

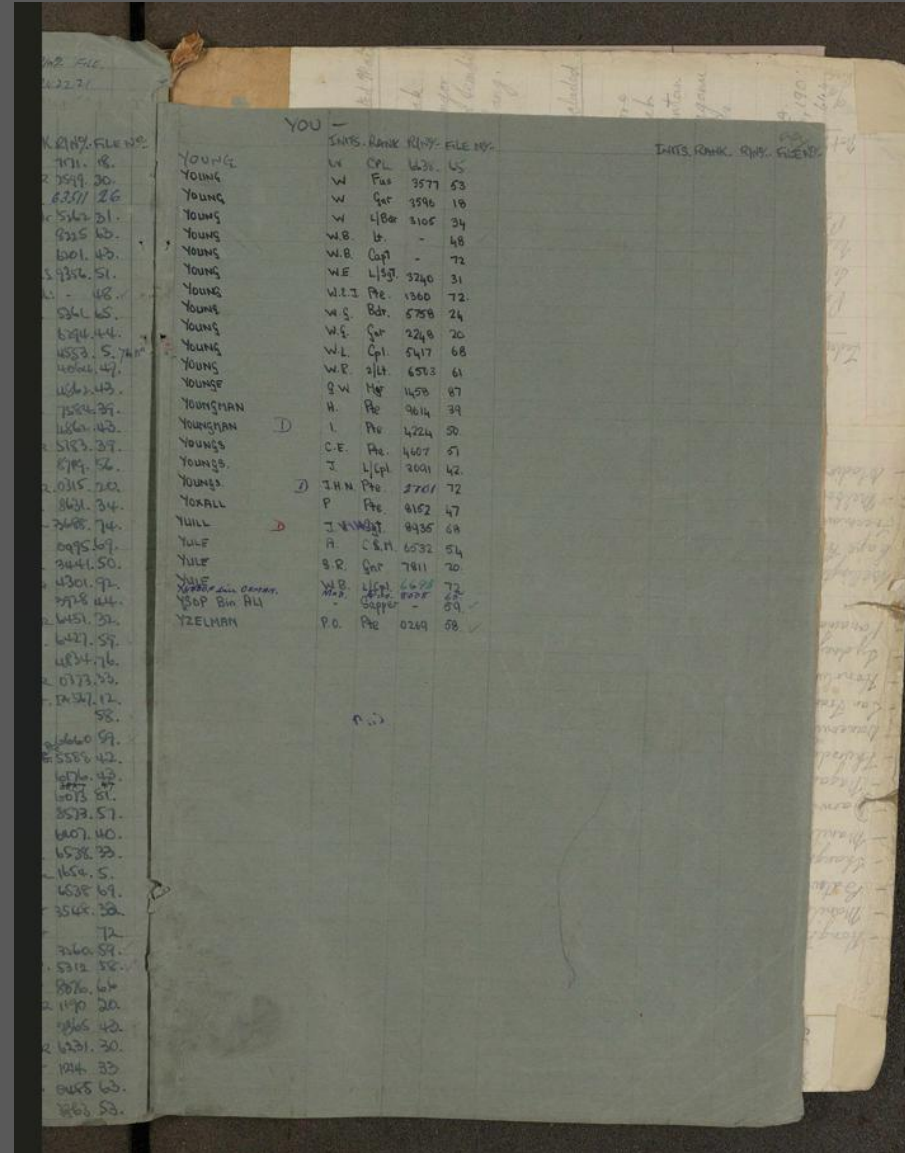


WALTER ERNEST YOUNG WAR RECORDS

1483240

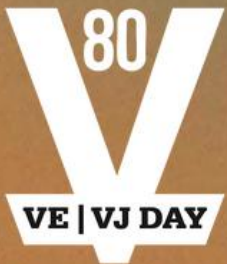
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& COFEPOW Archives
sarah.young@neatprojects.co.uk

A vintage color photograph of a man in a military uniform and a woman in a light-colored coat standing together. The man is on the left, wearing a dark uniform with a peaked cap and a belt. The woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored, double-breasted coat over a skirt and dark shoes. They are standing against a plain, light-colored background.

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	W E
Last name	Young
Year	-
Service number	3240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Country of imprisonment	-
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/2065
Document details	Prisoners of war, Far East: master roll, VWXYZ
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

This record is a master roll of servicemen. Walter's entry gives his age as 31 which he turned in June 1939.



VE Day VJ Day Get involved Events Toolkit  Cymraeg

This page was submitted with the letter from Walter to Doris as part of the VE/VJ 80 commemoration: <https://ve-vjday80.gov.uk/letterstolovedones/>

Walter Ernest Young was born in 1908 in Blackwood, Monmouthshire to Walter Ernest and Mary Ann Young. He was the third eldest of 12 children. He trained as a hairdresser and cycled to Oxford in search of work. There he met and married his wife, Doris.

In 1939 Walter signed up for National Service and joined the 35 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA¹ becoming Lance Sergeant 1483240.

Walter's last letter to Doris is dated 28 November 1941. He wrote it was the first Christmas they had spent apart in their married life (then 9 years). The port stop mentioned could be Durban, South Africa, given the references to a captain's daughter - Captain Sir Thomas Sheppard was a WWII admiral².

Did the letter reach Doris in 1942? On 15 February Walter was taken prisoner of war in Singapore. In October, 600 British prisoners of war there were loaded on to a ship said bound for a prison camp in Japan. The POWs headed instead south of the equator to Rabaul, New Britain in Papua New Guinea. In November the 517 fittest men were shipped to Ballalae Island to build a secret runway.

Many prisoners died from overwork and disease or were killed by allied air raids. A raid on 12 March 1943 may have killed 300 when their encampment was bombed. In June 1945 another heavy US raid convinced the Japanese the island was about to be invaded so they executed all surviving prisoners.

5 March 1943 is Walter's official death. His sons, Morris, Trevor and Kenneth were 6, 8 and 10 years old.

After the war ended a mass grave was discovered by Australia and the remains of over 400 men were removed and buried at the Bomana Commonwealth War Cemetery in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea³. Walter is commemorated at the Singapore Memorial and at The National Arboretum.

Doris never remarried. As records were official secrets for 50 years, she died knowing little of Walter's fate. Her sons found the letter in her home years after her death. The last picture of them together also remained on her bedroom wall until 2020.

¹ The 35 LAA journey <https://www.cofepow.org.uk/armed-forces-stories-list/35th-laa-regiment-royal-artillery>

² Admiral Captain Sir Thomas Dawson Lees Sheppard KBE CV MVO who served in WWI and retired in 1925. His last role was in Portsmouth, and he died in Shanklin, the Isle of Wight as in The Gazette.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balalae_Island_mass_graves#cite_note-6

28/11/41.

L/SGT Young 1483240
89/95 L.A.A. R.A.

