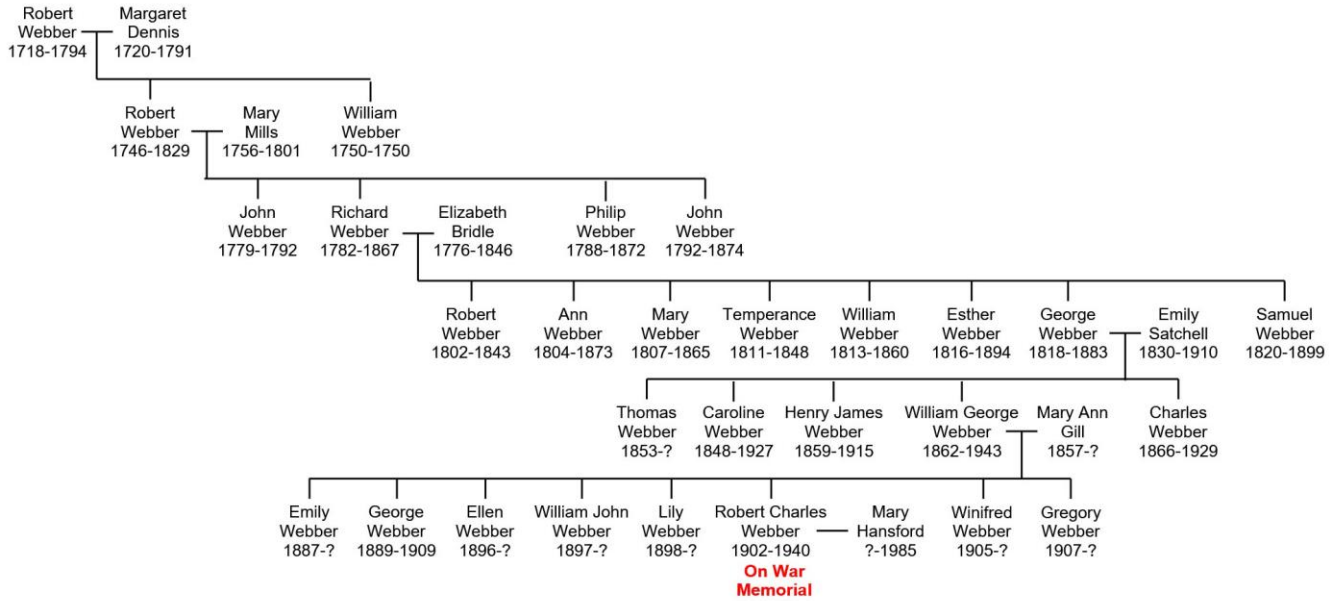


## Robert Charles Webber – Family History



### Robert Charles Webber Family Tree

Name	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Richard Webber	60	Farm Labourer	Martinstown
Elizabeth Webber	65		Martinstown
Esther Webber	25		Poxwell
George Webber	20	Farm Labourer	Martinstown

#### 1841 Census for Poxwell

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Where Born
Richard Webber	Widower	71	Farm Labourer	Martinstown
George Webber	Head	31	Farm Labourer	Martinstown
Caroline Webber	Daughter	2		Poxwell

#### 1851 Census for Poxwell

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Where Born
George Webber	Head	44	Farm Bailiff	Martinstown
Emily Webber	Wife	29		Charminster
Thomas Webber	Son	8	Scholar	Charminster
Henry Webber	Son	1		Charminster

#### 1861 Census for Charminster

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Where Born
George Webber	Head	54	Farm Bailiff	Martinstown
Emily Webber	Wife	39		Charminster
Henry Webber	Son	11	Scholar	Charminster
William Webber	Son	8	Scholar	Charminster
Charles Webber	Son	5	Scholar	Charminster

#### 1871 Census for Compton Abass

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Where Born
George Webber	Head	64	Farm Bailiff	Martinstown
Emily Webber	Wife	51		Charminster
Henry Webber	Son	21	Farm Labourer	Charminster
Charles Webber	Son	15	Farm Labourer	Charminster

#### 1881 Census for Litton Cheney

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Where Born
William George Webber	Head	28	Farm Bailiff	Charminster
Mary Webber	Wife	34		Abbotsbury
Emily Webber	Daughter	4		Litton Cheney
George Webber	Son	1		Litton Cheney

#### 1891 Census for Litton Cheney

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Where Born
William George Webber	Head	39	Farm Bailiff	Charminster
Mary Webber	Wife	45		Abbotsbury
Emily Webber	Daughter	14		Litton Cheney
George Webber	Wife	11	Scholar	Abbotsbury
Ellen Webber	Daughter	5	Scholar	Litton Cheney
William John Webber	Son	4		Litton Cheney
Lily Webber	Daughter	3		Litton Cheney

1901 Census for Litton Cheney

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Where Born
William George Webber	Head	49	Farm Bailiff	Charminster
Mary Webber	Wife	55		Abbotsbury
William John Webber	Son	14		Litton Cheney
Lily Webber	Daughter	13	Scholar	Litton Cheney
Robert Charles Webber	Son	9		Litton Cheney
Winifred Webber	Daughter	6		Litton Cheney
Gregory Webber	Son	4		Litton Cheney

1911 Census for Bincombe & Broadway

### **Robert Charles Webber**

Robert Charles Webber was born at Litton Cheney in 1902, the son of William George and Mary Ann Webber and husband of Mary Kathleen Webber of Dorchester, Dorset.

During the war he was an Able Seaman on the aircraft carrier HMS *Glorious*, Service No. D/J 91065. He died on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1940 when HMS *Glorious* was sunk by the German battle cruiser *Scharnhorst* near the Lofoten Islands. His body was never recovered for burial.

He is commemorated on Plymouth Naval War Memorial, Panel 38, Column 3.

### **HMS Glorious**



HMS *Glorious* as a Battlecruiser



HMS *Glorious* as an Aircraft Carrier

*Glorious* was a converted *Courageous*-class cruiser that had served in World War I in its original role. During the 1920s, the ship was converted into an aircraft carrier as a result of the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922. The high speed needed to potentially outrun enemy ships, the heavier takeoff weight of naval aircraft and the large hull, which made cruisers perfect candidates for conversion to aircraft carriers. After World War I and her conversion to a carrier, *Glorious* spent the majority of her career serving in the Mediterranean, with a brief sojourn during World War II into the Indian Ocean with Force J to try and locate the German pocket battleship *Admiral Graf Spee*.

The only other leave the *Glorious* took of the Mediterranean was in April 1940 when she was recalled to cover the British landings in Norway. After a month of operations, *Glorious* was given orders to withdraw independently to Scapa Flow for the court martial of the Commander (Air), J. B. Heath. He had refused an order to carry out attacks on shore targets because his aircraft were not fit for the targets and the targets were ill defined. Proceeding with two destroyers, HMS *Acasta* and *Ardent*, *Glorious* set course for Scapa Flow early on the morning of 8 June 1940. Later that day, the smoke from the small task force was spotted by the German battlecruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*. The two battlecruisers closed the range and opened fire. Six minutes after targeting the *Glorious*, *Scharnhorst* scored a hit on her third salvo, starting a large fire in the forward section of the hangar. The carrier didn't have a Combat Air Patrol up at the time of the attack. It didn't have planes on the deck ready to respond to any threats and even the crow's nest was unmanned. For over an hour, the two battlecruisers fired at the carrier and her escorting destroyers. There was no question that *Glorious* was done. The British had managed to bloody the *Scharnhorst*. The *Acasta*

had managed to hit the German ship with a single 4.7 inch round, which did minimal damage, and a torpedo which severely hampered the ship's operations.

The sinking of *Glorious* and her destroyer escorts was unknown to the British Admiralty until it was announced on German radio. There was some controversy over sighting reports, and an interesting connection to the fleeing of the Norwegian royal family, and numerous other issues related to the sinking. The carrier was caught as flat footed as it could have been. No planes in the air. No planes spotted on the deck for a quick launch. No one even watching the horizon for enemy ships. Because the British didn't hear about the loss until the following day from a German broadcast. They mounted a diligent search of the area, but the losses were devastating. 1,519 men were missing from the three ships. Only 40 men survived, although some survivors thought that perhaps 900 men had escaped the *Glorious* before succumbing to the freezing waters of the Norwegian Sea.

In Memory of  
Able Seaman

## Robert Charles Webber

D/J 91065, H.M.S. *Glorious*, Royal Navy who died on 08 June 1940 Age 38

Son of William and Mary Webber; husband of Mary Kathleen Webber, of Dorchester, Dorsetshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Plymouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission