

SHAW William Charles

Name: William Charles Shaw

Born: 4 June 1909

Rank: Gunner

Service Number: 1786711

Regiment/Unit/Station:
7th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery

Died: 29 November 1969



Early life:

Bill, as he was known, came from Birmingham and worked for the Levis Motorcycle Company before the war.

Wartime experience:

Bill was called up in 1941 and was based at 7th Coastal Artillery Training Centre, Fort Stamford, Plymouth from March until June 1941. He was posted to the Far East, leaving behind his wife, Gertrude, and daughter, Barbara. He was based in Singapore and was captured there when it fell on 15th February 1942.

Bill was sent to Changi prison camp and later sent to work on the Thai/Burma railway. In November 1942 he was in Nong Pladuk hospital camp. Following the end of the war, he was briefly in Saigon, French Indochina, before being flown to Rangoon, Burma around 19th September. He recalled how Burmese natives, at great risk to themselves, passed extra food through the camp fences.

Bill sailed home aboard SS Ormonde and wept when he was met at his local station by his wife and daughter.

Civilian life after return:

After the war, Bill worked as a packer in Hardy Spicer's factory, Erdington, Birmingham. Sadly, he passed away on 29 November 1969.

The above information was provided by Lindsey Walker, Granddaughter



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