

**Kilcoy & Surrounding Areas**  
**WAR SERVICEMEN**  
that were taken  
**Prisoners of War**



The Arthur Graham Butler Clock



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The information contained in this book was researched and compiled by Paul Carolan.

June 2017

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# First World War 1914 to 1918

## Died in Captivity

### John McATEE

John (3806) was a 24-year-old teamster (a driver of a team of animals) that was born near Mt Mee.

John enlisted into the Army on 13 August 1915 and was assigned to the 15th Battalion AIF.

He was embarked from Sydney aboard the "Suffolk" on the 23 November 1915.

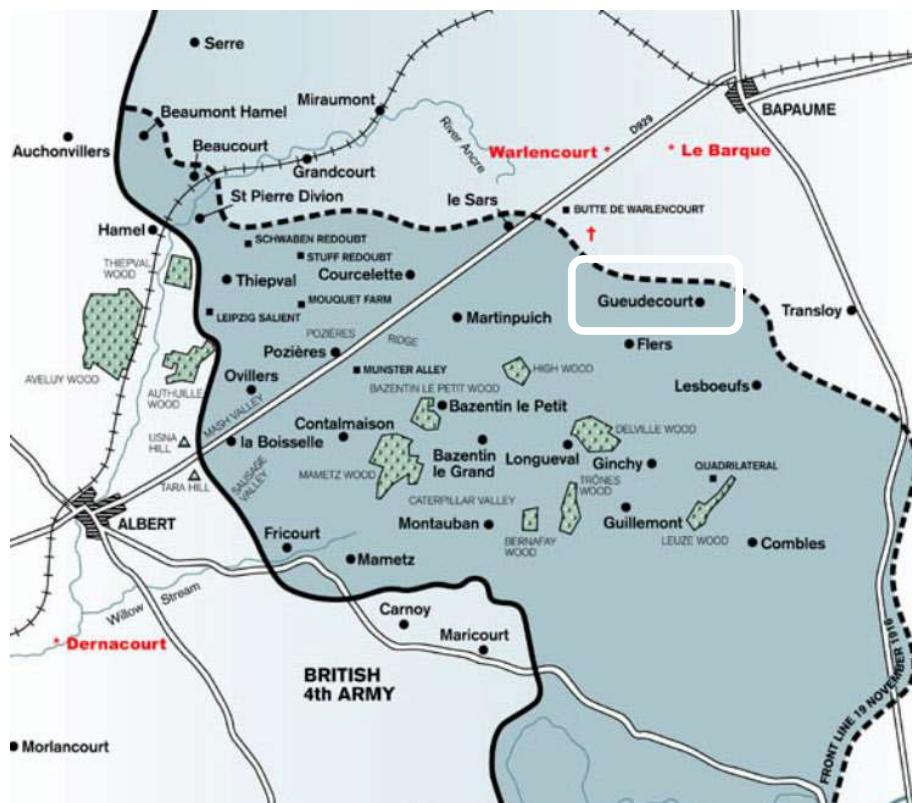
Having arrived in Egypt, his battalion was training and on 3 March 1916 he suffered with severe enteritis, and returned to duty on the 12 March 1916. In June 1916 the battalion sailed to France and then moved to the front lines at the Somme.

On the 1 February 1917 at Guidecourt, the unit's war diary recorded that *"at 7pm a party consisting 150 men & 3 officers from A Company with 70 men and 3 officers from C Company attacked an enemy position on a front of about 550 yards. The german line was entered and 50 prisoners taken, a counter attack at about 11pm was beaten off."* It was thought he died from a direct hit from a shell and was then reported as Missing in Action.

However, he was recovered by the Germans severely wounded and later died from his wounds, whilst a POW on the 11th February 1917.

He was 25 years old. As a result, the Germans buried him and his remains were never found, after the war his name was then placed onto the Villers Bretonneux War Memorial.

Today, John is remembered on the Australian War Memorials Roll of Honour, Panel 76 as well as locally the Kilcoy War Memorial Panels.



## Alexander Leslie MOORE

Alexander (4866) was an 18-year-old stockman, born in Victoria, his father Mr Charles Moore lived in Kilcoy, when he enlisted on 20 September 1915 in Kilcoy.

