



KNOWN AGAIN

A REAL FAMILY-HISTORY INVESTIGATION

The disappearance of June Cameron and her nurse

How passenger records, contemporary reports and official sources tested a family story carried for more than 90 years.

THE PERSON

June Cameron

THE EVENT

4 August 1935

PUBLICATION

With family permission



HOW TO READ THIS CASE

A family account was the beginning, not the conclusion.

Lucy Cameron wanted to know whether records survived about the loss of her aunt June and the child’s nurse from a passenger ship in 1935. She also hoped the place could be identified.

DOCUMENTED

Direct evidence

A fact stated in a primary source or supported by closely matching records.

STRONGLY INDICATED

Responsible inference

The evidence points in one direction, but a confirming record is still missing.

UNRESOLVED

Not yet proved

A family account or lead that must not be presented as established fact.

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THE STARTING ACCOUNT

Could the record tell the family what happened?

“Did records survive, and could the place where it happened be identified?”

The family knew that June and her nurse had disappeared during a return voyage towards Malaya. A later account said the nurse had filled a suitcase with rocks and deliberately taken them both into the sea.

RECORDS

Yes

Contemporary newspapers, passenger indexes, ship records and later family sources survived.

PLACE

Broad area only

Off the Pembrokeshire coast, probably on the southbound passage near St George’s Channel.

FAMILY ACCOUNT

Unresolved

The weighted-suitcase account was not confirmed by the accessible contemporary reports.

The responsible answer was not a precise map pin or a dramatic verdict. It was the most exact account the located evidence could support.



RECONSTRUCTING THE EVENT

Several small records formed one defensible sequence.

17 SEPTEMBER 1934

John Austen Cameron, Margaret Elizabeth Cameron, Anne and June arrive in London from Rangoon aboard the Oxfordshire.

2 AUGUST 1935

An outward passenger index places the family on the Shropshire, travelling towards Colombo. June appears to have been mistranscribed as “Jane”.

4 AUGUST 1935

Contemporary reports state that 21-month-old June and her Chinese nurse disappeared at lunchtime off the Pembroke coast.

THE SEARCH

The reports say the vessel stopped and circled the spot for over an hour. No trace of June or the nurse was found.

22 MARCH 1937

A Malaya newspaper later records Dr and Mrs Cameron travelling with two children. The children are not named.

FAMILY CONFIRMATION

Lucy later confirmed that John Philip Cameron was her father, with Anne and June his elder sisters and another brother born after him.



EVIDENCE BOUNDARIES

What could, and could not, be supported.

DOCUMENTED

June, the ship and the date

Contemporary reports name 21-month-old June Cameron, the Shropshire and Sunday 4 August 1935.

DOCUMENTED

The broad location and search

The disappearance occurred off the Pembroke coast. The ship stopped and searched, but no exact position was located.

INDICATED

Two candidates for the nurse

Chinese-named passengers appear on the relevant family journeys. Neither is conclusively tied to the Cameron household.

UNRESOLVED

The weighted suitcase

No accessible contemporary source confirms this detail. Silence in a brief newswire report does not make the family account false.

UNRESOLVED

The exact place at sea

A precise location would go beyond the evidence until the ship's official papers are examined.



TESTING THE FAMILY ACCOUNT

The record neither proved the later explanation nor dismissed it.

PART OF THE ACCOUNT

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SAYS

JUDGEMENT

June and the nurse disappeared together

Stated by four accessible contemporary reports derived from a Reuter dispatch.

DOCUMENTED

They went overboard

The crew's sea search makes this the evident assumption, although no accessible report describes an eyewitness.

STRONG INFERENCE

A suitcase contained rocks

Not mentioned in the accessible reports or the public indexes checked for longer British articles.

FAMILY ACCOUNT

The nurse deliberately killed June

No official finding or contemporary statement establishing intent has yet been located.

UNRESOLVED

Absence is not disproof. A short report may omit evidence discovered in a cabin. The proper finding is that the claim has not yet been independently corroborated.



WHAT ELSE EMERGED

A focused question opened into a much wider history.

Three generations of doctors

June's mother, Dr Margaret Elizabeth Cameron, was medically qualified. So were both of Margaret's parents, Thomas Clerkson Paterson and Frances Annie Leete, who worked in medical missions in Shantung, China.

A wartime story corrected

June's father, Dr John Cameron, was interned in Singapore and later appointed MBE for his service. An official New Zealand notice placed Margaret in Auckland by May 1942, correcting the belief that both grandparents endured the same long internment.

“You not only found out what happened to her, but the ship and where the tragedy happened. We could not have done this without you, and it means so much to us.”

LUCY CAMERON · JUNE'S NIECE

The finished private report ran to 30 pages. It joined the central investigation to a sourced family reconstruction, 31 numbered references and a clear list of records that could take the work further.



SELECTED SOURCE TRAIL

The evidence behind the account.

1. *The Straits Times*, “Baby Overboard”, 5 August 1935.
2. *Singapore Free Press*, “Child and Nurse Overboard”, 5 August 1935.
3. *Pinang Gazette*, “Shocking Tragedy at Sea”, 5 August 1935.
4. *Straits Budget*, “Baby Overboard”, 8 August 1935.
5. UK incoming passenger-list index, Oxfordshire, 17 September 1934.
6. UK outward passenger-list index, Shropshire, 2 August 1935.
7. CLIP vessel and archive-holdings record for Shropshire, official no. 149601.
8. *New Zealand Gazette*, 14 May 1942, p. 1414.
9. *The London Gazette*, 1 January 1946, p. 63.
10. J. A. P. Cameron, “Surgery in a Japanese Prison Camp on Singapore Island”, 1947.
11. University of Edinburgh medical degree list, 1888.
12. Baptist Missionary Society annual reports, including 1911 and 1912.

Ship’s official log

For the exact position, timings, search and any cabin evidence.

Original manifests

To compare the nurse candidates and inspect occupation or household notes.

Longer British reports

For details that may have been omitted from the brief Reuter account.

Evacuation records

To establish how and when Margaret reached New Zealand.

What question has your family never quite answered?

Tell us the story as you know it. We will assess the likely records and propose a fixed first scope. knownagain.co.uk · hello@knownagain.co.uk