



FARNDON DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Remembering the Men of Farndon

Pilot Officer 89092 COLIN DOUGLAS LOUGHLIN

14 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died 18 November 1941 Aged 28

Colin Douglas Loughlin was born in 1913 in Liverpool, to parents Edward Alexander Loughlin and Isabella Jones. Edward was a seafaring man and served in the Merchant Navy for many years out of Liverpool for both Booth Line and Blue Funnel. He was also deployed on the convoys during WW1 and for his service he was awarded the Mercantile Marine Medal and the British War Medal. Edward and Isabella married in 1906 at St Cyprian's in Edge Hill, while residing in 10 Houlton Street, Kensington (now modern housing). By the time of the birth of their first child, Edward Cash Loughlin on 9 January 1908, they were living nearby in 27 Botanic Place.

1906. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Cyprian Church</u> in the Parish of <u>St. Cyprian Edge Hill</u> in the County of <u>Liverpool</u>								
Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
480	June 2nd 1906	Edward Alexander Loughlin	21 years	Bachelor	Ship Steward	10 Houlton St.	Edward Loughlin	Mar. house man
		Isabella Jones	23 years	Spinster	—	10 Houlton St.	Thomas Jones	Mar. houseman
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Established Church</u> by <u>Robert Jones</u> or after <u>Banns</u> by me, <u>G. H. Lander</u> This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Edward Alexander Loughlin</u> and <u>Isabella Jones</u> in the Presence of us, <u>Robert Jones</u> and <u>G. H. Lander</u> Vicar								

Another son, Leslie Alexander, followed on 7 March 1909, and by 1911 they had moved to 33 Stanford Street, Liverpool, where Joseph Denis Loughlin was born on 29 April 1911. Their fourth son Colin Douglas, was born in 1913.

Two of the sons, Edward junior and Leslie, attended Merchant Taylor's School in Crosby, the independent fee-paying boarding school, which was quite unusual considering they were not particularly well off (although they could afford a servant in a modest terrace house). Possibly they were helped with assisted places though Edward's employers. More likely they had support during wartime from the Neptune Lodge of Liverpool Freemasons, where Edward had been a member since 1906.



27 Botanic Place



33 Stanford Street, Liverpool

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule **193**
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children will Living.	Children who have Died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	State whether— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is— (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Idiot," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
Edward A. Roughlin	Head	26	Married	14	2	2	—	Boatbuilding, (Ship Chiseling)	Boatbuilding, (Ship Chiseling)	Worker	At Home	Lanes, Liverpool	—	—
Isabella Roughlin	Wife	28	Married	14	2	2	—	—	—	—	At Home	Lanes, Liverpool	—	—
Edward Rob. Roughlin	Son	3	Single	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	At Home	Lanes, Liverpool	—	—
Leslie A. Roughlin	Son	2	Single	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	At Home	Lanes, Liverpool	—	—
Ellen Boylsey	Servant	18	Single	—	—	—	—	General Servant (Washing)	—	—	At Home	Lanes, Liverpool	—	—

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.
(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Total.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
5	3	2	5

Initials of Enumerator *Ms.*

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature *E. A. Roughlin*
Postal Address *33 St James Street, Liverpool*

