

J. DRYSDALE.

J. A. Russell & Co., Ltd.

Tele (PHONE NO. 4264
GRAMS "JAR KUALA LUMPUR"

P. O. BOX 245
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING,

By Air Mail.

KUALA LUMPUR, 22nd June, 1946.

H. C. Reis, Esq.,
1, Coates Place,
Edinburgh.
Scotland.

Dear Mr. Reis,

I must apologise for not having written earlier to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th March but during the latter part of my stay in Australia I was moving about and was rather busy and am afraid my personal correspondence fell behind. I have however had several communications with Mrs. Reis in South Africa and I was glad to learn that she safely received all letters and documents that I sent her including your brother's diary. The ship on which your brother left Singapore shortly before the fall was bombed and sunk in the Banka Straits and he was slightly wounded as a result. He recovered fairly quickly from that however and remained reasonably well and cheery during our stay at the various camps at which we were interned. The first month of our internment was at an immigration camp on the Island of Banka, Sumatra, and there we were a disorganised collection of men, women and children, civilians and services, all of whom had been captured between Singapore and Banka. At the middle of March the male civilians were taken to a camp near Palembang and worked as dock labourers for a month. We were then taken to Palembang jail where we remained until January 1943 when we were taken to a camp in the country outside Palembang. We remained there until September 1943 and were then taken back to Muntok on the Island of Banka and put into the jail there where we remained until February 1945. It was during our stay in this camp that your brother died. He contracted beriberi and in spite of all efforts by the medical staff and his friends he got steadily worse and as you know died in the camp hospital on the 2nd of November. I saw quite a lot of him and was particularly close to him during the latter part of our internment and I personally was pleased

to do all I could for him. We had many an interesting talk on various matters and as we both were Science Graduates we had quite a bit in common and while in camp we studied geology together with the Senior Geologist of the Dutch Oil Company. We had a fairly grim time on the whole and our troubles were ~~probably~~^{mainly} due to mal-nutrition; beriberi, malaria and dysentery caused most of the deaths. Altogether we lost 58% of the Britishers in the camp, so those of us ^{who} got through considered ourselves lucky.

I had a very nice recuperation holiday in Australia for 6½ months and returned to business here just over a month ago. Australia was certainly a very good place to recuperate and in comparison with other places in the world would appear to be a land of plenty. My wife and two daughters are still there but as my elder daughter who is studying Medicine at Sydney University expects to transfer to Edinburgh, they will probably be going home in time for her to start at Edinburgh in October. ^{this year} Conditions at home are not very attractive but my daughter is keen to graduate from Edinburgh and feels the sooner she makes ~~the~~ change the better. I do not know when I shall be in Edinburgh but I hope that is not too distant and when I do get there I shall certainly be pleased to look you up. If there is anything further you would like to know about your brother please write me again.

Yours sincerely,

John Drysdale

J. A. Russell & Co., Ltd.

(INCORPORATED IN THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA)

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS

JAR - KUALA LUMPUR

TELEPHONE Nos. 4264/5

POST BOX No. 245

REGISTERED OFFICE

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK BUILDING

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYA

CODES USED

BENTLEY'S

(SECOND)

OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

2nd November 1955

Mrs. F. Mann,
c/o Boustead & Co. Ltd.,
KUALA LUMPUR.

Dear Alwyn,

re your father.

Since you spoke to me on this subject some time ago I have had an opportunity of looking up some old records and I find your father died at 2.30 p.m. on the 2nd of November 1944 in what was termed the Banka Tin Winning Establishment at Muntok and the cause of his death was Senilitas and Malaria and that his Death Certificate was signed by Dr. B, a Dutch doctor whose name I forget. The Banka Tin Winning Establishment is adjacent to the gaol at Muntok and was used as the hospital section of the Internment Camp. The cemetery where he was buried is not far from the camp and was a quite pleasant spot and all graves were suitably marked with crosses and names.

Should you wish any further information I will endeavour to obtain it.

Yours sincerely,

John Lyndale

183, Ampang Rd.
Kuala Lumpur.

4th Nov: 1955.

Dear Mr Drysdale,
I am most grateful to you for all the trouble you've been to in finding out the details to my questions on my Father; thank you very much indeed for doing so.

It is certainly of some comfort to know that he was laid to rest in a reasonable resting place, under the circumstances -

As I doubt if I'll ever get an opportunity of paying a visit to his grave, the next best thing would be to have a photograph. If it's anytime (I believe you did mention knowing a Dutch-Man, over there) you should know of anyone likely to be at Muntok

who could get me this photograph, I
would of-course be more than grateful.
As it is I greatly appreciate all
that you have done for me in
this matter.

Yours sincerely,
A. H. H. H.

J. A. Russell & Co., Ltd.

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OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

5th November 1955

Mrs. Allwyne Man,
183, Ampang Road,
KUALA LUMPUR.

Dear Allwyne,

Thanks for your note of the 4th November and I note what you say. I will endeavour to make a contact at Muntok and endeavour to obtain a photograph for you.

Yours sincerely,

John H. Ryedale