

Capt. Raymond Harold Stevens R.A. 7/11/1917 – 24/9/1944



1939-45 Star / 1940-43 Africa Star / 1944-45 France & Germany Star

1938/45 Defence Medal / 1939-45 War Medal / Mai et Juin 1940 Dunkerque medal

In honour of Capt. Raymond Stevens R.A. 7/11/1917 - 24/9/1944

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<https://simondsfamily.me.uk/family/in-memorial>

Family album



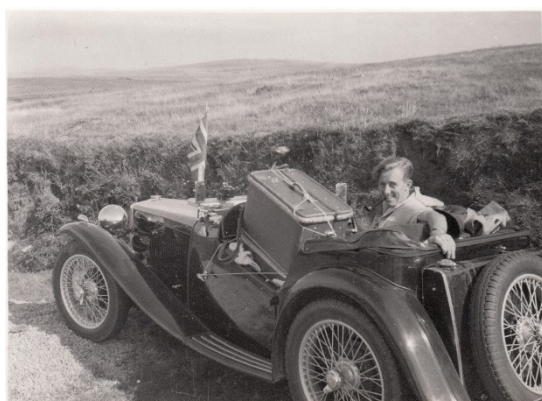
Father
Capt. Arthur Harold Stevens R.A.



Fiancée
Patsy Kneeshaw, 1944



Sisters - Helen & Monica, [my mother]
Mother - Clara, 1944



In his beloved MG 'P'



Brother
Capt. Edwin Mackenzie Stevens R.A.
17/9/1919 – 5/9/1944

In honour of Capt. Raymond Stevens R.A. 7/11/1917 - 24/9/1944

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Wounded April 25th 1942 in Egypt



Evacuated to Cairo then
shipped on to Baragwaneth
Hospital in South Africa

For 9 months



The changed man who
came home from
South Africa in 1943

Write address in large BLOCK letters wholly within this panel.	MRS STEVENS HOLMWOOD KINGSTON HILL SURREY ENG	ST5272	Franking Officer's Signature and Unit Crest Stamp impressing
LIFE ADDRESS MUST NOT BE TYPEWRITTEN			
<p>BAUG 4040 Military Airgraph Service authorized by Egyptian Postal Administration</p> <p>Write the message very plainly below this line.</p>			
Sender's Address 1019 General Hoop M.C.F.		Date, Aug 7	
<p>My Dear Anny, I am writing a confirmation of a letter card about my leg in case one or other does not arrive. It will be between 9 months and 2 years before I can walk unaided with the complete use of my muscles. The M.O. says within 2 yrs and the nurses say about 4 months, and unfortunately they are all of the same opinion. I hope I will never see the front line again or take any further part in active service operations. I think this is all trash, and hope to either re-join the 4th or move station to the 92nd. I have written and explained the whole thing in a letter. One thing, the fact will be perfectly all right in one course and will not stop me from doing anything. Love to all Cheers Raymond</p>			
THIS SPACE SHOULD NOT BE USED			

Harold Stevens letter of 18th September 1944

KINGSTON 410A-
For official action
Receipt must be acknowledged
HOLMWOOD,
KINGSTON HILL,
SURREY.
18 Sept.

To Secretary of State for War
From A H Stevens.

Dear Sir

My Son Captain E.M. STEVENS
Headquarters Royal Artillery
1st British armoured Divn.
C.M.F.
has just been killed in Italy
after five years fighting.

My only surviving Son
Capt RAYMOND HAROLD STEVENS
F.O.U.R.A. airborne
1st airborne Division
has also survived five years

including Dunkirk; being
subsequently dangerously
wounded in Egypt; he is
now anything but well, but
got himself passed by the Doctor.

Could he be reposted
on compassionate grounds
so that he may survive,
to something less onerous,
if so two parents would
be eternally grateful

Yours faithfully
Harold Stevens M.C.

On the death of his son Edwin, Raymond's father Harold wrote a poignant letter to the War Office asking for a 'safe occupation' for his remaining son.

It was received the same day that Raymond took off for Arnhem.

In honour of Capt. Raymond Stevens R.A. 7/11/1917 - 24/9/1944

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Obituary

LED AIRBORNE SURVIVORS

FELL IN DESPERATE COUNTER ATTACK

TWO SONS LOST IN 19 DAYS

Nineteen days after the death of his younger brother in Italy, Capt. Raymond Harold Stevens, Parachute Regiment, First Airborne Division, died of wounds received in action while leading the survivors of his platoon in a desperate counter attack at Arnhem.

