

In Remembrance: The Ward-Gosling Trophy



Bolton Clarions Ward-Gosling Trophy is named after the two members of Bolton Clarion cycling Club who gave their lives in the Second World War - Herbert Ward and Tom Gosling. In looking into the History of this Trophy it was found that these two men were best Friends and next door neighbours, living in the Hall 'i'th' Wood area of Bolton. The Trophy in Memory of these men is awarded for the **Club Man of The Year Award**; it is not for racing but for exceptional Services to the Club.

Below is the history of Tom Gosling & Herbert Ward as best as can be gathered, and whilst quite a bit has been discovered about Tom, only limited success has been achieved with tracing the details of Herbert, so if anyone reading this has any additional information or photos of Herbert it will be gratefully received.

HERBERT WARD



Herbert Ward grew up in Hall 'i'th' Wood, Bolton, Lancashire at 26 Valpy Avenue with his parents Herbert & Ellen, presumably named after his Father. He was a member of a big family - he had four sisters and four brothers. At some point he became interested in cycling but cycled alone for most of the time until encouraged by Tom Gosling, one of his good friends and next door neighbour, to join Bolton Clarion.

Herbert, known as Bert, was a typical Clarion rider going on day runs and touring, as far as is known he did not take part in any racing. We know that Herbert went into the upholstery business and became an upholsterer and Doris Williams, nee Gosling, one of Tom's younger sisters, remembers him repairing their settee. Herbert joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve Regiment with 166 Squadron, he would have been based at Kirmington, Lincolnshire and his rank was Sergeant, he was a rear gunner in a bomber, a tail end Charlie as they became known.



Avro Lancaster B Mk III of 166 Squadron

166 Squadron flew Lancaster and Wellington Bomber's out of Kirmington and it was in one of these that Bert was killed on his first Mission over Germany on 22nd October 1943. The aeroplane he was in made it back to England but sadly Bert had been fatally injured. He is buried in Dean (St. Mary's) Churchyard, Bolton; this information is correct as best we know.

 THOMAS HENRY GOSLING 



TOM GOSLING



TOM with family pet Jack

Tom was born in Bolton in 1916, son of Rebecca and George Wilson Gosling, he had three brothers and two Sisters Doris and Florence and Brothers Jim, Bill and George and an adopted brother Ted Morgan. They lived in Valpy Avenue Hall i'th' Wood. The family must have been keen on cycling, as were many in those days; we know that Florence, George and Ted were also Bolton Clarion members. Tom went to Folds Road School, Bolton and in his later years there he was quite a hit with the girls by all accounts. Tom was very much a happy-go-lucky character. After School Tom went into the mines; he worked at Cleworth Colliery near Tyldesley and he treated his rides to work on his bike very much as training runs as by now he was a keen racer with Bolton Clarion.



Tom at Fallowfield



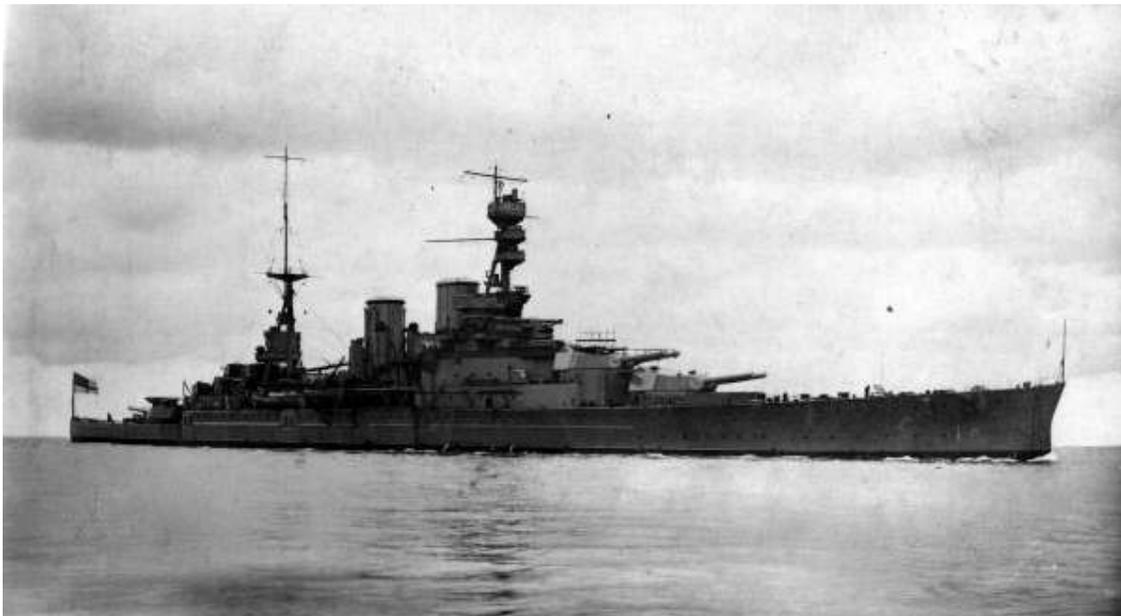
Tom on his bike with Ronnie Hall

Tom had much success with his racing; we know he won the Higgon cup in 1937 - a premier 25 mile Time Trial award - amongst many others. He raced alongside Jack Mullineux another well know Bolton Clarion racer who won in 1939. We have a picture of them together after a Time Trial race. Jack Mullineux won a bronze medal at the workers Olympiad at Antwerp in 1937 in the cycling road race. War came and like many others Tom wanted to fight for his country, but he was in a reserved occupation so his solution was to leave his job as a miner and work in the mills for one week before joining the Royal Navy. He trained on H.M.S. Drake at Plymouth then transferred onto the minesweeper H.M.S. Halcyon.



