

Richard George BRIMLEY

P/MX 61686, Engine Room Artificer 4th Class, Royal Navy
died Sunday 1st September 1940, aged 30.

Memorial Book text:

Home address was Moores Hill, Olney.

*Employed by W H Allen Sons & Co.
Ltd., Bedford. Son of Mr H S & Mrs M
E Brimley, of Olney.*

*1939 – Commodore Tyrwitt Co.,
Princess Elizabeth Camp, Hayling
Island, Hants.*

1940 – HMS Express.

*Information supplied by Commonwealth
War graves Commission – “Richard lost
his life on 1 September 1940, aged 21.
Register index MR3, recorded on Panel
41, Column 1, Portsmouth Naval
Memorial, Hants.”*

*Photograph supplied by Richards sister,
Mrs Joan Garlick of Spring Lane,
Olney.*



HMS Express

CWWG information:

Son of Albert Samuel and Minnie E. Brimley, of Olney.
Died Sunday 1st September 1940, aged 30.
Named on Panel 41, Column 1, of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Additional information:

<http://www.forcez-survivors.org.uk/express.html>

On August 31st 1940, the Express and 4 other Minelaying Destroyers left Immingham to lay an offensive field off the coast of the Netherlands. At around 23.00 hours almost to the point of dropping mines, it was reported by radio that there was an enemy convoy near at hand, which was to be attacked after the mines had been dropped. Before any mines were dropped, three of the ships, including Express, had themselves struck mines. Express was the first and some of the crew were picked up by the Ivanhoe, who then also struck a mine. Meanwhile the Esk struck and sank almost immediately. There was a considerable loss of life in all three ships, the Express lost 4 officers and 55 ratings.

In spite of having most of the bows blown off, the Express was towed back to port and eventually rebuilt. The Ivanhoe could not be saved and had to be sunk.

information at <http://uboat.net/allies/warships/ship/4382.html>

9th May 1940: The minelaying destroyers HMS Express (Capt J G Bickford), HMS Esk (Lt Cdr R J H Couch) and HMS Intrepid (Cdr R G Gordon) lay 180 mines in known German swept channels in operation XMG. 31st August 1940: Sailed from Immingham on a minelaying mission off the Dutch coast. The minelayers were from the 20th Destroyer Flotilla and consisted of the destroyers HMS Express, HMS Esk, HMS Icarus, HMS Intrepid and HMS Ivanhoe. The minelayers were escorted by the 5th Destroyer Flotilla consisted of the destroyers HMS Kelvin, HMS Jupiter and HMS Vortigern. Aerial reconnaissance detected a German force and the ships of the 20th and 5th DF were ordered to intercept, believing wrongly that the German ships were part of an invasion force. HMS Express struck a mine and was badly damaged, HMS Esk went to her assistance and hit mine and sank immediately, HMS Ivanhoe also went to her assistance and hit a mine and was badly damaged, so much so she she had to be sunk by HMS Kelvin. HMS Express was towed back to Hull and took 13 months to repair.