Dearest Doris

By the time you receive
this letter Christmas for you
will be well and truly over
and I hope you had a
enjoyable one although for
for the first time since we
have been married we had
to spend it apart
I am more than sorry that
this had to be but

~~under the circumstances~~ of course
could not be helped
let us hope we will be
able to spend next Xmas
together and so perhaps
make up for lost time
I feel sure that Morris
Trevor and Kenneth would have
a good time because being
young world affairs would
not worry them in the
least and I know when
I was home last you were
well prepared for Xmas
by the way dear let

28 November 1941

L/SGT Young 1483240

89/95 LAA RA

Dearest Doris,

By the time you receive this letter, Christmas for you will be well and truly over and I hope you had an enjoyable one, although for the first time since we have been married, we had to spend it apart.

I am more than sorry that this had to be but under the circumstances of course could not be helped. Let us hope we will be able to spend next Xmas together and perhaps make up for lost time.

I feel sure that Morris, Trevor and Kenneth would have a good time because being young world affairs would not worry them in the least and I know when I was home last you were well prepared for Xmas.

By the way dear, let...

2/

... (me) know if mother came to stay for Xmas or any of the family.

Well dear now to write a little about myself.

I believe I have lost a bit of weight, but I am likely to lose a bit more yet but seeing that I can afford to lose some I don't think it matters much as long as I feel fit as I do at the present.

We made another call to a port and this time we got three days shore leave and I don't think I enjoyed myself better and some day I hope to visit that place again.

I made some very good friends while we were there. One in particular has promised to write to you and I believe....

2/
know if mother came to
stay for xmas or any
of the family.
Well dear now to write a
little about my-self
I believe I have lost
a bit of weight but
I am likely to lose a
bit more yet but seeing
that I can afford to
lose some I don't think
it matters much as
long as I feel as fit
as I do at the present
We made another call
to a port and this
time we got three days
shore leave and I
don't think I ever enjoyed
my-self better and some
day I hope to visit that
place again
I made some very good
friends while we were
there one in particular
has promised to write
to you and I believe

she will I say she
because her name is
Miss Sheppard she is a nice
young person and has a
very nice home
I know this because I
went there to dinner for
two of my evenings and
of course met her parents
who are very nice people,
her father is a retired
naval captain, Miss Sheppard
~~her-self is an architect and~~
incidentally has a very nice
car which came in very
usefull as I was able to
see the sights of the
town and the country in
real comfort.
The people of that town
gave us a really good
welcome a most hospitable
type of people
We left that port
two days before xmas which
was real bad luck for
us, as I am sure we

3/

... she will. I say she because her name is Miss Sheppard, she is a nice young person and has a very nice house.

I know this because I went there to dinner for two of my evenings and of course met her parents who are very nice people, her father is a retired naval captain. Miss Sheppard herself is an architect and incidentally has a very nice car which came in way useful as I was able to see the sights of the town and the country in real comfort.

The people of that town gave us a really good welcome a most hospitable type of people,

We left that port two days before Xmas which was real bad luck for us, as I am sure we...

would have had a real
good time there, as it
was we spent xmas on board
ship this did not turn
out too badly under
the circumstances, still it
left a lot to be desired.
We are still on the high
sea and so I have not
received any mail from you
and I do not expect any
until a month after we
reach ~~our destination~~ but,
I hope you will continue
to write regular as they
will at some time I expect
catch up with me.
Well dear remember me
to Morris Trevor and Ken
and give them my love
also remember me to the
rest of the family
I must close now dear so
cheerio till next time

Your Loving Husband Ern.

W.G. Harper-Smith.

4/

... would have had a real good time there. As it was, we spent Xmas on board ship this did not turn out too badly under the circumstances, still it left a lot to be desired.

We are still on the high sea and so I have not received any mail from you, and I do not expect any until a month after we reach our next station(?) but, do write regular as they will, at some time, I expect catch up with me.

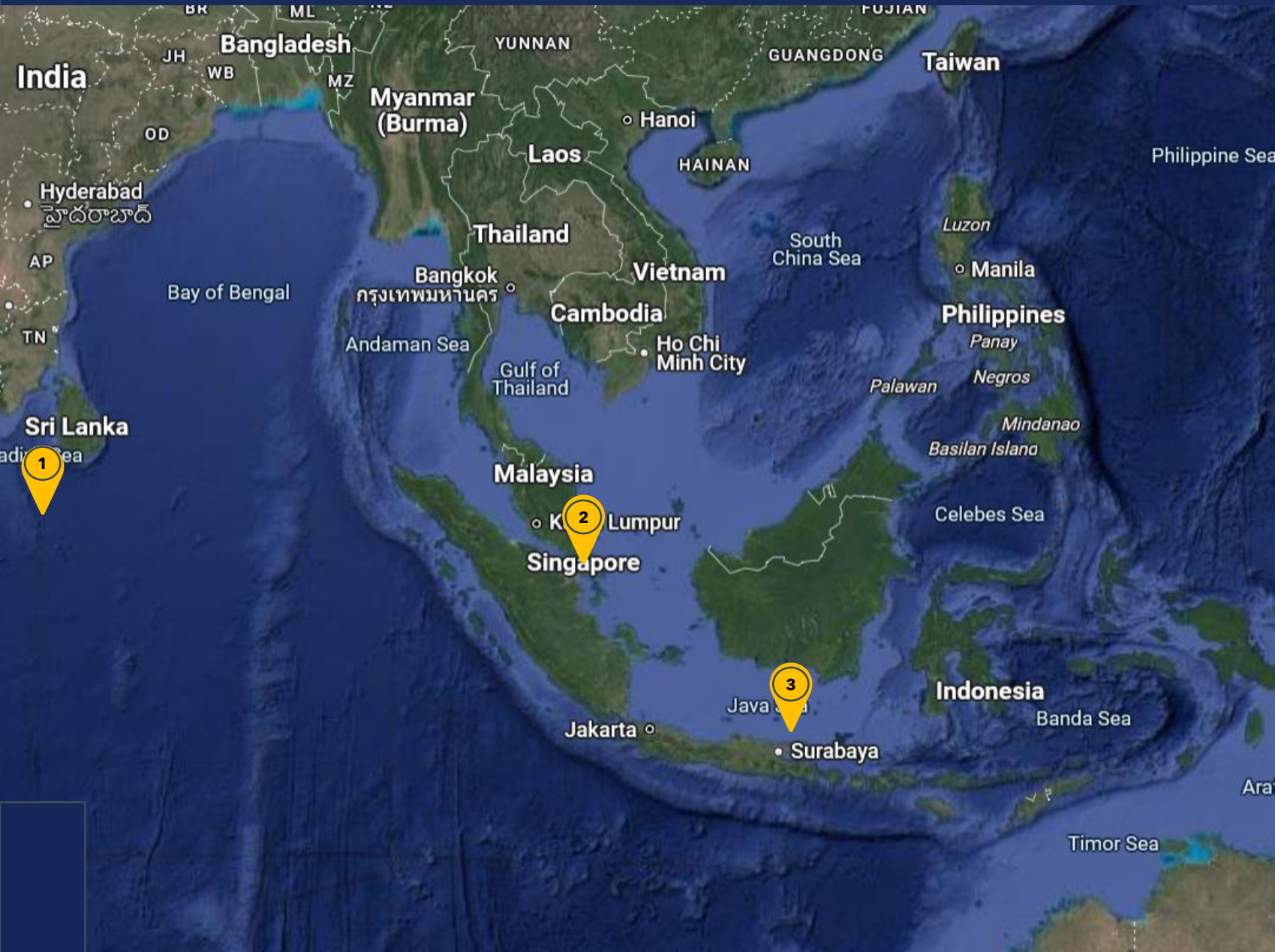
Well dear remember me to Morris, Trevor and Ken and give them my love also remember me to the rest of the family.

