

PETER FROMANTEEL COBBOLD MC

May 2014

Peter Cobbold (#494 in the family tree) enjoyed Easter lunch with his family and died aged 91 at home the following day.

Born in Henley on Thames and educated at Dover College he learned to sail in the harbour at an early age which proved to be the foundation of a life-long love of that sport. Running in tandem was life-long support for the RNLI but as told by his son, John at his Thanksgiving Service, he never disclosed whether he had need of their services.

Peter was commissioned into the King's Royal Rifle Corps in WWII and served with distinction in 11 KRRC in Greece. At the beginning of December 1944 the Greek Communist troops, ELAS marched on Athens to seize power and 11 KRRC were drawn into a civil war under most difficult conditions. The urban battlefield, the risks of distinguishing friend from foe and the dirty tactics of ELAS made their task a particularly unpleasant one. The battalion mounted a full-scale attack on Ardhittos Hill which led to the clearing of Athens and the end of the civil war.

Citation for Award of the Military Cross – Lt P F Cobbold KRRC

Lt Cobbold commanded a platoon which took part in the capture of Ardhittos Hill on the night of December 17th / 18th and afterwards held the forward post there. Throughout the day his positions were subject to heavy machine gun and rifle fire, varying in intensity and coming from three directions, and later to accurate mortar fire. Despite this he maintained his platoon in their position and provided vital information as to the movement of enemy troops. During the early afternoon an obstinately pressed counter-attack made by superior numbers developed against his platoon positions. The leading section put up a stubborn fight but was finally overcome. Lt Cobbold withdrew the remainder of his platoon, already depleted by casualties to a new



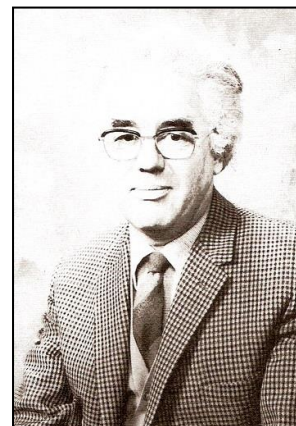
.....in the Army

Patron: Lord Cobbold DL
Ivry, Lady Freyberg
Nicholas Cobbold OBE

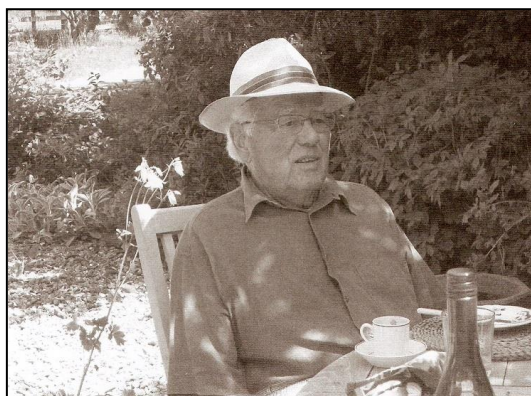
position and successfully reformed them to hold a still vital part of his company's area. This officer showed complete disregard of personal danger and his example encouraged his men.

Back in civvy street Peter joined Courtaulds to become a director of the Viscose Division where he was highly valued for his decisive style and forward looking attitudes to marketing. He was a serious loss to the company when he decided to leave to become a farmer.

In retirement he and his wife made their home in Tenerife before returning to Northamptonshire where eventually some assistance was required. As one of his carers wrote "The world has lost a true gentleman and I am so grateful for the time I spent with him"



.....in civvy street



.....in retirement

Note: Peter and his family have been generous supporters of the trust for which we are most grateful. Anthony Cobbold.