

# Lance Corporal Alan Carlisle



No.3 Commando 4 Troop

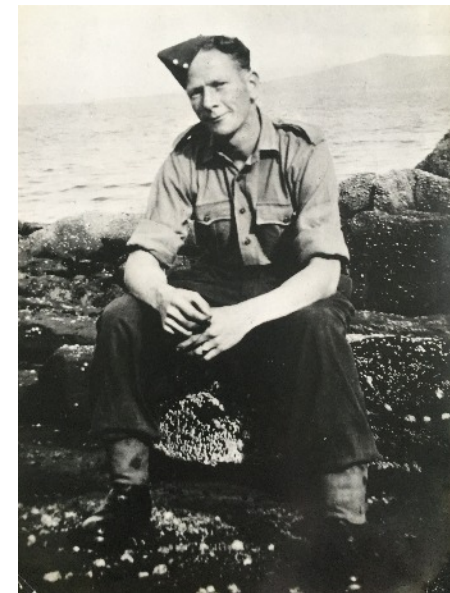
Killed in action Vaagso, Norway

27 December 1941 aged 21

Buried at Sea from HMS Kenya.

Remembered with honour Brookwood Memorial

Son of Archibald and Agnes Carlisle



## A letter to his Parents from Lieutenant Lloyd

Wintecourse Hoel,  
Newbury,  
Berks.  
9-1-47.

Dear Mr Carlish,  
Please  
excuse me for not  
writing sooner but I  
have just returned  
from a hospital ship. Your  
son was killed by my  
side about three quarters  
of an hour after we  
landed. We had killed  
5 Germans in the street  
& set fire to the main  
ammunition dump. We were  
crossing the road, actually  
the main street of the  
town - myself in front,  
your son, & then his

<sup>2</sup> friend Spiers. Suddenly  
two shots came from  
a nearby house - one  
bullet hitting your son  
& the other Spiers. I  
ducked just in time  
to stop a bullet in my  
back fired from another  
house. We crawled back  
under cover & your son  
died a few minutes  
later. He looked at  
me, grinned & said  
"They've got me. I won't  
get over this one." He  
died very soon after.  
Actually when he was hit  
he fired his Bren gun  
& sank to his knees  
still firing like a good  
soldier.

I cannot speak too

<sup>3</sup> highly of your son.  
He was one of my  
favourite N.C.O's. He  
was always cheerful,  
amusing & helpful. He  
was very brave & in  
every respect a first  
class soldier. We shall  
miss him a lot.

Please accept my most  
sincere sympathy in your  
loss of such a fine  
boy.

Yours sincerely,

N.S. Lloyd Lieut

Spiers' bullet went through  
his leg near the groin.  
He is doing well.

<sup>W.C.</sup>  
Your son's bullet was  
just below his heart.  
He was buried at <sup>W.C.</sup>  
sea after a full service.

# Letters to his Parents from Lt. Komrower and Lt. Col Durnford-Slater

Breeze Hill  
Holden Rd  
Kersal.  
Salford.

9.1.41.

Dear Mrs Carlisle,

I should like to express my deepest sympathy to you in your sad loss. Words are of little comfort but we were all very fond of "Ginger," and I can appreciate what his loss will mean.

I know that Mr Lloyd has written to you but felt that I must also tell you of the high opinion we had of your <sup>son</sup> ~~husband~~.

If there is anything we can do please let either Mr Lloyd or myself know and we shall be very happy to do it.

Yours very sincerely  
Arthur Komrower.

3 Commando  
Bramhall House  
Leaps  
Jun 5

Dear Mrs Carlisle

I thought I would write a line to tell you how we all sympathise with you in the loss of your <sup>son</sup> ~~husband~~. He was exactly what was wanted for Commando work, fit, intelligent, reliable and full of initiative. I knew him very well personally and can feel with you in your loss.

He was doing a wonderful job when he was killed and his party were responsible for covering the main opposition at the entrance to the town.

Last Thursday about Daily Express gives an accurate account of his Troop Commanders death, which will show you what was going on.

