

In Memory of Captain Aubrey Herbert Grigson

1900 - 1942

(Army in Burma Reserve of Officers)

Age: 41

Spouse: Yoma Wilkinson

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: Myanmar (formerly Burma)

Country of Death: Myanmar (formerly Burma)

Relation: Paternal 4th Cousin 2X Removed



Aubrey Herbert Grigson was born in 1900, the sixth son of William Grigson and Mary Boldero. He came from a family defined by service and loss. Of seven brothers, six died in the service of their country—three during the First World War, two during the Second World War, and one in an aircraft accident shortly after the war's end.

Before the war, Aubrey worked in Burma for the Bombay Burma Trading Company, a major commercial enterprise operating across Southeast Asia. In 1928, he married Yoma Wilkinson in Rangoon, where they established their family and civilian life. By the outbreak of the Second World War, Burma was not merely his place of residence, but his home.

With the expansion of Japanese operations into Southeast Asia, Aubrey enlisted in Burma, entering military service as a Captain in the Army in Burma Reserve of Officers. This force drew heavily on men with local experience and knowledge, and was tasked with supporting Allied defence efforts as the situation in the region rapidly deteriorated.

In early 1942, as Japanese air attacks intensified and Allied positions collapsed, his wife and three children were evacuated from Burma to India. Aubrey remained behind, continuing to serve with Allied forces during the retreat and rearguard actions that marked the final phase of the first Burma campaign.

By April 1942, Allied resistance in central Burma was

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disintegrating under sustained pressure from the Imperial Japanese Army. On 27 April 1942, Captain Grigson was killed at Shwebo, Burma, during a Japanese air raid. He was forty-one years old. His death came three months after his family's evacuation, during the final days before Burma fell entirely under Japanese occupation.

Captain Grigson is buried at the Taukkyan War Cemetery, where Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Burma campaign are laid to rest. The cemetery stands as a lasting testament to those who served and fell during one of the war's most demanding and least forgiving theatres.

Captain Aubrey Herbert Grigson did not return. He is remembered as a husband, a father, and an officer who remained at his post when his family was forced to leave, and who lost his life in the defence of Burma.



*Taukkyan War Cemetery,
Htauk Kyant, Sagaing Region, Myanma*



*Memorial to the Grigson brothers
St. Nun Church, Pelynt, Cornwall, UK*