



## MAJOR NEIL BORDEN CALLAN

It is our ambition to track the stories of every one of our 'Lost Boys' at Merton Court but exasperatingly, sometimes we just cannot seem to find a robust trail. Neil is one of those people, and so we welcome submissions in the way of contribution to developing our knowledge on his war service. What we do know however at this stage, is minimal. We know he went on to Malvern School in 1934.

We spotted Neil's name recorded in the London gazette of December 19th, 1941, detailing his was appointed to the rank of Second Lieutenant. We know he served with the 10th Baluch regiment. As of July 1941, the battalion moved to Quetta. Upon arrival the 8th Battalion attached to the 14th Indian infantry Brigade. (Serving under the command of the 23rd Indian infantry Division until June 1942).

Moving to Ranchi in early February of 1942, by the 10th, the division was renamed the 23rd Indian Infantry Division. Moving to Lahardaya on April 1st they disembarked the train at Barkakhara on June 6th, 1942. Neil never got off that train, because he never boarded it; he died on the 16th May.

After the invasion of Burma, Imphal became a focal point in the defence of India against the Japanese. The retention of a position from which Burma could be re-entered then became of primary importance. Consequently, The Second World War reached India with the aerial bombardment of May 1942; the first time in history, it was attacked.

The Japanese bombings of the capital of Manipur, Imphal, began on May 10th. The main targets in Manipur on the 10th and 16th May 1942 were the residences of the British Political and the superintendent of the Durbar (British officials), the petrol pumps and the 4th Assam Rifles (central parliamentary force). After the initial bombings almost every house was abandoned in Manipur as the Manipuris fled. After some time, some Manipuris returned home to abruptly discover soldiers living in their homes. There was then again, a second displacement of refugees fleeing their homes and so we can see how the aerial bombardment of Imphal triggered a refugee crisis as the city was destroyed. As Imphal became the first major entry point for refugees fleeing from Burma that year, 140,000 people passed through Imphal trying to get to Assam, alone and so this was already a zone of total upheaval and chaos. A large camp-base was established, in what was recognised as 'Imphal main' which was an airfield, to try and house the refugees. Many had nothing more than the clothes on their backs they were wearing when they ran.

With the advancing Japanese troops, a looming threat, the refugees had to go farther, in search of safety. Some marched on for weeks on ends. With fears of an epidemic break-out, those who died in the gruelling conditions fleeing trying to escape the Japanese invasion, were burnt. With atrocious sights like this, we wonder what Neil had to see and endure mentally as he was stationed within devastation as families were torn apart, as the Japanese soldiers swarmed into their towns. In the months that followed, Allied forces fought to defend India (then part of the British Empire) and they were driven back towards Burma with heavy losses. It is reported that Japanese reconnaissance planes flew over the Imphal plain almost every day in April of 1942. The sirens whined, but no bomb dropped. Until May. Leading historians have placed a heavy weight on the impact of the inability soldiers had on thwarting their 'fight or flight' instinct, when trapped in static lines knowing that it should not be a state lived in long-term. Psychologist Charles Bird importantly observes that there is a 'tremendous psychic tension' resulting in soldiers 'watching and seeing nothing' and so we wonder what effect the aerial reconnaissance and visible presence of the Japanese planes had potentially on Neil.

The battle of Red Hill (point 29263) was one of the bloodiest battles of Imphal. This was the turning point in the Burma campaign of the Second World War. It was this battle that the Japanese invasion

of India was ceased as the Allies drove them completely out of Burma in 1945. The Japanese lost some 30,000 men. Neil did not live to see the day the Japanese retreated but he died fighting for it.

We do not know the exact circumstances of Neil's death; we just know about his world in his final months. We do know he was killed in action and his father's note in the newspaper says it was in Assam. Neil's division was ordered to Imphal, when the Burma Corps were retreating, having been driven out, for support. The Division was ordered to move while the monsoon season was at its height. Movement was therefore challenging and disease, mainly Malaria, but also typhus, was rampant. Conditions were excruciating and the senses must have been overload with the sights and constant dangers. Possibly Neil died fighting at the border of Assam and Burma assisting the struggling parliamentary 4th Assam Rifles or the Burma Corp contending with Japanese invasion and a refugee landslide – we just do not know exactly.

Neil was buried in Imphal War Cemetery in Manipur which is Northeast India.

When Neil should have been 25 years of age, a remembrance notice was put into the local paper, dedicated to him from loved ones including his father. We can see the messages read so fondly with one reading: *'in memory of so many pleasant times together,'* and one from his father calling him his *'dear son.'* One is presumably from a dear friend 'Tonkie,' where perhaps Neil had a nickname for him as a form of endearment saying: *'salute on your birthday.'*

**Major Neil Borden CALLAN**

**Died 16/05/1942 aged 21  
Imphal War Cemetery**

8<sup>th</sup> Battalion/10<sup>th</sup> Baluch Regiment  
23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade / 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry Division

On the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1941 Private Neil Borden Callan was appointed to the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. This is recorded in the London Gazette of the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

The battalion was raised at Jutland Lines, Karachi on the 1<sup>st</sup> February and moved to Quetta in July 1941.

On arrival in Quetta, the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion joined the 14<sup>th</sup> Indian Infantry Division. It served under the command of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry Brigade from July 1941 to June 1942. It moved to Ranchi in early February 1942 and on 10<sup>th</sup> February 10th, 1942 the division was renamed the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indian Infantry Division. It moved to Lahardaya on April 1st, 1942 and entrained at Barkakhara on June 6th, 1942.

It is possible that Major Callan died of disease, as in May 1942 the Division was still forming. It was ordered to Imphal in Manipur, where Burma Corps were retreating, having been driven out of Burma by the Japanese. Imphal lay within the mountainous frontier between India and Burma, and the Division was ordered to move while the monsoon season was at its height. Movement was difficult, and disease, mainly malaria, but also typhus, was rampant. The division's chief claim to respect lies in holding its positions in these trying conditions, while also trying to undertake basic training.

**Newspaper cutting states Killed in Action.**

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England, Andrews Newspaper Index Cards, 1790-1976 for Neil Borden Callan

Death > C

SAVE v





Major Neil Borden Callan  
Service Number EC/3880  
K.I.A Saturday 16-05-42 (Aged)  
8th Battalion of the 10th Baluch Regiment (Indian)  
Buried at Imphal War Cemetery (India)  
Date of reburial: 03/03/47

CWGC Entry: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2674325/callan,-neil-borden/>

There is a mention of Pte Neil Borden Callan in the London Gazette on 10th September 1941 - I suspect this might be somebody different given the rank difference and date...

Source: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/35387/page/7197/data.pdf>

8th Battalion - 10th Baluch Regiment:

***Sind Brigade Area – 1 February 1941 to July 1941***

*The battalion was raised at Jutland Lines, Karachi on February 1st, 1941. It moved to Quetta in July 1941.*

***23rd Indian Infantry Brigade – July 1941 to June 1942***

*On arrival in Quetta, the 8th Battalion joined the 14th Indian Infantry Division. It served under its 23rd Indian Infantry Brigade from July 1941 to June 1942. It moved to Ranchi in early February 1942 and on February 10th, 1942 the division was renamed the 23rd Indian Infantry Division. The 14th Divisional HQ remained for another task and the 23rd Divisional HQ took over the brigade. It moved to Lahardaya on April 1st, 1942 and entrained at Barkakhara on June 6th, 1942. It arrived at Dimapur on June 10th, 1942. It was decided that the brigade was needed in the Feni area of the Arakan. The brigade was transferred to the 14th Indian Infantry Division at Comilla.*

***123rd Indian Infantry Brigade – June 1942 to 2 July 1943***

Source: <http://ww2talk.com/index.php?threads/lt-eric-thomas-humphreys-8-10th-baluch-indian-army.61180/>

Struggling to source many related war diaries for this unit within those dates. I am wondering whether Neil has transferred between Battalion at some point.

Book Sources:

National Archive Documents -

**WO 172/1553 - Ceylon 1942: Indian Infantry: 8/10 Baluch Regiment**

WO 373/31/213 - Recommendation for Award for Ghulam Hussain Rank: Havildar Service No: ...

WO 373/31/212 - Recommendation for Award for Anar Khan Rank: Havildar Service No: 11449 ...

WO 373/30/72 - Recommendation for Award for Mani Khan Rank: Naik Service No: 21492 ...

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## Record Details for Neil Borden Callan

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**First Name:** Neil Borden  
**Initials:** N B  
**Surname:** Callan  
**Nationality:** British  
**Date of Death:** 16/05/1942  
**Rank:** Major  
**Rank (2nd):** Acting Lieutenant Colonel  
**Service Number:** EC/3880

### Campaign Medals:

#### [War Medal 1939-1945](#)



As with most Armed Forces Serving Personnel during the conflict of World War Two, Neil Borden Callan was awarded the War Medal in 1945. This medal was awarded to all full time service personnel who had completed 28 days of service between 3rd September 1939 and 2nd September 1945. Eligible personnel who had been "Mentioned In Despatches" during the war were awarded the medal with a campaign star, yet those whose service was cut short by death were awarded the plain medal.

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#### [1939-45 Star](#)



Given the information available to us it is likely that Neil Borden Callan was awarded the 1939-45 Star for his service between 3rd September 1939, and 2nd September 1945.

Neil Borden Callan would have been awarded this star if their service period was terminated by the award of a gallantry medal or "Mention In Despatches" also produced the award of this medal.



Fighter Aircraft Crew who took part in the Battle of Britain (10 July to 31 October 1940) were awarded the 1939-45 Star with a silver-gilt rosette worn on the medal ribbon to denote the award of the 1939-45 Star.

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**Service:** British Army  
**Regiment:** 10th Baluch Regiment  
**Battalion:** 8th Battalion ([Why is this important?](#))  
**Commemorated:** India  
**Collection:** [The IWGC/CWGC Registers Collection](#)

### Related Historic Documents:



#### 10th British Army Casualty Clearing Station

Type: Official Document

Find more documents based on [British Army](#)



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Did you know, service records post 1922 are still restricted and only held by the M.O.D.?

While we hold many collections of records after 1922, the service records themselves are only held by the M.O.D.



# Major Neil B Gallon

Born:-

Died: 1942, Imphal

- British/Indian army (1922-1947) ✓
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Baluch Regiment. \*
- Regiment honors the four Victoria Crosses ✓
- (VC) Victoria Cross is a military decoration. ✓
- It's awarded for valor "In the face of the enemy." to members of the armed forces. ✓
- A person of any rank in any service and to civilians under military command. ✓
- ~~Japanese~~ omission to invade India ✓
- Started Bombing Imphal 1942 (capital of Manipal). ✓
- On the second bombing raid Major Neil B Gallon died his plaque is in the Imphal war cemetery.
- Total of 17 bombing raids in Imphal.

THESE 2 MEDALS  
ON ARMY  
RECORDS.



NB Callan

On 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 1942 Imphal itself was bombarded for the first time in the history that led to the destruction of the city.

Imphal became the first major entry point for refugees fleeing Burma in 1942

Japanese Troops attempted to destroy the Allied forces but were driven back with heavy losses

The 'Battle of Red Hill' aka Point 29263 one of the bloodiest battles of Imphal makes Manipur one of the most important places in WW2.

The battle was the turning point of WW2. The Japanese lost some 30,000 men in what was one of their single greatest military defeats





**The person** whom this scroll commemorates was numbered amongst those who, at the call of Monarch and Country left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it that this person be not forgotten.

EC/3880 Major

**Neil Borden**

10th Baluch Regiment

8th Battalion

Date of Death: 16/05/1942



England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration... SAVE

- HUGHES-**  
**GALEY** Frederic of Royn 444 Warwick-road Sobral Warwick-shire died 2 July 1944 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Edgbaston Birmingham Probate Birmingham 19 September to Lloyd Bank Limited and Convery James Hughes-Galey electrical engineer. Effects £2583 15s. 8d.
- GALEY** George Frederic otherwise George of 3 Gosford-row Middlesbrough died 21 May 1940 on war service Administration (with Will) **Undated** 3 July to Janet Galey widow. Effects £50 15s. 1d.
- GALEY** Henry Percy of 24 Woodside Valley-road Purley Surrey died 13 May 1944 Probate **Undated** 10 July to Cyril Made-King solicitor and Leonard Percy Galey chartered electrical engineer. Effects £2857 1s. 3d.
- GALEY** John Frederick of Silver Birchington Devonshire died 11 February 1944 Probate **Undated** 7 April to Edith Mary Galey and Maria Kenna Galey spinners and Alfred James Galey civil servant. Effects £749 15s. 7d.
- GALEY** Margaret of Underley Sandstone Warton near Carlisle Lancashire widow died 25 June 1944 Administration **Undated** 19 August to Robert James retired railway cabin. Effects £204 15s. 3d.
- GALEY** Ruth Ann of 6 Oak-crescent Leeds widow died 18 March 1944 Probate **Undated** 21 May to Hilda Galey spinster. Effects £129 8s. 3d.
- GALKELD** Henry Riley of Rosemount Chestnut-hill Kemrick Cumberland died 4 December 1943 Probate **Undated** 14 January to Mary Isabel Schell widow. Effects £499 5s. 1d.
- GALKELD** Thomas of 75 Ulswater-road Lancaster died 28 July 1944 Administration **Undated** 9 October to Mary Galkeld widow. Effects £400 16s. 1d.
- GALKIN** Amy Elizabeth of 21 Stockton Newbury Berkshire widow died 16 October 1943 Probate **Undated** 21 January to Arthur Reginald Galkin decedent and Herbert Walter Galkin carpenter. Effects £317 15s. 5d.
- GALKIN** Annie of 120 Handale-lane Wakeley Garden City Hertfordshire spinster died 29 February 1944 at Wellbourn Hospital Burnet Hertfordshire Probate **Undated** 5 August to Edith Lily Galkin spinster and Albert George Fortham Harvey insurance agent. Effects £569 15s. 11d.
- GALKIN** Fred of 16 Southwell-street Old Bedford Nottingham died 19 August 1944 at The City Hospital Nottingham Probate Nottingham 19 September to Harriet Mann (wife of Edwin Mann). Effects £82 4s. 9d.
- GALKIN** Stanley Joseph Percy of 15 Keabworth-road Ealing Middlesex died 15 January 1944 at Spencehill Hospital Acton Middlesex Probate **Undated** 30 March to Mary Doreen Galkin widow. Effects £182 15s. 8d.
- GALL** George Arthur of 26 Osborn-avenue Putney Bar Middlesex
- 1944 Cable-Dziegiele  
**GALLAGHAN** Alexandra Susan of 47 Bruma-plate Aldershot Hampshire died 1 March 1944 Confirmation of Will and Administration to Taylor and Cecilia Isabel Callaghan Taylor & Ros. Sealed **Undated** 29 July.
- GALLAGHAN** Arthur Fletcher of Cullin Crosses Drift Straraghan Northf died 27 November 1943 Probate **Undated** 17 June to Eleanor Wiggins widow and John Albert Callaghan school master. Effects £824 15s. 10d.
- GALLAGHAN** Charles of 19 Florence-street Middlesbrough died 29 November 1943 on war service Administration York 25 April to Mary Elizabeth Callaghan (wife of Charles Callaghan). Effects £155 5s. 8d.
- GALLAGHAN** Ellen of 17 Edward-street Tucknall Camber Cornwall widow died 19 January 1944 Administration **Undated** 3 March to Lily Flood widow. Effects £245 6s. 7d.
- GALLAGHAN** Ethel Blanche of St Lawrence Cobden-square Teignmouth Devonshire died 14 December 1943 Probate **Undated** 3 March to Westminster Bank Limited. Effects £681 2s. 8d.
- GALLAGHAN** Harriet Ann of 12 Carlton-place Bradford (wife of Bernard Callaghan) died 30 March 1944 at The Royal Infirmary Bradford Probate **Undated** 19 August to Leonard Walls Callaghan building-surveyor R.A.I. and Margaret May Simmes (wife of John Simmes). Effects £221 4s.
- GALLAGHAN** Hugh of 30 Saint-Augustine-road Drogheda Dublin died 31 May 1944 Probate **Undated** 26 October to John Joseph Callaghan accountant. Effects £1010 15s. 8d. in England.
- GALLAGHAN** James Joseph of 38 Stanley-street Stapleton-road Bristol 5 died 20 January 1944 Administration **Undated** 5 June to Mary Ellen Callaghan widow. Effects £438 7s. 6d.
- GALLAGHAN** John of Carricksticken Forthill county Antrim died 12 April 1943 Probate **Undated** to Owen Jordan retired school-master and Owen Fegan merchant. Effects £250 in England. Sealed **Undated** 29 August.
- GALLAGHAN** John Edward of 11 Alexandra-road Nazareth Longton Shik-sa-Treat died 25 November 1942 Administration **Undated** 12 July to Mary Ann Callaghan widow. Effects £471.
- GALLAGHAN** Julia of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda county Louth widow died 8 February 1944 Probate **Undated** 29 April to Laurence Francis Bourging solicitor and Philip Dehn insurance official. Effects £1100 15s. 3d. in England.
- GALLAGHAN** Louisa of 35 Seaford-avenue Great Crosby Liverpool 23 widow died 19 October 1944 Administration (with Will) **Undated** 29 December to Caroline Mary Dobbin (wife of Vincent Dobbin). Effects £1264 15s. 8d.
- GALLAN** Albert Edward of Vryroy Stanley-road Hibbert West-mer-shire died 25 May 1943 at Royal Victoria Hospital Bournemouth Bournemouth Probate **Undated** 11 April to Conde William Frederick Pearce solicitor. Effects £1287 7s. 2d.
- GALLAN** Francis Reginald of 64 Commerce-road Wood Green Middlesex died 25 November 1943 at North Middlesex County Hospital Edmonton Middlesex Administration **Undated** 11 October to Arthur Richard Gellan and Frank Frederick Gellan iron and metal merchants. Effects £1919 5s. 3d. Former Grant P.R. 13 April 1944 (in name of Frank Francis Reginald Gellan) Revoked.
- GALLAN** Frank Francis Reginald of 64 Commerce-road Wood Green Middlesex died 25 November 1943 at North Middlesex County Hospital Edmonton Middlesex Administration **Undated** 13 April to Arthur Richard Gellan and Frank Frederick Gellan iron and metal merchants. Effects £1919 5s. 3d. Revoked 29 June 1944. New Grant (in name of Francis Reginald Gellan) 11 October 1944.
- GALLAN** John of Copping Downer county Louth died 11 March 1944 Probate **Undated** 15 August to John Gregory farmer. Effects £114 15s. 8d. in England.
- GALLAN** Kathleen May of 58 Newham-drive Liverpool 6 (wife of Herbert Frederick Percy Callan) died 24 July 1944 at Edmond-road Liverpool 6 Administration Liverpool 29 September to the said Herbert Frederick Percy Callan marine fitter. Effects £486 2s. 8d.
- GALLAN** Neil Forster of 8 Abchurch-lane Kenton-street London W.8.1 and of Hertford College Oxford died 16 May 1942 on war service Administration **Undated** 10 May to John Callan insurance manager. Effects £279 7s. 10d.
- GALLAN** Christopher Joseph of Wiltonbrook Kingsway Dunchurch Kent died 7 November 1943 Administration **Undated** 2 March to Margaret Callanan widow. Effects £905 7s. 11d. in England.
- GALLAN** the reverend Laurence of Kingsliddy county Cork died 8 May 1944 at Glervilla Hospital Wellington-road Cork Probate **Undated** 6 September to the reverend John Goveley clerk. Effects £264 11s. 4d. in England.
- GALLANAN** Liam otherwise Liam Anthony of 41 Upper Drum-croft-road Dublin died 29 March 1944 at The Mater Mac-culane Nursing Home Ennis-street Dublin Administration **Undated** 24 October to Annie Callanan widow and John Richard Callanan company director. Effects £318 15s. in England.
- GALLARD** John Henry of 10 Windbourne-road Liverpool 17 died 6 October 1944 at Smithdown-road Hospital Liverpool 16 Administration Liverpool 15 November to Florence Callard widow. Effects £210 15s.
- GALLANDER** Mary Margaret of 9 Station-road Nether Stavely West-mer-shire (wife of John Albert Callander) died 22 August 1944 at The County Hospital Keady West-mer-shire Administration **Undated** 24 October to the said John Albert Callander agricultural foreman. Effects £119 9s. 2d.
- GALLANDER** Thomas Edward of 71 Stegats-lane Ipswich died 21 March 1944 at Iretton and District Hospital Iretton Devonshire Probate **Undated** 6 July to Lydia Ethel Callander widow. Effects £293 15s. 11d.
- GALLARD** Robert of 6 Elliott-park Invercruighan Devonshire died 15 October 1944 Administration **Undated** 13 November to Beatie Galled widow. Effects £251 15s. 11d.
- GALLAWAY** Charles William of The Bull Inn Clifton-oppen-Dunsmuir West-mer-shire died 15 January 1944 Probate **Undated** 6 April to John Henry Callaway gas company employee. Effects £268 15s. 3d.
- GALLAWAY** Elizabeth Jane of 143 Ditchley-road Blatchley Buckinghamshire (wife of Ernest Edwin Callaway) died 29 April 1944 Administration **Undated** 14 July to the said Ernest Edwin Callaway retired police-superintendent. Effects £239 15s. 1d.
- GALLAWAY** Frances Ellen of 45 Jan-ter-road Andover Hampshire widow died 14 December 1943 Probate **Undated** 7 January to Norman Ralph Perkins chauffeur-painter. Effects £194 15s. 8d.
- GALLAWAY** Gertrude Alice of 20 Chape-street Stratford-up-Avon (wife of Ernest James Callaway) died 13 June 1944 Administration Birmingham 27 July to the said Ernest James Callaway house decorator. Effects £401 11s. 10d.
- GALLAWAY** Mabel Phyllis Kathleen of 61a New-street Great Torrington Devonshire (wife of Arthur John Callaway) died 12 January 1944 at Hawley Tuberculosis Hospital Devonshire Probate **Undated** 5 April to Jane Florence Popham (wife of Stanley Popham). Effects £156 5s. 8d.
- GALLAWAY** Maria of 35 Southend-road Standard-lodge Essex widow died 4 October 1943 Probate **Undated** 4 February to Anne Elizabeth Green (wife of James Green) and Maria Matthews (wife of George William Matthews). Effects £155 17s. 8d.
- GALLAWAY** Mary of 26 Newton-road Oxford spinster died 11 July 1944 at Conkey Hospital Conkey Oxfordshire Probate **Undated** 21 September to Charles Henry Callaway fire-guard assistant officer. Effects £261 6s. 11d.
- GALLAWAY** Walter Eric of 133 Monk-road Ender died 18 August 1944 at Durdley Devonshire Probate **Undated** 6 November to James Arthur Tucker schoolmaster and Arthur John Hawker master baker. Effects £4767 16s. 2d.
- GALLAWAY** or GALLOWAY Walter Henry of 11 Grilled-road Brighton died 15 May 1943 at Elm Grove House Brighton Probate **Undated** 21 July to George Isaac Callaway controlling



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## Major Neil Borden Callan

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Added by: [Iain MacFarlane](#)

10/19/2016









## MICHAEL LINDSAY COULTON CRAWFORD

This past pupil was not a 'Lost Boy' casualty to the 2nd World War but was a very well-known character who had been worthy of further research.

