### **KIPLING WORLD WAR TWO DEATHS – 1940-44**

### **Captain John Wilson Kipling**

The first first Kipling death in WW2, and the only one in 1940, was that of Captain John Wilson Kipling on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

KIPLING, Capt. JOHN WILSON, 56131. 10th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry. 20th May, 1940. Age 37. Son of Charles and Isabella Harrison Kipling; husband of Doris Kipling, of Spennymoor, Co. Durham. A.C.I.S. Plot 8. Row C. Grave 8.

John was of the **Mickleton** Kipling Family Group, his father being Charles Kipling, in 1911 a cashier in the Co-op at Counden, County Durham.

John had long been a Territoral soldier with the Durham Light Infantry, a promotion to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lietenant being gazetted in 1933.

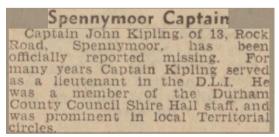
## 6th Bn. Durham L.I.—John Wilson Kipling to be 2nd Lt. 28th June 1933.

The London Gazette, 27 June 1933

After war broke out, John was transferred to the newly-formed 10th (Territorial) Battalion, which was deployed on the France/Belgium border in April 1940 as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> Brigade. John died on 20<sup>th</sup> May when the brigade was spread along the roads south of Arras travelling west. Here they were ambushed by German armour, and without heavy weapons their defence became a series of isolated and confused company actions.

He is buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, south of Arras. The inscription on his headstone reads "EVER REMEMBERED BY WIFE DORIS AND SON PETER JOHN, SPENNYMOOR, CO.DURHAM, ENGLAND"

His loss was reported in the local newspaper.



Newcastle Evening Chronicle - Tuesday 16 July 1940

Probate was granted in 1942.

KIPLING John Wilson of Kirklea Rock-road Spennymoor county Durham died 20 May 1940 on war service Administration Durham 8 January to Doris Kipling widow. Effects £760 4s. 3d.

### **Sgt Bernard Kipling RAFVR**

On the night of 9/10 May 1941, Sgt Bernard Kipling was an observer (navigator) on Whitley bomber

P5106 MH-O of 51 Squadron when it was down by a nightfighter (Lt. Reinhold Knacke, 1.NJG1) and crashed at 03:05 over Boshoven (2 km West of Weert, in Belgium). Their target that night was Ludwigshaven. The crew of P/o P.Myers (pilot), Sgt H.G.Browne, Sgt B.Kipling, Sgt G.A.Selby and F/Sgt A.Jackson had taken off Dishford at 21.59, so were presumably on way home when intercepted. They are



from their

shot

buried in Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery.

This is the log entry for that last flight.

### 9 May 1941

Aircraft	Crew.	Duty.	Time Up.	Time Down.	Details of Sortie or Flight.		
Type and No.	Olew.				LUDWIGSHAVEN was attacked at 0147 hrs		
P.5106.	P/O. Myers SGT. Brown SGT. Kipling SGT. Jackson	Bombing	2159	-	with \$ 500lbs and 2 250lbs bones and 4 cont. of incend. Heard from a/c 1 hour after operations completed message was received, but A/C failed to return.		
P.5106.	SGT. Brown SGT. Kipling	Bonding			4 cont. of incend. Heard from a/c I hour operations completed message was receive		

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

KIPLING.—In May, 1941, reported missing,
Bernard Kipling (observer), R.A.F.V.R., eldest
son of Mr and Mrs. R. Kipling, of Ashcroft,
Broomfield Road, Chelmsford.

Essex Newsman - Saturday 24 May 1941

Bernard was of the **Dean** Kipling family group, son of Robert and Rosa Kate Kipling of Chelmsford, Essex. His twin brother Guy was also an RAF sergeant and was killed later in the war, as was a second brother in the army. Bernard's gravestone is inscribed as follows:

754444 Sergeant
B. Kipling
Observer
Royal Air Force
10th May 1941 Age 23
(Cross)
One of three brothers
Who gave their lives
For humanity
"Lest we forget"

All three brothers are commemorated at Broomfield in Essex.



### **Sgt Matthew George Kipling RAF**



Matthew George was also a sergeant (air gunner), this time in 35 Squadron, flying the Halifax. He was killed on 31 December 1941. The account of his death from the squadron record is as follows: "1941/197 35/V9979 T/o 1125 Linton-on-Ouse similarly tasked. From eyewitness statements it is reported that the bomber, with one engine ablaze, passed low over the village of Lanildut [Finistere], NW of Brest, pursued by a fighter which in turn was shot down by Sqt Kipling just moments before the Halifax hit the sea, finishing up on rocks at Porspoder a few kilometres to the north of Lanildut. Soon after the crash the Germans requisitioned some seaweed boats and

having searched the area returned to the small harbour at Mazou with a number of badly burned bodies though it is believed some were still alive. All were examined by a German doctor but those who had survived succumbed to their injuries. A few days later a teenage girl found the body of the wireless operator whom she identified from his tag as Sgt Maflin. All rest in Kerfautras Cemetery."

The log entry of the fatal flight is below.

.9979 (E)	S/Idr.S.A.Middlet P/O.R.A.F.Frew. P/O.L.J.P.Foster.	11.25	- Took off from LINTON for BREST at time stated.  Aircraft missing, seen to be shot down over
	Sgt. Orton. Sgt.Maflin.		target area.
	Sgt.Kipling. Sgt.Greenwood.		

The following are missing while on Operations:
SET\_COLLINS, SET\_GRIGG, P/O.H.D. BUCKLEY, F/S.T. BELL, SET\_CROCKER, SET\_WAKELING, SET\_KENT,

SET\_KETTERINGHAM, S/LDR.S.A.MIDDLETON, P/O.R.A.F. FREW, P/O.L.J.P. FOSTER, SET\_ORTON,

SET\_MAFLIN, SET\_KIPLING, SET\_GREENWOOD.

Matthew George Kipling was the son of Matthew George and Ethel Kipling of Darlington of the **Melsonby** Kipling family.

### **Lieutenant Robert Fallowfield Kipling, RN**

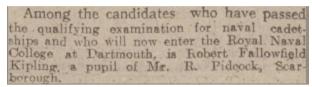
Lieutenant Bob Kipling, 28, was killed on 31 January 1942. He was on board *HMS Culver*, a former US Coastguard sloop, which was guarding a transatlantic convoy when it was hit by a

torpedo fired by U-105 about 450 miles south-west of Cape Clear, Ireland. It is thought that it detonated one of the magazines, resulting in the loss of 8 officers and 119 sailors. There were only 13 survivors.



Liverpool Echo - Wednesday 11 February 1942

Bob was the son of Percy Fallowfield and Elizabeth Kipling. At the age of 14, he joined the Royal Navy as a cadet (in 1927).



Sheffield Daily Telegraph - Wednesday 22 December 1926

He was promoted Midshipman in 1931, Sub-Lieutenant in 1934 and Lieutenant in 1937. He won a naval history prize in 1938.



Portsmouth Evening News - Saturday 12 March 1938

He married in 1940.



Liverpool Daily Post - Tuesday 30 July 1940

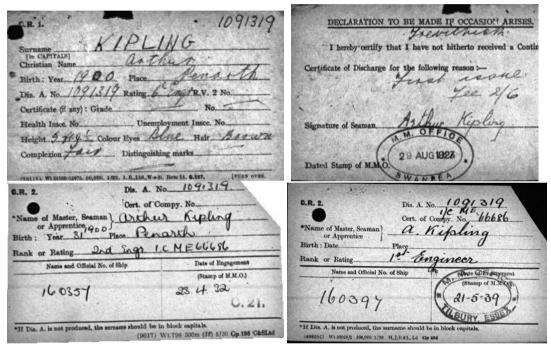
In March 1941, he was reported as wounded or injured.

Bob is commemorated on the Naval memorial at Portsmouth. Some wooden screens were presented in his memory to St Mary's church, Bowness and Windermere. He was of the **Captain Robert** family group.

### **Chief Engineering Officer Arthur Kipling**

Chief Engineering Officer Arthur Kipling, 41, died on 7 April 1942. He was on board the merchant navy oil tanker *Splendour* when it was torpedoed off the coast of North Carolina by U552 whilst on its way from Houston to join an Atlantic convoy off Nova Scotia. The cargo was 10,000 gallons of petrol, which quickly caught alight. Of the crew, 12 died but 41 escaped in lifeboats.

Arthur was the son of John Arthur and Annie Kipling of Penarth, Glamorgan, and had been at sea as an engineer since at least 1923.



He married Jessie Sims (nee Davies) in 1931. He is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial (panel 21). He was of the **Notts** family group.

### **Sergeant Fred Kipling**

Sergeant Fred Kipling of the 6<sup>th</sup> battalion Green Howards died in Tunisia on 25 March 1943. His battalion was part of the 8<sup>th</sup> British Army which, after the battle of El Alamein, was pursuing the retreating Axis. He died during the assault on the Mareth Line in which his battalion played a part. He is buried in the cemetery at Sfax, on the coast east of the battle site, 270 miles south of Tunis.

He was one of the sons of Joseph and Louisa Kipling of South Church, Durham of the **Stackholm** family group. The personal inscription on his gravestone reads 'In memory of dear Fred who died for our freedom. Loving wife Greta, sons Ronald and Fred.' He was 32.

In 1939. His wife and elder son were living in Bishop Auckland. Might Fred already have been in the army? Their other son was not born until the next year.



### **Sergeant Peter Cyril Phillip Kipling**

Peter Cyril Phillip Kipling RAFVR was a Sergeant (air gunner) in 40 Squadron. He was the son of Edgar

Charles and Helen Beatrice Kipling of Morden, Surrey, of the **Gilling** family group.



Sgt. Peter Kipling was killed on 11 April 1943, in North Africa, aged 20. He is buried in the MEDJEZ-EL-BAB WAR CEMETERY in Tunisia, about 60km west of Tunis. The personal inscription reads OUR VERY DEAR PETER EVER IN THE PROUD THOUGHTS OF HIS PARENTS AND FAMILY, on a memorial also commemorating other crew of the same aircraft.

40 Squadron was re-formed as a bomber squadron in 1931 and in the Second World War operated in several theatres: flying Blenheims and Wellingtons from bases in England it bombed targets in France, the Low Countries and Germany; flying Wellingtons from bases in the Middle East it bombed targets in North Africa, Sicily, Sardinia, Rhodes, Crete, Greece, Pantellaria, Lampedusa and Italy. Its badge of a broom was chosen to immortalise the frequent exhortation of Major 'Mick' Mannock, the famous World War I pilot, who served with the squadron, to "sweep the Huns from the air!"

### **Sergeant Guy Kipling**

Sgt Guy Kipling RAFVR, of 90 Squadron, was killed in action over Dusiberg in Germany, an observer (navigator) in a Short Stirling BK804 'WP-J' on the night of 22/23 April 1943. Their aeroplane crashed near the railway station at Duisburg Beek with four of the crew still in it. Three others escaped by parachute but were later discovered and killed. Guy has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Runnymede Memorial. He was the twin brother of Sgt Bernard Kipling (see above), and so also of the **Dean** family group. He had married Peggy Lucas in the months before his death.

90 squadron re-formed in November 1942, as a heavy-bomber squadron equipped with Stirlings, and subsequently made a significant contribution to the Battle of the Ruhr, the devastation of Hamburg and the famous raid on Peenemunde. It also did a great deal of minelaying. The Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede commemorates by name over 20,000 airmen who were lost in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North and Western Europe, and who have no known graves.





KIPLING Guy of 87 Eastern-crescent Chelmsford died 23 June 1943 on war service Administration Llandudno 12 February to Peggy Kipling widow. Effects £135 7s. 9d.

### **Gunner Harry Kipling**

Harry Kipling, 239 Bty., 77 H.A.A. Regt. Royal Artillery was the son of Walter and Elizabeth Ann Kipling and husband of Mary Vidal Kipling, of the **Notts** family grpup He lived at Ainsdale, Lancashire, where prior to the war he was a golf professional and served as a special police constable.

# ASSISTANTS' TITLE: HAT-TRICK BID Harry Kipling, the Southport and Ainsdale assistant professional, will tomorrow attempt to set up a record by winning the Liverpool and District Assistants golf championship for the third year in succession. Kipling won the title for the second time at Wallasey last year, after staving off a strong challenge from James Jackson, then assistant at Freshfield. Jackson is now a full professional to the Wirral Ladies Club. In this year's Assistants' tournament over 36 holes at Freshfield, Kipling will have a big 'rivaring Roy MacAdam, Cyril Fryer's 19-year-old assistant at Hesketh.

Liverpool Evening Express - Monday 27 February 1939

60 Sogars Lane	92 /	Kipling Harry	— М 9 дине — F 15 Sep	07 M	assistant golf Profession
Special Constal					

His heavy ant-aircraft battery was stationed at Batavia on Java in early February 1942. Less than a month later, the Japanese invaded, leading to a British and Dutch surrender within nine days. He became a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