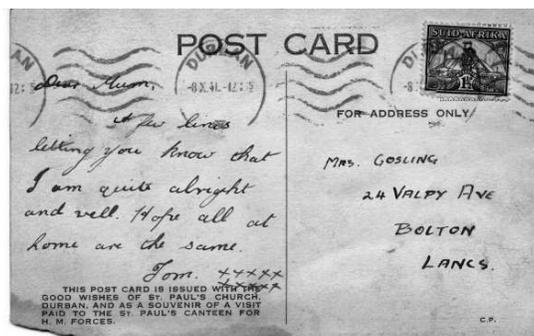
A Cap ribbon from H.M.S. HALCYON

Tom was on board when the ship hit a mine in Tees Bay but even though it was damaged the ship made it back to port. The crew were then given a month's shore leave but, presumably because the Halcyon was not repaired, Tom was reassigned to HMS REPULSE.



HMP REPULSE

The history of the Repulse is well documented as a Capital Battle cruiser (see links below), along with the battle ship Prince of Wales and other ships she was sent to try and stop the Japanese taking Singapore. The Repulse stopped at Durban, South Africa and it was here that Tom sent his last post card home.



On December 10th 1941 the Royal Navy suffered their greatest loss as a result of a single engagement, when the Capital ships HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse were sunk by Japanese warplanes, some 50 miles off the coast of Kuantan in Malaya, with the tragic loss of over 840 officers and men, Tom was one of them. Tom died aged 24 years and he left behind his family and sweetheart Elsie whom he planned to marry after the War.

[Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#)



THOMAS HENRY GOSLING

Rank: **Stoker 1st Class**

Regiment: **Royal Navy**

Unit Text: **H.M.S. Repulse**

Age: **24**

Date of Death: **10/12/1941**

Service No: **D/KX 105349**

Additional information: **Son of George Wilson Gosling and Rebecca Gosling, of Tonge Moor Rd., Bolton, Lancashire.**

Casualty Type: **Commonwealth War Dead**

Grave/Memorial Ref: **Panel 53, Column 1**

Cemetery: **PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL**



HERBERT WARD

Rank: **Sergeant (Air Gnr.)**

Regiment: **RAF Volunteer Reserve**

Unit Text: **133 Squadron**

Age: **25**

Date of Death: **22/10/1943**

Service No: **991188**

Additional information: **Son of Herbert and Helen Ward, of Tonge Moor Rd., Bolton, Lancashire**

Casualty Type: **Commonwealth War Dead**

Grave/Memorial Ref: **Sec. AH Grave 14**

Cemetery: **DEAN (ST. MARY'S) CHURCHYARD**

THANK YOU

Thanks for help in creating this page go to Doris Williams (nee Gosling), Tom's youngest sister, who gave many of the photos and information on Tom & Herbert. Andy Wade of the Z Force Survivors web site for his Research and creating Tom's page on their site (well worth a visit - see links). Other members of Bolton Cycling Club who gave information and help.

LINKS:

- <http://www.forcez-survivors.org.uk/>
The full story, pictures and almost anything you could wish to know about H.M.S. Repulse. See Tom's page under crew biographies.
- <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-fornv/uk/uksh-r/repulse.htm>
More on H.M.S Repulse
- <http://www.raf.mod.uk/history/h166.html>
History of 166 Squadron

More photos



In front of Tom's last home



Doris Williams, Tom's younger sister in 2005



Some winners of the Ward-Gosling trophy
John Martin, David Bisset, Albert Winstanley, Rodney Bryan



Tom on shore leave pictured with sister's Doris - left, Flo - front centre and Irene, his sister-in-law.



Tom - centre with Jack Mullineux - left and Frank Worthen - right:
Winners of a 50 mile, team time trial, in the late 30's



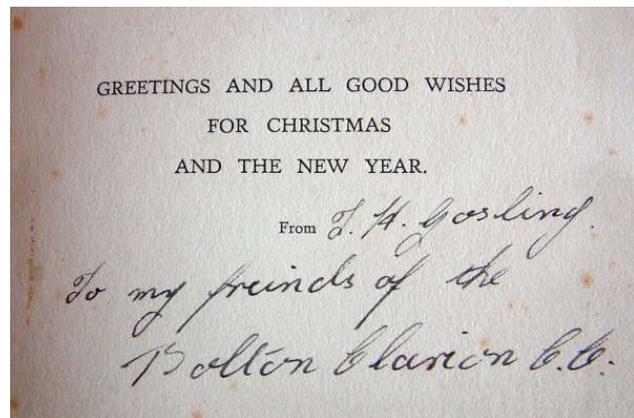
Some of Tom's Cycling Medals



Christmas card



H.M.S. Repulse, under attack, with bombs going off around her, on 10th December 1941.
H.M.S. Prince of Wales, top of picture.



Christmas message from Tom on HMS Repulse