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Doug Glading

Last Update 15/7/2026

7. The Story of Warrant Mechanician Moses William. EVANS, RN.

Died 19/12/1941 when HMS.

"Neptune" hit mines. Aged 38



Moses enlisted April 1925 and July 1936. Was a boiler-maker prior to enlisting.



NEXT MECHANICIAN COURSE.

SELECTED CANDIDATES.

It is announced in Fleet Orders that the following stoker petty officers have at present been selected for the next Mechanician Course, and will join the Mechanical Training Establishment, Devonport, on December 27:—

Portsmouth Port Division.—Walter W. Isern, H.M.S. Centaur; **Moses, W. Evans**, H.M.S. Warspite; **Norman R. Dandy**, H.M.S. Warspite; **William O. Welch**, H.M.S. Warspite; James McB. Reid, H.M.S. Warspite; Andrew Smith, H.M.S. Centurion.

Devonport Port Division.—Frank A. Hawkins, H.M.S. Malaya; **William Brad**.

On the afternoon of December 18th the cruiser HMS Nelson's was despatched from Malta. It was leading 'Force K', a Cruiser raiding squadron. Their task was to destroy German and Italian convoys carrying troops and supplies to Libya, in support of Rommel's army in North Africa.



On the night of 19 December 1941, there occurred one of the most extensive but least known naval disasters of the Second World War.

. "Neptune" ran into an uncharted minefield in the Mediterranean of Tripoli, and sank with the loss of 764 ofcers and men. including 150 New Zealand sailors

Over 30 people managed to get to a raft. Next morning there were 16 left.

- Eventually there was only one man left alive - he was rescued by an Italian torpedo boat, after 5 days in the water, and became a POW.

Moses has no known grave.

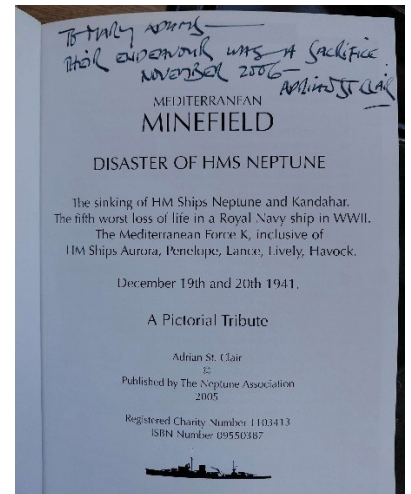
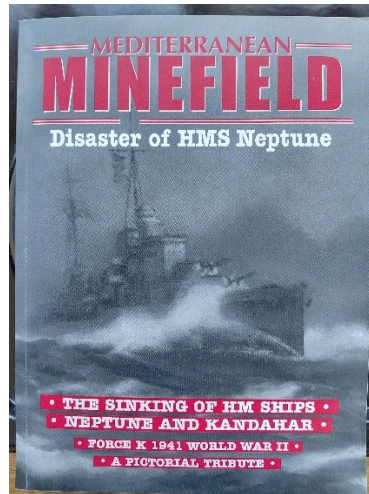
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Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 45/1

Catisfield Connection:

He married Lilian Dawson in April 1933.

He left behind a widow Lilian, and his two daughters, Mary and Madge . (Lilian died in 2002. She never re-married and kept photographs of Moses on her wall until she died).

Moses Evans was the Royal Navy boxing champion and his trophies were pride of place on Lilian's mantelpiece.



*Their home was
Litleholme (also
spelt Lytleholme),
Highlands Road (
now number 203)-*

