

**HARRY HIGHFIELD**  
**Able Seaman D/SSX 32198**  
**Age 21**  
**Royal Navy - H.M.S. Galatea**

**Went down with ship - 15 December 1941**

**Remembered** - Plymouth Naval Memorial, and commemorated on Harthill War Memorial

Harry Highfield was a twin along with Ethel born to Charles Henry, a tailor and draper, and Edith Highfield of Firvale, Harthill.



Harry was an Able Seaman on board HMS Galatea an Arethusa Class Light Cruiser built in 1935. The Galatea was part of the Mediterranean Fleet and in December 1941, she was tasked, with other ships, to attack German convoys operating from Italy to North Africa. However, the Galatea was ordered to return to Egypt because the German convoys had retreated to port.

During her voyage, the Galatea was subject to repeated air attacks, however, just after midnight, on 15 December 1941, whilst entering the swept channel 30 miles North West of Alexandria, the Galatea was hit by a salvo of torpedoes launched by the German submarine U-557.

Following the fatal blow the Galatea listed heavily then suddenly rolled over on her port side and sank in just 3 minutes.

150 survivors were picked up by the destroyers HMS Griffin and HMS Hotspur. The Galatea's Captain, 22 officers and 447 ratings died. Able Seaman Harry Highfield, aged 21, was amongst those lost.