

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



Information

<i>Parents</i>	James & Edith
<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.

Medals – 1914-15 Star, the Victory Medal, the War Medal. All awarded posthumously

The liner 'ARAGON', was taken over by the Government from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company during the war. She was employed as an auxiliary transport and in December 1917 she 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, 1917, the Aragon was initially permitted to enter harbour, but was subsequently ordered out again by HMS Attack. She anchored outside without any protection from submarine attack, for which she was an easy target and was duly torpedoed and sunk with a total loss of 610 people, of whom 19 were crew. She sank quite quickly and trawlers and destroyers at once closed in to pick up those who had succeeded in jumping clear. 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. The German submarine responsible for both losses was the mine-laying UC-34.

Photos of the sinking of the HT Aragon.



Follow this link for a first hand account of the sinking of the HT Aragon.

<http://www.merchantnavyofficers.com/rm2.html>

