

*"Glyn R. Gough was only two years old when his dad, RN telegraphist on board Free French submarine SURCOUF, disappeared with two other British sailors and the entire crew.*

*Glyn is currently living near Devonport and granted us the authorisation to publish his father's biography he sent us recently."*



My father, Bernard Gough, was born on 3 May 1908 at West Bromwich. West Bromwich is in a part of England known as the Midlands, as it is in the centre of the country. The area was in those days famous for heavy industries. My father's parents were William, who was an iron driller, and Mary, and he had two sisters.

It has been said that Bernard was an extremely bright and clever boy, and his parents thought he should enter the legal profession. However, he was adamant that he wanted to go to sea. He joined the Royal Navy as a boy on 9 August 1923 at the age of fifteen. He became an adult sailor on his eighteenth birthday in 1926.

My father served on many ships all over the world. I can recall seeing old photos of him in the Middle East and Far East. He took a number of specialist courses in a wide range of naval radio transmitters, consistently receiving 'superior' ratings. In October 1930 he volunteered for submarines. He left the RN in May 1938 having completed his twelve-year engagement.

For much of his career, my father's home port was Devonport, at Plymouth in the southwest of England. There he met my mother Lilian. They married in January 1931 and had three children; Brian in 1932, Valerie in 1937 and Glyn in 1939. On completion of his RN service in 1938, my father took his family back to the Midlands where he became a furniture salesman. However, as war approached in 1939, he decided to re-enlist in the RN, which he did in July 1939 only just over a year since he had left. My mother had not really settled in the Midlands, and so brought the family back to Devonport to be near her family and her husband when he was in port.

My father was selected as the Leading Telegraphist to be part of the three-man British Navy Liaison Team to join "Surcouf" in November 1940. The other two members were Lieutenant J Green and Leading Signaller Harold Warner. Warner and my father were selected because they were very experienced technicians and sailors, together had some eighteen years experience on submarines, and were mature men in their thirties. My father also spoke some French.

My father was still serving on the "Surcouf" when she sailed from Bermuda on 12 February 1942. The submarine was never seen again.