

Alan Edmund BOYCE

Born: 1921

Parents: Son of Bernard and Edith Boyce – Husband of Edna Boyce of Devonport

School Years: 1932 – 1936 Chichester High School for Boys
Oxford School Certificate – July 1942 – Passed
'The Martlet' March 1940 – Roll of Service

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Engine Room Artificer Class 4

Service Number: D/MX 53924

Service Record: Royal Navy

Service Base: HMS Lawford

Date of Death: 8 June 1944



HMS Lawford (K514) – Bay of Seine Normandy

USS Lawford

Transferred to the Royal Navy under Lend-Lease 1944

HMS Lawford (K514) - D-Day + 2 - Operation 'Overlord' – 8th June 1944

Renamed by the Royal Navy and transformed into a Captain 'class' frigate. She was then prepared to participate in 'Operation Overlord' off Normandy.

The frigate served as the embedded command post of Assault Group II. She sailed with Task Force J. Commanded by Captain Pugsley she coordinated the operations for Juno Beach on D-Day including the landing of Canadian troops.

On the 8th June, the Germans launched an aerial counter-attack aimed at the allied warships in the Bay of Seine. HMS Lawford was targeted and received a direct hit and sank with the loss of 37 Crew including *Old Boy* A.E.Boyce.

According to the testimonies of the seamen later referring to the use of 'aerial torpedoes' and also of the wreck itself (which sank as a result of an internal explosion), the frigate was allegedly hit by one or more several German aerial 'early guided missiles' of the first generation probably of the Henschel Hs 293 type.

'The Martlet' – July 1944 – School Notes

"Early this month came the news of the loss of A.E.Boyce (1932-1936) an E.R.A. in the Royal Navy who is reported missing, presumed killed after his ship had been torpedoed off the French Coast. Alan Boyce had recently married and to his young widow as well as to his parents and brothers our gratitude and sympathy go out in abundant measure".

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Plymouth Navy War Memorial

Bognor Regis Observer - 9 June, 1945

'The sorrowing memory of our dearly beloved eldest son Alan who lost his life through enemy action June 8th, 1944. Sadly missed; never a day passes without thinking of you son'

Footnote:

Allen Edmund Bernard BOYCE

The safe arrival of the 'Overlord' Taskforce was mainly due to the 'Algerine' class minesweepers, scores of them. My father was on the HMS Vestal which ironically was struck by a mine. She got away with it and limped back to Pompey!

Colin Snook