



In Remembrance of
John William Drayton

[GUNNER: 1807733]

Jack

**VE
80**

BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE

[GUNNER: 1807733]

[ROYAL ARTILLERY]

[77 HEAVY ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGT.]



John William Drayton

3.8.1921 - 30.10.1943

*known as 'Jack' or 'Jackie'
by those who knew him*

*Son of John & Maud Drayton
Brother to Joyce, Eva & Norman*

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



Raleigh,
Argyle St
Camp's Bay
Cape Town
Jan 9th. 42

Dear Mrs Dawson,

Just a few lines to let you know my husband & I had the pleasure of entertaining your son, Jack, while on leaving passing through C.T. He is very fit & well & sends his best love to you. I offered to write & let you know how he was as the miss letters are held up for some time & I know how anxious you must be to have news of him. He liked C.T. very much & said he had enjoyed his short stay here. The voyage out was a good one & they had a cabin (1st class) with four men to it, so they were very comfortable.

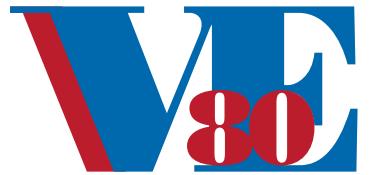
Hoping this horrible war will soon be over & your boy returned to you safely

Yours sincerely
Doreen Rumbelow.

Letter (dated 9th January 1942, from the Rumbelow family, in Cape Town, with whom John (Jack) Drayton stayed with on a stopover.

BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



Letter transcript...

Jan 9th '42

Dear Mrs Dawson [Drayton]

Just a few lines to let you know my husband and I had the pleasure if entertaining your son, Jack, while on leave passing through Cape Town. He is very fit & well & sends his best love to you. I offered to write & let you know how he was as the men's letters are held up for some time & I know how anxious you must be to have news of him. He liked C.T. very much & said he had enjoyed his short stay here. The voyage out was a good one & they found a cabin (1st class) with four men to it, so they were very comfortable.

Hoping this horrible war will soon be over & your boy returned to you safely.

Yours sincerely
Doreen Rumbelow

To Jack
Wishing you
all the best.

The Rumbelow
Family.

The message
above is written
on the reverse
of the original
photograph.



In Remembrance of John William Drayton



Mr: T. Wm Drayton
15, Kingsway
Newland 5
B. Stagg

Reference
Gas/HM.

R.A. (H.M.'s Hall,
St. Marie Road,
Dunchurch,
RUGBY.

1807733 GNR DRAYTON J. 105

Date:- 10 March 43

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the letter sent to you ~~recently~~... explaining that, while it was not possible to communicate with personnel in Java, there was no reason to believe that your ~~husband~~ son was not serving in Java with the British and Allied Forces still known to be fighting there, it has been decided that, in the absence of any news of these forces, it can no longer be assumed that they are still operating.

It is regretted, therefore that your ~~husband~~/son must be posted as missing on 1st Feb. 43. This posting does not mean that hope that your ~~husband~~/son is still alive must be abandoned. On the contrary, he may eventually prove to be a prisoner of war in Java - like others, a few of whom have already been reported by the Japanese authorities - or he may still be free and at large on the island. Any information relating to him that is received will be

I have to add that selection of 1st February for posting purposes is not intended to suggest that the occurrence of casualties before that particular day will not be revealed in due course.

