



Name: William John Brinkworth

Position: Stoker 1st Class

DOB-DOD: 1907 – 11 April 1940

In 1940, William John Brinkworth was a stoker in the Royal Navy, working aboard HMS Eclipse.

In April, HMS Eclipse was deployed to escort the North West Approaches. 8 days later, the ship was detached from convoy escort duties and sent to Norway in support of allied military operations, including screening duties and attached to 20th Destroyer Flotilla.

On 11 April 1940 HMS Eclipse was damaged in an air attack on Fleet units off the Norwegian coast. The air attacks caused major flooding and sadly many men, including William John Brinkworth lost their lives.

Although the ship survived the attack it was abandoned and later towed to Lerwick in the Shetland Islands by her sister ship, HMS Escort (a journey which took five and a half days). HMS Hyperion was deployed as escort during the passage. HMS Eclipse was eventually taken in hand for repair on the Clyde shipyard.

William was remembered by his parents Mr. and Mrs. W. Brinkworth and his wife Edith Brinkworth, of Stoke-on-Trent. His name is also recorded on a memorial situated in Stoke Telecom Hse and is also commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.



HMS Eclipse was an E-Class Fleet Destroyer ordered on 1st November 1932 from Denny at Dumbarton under the 1931 Build Programme. The ship was laid down on 22nd March 1932 and launched on 12th April 1934 as the tenth RN ship to carry the name introduced in 1715. It was last used for a Trawler during WW1. Build was completed on 29th November 1934 for a cost of £246,664, excluding items supplied by the Admiralty such as guns and communications equipment. Much of her service was in the Mediterranean until 1936 because of the Abyssinian crisis. In April 1936 after some months refitting she joined the Home Fleet with the 5th Destroyer Flotilla and for some months was deployed again in the Mediterranean. This destroyer was held in Reserve in 1938 and re-commissioned in August 1939 manned by Reservists for the Royal Review of the Reserve Fleet at Weymouth. She remained in commission and after a successful WARSHIP WEEK National Savings campaign in March 1942 was adopted by the civil community of Elland, then in the West Riding of Yorkshire. HMS Eclipse saw service in the Atlantic, Arctic, and Mediterranean theatres during World War II, until sunk by a mine in the Aegean Sea on 24 October 1943.