

Memorial: (WMR 88176), Halling, Kent

GUNNER

## ERNEST CASTLE

**Service Number:** 1057876

**Regiment & Unit/Ship** Royal Artillery  
7 Coast Regt.

**Date of Death** Died 01 March 1944  
Age 39 years old

**Buried/commemorated at** LABUAN WAR CEMETERY  
J. A. 9.  
Malaysia

**Additional Info** Son of Edwin and Lily Ann Castle; husband of Maud Margaret Castle, of Halling, Kent.

**Personal Inscription** WITHIN OUR HEARTS HE IS LIVING YET WE LOVED HIM TOO DEARLY TO EVER FORGET

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His father Edwin William was born 1865 and was christened 02-Nov-1865 at Sunbury On Thames. Edwin married Lily Ann Morris 1890 Glamorgan, Wales. They had seven children. Ernest the sixth born on 03-Mar-1904 Pontypridd, Glamorgan, Wales. Ernest married Maud Margaret Lindus in 1930 at Greenwich. They had three children, David J (1932), Derek Ernest (1935) and Pamela M (1939)

1057876, no SM Area Argt. Dead Persons.

NAME	Castle E.	No	3342	SEX	Male
NATIONALITY	Eng.	RANK	Pte.	DATE of BIRTH	3/3, 1904
MANNER of DEATH	Disease				
NAME of DISEASE	Malaria tropical fever) and beri-beri (failure)				
DATE of CONTRACTING DISEASE	3/12, 1943				
DATE & TIME of DEATH	1500 hrs. 1/3, 1944				
PLACE of DEATH	Kuching				
CERTIFIED	2nd Lt. Katenji Yamamoto m.c.				
DATE	1/3, 1944				

Cards ✓ H1133

[[https://www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/Atrocities/Japanese\\_Death\\_Reports/Borneo/C/](https://www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/Atrocities/Japanese_Death_Reports/Borneo/C/)]

Kuching lies some 35 kilometres (22 mi) up the Sarawak River from the sea;[4] the camp was situated some 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) to the southeast of Kuching.[5]

The barracks were built by the Sarawak Government in early 1941, when Britain, in agreement with the Rajah of Sarawak, sent the 2nd Battalion, 15th Punjab Regiment of the British Indian Army (2/15th Punjab Regiment)

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to defend Sarawak in case of attack by the Japanese. The camp, known from its inception as Batu Lintang, was near completion for occupation by May 1941.[6]

The Japanese first invaded the island of Borneo in mid December 1941, landing on the west coast near Miri;[7] invasion was completed by 23 January 1942 when they landed at Balikpapan on the east coast.[8]

The first Allied prisoners held in the camp were about 340 British and Indian soldiers who were interned there in mid-March 1942. In time, it held both Allied POWs and Allied civilian internees. Local Sarawakians including ethnic Chinese were not interned in the camp, although some were imprisoned in Kuching gaol.[9] Allied civilian prisoners came almost exclusively from different territories on Borneo: from North Borneo (now Sabah), from Brunei, from the Straits Settlements island of Labuan, and from Sarawak, all of which were under British control, and from Dutch Borneo (now Kalimantan). In contrast, the POWs were brought to Batu Lintang from places such as mainland Malaya and Java as well as from Borneo. Many spent time at transit or temporary camps, such as the one at Berhala Island, North Borneo, prior to their transfer to Batu Lintang.[10] The camp officially opened on 15 August 1942, at which time a commemoration stone was erected at the camp.

[Source: Wikipedia]