



CLOUGH, ALEX JAMES



Nationality: United Kingdom

Chief Stoker

Royal Navy *H.M.S. "Pathfinder."*

Age: 39

Date of Death: 05/09/1914

Service No: 291102

He was born 30th June 1876. He was the son of the late Samuel and Emily Clough, of Fingringhoe, Essex; husband of Lucy Jane Clough, of Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex, they had 7 children. His family had a threshing business and kept their machines in a yard opposite the Village Hall. ; as a boy of 12 James would stand on a box in order to reach a steering wheel on the machinery. He grew up in a house called Whale Cottage. James first worked as an engineer at St Osyth brickworks; he and his wife moved nearby. When he was 23, the firm closing down, he moved his family to Abberton and joined the Royal Navy. His last 3 children were born at Pigsfoot Green where the family lived in a pair of cottages. his youngest child, Jim was born after his father's death.

The 1901 census shows a sister Emily Clough aged 22 born in Fingringhoe and working in London at Islington as a housemaid. A brother, James Clough aged 23 born in Fingringhoe & living at St Osyth working as a stoker on a naval vessel. Alex himself was at sea working as a stoker in 1901, having likewise been born at Fingringhoe. A William Clough served on *H. M. S. Inflexible*.



HMS Pathfinder c.1912

Original press report(*) believed she had hit a mine near her magazine. Out of the crew of 264, 58 were saved, 4 were listed as killed, 13 wounded and 242 missing. The shock of the explosion was felt by a trawler 10 miles distant, and her crew saw H. M. S. Pathfinder upright in the water for a moment before she disappeared.

In practice it was subsequently learned she had been torpedoed by *U.21* off the east coast of Scotland on 5th September 1914. She was so short of coal whilst on patrol that she could only manage a speed of 5 knots making her an easy target. She was the first British warship to be sunk by a torpedo. With the first live torpedo fired by a submarine in wartime, Kpt Lt. Otto Hersing from *SM U 21* hit the British light cruiser *HMS Pathfinder* (3,000 tons) off the Firth of Forth on a calm, sunlit day. The cruiser sank within minutes with heavy loss of life. Hersing, who was to become one of Germany's leading U-boat aces, remained in command of *SM U 21* for 3 years and conducted 21 war patrols, during which he sank 36 ships, including two battleships and two cruisers.

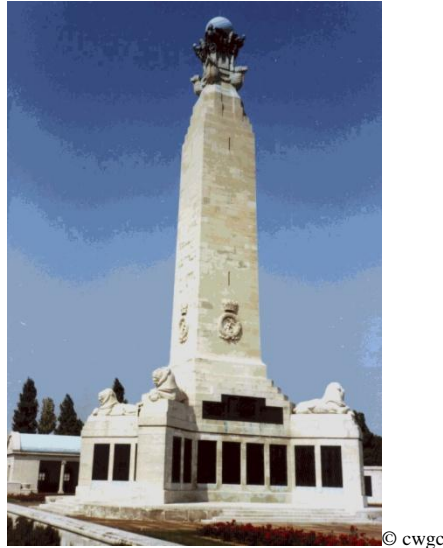


Alex held the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, 1914 -1915 Star, 1914-20 War Medal & 1914-1919 Victory Medal

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: 4.

Cemetery: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL



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After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided. An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. The memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each. The architect for the Second World War extension at Chatham was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler and William McMillan. Chatham Naval Memorial commemorates more than 8,500 sailors of the First World War and over 10,000 from the Second World War.

OTHER MEMORIALS Saint Andrew's Fingringhoe & the Methodist Chapel Fingringhoe



(*) reference Essex County Standard 9th September 1914



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ABBERTON, EAST DONYPOND, FINGRINGHOE, LANGENHOE