

George Findlay Duncan

By Merle Ibelings and Taylor Beaver

LIFE

Born: April 2, 1916

Glasgow, Scotland

He is the son of George Collins Duncan and Margaret Duncan, of Brome, Quebec.

Died: October 2, 1945

26 years old

Died: At sea, Hook of Holland, Netherlands

WHS

Duncan graduated from Westmount High School in 1934. He was part of the Senior Gymnastics Team (champions, '33-'34), Leaders Corps ('31-'32, '33-'34), Inter football ('33), Bluenose Trophy Team ('33). He wanted to become an athlete

Life Before the War

After graduating from WHS, Duncan went to McGill University where his uncle was a professor, and graduated with a Bachelor in Commerce, in 1938. He was chosen as permanent class president of his class at McGill. He lived with his aunt and uncle on Argyle Avenue, in Westmount. Duncan was active in the Stanley Presbyterian Church, as he was a member of the board of management, and President of the Young People Society. Duncan was very athletic, and he was the Junior Gymnastic Champion of Quebec in 1938.

Duncan's uncle, R.R. Thompson taught him the love of water. Thompson taught his nephew how to sail at the age of 9 on Lake Memphremagog. Later, Duncan became a sea-scout, and was part of the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club.



Duncan, in the WHS yearbook, 1934



Duncan's name, on a plaque in the WHS lobby



GEORGE FINDLAY DUNCAN D.S.C.
LIEUT. R.C.N.V.R.
KILLED IN ACTION OCT 1942

Duncan pictured before he went overseas.

During the War

Duncan was part of the navy. He was a Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (R.C.N.V.R).

Duncan was given the Distinguished Service Cross with approval from the King. He was also awarded by Hon. Angus MacDonald (Navy Minister) for good service in action against an E-Boat.

Battle

Duncan went overseas in July of 1940. He was the commander of his boat and a gunnery officer of his flotilla.

Duncan's ship was lost and reported missing when his boat didn't return after patrol duty. The boat was last seen at the Hook of Holland. He was declared dead on the evening of October 2, 1942, when he was 26.

Duncan's body was never found, but his name is honoured on a plaque in our school, WHS, and in the Halifax Memorial, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. This memorial was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

After War

Duncan left his estate to his father, uncle and his grandmother, to be split evenly.



A list of Duncan's belongings, before he went missing.

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