

WELLS Horace George

Name: Horace George Wells

Born: 7 March 1919

Rank: Private

Service Number: 943506

Regiment/Unit: 148 Field Regiment
Royal Artillery

Died: 13 August 1983



Pre-War:

Horace, also known as 'H' was a motor mechanic.

Wartime experience:

Horace enlisted in 1939 and, as he was able to drive, he became a driver for his superior officers and was also a 'batman' to the Colonel.

He was captured at the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942 and held in Changi POW Camp. He left Singapore on 6 November 1942 as part of 'L' Party under the command of Lt Col. A B Cubitt (also known as ABC) of the 6th Royal Norfolks. His first camp would have been Ban Pong, a transit camp at the start of the Thai-Burma Railway. He was allocated to Camp 1 or Work Group 1.

We know very little else at this point except that he was handed over to the Allied Powers in Bangkok on 30 August 1945.

Civilian life after return:

On his release in August 1945, after surviving 3 years of atrocities, he returned home to Birmingham, his wife Edna and his young daughter Hazel. Being a POW obviously affected him in a bad way and he often suffered bouts of ill health, including malaria. He never spoke of those awful times to Edna or his children.

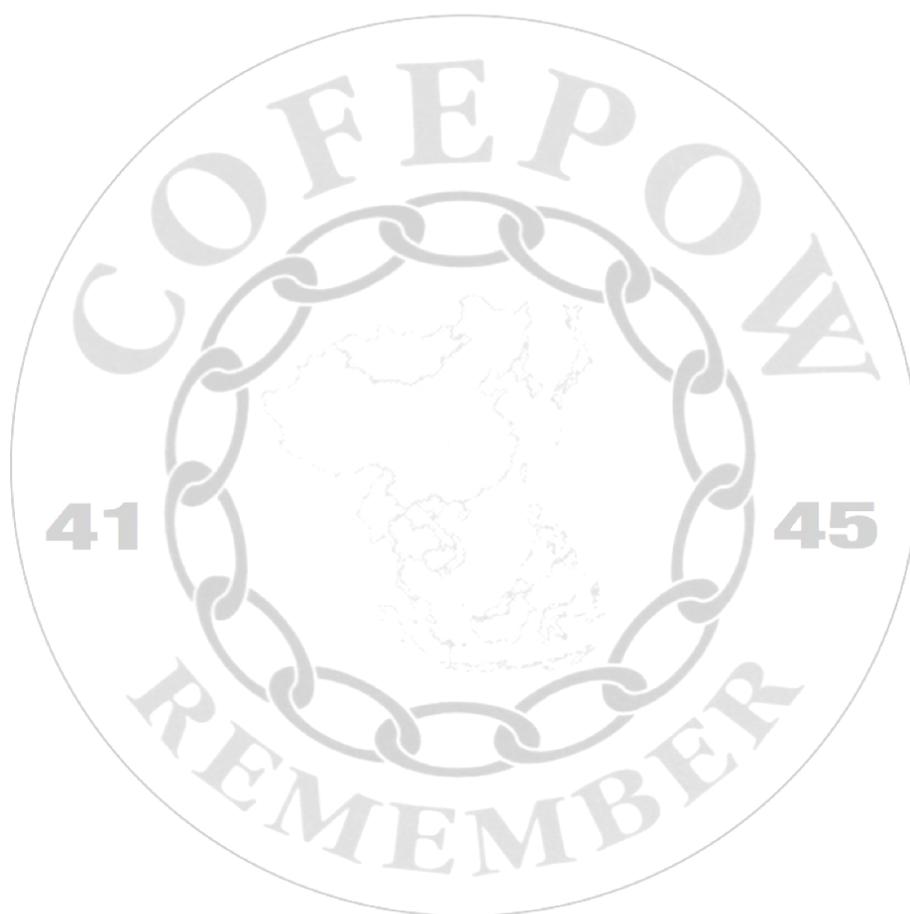
Horace and Edna went on to have 8 more children – 7 daughters and 2 sons. It was a happy household most of the time! Although there were a lot of children, it wasn't a noisy, as Horace didn't like a lot of noise. He was quietly spoken and very rarely shouted or raised his voice. He was a lovely gentle man, a loving husband and a lovely father.



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Sadly, he died on 13 August 1983 at the age of 64, after suffering a bad stroke and a few weeks later a heart attack. He has been sadly missed.

The above information has been provided by Aileen Wolsey (daughter) on behalf of the family with additional information provided by Keith Andrews, COFEPOW Head of Research



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