

GEORGE WALTER LONSBOROUGH

Royal Air Force Service No: 313165/353829

Originally Able Seaman Royal Navy



Walter Londeshborough, of Lastingham, now on H.M.S. Juno.

Photograph from the Yorkshire Gazette 1915.

George Walter Lonsborough's birth was registered in Pickering in the first quarter of 1895 and he was baptised at St Mary's, Lastingham on 15th February 1895.

His Naval record shows that he was born on 17th January 1895.

George Walter was the son of William and Sarah Ann Lonsborough (nee Pennock). Sarah Ann was born in Cropton, but as a young child lived with her grandparents, (per 1881 census), Thomas and Ann Proud, who were the innkeepers at the Crown Public House, Hutton le Hole. After her grandfather's death, Ann (as publican) and Sarah then lived at the Blacksmiths Arms in Lastingham.

"A History of Hutton le Hole" tells us that Tom Proud was a popular landlord, and was not only a dashing horse rider (he rode in the Kirkbymoorside Steeple Chase, which was one of the principal races held at the racecourse, where regular meetings were held between 1863 and 1882, on land close to the railway station near Vivers Hill in Kirkbymoorside), but was also renowned at fisticuffs – Boxing Tom they called him.

Sarah married William Lonsborough in 1893 and following Sarah's death, William worked on the farm of John Flintoft of Spaunton.

George Walter had a brother, Harry, born in 1896, (both Walter and Harry are also included on the Memorial Stone outside St Mary's Church, Lastingham).



Private Harry Lonsborough enlisted on 23rd June 1913 and first served with the Yorkshire Regiment, Service Number 1492 and later with the Labour Corps, Service Number 527301. He was discharged on 8th March 1919. He married Maud Douthwaite in Lastingham on 6th August, 1916, the same year as his brother's marriage.

George Walter married Annie Elizabeth Strickland at St ,Mary's Church, Lastingham on 16th October 1916. He died on 16th July 1954 in Leeds, and was buried at St Mary's Lastingham on 19th July 1954.

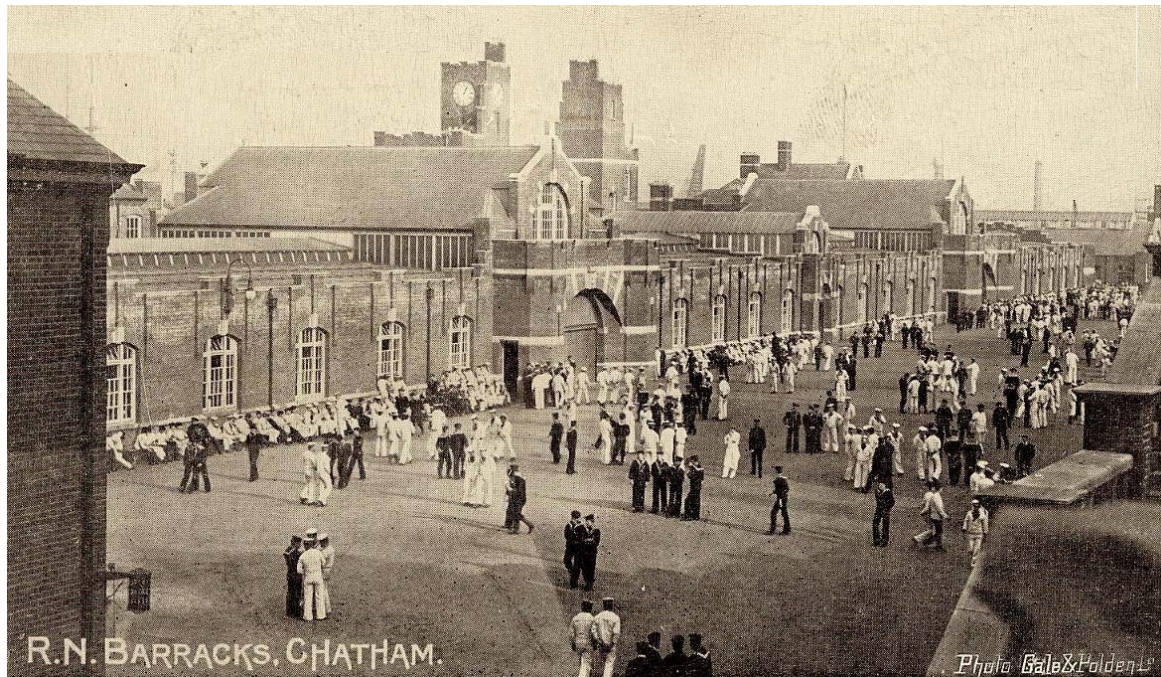


They had six children all of whom were born in Hutton le Hole. John Dennis in 1920, Mary Irene in 1921 (who sadly died at only a few days old), Thomas Bernard in 1924, Lawrence Edward in 1926, (died in infancy), Robert William in 1933 and George Keith in 1935. The family address was East View Cottage, Hutton le Hole.

