

Compton Chamberlayne

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget World War II



LIEUTENANT (E)

Herbert John Carbray RICHARDSON

ROYAL NAVY

16th MAY, 1941 AGE 26

Herbert John Carbray RICHARDSON

Herbert John Carbray Richardson's birth was registered in the March quarter of 1915, in the district of Plymouth, Devon. He was the second son of Norman Shepherd Richardson, Royal Navy & Felice Mary Georgina Cecilia Richardson (nee Carbray). Norman & Felice had married on 16th August, 1911 at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Felice was of Irish/Canadian descent. Their first born son – Edmund Joseph Carbray Richardson was born on 19th June, 1912 in Montreal, Canada.

On 2nd August, 1922 Felice G Richardson & her 2 sons – Edmund, aged 9 & Herbert John Carbray, aged 7 arrived in the port of London on board the ship *Andania* which had departed from Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

On 19th May, 1929 Felice Georgina Richardson, aged 45 & her 16 year old son Edmund Joseph Carbray Richardson arrived in Canada to visit Felice's mother, on board the *Empress of Australia*. They returned on the same ship & arrived at the port of Southampton, England on 3rd July, 1929.

On 4th January, 1933 the Naval Appointments were announced with H. J. C. Richardson being appointed Midshipman (E) in the Royal Navy. (*Source: The Times January 4th, 1933*)
(The (E) following the rank denotes the Engineering branch)

On 18th August, 1935, Herbert John Richardson, aged 20, arrived at Quebec alone aboard the *Ascania*, to visit his aunt. His address was listed as Van Cottage, Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire, England.

On 15th September, 1935 Felice Richardson (a housewife, aged 51) arrived at London from Montreal on board the *Ausonia* with her son Herbert J C Richardson, aged 20 & a Naval Officer. Both listed their address as Van Cottage, Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire, England.

Acting Sub-Lieutenant (E) H. J. C. Richardson was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant (E) in the Royal Navy from 16th January, 1936. (*Source: The Times January 18th, 1936 & London Gazette 24th January, 1936*)

Sub-Lieutenant H. J. C. Richardson was one of the players named in a Rugby Football team playing for the Royal Naval Engineering College against the Plymouth Albion team. (*Source: The Times February 29th, 1936*)

Sub-Lieutenant (E) H. J. C. Richardson was promoted to Lieutenant (E) in the Royal Navy from 16th May, 1938. (*Source: London Gazette 17th May, 1938 & The Times 18th May, 1938*)

Lieutenant (E) H. J. C. Richardson was one of four Lieutenants that were selected for the second flying course to begin on October 16th, 1939 at No. 23 Elementary and Reserve Flying Training School, Rochester for the Fleet Air Arm. (*Source: The Times September 2nd, 1939*)

(The Fleet Air Arm is the branch of the Royal Navy responsible for the operation of naval aircraft)

The following engagement notice was placed in *The Times* (London) newspaper on Friday, June 28, 1940 on page 9 :-

LIEUTENANT (E) H. J. C. RICHARDSON, R.N., and MISS B. D'A. BENSON

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant (E) H. J. C. Richardson, Royal Navy, younger son of Engineer Captain Norman S. Richardson, Royal Navy (retired), and Mrs Richardson, of Van Cottage, Compton Chamberlayne, Wilts, and Barbara D'Arcy, younger daughter of J. R. Benson, F.R.C.S. England, and the late Mrs Benson, of Old Mill House, Alderholt, Fordingbridge, Hants.

(Barbara was the second daughter of John Robinson Benson and Enid Benson (nee Wishaw). She was born on 4th January, 1915 & was a promising musician. She became a cellist in the Philharmonic Orchestra but unfortunately her shoulder bone was irreparably damaged during an operation & her right hand became unusable).

Lieutenant Herbert John Carbray Richardson married Barbara D'A Benson on 10th August, 1940. Their marriage was registered in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire in the September quarter of 1940. A marriage announcement was placed in *The Times* (London) newspaper on Wednesday, August 21, 1940 on page 1 :-

RICHARDSON : BENSON – ON Aug. 10, 1940 at St Gregory's Church, Salisbury, Lieutenant H. J. CARBRAY RICHARDSON, Royal Navy, of Compton Chamberlayne, Wilts, to BARBARA D'A. BENSON, of Alderholt, Fordingbridge, Hants.

