

NICHOLSON Charles William

Name: Charles William Nicholson

Born: 1917

Rank: Fusilier

Service Number: 4275705

Regiment: 9th Battalion, Royal
Northumberland Regiment

Died: 30 September 2007



Pre-War:

Charles came from Percy Main, Northumberland. When he was almost 11 years old his father died, as the oldest of a family of four he began to work for a Boot repairer, part time earning 6 pence a week. Later when he left school at 14, he began to serve an apprenticeship as a boot repairer.

Wartime experience:

Charles joined-up on 15 January 1940 and was sent to Cornwall to help make up for the losses the 9th Battalion had incurred at Dunkirk. On 27 October 1941, he sailed aboard SS Warwick Castle to the mouth of the Clyde where he joined a convoy which took him to Halifax, Nova Scotia. He then embarked on USS Orizarba, which took him to Bombay via Cape Town and Mombasa and then boarded the Felix Rouselle arriving in Singapore on 5 February 1942, just ten days before it fell and was subsequently captured.

He was sent to Changi prison camp, then later was sent to work on the Thai/Burma railway where he was based at several camps - Non Pladuk, Kinsayok, Tamuang, Targoa and Pratchi.

Civilian life after return:

Charles survived captivity and returned home. In 1946 he married and went on to have three children. In April 1955 he and his family sailed from Tilbury Docks, London to Port Adelaide, Australia, where he settled.

Sadly, he died on 30 September 2007 at the age of 90 in Adelaide, South Australia.

The above information has been provided by Kevin Snowdon



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