

Codford

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War II



180302 LIEUTENANT

GUY NAPIER WESTLEY

YORK AND LANCASTER REGIMENT

6th JUNE, 1944 AGE 25

In Loving Memory

Of Our Darling Son

Who Left The Argentine

June 1940

Guy Napier WESTLEY

Guy Napier Westley was born on 5th October, 1919 at Haywards Heath, Sussex to parents William & Lillian Westley (nee Richardson). His birth was registered in the district of Reigate in the December quarter, 1919.

The UK Outward passenger Lists for 1921 show Guy Westley as a 2 year old passenger travelling to Buenos Aires, Argentina with his family aboard the *Highland Laddie*. The family consisted of Louisa Westley (Home Duties, aged 64), Lillian Westley (Guy's mother, aged 24) Barry Westley (Guy's older brother, aged 4 ½) then Guy & David Westley (Guy's younger brother, aged 1). The *Highland Laddie* had departed from London, England on 1st December, 1921.

The UK Incoming Passenger Lists for 1926 show Guy Westley as a 7 year old passenger travelling to the Port of Liverpool, England with his family aboard the *Desna*, which had left Buenos Aires, Argentina & had arrived at the Port of Liverpool on 4th September, 1926. The family were listed as First Class British Passengers & consisted of – William Westley (Guy's father, a Civil Engineer, aged 43), Lillian M. Westley (aged 29), Barry Westley (aged 9), then Guy, David Westley (aged 5) & Louisa Westley (aged 67, no occupation of 58 Abingdon St, Northampton). The Family's proposed address in the UK was Royal Colonial Ind, Northumberland Ave, London. The Family had listed the country of last permanent residence as Uruguay.

Guy Westley attended Greshams School, Norfolk in 1933 & became friends with Arthur Meyrick, the son of the Rector of St. Peter's Church at Codford, in 1934. Guy & younger brother David spent their holidays with the Meyrick family at St. Peter's Rectory, where they played tennis, socialised and enjoyed the rural lifestyle. After leaving school in 1936, Guy returned to Buenos Aires to become a dairy farmer.

Guy Westley returned to England & enlisted in the Black Watch Territorial Army on 20th August, 1940. He was posted to the Infantry Training Centre & was then posted to 163rd Officer Cadet Training Unit on 12th January, 1941. Guy was discharged on 28th March & the next day was appointed an Emergency Commission as 2nd Lieut. P/180302 in the York & Lancaster regiment.

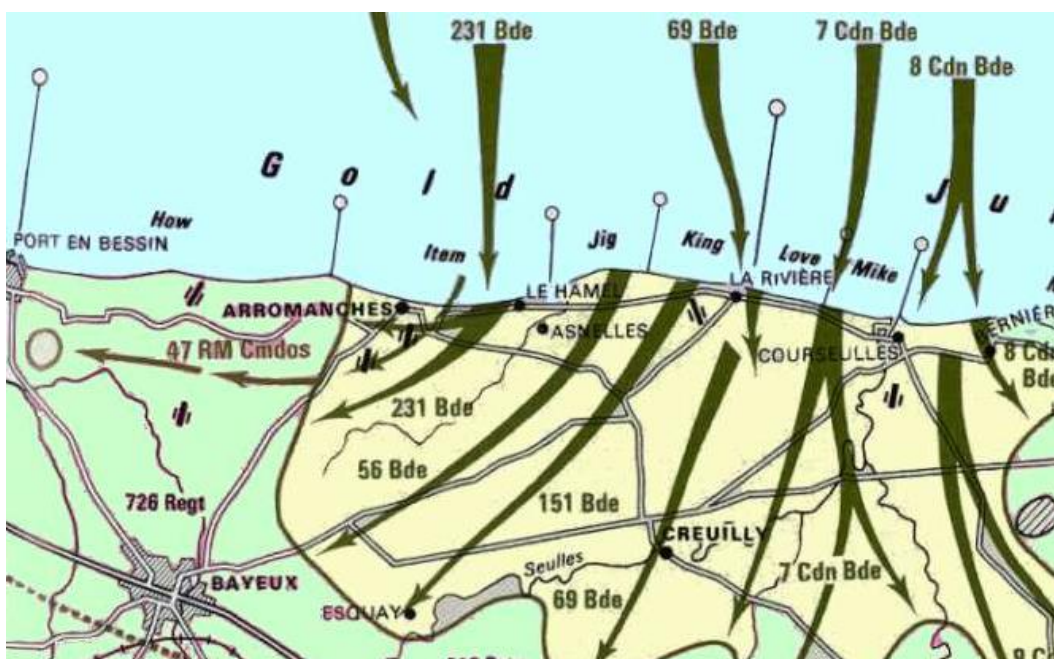
The London Gazette for 15th April, 1941 lists Guy Napier Westley of York & Lancaster regiment, Service Number 180302, as one of the Cadets from 163rd, 167th & 168th O.C.T.U's to be 2nd Lieutenants from 29th March, 1941.

