

OLIVER Percy

Name: Percy Oliver

Born: 22 March 1916

Rank: Aircraftsman 2nd Class

Service Number: 1078508

Regiment/Unit/Station: Radio
Operator RAF Tengah

Died: 1992



Pre-War:

Percy was born in Barnstaple, Devon to Robert and Bertha Oliver. The family moved to Swansea, Glamorgan whilst he was still a young boy. His occupation at the time of joining up was a Baker.

Wartime experience:

After joining up Percy was posted to Singapore where he was based at Tenagh airfield. He managed to escape to Sumatra, before Singapore fell to the Japanese. Then when Sumatra came under attack, he escaped to Java where he was eventually captured on 20 March 1942. Whilst in Java he was at Glodok and Batavia camps as part of Java Party 05A. On 17 October 1942, he was sent to Singapore, before being transported by hell ship to Japan on 27 October 1942.

In Japan, Percy was based at Hakodate Main Camp, Bibai-Machi, which was used by the Hakodate Ship Bldg Co. & Mitsui Mining Company, it is not known what work he had to carry out whilst there. He was eventually liberated from Hakodate and then shipped home.

Civilian Life after return:

After the war, Percy went into the building trade and also became a painter and decorator. He married in 1946 and had two daughters.

He was in very good health up until his retirement and, in 1992, at the age of 75 he sadly passed away.

*The above information has been provided by Gaynor Campion (daughter)
Additional information has been provided by Terry Manttan of the Thai/Burma Railway Centre.*



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