



Eugene Cowles Pomeroy Jr Capt

1912-1943

BIRTH 10 MAR 1912 • Washington, D. C.

DEATH 28 FEB 1943 • executed as POW after escape attempt

Facts

Age 0 – Birth

10 Mar 1912 • Washington, D. C.

Age 9 – Residence

1921 • Washington, District of Columbia

Age 18 – Residence

1930 • Hopewell, Mercer Co., New Jersey

Age 23 – Residence

1935 • Princeton University
per the FM; dropped out to assist on the family farm

Age 29 – Military

1941-1942 • Johore Bahru 2/12th Frontier Force
Regiment

Age 29 – Military

Feb 1942 • CPT Indian Army
2/212 Frontier Force Rgt captured at Jahore Bahru per
the FM: Officer Commanding 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, 12
Frontier Force Regiment

Age 30 – Military

1942 • at Thamarkam POW camp
per COL Toosey: a US citizen and journalist and mbr of
the Indian Army present at the building of the bridges
at RIVER KWAI; had worked for the China Weekly
Review

Age 30 – Military

Jan 1943 • attempted escape from Thamakam
executed by IJA along with Lt Eric Howard of the 80th
Anti-Tank Rgt and 4 others

Age 30 – Death

28 Feb 1943 • executed as POW after escape attempt

Sources

Ancestry sources



1930 United States Federal Census



Ancestry Family Trees



Global, Find A Grave Index for
Burials at Sea and other Select
Burial Locations, 1300s-Current



U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995



U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990



U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1990



UK, Allied Prisoners of War,
1939-1945

**Burial**

1945 • memorial only Kranji, North West,
Singapore
56232117 * Captain, 12th Frontier Force
Regiment.

Burial

1955 • Hunt's House family plot Hopewell, New Jersey.
re-interred at Family grave in New Jersey

Notes

Eugene C. Pomeroy, Jr. was my uncle. My father, Robert L. Pomeroy, served with the OSS during the Second World War. In late 1944, after serving in the Italian Campaign, he volunteered to go to the Far East to look for his brother. When he finally located my uncle's grave, my father disinterred him and cremated his remains, returning with them to New Jersey where they were buried in the family cemetery at Hunt's House, Hopewell, New Jersey. My father never recovered from the death of his brother. Eugene never graduated from Princeton. From what my late father told me, he was trying to run the farm at Hunt's House and study at the same time and he couldn't manage it, so he dropped out. The other story I was told was that he wanted to join the British Army, but when he got to Singapore, he was told he couldn't, but that he could join the British Indian Army, which was a completely separate organization. My father had his letters to his mother bound in a small book for family members. Dad went to the camp at Kanchanaburi, found the grave, with the help of some locals as far as I can gather, dug up his brother and cremated him. Capt. Eric Howard, RA, who was connected to the Castle Howard family, is buried in the CWGC cemetery there and was the only other man with Eugene. There was no one else who made an escape attempt with them, although I did meet a man in England some years ago who was going to escape with them, but got sick. At the time of his capture, he was the Officer Commanding 'D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, 12 Frontier Force Regiment Eugene is buried in the family plot at Hunt's House, which is near Hopewell, New Jersey. Hunt's House is a large field-stone Georgian, or colonial, house built in the mid-1700s just outside of Hopewell (40.409360, -74.746285 on Google Maps). ===== Just as there were two British national attached to the US POW contingent, Col. Toosey's force at the Bridge site contained a US citizen. Eugene C Pomeroy was born in WASHDC in 1912. After graduating from Princeton Univ he went to work for the China Weekly Review in Shanghai. In 1941, he took a commission in the Indian Army as a Captain with the 12th Frontier Force and was taken as a POW at Singapore. He was one of Col. Toosey's inner circle of officers during the building of the bridges at Thamakam. In Jan 1943, he and 5 others attempted to escape from that camp intending to use the roughed mountains of the Thai-Burma border to make their way to China, some 1000 miles away. Needless to say, they lasted barely a week before being recaptured. It is thought that either Thai villagers or the Police turned them in for a reward. Per Col. Toosey's biography, Pomeroy and Lt. Eric Howard and the 4 enlisted men were executed in FEB 1943 as lesson to the others. None of their remains were recovered and they are memorialized on a plaque in Singapore.