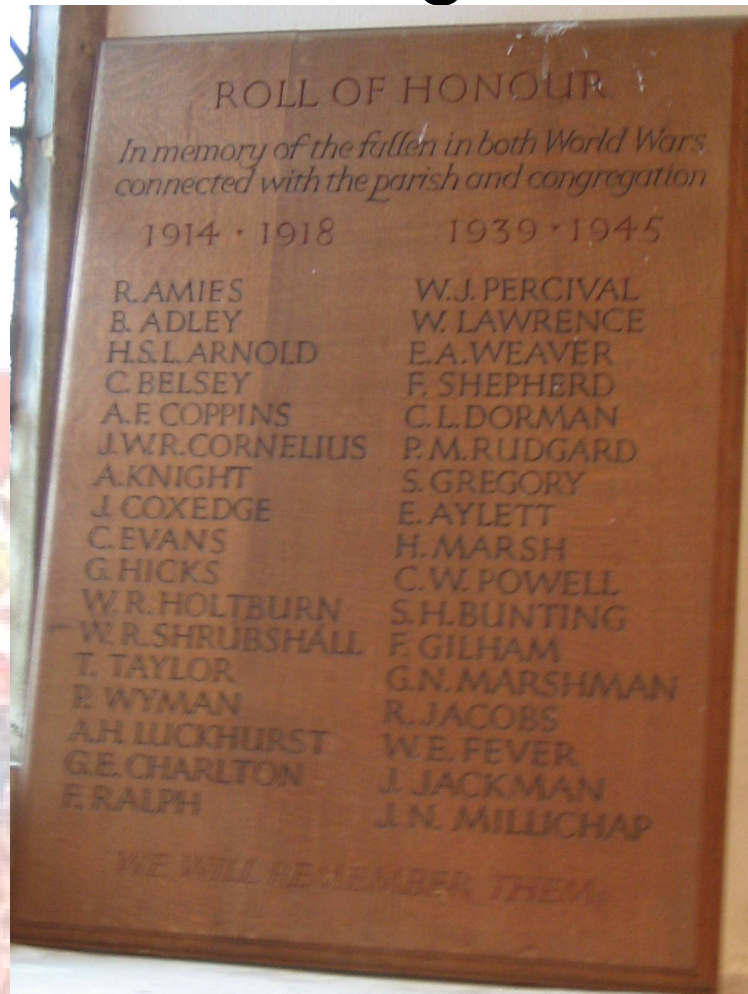


Davington



Located in the parish church of St. Mary Magdalene & St. Lawrence, Davington, Faversham, Kent, which is believed to be the oldest surviving building within the Borough of Faversham, as can be seen above, and whilst by no means unique the Davington parish tribute, constructed of wood is however fairly unusual, as it is in the form of a combined Great War and Second World War memorial plaque. Headed with the inscription "In memory of the fallen of in both World Wars connected with the parish and congregation." What is very unusual about the memorial plaque is the fact that the fallen of the two world wars who are commemorated are numerically identical. Possibly the casualties of the latter conflict are correct and complete, but it would appear that is not the case with those who lost their lives in or resultant of the Great War, as other Davington parishioners have been located whilst carrying out researches prior to adding the following brief transcriptions below. Clearly the plaque is of post Second World War construction, and as such it is of course possible that with the passage of time, all the names of the Great War fallen were difficult to accurately recall. Purely speculation on the part of the transcriber, but a more logical explanation

for the matching casualty figures was probably for the sake of symmetry, and the overall appearance of the combined war memorial plaque. It was noted after completing the following brief transcriptions, that when compared to the vast majority of other forms of war remembrance in the county of Kent, the Davington parish tribute appears to have a disproportionate number of Great War casualties either not traced or with no clear trace. In view of some of the difficulties encountered with the armed service personnel transcriptions, it would seem feasible that all or some of those not traced were civilian casualties, none of whom would have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration. In view of the important part played by the town of Faversham in the manufacture of explosives for many years, including the Great War era. Purely supposition by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but it would seem feasible that amongst those who lost their lives working in the manufacture of munitions, that some of their number who resided in the Davington area of Faversham are commemorated on the parish tribute, but not necessarily by the use of their correct names. For convenience when viewing the following commemorations, the liberty has been taken to post same in alphabetical order.

The Great War

1914 -1919

ADLEY, BERT. Private, S4/122372.

"K" Supply Company, Army Service Corps.

Died 11 July 1915. Aged 20.

Born Preston, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent 14 June 1915.

Resided 4, Mendfield Street, Faversham, Kent.

