

George Stanley Gimson was born in Glasgow on September 6, 1915. He joined the Territorial Army on November 15, 1938, and was commissioned in January 1941. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore while serving as a lieutenant in the 1st Indian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Indian Artillery.

In October 1942 he was sent from Singapore to one of the worst camps on the Thailand-Burma Railway. Gimson was a gifted draughtsman and his sketches in pen and ink of camp scenes and prisoner-of-war life are surpassed in quality only by those of Ronald Searle.

After the war he studied law at Glasgow University, in part as a result of attending classes in law given by some of the other prisoners of war during their captivity, and he then trained to become an advocate. He was called to the Scottish Bar in 1949 and had a distinguished career. He was made Sheriff Principal of Aberdeen, Kincardine and Banff in 1972.

His compassionate interest in others was shown in his involvement with the board of management of what was then Edinburgh Central Hospitals, 1960-70. He became chairman in 1964, and was made vice-chairman of Edinburgh Royal Victoria hospitals in 1970-74. He was chairman of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 1972-76.

He died on August 30, 2003, aged 87.

(from obituary in The Times October 17 2003)

The items were acquired through Gimson's time on the Board of Management of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children although they were actually transferred by the Pathology Department at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. They are copies of items held by the Imperial War Museum. Acc 09/09 - AS 1/2011

1        1960s

Copies of illustrations by Stanley Gimson of an operating theatre in a tent in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. Also includes a notice with the words 'Stanley Gimson QC – Board of Governors – Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh – a true friend of this department – personal sketches from a prison camp on the River Kwai, 1943.