

## “Bridge on the River Kwai: The Man, The Movie”

Abstract: A winner of 7 Academy Awards, the movie, “Bridge on the River Kwai” is a fictionalized depiction of actual events on the so-called Death Railway from Bangkok to Rangoon during the Second World War. The bridge in question was actually built by Allied prisoners of war led by a LtCol Phillip Tousey, played in the film as LtCol Nicholson by Sir Alec Guinness. The presentation will explore the manner in which tropical diseases affected the prisoners constructing the bridge in addition to discussing in detail the differences between the actual events and their depiction on screen. It will further bring to light the efforts of LtCol Tousey, after the war, to address the disease sequelae suffered by his troops, through his association with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.