

Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent



Lest We Forget

World War 1



FLIGHT SUB-LIEUTENANT

D. G. BROAD

H.M.S. "KILLINGHOLME"

ROYAL NAVAL AIR SERVICE

27TH APRIL, 1916 Age 32

Dennis Gurney BROAD

Dennis Gurney Broad was born at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England on 20th July, 1883 to parents Henry Eustace and Alice Broad (nee Gurney).

The 1891 England Census recorded Dennis G. Broad as a 7 year old, living with his family at 7 Market Square, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. His parents were listed as Henry E. Broad (Draper, aged 35, born Aylesbury, Bucks) & Alice Broad (aged 36, born Paddington, Middlesex). Dennis was the eldest of four children listed on this Census (all born Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire) – Dennis, James E. Broad (aged 6), Philip L. Broad (aged 3) & Alice G. Broad (aged 1). Seven others were also listed in the household – Sarah Cox (Draper's Assistant, aged 26), Sarah A. Keen (Dressmaker, aged 20), Florence Field (Dressmaker, aged 2_?), Florence S. Pollan (Draper's Apprentice, aged 16) & three servants – Ruth S. Merchant (aged 22), Mary Woodward (aged 19) & Fanny Plastow (aged 20).

Denis Gurney Broad, aged 11 & his brother James Eustace Broad, aged 9, of 65 Buckingham St, were listed as Admissions on 10th September, 1894 at Aylesbury Grammar School (Upper). They both left the school on 7th May, 1895 "Gone to school at Eastbourne."

A death was registered in 1894 in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire for Philip Ledbrooke Broad, younger brother of Dennis Gurney Broad.

A death was registered in 1897 in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire for Alice Gurney Broad, younger sister of Dennis Gurney Broad.

The 1901 England Census recorded Dennis G. Broad as a 17 year old Clerk to his father's business, living with his family at Rothamsted Avenue (Tren Grove), Harpenden, Hertfordshire, England. His parents were listed as Henry E. Broad (____ & Importer of Lace goods & _____, aged 45) & Alice Broad (aged 46). Dennis' younger brother James E. Broad (aged 16) was also listed as living at home. Also listed were Ada M. Gurney (Visitor, aged 37) & two servants – Isabella Spencer (Cook, aged 26) & Kate Askins (House servant, aged 18).

Newspaper Notice – London Evening Standard – 23 June, 1904:

At the Berkhamsted Petty Sessions yesterday, three motorists were summoned for driving at an excessive speed between Berkhamsted and Tring. Albert Sugen, Berkeley-square, chauffeur to Lord Dalmeny, was fine £5 including costs; Frank Fellow, Offley-road, Brixton, was fined £4 including costs; and Dennis Gurney Broad, of Harpenden, a motor cyclist, was fined £2 and costs.

Dennis Gurney Broad joined the British Royal Naval Reserve & attended a Course of Instruction in 1904. He was serving on H.M.S. *Exmouth* from 1st July, 1905 until 21st July, 1905.

Dennis Gurney Broad was listed as Acting Assistant Paymaster in the UK Navy Lists for November, 1905 & June, 1906.

Dennis Gurney Broad resigned from the British Royal Naval Reserve on 8th June, 1906.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Bowen, Queensland recorded Dennis Gurney Broad, Labourer of Proserpine.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Brisbane North, Queensland recorded Dennis Gurney Broad, Traveller, of Selby House, Wickham Terrace.

Dennis Gurney Broad was a 30 year old, single, Commercial Traveller from "Labrador" Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 11th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 190 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as Henry E. Broad, of Trangrove, Harpenden, Herts, England. Dennis Broad stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with the London Rifle Brigade.

Private Dennis Gurney Broad embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 19th August, 1914 with the Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (Tropical Unit) "B" Company.

