

## H.M.S. GIANG BEE

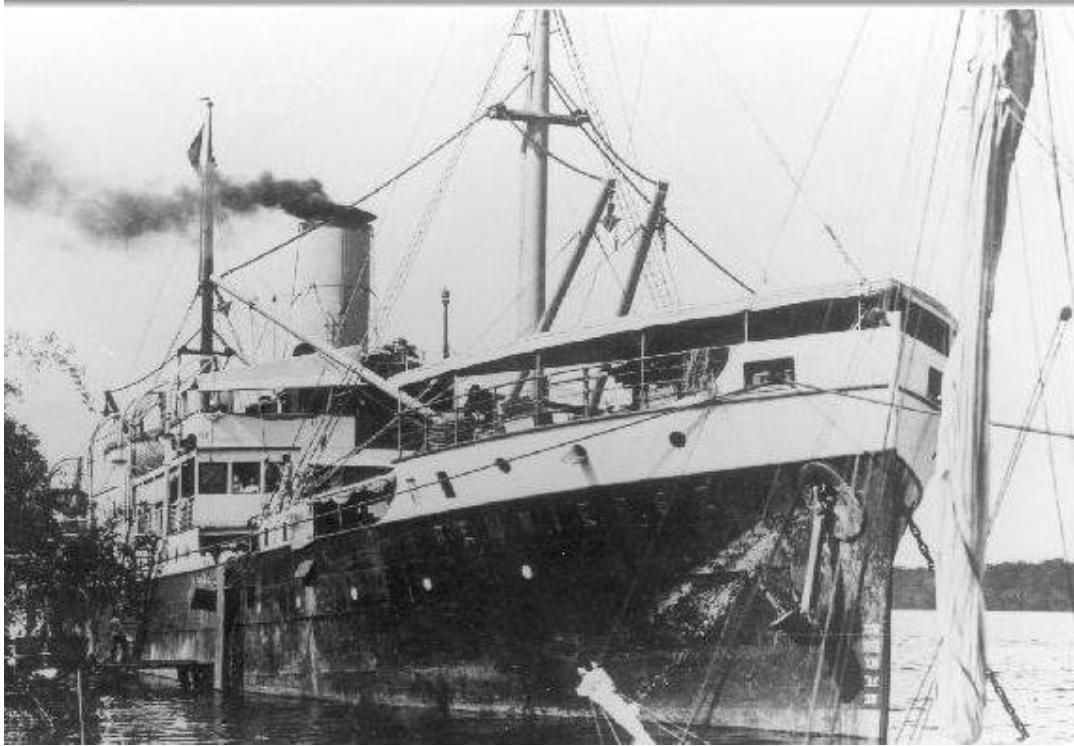
- Sunk by Japanese destroyer on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

### Researched passenger list [Version 2.7.0; July 2021]

The "*HMS Giang Bee*", a KPM owned (via Heap Eng Ltd.) coastal steamer which had been requisitioned by the Royal Navy and used as a patrol vessel, left Singapore Harbour – according to a statement made by a number of those who were on board – at either 9 p.m. (ASD) or 10 p.m. on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 1942. Although Captain Lancaster, in command of the ship, initially refused to take civilian passengers because he probably saw the dangers attached to a ship designated as a warship and flying the White Ensign, she was eventually loaded with up to 300 refugees (one survivor, Gordon Reis believed there to be 350 people on board) who were unusually weighted more towards men on this occasion, compared with women, children as most ships leaving at the time carried. All her Malay crew had been ordered ashore in Singapore before she left, so that the crew consisted of a few Chinese crew members, a handful of RNVR personnel and some passengers who volunteered to be stokers etc.

She was bombed and suffered damage during the day of 13<sup>th</sup> February during which three people were killed, including a 19-year-old serviceman (diary of Miss Joan Sinclair). In the evening, after a long stand-off with a Japanese destroyer, she was shelled and sunk in the Banka Strait. There had never been enough lifeboats for all those on board, and two of the four lifeboats had been seriously damaged by the day's bombing. Due to this and the speed with which the ship sank, many lives were lost.

Whilst there appears to have initially been an attempt by the Japanese to handle the surrender of the ship in a somewhat civilised manner, in the final event the Japanese warships showed no humanity or decency when they were in full knowledge that the ship contained civilians and a huge number of women and children. In a wartime situation at sea, it may be understandable they did not stop and pick up survivors, but to leave without even jettisoning flotation devices for the women and children shows a complete lack of human values.



**The 'Reijnierz' later renamed the 'HMS. Giang Bee'**

**[Source; [www.wrecksite.eu](http://www.wrecksite.eu)]**

The "*Giang Bee*" (1646 tonnes) had been built in Rotterdam in 1908 and was originally named the "*Reijnierz*". By 1939 she had been sold to the Heap Eng Moh SS Co (by then a subsidiary of the Dutch line KPM) and renamed "*Giang Bee*".

In the years before the war the shipowners' newspaper advertisements announced she plied her trade as" ... *a passenger and cargo ship between Singapore and Batavia, Borneo, Banka and Billiton...*".

There were apparently few passenger cabins, little deck space, but plenty of room in the holds (ASD). She had four lifeboats – each could carry 32 people. Throughout this document she may be noted as the "GB". In April 1941 she was requisitioned into naval service. She carried a four-inch gun and depth charges ('Straits Times').

Although Captain Harold Hinchcliffe Lancaster, an experienced merchant officer, was stated to be in command it is also recorded in naval files that Lt. S. K. Rayner was the nominal CO at some point before this last voyage. Both Captain Lancaster and Lt. Rayner lost their lives in the sinking.

The *Giang Bee* had been busy in the few weeks before her final departure from Singapore. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of January she rescued eight survivors from the H.M.S. *Thanet*, a destroyer which had been sunk three days previously when attacked by a Japanese light cruiser, three destroyers and a minesweeper. The following day, she picked up a mixed party of 56 British troops: fifty-four from the *Thanet* and two R.A.F. pilots who had been picked up by the *Thanet's* boat.

**Who was on board 'HMS Giang Bee'?**

The captain of the vessel was 53-year-old **Captain Harold Hinchcliffe Lancaster, RNR.**, a merchant navy officer with several decades of sea going experience under the flags of the White Star Line, the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., - interspersed by a few years ashore as a farmer in Western Australia - and since 1933 /34 based in Singapore with Chinese steamship lines including the 'Red Funnel Line' of Heap Eng Moh Steamship Co. Ltd., as captain of the 'SS Giang Bee'. Harold Hinchcliffe would have been very familiar with the waters between Singapore and his objective of Batavia – but this was of little use when faced with the powerful Japanese warships which formed part of the invasion fleet heading towards Palembang in southern Sumatra and which would soon cut off the Banka Strait escape route.



**Captain Harold Hinchcliffe Lancaster, RNR.**

[Source: Lancaster family, Carley Marshall]

Whilst many of the people who boarded the ship on that night of the 12th of February were simply individuals desperate to leave a bombed, burning, and shattered Singapore, there were clearly strong social dynamics at work amongst the flood of people who had crowded into Singapore in the previous month. This had resulted in groups of friends, extended families and company employees working together to survive and escape by means of staying in groups they trusted and loved.

Amongst those on the *Giang Bee* were several large extended family groups – particularly Eurasian families - most notably the Boswells, de Souza's, Schoolings, Dumbletons, Collins, van Burens and van Geyzels; senior women from the Malaya YWCA and the Singapore YWCA; the Salvation Army; there were people who knew each other through the Singapore Recreation Club; a group of professional jockeys and trainers from the Singapore Turf Club and Malayan racecourses, ten employees of the Ministry of Information and the remaining 'skeleton' staff of the Malayan Broadcasting Corporation and a number of newspaper men. Staff from William Jacks & Co. (Malaya) Ltd. and several partners from the Penang law firm Lean & Co. Many planters and miners were aboard.

The men from the Malayan Broadcasting Corporation no doubt knew Miller E.M. Morell from the Ministry of Information and probably Vladimir Tretchikoff, a propaganda artist for the British and someone who would survive and go on to paint the well-known “Chinese Girl” painting which adorned millions of homes during the 1950s and 1960s. Tretchikoff had been in China prior to Singapore and we can speculate whether this background and his artistic talents had put him in contact with another passenger, the talented Czech sculptor Bohuslav Josef Koci who lost his life as a result of the sinking.

The fact that ‘HMS Giang Bee’ carried more men (about 140 plus) than women (110 plus) was a mystery until the researcher found a record by Mr James Reid who had farewelled his wife and children with large group of other potential evacuees to be taken out to waiting ships, and Mr Reid’s comments that there was an instruction for men to be taken to the ‘HMS Giang Bee’ and women to other ships such as the ‘SS. Vyner Brooke’. Sadly, there does not appear to have been and high-level naval assessment that any ship which had been co-opted during 1941 into the Royal Navy as an auxiliary vessel, such as the ‘HMS Giang Bee’ or the ‘SS Vyner Brooke’ and which would consequentially be flying the White Ensign would be much more likely to be summarily attacked than a merchant ship carrying the Red Ensign. Sadly, history shows that the Japanese Navy and Japanese Airforce did not generally discriminate in their attacks on Royal Navy ships or merchant ships even when obviously carrying mainly women and children – the treatment of the ‘SS Mata Hari’ in the Banka Strait is one exception and the Commander of the Japanese warship in that incident seems to have gone out of his way to protect the passengers and crew whilst matters were in his control.



**Captain Lancaster and another unidentified officer on board ‘Giang Bee’**

[Source: Lancaster family, Carley Marshall]

For reasons yet to be answered in this research, it is noticeable that several of the very last few ships to leave Singapore had a very large proportion of Eurasians amongst their civilian passengers. The ‘*Giang Bee*’ probably had the highest ratio of Eurasian families on board – many of whom had become interrelated by marriage in the half century leading up to the Second World War. The question has to be asked whether Eurasians were having even more trouble than the British families during January and February 1942 getting the elusive ‘tickets’ from the P & O representative or the few thousand official exit passes issued by the military/government authorities in the last few days?

### **Departure from Singapore and the last voyage:**

The *Giang Bee* was one of approximately 44 – 47 ships that left Singapore in loose convoy formation during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February – tragically the “GB” was to be one of the 40 or so of these little ships which never made it to safety. It seems that only half a dozen ships successfully made port in Batavia a few days later.

The excellent books “Sinister Twilight” by Noel Barber and “Singapore’s Dunkirk” by Geoffrey Brooke give good accounts of the last hours of the GB and they have been used to create much of the following summary.

There were repeated air attacks during the day of the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1942 – one passenger (ASD) records “...the Japanese planes came over in waves. We were fortunate the first time they unloaded their bombs but when they came back again after 1 p.m. they made a direct hit and caused damage to the engine room. There were several fatalities. I did not even realise that I had been hit in the back by shrapnel in six places. These incidentally were removed a few weeks later...” (ASD). At about 6 p.m. on that day and when about 170 miles south of Singapore Japanese warships suddenly appeared over the horizon and fired a warning shot across the bows (ASD); Captain Lancaster (most sensibly in the eyes of this researcher) ordered the White Ensign to be lowered and that all women and children should show themselves on deck. He also ordered the crew to throw their weapons into the sea (WFTD p. 42)

Two Japanese destroyers approached the GB at high speed, one of them signalling in incomprehensible Morse code, and stopped within half a mile of the GB when one of them sent a launch towards the GB. It was within a hundred and fifty yards of the GB when an RAF or Dutch bomber (Anna Silberman and Gordon Reis in their diaries state there were two bombers) from Sumatra suddenly appeared and began circling overhead; the Japanese destroyers opened fire, the bomber (s) flew off, and the Japanese recalled their launch.



**Royal Navy Auxiliary vessel ‘HMS Giang Bee’**

[Source: Lancaster family, Carley Marshall]



**Imperial Japanese Navy destroyer: 'Asagiri'**

[Source: Wikipedia]

*Further research involving the logs and naval records of Japanese destroyers has confirmed to a high degree of accuracy that the Japanese warships were in fact two "Fubuki" class destroyers – these were extremely heavily armed and effective warships. They each carried six 5inch guns and another 32 antiaircraft and mounted machine guns, plus nine torpedoes and could make 38 knots. The specific destroyers were the "Fubuki" and the "Asagiri" which were involved in many of the sinkings of British and Dutch ships in the Indonesian Archipelago and the Banka Straits during this terrible one-week period.*

Then followed a long uneasy wait that continued as (is the case in the Tropics) dusk quickly turned into the pitch black of night when the destroyers then trained their searchlights on the GB. Note: sunset in that area is about 7.20pm at which time it would have been dark.

At about 7.30pm Captain Lancaster (it appears after an instruction signalled by the Japanese for the ship to be abandoned) ordered all women and children to take to the lifeboats – 50 or so in each boat – and a strong tidal current soon swept the lifeboats astern of the GB. It was during this part of the events that earlier air raid damage was revealed – damaged lowering ropes on one lifeboat parted as it was being lowered into the sea and it spilled its passengers into the darkness of the ocean; the second lifeboat was lowered into the sea, but it had been holed by bomb splinters and soon began taking water and sank.

Ship's engineer Percival Van Geyzel came up from the engine room in time to see the first lifeboats lowered, they contained women and children. He heard a loud snap from the boat ropes and saw the lifeboat tumble into the sea, one of his recurring nightmares. He then returned to the engine room where he stayed till he heard the shelling begin above him.

This was where it appears that at least half of the women, children and men missing from the “Giang Bee” lost their lives and two survivors recorded in anguish the moment as one of horror – firstly Mr. M. J. V. Miller in his diary ( IWM 88/62/1 ) recalled “...***I shall never forget that as long as I live, and the sound of little children calling out for their mothers will be forever in my ears, it was simply heartrending...***” and also in the diary of Gordon Reis “...***when I got into our lifeboat the screams for help were appalling – mostly women’s voices – obviously from the damaged lifeboats and now struggling in the sea...***”. When researching this document, it became apparent that most of the women and children listed in the following pages as lost in this awful attack on the “GB” would have been the first people ordered onto the first two lifeboats and would have drowned that night in the sea. Some other women refused to leave their wounded husbands behind on board the ship and would have lost their lives in the sinking.

The research has revealed that at least 45 women and girls died in the attack and sinking and, with some 50 – 100 people still unidentified it is reasonable to assume that up to 60 -70 women and girls died – adding in the crew needed to handle the craft and a few old or injured men and this would be roughly the equivalent of the capacity of two lifeboats.

Two further lifeboats successfully launched with about 100 people in them combined.

[Researcher Note: The ‘Giang Bee’ is said to have been “... 170 miles south of Singapore ...” when it was attacked, which places it beyond Singkep Island but well short of the narrow Banka Straits and final safety in Batavia. To approximately determine the position, it sank we can consider the other half of the equation for its position - the route and time taken of the lifeboat which reached Djaboes on Banka Island. That lifeboat, as described below, was grossly overloaded with 56 people against a recommended complement of 30 persons. The average speed of a ships lifeboat in this situation would be less than 1 knot i.e.one nautical mile per hour. Given that survivor Miss Joan Sinclair later recorded that the lifeboat too two nights and two days to reach Banka Island we can guesstimate that they travelled - without the knowledge of sea currents either helping or hindering the lifeboat – some 40 – 50 nautical miles. This equates to some 45 – 60 land miles and the total distance from Singapore to Muntok, Banka Island is 250 miles. Djaboes would be a little closer to Singapore, so the basic understanding is that **the ‘HMS Giang Bee’ sank some 50 nautical miles north-West of Banka Island - halfway between Singkep Island and Banka Island.**]

When the last lifeboat had been cast off there were still about 100 people on board, so the Captain sent the 13-foot harbour dinghy with Rob Scott and three others to try and contact the destroyers.

Regrettably the destroyers kept manoeuvring away from the dinghy, so this effort failed.

One of the destroyers then apparently signalled for the ‘GB’ to be abandoned because they were intending to sink her.

At about this point many of those still on board took to the sea (GBIR). There were at least 96 men killed in the attack and sinking, so allowing for the small group of women who chose to remain with their husbands we can sadly assume that most men who lost their lives did so as the ship went down and without access to lifeboats or rafts.

The book “By Eastern Windows” by William H McDougall Jnr. records (p.157) one heart breaking account of such a decision, as told by the jockey Jimmy Martin, he was helping with lowering the lifeboats when “... ***Nearby was an injured man and his wife and their two blond children, aged four and six. The man had been carried aboard with two broken legs. Now he was doomed. Lifeboats were only for women and children and a skeleton crew to row. Jimmy heard the wife***



*ask two men who were standing by idle to help her move her husband into a more comfortable position.... Just then a warning shot was fired by the destroyer. 'Abandon Ship'. Women were ordered into lifeboats. "Hand me the children ", Martin said. "No" said the women" if my husband can't go, none of us will". She removed her own lifebelt, then the lifebelts of her children. When Jimmy last saw her, she was sitting on the deck, one arm around her husband's shoulders, the other around her children... twenty minutes later the 'Giang Bee' sank ..."*

Then about 21.30 pm one destroyer fired six shells into the GB which caught fire, glowed red from stem to stern and sank within a few minutes. "...Terrified figures could be seen jumping from the target's deck, soon ablaze from end to end..." (SDGB).

**The destroyers then left with several hundred women, children and men struggling and drowning in the sea.**

Percival Van Geyzel recalled to his son after the War that the destroyer opened fire much sooner than expected and caught the ship's crew by surprise. The ship took on a heavy list and Mr van Geyzel sprinted to the upper decks. On emerging on deck, he saw many dead and wounded, he also mentioned a couple not wanting to leave partners. The ship was starting to sink quickly so Mr Van Geyzel climbed to the highest point (probably the funnel area) and made a magnificent dive into the water (he was an excellent swimmer and diver). He never understood how he remained unscathed from all the shelling. He was one of the last to leave the ship and swam quickly to avoid the suction as the ship went down. He held onto some debris until he saw a lifeboat at quite a distance but being a very strong swimmer made it to its side. The lifeboat (this would have been the one which landed at Djaboos on Banka Island) was crowded so he hung onto the side ropes next to an elderly gentleman and many other people, some of whom he knew. He held onto the rope all through the night but, tragically, by the next day, most of the others desperately holding on had disappeared and he was then able to get into the lifeboat. His son does not recall him mentioning women or children on this lifeboat which fits with the tragic scenario that the women and children were placed in the first two lifeboats which sank upon being lowered.

It seems that most of the officers (including Captain Lancaster) and crew died either on board during the shelling, as the ship went down or after taking to the sea in the darkness without a boat or raft. Tragically, eyewitness survivor accounts tell us that with them went many wounded men - such as Herbert Brooks and Robert Eves – who were on the decks or sheltering in the cabins and bunkers, together with a few married couples who refused to be parted.

*"...In one lifeboat [that successfully launched] 56 persons reached land a Djaboos, Bangka Island, whilst the second lifeboat with 42 persons reached the coast of Sumatra. Fifteen occupants of the latter boat were brought to Muntok in 'HMS Tapah', seven made their way to Palembang, and five Chinese whose names are not known..."* (NIRC) – the so called 'first' lifeboat had landed at Djaboos on the west coast of Banka Island; which island was also the landing place for survivors from the 'SS Vyner Brooke', the 'SS Tandjong Pinang', the 'HMS Fuh Wo' and the 'HM Tug Yin Ping'.

The arduous journey of the **first lifeboat**, mentioned above, which reached the west coast of Banka Island at Djaboos/ Djoeboos and sometimes called 'Dabo' (now called Jebus and Jebus beach near Kampa on the Kampa River) is recounted in a newspaper article ("The Australian



Women's Weekly", 16 November 1969 - see the websites of [muntokpeacemuseum.org](http://muntokpeacemuseum.org) or [trove.au](http://trove.au) for full story) by Miss Joan Sinclair aged 17 years at the time of the sinking. By 1969, having married another ex-POW she met on the ship whilst repatriating to the UK, she had become Mrs Joan McIntyre with three children and living in Ashfield, a suburb of Perth, WA. This newspaper article (which is also mirrored in the book "By Eastern Windows" page 159-159) tells us of another truly heart-breaking period when, after the sinking, there were eight men clinging to the sides of this grossly overloaded lifeboat as it pulled laboriously towards Banka Island (see also p. 158 of 'By Eastern Windows'). Designed for 30 people it had 56 aboard and no margin to bring additional people aboard in the eyes of those already in the lifeboat. Joan Sinclair told us in the 1969 newspaper "... We were powerless to help, even now water was coming in over the sides of our boat. Several men clung to the sides. We could not sacrifice the lives of any on board, especially as we had several children including a baby of three months and a badly wounded lady who had shrapnel wounds in her back. The men hanging on pleaded with us to pull them aboard. "Not a chance", someone shouted, " We can't take anymore". First one man relinquished his hold and was soon carried away, never to be seen again. All but one followed. He clung on and repeatedly begged us to take pity on him. He said he could hold on no longer; his strength had gone. At last, one of the men bent down and hauled the old man aboard ....".

This man was, therefore, said to be H.E.M. Mason a 63-year-old rubber planter and Manager of the Perak River Valley estate. His wife Elsie Maude Mason had been earlier evacuated on the 'Empress of Japan'. Sadly, Harry Ernest Monk Mason, after his perseverance and fortitude in the sea on the day of the sinking, died in Palembang internment camp on 15 November 1944.

This account is however slightly at odds with that of Percy Van Geyzel who in his own words told us that he was someone who managed to get into the lifeboat after most of the other men clinging on drowned – so maybe it was Percy who was taken into the boat and H.E.M. Mason who held on until they reached land?

According to Miss Joan Sinclair the 'first' lifeboat had 22 people more than normal (i.e., a total of 56 people) and took two days and two nights to reach the north-western shores of Banka island, where they landed on a strip of sandy beach. On the third morning many locals arrived and took them on a long walk to "... a tiny village on the banks of a river called Djbous ..." [now either Djebus or Jebus] where, after a few days of trading with the locals for food and being well treated by local Chinese in the village., a Japanese Army truck arrived, and they were transported to "... Muntok Jail ..." ('The Australian Women's Weekly' 12.11.69)

In this context the book 'By Eastern Windows', sheds a slightly different light on these events "... Clinging to its sides and stern were eight men for whom there was no room inside. Their ship had been sunk in the afternoon. The clinging men grew weaker as the hours dragged. They discussed with the lifeboat's skipper their chances of being allowed inside the boat." Not a chance", said the skipper, " Under no circumstances can any more enter" .... "Then there's no use hanging on any longer" said one of the men "Cheerio". He relinquished his hold and vanished. Three other followed suit with a 'cheerio' bidding those on the boat goodbye. By morning only one of the eight still hung on. He was H.E.M. Mason, a 63-year-old rubber planter." I'm too stubborn to die" he quipped "You can't get rid of me". When the boat reached shore, he waded up the beach under his own power, stretched out on the sand and slept...".

Whatever is the truth of the events seven men , probably civilian business men in their lives during 1941-42, had to consciously decide to end their lives out of total despair, finally let go out of exhaustion, and then watch the lifeboat slowly row away towards Banka Island as they themselves slipped below the waves – the researcher has privately conjectured why no one simply tied these exhausted men in the sea to the sides of the lifeboat which would usually have looped ropes along its sides ....? It seems that shock, fear, and powerful survival instincts bring a different dimension to the behaviours of ordinarily civilised people.

In the book “Waiting for the Durian” it is recorded that there were about seventy people in the **second lifeboat** including stowaways under the floorboards. They were galley staff from the ship (p. 58) who left the passengers once the lifeboat made landfall (p. 63).

Anna Silberman’s diary records that there were 47 people in the aforementioned **second successful lifeboat launch** “... nine women and two children, the rest were men of different nationalities, including 4 Chinese crew members. We had no competent navigator so roamed the seas for 5 days with a meagre ration of *a biscuit per person and a little water. We eventually landed on a mangrove swamp, no habitation, nothing but brackish water and a beach infested with sandflies. We did not dare light a fire in case the smoke would be visible by the enemy. On February 20<sup>th</sup> we saw smoke in the distance and after some frantic waving it turned out to be a British Minesweeper ‘HMS Tapah’ ... A boat was sent to pick us up and it was hoped to take us safely to Batavia... Unfortunately, about midnight searchlights played on our ship ... and until 2 a.m. we were unaware that we were being escorted by the Japanese Navy. Naval guards rushed aboard, and we learnt we had been brought to Muntok, the main town of Banka Island... we were herded along a pier to a cinema hall and found it crowded with at least 1,000 male survivors from the various ships that got away too late...*” (ASD)

Again, insofar as the occupants of the second successful lifeboat launch who did not board the ‘HMS Tapah’ “...Fifteen survivors tried to reach Java in a ships lifeboat including Hugh Morton, in charge, second engineer “HMS Lipis”, Rae, naval rating; V. R. Tretchikoff, Warren Publicity Co., Singapore; Miss Hicks(sic) W. YWCA worker; Miss Brickman (sic) YWCA worker... ”(Record compiled by the Netherlands Indies Red Cross).

Others on board this second lifeboat appear to have been – Anne Morris, ‘Mrs Simpson and child’, ‘two stepdaughters of Albert Sorenson’, Sub Lt Andrews, Mr & Mrs Henderson, ‘Rosie’ (may be Mrs Rena Rosie Hayne), and Sonia Geikie.

Rob Scott’s small dinghy picked up two other survivors, both big men who would have lowered the gunnels of the dinghy to close to the sea, (H.P Kendall and W. Probyn Allen according to MacDougall’s “By Eastern Windows”) and, after five days (MacDougall says two days) at sea, finally reached the coast of Sumatra – Rob Scott was interned and later sent back to Singapore to be interrogated and tortured. Later to be knighted as Sir Robert Scott and, post war, a Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence he wrote a detailed account of this whole ordeal.

Almost all the survivors later ended up in either the men’s internment camp or the women’s internment camp at Palembang – one record states 23 men were interned in the men’s camp at Palembang and 47 women and children in the women’s camp. According to the Straits Times of 24.6.45, the death rate for the migratory camp which began in Muntok and moved to

Palembang, back to Banka Island and then to Loembok Linggau was astonishingly high: “...55% of the men died and 33% of the women and children...”

**From the approximately 300 people on board there were just over 100 survivors after the sinking.** The Netherlands-Indies Red Cross in 1943 at the Palembang internment camp compiled a list (with survivors signing as witnesses) of 104 people who were rescued. This list is carefully witnessed and signed by multiple survivors for each entry.

This researched passenger list document that follows has identified some 250 people who were on board leaving at least 50 people to be accounted for – interestingly in this context, because only Gordon Reis (a survivor who later died in Muntok internment camp) has mentioned it in his diary there seem to have been unauthorised Army personnel on board. In this context see entry for Trooper Edward Carr, Loyal Regiment - although we have no way of knowing whether Trooper Carr was authorised to evacuate or not – which raises the possibility that there may have been others from 18<sup>th</sup> Recce on board with him. There was a large group of men from 18<sup>th</sup> Recce who became ‘Missing Presumed Killed’ from the time that battalion landed and began fighting in Singapore.). This may explain some of the unaccounted passengers because all records seem to have been made by civilians who knew or recognised other residents of Malaya and Singapore. Army personnel would have been unknown to the civilian groups and may have been shunned by them as well. Specifically, Gordon Reis states in his diary “...I think we had a large number of deserters aboard from the Army in particular...”. There was also a serviceman by the name of Mellors from Signals, 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Division on board as well.

