My Thomas Family History

Author

Roger Thomas



1939-1945 - Gordon David Thomas

This document is about the life of: Gordon David Thomas (1921-1985)

Gordon David Thomas was the father of **Roger Nicholas Hedley Thomas (1950-)** And Peter David Brandon Thomas and Michael Gordon Howard Thomas

Contents

Gordon David Thomas

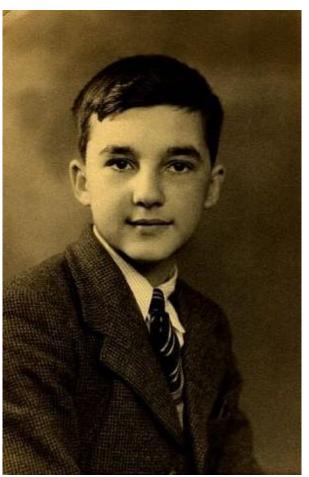
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Appendix – Documents relating to Gordon David Thomas

Gordon David Thomas (1921-1985)

Early Life

Gordon David Thomas was the only child of Hubert David Thomas and Ada Turnor.



1930 – Age about 9 years

He was born on Monday 7th March 1921 at 15, Edgbaston Road, Smethwick, Birmingham B15. *See Birth Certificate in Appendix.*



15, Edgbaston Road, Smethwick, Birmingham B15.

Education

He attended Portland Road Preparatory School (Miss Eaton's), situated on the corner of Portland Road and York Road, Edgbaston). He then went to Edgbaston Collegiate School.

From September 1932 to July 1938, he went to school at King Edward's School (KES) for Boys in Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15.



King Edward's School (KES) for Boys in Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15.

He studied English Literature, Pure-And-Applied Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biblical History And Literature and French-With-German. In July 1938, he was awarded the Higher School Certificate in three principal subjects, Pure-And-Applied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, and in one Subsidiary subject, French-With-German. *See Higher School Certificate document in Appendix.*

In July (1938?) he received a certificate confirming his 6 years of study at King Edwards School, and that he had been examined in:

- English Subjects:
 - o English
 - History
 - Geography
- Languages:
 - o Latin
 - \circ French
 - o German
- Mathematics and Science:
 - o Arithmetic
 - o Algebra
 - o Geometry
 - Heat, Light and Sound
 - Chemistry

See Higher School Certificate document in Appendix.

From 1938 to 1948, he studied for his degree from the University of London. He carried out his studies at night school at Birmingham Central Technical College - (Matthew Boulton College?). *See Studied for Degree at Birmingham Central Technical College in Appendix*. This document also states that he was given exemption from the intermediate Examination.

He was given an exemption from taking Matriculation Examinations due to the qualifications already obtained. *See Exemption from Matriculation Examination document in Appendix.*

His Intermediate Examinations in Engineering required a pass in Applied Mathematics and Engineering Drawing. He passed the Engineering Drawing, but had to retake the Applied Mathematics examination. *See Intermediate Examination Letter in Appendix.*

His Degree from the University of London was a BSc in Engineering (Metallurgy) Second Class Honours which he achieved in 16th August 1948. *See Degree Certificate in Appendix.*

Leaving education, he joined his father as a Metallurgist at Hudson & Wright's Factory, which made brass and copper tubes, and then joined the R.A.F. to help the war effort.

War Service – General Information

World War II was between 01/09/1939 and 02/09/1945.

He joined the RAF on 13/09/1941 as Aircrew. His Service Number 1578490 Sgt was when he joined as an Airman, however, his Service number changed to be 174324 F/O was when he was made an Officer

He was a Navigator in the R.A.F. and reached the rank of Flight Lieutenant, whilst serving in **89 Squadron** RAF MEF (Middle East Force).

Beerlough 101 Knightlow Rd. Sgl Thomas Sgl Thomas Squadrow RAF Squadrow RAF FRC 151

This is an inscription inside the cover of a book of short stories by "Saki" (H.M.Munro) that Mary sent to Gordon whilst serving in the Middle East Force (M.E.F.).

The aeroplanes that he flew in were the de Havilland Mosquito and the Bristol Beaufighter.

de Havilland Mosquito



The de Havilland Mosquito was a twin-engine multi-role aircraft. It was constructed almost entirely of wood – a ply-balsa-ply monocoque fuselage and one-piece wings with doped fabric covering. In 1941 it was one of the fastest operational aircraft in the world.

Originally conceived as an unarmed fast bomber, the Mosquito's use evolved during the war into many roles, including low to medium-altitude daytime tactical bomber, high-altitude night bomber, pathfinder, day or night fighter, fighter-bomber, intruder, maritime strike aircraft. It was nicknamed "Mossie".

The crew of two, pilot and navigator, sat side by side, but a single passenger could ride in the aircraft's bomb bay when necessary.

He told a story of whilst he was in the Middle East (either in India, Ceylon or Burma) he was in a de Havilland Mosquito Squadron, and when he awoke in the morning and looked at the aircraft, he found one (or some) of them had lost all their covering - they were made of wood covered by canvas. They later discovered that the covering had been eaten away by insects!!

Bristol Beaufighter



The Bristol Type 156 Beaufighter is a multi-role aircraft developed during the Second World War by the Bristol Aeroplane Company in the United Kingdom. It was originally conceived as a heavy fighter variant of the Bristol Beaufort bomber. Upon its entry to service, the Beaufighter proved to be well suited to the night fighter role, for which the RAF initially deployed the type during the height of the Battle of Britain, in part due to its large size allowing it to accommodate both heavy armaments and early airborne interception radar without major performance penalties.

As its wartime service continued, the Beaufighter was used in many different roles; as a rocket-armed ground attack aircraft, and as a torpedo bomber against shipping. In later operations, it served mainly as a maritime strike/ground attack aircraft.

