

The Hong Kong Signal Company & Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Detachment

This roll of those who served with the Hong Kong Signal Company has been compiled from the information provided by Tony Banham at [Hong Kong War Diary](#),¹ a project that ‘documents the 1941 defence of Hong Kong, the defenders, their families, and the fates of all until liberation, and [POW Research Network Japan](#).²

For completeness, in addition to the Royal Corps of Signals officers and men of the Signal Company this roll includes the Chief Signals Officer and the officers and men of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. A separate piece of work is being done to capture the details of the men of Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps Signals and the Fortress Signal Company.

The original roll of prisoners of war in Hong Kong and their fate was compiled by the immensely courageous Tse Dickuan—you can read his story [here](#).³ For his bravery in undertaking this work, Tse Dickuan was awarded the British Empire Medal for ‘special services during the enemy occupation of Hong Kong.’⁴

Those indicated as ‘died’ on a specific day prior to 25 December 1941, or in the date range 8-25 December, were killed in action or died of wounds. The men indicated as ‘wounded’ were wounded in December 1941 unless stated otherwise.

The sailing of the *Lisbon Maru* was the 2nd transportation to Japan—those who died on 2 October 1942 when it was sunk and who have no known grave are commemorated on the Sai Wan Memorial, Hong Kong. The men who survived the sinking are indicated as having done so. Note that the Commonwealth War Graves records the date of death of many men as 1 October or as 1/2 October; in fact, most casualties occurred on 2 October.

All who died during the fighting or as prisoners of war and who have a known grave are buried in Stanley Military Cemetery and Sai Wan War Cemetery in Hong Kong and in Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan; those with no known grave are commemorated on the Sai Wan Memorial.

Hong Kong Signal Company Strength, December 1941	188
Killed in action or died of wounds up to 25 December 1941	15
Transported on the SS <i>Lisbon Maru</i>	129
Transported to Japan on the other five transports	23
Remained in Hong Kong	21
Died as a prisoner of war in Hong Kong after 25 December 1941	11
Died when the <i>Lisbon Maru</i> sank	50
<i>Lisbon Maru</i> survivors died in Shanghai	2
<i>Lisbon Maru</i> survivors died in Japan	16
Other transports died in Japan	1
Survived captivity having remained in Hong Kong	10
Survived captivity in Japan	83

Died in an aircrash after release from captivity in Japan	2
Hong Kong Signal Company killed in action, died of wounds or died in captivity	97
Hong Kong Signal Company survived	91

Table 1: Hong Kong Signal Company Casualties

Chief Signals Officer

LEVETT	Lt Col	Eustace Oliver	Awarded OBE. ⁵
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Hong Kong Signal Company

ALLEN	Sig 2975172	Alfred	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
ALLIN	Sig 2589561	Bernard Lester	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
AMOTT	Sig 2323402	Thomas Henry	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
ATKINSON	L/Cpl 2325182	Edwin	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
BARRITT	Sig 2310677	Leslie	1 st transportation to Japan.
BATES	Sig 2350743	Harold Medwell	Wounded. 5 th transportation to Japan.
BEDFORD	Cpl 2323921	George	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 2 October 1942.
BENNETT	Sig 2323504	Sidney	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of diphtheria at Osaka, Japan, 17 February 1943. Yokohama War Cemetery.
BEVAN	Sig 2325210	William Thomas Edward	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
BIGGS	L/Cpl 2330252	Reginald E.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
BIRKETT	Sig 2323542	Gerald Anthony	Died in Hong Kong, 8 December 1941. Sai Wan Memorial.
BLOUNT	Cpl 2318812	Walter Henry	3 rd transportation to Japan.
BRACKENBURY	Cpl 2319478	Bernard	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
BROWN	Lt	Charles Dixon	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
BROWN	Cpl 2324377	George Kenneth	Wounded. 5 th transportation to Japan.
BUCKE	Lt	Cyril Edward	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
BUNDY	Sgt 2319902	Cecil	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery at Osaka, Japan, 28 October 1942. ⁶ Yokohama War Cemetery.
BUSBY	Sig 2326081	George Temple	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
BUTLER	Sig 2323332	William Alfred	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
CARROLL	Sig 2326548	George	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
CARTER	Cpl 2320707	Fred Augustus Henry	Wounded.
CARTWRIGHT	Sig 2325662	Leslie George	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
CLARKE	Sig 2325061	Harry	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
CLARKE	Sig 2350848	Henry William	Died in Hong Kong, 7 February 1942. ⁷ Stanley Military Cemetery.
CLEGGETT	Sig 2323569	Albert Ernest	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1 October 1942.
CLOVER	Sig 2323406	Peter William	Died in Hong Kong, 15 December 1941. Sai Wan Memorial.

