

Alfred Henry Allmond

Engine Room Artificer 4th Class, (Petty Officer), Royal Navy C/MX120084

Alfred was born on 24th December 1915 at Camberwell, London to Arthur and Elizabeth Ada Allmond. He married Dorothy Agnes Vallens at Colegate Sussex and in 1937 and 1939 the couple were living with his parents in Lewisham, London. According to the 1939 Register Alfred's profession was a plumber's mate.

Alfred joined the Royal Navy after the declaration of war in 1939 and began his naval career as an Engine Room Artificer 5th Class before being advanced to ERA 4th Class. He was serving on HMS Gould, a Captain Class diesel driven frigate, built in the United States of America.

On 29th February 1944, *HMS Gould* was operating as part of the First Escort Group when she, *HMS Affleck*, *HMS Gore*, and *HMS Garlies* detected the German submarine *U-358* in the North Atlantic north-northeast of the Azores. The group began a depth-charge attack which continued through the night and into 1st March 1944, the four frigates dropping a combined total 104 depth charges. *Gore* and *Garlies* were forced to withdraw to Gibraltar to refuel on 1st March, but *Affleck* and *Gould* continued to attack *U-358*. During the afternoon of 1st March, *U-358* succeeded in torpedoing and sinking *Gould* with a torpedo known to the Allies as "GNAT" (German Naval Acoustic Torpedo). The Captain, Lieutenant Daniel Ungoed RN, together with six other officers and 116 ratings died in the sinking. Only 14 of *Gould's* crew survived. *U-358* was forced to surface after 38 hours submerged and was subsequently sunk by gunfire from *Affleck*.

Alfred was one of those lost in action. He was 28 years old and left behind his widow Dorothy, a young son Michael and an unborn child. Dorothy gave birth to their second son Victor later the same month. Both sons attended Shipley School and gained places at Collyers School in Horsham for their secondary education. Dorothy lived variously in Shipley, Dragons Green and Coolham and remained in West Sussex until her death in 2002. She remarried in 1954 and passed away at St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley.

Alfred is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial and in the Chatham Medway Unitary Authority Memorial Register. He was awarded the War Medal 1939 – 1945 and 1939 – 1945 Star.



Petty Officer badge



HMS Gould

