

**Woodlands Cemetery,
Gillingham, Kent
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



FRANK O. BAYLEY

LEADING SIGNALMAN 7364

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

7TH MARCH, 1916

Frank Ohlfsen BAYLEY

Frank Ohlfsen Bayley was born on 2nd July, 1890 at Paddington, Sydney, NSW to parents Frank Henry Bayley & Herminie Bayley (nee Ohlfsen-Baggi). He was baptised on 14th September, 1890 at St. Mark's Church, Darling Point, NSW.

'Olaf' Bayley attended North St. Leonards Public School, NSW.

Francis Henry Bayley, father of Frank Ohlfsen Bayley, died on 25th June, 1901 at Campbelltown, NSW.

Frank Ohlfsen Bayley attended Sydney Church of England Grammar School from 27th July, 1903 until 14th December, 1906.

Frank Ohlfsen Bayley married Eliza J. Hillier in 1908 at Gunning, NSW.

Frank Ohlfsen Bayley joined the Australian Naval Force on 6th August, 1909 for a period of 5 years. He was given an Official number of 1349. His occupation had previously been in the Wool Trade. Minnie Bayley, mother of Frank Ohlfsen Bayley, signed her consent on 13th July, 1909 for her son to join the Royal Navy for a period of 5 years. Frank Ohlfsen Bayley had previously served in NSW Naval Forces but was granted a discharge upon entering the Royal Navy.

Ordinary Signalman Frank Ohlfsen Bayley on board H.M.S. *Challenger*, on 6th August, 1910, engaged to serve in H. M. Navy for a further period of 5 years from 1st December, 1910. He was 6ft 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches with dark brown hair, brown eyes, a fresh complexion & had a scar on his right leg.

Signalman Frank Bailey was awarded the Coronation Medal, 1911 as part of the Australian Naval Contingent.

Frank Ohlfsen Bayley joined the Australian Royal Navy on 1st January, 1913 with an official number of 7364, with his engagement expiring on 30th November, 1915 to complete Australian Naval Force commitment.

Signalman Frank Ohlfsen Bayley was posted to London Depot on 1st January, 1913 then transferred to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* as Leading Signalman on 18th January, 1913. He was transferred to London Depot from 2nd February, 1916 to 6th March, 1916.

H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*

HMAS *Melbourne* commissioned at Birkenhead, England, on 18 January 1913 under the command of Captain Mortimer L'Estrange Silver, RN. The ship completed her delivery voyage from England when she arrived at Fremantle on 10 March 1913.

