

Two Portraits of Charlie Proctor: Changi POW camp 1942 and Thailand 1943

By Gunner Ashley George Old, 1/5 Sherwood Foresters Regt. RA



(©and courtesy the Bartholomew family)

These two portraits are Private Ernest Charles Proctor, the oldest member of the 1/5 Sherwood Foresters Regt in captivity in the Far East. They were created just 18 months apart.

Painted by Gunner Ashley George Old, who was in the same regiment as Charlie, the pencil sketch on the left was done in early 1942 during the first weeks of captivity at Changi POW camp in Singapore. By late 1943 both men were at Chungkai Hospital camp in Thailand and this is where Old painted the watercolour portrait of Charlie. The difference between the two portraits is stark. Both men survived captivity.

Old said he painted over a thousand such portraits during captivity. LSTM knows of the whereabouts of 18 and hopes to find more. If you know of a portrait by A.G. Old please contact us via www.captivememories.org.uk.

See www.captivememories.org.uk for more about the FEPOW art project, and the book: *"Captive Artists the unseen art of British Far East prisoners of war"* (2019)