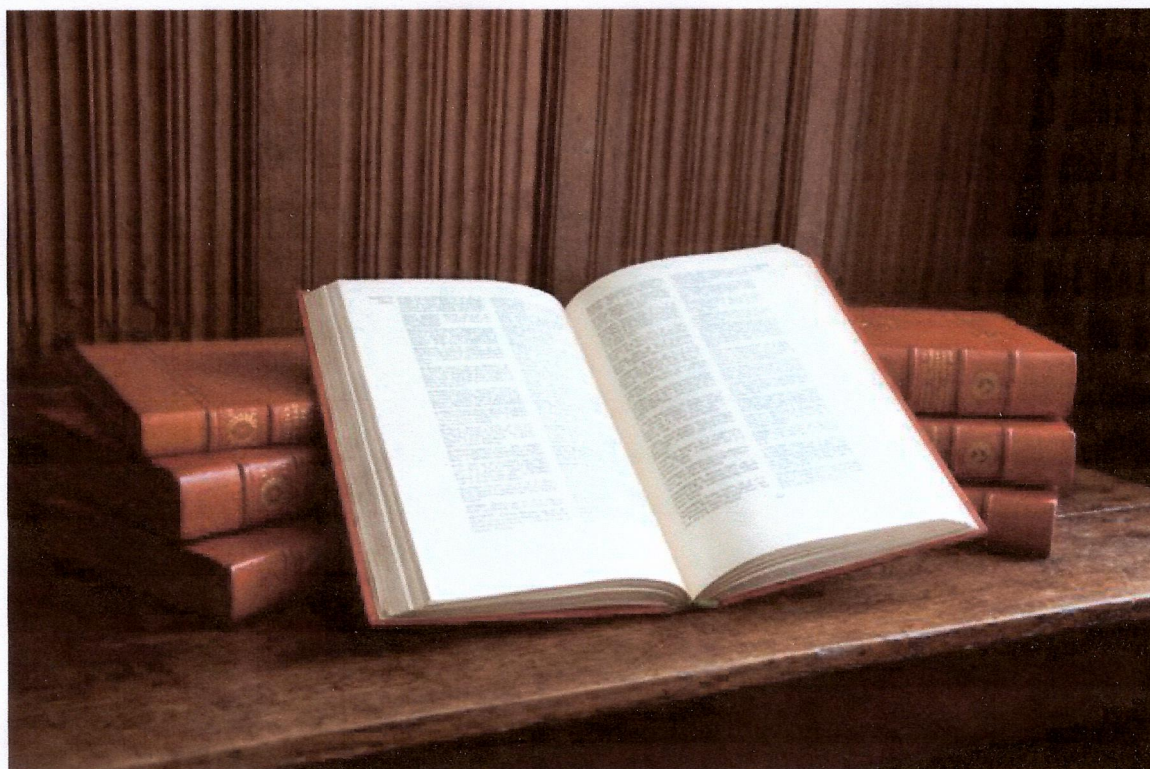


In Memory of
Civilian Bachelor of Science
Alexander Colin Stewart

Civilian War Dead who died on 07 December 1942 Age 34

B.Sc. Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, of Whitehouse, Abington, Lanarkshire; husband of Gladys Stewart, of 104 East King Street, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire.

Remembered with Honour
M.V. Henry Stanley



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Alexander Colin Stewart

Civil Engineer

Number: Not applicable

Died: 6 December 1942

Age: 34

How Died: Killed at Sea

Country of burial: Lost at Sea

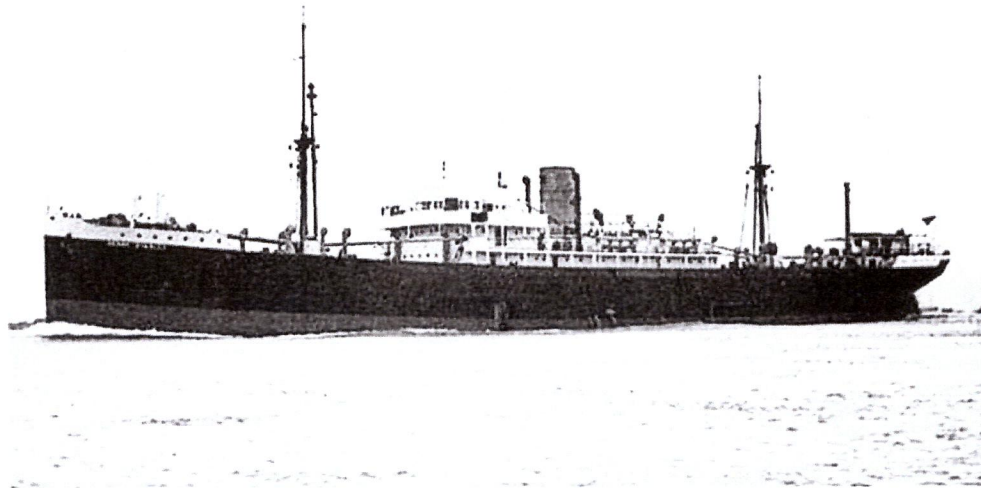
Cemetery or Memorial:

Town Memorial: None known

Extra Information

ALEXANDER COLIN STEWART (1908 — 1942) son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, of Lanarkshire and husband of Gladys Stewart, of Dunbartonshire, was a civil engineer working for the Admiralty.

In 1938 he was sent overseas to work in Singapore building bridges. In 1942 he was sent to work in Scotland and the family moved to Helensburgh to pursue their love of sailing. On 28th November he was again posted overseas and boarded the M.V. Henry Stanley in Liverpool en route for Freetown, South Africa en route to the Singapore area.



By 1942, the Germans and Italians had virtually closed the Mediterranean to Allied shipping and all merchant ships went round the Cape of Good Hope. Any journey to Singapore would therefore have been via South Africa, round the Cape of Good Hope, then to Mombasa, Kenya, across the Indian Ocean to Colombo or Trincomalee in Sri Lanka and then through the Malacca Strait to the North of Sumatra. Refuelling and reprovisioning stops may have taken place in South Africa and Sri Lanka.

However, on 5th December, the Henry Stanley was torpedoed by a u-boat (U103) and sank fairly quickly. The crew and passengers took to the lifeboats, heading for the Azores. The u-boat later surfaced and took the Henry Stanley's captain prisoner. During the night, a gale blew up, accompanied by heavy snow squalls. The U-boat commander decided to pursue the lifeboats to see if they needed assistance. However, the submarine shipped a heavy sea which flooded her engine-room and the chase had to be abandoned.

Nothing further was heard of the four lifeboats and their crews, and it was presumed that they lost their lives in the storm.

My mother moved from Helensburgh with my brother and me to live in Lanark near other family members. My brother and I were raised without a father as my mother remained a war widow all her life.

(Information for Alexander Colin Stewart was provided by his daughter Pat Allan (nee Stewart) who was born in 1942, three months before MV Henry Stanley was sunk.

Memorials also found on:

None available