Frank Higgins





Rank: - Ordinary Seaman

Number: - C/JX 254062

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

Died: - Died on active service 28/04/1941 Age: 20 years

Cemetery: - Torpoint (Horson) Cemetery, Cornwall, Grave 5.

Batley News, 3 May 1941 (photo)

Frank was born in 1921 the son of Timothy and Sarah Emma Higgins nee Crabtree who had married in 1910. Catherine Nora was born in 1910 followed by John Joseph 1913, Timothy 1917 and Frank.

Frank was closely connected with St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Batley. He attended the day school and was a member of the Guild of the Sacred Heart and the Dramatic Society. He was a prominent worker in the social life of the church.

Before joining the Navy, he worked at West End Mills, Cleckheaton as an assistant tuner and was also a member of the Batley Air Raid Service. His father was well known in Batley, having a long association with Batley Football Club.

Frank volunteered for the Navy in February 1941 and had just completed his course training. He was due home on leave on 4 May 1941 and his parents never saw him in his uniform.

The German air raids on Plymouth began in March 1941, but the heaviest attacks occurred in the latter half of April. The Royal Navy said 123 aircraft targeted Plymouth on 28 April 1941, dropping 123 tonnes of explosives. It said there were civilian casualties but the only fatalities that night were the personnel based at HMS Raleigh. The lives of 44 sailors and 21 Royal Engineers who were killed at HMS Raleigh. They died when a bomb hit an air-raid shelter on 28 April 1941 and are buried in war graves at Horson cemetery in Torpoint.



NEVER SAW THEIR SON IN UNIFORM.

Tragic News for A Batley Catholic Family.

News of the death on active service of their youngest son, 19 years-old Ordinary Seaman Frank Higgins, reached the home of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy ("Tim") Higgins, 97, Woodsome Estate, Batley, on Wednesday. He was expected home on his first leave to-morrow—his father and mother had not even seen him in uniform.

O.S. Higgins volunteered for the Navy only in February and had just completed his course of training.

How he met his death is not yet known.

O.S. Higgins.

Closely connected with Batley St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, he attended the day school there and was a member of the Guild of the Sacred Heart and of the Dramatic Society. He was a prominent worker in the social life of that church.

Before joining the Navy he worked at West End Mills, Cleckheaton, as an assistant tuner, and he was also a member of Batley A.R.P. service.

His father is well-known in Batley, having had a long association with Batley Football Club.

Seaman Higgin's elder brother, Timothy, who is serving in the Royal Artillery, had only left his home to return to his unit after leave, a short time before the tragic news arrived.

Frank was awarded the 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial**.**

YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR THOUGHTS



Researched by members of
Batley History Group