

WALL Joseph

Name: Joseph Wall

Born: 28 June 1919

Rank: Fusilier

Service Number: 4275439

Regiment/Unit: X Company, 9th
Battalion, Royal Northumberland
Fusiliers

Died: 9 December 2008



Pre-War:

Joe, as he was known, was born in Wallsend situated on the river Tyne and left school at the age of 14. Aged 15/16 years he obtained employment at the Singer Car Manufacturing Plant located on the outskirts of Birmingham, securing board and lodgings and remained there until returning to Newcastle to enlist in November 1939.

Wartime experience:

Joe attended his examination by Newcastle Medical Board No1 on 3rd November 1939 and enlisted into the RNF 15 December 1939 reporting to Fenham Barracks. He departed October 1940 from Liverpool on board the 'Warwick Castle' heading to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he transferred to the USS Orizaba (Deck E No.8 Berthing Card) en route to Deolali via Port of Spain, Capetown, Bombay, Mombasa. Following training in Deolali he returned to Bombay to board the MV Felix Roussel, destination Singapore and was part of the surrender of February 1942 and subsequently detained in Changi. 3 November 1942 – Joe left Changi as part of "O" work party via train and arrived at No.4 POW Camp, Thailand (Tarso), on the 14 November and put to work on the Thai-Burma Railway under the command of the 9th Railway Regiment IJA. He remained on the railway until 3 July 1944 when he was placed on a 'Hell-ship' bound for Japan, arrived in Japan 10 August 1944 - POW Camp Osaka 17B – later re-named Nagoya 5-B Yokkaichi (probably put to work at a Chemical manufacturing plant).



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Joe recorded that upon Japanese surrender the camp was spotted by aircraft from the carrier HMS Indefatigable which dropped food, cigarettes and Sunday papers! Joe left Japan circa 4 September 1945 on board the Dutch Hospital Ship - Tjitjalengka. They stopped at Manilla, Pearl Harbour, and arrived at Vancouver on 11 October 1945. Crossed Canada on the Canadian Pacific Railway, arriving at Halifax Nova Scotia on 15 October 1945. He then departed Halifax bound for Southampton on board the "Ile de France" arriving 30 October and arrived back at Newcastle Central Station on 2 November 1945.

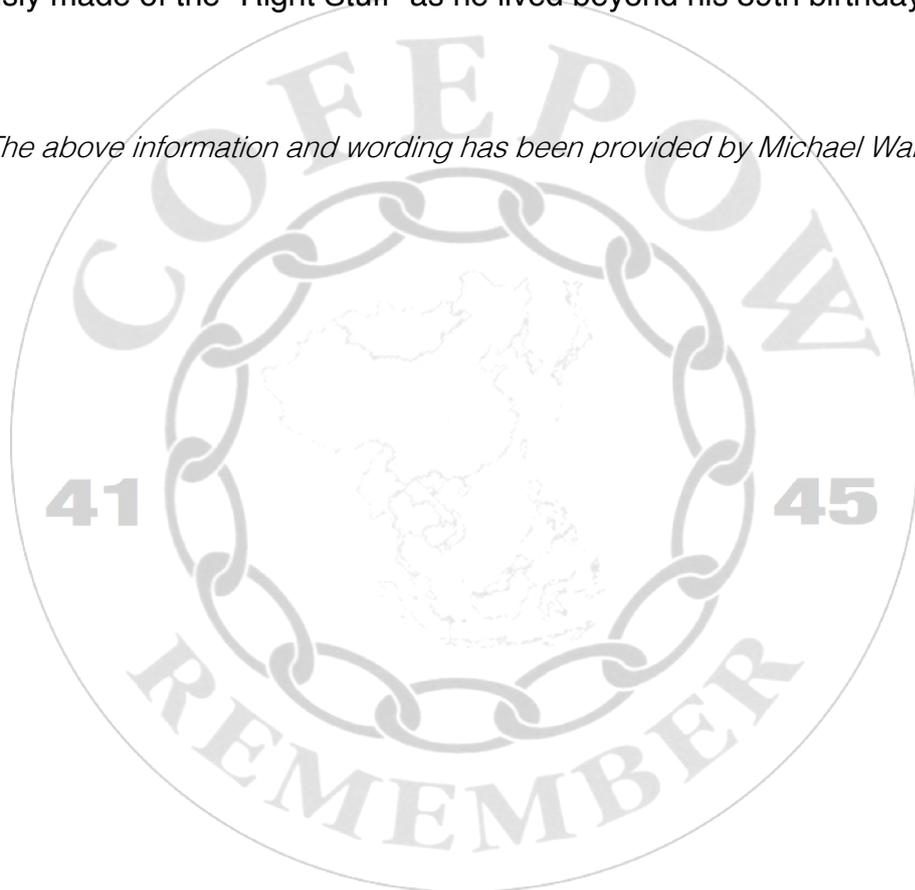
Civilian life after return:

Joe met and married Nora in 1946 and raised a family (Two daughters and three sons – sadly Pat, the eldest died only months after birth). He worked for the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) firstly at Stella Power-station located on the river Tyne near Wallsend and subsequently at the new Blyth Power-station (commissioned 1959) until he took early retirement in late 1970's.

Like many others he rarely talked of his wartime experiences although his health did suffer, not least from the recurring bouts of malaria he endured which took their toll on him.

He was obviously made of the “Right Stuff” as he lived beyond his 89th birthday.

The above information and wording has been provided by Michael Wall (son).



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