

Richard Harrap, Marsh House 'a pure professional'



Rank	Lieutenant Colonel 38712
Regiment	13 th /18 th Royal Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps
Date of death	15 th June 1944
Died	Normandy, France
Buried	La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres, Calvados
Age at death	37
Marital status	Married to Betty with two children, Jennifer and Richard
Address	Marsh House, Bentley

Richard Thresher Giles Harrap, known as Dick, was the eldest son of Gilbert and Maud Harrap of Marsh House, Bentley.

He served as a cavalry officer in Egypt and in India during the 1930s. He was twice mentioned in despatches. By the time of his death in 1944, he was in command of his regiment. The 13th/18th Royal Hussars were involved in the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944.

They were in charge of amphibious tanks launched 2½ miles from Sword Beach on D-Day, aiming to clear exits from the beaches. He died during an operation to defend Pegasus bridge over the River Orne.



DD Sherman tanks of 13th/18th Hussars in Normandy 1944

Bentley Parish Magazine :-

Harvest 1944

The Cost of the War IN MEMORIAM

Colonel DICK HARRAP, 13/18th Hussars

The news of Dick Harrap's death in Normandy cast a shadow over all Bentley at the end of June. Dick had spent all his young life amongst us; we had known him as a schoolboy during holidays from Harrow; as an undergraduate; as a keen young sportsman – “just the sort of young fellow we want in the regiment” – was how B.P., at that time Honorary Colonel of the 13/18th Hussars, described him when he joined; as a devoted son and brother; and later as a completely happy husband and the father of Jennifer and Richard. How glad we were when he got safely back from Dunkirk, where he and Michael ran into each other, accidentally and providentially, on the beach, and so were able to report each other's safety. For his good service in France at that time Dick was mentioned in despatches. Then, after a spell of soldiering at home, he achieved the ambition of every soldier – the command of the regiment which he knew and loved so well.

Whenever he returned to Marsh House after some fresh move or achievement, he was just the same Dick, interested in all the local doings and news, glad to see his old friends and to play tennis with them, and to attend his village church.

We feel that in the knowledge of how he was appreciated by his men and by his many friends, the family at Marsh House and Dick's young wife will have found some consolation in their dark days.