

Codford St. Mary's
New Churchyard Graves
(ANZAC Cemetery)



Lest we Forget

Brig. RUSSELL FRANK MAYNARD M.B.E.

Born 23rd Dec 1940

Gave his life

15th July 1988

ne obliviscaris

*A Headstone for Brig. Russell Frank Maynard M.B.E. is located in Local Section of
Codford St. Mary's New Churchyard – ANZAC Cemetery
(see Map by Brian Marshall)*

Russell Frank Maynard

Russell Frank Maynard was born on 23rd December, 1940 in Rhanikhet Station, India to parents Frederick William & Florence Maynard (nee Smith). Frederick William Maynard was Sergeant, 8th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. A birth was registered in 1941 for Frank R Maynard at Ranikhet Station in Indian Subcontinent.

Russell Frank Maynard was baptised on 19th January, 1941 at St. Peter's Church, Ranikhet, India.

Officer Cadet Russell Frank Maynard (465801) from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, of Royal Corps of Signals, was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 23rd July, 1960. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 4th October, 1960 Page 6695).

2nd Lieutenant R. F. Maynard (465801) of Royal Corps of Signals was promoted to Lieutenant 23rd June, 1962. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 23rd January, 1962 Page 587).

Lieutenant R. F. Maynard (465801) of Royal Corps of Signals was promoted to Captain on 23rd July, 1966. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 22nd July, 1966 Page 8266).

Russell Frank Maynard married Marguerite I. Bedwell in the September quarter 1969 in the registration district of Poole, Dorset.

Lt.-Col. R. F. Maynard (465801) of Royal Corps of Signals was promoted to Colonel on 31st December, 1972, with seniority 30th June, 1972. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 2nd January, 1973 Page 92).

Major Russell Frank Maynard (465801) of Royal Corps of Signals was presented with an M.B.E. – Most Excellent Order of the British Empire – “To be Ordinary Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order”. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 14th June, 1975 Page 7374).

Major R. F. Maynard M.B.E. (465801) of Royal Corps of Signals was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on 30th June, 1978. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 11th July, 1978 Page 8325).

Lieutenant-Colonel Russell Frank Maynard, M.B.E. (465801) of Royal Corps of Signals was mentioned in Despatches. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 15th June, 1982 Page 7886).

Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Maynard M.B.E. (465801) of Royal Signals was promoted to Colonel on 30th June, 1982. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 20th July, 1982 Page 9458).

Colonel R.F. Maynard, M.B.E. (465801), Regular Army, late R. Signals was promoted to Brigadier on 31st December, 1985, with seniority 30th June, 1985. (Source: Supplement to London Gazette 14th January, 1986 Page 557).

Brigadier General Russell Frank Maynard was drowned at a beach at Fregene, near Rome, Italy on 15th July, 1988. Brigadier General Maynard & a Dutch Army Officer both went to the rescue of a group of teenagers who were caught in strong sea currents. Unfortunately both men were overcome by fatigue & both drowned. Brigadier General Maynard and Colonel Niels Thorn were both aged 47.

A death was registered for Russell Frank Maynard in 1988 in Rome, Italy.

Brigadier General Russell Maynard M.B.E. was posthumously awarded the Medaglia Civile Di Valori (Italian Medal for Civil Valour) by the Italian Government for his heroic action. The citation reads “Alerted by cries of help, he did not hesitate to dive into the sea to go to the rescue of six young people who were about to drown. General Maynard succeeded in saving the lives of all the young people but, overcome by fatigue, was himself swept away by the waves and drowned. He sacrificed his own life for the most noble ideal of altruism and human solidarity”.

Russell Maynard had lived at St. Mary’s Old Rectory since 1981, with his wife Marguerite and his children Matthew and Rebecca.



Medaglia Civile Di Valori

Newspaper Reports

Officers Drowned

Brigadier Russell Maynard, of the Royal Corps of Signals, and a Danish Colonel drowned yesterday trying to rescue Italian children in strong sea currents north of Rome.

Brigadier Maynard, aged 48, and Colonel Erik Niels Thorn, aged 47, who were with the NATO Defence College in Rome, died off a military beach at Fregene, 25 miles north of the capital. The children survived.

The Brigadier, whose wife was at the beach, was attending a senior officers’ course.

(*The Times*, (London, England) Saturday, July 16, 1988)

NATO Officers drown in rescue attempt

ROME – A British Brigadier general and a Danish lieutenant colonel drowned while attempting to rescue several children who were caught in rough surf off a beach south of Rome, authorities reported today.

A spokesman for the NATO Defense College in Rome, where the two victims were enrolled in a course, identified the officers as Brig. Gen. Russell Maynard from southern England and Lt. Col. Niels Erik Thorn of the Danish Army.

