

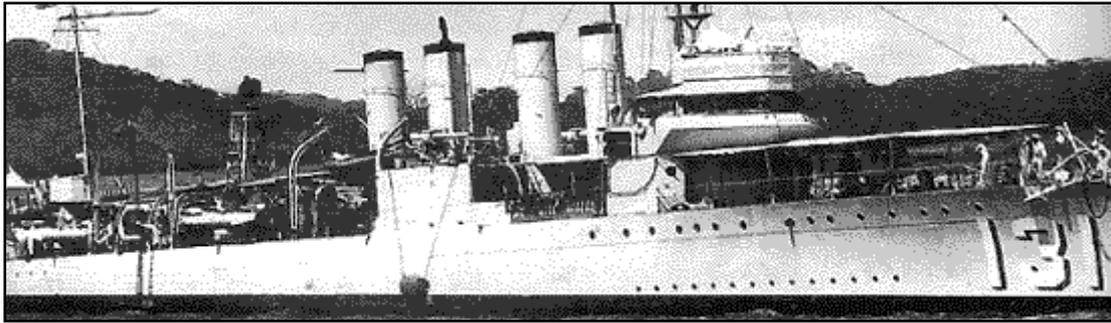
Lieutenant CHRISTOPHER HUGH CLARE GOUGH

*H.M.S. Campbeltown, Royal Navy*

who died age 26 on 28 March 1942

Remembered with honour at the PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

Lt. **Gough** was the son of Canon Edward Pountney Gough and Ellen Stuart Gough and husband of Mary Frances Gough (née Ramsden-Knowles), of Chelsea, London. He lost his life with *H.M.S. Campbeltown* in one of the more famous and important single events of the war.



HMS Campbeltown was an old destroyer, one of the fifty superannuated American boats provided by President Roosevelt in exchange for the lease of British bases. She had been rescued from oblivion by Britain's desperate need for convoy escorts. A relic of the previous war, Campbeltown, was "a weary old dog by 1942, to whom fate was about to give one last chance for glory".<sup>1</sup>

The Register<sup>2</sup> announced his demise a year later:

Lieut. C.H.C Gough: PRESUMED KILLED

*Lieut. Christopher Hugh Clare Gough R.N., youngest son of the Rev. Cannon and Mrs. E. P. Gough, who was reported missing in April of last year, has been officially presumed killed.*

*Canon Gough, was until recently Vicar of Tewkesbury. Mrs Gough will have the sympathy. They are now living at Kings Worthy, near Winchester, and Lieut. Gough's young widow resides at 25 Royal- Avenue, London S.W.*

*Lieut. Gough was aboard H.M.S Campbeltown when it took part in the heroic raid upon the enemy's base at St. Nazaire.*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stnazairesociety.org/Sections/cambeltown.html>

<sup>2</sup> 26/06/1943



The raid on the French port of **St. Nazaire** took place on Saturday March 28, 1942. At 1.34 A.M., *HMS Campbeltown*, a converted American destroyer its bows packed with explosives, smashed into the lock gates of the *Normandie Dock* in France. This was the only dry dock on the Atlantic seaboard, able to service or repair the German battleship *Tirpitz* should she ever breakout into the Atlantic and return to the western seaboard.<sup>3</sup>

The cost of the raid was high. Of the 611 men who started the operation, 169 were killed, most dying in the river battle and of those, 105 were naval personnel and sixty-four were Commandos. The raid brought a large number of decorations for bravery. 5 VCs were awarded as well as 4 *Distinguished Service Orders*, 17 *Distinguished Service Crosses*, 11 *Military Crosses*, 4 *Conspicuous Gallantry Medals*, 5 *Distinguished Conduct Medals*, 24 *Distinguished Service Medals* and 15 *Military Medals* were awarded, along with 51 men *Mentioned in Dispatches*. The raid itself was a success, however - the *Tirpitz* never ventured out into the Atlantic and was sunk by the RAF in its Norwegian fjord in December 1943, a contributory factor undoubtedly being that the *Normandie Dock* and the port installations were rendered useless to the Germans for the rest of the war. Indeed, it was not until 1947 that they were finally repaired.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>3</sup> The Map is from *Microsoft Encarta*

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles\\_stnazaire2.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_stnazaire2.html)