In September, 1941, 2nd Lieutenant Guy Westley was posted to 1st Palestine Company based at Sarafand in an internal security role. The company moved from Tel Aviv to Haifa in November & in February, 1942 they moved again to Athlit. In August, 1942 the Company moved to Khiryat, still in a security role.

On 29th October, 1942 Guy Westley was promoted to Lieutenant. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment on 3rd June, 1943. He had served in the Middle East Force from 24th August, 1941 to 29th July, 1943. He served in Sicily from 30th July, 1943 to 8th October, 1943. From 9th October, 1943 to 20th November, 1943 Lieut. Westley was in North Africa (Possibly as a medical evacuee). From 20th November, 1943 to May, 1944 Lieut. Westley was in Britain. Lieut. Westley was stationed in North West Europe.

Lieutenant Guy Napier Westley was killed in action on 6th June, 1944, aged 25 years. He was the Battalion Pioneer Officer & Battalion Assistant Unit Landing Officer, whose task was landing with his Pioneers on Jig green Beach (Gold Beach West) to the east of Le Hamel.

Gold Beach was the code name for one of the D-Day landing beaches that Allied Forces used to invade German-occupied France on 6th June, 1944. In the two hours before the Gold beach Landings started, the offshore fleet of Force G came under fire from the 152mm German Gun Battery at Longues sur Mer, although the fire was ineffective and no Allied ships were hit. Fire was returned by HMS *Ajax* and other ships and the gun battery fell silent at 07:30am. It was then that the 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment and the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, both of the 231st Brigade, stormed ashore onto the beaches of the seaside town of Asnelles at 07:30am. Asnelles, the western most village on Gold beach is situated in Jig Sector of the D-Day Landing sectors. Carried by the strong winds and currents, all of the assault units landed about a quarter of a mile (400 meters) too far to the east of their intended landing sectors. The 1st Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment lost its Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command within minutes of landing. Following the Hampshires were the Commandos of the 4th Special Service Brigade. They too suffered badly during the run-in and only one of their allotted landing craft actually reached the shore. When the reserve battalion arrived on the beach, they too found themselves off course to the east. Following a fierce fire fight in which confusion seemed to be the order of the day, the 231st Brigade managed to make their way off the beaches to reorganize themselves for the push inland. Even as they did this they left strong German positions on the beach still fighting, intact and in enemy hands. These strong-points would be dealt with later by the mobile field artillery of the Essex Yeomanry. The 47th Royal Marine Commandos also had a difficult landing. Scheduled to land at 0930am, 2 hours after the first wave, when they arrived instead of finding the beach secure and the first wave advancing inland, they found the German beach defences still largely intact and occupied. Suffering the loss of several craft and the equipment they carried, it was not until noon that the Commandos set off to their objective, the village of Port en Bessin where they were to link up with the US 26th Regiment coming from Omaha Beach.



War Diary – 1st Hampshire Regiment

1 June, 1944

Place – Beaulieu

Bn briefed for the pending operations.

2 June, 1944

Place – Southampton

Bn embarked as per operational orders.

3 - 5 June, 1944

Place – Southampton

Spent on the sea.

6 June, 1944

Place – Le Hamel

Two assault coys and two rec___ coys landed, as per operational orders, on the Jig Green Beach east of the village of LE HAMEL. The aerial bombardment did not seem to have been as effective as expected. Enemy machine-gun nests survived the aerial, naval and A__ bombardment and made the fullest use of their underground, well-concealed and well-built positions. The narrowness of the beach and the presence of mines added to the difficulties of Bn's task. In spite of heavy casualties, however, the Bn drove the enemy from the beach and captured the villages of LE HAMEL and ASNELLES-SUR-MER, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Lt. Col. H. D. Nelson-Smith, M.C. O.C. Bn, became a casualty & was removed to the R.A.P.