I must close now dear so cheerio until next time.

Your Loving Husband Ern

XXXXXXXXXX

Walter's Far East voyage



#	Year	Date	Event
1	1941	24 Dec +	Left Durban, passed Maldives
2	1942	13 Jan	Arrive Singapore, camp Nee-Soon
	1942	15 Feb	Captured in Singapore
	1942	Feb - Oct	Imprisoned in Changi, Singapore
3	1942	Oct	Stop in Surabaya on way to Rabaul
4	1942	18 Oct	572 taken to Rabaul, New Britain, camp at Kokopo 30 miles away
5	1942	Nov	500 fittest taken to Solomon islands
	1943	21 Jan	Kenkon Maru sinks off Bougainville
6	1943	Unknown	Arrived on Ballalae Island
	1943	5 March	On or after - date of death, aged 34
	1943	June	Massacre of remaining POWs
7	1945	Nov-Dec	Buried at the Bomana Commonwealth War Cemetery in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Capture on 15 February 1942

NO	NAME	RANK & SER. NO.	BR. OF SERVICE	DATE OF CAPTURE da.mo.yr.	DATE OF LIBERATION da.mo.yr.	CAMP	REMARKS
56745	YOUNG, Robert	Pte 6028573	A	15-2-42	22-7-43	MA	Deceased
56746	YOUNG, Robert Charles	Sgn 2360236	A	15-2-42	21-9-44	TH	Missing on board ship JARD
56747	YOUNG, Robert G. B.	Capr C. 46 133548	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	MA	
56748	YOUNG, Robert Henry	Cpl 6086176	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	TH	
56749	YOUNG, Robert Marcus	Cpl 5312	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	MA	
56750	YOUNG, Roy	Sgn 2571654	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	FU	
56751	YOUNG, Sidney John	Gnr 1777649	A	8-3-42	19-5-45	JA	Deceased
56752	YOUNG, Stanley	Dvr T/88378	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	TH	
56753	YOUNG, Stanley	Pte 6202865	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	TH	
56754	YOUNG, Stanley	Gnr 891190	A	15-2-42	20-3-43	TH	Deceased
56755	YOUNG, Stanley John	L/Cpl 5503703	A	8-3-42	2-9-45	FU	
56756	YOUNG, Stuart Harold	Br 1511214	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	TH	
56757	YOUNG, Thomas	Cpl 527248	A	8-3-42	1-11-44	JA	Deceased
56758	YOUNG, Thomas Alfred	A.C.2/c 1227230	AF	8-3-42	2-9-45	FU	
56759	YOUNG, Walter Ernest	L/Sgt 1483240	A	15-2-42	Unknown	MA	Unknown
56760	YOUNG, Will Francis G.	Pte 7521360	A	15-2-42	2-9-45	MA	

This record is a roll of men captured as prisoners of war. Walter's capture date is 15 February 1942 which was the date the Japanese took Singapore. Records document he is in a camp in Malaya, but details are unknown.



Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	Walter Ernest
Last name	Young
Year	1942
Rank	-
Service number	1483240
Ship name	A
Country of imprisonment	Malaya
Nationality	British
Ship or corps	A
Prison camp or ship	Malaya
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 392/26
Document details	War Office: Directorate of Prisoners of War: Prisoners of War Lists, Second World War, 1943-1945
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Prisoner of war card

收容所 Camp	馬來 昭和 年 月 日	番 號 No.	馬 本 8441
姓 名 Name	YOUNG Walter Ernest.	生 年 月 日 Date of Birth	7th. June. 1908.
國 籍 Nationality	英 BRITISH	所 屬 部 隊 Unit	No. 1483240 35th. L.A.A. Regt. R.A.
階 級 身 分 Rank	Lance Sergeant 軍曹	捕 獲 年 月 日 Date of Capture	昭和 年 月 日 FEBRUARY. 15th 1942.
捕 獲 場 所 Place of Capture	SINGAPORE 庇能	母 ノ 名 Mother's Name	Mary Ann
父 ノ 名 Father's Name	---Walter-Ernest---	職 業 Occupation	HAIRDRESSER 理髮師
本 籍 地 Place of Origin	33 High Street Blackwood Monmouthshire England	特 記 事 項 Remarks	
通 報 先 Destination of Report	Mrs. D.W.M. Young 38 Spencer Crescent Rose Hill Oxford, England.		

This Japanese Prisoner of war card confirms Walter's place of capture as Singapore and prison camp. Note he gave his mother-in-law's address as the 'destination of report' so she would be able to support Doris with sad news.



Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	WE
Last name	Young
Year	-
Service number	3240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Country of imprisonment	-
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/2065
Document details	Prisoners of war, Far East: master roll, VWXYZ
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Changi Prison, Singapore Camp Roll 1941

1494136 Gnr WARD L 15 3 L.A.A., H.K.S. R.A. 28
802807 L/Sgt WARMAN W 35 L.A. Regt R.A. 31
1554024 L/Pdr WARREN A 35 L.A.A. " " 31
786171 Gnr WATSON H L 35 " " " 31
1749569 " WEAVER R 3 H.A.A. " " 30
871205 " WEBBER P A 9 Coast " " 18
1798902 Pdr WEIR J 35 L.A.A. " " 31
150048 Lieut WELFORD K W D 35 " " " 31
1073551 L/Sgt WELLBELOVE S 2 H.A.A., H.K.S. R.A. 27
Gnr WELLS F Not identified.
1772940 " WEST C 7 Coast Regt R.A. 17
1524210 Pdr WEST E D 35 L.A.A. " " 31
845906 Gnr WHATLEY O 9 Coast " " 18
868015 " WHITE W 6 H.A.A. " " 30
2/Lt WISBEIN. F M S 2 " H.K.S. R.A. 27
839128 Gnr WILKES G 9 Coast Regt R.A. 18
4534555 " WILKINSON B 3 H.A.A. " " 30
847572 " WILLS H J 9 Coast " " 18
1777919 " WILSON J W 35 L.A.A. " " 31
Lieut WILSON N 8 H.A.A. " " 30
1561724 Gnr WILSON W J 3 " " " 30
164300 Capt WILTON W C H.Q. Fixed Defences 2
897821 Gnr WILLIAMS F 9 Coast Regt R.A. 18
1546111 " WILLIAMS W C J 35 L.A.A. " " 31
4374974 " WIMPERY V 1 Ind H.A.A. Regt 29
172845 Lieut WINDOWS H B 8 H.A.A. Regt R.A. 30
1477522 Gnr WINTER A F 35 L.A.A. " " 31
11000412 " WOOD H 7 Coast " " 17
1470573 " WOODFORD L H.Q. Fixed Defences 2
Lieut WOODS W T 16 Def Regt R.A. 25
2/LT WOODHEAD R G 2 H.A.A., H.K.S. R.A. 27
822822 Gnr WYATT C 3 " Regt " 30

1787274 Gnr YARROW B 7 Coast Regt R.A. 17
859180 L/Pdr YORKE H A 6 H.A.A. " " 30
148240 L/Sgt YOUNG W E 35 L.A.A. " " 31

Walter's is the last entry on the Changi Prison nominal roll in 1941.

