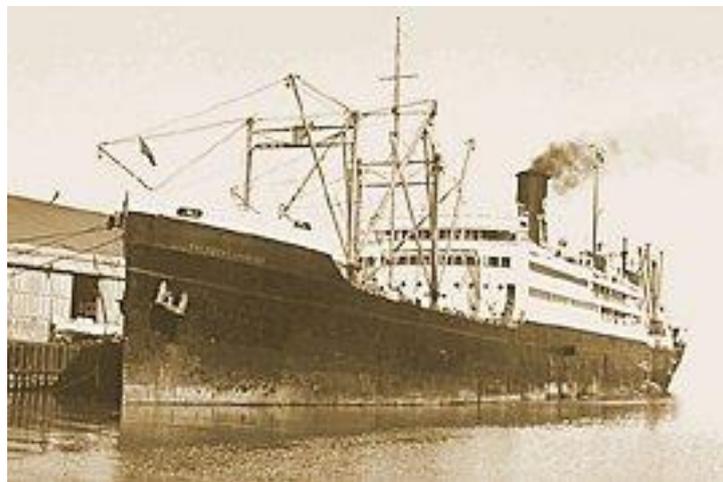


Cpl. G. Teal (43 Res. M.T. Coy. Royal Army Service Corps)

Corporal George Teal's unit formed part of the British defence forces during the battle for the Singapore fortress¹ and it is likely that he was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese when Singapore surrendered on February 15th 1942².

After the surrender, British POWs were either placed in prisons such as the notorious Changi or sent to work as forced labour on such projects as the Burma Railway³.

Precisely what happened to George Teal after the fall of Singapore is unclear. However, in September 1944 he boarded the ship Kachidoki Maru, the former US ocean liner President Harrison, for transportation to Formosa.



This was one of the so-called "Hell Ships" used by the Japanese to transport POWs⁴.

On September 4th 1944, the Kachidoki Maru, with 900 British POWs on board, set sail from Singapore together with another of the Hell Ships, the Rakuyo Maru (carrying 1300 British and US POWs)⁵.

On September 12th the convoy was attacked by US submarines. The Kachidoki Maru was torpedoed by the US submarine Pampanito at 10:40pm. It sank within 20 minutes, with the loss of almost 500 lives, including Cpl. George Teal⁶.

George Teal is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial, in Kranji War Cemetery⁷. He is also commemorated on the Kachidoki Maru online Roll of Honour⁸. The family did not receive official notification of his death until more than four months after the end of the war in the Far East. This from the Keighley News, 22nd December 1944:

Missing Soldier.—Mr. and Mrs. C. Teal, of Mary Street, Farnhill, have had official notification from the War Office that their only son, Corporal George Teal, of the R.A.S.C., was killed on a ship when it was torpedoed while carrying prisoners of war from Thailand to Japan on 12 September, 1944. Corporal Teal was employed by Messrs. T. and M. Bairstows at Sutton Mills.

References

- 1 http://www.cofepow.org.uk/pages/armedforces_m_command.html
- 2 http://ww2db.com/battle_spec.php?battle_id=47
- 3 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Singapore#Aftermath
- 4 <https://sites.google.com/site/powsofthejapanese/Home/hellships-information-photos/the-hellships-an-overview>
- 5 http://www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/Hell_Ships/Kachidoki_Maru/
- 6 <http://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?59357>
- 7 <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2073003/TEAL,%20GEORGE>
- 8 http://www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/Hell_Ships/Kachidoki_Maru/html/t_died_database_4.htm