6 months later Alexander embarked from Brisbane aboard transport ship A73 "Commonwealth" on 28 March 1916.

He arrived in Egypt on 5 May 1916. After training in Egypt for 4 months he was then shipped off to France on 23 September 1916.

He arrived France 4 October 1916 and joined his unit the 15<sup>th</sup> battalion. The 15<sup>th</sup> battalion was at this time engaged in The Somme and Pozierres. Simile with John McAtee with the above action at Guidecourt, Alexander went missing in the same fog of war and was then listed as missing in action on 3 February 1917.

Alexander subsequently died from wounds on 11 February 1917 whilst prisoner of war at Sachsenburg, Germany and was also buried by the Germans and his remains were never found, after the war his name was also then placed onto the Villers Bretonneux War Memorial (pictured below right). He was 19 years old.

Today, Alexander is remembered on the Australian War Memorials Roll of Honour, Panel 77 as well as locally the Kilcoy War Memorial Panels.

Of the 3,853 Australians captured by the Germans, 310 – about one in 12 – died in captivity. Today their names are both present on Panel 2 of Kilcoy's War Memorial.



## **Second World War 1939 to 1945**

### **Died in Captivity**

#### **Charles AMOS**

Charlie (QX13911) was born on 6 April 1916 in Brisbane and was living in Kilcoy when he enlisted into the Army on 3 July 1940, he was 24 years old. He was placed into the 2/10th Field Regiment that had just been formed at the Redbank Camp, Brisbane, and had the rank of Gunner. For the next 6 months they trained until shipped off to Malacca (Malaysia), arriving on the 19 February 1941. The unit trained and carried out maneuvers at Mersing (Malaysia). Almost a year later on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1942 the Japanese bombed and strafed them for the first time. From this time on the 2/10 Field was utilised to aid the escaping infantry by firing on the attacking Japanese army. The last of the allied troops crossed into Singapore on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> January 1942. The invasion of Singapore began at 11pm on 8 February 1942, the 2/10 Field ceased fire at 1030pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942. The 2/10 Field members then found themselves as work parties for the Japanese where Charlie was one of many who was dispatched to the Thai-Burma Railway construction (May-Dec 1943) and was 1 of 2700 who died during this period. Charlie died of maltreatment & starvation (officially illness) on 23 October 1943.

National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.



## William Ross COWDROY

William (21820) was born on 11 April 1921 in Kilcoy to Henry A & Gertrude Cowdroy, he was living in Tara, Qld working as a clerk when he enlisted in the Navy on 25 January 1938. From 19 January 1942 he was a member of the Australian light cruiser HMAS Perth's crew and sailed for Malaya.

In February 1942, HMAS Perth survived the Allied defeat at the Battle of the Java Sea (27 Feb), only then to be torpedoed and sunk by the Imperial Japanese Navy at the Battle of Sunda Strait (the night of 28 Feb – 1 Mar at 00:25 hrs). Of the 681 sailors aboard, 353 were killed in battle. All but four of the 328 survivors were captured as prisoners of war: 106 died in captivity, and the surviving 218 were eventually returned home to Australia after the war. William was taken as POW on 1 Mar 1942.

Whilst in captivity William was sent with many others to Thailand to construct the Burma-Thai Railway around May-June 1942. After surviving almost two years of horrific treatment and suffering with tropical ulcer, amputation and pelvic abscess, William then died on 1 Feb 1944 at Tamakan (Khwae Yai Bridge), Thailand at 23 years of age, where he was then immediately buried at the work camp cemetery. William is now officially listed as having died of illness. After the war he was eventually collected up and reburied with fellow comrades at the official Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand.



Above can be seen a picture of William and the area in Thailand where he was worked suffered and during the war buried with the work camp seen to the left. This was the bridge that became known due to mispronunciation as the bridge over the river kwai.

