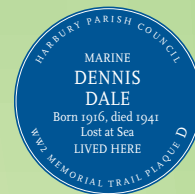




# IN MEMORY OF MARINE DENNIS IRA DALE



Royal Marines.  
Lost at sea on 19th December 1941  
**BLUE PLAQUE D**

Dennis was born in Bascote in 1916 to Ira and Daisy Dale, the second of six children. At the time of his son's birth Ira was serving as a private in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Daisy whose maiden name was Batchelor was a Harbury girl and the family later lived in South Parade.

When war broke out in 1939 Dennis was living in lodgings in Coventry and working in the ARP stores. He enlisted in the Royal Marines and after training joined the crew of HMS Neptune which was a cruiser with 765 men on board. In 1941 HMS Neptune was deployed to the Mediterranean under the command of Captain Rory O'Connor. He led 'Force K', a raiding squadron whose task was to destroy German and Italian convoys carrying troops and supplies to Libya.



*Marine Dennis Dale*

On the afternoon of December 18th 1941, the squadron left Malta to intercept a convoy. At 1.06am on the 19th of December HMS Neptune struck a mine. The ship managed to continue but then struck another mine. Attempts to reach the stricken ship resulted in two more ships hitting mines and Captain O'Connor ordered the rest of the squadron to keep away. The ship sank at 4 am. Searches were made for survivors when daylight came but none were found. 764 men including Dennis perished. One man survived and was picked up from a life raft by the Italian Navy. Dennis is remembered on the Plymouth

Naval memorial to those with no grave but the sea which bears 23,224 names from the two World Wars.

