

## HAROLD BRUESTER CLAYTON

**D/JX304308 Able Seaman Harold Bruester Clayton, H.M.S. Tynedale, Royal Navy.**

Born 4<sup>th</sup> July 1904, son of colliery worker James and Mary (nee Kirkham) Clayton of 4 St George's Road, Poynton. In 1911 Harold was shown to have an elder sister Lucy.

Unable to ascertain when he joined the Royal Navy, however, Wikipedia give an account of the action in which Harold perished.

*In 1943 H.M.S. Tynedale was nominated for service in the Mediterranean as part of Destroyer Division 59. (Tynedale L96 was an Escort Destroyer Hunt Type). She guarded convoys between Gibraltar and Algeria. She acted as an interceptor during the Allied Invasion of Sicily and aided in the rescuing of 218 passengers from the Dutch Freighter Felix Jan Van Manix which was torpedoed and sunk in October. During convoy escorts with convoy KMS34 on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1943, Tynedale was torpedoed off the coast of Algeria by U-593, commanded by Kplt Gerd Kelbling, the same boat which it had damaged at St Nazaire. The ship broke in two, and despite rescue efforts by other ships 73 crewmen died (seven officers and 66 men). U-593 later sunk another Hunt Class destroyer, Holcombe, before surfacing and surrendering on 13<sup>th</sup> December.*

Harold was aged 39. The administration to the Probate of his Will was with his widowed mother, living at 25 Park Lane, Poynton. Effects: £1036. 15s. 7d.

Able Seaman Harold Bruester Clayton is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon. C.W G.C. Ref: Panel 79 Column 1.



Tynedale in July 1942

