

Driver Henry Martin Adlard, Royal Engineers of Church Stretton

died 14 March 1944, Burma [now Mynamar], aged 34.

Henry Martin Adlard was born on 15 June 1909 in Church Stretton. Henry was the youngest of four children of Frederick Adlard, a shopkeeper and hairdresser and his wife Catherine, neé Rocke, who were married in 1892.

Frederick was born in Lancashire but moved to Church Stretton around 1909 and took over a shop at 24 Sandford Avenue. Frederick's business is variously described as a Hairdressers and Tobacconist taking over from Joseph Price who had occupied the premises since 1905.

In the 1911 census the Adlard family of three sons and one daughter are all living at home along with four boarders. Both Henry Adlard's brothers Reginald and Frederick served in the army in World War One, Reginald in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry and Frederick in the Royal Horse Artillery. Both brothers were injured during their war service and Reginald died as a result of TB in 1920. He was buried in Cunneen Road Cemetery and is also recorded on the Church Stretton War Memorial.



24-26 Sandford Avenue, 2025

At the time of the 1921 census the family were still living in the shop. Henry was at school and his brother Frederick was described as an out of work Dental Mechanic. The shop continued to trade under the name Frederick Adlard until at least 1937, though it appears to have moved next door to 26 Sandford Avenue around 1934.

In 1935 Henry Adlard married Iris Edith Crausaz in Rochford in Essex and they had two children born in 1937 and 1941. In the 1939 register the family were living in Plashet

Grove, East Ham in London and Henry is described as a Railway Clerk. By this time Henry's parents had also moved to Essex and were living in Southend-on-Sea.

We know little of Henry's war service. At the time of his death, he was a Driver with 236 Field Company of the Royal Engineers. The Church Stretton War Memorial and Roll of Honour describes him as a Gunner, but this appears to be an error.

The Field Companies were responsible for providing skilled engineering support to the infantry regiments. Drivers were allocated to each Field Company. The 236 Field Company was part of the British XV Corps which operated in Burma from January to July 1944. Henry was killed in March 1944. At that time the British were attempting to retake Burma from the Japanese who had launched a counter offensive with resulting very heavy fighting.

Henry is buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery in Myanmar along with over 6,000 casualties from the Second World War. Due to the climatic condition, individuals in Myanmar Commonwealth War Cemeteries are commemorated by brass plaques, rather than headstones. Henry is also commemorated on the Church Stretton War Memorial.

Henry's will was proved on 8 May 1944 to his widow Iris. His address is given as 68 Lincoln Road, London E7. He left assets worth £374 13s 3d. Henry's father Frederick died in Southend in 1945 and Catherine, his mother, in 1962. Iris continued to live in London and Essex and died in 1988, she never remarried.



Taukkyan War Cemetery