

In Memory of

Able Seaman FREDERICK DENNIS HOBBS

**D/SSX 22594, HMS Mourne, Royal Navy
who died age 23 on 15 June 1944**

**Son of Silas and Annie Hobbs;
husband of Winifred Blanche Elizabeth Hobbs
of East Tytherton, Wiltshire**

**Remembered with honour
PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL**



HMS Mourne (K261) was a River class frigate of 1,370 tons commissioned into service in April 1943. It was used as an escort for transatlantic convoys and to protect the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944. Nine days later, on Thursday 15 June, she was on patrol as part of a

formation when a bridge lookout spotted a wisp of smoke rising from the sea surface some distance ahead, which was a U-Boat using its schnorkell and all ships went to action stations immediately. Mourne was first to make asdic contact but no sooner had she reported when she disappeared in a massive explosion which left nothing but floating wreckage and a few survivors. She went down with the loss of 8 officers, 102 men, one other dying later of wounds. With a full complement of 140 men there would have been less than 30 survivors.

The success of U-boat 767 was however to be extremely short-lived as on Sunday 18th June just three days after the sinking of HMS Mourne, it was detected by three ships from the British Support Group 14, HM Ships Fame, Inconstant, and Havelock. Over the next hour the three ships carried out three deliberate depth charge attacks which drove the U Boat to its doom on the sea floor at a depth of 250 feet. From a crew of 50 only one, a stoker, survived.

Frederick married Winifred, who was in domestic service, in Christian Malford on 25 January 1941. They had a son, Roger Dennis, baptised on 10 May 1942. Frederick's father was a former Sergeant Major.