

# JENKINS William

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**Name:** William Jenkins

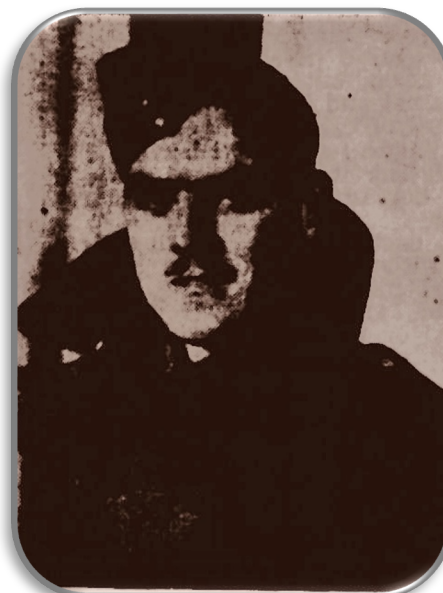
**Born:** 22 January 1917

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:** 5777117

**Unit/Regiment:** 5th Battalion,  
Royal Norfolk Regiment

**Died:** 21 September 1944



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## Pre-War:

William was born in Peterborough on the 22 January 1917 to Amelia and Charles Jenkins. He was one of 12 children and his family were fairly well known horse dealers in Peterborough

## Wartime experience:

William joined the army on the 15 March 1940 and was part of the 5th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment. His enlistment papers say he was 5ft 9inches tall, 161 pounds with hazel eyes and a scar on his upper right forehead.

He was captured at the surrender of Singapore and held in Changi until they sent him overland on 19 March 1943 to work on the railway as part of 'D' force.

He worked on various camps along the railway and on 11 July 1943, was transferred to Kanchanaburi hospital camp suffering with anaemia.

After work on the railway was complete, William was one of 1,289 who boarded the hell ship, Hofuku Maru as part of convoy SHIMI-05 bound for Miri, Borneo. At Borneo, the Hofuku Maru left the convoy with engine problems and sailed on to the Philippines, arriving on 19 July 1944. She remained at Manila until mid-September while the engines were repaired. The POWs remained on board, suffering from disease, hunger and thirst. On 20 September 1944, the Hofuku Maru and ten other ships formed Convoy MATA-27 and sailed from Manila to Japan. The following morning, the convoy was attacked 80 miles (130 km) north of Corregidor Island (Philippines) by more than 100 American aircraft carrier-based aircraft. All eleven ships were sunk. Of the POWs on the Hofuku Maru, 1,047 of the 1,289 British and Dutch POWs onboard died. Sadly, William, at the age of 27, was one of the 1,047 men who perished at sea.



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In Memory Of

Private

## WILLIAM JENKINS

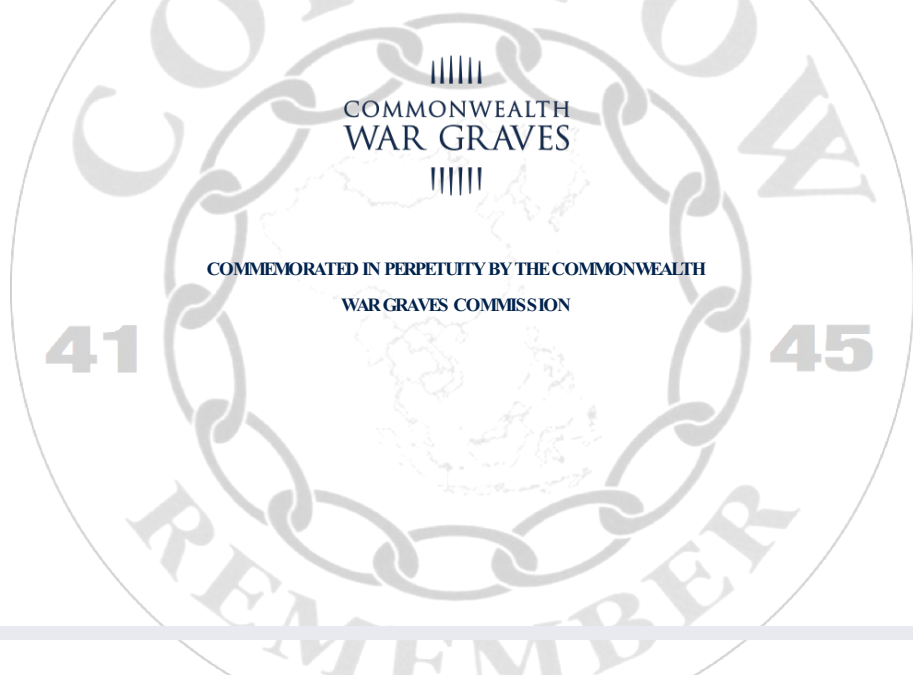
Service Number: 5777117

5th Bn., Royal Norfolk Regiment who died on 21 September 1944 Age 27

Remembered with Honour

SINGAPORE MEMORIAL

Column 51.



*The above information and wording has been provided by Hal Jenkins (Great Nephew) with additional information obtained from Wikipedia*



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