Trevor Marsh Atkinson

Apprentice, SS Berwickshire (Glasgow), Merchant Navy
Died August 20th 1944, aged 20
Commemorated on Tower Hill Memorial

Trevor Marsh Atkinson was born in 1924. His parents moved from the south east to Port Gaverne, where his father, Dickie, was a builder. Trevor's sister June (*now June Pengelly*) lives at Chapel Amble. Trevor joined the Merchant Navy, where he was an apprentice on the SS Berwickshire.

SS Berwickshire

The SS Berwickshire was a British cargo ship built in 1912, and originally called the Clan MacArthur and renamed Berwickshire in 1918. She has a gross weight of 5,815 tons and was capable of 14 knots. She mainly served the Australian and New Zealand routes via South Africa.

In the early hours of August 20th 1944 the Berwickshire, under the command of Captain J McCrone, was four hundred miles east of Durban, South Africa on route from Liverpool to Tamatave, Madagascar. She had 6,000 tons of general cargo and a deck cargo of 70 tons of high octane motor spirit. She was spotted by the German submarine U-861 commanded by Jurgen Oesten (*the same Captain and U-boat that destroyed the MV Scottish Minstrel where William Johnson Townsend was lost*). A single torpedo was fired, and the Berwickshire sank with the loss of 8 crew, although 94 were picked up.

These are the 8 crew lost that day -
Trevor Marsh **Atkinson**, Apprentice
Robert **Brown**, 3rd Engineer Officer (aged 38)
Thomas Hector Williams **Gillies**, Second Officer (aged 34)
Walter Alexander Elmslie **Harrow**, Chief Refrigeration Engineer (aged 64)
John William **Morrice**, 4th Engineer Officer (aged 29)
George Ewart **Paterson**, 2nd Refrigeration Engineer (aged 47)
Sarfat **Ullah**, Oiler (aged 47)
William **Spencer**, Radio Officer (aged 31)

In Memory of
Apprentice
Trevor Marsh Atkinson

S.S. Berwickshire (Glasgow), Merchant Navy who died on 20 August 1944

Remembered with Honour
Tower Hill Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission