

Monks Horton

Second World War 1939 – 1945

FAGG, THOMAS ANTHONY. Boy 1st Class, C/JX 162644.

Royal Navy, HMS Kelly (F01).

Died 23 May 1941. Aged 17.

Son of Thomas William and Winifred Jessie Fagg of Monks Horton, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 45. Column 2.

Built by Hawthorn Leslie & Co. of Hebburn-on-Tyne, H.M.S. Kelly was a 1,695 ton 'K' class destroyer, and was commissioned on 23 August 1939. H.M.S. Kelly was damaged by an enemy mine off the Tyne Estuary on 14 December 1939, and was later badly damaged after being attacked by the German Motor Torpedo Boat (Schnellboot) S-31 on 9 May 1940. H.M.S. Kelly commanded by Captain, Lord Louis Mountbatten K.G., D.S.O., R.N., was eventually sunk by the bombs of German Stuka dive-bombers south of Crete, at 0530 hours on 23 May 1941. At the time of her loss, the destroyer was bombarding German positions on the island of Crete, in company with the Royal Navy destroyer H.M.S. Kashmir, which was hit by a one bomb dead amidships and sank almost immediately with the loss of 79 crewmembers, there were 159 survivors. H.M.S. Kelly was then hit shortly afterwards, killing all in the foremost boiler room. Within minutes she rolled over and sank taking the lives of half of her crew, a total of 128 men. The 38 survivors, including Captain, Lord Louis Mountbatten, were picked up by the destroyer H.M.S. Kipling which also rescued the survivors from H.M.S. Kashmir. The fictitious ship H.M.S. Torrin in the 1942 Noël Coward written, produced and jointly directed film, "In Which We Serve" was based on the career of H.M.S. Kelly, with Noël Coward, who was a personal friend of Lord Louis Mountbatten, playing the part of the ships Captain.

NYE, CLIFFORD ARTHUR. Private, 6353982.

6th Battalion, South Wales Borderers.

Died Burma 5 August 1944. Aged 21.

Born India. Resided Kent.

Buried Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: 6. G. 4.

Originally enlisted in the Royal West Kent Regiment, as indicated by his army number. The Second World War memorial plaque located in Monks Horton (St Peter's) parish church, commemorates Clifford as being a member of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, but all data accessed which include exact matching names and dates as set out on the memorial plaque, show Clifford as having been serving in the South Wales Borderers at the time of his demise. Clifford may well of course have served at different times in all the three different regiments as mentioned above.