

MALAYAN VOLUNTEERS GROUP



V-J

V-J DAY SERVICE

FRIDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2014

12 NOON

THE MVG MEMORIAL GARDEN

The National Memorial Arboretum

WELCOMING REMARKS

WREATH LAYING 2 MINUTES SILENCE

“ABIDE WITH ME”

**SATB arrangement by Lisa Ho
Dedicated to the Malayan Volunteers of WW1 & 2**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 102 Vs: 1 - 12

“A SOLDIER'S SONNET”

**By John Jarman
of the 51st Highland Division**

We do not ask that fate shall mitigate
Whatever hardships we may have to bear.
Nor that we shall not suffer in our share,
Or more, whatever come of wounds and hate:
We do not ask for any recompense
Nor for remembrance in the triumph-day.
Our youth is wasted in its own defence;
Not all your laurels can restore to us
The years that are taken away
With every untouched promise that they bore.
Only we pray that when the guns cease fire
We may return, and not find all things changed.
That then in answer to our heart's desire
We find love waiting, that we feared estranged.

READING FROM "DOWN TO BEDROCK"
The Diary and Secret Notes of Eric Cordingley
FEPOW Chaplain – 18th Division
PRAYERS
THE LORD'S PRAYER

READINGS FROM
"PRIEST IN PRISON" by John Hayter &
"SURVIVING TENKO" by Penny Starns

"THE CAPTIVES' HYMN"
By Margaret Dryburgh

Father, in captivity
We would lift our prayer to Thee,
Keep us ever in Thy love,
Grant us daily we may prove
Those who place their trust in Thee
More than conquerors may be.

Give us patience to endure,
Keep our hearts serene and pure,
Grant us courage, charity,
Greater faith, humility,
Readiness to own Thy will,
Be we free, or captive still.

For our country we would pray,
In this hour be Thou her stay,
Pride and selfishness forgive,
Teach her by Thy laws to live,
By Thy grace may all men see
That true greatness comes from Thee.

For our loved ones we would pray,
Be their Guardian night and day,
From all danger keep them free,
Banish all anxiety.
May they trust us to Thy care,
Know that Thou our pains dost share.

May the day of freedom dawn,
Peace and Justice be reborn.
Grant that nations, loving Thee,
O'er the world may brothers be,
Cleansed by suffering, know rebirth,
See Thy Kingdom come on earth.

"THE VIGIL"
A Commemorative Poem
By Margaret Dryburgh
ADDRESS BY SIR PERCY McNEICE
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE PLAQUE
IN ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, SINGAPORE
TO MSC MEMBERS WHO DIED IN WW2

"WHAT IS A FEPOW?"
By Queenie Spink (1992)

What is a FEPOW? A FEPOW is one
Who fought a great battle, without sword or gun,
Who suffered starvation, torture, disease,
When captured by the Japanese.
Stripped of his dignity, degraded and hit,
The FEPOW fought back with courage and grit.
No longer a fight for King and Country
But a fight for survival in captivity.
Herded like cattle, worked the day long,
His body grew weak but his spirit was strong,
Determined to win the fight to survive,
To outwit the Japs, and to stay alive.
Some couldn't make it; laid to rest there,
No flowers, no parades, just a tear and a prayer.
Never forgotten, remembered still
By their comrades who buried them there on the hill.
So – what is a FEPOW? A FEPOW is one
Unique among men, a hero unsung.

THE EXHORTATION

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

FEPOW PRAYER

And we who are left grow old with the years,
Remembering the heartache, the pain and the tears.
Hoping and praying that never again
Man will sink to such sorrow and shame.
The price that was paid, we will always remember
Every day, every month, not just in November.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM.

THE KOHIMA EPITAPH

When you go home, tell them of us and say
"For your tomorrow, we gave our today".