

In Memory Of

Major

SIR ROBERT DALRYMPLE ARBUTHNOT

Service Number: 88177

9th Queen's Royal Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps who died on 30 June 1944 Age 24

6th Bt. Son of Brigadier-General Sir Dalrymple Arbuthnot, C.M.G., D.S.O., 5th Bt., and Lady (Alice Maud) Arbuthnot, of Ludlow,
Shropshire. MA (Cantab.).

IN THY PRESENCE IS FULNESS OF JOY PS. XI. 11

Remembered with Honour

JERUSALEM WAR CEMETERY, CHOUAIN

Row A. 16.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Major Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot was born at Knightsbridge in London on the 4th of July 1919 and baptised on July 28th. The address given for the family on his baptism record is 26 Cadogan Square, Knightsbridge. Robert was the elder of two sons born to Sir Dalrymple Arbuthnot and his wife Alice Maud, whose maiden name was also Arbuthnot. (I'm flying kites here, but perhaps his mother and father were distant cousins?) Robert served in the Royal Armoured Corps with the 9th Queens Royal Lancers and the 24th Lancers as a tank commander, and he died on June 30th 1944 near a tiny hamlet called Les Hauts Vents in the countryside near Caen in the aftermath of the Normandy Landings.

The Arbuthnots were a "died in the wool" military family. Robert's father, Sir Dalrymple Arbuthnot, was born at Secunderabad in Madras, India on April 1st 1867. His grandfather Sir William Wedderburn Arbuthnot was also born in India and served with the British Army in the 18th Hussars before embarking on a second career as a London banker. Sir Dalrymple, who was known as "Dal", had a long and distinguished military career, serving in the Chitral Campaign in 1895 and the Boer War from 1899 to 1902, where he was twice mentioned in dispatches. He went on to serve with distinction throughout the First World War as a Colonel in the Royal Field Artillery. He became the 5th Baronet Arbuthnot of Edinburgh when his older brother, Sir Robert Keith Arbuthnot, a Rear Admiral in the Navy, died at the Battle of Jutland on May 31st 1916. Sir Dalrymple Arbuthnot was 50 years old when he married 28 year old "Maudie" Arbuthnot in 1918, and he was awarded the honorary rank of Brigadier General in 1920.

Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot's younger brother and only sibling, Hugh Fitzgerald Arbuthnot, was born on January 2nd 1922 at Chelsea. Hugh also served in the Second World War, joining up on August 19th 1941, when he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Welsh Guards. He became the 7th Baronet Arbuthnot upon Robert's death in 1944 and survived the War, going on to marry his first wife, Elizabeth Kathleen Williams whose family lived at Curral Hall (on the other side of Tenbury Wells, between Oldwood and Bockleton), in August 1949. Although they had 3 children, the family did not remain South Shropshire - but at least the Arbuthnot line continues.

Robert's early years were spent at family homes in London and West Sussex, and at Eton School. On the 1921 Census the Arbuthnots' address is given as 29 Pelham Place, South Kensington; and the Electoral Register and Kelly's Directory of West Sussex reveal that they were living at West Hoathly near East Grinstead later in the 1920s. I haven't been able to pin down the exact date when Sir Dalrymple Arbuthnot purchased Nash Court; but the last record of the family at West Hoathly is in 1930, and the first one in this area is a 1934 entry in Kelly's Directory of Shropshire where he is listed as Magistrate in Ludlow.

The Arbuthnot family weren't at Nash Court for very long. Sir Dalrymple died there on 31st March 1941, the day before his 74th birthday. With staff hard to come by and both sons away fighting, Robert's mother Dame Alice Maud Arbuthnot mothballed the house. Although Nash Court remained in her ownership until it was sold to the National Association of Boys Clubs in 1948, she was living in London at 7 St James' Court, SW1 when Robert's death notice was published in July 1944.

Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot spent his formative years at Eton School and Magdalene College, Cambridge. He went up to Magdalene College in October 1937 to study for the History Tripos, focusing on British political, social and economic history. He joined up at the

end of his second year and didn't complete his degree. He is listed on the 1939 England and Wales Register (a special Census taken by the government on September 29th 1939, shortly after the outbreak of the War) as resident at The Manor in Southwell, Nottinghamshire with Stanley Bourne, Director of Courtaulds Ltd., and his wife Eileen. Robert and the Bourne's son, Edward are both listed as "Students Registered by Cambridge Recruiting Board for Emergency Commission". It is likely they were friends at Cambridge University, and that Robert was staying with Edward's family during the summer break when the 2 boys decided to join up. The Bourne's were a wealthy family - as well as Edward and his younger sister, Amelia, they employed 8 domestic servants as well as looking after 3 wartime evacuees.

Two entries in the London Gazette and consecutive iterations of the UK British Army Lists, which were published annually in October, show that Robert was on a List of University Candidates commissioned as a Cadet with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on June 23rd 1939, just over 2 months before the outbreak of War. On April 17th 1940 he was given a Regular Army Emergency Commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Queens Royal Lancers, an old cavalry regiment formed during the Jacobite Rising in 1715. During the interwar years most cavalry regiments swapped horses for tanks and became part of the Royal Armoured Corps. Robert would have seen action with the 9th Queens Royal Lancers in the Battle of France and the retreat and evacuation from Western France in June 1940. Most of the 9th Lancers fought on after Dunkirk; and the men were evacuated from Brest a few weeks later.

The 24th Lancers was a new regiment formed in December 1940 based on a small group of Officers from the 9th Queens Royal Lancers and the 17th/21st Lancers. Although all the iterations of the UK Army List between 1939 and 1944 have Robert as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Queens Royal Lancers, Rob Miles, who runs the 24th Lancers Facebook page, confirms that Robert was one of the original Officers that served with the 24th from the beginning. Between its inception in December 1940 and June 1944 the regiment remained in the UK training infantry and artillery regiments in tank supported warfare and testing new equipment. When preparations for the D-day Landings began in February 1944 Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot was second in command of C Squadron, who were testing the new Sherman Firefly tank conversion at Titchwell Ranges in Norfolk on March 8th before moving to West Tofts near Thetford.

Sherman tanks were manufactured in the USA and purchased by the British Government under the Lend Lease scheme. Their primary role was to support the infantry, and in the months before D-day the Army fitted a more powerful British made 3-inch (76.2 mm) 17-pounder anti-tank gun. This was known as the Firefly conversion. The Sherman Firefly became the most common Allied armoured vehicle with a 17-pounder gun capable of taking on the German Panther and Tiger tanks before the American Pershing heavy tank came into service in 1945.

The body of a Sherman tank was about 20 feet long, so it was relatively small and manoeuvrable. The metal hull carried a five-man crew: a commander, a driver, a loader, a gunner and a co-driver, who was also the "bow gunner". Despite having thinner armour and less firepower than most German tanks, the M4 Sherman proved suitable for fast-moving offensive operations; and its simple design meant that crews could repair their own tanks in the field rather than relying on specialist mechanics back at base.

As a commissioned Officer with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, Robert Arbuthnot was a tank commander, who sat in the back right hand side of the turret directly behind the gunner. The commander was the only member of the tank crew with his head up in the cupola (or stuck out of the hatch at the top) while the rest of the crew were “buttoned up” inside, which made him a target for snipers. He was in charge of the radio used to communicate with HQ and the other the tanks in his unit, and he would also direct the crew inside the tank using a separate internal intercom.

The 24th Lancers were part of the 8th Armoured Brigade which landed at Gold Beach on D-day. Gold Beach was the central one of the 5 designated landing areas. It was about 5 miles wide, with the port of Arromanches at its western end and the small towns of La Riviere and Le Hamel along the coast. The 24th landed in 2 stages on the 6th and 7th of June 1944 before pushing inland across country known as the Bocage as part of Operation Perch. According to the D-day Normandy Extract from “The First and Last” on normandywarguide.com, which tells the story of the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, the Bocage was “a mass of small fields, interspersed with high hedges, often formed on thick earthen banks; a large proportion of the fields themselves are orchards with small bushy apple trees set close together; most of the roads are sunken country lanes, very narrow, and bounded on either side by high hedges. The consequence of all this was that rarely could a tank see as much as 400 yards”.

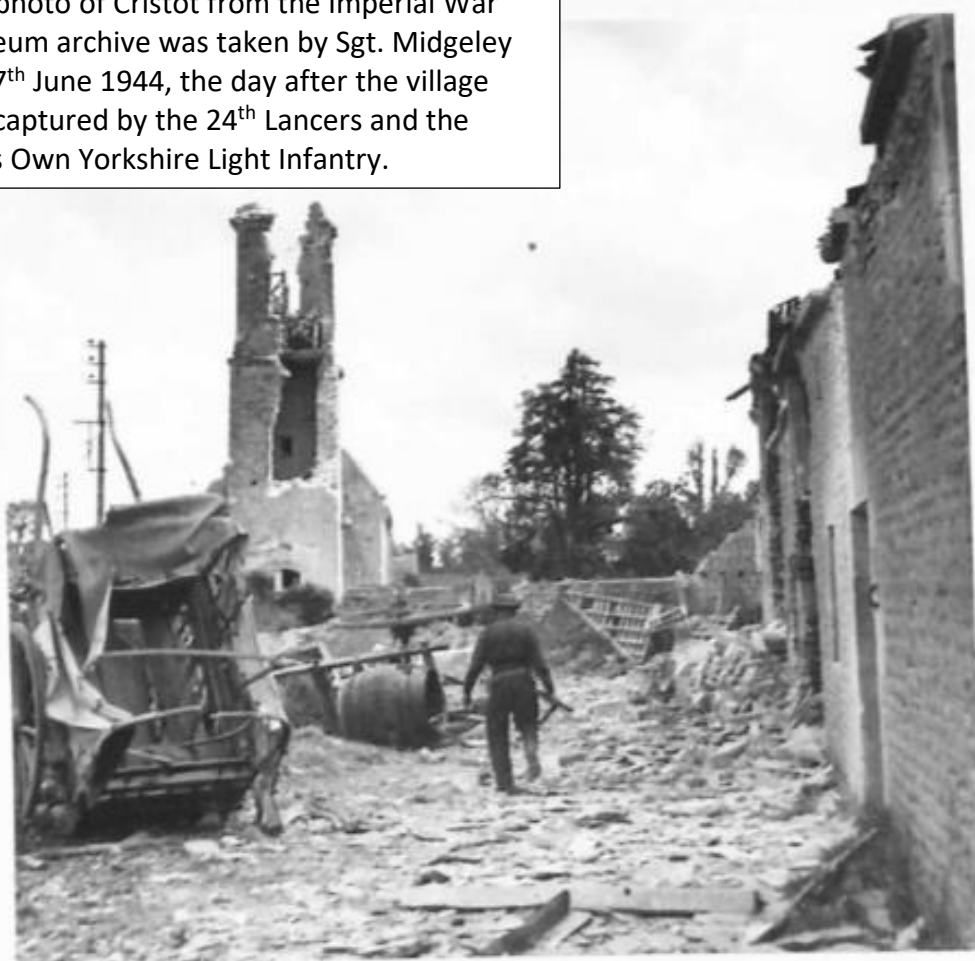
On June 11th 1944 B and C Squadrons of the 24th Lancers, including Acting Captain Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot, were at Point 103 very close to the tiny hamlet of Les Hauts Vents providing tank support for the 6th Green Howards in a failed attack on the village of Cristot a couple of miles to the east. The account in “The First and Last” goes on to say that this was the first time the British made an attack using infantry supported by tanks. “The theory which had been preached for combined tank and infantry attack” - and which had been practiced in the UK - “ was that the attack should go in waves, with tanks followed by infantry, followed by more tanks”. This strategy didn’t work in such “close country” – the Bocage was ideal for defence and guerrilla warfare, and it was resolutely defended by SS and Panzer Grenadiers.

To give you a feel for what that time was like for the 24th Lancers, I’d like to share an extract from their war diary for June 16th 1944 when they were providing tank support for the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in a second, successful attempt to take Cristot. According to intelligence gathered before the attack, the area was thought to be defended by around 400 German infantry soldiers supported by a few self-propelled (SP) artillery guns and six tanks. “One troop of tanks led each company with one troop behind the leading platoons. The start line was crossed at 1200 hours and at this time an artillery barrage ... opened. The tanks and infantry advanced close behind the barrage with the tanks firing their machine guns into all the hedges in front and to the flanks. Apart from a few snipers no opposition was met until about 500 yards short of Cristot when some heavy mortar fire opened from the direction of the village. Observation was extremely difficult owing to smoke etc., from our own barrage. ‘C’ Squadron fired ... into the village, and in particular at the church tower which it was thought might contain an observation post. The artillery under the command of ‘C’ Squadron was also asked to shell the village. After 15 mins, the enemy mortar fire had ceased and the infantry were able to get into the western edge of the village”. “There was a deep sunken road right across the western edge of the village and this proved to be a difficult anti-tank obstacle. However, two troops of tanks, one on each company front, managed to cross and support the infantry onto their objectives; the remaining tanks

worked their way round to the left flank and got on to the objective while the infantry were consolidating facing east. The wrecks of 2 (German) self-propelled guns, one armoured car and 2 half-tracked troop-carrying vehicles were found in the village, also about 12 German dead. The country was very close with sunken roads and deep ditches and considerable difficulty was experienced in getting tanks into good fire positions.

At approx. 1600 hours the infantry moved forward a few hundred yards and took up positions along the hedge facing south-east The tanks moved forward to this position but were unable to get any further forward owing to ditches. The infantry sent patrols forward to the high ground in front, but no opposition was met, although six enemy tanks were seen entering a wood due south of the position”.

This photo of Cristot from the Imperial War Museum archive was taken by Sgt. Midgeley on 17th June 1944, the day after the village was captured by the 24th Lancers and the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.



B 5652

According to Rob Miles's posts on ww2talk.com, Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot "gained the rank of Major in the 24th Lancers" – although he is listed as 2nd Lieutenant / Acting Major in the UK British Army List published after his death in October 1944, which also confirms that he was killed in action. Robert was promoted up the chain of command as other Officers were wounded or killed, becoming Acting Captain and then Acting Major. After the loss of "B" squadron's commanding officer, Captain Ian Kerr, at Les Hauts Vents on June 26th 1944, Robert moved from C to B Squadron and took over the command just 4 days before he too was killed on June 30th.

I found a contemporary eyewitness account of Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot's death in a typed transcript of the personal diary of Dr Aitken, Regimental Medical Officer of the 24th Lancers for June and July 1944 in the Wellcome Collection Archive. Dr Aitken and all the other Officers in the Regiment including the Padre were a close-knit team of comrades in arms who knew each other well and were on Christian name terms.

Dr Aitken describes being in an "unhappy place with a nasty 'feel'". He goes on to say "To the east the ground is flat for 1,000 yards and then there is a long wood where Jerry is nearest. Alongside me a few guns point in that direction; to the south it is denser, and half a mile away the tanks are lying up in support of the infantry. We all duck for a few shells coming over – evidently from enemy tanks registering misses on ours as they have started their counterattack. Then the most distressing noise of all – rockets. We heard them fired, and their eery noise grew closer and closer; they burst a little bit away to the south, some in the air.

A scout car drives in, in a rush and a very shaken sergeant tells me he thinks Robert is dead. The front offside of the vehicle is covered in blood and bits of brains. Evidently an airburst rocket caught Robert just when it shouldn't - when he was out of his tank going up to another. From the amount of brains and blood I can assure the sergeant that Robert is most certainly dead. I give the sergeant and the driver a stiff whiskey each and wash off the blood. ... Shells and mortars fall all day at intervals, and mostly in the next field".

A couple of weeks after Major Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnott died on June 30th 1944 all personnel in the 24 Lancers were informed that the Regiment would be disbanded due to heavy casualties and lack of reinforcements. This happened in early August 1944, and the remaining officers and men were re-allocated to other units.

Major Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot was originally buried where he fell at Les Hauts Vents alongside Captain Ian Kerr and another fallen 24th Lancer, Trooper Quinn. Dr Aitken attended Ian Kerr's burial service on June 26th and says that although the men were very angry to find that Ian's tank had been looted when they went to collect his body, he says that a few weeks later, "I hear now that the local French are taking great care of the grave, and of Robert's which is beside it, with fresh flowers every day".

Shortly after the end of the War on May 15th 1945 the three of them were reburied in the Jerusalem War Cemetery at Chouain a few miles to the northwest, alongside foot soldiers from the Durham Light Infantry and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. It is a small cemetery, with only 48 burials - 47 British and 1 Czech - and Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot lies alongside his friend, Captain Ian Kerr, in Row A Grave 16. The inscription on his gravestone, "In thy presence is fulness of joy" comes from the last verse of Psalm 16, Verse 11. I'd like to end by inviting you to remember Major Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot's life and service by reading a bit more of the Psalm, beginning at verse 5:-

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
thou holdest my lot.

⁶The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
yea, I have a goodly heritage.

⁷I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For thou dost not give me up to Sheol,
or let thy godly one see the Pit.

