



Ministry  
of Defence

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Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 January 2015 requesting information on the death of your uncle Henry Leonard Norrish on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1942 in Lagos, Nigeria. Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Department holds some information within the scope of your request. Attached to the covering email is a copy of the entry in the death register for Henry Leonard Norrish which shows he drowned accidentally. I can also confirm that there is an entry on the Plymouth Naval War memorial (Panel 69, Column 3). As there is a commemoration on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Memorial this would indicate that unfortunately the body of your uncle was never recovered from the sea. Regrettably this is all the information we hold as during the time of conflict it was not customary to hold a Board of Inquiry.

You will see that the entries relating to other individuals in the death register have been withheld under section 40(2) of the FOI Act (personal data).

Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, namely Principle 1 – personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and not unless certain specified conditions are met, and Principle 2 – personal data shall be obtained and processed only for specified and lawful purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with the purposes. In this instance, data has been provided for registration purposes and not with the expectation that it would be made public.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please

note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

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