

# Albert Keat



Marine PLY/X 3488, HMS Dorsetshire, Royal Marines

Died April 5th 1942, aged 21

Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial

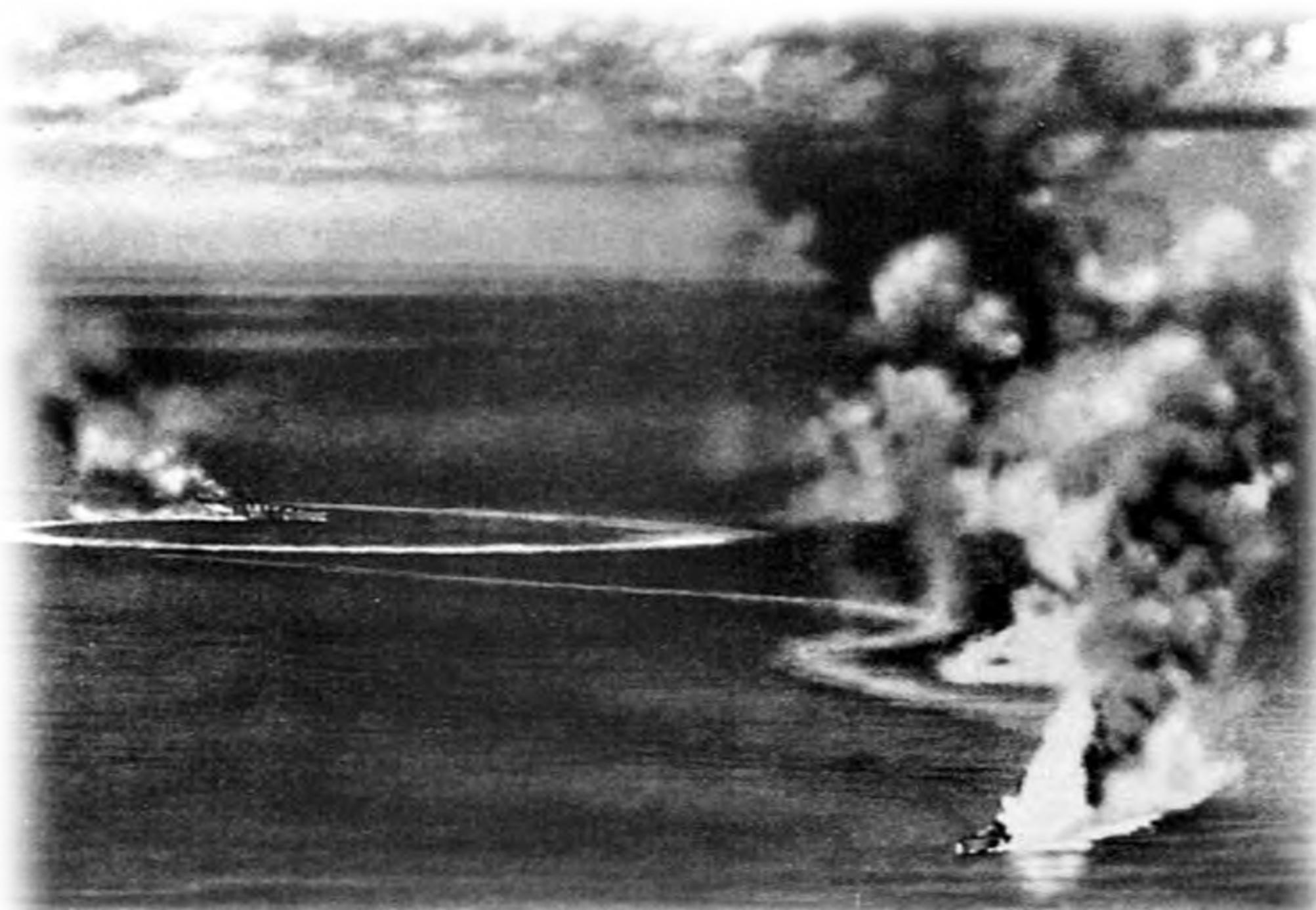
Son of Albert Edwin and Lilian Florence Keat, of Port Isaac, Cornwall



*HMS Dorsetshire at anchor in Scapa Flow August 1941*

Albert Keat was a Royal Marine serving on HMS Dorsetshire, a heavy cruiser of the County class. She was laid down on September 21st 1927 and commissioned September 30th 1930. After serving in the Atlantic fleet, Africa Station and China Station, when war broke out she was transferred to the South Atlantic to help in the search for the Graf Spee. At the end of May 1941 she was actively involved in final engagement and sinking of the Bismark, when she fired four torpedoes into the stricken vessel.

