he appreciates both.

Our Annual meeting in March had to be postponed and you have now all received notification that we are to hold a **Virtual Business Meeting on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 7pm**. I hope that you will make time for that meeting and demonstrate your continued support for this great Province.

We are now half way through August and our attentions will start to focus on the year ahead. We are still restricted and for some it is too early to return to physical meetings, whilst others are keen to get back to meeting their Brethren in their Mark Lodges.

I cannot be clearer in my message that there is no pressure on anyone in our Orders to physically attend meetings, if the time isn't right. I do though ask that we continue to keep in touch with each other, and look after our more vulnerable members.

We will meet again, until then, keep safe and well.

VJ Day

Today is the 75th anniversary of VJ Day. This would usually be celebrated with parades, remembrance events and other celebrations. Veterans of the Far East campaign would have been at the heart of commemorations as the nation thanks them for their service and sacrifice.

However, given the ongoing corona virus pandemic, the VJ Day 75 celebrations have been put on hold in the same way that VE Day celebrations have.



Today marks the day on which Imperial Japan surrendered in World War II 75 years ago. Despite the battle against the Nazis coming to an end, and Hitler dead, Japan stood firm and war continued to rage on in the Pacific where Japan, a key German ally, fought off the advancing US army.

On August 6th and 9th 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 10th the Japanese government communicated its intention to surrender under the terms of the Potsdam Declaration.

A little after noon Japan Standard Time on August 15th 1945, Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's acceptance of the terms of the Potsdam Declaration.

Earlier the same day, the Japanese government had advised the Allies of the surrender by sending a cable to U.S. President Harry S Truman via the Swiss diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C.

A nationwide broadcast by Truman was aired at 7 p.m. in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, August 14th announcing the communication and that the formal event was scheduled for September 2.

In his announcement of Japan's surrender on August 14th, Truman said that "the proclamation of V-J Day must wait upon the formal signing of the surrender terms by Japan"



On 2nd September, 1945, the Japanese Instrument of Surrender was formally signed on board USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

This issue of the **surrey keystone** is a 6 page edition to commemorate those who gave so much all those years ago.

A Presentation to the Burma Star Memorial Fund

To commemorate VJ Day our Provincial Grand Master made a special donation to the Burma Star Memorial Fund.



The Burma Star Memorial Fund is a charity dedicated to the legacy and commemoration of all those who served in the Allied forces during the Burma Campaign of the Second World War. Through their scholarship programme they are creating a network of scholars from around the world who will tackle the global public health challenges of the future. They are supporting scholars studying in Global Health and Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology.



The donation was gratefully accepted on behalf of the Fund by W.Bro. Roy Miller, PProvGInspWks, a distinguished Mason and the Vice Chairman of the Burma Star Association.

Bonus Ball Update

Congratulations to the July Bonus Ball winners:



Richard Knox of Welcome Lodge, Chris Eley of Richmond Lodge, Steve Aveline of Kintore Lodge, Bernard Quigg of Ditton Lodge, Ian Smith of Weyside

Lodge, Mick Clay of Woodgrange Lodge, Seth Barakzai of Croham Hurst Lodge, Steve Dingvean of Woodgrange Lodge, David Bleming of Pleydell Bouverie Lodge and Colin Bryson of Cranleigh Centenary Lodge. To purchase a ball see:

<http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/bonus-ball.html>

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Festival Fund. For more information see:

<http://www.markmastermasons.org.uk/news-0391.html>

Support for our Festival from other Masonic Orders in Surrey

Due to the suspension of Masonic activity the Annual Meeting of the **Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey in the Order of the Scarlet Cord** was held as a Virtual Business Meeting using the Zoom video conferencing tool.

Attending the meeting was the Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian Stanley Currans, and over 170 Companions from Provinces and Districts all over the world.

At the meeting the Grand Summus formally confirmed R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, as

the Provincial Grand Summus for the Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey.

The Provincial Grand Summus announced that this year they will be once again supporting our Surrey Mark 2022 Festival with a donation of £1,000. Dist.Comp. Ian Clark, our Provincial Grand Master, thanked the R.Dist. Provincial Grand Summus and the Companions for their kind donation.

On the 20th July 2020 the Installation meeting of the **Fratres Calami Aerariique Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1704** was held, by dispensation, at Croydon. To ensure compliance with government guidelines, and instructions from Mark Masons Hall, the meeting was held in the Wheeler Temple at Croydon, which is large enough to ensure that social distancing rules could be observed.



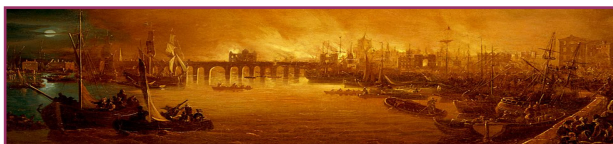
Before the meeting started the District Grand Prefect of the **Allied Masonic Degrees**, John French, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, took the opportunity of

presenting a cheque for £1,000 to our Provincial Grand Master towards the Surrey Mark 2022 MBF Festival.

RW.Bro. Ian Clark thanked John and the Brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees for their kind donation, which brings the total donations from **Surrey AMD** to £4,200.

At the meeting VW.Bro. Chris Eley was installed as Worshipful Master in a very socially distanced way by the Installing Master, W.Bro. Barry Selway, **PGStdB**.

As we were unable to hold our Annual Meeting in March due to the suspension of all Masonic activity, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Ian Clark, had much pleasure in confirming W.Bro. John French as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W.Bro. Bill Barr as Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and investing them with their chains of office.



Nothing Changes

On hearing ill rumour that Londoners may soon be urged into their lodgings by Her Majesty's men, I looked upon the street to see a gaggle of striplings making fair and merry, and no doubt spreading the plague well about.

Not a care had these rogues for the health of their elders!

Samuel Pepys Diaries - London 1664



the surrey keystone

VJ Day Edition

75 years ago, the Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's acceptance of the terms of the Potsdam Declaration and the surrender of the Imperial Japanese Army. To commemorate this day we tell two of the many thousands of stories of men who served in the Far East.

W.Bro. Douglas Roy Miller, Royal Navy

Roy is a well-loved, popular and highly respected Mason who has dedicated his Masonic life to the Royal Arch Province of Surrey serving as Second Provincial Grand Principal, having previously been Provincial Grand Scribe E for a number of years.

Roy was advanced into the Mark Degree in Croydon Mark Lodge No 168 at the age of 91. Present was the Provincial Grand Master and all the members of the Provincial Executive.



A year later Roy was installed into the Chair of the Lodge and, following his Installation, the Provincial Grand Master made a field appointment to Past Provincial Grand Steward, which made this a very special day for Roy.



Two years later Roy joined the Order of Royal and Select Masters. The ceremony of Select Master was undertaken by Chris Eley, assisted by Richard Baker who entrusted Roy with the secrets of the Degree. At 94 years of age Roy was probably the oldest candidate to join the Royal and Select Masters in Surrey.

Roy is an ex Royal Navy man having joined the Training Ship HMS Ganges as a Boy Seaman 2nd Class in 1940, aged 16.

He progressed through Ordinary Seaman and Able Seaman to become a Petty Officer; and later commissioned as a Warrant Officer specialising in close range defence on Bofor guns and Pom Pom anti aircraft guns. For this Roy was sent to HMS Excellent Gunnery School on Whale Island in Portsmouth.



Following his training he joined the HMS Indomitable, a modified Illustrious-class aircraft carrier of the Royal Navy, and sailed for Gibraltar.



Roy's first action was in August 1942 participating in Operation Pedestal, a last attempt to relieve the besieged island of Malta.

Fourteen merchant ships were allocated to it and the Royal Navy provided the most powerful force ever to escort a convoy, including four aircraft carriers. Operating from Sardinia and Sicily, the Germans and Italians let fly with their shore-based aircraft on an unprecedented scale. The losses on the British side were appalling, but the objective was achieved and the blockade of Malta was finally lifted.

During the operation Indomitable was hit by two 500 kg bombs by Ju 87s and suffered three near misses; a 500 kg bomb penetrated the unarmoured portion of the flight deck, causing damage that required her to withdraw for repairs.