The transcription document details the record as 'Soloman Island unaccounted for prisoners of war who embarked at Singapore.' Note several entries for the 35 LAA. Walter was held here for 245 days until 18 October 1942 when he was one of 572 men taken to New Britain, destined for the Soloman Islands.

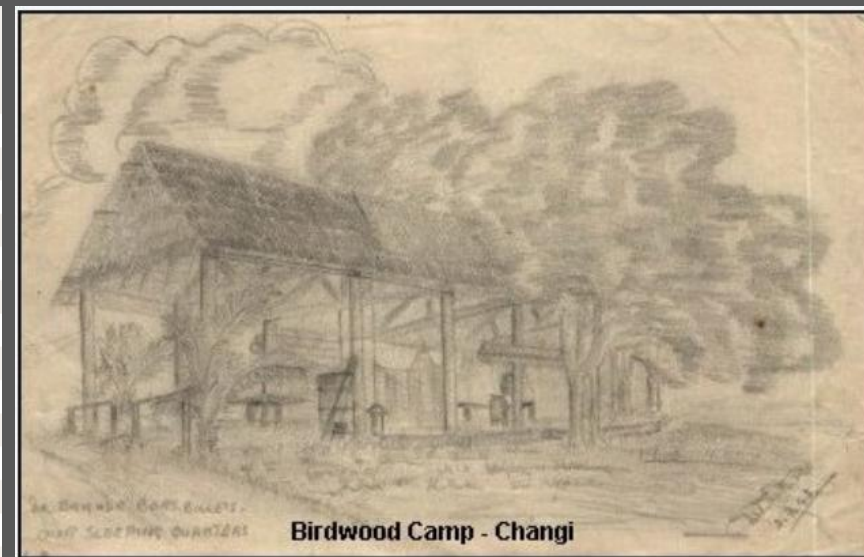


Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	WE
Last name	Young
Year	1942
Service number	1483240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Ship name	35 Laa Regt Ra
Country of imprisonment	Singapore
Ship or corps	35 LAA Regt RA
Prison camp or ship	Changi
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/774
Document details	Solomon Islands: unaccounted for prisoners of war, who embarked at Singapore
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None



More on Changi Prison (tribal word meaning Tall Trees):
<https://www.cofepow.org.uk/armed-forces-stories-list/the-story-of-changi>

On the roll list for New Britain

1561724	Lieut	✓WILSON	N	6	H A A	"	"	30
164300	Gnr	✓WILSON	W J	3	"	"	"	30
827821	Capt	✓WILTON	W C		H.Q. Fixed Defences			2
1546111	Gnr	✓WILLIAMS	F	9	Coast Regt	R A		18
4374974	Sgt	✓WILLIAMS	W C J	35	L A A	"	"	31
172845	"	✓WIMPENNY	V	1	Ind H A A	Regt		29
1477522	Lieut	✓WINDOWS	H B	6	H A A	Regt	R A	30
11000412	Gnr	✓WINTER	A P	35	L A A	"	"	31
1470573	"	✓WOOD	H	7	Coast	"	"	17
822829	"	✓WOODFORD	L		H Q Fixed Defences			2
	Lieut	✓WOODS	W T	16	Def	Regt	R A	25
	2/LT	✓WOODHEAD	R G	2	H A A, H K S R A			27
	Gnr	✓WYATT	C	3	"	Regt	"	30
1787274	Gnr	✓YARROW	B	7	Coast	Regt	R A	17
859180	L/Bdr	✓YORKE	H A	6	H A A	"	"	30
1483240	L/Sgt	✓YOUNG	W E	35	L A A	"	"	31

Total 572



Record Transcription:	
Prisoners Of War 1715-1945	
Learn about this record set	
First name(s)	W E
Last name	Young
Year	1942
Service number	1483240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Ship name	35 L A A Regt R A
Country of imprisonment	Japan
Ship or corps	35 L A A Regt R A
Prison camp or ship	Kenkon Maru
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/2206
Document details	Prisoners of war, Far East: 600 party, overseas from Changi, Singapore on 18 October 1942; D Force nominal rolls; war diary of Tanbaya hospital. Note: A With map
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

An extract from the nominal roll of the 572 prisoners of war.

The transcription refers to the 'Far East 600 party overseas from Changi on 18 October 1942' and that Walter was on the Kenkon Maru ship (pictured) which was scuttled by the US and sunk on 21 January 1943, near Bougainville, as [here](#). 500 of the fittest were sent on the ship in November 1942, destined for the Soloman Islands.

Of interest is reference to the war diary of [Thanbaya Hospital](#), Burma.

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Prisoner of war sound recordings – Alfred Thomas Josiah Baker

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80032085>



Alfred (Alf) Baker recorded this 4-hour interview which are published online in perpetuity by the Imperial War Museum.

Recorded as several sound files of his time as a prisoner of war, Alf was also captured in Singapore and taken to Changi Prison, and shared the journey with Walter, up to the journey to Rabaul. He also recorded his memories in his book "What price Bushido."

Content description

REEL 1 Aspects of period as gunner with 3rd Heavy Anti-aircraft Regt, Royal Artillery in Malaya, 1941-1942: background to surrender, 15/2/1942; opinion of Japanese. Aspects of period as POW in Changi Camp, Singapore, Malaya, 2/1942-11/1942: work parties on docks. Aspects of voyage aboard SS Nagara Maru from Singapore, Malaya to Rabaul, New Guinea, 18/10/1942-5/11/1942: conditions on board; behaviour of Japanese guards. Recollections of period as POW in Kokopo, Death Valley and Watom Island Camps, 11/1942-8/1945: initial impressions on arrival at Rabaul; physical condition on move to Kokopo Camp; move to Watom Island Camp; loss of officer POWs in party; memories of Joe Blyth; punishments received from Japanese guards; coping with imprisonment; importance of comradeship; behaviour of Japanese officer Higaki towards POWs; hearing news of end of war, 17/8/1945; liberation on arrival of HMAS Vendetta, 8/9/1945. REEL 2 Continues: communication with home. Reflections on POW experiences: establishing contact with home in Australia; hospitalisation in Australia and GB; medical treatment received for injured legs in Australia; post-war medical treatment for legs in GB; problems with hook worm; psychological effects of imprisonment; marriage, 1947; return to civilian employment; further details of psychological effects of imprisonment; ordination as padre for Far Eastern Prisoners of War associations; attitude towards Japanese; question of taking revenge against captors, 9/1945; threat of execution during last days of incarceration, 9/1945; fate of POWs on Bulari Island. REEL 3 Continues: story of reasons for post-war punching of man in chip shop in Tiverton; medical problems with legs; attitude towards dropping of atomic bomb.