From 6th October, 1940 until February 1941 Lieutenant (E) H. J. C. Richardson was attached to HMS *Nile* II which was a Royal Naval Base at Ras el Tin Point, Alexandria, Egypt.

Lieutenant (E) H. J. C. Richardson then became part of 805 Squadron, based at HMS *Grebe* which was a Royal Navy shore base for aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm at Dekheila, near Alexandria, Egypt. The airfield was taken over by the Royal Egyptian Air Force at the outbreak of World War 2, but remained in use by the Fleet Air Arm. It was commissioned as HMS *Grebe*, attached to HMS *Nile* with a capacity of 72 aircraft in 1940. From 1st April, 1941 it acted as a base for all Fleet Air Arm units in Egypt and the Western Desert.

805 Squadron then moved to Maleme, Crete, Greece which was under RAF command & became part of RAF 33 Squadron. No. 33 Squadron, in 1938, became a Gladiator- equipped fighter squadron. In September, 1940 the Gladiators were replaced with Hurricanes. Operations began in February, 1941 but were soon disrupted by the German invasion of Greece & in April only 4 air-worthy Hurricanes remained. These were evacuated to Crete, where 3 more were lost during the attack on the island of Crete. Only one aircraft survived to return to Egypt. 2 of those 3 Hurricanes were flown on 16th May, 1941 by Lt Anthony Harry Mitchell Ash & Lt Herbert John Carbray Richardson. Both men were attached to 805 Squadron & both pilots were shot down on 16th May, 1941. Officially, Lt Ash was killed on Air Operations & is remembered on Bay 1, Panel 6 of the Fleet Air Arm Memorial at Lee-On-Solent, Hampshire, England.

Officially, Lieutenant (E) Herbert J C Richardson was Missing Presumed Killed whilst on Air Operations. However, according to the book "The Air War for Yugoslavia, Greece and Crete" by Shores, Cull and Malizia :-

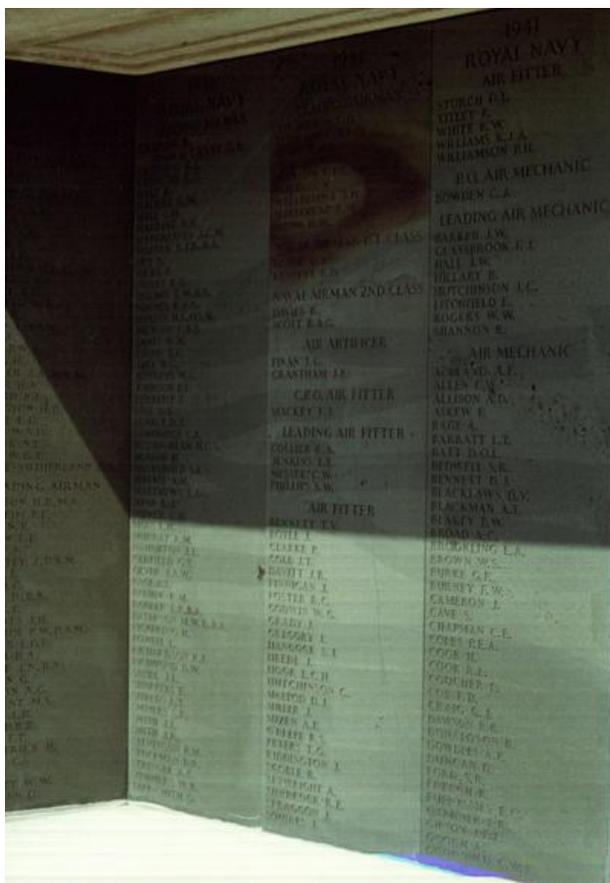
Both Ash and Richardson were scrambled out of Maleme to intercept Bf 109's (German World War II Fighter aircraft). Lt Ash was shot down into the sea and Richardson was seen to bail out close to the airfield, but his parachute failed to open and his body was later recovered by Cretans and placed in their local church. They were flying 33 Sqn Hurricanes at the time.

From this account it appears as the final resting place of Lt Richardson was never officially known.

Lieutenant (E) H. J. C. Richardson is remembered on Bay 2, Panel 1 of the Fleet Air Arm Memorial at Lee-On-Solent, Hampshire, England. The Lee-On-Solent Memorial is dedicated to the 1,400 Fleet Air Arm personnel of World War 2 who have no known graves. Lt Richardson was killed exactly 3 years to the day upon being promoted to Lieutenant.

LEE-ON-SOLENT MEMORIAL





Lieutenant (E) H. J. Carbray Richardson is also remembered on the World War 2 Memorial tablet at St Michael's Church at Compton Chamberlayne, Wiltshire along with William Alan Southall of the Royal Merchant Navy. In 1946, a Faculty petition was raised to the Church Bishop to request that a memorial tablet be erected on the north wall of the nave of the St Michael's Church at Compton Chamberlayne to remember the 2 men from Compton Chamberlayne that died during World War 2.



Photos by Neil MacDougall



A death notice was placed in the newspaper on 30th May, 1941:-

RICHARDSON – In May, 1941, killed in action, Lt. (E) H. J. CARBRAY RICHARDSON, R.N. (Fleet Air Arm), aged 26, much beloved husband of Barbara (nee Benson) and younger son of Engr. Capt. And Mrs Norman Richardson, of Van Cottage, Compton Chamberlayne, Wilts. Please, no letters.

Lieutenant (E) H. J. Carbray Richardson was included in The Roll of Honour in *The Times* newspaper with a list of Casualties in the Royal Navy –

The Board of Admiralty regrets to announce the following casualties which are not connected with any particular ship or incident, but which have been sustained in meeting the general hazards of war. Next of kin have been informed:-

OFFICERS- MISSING PRESUMED KILLED

Lt (E) H. J. C. Richardson R.N.,

(Source: The Times September 3rd, 1941)

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Barbara Richardson (nee Benson), the widow of Herbert John Carbray Richardson remarried in 1946 to Herbert Peter Kent. They had 5 sons & divorced after 8 years of marriage. Barbara Kent married for a 3rd time in 1954 to Anthony Vivien White & had one son in 1954 & a daughter in 1955. Barbara White died on 5th July, 2009, aged 94

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Herbert John Carbray Richardson's older brother – Edmund Joseph Carbray Richardson was appointed from Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant from 3rd September, 1940 in the Royal Navy. Flight Lieutenant Edmund Joseph Carbray Richardson (39244) was transferred to the Administrative and Special Duties Branch of the Royal Air Force Reserve on 23rd January, 1941.

REPÚBLICA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRASIL
FICHA CONSULAR DE QUALIFICAÇÃO

MODELO S.C. 189
323336

Esta ficha, expedida em duas vias, será entregue à Polícia Marítima e à Imigração no pórtico de destino

Nome por extenso Edmund Joseph Carbray Richardson

Admitido em território nacional em caráter temporário
(temporário ou permanente)

Nos termos do art. 7 letra a do dec. n. 7.967, de 1936 45

Lugar e data de nascimento Montreal, Can., 19/6/1912

Nacionalidade Canadense Estado civil casado

Filiação (nome do Pai e da Mãe) Norman Richardson e Felice Carbray

Profissão Director de Exportação

Residência no país de origem 12 de Cascon Road, Westmount, P.C.

NOME IDADE SEXO

FILHOS MENORES DE 18 ANOS

Passaporte n. 406451 expedido pelas autoridades de Commissario do Canadá, em Londres na data em 16/11/1945 visado sob n. 51

ASSINATURA DO PORTADOR
E. Richardson

SELO CONSUL

Consulado Geral do Brasil em Montreal - Canadá
8 de Abril de 19 47
Eng. de Consulado Adjunto
Caetano de Vasconcelos

NOTA—Esta ficha deve ser preenchida à máquina pela autoridade consular, sendo as duas vias em original.

Brazil Immigration Card for Edmund Joseph Carbray Richardson - 1947

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