The 'Perisher course,' now known as the Submarine Command Course (introduced in 1917 in the UK) intended to train and qualify officers to command submarines and it is one of the toughest tests requiring of stamina, leadership and mental agility, in the world. Maintaining its purpose of preparing students for war in the most brutal and unforgiving environments, only the elite pass through, and since its inception, just 1,164 British officers have passed the course.

In June of 2017 some 280 graduates gathered at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth to mark the centenary of the Perisher. The guest of honour, however, did not attend due to ill-health, preventing him from being centre stage, at 99 years of age. This man was our own Old Mertonian, Michael Crawford: the man of the hour.

Michael was a First World War baby, born on 27th June 1917. Michael and his brother Peter were 'children of Empire' spending their early years in Kenya, Africa. Their father, a former colonial railway engineer was serving with the Royal Engineers in 1918 when he was invalided home from Salonika with malaria. Post war he received a land grant, in Kenya and the family settled there. By 1924, Michael and Peter travelled to England to attend Merton Court. Devastatingly, just two years into their new lives in Sidcup as boarders, the boys lost their father when he died on November 10th, 1926. The boy's mother then travelled to England thereafter to live closer to her sons, settling on the isle of Wight. Despite receiving some education previously in Nakuru, the boys did struggle initially with such limited education, but they soon realised their academic abilities with Michael gaining a place at Dartmouth (1931) and Peter went on to study at Cambridge.

As a cadet, and midshipman, in his teenage years, Michael served in the light cruiser *Exeter*, sailing in south American waters, to then serve aboard the battleships *Malaya* and *Revenge* before returning to Portsmouth for the sub-lieutenant's course during which he volunteered for 'the trade' as the submarine service was called. In 1938 Michael became familiar with the Mediterranean waters whilst serving in the submarine depot ship, the *Maidstone*. From 1939-1940 Michael served as a junior officer in the submarine the *Sealion* on the North Sea. In the August of 1940, Michael served briefly as a first lieutenant of the training submarine L23, before being appointed in the December as first-lieutenant of the *Upholder*, under the command of Malcolm Wanklyn. Fascinatingly, Michael Wanklyn we believe was the nephew of a Merton Court 'Lost Boy' from the First World War...Herbert Wanklyn.

The Upholder's first war patrol was from Portsmouth to Gibraltar, thereafter Michael served under Wanklyn on 16 patrols in the Mediterranean. Michael survived submerged for up to three weeks at a time with what seems like staggering acceptance and calm, when we listen to his Imperial War Museum interview from the early 1990s. With each patrol lasting around two-three weeks, with only 10 days in between to refuel and rearm in Malta it becomes clearer the mind-set for submarine service engaging in amphibious warfare is complex and does not allow one instant to relinquish responsibility, existing in a highly pressurised environment, was one Michael undoubtedly showcased.

On one occasion, the Upholder was patrolling, and she was surprised by a German aircraft while on the surface when entering Malta. The then captain, was hit, and fell unconscious and Michael seized command acting on instinct and tenacity, dived the *Upholder* and turned out to sea again, all whilst signalling to warn another British submarine: '*air attack, stay dived...*' For his skill and enterprise, Michael was awarded his first Distinguished Service Cross.

In November of 1941, Michael returned home for his Perisher and after a short period in command of the training submarine *H50*, he was appointed in the June of 1942 to the submarine *P51*, later renamed, as the *Unseen*. By the November, the *Unseen* escaped a death threat as she was nearly lost when off Toulon, she was faced by a Vichy French destroyer. Michael recalled how they were 'sent out to Toulon, for a covering operation to watch what the French would do for operation torch' (the North African landing). One early morning, when on patrol, Michael could not sleep and decided to go up on the bridge. When he got there, he 'immediately' saw something he didn't expect. Michael said to the officer on watch, 'what is that over there' gesturing into the distance. The seemingly inexperienced watchman told Michael it was an island, to which Michael laughed upon reflection. Michael sounded the night alarm but as soon as the engines stopped, they could hear the intakes for a destroyer; so, they hurriedly dived but as soon as they did, Michael recalled the moment they were flashing at them to signify they had been seen and the start of them being harassed off Toulon. Just a few days later, another nerve-shredding encounter bombarded Michael as he peered through his periscope to see an enemy destroyer pointing directly at them. Michael acted fast and dropped deep and let fire with depth charges as they started to plummet into the main depth. With the safe diving gage at 200ft for the submarine they were in, he could not hold it and so sank well beyond the limit to 350ft... The hull creaked under pressure, especially as there was damage to the ballast tanks and it was not until hours later could they creep away and surface. Nerves of steel were non-negotiable for this war work, and we do not doubt Michael exuded this quality.

The *Unseen* got her name from her slender proportions as she was perfect for slinking in close to shore and dropping members of sorties on land for reconnaissance before landing only to retrieve them again and slide back into the deep before it caught enemy attention. It was a hazardous mission and Michael helped conduct five such missions in the early Summer of 1943 ahead of the Allied landings in Sicily. Michael told the Imperial War Museum in his usual self-effacing way, that such missions were 'not very pleasant' but was so proud that they 'managed to get the chaps back' every single time.

Michael went on to patrol in North Africa, and coastal Italy and France. By 1944, when the *Unseen* was brought back to the UK he had completed eighteen war patrols, but devastatingly losing around half of his peers as a cost. No doubt Michael stood at the altar waiting for Margaret Hendy Lewis coming down the aisle thanking God he made it to the church, vowing to Margaret and himself he would live a full life for those who lost theirs. The two went on to have a son David, Michael Junior and twins, Simon and Rosemary. Michael did have to go through the heartbreak of Michael and David predeceasing him.

Michael was awarded a bar to his Distinguished Service Cross and was mentioned in dispatches for his devotion to duty. Michael went on to command the submarine the *Oberon* in 1944 in home waters and commanded the *Tireless* in the Far East from 1944-1946. Michael was promoted to captain in 1959 and went on to serve as the Naval Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Queen in 1968. Some fifty years after the war, Michael held a burning memory of a man he once tried to kill. Michael described the hand-written letter he was sent, to the Imperial War Museum, of a surviving German aboard a submarine Michael ordered torpedoes to be fired at. Michael didn't go into detail, but we do know he replied to this unidentified man, but he said they never met in person; perhaps it was just something far too surreal to comprehend. What we do know is, this man, that letter, the words in the ink on the page, stood out and meant something to Michael; what exactly, we will never know.

Michael left behind no tangible memoir, but he did write a book. A book he touchingly devoted to

writing about Wanklyn, the captain whom he admired so much. Sentimental, in awe, and with an identity forged by the submarine service, Michael went on to live a quiet life with his wife, supported by the WI and RNLI. They remained 'stalwarts' of the Royal Naval and Royal Albert Yacht Club, Portsmouth – never quite leaving the sea behind.

Sometimes remarkable things happen in life that just can't be explained; little happenings, that seem to defy all reasoning and we think it was truly extraordinary that just one day after Michael's 100th birthday in 2017, he died. Michael was remembered by John Weale OBE as: *'one of an elite band of brothers...'*

Officer Michael Lindsay Carlton

Crowford

Birth Date

Michael was born  
on 27<sup>th</sup> June  
1917, England

Death Date

Michael died  
on 28 June  
2017  
(100 years old)



Role

Michael's role  
in war.  
was  
captain / officer

Family

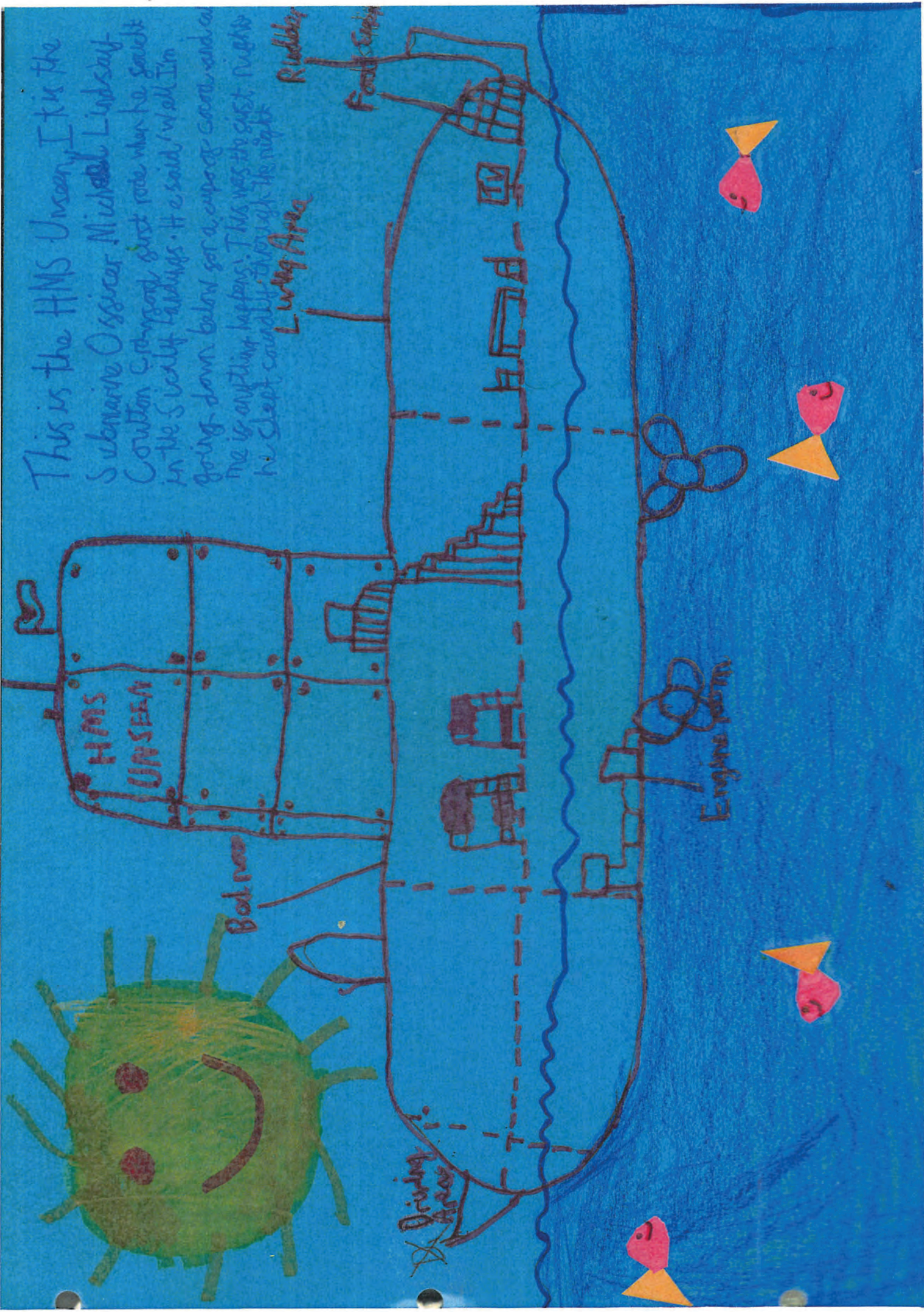
He had one brother, Peter  
His wife Margaret and  
children were Susan,  
Rosemary, Michael  
and David.

Early Life

In 1924 Michael  
went to Merton Court.  
In 1926 his father died



This is the HMS Unseen. It is the  
 Submarine Officer Michael Lindsay  
 Coulton's first room when he sought  
 in the Sea of Baffin. He said, "Well, I'm  
 going down below for a couple of years and  
 one is anything happens. This was the first night  
 he slept soundly through the night."





His nickname was 'Tubby'.

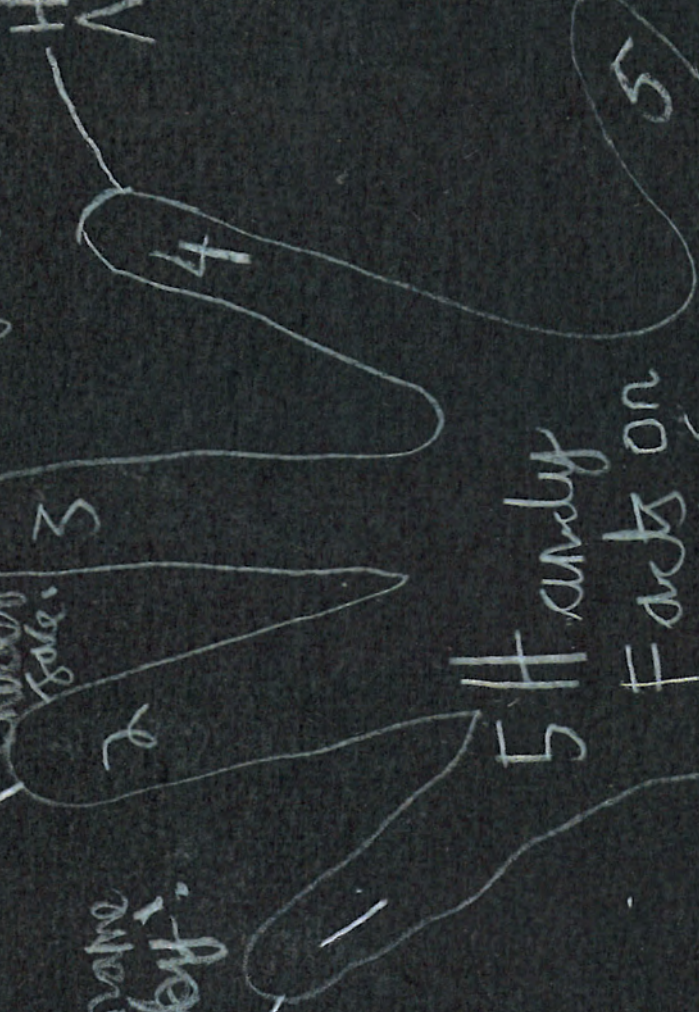
This was because of his chubby face.

He joined Navy band at age 13.

He went to Merton court.

5 H andy Facts on Michael Crangford.

He died 1 day after his 100th birthday is 2017!





## Officer Michael Lindsey Coulton Cambord

He was born 27th June 1917.  
He was born Cuckfield, Sussex.  
Spent his early life in  
Kenya with his parents and brother.  
He returned to England in 1924  
with his brother and went to  
Merton Court.

He went to Britannia Royal

Naval College in 1931.

In 1938 He joined the submarine  
service because he wanted more

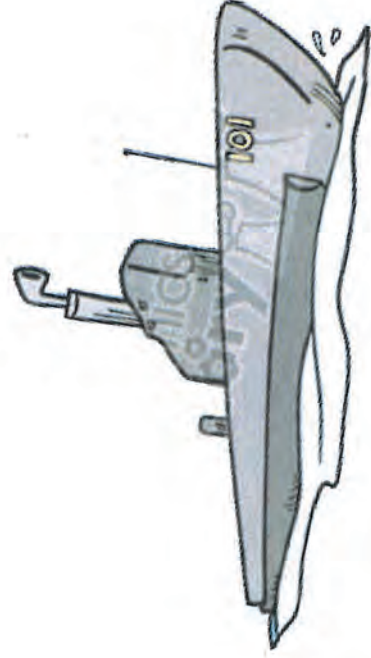
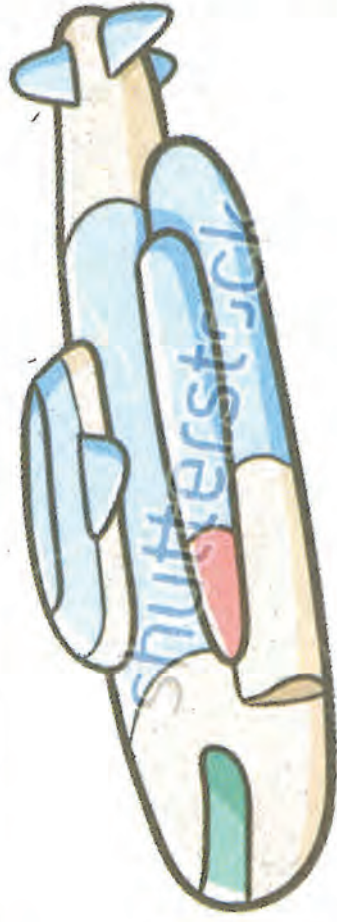
## Submarine

- Submarine can stay under water for 6 months if enough supplies are on board.
- They can dive 800ft deep
- The first submarine was built in 1620.

Submarines have water tanks

that fill up when the

submarine goes down. They are called ballasts.





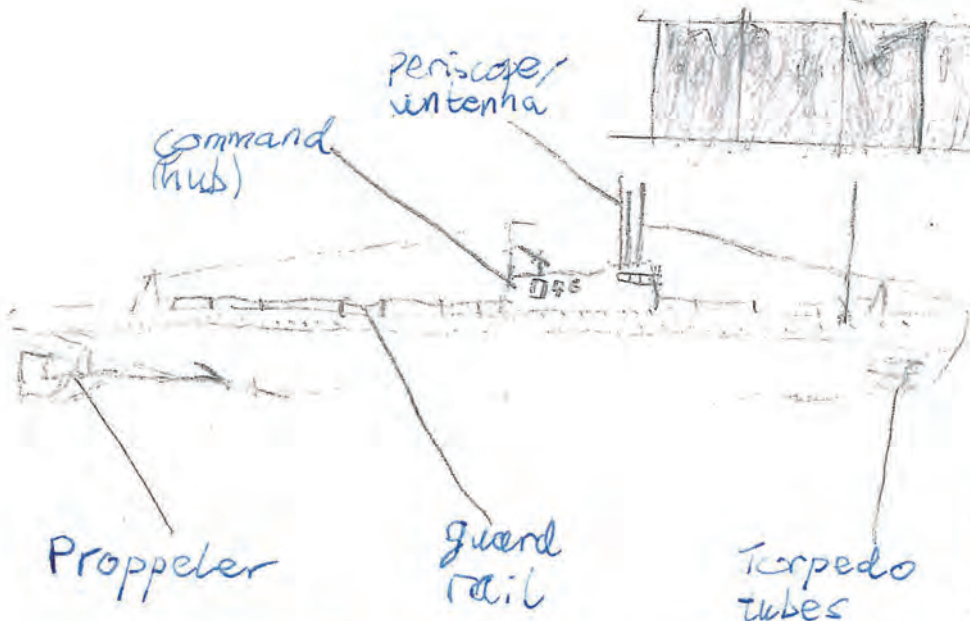
Officer Michael Lindsay Coulton Crawford

Officer Michael was a submariner in the Royal Navy. He was ranked Captain and handled the ships.