Merchant Taylors' School, Gt. Crosby



Neptune Lodge

No. 1264 Continued

DATE OF INITIATION.	PASSING.	RAISING.	SURNAME.	CHRISTIAN NAME.	AGE.	RESIDENCE.	PROFESSION.	CERTIFICATE.
1906 Jan 1 Feb 5	July 30	Williams	Richard John	27	25 Chelsea Road	1 st Officer	27-8-6	
do. Feb 5	Mar 10	William	William Joseph	26	28 Charlotte Road	Chief Steward	30-4-6	
Feb 5	July 2	George	George	27	32 Ripon Street	1 st Officer	1-10-9	
Feb 5	Mar 10	Thomas	Thomas	20	7 Crooketh Rd. Seaford	Foreman Brickmaker	30-4-6	24-6-11
do. do.	do.	William	William	38	12 Salmons. Braham	Announcer	do	22-2-11
do. do.	do.	Thomas	William Thomas	31	3 Ligon St. Plymouth	Gunners Inst.	do	
do. Sep 3	Apr 27	Henry Scott	Henry Scott	33	61 Ropston Street	Master Fisherman	26-4-7	
Feb 23	Nov 26	Albert Edward	Albert Edward	40	6 Underlay Street	Steward	8-5-6	
do. do.	do.	Spencer William	Spencer William	28	26 Oxford Rd. Liscard	do.	do	
Mar 5	Feb 27	John	Benjamin Arthur	29	14 Smithdown Road	Marine Engnt.	26-2-8	
do. July 2	Aug 7	John	John William	29	132 Walton Village	Master Mariner	27-8-6	
do. Mar 17	Oct 11	Stephen Peart	Stephen Peart	27	17 Brompton Rd	Master Fisherman	3-11-6	
do. do.	July 13	George Henry	George Henry	30	5 Lido Street	Comm'l. Trull.	27-8-6	24-6-11
Mar 17	July 12	James	James	23	37 Newstead Rd	Electrician	do	25-2-11
do. Oct 16	Dec 20	Reginald	Reginald	30	26 Rudgrave Lgh. Liscard	Chief Steward	4-3-7	
do. Mar 17	Apr 27	John	John	31	54 August Road	Master Mariner	26-4-7	
June 5	July 22	Frank	Frank	25	37 Moses Street	Chief Steward	22-9-6	
do. Jan 18	Dec 7	Albert Edward	Albert Edward	34	Clings Lynn Gravel Pit	Comm'l. Trull.	23-12-8	
do. from 1881	Jan 1	Alfred	Alfred	29	102 Alderson Road	Chief P.O.	—	
do. Sep 17	Dec 8	William Edward	William Edward	45	102 Webster Road	Master Mariner	4-5-7	
do. Mar 17	Jan 21	John Edward	John Edward	32	1 Linsdale Avenue	Marine Engnt.	20-1-11	
July 2	Sep 5	Edward	Edward	34	129 Empress Rd.	Police Sgt.	3-11-6	
do. do.	do.	Archibald Hamilton	Archibald Hamilton	33	56 Pennington Rd	Rubber Stnft.	do	
do. Feb 27	Mar 17	William	William	32	21 Cairn Street	Master Mariner	31-5-7	
do. Mar 17	Apr 17	George Thomas	George Thomas	34	52 Mossy St. Hookway	Chief Engnt.	31-10-7	25-10-11
July 20	Apr 5	John Arthur	John Arthur	34	6 Elvanor Rd. Birtle	Chief Steward	3-11-6	
do. Sep 26	Dec 3	Charles Hugh	Charles Hugh	36	45 Victoria St. Liscard	Master Mariner	15-3-7	
do. Jan 7	Jan 19	Harry	Harry	42	8 Hallam Street	Carpenter	23-8-7	
do. Sep 8	Jan 7	John Anthony	John Anthony	45	2 The Elms Dingle	Master Mariner	2-9-7	
do. Nov 5	Dec 3	James	James	30	7 Merivale Street	Engineer	4-3-7	
do. do.	do.	Richard	Richard	28	41 St. Crosshall St.	Plumber	do.	
do. Dec 12	Dec 20	David Tudor	David Tudor	24	81 Moses Street	Engineer	23-1-8	
do. do.	do.	Ernest	Ernest	29	20 Georges Road	Plumber	4-3-7	
Oct 1	Apr 27	Thomas	Thomas	30	56 Bank Road	Engineer	20-1-11	
Oct 9	Mar 17	Robert William	Robert William	24	228 Park Rd. B'head	Chief Steward	23-8-7	
Oct 9	Nov 26	Ernest	Ernest	33	15 Roslyn Street	do	21-5-7	
Nov 5	Jan 7	Alfred Henry	Alfred Henry	24	24 Clarendon Rd. Liscard	Writer	15-3-7	
do. Jan 7	Feb 4	Robert Sandford	Robert Sandford	51	3 Conokkum Row	Licensed Victualler	15-3-7	
do. Dec 20	Jan 26	Edward Alexander	Edward Alexander	22	27 Botanic Place	Chief Steward	15-3-7	
do. from 1889	Jan 26	Frank	Frank	-	24 Earle Street	Marine Engnt.	—	
Dec 3	Feb 4	Andrew Wilcox	Andrew Wilcox	31	33 Bennetts Hall B'head	Chief Engnt.	26-4-7	
do. Feb 22	Apr 10	William Fraser	William Fraser	30	4 York Hotel	Surgeon	31-10-7	
do. Jan 7	Feb 4	Henry	Henry	26	94 Richmond Row	Truck Maker	15-3-7	
do. Jan 7	Feb 4	Charles Henry	Charles Henry	41	67 Coniston Street	Chief P.O.	do	
do. do.	do.	George Wm. Wallace	George Wm. Wallace	34	36 Coleridge Street	Steward	do	
Dec 7	do.	Thomas	Thomas	31	Stanlow Villas Liscard	Angry Salvaging	do	
do. May 17	Aug 7	Samuel	Samuel	24	26 Trenchard Street	Ship's Joiner	23-8-7	
1907 Jan 7	Apr 2	Griffith	Griffith	37	25 Cairns Street	Mariner	31-10-7	
Jan 7	Oct 7	David John	David John	28	11 Belgrave Rd	Engineer	26-10-9	
		Carried Forward						

4

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED

ALL ALIENS, in whatever class they travel, MUST be fully listed and the master or commanding officer of each vessel carrying such passengers

