

## SERGEANT GEORGE HARRISON

*Service Number: 4864964*

*Enlisted: 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment*

*Born: 17<sup>th</sup> February 1910*

*Died: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1944, Aged 33*

*Memorials: Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar, Burma*

*Plot 13, Row E, Grave 8*

*Burbage War Memorial*

*St Catherine's Church Memorial*



George Harrison was the second son of Mr William George and Mrs Louisa Harrison.

By 1939, the family were living at The Croft, Bulkington Road, Wolvey, Leicestershire, where his father was employed as a Roadman for Warwickshire County Council and George was a Hosiery Dull Finisher and a Special Constable for Warwickshire Constabulary.



The Croft, Bulkington Road, Wolvey

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1940 George married Eveline Joyce Chamberlain of 49 Lutterworth Road, Burbage and they made their home at Coventry Road, Burbage.

Almost immediately following his marriage George enlisted with the Leicester Regiment on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1940 and was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

In July 1940, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion was formed at Nottingham; its first role was beach defence. In September 1942 it set sail for India, where the Battalion was selected as the only non-regular Battalion for General Orde Wingate's Chindits Force, known for his creation of the Chindit deep-penetration missions in Japanese-held territory during the Burma Campaign. In April 1944; the Battalion had been in Burma for 18 months, causing disruption with the Japanese

communications and ambushing reinforcements.

On 31 December 1944, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion ceased to exist. They suffered from exhaustion and disease such as dysentery and malaria. They became hospitalised all over India. It was decided that the ones who were fit for service to be transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. During this period George developed a fever, he died on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1944 and is buried at Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar (Burma).



Chindit soldiers carrying a wounded comrade to be evacuated

Hinckley Times Report – 20<sup>th</sup> October 1944:

Four months ago, Mrs E Harrison of Coventry Road, Burbage, received news that her husband, Sergeant George Harrison, of the Leicestershire Regiment, had died on active service in Burma. Nothing further was heard concerning the circumstances until this week when Mrs. Harrison received a letter from one of her husband's officers stating that Sergeant Harrison had died of fever and that he faced his death with the same gallantry with which a few days before he had faced the enemy. Sergeant Harrison was the second son of Mr. and Mrs W Harrison of Wolvey.

Taukkyan War Cemetery is the largest of the three war cemeteries in Burma (now Myanmar). It was begun in 1951 for the reception of graves from four battlefield cemeteries at Akyab, Mandalay, Meiktila and Sahmaw which were difficult to access and could not be maintained. The last was an original 'Chindit' cemetery containing many of those who died in the battle for Myitkyina. The graves have been grouped together at Taukkyan to preserve the individuality of these

battlefield cemeteries. Burials were also transferred from civil and cantonment cemeteries, and from a number of isolated jungle and roadside sites.

The cemetery now contains 6,374 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 867 of them unidentified. In the 1950s, the graves of 52 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War were brought into the cemetery from outlying cemeteries where permanent maintenance was not possible.

Taukkyan War Cemetery also contains: The RANGOON MEMORIAL, which bears the names of almost 27,000 men of the Commonwealth land forces who died during the campaigns in Burma and who have no known grave.

The TAUKKYAN CREMATION MEMORIAL commemorating more than 1,000 Second World War casualties whose remains were cremated in accordance with their faith. The TAUKKYAN MEMORIAL which commemorates 46 servicemen of both wars who died and were buried elsewhere in Burma but whose graves could not be maintained.



Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar



George Harrison (Left) at his brother's wedding, (John James Harrison)