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They Gave Their Today states the maiden name of Alec's mother was Cowlard and they lived at Gate Bourne Crossing. Electoral Rolls list William Joseph Hancock and Winifred Hancock at Gate House, Brook Crossing, Albury Heath.

Notes prepared by relatives of Alec Hancock

Alec Victor Hancock

On 27th August 1943, 14-year-old Alec Victor Hancock (a member of the Society of Ordinary Seamen) was based at RNAS Lawrenny Ferry, a Royal Naval Air Station for advanced seaplane training on the River Cleddau in Pembrokeshire.

This base had been established for Walrus, Swordfish and Kingfisher seaplanes after the prolonged enemy bombing raids on Pembroke Dock further downriver. It had 1 hangar, 3 hardstandings, a wooden jetty and a concrete slipway.

Accommodation for personnel was in local cottages and Nissen huts, with officers in Lawrenny Castle. Its practice bombing raid was at Sprinkle Pill, further upstream on the opposite bank of the river. The base was only operational from May 1941 to October 1943.

The wing of Walrus P5707, piloted by Lieutenant Commander R L M Shannon, struck a pinnace (a lightweight rowing boat), flipped onto its back, crashed into the water and broke up on impact. The pilot was uninjured, the radio operator had a broken leg but Alec was badly injured and drowned.

There was no inquest by the Pembrokeshire Coroner and no report in the local newspapers. The death certificate just states "due to war operations" as cause of death and the informant was Lieutenant Commander J E Mansfield, Commanding Officer of 764 Squadron.

Alec was buried at St Peter and Paul church, Albury, Surrey, on 3rd September 1943 and he is listed on the war memorial at Albury.

Alec was the son of William Joseph Hancock (also known as Jock and "Uncle Bill" to family and friends), who worked on the railways, and Winifred (nee Rolfe aka Cowlin/Cowland/Cowlard).

Alec's father was from the Gloucestershire Cotswolds area originally, married and lived in the Brighton area in the mid-1920s and had moved to Surrey by the time Alec, his 4th child, was born in 1928.