

Gunner Jeffrey Tite 956443

148th Field Regiment (Bedfordshire
Yeomanry), Royal Artillery
Died Wednesday, 22nd September 1943
Age 23
St Catherine's Memorial
Congregational Memorial
Burbage War Memorial
Chungkai War Cemetery, Thailand
Plot 2, Row N, Grave 1
Son of Mr Arthur and Harriet Tite of Burbage



Reported in the Hinckley Times:

Mrs A Tite of 20 Freeman's Lane has received news that her son, Gunner Jeffrey Tite, a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, died on September 22nd 1943 from avitaminosis. He was 24 at the time of his death.

Gunner Tite who joined the Army in 1939 was taken prisoner when Singapore fell. Before the war he was employed as a gardener by Mr W Flavell of Lutterworth Road, Burbage.

The building of the Burma-Siam Railway:

The notorious Burma-Siam Railway, built by Commonwealth, Dutch and American prisoners of war, was a Japanese project driven by the need for improved communications to support the large Japanese army in Burma.



During its construction, approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died and were buried along the railway. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 civilians also died in the course of the project, chiefly forced labour brought from Malaya and the Dutch East Indies or conscripted in Siam (Thailand) and Burma (Myanmar).



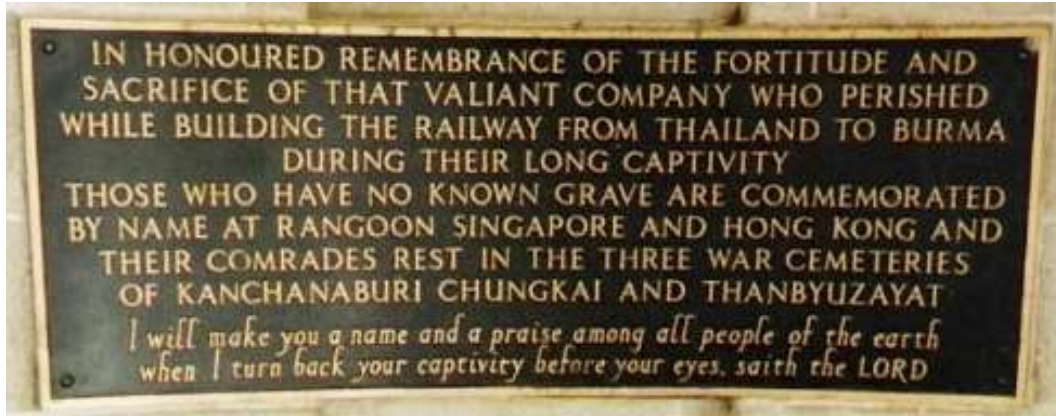
Two labour forces, one based in Siam and the other in Burma, worked from opposite ends of the line towards the centre. The Japanese aimed at completing the railway in 14 months and work began in October 1942. The line, 424 kilometres long, was completed by December 1943.

Chungkai War Cemetery

The graves of those who died during the construction and maintenance of the Burma-Siam railway (except for the Americans, whose remains were repatriated) were transferred from camp burial grounds and isolated sites along the railway into three cemeteries at Chungkai and Kanchanaburi in Thailand and Thanbyuzayat in Myanmar.



Chungkai was one of the base camps on the railway and contained a hospital and church built by Allied prisoners of war. The war cemetery is the original burial ground started by the prisoners themselves, and the burials are mostly of men who died at the hospital. There are now 1,427 Commonwealth and 314 Dutch burials of the Second World War in this cemetery.



Chungkai War Cemetery



Gunner Jeffrey Tite