S. S. AURANIA sailing from LIVERPOOL 12th MAY, 1917.

1 No. on List	2 HEAD TAX EXEMPTIONS		3 NAME IN FULL	4 Age	5 Sex	6 Married or Single	7 Calling or Occupation	8 Able to— Read Write	9 Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	10 Race or People	11 * Last Permanent Residence		12 The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country where alien came.	
	Exemption	Exemption									Country	City or Town		
1			Forbes											
2			Forbes	61	m	m	Master	Yes	Yes	British	English	England	Liverpool	Wife Martha Forbes, 103 Betancourt Road, Liverpool
3			Bell	41	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	do	o/o TheBooth S.S.Co Ltd., Cunard Bldg, Liverpool
4			Williams	46	m	m	Mariner	do	do	do	Welsh	Wales	Borth	Mother M. James, Borth Cardiganshire, Wales
5			Clarke	40	m	m	de	de	de	do	English	England	Seacombe	Wife Mrs. F. Clarke, 23 Hartismere Rd, Seacombe, Cheshire
6			May	50	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	Liverpool	Wife Mrs. T. May, 5 Fernside Rd, Liverpool
7			Maiden	39	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	Waterloo	Wife Mrs. A. Maiden, 19 Picton Road, Waterloo, Liverpool
8			Rodgers	23	m	s	de	de	de	do	Irish	do	Wallasey	Father J. Rodgers, 53 Oxten Road Wallasey, Cheshire
9			Leslie	32	m	s	de	de	de	do	English	do	Prenton	Cousin Mrs. Kate Bentley, Norwood, Water Pl. Rd. Prenton Bham
10			Williams	44	m	m	Engineer	de	de	do	Welsh	do	Walton	Wife Mrs. R. Williams, 28 Hampden St., Walton, Liverpool
11			Capey	40	m	m	de	de	de	do	English	do	Liverpool	Wife Mrs. May Capey, 11 Blantyre Road, Liverpool
12			Graham	36	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	do	Wife Mrs. A. Graham, 9 Roxburgh Ave, Liverpool
13			Bulleck	49	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	do	Wife Mrs. C. Bulleck, 31 Bunderham Road, Agbuth, Liverpool
14			Calquhoun	31	m	s	de	de	de	do	Irish	do	do	Wife Mrs. S. Calquhoun, 42 Benedict St, Bootle, Liverpool
15			Wood	30	m	s	de	de	de	do	English	do	Liscard	Mother Mrs. M. Wood, 14 Holland Road, Liscard, Cheshire
16			Davies	38	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	Liverpool	Wife Mrs. H. Davies, 28 Cantafield St. Wavertree, Liverpool
17			Legge	20	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	Sankey	Wife Mrs. Nora Legge, Liverpool Road, Sankey, Warrington
18			Loughlin	32	m	m	Chief Steward	do	do	do	do	do	Liverpool	Wife Mrs. S. Loughlin, 42 Rossett Rd, Blundellsands, Liverpool
19			Phillips	35	m	m	de	de	de	do	do	do	do	Wife Mrs. Dora Phillips, 25 Mauretania Rd, Walton, Liverpool
20			Lewis	17	m	s	Mess Rm. Steward	do	do	do	do	do	do	Father Thos. Lewis, 18 Clarence Grove, Everton, Liverpool
21			Welch	17	m	s	de	de	de	do	do	do	do	Mother Mrs. Annie Burrows, Farmers Arms, Huxton, Lancs.
22			Supple	16	m	s	2nd Cook & Baker	do	do	do	do	do	Liverpool	Father Chas. Supple, 57 Silverdale Ave, Bootle, Liverpool
23			Doth	50	m	s	Cook	do	do	do	East Indian	do	do	Friend Charles Henson, 54 Essey Road, Liverpool
24			Clark	27	m	s	Cook & Stoker	do	do	do	English	do	do	Mother Margaret A. Clark, 13 Thirlmere Rd, Liverpool
25			James Thomas	16	m	s	Steward	do	do	do	do	do	Birkenhead	Father John James, 33 Carlisle St. Birkenhead
26			Morrissey	16	m	s	de	de	de	do	Irish	do	Liverpool	Father John Morrissey, 91 Burleigh Road, Anfield, Liverpool
27			Leather	37	m	m	Ship's Cook	do	do	do	English	do	do	Wife Mrs. Margt. Leather, 9 Rufford Rd, Bootle, Liverpool
28			Hassan	28	m	s	Steward	No	No	do	East Indian	N.Y.	New York	Friend Mahomed Effendi, 22 Washington St. New York
29														
30														

Employed on board

2 to 74 + 28 signed on ship's articles. none were not employed in any capacity on board the vessel. - came to passengers.

Edward A. Burke
H. L. Burke
J. Crisp

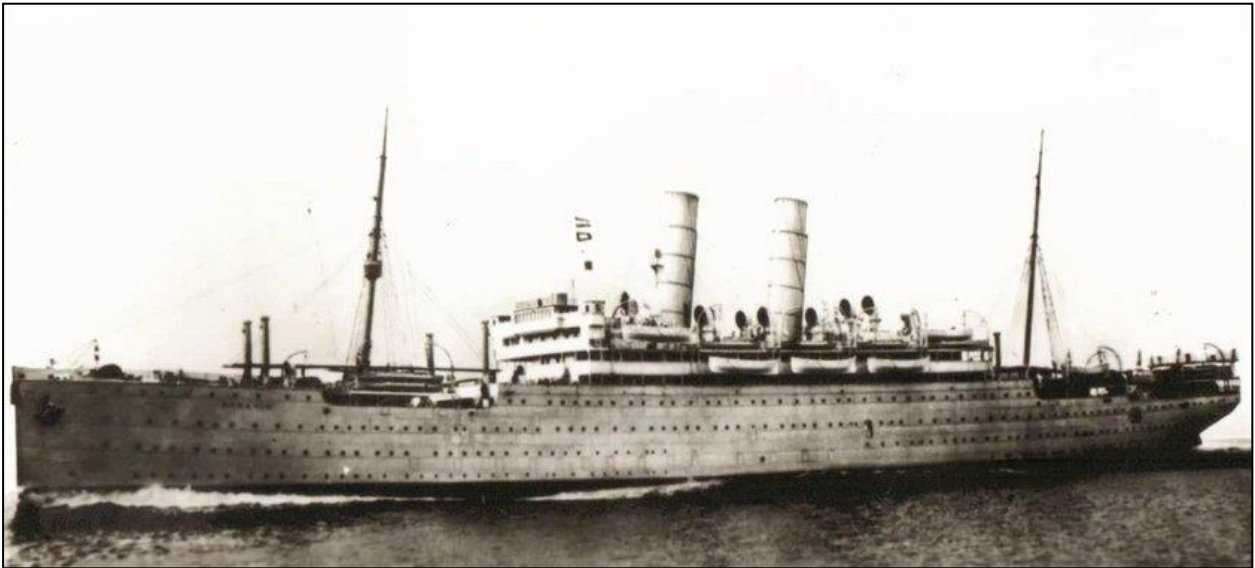
Number of aliens on this sheet as to whom Collector has been requested to collect head tax: **19**