I am

Sir/Madam

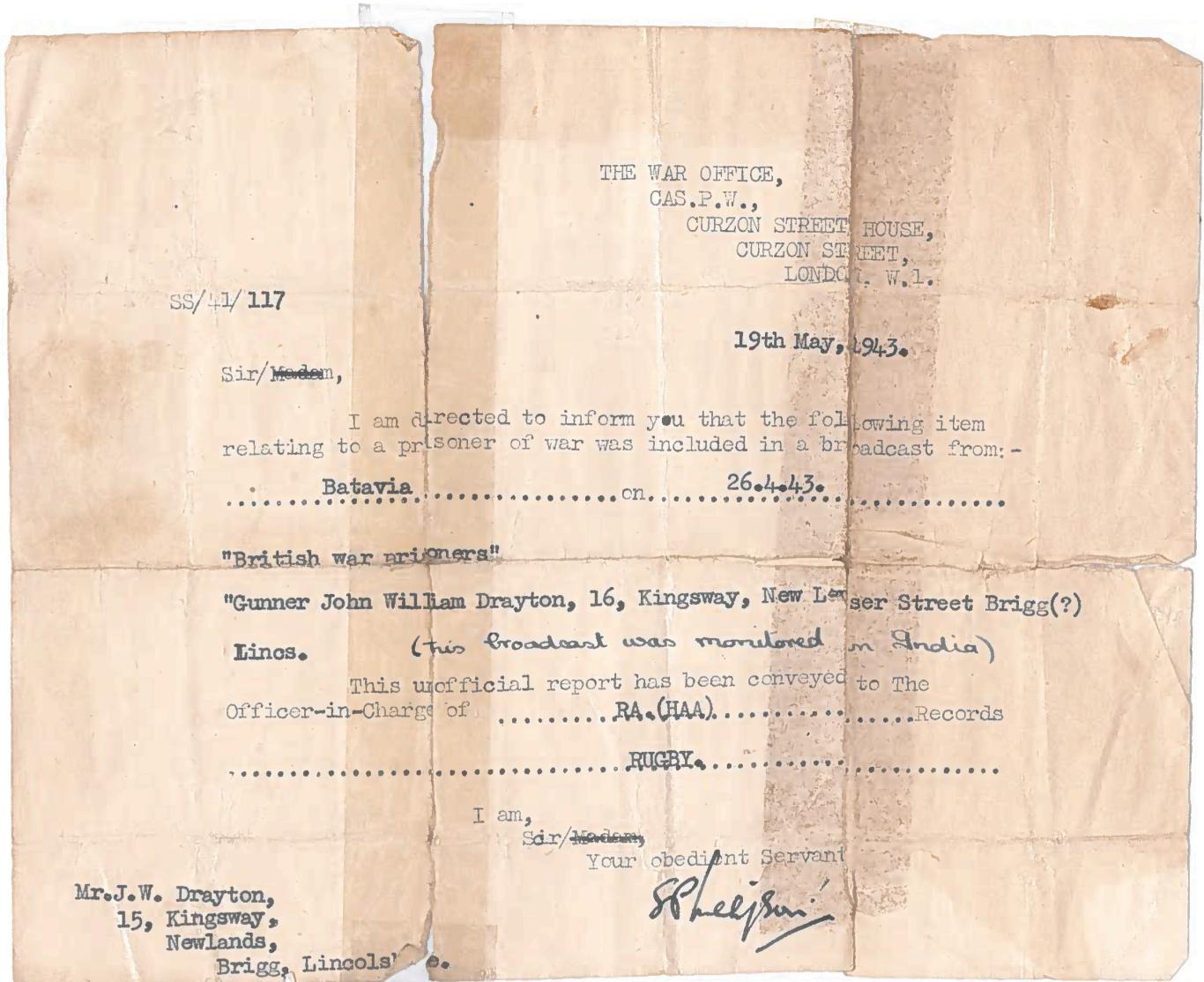
Your obedient Servt.

YB/343/2000

Major,
for Colonel,
Officer i/c R.A. (H.A.A. Records.

Notification (dated 10th March 1943) of John missing (whilst serving in Java) possibly a Prisoner of War (P.O.W.).

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



The War Office notification (dated 19th May 1943) of a broadcast from Batavia on '26.4.43' relating to "British war prisoners" and mentions "Gunner John William Drayton".

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



Ref: MAA/N.E./M

OFFICE FORM NO. 229(E).

Regimental Pay Office,
Great Central Street,
LEICESTER.

5th July 43.

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to previous notification showing that your.....
Army No. 1807733..... Rank..... GNR..... Name..... DRAYTON. J. Wm......
Unit..... RA (H.A.A.)..... was reported as missing, information has
now been received that he has been taken Prisoner of War.

You will, no doubt, wish to know the position regarding the allowance payable to you in the future.

The sum of £ - : 5 : 3 .., at present in issue, will continue to be issued whilst the soldier is a Prisoner of War.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

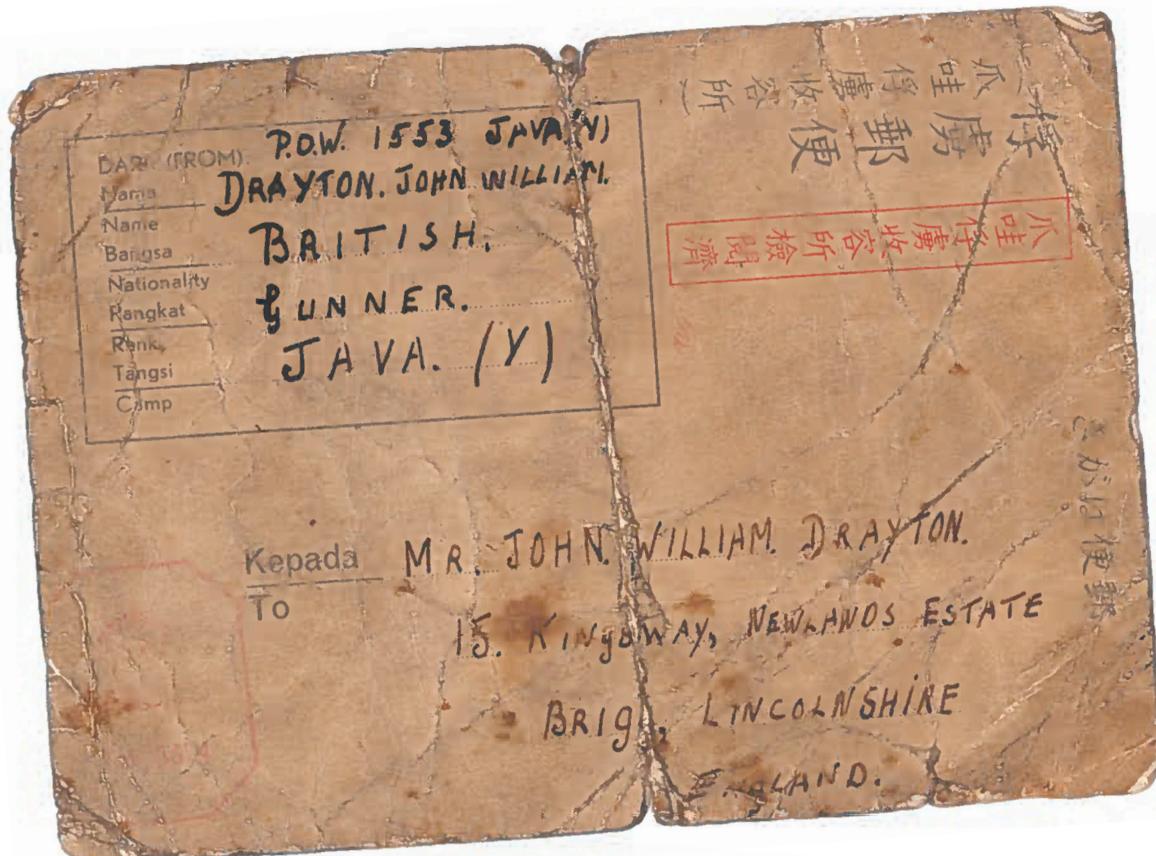
To: - J. W. Drayton
Brigg

[Signature]

