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No.6



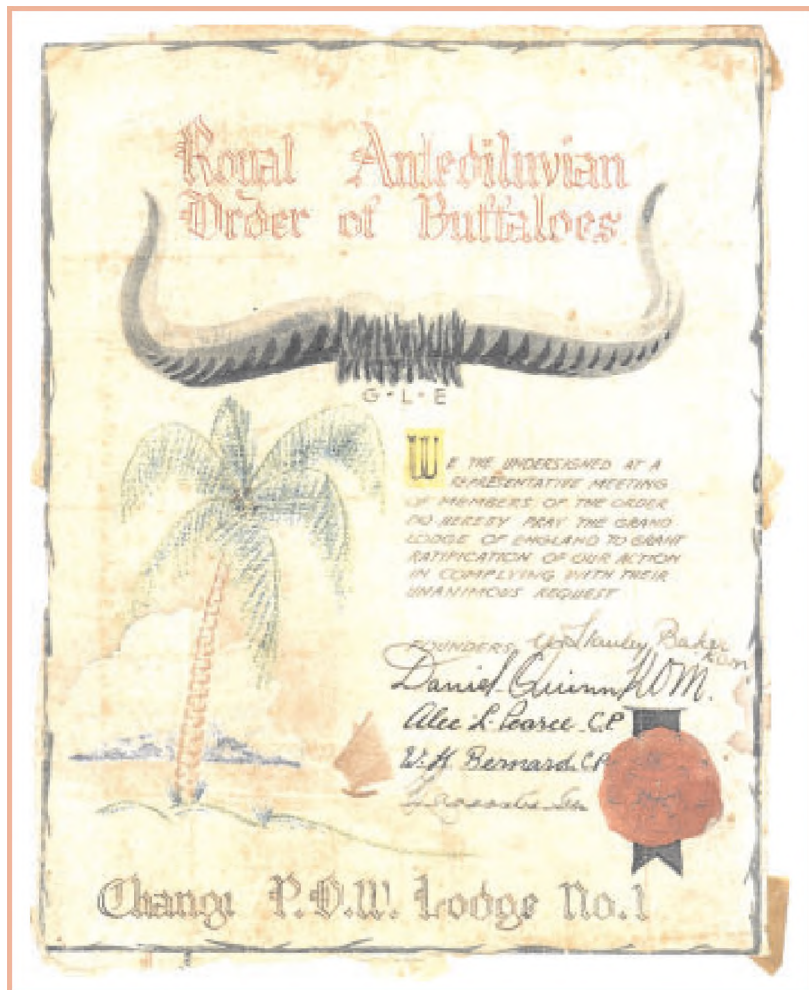
## A History of Changi F.O.W. Lodge No. 1

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Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Grand Lodge of England  
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# A History of Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1



A part of R.A.O.B. history

## Acknowledgement for Information supplied

Mr. N.I. Picken	South Australia
Mrs. M. Barclay	New South Wales
Mr. V.C. Gambling	Queensland
Bro. R. Horwell C.P. (Peel Lodge No. 145)	Western Australia
Bro. W. Nichol R.O.H.	Queensland
Bro. D.R. Denny R.O.H.	New South Wales
Victorian Buff News	Victoria
Victorian Buffalo Museum	Victoria
Bro. Donald Briggs R.O.H.	United Kingdom
Bro. H.R. Williams R.O.H.	Victoria
Bro. A.V. Gray R.O.H.	Victoria
Bro. B. Shrimpton R.O.H.	Queensland
Grand Lodge of Western Australia	Western Australia
Bro. R.V. Cruwys R.O.H.	Western Australia

### Information Researched and compiled by

Bro. I. F. McLeod R.O.H. with further new material by  
The R.A.O.B. G.L.E. Museum, Harrogate and  
Brother Mick Walker.

### Printed by

Bro. M. Walker R.O.H., A. J. Printing on behalf of  
The Grand Lodge of England Museum, Harrogate and the  
South Australian Buffalo Historic Museum, Elizabeth East, South Australia.

### Below: The R.A.O.B. Club Card belonging to: Bro. D.W.Picken



## Foreword

The following few pages are the result of many hours of research into the history of Changi POW Lodge No.1. The reason for this research being undertaken is detailed in one of the following pages.

Many letters (and phone calls) were sent/made in an effort to get as much information on the subject as possible. Letters were sent both within Australia and overseas, with varying degrees of success (as mentioned in the following pages).

As stated later, it was not intended to bring back the horrors that many Brothers (and others) suffered as a result of their time as POW's of the Japanese, but rather to show that in times of adversity, the true spirit of the Order, "In all things essential - unity, in things doubtful - liberty, and in all things - charity", as well as succour and defending Brothers of the Order in times of need, as were these times.

As a result of the precious information received it was apparent that there seemed to be very little recorded information in existence relating to this Lodge and its members, it was therefore decided that some form of documentation be raised to attempt to redress this problem! Whilst there are some surviving members of Changi POW Lodge No.1, still able to tell what they could remember of those days in the hellhole, that was known as "Changi Prisoner of War Camp" and about the Lodge formed there.

As always when doing research of this type, rumours abound that there were/are books either being published or already published, on the subject at hand, however to date (late September 1994), none have been found/located.

So we hope that what we have managed to put together in the following document will be of some interest to the reader, and who knows, maybe we may have to put out an appendix or two?

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you find any anomalies with the text (as we have only put in what we had received), with no editing of any "original materials" or if you happen to find any documentation etc., that you think may be of interest.

Faternally yours,

Bro. I. F. McLeod R.O.H.



## They shall not be forgotten



## CURATORS' VIEWS

Since taking over as Curator of the R.A.O.B. G.L.E. Museum, Harrogate, I have discovered a lot of manuscripts and other documents.

These included some further documentation on the Changi POW No.1 Lodge, which had been donated to the museum. Included amongst these documents is an original Certificate of Brother T. Armstrong K.O.M. who in the 1950's was a Captain in the R.A.M.C., together with letters attempting to find him to return it to him, also other interesting letters.

On contacting Bro. Ian McLeod, the author of the original publication, he readily agreed to the re-publication of it incorporating all the new information.

Together with the help of the Grand Secretary Brother William A. C. Hartmann R.O.H. and Brother Mick Walker R.O.H. we have been able to reproduce this booklet, and as stated by Brother Ian "it is part of Buffalo history that should not be forgotten". If it jogs any memories of documents or stories please do not hesitate to contact us, as who knows what further booklets may be produced.

*Brother Stan Stirman R.O.H., R.A.O.B. G.L.E. Museum Curator*



Brother Ian McLeod R.O.H.  
of South Australia  
compiler and researcher  
of the original Booklet

# THE BUFFS OF CHANGI

## Introduction

The title “The Buffs of Changi” came about simply due to the fact that a small hand-drawn “Dispensation” in an old battered frame was sitting in a Lodge cupboard, far away from the normal gaze of the Brothers. The partial knowledge on the matter of Changi, and what the dispensation meant, kept it from being thrown out years ago. However the Brothers here are now interested in keeping it out in the open, so that all who enter the Lodge will be able to see the item that kept the bond of good fellowship with its members in a place of hell.

After seeing the Dispensation at Norwood Lodge, I sought permission to obtain a few colour copies to ensure that the original would not be damaged by the continual need to remove it from its frame. Permission was granted and copies made and distributed to a few Brothers, I simply sat down and studied both the front and back of the dispensation. As I studied the hand drawn certificate and the drawing of the barracks, I tried to imagine what it was like and who were the Brothers involved in the Lodge formation, more importantly were there any Brothers who were involved with this Lodge, still alive. All this happened around June 1993. and when I started sending out letters to all parts of the globe, in order to try and get a few answers that I needed to solve a small mystery, I now have even more questions, because to know the story of the Dispensation, you must know the story of the members involved because they are Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1.

It has taken almost a year to obtain enough information to put this together and to follow up with even more letters and a couple of long distance phone calls and now at mid July 1994, I can start this research story by admitting that the full story of the Changi Buffs may never be fully told, as many of these Brothers are no longer with us, and if there are any survivors, they are not sending in any copies of their certificates of affiliation or anything else to tell me their story.

I did not start this search to bring back horror memories, but to bring to the Brothers of the 90's, what some of the members of the Order had to endure, and how they managed to stay one step ahead of their captors by holding a Lodge meeting in the middle of Changi. Let's face it the Japanese would not have looked too kindly on our members, and they would have reacted very quickly. History demands that we attempt a full disclosure, and on starting this project, I have read at least 12 books on the subject including local (Singaporian) history, simply to better understand some of the situations that occurred.



Everything that I have obtained, has come from Brothers around Australia, and it's quite precious in its quantity, even more so in its capability to ensure that questions are asked not just about Changi, but all other places that held Buffs as prisoners or as occupying forces at the end of the War.

Check with your local Grand Lodge and see how much of our history they have in their possession or store and you will find very little, the reasons for this are many and varied to say the least. One set of minute books that I read recorded a lodge meeting two (2) days after W.W. II started and yet not even a small mention of this event was noted. But at least we have enough to state that the Buffs of Changi will never be forgotten.

Approximately 22,000 were held by the Japanese as Prisoners of War, I have been told, of which around 130 are said to have been Buffs of various Banners and only 34 survived the war. My information so tells me that 7,685 did not come home from the various places of internment in Asia. So you can see that both the years and the numbers are working against a complete history being recorded, with the exception of the diaries of Bro. Bill Ross (possum) which are part of the research.

His diaries can account for the story of Changi, and the rest are from the Brothers who care about the preservation of the Order and its future.

I hope that the information enclosed is enough to wet the information drive for a few Brothers out there and I hope they will respond to some questions that I have listed on a separate page. After many false starts, this will be one that simply states, "Yes" I have begun to understand that the war and Prison Camps in particular are not the favourite subject of those involved and I respect their hurt. This document is about a Lodge and those I know were involved.

I have managed to obtain a few copies of assorted Affiliation Certificates and R.A.O.B. Club Cards and they are part of the whole story, which is found inside, as is Brother Lancaster's story, which describes the cards and some of the actions of some members.

This is simply a collection of information for future use, (Knowledge), it is not intended to be a book and I can assure you that it will not make the "Best Sellers" list. I do however have a strong desire to promote and maintain the following.

- 1 The gathering of historical items of all forms of the Order and it being maintained and recorded for the future of the Order.
- 2 Fast and proper inter-action between states in the moving of information, which will include the affiliation of other Banners, such as G.A.B., and strong affiliation of all the R.A.O.B. Worldwide.

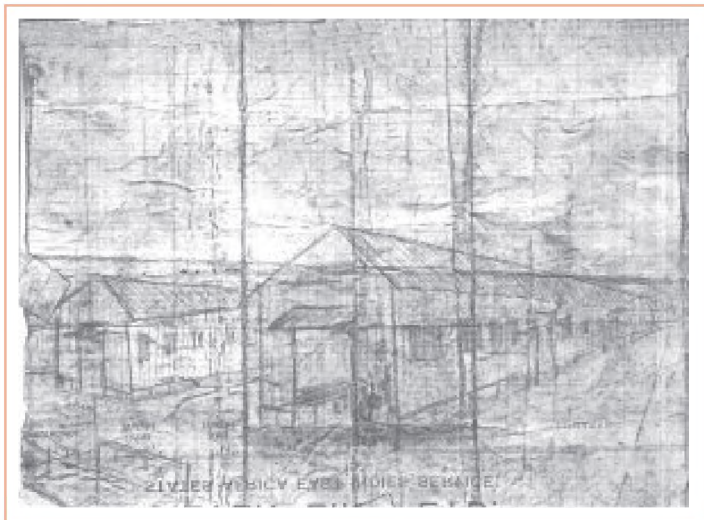
Young Buffs and other interested parties/persons may see that we are serious about the Order and its future, by keeping hold of the past (I believe the word is TRADITION).

