

## OBITUARIES

# Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard

**AIR MARSHAL** Sir Victor Goddard, who has died aged 89, played a dramatic role in the evacuation of a third of a million men from Dunkirk in 1940.

As spokesman for Gen. Viscount Gort, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force, he flew from France in a bullet-riddled plane to warn the Chiefs of Staff that more ships were urgently needed to evacuate the Army.

Arriving in Whitehall in haste he repeated Lord Gort's call for more destroyers, then on his own initiative he surprised himself by telling the war leaders: "You must send not only Channel packets but pleasure steamers, coasters, fishing boats, lifeboats, yachts, motor-boats, anything that can cross the Channel—to the beaches where the troops will be, even rowing boats."

He was accused of being overwrought and was sent out of the room.

But action was immediately taken on his suggestion. So was born the miracle of the Dunkirk evacuation.

### Grateful Gort

In his letter of thanks for his successful mission Lord Gort

airship throughout the Somme campaign.

After a spell at the Admiralty he worked on mooring experiments with airships until 1921. Then he was picked for engineering specialisation at Cambridge University.

He returned in 1925 as first adjutant to Cambridge University Air Squadron.

After graduating at the Staff College, in 1930 he commanded 30 Squadron of Wapiti bombers in support of the Iraqi army against Kurdish insurgents.

When the 1939-45 war started he was Deputy Director of Intelligence at the Air Ministry.

Returning to London in 1940 from his post as Senior Air Staff Officer with the RAF component of the BEF, he was Director of Military Co-operation at the Air Ministry.

As a colourful Air Ministry radio commentator on the war, Air Commodore Goddard was



wrote in his own hand: "How lucky for us you got away—as otherwise we might not have seen the vast assembly of vessels of all categories to get the troops away from the beaches."

Sir Victor Goddard told the story 42 years later in his book, "Skies to Dunkirk", published in 1982 when he was 85.

He believed that King Leopold of the Belgians was unfairly made a scapegoat for the Allied collapse. The British should be more grateful to him than they were, he wrote.

The King had told Lord Gort that he would fight to the last, but might have to surrender. And pre-occupation of the Germans in accepting the surrender of hundreds of units of the Belgian Army gave the British time to escape.

Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard had an adventurous Service career in both world wars. He was mentioned in despatches and given the American DSM.

He was knighted in 1947, after being appointed CBE in 1940 and CB in 1943.

A film was made in 1955, "The Night My Number Came Up", based on an experience of his in 1946 when he survived a Dakota plane crash at Sado Island off Japan.

Robert Victor Goddard, son of a Wembley doctor, entered the Royal Navy as a cadet at Osborne in 1910. At the beginning of the war he was serving in the Grand Fleet.

He transferred in 1915 to the Royal Naval Air Service, then in 1916 to the Royal Flying Corps in France. He was on night-duty



Air Marshal

Sir Victor Goddard

criticised in Parliament in 1941 for saying that airborne forces could not capture Crete. He had to apologise on the air for a prophecy based on inaccurate information.

Later that year he was appointed Chief of the Air Staff, New Zealand. He was Commander of the Royal New Zealand Air Forces in the South Pacific from 1941 to 1943.

#### Washington post

For three years he was then an administrative officer at South-East Asia Air Command.

After the war he was RAF representative at Washington from 1946 to 1948, then a member of the Air Council for Technical Services until he retired in 1951.

For three years until 1954 he was Principal of the College of Aeronautics. He was a founder member of the Institute of Strategic Studies.

His early interest in airships as a pilot was continued from 1975 as president of the Airship Association.

Sir Victor was a former governor of St George's School, Harpenden, and of Bryanston School.

He married in 1924 Mildred Inglis and had two sons and a

Descendants  
of Air Chief  
Marshal  
Goddard d 1988

David A Exeter  
J.I. Broxam Rd  
London

Jane Halloon  
Ireland

No 11 Newsletter  
for one story  
Other are called  
The night my  
number came up.

# Major-General J D Goddard

MAJ-GEN J D "FEBRUARY" GODDARD, who has died aged 71, used to say that he had joined the Army in pursuit of unlimited sport and interesting leisure; but although during his subsequent military career he found plenty to interest him, sport and leisure were pushed well into the background.

