

# Bertram Archibald Ernest Marshall, 3 The Pollards

Known as Bertie, he was the son of Albert Edward and Elfreda Marshall of The Pollards, Bentley. He worked as a gardener before being joining up when he was old enough.

His battalion, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the King's Regiment (Liverpool), was used as a long-range penetration group to operate 200 miles inside Japanese lines. They were known as the **Chindits**.

In the forests of India they had to learn to live and fight in the jungle. They were part of **Operation Thursday** whose objective was to cut the supply lines of the Japanese forces facing British, American and Chinese forces in north Burma and cut communication lines.

The King's formed two columns, each of which contained 450 men and 56 mules to carry supplies and ammunition.

Rank	Private 1437954
Regiment	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion, The King's Regiment (Liverpool)
Date of death	25 <sup>th</sup> May 1944
Died	Burma
Buried	No known grave. Commemorated on Rangoon Memorial in Taukkyan War cemetery, Myanmar Face 5
Age at death	20
Marital status	Single
Address	3 The Pollards, Bentley



*The Chindits. Their job was to carry supplies and ammunition into the jungle, deep within enemy lines.*

*'Our job was to blow up bridges and railways, and stop supplies getting through to the Japanese army. At night we would usually camp near a stream which we would use in three sections, one for our drinking water, one for the animals, and another for washing. We just dug a trench for latrines.'* Crawford Wishart 1<sup>st</sup> King's (Liverpool)



After the commander of the operation, Orde Wingate, was killed in a plane crash in March **1944**, command was handed over to General Stilwell, US Army. The Chindits would now be used as normal infantry but without the training or normal artillery support and heavy casualties resulted. Reinforcements were provided by the King's between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May. Bertie died on the last day.

With the onset of the monsoon rains, the area became a sea of mud. They were isolated and overwhelmed. By the 23<sup>rd</sup> May with mounting casualties, shortage of ammunition and food, and continual bombardment they abandoned the stronghold. The King's formed the rear guard of the withdrawal.

*'They were a pitiful sight, ragged, tired, dazed, they staggered up the track.'*

## Bentley Parish Magazine :-

### Christmas 1944

#### War Items

*Our one regret is that, up to date, Mr. and Mrs. **Marshall** of The Pollards, have no news of their missing son, **Bertie**, from Burma. But we live in hopes!*