

Frank Gordon LEPPARD

Born: 1925
Parents: Son of Frank Dodd and Lilly Susannah Leppard of North Bersted Sussex
School Years: 1936 – 1940 Chichester High School for Boys

Armed Forces Record

Service Rank: Ordinary Telegraphist
Service Number: P/JX 429385
Service Record: Royal Navy
Service Base: HMS Asphodel
Date of Death: 10 March 1944



HMS "Asphodel" – Corvette

At 01.54 hours on 10 March 1944, the German submarine U-575 attacked convoy SL-150, which was combined with convoy MKS-4 north of the Azores and sank the corvette *HMS Asphodel* (T/Lt Michael Albert Halliday RNZNR) using a Gnat torpedo. Only five survivors of the crew of ninety-seven were picked up by the Corvette *HMS Clover*. *Old Boy* Frank Gordon LEPPARD did not survive the attack. He was nineteen.

Commemorated

Chichester High School for Boys

Chichester War Memorial

Royal Naval Memorial, Portsmouth, Hampshire

The Fate of U-boat 575 - (Commander Obit. Wolfgang Boehmer survived and died in 2006)

Following the sinking of HMS Asphodel on the 10 March the U-boat was hunted for 18 hours but finally escaped. A few days later on the 13th, her luck ran out and she was sunk by the combined efforts of Canadian Frigate *HMCS Prince Rupert*, American destroyer *USS Hobson* and destroyer escort *USS Haverfield*, British Wellington Bomber of 172 Squadron, two B17 Flying Fortresses from 206 and 208 Squadrons plus an Avenger from *USS Bogue*. Depth charges were used. The U-boat was finally forced to the surface. Crew fatalities finally totalled 18 and there were 37 survivors. Under three commanders in her ten patrols, U-575 had sunk eight convoy ships and a warship during a total of 463 days at sea.