COGBILL	Sig 2326543	Robert George	6 th transportation to Japan.
COOK	Sig 2324228	Peter Harold	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1 October 1942.
COOK	Sig 2350854	William James	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
COATES	Sig 2330292	Ernest	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died in Japan, 26 November 1942. ⁸ Yokohama War Cemetery.
COOKE	Sgt 2316204	Reginald John	Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
COOMBE	Sig 2321834	Lionel	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
COPSEY	L/Sgt 2323556	Harold Edwin	Wounded. 5 th transportation to Japan.
CORNISH	Sig 2362237	Frederick David	Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
COTTON	Sig 2324263	Raymond David	5 th transportation to Japan.
CRAWLEY	Sig 2330255	Frederick William	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
CRUMP	Sig 5381830	Edwin Herbert	5 th transportation to Japan. Died of beri beri & malnutrition at Narumi, Japan, 18 October 1944. Yokohama War Cemetery.
DANNAN	L/Cpl 2323003	Stephen John	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
DEVLIN	Sig 2324023	William	
DIGNAM	L/Cpl 2324067	James	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
DIXON	L/Cpl 2324289	Henry Villiers	Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
DONOGHUE	L/Cpl 2343411	Joseph	Died in Hong Kong, 13 July 1942. Sai Wan War Cemetery.
DOVE	L/Cpl 2335489	James William	3 rd transportation to Japan.
EDEN	Sig 232561	John Charles	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
EVENETT	Sig 2330259	Alan George	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery at Osaka, Japan, 20 October 1942. ⁹ Yokohama War Cemetery.
FERRIE	Sig 2326553	Gordon	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
FIELDHOUSE	Sig 2353991	Stanley	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of pneumonia at Osaka, Japan, 4 March 1943. Yokohama War Cemetery.
FLEET	Sig 2324029	Alfred	Died in Hong Kong, 8 December 1941. Sai Wan Memorial.
FOX	Sig 2325079	Henry	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
FRAZER	L/Cpl 2323240	Matthew	Wounded.
GALE	Sig 2331384	Edward George	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
GILBERT	L/Cpl 2325023	Donald Arthur	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of pneumonia at Moji, Japan, 21 October 1942. Yokohama War Cemetery.
GOLDING	L/Cpl 2325699	William Charles	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
GORDON	L/Cpl 2570900	Frank Norman	1 st transportation to Japan.
GORMAN	Sgt 2319515	James Thomas	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
GOUDIE	Sig 2353843	Harold	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
GREAVES	Cpl 2322243	William Henry	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
GRACEY	Capt	Peter Douglas	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
GREEN	Sgt 2317132	Ernest Edward	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
GRIFFITHS	L/Cpl 2324460	Owen	Died in Hong Kong, 19 December 1941. Sai Wan Memorial.

