

George Brewer Thomas

Petty Officer D/6105D, HMS President III, Royal Naval Reserve

Died September 2nd 1941, aged 42

Memorial at St Endellion Churchyard (Grave E 138)

Son of Joseph and Rachel Thomas, of Port Isaac;

husband of Ora Sybil Thomas, of Port Isaac



In the 1911 census, George Brewer Thomas is recorded as an 11 year old scholar. His father Joseph (54) and mother Rachel (53) also had two daughters living with them; Lilia (17) and Kathleen (10). The census records Joseph's occupation as Mariner/Coast Fisherman, and also records that in their 32 years of marriage they had 14 children, 9 of whom were still living. They seem to have had some problems calculating how many children, as there are many crossings out, with a figure 11 and 13 visible before settling for 14. In autumn 1931 George married Ora Sybil Prout (born 1902).

George Brewer Thomas was a Petty Officer and gunnery instructor at HMS Forte naval base in Falmouth. At the start of the war, the WW1 Lewis guns had been replaced for infantry use with Bren guns. After the loss of so much equipment at Dunkirk, stocks of Lewis guns were pressed into service, especially on coastal vessels like armed trawlers and merchant ships, as well as motor torpedo boats, usually twin mounted.

During one of George's lectures, there was an accident seriously wounding him. He was rushed to the Royal Naval sick headquarters at Falmouth, but died shortly after on September 2nd 1941. The death certificate records the cause of death as 'Bullet wound in abdomen and shock due to the discharge of a cartridge from a Lewis Gun during a lecture. Accident'. His address was given as 'Tregarthen' Port Isaac, and his occupation was given as 'Petty Officer R.N. Reserve (Formerly a Yacht Hand.)'.

Petty Officer George Brewer Thomas has his memorial in St Endellion churchyard.



Twin-mounted Lewis Guns on a motor torpedo boat



The grave of Petty Officer George Brewer Thomas at St Endellion Churchyard

In Memory of
Petty Officer

George Brewer Thomas

D/6105D, H.M.S. President III, Royal Naval Reserve who died on 02 September 1941 Age 41

Son of Joseph and Rachel Thomas, of Port Isaac; husband of Ora Sybil Thomas, of Port Isaac.

Remembered with Honour
St. Endellion (St. Endellion) Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Sources:

Lewis Guns in WW2: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_gun#World_War_II

We are grateful to Warwick Provis for the information he provided on the death of George Brewer Thomas.