



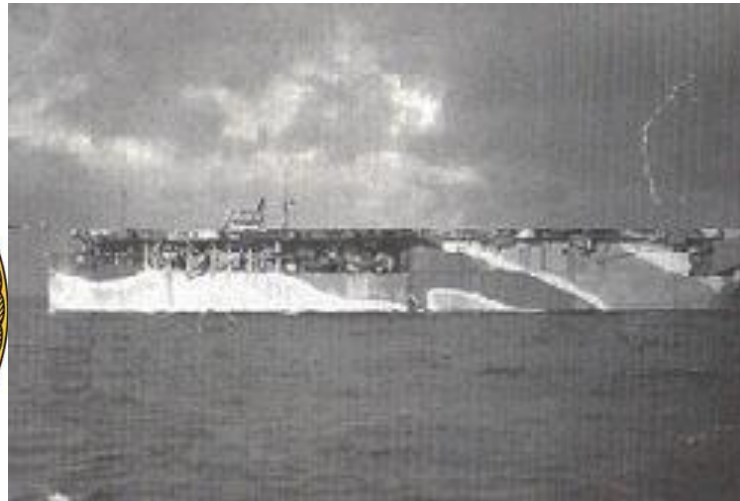
CLEMENTS, KENNETH GEORGE

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Steward

Naval Auxiliary Personnel (Merchant Navy.)

H.M.S. Dasher



Age: 25

Date of Death: 27/03/1943

Service No: 126311

HMS Dasher was an escort carrier converted from an ex-mercantile hull, the *Rio de Janeiro*, & transferred to the Royal Navy under lend lease. On the 8th November 1942 she was part of the "*Operation Torch*" Landings in North Africa. Her aircraft dropped propaganda leaflets over Oran. On her return to the UK she underwent repairs and modifications and rejoined the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow in February 1943. She sailed for Murmansk with convoy JW53 but, after only two days, was forced to turn back following heavy storm damage to her hull. After further repairs she was preparing to return to active service when, on 27 March 1943, she was lost in the Firth of Clyde following an aviation fuel explosion, sinking in 3 minutes with the loss of 27 officers and 331 ratings of her company.

He was the son of George and Elsie Clements; husband of Queenie M. Clements, of Fingringhoe, Essex. He had been a member of the church choir from his youth. He had been a merchant seaman before the war. He was torpedoed three times & then found it difficult to get another ship, so had joined the Royal Navy. He was born 22nd June 1918.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead Grave/Memorial Reference: Panel 10, Column 2.

Cemetery: LIVERPOOL NAVAL MEMORIAL



At the outbreak of the Second World War, it was evident that the Royal Navy would not be able to man all the auxiliary vessels that would serve with it. To deal with the shortfall in manpower, a number of officers and men of the Merchant Navy agreed to serve with the Royal Navy under the terms of a T.124 agreement, which made them subject to Naval discipline while generally retaining their Merchant Navy rates of pay and other conditions. The manning port established to administer these men was at Liverpool. More than 13,000 seamen served under these conditions in various types of auxiliary vessels, at first mainly in armed merchant cruisers, but also in armed

boarding vessels, cable ships, rescue tugs, and others on special service. The Liverpool Naval Memorial commemorates 1,400 of these officers and men, who died on active service aboard more than 120 ships, and who have no grave but the sea. The great majority of Merchant Navy men, who did not serve with the Navy, but with merchant ships, are commemorated on the Merchant Navy Memorial, at Tower Hill in London.

OTHER MEMORIAL Saint Andrew's Church Fingringhoe & at Ardrossan



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