Son of Alma Adley (ne Price) of 4, Mendfield Street, Faversham, Kent, and the late George W. B. Adley.

Buried Faversham Borough Cemetery, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham, Kent. Grave Ref: L. 539.

At the time of the 1901 census the Adley family resided at 100, Upper Brents, Faversham, Kent. Prior to enlisting in the army Bert had been employed as a Baker by the Co-operative Society, at 60-63, Preston Street, Faversham, from 12 June 1909. Less than a month after joining the army, Bert died of Pneumonia whilst a patient at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, Hampshire, where he had been admitted on 26 June 1915.

AMIES, R. No trace of this casualty as commemorated on the memorial plaque, but is possibly the following local casualty who might have been known by all and sundry as Read, it being his last Christian name. We have noticed whilst carrying out researches that it was, and indeed still is a fairly common practice for a son (usually eldest), who having the same first name as their father, to be commonly referred to by the use of another of their forenames, or even something different.

AMIES, NATHANIEL GEORGE READ. F.R.C.I. Private, G/703.

"C" Company, 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Killed in action 20 August 1915. Aged 30.

Born The Brents, Preston, Faversham, Kent 17 December 1884. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of the Reverend Nathaniel Jones Milner Stuart Amies, Vicar of The Brents, Faversham, Kent, and Frances Amies (née Hawkins) of 44, London Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Ref. III. C. 6.

Commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial, also on a commemoration plaque located in the Holy Cross with St. Peter Church, Guildhall, St, Peter's Street, Canterbury, Kent, Nathaniel is also amongst the 420 on the "Roll of Service," located in the St. Mary of Charity, parish church, Church Street, Faversham, Kent, and is also commemorated on the town's civic tribute. In addition to the remembrances of Nathaniel in the county of Kent, he is also amongst the fifty eight who are commemorated in Bridge Street parish church, Llanelli, Dyfed, Wales.

Nathaniel was educated at St. John's School, Leatherhead, Surrey, where he was residing at the time of the 1901 census. After his time spent at Leatherhead he continued his education at Denstone College, Stafford, Staffordshire. A Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, (F.R.C.I.) Guatemala Branch, Central America, Nathaniel went to reside in Canada for fifteen months, prior to moving to Guatemala City, Guatemala, where he lived for a period of seven and a half years whilst engaged in coffee planting. At the onset of the Great War, Nathaniel hastily returned back to England, and enlisted in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Canterbury, Kent on 1 September 1914. After completing his basic training at Purfleet, Essex, Nathaniel moved with his battalion to Aldershot, Hampshire. Nathaniel's battalion left for France on 1 June 1915, sailing from Folkestone, Kent, and arrived the following day at Boulogne. Sadly like countless other soldiers of his generation, Nathaniel's life was cut short prematurely literally only a few weeks after arriving at the Western Front. Whilst returning from a Listening Post at Le Touquet on completion of a stint of duty at same, he was killed by a stray bullet. Following Nathaniel's death, a Captain serving in his company wrote the following letter of condolence to his parents. "We all feel greatly his loss, and he was with me from the start of things at Purfleet, and I got to know him well and valued his good qualities. He was a keen and earnest soldier, who never grumbled at whatever job he had to do (and many of them must have been distasteful for a man of his education), and, moreover, did it well. He was a great favourite with the other men, and had a great influence for good with them, and they all feel his loss deeply. He had done particularly well in the platoon over here, and seemed to enjoy every minute of life in the trenches." Probably the officer who wrote the letter of condolence to Nathaniel's parents, was 29 year old Captain Christopher (Kit) Davidson who had commanded "C" Company, until he too fell on 13 October 1915. Please see our Dover, Kent, civic war memorial transcriptions for additional details appertaining to Christopher Davidson.

ARNOLD, H.S.L. No trace as commemorated on the memorial plaque. Arguably the best match appears to be the following local (Faversham) army casualty:-

ARNOLD, HENRY JOSEPH. Private, G/4394.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 27 September 1915.

Born and resided Ospringe, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

BELSEY, CHRISTIAN. Petty Officer Stoker, 306765.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Red Gauntlet.

Died 25 October 1918. Aged 34.

Born Dover, Kent 12 February 1884.

Son of Joseph and Jane Belsey of Preston, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Faversham Borough Cemetery, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham, Kent. Grave Ref: C. 264.

CHARLTON, G.E. The only casualty who is commemorated by the CWGC with matching surname and initials is the following casualty, who appears to have no connection with Faversham, and as such should be viewed with caution by anybody carrying out more detailed research on the memorial or casualty:-

CHARLTON, GEORGE EDWARD. Private, 8046.