Newspaper article – *The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 18 September, 1914:

THE FORCE

TROOPS IN NEW GUINEA

PERSONNEL OF FIRST EXPEDITION

A roll of the first, mixed naval and military expedition which recently left Australia by H.M.A.S. Berrima, and is now in New Guinea, has been made available by the military authorities. It should be explained that this roll, though substantially correct, does not profess to be accurate in all respects. Owing to the haste with which the expedition was organised and despatched, there was not an opportunity to check the rolls before departure of the troops, and it is possible that a few names of individuals who did not accompany the troops are included in the lists given below. The roll as presented, however, may be taken as complete.

B COMPANY

..... D. G. Broad.....

Private Dennis Gurney Broad was awarded 7 days Field Punishment and forfeited pay on 19th September, 1914 while posted at Rabaul.

Private Dennis Gurney Broad was sent to District Headquarters, 2nd Military District per S.S. Morinda escort for Prisoners on 30th November, 1914.

Private Dennis Gurney Broad requested to be discharged from the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) at his own request on 30th December, 1914.

Private Dennis Gurney Broad was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal for his service with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.).

The Australian War Memorial holds two letters that Private Dennis Gurney Broad wrote to his mother in September, 1914 & October, 1914 from Rabaul. (*see below for letters & transcription*).

Dennis Gurney Broad was reinstated with the British Naval Reserve on 19th April, 1915 & posted to H.M.S. *Victory*. He was seconded for Royal Naval Air Service on 9th July, 1915. Dennis Gurney Broad was transferred to R.N.A.S. as Probationary Flight Sub-Lieutenant for Temporary Service at Eastbourne.

Dennis Gurney Broad gained his Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate on 30th July, 1915 while at Royal Naval Air Station, Eastbourne on a Maurice Farman Biplane.

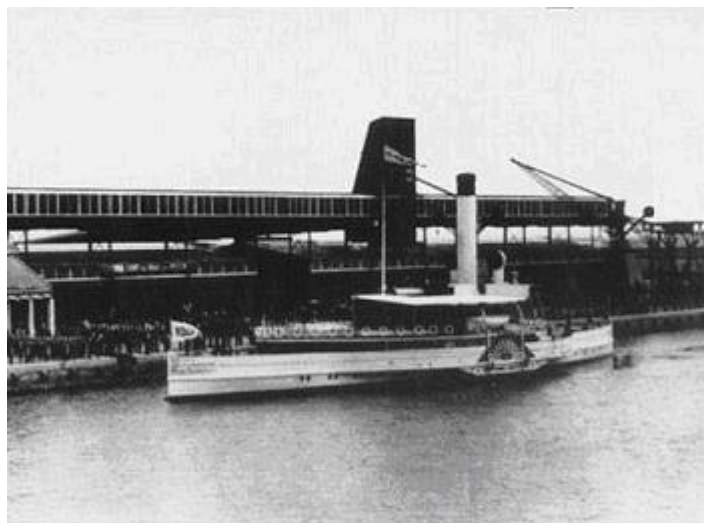
Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis Gurney Broad was transferred to H.M.S. *Killingholme* on 6th November, 1915.

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis Gurney Broad was transferred to Felixstowe on 17th November, 1915 for Instruction in American Seaplanes. R.A.F. Felixstowe was a Royal Air Force Station & Flying Boat Base northeast of Harwich, Essex, England, later known as "Seaplanes – Felixstowe".

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis Gurney Broad returned to H.M.S. *Killingholme* on 4th January, 1916.

H.M.S. *Killingholme*

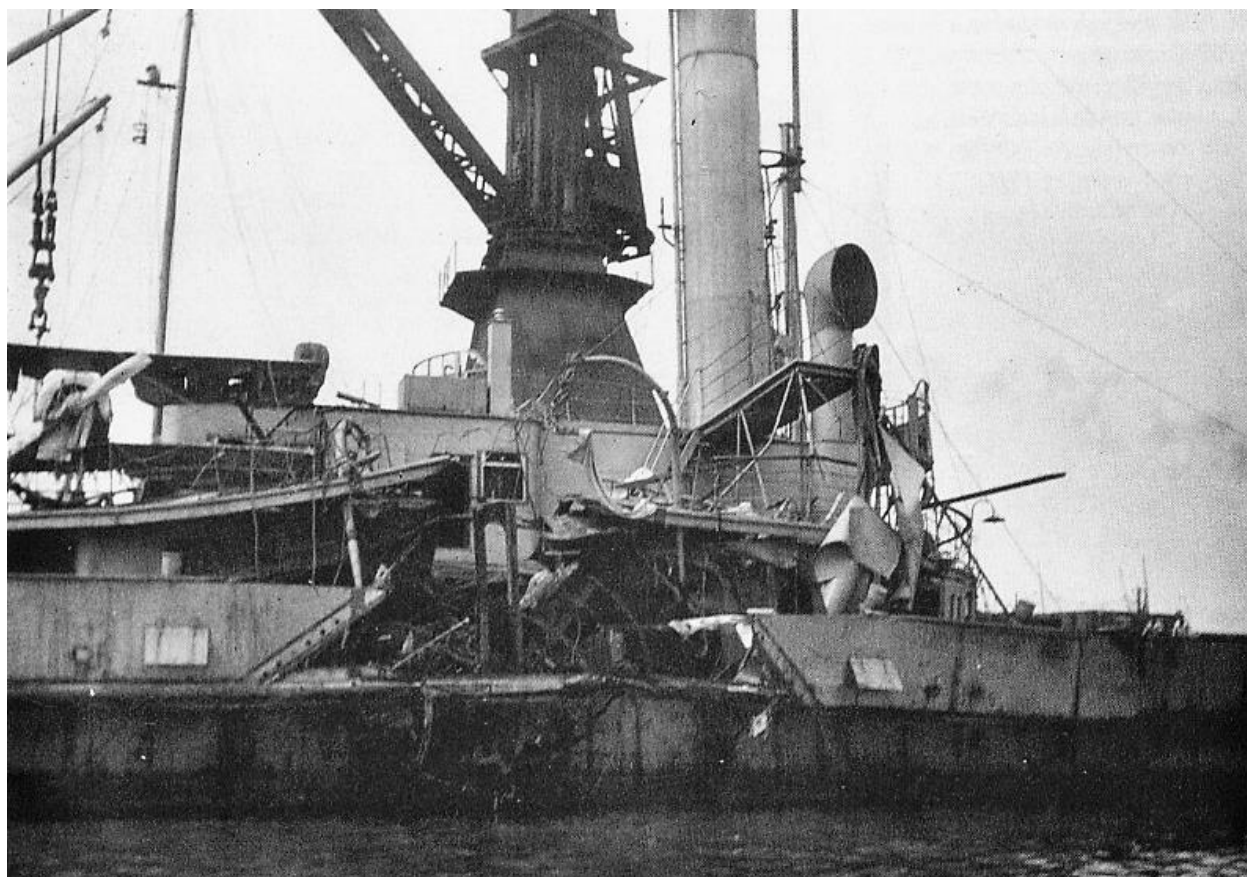
H.M.S. *Killingholme* was a seaplane carrying paddle steamer. It was original a double-ended paddle steamer built for the Great Central Railway's Humber River ferry service but was requisitioned for the Royal Navy on 21st February, 1916, along with her sister H.M.S. Brocklesby as a Fleet Messenger & also used as a seaplane carrier. It carried two or three floatplanes for coastal patrols & was based at Killingholme, Lincolnshire.



H.M.S. *Killingholme*

On 26th to 27th April, 1916 H.M.S. *Killingholme* was either hit a mine or was torpedoed by a German submarine. There are conflicting stories as to which is the correct one. 18 crew members were killed, including 4 members of the Royal Naval Air Service.

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis Gurney Broad was reported missing from H.M.S. *Killingholme* on 28th April, 1916. His body was not recovered for burial.



