

HUSBAND Edwin

Name: Edwin Husband

Born: 24 June 1909

Rank: Corporal

Service Number: 2022101

Unit/Regiment: Royal Corps of
Signals

Died: 1st/2nd October 1942



Pre-War:

Ted, as he was known, was born on 24 June 1909 in South Banks, near Middlesbrough. His father worked in the Steel Works, which appears to be the only thing known of his early life. Records show that he served in India between 1936-37 and his marriage certificate shows that, in 1938, he was attached to 1 Division Signals in Aldershot. He married Dorothy, on 2 July and would have been posted to the Hong Kong Signal regiment shortly afterwards. As his wife was pregnant, she was unable to go with him but stayed in England and gave birth to a baby girl, Veronica, on 2 June 1939. They were both due to sail out to join Ted on the day war broke out, so sadly neither of them saw him again!

Wartime experience:

Ted was captured by the Japanese, when they invaded Hong Kong on 25 December 1941, he would have been sent to Sham Shui prison camp until he embarked on the hell ship the Lisbon Maru.

On her final voyage she was carrying, in addition to 700 Japanese Army personnel, 1,816 British and Canadian prisoners of war captured after the Battle of Hong Kong. On board the hell ship. the POWs were held in appalling conditions those, who were at the bottom of the hold, were showered by the diarrhoea of sick soldiers above.

On 1 October 1942, she was torpedoed by the American submarine USS Grouper. The Japanese troops were evacuated but the POWs were left and, instead of helping them to escape, the Japanese battened down the hatches sealing the prisoners inside and were left on the listing ship. After 24 hours it became apparent that the ship was sinking and some of the POWs were able to break through the hatch covers and were able to escape from the ship before it sank. The ladder from one of the holds to the deck failed, and the Royal Artillery POWs could not escape, they were last heard singing "It's a Long Way to Tipperary".



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Survivors reported that Japanese guards fired on the POWs who reached the deck and, that other Japanese ships used machine guns to fire at POWs who were in the water. However, after some Chinese fishermen started rescuing survivors, the Japanese ships also helped to rescue survivors.

Sadly, Edwin was one of 828 men that perished on the Lisbon Maru between 1 and 2 October 1942.

In Memory Of
Corporal

EDWIN HUSBAND

Service Number: 2022101

Hong Kong Sig. Coy., Royal Corps of Signals who died on 01 October 1942 Age 33

Husband of D. Husband, of St. Just in Penwith, Cornwall, England.

Remembered with Honour

SAI WAN MEMORIAL

Column 9.



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

*The above information has been provided by Ken Williams (Grandson)
with other material found on the COFEPOW website, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission
and Wikipedia.*



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