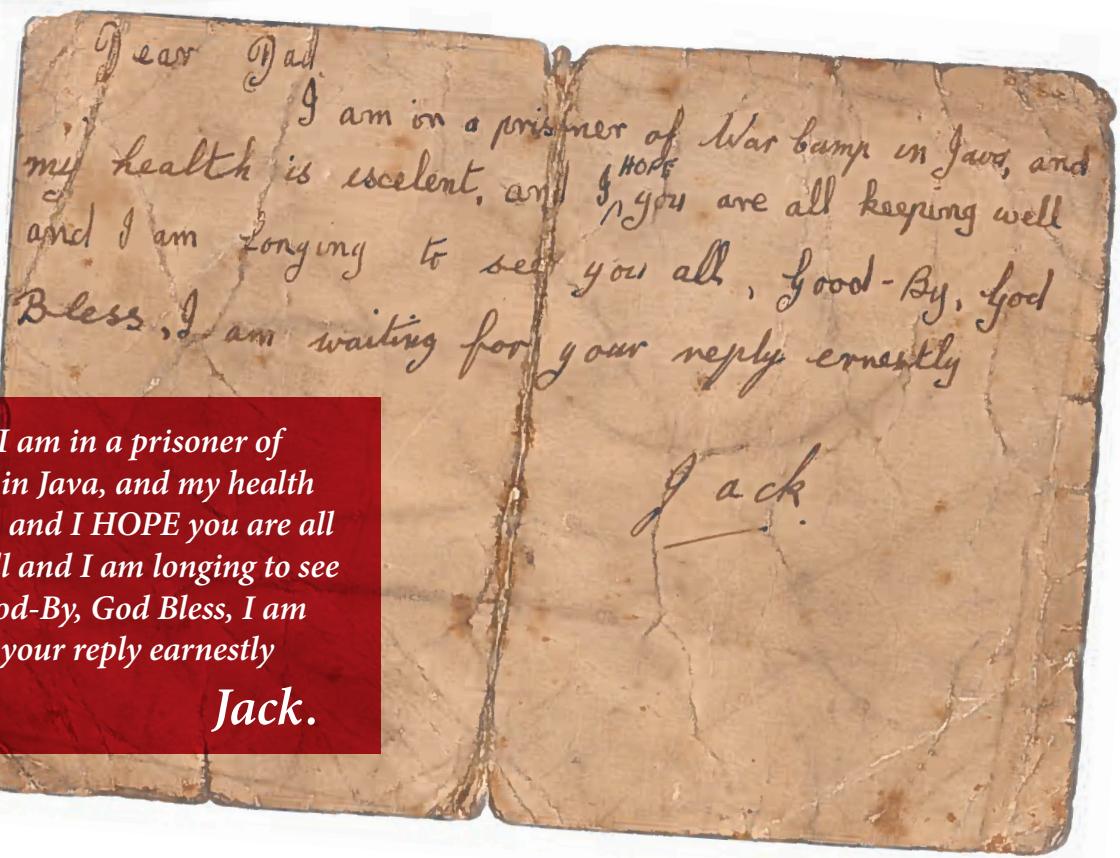
Licut.
for Regimental Paymaster.
R.A. (H.A.A.).

Regimental Pay Office communication (dated 5th July 1943) confirming continuation of allowance payable whilst the soldier (Rank: GNR / Name: DRAYTON. J. Wm.) is a Prisoner of War.

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



A postcard sent home by John (Jack) to his Dad. This was the last message from John. Sadly, he has already died when the family received the card at Christmas time in 1943.



Dear Dad. I am in a prisoner of war camp in Java, and my health is excellent, and I HOPE you are all keeping well and I am longing to see you all, Good-By, God Bless, I am waiting for your reply earnestly

Jack.

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



No. CAS/D
(If replying, please quote above No.)

Army Form B. 104—82.

R.A. (H.A.A.) Record Office,
RUGBY.

26th November 1945.

Sir,

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of :—

(No.) 1807733 (Rank) Gunner

(Name) DRAYTON, John William

(Regiment) 240/77 H.A.A. R.A.

which occurred overseas

on the 30 Oct. 43.

The report is to the effect that he is now known to have died at

Amboina (Moluccas Islands). Cause: Bacillary Dysentery.

I am to express the sympathy and regret of the Army Council.

I am to add that any information that may be received as to the soldier's burial will be communicated to you in due course, by the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries, War Office (A.G.13), 32 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1, to whom all enquiries with regard to graves or places of burial should be addressed.

I am,

Mr. J. W. Drayton, Sir,
15, Kingsway,
Newlands,
Brigg, Lincs.