Damage to **H.M.S. *Killingholme*** (Photo from Margaret Randall)

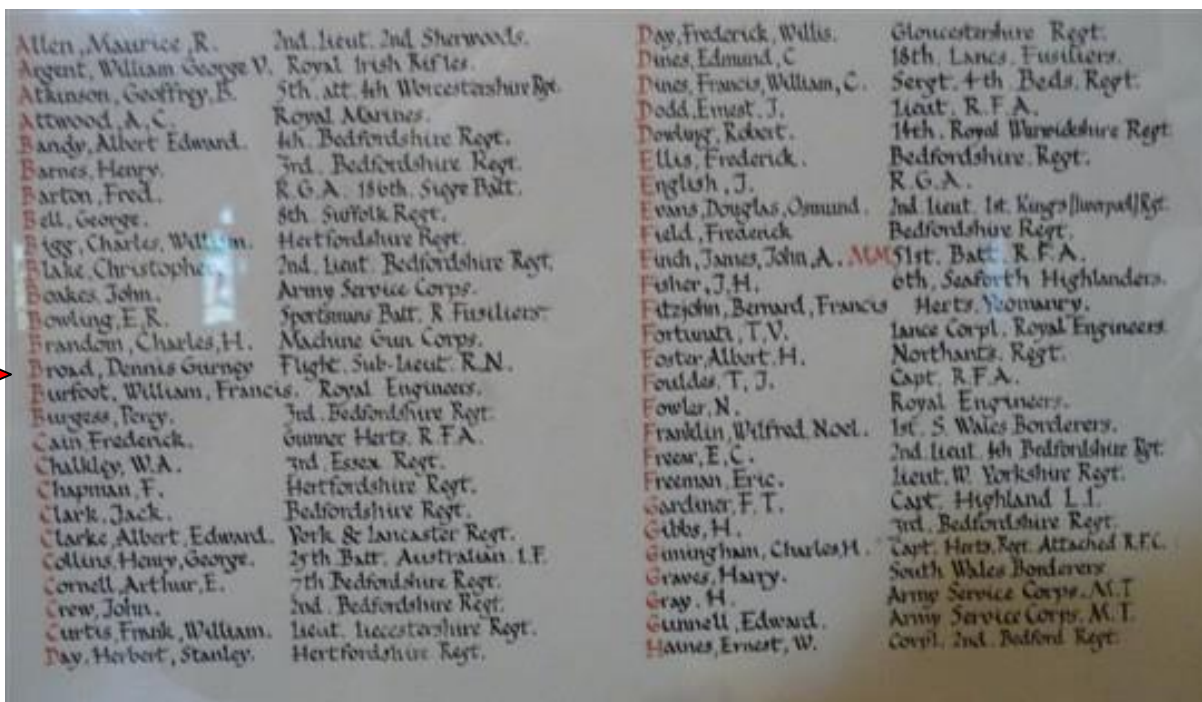
Probate Details:

Broad, Dennis Gurney, of Itengrove, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, sub-lieutenant R.N.A.S. died 27 April, 1916 at sea on active service. Administration London 26 August to Henry Eustace Broad, Warehouseman. Effects £138.

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis Gurney Broad was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis Gurney Broad, aged 32, of H.M.S. "Killingholme", Royal Naval Air Service. He was the son of Henry Eustace and Alice Broad, of "Irengrove," Harpenden, Herts.

Dennis Gurney Broad is remembered on a Roll of Honour List for 1914-18 located in St. Nicholas' Church Harpenden, Hertfordshire.



St. Nicholas' Church, Harpenden Roll of Honour (Photo from Harpenden History – Gavin Ross)

Dennis Gurney Broad is remembered on a Harpenden Roll of Honour printed in 1915 of those from Harpenden who enlisted in the War.



Harpenden Roll of Honour (Photo from Harpenden History)

D. G. Broad is remembered on the Harpenden War Memorial, located at Church Green Junction with High Street, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, England.