2nd Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).

Died 11 November 1914.

Born Crouch End. Enlisted Enfield, Middlesex. Resided Hornsey.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Addenda Panel 59.

COPPINS, ARTHUR FREDERICK. Assistant Cook.

Mercantile Marine Reserve, H.M.S. "Melcombe Regis."

Died 7 July 1918. Aged 18.

Son of Frederick James and Minnie Eleanor Coppins (née Laraman) of 25, Upper Brents, Faversham, Kent.

Buried Larne New Cemetery, Upper Cairncastle Road, Larne, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, BT40 2EG. Grave Ref: Sec. 4A. 1412.

CORNELIUS, JOSEPH WEBBER RAGLAN. Gunner, 64083.

37th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 27 April 1917.

Born Eccles, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.

Son of Joseph Webber Cornelius and Clara Alice Cornelius (née Ing).

Buried Bruay Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: F. 23.

At the time of the 1901 census the Cornelius family resided at 12, Nightingale Road, Faversham, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Brickmaker Joseph Webber Cornelius (Senior), who was a native of Preston, Faversham, Kent.

COXHEDGE, JOHN. Stoker 1st Class, K/35770.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. North Star.
Died 23 April 1918. Aged 28.
Born Faversham, Kent 28 October 1889.
Son of Mrs. J. Coxhedge of Faversham, Kent.
Buried Faversham Borough Cemetery, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham,
Kent. Grave Ref: D. 754.
John was Mentioned in Despatches.

EVANS, CHARLES. Private, L/10356.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 May 1917.
Born Shoeburyness, Essex. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Faversham,
Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2.

HARRISON, GEORGE ALICK. Lance Corporal, WR/504046.
Inland Water Transport, Royal Engineers.
Died 17 April 1918. Aged 33.
Born Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent.
Son of Isabel Harrison of 47, Milton Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, and the late
Henry Harrison.
Buried Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: III. D. 10A.
When George enlisted in the army on 27 February 1916 he stated that he was
employed as a Waterbede Labourer (Lighterman). He named his father Henry
Harrison as his next of kin who resided at the same address as George, at 47,
Milton Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. George served in France from 7 December
1916, initially as a Private than as a Sapper at which time he received
'Specialists' rates of pay, he was appointed a Lance Corporal on 1 February
1918. At the time of his death George was serving on Inland Water Transport
Barge A676, Royal Engineers. A telegram sent to the War Office in London from
the 30 General Hospital, Calais, on the day of George's demise, said that he had
died resultant of "Suffocation caused by submersion" (Drowning) prior to his
arrival at the hospital at 1030 hours. The day following George's death, a Court
of Enquirey was held at Calais with three Inland Water Transport, Royal
Engineers officers serving on it. Captain R. Sherley-Price was the President, with
Captain J.P. Dickie and Lieutenant S. Grantham-Jenkins as Members. Four
witnesses who were all also members of the Inland Water Transport, Royal
Engineers were called by the Court of Enquirey, they being Serjeant,
WR/500614, William Weyell, Corporal, WR/500108, Albert E. Kemp, Sapper,
WR/313646, Henry E. George, and Sapper, WR/308151, T.S. McHardy.
Sergeant Weyell in his evidence stated that at about 0110 hours on the morning
of 17 April 1918, whilst he was laying in his bunk aboard Tug 163 of which he
was in charge, that was tied up in the Bassin Carrot, near the small lock, Calais,
he had heard a splash, and gone to investigate. By the use of a torch he had

seen bubbles on the surface, and suspect that someone had fallen into the water. By the use of a boat-hook he quickly located a body, but doubtless due to the weight had required assistance in the form of Corporal Kemp to recover the body. Artificial respiration was applied by the two N.C.O.'s but sadly to no avail. Not knowing who the dead man was, Sergeant Weyell had gone to three Inland Water Transport Section vessels that were moored nearby, to ascertain if anybody was missing from any of them. On conducting a search of Barge A676 at approximately 0130 hours, it revealed that George Harrison was not onboard. Sapper Henry George a crew member of Barge A676 then went with Sergeant Weyell to Tug 163, where he identified the body of Lance Corporal, George Harrison who was still wearing his slippers. The evidence given by Corporal Albert Kemp collaborated that submitted by Sergeant Weyell, the only significant variance being a time difference of ten minutes. Sapper, McHardy stated that he had not gone to Tug 163, as by so doing it would have left his vessel unattended which would have contravened orders. He did however confirm the approximate time of the discovery that Sergeant Weyell had made that George Harrison was not onboard Barge A676. The three officers all having personally viewed the location referred to in the evidence submitted them during the Court of Enquiry, the findings of the Court of Enquiry were "That No. WR/504046 Lance Corporal G.A. Harrison was accidentally drowned on the morning of April 18th, 1918, about 1.30 a.m. by falling from barge A.676 into the Bassin Carrot, Calais. The high wind and rain squalls and darkness prevailing at the time being a contributory factor thereto." The Inland Water Transport Section of the Transportation Service, Royal Engineers in which George had served, was founded in 1915 and operated barges on the canals in France and Mesopotamia. The year after its founding, the undertakings in support of the Western Front operations was extended to include sea-going barges operated from the port of Richborough, Kent across the English Channel to the Continent.

