



## SPRINGETT, ERNEST MILLS

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Able Seaman

: Mercantile Marine : S.S. "Sea Serpent" (London)

Age: 41

Date of Death: 23/03/1916



The medal was awarded to those who received the British War Medal and also served at sea on at least one voyage through a danger zone. The medal was also awarded to those who had served at sea for not less than six months between 04 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. The medal was awarded by the Board of Trade.

He was the son of John and Mary Ann Springett; husband of Rose Sarah Springett (nee Clarke), of Erycina Cottage, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex. Born at Rowhedge, Essex. His father was Captain J. Springett of the cutter *Cheetah*. The *SS Sea Serpent* was a large cargo vessel. A report in the Essex County Standard April 1st 1916 states :- *"The sinking of the steamer "Sea Serpent" by striking a mine off Folkestone pier on Thursday March 23rd caused much anxiety and sorrow for Rowhedge as there were on board Mr. Arthur Barnard, Mr. William Barnard and Mr Eric Springett. The two former were among four saved but there is now practically no hope for Mr E. Springett and much sympathy is felt in the village for the widow, daughter and parents."*

*14 lives were lost including Master*

The Telegraph identifies his daughter Rosie, as being 13 years old & his wife as having been an invalid for 2 years.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Cemetery: TOWER HILL MEMORIAL

The Tower Hill Memorial commemorates men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who died in both world wars and who have no known grave. It stands on the south side of the garden of Trinity Square, London, close to the Tower of London. In the First World War, the civilian navy's duty was to be the supply service of the Royal Navy, to transport troops and supplies to the armies, to transport raw materials to overseas munitions factories and munitions from those factories, to maintain, on a reduced scale, the ordinary import and export trade, to supply food to the home country and - in spite of greatly enlarged risks and responsibilities - to provide both personnel and ships to supplement the existing resources of the Royal Navy. Losses of vessels were high from the outset, but had peaked in 1917 when in January the German government announced the adoption of "unrestricted submarine warfare". The subsequent preventative measures introduced by the Ministry of Shipping - including the setting up of the convoy system where warships were used to escort merchant

vessels - led to a decrease in losses but by the end of the war, 3,305 merchant ships had been lost with a total of 17,000 lives. In the Second World War, losses were again considerable in the early years, reaching a peak in 1942. The heaviest losses were suffered in the Atlantic, but convoys making their way to Russia around the North Cape, and those supplying Malta in the Mediterranean were also particularly vulnerable to attack. In all, 4,786 merchant ships were lost during the war with a total of 32,000 lives. More than one quarter of this total were lost in home waters. The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea. The memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick. The Second World War extension, designed by Sir Edward Maufe, with sculpture by Charles Wheeler, bears almost 24,000 names.



#### OTHER MEMORIALS Saint Lawrence Memorial Plaque



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