

EDGAR'S STORY

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INTRODUCTION

EDGAR WRIGHT WAS MY GREAT UNCLE.
HE WAS MARRIED AND LIVED AT CROOKES IN SHEFFIELD.

IN THE EARLY 1930'S, HE JOINED THE ROYAL NAVY AND
SERVED ON MANY SHIPS DURING THIS TIME. THE PICTURE ON
THE FRONT COVER IS HIM IN HIS SAILORS UNIFORM.

IN 1940 HE JOINED THE CREW OF THE HMS EXETER.
THE EXETER WAS A BATTLESHIP AND WAS FAMOUS FOR ITS
PART IN THE SINKING OF THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP GRAF
SPEE, IN THE BATTLE OF THE RIVER PLATE.

THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE EXETER.



IN LATE 1940, THE EXETER WAS SENT TO THE FAR EAST TO
FIGHT THE JAPANESE.

THE BATTLE OF JAVA SEA

EARLY IN 1942, THE EXETER JOINED OTHER ALLIED SHIPS TO ATTACK THE JAPANESE NAVY IN THE JAVA SEA.

ON THE 27TH OF FEBRUARY 1942, A FIGHT BROKE OUT WITH THE JAPANESE NAVY.

FOUR ALLIED SHIPS WERE SUNK THAT DAY AND THE EXETER WAS BADLY DAMAGED BY GUNFIRE FROM THE ENEMY SHIPS.

THE SHIP ESCAPED FOR REPAIRS TO JAVA AND WAS JOINED BY THE HMS ENCOUNTER AND USS POPE.

ON THE 28TH OF FEBRUARY 1942, THE EXETER, ENCOUNTER AND POPE WERE SUNK BY JAPANESE TORPEDOES AND GUNFIRE.

THE FIGHTING LASTED THREE HOURS!

BELOW IS A PHOTO OF THE HMS EXETER SINKING, TAKEN FROM A JAPANESE AEROPLANE.



CAPTIVITY AND RELEASE

AFTER THE SHIP SANK. EDGAR AND OTHER CREWMAN WERE LEFT FLOATING IN THE SEA FOR MANY HOURS. MANY MEN DROWNED OR WERE EATEN BY SHARKS.

WHEN THE JAPANESE PICKED HIM UP, HE WAS TAKEN TO A POW CAMP IN MACASSAR, INDONESIA. OTHER MEN FROM THE EXETER WERE ALSO TAKEN THERE.

LIFE IN THE CAMP WAS VERY HARD. THEY WERE FORCED TO WORK FOR THE JAPANESE.

IF THE WORK WAS NOT FINISHED ON TIME, THEY WOULD BE BEATEN OR EVEN KILLED.

THEY NEVER HAD ENOUGH FOOD AND WERE STARTING TO STARVE.

MANY MEN DIED FROM OVERWORK, DISEASE OR HUNGER.

IN 1944, EDGAR AND OTHER MEN WERE MOVED BY SHIP TO JAPAN. HERE THEY WERE PUT IN FUKUOKA CAMP 26 NEAR NAGASAKI.

THEY WERE FORCED TO WORK IN A COAL MINE



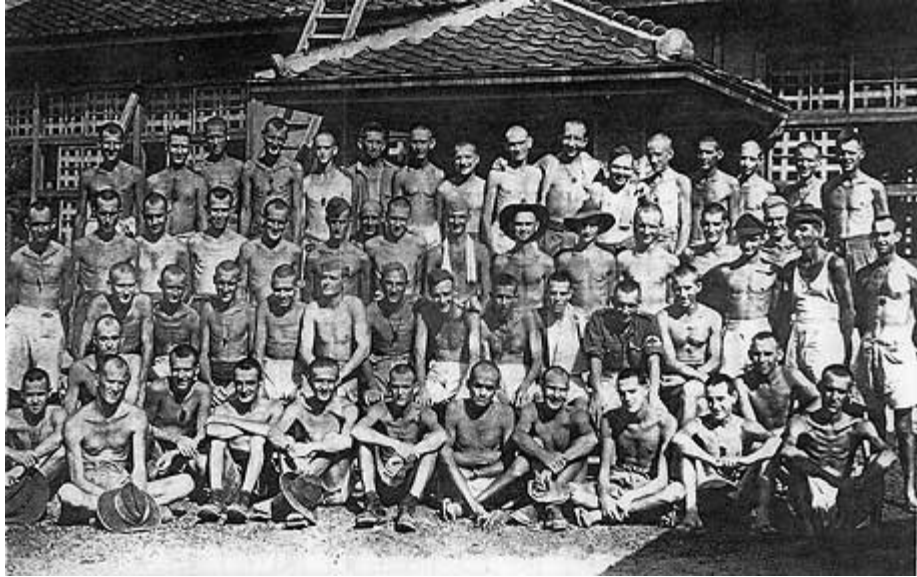
ABOVE IS A PHOTO OF THE PRISONER OF WAR CAMP.

IN 1945, ALLIED BOMBERS WERE REGULARLY FLYING OVER THE CAMP AND BOMBING THE NEARBY CITY OF NAGASAKI.

ON THE 9TH OF AUGUST 1945, THEY SAW A LARGE MUSHROOM CLOUD APPEAR OVER THE CITY OF NAGASAKI. THIS WAS AN ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED BY THE AMERICANS.

SOON AFTER THE JAPANESE SURRENDERED. KNOWN AS VJ DAY.

FIVE WEEKS LATER, EDGAR AND THE OTHER PRISONERS WERE RESCUED BY THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY. THE PHOTO BELOW WAS TAKEN JUST AFTER VJ DAY.



WE BELIEVE THAT EDGAR IS ON THE BOTTOM ROW, FOURTH FROM THE RIGHT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY HAD ALL LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT, DUE TO STARVATION.

WHEN EDGAR RETURNED HOME IN 1946, HE FOUND THAT HIS WIFE HAD REMARRIED. SHE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD HE WAS ALIVE!

EDGAR STAYED IN THE NAVY BUT DIED IN 1952 AGED 42 WITH CANCER. THE DOCTORS SAID IT WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE RADIATION FROM THE ATOMIC BOMB.

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BOOK – NO SURRENDER BY WE JOHNS



**WINDOW IN EXETER CATHEDRAL DEDICATED TO THE
EXETER CREWMEN.**