

## **The life of Thomas Goode Drakeford and his family in Shanghai from 1907 until 1940, and the tragic consequences of World War II**

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## **Extracted from chapter 5 of the book 'It's a Rough Game but Good Sport:**

### **The Life, Times and Personalities of The Shanghai Rugby Club' Earnshaw Books, Hong Kong, 2014**

Before taking a look at the Shanghai Rugby Football Club's activities from 1904 to 1950, we will take a closer look at three rugby families whose members were involved in the various clubs that played rugby throughout most of the period covered by this book.

Many who arrived in Shanghai during the treaty port period from 1843 to 1943 came, made their fortune and departed. Particularly in the early years, Shanghai was not a place to spend too much time. Conditions were hard and unhealthy. There were very few foreign families and fewer unmarried women for the predominantly bachelor residents to meet. It was the 'Wild East' with a 'Wild West' feel.

Some adventurers failed to make a fortune and left sometimes to return 'home' to England or elsewhere in the UK or to try their luck in the real British Empire. If a fortune-hunter ended up destitute, he was sent home, his passage being paid for by the Shanghai Municipal Council.

Not everybody left after a few years. Many stayed and made Shanghai their home. The 'Shanghaianders' as they called themselves stayed, married had children who stayed and had children of their own. Shanghai was their physical home but Britain was still psychologically seen as 'home'. It was normal for Shanghaianders who had lived in Shanghai for twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five years or more to 'go home' when they retired or became ill. Three generations of Shanghaianders in one family was common, four generations not unusual, and there were examples of five generations.

This chapter takes a closer look at five individuals associated with the rugby playing football and rugby clubs who played and lived in Shanghai for a lengthy period. The three families I have chosen were well known in the city. Their lives can be followed through the pages of the local newspapers and magazines of the time. Through social, sport, business and club life, it is certain that their paths or the paths of their relatives would have frequently crossed.

#### **From Liverpool To Shanghai**

Mr Thomas Goode Drakeford (no relation to the author but shares the characteristic Drakeford large nose) was born in 1880 in West Derby, Liverpool. He was the fourth of eight children. His father was a corn broker, and Thomas worked in Liverpool as a corn merchant's clerk. Thomas's father travelled from Liverpool to London, and then in 1903 took a lengthy trip to the United States in connection with his work. Thomas's older brother worked in the shipping industry, starting in Liverpool and establishing his career in London.<sup>1</sup> Thomas therefore had good role models for setting his sights beyond Liverpool; no doubt they supported his decision to travel, in his mid-twenties, to a place where he would spend most of his life – Shanghai.

Through his eventual marriage, Thomas's Shanghai connections went back to the late 1860s. His wife, Eveline Margaret Butler, was the second daughter of Mr George 'Binks' Butler.<sup>2</sup> George was 'an old China hand', that is to say somebody who had lived and worked in China for a long time. He was described as a doyen of the tea-broking trade in China. He first came to China in 1868 as a *chazee*, a trained tea taster, working for a Greek company Petrocochina Mavrogadato and Co.<sup>3</sup>



George 'Binks' Butler 'an old China hand' and father in law of Thomas Goode Drakeford.

*Binks Butler first two companies failed before, through perseverance, he succeeded in Shanghai.*

**THE BANKRUPTCY ACT 1869.**

**IN HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SUPREME-COURT FOR CHINA AND JAPAN.**

*In the matter of proceedings for liquidation by arrangement or composition with Creditors instituted by* **FREDERIC HENRY BALFOUR and GEORGE BUTLER of Shanghai in the Empire of China merchants carrying on business together at Shanghai aforesaid under the style or firm of BALFOUR BUTLER AND COMPANY.**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that a first **GENERAL MEETING** of the Creditors of the above named persons has been summoned to be held at our Office No. 2, **BALFOUR BUILDINGS SHANGHAI** aforesaid on the 21st day of **OCTOBER** next, at two o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 12th day of June 1873.

**HARWOOD & WAINWRIGHT.**  
*Attorneys for the said* **FREDERIC HENRY BALFOUR and GEORGE BUTLER.**  
Shanghai, 3rd July, 1873.

The firm failed and he returned to England but Shanghai drew him back to start another company Balfour Butler and Co. The Balfour in the company name was Mr Frederic Henry Balfour who later became the Editor of the *North China Daily News*. Their business failed in 1873, George's second failure, but they both stayed in

Shanghai to try again. George started his third business as a tea broker which this time was successful. He managed it for thirty-five years until he left Shanghai in 1908 owing to his failing health and returned 'home' to England.

