

PRESS CUTTINGS

- collected by CLIFF SYMES -

During the last war Cliff Symes, the Association Chairman from 1939-1949, kept press cuttings from local newspapers relevant to Old Boys who served in the Forces and the Merchant Navy.

He also kept personal handwritten records of Old Boys which were updated as the news became available. These have been scanned and can be viewed in a separate section of the Archives page.

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TEST PILOT'S M.B.E.



One of the Fleet Air Arm's leading fighter test pilots, Lt. David Paul Adamson, R.N.V.R., of 89, Dyne Road, Kilburn, has been awarded the M.B.E., Military Division, in the New Year's Honours List. He is the son of Mr. David Adamson and the late Mrs. Adamson, 49, Selsdon Road, Cricklewood.

He volunteered for the service when only 17, was accepted on his 18th birthday, and within six months won his wings and was commissioned as a midshipman.

Lt. Adamson has been testing planes for the last two and a half years, with the Experimental Squadron. During this period, all types of Fighter aircraft used by the Navy, passed through this Squadron, and he has had several unenviable experiences, including deck landing crashes and a forced landing in the sea near Worthing. Much has been learnt from his test flights and it is for them that he has been honoured.

He was a pupil at Braintcroft School, before attending Kilburn Grammar School, where he matriculated in 1939. He took a prominent part in school sports, especially swimming. He won the junior championship once and the senior championship three times running. For about 11 years he was a member of the Willesden Swimming Club.

Lt. Adamson served for two years in the Mediterranean and covered the whole of the Middle East campaign. On returning to this country, he took part in many sweeps over France, and helped to protect Southern England from German raids.

MR. DAVID ADAMSON PILOT OF THE FLEET AIR ARM

Commission for Old Grammar School Boy

Past and present students of the Kilburn Grammar School will be pleased to hear that one of the "old boys," David Paul Adamson, has been awarded a commission as Midshipman in the R.N.V.R. (A)—the Fleet Air Arm.

Although born in Blairgourie, a village in Scotland, David was brought up in the Braintcroft area and attended the school there until he entered the Kilburn Grammar School.

Although a keen cricketer, footballer and hockey player, he will best be remembered as a swimmer, as he won the Junior Swimming Championship of Kilburn Grammar School in his second year at school, and afterwards the senior Swimming Championship for three years in succession.

He is a popular member of Willesden Swimming Club, and for the past two years has held the Club's Diving Championship. On three occasions he was runner-up in the Southern Counties Diving Championship.

He matriculated just before the outbreak of war, and when he "joined up" in November he was a part-time member of the staff of the Technical Research Dept. of the British Oxygen Co. attending the London University Classes of Science and Engineering in his spare time.

Although in a reserved occupation he offered his services to the Fleet Air Arm, and a month before his 19th birthday, was awarded his "wings" as a pilot and on Saturday was informed that he had been granted a commission.

He is a son of Mr. David Adamson, 49

Bronze Leaf for Stonebridge L/Sergeant

L/Sergt. Stanley Adamthwaite, whose parents live at 19, Fawood Ave., Stonebridge Park, has been awarded the bronze leaf (mentioned in dispatches) for "distinguished service in the Mediterranean theatre of war operations." He is serving in Italy with the Royal Artillery.

L/Sgt. Adamthwaite, who has been abroad for two years, was born in Kent, but has lived in Willesden since he was three months old. He was educated at the Kilburn Grammar School, and before joining the Army was on the staff of the Gas Light and Coke Co., at Pound Lane.



Bro. Alan Bonnamy

In July, 1937, Bro. G. Byam, J.R. and Trustee of the "Rose of Sharon" Court of Foresters in Trinidad, British West Indies, and an Inspector of Schools, visited England and during his stay in the Motherland he paid an official call on the Court Abbey Foresters, in their Headquarters in Kilburn High Road.

Amongst those who welcomed him was Bro. G. Bonnamy, then Assistant Secretary, and now Secretary of Courts 1940 and 9169 of the Order.

In August, 1942, Bro. Bonnamy's son, Alan, an old Kilburn Grammar School boy and a clerk in the Local Offices of the Middlesex County Council in Willesden Lane, now in the Fleet Air Arm, training to be an observer, returned that visit in Trinidad. He writes most



interestingly of his experiences amongst his fellow Foresters in Trinidad.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF HIS FATHER AND FRIEND.

The first thing he noticed, when he visited the home of Bro. Byam, where the Chief Ranger, S.C.R., the Secretary, and two Trustees as well as the cousin of a famous West Indian cricketer, were there to welcome him, were framed photographs of his father and of Bro. Brewster, P.H.C.R., and Secretary. His hosts showed great interest in Forestry and reported that their Court comprised 300 members, 100 of whom were "active." They showed, too, great faith in the British cause, and were extremely optimistic on the outcome of the war. He added that they drank the health of Mr. and Mrs. Bonnamy and Foresters in London.

VISIT TO LOCAL COURT.

In a subsequent letter, Bro. Alan Bonnamy described his visit to the Court. The proceedings lasted an hour and a half, and he was amazed at the manner in which they were conducted. He added that he was called upon to speak for the Order in England. It was 1 a.m. when the meeting closed and afterwards there were more entertaining and toasts and he was called upon for the second time to reply for the visitors. He eventually reached Bro. Byam's home at 3 a.m.

Councillor's Son Reported Missing

Trooper Norman Alfred Bridges, third son of Councillor Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Bridges, of 23, Anson Road, Cricklewood, has been reported missing, believed to be a prisoner of war, in Libya.

Trooper Bridges, who is 34, is in a South African tank regiment, having volunteered at the outbreak of war. He went to South Africa five years ago and joined his brother, Rodney, becoming supervisor at a gold mine in the Rand. Mr. Rodney Bridges has been in South Africa 15 years and holds an important position with the Central Mining and Investments Corporation in Johannesburg.

26.6.42

Councillor Dr. J. S. Bridges'

18.9.42 Son Safe

News came yesterday to Councillor Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Bridges, of 23 Anson Road, Cricklewood, that their son, Trooper Norman Alfred Bridges, who belongs to a South African Tank Regt., and was reported missing in Libya on June 2, is a prisoner in Italian hands.

They received a postcard from their son, saying that he was well, had not been wounded and was being well-treated.

Trooper Bridges is 34, and went to South Africa five years ago. When war broke out he gave up his job as supervisor of a gold mine and joined the Army. His brother, Mr. Rodney Bridges, has been in Africa for the past 15 years.

14.11.106

C.D. WORKERS' SON MISSING



Sergeant-Navigator Conrad Barnett, of Bomber Command, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Barnett, of 24, Sneyd Road, Cricklewood, has been reported missing in air operations over

Germany in June. He was within a month of his 20th birthday.

Sergeant Barnett was educated at Kilburn Grammar School. After leaving school at the outbreak of war he was engaged

work, and he served as a volunteer messenger in the Willesden Civil Defence Service at Gladstone Division headquarters. Subsequently he became a member of the Home Guard and the Air Training Corps, and joined the R.A.F. at the age of 17.

Sergeant Barnett's parents are well-known and much esteemed members of the Willesden Civil Defence Service, to which they have been attached since February, 1939. His father, Mr. Alfred Barnett, is the Post Warden in charge of Post 12 in the Gladstone Division. In the last war he was a 1st Lieutenant (Acting Captain) in the Suffolk Regiment, serving in the Ypres Salient. Mrs. Alfred Barnett is an ambulance driver at Gladstone Division headquarters.

WILLESDEN COUNCILLOR'S BEREAVEMENT

Dr. J. S. Bridges' Son Dies in Italy

12.3.43

We regret to announce the death of Trooper Norman Alfred Bridges, youngest son of Councillor Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Bridges, of 23, Anson Road, Cricklewood, in the Territorial Hospital, at Bari, Southern Italy. This sad news has just reached his parents, who have



been informed that he is buried in the Altamura Cemetery at the foot of the Apennines.

Trooper Bridges, who was 34 years old, joined the South African Tank Corps at the outbreak of war. He saw service in Egypt and Libya and was captured in June of last year. Three months later a postcard was received from him saying that he was well and unharmed. Further messages were received in February, but last week his parents were informed by the High Commissioner for South Africa that he had died from enteric fever and colitis. Condolences have also been received from General Smuts.

Norman Bridges was born at Clapton, but came to Willesden at an early age. He subsequently attended the Kilburn Grammar School, and, after leaving, qualified as an accountant with distinction in commercial law. He served 12 years with Messrs. Lever Bros., but owing to the great success of his elder brother, Dr. Rodney Bridges, in South Africa, he decided to leave England to join him.

At the outbreak of war he was employed by the Central Mining and Investments Corporation, Johannesburg, as a gold mine supervisor. His brother holds high office with the same firm.

Always a loyal and thoughtful son, his death is keenly felt by his parents and the many friends in Willesden who remember him.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, of Mr. B. A. Bell (Tony), R.N.V.R., to Miss Margaret Florence Buckley, only daughter of Mrs. F. J. Buckley, Bayswater Court, London, W2, and Upton, Torquay. Mr. Bell, who was educated at Kilburn Grammar School and Northampton School, recently received the personal thanks of the Director of Naval Intelligence, and was mentioned in despatches for "distinguished services in connexion with enemy intelligence."

14.7.44

Devised and Compered by
S/LDR. K. L. WARRINGTON

Orchestra under the direction of A/C SIDNEY TORCH.

Orchestrations by GEORGE RECORD.

Stage Manager	Flt. Sgt. TURNBULL
Assist. Stage Manager	A/C MONTY BERMAN
Stage Accompanist	A/C LEN STEVENS
Press Representative	A/C COLIN NEIL MACKAY
Box Office Manager	A/C ANSELL

X KGS OBA

The Entertainment Committee thank Mr. J. H. Clegg, Mr. Clem. Butson and the Tower Company, for their kindness and co-operation.

"Contact" programme - Blackpool.

"Outstanding Courage"

A former Kilburn Grammar School boy, Flight Sergeant Kenneth Arthur Clack, has been awarded the D.F.M. The official announcement of the award says that his "courage and determination have been outstanding."

