

Leonard John Brown



Seaman LT/JX 400240, HMS President III, Royal Naval Patrol Service

Died November 11th 1943, aged 19

Commemorated on Lowestoft Naval Memorial.

Son of Thomas John and Gertrude Brown, of Port Isaac, Cornwall

Leonard Brown is the brother of Harold Brown and Noreen Honey, and the uncle of Julian, Jeremy and John Brown. Julian remembers his father kept a photo of Leonard alongside his bed, and shortly before he died he told Julian that he thought about Leonard every day. The sketchy information he had gleaned was that Leonard was lost when his ship was attacked by aircraft in the Mediterranean.

Leonard was in the Royal Naval Patrol Service (RNPS). The RNPS was a branch of the Royal Navy operating small auxiliary vessels in mine-sweeping and anti-submarine duties. In WW2 its central headquarters were in Lowestoft, officially designated HMS Europa but usually known as Sparrows Nest, after the country house in which it was located. For pay and accounting purposes Leonard was regarded as part of the HMS President III shore establishment, along with other naval reserve personnel.



Sailors waiting outside Sparrows Nest for details of their allocated vessel



Leonard John Brown

Small ships were ideal for minesweeping and needed experienced fishermen to operate them. The RNPS eventually had more the 70,000 men in 6,000 ships on its books. As a 'Navy within a Navy', it was given many unofficial titles, of which 'Harry Tate's Navy' (Harry Tate was a music hall comedian) and 'Churchill's Pirates' were the more polite.

The Casualty Lists of the Royal Navy and Dominion Navies, World War 2 records Seaman Leonard John Brown as lost on the SS Carlier when she was attacked by German planes off the coast of Algeria near Oran. He is commemorated on the Lowestoft Naval Memorial.



Sources:
Royal Naval Patrol Service: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Naval_Patrol_Service
and <http://www.rnpsa.co.uk/history.htm>
Naval Casualties on SS Carlier: <http://www.naval-history.net/xDKCas1943-11NOV.htm>

In Memory of
Seaman
Leonard John Brown

LT/JX 400240, H.M.S. President III., Royal Naval Patrol Service who died on 11 November 1943 Age 19

Son of Thomas John and Gertrude May Brown, of Port Isaac, Cornwall.

Remembered with Honour
Lowestoft Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission