



# **PERSONAL** **INFORMATION** **SHEET**



**Name: Andrew (Andy) SALMON**

**DOB: 29 July 1919**

**Rank: Sergeant**

**Service Identity Number: 838257**

**Service/Regiment/Corps: Royal Artillery**

**Unit: 965 Defence Battery**

## **Personal history before the war:**

Andy was born at Mile End in the East End of London on 29th July 1919 to Andrew & Elsie Salmon. He was the younger sibling of two older sisters, Hilda & Winifred and attended Hylands Senior School in Hornchurch, Essex.

He initially wanted to join the RAF but was too young so therefore joined the Royal Artillery at Woolwich on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1934 as a Boy Trumpeter. Andy was "Called to Colours" on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1935. He embarked Southampton on RMT Neuralia on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1935 bound for Hong Kong. Andy was appointed as Gunner on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1937.

## **Wartime experience:**

Andy fought in the Battle of Hong Kong until capitulation to Japanese forces on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1941. He was captured and became a POW at Stanley Fort on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1941 and then incarcerated in the notorious Shamshuipo POW Camp in January 1942, arriving via North Point Camp.

He embarked on the SS Lisbon Maru on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1942 among 1816 POWs being shipped to Japan which was torpedoed by the USS Grouper on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1942. Andy escaped from the rearmost hold 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942 and was rescued from the sea by Chinese fishermen.

He was recaptured by the Japanese, taken to Shanghai and embarked on the SS Shinsei Maru on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1942, arriving in Moji, Japan on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1942 where he was transported by train to Osaka POW Camp.

Andy worked principally on the docks until Japan surrendered on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945 and was liberated from Osaka 1b POW camp.



### Personal history post war (if survived):

Andy was repatriated to the United Kingdom via Okinawa, the Philippines, USA and Canada, finally arriving at Southampton on the RMT Queen Elizabeth on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1945.

He was discharged and soon returned to Hong Kong where he joined the Hong Kong Government as expatriate prison officer on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1949. Andy married Merandolina Maria Da Silva on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1952 and gave birth to a Son, Kenneth Andrew Salmon, who was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1953.

Andy retired as the Senior Superintendent of Prisons in 1974 after 25 years service, aged 55 and returned to the UK and lived in Colchester, Reading, Minster, & Chandlers Ford. He served as a volunteer for 10 years in the Royal Observer Corps and became involved in the Royal Artillery Association (latterly as President), FEPOW and the Royal British Legion.

Andy co-wrote a book about the Lisbon Maru called "Remember My Name", but unfortunately did not get it published. He passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2000, aged 81.

### Additional photos:



The above information was provided by Ken Salmon who is the son of Andrew Salmon.



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