

Remembering Private Nemec – 1st Btn., SSVF

Salesman, Bata Shoe Company, Singapore

A 75th Anniversary Memorial Document to the Bata Czechoslovaks in Singapore and Malaya during The Fall of Singapore in February 1942

Kranji War Cemetery – Singapore

(heartlandtourist.files.wordpress.com)



Monument to Victims of WWII – Zlin

(d34-a.sdn.szn.cz)



Foreword

“Directly in the path of the invading Japanese hordes lay the Princess Alexandria Hospital [sic] in Singapore. Guarded by a detachment of Gurkha troops they were ordered by a Japanese officer to lay down their arms. The Ghurka NCO replied that this was not a military target but a civilian hospital. Angered by their refusal to disarm, the Japanese officer ordered his men to seize and kill two dozen of the Ghurka guards. This order was promptly carried out and the Nippon soldiers then entered the hospital. The wholesale slaughter which followed defies description, sick and dying patients being butchered in their beds. Some were just shot, others clubbed and bayoneted and not a few were beheaded by the sword. A number of the victims were survivors from the Prince of Wales and Repulse. The scene of carnage resembled an abattoir, disembowelled patients sprawled everywhere”. (compunews.com/gus/massacres.html.)

Following all the threads available from several sources it would appear that Silvestr Nemeč was possibly a casualty at the Alexandra Hospital at the time, a witness to and a tragic victim of this barbaric atrocity. More than 200 Britons were killed in this bloodbath, only a lucky few escaped (Gravesend Reporter, 07 January 2009). What is not entirely clear is whether Nemeč died in this attack, or survived somehow and died a few days later. The carnage went on for several days. Ivan Prochazka in his *Expatriates in the Far East* narrative reports him as being killed at the Alexandra. Marus Bohman’s memoirs note that Larry Kent, formerly Ladislav Kvapil, recalled that a Czech boy was among those who were cold-bloodedly bayoneted in their hospital beds.

Silvestr Nemeč was sixteen when he joined Bata in Zlin. He became a salesman and on 31st December 1938 was transferred to Singapore at the age of 19. His death is recorded as 17th February 1942. He was 22 years old. It appears he volunteered for service in Jan/Feb 1941 along with Rudolf Janeček and Karel Vitek. None of the trio was to survive the conflict.

A newspaper article written by E. Macel (ZO CSBS Malenovice – date unknown) bore the headline:

“Zapomenuti batovci na Dalnem vychode ve 2. Svetove valce”. Translated it reads:

“Forgotten Batamen in the Far East in the 2nd World War”.

This document hopefully will help them be remembered.

Here is a record of the Bata Czechoslovaks in Singapore and Malaya at the time of the Surrender of Singapore in February 1942.

In an ironic twist of fate, in order for Lieutenant General Percival to make the 4:30 pm appointment at the Ford building complex on time to surrender to General Yamashita, ***“Percival himself had to borrow a vehicle from the Bata shoe people for his ride to surrender”***. (Bernard Grindrod – The Singapore Debacle).

Timeline to the Surrender of Singapore on 15th Feb 1942

The publication **Bata 1931-1951: 20 Years of Progress in Malaya** provides a timeline of the Bata Shoe operations in Malaya and Singapore leading up to the Fall of Singapore in 1942 as follows:

1930 - Capitol Building Shop in Singapore was opened (Note: There is conflicting information available in several websites which nominate both 1930 and 1931 as the appropriate opening date for this shop)

1931 - Incorporation of the company in Singapore

1934 - Arrival of additional personnel to undertake development projects

1934 - Purchase of Rubber Estate at Kulai, Johore

1936 - Rubber-shoe Factory built in Klang

1937 - Rubber-shoe Factory commenced production

1938 - Arrival of V J Rojt to start leather-shoe production

1939 - Bata Building opens in Singapore and Leather-shoe Factory starts production

1941 - Death of Mr V J Rojt, general manager

1941 - Pacific War reached Malaya, 8th December

1942 - Klang Factory bombed and destroyed under the Scorched Earth policy, 4th January

1942 - Singapore Factory bombed, 30th January

1942 - Singapore Factory completely destroyed under Scorched Earth policy, 15th February

The Scorched Earth policy referred to the activity of totally destroying stock, machinery and buildings to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy.

Here is the link to a short film made about the Bata factory in 1942 sourced from the Australian War Memorial. The film is a two-part presentation with the segment on the factory, presumed to be the Singapore location, titled "2. Boots". <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/F00982/>

As with other Bata operations around the world, life-styles revolved around community and participation. It was not unusual to host an enjoyable lunch for the employees, followed by a sports meeting. This sequence was noted, no doubt tongue in cheek, as being the reason no athletic records were broken (Bata 1931-1951: 20 Years of Progress in Malaya). The Singapore Bata Sports Club supported a football team called the "Moravians". Czech employees were known to actively participate in open tennis and badminton fixtures. Little were they to know the disruption and upheaval to their lives that lay ahead in the years to come.



Photos above show the Singapore factory after it was bombed and finally completely destroyed on 15th February under the Scorched Earth Policy. (Photos courtesy of the Bartos collection).

Contributions to War Funds

As the war came closer to home the Bata Czechs were individually generous in contributing to not only the War Fund but also the Polish Relief Fund. Bata was also a major company contributor to such fundraisings, sometimes coming up with novel ways of raising funds. On 5th January 1942, The Straits Times carried a story about a unique donation by the company:

“We have the pleasure to enclose herewith a cheque for \$19.60 in favour of the War Fund. This is a donation from this company at the rate of 20 cents for every sale of a pair of shoes of a type called ‘Victory’”.

The Malayan Volunteer Forces

An article from 26th November 1940 in The Straits Times titled **Czechs Give Fullest Support to L.D.C.** highlights the commitment of the Bata Czechs to the war effort.

“No fewer than 31 out of the 50 odd Czechs in Singapore have applied to join the Local Defence Corps, and The Straits Times understands that the entire male members of the Czech colony here may eventually join up. The 31 applications already received are from the staff of the Bata Shoe Company in Singapore.”

At that time, the L.D.C. was appealing to the public for double-barrelled hammerless shot guns, hardly the weapons of choice to hold back the onslaught of a Japanese invasion.

The Batamen joined two main volunteer groups. The fact that as young men they had to serve 18 months in national service mandated by their homeland was no doubt to their advantage and prepared them better for the conflict ahead.

- **The Local Defence Corps**

This was organised as a Home Guard which was formed in October 1940. The L.D.C was also available to support the State Volunteer Forces. (www.malayanvolunteersgroup.org.uk)

- **The Straits Settlements Volunteer Force**

These were multi-racial battalions organised on a military basis wherein the volunteers were required to continue with their civilian duties. (www.malayanvolunteersgroup.org.uk)

The SSVF had four battalions. The 1st and 2nd battalions consisted of members of the Singapore Volunteer Corps. The Batamen were all assigned to the 1st battalion.

Members of the L.D.C. honoured at the Singapore Memorial include Heim and Plhon. Others in the SSVF honoured at Kranji War Cemetary include Janeczek, Nemecek and Vitek. These same men are also all honoured at the Sad Komenskeho Zlin, a Monument to the Victims of WWII.

On the following page are copies of the original passes issued to volunteer forces at the time.

Local Defence Corps Passes & SSVF Crest

(Copies of actual documents courtesy of Boda family)

No. K/LDC 8 Date 1-1-42

SELANGOR DEFENCE CORPS.

This pass is issued to:

Rank 2/Capt. A. J. No. 180

Name J. BODA

of the Selangor Defence Corps and is to be produced on request by any authorised person as evidence that he is a member of the Corps.

(Sgd.) [Signature]
Adjutant,
Selangor Defence Corps.

N.B. The holder is personally responsible for the safety of this pass, but in the event of its loss an immediate report should be made to the Adjutant, Selangor Defence Corps.

20268-200-21-3-41-R 8/191.

35108-2,000-3/39 Police 171

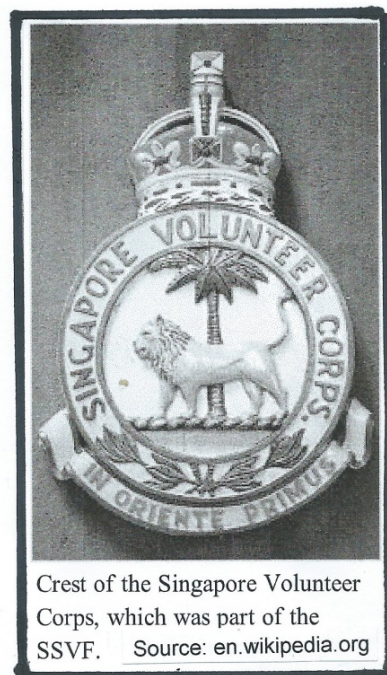
70

**STRAITS SETTLEMENTS POLICE
WARRANT CARD**

[Signature]
has been regularly appointed as
Member S.S.P.U.
and is vested with all the powers
and privileges conferred by the
Police Force Ordinance (Chapter
177).

Issued at Singapore this 20th
day of January, 1942

[Signature]
Inspector-General



Crest of the Singapore Volunteer Corps, which was part of the SSVF. Source: en.wikipedia.org

Below is the official payroll record for three of the Czechoslovaks in the volunteer forces. It shows they were paid to 31/1/1942 at the time. The entries are for:

Reg No. 179 - Mysaz F (should be Mysak)

Reg No 180 - Boda J

Reg No 181 - Klobil F (should be Hlobil)

Reg. No	NAME	RANK	ADDRESS	Paid to	Claims (other than pay) outstanding	Remarks
--	PRIEST MAURICE	CORP	unknown-posted to S.S.V.C.in Singapore by Man Power Bureau. Jan 15.42.	31/1/42	Req.Car. Depts.allce	?
--	YEATES GEORGE	PTE.	do	31/12/41	unknown-no car claim.	?
-	KING JAMES	do	unknown.posted to Singapore Harbour Board 15/1/42	do	do	
--	SINCLAIR JAMES	L.Corp.	do	do	do	
<u>KLANG -and- PORTSWETTENHAM PLATOON</u>						
496	HERRIOTT GUY (O.C.)	2nd Lt.	ascertaining.	31/1/42	Req.Car. depds. allce.	
116	YOUTMAN A.W.	do	do did not serve in S.S.U seconded to R.Navy Nov.1941- attached Ulu Coy S.S.U. on deasing to be employed by R.Navy Feb.1942.	do	do	
104	MOR TIMER A.H.	Pte.	unknown- The Cottage LEZAYNE Isle of Men.	do	Depds.allce.No car.	
106	BROWN G.M.	C. & M.	unknown	do	Req.Car.Depds.allce	
107	Mc GANN T.J.	Corp.	"	do	do	
115	CC LIFTON F.H.	A/L/Corp.	"	do	do	
120	NICHOLS ON D.	Corp.	60, Mor ningfield Road ABERDEEN	do	do	
122	PH INGLE G.C.	Sub- Squad?	Crown Cottage South Clyffe SCARBOROUGH	do	do	
123	HARPER H.H.	do	unknown	do	do	
179	MYSAZ F.	Pte.	do CHECKZ	do	No Car. depds. allce	
180	BODA J.	do	do	do	do	
181	KLOBIL F	do	do	do	do	

Records provided courtesy of Jonathan Moffatt and Jan Beranek

He perished at the Alexandra Military Hospital

Nemec, Silvestr

Private, #13779, 1st Btn., Straits Settlement Volunteer Force. Born 20.10.1919. Died 17.2.42. Recorded on Column 396 at Kranji Cemetery. Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – left block, right side.

Nemec was assigned to the defence of the beaches along with other Czechs. It appears that he was wounded in battle, probably shell-shocked, and transported to a hospital in Singapore which, based on the narrative in History of Batamen in Malaysia, was most likely the Alexandra. It is not known whether he survived the carnage of 14th February. If he escaped miraculously he was not heard of again and there are no records of him at the Changi POW camp. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has recorded his death as 17.2.42, three days after the Alexandra massacre, or two days after the surrender. Ivan Prochazka reports him as being killed at the Alexandra.

