

CHADBURN Edward Frank

Name: Edward Frank Chadburn

Born: 8 May 1919

Rank: Aircraftsman 1st Class

Service Number: 1222372

Regiment/Unit: Royal Air Force

Died: 23 April 1943



Wartime experience:

Edward was born in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. He was the son of Arthur and Ellen and had a brother, Owen, and sister, Kathleen. He was married to Ada Annie Lillian. Edward served with the 242 Squadron and was posted to Singapore. On 15 February 1942, when Singapore fell, Edward and his colleagues were diverted to Java where, in March 1942, they eventually fell into the hands of the Japanese.

In September that year, they were all transferred to Changi Jail in Singapore, then, one month later they were shipped out to Jesselton, Borneo, which is now known as Kota Kinabalu, where, they were made to work on the airport runway. Due to the appalling living conditions and scarcity of food, the men became ill and started to die. The Japanese decided to move everyone to Sandakan by ship, leaving behind the men who were too ill to be moved. The men who were left behind, of whom Edward was one, were taken to the civilian hospital in Jesselton.

Sadly, Edward died on 23 April 1943 aged 24.

He was one of 51 men who died in that year, his death was recorded as 'due to amoebic dysentery and beri-beri'.

He was buried in Jesselton but in 1945, the 23rd Australian War Graves Unit moved him and his other comrades that were buried there and re-buried them all in Labuan War Cemetery (HA14).



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