* Last permanent residence is the country in which the alien has last resided for one year or more.
† List of names will be found on the back of this sheet.

Just one of the many vessels that Edward Loughlin travelled on during his career. The history of this particular vessel in its short life, reflects the dangers faced by crews of the Merchant Navy while ensuring the supplies were kept moving during the war.

The RMS *Aurania* was launched on 16 July 1916 and was immediately fitted out as a troopship. She made her maiden voyage from the Tyne to New York on 28 March 1917 and on her return sailed to Liverpool. The ship remained on hire to the British Government for the remainder of her career and

was used exclusively on the North Atlantic, primarily moving troops and supplies. On 3 February 1918, she left Liverpool and was routed around the coast of Northern Ireland, bound for New York. On the following morning, she was some 15 miles north-west of Inishtrahull, off the coast of Donegal, when she was hit by a torpedo from German submarine UB-67. Nine crew members were killed in the explosion. A trawler took the ship in tow but she became stranded near Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, Scotland. Rough seas soon broke *Aurania* up and she was declared a total loss.



RMS *Aurania* in her wartime colours



By the mid-1920s, there came a career change and the family moved to Wrexham, where Edward became landlord of The Fleece Vaults in 22 Hope Street in the centre of town.

Their sons, meanwhile, completed their education at Grove Grammar School on their move to Wrexham.

After a short time there, they moved to Farndon in 1929 to take on the running of The Greyhound.

The Greyhound, Farndon



The Greyhound c.1920s



**Edward and Isabella Loughlin
and son July 1932**

Edward Alexander Loughlin's time in the village was short as he passed away in 1934, but made quite an impression on his time at the Greyhound, becoming committed to Farndon life and its people.

DEATH OF MR A. LOUGHLIN, FARNDON.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Edward Alexander Loughlin, the esteemed licensee of the Greyhound Hotel, which sad event occurred at his residence on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at the comparatively early age of 49 years.

For several months past Mr. Loughlin had been suffering from an internal complaint, and during his illness had undergone several serious operations in the effort to prolong his life. For some weeks past, however, his doctors had held out little hope. He is survived by his widow and four sons, with all of whom great sympathy is felt in their bereavement.

Mr. Loughlin had lived in Farndon for the past 4½ years and took a keen interest in the activities of village life, especially in all kinds of local sport. He was a model host and will be greatly missed by all classes of the community. Previous to his becoming licensee of the Greyhound Hotel, he was proprietor of the Fleece Hotel, Wrexham.

He was a Freemason and a member of the Order of Buffaloes, in the welfare of which society he took a keen interest, being primarily associated with the formation of the Buffalo Lodge at Farndon.

Many years of his early life were spent at sea, with the Booth Line and Blue Funnel line, having filled the position of chief steward on ships of both steamship companies.

The funeral will take place at 3 o'clock on Friday, the 13th inst., at Farndon.



Isabella continued to run the Greyhound with the help of her sons Leslie and Edward jnr before she too passed away in 1937.

She and husband Edward were laid to rest in the same plot in St Chad's Churchyard.

(right) Isabella Loughlin c.1936

Leslie with his wife Annie continued with the tenancy while Edward moved to Wrexham in 1937 to take on the Red Lion in Pen-y-Bryn in the centre of town.

When the war commenced, both Leslie and Edward became part of the war effort working in the Broughton factory constructing Wellington bombers.

After shift, Edward travelled to Liverpool to work as a firefighter. After the war he became a driver for Crossville Bus Company. He passed away in 1986. Their bother Dennis Joseph Loughlin also served with the RAFVR – as a navigator on Sunderlands flying out of Wick and South Wales. He survived the war.



Pilot Officer 89092 COLIN DOUGLAS LOUGHLIN

Colin Douglas (known as 'CD') Loughlin had by the early thirties begun a teacher training course in Chester College. As his course progressed, he was placed at the Grosvenor St John's School for Boys opposite the Amphitheatre in 1935 and moved into the adjacent Old Bishops' Palace over-looking the Dee (below).



