

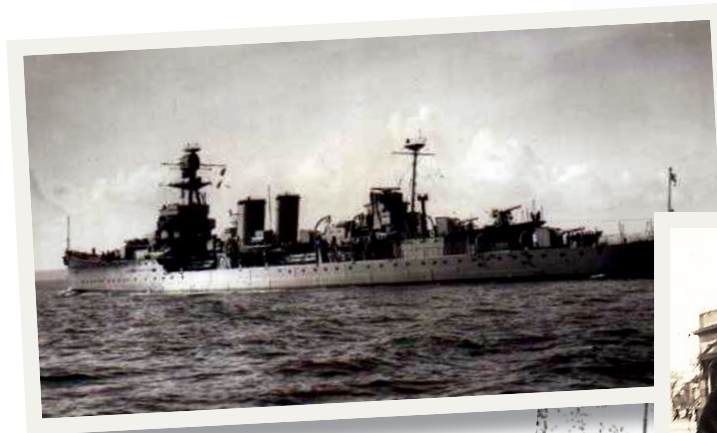
This November marks the 70th anniversary of the sinking of *HMS Dunedin*. The ship and her crew were unknowingly involved in the greatest secret of World War II: the breaking of the Enigma Code. *HMS Dunedin* met her demise on 24 November 1941 while on an Enigma-inspired operation – along with 85 per cent of her crew. One of the victims was my great-uncle, Joseph Dyer.

Joseph, known as Joe, was born in Eastleigh, Hampshire, in 1900, the only son of seven children born to Elizabeth and John Dyer, a road labourer. Two days after his 18th birthday, Joe enlisted as a Royal Marine Artillery Gunner and, following training at the Royal Marines barracks in Eastney, Portsmouth, he joined the first of many ships; including *HMS Royal Oak*; *HMS Coventry* and *HMS Dunedin*.

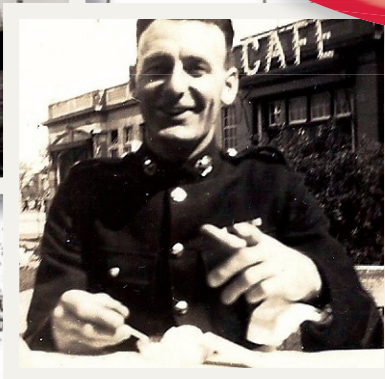
The couple had two children, Desmond and Brian. Desmond was born in 1938 but sadly died at three weeks old. Joe was stationed at *HMS Dolphin* at the time, a Royal Naval shore-based establishment in Gosport, Hampshire.

During the summer of 1939, *HMS Dunedin* was being prepared for war. Following exercises in the North Sea, she returned to Portsmouth on 21 August. In a rapid remobilisation effort, crew arrived by the lorry load. Joe had already reached the end of his marine career, but was

The *Dunedin* effect



Right: Marine Joe Dyer in 1931 and Joe's naval record, showing him 'missing presumed killed'.



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