

## War Memorial – The Green, Castle Bromwich

### World War II 1939-1945

#### Gunner John Trevor Sale (1911-1943) 990000 118<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Royal Artillery died aged 32



John Trevor (known as Trevor) was born on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1911 to parents Harry and Lilian Annie Sale (née Nicklin) at Solihull, Warwickshire.

In 1935 he was living with his parents and brother at 610 Fox Hollies Road, Hall Green. In 1938 he married Annie Paget and they moved in with his parents still living in Hall Green.

Trevor joined the war effort with the 118th Field Regiment when it was formed in 1939 at Woolwich to release the regular garrison. It remained there until 1941 when it was sent with the 18th Infantry Division to India. Not long after arriving in India, they were sent to reinforce Singapore. They had little or no experience of jungle warfare and arrived amidst the chaos of air raids on 29 January 1942. They were just in time to take part in the final week's battle for Singapore concluding on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942, the day Trevor was captured by the Japanese. Changi Prisoner of War camp was opened that same day, where he was held, after Singapore's fall and was the main camp for the captured British and Commonwealth forces.

Changi was one of the more notorious Japanese prisoner of war camps. The treatment of POW's was harsh but fitted in with the belief held by the Japanese Imperial Army that those who had surrendered to it were guilty of dishonouring their country and family and, as such, deserved to be treated in no other way.

The Japanese used the POW's at Changi for forced labour. The formula was very simple – if you worked, you would get food. If you did not work, you would get no food. Men were made to work in the docks where they loaded munitions onto ships. They were also used to clear sewers damaged in the attack on Singapore. The men who were too ill to work relied on those who could work for their food. Sharing what were already meagre supplies became a way of life. Malaria, dysentery and dermatitis were common, as were beatings for not working hard enough.

Trevor died on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1943 of enteritis and diarrhoea, an infection cause by contaminated food and drink. He is buried Don-Rak War Military Cemetery, Kanchanaburi, Thailand. The gravestone inscription reads "*In loving memory*". He is also commemorated at the war memorial at The Green, Castle Bromwich. Probate dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 1945 records his wife Annie living at their home at 72 Marlborough Road, Castle Bromwich.



*John Sale grave*