



## **PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET**



**Name: Kenneth Townson HODKINSON**

**DOB: 28<sup>th</sup> January 1920**

**Rank: Private**

**Service Identity Number: 3055984**

**Service/Regiment/Corps: Royal Scots**

**Unit: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**

**Died: 1st/2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942**

### **Personal history before the war:**

Born 28th January 1920 to Edith Hodkinson who was originally from Stockport. Kenneth's birth certificate states father unknown although his POW index card identifies it as George.

Kenneth was brought up by his grandparents Enoch and Esther Hodkinson at 168-170 Moorside Lane Droylsden Manchester; before enlisting, Kenneth worked at the Co-op.

Kenneth's mum Edith married John Willie Garside (known as Jack) and had two further sons, John and Robert Garside (dob 17th May 1936).

Kenneth joined the Army in 1938 and was posted out to join the battalion in Hong Kong 2 months before the outbreak of WW2.

### **Wartime experience:**

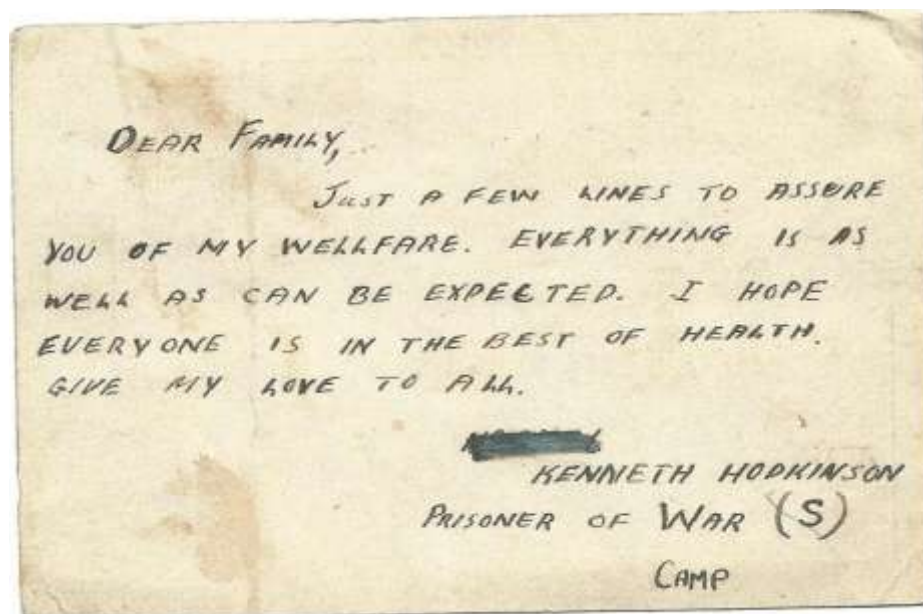
Kenneth is recorded as being captured at the surrender of the Hong Kong garrison on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1941. He also sent a postcard home from the POW camp at Shamshuipo which can be seen below.

### **Personal history post war (if survived):**

Sadly Kenneth did not survive the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and his name is inscribed on column 12 of the Sai Wan War Memorial. His name also appears on Enoch and Esther's headstone simply saying "presumed drowned".



Additional photos:



## Fate of Two Hong Kong Prisoners

### Presumed Lost When Jap Ship Sank

Two local men who were taken prisoner at Hong Kong are now officially presumed to have been killed in action at sea whilst prisoners of war. They are Private Kenneth T. Hodkinson, 168, Moorside-street, Droylsden, and Gunner F. Burgess, 5, Chariot-street, Hr. Openshaw.



Pte. Hodkinson Gun. F. Burgess

After the fall of Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941, they were posted missing. Some five months later their relatives were relieved to learn that they were prisoners of war in Japanese hands. There was no news of them again until January, 1943, when the War Office notified their relatives that they had been reported missing by the Japanese authorities following the sinking of the S.S. Lisbon Maru, a vessel engaged in transporting British prisoners of war from Hong Kong to Japan.

The latest communication from the War Office states that after a careful review of the available evidence, the department has reached the conclusion that all hope of their survival must be abandoned, and there can no longer be any alternative but to presume they were lost when the ship was sunk.

Pte. Hodkinson was brought up by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hodkinson. In 1938 he gave up his job at the Harley-street (Openshaw) branch of the Droylsden Co-op. to join the Army. Two months before the outbreak of war he was drafted to Hong Kong with the Royal Scots Regiment. Educated at Fairfield-road Council School, he was a popular member of Moorside Methodist Church and Sunday School, Droylsden.

Gunner Burgess, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Burgess, left his job at Ferguson Pailin's to join the Army in 1937. He was attached to the Royal Artillery, and soon after joining up was drafted out to Hong Kong, where he remained until the prison fell. He was an old boy of Waver-street School.

The above information was provided by Jean Clements who is the Niece of Kenneth.



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