GROVE	L/Cpl 2324059	Norman	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery at Osaka, Japan, 6 November 1942. Yokohama War Cemetery.
HALL	L/Cpl 2324196	Douglas James	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
HALSTEAD	Sig 2323426	Tom Heap	Died of diphtheria in Hong Kong, 29 August 1942. Sai Wan War Cemetery.
HANNAM	Sig 5498217	Alfred Derick	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HARKINSON	Sig 3312404	William John	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
HARRINGTON	Sig 2323399	Desmond M.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died in an aircrash en route to freedom on 10 September 1945. ¹⁰ Sai Wan Memorial.
HAYES	Maj	Leonard	Officer Commanding.
HEDGES	Sig 2356947	Leslie Haig	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HEWER	Sig 2324099	Edward Henry John	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
HILL	Sig 2325988	Godfrey Allan	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HODGE	Sig 2330299	John Henry	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
HODGE	Cpl 726718	Walter Resolution	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
HODGES	Sig 2330265	Nichol	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HODGSON	Sig 2323199	Colin	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Mentioned in Despatches. ¹¹
HODSON	Sig 2341094	Harry Stacey	Killed in action in Hong Kong, 19 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
HOGAN	Sig 2352639	Joseph	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HOLLAND	Cpl 6083230	William John	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HONEYBOURNE	Sig 2351837	Douglas Victor	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HORNBY	Sig 2352071	Jack	5 th transportation to Japan.
HOSKEN	Sig 2370460	Ernest John	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HOWELL	Sig 2330261	David	
HOWELL	Sig 2346981	Joseph Edward	Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. Sai Wan Memorial.
HUNT	Sig 2325084	Alec R.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
HUSBAND	Cpl 2022101	Edwin	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
HUTCHISON	Sig 4450399	Edward	1 st transportation to Japan.
IENT	Sgt 6653403	Albert Victor	3 rd transportation to Japan. Wounded at Shikoku in 1944.
JACK	L/Cpl 2820153	James	Died of diphtheria in Hong Kong, 6 July 1942. Sai Wan War Cemetery.
JAMIE	L/Cpl 2323415	Montague	5 th transportation to Japan.
JOHNSON	L/Cpl 2321687	Frank	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
JORDAN-BOWDITCH	Sig 2333643	Horace	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
KENNARD	L/Sgt 768835	Harold Leslie	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery at Osaka, Japan, 28 December 1942. Yokohama War Cemetery.
KENNEDY	Cpl 2570888	Tom	Wounded. 3 rd transportation to Japan.
KLOT	Sig 2350000	Aaron Lewis	Wounded. 1 st transportation to Japan.
LAING	Sig 2318785	David	1 st transportation to Japan.

LANDER	Sig 2322446	Edward	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
LANGLEY	Sgt 2314216	Cecil Alec	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
LATTER	Sig 2322447	Fred Charles	
LAWTON	Sig 2324220	Albert	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery at Osaka, Japan, 30 November 1942. Yokohama War Cemetery.
LEES	Sig 2325743	John	Died of diphtheria and pericarditis in Hong Kong, 20 July 1942. Stanley Military Cemetery.
LEITH	Sig 2319998	Harry Lauder	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of pneumonia at Moji, Japan, 11 October 1942. ¹² Yokohama War Cemetery.
LESTER	Sig 846642	Norman	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
LEWIS	Sig 419577	Arthur	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
LILEY	L/Cpl 2325667	Harry	1 st transportation to Japan.
LITHAUER	L/Cpl 2325527	Ronald Louis	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery at Osaka, Japan, 1 January 1943. Yokohama War Cemetery.
LOMAX	Sgt 2320467	Eli Elijah Walter	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
LORD	Sig 2353654	Harold H.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery at Osaka, Japan, 1 December 1942. ¹³ Yokohama War Cemetery.
LOVE	L/Cpl 2322181	Ken Walter	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
MacDONALD	Sig 2355279	Archibald	3 rd transportation to Japan.
MacDONALD	L/Cpl 2321689	Thomas	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
McCANN	Sig 2343481	James	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
McCARTHY	Sgt 2318436	Ernest Frank	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
McCORMICK	Sig 2324111	William Thomas	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
McENEANEY	Sig 2323476	James	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
McGOWRAN	Sgt 2313758	George L.	Died in Hong Kong, 24 March 1943. Sai Wan War Cemetery.
McLAREN	Sig 2325781	John Dryburgh	Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. ¹⁴ Sai Wan Memorial.
MILDREN	Sig 2569621	Leslie Ernest	1 st transportation to Japan.
MILROSE	Sig 2350958	James Alfred	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died at Osaka Military Hospital, Japan, 1-31 December 1942. ¹⁵ Yokohama War Cemetery.
MODDREL	Sig 2323440	Peter	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
MORGAN	L/Cpl 2323570	Trevor Kenneth	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
MURPHY	L/Cpl 2325101	James	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
NEWBOLD	Sig 2324193	William James	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died in Shanghai, 26 December 1942. Woosung (Wusong) Cemetery, reinterred in Yokohama War Cemetery.
NEWNHAM	L/Cpl 837990	Bertram C.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
O'LEARY	Sig 850983	Strangeways E.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
PAGE	Sgt 2316934	Charles Albert	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942. Awarded the Military Medal. ¹⁶
PALMER	L/Cpl 2323603	Herbert Slader	Died in Hong Kong, 25 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
PARIS	Sig 2318864	Charles Roy	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
PARKER	Dvr 2587178	Ernest	Died in Hong Kong, 26 September 1944. Sai Wan War Cemetery.

