

Codford

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War II



237295 FLIGHT SERGEANT

CHARLES HOMER BOSWORTH

ROYAL AIR FORCE

17th SEPTEMBER, 1939

Charles Homer BOSWORTH

Charles Homer Bosworth was born on 22nd January, 1888 to parents Charles Rood & Lizzie Bosworth (nee Wheeler). His birth was registered in the district of Chippenham, Wiltshire in the March quarter of 1888. Charles Homer Bosworth was baptised at St. Paul's Chippenham on 1st April, 1888. His father – Charles Rood Bosworth was listed as an Assistant Manager Milk factory. The family were living at Landsend at the time of the baptism.

(His parents' marriage had been registered in the December quarter, 1886, in the district of Chippenham, Wiltshire.)

The 1903 Kelly's Directory lists Charles Rood Bosworth as a Private resident of Killeagh, Sandridge Road, Melksham, Wiltshire.

The 1911 Census records Charles Homer Bosworth as a 23 year old Manager in a Condensed Milk Manufacturing company. He was living with his parents & younger brother at The Gables, Church Road, The Forest, Melksham which was a 7 roomed dwelling. His parents & brother were listed as – Charles Rood Bosworth (Manager, Condensed Milk Manufacturing, aged 52), Lizzie Bosworth (aged 45) & brother – Henry Edward Bosworth (Clerk, Condensed Milk Manufacturing, aged 16), Charles' parents had been married for 24 years & had only 2 children, none deceased.

Charles Homer Bosworth served in the British Army during World War 1 and spent time in Russia as part of his service.

Charles H. Bosworth married Edith M. Filley in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

After World War 1, Homer Bosworth joined the Royal Flying Corps, then the Royal Air Force.

The Royal Air Force Muster Roll for 1918 records a C. H. Bosworth, Rigger (Aero) with the New Rank from Air Mechanic 2 to Air Mechanic 3 from 1/2/1918.

Charles Homer Bosworth, while serving with R.A.F., was posted to Egypt for 3 years.

When World War 2 was declared, Homer Bosworth was serving on H.M.S. *Courageous* with the rank of Flight Sergeant, in charge of a Maintenance Crew and was about to retire after 20 years service. He was among the R.A.F. personnel seconded to the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm and was part of the ship's compliment aboard H.M.S. *Courageous*.

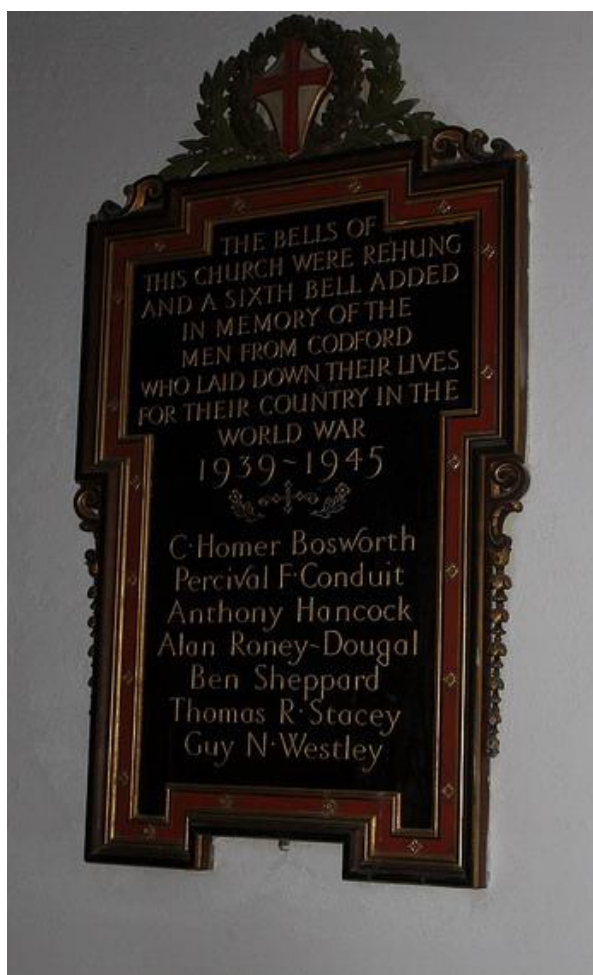
Flight Sergeant (237295) Charles Homer Bosworth was serving aboard H.M.S. *Courageous* when she was torpedoed and sank on 17th September, 1939 by German U-Boat 29. He was one of around 518 crew members that did not survive & was aged 51 years.