George had a cheery and genial disposition, which earned him a large circle of friends with whom he happily played billiards or cards. He was an active member of the Trinity Cathedral's pew renters who, in return for renting a pew from the Cathedral, had a say in how the church was run. The Holy Trinity Cathedral is where we first find a record of Thomas Drakeford living in Shanghai; acting as an usher at a wedding in May 1907.



*Thomas Goode Drakeford as he appeared in the first rugby interport fixture in 1907.*

Eight months later, Trooper Drakeford came fourth in the Light Horse Handicap riding Albatross,<sup>4</sup> a week later he was first mentioned participating in what would become his lifelong interest, this time riding Seagull, a grey coloured horse, and coming sixth in a paper hunt chase.<sup>5</sup> Thomas was, even at this early stage in his life in Shanghai wealthy enough to own his own horse. Later that year we see another example of his horse-riding prowess, taking part in and scoring at a round robin tournament at the Polo Club.<sup>6</sup> Thomas was a frequent polo player and acquitted himself well playing with and against many of the social elite of the day.

We can follow his career through the annual Hong Lists. The closer his name gets to the company's name in the business listing, the more senior he becomes. He starts off at the bottom – a clerk at Messrs Bradley and Co. Ltd at 72 Szecheun Road. They were agents for a cornucopia of businesses. Within a few years the business transferred to 2a Kiukiang Road, and Thomas had moved closer to the top of the listing in the Hong directory. Sometime in 1926, he left Bradley and Co. after nearly twenty years' service and joined a firm of exchange brokers who for many years he had worked next door to.



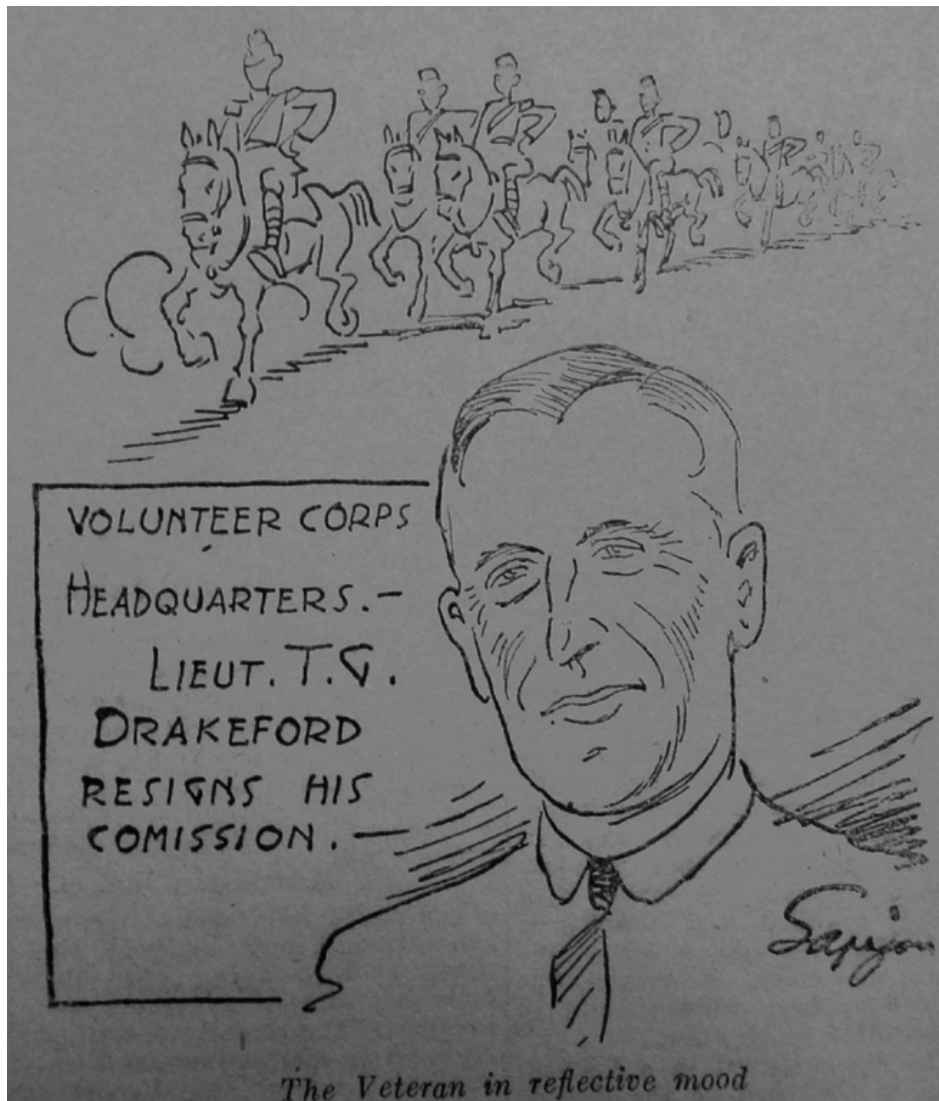
At the time he joined them, Lindsay, Beath and Fawcett had an office at 2 Canton Road near the Bund. By 1926 the partnership's name was Lindsay, Macintyre and Drakeford. A year later the business moved around the corner to the recently completed and magnificent new HSBC Building at 12 The Bund, the most prestigious building on the Bund. The architect's brief at the time was to 'dominate the Bund' which almost ninety years later it still does. As Drakeford prospered, his name again moved up the Hong List and closer to the front of the partnership's name. It became Lindsay, Drakeford and Davis in 1931 and he reached the top of the list and the front of the business name in 1936 when he presided over Drakeford, Davis and Wilson, a culmination of his thirty years in Shanghai.

*Drakeford's career flourished in Shanghai, eventually leading to him being Partner of his own firm of Exchange Brokers in the prestigious HSBC building on the Bund.*

Over the years, Thomas was to be seen attending shareholder meetings of various companies, firms such as the Ewo Cotton, Spinning and Weaving Co Ltd, the Shang- hai Gas Company, Anglo-Java Estates and the Padang Rubber Co. Ltd which both managed rubber plantations. Proposing one motion, seconding the next, he was a regular face at these annual events.

## Recreational Pursuits

Life in Shanghai was much more than just work. For many, including Thomas, those who had the money could keep themselves richly entertained. Thomas's rugby playing days lasted from 1907 to 1913 and he remained member of the club for the next twenty-seven years. He appeared in the first ever interport rugby game, playing against Tientsin in Shanghai's 1907 victory. Rugby was an important sport in the early years and would have been a good way for Thomas to meet influential people and to be noticed. His first passion remained horses. In 1909 he won the heavyweight division of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps Light Horse's Company point-to-point race. In April 1909, thirty officers and men of the Light Horse went

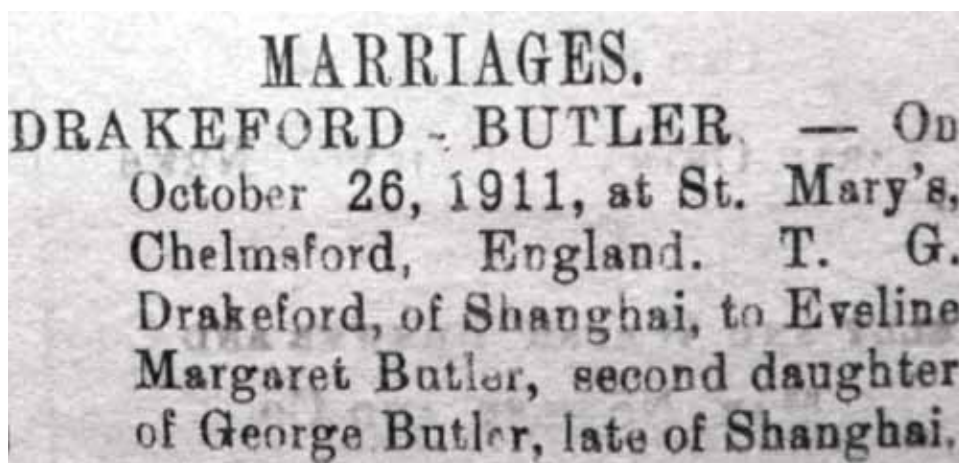


into camp for the Easter Holidays. By now a Sergeant, Drakeford had a successful weekend. His first success was winning the Donald Cup for his skill at shooting; he then came first in the shooting and linking tournament and then triumphed in the barebacked and saddling competition, which involved starting the race bareback, jumping several hurdles, locating their saddles, saddling up and returning to the start via the hurdles..