PARSONS	Cpl 2323514	Arthur John	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
PATERSON	Lt	Thomas	
PEARSON	Sgt 2317200	Harry	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
PENNINGTON	Sig 2325509	Ron George	
PHIPPS	Sig 2323912	John	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
PICKSTON	Sig 2353661	Leslie	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
PITCHER	Sig 2323200	Wilfred	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
PLAYER	Sig 2323209	Arthur Howard	Died of malnutrition in Hong Kong, 26 August 1942. Stanley Military Cemetery.
POTTER	Sig 2325012	John Henry	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
PREECE	Sig 2324242	Bernard Victor	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of pneumonia in Osaka, Japan, 12 December 1942. Yokohama War Cemetery.
PRICE	L/Cpl 2324244	Charles Henry	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died in an air crash en route to freedom on 10 September 1945. ¹⁷ Sai Wan Memorial.
RANSFORD	Sig 2353860	Charles	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of acute colitis in Osaka, Japan, 22 March 1943. Yokohama War Cemetery.
REDFERN	Sig 2353662	George Stanley	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
ROBERTSON	L/Cpl 2333539	Peter Ian Northen	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
ROBINSON	Sig 2353612	Joseph	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
RODGERS	Sig 2353858	Herbert Henry	Died of diphtheria in Hong Kong, 25 July 1942. Sai Wan War Cemetery.
ROELICH	Sig 2324268	Harold Eric	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
ROGERS	CQMS 6340597	John Francis	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
RUMFORD	L/Cpl 2323857	Eric	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
SAYERS	CQMS 2306621	Albert Francis	
SCULLY	Cpl 2323331	John Patrick	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
SHEPHERD	Sig 2323228	Thomas W.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
SKINNER	Sig 234727	Maynard	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
SLEIGHT	Sig 2325157	Victor	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
SMITH	Cpl 2324218	William Arthur	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
SOMERVILLE	Sgt 2320528	George	Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. ¹⁸ Stanley Military Cemetery.
SOUTHWELL	Lt	Frederick Jesse	Died in Hong Kong, 23 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
SPARE	Cpl 2319390	Dermot	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
SPENDELOW	Sig 2325828	George W.	Wounded (leg amputated).
SPINKS	Sig 2323490	George Henry	Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
SPONG	Lt	Harry Charles	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died of dysentery in Osaka, Japan, 11 December 1942. Yokohama War Cemetery. Awarded MBE. ¹⁹
SPROUL	Sig 844310	William Lamont	Wounded. Died in Hong Kong between 8 & 25 December 1941. Sai Wan War Cemetery.

STOTT	Cpl 2323463	James Black	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942. Awarded the Military Medal. ²⁰
SUGGITT	Sig 2351049	Robert	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
SWAINE	Sig 2351613	Arnold	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
TALKS	Dvr 2324091	Vernon	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
TAYLOR	Sig 2323735	Cecil John	1 st transportation to Japan.
TAYLOR	L/Cpl 2324365	William Arthur	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
TEMPLE	Sig 2323472	Arthur Edward	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
THORP	Sig 2347792	Wilfred	1 st transportation to Japan.
TOMLINSON	Cpl 2322410	John Bramley	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
TOPLIFF ²¹	Sig 2330282	Arnold	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry. ²²
TRUSCOTT	Cpl 6746367	Montague E.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
TURNER	Sig 2352608	Frederick Charles	Died of malnutrition and heart failure in Hong Kong, 14 October 1942. Stanley Military Cemetery.
VENNER	Cpl 6396412	Fred Albert	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
VICKERS	Maj	John	Died in Hong Kong, 8 March 1943. Sai Wan War Cemetery.
WALLWORK	Sig 2322318	Harold	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
WARREN	Sig 2330321	Christopher	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
WATHEN	L/Sgt 2314610	Walter Norman	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
WATKINS	Sig 2325037	Fred Aidney	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
WATTS	Cpl 2321582	Joseph Henry	Wounded. <i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived. Died in Shanghai, 2 October 1942. Woosung (Wusong) Cemetery, reinterred in Yokohama War Cemetery.
WEEKS	Sig 2324122	Douglas Reginald	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
WHITEFIELD	Sgt 2318017	Charles A.	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
WHITEHEAD	L/Cpl 2322490	John William Mathias	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
WHITTENHAM	Sig 2321823	Ken Edward	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
WIGZELL	CSM 2311126	Wallace Frank	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
WILKINS	Sig 2325220	Alfred Robinson	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
WILLIAMS	Sig 2323927	Herbert James	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.
WILLIAMS	L/Cpl 5826323	Jack Ronald	5 th transportation to Japan.
WILLIS	L/Cpl 2321824	Francis	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , died, 1/2 October 1942.
WRIGHT	Sig 2324229	Thomas William	<i>Lisbon Maru</i> , survived.

Royal Canadian Corps of Signals²³

ACTON	L/Cpl K/35409	Robert William	3 rd transportation to Japan.
ALLISTER	Sig D/116327	William	3 rd transportation to Japan.
BEATON	Sig K/35438	John Donald	6 th transportation to Japan.
BILLINGS	Capt	George Michael	Wounded. Officer Commanding.

DAMANT	Sig D/3385	Robert	Killed in action in Hong Kong, 19 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery. Mentioned in Despatches. ²⁴
D'AMOURS	Sig K/34935	Roland N.	4 th transportation to Japan.
DAYTON	Sig K/34722	Ernest Arthur	4 th transportation to Japan.
DOUGLAS	Sig K/34017	John Taylor	3 rd transportation to Japan.
DOWLING	Sig B/32015	Lawrence Fred	
FAIRLEY	Sig K/34910	John Lloyd F.	Died of wounds in Hong Kong, 22 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
GERRARD	Sig P/7563	Horrace	3 rd transportation to Japan.
GRANT	Sig K/34730	George Charles	3 rd transportation to Japan.
GREENBERG	Sig H/38860	'Hank' Hymie	Killed in action in Hong Kong, 19 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery.
GRIMSTON	Sig K/35476	Anthony Frank	
HORVATH	Sig H/38902	James E.	Died of wounds in Hong Kong between 1 & 31 January 1942. Sai Wan Memorial.
JENKINS	Sig K/36026	Walter George	
KEYWORTH	L/Cpl K/11054	Charles M.	Wounded. 4 th transportation to Japan.
KURLUK	Sig K/36009	Theodore	4 th transportation to Japan.
LITTLE	Sig K/34073	John Samuel	Died in Hong Kong, 3 June 1942. ²⁵ Sai Wan War Cemetery.
MITCHELL	L/Cpl B/31782	James Fraser	3 rd transportation to Japan.
NAYLOR	Sig P/7575	Howard Edward	4 th transportation to Japan.
NORMAND	Sig D/3389	Wallace George	
PENNY	Cpl K/34027	Donald Alfred	3 rd transportation to Japan.
REDHEAD	Sig K/83057	Thomas	Died in Hong Kong, 30 September 1942. Sai Wan War Cemetery.
ROBINSON	Sig K/74567	Arthur Thomas	3 rd transportation to Japan.
ROSE	Sig K/34771	Jack	3 rd transportation to Japan.
ROUTLEDGE	Sgt R/7541	Ronald John	Wounded. Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. ²⁶
SHARP	Sgt K/35468	Charles John	Killed in action in Hong Kong, 19 December 1941. Stanley Military Cemetery. Mentioned in Despatches. ²⁷
SPELLER	Sig K/83926	Lionel Curtis	3 rd transportation to Japan. Awarded the Military Medal. ²⁸
SQUIRES	Sig K/80593	Arthur Raymond	Awarded the British Empire Medal. ²⁹
THOMAS	Sig K/34801	Ernest R.	Killed in action in Hong Kong, 19 December 1941. Sai Wan Memorial.
VERRAULT	Sig D/116314	Joseph	3 rd transportation to Japan.
WHITE	L/Sgt K/34757	Wesley James	Died in Hong Kong, 25 September 1942. Sai Wan War Cemetery.

