



Name **ERIC HEATH HUGHES**

DOB 10/1/1913

Place of birth Stoke on Trent

Lived at 48 Boma Road in 1939

Occupation Sanitary inspector

Family Father Harry Charles (married 1907, died in action in 1917); Mother Annie Venetta [Nettie] Heath
 Mother lived at Garden Place, Hartshill in 1939. He had two older brothers, Cecil and Bentley.

Marital Status Married

Wife Ethel Tart married between July and Sept 1939

Children Son Edward Heath Hughes born July 1944



Age enlisted

Date enlisted

Place enlisted

Service Royal Naval Canteen Service

Reg number C/NX 704643

Rank Canteen Manager/Petty Officer



Date of death Died Tuesday, March 20, 1945

Age at death Age 32

Place of death At sea, north of Murmansk, Russia

Cause of death His ship, HMS Lapwing, was torpedoed and sunk

Grave or Memorial CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL 82, 1
 Commemorated on a family memorial at Hartshill Cemetery

Medals Arctic Cross – applied for by his son

Other information A memorial service was held at Trentham Church on 28 April 1945
 Probate: £1192 16s 3d to his widow Ethel Hughes
 Ethel re-married Robert Pringle, a civil engineer, in 1955. Robert joined the Air Ministry and Ethel and Edward accompanied him on postings at home and abroad. Edward joined the Merchant Navy retiring as a Master in 2004.





The Sinking
of HMS
Lapwing

HMS Lapwing (U 62)
British Sloop



H.M.S. LAPWING CREW TAKEN AFTER COMPLETING SEA TRIALS TOBERMORAY, SCOTLAND MARCH 1944



HMS Lapwing was sunk in the Arctic off Northern Russia north of Murmansk. In the afternoon of 20 March 1945, a German U-boat, U-968 attacked convoy JW65 and the Lapwing of the 7th Escort Group was hit amidships by a T5 homing torpedo at 13:25. It broke in two and sank 20 minutes later.

There were 61 survivors, but 158 men died, including Eric Heath Hughes.