Torpedos were used sighting ships and are still are used the are explosive missiles used underwater.

Officer Michael spent his early ~~years~~ years with his father and brother. Michael's father was a Royal Engineer and work on the rails in Kenya and Uganda.



Officer Michael was born in 27<sup>th</sup> Jun 1917 and died at 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (age 100) he served for 64 years.

In World War 2 submarines were like boats that sank.





# Officer Michael Lindsay Coulton Crawford



Date of Birth: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 1911  
Date of Death: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Early life: Born near Cuckeyield in Sussex,  
England. Family: Mother, Father, brother

wife, four children and four grandchildren.

Lived in Kenya, attended Merton Court Prep school  
aged 6 years old. His nickname was 'tubby'.  
Jobs: He joined the Royal Navy.

His role in the war: he was a cadet and went on to  
become Lieutenant Commander (Captain).

He worked on: HMS Maidstone, HMS Sealion, HMS  
Graph, in the Mediterranean, the Siege of Malta.

In 1968 he served as Naval Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to  
the Queen. He retired from the Royal Navy on 11  
August 1968.

By Freddie Sawyer







## Captain Michael Lindsay Coulton Crawford Also known as 'Tubby Crawford' 1917-2017

Officer in the Royal Navy and submariner



**Born:** 27 June 1917, Near Cuckfield, Sussex, England  
**Died:** 28 June 2017 (aged 100)  
**Rank/Unit:** Captain, Royal Navy Submarine Service  
**Yrs of Service:** 1931–1968  
**Commands Held:** HMS H50, HMS Unseen, HMS Oberon, HMS Tireless  
**Awards:** Distinguished Service Cross & Bar  
**Family:** Margaret Hendy Lewis. Son's, Michael, David and Simon and daughter Rosemary

**Early Life:** Tubby and his brother Peter spent their early years in Kenya. In 1924, Crawford aged 6 and his brother were sent to England where they attended Merton Court Preparatory School in Sidcup. Their father died on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1926 while they were in England. The boys mother returned to England thereafter to live on the Isle of Wight.



HMS H50  
©royalnavy.mod



**Submarine Service:** Crawford decided to join the submarine service as he believed that being in a small vessel, such as a submarine would provide more responsibility for a junior officer. During his war time career in submarines, he served as First Lieutenant to the most successful British submarine aces: Ben Bryant (by most ships sunk) and Malcolm Wanklyn (by tonnage sunk).

***"Unflappable submarine captain who survived 199 depth charges, sank four ships and covertly landed commandos on enemy beaches"***



Officer Michael Lindsay Coulton Crowford

### Birth Date

- 27 June 1917, England

### Date of Death

- 28 June 2017 (100 yrs old)

### Role in war

- Captain / Officer

### Early life

In 1924 Michael aged 6 yrs old and his brother were both sent to England and they both attended at merton court. Their father died 1926.

### Family


He had 1 brother, Peter. His wife was Margaret and children were Simon, Rosemary, Michael and David.

### 200 Royal Navy

Crowford decided to join the submarine  
 "ice" (colloquially known within the Royal  
 as "the trade")





When Crawford brought the unseen back to Britain in March 1944 he had completed 18 war patrols; Of his  peers, between one third and one half lost their lives during conflicts."

In June 1942 he was made captain of the unseen

Crawford was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) on 2nd September 1941 for skill and enterprise in successive submarine patrols.

In December 1940 he was appointed as first lieutenant of the submarine Upholder



He commanded the submarine Oberon in 1944, and the Tireless in 1944-46

Postwar Crawford held numerous submarine-related appointments:

Tubby and his brother Peter spent their early years in Kenya.

He married Margaret Hendy Lewis in 1944, and she survives him with their ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> son and daughter; two sons predeceased him. Captain "Tubby" Crawford, born June 27 1917, died June 28 2017.

In 1924 Tubby, aged 6, and his brother were sent to England where they attended Merton Court



## Michael Lindsay Coulton Crawford.

Michael Lindsay Coulton was an officer in the Royal Navy and submariner, He was born in 27<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and died at 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (age 100) England. Michael's Allegiance was to the United Kingdom his rank was captain he served from 1931 to 1919, Captain Michael's Unit was the ~~Royal~~ Royal Navy submarine service.

### Early life and family

Michael Lindsay Coulton "Tubby" Crawford was born near Chickfield in Sussex, England, to Walter Coulton Crawford and his wife Tubby and his brother Peter spent their early years in Kenya where their father, who had served ~~as an~~ in the Royal Engineers in the First world war (the "Great war"), had been granted some farmland and also served as an engineer with the Kenya and Uganda Railway in 1914. Crawford aged 6, and his brother were sent to England where they attended Marlborough Court preparatory school in Sidcup. Their father died on 10 November 1926 while they were in England. The boys' mother returned to England thereafter, to live on the Isle of Wight in "straightened circumstances. He was buried in the Beth New Burial Ground.



Captain Michael Lindsay Croulton Crawford

Was born on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and he died on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017, one day after his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He had a distinguished and an accomplished life.

He was born near Cuckfield in Sussex, England

Michael and his brother Peter spent their early years in Kenya where their father, served in the Royal Engineers in the First World War, and also served as an engineer with the Kenya and Uganda Railway. In 1942 Michael aged 6, and his brother were sent to England where they attended Merton Court preparatory school in Sidcup. His nickname was 'Tubby'.

After he completed school, he joined the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in January 1931.

Crawford served as a cadet and midshipman in the York-class cruiser HMS Euter. He passed out from Dartmouth as a midshipman on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1935. He also served aboard HM Malaya and HMS Revenge in the Home Fleet before attending his Sub-Lieutenant's course.

Crawford was promoted: Sub-Lieutenant on 16 May 1938, Lieutenant on 16 September 1939, Acting Lieutenant-Commander on 1 November 1944, Lieutenant-Commander on 16 March



1947, Commander on 30 June 1951, and finally captain on 30 June 1959.

Crawford joined the submarine service and during the Second World War he served as First Lieutenant.

During the Second World War he served on a number of vessels. HMS Maidstone in the Mediterranean, HMS Sealion which in 29 July 1940 was attacked by the German submarine U-62. Other vessels he served on included HMS Upholder, HMS Grog, HMS H50, P51, HMS Oberon, Tireless, HMS Artemis, HMS Vanguard, HMS Loch Fada, HMS Forth, HMS Dolphin.

From January to July 1968 Crawford served as a Naval ADC to HM Queen Elizabeth Elizabeth II.

Crawford retired from the Royal Navy on 11 August 1968.

His family included his wife Margaret, four children, Simon, Michael, David and Rosemary, and four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.





Reporter who witnessed the King David Hotel bombing  
Monica Wilson  
Page 56

# Register

## Obituaries

# Captain Michael 'Tubby' Crawford

Unflappable submarine captain who survived 199 depth charges, sank four ships and covertly landed commandos on enemy beaches

The small proportions of the submarine HMS *Unseen* meant that she was perfect for slinking in close to shore, dropping off members of the elite Combined Operations pilotage parties to size up the beach's suitability for landing, then retrieving them before sliding back into the deep.

It was a hazardous task — and as captain of the *Unseen*, Lt Michael "Tubby" Crawford helped conduct five such missions in the early summer of 1943, ahead of the Allied landings on Sicily. Crawford, who was known as the most efficient and gentlemanly officer in the business, could be relied upon to be unruffled in this perilous endeavour, when discovery by the enemy would blow the secrecy surrounding the forthcoming major offensive.

"You have to take them in very close to the coast [and] you have to stay in that position," he told the Imperial War Museum. "We normally just submerged, stopped and went down and sat on the bottom if it was shallow enough. But, if you had to stay on the surface, you had to be really on the alert because the Italians did have coastal craft which occasionally appeared

### The hallmark of his command was his calm nature and good humour

from nowhere. From a submarine point of view they are not very pleasant operations, but we did each of these reconnaissances and then managed to get the chaps back, which was a great thing."

The day before the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, *Unseen* returned to the island to drop a sonar beacon as a guide for Allied vessels. Crawford and his men sat on the surface and saw this vast array of shipping on the horizon as it came in. "Having sighted this convoy I said 'Well, I'm going down below for a cup of cocoa', and told them to call me as soon as anything happened. I had my cup of cocoa and put my feet on the settee, and literally went out." Thus it was that Crawford slept soundly through the first night of the Sicily landings.

He was awarded a bar for his Distinguished Service Cross in 1943 for his captaincy of seven of *Unseen's* patrols and later mentioned in despatches for the sinking or fatal damaging of four ships.

Under Crawford, *Unseen* launched 18 torpedo attacks, yielding 15 hits and 11 successes. She also survived 199 depth charges — no wonder the consumption of rum over 257 days at sea during 11 combat patrols was seven gallons, seven pints and six tots per man.

Gathering intelligence on French warships in Toulon ahead of the Allied invasion of north Africa in 1942, Crawford raised the periscope to find that "there, very close to us, was a destroyer looking right at us. Of course he immediately came in as we decided to go deep and leftily with his depth charges, which were extremely close, and we really started plummeting into the depths. We had to blow our main ballast, and we finally pulled up with the deep-diving gauge just about on the stop."

The safe depth limit for U-Class boats was 200ft, but she had plunged to 355ft. "We were naturally getting a bit



Tubby Crawford, centre front, with the crew of HMS *Unseen* and their Jolly Roger, after their record dive of 355ft

anxious," Crawford said. "But we did just manage to get control of her."

They slowly sailed home, astonished to be alive. A diving helmet symbol was sewn into her Jolly Roger to mark the 355ft record. Soon after, the submarine, known until then by her pennant number of P51, was formally named HMS *Unseen*. The irony was not lost on the crew, given that she had come within a whisker of being lost because she had been spotted by the enemy.

Crawford was resilient and determined, but the hallmark of his command of four submarines was his calm nature and good humour, never raising his voice in the control room. A man for whom the word "understatement" might have been coined, he possessed a deliciously arid wit and chuckle.

The present Rear-Admiral Submarines, John Weale OBE, said: "Tubby was one of an elite band of brothers who mastered the art of using the submarine as an instrument of war; who could attack our enemies ruthlessly and with

aggression, yet remain calm and considered in the face of extreme danger."

With a tally of at least 27, Crawford probably holds the record for the most wartime submarine combat patrols by a Royal Navy officer. He cut his teeth against Axis forces in the Mediterranean at 23, with a year on HMS *Upholder* as first lieutenant to Lt-Cdr Malcolm David Wanklyn. *Upholder's* job was to stop convoys from Italy tracking either side of Malta to take supplies to Rommel's north Africa forces.

The "Fighting Tenth" played a significant role in the Allies' success, which is viewed as one of the Submarine Service's greatest achievements during the Second World War, even if it came with an uncomfortably long list of lost boats.

Wanklyn, whose naval nickname

**Rum consumption over 257 days at sea was nearly eight gallons each**

was nothing if not predictable, was a reserved character, but Britain's undisputed submarine ace when it came to sinking enemy tonnage, attaining a record in *Upholder*.

Revered by his crew, he left a trail of destruction and, for Crawford, watching him in action was a masterclass in underwater warfare. Crawford was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his role in *Upholder's* patrols between January and May 1941, during which she sank four enemy ships.

These included the torpedoing of the Italian troopship, the SS *Conte Rosso*, off Sicily, which earned Wanklyn the first submariner Victoria Cross of the Second World War. That September, *Upholder* also claimed two troop ships, the MS *Neptunia* and MS *Oceanica*, within hours of each other. Shortly after Crawford left her, Wanklyn's submarine was reported missing. The ace and his crew were all lost to graves which have never been found.

In between patrols, the home port of

Malta was under heavy siege. Once, when *Upholder* was tethered beside HMS *Illustrious*, Crawford stood on the bridge watching Heinkel bombers relentlessly target the aircraft carrier, an experience he found "quite alarming".

Life dramatically improved for Crawford when he became tantalised by an inter-services liaison officer he bumped into at parties. Margaret Lewis was helping to run Allied agents in north Africa and Italy from Malta. She was awash with admirers, but shrewdly eschewed several ebullient boat captains, not to mention a member of the RAF, in favour of the quiet submariner.

They married in September 1944 in Blyth, Northumberland, settling in Portsmouth, where they lived for more than 70 years and raised four children. Such was their closeness that they were described as like "one person with two heads". Crawford is survived by Margaret, now 96, their children, Simon, an artist, and Rosemary, an administrator, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The couple's older sons, Michael, an electrical engineer, and David, a banker, predeceased him.

Michael Lindsay Coulton Crawford was born in 1917 in Cuckfield, West Sussex, although he spent his early years in Kenya, then on the Isle of Wight.

Although slightly built, Crawford was nicknamed "Tubby" because of his round face. His father served in the Royal Engineers in the First World War but, after Merton Court preparatory school in Sidcup he joined the senior service at 13, entering Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth in 1931.

After a brief flirtation with the surface fleet he was promoted to sub-lieutenant and transferred to the Submarine Service as "it took my fancy" and promised more responsibility.

The move lived up to his expectations and the outbreak of the Second World War saw Crawford stationed in Malta with S-Class boat HMS *Sealion*, which took part in the Norwegian coast campaign in 1940. From her, he went briefly to HMS *L23* and then *Upholder*.

After the war Crawford rose to the rank of captain, later appointments including chief staff officer to flag officer submarines and a return to his wartime port as commodore superintendent Malta between 1965 and 1968.

Leaving the navy in 1968, Crawford was publications officer for Flag Officer Submarines at HMS Dolphin, Gosport, until 1980. He and Margaret were involved with fundraising for the Royal National Lifeboat Association and were social linchpins at the Royal Naval Club and Royal Albert Yacht Club.

Fraught meant Crawford was unable to attend a dinner to mark the centenary of the Royal Navy's submarine command course last month. His successors did not forget him, with former Deputy Commander-in-Chief Fleet Vice-Admiral Tim McClement raising a toast to his forthcoming 100th birthday.

The last surviving "Fighting Tenth" submarine captain reached this milestone several weeks later, then died the next evening.

Captain Michael Lindsay Coulton Crawford RN, DSC and Bar, was born on June 27, 1917. He died on June 28, 2017, aged 100



# Captain 'Tubby' Crawford

Veteran of the Perisher course who commanded submarines in three oceans throughout the war

**C**APTAIN "TUBBY" CRAWFORD, who has died aged 100, was one of the last survivors of the 10th Submarine Flotilla, known as the "Fighting Tenth", and the doyen of the "Perishers".

The Perisher course, now formally known as the United Kingdom Submarine Command Course, was introduced in 1917 to qualify officers to command submarines, and is one of the toughest tests of stamina, mental agility and leadership in the world. The training has kept pace with developments from the rudimentary equipment of the early 20th century to the age of nuclear propulsion, computers and advanced communications, but it has maintained its purpose of preparing students for war in the most unforgiving of environments.

Since its inception, just 1,164 British officers, 408 Commonwealth and a few foreign officers have passed the course and joined this elite of men. When last month some 280 graduates gathered at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, to mark the centenary of the Perisher, Crawford was to have been the guest of honour, but he was too ill to attend. Nevertheless, his health was toasted as the most revered of Perishers, having qualified in wartime.

Michael Lindsay Coulton Crawford, always known as Tubby for his cherubic looks, was born on June 27 1917 near Cuckfield, Sussex, but spent his early years as a child of Empire. They were not easy. In 1918 his father, a former colonial railway engineer serving with the Royal Engineers, was invalided home from Salonika with malaria, and postwar he received a land grant in Kenya. The family reached their new home after three months' trek by oxcart to Trans-Nzoia on the Uganda border.

Life was primitive, money was short and the task of establishing a coffee plantation in the *bundu* was beyond an ailing and inexperienced man. Aged six, young Crawford was sent to Nakuru for his first formal schooling, and in early 1924 he and his younger brother Peter undertook the three-month journey home, in the care of strangers, to Merton Court prep.

With their limited education both boys struggled, though Crawford gained a place at Dartmouth, and his brother Peter would go to Cambridge. In November 1925, however, they were summoned by the headmaster to be told that their father had died, and that their mother would be returning home in straitened circumstances to live in the Isle of Wight.

Joining Dartmouth in January 1931, he thrived and his exemplary career in the Royal Navy was a testimony to his courage and resilience.

As a cadet and midshipman, Crawford served in the light cruiser *Exeter*, showing the flag in South American waters, under Commodore Henry Harwood who in 1939 would lead his squadron into victorious battle over the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* at the Battle of the River Plate.

Next, Crawford served in the battleships *Malaya* and *Revenge* in the



Crawford, above and, right, with the crew of *Unseen* and its Jolly Roger, the bars indicating the number of ships sunk or damaged, the daggers, left, signifying secret operations



junior officer in the submarine *Sealion* he saw service in the North Sea. In August 1940 he served briefly as first lieutenant of the training submarine *L23*, before being appointed in December 1940 as first lieutenant of the submarine *Upholder* under the command of the illustrious Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Wanklyn VC, DSO and two bars.

*Upholder's* first war patrol was from Portsmouth to Gibraltar, thereafter Crawford served under Wanklyn on 16 patrols in the Mediterranean. Each patrol lasted two to three weeks, with 10 days between patrols to rearm and refuel in Malta. These rest periods were frequently interrupted by air-raids, at which point *Upholder* dived to the bottom of the harbour. When it was realised that under the glassy waters the hull could be seen, it was camouflaged with blue paint.

Crawford studied Wanklyn as he became more and more daring in his attacks on enemy shipping. Their first

surprise by German aircraft while on the surface entering Malta. The captain was hit and fell, unconscious, down the trunking leading from the conning tower to the control room. Crawford seized command, dived *Upholder*, and turned out to sea again, making the signal to another British submarine: "Air attack. Stay dived. Captain shit." It was several minutes before a correcting signal was sent: "For shit read shot."

Crawford was awarded his first Distinguished Service Cross for his skill and enterprise.

In November 1941 returned home for his Perisher, and after a short period in command of the training submarine *H50* he was appointed in June 1942 to the submarine *P51*, later renamed *Unseen*, a new boat being built at Barrow in Furness.

In November 1942 he and *Unseen* were nearly lost when off Toulon he was attacked by a Vichy French destroyer. Diving to 120ft, he could not

four hours before he could cre and surface. To celebrate, Crav ordered a diving helmet to be s to *Unseen's* Jolly Roger when t following month he entered M the new boy he spent Christmas patrol off North Africa, alterna launching torpedoes and being bombed and depth-charged, a increasingly throughout 1943 I use the lessons he had learnt f Wanklyn.

Crawford undertook patrols intercept ships on passage to a North Africa, and soon sank th supply ships off Tunisia, follow another in the Tyrrhenian Sea February 1943, and continued successes the next month with more sinkings. For three mont summer, using folbots (folding and chariots (two-man human torpedoes) he reconnoitred th of Sicily. During the Allied land there, *Unseen* became a naviga beacon off the east coast of the Pachino peninsula. Crawford r seeing the invasion fleet throu periscope and telling his first lieutenant: "Well, I'm going fo of ki [cocoa]. Call me as soon a anything happens." He put his the sofa and slept through the night of the invasion of Sicily.

When he resumed regular operations, Crawford showed September 21 1943 that he had his eye, and with one salvo of torpedoes aimed when his targ were overlapped, and despite sea and air escort, he achieved remarkable result of sinking tv – the German minelayer *Brane* and the radar direction ship *Ki*. Later that year *Unseen* moved in Maddalena, Corsica, to supp military operations off the nor coast of Italy and southern Fra

When Crawford brought *Un* back to Britain in March 1944 I completed 18 war patrols; of hi between one third and one hal their lives during the conflict ( Wanklyn himself had been los 1942). He was awarded a bar to and mentioned in despatches f gallantry, skill and devotion to

He commanded the submar *Oberon* in 1944 in home waters commanded *Tireless* in the Far 1944-46.

Postwar Crawford held num submarine-related appointme two general service appointm on the staff of the Commander Chief, Home Fleet in the battle *Vanguard* 1951-53 and another command of the frigate *Loch F* 1955-56. Promoted to captain i he commanded the submarine ship *Forth* 1961-62. He was chi officer to the Flag Officer, Subi based at HMS Dolphin, Gospor 1962-64, and in 1965-68 Comn Superintendent, HM Naval Ba

Crawford was imperturbabl professional, gentle, possessed brilliant sense of humour, and effacing. He left no memoir an he chose to write a short book, *Majesty's Submarine Upholder* was about Wanklyn, the captai he had admired so much. In re he and his wife lived quietly, s the WI and the RNLI, and wer stalwarts of the Royal Naval an



23rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was made up of 60th Battery, 89th Battery, 100th Battery. When the war broke out on 3rd September 1939 the 23rd Army Field Regiment was stationed in England, with RHQ and two Batteries at Topsham Barracks, Exeter, and two Batteries at Bristol, having returned from India in 1935. Immediately on the declaration, the Regiment was mobilised on a two-Battery basis at Topsham, and very soon came under Command 3 Division. This formation was ready for war at the end of the month.

