

Sutton Mandeville

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War II



P/KX 100506 LEADING STOKER

R. H. J. MULLINS

ROYAL NAVY

26th JANUARY, 1944 AGE 23

Ronald Henry James MULLINS

Ronald Henry James Mullins was born in 1920 to parents Henry & Kate Mullins (nee Taylor). His parents had married in 1916 at All Saints Church, Sutton Mandeville & their marriage was registered in September quarter, 1916 in the district of Tisbury. Ronald's birth was registered in the district of Tisbury, Wiltshire in the September quarter of 1920. Ronald was one of four children – Winifred M. C. Mullins (birth registered September quarter, 1916), then Ronald, Edgar William Frank Mullins (born December, 1922 - birth registered March quarter, 1923) & Lawrence E. G. Mullins (birth registered December quarter, 1925) all registered in the district of Tisbury.

Ronald Henry James joined the Royal Navy. He was a Leading Stoker with a service number of P/KX 100506.

Ordinary Seaman Ronald Henry James Mullins was killed on 26th January, 1944 aged 23 years. He was aboard *H.M.S. L.S.T. - 422* at the time of his death.

H. M. S. L.S.T. - 422:

Landing Ship Tank – 422 was built in United States in 1942 but never commissioned into the United States Navy. It was Lend-Leased to the British Royal Navy. As part of the Royal Navy, she was captained and crewed by British Naval personnel under the command of Lt. Commander Colin Lowe Broadhurst, RNR (from June, 1943).

The ship had left Naples as part of a convoy of 13 other L.S.T.'s, carrying troops and supplies to Anzio beachhead in Italy on the night of 25th January, 1944. On board the *L.S.T. - 422* were American personnel of the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion. Loaded to capacity with trucks, Jeeps, M3 halftracks, ambulances, and other vehicles, she also carried many 50-gallon steel barrels of gasoline lashed to the deck, plus a variety of ammunition.

About twelve miles off shore, the convoy set anchor at about 1.00 a.m. on 26th January, 1944 'to wait in queue' to unload their cargo at Anzio docks. A storm blew up in the early hours of the morning with Force-8 gale winds and waves 20ft high. In his report on the sinking of the *LST-422*, Lt. Cmdr. Broadhurst wrote:

"It was noted in the ships log that the weather was deteriorating all the time the ships were in convoy. The wind veered from southerly to westerly Force 8 (gale). If the ships were allowed to fall just one point from the wind they would not steer. *LST 11* and *65* (in a different convoy) collided and several other incidents were narrowly averted."

At about 5.20 hours, the gale blew the *L.S.T. - 422* onto a German laid underwater mine, the explosion of which blew a 50ft hole in her bottom and starboard side and caused the fuel oil supply to ignite. This in turn ignited the gasoline tanks of the vehicles on the tank deck. With the whole upper deck a sheet of flame the order was given to 'abandon ship'. Most of the men of the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion were asleep in the tank deck, which was the first to flood. It sealed the fate of over four hundred men who had

no chance of getting out. The men on the main deck had a grim ultimatum.....abandon ship or be consumed by the raging inferno. Many of those who took to the water perished in the frigid sea before anyone could come to their rescue. Rushing to assist in the picking up of survivors, LCI-32 (Landing Craft-Infantry) hit a mine herself and sank with 30 members of her crew lost and 11 wounded.

Casualties of the L.S.T. – 422 were 454 American soldiers and 29 British sailors killed. The minesweepers USS *Pilot* and USS *Strive*, together with other small craft, rescued 150 (some reports quote 171) survivors from the stormy sea. At 2.30pm the L.S.T. - 422 broke in two and went under. Conditions at the time only allowed that the dead bodies were recovered from the water, identified, placed in canvas bags, weighed down with 4 or 5 - 40mm shells and returned to the sea.

The War Diary of the YMS-43 for January 26, 1944 reads as follows:

- 0520 *General Quarters. Large ship in transport area went up in flames and series of explosions.*
- 0625 *Anchored in same anchorage. Secured general quarters.*
- 0655 *Heard cries from survivors of stricken ship*
- 0700 *Underway to pick up survivors. Heavy seas and high winds made it very difficult manoeuvring ship along side the unfortunates. Most men were either too cold or too nearly drowned to help themselves. It was usually necessary for one or two men to go down the Jacobs ladder to the water's edge and lift the survivors aboard. Using the boat hook was the best method except many of the life belts tore under the strain. Survivors were drowning all around us while we were picking up some of their shipmates.*
- 0845 *No more floating bodies visible. Due to an extremely heavy hail storm at 0800 any remaining survivors undoubtedly perished. Continued search.*
- 1046 *Ceased search after having taken aboard 18 survivors. One died. Seventeen of them were off the LST-422; One from the LCI-32*

The names of those dead or missing are engraved on the walls of the U.S. Military Cemetery at Nettuno, Italy.

