CLAYDON Raymond Allan



No.LT/LD/X5091, Telegraphist
RNVR (Patrol Service)
HM Trawler "Lord Lloyd",
Place of Birth: Luton
Date of Death: Sunday, 27th April 1941
Cause: Due to War Operations
Buried: Haverhill Cemetery
Aged 23 years

Raymond Allan Claydon was born in Luton on 4th March 1918, the son of Allan C Claydon and his wife Phyllis Hilda Ethel nee Farrant.



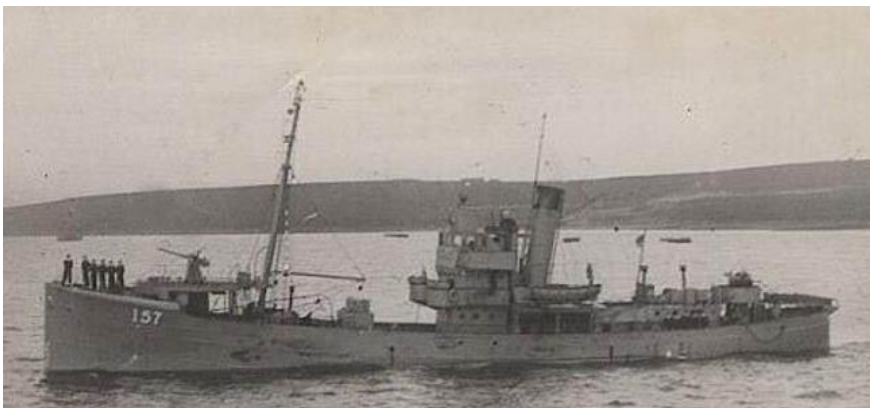
Phyllis who was born in 1895 was the youngest of the seven children of tailor's cutter, James Farrant and his wife Sarah Ann nee Mizon who lived at 7 Broad Street, Haverhill. Phyllis married Allan Claydon in 1915.

Allan was the son of clothes presser Charles Claydon and his wife Martha who lived at 42 Primrose Hill, Haverhill. He was a clothier's assistant working in a shop. By 1918 when Raymond was born Allan and Phyllis had moved to Luton. A brother, Louis J, was born in 1921 and a sister Margaret was also born in Luton in 1924. The 1939 Register shows the family had moved to Gorleston on Sea near Great Yarmouth where Allan was a master Clothier and Outfitter.



Late in 1939, Raymond married Dorothy L Blake in Hammersmith. The address given on Raymond's death certificate was 38 Morngravine Road, Fulham (probable misspelling for Marngravine Road) so it is presumed that this was their home address after they were married.

Raymond served as a telegraphist in the Royal Navy and was posted to HM Trawler Lord Lloyd.



Built in 1933, Lord Lloyd was launched by Cochrane & Sons Ltd, Selby for Pickering & Haldane's Steam Trawling Co Ltd. On 7th September 1939 she was sold to the Admiralty and fitted out as an anti-submarine trawler FY157. By 13th September 1939, she was based with the 19th Anti-Submarine Group out of Harwich but in 1940 the Lord Lloyd sailed north. The home port was now Aberdeen but in reality the Lord Lloyd, under the command of Lt F H Thornton RNR, along with HMT Northern Star, looked after the occupation force of Iceland. Their job was to escort Icelandic merchant ships around the island delivering goods to Allied Army and Air Force personnel. German submarines were particularly active in the area around Iceland.

The location of HMT Lord Lloyd in 1941 is unknown but Raymond Allan Claydon died on 27th April. His death was registered as being in the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, not on board HMT Lord Lloyd. Was he undertaking training? Perhaps he had been posted? Maybe the Lord Lloyd was in Portsmouth and the crew were staying in the Barracks?



According to his Royal Naval death record his cause of death was coded as 1. This code for cause of death is not specific so the circumstances of his death were speculative.

