

Serjeant ARTHUR SAMUEL HALLING

5182953, *Gloucestershire Regiment*

who died age 23 on 31 August 1940

Remembered with honour at the PORTLAND ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY



In Uniform after Enlistment [Ebrington]

Incorrectly identified as H. Halling, **Arthur Samuel Halling** was born 11 April 1917 in coal mining area of Tredegar, South Wales because his father, Samuel along with mother, Sarah Ann, found no work in Tewkesbury during World War I.¹ After the family of six children returned to Tewkesbury, he attended the *Abbey Boys School* in Oldbury Road and then worked for *Bargus' Fish and Chip Shop*.²

As with many others between the wars, when work was very scare in Tewkesbury, he joined the *Gloucestershire Regiment*, aged 17.5 (but having to pretend to be 18). Whilst serving in Plymouth, he met wife, Doris. When the phoney war ended in April 1940, Doris was heavily pregnant and so Samuel was not allowed to go France. In any case, he was due to be promoted to *Company Sergeant Major*, in charge of *Belisha Boys*³ at nearby Portland. Four of his Tewkesbury friends (one was **Charles Belcher**) were sent to France to join the Dunkirk campaign, during which they became POWs in *Stalag VIII*. The accident that killed him on 31 August 1940 followed the shooting down of a German fighter plane.⁴ He and a colleague pursued it, but were killed in a collision with bus: his mate lost two legs. Samuel Halling was killed with his C.S.M.'s badges in pocket.⁵ His

posthumous son, **Arthur Brian Halling**, is still alive in Plymouth; Doris married again but stayed in touch and died c 2003.

¹ We are indebted to sisters, Olive Timme & Brenda Errington and his son, Brian, for information.

² In 2005, *Century Court* apartments and "*Steamy Windows*" Fish and Chip Shop respectively.

³ I cannot find out anything about these boys. If you know, please contact 294262 or email john.historyu@freeuk.com.

⁴ The *Register* of 07/09/1940 recalled that his parents were then living at 3 North East Terrace. His brother, Ernest had been a "member of the Royal Air Force for the past two years".

⁵ Because he died before his promotion, his widow would only be paid a Sergeant's pension.



Samuel and His wife, Doris



The temporary grave of **Sgt. A.S. Halling**