Since then, the Regiment's travels have taken them to places as far apart as Abbeville in France, and Algiers, to Tripoli and Trieste. The number of countries served in is only equalled under the number of nationalities they have supported. Pole, American, French, Senegalese, Ghoums, Gurkhas, New Zealanders, South Africans and Canadians.

But it's exhaustive list is almost eclipsed by the number of different insignias that had been painted on the regimental transport — which reached an all time record in the first winter of the Italian campaign, when some trucks sported First, Fifth and Eight Army signs, until General Leese saw them.

The Original Regiment had to surrender when surrounded by German Forces at St Valery having failed to reach Dunkirk. Only 1 officer and about 10 other ranks got back to England and a new unit was formed around them. Amongst the new recruits were some POW escapees who had made it home from prison camps in Europe. They fought with distinction in North Africa and Italy.

## Book Sources:

Source: <https://wartimememoriesproject.com/ww2/allied/battalion.php?pid=1281>

## National Archive Documents -

### **WO 167/477 - 23 Field Regiment Royal Artillery - 1939 Sept.-1940 Apr.**

WO 166/1586 - ROYAL ARTILLERY: FIELD BATTERIES: 60/100 Field Battery. 1939 Sept.

WO 373/60/546 - Recommendation for Award for Hughes, I T Rank: Serjeant Service No: ... 1940-1941

WO 373/60/315 - Recommendation for Award for Bird, Albert Edward Rank: Bombardier Service...1940-1941

WO 166/619 - DIVISIONS: 51ST. DIVISION: General Staff (GS). 1939 Sept.-Oct., 1940 Aug.-1941 Mar., May-Dec.

WO 166/1587 - ROYAL ARTILLERY: FIELD BATTERIES: 89/90 Field Battery. 1939 Sept.

WO 166/1022 - BRIGADES: 153RD. INFANTRY BRIGADE: Headquarters (HQ).1939 Sept.-Dec., 1940 Aug.- 1941 Dec.

WO 167/819 - 2 Seaforth Highlanders (Ross Shire Buffs, Duke of Albany's) 1939 Oct.-1940 May

WO 166/4649 - INFANTRY: 2 Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, The Duke of Albany's) 1939 Sept.- Oct., 1940 June - Nov., 1941 Jan.- Dec.

WO 167/711 - 4 Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) 1940 Jan.-June

WO 167/744 - 1 Gordon Highlanders 1939 Sept.-1940 May

WO 166/4300 - INFANTRY: 1 Gordon Highlanders. 1940 June - 1941 Dec.

WO 167/746 - 5 Gordon Highlanders 1940 Jan.-May

[IWM Doc: TFKH/3 - The 23rd Field Regiment Royal Artillery during the European War]

## Since Archives Visit:

- Attached from 91st Field Regiment Royal Artillery 30 March 1940.

- 23 Field Regiment Joined the 51st (H) Division on 5th March 1940, remaining in II Corps. 23 FD RA Originally part of 3rd Infantry Division. (23 FD RA had originally arrived in France in early October 1939)





## CAPTAIN THOMAS NOEL DAWKINS

After encountering our 'Lost Boys' section on the school website, Graham Pickup emailed Merton Court to tell us about his father because he knew our Thomas. Sergeant John Pickup, was Thomas' driver in the Royal Artillery. John told his son Graham about the fierce fighting near St Valery en Caux during the British Army's retreat to Dunkirk that involved them both.

Thomas served with the 23rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery which was made up of the 60th Battery, 89th Battery, and 100th Battery. When the war broke out the 23rd Field regiment was stationed up and down the country and upon eruption of The Second World War, it mobilised and within a month they were ready. Embarking for France at the end of September 1939, the whole of the regiment had arrived by mid-March, enduring the first few months of the 'Blitzkrieg' in Northern France. Joining the 51st Highland Division, (which had been sacrificed as a rearguard to save other troops) they moved into action between Launsvelt and Halstroff, so close (15 kilometres in fact) in front of the Maginot line. On May 5th, for a week, their position was incessantly shelled and strafed to which they could not hold and so began to withdraw on the 12th to Veckering. Meanwhile the German Panzer Corp had broken through further to the north and so the situation rapidly becoming a race for Dunkirk. The retreat to the coast was nightmarish and the number of casualties quickly grew serious, but reinforcements never reached the regiment; they were alone. To defuse the rout, a determined attempt at Abbeville failed when the first deployed British tanks were sent into action, saw the 10th Lancers wiped out completely. Again, they were alone.

By the 9th June, the 51st Highland Division reached St. Valery. The 23rd Field Regiment had the duty of waging a 'rearguard' six miles from the coast as the rest of the division attempted to evacuate via sea. This essentially means the formation of a body of soldiers at the rear to delay attack from the encroaching enemy. This position was held, despite the repeated vehement attacks, until the night of June 11th. They were forced to retreat to the town of St Valery which was by this point under flames and heavy shellfire. As they reached the town square, they received the news the last boat had left the beach. Hearing that news must have come with complex mixed emotions for men like Thomas. They had saved so many soldiers; they had done their duty to the armed forces and the King, but they knew they were alone now, and chances of survival were slim. They had sacrificed themselves for others – they were a unique 'band of brothers.' Apparently, the Commanding Officer huddled the remaining men in the square and told them if they could just hold on until nightfall, they might be able to evacuate by sea if another boat came for them. Perimeter defences were dug as they mentally prepared to fight, outnumbered, and ill-equipped armed only with rifles and hand weapons, as the German forces seeped in from arriving at Calais. Their final hopes were smashed as the Germans encircled them.

Thomas, along with John Pickup and another NCO, ran into a Wehrmacht machine gun unit and a tank, whilst they were surveying gun positions. Thomas was severely wounded in the arm. His two comrades tried to patch him up the best they could with minimal first aid and delivered him to the Casualty Clearing Station at St Valery. John apparently always wanted to know if his comrade Thomas had survived. He in fact never made it home from France, dying of his wounds on the 11th June, 1940. Thomas' injuries must have been more severe than what John could see and indeed remembered, and we do not know what the exact cause of death was. Perhaps he bled out from his arm or was hit with more bullets from the machine gun fire than they all saw, as adrenaline furiously pumped round Thomas's body disguising bullet entry wounds.



Major General Fortune (commanding officer of the Highlanders) surrendered the town to the Germans, commanded by General Rommel on June 12th, 1940, the day after Thomas died from his injuries. The 51st Highland Division (which included the 23rd Field Regiment) would be remembered in history as the soldiers abandoned to save the rest of the retreating me. Only 1 officer and around 10 men of other ranks got back to England. The town of St. Valery was not liberated until 1944. John Pickup, along with the survivors of the Highland Division, went 'into the bag' (captured) for the duration of the Second World War.

Thomas was the son of Stanley and Agnes Dawkins; he was 33 years of age when he was killed. Buried in St Valery-en-Caux Franco-British Cemetery, the inscription on his gravestone reads: *'In God our father's loving care you are waiting for me.'* The cemetery contains 218 French men buried there and 234 commonwealth bodies with 63 of those which are to this day unidentified, and perhaps some of them, Thomas knew.



Captain Thomas Noel Dawkins

Service Number 41978

K.I.A Tuesday 11-06-40 (Aged 33) - Died in a rearguard action helping protecting the 51st Highland Division near St Valery

23 Field Regiment - Royal Artillery

Buried / Commemorated St. Valery-En-Caux Franco-British Cemetery

Date of reburial: no mention of former concentration

CWGC Entry: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2095668/dawkins,-thomas-noel/>

Mentioned in the London Gazette 28th June 1929; his promotion from Lance Bombardier with the OTC to 2nd Lt. from 17th June 1929. With the 91st (4th London) Field Brigade.

Source: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/33510/data.pdf>

Picture of 23 Field Regiment Abandoned Guns near St Valery:  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/359232507772577692>

23 Field Regiment Royal Artillery - Initially part of 3rd British Division (until 5 March 1940) then became Attached to the 51st Highland Division - BEF

#### *The French Campaign with the British Embarkation Force*

*Having embarked at the end of September 1939, the Regiment was in France complete by mid March, and spent the first few months of the "Blitzkrieg" appropriately enough, contentedly sitting in Northern France. Divorced finally from the fleshpots of LILLE, the Regiment left them and the 3rd Division, and joined the 51st (Highland) Division, with whom they moved into action between LAUNSVELT and HALSTROFF, 15 kilometres in front of the MAGINOT LINE. This was on 28th April 1940 — the first action of the war. On 5th May, themselves getting an unpleasantly forward grandstand view of things. For a week the position was constantly shelled and strafed, necessitating a withdrawal on the 12 May to VECKERING which was in the Maginot Line itself, but by this time the fortress of Maginot Line was valueless. The 5th German Panzer Corps had broken through further to the north and the "Battle of the Bulge" was rapidly becoming the race for DUNKIRK.*

*Then began the nightmare march back to the coast, which the Regiment did, leapfrogging, troops, and fighting continuous rearguard actions. The number of casualties grew serious, but reinforcements never succeeded in contacting the Regiment. A determined attempt to stop the rout was made at ABBEVILLE where the first British Tanks that had been sent went into action — the gallant 10th Lancers were wiped out completely.*

*By the night of 9th June, 51st division reached St. Valery. The Brigade Group, consisting of the 1st and 5th Battalions Gordon Highlanders; 2nd Bn. Seaforth Highlanders; 4th Bn. Black Watch, and the 23rd in support, were ordered to deploy a rearguard six miles from the coast to protect the evacuation by sea of the rest of the Division. This position was held against vicious and repeated attacks until the night of the 11th June. At midnight the situation was such that 60/100 Battery was ordered to take up positions in an Anti-Tank role on the main road. An hour afterwards these positions became untenable owing to infiltrations by the enemy tanks and infantry. 89/90 Bty. who were still deployed in a field role, were ordered to give covering D.Fs while 60/100 Bty destroyed their guns. This they did at 1300 hrs, and were followed by 89/90 Bty soon afterwards.*

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/97/a4144097.shtml>



Shabby House  
27 Shabby Lane  
Shabby Court  
SH27 LN

Dear Mum,

23/08/1916

I have just realised that the last boat has left Dunkirk. It was part of the retreat and evacuation system that they were using. I will now explain what happened and how I was left behind.

It was a totally normal day in Dunkirk, I had woken up and got dressed. I went to the lunch room and had collected my breakfast. Colonel Richardson had an announcement to make. 'We have to evacuate our camp because the enemy has found our secret camp and are coming to attack!' said the Colonel. We had all our bags and were walking to the dock where the boats were. I saw a man who had tripped over, injured his leg badly and was struggling to walk. Everyone else was in a slight mode of panic so they didn't help the poor, injured man. I stopped to help the man. Luckily I had a bandage in my bag so I wrapped it around his leg. He was able to walk so I left him. I collected my stuff and rushed to the dock and somehow the man I helped had got in front of me and was on the boat. That was the last boat and I could start to see enemies coming closer. There is no way to come back home. I'm in quite a tough situation and I might not see you again. I will keep on sending you letters.

Lots of love from Thomas. ♥





This is what I imagine  
Captain Thomas Noel  
Dawkins would have  
looked like.

Billy Corrigan.



## Captain Thomas Noel Dawkins

1. The 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division were remembered as the abandoned men, as they were sacrificed as a "rearguard" to save the rest of the retreating British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and on the 12 June 1940, the Division was ordered to surrender.
2. A rearguard or rear security ~~of rear security~~, is part of a military force that protects it from an attack from the rear, either during an advance or withdrawal.
3. Captain Thomas Noel Dawkins died on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1940 and the next day the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Infantry Division were forced to surrender, having been cut off at St Valery-en-Caux on the Channel coast.
4. "Blitzkrieg," a German word meaning "Lightning War," was Germany's strategy to avoid a long war in the first phase of World War II in Europe. Blitzkrieg was a coordinated, fast-paced and aggressive tactic that aimed to achieve quick and decisive victories by overwhelming the enemy with a combination of air power, artillery, and fast-moving armoured units. The Blitzkrieg tactic was built on three main components: speed, surprise and concentration of force.



Agnes Dambkins  
The Carlops  
Sidcup  
Kent

Dear Mum,

I hope this letter finds you well. I find myself in quite a horrible situation. All around me is chaos and desperation. Everyone has been evacuated but we still remain. We are fearful and uncertain of what will happen next as the last leave Dunkirk without us.

I can hear distant gunfire and the constant noise of aircraft overhead and it reminds me of the terrible situation we face. Supplies are running out. I never imagined it would be like this!

I long for the day when I can return home. I think about seeing you and my friends. These thoughts keep me going and give me strength to keep fighting.

I have to go now, duty calls. I miss you. Hopefully I will see you soon.

Love your son,

Thomas.

Billy Corrigan









## PILOT OFFICER KEITH DESMOND DAWSON-SCOTT

Formed at Luce Bay, 25 July 1918, 258 Squadron flew anti-submarine patrols over the Irish Sea and the Firth of Clyde until the Armistice and was disbanded on 5 March 1919.

It reformed on 20 November 1940, absorbing No 263 Squadron's aircraft, and became part of Newcastle's defence. Coastal shipping patrols with a few fighter sweeps over France were carried out until October 1941, when the Squadron prepared for a move to the Middle East.

The outbreak of war in the Far East diverted No 258 Squadron to Singapore, where it was plunged straight into the action.

Son of Wallace Jon and Maud, Keith went on to join the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. The Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) was established in 1936 to support the preparedness of the U.K. Royal Air Force in the event of another war. The Air Ministry intended it to form a supplement to the Royal Auxiliary Air Force; the active reserve for the RAF, by providing an additional non-active reserve. However, during the Second World War the high demand for aircrew absorbed all available RAuxAF personnel and led the RAFVR to quickly become the main pathway of aircrew entry into the RAF.

258 Squadron had been diverted on the high seas in the defence of Singapore once the Japanese entered the war and so they arrived via Gibraltar on 29 January 1942. Three days later, the squadron were operational and after two days, forced to move to P1 airstrip in Java, Indonesia, to defend the city of Palembang as the situation became desperate in Malaya. Here, they were reportedly bombed daily and around 10:00am and the soldiers used to jump into their slit trenches just before the allotted hour, wait for the bombs to fall and hope they were lucky enough to be spared and then as the Japanese were leaving, jump out again to return to their duties.

A senior member of a Royal Air Force forum contributed in 2007 detailing how Keith was killed. Whilst there has not been official confirmation, this is all we have. As enemy aircrafts strafed the airfield Keith was on, he was caught in the fire, and died on the ground running for shelter as chaos was unleashed from above.

Keith died aged 21 years old, on February 6th, 1942. Commemorated on the Singapore memorial in Kranji war cemetery in Singapore. The memorial in part reads: *'...but to whom the fortune of war denied the customary rights accorded to their comrades in death...THEY DIED FOR ALL FREE MEN.'* By February 23rd, the squadron was disbanded.

Hauntingly, Keith was the replacement Pilot posted to 258 Squadron from 266 Fighter Wing. He had only just arrived at Palembang base from Tjililitan for duty the exact moments the enemy raid commenced, and he was killed. Chances of death with soldiering were about proximity to violence and threat, not how long you served but of course the longer you served the more likely on rotation you were facing life-threatening theatres of war. With the interchanging design system of soldiering, any 'time' could have been 'your time,' but for Keith, soldiers and civilians alike living through war, adoption of respecting 'tomorrow may never come' was widespread. Keith died on the day he showed up for duty, strafed by Japanese 'zeros' on the airfield he stood on, unable to fight back and losing his own tomorrow.

Survivors transferred their aircraft to 605 Squadron and most attempted to escape on sea by ship to Australia, but every ship sank with no survivors.

What a tale of lost promise Keith was. After Merton Court, he went on to Trent College in 1935, excelling at Sport. He played for their Rugby and Hockey teams and was Captain of Cricket in 1939. His parents were Wallace John and Maud Dawson-Scott. His officer number was 102149 and memorial ID is 56215.



Dear Mrs Scott,

I am very sorry to say that Keith got shoot on the day he showed up for the duty, he laid on the ground and unable to fight back. As you know he was the replacement pilot posted to 258 Squadron from 266 Fighter wing.

258 Squadron was first formed 25 July 1918 from 523, 525 and 529 Special Duties Flights at Luce Bay near Stranraer, Scotland under the control of No. 25 Group RAF. It was equipped with De Havilland DH.6 biplanes and carried out anti-submarine patrols over the Irish Sea.

48 Hawker Hurricane Mk IIA fighters are flown off HMS Indomitable by pilots of Nos. 242, 258 and 605 Squadrons to reinforce the defences of Singapore.

The Battle of Palembang was a naval battle fought in 1407 between Ming China's treasure fleet commanded by Admiral Zheng He and the pirate fleet of Chen Zuyi at Palembang, Sumatra, in what is now modern Indonesia. The battle resulted in the defeat of Chen Zuyi who was captured and sent to China for execution.

Keith's gravestone is now in Singapore Memorial and on it says "They died for all free men" which means they died for other peoples freedom and peace.

From Keith's commanding officer



Plt. Off. K D Dawson-Scott  
258 Squadron - Royal Air Force Volunteer

Died aged 21 in 1942

Full name: Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott

Role in the war: Pilot Officer Royal Navy Squadron 258

Date and age at death: 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942, 21 years old

Circumstances of death: Killed on ground by enemy action, when they strafed the airfield

Memorial: Singapore Kranji war memorial Column 461, it is unclear if his body was buried

Parents: Wallace John and Maud Dawson-Scott of Portsmouth

Other information: Officer number: 102149. Memorial ID: 56215  
832



twinkl.co.uk

Anya Sandhu  
By Anya



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15 October 2014

## WW2 People's War

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### The Squadron that Vanished by thomaskenneth

You are browsing in:

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Contributed by thomaskenneth

People in story: Too many to be recorded here

Location of story: Sumatra

Background to story: Royal Air Force

Article ID: A4204702

Contributed on: 16 June 2005

The following is a page out of a book, which I am hoping to have published, on the history of 258 Squadron. The detail is dramatic, and in many instances horrendous. You might like to use some of it in a programme commemorating the the end of the war in the Far East. I have 5 pictures.

#### The Squadron that vanished

After the war, having been successful in tracing old pals from all the other squadrons in which I served, I set about trying to contact some from 258, but without success. It seemed to me that the squadron had vanished into thin air. It was not until about 1999, however, that I discovered why. The Squadron had been diverted on the high seas to join in the defence of Singapore, where they arrived via Gibraltar on 29 January 1942. Three days later the Squadron became operational and, after only two more days, it moved to P1 airstrip in Java, for the defence of Palembang. Here, apparently, they were bombed regularly at about 10 am daily: I am told that the lads used to jump into their slit trenches just before the allotted hour, wait for the bombs to fall and, as the Japs were leaving, jumped out again to get on with their normal business!

On 14 February, the pattern changed. The aircraft took off on an operational sortie but, before they returned, Japanese paratroops had been dropped around the airfield so they were diverted to P2 on Java, where the Squadron was disbanded, leaving just 232 and 605 Hurricane Squadrons still operational. Incidentally, the latter Squadron was captured by the Japanese in March at Tjilatjan. Some of the 258 Squadron personnel were killed or captured in Sumatra and some escaped to Java. When Java fell, the process was repeated: some killed and others were taken POW. Personnel from all the units surviving in Java boarded five vessels whose captains were ordered to evacuate them to Australia. The skipper of one of these, the Dutch Kota Gede decided not to risk Australia but to go instead to Ceylon, where he landed with some survivors from 258 Squadron. The other four ships were all sunk with no survivors on course for Australia. Earlier, however, on the 22nd of February, two ships had got away from Batavia. These were the Orcades and Deucalion, the former at least got to Freemantle, Australia, and then on to Ceylon. Those unable to get away in the last five ships were withdrawn from the port of Tjilatjan inland to Poerwerkerta, whence an attempt was made to evacuate them by train to Tasikmalaja airfield, 50 miles South East of Bandoeng.

Precisely what happened to all the personnel of 258 is unclear. However, in view of the fact that they had no aircraft to service, it seems most likely that some of them were on one or both of two trains that were to take them to Tasikmalaja airfield for evacuation by air. The fates of those on these two trains is described in "Bloody Shambles", Vol. 2, by Shores, Cull and Yasuho Izawa, published by Grubstreet, London. ISBN 0 94881767 4. This excellent book covers in great detail the whole of the campaign in the Far East, from the invasion of Malaya, on 8 December 1941, to the surrender of Samar, the Southern Philippines, on 9 June 1942. The following is a short extract from that book.

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[Royal Air Force Category](#)



[Indonesia Category](#)



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Pilot Officer Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott  
Service Number 102149  
K.I.A Friday 06-02-42 (Aged 21)  
258 Squadron - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve  
Buried / Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial  
Date of reburial: N/A

CWGC Entry: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1814385/dawson-scott,-keith-desmond/>

No mention in the London Gazette

258 RAF Squadron -

*No.258 Squadron was a fighter squadron that served in Britain until 1941, when it was moved to the Far East. After taking part in the disastrous defence of Singapore, Sumatra and Java the squadron was reformed in India, and spent the rest of the war fighting on the Burma front.*

*The squadron reformed at Leconfield on 20 November 1940. On 5 December it received No.263's Hurricanes, and defensive patrols began on 6 January 1941. In the same month the squadron moved the Isle of Man, before in April it moved to the south of England.*

*Between then and October the squadron spent most of its time providing fighter cover for coastal shipping, although in May and June it took part in a number of sweeps over occupied France.*

*In October the squadron began to prepare for a move to the Middle East, but after the Japanese entry into the war it was diverted to Singapore instead. The ground echelon reached Selatar (near Singapore) on 13 January, and the aircraft followed on 29 January. By now the situation in Malaya was becoming desperate, and after only ten days of operations the squadron was forced to evacuate to Palembang. After a short period on Sumatra the Japanese landed near the airfields, and the squadron moved again, this time to Java. Once there its remaining aircraft went to No.605 Squadron, while the squadron's surviving personnel were evacuated to Australia on 23 February 1942.*

*On 1 March 1942 G Squadron, a unit based at Ratmalana and Colombo Racecourse on Ceylon, was renumbered as No.258 Squadron. Once again the squadron was equipped with Hurricanes. The new squadron's combat debut came in the following month during the Japanese carrier raid on Colombo. Between them Nos.30 and 258 got thirty-six Hurricanes into the air, losing fifteen of them during the fighting (along with four of six Fulmars). Eighteen victories were claimed. After this early alarm things quietened down, and by the start of 1943 it was clear that the threat to Ceylon had gone. The squadron moved to Calcutta in January 1943 and spent ten days operating over Burma.*

Source: [http://www.historyofwar.org/air/units/RAF/258\\_wwII.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/air/units/RAF/258_wwII.html)

Personal Account: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/02/a4204702.shtml>

Squadron Insignia: <http://www.rafht.co.uk/index.php/2016/06/11/258-sqn/>

Book Sources:

National Archive Documents -

[AIR 27/1530 - No 258 Squadron: Operations Record Book - 1940 Nov.- 1943 Dec.\(IIM/E258/1\)](#)



AIR 27/1530/19 - Squadron Number: 258 Summary of Events: Y 1941 Oct 01 - 1942 Apr 30  
(IIM/E258/1)  
Digitalised?

AIR 50/101 - No. 258 Squadron 1941 June - July

AIR 27/1531 - No 258 Squadron: Operations Record Book 1944 Jan.- 1945 Dec. IIM/E258/2



# No. 258 Squadron RAF

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**RAF 258 Squadron** was a Royal Air Force squadron during World War I and World War II.

## Contents

- 1 History
  - 1.1 World War I
  - 1.2 World War II
- 2 References
- 3 See also

## History

### World War I

No. 258 Squadron was first formed 25 July 1918 from 523, 525 and 529 Special Duties Flights at Luce Bay near Stranraer, Scotland under the control of No. 25 Group. It was equipped with De Havilland DH.6 biplanes and carried out anti-submarine patrols over the Irish Sea. It was disbanded on 5 March 1918.<sup>[1]</sup>

### World War II

The squadron was reformed on 20 November 1940 at RAF Leconfield, Yorkshire as a fighter squadron equipped with Hawker Hurricanes. First based at RAF Acklington they relocated to RAF Jurby, Isle of Man. By April 1941, No. 258 Squadron's time at Jurby had come to an end, and they transferred to RAF Valley<sup>[2]</sup> and thence to RAF Kenley<sup>[2]</sup> in preparation to take the offensive to the enemy.<sup>[3]</sup> In October they were stood down to prepare for a move to the Far East. After a few days in Singapore they were withdrawn to Sumatra and then Java, where they suffered many losses either killed or captured by the Japanese. The survivors transferred their aircraft to No. 605 squadron and most attempted to escape by ship to Australia, but all the ships were sunk en route with no survivors.<sup>[4]</sup>

The squadron was again reformed 1 Mar 1942 from G Squadron at Ratmalana Airport, near Colombo, Ceylon but suffered severe losses during the Japanese carrier strike on 5 April 1942. After a spell in Burma (under Neil Cameron) the squadron was withdrawn to be re-equipped with American Republic P-47 Thunderbolts. In June 1945 it then began training for the invasion of Malaya but on the Japanese surrender the squadron was finally disbanded on 31 December 1945.

<b>No. 258 Squadron RAF</b>	
<b>Active</b>	25 July 1918 – 5 March 1918 20 November 1940 – October 1941 1 March 1942 – 31 December 1945
<b>Country</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United Kingdom
<b>Branch</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Royal Air Force
<b>Motto(s)</b>	'In medias re' (In the middle of things)
<b>Engagements</b>	Java, Ceylon
<b>Commanders</b>	
<b>Notable commanders</b>	Marshal of the RAF Sir Neil Cameron
<b>Insignia</b>	
<b>Squadron</b>	In front of wings
<b>Badge heraldry</b>	elevated and conjoined in base, a panthers face
<b>Squadron Codes</b>	<b>FH</b> (Apr 1939 - Sep 1939) <b>ZT</b> (Aug 1944 - Dec 1945)



The squadron was largely manned by RNZAF pilots from New Zealand.

## References

1. [http://www.raf.mod.uk/history\\_old/h258.html](http://www.raf.mod.uk/history_old/h258.html)
  2. <http://www.rafcommands.com/Fighter/258F.html>
  3. Halley 1988, p. 326.
  4. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/02/a4204702.shtml>
- RAF History 258 Sqdn ([http://www.raf.mod.uk/history\\_old/h258.html](http://www.raf.mod.uk/history_old/h258.html))

## See also

- List of Royal Air Force aircraft squadrons

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=No.\\_258\\_Squadron\\_RAF&oldid=789181738](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=No._258_Squadron_RAF&oldid=789181738)"

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**Pilot Officer Keith Desmond DAWSON-SCOTT**

**Killed in Action 06/02/42 aged 21  
No.258 Squadron, Royal Air Force (VR)  
Singapore Memorial**

The son of Wallace John and Maud Dawson-Scott, of Portsmouth

Served with No 258 Squadron during the Malaya Campaign. Previous service with 266 fighter wing. Arriving at base for duty at the exact time that an enemy raid occurred, he was killed on the ground when enemy aircraft strafed his airfield.

Off Ting Macnamara later recorded:

"I witnessed one of the greatest fights that has ever taken place. Our flight was on the midday to dusk shift and on our way out to relieve the other flight, the Japs came over. As their fighters were ground strafing the road to the drome, we were obliged to skip very smartly out of the cars and make for cover, standing in the bushes alongside the road, when we had all but reached the drome. Red Campbell, the great big six foot two American, and I made our way to the drome. Six Hurricanes and a Blenheim were returning from a patrol and lost no time in mixing it with 18 Zeros that attacked them, while nine more hovered high above, doing aerobatics! The fight took place at less than 1,500 feet, just off the aerodrome. How the aircraft whirled and twisted, their engines now snarling, now wailing, guns blazing – they looked for all the world like a pack of dogs all fighting each other!"

It was over swiftly, the Japanese pilots claiming five Hurricanes shot down and three more probably destroyed. They also claimed to have destroyed three more Blenheims and a Hudson on the ground. Amongst the casualties suffered on the ground during the attack was Plt Off Keith Dawson-Scott, a 21-year-old replacement pilot posted to 258 Squadron from 266 (Fighter) Wing, who was killed. He had only just arrived at Palembang from Tjililitan, probably aboard a Blenheim or Hudson. In return only a single confirmed claim was submitted

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## Record Details for Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott (Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve)

[Back](#) [Print this page](#)

**First Name:** Keith Desmond

**Initials:** K D

**Surname:** Dawson-Scott

**DOB:** Circa 1921

**Age:** 21

**Nationality:** British

**Date of Death:** 06/02/1942

**Information:** SON OF WALLACE JOHN AND MAUD DAWSON-SCOTT, OF PORTSMOUTH.

**Rank:** Pilot Officer

**Service Number:** 102149

**Campaign Medals:**

**War Medal 1939-1945**



As with most Armed Forces Serving Personnel during the conflict of World War Two, Keith Dawson-Scott was awarded the War Medal 1939-1945. This medal was awarded to all full time service personnel who had completed 2 years of service between 3rd September 1939, and 2nd September 1945. Eligible personnel who had been "Mentioned In Despatches" during the war were awarded a ribbon emblem on the ribbon. Those eligible for a campaign star, yet who had their service cut short, were also awarded this medal.

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**1939-45 Star**



Given the information available to us it is likely that Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott was awarded the 1939-45 Star for his service during the Second World War between 3rd September 1939, and 2nd September 1945.

Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott would have been awarded this star if their service period was between 3rd September 1939, and 2nd September 1945. Also the award of a gallantry medal or "Mention In Despatches" also produced the award of the 1939-45 Star.

Fighter Aircraft Crew who took part in the Battle of Britain (10 July to 31 October 1940) were awarded the 1939-45 Star. In dress uniform, a silver-gilt rosette was worn on the medal ribbon to denote the award of the 1939-45 Star.

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**Service:** Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

**Regiment:** [Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve](#)

**Battalion:** 258 Squadron ([Why is this important?](#))

**Commemorated:** Singapore

### Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve during World War 2

More information about Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Formed: 1936

The RAFVR was formed in July 1936 to provide individuals to supplement the Auxiliary Air Force (AAF) which was formed in 1919. The AAF... [read more here >>](#)

**Collection:** [The IWGC/CWGC Registers Collection](#)

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Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott

D.O.B: Around 1921.

D.O.D: 06/2/1942.

Role in the war: Pilot.

Early Life: unknown.

Regiment's name: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Squadron 258

Family: Son of Wallace John and Maud Dawson-Scott.

Buried at?: Singapore, Kranji War Memorial, Column 461.

Extra Info: Keith was promoted to the war substantive rank of Pilot Officer for the duration of hostilities on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1941.

There is no known cause of death, and also no info about Keith's surviving family. His service number was 102149.



REPUBLIC "THUNDERBOLT"



258 Squadron RAF shot down in Singapore



Britain surrenders to the Japanese in Singapore



Fig

## Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott

- His first name is Keith Desmond and his surname Dawson-Scott.
- He was born circa 1921.
- He was 21 when he died.
- He died on the 6th of February 1941.
- His parents were Wallace John (dad) and Maud Dawson-Scott of Portsmouth.
- He was a pilot officer, his job was to provide support to fighter pilots, he would have trained <sup>for aerial warfare</sup>.
- Keith was entitled one medal as well as one possible medal. He was awarded the War Medal for 1939-1945 and possibly awarded the 1939-1945 star.
- He was serving the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
- His regiment was the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and his battalion was 258
- He is commemorated in Singapore. squadron.
- His name is mentioned in the Cenotaph commemorating those who lost their lives in world war two, who hailed from Portsmouth and its surrounding areas. The memorial is located in the city's Guildhall Square.
- A photograph of the panel is available via the website [www.memorialsinportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.memorialsinportsmouth.co.uk).



Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott  
Pilot Officer  
WW2

By: Fiqi  
Siddiqui

Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott was born in 1921. He was the son of Wallace John and Mayd Dawson-Scott of Portsmouth. During the time of his death in service he was a member of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR). The RAFVR was formed in July 1936; its purpose was to supply the Air Force Auxiliary with pilots to supplement its numbers. Keith would have served as one of the 6046 pilots joining the Auxiliary Air Force as a Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, during WW2. He belonged to the 258th Squadron. He was further dispatched to the Navy, Aerial Defence as a pilot officer; the Fleet Air Arm (FAA) of the Royal Navy. We can ascertain from WW2 records of the FAA, that Keith may have died in the Mediterranean mounting a defence against Mussolini's forces on the 6th of February 1941.

## Awards and Commemorations

Photograph of Cenotaph  
Panel from Guildhall  
Square.

### Guildhall Square WW2 Memorial (Panel No. 3)

#### SERVICE PERSONNEL WHO LOST THEIR LIVES

CLARK F W	CORNWELL S J M	DAVEY J R
CLARK W D	CORPS R L	DAVIDSON J W
CLARK W G	CORY D J	DAVIDSON J H C
CLARK W R J	COSTELLO F	DAVIDSON L C
CLARKE C B	COTTERELL J H	DAVIE-SMITH J E
CLARKE F	COTTLE S E	DAVIES A A D
CLARKE H G	COTTON E A	DAVIES H W B
CLARKE J F S	COTTON W A	DAVIES H F
CLASBY C E	COTTRELL E H	DAVIES H H
CLASSEY H S	COTTRELL W E G	DAVIES J E H
CLEARY J J	COUCH A G	DAVIES J H
CLEIFE G H	COULING W	DAVIES J M
CLEMENTS G J	COULSON F E	DAVIES K J
CLEMENTS R L	COULTER T H V	DAVIES N
CLUETT W G	COURTENAY D H	DAVIS A A
COBBY G B	COUZENS H J	DAVIS A A
COCKBURN A	COVINGTON A	DAVIS C H
COCKLES F W	COWARDIN W L	DAVIS F T
COCKRAM D H	COWDREY A W	DAVIS G
COCKS E J	COWDREY A G R	DAVIS H E
COGHLAN J H	COX J E	DAVIS I J
COGHLAN L W	COX N A G	DAVIS J H
COLBOURNE E C	COX R F	DAVIS J F
COLBOURNE G W	CRACKNELL E J	DAVIS W J
COLBOURNE V C	CRADDOCK C H	DAVIS W N
COLE C	CRADDOCK W G	DAVISON E
COLE E J	CRANE C H A	DAVISON R
COLE J C	CRANE L F	DAVITT J R
COLE P E	CRANMORE F S B	DAWES A F
COLERR J	CRAYSTON L	DAWSON C V
COLE V G A	CREASEY H	DAWSON S R
	CRESEY L H	DAWSON-SCOTT K D



Keith's service during WW2 would entitle him to the War Medal 1939-1945 (above).

He was also entitled to and awarded the 1939-1945 Star for operational service.



Keith Desmond Dawson-Scott is commemorated in the Merton Court WW2 roll of honour.

#### References:

1. www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk / download 3 / lost-boys
2. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk (accessed 15/08/17)
3. Brown, David. 1974. The Royal Navy and the Mediterranean.









## MAJOR HERBERT JOHN FINCH

In the late 1930s, the British Army was researching the idea for a weapon between the 3-inch and 4.7-inch guns. After gunners had done some investigation, it was found that a 3.7-inch gun firing a 25-pound shell could fill the gap, and so in 1933 a specification for a 3.7-inch gun weighing eight tons, capable of being put into action in 15 minutes and being towed at 25 miles per hour, was issued. A design by Vickers in conjunction with the Woolwich Arsenal was accepted, and the prototype passed proof in April 1936 with production being authorised a year later.

Design problems with the gun's carriage delayed their arrival on the front. The gun was intended for use in the field by the Army and so had to be fully mobile but, they were only ever semi-practical.

Although it was slow to gain the appreciation of gunner crews, the 3.7-in cannon ultimately proved itself as reliable and deadly military equipment. By 1941, it was the primary anti-aircraft weapon in use by the British. The Germans respected the weapon so much that when one was captured, they used them in coastal defences renaming them the 94m Flak Vickers M.39 and even manufactured their own ammunition for it.

Son of Frederick William and Charlotte Maud Finch, Herbert was born in Mottingham, in 1907. We are not sure where Herbert went on to study after receiving his education at Merton Court, but we know he went on to join the army at 33 years of age. Herbert joined 165 Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) Regiment of the Royal Artillery around mid-November of 1942. The mission of the 165 HAA was charged with protecting airfields. Armed with the Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Herbert was one of the men that operated them to shoot down enemy aircraft in the sky, from the ground.

Herbert is mentioned in the London Gazette on September 1st of 1939 as he was granted a temporary commission promoted to the rank of Captain. By January of 1944 Herbert is commissioned to Major as Battery Commander of 275 HAA Battery. Herbert became second in command for 165 HAA in April 1944. Arriving in Normandy on June 14th under control of the Royal Artillery, just over a month later he was dead.

Whilst no two war experiences are the same, especially for men of differing ranks, we can lean on Private Frank L Scott's detailed memoirs (that he sneakily kept hidden to avoid serious reprimand) who served alongside Herbert with the 165 HAA regiment, to offer an insight into what Herbert was experiencing from mobilisation to warfare. Whilst the regiment completed mobilisation for overseas service on the outskirts of London, Frank fondly recalled how he was able to go 'AWOL' if there was no call duty and he would often pop into his family home and spend precious time with his parents or sit in the public house with the locals for a pint of beer, as he recalled with humour: 'no one was the wiser.' When marching orders were received to proceed in convoy to the London Docks, the weather was worsening, and it put plans on hold. Time permitted soldiers leave, and Frank could have gone home once last time but he refused the chance; he said the time before meant he '*couldn't go through it again.*' We wonder if Herbert went home or waited at the docks, second-in-command of his men.

Frank recalled the 'sea of mud' as a foresight of '*things to come*' as enormous numbers of vehicles and military equipment trudged through rain and sludge, and Frank and his comrades felt they were charged with '*doing something*' about the incessant Luftwaffe air raids and the arrival of the 'flying bomb' on the London streets.

And then 'D-Day' arrived...

As they prepared for the '*off day,*' we know Herbert would have been packing his bergen and

supplied with 200 French Francs, vomit bags, and his life jacket; referred to by his comrade Frank as a 'Mae West;' as once it inflated it gave the wearer a buxom appearance and so came the nickname from the glamorous American movie-star of the decade. Frank said they sat and wrote letters home, so we wonder whose name Herbert shaped inked into words for, as they soon grew further away from their homeland and closer to the French coastline.

The exact aim of their regiment as an arm of the Royal Artillery, was for the anti-aircraft gun protection of airfields, armed with some 24 HAA in total, (equivalent to the Germans' dreaded '88's.) This role would dramatically change when the men were expected to be called into action to get a foothold until the position could be held in Normandy.

Herbert's first night at sea was spent laying just off the coast at Arromanches where some enemy activity was experienced and a ship moored alongside, unfortunately it was hit by a German H.E bomb. Consequently, Herbert and his regiment then disembarked and unloaded the vessel until darkness fell. Once in Normandy, it was essential to shed the vehicle of its waterproofing materials as soon as possible and extend the exhaust pipe after offloading from the ship and pushing through the sea onto the shore from the ramp so it was an exhausting process as the regiment moved on several times in those ensuing weeks.

Frank's role was to travel with the staff car and reconnoitre sites prior to the deployment of heavy artillery. Frank would remain in each location until the last units had passed through that check point with the expectation of being relieved later and picked up to move forward with ground. The procedure was cyclical, like a type of 'leapfrogging.' Whilst in position at their latest ground gained, there was constant heavy shelling and the regiment watched from the outskirts a thousand-day bomber raid that eventually saw the fall of the town of Caen. Dug in, around an orchard in the Giberville area, east of Caen, at around 22:00pm, a mortar fire struck an apple tree. Underneath that apple tree playing with a pack of cards, was a Padre, a signal officer, and the Quartermaster, that were all wounded. There was another man under the tree, who was killed on the spot; it was Major Herbert John Finch. Frank wrote in his diary Herbert was a '*terrific loss to the regiment.*'

Herbert is buried in the Bayeux Cemetery, Normandy, France. Bayeux War Cemetery is the largest commonwealth cemetery of the Second World War in France and contains burials brought in from the surrounding districts and from hospitals that were located nearby. His headstone reads: '*He hath done what he could.*'

Several years later through the Commonwealth War Graves organisation, Frank was able to trace and eventually visit the grave of Herbert in Bayeux Cemetery. We don't know what he said or brought to Herbert's grave, but what we do know is, he deeply cared for the second in command of his unit.



## Herbert John Finch

Major. 165 HAA (Heavy Anti-Aircraft) Regiment. Royal Artillery.

KIA: 24/07/44 (6 weeks after D-Day). Age 37.

Bayeux War Cemetery.

The 165 HAA seems to have been charged with protecting airfields in the area, being armed with the 3.7" anti-aircraft gun (the equivalent of the Germans' dreaded "88".)

CWGC notes that the cemetery, "....contains burials brought in from the surrounding districts and from hospitals located nearby." A lucky encounter with the BBC "Peoples' War" website, an article contributed by Frank.L.Scott, reveals that Major Finch was killed on the evening of 24th July, by a mortar bomb that landed nearby, during a mortar attack, while he was playing cards with colleagues, the quartermaster, padre and signals officer also being wounded.

Major Herbert John Finch  
Service Number 37829  
K.I.A Monday 24-07-44 (Aged 37)  
165 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery  
Buried / Commemorated in the Bayeux War Cemetery  
Date of reburial: N/A

CWGC Entry: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2326222/finch.-herbert-john/>

Mentioned in the London Gazette 1st September 1939: granted a temporary short service commission with the RA TA, promotion to Captain from 8th August 1939.

Source: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/34662/page/5979>

165 HAA Regiment, Part of 46 AA Brigade -

*165th HAA Regiment RA was formed on 10.7.42 at 46 AA Brigade HQ, Clifton, Bristol with 198, 275 and 317 HAA Batteries transferred from other regiments. Served in NW Europe, 275 Battery was disbanded on 23.6.45 and the rest of the regiment on 9.1.46, in BAOR.*

Source: <https://www.arrse.co.uk/community/threads/165-heavy-anti-aircraft-regt-r-a.261802/>

165 HAA Regiment armed with the British 3.7 QF Heavy Anti-Aircraft Guns.

First Hand Account of Major Finch's death by one of his men, Frank L. Scott:

*The exact role of my particular arm of the Royal Artillery was for the Ack-Ack protection of air-fields and consisted of Headquarters and three Batteries, each Battery having two Troops of four 3.7in guns, totalling some 24 guns in all. This role was to change dramatically as we were soon to discover. In the Order of Battle we would not therefore be called into action until a foothold had been successfully gained and position firmly held in NORMANDY.*

*Following days of constant heavy shelling and later to watch a 1000 bomber raid from the outskirts of that well defended town of Caen it finally fell. Having dug ourselves in and around an orchard in the Giberville area, east of Caen, some late evening mortar fire sadly killed our Second-in-Command (Major Finch) when the shell struck an apple tree under which the officers were playing a game of cards. Here again my diary notes "heavily shelled at 22.00hrs. 2nd i/c killed, Lt. Quartermaster, Padre and Signals Officer wounded." The following day we buried the 2nd i/c and felt the terrific loss to the Regiment. Several years later through the very good services of the War Graves Commission I was able to trace and eventually visit his grave lying in peace in Bayeux cemetery.*

Sources: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/01/a2945801.shtml>

Book Sources:

National Archive Documents -  
**WO 171/1167 - 165 Regiment 1944**  
WO 166/11646 - 165 Regiment 1943  
WO 166/7532 - 165 Regiment 1942  
**WO 166/14659 - 46 AA Brigade 1944**

Since Archives Visit Notes:

- Joined 165 HAA 19/11/42 (possibly 14th)



- January 1944 = Captain (T/Major) - Battery Commander of 275 HAA Battery
- Becomes 2IC for 165 HAA on 16-18th April 1944 joining RHQ
- Arrived in Normandy 14 June 1944 (Comes under control of 8 AGRA - only diaries available from 1945)
- 24 July Finch KIA by Shellfire
- (28 July comes under 9 AGRA)

# HERBERT JOHN FINCH

Royal Artillery WWII



## Fact File

Born: 1907

Birth place: Nottingham.

Joined army: 32 years of age

Service No. 37829

Mother: ~~Charlotte~~ Charlotte Maud Finch.

Father: Frederick Will-

iam Finch.

Death Date 24/07/19

44

Death Age: 37

1st Sibling: Frederick Maud.

2nd Sibling: Ronald Charles William.

Burial Country: France.

Cemetery:

Bayeux

War Cemetery.



## Interesting facts

1. Finch died very old.

considering he was in the army.

2. Finch's family had 2 servants

3. The inscription on Finch's grave reads.

"HE HATH DONE WHAT HE COULD"

By Ashley



# World War II

Lieutenant Herbert John Finch

1907 - 24/07/1944



## Role in the War

Finch was part of the Royal Artillery which was responsible for storage of guns and ammunition.

## Part of the Army

John Finch was a member of the 165 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. They use cannons and huge guns to shoot down the enemy's aircraft.



## Family

Finch's parents are called Frederick William Finch and Charlotte Maud Finch.

## Early Life

Merton court was Finch's primary school. There are no further details of his education.

## Burial

Bayeux War Cemetery

Dear Mother

Life in war is terrible! Every single day at least one person dies and today my best friend died! It was tragic. We don't get food much and the trenches are damp and dark. Diseases are spreading like fire. The beds are wet and dirty and we spend most nights without sleeping a wink. The mornings are bright but the one thing that keeps me going are the beautiful memories we share. I remember the time when we were at the beach. I will never forget that Summer moment while the water embraced us; the sun beamed down on us. I remember that day in the country while the lush green trees shaded us. Today is my day on the front line. If I don't write back to you in 7 months I'm dead. Hopefully this won't happen. Hope you are well.

From your dearest son

Herbert







Aalia  
Dhillon  
53P

## Letter to a loved one

Dear Mother,

We are soon to go to France! Summer here in Kent has been hot and tiring, whilst we have been training for deployment for France. Today, we were training with weapons. Some were blunt, some were sharp. My favourite was the gun. The weapons don't really matter. All I can think about is that I might never see you again mother. I am just trying to stay positive. All the boys are terrified and worried that they will never see their families again. What can I say to them? Their fears are real. We don't know what we will face out there and we might get killed, we know that but if it means freedom for our country, then it must be. However, I still have hope and I am so proud to be leading my regiment out to battle and being able to play my part in ending the war.

I miss you mother.

From your son, Major Herbert John Finch





## MIDSHIPMAN DAVID BOULTON FORBES

More than 80 years ago on the night of 19th December 1941, there occurred one of the most extensive but least known naval disasters of the Second World War and our 'Lost Boy' David Boulton Forbes was there. Son of Walter and Hersey Forbes, of North Cray, Kent, here is a fraction of his war story.

After the First World War, commemorating the dead with eery moments of silence, the poppy worn on lapels and a sea of war memorials started to spread, becoming quintessentially part of the mythology of Remembrance. For those who had no known grave as their bodies were never recovered, something appropriate needed to be found as a way of equally commemorating where no permanent memorial could be provided individually. This was particularly apparent for members of the Royal Navy who were lost at sea. An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Britain: Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth should each have an identical memorial of 'unmistakable' Naval form. Looking at the three they are striking for their staggering central obelisk. Designed by Sir Robert Lorimer in partnership with sculptor Henry Poole, the Plymouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by Prince George on 29th July 1924.

Nobody imagined another world war in their lifetime and so it is telling to see how architectural designs of grand memorials reflect this with pieces 'added' onto or cleverly incorporated into the designs of First World War memorials. After The Second World War the Naval memorials needed to be extended but since the three sites were dissimilar a varying architectural treatment for each was required. The additional work was unveiled by Princess Margaret on 20th May 1954 and a further unveiling took place on November 11th when panels 101-1013 honouring those who died on shore, equally with no known grave were unveiled by Admiral Sir Mark Pizey. Plymouth Naval memorial commemorates 7,521 sailors of The First World War and 15,933 of The Second World War, one of those, is David.

HMS Neptune had been expected to leave Britain for New Zealand in May 1941, but because of the heavy loss of cruisers during the Crete Campaign, it was instead attached to the 7th Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean. On the afternoon of December 18th, the squadron known as 'Force K' was dispatched from Malta to intercept an important enemy convoy bound for Tripoli. The three cruisers of 'Force K', were the *Neptune*, *Aurora* and *Penelope*, supported by the destroyers *Kandahar*, *Lance*, *Lively* and *Havock*. Captained by Rory O'Connor leading 'Force K,' the task of the crew was to destroy German and Italian convoys carrying soldiers and supplies to Libya in support of Rommel's army in North Africa. As they were steaming south, in singular formation on the dark, stormy night, at 01:06 am, the Neptune was the first to strike a mine. The *Aurora* her next astern, hauled out to starboard to avoid the same blow but only a minute later she too exploded a mine; two minutes later, an explosion buffeted *Penelope's* port side abreast the bridge and all three were hit. The *Neptune* going full astern hit another mine, which wrecked her steering gear and propellers and brought her to a standstill. This moment must have been terrifying for David onboard as he was suddenly rudderless in the middle of the Mediterranean, floating in an amphibious minefield...

The *Aurora*, hoping to abort without further catastrophe, followed by the *Penelope*, tried to turn. They were 15 miles from Tripoli, and it was nearly dawn. The damage to *Aurora* had reduced her maximum speed to 10 knots, but they needed to get as far from the enemy coast as he could before daylight. The risk of sending another ship into the minefield to tow the *Neptune* out was grave, but there was a lot of lives to be saved. The destroyers *Kandahar* and *Lively* then entered the minefield to reach the *Neptune* and tow her out. Captain Nicholl was also cautiously edging the *Penelope* towards her when at 03:18am the *Kandahar* struck a mine. Captain O'Connor of the Neptune flashed a warning: 'Keep away' as the crew onboard the warships were watching mines explode one after the other. At 04:03am the

Neptune struck a fourth mine. This was more than her hull could take; she slowly turned over and sank.

Only a few of the 767 crew survived the sinking of HMS Neptune. Those that did were clinging desperately to life rafts and found five days later. By Christmas Eve, many of the initial survivors had perished, succumbing to their wounds, sustained from the mine explosions or dying from hypothermia, caked in engine oil. It is also worth noting that many of them swallowed this toxic substance or choked on it. The one and only *Neptune* survivor, 20-year-old Able Seaman Norman Walton, spent 18 months in an Italian prisoner of war camp before being released in 1943. Listening to Norman's experiences is the only way now we can get close to what David may have experienced the night before and the early hours into the morning the day *HMS Neptune* sank.

Norman recalled an explosion just after midnight damaging the starboard bow which must have been the first mine. Norman said after this the captain stopped the engines and we can imagine David at that moment with the other crew members feeling the hum of the ship abruptly stop and as they moved forward the shock of hitting another mine, that blew the screws and most of the stern away. Norman remembered how after the second mine the Captain called the entire crew on top deck as they could see the *Kandahar* was approaching to tow them; David and so many others seeing a glimmer of hope they would be rescued. Norman specifies that he and 7 others, including a midshipman, that could have been David (but we cannot be sure), were charged with trying to secure the tow but the *Kandahar* was hit and slewed off and their rescue chances melted away in front of them, all desperately watching on top deck on the *HMS Neptune*.

As they hit the fourth mine, Norman tells how the ship was lifted up into the air and dropped back down again and sailors started to jump into the water as they knew they needed to abandon the ship. Norman specifically recalls not wanting to just be stranded in open water, so he searched for a raft first and swam towards that and that decision is what protected his life but around 30 other people were trying to get to it too for a place on it to survive. They all watched the ship sink and Norman said the surviving men cheered as it went down; we wonder if David was with him at this point.

We'll never know exactly how David met his death in the Mediterranean. No bodies of the crew were ever recovered.



**David Boulton Forbes**

Midshipman. HMS Neptune.

KIA: 19/12/41 (or thereabouts) South Mediterranean. Age 18.

Plymouth Naval Memorial

Leading "Force K", a cruiser raiding squadron, HMS Neptune ran into an uncharted minefield off the coast of Tripoli (Libya) where it was struck by 4 mines in as many hours. The ship finally broke in two on the effects of the fourth mine. Most of the 747 crew perished there and then but a handful survived, most, it seems, having swallowed, or been caked in, a great deal of oil and other debris. (All reports remark on how much oil there was on the sea's surface.)

Over the next 4 days, they all died except one - Able Seaman Norman Walton who was taken prisoner by the crew of an Italian boat and imprisoned until Italy changed sides in the war in 1943.

In all likelihood Midshipman Forbes died with most of the crew when his ship went down but he may have survived for a few more days with the sailors who escaped the ship. No bodies were recovered.

Midshipman - David Boulton Forbes  
Service Number N/A  
K.I.A Friday 19/12/1941 (Aged 18) - lost at sea  
HMS Neptune  
Commemorated / Buried at Plymouth Naval Memorial  
Reburied N/A

CWGC Entry: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2479252/forbes.-david-boulton/>

No mention in the London Gazette.

HMS Neptune and the disastrous night of December 1941 - Mediterranean minefield:

*More than 70 years ago on the night of 19 December 1941, there occurred one of the most extensive but least known naval disasters of the Second World War. The Cruiser HMS Neptune ran into an uncharted minefield in the Mediterranean off Tripoli, and sank with the loss of 764 officers and men. Just one man was rescued by an Italian torpedo boat, after 5 days in the water.*

Source / Further Reading: <http://www.hmsneptune.com/history1.htm>

#### **National Archive Documents -**

ADM 358/4005 - HMS Neptune: 19 December 1941; sunk by enemy action, hit a mine off Sirte, Libya - 1941 Jan 01 - 1943 Dec 31

ADM 1/10148 - SHIPS AND VESSELS (91): HMS NEPTUNE: report of proceedings - 1939

ADM 1/10706 - SHIPS AND VESSELS (91): HMS NEPTUNE: report of proceedings 14-20 Jan, including removal... - 1940

ADM 1/10698 - SECURITY (96): Portuguese SS QUANZA: interception and boarding by HMS NEPTUNE and removal of enemy agents. - 1940

ADM 1/11947 - BOARDS OF INQUIRY AND DISCIPLINARY COURTS (29): Loss of HMS NEPTUNE as a result of enemy minefield; damage to and subsequent demolition of HMS KANDAHAR while proceeding to her assistance: Board of Inquiry.

HM SHIPS - DAMAGE AND LOSS (31): Loss of HMS NEPTUNE as a result of enemy minefield, damage to and subsequent destruction of HMS KANDAHAR while proceeding to her assistance: Board of Inquiry - 1942

ADM 1/12294 - HONOURS AND AWARDS (85): HMS KANDAHAR sunk by mine, rescue work being carried out by HMS JAGUAR: awards to personnel of both ships.

SHIP AND VESSELS (91): HMS KANDAHAR sunk by mine, rescue work carried out by HMS JAGUAR: awards to personnel of both ships. - 1942

ADM 358/4009 - HMS Kandahar: 19 December 1941; damaged by enemy action, hit a mine and scuttled off Sirte, Libya



Mid. D B Forbes  
HMS Neptune - Royal Navy  
Died aged 18 in 1941

**Full Name:** David Bolton Forbes

**Role in the war:** Midshipman Royal Navy H.M.S Neptune

**Date and age at death:** 19<sup>th</sup> December 1941 aged 18

**Circumstances of death:** Unknown, likely died at sea

**Memorial:** Two memorials: 1. St James church North Cray road  
2. Plymouth naval memorial, panel 44, column 3. Unclear if buried.

**Parents:** Walter Forbes and Heseey Forbes of North Cray, Kent



twinkl.co.uk







## MAJOR ROWLAND DE PUTRON GAUVAIN

We have a beautiful photograph from Rowland's wedding day. We also have a picture of him in the school photo of 1921, sitting next to the then Headmaster TA (Tally) Lord.

Son of Hedley Putron and Clare Isabel, Rowland already had his brother Sydney, waiting for him. According to the Census of England and Wales of 1911, the De Putron Guavain family were living in their seven-bedroom home in Barnes, Surrey, with a domestic servant. Born in 1908 Rowland was just an infant, an infant that would grow into a young boy as The First World War ravaged the world. We can only wonder if this had any lasting impact on Rowland's desire to fight when a Second War erupted.

After Merton Court, Rowland was further educated at Felstead Senior School. By aged 24, Rowland had moved and was living in London but sadly within two years he lost his father on 01.03.1934 and his mother just one year into the war on 05.12.1940. We know from Ancestry that Rowland travelled to India, but we do not know when, only that he returned on 15th April 1932.

Whilst nominally serving with the 13th Frontier Force Rifles as an officer, Rowland was acting as deputy assistant-adjutant General (by April 1941) to the 9th Indian Division in Malaya. This was a position he held throughout the Japanese invasion and subsequent campaign. The 9th Indian Division were the first to engage with Japanese forces following invasion where they acquitted themselves in a steady retreat, and with standing action throughout December of 1941 and January of 1942. By the end of the month however the entirety of the 22nd Brigade after it was cut off and destroyed, losing their divisional commander at the same time. Following the loss, the 9th division was amalgamated with the 11th Indian Division.

At 10:30pm on February 8th 1942, the Japanese army crossed the straits of Johor and invaded Singapore through the Lim Chu Kang Sari bun area. These areas were mainly stationed with Australian soldiers. By the 9th, the British forces were pushed back and so they tried to form a blockade to contain the invading Japanese in the western sector known as the 'Jurong line, (covering the entire stretch from Kranji River in the north to the Jurong River in the south) protecting the approaches to Singapore as a final attempt at a barrier. Due to failures in communications and mounting pressure from the advancing superior Japanese forces, especially as this was the first encounter of the British with Japanese tanks, the line couldn't be held and the Australian 22nd Brigade abandoned their positions, necessitating the withdrawal of other units. By the 11th, February a mixture of the 15th Brigade and a special reserve battalion, commanded by Brigadier General Coates (Rowland had been serving under) soon realised they were almost surrounded near Bukit Batok and so were forced into a deadly retreat as they withdrew through a position known as 'Sleepy Valley.' Unbeknownst to the commanders, the Japanese 15th Division had already bypassed them and occupied the key positions of the proposed line of retreat. This left the vital positioning of Bukit Timah village exposed and vulnerable in imminent danger, and the retreating allied soldiers were essentially indefensible. The result was a massacre: out of the 1500 men, 1100 soldiers lost their lives in 'Sleepy Valley.'

Rowland was initially reported missing and so perhaps a letter reached Hedley, Clare and Marcelle only for their glimmer of hope to be snatched from them as it was finally declared he would never return. Rowland was officially reported killed in action in Singapore on February 11th 1942, but we do not know exactly what happened to him in his final moments, perhaps he was lost in Sleepy valley like so many others. A body for Rowland was never recovered and so he is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial to the Missing.

Sydney lived to the age of 82, dying in Devon. Sydney lost every member of his family unit spending decades without them, losing his brother at only 34 years of age, to war. Though there is a heritage

marker at the top of Bukit Batok Hill and another at Bukit Timah Hill, with a secondary school and condominium park occupying the site where the brutal destruction of lives happened, most people do not know about these haunting battles sites.

In 2017, we heard from Tony Guavain, son of Rowland. Tony confessed to our Headmaster, that whilst the majority of his father's war story died when his mother died, as war stories often do, he revealed at some stage his father *'was a Sikh fighting in Ethiopia; later he went to the Indian staff college and Quetta,'* where Tony was born in 1941. Tony recalled how when his mother was notified her husband was missing in action, presumed dead, she was told to *'pack up and take the troop ship with me back to England.'* That must have been a devastating journey as mother and son, both shaped with new identities since the last time they boarded a ship, hand in hand travelling back to England knowing for one of them, they would never know their father with barely enough memories for her mother to share with her son about his father's bond with him, and the other, newly widowed, a single mother, alone and overwhelmed as a new life awaited them both upon their return.

As it happens, Tony went on to serve in the 'West Kents' as an officer and professional soldier following the war, ending his career as a colonel. Inspired perhaps by his father's tales of 'derring- do'...

And as a further footnote – he remains very good friends with Rowly Pillman (who was also in the 'West Kents') whose great-uncles Bobby and Cherry (who lived in Sidcup and attended Merton Court) both played Rugby for England. Bobby is one of our First World War 'Lost Boys.'



## Major Rowland De Putron GAUVAIN

Died 11/02/1942 aged 34  
5th Battalion/13th Frontier Force Rifles  
Singapore Memorial



Born in 1908 the son of Hedley De Putron Gauvain and Clare Isabel Gauvain, of Richmond Surrey.

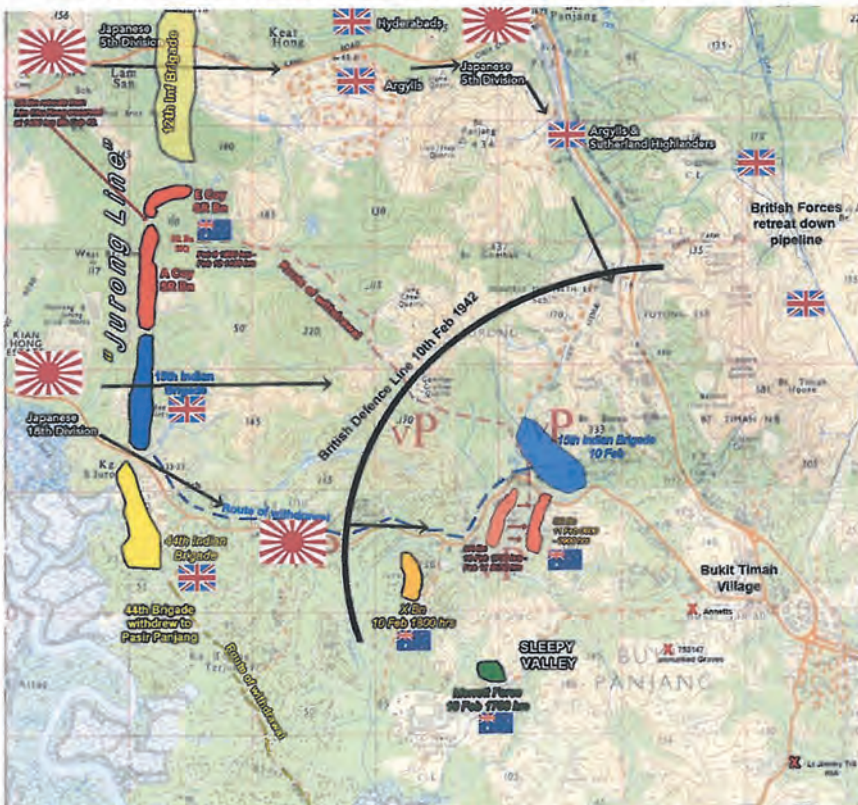
He attended Felsted Senior School

In August 1938 he married Marcelle Iris Clisson Gauvain.

Whilst Rowland was nominally an Officer with the Frontier Force Rifles, by April 1941 he was acting as Deputy Assistant-Adjutant General to the 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Division in Malaya, a position he held throughout the Japanese invasion and subsequent campaign.

The 9<sup>th</sup> (Indian) Division were the first of the Malaya Command to engage Japanese Forces following invasion where they acquitted themselves well in a steady retreat and holding action throughout December 1941 and January 1942. At the end of the month an entire Brigade of the Division was cut off and destroyed, losing their Divisional Commander at the

same time. Following the loss of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, the 9<sup>th</sup> Division was amalgamated with the 11<sup>th</sup> (Indian) Division.



It is not known exactly what became of Rowland, however during the confused allied retreat in early February, a number of makeshift units made a series of stands along a position known as the 'Jurong Line', protecting the approaches to Singapore itself.

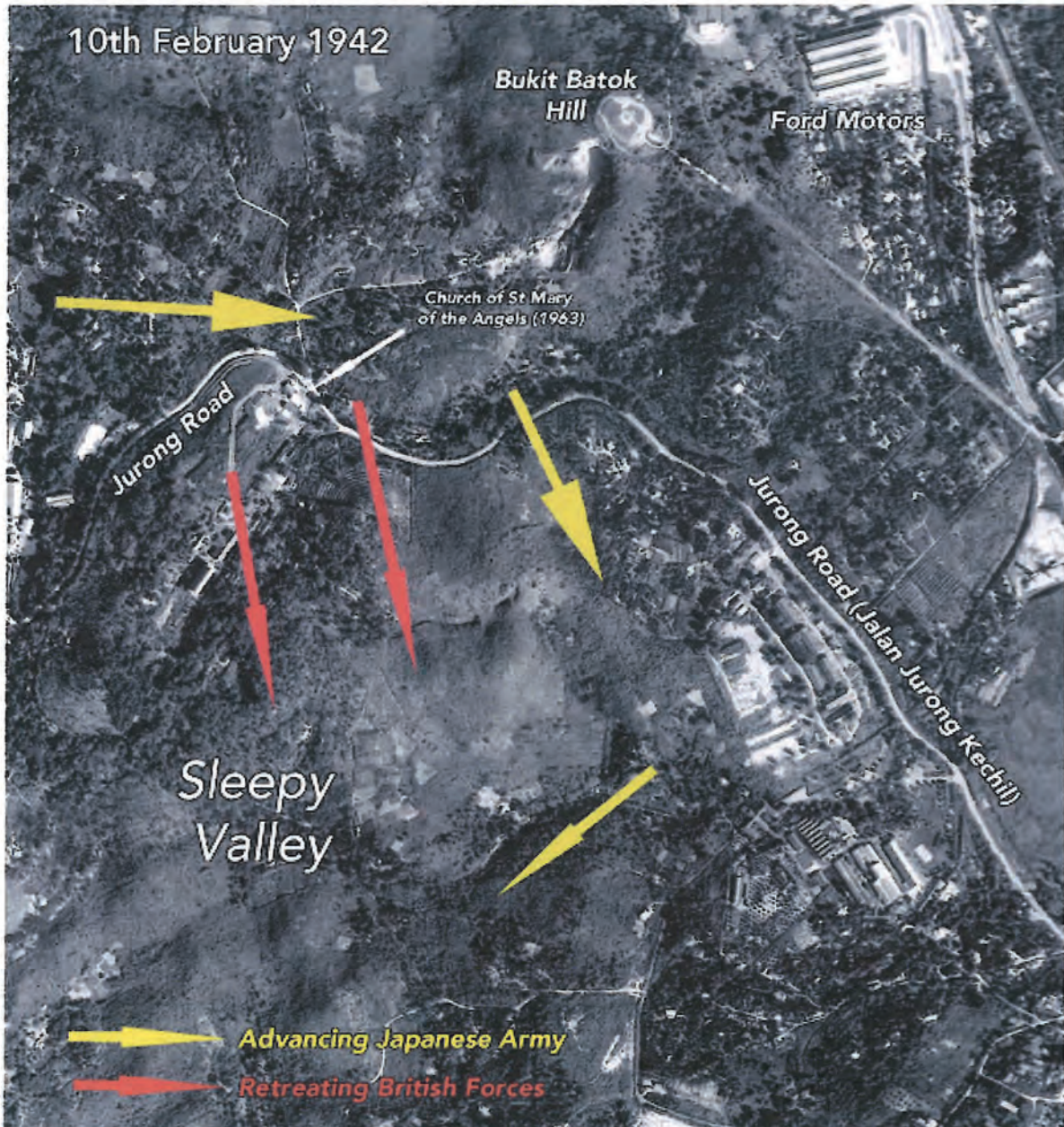
By 9<sup>th</sup> February, with failures in communications and under pressure from superior Japanese Forces, the Australian 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade retired from their positions, necessitating the

withdrawal of all other units. The important position of Bukit Timah village was now in imminent danger with ad-hoc units attempting scratch defences around the important high ground.



### The Tragedy at Sleepy Valley

On the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> February 1942 one of these formations, a mixture of 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade men and a Special Reserve Battalion, commanded by Brigadier General Coates (with whom Rowland had been serving) realised that they were almost surrounded near Bukit Batok and decided upon a fateful withdrawal through a position known as 'Sleepy Valley'. Unknown to commanders, the Japanese 15<sup>th</sup> Division had already bypassed them and occupied positions eithahead of the proposed line of retreat through Sleepy Valley, setting the scene for the most costly single encounter of the Malaya Campaign.



Re-grouped, a total of 1500 men of Brigadier Coates' force were ordered into columns and to retreat through Sleepy Valley, thus creating some distance between themselves and the assumed Japanese positions. Instead, they advanced in a highly exposed formation into an



indefensible position against a prepared and waiting superior Japanese force. The result was a massacre. Of the 1500 men who advanced into Happy Valley, a little over 400 survived, managing to escape the Japanese noose through an old jungle track, leaving around 1100 Officers and men killed.

It cannot be absolutely confirmed, but it is likely that Major Rowland de Putron Gauvain was one of those to fall with Brigadier Coates' formation in Sleepy Valley, his body being subsequently lost, he is named today on the Singapore Memorial to the Missing.

---

Major Rowland de Putron Gauvain  
Service Number AI/500  
K.I.A Wednesday 11-02-42 (Aged 34)  
5th Battalion - 13th Frontier Force Rifles (Indian)  
Buried / Commemorated on the Singapore Memorial  
Date of reburial: N/A

CWGC Entry: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2131823/gauvain,-rowland-de-putron/>

Mentioned in the London Gazette 28th June 1929: his promotion to 2nd Lt. in the Indian Army from 20th March 1929.

Source: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/33510/page/4274/data.pdf>

5th Bn 13th Frontier Force Rifles -  
20th Indian Infantry Brigade June-July 1941

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th\\_Frontier\\_Force\\_Rifles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th_Frontier_Force_Rifles)

Book Sources:

National Archive Documents -

**WO 169/7779 - 13 Indian Infantry: 5/13 Frontier Force Rifles - 1942**

WO 169/3450 - Indian Infantry: 5/13 Frontier Force Rifles - 1941





↑  
R de P Gauvain

photo in school  
reception room sitting  
next to Headmaster  
'Tally' Lord 1921



MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE - SINGAPORE12th FRONTIER FORCE REGIMENT (Continued)SEPOY (Continued)

Udham Singh	✓	(7026/3)
Udham Singh	✓	(18024)
Ujagar Singh	✓	(6810)
Ujagar Singh	✓	(8089)
Ujagar Singh	✓	(9852)
Ujagar Singh	✓	(17625)
Ujagar Singh	✓	(20970)
Umar Daraz	✓	
Virsa Singh	✓	(15374)
Virsa Singh	✓	(21013)
Wali Jan Khan	✓	
Yaqub Khan	✓	
Yar Shah	✓	
Zail Singh	✓	
Zulfi Ram	✓	

NON-COMBATANT (ENROLLED)

Abdul Khalig	✓	
Faqir Chand	✓	
Gian Singh	✓	
Gulzar	✓	
Khair Din	✓	Hazara ✓
Muhammad	✓	
Muhammad Qasim	✓	
Rumel Chand	✓	
Sadhu Ram	✓	
Samanda	✓	
Shankar	✓	
Tota	✓	
Umar Hayat	✓	

Col 238

13th FRONTIER FORCE RIFLESLIEUTENANT-COLONEL

Guy, N.G.

MAJOR

Gauvain, R. DeP ✓

LIEUTENANT

Phillips, H.B. ✓

~~Williamson, N.J.~~ NOW KNOWN TO BE BURIED AS  
359561 Capt. WILLIAMSON N.J. H.L.I.  
in MEDAN DUTCH WAR CRY I.F.13

SUBEDAR

Bakhtawar Singh ✓  
Gul Din Khan ✓

Col 237

JEMADAR

Abdul Khanan ✓  
Ismail Khan ✓  
Prabh Dayal ✓  
Spin Gul, I.D.S.M. ✓



in memory of

Major

# Rowland De Putron Gauvain

AI/500, 5th Bn., 13th Frontier Force Rifles who died on 11 February 1942 Age 34

Son of Hedley De Putron Gauvain and Clare Isabel Gauvain; husband of Marcelle Iris Clisson Gauvain, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Remembered with Honour

**Singapore Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# Rowland Gauvain

## in the UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960



VIEW

Add Alternative Information

Report issue

Name: Rowland Gauvain  
 Birth Date: abt 1908  
 Age: 24  
 Port of Departure: Bombay, India  
 Arrival Date: 25 Apr 1932  
 Port of Arrival: London, England  
 Ports of Voyage: Plymouth  
 Ship Name: Kaisar-I-Hind  
 Search Ship Database: [Search for the Kaisar-I-Hind in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database](#)  
 Shipping line: Peninsula and Orient Steam Navigation Company Ltd  
 Official Number: 128653



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### Make a Connection

[Find others](#) who are researching Rowland Gauvain in Public Member Trees

SAVE Cancel

#### Source Citation

The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England; *Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and successors: Inwards Passenger Lists.*; Class: BT26; Piece: 990; Item: 79

#### Source Information

Ancestry.com. *UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

Original data: *Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and successors: Inwards Passenger Lists.* Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Series BT26, 1,472 pieces.

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#### Description

This database is an index to the Board of Trade's passenger lists of ships arriving in the United Kingdom from foreign ports outside of Europe and the Mediterranean from 1878-1888 and 1890-1960. Information listed on the passenger lists may include: name of passenger, their birth date or age, port of departure, port of arrival, date of arrival, and vessel name. [Learn more...](#)



Gauvain R. de P.

**GAUVAIN.**—Previously reported missing, now officially reported killed in action in Singapore, on Feb. 11, 1942. MAJOR R. DE P. GAUVAIN, 5/13th Frontier Force Rifles, beloved husband of Marcelle, Engadine, The Park, Sidcup, Kent.

11.10.1945



## Major Rowland de Putron Gauvain

- Born 1908 in Barnes, Surrey.
- Died 11<sup>th</sup> February 1942 (Age 34)
- Parents = Hedley de Putron Gauvain and Clare Isabel Gauvain
- Brother = Sydney de Putron Gauvain
- Wife = Marcelle Iris Clisson Gauvain (married in 1938)
- Travelled to India (Bombay) and returned to England in 1932.
- Regiment = 13<sup>th</sup> Frontier Force Rifles.
- He has no grave and so his name is on the Singapore memorial, which is a memorial to those who had no grave. This is in the Kranji War Cemetery.
- He was killed in action and initially reported as missing.
- War Medals:
  - War Medal 1939-1945
  - 1939-45 Star for operational service in the Second World War between 1939+1945

By Maisie Chambers S3M



# MAJOR ROWLAND de PUTRON GUAVAIN



Major Rowland de Putron Guavain was born in 1908 he was a soldier in the 13th Frontier Force Rifles regiment, his unit was the 5th battalion. He was the son of Hedley de Putron Guavain and Clare Isabel Guavain, he was married to Marcelle Iris Clivison of Weybridge, Surrey. He died fighting in WW2 on February 11th 1942 aged 34.

The 13th Frontier Force Rifles was part of the British Indian Army, and after 1947 Pakistan Army. It was formed in 1922 by amalgamation of five existing regiments.

Major Rowland de Putron

Guavain was a member of the 5th battalion.

## Force Rifles

13th Frontier Force Rifles



Active

1922–1956

Country

British India  
Pakistan

BY CHASE COLLARD



# Major Rawlston De Putron Gauvain

Father was called Tedley De P. He died on 1st March 1934.

Mother was called Clara Isabel. She died on 5th December.

Brother was called Sydney De Putron. He died on March 1982. AGE 74.

He doesn't have a grave because they never found his body, so he is remembered here!

by Maisie

Born = 1908  
march

Died = 1942  
february

R.I.P

His wife was called 'Marcelle Iris Clisson Gauvain, of Weybridge, Surrey.'

He was in the 13th Frontier Force Rifles Regiment.

medals, he won!



SINGAPORE MEMORIAL  
(Kranji War cemetery)  
RV Maisie Chambers

1939-45 Star



War Medal 1939-1945







# Rowland De Putron Gauvain

1908-



When Rowland De Putron Gauvain was born in March 1908 in Barnes, Surrey, his father, Hedley, was 37 and his mother, Clara, was 30. He had one brother.



No known children

Rowland De Putron Gauvain

Hedley De P Gauvain

Clara Isabel Gauvain



MAR 1908 AGE 0

## Birth

Rowland De Putron Gauvain was born in March 1908 in Barnes, Surrey, to Clara Isabel Gauvain, age 30, and Hedley De P Gauvain, age 37.

Mar 1908 • Barnes, Surrey, England

2 APR 1911 AGE 3

## Residence

Rowland De Putron Gauvain lived in Barnes, Surrey, on 2 April 1911.

02 Apr 1911 • Barnes, Surrey, England

25 APR 1932 AGE 24

## Arrival

25 Apr 1932 • London, England



# Rowland De Putron Gauvain

**BIRTH** MAR 1908 • Barnes, Surrey, England

**DEATH** Unknown

## Facts

### Age 0 — Birth

Mar 1908 • Barnes, Surrey, England

### Age 3 — Residence

02 Apr 1911 • Barnes, Surrey, England

### Age 24 — Arrival

25 Apr 1932 • London, England

Age 25 — **Death of Father Hedley De P Gauvain (1871–1934)**

1 Mar 1934 • Kent, England

Age 32 — **Death of Mother Clara Isabel Gauvain (1878–1940)**

5 Dec 1940 • Bromley, Kent, England

Age 74 — **Death of Brother Sydney De Putron Gauvain (1900–1982)**

Mar 1982 • Honiton, Devon, England

### Departure

Bombay, India

## Sources

### Ancestry Sources

- 1911 England Census
- England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915
- UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960

## Family

### Parents

Hedley De P Gauvain 1871–1934



Clara Isabel Gauvain 1878–1940

### Spouse



## Record Details for Rowland De Putron Gauvain

[Back](#)

<b>First Name:</b>	Rowland De Putron
<b>Initials:</b>	R D P
<b>Surname:</b>	Gauvain
<b>DOB:</b>	Circa 1908
<b>Age:</b>	34
<b>Nationality:</b>	British
<b>Date of Death:</b>	11/02/1942
<b>Information:</b>	Parents: Hedley de Putron Gauvain and Clare Isabel Gauvain; husband of Marcelle Iris Clisson Gauvain, of Weybridge, Surrey.
<b>Rank:</b>	Major
<b>Rank (2nd):</b>	Acting Lieutenant Colonel
<b>Service Number:</b>	A/500
<b>Campaign Medals:</b>	<p><b><u>War Medal 1939-1945</u></b></p>  <p>As with most Armed Forces Serving Personnel during the conflict of World War Two, Rowland De Putron Gauvain was entitled to the War Medal 1939-1945. This medal was awarded to all full time service personnel who had completed 28 days service between 3rd September 1939 and the 2nd September 1945. Eligible personnel who had been "Mentioned In Despatches" during the War were entitled to wear a bronze oak leaf emblem on the ribbon. Those eligible for a campaign star, yet who had their service cut short by death, wounds or capture by the enemy, still qualified for this medal.</p> <p><a href="#">Buy Medal</a></p> <p><b><u>1939-45 Star</u></b></p>  <p>Given the information available to us it is likely that Rowland De Putron Gauvain was awarded the 1939-45 Star for operational Service in the Second World War between 3rd September 1939, and 2nd September 1945.</p> <p>Rowland De Putron Gauvain would have been awarded this star if their service period was terminated by their death or disability due to service. Also the award of a gallantry medal or "Mention In Despatches" also produced the award of this medal, regardless of their service duration.</p> <p>Fighter Aircraft Crew who took part in the Battle of Britain (10 July to 31 October 1940) were awarded the "Battle of Britain" bar to this medal. In undress uniform, a silver-gilt rosette was worn on the medal ribbon to denote the award of this clasp.</p> <p><a href="#">Buy Medal</a></p>
<b>Service:</b>	British Army
<b>Regiment:</b>	13th Frontier Force Rifles
<b>Battalion:</b>	5th Battalion ( <a href="#">Why is this important?</a> )
<b>Commemorated:</b>	Indian



# CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 66  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink.  
The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling, or was alive at midnight, or arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Family	AGE (Last Birthday) and SEX		PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.				PERSONAL OCCUPATION. The entry should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.	BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.
		For Infants under 12 months the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	For Infants 12 months and upwards.	Wife "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or opposite sex of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Years this person has been married, if less than one year, "under one year."	Children born alive to this person (If no children born alive enter "None" in Column 7.)	Children alive (If no children alive enter "None" in Column 7.)					
1. <i>Healy, Delatora, Giovanni</i>	Head	40	Male	Married	12	2	2	Head of Family, <i>Head of Household</i>	None	<i>Swaney, Charles, - Head of Family</i>	Irish	
2. <i>Healy, Delatora, Maria</i>	Wife	33	Female	ditto						<i>Swaney, Mary</i>	Irish	
3. <i>Healy, Delatora, Giovanni</i>	Son	10	Male					<i>School</i>		<i>Swaney, John</i>	Irish	
4. <i>Healy, Delatora, Giovanni</i>	Son	3	Male							<i>Swaney, Mary</i>	Irish	
5. <i>Healy, Delatora, Giovanni</i>	Servant	21	Female							<i>Swaney, Mary</i>	Irish	
6.												
7.												
8.												
9.												
10.												
11.												
12.												
13.												
14.												
15.												

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Healy, Giovanni*

Postal Address: *14 Cannon Street Road, London, E.C.*

Weight before the Census of Persons in this dwelling (Kitchen, Parlor, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, porch, bathroom, or storeroom, unless used as a bedroom.

Seven

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Total

Males	Females	Persons
3	2	5

Includes of Enumerator: *JA*



In the early hours of 11 February, the Japanese who had concentrated significant forces around the Tengah airfield and on the Jurong Road, began a further offensive operation.

After brotling aside elements of the 6<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade, the Japanese again began attacking the Australian 22nd Brigade around the Selegie Road.

R de P G



GAURI SINGH, Sep., 15385. 5th Bn. 2nd Punjab Regt. Missing 1942. Son of Dalo Ram and Durgo, of Barial, Kangra, India. Column 185.

GAUR SING GOSAIN, Rfn., 8834. 5th Bn. 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles. 15th November, 1945. Son of Khundali, of Sakni, Garhwal, India. Column 293.

GAUR SING RAWAT, Rfn., 7462. 5th Bn. 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles. 15th November, 1945. Son of Bishal Singh and Man, of Risi, Garhwal, India; husband of Sabetri, of Risi. Column 293.

\* GAUVAIN, Maj. ROWLAND DE PUTRON, AI/500. 5th Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles. 11th February, 1942. Age 34. Son of Hedley de Putron Gauvain and Clare Isabel Gauvain; husband of Marcelle Iris Clisson Gauvain, of Weybridge, Surrey. Column 237.

GAW, Sgmn. STEPHEN, 2358280. Royal Corps of Signals, Singapore Fortress Sigs. 13th February, 1942. Age 21. Son of Agnes M. Craig, of Kilwinning, Ayrshire. Column 44.

