

## Leslie Ibbotson



Able Seaman H.M.S. President III (M.V. Maja (London)), Royal Navy  
Service Number C/JX 313307

Died on 15 January 1945 Age 22

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2702888/ibbotson,-leslie/>

Leslie was the son of Ernest (born c1890) and Nellie (nee Mowbray born 25 October 1891) Ibbotson, of Carlton.

Ernest and Nellie were married in Portsmouth on November 13<sup>th</sup> 1913, on the certificate Ernest was described as a Professional Footballer.

They had 4 children

Nellie L - Birth registered in Portsmouth R.D. in the March quarter of 1914

Norah - Birth registered in the Sheffield R.D. in the March quarter of 1916

Thomas E – Birth registered in the Sheffield R.D. in the September quarter of 1918

Leslie – born in Gedling on 8 June 1922 Birth registered in the Basford R.D.

On the 1922 and 1931 electoral Register the family were living on Westdale Lane  
Leslie attended Gedling All Hallows School (At that time the school took pupils from 5 to 14 or 15, it became 5-11 year olds only on August 29<sup>th</sup> 1938) Leslie was a member of All Hallows church choir, also the scouts and was a keen cricketer and footballer.

At some time after 1931 they moved to a house 4, Highclere Villas, Main Road Gedling.

## Ordnance Survey Map 1952



Leslie's father Ernest died on 26 June 1933 aged 43 his death registered in Nottingham R. D.

### Probate Records

*Ibbotson, Ernest of 4 Highclere Villas, Main Road, Gedling, Nottinghamshire. Died 26 June 1933 at the General Hospital Nottingham. Administration Nottingham 25 July 1933 to Nellie Ibbotson, widow. Effects £274 8s 3d*

On leaving school (c1937) Leslie worked as a tailor for Bullimore and Parker of Nottingham, where he remained until he joined up in 1941

By 1939 Leslie along with his mother and eldest sister Nellie had moved to live with his other sister Nora and her husband Joseph Brough at 34 Station Road Carlton. (see also Joseph Thomas Brough)

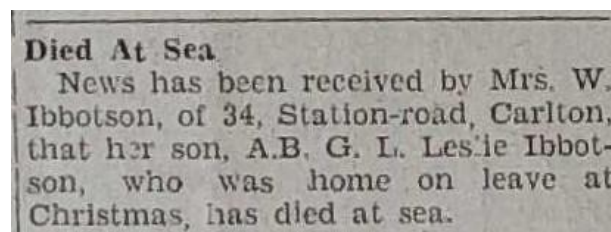
Upon enlistment in the Navy in 1941, Leslie trained as a gunner and was soon on Convoy duty visiting Canada, and the Mediterranean, crossing the equator. He later began training as a 'gun-layer' (Sighting and working out the range of fire).

He came home on leave for Christmas 1944

Leslie was serving on the Merchant Vessel MAJA, which was a British Motor Tanker of 8,181 tons built in 1931. On the 15th January 1945 when en route from Swansea to Belfast & Iceland, carrying a cargo of 19,680 tons of gas oil and spirit she was torpedoed by German submarine U-1055 and sunk. 24 crew from a total of 65 were lost. The master, 37 crew members and two gunners were picked up by the Belgian trawler HENDRIK CONSCIENCE and landed at Holyhead.

Read more at : <https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?30762>

News of his death was reported in the South Notts Echo on 20 January 1945



I think that the 'B' was an error that it should be an 'S' standing for Able Seaman Gun Layer

A similar note was in the Nottingham Journal on the 18 January 1945

His funeral took place in All Hallows Church on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1945 and he is buried in Gedling Cemetery on Arnold Lane in the same grave as his father Ernest who died in 1933 and his mother who died in 1973.



Probate Records.1945

*Ibbotson, Leslie of 34 Station Road Carlton, Nottingham died 15 January 1945 on war service. Administration Nottingham 5 April to Nellie Ibbotson widow. Effects £128 2s 9d*

(I feel sure that the Nellie Ibbotson referred to here was his widowed mother.)

A Gedling friend and contemporary of Leslie, Nancy Moulds, told me that he was a wonderful person, a good friend, a bit of a joker and always good company to be with.

ing in the Forces, and three brothers-in-law.

### Brother-in-law In The Navy

Leslie Ibbertson, a brother-in-law, is in the Navy, and is engaged on convoy duties. He was born at Gedling and attended the Gedling School.

On leaving school Leslie worked as a tailor for Messrs. Bullimore & Parker, of Nottingham, where he remained until he joined up in 1941. He trained as a gunner, and was soon on convoy duty. Up to the beginning of this year his work only took him to the Western hemisphere, and he visited Canada three times, but now he has crossed the Equator, and travelled through the Mediterranean. The change in direction is the result of Ibbertson taking further training and qualifying as a gun-layer.

While in Canada some people took him under their wing, showing him how easy it was to "lose" his pay. On the following visits these kindly people invited him to their home, where he spent the whole nine days of his leave.

Before the war he was a member of the Gedling choir, and also of the Scouts. He was a keen footballer and cricketer.

### Brother In Engineers

His brother, Sergeant Thomas Ibbertson, is in the Royal Engineers. Before the war he was in training with the militia. Although he has been serving since before the war began, Sergeant Ibbertson has not left England, and feels a little disappointed, especially when he sees and hears of friends going to the war fronts. At present he is stationed on heavy anti-aircraft guns near a South of England town.

Like his brother, he was also born and educated at Gedling. He was a keen sportsman, a member of Netherfield Thursday football team and the local scout troop, and a member of the Gedling Church choir. On leaving school he was employed by the Co-operative Society in the green-grocery department.

The third brother-in-law serving with the Forces is Harry Watson, who is married to Harriet Brough. At present he is serving overseas. He has a young daughter.

South Notts Echo

10 February 1945

IN MEMORIUM Column.



LESLIE IBBOTSON

IBBOTSON. — Killed while on active service on January 15, 1945, A./A.B. Leslie Ibbotson, Royal Navy, of 34 Station-road, Carlton.

From an article about  
Joseph Thomas Brough  
in the South Notts Echo  
8 May 1943