

Colonel RONALD PLAYFAIR ST. VINCENT BERNARD, DSO, MC

Commands and Staff, General Staff and, 6th Gurkha Rifles

who died age 54 on 25 January 1943

Mentioned in Despatches in 1914-1918 War.

Remembered with honour at the WOLVERHAMPTON BOROUGH CEMETERY

Col. Bernard was the most senior member of the armed forces to be commemorated locally and one with the highest decorations. He was adopted by Twyning, following his marriage to the Wigan family of Puckrup Hall.

The *Register* reported his death on 30 January 1943 but did not publish a photograph..

DEATH OF COLONEL BERNARD. D.S.O. M.C.

We regret to learn that Colonel Ronald Playfair St Vincent Bernard, D.S.O. M.C. died suddenly on Monday morning, at a Dutch camp in the Midlands, where he was acting as a liaison officer. The Colonel whose age was 54 was the son of the late Mr Francis C. Bernard, of Singapore, and was educated at Bedford School and the Royal Military College. In 1923 he married Miss Kathleen E Wigan, eldest daughter of the Rev P.F. Wigan and Mrs Wigan, of Puckrup Hall, who survives him, with two sons and a daughter. Col. Bernard joined the army in 1907, and served through the last war, in which he received his decorations, with the Ghurkhas, and was mentioned in despatches. He was for some time in Baluchistan and in 1937 commanded the 7th Infantry Brigade, until ill health forced his retirement from the army. Upon the outbreak of the present war he rejoined the Forces, with which he was serving, at the time of his death.

When he married into the family, he was a Major with his two decorations and the Rev. and Mrs Wigan celebrated their Golden Wedding just before V.E. Day on 5 May 1945. He was an example of the public spirit shown by retired servicemen who rejoined the colours for the emergency. No doubt his premature death was a consequence of his army service in the East.



Col. Bernard [courtesy of his daughter, Lady Mary Lees]

