

**DANIEL HENRY WILLOUGHBY GARDNER, Church Stretton**

**Lieutenant Royal Navy Reserves**

**Died at sea 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1942 Aged 32**

**Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial**

Daniel Henry Willoughby Gardner was born in Shrewsbury on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1910. His parents Henry, a Physician, and Mary Louisa Gardner were living at 25 St. John's Hill Shrewsbury.

Little has been found of his early life.

The 1939 Register shows he was then teaching Classics in Beaumont House School, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. This was a Royal Masonic School for Girls in Rickmansworth Park. Henry lived at the school, but his family home was still at "Coombehurst", Burway Road, Church Stretton.

Henry joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserves in 1940 and received his commission soon after. He is listed as a Temporary Sub Lieutenant on the Royal Navy List of 5th February 1942.

He was serving as a Lieutenant on HMS Curacoa when it was reported missing on 12 October 1942. However, it was later reported that he died at sea on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

An article in the Shrewsbury Chronicle on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1942, reporting that he was missing also states that he was educated at Charterhouse and Hertford College Oxford and before the war was a Master at Merchant Taylor's school in London.

Daniel is commemorated on the Chatham Memorial (reference Grave No, 66.1) and also on the family grave of his parents in Cunnery Road cemetery Church Stretton (Grave No, U39).

The memorial stone on his parents' grave reads:

To the memory of their dearly loved only son

DANIEL HENRY WILLOUGHBY GARDNER

Lieutenant R N V R

Born 4th August 1910

Who met his death when on active service guarding a convoy in the North Atlantic

On 2nd October 1942

