

Samuel Phillips Keat



Carpenter, HMS Wilna, Naval Auxiliary Personnel (Merchant Navy)

Died August 8th 1940, aged 34

Memorial at St Endellion Churchyard

Son of Samuel Phillips Keat and Mary Anna Keat;
husband of Isobel Jago Keat, of Port Isaac

Samuel Phillips Keat was born in 1906 at Port Isaac to Samuel Phillips and Mary Anna Keat. In the 1911 census Samuel Phillips senior (38) was recorded as a mariner in sailing vessels on the coasting trade. The household consisted of him, Mary Anna (30) and Samuel junior (4). Until the age of 9 Samuel junior accompanied his parents on the schooners sailing around the UK. He later became an apprentice to Harry Hills in his boatbuilding trade in Roscarrack Hill, and subsequently did carpentry around Cornwall, most notably on Church Towers. In 1937 he married Isobel Jago Tilley, and in 1938 they had a son, Gordon Samuel Keat. Before the war he served in the Merchant Navy on different vessels. When war broke out he enlisted in the Royal Navy and served on HMS Wilna.

HMS Wilna was an armed yacht launched in 1934 and displaced 117 tons. In August 1939 it was purchased by the Admiralty and placed under the command of Commander (Retired) Arthur Drury Smyth to be engaged on anti-submarine duties. It was bombed and sunk by German aircraft off Portsmouth on March 24th 1941, and all crew were rescued.

Samuel Phillips Keat was killed in an earlier fatal skirmish in Southampton on August 8th 1940. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission database has three casualties from the Wilma that day –

Edgar **Brown** Quartermaster
Alfred Percy **Fullick**, Able Seaman (aged 24)
Samuel Phillips **Keat**, Carpenter (aged 34)

Isobel had the sad task of journeying to Southampton to bring his body home, where he is interred in St Endellion churchyard.



Samuel Phillips Keat




The grave of Samuel Phillips Keat at St Endellion Churchyard


In Memory of
Carpenter
Samuel Phillips Keat

H.M.S. Wilna., Naval Auxiliary Personnel (Merchant Navy) who died on 08 August 1940 Age 34

Son of Samuel Phillips Keat and Mary Anna Keat; husband of Isobel Jago Keat, of Port Isaac.

Remembered with Honour
St. Endellion (St. Endellienta) Churchyard





Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Sources

HMS Wilna: <http://uboat.net/allies/warships/ship/13655.html>

We are grateful to Gordon Keat for the family information and the photograph of his father