



SPRINGETT, PERCY

Nationality: United Kingdom

Assistant Steward

Mercantile Marine Reserve H.M. Yacht "Rosabelle."

Age: 32

Date of Death: 25/02/1919

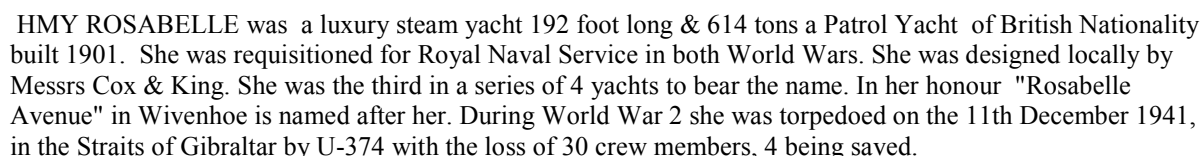
Husband of Elizabeth Springett, of 22, Florence Place, Tolcarne, Newlyn. He died in Portland Hospital. 1901 Census shows:- Percy Springett aged 14 born & living East Donyland listed as a Scholar. His father was Thomas a mariner & his mother, Emma. They lived in 1881 in Florence Cottage, Albion Street, Rowhedge



ROSABELLE

The Royal Naval Patrol Service or "Harry Tate's Navy" as it was more popularly known, was a very special service indeed with its own rules and regulations and the unique distinction of having its own exclusive Silver Badge, worn by sea-going officers and ratings alike. The advantages of using small ships for minesweeping and other duties had been recognised during WW1 and many of the crews of the peacetime fishing fleets had been encouraged to join the Royal Naval Reserve. Its headquarters were at Sparrow's Nest, the municipal pleasure ground at Lowestoft, and its fighting fleet consisted of hundreds of requisitioned trawlers, whalers, drifters, paddle steamers, yachts, tugs and the like 'Minor War Vessels' as the Admiralty called them. Armed with ancient and out-of-date weaponry, they set out from Lowestoft to fight the Second World War in every corner of the globe. They called it 'Harry Tate's Navy', after a bumbling music-hall comedian of the time.

Other vessels that left the River Colne to join the Patrol Service besides the *Rosabelle* were the steam yachts:- *Lady Blanche*, *Venetia* (558 tons), *Vanessa* (445 tons), *Oriana* (172 tons), *Lorna* (484 tons), *Uena* (223 tons), *Gladys* (178 tons).



Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: O/8. II. Cemetery: PENZANCE CEMETERY

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Penzance Cemetery contains 34 scattered burials of the First World War. Of the 72 Second World War burials, 43 are in the war graves plot, the rest scattered. The naval casualties include 22 sailors who lost their lives in an attack by German surface craft off Mount's Bay on 6 January 1944, 17 of them being members of the crew of HM Trawler "Wallasea". The cemetery also contains seven war graves of other nationalities. No. of Identified Casualties: 110

OTHER MEMORIALS Saint Lawrence Memorial Plaque



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