

Dear Jeff (Godfrey),

Thank you for your response concerning Mr Herbert Lott.

The Trustees of the Herbert Lott Naval Trust Fund did discuss the build of a Grave with curb-stones etc but had 2 concerns:

- Continuing maintenance. Unlike the War graves that are immaculately maintained, costs would have to be met from the fund – a continuing expense that would in effect be outside the objectives of the Charitable fund.
- The Trustees felt that a memorial of some sort needs to be in the RN's eye and appropriately that would be in HM Naval Base with St Ann's being cited as the most obvious answer. Certainly, more RN personnel would see such a memorial there than the grave itself – and that really was the main point the Trustees discussed. Recognising the grave has an importance – but how many sailors would visit Wallingford Town Cemetery to visit the grave??

Historically we know little more than the following about Mr Herbert Lott and therefore anyone who has taken as much time as yourself to research the background has unique information, for which we are grateful and certainly the RN should be aware of. The following sums up the main knowledge of Mr Herbert Lott – and I guess that even in that, there will be some inaccuracies:

Mr Herbert Lott was a member of the London Stock Exchange and was extremely interested in the Royal Navy and the part it played in the defence of the Commonwealth. In 1928 he opened negotiations with the Admiralty for the creation of a Trust Fund and made an initial donation of £20,000, which he increased shortly after by another £5,000. The Herbert Lott Naval Trust Fund was instituted in 1930 to make awards to "those who shall show marked efficiency or shall contribute in signal degree to the improvement of the appliances of the Naval and Marine Forces". When Mr Lott died in 1948 he left the whole of the residue of his estate (over £100,000) to the Trust Fund that bears his name.

Could I suggest that we arrange a date later in August or early September for a meeting as the rest of this month with the build up to IFOS is looking rather hectic and July will be recovery from that event??

I look forward to hearing from you.

Stephen F Carter

Cdr RN

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