

Andrew Burton



Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Service Number 5043437

Remembered in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

Died 5<sup>th</sup> June 1943 aged 38

Andrew was born on 16 October 1904 in Stapleford Nottinghamshire. His parents were Andrew and Jane Burton who had married in 1892. The family lived in Stapleford and his father was employed at the Stanton Iron works. He joined the army some time in the 1930s and when he had served his enlistment time was employed as a conductor for Nottingham Corporation Transport.



In August 1939 he married Phoebe Annie Wilkinson. Registered in Nottingham. They then moved to live with her father at number 2, Hardstaff Homes on Arnold Lane Gedling (Phoebe's father was a retired miner)

Hardstaff Homes nos 1 right, 2 centre and 3 left



Andrew was called up when war began, he was assigned to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps

A daughter Muriel was born at the beginning of 1940 registered in the Basford Registration District in the March (January, February, March) quarter of 1940

Andrew was posted abroad to Malaya. where he was taken prisoner by the Japanese when Singapore fell on 15 February 1942. He was one of the many POW's working on the Siam-Burma railway often known as the Death Railway due to the appalling conditions and brutality. He died of cholera on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1943, there was an epidemic in at that time. Therefore his body was cremated.

His wife Phoebe died the same year, without knowing her husband's fate. Her death was registered in the June (April, May, June) quarter of 1943.

When the war against Japan ended, all of the cremation ashes were removed from their original burial sites and reinterred in two graves in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery Thailand Andrew Burton's name is commemorated there.

For information and photograph please see

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2140732/kanchanaburi-war-cemetery>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10759775/andrew-burton>

### Prisoner Ignorant Of Wife's Death

A sad story is revealed this week following the receipt of a post-card from Private Andrew Burton, of the Almshouses, Gedling-lane, Gedling, informing his wife that he is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands and "hoping that she is in the best of health."



**PRIVATE ANDREW BURTON**

Unfortunately, his wife died seven or eight weeks ago, leaving behind a three years' old baby, and as nothing had been heard from him since he went abroad the sad news from home has not been able to be conveyed to him.

Private Burton, who is in the R.A.O.C., has no parents, and joined the Army before the war. After serving his time he was employed as a conductor on the Nottingham Corporation buses, but at the outbreak of war was called up and sent abroad. No news was received from him, but it was thought he was at Singapore, and the card now received from him seems to bear this out.

In August, 1939, he married Miss Phoebe Annie Wilkinson, and they lived with her father, Mr. John Wilkinson, at The Almshouses, Gedling.

The motherless baby (Muriel) is being cared for by his deceased wife's sister, Mrs. E. Dexter, of 258, High-street, Basford.

South Notts Echo  
18 Sept 1943



In The Nottingham Evening Post for December 10<sup>th</sup> 1945 is a short note

*DIED IN SIAM*

*Miss. F. M. Burton of 4 Station Road, Carlton has been officially informed that her brother Pte Andrew Burton RAOC died in Siam on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1943*

## TRAGEDY OF WAR

### Husband Dies In Jap Prisoner Of War Camp

### WIFE PASSES AWAY AT GEDLING

**A** SAD story lies behind the official announcement received this week by Miss F. M. Burton, of 4, Station-road, Carlton, that her brother (Pte. Andrew Burton, R.A.O.C., of the Almhouses, Gedling-lane, Gedling) passed away on June 5, 1943, while a prisoner of war in Japanese hands in Siam.

On September 18, 1943, a postcard arrived from Pte. Burton for his wife (before her marriage Miss Phæbe Annie Wilkinson), whom he wed in August, 1939, to state that he was a prisoner and "hoping that she is in the best of health."

#### Death Of Wife

Mrs. Burton, however, never received the message, for she died about seven weeks previously, leaving behind a three-years-old baby, and, as it happened, her husband was to die shortly after her.

Pte. Burton had no parents alive when he joined the Army before the war. Previously he had been employed as a conductor on the Nottingham Corporation 'buses, and was called up soon after war broke out and sent overseas. For a considerable time no news was received from him, but it was thought that he had been sent to Singapore.

#### Orphaned Baby

After his marriage, he and his wife lived with her father (Mr. John Wilkinson, at the Almhouses, Gedling). The orphaned baby (Muriel), who is now five years of age, has been taken care of by Mrs. Burton's sister (Mrs. E. Dexter, of 258, High-street, Basford).

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