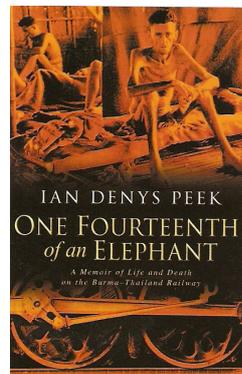


## IAN DENYS PEEK (R35-38)

He was born on 27 August 1921 and describes himself as "Born in London, brought up in Shanghai, but returned to England to be educated".

After leaving the College, he was reunited with his parents in Singapore. He was 20 when he and his brother **Lewis Ronald "Ron" Peek (R34-38)**, were taken prisoner in the fall of Singapore in 1942. They were sent to work on the infamous Burma-Thailand Railway and from the outset conditions were deplorable.

In 2005 he published a book entitled "One Fourteenth of an Elephant - A memoir of life and death on the Burma-Thailand Railway". In the book he describes the daily struggle for survival, he celebrates the little things that brought relief and helped them cling to their dignity in the absence of ordinary civilised comforts; a rare cake of soap, an enormous swarm of butterflies, the taste of stolen cattle and more importantly the ingenuity, humour and friendship of their companions. Separate chapters cover Ban Pong transit camp, Wampo camp, Tonchan camp, Kanyu and Hintok camps, Kinsayok camp and the sawmill, Tarsao and Nakhon Pathom 'hospital' camps, Tamuang camp, Nakhon Nayok camp and the long hike.



The following is just one of many reviews around :-

*Four and a half days after being transported out of Singapore in a steel goods train in October 1942, prisoner of war Denys Peek found himself in Siam, and a part of the labour force destined for the project that was later to be known as the Thai-Burma death railway.*

*Together with his brother, Ron, and contingents from the Australian and British armies and Volunteer units, among others, Denys spent the duration of the war in over fifteen different work and 'hospital' camps on the railway where over 20,000 prisoners of war and uncounted slave labourers met their deaths. Told in the present tense, One Fourteenth of an Elephant is a haunting, evocative and deeply moving testimony to the suffering and the bravery of those who lived and died on the railway. Against a backdrop of inhumanity and brutality, the greatest examples of humanity and courage are thrown into stark relief, as the author takes us through a daily struggle for survival.*

*Told with clarity, passion and an incredible eye for detail and description, this is an utterly enthralling story and a classic in the making.*

After the war he returned to the Far East where he worked as a harbour master, before moving to Australia in the 1960s.