Roy returned to Whale Island in Portsmouth for more training and was

then posted to Scapa Flow where he joined the HMS Bramble, a Halcyon class minesweeper, on the Russian convoys carrying out local minesweeping and patrol duties, as well as escorting in and out bound convoys.

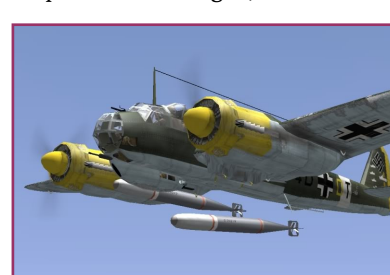


Roy left HMS Bramble in November 1942. Just over a month later, on the 31st December 1942 in the Battle of the Barents Sea HMS Bramble, which had been detached to search for stragglers, was returning to the convoy when she encountered the German Cruiser Admiral Hipper and three destroyers. The Admiral Hipper promptly opened fire with her 8-inch guns. HMS Bramble returned fire, but was overwhelmed and finally sunk with all hands.

Roy rejoined HMS Indomitable and went to the Mediterranean to cover military convoys to Central Mediterranean. He was part of Force H deployed in the Ionian Sea to prevent interference by the Italian Navy during landings in Sicily.

The Allied invasion of Sicily, codenamed Operation Husky, was a major campaign of World War II, in which the Allies took the island of Sicily from the Axis powers

On her first operational deployment since returning from repairs for the bomb damage she sustained during Operation Pedestal, HMS Indomitable would again be hit. This time by a torpedo from a single Ju88 which had slipped through Force



H's screen unchallenged.

Swinging in low among the fleet, the German bomber loosed a single torpedo.

The force of the explosion tore a 28ft square hole and

compressed the skin along a large section of the ship's side. Flooding was fast and extensive, and the carrier rapidly lost speed to seven knots as the port boiler room flooded.

The ship rapidly heeled to 12.5 degrees as water rushed in.



Counterflooding reduced the severity of the list and Indomitable was capable of making her way back to Malta at 14 knots.

Indomitable's pumps were able to control and reverse the flooding. These

measures, combined with the calm seas, saved the ship.

It was a slow but steady journey. Indomitable reduced her speed to just 11 knots for fear of worsening the gaping hole in her side. She moored in Grand Harbour, Valletta, shortly after 12.30pm. After 10 days of intense efforts HMS Indomitable was judged seaworthy for the return to Gibraltar.

On July 29th her 10 remaining serviceable Albacores and 34 Seafires were flown off to RNAS North Front. Indomitable herself was moved into dry dock the next morning. After just one day, she was judged capable of crossing the Atlantic to Norfolk, Virginia, with a skeleton crew on board.

On Tuesday August 31st, Indomitable secured alongside at the Norfolk, Virginia, naval shipyards. It would take eight months before she could be restored to service. Roy spent four months in the USA before being sent back to Whale Island, Portsmouth, for further training.

Roy rejoined the HMS Indomitable when she returned to the Eastern Fleet in early 1944. They later launched strikes on the Nicobar Islands, after which Indomitable joined up with HMS Victorious for air strikes against Medan and Sumatra on 20th December 1944.



The following year, Indomitable joined the British Pacific Fleet. On 4th January 1945 HMS Indomitable, her sister ship HMS Victorious and another fleet carrier HMS Indefatigable attacked Medan. Operation Meridian was part of a series of British air attacks directed at Japanese-held oil refineries on Sumatra. The first attack was an air strike on the oil refinery at Pladjoe, north of Palembang, Sumatra on the 24th January.



Forty-three Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers, twelve Fairey Firefly fighter-bombers with rockets and fifty Grumman Hellcat, Vought Corsair and Supermarine Seafire fighters were launched.

They approached with the sun behind them and diving from 9000 feet to 3000 feet released their bombs.

The fleet refuelled again and on 29th January, the second raid was an air strike against the oil refinery at Soengei Gerong, Sumatra, was undertaken.

Allied aviators claimed 30 Japanese planes shot down in dog-fights and another 38 destroyed on the ground, for the loss of 16 British aircraft.