*The two Japanese destroyers involved in the sinking of the “Giang Bee” met their own fate later that year – the “Fubuki” was sunk by a US. Cruiser-destroyer group off Cape Esperance on 11 October 1942 and its commanding officer, Lt. Commander Yamashita Shizuo, died in that action; the “Asagiri” was sunk by US. Dive bombers near Santa Isabel (60 miles northeast of Sabo) on 28 August 1942 with 122 crew and soldiers on board losing their lives (another 135 crew and Lt. Commander Maekawa Nisaburou were rescued by another Japanese ship). (Source: combinedfleet website and TROMs for these ships as at July 2011).*

This record has been prepared with the respectful objective of an honest memorial to the women, children and men who lost their lives that night. Original wording has been left unaltered in the interests of a realistic memorial to their suffering. To sanitise the descriptions of the events would, in the view of the researchers, somehow allow the Japanese perpetrators to avoid the dishonour of their callousness - which was unwarranted even in time of War.

If any readers of this document have any corrections, additions, or comments of the content such information would be welcomed. This document was researched and compiled by Becca Kennieson in the UK and Michael Pether in New Zealand. Please email Michael Pether in Auckland, New Zealand (mncpether@gmail.com) with your feedback or questions.

### **Abbreviations.**

- ‘PD’ means Presumed Dead

- 'DDI' means Died During Internment
- 'S' means known to have survived
- 'PS' means 'Presumed to have Survived' (in other words, known to have survived the sinking, but nothing further known)
- NK means fate not known.

#### Sources:

- **ASD = Diary/** memoir of Anna Silberman
- **BPPL** = the remarkable document created by a Changi internee, Mr. J. Bennett, by microscopic writing on 18 pages of 'Jeyes' toilet paper which contained the names and last known existence of several thousand men. Now held in the United Kingdom National Archives.
- **CWGC** = the website database of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- **GBL** = handwritten list of names headed "Giang Bee" (p.31) at PRO
- **"HMS Tapah ships List"** = list of people picked up on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 1942
- **JM** = research files of Jonathan Moffatt on "Malayans A - Z"
- **LOPBGB** = List of Persons believed to be on "GB" held at the UK National Archives.
- **Mrs. E Cross** - list of women in Palembang camp. Mrs Cross was the Swiss wife of a British Immigration Officer in Singapore and was evacuated, then captured, on the "Mata Hari" and her manuscript of her wartime experiences are filed at the Imperial War Museum, London.
- **MVDB** = database researched and compiled by John Brown of the United Kingdom, comprising the vast majority of men who were in the FMSVF, SSVF, MRNVR, MVAF etc at the time of the invasion of Malaya by the Japanese.
- **MVG** = list of evacuees researched by author and Malayan researcher, Jonathan Moffatt, available on Malayan Volunteers Group website
- **NIRC** = typewritten document prepared by the Netherlands – Indies Red Cross at Palembang Men's Camp in February 1943 where people are noted as having been last seen on the "GB" and each entry signed as witnessed by specific survivors; also records a summary of events as known to survivors at that point. Held at IWM.
- **SDGB** = book "Singapore's Dunkirk" by Geoffrey Brooke, ISBN 0-85052-051-7, first published 1989 by Leo Cooper.
- **ST** = book "Sinister Twilight" by Noel Barber, published by Readers Union Collins 1968
- **STA** = the on-line archives of the "Straits Times" and many other newspapers of Singapore and Malaya available on the website [newspapers.nl.sg](http://newspapers.nl.sg) managed by the Singapore National Library
- **WBTW** = book "Women Beyond the Wire" by Lavinia Warner and John Sandiland
- **WFTD** = the book "Waiting for the Durian" by Susan McCabe, being the story of the Woodford family during these event

#### Crew of the "HMS Giang Bee";

- **ADAMS – Lt. Thomas Grant Adams, MRNVR.** (MVDB); T. G. Adams, MRNVR missing 13.2.42 on ‘GB’ (CO 980 234 ,1945-46 Information on ships lost in Banka Straits); Lieutenant T. G. Adams, United Kingdom, Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer reserve, HMS Giang Bee died 13.2.42 (Plymouth Naval memorial and CWGC)
- **ANGUS –** Kenneth Angus’ death was known in Changi prison camp in 1942 “...ANGUS R KENNETH EUR 3<sup>RD</sup> ENG GIANG BEE BVD DROWNED...” (BPPL); “...*Mc E Angus K. Second Engineer of the ship...*” was witnessed as last seen on the “GB” (NIRC); **Sub Lt. (E) Robert Kenneth McEwan Angus**, RNR, aged 40 years, HMS GB, son of Robert and Edna Angus, died on 13.2.42 (CWGC)
- **ATTENBOROUGH** - William Attenborough; “...ATTENBOROUGH W. P. S MUNC PALEMBANG ...” (BPPL); “W. Attenborough was a witness to the document prepared in internment camp on missing passengers...” (NIRC); “Recovered Sumatra 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 45”); he was a Mechanical Engineer Sub-Lt RNVR 3rd Engineer. Aged 33 in 1942 with an address of Assn. of Engineers, S’pore (NIRC).
- **BARTON – Chief Engineer R. Barton survived (source??); this could be a reference to BEATON**
- **BEATON** - “...*Beaton R. K. formerly Chief engineer of HMS Lipis ...*” was witnessed as last seen on the “GB” (NIRC); Lt MRNVR; HMS Lipis to Giang Bee. Lost at sea aged 59; “...BEATON ROBT K CHF ENG LIPIS LEFT G B BVD DROWNED...” (BPPL); **Lt.(E) Robert Kenneth Beaton**, aged 59 years, RNR, “HMS Giang Bee”, husband of Marion Gibson Beaton died on 13.2.42 (CWGC); Mrs. Marion Beaton had also evacuated from Singapore (MVG)
- **BOURNE – Able Seaman Clarence John Bourne, DJ/X 141625, aged 23 years, HMS GB,** husband of Netta G Bourne of Taunton, Somerset and son of Ernest and Gladys Bourne died on 13.2.42 (CWGC); Clarence Bourne had survived the sinking of the “HMS. Repulse” and after recovering had been given duties on the ‘GB’; “...*it is possible that Clarence was killed as the Japanese ships opened fire to stop the GB or he may have gone down with the ship or even died in one of the lifeboats on the way to Sumatra...*” (WW2 Peoples war, Andy 1971, BBC).
- **BOYD – “...BOYD I H 2<sup>ND</sup> ENG GIANG BEE ...”** (BPPL)
- **BRADLEY** - Colin Ridings Bradley, **PD** BA, From Bolton, Lancashire. HM Customs and Excise Officer. Sub-Lt MRNVR. “...BRADLEY C R CUSTOMS RNVR GIANG B BVD DROWNED ...” (BPPL); in a Colonial Office ‘Interrogation Form’ dated 15 .2.46 Mr. E. P. C. Langdon recorded he last saw “... *a S/Lt Bradley on board ‘HMS Giang Bee’ at about 1930 hrs. on 13.2.42. Ship later abandoned.... age about 26[indecipherable] yrs. Brown hair .... Height about [indecipherable – but possibly says about “6 foot”]. Civil occupation Customs Officer FMS...*”; Sub. **Lt. Colin Ridings Bradley**, BA Hons., aged 24 years, MRNVR, “HMS Giang Bee”, formerly Customs and Excise, Malaya and son of Henry and Elsie Bradley of

Smithills, Bolton, Lancashire died on 12.2.42 (CWGC) – the date of death used by the CWGC is a little strange?

- **CALDWELL** – “...CALDWELL H C 2<sup>ND</sup> ENG LIPIS LEFT GIANG BEE MISSING...” (BPPL); **Sub Lt. Hugh Cochrane Caldwell**, aged 30 years, “HMS Lipis”, husband of M. A. Caldwell of Fulwell, Sunderland, Co. Durham, he died on 12.12.42 [sic- possibly? but this date is repeated in the National Probate register – it is entirely possible that a typographical error keeps being repeated, but then again he may have died in an internment camp] (CWGC) and also listed on the Liverpool Naval Memorial; Hugh Cochrane Caldwell was born in 1903 and travelled to Singapore on the “Perseus” on 17.12.38 (arr. 1939), he was a marine engineer from Sunderland Co. Durham and possibly in the merchant navy during the 1920s/1930s; also CALDWELL H.C. [Hugh Cochrane] b.1903. From Fulwell, Sunderland and married Mary Ada Dennison 1935, in Sunderland. Moved to Singapore in 1938. He was a Marine Engineer. Sub-Lt RNR.,2nd Engineer HMS Lipis [bombed and abandoned off Sultan Shoal 11.2.42] then Giang Bee. Lost at sea on the ‘Giang Bee’ 13.2.42. CWGCR & NPR have 12.12.42. Wife Mary Ada was later in Sunderland (JMM).
- **CAMPBELL** - Robert Henry Campbell, Assistant Planter, Batang Consolidated Rubber Estates Ltd, Batang, Malacca. Wife evacuated early to Australia [Centaur 22.2.41]. Sub Lt MRNVR. ; Robert Henry Campbell, Sub Lt. MRNVR, died 15.2.42 “HMS Giang Bee” (CWGC); also in CORD ( Reg.M1, Folio 136, Serial 804) as MRNVR and Rubber planter having died on or about 13.2.42 in the Banka Straits following the sinking of the “Giang Bee” (Admiralty); there is also the conflicting record of “CAMPBELL R H BATANG CONSOL R E POW...” (BPPL); this may have been confusion with Colin Douglas Campbell who survived and became an internee in Muntok and Palembang.
- **CARR** – Private E. Carr # 3857355, 18 Btn. Recce Corps, 5<sup>th</sup> Loyal Regiment, missing 15.2.42 “... *body identified on Giang Bee ... buried at sea? ...*” (BRE Casualty list, WO361 on ancestry.com and handwritten Casualty List compiled in Changi POW camp , page 11, held by researcher); the official record shows **Trooper Edward Carr**, 3857355, 18<sup>th</sup> ( 5<sup>th</sup> Btn The Loyal regiment) Regt., Reconnaissance Corps, age 22 years , son of Thomas and Catherine Carr of Hindley, Lancashire , Col. 96 Singapore Memorial ( CWGC); Edward came from Hindley in Lancashire and had a brother John who had also died (aged 15 years) in 1941; his parents died in Hindley in 1964 and 1951 respectively leaving a sister Ellen ( Skillcorn) who died in 1991; according to the regimental history he would have been one of the servicemen in “ ... *the 18<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion ( late 5<sup>th</sup> Loyals, Bolton’s Territorial Army) which was the last reinforcement unit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Loyals to arrive in Singapore aboard the ‘Empress of Asia’. Ten miles out from Singapore on 4 February 1942 the ship was attacked by Japanese dive-bombers and set ablaze. The 18<sup>th</sup> Recce were ordered to abandon ship leaving all arms and equipment [presumably including their Universal’ Bren gun carriers]. The CWGC records show a large group of some 50 or more men becoming ‘Missing Presumed Killed’ as from 5 February 1942, so it seems possible that the 18<sup>th</sup> Recce was in some disarray after the survivors reached land in Singapore – this was only two or three days before the Japanese actually landed on Singapore.] *After the Japanese landed on the northern coast of Singapore on 8 February 1942 some counterattacks were attempted by the 18th Recce, including one made at Bukit Timah on 11 February by the then reequipped 18<sup>th</sup> Recce.... [but] the**

*garrison fell back towards the suburbs of Singapore ...”* (regimental history as recorded on lancashireinfantrymuseum.org.uk).

- **CASEY** - Casey S; “...CASEY (AB –HM DESTROYER) GIANG BEE PALEMBANG...” (BPPL); “...rating Casey R. N. service camp Palembang...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross document 2.2.43); finally, “Rating, R.N. Sailed to UK on ‘TEGELBERG’”
- **CLARK/CLARKE** - Charles Frederick Clark, PD European Prison Warder (MVG); Sub-Lt SS RNVR 1930s; “...CLARK C F PRISONS LEFT W RNVR? ...” (BPPL); “Clarke Lieutenant RNVR” witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’; Lt **Charles Frederick Clark**, MRNVR, “Giang Bee” died 13.2.42 (CWGC); also, in CORD Reg. M1 , Folio 134, Serial # 799 as dying on or about 13.2.42 because of the sinking of the “Giang Bee” and confirming he was a Lt MRNVR and in Prisons Dept.
- **DA COSTA** – Lt. **Peter Campbell da Costa**, MRNVR, son of Brigadier-General da Costa of Farnham, Surrey, he died on 13.2 42 and is listed on the Plymouth Naval Memorial (CWGC); aged about 30 years, tall, dark with spectacles, he worked for the Lloyds agent Bennie S. Cohen & Son [Malaya] Ltd, Kelly & Walsh Building, Raffles Place, Singapore; the secret Changi list records in 1942” ... DA COSTA BENNIE S COHEN MRNVR??????? EX GIANG BEE...” (BPPL); “...Da Costa Lieutenant RNVR “....as witnessed as last seen on ‘GB’ (NIRC).
- **ELLIS** – “...ELLIS [CMDR or IVOR???] RENNIE LOWICK RNVR GIANG B... (BPPL); there is also a record (based on his MI9 interrogation form) that Lt. Ivor Ellis, MRNVR, “HMS. Laburnum” (the depot ship at Singapore), aged 21 years, was captured in the Banka Straits on 15.2.42, then interned in Palembang and finally in Changi.
- **EVANS** - **Eric John Evans**, PD Customs & Excise Dept. FMS since 1935 (MVG). Sub-Lt MRNVR.; in a Colonial Office “Interr. POW” document dated 15.2.46, Mr. E. P. C. Langdon recorded that “...A S/Lt Evans MRNVR was last seen on board HMS *Giang Bee* at about 1930 hrs. on 13.2.42. Ship later abandoned.... [identified as] Age about 30 years, Black hair, brown eyes.... civil occupation, Customs Officer, Singapore, height about 5 ft. 8 inches...”
- **FOO** – Chee B. Foo, Chief Cook, Missing Presumed Killed; **Foo Chee Boon**, Chief Cook, Naval Auxiliary Personnel (Merchant Navy), husband of Sing Peng Kim, Singapore – he died on 13.2.42 on GB and is recorded on the Liverpool Naval Memorial (CWGC)
- **GOLDSTONE** – Mr. M. Goldstone was a competition tennis player in Singapore pre-War (STA 28.1.41); after the war the Missing Persons Bureau, Refugee and Displaced Persons Branch, Citizens Advice Bureau, Old Supreme Court Building, Singapore officially presumed dead “...Sub. Lt. Goldstone of the SS R.N.V.R., reported to have been on the *Giang Bee*...” (archive Straits Times “Tracing of Missing Continues” 29 May 1946); **Sub-Lieutenant M. Goldstone**, United Kingdom, Malayan Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve,



husband of Mrs. L. Goldstone of Leeds, Yorkshire, died on 15.2.42 (CWGC); also Maurice Goldstein ( A.k.a. Maurice Goldstone), was born in Shanghai, he worked as an insurance broker, he married Lulu Goldstein in 1937, Maurice joined the Volunteer Naval Reserve in about 1939 as a Gunnery Officer on a minesweeper ; at some stage Maurice began using the name “Goldstone” which may well have been around the time he joined the armed forces so that his name was less ‘German’ sounding; Lulu was the sister of Esther Brisk who was a passenger on the “SS. Kuala”; interestingly Esther had left Singapore on the “SS. Kuala” on 13.2.42 with her employer ,the very well-known local tennis champion Mr. Kleinman who died as a result of his arm being blown off in the bombing of the ship at Pom Pong island; Lulu evacuated from Singapore on board the “WestPoint” on 30 January 1942 bound for England, she died in April 2007 ( source Sarah Semple, Wellington, New Zealand who is married to a member of the Brisk family and writing the family history)

- **GUTTERIDGE** - Cecil Charles Gutteridge; Customs Probationer, Customs & Excise Dept. FMS, Ipoh, Perak. Sub-Lt MRNVR on the *Giang Bee* [one of 3 survivors in the water]. POW Singapore. Returned 1946 to Malayan Customs: prevention work, Kedah & Perlis [Thai border]. Wrote his ‘Experiences during the Japanese War’ (BAM Collection.); wartime record in Changi ‘Jeyes’ list was “GUTTERIDGE C C CUSTOMS POW...” (BPPL).
- **HILL** – Temporary Lt. Howard Hill, RNR, killed (Royal Naval Casualties, naval-history.net); **Lt. (E) Howard Hill**, United Kingdom, Royal Naval Reserve, “HMS. *Giang Bee*”, died 13.2.42 (CWGC and Plymouth Memorial)
- **HOWELL** – J.M. Howell, D/JX213211, crew, Royal Navy (“HMS *Tapah* “ships list); **Seaman John Noel Howell**, born 1917, ex “HMS. *Prince of Wales*” survived and became a POW in Palembang; his story is on the Oral History archives of the Imperial War Museum, London (ref # 20597). He boarded ‘*Tapah*’ from the lifeboat under Morton’s command and was part of the group picked up from the beach on the coast of Sumatra. He became a POW initially in Muntok on Banka Island then Palembang in Sumatra. His NOK whilst in Palembang was his mother, Mrs E. Howell, 23 Clarence Street, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.
- **LANCASTER** - **Captain Harold Hinchcliffe Lancaster, RNR**, “Master of the ship.” Harold Hinchcliffe Lancaster was born August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1889 (UK Census 1911) in Blackburn, Lancashire, England to Thomas Hinchcliffe Lancaster and Mary Ellen Williamson. In 1910 Harold Hinchcliffe Lancaster set sail for New York, then to Sydney, NSW, as a ships apprentice on the ‘S.S. *Frankdale*’ and later that year he set sail for New York again on the White Star liner ‘S.S. *Cedric*’. In 1914 he was serving his country at sea and achieved his Master Mariners Certificate. That same year he married Marie Henriette Agatha Elizabeth Plantenberg (from Rotterdam, Netherlands) in West Derby, Lancashire, with whom he had three children – Harold Hinchcliffe (born 1920 and who was later an internee in Changi Prison and then Sime Road camp as an internee of the Japanese with his wife Betty), Meecha (born 1920s) and both born in England, and Perdita (1929) born in Fremantle, Western Australia. The latter two appear a few times in ‘*Straits Times*’ articles as talented child dancers and during the 1930s they were sent to boarding

school at Saint Joseph's Convent, in Fremantle, Australia, then later lived in Sydney, NSW. In 1923 Harold left for New York from Hamburg, aboard the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. vessel 'S.S. Orbita' as the ship's 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer. On 18.8.26, Captain Lancaster, his wife and their two older children left their home at 2 Coventry Road, the Polygon, Southampton, England for Fremantle, Western Australia on the 'SS. Benalla' so that Captain Lancaster, although he was a sailor and loved being at sea, could make a living as a farmer in Australia. Whilst in Australia, to make ends meet, Mrs. Marie Lancaster would make house dresses for women and sell them. Captain Lancaster and his family settled in Fremantle but a couple of years later moved east to 99 Victoria, Avenue, Chatswood, Sydney, NSW. Around 1933, the family left Australia and moved to Singapore where they lived at 332 River Valley Road, Singapore - at the corner of River Valley Road and Oxley Road. The move to Singapore had come about when Captain Lancaster started working for Chinese steamship lines. Mrs. Lancaster ran a boarding house at 332 River Valley Road, as did many wives of ships officers in Singapore to supplement their household income. On 16.3.37, Captain Lancaster gave evidence at a trial after a crew member of his ship (already by then the 'SS Giang Bee') had murdered another crew member. The captain (or his son Harold, it is unclear) and his wife were also Managers of the 'Half-Way House Restaurant and Bar', 520 East Coast Road, Bedok - this was a bar /restaurant and included boarding house accommodation. In 1939 a person by the name of Harold Lancaster (possibly their son?), described as the manager of 'Half - Way House', Bedok, Singapore was driving a car which struck and killed a Malay bicyclist, but he was found in court not at fault for the death (STA. 15.4.39). There is also a 'Straits Times' record from 17.11.39 of Mrs. Marie Lancaster, the liquor licensee of the 'Half-Way House', being fined \$50 after her son sold alcohol to customers after hours, after being warned about this on other occasions - this became contentious in her later applications for a liquor licence. Mrs. Marie Lancaster was clearly a woman with a strong work ethic and energy because she also helped run the 'Arcade Restaurant' (sometimes known as 'Arthur's Bar') the first steak 'open grill' restaurant in Singapore located at 1 Collyer Quay, plus the 'Pavilion Restaurant' in Orchard Road in Singapore - both alongside Austrian business partner and chef, John Gludovatz. Several newspaper reports record the usual problems of a bar / restaurant owner with employee thefts, fines for watering down the alcohol - but when war was declared in Europe it was to their credit that in 1941 it was reported (according to SFPMA 8.5.41) they "...very kindly placed the restaurant at the disposal of the organizers of the premiere [i.e. the War Fund premiere of the film 'This Thing Called Love' at the adjoining Pavilion Cinema in Orchard Road also] also the two bars and lounge upstairs...". During these years Captain Lancaster would be at sea for 10 days at a time, as his ship voyaged between Singapore and Batavia (Java) and Borneo, then would come home on short leave. In the weeks before the fall of Singapore, Mrs. H. Lancaster begged her husband to take her on his ship, the 'HMS Giang Bee', to evacuate Singapore, but Captain Lancaster wisely told her that he did not want to do that because he saw dangers ahead, so on February 6<sup>th</sup> (two days before the Japanese Army landed on Singapore island) Mrs. Marie Lancaster boarded the 'S.S. Devonshire' as an evacuee, then transferring to other ships, safely reached her final destination of Australia where she met up with her youngest daughter Perdita, who was in school in Sydney. Captain Lancaster was by then in the Royal Naval Reserve and had been commissioned to the rank of Temporary Lt (E) on 23 January 1941. He lost his life in the shelling and sinking of 'HMS Giang Bee' after handling the confrontation with the Japanese warships most commendably - by

ordering the Royal Navy White Ensign to be lowered (effectively surrendering to the Japanese warship) and then making it obvious to the Japanese that he was carrying a great number of women and children – and for that he must rank as amongst the best performing Captain's during the evacuation. The secret 'Jeyes' toilet paper record compiled by the internees in Changi prison during 1942 shows that news of Harold's disappearance in the sinking of the 'HMS Giang Bee' must have filtered back to Changi from the internees in Palembang or Muntok and it records "...LANCASTER H. H. CAPT GIANG B BVD LOST W SHIP..." (BPPL); also that on board the ship he was recorded by survivors as "seen" (Mrs. E Cross list at PRO). Mrs. H. Lancaster appears in Australian National Archives files as applying for an "allowance" from the government in Australia as a "Singapore evacuee" in 1942. The official record is that Lieutenant Harold Hinchcliffe Lancaster, Royal Naval Reserve, died on 13.2.42 on "HMS Giang Bee" (CWGC and Liverpool Naval Memorial). After the war the 'Sydney Morning Herald' of 28.11.48 records the death of Mrs. Marie H. Lancaster aged 53 years, of Chatswood and late of Singapore, at Royal North Shore Hospital on 28.11.48, from liver failure – she had presumably been devastated at the death of her husband and her family sadly recall that she resorted to alcohol. [ There is also a 'Straits Times' record of a Mrs. Marie Lancaster dying in Singapore on 1.5.87 – whether this is a relative is not known]. Captain Lancaster's son Harold Jr. passed away in 1977 in Singapore, while his daughter, 'Meecha' passed away in 2012 in British Columbia, Canada; His only living child is Perdita Mathieson (nee Hinchcliffe-Lancaster) of Huntsville, Ontario. (Apart from official records and newspapers the source for this information is gratefully acknowledged as being Carley Marshall, great-great granddaughter of Harold and Marie Lancaster).

- **LANGDON** – in 1933 Ernest Patrick Carleton Langdon married Miss Mildred Eileen Carless; in 1939 he was confirmed in his rank of Sub. Lt., SSRNVR (STA. 8.8.39); S/Lt E.P.C. Langdon S; "...LANGDON E P C CUSTOMS POW..." (BPPL); in a Colonial Office "Interrogation Form" dated 15.2.46, A/Lt. Ernest Patrick Carleton Langdon records a last sighting of S/Lt Robert? Scott and Mr. Planzer (sp?) and S/Lt. Roland (or Rowland [E?]) and A S/Lt Gutteridge MRNVR (who survived).
- **LIM** – Foo S. Lim, General Servant MPK; **Lim Foo Sang**, general servant, Naval Auxiliary Personnel (Merchant Navy), aged 21 years, son of Foo Kia Hong and Tan Tee of Singapore, died 13.2.42 on "GB" (CWGC)
- **MEDLEY** – A.V. Medley, D/JX238570, crew, Royal Navy ("HMS Tapah" ships list); this was Able Seaman Albert V. Medley, PJX 238570, Royal Navy, born 16.6.19 and enlisted 6.11.40 who had served on the 'HMS Repulse' when it was sunk in December 1941 off Malaya. He would have been assigned to shore base Singapore 'HMS sultan' before being drafted to 'HMS Giang Bee'. He boarded 'Tapah' from the lifeboat under Morton's command and was part of the group picked up from the beach on the coast of Sumatra. He became a POW in Muntok then Palembang and his NOK in camp is recorded as his mother Mrs G. Medley, 40 Stubley Road, Heckmondwike, Yorkshire. He was initially in Muntok POW camp, then Chungwha School camp in Palembang, then Sungei Ron, then Changi in Singapore and finally Kranji Camp in Singapore.

