

COCKER Sidney

Name: Sidney Cocker

Born: 21 November 1911

Rank: Lance Corporal

Service Number: 1986350

Regiment/Unit/Station: 560 Field

Company Royal Engineers

Died: February 1960



Wartime experience:

Sid, prior to the outbreak of WW2, served in the Territorial Army in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. His service trade was a driver/mechanic/blacksmith. He was called up at the start of the War. Like others in the 18th Division he was sent with his company to Singapore arriving on 5th February 1942, where he was Batman/Driver to Major Harper.

On surrender to the Japanese on 15th February he was imprisoned at Changi Jail in the former India Lines. In July 1942 he and others were transported to the prison camp at Tha Sao on the Burma/Siam Railway construction project where he stayed until March 1944 with No.4 Group - other prison camps were Nakhon Pathom till October 1944.

Tha Muang to April 1945. and Nakhon Nayok to 18th August 1945.

On his release from captivity he was transported by HS Dorsetshire to India via Rangoon where after some recuperation transported home by SS Principessa Giovanna arriving at Southampton on 18th November 1945.

Civilian life after return:

On his return he was hospitalised for some time due to the effects of malnutrition, Dysentery Malaria and Beri Beri. He also suffered mental health issues. After treatment he returned to work and resumed employment at British Ropes in Doncaster. Following a minor operation in February 1960 Sid passed away, at the age of 48. It was considered his term in captivity may have had some bearing on his early death.



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