Alexandra Military Hospital

The Alexandra Military Hospital was built in the 1930s and was mooted to be the most modern and largest military hospital. Located close behind the hospital were a large number of fuel tanks which made this area an obvious military target. However, this did not justify the atrocities perpetrated there commencing 14th February 1942 as it was clearly identified as a hospital facility. This violation was described as “the largest and most awful massacre of World War II”. (www.secondtwentiethbattalionaiif.wordpress.com).

“As they got closer they bayoneted patients and staff, even a patient who was still anaesthetised on the operating table was bayoneted to death..... Some of the injured, despite painful wounds, played dead..... Wounded patients and staff that did survive this massacre were taken prisoner and were bound and force marched to some buildings nearby to the Ayer Rajah Road. Any that fell down were bayoneted to death”. (www.qaranc.co.uk)

The Foreword contains a more graphic account of the atrocity. The internet is replete with countless others. Whether Silvestr Nemec was among the 200 buried under the present soccer field or not is not known, but he has been honoured at the Kranji War Cemetery and the Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial.

The first photo on the following page shows the hospital in 1938, the year that it opened. The photo below it was taken in 1942 and shows about ten of the large fuel tanks situated north-west of the hospital. They do not appear to be there today.

Alexandra Military Hospital, Singapore

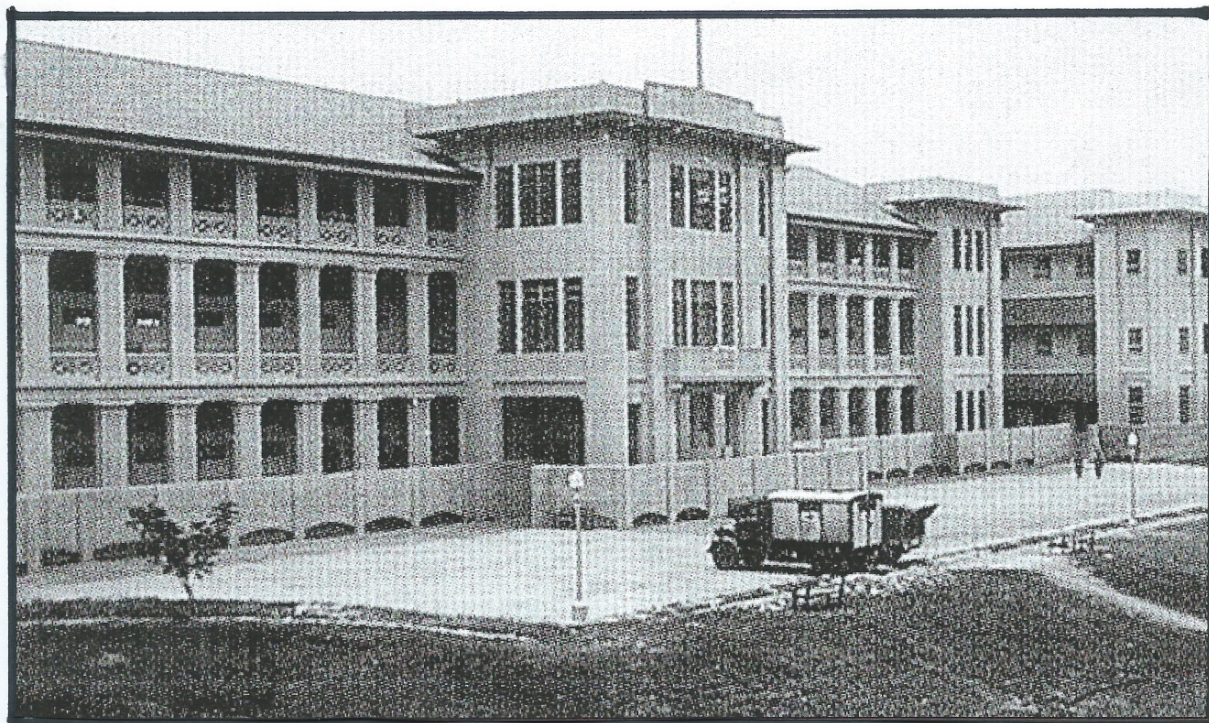


Photo: www.myqueenstown.blogspot.com.au

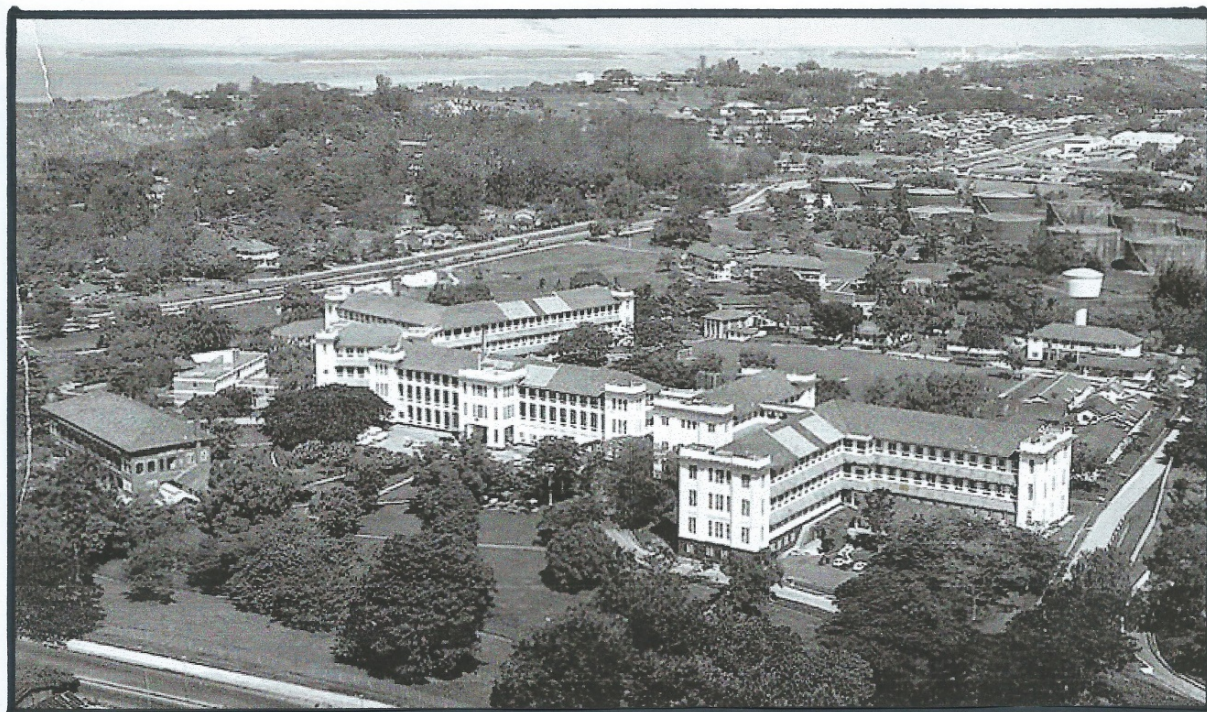


Photo: www.secondtwentiethbattalionaif.files.wordpress.com and www.flickr.com

The men who perished in POW Camps

Janecek, Rudolf

Private. #13778, 1st Btn., SSVF. Born 21.8.1919. He was a POW in Changi and part of 'Force E' which left for Borneo on 28.3.43. He died of Beri Beri and Malaria on 13.2.45 at Batu Lintang/Kuching POW camp. Recorded on Column 395 at Kranji Cemetery. (MP) Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – left block, right side.

Janecek was single and a salesman/pedicurist for Bata. He was assigned to the defence of the beaches along with other Czechs (HBM).

Vitek , Karel

Private, #13777, 1st Btn., SSVF. Born 6.7.1912. He was wounded, captured and as a POW left Singapore in 'Force E' on 28.3.43 for Borneo where he died of malaria on 18.3.45 at Batu Lintang/Kuching POW camp. Recorded on Column 398 at Kranji Cemetery. (MP) Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – left block, right side.

Vitek was an accountant and assigned to the defence of the beaches. (HBM)

'E Force'

Janecek and Vitek would have been with the thousand strong British and Australian prisoners who were assembled in Changi. They were transported for four days, cramped in the cargo holds of an old merchant steamer, the *de Clerk*, with little water and terrible sanitary conditions. They disembarked in Kuching and they ended up at the Batu Lintang camp where the death toll was 60%. (MP).

Batu Lintang Camp

This was a Japanese internment camp which held both allied POWs and civilian internees. ***Life in the camp was harsh, with POWs and internees alike forced to endure food shortages, disease and sickness for which scant medicine was available, forced labour, brutal treatment and lack of adequate clothing and living quarters.***(Wikipedia). The camp opened in March 1942 and was liberated in September 1945. Janecek and Vitek did not survive to enjoy freedom.

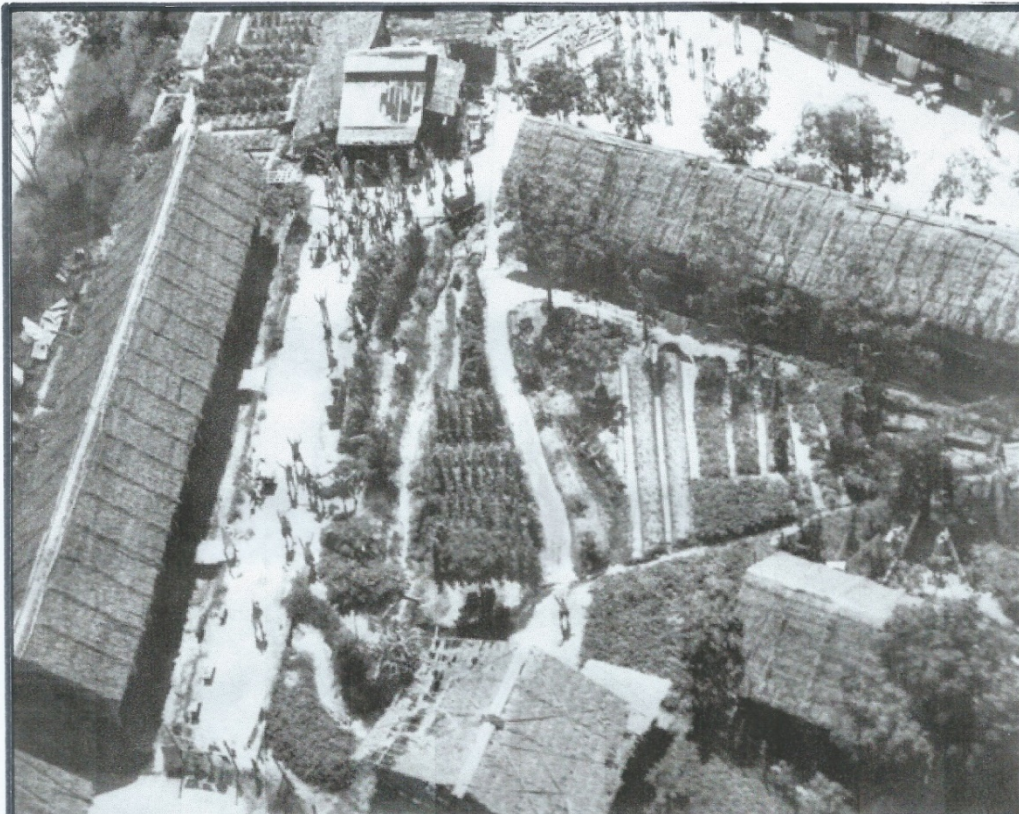
Kuching Cemetery

While the dead were initially buried at Kuching Cemetery, the high death rate required a new cemetery area to be created next to the camp. The bodies were first buried in coffins but soon the sheer number of dead and a shortage of timber resulted in shrouds made from rice sacks or blankets were used. Wooden coffins with hinged bottoms were made to allow re-use.

The bodies were exhumed and sent to Labuan Cemetery for re-burial in the main, but no records appear for Janecek and Vitek. They are, however, honoured on Columns at the Kranji Cemetery and at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial. The photos following show the Batu Lintang Camp and Kuching Cemetery.

