

CAMP Frederick

Name: Frederick Camp

Born: 2 March 1912

Rank: Sergeant

Service Number: T/158048

**Regiment/Unit/Station:
Royal Army Service Corps**

Died: 17 July 1983



Wartime experience:

Fred was born in Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield on 2 March 1912 and in 1920 the family moved to Leeds. Fred married Annie Johnson in 1932 and had two sons, one born in 1933 and the other in 1936. He had an exemplary military record as follows:-

15.01.1940 – Attested RASC Leeds
24.01.1940 – Posted Yorks & Lancs – Driver
29.02.1940 – Posted 226 Company
11.03.1940 – Promoted to Lance Corporal
03.04.1940 – Posted T/port Det. Tewkesbury
04.04.1940 – Promoted Corporal
10.04.1940 – Embarked North West Expeditionary Force (Norway)
30.06.1940 – Posted 'D' Co 1 'H' Co.
13.07.1940 – Posted 'D' Co 1 Hlding Bn Weybridge
13.01.1941 – Posted to 'E' Co 1 Holding Bn RASC
19.03.1941 – Posted to RCiHL
21.03.1941 – SS Duchess of York sailed from Liverpool to the Clyde to form part of WS7 Convoy
24.03.1941 – Clyde to Freetown (WS7)
07.04.1941 – Freetown to Cape Town (WS7B1)
20.04.1941 – Cape Town (WS7C) Dispersal at sea (SW7X) – Bombay
07.05.1941 – Bombay to Colombo (escorted)
11.05.1941 – Colombo to Singapore (escorted)
14.05.1941 – Arrived Singapore

15.05.1941 – Disembarked, attached to 28 Line of Command Brigade Coy. 43 Reserve Motor Transport Coy.

01.06.1941 – Promoted to Sergeant. It is unknown where he was stationed prior to the fall of Singapore.

22.01.1942 – Made his Will

15.02.1942 – Taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore, No. 2/161 (His Japanese Record Card in the National Archives – Camp 2 is Sarangoon Road)

28.04.1942 – Left Singapore for Bangpong as part of 'F Force', Train 11. Marched in the monsoon rains to No. 2 Camp Songkurai

Sep/Oct 1942 – Tanbaya Hospital – Beri beri.

20.12.1942 – Returned to Changi. It is unknown when or how he left Singapore or where he recuperated.

25.11.1945 – Returned to the UK from Overseas 'Y' List. (The only POW ship to dock on 25 November 1945 was SS Mauretania, docking at Liverpool. She sailed independently from Bombay on 03.11.1945 to Suez arriving on 16 November 1945. Departed Port Said on 19 November 1945 bound for Liverpool.

27.05.1946 – Released to Class 'Z' Royal Army Reserve



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Civilian life after return:

Medical Record: Fred suffered with Beri-beri; perforated ear drum and Malaria. His last bout of Malaria after being dormant for many years, was 18 months before he passed away.

Fred and Annie divorced in 1946 and he went on to marry Betty Doyle in 1947. Margaret was born in July 1949. Margaret goes on to say:-

We were a very close and happy family. Dad surprisingly, was remarkably fit post war, going back initially to his gardening/chauffeuring job, progressing into the tyre trade where he became a manager. Redundancy inspired him to do what he always wanted to do i.e. be his own boss. He and mum bought a corner shop – grocery & mixed, going on to own successive fish & chip shops. Carrying on working well after retirement age, his health started to let him down. Type 2 diabetes and unfortunately, cancer. He battled with this for a number of years finally passing away in July 1983, six months after his eldest son and 20 months before his wife, Betty.

Dad could keep you entertained all evening with hilarious stories about his time 'up the railway' but like his peers, never talked about the horrors that they endured. He let us know, just before his death, by buying the book 'One Man's War' by Stan Arnell (whom he knew), passing it on to his grandson, pointing out a photo of Songkurai, saying that, that was where he was a prisoner, from which we were able to glean some idea of the time.

Since my retirement in 2012, I have researched a great deal, shedding many tears along the way, having got to the point where there are still some gaps in the story but surprisingly have been able to gather more than I originally anticipated, thanks to the wonders of the internet. I have now written his story for future generations in the hope that they do not have to endure such atrocities



Above: Photos of Dad with colleagues in Singapore



Left: Dad with two F.A.N.Y.s (Beryl and Daphne) taken post 1 June 1941

Written with thanks for Dads return and in remembrance of those who were not so 'lucky'.

Margret Walton (nee camp) Member of COFEPOW 2017



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