



Edward Hurst

Trooper, Royal Armoured Corps

Died 1 June 1940 (age 28)

Edward Charles Hurst was born in 1901 to Isaac and Louise Elizabeth Hurst in Lillingstone Dayrell, a village near Towcester. Isaac was a farm bailiff. The family were living in Cannock in 1911 and, in Edward's war records, were recorded as being 'of Woodford, Kettering'.

Edward was one of six children and his younger brother Thomas was living on The Hill, Middleton in 1939.

Trooper Edward Hurst (Service No.7903384) was one of several Royal Armoured Corps men listed as missing in early June 1940 in France. Then, in July 1941, he is recorded as 'presumed killed in action at sea' on 17 June 1940, which is the date when the SS Lancastria was bombed by enemy aircraft and sank off the French port of St Nazaire.

Some other army records have Edward recorded as a prisoner of war, although this may have resulted from the general confusion that prevailed following the sinking.



The SS Lancastria sinking off St Nazaire



Edward Hurst

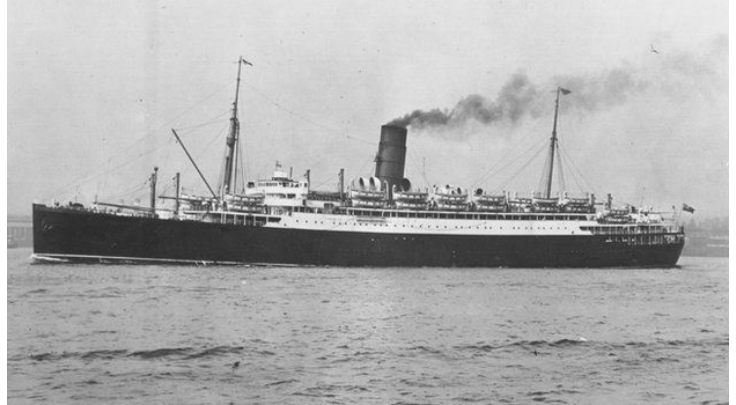
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The SS Lancastria, an ocean liner requisitioned by the UK Government, was ordered to evacuate British nationals and troops from Northern France as part of Operation Ariel, a couple of weeks after the evacuation of Dunkirk, in excess of its capacity of 1,300 passengers. It is believed between 3,000 and 5,800 people died when the ship sank, the largest single-ship loss of life in British maritime history. This tragic event was hushed up at the time by Winston Churchill, who ordered a media blackout and, even to this day, the tragedy remains largely forgotten.

More information here
www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-33092351

Edward is buried in a collective grave at Le Clion Sur Mer communal cemetery in Northern France, along with many others who lost their lives on the Lancastria.



With thanks to Chris Blenkarn for her help in gathering this information.

In Memory of

Trooper

Edward Charles Hurst

7903384, Royal Armoured Corps who died on 17 June 1940 Age 35

Son of Isaac and Louisa E. Hurst, of Woodford, Kettering, Northamptonshire.

Remembered with Honour

Le Clion-Sur-Mer Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission