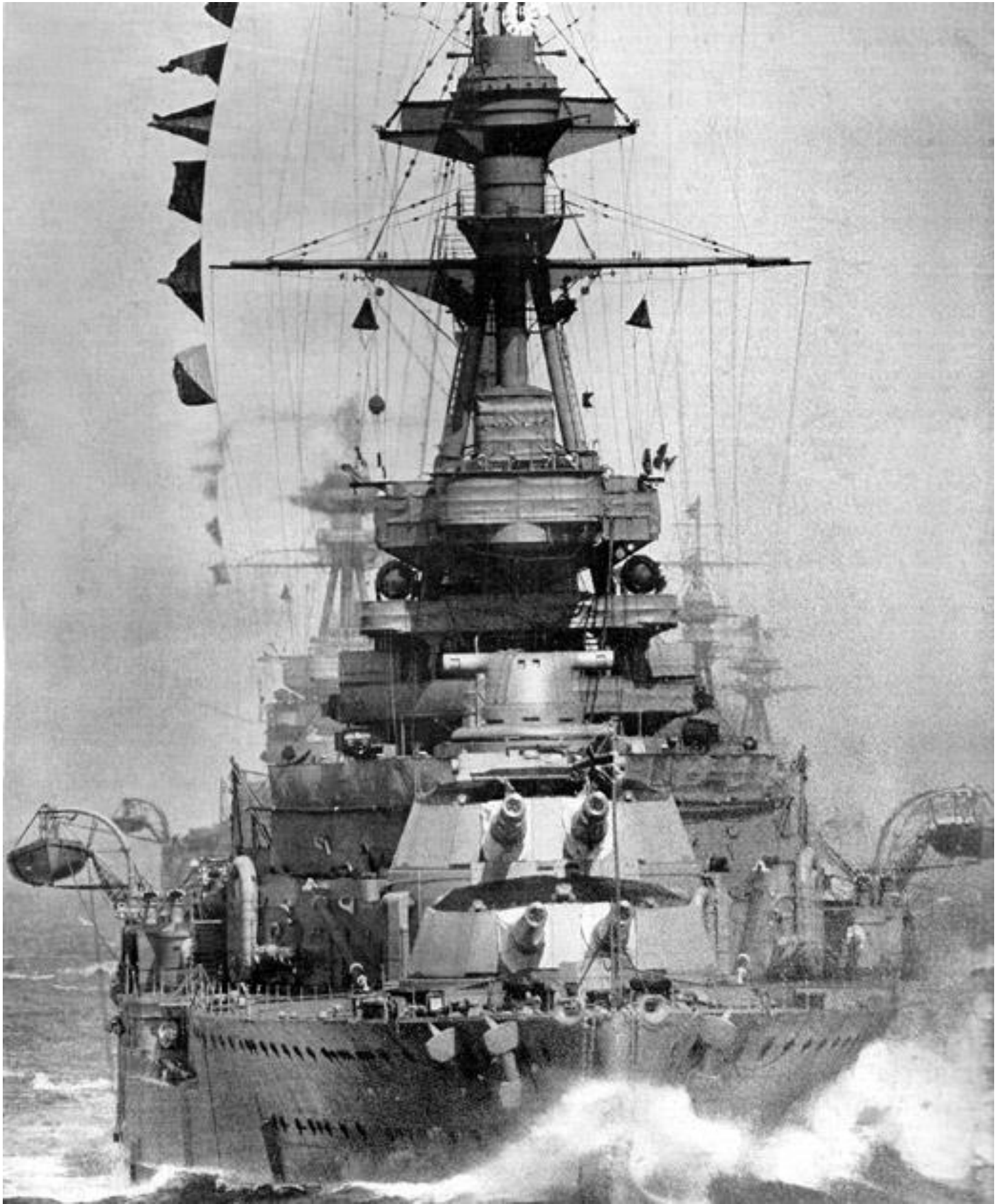


Percy Sumner

Percy lived at The Cottage, opposite the Friendship, Laughterton. He served as a Chief Engine Room Artificer 2nd Class P/MX59525 on board HMS Royal Oak. He died when Royal Oak was sunk in Scapa Flow on 14th October 1939 and is buried in Lyness Royal Navy Cemetery on Hoy in the Orkneys, in Plot P, Row 1, Grave 3.

Historical Information

It was known that the Scapa Flow defences were weak, and many ships were moved to more secure locations. On 13/14 Oct 39 U47 captained by Gunter Prien penetrated the anchorage and fired a salvo of three torpedoes at Royal Oak of which one hit near the bow. Turning away he fired another from a stern tube that missed. He then attacked again with a salvo and all three struck and caused a magazine to blow up. The battleship rolled over and sank in 19 minutes. Of the ships complement of 1208 officers and men 833 were killed and there were 375 survivors. Subsequently Churchill ordered the blocking of four channels and these "Churchill Barriers" now form part of the road system of the Orkneys.



HMS Royal Oak