¹¹ Thou dost show me the path of life;
in thy presence there is fulness of joy,
in thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Amen

Mrs Bobbie Matulja, Churchwarden
November 7th 2023

Sources

I am indebted to Rob Miles for sharing his extensive research on the 24th Lancers with me, including pointers to extracts from the 24th Lancers War Diary he has published on The 24th Lancers 1939-1945 Facebook group and other details on ww2talk.com.

- Ancestry.co.uk and Fold 3 – Family history and military records
- Wikipedia
- Wikitree.com
- Katy Green, College Archivist, Magdalene College, Cambridge
- ww2talk.com – particularly Rob Miles' ("Ramiles") research on the 24th Lancers in various posts and his comments in May 2020 about Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot on the Nash and Boraston Community Facebook page
- Imperial War Museum (www.iwm.org.uk)
- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwg.org)
- The Wartime Memories Project (wartimememoriesproject.com) - Information about the 9th Queens Royal Lancers and the 24th Lancers, recollections of men who served with them and extracts from various war diaries
- normandywarguide.com:-
D-Day Normandy Extract from "The First and the Last," telling the story of the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, who served alongside the 24th Lancers in the invasion of Normandy; and the disbanding of the 24th Lancers in August 1944
- Britannica.com – Information about Gold Beach
- The 24th Lancers 1939-1945 Facebook group
- theshermantank.com
- mikesresearch.com - information about the Sherman Firefly tank conversion used by the British Army
- The Wellcome Collection – Photocopy of typed transcript of the diary of Dr Aitken, Regimental Medical Officer, 24th Lancers, June-July 1944, during the invasion of Normandy; his account of serving with the 24th Lancers before, during and after the Normandy Landings. On page 35 there is an account of Capt Ian Kerr's burial on June 26th 1944, and on Page 36 there is a first-hand contemporary account of Robert's death on June 30th.

Appendix



Photograph from the Imperial War Museum Archive taken by Sergeant Christie of two 24th Lancers' tanks and an armoured car with a German soldier's grave in the foreground in an orchard near Rauray on 29th June 1944 (the day before Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbutnot's death).



C Squadron group on Point 103. 13th June 1944.
Left to right, back row: Sgt B. W. A. Symes, Lieut B. A. Jewell, Captain R. D. Arbuthnot, Lt, Lieut A. C. Hawkins, Captain Revd M. Green.
Front row: Tpr C. Williams, L/Sgt L. Whitcher, Tpr W. Jackson.

Photo of C Squadron the 24th Lancers at Point 103 close to Les Hauts Vents on June 13th 1944 from a post by Rob Miles on ww2talk.com. Robert Arbuthnot is the tall man in the centre of the back row. The caption reveals he had been promoted to Acting Captain, and we know he was promoted again to Acting Major before his death on June 30th. Captain Revd. M Green on the right-hand end of the back row was Padre to the 24th Lancers. He survived the War and went on to become the Suffragan Bishop of Aston in Birmingham.

According to the details about Les Hauts Vents on the dday-overlord.com and normandywarguide.com websites the 24th Lancers provided tank support for regiments in the 49th and 50th Infantry Divisions as part of Operation Perch, an Allied offensive which began on June 8th 1944 (D+2) with the aim of capturing the city of Caen. The two German Panzer Divisions in the communes of St Pierre and Fontenay-le-Pesnil held on and retreated along a line through the village of Saint Pierre and the hamlet of Les Hauts Vents.

On June 10th, the 24th Lancers tried to counterattack, but failed to break through the German front line. It was not until June 15th when the Germans began a tactical withdrawal, that the 4th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment were able to capture Les Hauts Vents. The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry supported by the 24th Lancers captured the village of Cristot to the east the following day, on June 16th. Although the main battle was over, fighting continued in the area for another few weeks. Approximately 2 weeks after Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot was killed in action on June 30th, the Officers and men of the 24th Lancers were told their regiment was to be disbanded.

1939 England and Wales Register for Robert D Arbuthnot

Nottinghamshire > Southwell Rd > Rojq

	3	WILSON WILLIAM H	M	20 OCT 82	S	Coverman
CRIFTON MILL	15	1 ESAM REGINALD H	M	28 NOV 08	M	Farmer. Married
		2 ESAM TURIEA	F	23 MAY 13	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3 ESAM GILWYN M	F	4 OCT 38	S	Under school age
CRIFTON HOUSE	16	1 ESAM RICHARD	M	23 SEP 09	M	Farmer. Married
		2 ESAM ERSIE	F	28 JAN 00	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
THE KNITKES	17	1 JONES IRWIN	M	20 JAN 96	M	Trout Servant
		2 JONES GADYS M	F	20 JAN 96	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3 JONES DORE	F	20 NOV 21	S	Bookhand Typist

This record is officially closed.

MANOR COTTAGES	18	1 SMITH ADVISH	F	11 JULY 82	M	Boulton woman
		2 SMITH FRANK	M	1 OCT 07	S	Estete Agents clerk
MAIN STREET	19	1 HILL JAMES W	M	12 MAR 22	M	Butler
		2 HILL OLIVE M	F	18 JUNE 94	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3 HILL RONARD	M	9 DEC 20	S	Textile Mechanic. Heavy Work
		4 HILL DORSEN	F	14 JULY 23	S	Bookhand Typist

This record is officially closed.

THE MANOR	20	1 BOURNE STANLEY	M	18 SEP 75	M	Director Court Clerk
		2 BOURNE RILEEN M	F	17 JULY 86	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3 BOURNE EDWARD IS	M	27 FEB 19	S	Student Registered by Cambridge Recruiting Board for Emergency Commission
		4 BOURNE ANNEA W	F	2 SEP 20	S	Student Registered by Cambridge Recruiting Board for Emergency Commission
		5 BURDETT ELLEN J	F	23 SEP 58	S	Domestic Servant
		6 KERRER WINNIE	F	14 SEP 02	S	Domestic Servant
		7 LADLEY ELYAN	F	14 MARCH 17	S	Domestic servant
		8 WALLANTINE ETHEL	F	25 APR 07	S	Domestic servant
		9 BROWN PHYLLIS A	F	22 DEC 20	S	Domestic servant
		10 GREAVES MADGE	F	7 SEP 20	S	Domestic servant
		11 ROBERTS EDITH M	F	5 JAN 89	S	Domestic servant
		12 REASON ADVISH	F	5 APR 03	S	Domestic servant

This record is officially closed.

	15	WILSON MARGARET	F	4 APR 28	S	At School (Evancee)
	16	DAWSON JANE T	F	22 SEP 27	S	At School (Evancee)
	17	WELK JANE C	F	31 MAR 26	S	At School (Evancee)

This record is officially closed.

	19	ARBUTHNOT ROBERT D	M	4 JULY 19	S	Student Registered by Cambridge Recruiting Board for Commission
PARK COTTAGE	21	1 ALLEN ELIZA	F	26 JUNE 89	S	Domestic
		2 TAYLOR DOROTHY	F	27 APR 18	S	Ladies Maid
THE RESTON	22	1 McLEAN GEORGE T	M	4 JULY 72	M	Clk in Holy Orders
		2 McLEAN GEORGE W	M	14 JAN 08	S	Clk in Holy Orders
		3 McLEAY BRUCE M	M	21 MAR 14	S	Assistant Secretary to the Zoro Society

This record is officially closed.

The 1939 Register for England and Wales, with Robert D Arbuthnot's name highlighted. It confirms that on registration day, 29th September 1939, he was resident at The Manor in Southwell, Nottinghamshire with Stanley Bourne and his wife and family. Stanley's son Edward was the same age as Robert and they are both described as "Students Registered by Cambridge Recruiting Board for Emergency Commission", so it is probable they were friends at Cambridge University who decided to join up together.

ARBUTHNOT.—Killed in action, June, 1944, within four days of his 25th birthday, MAJOR SIR ROBERT DALRYMPLE ARBUTHNOT, Bt., 24th Lancers, beloved elder son of the late Brig.-General Sir Dalrymple Arbuthnot, Bt., Nash Court, Ludlow (present address: 7, St. James' Court, S.W.1). Please, no letters.

ARBUTHNOT.—In proud and ever-loving memory of my darling son, MAJOR SIR ROBERT D. ARBUTHNOT, 24th Lancers, killed in action in Normandy, June 30, 1944.

Two newspaper death notices for Major Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot. The top one was published on July 20th 1944, 21 days after his death. Presumably it took that long for the news to reach his mother, Dame Alice Maud Arbuthnot, in London.

The bottom one was published after the end of the War on June 30th 1945, after Robert's body was moved from its original burial place at Les Hauts Vents and reburied in the Jerusalem War Cemetery at Chouain.



Photograph of Robert's grave, Row A Plot 16 at the Jerusalem War Cemetery at Chouain in Calvados, Western France.

