

John Noel DOWLAND-RYAN GC



GC ACTION

On 11 Feb 40, the SS Kildare was hit by two bombs. One exploded in the grain cargo, which shifted, causing the ship to list heavily; the other lodged in the after deck cabin, but did not explode. The ship limped into Immingham Dock.

Dowland-Ryan, with Armament Instructor Leonard Harrison GC, fitted a voltmeter to drain the electric charge. The locking rings were removed and the defused bomb was lowered into a truck for further examination.

In Jun 40, Dowland-Ryan performed a similar feat of bravery with the same efficiency and promptitude on board a trawler.

He was killed in action near Malta in January 1942.



Squadron Leader
John Noel DOWLAND-RYAN
 69 Sqn
 (b. 06/11/1914 Lewisham.
 d. 13/01/1942 Malta.)

"Rovers" Looseleaf Books 138 Sp. 42974
J. W. Ruddock & Sons, Lincoln and London

COLLEGE SEQUENCE NUMBER 826.		CHRISTIAN NAMES John Noel		SURNAME Dowland-Ryan	
BORN	DATE 6.11.14	NATIONALITY English	DATE	RELIGION C of E	DATE
JOINED COLLEGE	11.1.34	ORDER OF MERIT ON JOINING 19.		NO. IN CLASS ON JOINING 26.	
LEFT COLLEGE	13.12.35	ORDER OF MERIT ON LEAVING 22.		NO. IN CLASS ON LEAVING 24.	
PROMOTED		JOINED		DROPPED	
CADET CORPORAL		1ST CLASS	12.1.34	AFTER	TERM
CADET SERGEANT		2ND CLASS	7.9.34		
UNDER OFFICER		3RD CLASS	11.1.35	AFTER	TERM
		4TH CLASS	6.9.35		
COMMISSIONED IN R.A.F.	14.12.35	REASON FOR WITHDRAWAL IF COURSE NOT COMPLETED			
NAME OF PARENT OR NEXT OF KIN The Rev. F. M. Dowland		ADDRESS The Vicarage, Twyford, Berks. H.B.			
PROFESSION OF PARENT OR NEXT OF KIN Berkshire Holy Orders. Vicar of Twyford. Chaplain to the Forces (R.O.C.) (Living)		CHANGE OF ADDRESS			
WHERE EDUCATED Leatherhead School, Surrey (1926-1933).					
PRIZES, ETC., ON JOINING		PRIZES, ETC., ON LEAVING			
REMARKS AND FURTHER HISTORY Posted to No. 101 (B) Squadron, R.A.F., Bicester, W. of. 14.12.35. Authy: Am. S. No. 18 dated 20.1.36. Promotions: Flying Officer 14.6.37. Flight Lieutenant 14.6.39. Squadron Leader 1.7.40. Awarded the George Cross for conspicuous courage and devotion to duty in circumstances of exceptional danger and difficulty, i.e. removing enemy bombs from a steamship and a trawler in February 1940 and June 1940 respectively - London Gazette dated 7.1.41.					
COLLEGE SEQUENCE NUMBER 826.		CHRISTIAN NAMES John Noel		SURNAME Dowland-Ryan P.T.O.	