## **Colin David DICK**

Colin (QX14602) was born on 14 November 1919 in Kilcoy and was living in West End, Brisbane and working as a Clerk when he enlisted into the Army on 15 July 1940, he was 20 years old. He was placed into the 2/10th Field Regiment that had just been formed at the Redbank Camp, Brisbane, and had the rank of Gunner. For the next 6 months they trained until shipped off to Malacca (Malaysia), arriving on the 19 February 1941. The unit trained and carried out maneuvers at Mersing (Malaysia). Almost a year later on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1942 the Japanese bombed and strafed them for the first time. From this time on the 2/10 Field was utilised to aid the escaping infantry by firing on the attacking Japanese army. The last of the allied troops crossed into Singapore on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> January 1942. The invasion of Singapore began at 11pm on 8 February 1942, the 2/10 Field ceased fire at 1030pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

The 2/10 Field members then found themselves as work parties for the Japanese where Colin was one of many who were dispatched to the Thai-Burma Railway construction (May-Dec 1943) and having survived that was placed aboard the unmarked POW transport ship "Rakuyō Maru" when it was sunk on the 12 September 1944 by American submarines on route from Singapore to Japan. Colin was one of many others that had no chance of surviving as they were locked up in the holds of the ship. The total number of Australians killed during this disaster was 503 AIF, 33 RAN, 7 RAAF POWs.

<http://ww2today.com/12-september-1944-uss-sealion-sinks-rakuyo-maru-and-1300-pows>



## **George Alex FORD**

George (QX9387) was born on 12 April 1917 in Allora on the Darling Downs and was living in Villeneuve when he enlisted into the Army on 18 June 1940, he was 23 years old. He was placed into the 2/26 Australian Infantry Battalion that had just been formed at the Grovely Camp, Brisbane, and George had the rank of Private.

In early 1941, the battalion moved to Redbank where further training was undertaken in preparation for joining the rest of the 27th Brigade. In February the 2/26th was transported to Bathurst where they joined the other two battalions assigned to the brigade along with the artillery, anti-tank and engineer units. Brigade-level exercises were conducted and the battalion paraded through the town of Bathurst before finally they received orders for embarkation. On 29 July the final movement order was received and the battalion entrained for Melbourne. Although initially it had been intended that the 2/26th, and indeed the entire 8th Division, would be sent to the Middle East to join the 7th and 9th Divisions in the campaign against the Germans and Italians, concerns about Japanese intentions in the Pacific led to the decision to deploy them in Southeast-Asia instead. Embarking upon the Marnix Van St Aldegonde, a Dutch ship of approximately 20,000 tons displacement, their ultimate destination was Singapore.

Sailing via Fremantle, they arrived in Singapore on 15 August 1941. Upon landing they moved to Camp Wavell at Changi where they settled in to serve as a garrison force. As the possibility of war with Japan grew, the battalion deployed over the Strait of Johore onto the mainland, to build up defences and carry out jungle training, and undertake patrols onto the peninsula to check the accuracy of maps and locate tracks. During this time they were based at Kota Tinggi and Jasin.

On 6 December 1941, the battalion received the code word to adopt battle stations and adopted a defensive position to the north of Kota Tinggi. In the early hours of 8 December, fighting began as the Japanese launched their invasion of Malaya, by landing troops at Kota Bharu. Nevertheless, the battalion saw no action in the first month of the fighting and on 10 January 1942 it was moved to Johore, where the 27th Brigade took up a position in the Segamat sector as part of "Westforce", alongside British and Indian troops. The 2/26th Battalion was located at the Paya Lang Estate between Gemas and Batu Anam. As the Japanese attempted to outflank the Allied positions west of Gemas at Muar, after the 2/30th Battalion conducted a successful ambush, Westforce began the withdrawal back to Singapore Island, during which the 2/26th Battalion took part in a number of rearguard actions. Actions were fought at the Namazi Estate, Forty-Mile Peg and the Thirty-One Mile Peg. Of these, perhaps the most significant came at the Thirty-One Mile Peg, where 16 Platoon, under Lieutenant William Magarry, conducted a bayonet charge near Ayer Hitam. They crossed the Strait on 30 January and along with the rest of the 27th Brigade took up positions in the defence of the Causeway in anticipation of the Japanese assault which came a week later on 8 February 1942.