(With thanks to [The Sinking of the LST-422](#))





HM LST-422 along with an unidentified LST being unloaded in Anzio harbour.

(Photo by Denis Healey, from "Anzio: The Friction of War: Italy and The Battle For Rome 1944," by Lloyd Clark)

Ronald Mullins is remembered on the 1939 -1945 Memorial plaque located inside All Saints Church at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire. Ronald's younger brother Edgar William Frank Mullins is also remembered on the WW 2 plaque in the Church. Edgar was killed on 24th May, 1941 when the H.M.S. *Hood* sank after enemy attack from the German *Bismark* & *Prinz Eugen*.



World War 1 & 2 Memorial Plaques

(Photo by Antony Firth)

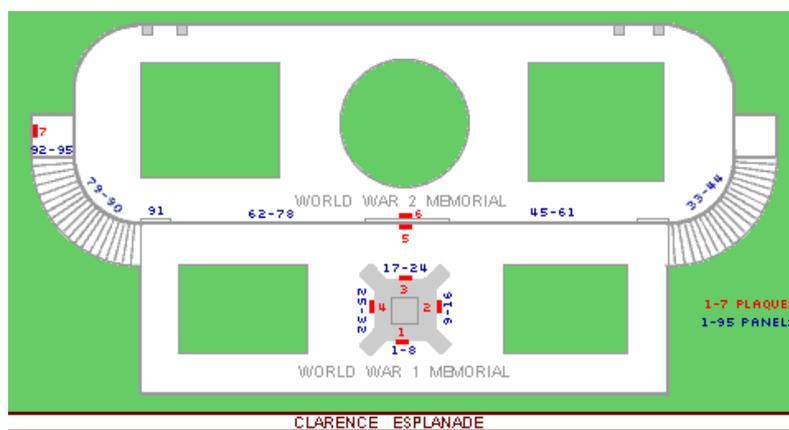
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Leading Stoker Ronald Henry James Mullins, P/JX 157870 Royal Navy – H.M.L. S. T. 422 as being the son of Henry and Kate Winifred Mullins of Landford, Wiltshire.

Leading Stoker Ronald Henry James Mullins is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial – Panel 85, Column 2 as he has no known grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Portsmouth Naval Memorial

The Portsmouth Naval Memorial is situated in Southsea Common, overlooking the Promenade in Hampshire. It lists 24,600 identified casualties – 10,000 sailors from WW1 and almost 15,000 from WW2.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided.



(Photos copyright Tim Backhouse/Geoff Allen)



1944
ROYAL NAVY
CH. ENG. ROOM ARTIFICER

BARTRAM L. S.
GOULDEN A. V. J.
MCKAY W.
McLAUGHLIN E. J., D. S. M.
MARTIN H. F.
PITMAN H.
SMITH W. A. B.
STUBBS G. J., D. S. M.

ENG. ROOM ARTIFICER

AISBITT T. J.
AULTON W. W.
BEVERIDGE W. W.
BIRCH R. R.
CORBETT T.
COX J. E.
DUNN G.
EGBY J.
GIBBONS D. F.
GODFREY W. J.
GOODE H. S.
COWING G. R. De G.
HENDER D. T.
IRVING J. D.
JAMIESON W.
JONES H. G.
JONES L.
KERR P.
LLOYD W. E.
LOWDELL F. J.
LUDBROOK C.
MASTERS F.
MOLLOY C. J.
MULHOLLAND T.
PARKER W. W.
PINNOCK H.
POTTER S. J. C.
RICE J.
ROBERTSON J. M., D. S. M.
RUSSELL D.
SAUNDERS R. T.
SIMPSON J. A.
SNELL N. E.
STUBBS N.
TOURMENT M. SERVED AS
NELSON H.

CHIEF MECHANICIAN

TRENT A. C.

MECHANICIAN

PACKMAN J. A.

ENGINE ROOM MECHANIC

BIRCH S.
CLARKE E. A.
COLE S. W.
COPE M.
DEANE F. W.
EDMONDS E. C.
FRENCH N. W.
HALL J. A.
HOLLOWAY J. R.
MCEWEN L.
MORGAN K. I.
RATE L. E.
ROGERS C.
STONEHAM R. J.
WHITE D.

CHIEF STOKER

BICCENDEN A. E.
BOXALL W. H.
BURNETT A. G.
FURNESS J.
GRAY C. W. H.
HORN C. J.
JONES G.
KELLY H., D. S. M.
WATKIN J.