A small Japanese counterattack was attempted, but was defeated by fighter cover and anti-aircraft fire. The Task Force refuelled for the final time on 30th January and sailed for Fremantle, Western Australia, where Roy disembarked.

The HMS Indomitable participated in the support of the Allied invasion of Okinawa (Operation Iceberg). On 4th May 1945 she was hit by a Kamikaze, but her armoured flight deck saved her from serious damage. In August, with the war ending, Indomitable supported the liberation of Hong Kong, arriving after a landing party from HMCS Prince Robert had taken the Japanese surrender. Her aircraft flew the carrier's last combat missions of the war, and of her career, on 31st August and 1st September 1945 against Japanese suicide boats which were attacking British forces. At the end of the war HMS Indomitable returned to the UK in November 1945 bringing back a number of Far East Prisoners of War.

Roy came back to the UK from Sydney on the Cruiser, HMS Devonshire, which was outfitted for use as a troopship at the end of the war to bring our troops back from the Far East.



Roy served in the Royal Navy for 7 years on the fleet and for 5 years as a Royal Naval Reserve. For his services to the war effort Roy was mentioned in dispatches by his Commanding Officer.

Roy joined the Burma Star Association after the war and was a founding member of the Epsom Branch with Douglas Burford and Don Boydell.



In 2016 Roy went to Downing Street for the Royal British Legion "Poppy Appeal".

The Royal British Legion was asking the nation to "Rethink Remembrance" by recognising the sacrifices made not just

by the Armed Forces of the past, but by today's generation too.

Roy is currently Vice Chair of the Burma Star Association. The Association exists to relieve need, hardship or distress among men and women who served in HM and Allied Forces or the Nursing Services in the Burma Campaign of the 1939-45 war.



**WHEN YOU GO HOME TELL THEM OF US AND SAY
FOR YOUR TOMORROW WE GAVE OUR TODAY**

THE KOHIMA EPITAPH

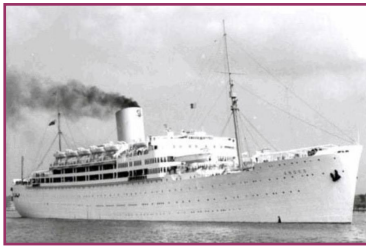
Stephen Bassett Trevethick, RAF

Bass Trevethick was the Father in Law of one of our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, VW.Bro. Chris Eley.

Bass always took a keen interest in his son in law and his Masonry. He and his wife, Edna, were guests of honour at Brenda's Ladies Night.

Bass was a Medical Orderly in the Royal Air Force and a Far East Prisoner of War from March 1942 to September 1945.

He joined the Royal Air Force in April 1941 and attended the RAF Medical School in Harrogate.



In December 1941 he boarded the HMT Andes

in Liverpool bound for Durban via Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Cape Town. There he transferred to the HMT City of Canterbury to Batavia, Java, Dutch East Indies, via Singapore, arriving in February 1942.

Two weeks later he left Batavia arriving in Tasik Malaja, Central Java, where he was taken prisoner by the Japanese on the 8th March 1942. This followed the fall of Singapore on February 15th 1942; 9 days after Bass' ship had left for Java.



Bass was moved around various prisoner of war camps in Java before being transported on the Amagi Maru in April 1943 to Haruku Island via Ambon arriving in May 1943, a journey of 4 weeks.

After 7 months he was moved to another POW Camp in Borneo and then back to Java.



There were more than 140,000 Allied prisoners in Japanese POW camps. Of these, one in three died from starvation, work and punishments, or from diseases for which there were no medicines to treat. The terms of the Geneva Convention were ignored by the Japanese who made up rules and inflicted punishments at the whim of the Camp Commandant.

Camps were encircled with barbed wire or high wooden fencing and those who attempted escape would be executed in front of other prisoners. In some camps the Japanese also executed ten other prisoners as well. Escape attempts from Japanese camps were rare.



Camp accommodation was generally in barracks and prisoners were given mats to sleep on.

