

# In Memory of Petty Officer Eric Henry Lloyd

1920 - 1941

(Royal Marines)

**Age:** 21

**Parents:** Thomas Lloyd & Ida Smith

**Conflict:** World War II

**Country Enlisted In:** United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

**Country of Death:** At Sea (Atlantic)

**Relation:** Paternal 5<sup>th</sup> Cousin 1X Removed



Eric Henry Lloyd was born in 1920 in Essex, England. Growing up in the years following the First World War, he entered adulthood as Europe once again moved toward conflict.

He enlisted in the Royal Marines, serving as a Petty Officer aboard the light cruiser H.M.S. *Dunedin*. By late 1941, *Dunedin* was operating in the South Atlantic, engaged in patrol and escort duties at a time when German U-boats were inflicting heavy losses on Allied shipping.

On 24 November 1941, *Dunedin* was sailing unescorted in the Atlantic Ocean, just south of the Equator near St Paul's Rocks, approximately 900 miles west of Freetown, Sierra Leone, when she was sighted by the German submarine U-124. The U-boat fired a spread of three torpedoes, two of which struck the cruiser—one amidships and another further aft.

The explosions caused catastrophic damage, destroying the wireless room and leaving the ship unable to send a distress signal. *Dunedin* heeled over and sank stern first in just seventeen minutes, giving little time for organised evacuation.

Of a ship's company of approximately 486 officers and men, only 67 survived. Many who initially escaped the sinking later died in the water from injuries, exhaustion, exposure, and shark attacks during the 78 hours before survivors were finally rescued by the American merchant ship *Nishmaha*.

Petty Officer  
Royal Marines, UK



As the German submarine surfaced to observe the aftermath, survivors in the water defiantly sang “There’ll Always Be an England”, an act remembered as one of quiet courage amid catastrophe.

Petty Officer Lloyd was twenty-one years old. He has no known grave.

He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, which honours members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines who lost their lives at sea and whose bodies were never recovered.

Petty Officer Eric Henry Lloyd did not return. He is remembered as a young Royal Marine whose life was lost in one of the Atlantic war’s most devastating sinkings, and whose service ended far from land, but not from remembrance.

*Panel on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial  
Remebering PO Lloyd  
(23<sup>rd</sup> from the bottom of the first column)*



*Portsmouth Naval Memorial  
Portsmouth, Hampshire, England*