



Gunner William Young Harvey

No.4 Commando

Killed in action aged 29

1st November 1944.

Remembered with Honour

Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery,

Netherlands.

No. 3 Troop - Commanded by Major G.G.H. Webb, M.C.

The landing was effected at approximately 0640 hours. No casualties having been inflicted by the enemy 2 cm dual purpose gun which had opened up as the craft approached the landing area.

The Troop formed up and set out, still in darkness, in the following formation:-

No. 2 Section (C Sub, HQ, D Sub Section)

Troop Headquarters.

No. 1 Section (A Sub section, HQ., B Sub Section).

The distance between the harbour area and the first objective, BRAEMAR, was covered as fast as possible, and the first objective was reached about first light, 0700 hours. On the way to the first Objective Gar. Harvey was killed by enemy MG fire. Numerous enemy were seen, but were apparently in a rather disorganised state and concentrated on cover rather than concerted resistance. Various pill boxes and machine gun posts opened fire but were by-passed with the exception of one pill box in the neighbourhood of BRAEMAR. As this pill box covered the approach to BRAEMAR an assault group of C sub section under Sjt. Jackson was detached to deal with it. In doing so Pte. Laux was killed at the entrance to the pill box. The pill box was liquidated and two prisoners taken. The advance of the Troop had scarcely been held up by this interlude and BRAEMAR was reached and cleared by No. 2 Section. During the clearing Lieut. N.W. Barrass was killed.

No. 2 Section then consolidated; Troop HQ was established at the South end of BRAEMAR and No. 1 Section, under Captain M.C. McDougall, pushed through it towards objective HOVE, a Naval Garrison Barracks, stretching the length of the street. In the approach to this a group of enemy were met; during the ensuing action at least ten enemy were killed or wounded, Pte. Donkin was killed. An alternative route, through gardens and over shed roofs, was taken and the advance continued. Owing to the fact that there still existed at BRIGHTON an enemy strong point of unknown strength, it was necessary for No. 1 Section to maintain constant contact on the ground with Troop Headquarters to prevent any possible enemy infiltration between it and Troop Headquarters.



GUNNER W. Y. HARVEY North Shields Commando Killed

Gunner William Young Harvey, after four years' service with the Commandos, has been reported killed as a result of enemy action in Holland. Aged 29, he is the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Harvey, of 2 Prudhoe Terrace, North Shields, where he was born.

Educated at Spring Gardens School, he worked for some time at Scott's Sweet Factory, before leaving for Seghill Colliery. Later he joined the Territorial Army in which he served for six-and-a-half years.

Gunner Harvey was married and lived at 7 Alderside Avenue, Troon, Ayrshire, Scotland. His younger brother, Lce. - Bomb. John Harvey, is serving with the Middle East Forces.



Bill and Margaret on their wedding day. Alex 'Mac' MacAulay, No.4 Commando is with him as he was on the day he died. In the photo below Margaret lays flowers at Bill's grave.



Transcript of a letter to Margaret from Bill's best man and friend Alex 'Mac'
MacAulay who was with Bill when he died

20/11/1944

Dear Margaret,

It is with the deepest sympathy and regret that I write this letter to you mixed with the feeling of your great loss, which personally is also mine, for Bill and I were always the closest friends from our first meeting and the subsequent years of service together.

I know that no one can possibly presume your feelings at this time Margaret, and no words of mine can lessen the blow you'll be suffering, now that Bill has gone. But you have the knowledge that Bill died a Hero, fighting for what we all believe in, and hold dear.

Small consolation to you Margaret but it is Bill and all our other Heroes' who have given and will continue to give their lives whom we shall for ever have to remember and thank with all our hearts for the Freedom and Peace which is, I hope not far away.

No one knows better than you Margaret the merits of Bill as a husband and pal, but I'd like to say that all who knew him mourn the loss of a great friend and a man respected and liked by all those with whom he came into contact.

I won't say any more now Margaret – letters are such empty and impersonal things when one wishes to convey their true feelings. I hope I might see you soon and express my feelings to you in person. Mean while Margaret I know that you will try to bear up under your great loss, as I know he would wish it so at this time, and may God be with you and yours.

Yours in Deepest Sympathy

Mac



COMMANDO
VETERANS ARCHIVE