Your obedient Servant,

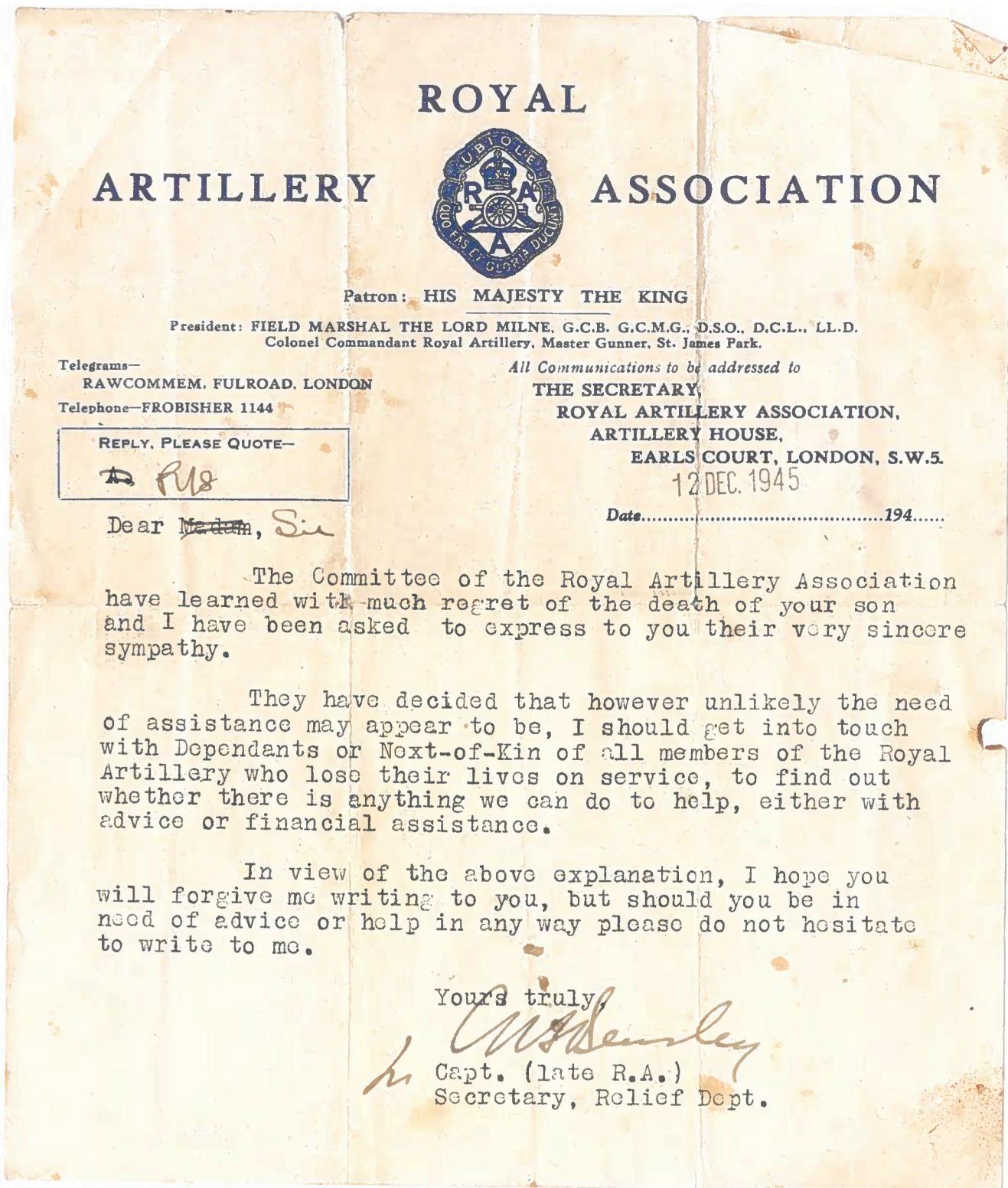
Avison

for Colonel,
Officer in Charge of Records.
R.A. (H.A.A.)
[P.T.O.]

44 A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 698 Forms/B.104-82/6.

Army Form B. 104-82:
Notification (dated 26th
November 1945 of the
death of John, who died
on the 30th October 1943
of Bacillary Dysentery.

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



Royal Artillery Association communication (dated 12th December 1945) expressing their 'very sincere sympathy', following John's death and 'to find out whether there is anything we can do to help'.