STOKER PETTY OFFICER

ASHBY A. W. B.
ATTRIDGE J. F. M.
BARRETT F. N.
BLONDEL O. L., D. S. M.
BOWEN H.
BROWN C.
CHAPMAN J.
CLARKE
CONNELL
RESWICK

1944
ROYAL NAVY
STOKER PETTY OFFICER

DAY C.
DEANS A.
DESTRE F. D.
DUNFORD A. J.
EDWARDS R. J.
FOREMAN T. L.
FOSSEY C. A. W.
FURBY J. W.
HARLING S. E.
HEAP W.
HEASMAN W. H.
HEWITT K.
HIGGINS T. H.
HOODLESS J. H.
KEW I. M.
KIRTLEY R. W.
KNIGHT H.
LACEY H. C.
LEAL W. C.
LEDBURY E. F.
McCAULEY T.
McNALLY A. E.
MARSH J. S.
PARKER C. F.
PARKES L. T. N.
PARROTT J. E.
PATRICK G. V.
PAYNE H. S.
REED W.
ROSAM A. C.
ROSE W. H.
RUTTER C., D. S. M.
SCHOFIELD D. D.
SCOTT S. O.
SCULLY E. J.
SHELDRAKE J. G.
SIMMONS S. J.
SMITH A. E., D. S. M.
SMITH J.
SMITH R. C.
SMITH W. W.
SWITZER H., D. S. M.
TATE W.
TILBURY D. G. J.
TREVETT C.
VAUTIER F. J.
VERYARD J. W. G.
WAGSTAFF A.
WHOOLE Y. M. C.
WOOLLATT A. A.

LEADING STOKER

AITKEN R.
ANDREWS D. H.
BLACK J. W.
CHAPMAN E. W.
CHIVERS A.
CLARKE W. G.
CLARKSON L.
COOK C.
COWLEY C. A.
CRAWLEY W.
CROOKES F. H.
DAVIES L.
DAWSON L.
DICKENS F.
DICKINSON R. V.
EASTERBROOK G. E.
EVANS A. E.
FOWLES R.
FRANKHAM J. H.
FREEMAN E. G.
FRENCH J.
FROST W. H.
GERRARD G.
GERNER C. A. R.
GIBBS H. C.
GILES W. T.
GILMORE R.
GREGG W.
GROVES C. H. J.
HACK F.
HARRIS E.
HASKELL F. I.
HULL L.
HYDE E. L.
JOHNSON H. W.
McALLISTER E. A. J.
McALLISTER W.
MANTELL J. A.
MARTIN S.
MAXTED T. N.
MULLINS R. H. J.
NIXON L. J.
NORRIS G. U.
OTTEWELL G.
PEAD G. E.

1944
ROYAL NAVY
LEADING STOKER

PEARSON J. H.
PICKERING J. W.
PRESTON B. H.
RUSSELL A. J.
SCOTT J. A.
SELLEARS E. A.
SHIPLEY E. J.
SMITH R.
SPENDER E. H.
STOROR R. G.
SULLIVAN H. F.
SUTTON A. E.
TANNER F. W.
TAYLOR W. W.
THOMPSON L. V.
TRAVERS A.
WADHAM H. F.
WALE H. T.
WOODS H. J.
WOOLRIDGE C.

STOKER 1ST CLASS

ABBOTTS L.
ACTON T.
ADAM W.
ALEXANDER P.
ALLEN J.
ARMITAGE T.
BACNALL J. M.
BAKER T. J.
BARNES E. C.
BAYLEY E.
BELL L. E.
BELL W.
BELLSEY C. E.
BERESFORD J. E.
BETTS A. V.
BOETHAM A. G.
BOWER M. F.
BOWYER T. H. C.
BRAMMAH C. B.
BRANT J. A.
BRAZIER T. J.
BREEZE J.
BRODIE T. I.
BROWN E.
BRUCE D., D. S. M.
BRYAN J.
BRYAN L. A. J.
BUCKMAN A. J.
BUTTERY J. E.
CALLAN J.
CAMERON D.
CARTLEDGE D.
CATER J. T.
CHURCH G. L.
CLARK E. R.
CLAY L. A.
COGGER A. E.
COLEMAN G. W.
COOK E.
COOPER A. H.
COVEY W.
COWLING W.
DAVIES L. G.
DAVIES T. J.
DAVISON L.
DELLER H. S. R.
DEVITT J. W.
DEVLIN H.
DIMENT R. J.
DRACUP D. G. R.
DUFFIELD H. G. W.
DUNBAR P. G.
DYER J. W.
EAST F.
EVANS D.
EVERTON K.
FIELD C. G.
FLANNIGHAN R. J.
FOSSETT W. E.
FOUNTAIN J. H.
FRANCIS C.
FRASER J.
FRIPP A.
FROHWEIN W. D.
GAMBLE C.
GARDINER N.
GILLETT W. E. B.
GLEADALL H.
GOODWIN A. J.
GORDON W. H. B.
GRAHAM J.
GREEN A. O.
GRIFFITHS R. T., D. S. M.
GUY P. C.
HALL F. R.

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