- MORTON - Hugh Morton**, Ships Engineer; “...MORTON H 3<sup>RD</sup> ENG LIPIS LEFT GIANG B LAST SEEN SICK IN LIFEBOAT...” (BPPL); “... *Second Engr. Of the ship Ex HMS Lipis Recovered Singapore...*”; Lt. (E) Morton (formerly Lipis. J.K. Reid D/MX 73353, reported in Feb. 1946 that Morton was picked up by a Japanese prison ship ... approx. 6/3/42 and taken to Java. Last known to be in ... POW camp Batavia in Oct 1943.); He was Leader of the party which included Anna Silverman, and which stayed in a lifeboat to carry on to Java.. Hugh Morton was born in Ayr, Scotland in 1902 and had worked for the Straits Steamship Co before the war and rejoined that company after the war – he was still working for them in 1960 (MVG); he retired in the early 1960s and returned to Scotland. It appears he married Jeannie Johnstone after the war - he died 10.5.68 (she died 6.5.66). His personal account of this event is held amongst the personal papers of Miss Leila Bridgman in the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, New Zealand.
- NESFIELD** – this is **Sub Lt William Arthur Nesfield** of the MRNVR; there is also a record of W. A. Nesfield, MRNVR, warehouseman with the Penang Harbour Board; after the sinking of the ‘HMS Giang Bee’ we have the record of “...*Nesfield W. A. left Muntok on 28.2.42 ...*” (Mrs. E. Cross list of men in Palembang camp) which means William Nesfield had survived to that point; also, in Captain David Nelson’s BRE. records prepared in Changi he lists Nesfield W. A. as “D 2.8.44 PAL/V” and “BANKIDAG V LRF 44” which reflects that he believed Mr. Nesfield was a Volunteer but that he died in Palembang on 2.8.44 or possibly was sent to a place called ‘Bankidag’ - there is no record of Mr. Nesfield in the list of British men in the Bankinang, Sumatra Men’s internment camp – so it may be a reference to Banka island; there is also significantly no mention of Mr. Nesfield in the list prepared under the supervision of the Netherlands Indies Red Cross in Palembang men’s camp of ‘GB’ survivors – but of course according to Mrs. Cross, Mr. Nesfield was only at Muntok camp. Finally, the official record is **Sub. Lt. William Arthur Nesfield**, RNR, “HMS. Giang Bee”, aged 33 years, husband of Roma Nesfield of Melbourne, Vic, Australia and son of Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Nesfield of Luppitt, Devon, died on 2.8.44 and is buried in grave 2.A.11 in the Jakarta War Cemetery (CWGC)
- RAE** - Rae “...*Naval Rating. To New Zealand 29 Sept 45...*”. There are three possible references in Bennett’s secret Changi list to possible identities for this man, firstly, “...*RAE CMSCS POW...*”, then “...*RAE GR EURAS 3<sup>rd</sup> ENG KUALA NAF...*” and RAE WM 3<sup>rd</sup> ENG SSCO X MINER x NAVAL BASE ...” (BPPL).It may also be a clerical error referring to Able Seaman R.J. Rae from Auckland, NZ., who had been serving on ‘HMS Exeter’ when it was sunk in the Battle of the Java Sea and who became a POW in Java then repatriated to New Zealand in September 1942.
- RAYNER** – conflicting records show “...*RAYNER S K H WAUGH RNVR DROWNED GIANG B...*” (BPPL); “*Rayner Gunnery Lieutenant RNVR was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’...*”; also “*S. K. Rayner, MRNVR missing “GB’ 13.2.42 ...*” (CO 980 234, 1945-46 Information on ships lost in Banka Straits); Lt. Samuel Kenneth Rayner an Accountant with Henry Waugh, Penang died on 13.2.42 on the ‘GB’ (MVDB) : the List of Naval officers and men 1945 shows that Samuel Kenneth Rayner was commissioned into the SSRNVR on 11.6.39 as a Lieut. (STA 17.6.39 and 17.5.41); newspaper records show he was commissioned as

a Sub. Lt in 1939 and then a Lieut. on 17.5.41 in the SSRNVR; the Colonial Office Record of Deaths records **Lt. Samuel Kenneth Rayner** was presumed to have lost his life on or about 13.2.42 in the sinking of the 'Giang Bee', the source of information being The Admiralty (CORD register M1/69. Folio 135. Serial 803, Ref 7/10262/45); Probate records in the UK record that Samuel Kenneth Rayner of 51 Church Street, Morley, Yorkshire died at sea on or after 13.2.42; *but at the end of the war is the confusing and totally erroneous news that "...Rayner "Gunnery Lieut RNVR to New Zealand by air 23 Sept 45."* S

- **ROWLAND** – "...Rowland E. Collins M.B. Customs..." (list of missing at PRO); also, in a Colonial Office "Interrogation Form" dated 15.2.46 A. S/Lt. E. P. C. Langdon records the last sighting of a "...A S/Lt Roland (or ROWLAND (E?)) MRNVR...on board HMS Giang Bee at about 1930 hrs on 13.2.42. Ship later abandoned... age about 24 years, Brown hair, [indecipherable] eyes (?). Slightly built. Height about 5ft 8 inches. Civil Occupation – Customs Officer, FMS..."; finally Sub Lt. Edward Colin Rowland, MRNVR, aged 22 years and son of Edward and Winifred Rowland of Abercarn, Monmouthshire recorded as dying on 15.2.42 (CWGC).
- **ROLAND / ROWLANDS** - AS/Lt Richard Roland or Rowlands; M.R. Rowland NK (Same person as above?).
- **ROZELLES** – "...ROZELLES 2/3<sup>rd</sup> ENG GIANG BEE/SENG LEFT..." (BPPL).
- **SCOTT** – "*Scott Chief Officer of the ship*" was witnessed as last seen on the 'GB' (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); "...SCOTT 1<sup>st</sup> OFFR GIANG B BVD LOST WITH SHIP..." (BPPL); "S/Lt. (Robert?) Scott, RNR is recorded as "*...Last seen In lifeboat which was partly waterlogged & leaking, North of Banka Straits on 13/2/42 at about 2100hrs...described as Age about 32 years Dark hair- Height about 5ft 11inches...Mate of 'Giang Bee'...*" ( Colonial Office "Interrogation Form" completed by E. P. C. Langdon 15.2.46 – incorrect date is on original document ); Temp. Sub. Lt. Andrew (sic) Scott, RNR, killed (Royal Naval casualties, naval-history.net); finally **Sub. Lt. Alexander Scott**, Royal Naval Reserve, "HMS. Giang Bee", died 13.2.42 (CWGC and Liverpool Naval Memorial) – presumably Alexander Scott was in command of one of the first two lifeboats which sank soon after being lowered into the sea.
- **TOBLIN/ TOBIN** – J. Tobin, crew, Royal Navy, D/JX 17749 (Ships List "HMS. Tapah"); this was in fact **James Toblin, Boy Sailor, DJX 177497** who had been on the 'HMS Prince of Wales' when it sank (from the now deleted 'Force Z survivors' website) and would have been drafted to help crew the 'Giang Bee' at short notice from his attachment to shore base 'HMS Sultan' in Singapore. He boarded 'Tapah' from the lifeboat under Morton's command and was part of the group picked up from the beach on the coast of Sumatra. What happened to him after that is unknown.
- **WILSON** – "...WILSON R M CH ENG GIANG B LEFT MISSING..." (BPPL); "...R. Wilson Chief Engineer of ship..." was witnessed as last seen on 'GB' (Netherlands Indies Red Cross);

there is also the record Temp. Lt. (E) Robert M. Wilson, RNR, killed (Royal Naval Casualties, naval-history.net); and finally, **Lt. (E) Robert Mitchell Wilson**, United Kingdom, Royal Naval Reserve, “HMS. Giang Bee” died 13.2.42 (CWGC and Liverpool Naval Memorial). The fact that he died on the ship is confirmed by email from Cathie Oswald, the granddaughter of his sister, who advised in 2011 that he was one of eight children and much loved by his sisters and father and Robert is described as “...handsome, generous and personable...”. He was born in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland on 10 October 1901. In his younger years he had been a highly talented footballer – several large and professional clubs had competed to sign him up – but in view of the relatively short career span of footballers and the need for additional skills to last him through his life he chose to take up an apprenticeship as a mechanical engineer. Photos confirm him as a good-looking man. He had been living in Southeast Asia for several years and it is thought that he had a budding relationship with a woman in Singapore, but his family know nothing more.

### Passengers of the “Giang Bee”:

- **AERIA – Mrs. V.L. Aeria**, ‘Giang Bee’ survivor picked up by HMS Tapah, 17. 2.42 (“HMS Tapah” ships list); Children Leonard and Barbara. “...Mrs. Aeria V. L. was interned in Palembang...” (NIRC); this was **Mrs. Vera Idris Aeria**, ‘Giang Bee’ survivor picked up by HMS Tapah 2.42. Children Leonard and Barbara. Muntok & Palembang, Sumatra internee). It appears that this was the family of Major William Athelstan Aeria, D Company, SSVF. (JM). Mr. W. A. Aeria was in the SSVF from 1918 and was a Changi POW during the war where he assisted in establishing the Bureau of Record & Enquiry. (SFP 2.1.48). In 1974 the newspaper ‘New Nation’ reported members of the Aeria family meeting Vera Aeria and her son Melville William Aeria, aged 52 years, off the plane from Sydney, Australia where they then lived (New Nation, 12.9.74. Melville was clearly one of Vera’s much older child, born 1922 and a Lance Sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Btn. SSVF, leading up to the invasion by the Japanese. He became a POW. He died in Ryde, NSW, Australia in 2005.
- **AERIA – Barbara Aeria**, daughter of Vera Idris Aeria and William Aeria must have been born in early 1930s. She appears to have been about five years of age at the time of the ‘Giang Bee’ sinking from her post war newspaper reports. She appears in post war newspapers as a child dancing and later as a young woman in 1952 as a professional dance entertainer.
- **AERIA – Leonard Malcolm Aeria**, child of Vera Aeria (above) was of unknown age.
- **ALLEN - William Probyn Allen**; aged 32 years he was Sales Manager, Boots Pure Drug Co., Nottingham, England; the secret Changi list records “... ALLEN W PROBYN BOOTS??? DRUGS PALEMBANG...” (BPPL); **DDI MA**; Far East Representative, Boots Ltd. Wife Kathleen [Kay] evacuated: as Scott and Langdon were rowing towards the Japanese destroyer and it opened fire they came across W. Probyn Allen in the sea and pulled him into the rowing boat. He was a huge man, apparently some 240 pounds and after also



pulling H. P. Kendall into the rowing boat it had only an inch of freeboard. They knew the direction of the Moesi River and two days later they grounded the dinghy at a Malay village at the mouth of the Moesi River. After help from the villagers they walked barefoot to Palembang where the Japanese put them in Palembang Jail (“By Eastern Windows” MacDougall, p 158); He died at Belalau, Sumatra of Blackwater fever; “Died 25<sup>th</sup> March 1945 S. Sumatra, in camp hospital Palembang”; William Probyn Allen, United Kingdom, aged 34 years, died at Belalau on 25.3.45 husband of Kathleen Mary Allen (CWGC); born in 1911 at Pontardwe, Breconshire, he had been educated at Cambridge University and graduated MA (JM)

- **ALLEN** – “...Miss Allen E. interned at Palembang” (NIRC) .
- **ALLGROVE** – **Mrs. Marjorie Allgrove**, British, civilian aged 41 years, Medical Aid Service, wife of Mr. J. W. Allgrove of Muar River estate, Segamat, Johore and daughter of Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Walden of Slough, Buckinghamshire – she died on 13.2.42 on the “GB” (CWGC); Lance Corporal Joseph William “Joey” Allgrove was in the Johore Volunteer Engineers and was Manager, Muar River Rubber Estate, Batu Anam, Johore and was a POW (MVDB).
- **ANTHONY** – “...Miss Anthony F. was interned in Palembang...” (NIRC) ; Miss F. Anthony was an employee of William Jacks & Co., (Malaya) Ltd, Singapore (STA. 17.8.41) – interestingly so was Mr. R. Stephenson (below)
- **ANTHONY** – it is unclear whether this is another member of the family “...ANTHONY. M. Kuala Lumpur...” (NIRC).
- **BAGBY** – Walter Scott Bagby was born in New Zealand in about 1907 and by age 12 years was an apprentice jockey in that country. He was a well-known jockey in NZ but achieved some notoriety in NZ and Australian newspapers when he came up before the courts, firstly when found guilty on a manslaughter charge in 1927 for the death of a Mrs Short in Auckland, who was knocked down by Bagby in his car as she was boarding a tram ( he had only held his licence for a month), and then in 1928 when prosecuted on a rape charge but acquitted after two trials (‘NZ Papers Past’ and ‘Trove’); he must have left NZ very soon after this because his obituary ( ST 15.2.67) said that he had ridden in Bombay ,Calcutta etc before arriving in Malaya in the 1930s; by January 1931 ( SFPMA 19.1.31) he was 23 years of age and racing as a jockey in Penang and continued most successfully competing in races throughout Malaya during the remaining years until the Japanese invasion; in 1931 he married Delphina ( ‘Girlie’) Sandys in Penang (the reception was held at the Eurasian Volunteers Club) and they had four sons – John Stanley ( 1932) who became a policemen with the Singapore Harbour Board, Bob (1934) who became a horse trainer in Malaya, Billy ( 1937) who became a very well-known jockey and Polo rider in Malaya post war, and another unidentified son; at the time of Singapore’s fall in 1942 Wally Bagby was aged 35 and boarded the “Giang Bee’ to escape with other jockeys; “...BAGBY W JOCKEY PALEMBANG...” (BPPL); Mr. W. R. Bagby was a witness on the document prepared in internment camp on missing passengers



(NIRC); Australian Jockey at the Turf Club , Singapore(NIRC); it is also reported that “.. While out of camp he beat up a sadistic Japanese guard and lived to tell the tale; “Sailed for Madras, ‘DUNERA’ 28 Sept 45”; He had three sons incl. Walter (source unknown); in 1946 the “Straits Times “erroneously reported that he had died in Sumatra (STA. 13.4.46); but later corrected itself “... [Jimmy Martin] and Wally Bagby were on a boat which was sunk just outside Singapore. They were picked up by a Japanese patrol boat and taken prisoner. During their imprisonment, Martin and Bagby discussed post war plans and reached an agreement that, if both survived, one was to take out a trainers licence and the other was to ride as a stable jockey...to begin with Jimmy will have a string of horses...Bagby will ride them ...” (STA post war newspaper article); also from the ‘Malayans’ (JM) database “... BAGBY W.S. [Walter Scott] ‘Wally’ b.NZ. Jockey & Horse Trainer. ‘Giang Bee’ survivor. Padang, **Sumatra internee**. 4 sons incl. Walter & Billy. Returned to Malayan racing post war. Died 2.67 [57] Auckland NZ. ; in fact Wally returned to racing in Malaya with a vengeance and during the next twenty years became one of the most successful jockeys and trainers in the country; in 1952 he was seriously injured in a race in Kuala Lumpur and then switched to training; his checkered past in front of courts reappeared in Malaya and he was frequently charged for offences such as speeding and failing to pay the Provident Fund contributions of his employees, but perhaps most telling is that in 1955 he was again prosecuted for killing someone whilst driving, the unfortunate person this time was Mr. Wong Wah a 54 year old ‘fowl seller’ in Ipoh who was run over by Wally Bagby in his car whilst carrying chickens in their cages – for this crime Wally was fined \$200 and lost his license for 12 months( ST 14.12.55); by 1958 his health began to fail and he had several heart attacks which eventually required treatment in the UK; he continued as a very successful trainer but retired to NZ in 1966 and died there in Auckland in February 1967 ( ST 15.2.67) and is buried at the Mangere Lawn Cemetery, South Auckland.

- **BARRACLOUGH - John Francis Barraclough, PD** MBC Chief Engineer. Engaged to Elizabeth Myers (*in fact according to the 2006 obituary of Elizabeth Barraclough he married had married her, Margaret Elizabeth Myers, in 1941 shortly before he and his new wife , who also worked for the BBC/MBC evacuated on different ships, this record also states that John Barraclough went down with the ship*); his wife Elizabeth did not know for certain of his death until reading a newspaper account in September 1945 of the sinking of the GB but the internees in Changi recorded his death in 1942 in Bennett’s secret list “...BARRACLOUGH J. F. BMBC LEFT GIANG BEE DROWNED? WIFE BATAVIA...” (BPPL); John Francis Barraclough was listed as on the ‘GB’ (CO 980/324); the last person to see him clinging to raft before he was swept away during a storm on the night of 14.2.42 was another MBC staff member Mr. J. Medcalfe – Moore (see below).
- **BATEMAN - “... Bateman Mr. J.? ARC S’pore ....”** (GBL); **Maurice Joseph Bateman**, per ST article, 1946 in which Mrs Bateman is asking for information on her husband from GB survivors “...Mrs. M. J. Bateman of No. 4 Surrey Road, Singapore, will be grateful for any information concerning her husband, Mr. Maurice Joseph Bateman,, especially from survivors of the “SS. Giang Bee”, as Mr. Bateman is presumed to have boarded this ship when evacuating from Singapore in 1942 and is still missing and untraceable...” (Straits Times 12.8.46); a Mrs. J. Bateman was evacuated from Singapore on the “Centaur” arriving Freemantle, Western Australia. (MVG) **PD**

- **BATTENSBY** - BATTENSBY E.W. [Eric William] b. 1891 Fulham. To Malaya 1913. Planter Manager, Gunong Kroh Estates 1914. WW1 Service. Returned to manage Sengkat Estates then from 1923 Changkat Serdang Estate, Taiping – into 1930s. Later Manager, Tapah Rubber Estates Ltd, Tapah, Perak. Lt MSVR till 1936. Lost at sea 13.2.42 [55] on the Giang Bee (JM); **Eric William Battensby**; Planter Manager, Tapah Rubber Estate Ltd, Tapah Rd, Perak [1935 & 1940 Directories]; listed as Planter, Tapah Road “...Kendall declared that he jumped overboard with him, stopped answering calls after half an hour...” Wounded in the chest then lost at sea, aged 55; “...last seen injured on Gian (sic) Bee...” (Mrs. E. Cross list at PRO, CO 980/324); CWGC records confirm these details and that he was the son of Jane and the late William Battensby, The Poplars, Uffington, Berkshire and that he died on 13.2.42 (CWGC); it is not clear whether he was related to the following person
- **BATTENSBY** – “...Battensby M (Mrs.) died on 2.2.45 (Mrs. E. Cross list of Palembang women internees at PRO) – however whilst it is reasonable to assume she had left Singapore with her husband, there is no confirmation that she had in fact been on the ‘GB’; Mrs. Mary Awmack (Mona) Battensby, United Kingdom, aged 51 years of Tapah Rubber Estate Ltd., Tapah Road, Perak, FMS [parents lived at Belfry, Cameron Highlands, FMS] wife of Eric William Battensby (CWGC)
- **BAYLISS** – “...Miss Bayliss S. R. was interned in Palembang...” (NIRC); **PS**; This may possibly be Mrs. Olive Bayliss (nee Hogan) aged 24 in 1942. Wife of Staff Sgt. R. Bayliss RASC; she was interned at Palembang, Sumatra.
- **BEAUCHAMP** – **PD**; Ministry of Information, Singapore. Wife evacuated to Melbourne, Australia; **William Dashwood Proctor Beauchamp**; Wm. Desmond Proctor Beauchamp listed on “GB” (CO 980/324); lost at sea 13.2.42 (MVG); “Beauchamp W. D. Ministry of Information, Singapore...” was witnessed as last seen on “GB” (NIRC); Beauchamp must have spent some time in Penang since he is reported in the Straits times as leaving on the “Chitral” from Penang in 1939 (STA 13.1.39).
- **BELL** - “Bell. Formerly Fortress Signal Coy. S. V. C. ...” was witnessed as last seen on “GB” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); this is not Lt. N.G.B. Bell, SSRNVR since he survived the war (MM) but the identity of this person has not yet been determined.
- **BIRD** - Miss Bird **NK**; “...Bird Miss Salvation Army, Singapore...” (GBL); This was in fact **Miss Etta Bird** (perhaps short for Henrietta) from Canada; “... before the War the Salvation Army had two sessions of cadets (students of our training college) . The Training Principal was Adjutant Etta Bird, a Canadian Officer. On 13 February 1942 ... she with Mrs Major Wilkinson left the island [Singapore] on the SS. Gian (sic) Bee. It was bombed and the two officers were amongst the victims who perished ... “ ( Burning the Bones BlogSpot in Singapore ); from the Colonial Office Register of Deaths “ Miss Etta Bird, salvation Army, died on or about 13.2.42 in the Banka Straits , presumed to have lost her life following the sinking of the HMS Giang Bee, date of certificate 26.7.46, source is the Governor of Singapore ( CORD Reg M1, Folio 246, # 1180, Ref 9 or 10001/46 ) ; finally , whilst the name Etta Bird is not uncommon in Canada and the USA during the first half of last century there is one intriguing record on [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca)

which raises the possibility that Etta Bird was the widow of Gunner Carl John Kettleon of the Canadian Artillery born 1881 and who lost his life on 17.8.17, she may have been his wife Etta Bird of Camp Lake , Saskatchewan ( researchers note)

- **BLUNN** - Walter George Cunnew Blunn S; "...BLUNN W G C INT PAL..."; The Hon. JP Managing Director, George Blunn & Co. Ltd, Java St, KL Unofficial Member, Federal Council, Member State Council, Selangor. Member of Selangor Chamber of Commerce. Lived at the Lilac Lantern, 120 Java St, KL. Wife Alison [married 1915 Penang] active in Malayan Red Cross and YWCA. In Simla. "Sailed Madras on KOROA 4 Oct 45"; Retired to Cobham, Surrey. Alison died 28.11.61. He married again [Irene]. Member of BAM till 1973. Died 23.5.74 Storrington. Daughter Joyce.
- **BOLTER – Mrs. D. L. Bolter** lost at sea on the Giang Bee on 13.2.42 ( MVG); there appear to have been several families with this surname in Singapore but it has not been possible to link Mrs. D. L. Bolter directly with any of these– they include John S. Bolter who lost his life in the sinking of the "Redang" on 13.2.42 and who worked for the "Straits Times", (he was the husband of Mrs. J. Bolter) , or his brother , Max Bolter the "Straits Times" journalist/editor (b. 1913 and a gunner # 13528 SRA , then POW Singapore to Thailand and who died in Hintok, Thailand on 7.9 . 43) and Norman Bolter (JM).

**The next group is the Boswell family (of Eurasian heritage) - there were 15 members of the family on the Giang Bee.) and much of the information shown is kindly provided by Jenny Leeson;**

- **BOSWELL** - Mrs. F. V." Nora" Boswell; Aged 52 in February 1942; Leonora Josephine Boswell, formerly de Mornay, nee de Souza (sister of Mrs. Rose Schooling, below); wife of Frederick Victor Boswell, Rubber Planter, (who left Singapore on the *Mata Hari* and died in captivity of Beri Beri in Muntok Camp, 11.07.44 aged 51). The family had been living in Kuala Lumpur but in late January 1942 fled to Singapore. Frederick was bundled onto the *Mata Hari* and the rest of his family were on the GB. In the chaos at the docks Fred was separated from his family and was bundled onto the 'Mata Hari'; the launch that the rest of the family were in went to the GB. When the GB was bombed the Boswell, family became split up with Mrs Boswell, Drina, Joan, Maisie, and Kenneth together on a lifeboat with 56 other people and one small barrel of water, but Corinne, Albert, Clive and Noel went missing and although the family made every effort to trace them after the War it was to no avail. After three days at sea, they landed on Banka Island and were handed over to the Japanese. Mrs Boswell and her remaining three daughters, her sons and their families were interned in a series of camps (six in total) in Palembang, Muntok and Belalau camp at Loeboek Linggau. Mrs Boswell was very ill during most of the interment and Drina had to assume responsibility for the family (See WW2 Peoples War – Article A8049378, 26.12.2005 story of Drina Leeson nee Boswell); Nora survived internment and returned to Singapore after the war where she remained.

- **BOSWELL** - Albert Boswell; "...Boswell A. age 29, brother of witnesses [N. C. H. Boswell and M. Boswell] ..." (NIRC); son of Nora Boswell by a previous marriage, lost after bombing of GB
- **BOSWELL** - Noel W. Boswell; "...Boswell N. W. age 21 years, brother of the witnesses..." [N. C. H. Boswell and M. Boswell] (NIRC); son by a previous marriage, lost after bombing of GB.
- **BOSWELL**- Malcolm A.V. Boswell who was aged 19 years in 1942 and the son of Nora Boswell by a previous marriage. Malcolm sustained shrapnel wound to his back during the bombing of the "Giang Bee". He survived internment and returned to Singapore after the War where he remained; other references are that a person by the name M. Boswell was a witness in the Netherlands-indies Red Cross document (NIRC) prepared in Palembang internment camp of missing passengers "...Boswell M. was interned in Palembang men's camp ..." (Mrs. E. Cross list at PRO); an M. Boswell, aged 18 years, was a student at St. John's School, Kuala Lumpur (NIRC).
- **BOSWELL** - Clive A. V. Boswell; "...Boswell C, age 17 years in 1942, brother of the witnesses [N. C. H. Boswell and M. Boswell] ..." (NIRC); PD, son of Nora Boswell by a previous marriage, lost after bombing of GB.
- **BOSWELL** – Miss Drina C. A. Boswell, S. Aged 16 years in February 1942. Daughter of Leonora and Frederick Boswell. As Drina jumped from the GB to a lifeboat, the movement of the waves took the ship in one direction and the lifeboat in the other and she fell between the two cutting her forehead on the side of the lifeboat as she hit the water. She couldn't swim and would have drowned if a sailor had not caught hold of her by her hair and pulled her into the lifeboat. She survived internment and returned to Singapore after the war.; Miss Drena Boswell (List of British women and children in Palembang).
- **BOSWELL** - Corinne R.A. Boswell; "...Boswell Corinne, age 14 years, sister of the witnesses [N. C. H. Boswell and M. Boswell] ..." (NIRC); PD Sister of the four children below and half-sister of the three above. Daughter of Leonora and Frederick Boswell. She was lost after the bombing of the GB.
- **BOSWELL** - Master Kenneth L.M. Boswell, aged 12 years in 1942, he was the son of Leonora and Frederick. Kenny was removed from the women's camp when he was 12 years of age and moved to the men's camp. (WW2 Peoples War – Article A8049378); Kenneth Boswell also listed in Palembang Women's camp (List of British Women and Children in Palembang) Survived internment and returned to Kuala Lumpur post-war. **BOSWELL** – Joan Boswell (list of British Women and Children in Palembang); Miss Joan K.M. Boswell, aged 11 years in 1942, daughter of Leonora and Frederick. She survived internment and returned to Singapore after the War.
- **BOSWELL** - Miss Maisie M.M. Boswell was aged 9 years in 1942 and the youngest daughter of Leonora and Frederick. She spent most of the time in internment either attending the school run in the camp by Dutch nuns or by her mother's bedside since she was too young to work. (WW2 Peoples story – A8049378). Survived internment and returned to Singapore after the War; Miss M. Boswell was interned in Palembang camp (NIRC).