After being subjected to heavy aerial and artillery bombardment, the following day the battalion's commanding officer, Arthur Boyes, handed over command to Lieutenant Colonel Roland Oakes, formerly the second in command of the 2/19th Battalion. Boyes was called away to help organise the island's rear area defence and was subsequently given command of 'X' Battalion, a composite unit made up of reinforcements that had been separated from their units. Shortly after taking up this appointment, however, Boyes was killed along with a number of his men when the battalion was ambushed while attempting to fill a gap in the lines that had resulted from a Japanese breakthrough.

On 10 February, the 2/26th Battalion moved into position on 4,000 yards (3,700 m) frontage between Bukit Mandai and Bukit Panjang, with each of its companies on top of a high feature, separated by 1,000 yards (910 m) gaps of dense bush. Over the course of the next week, the 2/26th fought to defend the island, however, by 15 February, the Allied defence had crumbled and Lieutenant General Arthur Percival, the general officer in command of British Empire troops in Malaya, announced that the garrison would surrender.

The 2/26 Battalion members then found themselves as work parties for the Japanese where George was one of many who was dispatched to the Thai-Burma Railway construction (May-Dec 1943) and was 1 of 2700 who died during this period. George died of Cardiac & Beri Beri (officially illness) on 16 December 1943 at the Kanburi Camp (pictured below in 1945).

