

## Benjamin James CREES

**Born:** 10 July 1915 - Wiltshire

**Parents:** Thomas B. and Lucy L. Crees of North Marden, Sussex

**School Years:** 1928 – 1933

Appointed Prefect

Oxford School Certificate Honours Class III – Pass - July 1931

Exempt from the Matriculation London University

University of London, Higher School Certificate – July 1933

Speech Day Prize

Football X1 1929 – 1931

The Martlet – Poem ‘Verses’

**Civilian Occupation:** Dairyman

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### Armed Forces Record

**Service Rank:** Bombardier

**Service Number:** 901307

**Service Record:** 118<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment – Royal Artillery – British Army

**Duty Location:** Casualty List. No. 1958 – 10<sup>th</sup> British Army Clearing Station – Theatre of

War, Malaya

POW Camps – Malai

Tokyo – 8b

AOMI

**Date of Death:** 29 September 1943



*"Everywhere That Right and Glory Lead"*

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**Old Boy** Benjamin James (Jim) CREES was captured and taken prisoner by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore in 1942 and subsequently transferred on a 'Hell Ship' to mainland Japan and sent to the AOMI POW Camp.

This camp had been established on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943 as Tokyo No.9 Branch Camp on the site of Electro-Chemical Industry Company at Niigata-ken, Nishikubiki-gun, Omi-machi, Japan. The Prisoners of War (POWs) were ill-used by the Electro-chemical Industry Company. On

the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1943, it was renamed Tokyo 7 and renamed again in August 1945 Tokyo No.13 Branch Camp. It was closed in September 1945 at the end of the war. Some 542 POWs (432 American, 109 British and 1 New Zealander) were in prison at the end of the war.

The records shew that it was a hard and sometimes brutal regime. He died at the hands of the Japanese as did so many others, on 29 September 1943 of gastroenteritis, a condition no doubt accelerated by the lack of care in the camp. He was twenty-eight years old and must have attended the School from its inception (an 'original') in the late twenties

He is buried with sixty-five others at the British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Horogaya, Yokohama, Japan.

#### The Martlet - April 1946 – SCHOOL NOTES

*It is with deep regret that we record the death on active service of another Old Boy. Benjamin James Crees (1928-32) who was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore, is now known to have died in a prisoner of war camp in AOMI, Tokyo on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1943. This sad news just reached his parents. Crees was a very keen student and reliable, honest and trustworthy boy at School who always did his duty fully and manfully. He completed the full School course, taking the Oxford and London Higher Certificates and gaining his Prefect's Cap. On leaving School he worked on his father's farm and later joined the Territorials. To his sorrowing parents and young widow, we extend our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.*

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

CWGC Plaque at St Mary's Church, North Marden, Chichester