

In Memory of Private Robert Seymore Davey

1917 - 1943

(4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment)

Age: 25

Parents: Robert Davey & Augusta Pledger

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

Country of Death: Thailand

Relation: Paternal 5th Cousin 1X Removed



Robert Seymore Davey was born in 1917 in Mildenhall, Suffolk. In 1939, on the eve of war, he married Nellie May Allum, beginning a family life that would soon be overtaken by global conflict.

He enlisted in the British Army and served with the 4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. In early 1942, his battalion was engaged in the desperate defence of Singapore, a campaign marked by overwhelming odds and rapid collapse. On 15 February 1942, following the fall of Singapore, Private Davey was captured by Japanese forces and became a prisoner of war.

He was subsequently transported to Japanese-occupied Thailand, where he was interned at Kanchanaburi Prisoner of War Camp. There, like tens of thousands of Allied prisoners, he was forced into slave labour on the Thailand–Burma Railway, later known as the *Death Railway*. Prisoners worked under brutal conditions—on starvation rations, in extreme heat, and with little or no medical care. Disease, malnutrition, and exhaustion were constant, and punishment for even minor infractions was severe. Private Davey died on 20 June 1943 from acute bacillary dysentery, a disease that spread rapidly among weakened prisoners. He was twenty-six years old.

He is buried at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, where thousands of Commonwealth prisoners of war who died in Japanese captivity are laid to rest. The cemetery stands

*Private
4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment*



today as a place of quiet order and remembrance, bearing witness to suffering endured far from home.

Private Robert Seymore Davey did not return. His death was not the result of a single battle, but of prolonged captivity, deprivation, and forced labour. He is remembered as one of those whose lives were taken slowly and unjustly, and whose sacrifice must not be forgotten.

*PEACEFULLY SLEEPING, FREE FROM PAIN
I WOULD NOT WAKE HIM TO SUFFER
AGAIN*



*Kanchanaburi War Cemetery
Kanchanaburi, Thailand*