You can be very proud of a very brave and able man. It is certainly wonderful to work with men like him.

Yours very sincerely  
John Durnford-Slater

## A letter from his landlady

10/1/42  
The Thistle  
20 Middleton Drive  
Largs  
Ayrshire  
Scotland

My Dear Friend's  
Just a wee note to say how sorry  
I feel for all of you at this time  
it must have been a great shock  
to you all. its a very trying time we  
are living in only we have started  
a big job & we will have to go on  
now till we finish it. I had  
only Ginger & Jack with me as Bill  
went back to his own place shortly  
when I got word about Allan being  
killed & Jack burned & the other young  
man over the road being killed to  
all I could say oh my it just  
finished me the folks advised me  
just to go away up to Paisley  
to my Sister I just locked up  
the house & I had all my mist  
in for them coming home I had

(2)

just to take it all up with me  
Jack sent me a letter from the  
hospital its his hands that's burned  
& he says he thinks he will be home  
in about a weeks time as they are  
getting better I had a letter from  
Allan's chum this morning he is  
in hospital to he is to go through  
an operation but he was telling me  
he would see to all Allan's things  
when he came home & he thinks he  
will not be long till he is home  
please accept my sympathy how  
sad I feel about Allan he was a fine  
lad everybody who came about the  
house liked him & so did our ones.  
him & I were one with each other  
I just looked on him as my own  
brother's & I had 5 of them you  
had a good son full of thought &  
consideration what's not to be found  
very ready these days he has been well

(3)

brought in the right way he  
would say to me when he was going  
out at night I'll not be late ma  
& I would wait till he would come  
in & we always had our supper to-  
gether the last Sunday we were  
together he came in he says ma  
I put on the wireless the service  
will be coming on & he started to  
sing & the two of us were singing  
sitting at the fire I just the day  
will not be far distant when this  
great turmoil will end we dont  
know whether we will see it or  
not that's his work finished & he  
had a great outlook if he had  
been spared what he was going  
to do excuse me as I dont feel just  
like writing I dont feel settled  
I'll now close with kind Love  
to all from Miss A. Bonner

## Report in a newspaper

### CANVEY MAN KILLED IN COM- MANDOS' RAID.



News has been received of the death in action in Vaagso, of Lance-Corporal Alan Carlisle, aged 21 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlisle, of Leigh Beck, Canvey. He joined the Royal West Kents in

Lance-Corpl. A. Carlisle 1937, and went to France on the outbreak of war. After Dunkirk, he volunteered for the Commandos, and was in the raid on Lofoten Island last March. He has two brothers in the Middle East, and one in Ireland.

# A letter to his Parents from Brigadier Haydon



Lance Corporal Alan Carlisle,  
No.3 Commando  
Son of Archibald and Agnes Carlisle.  
Remembered with honour



Headquarters  
Special Service Brigade  
Castle Donzlas  
Kirkcaldy Brightside.  
Scotland.  
22.1.42.

My dear Mr Carlisle -  
I am writing to tell you how  
very sad and sorry I am that your son  
Cpl. Carlisle should have lost his life in  
the recent raid in Norway.  
It is tragic beyond belief that he and  
others like him, who represented all that is  
good and brave, should be lost to us in  
battle. Yes, without them, no battle  
would ever be won or even attempted -

Your son was in my Brigade and no one  
could be prouder than I am of his  
Command and of those who form it.  
He was a member of a very  
fine Commando and I know that you  
will feel the same pride in him that  
they do.  
I am enclosing some photographs which  
were taken during his funeral service  
at sea.  
You will like to know that all the  
ships company who could be spared from  
duty; all of his soldiers and the  
Admiral and his staff were there to do him  
honour. No.2 Commando, some of whom  
were on board, provided the firing party

for him.  
My Brigade Major asked the Chaplain  
to give him a copy of the prayer he  
read out and this is, I know, being  
sent to you separately.  
Please do not think of answering  
this letter.  
I write only to tell you how truly  
sad and sorry I am and to send  
you these photographs which I think  
you will like to have -  
Yours sincerely  
J. Haydon