

Pte. Fred Joyce

<i>Name</i>	Fred Joyce		
<i>Birth Place</i>	Bugbrooke		
<i>Occupation 1911</i>	Agricultural Labourer		
<i>Date of Birth</i>	1895	<i>Parents</i>	James & Edith
<i>Date of Enlisted</i>	Dec. 1915	<i>Married</i>	



Northants Regiment, no. 20232/43368

Drowned at sea at Alexandria, from the liner HT Aragon, December 30th 1917 while member of the 5th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. Remembered on the Chatby Memorial.

The liner 'ARAGON', in December 1917 was taking reinforcements to the army operating in Palestine under General Allenby. The ship was full to capacity, having a total of around 2,700 people on board and was escorted by the destroyer HMS Attack.

On arrival at Alexandria on December 30th, the Aragon was initially permitted to enter harbour, but was subsequently ordered out again by HMS Attack. She anchored outside without any protection and was duly torpedoed and sunk with a total loss of 610 people. She sank quite quickly and trawlers and destroyers at once closed in to pick up survivors. The destroyer HMS Attack was one of those engaged in the rescue but was itself literally blown in two by a mine and disappeared with 10 of her crew and many of those she had just taken on board.



HT Aragon in its prime, and below sinking in 1917

