Survival

Survival in Far East captivity depended on courage, tenacity, character and luck. Officers and men banded together in small tightknit groups, depending on each other for sustenance, strength and companionship.

Retaining a sense of purpose, the will to live and a sense of humour were key elements in the survival strategies that kept men alive. And it helped some of them to recover after their ordeal was over.

Small acts of rebellion, such as making art, provided a much needed boost to morale. For some it was a way of documenting their situation, for others it was a soothing hobby or a way of feeling closer to loved ones back home.

Most startling perhaps was the amount of humour and in-jokes that abounded, plus the ingenious theatrical entertainments to raise spirits and laughter.