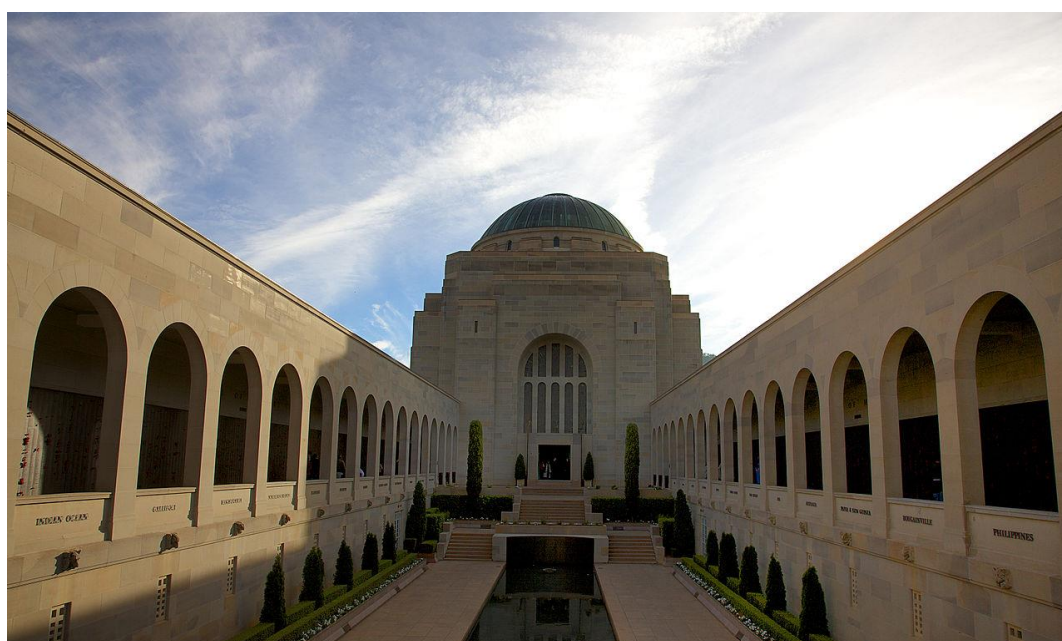
Harpenden War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online – David Armstrong)



Dennis Gurney Broad is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)



Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis Gurney Broad



Newspaper Notices

THE WAR

DEATH OF LIEUT. DENNIS BROAD

We regret to report that news has been received by Mr Eustace Broad, of Harpenden (formerly of Aylesbury), that his elder son, Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis G. Broad, R.N., has been killed on service in the North Sea. Lieut. Broad was a promising young officer who obtained his seniority on July 9, 1915.

Lieut. James E, Broad, of the Sherwood Foresters, Mr Broad's younger son, has also been wounded during the past week. He was engaged with his regiment in quelling the rebellion in Dublin, and of the five officers killed there the Sherwood Foresters lost four, quite a number of other officers and men being wounded. We are glad to hear that Lieut. Broad is making favourable progress towards recovery.

Much sympathy will be felt with the family and relatives, who are well-known in this district, in the loss they have sustained.

(Bucks Herald, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England - 6 May, 1916)

DEATHS

KILLED IN ACTION

BROAD – On the 27th April, Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dennis G. Broad, R.N., lost his life in action in the North Sea, dearly-loved elder son of Mr and Mrs H. E. Broad, Trengrove, Harpenden.

(*Bucks Herald*, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England - 6 May, 1916)



(*The Sphere*, London – 3 June. 1916)

Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England

Chatham Naval Memorial overlooks the town of Chatham, Kent, England. It commemorates more than 8,500 Royal Navy personnel from World War 1 & over 10,000 Navy personnel from World War 2 who were lost or buried at sea.

After the Armistice, the Naval Authorities and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were determined to find an appropriate way to commemorate naval personnel who had no grave.

An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping.

