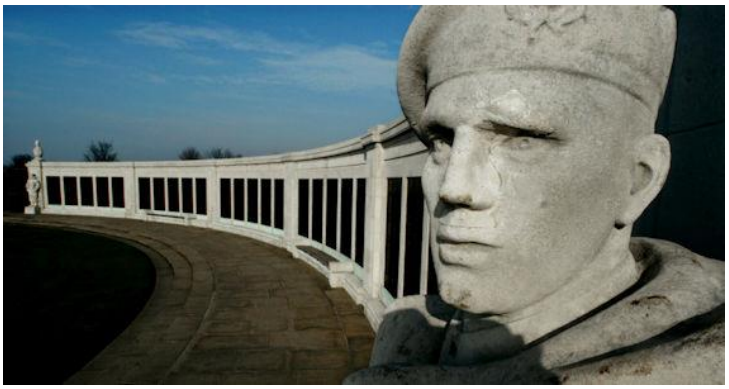
William Henry Hall



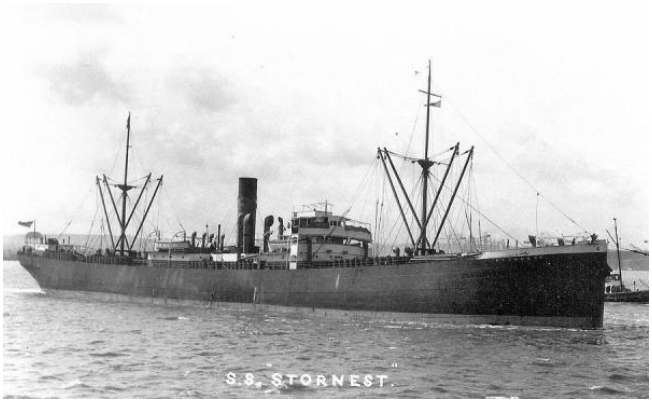
Rank: - Gunner

Number: - 11416294

Regiment: - Royal Artillery, 6/3 Maritime Regt.

Died: - Killed in Action at sea 13/10/1942 Age: 20 years.

Memorial: - Chatham Naval Memorial 67, 2.



William Henry was born in 1922 the son of Herbert and Alice Hall (nee Cooper who had married at St. John's Church, Carlinghow on 17 April 1919. Winnie was born in 1920 followed by Walter 1921, Kathleen 1924, Eileen A 1929. John A 1930 Shirley M 1935, the family lived at 10, The Avenue, Wilton Estate, Batley.

He attended Park Road Council School and was employed by Mr. Arthur Waite, coal merchant, of Birstall.

William Henry joined the Artillery at Easter 1942 and volunteered to serve as an Army gunner on a merchant ship. He came home on leave in June 1942 and his parents never heard from him once he had set off on his first trip.

William Henry was on board the steamship *Stornest* which was a cargo ship straggling behind the convoy. At 04.05 hours on 12 October 1942, U-706 fired a torpedo at the unescorted Stornest (Master Henry Ottey Smith) west of Ireland and observed a hit under the aft mast after 34 seconds. The ship was a straggler from convoy ONS-136 due to heavy weather. The master, 38 crew members and ten gunners were lost.



CARLINGHOW MERCHANT GUNNER MISSING.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hall, of 10, The Avenue, Wilton Estate, Carlinghow, Batley, have been officially informed that their son, Gunner William Hall (20), is missing from a Merchant Navy convoy after his ship was sunk by enemy action.

Gunner Hall, who joined the Artillery at Easter, volunteered to serve as an Army gunner on a merchant ship. This was his first voyage. He had his only leave four months ago and his parents have not heard from him since his ship sailed ten weeks ago. He attended Park Road Council School and was employed by Mr. Arthur Waite, coal merchant, of Birstall.

Batley News, 7 Nov 1942

William Henry was one of the gunners who lost their life.

Four ships from this convoy were lost with a loss of 172 people and over 18,000 tons.

William is remembered with Honour at Chatham Naval Memorial, Batley War Memorial and Carlinghow Working Men's Club (now hanging in St John's Church, Carlinghow). He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group