

# Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre,

The Hub, Fore Street, Torpoint, Cornwall. PL11 2AG.

Email: [admin@torpointarchives.org.uk](mailto:admin@torpointarchives.org.uk)

Website: [www.torpointarchives.org.uk](http://www.torpointarchives.org.uk)

President Tremayne Carew Pole

Torpoint Organisation of the Year 2013-2014

Registered Charity No. 1043650

Founder members Pat & Freda Manning

## TAHC REPORT August 2025

Dear Members and Volunteers,

It has been a month of commemorations. Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> was the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory Over Japan (VJ) Day. The VJ Anniversary Flag was raised in Sparrow Park at 9am. The photo below was taken by Andy Campfield.

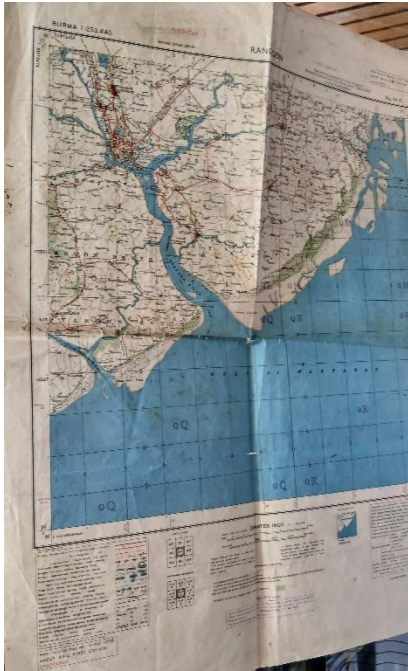


A video of the event was taken by Sarah and can be viewed at the Archives.

Some of the group then visited the Archives and spoke to descendants of WW2 servicemen who served in the Far East.

Harriet took the photograph on the right of Jaclyn speaking to the Mayor, Councillor Julie Martin, Town Clerk Milly Southworth and Rosemary about her father's oldest brother, Major Walter Gray and his wife Lilian Gray. Both husband and wife escaped from Singapore just before it surrendered on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1942. The Archives have made booklets containing transcripts of the Grays' diaries, which can be read in the Archives.





It is hard to imagine that a young man, serving with the Royal Artillery, would only be given a map and ordered to trek from India to Rangoon. Clifford William Elson and his men were helped by the Indian and Burmese Army and by local people to achieve their mission. They had to dodge and hide from vicious Japanese patrols en route. He returned white haired from his ordeals in the Far East. Clifford's daughter, Rosie was proud to remember her father in Sparrow Park at 9am, at the Archives later in the morning and in Rendel Park in the evening.

This photograph of two members of the Plymouth Maritime Corps of Drums, Mayor, Councillor Julie Martin and Rosie, was taken by Andy Campfield.



Other stories about Torpoint people who served in the Far East can be read at the Archives.



William Bolton



Arthur Truscott



From August 15<sup>th</sup>, the volunteer team researched the Goad family. Much was already held at the Archives, but no stones are ever left unturned. The family connection to Torpoint can be traced back over 200 years, and Angela has produced the display on the right to illustrate this.

The main focus has been on the youngest member of the family to bear that name, Roger Philip Goad. Roger's parents, grandparents and great grandparents had all been born in Torpoint or Wilcove, but Roger's father, Capt. Ronald William Goad, was serving in the British Army in India, when Daisy Goad (nee Martin) gave birth to Roger on Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 1935. When WW2 was imminent, Capt. Ronald William Goad brought his wife and 3 children, Joan aged 12, Peter aged 8 and 4 year-old Roger to live in 39 Clarence Road, Torpoint, where some members of the family already lived.



The boys were enrolled at Albion Road School and when Roger was 11 years old, he transferred to Saltash Grammar School. Other Torpoint pupils, Betty Begbie who was a little younger than Roger, and Barry Deacon who was the same age, also attended Saltash Grammar School. Roger was well liked at school and everybody knew that he wanted to follow in his father's and brother's footsteps and join the British Army. He was not selected to join Sandhurst, but after joining the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) in 1953, he soon worked his way through the ranks, specialising in ammunition storage and bomb disposal. He was a sergeant when he received the British Empire Medal (BEM) in February 1958.

In 1961 Roger married Maureen Quigley. Their first daughter, Sharon, was born in Malaysia, where Roger was serving in 1965. They were back in Winchester when their second daughter, Nicola Anne Martine, was born in 1967.

