

Herbert Rhodes



Rank: - Fourth Engineer Officer

Service: - Merchant Navy S.S. St. Clair II. (Convoy SL 87)

Died: - Ship torpedoed and sunk 23 September 1941 Age: 31 years

Memorial: - Tower Hill Memorial, London Panel 90.

Herbert was born in 1910 the son of Albert and Eliza Ann Rhodes nee Bishop, who were married on 5 Sep 1901 at the Methodist Free Church, Heckmondwike. Elsie was born in 1902 followed by John Edward 1908. In 1911 the family was living at 31, Deighton Lane with his maternal grandparents.

Before joining the Merchant Navy in March 1941 Herbert was employed by a York engineering firm. His sister, Elsie, was a teacher at the Princess Royal School, Batley.

Herbert was onboard the SS St. Clair 11 when at 00.28 hours on September 1941, when it was in convoy, on a voyage from Freetown to Liverpool, was torpedoed and sunk by U-67. The position was 30.25N, 23.35W (WNW of the Canary Islands). The

Healey Sailor Missing.

Mrs. Rhodes, 31, Deighton Lane, Healey, has learned from the Admiralty that her youngest son, Fourth Engineer Herbert Rhodes (31), is missing, after his ship was torpedoed.

Before he joined the Merchant Navy six months ago, Mr. Rhodes was employed by a York engineering firm. His sister, Miss Elsie Rhodes, is a teacher at the Princess Royal School, Carlinghow.

Batley News, 18 Oct 1941

master, Harry Readman, twenty-six crew members and four DEMS gunners were rescued, twenty-six by HMS Gorlaston to be landed in Ponta Delgada, Azores and five by HMS Lulworth, to be landed at Londonderry. Twelve crew members and one unknown DEMS gunner were lost. Herbert was one of them.

Herbert is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group