<sup>7</sup>Drakeford was a keen member of the Shanghai Volunteer Corp's Light Horse Company

In September 1909, Thomas is seen opening the batting in a cricket match between the Light Horse 'A' and 'B' companies. At this event he was not so successful; he was bowled for six and his team lost.<sup>8</sup> Six months later he took part in a boxing bout, fighting fellow club man T Gram.<sup>9</sup> In the same month, now an officer, a Second Lieutenant, Drakeford led seventeen men in the annual Light Horse troop ride. The ride ended in the impressive country grounds of 'Unkaza' on Jessfield Road [Wanghangdu Road], in the grounds of the mansion of Mr and Mrs Jenner Hogg, who provided '*an excellent table of refreshments*'.<sup>10</sup> Continuing his journey up the ranks of the Light Horse Company, Lieutenant Drakeford attended the annual Easter Camp in 1910.<sup>11</sup>

Riding Seagull, in late November 1910 Thomas had his first win at a Paper Hunt Club meet. This earned him the right to wear a coveted pink coat in future rides and to lay the paper trail at the next club meet the following Saturday.<sup>12</sup> It was to be another five years before he won his next race and this was swiftly followed by his third and last win in 1916.<sup>13</sup> All paper hunt routes ran from one point to another, each point having a name referring either to a physical feature, such as Plum Tree Platform, an actual location, such as Moat Farm, or a place named after a member of the Paper Hunt Club. On the Saturday following his third win, Thomas laid the paper trail. The finish was named Drakeford's Dry Cut, the first of several features named after him, others being Drakeford's Jump and Drakeford's Water Jump.<sup>14</sup>



*Marriage notice published in the North China Daily News.*

## Family Life

Thomas Goode Drakeford and Eveline Margaret Butler were married on 26 October 1911 at St Mary's Church in Chelmsford, England.<sup>15</sup> Their first child, Faith Eveline Drakeford, was born on 30 July 1912, at 38 Weihaiwei Road (Weihai Road), a short walk away from the Race Course where Thomas was so active.<sup>16</sup> Less than two years later, on St George's day, the 23 April 1914 a son, Dudley Goode Drakeford, was born at 22 Great Western Road. The third and last child, Beryl, was born 15 August 1917 at 661 Rue Ratard [Julu Road] in the French Concession Area. The house is still there, nestled in a leafy tree lined street that is as pleasant today as it would have been nearly 100 years ago.

Aged thirty-four and married with children Thomas was not required to return to Europe to fight in the First World War. This enabled him to continue to develop his career and cultivate the social relations that would be so important to him over the next twenty-five years.

Although she had borne three children, Mrs T G Drakeford's prowess at playing golf had not faltered. She won the ladies' championship in 1906 as Miss Butler, and was runner up in 1909, she won the championship again in 1919.<sup>17</sup> In 1916 she was playing tennis mixed doubles at the Country Club.<sup>18</sup> The summer holidays of 1916 were spent at Weihaiwei. Mother and children would travel up and Father would join them as his time allowed. The *North China Daily News* in 1921 featured the resort and listed those staying there for the summer, including the Drakefords. The report commented that '*Weihaiwei is more popular than ever before as a refuge in hot weather. The place is crowded: late applicants for rooms at the hotels cannot be accommodated*'.<sup>19</sup>

After ten years in Shanghai, life was good for Thomas. He had found a wife, had three healthy children, and established himself in business. He was a member of numerous clubs and a leading light in the Light Horse Company and the Paper Hunt Club.

Beryl aged just six was bridesmaid at a wedding at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in 1922. '*The bridesmaids presented a fascinating picture dressed as they were in pale yellow satin with overdress of organdie, and they carried gold baskets filled with pale mauve sweet peas*'.<sup>20</sup>



*Eveline Margaret Drakeford  
nee Butler in 1930*

## **Club Life**

In the 1920s Thomas joined the committee of the progressive Union Club of China. It was founded in 1919 '*to bring Chinese, American and British business men together in their leisure hours and to bring together also such Chinese, American and British representative of officialdom as are in close touch with the business and governance of the port.—and this with the sole aim of fostering mutual understanding, mutual goodwill and the good fellowship which comes from common membership in a society of this kind*'.<sup>21</sup>



*Faith Eveline Drakeford, born 30 July  
1912 aged 18.*



*Beryl Drakeford in 1932 aged 14.*

As well as embracing the Chinese, it also allowed ladies to enter the club.

In the summer of 1924 the club moved from its old location in the old Chartered Bank Building on the Bund to new premises at 38 Avenue Edward VII [Yanan Road (East)] between Szechuen and Kiangse Roads. The May thirtieth movement of 1925 referred to in Chapter 8 had a significant impact on the Union Club. Thomas and his fellow elected members of the committee wrestled with how to deal with fallout from the shootings. In the minutes of the AGM following the shooting they reported that; *through some misunderstanding some members thought that our British members did not make enough active effort to secure a just settlement of the trouble, but this impression was corrected soon afterwards when the committee*

*passed a resolution expressing regrets for the unfortunate occurrence and pledging their efforts in fostering and maintaining the friendly relationship existing between the nationalities represented in this club.*<sup>22</sup>

This was toned down from the original statement published in the newspapers soon after the event which read: *'the Committee of the Union Club of China deeply deplore the unfortunate incident of 30 May, 1925, and heartily support and will do all in their power to forward the proposal for a joint impartial enquiry into the same.'*<sup>23</sup>

Thomas remained very active in the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club throughout the 1920s and 1930s. In 1925 he was elected a Steward for the first time. In 1929, his fifth year as a Steward, the first Chinese Steward was elected. The report of the meeting said that *'there was an unusual demonstration (sic) when Mr Stanley Wang's name was put forward because, although the club for many years has had a large number of Chinese followers, modesty hitherto has prevented them nominating a Steward. Mr Wang however claims hunting experience in the Shires as well as in Shanghai and the members were enthusiastic about his election.'*<sup>24</sup> One doubts whether modesty had much to do with not offering themselves as stewards but the ongoing effects of the May thirtieth incident were making themselves felt in the Shanghailander's Shanghai. It was later noted that Stanley Wang had *'already in his first season, done good service in overcoming the difficulties confronting the Club. These are more serious at the present time than ever before.'*<sup>25</sup> The 'difficulties' would likely have been the perennial problem of the complaints and protests by the emboldened Chinese living in the countryside over which the Club rode, causing damage to crops and burial grounds.





*T G Drakeford on his mount in 1931.*

## **Family Days**

The growing family moved to 53 Great Western Road [Yanan Road (West)] in 1929. In January 1932, Thomas made an appearance on Shanghai Radio talking about the Paper Hunt Club. The talk consisted of a series of stories about the Club and concluded with a generous eulogy about the ubiquitous China pony, the horse that most people in Shanghai rode, originating from the Mongolian plains. Thomas said that he had read that the China pony was dangerous at both ends and damned uncomfortable in the middle, and went on to fondly describe one such pony he owned. The beast in question started off being

quite troublesome on account of the bad treatment he had received prior to Thomas acquiring him; through perseverance *'he became the most manageable pony I have ever ridden. I even taught my children to ride on him. He would follow me anywhere, even in the face of firecrackers and rifle-fire without flinching and it was owing to this quality that I won the Light Horse Victoria Cross race three years running. He became one might say as brave as a lion and as gentle as a dove.'*<sup>26</sup>



*The Stewards of the Paper Hunt Club represented the social elite of Shanghai. This photograph shows the Stewards from the 1926 - 27 season. Standing T G Drakeford, G L Wilson, H M Spence, B D F Beith, sitting N L Sparke, Dr C Noel Davis and H W Lester.*



*John Edmund Jupp playing for Shanghai against Hankow in 1924.*

Children became adults. Aged eighteen, Faith was one of the debutantes at the Caledonian Ball in 1930, and in August 1932 her engagement was announced to John Edmund Jupp, whose family had previously lived in Hong Kong. Born in 1902, Jupp had played rugby for Shanghai in the mid-1920s and had served on the Club's committee. It was perhaps through this connection that the couple first met. They were married on 8 December 1932, in the same Cathedral where Faith's grandfather Butler had rented the pews almost fifty years earlier, and where we first encountered her father attending a wedding twenty-five years before.

After the wedding service, a reception was held for more than 300 guests at one of the best and newest hotels in Shanghai, the art deco style Metropole Hotel. No expense was spared. Thomas hired the orchestra from the Cathay Hotel, a short rickshaw ride away to entertain his guests.<sup>27</sup> Despite the expense of a large wedding, times were good enough for Thomas and family to move into one of the large houses on Avenue Haig, number 460, a distinguished address in the French Concession.

A daughter, Susanna Jane, was born in Hong Kong 21 August 1933 to the newly married couple.<sup>28</sup> Susanna recalled that she was always excited to take the three-day boat journey to Shanghai to visit her grandparents at their house in Avenue Haig. Arriving at the 'exotic' Bund, they were met by a car or a rickshaw, which for the young Susanna was a thrilling way to be taken to her grandparents' house.

One of Susanna's early memories is being allowed to snuggle up in bed with her grandparents underneath a shocking pink eiderdown. Another recollection is her grandfather's (whom she called 'Pop') habit of rolling in the palm of his hand two highly polished walnuts, (a common habit among Chinese men), which helped him to relax and make difficult decisions. She also recalls that after going on paper hunts, Thomas would return home late morning to sit down to an enormous breakfast, waited on by two servants. The servants were organised by Thomas's wife Eveline, who Susanna recalls was a very attractive, kind, upright and young woman.

