

5340279 PTE ARTHUR ERNEST PHILLIPS

1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment

Killed in action 7 April 1943

The 1st Battalion, including Pte AE Phillips, had been forced back to new positions at Indin and Kyaukpanduywana on the Arakan Peninsula in Burma when, on 6 April, orders were received to withdraw to HQ. Prior to this, the battalion had been ambushed by two companies of enemy soldiers who had brought up a small field artillery piece in addition to machine gun fire, which caused heavy casualties.

After receiving 28 containers dropped from the air by RAF Hudson aircraft with a fighter escort, 'A' and 'C' Companies, after a long detour, carrying the wounded on stretchers, managed to reach HQ by 7 April. "B" Company was split up and arrived back over the next few days, many with machine gun and bayonet wounds. Twenty-three soldiers were listed as missing, believed killed in action (NA Ref. 172/2496).