¹ <<http://www.hongkongwardiary.com>>

² <<http://www.powresearch.jp/en/index.html>>

³ <<https://gwulo.com/comment/30861#comment-30861>>

⁴ London Gazette 21 January 1947; [37858](#).

⁵ London Gazette 4 April 1946; [37521](#). Citation: The National Archives (TNA). Public Record Office (PRO). (1946). *Recommendation for Award for Levett, Eustace*. WO 373/87/243.

For outstanding ability in organizing and controlling the Royal Corps of Signals during a very tense period. Damage caused by enemy shell fire mortars and air bombardment was severe and incessant yet repairs were always carried out and no call made on the Corps was ever disregarded or unaccomplished. He was always cool, cheerful and prepared to undertake at short notice any demand upon him. His personal example was an inspiration to his whole Corps.

⁶ Banham's research indicates that he died on 23 October 1942.

⁷ Banham's research indicates that he died on 6 February 1942.

⁸ Banham's research indicates that he died on 2 November 1942.

⁹ Banham's research indicates that he died on 10 October 1942.

¹⁰ United States Army Air Force B24-J, Serial 44-40491, 'Ginny'.

¹¹ London Gazette 29 August 1946; [37704](#).

¹² Banham's research indicates that he died in December 1943.

¹³ Banham's research indicates that he died on 7 December 1942.

¹⁴ Banham's research indicates that he died on 19 December 1941.

¹⁵ Banham's research indicates that he died in November 1942.

¹⁶ London Gazette 4 April 1946; [37521](#). Citation: TNA. PRO. (1946). *Recommendation for Award for Page, C A*. WO 373/47/360.

For indefatigable devotion to duty on the Mainland during the period 8-12 December, 1941. His energy, willingness and encouraging example under adverse circumstances not only enabled the communications to be maintained but also enabled stores and equipment which would otherwise have fallen into enemy hands to be successfully evacuated to the Island.

¹⁷ United States Army Air Force B24-J, Serial 44-40491, 'Ginny'.

¹⁸ Banham's research indicates that he died on 23 December 1941.

¹⁹ London Gazette 4 April 1946 (to be dated 20 October 1942); [37521](#). Citation: TNA. PRO. (1946). *Recommendation for Award for Spong, Harry*. WO 373/87/247.

As Officer in charge of lines on the Mainland between 8 and 12 December this officer was practically without sleep in his indefatigable efforts to maintain the existing communications, complete the new Mainland contract then in progress and salvage administrative equipment no longer in use.

Due to his efforts and those of his line detachment not only were those communications maintained intact, this assisting the evacuation of the Mainland that many lives were saved but every item of signal equipment, reserve stores, cable and equipment and transport were evacuated to the Island. This involved the loading of several tons of equipment by a tired out detachment and speaks highly of their discipline and devotion to duty.