Grosvenor St John's School for Boys

E.D. Letter Code		LBRV		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Chester		Registration District and Sub-district		450-1/1 Special 13	
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.		
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
MILITIA BUILDINGS, CASTLE ESPLANADE 140 DAY XGR	1	47	White, Elith M.	-	F	10 May	21	54	Unpaid Domestic Dut		
		48	BATTEN John M.	-	F	22 Feb	18	82	At school		
		49	Barker, Doris M.	-	F	12 Sep	14	14	Unpaid Domestic Dut		
		50	Davies, Rebecca	-	F	1 May	22	17	Unpaid Domestic Dut		
		51	Davies, Ronald G.	-	M	8 Mar	32	5	At school		
		52	Hill, Harold H.	-	F	19 Apr	24	14	Unpaid Domestic Dut		
This record is officially closed.											
This record is officially closed.											
This record is officially closed.											
This record is officially closed.											
This record is officially closed.											
Y.M.C.A. HOSTEL THE OLD PALACE	2	58	Talbot, William	-	M	1 Apr	21	3	Carriage (H. King) 14		
		1	Berry, Joseph	P	M	2 Feb	10	3	Secretary, Insurance Coy		
		2	Bolton, Martin	-	M	15 Apr	20	5	Company Accountant		
		3	Davies, Ernest E.	-	M	28 Feb	24	5	alongst superior (H. King)		
		4	Dean, Robert L.	-	M	2 Mar	13	5	Chiropractor		
		5	Dinnick, Arthur G.	-	M	2 Apr	10	5	Asst. Traffic Supt. P.C. 1000000000		
This record is officially closed.											
		7	Ellis, Joseph	-	M	1 Mar	13	3	Architect		
		8	Falkner, John	-	M	25 Oct	10	3	Assistant Surgeon		
		9	Fenn, L. M. D. C.	-	F	31 July	11	3	Captain		
		10	Hutchins, Ronald	-	M	11 Mar	12	W	Captain		
		11	James, L. J.	-	M	1 Aug	12	5	British Empire National Insurance		
		13	James, Basil W.	-	M	2 July	11	5	Pharmacist		
		15	May, David J.	-	M	2 Mar	26	5	Representative		
		16	Loughlin, Colin D.	-	M	6 May	13	5	Schoolmaster		

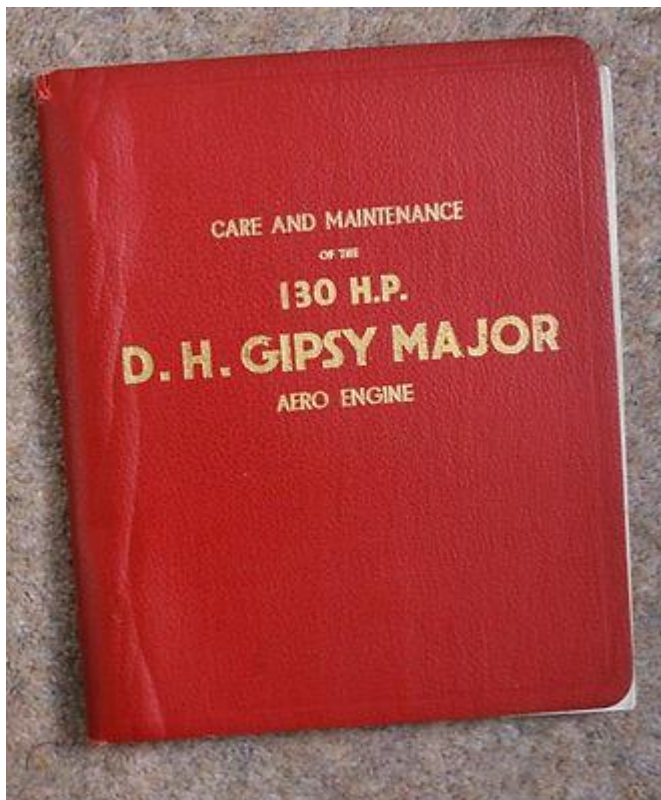
1939 Census – showing Colin D. Loughlin on the bottom row living in the Old Palace

In 1939, CD Loughlin began to train as a pilot at Speke Airport, which would operate as RAF Speke for the duration of the war. By now he had signed on with the RAFVR, which had supplied the ever reliable de Havilland DH.82A Tiger Moth (Tiger Moth II), the RAF's choice for a military trainer plane, to government-sponsored civilian flying clubs, such as Liverpool Aero Club.