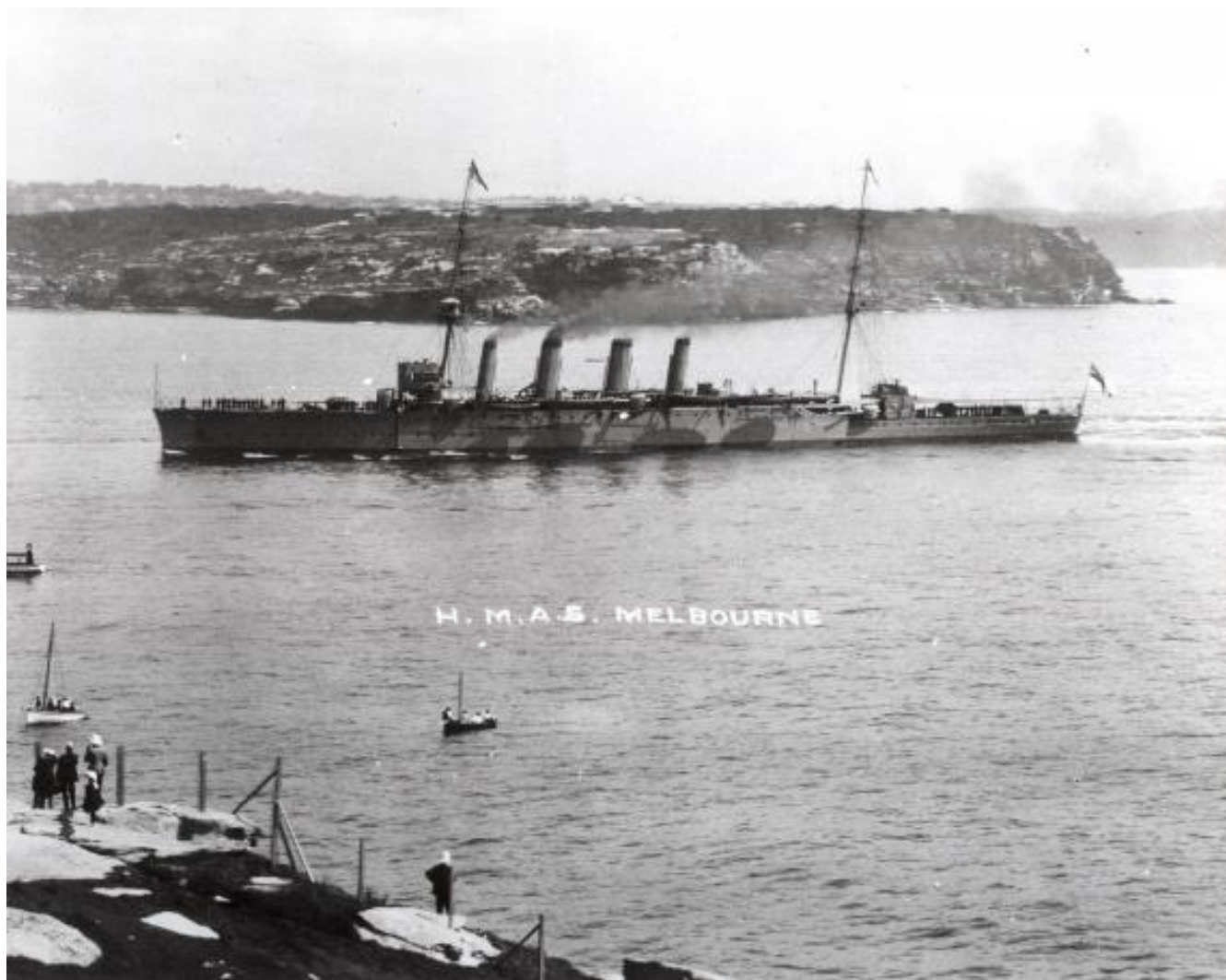
Following the outbreak of war in August 1914 *Melbourne* spent a brief period in Pacific waters as a unit of the Australian Squadron operating as a counter to the German Pacific Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee. She took part in the seizure of the German Pacific possessions and on 9 September 1914 landed a naval party on Nauru Island to carry out the destruction of the wireless station. Her return to Sydney on 20 September 1914 ended this phase of operations. The cruiser covered 11,170 miles on Pacific patrols.

On 1 November 1914 *Melbourne* sailed from Albany, Western Australia, escorting in company with HMAS *Sydney* (I), HMS *Minotaur* and the Japanese cruiser *Ibuki*, the first Australian / New Zealand convoy, comprising 38 transports. Detaching from the convoy in the Indian Ocean, *Melbourne* reached Colombo on 14 November, proceeding the following day for Gibraltar, arriving there on 5 December 1914. On 10 December the cruiser received orders to sail for the Azores to assist in the search for the cruiser *Karlsruhe*.

Arriving at Madeira on 12 December, *Melbourne* received orders to proceed direct to Bermuda for attachment to the North America and West Indies Stations for patrol duties. Operations began from Trinidad on 28 December 1914 when she departed that post with orders to search the coastal areas of Venezuela, Colombia and Panama for the *Karlsruhe* and her attendant supply ship.

The following twenty months (January 1915 – 28 August 1916) were spent as a unit of the North America and West Indies Squadron maintaining a series of patrols in the West Indies with Jamaica as the centre point, and off Long Island and the entrance to New York Harbour with Halifax as the base. Squadron Headquarters were at Bermuda. *Melbourne* operated north to Halifax and south to the Para River, Brazil, taking in the Gulf of Mexico.

(Information & photo from Royal Australian Navy)



HMAS Melbourne entering Sydney Harbour for the first time 4 October 1913

Leading Signalman Frank Ohlfsen Bayley died on 7th March, 1916 in London from Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

A death for Frank O. Bayley, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Leading Signalman Frank Ohlfsen Bayley was buried in Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham, Kent, England – Plot number – Naval. 24. 1261 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Leading Signalman Frank Bayley – service number 7364, of H.M.A.S. Melbourne, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Frank Henry and Minnie Bayley of “Trevallyn” 223 Ernest St., North Sydney, New South Wales.

