



Royal Navy

Raymond D Castle

Rank: Able Seaman (AB)

Service No.: PJX236193

Royal Navy H.M.S. Exeter

Son of Albert Douglas Castle and Daisy Victoria Castle, of The Knoll, Elham, Kent.

Before Service:

During Service:

Raymond was an Able Seaman in *H.M.S. Exeter* when she was torpedoed in the Pacific Ocean in March 1942.

HMS Exeter was engaged in the Battle of the Java Sea as the Allies attempted to intercept several Imperial Japanese Navy invasion convoys. Exeter was crippled early in the battle, and she did not play much of a role as she withdrew. Two days later, she attempted to escape approaching Japanese forces, but she was intercepted and sunk by Japanese ships at the beginning of March in the Second Battle of the Java Sea. Most of her crewmen survived the sinking and were rescued by the Japanese. 152 of them died during Japanese captivity.

Her wreck was discovered in early 2007, and it was declared a war grave, but by 2016 her remains had been destroyed by illegal salvagers.

The Elham Parish Magazine of November 1945 reads: It is with great regret, however, that we have to report that Mr and Mrs Douglas Castle have received official intimation through the Admiralty of the death of their elder son, Raymond D. Castle, in March last, while a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. It is particularly sad therefore that he did not survive another six months to be restored to his family.

Further Info:

AMBON WAR CEMETERY - Most of the 800 British casualties belonged to the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force; nearly all the naval dead were originally buried at Makassar. The cemetery is laid out in a series of terraces approached by short flights of steps on the central axis. The Ambon Memorial, which is in the form of a shelter, stands on the first terrace.

Died: 22nd March 1945