

Chief Petty Officer EDGAR BANFIELD

D/J 77988, H.M. Submarine Tarpon, Royal Navy

who died age 38 on 22 April 1940;

Son of Edward and Ellen Banfield; husband of Lily May Banfield, of Apperley, Gloucestershire.

Remembered with honour at the PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL

Edgar Banfield of Apperley had the dubious distinction of being the first local service man to lose his life in World War II. He was killed whilst serving in the submarine, *H.M.S. Tarpon* which was sunk during the ill-fated Norwegian Campaign of Spring 1940. We are indebted for information to his daughter Celia Davey and grand-daughter, Jade Atkinson, both of whom still live in Apperley.

Born on 17 April 1902 in Westbury on Severn, the son of Mr and Mrs Edward Banfield, he married Alice Boulton and had two children.¹ He was, however, a professional seaman having volunteered for the Navy in 1917 as a boy sailor on *HMS Impregnable*. Her served on many ships including, in 1922 the Emperor of India where the earlier photograph was taken. By 1929 he had reached the rank of Petty Officer: in 1935 he volunteered to serve on submarines. He served on several reaching the rank of CPO in 1937. When war was declared in September 1939 he had been serving in the China station for two years - and presumably had not seen his family in that time.

Hitler attacked Denmark and Norway on 9 April 1940 and by 3 May had succeeded except for *Narvik* where, aided by British and French forces, the Norwegians held out until 28 May before allied troops were recalled to meet the Nazi onslaught on France.



Edgar Banfield during two stages of his long Naval career. (Celia Davey)

¹ The CWGC memorial cites Lily May as his wife.

HMS Tarpon was reported on 4 May 1940 as "overdue", but the hope that Edgar had been taken prisoner proved forlorn. His body not having been recovered his sacrifice is commemorated amongst 16,000 on the *Plymouth Naval Memorial*.