HICKS.G. As commemorated on the Davington parish tribute is probably indicative of being the following local casualty:-

HICKS, WILLIAM GEORGE. Acting Bombadier, 61047.

105th Battery, 22nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 21 October 1914.

Born Preston, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.

Son of John and Joan Hicks of 40, Lower Brents, Preston, Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 5.

When William who was employed as an Electric Fuse Maker, enlisted in the army on 9 January 1910 he stated that he was aged 18 years and 8 months. Whilst still at Woolwich Depot, William passed his 3rd Class Army Certificate of Education on 18 March 1910, and his 2nd Class Army Certificate of Education on 28 November 1913 whilst posted overseas. Paid as an Acting Bombadier from 24 September 1914.

HOLTBURN, W.R. No trace. Please also see introductory comments re the apparent naming of some of the Davington, Kent, Great War civilian casualties. In addition to the Commonwealth War Grave Commission "Dept of Honour," several other internet data sources for Kent and elsewhere have also been checked, but all of which was of no avail. A number of relevant military publications have been checked, as well as genealogical books. As the result of the use of the above research sources, Edward and Elizabeth Holtburn were located on the 1841 British census, residing at St. George's Fields, Canterbury, Kent. No other information appertaining to this casualty can be added here.

LUCKHURST, ALBERT HENRY. Private, 75897.

Royal Fusiliers, posted to the 2nd/2nd (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).

Died 8 August 1918. Aged 19.

Born, enlisted and resided Faversham, Kent.

Son of John and Laura Luckhurst of 64, Upper Brents, Preston, Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3, and on the Oare, Faversham, Kent, Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Peter.

Formerly Private, TR/10/2841, 21st Training Regiment.

RALPH, FRANK. Private, G/9088.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 27 August 1918.

Born Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Enlisted and resided Faversham, Kent.

Buried Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: VII. B. 15.

SHRUBSHALL, WILLIAM RICHARD. Private, G/797.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 13 October 1915. Aged 18.

Born North Preston, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent. Resided Upper Brents, Faversham, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Shrubshall of 110, Upper Brents, Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15 to 19.

WYMAN, P. No trace as commemorated on the Davington memorial plaque.

Arguably the best match for this casualty is the following local soldier:-

WHYMAN, RICHARD CHARLES. Private, G/41638.

4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 28 March 1918. Aged 41.

Born Ospringe, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.

Son of Richard and Elizabeth Whyman.

Brother of Mrs. Jane Tester of 33, Upper Brents, Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 3.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945



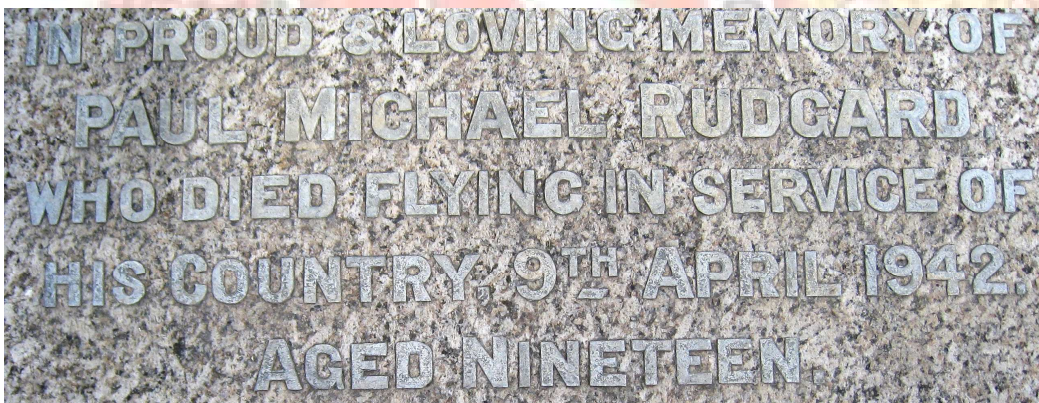
AYLETT, EDWARD ROY. Leading Aircraftman, 1631301.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 2805 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment.
Died 21 April 1944.
Son of Edward Charles and Ellen Gertrude Aylett of Faversham, Kent.
Buried Faversham Borough Cemetery, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham,
Kent. Grave Ref: Section E. Grave 35.
Edward has a number of forms of remembrance within the Borough of Faversham. He is commemorated in the Faversham, Second World War Book of Remembrance located in the parish church of St. Mary of Charity, and also on the parish tribute in the church of St. Mary Magdalene & St. Lawrence, Davington, Faversham. The latter place of worship is also the location of the Davington School, Second World War memorial plaque, and Edward is the first of the fourteen casualties commemorated thereupon.

