

12509 SAPPER E J PELTERET [sic]

actually 12509 SAPPER E G Pelteret

1.5 GEORGE JOHN MICHAEL PELTERET

1.5.4 SAMUEL ALFRED PELTERET (grandfather of the author)

1.5.8 Edward McGregor Pelteret b 3 February 1883 (Newlands, Cape Town) d 21 December 1951 (buried North End Cemetery, Port Elizabeth) m Adelina Paulina LEWEY, b 31 October 1886 (P.E.) d 12 November 1952 (buried in North End Cemetery, P.E.)

1.5.8.3 Edward George "Sonny" Pelteret, b 24 September 1909 (Alicedale) ~ 5 Dec 1909 Grahamstown Methodist d 1 August, 1953. MOOC6/9/21367.4401/53Unmarried

The book "The Durban Light Infantry" Volume II, 1935 to 1960, by Lieutenant-Colonel AC Martin, published in 1969, on page 463 has this entry : South African Engineers Coy attached to Royal Durban Light Infantry Roll of Honour Sapper Pelteret, E.J., [sic] Commonwealth, Killed in Action, 29 May 1942. On page 107, it says Sapper E G Pelteret was badly injured ... and died as a POW.

However, EG Pelteret does not appear in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register or on the Durban Light Infantry Roll of Honour for he did not die. He was captured at Gazala and sent as a P.O.W. to Northern Italy. Whilst there, he was gravely wounded and repatriated to the Union in a P.O.W. exchange in 1943.

The book is an excellent reference and it contains information taken from the Regimental War Diaries. Because the Regiment heard nothing more from Pelteret it was probably assumed that he had died and somebody entered this information as such, which then became lore.

The military record supplied by the South African National Defence Force in brief reads as follows: 12509 Pelteret, Edward George b. 24.9.09, a Woodworking Machinist was attested to the 2nd Field Coy, SA Engineering Corp; missing in action May 1942; injured – fractured pelvis - whilst P.O.W; repatriated in prisoner exchange Apr 1943; demobilised medically unfit Sept 1945; to a position of Storeman in the SAR&H. For services during WW II he was awarded 1939-45 Star and Africa Star.

References:

1. Documentation Centre SA National Defence Force Pretoria
2. Julie Somay (Mrs) Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
3. Rob M H Griffiths Personal Communication