Flight Sergeant Charles Homer Bosworth lived at 17 High Street, Codford at the time of his death, leaving behind his wife Edith, who was teaching at Stockton School, & three daughters – Doreen, Marion & Vera.

Flight Sergeant (237295) C. H. Bosworth is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial for Air Force Men who were lost during World War 2, as he has no known grave – Panel 1. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Flight Sergeant Charles Homer Bosworth, aged 51, as being the son of Charles Rood Bosworth and Lizzie Bosworth; husband of Edith Marion Bosworth, of Codford, Wiltshire. Flight Sergeant Bosworth had been Mentioned in Despatches.

Flight Sergeant C. Homer Bosworth is remembered on the Codford World War 2 Memorial plaque located in St. Peter's Church, Codford, Wiltshire as well as a Victory Bell, cast by Mears & Stainbank of Whitechapel in 1946, which was added to commemorate the seven men with Codford connections that lost their lives in World War 2.



(Photo with permission Christopher Wright 2013)



Flt. Sgt. Charles Homer Bosworth - R. A. F. WW2. Died 17th September, 1939, aged 51.

(Photo & information on Charles' early Military Life - courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

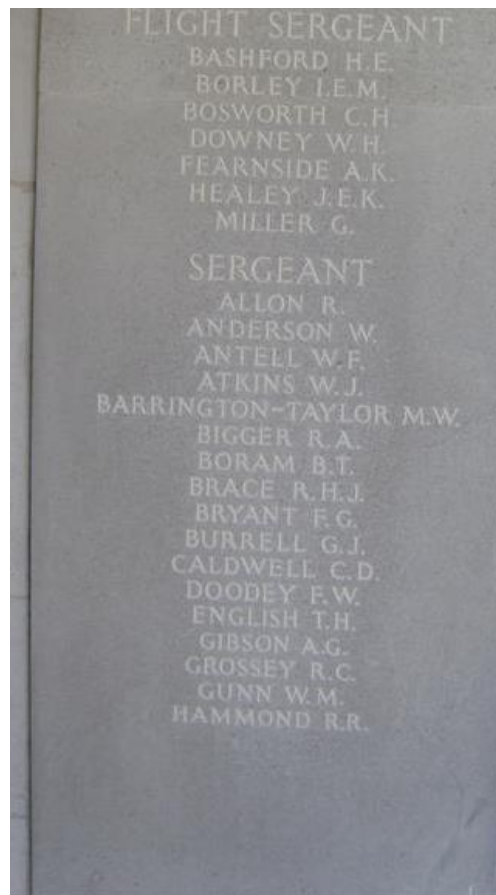
Runnymede Memorial or Air Forces Memorial

The Memorial is located in Englefield Green, near Egham, Surrey.