Very few of the Japanese guards spoke English and internees were forced to learn Japanese in order to

understand commands they were given. Failure to comply with instructions would merit a beating. Tenko was the name given to the daily roll-call and prisoners had to call out their prisoner number in Japanese.

The majority of prisoners were put to work in mines, fields, shipyards and factories on a diet of soya beans and seaweed and all were continuously hungry. They survived on barley, green stew, meat or fish once a month and seaweed stew. Red Cross parcels were not distributed to the prisoners but kept by the guards.

Those that suffered the worst conditions and hardship while Japanese prisoners of war, were those that were sent to build the Burma-Thailand railway.

They were expected to work from dawn to dusk, ten days on and one day off, moving earth, building bridges, blasting through mountains and laying track. They survived on a meagre diet of rice and vegetables and illness was common.

Prisoners suffered from malnutrition, ulcers and cholera.

Another Dawn – Another Day

Haruku Island, The Maluccas – 6 am, June 1943

He stood there in the atap hut, a lone figure among the sixty patients looking out of the atap shuttered aperture which served as a window in the atap wall.

His sleep-denied gaze travelled across the narrow clearing adjacent to the hut, over the barbed wire and adjoining scrub; between coconut palm trees, over the downward-sloping land to the mist resting on the sea. The air was cold, for it was dawn. Nothing stirred, but to his ears came the sound of the ebbing sea lapping on the nearby beach.

Slowly the light increased and, as slowly, the mist cleared revealing the sun on the horizon laying down a path of light to the beach. Now he could see, quite plainly, the green of the vegetation-clad island some five miles away across the channel between the islands and even discern the white beach stretching along the water's edge. Peace and quietude enveloped him.

As the sun's warmth increased it brought the dawn breeze more power and the palm fronds rustled expectantly. The smell of the sea reached his tormented nostrils and he breathed deeply. A moment of exquisite peace settled over him. Another dawn – another day.

"Orderly!" The feeble cry took a long second to reach his quietened brain and galvanise him to action. He turned automatically. Once more the pungent smell of dysentery assailed his nostrils – biting and tearing at the nerves, striking at the top of his nostrils, hitting and corroding his stomach.

Once more he saw the one-time men, now mere life-endowed skeletons covered with strips of blanket or lying near-naked on the bamboo shelf which served as a communal bed. Having attended to the needs of the body of the patient he walked slowly down the ward.

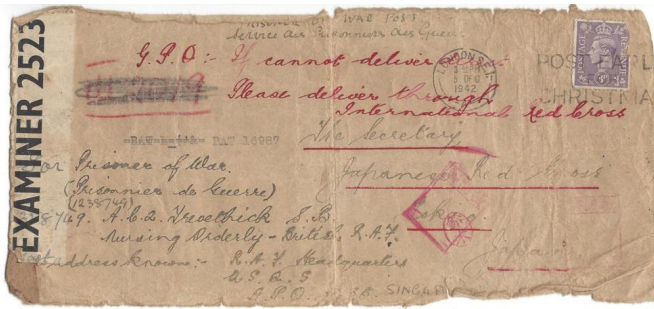
A boy with but four hours of this life left to him needed cleaning, his body performing without the conscious use of the brain. Here, a bedsore must be covered before the giant blowflies stirred and feasted and propagated on the expanse of slough. There a skin-covered pattern of bones representing a man needed easing on the kit which served as a pillow. And permeating everywhere the diabolical smell of dysentery.

Then a smile changed his face as a convalescing patient painfully attained a sitting position and asked, "How long to breakfast?"

Outside the sun shone stronger. Another dawn – another day.

S B Trevethick, Nursing Orderly, Royal Air Force

For the first three years of his internment Bass' family had no news and were told he was missing presumed killed.



During his captivity Bass received 11 postcards and letters from home - in two deliveries. In most cases the message was heavily censored and restricted to 25 words.



After being moved around a number of POW camps in Java Bass ended up in January 1945 in Keppel Road Camp in Singapore.