- **BOSWELL** – Mr. Elder F. H. Boswell was a witness on the document prepared in internment camp on missing passengers (PCIL) and son of Nora Boswell by a previous marriage, therefore a half-brother of the above people who died in the sinking; PS; “...BOSWELL E P H NEI...” (BPPL); Husband of Mrs. Charlotte Boswell below; he was a merchant, aged 27 years, with Whiteaway Laidlaw Co., Ipoh. (NIRC); he survived internment and returned to Singapore after the War. Spent a short period in Kuala Lumpur before returning to Singapore where he remained.
- **BOSWELL** - Mrs. Charlotte Boswell (nee Marsh), **S**. Aged 29 in February 1942. Wife of Mr. Elder Boswell (above) and sister of Mrs. Clare Boswell (below). She survived internment and returned to Singapore after the war. Went with her husband Elder to Kuala Lumpur for a short time and then back with him to Singapore; other references are Mrs. E. F. M Boswell (in fact E.F.H.)” *...Mrs Boswell E. F. M. was interned in Palembang camp...*” (NIRC).
- **BOSWELL** - Norman C. H. Boswell was aged 22 years at the time of the sinking and a son of Nora Boswell by a previous marriage, husband of Mrs Clare Boswell ( below and father of Miss Felice Boswell (below); a witness on the document prepared in internment camp on missing passengers (NIRC); he survived internment and returned to Singapore after the War before moving to Kuala Lumpur; other references state he was a Clerk, aged 24 years, with Post & Telegraph , Singapore ...” (NIRC); “...BOSWELL E C H (sic?) NEI...” (BPPL) also “...BOSWELL M/ NEI...” (BPPL); “With wife and baby. Discharged 47B.G.H. 28 Sept 45”, and his wife,
- **BOSWELL** - Mrs. Clare L. Boswell (nee Marsh) aged 18 years in 1942. Wife of Norman above; “...Mrs. Boswell N. C. H. and baby...” were interned in Palembang camp (NIRC); she had her baby daughter Felice Boswell (below) with her on the ‘GB’ and in internment. She survived internment and returned to Singapore before moving to Kuala Lumpur. And their daughter,
- **BOSWELL** – Miss Felice Boswell, aged 4 and a half months in February 1942, daughter of Claire and Norman above; presumably she is the same person as “...Boswell Felix Ann ...” who is recorded as interned in Palembang camp (Mrs. E. Cross list at PRO); also named ‘Felice Ann Boswell’ in the List of British Women and children in Palembang and ‘Phyllis Ann Boswell’ in the Irenelaan list of Ralph Armstrong; she survived internment and returned to Singapore before moving to Kuala Lumpur
- **BOXALL** - Ronald L. Boxall, **PD???**; **there is a conflict between eye witness accounts that was on the “GB” and the CWGC records placing him on the “SS. Redang”**; “...Boxall R. L. dept of Information, Singapore...” was witnessed as being on the “GB” by R. H. Scott (according to information given before Scott was removed from Palembang to Singapore); “...BOXALL R L M?? BVD DROWN GIANG BEE...” , Planter and Far East Bureau. 1952: Narborough Estate, Sungkai, Perak. Member of BAM till 1973;” *...Boxall W. B. Dept of Imm S'pore...*” (list of missing at PRO); Loraine **Ronald Tividier Boxall**, aged 30 years, civilian and Civil Defence Force, son of Leopold and Theodora Boxall, of Richmond, Surrey, he died on 15.2.42 believed to have been on “SS. Redang” (CWGC)



- **BRIDGEMAN** - Miss Leila Winifred Bridgeman, from NZ. Secretary, YWCA. Singapore. Aged 52 years of age at the time of the sinking; she states *"...on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> December (sic) this vessel was stopped by a Japanese cruiser. Time was given for women and children to take to the lifeboats. I believe that the vessel was sunk by the cruisers shell fire. I arrived in Anjer, West Java in the lifeboat on 8th March and was taken prisoner the same day. We were not at sea all this time... the following day I was imprisoned in Serang...three months later I was released and given permission to proceed to Batavia .After five months freedom I was required to go into an internment camp called Tidjeng camp in a suburb of Batavia..."* (Signed statement to Police in Auckland, NZ, by Miss Bridgeman 29.10.45).Repatriated from Singapore to Archerfield, Australia 3.10.45 then to NZ .Her departure from Tidjeng is recorded in a New Zealand newsreel film of September 1945. Died 1974 Auckland.
- **BROOKS/ BROOKE** - **Herbert George Brooks**, PD b.1894. Vehicle Licensing Officer, Johore. Wife Betty and daughter Eileen evacuated. Wounded [with R. Eves] in the air attack on the ship; there is a written statement by passenger Molly Ismail at Colonial Office dated 18.1.46 which states *"...I knew Mr. H. G. Brooks and Mr. R. Eves as we were all in Johore. Both Mr. Brooks and Mr. Eves were on the Giang Bee. After we were bombed, I saw them lying down on part of the deck with their heads bound up, having been wounded in the head. When the order came that the ship was to be abandoned I saw them wandering about on deck, after that I don't know what happened to them..."* (Molly Ismail in the Colonial Office document held at National Archives); after the War he is reported as being officially presumed dead by the Missing Persons Bureau, Refugee and Displaced Persons Branch, Citizens Advice Bureau, old Supreme Court Building, Singapore as "Mr. Herbert George Brooke, Registrar of Vehicles, Johore, reported to have been on the Giang Bee but does not appear on the Giang Bee list..." ( Archive Straits Times "Tracing of Missing Continues" 29 May 1946)
- **CAMPBELL** – Colin Douglas Campbell was born in Muar, the son of Australian railwayman and stationmaster John Colin Campbell. Colin became a trainee rubber planter and finally experienced enough to assume the responsibilities of a rubber estate manager. In 1921 he met and married his wife Anne whilst on holiday in Melbourne and they returned to Selaba Rubber Estate near Ipoh in Perak. He and Anne had two sons (and a daughter who died at birth). As manager of Selaba rubber estate, near Ipoh he lived in a spacious double storey wooden bungalow. In January 1942 Colin drove his wife (his two boys were at boarding school in Australia) to Singapore leaving behind all their personal possessions and his wife boarded the 'SS. Narkunda' on 15 January and reached Australia safely, Colin returned to the Estate to carry out the official 'scorched earth' policy, wrote to his wife setting out the details of their financial affairs and returned to Singapore. Aged 51 years he boarded the 'Giang Bee' and it is believed by his family that, although he was recovering from abdominal surgery, he volunteered to stoke the furnaces. It is thought that he ended up in the sea after the ship began to sink and managed to get aboard one of the two lifeboats and reached Muntok where he became an internee of the Japanese, firstly in the Cinema and then Muntok gaol. After suffering several very harsh and debilitating years of imprisonment he died on 2 August 1944 from dysentery and Beri Beri. His effects, including his wedding ring and nineteen

pounds, were returned to his widow after the War by Mr Hal Hammett the British leader of the Men's Camp (granddaughter Judy Balcombe's document 'Full Circle'); also, Colin Douglas Campbell, Planter aged 52 in 1942, from 38 Belgrave Road, South Malvern, Melbourne, Australia; wife Ann evacuated on Narkunda, arriving Fremantle WA 24.1.42.; again the same person "CAMPBELL COLIN B? SELABA LEFT 12/10-3..." (BPPL); "Campbell Colin ex Goodyear was witnessed as last seen on the "GB"; later is the record "Campbell C. D. was interned in Palembang" ( Mrs. E. Cross list of men in Palembang internment camp): also Colin Campbell was a witness and signatory to the NIRC document listing the last known sightings of "GB" passengers prepared on 2.2.43 in Palembang camp – so he was an internee and alive at that date ( NIRC); Died in captivity 2.8.44 [53].

- **CAMPBELL**– *there are several references in the secret list prepared by Mr. Bennett in Changi to men on the "GB" having left with "...Sir John Campbell..." (BPPL).*
- **CAMPBELL – SMITH** – "...Campbell-Smith, Siam, In search of wife and children..." (GBL PD)
- **CARSON** – "*Carson, [Previous Occupation or Address] Tanah Merah, S'pore...*" (List of those on GB) PD; Planter, Tanah Merah Estate (MVG); the Colonial Office Record of Deaths states "... **Frank G. Carson**, Singapore, died on or about 13.2.42 and presumed to have died in the sinking of the 'Giang Bee'... "(Source: Searcher Organisation Clearing House, 24/10251/1/46. M1, 222, 1093.); he seems to have worked on Tanah Merah Estate, a rubber plantation which was owned by Guthrie's in Malaya and presumably was a planter.
- **CHALMERS - Alexander ('Sheepie') Chalmers**; originally from Aberdeen. To Malaya 1926. Assistant, Taiping Rubber Plantations, Trong [1935 Directory] then Assistant, Siliu Estate NS [1940 Directory] then Manager, Ulu Sawah Estate, Rantau NS. Wife Sybil evacuated on Aorangi, arriving Fremantle WA 23.1.42 then to Scotland. Daughter Louise born in Australia 1942 (MVG); "...Chalmers Paiping (sic) Rubber Plant..." (List of missing at PRO);" Chalmers, Planter, formerly Taiping Rubber Plantation was witnessed as last seen on the 'GB'; a **conflicting reference** to him being on the GB is reference may be "CHALMERS A U SAWAH LINGGI LEFT SHB LAUNCH..." (BPPL);
- **CHAPMAN – Mr. A. Chapman, PD**; "Chapman A. Anglo Oriental" was witnessed as last seen on the 'GB'; "...Mr. (?) Chapman, Australian tin miner from S [rest of word is indecipherable] ..." was aboard the "GB"(letter from J. Medcalfe – Moore to Colonial Office 26.2.46);" ... CHAPMAN HADE TAKUAPA TFY MUNIC GIANG BEE BVD DROWNED ... " ( BPPL)
- **CHASEN - Frederick Nutter Chasen**, also known as 'Micky', PD; Born 1896. Educated at the Priory, Norfolk then an articled student at Norwich Castle. WW1 Service: Trooper, Norfolk Yeomanry then 3.3.1919 2nd Lt Suffolk Regiment. Assistant Curator Raffles



Museum 1921 Director of Raffles Museum and Library, Singapore 1932-1942. 1st wife Agnes, to Singapore 1926 aged 18. 2nd wife Kath (some records have her name as Mollie for unknown reason) and son evacuated to Johannesburg SA. Daughters Heather Jean [b.1927 Singapore = actress Heather Chasen of "Crossroads" and "Navy lark" etc. fame] & Christine Elizabeth b.1931]. Agnes married G.C.R. 'Ginger' Franks who was killed serving with the RAF 22.3.42 [36]. Kath (Mollie), after the death of her first husband from malaria in Singapore, also remarried 'Micky' Chasen for whom she had previously completed paintings of birds. They lived at 8 Stevens Road, Singapore. F.N.C. the author of numerous publications incl. 'The Birds of the Malay Peninsula,' 'The Birds of Singapore Island' & 'A Hand list of Malaysian Mammals.'; earliest record of his death was in the secret list compiled in Changi by civilian internees "...CHASEN F N MUSEUMS GIANG BEE DROWNED?" (BPPL) but sadly this was not known by his family for some years; "...For years we didn't know where my husband was...news came from the POW camps but nothing about Micky. Then I heard much later that he had been killed escaping from Singapore on the "Giang Bee" which had been shelled and sunk the day that Singapore fell to the Japs..." (letter from Kath Chasen to Rosemary Molesworth, Kath had been on the Empress of Japan and had left that ship at Capetown and stayed in South Africa.); Information also obtained from granddaughter Brigid Flipse.

- **CHINNERY – Frederick George Chinnery (LOPBGB); Engineer, MBC.** Wife J. evacuated to Capetown SA. (JM and MVG); "...CHINNERY F G BMBC GIANG BEE DROWNED..." (BPPL); Frederick George Chinery (sic?) listed on "GB" (CO 980/324); the last person to see him clinging to a raft after the sinking before he was swept away in a storm during the night of 14.2.42 was another MBC staff member J. Medcalfe – Moore (see below)
- **CHUNG – "...CHUNG NG YI COOK TO R H SCOTT BVD DROWNED GIANG BEE..."** (BPPL); R. H. Scott was the Director of the Far East Bureau of the Ministry of Information (see below)
- **CLARK – Clark (? E)** was an official photographer with the Crown Agents, London; ; "...**CLARK NOBBY** MOI PHOTOGR RPD DRND GIANG BEE..." (BPPL) ; he was witnessed as "...last seen on the 'GB'"
- **COLLINS - Mrs. Maria Collins, PS Eurasian.** Evacuated with the Schoolings; "Collins Mrs. widow shop S'pore" (GBL)
- **CONNELLY - Vernon Rowe Connelly, DDIFrom Southall, Middlesex.** Planter Manager, Changkat Salak Rubber and Tin Ltd, Perak. Aged 52 in 1942. Wife W. [A.I.?] and son P.V. evacuated on Aorangi, arriving Fremantle WA 23.1.42. He died in captivity 17.10.44 [49] Muntok.
- **COWGILL – "Cowgill Mrs. M. C. S. Seremban..."**(GBL); "...Cowgill Mrs. Wife of British resident Negri Sembilan..." was witnessed as last seen on 'GB' ; **Mrs. Lilian Josephine Cowgill**, BSc., aged 39 years, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, wife of J. V. Cowgill, St James Court, Buckingham Gate, London, and the daughter of John and Edith Atkin, of Bonehill,

Tamworth, Staffordshire, she died on “Giang Bee” on 13.2.42 (CWGC); this is confirmed on the Changi Museum civilian database and that she was born in 1903; she was the wife of the high profile and successful John Vincent Cowgill ( born 1899) was working with the MCS in Kuala Lumpur in the early 1930s ,who had been appointed British Resident in Pahang in 1937 then British Resident , Negri Sembilan ( with a 13 gun salute and a guard of honour of 50 members of the Negri Sembilan Btn., FMSVF); in 1946 ,after returning to work in Malay, Mr. Cowgill retired back to Britain - it is interesting that in the accompanying newspaper article it is stated “...Mrs. Cowgill lost her life in the “Kuala” off Singapore, after doing war work until two days before Singapore fell ...” perhaps it was still very confused in 1946 insofar as who had died on which ship leaving Singapore ( ST. 6.7.46); they had a son born in 1935 (ST.27.6.35)

- **CRISP** – “*CRISP P ???? WARTAX GIANG B?...*” (BPPL); **however other records suggest that Albert Ernest Crisp died in the sinking of the “SS. Kuala.”**
- **DAVIDSON** - Mrs. Davidson **PD**; “...Davidson Mrs. Sydney Estate, Kajang, FMS...” was witnessed as last seen on ‘GB’ (NIRC). The Colonial Office Register of Deaths states” ... *Mrs Isobel Davidson, wife of A. Davidson of Selangor, died on or about 13.2.42 in the vicinity of the Banka Strait presumed death resulting from the sinking of the ‘Giang Bee’...*” dated 11.6.46. (Source: C. In C. ALFSEA, 19/10260/46. M1, 220,1086). Mr Alexander DAVIDSON was Planter Manager, Sydney Estate, Semenyih, Selangor, and Private in the Selangor LDC. Aged 33 in 1942. Wife believed lost on the Vyner Brooke 15.2.42. Changi and Sime Road internee. Repatriated to Castle Douglas, Scotland.
- **DAVIDSE/ DAVIDSEESY (SIC)** - David Davidse born 1885 at Kondekerke, Netherlands, left the UK for Port Swettenham in 1933. Proprietor, Booty & Edwards [Surveyors and possibly Architects], 165 High Street, Kuala Lumpur ( JM and 1935 Directory); “*Davidseesey (sic) Booty and Edwards, Kuala Lumpur...*” was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (NIRC); actually **Mr. D.[David] Davidse** appears in the Malayan newspapers from 1927 when he and his wife embarked on the “Edavana” for the UK ( SFPMA 19.3.27); in 1928 he appears to have been a member of the Masonic lodge ( Lodge Johore Royal ) in Johore Bahru; through the 1930s he appears as a member of the Race Course Golf Club in matches against the Japanese Golf Club and the Singapore Golf Club; in 1933 he is reported as “ ... *Mr. D. Davidse of Booty and Edwards, architects, Kuala Lumpur, is expected back from Europe this week...*” ( SFPMA 17.10.33); his wife ‘Mary’ actually Maria Cornelia Gideonse followed him to Malaya in 1936 (JM) .
- **DAVIDSE** – *the possibility of Mrs. Davidse being on the “Giang Bee’ is raised by the record (below) of a Mr. and Mrs. Davies, surveyor, of Beaty and Edwards KL ... ‘ having been on the ship’ – at this stage no record of a firm named Beaty and Edwards has been found and this may possibly have been an incorrect record of Mr. Davidse of Booty and Edwards, KL.[Researcher]; in which case it is possible that **Maria ‘Mary’ Cornelia Davidse** also died in the sinking of the “Giang Bee”*
- **DAVIES** - Mr Eric and Mrs Davies **PDb**. London. BBC till October 1940 then Chairman MBC/Broadcaster 12.40. Wife Jan. Lived at Mount Rosie Singapore. His wife may not have been on board (MVG).

- **DAVIES** - Mrs. Davies (above or below)
- **DAVIES** – “Davies Mr. and Mrs. Surveyor (Beaty and Edwards KL) ...” (GBL); *appears highly likely to be an incorrect record of Mr. D. Davidse (above), but it is not without possibility that there was a man named Davies working as a surveyor for the architectural firm of Booty and Edwards. [Researcher].*
- **DE BON** – Mr. de Bon released PS; “3 French, Mr. Mrs. And Miss de Bon? Released at Muntok...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross document 2.2.43)
- **DE BON** - Mrs de Bon released PS
- **DE BON** – Miss de Bon released PS
- **DE SOUZA** – on board was Mrs Pauline Dumbleton whose maiden surname was de Souza – see Dumbleton below.
- **DE SOUZA** – Mrs Hilda Theodora de Souza (nee Cornelius) was a passenger along with her children Marie, Hilda Annie, Margarita Mavis ‘Rita’, Armand, John and Stella (there is a little confusion as to whether it was Stella or a sister named Thea B who was the last child mentioned (Louise Clarke, Singapore, June 2016)
- **DE SOUZA** – Marie de Souza, 25 years of age, daughter of Mrs. C.C. de Souza survived and interned in Sumatra (MM) – she was actually the daughter of Mrs Hilda de Souza (above); “...Miss de Souza M. E. Interned Palembang...”(Netherlands Indies Red Cross); in the Oral Archives of the Singapore National Archives is a recording ( Ref. 02176; Reel # 14; total reels on disc are 17) is a recount by Maria de Souza ( at the time of the recording her married name was Cockburn) who recalls there being some 200 people on the ship and that it had a Chinese captain (??), she states that two of the lifeboats were “... riddled with shrapnel ...” and that “ ... there were a lot of people in the hold ... my family were there ... “, also that there were British and Eurasians on board ( “ ... a lot of Eurasians ...) she talks about the fact that she was in one of the surviving lifeboats and possibly this was because she was not down in the hold when the shelling began ( “ ... I could not go down into the hold ... there were 60 in the lifeboat ...”), she also talks of her recollections of Muntok and also mentions the “Mata Hari” .
- **DE SOUZA** – Miss Hilda Annie de Souza, aged 23 years, born 13.4.1918 child of Mrs. Hilda de Souza.
- **DE SOUZA** – Miss Margarita Mavis ‘Rita’ de Souza, aged 20 years, born 10.5.21, child of Mrs. Hilda de Souza.
- **DE SOUZA** – Master Armand Raymond de Souza, aged 18 years, born 3.7.23, child of Mrs. Hilda de Souza.
- **DE SOUZA** – Master John Clare de Souza, aged 13 years, born 20.10.28, child of Mrs. Hilda de Souza.
- **DE SOUZA** – Miss Stella Monica de Souza, born 29.11.26, child of Mrs. Hilda de Souza.
- **DOOLEY** - Mrs. Dorothy Dooley (nee Schooling); “...Dooley Mrs. ...” (NIRC); also “... Dooley Mrs., Manchester Regt...” (GBL); First mention of a Miss D. Schooling is in 1922

when a person by that name arrived in Singapore by ship with her parents and siblings (SFPMA, 6.2.22). Next mention in newspapers comes in 1941 when Miss D. Schooling is firstly mentioned as one of 250 people at a War Charities Dance at the Adelphi Hotel (SFPMA, 23.6.41) and again that year as a committee member of the Eurasian Women's association, making comforts for soldiers which were distributed from Government House each month (SFPMA, 20.8.41). this is possibly how she met her future husband since she became the wife of Sgt. James Dooley, #3525853, 1st Battalion, Manchester Regiment, from Withington, Manchester and they married in February 1942 just prior to the evacuation – he was lost on HMS Dragonfly on the following day, 14.2.42, in the same evacuation from Singapore when his ship was bombed and sank near Pulau Posik near the larger island of Singkep in the Rhio Archipelago. There was also a very large Schooling family group (see below) on board the ship who were presumably related to Dorothy Dooley (nee Schooling).

- **DUMBLETON – Mr. Leslie T. Dumbleton**, Government Printing Office, and the undefeated Singapore Amateur Flyweight boxing champion married Mrs. Pauline de Souza ( STA 28.1.40); Mr and Mrs. L. Dumbleton (NIRC); **PD**; *“...Dumbleton Mr. and Mrs., son-in-law of Mrs. Collins...”* (GBL) in this context there also appears to have been a connection with the passenger De Souza; **“NOTE:** there is a record in Bennett's secret Changi list that raises the likelihood that Mr. Dumbleton's brother was also on the GB *“...DUMBLETON LESLIE EURAS PRINT OFF GIANG B W BROTHER BOTH MISSING...”*
- **DUMBLETON – Mrs. Pauline Dumbleton** ( see STA above) PD; Pauline de Souza had been born in Singapore on 6 July 1919 ( her brother Terence de Souza recorded that the birth date was 19.7.19 in 'Apa Khabar' October 2016) , one of the eight children of Lambert Philamen De Souza and 'Nora' Honora Josephine de Souza; in her early teens she and her sister Celine were enrolled at Madam Kelvey's dancing school and were accomplished dancers ( STA); during the Depression years and specifically in January 1934 they were amongst a group of *“...young women of Singapore...”* who formed a new club with the slogan *“...get together and be happy...”* , deciding to hold social evenings at the Memorial Hall regularly *“...a large crowd of children were entertained to a programme of song ,dance and recitations...”*; Pauline married Leslie Dumbleton on 27 January 1940 at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Singapore ( STA 28.1.40); so Pauline de Souza / Dumbleton appears to have been a talented young woman with drive and initiative who lost her life either in the shelling and sinking of the “Giang Bee” or in one of the early lifeboats to leave the ship; Pauline's mother was killed by the Japanese whilst taking shelter in the Convent of the Holy infant Jesus, Victoria Street, Singapore on 15 February 1942 and her father died later that year.
- **DUMBLETON** – brother of Leslie Dumbleton (see above); this was possibly either Cecil **Dumbleton** from references to his name in the STA or **George Dumbleton**
- **DUNN / LEICESTER - DUNN-** Mrs. N.L. Dunn; *She and two children survived the Giang Bee sinking 13.2.42.; “...Mrs. N. L. Dunn and two children were interned in Palembang...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); ‘Recovered S Sumatra 27 Sept 45.’ Repatriated to Ceylon 29.10.45...”* (list of GB passengers at PRO); *“...Mrs. Leicester – Dunn and her children Percy and Naureen (sic) /Maureen were interned in Palembang camp and lived in House # 3 with Nurse Kong, Mrs. Iris Robinson and Granny Stubbs”* (list of internees in

- Palembang and which houses they were accommodated in, by Ralph Armstrong 2016). This was Mrs. Kathleen Olivia Leicester Dunn from Singapore whose husband, Neale Dunn had changed his name from Dunn to Leicester - Dunn in 1941 (ST 1.9.41) - possibly after marrying Kathleen and adopting her two children Percy and Maureen? Neale is said to have been interned in Siam (it is possible that he was Pte. N. Leicester, # 27524, HQ Wing Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Btn. SSVF). They returned to Singapore after the war (ST 30.11.52); Kathleen died in 1973 in Singapore and the death notice placed by Percy stated that she was the only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. C.B. Leicester but makes no mention of her husband Neale (ST. 26.1.730).
- **DUNN** – child, Percy Dunn, whose name prior to 1941 had been Percy Barneby Pennefather (ST 1.9.41) (see above). He had been a choir boy at St Andrew’s Cathedral and was 11 years old ( ST. 12.7.88) when he boarded the ship and must have been severely traumatized by the shelling, sinking, deaths and survival in the lifeboat and then three and a half years in Sumatran internment camps; post war Percy got into some minor trouble with the law as an 18 year old student after ‘dishonestly receiving a bicycle valued at \$10 ‘ and was fined \$50 (ST. 8.12.50); in the 1960s in Singapore he became well known as an entertainer being the female impersonator called “ Singapore’s Carmen Miranda” (ST. 29.1.80) ; by 1988, aged 57 years, he was working at the ‘Magnolia’ snack bar in the Capitol Building in Singapore – somewhere where he had breakfasted as a choir boy in 1941 – and his named had become Percy Lester.
  - **DUNN** – child, Maureen Dunn, whose previous name had been Winifred Maureen Pennefather (ST. 1.9.41). Post war she was employed as a telephone operator for a rubber company (ST. 7.7.530 and later was an entrant in the “Miss Golden Rotary” beauty pageant in Singapore (ST.7.4.55) (see above)
  - **EVANS** – “...Evans Mr. F. K. Food Supply...” (GBL) this is hard to read and could also be “Evans Mrs. K. Food Supply...” (GBL)
  - **EVES** - Robert Eves, was born on 28 May 1880, Scarborough. He served with Salonika Forces, Army of the Black Sea (MVG); family photos show him in officer’s uniform in Serbia in 1921. Trained as a mechanical engineer. Captain RASC. Marine Engineer, in 1933 was with PWD in Johore, then Head of PWD Johore. Retd? i/c Fire Brigade Johore Bahru (MVG). Wife Christina evacuated on the Empress of Japan 31.1.42 and arrived in the UK (she died aged 92 years of age on 2 April 1994 - email Jonathan Silk, grandson 5.1.17). Daughters Judith Helen Silk (died aged 82 years of age in 2011) and Roberta Elizabeth Eves (died on 24 December 1953 in the Tangiwai Rail Disaster in New Zealand whilst on a working holiday from the UK) (MVG).; Robert Eves is first recorded in Johore Bahru by local newspapers in 1906 ( SFPMA 10.8.06) and for the next 35 years appears literally hundreds of times in the ‘Straits Times’, the ‘Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser’ and the ‘Malaya Tribune’ attending banquets by and for the Sultan of Johore , at Government House Singapore banquets , weddings, funerals and even in an elephant hunt with the Sultan of Johore (SFPMA 22.11.09); he was clearly a social and energetic man because he is reported playing and administering football for Johore , winning rifle shooting contest for the Johore Rifle Club and playing golf and tennis; regular ‘home leave’ coming and going’ notices appear in the social pages including one in 1924 returning with Mrs. Eves; he is initially reported in roles such as

Acting Mechanical Engineer for Johore and this moves upwards to Mechanical Engineer Johore in 1930 to Senior mechanical Engineer PWD Johore in 1941 (and also Licensing Officer for Vehicles that year) culminating in Acting Superintendent of the Marine Department , Johore in 1941 as war approached Malaya; Robert Eves was listed on “GB” (CO 980/324) and was also identified by Miss Molly Ismail as having been on the decks of the “Giang Bee’ wounded in the head with Robert Brooks ( also at some time a Vehicle Licensing officer in Johore) and wandering around before the ship sank – Molly Ismail is recorded as being at the same social occasions as Robert Eves as early as 1935 ( a tea party at the Johore Military Forces HQ) and given the relatively small elite population of Johore in the 1930s she would have known him at least by sight very well ; finally **Robert Eves**, British, aged 62 years, M. I. Mech. E., of Johore Baru , husband of Christine Eves died 13.2.42 on GB (CWGC); Robert Eves was the epitome of the successful Englishman in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Malaya, his wife Christina in later life recalled him as “ ... *great fun and a good golfer* ...”, and tragically became yet another victim of callous Japanese behaviour towards civilians during the Second World War .

**NOTE: see also Brooks statement**

- **FENN - Robert James Fenn, PDBc1870** Wagga Wagga NSW. To India then to Taiping FMS as trainer & jockey to Towkay Chung Ah Yong. To Singapore 1908 then to Penang by 1915. WW1 Service: AIF Trooper in 10th Light Horse 1915-1918. Returned to Penang as a well-known racehorse owner and trainer; “...*Fenn R. J. Penang race horse trainer...*” (NIRC); after the war he was reported to be presumed dead by the Missing Persons Bureau, Refugee and Displaced Persons Branch, Citizens Advice Bureau, Old Supreme Court Building, Singapore as “...Mr. R. J. Fenn ,the horse trainer...” ( archives Straits Times “Tracing of Missing Continues” 29 May 1946); a post war newspaper article on Jimmy Martin (See below passenger) states that pre-war Jimmy Martin signed up with the late R.J. Fenn and that move started the “Seagate Stable” -Fenn -Martin racehorse team combination which had a remarkably successful season in 1941 ( STA 10.7.47)
- **FAIRLEY** – the Colonial Office Death Register records “James Henry Barrie Fairley, presumed to have lost his life following the sinking of the ‘Giang Bee’. Source: Governor of Singapore, Death certificate 30.11.46. Register No. M1. Folio 273-138. Serial No. 1285”; [Researcher note: *Mrs. Marie Suzanne Fairley (with the same COROD ref Serial No. 1286, was presumed to have lost her life following the sinking of the ‘HMS. Vyner Brooke’ on 14.2.42]*]; he had graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc, was an AMICE, and a Captain in the Royal Field Artillery. During 1929-31 he was a district engineer in the Sudan Government railways and then in 1936 he is noted as Executive engineer, Batu Pahat then HQ staff of the PWD in Malaya. He was a sapper in the JVE and noted as an evacuee with the PWD men who left Singapore. There is no mention of him in the CWGC records but is on the deceased list of the Journal of the Institution of Civil Engineers. In the ST archives Mrs. Fairley and a child are listed on a ships passenger list either arriving or leaving Singapore (JM); in September 2014 his name was added to the CWGC database of deaths during WW2 as part of a private effort known as “In from the Cold”.
- **FERDINANDS** – “...Ferdinands Mr. and Mrs [the word Mrs has been deleted by hand on the typed document] two sons from Ipoh...” were witnessed as last seen on ‘GB’ in the document signed in Palembang camp on 2.2.43 by witnesses and the chairman of the

Palembang Committee of the Netherlands Indies Red cross- in the case of the Ferdinands family the witnesses are Mr. C.D. Campbell and Mr. A.P. Marning who presumably knew this family prior to the sinking(NIRC); **Eric Cecil Ferdinands**, Electrical engineer, Date of Death on or about 13.2.42 “Presumed to have lost his life following the sinking of the HMS Giang Bee” , (source PRO ref. RG/132, Colonial Office Register of Deaths , Register No. M1, Folio 160, advised by C –in – C ALFSEA, ref 19/10260/46); Eric Cecil Ferdinands was one of five sons of Arthur Cecil Ferdinands (formerly of Ceylon and who died in 1941 in Ipoh) (STA); in 1923 Eric worked for the French mining Company, Kampar, and was a well-known Perak hockey player (STA 6.12.23); in 1928 there are records of he and his wife travelling ‘home’ to the UK for leave (STA); he was employed as an Assistant Electrical Engineer at the Kinta Electrical Distribution Co. Ltd , Ipoh ( JM from a 1935 directory) it is interesting to note that during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Ferdinands family had intermarried with the **van Geyzel family** who were also on board this ship, presumably the following two men are his sons,

- **FERDINANDS** – son of above; **Henry Arthur Lorraine Ferdinands**, Dredging Engineer, Date of Death on or about 13.2.42, “Presumed to have lost his life following the sinking of the HMS Giang Bee” (source PRO ref. RG/132, Colonial Office Register of Deaths, Register No. M1, Folio 160, Serial No. 890, advised by C –in – C ALFSEA, ref 19/10260/46)
- **FERDINANDS** – son of above; **Cecil Noel Ferdinands**, Dredging Engineer, Date of Death on or about 13.2.42, “Presumed to have lost his life following the sinking of the HMS Giang Bee” (source PRO ref. RG/132, Colonial Office Register of Deaths, Register No. M1, Folio 160, Serial No. 891, advised by C –in – C ALFSEA, ref 19/10260/46); also a hockey player (JM)
- **FERRAO** – “...Mrs. Ferrao E. L. was interned in Palembang...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross).
- **FISHER - Julius Fisher, PD** Annotated “... See tel on file. Officially presumed to have died as a result of sinking of Giang Bee”; “...Mr. Julius Fisher last seen on Gian(sic) Bee...” (Mrs. E. Cross list at PRO, CO 980/324); “...FISHER JULIUS S AML THEATRES GIANG B BVD DROWNED...” (BPPL); “...Fisher Julius Capitol Cinema Singapore...” was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ by G. W. Tarry; “...Mr. J. Fisher, Singapore...” was on the ‘GB’ (letter from J. Medcalfe-Moore to Colonial Office 26.2.42); “Fisher Mr. J. [indecipherable] Singapore ...” (GBL); he was born in 1895 in Cape Province SA. Educated Normal School, Capetown and South African College. Assistant Manager of Middle East Films Ltd, Singapore 1918-25. Married Dot Dilworth 1919. In the Dutch East Indies as Manager, First National Pictures [East] Ltd 1926-1930. Manager of Capitol Theatre, Singapore, 1930 on. Managing Director, Fishers Ltd [Publicity and Commission Agents]. Editor and Publisher of Who’s Who in Malaya and the British Malayan Annual. Worked for MBC during final days before the Fall of Singapore. Wife S. evacuated to Durban SA. Daughter Dorothy Rose. Son Mark.
- **FLETT - H. W. Flett, PD**; in Bennett’s secret Changi list is recorded “FLETT H N ENG TEMEN [indecipherable on photocopy] ??????” (BPPL); “...Flett Mr. M. temporary Staff PWD Temerloh...wounded in knee...” (GBL); also H. Flett, Volunteer, “Missing” is



recorded in the Changi records of the BRE (MVDB); the Colonial Office Death Register records “ **Henry William Flett**, Public Works Department, died on or about 13.2.42 in the area of the Banka Straits, he is presumed to have lost his life following the sinking of the HMS Giang Bee ( date of certificate 27.7.46), source is signed statements by survivors ( ref 17/547408/128) ; immediately after the Japanese Surrender an advertisement appeared in the Straits Times on 5.11.45 “... *Henry William Flett, c/o PWD (?) Tanerloh (?) Pahang, till (indeciph.) advance compelled return ... Singapore where last seen... anxiously enquiring whereabouts. Please reply to the ... (indeciph) Cable & Wireless, 35 Robinson Road, Singapore...*” (online archives of the Singapore National library); this may have been an enquiry from his wife who, as Mrs H.W. Flett was reported almost weekly playing golf for the Keppel Golf Club in Singapore during 1939 and 1940 and may have safely evacuated to the UK. It would appear that Henry Flett was indeed on the temporary staff of the Public Works Department in the central Pahang town of Temerloh prior to the Japanese invasion.

- **GARRETT** - Walter Edward Garrett, **PD**; Wife Phyllis evacuated to SA then UK. Straits Times journalist/ Production Manager. Chief Air Raid Warden, Singapore (MVG). Lived at 12, Barker Rd, Singapore.” ...GARRETT W. E. STRAITS TIMES MISSING GIANG B??...” (BPPL); Walter E. Garrett was listed on “GB” (CO980/324); finally the CWGC confirms **Walter Edward Garrett**, aged 37 years, husband of Phyllis Alberta Garrett and son of Ernest and Florence Garrett of 147 King’s Avenue, Clapham, London died on 13.2.42 on the “GB” (CWGC); he was remembered by his contemporaries after the War viz. “...Mr. W. E. Garrett, production manager of the Straits Times was also on that ship and it is feared that hope for him must be abandoned...” ( archives of the Straits Times “Cecil Street Memories” 13 Sept 1945)
- **GEIKIE** - Miss Sonia Geikie, born on 10 November 1918 she was aged 24 in 1942; she is listed as having been in the lifeboat which reached the beach in Sumatra and then one of those who decided to leave the lifeboat and stay at the beach after the ‘HMS Tapah’ had departed; “...Miss Geikie S. interned Palembang...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43) ;before the War, Miss Sonia Geikie was photographed at an YWCA dance in 1940 as an attractive young woman (SFPMA 2.9.40) and ‘Ancestry.com’ shows a Miss Sonia Elizabeth Gertrude Geikie born in Sarawak in 1918; almost certainly the same person Sonia Gertrude Elizabeth Geikie, 27 years of age , who married James Albert Price , aged 35 years, in Calcutta; James Price became a LT. Col in the USAF and served in Korea – he died in 1993 - in 1948 Sonia became a US citizen and on 21 September 2006 she died in San Diego, where she is buried in the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery (JM and cemetery records).
- **GIBB** - Arthur Gibb, General Manager, Renong Tin Dredging Co. Ltd, Rasa, Selangor. Wife Irene May evacuated. Lived at 20, Federal Hill, KL (MVG); “...GIBB ARTHUR RENONG TIN BVD LEFT WITH A F TAYLOR...” (BPPL); “...Gibb Mr. A., MD, Renong Tin Ltd...” (GBL); Gibb, A. Renong Tin Ltd., Kuala Lumpur (PCIL); **Arthur Gibb**, civilian, aged 42 years of Malaya, husband of Irene May Gibb, he died on 13.2.42 on the “GB” (CWGC)
- **GISS** - Miss A. Giss, PD

- **GONZALEZ - Gracie Gonzalez** who was a cabaret dancer at the New World, Singapore and her sister,
- **GONZALEZ - Anita Gonzalez PD**; Two sisters, both cabaret Dancers, New World, Singapore. Anita wounded in the air attack; “*...Gonzalez Anita formerly New World Cabaret, Singapore. Anita was wounded in thigh...*” was recorded as she was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross)
- **GOODLAND - Goodland PD**; (LOPBGB); Eurasian employee of MBC; “*...Goodland Malayan Broadcasting Corp...*” was witnessed as last seen on ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); “*...GOODLAND M [or N] (EURAS) BMBC GIANG B DROWNED?*” (BPPL); D. Goodland was listed on the “GB” (CO 980/324); after the war the Missing Persons Bureau, Refugee and Displaced Persons Branch, Citizens Advice Bureau, Old Supreme Court Building, Singapore officially presumed dead “*... Mr. D. Goodland of the M. B. C. also reported on the Giang Bee...*” (Straits Times “Tracing of the Missing Continues” 29 May 1946)
- **HAINES - Dr. William Burgess Haines**, Field Research Officer, HQ Dunlop Estates Ltd, Malacca. Plantation Manager? Aged 52 in 1942. Wife Violet aged 42 in 1942. Sons C.J. and Michael William, aged 12, evacuated early on Charon, arriving Fremantle WA 3.10.41 then to UK (MVG).; “*...HAINES DR W G DUNLOP BVD LEFT 12/2 W GEO B LUNN...*” (BPPL); Haines W. B. was interned in Palembang (Mrs. E. Cross list of men in Palembang internment camp); Dr. W.B. Haines left for the UK on the ‘Antenor’ on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1945. Remarried to Mary Harrison in 1946; in 1948 Dr. William B. Haines, BSc London Uni. and by then aged 58 years, returned to Malaya (he said he never thought he would do so) being described as “*a well-known rubber planter from pre-war days*”. He had returned as a rubber planting consultant for Dunlop Estate. He had first gone to Malaya in 1927 as a Senior Officer with the Rubber research institute and in 1935 joined Dunlop Estate as a research officer in Malacca. He told the SFP in this article that he had evacuated at the last minute on the “Giang Bee’ and had been interned in Sumatra. (SFP 19.11.48).
- **HAINES - Mrs. Haines**, “*...Haines Mrs. Wife of Chief Police Officer, Seremban, Negri Sembilan, FMS...*” was witnessed as last seen on ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); the official record is **Doris Irene Vera Haines** died 13.2.42 on ‘HMS Giang Bee’ but no mention of her husband so it is not a well-researched record (CWGC); Doris Haines was born in 1901; there is a record of Mr. William Arthur Campion Haines, Superintendent of Police, FMS born 1900, captured Seremban in Changi and Sime Road as an internee and his listing has the notation of NOK as ‘Mrs D. I.V. Haines , UK address’ - and his last pre-war appointment in 1940 was to Chief Police Officer, Negri Sembilan (Seremban is in Negri Sembilan) ; William Haines remarried in the UK in March 1946.
- **HAINES/HAYNES** – “*...Miss Haines Malacca...*” (GBL) – this is most likely to be a misspelling of Miss Rena Rosie Haynes (below), but it is worth noting that Dr Haines (above) lived for many years in Malacca. Alternatively, there is the possibility that ‘Miss Haines’ was either a reference to Mrs Doris Haines above – or a daughter?

- **HARDING - William S Harding, PD;** Planter Manager, United Patani Estates, Sungei Patani, Kedah. Left with A. Mourin (MVG); “...Harding of United Patani confirmed as on board ‘GB’...” (record by G. Reis, 66/231/1 at IWM); also “...Harding F. S. United Patani Estate...” was witnessed as last seen on ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); **in contrast** there is the wartime record suggesting he survived to be interned ‘...HARDING W S U. PATANI BVD P’BANG...” (BPPL); there is no CWGC record of his death.
- **HARDING - Mr. and Mrs. P.E. Harding** “DIED Sumatra 4 April 45.” One **DDI**; one **PD**, but not clear which; also “...Harding I. (Mrs.) was interned in Palembang (Mrs. E. Cross list) which indicates that it was Mr. P.E. Harding who died on the ‘GB’; there are no CWGC records of their deaths.
- **HARRIDGE?** – “...*Harridge of John Little, Kuala Lumpur- last seen on Gian (sic) Bee...*” (Mrs E Cross list at PRO/ CO 980/324); there is no CWGC record of his death.
- **HARKINS** – there is some conflict in the records – firstly “...HARKINS 2<sup>nd</sup> RADIO OF E OF ASIA GIANG B DROWNED...(BPPL); then in contrast on the Tower Hill memorial is the record that Second Radio Officer Patrick Leo Harkins, aged 41 years, ‘SS. Empress of Asia’ ( Vancouver) , son of Patrick and Margaretta Harkins of Caran, Irish Republic , died on 10.2.42 ??(CWGC); the “Empress of Asia “ was sunk by Japanese dive bombers on Sultan Shoal near Singapore on 5.2.42 so there must be another reason that someone in authority believed Patrick Harkins was killed on 10.2.42 in contrast to the civilian internees believing he died in the sinking of the “Giang Bee”.
- **HASTINGS** – Mr. P. E. Hastings was a witness on the list prepared in Palembang men’s internment camp of missing passengers (NIRC); “...HASTINGS P – MINING ENG P’BANG...”(BPPL); He died in captivity aged 57 years, in Sumatra on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1945.;so he was on the ‘GB’ with his wife (below); Paul Edwin Hastings was born in Taiwan in 1889 and worked originally as a sugar machinery engineer in Lanarkshire, he arrived in Malaya ( from Vancouver) about 1914 and married Olga in 1915, he was a mining engineer and died in Palembang on 4.4.45 ( JM)
- **HASTINGS** - Mrs. Olga Lilian Hastings, **DDI**; Wife of P. E. V. Hastings aged 46 in 1942; “...Mrs. Hastings P. E. interned at Palembang ...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross, 2.2.43); she died in captivity aged 50 years, 1.7.45 [50]. From the list prepared in internment camp it seems that that her husband, Mr. P.E.V. Hastings, a miner, was also on the ‘HMS Giang Bee ‘(NIRC); interestingly the CWGC record her as the wife of Mr. R. F. Hastings which is presumably an error.
- **HATELIE** – “... D. W. F. Hateley (sic) stayed on board with his friend Perry...” (NIRC); PD; “...HATELIE D F W LEFT W SIR J O S CAMPBELL? ...” (BPPL); there is no CWGC record of his death; there are post war references to Mrs. Hatelie a widow in Penang (STA 24.3.48); the granddaughter of David William Fowler Hatelie has advised that Mr. Hatelie “...may have been seen on board the “Giang Bee” before it left Singapore, but an eyewitness confirmed a couple of years after the War that he was killed on the mainland by Japanese aircraft fire while trying to make his way back to Penang after leaving the ship in Singapore. His wife, who was heavily pregnant at the time with her ninth child,

*had refused to evacuate and stayed in Penang where she lived as a widow until her death in 1986...” (Beverley Harden March 2011)*

- **HAWTREY – Lt. (Sp) Roger Hawtrey**, MRNVR, Gestetner on “GB” (MVDB); Lieutenant (Sp) R. Hawtrey, MRNVR, died on 15.2.42, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hawtrey of Shanklin, Isle of Wight (CWGC); he was a keen golfer and qualified for the Keppel Cup. Notice of his estate as a deceased person was notified by the firm of Drew & Chamber, Kuala Lumpur, in June 1947 (STA. 1.7.47)
- **HAYNES - Miss Rena Rosie Haynes, DDI**; Aged 47 in 1942. Died in captivity 10.1.45, aged 49; “...Haines (Miss) died in January 1945...” (Mrs. E. Cross list of women internees in Palembang); there is no CWGC record of her death.
- **HICKS** - Miss W.? Hicks Left in lifeboat for Java, she is almost certainly the same person as the next entry:
- **HIGGS** - Ms. Marjorie Eileen Higgs, Australian, and General Secretary YWCA KL aged 38 in 1942; Eileen Higgs arrived in Kuala Lumpur in August 1941 to fill the role of general secretary of the YWCA. She had been involved with the YWCA in Perth, WA., since 1920 and had trained as a schoolteacher. She was one of the lucky passengers to board one of the two lifeboats that got away successfully from the “GB” and started her diary in the lifeboat after abandoning ship – using biscuit wrappers. She secretly continued her diary through her internment in Java. With the others in the lifeboat, she made landfall initially in Sumatra where they waited until, by chance the minesweeper “HMS Tapah” arrived and took off 18 of the 42 people who had been in the lifeboat (exchanging them for 18 volunteers from the “Tapah” passengers). Further along the coast 27 of the people remaining on the lifeboat (apparently people with a background in Malaya) left the New Zealander, and the General Secretary of the Singapore branch of the YWCA, in the lifeboat. After 14 days of sailing along the coast of Sumatra they had great difficulty battling the tidal currents to cross the Sunda straits to Java. They landed in Java and trekked some 8 – lifeboat to try and ‘infiltrate’ to safety. That left 15 men plus Eileen Higgs and Ms. Leila Bridgeman, a New Zealander. 10 miles inland only to be captured by a passing Japanese road convoy. (Australian Women’s Weekly 31.10.73)
- **HINCH** - Mrs. Gertrude B. Hinch **PS**; OBE. American wife of T. W. Hinch (he was Principal of the Anglo – Chinese Methodist School on Singapore). Originally from Milwaukee, she had spent 20 years in Malaya; she had been President of the Malayan YWCA since 1932 at the time of the Surrender of Singapore. Aged 52 in 1942. She was interned and initially second in charge of women internees in Palembang, through her force of personality alone she became British camp Commandant in 1945; After the War she was Malaya’s representative on the World YWCA Committee. She died 21.5.71. Daughter Kathleen.
- **HULL – Lt. Edward William Hull**, husband of Mrs. E. C. Hull, c/o YMCA, Fort Canning, Singapore believed killed following the bombing of the “Kuala” in 13/14 February 1942 (PODC); this is also reflected in the CWGC record which has **Sub. Lt Edward William Hull** died between 13 –

14 February 1942.,aged 52 years, MRNVR, son of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Hull of Birmingham and husband of Emily C. Hull of Weston – super – Mare, Somerset ( Panel 8, Plymouth Naval memorial); **however his death is also attributed to the sinking of the “Giang Bee” by researcher Jonathan Moffatt, viz., Sub Lt Edward William Hull, MRNVR, died at sea sinking of “Giang Bee” on 13.2.42 (MVDB);** it is **possible** that Lt. Hull was the person referred to as being on a raft which had originally had 24 people from which a Naval reservist [this could be Supply Assistant Wright who later died on Pulau Temiang] had swum to an island, this man had stated he could “...remember nothing about them except that there was a Lieut, H...( name unknown) Naval Reserve among them...” ( G. J. O’Grady, report No.4 , Malayan Research Bureau) – **this person might also have been Lt. Hosey (above) who was also MRNVR.;** however there is another report , this time by Dr Chen Su Lan (CSL) who reached a raft on which was a person referred to as the “Captain” who told CSL that the raft had “ ... capsized several times with the result some original occupants were thrown into the sea and some of the present occupants were later comers ... “, at the time CSL joined the raft there were six people on board , of whom three subsequently died The six were the “ Captain”, a European member of the PWD staff ( almost certainly Mr. G. J. O’Grady a long serving PWD engineer) who swam away before sunset to a beach 1,000 feet away because he said the raft was sinking ; a European woman about 35 years of age ( who swam away with O’Grady at sunset and was never seen again); a young man named “Jock” who was very badly injured in the lungs by bomb blast ( almost certainly Supply Assistant Frederick Wood Wright); two young girls both “staff nurses of the Indian medical Service having come to Malaya with the Indian troops “ named by CSL as Lena Hosie( probably Hussy/Hessy) and Phylliss Fonceda(probably Foneska or Fonseca); and “ an old tall big European man – who appeared to have been taken from his sick bed in Singapore...”. The people remaining on the raft that evening, in the darkness, reached a small rocky islet about 50 feet in diameter. On that isle “while someone held the raft by a rope the others helped the elderly man to climb a steep ridge. So heavy and helpless was he that he slipped and dropped into a black hole from which it was impossible to extricate him in our state of exhaustion. He must have drowned in the rising tide [ i.e. on the rocky islet on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> February] (CSL);Edward Hull had arrived in Singapore with his two sons on the P & O ‘Naldera’ in 1933( ST. 27.11.33) to take up a commission as Acting Warrant Officer in the SSNVR , he had previously been in the Royal Navy( ST. 27.5.34); he was a man of artistic ( ST. 14.3.35) and magic talents ( ST 29.11.35) and other articles report his prowess as a magician and member of the Malayan Magic Circle)he also drew an amusing cartoon of a diver and mermaid for the 1934-35 report of the SSRNVR ; he also assisted in the establishment of the Penang unit of the SSRNVR ( ST. 20.11.38) before being promoted to Commissioned Warrant Officer in the SSRNVR ( St. 20.5.39)

- **HUNTER** - Miss H. Hunter; “...Hunter Miss H. Kuala Lumpur...” (NIRC) **PD**
- **HUNTER** - Miss P. Hunter; “...Hunter Miss P. Kuala Lumpur...” (NIRC); **there** is a Colonial Office Register of Deaths record,” ... Miss Peggy Hunter, Kuala Lumpur, died on or about the Banka Straits on 13.2.42. Presumed to have lost her life following the sinking of the ‘Giang Bee’...”. Date of Certificate 24.10.46. (Source, C.in C. ALFSEA, 19/10260/45, serial number 1272)
- **ISMAIL** -Miss Molly R. Ismail **S**; Teacher, daughter of Mr. T. Ismail and Peggy Ismail of Johore; there is a charming pre-war photo of Molly Ismail, her sister and mother Peggy in the book “Women Beyond the Wire” by Lavinia Warner and John Sandilands; “...Molly



*was injured by shrapnel fragments hitting her hand in the first bombing attack on the 'GB'. She and her mother found places in one of the two lifeboats that survived...there were 56 people in their lifeboat...there was some water aboard and some ships biscuits..." (WBTW); Record annotated 'To UK on "SOBIESKI"'.*

- **ISMAIL** - Mrs. Peggy Ismail, **DDI**; Housewife. Wife of T. Ismail, Barrister of Johore; one of the leading society women in Singapore and Johore if photos are an indication; She was 65 years of age when she endured the harsh two days in the lifeboat before they reached Banka Island; she was interned and "DIED Muntok 17 Oct 44."
- Jackson – see also below under **WARD JACKSON**
- **JEFFERIES – Mr. Arthur "Jeff" Jefferies – PD**; MBC Engineer [moved from Hong Kong 1941]. Wife Katherine [Kitty] evacuated to Melbourne - their letters at AWM (MVG); Arthur Ernest Edward Jefferies listed on "GB" (CO 980/324 and LOPBGB); "...JEFFERIES A EE P & T (ATT MBC) LEFT GIANG B DROWNED?..." (BPPL); the last person to see him clinging to a raft after the sinking, before a storm on the night of 14.2.42 swept him away, was another MBC staff member J. Medcalfe – Moore (see below)
- **JELTES** - Miss Pauline Jeltés **PS**; "...Miss Jeltés Pauline interned Palembang..." (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); Miss Pauline Jeltés was a Dutch national living in Singapore, born in 1920, and in 1941 is noted at a War Charities Dance (SFPMS 23.6.41). She was a stenographer. There are records of a Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Jeltés living in Bangkok and then Singapore but whether these were parents of Pauline is unknown. She was transferred from Palembang early and sent back to Singapore where she was an internee in Changi Women's camp and then Sime Road camp (JM 'Sumatra Internees' and the Changi Museum).
- **JONES** – "...JONES CHS PRESS CORR UNITED PRESS LEFT..." (BPPL); **Charles Henry Stanley Jones**, husband of Mrs. N. Jones, of Singapore died 12.2.42 on the "GB" (CWGC);
- **JONES - Frederick Leonard Jones**; B.1889 Spalding, Lincolnshire. Educated Spalding Grammar School. Joined Malay Mail 1912. Lived at 88 Circular Rd KL. Journalist Editor Malay Mail 1931-42. Wife Blanche, a Palembang, Sumatra internee: She believed he was 'safe in Singapore'; "...JONES F LEONARD MALAY MAIL /MOI DROWNED? WIFE P'BANG..." (BPPL); "...Jones F. L. Editor Malay Mail..." was witnessed as being last seen on the 'GB' by Mr. G. Reis before he died in internment plus the record "...on 'GB' about 4.30 pm on Thursday 12 Feb met...Jones of Malay mail..." ( G. Reis statement 66/231/1 at National Archives); after the War he was remembered by his Singapore contemporaries in a newspaper article "...It is feared that Mr. F. L. Jones, editor of the Malay Mail was drowned when the steamer Giang Bee was sunk on the Friday before the fall of Singapore..." ( archives Straits Times "Cecil Street Memories" 13 Sept 1945)
- **JORDAN - Mrs. Cicely Jordan** was the wife of Mr. A. B. Jordan, Protector of Chinese in Singapore, and later Secretary for Chinese Affairs. She had been in Singapore since at least 1928 and was for many years closely associated with the YWCA.; the YWCA in the 1930s in Singapore comprised women of 20 different racial groups and "...besides

