



JAMES DAWBARN YOUNG

Born August 2nd 1877 in Lambeth, Surrey, England.

Died of his wounds on April 23rd 1918 off Zeebrugge, Belgium

James was born to Andrew and Henrietta Young (née Spurrier) on August 2nd 1877 in Lambeth, Surrey, the second child and son of ten children. His father was a professional surveyor and valuer and had worked for the former London County Council, as well as being a President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

At the time of the April 1881 census, James is listed as an infant living with his parents at Norfolk Villas, Church Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, but by the April 1891 census, James and many of his siblings are listed as scholars living at Grosvenor Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire.

James was educated at St. Alban's Grammar School (*right*) between 1887 and 1893, and continued his education at London University, training to be a surveyor like his father. He became a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and later also trained as a barrister. He was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1906 and eventually became an examiner in Law at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He went on to write several legal books, including *A Treatise on the Law and Practice of Arbitrations and Awards for Surveyors, Valuers, Auctioneers and Estate Agents* in 1913, which is still in print.



At the time of the March 1901 census, James is 23 and still living with his parents, but at a new home, Woodlands, 16 North Hill, Highgate, Middlesex. Both James and his father are listed as surveyors and valuers. He makes four further entries in the London Electoral Registers between 1904 and 1915: in 1904, at 26, he was registered as a voter, paying rent for living at his parents' house and for a shared office at 6, Quality Court off Chancery Lane, an office he shared with John Allen Atkinson, William Henry Munns and Alan Paull; Quality Court offered office space as chambers for newly-qualified barristers. Similarly, in 1907, at 29, he was registered as a voter, still paying his parents rent (25 shillings (£1.25)) a week for a first floor furnished room. In 1908, at 30, he was again registered as a voter, continuing to pay rent for living at his parents' home, and also paying rent for a shared office at 29/30 Charing Cross Road, sharing this office with Thomas Rhodes, Lawrence John Tremayne and Henry George Williams. In 1915, at 37, he was once again registered as a voter, and his rent at his parents' home was now 12 shillings (60 pence) a week for a second floor furnished room at the front of the house. His younger brother, David Wilberforce Young, 32, is also registered as a tenant paying a similar amount. (James is not listed in the 1911 census.)



James' passion was yachting, and when war broke out he enlisted in the Royal Naval Reserve as a Sub Lieutenant. He was involved with minesweeping in the North Sea and transferred to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves with a promotion to full Lieutenant in 1915. On May 7th 1916 he assumed command of Motor Launch 110 (*left*) and took part in the bombardment of Zeebrugge on May 11th and 12th 1917 as well as on June 4th and 5th 1917. On July 11th 1917 he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

On April 23rd 1918 Motor Launch 110, with several other vessels, returned to Zeebrugge (*right, shown after the raid*); all the craft were under the command of Captain Ralph Collins. The official record of the action states: *As to the handling of these craft, great credit is due to the leaders of sections for the way in which they led their boats up to the objectives. When the wind shifted, the commanding officers proceeded closer inshore to give as much protection to the attacking ships as possible. One unit, under Lieutenant Gordon S. Maxwell, R.N.V.R., went close inshore, and by dropping three floats without baffles succeeded in inducing the enemy to concentrate his fire on these floats.*



Lieutenant-Commander Dawbarn Young, R.N.V.R., was in command of Motor Launch 110. He had volunteered to precede the blockships and light the entrance of the harbour and canal with calcium buoys. Whilst approaching the entrance Motor Launch 110

was struck by three shells, which killed and wounded half the crew and wrecked the engines. Lieutenant-Commander Young, hit in three places, was mortally wounded, but stuck to his post and gave orders to abandon ship, until he collapsed. This very gallant officer died before reaching Dover. Ever the first to volunteer for any dangerous work, the Dover Patrol has sustained a great loss by his death.



James is commemorated on the St Mary and St Nicholas Saunderton Parish War Memorial as well as on the Highgate Congregational Church War Memorial (*left*). His body was brought back to Saunderton, where his parents were living at Long Orchard on the Upper Icknield Way, and he was laid to rest on April 27th 1918, following a funeral with full naval honours. He was 40 years old. In his will he left £1,262.6s (30 pence) to his father.

Andrew and Henrietta Young have their own memorial in St Mary and St Nicholas churchyard. Andrew died on February 3rd 1922 in Parlingnon in France and Henrietta died on October 15th 1929 in Chalfont St Peter in Buckinghamshire.

Sadly, James' family continued to forfeit their sons in their country's service: his older brother, Andrew Reginald Young, married Helen Fraser on November 22nd 1911, and their son, Peter Danbarn Young, was killed during a training flight on October 19th 1944. Peter was a Flight Sergeant in the New Zealand Air Force and the pilot of a Stirling LK 488. The plane left RAF Wrattling Common in Cambridgeshire at 2305 hours on October 18th 1944 to complete low level cross country navigation training before the team were due to be posted to an operational squadron, but it hit poor weather north of Hexham and climbed to find clearer skies. It then flew west and descended to 2500 feet but, still in poor visibility, collided with the top of Mickle Fell near Appleby-in-Westmoreland at 0315 hours. The starboard wing was torn off and the aircraft cart wheeled down the north side of the fell. Peter had completed 532 hours of flying with only 16 hours on the Stirling. He is buried in Section H, Row B, Grave 4 in the Harrogate's Stonefall War Cemetery in Yorkshire.

James' younger brother, David Wilberforce Young married Muriel Muir Mackie on June 9th 1916. Their son, Andrew Robert Young, was killed in the final offensive in north east Tunisia as the Eighth army forced German forces into the Mediterranean Sea or surrender near Tunis from November 1942 until May 1943. Andrew Robert was killed on April 29th 1943 and is buried in Plot 5, Row G, Grave 19 in the Massicault War Cemetery, 26 kilometres south of Tunis.

Gary Knight March 31st 2014