Batu Lintang/Kuching POW Camp and Cemetery

Rudolf Janacek and Karel Vitek came to this camp as part of 'Force E' which left Singapore on 28.3.1943. Janacek died of Beri Beri on 13.2.1945 and Vitek died of malaria on 18.3.1945. No doubt they were buried in the camp cemetery shown below. An observation made by Michael Pether in an email of 20/11/2015 stated "this POW camp for Ordinary ranks was up with the worst of Japanese camps anywhere".



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

129037



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

116974

The men who perished at sea during evacuation

Heim, Bedrich

Private, #311, Local Defense Corps (Singapore). Born 30.1.1909. Recorded on column 464 at Singapore Memorial. (CWGC) Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – right flagstone, front side.

He may have been on the SS Redang when it was sunk, and perished. He was definitely on a ship but a specific one has not as yet been identified. (MP)

Plhon, Klement

Private, #344 Local Defense Corps (Singapore). Born 30.12.1890. Recorded on Column 404 at Singapore Memorial. (CWGC). He died during the sinking of the SS Redang on 12.2.1942. (MP) Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – right block, right side.

Smrzak, Oldrich

Born 14.7.1913. Died on the SS Redang when it was shelled and sunk on 12.2.1942. (MP) Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – left block, right side.

Strangfeld, Josef

Born 23.8.1904. Died in a life-boat from wounds inflicted in the bombing of the SS Redang. His body was eased overboard from the lifeboat in order to provide space for other swimming survivors (MP) Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – right block, right side.

Straussler, Eugen

Born 7.1.1908. He may have been on the SS Redang when it was sunk and perished. He was definitely on a ship but a specific one has not as yet been identified. (MP) Recorded at Sad Komenskeho Zlin Memorial – left block, right side.

S S Redang

It is understood that Plhon, Smrzak and Strangfeld died on the evacuation ship S S Redang. Heim and Straussler were possibly on it as well though positive proof is not available. Other passengers who survived were Cervinka and Zelnicek. It is probable that Kos may have also been on board.

The commentary following about the S S Redang draws entirely on the research undertaken and draft document prepared by Michael Pether in April 2015.

The S S Redang was one of about 44 ships of all sizes which were assembled to leave as a convoy during the 48-hour period of 11th to 13th February. It was a modest size ship making only about 8.5 – 9 knots while providing cargo services on the coast of Siam and Malaya. It was seized by the British Government on 9th December 1941 upon arrival in Singapore. While estimates vary, it was believed to be carrying up to 100 passengers and ten crew including officers, during its ill-fated voyage.

It is believed that it was the IJN destroyer Asagiri that shelled and sank the S S Redang, though in the area were also known to be a sister destroyer, Fubuki, and the light cruiser Yura. This was a formidable mismatch of heavily armed, speedy warships taking on a slow merchant ship with no armament. The S S Redang did not stand a chance against these predators.

Vessel	Type	Year Built	Tons	Length (Feet)	Speed (Knots)
S S Redang	Merchant ship	1901	500	165	8.5 – 9
Asagiri	Destroyer	1929	1,780	388.5	38
Fubuki	Destroyer	1927	1,780	388.5	38
Yura	Light Cruiser	1922	5,659	531	36

Within 5 minutes of opening fire by the warships, the ship was ablaze. Two young ladies were killed instantly while typing out the passenger list in the Chief engineer's room. Most of the passengers rushed below seeking safety but were either killed by splinters or burnt to death. In the chaos that followed it was possible to lower only one of the life-boats and it is reported that there were only about 30 survivors. Strangfeld was on this life-boat, his leg blown off. When he died he was eased off the side to enable other survivors in the sea to be picked up.

The lifeboat reached the coast of Sumatra on the afternoon of 14th February. The survivors had a minimal supply of evaporated milk, biscuits and half a barrel of fresh water. On the 16th they were picked up by the HMS Tapah which had only the day before picked up other survivors from the HMS Giang Bee.

The HMS Tapah hugged the coast of Sumatra up to the Banka Straits when they were soon confronted by a Japanese warship. The survivors of the S S Redang were now to end up being internees of the Japanese occupation forces in Sumatra. The men and women were separated. They endured years of privation, sickness and desperation with many of them losing their lives.

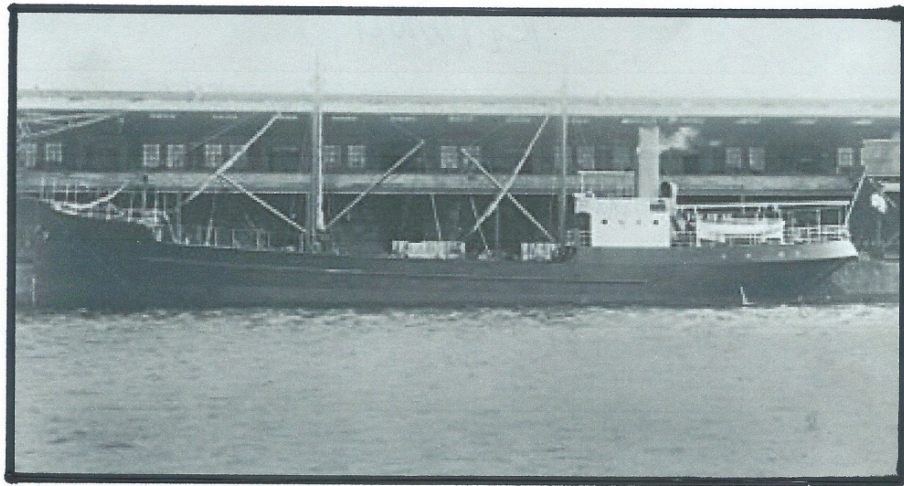


Photo: www.wrecksite.eu

SS REDANG

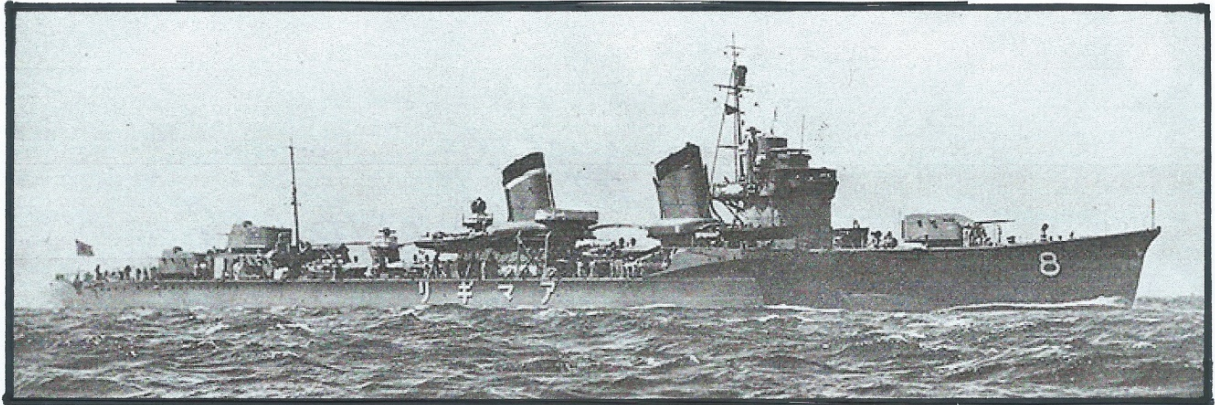


Photo: www.ibiblio.org

Japanese Destroyer ASAGIRI

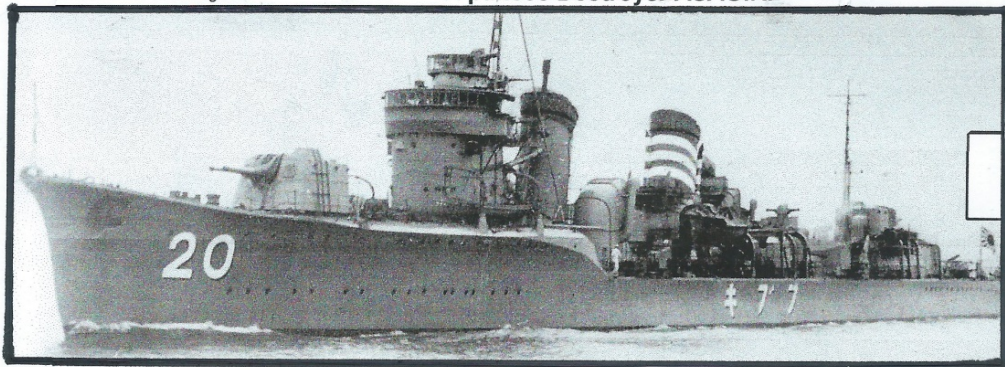


Photo: en.wikipedia.org

Japanese Destroyer FUBUKI



Photo: www.ibiblio.org

Japanese Light Cruiser YURA

Those interned in Changi and Sime Road Camps

Changi Camp

In February 1942, European and Eurasian civilian men and women internees were crowded into Changi Prison which was built to accommodate 600 inmates but now had to cater for about 2,400. The women and children occupied one wing of the prison until 1944 when they were moved into the Sime Road camp. The death rate of these civilian internees was not nearly as high as the Burma railway POW camps or the Batu Lintang POW internment camp because they were housed in the better facilities but it increased over time. Dysentery and malaria were the main problems but at least a small supply of drugs available eased the situation. (www.awm.gov.au).

Sime Road Camp

In May 1944 all the European, Eurasian and Chinese internees in Changi were relocated to Sime Road camp which was a collection of 'attap' roofed huts housing about 100 persons in each, located on the site of an old RAF accommodation site. It was ostensibly a more liberal environment where internees were allowed to attend religious services, grow their own vegetables and move about freely within the confines of the camp. At the same time in 1944, more than 3,000 military prisoners were transferred into Changi prison. (MP)

Michael Pether has commented that an important consideration in the better survival rates of the Czechs is that they stuck together. Loners tended to have a hard time and higher death rate. They were all together in Block D on the fourth floor and shared cells. In Sime Road, all but one of them was in Hut 114 where a tiny space less than three feet wide was allocated to each man. In the end, Sime Road was a far worse camp than Changi because closer to the end the Japanese were losing the war. As a result food became more scarce and medicines almost unavailable.

Details of the men interned and their locations follow.

References to Cell locations are:

1st Number – Block, 2nd Number – Floor, 3rd Number – Cell

For example Cell 4.4.25 refers to Block D, 4th Floor, Cell No 25.

(Changi ID Numbers and Cell references come from Michael Pether and Changi Museum records.)

Ambroz, Pavel

Born 1912. Changi ID 110. Interned in Cell 4.4.25. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmates were Mraz and Cepka. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

He was in a machine-gun unit. (HBM)

Bohman, Mateo

Born 1911. Changi ID 470. Interned in Cell 4.4.26. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmates were Matus and Jugas. Internment commences 6.12.1943.

Records indicate he was an engineer with Bata. He was in a machine-gun unit and under heavy enemy mortar fire defending their position along with Australian volunteer Edward. He carried wounded comrades to the hospital and was in turn also wounded. (HBM, IP)

Cepka, Alois

Born 1910. Changi ID 770. Interned in Cell 4.4.25. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmates were Mraz and Ambroz. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

He was a sapper, 1st Btn. SSVF. SRE(V) #12973. He was in a rifle unit on the beaches. (HBM)

Chudarek, Stanislav

Born 1914. Changi ID 824. Interned in Cell 4.4.18. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmate was Lebloch. At times his cellmates also included Canadians Brian Moran, Chief Purser, and Philip Radcliffe, Crown Counsel. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

He was a manager with Bata. After liberation he spent time recuperating from malaria in India and was assigned to Batanagar. In 1948 he was transferred to Singapore as Sales Manager before he was appointed managing director on the retirement of Mr Jugas. In 1963 he moved to Klang where he died in 1969.

Jedovnický, Stanislav

Born 1916. Changi ID 2519. Interned in Cell 4.4.11. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmate was Sokol. At times his cellmates also were James Carter, an Eurasian Planter, and later an Australian horse trainer. Internment commenced 26.12.1943.

Assigned to a machine-gun unit in the defense of the beaches along the coast. He was wounded (HBM, IP)

He was a Production Manager with Bata. After liberation he spent time at Batanagar in India. He migrated with his family to Sydney, Australia where he passed away in 2009.

Jugas, Antonio

Born 1901. Changi ID 2666. Interned in Cell 4.4.26. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmates were Bohman, Matus. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

Jugas began in Malaya in 1934 as a shop manager. In 1938 he was appointed as Manager and in 1941 promoted to General Manager of the company. He remained in Singapore after liberation to put the company back on its feet again. (Bata 1931-1951: 20 Years of Progress in Malaya).

Kozusnicek, Rudolf

Born 1910. Changi ID 2767. Interned in Cell 4.4.27. Cellmates were Varmuza and Mizia. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

He was an Accountant with Bata. He was in a machine-gun unit. He was wounded (HBM,IP)

Lebloch, Oldrich

Born 1914. Changi ID 2855. Interned in Cell 4.4.18. Hut 44 in Sime Road. Cellmate was Chudarek. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

Martinec, Bretislav

Born 1903. Changi ID 3117. Cell number in Changi and Hut number in Sime Road unknown. Internment commenced 16.12.1943.

Post-war movement traced to Bata Development Limited in London.

Matus, Emil

Born 1903. Changi ID 3135. Interned in Cell 4.4.26. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmates were Bohman and Jugas. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

Matus was the Head of the Singapore Branch. He was a machine-gunner and involved in a heroic defensive action against the Japanese forces (HBM, IP)

Mizia, Alfred

Born 1914. Changi ID 3425. Interned in Cell 4.4.27. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmates were Varmuza and Kozusnicek. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

Changi records have him being a merchant with Bata. His wife and two children were also interned in Changi. (Refer section Women and Children Interned in Changi).

Mraz, Jan

Born 1915. Changi ID 3561. Interned in Cell 4.4.25. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmates were Ambroz and Cepka. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

Changi records have him being a storekeeper for Bata. He was in a rifle unit on the beaches. (HBM)

Pospisil, Karel

Born 1911. Changi ID 3983. Cell number unknown. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Internment commenced 26.5.1944.

Sokol, Bretislav

Born 1910. Changi ID 4735. Interned in Cell 4.4.11. Hut 114 in Sime Road. Cellmate was Jedovnický. Internment commenced 26.12.1943.

He was the Factory Manager at Klang.

Varmuza, Josef

Born 1912. Changi ID 5182. Interned in Cell 4.4.27. Hut number in Sime Road unknown. Cellmates were Kozusnicek and Mizia. Internment commenced 6.12.1943.

Changi records have him being a merchant with Bata.

Zamara, Wilhelm

Born 1908. Changi ID 5606. Interned in Sime Hut 114. Internment commenced 26.5.1944.

Zamara started in Singapore with Bata but left to become a merchant with Remington.

All of these men were interned as civilians. There was one Czech who was in fact held as a prisoner of war in several of the POW camps and treated far more harshly as a result.

Vyhnalek, Josef

Private, #13794, 1st Btn., SSVF. He was wounded (IP) and a POW at Singapore Race Course, Sime Road, Selarang and Changi. He was a machine-gunner defending the strategic area of Gab Hill sustaining losses of 50%. He was captured and after the surrender involved in the Death March (IP)



Tomorrow is the 27th anniversary of the Czechoslovak National Day. The above is the photograph of the poster that was secretly made on the occasion of the 26th anniversary by the Czechoslovaks in the Japanese concentration camp in Singapore just one year ago.

Photo of poster from Batanagar News, courtesy of Jan Beranek.

The Bata Men Interned in Changi 1942-1945

Photo: Courtesy of Helene Giglietti (Staroba)



Front (L to R) Chudarek, Bohman, Matus, Jugas, Martinec, Sokol, Mizia

Rear (L to R)..... Ambroz, Mraz, Varmuza, Zamara, Pospisil, Cepka, Lebloch

*As the picture show, we all were
interned, including Mr. Koňusinská
who is not on this picture.
I think you know all of them. Jg*

Women & Children Interned in Changi

Mizia, Rose

Changi ID 3428. Wife of Alfred Mizia.

The family stayed on in Singapore after the war ended. Mrs Mizia opened and operated the Sunnyway Kindergarten.

Mizia, Ivy

Changi ID 3426. Six year old daughter.

Mizia, Raymond Alfred

Changi ID 3427. One year old son.

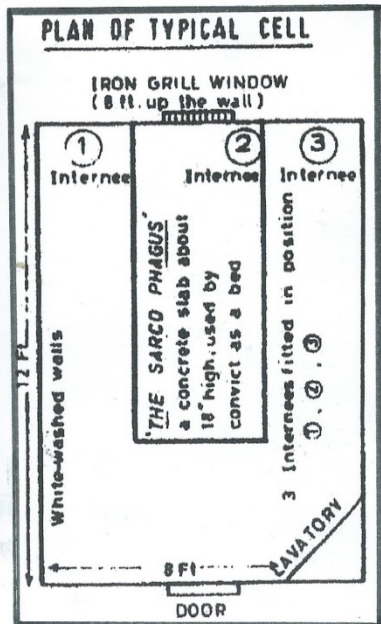
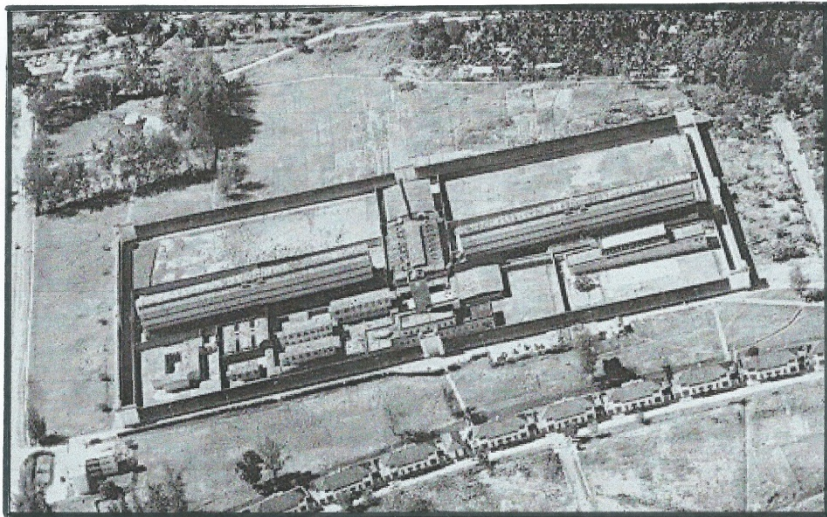
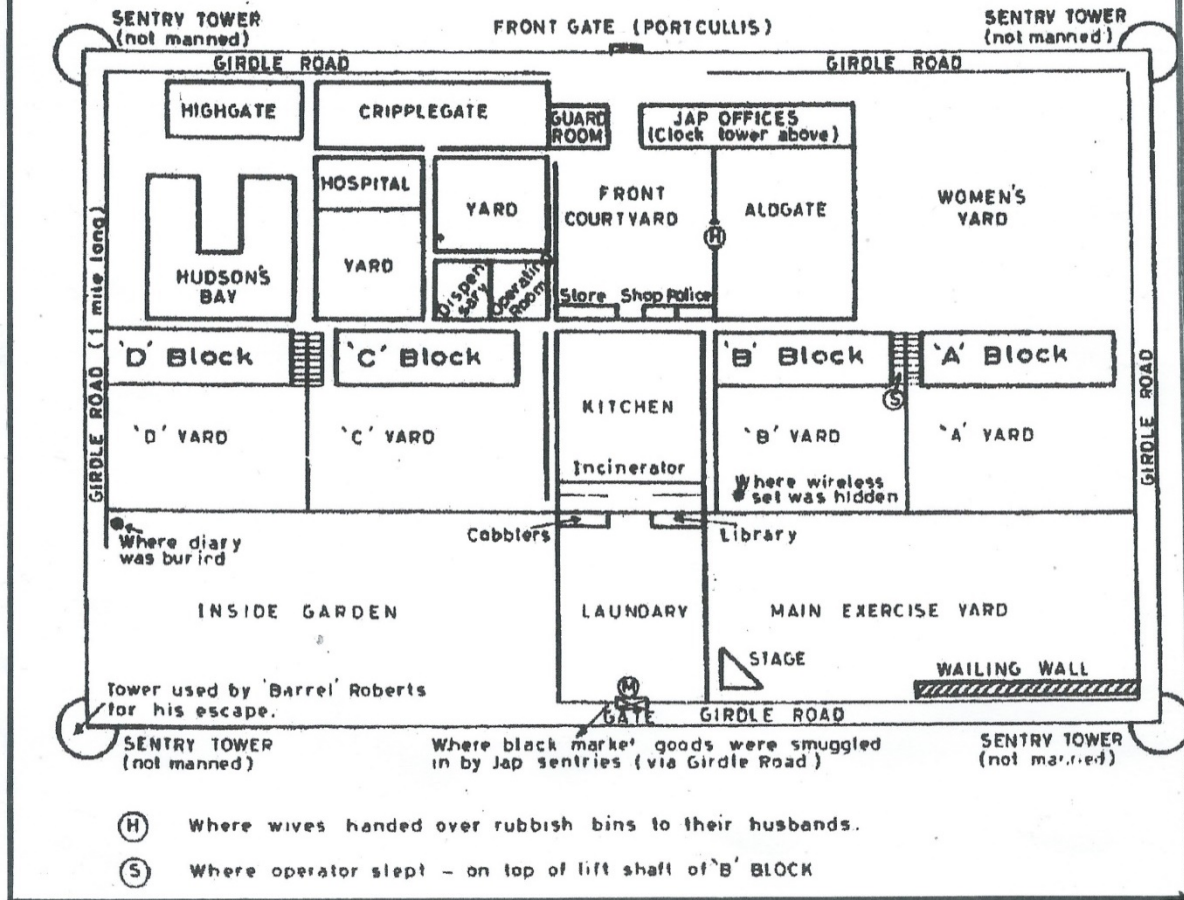
Photographs and Diagrams

- On the previous page is a group photo of fourteen of the Bata Men interned in Changi.
- On the following pages are a rough plan of Changi prison and a plan of a typical cell provided by Michael Pether. The aerial view of Changi prison comes from www.users.waitrose.com.

If you also visit www.diggerhistory.info/images/selarang/selarang-awm-3.jpg you will see a typical cell occupied by some Australian diggers.

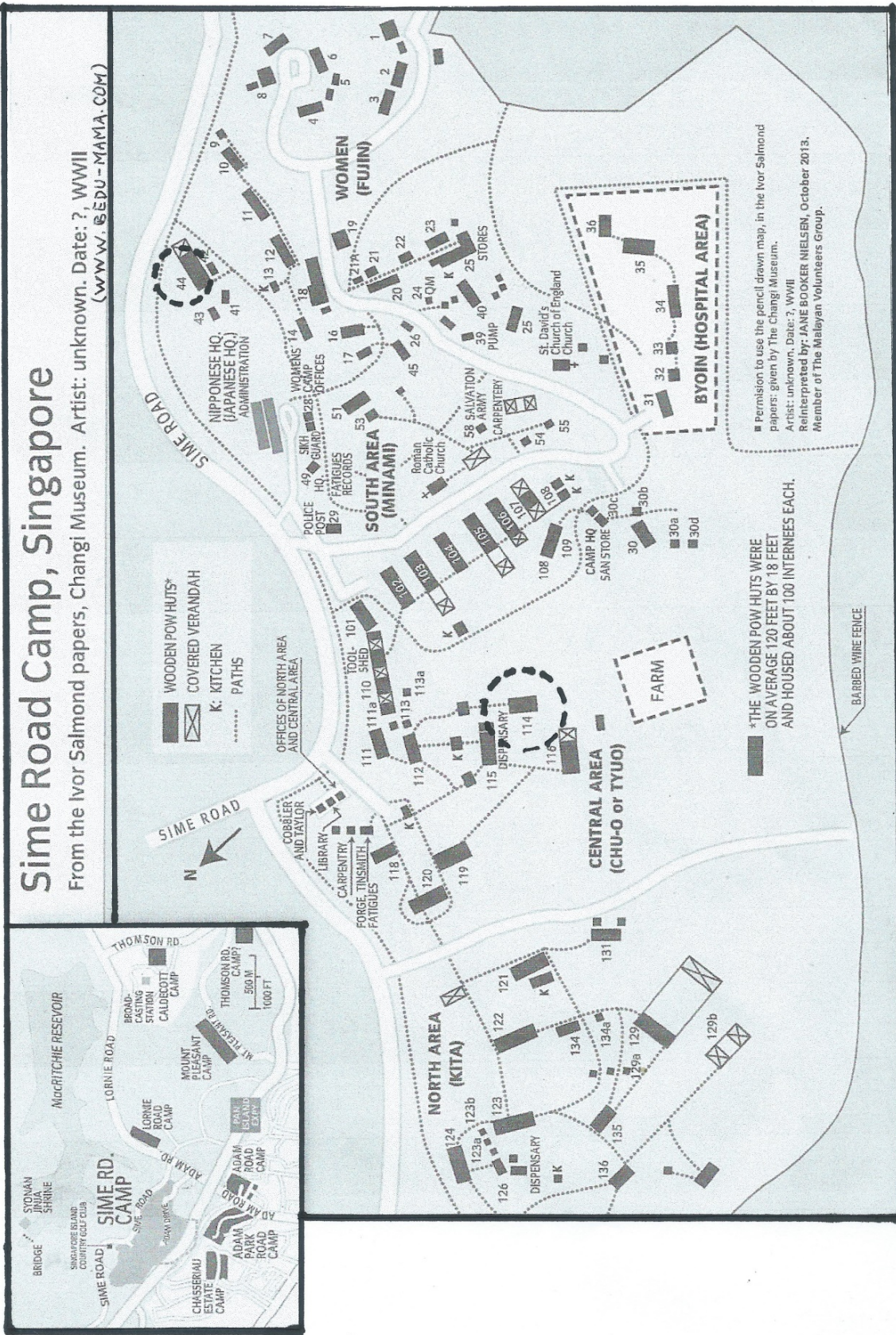
- A plan of the Sime Road Camp. The positions of Huts 114 and 44 are circled

ROUGH PLAN OF CHANGI PRISON (Ground floor) 1942 - 45.



Sime Road Camp, Singapore

From the Ivor Salmond papers, Changi Museum. Artist: unknown. Date: ?, WWII
 (WWW.BEDU-MAMA.COM)



Permission to use the pencil drawn map, in the Ivor Salmond papers, given by The Changi Museum.
 Artist: unknown. Date: ?, WWII
 Reinterpreted by: JANE BOOKER NIELSEN, October 2013.
 Member of The Malayan Volunteers Group.

*THE WOODEN POW HUTS WERE ON AVERAGE 120 FEET BY 18 FEET AND HOUSED ABOUT 100 INTERNEES EACH.

Source: www.bedu-mama.com

Others

Cervinka, Hynek

Survived the sinking of the SS Redang. Was briefly interned in Palembang camp and apparently returned to Singapore during 1942 (MP). At some later time Mr and Mrs Cervinka returned to Malenovice, Czech Republic.

Kos, V

Survived the sinking of the evacuation boat he was on. He returned for a period to Singapore after the war. He was later transferred to Bata Canada.

Zelnicek, Vladimir

He jumped off the SS Redang when it was sunk and swam towards shore. However, it appears he was picked up by a life-boat which was rescued by the HMS Tapah. (MP)

Zuna, Josef

He was a chiropodist with Bata Singapore and played soccer for the club Moravia as goal-keeper. He left Singapore to join the Czechoslovak Legion in France in 1939.

Rojt, Vaclav Pavel

While this document has concentrated essentially on the events of 1942, it would be remiss not to include a reference to Vaclav Paul Rojt. Mr Rojt was in Singapore in 1937 as Director of Bata's Far Eastern organisation to grow the company in the region. He died on 2nd July 1941 and was buried at Bidadari Cemetary on 4th July 1941. The funeral was attended by his Bata colleagues, the Czechoslovak Consul-General and other business representatives.

Sadly, Bidadari Cemetery was redeveloped to make way for a housing project. All burials were exhumed between 2001 and 2004, the remains cremated and most of the headstones crushed. The ashes were stored for three years to allow relatives to claim them for internment. Ashes not claimed were respectfully committed to the sea. Many of the remains were relocated to the Choa Chu Kang Cemetery, some to the Bidadari Garden location. Kranji War Cemetery received the remains of the soldiers of WWII. Records of these cemeteries failed to disclose that Mr Rojt's remains were buried at any of these sites. It is also not known if Mr Rojt's ashes were collected, possibly by relatives, for re-burial elsewhere.



The photos show Mr John Bartos at the gravesite, accompanied by other Bata personnel at Bidadari Cemetary. The inset shows a later visit after the final grave and headstone were in place. (Photos courtesy of the Bartos collection).

The Wives and Children Evacuated

Since the Batamen were serving in the Volunteer forces, their wives and children became more isolated and uncertain of their safety as the Japanese advanced. Many decided to stay on in Kuala Lumpur because the living conditions for women with children in Singapore had become intolerable. On 2nd January 1942, acting on a Government order demanding all European women leave Kuala Lumpur, they finally left with no more than suitcases for their clothing and whatever cash they had at home. They were billeted in private houses, hostels, schools and club buildings. In all this chaos a Government Committee was appointed to evaluate the priority of claims for inclusion on the armada of boats assembled for the evacuation. The more children accompanying each mother the better the chances of boarding. (The Civil Defence of Malaya).

Michael Pether's extensive research on this evacuation tells us there were about 45 ships of all sizes assembled to leave as a convoy during the 48-hour period of 11th to 13th February. Tragically, only five or six made it to safety with the rest sunk by Japanese warships. In all the chaos surrounding the evacuation it was not always possible to prepare passenger lists. Many of these lists were compiled after the vessels set sail but with most of the vessels sunk, any lists disappeared with them.

A small group of Czech wives and children made a successful crossing to India on the ironically named "Empress of Japan" on 1st February, 1942. Their lives would never be the same again. Some were directed to Batanagar, others to Batapur. Some were fortunate to escape with their entire families, others had to wait till late 1945 before they were re-united. Some lost their husbands in the conflict and later remarried – Mrs Bohman became Mrs Havrlant, Mrs Smrzak became Mrs Sicha, Mrs Straussler became Mrs Stoppard, Mrs Heim became Mrs Kilian.

The Straits Times of 14 February 1942, under the heading "All Evacuation Suspended As From Today", carried the following proclamation:

"By order of the General Officer Commanding, Malaya all evacuation from Singapore is entirely suspended. This applies also to women and children."

Directly affected by this edict was the Mizia family comprising Alfred, Rose and their two children Ivy (6 years old) and Raymond Alfred (one year old). They were to be interned in Changi.

On the following page is a photograph of the wives and children who were evacuated to India.

This is followed by a page with two photographs depicting the conditions surrounding the evacuation by the flotilla of boats commandeered for the evacuation between 11-13 February.

The Wives and Children evacuated to India - 1942

Photo: Courtesy of Marus Bohman



From Left to Right:

Mrs. Bohman. Holding daughter Marus, and son Milan in front.

Mrs Smrzak. Husband died on the SS Redang on 12.2.1942. Later married Mr. Sicha.

Lady with child in front - Unknown

Lady in the back - Unknown

Mrs. Straussler. Possibly son Tom standing and son Peter squatting in front of her.

- Her husband died on a ship, probably the SS Redang. She later married Mr Stoppard.

Mrs. Cervinka.

Mrs. Jugas

Lady with child in front - Unknown

Lady in the back - Unknown

Lady with child in front - Unknown

There is a distinct possibility that two of the unidentified ladies are Mrs Heim and Mrs Pihon.
Both their husbands died on a ship, probably the SS Redang. Mrs Heim later married Mr Kilian.

On Pages 28 and 29 are copies of the telegram sent to Dr Edward Benes by the ladies at Petersfield School pleading for news about their husbands who remained in Singapore.

The Evacuation of Singapore 11-13 February 1942

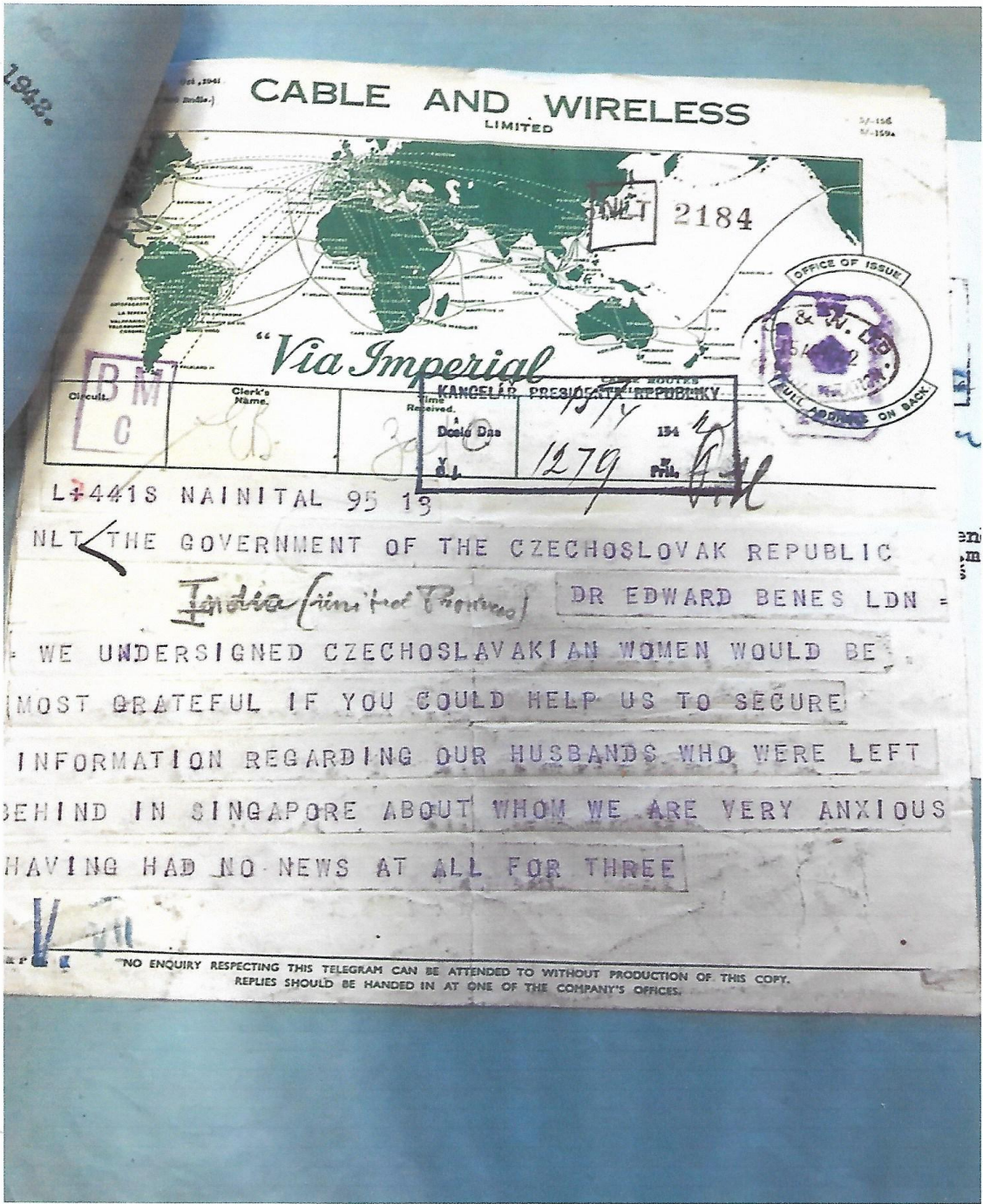
Typical scenes at the Singapore docks between 11th and 13th February 1942 at the height of the evacuation. Initially it was only women and children but eventually men were accommodated, those with spouses and children receiving priority. The evacuees boarded with only small bags of personal possessions, mainly clothing. Little did they know what was ahead of them in the days ahead.



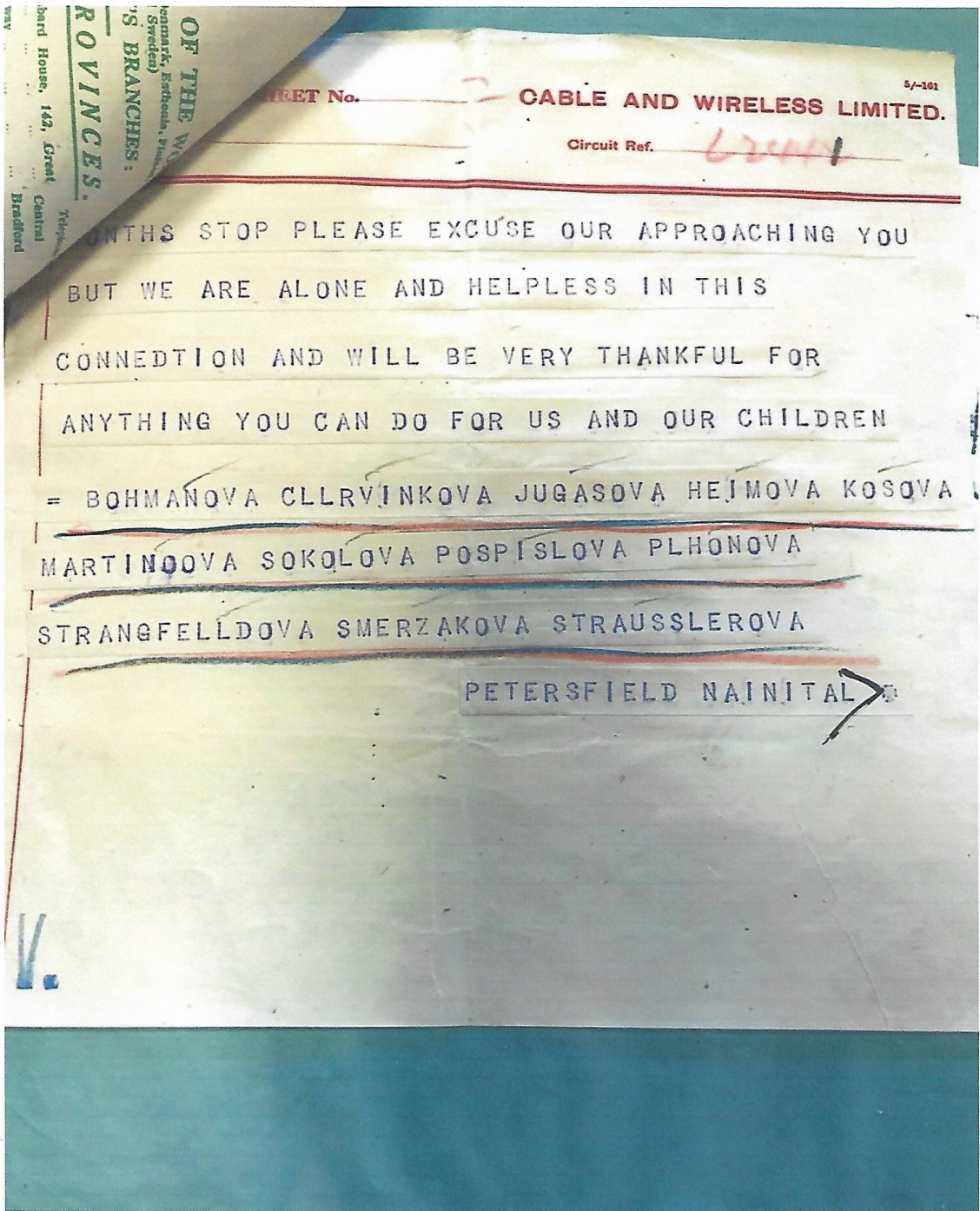
Photo: www.britishempire.co.uk



Photo: www.crooksandliars.com



(Courtesy Jan Beranek)



Courtesy Jan Beranek

Remembering Those Who Died

The memories of those who died live on at War Memorials in Singapore and the Czech Republic.

Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore

The Japanese established a POW camp at Kranji where a small cemetery was started by the prisoners. When it was found that a larger cemetery at Changi could not be sustained, the graves were moved from Changi to Kranji in 1946, along with many other graves from all over the island. More than 850 of the burials remain unidentified. (www.cwgc.org)

Silvestr Nemeč, Rudolf Janacek and Karel Vitek are honoured on columns at this cemetery.

Singapore Memorial

The Singapore Memorial stands within the Kranji Cemetery grounds. This memorial lists over 24,000 casualties of the Commonwealth forces who do not have a known grave. Where there was no known date of death the dates assigned were relative to the date or period when they were known to be missing or captured. (www.cwgc.org)

Bedrich Heim and Klement Plhon are honoured on columns at this memorial.

Sad Komenskeho Zlin, Czech Republic

This is a Monument to the Victims of WWII situated in a park in Zlin. It is one of numerous war memorials spread across the country in towns and villages maintained by the Society for Military Sacred Places. It was built in 1947 and today is incorporated in a park with recreational facilities where visitors can relax or remember those who had made the ultimate sacrifice. This memorial would no doubt be the largest and includes a listing of around 250 casualties.

The five Batamen honoured at Kranji and the Singapore Memorial are all honoured at this memorial along with Oldrich Smrzak, Josef Strangfeld and Eugen Straussler. In the photos on Page 30, Bedrich Heim is listed in the top stone, Rudolf Janacek and Silvestr Nemeč in the middle stone, and Oldrich Smrzak, Eugen Straussler and Karel Vitek in the bottom stone.

Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore



Photo: www.cwgc.org

Sad Komenskeho Zlin, Czech Republic

Monument to Victims of WWII



Photo: mapy.cz



Photo: www.yelp.com

Roll Call of Bata Czechs in Singapore and Malaya from 1936 to 1942

Based entirely on references in newspaper articles in The Straits Times, Singapore Free Press and Berita Harian. The research covered in excess of five hundred newspaper articles. It is not submitted as a definitive complete listing of all Czechs there at the time. Spouses, where applicable, have not been listed separately.

Adamik, J – Ambroz, P

Basica, J – Blazek, S – Bleha, J – Boda, J – Bohman, M

Cepka, A – Cervinka, H – Chudarek, S

Dufek, A – Dvorak, V

Gromnica, B

Heim, B – Hlobil, F

Janecek, R – Janeckova, M – Jedovnický, S – Jugas, A

Koblizek, F – Kos, V – Kozusnicek, R – Kutik, K – Kvapil L

Lebloch, O

Martinec, B – Matus, E – Mizia, A – Mraz, J – Mysak, F

Nemec, S

Obruca, K

Pavlik, A – Plhon, K – Pospisil, K

Robitschek, P – Rojt, V

Smrzak, O – Sokol, B – Soral, J – Stanek, F – Stasek, J – Strangfeld, J – Straussler, E

Vanek, A – Varmuza, J – Vasica, J – Vitek, K – Vrla, L – Vyhnalek, J – Vytopil, K

Wakerman, F

Zamara, W – Zapalac, J – Zazula, A – Zelnicek, V – Zuna, J

Colour Coding Legend

Red – Those who died in hospital, on evacuation ships or in POW camps

Blue – Those who were interned as civilian detainees in Changi and Sime Road

Purple – Those who were imprisoned in Changi as prisoners-of-war

Final Comment on the Accuracy of Names for the Record

Throughout the research it was noted that names of individuals mentioned in this paper were not always recorded correctly. The following are highlighted:

Changi Civilian Internees Database

Cepka, Alcis (ID 770). Should be Cepka, Alois

Jedovicky, Stanislau (ID 2519). Should be Jedovnický, Stanislav

Kozuskicek, Rudolf (ID 2767). Should be Kozusnicek Rudolf

Leblogh, Oldrich (ID 2855). Should be Lebloch, Oldrich

Martinec, Bretislav (ID 3117). Martinec, Bretislav

Pospieil, Karel (ID 3983). Should be Pospisil, Karel

Varsuza, Josef (ID 5182). Should be Varmuza, Josef

Others

Janecek, Rudolf. Surname was also spelled Janacek in several references. Janecek has been used in the report supported by entries in Bata personnel records and the engraving on the memorial stone at the Monument to Victims of WWII in Zlin.

Plhon, Klement. Surname also found reported as Plohn and Phlon. Plhon has been used in the report supported by entries in Bata personnel records and the engraving on the memorial stone at the Monument to Victims of WWII in Zlin. Also recorded as Plhon, Private, K, at Singapore Memorial.

Smrzak, Oldrich. Recorded as Smrzakova at Singapore Memorial.

Straussler, Eugen. Surname spelled Strausler on the memorial stone at the Monument to Victims of WWII in Zlin. However, due to the weight of overwhelming support of the surname available in numerous websites and supported by entries in Bata personnel records, the surname Straussler has been used.

Zelnicek, Vladimir. Surname also spelled Zelnik in several references. Zelnicek has been used in the report supported by entries in Bata personnel records.

The Memorial Document

This paper is presented as a memorial document to the Bata Czechoslovaks who answered the call in the defence of Singapore and Malaya and the protection of Bata assets in the region. It honours those who died in POW camps or in hospital. It is dedicated to those who suffered under internment in Changi and Sime Road camps. It remembers the families that were separated, with several of them torn apart by the loss of loved ones. They must be remembered.

The narrative is based on information researched from a number of sources. Sadly, the events cover an era of widespread warfare where record keeping was problematic. And where records may have been available these were destroyed in the conflict. There is no doubt much more to this narrative than I have covered.

References

Information sources in the document are noted in brackets as follows:

CWGC – Commonwealth War Graves Commission

HBM – History of Batovce in Malaysia

MP – Michael Pether

IP – Ivan Prochazka, Expatriates in the Far East

Other relevant information sources related to:

National Archives of Australia and Australian War Memorial

The Civil Defence of Malaya

Links to individual web references have been identified where appropriate

The enormous eresources facility of the National Library Board of the Singapore Government and The Changi Museum.

Spreadsheet on Bata Singapore from Czech Archives (Zlin)

The publication “Bata 1931-1951: 20 Years of Progress in Malaya”

Photographs and material provided from the collections of families and friends of those involved have been acknowledged where appropriate.

Acknowledgments

Michael Pether is an internationally respected researcher who has dedicated much of his life to compiling passenger lists for the vessels that were used in the evacuation of civilians and military personnel from Singapore. He was referred to me when he first approached Bata to obtain information on the Bata Czechs who he had found constituted a sizable presence in the area at the time. Over many months we exchanged mutually beneficial information which eventually provided the catalyst for attempting this document.

Sincere appreciation is also directed to the descendants of those affected by the events at that time, and friends and acquaintances who shared in their lives, for providing anecdotal information, photographs and print material from personal collections used in the document.

Finally, a special note of thanks to the incredible research conducted by Jan Beranek who had independently commenced his own search for definitive closure on the fate of his great-uncle, Silvestr Nemeč. Jan's narrative can be accessed in his blog written in both Czech and English.

<https://searchingforsilvestr.wordpress.com/2019/01/>

His generous offer to share all the material sourced was very much appreciated.

Note: The changing historical description of the country called Czechoslovakia to today's terminology of Czech Republic and Slovakia has presented some identity issues. The appropriate delineation between Czechoslovaks, Czechs and Slovaks may, inadvertently, not have been applied correctly in all circumstances, for which I sincerely apologise.

On the following pages you will find:

Listings of Czechoslovak citizens who were settled in Singapore before the Japanese occupation:

- Sorted alphabetically
- Sorted by Evacuation Date and Destination

List of Czechoslovakian Nationals Evacuated from Singapore:

- Sorted alphabetically
- Sorted by Destination

Czechoslovaks from Singapore Evacuated to Australia :

- Sorted alphabetically and by Vessel Name

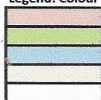
Prepared by Olek Plešek – Second Revision 1st September 2018.

