

OBITUARY.**COMMANDER R. R. GRAHAM, D.S.O., R.N.**

It was with great regret that we learnt of the death of Commander R. R. Graham, who was killed in action on May 3rd, 1940, when serving in the French destroyer *Bison* off the Norwegian coast.

Robert Rule Graham was the second son of Mr. James Graham, C.B.E. He joined the Navy from Charterhouse in 1918. Following service in the Aircraft-carrier *Eagle*, he qualified as air-pilot in 1924 and for the next ten years served with units of the Fleet Air Arm in home waters, the Mediterranean and China. He was promoted to commander in December, 1934, and continued to command squadrons in the Fleet Air Arm until 1936 when he was appointed to the Naval Air Division. In 1937 he was lent to the Air Ministry for duty in the Department of Research and Development. In February, 1939, he was appointed to the *Exeter* and was awarded the D.S.O. for his services in action in the battle with the *Graf Spee*.

In 1930 Graham contributed to this journal a highly interesting series of articles on "Safety Devices in Wings of Birds" (*antea*, Vol. XXIV, pp. 2-21, 34-47, 58-65). Subsequently he made further studies of the subject, the results of which were published in aeronautical journals, and his researches led to some development of the safety devices in aeroplanes.

Ornithologists will deplore the death of such an authority on the flight of birds and the Navy has lost an exceedingly keen and very able officer, and one whom a fellow officer in the *Exeter* has described as "magnificent in action."