

**MAURICE J. L. TURNBULL - Major 107563****Age 38****Commanding No.2 Company  
1st Battalion Welsh Guards**

Killed in action at Monchamp, 4th August 1944

**Buried** at Bayeux War Cemetery , France XX. C. 3.**Commemorated** - Harthill War Memorial

Husband of Elizabeth, and father of Sara, Simon and Georgina, Thorpe Road, Harthill.

Major Turnbull was educated at Downside School and was the husband of Son of Philip B. and Ann M. Turnbull, and the son-in-law of W. J. Brooke, Esq., J.P., of The Hollies, Harthill.

Maurice Joseph Lawson Turnbull was born in Cardiff on 16 March 1906. Maurice played cricket for Glamorgan whilst still a 17 year old schoolboy.

At Cambridge he captained the university cricket team before going on to captain Glamorgan.

He was an outstanding rugby player, playing as a half-back for both the Cambridge University and Cardiff, and went on to win two Welsh caps in 1932.

He was Glamorgan's first ever Test Cricketer, and played nine times for England. In 1938, he became a test selector.

On the 7 September 1939, Maurice married Elizabeth C R Brooke in Scunthorpe, and they had three children, Sara, Simon and Georgina, whose births were registered in the Rother Valley District. The family lived on Thorpe Road, Harthill.

On 27 January 1944, he was Lieutenant, Temporary Captain, in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards (No.2 Company Second-in-Command). By 4 August 1944 he had been promoted to Major and was now in charge of No.2 Company

.../continued over

Maurice was killed in action near Montchamp, Normandy. On 4 August 1944, during an attack, his company was cut off and while making a reconnaissance he was shot through the head by a sniper, he died instantaneously.

### **Extract from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Welsh Guards War Diary**

*1944 August 4 - MONTCHAMP*

*...The forward Companies had no alternative but to withdraw slightly as they were without tanks and supporting arms, and surrounded by tanks.*

*No. 4 Company, which had heard enemy digging in 150 yards to the front, then were withdrawn by Major EVANS to conform to the Battalion position.*

*The enemy did not follow up this counter-attack and there the matter rested.*

*Casualties were Major TURNBULL and Lieutenant LESTER killed and Captain Sir RICHARD POWELL missing.*

*After fighting an outstanding gallant action, 33 Other Ranks killed and 78 wounded.*

Maurice was killed instantly by a sniper's bullet during the intense fighting. His body was recovered from the battlefield by one of his men, Sergeant Fred Llewellyn, and his personal possessions were sent home to his family.

### ***BBC News Wednesday, 5 December 2001***

#### ***Family thank veteran for courage***

*A war veteran who rescued the body of his commanding officer during the Normandy landings has held an emotional meeting with the dead man's family.*

*Sergeant Fred Llewellyn of the Welsh Guards spotted the body of Major Turnbull and carried him away from the frontline.*

*Mr Llewellyn found a photograph of the officer's wife and children in his wallet.*

*He made sure the wallet and other personal possessions were returned to the Turnbull family.*

*Mr Llewellyn met with the son and daughters of Major Turnbull, 56 years on.*

*After meeting the man who recovered her father's body, his daughter Georgina said: "I know that my father was looked after and that the honour of the man was properly shown by Fred Llewellyn."*

*His son Simon added: "I will never forget the duty and care shown to my father."*