

Corporal Raymond Thomas Ryder, 40 Commando RM,  
killed in action aged 21 on the 2nd April 1951 in Malaya

## Killed in the jungle

### FOUR DAYS AFTER HIS 21<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY

#### CORPL. R. T. RYDER OF SHEERNESS

**J**UNGLE fighting in Malaya has claimed a young and smart Sheerness Marine in the person of Corporal Raymond Thomas Ryder, of the 40th Commandos, Royal Marines, who was killed while on duty April 2nd, four days after his 21st birthday.

We believe that he is the first Sheerness casualty to be reported from that battle area.

As a boy he attended the County Secondary School, Jefferson Road, and he was also in the local Sea Cadets. He was well liked by all who knew him and his death in a foreign land will be regretted by many in his native town.

Corporal Ryder was a son of Mr. T. Ryder, of Sheerness, but he will also be sadly missed by his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Rowlands, 3, New Street, Sheerness who brought him up from the age of six and thought the world of him. Before enlisting in the Royal Marines, at the age of 15, he was employed for a short time on a Co-op. greengrocery round with Mr. Baker. He served as a bugler in H.M.S. London.

He was very happy in the Service and took a keen interest in his duties. When he knew that he was likely to be sent to the Far East he looked forward to the time when he would sail, as he had relatives in the Far East.



Drafted overseas he was serving at Hong Kong, from where he was sent to Malaya. At Hong Kong he was promoted corporal and he showed good promise for further advancement in the Royal Marines.

His period of service in the Far East was drawing to an end and he was shortly due to return home. A pal of his from boyhood, Marine Thomas Puxty, has already returned and was spending his overseas leave in Sheerness when he heard that his friend had been killed in Malaya.

"The last time I saw Ray," said Marine Puxty, "he was sitting on his bed smiling, ready to go out in the jungle again."

They come down from the jungle at week-ends for a rest.

Marine Puxty was serving in a different company to Corpl. Ryder, and had finished his overseas commission, which accounted for his earlier return from the Far East.

A sister of Corpl. Ryder, Mrs. Warlow, lives at 33, Broad Street. The family have a long service record and Corpl. Ryder's forebears have travelled the world. His grand father, Mr. S. H. Rowland was in Gallipoli in the first world war, serving in the R.A.S.C., and seven of the family were serving in different branches of the Army, and all were discharged with disability pensions.

The second world war saw five relatives serving in the Royal Navy and one in the Army.