National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

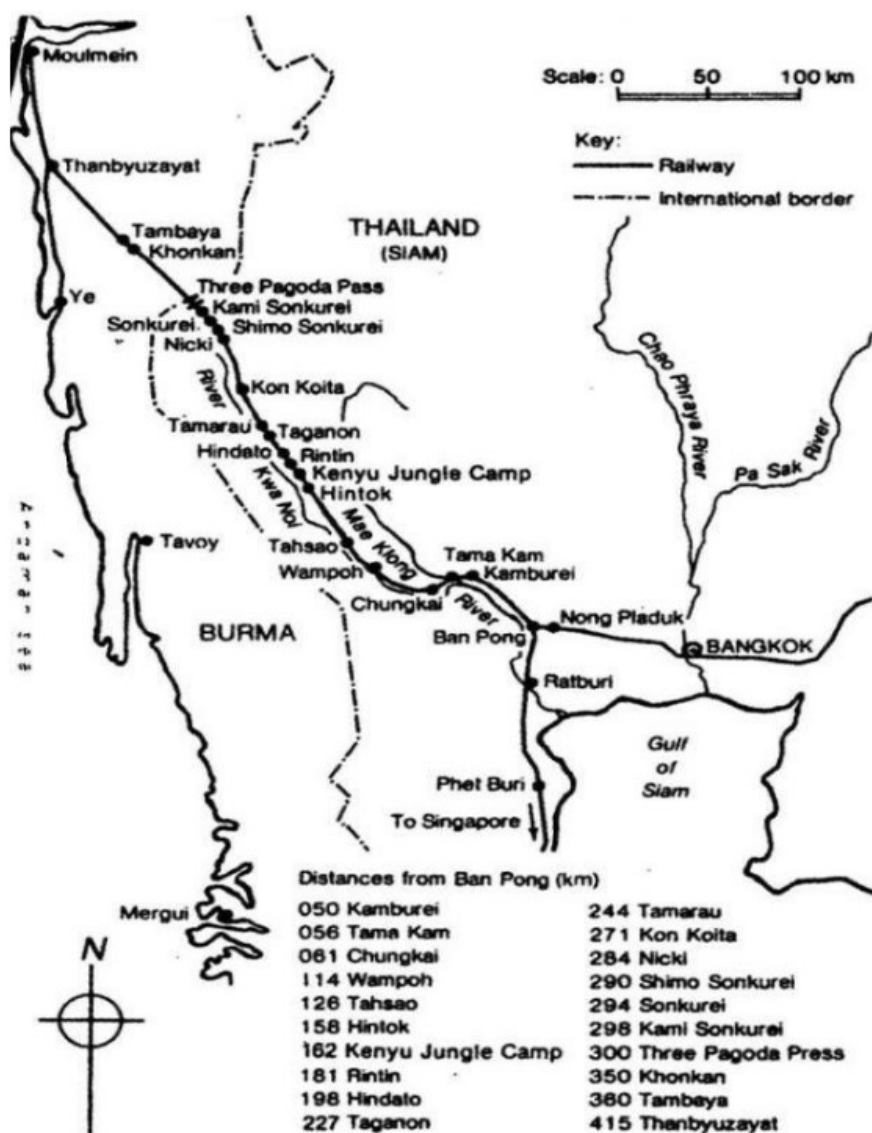


## Louis KELLY

Louis (QX23528) was born on 14 November 1907 in Douglas a suburb of Townsville and was living in Kilcoy when he enlisted into the Army on 30 August 1941, he was 23 years old. He was placed into the 2/26 Australian Infantry Battalion as a late arrival whilst in Malaya (with the Battalion arriving on 15 August 1941), and Louis had the rank of Private. Louis was in the same unit as George Alex FORD previously mentioned historic notes on the Unit history.

Louis subsequently died whilst working in the Mergui (Burma end of the railway) from Dysentery and Beri Beri at the Thambaya Hospital Camp on 29 September 1943 and was originally buried at the Thambaya Cemetery until being moved with many others after the war to the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar.

National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

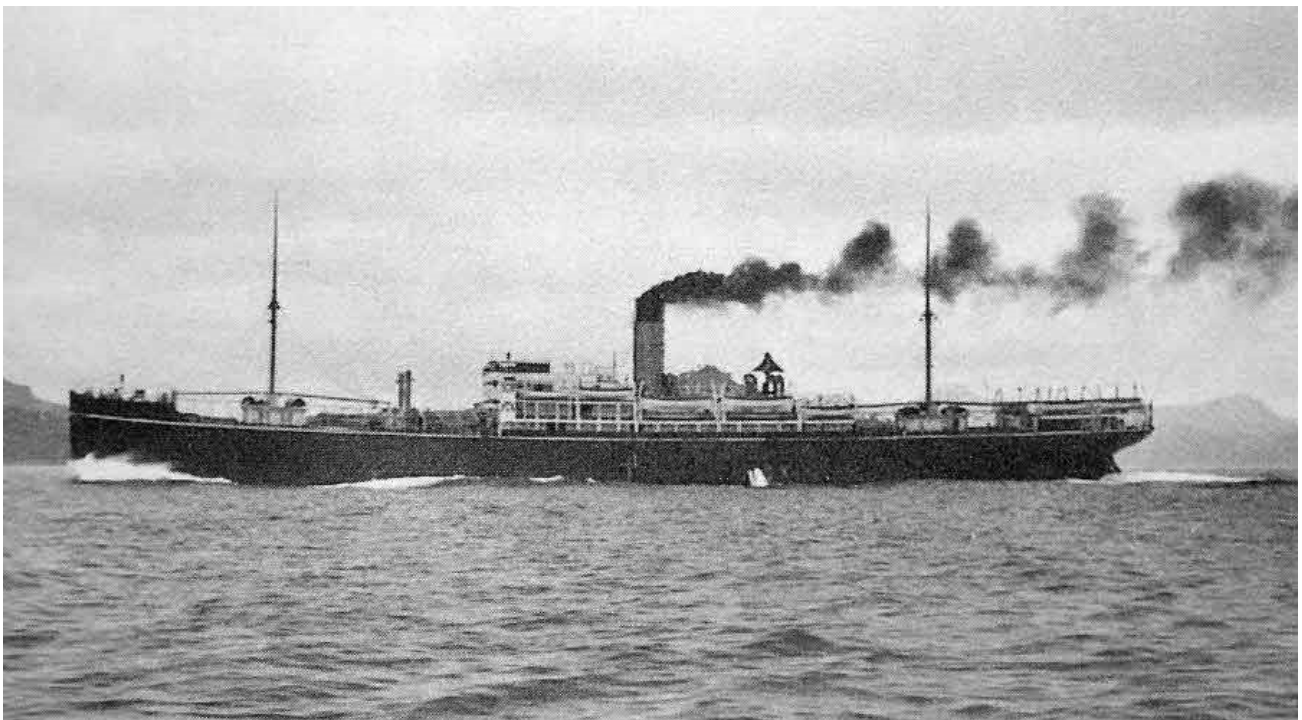


## William Henry MAXWELL

William (NX72711) was born on 29 September 1913 in Kilcoy and was living in Meerschaum Vale, NSW and working as a Clerk when he enlisted into the Army on 8 April 1941, he was 20 years old. He was placed into the 2/12th Field Company that had just been formed and William had the rank of Sapper.

