

George Thomas



Seaman LT/X 7719C, Royal Naval Reserve (Patrol Service) HM Trawler Thuringia

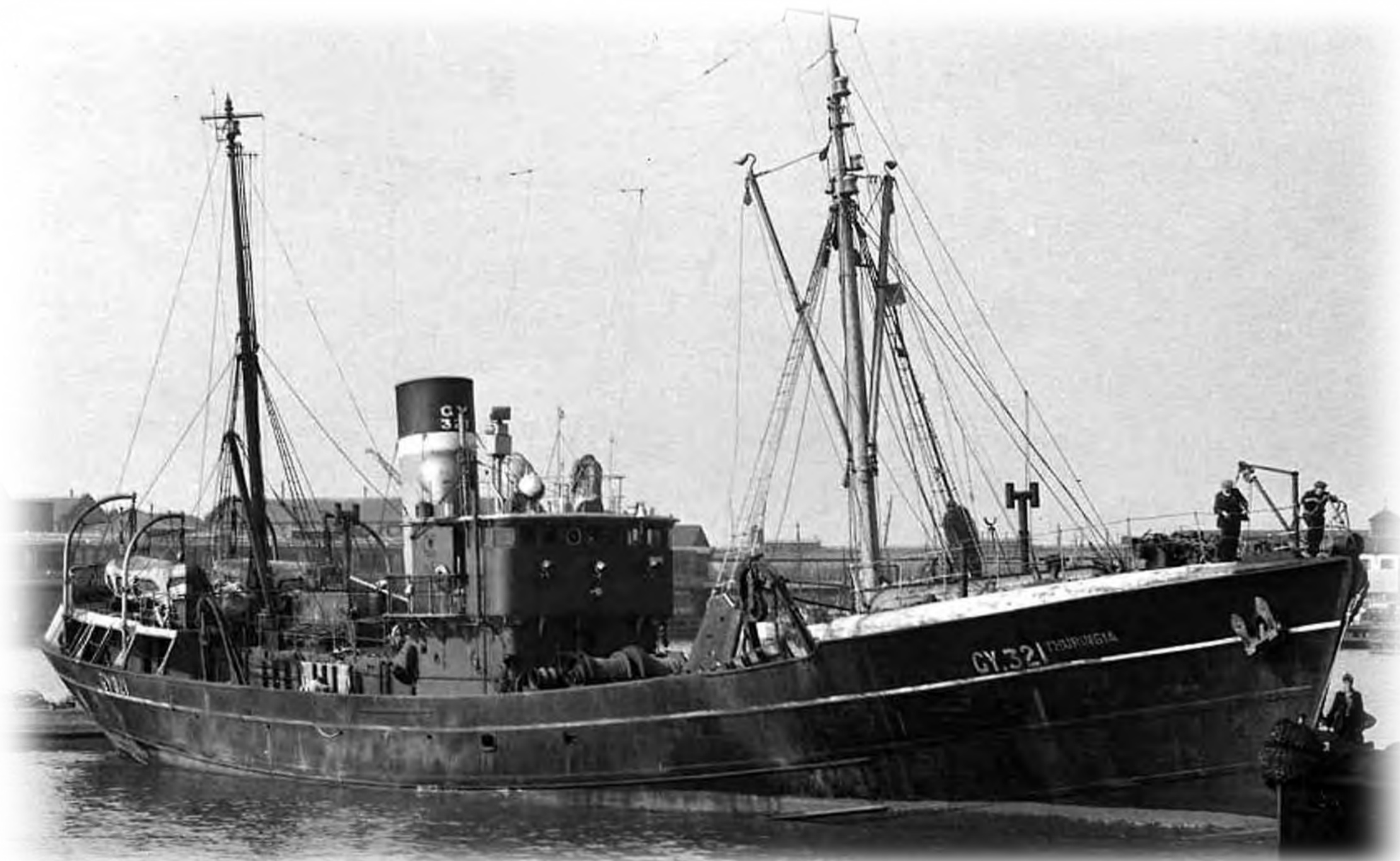
Died May 28th 1940, aged 31

Commemorated Lowestoft War Memorial

Son of Charles and Anne Thomas;

