

## PRIVATE FUSILIER WALTER WHITE

Service Number: 6982018

Enlisted: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Inniskilling Regiment

Born: 13<sup>th</sup> April 1920, Basford, Nottinghamshire

Died: 26<sup>th</sup> April 1943 Calcutta, India, Aged 23

Memorials:

Bhowanipore Cemetery, Calcutta, India

Plot O, Row G, Grave 35

Burbage War Memorial

St Catherine's Church Memorial



Walter White was born on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1920, the son of Annie Maria White of Calverton, Nottinghamshire. Annie married Bertie Strutt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1921 in Nottinghamshire and by the time of the 1939 Census they were living at 56 Sapcote Road, Burbage. Bertie Strutt was a Bus Driver; Annie was a Mender for a Hosiery Manufacturer and Walter was employed as a Joiner's Labourer.

During World War II, Walter was a Fusilier with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Inniskilling Regiment who were stationed in India. In 1942, the First Battalion was flown to Burma to help stem the Japanese advance and in 1943 took part in the operations in the Arakan peninsula.

In January 1942, the army of Imperial Japan invaded the British possession of Burma. The British and British Indian army forces were out flanked, defeated and were forced to evacuate Burma. The Inniskilling's had been flown into Burma as part of an unsuccessful attempt to create a defensive line north of Rangoon. It failed, and the order to evacuate Burma was given and India itself was now threatened.<sup>1</sup>

In 1943, there was another unsuccessful campaign to halt the advance of the Japanese army. The intention of the campaign was to attack the left flank of the Japanese forces threatening India....<sup>1</sup> This was to be carried out by 14<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, commanded by Mayor General WL Lloyd.

In this Division were the Inniskilling's of the 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, with two other battalions, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Rajput Regiment and 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 8<sup>th</sup> Punjab Regiment.

By 6<sup>th</sup> April, a disorderly withdrawal was now across country over jungle covered hills with speed reduced to ½ mile per hour. When darkness fell, direction was kept by touch only. The Battalion had to split into small forces and had to hide up during the day to avoid Japanese

patrols. The parties made for the beach south of Indin. Casualties were high from Japanese ambushes and prisoners were taken. The remains of the Battalion were moved to staging camps and then were transported by motor transport to the north across the border into India.

It is likely that Walter was injured during this campaign, he died on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1943 and is buried in Bhowanipore Cemetery, Calcutta, India.

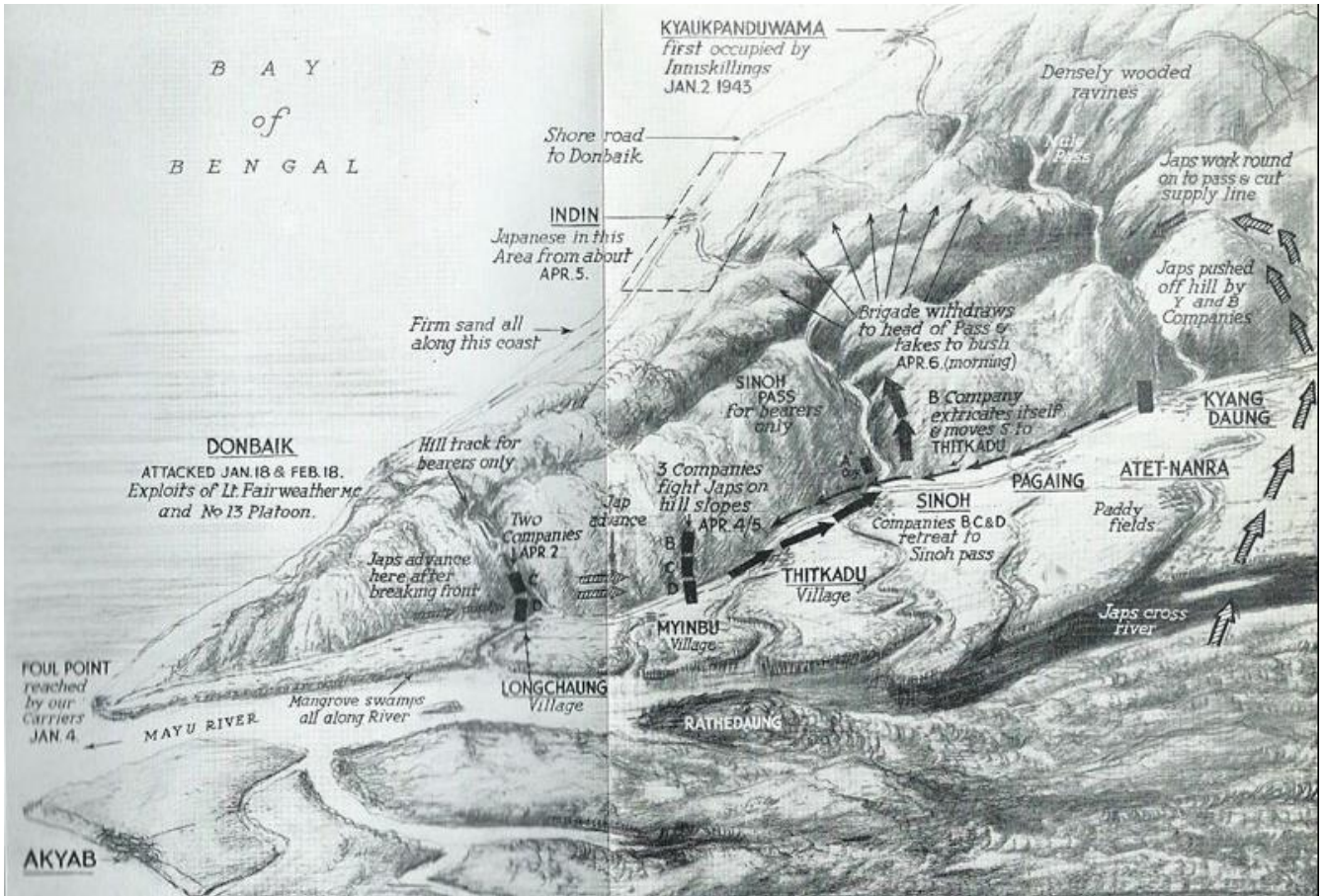


Bhowanipore Cemetery, Calcutta, India



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.inniskillingmuseum.com/the-inniskillings-in-burma-january-april-1943/>

BURBAGE FALLEN OF WORLD WAR II



Arakan Peninsula



Walter White