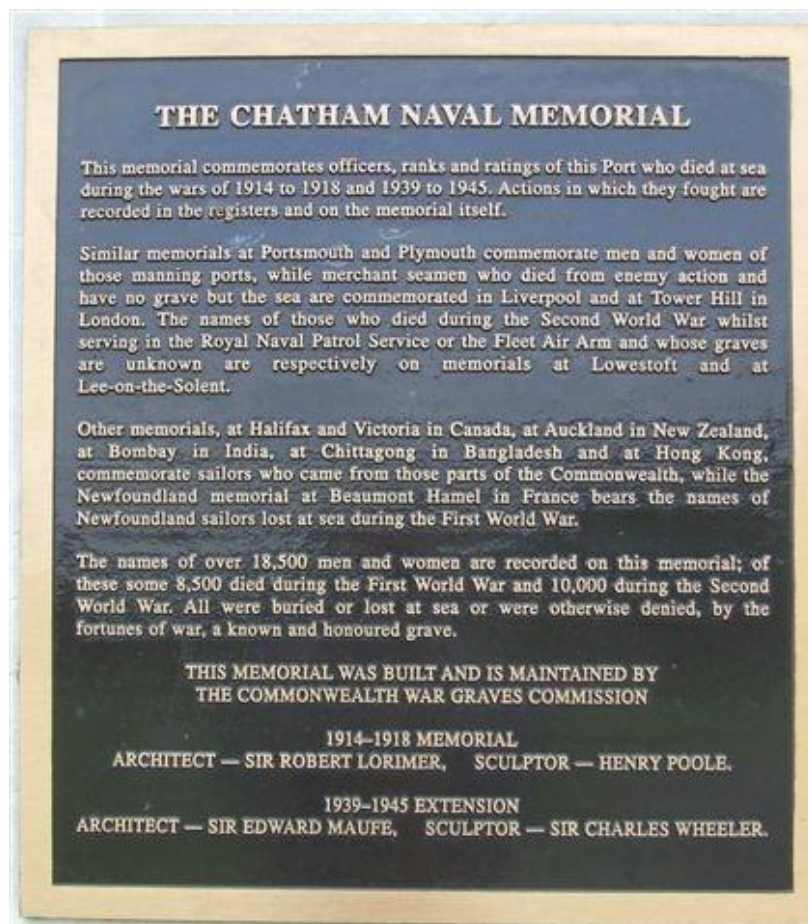
The Chatham Naval Memorial was unveiled by The Prince of Wales, the future Edward VIII, on 26 April 1924.