The following year, Warrant Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (WO2) Goad was given a Short Service Commission and he retired from the British Army as a Captain in 1974. He then joined the Metropolitan Police bomb disposal unit. On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1975, Roger was on his way back to Headquarters, when he volunteered to make a detour and investigate a suspicious bag, reported to be in a shop doorway in Kensington Church Street. He was able to disperse any onlookers, but before he could deactivate the bomb, it exploded and he was killed instantly. A cremation service, with police honours, was held at the Park Crematorium, Aldershot.

The grief of his family and colleagues is recorded in the book "Braver Men Walk Away" by Roger's friend and colleague, Peter Gurney. A copy of this book can be seen at Torpoint Archives. Fifteen months later, Queen Elizabeth II presented his widow, Maureen Goad, with the George Cross (GC), a posthumous award for her husband's gallantry.

TAHC has incorporated a replica of a GC in a frame to honour Roger Goad GC BEM and this and other information about the Goad family can be viewed at the Archives.



The Queen would have been proud to present a GC as it was an award first introduced by her father, King George VI in 1940. The King had been angry that the War Office, would not permit him to award a Victoria Cross to Lt Robert Davies and Sapper George Wylie, because they “were not working in the face of the enemy”. Lt Davies and Sapper Wylie had successfully defused a bomb that had buried itself near St Paul’s Cathedral. In the future a GC would be awarded for acts of heroism, whether the recipient was in combat or not. It was to be the civilian equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Its design does not vary when the monarch changes. Some other previous awards were upgraded to become GCs.

Only 416 have ever been awarded and that includes upgraded awards. Many were issued for brave acts carried out during WW2, especially to bomb disposal experts and firemen. Not surprisingly, 90 GCs were awarded posthumously.

The first woman to receive a GC was Odette Sansom Hallows, a Special Operations Executive (SOE) whose brave story was made into the film “Odette”, starring Anna Neagle in 1950. The youngest recipient was 15 year-old John Bamford, who saved his two brothers from a house fire in 1952.

When Woman Police Constable (WPC) Yvonne Fletcher was shot outside the Libyan Embassy in 1984, the film producer Michael Winner wrote to The Times Newspaper, suggesting that a Police Memorial Charitable Trust should be set up. When the trust was formed, Michael Winner became its Chairman until his death in 2013. In 2005, Queen Elizabeth II unveiled a memorial dedicated to policemen and women who had died while on duty. Roger Goad GC BEM name is included.

In 2018, Roger’s family was invited to a service in Knightsbridge lead by Mrs Geraldine Winner, who had taken over as Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Trust when her husband died. A plaque was dedicated to Roger and mounted on the wall near the site of his death.



Steve Tweedie, a member of Torpoint Comrades Club, shared photographs of this event with TAHC. A booklet has been made to include many photographs taken at the occasion.



In 2019 Roger Goad GC BEM was included on the new memorials unveiled outside St James Church, Torpoint.



Roger's brother Peter, a Chelsea Pensioner, and a representative of the Metropolitan Police Trust were present and laid flowers in Roger's memory



At the reception that followed, Peter presented Maddie, Rose and Rosemary with a duplicate copy of the Metropolitan Police Trust plaque. It is on display at the Archives.

Roger Goad and his family are forever remembered in Torpoint as an avenue is named after them.



Back to TAHC: usual work programme for August. It's worth dropping into the Hub to relax with coffee and a cake from Dreckley's Café and to view Paul's latest MP3 presentation of "Carnivals" on the big screen.

Sorting, cataloguing and the digitising programmes are on-going.  
Over 150 visitors have enjoyed the displays or posed questions for volunteers.

The bad weather on the last Sunday of the month did not deter 30 visitors from visiting our premises. Police Constable Hayley Gething, The Police Neighbourhood Manager of the Year was welcomed. Hayley took photographs of the Sustainable Sunday team with their sewing machines and tool kits. She also popped into the Archives to view our displays and to take a photograph of Bill and Rosemary with consent for them to be posted on the local Police Facebook page.



A "WANTED" poster maybe?

Yes, but it's really just a request for more volunteers!  
No special skills are needed to join the team.  
You only need to have an interest in Torpoint's history and an established volunteer will guide you along the way.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Mike Pearn'.

Mike Pearn, Chairman  
Copy to The Hub Manager (for info).  
Torpoint Town Council