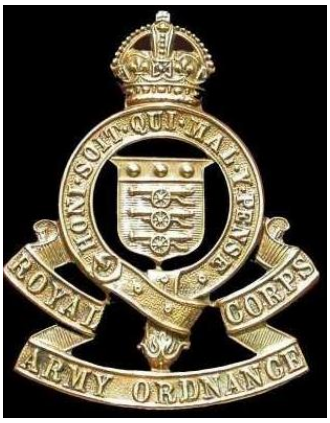
ASHARD, Harry Peter



Corporal, 57647055
4th Ordnance Store Coy
Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Place of Birth: Haverhill
Date of Death: Tuesday, 20th July 1943
Died of Illness in Captivity
Cemetery:Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand

Harry Peter Ashard was the son of Harry Ambrose Ashard and his wife Edith Lily formerly Page.

Harry Ambrose Ashard was born in Great Yeldham but his father who was a brickmaker from Stambourne, obviously moved around locally to find work as the family also lived in Sible Hedingham and Withersfield before finally settling in Haverhill.

Edith Lily Page was a Haverhill girl, the daughter of Walter Page, a tailor's presser, no doubt at Chauntry Mills. The 1911 census shows Edith, aged 21, working at The Woodlands as a domestic servant for Conrad Gurteen, a member of the textile manufacturing family who owned Chauntry Mills.



When Harry Ambrose Ashard, aged 31, married Edith Lily Page, aged 23, at the Old Independent Church on 30 August 1913 Harry was living at 1 Burton End while his new wife gave her address as 66 Primrose Hill.

Shortly after their marriage, they obviously took advantage of new opportunities because they were to run the shop, H A Ashard, Confectioners and Tobacconists at 23 Queen Street for the best part of fifty years.

Harry Peter Ashard, who was born on 28 July 1917, had one sister, Pamela Margaret who was 4 years younger than him. He attended Haverhill Secondary School and on completion of his education he left the town to take up employment at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds where he followed up his natural bent for mathematics by joining the accounts department.

Later he was employed in the Treasury Department of the Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council. In 1939, he passed the Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants held in January of that year. Over 500 entered for this national examination with a pass rate of only 20%. Harry came third overall and was awarded the bronze medal.



In October 1940 Harry joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, quickly making the rank of Corporal. On 20 January 1941 he married Hilary Margaret Sanderson from Ilford.

The following year he was caught up in the Battle for Singapore and found himself a Prisoner of War like so many others from East Anglia.

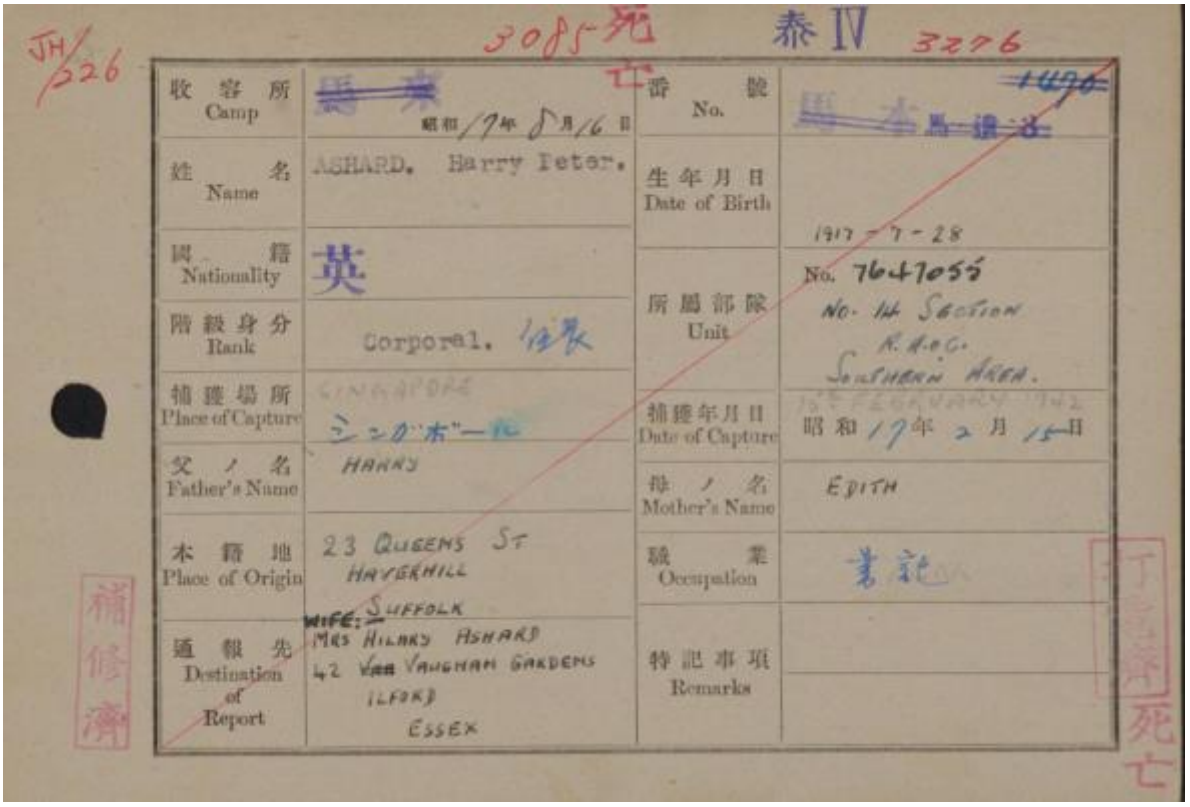
Following the surrender on 15 February 1942, his wife and parents received notification that he was missing, believed to be a prisoner of war but this was not confirmed until March 1943. In July, August and December 1943 postcards were received by his family but during 1944 no further word was received from him.

The South West Suffolk Echo of 3 February 1945 reported:

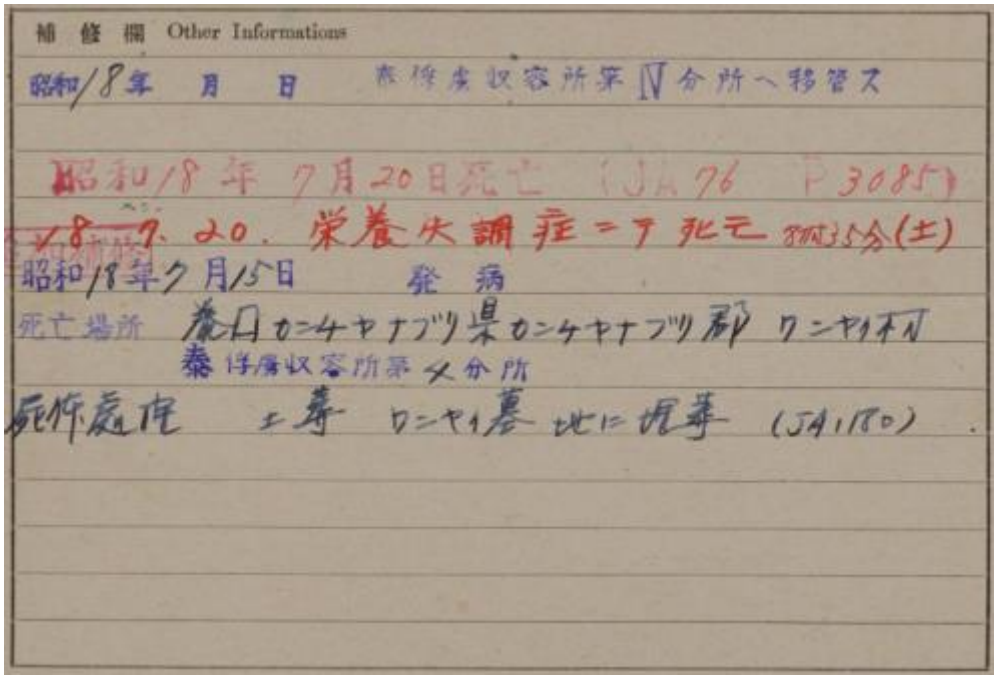
> *'Old Haverhill Boy Dies in No 4 Thailand Camp.*
> *Much sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs H A Ashard and family of Queen Street, who during last week end heard the sad news that their only son Corporal Harry Peter Ashard, of the RAOC, had died during his incarceration in No 4 Thailand Camp.*
> *The news from the War Office was received by the widow of the deceased….who took steps to confirm the intimation before communicating the news to his parents but the news appears to be beyond dispute. There are no details or date given of his death.'*

Later it was realised that Harry Peter Ashard had died on 20 July 1943, before the three postcards he sent home were actually received.

