

Medal Awards

The Bacup Times of May 16th 1942 proudly announced the homecoming of the First Bacupian to be decorated in the present war. He was Able Seaman Thomas Brown R.N of 22 Church Street Stacksteads. Awarded the Distinguished Service Medal he was welcomed home by the Mayor and friends and neighbours in Church Street Stacksteads hung banners and flags to celebrate.



A.B Brown was the youngest son of Mrs M.A. Rouen of 4 Hannah Street Bacup and the late Mr John Brown. Married with a small son A.B Brown was a member of the crew of the destroyer H.M.S Farndale, which while escorting a convoy sank one of the largest, fastest and newest Italian Submarines the Amarante Caracioli, in the Mediterranean sea on December 11th 1941. A.B. Brown had been the port lookout on the bridge and had first spotted the submarine at about three miles distance. A German Army general was one of the 53 army personnel and German Air Force members rescued and taken prisoner.

In December 1945 another Bacup soldier appeared in the pages of the Bacup Times A/B Norman Clegg R.N 24 Ribble Street, Bacup received the Distinguished Service Medal. The award was gained by A.B Clegg through an action between British light Naval Forces and German armed trawlers off Le Harve in April 1943.

The glowing tribute to his heroism was paid by Lt Cmdr, Peter Scott, son of Captain Scott, of Antarctica fame. "Clegg was acting as leading a number of light automatic gun. With his arm fractured by two shell splinters, he continued lifting 50lb pans of ammunition to the gun throughout the action. He refused to go below for treatment, saying "I am not going to leave here until it is all over".



Son of Mrs and the late Mr C Clegg of Healey Rochdale he worked at Spring Mill Dyeworks, Whitworth until he joined the Navy he was accompanied to Buckingham Palace for the medal award ceremony by