

Richard Trevor Ridings (formerly SHAKOOR)

Date of Birth: 1919

Parents: Only son of the late Trevor and Maud Shakoor of The
Broadway, Bognor Regis, Sussex

School Years: 1932-1936 - House Sherborne – Chichester High School for Boys

Civilian Occupation:

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Service Number: 85711

Regiment: Royal Tank

Theatre of War: Arras France

Date of Death: 20 May 1940



On the 20th May 1940 *Old Boy* Lt. Richard Trevor RIDINGS was one of three members of the Royal Tank Regiment killed in action whilst serving with the 2nd Armoured Reconnaissance Brigade. They were lost during a tank engagement around Telegraph Hill south-east of Arras. The following day his squadron attacked the enemy against superior numbers of German Armoured Units whose formation included Rommel's 7th Panzer Division. The British Tanks without radio engaged all day as single units and succeeded in halting the enemy's advance for a precious 24 hours.

The Battle for France was eventually lost and led to the evacuation at Dunkirk from May 26th to June 4th, 1940.

Richard RIDINGS is buried with two other Tank Corps soldiers at Beaurain Communal Cemetery, Hauts-de-France, France; 20 May 1940; Row 21; Grave 2.

'The Martlet' – School Notes - December 1940

"It is with deep regret that we record the deaths in action of two other *Old Boys* (M.A.Barringer/J.R.B.Meaker) and the presumed death of a third. This brings the total of our Old Boys who have died in the service of their King and country to six.

Richard Trevor RIDINGS who was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Tank Corps has been missing since the fall of France and is now presumed killed near Arras. He was 21.

To the sorrowing relatives of these brave lads, we express our heartfelt sympathy in their terrible loss and our gratitude for the services their sons have rendered us.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

NB: www.ancestry.com.uk shows that R.T. Shakoor and R.T Ridings are one in the same. Following the pre-war death of his father T.M.Shakoor (P.W.M Cairo) Richard Trevor Shakoor appears to have adopted his mother's maiden name of 'Ridings'. This change of status appears both on his 'forces-war-record' document and is promulgated on 'ancestry.com.uk.'