He said the two officers and several colleagues and their families were having a barbecue on a beach at Fregene when the children got caught in the surf.

He said lifeguards and members of the beach party pulled the children safely to shore.

(*The Gadsen Times*, July 17, 1988)

Death Notice

MAYNARD – On July 15th Brigadier Russell Frank Maynard M.B.E. (late Royal Signals), tragically drowned in Italy. Much loved husband of Marguerite, and father of Matthew and Rebecca. Family Service on Tuesday 26th July. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Save The Children Fund. Memorial service to be held in late September, details to be announced.

(*The Times*, (London, England) Saturday, July 23, 1988)

Family donate rare medal to Museum

Major Matt Maynard, on behalf of the family of the late Brigadier Russell Frank Maynard MBE, presented his rare “Italian Medal for Civil Valour” medal to the Master of Signals on behalf of the Museum.

Brigadier Russell Frank Maynard MBE was born in Rhanikhet Station, India, in 1940 to an Army family. He attended Campbell College, Welbeck College and Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1960.

During his career he served in several theatres worldwide including Commanding 661 Signal Troop aboard the assault ship HMS Intrepid and 4th Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron in Germany and was Commander Communications in Northern Ireland on Op Banner where he was mentioned in Despatches. In 1985 he was promoted to Brigadier and assumed command of

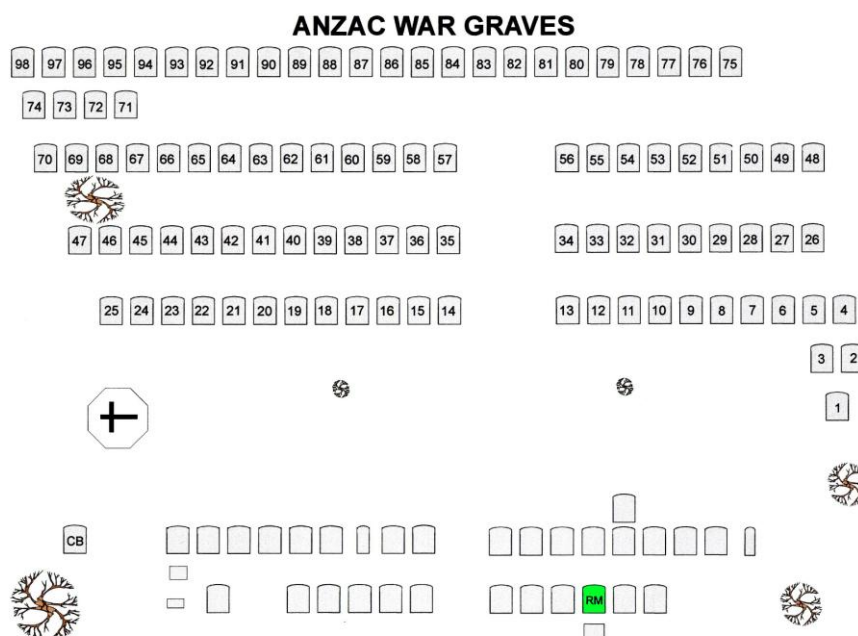
Catterick Garrison and the Royal Signals Training Group from his brother, Brigadier Roy Maynard. This was a unique event in both Corps and Army history. From Catterick he was posted to the NATO Staff College in Rome.

On 15th July 1988, Brigadier Maynard was relaxing at a beach near Fregene, Rome, when several children got into difficulties in the water. Brigadier Maynard, along with several other officers rushed into the water to save them.

“Alerted by cries for help, he did not hesitate, together with another military officer, to dive into the sea to go the rescue of six young people who, because of the adverse weather and sea conditions, were about to drown. General Maynard [sic] generously succeeded in saving the lives of all the young people but, overcome by fatigue, was himself swept away by the waves and drowned. He sacrificed his own life for the most noble ideals of altruism and human solidarity.”

Tragically Brigadier Maynard and a Danish officer, Colonel Niels Thorn, both drowned rescuing the children. As a result of their gallant actions, they were both awarded the Medaglia Civile di Valore. The medal is Italy’s Highest Decoration for Civil Bravery and is equivalent to the British George Cross.

(The Journal of the Royal Signals Institution, Volume XXXI, Issue 1)



Codford War Graves map by Brian Marshall – courtesy of Romy Wyeth

Highlighted RM – Brig. Russell Frank Maynard’s headstone

2 Photos of Brig. Russell Frank Maynard's Headstone at Codford St. Mary's New Churchyard – ANZAC Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)

Information obtained from the British Library India Office, The London Gazette, The Times Newspaper, The Gadsden Times, The Journal of the Royal Signals Institution magazine – Summer 2012, Romy Wyeth – Codford, Wiltshire