Later this officer was in charge of the lines in East Brigade Group and the East area of the Island generally. His work, cheerfulness and devotion to duty under exceptionally difficult circumstances and frequently under fire were an example to all with whom he came in contact and earned the highest praise from the Brigade Commander.

²⁰ London Gazette 4 April 1946; [37521](#). Citation: TNA. PRO. (1946). *Recommendation for Award for Stott, J B*. WO 373/47/361.

For indefatigable devotion to duty on the Mainland during the period 8-12 December, 1941. His energy, willingness and encouraging example under adverse circumstances not only enabled the communications to be maintained but also enabled stores and equipment which would otherwise have fallen into enemy hands to be successfully evacuated to the Island.

²¹ Incorrectly record in some records as 'Topcliffe'.

²² LG 15 March 1946; [37500](#). Citation: TNA. PRO. (1945-1946). *Recommendation for Award for Topliff, Arnold Osmond*. WO 373/69/830.

Signalman Topliff was a prisoner of war aboard the Japanese Army transport 'Lisbon Maru' when the ship was torpedoed by a United States submarine on 1st October, 1942. He was one of a small number of survivors who escaped by swimming to an island about eight miles distant, despite the ruthless efforts of the Japanese to destroy them by machine gun fire and other means. Another survivor was Captain C. M. M. Man of the Middlesex Regiment, and this officer had almost reached the same island when a change of current began to carry him out to sea. Seeing that Captain Man was in imminent danger, Signalman Topliff, himself in an almost exhausted condition, immediately re-entered the water, swam to the officer and brought him safely to land.

²³ For more details about these men see the Canadian [Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association](#).

²⁴ London Gazette 2 April 1946; [37528](#).

²⁵ Banham's research indicates that he died on 5 June 1942.

²⁶ London Gazette 25 July 1946 (to be dated 15 June 1946); [37664](#). *In recognition of gallant and distinguished services whilst a prisoner of war in the Far East*. Citation: Canada Gazette 15 June 1946; No. 24, Vol. 80, p.3849.

Recommendation: Sergeant Routledge was taken prisoner of war at Hong Kong in December 1941, and displayed unusual devotion to duty and conspicuous bravery while on special service during his period of captivity in the hands of the Japanese. From the middle of October 1942, contact had been established and communications exchanged between officers of Shamshuiipo Camp and British intelligence officers at Waichow, through the medium of Chungking agents. About the middle of May 1943, when the method of sending and receiving messages was through the medium of Chinese drivers of the ration lorries, it became necessary to replace the contact who had been dropped from the ration party, and consequently was no longer in a position to continue the service. Sergeant Routledge, who was a member of this ration party, without hesitation volunteered to fill the vacancy. He showed considerable initiative and intelligence in performing the extremely difficult and hazardous duty of passing the messages under the eye of the Japanese guards, when the slightest slip would have resulted in exposure leading to severe punishment even to the loss of life. He performed this service competently until the channel of communications was closed about the middle of June. This work was of the utmost value to the camp, ensuring as it did the vital supply of medicine for the many sick in hospital, and providing important information to the outside which was urgently required. On 1 July he was sent for by the Japanese military authorities, and suspecting the reason, showed great initiative and presence of mind by giving the alarm to his fellow workers en route. He was removed from the camp and taken to the Gendarmerie Headquarters and charged with communicating with the enemy. He was brutally beaten and suffered a variety of tortures, including the Japanese "water torture", to endeavour to compel him to disclose the names of the officers directing these operations. In spite of incredible suffering he resolutely refused to divulge any information and showed great courage and fortitude in enduring these repeated tortures for several hours before finally being removed to Stanley Prison to wait court martial for espionage. The court sat on 1 December, and after the statements were read the prosecutor demanded the death penalty but the court awarded a sentence of fifteen years imprisonment. He was confined to Stanley Prison until 22 June 1945, when he was removed to a military prison in Canton. He was returned to Hong Kong on 21 August and set free. During his imprisonment he came into contact with Major Boxer, the Lincolnshire Regiment, a fellow prisoner, whose statement is attached hereto. The resolute courage of this Non-Commissioned Officer in spite of indescribable suffering and his devotion to duty provide an example in the highest tradition of the service.