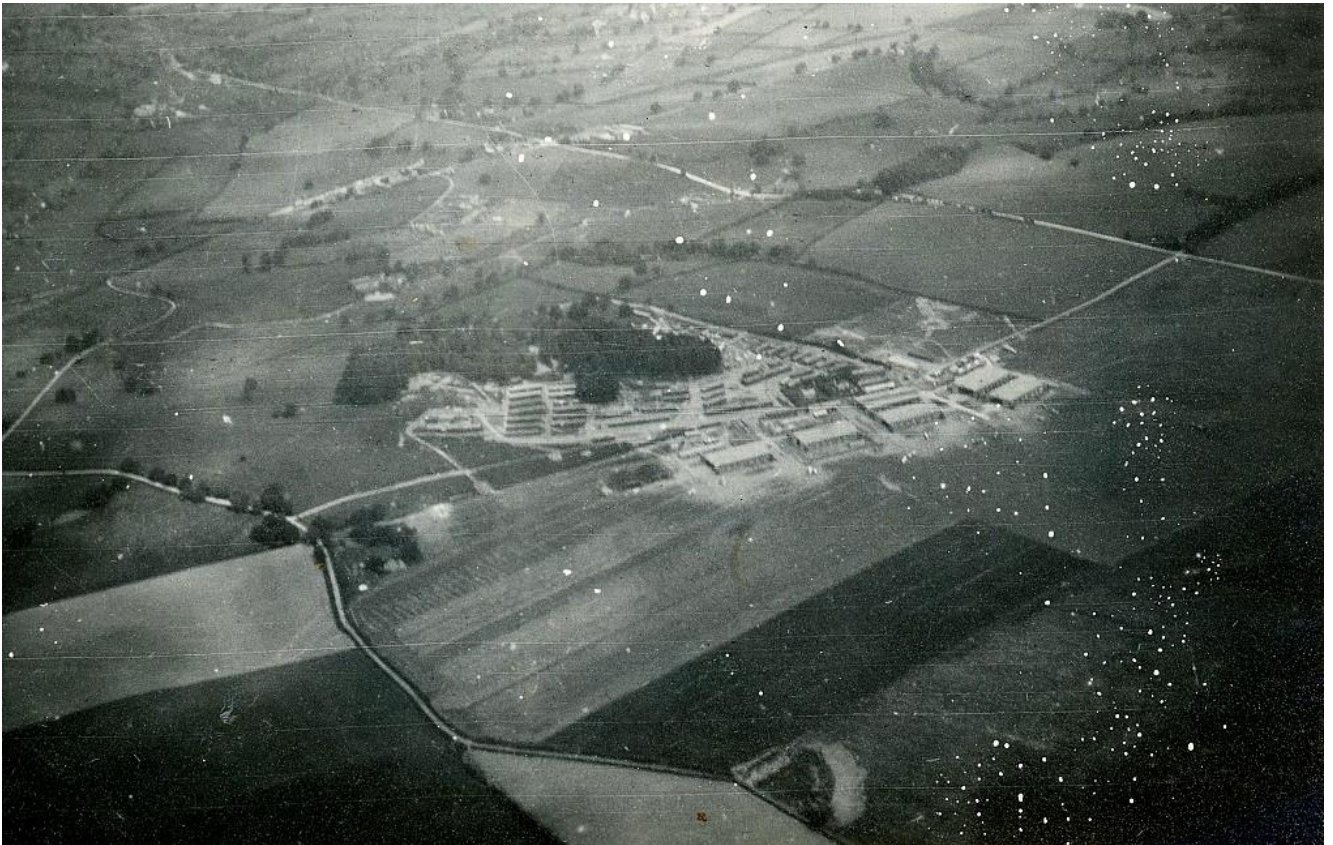
19477	
LOUGHLIN, Colin Douglas, c/o Y.M.C.A. Chester.	
Born	6th May 1913 at Liverpool
Nationality	British
Rank, Regiment, Profession	School Teacher
Certificate taken on	D.H. Tiger, Gipsy Major, 130
At	Liverpool Aero Club
Date	11.8.39.



**de Havilland DH.82A Tiger Moth (Tiger Moth II)
Fitted with the Gipsy Major 130 H.P.**



Once he had completed his basic training, he was posted to 14 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, and moved to Ternhill Shropshire, where he received intensive advanced training on multi-engined aircraft, mainly Avro Ansons.



RAF Ternhill, Shropshire

After Ternhill, CD was posted to 17 OTU Upwood, Huntingdon, where he undertook crew training to fly Blenheims for No.2 Group. Once qualified, he was posted to No.2 Group Blenheim Squadron 107 based at Wattisham in Suffolk.



Meanwhile, when World War II broke out, 14 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve was transferred to Egypt but soon returned to Amman. In May 1940, with the likelihood of war between Britain and Italy increasing rapidly, 14 Squadron was ordered to move to Port Sudan to reinforce the weak RAF forces in East Africa facing Italian forces in Ethiopia and Eritrea. On 10 June 1940, Italy declared war on Britain and France, and on the night of 11/12 June, 14 Squadron flew its first offensive mission of the Second World War, when nine Wellesleys bombed fuel storage tanks and the airfield at Massawa.

The Squadron started to receive twin-engined Bristol Blenheims in September 1940, flying its first Blenheim mission on 20 September, and flying its final Wellesley sortie on 20 November. In March 1941 it carried out bombing raids in support of the assault on Keren.

At some stage during this period, Pilot Officer Loughlin had completed his training and was despatched to join his squadron in North Africa. He was also posted to Iraq as described below.

In April 1941, following the liberation of Addis Ababa, the squadron was sent to Egypt for operations over the Western Desert. The squadron was deployed in support of Operation Brevity on 15–16 May 1941, an unsuccessful British offensive, and carried out attacks on German and Italian motor transport, with five Blenheims being shot down by Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighters of III Gruppe, Jagdgeschwader 27, while carrying out strafing attacks along the Tobruk–Capuzzo road on 21 May. The squadron flew attacks against Maleme Airfield on 25 and 27 May during the Battle of Crete, and in June, flew in support of Operation Battleaxe, another unsuccessful British offensive in the Western Desert. On 7 July 1941, the squadron withdrew from the Western Desert, being based in Palestine and Iraq until it returned to Egypt in November 1941.



A formation of five Blenheim Mark IVs (Z5893 'W' nearest) of No. 14 Squadron RAF in flight over the Western Desert. A Curtiss Kittyhawk, one of the escorting fighters, can be seen on the far right. (*Imperial War Museum*).

