Colin Esmonde Marshalll Crabtree





Rank: - Lieutenant

Service: - Royal Navy H.M.S. Stanley

Died: - Missing 19/12/1941 Age: 22 years

Memorial: - Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 44, Column 3.

Colin Esmonde Marshall was born on 1 Jun 1919, registered Leeds the only son of Arthur Eastwood and Margaret Evelyn Crabtree (nee Marshall, m. 1918, registered Sculcoates). Margaret S was born in 1921 -1928 and Avril Monica in 1925. His father was the managing director of the Leeds firm Messrs R.W. Crabtree and Sons, engineers, Leeds. Colin trained at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and was a member of Ganton Golf Club. Colin served on a destroyer that took part in the Narvik action. His parents lived at “Carlton” South Cliffe, Scarborough. In Georgina Dorothy Hunt at Batley Parish Church who lived at “Woodview” Heaton Road, Batley. Georgina was a keen sportswoman and in 1939 appeared in the Yorkshire Junior Tennis Championship finals. May 1941, he married Georgina received an official telegram from the Admiralty on Monday 29 December 1941 to say her husband was missing believed killed.

The HMS Stanley came from the US arriving at Plymouth on 2 Jan 1941. She was reconstructed and returned to service in August, joining first the Western Approaches Command and then the 40th Escort Group. The first voyages took the destroyer to Freetown as escort of a troop convoy and after escorting the convoy SL-94 she arrived at Gibraltar, where she joined the 36th Escort Group.

While escorting convoy HG-76, the HMS Stanley (I 73) participated in the sinking of U-131 (Baumann) on 17 December and U-434 (Heyda) on 18 December.

At 04.15 hours on 19 Dec 1941 the HMS Stanley (I. 73) (LtCdr D.B. Shaw, RN, OBE) was hit by two of three torpedoes from U-574, while on station astern of convoy HG-76 and immediately sank about 330 miles west of Cape Sines, Portugal. The U-boat was sunk 12 minutes after the attack by HMS Stork, which later picked up the survivors from HMS Stanley (I.73**)** together with HMS Samphire.

Colin is remembered with Honour on Batley War Memorial, Addenda, and was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



ADMIRALTY REPORT BATLEY MAN BELIEVED KILLED.

Lieut. Colin Crabtree.

An official telegram from the Admiralty on Monday informed Mrs. Colin Crabtree, "Woodview," Heaton Road, Batley, that her husband, Lieutenant Colin Crabtree, R.N., is missing, believed killed.

The only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Eastwood Crabtree, Carlton, South Cliffe, Scarborough, he married Miss Georgina Hunt at Batley Parish Church last May.

Lieutenant Colin Crabtree.

Lieutenant Crabtree, whose father is a director of Messrs. R. W. Crabtree and Sons, engineers, Leeds, was trained at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, and served on a destroyer which took part in the Narvik action. He was a member of Ganton Golf Club. His wife is a keen sportswoman and two years ago appeared in the Yorkshire Junior Tennis Championship final.

Batley News, 3 Jan 1942 (photo)



Researched by members of
Batley History Group