The statement by Major C.R. Boxer, made at Hong Kong on 24 August 1945, was addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel J.H. Price, MC, Commanding Officer, Royal Rifles of Canada, and read as follows:

I request that you should bring to the notice of the competent superior authority the behaviour of Number P.7541 Sergeant R.J. Routledge, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, during his imprisonment in the Japanese military prisons at Hong Kong and Canton from 1 July 1943 to 21 August 1945, which, in my considered opinion merits official recognition and reward. I can personally vouch for the period from 21 October 1943 to 21 August 1945, since I was closely associated with him during that time, and as regards the preceding four months, my observations are based on what was told me by Colonel Newnham, late GSO 1 China Command, Captain D. Ford, 2nd Royal Scots, and Flight Lieutenant Gray, Royal Air Force, before their trial and execution in December 1943.

Sergeant Routledge was subjected to very severe beating and physical torture (including the 'notorious Japanese form of "water torture") on July 1st, 1943, with the object of forcing him to give away the names and details of the personnel involved with him in the secret liaison maintained between the Prisoner of War camps at Hong Kong and the British military intelligence authorities at Waichow and which were in fact known by him in considerable detail although he had only been employed in the work for two months. Despite the severity of the ordeal, he resolutely declined to mention any officers' names, although

particularly pressed regarding your own name and those of Brigadier Home, Captain Crewe (sic-Crew), Royal Army Service Corps, and Captain Bush, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. This conduct saved their lives or health of officers who would otherwise have been involved and inevitably tortured and subjected to trial by court-martial for espionage.

During the period of our incarceration, particularly the first six months, when the whole party was fed on totally inadequate rations and subjected to severe disciplinary punishment with the object of undermining our health and morale, Sergeant Routledge remained unfailingly cheerful and resolute, giving an outstanding example of fortitude under exceptionally difficult conditions. He was at all times ready and willing to help the physically weaker members of the party and his careful and conscientious nursing of Sergeant Hardy, Royal Air Force, during the latter's critical illness in the winter of 1944-45 was largely instrumental in saving his life according to the testimony of Doctor Selwyn-Clarke who was a prisoner at this period.

Throughout the two years of his imprisonment he displayed qualities of initiative, courage and resource, which in my opinion merit official recognition and reward, whether in the form of promotion to Warrant Officer or commissioned rank, or in whatever manner considered suitable by superior authority. If further details are required I can supply them at any time.

(Note: Of those referred to, Colonel L. A. Newnham MC, Captain D. Ford and Flight Lieutenant H. B. Grey AFM were awarded the George Cross posthumously for their conduct as prisoners and Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Price was made OBE.)

²⁷ London Gazette 2 April 1946; [37528](#).

²⁸ London Gazette 2 April 1946; [37528](#). Incorrectly records his name as 'Spelier'. Citation: TNA. PRO. (1946). *Recommendation for Award for Spelier, Lionel Curtis*. WO 373/47/395.

Corporal Spelier deserves the highest praise for his performance during the engagement at Hong Kong. On 19 December, 1941, he carried out his duties as dispatch rider on the Island between various headquarters, often through fire swept areas. His main concern was the delivery of messages, and he showed utter lack of regard for his personal safety. He volunteered during his time off duty to accompany other riders to ensure messages getting through. During the course of his trips he often travelled over strange ground which was occupied by guerrillas friendly to the enemy. Despite the fact that one dispatch rider was killed on the same road Corporal Spelier travelled on several occasions, he continued to traverse this road on which he came under direct observation and fire of the enemy for more than a mile. Throughout the operation he carried out all his duties and volunteered for additional difficult and dangerous tasks. He showed courage and devotion to duty above the ordinary and was an inspiration to all who came into contact with him.

²⁹ London Gazette 25 July 1946 (to be dated 15 June 1946); [37664](#). *For gallant and distinguished services whilst a prisoner of war in the Far East.*