

# David Kilpatrick Anderson

David's father was a mining engineer and David was born in South Africa in 1905. He lived in Scotland until the age of fifteen/sixteen years when he left to go to work in the Mercantile Bank of India, in London. He was then sent to Malaya and it is there he met and married his wife, Ethel.

They lived in Singapore with their daughter Jean prior to the war. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942, Singapore was invaded by the Japanese so Ethel and Jean were evacuated to Australia for the duration of the war.

David was a bank manager in Singapore. One of his duties before being captured was the burning of bearer bonds; the largest amount he burned was \$100,000. The magistrate in charge of the operation rolled up the document to light his pipe, exclaiming "I have lit my pipe with \$100,000 bill, something to tell my grandchildren." David also recalled that he paid £3 for an egg, milk powder at £60 a tin, sold a fountain pen for £100 and worked all day for a teaspoon of salt.

He was interned in Changi jail where he worked in the kitchen. He put eggshells in dried egg powder to make the prisoners think they were eating real eggs. He kept the seeds from tinned tomatoes to grow tomato plants from them. He dropped to 6 stone in weight while he was there.

Ethel did not celebrate VE (Victory in Europe) Day as her husband was still in Changi jail. It was not until the 15th August 1945 that the Japanese surrendered – subsequently referred to as VJ (Victory in Japan) Day.

[account summary written and supplied by his daughter, Wheathampstead resident Pat Walker, with extracts from the 'Journal of the British Association of Malaysia and Singapore': May 1973 edition]