

# ELLMORE William George

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**Name:** William George Ellmore

**Born:** 31 August 1921

**Rank:** Gunner

**Service Number:** 1807008

**Regiment/Unit/Station:** 21<sup>st</sup> LAA,  
79 Battery, B Troop, Royal Artillery

**Died:** 19 August 1989



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## Wartime experience:

Bill as he was known enlisted on 15 May 1941. He embarked on the SS Warwick Castle part of Convoy WS14, from Gourock in Scotland, bound for the Middle East then re-routed to the Far East. The Convoy sailed at 23.00 on 8 December 1941 from Gourock to Freetown, from Freetown to Cape Town, then on to Tandjong Priok, Batavia (now Jakarta). He was captured on 8 March 1942 at Gareot, Java and spent a year in Tandjong Priok camp, before being taken to Liang on Ambon. In May 1944, Bill was returned to Java on the Tencho Maru, where he spent time in St Vincentius Hospital and was then moved on to Cycle and Bandung camps in Batavia. He embarked on the HMS Celicia for his return journey to England and home, via Ceylon and the Suez Canal.

## Civilian life after return:

Bill returned to work with his father in their coal merchant business which he continued to run until he retired in 1985. On coming home from the Far East he met Patricia Petre who he married in 1948, they had 3 children and lived in Barking, Essex. Sadly, Bill died on 19 August 1989 just short of his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Not knowing of her father's wartime experiences, his daughter Lesley started researching FEPOWs in the late 1990s and was lucky enough to meet some of his comrades who he thought had been left in the Far East, and they him.

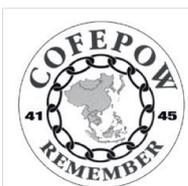
From 2008 she has been Chair and Treasurer of The Java FEPOW Club 1942 supporting the remaining FEPOWs, wives and widows with welfare and camaraderie.

<http://www.thejavafepowclub42.org>

*The above information and wording has been provided by Lesley Clark (Daughter)*

*Additional information provided by Keith Andrews – COFEPOW Head of Research*

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