

"FREEDOM"

By Lt. Robert Fletcher

For every little boy and girl it's always been the thing
To honour all those authors who the praise of freedom sing.
But don't you be like them, my son, when you to school are sent;
Those smug complacent poets never knew what freedom meant.

Secure in England's land they sang "We must be free or die" –
Those who had never even felt the threat of tyranny.
But if you're seeking praises that are not mere fulsome cant,
A victim of the Kempei or Gestapo's what you want.

For when you've had to fawn upon a callous, vicious foe
To get a wretched dole of food, or when you've had to go
And labour in a chain-gang with your friends who once were free –
Then, and only then, you'll know the worth of liberty.

So when the theme is freedom and the poet free and fat,
Just take a prisoner's word for it, he's talking through his hat.
And ask yourself this question when you next read Burke and Co.
"What can they know of freedom, they who only freedom know?"

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".

CLOSING MUSIC

March No: 4 in 'G' major

from Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance." Op.39

**THE WREATH WILL NOW BE TAKEN TO
THE MVG'S MEMORIAL GARDEN PLOT
PLEASE FOLLOW IF YOU WISH**

MALAYAN VOLUNTEERS GROUP



V-J DAY SERVICE

**WEDNESDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2018
12 NOON**

**THE CHAPEL
and
MVG'S MEMORIAL GARDEN**

**The National Memorial Arboretum
Alrewas**

**INTRODUCTORY MUSIC – Gerald Lindner
“Nimrod”
From Elgar’s “Enigma variations.” Op.36**

**WELCOMING REMARKS
Rosemary Fell**

**WREATH LAYING
2 MINUTES SILENCE**

ABIDE WITH ME

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
Ecclesiastes Ch. 3 Vs. 1-13**

**“HIGH FLIGHT”
By John Gillespie Magee, Jr.**

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I’ve climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – Wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov’ring there
I’ve chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air..
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I’ve topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark not eagle flew –
And, while with silent lifting mind I’ve trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

**“A TYPICAL DAY IN CHANGI”
An extract from Col. C. A. Scott’s diary
“Nip and Thai”**

**PRAYERS
THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**“INVICTUS”
By William Ernest Henley**

**“THE RAINBOW THROUGH THE RAIN”
An extract from Geoffrey Mowat’s book**

**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.

**“BY EASTERN WINDOWS”
An extract from the last chapter of
William McDougall’s book**