



NICHOLAS, HAROLD* FRANK

Nationality: United Kingdom

Able Seaman

Royal Navy H.M.S. "Surprise."

Age: 21

Date of Death: 23/12/1917

Service No: J/25633

HMS Surprise along with HMS Tornado and HMS Torrent all British, R class Destroyers were mined in the North Sea whilst going to meet a convoy off the Maas light buoy . On the 23rd December 1917, "HMS Torrent" and her three destroyer division ran into a minefield. "Torrent" hit first, "Surprise" went to assist and was mined, and as "Tornado" tried to get clear, she detonated two mines and sank with only one survivor. Only "Radiant" got home. A total of 252 men were lost.

He was the son of Frank and Henrietta Nicholas, of Roman Hill Cottages, Berechurch, Colchester. note * The CWGC data bank lists him as Herbert Charles but this seems in error. His RN records show Harold Frank Nicholas born Fingringhoe 22nd June 1896

The family are in the 1901 Census at Charlton :- His mother, Henrietta Nicholas aged 32 born Thorpe Le Soken living in Colchester & his father, Francis Nicholas aged 36 born Essex Harris living in Colchester working as a Foundry Labourer. His brother, Lionel Nicholas aged 9M and William aged 6 born & living in Colchester . There is a Harold Nicholas aged 4 born & living in Colchester *(There is no Herbert shown in this family in the census but age close to Harold). William was killed serving with the 4th Queen's Own Hussars. Lionel served in the Royal Navy on *H. M. S "Emperor of India"*.



Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: 22.

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 where he is shown as Harold & the Methodist Chapel Fingringhoe



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