BUNTING, SYDNEY HAROLD. Flying Officer (Pilot), 172231.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 9 October 1945. Aged 22.
Son of Sydney Frank and Eva Florence Bunting of Faversham, Kent.
Buried Faversham Borough Cemetery, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham,
Kent. Grave Ref: Section F. Grave 375.



DORMAN, CHARLES LEWIS. Leading Stoker, C/K 63359.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Emerald. (D66).
Died 15 June 1941.
Son of Lewis and Linda Dorman.
Husband of Beatrice Maud Dorman of Faversham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 47, Column 1, as shown
above.

Charles died of injuries which he sustained during a collision between his ship and H.M.S. Dauntless, in the Malacca Straits. H.M.S. Emerald sustained major damage as the result of the collision, which included partial flooding of her forward engine room and structural damage amidships. Initially the Admiralty was informed that 14 members of the ship's company were killed or missing, and five others had been injured. The day after the collision, H.M.S. Emerald reached Singapore where repairs were carried out on her. Charles's ship was an E class light cruiser, and was the sister ship of H.M.S. Enterprise. Both ships were laid down in 1918, but were completed after the Great War. Both saw active service during the Second World War which they survived, but were scrapped.



RUDGARD, PAUL MICHAEL. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 103596.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 9 April 1942. Aged 20.
Son of Charles Walter and Maud Florence Rudgard (née Vickery) of Davington,
Faversham, Kent.
Buried Faversham Borough Cemetery, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham,
Kent. Grave Ref: Section A. Grave 849.

SHEPHERD, FREDERICK GEORGE. Private, 6288936.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

Died 9 June 1940. Aged 21.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Walter Henry and Sylvia May Shepherd of Davington, Faversham, Kent.

Buried St Martin-Osmonville Communal Cemetery, Seine-Maritime, France.

Grave Ref: Centre of cemetery, near crucifix.

Also commemorated in the Faversham, Second World War Book of Remembrance which is kept at the parish church of St. Mary of Charity, Faversham, Kent.

WEAVER, EDGAR ALFRED. Second Hand, LT/JX 181715.

Royal Naval Patrol Service, H.M. Trawler Juniper.

Died 8 June 1940. Aged 44.

Husband of Harriet Jessie Weaver of Davington, Kent, Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Lowestoft Naval Memorial. Panel 1, Column 3.

H.M. Trawler Juniper was sunk on 8 June 1940 by the German heaver cruiser 'Admiral Hipper.' In early June 1940, the British position in Norway had become very perilous, and a decision was made at the highest level to evacuate all of the British forces there. On 5 June 1940, two convoys of troopships set sail and by 8 June 1940, all of the British and Allied troops had embarked. The convoys were to be escorted by H.M.S. Ark Royal and H.M.S. Glorious. The later ship was carrying 20 fighter aircraft and 5 Fleet Air Arm torpedo bombers. For some much debated reason which is unclear, H.M.S. Glorious and her two escorting destroyers asked permission to proceed to Scapa Flow sailing independently, and received permission to do so. The German battle cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, the heavy cruiser Hipper and four destroyers had sailed from Kiel on 4 June. On the 7 June the Germans became aware of the escaping British convoy, and were then ordered to attack the southernmost part of the convoy. On 8 June 1940, the German force encountered Edgar's vessel, the oil tanker 'Oil Pioneer,' the hospital ship 'Atlantis,' and the empty troopship 'Orama.' H.M.Trawler Juniper, 'Oil Pioneer' and the 'Orama' were all destroyed by the massive enemy firepower, but miraculously the 'Atlantis' escaped being sunk.