Flight-Sergt. Clack, who is attached to No. 76 Squadron, has completed many successful sorties, including attacks on targets at Berlin, Mannheim, Stuttgart, and Stettin. One night in April of this year he was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack the German naval base at Trondheim. After releasing the bombs his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, which caused one engine to fail and the bomb doors could not be closed. He succeeded in returning to base and landed safely with the bomb doors still open.

The following night, details the announcement, as his former aircraft was not serviceable, Flight-Sergt. Clack volunteered to fly another aircraft to attack the naval base again. He delivered his bombs successfully and machine-gunned gun emplacements.

Flight-Sergt. Clack was born at Kilburn in 1922, and his home is now at Kenmore Avenue, Kenton. He was a clerk when he enlisted in 1940 for training as a pilot.

TRIBUTE TO CREW.

"Without the help of my fine crew I should never have reached base successfully from the Trondheim flight," Flight-Sergeant Clack told a staff reporter. "I wear the medal although they did all the work."

The crew comprised Pilot Officer R. Waite, second pilot; Flt.-Sergt. R. K. Thomson, a Canadian, navigator; Sergt. R. Williams, of Southampton, wireless operator; Sergt. "Tubby" Lawes, Berkhamsted, flight engineer; Sergt. A. Oram, second wireless operator; and Sergt. K. Payne, rear gunner.

At the age of 19½, Jack W. Collins, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Collins, of 28, Parkside, Cricklewood, has just been gazetted Sub-Lieutenant, R.N.V.R. As he joined the Navy in August, 1942, he now wears the ribbon of the 1939-43 Star.

In his early days at sea he served in convoy escort vessels and aboard an aircraft carrier. He was a member of the crew of a frigate which assisted at the invasion of Sicily and sank a U-boat.

Sub-Lieut. Collins was born in Kensal Rise and educated at Harvist Road and Kilburn Grammar Schools. Before joining the Forces he was in the office of the secretary of the "Daily Mail."



SERV CRICKLEWOOD AIRMAN RECEIVES D.F.M.

H.M. the King, at a recent Investiture, conferred the Distinguished Flying Medal upon Pilot Officer Frederick Percy Denman, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Denman, 113, Gladstone Park Gardens, Cricklewood.

Mr. Denman was a sergeant wireless operator and air gunner when he won the medal in North Africa but subsequently he was given his commission.

Born in Esmond Road, Kilburn, Pilot Officer Denman was first educated at Christ Church School, Willesden Lane, and later won a scholarship to Kilburn Grammar School. Like his father, he became a taxi driver and was stationed in the rank outside Willesden Green Station for some years.

He joined the R.A.F.V.R. in March, 1939, and was called up on the outbreak of war. After training in England he was sent to Africa and has taken part in nearly 80 operational flights over enemy territory. He has been three times wounded and on one occasion had to "bale out."

His younger brother, Joseph, who volunteered when he was 17½ has been in N. Africa for a year. He was educated at Mora Road School and is now a leading aircraftman. The two brothers were in the same Air Squadron for some time.

Their only sister is in the A.T.



D.F.M. FOR KENTON PILOT

BOMBED TRONDHEIM TWO NIGHTS RUNNING

Flight-Sergeant Kenneth Clack, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Clack, of 232, Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, has been awarded the D.F.M. Sergt. Clack, who is 20 years of age, lived in Kenton with his parents for some years; he was educated at Kilburn Grammar School.

Sergt. Clack piloted one of the British bombers which blasted the Nazi naval base at Trondheim on two successive nights in April. On the first night he had no sooner released his bombs than his plane was hit by "flak." One engine failed; the bomb doors would not close. But Sergt. Clack got his crippled plane home and landed safely.

Next night he volunteered to fly another bomber to Trondheim. Again he delivered his bombs successfully and machine-gunned emplacements.

Three other sergeants get the D.F.M., and five officers the D.F.C. for their part in the two-night raids.

According to eye-witnesses, reported from Stockholm, this is what they did: "In face of the strongest 'flak' opposition in the world they left the harbour a sea of flame, destroyed barracks, put the Vearnes airfield out of commission, and imperilled warships, including the Tirpitz, Admiral Scheer and the Prince Eugen."

Three Years In Ceylon

We have received news this week of Sergt. Terry Concanen, of 110, Burnley Road, Dollis Hill, who has been in Ceylon for the past three years, and who, during this period, has regularly received his local news in the form of the



"Willesden Chronicle" and has shared it with comrades from Neasden and Kensal Rise.

Sgt. Concanen, who is in the Royal Engineers, is an old boy of Kilburn Grammar School and during his service overseas has had the pleasure of meeting several of his old schoolfellows. He was also a member of the 16th and 11th Willesden Scouts.

When war broke out he was preparing to sit for the final examination of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, but being a territorial R.E., was called up and went to France in October, 1939. Returning via Dunkirk, he went out to Ceylon in 1942 and has just been awarded a certificate signed by Lieut. General Lee for good services in the engineering field in connection with the erection of S.E.A.C. Headquarters. He has now been posted to Gauhati (Northern Assam) on the road to Burma.

Sgt. Concanen's cousin, George Concanen, another Willesden boy, and a former student at Willesden Technical College and a Willesden Scout, has been a despatch rider with the R.A.F. in the Middle East for the past three years, and is now with a Marine Craft Unit at Port Said. Before volunteering for the R.A.F. he was an assistant to a prominent West End theatre architect, and, among other things, was engaged on the drawings for the Warner Theatre, Leicester Square.

D.F.C. For Old Creightonian

A former Kilburn Grammar School boy, Pilot Officer Stanley Jack Cramp, No. 407 Squadron, has just been awarded the D.F.C. Born in 1918 in Willesden, his home is now at Wembley. He enlisted in 1940 and was commissioned as navigator in 1942.

Pilot Officer Cramp, states the citation, has been engaged continuously on operational flying for over two years. He has completed a very large number of sorties, and, as navigator, has been responsible for locating four dinghies with the subsequent rescue by surface craft of 20 members of air crews.

He has, adds the citation, consistently displayed initiative, keenness and devotion to duty.

Kensal Rise Brothers Behind Scenes in Cairo

The new Victory Club which was recently opened in Cairo for Servicemen and women boasts a complete miniature theatre which two Kensal Rise brothers, now serving overseas, together helped to build. It has a seating capacity of 60 and a stage only 12 metres long.

The brothers, Staff Sergeant Norman Cockayne, and Pte. Eric Cockayne, of 76, College Road, Kensal Rise, began assisting in amateur theatricals with the New Vic Players during Christmas, 1941, and have been behind the scenes of every production since.

This theatre is Cairo's smallest and it has been built to provide first class plays for a rapidly increasing membership.

The brothers are both in the R.A.S.C. Staff Sergeant Cockayne is a former pupil of Haberdashers' School, and Pte. Eric Cockayne was educated at Kilburn Grammar School. Their mother, Mrs. A. Cockayne, lives at 109, Buchanan Gardens, Kensal Rise.

KENSAL RISE PILOT AWARDED D.F.M.

Destroyed Four Enemy Planes in One Attack

Here is a photograph of Sergeant-Pilot R. L. Dovell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Dovell, of 14, Leigh Gardens, Kensal Rise, who has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.



Sergt. Dovell, who served in No. 242 Squadron, whilst on patrol over enemy territory, attacked enemy fighters, which were molesting some of our bombers. He destroyed four of the enemy machines, and by doing so brought his total victories up to at least six. The official report adds that Sergt. Dovell has always displayed great skill and determination in the face of heavy odds.

He was born in 1920 in Rainham Road, Kensal Rise, and educated at Harvist Road Schools, where he won a scholarship to Kilburn Grammar School. He was captain of the Kilburn Grammar School Swimming Club and held the school swimming 'cup' for 18 months. He was also a keen hockey player, and a member of the Willesden Cycling and Swimming Clubs. He joined the 8th Willesden Scouts' Group as a wolf cub and was eventually promoted to Patrol Leader in the

Scouts. He was also a member of the Kensal Rise Aero Club.

When he left school, Sergt. Dovell worked at the American Express Co., in the Haymarket, London. He joined the R.A.F. in August 1940 and obtained his wings 11 months later. He was drafted overseas in November, 1941.

Mr. L. A. Dovell, his father, has been a well known builder and decorator in the district for 21 years. He served in the 7th London Regiment, in France, throughout the last war.

SERVICES COLUMN

KENSAL RISE D.F.M. HELD BY JAPS

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Dovell, of 14 Leigh Gardens, Kensal Rise, have this week received the good news that their son, Sergt.-Pilot R. L. Dovell, who we announced in March, 1941, had received the D.F.M., and who was reported missing from operations in Java on March 25th, 1942, is now a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands at Fukuoka Camp.

Sergt. Dovell received the D.F.M. for destroying four enemy machines. He was serving in No. 242 Squadron in 1941, and while on patrol over enemy territory, he attacked enemy fighters which were molesting some of our bombers. He destroyed four of the enemy machines and by doing so brought his total victories up to at least six. The official report added that Sergeant Dovell had always displayed great skill and determination in the face of heavy odds.

He was born in 1920 and was educated at Harvist Road and Kilburn Grammar Schools.

When he left school Sergeant Dovell worked for the American Express Co., in the Haymarket, London. He



joined the R.A.F. in August, 1940, and obtained his wings 11 months later. He was drafted overseas in November, 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. Dovell wish to thank all their relatives and friends who made enquiries about Sergt. Dovell while he was missing.

Road, Kensal Rise, where he won

Joined R.A.F. to Avenge Niece

From Willesden Chronicle

We record with regret the death, as a result of a flying accident, of Gordon Douglas Herbert Edworthy, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Edworthy, of 325, Church Lane, Kingsbury, who, until he joined the R.A.F. about eight months ago, was a very popular officer



at Willesden Green Police Station. He was 23.

At the time of the accident he needed only another eight hours' flying experience to qualify as a Sergeant-Pilot.

As a member of the Metropolitan Police Force he was not bound to join any of the armed forces, but the death by a Nazi bomb in Kingsbury of a young niece, for whom he had a great affection, so incensed him that he obtained leave to resign from the Force and joined the R.A.F.

Mr. Edworthy was educated at Dudden Hill School and Kilburn Grammar School. While attending the latter his prowess in sport resulted in his becoming Captain for hockey, swimming, cricket and football. Before leaving he passed the Schools' Certificate Examination with credits in French and German.

