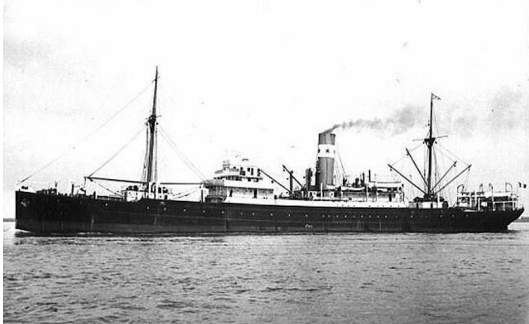


	Norman Downing	Newgate Street	Source: Returning Forces Fund
Born	Bingham 31/10/1918		
War Service	<p>Research Note: Three entries in Ancestry.co.uk strongly suggest that in 1942 Norman was a member of civilian technical corps, based in Bournemouth</p> <p>A group of 12 men travelled to Montreal on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1942 from Barry Island. (Outward passenger list, "SS Forbin", Canadian Pacific Line. Ancestry.) They were the only passengers. Norman was aged 25; the passenger list gave his middle initial as "F" not "W". Their "home" address was given as Civilian Technical Corps, Eglan Court, 7 Knyveton Road, Bournemouth which was a hotel at that time. Various web sites (including IWM) show the corps as being based in hotels in Bournemouth.</p> <p>The SS Forbin was taken over by the Ministry of War Transport of the British Government in 1940 – under the management of Bibby Brothers. She served as a Special Service Vessel.</p>		 <p>SS Forbin, Clyde maritime.co.uk.</p> <p>The <b>Civilian Technical Corps</b> was an American quasi-military uniformed organization raised in 1941 in the United States of America, to directly assist with the war effort within the United Kingdom. The Corps was manned by volunteer civilians. Statement in House of Commons shows the corps was open to British nationals living overseas as well as American personnel.</p> <p>Their support role was primarily in connection with RADAR and radio, but was extended across a wide range of areas over time. They wore a uniform identical to the wartime Royal Air Force, but with unusual wreath-and-bars non-commissioned rank badges instead of chevrons, of the same design as those issued to members of the Royal Observer Corps, another semi-military air force corps within the UK during the same era.</p> <p>(Wikipedia)</p>
1939 Register	Chapel Yard, Newgate Street Helene Kate Downing, b.13 April 1875 Charles Downing, b. 29 Jan 1908	Unpaid domestic duties Burcher and slaughterman	

	<p><b>Norman Downing</b>, b. 31 Oct 1918  Lawrence Sharpe, b. 14 Nov 1892  Lewis Bell, b. 27 Mar 1918  Frederick Sandford, b. 21 Jan 1901  Alfred Auster, b. 27 Jan 1904</p>	<p>Telephone switchboard inspector and tester  Journeyman Baker  Railway porter  Plasterer contractor  Plasterer contractor</p>	
Family (i.e. parents, siblings spouse from post 1911 records)	<p>Aileen G Downing, b. Bingham Sept qtr. 1912; mother's maiden name Horsepoole  Norman Downing b. Dec qtr. Bingham, 1918; mother's maiden name Horsepoole.  Father presumed to be Arthur William Downing in both cases.</p>		
Census 1911 Father's Family	<p>Newgate Street, Bingham  Arthur William Downing b 1870, Lenton  Helena Kate Downing (née Horsepoole), b. 1876, Bingham  Helena Kate Downing b.1895, Bingham  Frank S Downing b.1898 Bingham  Anne M Downing b.1900 Bingham  Sydney Downing b.1902 Bingham  George Downing b. 1904 Bingham  Charley Downing b. 1906 Bingham  Lilly C Downing b. 1908 Bingham  Rose Downing b. 1910 Bingham</p>	<p>Butcher   Helps at Home  School  School</p>	<p>1893 Arthur William Downing married Kezia Worthington Bingham</p>
Parents' marriage	<p>GRO Records show that in April 1893 Arthur William Downing married Kezia Worthington in Bingham, there is no mention of Helene Horsepoole. We think there has been some sort of unresolvable clerical error here. The register page shows two males names, Downing and Fisher, but only one female, Worthington. Ancestry family trees show Kezia Wilson married John Wothington and after his death Stephen Fisher. Downing family tree and subsequent census returns show Arthur married to Helene Horsepoole.</p>		
Census 1891 Mother's Family	<p>Grantham Road, Bingham  Thomas Horsepoole, b. 1849 Bingham  Hannah Horsepoole, b.1846 Radcliffe on Trent  10 children, Helene known as Nelly was 4<sup>th</sup> child.</p>	<p>Butcher</p>	
Free BMD/Ancestry Marriage details	<p>Norman married Nora L Thoburn in Sudbury, Suffolk October 1941. He was an electrician.  Children</p>		

Children	Michael K Downing Oct 1944 Sudbury Brian P Downing April 1948 Nottingham Janet M Downing April 1950 Nottingham		
Wife's family 1939	11 Queen's Road, Sudbury Bertie Parsonson, Ellen Parsonson <i>Closed record</i> <i>Close record</i> <i>Closed record</i> Nora Thoburn b. 14 July 1915	Foreman printer Housewife  Silk Designer	
Post War			
Death register	Norman died Nottingham 6 August 1970, 16 Birch Avenue Beeston; £7745. Cremation arranged by Nora Little Downing.		
England and Wales Probate calendar	Helena Kate Downing, 16 August 1961; Chestnut Avenue, Bingham £2362 to Frank Downing, Butcher and Norman Downing, electrical instrument inspector		