Australian prisoners of war: Second World War Prisoners of the Japanese: Burma-Thailand Railway

Background information

The Encyclopedia entry Australian prisoners of war: Second World War prisoners of the Japanese [www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/pow/ww2_japanese/] contains an outline of Australians captured by the Japanese, as well as links to entries on each place of imprisonment.

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/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:

- [8th Division in Captivity - "A" Force (Burma):] Reports on conditions, life and work of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam by Brigadier C.A. McEachern 1942-1945. AWM54 554/2/1A and B
- [8th Division in Captivity - "D" Force (Thailand):] POW Camps, Thailand, Report on Kinsayok Camp and Hospital and Tarsau Base Hospital, 1943-1944. AWM54 554/5/1
- [8th Division in Captivity - "F" Force (Thailand):] History of "F" Force.1945-46. AWM54 554/7/2 PART 1B and PART 2B
- [8th Division in Captivity - "H" Force (Thailand):] "H" Force in Thailand. Medical report and summary of deceased personnel. AWM54 554/8/2
- [8th Division in Captivity - "K" Force (Medical Force):] Report on "K" Force (Medical) 1945-1946. AWM54 554/9/1
- [8th Division in Captivity - Other Thailand Forces:] Medical report of 800 Prisoners of War, March from Nakom Naiyoke to Pitsanloke, May 1945. AWM54 554/17/1
- [8th Division in Captivity - Other Thailand Forces:] Report on Kamburi staging camp by Maj E.A. Rogers. Report on Base Hospital Kanchanburi by Lt Col J.W. Malcom, RAMC QR, Tamuang Camp
Hospital. Medical Report by Maj A.A. Moon, Tamarkan POW Hospital, December 1943, Burma
Thailand sketch. **AWM54 554/17/2**

- [8th Division in Captivity - Other Thailand Forces:] Reports by Lt Col A.E. Coates, Impressions of the Nakom Pakon Hospital, written at the request of the Japanese Imperial Army. Experience as a POW in Burma and Thailand, general report on medical aspects of POW's treatment by Japanese, 1944. **AWM54 554/17/3.**

- [Medical - Attendance on POW's:] Part of medical returns and correspondence handed to medical historian by Lt Col J.G. Glyn White (Includes: Force "L", 15 medical officers 100 other ranks; nominal roll of personnel Australian General Hospital selected for inclusion in Force "L"). **AWM54 481/8/24**

- War Crimes and trials. Affidavits and sworn statements. Searchable by name and service number, various items. **AWM54 1010/-**

Private Records

Private records held by the Memorial include:

- L. Varley (Brigadier, MC, 22nd Aust Inf Bde and POW, Burma d: 1944). Detailed daily record as a POW on the Burma end of the Burma Thai Railway. **3DRL/2681**
- Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop. The papers of Sir Edward Ernest Dunlop include his military and prisoner of war experiences and related post-war concerns. Includes his personal diaries. **PR00926**
- Sir Albert Ernest Coates. Papers of Lt Col Sir Albert Coates relating mainly to his time as commander allied POW hospital Nakom Paton. **PR86/186**
- R.M. Mills (Captain, 2/10th Aust Fld Amb, AIF, POW). Nominal Roll and medical record of "F" Force under command of Colonel Pond, Burma-Thailand Railway, April -November 1943. **PR86/211**
- Roland Frank Oakes (Lieutenant Colonel). Account of the defence of Malaya and Singapore Island, treatment as POW, including Oakes time with "H" Force work and repatriation. **MS S0767**
- George Ernest Ramsey. Includes Ramsay's experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese (when Ramsay commanded 2/18 Battalion, and No 1 Battalion "A" Force), includes report on POW conditions (particularly in camps at Changi, Mergui, Tavoy and Tamarkan). **PR00079**
- A.W. Hence (Captain) MBE. Diary/nominal roll, records relating to Thai POWs at Thanbyuzat and Tamarkan. **PR82/053**

Books

Books held in the Research Centre can be found by searching the Books catalogue [www.awm.gov.au/collection/books] using the keywords Thai Burma railway. Published unit histories may also contain information, photographs and nominal rolls of POWs. Check with your local library for availability of these books.

External sources

- Thai-Burma Railway and Hellfire Pass [http://hellfire-pass.commemoration.gov.au/] is commemorative website jointly created by the Australian National University and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.
- The Thailand-Burma Railway Centre [www.tbronline.com/] is an interactive museum, information and research facility dedicated to presenting the history of the Thailand-Burma Railway. The TBRC has researched the experiences of approximately 105,000 prisoners of the Japanese in South East Asia during the Second World War. They can be contacted regarding this research at admin@tbronline.com.