War Service Enlistment

On enlistment, he was described as:

- Height 5 foot 8 inches
- Chest 31 inches
- Hair Black
- Eyes Brown, Comp. Dark
- Vaccination 3 Left
- Mole Left Cheek
- Scar 1st Finger on Right
- Scar Right Knee

See War Service Enlistment in Appendix.





Service Record – Postings around the Country/World

See War Service Postings 1 and 2 in Appendix.

- 13/09/1941 **Birmingham** / LAC RC (Leading Aircraftman Recruits Service)
- 18/10/1941 4 I.T.W. (No. 4 Initial Training Wing)

This was formed on 27 September 1939 at Bexhill but moved to **Paignton in Devon** on 1 July 1940. It later became an ITW specialising in training Air Gunners but then reverted to the training of Pilots/Navigators and Air Bombers. It disbanded on 1 March 1944.

28/02/1942 – 50 GRP pool (50 Group Pool)

No. 50 Group Pool (Flying Training Command) was formed at R.A.F. Station Yatesbury, Wiltshire during July, 1940. The unit relocated to R.A.F. Station **Watchfield**, **Wiltshire** (date unknown). No. 50 Group Pool did not have any aircraft on its establishment. Flying operations were conducted with DH 82 Tiger Moths that had been leant to them by No. 10 Elementary Flying Training School at R.A.F. Station Yatesbury. No. 50 Group Pool was disbanded sometime in late 1940.

5 AOS (5 Air Observer School)

RAF Jurby is a former Royal Air Force station built in the north west of the **Isle of Man**. RAF Jurby reverted to its former title of No. 5 Air Observer School in July 1941 with navigation, bomb aiming and air gunnery now forming part the station's remit. RAF Jurby was originally a grass airfield but was later equipped with hard runways.

22/04/1942 – 5 R.S. (Radio School)

07/07/1942 – 54 O.T.U. (54 Operational Training Unit) Winfield

This is by **Berwick on Tweed**.

After not being used during the interwar period, **Winfield** opened again in the spring of 1942 as a satellite for No 54 Operational Training Unit (OTU) at <u>Charterhall</u>. This unit primarily used Bristol Beaufighters, Beauforts and Blenheims for night fighter training and some target towing. From May 1944 de Havilland Mosquitoes began to be used by the OTU and this became the primary aircraft of the unit by early 1945. A small number of Vickers Wellingtons were also used for radar training.

- 26/09/1942 54 O.T.U. (54 Operational Training Unit)
- 01/12/1942 **153 Squadron** at 62 O.T.U. (62 Operational Training Unit) See History of 153 Squadron in Appendix.
- 25/01/1943 153 Squadron at 62 O.T.U. (62 Operational Training Unit)

29/03/1943 - RAF Atcham

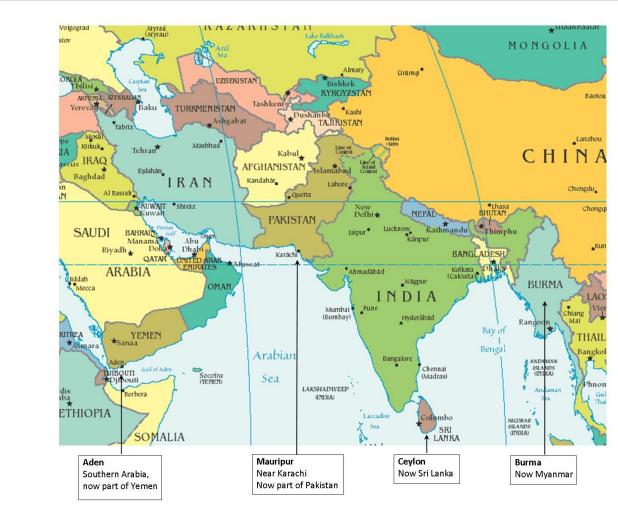
RAF Atcham is located 5.0 miles (8.0 km) east of **Shrewsbury**, Shropshire on the north eastern boundary of Attingham Park. It was initially built for RAF Fighter Command.

20/04/1943 - 62 O.T.U. (62 Operational Training Unit) 54 O.T.U. (54 Operational Training Unit) Winfield

15/06/1943 - 54 O.T.U. (54 Operational Training Unit)

15/06/1943 to 14/07/1943 - RAF Charterhall

RAF Charterhall was a World War 2 Royal Air Force airfield, beside the B6460 near the village of **Greenlaw** in **Berwickshire**, **Scotland**. The airfield was used by No. 54 Operational Training Unit RAF. The location now operates as a private airstrip.



Overseas Postings

07/08/1943 - Overseas HQ Aden

H.Q. British Forces, **Aden** (in Southern Arabia, now part of **Yemen**) was a command of the Royal Air Force established on 14 April 1942 by renaming the Aden Command. No. 8 Squadron, Blenheim, was at HQ Aden.

01/09/1943 to 28/10/1943 -

89 Squadron India Commission

In October 1943 the squadron moved to **Ceylon** (now **Sri Lanka**), from where it flew defensive patrols. In August 1944 the squadron moved to Baigachi, and in September it began to fly night intruder missions over **Burma** (now **Myanmar**). de Havilland Mosquitoes arrived in February 1945, and were flown until the end of the war. Apart from leaflet dropping from Singapore there was little for the squadron to do and it was disbanded on 1 May 1946

See History of 89 Squadron in Appendix.

- 19/03/1944 Discharged
- 20/03/1944 No 222 Group RAF Area: A.C.S.E.A. (Air Command South East Asia)
 On appointment to being a Navigator.
 No. 222 Group was a group of the Royal Air Force during the Second World War. Formed on 1
 September 1941, based at **Ceylon**, however squadrons were stationed around the Indian Ocean.
 The group undertook long-range bombing and mine-laying operations that took them as far afield as Sumatra and Singapore. The group was disbanded on 15 October 1945 becoming Air Headquarters Ceylon (AHQ Ceylon).

18/10/1944 - 8 Ferry Unit - Area A.C.S.E.A. (Air Command South East Asia) Flight Supply – Aircraft Delivery 8 Ferry Unit was formed at Mauripur, India (now part of Pakistan) on 1st September 1944. It was disbanded at Drigh Road, India on 18 June 1945. RAF Ferry Command was a Royal Air Force command formed on 20 July 1941 to ferry aircraft from the place of manufacture or other non-operational areas, to the front line operational units, e.g., the squadrons. It was absorbed into the new Transport Command on 25 March 1943 by being reduced to Group status. It had a short life, but it spawned, in part, an organisation that lasted well beyond the war years during which it was formed.

- 15/05/1945 **89 Squadron** Area A.C.S.E.A. (Air Command South East Asia) Supply Navigator
- 03/06/1945 to 01/09/1945 EANS (Empire Air Navigation School) **Shawbury** Area: FTC (Flying Training Command) 121 Staff Navigator
- 19/10/1945 Navigator Briefing
- 10/06/1946 104 PDC (Personnel Dispatch Centre) Hednesford, Staffordshire Demobilised – Release
- 30/06/1946 Joined 104 PDC (Personnel Dispatch Centre)
- 01/07/1946 Released

Career Promotions in the R.A.F.

- 10/09/1941 Recommended for training as Observer Radio. See War Service Enlistment in Appendix.
- 13/09/1941 A.C.2. (Aircraftman Second Class)
- 12/12/1941 Promoted to L.A.C. (Leading Aircraftman)
- 31/12/1941 Under Training Radio Observer
- 07/08/1942 Promoted to T/Sgt (Technical Sergeant)
- 07/08/1943 Promoted to T/F Sgt (Temporary Flight Sergeant)
- 19/03/1944 Discharged from the RAF on appointment to a Temporary Commission.
- 20/03/1944 No. 222 Unit Appointed Navigator
- 23/03/1944 Granted a commission to Flight Sergeant
- 20/09/1944 Confirmed an appointment promotion to Flying Officer
- 18/10/1944 Unit 8 Ferry Unit Flight Supply
- 15/05/1945 89 Squadron Supply Navigator
- 03/06/1945 to 01/09/1945 -EANS (Empire Air Navigation School) Shawbury – 121 Staff Navigator (training others?)
- 19/10/1945 HQ 229 Navigator Briefing
- 17/12/1945 Appointed Acting Flight Lieutenant (unpaid)
- 20/03/1946 Promoted to Flight Lieutenant
- 01/07/1959 His Commission was relinquished on 01/07/1959, and retained the rank of Flight Lieutenant

See also War Service Training in Appendix

War Service Medals

These are the war medals awarded to Gordon Thomas, and are the actual medals.



1939-45 Star (1939-45)

Burma Star (1941-45)

Defence Medal (1939-45)



	al de	1-410	1.1 1
1939/45 Star	×-	1939 45 Star	-
Battle of Britain Clasp	2	Britain Clasp	N
Atlantic Star	6	Atlantic Star	w
Atlantic Clasp	14	Atlantic Clasp Aircrew	-
Aircrew Europe Star	en	Europe Star Aircrew	5
Aircrew Europe Clasp	6	Europe Clasp	-
Africa Star	-1	Africa Star	-
Africa Clasp	80	Africa Clasp Pacific Star	00
Pacific Star	9	Pacific Clasp	9 10
Pacific Clasp	10	Burma Star	0 11
Burma Star Burma Clasp	X	Burma Clasp	12
Italy Star	12 13	Italy Star	13
France Germany Star	-	France Germany Star	14
France Germany Clasp	15	France Germany Clasp	15
Defence Medal	16	Mance Medal	16
Silver Laurel Leaves Emblem	17	Silver Laurel Leaves Emblem	17
	¥ 18	Medal	18
Oak Leaf Emblem	19	Oak Leaf Emblem	19
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Campaign Stars, Clasps and Medals instituted in recognition of service in the war of 1939-45				
	THE AWARDS ISSUED ARE MARKED ON THE ACCOMPANYING SLIP	×		
Order of Wearing	Description of Ribbon	Clasp or Emblem (if awarded)		
1 1939-45 Star	Dark blue, red and light blue in three equal vertical stripes. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Battle of Britain		
2 Atlantic Star	Blue, white and sea green shaded and watered. This ribbon is worn with the blue edge furthest from the left shoulder.	Air Crew Europe or France and Germany		
3 Air Crew Europe Star	Light blue with black edges and in addition a narrow yellow stripe on either side.	Atlantic or France and Germany		
4 Africa	Pale buff, with a central vertical red stripe and	8th Army or		
Star	two narrower stripes, one dark blue, and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Ist Army or North Africa 1942-43		
5 Pacific Star	Dark green with red edges, a central yellow stripe, and two narrow stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Burma		
6 Burma Star	Dark blue with a central red stripe and in addition two orange stripes.	Pacific		
7 Italy Star	Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in red at either edge and one in green at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.			
8 France and Germany Star	Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in blue at either edge and one in red at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.	Atlantic		
9 Defence Medal	Flame coloured with green edges, upon each of which is a narrow black stripe.	Silver laurel leaves (King's Commenda- tion for brave conduct. Civil)		
10 War Medal 1939-45	A narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side. A broad red stripe at either edge, and two intervening stripes in blue.	Oak leaf		



RAF Navigators Badge Actual Badges from Gordon Thomas

Gold Bullion Wire Crown Cap Badge RAF Officers Cap Badge



153 Squadron RAF Kings Crown - Wire Blazer Badge Actual Blazer Badge from Gordon Thomas

Employment History

Gordon followed in the family footsteps to become a Metallurgist, eventually rising to being a Works Manager. His father, grandfather, great grandfather and great-great grandfather were all Copper Refiners.

On the 1939 Census, he was living at 101 Knightlow Road, Harborne with his father David. His occupation was recorded as being an Analytical Chemist, Non Ferrous Aluminium.

His first employment was at Hudson & Wright Ltd., Grove Street, Birmingham 18 which manufactured Brass and Copper Tubes. He started work there at the age of 19 years in 1940. He left to serve the RAF between 1941 and 1945, and on completion of his war service, he re-joined Hudson & Wright Ltd.

In 1959, he sent a holiday postcard back to the Laboratory, Hudson & Wright Ltd, which was by then at Halberton Street, Birmingham 18.

PHOTOGRAPH ADDR WITH GREETINGS TUTSDA 59 O Real Photograph by J. Woolverto HUDSON & WRIGHT HALDERION 18

In 1965, at the age of 44 years old, he received his 25 years long service award. This was a Rotary watch which has an inscription stating:

To Mr. G.D. Thomas From Hudson & Wright Ltd. In appreciation of 25 years service 1965



In the late 1960's, Hudson & Wright Ltd. was taken over my Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch) Ltd., and he remained working at the same factory address.

The final company that he worked for was Lovell and Hanson Ltd, based at Hanlo Works, 332 Spon Lane, West Bromwich. This was part of Yorkshire Imperial Metals, which was a member of the IMI group.

He started work as Metallurgist and Analytical Chemist, and became Works Manager and Commercial Manager.

History of the Copper/Metal Companies

- Hudson & Wright Ltd, Grove Street, Smethwick / Cape Hill, Birmingham 18 Makers of Brass and Copper Tubes
- Allen Everitt, and Sons, Kingston Metal Works, Cambridge Street, Birmingham Makers of non-ferrous tubes, copper-nickel condenser tubes In 1929, Allen Everitt and Sons became part of ICI Metals Division in 1958, Allen Everitt and Sons closed in 1971, the Kingston Works was renamed Allen Everett Works
- In 1929, Kynoch Works, Witton merged with ICI Metals Division
- In 1957, ICI Metals Division joined with Yorkshire Copper Works and formed Yorkshire Imperial Metals (YIM)
- In 1962, ICI Metals Division and its subsidiaries grouped with Imperial Metal Industries (IMI) and became Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch) Ltd.
- In 1965, Gordon was awarded gold watch from Hudson & Wright, so Hudson & Wright not taken over until after 1965
- In 1965+, Hudson & Wright Ltd was taken over by IMI

1926 ICI Metals Division formed
1929 Allen Everitt → ICI Metals Division
1929 Kynoch Works → ICI Metals Division
1957 ICI Metals Division + Yorkshire Copper Works → Yorkshire Imperial Metals (YIM)
1962 YIM + IMI → IMI Kynoch
1965+ Hudson & Wright → IMI

Family Life after World War II Service

Gordon's mother, Ada Turnor, died in 1934 of Sceptic Pneumonia, when Gordon was only 13 years old. This meant that Gordon was brought up by his father, Hubert David Thomas (known as David). They were living at 101 Knightlow Road, Harborne from at least 1934.

Gordon had met Mary, his wife-to-be, before the war. She was the daughter of Richard Greenhough and Anne Beatrice (Bugsy) Lavender. However, Richard and Bugsy's marriage ended with a divorce in March 1945, and Bugsy was going out with David Thomas. Bugsy and Mary were living at David's house at 101 Knightlow Road, where Gordon was also living. So naturally, Gordon started seeing Mary.

Immediately after the end of the war, Gordon married Mary on 3rd September 1945 in St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham. The witnesses at the marriage were G.T. Chamberlain (Gordon Chamberlain, Best Man), H.D. Thomas (Gordon's father, David) and A.B. Greenhough (Mary's mother, Anne Greenhough). Note: the marriage certificate says St John's Church, Harborne, but it had been bombed by this time. *See Marriage Certificate in Appendix.*



Left to right: Clive Watkins, Nona Watkins, Marie ?, Marie's husband, Olive Watkins, Edna Jolly, Grandma (Mary) Greenhough, George Jolly David Thomas, Gordon Chamberlain (best man), Ralph Hippisley-Cox, Gordon Thomas, Grandpa (Richard) Greenhough, Mary Greenhough Val Watkins, Philip Hppisley-Cox, Anne (Bugsy) Greenhough, May Hippisley-Cox, Joy Greenhough (Walker),Lillian Stevens, Charles Stevens, John Holland, Brenda Hippisley-Cox, Walter Thomas, Keitha Thomas, Barbara Holland.

St Peter's Church, September 3, 1945

Gordon and Mary's Wedding- 3rd September 1945 – St John's Church, Harborne, Birmingham

From 1945 to 1947, they lived at 101 Knightlow Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 8PX.

From 1947, they then moved to 491 Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham B32 in 1947, where they stayed until 1957.

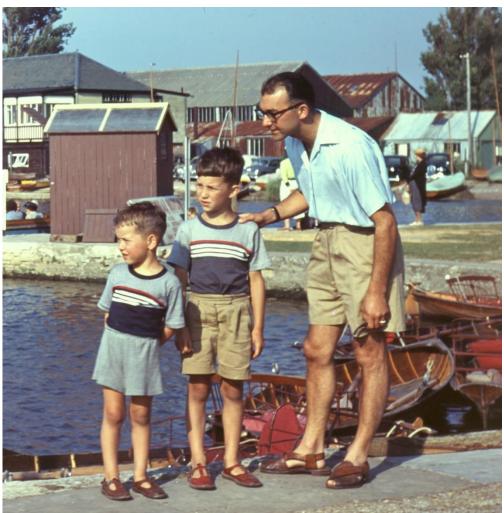
Gordon and Mary had two children, Peter (born 1947) and Roger (born 1950) while at Hagley Road West, Quinton.



