STEPHEN EDWIN BURBIDGE

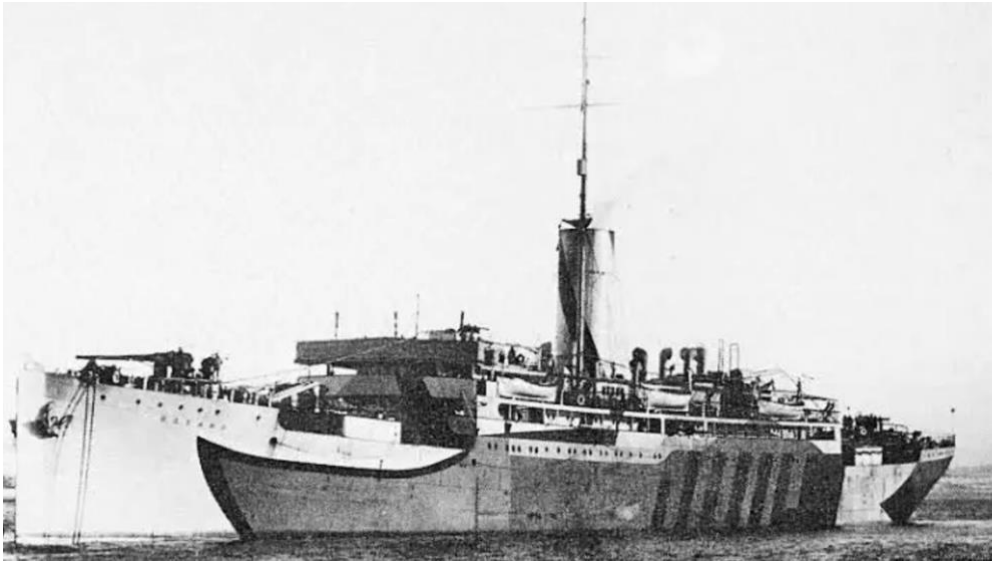
7/ 6/ 1862 - 11/ 3/ 1915

Stephen Edwin Burbidge was one of ten children of Benjamin and Julia (nee Dean). The family lived near Newton Farm where Benjamin worked as a Farm Carter.

Stephen worked as a Shipwright for the Royal Navy. In October, 1895 he married Jane Drake, originally from Wareham. The wedding took place at St. Mary's, Lytchett Matravers, Stephen was aged 36 and Jane was aged 19.

They began married life on Portland, close to Stephen's work at the Naval Base. Their daughter Ethel May was born there in 1896. By 1911, Stephen and family had moved back to Lytchett Matravers and later that year their son Ronald Edwin was born. They lived in Wareham Road.

When WW1 started Stephen served on HMS Bayano, as Shipwright 1st Class.



HMS Bayano, built in 1913, was originally a banana boat for the Elder and Fyffes line. At the outbreak of WW1 it was commandeered by the Royal Navy and by 21/11/1914 became an Armed Merchant Cruiser.

At 5.15am on 11th March, 1915, while on patrol duty off the coast of Galloway, HMS Bayano came under attack and was torpedoed by a German Submarine 10 miles NW by W of Corsewall point.



The ship sunk rapidly and only 22 men survived, 181 lost their lives. Sadly one of the deceased was Stephen Edwin Burbidge, whose body was never recovered.

He is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial as well as on Lytchett's Memorial. Stephen was 53 when he lost his life.