husband of Dorothy Claudina Thomas, of Delabole, Cornwall

In the 1911 census, George Thomas was a 2 year old living with his father Charles (52) recorded as a jobbing gardener, and three sisters (*Heleana 12, Mildred 11 and Susie 5*) and 2 brothers (*Charles 8 and Samuel 6*). His mother Anne was in South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital in Plymouth. In World War 2 George was in the Royal Naval Reserve (Patrol Service), where he served on HM Trawler Thuringia.



H M Trawler Thuringia (as Grimsby Trawler GY 321 Thuringia)

The 550 ton Grimsby trawler Thuringia was built in 1935. It was purchased by the Royal Navy in August 1939 and converted for anti-submarine duties. Its skipper, David William Leon Simpson was awarded the DSC in January 1940 and the citation reads '*For unflinching courage, endurance and resource in HM Trawlers, Drifters and Minesweepers in their hard and perilous task of sweeping the seas clear of enemy mines and combating submarines.*'

At the end of May 1940, Thuringia was involved in Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, where she would have been carrying out anti-submarine duties to defend the beaches whilst the evacuations were taking place between May 27th and June 4th 1940. In the Naval, Military and Air Situation report to the War Cabinet for the week up to 12 noon May 30th 1940 can be found the fate of the Thuringia - '*H.M. Trawler Thuringia was sunk, probably by a mine, off Nieuport.*' Other online reports suggest it was lost off La Panne, but this is essentially the same place. Nieuport (*Nieuwpoort*) is the Belgian town at the northern end of Dunkirk beach, and La Panne (*De Panne*) is a small town between Dunkirk and Nieuport.

These are the fourteen men of HM Trawler Thuringia lost May 28th 1940:

Stoker Richard **BALFOUR** aged 26
Seaman Cook Bertram Frank **BROWN** aged 20
Engineman John **BRUCE** aged 30
Ordinary Seaman Charles Henry **COOK**
Stoker Wallace **DIVERS**
Second Hand William Alexander **GEDDES**
Chief Engineman Joseph **GRATION** aged 59
Seaman Matthew **JEFFERSON** aged 31
Stoker 2nd Class Thomas **LINTON** aged 20
Seaman Thomas **PETERS** aged 35
Chief Engineman Alexander **PIRIE**
Leading Seaman Wilfred **RYLETT** aged 24
Chief Skipper David William Leon **SIMPSON** DSC, DSM aged 44
Seaman George **THOMAS** aged 31

With no known grave, Seaman George Thomas is commemorated on the Lowestoft War Memorial. As well as being recorded on the Port Isaac War Memorial, he is also included on the Delabole War Memorial.

In Memory of
Seaman
George Thomas

LT/X 7719C, H.M. Trawler Thuringia., Royal Naval Reserve (Patrol Service) who died on 28 May 1940 Age 31

Son of Charles and Anne Thomas; husband of Dorothy Claudina Thomas, of Delabole, Cornwall.

Remembered with Honour
Lowestoft Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

1939 — 1945

AMY. H. C. HATCH. S. J.
BROWN. P. HATCH. A. G.
BUCKLAND. R. G. HILL. T. A.
DAVISON. A. S. THOMAS. G.
WHITE. J. H.

Seaman George Thomas on Delabole War Memorial

SOURCES

HM Trawler Thuringia: <http://ww2today.com/30th-may-1940-first-aerial-reconnaissance-at-night>
and <http://ww2talk.com/forums/topic/19983-chief-skipper-david-william-leon-simpson-dsc-and-dsm-hm-trawler-thuringia-royal-naval-reserve>
and http://www.rnpsa.co.uk/memorial/memorial_date1.htm
Dunkirk Evacuation: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunkirk_evacuation
We are grateful to Warwick Provis for the information enabling the correct George Thomas to be identified.