

In Memory Of
Lance Corporal

REGINALD FREDERICK SMITH

Service Number: 5250379

7th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment who died on 14 March 1945 Age 27

Son of May Smith; husband of Muriel Elizabeth Smith, of Colwall, Worcestershire.

GOD TAKES OUR LOVED ONES FROM OUR HOMES BUT NEVER FROM OUR HEARTS

Remembered with Honour

TAUKKYAN WAR CEMETERY

19. F. 16.



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COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Name: SMITH, Reginald Frederick

Date of Birth: 1917

Date of Death: 14th March 1945

Age at Death: 27

Service Number: 5250379

Rank: Lance Corporal

Unit: 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment



Military Service

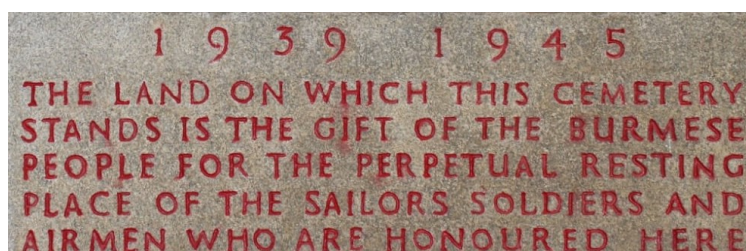
After being evacuated from Dunkirk Reginald was stationed in Lincoln. In 1943 he was sent to India and then later to Myanmar (Burma).

In March 1945 the troops of the 7th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment fought and defeated the Japanese holding the east end of Ava bridge, near Mandalay. The bridge was captured on 17th March, but unfortunately Reginald had fallen a few days before the bridge capture in the attack on the village of Lat-Saung-Yu just west of the Ava Bridge.

To commemorate the occasion, the Commanding Officer bolted to the bridge a plaque which reads : "*AVA BRIDGE: East End Captured by 7th Btn. The Worcestershire Regiment, 17th Mar. 1945*" The capture entailed a bold crossing of the Myitnge river, which flows into the Irrawaddy at Ava, and then a short but dangerous approach up a steep bank and the destruction of a strong enemy position at the entrance to the bridge itself.

Commemorated/Memorial

Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar, 19.F.16. Taukkyan War Cemetery is the largest of the three war cemeteries in Burma (now Myanmar). There are now 6,389 Second World War Commonwealth service persons buried or commemorated in this cemetery, 867 of which are unidentified.



Colwall Connection

Reginald was the son of May Smith. Reginald was married to Muriel Elizabeth Smith (nee Barber) of Colwall who worked at the Mineral Water Factory in 1940. A letter from the Minnie Browsers of Brabourne, 39 Frederick Rd, Malvern Link, dated 22nd May 1950 can be found within war records held at Worcestershire Archives requesting that Reginald Smith be added to the county roll of honour. The letter lists Reginald Smith as a casualty from St Matthias Parish, Malvern Link.