Harry was initially buried in Tarsao No.2 Cemetery, grave 18, and moved to Kanchanburi in 1946. Another Haverhill man, Sidney Pavey, also a POW, was in his burial party.



収容所 Camp	昭和17年8月16日	番號 No.	
姓名 Name	ASHARD. Harry Peter.	生年月日 Date of Birth	1917-7-28
國籍 Nationality	英	所屬部隊 Unit	No. 7647055 No. 111 Section R.A.O.C. SOUTHERN AREA.
階級身分 Rank	Corporal. 伍長		
捕獲場所 Place of Capture	SINGAPORE シンガポール	捕獲年月日 Date of Capture	15TH FEBRUARY 1942 昭和17年2月15日
父ノ名 Father's Name	HANNY	母ノ名 Mother's Name	EDITH
本籍地 Place of Origin	23 QUEENS ST HAVERHILL SUFFOLK	職業 Occupation	書記
通報先 Destination of Report	WIFE:- MRS HILARY ASHARD 42 VAN VAUGHAN GARDENS ILFORD ESSEX	特記事項 Remarks	



補修欄 Other Informations

昭和18年 月 日 泰俘虜収容所第Ⅳ分所ヘ移管ス

昭和18年7月20日死亡 (JA76 P3085)

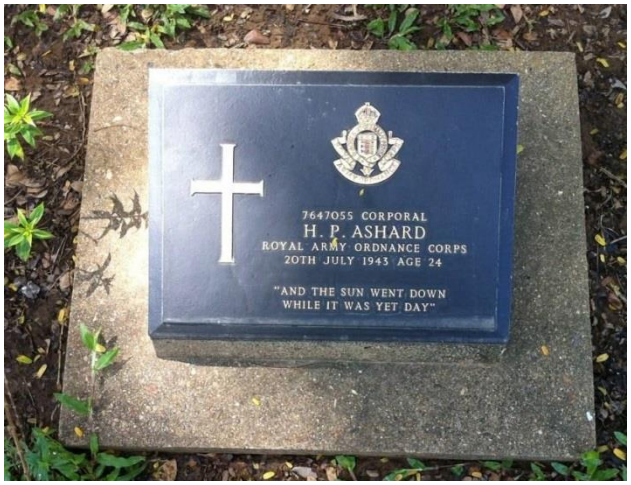
8.7.20. 栄養失調症ニテ死亡 3PM3.5分(土)

昭和18年7月15日 発病

死亡場所 泰国カンチャナブリ県カンチャナブリ郡ワンヤイ村 泰俘虜収容所第Ⅳ分所

死体処理 土葬 ワンヤイ墓地ニ埋葬 (JA180)

Harry's final resting place is in Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. (Grave reference 8J3)





The family inscription reads:

"AND THE SUN WENT DOWN WHILE IT WAS YET DAY"



He is also remembered in Haverhill Cemetery.

Harry's parents later moved to Clacton on Sea.

His wife remarried in 1949.



The memorial on the right is situated at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

The Kanchanaburi War Cemetery (known locally as the Don-Rak War Cemetery) is the main prisoner of war (POW) cemetery for victims of Japanese imprisonment who died while building the Burma Railway. It is on the main road, Saeng Chuto Road, through the town of Kanchanaburi, Thailand, adjacent to an older Chinese cemetery.
Designed by Colin St Clair Oakes the cemetery is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. There are 6,982 POWs buried there, mostly Australian, British, and Dutch. It contains the remains of prisoners buried beside the south section of the railway from Bangkok to Nieke, excepting those identified as Americans, whose remains were repatriated.
There are 1,896 Dutch war graves, the rest being from Britain and the Commonwealth. Two graves contain the ashes of 300 men who were cremated. The Kanchanaburi Memorial gives the names of 11 from India who are buried in Muslim cemeteries.