GAY, Gnr. WILLIAM ALEXANDER, 1587840. 241 Bty., 77 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery. 29th November, 1943. Age 30. Son of Hubert Lee Gay and Ada Adelaide Gay. Column 19.

GAYANA RAM, Rfn., 39394. 6th Bn. 6th Rajputana Rifles. 29th May, 1946. Son of Nathu Ram and Ram Kaudi, of Sgra, Jaipur, India; husband of Hirali, of Sgra. Column 196.

GAY ANG MOH, Clk. Straits Settlements Police Force. 23rd February, 1942. Age 26. Husband of Chua Kim Kee, of Singapore. Interpreter. Column 408.

GAYA PARSHAD, Sep., MT/927870. 28 Indian Inf. Bde. Transport Coy., R.I.A.S.C. 10th June, 1942. Son of Ram Autar and Jaikaur, of Babakapurwa, Fyzabad, India; husband of Lakhpatta, of Babakapurwa. Column 332.

GAY CHWEE SENG, Pte. DAL/19. Dalforce. 15th April, 1942. Son of Neo Peck Leng, of Singapore. Column 397.

GAYLER, Cpl. EDWARD FREDERICK, 5951112. 5th Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regt. 21st September, 1944. Age 30. Husband of Edith May Gayler, of Waterford, Hertfordshire. Column 61.

GAYLU MISTRI, Pnr., 164710. 13th Aux. Bn., Indian Pioneer Corps. 28th November, 1943. Son of Jamni and Hira, of Dhanra, Garhwal, India; husband of Dubli, of Dhanra. Column 363.

GEARY, Gnr. DAVID JAMES, 860820. 9 Coast Regt., Royal Artillery. 16th February, 1942. Age 23. Son of Robert M. Geary and Jane Geary, of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Column 19.

GEARY, Pte. WILLIAM STANLEY, 4857650. 1st Bn. The Leicestershire Regt. 12th February, 1942. Age 27. Son of Charles Herbert and Agnes May Geary, of Leicester. Column 65.

GEASON, Pte. ALAN JOSEPH, TX.3688. A.I.F. 2/40 Bn. Australian Infantry. 24th June, 1944. Age 31. Son of Francis Thomas Geason and Teresa Gertrude Geason, of Deloraine, Tasmania, Australia. Column 133.

GEDDES, Cpl. IAN DOUGLAS, S/3859383. R.A.S.C. 15th March, 1942. Age 24. Son of James and Anna Jeannette Geddes, of Hale, Cheshire. Column 98.

GEE, Capt. REGINALD LAWRENCE, 113035. 11 Bty., 7 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery. 5th March, 1943. Age 40. Son of Mr. and Mrs L. Gee. Column 2.

GEE, Pte. WILLIAM, 4747976. 1/5th Bn. The Sherwood Foresters (Notts. and Derby Regt.). 12th February, 1942. Age 23. Son of John and Clarissa Gee, of Dinnington, Yorkshire. Column 71.

GEELAN, Pte. WILLIAM, NX.67801. A.I.F. 2/19 Bn. Australian Infantry. 4th January, 1945. Age 24. Son of Daniel and Annie Geelan, of Wentworthville, New South Wales, Australia. Column 123.

GEEN, Lt. GARNET HARRY CECIL, 137180. Royal Engineers, seconded to Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners. 14th January, 1942. Column 37.

GEISS, Gnr. JOSEPH GEORGE, 1577720. 7 Coast Regt., Royal Artillery. 12th September, 1944. Age 24. Son of Harry and Emma Eliza Geiss; husband of Dorothy Freda Geiss, of Kenton, Middlesex. Column 19.

GELL, Gnr. WILLIAM PERCY, 1807736. 240 Bty., 77 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery. 29th November, 1943. Age 22. Column 19.

GEMMELL, Lt. RICHARD FRANCIS, 109917. Royal Artillery, attd. 1 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Indian Artillery. 5th March, 1943. Age 26. Son of Francis John and Daisy Gemmell, of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. Column 3.

GENDUT BIN NAWI, Constable, 1944. Federated Malay States Police Force. 14th January, 1943. Age 24. Son of Nawi bin Ngah, of Lubok China, Alor Gajah, Malaya. Column 405.

\* Son of Cyril Osborne  
Gee and Ada Beatrice Gee



# Major Rowland de Putron Guarain

## Family

His mother was Claire Isabel Guarain and his father was Hedley Guarain. Rowland de Putron Guarain was then born on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1908. When he was older he married Marcelle Iris Clisson.

## War Life

Rowland de Putron Guarain joined the Air Force. His rank was major. Major Rowland de Putron Guarain died on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1942 and is buried at Singapore Memorial Column.







Names of persons married.	District.	Vol.	Page.
Gaudin, Edith	Cooksey	8 c	2179
Gaughan, Ann	Mulligan	10 a	2179
— Margaret	Webb	3 a	2162
Gaughran, Elizabeth	Maxwell	8 b	1122
— Patrick W.	Diensthuber	1 a	1685
— Thomas C.	Baker	11 b	616
Gaukroger, Edith	Sheppard	8 b	366
— George F.	Davies	8 c	428
— Margaret	Hegley	9 b	318
Gaul, Bertram G.W.	Hiles	5 c	1127
— Herbert E.	Coleman	8 d	350
Gauld, Wilfred F.B.	Watt	5 c	390
Gaulden, Harold	Evans	8 c	453
Gaulton, Arthur N.	Kitchon	9 a	804
— Catherine S.J.	Dale	6 b	210
— Nellie	Bailey	6 b	670
Gault, Albert W.	Harris	4 a	1821
— Arthur	Hills	3 b	894
— Charles	Fimey	10 a	1315
— Doris M.	Moore	7 b	2250
— Dorothy C.	Knox	9 b	6
— Elizabeth	Marsh	8 e	85
— Eamé	Hall	9 b	1612
— Frank	Fletcher	7 a	1572
— George	Smith	10 a	1547
— George	Garrety	9 a	1087
— George H.	Foster	1 d	3264
— John	Hickman	8 d	1584
— Kenneth	Merritt	9 b	670
— Luther	Pothergill	9 b	1344
— Nellie	Hodgson	1 d	2897
— Stanley W.	Ellis	9 b	1757
— Sylvia	Brocklehurst	7 b	2364
Gauntlett, Arthur H.C.	Kerridge	2 b	1705
— Harry H.	Watson	2 b	1367
— Helen J.	Glynn	2 b	881
— Leonard	Scandrett	6 d	1596
— Leonard C.M.	Baillie	2 a	1724
— Phyllis M.	Brewster	4 a	451
Gauntley, Minnie M.	Bird	7 b	121
Gausby, Lena M.	Griffin	2 a	4718
Gausden, Jeanes F.	Emerson	2 b	181
— John H.	Allen	2 a	3275
— Nellie M.	Bishop	2 a	2946
Gause, Annie	Webster	6 a	2320
Gausem, Christian E. S.F.	Jennett	1 a	579
Gaut, Thomas J.H.	Dawson	7 b	440
Gautier, Renée M.	Hiles	4 a	2673
Gautrey, Grace E.	Norman	3 b	1595
— Phyllis J.	Alsop	3 b	1499
— Reginald J.	Townsend	3 b	255
Gauvain, Rowland De R.	Mitchell	1 a	1599
Gavagan, Frances A.	Lene	7 b	2649
Gavagan, Alice	Mitchell	9 a	664
— Mary J.	Lenaghan	8 c	1130
Gavahan, James	Grogson	8 c	1075
Gavan, Eliza A.	Scholes	8 c	1183
Gavigan, Florence R.	Milner	9 c	1201
Gavin, Albert C.	Morrison or Garnett	8 a	1997
— Barbara M.	Ballantyne	1 a	541
— Catherine	Robinson	8 c	459
— Edith A.	Hewitt	8 a	1183
— Ellen E.	Callegahan	8 b	340
— Esther	Murphy	8 b	1820
— Margaret	Olson	8 b	785
— Margaret M.	Deasley	3 a	459
— Mary H.	Booth	8 a	899
— Sarah	Metcalfe	8 d	1045
— William G.S.	Priest	6 d	459
Gavin-Jones, Rachel	De Bela Brouatie	1 a	1410
Gavins, Fred	Fryer	8 c	1815
Gawn, Thomas	Hobson	9 d	697
Gawth, Doris	Brogden	8 e	57
Gawler, Audrey H.	Todd	2 a	4085
— Charles J.	Meech	2 b	199

Names of persons married.	District.	Vol.	Page.
Gawler, Doris E.	Barker	Essex S.W.	4 a 804
Gawn, Roy H.	Welch	Surrey S.W.	2 a 1975
Gawthorne, Gladys	Redford	Nottingham	7 b 891
Gawthorp, Ethel	Randall	Portsmouth	2 b 1634
Gawthorpe, Albert	Senior	Huddersfield	9 a 1038
— Cisnie	Taylor	Wakefield	9 c 44
— Idilian	Walker	N. Bierley	9 b 36
— Idily	Haynes	Burnley	8 e 501
Gawthrop, Neville L.E.	Mellor	Derby	7 b 1890
Gay, Agnes G.	Snowdon	Southampton	2 c 264
— Charles H.	Harris	Southwark	1 a 176
— Charles L.	Sutton	Bedwelly	11 a 107
— Constance	Waring	Chorley	8 e 1219
— Dora E.	Shuter	Birmingham	6 d 1108
— Edward	Davies	Kingswood	6 a 824
— Edward W.	Day	Weston	5 c 1179
— Emid G.	Evans	Surrey S.W.	2 a 1561
— Evelyn R.	North	Bathavan	9 c 1505
— George C.	Sweeney	Stepney	1 c 533
— George K.	Winepear	Gateshead	10 a 2221
— Gladys M.	Brown	Pontypridd	11 a 1106
— Harold E.	Josty	Yeovil	5 c 864
— Harold E. S.O.	Morris	Croydon	6 d 1750
— Henry T.	Harper	Birmingham	6 d 462
— Ivy	Halleday	Stepney	6 a 432
— Ivy	Harris	Bristol	6 c 119
— James E.	Blow	Southampton	2 c 650
— Joan M.	Marshall	Surrey Mid.E.	2 a 318
— John	Hull	Hewesdale T.	10 b 2069
— John B.	Chelley	Croydon	2 a 3087
— John T.E.	Randall	Dartford	6 a 576
— Joseph	Long	Bristol	4 b 459
— Joyce M.	Barnes	Horwich	7 b 796
— Leonard	Wagstaff	Nottingham	11 a 2761
— Leslie T.	Phillips	Cardiff	6 a 867
— Lillian	Emery	Kingswood	1 b 314
— Lillian E.	Morley	Panora	5 c 922
— Margaret J.	Ayers	Wincanton	11 a 2117
— Mary E.	Carpenter	Brentford	3 a 1201
— Maud L.	Evans	Flymouth	5 b 982
— Phyllis I.M.	Roberts	Birmingham	6 d 763
— Robert A.	Hicks	Weymouth	5 a 1013
— Robert P.	Lambert	Brentford	3 a 555
— Samuel K.	Etherington	Bath	5 c 1599
— Sidney	Tipper	Macclesfield	8 a 575
— Thomas	Cross	Roehford	4 a 2756
— Vivian D.J.	Trussler	Teunton	3 c 679
— William J.	Symons	Barnet	3 a 2512
— Winifred M.A.	Smith	Painstone	9 c 811
Gaydon, Audrey M.	Howe	Ipswich	4 a 5732
Gayfer, Alfred W.	Kerridge	E. Ham	4 a 685
— Phyllis H.	Fisher	Lothianland	4 a 4055
— Sylvia G.M.	Smith	Horwich	4 b 326
Gayford, Lorna M.	Abba	Birmingham	6 d 320
Gayfill, Walter	Craythorne	5 c 860	
Gaylard, Owen L.	Hancock	Barnet	3 a 2379
— Stanley	Simonot	Tondring	4 a 2983
— Vivian L.	Phillips	Swansea	11 a 2508
— Walter T.	Rees	Swansea	5 a 111
Gayler, Ruby H.	Whesler	Battona	1 a 1164
Gaylon, Elsie L.	Bouttoll	Paddington	1 a 351
Gaylor, Douglas G.	Fayne	Southwark	1 d 159
Gaymer, Charles R.	Frost	E. Ham	4 a 522
— John H.	Edgecombe	Manchester N.	8 d 1569
Gayner, Frederick W.	Gee	Middleton	8 d 1827
Gaynor, Elizabeth A.	Feel	Manchester N.	8 d 1569
— Frederick W.	Gee	E. Glamorgan	11 a 1951
— Stanley G.	Froude	Leicester	7 a 597
Gayd, Constance M.	Guy	Manchester N.	8 d 1681
Gayter, Harry	Haycock	Tondring	4 a 2989
Gayter-Smith, Leslie	Hill	Leeds South	9 b 1421
Gayton, Dora	Spink	Northampton	3 b 203
— George A.	Spokee	Birmingham	6 d 1047
— Isla M.	Elliott	Newton A.	5 b 456
— Margaret K.	Potter		

From: **Amanda Little** [alittle910@btinternet.com](mailto:alittle910@btinternet.com)  
Subject:  
Date: 19 July 2017 at 14:43  
To:

GAUVAIN, Major, ROWLAND DE PUTRON, AI/500, 5th Bn., 13th Frontier Force Rifles. 11 February 1942.





**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## Cemetery Details

### SINGAPORE MEMORIAL



**Country:** Singapore  
**Identified Casualties:** 24303  
**GPS CO-Ordinates:** **Longitude:** 103.75813  
**Latitude:** 1.41847

#### Location Information

The Memorial stands in Kranji War Cemetery.

Kranji War Cemetery is 22 kilometres north of the city of Singapore, on the north side of Singapore Island overlooking the Straits of Johore. It is located just to the West of the Singapore-Johore road (Bukit Timah Expressway) on Woodlands Road, just to the south of the crossroads with Turf Club Avenue and Kranji Road. There is a short approach road from the main road.

The Cemetery is known locally as Kranji Memorial, and one must be sure of the address before boarding a taxi as many taxi drivers do not know the Cemetery. There are also bus stops on the main road facing the Cemetery. The Kranji MRT (train) terminal is a short distance from the Cemetery, approximately 10 to 15 minutes away by foot. A previous visitor has advised us that a small map of the route can be obtained from the MRT ticket office.

#### Visiting Information

Kranji War Cemetery, in which the Memorial is located, is constructed on a hill with the means of access being via three flights of steps rising over four metres from the road level, which makes wheelchair access to this site impossible. The cemetery is open 08:00-18:30.

#### Historical Information

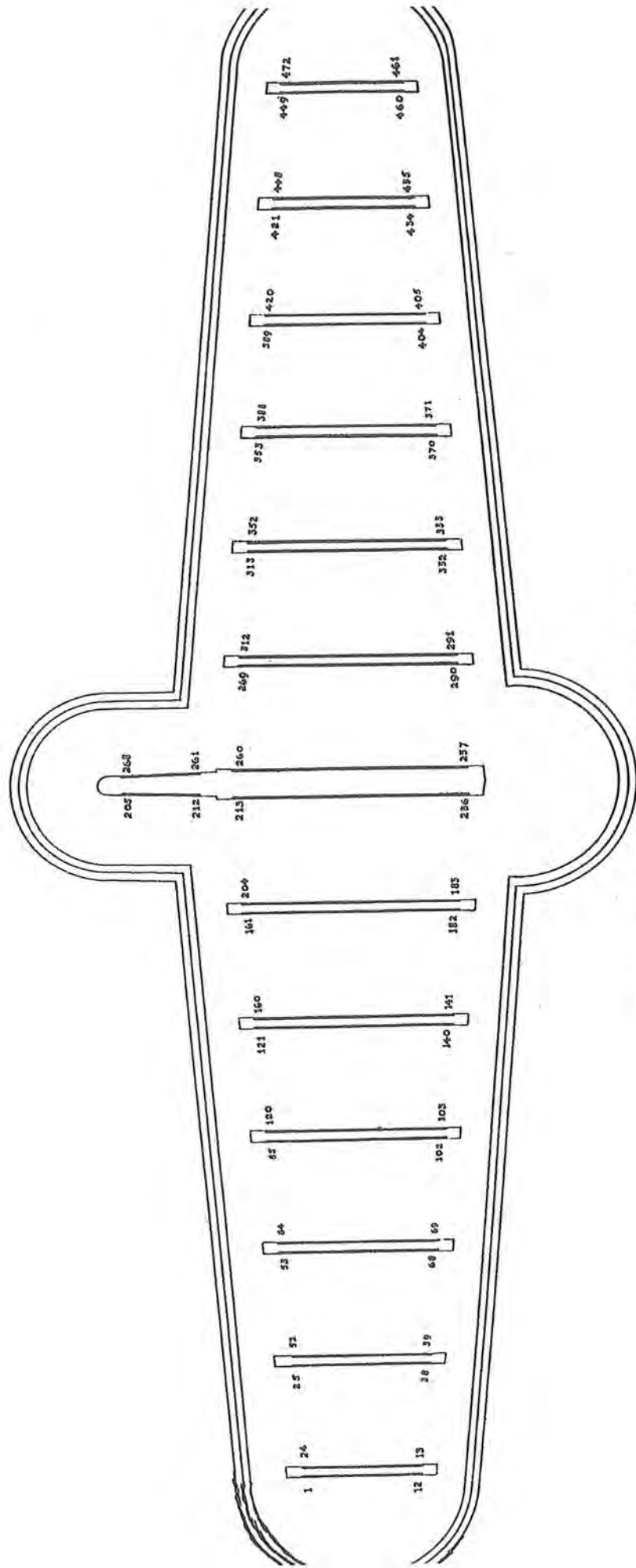
Before 1939 the Kranji area was a military camp and at the time of the Japanese invasion of Malaya, it was the site of a large ammunition magazine. On 8 February 1942, the Japanese crossed the Johore Straits in strength, landing at the mouth of the Kranji River within two miles of the place where the war cemetery now stands. On the evening of 9 February, they launched an attack between the river and the causeway. During the next few days fierce fighting ensued, in many cases hand to hand, until their greatly superior numbers and air strength necessitated a withdrawal.

After the fall of the island, the Japanese established a prisoner of war camp at Kranji and eventually a hospital was organised nearby at Woodlands.

After the reoccupation of Singapore, Kranji War Cemetery was developed from a small cemetery started by the prisoners at Kranji, by the Army Graves Service.

Within Kranji War Cemetery stands the SINGAPORE MEMORIAL, bearing the names of over 24,000 casualties of the Commonwealth land and air forces who have no known grave. Many of these have no known date of death and are accorded within our records the date or period from when they were known to be missing or captured. The land forces commemorated by the memorial died during the campaigns in Malaya and Indonesia or in subsequent captivity, many of them during the construction of the Burma-Thailand railway, or at sea while being transported into imprisonment elsewhere. The memorial also commemorates airmen who died during operations over the whole of southern and eastern Asia and the surrounding seas and oceans.

In addition to the Singapore Memorial, the cemetery also contains the following memorials:-



# THE SINGAPORE MEMORIAL

POSITIONS OF NAME PANELS



Nadia



NAMES  
(In Full, Surname First)

ORBIT, John Austin Lindsay

OFFICIAL  
NUMBER

1294875

Dep. Cal. Form.	Unit From	Unit To	Reason	Checked	Appl.	Date of Movement	Cas. Form Conting. Arrival	Occ. M. Qtrs.	MUSTERING.
									Authy. C. Form. Description and Date of Effect.
	Diston	Diston			13.8.41.				On Entry, ACI/Pilot/Obs. 13.8.41.
	Reserve	Reserve			14.8.41.				
	1 AGRG.	1 AGRG.			4.4.42.				
	ACDW	H	H		18/10/42				13.8.41. Pilot's Certificate No. 4400
	50 GROUP (POOH)	H	H		23/5/42				Pilot 22/1/43
	4588 CANADA	H	H		2/12/42				
	See below								
		H.E.			27/5/43				
		U.K.			4/6/43				
		Y.P.R.C.			6/6/43				
4/43	Y PRC	W(P) AFU			29/6/43				
		9C) OTU.			24/7/43				
		31RD.			11/7/43				
		35 EFTS.			15/7/43				
		32 S FTS.			20/7/43				
		34 S FTS.			20/7/43				
		38 S FTS.			6/2/43				
		32 O.T.U.			3/4/43				
		31 P.D.			12/5/43				
3/43.									
10/43.									
3/43									

PROMOTIONS, RECLASSIFICATIONS, REVERSIONS.

Authy. C. Form.	Description.	Date of Effect.
	AC2	13.8.41.
8/42	LtC.	14.12.42
19/43	T/Sgt	22/1/43

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS. Exams., Courses, Engines, etc.

Authy. C.F. and Date.	Description and Degree of Proficiency or Assessment.
19/43.	Pilots Flying Badge 22/1/43