



Thame Remembers



Petty Officer John F Summersbee

John Frederick Summersbee was born in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire on 20th July 1911. His parents were Stephen John and Hilda Summersbee (nee Hall) who had married the previous year. Stephen was a blacksmith and moved to 2 Rooks Lane, Thame; they were still living there in 1939. On 1st January 1938 John married Alice Evelyn Thomlinson of Scotsgrove, Oxfordshire and they went to live at 63 Chinnor Road, Thame.

Affectionately known to all his friends as 'Jack', he joined the Royal Navy in 1926 and for the last three years was in the submarine service. In July 1939 he joined HMSub 'Thistle' at Barrow in Furness on completion of her trials and served as her Second Coxswain. He was shortly due for further promotion to Torpedo Coxswain.

On 9th April 1940 HMSub Thistle first spotted the German U-boat U4 at 16:04 off the Norwegian coast and fired four torpedoes, none of which hit. At 02:13 on 10th April, U4 surprised HMSub Thistle on the surface near Skudenes, Norway and fired torpedoes, sinking the submarine. All on board were lost.

P/JX 128645 Petty Officer John Frederick Summersbee, Royal Navy HMSub Thistle "N24" died at sea on 10th April 1940. Jack is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. He is remembered in Thame on the war memorial and on St Mary's church memorial board.



**The
Thame Remembers Cross
was delivered to
Portsmouth Naval Memorial
on 14 June 2017
by
Cllr Tom Wyse
Mayor of Thame**