ARROMANCHES-LES BAINS was then stormed. Enemy 88 mm guns and Spandau teams, which put up a determined resistance, were ultimately wiped out. Bn. Reorganised and attacked TRACY-SUR-MER where enemy resistance was stubborn. The nature of the country, infested with woods orchards gave the enemy snipers good cover. Bn. H.Q. was established at ST. COME DE FRESNE.

Lieut. G. N. Westley was buried in Ryes War Cemetery, Bazenville, France – Plot number IV. D. 2. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Guy Napier Westley, 180302, of York and Lancaster Regiment, attached 1st Bn Hampshire Regiment, as the son of William Arthur and Lillian Victoria Westley, of Olivos, F.C.C.A., Argentina.

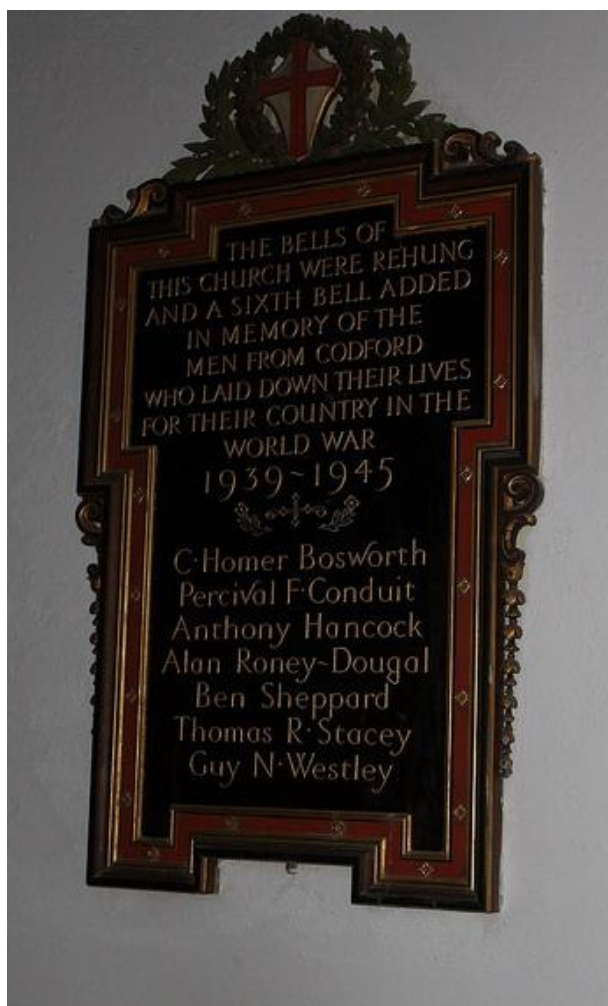
Newspaper Report –

WESTLEY – In June 1944, killed in action in Normandy. LIEUT. GUY NAPIER WESTLEY, York and Lancaster Regt., attached Hampshire Regt., second son of Mr and Mrs W. A. Westley, Buenos Aires.

National Probate Calender details-

WESTLEY Guy Napier of Calle Tucuman 2439 Olivos F.C.C.A. Buenos Ayres Argentina died 6 June 1944 on war service. Probate Llandudno 19 February 1945 to Bank of London and South America Ltd. Effects £216 0s. 3d. in England.

Lieutenant Guy N. Westley is remembered on the Codford World War 2 Memorial plaque located in St. Peter's Church, Codford, Wiltshire as well as a Victory Bell, cast by Mears & Stainbank of Whitechapel in 1946, which was added to commemorate the seven men with Codford connections that lost their lives in World War 2.



(Photo with permission Christopher Wright 2013)



Lieut. Guy Napier Westley - York and Lancaster Regiment WW2

(Photo & early school & military information courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

Ryes War Cemetery, Bazenville, France

Bazenville is a village 8 kilometres east of Bayeux.

The Allied offensive in north-western Europe began with the Normandy landings of 6 June 1944.

Ryes War Cemetery is not far inland from the beaches at Arromanches, where the 50th Division landed on 6 June. The first burials were made there just two days after the landings. The cemetery contains 652 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War. There are also 335 German graves and 1 Polish grave.



Entrance to Ryes War Cemetery

(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



CWGC Headstone of Lieut. Guy Napier Westley

(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



CWGC Headstone of Lieut. Guy Napier Westley (2nd row, 2nd headstone)

