

**Frank Lewis BALL RNR**

**Born:** Circa 1917

**Parents:**

**School Years:** 1928 – 1931 (an original pupil when the School opened in 1928)

**Civilian Occupation:**

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**Armed Forces Record**

**Service Rank:** Lieutenant

**Service Record:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-submarine Trawler Group

**Service Base:** HMS Birdlip - Freetown – South Africa

**Date of Death:** 13 June 1944



*Admiralty "Hill Class" Trawler "HMS Birdlip"*

**'The Martlet' School Notes December 1945**

**'It is with deep regret that we recall the death of Frank Lewis Ball (1928 – 1931), Lieutenant R.N.R., in action with the enemy of the West Coast of Africa while engaged in a very important convoy operation. The Naval Chaplain at the Base paid high tribute to his popularity and the esteem which he was held by officers and men alike. We tender our very real sympathy to his father and mother in their sad loss'.**

**On 14 June 1944, a small convoy was sailing off Greenville, Liberia bound for the port of Grand Bassam. It consisting of a French Merchant Ship the 'St Basile' which hugged the coast whilst being screened on the seaward side by escort anti-submarine trawlers *HMS Turcoman (FY130)* and *HMS Inkpen*.**

**During the voyage a third screening Trawler the 750-ton *HMS Birdlip (218)* (T/Lt I.B.S. Humphrey) was attacked and struck by a torpedo launched from U-547 (Heinrich Niemeyer) and sank with the loss of 37 crew including *Old Boy* Lt. Frank Lewis BALL. There were 16 survivors. The French ship was also torpedoed and sank.**

**The fate of U-547**

**The submarine was later badly damaged by sea-laid mines and returned to the port of Stettin. The hulk fell to the Russians after the war who broke it up for salvage. On three patrols U-547 sunk two ships and an auxiliary warship (Birdlip) - total 8,371 GRT**

**Commemorated**

**Chichester High School for Boys**

**Chichester War Memorial**

**Lowestoft Naval Memorial Panel 13 column 2**