



WATSHAM, DENNIS HAROLD

Nationality: United Kingdom

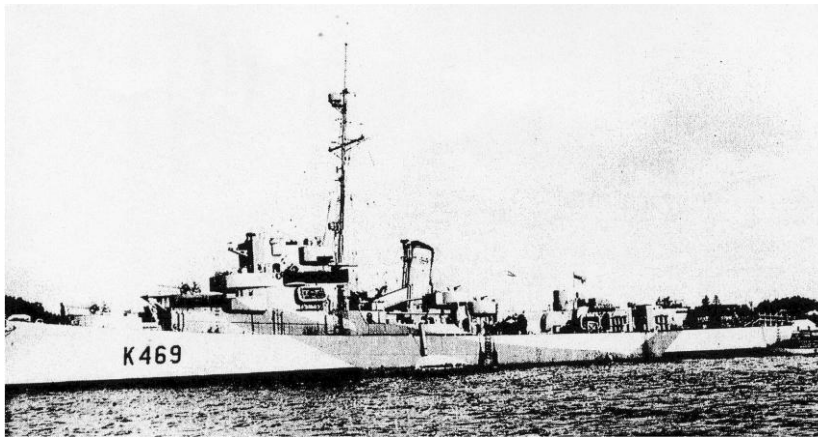
Able Seaman Royal Navy H.M.S. Bullen

Age: 18

Date of Death: 06/12/1944

Service No: C/JX654069

Additional information: Son of Jessie and Harold Watsham. His father, Harold Frederick Watsham (1896- c. 1945) was born on 4th June 1896 in Fingringhoe. He had been a Private in the Essex Regiment in World War 1 and appears on the Fingringhoe list of those serving in that war. Harold married Jessie Cook in 1919 and the couple remained in the Colchester area and had eight children; Harold died in about 1945 (death registered March quarter of 1945). Dennis was born in Colchester. On joining the Royal Navy he was posted to HMS Ganges at Shotley. Having completed training he joined HMS Bullen.



HMS Bullen 1943

H.M.S. Bullen was a Frigate Class: Captain with Pennant: K 469 Built by: Bethlehem Shipyard Inc. (Hingham, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) Ordered: Laid down: 17 May, 1943 Launched: 7 Aug, 1943 Commissioned: 25 Oct, 1943 Lost: 6 Dec, 1944

She was never commissioned into US Navy but transferred to Britain as "Lend Lease" upon completion. She was commissioned as HMS Bullen & was part of the Convoy Escort Group B19 working in the North Atlantic

On 6 December 1944 at 0950, HMS Bullen was torpedoed amidships and sunk by U-775 west off Strathy Point, Scotland (position 58.30N, 05.03W). She broke in two and sank about two hours later. Her Captain, Lt-Cdr A.H. Parish RN was lost with 71 of his crew, while 97 survivors were picked up by two other RN ships in company, HMS Goodall and HMS Hesperus. This was the third active patrol of U-775, which departed under Erich Taschenmacher from Bergen on 18th Nov 1944 and arrived back at Bergen on 21st Dec 1944 after more than four weeks on patrol. Dennis was killed when the jack staff fell on him.



He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the 1939-45 War medal & the Atlantic Star



Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: Plot P. Row 4. Grave 30.

Cemetery: LYNESS ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY

LYNESS ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY Country: United Kingdom Locality: Orkney Location Information: Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy and Graemsay, is on Hoy, between Mill Bay and Ore Bay. Historical Information: Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery was begun in 1915

when Scapa Flow was the base of the Grand Fleet. Lyness remained as a Royal Naval base until July 1946 and the cemetery contains graves from both wars. There are 445 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 109 of which are unidentified. The majority of the graves are of officers, ratings, and members of the land forces lost from H.M.S. "Hampshire," "Vanguard," "Narborough" and "Opal." The 200 burials of the Second World War in the cemetery include those of 26 men from H.M.S. "Royal Oak", which was sunk off Longhope in Scapa Flow by a German U-boat on 14 October 1939. 8 of these burials are unidentified. The cemetery also contains the graves of 14 sailors of the German Navy - the High Seas Fleet was interned at Scapa Flow after the 1918 Armistice - 4 further German burials including 2 unidentified airmen and 1 Norwegian war grave. There are 4 non-war Service burials, 2 being unidentified British soldiers. No. of Identified Casualties: 573



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