

Barbara Davis' Story:

Re: Eric Arthur Davis 1912-93

I met my husband to be in early 1939 at a ball being held in York. We both loved dancing. But of course war was declared in September 1939 and Eric was in the Territorial Army, so his battalion was called up for duty straightaway. They were sent to Norway and after a while he was captured by the Germans. He was a despatch rider along with another soldier and they were then prisoners of war.

He didn't have any idea what was in store. You can imagine how they felt-being paraded through the streets. During his years as a POW he was moved all over the place. His letters were very few. He apparently tried to escape several times but was recaptured and of course was punished.

He was a POW for 5 years and finally escaped in April 1945, and picked up by the Americans who really looked after him. As soon as he returned to England I received a telegram from him. I had no idea he was back in England so I had quite a shock and didn't know whether to laugh or cry!

We married on April 24* 1945. After that my husband very rarely mentioned the war and what had happened to him. Sometimes he told my son Michael, when he was old, some of his experiences.

I must say he had the right kind of attitude he wouldn't let anything get him down. Always looked on the bright side and I think got him through this ordeal.