On 18 November 1941, No.14 Squadron Blenheim IV Z9543 took off from Landing Ground 75 (see map), detailed to attack twelve Axis aircraft on the landing ground at Bir el Baheira No.1 (LG 140).

Crew

89092 P/O (Pilot) Colin Douglas Loughlin RAFVR

62033 P/O (Obs.) Eric Douglas Main RAFVR

81399 P/O (Wireless Op./Air Gnr.) Alexander Franks M.C.I.S., RAFVR

The aircraft failed to return and was posted as missing. The crew were never seen again.

The No.14 Squadron history, *Winged Promises*, mentions the following:

Attacks were flown against aircraft at Barce Megrin, and against Bir el Baheira on the 18th November 1941, where German aircraft were bogged down on the airfield. It was on this raid that Pilot Officer O'Laughlin [sic] and his crew of Pilot Officers Main and Franks were lost. Their grave was later found dug by the Germans and inscribed on a simple cross 'To three brave airmen'.

Orange, Vincent et al., *Winged Promises: A History of No.14 Squadron, RAF 1915-1945*, pub. Fairford, RAF Benevolent Fund Enterprises (1996), p.159.

A letter from the Air Ministry to Pilot Officer Loughlin's brother Edward Loughlin, dated 23 March 1942, confirmed that three graves had been found. However, despite a search following the end of the war, to the heartbreak of the crew's families, their resting place could not be traced and all three men were commemorated on the Alamein Memorial.



14 Squadron RAFVR Landing Ground 75 (centre pin), from where Pilot Officer CD Loughlin and crew were detailed to attack 12 Axis aircraft on the Bir el Baheira No.1, LG 140 (left pin).

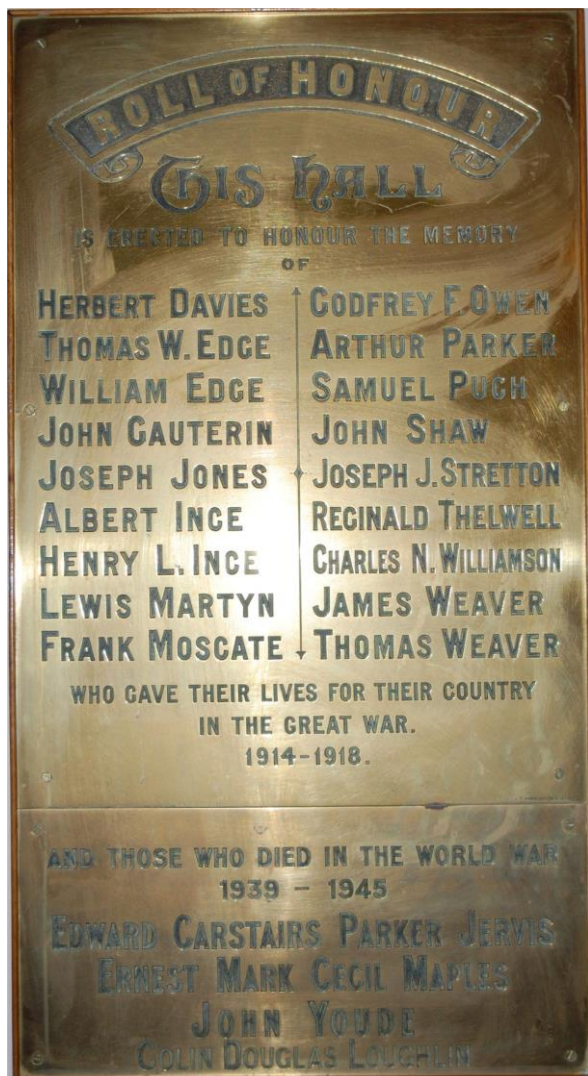
**Alamein
Memorial**
(130 kilometres
west of
Alexandria)