In Remembrance of John William Drayton

SORROW INSTEAD OF JOY

Preparations tentatively made by relatives and friends, as well as the Red Cross local association, for a welcome to Gnr. John William Drayton (24), of 15, Kingsway, Newlands, Brigg, who was captured by the Japanese some four years ago, have been cancelled. Word has come from official sources

to his father, Mr J. W. Drayton, to say that Gnr. Drayton died of dysentery in a Japanese prison camp two years ago. The last message received from him was about Christmas, 1943, and according to official records Gnr. Drayton had then been dead nearly two months.

Gunner Drayton volunteered from a "protected" job at Whitehead's strip mill at Scunthorpe when Japan entered the war, and first news that he was a prisoner came at Christmas, 1942, in a Japanese broadcast from Batavia picked up in India.

Newspaper clipping detailing the cancellation of welcome home celebration following the news of Gunner John William Drayton's death.



In Remembrance of John William Drayton



ABBEY, Y811, EXT. 100
Tel.: Mayfair 9400 Ext. 647.

Form E.2.

Any further correspondence on this subject should be addressed to:—

THE DIRECTOR,
Graves Registration and Enquiries,
As opposite,
and the following number quoted:

DUTCH IND. 3.15 E/A.G. (3)

THE WAR OFFICE, (A.G.13),
Romney House,
Marsham Street, S.W. 1.

20 MARCH 1947

Dear Sir

I have to inform you that YOUR SON,
1807733 GUNNER J. W. DRAYTON
THE ROYAL ARTILLERY
is buried in Plot P. Row C GRAVE No.1 GALALA
WAR CEMETERY, 3 MILES NORTH EAST OF
AMBON, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES (AMBOINA)

Yours faithfully,

Brook
JCA
for Director
Graves Registration and Enquiries.

J. W. DRAYTON, Esq.
Wt. 8339. 24.000. 4/46. W. & J. J. Gp. 20-51-2.

J.5882

The War Office / Form E.2. (dated 20th March 1947)
providing details of the place of burial of Gunner J.W. Drayton.

In Remembrance of John William Drayton

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Images showing the burial place marker of Gunner J. W. Drayton at Ambon War Cemetery (Indonesia).



BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE

In Remembrance of John William Drayton



**In Memory of
Gunner JOHN WILLIAM DRAYTON**

**1807733, 240 Bty., 77 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery
who died age 22
on 30 October 1943**

**Son of John and Maud Drayton, of Newlands, Brigg,
Lincolnshire.**

**Remembered with honour
AMBON WAR CEMETERY**

INDONESIA



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE

In Remembrance of John William Drayton

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In Memory Of

Gunner

JOHN WILLIAM DRAYTON

240 Bty., 77 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery who died on 30 October 1943 Age 22

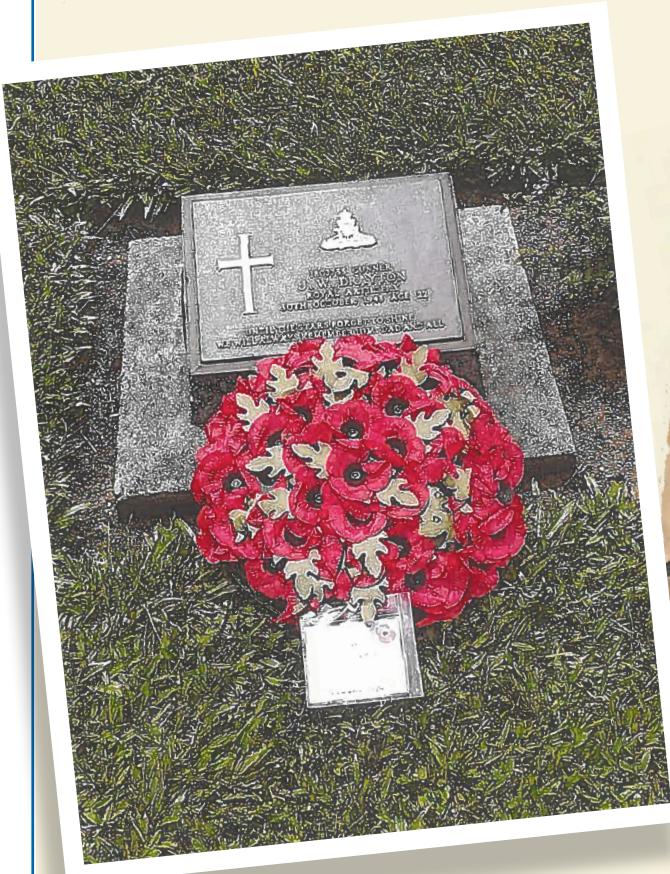
Son of John and Maud Drayton, of Newlands, Brigg, Lincolnshire.