The last of the allied troops crossed into Singapore on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> January 1942. The invasion of Singapore began at 11pm on 8 February 1942, the 2/12 Field ceased fire at 1030pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

The 2/12 Field members then found themselves as work parties for the Japanese where William was one of many who were dispatched to the Thai-Burma Railway construction (May-Dec 1943) and having survived that was placed aboard the unmarked POW transport ship "Rakuyō Maru" when it was sunk on the 12 September 1944 by American submarines on route from Singapore to Japan. Colin was one of many others that had no chance of surviving as they were locked up in the holds of the ship. The total number of Australians killed during this disaster was 503 AIF, 33 RAN, 7 RAAF POWs.



The above image is of the "Rakuyō Maru" that was part of Convoy HI-72 and transporting 1317 Australian and British prisoners of war (POWs) from Singapore, when it was torpedoed and sunk in the Luzon Strait by USS Sealion on 12 September 1944. A total of 1159 POWs died as a result of the sinking.

<http://ww2today.com/12-september-1944-uss-sealion-sinks-rakuyo-maru-and-1300-pows>

## **Survived Captivity and were returned to Australia**

### **William Victor CHALMERS**

CHALMERS VICTOR WILLIAM : Service Number - QX14980 : Date of birth - 28 Jun 1919 : Place of birth - WOODFORD QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD 18 July 1940 2/26<sup>th</sup> Bn F Force: Next of Kin - CHALMERS ALICE

### **Roland Francis FITZGERALD**

FITZGERALD ROLAND FRANCIS : Service Number - QX14661 : Date of birth - 07 Jul 1919 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD : Next of Kin - FITZGERALD ROLAND  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

### **Reginald James HARRIS**

HARRIS REGINALD JAMES : Service Number - QX9275 : Date of birth - 31 May 1916 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD 17 June 1940 2/10 Fd Rgt A Force: Next of Kin - HARRIS SAMUEL  
RTA 18 Oct 1944

### **Rupert Brodie KING**

KING RUPERT BRODIE : Service Number - QX24213 : Date of birth - 05 Oct 1914 : Place of birth - PERTH WA : Place of enlistment - WOODFORD QLD 23 March 1941 2/29 Bn F Force: Next of Kin - KING MARGARET RTA 27 October 1945 Discharged 16 January 1946 Died at Kilcoy Hospital 16th March 1954

### **Rex KROPP**

KROPP REX : Service Number - QX17579 : Date of birth - 21 Aug 1919 : Place of birth - VILLENEUVE QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD : Next of Kin - KROPP STANLEY  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

### **Keith McCLEOD**

Date of Birth 2 Dec 1921 Place of Birth CHARLEVILLE, QLD Date of Enlistment 7 Jul 1941 Locality on Enlistment WOODFORD, QLD Place of Enlistment BRISBANE, QLD Next of Kin MCLEOD, CHARLES Date of Discharge 18 Dec 1945 Rank Private Posting at Discharge 2/19 BN  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

### **John Alexander McINTYRE**

MCINTYRE JOHN ALEXANDER : Service Number - QX9748 : Date of birth - 04 Apr 1916 : Place of birth - BUCCA CREEK NSW : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD : Next of Kin - MCINTYRE MARGARET  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.



### **Leonard John McIVOR**

MCIVOR LEONARD JOHN : Service Number - QX14860 : Date of birth - 08 Jan 1917 : Place of birth - KALBAR QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD 1 Coy AASC G Force : Next of Kin - KATHERINE nee KOHR, Kilcoy  
recovered from Takefu, Japan 19 September 1945, Mother died prior to his return to Australia

### **Albert Thomas Finlay McKAY**

MCKAY ALBERT THOMAS FINLAY : Service Number - 11729 : Date of birth - 20 Mar 1919 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - MELBOURNE 5 August 1940 1 Squadron RAAF: Next of Kin - MCKAY THOMAS  
recovered from Japan 22 September 1945 discharged 13 June 1946

