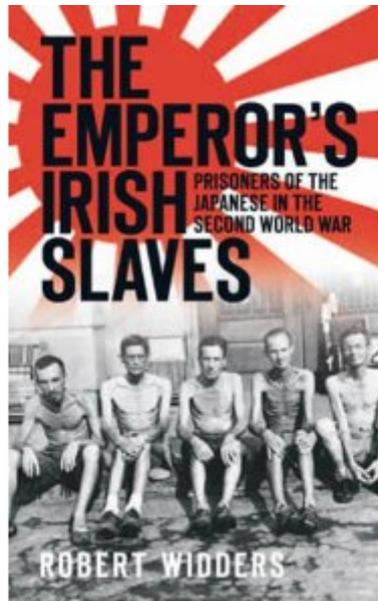


THE EMPEROR'S IRISH SLAVES: PRISONERS OF THE JAPANESE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

BY ROBERT WIDDERS
(THE HISTORY PRESS IRELAND, DUBLIN, 2012)



Trinity graduate Ransome Macnamara Allardyce was bayoneted to death when the Japanese overran the Alexandra Military Hospital in Singapore in February 1942. Another Trinity graduate, Arthur Charles Prigge, died covered in ulcers while a prisoner of the Japanese. Sister Mary Cooper died in a Japanese prison camp on 26 June 1943, from the combined effects of starvation, brutality and tropical diseases. Timothy Kenneally and Patrick Fitzgerald tried to escape from a slave labour camp on the Burma Railway. They were caught, tortured, crucified and then executed on 27 March 1943. And Patrick Carberry spent the summer of 1943 cremating the emaciated corpses of his comrades who had died from cholera. These people had two things in common: they were Irish citizens serving with the British armed forces; and they were amongst more than 650 Irishmen and women who became prisoners of the Imperial Japanese Army in 1942. Nearly a quarter of them died while in Japanese captivity. This is their story. Combining historical narrative with first-hand accounts of the conditions in Japanese POW camps, Robert Widders brings to light their suffering and the strength that saw some of them return home.

Speakers at the launch will include Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey (TCD), Dr Gerald Morgan (TCD), Mr Kevin Myers (*Irish Independent*), Mr Gerald Nash (TD), Mr Stephen Collins (*Irish Times*), Mr Robert Widders (author), Major General (retired) David O'Morchoe (President of the Royal British Legion, Republic of Ireland). In attendance will be relatives of Irish soldiers who fought in the Far East in World War 2.

The Irish launch of the book, under the auspices of the Department of French, Trinity College Dublin, will take place in The Neill Hoey Theatre, Long Room Hub, Trinity College on Tuesday 28 February 2012 at 6 p.m.

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