Updated 15th May 2019

Listing						Compiled 14 May 1942
Czechoslovak Citizens who were settled in Singapore before the Japanese Occupation						Sorted alphabetically
No	Name and Surname	Single or Married	Employment		If evacuated from Singapore and where?	
				In Singapore		
1	Adamik Jaroslav	Married, 1 Child	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
2	Ambroz Pavel	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
3	Appelbaum N	Single	Musician		Stayed in Singapore	
4	Berg Pavel	Married	Dealer		Evacuated 11.02.1942. Now in Melbourne, wife in Czecho.	
5	Boda Jan	Married, 1 Child	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
6	Bohman Matej	Married, 2 Children	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
7	Cepka Alois	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
8	Cervinka Hynek	Married, 2 Children	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
9	Dufek Antonin	Married, 1 Child	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
10	Dvorak Jan	Single	Bata		Evacuated to India	
11	Getreuer Dr Pavel	Married	Dealer		Stayed in Singapore with his wife	
12	Gromnica Bedrich	Single	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942. Now in Melbourne	
13	Heim Bedrich	Married	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
14	Hobil Frantisek	Single	Bata		Evacuated to India	
15	Chudarek Stanislav	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
16	Janecek Rudolf	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
17	Jedovnický Stanislav	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
18	Jugas Antonin	Married, 1 Child	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India, son to Sydney	
19	Kinsky Vojtech	Married, 2 Children	Dealer		Evacuated 19.02.1942, now in Sydney with wife and children	
20	Koblizek Frantisek	Single	Bata		Evacuated to India	
21	Koci Karel	Single	Sculptor		Stayed in Singapore	
22	Kos Victor	Married, 2 Children	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
23	Kozusnický Rudolf	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
24	Kvapil Ladislav	Single	Bata		Evacuated, now in Sydney	
25	Lachs Erich	Married, 2 Children	Thomas Cook & Son		Evacuated 19.02.1942 to Durban, SA. Wife and children there.	
26	Lebloch Oldrich	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
27	Luley J A	Married	Consular Exec		Evacuated 06.02.1942 to India. Wife and daughter there	
28	Marischler Emil	Married, 1 Child	Dealer		Evacuated 10.02.1942, now in Perth. Wife and daughter evacuated 06.02.1942 to India	
29	Martinec Bretislav	Married	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
30	Matus Emil	Married	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
31	Mense Oswald	Married, 1 Child	Manufacturer		Evacuated 06.02.1942 with wife. Now in Sydney	
32	Milner N	Divorced	Far East Ox & Aceth		Stayed in Singapore	
33	Mizia Alfred	Married, 2 Children	Bata		Stayed in Singapore with family	
34	Mraz Jan	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
35	Mulstein Dr Rudolf	Married	Far East Ox & Aceth		Evacuated 06.02.1942 with wife to India	
36	Mysak Frantisek	Single	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India.	
37	Nemec Silvestr	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
38	Neuman Pavel	Married, 2 Children	Hume Pipe Ltd		Possibly in India. Wife and children evacuated 06.02.1942 to India	
39	Phon Klement	Married, 1 Child	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife and son evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
40	Pospisil Karel	Married, 1 Child	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife and daughter evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
41	Reiser Ing.Rud	Married, 2 Children	Dealer		Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India, wife evacuated 06.02.1942, son in England	
42	Robitschek Pavel	Married	Dealer		Evacuated 06.02.1942, now in Sydney with wife	
43	Rojt Anna	Single	Bata		Evacuated to India	
44	Schmidl Ilsa	Single	?		Evacuated 06.02.1942 with wife. Now in Perth	
45	Smrzak Oldrich	Married	Bata		Stayed in Singapore with his wife	
46	Sokol Bretislav	Married	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
47	Soural Jan	Single	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India.	
48	Strangfeld Josef	Married	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
49	Straussler Dr Eugen	Married, 2 Children	Bata		Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
50	Svoboda Anna	Married	Musician's wife		Stayed in Singapore, husband in Shanghai	
51	Vanek Alois	Married, 2 Children	Dealer		Evacuated 11.02.1942, now in Perth. Wife and children evacuated 06.02.1942 to India	
52	Vanicek Karel	Married	Dealer		Evacuated 11.02.1942, now in Perth. Wife and children evacuated 06.02.1942 to India	
53	Varmuza Josef	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
54	Vasica Jan	Married, 1 Child	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India, wife and daughter evacuated 01.02.1942 to India	
55	Vitek Karel	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
56	Vodak Ing.Bedrich	Single	Dealer		Evacuated 10.02.1942, now in Melbourne	
57	Vrta Ladislav	Married	Bata		Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India. Wife evacuated there 01.02.1942	
58	Vyhnalek Josef	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	
59	Wakermann Frantisek	Single	Bata		Evacuated to India	
60	Weinstein Leos	Divorced	Automechanic		Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India	
61	Wodak Ing.Erich	Married, 1 Child	Dealer		Evacuated, now in Melbourne. Wife there.	
62	Zamara Vilem	Single	Dealer		Stayed in Singapore	
63	Zapalac Jaroslav	Single	Bata		Evacuated, now in Melbourne.	
64	Zelnicek Vladimir	Single	Bata		Stayed in Singapore	

Source: Czech Consulate, Bombay. Provided by courtesy of Jan Beranek. Compiled and enhanced by Olek Plesek.

Legend: Colour Coding



Died in POW Camp or Hospital
 Died on ship during evacuation
 Interned in Changi as civilian or POW
 Survived sinking of evacuation ship
 Unknown

Listing					Compiled 14 May 1942
Czechoslovak Citizens who were settled in Singapore before the Japanese Occupation					Sorted by Evacuation Date and Destination
No	Name and Surname	Single or Married	Employment	If evacuated from Singapore and where?	
			In Singapore		
27	Luley	J A	Married	Consular Exec	Evacuated 06.02.1942 to India. Wife and daughter there
35	Muhlstein Dr	Rudolf	Married	Far East Ox & Aceth	Evacuated 06.02.1942 with wife to India
44	Schmidl	Ilse	Single	?	Evacuated 06.02.1942 with wife. Now in Perth
31	Mense	Osvald	Married, 1 Child	Manufacturer	Evacuated 06.02.1942 with wife. Now in Sydney
42	Robitschek	Pavel	Married	Dealer	Evacuated 06.02.1942, now in Sydney with wife
56	Vodak	Ing. Bedrich	Single	Dealer	Evacuated 10.02.1942, now in Melbourne
28	Marischler	Emil	Married, 1 Child	Dealer	Evacuated 10.02.1942, now in Perth. Wife and daughter evacuated 06.02.1942 to India
60	Weinstein	Leos	Divorced	Automechanic	Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India
54	Vasica	Jan	Married, 1 Child	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India, wife and daughter evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
41	Reiser	Ing. Rud	Married, 2 Children	Dealer	Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India, wife evacuated 06.02.1942, son in England
57	Vrla	Ladislav	Married	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942 to India. Wife evacuated there 01.02.1942
51	Vanek	Alois	Married, 2 Children	Dealer	Evacuated 11.02.1942, now in Perth. Wife and children evacuated 06.02.1942 to India
52	Vanicek	Karel	Married	Dealer	Evacuated 11.02.1942, now in Perth. Wife and children evacuated 06.02.1942 to India
36	Mysak	Frantisek	Single	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India.
47	Soural	Jan	Single	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India.
1	Adamik	Jaroslav	Married, 1 Child	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
5	Boda	Jan	Married, 1 Child	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
9	Dufek	Antonin	Married, 1 Child	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942. Last seen in Batavia on way to India. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
12	Gromnica	Bedrich	Single	Bata	Evacuated 11.02.1942. Now in Melbourne
4	Berg	Pavel	Married	Dealer	Evacuated 11.02.1942. Now in Melbourne, wife in Czecho.
19	Kinsky	Vojtech	Married, 2 Children	Dealer	Evacuated 19.02.1942, now in Sydney with wife and children
25	Lachs	Erich	Married, 2 Children	Thomas Cook & Son	Evacuated 19.02.1942 to Durban, SA. Wife and children there.
10	Dvorak	Jan	Single	Bata	Evacuated to India
14	Hlobil	Frantisek	Single	Bata	Evacuated to India
20	Koblizek	Frantisek	Single	Bata	Evacuated to India
43	Rajt	Anna	Single	Bata	Evacuated to India
59	Wakermann	Frantisek	Single	Bata	Evacuated to India
63	Zapalac	Jaroslav	Single	Bata	Evacuated, now in Melbourne.
61	Woodak	Ing. Erich	Married, 1 Child	Dealer	Evacuated, now in Melbourne. Wife there.
24	Kvapil	Ladislav	Single	Bata	Evacuated, now in Sydney
38	Neuman	Pavel	Married, 2 Children	Hume Pipe Ltd	Possibly in India. Wife and children evacuated 06.02.1942 to India
2	Ambroz	Pavel	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
3	Appelbaum	N	Single	Musician	Stayed in Singapore
7	Cepka	Alois	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
15	Chudarek	Stanislav	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
16	Janecek	Rudolf	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
17	Jedovnický	Stanislav	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
21	Koci	Karel	Single	Sculptor	Stayed in Singapore
23	Kozusnicek	Rudolf	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
26	Lebloch	Oldrich	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
30	Matus	Emil	Married	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
32	Milner	N	Divorced	Far East Ox & Aceth	Stayed in Singapore
34	Mráz	Jan	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
37	Nemec	Silvestr	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
53	Varmuza	Josef	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
55	Vitek	Karel	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
58	Vyhnaek	Josef	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
62	Zamara	Vilem	Single	Dealer	Stayed in Singapore
64	Zelnicke	Vladimir	Single	Bata	Stayed in Singapore
33	Mizia	Alfred	Married, 2 Children	Bata	Stayed in Singapore with family
11	Getreuer Dr	Pavel	Married	Dealer	Stayed in Singapore with his wife
45	Smrzak	Oldrich	Married	Bata	Stayed in Singapore with his wife
50	Svoboda	Anna	Married	Musician's wife	Stayed in Singapore, husband in Shanghai
6	Bohman	Matej	Married, 2 Children	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
8	Cervinka	Hynek	Married, 2 Children	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
22	Kos	Victor	Married, 2 Children	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
49	Straussler Dr	Eugen	Married, 2 Children	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife and children evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
40	Pospisil	Karel	Married, 1 Child	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife and daughter evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
39	Pihon	Klement	Married, 1 Child	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife and son evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
13	Heim	Bedrich	Married	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
18	Jugas	Antonin	Married, 1 Child	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India, son to Sydney
29	Martinec	Bretislav	Married	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
46	Sokol	Bretislav	Married	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India
48	Strangfeld	Josef	Married	Bata	Stayed in Singapore. Wife evacuated 01.02.1942 to India

Source: Czech Consulate, Bombay. Provided by courtesy of Jan Beranek. Compiled and enhanced by Olek Plesek.