On the Far East nominal roll

This is another nominal roll of men captured as prisoners of war. OVL means 'overland' and dated 18 October 1942 confirming his embarkation at Singapore as one of 500 prisoners of war sent to the Solomon Islands.

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1483240	L/S	YOUNG	WE	35LAA	OVS 18.10.42
325758	Bdr	YOUNG	WG	155Fd	OVL/RV 3.11.42
702248	Gnr	YOUNG	WG	118Fd	OVL 30.10.42
863596	"	YOUNG	W	9Cst	OVL 23.3.43
907811	Gnr	YULE	SR	118Fd	OVL 30.10.42

1558472	Gnr	ZIMMER	M	125AT	OVL 18.10.42 OVS 4/9/44
-----ooo000ooo-----					

6



Record Transcription:

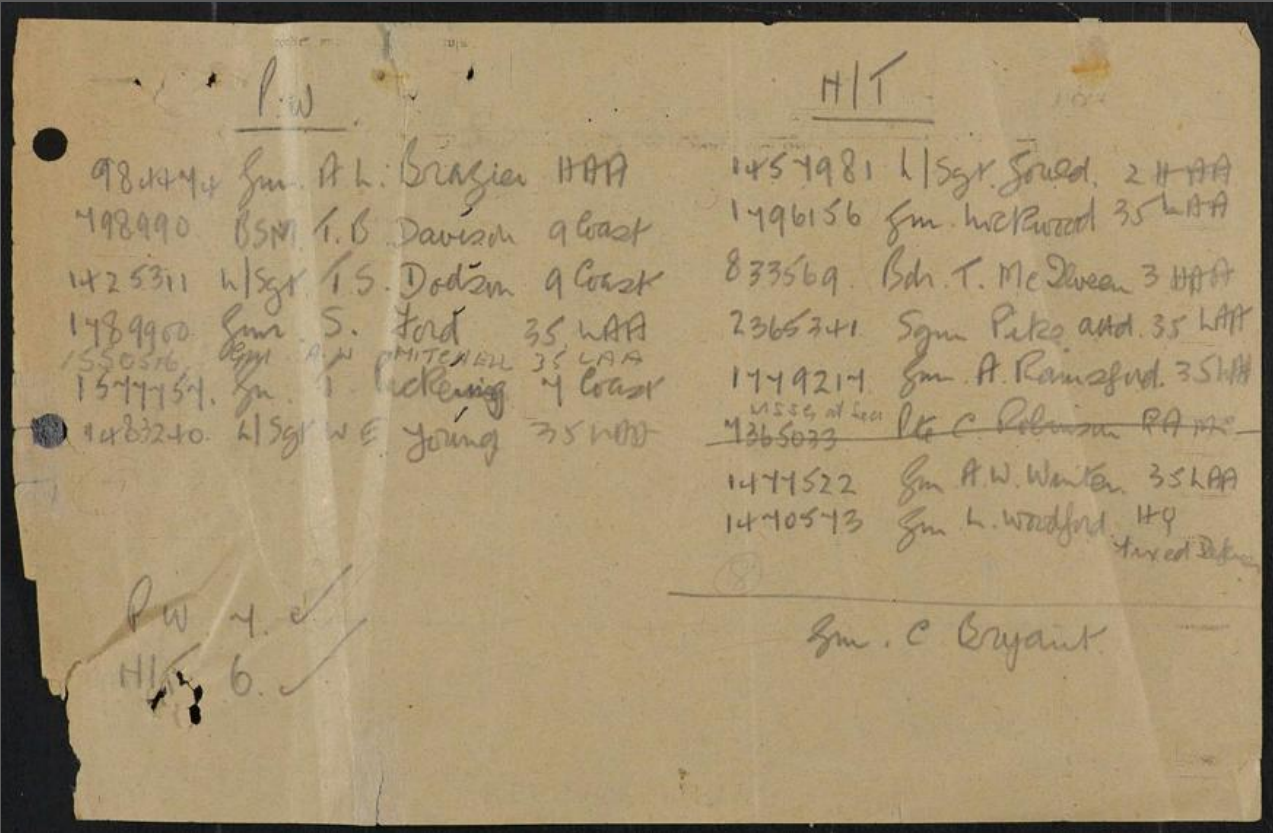
Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	WE
Last name	Young
Year	1942
Service number	1483240
Rank	L/S
Regiment	-
Ship name	Royal Artillery 35Laa
Country of imprisonment	-
Ship or corps	Royal Artillery 35LAA
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/2188
Document details	Prisoners of war, Far East: Royal Artillery; nominal roll, S-Z.
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Unaccounted for Prisoner of War



This is a handwritten record of unaccounted for prisoners of war who embarked at Singapore on 18 October 1942 signed by Sergeant Major C Bryant. The men are in two lists: six including Walter are listed as prisoners of war and seven are listed under the heading N/T for 'No trace.'

<div><div></div><div><div>Record Transcription:</div><div>Prisoners Of War 1715-1945</div><div>Learn about this record set</div></div></div>	
First name(s)	W E
Last name	Young
Year	-
Service number	1483240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Ship name	35 Laa
Country of imprisonment	-
Ship or corps	35 LAA
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/773
Document details	Solomon Islands: unaccounted for prisoners of war, who embarked at Singapore, 18 October 1942, and ...
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Unaccounted for Prisoner of War

This is a nominal roll of 18 prisoners of war unaccounted for.

There are two versions. The small version below has Walter's rank hand-corrected. The larger version left is later and has been further annotated with 'no doc' crossed out and by the side 'still POW OS' (overseas).

Information regarding the building of the air strip at Ballalae Island was kept top secret by the Japanese.



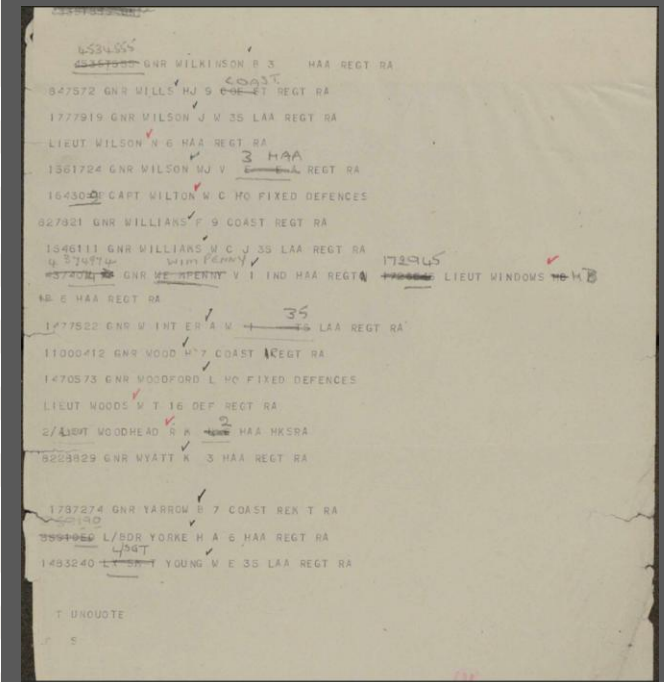
Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

Learn about this record set

First name(s)	WE
Last name	Young
Year	-
Service number	1483240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Ship name	35 Laa Regt Ra
Country of imprisonment	-
Ship or corps	35 LAA Regt RA
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/773
Document details	Solomon Islands: unaccounted for prisoners of war, who embarked at Singapore, 18 October 1942, and ...
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943



Unaccounted for in 1943

18.

SS/330/120/885(Cas.P.W.)

4534555	Gnr.	WILKINSON, B.	3 HAA Regt. RA. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
847572	Gnr.	WILLS, H.J.	9 Coast Regt. RA. - Presumed D. m. r. S. A. 6. 2. 42
1777919	Gnr.	WILSON, J.W.	35 LAA Regt. RA. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
80917	Lieut.	WILSON, N.	6 HAA Regt. RA. - OS. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
1561724	Gnr.	WILSON, W.J.X.	3 HAA Regt. RA. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
164300	Capt.	WILTON, W.C.	H.Q. Fixed Defences - OS. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
827821	Gnr.	WILLIAMS, P.	9 Coast Regt. RA. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
1546111	Gnr.	WILLIAMS, W.C.J.	35 LAA Regt. RA. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
43749749		WIDPENNY, V. H.	1 Ind HAA Regt. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
172945	Lieut.	WINDOVS, M.B.	6 HAA Regt. RA. - OS. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
1477522	Gnr.	WINTER, A.W. P.	35 LAA Regt. RA. - No trace? <i>liberated</i>
11000412	Gnr.	WOOD, H.	7 Coast Regt. RA. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
1470573	Gnr.	WOODFORD, L.	H.Q. Fixed Defences - No <i>P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43</i> NT.
74496	Lieut.	WOODS, W.T.	16 Def. Regt. RA. - OS. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
146306	2/Lieut.	WOODHEAD, R.M.	2 HAA HKS RA. - OS Hong Kong. <i>P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43</i>
822829	Gnr.	WYATT, K. J.	3 HAA Regt. RA. - L. <i>liberated</i>
1787274	Gnr.	YARROW, B.C.	7 Coast REM T RA. - M. P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
859180	L/Bdr.	YORK, H.A.	6 HAA Regt. RA. - Presumed D. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43
1483240	L/Sgt.	YOUNG, W.E.	35 LAA Regt. RA. - Still P/W OS. <i>P.O. m. r. S. A. 5. 3. 43</i>

This is a typed nominal roll of men who were unaccounted for in 1943. The entry for Walter reads that he is still a prisoner of war overseas. This looks to be the typed version using the list above, with Servicemen Yarrow and York listed above Walter.



Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	W E
Last name	Young
Year	1943
Service number	1483240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Ship name	35 Laa Regt Ra
Country of imprisonment	-
Ship or corps	35 LAA Regt RA
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/773
Document details	Solomon Islands: unaccounted for prisoners of war, who embarked at Singapore, 18 October 1942, and ...
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Walter's family mourn

This picture was taken after the family had been informed that Walter was missing presumed dead. The picture is taken in the garden of 33 High St Blackwood, Bedwellty, Wales, home of Mary Ann, Walter's mother (centre). Walter's father had died in 1935.

Trevor remembers the moment Doris received the news at home in Spencer Crescent. Her mother Lily came to their house (she was told first given Walter had given her address) with two uniformed army officials. Morris ran up the garden and could not speak. Trevor tried to comfort his mum.

Morris, aged 10, Ken 7, Doris 32 and Trevor 8 years, had visited to mourn the news with Mary Ann around 1943? There would also have been a memorial service.



Prisoners of War posted as missing

SS/330/120/865(Cas.P.W.)

List A - Posted as Missing PAGE 12.

Name	Regtl.No.	Unit	S.N. Numbers
Gnr. WELLS, F.J.	1577805	R.A.Cst.	58941
A/Bdr. WEST, E.D.	1524210	L.A.A.	164643
Gnr. WILKINSON, B.	4534555	H.A.A.	79841
Gnr. WILSON, W.J.	1561724	H.A.A.	164641
A/Sgt. WILLIAM, W.	1546111	L.A.A.	164401
Gnr. WILFRENK, V.H.	4394979	H.A.A.	163732
Gnr. YARROW, B.C.	1787274	R.A. Cst.	79897
P/L/Sgt. YOUNG, W.E.	1483240	R.A. LAA	121290

This is an extract from a 'List A' of prisoners of war posted as missing. The document transcription reads: Prisoners of war, Far East: Ballale Island (Shortland Group, off New Guinea; investigation after 432 Royal Artillery bodies were found by Australian troops, linked with disappearance of Japanese ship transporting prisoners of war from New Britain, early March 1943; interrogation of the Japanese.'

Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	W E
Last name	Young
Year	-
Service number	1483240
Rank	P/L/Sgt
Regiment	-
Ship name	Ra Laa
Country of imprisonment	-
Ship or corps	RA LAA
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/1764
Document details	Prisoners of war, Far East: Ballale Island (Shortland Group, off New Guinea); investigation after 432 Royal Artillery bodies were found by Australian troops, linked with disappearance of Japanese ship transporting prisoners of war from New Britain, early March 1943; interrogation of the Japanese
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Note the document reference includes 'SS' for secret service? All of the information in these records were withheld from the public until the 1980s? Neither Doris nor the family would have known none of this detail about what had happened to Walter.

Death Index Card

DEATHS 1939 - 46 (ENTRY FORM)

FORM RH

REGT OR CORPS TO WHICH THE PERSON
BELONGED AT TIME OF DEATH } *RA* *89/35* *L.A.A. Regt.*

Part
I

Army No (1)	Rank (2)	Name in full (Surname first) (3)	Age (4)	Country of birth (5)	Date of death (6)	Place of death (7)	Cause of death (8)
<i>1483240</i>	<i>L/SGT</i>	<i>YOUNG WALTER ERNEST</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>ENGLAND</i> <i>WALES</i>	<i>on or 5/A.</i> <i>5-3-43</i>	<i>N.E.I.</i>	<i>Presumed Died whilst P.O.W.</i>

Part
II

1 DECORATIONS - ENTER one in each space

2 PARENT CORPS } i) at time of death *R.A.*
OR REGT } ii) on 1 Sep 1939

3 RANK held at time of death *L/SGT*

4 PLACE OF BIRTH *BLACKWOOD* *MONMOUTH*

5 PLACE OF DOMICILE *OXFORD* *OXON*

6 DATE OF DEATH (in figures, e.g. 11/12/44) Enter in boxes ..
DAY MONTH YEAR
5 *3* *43*
on or 5/A.
For War Office use

7 THEATRE OR COUNTRY WHERE FATAL
WOUND SUSTAINED OR DEATH OCCURRED *N.E.I.*

For War Office use

3000

—

42.