The family often visited their retreat in the countryside at Hungjao. The retreat had a beautiful large garden, a summerhouse and a creek with a barge which could be rowed down the river.<sup>29</sup> It was regularly used at the weekend to entertain friends and at Easter for Easter egg hunts.

Beryl who was by now an Aunty appeared in the 258<sup>th</sup> production of the Amateur Dramatic Company, playing Buttons in the fairy tale *Cinderella* in January 1937. Later that year she went to the St George's Coronation Ball with her parents at the French Club. In the company of more than 1,000 other guests they celebrated the stuttering King George VI's coronation.



*Japanese troops guarding Garden Bridge in 1937.*

The Coronation Ball would have been a welcome opportunity to relax for Shanghai residents, who must have been worrying about the intentions of the Japanese. The battle for Shanghai, which raged from mid-August to late November 1937, leading to several hundred thousand casualties was only months away. After the Battle of Shanghai, travel into the Japanese occupied area was still allowed. Susanna remembers being escorted on day trips with her Chinese nanny to the occupied lands outside of the International Settlement. All the exit points into Japanese territory were guarded, on one side by the Western troops from and on the other by Japanese troops. On reaching the border, her car was stopped, a Japanese sentry with a bayoneted gun leant into the window and said, 'you very nice girl, I give you flower,' and they gave her a little bunch of flowers, leaving a suitably positive impression on a young girl.

## **Memorial on the Bund.**

On account of the recent battle in Shanghai and the fact that they were surrounded by the Japanese, the traditional ball was not held. Instead there was an informal reception. In proposing the toast, Thomas said:



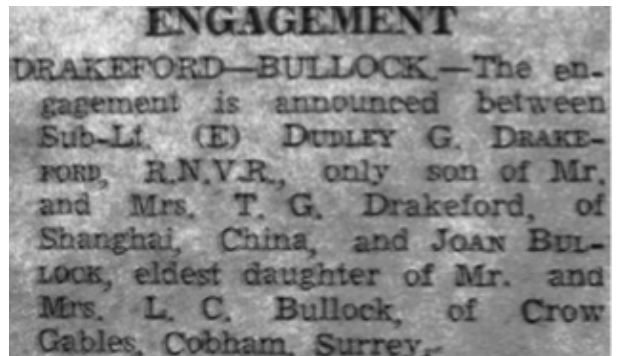
*With the great heritage that we [the English] possess, it is good that we should remember at times, with pride, the great men and women who have gone before us, though we often forget them. I wonder what those people of the past would have done under conditions such as we have prevailing today, not only here, but all over the world. I think probably, what we are going to do and what the qualities of Englishmen best enable us to do – that is "Stick it out". For us today in China there seems to be but little daylight ahead, but if we "Stick it out" I have no doubt that at the end of this unhappy struggle, we shall be better off than we can foresee or hope at the moment.<sup>30</sup>*

*Drakeford as the President of the Royal Society of St George (Shanghai Branch) laying a wreath at the War Memorial on the Bund on St George's Day 1938*



*Caricature of T G Drakeford riding in a Paper Hunt.*

In these worrying times, Thomas still had his beloved Paper Hunt Club, he was still a Steward in 1940. Lifting the gloom, his son's engagement was announced in March 1940 to Joan Bullock. The marriage took place in Cobham, in Surrey, England on 4 October 1940. Dudley was a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, sadly his parents could not attend the wedding.



*Engagement announcement for Dudley Goode Drakeford and Joan Bullock in 1940.*

Aged sixty, in the spring of 1940, Thomas suffered a minor stroke. He was unable to 'stick it out' any more. At the end of the year he left Shanghai with his wife and youngest daughter Beryl. They travelled to Sydney, Australia, where his eldest daughter Faith, her husband Edmund and grand- daughters Susanna and Phillipa were already residing. They settled down in a large house in the Bellevue Hill District of Sydney near Bondi beach at 101 Victoria Road.

*T G Drakeford pictured in his office overlooking the Bund in 1938.*



## A Death At Home And At Sea

At this idyllic location, Thomas suffered another stroke. Susanna recalls that he learned to roll cigarettes with one hand in order to overcome his partial disability. Thomas died on 4 June 1943 and was buried in Sydney. Happily there were many old friends from Shanghai, fellow refugees from the War, who were able to attend his funeral. A belated obituary appeared in the *North China Daily News* after the war in January 1946.<sup>31</sup> The war had not been kind to Thomas's family. The better times he had hoped for in his speech on St George's Day 1938 never arrived for him, his son and son-in-law.



*Dudley Drakeford in 1932 aged 18.*

His son Dudley lost his life at sea. He had been educated at Charterhouse School and Clare College, Cambridge. In 1934 he started work for the engineering firm Babcock and Wilcox Ltd. He was a talented skier coming second in the Alpine Kandahar Race and was the Scottish ski champion in 1939 and a recipient of the prestigious Gold 'K' award by the Kandahar Ski Club.<sup>32</sup> That year he joined the Royal Navy attaining the rank of Lieutenant.<sup>33</sup> His engagement to Joan Bullock was announced in March 1940.<sup>34</sup> Prior to joining his final ship, he had previously served on the cruiser *Birmingham* and HMS *Bulldog*. He saw a lot of action taking part in the Malta and Russian convoys and the landings at Oran, Sicily and the D-Day landing at Normandy. Just six weeks after D-Day he was killed along with 154 of his shipmates while on anti-submarine patrol on 20 July 1944, aged 30.<sup>35</sup> His ship HMS *Isis* was sunk by a mine or torpedo off Arromanches, Normandy.

A letter to Dudley's wife from one of the survivors, Captain Douglas Beaton, written on 2 August 1944 gave more details about his fate;

*Your husband "Chiefy" as we called him was on the same float as myself. He seemed so well and was a great cheer to us all constantly asking after my leg which was broken. At about one o'clock he became rather quiet. I spoke to him and he complained of feeling tired. I tried to rouse him but he just drifted into a coma in which he died. We said a short prayer over him. It may help to know that he spent more time in the water than any of the others on the raft to ease the weight and his conduct to the last was of the greatest help to us all. We were picked up at six in the morning, having been in the water twelve hours. I fear your husband's death was due to shock, as were seven others we lost that night, but I give you my word that it would have been to him but a falling asleep.<sup>36</sup>*

Dudley's brother in law John Edmund Jupp (known as Edmund) returned from Australia to Hong Kong by seaplane in order to continue his work with J D Humphries and Son and to be ready to help defend the Colony. On the day he left he came into Susanna's bedroom at five in the morning and said, *'I want you to be a really good girl, Susanna, and look after your mother for me'*. Susanna replied *'I will, Daddy I will.'* It was the last time they spoke.

## **The Fight For Hong Kong**

The Japanese invaded Hong Kong on 8 December 1941. The soldiers and volunteers desperately defended Hong Kong against overwhelming odds for sixteen days. The defenders were under instructions from London to resist to the end, and were firmly told that the honour of the Empire was in their hands.<sup>37</sup> In a letter written to Jupp's Father in July 1944 by Warrant Officer Benjamin 'Benny' Proulx he confirms that Edmund was with other volunteers from the Hong Kong Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve at the Repulse Bay Hotel on the island of Hong Kong. This is one of the more famous battles in the defence of Hong Kong. Proulx wrote *'in spite of his sore leg he worked like a Trojan with me at the Repulse Bay Hotel and came with me in the sorties in the tunnel... Two French-Canadian soldiers from the Gaspé district of Canada, Juppo and myself spent a lot of time holding a small section of the hotel against the Japs who were overlooking us on the hillside surrounding the hotel.'*<sup>38</sup>

Once captured he found himself moved around three internment camps, Sham Shui Po, Argyle Street and Stanley. Conditions were very harsh, disease was rife and it was a struggle to find medicine to treat the wounds of the injured. The prisoners were not given enough to eat and many were forced to perform hard labour. Proulx was one of the few people to successfully escape from Stanley prison into free China and in 1943 published a book about his escape titled *Underground From Hong Kong*. Jupp and Proulx were friends before the war and shared an interest in horse racing. Proulx suggested in his letter that had Jupp been fully fit, he would have also tried to escape with Proulx but his injured leg prevented him from attempting the arduous journey.

## **The Tragedy Of The Lisbon Maru**

In mid-September 1942, Jupp found himself as part of a second draft of prisoners selected to travel to Japan to work in labour camps. Two thousand men were required by the Japanese and the strongest were selected. Only 1,834 men could be found who were considered fit enough to make the journey. The selected men were inoculated and embarked onto the *Lisbon Maru* on 25 September 1942. The ship set sail for Yokohama on the twenty-seventh. The men were held in three separate holds. They were locked in, with very little water and food and no toilet facilities. The conditions for the already weakened men were appalling and many grew weaker over the next four days.

