

In Memory of Special Lieutenant Douglas William Callow

1913 - 1943

(Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve)

Age: 29

Parents: William Callow & Matilda Hazlewood

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: New Zealand

Country of Death: Strait of Sicily

Relation: Paternal 3rd Cousin 2X Removed



Douglas William Callow was born on 7 August 1913 in Wellington, New Zealand, the son of William Bridson and Matilda (Hazlewood) Callow. Raised in a maritime nation whose security and livelihood were closely tied to the sea, he belonged to a generation for whom naval service was both familiar and necessary when war came.

He enlisted in the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve and was commissioned as a Special Lieutenant, serving aboard H.M.S. *Lightning*, an L-class destroyer of the Royal Navy. During the critical period following the Allied landings in North Africa, *Lightning* was employed on escort and patrol duties in the central Mediterranean, protecting supply routes essential to ongoing operations ashore.

On 12 March 1943, while operating as part of Force Q in the Strait of Sicily, *Lightning* was attacked by German motor torpedo boats (E-boats) off the coast of Tunisia, near Bizerte. Struck by two torpedoes, including one fired by S-55, the ship broke in two and sank. Forty-seven members of her crew were lost.

Special Lieutenant Douglas William Callow was lost at sea in the sinking. He was twenty-nine years old.

He has no known grave. His name is commemorated

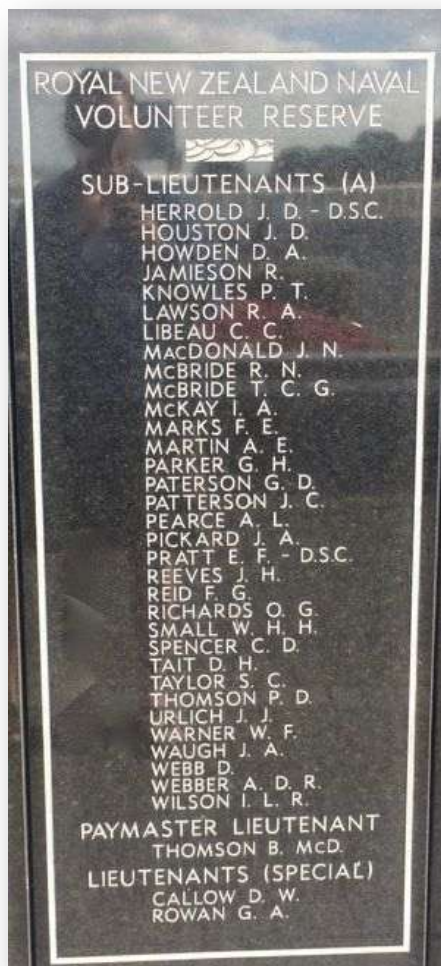
*Special Lieutenant
Royal New Zealand Naval
Volunteer Reserve*



on the New Zealand Naval Memorial, which honours New Zealand sailors who died in service and have no resting place. There, his name stands among those whose service ended far from home waters.

Douglas Callow's loss was borne again by his family the following year. His brother, Flying Officer Horace Callow, was killed on 21 July 1944, extending the family's sacrifice across both sea and air during the war.

Special Lieutenant Douglas William Callow did not return. He is remembered for his service at sea, his leadership, and a life cut short in the course of duty.



*Panel on the Royal New Zealand
Memorial
Remembering Special Lt Callow*



*Royal New Zealand Naval Memorial
Auckland, New Zealand*