580.

301.

DAY MONTH YEAR
5 *3* *43*
on or 5/A.
For War Office use

66

Record Office Stamp NB - FOR INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION & DISPOSAL OF FORM RH
SEE WO 345/58
SEE WO 345/58
SEE WO 345/58

This is the Japanese index card of allied Prisoners of War. It confirms the place of death as NEI - Netherlands East Indies. Walter died around 43 days after the ship he was on was sunk off the coast of Bougainville.



Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

Learn about this record set

First name(s)	Walter Ernest
Last name	Young
Birth year	1908
Year	1942
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Residence	Blackwood
Residence county	Monmouthshire
Country of imprisonment	Malaya
Nationality	British
Residence country	England
Prison camp or ship	Malaya
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 345/58
Document details	War Office: Japanese Index Cards of Allied Prisoners of War and Internees, Second World War, 1942-1945
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

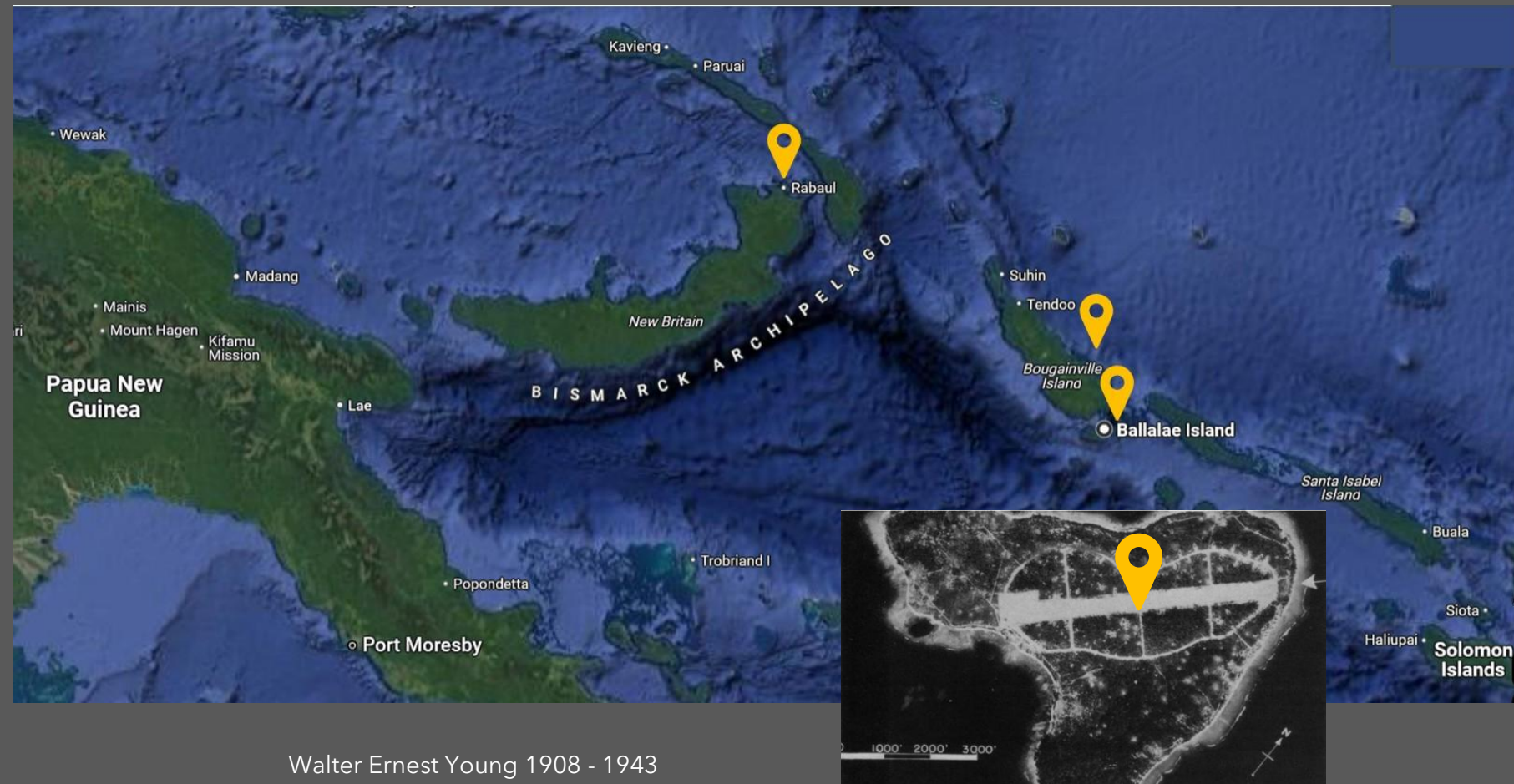
Prisoner of War now presumed dead

The typed nominal roll of previously reported prisoners of war now presumed dead with confirmed date of death.

14.83240 (Date of death - on or shortly after 9.10.42.) YOUNG L/Sjt. W.E. 89/35 Lt.A.A.R. 1239 East Indies
(Date of death - on or shortly after 5.3.43.)

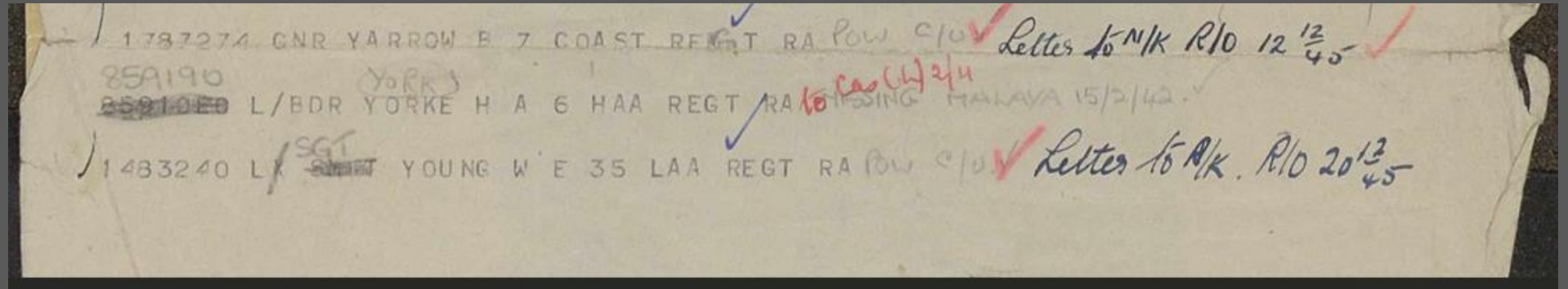
4. Prisoners of War (Contd.)