On 1 October the American Submarine USS *Grouper*, not knowing that prisoners of war were on board torpedoed the *Lisbon Maru* and severely damaged it. However it remained afloat for twenty-four hours and limped closer to the coast of China. When it became apparent that the boat could not be saved, the Japanese abandoned the ship, leaving the prisoners locked inside the holds. Eventually the prisoners managed to batter their way out and tried to save themselves. About 800 died as they were swept out to sea or dashed against the rocky coast.

*The Lisbon Maru  
sunk in October 1942.*



Only when it became apparent that there would be survivors did the Japanese show any interest in helping to save the struggling prisoners. Some, including Jupp, who was a strong swimmer, managed to swim to land. They were helped by local Chinese villagers who at great risk to themselves fed and housed the shipwrecked men. After a few days, the Japanese recaptured Jupp and he was taken to Shanghai.

A few days later he was made to board the *Washington Maru* (also known as the *Shinsei Maru*) and sailed to Moji in Japan. Men died at every stage of the journey, and once in Japan groups of sick and dying were left at each stop. After arriving in Moji in the evening of 10 October, the survivors boarded a train which travelled firstly to Kokura, thence to Hiroshima, and on to Kobe. At Kobe, a group of about 350 men including Jupp left the train and were marched to Osaka #2 Branch Camp (Kobe) arriving around 13:30 on the eleventh. It was here that Warrant Officer John Edmund Jupp a husband to Faith Eveline and father of two small girls died during the night of 12 October 1942, the first of many to die in that camp. Owing to a shortage of coffins his body was placed in an apple barrel prior to being cremated.<sup>39</sup>



*The grave of John Edmund Jupp at the  
Yokohama War Cemetery.*

#### Endnotes:

- 1 Sourced from unpublished genealogical research by Timothy Drakeford and Jeremy Drakeford
- 2 *North China Herald*, 2 December 1911
- 3 *North China Herald*, 25 September 1915, p848
- 4 *North China Herald*, 24 January 1908, p187
- 5 *North China Herald*, 7 February 1908, p310
- 6 *North China Herald*, 4 July 1908, p924
- 7 *North China Herald*, 17 April 1909, p137
- 8 *North China Herald*, 25 September 1909, p718
- 9 *North China Herald*, 11 March 1910, p568
- 10 *North China Herald*, 18 March 1910, p601
- 11 *North China Herald*, 1 April 1910, p10
- 12 *North China Herald*, 2 December 1910, p539
- 13 C Noel Davis, M D, *A History of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club, 1863-1930*, Shanghai, 1930
- 14 C Noel Davis, M D, *A History of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club, 1863-1930*, Shanghai, 1930
- 15 *North China Herald*, 2 December 1911
- 16 *North China Herald*, 3 August 1912
- 17 *North China Herald*, 17 December 1921
- 18 *North China Herald*, 10 June 1916
- 19 *North China Herald*, 20 August 1921, p537
- 20 *North China Herald*, 29 April 1922, p313
- 21 *North China Herald*, 4 October 1919, p37
- 22 *North China Herald*, 27 March 1926, p577
- 23 *North China Herald*, 20 June 1925, p470
- 24 *North China Herald*, 23 November 1929
- 25 C Noel Davis, M D, *A History of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club, 1863-1930*, Shanghai, 1930, p35
- 26 *North China Herald*, 12 January 1932
- 27 Both the Metropole and Cathay buildings remain hotels today
- 28 Susanna Franklyn became an actress in the UK. As Susanna Carroll, she acted in four 1965 episodes of Dr Who alongside William Hartnell, Maureen O'Brien and Peter Purves. Her second marriage was to William Franklyn who, amongst other things, was famous as the star of a long-running 'you-know -who' Schweppes television advert.
- 29 Sourced from an interview of Susanna Franklyn (nee Jupp) by Jeremy Drakeford 5 September 2011
- 30 *North China Herald*, 27 April 1938
- 31 *North China Daily News*, 13 January 1946
- 32 *The Times*, 24 August 1944
- 33 Sourced from <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Surrey/GodalmingCharthouseSchool-WW2.html>
- 34 *North China Daily News*, 27 March 1940
- 35 Sourced from <http://www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk/churches/cathedral/isis.htm>
- 36 Unpublished letter provided by Jeremy Drakeford from family archives
- 37 Tony Banham, *Not the Slightest Chance*, Hong Kong, 2005, p193
- 38 Unpublished letter held by Susanna Franklyn (daughter of Edmund Jupp) written 10 July 1944
- 39 Summarised from Tony Banham, *Not the Slightest Chance*, Hong Kong, 2005, p193 and Tony Banham, *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru*, Hong Kong, 2006