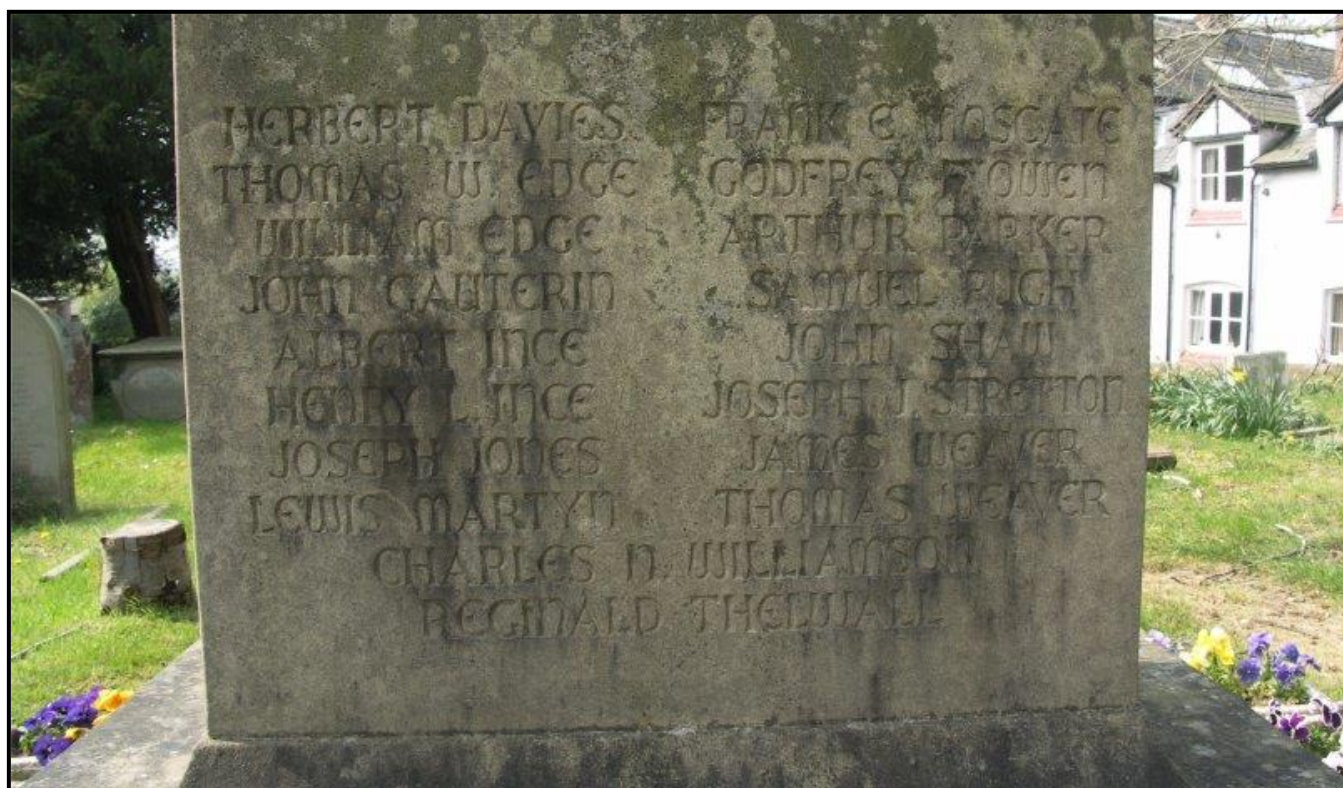
**Pilot Officer CD Loughlin
and crew stationed in Egypt**





Farndon War Memorial

Above left: the memorial plaque located in the entrance hall in the adjacent Memorial Hall.





At home, Pilot Officer Colin Douglas Loughlin RAFVR was recorded on the Farndon War Memorial in St Chad's Churchyard and on the Remembrance Plaque in the Memorial Hall.



On the 70th Anniversary
In Memory of my Uncle P/O C.D. Loughlin 89092 RAFVR 14 Squadron
Killed in action in the Western Desert 18 November 1941.

I received a letter from Pat Brookes who has written a small piece on her Uncle who was killed in action 70 years ago on November 18th 1941. If anyone by chance has anymore information on her Uncle I am sure she would be very pleased to hear from you. She can be contacted at Tros-y-wern Farm, Gwernymynydd, Mold, Flintshire, North Wales. CH7 4AF.

P/O Colin Douglas Loughlin (known as CD) was born in Liverpool in 1913 and educated at Merchant Taylors School until a family move to Wrexham and Farndon. He continued his education at Grove Park Grammar School, Wrexham, after which he trained at Cheshire College. An all round sportsman playing rugby, swimming and rowing for both School and College.

From 1935 to 1939 he taught at Grosvenor St John's School for Boys in Chester

In 1939 he was accepted and "sworn in" as a pilot in the RAFVR based at Ternhill, Shropshire, he undertook advanced training for pilots to go on to multi-engined aircraft, mainly Ansons.

His postings included 17 OTU Upwood, Huntingdon, which converted crews on to Blenheims for 2 Group, following which he was posted to the famous 2 Group Blenheim Squadron 107 based at Wattisham Suffolk.

I have little knowledge after this posting (I am still doing research) before he was sent to LG75, Western Desert, but Kurdistan and Mosul are mentioned on photographs sent from Iraq in October 1941.

On 18th November 1941 he took off from LG75, using cloud cover, for a solo attack on 12 aircraft bogged down on the east side of Bir-El-Baheira landing ground. He failed to return and there was no further news.



A letter from the Air Ministry to my father (Edward, brother of CD Loughlin) dated March 23rd 1942, confirmed three graves had been found.

The names of Pilot Officer C.D. Loughlin, Pilot Officer E. Main and Pilot Officer A. Franks, the crew of Blenheim Z9543 are on the Alamein Memorial.

Little was heard of 14 Squadron, once again disbanded on June 1st 2011.

I would be pleased to hear if anyone recognises what may be a photograph of the crew and Blenheim Z9543

My thanks to Steve Williams for all his valuable help.



Ironically, the day of my visit to Abingdon Airshow in 2007, where I discovered the Blenheim stand (and Ron) was my Uncle's birthday 6th May.

Since becoming Blenheim members we have spent many happy times meeting and making new friends.

Here's to seeing a very special Blenheim take to the skies in the very near future.

Pat Brookes

In Memory of

Pilot Officer

Colin Douglas Loughlin

89092, 14 Sqn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 18 November 1941 Age 28

Son of Edward Alexander Loughlin and Isabella Loughlin.

Remembered with Honour

Alamein Memorial



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Researched and written

by

Mike Royden

(With grateful thanks to Pat Brooks (nee Loughlin, daughter of Edward Loughlin junior) for copies of family photographs and documents)

www.roydenhistory.co.uk