# Percy Turton Hepworth





**Rank: -** Signalman

**Number: -** D/JX 250898

**Service: -** Royal Navy, H.M.S. Blackwood

**Died: -** Missing, presumed Killed in Action, 15/06/1944 Age: 21 years.

**Memorial: -** Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 88, Column 2.

Percy Turton was born on 22 Nov 1922 in Batley the son of Fred Turton and Margaret Hepworth nee Burnley who had married earlier that year. Fred had served in the Great War and was a general manager for the Co-operative Stores and an Air Raid warden for Batley Corporation. The family lived at 7, Copley Street, Batley.

Percy attended Healey Senior School and was employed by Messrs. George Hirst & Son, Britannia Mills, Birstall before joining the Royal Navy in November 1941. He was a member of Carlinghow Youth Group.

On Saturday 1st July 1944 his parents received a telegram to say that their only son was missing. A letter in confirmation from the naval barracks deeply regrets that he "*must be presumed killed on the 15th June while on war service during operations for the liberation of Europe.*"



**PRESUMED KILLED ON INVASION SERVICE**

**Batley Signalman Of the Royal Navy**

Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Hepworth, 7, Copley Street, Batley, received a telegram on Saturday stating that their only son, Signalman T.O. Percy Turton Hepworth, R.N., was missing. A letter in confirmation from the naval barracks deeply regrets that he "must be presumed killed on the 15th June while on war service during operations for the liberation of Europe."

Signalman Hepworth attended Healey Senior School and was employed by Messrs George Hirst and Son, Britannia Mills, Birstall, before joining the Royal Navy in November, 1941. He was a member of Carlinghow Youth Group.

Signalman Hepworth's father served during the Great War.

Batley News, 8 Jul 1944

On 15 June 1944, the frigate HMS Blackwood (Lt.Cdr. Leslie Tillman Sly, RD, RNR) was on patrol as part of the 4th Escort Group in the west end of the English Channel to protect the ships of the Normandy landings, when she was hit by a Gnat from U-764 off Brittany. She foundered while under tow off Portland Bill the following day.

Percy is remembered with Honour at the British Normandy Memorial, column 62 and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group