Gordon, Mary and Peter – at 491 Hagley Road West, Quinton – about 1948



Gordon and Mary – about 1948



Gordon with Roger and Peter – in 1955 at Christchurch, Dorset

Gordon built the garage at 491 Hagley Road West, together with his wife, Mary. It was a Batley, which was a self-assembly garage. Hanging on the wall in the garage was the bicycle that he used before he had a car. It had drop handle bars and derailleur gears.

At some point around this time, he went to Stuttgart in Germany to work.

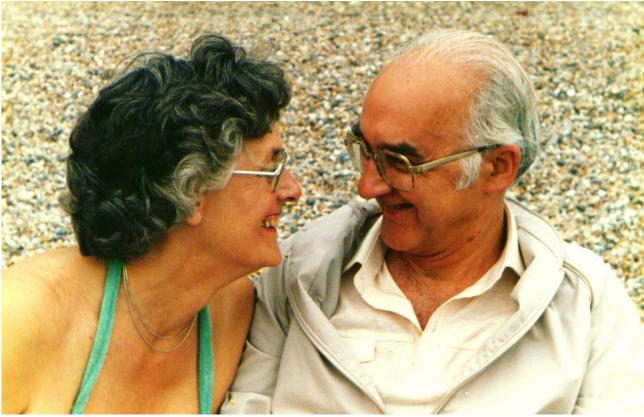
This is remembered because of the items that he brought back for the family, namely

- a stoneware Stein beer tankard with a metal lid
- a beige BMW "Dinky" toy car for his son Peter
- a blue Borgward Isabella "Dinky" toy car for his son, Roger

In 1957, they moved to 34, Oakham Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9DG, and had their third son, Michael in 1958. Gordon was able to buy their house at Oakham Road thanks to a legacy.



Gordon at a Company Dinner in 1967



Gordon and Mary in about 1980



Gordon and their dog, Holly in 1982 at 34 Oakham Road, Harborne



Gordon and Sylvia Wright – 1982 - Christmas

By 1983, all the children had finally left home and they moved to 51, Chancellor's Close, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3UL, a small, chalet-style house.

Gordon was an active tennis player, together with Mary, and played tennis every weekend in the summer period.

They were members of:

- Holly Tennis Club in Quinton
- Moorpool Tennis Club in Harborne
- Chantry Tennis Club in Moseley

Gordon used to play snooker every weekend with his father, David, at the Moorpool Circle Snooker Club in Harborne. They had their own snooker cues in metal cases.

He also enjoyed playing Bridge every week, at their Bridge Club and with friends.

In his youth, he played Chess to quite a high standard, and he taught his son, Roger to play at an early age, who went on to receive an award for chess at his senior school.

By 1985, Gordon had been winding down to his retirement but unfortunately never managed to enjoy much of it as he suffered two strokes, the second one being very bad, and he died when he was 64 years old on 9th June 1985. He was buried on 17th June 1985 in Lodge Hill Crematorium, Selly Oak, Birmingham. *See Death Certificate in Appendix.*

Cars Owned

Listed below are all of the cars that Gordon owned, in chronological order.



Ford 10- DOF 411 - Black (Centre) – (with a different grill fitted) Sunbeam Talbot Company Car (on Left)





Morris Oxford MO – JAC 478 – Black – inherited from his Uncle Walter





Austin A40 Farina Mk I – 613 BOK – White

Austin A40 Farina Mk I – (not Gordon's actual car)



Ford Cortina Mark 1 – Blue and Cream – (not Gordon's actual car)



Ford Cortina Mark 2 – OCC 146G – Bronze (not Gordon's actual car)



Morris Marina Coupe 1.3 – ANP 399M (not Gordon's actual car)



Chrysler Alpine - S Reg SOX – Bronze (not Gordon's actual car)



Austin Metro – C Reg - Gold (not Gordon's actual car)

Appendix

Documents relating to Gordon David Thomas (1921-1985)

- Birth Certificate
- Higher School Certificate
- History of Education (1)
- History of Education (2)
- Exemption from Matriculation Examination Certificate
- Studied for Degree at Birmingham Central Technical College
- Intermediate Examination Letter
- Degree Certificate
- War Service Enlistment
- War Service Postings 1
- War Service Postings 2
- War Service Postings 2 (enlarged)
- History of 153 Squadron
- History of 89 Squadron
- War Service Career Promotions 1
- War Service Career Promotions 2
- War Service Career Promotions 2 (enlarged)
- War Service Training
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage Certificate
- Death Certificate

Appendix Higher School Certificate

Certificate A.

UNIVERSITIES OF MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, LEEDS, SHEFFIELD AND BIRMINGHAM.

Joint Matriculation Board

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that

GORDON DAVID THOMAS BORN 7TH MARCH 1921 L HAS ATTENDED KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, BIRMINGHAM FROM SEPTEMBER 1932 PURSUING A COURSE OF STUDY IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, PURE-AND-APPLIED MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIBLICAL HISTORY AND LITERATURE AND FRENCH-WITH-GERMAN FROM SEPTEMBER 1936 TO JULY 1938.

> E.T.England Head Master.

IL AND AFTER EXAMINATION IN JULY 1938 HAS BEEN AWARDED THIS HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE HAVING REACHED THE REQUIRED STANDARD IN THE THREE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS PLRE-AND-APPLIED MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY AND IN THE ONE SUBSIDIARY SUBJECT FRENCH-WITH-GERMAN.

Signed on behalf of the Joint Matriculation Board

aw Rickent (a Chairman.

12.

Secretary.

and that

III. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HAVE INSPECTED THE SCHOOL AND RECOGNISED IT AS AN EFFICIENT SECONDARY SCHOOL AND ACCEPT THE EXAMINATION AS REACHING THE APPROVED STANDARD AND AS BEING SUITABLE FOR THE SCHOOL.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Education

<u>Appendix</u> <u>History of Education (1)</u>

[A] UNIVERSITY LONDON OF GENERAL SCHOOL EXAMINATION SCHOOL CERTIFICATE Gordon David Thomas I. This is to certify that born y March 1921, has been a pupil at King Edward's School, Birming (inspected by the Board of Education) for a period of 6 years and term ending July and has pursued a Course of Study in the subjects set out on the back of this Certificate. E. T. Suglar Head of the Schu II. Ellso that this pupil, having been examined in the following groups of subjects :-(i) ENGLISH SUBJECTS, (ii) LANGUAGES, (iii) MATHEMATICS and SCIENCE, (iv) Other Subjects, has passed the General School Examination held at the School mentioned above in elidsummer with Credit in the following subject & (1 in number):----Elementary Mathematics Heat, Light and Sound Chemistry Signed on behalf of the University of London, Stt. Shurrock Secretary for School Exam III. The Board of Education have inspected the school and recognised it as an efficient Secondary School and accept the Examination

<u>Appendix</u> <u>History of Education (2)</u>

[To be filled in by the School Authorities] LIST OF SUBJECTS STUDIED BY THE PUPIL TO WHOM THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED English Subjects Sylesh Malon Scopety. Languages Labor French Serman. Mathematics and Science Arothechie Agula Servely. New Lyte Sound Chemalog. Other Subjects... E. T. Sugland Head of the School.

<u>Appendix</u>

Exemption from Matriculation Examination Certificate

R 3. 28522UNIVERSITY OF LONDON: SENATE HOUSE. LONDON, W.C.1. 23 SEP 1938 Exemption from Matriculation Examination. 52 I beg to acknowledge your application and to inform you that, in virtue of the qualifications attested before me this day, you have been granted exemption from the Matriculation Examination of this University and that your Matriculation dates from SEPTEMBER 1938 I would draw your attention to the fact that registration, as an Internal or an External Student, is necessary before you can proceed to the examinations leading to a Degree. Yours faithfully,

> Secretary to the Matriculation and School Examinations Council.

Thomas -To lo

<u>Appendix</u>

Studied for Degree at Birmingham Central Technical College

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION IN ENGINEERING AND MINING AND METALLURGY: JUNE, 1940.

(FOR EXTERNAL STUDENTS.)

The following Higher School Candidates have qualified for exemption from the Intermediate

Examination.			
3001.	Adams, John Maxwell	Rugby College of Technology and Arts.	
3002.	Barton, Eric Jonathan	University College Southampton.	
	Bate, Alan		
	Batt, Norman Frederick		
3005.	Bearn, Bertram	Plymouth and Devonport Technical Coll.	
	Bristow, William James		
	Burgess, John		
	0	Private study.	
3008.	Carpendale, Brian Montagu Maxwell	Faraday House.	
	Chaplin, Peter Leigh		
	Copage, Colin Michael		
3015.	Dickinson, Ivan Francis Robert	University College Southampton.	
3016.	Douglas, Gordon Charles George	Royal Technical College Salford.	
3017.	Edwards, Roger Ian	Queen Mary College.	
3018.	Eifflaender, Joachim Günter	Manchester College of Technology.	
3019.	Ellis, Lewis Geoffrey	Bradford Technical College.	
	England, Glynne		
3022.	Foster, Alan	Bradford Technical College.	
3023.	Graff-Baker, William Sebastian	Rugby College of Technology and Arts.	
	Gregory, John William George		
3028.	Hare, Anthony John	Rugby College of Technology and Arts.	
3029.	Hey, Roland James	Royal Technical College Salford.	
3030.	Hider, Denis Harold Owen	Brighton Technical College.	
	Humphrys, Barclay George		
	Imm, Ronald Charles		
	Johnson, Douglas		
3035.	Jolly, Alwyn Grimshaw	Battersea Polytechnic.	
	Keil, Charles		
3038.	Lee, Derrick	University College Southampton.	
3039.	Leheup, Harry	Nottingham High School.	
	Levy, Isaac Oscar		
3041.	Lewis, Frederick William Francis	Faraday House.	
3044.	Longbottom, Donald Shaw	Huddersfield Technical College.	
3045.	Lucas, Gordon Stanley	Whitgift School & Croydon Polytechnic. University College Southampton.	
3046.	Mackrell, Maurice Ashton	University College Southampton.	
3048.	Papworth, Robert William Oliver	Peter Symonds' School Winchester.	
3049.	Percy, John Neville Bownes	Merchant Venturers' Technical College	
		Bristol and Private study.	
3050.	Pettit, Richard Dan	Rugby College of Technology and Arts.	
3051.	Plant, Michael Cedric	Harris Institute.	
3052.	Rosbotham, Robert Samuel	Wigan & District Mining & Technical Coll.	
3053.	Rowe, Brian	Private study.	
3054.	Rowson, Rattcliff	Rugby College of Technology and Arts.	
3057.	Stanier, John Alan	University College Southampton.	
3058.	Steer, Norman Jesse	University College Southampton.	
3059.	Stone, John Thomas	Weymouth Grammar School & Pr. tu.	
3060.	Sykes, Harry	Manchester College of Technology.	
3062.	Thomas, Gordon David	Birmingham Central Technical College.	
3063.	Trotter, Robert Duncan	Rugby College of Technology and Arts.	
3064.	Ullyatt, Kenneth Hardy	Faraday House.	
3065.	Whitesmith, Bernard Whittley, Donald Charles	University College Nottingham.	
3066.	Whittley, Donald Charles	University College Southampton.	
3068.	Williams, Harold	Cardiff Technical College.	
3070.	Yeo, Eric Herbert	The College and Technical College Brighton.	
3071.	Yeomans, Donald Eric	Birmingham Central Technical College.	
3072.	Young, Donald Kenneth	Rugby College of Technology and Arts.	

