

Lieutenant Commander Denis Glyn Thornley

Fleet Air Arm

Service Number: Not known

Died: 29 March 1989 Age: 73

How Died: Natural causes

Country of burial: Scotland

Cemetery or Memorial: Not applicable

Town Memorial: Not Applicable

Extra Information

Born in Gee Cross, Hyde on 21 February 1916, the son of Harry and Florence Thornley.

Attended Gee Cross Primary School, Hyde County Grammar School and Manchester University School of Architecture. Graduated with a first class honours degree in 1939 and was a finalist in the Prix de Rome competition (held bi-annually) and also in the Soanne competition.

Joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1940. Trained to be a pilot at Luton and Netheravon. Whilst training flew the following aircraft

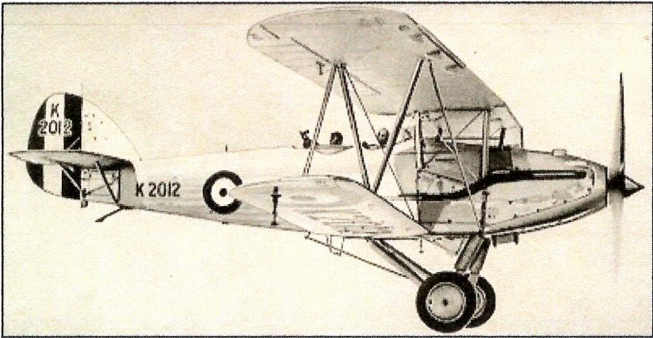
Miles Magister,



Hawker Hart,



Hawker Audax,



Gloster Swordfish,



Fairey Albacore,



DH Rapide,



Fairey Seafox,



Avro 504K,



DH Tiger Moth,



Qualified as a pilot in May 1941.



Transferred to train for the seaplane service and on to twin engines and active service. Trained to fly Supermarine Walrus in May 1941 with 751 Squadron. In addition trained to fly Fairy Firefly, DH Mosquito and Beech Traveller.

Supermarine Walrus,



Fairy Firefly,



DH Mosquito,



Beech Traveller,



Airspeed Oxford,



Service was first in the Walrus flying from a cruisers HMS Gambia and HMS Birmingham in the Indian Ocean between February 1942 and June 1943. Flew 127 sorties from HMS Gambia and 18 from HMS Birmingham.

Trained for Night Fighter Service in July 1943 with 784 Squadron flying out of Drem, East Lothian initially in Fairy Fireflies and then in Airspeed Oxfords flying out of Dalcross near Inverness and High Ercall in Shropshire.

Moved on to train in November 1943 in DH Mosquitos at Fairwood Common in South Wales with Derek Phillips as Navigator with 456 Squadron RAAF.

After WW2 continued his profession as an Architect in Nottingham before moving to Prestbury. Joined the School of Architecture at University of Manchester and set up a practice for Landscape Architecture in Wilmslow.

Retired to Rhu near Helensburgh in Scotland.

(Information provided for Denis G Thornley by his widow, Jean Thornley with further details added by Jeremy Cocker, his nephew.)

Memorials found on:

Not applicable