Capt. R. H. Stevens, who was the 26 years-old son of Capt. and Mrs. A. H. Stevens, of Holmwood, Kingston Hill, was born at Wandsworth, and received his early education at Rokeby School, Wimbledon, and later went to Stowe and Trinity College, Cambridge. Together with his brother, Capt. E. M. Stevens, R.H.A., he joined the H.A.C. at the time of the Munich deliberations, and both went to an O.C.T.U. at Aldershot on the outbreak of war.

Capt. R. H. Stevens went to France on receiving his commission, and fought in command of guns during the retreat from the Albert Canal to Dunkirk in 1940. He later volunteered for further service abroad, and was seriously wounded in fighting with the R.H.A. returning to this country after spending nine months in Middle East and South African hospitals. Again he volunteered for foreign service, this time as a gunner officer in the Parachute Regiment, in spite of his former wounds. Capt. R. H. Stevens was unmarried and had been a member of Coombe Wood Golf Club.

His younger brother, Capt. E. M. Stevens, died of wounds in Italy last month at the age of 25, after serving through the North African and Sicilian campaigns. He was a keen ice skater, and was well known as an amateur at Richmond ice rink before the war. He was unmarried.

"IN DEATH NOT DIVIDED"

Captain and Mrs. A. H. Stevens, of Kingston Hill, Surrey, lost both their officer sons in action in September.

The elder son, Captain R. H. Stevens, R.A., 26, of the Parachute Regiment, 1st Airborne Division, died of wounds received in action at Arnhem.

His brother, Captain Edwin Mackenzie Stevens, R.H.A., who was 25, died of wounds received in action in Italy.

"In death they were not divided" is the epitaph in an announcement to-day of their deaths.

Combined Obituary
Raymond Stevens
&
Edwin Stevens

Enningham, Surrey.

STEVENS.—Died of wounds received in action at Arnhem in Sept., 1944, CAPT. R. H. STEVENS, R.A., aged 26, Parachute Regt., 1st Airborne Division, dearly loved elder son of Capt. and Mrs. A. H. Stevens, Holmwood, Kingston Hill, Surrey, brother of Helen and Monica and CAPT. E. M. STEVENS, R.H.A., who died of wounds in Italy in Sept., 1944.

"In death they were not divided."

Raymond's Notice of death

In honour of Capt. Raymond Stevens R.A. 7/11/1917 - 24/9/1944

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Grave at 13 De La Rejweg



Photos taken by;
Photo-Bienefeld,
Neuss / RH



1944
Mrs Valkerburg
Riek Valkenburg
Mr Marius Berendsen

Grave at Oosterbeek

Plot 29.A.2

Dated 4/10/45

The burial mounds still clearly visible



Stevens Family visit, 1946



Harold & Clara Stevens
place flowers on the grave
of their son Raymond



Rieke Valkenburg
at the grave in Oosterbeek Cemetery



Mrs Valkenburg

Rieke Valkenburg

Mr Willem Valkenburg



Ribbon

**Presented to family
members attending the
1st Para Memorial
service, by the people
of Oosterbeek**



Badge

**From the same event,
which was also on a ribbon**

OOSTERBEEK.

SPEECH NOTES

Good afternoon everybody and thank you Ian for a most informative tour, for making Captain Raymond Stevens the focus of your tour this year and for telling us some of his remarkable story, all put in context by adding his family background.

We are here today to honour the 1,000's of our young men & your Dutch families who lost their lives near here 78 years ago this week. Especially those of 151 & 156 Para who lost over 70% of those who landed on Ginkelse Heide.

I am honoured to have the opportunity today to pay my respects to one of those - my uncle & namesake Captain Raymond Stevens RA. He died aged only 26 and just 19 days after his younger brother Edwin, who was killed near Rimini aged 25. My mother lost both her adored elder brothers and my grandfather lost his sons, playmates and heirs.

Please can we also remember another uncle, killed one day later near the bridge in Arnhem, Major John Simonds aged 29. So my Great Uncle, Lord Gavin Simonds of Sparsholt, also lost his two sons John and Gavin to WW2.

At this sad time, I would also like to remember another war veteran, our beloved Queen Elizabeth II - who died just a week ago today.

We are standing close to my uncle Raymond's initial grave where he was buried by Willem Valkenburg, who returned secretly during 'The Evacuation'. His family and especially his daughter Rieke had already risked their lives trying to comfort him in his last terrible hours. Two of Mr Valkenburg's grandchildren, Marion & Trudi are here today and have made possible this pilgrimage by Raymond's 2 nephews here today - me and my brother Colin.

As I lay this wreath in his memory, please can we stand for a few moments in silent thought & prayer for our beloved Queen Elizabeth, for my uncle Raymond and for all his fallen family & comrades.

Raymond Simonds, September 15th 2022

13 De La Reijweg, Oosterbeek, Holland