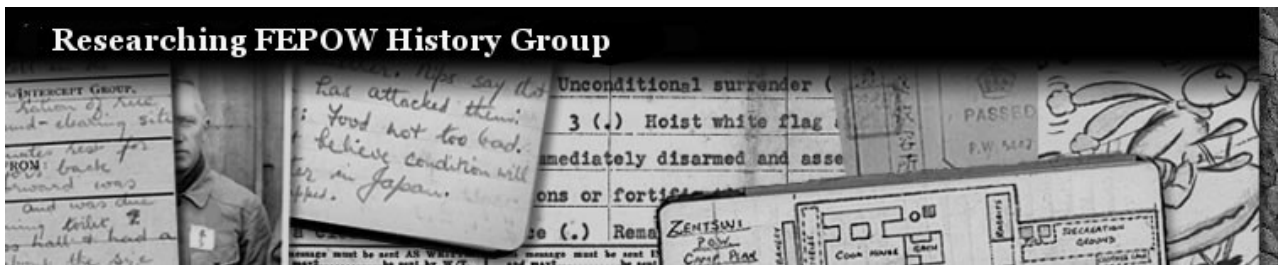


Researching FEPOW History Group



Information Sheet

The story of the Far Eastern Prisoners of War (FEPOW) experience is a complex area of study. There are many myths and inaccuracies covering the events of the Japanese invasion of the Pacific: from the bombing of Pearl Harbour December 7 1941 to the final rescue of FEPOW from places such as Nagasaki in late September 1945 and the journey home.

Those who survived were lucky. Many suffered the horrors of deprivation and disease in places like Singapore, Burma and Thailand building the infamous Death Railway, the Hellship voyages, Sumatra, Borneo, Java Indo-China and the Celebes islands, and in the factories of Japan.

Many FEPOW found it hard to forget the brutal treatment, starvation and slavery at the hands of the Japanese. Thousands did not survive, and those who did rarely spoke of their life as prisoners of the "Empire of the Sun".

Further information can be obtained from the following links:

www.researchingfepowhistory.org.uk Researching FEPOW History Conferences held every two years in the UK

www.iwm.org.uk The Imperial War Museum in London has an outstanding collection of books, documents and memorabilia relating to the FEPOW story (Appointment to visit archives advised)

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk The National Archives at Kew hold information on FEPOW including individual questionnaires completed by the men post-war. There are independent researchers at Kew who can be contacted for assistance

www.cofepow.org.uk The organisation run for the children and families of FEPOW

www.cwgc.org The Commonwealth War Graves Commission holds the details of all servicemen and women who died in the two world wars, plus civilian casualties who were killed by enemy bombing, and who are buried in their cemeteries or commemorated on memorials in the UK and abroad

www.nationalmemorialarboretum.org The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire is home to the museum dedicated to the story of the FEPOW. A short section of the Thailand-Burma Railway is on display in the memorial garden

www.tbrconline.com The Thailand-Burma Railway Centre is a private museum next to the CWGC cemetery in Kanchanaburi, Thailand and is also a major research centre

www.awm.gov.au The Australian War Memorial in Canberra has archives and material pertinent to the Australian FEPOW story as well a good image library

www.mansell.com US based centre for research about Allied POW under the Japanese (includes Japan POW Camp rosters)

www.fepow-community.org.uk One of the most active FEPOW related websites with regular updates

Additional links from these websites provide a wealth of information relating to the FEPOW.

The FEPOW story is being shared more widely than ever before providing valuable information and insight for those who have an interest in this relatively unknown aspect of WWII history

Contact Researching FEPOW History Group via website (opposite) for more information about research conferences for both amateur and professional historians and researchers.