

C T Clapp

CWGC - ORDINARY SEAMAN CHARLES THOMAS CLAPP

Service Number: D/SSX 32568

Royal Navy

H.M.S. Valentine

Died 16 May 1940

Age 20 years old

Buried or commemorated at

[PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL](#)

Panel 38, Column 3.

United Kingdom

Additional Info Son of Arthur and Amy Clapp, of Keynsham, Somerset.

Notes - HMS *Whitley*, *Valentine* and *Winchester* were operating off Flushing during the night of 14-15 May 1940. At 1300, *Whitley* and *Valentine* were ordered to cover the Terneusen - Brosele (Beveland) Ferry. HMS *Valentine* (Cdr H.J. Buchanan RAN) was bombed and badly damaged by a German Ju. 88 bomber at the mouth of the River Scheldt leading to Antwerp within a mile of Terneusen. [She was struck by two bombs, her boiler blew up and she was run aground and abandoned as a total loss.](#) Thirty-one ratings were killed and twenty-one crew, including Surgeon Lt N. F. E. Burrows RNVR, Lt R. M. MacFie RNVR and Acting Gunner S. F. Burrow were wounded. HMS *Whitley* was bombed but was not damaged. She blew up *Valentine* and remained at Flushing during the afternoon and evening. The victims were originally buried in a local cemetery; however, they were later interred in a military graveyard in Bergen-op-Zoom.