“I pose the following questions”

- A Who drew the Affiliation and R.A.O.B. Club cards?
- B Who drew the various dispensations. (Changi P.O.W Lodge No.1?)
- C Who has the Membership and Minute Books?
- D Who drew the picture of the “Barracks” and put it on the back of the S.A.Dispensation?
- E Are there any more Affiliation Certificates out there?
- F Is there any more information out there?

If any person who reads this booklet has any information that they think might be relevant, please do not hesitate to forward it to: Bro. I. McLeod R.O.H., at 15, Martin Road, Elizabeth East, South Australia, 5112, or to Bro. Stan Stirman, Curator R.A.O.B. Museum, Grove House, Skipton Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4LA. We do not have much time to collect and record this information due to the age of the Brothers and the rarity of any authentic documentation, so please send any information that you may find as soon as possible.

*Bro. I. F. McLeod R.O.H.*





## List of known Members of the Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1

Bro. D.W. Picken C.P.	Bro. W. Toogood	Bro. Jock Barclay
Bro. H.P. Spielvogel C.P.	Bro. W.H. Ackland C.P.	Bro. H. Barnes C.P.
Bro. D. Quinn K.O.M.	Bro. A.M. Barclay	Bro. E.W. Lancaster
Bro. A. Pearce C.P.	Bro. W.K. Bernard C.P.	Bro. W.S. Baker K.O.M.
Bro. W. Douglas C.P.	Bro. Ludowici	Bro. Bill 'Possum' Ross G.A.B.
Bro. 'Tubby' Burns	Bro. E. Chapman	Bro. J. Cartnell
Bro. K. Wilson	Bro. A.E. Brace	Bro. Cherwin
Bro. Wattie Gates	Bro. Charles Thomas	Bro. W.J. Wakefield
Bro. R. Springbett	Bro. G. March	Bro. F.E. Bell (Fred)
Bro. R.K. Gregory	Bro. Keith Mapleston	Bro. L. Farclough
Bro. Maurice Machado	Bro. John Boff, G.L.E.	Bro. James Malloy
Bro. (Capt.) T. Armstrong, G.L.E.		

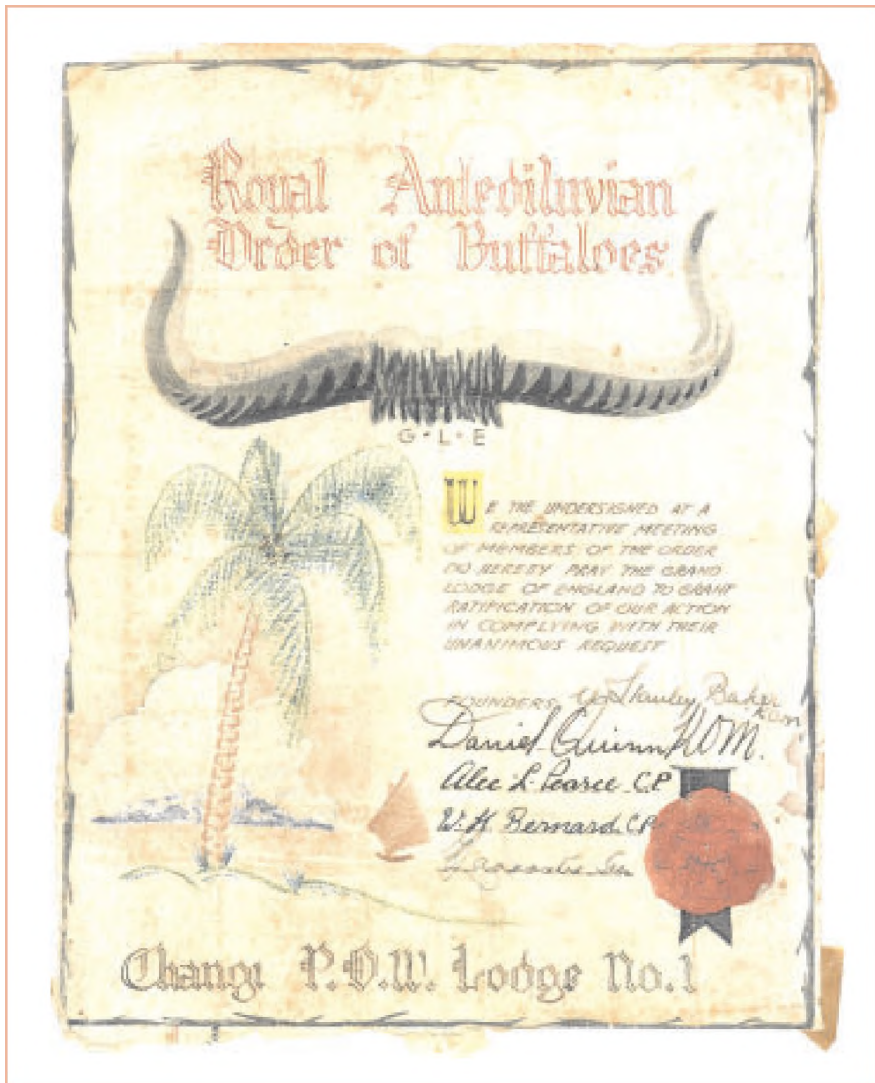
NOTE:- I do not have the required information to ensure their degrees are properly mentioned or what Banner of the R.A.O.B. they belonged, so it is simply noted that they are mentioned, as is, until written documentation of these missing points can be obtained.

While on the subject of variations and information available, you will note that the three, (3) Dispensations in the research papers are all a little different in various places, so I still must ask *"How many prints have been made and for whom"* I have also heard that Victoria has a print as well, although yet to be sighted.

Again the more you look at a particular subject, the more questions you tend to ask, with the hope of getting more answers? Solving a puzzle like this then lends itself to even more questions, until you realise that you are not being given all the answers and the research stops.

The list of names noted above have been taken from various documents, but the paperwork did not give dates, or if they all came back home after the war, or if they returned to their Lodges (original or otherwise). However, after reading what information that I do have carefully, I have come to the conclusion that the Affiliation Certificates of the same design as Bro. D.W. Picken C.P. was made very early in the formation of the Lodge, whilst the others were created much later, and until I receive documentation to the contrary, I will hold this view, (I did say that there is a lot of missing or outstanding information on this subject). Research such as this can of course be either a hassle and therefore dropped quickly due to boredom and lack of interest, or it can be rewarding in many ways. I found the latter, due to letters that I have sent and the responses that these letters have brought, some Lodges do not want to know about anything and do not

bother replying to your letters, and on the other hand some Lodges have gone out of their way to assist in any way that they could. To the helpful Lodges, I say thank you, to the less helpful Lodges, I say thank you as well because all situations are a learning experience, and one day they may want to know about their Lodges and its history and there will be no information there.





# The Foundation Of Changi Lodge No. 1 Singapore.

*A personal account as written by Bro. E. Lancaster of the  
Grand Lodge of Queensland, Australia*

My thoughts often wander to the meetings we held whilst in captivity during the years 1942 - 45, as I gaze upon the grazing laid upon a nice clean tablecloth. I think of our past efforts, the efforts of those who were appointed to the unenviable position of City Waiter, and I smile, sometimes wistfully, as faces pass before me – faces that will always be remembered, but, unfortunately, their names forgotten – but I transgress.

It was just a chance question that commenced a movement which spread throughout the whole camp; to the English as well as the Aussies, to Majors as well as Privates; a movement that, once commenced, could not, and would not be stopped.

The question was put by sergeant Bill Ross, otherwise known as “Possum”, of Toowoomba and Dalby. It occurred one Saturday evening and was thus; “what would you be doing tonight if you were home?” The question appears strange now, but it was one constantly asked during the early months of captivity. My reply “going to the Buffs”, was answered by “so would I”.

Here I may state that Possum was a member of the G.A.B. and we are indebted to him for the Collars of Office, made from Scotch Tartan. Just at this moment, the Orderly Corporal, Tubby Barnes, of Fitzroy, Melbourne, appeared on the scene, with a greeting of “what are youse two got your heads together for, did I hear yer say Buffs?” Admitting that he might have, we received this strange, yet not strange, “I’ve been a Buff for years – put it there”.

After the usual exchanges, I stated that I would endeavour to circulate the Camp, and if possible, contact other Brethren, and in that manner, the movement was commenced. Here I would like to say that Tubby and Possum were to be a tower of strength, and unofficially, every assistance was given by H.Q. I must state that the Japanese forbade us to congregate in number, and I would like readers to bear this point in mind, because once we had started, we never failed to meet, by ones and twos – at a given point. What a response we received, those great stalwart, K.O.M.’s Billy Baker of Mackay, Sellar, Ernie Chapman of England, Daniel Quinn of Perth W.A. (to whom were entrusted the Minutes of our meetings, and to whom was given power to get our actions ratified by the Grand Lodge of England, together with sanction to obtain a P.O.W. Jewel for each member if possible, for which purpose the name and address of member was recorded), C.P.’s Alex Pearce, Billy Bernard of Fairleigh, Bill Picken of Adelaide, Douglas of Kalgoorlie, together with Bros’ Jock Barclay (what a worker) and Johnny Cartnell the jungle juice King

from South Aussie – I believe that we had representation from all States and from all Countries.

If I remember rightly, our first meeting was held on the lawn of house 45 Selendang – Sir W. Baker occupied the Royal Chair, or should I say stone. It was dusk, and the mosquitoes staged a special welcome for us in their thousands. At this inaugural meeting, I was appointed as Secretary, which office I filled until taken into hospital. It was my duty to obtain a meeting place, if possible, and in this connection, we owe to Major Murphy, who was very sympathetic to our endeavours, many, many thanks – he made his garage available to us – it was used by him as a R.A. Post

I remember our first meeting under cover; Bro. Jock Barclay with his stalwarts from the Engineers provided the illumination – Tins filled with grease and oil, with pieces of rag as wicks. The garage was filled to overcrowding, so much, that it became necessary to secure the doors, and late comers were directed through an opening in the wall that led to the house itself. The R.A.P. Orderly Corporal Charlie, although not a member, assisted in every way possible, and many a worried night he must have passed with his “for God’s sake not so much noise”. Best of luck to you Charlie. Many a heart missed a beat when footsteps were heard outside and followed by a wrong knock – but our Tyler was equal to all occasions and every person attending was duly tested and proved.

This room was consecrated by Bro. Quinn, K.O.M., grazing as it was – by Bros’ Cartnell and Jock Barclay. Refreshments were made from a kind of yeast, with a kick like a mule. I feel sure that Johnny is making a fortune during the beer shortage.

