



IN MEMORY OF LEADING SEAMAN GEORGE WINDSOR TANNER



Royal Navy

Lost at sea on 13th June 1944

BLUE PLAQUE J

George Tanner was born in 1914 in Bargoed, Wales to Thomas and Rose Tanner. He was their third child but tragically their eldest son, Thomas, had died in 1910. Thomas was working as a coal miner though he had previously been a domestic groom. During the First World War he served as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. At the end of the war George's elder sister, Olive, died in the devastating influenza epidemic. The family settled in Harbury with which Rose was familiar as her father had been bailiff at Walworth Farm. Thomas found employment as a butcher with local firm Alcocks and a son, Douglas, was born in 1920.

George married Sarah Cooper in December 1939 when he was employed as a bricklayer's labourer but he had been a steward at a convalescent home for men in Skegness where Sarah was a cook.



HMS Boudicea



Chatham Naval Memorial where George is commemorated

George joined the Royal Navy and by 1944 he was a Leading Seaman on HMS Boudicea which was a destroyer. After a spell escorting convoys to Russia the ship became part of Operation Neptune supporting the invasion of France.

On D Day HMS Boudicea escorted 31 tank landing craft carrying the tanks and men of the Dragoon Guards who were the first British tank crews to land in Normandy. On June 13th, HMS Boudicea was ordered to return to port and was sunk by enemy air attack off Portland. 150 men including George were lost. There were twelve survivors. George is remembered on Chatham Royal Navy Memorial to those who have no grave but the sea. It bears the names of 18,564 sailors lost in the two world wars.