D Lonsborough (which it is believed is Dennis) from a school photograph taken in 1929 and published in the History of Hutton Le Hole (National Park publication).

Walter (as he appears to have been more popularly known locally) joined the Royal Navy and, on 8th May 1914, took up a position on *HMS Pembroke 1* where he served

until 29th July 1914. He was 19 years old, had a fresh complexion, brown hair and grey eyes and was 5ft.7inches tall. His civil occupation was shown as 'cook and steward'.



HMS Pembroke 1 Chatham Naval Barracks in August 1914.

HMS Pembroke was the name given to a shore barracks at Chatham. It was commissioned in 1878, and moved ashore in 1903. The buildings, designed by Sir Henry Pilkington, now house the Universities at Medway.

Walter's record shows that he then served on *HMS Juno* from 30th July 1914 until 31st December 1916.



HMS Juno

HMS Juno was a light Cruiser/old 2nd Class Cruiser, Eclipse-class, which was with 11th Cruiser Squadron in Ireland from August 1914; Persian Gulf July 1915 and in 1916 in the Indian Ocean in the area of Bushire and Bombay and later that year in the area of Karachi. The detailed log of the *Juno* during this period can be found online. Although it has not been possible to ascertain why Walter left *HMS Juno* the daily log mentions the numbers on the sick list and may have been the reason for his return to Chatham. Together with other seamen, Walter boarded the P and O

Steamship Line, *Mooltan* in Aden, travelling third class, bound for London, and arrived on 7th October 1916.

(MOOLTAN: P and O Australia service; 700 passengers; July 26, 1917: Torpedoed and sunk by German submarine UC-27 near Cap Serrat, Tunisia.)

It is thought that Walter was shore based for some time following his return to England and he certainly came home to Yorkshire to marry Annie Strickland on 16th October 1916. It is noted in his record that he had a tattoo on his forearm of a flying bird with a letter in its beak with scroll to 'Annie'.

Walter's record shows that on 1st April 1918 he transferred to HMS *Daedalus* and the Fleet Air Arm and then the RAF, leaving on 19th June 1919.

HMS Daedalus was a naval air station, also known as RNAS Lee-on-Solent. The base was opened in 1917 and transferred to the RAF in 1918. He served as a cook and butcher.

The Daedalus Virtual Aviation Museum tells the story of naval aviation at Lee-on-Solent from the dark days of 1917 through to the present day. The Museum is a memorial to the men and women who served our country in times of peace and peril, and to the airfield which bore witness to the birth of naval aviation and development of the Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force in Britain and the Commonwealth.

Walter was awarded three campaign medals for his service during WW1



Pip, Squeak and Wilfred are the affectionate names given to the three WW1 campaign medals — The 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal respectively.

It appears that Walter spent some years at home and then enlisted in the RAF Reserves on 6th April 1923 serving for a total of 10 years. This period was extended for 2 years and his address on discharge on 5th April 1935 is given as Allerston Training Camp, Low Dalby, Thornton le Dale.

During the 1930s, unemployed men were set to work in Dalby Forest, breaking ground, building tracks and undertaking other heavy labour. The men lived in a work camp at Low Dalby, which was one of a number of so-called Instructional Centres run by the Ministry of Labour in order to 'harden' young men who had been out of work for some time. By 1939, unemployment was declining in the face of impending war and the Ministry closed down its work camps. However, much of Dalby village

seems to be based partly on the layout of the old Instructional Centre. It is possible that Walter was an instructor at the camp or possibly worked there as a cook.

For a short period from February 1923 Walter was employed as a cook and steward by Monk Seaton Steamship Company, Newcastle, and then enlisted again to serve in the RAF on 23rd April 1923 as an Aircraftsman at Uxbridge, moving to 29 squadron Duxford, (a fighter squadron being re classified as Leading Aircraftsman in 1924. During this period he gained qualifications in cooking and butchery at RAF stations at High Wycombe, Duxford and Old Sarum. Walter was also based at North Coates (Lincolnshire), Thornaby, Henlow (Bedfordshire) and Wattisham (Suffolk).

In April 1940 he was promoted to Corporal, and in 1942 to Flight Sergeant. The Supplement of The London Gazette of 1st January 1943 recorded that he was mentioned in dispatches and on 26th August 1943 he was awarded long service and good conduct medals.



Family History

Parents of George Walter.

William Lonsborough – m 1893 – Sarah Ann (nee Pennock)

George Walter - born in 1895 – m 1916 – Annie Elizabeth Strickland

They had 6 children:

John Dennis b 1920

Mary Irene b 1921 (Died a few days old)

Thomas Bernard b 1924

Lawrence Edward b 1926 (Died in infancy)

Robert William b 1933

George Keith b 1935

They lived at East View Cottage, Hutton le Hole