It was decided to have Emblems and Membership Certificates printed at a cost of 5 cents. Each later increased to 10 cents. We increased membership to such an extent that we had to seek for accommodation further afield, and eventually found ourselves in the much battered and shell torn Rifle Range. I remember one night in particular; it had been raining for hours and every drain was running a banker – one has to see the Singapore system of drainage to realise the amount of rain that fell. We had to wade nearly knee deep to get to the Lodge Room and our attendance was well over 100. It was pitch black, and a night to be remembered, accommodating ourselves as best we could, salvaging a few floating logs and killing a couple of snakes before our W.P. could settle down. Our Minstrel was a Westralian Lieutenant, name I forget, and he played Alec Pearce’s Harmonium – I can still hear the strains of “there’s Shamrocks growing on Broadway” and can picture the singer with his very scanty hair (I can hear Billy Baker saying he was as bald as a badger). I can remember the late Brother Ken Wilson rendering his first song. This young, clean energetic lad had a very pleasant, and pleasing voice.



Unfortunately, Ken was killed by a fall of earth whilst digging funk-holes for the Japs. He was a great cobbler of Bro. Douglas.

Grazing consisted of tea, which you would have had to taste to believe, and rice doovers, when we were lucky enough. The boys were always on the scrounge. Unfortunately the Japs did not leave us in peace and our numbers dwindled as parties were sent to places reaching from Borneo to Siam, and many of our members died of sickness. To these were accorded a Buffalo Funeral and one that lives so vividly in my memory was the burial of the late Brother Ludowici. I feel sure that those who attended and lived to return, will remember forever the Ceremony as conducted and performed by Sir William Baker. It was a job, grand, immense and well done.

We had several shifts from place to place – numbers decreasing – but those that remained carried on. Visiting the sick and getting smokes for them whenever possible, and Bros. Bill Picker and Jock Barclay both deserve a special mention for the grand job they did in this direction.

This is not all, I cannot close without references to the wonderful band of Hospital Orderlies who along with Bro. Alec Pearce, commenced the Buffalo Club at the A.G.H. in 1943. Here the true spirit of Buffaloism was in evidence and I remember, amongst many others who I can visualise but whose name I do not remember. Bros. Barnes of Redlynch, and Spielvogel of Victoria.

Those Brethren who were too ill to attend were visited daily, and many a dinner or part thereof was handed over.

I count myself honoured to have belonged to such a grand crowd of mates – it seems wrong to single out names, for they all worked unceasingly and unselfishly.

The Buffalo Club and Changi P.O.W. No.1 Lodge exchanged visits.

## Now the Closure!

After the capitulation of the Japs, only 34 remained to attend our Final Meeting, which was in Changi Gaol and was presided over by Sir William Baker, just 34 for the final handshake and God Speed – we remembered those Brothers, who were sent to Borneo with a smile on their face, never to return; those who passed away in Burma, Malaya, Saigon, Japan and those that died through illness in the camp.

Our last meeting was one of silence and regret as we each remembered our particular mates – but we take heart because.....

**Do not deeds done and perfected,  
Mean more than nothings said?  
The memory of our Pals will linger  
E'en though they may be dead.**

*E. W. Lancaster*

## In Spite Of

They called it Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 G.L.E., and in spite of incredible difficulties, they persisted in carrying on under the very noses of their captors. Hand made Affiliation Certificates issued to Brethren is a colourful production, making up in imaginative suggestion anything that it may lack in artistic merit.

We are indebted to Bro. A.E. Brace of Orb Lodge and Bro. A. Barclay of Cobar for forwarding these certificates, and feel that the reproduction will prove of interest to The Editor N.S.W. Buffalo Journal Feb 1957.

“This is to certify that Bro. Brace A.E. of the Rosebud Lodge No. 6668 G.L.E. has been elected an Affiliated member of this Lodge, and that his name is registered as entitled to all rights and privileges according to the Grand Lodge of England and the Bylaws of this Lodge.

Signed: Stanley Baker K.O.M. W.P.  
W. Douglas C.M.  
Daniel Quinn K.O.M. C.Sec.

NOTE: 1) None of the Affiliation Certificates or Buffalo (R.A.O.B. CLUB) cards are ever dated.  
2) Rosebud Lodge No. 6668, this was an English number before the formation of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales East. After the formation, the number changed to 27 and met at the Wallarah Hall, Catherine Hill Bay on a Saturday night.

*(Ian McLeod R.O.H.).*



## **Just A Few Snippets Of Info**

### **Brisbane Lodge No.1 G.L. Queensland.**

The guest of honour on October 1st was Brother Chergwin, who arrived earlier in the day by the “Larges Bay”, after many dark years in Changi Prison Camp. Brisbane Lodge was indeed proud to be the first Lodge visited on his return. This Brother, who is a Member of a Victorian Lodge, gave us an interesting chat on the activities in Changi Camp, he told us how a number of Buffs used to get together and hold informal meetings, and endeavoured to instruct young Members, to enable them to pick up the threads when they were released. He also described the refreshments, which was a concoction made from rice as being potent if not palatable.

### **Cardiff Lodge No. 56.**

Although a prisoner for 3~2 years, Bro. Wattie Gates still knows how to use the “Bones”. (The “Bones” were played like the Spoons:- as a musical instrument).

### **Pride of The South Lodge No. 62.**

Our Members here are anxiously watching the released P.O.W. list for names of our boys who have been through 3 years of Jap culture, so hoping to have them all back before my next report.

**Note:-** There was no further mention in reports, Pride of the South met in Yass N.S.W.

### **Peel Lodge No.145**

Among our honoured and revered keepsakes, that adorn our wall, is a framed original of an Affiliation Certificate presented to Bro. J. Wakefield, while in Changi P.O.W. Camp and the latter presented it to our Lodge.

The Certificate is about 200 by 150cm. it is all hand-written and decorated, across the top is a thin scroll with the words “Grand Lodge of England. Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes”. Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 G.L.E., printed in block letters. Hand written under this are the words, “This is to certify that Bro. Wakefield W.J. of Kellerberrin Lodge C.G.A. has been elected an Affiliated Member of this Lodge P.O.W. Changi No.1



and that his name is registered in the book as entitled to all the rights and privileges according to Grand Lodge rules and bylaws of this Lodge”.

Daniel Quinn K.O.M. W.P.

A.M. Barclay C.M.

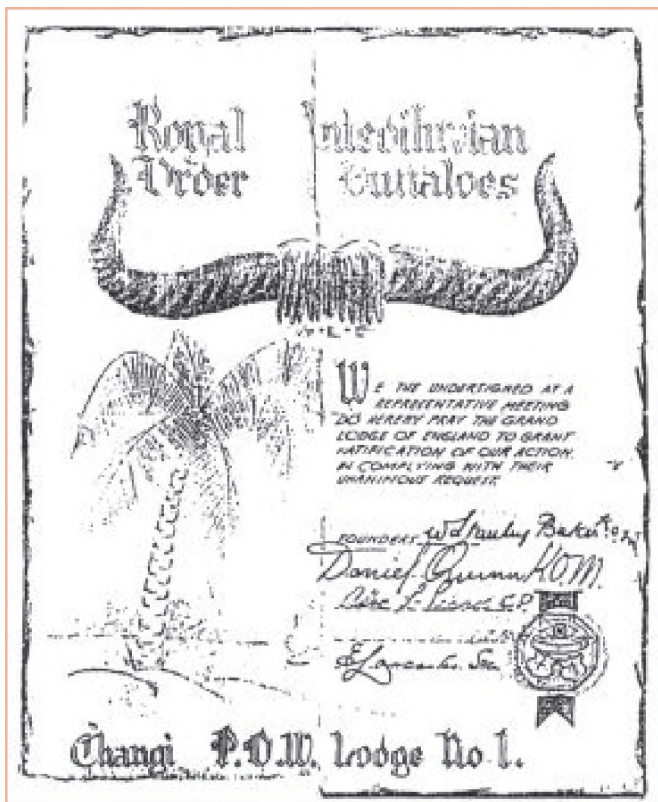
E. Lancaster C.Sec.

and the Signature of Bro. W.J. Wakefield.

The lower part of the certificate is decorated with palm trees and a small boat. The colours were obtained by making blue from leaves and red from berries.

The Editor states in the same bulletin, “Grand Lodge has the Dispensation and an Affiliation Certificate, as you describe, for Bro. F.E. Bell of the Orient Lodge No.2, presented to Grand Lodge by one of the Founders, Brother D.W. Quinn K.O.M.”

(Bro. Quinn K.O.M. co-founder of the Changi Lodge No.1)





# Personal Glimpses of the Past

## **“The Buffalo Order helps morale in Jap camp” Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 G.L.E. Singapore**

“Where-ever we are, the Buffalo Order will also prevail”, so said Brother Watty Gates of Orb Lodge, when I met him on his return to Newcastle, after being a POW for 3½ years in the notorious Changi P.O.W. camp.

I asked Bro. Gates what he meant, when he told me that was the motto of the Buffalo members in the camp, but let Bro. Watty tell the story:

“I was a member of the 10th Batt/8th Division, and I was captured by the Jap’s on 15th February 1942. After a few weeks, Bro. Quinn found that a number of us belonged to the Buffalo Order, and he conceived the idea of forming a lodge. With that end in view, word was passed around to all members, to meet in a large shed in the prison grounds.

We met, although we had no Dispensation, the Lodge was formed and the Officers elected:- Bro. W. Douglas WP: Bro. L Farelough CM: Bro. D Quinn CS: and Bro. W. Gates the Constable, the names of the other Officers, I just cannot remember.

The music was a “UKE” and the most popular song tendered was “Out of the Blue Gums”: about 80 members were at the first meeting and all the D’s that were collected we’d to buy necessities for those in hospital. The first toast was drunk with tea (without milk or sugar), the same applied with the Absent Brothers Toast.

The meetings were held fortnightly, and the grazing (if any) was supplied by the W.P., which was chiefly rice. Certificates were issued to each member, and were hand printed by one of the Brothers. Those who died in camp, their Certificates were bought home and given to their relatives.

We carried out the Rules of the Order to the best of our ability and we did not have any initiations, I’m sure that our meetings kept up the spirits of the members whilst they were prisoners. In conclusion, may I say that the first Aussie soldier that came to release us was a Buff too, and his gift of “weed” to us was a blessing, for we had been smoking dried weeds for the 3½ years.

END

NOTE:- Story out of the N.S.W. Buffalo Journal November 1945 Vol. 2. No 2.

## Returning the Certificate

From: The City Secretary of Beaudesert Lodge No.17 Qld  
December 19th 1945

To: The City Secretary of the James Blair Lodge No.32 Campsie N.S.W.

Dear Sir and Brothers,

The enclosed Certificate was found on the battlefield after the Singapore capitulation by Brother Ernie Lancaster, a member of Beaudesert Lodge No.17 and retained during the whole term of imprisonment.

At our meeting a fortnight ago, Bro. Lancaster handed this Certificate to the Lodge, with a request that it be forwarded to the Mother Lodge of Brother James Molloy. You will be interested to know that, although prisoners of war, some 130 members of various Buffalo Lodges were able to form a Lodge during which became known as Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1, and of which Brother Lancaster was the City Secretary.

We understand from our returned Brothers that much good work was done by this Lodge, and also that the Buffalo Service was read at many a graveside.

More details of the formation and working of this Lodge will, we understand be covered by the N.S.W. Buffalo Journal.

Bro. Lancaster, being unable to contact Brother Molloy at any of their meetings, suggests that this Brother lost his life on the battlefield, in which this lodge asks you to convey their sympathy to his relatives.

Beaudesert Lodge No. 17 extends to your Lodge their fraternal greetings.

Yours fraternally

A.E. Gannan, K.O.M. C. Sec.