Legend: Colour Coding	
	Died in POW Camp or Hospital
	Died on ship during evacuation
	Interned in Changi as civilian or POW
	Survived sinking of evacuation ship
	Unknown

Czech Consulate - Bombay

Sorted Alphabetically

List of Czechoslovakian Nationals Evacuated from Singapore

No	Name and Surname	Date and Place of Birth	Present Address
1	Adamik Jaroslav	16.04.1910 Rachova, Okres Holesov	Bombay YMCA
2	Adamik Bozena	20.07.1916 Lechotice	Nainital, Petersfield School
3	Adamik Jaroslav	30.03.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
4	Boda Anna	23.07.1915 Zlin	Batapur, Lahore
5	Boda Jan	24.07.1937	Batapur, Lahore
6	Boda Helena	05.04.1940	Batapur, Lahore
7	Bohman Marie	02.09.1912 Osicany, okres Prerov	Nainital, Petersfield School
8	Bohman Milan	30.07.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
9	Bohman Marie	1941	Nainital, Petersfield School
10	Cervinka Ludmila	19.10.1904 Malenovice	Nainital, Petersfield School
11	Cervinka Ludmila	13.03.1933	Nainital, Petersfield School
12	Cervinka Tomas	04.03.1936	Nainital, Petersfield School
13	Dvorak Vladimir	17.02.1915 Kamenice, o. Policka	Batanagar
14	Dufek Antonin	15.11.1911 Slavicin, okr. Uh. Brod	Batanagar
15	Dufek Anna	18.04.1914 Divnice	Bombay
16	Dufek Marie	09.08.1938 Zlin	Bombay
17	Heim Elsa	15.01.1907 Uhersky Ostroh	Nainital, Edwinstown House
18	Hlobil Frantisek	28.09.1912 Bystrice	Batanagar
19	Jugas Marie	08.09.1901 Hustenovice	Nainital, Jubilee Grove
20	Koblizek Frantisek	09.08.1915 Luky n.Jihl.	Batanagar
21	Kos Marie	22.03.1911 Diedice, Pol.	Nainital, Petersfield School
22	Kos Pavel	21.09.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
23	Kos Jarmila	18.08.1939	Nainital, Petersfield School
24	Lachs Erich	28.09.04 Prerov	South Africa
25	Marischler Ludmila	12.03.1906 Prerov	Bombay, Garden House
26	Martinec Marie	13.08.1913 Cerna Hora	Nainital, Edwinstown House
27	Matus Iris	21.08.1921 Singapore	Simla, Room 18, Craig Dhu
28	Mense Elsa	24.05.1884 Videno	Left husband in India, boat sank
29	Muehlstein (Dr) Rudolf	06.08.1904 Karlovy Vary	Bombay
30	Muehlstein (Dr) Gertrude	10.11.1905 Nove Sedlo	Bombay
31	Plhon Zdenek	08.10.1924 Zlin	Batapur, Lahore
32	Plhon Anezka	01.03.7898 Myslocovice	Nainital, Jubilee Grove
33	Pospisil Jarmila	24.02.1919 Podmokly	Nainital
34	Pospisil Alena	11.11.1938	Nainital
35	Pospisil Eva	31.03.1942	Nainital
36	Rojt Anna	14.05.1916 Domazlice	Nainital, Edwinstown House
37	Smrzak Miloslava	04.06.1913 Kovalovice	Nainital, Petersfield School
38	Smrzak Oldriska	29.07.1936	Nainital, Petersfield School
39	Sokol Marie	30.09.1920 Altlichtenwarth	Nainital, Jubilee Grove
40	Strangfeld Anastazie	03.10.1906	Nainital, Edwinstown House
41	Straussler Marta	11.07.1911 Roussinov	Nainital, Petersfield School
42	Straussler Peter	21.08.1935	Nainital, Petersfield School
43	Straussler Tomas	03.07.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
44	Vasica Jan	25.04.1912 Zlin	Bombay
45	Vasica Bozena	27.02.1919 Tlumacov	Bombay
46	Vasica Bozena	19.11.1940	Bombay
47	Vrla Ladislav	01.01.1912 Kvitkovice	Nainital, Edwinstown House
48	Vrla Marie	02.07.1912 Mor. Ostrava	Nainital, Edwinstown House
49	Wakermann Frantisek	30.11.1921 Trebotov, Praha	Bombay, Khattau Bhuvan

Source: Czech Consulate, Bombay. Provided courtesy of Jan Beranek. Compiled by Olek Plesek.

Czech Consulate - Bombay

Sorted by Destination

List of Czechoslovakian Nationals Evacuated from Singapore

No	Name and Surname	Date and Place of Birth	Present Address
13	Dvorak Vladimir	17.02.1915 Kamenice, o. Policka	Batanagar
14	Dufek Antonin	15.11.1911 Slavicin, okr. Uh. Brod	Batanagar
18	Hlobil Frantisek	28.09.1912 Bystrice	Batanagar
20	Koblizek Frantisek	09.08.1915 Luky n.Jihl.	Batanagar
4	Boda Anna	23.07.1915 Zlin	Batapur, Lahore
5	Boda Jan	24.07.1937	Batapur, Lahore
6	Boda Helena	05.04.1940	Batapur, Lahore
31	Plhon Zdenek	08.10.1924 Zlin	Batapur, Lahore
15	Dufek Anna	18.04.1914 Divnice	Bombay
16	Dufek Marie	09.08.1938 Zlin	Bombay
29	Muehlstein (Dr) Rudolf	06.08.1904 Karlovy Vary	Bombay
30	Muehlstein (Dr) Gertrude	10.11.1905 Nove Sedlo	Bombay
44	Vasica Jan	25.04.1912 Zlin	Bombay
45	Vasica Bozena	27.02.1919 Tlumacov	Bombay
46	Vasica Bozena	19.11.1940	Bombay
1	Adamik Jaroslav	16.04.1910 Rachova, Okres Holesov	Bombay YMCA
25	Marischler Ludmila	12.03.1906 Prerov	Bombay, Garden House
49	Wakermann Frantisek	30.11.1921 Trebotov, Praha	Bombay, Khattau Bhuvan
28	Mensek Elsa	24.05.1884 Videno	Left husband in India, boat sank
33	Pospisil Jarmila	24.02.1919 Podmokly	Nainital
34	Pospisil Alena	11.11.1938	Nainital
35	Pospisil Eva	31.03.1942	Nainital
17	Heim Elsa	15.01.1907 Uhersky Ostroh	Nainital, Edwinstown House
26	Martinec Marie	13.08.1913 Cerna Hora	Nainital, Edwinstown House
36	Rojt Anna	14.05.1916 Domazlice	Nainital, Edwinstown House
40	Strangfeld Anastazie	03.10.1906	Nainital, Edwinstown House
47	Vrla Ladislav	01.01.1912 Kvitkovice	Nainital, Edwinstown House
48	Vrla Marie	02.07.1912 Mor. Ostrava	Nainital, Edwinstown House
19	Jugas Marie	08.09.1901 Hustenovice	Nainital, Jubilee Grove
32	Plhon Anezka	01.03.1898 Myslocovice	Nainital, Jubilee Grove
39	Sokol Marie	30.09.1920 Altlichtenwarth	Nainital, Jubilee Grove
2	Adamik Bozena	20.07.1916 Lehotice	Nainital, Petersfield School
3	Adamik Jaroslav	30.03.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
7	Bohman Marie	02.09.1912 Osicany, okres Prerov	Nainital, Petersfield School
8	Bohman Milan	30.07.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
9	Bohman Marie	1941	Nainital, Petersfield School
10	Cervinka Ludmila	19.10.1904 Malenovice	Nainital, Petersfield School
11	Cervinka Ludmila	13.03.1933	Nainital, Petersfield School
12	Cervinka Tomas	04.03.1936	Nainital, Petersfield School
21	Kos Marie	22.03.1911 Diedice, Pol.	Nainital, Petersfield School
22	Kos Pavel	21.09.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
23	Kos Jarmila	18.08.1939	Nainital, Petersfield School
37	Smrzak Miloslava	04.06.1913 Kovalovice	Nainital, Petersfield School
38	Smrzak Oldriska	29.07.1936	Nainital, Petersfield School
41	Straussler Marta	11.07.1911 Roussinov	Nainital, Petersfield School
42	Straussler Peter	21.08.1935	Nainital, Petersfield School
43	Straussler Tomas	03.07.1937	Nainital, Petersfield School
27	Matus Iris	21.08.1921 Singapore	Simla, Room 18, Craig Dhu
24	Lachs Erich	28.09.04 Prerov	South Africa

Source: Czech Consulate, Bombay. Provided courtesy of Jan Beranek. Compiled by Olek Plesek.

Listing			Compiled 14 May 1942			Sorted Alphabetically				
Czechoslovaks from Singapore Evacuated to Australia										
No	Name and Surname		Single or Married	Employment	Port	Date	Vessel	Port		Australian Residence
				In Singapore	Embarked	Arrived	Name	Disembarked	Australian Residence	
1	Berg	Pavel	Married	Dealer	Singapore	20.02.42	Gorgon	Melbourne	Melbourne	Wife in Czecho
2	Gromnica	Bedrich	Single	Bata	Batavia	27.02.42	Marella	Fremantle	Melbourne	
3	Jugas	Milan	Single	Bata					Parramatta	Father Antonin in S'pore, Mother in Bombay
4	Kinsky	Vojtech	Married, 2 Children	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Sydney	Whole family
5	Kvapil	Ladislav	Single	Bata	Batavia	02.03.42	Deucalion	Fremantle	Sydney	
6	Marischler	Emil	Married, 1 Child	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Perth	
7	Mense	Osvald	Married, 1 Child	Manufacturer	Calcutta	30.03.42	Tanda	Sydney	Sydney	Both of them
8	Robitschek	Pavel	Married	Dealer	Batavia	23.02.42	Boissevain	Sydney	Sydney	Both of them
9	Schmidl	Ilisa	Single		Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Perth	
10	Vanek	Alois	Married, 2 Children	Dealer	Singapore	20.02.42	Gorgon	Melbourne	Perth.	Wife and children in India
11	Vanicek	Karel	Married	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Perth.	Wife in India
12	Vodak	Ing. Bedrich	Single	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Melbourne	
13	Vodak	Ing. Erich	Married, 1 Child	Dealer					Melbourne.	Whole family
14	Zapalac	Jaroslav	Single	Bata	Batavia	27.02.42	Marella	Fremantle	Melbourne	

Source: Czech Consulate, Bombay. Provided courtesy of Jan Beranek. Compiled and enhanced by Olek Plesek.

Listing			Compiled 14 May 1942			Sorted by Vessel Name				
Czechoslovaks from Singapore Evacuated to Australia										
No	Name and Surname		Single or Married	Employment	Port	Date	Vessel	Port		Australian Residence
				In Singapore	Embarked	Arrived	Name	Disembarked	Australian Residence	
8	Robitschek	Pavel	Married	Dealer	Batavia	23.02.42	Boissevain	Sydney	Sydney	Both of them
5	Kvapil	Ladislav	Single	Bata	Batavia	02.03.42	Deucalion	Fremantle	Sydney	
1	Berg	Pavel	Married	Dealer	Singapore	20.02.42	Gorgon	Melbourne	Melbourne	Wife in Czecho
10	Vanek	Alois	Married, 2 Children	Dealer	Singapore	20.02.42	Gorgon	Melbourne	Perth.	Wife and children in India
2	Gromnica	Bedrich	Single	Bata	Batavia	27.02.42	Marella	Fremantle	Melbourne	
14	Zapalac	Jaroslav	Single	Bata	Batavia	27.02.42	Marella	Fremantle	Melbourne	
7	Mense	Osvald	Married, 1 Child	Manufacturer	Calcutta	30.03.42	Tanda	Sydney	Sydney	Both of them
4	Kinsky	Vojtech	Married, 2 Children	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Sydney	Whole family
6	Marischler	Emil	Married, 1 Child	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Perth	
9	Schmidl	Ilisa	Single		Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Perth	
11	Vanicek	Karel	Married	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Perth.	Wife in India
12	Vodak	Ing. Bedrich	Single	Dealer	Singapore	01.03.42	Whang Pu	Fremantle	Melbourne	
3	Jugas	Milan	Single	Bata					Parramatta	Father Antonin in S'pore, Mother in Bombay
13	Vodak	Ing. Erich	Married, 1 Child	Dealer					Melbourne.	Whole family

Source: Czech Consulate, Bombay. Provided courtesy of Jan Beranek. Compiled and enhanced by Olek Plesek.

Note:

- Source details from Czech Consulate, Bombay. Enhanced with details from National Archives of Australia.
- Details for Port Embarked, Date Arrived, Vessel Name and Port Disembarked sourced from National Archives of Australia.
- Missing from this summary are Frantisek and Olga Staroba and their daughter Liba who were on the Deucalion with Ladislav Kvapil. (Source NAA.) This is possibly due to the Starobas being acknowledged both in the handwritten manifest and typed record as naturalised British Subjects.
- Ladislav Kvapil was eventually to change his name by deed poll to Larry Kent.