54

[N.B.—This List, published for the convenience of Candidates, is issued subject to its approval by the Senate.]

P.a. (HS) 5646—24/7/40. SK 342 26/7/40 Sir J. C. & S. $\frac{2}{275}$ (1)

Appendix Intermediate Examination Letter

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Temporary Address: -

Royal Holloway College Englefield Green Surrey.

Dear Si

In accordance with the Intermediate exemption regulations you were required to pass in the subjects

(1) applied Mathematics

135

(2) Engineering Drawing

in order to complete the Intermediate Examination in Enquering At the Intermediate Examination held in January 1940 you were successful in Enqueering Drawing but failed to satisfy the Examiners in Applied Mathematics and you will be required to pass in this subject alone at a subsequent Intermediate Examination before you are eligible

to proceed to the Final Examination.

Yours faithfully,

A. CLOW FORD External Registrar.

Gordon David Thomas, Esq.

<u>Appendix</u> **Degree Certificate**



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that in the year 1945

Jordon Lovid Thomas

having passed the prescribed Examinations has this day been duly admitted as an External Student to the degree of

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING

(METALLURGY) (Class: Icon flow Homeric)

1/2 Angust 1918

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<u>Appendix</u> War Service Enlistment

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Date Place Reason and date Marriage or Family Allowance ceased to 1.5 issuable.				Address 101 KNIGHTLE CO KOTAD HARBORNE BIRMINGREH. 7 Relationship FATHER Date 129.4
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<u>Appendix</u> War Service Postings 1

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<u>Appendix</u> War Service Postings 2 (enlarged)

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<u>Appendix</u> <u>History of 153 Squadron</u>





153 SQUADRON



Motto: "Noctividus" ("Seeing by Night").Badge: In front of a six pointed star, a bat

History of 153 Squadron:

No.153 Squadron had two incarnations during the Second World War, first as a night fighter squadron which served both at home and in the Mediterranean, and then as a Lancaster squadron in Bomber Command.

The squadron was formed from 'A' Flight of No.256 Squadron, which flew from Squires Gate to Ballyhalbert on 14 October 1941, and began flying on the following day although the squadron was not officially formed until 24 October.

The squadron began by flight night patrols using the Defiant two-seat turret fighter. The first Blenheim night fighters arrived on 10 December and were used for training, before the Beaufighter arrived in January 1942. While the rest of the squadron trained on the Beaufighter, A Flight remained operational with the Defiant. In May 1942 the Beaufighter became operational, and the Defiants were retired.

The squadron remained in Northern Ireland until December 1942, but in that month sixteen of its Beaufighters flew to Algeria via Gibraltar, and the squadron began to provide night cover for Allied bases in North Africa and fly convoy protection patrols. At this point the squadron was operating from a series of bases along the Algerian coast.

In July 1944 a detachment from No.153 moved to Sardinia, from where it flew intruder missions over southern France and northern Italy, as well as helping to cover the Allied landings in southern France. In

August a flight of Spitfires and Hurricanes was added for dawn patrols, but on 5 September 1944 the squadron was disbanded.

Aircraft

Oct 1941 - May 1942: Boulton Paul Defiant I Jan 1942 - Jan 1943: Bristol Beaufighter I Aug 1942 - Sep 1944: Bristol Beaufighter VI Aug 1944 - Sep 1944: Supermarine Spitfire VIII and IX Aug 1944 - Sep 1944: Hawker Hurricane IIC Oct 1944 - Sep 1945: Avro Lancaster I and III

Location

Oct 1941 - Jan 1943:	Ballyhalbert
Dec 1942 - Jul 1943:	Maison Blanche
Jul 1943 - Sep 1944:	Reghaia
Jul 1944 - Sep 1944:	Detachment to Alghero
Oct 1944:	Kirmington
Oct 1945 – Sep 1945:	Scampton

Squadron Codes: TB (Beaufighter), P4 (Lancaster)

Duty

1941-1942: Home Based Night Fighter 1942-1944: Mediterranean Based Night Fighter 1944-1945: Bomber Command

Part of

10 July 1943: 2nd Air Defence Wing; North African Coastal Air Force; Northwest African Air Forces; Mediterranean Air Command

<u>Appendix</u> <u>History of 89 Squadron</u>





89 SQUADRON

Motto: Dei auxilio telis meis - 'By the help of God with my own weapons'

Badge: A wivern pierced by a flash of lightning.

History of 89 Squadron:

No.89 Squadron spent the entire Second World War operating as a night-fighter squadron on overseas stations, first in the Middle East and later over Burma.

The squadron formed at RAF Colerne on 25 September 1941, and was equipped with the Bristol Beaufighter night fighters. In November, after a short period of training, the squadron flew out to the Middle East, and in December it began to fly defensive night patrols. Detachments operated from Malta (June 1942) and along the North African Coast, and the detachment on Malta added night intruder missions to its defensive duties.