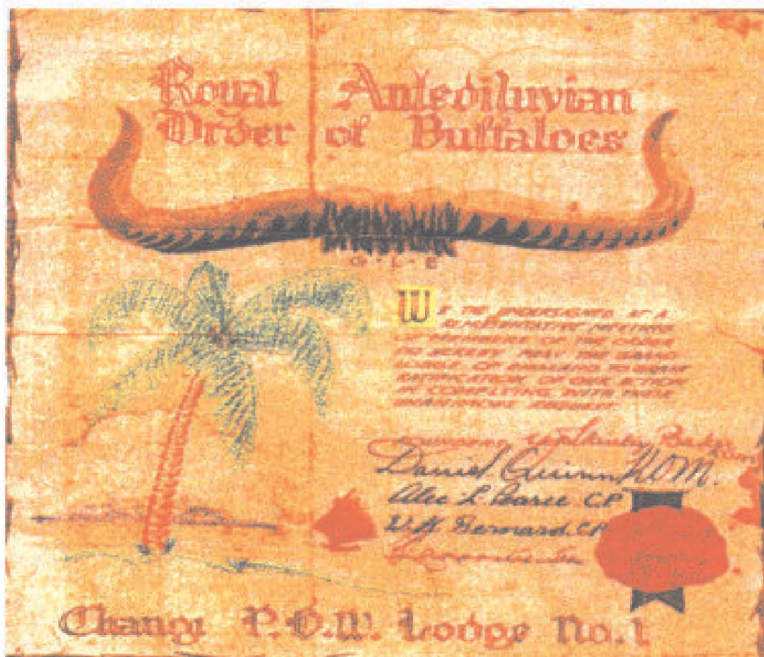
NOTE:- The above letter was reprinted in the N.S.W. Buffalo Journal  
June 1991 page 8



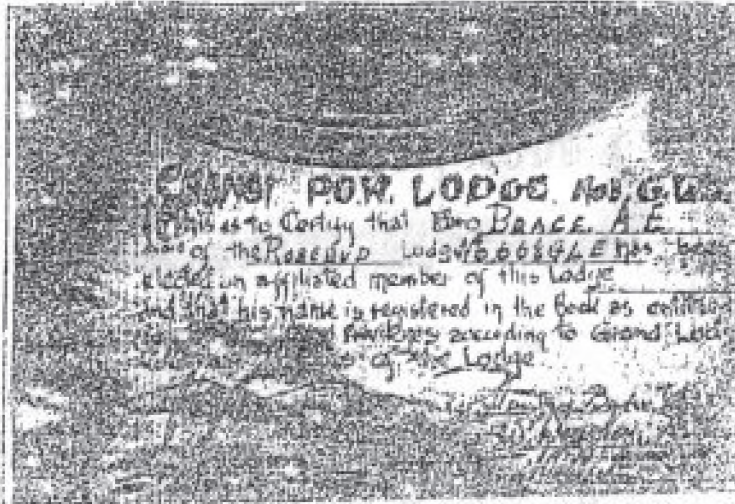




## Dispensation of Changi Lodge No.1







### Affiliation Certificates

Above: This Affiliation Certificate was presented to Bro. A.E. Brace, originally a member of the Rosebud Lodge No.6668 G.L.E.

Below: Affiliation Certificate of Bro. D.W. Picken C.P. of the Wentworth Lodge No.1, neither Certificates are dated, but it is possible the lower Certificate is an earlier type





This is the original RAOB Club Card issued to Bro. George Hobday Barratt while a prisoner of War in Changi Prison during World War 2. The card was donated to the collection by the members of the New Eagles Lodge No.1548 via Bro. Donald Briggs, R.O.H. (Grand Council Banner) The card being in excellent condition after so many years is a credit to Bro. Hobday CP, his family and his Lodge.



Affiliation Certificate of Bro. J. Armstrong. originally a member of the Et Gloria Lodge No.5872 G.L.E.



Copy supplied by Mr. Max Venables of Glenelg South Australia, the Card (original) is in brilliant condition as can be seen with this copy.

Bro. Maurice Mashado was a member of "D" Section 9th Div Ammunition Sub Park A.I.F.

Signatures on Affiliation Card are :- D. W. Picken CP; Bro. F. W. Farmer and Bro. E. Lancaster.



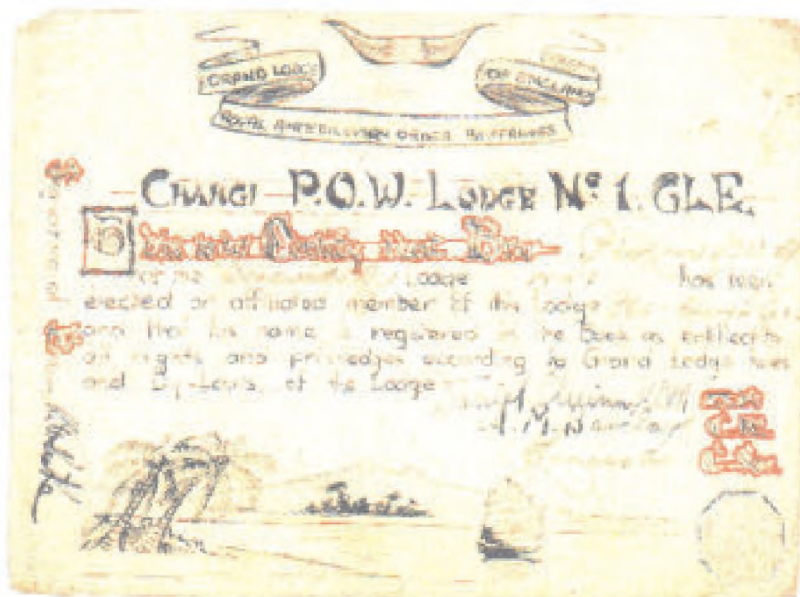
**D Section (Workshop)**  
**9th Division Ammunition Sub. Park.**  
**March 1941**



Back Row:- A.J.Murphy; F.R.Leonard; R.Markham; S.R.Giles; W.Donaldson; J.Fitzpatrick; V.J.H.Wells; W.F.Kelly  
 Third Row:- S.Yeo; W.J.Coulter; D.J.Parsons; V.Curnow; W.G.Leach; Lieut. Amphlett; J.M.McMahon; M.D.Greig;  
 L.J.Slee; L/Cpl. G.F.Day; E.L.Crump  
 Second Row:- R.J.Mitchell; F.R.Stephen; Colgan; L.J.Carmichael; R.Ali; L.Mumme; Cooper; M.Mashado  
 Front Row:- Cpl.J.Warren; J.Gilding; C.A.H.Parker; Sgt.D.S.Irwin; Sgt.J.W.Corey; W.O.I.J.Russell;  
 Sgt.S.J.Miller; Cpl.J.Mansfield; Cpl.M.Knight; Cpl.J.P.Condon; Cpl.B.F.Rone

**Bro. Maurice Mashado**  
 who's Affiliation Certificate  
 can be seen opposite

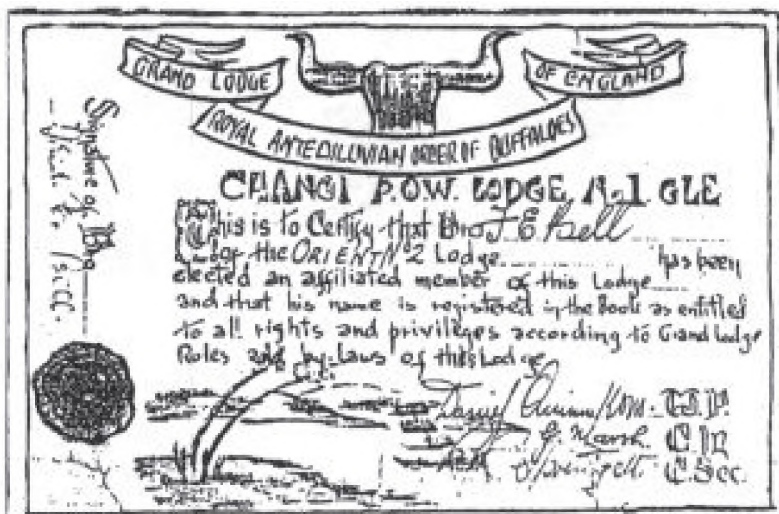




A set of variations with Affiliation Certificates, still showing no issue dates.

Top Certificate, Bro. W.J. Wakefield.

Bottom Certificate, Bro. F.E. Bell.



## Intermediate Certificate of Bro. G.H.Barrett

### GRAND EXECUTIVE BANNER R.A.O.B.

Nemo Mortalium Omnia Moris Sapit.

ROYAL ANTIDELUVIAN ORDER OF BUFFALOES.

### Certifying Certificate.

This is to Certify that *Brother George Blundell Barrett* has successfully and creditably passed the Examining Committee to receive the high and honourable position of Primoship this day *1st June 1943*

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE.

*W. J. L. L. L.*  
PRESIDENT.

*W. J. L. L. L.*  
VICE-PRESIDENT & SECRETARY.

## Club Card of: Bro. G.H. Barrett





## The "x 3" Flag of Captain Fred Stahl 18 - 12 - 45.

Captain Fred Stahl with prisoner made flag which was unfurled when the Japanese surrendered on August, 15th 1945.

The "x3" Flag as it was known, was the first Australian Flag to fly over Singapore, and now hangs in the National War Museum Canberra.

Viv Gambling, who enlisted in Gympie, now living in Dalby tells how the Flag was made; Viv and a few fellow Prisoners planned and made the Flag as secret information on the impending surrender of the Japanese, it had begun to filter through to the Aussies imprisoned at Camp x 3 Pulit Pangaang, Singapore.

One of Viv's mates Darcy Smith from Gympie, a tailor by trade, was responsible for making the Flag, while Darcy sewed. Viv kept watch for the Japanese guards who might come around. Darcy (Deceased) made the body of the Flag from a blue sheet stolen from the Japanese by the Walker Brothers. The Union Jack carried by Freddy Pegg for Funeral purposes was added. The Stars designed by Jimmy French were made from handkerchiefs, from the Red Cross parcels, the cotton, from stolen Japanese blue and white socks. During the making Viv and his mates slept on the bits and pieces so that the Japanese guards would not discover the project. The Flag was finished about a month before the surrender.

On the 15th August 1945, while a Japanese Sergeant was informing Captain Stahl of the surrender, the Flag was poked through the Atap of the Orderly Room and unfurled the moment he announced it was over.

V.C. Gambling  
P.O.Box 46,  
Dalby Qld 4405

Yours Faithfully,  
V.C. Gambling.



The Flag now hangs in the National War Museum, Canberra, Australia



## A Soldiers Diary

### By Bro. Bill (Possum) Ross

## The Hell Of The Burma Railway

Original print by Courier Mail

April 24th 1982

Story: Helen Dash

As a prisoner of the Japanese Imperial Army in Singapore between 1942 and 1945, a tailor from Dalby kept a diary.

It was an era when drunks were “bottley”, Englishmen were “the Chums” and hair above the lip was a “tash”.

The tailor, Sgt Bill Ross of the 2nd/3rd Ordnance, recorded his experiences in purple indelible pencil in a notebook on a Lord Mayor’s Patriotic Benefit Fund letterpad. In Changi prison when all were ordered to destroy their diaries, he disobeyed.

With a tailor's feeling for detail, as he would not trust his own memory, he rolled one diary and hid it in the toe of a spare boot. The other, with a cardboard cover, already mended with a sewing machine, he hid in the false bottom of a wooden box.

Bill Ross had first joined the Army in 1941 with his insurance mate from Toowoomba, Keith Mapleston.

They and thousands of others were imprisoned in and around Changi Jail or worked making a railway in Burma after the fall of Singapore.

The diary does not show the direct treatment of the prisoners by the Japanese.

Today, retired from his Stones Comer tailoring business, Bill Ross says he could not write what happened for fear the captors would find the diary and retaliate with more violence. But he bears scars on his face and head from Japanese rifle butts.

The diary records in tiny, neat script, sometimes a hundred lines to a page, trailer parties where 20 men were yoked to a 10 ten ton truck with the engine removed. They pulled the truck up to 50kms to collect water, timber and supplies.

It records the alphabetically named "forces" in which men were drafted to travel to Siam to build a railway.

The tailor's diary dwells on details normally uninteresting. Each sickness, each bout of malaria, dysentery, infection, tinea, beri-beri, each wonderful cup of cocoa, each taste of an orange and it records some lives that finished, and the friendship of two men.

### **March 14 1942.**



Four weeks since the black Sunday of the slaughter and capitulation I contacted Keith.

His face lit up when he spotted me coming towards him. Some of his pals told me it was the first time he had smiled for some time.

#### **Good Friday**

Two thousand AIF had to be detailed for a Japanese working party.

We arrived at the appointed place. I saw Keith, I had to laugh; all he had was a water bottle and a couple of tins for mess. No clothing, bed or otherwise, not even a pair of boots, just a light pair of shoes. I am told he finished up at Adam Road, where they marched all the way.

(In September 1942 prisoners were sent to Changi Square to persuade them to sign a paper pledging not to attempt escape).



While in the Barrack Square I met a Scot by the name of Jock of the RAOC. He tells me that Keith has a beard and a tash. The first time he heard Mape sing at the concert he soon recognised his voice. This speaks very well for Keith's voice, recognising him by it and behind a qiff. When previously met both were a little botley.

Now we are into the second day of this death trap. Dysentery and diphtheria is getting a go on. This is not to be wondered at as some men are sleeping, eating, and the cooking is being done all around the latrines which are in the centre of the square.

What a job it is putting down these latrines through bitumen and clay. Even in such a short time the smell of the latrines are becoming unbearable.

The Nips are bringing pressure to bear, no sick are allowed to leave the area. An appendix operation has been performed in the square. At the end of the third day we were allowed to go back to our own area. Three days and nights, were enough in that black hole of Calcutta.

#### **September 4.**

At the present time I'm not feeling too good. Rheumatics, cold in head and chest and this form of beri-beri. I have not had a good night's sleep for weeks. My feet and legs are giving me hell night and day. The pain and ache is something similar to the burn caused when one is wearing new and tight boots.

#### **September 10.**

I was one of the burial party for one of our chaps that had died from dysentery and under nourishment.

#### **September 13.**

I am told that a few ounces of mutton per man has come into the camp. It's that long since I tasted mutton I have just about forgotten the taste.

#### **September 14.**

I saw Keith today. He drove the truck that carried the body of Private Bolger. That makes some eight Ordnance men having passed away. I was ever so pleased to see Keith and he expressed the same feelings about seeing me. Major McKay of the 2nd/3rd Ordnance was with him. He said see me in the Criterion Hotel, Brisbane in about six months time.

#### **September 15.**

For the past week I have had the blues properly. If possible I feel worse today, perhaps seeing Keith yesterday and talking over the past hasn't cheered me up any.

Lord knows it's bad enough having the blues when in Civvie street, but when a POW being cut off from the outside world imagining all kind of things, well it's pretty hard to battle against. Another reason why I'm blue may be because I'm not feeling the best. The M.O. tells me I'm like



hundreds of others in the camp suffering from malnutrition. We had a very interesting talk by Sgt. Gammon on the assassination and funeral of King Alexandra.

#### **September 16.**

We are now into our eighth month of captivity. A special parade was held on IJA (Imperial Japanese Army) order. Height, chest measurement, weight, and then a thorough overhaul of present and past ailments. I reeled off mine: dengue, Singapore ears and feet, tinea, malaria, malnutrition. metatarsalgia. Most of the troops are in a pretty bad way through lack of vitamins and food. Tropical ulcers and sores and limbs, body and face and mouth inside and out. Others are in agony with rice balls (Rice balls meant tinea of the groin). I have seen and heard some men really crying with pain. I'm afraid if something doesn't turn up soon it will be just too bad for many of us.

#### **October 17.**

The distribution of comforts are in full swing. Today we had a small slice of bully beef, a small bit of beetroot, two English spuds, three rice biscuits and plain rice and a cup of cocoa. We could not believe our eyes especially seeing the cocoa.

#### **October 19.**



The Sikh guards gave three of the AIF a bashing for not saluting the guard house. Later on in the afternoon they done up a Chum.

#### **October 24.**

Further news has it that the European POW's are to be taken away from Singapore leaving only the Asiatics, the AIF being classed as Asiatics. This being the second time the AIF has lost their individuality. Firstly when the Poms were issued with our slouch hats, secondly being classed as Asiatics.

#### **October 28.**

Sam Biner the Jew purchased some tobacco while out on a LP party. To cut a long story short no one could keep their smokes alight. I had a brain wave; kidded to the QM for some salt; which I put in hot water then washed the weed in it. Put the weed out to dry; sprinkling the fine pieces into it. To the amusement of all in the mess; every time I rolled a smoke and lit up: there would be sparks flying in all direction.

#### **November 6.**

The daily ration scale per man for one month from Red Cross. Bully beef or meat and veg 3oz, sugar 0.75oz, milk 1oz, biscuits 4oz, cocoa 4oz, jam 4oz, tea 1oz.

**November 15.**

The AIF is now a cosmopolitan area with Javenese, Dutch, Malays, Eurasians, Chinese, Indians, Chums, AIF, Yanks.

**November 20.**

Yesterday we received further amenity money. Won a few cents playing pontoon. Now we fall in fives. Nips seem to be all at sea trying to check up when in other formation.

**November 22.**

Black Jack has objected strongly about Captain Dillan of the AASC wearing the same shape flashes as headquarters. Vanity not in it.

**November 25.**

Changi Buffalo Lodge No.1 was formed last night at approx. 2030 hours. Warrant Officer Taylor, CSM just gave me a quarter of an orange, I don't know whether it was a good one or not, as it tasted so beautiful.

**December 17.**

Some of the mess members think Jack Emmett and myself real heathens because we are using the New Testament as cigarette paper.

**December 21.**

Happy feet giving me hell again, also trouble with my eyes. I feel as though I'm getting a relapse of malaria. While at Barracks Square, Keith marched in. I made my way over and shook hands with him but the Nip guard soon chased me away Keith was among the first of the 6000 remaining AIF POW's to return to the Changi area. The return of all these men means that something has gone wrong; or maybe it means shifts further afield for all AIF.

**December 24.**

Christmas greetings were read out to us from our loved ones in Aussie. The usual midnight church services went on in spite of the IJA orders disallowing same.

At 0100 hours the first post was sounded. How weird it sounded at such an ungodly hour in such a place where there was no merriment, no bright lights, no children playing, no Christmas spirit, no nothing that the human civilised body has been used to in the past.

**January 1, 1943.**

New Years Eve, very quiet. A solitary bagpiper over in the Scotties camp. The Nips have given us Sam Sue; one bottle between every ten men.

**January 22.**

Reported sick Beri-Beri in the throat and tongue, lost all sense of taste.





**January 30.**

Had two eggs for breakfast, 8c each, the first eggs I've had the pleasure of having for months.

**February 1.**

Two years today since I left Queensland.

**February 14.**

Up till the present, 75 AIF are laid to rest in the cemetery.

**February 15.**

Have been a prisoner of war for one year tonight, most of the time being put in very hard.

**March 1.**

Things are not running smoothly at all in the workroom. Accusations against the men cutting off buttons and pieces out of good shirts. The whole thing in my estimation is ridiculous. Food problem becoming very acute in the camp. Some men are eating lizards, cats and dogs. Men are getting that way from the monstrous life. They organise dances in the quarter. Anything like a dress or sarong being worn by those impersonating the fair sex. This creates quite an interest. I think some of these chaps that act the role of the women would even carry on in that capacity, the sexual side of it, if put to the test. Just as well there's no vitamin in our diet, or I'm thinking there would be cases of sodomy.

**March 2.**

Keith and myself went to the Lodge held in the Old Shooting Gallery, behind the Barrack Square. He sang pretty well.

**March 13.**

Still no mail for me. Sgt. McCulloch gave me his letter to read this morning. His girl friend still loves him and has not fallen for a Yank yet. (He's very thrilled).

A chap from the AIF got a letter from his wife, saying she had adopted a three months old baby. One can guess how he feels about this. I guess Mr. somebody has been hanging around.

**March 17.**

Another chap got a letter from the girl he was engaged to saying she got very lonely and married his father.

**March 18.**

The advance party of F. Force moves out. Said cheerio to Keith and the others.

I guess next time Keith and myself meet will be back home. What a reunion we'll have.



## **March 21.**

Interstate arguments still continue between the troops. Queenslanders and New South Wales always backing the other up. Victorians cop hell from these two states.

## **May 1.**

I have been informed that I'm going with H. Force.

(H. Force travelled by steel cattle railcar and by a 10 mile march to their working site in Siam).

## **May 25.**

Working on a cutting through the mountain, carrying stones up the mountain side in baskets. I've done three hours solid without a stop. I'm on night work on the railway cutting, hours 2030 till 0400. One resto. 12 till 1. Plenty of bashings, nature of work picking through the rock, shovelling and carrying stone, the rain still keeps on.

The camp is a real quagmire, bed, tent, clothing just soaking wet. Only seeing is believing in this case.

The rations are getting worse, if possible. Rice, little dried fish and dried vegetable. Not enough to fill ones eyes. Haven't had tea for weeks.

## **May 26.**

Seven hundred all cooped up in about a quarter acre of jungle. Very hard last night. "Speedo" all the time. No human could last under these conditions for any length of time. Every day more men go down. Just can't carry on. I'm not stretching it when I say this camp and conditions is not fit for human beings. In fact one would not put pigs in such a place. One chap was operated on for appendix, an operating table built in the camp of bamboo and in the open. By hell, we will be lucky if most of us get out of this place alive.

## **May 29.**

The last three nights in the quarry have been living hell, wet all night and done over again.

## **June 4.**

Have not been on the railway cutting for four nights owing to dysentery and fever. The rains still continue. A few deaths around the camp(?) They tell us that we are about 30 miles from the Burma border.

## **June 5.**

Seventy-five percent of the camp down with dysentery and other ailments, but most of these still have to go out on the railway job, only the very bad cases are allowed to stop in bed; bootless also have to be on the job, it doesn't matter how fit they are as long as the body is there. That is expected to do the same job as a fit man.



**June 6.**

Nips will allow us to have gruel, made from boiled rice, a little sugar mixed with water, one meal per day. The mental strain on everyone is most terrific. Only our maker I suppose knows how all will end up.

Since being sick I'm doing my time hard, my thoughts never stray from home and food, when I sleep I dream the same plus awful nightmare of torture, wish to hell I soon get better and get out and round again which may help me to overcome and shake off this life of one long nightmare.

**June 13.**

Another chap passed away last night, Malaria of the brain.

**June 15.**

Had to take party again. Got done up properly, spade over the back of the head and shoulders. Head cut. Had Cholera needle.

**June 16.**

Another death in the camp last night. Cholera has broken out in the camp. I'd sooner be in the midst of battle a thousand times than this.

**June 17.**

Got done over last night, very tough night. Just came off three hours latrine digging (work 22 out of 23 hours) how can we keep it up?

**June 18.**

Four deaths in our camp today, Cholera two, dysentery two. Breakfast plain rice, dinner shadow stew, fish or vegetable, tea, fried rice.

**June 23.**

Rains have eased off. Further five deaths. Trailer trip last night before going on the cutting. Fifteen of us pulling a cart loaded with petrol real Volga Boatman style, up to the shins in mud and slush. Started work in the cutting at midnight.

**June 30.**

Deaths now 50 to 60. Have done 17 nights of 12 to 14 hours straight in the cutting. Paraded sick this morning with Beri-Beri had a touch of the shivers, Malaria.

**July 6.**

Feeling much better. Death roll 96. Haven't had a bath or a shower since leaving Changi.

**July 16.**

One would think Wirth's Circus were going through here yesterday. No less than 30 elephants went up north carrying great packs. Elephants have been doing all large hauling for the railway for some time.





**July 18.**

Yak stew. Four eggs. Three and half mile hike to work.

**August 7.**

Death roll now 168. Having trouble with trench feet and ulcers.

**August 13.**

Hospitalised with trench feet, ulcers, Happy feet, Malaria.

**September 10.**

Left at Daylight, boarded the train, another painful walk to transit camp.

**October 9.**

No dressing for two days, ulcers very sore and on the nose. Lots of deaths in this camp average of four per day.

**October 24.**

Another chap having his leg shaved above the knee for amputation, very bad ulcers caused this one.

**October 26.**

I hate the thought of night-time coming on. Mosquitoes, wild dogs howling, tom-toms beating all night, hot as hell.

**November 7.**

A six man native band has just passed the camp on a lorry playing very crude jazz music. The Welsh choir is singing, which brings back happy memories of Shelton and Toowoomba.

**November 24.**

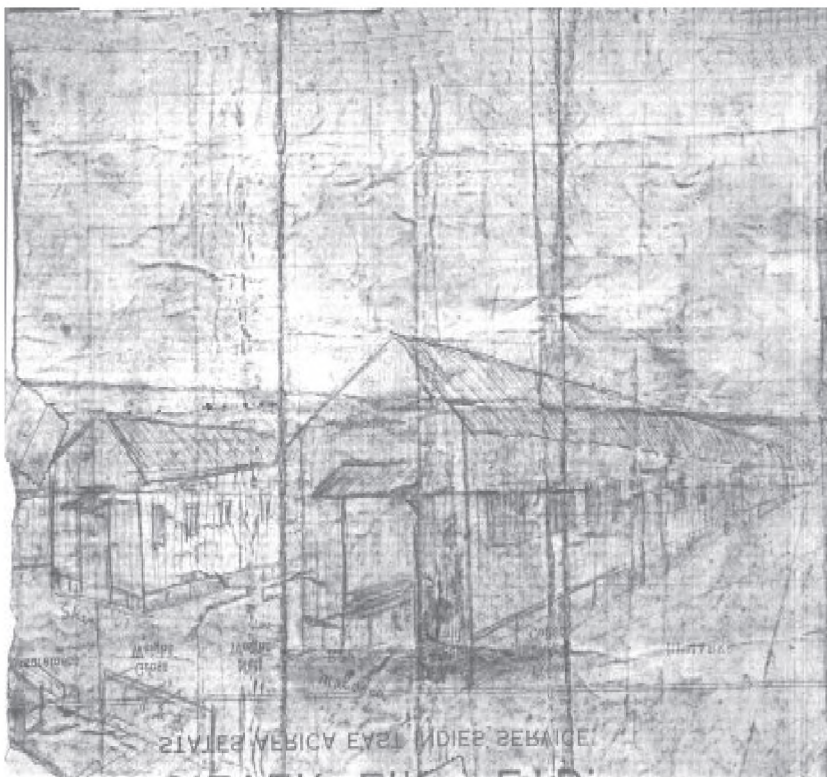
I have just learned the sad news about Keith Mapleston who passed away some five weeks ago in the Burma hospital. Ulcers and dysentery. Cremated.

**December 9.**

Having been speaking to some of Keith's pals. He did the last few weeks very hard.

*(Mr Ross was then sent back to Changi where he stayed until the Japanese surrender).*





The above is a copy of a hand drawn picture of two barracks within a prison camp believed to be Changi POW camp Singapore.

There are two titles noted at the front of each “Barrack” one being SKIN and the other being MALARIA.

Also look very carefully at the bottom of the picture near the print, it looks like hand rails, I wonder what these were used for?

The drawing is attached to the back of a colourful Dispensation of Changi POW Lodge No.1 held on display at Norwood Lodge No.20 in Adelaide.

The drawing is on normal paper marked “Silver Line Ltd.” States Africa East India Service. More information is needed to answer this mystery.

# **The Case for Recognition and Ratification of Changi Prisoner of War Lodge No.1**

To: THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

I, Daniel Quinn being a duly elevated Knight of the above Order do hereby pray that the GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND do give ratification to this request which same I make on behalf of 250 members of our Order all of which have been duly tested and proved, and being members of our Lodges from the GLOBE taken PRISONERS OF WAR ON SINGAPORE ISLAND on FEBRUARY 15, 1942.

Being the highest qualified Grand Lodge Officer in the Prison Camp at Changi, I was contacted by a considerable number of our members, who after several secret, though informal meetings, decided that they would like a proper Lodge if possible (see minutes of 14/11/42) accordingly I had no option but to do something in the matter, after consultation with Knight W.S. Baker of GRAND LODGE OF QUEENSLAND. At a meeting informal under date 17/11/42 the matter was placed in the form of a motion moved and seconded and carried unanimously with acclamation.

“That a Lodge be opened by the  
GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND  
By Sir Daniel Quinn K.O.M.”

I immediately sought out level headed and keen Brothers eligible to become Founders, my choice, after keen interrogation and intelligence tests, fell on the following:-

Sir William Stanley Baker K.O.M.

Sir Daniel Quinn K.O.M.

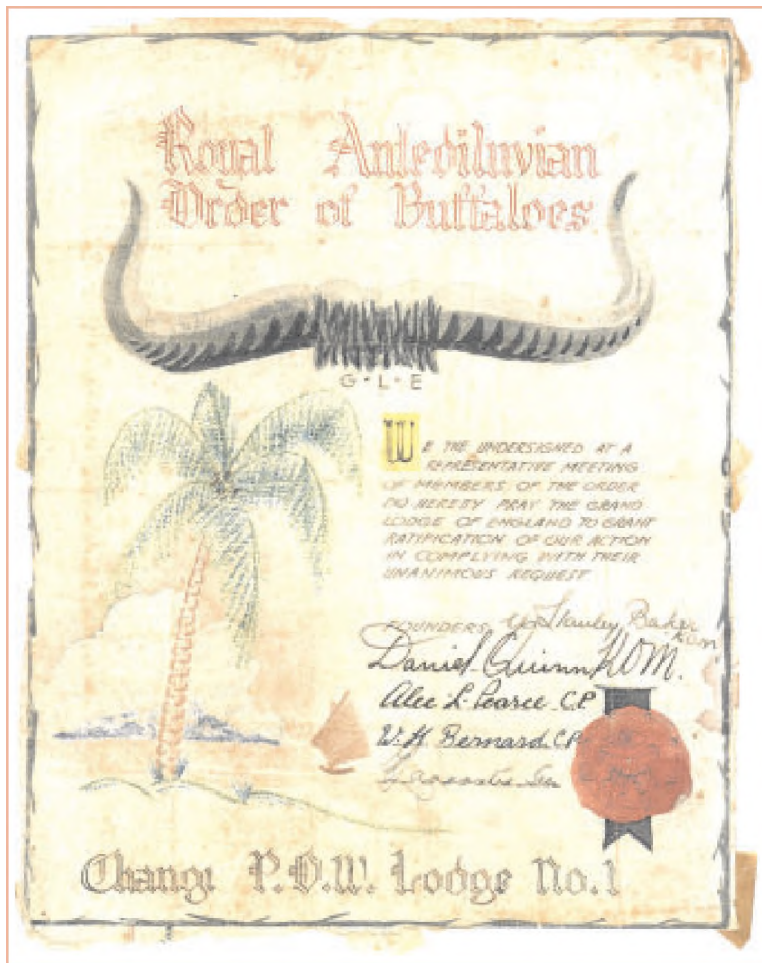
Primo I. Pearce

Primo W.H. Bernard

These are the actual Founders whose names appear on the Dispensation, all being duly Certified Primo's of the GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND by their various Governing Authorities in Australia as per rule of such Bodies.



My next step was to obtain a DISPENSATION, this being impossible in the true sense, I found it necessary to have one made, the result being exhibit (A).



Eventually on the night of NOVEMBER 24 the day being TUESDAY in the year of OUR LORD 1942, I, Daniel Quinn K.O.M. opened what is known henceforth as CHANGI PRISONER OF WAR LODGE No. 1 GLE. (see minutes under date 24/11/42) also report on ceremony. The latter may not be quite in accordance with the ritual covering such function but carried out with due solemnity from my own poor memory affected by previous sickness.

In all humility in sight of GOD and Man and in the name of HIS MAJESTY THE KING, the GRAND LODGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, under the GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND INCORPORATED of the ROYAL ANTEDILUVIAN ORDER OF BUFFALOES, I declared the Lodge open for the transaction of such business as may be bought before it. My first duty was to elect Officers. This was carried out in due form and my Officers installed and instructed in their duties. All Brethren were specially instructed in what action to take and the use of subterfuge in the event of a surprise by enemy guards on patrol in the camp, this could not be recorded for security reasons.

The Lodge proved a huge success and a boon to the members all will agree. The decorum left nothing to be desired. The LOYAL TOAST was honoured at every meeting.

The Absent Brothers Toast being similarly and more solemnly honoured than that of the Lodges in freedom. BLACK sugarless tea was used as Gatta for this purpose, proving that certain slurs cast on our noble Order could be given the lie direct back in the teeth.

“ALL FUNDS AVAILABLE” and these though willingly contributed to were used to in the work of Benevolence, making this more valuable as such was scarce and could be ill spared by the individuals at the time being so hard to come by.

The Lodge was carried on, having a course to be moved to and from various places in the camp, but eventually had to suddenly terminate without warning, owing to all being incarcerated closely packed in Changi Jail.

The Lodge gear was distributed piecemeal amongst the members, the fittings which could not be fully concealed I had burned. At this time I was stricken with Dysentery and various other complaints which almost killed me and I was sent out to Hospital Camp at Kranji.

That Worthy Grand Primo is a brief outline of the LODGE, with the exception that my last Buffalo function in captivity was to Officiate at a pilgrimage and Memorial Service in the Kranji Cemetery as per report under date 25/8/45 this being followed by a humble feast as per report.

For my own part I humbly pray the Grand Lodge give Ratification and recognition of this Lodge which will live forever in the minds of our Captive Brothers. On my own behalf I humbly Pray to be fairly judged and humbly beg pardon for overstepping the Rules which although definitely laid down made no provision for such circumstances which had no precedent.