*finding work for those girls who are unemployed ,also looked after women who are strangers to Singapore ...” (STA. 22.4.37); , “Jordan Mrs. A. B. wife of secretary for Chinese Affairs Straits Settlement” was witnessed as last seen on board the ‘GB’ ( Netherlands Indies Red Cross); also “...Jordan Mrs. A. (R?) B. o/s Chinese Protectorate...Last seen on board ...” (GBL); PD; In a 1947 tribute delivered by Mrs. Hinch (also a ‘GB’ survivor see above) prior to that lady making her final departure for England on retirement, Mrs. Hinch dedicated a piano at the YWCA to Mrs. Jordan “...because she had always been keenly interested in music...” (STA. 12.4.47); she had a daughter Isobel Anstice (MVG) and also another daughter Barbara (Barnard) (STA. 15.8.41).*

- **JORDEN** – “...Jorden Mrs. Salvation Army Singapore...” (GBL); almost certainly the same person as above
- **KALIDAS** - “...Kalidas Indian of Malayan Broadcasting Corp....” was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); “... KALIDAS BMBC GIANG B W. FATHER...” (BPPL)
- **KALIDAS** - “...The father of Kalidas name unknown, wounded...” was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross)
- **KEIGHTLEY- SMITH / KEIGHLEY – SMITH – Mr. A. Keightley-Smith** (or someone with the same name) had been living in Malaya since 1921 when he was listed as someone contributing money to the fund raising for unemployed Europeans (STA.22.2.21) and lived in North Perak. He was a keen tennis player according to “Straits Times” articles and was also a Director of Paroi Tin Dredging (STA. 15.1.30); poignantly, because he had presumably lost some personal possessions in the frantic evacuation from Northern Malaya, there is an advertisement by Mr. A. Keightley-Smith in the “Lost” column of the “Straits Times “ dated 20.1.42 ( only three weeks before they boarded the ‘GB’) “...Lost from Singapore Station: One brown leather suitcase ( Shanghai make) ...addressed to A. Keightley – Smith, c/o Chartered bank, Singapore...”; Mr. and Mrs. Keighley-Smith, Planter, Trong, last seen on board; “...Mr & Mrs Keithley (sic) Smith (Planter) killed on Gian (sic) Bee...” (Mrs. E. Cross list at PRO, CO 980/324); also Mrs. Eva Mildred “Peggie” Keightley-Smith, wife of Cpl. A. Keightley-Smith, Perak Local Defence Force (died in same incident) died 13.2.42 on “GB” (CWGC)
- **KEIGHTLEY-SMITH/KEIGHLEY/SMITH – Mrs. Eva Mildred “Peggie” Keightley-Smith** (above) “...Her husband was badly wounded in thigh, and both stayed on board. Mrs. K. when last seen told Mr. Phillips she was staying with her husband...” (NIRC); CORD Reg. M1; Folio 145, Serial No’s 842 and 843 confirm the deaths of Mr & Mrs. Keightley – Smith in the sinking of the “Giang Bee”.
- **KENDALL** – H. P. Kendall was a rubber planter from Malaya” ... He was around six feet tall with a barrel chest and huge stomach ...” and as Scott and Langdon were rowing towards the destroyer and it opened fire Kendall and another big man named W. Probyn Allen were hauled into the little dinghy which then had about an inch of freeboard. Two days later they all grounded the dinghy at a Malay fishing village at the mouth of the Moesi River. Barefooted they walked to Palembang where they were put

- in Palembang jail by the Japanese (“By Eastern Windows” MacDougall); a witness in the document prepared in internment camp on passengers missing; He was a planter, aged 56 years, from Kuala Kangsar, FMS; “...KENDALL H P DUSUN [sp?] KATI INT P’BANG...” (BPPL); H. P. Kendall “Died S Sumatra 15 May 45.”
- **KENNEISON** - Miss Edith Cynthia Rose (“Betty”) Kennieson; “*Miss Kennieson B. interned Palembang*” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); S; Granddaughter of Ernest Kenneison below. Returned to Kuala Lumpur. Immigrated to Australia; died 2008. Better known as Edie Leembruggen.
  - **KENNEISON - Ernest James Kenneison, PD**; M.B.E. Of Kenneison Bros, Batu Caves, Selangor. Born Surrey, 1877. Army; left in India with rank of Sergeant Drummer. To Malaya c1912. Founded band of FMSVF.; “.... KENNEISON E J B CAVES GIANG B? BVD DEAD WIFE P’BANG...” (BPPL); listed as on “GB” and missing (NIRC); Died aged 64. Five sons survived him.
  - **KENNEISON** - Mrs. Lillian Violet Kenneison; “...Mrs. Kenneison V. interned Palembang...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); “Left CBO for UK 7 Dec 45.” S; Wife of the above. Born Ceylon c1890 (Burgher). Nurse. To Malaya 1925. Two sons. Died 1955.
  - **KEONG** - Keong (“Chinese”; left for Java with the lifeboat party); “...*Chinese boy Keong released and returned to Singapore...*” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43) **PS**
  - **KITCHEN** - Mrs. Kitchen “*With baby.*”(NIRC); there are references to L/Sgt. Henry Godfrey Kitchen, 1<sup>st</sup> Btn, SSVF, #27527, Eurasian, a clerk being made POW and “D” Battalion to the Thailand/Burma Railway camps and his wife and family being evacuated to India on 13.2.42 (MVG and the book ‘Baba Nonie Goes to War’); sadly it appears that they never reached India, Mrs. Kitchen would appear to be Mrs Jean Rose Deans ( see Vuilleumiers) who had married Henry Godfrey Kitchen in December 1938 at the Registry Office, Singapore. Mrs Deans was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Vuilleumiers of Ipoh. Mrs Deans had worked in a law firm in Ipoh and Mr Kitchen was a storekeeper with the Singapore Municipality (SFPMA 11.12.38); the Colonial War Deaths Register shows Mrs J Kitchen, wife of H. G. Kitchen, presumed dead because of the sinking of the “Giang Bee” in the Banka Straits on or after 13.2.42 (CWDR Folio 289 #1334)
  - **KITCHEN** - baby daughter presumably less than four years of age (see above); also listed in the CWDR Folio 289 # 1335 as the daughter of Mr H. G. Kitchen and Mrs J. Kitchen...
  - **KITCHING** – “...Mr. Kitching Mast and child Singapore... “(GBL)
  - **KNAGGS** – Mr. Alfred Clive Knaggs was a member of the Presbyterian Church Literary Society and had been in Singapore since at least 1928 (STA. 28.8.28); Mr. Alfred C. Knaggs married Dorothy Van Buren, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Van Buren of Singapore in 1933 (STA. 21.3.33) - **SEE ALSO VAN BUREN SURVIVORS BELOW** - ; in 1934 they had a son whilst in Shanghai (STA. 5.2.34); he worked as Senior Assistant for Kelly and Walsh Ltd., Singapore ( STA. 6.6.39); **PD**; “...KNAGGS A C KELLY WALSH MOI GIANG B BVD DROWNED...” (BPPL); “...Knaggs A. C. Ministry of Information, Singapore...” was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (NIRC); in the 1947 ‘In Memoriam’ column of the



“Straits Times” he is remembered by his parents and sister in England as “....Clive, only son of ...presumed drowned in the evacuation of Singapore13.2.42...” ( STA. 13.2.47)

- **KOCHI** - Kochi “Czech from Alor Star. Kedah.” Was listed by the internees in Palembang internment camp as having been on the ‘Giang bee’ (NIRC). This was in fact **Bohuslav Josef Koci** who had been born in Mlada Boleslav in the Central Bohemia region of the Czech Republic. He attended the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague and the in 1916 at age 27 years he joined the Czechoslovak Legion, a volunteer armed force fighting with the ‘Entente’ powers during World War One. The goal of the Legion was to win the Allies support for the independence of Bohemia and Moravia from the Austrian Empire and of Slovak territories from the Kingdom of Hungary, which were then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They distinguished themselves at the ‘Kerensky Offensive’ in July 1917, when the Czecho-Slovak troops overran the Austrian trenches during the Battle of Zborov and by 1918 the Legion had 40,000 troops. In February 1918 the Legion travelled the 6,000 miles from Ukraine to the Pacific port of Vladivostok but by May 1918 a disagreement with the Bolsheviks caused Trotsky to order their disarmament and fighting broke out between the Czechs and the Bolsheviks. This culminated with Legion taking Vladivostok in May 1918 - in fact the Czech Legion were the victors in all their early engagements with the fledgling Red Army. It was at about this time that Bohuslav Koci is reported as working in a sculpture workshop in Vladivostok, building a monument for the Military Cemetery and the Allied Canadian troops asked him to also make a tomb for their fallen comrades. The will to fight of the legion apparently fell dramatically during 1918, perhaps because they felt their original mission had been achieved and/or the Red Army had grown hugely in size and skill, and it is possible that Bohuslav became a POW of the Red Army around this time. In 1920 the Legion signed an armistice with the Fifth Red Army, and it was in this year that Bohuslav is recorded as living in Peking (Beijing) and Tientsin. During the 1920s he also worked in Shanghai – he was reported many years later to have developed his interest in Chinese Art during this period (ST 30.9.39). In 1926 he had an exhibition in Singapore of his five years of work to date in China (ST. 29.4.26) and must have come to like the island city because in the 1930s he made a move to Alor Star in northern Malaya and then in 1937 to Singapore. By 1939 he was in Singapore launching an exhibition of his collections at John Littles, Raffles Place and testing out the idea that” ... *Singapore could build an aquarium and zoo at a small cost, which would be a world attraction ...*” – *he had been experimenting with the breeding of Malayan crocodiles in a small aquarium he had built in Katong telling the newspaper that he had designed and built aquariums in China.* (ST. 16.4.39). In the same interview in which he was promulgating this idea, the reporter also wrote “... *In 1929 he was commissioned by the Sun Yat Sen Tomb and Memorial Park Commission in Nanking to carve the effigy of the ‘Father of the Chinese Republic’ in the mausoleum in Nanking. Working almost night and day for 18 months he carved the beautiful Statue from a block of Peking marble – the hardest marble in the world - weighing three tons. It has been admired by thousands in the \$10,000,000 tomb...*” (ST 16.4.39). Interestingly he apparently signed the right trouser leg of the reclining statue he had carved of Dr Sun Yat Sen (George Sima via J. Todorov via Kate Pocklington 2018). Bohuslav also made a unique record of Dr Sun Yat Sen “... *One of the most treasured pieces he brought with him [to Singapore in the 1930s] is the only death mask of Dr sun Yat Sen, father of the Chinese Republic, that is officially recognized. Mr Koci made it. He took a cast of the embalmed face six months after the politician had died, then made a three-*

ton supine figure of him for the Sun Yat Sen Mausoleum. That death mask, with an inscription made by a Chinese priest of the Western Blue temple, he has included in his exhibition..." (ST 30.9.39). He explained how he had come to make the death mask "... The body had been embalmed by American doctors and was in perfect condition six months after death, when I made the death mask in order to produce a good likeness, he said ..." (ST. 16.439). His contribution to sculpture art in China seems to have been worthwhile "... Works by this sculptor are well known in China, particularly the famous bronze nude 'Morning Glory' in a Shanghai park..." (ST,16.4.39). In Singapore he had also built "... two large artificial stone models of the Singapore Airport [this would have been Kallang Airport] which, executed in natural colour drew wide attention at the Glasgow Exhibition last year ..." (ST, 16.4.39). This researcher can only speculate what might have happened to Bohuslav's valuable art collection ( including a terracotta Camel from the Tang Dynasty) and that priceless death mask of Dr Sun Yat Sen – did he have to leave it all behind given the restrictions on what evacuees could take on to the evacuation ships, did it go down with the 'Giang Bee' or does it still remain buried at his house where he was living in 1939 at Katong - wherever that house might have been ???). So, this talented and adventurous man from Czechoslovakia met his end either on the shell shattered decks of the 'Giang Bee' or in the sea – perhaps even one of those men who grimly held onto the Banka Island bound, overloaded lifeboat before exhaustion and despair made him let go and let the sea be his grave.

- **KOOTY** - a Swede from Kedah (MVG); probably the same person as 'Kochi' above
- **LAMB** - Mrs. Lamb **PD**; "...Lamb Mrs., Butterworth, Province Wellesley..." was witnessed as last seen on the 'GB'" (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); appears to be **Mrs. John Lamb** of 'Otterburn', Butterworth, Province Wellesley who had been living there in retirement and who was the widow of Mr. John Lamb who had died aged 72 years in 1941 (STA. 21.8.41); Mr. Lamb had been a pioneer sugar and rubber planter in Malaya.
- **LEEMBRUGGEN** - Miss L. Leembruggen; "...Leembruggen, Miss L., F. M. S. Railways Kuala Lumpur..." (NIRC); **PD**; **it may be that this is Miss Lyn Leembruggen, daughter of Private Charles Adolphous Leembruggen, FMSVF, (who died at Tarsao in a POW camp) and his wife (the latter may have also been on the "Giang Bee") (conversation with Derrick Leembruggen June 2012).**
- **LIM** – "...Mrs. Lim K. A. interned Palembang..." (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); Mrs. K.A. Lim ("*Rec'd Singapore.*"), which tells us that Mrs K. Lim, a passenger on the 'Giang Bee', was interned in Palembang camp and then returned to Singapore. The background is that this was Kathleen Alice Bloodworth of Northfield, Coventry (born 19.1.13) who had met young Penang mechanical engineer, Lim Khye Su ( the son of Lim Kim Soa and his wife Tan Lu Ghee , she was later described as "... a business pioneer and one of Penang's earliest Chinese Christians..." ) from Penang, at a mission summer school in London in 1932 (when she was 20 years of age and he was a London University student) and clearly fell in love with this intelligent, adventurous young man from Penang. She saved her wages, ignored the negative advice of her friends and paid her passage out to Penang in 1937 and married Lim Khye Su ('Sunday Tribune' 11.9.38 and

Changi Internment database). The 'Sunday Tribune' of the time described Mr Lim as a *"... well-known sportsman, has represented Penang at cricket, rugger and soccer also, earns a living as an engineer with Wearne Brothers. He studied in England, took an engineering degree at London University. He comes from a well-known Penang Chinese family. His brother and sister, both lawyers, were also educated in England..."*. The paper goes on to say *"... They will live in an old-style Chinese mansion in Kelawei Road, one of Penang's loveliest houses, fit home for a dream princess..."*. Given the house in Kelawei Road, it seems Kathleen married into an affluent family, it was certainly a strong Christian family with strong ethics about the education of the children, something evident over several generations of the family. With the Japanese invasion we have the recollections of Miss Phyllis Briggs to tell the next stage of Kathleen's life *"... When the Japs invaded North Malaya, her in laws told Kathleen she must leave or the whole family would probably be killed. So, she left her two small children with them and boarded a ship for Australia..."*. But before we get to the evacuation on the 'Giang Bee'; there is also a letter written in late 1945 and held by the Allgrove family ( Marjorie Allgrove died in the attack and sinking of the 'Giang Bee') which tells us that in early 1942 Kathleen had reached Singapore ahead of the Japanese and may have been working with a group of women in the Medical Auxiliary Service at an auxiliary hospital set up at St Andrew's School on the 'Woodsville Estate' north of Kallang in Singapore. By 11 February 1942 this group of women heard that the trained nurses had been ordered to evacuate and they decided to board whichever ship they could - most of these ships such as the 'SS Kuala', SS Vyner Brooke' and the 'Giang Bee' were attacked and sunk with terrible loss of life. The Allgrove letter states that Kathleen Lim boarded one of the two lifeboats from the 'Giang Bee' which were successfully launched – it is not certain whether it was the lifeboat which reached Banka Island or the one which reached Sumatra and some of its passengers picked up by HMS Tapah, but Kathleen is not mentioned in any records left by the Captain of 'Tapah' so we can assume she was in the grossly overloaded lifeboat that rowed for two days and nights before reaching the beach on the north west coast of Banka island. In any event Kathleen would have been an internee in Muntok and then Palembang. The Allgrove letter states *"... Mrs Lim was interned in Sumatra, returned to Penang at the instigation of her husband (a Chinese), retaken by the Japs, later interned in Singapore. She survived and is back in Penang..."*. Phyllis Briggs fills out the story *"... Before returning to Malaya, Kathleen promised to find out as much as she could about the British prisoners in Singapore. Months later she managed to get us a list of people we knew, who were prisoners but alive and well."* These accounts are accurate because Kathleen Lim was interned again in Changi Prison in Singapore in January 1944 as internee number 3621 and held in cell room A.2.PS (Changi internee database). It seems that during the war her husband, Lim Khye Su and his brothers in law had returned from Province Wellesley to Penang island and in the early days of the Japanese occupation were instrumental in providing food to six members of the Leicestershire Regiment. Post war the family was successful with Lim Khye Su learning to fly and being sent to the UK to be trained for the fledgling Malayan Air Force and Kathleen held such positions as Secretary/Treasurer of the Malayan Automobile Association (travelling to global conferences on behalf of the MAA) and on school boards.

- **LINDSAY – Mr. Robert 'Bob' Lindsay**, Malayan Tin Dredging Co. Ltd., Batu Gajah, Perak, then AFS Control Room, Singapore Harbour Boar. Wife evacuated to Giffnock, she later

returned to Singapore post – War to join the Education Board (MVG); there is a reference on the secret list compiled in Changi “...LINDSAY R MAL TIN LEFT W SHB?...”(BPPL); “...Lindsay Bob Southern Malay Tin, Temah, Perak...” was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ ( Netherlands Indies Red Cross); ; Robert Lindsay, British, aged 40 years, AMIES, husband of Catherine MacKinnon Lindsay and son of David and Elizabeth Lindsay of 41 Edgefauld Road, Springburn, Glasgow died 13.2.42 on the “GB” (CWGC) ; his wife Catherine MacKinnon Lindsay ( nee Ross) reached England with her son Robert Sinclair Lindsay who had been born 4.5.41 ( STA 7.5.41) and after the war returned to Singapore in 1946 where she appears to have worked for the Education Department for a few years, by 1953 she was teaching at Jordanhill College School ,Glasgow ( Elizabeth Nairn , niece , 2011)

- **LOCKE** - Spencer Locke; “...Locke, Spencer...” (NIRC); PD; **possibly the same person** “...LOCKE A C S TIN LAY LTD BHUKET RAF LEFT? ...” (BPPL); during the last week of January 1942 there were six daily inserts of the following plaintive plea in the “Straits Times” indicating the Locke family might have evacuated from Malaya (or Siam) to Singapore “...Will anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mrs. Spencer Locke and children please communicate with Spencer Locke, C/O Mr. A. J. Schooling, 16 Dunearn Street, off Bukit Timah Road, Singapore...”(STA) and it is noted that there were two women [passengers with the surname Schooling and their daughters on the “Giang Bee”; Spencer Locke was “From Siam”; **Private Alfred Charles Spencer Locke**, # 13474, Perak Btn. FMSVF, is recorded as KIA on 13.2.42 (MVDB); his wife Mrs. E. M. Locke, evacuated Singapore (MVG)
- **MARNING** –A. P. Marning was a witness in the document prepared in the Palembang internment camp on missing passengers;;“...MARNING A P S BIDOR TIN(MCATY) LEFT 12/2 ...” (BPPL); A. F. Marning was a miner with the address, 26 Jamieson St., Sydney,; he survived and was repatriated to Australia via “MANUNDA” on 5 Oct 45 S; in his M19 Liberation questionnaire ( “A” Interrogation Statement No. 1 , Statement of Recovered PW and civilians – A373 12207) he records ,as Ambrose Patrick Marning, that he was aged 49 years of age ( it was completed in 1945) , Australian and his wife was Mrs. Q. P. Marning of Warne Street, Wellington , NSW. He gives his occupation as mining engineer with Sungei Bidor Tin, Federated Malay States. He states that his ship was sunk on 24 (sic) February 1942 at Banka island and a number of women and children were drowned. He had been wounded by shrapnel in the attack and ended up with six others in a POW / internment camp where he contracted malaria.
- **MARTIN** - J. E. Martin was a jockey , aged 35 years, from the Turf Club, Singapore and when interned was a witness for record prepared in internment camp on missing passengers; **PS**; there is a reference in Bennett’s Changi list “...MARTIN JIM (JONNE) JOCKEY P’BANG...” (BPPL); also listed in a PRO document as “..Martin J. E. Jockey, Singapore...” ; after the war the “Straits Times” reported that Jimmy Martin , one of the leading jockeys in pre-war racing in Malaya first thought of hanging up his riding boots and turning trainer whilst in an internment camp in Sumatra ”....With several of his brother jockeys he volunteered for service during the battle for Singapore he and Wally Bagby were on a boat which was sunk just outside Singapore...they were picked up by a Japanese patrol boat and taken prisoner...Born in Sydney in 1908 he became an apprentice at the age of 15 years and was leading apprentice in Sydney for five years...

with almost 1,500 winners to his credit Jimmy came out to Malaya in 1936 to ride for Phil Logue.. later jimmy signed up with the late R. J. Fenn...and that started the famous "Seagate Stable" – Fenn – Marin combination which had a remarkably successful season in 1941...Jimmy was the first Australian jockey to return to Malaya after the Liberation (STA. 10.7.47); see also passengers FENN and BAGBY

- **MASON** – Mr. H. E. M. Harry Ernest Monk Mason was a rubber planter - in 1917 he had been Manager, Sungei Bogak Estate, Bagan Serai (STA. 10.2.17) and in 1931 had taken over management of the Perak River Valley Rubber Company (STA. 30.1.33); when the ship sank he clung to the side of a lifeboat all night , whilst seven other men also hanging on to the outside of the life boat gave up and let go to then drown, this 63 year old man apparently said to those in the lifeboat " ... *I'm too stubborn to drown, you can't get rid of me ...*" ( "By Eastern Windows" page 158-159, MacDougall); he was one of the witnesses who signed the list of missing passengers in internment camp (NIRC); he was a planter, aged 64 years with his address shown as c.o. Chartered Bank, London; also "...MASON H E H PERAK RIVER VALLEY EST LEFT LATE..." (BPPL); Mason was known to M. J. V. Miller and recorded as being on the 'GB' (M. J. V Miller PRO 88/62/1); H. E. M. Mason "DIED 15 Nov 45." **DDI; he died in Palembang camp on 15.11.44; his wife, Mrs. Elsie Mason, aged 42 years evacuated on the "Empress of Japan" arriving in Liverpool on 19.3.42. She lived in Basingstoke, Hants. after the War.**
- **MCCRACKEN - Mr. and Mrs. McCracken** (Both stayed on board); Both **PD**; "...*McCracken Mr. and Mrs., temporarily employed Singapore Municipality. The husband was unable to get into a boat and his wife refused to leave him...*" was the witness statement taken in Palembang internment Camp (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); **another possible reference is** "...MCCRACKEN D A EVATT RNVR ?..." (BPPL); Douglas O McCracken was from Perth and was lost at sea on 15.2.42 in the Banka Straits (MVG); there is also a record of a Sub. Lt Douglas O. McCracken, MRNVR, dying in the vicinity of Banka Island in the sinking of the "Li Wo" – **it is possible that Mr. McCracken on the 'GB' and Sub Lt D. O. McCracken are two different people.**
- **MCCRACKEN – Mrs. McCracken** died with her husband when the 'GB' sank (above)
- **MEDCALFE - MOORE - J. Medcalfe Moore** (Perhaps same person as Moore below) **S**; in his letter to the Colonial Office on 26.2.46 he confirms that " ...*the following members of the Malayan Broadcasting Staff were aboard the "GB" and were, together with me, clinging to rafts after the ship sank;*  
*J. Barraclough, E. Jeffries and (?) Chinery*  
*On the night following the sinking of the ship, after we had been in the water a little more than 24 hours, we encountered bad weather and waves continually swept over the raft to which we were clinging. Many persons were swept away into the darkness and, I regret to say, at daybreak the following morning I discovered that the three persons named above were among those missing..."*
- **MELLORS** – D. Mellors, 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Div. Signals ("HMS Tapah" ships list); this was in fact Signalman Vernon Douglas Mellors, #2580727, RCOS. He was born in 1921 and died in

1975. He was initially a POW in Muntok on Banka Island then in Palembang Camp on Sumatra where his NOK was his mother, Mrs V. Mellors, 1 Saresby Street, Chesterfield.

- **MEYRICK/MEYRICH?** – Mr. Freddie Meyrick was born in 1884 and had been Planter and Manager , Batu Pekaka Estate, Kuala Sudim Rubber Company, Kuala Ketil, South Kedah ( 1935 Directory reference in MVG and also STA 22.4.35); in 1936 he was a member of the Kedah Planters Association; “...Freddie Meyrick Kedah Planter Later Dept of Ifm...” (List at PRO of those on board); **Freddie Meyrick** confirmed as on board (Mr. G. Reis 66/231/1/ at PRO); PD; “...MEYRICH K C KUALA SIDIM EST & MOI GIANG B BVD DROWNED...” (BPPL);
- **MILLAR/ MILLER** – “**Miller E. M. Morrel** Department of Information, Singapore was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); PD; “...MILLAR E M MORRELL MOI GIANG B BVD DROWNED...” (BPPL);
- **MILLER** – Mrs. Miller, YWCA Committee (GBL); the wife of Mr. M.J.V. Miller (below), the record by Mr Miller that his wife was on an earlier ship on 12 Feb throws some doubt that she was on the ‘Giang Bee’.
- **MILLER** – Mr. M. J. V. Miller was a witness on the NIRC document prepared in Palembang internment camp on missing passengers (PCIL); another reference is “MILLER MURRAY PLANTER LANGKAWI NEI?” (BPPL); it seems that this Mr. Murray Miller was also in the Police on Langkawi. His wife Mollie left on an earlier ship on 12.2.42 (his diary at PRO 88/62/1); after the war he was a Planter at Pulau Sungei Raya Estate, Langkawi (STA. 23.9.47) and also returned to Penang (STA. 25.10.54); his 25 page manuscript of his wartime experiences from being a rubber planter at Langkawi at the time of the Japanese invasion , his escape by boat to Perak, his service before the fall of Singapore , his escape on the “Giang Bee” to the end of the war is lodged in the Imperial War Museum ( Document 548).
- **MINTO - Cliff Minto** was a highly successful jockey in Malay and Singapore in the decade prior to the War; “*Minto Cliff Jockey ...Martin states that he took refuge in the bunkers and was probably drowned...*” list of missing at PRO); **contrary reference is** “...MINTO R A CLIFF JOCKEY VYNER BROOKE SEEN HELPING DYING SOLDIER...” (BPPL); after the war he is noted in the newspaper as ‘missing’ (STA. 13.4.46).
- **MOORE** - Moore; “...**Moore, Engr M.B.C...**” (list of missing at PRO); **NK**; he was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross)
- **MOURIN - Arthur Mourin** was Managing Director of shipping agents Arthur Mourin & Co. Ltd, Bandar Bahru, Kedah; “...Mourin Arthur Sungei Patani...” (List of missing at PRO); PD; “...MOURIN A S MOURIN CO LEFT 12/2...” (BPPL); researcher and author Jonathan Moffatt and researcher and author Becca Kennieson have recorded that a William Smythe Harding of Sungei Patani estates left with A. Mourin ( although the ‘Jeyes’ list (BPPL) also records that William S, Harding was believed to be [incorrectly] in Palembang ), so there is strong reason to believe that Arthur Mourin was on the same



ship as Harding, which has been shown to be the “Giang Bee” rather than the “SS. Vyner Brooke” as recorded in the Colonial Office Record of Deaths for Harding; Arthur Mourin, Sungei Patani, is also listed as a passenger in the ‘Official List of Passengers On The Giang Bee’ created after the War and which is held at the UK Archives ( LOPBGB); there is no CWGC record of the death of Arthur Mourin; Arthur Mourin must have been born c. 1880 onwards and was married to Siamese national Yupin (alias Poon) , they had a son Jeffrey ( born 1936 and who lives in Malaysia) and a daughter. Arthur owned an automotive business Arthur Mourin & Co. Soon after the Japanese invasion of northern Malaya in December 1941, Jeffery recalls that he last saw his father was after breakfast when Arthur left, dressed all in a white suit, for Penang in his black Austin car with his Indian driver (the driver was later sent to work on the infamous Burma railway, and it seems was never heard of again). By the 16 December 1941 the British front line had retreated to ‘Sungei Patani’ just north of Penang. With the impending arrival of Japanese troops in the area Yupin Mourin apparently burned all family documents and photos – no doubt to hide the links with a European husband. Jeffrey and his sister fled into the rubber plantation and jungle near the family home for some considerable time and the Japanese suspected that Arthur was with them in the jungle. After the war the only information Jeffrey could obtain from rather unhelpful British authorities on the fate of his father was that he had presumably been killed in the bombing of Penang (conversation with Jeffrey Mourin on 29 February 2016) before the British evacuated all Europeans on 16 February - Penang fell to the Japanese the next day on 17 December 1941. By 18 -20 December 1941 the British frontline had retreated to ‘Nibong Tebal’ and ‘Selama’ so Bandar Bahru would have been in enemy hands. Arthur must have somehow travelled to Singapore with other Europeans and refugees from the north and would have been in Singapore by Xmas 1941. He would not have been able to communicate with his family in Kedah in any manner once the Japanese had occupied. On Singapore Island by 11 February 1942, it would have been clear to Arthur that there was no hope of Singapore repelling the Japanese who were halfway across the Island and no doubt he and his friend William Harding would have been desperately trying to find a passage out – it appears that the ill-fated ‘Giang Bee’ was his escape. Arthur Mourin must have died either on the “Giang Bee” during the shelling or lost his life in the sea.

- **NICOLL – JONES/ also NICHOLL – JONES/ also NICOL – JONES** – there are a variety of records using different spellings of the surname for **Miss Sarah Elizabeth Nicoll – Jones, OBE**, who “... in 1919 had joined the police [in the UK] and was later Assistant Director of the Liverpool Women Police Patrols. In 1926 she went to Burma as the organising secretary of the Rangoon vigilance society, which was chiefly concerned with eradicating the traffic in women and children. For her work in Burma Miss Nicoll Jones was made an honorary inspector by the Police Department. The following years she was transferred to the Police department, and she remained in Rangoon until 1938 when she went to Liverpool. To meet the expenditure of Miss S. E. Nicoll Jones, who came to Malaya recently to advise the Government on the problem of prostitution in Singapore, the finance Committee has made a provision of \$6,283 ...” (ST 14.10.40); Miss S. E. Niccoll – Jones (sic) was mentioned in the 1928 Annual Report of the Burma Christian Council as a member attending their Annual Meeting in Rangoon( images.library.yale.edu); and in 1937 she is mentioned by the Society For The Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts



, which had a number of missionaries in South East Asia - several of whom lost their lives on evacuation ships – as “ ... *The work of the Vigilance Society in Rangoon and many a girl has grateful memories of Miss Niccoll – Jones [sic] and Miss Cooper who rescued them ...*” ( [anglicanhistory.org/asia/Burma/henrich1937](http://anglicanhistory.org/asia/Burma/henrich1937)); in the 1935 New Year Honours by King George V she was awarded the OBE , under the British India Civil section, as “ ... *Sarah Nicoll-Jones, Organising Secretary of the Rangoon Vigilance Society and Honorary Sub-Inspector of Police, Rangoon Town Police, Burma ...*”. whilst in Singapore Miss Nicoll – Jones made an impact in researching and publicising the issues and control of prostitution and gave talks to officers and other ranks in the Army as well as addressing meetings of the Singapore Rotary Club ( Morning Tribune 6.3.41); as the Japanese were closing in on Singapore island she , assisted by several British woman residents of Singapore was placed in charge of Japanese women and children who had been interned on an island ‘ somewhere off Singapore’ ( SFPMA 9.1.42); she boarded the ‘HMS Giang Bee’, probably in the company of other women with a social conscience such as Marjorie Higgs and Leila Bridgman of the YWCA and the last record of her is “...*Nicol-Jones Miss Police dept S’pore.... last seen on board ...*” (GBL); also, in the official CWGC records Sarah Elizabeth Nicholl – Jones[sic], died 13.2.42 on the ‘HMS Giang Bee’ (CWGC); original records held in the University of Cambridge Digital Library (RCMS 103/6/5) show her ending her reports using the spelling Nicoll-Jones. Her death is another example of the awful loss of life during the Singapore Evacuation of someone who had dedicated their life to helping the less fortunate.

- **OWEN** – Mrs. Audrey Owen recorded the following in her post-Liberation Questionnaire as a Japanese internee’...What were the circumstances of your capture? Answer: My ship ‘Giang Bee’ was repeatedly bombed on [date illegible] when trying to get away from Singapore and was finally captured and sunk by units of the Japanese navy. Only two lifeboats got away, the others having been damaged by bombing. The ship was blown up while there were still a great number of people, including wounded, on board. After 2 (and one-half) days in a lifeboat we reached the coast of Banka Island and finally arrived at a village called Djoebuis where 55 of us lived in an empty house. Ten days later a Japanese patrol found us and later in the day sent a bus and took us to Muntok where we joined some 600 other prisoners (Questionnaire via Jonathan Moffatt); “Mr. S. F. Owen was married to Miss Audrey McRea, of New Zealand; a former Secretary of the YWCA in Singapore.... Mr. Owen is Executive Engineer, PWD, Selangor... the reception was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Jordan...” [NB; Mrs Jordan was also a passenger on the ‘GB’] (STA. 21.1240); Audrey Owen ( nee McRea) is mentioned as being involved in the YWCA Singapore up to the last few days ( Canberra Times 16.3.42, p3); it would appear that she boarded the ship with Mrs. Jordan, Leila Bridgeman and Eileen Higgs of the YWCA; “... *Audrey Owen, a tiny woman, just over five feet, a New Zealander whose husband had been in the PWD, was interned in Palembang and then the Barracks camp. She was a hard-working volunteer in internment. She lived in Buckinghamshire after the War...*” (WBTW); also Mrs. Audrey Lenore Jones, aged 39 years and wife of Mr. S.F. Jones of the PWD who had been on the “Kuala” or “GB”; possible reference is “...OWEN S F LEFT WIFE P’BANG (AN OWEN IS AT PADANG) ...” (BPPL); Mrs. A.L. Owen “To New Zealand by air 10 Oct 45.”
- **OWENS** - Miss Owens; “...*Owen Miss D Institution Mel Suter.... last seen on board...*” (GBL); also “*Owens Miss ,young lady from Melbourne latterly in Singapore...*” was

witnessed as last seen on ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross report in Palembang internment camp); research reveals that – although there is no record of the death of **Miss Dorothy Eleanor Owens** in the CWGC website - she was from Melbourne, Australia where she trained as a nurse at the ‘Melbourne Homeopathic Hospital’ (then renamed the Prince Henry Hospital and now the Monash Medical Centre in St Kilda Road) passing the bi-annual examinations of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses association in 1923 ( ‘The Australian’ 23.6.23) and soon after travelled to Singapore to visit one of her sisters , Miss Gertrude Owens, the general secretary of the YWCA, Singapore (who later became an internee in Changi prison internment camp). The ‘Australian Women’s Weekly’ (4.11.39) reported that she was visiting Melbourne to see Gertrude and another sister and confirming Dorothy was from Melbourne and had trained at the Homeopathic Hospital but had been nursing both private patients and military patients in Singapore for 13 years. There are several reports of Dorothy Owens attending society parties in Singapore during 1940 “Morning Tribune’ 12.2.40 and 29.2.40) – one was at the home of Mrs L.W. Geddes, 23 Ridout Road, Singapore - and being complimented on what she was wearing. In 1941, only a few weeks before the Japanese invasion, she was playing hockey with the ‘Europeans’ team on the Singapore Cricket Club ground – the ‘Padang’ (‘Morning Tribune 13.11.41). Dorothy would have boarded the ‘Giang Bee’ with the many other women associated with the YWCA in Singapore and sadly lost her life either in one of the damaged lifeboats when lowered into the sea, or during the shelling of the ship. After the war ‘The Argus’, Melbourne (10.12.46) carried a notice applying for Probate for” ... *Miss Dorothy Eleanor Owens, formerly of 24 Vautier Street, Elwood but late of Singapore, Trained nurse, Deceased...*”

- **PASQUAL/PASCALL/PASCOLL** – “...*Mrs. J. Pasqual, Penang. Badly wounded, left on board unconscious...*” (NIRC); Mrs. Pascall / Pascoll of Penang was recorded as on the ‘GB’ (M. J. V. Miller PRO 88/62/1); a Mr. J. C. Pasqual of North Kedah is noted as visiting Singapore in 1935 (STA. 18.5.35); and it appears that Mr. J. Pasqual worked in the Colonial Secretary’s Office, Straits Settlements in 1940 (STA. 11.2.40); there were also two men with the surname PASQUAL in the “E” Eurasian Company, 3rd Battalion of the SSVF – Pte. H. M. Pasqual and Corporal S. M. Pasqual.
- **PERRY** – **Mr. Arthur Cecil Perry** from Cornwall was a Volunteer who had been involved in the RASC, the Johore Volunteers and the NAFFI. He was a planter at Sepang Valley Estate, Kedah then an engineer, Anglo-Oriental Malim Nawar. Also, a racehorse owner and in 1941 another ‘GB’ passenger, Cliff Minto was riding for him (STA. 23.11.41); A. C. Perry” ...*Anglo Oriental Malim Nawar. Badly wounded in chest and shoulder, left on board...*” (NIRC) noted as a friend of D. W. F. Hateley;” ...PERRY A C UTAN PRANG EST LEFT W SIR JOHN CAMPBELL...” (BPPL); Arthur Cecil Perry, British, aged 55 years, son of the late Canon and Mrs. Perry of Hayle, Cornwall died 13.2.42 on the “GB” (CWGC)
- **PFANSER/PLANZER - Julius Pfanser** “Swiss”; “...PLANZER JULIUS SWISS LEFT GIANG B FREE P’BANG...” (BPPL); “...Planzer(sp?) , Swiss nationality, Civilian, ...last seen in camp at Palembang ,Sumatra in March 1942 before he was removed to civilian internment camp...Age about 35 years...fair hair, blue eyes(?) Height about 5ft 9inches...Employed by Canadian firm (?) Deep Drilling Engineer...had lived in Canada for a considerable number of years...married...”( Colonial Office “interrogation Form” completed by Mr. E. P. C. Langdon on 15.2.46)

- **PHILLIPS** – M. L Phillips, Singapore (“HMS Tapah” ships list); in the dairy of Gordon Reis, he makes the comment’...on the 14-15 February I saved **Maurice Phillips’** life as he had a brainstorm on the boat and tried to walk overboard. I got him when he was just reaching the water and with assistance pulled him back into the lifeboat. He was queer hours before and after the event; M. L. Phillips was a witness in the document prepared in Palembang internment camp on missing passengers; he was a planter, aged 58 years, from Seremban, FMS and a keen gambler, horse race man and promoter(MVG); “...PHILLIPS [indecipherable] N. SETIBIL INT P’BANG...” (BPPL); M. L. Phillips “DIED S. Sumatra 5 Jul 45”( list of passengers at PRO); finally **Mr. Maurice Louis Phillips**, aged 60 years, of Bukit Kuda Estate, Malaya and husband of Ruth M. Phillips died on 5.7.45 in Sumatra (CWGC)
- **POWELL** - E. J. Powell; “...Mrs. Powell E. J. was interned in Palembang (Netherlands Indies Red Cross), this could be Joan Powell, aged 36 years, who became an internee in Palembang (most likely) or **Mrs. Eva Powell** an Australian housewife aged 46 in 1942, wife of Mr. G. V. Powell who had been interned in Changi; she appears to have returned to Malaya in 1946 (STA. 20.8.46).
- **REIS** – **Gordon Stanley Reis** was a Planting advisor, aged 56 years, he had been employed by the Belgian owned estate (SIPEF) Batu Kawan on the island off Penang and he also co-owned an estate, Sungei-Wei, in Selangor Province. After falling ill during 1940 he had joined Cable & Wireless. Badly injured in the hand during the bombing of the ‘GB’ he was one of many men who had to simply jump into the sea with a lifebelt – he was later pulled into one of the surviving lifeboats by ...Morton- an engineer...” he was then appalled to find that out of 42 in the lifeboat there were only 12 women and children ... most of the others being obvious bad nuts whom I was astonished to see in the lifeboat...” [Researcher’s Note: the first two lifeboats away from the ship, which tragically proved to be the ones which had been damaged, would presumably have been exclusively women and children and Reis may have been overly harsh on those in this latter boat]. He put casualties at 270 people. He was married to Winifred Reis and had two children – Sheila Alwynne Cran and John Alistair Cran; other records on Gordon Reis are “...REIS G S B K [indecipherable] INT P’BANG...” (BPPL); G. S. Reis “DIED S. Sumatra 2 Nov 44.” **DDI**; the lengthy captivity diary of Gordon Reis in Palembang camp is available online.
- **RICHARDS** - In 1940 there is a newspaper report of an employee stealing \$2 from “...**Mrs. Edda Richards**, proprietress of a boarding house in Oxley road...” (STA 15.8.40); Mrs. Richards “of Oxley Road, Singapore” was on the ‘GB’; “...Mrs. (?) Richards, Sans Souci, Oxley Road, Singapore...” was on the ‘GB’ (letter from J. Medcalfe - Moore to Colonial Office 26.2.42)
- **RICKETTS** – “...Ricketts, Miss. Kuching....” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross);” ... **Ricketts Miss Bella** YWCA Hostel S’pore...” (GBL); Miss Ricketts “To UK by air Nov 45.”
- **RIVERS** –Mrs. Rivers; She was the wife of Mr. Al. L. Rivers a Tin Smelter and former boxer. He had volunteered as a MAS driver for Singapore General Hospital and was

interned in Changi (MVG); Mrs. A.L. Rivers; "...Rivers Mrs. A. wife of a boxer..." was witnessed as last seen on the 'GB'; in 1947 there is an entry in the "In Memoriam" column "...in loving memory of **Rosemary Rivers**, beloved wife of Al Rivers..." (STA. 13.2.47).

- **ROBINSON** - Mrs. J. Robinson; "...Mrs. Robinson J. interned at Palembang..." (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43)
- **RUSSELL** - "...RUSSELL F E AUST MAL LEFT W WICKS ..." (BPPL) - note that Wicks is also a passenger on the "GB"; "...Russel (sic) F. E. Aust. Mal Tin Ltd ..." (list of missing at PRO); **Frank Everall Russell**, British, aged 50 years, husband of Blanche Mary Russell of 12 Beach Street, Balgowlah, NSW, Australia died 13.2.42 on the "GB" (CWGC)
- **SAMY/SAMMY** – Mrs. Care Sammy; "...members of the Fortnightly Club were guests of Mrs. P. Sammy when she spoke on 'Old and New Vienna' .At the conclusion of the talk a typical Viennese morning tea was served..." (STA. 25.4.39); Mr. Paul Sammy, CBE, was a partner in the law firm Johannes and Sammy and was an Indian Legislative Councillor (STA.12.8.41); "...a friend of theirs from Singapore, an Austrian woman lady called Claire Sammy..." (Part of a recollection by survivor Molly Ismail of the person who shared a room in the internment camp house at Bukit Besar (WBTW, p. 89); "...Mrs. Sammy C. interned in Palembang women's camp..." (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); Mrs. C. Samy "DIED Palembang 18 Nov 44." (Mrs. E. Cross list of women internees at Palembang); **Mrs. Clare Sammy**, wife of Paul Sammy died aged 52 years 18.11.45 (MVG); Mr. Sammy had been born in Singapore in 1884 and he retired to England in 1948 (STA. 30.9.48)
- **SANDYS** - Mrs. W.J. Sandy's; **S**; "...Mrs. Sandy W. J. interned at Palembang (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); there are also two references in Bennett's secret Changi list that may apply here, firstly, "...SANDYS J A AOML LEFT 12/13 – 2..." and "...SANDY W S HKSRA POW WIFE P' BANG..." (BPPL); "... **Mrs. Patricia Sandy's**. Last seen in Singapore September 1945..." ; also, Patricia Sandy/Sandy's aged 19 years in 1942, Sumatra internee (MVG).
- **SCHOOLING** – **Mrs. Rose Schooling** (nee de Souza) and sister of Leonora Boswell above, wife of Joseph Schooling (English) who remained in Singapore with two of his sons and became a civilian internee; "Mrs J. Schooling, Singapore" died on the "Giang BEE" (GBL)
- **SCHOOLING**- "Mrs. H. Schooling" per Netherlands Indies Red Cross list; should be **Mr. Herbert James Schooling, aka 'Sonny'**, husband of Mrs. Daphne Schooling (below). The Colonial Office Register of Deaths records "... Mr Herbert James Dudley Schooling, Singapore Municipal Gas department died on or about 13.2.42 in the Banka Strait presumed as a result of the sinking of the 'Giang Bee'..." . Dated 22.6.46. (C. in C. ALFSEA, 19/10200/46. Ref. Mi 231, 1125), and his wife,
- **SCHOOLING** - Mrs. D. Schooling ("& baby (died?)"); "Mrs. D. Schooling & baby" were picked up by the "HMS Tapah" ("HMS Tapah" ships list); "...Mrs. H. J. D. Schooling and baby were interned in Palembang..." (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); Sailed for UK SS "RANCHI". This is **Daphne Pearl Schooling**, nee Nicolay, the daughter-in-law of Mrs.

- Rose Schooling and wife of Herbert 'Sonny' James Schooling. The baby is Priscilla, see below,
- **SCHOOLING – Miss Priscilla Elizabeth Rose Schooling**, daughter of Mrs. Daphne Schooling (above): Priscilla was aged one year of age in 1942 (SUM); Miss P.E.R. Schooling "To UK via SS "RANCHI ..." noted on list.
  - **SCHOOLING – Miss Ida Schooling**; "...Schooling Ida Singapore ..." on list of those who died (GBL); **Miss Ida Schooling** "Age 25 Recovered Singapore Aug 45 ..."?; she was the daughter of Joseph and Rose (nee de Souza) Schooling ( Mary Anne Schooling email 3.10.2016)
  - **SCHOOLING - Miss Kathleen Schooling**; "...Schooling Kathleen Singapore ..." (GBL); she was the daughter of Joseph and Rose (nee de Souza) Schooling (Mary Anne Schooling email 13.10.2016)
  - **SCHOOLING – Miss Rosemarie Schooling**; Marie Schooling died in the 'GB' GBL); according to relatives, the same person as "Miss M. Schooling ... to UK via SS "RANCHI"."
  - **SCHOOLING – "Miss P. Schooling** was picked up by 'HMS Tapah' ("HMS Tapah ships list); Miss Phyllis Joan Schooling was the daughter of Joseph (Joe) Schooling who had been interned in Changi internment camp (Mary Anne Schooling email 13.10.2016): "P.J. Schooling ... To UK via SS "RANCHI"."
  - **SCOTT – Robert Scott**, aged 35 years and from Scotland, had been Director of the Far Eastern Bureau of the Ministry of Information, a Governor of the Malayan Broadcasting Corporation and appointed a member of the war Council; he was also a Corporal in the Volunteer defence Forces; he had left Singapore with his staff of ten men and the skeleton staff of the Malayan Broadcasting Corporation ( except for Eric Davis and two women who left on another ship) and his cook Chu Yu-Min ( see also above reference to Chung Ng Yi) who had been with him for 13 years in all parts of China ; on the GB he volunteered as a stoker – perhaps his 14 stone size helped here; he survived the sinking and was interned initially in Palembang, but on 30 May 1942 he was taken by the Japanese back to Changi where he was tortured and interrogated as part of their "Double Tenth" purge; ; also " ... R. H. Scott To Madras via "KARAO" 10 Sept 45 ..."; in November 1946 there is an entry in the magazine of the 'British Malaysians' " ... Mr Robert H. Scott formerly head of the Singapore Ministry of information, who has been released from internment, is now in the 114<sup>th</sup> British G. Hosp., Bangalore, India ...". post war he had a meteoric rise in the Foreign Service and became Minister in the British Embassy in Washington, his final appointment was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence; he was knighted as **Sir Robert Scott** and retired in 1963 to live in Peebles, Scotland (ST); he wrote a detailed account of the sinking of the GB.
  - **SILBERMAN – Miss Silberman** is noted in Singapore in 1940 (STA. 20.1.40); a précis is Miss Anna Estelle Silberman, born 1915, Romanian father, Secretary, 'GB' survivor picked up by the "Tapah", interned Palembang then Changi/Sime Road. Repatriated to UK but returned 1946 and married tin miner Mr. M. V. Morris. Later Mrs Anna Powel and died Shrewsbury in 2005 (MVG); her own account states that she had remained in Singapore "...as long as I could in the hope that I would hear from my husband but there was no news. I heard later that he had been shot in the hand by a sniper and was



*eventually taken prisoner...". She made a hazardous journey to the Singapore docks under bombing and "...was hauled aboard a Chinese owned coastal steamer ... renamed "HMS Giang Bee..." at the time of the sinking she "...I scrambled into a lifeboat with 47 others ..."* (the detail of this story is the introduction to this document)...she was interned in Muntok and then Palembang and later returned by the Japanese to Singapore but was interned again in Changi and then Sime Road (ASD); the mention of her having a husband at the time of the fall of Singapore is an unresolved piece of her life history; Miss A.E. Silberman "Roumanian Free"; "Miss A Silverman (sic) was picked up by the "HMS Tapah"( "HMS Tapah" ships list"); Miss Silberman is on the list of women in Palembang camp ( Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43) ; Miss Annie Silbermann left Palembang camp on 24 August 1942 and returned to Singapore ("List of women and Children in Palembang") and Miss Anna Silbermann appears in Changi records as a Roumanian, born 1915, Changi internee # 3304, a Typist, her cell was 'A 5 42' ( Changi database) ; from the records of the Changi Museum it appears that Miss Silberman's parents and possibly a brother , were also interned in Changi and Sime road camp. It had been conjectured that her return to Singapore was because her father was from Rumania (at the time an Axis country) but from the records it states her father was Jewish which would have negated that in the eyes of the Japanese. ); Miss A.E. Silberman "Roumanian Free"; Miss A.E. Silberman "Roumanian Free"; "Miss A Silverman (sic) was picked up by the "HMS Tapah"( "HMS Tapah" ships list"); in 1946 she was a passenger arriving on the "Empress of Asia" from the UK (STA. 22.6.46);

- **SIBRETT** – Mr. A. W. Sibrett was reported as a jockey riding in the Singapore Stakes in 1940 (STA. 14.7.40); *"...Sibrett A. W., jockey Martin states that he took refuge in a bunker and was probably drowned..."* (list of missing at PRO); after the war the Missing Persons Bureau, Refugee and Displaced Persons Branch, Citizens Advice Bureau, Old Supreme Court Building , Singapore officially presumed dead **"...Mr. Albert Sibbret, jockey and trainer..."** ( archives of Straits Times " Search for the Missing Continues" 29 May 1946) ; he was also noted as "missing" in an article on jockeys returning to Singapore in 1946 (STA. 13.4.46)
- **SIMMONS - Mr. and Mrs. Simmons** of Kelantan lost at sea on 'GB' (MVG) .
- **SIMMONS** – **Mrs Simmons** (above); *"...Simmons G. L. Mrs. Died in March 1945 ..."* (Mrs. E. Cross list of women internees in Palembang at PRO); this is **possibly Amy Alexandra Mary Simmons**, United Kingdom, aged 30 years who died in Sumatra on 26.2.45 (CWGC). Also Mrs. Amy Alexandra Mary Simmons, wife of Cpl George Luck Simmons RAOC POW. Palembang. She was a survivor of the Giang Bee sinking and a Sumatra internee. Died in captivity 26.2.45aged 30 years (JM).
- **SIMONDS** – *"Simonds Mr. and Mrs., Port Dickson..."* (GBL) this could be a duplicate with SIMMONS above
- **SIMPSON** – this is Mrs. Connie Simpson who was picked up by "HMS Tapah" ("HMS Tapah" ships list); *"...Mrs. Simpson C. was interned in Palembang women's camp..."* (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); Mrs. C. Simpson "Raffles 2 Oct 45" **S**