In October 1943 the squadron moved to **Ceylon**, from where it flew defensive patrols. In August 1944 the squadron moved to Baigachi, and in September it began to fly night intruder missions over **Burma**. de Havilland Mosquitoes arrived in February 1945, and were flown until the end of the war. Apart from leaflet dropping from Singapore there was little for the squadron to do and it was disbanded on 1 May 1946

Aircraft

Sep 1941 - Oct 1944: Bristol Beaufighter I Jul 1942 - Apr 1945: Bristol Beaufighter VI Feb 1945- Apr 1945: de Havilland Mosquito VI Apr 1945-Mar 1946: de Havilland Mosquito XIX

Duty

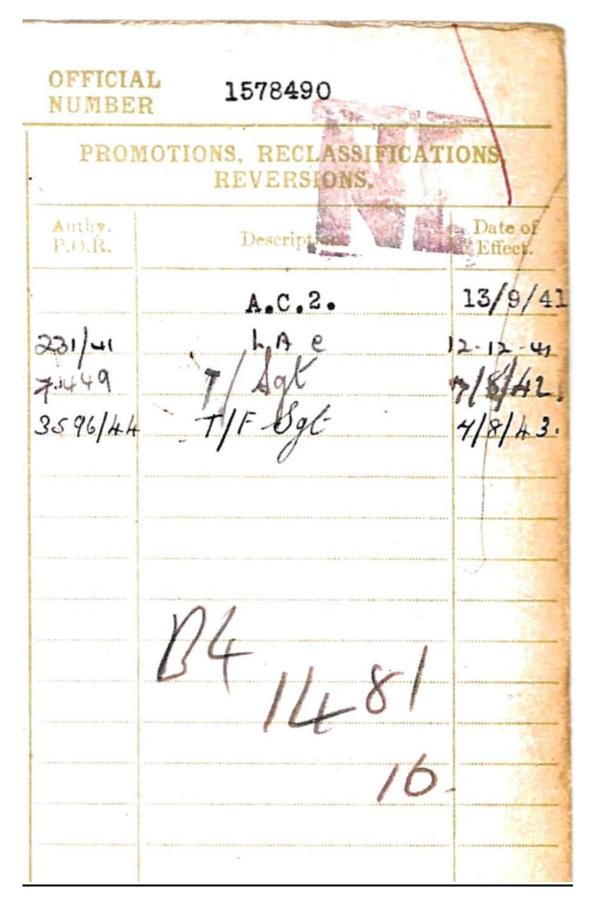
Night Fighter: Middle East 1941-1943; Ceylon 1943-44; Burma 1944-45.

Location

Sep 1941 - Nov 1941: Colerne Nov 1941 - Dec 1941: Kilo 17 Dec 1941 - Jan 1943: Abu Sueir Jan 1943 - Mar 1943: Bersis Mar 1943 - Aug 1943: Castel Benito Aug 1943 - Sep 1943: Bu Amud Sep 1943 - Oct 1943: Idku Oct 1943 - Mar 1944: Vavuniya Mar 1944 - Jun 1944: Minneriya Jun 1944 - Aug 1944: Vavuniya Aug 1944 - Sep 1945: Baigachi Sep 1945 - May 1946: Seletar

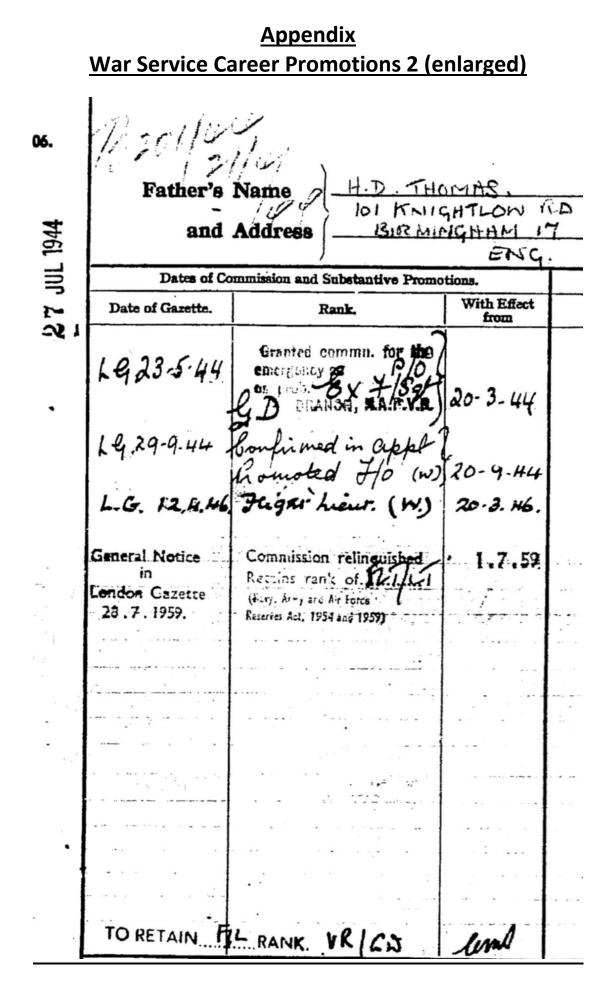
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Appendix War Service Career Promotions 1



<u>Appendix</u> War Service Career Promotions 2

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Appendix Birth Certificate

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325	Seventh March 1921 IS Edgbaston Road U.D.	Gordon David	Воу	Hubert David THOMAS	Ada Thomas formuly Turnor	Analyhicad Chenist Metad Allays	D.H. Thomas faithly 15 Edgbaston Road Smethwick	Twenty first April 1921	A. C. Liayr	e /

<u>Appendix</u> Marriage Certificate

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<u>Appendix</u> **Death Certificate**

CERTIFIED COPY Pursuant to the Births and



BE 297941

Deaths Registration Act 1953

OF AN ENTRY

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