My final Prayer is that no other Brother suffer any disciplinary action for having taken part therein, also that being their leader I should not, perhaps

in your judgement, have acted as I did I am fully prepared to take full responsibility and consequent disciplinary punishment that the Grand Lodge of England may wish to administer.

Worthy Grand, Deputy Grand, Officers of Grand Lodge, this is my Prayer and Case – I leave it in your hands.

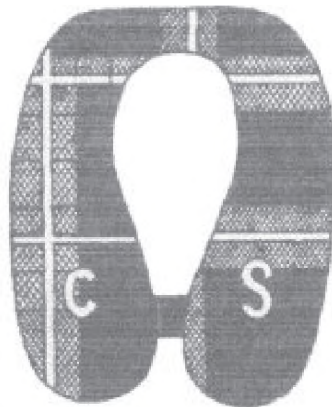
*Certified true copy of the documents held in the R.A.O.B. Museum, Grove House, Harrogate, England.*

\* \* \*

**Out of the gloom a voice said to me,  
“Smile and be happy, things could be worse”  
So I smiled and was happy,  
And behold “Things did get worse”**

### **CHANGI PRISON 1942**

Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 G.L.E.  
City Secretary's collar  
Made from a Tartan material





## Letters

The following letters were in response to an article which appeared in the December 1958 edition of the Buffalo Quarterly Journal seeking information on Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 and in the Seladang News Letter.

They are in date order only and are the only copies available at the time of going to print. Originals are held in the R.A.O.B., G.L.E. Museum, Harrogate.

The article in the 1958 BQJ is as follows:

**Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1** - The following letter from Bro. W. R. Hawes, editor of the "Seladang News" revives one of the most moving stories of the war in the East and it would be of great interest if this note catches the eye of any of the Brethren who took part in the Lodge at that time. The hand written affiliation card reproduced here is clearly in a perfect state of preservation and the full story of those unhappy but memorable days would not only make excellent reading; it would also serve to remind us that the improbable is around the corner in any age when men are too sure of themselves.

S/Sgt. W. R. Hawes  
Public Relations  
GHQ Farelf  
Singapore 10

*24th September 1958*

Dear Sir and Brother,

The enclosed print is a copy I made of the original Affiliation Certificate of Bro. T. Armstrong, C.P. Though the print does give you some idea of the handywork, it cannot give you the colouring which makes this certificate so unique. At a later date I will copy it in colour and let you have a transparency.

As you are the author of the History of our Order, I feel that the Buffalo activities in these P.O.W. Camps should where possible be revealed for one of the volumes.

I have started the ball rolling in this part of the world, and if any relevant information reaches me, I will forward this to you. In the meantime, would you approach the Grand Secretary and ask him to dig down in his records for the whereabouts of the members named on the certificate, or information relating to these Brethren.

This may only be a shot in the dark, and an old subject to you but would give our newer members some idea how the objects of our Order are achieved under such adverse conditions.

Fraternally yours,

W. R. Hawes, C.P.

Editor "Seladang News"

\* \* \*

4042838 Sgt. W. D. Griffiths  
32 Armd. W/Shop. (REME)  
British Forces Post Office 32

9/1/59

Dear Sir & Brother,

With reference to your article & letter in December Journal about Changi POW Lodge & Affiliation Certificate belonging to Bro. Armstrong. Bro. Hawes C.P. asked for whereabouts of Brothers named on the Certificate. I have recently returned from Hong Kong, where I attended the Pride of Hilsea Lodge 8865. Bro. T. Armstrong K.O.M. was also a member of the same Lodge. He was also the Company Officer of the unit to which I was attached. It is quite possible that he has been posted from that unit now, but I am sure that if you wanted to contact him, a letter sent to the following address would be re-directed if he has in fact been posted.

CAPTAIN T. ARMSTRONG, R.A.M.C.  
BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL  
KOWLOON  
BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE No.1

Hoping that this information will be of some help to either you or Bro. Hawes C.P.

Yours faithfully & fraternally

Bro. W. Griffiths

Letter received from the Grand Secretary of Queensland,  
Brother Ron Taylor, R.O.H.



Victory Temple and Club  
Constance Street, Valley

Telephone 5-2629  
After Hours 6-2569

P.O. Box 50.  
Fortitude Valley  
Brisbane

13th February, 1959.

The Grand Secretary,  
R.A.O.B., G.L.E.,  
Grove House,  
Haregate,  
YORKSHIRE.  
ENGLAND.

Dear Sir,

On perusing the December, 1958 issue of the Green-un I have observed a request for information with reference to Changi P.O.W. Lodge No. 1 G.L.E.I., and as several of the active members of that particular Lodge are now residing in Queensland and in fact were resident in Queensland before the war, I am endeavouring to forward you some information.

Bro. W. Stanley Baker, K.O.M. whose signature appears in the reproduction of the membership certificate as the Worthy Prime of the Lodge, is Bro. William Stanley Baker, R.O.H. who is a Grand Provincial Lodge Officer of Mackay Provincial Grand Lodge No. 4, Mackay Queensland, who can be reached by having mail addressed through this office, and one of the very active members of this Lodge was Bro. Ernie Lancaster, who I believe, was the Foundation City Secretary of this Lodge; he is now the Shire Clerk at Beaudesert some 40 miles from Brisbane.

I have just discovered that I have kept a bound copy of the 1st year's issue of the Queensland Buffalo Gazette and in the March issue on Page 2 and 3 and 18 you will find all the information you require with reference to the Changi Lodge together with reproductions of their Dispensation, their Buffalo Club and their Buffalo Lodge Membership Certificates and also a Lodge Collar, and I am in possession of the blocks from which these were printed and would be quite happy to present them to Grand Lodge if they desire so.

I am forwarding this book, which I value very greatly, to you for your inspection and would thank you to return it to me when you have finished with it.

Yours fraternally,

*Ron Taylor* R.O.H.  
GRAND SECRETARY OF QUEENSLAND.



From the Grand Secretary Bro. George Smith  
to Bro. Mervyn Payne, Journal Editor

PY/9/4/59/MWF

9th April 1959

Bro. M. W. Payne  
"Lletai"  
PENCOED

Dear Mervyn,

re Changi P.O.W. Lodge

I enclose herewith letter received from Brother James of Leicester which does not appear to be of much help and a letter from Bro. Ron Taylor, Grand Secretary of Queensland which is very helpful. I have tried to take photostat copies of the article to which Brother Taylor refers but have not been successful because I cannot get the book flat for the photostat machine.

Please be careful with the book since I have promised to return it, I am forwarding it by registered post under separate cover.

If you desire to lift any of the article for the Journal please give me an instruction on a separate sheet of paper and I will have the necessary instruction typed for your copy. You will note that Brother Ron Taylor offers the use of the printing blocks if you require them. I should be pleased if you would return his letter and my reply when you have finished with same.

Yours

George

R. A. O. B.

Nemo Mortalium Omnibus Horis Sapit.

G. L. E.

## United Services Lodge No. 8288

LODGE NIGHT—MONDAYS—7.30 P.M.

Secretary:- CQMS CHITTY

4 SRD RASC

GPO Singapore.

LODGE ADDRESS,  
PRINCESS MARY BKS.  
SINGAPORE.

*Date*, 24th June 1959

Dear Sir and Brother.,

Reference the enclosed Affiliation Certificate of Brother Armstrong.

As you are already aware from Bro Mervyn Payne the circumstances of this Certificate, and also that he has requested you to try and trace the signatories.

At our last Lodge Meeting it was decided that for the disposal of the Certificate it <sup>rest</sup> with the Brother concerned, if he can be traced, and not for our Lodge to dispose of it. However as this Document is something of an Important and memorable occasion and is quite a unique thing, I have been requested to write to you and ask you if you would carry out our request.

Firstly, if Bro Armstrong can be traced then he be approached as to what he wishes to do with it, and secondly if he cannot be traced that this Document be placed in the care of Grand Lodge.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Your faithfully and fraternally

To:- Grand Secretary

*C. Chitty*  
City Secretary.

188/9/7/59/MWF

9th July 1959

Bro. J. Chitty

Sec. United Services Lodge 8288

CQMS

4 SRD RASC

GPO SINGAPORE

Dear Brother Chitty,

I duly received your letter dated 24th June and enclose copy of the enquiry I have made to the last Lodge of which Brother T. Armstrong was in membership

Yours fraternally,

Grand Secretary

52/9/7/59MWF

9th July 1959

Bro. J.K. Jackson  
Sec. Pride of Hilsea Lodge 8865

Dear Brother Jackson,

I have recently received from Brother Chitty, Secretary of the United Services Lodge 8288, a membership certificate of the Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 belonging to Brother T. Armstrong and have been requested by Brother Chitty to endeavour to trace the owner.

According to my records Brother Thomas Armstrong was initiated in the Et Gloria Lodge 5872 China on 21st January 1939, raised to the second degree in the Sir Richard Grenville Lodge 703 Plymouth on 24th January 1947 and to the third degree in the Four Seasons Lodge 8089 Western Germany No.1 on 6th August 1954 and became affiliated member of the Pride of Hilsea Lodge 8865 on June 7th 1957. I have no record of his movements after that date and would be pleased if you could let me know as quickly as possible whether or not you could give me his present address.

Yours fraternally

Grand Secretary

P.S. At the time of Brother Armstrongs affiliation to the Pride of Hilsea Lodge his address was given as 33 Gen. Hosp.





CITY SECRETARY:- CAP. J.M. JOHNSON  
 COMB. WKEP RUMHE  
 B.F.P.O. No 1  
 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 1959

Grand Secretary  
GLE RAAB

  
 City Secretary

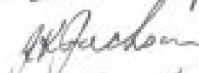
Dear Sir and Brother,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. and have managed to secure the following information about Bro Tom Armstrong KCM, which I trust will be of some assistance to you.

Bro Tom left Hong Kong in December 1958 on return to the United Kingdom and his forwarding address is believed to be:-

CAPT T. ARMSTRONG R.A.M.C.,  
 ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL  
 NETLEY  
 SOUTHAMPTON

Yours faithfully & fraternally

  
 City Secretary



C/6/8/59/MWF

6th August 1959

Bro. T. Armstrong  
Royal Victoria Hospital  
Netley  
SOUTHAMPTON

Dear Brother Armstrong,

I have recently received from Brother Chitty, Secretary of the United Services Lodge 8288 a membership certificate of the Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 belonging to your goodself and have been requested by Brother Chitty to endeavour to trace the owner. Brother Jackson of the Pride of Hilsea Lodge 8865 has given me your forwarding address and I shall be glad to learn what you wish me to do with the certificate.

You may be interested to know that some years ago I had a visit at Grove House from Brother W. Stanley Baker K.O.M. who is a Deputy Mayor of McKay, Queensland and who can still be contacted per favour of Brother Ron Taylor, Grand Secretary of Queensland, P.O. Box 50, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. Brother Baker was in good health and spirits and gave me a very full picture of the Lodge in which he and you were keen members.

Yours fraternally,

Grand Secretary

## Letter written to the editor of the Seladang News

SELADANG NEWS  
Changi P.O.W. Lodge No.1

### **Bro. Beale gives us more information**

My story really starts in the year 1921 when as a rifleman of the King's Royal Rifle Corps I was posted to India, ceasing my services there in 1929. On my way home from India I had a slight accident, in which I lost the sight of my right eye, and when I tried to re-enlist at the outbreak of World War II in my old Regiment I was rejected through this affliction of mine. At this time I was a member of the Sir Redver Buller Lodge No.4880.