- **SINCLAIR** – Mr. D. Sinclair was a miner, aged 51 years, with S. Malayan Tin Dredging, Batu Gajah, Perak; Sinclair D. died in 1945 (Mrs. E. Cross list of men in Palembang camp); according to the post war story of his daughter Joan Sinclair, Douglas Sinclair had been third engineer on the ‘SS Tara’ when he married Alice Tower in 1921 and had also worked as Chief engineer on the ‘HMS Giang Bee’. Apparently, Douglas held back from joining his wife and daughters in the second lifeboat because of a ‘women and children first’ order but when his family realised that there were already three other men in the boat he boarded the lifeboat as well ( ‘The Australian Women’s Weekly’ 12.11.69 and [muntokpeacemuseum.org](http://muntokpeacemuseum.org) ); Sinclair “DIED Sumatra 17 April 45.”; Douglas Sinclair, United Kingdom, aged 52 years of Batu Gajah, Perak, FMS., husband of Alice Dudley Sinclair and who died on 16.4.45 in Sumatra (CWGC); **he must have been the husband of,**
- **SINCLAIR** - “...Mrs. Sinclair D. and daughter Miss J. and son Mr. I...” were interned in Palembang (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); also “...Sinclair A. D. (Mrs) and Sinclair J. (Miss) and Sinclair I (master) – husband died ...” (Mrs. E. Cross list of women interned in Palembang camp); Mrs. A.D. Sinclair “W/O above 69 IGH.”; this was **Mrs Alice Dudley Sinclair** ( nee Tower) who survived the sinking and years of internment ( ‘The Australian Women’s Weekly’ 12.11.69)
- **SINCLAIR** - Miss J. Sinclair “Daughter of above 69 IGH”; this was Miss **Joan Sinclair** aged 17 years, daughter of Douglas and Alice Sinclair, and who in 1969 was interviewed in depth on her story (‘The Australian Women’s Weekly’ 12.11.69)
- **SINCLAIR** - Master I. Sinclair “Son of above 69 IGH.”; **this was Master Ian Sinclair; he** was aged 10 years and survived the sinking and internment camps (‘The Australian Women’s Weekly’ 12.11.69)
- **SMITH** – “...Miss Smith G “was interned at Palembang (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); also “...Smith G. (Miss) left the camp on 4.12.42 for Singapore...” (Mrs. E. Cross list of women internees in Palembang women’s camp); **PS; [note: Gwen Smith has since been found to have been a survivor of the sinking of the “SS. Tandjong Pinang” and was picked up by a Japanese warship and taken to Muntok and then Palembang]**
- **SMITH** – “...Smith Mrs. Army...” (GBL) PS
- **SPENCER – LOCKE** – “...Spencer –Locke KL...” (GBL); **SEE LOCKE**
- **STEPHENSON** – “...Mrs. V. Stephenson Husband died ...” (list of missing at PRO); **NK**; a **probable** reference might be “...STEPHENSON ROBT WM JACKS SISSONS P’BANG WIFE P’BANG...” (BPPL); and also, this reference to Mrs. Stephenson’s husband who may have also been on the ‘GB’ “...Stephenson R. Died in 1945...” (Mrs. E. Cross list of men in Palembang camp) **so it is warranted to include Mr. Stephenson in the ‘GB’ list until proven otherwise as follows**



- **STEPHENSON** – *Mr. Robert Stephenson of William Jacks Ltd died in Palembang camp (see above); Robert Stephenson, United Kingdom, MM., husband of Violet Stephenson, he died on Muntok, Banka island on 8.4.45 (CWGC)*
- **TARRY** – *Mr. George William Tarry had arrived in Malaya aged 26 years in 1936. He was an engineer with the Radio Company Malaya but in 1940 appears to have been employed by William Jacks & Co (Malaya) (STA. 26.8.40); He was picked up by” HMS Tapah” (“HMS Tapah” ships list); and interned, firstly in Palembang Camp and later in Changi “...TARRY GEO BMBC P’BANG...” (BPPL); G. W. Tarry “Raffles 2 Oct 45.”*
- **THOMAS** – *Miss Enid Thomas, Eurasian, was a Telegraphist, after the sinking and lifeboat voyage she was picked up by “HMS Tapah” (“HMS Tapah” ships list and MVG); “...Miss Thomas, Enid, was interned in Palembang camp ...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); she is possibly the same as “...Miss E.H. Thomas Raffles 2 Oct 45...”.*
- **THOMAS** – *Miss Halcyon Thomas, Eurasian, was also a Telegraphist. Aged 19 years she was also picked up by “HMS Tapah” (“HMS Tapah” ships list and MVG); “...Miss Thomas H. was interned in Palembang camp...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross)*
- **TRETCHIKOFF** – *“...TRETCHIKOFF V WARIN LEFT GIANG B REPT IN LIFEBOAT...” (BPPL); also Mr. Tretschikof (sic) “...left on Gian (sic) Bee – last seen leaving for Java...” (Mrs. E. Cross list at PRO, CO 980/324) V. Tretchikoff **S; Vladimir Griegorovich Tretchikoff**, born in 1913 was the artist whose “Chinese Girl” print adorned millions of walls around the world. He had fled Russia in the Revolution with his wealthy parents to Harbin. Later a cartoonist with the “Shanghai Evening Post” he moved to Singapore in the 1930’s where he worked for the “Straits Times” and by wartime was a propaganda artist. He volunteered as a stoker on the “GB” and made two long journeys after the sinking in a lifeboat – 500 miles in the second one – but was eventually interned. Later released on parole by the Japanese he worked with a Japanese ballet troupe in Batavia. He was reunited after the war with his wife Natalie and daughters and became a very wealthy artist in Canada and the UK. He died in 2006.*
- **TULLOCH** – *John Angus Tulloch from Adelaide, Australia worked as a Surveyor in Malaya. He had suffered a heart attack prior to the Japanese invasion and was in hospital when he had to evacuate .Whilst not appearing in any records compiled in Palembang his sister was told of his presence on the ship after the war by a ‘nurse’ in New Zealand who had been on the ship - research has determined this person to have been most likely either Mrs. Audrey Owens or Miss Leila Bridgeman who were both involved with the YWCA in Singapore and New Zealand ( source - Catriona Martin , granddaughter via email in April 2013); also “ ... TULLOCH J A SURVEYS LEFT LATE ILL ...” ( BPPL); also in the Colonial Register of War Deaths (ref. M1,234,1137. And 10001/46) during 1946 it is recorded that John Tulloch lost his life “presumed to have died in the sinking of the Giang Bee” and their source was “various reports ‘which could have been either of the YWCA women mentioned above.*
- **VAN BUREN** –, *“...VAN BUREN L. Mrs. ...” was interned in Palembang (Mrs. E, Cross list of women in Palembang camp) ; this is Mrs Linda/Lynda van Buren and her husband is*

- recorded as Mr. Henry James Van Buren, United Kingdom, aged 66 years, an ARP Fire Watcher and husband of Linda Van Buren of 6 Perak Road, Kuala Lumpur, he died on 23.3.45 in Sumatra(CWGC);Lynda Van Buren ( nee Lynda Van Geysel) was in the female camp [at Palembang] together with her daughter Kathleen. They survived but were murdered in Rhodesia in the 1960's on their farm. (Keith Van Geysel June 2015)
- **VAN BUREN** – “...*Van Buren K. Miss was interned in Palembang camp...*” (Mrs. Cross List – but not confirmed as being on the ‘GB’); in 1947 there is the marriage announcement that Kathleen Charlotte van Buren, daughter of Mrs. Linda Van Buren and the late Mr. H. J. van Buren, married Sinclair Mr Lorenz Speldewinde. The Bride was given away by Mr. Stanley Van Geysel of Kuala Lumpur (STA. 28.4.47); Kathleen was in the female camp [at Palembang] with her mother Lynda van Buren. They survived but were murdered in Rhodesia in the 1960s on their farm. (Keith Van Geysel June 2015).
  - **VAN BUREN** - “...*van Buren Mrs. B. C., Singapore...*” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross) **PS**; she died at home in Bedok in 1946 (STA. 10.1. 46)
  - **VAN BUREN** - Miss M. van Buren (d. of above); van Buren, Miss M. daughter of Mrs. B. C. ...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross)
- **VAN GEYZEL/VAN GEYSEL/VAN GEZZEL** - Mr. P.V. van Geysel was an engineer ,aged 35 years, of the Assn. of Engineers, Singapore ; “...*Van Gezzel (sic) P. V...*” was interned in Palembang camp ( Mrs. E. Cross list of men interned in Palembang) “...*P. V. van Geysel (sic) was a witness to the document prepared in internment camp on missing passengers (PCIL); “Recovered Sumatra 20 Sept 45” P.V. van Geysel (S) ; Mr Percival Victor van Geysel was a ships engineer who at the start of the War against the Japanese had been Ships engineer on the “SS. Hong Peng” and in Rangoon where he had just been married. He returned to Singapore and joined the “HMS Giang Bee”. His story has been related to the researcher by Percival’s son, Keith Van Geysel, who explained the events of the sinking remembered by his father in the narrative above. After being captured by the Japanese on Bank Island he was interned in Palembang camp where he was badly beaten by the Korean guards for sneaking out at night to steal from vegetable gardens – on one of these instances of being caught outside the camp stealing Cassava ( Tapioca) he and another man were approached by a furious Japanese guard who approached in a rage threatening both with his bayonet, whilst the guard wavered between which man to bayonet Percival felt he no longer cared if he lived since in 1945 he was past caring – the guard bayoneted the other man and this cemented the philosophy in Percival’s mind that life is transitory and from there on lived his life accordingly. He recalled stories of people begging him to share parts of rats to eat. His best friend died in the so called ‘hospital’ in the camp in front of him and left Percival his only possession, a banana. When another internee tried to steal the banana, Percival threatened him - quite out of character for this lovely, kind man. After the War Percival returned to Singapore and eventually became second in command of the Singapore Harbour Board Fire Brigade. Later Percival and his family spent time in Britain before finally migrating to Perth, Western Australia where he lived until he passed away in. Son Keith remembers his father as a wonderful human being and a gentle man but both physically and mentally strong – a great swimmer and diver which clearly served him well when he dived off the burning “HMS Giang Bee” and swam that great distance to the lifeboat. He was not a religious man but absolutely forgave the Japanese saying ‘... it was War ...’ and ‘remember there are only good and bad people not good and bad races*”

... “; He was the son of Mr Donald van Geysel and Mrs Florence van Geysel (the latter listed below) and the brother of Mrs Lynda van Buren listed above (email from Keith van Geysel, in Perth, WA., and the son of Mr. P. V. van Geysel June 2015)

- **VAN GEYZEL/VAN GEZZEL** – this is Mrs. Florence van Geysel of 6 Perak Road, Kuala Lumpur and the wife of Donald van Geysel. She died in Palembang on 15.7.45 (MVG) ; “...*Van Gezzel (sic) (Mrs.) son in Palembang. Died July 1945...*” (Mrs. E. Cross list of British women in Palembang Camp, at PRO). She was the mother of Percival Victor van Geysel above. However, there is no confirmation that she was on the ‘GB’,
- **VAN GEYZEL/ VAN GEZZEL** – this is Mrs. Margaret van Geysel aged 22 years and her four children as listed below; (MVG); her husband was Hugh Allen van Geysel (brother of Percival van Geysel above) who was interned in Changi and Sime Road camps – he migrated to Australia in 1960 following his family’s earlier migration to western Australia in 1957 (Museum of Western Australia – Keith van Geysel) ; “...*VAN GEZZEL (sic) M. Mrs and 4 children were interned in Palembang camp...*” ( Mrs. E. Cross list of women internees in Palembang); records in the National Archives of Australia show Mrs Margaret Olivia van Geysel (JM) ; Margaret migrated to Western Australia in 1957 with her eight children including the four below who survived internment –post War births were Adeliene, Richard, Tony, and Valerie ( Museum of Western Australia – Keith van Geysel); and her children;
- **VAN GEYZEL** – MM aged six years (MVG); NAA records below do not show a child by the name of M.M. van Geysel (JM); however, the eldest child was Maureen van Geysel who migrated to Australia with her family in 1957 (Museum of Western Australia – Keith van Geysel).
- **VAN GEYZEL** – JB aged four years (MVG); records in the National Archives of Australia for internees in Palembang include Jean Barbara van Geysel aged 2 years (JM)’ in 1957 Jean migrated to Western Australia with her family (Museum of Western Australia – Keith van Geysel).
- **VAN GEYZEL** – Joyce aged three years (MVG); records in the National Archives of Australia for internees in Palembang include Hazel Joyce van Geysel aged 1 year (JM); in 1957 Joyce migrated to Western Australia with her family (Museum of Western Australia – Keith van Geysel).
- **VAN GEYZEL** – aged two years (MVG); records in the National Archives of Australia for internees in Palembang include Shirley Ann van Geysel as a baby (JM); it appears that Shirley was born in Palembang Camp; in 1957 Shirley migrated to Western Australia with her family (Museum of Western Australia – Keith van Geysel).
- **VILLANOVA** – “...*Villanova Mr. and Mrs and two children Orchestra E. and O. Hotel Penang...*”; “...*VILLANUEVA FILLIPINO MUSIC SG SWIM CLUB LEFT GIANG B MISSING ALSO WIFE & DAUGHTER...*” (BPPL); J. Villanueva played in Kurt Blach’s band at the Singapore Swimming Club prior to the War (STA); Note: there was also a person by the name of C. Villanueva who was an orchestral violinist in pre-war Singapore (STA)
- **VILLANOVA** – Mrs. (above)
- **VILLANOVA** – daughter (above)
- **VILLANOVA** – daughter (above)

- **VOON – Mr. Voon** of the Metro Advertising Service, Singapore (MVG); “...Voon MBC Chinese...” was witnessed as last seen on the “GB” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); PD; also “...VOON/VGON L CHINESE BMBC SHIFT ENG LEFT 12/2 DROWNED? ...” (BPPL);
- **WAITE - D.S. Waite** (LOPBGB); David S. Waite was listed as on the “GB” (CO 980/324); “...WAITE DAVID S STRAITS TIMES GIANG B SEEN ON RAFT MOORE/ MCORE...” (BPPL); in fact in a letter by J. Medcalfe – Moore to the Colonial Office on 26.2.42 he confirms that “...Mr. D. Waite, Editor, Singapore Free Press...” was on the ‘GB’; “...Waite D.S. Editor S’pore Free Press...” ( list of missing at PRO); **David S. Waite**, British, aged 30 years, husband of Margaret Bell (formerly Waite) of 10 Anguilla Park, Singapore and son of Harold and Margaret Waite of Montana, Morecombe lake, Dorset died on 13.2.42 on the “GB” (CWGC); he was praised by his contemporaries after the War viz. “...Mr. David Waite, the brilliant young editor of the Singapore Free Press – probably the ablest all-round newspaper man that has come out to Malaya from Home within living memory – lost his life in the sinking of the “Giang Bee” ...” ( Straits Times “Cecil Street Memories” 13 Sept 1945); in the November 1945 edition of the ‘British Malaysians’ magazine there was also the record “ ... We regret to announce that among those missing when the ‘Giang Bee’ was sunk on February 13<sup>th</sup> 1942 was David S. Waite editor of the ‘Singapore Free Press’ and formerly sub-editor of the ‘Straits Times’. In the Oral archives of the Singapore National Archives is a recording by ‘Lucia BACH’ who says “ ...Waite was editor of the ‘Free Press ‘ (possibly the ‘Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser’) and lost his life on a ship ...’ , she also records that Mrs Waite and children stayed with her prior to evacuation and left a Thank you note since she was “ ... going to Australia taking the children ...’ – it appears that the ‘Thank You’ was for accommodation and hiding in Lucia Bach’s air raid shelter.
- **WARD-JACKSON – Mr. Charles Ward –Jackson** was born in Yorkshire in 1891 and saw service in WWI. He went to Malaya in 1919 and was a Chartered Secretary to the Rubber Growers and the United Planters Association of Malaya for 22 years. Also, an author and historical playwright, free-lance journalist and dog lover. His wife, Mrs. C. Ward-Jackson evacuated to Bellair, SA. And then the UK. He had two daughters Rosamund and Peggy. He appears to have been a man of real standing amongst the Selangor establishment and was appointed to official committees of enquiry – but he was also the subject of controversy and letters to the “Straits Times” (STA); “...Ward Jackson Secretary United Planters Assn., Malaya...” was witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); also “...on board Giang Bee...met Ward Jackson of U. P. A. M. ...” (Mr. G. Reis 66/231/1/document at IWM) PD
- **WARREN – this is Mrs. Norah Marion Warren** (nee Schooling), Eurasian, wife of Drum Major Harold Warren of the 1<sup>st</sup> Manchesters; “...Warren Mrs Manchester Regt...” (GBL); “...Warren Mrs. ...” (Netherlands Indies Red Cross); **daughter** of Joseph and Rose Schooling.; and according to Bennett’s secret Changi list “...WARREN H SERGT POW WIFE LEFT 12/2 SON IN LAW J SCHOOLING IN CAMP...” (BPPL)
- **WATSON - Miss L.A. Watson** “To UK via “ORANTES” 12. Nov 45.” **S**; and there appears to have been another person by this surname,

- **WATSON** – “...WATSON MEREDITH JB LEAN CO PNG BVD DROWNED GIANG B...” (BPPL); **almost certainly a duplicate reference to MEREDITH WATTS below**
- **WATT** – **Mr. Meredith John Barclay Watt** was admitted as a partner to the firm of Lean & Co., Penang in 1926 (STA. 21.5.26); Mr. Meredith A. Watt a partner in Lean & Co., Penang, his wife and child are noted as returning on leave for England in 1937 (STA. 22.11.37); then “...*Meredith Watt Mr. (and Mrs.)* [deleted] *accompanied by lady presumed wife...*” were witnessed as last seen on the ‘GB’ (NIRC); also “...WATT MEREDITH J B LEAN CO PWG?PNG BVD DROWNED GIANG B...” (BPPL); **but** then two records contradicting that he was on the ‘GB’, firstly Meredith J. B. Watt, Lean & Co., 3 A Union Street, Penang – lost with his wife at sea on Redang (MVG); and also Mr. Meredith Watt, United Kingdom is listed as amongst those dying on the “SS. Redang” on 15.2.242 (CWGC)
- **WATT**– **Mrs. Meredith Watt or another woman** (NIRC above)
- **WEE** – “...**WEE THIAM SIEW** BMBC BVD DROWNED GIANG B ...” (BPPL)
- **WHITWELL** - Miss M. Whitwell; “...*Whitwell (Whowell?) Miss M. YWCA S’pore...last seen on board*” (GBL); there is a Colonial Office Register of Deaths record, “... *Miss M. Whitwell, Secretary, YWCA, Singapore died on or about 13.2.42 in the Banka Straits. Presumed to have lost her life following the sinking of the ‘HMS Giang Bee’...*” Source: Searcher Organisation Clearing House, 50/10251/1/46. Serial 1261. **Mildred Whitwell** appears to have been raised in Kalamunda, a town and eastern suburb of Perth, WA. Earliest records show performing “*a solo with the dumbbells ...*” at the Lemyne College prizegiving in 1904 at St Georges Hall, Perth, Western Australia, a theatre that no longer exists ( ‘Western Mail’, Perth, 17.12.04) then her passing the Primary exams of the University of Adelaide in 1905 as a pupil of Lemyne College, which also no longer exists (‘The Register’, Adelaide 30.9.05) and in 1907 passing the Junior Public Exam in connection with the University of Adelaide, being noted as “... *Mildred Whitwell from Kalamunda Grammar school...*” (‘The Western Mail’, 28.10.07); She was clearly an intelligent, academic young woman and as many young women of means did in those years she is recorded in 1909 playing a pianoforte recital “... *as a pupil of Mrs A.E. Corthoys...*” in Perth (‘The Daily News’, Perth 6.10.09). She clearly had a social conscience and in 1915 during the early years of the First World war she is noted as donating two shillings and six pence to the ‘War and Unemployment Relief Fund’ (‘The Daily News’, Perth 19.8.15). In 1928 she passed the St. John’s Ambulance Brigade First Aid course exam (‘The Western Australian’, Perth 14.8.28). In 1936 she appears in the newspapers as sole executor of the will of James Joseph Whitwell of 53 Tareena Street, Hollywood. (‘The Daily News’ Perth 3.3.36). After that all references are to her involvement with the YWCA – firstly in Perth where in 1936 she is elected Secretary (‘The Western Australian’, Perth 13.8.36) and that year also becoming acting Matron at the YWCA Hostel in Perth (‘The Western Australian’, Perth 15.10.36) - then in Singapore where she is reported, presumably travelling from Australia to Europe via Singapore, leaving on the ‘Hakozaki Maru’ for Europe (Morning Tribune 21.1.37). This must have set the scene for her to move to Singapore because in 1938 she is reported as “... *Miss Mildred Whitwell from Perth, Western Australia arrives in the middle of January to take up the position of hostel secretary ...*” (Morning Tribune 24.12.38). In 1940 she appears

in a group photo of the YWCA staff (National Archives, Singapore 1938-41, Photo accession No. 6706). In 1941 she is reported attending a fundraising concert at the 'Adelphi Roof Garden 'for the 'YWCA War Workers Party' [there is a photo in this article which may show Mildred Whitwell?] (SFPMA 26.4.41); and then later that year "... Miss M. Whitwell trimly tailored in green linen ..." was attending a function at the home of Mr & Mrs Cherry (Sunday Tribune 6.7.41). [ It is the surmise of the researcher that Mildred Whitwell had no living relatives when she lost her life in the shelling and sinking of the 'Giang Bee', since there is no reference to her after the war in either death notices or news articles in either the Australian or Singapore newspapers. Nor is there any record at the CWGC.]

- **WICKS** - C. W. Wicks, "...Austral Malay Taiping, Perak ..." (Netherlands Indies Red Cross) ; "...Wicks Mr. C. MD Austral Malay Tin Ltd Taiping FMS ..." (GBL); "...WICKS C W AUSTRAL MALAY LEFT LATE..." (BPPL); his wife had evacuated to Australia; " ...**Mr. Cecil William Wicks** of the M. V. F. ..." was officially presumed dead by the Missing Persons Bureau, Refugee and Displaced Persons Branch, Citizens Advice Bureau, Old Supreme Court Building, Singapore (archives of Straits Times article "Search For Missing Continues" 29 May 1946) ;
- **WILKINSON** – (see also entry for **Etta Bird**); Mrs Myra Wilkinson, Salvation Army HQ, Tank Road, Singapore; lost at sea on the *Giang Bee*, wife of Major Elijah Wilkinson a 43 year old Salvation Army officer who was interned in Changi and Sime Road (Jonathan Moffatt database of Malaysians); also from 'Burning the Bones Blog Spot, Singapore, " ... ref *Etta Bird* ... On 13 February 1942 she with Mrs Major Wilkinson left the island on the SS. *Gian (sic) Bee*..." ;

**WILLBOURN (WILLBOURNE/WIMBOURNE /WILBURN)** – Mrs. Jessie Teresa Willbourn (nee Cooper) was born on 15 October 1889 to a Yorkshire Catholic family. The Cooper family and the Willbourn family were close friends and neighbours in Bridlington, Yorkshire. In her early adult years Jessie spent a year or two working as a governess looking after the children of a wealthy family in Havana, Cuba. In 1919 Jessie's childhood sweetheart Eric Willbourn, whilst on home from Malaya and WW1 military service, persuaded her father to allow him to marry Jessie – but Eric had to convert to Catholicism in order for this permission to be granted, the Willbourn family being 'high Anglican'. Eric and Jessie were both 29 years of age at this point. Eric had to return to his position as Geologist with the Colonial Geological Survey of the FMS. Jessie worked briefly as a volunteer auxiliary nurse at the time of the Japanese invasion at Batu Gajah Hospital (in fact Jessie Willbourn is memorialised on the plaque to hospital staff who lost their lives in the War as a member of the Medical Auxiliary Service). It was only as Eric, who had been captured by the Japanese, was travelling from POW camp in Siam back to Singapore in 1945 that he learned the awful truth of Jessie's death at sea (Roger Randson email July 2015); Major Eric Stewart "Bill" Willbourn, 2 I/C FMSVF and FMSVF Training Battalion (then attached to the AIF), in 1941 he had been OC Perak Battalion, and a POW in Singapore. He was Director – General of the Geological Survey of the Federated Malay States, based in Batu Gajah since 1920; in 1937 there is the newspaper report that Major E. S. Willbourne [sic] had returned from leave and has resumed duties as OC 'C' Company, Perak Btn., FMSVF (STA. 6.7.37); "...WILLBOURNE [sic] ESM GEOLOGICAL POW WIFE LEFT LATE..." (BPPL); "...Willbourne [sic] Mrs. Husband Geological Services F. M. S. ..." (List of missing at PRO); Mrs. Willbourne [sic] was witnessed as last seen on the 'GB' by W. B. Haines and D. Sinclair; also "...WIMBOURNE [sic] Mrs. (Melbourne)



Seremban..." (GBL); "...Wilburn [sic] Mrs. Batu Gajah..." (GBL); enquiries were being made in Kandy, India in September 1945 by Major Willbourn for the whereabouts of his wife who, he had thought, was on the "Kuala"(MVDB) which may be explained because three nurses from Batu Gajah Hospital were killed in the sinking of the "SS. Kuala" ( memorial plaque at Batu Gajah Hospital) ; Eric Willbourn died in 1977 aged 88 years at Bridlington ( Roger S. Willbourn); contrary to reports that their two children had left with Jesse Willbourn, Eric and Jesse Willbourn's two children ( Anthony and Elizabeth) were already in England at the time of the invasion and had been living in the UK for education purposes since the mid/late1920s, Elizabeth worked at Bletchley Park in the Government signals/code breaking HQ in the later years of the War and she died in 2008, Anthony worked on secret explosives research in chemical laboratories at Oxford during the War and became ICI's plastics research & development Director - he died in 2006 aged 85 (Roger S. Willbourn, grandson of Eric and Jesse Willbourn email 1.12.13).

- **WOODFORD – Mr. Osborne Percival "Sony" Woodford** was a teacher at the Anglo – Chinese School, Singapore. He was on the 'GB' with his wife Rosy and son Desmond aged 11 years. They were picked up by the "HMS Tapah" ("HMS Tapah" ships list) and interned in Palembang. Their story is written in "Waiting for the Durian" by Susan McCabe. He died aged 92 years in 1996 in Perth, Western Australia. (MVG); "...WOODFORD O P LITTLES P'BANG W FAMILY..." (BPPL); Woodford O. C. was interned in Palembang (Mrs. E. Cross list of men in Palembang camp); "...Woodford O. P, aged 39 years, Merchant John Little & Co S'pore. Rec'd. Arrived S'pore 22 Oct 45..." (list of missing at PRO).
- **WOODFORD** - Mrs. R. Woodford; "...Woodford R. Mrs and son 11 Desmond..." (List of missing at PRO); "Mrs O.P Woodford picked up by 'HMS Tapah' "("HMS Tapah" ships list); "...Mrs. Woodford and son D. (11years) interned at Palembang" (Netherlands Indies Red Cross 2.2.43); **Mrs. Rosalind Marie Woodford** was on the 'GB' with her husband and son. She died aged 84 years of age in 1995 in Perth Western Australia (MVG)
- **WOODFORD - Desmond Woodford** (son of above) S; Master Woodford was picked up by the "HMS Tapah" ("HMS Tapah" ships list).

**In addition to these individuals are a possible (in that they may now be included above but were not known by name in 1943) further 14 people** who are stated to have been on the 'GB' by the document dated 2.2.1943 prepared by the Netherlands Indies Red Cross:

- "5 Chinese who left voluntarily who left at the mouth of the Banjoason River".
- "3 Chinese who left voluntarily at Djaboos, Bangka".
- 2 naval ratings, names unknown, in service camp, Palembang (does NOT include Rae, listed above, as he is named on the same NIRC list). Probably two of either J. Tobin; J.M. Howell; or A. V. Medley (after researcher locating the "HMS Tapah" ships list in 2015).
- 4 other unnamed individuals in the party which stayed in a lifeboat and tried to get to Java.
- A Philippine boy of about 17.



In addition.

- *“..two young Dutch boys...”* [ who appear to have been accompanying the Villanova family listed above] had been talking to survivor Molly Ismail just before the first bomber attacked and *“...when it was over Molly turned to the two boys at her side and found that both their heads had been severed...”*  
(WBTW)

**This gives a total of about 250 people.**