Remembered with Honour

AMBON WAR CEMETERY

|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



Remembering John...

Recent photograph shows his grave with a wreath from Eva (John's sister) & family.

BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE



The People of
BRIGG
express their
grateful thanks

To John Wm. Brayton

for Services Rendered
whilst a member of
His Majesty's Forces
during the War

1939 - 1945

(left)
Certificate of
thanks from the
'People of Brigg'.

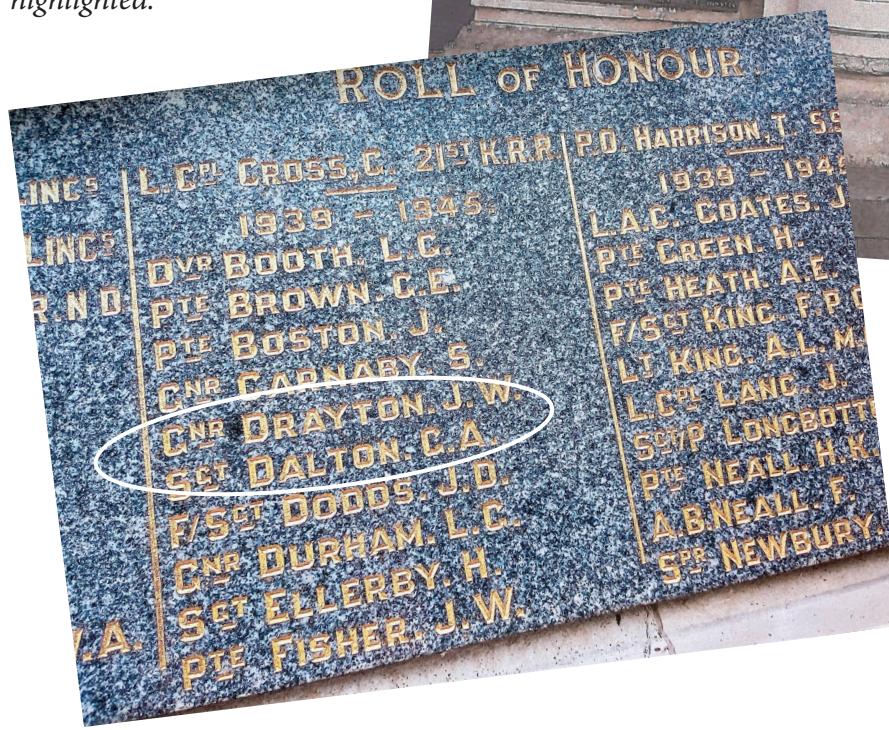
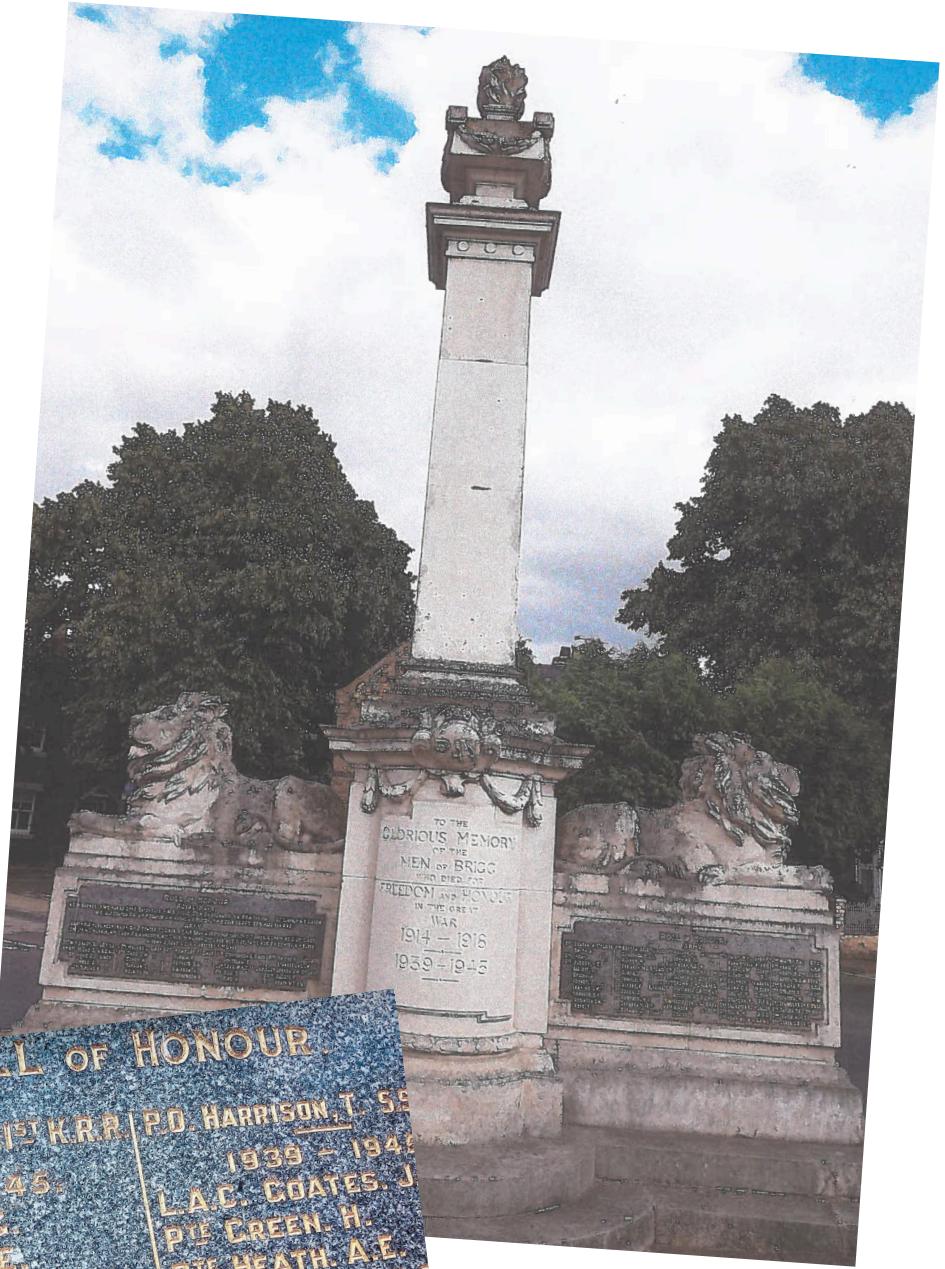
(below)
John's Medals.



In Remembrance of John William Drayton

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Brigg War Memorial
and Roll of Honour with
Gnr DRAYTON. J. W.
highlighted.



BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE

In Remembrance of **John William Drayton**



In Memory Of

Gunner

JOHN WILLIAM DRAYTON

Service Number: 1807733

240 Bty., 77 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery who died on 30 October 1943 Age 22

Son of John and Maud Drayton, of Newlands, Brigg, Lincolnshire.

UNTIL THE STARS FORGET TO SHINE WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM. DAD AND ALL

Remembered with Honour

AMBON WAR CEMETERY

13. C. 1.



|||||
COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Scan the QR code to see John's dedicated documentation
on the COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES website



BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE



UNTIL THE STARS
FORGET TO SHINE
WE WILL ALWAYS
REMEMBER HIM

DAD & ALL

BRIGG HERITAGE CENTRE

This document has been produced by **Glyn Angelo Alexander**
on behalf of Brigg Heritage Centre for the VE80 exhibition 2025.

With collaboration and with the permission of
Gnr John William Drayton's family Eva, Angela & Peter.