



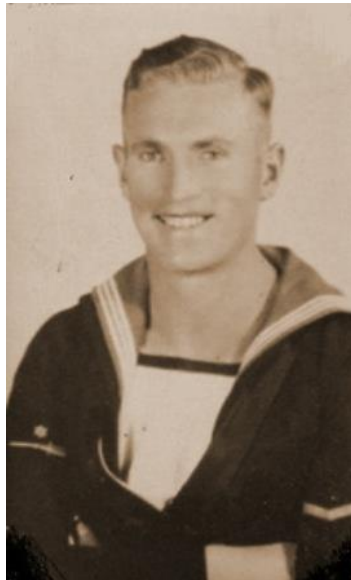
This scroll commemorates
Petty Officer H. L. Clark
Royal Navy

held in honour as one who
served King and Country in
the world war of 1939-1945
and gave his life to save
mankind from tyranny. May
his sacrifice help to bring
the peace and freedom for
which he died.

In Memory of my Father:

By his Son Brian Henry William Edwards (born Clark)

NZ 16468 Yeoman



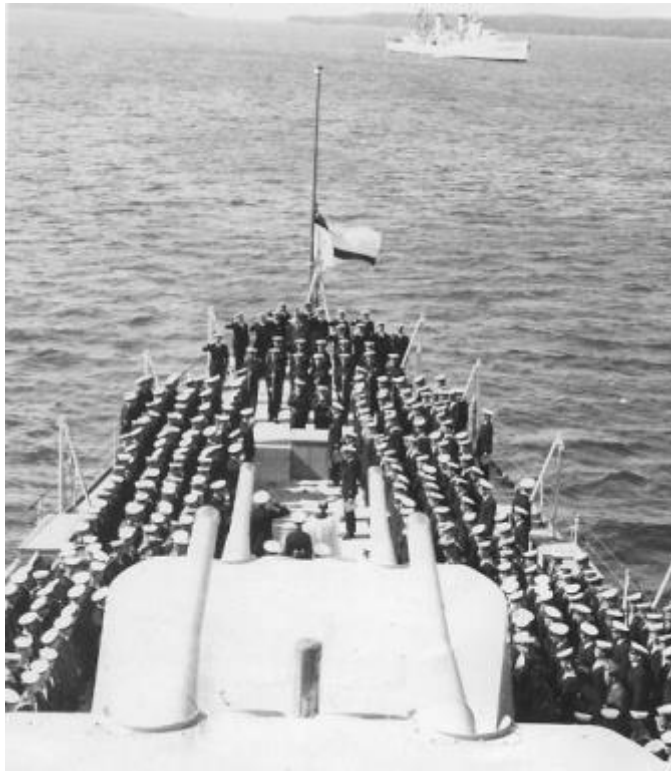
Henry Leslie (Harry) Clark, Royal Navy 1933-1943
Petty Officer Coxswain Mediterranean Fleet - Missing in Action
17 July 1943 on **MTB 316**

A Man and Father I never had the opportunity to meet due to the atrocities of World War II.

Ships and Shore Base/Establishments

HMS Pembroke	6 Mar 1933-17 Oct 1933
HMS St.Angelo(Brilliant)	18 Oct 1933-27 Feb 1935
HMS St.Angelo(Whitshed)	28 Feb 1935-28 Feb 1935
HMS St.Angelo(Brilliant)	28 Feb 1935-19 Jul 1936
HMS Pembroke	20 Jul 1936- 12 Dec 1936
HMS Cardiff(Calcutta)	12 Dec 1936- 8 Apr 1937
HMS Pembroke	9 Apr 1937-25 Apr 1937
HMS Leander	26 Apr 1937-17 Mar 1940
HMNZS Philomel	20 Mar 1940-30 Apr 1940
HMS Pembroke	1 May 1940-26 Aug 1940
HMS Hornet	27 Aug 1940-16 Sep 1940
HMS Lynx(Wasp) MTB 70	17 Sep 1940-30 Sep 1941
HMS Beehive	1 Oct 1941-10 Oct 1941
HMS Hornet	11 Oct 1941- 2 Dec 1941
HMS Nile(Mosquito)	3 Dec 1941-31 Dec 1941
HMS St.Angelo (MTB'S)	1 Jan 1942-31 Mar 1943
HMS Hannibal (MTB 316)	1 Apr 1943-17 Jul 1943 D.D.

Harry sailed on HMS Leander in April **1937 and spent the next 3years under the Banner of HMS LEANDER-New Zealand Division.**



Aboard HMS LEANDER

Reading the Kings Proclamation 3rd Sep 1939- Outbreak of World War II

(HMAS HOBART in background)

Harry arrived back in England 1ST May 1940



Henry Leslie Clark married Ivy Gladys Buchanan on 30th June 1940

Married life was only for 1 ½ months whilst on Shore Base HMS Pembroke.

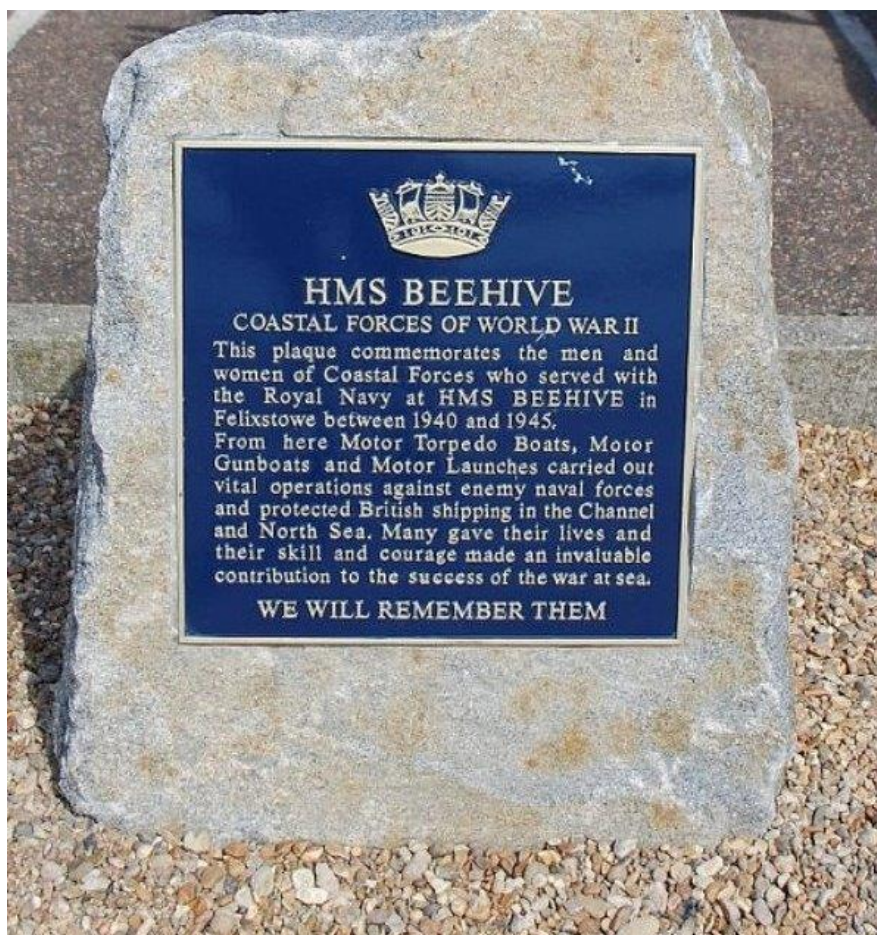
Next posting was to HMS Hornet (Motor Torpedo Boat Base) at Gosport on the 27 Aug 1940.

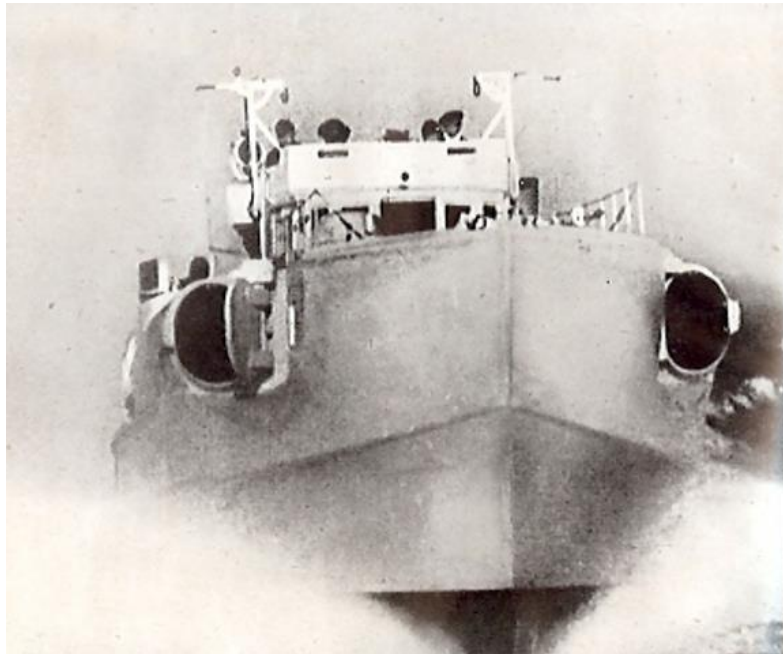
Next Posting to HMS Wasp (MTB 70) at Dover until Oct 1941

Then HMS Beehive.

This was to be the LAST time Ivy would see Harry!

MTB 70





The feared German Schnellboot (Fast boat) also called 'S' or 'E' Boat
(Approx Speed 43 knots or 81 km/h)

[HMS Beehive](#) ([Boomer Hall](#), [Felixstowe](#), [Suffolk](#)) Coast Forces MTB & MGB
[HMS Hornet](#) ([Gosport](#), [Hampshire](#), England) Coastal Forces Depot MTB
[HMS Wasp](#) [Dover Coastal Forces](#)
[HMS St Angelo](#) ([Victoriosa](#), [Malta GC](#))
[HMS Nile](#) ([Alexandria](#))

Some excerpts of MTB 70's wartime activities.

MTB 70 Vosper, Portsmouth and Porchester 4/6/40

Under construction for Greece = T3
1940 Requisitioned by RN
10/6/40 At Portland
21/6/40 11th MTB Flotilla (Dover)

Whilst attempting to rescue a German pilot, **MTB 70** is attacked by a German aircraft forcing the attempt to be abandoned. The boat sped off towing a crew member behind who had jumped in, attached by a line, to rescue the pilot.

25/7/40 HMS Boreas and HMS Brilliant, MTB 69 and **MTB 70** are in action with S 19, S 20 and S 27 attacking convoy CW 8. The S boats were forced to retire behind a smokescreen but returned to sink three vessels. All four RN vessels were damaged by strafing and both destroyers were damaged by dive bombing. British coasters Lulonga (821 tons) 10 miles south of Shoreham, Broadhurst (1013 tons) 14 miles southwest of Shoreham and London Trader (646 tons) 13 miles southwest of Shoreham were sunk in the action

S27 torpedoes and sinks French passenger vessel Meknes which was repatriating 1100 servicemen from England to Marseilles. Nearly 400 (700) lives were lost. The passage had not been notified to the Germans.

With MTB 69 and MTB 72, in action with six German S Boats off Cap Griz Nez, France
11th MTB Flotilla

MTB 49, MTB 50, MTB 51, MTB 52, MTB 53, MTB 54, MTB 69, **MTB 70**, MTB 71, MTB 72, MTB 102, MTB 105 and Dutch MTB 5

7/41 At Dover

4th MTB Flotilla

MTB 30, MTB 31, MTB 32, MTB 34. MTB 69, MTB 70

6-7/6/42 MTB 30 (Senior Officer embarked), MTB 70, MTB 72 and MTB 241 are in action with torpedo boats. MTB 70 hits and sinks a torpedo boat with a torpedo.

MTB 30 and MTB 70 are damaged by return fire. MTB 72 and MTB 241 attack E Boats and a large barge.

8/6/42 Action with enemy torpedo boats off the Belgian coast

6/10/42 MGB, 75, MGB 76, MTB 29, MTB 30, MTB 70 and MTB 72 are sent to intercept a large merchant vessel reported north east of Boulogne and encounter R77 – R88 with M21, M25, M38 and M153. MGB 76 comes under fire from R77, R83, R85 and R87, is hit in the petrol tank compartment and set on fire. There is an explosion and MGB 76 eventually sinks.

MTB 29 sinks after a collision.

18-9/1/43 MTB 32, MTB 224 (Senior Officer) and MTB 241 in one division and MTB 69 and MTB 70 in a second division encounter two armed trawlers off the Hook of Holland. MTB 224 sights a third, larger, target and attacks firing one torpedo. The torpedo hits Harbour Defence Vessel Deli (161 tons) which explodes. MTB 69 and MTB 70 attack and hit a trawler.

19/4/43 MTB 34 and MTB 70 are in action off the Dutch coast
1943 Controlled Target - CT 19

Royal Navy Mediterranean Fleet
Levant / Eastern Mediterranean *

<u>C-in-C Mediterranean Fleet</u>	<u>R.Adm. (D)</u>	<u>Squadrons</u>	<u>C-in-C Levant</u>
<u>Light Forces</u>	<u>Aircraft Carriers</u>	<u>Force H</u>	<u>Aden</u>
<u>Alexandria</u>	<u>Cyprian Ports</u>	<u>Gibraltar</u>	<u>Haifa</u>
<u>Ismailia</u>	<u>Malta</u>	<u>Mersa Matruh</u>	<u>Port Said</u>

- In the first half of 1943 the Mediterranean Fleet Command was split into a command of ships and a command of ports & naval bases.

Mediterranean Fleet C-in-C Med Fleet, 15th Cruiser Squadron, Cdre. (D)

C-in-C Levant, Alexandria, Malta, Port Said, Haifa, Bizerta, Tripoli, Mersa Matruh, Benghazi, Aden, Bone, Bougie, Philippeville

Levant was renamed Eastern Mediterranean in late December 1943

Commander-in-C Royal Navy Coastal Forces Chief, Mediterranean Fleet	HMS Warspite (battleship)	(08.1939)
	HMS St Angelo (base, Malta)	(04.1940)
	HMS Warspite (battleship)	(02.1941)
	HMS Nile (base, Alexandria)	(08.1942) - (02.1943)
	HMS Hannibal (base, Algiers/Taranto)	(06.1943) - (06.1944)

Photo is of MTB 315 sister Ship to **MTB 316**. Have tried all sources to obtain photo of MTB 316 but to no avail. Possible reason being it was blown up!!



Harry was the Petty Officer Coxswain of **MTB 316**.

MTB 316 – Sunk and Destroyed by Italian Cruiser **Scipione Africano** on the **17th July 1943**. MTB 313 also attacked

MTB.313, surface action

MCKIM, John B, Ty/Sub Lieutenant, RNVR, killed

MTB.316, ship loss:-

ADAMS, Richard B, Lieutenant, RNVR, killed

BARTLETT, Bernard A T, Stoker 1c, P/KX 121805, MPK

CHATTON, Charles, Ordinary Seaman, D/JX 303354, MPK

CLARK, Arthur G, Stoker 1c, C/KX 130405, MPK

CLARK, Henry L, Petty Officer, C/SSX 13701, MPK

CUMPER, Charles, Able Seaman, RNVR, C/TD/X 2143, MPK

HULME, Joseph E, Able Seaman, P/JX 276656, MPK

KING, Leonard M, Able Seaman, D/JX 288644, killed

PAGE, Alfred H, Motor Mechanic, P/M 79987, MPK

ROOKWOOD, John W, Telegraphist, D/JX 236003, MPK

YEO, Michael T R, Ty/Sub Lieutenant, RNVR, killed.

Italian Warship- “**Scipione Africano**”



For info:- **MTB 316** was previously known as:-
PT 58 - Patrol Torpedo Boat **
BPT 10 - British Patrol Torpedo Boat
PTC 26 - Motor Boat Submarine Chaser.

** Sister Ship 'PT 59' was Commanded or Captained by John F Kennedy later to become the President of the United States of America.

More 'Notations' on **MTB 316** short but heroic history.

What were Coastal Forces?

They were small craft, mainly of wood construction up to 115 feet in length. The "Little Ships" consisted mainly of Motor Torpedo Boats, Motor Gunboats and Motor Launches. They served with distinction throughout the Second World War. Fast, fearless and tenacious they would tackle the enemy wherever they found him on sea, air and shore, size was no deterrent – the larger they came etc!

The Coastal Forces Veterans' Association published the following which I am pleased to include verbatim:

" Affectionately known as the Navies' "Little Ships", the Motor Torpedo Boats, Motor Gunboats and Motor Launches of the Coastal Forces served with distinction throughout the Second World War.

From Dunkirk to VE Day they fought over 780 actions, sinking 800 enemy vessels, including 48 E-Boats. Of 81 enemy midget submarines destroyed, 32 were claimed by Coastal Forces. Having fired 1169 torpedoes, their percentage of hits and probable hits bettered that of the submarine service. In addition 32 enemy aircraft were shot down and twice as many mine laying operations were carried out than were credited to other mine laying forces.

