

ENGLEFIELD David George

Name: David George Englefield

Born: 28 May 1916

Rank: Sapper

Service Number: 1873537

Unit/Regiment: Royal Engineer,
41st Fortress Coy, Royal Engineers

Died: 21 September 1944



Pre-War:

David was born in Midgham, Newbury, Berkshire England on the 28 May 1916. His residence before enlisting was at Peterborough Bungalow, Haughurst Hill, Basingstoke, Hampshire England; 1941. His Father's name was; Albert Henry Englefield and his Mother's name was Ada Elizabeth Englefield and was the second youngest of seven children. He joined the army after a breakdown of a 5 year relationship.

Wartime experience:

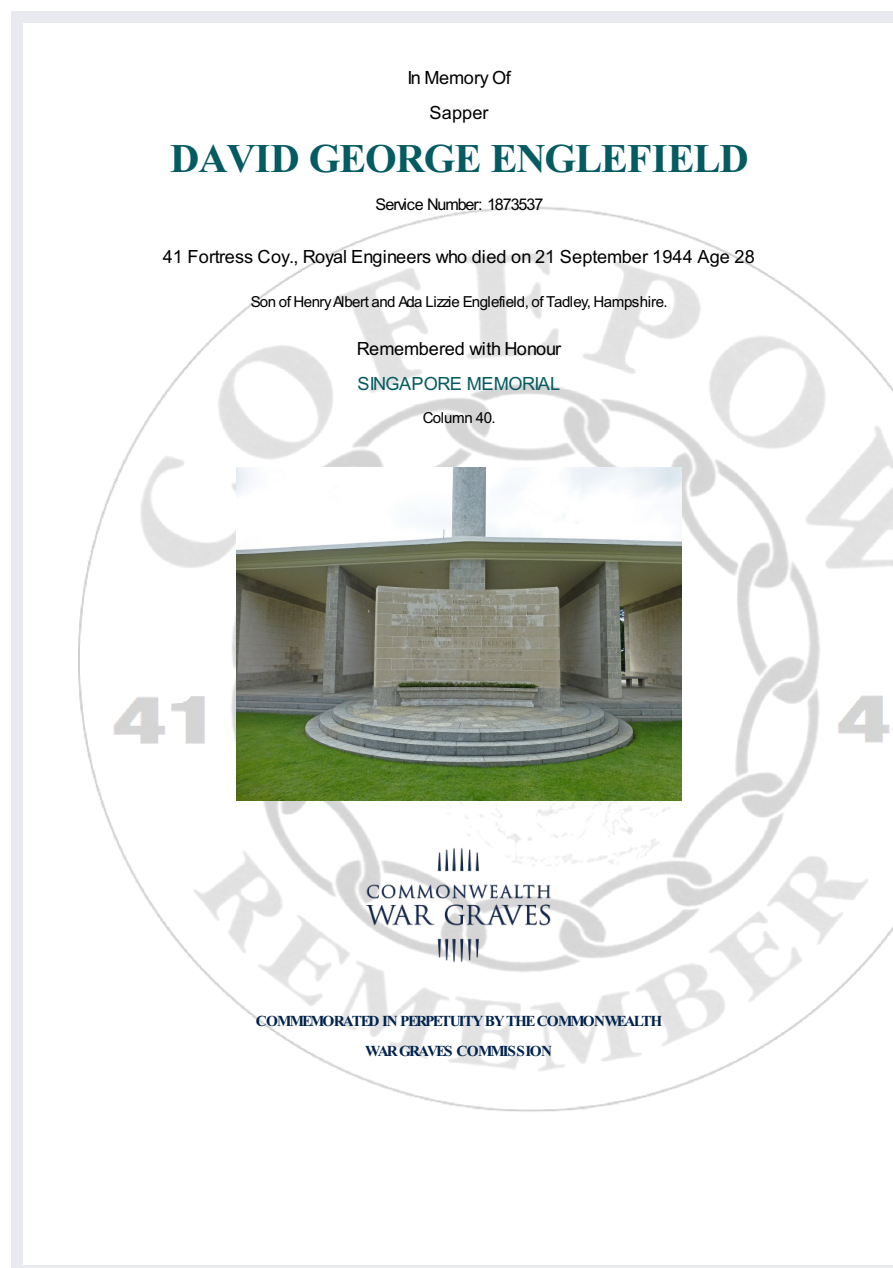
David was in the 41st Fortress Company and was employed on coast defence. The 30th, 34th, 35th, and 41st Fortress companies were all under the Commander Royal Engineers (CRE) fortress troops, Lieutenant Colonel H M TAYLOR, RE. As the British forces retreated across the Johore Strait, they destroyed the causeway connecting the mainland with Singapore and hoped for some breathing space, after the retreat down the length of Malaya. The men of the 41st Fortress Coy, Royal Engineers destroyed the large arsenal of ammunition of Changi before they were taken prisoner in Singapore. David was transported to Thailand and was held as a POW in Camp Songkurai. Songkurai was the location of three work camps (David was in camp 2). The first camp consisted of 393 Australian Prisoners who arrived on 25 May 1943. In August 1943, the British 'F' force consisting of 670 British and 1,020 Australian prisoners were concentrated at Songkurai. The prisoners were tasked to create a 15 kilometre stretch of railroad including a wooden bridge over the Songkalia river (Huai Ro Khi) The prisoners were forced to work under harsh conditions on the construction of the Thai/Burma Railway. On the 17 November 1943, the last prisoners left the camps. David was on board the transport ship; Hofuku Maru which was going to Japan from Thailand. It was due to reach Japan in November 1944, sailing from Singapore to Miri, Borneo as part of convoy Shimi-05.



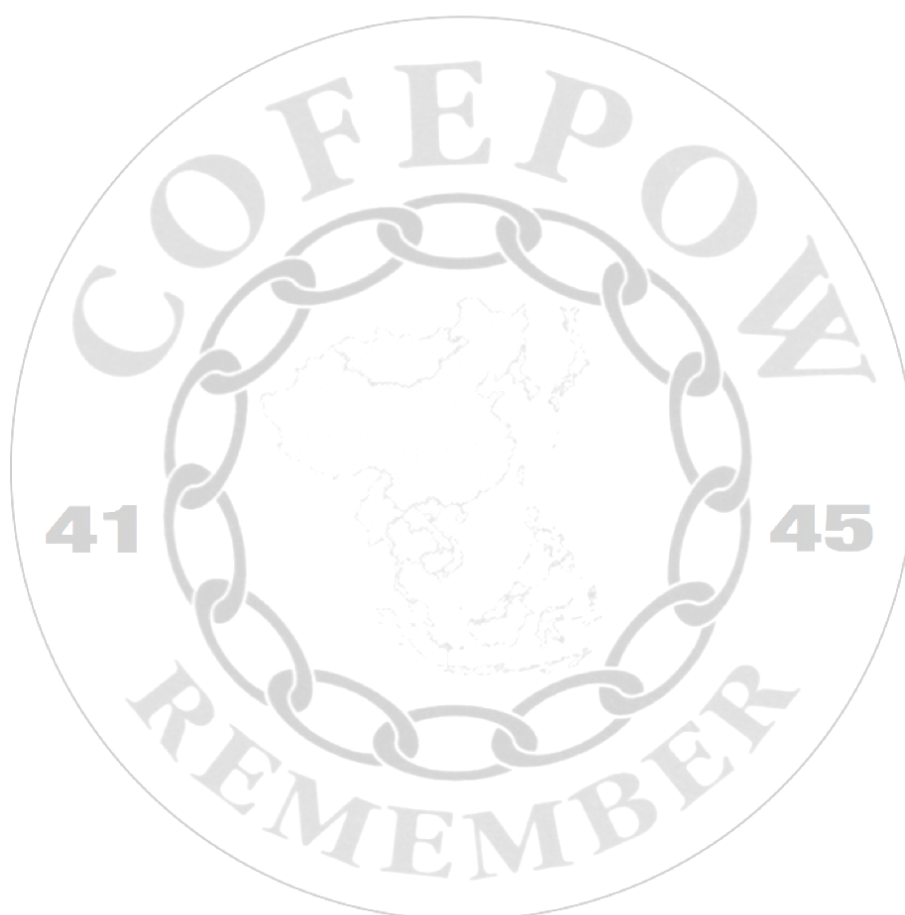
COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk

The convoy consisted of 10 ships, 5 of which carried, in total 5,000 POWs, all of whom were in appalling physical conditions. At Borneo, the Hofuku Maru left the convoy with engine problems and sailed onto the Philippines; arriving 19 July. It then remained in Manila until the middle of September while the engines were repaired. On the 20 September 1944, the Hofuku Maru and 10 other ships formed convoy Mata-27 and sailed from Manila to Japan. The following morning, the convoy was attacked 80 miles north of Corregidor by more than 100 American carrier planes. All 11 ships in the convoy were sunk. Of those on the Hofuku Maru; 1,047 of the 1,289 British and Dutch POWs on board died. Sadly, David was one of them.

The above information and wording has been supplied by Matthew Englefield (Relative)



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk



COFEPOW is a registered charity, number 1074474. Reproduction of the COFEPOW Album Pages without the express consent of COFEPOW, or reproduction of all or any of the information contained herein without the express consent of the family of the FEPOW concerned, is prohibited. For further information, contact www.cofepow.org.uk