

# Durrington

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War II



95167 CAPTAIN

**T. F. BUTLER-STONEY M.C.**

11TH REGT. R.H.A.

HON. ARTILLERY COMPANY

27TH MARCH 1943 AGE 22

*The Lord Is My Light*

*And My Salvation;*

*Whom Shall I Fear?*

*Psalm XXVII.I*

## Thomas Fitzherbert BUTLER-STONEY

Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney was born on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1920 in India to parents Major Richard Brooke Butler-Stoney and Isabel Beatrice Butler-Stoney (nee Fitzherbert). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1920 in Hycerabad, India. Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney parents had married on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1919. Brother of Mary Jessie Taylor; (Lt) Richard Henry Butler-Stoney and Charles Butler-Stoney.

Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney was educated at Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey, England from 1933-1938. (He is remembered on the Charterhouse School Memorial Chapel Panel for World War 2).

From the *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* – 5 July, 1939:

*The following gentlemen Cadets from the Royal Military Academy to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts:- Royal Artillery – Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney.*

The Kelly's Directory for 1939 lists Maj. Richard Butler-Stoney as a private resident at Holmlea, Durrington, Wiltshire.

From the *London Gazette* 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1941:

*Royal Regiment of Artillery*

*The undermentioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts to be Lts.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1941 – T. F. Butler-Stoney (95167)*

Lieutenant Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney was awarded the Military Cross in 1942. This was announced in the *London Gazette* 24 September, 1942. Theatre of War – Middle East (Egypt & Libya).

*The Military Cross*

*Lieutenant (Temporary Captain) Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney (95167), Royal Horse Artillery (Durrington, Wilts).*



**The Military Cross**

The Military Cross was awarded to Officers in recognition of “an act or acts or exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy.”

Captain Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1943, aged 22 years.

Captain Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney was buried in Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia – Grave reference – XIII. E. 7. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC lists Captain Thomas Fitzherbert Butler-Stoney, 95167, aged 22, of “E” Bty., 11 Honourable Artillery Coy., Royal Horse Artillery as the son of Major Richard Butler-Stoney and Isabel Butler-Stoney of Durrington, Wiltshire.

Probate was granted on 28 June, 1943 in the registry of Winchester, England – “Butler-Stoney Thomas Fitzherbert M.C. of Homlea, Durrington, Wiltshire died 27 March 1943 on war service. Probate to Richard Brooke Butler-Stoney M.C. retired Major H.M. Army. Effects £622 3s. 9d.

Capt. T. B. Stoney is remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



**Durrington War Memorial** (Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)

## **Sfax War Cemetery, Tunisia**

The town of Sfax is approximately 270 kilometres south of Tunis.

In May, 1943, the war in North Africa came to an end in Tunisia with the defeat of the Axis powers by a combined Allied force. In the south, the Axis forces defeated in Egypt at El Alamein withdrew into Tunisia along the coast through Libya, pursued by the Allied Eighth Army.

Most of those buried in Sfax War Cemetery died in attacks on successive Axis positions at Medenine, the Marith Line and Wadi Akarit, in March and April 1943.

The cemetery contains 1,253 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 52 of them unidentified.

The single First World War grave in Sfax War Cemetery was brought in from Bizerta Sidi Saleru Moslem Cemetery in March 1983. There is also 1 Greek soldier of the 1939-45 war buried here.

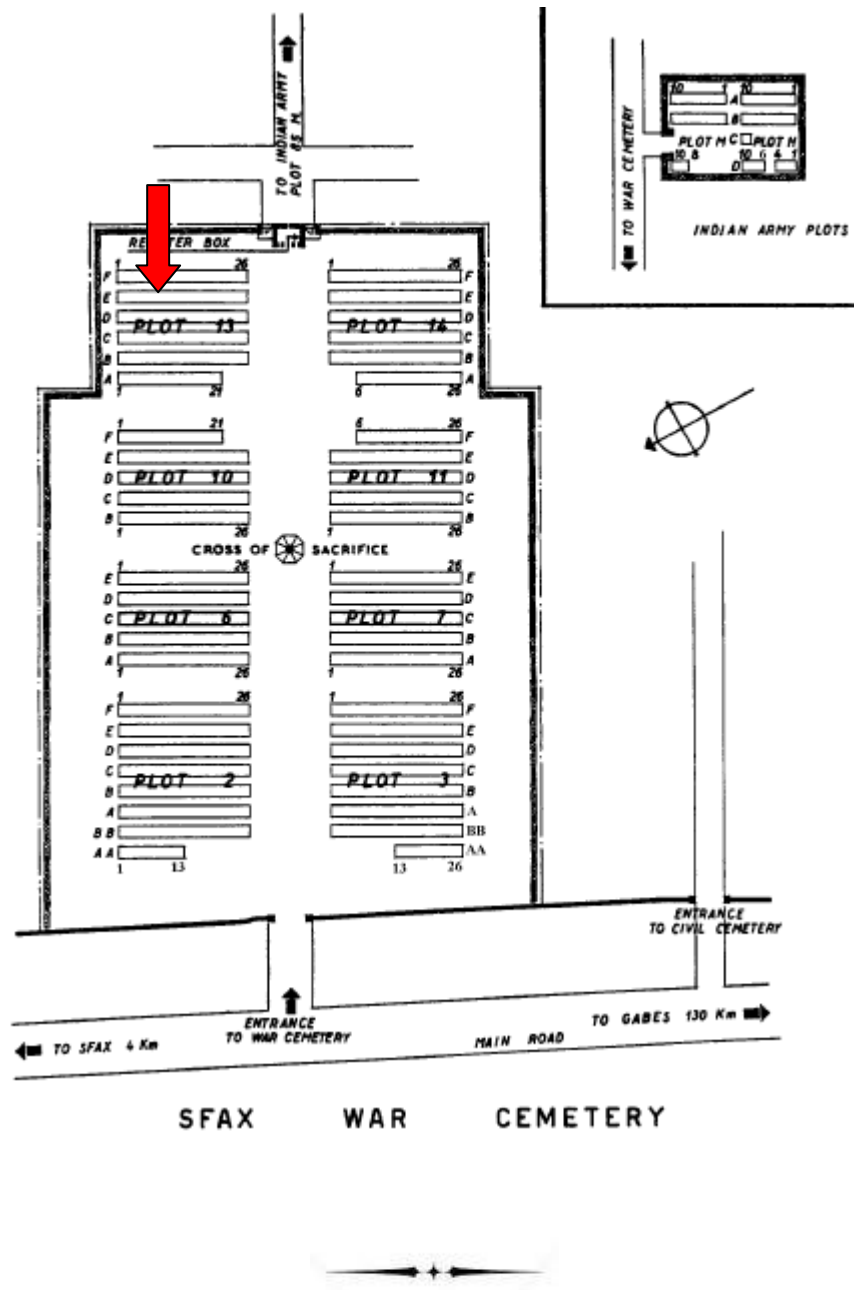


**Sfax War Cemetery** *(Photo & information from CWGC)*



*(Photos courtesy of David Milborrow)*





## Honourable Artillery Company

The Honourable Artillery Company was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1537 by King Henry VIII and is the second oldest military organisation in the world (behind the Vatican's Pontifical Swiss Guard).

Regiments, battalions and batteries of the Company have fought with distinction in both world wars and its current Regiment, which forms part of the British Army Reserve (formerly the Territorial Army), is the oldest surviving regiment in the British Army, and the second most senior in the Army Reserve.

In 1939, the Infantry Battalion became 162 (HAC) Officer Cadet Training Unit, this was the Officer Training Unit of the Reconnaissance Corps. In 1942, 101 RAC OCTU amalgamated with 162

Reconnaissance Corps OCTU to form 100 RAC OCTU based at The Royal Military College, Sandhurst. In addition, the company provided four regiments of artillery.

The 11th (HAC) Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery served in North Africa at the Battle of Knightsbridge with 25-pounder guns and, after re-equipping with the M7 Priest self-propelled gun, in the Second Battle of El Alamein. The regiment's guns were the first guns ashore in the invasion of Sicily; then they took part in the Allied invasion of Italy and the Italian Campaign.

*(Wikipedia)*