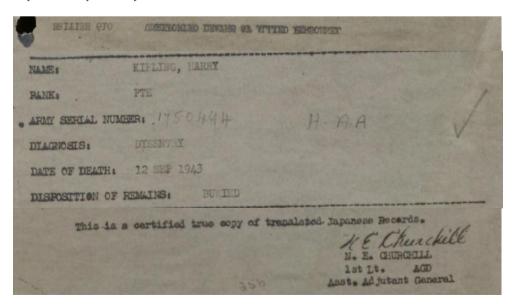
JH/ 36	0	更加 24	773	
21.1/24	收 容 所 Camp	昭 17 年 8 月 15 日	番 No.	<b>亦本</b> 1627
	姓 Name	Kipling, Harry。 キプリング、ハーリー、	生年月日 Date of Birth	1907. 8. 9
	國 籍 Nationality	英		No. 1750494.
	階級身分 Rank	Gunner. 陸軍兵卒	所屬部隊 Unit	Royal Artillery.
0	捕獲場所 Place of Capture	爪哇	捕獲年月日 Date of Capture	昭和 17年 3月 8日
	父 / 名 Father's Name	Kipling, Walter.	母 ノ 名 Mother's Name	Kipling, Elizabeth.
爾	本籍地 Place of Origin	48 Seagershore, Ainsdale, Southgate.	職 業 Occupation	コ"ルフ選手、
灣	通 報 先 Destination of Report	Mrs Mary Kipling, 48 Seagershoren Ainsdale, Southgate, England.	特記事項 Remark	7

Japanese Index Cards of Allied Prisoners of War and Internees, Second World War, 1942-1945

Later in the year, he was sent to work on the Burma Railway in Thailand, where he died in September 1943 from exhaustion following dysentery and vitamin B3 deficiency.

	DEATHS 1939 - 46 (ENTRY FORM)								
	REGT OR CORPS TO WHICH THE PERSON					239 77 HAA REE			
-Part   I	Army No	Rank (2)	Name in full (Surname first)	Age (4)	Country of birth (5)	Date of death (6)	Place of death (7)	Cause of death (8)	
	1750694	GNR	KIPLING HARRY	36	ENCHAND.	12.9.43	THAKANO	POST DYSENTERIL INAMITION PELLAGRA	

Royal Artillery casualty card



His name appears on the Singapore memorial.

# SAD NEWS FOR RELATIVES

Mrs. Franks, of 25, Hastingsplace, Lytham, has received official notification that her elder son, Staff Sergt. Jack Anthony Franks, R.A., died while a prisoner of the Japs in Thailand in 1944. He was captured at Java.

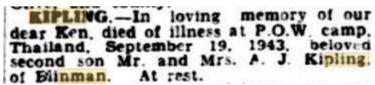
Similar sad news has been received by Mrs. M. Kipling, of Segar's-lane, Ainsdale, whose husband, Gunner Harry Kipling, R.A., died in Thailand in September, 1943. He was assistant professional at Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club for 13 years before joining the Forces in 1940.

Lancashire Evening Post - Thursday 06 December 1945

KIPLING Harry of 48 Segars-lane Ainsdale Southport Lancashire died 12 September 1943 on war service Administration Liverpool 24 May to Mary Vidal Kipling widow. Effects £165 17s. 10d.

### **Private Kenneth William Kipling**

Ken Kipling of 2/2 Res. M.T. Coy., Australian Army Service Corps, was the son of Arthur John James Kipling and Florence Kipling of Blinman, South Australia. Before the war he worked as a graderman (i.e. a road maker/repairer).



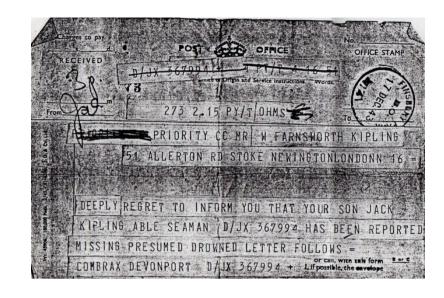
The Advertiser 5 September 1944

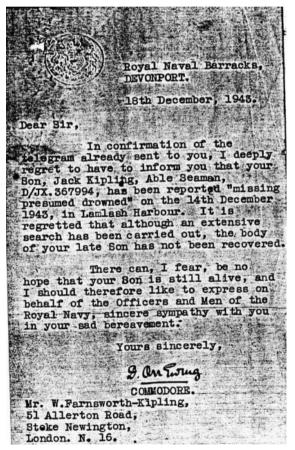
Ken's grave is at Thanbyuzayat war cemetery in Burma, to where the remains of many of those who died during the construction of the notorious Burma-Thailand railway were later transferred. His grave is inscribed HIS DUTY NOBLY DONE.