### **Ronald Ole RAAEN**

RAAEN RONALD OLE: Service Number - QX17031: Date of birth - 28 Jan 1917 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD 19 July 1940 2/26 Bn : Next of Kin - RAAEN OLE  
recovered from Changi 5 September 1945 Discharged 5 December 1945

### **Patrick RIDING**

RIDING PATRICK : Service Number - QX21538 : Date of birth - 15 Oct 1917 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - BRISBANE QLD : Next of Kin - RIDING KATHLEEN  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

### **Raymond Arthur RODGERS**

RODGERS RAYMOND ARTHUR : Service Number - QX14042 : Date of birth - 15 May 1920 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD : Next of Kin - RODGERS EILEEN  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

### **John SINCLAIR**

SINCLAIR JOHN : Service Number - QX440 : Date of birth - 06 Nov 1915 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - BRISBANE QLD : Next of Kin - SINCLAIR ARTHUR  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

### **Eric George STANTON**

STANTON ERIC GEORGE : Service Number - QX14438 : Date of birth - 29 Dec 1906 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD : Next of Kin - STANTON GEORGE  
National Archive Record has not yet been examined and therefore not publicly available.

### **Hilton Alfred STANTON**

STANTON HILTON ALFRED : Service Number - QX23428 : Date of birth - 19 Mar 1920 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - TOOWOOMBA QLD 27 August 1941 2/29 Bn : Next of Kin - STANTON DEXTER  
recovered from Japanese at Sumatra on 5 September 1945 Discharged 31 January 1946



## **Edward Barton WAGNER**

WAGNER EDWARD BARTON : Service Number - QX17691 : Date of birth - 18 Oct 1917 : Place of birth - KILCOY QLD : Place of enlistment - KELVIN GROVE QLD 6 August 1940 CHQ Malaya: Next of Kin - WAGNER NELLIE  
recovered from Changi 5 September 1945 F Force Discharged 23 January 1946

## **Summary**

### **Omissions from the Kilcoy War Memorial**

The following POW servicemen have been omitted from the Kilcoy War Memorial panels.

1. William Victor CHALMERS	born Woodford
2. William Ross COWDROY	Born Kilcoy
3. Colin David DICK	Born Kilcoy
4. Roland Francis FITZGERALD	Born Kilcoy
5. Reginald James HARRIS	noted on P38 of Kilcoy War Service Book
6. Rupert Brodie KING	noted on P49 of Kilcoy War Service Book
7. William Henry MAXWELL	Born Kilcoy
8. Albert Thomas Finlay McKAY	Born Kilcoy
9. Keith McCLEOD	Local to Woodford on enlistment
10. Ronald Ole RAAEN	Born Woodford
11. Raymond Arthur RODGERS	Born Kilcoy
12. John SINCLAIR	Born Kilcoy
13. Eric George STANTON	Born Kilcoy
14. Hilton Alfred STANTON	Born Kilcoy

Upon researching these individuals records it was found that on one occasion one of the servicemen died in Kilcoy in 1954 and it was his mother that applied for his service medals.

It is inferred by me that he may have just wanted to recover from the ill-treatment and suffering that the Japanese had issued out and just wanted to forget.

Given that is what occurs now for PTSD sufferers and 70 years has now passed, I think it is high time that their service should be remembered.

Considering what these men had been through and sacrificed it should be reconsidered that their names should take their rightful place of honour on the Kilcoy War Memorial panels.

## Service Records

There are 11 individuals whose War Service Records are yet to be examined by the National Archives and released for public viewing online.

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Roland Francis FITZGERALD |                            |
| 2. Rex KROPP                 |                            |
| 3. Keith McCLEOD             |                            |
| 4. John Alexander McINTYRE   |                            |
| 5. Patrick RIDING            |                            |
| 6. Raymond Arthur RODGERS    |                            |
| 7. John SINCLAIR             |                            |
| 8. Eric George STANTON       |                            |
| 9. Louis KELLY               | Died on Burma Thai Railway |
| 10. George Alex FORD         | Died on Burma Thai Railway |
| 11. Charles AMOS             | Died on Burma Thai Railway |