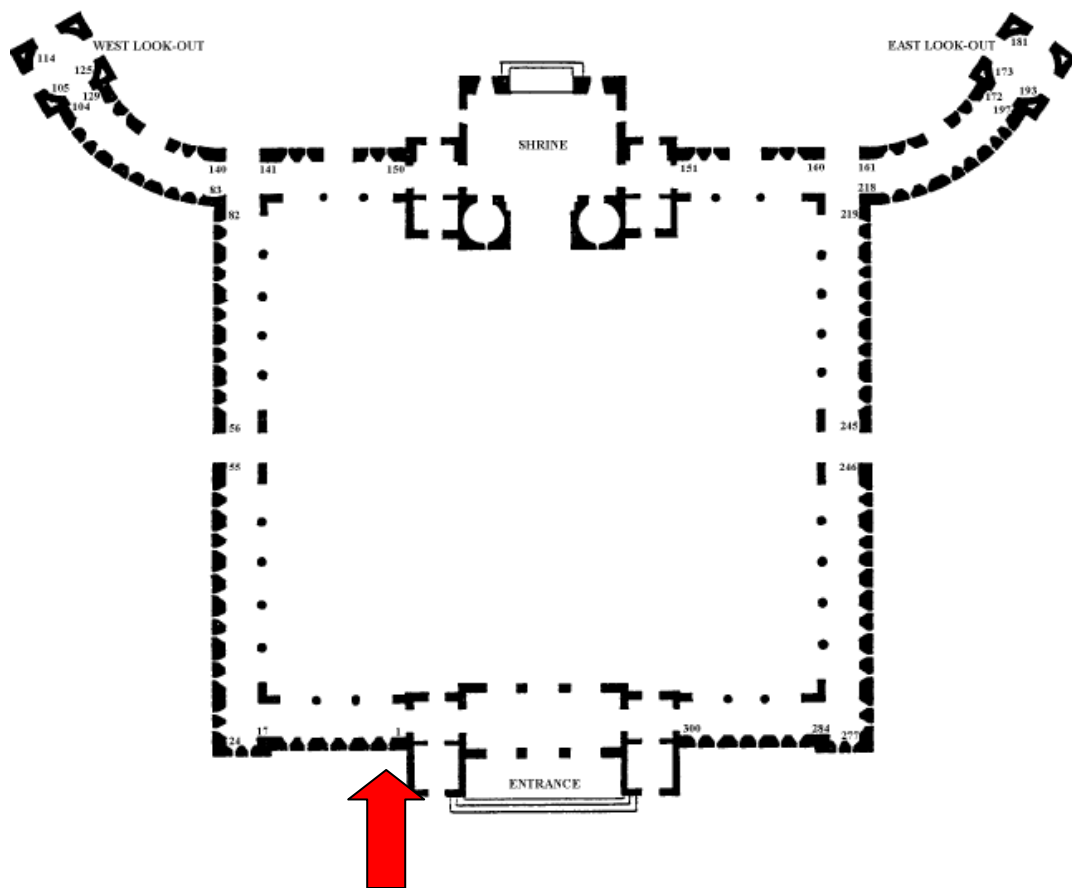
The Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede, overlooking the Thames on Cooper's Hill four miles from Windsor, commemorates the names of over 20,000 airmen who were lost in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North and Western Europe and who have no known graves. They served in all commands from Bombers to Maintenance, and came from all parts of the Commonwealth as well as countries in Europe which had been taken by the Germans (such as Denmark, the Netherlands, or Poland) and whose airmen continued to fight in the ranks of the Royal Air Force.



(Photo By CWGC)



Panel 1 – Runnymede Memorial



Panel 1

H.M.S. *Courageous*

HMS *Courageous* was the lead ship of the *Courageous*-class cruisers built for the Royal Navy during the First World War.

Courageous was decommissioned after the war, but rebuilt as an aircraft carrier during the mid-1920s. She could carry 48 aircraft compared to the 36 carried by her half-sister *Furious* on approximately the same tonnage. After recommissioning she spent most of her career operating off Great Britain and Ireland. She briefly became a training carrier, but reverted to her normal role a few months before the start of the Second World War in September 1939.

Courageous served with the Home Fleet at the start of World War II with 811 and 822 Squadrons aboard, each squadron equipped with a dozen Fairey Swordfish. In the early days of the war, hunter-killer groups were formed around the fleet's aircraft carriers to find and destroy U-boats. On 31 August 1939 she went to her war station at Portland and embarked the two squadrons of Swordfish. *Courageous* departed Plymouth on the evening of 3 September 1939 for an anti-submarine patrol in the Western Approaches, escorted by four destroyers. On the evening of 17 September 1939, she was on one such patrol off the coast of Ireland, about 350 miles west of Lands End. Two of her four escorting destroyers had been sent to help a merchant ship under attack and all her aircraft had returned from patrols. During this time, *Courageous* was stalked for over two hours by *U-29*, commanded by Captain-Lieutenant Otto Schuhart. The carrier then turned into the

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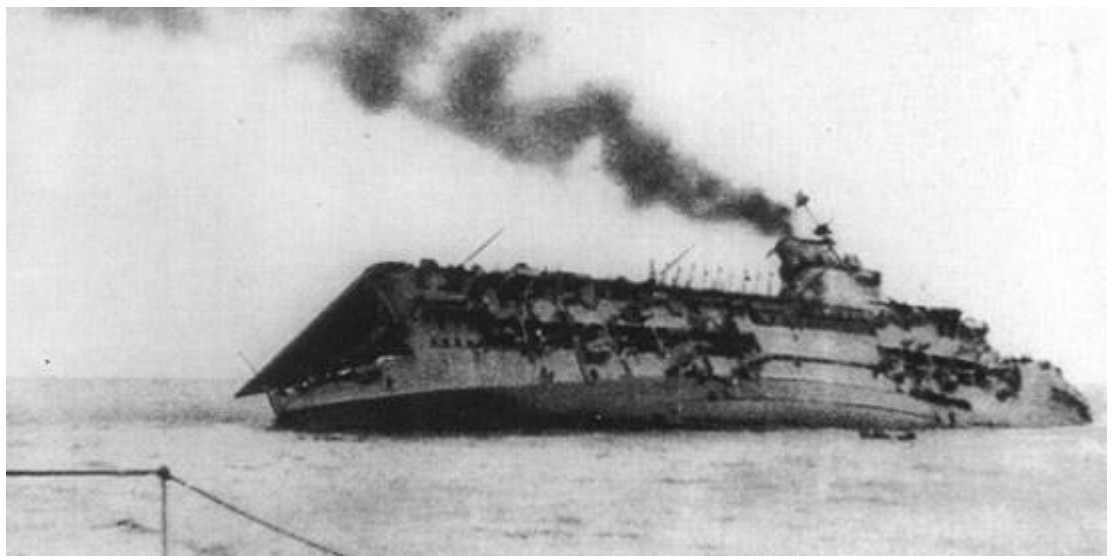
wind to launch her aircraft. This put the ship right across the bow of the submarine, which fired three torpedoes. Two of the torpedoes struck the ship on her port side before any aircraft took off, knocking out all electrical power, and she capsized and sank in 20 minutes with the loss of 519 of her crew, including her captain. The survivors – around 741, were rescued by the Dutch ocean liner *Veendam* and the British freighter *Collingworth*. Although the two escorting destroyers counterattacked *U-29* for four hours, the submarine escaped.

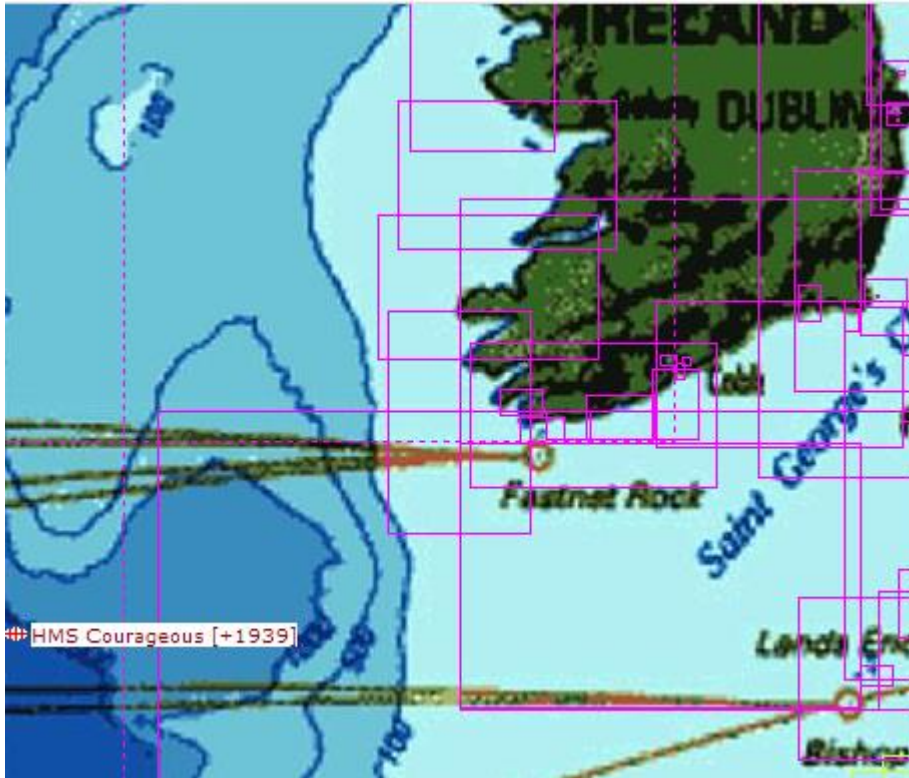
Courageous was the first British warship to be sunk by the Germans; the submarine *Oxley* had been sunk a week earlier by the British submarine *Triton*. The commander of the German submarine force, Commodore Karl Dönitz, regarded the sinking of *Courageous* as "a wonderful success" and it led to widespread jubilation in the Kriegsmarine (German Navy). Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, commander of the Kriegsmarine, directed that Schuhart be awarded the Iron Cross First Class and that all other members of the crew receive the Iron Cross Second Class.



HMS Courageous

(below - shows her sinking)





Location of wreck of H.M.S. Courageous (courtesy of wrecksite.eu)