



DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL



# Dunstable Act of Remembrance

Sunday 10 November 2024

S/Lieutenant (SCC) K Hollis RNR  
Parade Commander



***Sunday 10 November 2024***  
***11.00 am***

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Maroons (marks the start of 2 minute silence)

Last Post (marks the 2 minute silence)

**Silence**

**11.02 am**

Maroons (mark conclusion of 2 minute silence)

Bugler sounds Reveille

Exhortation – Mr Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive)

Kohima Epitaph –Councillor Peter Hollick

**Laying of Wreaths**

Deputy Lieutenant, Mrs Cynthia Gresham

Town Mayor, Councillor Louise O’Riordan

MP Mrs Alex Mayer

Central Bedfordshire Council Chairman, Mr Gareth Mackey

Veterans Organisations

Local Organisations

Local Schools

**Prayer and Blessing**

The Reverend Rachel Phillips

***All attending are invited to participate in an inter-denominational service in The Priory Church immediately afterwards***

*Each year this Remembrance programme features one of the people commemorated on Dunstable's War Memorial.*

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### **Trooper Cyril James Fountain**

Killed in action, Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 1944, aged 20

Cyril Fountain was among the many local casualties in Normandy after the D-Day landings, whose 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary is commemorated this year. He was the hull gunner in a tank which was hit in the violent fighting during the breakout from the Caen Salient.

Cyril was the son of Leonard and Alice Fountain of 10 Victoria Street, Dunstable. He had been employed as a carpenter by Mr A Dolman in Kirby Road and had also served part-time in the National Fire Service.

He had been called up to the army 18 months previously and was serving in A Squadron, 1st Northampton Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps. The squadron had landed its Sherman tanks on Gold Beach on D Day and was subsequently part of the combined British and

Canadian attack at Caen which was code-named "Operation Totalize".

They succeeded in taking the high ground at Saint-Argnan-de-Cramesnd but the Germans counter-attacked with Panzer and Tiger tanks. The 1st Northamptonshire's Yeomanry lost five tanks.

Among the German casualties was a famous tank ace, Michael Whittman, who had been transferred to Normandy from the Russian front. He and his crew were killed.

Cyril Fountain's commanding officer wrote a letter home to Cyril's parents which was published in the Dunstable Gazette. He said Cyril was a young man who inspired confidence in men older than himself. His personality and wit would never be forgotten nor would his calm confidence and bravery in battle.

Members of the squadron were able to put Cyril and his comrades to rest side by side as they had fought. He is buried in Ranville War Cemetery, Calvados, Normandy.