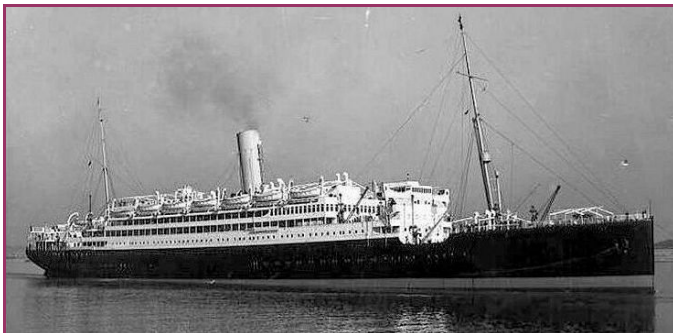


On August 16th 1945 the Singapore Japanese Command capitulated and on September 5th the Allied Occupation Troops arrived.

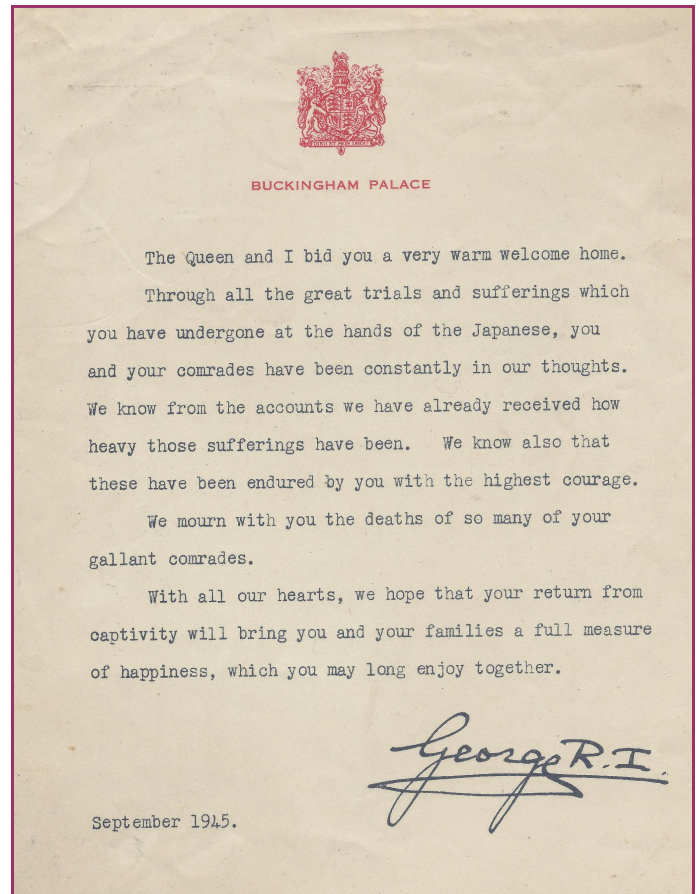


Photograph taken at Tandjong Pagar Prisoner of War Camp, Singapore, by a member of the British Army Field and Photographic Unit of released Prisoners of War on Wednesday 5th September 1945. Bass with medical bag back row 4th from the left. Published in the Daily Sketch on 24th September 1945.

Bass boarded the RMS Almanzora on the 15th September.



He sailed via Colombo and Port Said arriving in Southampton on the 17th October 1945.



Bass never spoke much about his experiences as a P.O.W. but spent most of his later years supporting others through F.E.P.O.W, the Far East Prisoner of War Association, where he was their Secretary.

In his latter years Bass, with his wife Edna, attended many F.E.P.O.W. Tenko reunions, as well as Services of Remembrance in August for VJ day and at the Cenotaph in November for Remembrance Day.



Bass went on F.E.P.O.W. pilgrimages to the Far East to visit the places he was interned over the three and a half years as a prisoner of war. They visited the Imperial War Graves Commission Cemeteries in Jakarta and Ambon, as well as Haruku Island where he was interned for six months.



*And we that grow old with the years
Remembering the heartache, the pain and the fears.
Hoping and praying that never again
Men will sink to such sorrow and shame.
The price we paid we will always remember
Every day, every month, not just in November.
We will remember them.*



The F.E.P.O.W. Prayer

TO KEEP GOING THE SPIRIT THAT KEPT US GOING