

BIRCH Sidney C

Name: Sidney C Birch

Born: 14 October 1921

Rank: Lance Corporal

Service Number: 4859827

Unit/Regiment: Royal
Leicestershire Regiment

Died: January 1988



Pre-War:

Sidney was born on 14 October (it is thought in 1921).

Wartime experience:

Sidney joined the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1939, at the age of 18. He was posted overseas to serve in Singapore in 1941. He was captured at the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942 by the Japanese. He was Placed in Changi Camp and in the October of 1942 was sent to Thailand to work on the Thai/Burma railway or, as it became known the 'Death Railway'. The railway was 415 kilometres long and ran from Ban Pong in Thailand to Thanbyuzakat in Burma. In 1943 the infamous bridge was built over the Mae Klong River renamed Khwae Yai River. Sidney was released from Changi, when the Japanese surrendered, on 15 August 1945. He arrived back in England in 1946 after long sea journey.

Post War:

Sidney married Lillian May Sutton at Quorn Church in 1953 and had a daughter, Monica, later that year. He worked as a Painter and Decorator before becoming a farm worker.

Sadly, Sidney passed away in January 1988 at the age of 69, at Leicester Royal Infirmary.



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Right:

Back row: Mr Batts – Hubert Brown – Cyril

Front row: Arthur Birch – Sid Birch



Above:

Sidney 2nd from right, having a night out with his wife far right and friends.

The above information and wording provided was provided by Gail Rogers (Great Niece to Sidney C Birch) with permission from the family



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