

Gunner WILLIAM BOOTH

5731524, 6/3 Maritime Regt., Royal Artillery

who died age 29 on 29 October 1942

Remembered with honour at CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL



**William Booth** was the last name on the War Memorial that we could identify and it was thanks to a chance look at a newspaper that his daughter, Mrs. Ansell, made contact.

The *Register* confirmed that he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Booth of Spring Gardens<sup>1</sup> and that his wife was living in Oldbury Road with his four daughters - all under the age of eight. Mrs. Ansell was one of them. He had attended Holy Trinity School and then worked as a lorry driver in Gloucester. He joined up with the Dorsets in June 1940, during which time he "volunteered for service as a gunner with the Merchant Navy and lost his life whilst on duty with this service".

There is not much more that is known about the circumstances of his death since his body was not found and he was probably killed or drowned during the battle of the Atlantic, or may be even the North African War where ships were supplying the Army from Malta at a time when the 8<sup>th</sup> Army was defeating Rommel at the Battle of El Alamein. The *Register* gave no clue concerning the theatre of war.



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<sup>1</sup> According to cemetery burial records, William Booth, aged 66, of 22 Spring Gardens was buried on 1 April 1942 (reference 7611) whilst Ada, aged 64, was buried on 20 July 1945 (7860)