GRAVES CONCENTRATION REPORT FORM

Report No. 21 A Sp/Concern/

The following have been concentrated here :-

CALVADOS 32 E.

(Name of Cemetery) **Jerusalem (Jusave-Mondave) British Cemetery**

(Full Map Reference) **FRANCE 3A & 8 1/250,000 T.823.723**

Nationality - **British**

(1) Serial No.	(2) Regt. or Corps	(3) Army No.	(4) Name & Initials	(5) Rank	(6) Date of Death	(7) K/A, D/W or Died	(8) Plot	(9) Row	(10) Grave	(11) Date of Reburial	Previous location of grave Place & Map Ref.	Report Number &
1	8 D.L.I.	11420052	Raybold ^{boyd} A.H.	Pte.	10.6.44	K/A			10	15.5.45	St Pierre 1/50000	CALV. 2-332 ✓
2	"	3191166	Hay H. W. M.C.D.	Op.L.	"	"			12	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
3	"	130394	Wheatley J.N.	Capt.	11-6-44	"			13	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
4	"	1462330	Sornie A.W.	Pte.	10.6.44	"			14	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
5	"	3718815	Wilson W.	"	11.6.44	"			15	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
6	"	3660957	Kay H.	"	"	"			16	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
7	24 th Lancers	88177	Arbuthnot, R.D. Sir Bt	Major	30.6.44	"			16	"	Les Hauts Vents 77/1 865.695	CALV. 2-332 ✓
8	"	151541	Kerr. Ian	Capt.	26.6.44	"			15	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
9	"	7955080	Quinn. R.	Pr.	17.6.44	"			17	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
10	7 D.W.R. ²⁻⁸²⁸ 512/4113	14624413	Blackwell R.	Pte.	26.6.44	"			17	"	St Pierre 1/50000	CALV. 2-332 ✓
11	"	4614681	Mandy, J.	"	"	"			18	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓
12	"			"	"	"			19	"	"	CALV. 2-332 ✓

Date 9 June 45

(Signed) Major Ian Kerr

Rank & Appointment Major Ian Kerr

AD G.R. & E.

* Where a grave has not already been registered, a Registration Report on A.F.W. 3372 will be prepared, and attached to this FORM.

9MID/4.4.4

15/6/45

British Graves Concentration Report Form which confirms Major Sir RD Arbuthnot's original place of burial at Les Hauts Vents immediately after his death on June 30th 1944, and his removal and reburial in the Jerusalem British Cemetery on May 15th 1945.

It is an unhappy place with a nasty 'feel'. To the east the ground is flat for 1000 yards and then there is a long wood where the Jerry is nearest. Alongside me a few guns point in that direction; to the south it is denser, and half a mile away the tanks are lying up in support of the infantry. We all duck for a few shells coming over - evidently from enemy tanks registering misses on ours as they have started their counter attack. Then the most distressing noise of all - rockets. We heard them fired, and their eery noise grew closer and closer; they bust a little bit away to the south, some in the air.

A scout car drives in, in a rush and a very shaken sergeant tells me he thinks Robert is dead. The front offside of the vehicle is covered in blood and bits of brains. Evidently an airburst rocket caught Robert just when it shouldn't - when he was out of his tank going up to another. From the amount of brains and blood I can assure the sergeant that Robert is most certainly dead. I give the sergeant and the driver a stiff whiskey each and wash off the blood. None of our boys came in and what casualties are coming in are going to the R.A.P. in the house, where I offered to help but see there is not enough to do.

Shells and mortars fall all day at intervals and mostly in the next field.

Contemporary account of Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot's death from a typed transcript of diary kept by the 24th Lancers' Regimental Medical Officer, Dr Aitken, in the Wellcome Collection archive. Dr Aitken and all the other Officers in the Regiment including the Padre, Captain Revd. Green, were a team of comrades in arms who served together before, during and after the D-Day Landings. They knew each other well and were all on Christian name terms.



Annotated screenshot from Google Maps showing Major Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot's place of death and original burial on June 30th 1944, and the location of Chouain, where he was re-buried in the Jerusalem War Cemetery on May 15th 1945, after the War ended.



Screenshot photo from Google Maps of Les Hauts Vents based on an image captured in June 2014.



The stained glass window in the south wall of the nave at St John the Baptist Church, Nash, which commemorates the life and service of Major Sir Robert Dalrymple Arbuthnot.