

2468 SGT WALTER NEWTON CHAMBERLAIN

Burma Auxiliary Force

Died of illness 28 April 1942

Walter Newton Chamberlain was christened Newton after a local landowner, Mr Newton, a good friend of his father. Walter was educated at Bloxham School and subsequently trained at a firm in Writtle, Essex, qualifying as an electrical engineer. Something of an inventor, he was the first to produce certain farm machinery, but by not patenting his invention it was claimed by another firm.

He worked in the Gold Coast mines before arriving in Burma, where he enlisted in the local defence force. In early 1942, while up country, he contracted Blackwater Fever and eventually died.

At the time of his enlistment in the Burma Auxiliary Force, he gave as his next of kin Frederick and Annie Chamberlain of Crowmarsh Battle Farm, **Benson**. He was the half-brother of Richard Chamberlain. A third brother, David Chamberlain, won the DFC, and died after the war. All three are commemorated in a window in St Helen's Church, Benson.

Aged 32 when he died, Walter Chamberlain is buried at Takkyan War Cemetery in Rangoon (plot 26, row E, grave 7).