By 1944 Coastal Forces numbering some 3000 officers and 22,000 ratings, were operating from Norway to the Aegean."

Message

In an open message to Coastal Forces, Winston Churchill said: 'I have noted with admiration the work of the Light Coastal Forces in the North Sea, in the Channel, and more recently in the Mediterranean. Both in offence and defence, the fighting zeal and the professional skill of officers and men have maintained the great tradition built up by many generations of British seamen.' (Churchill's full letter can be found on the next page).

"By the close of hostilities 170 of the "Little Ships" were sunk or destroyed."

Over 3000 decorations, including two V.C.'s were won by the men of these Little Ships, often faced by the comparatively gigantic vessels of their protagonists in over 780 battles."



I have noted with admiration the work of the light coastal forces in the North Sea, in the Channel and more recently in the Mediterranean.

Both in offence and in defence the fighting zeal and the professional skill of officers and men have maintained the great tradition built up by many generations of British seamen.

As our strategy becomes more strongly offensive, the task allotted to the coastal forces will increase in importance, and the area of their operations will widen.

I wish to express my heartfelt congratulations to you all on what you have done in the past, and complete confidence that you will maintain the same high standards until complete victory has been gained over all our enemies.

Winston Churchill



Operations in Mediterranean Area

Only three mine laying operations were carried out. The first was undertaken by the 10th MTB Flotilla which based at Mersa Matruh. Two boats (MTB 68 and MTB 215) were fitted for mine laying in October 1941 for an operation in Bardia harbour. Two ground mines and two floating ("R") mines were laid by each craft with little interference. This was the only mine lay by Coastal Forces in the Eastern Mediterranean.

During 1943 after a stock of US Mk 6 moored contact mines became available, three boats of the 10th MTB Flotilla (MTB 265, 266 and **316**), then transferred to the western Mediterranean, were converted for mine laying off the Tunisian coast. Eight fields made up of 118 mines were laid off Plane Island and Bizerta. **In one operation on 12 March 1943 MTB 316 and MTB 265 engaged four German 'R-Boats', one of which is known to have been damaged.**

Wartime Activities

23/02/42 Transferred to Royal Navy under lend lease

15th MTB Flotilla

05/06/42 Commissioned at Alexandria

9/42 10th MTB Flotilla

31/09/42 MTBs 307, 309, 311 and **316 depart Alexandria for an attack on Rhodes. The boats refuel at Paphos.**

1-2/10/42 MTBs 307, 309, 311 and **316 fire torpedoes into Rhodes Harbour. Explosions are heard but the results are unknown.**

30-31/1/43 MTB 260, MTB 311 and **MTB 316 in a gunnery attack on S Boats off Bone**

12-13/3/43 Action with S Boat off Zambreta Island, Tunisia.

31/3-1/4 With MTBs 265, 266 and 315, departed Bone at 1700 to intercept a reported convoy. Senior Officer Lt Denis Jermain embarked in **MTB 316.**

2050 Off Cape Serrat, MTB 265 reports a man overboard, is detached to conduct a search and ordered not to rejoin.

2150 **MTB 316 develops engine problems and has to drop out. The sea is too rough to transfer the Senior Officer and MTBs 266 and 315 continue the patrol with the Commanding Officer of MTB 266 acting as Senior Officer.**

2/5/43 **MTB 316 rescues survivors, including three wounded, from MTB 311 severely damaged by a mine between Bone and Bizerta and sinks MTB 311 by gunfire.**

9-10/5/43 MTB 265, MTB 313 and **MTB 316 intercept a vessel off Sidi Daud and take 36 German prisoners.**

11-12/5/43 MTB 265, MTB 309 and **MTB 316 capture 117 prisoners from a group of small boats off Cape Bon. This includes a party of German paratroopers. A vessel, thought to be a submarine is sighted and a torpedo attack made. The torpedoes miss what is the partly submerged wreck of a destroyer. In MTB 309 there are five times as many prisoners as crew. Crewmen guarding the prisoners use German weapons and a co-operative prisoner provides instruction in their use**

Based at Bone

Operation Husky Invasion of Sicily

10th MTB Flotilla

MTB 265, MTB 313, MTB 315, **MTB 316**

16-17/7/43 MTB 260, MTB 313, MTB 315 and **MTB 316 are on patrol in the Straits of Messina. Boats are lying stopped when the Italian cruiser **SCIPIONE AFRICANO** is sighted off Reggio. The boats start up and attack with two boats attacking from either bow. MTB 313 fires both torpedoes with the firing levers being shot away on the point of firing causing the commanding officer to be wounded. **MTB 316** attacks but blows up in a sheet of flame with no survivors. MTB 260 is damaged.**

Naval General Service Medal (Palestine Clasp) 1936-1939
 Awarded 28th May 1942

World War II Medals and Ribbons:

NGSM 1915-1962



1939-1945
Star

Atlantic
Star

Africa
Star

Italy
Star

1939-1945
War Medal

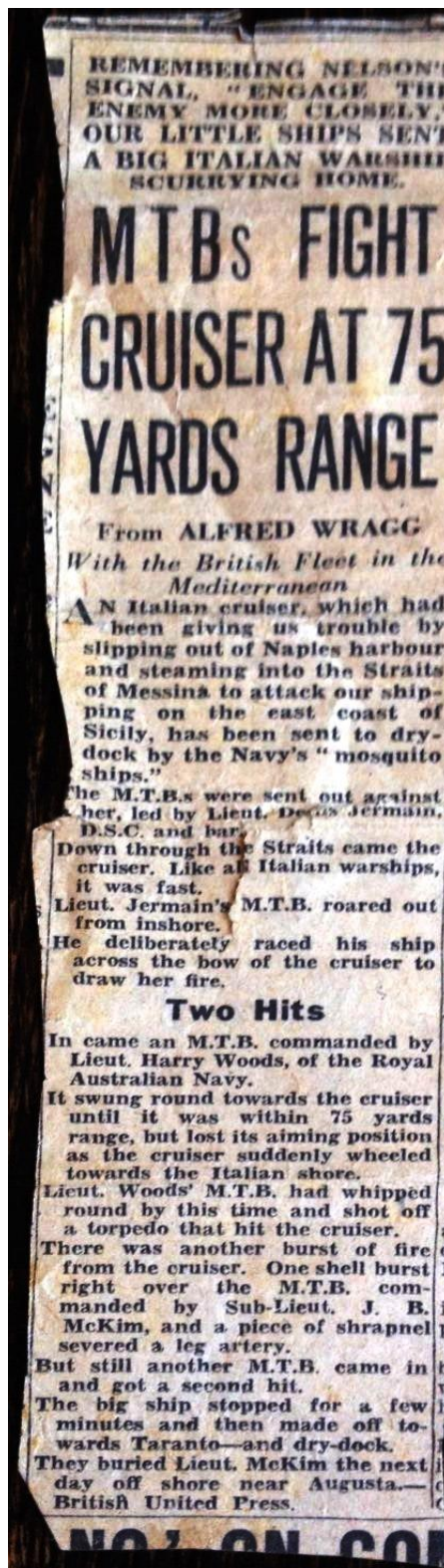
POSTHUMOUSLY
 MENTIONED IN
 DESPATCHES

Petty Officer Henry Clark

In the Royal Navy for over 10 years, the late Petty Officer Henry Clark, husband of Mrs. I. Clark, of 26, Camden Avenue, Feltham, has been Mentioned in Despatches for "Gallantry and devotion to duty."



Petty Officer Clark, who was 29 years of age, was educated at Salmestone and Pettman Central Schools, Margate, and joined the Navy in 1933. One of three serving sons of Mr. and Mrs. H. Clark, of 67, Grange Road, Margate, he spent three-and-a-half years of his service in the Royal New Zealand Navy, but when posted missing, presumed killed, in July, 1943, he was coxswain of a M.T.B. in the Mediterranean. He leaves a son, Brian Henry, aged one year, eight months, whom he had never seen. Of P.O. Clark's brothers, Robert Henry is a Staff Sergeant in the R.A., in North Africa; and Frederick William, a wireless operator-air gunner in the R.A.F.



Footnote:-

After my father, Henry Leslie Clark death, my Mother and I immigrated to NZ 1946 and spent 4 years in Tauranga Transit camp. I was adopted in 1949 as an Edwards. By chance via Ancestry 2015 I discovered I had seven previously unknown cousins in England on my fathers side. My wife and I decided to travel to England against Dr's advice 2016. A very emotional reunion was had by all after nearly 70 years.



Cheers

Pilz Edwards