



# NEWS TIME

Kilcoy RSL Sub Branch

11/1/2017

Edition 2

## *Jim's Story / A story of a Changi POW*

### *Jim's Story (Part 2)*

From Changi, the Japanese decided to exploit their 'Greater East Asian Co-Property Scheme' by using prisoners as slaves on many projects including Singapore, Burma-Thailand Railway, Sandakan aerodrome, Japanese Coal and salt mines and other Japan industries.

The Burma-Thailand project was one of the most outstanding. Surveyed by the British in the late 1920's and discarded as an impossible task. The Japanese completed the task in six months at a great cost to human life.

Perhaps Sandakan was the greatest tragedy where prisoners were placed on a forced march from there to Ranau. Six only survived this tragic event.

When a radio was built in Sandakan by bits and pieces smuggled into camp by prisoners working on work parties. One native told the Japanese of this the officers of the Australian and British were transferred to

Kuching. Which saved our lives as we missed the death march.

A very good friend Capt Lionel Matthews was executed because he helped in the construction of the radio.

When Australian parachutists landed in Kuching, they found a store room to have ample supplies of food, which had been denied to the prisoners who were being slowly starved to death, but supplies further proof of the bestial attitude and cruelty practiced by our captors and their complete disregard for human life.

In hindsight, I wonder if we had known more about the Japanese people, would we have been able to see more clearly, the future which was mapped out for us. The majority of this race appeared to be of lower class and mostly uneducated, but were born to a life not known to us and difficult to understand.

It would appear they look forward to a life of slavery in

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servicing their country, fighting for the Emperor in which case their culture decrees that to die in battle they become "Warrior God". We saw this goal. It is very obvious that life is the cheapest commodity to these people and this seems to be an important part of their culture, therefore we must not expect them to appreciate our way of life and freedom we enjoy, in fact I doubt the lower status of the Japanese people understand the meaning of the word "Freedom".

Conversely, the upper class of the Japanese people e.g. Samurai, Leaders in industry, Administration, government and the Emperor, appear to be highly intelligent well educated and have a fanatical belief they are destined to rule the world.

I hope you have enjoyed Jim's story he passed away in 1999  
Rest in Peace Jim.

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Following are dates to keep in mind for

### **November/December**

1. Remembrance Day is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 commencing at 1045hrs, followed by a BBQ Lunch. All are welcome.
2. Due to Remembrance Day being on a Saturday

our next meeting will be 18/11/17 @ 1030hrs.

3. We will be having our Christmas party on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December all are welcome to attend, this will be our last Friday night until the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.



Some photos taken of some of our members on different occasions over the years.....