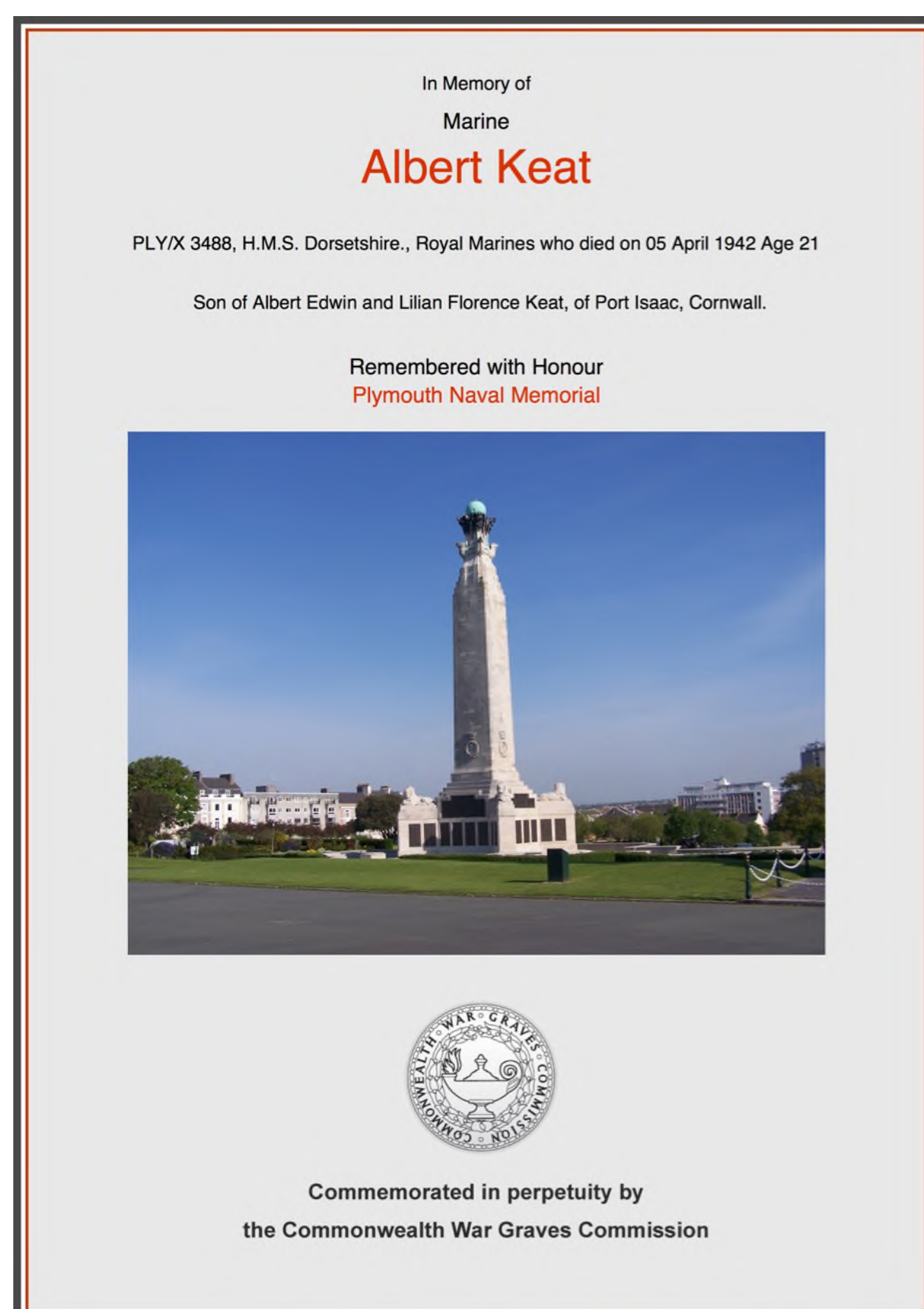
In March 1942, Dorsetshire was transferred to the Eastern Fleet under Commodore Augustus Agar. She was assigned to A Force under Admiral James Summerville. A Force included the battleship Warspite, carriers Indomitable and Formidable, as well as the cruiser Cornwall. Following reports of an impending Japanese attack in the Indian Ocean, Summerville put to sea on March 31st. Having encountered nothing, he withdrew to refuel on April 4th and sent Dorsetshire and Cornwall to Ceylon to refuel.



*A Japanese aircraft image of Dorsetshire and Cornwall under attack by dive bombers*

On April 5th Dorsetshire and Cornwall were spotted by reconnaissance aircraft from the Japanese heavy cruiser Tone. They were attacked by a force of 53 dive bombers 200 miles southwest of Ceylon. In the span of just 8 minutes Dorsetshire was hit by ten 250lb and 500lb bombs. One of the bombs detonated an ammunition magazine which hastened her sinking at about 13.50. Cornwall was hit eight times and sank about 10 minutes later. The two ships had a total complement of 1,546, of which 1,122 were rescued the following day by the cruiser Enterprise and destroyers Paladin and Panther.

Marine Albert Keat went down with the ship and is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.



## Sources

HMS Dorsetshire: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Dorsetshire\\_\(40\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Dorsetshire_(40))