Farrar Hill





Rank: - Able Seaman

Number: - J/20092

Regiment: - Royal Navy H.M. Submarine. "E30"

Died at Sea: - 30th January 1918 aged 20 years

Memorial: - Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 27

Family Details

Farrar was born in Soothill, Batley on the 20th April 1897 the eldest son of Farrar and Rachel Ann Hill nee Thorpe. The couple had married at Batley Parish Church on 3rd April 1893. Farrar came from Batley Carr and Rachel Ann from Salford in Lancashire. Martha Ellen was born in Soothill in 1894. In 1901 Farrar was employed as a drayman on the railway, living with his family at Quarry Street, Soothill.

Twins Rowland Albert and John Edward were born in 1903 followed by Eveline in 1907. Before 1911 the family had moved to live at 2, Broom Street which was a house owned by the London and North Western Railway Company. Farrar (snr) had become a railway foreman.

Farrar attended Gregory Street and Park Road Schools before starting work under his father as a chain boy.

Service Details

In September 1912 at the age of 15 he enlisted in the Royal Navy and since had a successful career. He was on board the H.M.S. “Berwick” in 1913 when that boat was deputed to guard British interests in the Mexican revolution and on that occasion took part in fighting on- board and on land. He had the honour of being promoted to Able Seaman at the age of 17 and was for a time the youngest in the entire Navy.

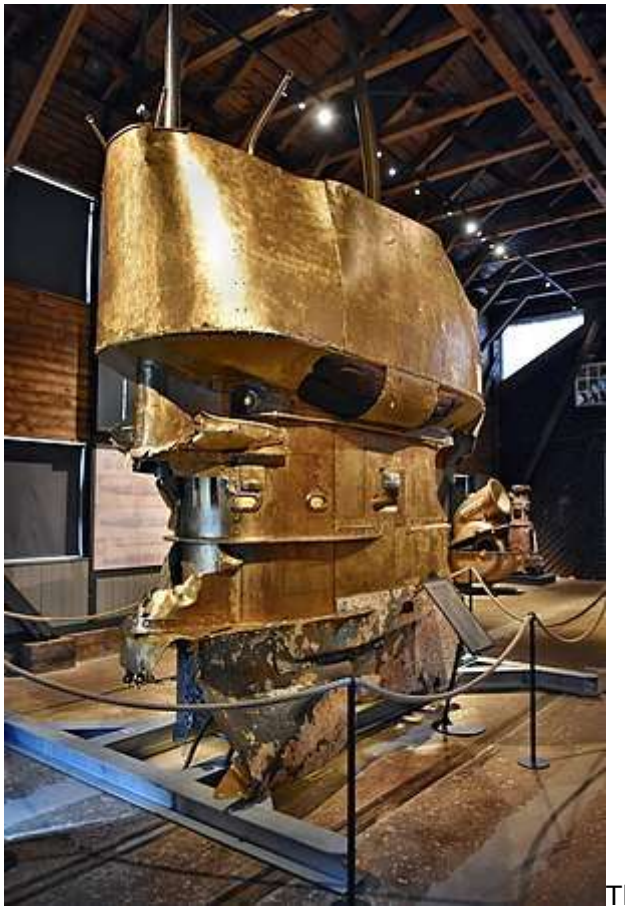
Since the outbreak of war he had taken part in various expeditions on board the Berwick going to the Falkland Islands battle in 1914 where he was unscathed. He also served time on a destroyer before going for special training and transferring to submarines in the summer of 1916.

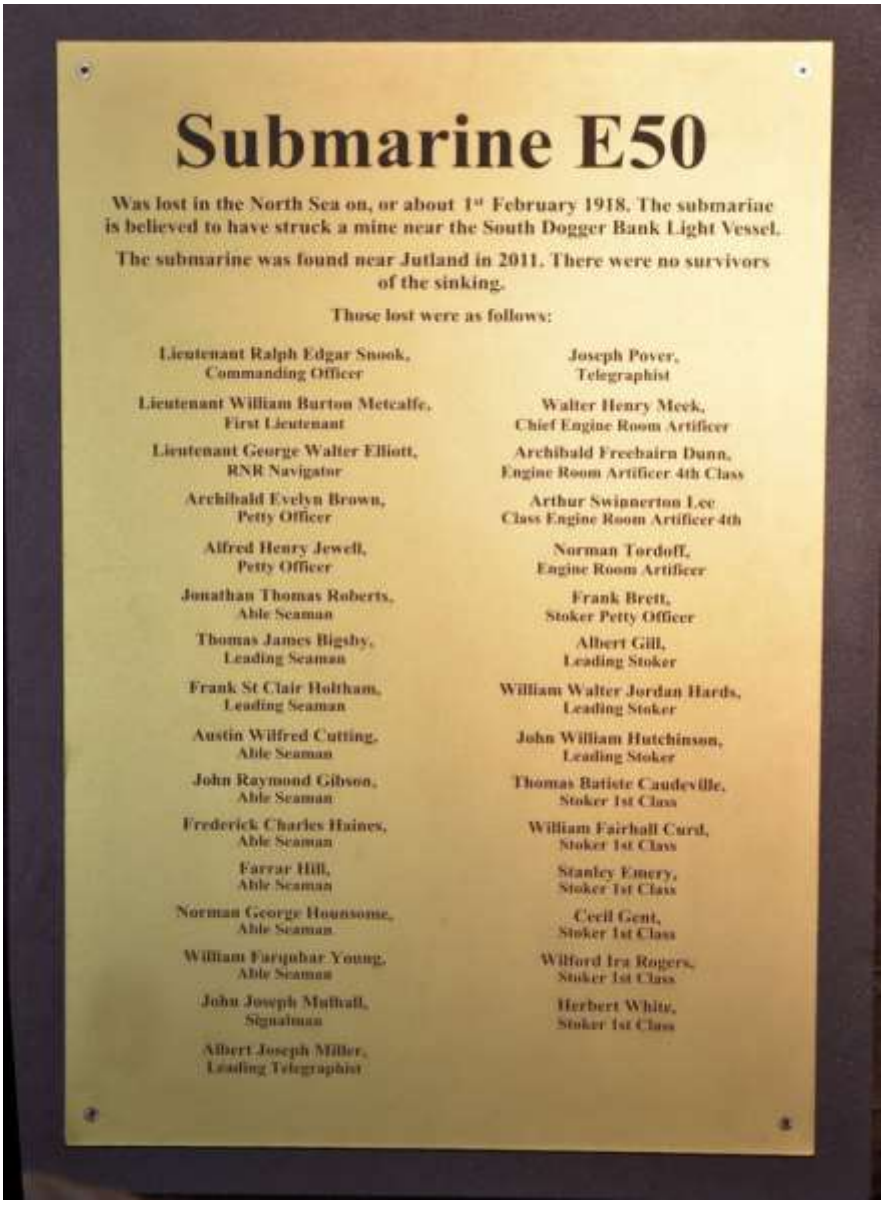
He came home on leave just before Christmas 1917 when he met some of his friends at Soothill Congregational Church. *E50* was armed with a 12-pounder 76 mm (3.o in) QF gun mounted forward of the conning tower. She had five 18 inch (450 mm) torpedo tubes, two in the bow, one either side amidships, and one in the stern; a total of 10 torpedoes were carried.

E-Class submarines had wireless systems with 1 kilowatt (1.3 hp) power ratings; in some submarines, these were later upgraded to 3 kilowatts (4.0 hp) systems by removing a midship torpedo tube. Their maximum design depth was 100 feet (30 m) although in service some reached depths of below 200 feet (61 m).

It was believed the submarine hit a mine in the North Sea off the South Dogger Light Vessel but in 2011 the wreck was found by a Danish Expedition much closer to the Danish coast, 65 NM west of Nymindegab. The submarine was lost with all hands.

At this time Farrar had become a Leading Torpedo man.


The restored conning tower from HM E 50



Submarine E50

Was lost in the North Sea on, or about 1st February 1918. The submarine is believed to have struck a mine near the South Dogger Bank Light Vessel.

The submarine was found near Jutland in 2011. There were no survivors of the sinking.

Those lost were as follows:

Lieutenant Ralph Edgar Snook,
Commanding Officer

Lieutenant William Burton Metcalfe,
First Lieutenant

Lieutenant George Walter Elliott,
RNR Navigator

Archibald Evelyn Brown,
Petty Officer

Alfred Henry Jewell,
Petty Officer

Jonathan Thomas Roberts,
Able Seaman

Thomas James Bigsby,
Leading Seaman

Frank St Clair Holtham,
Leading Seaman

Austin Wilfred Cutting,
Able Seaman

John Raymond Gibson,
Able Seaman

Frederick Charles Haines,
Able Seaman

Farrar Hill,
Able Seaman

Norman George Hounsome,
Able Seaman

William Farquhar Young,
Able Seaman

John Joseph Mulhall,
Signalman

Albert Joseph Miller,
Leading Telegraphist

Joseph Pover,
Telegraphist

Walter Henry Meek,
Chief Engine Room Artificer

Archibald Freebairn Dunn,
Engine Room Artificer 4th Class

Arthur Swinnerton Lee
Class Engine Room Artificer 4th

Norman Tordoff,
Engine Room Artificer

Frank Brett,
Stoker Petty Officer

Albert Gill,
Leading Stoker

William Walter Jordan Hards,
Leading Stoker

John William Hutchinson,
Leading Stoker

Thomas Batiste Caudeville,
Stoker 1st Class

William Fairhall Curd,
Stoker 1st Class

Stanley Emery,
Stoker 1st Class

Cecil Gent,
Stoker 1st Class

Wilford Ira Rogers,
Stoker 1st Class

Herbert White,
Stoker 1st Class

Farrar is remembered with Honour at Soothill Congregational Church, Hanging Heaton War Memorial (St. Paul's), Batley Working Men's Club, Batley War Memorial and Plymouth Naval Memorial.



Researched by members of Batley History Group