Australian prisoners of war: Second World War Prisoners of the Japanese: Sumatra

Background information


Online resources

Use these resources to identify further information or particular items in the collections relevant to your interests:

- **Collections Search**: includes photograph and art images, film, private records and sound collections [www.awm.gov.au/search/collections/]
- **Roll of Honour** records the names of service men and women who died during or as a result of service with Australian military forces [www.awm.gov.au/research/people/roll_of_honour/]
- **AMF Prisoners of War and Missing in the Far East and South West Pacific Islands** [www.awm.gov.au/research/people/prisoners_of_war/]
- **RecordSearch**: database of official records held by the Memorial and the National Archives of Australia [www.naa.gov.au/collection/using/search/]
- **Books database**: search for published material including books, journal articles, maps, microfilmed collections and websites [www.awm.gov.au/collection/books/]
- **Stolen years: Australian prisoners of war** online exhibition [www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/stolenyears/ww2/japan/]

Official records

Official records held by the Memorial include:

- Statements by Sister Vivian Bullwinkel and Sister Nesta James. AWM54 553/6/2
- Account of railway construction in Sumatra by allied POWs 1944-1945. AWM54 815/2/9
- War Crimes and Trials. Affidavits and sworn statements by Sister Vivian Bullwinkel. AWM54 1010/4/24 A & B
- CARO Compendium of statistical information. Includes data on AIF prisoners of war working parties and their movements and names of Australian POW nurses shot by Japanese or drowned after the bombing of the Vyner Brooke in Sumatra. AWM127 2
- Nominal roll of women and children in Palembang including Australian civilians and Australian Army Nursing Service. AWM127 72

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Private Records

Private records held by the Memorial include:

- C.J. Ashton (Captain, 13th AGH AIF, POW). Recollection of events leading up to her capture on Banka Island, transport of Palembang Women's camp and of life as a POW in camps at Muntok and Loebok Linguar, Sumatra, 1942-1945. PR87/080
- John A. Frederick Fisher (Warrant Officer 2, 8th Div RAAOC AIF). Report written by WO2 Fisher outlining the escape from Singapore 15 February 1942 of members of the Unit, their passage to Sumatra and eventual departure for Ceylon and return to Australia. PR88/138
- Betty (Agnes) Jeffrey (Lieutenant, 2/10 Australian General Hospital, AIF). Captivity at Palembang POW Camp, Sumatra. The account records her experiences from the time of the sinking of the Vyner Brooke, her capture and incarceration until release in 1945. 3DRL/1857
- Veronica Turner (nee Clancy) (Lieutenant). Her account of life in the 2/13th Australian General Hospital, the sinking of the Vyner Brooke and three and a half years as a prisoner of war on Banka Island. MSS1086

Books

Books held in the Research Centre include:

- Helen Colijn, Song of survival (London: Headline, 1997)
- Betty Jeffrey, White coolies: an account of the true story which inspired the film Paradise Road (Pymble, N.S.W. : Angus & Robertson, 1997)
- David Nelson, The story of Changi, Singapore (West Perth, W.A.: Changi Publication, 1974). Story of the UK Bureau of Record and Enquiry set up in Changi. Appendices contain a detailed record of the movement of POW parties, commanders of POW parties ex Changi, and Java parties to or via Singapore and Sumatra, as well as other useful information.
- Frank Robinson, Through hell and bomb blast (Waverley, Tas. : F. Robinson, 1982)
- Allan S. Walker, Middle East and Far East, Australia in the War of 1939-1945, Series 5 (Medical), vol II (Canberra: Australian War Memorial, 1953) Digital image available on the Memorial's website [www.awm.gov.au/histories/second_world_war/volume.asp?levelID=67922]

Check with your local library for availability of these books.