My affliction did not keep me out of the war however, as I became a member of the 198th Field Ambulance RAMC, and sailed to Singapore where we landed on the 13th January 1941 as part of 53rd Brigade of the 18th Division (East Anglian Division). My stay in the Far East as a free man was short lived, for the Island fell to the Japanese on the 15th February 1941 and so started my days as a prisoner of war with the hospital group at Kranji Camp (Changi?).

As I said in my first letter to you, the Lodge was started by Australian member of our Order, and though our self styled Lodge room was consecrated according to ritual, I'm afraid that I cannot name the participants in this ceremony. There is no need to emphasise the fact that those meetings were contrary to Camp Standing Orders, and the Officer in charge of the camp placed himself in a very precarious position if any one was caught holding those meetings. Contact with other members of the Order was about the easiest part of the issue, for you only had to talk Buffaloism with someone you knew and soon others would make themselves known to you. We had no fixed Lodge nights so when a meeting was to be held, the news would be passed from member to member by saying "See you tonight!" and we knew what that meant.

Plans had to be made in advance if we were to hold a meeting for it was necessary to have a system of warnings to enable us to make quick getaways. Our meetings were oft times disturbed by our Yellow Captors, and to give us fair warning, we posted lookouts inside and outside the meeting place, and should our hosts approach anywhere near us, the outside lookouts would start arguing in a loud voice, so that the inside sentries could hear. This was our cue to make our departure, but rapid, returning later to close the Lodge according to the ritual with as much dignity as possible.



There was one or two copies of the Rule Book in existence as Bro. Danny Quinn KOM possessed one, but he seldom ever referred to it, as he seemed to know it from memory the entire contents! my own copy which I had bought out from U.K. had disappeared with my kit when we went up country on arrival in Singapore. It must be understood that though we were a Lodge in spirit, we could not carry out Initiations or Raisings, nor could we use any form of currency - the money we received was not worth the paper it was written on - for what little we did get, was used to purchase food. Registrations therefore were in name only, so you can see that where it was possible we did in fact conform with Rule. To make the picture perfectly clear I must just mention that all hospital staff were reduced to half rations, so that the small sums of money we did receive did go to foodstuffs to try and fill the gap in our ever empty stomachs.

Officers of the Lodge were changed whenever possible, but as time went by we lost considerable numbers to working parties going up country, while the usual tropical diseases made large inroads on our membership.

In spite of all these setbacks we still carried out our Obligations, when and where we could. Gatter for what it was worth consisted of water or hot tea without sugar or milk, and here again we were able to conform to the book. I have already mentioned the lack of money, but this did not stop us from indulging in a few registered charges, but as we had to be on the alert all the time, we could not really set our minds to this and it all became very tiresome and frustrating.

The Last Rites for a member of the Order was always carried out in spirit, for not even the services Padre was allowed to carry out his ceremony.

I was with the Lodge for six months before the order came restricting our movements, as we had refused to sign a declaration that we would not escape. On instructions from our Commander we were told to sign under duress, and from then on we were all moved to different locations and the Lodge came to a close. It was at this time that the RAOB Club came into existence, and though we did not hold meetings, our Buffalo principals were carried out. A few of us used to visit the hospital wards contacting other members, but most of them left Singapore with 'F' Force - the largest to leave Singapore - so ending our contact with the Changi POW Lodge No.1.

Bro. J. R. D. Beale

Dear Bro. Bill,

If in the near future I should attend a Lodge, I will convey your fraternal greetings and that of your Lodge, but I am sorry to say that I have been a sufferer of Asthma and Bronchitis since my POW days and I was

told that it was climatic. Unfortunately these have stayed with me ever since and I cannot stand the smoke in a Lodge room and usually have to retire much to my discomfort. I am a 60% pensioner but am happy that I can get about. Please call on me should you require further information, for I am only too happy to oblige.

Bro. Beale

Editor:-

Thanks a lot Bro. Beale, at least we are a lot wiser on the Changi POW Lodge, and it looks as if my next line of search is in Australia.



Apologies are given for the quality of the reproduction of some of the Certificates and drawings that appear in this booklet but they are the best copies we could lay our hands on, any originals that we have in the UK are preserved and kept in the RAOB GLE Museum in Harrogate.

We leave you with that time honoured Royal British Legion Tribute.

**They shall not grow old,  
As we who are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the Sun  
And in the Morning  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

Beaudesert  
QUEENSLAND  
6/6/60

Grand Secretary.  
R. B. Taylor R.O.H.

Dear Ron,

I have read with interest the letter from Sgt. W. R. Hawes Singapore. Being the instigator of P.O.W. Changhi No.1 Lodge the information contained in his letter is not strictly correct. He has organisers and founders of the R.A.O.B. Club Roberts Hospital coupled with the Changhi P.O.W. Lodge No.1. Founders of which were W. Stanley Baker K.O.M., Daniel Quinn K.O.M., Alex L. Pearce C.P., W. K. Bernard C.P. and myself as Secretary.

The R.A.O.B. Club was formed by Bro. F. P. Spielvogel C.P. with Bro. Bill Toogood Secretary during 1943. The Changhi P.O.W. Lodge No.1 was formed in early 1942 when prisoners were in Selenang Camp. Due to the rapid growth of Lodge No.1 and the number of its Members ending in the Roberts Hospital. C. P. Spielvogel and Bill Toogood with Orderlies at the hospital decided on the Club formation.

These two excellent and fine Brothers realising the necessity of a word of cheer required during hospitalization decided on the Club - Long may they live.

It is and was most unfortunate that K.O.M. Daniel Quinn more or less demanded that into his keeping should be given the records of Lodge No.1 — I personally offered to guarantee that the minute Book and the names of all members would reach Australia if it was humanly possible. A number of Buffs had been organised for this purpose and as the number grew gradually smaller due to working parties and deaths other persons were co-opted with the view that the records would - no matter what - reach Australia. Unfortunately Sir Daniel Quinn was adamant that he and he alone should and would bring same to Australia H.Q. being Western Australia.

Rone same information, probably through the Lodge could be obtained regarding Sir Daniel - he was a Westralian - If I remember rightly Spielvogel was a Victorian - in any case the information previously published in the Gazette is strictly correct and can be vouched for by any of the persons whose names are included therein.

Regards,

(Signed)

ERNIE LANCASTER.



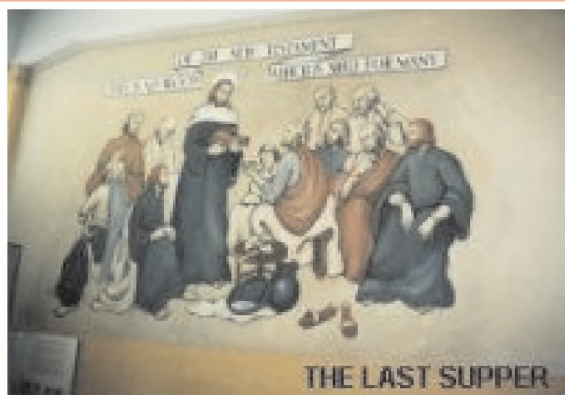
## The Murals of Changi

Two of the Murals in Block 151 Changi Prisoner of War Camp painted by Bombardier Stanley Warren.

Paint was not readily available, but with the aid of other prisoners, who unquestionably put themselves at great risk, colours and materials to make the paint from were acquired. Brown camouflage paint was found, as were a small amount of crimson paint and white oil paint. Billiard cue chalk was crushed and used to produce blue.

Despite still being very ill, Stanley set to work on the murals in October 1942. His illness meant that he could only paint for a limited period each day. To compensate as

much as he could for the lack of coloured paint, Stanley resorted to using large brush strokes and big areas of solid colour when painting. Despite this, after three murals, he only had 'Battleship grey' left. Altogether, Stanley



produced five large murals on the side walls of the Chapel. On one wall he painted "The Nativity" and "St. Paul in Prison" each mural being about three metres long. On the other wall are "The Last Supper", "The Crucifixion" and "The Resurrection". All are subjects at the heart of Christian belief. The spiritual uplift these

murals must have given to the POWs worshipping or praying in the chapel can only be imagined.

The murals were restored in 1963 and visitors to the murals today find a well-restored chapel. It is a peaceful little room, belying its grim war-time years. There is a visitors' book which contains names from the world over, including those of many old inmates of the Changi Camp. The Singapore Army looks after the chapel today and maintains it in pristine condition.



Changi Gaol  
A Picture by one of the inmates

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The Great Winged Memorial  
of  
KRANJI WAR CEMETERY  
On the walls of the Memorial are inscribed the names of 23,943  
men and women who have no known grave



## MEDAL PRESENTATION

Mr. W. K. de Foe was the recipient of a gold medal presented by the Executive of the R.A.O.B. Grand Council of Stockport for services rendered during the Occupation.



Mr. de Foe buried valuable Records of the R.A.O.B. and has, since liberation returned them intact and complete.

The Japanese received certain information concerning members of the R.A.O.B. and Mr. de Foe was called up by the Japanese Kempatel for questioning. He did not reveal the whereabouts of the Records.

The presentation was made at Singapore Lodge 1805 R.A.O.B. Grand Council in the Naval Base on 18th May 1949 by Mr. Frank W. Boyd.

Signed Frank W. Boyd

*Straits Times published report on 20/5/49*

\* \* \* \* \*

Further pictures of Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore  
Looking from the West and from the East



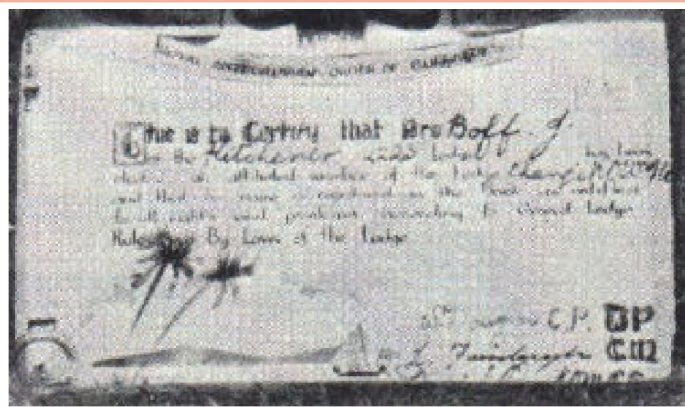


## From the R.A.O.B. G.L.E. Quarterly Journal

The picture below is taken from the front cover of the Buffalo Quarterly Journal of June 1963 with comments from the editor (Bro. Mervyn Payne) — The picture on our front cover for June is just a part of the historic moral defence against the spiritual and mental capitulation the Japanese endeavoured to impose on their prisoners during the 1939/1945 war. Buffaloism gave our people an added resistance which enabled them to actively defy the enemy and to take terrible risks rather than submit to total obliteration.



Bro. John Boff was one of them and how he took a piece of teak board from his bed and carved the plaque with a piece of steel sharpened to a razor edge in months of endeavour, is



an epic in itself, for discovery would have bought an awful punishment.

Changi, its shocking cruelty and unspeakable conditions and the will to survive

that alone kept men alive, will some day be told in full and the fact that he and others kept alive their faith and maintained good heart in a tortured body will be an inspiration to future generations.