**EVANS Jack Ivor**

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| **Name: Jack Ivor Evans**  **Born: 27 October 1917**  **Rank: Corporal**  **Service Number: 5829588**  **Regiment: 4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment**  **Died: 22 May 2001** |  |

**Early life:**

Jack was born in Treorchy, Wales. At 16 years old he moved to London with his family.

**Wartime experience:**

Jack enlisted on 18 January 1940 and was sent abroad on 29 October 1941. He sailed to Bombay via Cape Town, arriving on 28 December 1941. On 15 January 1942 he sailed from Bombay and his ship was diverted to Singapore, in response to the Japanese onslaught in Malaya. He arrived in Singapore on 29 January 1942, just two weeks before it fell on 15 February.

Jack was captured and sent to Changi prison camp. He was moved to Bukit Timah, then Sime Road camps until December 1942 when he returned to Changi. He was then sent with the later parties to work on the Thai/Burma railway. He was marched for nearly 200 miles from Ban Pong to Sonkrai. Conditions there were amongst the worst on the railway, as a result of which, there were many deaths from cholera.

Jack, together with seven others, Bernard Bradley, Francis Leonard Edley, Ian O'Brien Porter Bradley, James Singleton, Frederick J Woolard, Peter Richard Jackson and William Henry Dawkins, escaped into the jungle on 6 June 1943. They aimed to reach China via the Me Ping river, following jungle tracks to Chiang Mai. Two of the party developed jungle fever after a week but managed to carry on. They relied on one member of the party, who could speak Thai, to obtain their supplies. They arrived at a village on 12 July and lived in caves nearby until late September. James Singleton died there.

Jack and two others left to look for food and those remaining in the cave were captured on 2 October. Jack and the others were soon rounded up. Death sentences were threatened but these were later commuted to life sentences in Bangkok. They were all sent to Singapore on 27 October 1943, to be imprisoned in Outram Road gaol, where Bernard Bradley died.

Jack survived captivity and returned home. He was 'mentioned in despatches' as an award for his bravery in the jungle.

**Civilian life after return:**

Jack married in 1948 and became a family man.

Sadly, Jack passed away on 22 May 2001, at the age of 83.