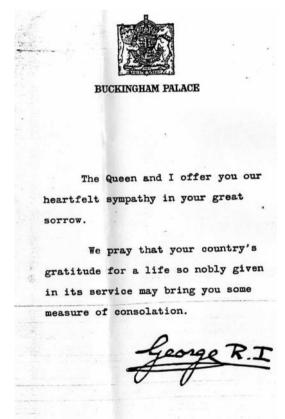
### **Able Seaman Jack Kipling**

Jack Kipling, of H.M.L.C.T. 651, Royal Navy, died in December 1943 after a dinghy capsized in Lamlash Bay, Isle of Arran. His body was never found. An LCT was a landing craft for tanks. He was the son of Walter Farnsworth Kipling and Kathleen Alice Kipling (formerly Ford), and husband of Winifred Ethel Kipling, of Bridport, Dorset, of the **Dean** Kipling family group. Three of his cousins also dies on active service (see elsewhere in this paper).









The letter below, saying that he and some others were 'skylarking,' was devastating to his family, although it was doubtless sent with the good intention of conveying that he died whilst having fun. His brother, Walter, reportedly never recovered fully from the shock of what happened.

W.F. Kipling, Esq.

Spt. C. JACKSON,

N.M. L. CT 651,

9.650.

Lardon a gloom over the skip.

Den en kipling, I received your well know but high spirite and example growth for the property of 24 th Dac some time and example growth and example growth of 2 what he to go hand in glove.

Convey to your our deep sorrow at your becausement good hand in glove.

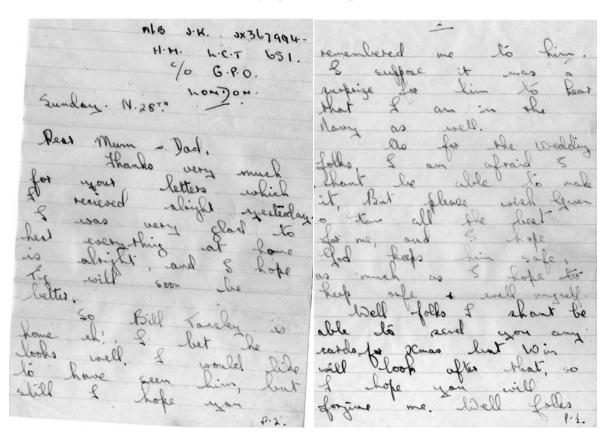
If it will ellerate your anxiety of assertants of the ship of the boy in it.

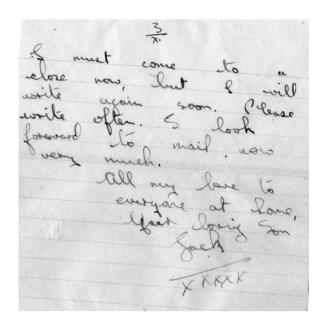
If it will should be to mat an approximately to shylarhing by the boy in it.

If the boy in it.

Your son was a gertline, advanced by as all and

This was his last letter home, with a most poignant ending.





He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial (on the Hoe).

(Thanks to Janet Kipling, Jack's niece, for much of the above information and documents)

### **Private Harold Kipling**

Harold Kipling served in the 12th (Yorkshire) Battalion of the Parachute Regiment . He was killed in action on 17 June 1944 at Ranville, Normandy. The 12th Battalion was formed in May 1943 from the 10th (East Riding Yeomanry) Battalion of the Green Howards and became part of the 5th Parachute Brigade with the 6th Airborne Division. The 12th Battalion captured Ranville despite its scattered drop on D-Day (6 June 1944) and held it against repeated German counter-attacks as well as relieving the glider borne elements at Pegasus Bridge.

Harold was born in early 1914, a son of Frank Kipling, a carter of Richmond, Yorkshire, and his wife Isabella. Harry married Mary Mainland Finlay in early 1937 in Darlington district. In 1939, Harold was a 'haulage contractor'. In 1943, he was convicted of dealing in stolen scrap.





Newcastle Journal - Monday 5 April 1943

He and Mary had a daughter, Susan, not long after the above report. He must have then joined (or been conscripted into) the army.

He is buried at Ranville cemetery, where his headstone carries the additional inscription 'FOR ALL OF US HE DID HIS BEST; GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST'.

### **Fusilier Walter Kipling**

Walter Kipling of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers was the younger brother of Harold Kipling above. He was killed on 21 June 1944, the same month as his brother, fighting with the 78<sup>th</sup> Division as it pushed north of Rome.



He was buried in the Orvieto war cemetery where his headsotne has the additional inscription 'THE LOVE THAT LINGERS O'ER HIS NAME IS MORE THAN FAME' (image thanks to Dimitrios Corcodilos)

There is a memorial to both brothers at Richmond.

