

# WHITE Raymond



Seaman : Royal Naval Patrol Service :

H. M. Trawler Hayburn Wyke.

Date of Death: 02/01/1945 \*

(The ship was sunk on the 1<sup>st</sup> & the 2 survivors picked up on the 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Service No: LT/JX 206563

Additional information: Son of Charles and Bessie White; husband of Lorraine White, of Salcott, Essex.

He was born 17<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and married on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1941.



Raymond was a fisherman pre-war & at the outbreak of war served on an unarmed yacht used as a patrol craft . Subsequently he served on a minesweeper operating out of Ipswich & Felixstowe. At the time of his death, his ship, the Hayburn Wyke was involved in clearing mines dropped by air into the critical supply route to Allied forces in Holland. The severe weather meant that re-supply by land or air was difficult & hence supply by sea became so important. At the time his ship was torpedoed he had just finished his watch & gone below to the galley for a mug of



cocoa.

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HM Trawler Hayburn Wyke was hired as Auxilliary patrol vessel May 1940, converted to minesweeper 1941, sunk by torpedo whilst at anchor off Ostend.

They were sunk by a 2 man German submarine, the SEEHUND “Seal”, which was based at Ijmuiden in the Netherlands. This is what is normally considered the most successful of the miniature German submarines. The type, designed in 1944, is known as **XXVII B 5**, also known as **Type 127**, and at least 138 (U-5001 - U-5118 and U-5251 - 5269) were commissioned into the Kriegsmarine. From 1944 it was planned to build over 1000 such mini subs. The crew of the Seehund, which sank the Hayburn Wyke were Paulsen & Huth reference:- *Das Kommando des K-Verbandes der Kriegsmarine* (Motorbuch Verlag 2003)

These boats had a displacement of 17 tons submerged, a crew of 2 and carried two under slung torpedoes of type G7e. The Seehund had the range of 300 km at 7 knots and could attack on the surface in weather up to 4 on the Beaufort scale but had to be almost stationary for submerged attacks. About 50 Seehund boats had an additional fuel storage that gave them a range of 300 miles at 7 knots surfaced and 63 miles at 3 knots submerged



## Survivor of World War II honours fallen comrades at Belgium service Jul 31

2009 by Sarah Bunney, South Wales Echo edited by Fred Jenkins shown in italics

Fred Jenkins, 87, from Caerau, Cardiff, visited Ostend in Belgium for the unveiling of a memorial plaque at the English Church.

The armed trawler HMS Hayburn Wyke was sunk by a German midget submarine on New Year's Day in 1945.

That night, 22 sailors died in *the sinking and only two survived*.

Now Fred, *who has researched the event extensively*, spent four days in the Belgian city *commemorating his fellow members of the Royal Naval Patrol Service*.

The grandfather of 12 said: "It was my wish to commemorate my lost comrades. Two years ago, with the help of the Belgian branch of the Royal Naval Association, I returned to the spot where the ship went down and laid a wreath."

Fred had always hoped for a more permanent memorial and this year his wish was fulfilled when the plaque, bearing the names of all 22 sailors with their rank and number, was unveiled and hung on the wall of the church.

A short pause was held after each of the names was read out, followed by the sounding of the Last Post.

The tribute was read by Commander Gavin Short, chairman of the Belgian branch of the Royal Naval Association, followed by two minutes' silence and the Reveille.

The Rev Dr Clifford Owen conducted the service, which was attended by Belgian Navy standard-bearers and the chairman and secretary of the Belgian Royal Naval Association, Michael Rose and John Mummery.

Fred, who has been married to his wife Doreen for 65 years, added: "I was given a special place in the service to express my thanks to colleagues and the people of Ostend, which earned me a round of applause from the audience of 30.

"Being back there brought the memories of that night flooding back. I shiver when I think that those men were in their bunks in the ship and had no idea the submarine was coming.

"It was a foggy night and supplies had just arrived from Dover for the liberated army when the torpedo struck. The sailors had no chance."

Fred, who suffers from severe arthritis and is waiting for a knee replacement, made the 12-hour coach journey to Ostend with Brinly Chard, Honorary Secretary of the Cardiff branch of the Royal Naval Association.

But the former seaman enjoyed every minute of the trip and is looking forward to his next visit.

He said: "Most days I can hardly walk but I'm not complaining – I keep my sense of humour and I've got my family all around me. I was glad to be able to honour my comrades even though I'm nearing 90."



1939-1945 Star; Atlantic Star; 1939-1945 War Medal; Defence Medal



Casting a poppy wreath at the site of the sinking of HMS Hayburn Wyke by Fred Jenkins, a former member of the Royal Naval Patrol Service & Sergeant Major Michail Rose of the Belgium Army (Paras.), the Hon. Sec of the Royal Naval Association of Belgium.

As the wreath & flowers were cast upon the water so the sea became calm & it started to rain as though heaven was weeping too.



THE ENGLISH CHURCH OF OSTEND  
LANGESTRAAT 101  
B400 OOSTERDE

DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



AND

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION  
SECTION BELGE



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR  
THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
IN THE SINKING OF  
HMS HAYBURN WYKE  
ON 1-1-1945

HELD ON  
SUNDAY 26 JULY 2009  
AT 10.30 AM

Conducted by Rev. Dr. Clifford Owen

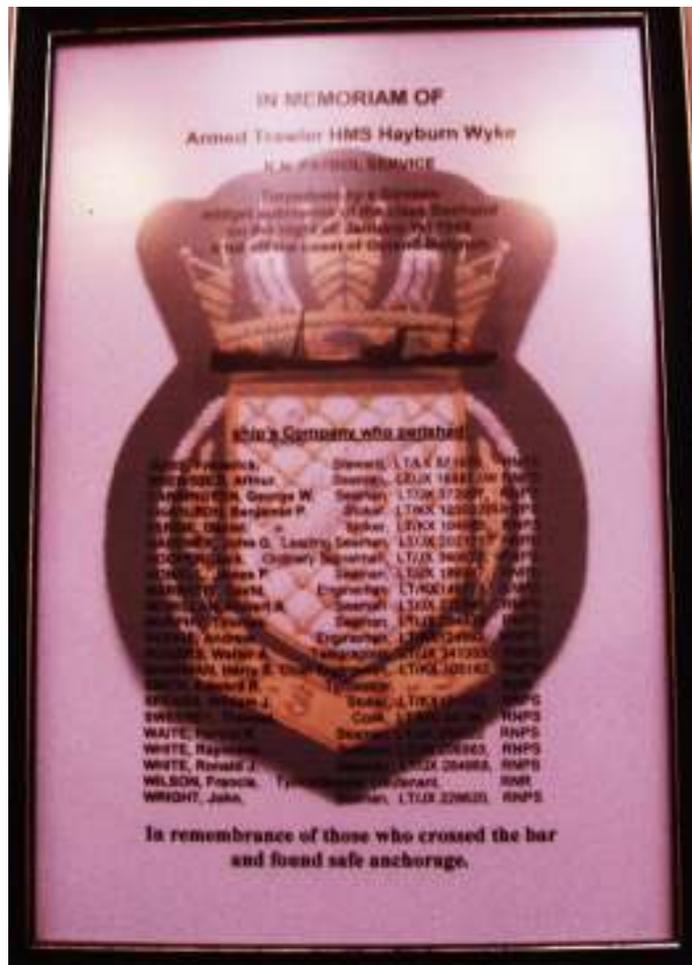
Attended by:

The Mayor of Ostend: Dhr. Jean Vandecasteele  
Fred Jenkins – ~~Survivor of HMS Hayburn Wyke~~  
Commander Gavin Short RN, Branch Chairman  
Mr. John Rummery – Vice Chairman RNA section Belge  
Mr. Michael Rose – Honorary Secretary S/M Belgian Para's  
Mr. Ludo DeVleeschouwer, Officer: Belgain Navy, RNA member

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Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 17, Column 1. Memorial:  
LOWESTOFT NAVAL MEMORIAL

The Depot for the Royal Naval Patrol Service, developed from the pre-war Royal Naval Reserve Trawler Section was at Lowestoft during the 1939-1945 War. At the outset of the war the men of this service were mainly the fishermen of the requisitioned trawlers and drifters used on patrol work, but later it included men from all walks of life and various types of small craft. In the spring of 1944 the Royal Naval Patrol Service reached its maximum strength of some 57,000. Between 1942 and 1946 new construction ships and craft manned by the Service totalled 1,637, among them minesweepers of various kinds, corvettes, fuel carriers, motor launches and naval seaplane tenders. Their objective was to maintain wartime patrols and safeguard the coasts of Britain. Lowestoft was chosen as the site for the Memorial to those men of the Royal Naval Patrol Service who have no other grave than the sea. No. of Identified Casualties: 2397



## THE ENGLISH CHURCH OSTEND



Saint Mary's Salcott cum Virley