

David Dickson, 1897-1914

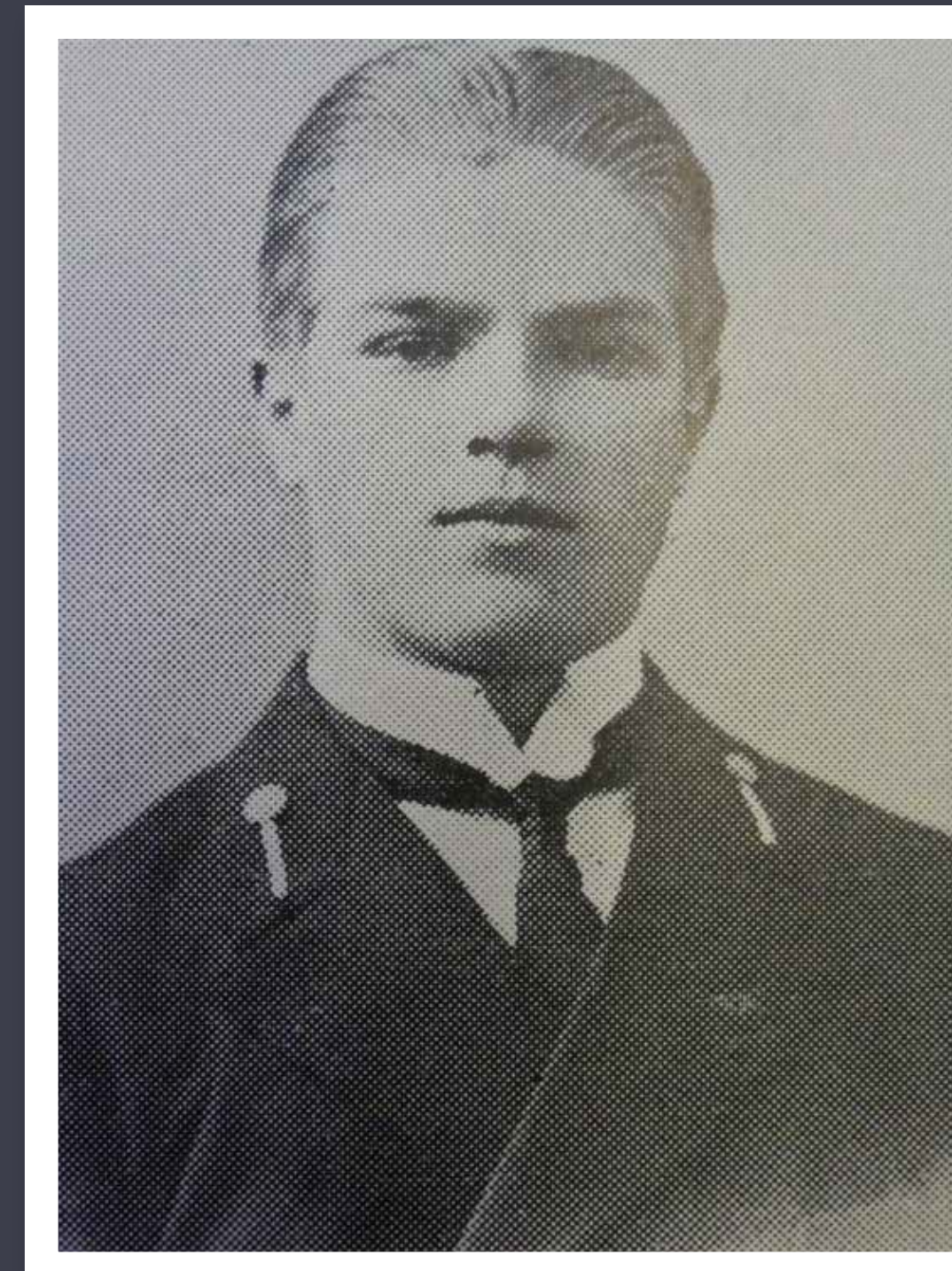
David Dickson was the first and youngest of the Club's casualties in the First World War. He was killed in October 1914, aged 17, when the ship on which he was serving was sunk by a German submarine.

David was born in Marlow in 1897. His father John Dickson was an eminent surgeon, J.P. and local councillor. The family lived at The Gables in Institute Road. David had three older brothers, Desmond, Brian and Ian.

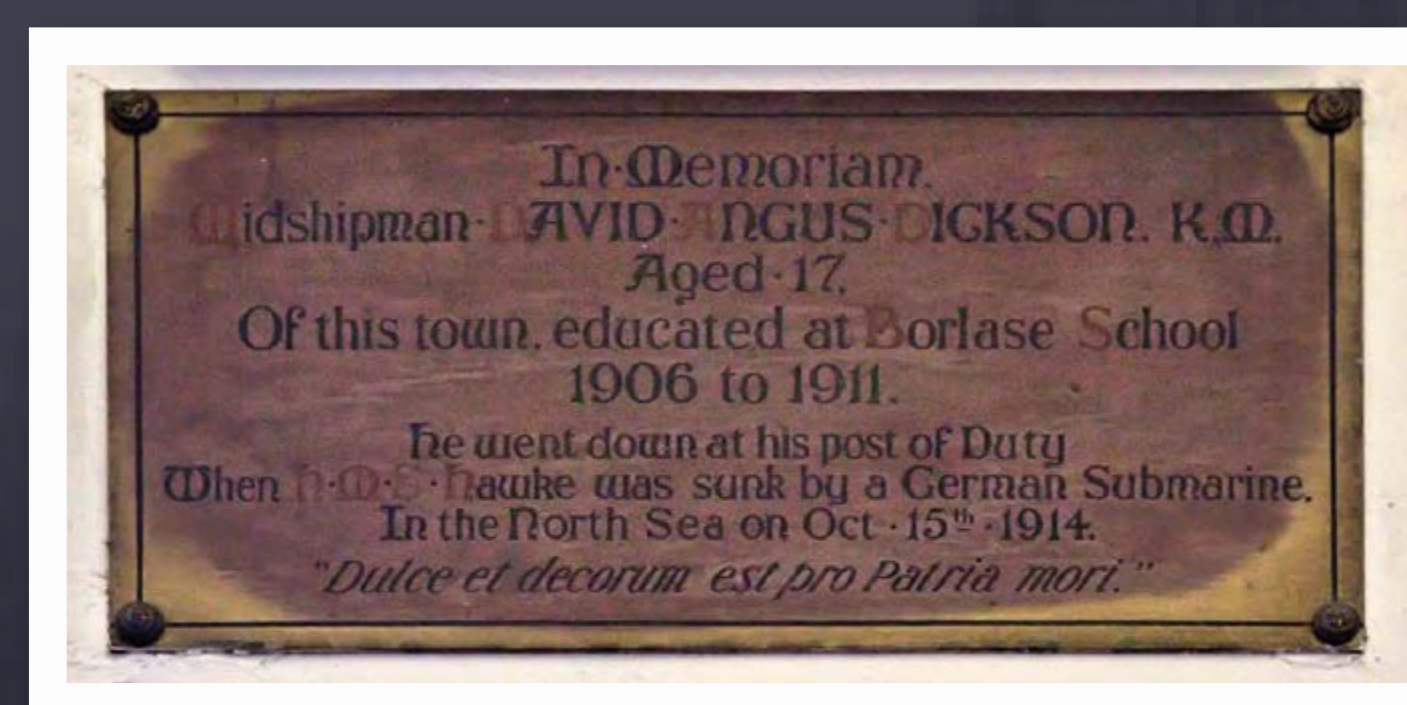
David was educated at Sir William Borlase's School between 1906 and 1910, when he joined the Royal Naval College as a Naval Cadet. He was a keen sportsman. In addition to rowing, he was a talented boxer and enthusiastic hockey player. In his final year at naval college, he won the light and middle weight boxing championships and the senior sculls race. In June 1914 David joined H.M.S. Cumberland and, on the outbreak of war, H.M.S. Hawke as a Midshipman.

His ship was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Scotland in October 1914, with the loss of her commander, 26 officers and 497 men, including David who was aged just 17. David was one of the first casualties of the War from Marlow and his loss was keenly felt. The South Bucks Free Press described him as 'one of the most promising boys in Marlow...[who] was liked by everyone...a bright, upright and fearless young Briton, good at work and play alike.'

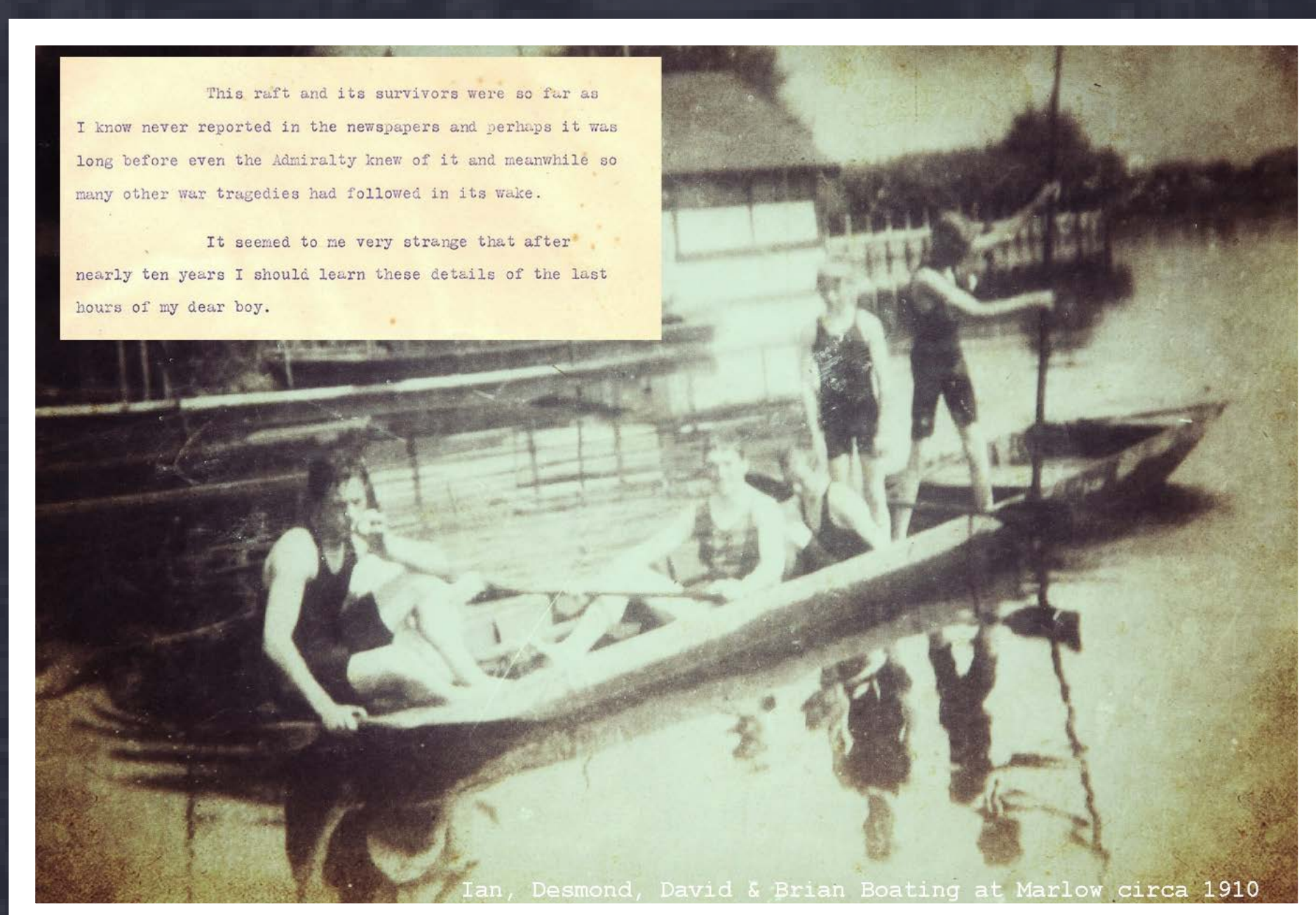
David was an active member of the Club before the War. At Marlow Regatta in 1912, he won the Boys Double Skiffs race with Robert Forrest, coxed by Miss G. Lindell. Just days after David's death, Robert Forrest was wounded and captured while serving on the Western Front. He died in captivity in May 1915. David's elder brother Desmond was a long-serving member of the Club both before and after the War.



DAVID DICKSON, 1897 - 1914
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A photo of David and his brothers from before the War. The typewritten note is presumably by his father and reflects the controversy at the time about the sinking of HMS Hawke.



The Gables, Institute Road, Marlow as it looks today
Photo courtesy of Belinda Ford