He acquired his sobriquet of "February" after he was appointed commander of 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Malaya in the autumn of 1960. This was the last year of National Service and the unit was not unaware of the fashionable libertarian ideas of the period.

Having tried employing tactics of kindness with moderate firmness, Goddard decided to adopt a stronger approach and announced that any further disciplinary lapses would incur "28 days minimum". Nevertheless even the most persistent offenders who received a generous proportion of "Februarys", were quick to acknowledge the effects of his regime, and subsequently regarded him with admiration and affection.

John Desmond Goddard was

born on Jan 13, 1919, into a military family and was educated at Sherborne and Woolwich. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1939 and joined 18 Field Regiment; he served in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940.

Subsequently he became one of the founder members of the Airborne Division and then fought in the North African and Italian campaigns, taking part in a number of gruelling battles, including Monte Cassino. He was awarded the MC in 1944 and was mentioned in despatches in 1945.

In that same year Goddard joined 4 (M) Anti-Tank Regiment in India, and subsequently served at HQ British India Parachute Brigade; and as an instructor at Staff College, Quetta, before being posted to HQ Independent Para Brigade Group in Germany.

His later postings included stints as adjutant of 3 RHA BAOR, GSO2 in the War Office Directorate of Territorial Army and Cadets, military assistant to the Adjutant-General, Assistant Military Secretary and Assistant Adjutant-

General. In 1969 he was finally appointed Director of the Military Assistance Office, at the MoD.

On his retirement in 1972, Goddard was personally recruited by Sir Donald Stokes as staff director of British Leyland International, a post he held until 1978.

John Goddard was a quiet but positive man, with a wry sense of humour and obvious integrity. He did everything well. In earlier days he had played polo, and ridden competitively, had been a "greenwater" yachtsman and a rugby footballer. He remained a keen ornithologist, cook and photographer.

Standing just under six feet, he always kept himself fit; once, when seconded temporarily to the infantry, he had amazed them by his ability to outmarch them. After being badly wounded in North Africa he managed to return swiftly to active duty by subjecting himself to gruelling physical exercises, to the astonishment of his battery.

He married, in 1948, Sheila Waud; they had three sons and a daughter.

eight crates were lost when the wreck eventually broke up and slid to the sea bed.

In 1975 Morris was granted a licence under the Protection of Wrecks Act to survey and excavate the site of a wreck which he believed to be that of the *Colossus*. Leading a

Morris and his team had recovered more than 7,400 fragments.

The magnitude of the find, which gave added, precious insight into the contemporary life of fifth century Athens and of Magna Graecia in the same era, was immediately appreciated by the British Museum

moved in on the wreck and quickly confirmed the naval subaqua club's findings with the location of Sir Cloudesley Shovell's personal plate and three bronze cannon.

At first, Morris's team used explosives to free the cannon from the rocks but after an outcry from the

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world.

## LIEUTENANT-GENERAL ERIC GODDARD

stacked high with fuel and munitions were soon trundling north through the night on the road (and the railway tracks) to Mandalay.

Goddard's reward was appointment as CBE later that year. But many still think that his immense energy and foresight, without which the army would have been left destitute after the fall of Rangoon, would have been more appropriately recognised by a knighthood.

He became MG (A) for the 11th Army Group and later for Allied Forces Southeast Asia before being promoted acting lieutenant-general in 1947 and taking over India's Southern Command. His career was then overtaken by events, however, with the disbandment of the old army of the Raj after Indian independence. Still only 51, Goddard was offered a transfer to the British Army but at a significantly reduced rank. The offer was one he could, and did, refuse.

Instead he joined the Control Commission in West Germany for four years, becoming involved in the production of iron and steel from an office in Hamburg. Then, in 1955, he was appointed regional director of



civil defence for the northwest of England, retiring in 1963.

Eric Goddard was born in London, the son of a chartered accountant, and went to Dulwich College before joining the Indian Army in 1915. He won his spurs (and his

early decorations) in the first world war in Mesopotamia and Kurdistan, where he served as a young subaltern with the 3rd Sikhs. He later served in the 12th Frontier Force Regiment and as brigade major in the Nowshera

brigade — winning the bar to his MC, as well as a mention in dispatches, in the relief of Chitral in 1932 and a further mention in dispatches in the Mohmand operation in the following year.

In 1936 he came to London as officer in charge of the King's Indian Orderly Officers — a small, elite group of Indian soldiers appointed to wait on the monarch on state occasions. He was then given command of the 4th battalion, the 15th Punjab regiment, later that year.

In spite of his evident gallantry in the front line, it was as a staff officer that Goddard made his name. He did brilliantly at the staff college in Quetta in 1928-9, even though he was the youngest student in his year. Accelerated promotion was the result — and Goddard never let the army down. He once endearingly confessed to a brother officer: "I spend the first six months in a new job wondering how on earth I will cope — and the last six months wondering why I ever worried."

He was a fine horseman and accomplished polo player and typified the army of the Raj. He was a model of integrity and self-discipline — important virtues in the heat

### ATCHING

e name adopted by the inst Spanish rule in the ry, in the heroic and terrible 1556 Baron Berlaymont said ma: "Is it possible that your these heroes?" Defe B...

## Norman fortress unearthed

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

REMAINS of a Norman fortress have been found in the City of London. Located at the far end of the wall...

the Blackfriars monastery (and later still by Printing House Square, the original home of *The Times*).

wide. The north ditch lay 30 metres away along the line of Ludgate Hill, and was narrower and shallower.

**George GODDARD of Chieveley**

**owned Horsemoor, Chieveley, Shepherds shop in Chieveley and some houses in Northcroft Lane.**

**He left to his son George - in 1805? who was born 1773**

**three houses in Chieveley, £450 and money for a business**

**Could be the same George that married Sarah and is in Speen registers.**

**Speen registers**

**Baptisms searched 1800-1812**

1803 Dec 19 George son of George and Sarah

1808 Mar 1 Charles son of George and Sarah born Dec 20 1807

1810 Apr 3 Ann daughter of George and Sarah

1812 Apr 3 Daniel Ward son of George and Sarah born Sept 30 1811

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Dear Brian & Julie.

Having not long taken over as Careers Acquaintance and Cadet Training Officer working out of the Naval Base Museum, Devonport. I have come across a book containing ALL the recipients of the 'NAVAL GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL 1793 - 1840. You May be interested in the following:-

DATE	NAME	RANK/RATING	SHIP	CLASP
15 JULY 1798	JOHN	ORDINARY SEAMAN	LION	NILE?
6 AUGUST 1807	R.J.	CLERK	HYDRA	JAVA?
AUG & SEP 1811	ROBERT	PURSER	HECATE + HYDRA	JAVA?
NOV 1840	DAVID	ABLE SEAMAN	EDINBURGH	SYRIA
NOV 1840	Hy.	Pte. RM	GANGES	SYRIA
NOV 1840	Jas.	Pte. RM	GANGES	SYRIA
NOV 1840	ROBERT	BOY	CAMBRIDGE	SYRIA

The second and third might well be one and the same with 2 clasps. the first three are assumptions as to the battles, however it is possible that in those days the clasp was the Ships Name and the battle that the clasp was awarded for was incorporated in the ships 'Battle Honours'.

Nigel.

**Taken from SERVICES OF MILITARY OFFICERS 1920**

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War Services of Officers of the Army

(r) Goddard, A.W.

*Captain 7 Battalion Royal Fusiliers*

*1914-19 War – **Military Cross***

***Clasp to Military Cross***

(t) Goddard, B. R.

*Captain 4 Battalion Hampshire Regiment*

*1914-19 Egyptian Expeditionary Force 15 May 1917- 31 Oct. 1918.*

***Despatches**, London Gazette, 14 June 1918*

(t) Goddard, H. C.

*Major Royal Army Medical Corps.*

*1914-19 War. **Despatches**, London Gazette 22 June 15.*

(t) Goddard, R. C.

*Lieutenant Royal Fleet Auxiliary*

*1914-19 War. **Military Cross***

Goddard, E. N.

*Captain Indian Army*

*1914-19 War*

***Despatches**, London Gazette 27 Aug. 1918 and 4 Jun. 1919.*

***Order of the British Empire. Military Cross.***

Goddard, Francis Ambrose D'Oyley

*Lieutenant Colonel retired pay*

*North West Frontier of India 1897-8*

*Operations on the Samana and in the Kurram Valley during Aug. and Sep. 1897.*

*Relief of Gulistan.*

***Medal with two clasps.***

*South African War 1902. Operations in the Transvaal, Apr. 1902.*

***Queen's Medal with two clasps.***

1914-19 War. On Staff as (1) Royal Transport Officer (graded Cl. FF) 9 Aug. 1914 to 19 Nov. 1915.

(2) Deputy Assistant Director of Railway Transport (graded Cl. BB) 20 Nov. 1915 to 22 Nov. 1916

and (3) Assistant Director of Railway Transport (graded Cl. X) from 23 Nov. 1916.

France and Belgium 9 Aug. 1914 to 11 Nov. 1918.

*Despatches*, London Gazette 4 Jun. 1917 and 28 Dec. 1918.

**Order of the British Empire.**

Goddard, F. FitzC.

Colonel re. pay

**Indian Mutiny Medal**

Goddard, F. G.

Temporary Captain Royal Artillery

1914-19 War. France and Belgium 15 Apr. 1916 to 11 Nov. 1918.

Gallipoli 29 Apr. to 9 Jan. 1916.

Egypt 12 Jan. 1916 to 18 Mar. 1916.

Egyptian Expeditionary Force 19 Mar. 1916 to 9 Apr. 1916.

*Despatches* London Gazette 21 May 1918.

**Military Cross.**

Goddard, F.W.

Temporary Captain Essex Regiment.

1914-19 War. **Military Cross.**

Goddard, G.

Royal Army Service Corps.

1914-19 War. *Despatches*, London Gazette 24 Dec. 1917 and 10 Jul. 1919.

Goddard, Gerald Hamilton.

Lieutenant-Colonel Royal Army Medical Corps.

South African War 1899-1902. Advance on Kimberley, including action at Magersfontein.

Operations in the Orange Free State Feb. to May 1900, including operations at Paardeberg (severely wounded), and action on Vet River.

Operations in Orange River Colony, including actions at Rhenester River, Wettenberg and Witpoort.

*Operations in the Orange River Colony 1901-2*

**Queen's medal with three clasps. King's medal with two clasps.**

1914-19 War. **Despatches** London Gazette 1 Jan 1916, 4 Jan. 17, 29 May 1917 and 23 Jul. 1917.

Goddard, J. W. .

*Captain retired pay.*

*South African War, 1900-02 Served in ranks. Relief of Ladysmith, including operations at Tugela Heights. Operations in the Transvaal east of Pretoria, including action at Belfast.*

*Operations in Cape Colony and Orange River Colony.*

**Queen's medal with five clasps. King's medal with two clasps.**

1914-19 War. *Adj. 4 Divisional Amn. Colonel* 13 Jan 1916 to 20 Oct. 1916.

*France and Belgium* 23 Aug. 1914 to 11 Nov. 1918.

**Despatches** London Gazette 17 Feb. 1915.

*Promoted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.*

**Military Cross. Clasp to Military Cross.**

Goddard, S. G.

*Second Lieutenant Royal Sussex Regiment*

1914-19 War. *Promoted Second Lieutenant.*

Goddard, W. B.

*Captain Suffolk Yeomanry.*

*South African War 1900-02. Operations in Cape Colony south of Orange River 1900.*

*Operations in the Transvaal in May 1902. Operations in Cape Colony 30 Nov. 1900 to Sep. 1901.*

**Queen's medal with clasp.**

**King's medal with two clasps.**

Goddard, W. J.

*Temporary Second Lieutenant Service Battalions. R.W. Kent Regiment.*

1914-19 War. **Military Cross.**

Goddard, W. J.

*Temporary Lieutenant Machine Gun Corps.*

1914-19 War. **Military Cross.**