1 NAME (Surname first)	2 PORT DIVISION and OFFICIAL NO.	3 BRANCH OF SERVICE.	4 RATING	5 SHIP OR UNIT.	6 DATE OF BIRTH.	7 PLACE OF BIRTH.	8 DATE OF DEATH.	9 CAUSE OF DEATH.	10 PLACE OF DEATH.
CLAYDON. Lionel	C/KX.90865	R.N.	Mech.II	H.M.S. PENELOPE	5.3.1914	Hackney, London	18.2.1944	2.	At Sea
CLAYDON. Raymond Allen	LT/ LDX.5091	R.N.V.R.	Tel.	H.M.S. LORD LLOYD	4.3.1918	Luton, Beds.	27.4.1941	1.	R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth, Hants.

Royal Navy and Royal Marines War Deaths – Code 1 for Cause of Death is described as follows:

Killed in action; Died of wounds or disease following wounds; Missing after action and subsequently presumed killed in action; Killed; Died of wounds or exposure; Died of disease following wounds or exposure; Drowned; Missing and subsequently presumed killed or drowned following loss of ship in action, by mine or torpedo.

Raymond's death certificate does not shed any more light on the actual cause of his death. It is the date of his death that provides the clue as to what happened.

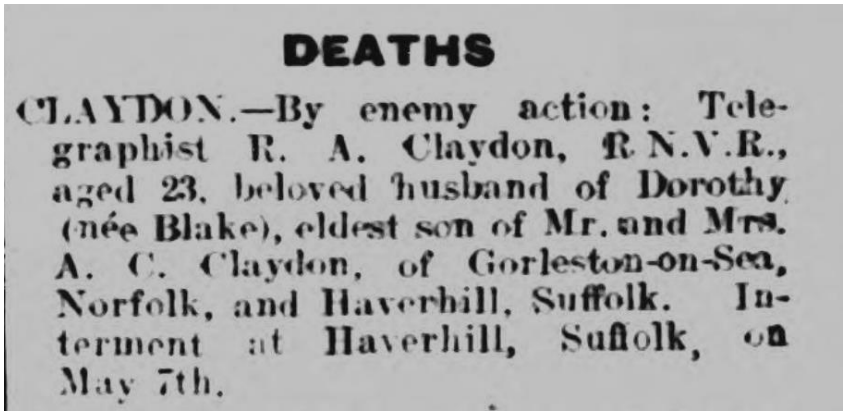
Registration District PORTSMOUTH.

1941. **DEATHS in the Sub-District of PORTSMOUTH NORTH in the County Borough of PORTSMOUTH.**

Columns:— 1. No.	1. When and Where Died.	2. Name and Surname.	3. Sex.	4. Age.	5. Rank or Profession.	6. Cause of Death.	7. Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	8. When Registered.	9. Signature of Registrar.
38	Twentyseventh April 1941 R.N. Barracks U.D.	Raymond Allen CLAYDON	Male	23 years	Of 38 Morngravine Road Fulham,S.W.6 Telegraphist LD. 9/X 5091 R.N.V.R.	Due to war operations	Certificate received from J. A. Giffard Officer Commanding	Thirtieth April 1941	A.H. Whittenham *Registrar*

Portsmouth was a key target for raids by the Luftwaffe. On 10th January 1941 the city was hit by an intense air raid known locally as the Night of Terror or First Blitz. Two months later on 10th March the city was attacked again. On 27th April 1941, Portsmouth suffered yet another devastating air raid with numerous mines, incendiaries and HE bombs being dropped. The raid caused wide spread damage all over the city and especially in the Dockyards. Raymond was killed during this air raid.

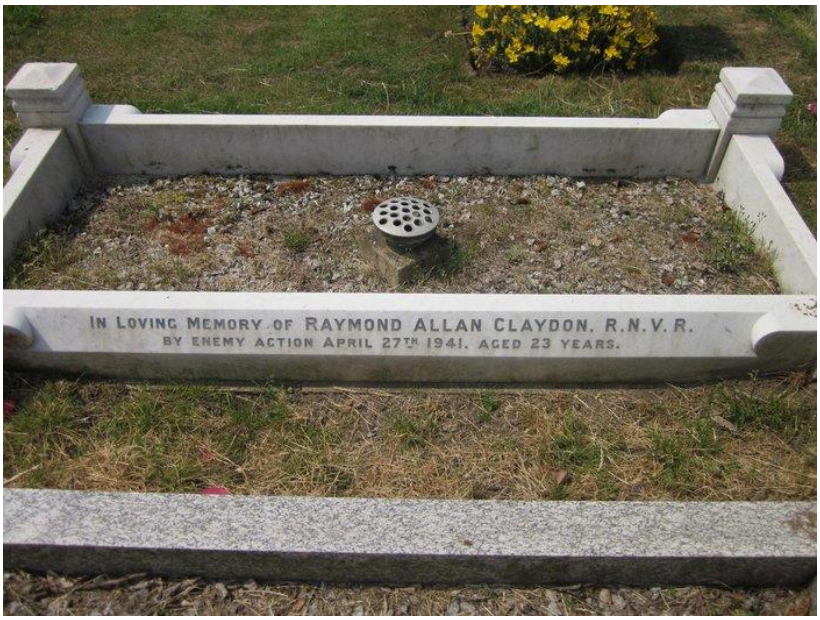
A newspaper report published in the West London Observer on 16th May 1941 tells us that Raymond was buried in Haverhill on 7th May 1941.



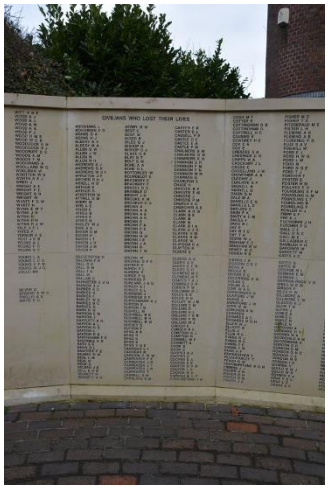
DEATHS

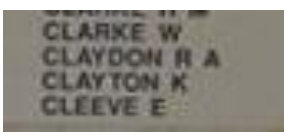
CLAYDON.—By enemy action: Telegraphist R. A. Claydon, R.N.V.R., aged 23, beloved husband of Dorothy (née Blake), eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Claydon, of Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk, and Haverhill, Suffolk. Interment at Haverhill, Suffolk, on May 7th.

Raymond was brought home to Haverhill where he was buried in the local cemetery. The inscription on his grave suggests ‘by enemy action’ which was the cause of death often used for casualties of air raids.



In the centre of Portsmouth adjacent to the Guildhall is the WW2 memorial that lists the names of the military and civilian casualties. Raymond’s name appears on this memorial. The memorial itself dates from 2005 but the wall of names is quite recent, from around 2012 with the final names added by early 2017 following fundraising. In 2011 on the 70th anniversary of the First Blitz of 1941 the City held an event on the Guildhall steps when the names of all those who died by enemy action were read out and it is almost certain that Raymond's name would have been one of them.







Raymond's mother Phyllis died in Shepway, Kent in 1976. His father also died in Shepway six years later.

With gratitude to Louis Claydon (brother) for the photograph of Raymond.

Thanks to members of Memories of Bygone Portsmouth for information about 27th April 1941 and the WW2 Memorial.

Credit also to web@portsmouthblitz.co.uk a 2010 student project undertaken by the Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth.

Portsmouth's war

Portsmouth officially suffered 67 air raids between July 1940 and May 1944. During the 4-year period of the Portsmouth Blitz, 930 people were killed, 1,216 hospitalised and a further 1,621 suffered less severe injuries. It is estimated that almost 10 per cent of the city's 63,000 homes were destroyed approximately 6,000 were damaged and almost 69,000 houses suffered some form of minor bomb damage. All this on an area of just 9 square miles.

67 air raids; 3 major raids, 10/1/41, 10/3/41, 27/4/41; 1,581 air raid alerts

1,320 HE bombs, (not including UXB or bombs that went into the harbour or mud flats).

38 parachute mines

2 V1 flying bombs

38,000 + incendiary bombs

930 civilians killed

2,837 injured

Due to wartime restrictions, the number of service people killed in the dockyard or other military establishments were not given out. It is estimated that civilian and service personnel deaths totalled over 1100 with over 3,200 injured.

3 shopping centres were destroyed.

6,625 properties destroyed, 74,435 properties damaged.

61 public houses destroyed, 49 beer houses destroyed, 40 off licences destroyed.

30 churches destroyed

8 schools destroyed

1 hospital destroyed

Portsmouth was the 9th most hit city in the UK.

The gate to the RN Barracks, Portsmouth is listed and is located at the main gate to HMS Nelson.