F. O. Bayley is remembered on the Sydney Church of England Grammar School WW1 Roll of Honour, located at the War Memorial Playing Fields, corner Sailors Bay Road & Alpha Road, Northbridge, NSW.



Sydney Church of England Grammar School WW1 Roll of Honour

(Photos courtesy of Kate Riseley, School Archivist, Shore School)



F. O. Bayley is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial, located in St. Leonard's Park, corner Walker and Ridge Streets, North Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)



Leading Signaller F. O. Bayley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Frank Ohlfsen Bayley is remembered on a Plaque located in St. Thomas's Anglican Church, corner Church and McLaren Streets, North Sydney, NSW.



(Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

A.M.D.G

And

In Loving Memory Of

FRANK OHLFSEN BAYLEY

of H.M.A.S. Melbourne

Who Died On Active Service In The Great War

7th March 1916 Aged 25 Years

'QUI ANTE DEUM PERIIT'

*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth
Shall awake, some to everlasting life & some to shame
And everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall
Shine as the brightness of the firmament and they
That turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

Newspaper article – *The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 21 May, 1917:

MEMORIAL SERVICES

At last night's service a St. Thomas's Church, North Sydney, Rev. Horace Crotty unveiled a memorial to the late leading seaman, F. O. Bayley, of H.M.A.S. Melbourne. Deceased, who was the son of Mrs Bayley, of Ernest Street, North Sydney, was a splendid stamp of young man, and was a fine "tonic" to his comrades, with whom he was a great favourite. He had seen service in the North Sea and was invalided to London, suffering from nerve strain. He had been recommended for commission rank, but died on the eve of his promotion in a London hospital and while

waiting for a ship to bring him back to Australia. Mr Crotty, in referring to the deceased, said that he was one of many lads who had made the name of Australia famous. The tablet was provided by the family of deceased.

F. O. Bayley is remembered on the Kevin Wheatley VC Memorial Wall located at Dredges Cottage, 303 Queen Street, Campbelltown, NSW.



Dredges Cottage, Campbelltown, NSW (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)



Kevin Wheatley VC Memorial Wall



Leading Signalman F. O. Bayley is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria (Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)





Frank Ohlsen Bayley

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

BAYLEY – March 7, 1916, suddenly, at Naval Club, London, Frank Ohlfsen (Olaf, H.M.A.S. Melbourne), beloved elder son of Minnie Batley, 223 Ernest-street, North Sydney, aged 25 years, on active service.


(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 11 March, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

BAYLEY – In loving memory of Frank (Olaf) Bayley, late of H.M.A.S. Melbourne, who died suddenly in London on March 7, 1916. Inserted by his true friends, Mrs Gibson and R. Knox.

BAYLEY – In fond memory of Frank (Olaf) Bayley, late of H.M.A.S. Melbourne, who died in London on March 7, 1916. Inserted by his old friends, E. and R. Gibson.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 7 March, 1917)

	<p>MRS. MINNIE BAYLEY has received an official message stating that her eldest son, Olaf, who for two years was yeoman signaller on H.M.A.S. Melbourne, has died in London of cerebral meningitis. He was a grandson of the late Mr. C. H. Ohlfsen-Bagge, who for many years was engineer-in-chief of the Sydney Water and Sewerage Board. He was 25 years of age. Mrs. Bayley has also been informed that her second and only surviving son, Keith, has been wounded in France. Lieut. Keith Bayley left Sydney last December. He and his brother (who were educated at the Church of England Grammar School, North Sydney) both took part in the New Guinea campaign.</p>	
<p>LIEUT. K. BAYLEY, North Sydney. Wounded.</p>		<p>Y.-SIG. O. BAYLEY, H.M.A.S. Melbourne. Died of Illness.</p>

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(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 16 May, 1917)

On Active Service

BAYLEY – In loving memory of Frank (Olaf) Bayley, of H.M.A.S. Melbourne, died on active service, March 7, 1916. Inserted by Mrs Gibson and family and Miss Knox.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 March, 1918)

Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham Kent, England

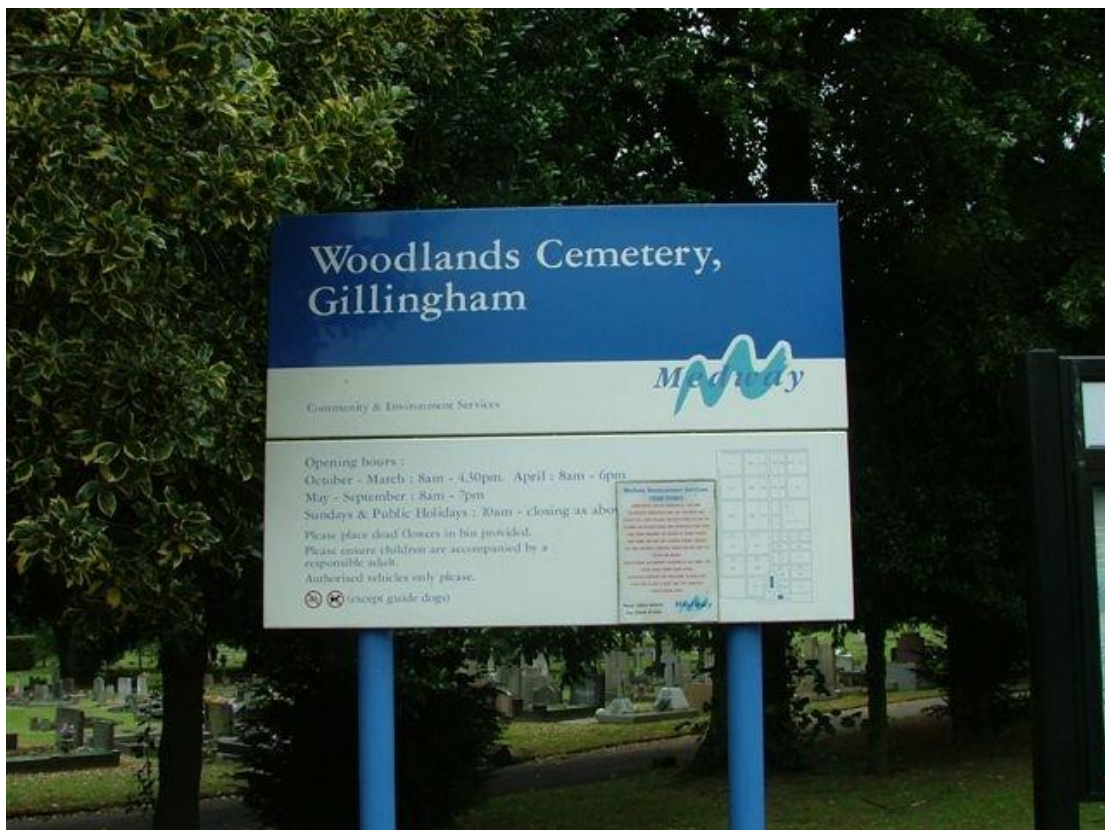
There is a large naval section in Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery which was reserved by the Admiralty and served the Royal Naval Hospital in Windmill Road. The section contains most of the war graves as well as burials of the pre-war and inter-war years.

Among the First World War burials in the naval section are those from HMS 'Bulwark', blown up in Sheerness Harbour in November 1914, HMS 'Princess Irene' which suffered an internal explosion in May 1915 and HMS 'Glatton' which suffered the same fate in Dover Harbour in September 1918 (the bodies were not recovered until March 1930). The plot also contains a number of graves resulting from the air raid on Chatham Naval Barracks on 3 September 1917.

In all, Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery contains 837 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 82 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials commemorating a number of casualties buried in other cemeteries in the area whose graves could not be maintained. Second World War burials number 385, 21 of these burials are unidentified. Most are in the naval section. There are 2 Foreign National war burials and 2 non war service burials.

There are six Australian burials here – two from World War 1 & four from World War 2.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Geoffrey Gillon)



(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Leading Signalman Frank O. Bayley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham Kent, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)

