

# GOODWIN Albert Leslie

---

**Name:** Albert Leslie Goodwin

**Born:** 10 August 1917

**Rank:** Driver

**Service Number:** T/165826

**Royal Army Service Corps**

**Died:** 156 February 1971



---

## Pre War:

Albert Leslie Goodwin was born on 10 August 1917 to Harry and Caroline Goodwin. Up until his marriage in 1940, he lived at the family home in London. Prior to the Second World War, he worked as a driver for various companies. Albert met Joyce Avis Gingell in 1936 and married on the 22 December 1940.

## Wartime experience:

Albert enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps in March 1940 and had been on active service in France as a driver. Albert's war record states that he had been posted to Cherbourg, France on the 21 May 1940, only to return to England less than one month later, following the fall of France when British Forces were evacuated from ports on the west coast between the 15 and 2<sup>nd</sup> June. On the 16 June, Albert disembarked St Nazaire port, arriving in Plymouth two days later. He remained in Britain with the 292 Company for the next sixteen months, although how much he got to see his new bride during this time is uncertain. However, with the British Army struggling to hold the Far East, his time in Britain was over. On the 29 October 1941 he embarked on an ill-fated, three-month sea voyage to Singapore, arriving on the 6 January 1942, where he was immediately posted to join the 54 Infantry Brigade.



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk)

This was to be another short-lived posting; following a short but intense battle, on the 15 February 1942, Singapore fell to the Japanese. Immediately following the Allied surrender, the captured soldiers, including Albert, were marched fourteen miles to Changi Barracks on Singapore's eastern extremity. Albert's war records state that his wife, Joyce was informed on the 14 March that her husband was missing.

He was among the first prisoners to be sent from Changi Camp to begin the gruelling task of building the Burma-Siam railway. He left on the 18 June 1942, on the very first train to leave for Thailand (over one thousand miles north) as one of the 'June Mainland Parties.' Albert spent the next few months in Nong Pladuk. Records show that he was admitted to hospital with malaria on three occasions - 30 September 1942, 2 April 1943 and again on 3 March 1944. Sometime after March 1944, Albert and the rest of the prisoners at Nong Pladuk were transferred to Tha Muang Camp, a transit camp twenty-eight miles to the west. At some stage Albert was transferred to another camp, Pratchai, four miles west of Saraburi. This camp, in a jungle close to the French-Indo China border, was built in May-June 1945 and was used as a training area by the Japanese in preparation for the expected invasion of Thailand by the Allies. Albert's military records state that on the 20 September 1945, he was 'now in Allied hands' and repatriated to the United Kingdom, arriving on the 12 October 1945 at '79 Transit Camp' in Ravensby, Lincolnshire.

Days later, Albert arrived at the flat in Yewfield Road, Willesden which he had never seen, to be greeted by a wife whom he had not seen in four years.

### **Civilian life after return:**

After the war, Albert got a job as a long-distance lorry driver and joined the Burma Star Association, an organisation formed to help ex-Japanese POWs and their families settle back to some form of normality. Albert was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Pacific Star and the War Medal for his service.

Albert and Joyce, having grown tired of living in London decided to sell their house and, in July 1967 took over the running of a small shop in the Sussex village of Ninfield. The shop was a typical general store, open every day selling a range of goods. They raised one son and two daughters together.

Sadly, Albert died from a sudden heart attack on the 16 February 1971 in Ninfield. He was cremated at Eastbourne Crematorium.



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk)