



George William Osborn Howe (28-30)



George was one of four children growing up in Rugby during WWI. After Conway, he became a Cadet with T&J Harrisons, trading to the West Indies. George gained his 2nd Mate's ticket but because of the Depression, he had to take a position with Blue Funnel as a Quartermaster. However, he did eventually obtain a Mate's position with them. He enlisted in the Royal Navy Reserves in 1939 and was sent to Kirkwall to the Northern Patrol. Firstly he served as Sub-Lieutenant on a trawler converted for mine-sweeping duties and later was promoted to Lieutenant and given his own command. George was at Dunkirk during the evacuation and was involved with the rescue of 119 soldiers. In 1942, four ships were seconded to the USA and based in New York. He served there for one year which George said was

'almost a holiday'. After this, further duties were mine-sweeping in the English Channel and North Sea, and convoy duties to Murmansk in North Russia. He was involved with D Day and the Normandy landings where the ships were engaged in sweeping both British and German minefields to ensure safe passage to the beaches. After D Day, he escorted convoys to Murmansk until the end of the war when he was demobilised as Commander RNVR. The mine sweepers he served on were very small and lightly armed with one four inch gun, twenty four rifles with twenty rounds of ammunition each (if they were lucky).

George married Jean Kerr in 1939. They lived in Scotland and had two children. After the war, they lived in several places as George took on various jobs, before settling in Falkirk where they bred corgis and ran a successful boarding kennel. But George always remained interested in the sea and boats, building a boat in the upstairs front room of the Falkirk house without giving any thought as to how to get it down the stairs. He finally dismantled the door and the door frame and slid the boat downstairs on a mattress. George was an incredibly accurate shot, shooting rabbits out of the bathroom window with a silenced .22 rifle. The rabbits were skinned and fed to the dogs. When he was about 65, George moved to England where he ran a successful roofing business until he was 70. He only stopped working because he couldn't get insurance cover. During this period, he married his second wife Vera who died in 1989. Shortly after this, George came to Australia for a holiday and never really left. He eventually emigrated when he was almost 81 years of age and after a little while, very proudly became an Australian Citizen