At the age of 17½ he entered the Police Force as a boy clerk, passing into the uniformed branch when he was 19. For a year he was posted at Peckham and was then sent to Willesden Green. He played football for the "X" Divn. team. His great good nature and friendly temperament made him a host of friends both among his comrades and the public.

His father, who is a retired prison officer and who, for 16 years, carried on a green-grocery business in the Dudden Hill district, is very well known in Willesden.

The funeral took place yesterday (Thursday) at Kingsbury, with military and police honours.

FLT.-SERGT. FLANAGAN**KILLED**

27.8.43
**Former Member of Education
 Office Staff**

Many friends in Kilburn and particularly his fellow members on the staff of Willesden Education Office will regret to learn that Flight-Sergeant Pilot Denis Flanagan has been killed on service a few days before his 29th birthday.



Flight-Sergeant Flanagan was born in Kilburn, and received the first part of his education in the Roman Catholic School in Granville Road. Winning a scholarship he went to Kilburn Grammar School in 1926 and matriculated in 1931. During his last year at school he was captain of Ratcliffe House.

He was a great sportsman and by winning the "Temple Cole" Cup became Junior Athletic school champion in 1928. He also gained his School Colours for rifle shooting and football, and represented the school in boxing and other athletics. For many years he played football for the K.G.S. Old Boys' Association and the Willesden Council Football Club.

On leaving school Flight-Sgt. Flanagan entered the service of Willesden Education Committee.

Soon after war broke out he joined the R.A.F. and was accepted for training as a pilot. He won his "wings" in November, 1941, and from that time had varied duties with Coastal Command, Photographic Reconnaissance and Air Rescue units. He had flown in Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, West Africa, and had been stationed in many parts of the world.

FUNERAL.

The funeral took place in Cambridge with full Air Force honours. The coffin was covered with the Air Force flag and was accompanied by an escort of R.A.F. personnel, including representatives of his squadron. At the close the "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded.

The family mourners included the widow, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Flanagan (parents), Corpl. J. Flanagan (brother), who is also in the Air Force, and Mrs. J. Flanagan, other relatives and friends, and representatives of the R.A.F.

The Willesden Education Committee and staff were represented by Dr. E. Evans (Director of Education), Messrs. Pinkham, Pincott, Garrahan, and Ennis.

A large number of wreaths were sent by members of the family, officers of his Squadron, the Sergeants' Mess, members of his air crew, and of the ground staff, Willesden Borough Council and the staff of the Education Department.

WILLESDEN OFFICER RECEIVES O.B.E.

Former Pupil at Kilburn
Grammar School



The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Grumbridge, of 48, Wrentham Avenue, who have been residents of Willesden for over 40 years, will be pleased to hear of the award of the O.B.E. (Military Division) to their elder son, S/Ldr. J. L. (Jack) Grumbridge, in the New Year's Honours List.

S/Ldr. Grumbridge was educated at Chamberlayne Wood Road School, where he took a scholarship to Kilburn Grammar School. After leaving school to enter the service of the L.M.S. Railway, he won other scholarships as an evening student to the London School of Economics, taking a B.Sc. (Economics) with 1st class Honours and a Ph. D., as well as being Brunel Medallist and Rosebery Prizeman. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Economic Society, Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and an Associate Member of the Institute of Transport.

IN IRAQ AND PERSIA

After being commissioned as an administrative officer in the R.A.F. in 1940, S/Ldr. Grumbridge was posted as adjutant to several units in England before volunteering for overseas service in 1942. For two and a half years he was Senior Movements Staff Officer at Air Headquarters, Iraq and Persia, and subsequently for a short period held the same appointment at Air Headquarters, Levant. Since returning to this country in August, 1945, he has been seconded from the R.A.F. to act as Commercial Assistant for Railway Air Services Ltd., and West Coast Air Services Ltd.

S/Ldr. Grumbridge left Willesden to live in St. Albans, in 1935, but since his return from active service with the R.A.F., is again residing with his parents.

Men Defied U-boat, Refused to Leave

10/27

THEY WENT DOWN WITH SHIP, STILL TAPPING OUT SOS

RADIO OFFICER MAX REGINALD GERARD and his assistant, Edward Russell Campbell, refused to leave their unarmed ship when it was shelled by a U-boat.

The boats with the rest of the crew had just got clear when the submarine surfaced and torpedoed the ship.

Gerard and Campbell, sending out SOS messages to the last, perished when the ship sank.

23 WON MEDALS

Their names appear in yesterday's list of 23 awards of Lloyd's War Medal for bravery at sea. Seven of the recipients lost their lives.

TOTAL SERVICE 28 YEARS

Between them, Stanley and Henry Gowing, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Gowing, of 123, Dawpool Road, Cricklewood, have served 28 years in the R.A.F.

Mr. Stanley Gowing, their younger son, has just received a commission. He is a senior armament instructor in Canada and he joined the R.A.F. on the day the age limit was reduced to 17½, in June, 1935. Prior to the war he served four years in China in the aircraft carrier Eagle. He was educated at Braintcroft School and won a scholarship from there to Kilburn Grammar School.

His brother, F/Lieut. Henry Gowing, returned home after 4½ years' service in Egypt in March. He joined the R.A.F. in 1923, enlisting in boys' service, and was a pilot at the age of 19. Now he is a senior armament instructor and inspector. He was educated at Acton and Chiswick Polytechnic.

Merchant Navy's V.C.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD TO CRICKLEWOOD LAD

The bravery of the late Max Gerard, 18, who lived in Crest Road, Cricklewood, and of his junior, a 16-years-old Blackburn boy, both wireless operators in the cargo steamer "Empire Toucan," resulted in 31 of the crew being saved, although both boys lost their lives.

The ship was in the Atlantic when it was struck by a shell from a German "U" boat. The wireless messages which they sent out resulted in another ship coming to the rescue.

When informed by an officer that the ship was being abandoned, Gerard replied "We are just trying to make sure our S.O.S. is being heard. Give our love to the boys." He added: "Hope we shall be seeing you soon." They went down with the ship, and when last seen were calmly smoking in their cabin.

Lloyd's War Medal, known as the "Merchant Navy's V.C.," has been awarded to Gerard, posthumously, as an acknowledgment of his courage and bravery at sea.

FORMER WILLESDEN WARDEN KILLED

Flt.-Sergt. N. T. Huckle

23.2.44
The funeral took place on Friday at Willesden Cemetery of F/Sgt. Norman Thomas Huckle, aged 21, who was killed recently while on service duties. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Huckle, of 29, Phillimore Gardens, Kensal Rise.



The service in St. Mark's Church, was conducted by Rev. H. Marshall.

Flt. Sgt. Huckle was educated at Furness Road School and Kilburn Grammar School. He was a "King's Scout" and a member of the 7th Willesden Troop. Before joining the R.A.F. in 1941 he had been attached to No. 31 A.R.P. Post since 1939. He obtained his wings in Canada in 1942 and returned to England in 1944 after acting as instructor in Canada for nearly two years.

The mourners were: Mr and Mrs. H. P. Huckle (mother and father), Miss Mary Pound (sister), Mr. and Mrs. F. Lane (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. D. Huckle and Mr. E. Huckle (brothers), Mrs. H. G. Huckle and Mrs. R. Huckle (sisters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. G. Huckle (uncle and aunt), Mr. A. Owers (uncle), Mrs. Gunn, Mrs. Pound, Mrs. Packard, Miss F. Johnson, F/Sgt. S. Robertson, Mr. K. Seal, Mr. Waggett and Mr. Huwars. Also present were a Flight Sergeant representing the R.A.F. at Calveley, and three comrades from "C" Flight, Messrs. Chappell, colleagues from No. 31 A.R.P. Post and other friends.

There was a large number of wreaths, including tributes from his Officers and colleagues and the Wardens at Post No. 31.

The arrangements were made by Messrs. G. P. Burch, of Harlesden. Mr. and Mrs. Huckle and family and Miss Pound wish to express their thanks to all friends for their kindness and sympathy in their bereavement.

23.2.44 SAVED FROM H.M.S. CORNWALL.

News has been received from Mr. H. A. Harwood, of 19 Marian Way, Curzon Crescent, Willesden, that his son, Mr. Dennis Harwood, survived the sinking of H.M.S. Cornwall by enemy aircraft in the Far East.

So far Mr. Harwood has not been informed of his son's whereabouts, and would be grateful for any information which readers might be able to give.

Before the war Mr. Dennis Harwood was well-known in Willesden J.O.C. football. He attended Kilburn Grammar School and was a member of the school's cricket eleven.

After a visit from a Mrs. Stone, in response to Mr. Harwood's appeal through this newspaper. She said that her son was also a survivor of the "Cornwall" and was on the way home, so that it was extremely likely that Dennis Harwood was returning as well.

Mr. and Mrs. Harwood were able to give Mrs. Stone the news that the two young men had made part of their homeward journey together and that her son was probably waiting for her at that moment.

"You can imagine the speed with which she disappeared when we told her," said Mr. Harwood.

21.4.43 K.G.S. OLD BOY'S D.S.C.

Sub. Lt. (A.)

Peter Jones Hutton, R.N.V.R., only son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hutton, of 29, Crest Road, Cricklewood, a naval flyer and a survivor of H.M.S. Aircraft Carrier "Eagle," who has since taken part in more recent operations in the Western Mediterranean has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry in air operations during the passage of an important convoy to Malta.



He is 21 and was educated at Kilburn Grammar School, leaving there in 1937 to join his father's business, Amalgamated Artists, Ltd., to study advertising art and publicity.

Sub-Lt. Hutton joined the Fleet Air Arm in June, 1940. For recreation he swims and plays golf.

4.11.41 CAPT. HAWKSWORTH

A PRISONER

Captain Arthur Walter Hawksworth, who for many years lived in Willesden and latterly at 49, Orchard Close, Alperton, has been reported a prisoner of war. He is 38 years old and was captured in the Middle East.

After receiving his education at the Kilburn Grammar School, he held a position at the Royal Exchange for 20 years. He is married and has a young son.

Dennis Harwood Home Again

19.6.42

Mr. Dennis Harwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Harwood, 19, Marian Way, Curzon Crescent, Willesden, has arrived home from the Far East, where his ship, H.M.S. "Cornwall," was sunk by enemy aircraft.

In our issue of June 5 we announced that he had been rescued, but that his parents had no news of his whereabouts and would be grateful for information.

On the day their son arrived home Mr. and Mrs. Harwood received a visit from a Mrs. Stone, in response to Mr. Harwood's appeal through this newspaper. She said that her son was also a survivor of the "Cornwall" and was on the way home, so that it was extremely likely that Dennis Harwood was returning as well.

Mr. and Mrs. Harwood were able to give Mrs. Stone the news that the two young men had made part of their homeward journey together and that her son was probably waiting for her at that moment.

"You can imagine the speed with which she disappeared when we told her," said Mr. Harwood.

RECOMMENDED FOR U.S.A. AWARD

**Cricklewood Soldier Who Was
at Brest**

17/11/44
A British tank was in trouble. Stuck in a ditch, with Germans all around, the crew of five inside were being slowly suffocated by fumes from a broken fire extinguisher. Their position was desperate, but



then their officer suddenly emerged from the turret, flourished his revolver and called upon the Germans to surrender. And 50 Germans threw up their hands.

This was just one of many incidents in the final assault on Fort Montbary—one of the defences of Brest—which were experienced by one officer and four men in that British tank.

They were acting in co-operation with the Americans and all have now been recommended for American awards. Their officer is recommended for a Silver Star and the men for special citations.

Among the five was L/Cpl. Stanley Harris, 20-year-old only child of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Harris, of 128 Anson Road, Cricklewood.

L/Cpl. Harris, who is in the Royal Armoured Corps, was born in Bronesbury, and was educated at Kilburn Grammar School and Mercer's School. In his school days he was a keen member of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers Cadet Corps, and on leaving school, in January, 1943, he immediately volunteered for the Army. He went to France on D-Day plus 7.

14.4.44
The baby son of Lt.-Commander W. E. Hood, R.N.V.R., and Mrs. Hood, of 2, Tudor Gardens, Kingsbury, was christened William John at St. Andrew's Church, Kingsbury, on Easter Sunday. The family are well known in Willesden business circles. Before the war Lieut.-Com. Hood, who is an old boy of Kilburn Grammar School, was a keen amateur racing motorist and airman.

Gallantry Commended

30/3/45
Capt. Dennis A. Jacobson, Intelligence Corps, has been mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in Italy.

The second son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Jacobson, of 19, Exeter Road, Brondesbury, Capt. Jacobson has lived in the district since he was 12. He was educated at Kilburn Grammar School.

Until they were bombed out in 1941 Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson lived at 26, Mapesbury Road.

Captain H. J. James

25.2.45
The many friends of Mr. Hy. Thomas James, R.A., will be pleased to know that he has been promoted to the rank of captain. After serving abroad, Captain James is now enjoying a brief spell of leave at his home, 84, Bathurst Gardens, Kensal Rise.

Captain James is an old boy of Kilburn Grammar School.



6/11/42
Recently returned to England from America, where he was awarded his R.A.F. pilot's wings, is Pilot Officer Charles Frederick James, son of Mr. J. C. James, who formerly lived in Harlesden, but who now lives at North Wembley.

P/O. James was born in Harlesden 26 years ago, and resided in the district for the greater part of that time.

He received his education at Leopold Road School and Kilburn Grammar School. Keen interest was shown by him in his school work, and in representing his House (Radcliffe) in music, cricket, football, etc. He played the violin in the school orchestra. He also was a member of the choir of St. Matthew's Church, Harlesden, for some years.

After leaving school he became a clerk in the City.

He joined the Welch Regiment in May, 1940, and being interested in music he took a leading part in the organising of regimental dances, at which he was the pianist.

THE ATLANTIC CROSSING.

In June, 1941, he transferred to the Royal Air Force for training as a pilot, and left England in November for Canada. On the voyage during which he took part in ship's concerts, he met Professor Julian Huxley, of the Brains Trust, Mr. Howard Marshall (formerly of the B.B.C.), and Mr. Milton Krims, American commentator, by whom the concerts were organised.

Sergt. James (as he then was) and a friend, made several piano and trumpet broadcasts from an air station in New Brunswick.

Just before Christmas he went to Alabama, where he was attached to the American Army Air Corps for training. His training was continued in Florida, and he also did some more broadcasting, and in spare time played in the Manhattan Club Band at Sarasota.

At the beginning of March he returned to Canada. While they were waiting at Washington for a change of trains, an American Officer insisted on James and his companion seeing the White House. He motored them there and showed them round the famous building.

Back in Canada the Royal Canadian Air Force asked Pilot Officer James to take up training as a navigator; he did so, and in his final examinations was placed fourth with a percentage of 80, the first candidate attaining 83 per cent. He was handed his wings by the Premier of New Brunswick.

After the examinations he enjoyed a short leave in New York, and then returned to England after 10 months' absence.

He spoke well of the way British serving men are received and treated in America and Canada.



Italian Somaliland 1942
N.J. LEA

Labuan is only 30 square miles in area, and is a British Crown Colony 725 miles from the Straits Settlements.

Capt. Lofty's Company, the 134 Indian Infantry Workshops Company, has set up its work benches near a sun-drenched beach washed by the thundering surf of the China Sea.

Captain Lofty, a six-footer, aged 22, joined the Forces three years ago and spent most of his earlier service with the A.A. Command. All through the heavy London blitzes he helped repair and service guns and vehicles and worked on the Pile Portable Platform, a device which helped to beat the buzz bombs. In November, 1944, he sailed for India and soon after flew into Burma. Joining 33 Corps just before Mandalay, he and his Indian mechanics were responsible for maintaining the Corps transport during the rapid advance to Rangoon.

Before joining the Army, Captain Lofty was employed as an electrical engineer at the Finchley Borough Council's Power Station, and was a member of the Home Guard. He was educated at Kilburn Grammar School, and at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, and finally at the Oldham (Lancs.) Technical College. He is a graduate of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. While at Oldham he won a prize known as "The Platt Token of Respect," presented annually to the two best pupils of the Technical College. He is expecting to be home on a month's leave soon, his parents told our reporter.

Captain Lofty's father, Mr. Harvey Lofty, served in the R.A. during the Great War.

PILOT OFFICER L. LANE

KILLED

30/4/43
Was at School When War Began

Pilot Officer Lewis Lane, R.A.F.V.R., third son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Lane, 54 Connaught Road, Harlesden, has been killed on service. He was only 19 years of age. Born on April 29th, 1923, he was educated first at Harlesden Council School, and afterwards at Kilburn Grammar School. He was evacuated to Northampton and helped to establish Youth House there.

On leaving school he was employed by Messrs. Hogg, Bullimore and Co., chartered accountants, with whom he remained until he volunteered for the R.A.F. He was secretary of his Street Fire Party until he joined up.

Mr. Lane went to South Africa to train as observer, but won his pilot's wings and returned to England as a Pilot Officer.

At the funeral at Willesden Cemetery the service was attended by Mr. Russon, and was attended by many relatives and friends, the R.A.F. being represented by Flight-Lieut. Rogers.

Wreaths, flowers or donations to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, were sent by: Father and Mother; Albert and Elsie; Ralph and Celia; Hilda, David and Alan; Molly; Uncle Sid; Aunt Ruby, Uncle Cecil and Beryl; Aunt Bessie; Aunt Rose and family; Aunt Daisy and Uncle George; Arthur, Laura and Sylvia; Ted, Ruby and Joan; Vera and Jack; Fire Watchers of Connaught Road; Mr. and Mrs. Adams; Mr. and Mrs. Beer; Cissie, Grace, Lily and Winnie; Nurse Greenway; Mr. and Mrs. Hall and family; Mr. and Mrs. Hardman; Messrs. Hogg, Bullimore and Co.; Staff and Employees of Maygrove Motors; Mr. and Mrs. Moreton and Miss Nicholas; Mr. and Mrs. Morton and Pamela; Mrs. Nicholls, Stanley and Rose; The Pain family; and 27 Connaught Road.

Funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Burch, Harlesden.

The parents and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and many expressions of sympathy, lovely floral tributes and donations to be sent to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund.

Member of Town Clerk's Staff Captured

28/5/43
Private Frank Miles, R.A.O.C., of 70, Mora Road, Cricklewood, has been reported a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands following the fall of Singapore.



He was very well known in the district and was a popular member on the staff of the Town Clerk's department at Willesden Town Hall, where he organised a cycling club among the other members of the staff.

He was educated at Kilburn Grammar School. He joined the Army in November, 1940, was sent abroad in December, 1941, and was reported missing in March, 1942.

Mrs. Miles received the news of her husband's safety on Thursday.

He married Miss Sones, of Canterbury Terrace, in December, 1939. Mr. Miles, senior, who has now left the district, was formerly very well known in Cricklewood for his work in connection with East Willesden Conservative Association.

WILLESDEN COUNCILLOR'S SON PROMOTED

11/8/44
Captain H. T. Marshall

Captain Hector T. Marshall, a son of Councillor and Mrs. H. C. Marshall, of Kenneth Crescent, Willesden, received the news of his promotion to his present rank while in hospital in Italy suffering from malaria.

In the R.A.S.C., and at one time as transport officer for the R.A.M.C., he has served on several fronts since the war began. He was in France at the beginning and was evacuated from Dunkirk. Since then he has visited 14 countries, including Africa, India, Persia, and Palestine. He landed with the Army that invaded Sicily. Then he went into Italy. Next he landed on the beach at Anzio. He took part in the crossing of the Guada Canal and in the triumphant entry into Rome.

Captain Marshall was educated at the High School, Hawick, Scotland, and at Kilburn Grammar School. He is married and has one daughter.

His brother, Eric, is in the R.A.F. In Canada he passed out as an observer a year ago and then crashed in a Halifax bomber, breaking his leg. He developed heart and nerve trouble and is now on the staff of the Air Training School in Canada.

31/9/43 SERVICE

DOLLIS HILL FLYER MISSING



Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Moore, of 57, Dewsbury Road, Dollis Hill, received news on Wednesday that their only son, Sergeant-Pilot H. A. Moore, had been reported missing from his 21st operational flight over the Continent. He was flying a Stirling bomber.

In September, 1942, a year after joining the R.A.F., he won his wings in the U.S.A. He had recently been recommended for a commission and would shortly have been given a rest from operations.

Before entering the Service he was a member of the staff of the Public Assistance Office of Middlesex County Council. For some time he was choir leader at Neasden Methodist Church, of which he was elected a trustee after he had sailed for America. He was also a lieutenant in the 72nd Company of the Boys' Brigade attached to St. George's Presbyterian Church, Willesden Lane.

The many friends in Willesden of Mr. and Mrs. Moore will look forward eagerly to news of Sgt.-Pilot Moore's safety.

Mr. W. A. Moore is a member of Willesden West Rotary Club, and a Willesden school attendance officer.

LAWRENCE ARTHUR ORCHARD

The death of Laurie Orchard, in action, on September 6th, 1944, robs us all of a great friend, and St. Catherine's Church of a devoted member.

Laurie first joined the Choir as a boy in 1929, and from the first took a very active interest in both the Church and social life at St. Catherine's. The Young People's Guild, and the Tennis Club, both of which he was secretary, owed much to his untiring zeal and organising ability, and the Dramatic Society also had his strong support. He became a member of the Parochial Church Council at the early age of 21, and was also a very keen sidesman.

The wide circle of people whom he made contact with at St. Catherine's, at Kilburn Grammar School, in business, and in XI Hussars, have all lost a great friend. Our hearts go out in sympathy to his sorrowing parents and fiancée. None of us will ever forget him. During his hard and bitter experiences in the Western Desert and Italy, and in France, his faith, developed from early childhood, and for which he was ever thankful, was always a source of great strength and comfort to him. Let us who remain ensure that those who follow him are blessed with that same faith, and let us pray that he may not have died in vain.

GEORGE ROBINSON

CRICKLEWOOD PILOT KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE



A month after his 21st birthday, Sgt. Pilot Anthony Charles Perrin, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Perrin, of 55, Paddock Road, Cricklewood, has been killed on active service.

Sgt. Pilot Perrin joined the R.A.F. in September, 1941, and obtained his wings in November, 1942, in Canada. On his return to England, he was posted to Fighter Command. Educated at Kilburn Grammar School and Willesden Technical College, he left school at the outbreak of war and was employed in the Ministry of Works and Buildings drawing office. He and his brother Leonard, who is now in the Fleet Air Arm overseas, were both members of the 37th Willesden Scout Group.

The funeral took place on Friday, a service at St. Catherine's Church, Neasden, conducted by the Rev. C. S. Crowson, being followed by the interment in Kingsbury Cemetery.

The mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Perrin (parents), Misses C. and E. Perrin (sisters), Mr. F. Halfacre (grandfather), Sgt. Pilot J. Oxley (friend), Mrs. R. Roberts (aunt), Miss B. Roberts (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. J. Perrin (uncle and aunt), L. A. W. D. Perrin (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. M. Perrin (uncle and aunt), Miss E. Perrin (cousin), Mrs. S. Hutton (aunt), Mrs. G. Dickinson (aunt), Mrs. A. Endersby (aunt), Mr. and Mrs. Luxon, the Misses V. and D. Luxon (friends), Mr. Walter and Sgt. Pilot J. Maslin (representing the 37th Scout Group).

Wreaths were sent by: Mum, Dad, Connie, Eileen and Len; Grandfather; Grandma; Auntie Flo, Uncle Bob, Vera and Doris; Auntie Rosa, Uncle Steve; Kathleen and Derek; Auntie Lizzie, Uncle Mac; Edna; Auntie Jennie, Uncle Jack, Vera and Doreen; Auntie Maud and Uncle Tom; Betty, Gracie, Muriel and Tom; Auntie Emie and family; Auntie Ethel and family; Auntie Lizzie and Uncle George; Auntie Emie, Kath and Len and Doris; Uncle Bert and Auntie Nell; Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Frances; Mr. and Mrs. Bates, Ted and Ron; Henry; Geoff and Mr. Peet; Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and Spud; Ron; Neighbours and friends; Mr. and Mrs. Wright; Gillian, Phillip and Freddie; Mr. and Mrs. Hayward and Mrs. Sore; Mr. and Mrs. Henderson and Mary; Mr. and Mrs. Sanders; Dorothy, Tom, Lilian and Billie; Mr. and Mrs. Franceschi and family; Iris, Jean and Mr. Bradford; Mr. and Mrs. Escott; Mr. and Mrs. Monton and Joan; Mrs. Gould, Amy and Eileen; General Office, British Jaeger Instruments; Works Office, A.B.E.L. Ltd.; Messrs. Dutton and Brasier; Employees, Messrs. Ed. Holtom Ltd.; Mr. L. Sawyer; Mr. and Mrs. Warner; Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Green; Mr. and Mrs. Jarrett and Mr. and Mrs. Barton; Mr. and Mrs. Sharnan and family; Anonymous; Commanding Officer and Officers, R.A.F. Station; Warrant Officers and N.C.O.'s; Airmen; and 37th Group Braintercote Scouts.

Neighbours and friends have also sent three parcels to the Prisoners-of-War Fund in memory of Sgt. Pilot Perrin.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by J. Nodes and Co., of Neasden.

Mr. and Mrs. Perrin and family wish to thank all friends and neighbours for flowers and messages of sympathy sent in their sad bereavement.

KENSAL RISE MAN WINS M.M.

A former Kilburn Grammar School boy, L/Sgt. Athro Pettersson, of 3, Chevening Road, Kensal Rise, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry during the fighting in Normandy.



Aged 33, L/Sgt. Pettersson is in the Royal Artillery and landed in France on D-Day. He has since been fighting in both Belgium and Holland but is now back in this country. He joined the Army four years ago and has served in Iraq, Egypt and Sicily.

A married man with three children, he is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Pettersson, who formerly lived for many years in Milman Road, Kensal Rise.

Before the war, L/Sgt. Pettersson was employed by a well-known local firm of estate agents.

Now a Pilot Officer

Twenty-four-year-old Edward L. Pierce, of 231, Chapter Road, Willesden, has now been commissioned as Pilot Officer in the R.A.F. A former pupil of Kilburn Grammar School and Scholarship winner from Duden Hill School, Pilot Officer Pierce



joined the R.A.F. Medical Corps in 1938 and began his training as a navigator last year.

Operations

PILOT WHO FOLLOWED IN HIS BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

His many friends in the district will learn with regret that Sergt. Pilot J. M. ("Jock") Pinkham, R.A.F., son of Mr. Philip I. Pinkham, Chief Clerk of the Willesden Education Department, and of Mrs. Pinkham, of 6, Rosedale Drive, Kingsbury, has been reported missing after carrying out bombing operations.



His elder brother, Squadron Leader Philip Campbell Pinkham, A.F.C., was killed in action last September during the Battle of Britain.

A great-nephew of the late Sir Charles Pinkham, "Jock" Pinkham joined the Royal Air Force last July and in due course qualified for his "wings." He was posted to a Bomber Squadron, where within a short time he was appointed first pilot and captain of a bomber crew.

He took part in many of the recent heavy raids on Germany and the occupied countries, and was as keen as mustard on his job.

Educated at Kilburn Grammar School, Sergt. Pilot Pinkham celebrated his 21st birthday last week. His twin brother, Anthony, is troop commander of an A.A. Battery.

50-27/4 A Pinkham

His younger brother, Bombardier Antony, age 20, joined his father's old regiment, now converted to an Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Tank Regiment, before the war. He went to France with the B.E.F., and after some hair-raising experiences managed to escape from the beaches around St. Valerie by the skin of his teeth. Antony used to play centre-forward for Golder Green, and still holds several K.G.S sports records.

From Wilt. Chron. July 1940
Symes Promoted Lieut 4/41.
Married 12/4/41.

"Jock" Pinkham, his hopes to follow in the footsteps of his eldest brother, and has joined the R.A.F. as pupil pilot.

All three of Mr. Pinkham's sons were Kilburn Grammar boys. Their mother is in uniform, being a nurse in the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

J.M. Chron. July 1940

SGT.-PILOT PINKHAM SAFE

Wil. Chron
11/7/41

Missing--Now Reported Prisoner

When in our issue of June 13, we announced that Sergt.-Pilot J. M. ("Jock") Pinkham, son of Mr. Philip I. Pinkham, Chief Clerk at Willesden Education Office, had been reported missing following bombing operations, we expressed the hope that his parents would soon have happier news of him. That news has now come through.



From the young man's father we have received the following letter, dated July 5th:—

"I have received great news to-day that my son, Jock, has been traced and is now a prisoner of war. I have no details yet, but I know that you will share the joy which the news has brought to my family and me." It is great news indeed and we would like to join with their numerous friends and relatives in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Pinkham upon it.

Educated at Kilburn Grammar School

CAPT. ANTHONY PINKHAM AWARDED M.C.

6/7/45
"Gallant and Distinguished
Service" in Italy

Capt. Anthony Irving Pinkham, R.A., son of Lt. Philip I. Pinkham, R.N.V.R., Chief Clerk in Willesden Education Dept., and Mrs. Pinkham, and a great nephew of the late Sir Charles Pinkham, has been awarded the Military Cross for "gallant and distinguished service" in Italy.



Aged 25, Capt. Pinkham was educated at Kilburn Grammar School. Before being called up on the outbreak of war as a member of the City of London Yeomanry, he was on the staff of the Valuer's Department, Middlesex County Council. He was attached to a light anti-aircraft unit when he went to France in 1940. About a month later he was in the evacuation from St. Va'ery.

In 1941 he was granted his commission and was sent to the Middle East in 1942. He served with the Eighth Army in the North African campaign.

Before the war Capt. Pinkham played in the forward line for Golders Green Football Club. He was married in 1941 and lives at Harrow.

His twin brother, Sergt. Pilot J. M. ("Jock") Pinkham, R.A.F., was repatriated in April from a prisoner of war camp in Germany, where he had been since 1941. Their elder brother, Squadron Leader P. C. Pinkham, A.F.C., was killed in action in September, 1940, during the "Battle of Britain."

Throughout the war Mrs. Pinkham, senior, has been engaged on nursing and Civil Defence work in Wembley.

A Gallant Officer

IN these days of tragedy, when sorrow follows swiftly on the heels of another, we see from time to time one incident which stands clear cut against the background of war, and which seems to epitomise the grief that all the nation is suffering. The whole tragedy of war seemed very close to those who this week stood beside the grave of Squadron Leader P. C. Pinkham, the gallant young Willesden airman who, but a few weeks before had been honoured by the King with the award of the Air Force Cross. Now he has joined the band of valiant and immortal young men who have died that their country might live, who have gladly and willingly made the supreme sacrifice to stem the onslaught of a brutal and ruthless foe to whom not even the lives of babies and old people are sacred.

This brilliant boy, who achieved distinction in his school days, and afterwards in his career in the Royal Air Force; this boy bearing an honoured name in Willesden, is only one of a band of glorious heroes who have meant so much to England in these fateful days. Their sacrifice can never be forgotten, their fame will ring down the ages long after the horrors of the war have become blurred with the passing of time.

In this story of gallant heroism here is a new incentive to the people of Willesden to give quickly the war-plane they have promised to the Government. And incidentally what more appropriate than that plane, the gift of our people, should be dedicated to the memory of Tommy Pinkham whose name and that of the Borough of Willesden it should bear as under the guidance of those who follow in the footsteps of the heroes who have gone before them, it sets forth on its mission to destroy the evil and savagery that has brought such mis- and disaster to Europe.

HEROIC AIRMAN KIL

From *Willesden Education* - 13.1
SQUADRON LEADER PHILIP
PINKHAM.



A wide circle of friends will learn with sorrow and regret that Squadron Leader Philip Campbell Pinkham (affectionately known as "Tommy"), son of Mr. Philip I. Pinkham, of the Willesden Education Department, residing at 6 Rosedale Drive, Kingsbury, and Mrs. Pinkham, and great nephew of the late Sir Charles Pinkham, was killed in air combat last week.

He was educated at Kilburn Grammar School (1926-1932) and on leaving there joined the City of London Yeomanry and became the prize recruit of his year. In 1933 he joined the R.A.F. as Pilot Officer, and at the outbreak of war was in charge of an important flying training school. At his own request he was transferred to a Fighter Squadron of which he was given the command. He was then the youngest Squadron Commander in the country and recently was awarded the D.F.C. in the King's Birthday Honours List. He also received high commendations from the Polish and Finnish Governments.

Now he has been killed in air combat defending his country against the brutal Nazi invaders. "Tommy," as he was always known to his family and friends, died a gallant and courageous death. Whilst on patrol he, with other of his squadron, came into contact with a greatly superior force of enemy bombers and fighters. Having broken up the formation he attacked a number of enemy planes, during which he got into cross fire and sustained mortal wounds. Although he bled out he had not the strength to pull the release cords of his parachute and crashed to his death.

The heroic death of so distinguished and gallant an airman is deeply regretted, and deep sympathy has been extended to his bereaved parents in their loss.

Mrs. Pinkham, his mother, was a nurse in the St. John Ambulance Brigade, his brother is in his father's Regiment, now converted to anti-aircraft and anti-tank work, and yet another brother is a pupil pilot in the R.A.F.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral was at St. Andrew's, Kingsbury, on Tuesday afternoon, and as the coffin entered the Church the sirens sounded for an air raid. The clergyman, in accordance with the instructions of the Bishop, announced that the Church was not an air raid shelter and invited those who wished to do so to leave. No one did so. The relatives, standing before the coffin of the dead officer, were informed that the front part of the Church was the most dangerous and they were advised to move to the rear of the building. The mourners remained in their place facing the coffin and the service proceeded. As the funeral service drew to a close the "Raiders Past" was sounded, the last notes dying away on a mournful wail which gave a touch of drama to the tragic scene. Born in air raid, this boy had given his life for his country in air combat, his coffin had been bombed as it was brought to his home, and his funeral took place between an air raid warning and the "All Clear."

The service was impressively conducted by the Rev. Mr. Bridgewater. The coffin was covered with the Air Force flag and was followed by the father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Philip I. Pinkham, the dead officer's twin brothers (Sergt. A. I. Pinkham, R.A., and Cadet Pilot J. M. Pinkham, R.A.F.), both of whom were in uniform, Mrs. S. Bowyer (sister) and Mr. S. Bowyer, Miss Molly Pinkham (sister), Mr. Charles Pinkham (grandfather), Mr. Charles Pinkham, M.A., (uncle), Mr. Charles Pinkham, Misses M. R. and W. Campbell (aunts), Mr. and Mrs. Cutcliffe, Mrs. Reavill, Mrs. Wicks, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Campbell, etc.

Others present were Dr. E. Davies (Willesden Education Offices), Alderman Prothero, J.P. (Chairman, Willesden Education Committee), Alderman and Mrs. Percy Bond, Councillor Arthur Jones, Flying Officer Russell Budd and a Padre from the late officer's squadron, Mr. A. W. Kent, B.Sc. (Wembley Education Officer), Dr. Rich. Messrs. Robertson and Flanagan (from the Willesden Education Office), several representatives of the Braintcroft Women's Conservative Association, Mr. and Mrs. Hilton, Mr. and Mrs. Skipp, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Tudor Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, etc.

Many more friends assembled in the Churchyard for the committal service, and it was a moving scene when the brothers in uniform came to the salute as the coffin was lowered into the grave and the relatives took their farewell of the gallant young officer, left at rest in the old Churchyard on the site where the Roman legions once encamped when they invaded these islands.

Wreaths were sent by Mother and Father; Twin Brothers, Jack and Art; Bobby (sister) and John; Molly (sister); Brother Officers at — "who knew and loved him so well"; Officers and other ranks of 19th Squadron; Station C.O. and other ranks of R.A.F. at —; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pinkham (grandparents); Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pinkham (cousin); the Campbell Family, Gordon; Auntie Eva, Joyce, Una (of Goring), Dora (of Canada), and Uncle Charlie; The Education Department, Dyne Road; The Directors, Management and Staff of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office; Miss Bailey; Mr. and Mrs. Eric Jache; Mr. and Mrs. Angers and family; Mr. and Mrs. Pearce and Girlie; Mr. and Mrs. A. Bulgin and family; Mrs. C. Holman; Mr. and Mrs. P. Samuels; Mrs. and Miss F. M. Northmore; Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Bell and Noel; The Worth family and Douglas (H.M.S. "Somali"); Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harvey; Mr. H. Bain; Mr. and Mrs. Stokes and family; Mr. and Mrs. Henwood; Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Ayres; Veronica; Mr. and Mrs. Hansen and daughter; Members of the Missionary Study Circle.

AIR MARSHAL'S TRIBUTE.

Air Vice-Marshal T. Leigh-Mallory has written to Squadron Commander Pinkham's parents: "He was a fearless leader and a first-rate Squadron Commander, beloved by all those under him. In him the Service has lost an exceptionally promising young officer."

D.S.O. FOR OLD KILBURN GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOY

Wrl. Chron—20-9-41

Lieut.-Cmdr. H. M. C. Sanders, R.N.E. who has been awarded the D.S.O. "for enterprise, skill and devotion to duty in action against enemy submarines," is an old Kilburn Grammar School boy.

He gained the D.S.C. last November for similar services and qualified for and received the Reserve Decoration in May this year.

He is the son of Mr. H. J. Sanders, B.Sc. for many years on the staff of Kensal Rise Council School and the Willesden Central School.

Lieut.-Cmdr. Sanders left Kilburn Grammar School in 1915 to go to the "Corvay." He served in the Great War as a shipman.

SUBMARINE HUNTER GETS D.S.C. & D.S.O.

Old Boy of Kilburn Grammar School

In command of a corvette, H.M.S. "Gladiolis," which was lost in October last year with all hands, was Lt.-Commander Harold Marcus Sanders, an old boy of Kilburn Grammar School. At a recent investiture Mrs. H. M. Sanders, his widow, received from the hands of the King the D.S.C. and the D.S.O., which were both posthumously awarded to her husband for action against enemy submarines.

Lt.-Commander Sanders, who was 41, had been at sea since he left school. He was in the Royal Naval Reserve and before the war served in the liner the "Empress of Britain." When war was declared he was immediately called into the Royal Navy and after a few months' training went on convoy work. He was awarded the Reserve Medal,

and later took over the command of the corvette "Gladiolis." He was awarded the D.S.O. when the vessel sank a submarine with depth charges, and the D.S.C. when she sank two submarines by gunfire. In one action also the corvette sank two submarines in 48 hours.

He and his wife had made their home at Southampton. His father, Mr. H. J. Sanders, was a schoolmaster at Harvist Road and Pound Lane Central Schools. The family lived for over 30 years in Holland Road, Harlesden.

Mrs. H. M. Sanders was informed that her husband was missing in October last year. Later he was reported "presumed dead." No news of how the "Gladiolis" was lost has been published.

I hear that Radio Officer Jack Salter, a former Kilburn Grammar School boy, has just reached his home, Park View, 141, Chevening Road, Brondesbury Park, after exciting adventure. He was serving as Radio Officer on ship of the Merchant Navy which has been sunk by enemy action in the North Atlantic, and was picked up by a naval vessel after 62 hours in an open boat.

He entered the Merchant Navy direct from Kilburn Grammar School in 1935.

Fusilier's Commission

An "old boy" of Geneva House School, Shoot-up Hill, and of Kilburn Grammar School, and subsequently a graduate of Queen's College, Oxford, Mr. Leonard N. Sklowe, Royal Fusiliers, has received his commission. He has seen service in the North Africa, the Middle East, and in the Central Mediterranean theatres of war.

Aged 21 years, he is the only son of Mr. B. Sklowe, a senior warden in the Gladstone Division of Willesden Civil Defence Service, and of Mrs. Sklowe, Exeter Road, Brondesbury.

He married Joan, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Shackman, of Willesden.

BROTHERS' RE-UNION SMILES

20/27



Two Willesden brothers, the younger of whom has a wife and daughter, aged six living at Shrewsbury Road, Stonebridge, have met and spent seven days leave together in India.

The younger brother is L.A.C. John Allan Stevens, aged 33, and he has served 10 months in India with the R.A.F. His brother, Gunner Edward E. Stevens, aged 36, of the Royal Artillery, who before joining-up lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Stevens, at Fleetwood Road, Dollis Hill, has served over a year abroad.

Before enlisting 3½ years ago, L.A.C. Stevens was employed as a decorator with a firm at Harrow. He was educated at St. Andrew's School, Willesden Green.

Gunner Stevens, who was educated at Kilburn Grammar School, was a traveller. He has served four years in the Forces.

Accompanying the letter telling Mrs. J. A. Stevens the good news of the meeting was the photograph which is printed above. It was taken in Calcutta, where the brothers spent their leave.

Wilkesden Pilot's "Distinguished Service"

16-6-43



Pictured here is F/O. V. J. Sumpter, R.A.F.V.R., 27 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Sumpter, of 11 Eric Road, Willesden, who was mentioned in despatches in January for distinguished service.

Flying Officer Sumpter joined the R.A.F. in August, 1940, and won his wings the following year as a sergeant pilot. He was commissioned in December, 1941. Posted to 1st Fighter Command Squadron, he has since seen continuous service in Britain.

He was educated at Kilburn Grammar School, and prior to war engineering was employed by R. Royce.

Flying Officer Sumpter's sister, Lance-Corporal S. M. Sumpter, joined the A.T.S. last December and is serving with an anti-aircraft squadron, a senior warden.

Neasden Sailor Reported Missing

FORMERLY A COUNCIL CLERK

A former Willesden Borough Council clerk, Mr. Frederick Chester Stallwood, 24-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Stallwood, of 75, Ballogie Avenue, Neasden, who joined the Navy last year, has been reported as missing. He was in H.M.S. "Exmoor," the loss of which was announced on Saturday.

Born at Kensington, Mr. Stallwood went to Stonebridge School, from where won a scholarship to Kilburn Grammar School. A keen athlete, he was senior athletic champion of the School in final year, 1935. He was head boy 1934-35, hockey captain, vice-captain Ellis House, and secretary of the Music and German Societies. On the scholastic side he secured matriculation and also the Higher School Certificate Inter R.Sc. (Econ) and won have sat for his final this year had war intervened.

ATTACHED TO FIRE BRIGADE.

After leaving school he went to Shole Mental Colony as stewards' clerk, afterwards joined the clerical staff of Willesden Borough Council. He was attached to the Fire Brigade, with whom he became very popular.

Mr. Stallwood was for some years member of the 1st Harlesden Company, the Boys' Brigade and the Company representative at the 50th anniversary of Brigade formation at Glasgow. He was the Brigade as a staff sergeant on reaching the age limit. He then joined Scout movement, becoming scoutmaster of the 12th Willesden (St. Mary's) Troop.

He joined the Navy last August and drafted to H.M.S. "Exmoor" some months later. He had learned to live a sailor's life and just recently was pointed acting schoolmaster.

His many friends in Willesden will be glad that news of his safety will soon be forthcoming.

Now a Major

Mr. Reginald John Saunders, who is serving in the R.A.O.C., has been promoted to the rank of major at the age of 32. He is a son of the late Councillor J. J. Saunders, and of Mrs. Saunders, 52, Dewsbury Rd., Dollis Hill.

He was born in Willesden and educated at Kilburn Grammar School. A motor car salesman in peace time, he volunteered for the Army before war broke out. He and his wife have made their home at Virginia Water.

Major Saunders has two brothers in the services. One is a prisoner of war and the other is in the R.A.F.



K.G.S. OLD BOY KILLED IN FLYING ACCIDENT

Served in Britain, Iceland and
West Indies

We announce with regret the death in a flying accident in Scotland of F/Lieut. R. A. Shrubbs, O.A., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Shrubbs, late of 78, Hardinge Road, Kensal Rise, and now living at 71, Manor Road North, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey.

F/Lieut. Shrubbs was born at Guildford, Surrey, in 1915. In 1927 his parents moved to N.W. London, and he attended Kilburn Grammar School, where he matriculated. On leaving school he was articled to a London firm of chartered accountants, gaining his final certificate in 1938.

He joined the R.A.F. in 1940, trained as an observer, and was commissioned with Coastal Command. He served in the United Kingdom, Iceland and the West Indies. On January 29 this year he married Cpl. Brenda Smith, W.A.A.F., of Lenzie, Glasgow.

At the funeral at Thames Ditton Parish Church, the service was conducted by the Rev. H. J. Vallins, of St. Christopher's, Hinchley Wood, Esher.

The chief mourners were Mrs. Shrubbs (widow), Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Shrubbs (parents), Mr. K. F. Shrubbs (brother), Mrs. D. B. Smith, F.Lt. Gooch (representing R.A.F.), Mrs. G. Shrubbs (aunt), Miss B. Shrubbs (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Blackman (uncle and aunt), and Mr. A. Blackman (cousin).

The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Shrubbs, L/Cpl. H. G. Shrubbs, R.A.S.C., aged 21 years, died suddenly at New Delhi, India, on June 16, 1944.

From Wil. Chron. 28/6/40

21/27

Mr. Jimmy Saunders, the eldest son of Councillor and Mrs. Saunders, has been missing in France for several weeks. All their friends will join with me in hoping that they have good news before long.

From Wil. Chron. July, 1940.

NO NEWS OF COUNCILLOR SAUNDERS' SON.

We regret to learn that there is yet no news of Mr. Jimmy Saunders, the eldest son of Councillor and Mrs. J. J. Saunders, of 52, Dewsbury Road, Dollis Hill, who has been missing for some weeks. He was serving in France and went out to rescue some wounded men. Shortly afterwards, a shell exploded, and it is not known whether he was killed or injured, or whether he is a prisoner of war. He was a very popular young man and was well-known in many Willesden circles.

Councillor and Mrs. Saunders are grateful to all those who have sent messages of sympathy with them in their time of anxiety and worry, and their numerous friends hope that they will soon receive good news of Jimmy.

From Wil. Chron. 28/6/40

MR. "JIMMY" SAUNDERS A PRISONER.

Councillor and Mrs. J. J. Saunders, of 52, Dewsbury Road, Dollis Hill, have heard from the War Office that their eldest son, Mr. "Jimmy" Saunders, who has been missing for nearly 11 weeks has been missing. He is a prisoner of war in Germany. Their long period of anxiety and worry as to their son's fate—it was reported that he was killed—is now over. Councillor and Mrs. Saunders are keenly appreciative of all the sympathy and kindness which have been shown them in their time of anxiety, and wish to thank their numerous friends for their consideration and sympathy.

Three Willesden Officers in Same Unit



Lieut. H. F. di Marco, Major R. J. Saunders and Capt. D. Walsh.

Pictured here are Lieut. H. F. di Marco, Major R. J. Saunders, and Capt. D. Wash, who have been serving together for some months in the same unit in North-West Europe. They are all Willesden residents and the photo was taken to mark the occasion.

Major Saunders is the second son of the late Councillor J. Saunders, and of Mrs. Saunders, Dewsbury Road, Dollis Hill. Born in Willesden, Major Saunders was first educated at Griffin House School, in Christchurch Avenue, and afterwards at the Kilburn Grammar School. He was at first employed by a firm in the City, but afterwards entered the motor trade.

A member of the Territorial Army, he was called up on the outbreak of war and has served in several theatres of war. He was in the

evacuation from Dunkirk. In his younger days he was an active member of St. Gabriel's, Cricklewood, Group of Scouts. His brother, George, is a radio officer, now attached to the R.A.F.

Capt. D. Wash is the fifth son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wash, who resided in Ilex Road, Willesden, for many years. Captain Wash enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1927 and has served continuously since. Although settled in Sheerness, Capt. Wash still has many friends and relations in Willesden.

Lieut. di Marco, who for many years resided in St. Paul's Avenue, Willesden Green, knew Major Saunders when he was a member of the St. Gabriel's Scout Troop. He had not met Major Saunders for a long time until he joined the same unit some time ago.



LESLIE + CYRIL SMITH

Missing in Burma

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Sandley, of 90 Sellons Avenue, Harlesden, have received official notification that their son, Signaller Maxwell B. Sandley (R.C.S.) is missing in Burma.

A keen peace time Territorial, Signaller Sandley was educated at the Keble Memorial and Kilburn Grammar Schools. He gave up a promising business career to join the Royal Corps of Signals in 1938 and saw service in France. He was in the last ship to leave Cherbourg during the British evacuation of France and was afterwards sent with his regiment to the Middle East. His parents have received news from him since April, 1942, when he was commissioned with the rank of

Major Stuart Killed in Action

Major A. J. Stuart, an assistant master at Kilburn Grammar School, was killed in action in July, 1944.

Neasden Air Gunner Failed to Return



We regret that Sergeant Paul R. Trevayne, a rear gunner-wireless operator in the R.A.F., and the eldest of the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. R. Trevayne, 13 Park View Road, Neasden, has been reported missing after operations over Germany during this month.

It was his 20th flight over enemy territory. He was wounded in one of the heavy raids on Rostock in April, 1942. Last December, returning from a raid, the pilot was unable to land Sergeant Trevayne's aircraft owing to its damaged condition. The entire crew baled out and Sergeant Trevayne landed on Ascot Race Course.

He joined the R.A.F. in October, 1940. For some time after qualifying to serve in an air crew he was in the same squadron as Sergeant Middleton, V.C., and was a personal friend of his. Recently he had been posted to a squadron composed mainly of New Zealanders.

On leaving Kilburn Grammar School he joined the staff of Glyn Mills and Co., bankers, of Lombard Street.

19.3.43

50-27/4
28/4 - to J. From Wil. Chron. 15/6/

Lance/Cpl. Uridge

We deeply regret to announce the death of Lance-Corporal Roy Uridge, of the R.A.M.C., while on active service in France. He was educated at the Gibbons Road and Kilburn Grammar Schools, where he matriculated. Only last year he gained his Inter-B.Sc. He was an active member of the Harlesden Congregational Church where he was a prominent member of the choir and a Sunday School teacher. On leaving school he entered the service of the Gas Light and Coke Coy., and was employed at their Harlesden office. Roy Uridge was 21 years of age, and had been in France since last November. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Uridge, who reside at 13 West Hill, Wembley, and wife of Deacon Road, Willesden. He was a very promising lad and never happier than when he was helping other people. He loved everything that was beautiful. All who knew him will sympathise with his parents in their irreparable loss.



D WOODMAN STANDING SECOND RIGHT

At Johnstone House, Belfast, on July 30, Mrs. Woodman (nee James), wife of Telegraphist D. W. G. Woodman, R.N., gave birth to a daughter. Mr. Woodman is serving in H.M.S. "Tracker." Before entering the Navy he was a master at Kilburn Grammar School. While the school was evacuated at Northampton he formed Youth House, Northampton, for local secondary school pupils.

Council Officer Wins B.E.M.



A member of the Willesden Council Electricity Department staff before he joined the Army, S.Q.M.S. Douglas R. Woodman has been awarded the British Empire Medal, Military Division.

The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Woodman, of 128, Leghorn Rd., Halesden, S.Q.M.S. Woodman is serving at the 21st Army Group Headquarters and in the words of the official citation has been honoured for "distinguished service in the north-west theatre of operations."

Educated at Funness Road and Kilburn Grammar Schools, he is a member of St. Luke's Church, Old Oak Lane, and was for some years secretary of the Youth Fellowship there. He entered the Army in August, 1940, joining the R.A.S.C. He is married and has one son, aged 11 months.

MR. D. W. J. WOODMAN JOINS NAVY

From
L.H. Chron
Play
4/1.

His Work for Youth

Mr. Donald W. J. Woodman, Classics and Divinity Master at Kilburn Grammar School, and founder of Youth House, the Club for Willesden Secondary School boys and girls evacuated to Northampton, has been accepted for the Royal Navy, and began his training yesterday (Thursday). He hopes to become a telegraphist.

His departure will be a sad loss to Youth House, but he assured me, writes a staff reporter, that through its competent and keen committee of boys and girls it almost runs itself and with Mr. G. F. Carpenter, another Kilburn Grammar School master, to give them that little extra guidance it needs from the older generation, it cannot but continue its successful career. A re-union is to be held there this weekend and former members are coming from a wide area to take part in it. Some, who have managed to get a week's holiday, are spending it at Northampton and making the re-union the first event.

OLD K.G.S. BOY.

Mr. Woodman is an old boy of Kilburn Grammar School and has been a master there for about five years. To outsiders he is perhaps best known as the producer of the excellent programmes given every year in peace time by the dramatic society he formed among the members of the junior school. He has formed another Society at Northampton. Among its members are many who took part in the productions of the former juniors.

Youth House was opened in November 1939. Mr. Woodman hopes it will continue its work in Willesden after the war, when he feels it will be quite as useful, if not more useful than it is now.

ONE GOOD TURN . . .

"We always welcome Northampton boys and girls there," he said. "They throw open their homes to us, and the least we can do is to throw open our club to them."

He is looking forward to service in the Navy as a new experience. He thinks that to have the close contact with me that it will give him will help to equip him for more work with young people when he returns to civil life.

We should like to join with all Youth House members and friends and boys of Kilburn Grammar School in wishing him good luck and a speedy and safe return.

POSTHUMOUS DECORATION FOR NAVAL OFFICER

From *W. L. O. Wray*. 23/5/41
Sub-Lieut. Wray Awarded D.S.C.
for Bravery



Amongst the awards given for "out-standing courage and skill in the brilliant and wholly successful night attack by the Fleet Air Arm on the Italian Fleet at Taranto on November 11 and 12" is the Distinguished Service Cross to Sub-Lieut. Antony (Tony) L. O. Wray, R.N.V.R., formerly of H.M.S. "Illustrious," who was killed in action. He is the only member of the R.N.V.R. to be decorated in the Taranto action.

The late Lieut. Wray was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. O. Wray, of 10, Tanfield Avenue, Neasden, was born in Willesden and educated in the Kilburn Grammar School.

He was a member of the staff of the Willesden Public Health Department until he joined the Fleet Air Arm and had been for nearly two years in the Navy. He was a particularly keen officer.

He was a founder member of the 17th Willesden (St. Gabriel's, Cricklewood) Group of Scouts, and his name appears on the Roll of Honour in their Scouts Hall.

His father is an ex-officer of the old Royal Flying Corps and served throughout the last war.

His many friends in the locality will be glad to learn of this deserved honour which has been paid to his memory.

YOU CAN HELP
BY RETURNING ALL
BOTTLES WITH
Labels
Labels are many.
Works Canteens,
demand by M
d

Mr. Tony Wray Killed on the "Illustrious"

The death is announced of a very gallant and heroic young naval officer, who was killed in action on H.M.S. "Illustrious," during the recent dive bombing attack by enemy planes on a convoy in the Mediterranean.

He was Sub-Lieut. Antony (Tony) L. O. Wray, R.N.V.R., of the Fleet Air Arm, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. O. Wray, of 93, Tanfield Avenue, Neasden, who have been prominent residents of the locality for many years. He was a grandson of the late Mr. Bell, and Mrs. Bell, and a nephew of Mrs. Stanley Knott and the Misses Bell, the well known teachers of dancing, an honoured family who resided in Heber Road, Cricklewood, for very many years, before they moved to Neasden, and now they are temporarily living in Wembley.

EDUCATED IN KILBURN.

Only 23 years of age, the deceased young officer was born in Willesden and was educated in the Kilburn Grammar School, where he matriculated. On leaving School he became a member of the staff of the Public Health Department, under Dr. Buchan, until he joined the Fleet Air Arm. He had been for nearly two years in the Navy and was in the bombing raid on Taranto, before he took an active part in the action in which he was unfortunately killed. He loved his ship and was particularly keen on his work in the Navy.

Whilst in Willesden, he was a very active Scout and was a founder member of St. Gabriel's (Cricklewood) Troop—the 17th Willesden—one of the best known and most flourishing Groups in the district, and his name appears on the Roll of Honour in their Scouts' Hall. He will be a great loss to the movement, in which he took a prominent part for many years.

A great worker in everything that he undertook, he was particularly jolly and popular and a wide circle of relatives and friends will mourn his untimely, but very gallant, end.

His father is an ex-officer of the Royal Flying Corps and served through the last war. To him and to Mrs. Wray, and the other members of the family, will go out the sincerest sympathy from a wide circle of friends.

H.M. The King has sent a letter of sympathy in the following terms:—"Buckingham Palace.—The Queen and I offer you



our heartfelt sympathy in your great sorrow. We pray that your country's gratitude for a life so nobly given in its service may bring you some measure of consolation.—George, R.I."

Other letters have been received from Dr. Buchan, Mr. Gibb, Mr. A. C. Ma (Mayor of Wembley), Women's Voluntary Service (in which his mother, Mrs. Wray, is a well known worker), Councillor N. Freeman (cousin), and many other friends and well-wishers to whom the family offer their grateful thanks.

A telegram was also received from brother, Denys, serving with the R.N. abroad.

VICAR'S TRIBUTE.

At the memorial service on Sunday the late Lord Baden Powell, Founder of the Scout movement, held in the St. Cuthbert's Scouts' Hall, Chichele Road, Wembley (Rev. W. I. Bulman, M.A.) made sympathetic references to the death of Sub-Lieut. Wray and referred to his interest in their Church of which he had for long been a member, and in its Scout movement, for which he did so much. The hymn "Fight the good fight" was ordered.



The late Sub-Lt. TONY WRAY, D.S.C.

Awarded D.F.M. March '41

D.F.M. FOR WILLESDEN AIRMAN

First of Council Staff to be Decorated



F/Sgt. G. V. WEDLOCK
(D.F.M.)



"I AM ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES, SO MANY MEN DESERVE IT BUT NEVER GET IT"—THAT WAS THE MODEST REPLY OF FLIGHT-SERGT. GORDON VICTOR WEDLOCK, OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, WHO IS ONLY 22, WHEN HE WAS CONGRATULATED BY ONE OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES, AT AN INTERVIEW ON MONDAY, UPON BEING AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL FOR AN ACT OF GREAT BRAVERY.

Although born in West End Lane, West Hampstead, Flight-Sergt. Wedlock lived with his parents for many years in Homestead Park, Dollis Hill Lane, Willesden. He received the first part of his education in Dudden Hill School under Mr. J. Kelly, now a member of the Middlesex County Council. On winning a scholarship he went to the Kilburn Grammar School where he matriculated.

VISITING FORMER COLLEAGUES.

In 1936 he joined the staff of the Willesden Electricity Department, and worked in the offices in Willesden Lane until he was called up, and it was there that our reporter saw him. Having a week's leave in honour of the award, Flight-Sergt. Wedlock was visiting his old colleagues, who warmly congratulated him on the distinction that he had won. Mr. Spark, the Electrical Engineer, too, is very proud of the honour which has been so deservedly bestowed upon one of "his boys," especially as he is the first member of the Council staff to be decorated.

FAMILY AND FLYING.

The love of flying seems to be in the blood of the family. Flight-Sergt. Wedlock's father was in the Royal Flying Corps during the last war, when aircraft was in its infancy.

Bleriot, the first man to fly the Channel, only accomplished his feat in 1909.

Kenneth, his brother, is an aircraftsman in the R.A.F., another brother, William, is in the R.A.F., and his married sister is engaged on R.A.F. work in Ealing. Flight-Sergt. Wedlock joined the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve in 1937, and spent his evenings and week-ends learning all about flying and aircraft. When war broke out he was called up and became a navigator in long range fighters. He has been

engaged in what he described as "many sorties" all over the Continent, and has flown many times over Germany, France and Denmark.

GALLANTRY IN OPERATIONS.

The medal was awarded for gallantry in a series of operations, which culminated in his safely navigating his machine back to its base, after an encounter with German aircraft, in which his pilot was wounded whilst flying over enemy territory. In addition to navigating the aeroplane he had to render first-aid to the injured pilot, by applying a tourniquet to the wound, which was bleeding profusely. He was a somewhat heavy man, and having slumped forward, the difficulty of rendering effective aid was all the greater. Had he fallen over the controls there was every likelihood that the plane would have crashed.

By his skill, endurance, courage and coolness, Flight-Sergt. Wedlock accomplished his double task, and brought the plane safely to earth. It was considered a great feat.

FIRST NEWS OF HONOUR.

The first intimation of the honour awarded to him was received from another Pilot with whom he was flying, who congratulated him.

The wounded officer was given the D.F.C.

The Air Chief Marshal of the Central Command has also sent a letter of congratulation, as well as the officer whom he so gallantly assisted.

Flight-Sergt. Wedlock has been appointed an instructor to observers in England.

In the presence of his proud parents, H.M. the King presented him with the medal so worthily won at a recent Investiture in Buckingham Palace.