



**The Raymond Steed Memorial Fund**  
4 Ridgeway Grove  
Newport  
South Wales NP20 5AN  
Tel. 01633 676987



### Honour bid for youngest war hero

The bravery of a 14-year-old boy, the youngest from Britain to die serving in World War II, should be remembered say campaigners.

Raymond Steed was a galley boy on a Merchant Navy ship when it was blown up after hitting a German mine off the African coast in 1943.

The teenager from Newport was just 14 years and 207 days old when he died, five months after joining up. Merchant Navy Association officials now want a statue erected in his honour.

Raymond and 20 crew mates died in April 1943 after his ship, the Empire Morn, exploded after hitting a U-Boat mine near its destination of Casablanca, Morocco. His body was recovered and buried in the Ben M'Sik military cemetery near the city, alongside him lays British Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck - just as the Field Marshal requested.

He has been officially recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as the youngest recorded fatality of the British service war dead.

Joining in December 1942, he served on the hospital ship Atlantis where he was awarded the Africa Star with clasp during Operation Torch when Allied troops landed on the beaches of North Africa. Then he transferred to the freighter Empire Morn as it set off in convoy from Milford Haven for Gibraltar and Casablanca where it was hit.

Merchant Navy Association officials are now fundraising for the money needed for a statue in honour of Raymond in Newport. Vice-president of the association Bertram Bale, 75, said:

"A memorial to Raymond would honour not only him but all the seamen who were killed in the war."

"It would also be a fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by those unsung heroes who died on all convoys in all wars."



**Name:** Steed - Raymond V  
**Date of Birth** 01.10.1929  
**Place of Birth:** Newport S.W.  
**Disch. Book No:** R281123  
**I.D. Book No:** BT372/576/106

**Signed up just two months after turning 14, killed in action before he was 15**



Fund administrators

Bert Bale MNA Chair Person - Tim Brant MNA Treasurer - Paul Flynn MP Trustee -George Morgan MNA Trustee