

BETA VISIT TO NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

We visited the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, on Wednesday(17th) as part of a coach trip which also included Lichfield, so we only had 2½ hours at the Arboretum. The Memorial Arboretum was a very moving experience for us. We went on the little train around the 150 acre site and saw many of the 330 memorials, the train took 50 minutes.

We then walked to the Far East memorial area and saw the Lychgate from Changi prison and a section of the Burma railway built by prisoners of war. We found this quite upsetting looking at the sleepers and thinking of the 116,000 lives lost building this railway and the suffering that the prisoners went through.



This photograph shows the section of the Burma railway.



The Army Commandos memorial had the names of 1,205 Commandos who died during World War Two, many of whom were executed under the terms of Hitler's infamous Commando Order. The photograph shows the Commando Memorial.

You can read more about the war in the Far East and the Army Commandos with personal local stories, in BETA's WW2 book available free on www.betanetcafe.co.uk
Copies of BETA's World War Two and World War One books are now in the archives of the National Memorial Arboretum after a request from Aaron Rossi the Exhibitions and Participation Officer.