

Raymond Eric Jones (1905-1957) Stanley Camp Internee & Freemason

In the 1920s Jones was a former Navy submariner and became a prison officer at Stanley Prison in Hong Kong in 1935. At the end of 1940 Jones started writing a diary.

On 8 December 1941 the Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong and on 25 December 1941 Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese Military authorities. Jones with many other civilians were interned in Stanley Camp until 1945 when it was the time for the Japanese to surrender to British and Hong Kong forces and his family re-united. Jones raising the British Flag at Stanley on liberation.



On 2 April 1949 the Masonic Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Zetland Hall new building at 1 Kennedy Road Hong Kong took place before many Freemasons and families.

R.E.Jones was initiated into Lodge Naval & Military No.848 SC and was present at the Foundation Stone Laying in 1949 and participated in Lodge Naval & Military 848 SC procession.

ZH Foundation Stone Laying at High Noon



Procession of Lodge Naval & Military No.848 SC



Lodge Naval & Military 848 SC procession participants

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LODGE NAVAL & MILITARY NO. 848, S.C.

R.W.M. Wor. Bro. T. G. MacKay, D.G.M.S.R.	D. of C. Wor. Bro. C. de S. Robertson, P.D.G.W.
Depute M. " W. H. Bailey, HON. J.G.D., P.D.G.M., H.P.	Jeweller Bro. A. V. Lyen.
Substitute M. " A. Bailey, D.G.R.R.	Almoner " H. O. De Carte.
W.J.W. " A. W. Hircock, D.G.S.W.R.	Organist " V. Novikov,
Secretary " E. Bellamy,	Steward " H. Tiplady,
Treasurer " A. Tarbuck, D.G.F.R.A.S.	" " N. Senior,
Chaplain " R. B. Davis,	" " J. H. Keys,
Bible Bearer " Q. Castillo,	" " G. Johnson,
	Tyler " A. Gillard, HON. D.G.S.M.

Members.

Wor. Bro. G. Levy,	Bro. G. A. Low,
" J. Patchett,	" I. Sheppard,
Bro. W. C. Higgs,	" A. Hanks,
" L. Dullery,	" H. J. Flavies,
" T. P. Gregory,	" R. E. Jones,
" L. A. Easterbrook,	" I. M. Symington,
	" G. Sherriff,

Lodge Naval & Military No.848 SC was chartered on 6 May 1897 in Hong Kong primarily for service personnel.

R.E.Jones became a Master Mason in Lodge Naval & Military SC on 14 June 1949



R.E.Jones became a Mark Mason of Lodge Naval & Military 848 SC. On 17 June 1949



R.E.Jones became a member of Naval & Military Royal Arch Chapter No.302. On 28 March 1951



R.E.Jones became a member of Naval & Military Excellent Master Lodge on 29 January 1952



See R.E.Jones War Diary timeline below:

Date	R.E.Jones Diary Comment
1920	Raymond Eric Jones served in the Royal Navy, including service on submarines.
1935	R. E. Jones meets Marjorie and begins a long-distance campaign to marry her. She initially declines. In March R. E. Jones appointed as a Prison Officer at Stanley Prison Hong Kong.
1939	Marjorie and Jones married in England and returned to Hong Kong together.
1940	British women, including Marjorie, are evacuated from Hong Kong to Australia as HK was on a war footing. She is pregnant.
1941	1 January, R. E. Jones begins writing his diary.
1941	22 January. R. E. Jones' daughter, Rae, is born in Sydney.
1941	8 December the Japanese invades Hong Kong and overcome British forces.
1941	25 December Hong Kong surrenders. R. E. Jones becomes a prisoner at Civilian Stanley Camp.
1945	On liberation Marjorie and Rae sail for the UK.
1945	In October R. E. Jones reaches the UK and is re-united with his family. Discovered a lady who Jones had a close relationship while in Stanley Camp. The family believe that R. E. Jones' diary is destroyed at this point.
1945/7	At some unknown date, R. E. Jones passes his diary to a third party. It ends up with Alison McEwan's father.
1947	R. E. Jones, Marjorie and Rae return to Hong Kong as a Prison Officer then transferred to PWD living in Kennedy Road.
1952	R. E. Jones and Marjorie have a second daughter.
1957	April. R. E. Jones is having trouble swallowing. After medical tests he is diagnosed with cancer. He is sent back to the UK for treatment accompanied by all the family.
1957	In July, R. E. Jones dies at 52. The family would have liked to continue living in Hong Kong but all their possessions had been sent to the UK. They settle in the UK.
2010	Alison McEwan's husband looking through her father's papers and finds this War time diary. She types up its contents and posts it to the Stanley Camp discussion list. She tries to trace Rae but is unable to do so.
2012	David Bellis begins serialising the diary, posting it on Gwulo.com
2013	7 Jun. Rae is playing with her new iPad. She writes "I searched on Google for 'Rae Marjorie Jones Hong Kong' and up popped R. E. Jones War Diaries. "She froze!". She posts a comment on Gwulo.com and David contacts her by email. Alison had passed the diary to St. Stephens College for display in their museum. She contacts them to arrange the return of the Diary.
2013	22 Jun. David Bellis visits Rae in England and the diary is returned to the family.

Return of the Diary



David Bellis returns R.E.Jones WW II Diary to Jones daughter Rae.

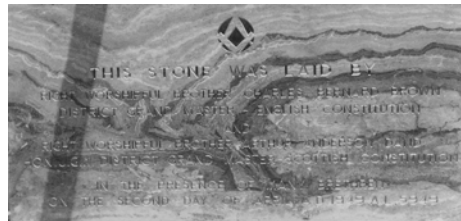
David then returns to Hong Kong with R.E.Jones Lodge Naval & Military No. 848 SC apron and his Masonic Certificates together with a copy of the Ceremony of Laying of the Foundation Stone of Zetland Hall in 1949 and Minutes of an Especial Communication 1949.



In October 2013 David handed over the above items to Brian Coak to pass them to Lodge Naval & Military 848 SC at Zetland Hall.

Brian from records at home checked R.E. Jones Masonic career and found that Jones was present at the Lodge Navy & Military 848 SC Procession of the Zetland Hall Foundation Stone Laying in 1949. (See photos above on first page)

Zetland Hall Foundation Stone & Building complete in 1950.



Brian L.Coak (Email:briancoak@gmail.com)