Previously reported Prisoner of War now Presumed Dead	Previous List No.	Previous Theatre of War
Royal Artillery		
1700291 FLECHER Gnr. H. 35 Lt.A.A.R. 1245		Malaya
(Date of death - on or shortly after 5.4.43.)		
1478927 GREENFIELD Gnr. D.H. 144/35 Lt.A.A.R. 1231		"
(Date of death - on or shortly after 5.3.43.)		
1788837 GREENHILL Gnr. J.J. 144/35 Lt.A.A.R. 1205		"
(Date of death - on or shortly after 5.3.43.)		
4436237 HALL W/Sjt. J.E.W. 24/45 Lt.A.A.R. 1067		Netherlands East Indies
(Date of death - on or shortly after 29.5.45.)		
1794082 PALMER A/Lt. G.M. 45 Coast Obs Det 1220		Malaya
(Date of death - on or shortly after 5.3.43.)		
1577757 FLOCKERIN Gnr. C.V. 11 Coast B. 1231		"
(Date of death - on or shortly after 5.3.43.)		
1549050 TAYLOR Gnr. P.C. 45/21 Lt.A.A.R. 1098		Netherlands East Indies
(Date of death - on or shortly after 9.10.42.)		
1483240 YOUNG L/Sjt. W.E. 89/35 Lt.A.A.R. 1239		"
(Date of death - on or shortly after 5.3.43.)		
Royal Corps of Signals		
2354259 HADLEY Sjt. T.H. 1230		Middle East
(Date of death - on or shortly after 1.2.45.)		
Black Watch (1st Bn. Tyneside Scottish)		
1456313 WALKER Pte. W. 251		France
(Date of death - on or shortly after 28.2.45.)		
2nd Bn. Wiltshire Regiment		
2560122 GRANT Pte. A.L. 273		France
(Date of death - on or shortly after 28.2.45.)		
Observations		
Previous List No.		Date of Casualty
1107 252	France	
1403074	Prev. rep. Mag. now rep. K. in A. 2/5 September 43.	
	On or shortly after 29. 5.40.	
	Casualty and date should read	
	Dtd. of Wds. 6.4.41.	
1357 1107	At Sea	
	Prev. rep. P.W. - N.E.I. now rep. K. in A. whilst P.W.	
	N. Simpson	
	Rank should read 1/1/Opl.	
1357 1186	2346442	
	MoNDRI Signm. P.J. 77 Hy.A.A.R. S.Sec.	
	(Prev. shown with Unit as 77 A.A.Reg. S.Sec.)	
	Rank should read 1/1/Opl.	



Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Nominal Roll missing presumed dead



Record Transcription:

Prisoners Of War 1715-1945

[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	W E
Last name	Young
Year	-
Service number	1483240
Rank	Lance Sergeant
Regiment	-
Ship name	35 Laa Regt Ra
Country of imprisonment	-
Ship or corps	35 LAA Regt RA
Prison camp or ship	-
Conflict	World War 2
Archive	The National Archives
Archive reference	WO 361/774
Document details	Solomon Islands: unaccounted for prisoners of war, who embarked at Singapore
Record set	Prisoners Of War 1715-1945
Category	Military, armed forces & conflict
Subcategory	Regimental & Service Records
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

This is a typed and annotated record of servicemen missing presumed dead.

Walter's record includes the handwritten note that letters to the next of kin had been sent and filed in the Record Office on 20 December 1945.

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

Walter Ernest Young
1908 ~ 1943

CERTIFIED COPY OF ENTRY OF DEATH
Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957

SAW 043263

Application Number 14045067/1

Return of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the *Royal Regiment of Artillery*
Killed in Action or who have died whilst on Service Abroad *between 3rd September, 1939 and 30th June, 1948 inclusive.*

Rgtl. or Army number	Rank	Name in Full (Surname First)	Age	Country of Birth	Date of Death	Place of Death	Cause of Death
1483240	L/Sgt	YOUNG, Walter Ernest.	34	England	On or shortly after 5.3.1943	Netherlands East Indies	Presumed Died whilst Prisoner of War.

An Entry relating to the death of *Walter Ernest Young*

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of the ~~certified copy of~~ an entry in a Service Departments Register.

Given at the General Register office, under the seal of the said Office, the 14th day of August 2023

*If the certificate is given from the original Register the words "the certified copy of" are struck out.

Section 3(2) of the above mentioned Act provides that "The enactments relating to the registration of births and deaths and marriages in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (which contain provisions authorising the admission in evidence of, and of extracts from, certified copies of registers and duplicate registers) shall have effect as if the Service Departments Registers were certified copies or duplicate registers transmitted to the Registrar General in accordance with those enactments."

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © Crown Copyright

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY



In Memory Of
Lance Serjeant

WALTER ERNEST YOUNG

Service Number: 1483240

89 Bty., 35 Lt. A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery who died on 05 March 1943 Age 34

Son of Walter and Mary Young; husband of D. Young, of Rose Hill, Oxford.

Remembered with Honour
SINGAPORE MEMORIAL

Column 7.



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2538856/walter-ernest-young/>

War Widow's pension

Doris Young, war widow

Walter was officially pronounced dead as of the date 5 March 1943. Walter and Doris had been married 11 years and Doris was 33 years old with 3 sons to bring up.

In 1946, Doris was granted a widow's pension payable from the following September. It consisted of a pension of £1 and 16 shillings and another £1 and 13 shillings for the children per week. This would be £125 in total in today's money.

Note it stated that if Doris were ever to remarry she would cease to be eligible for a widow's pension.

Walter Ernest Young 1908 - 1943

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS

MPB 662A

NORCROSS,
BLACKPOOL,
LANCS.

18 JUL 1946

Whenever you write to this office please put this Reference number at the head of your letter.

W.E. 16698.

Mrs D. W. Young
18, Spencer Crescent,
Rose Hill, Oxford.

Dear Madam,

I have to inform you that an award as shown below has been made to you as the widow of Walter Ernest Young 1483240. R.N.

1. Weekly rate of pension £ s. d.	2. Weekly rate of allowance for child/children £ s. d.	3. No. of children	4. Award payable from
1-16-0	1-13-0	Three	9.9.46

The above award is subject to the conditions of the Royal Warrant or corresponding Authority governing grants in respect of death by service in the war. An adjustment may be necessary if a pension or child's allowance has been awarded to you under the 'Widows', 'Orphans' and 'Old Age Contributory Pensions Acts', as such an award is not payable together with an award of widow's pension or child's allowance by this Ministry.

The rate of pension is that appropriate to the circumstances of your case as now before the Ministry (see note 3 overleaf). If you remarry you will cease to be eligible for pension, and must notify the Pension Issue Office immediately.

As regards any allowance awarded in respect of a child you should read note 4 overleaf. If you cease to maintain any child for whom an allowance has been awarded you must notify the Pension Issue Office at once and state the date from which you ceased to maintain it.

The pension (and any allowance awarded therewith) will be payable weekly through the Post Office, but before instructions for payment can be confirmed you must fill in the particulars required on the enclosed form of declaration, get the certificate on the form signed as directed, and forward the form at once to the address shown thereon. If this is not done, the pension may be withheld.

The notes on the reverse of this letter should be read carefully.

The marriage and birth certificates furnished by you are returned with thanks.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
for Secretary

(6563) *M1578L 100 9/44 50M HK&R 788



Shared with The Wartime Memories Project
& COFEPOW Archives
sarah.young@neatprojects.co.uk