Chatham Naval Memorial *(Photo by Clem Rutter)*

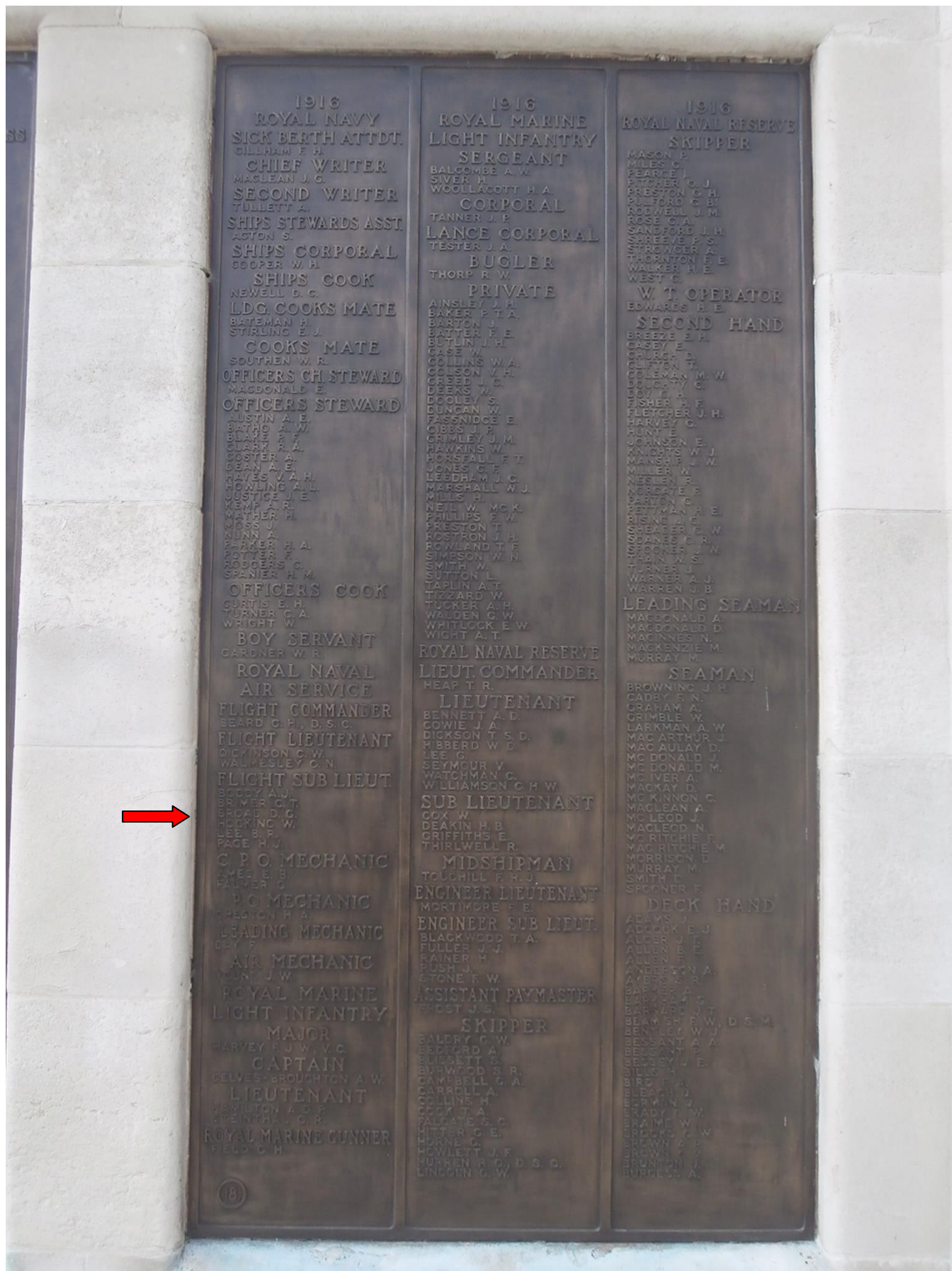


Chatham Naval Memorial (Photos from CWGC)



(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

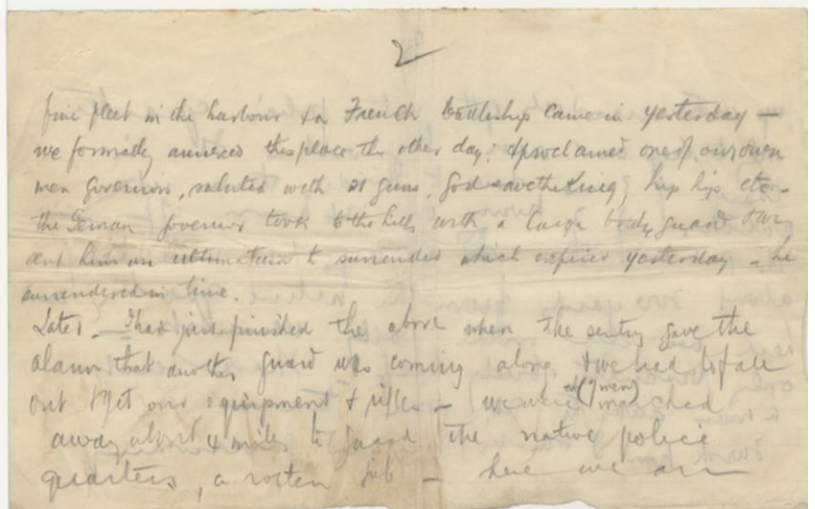
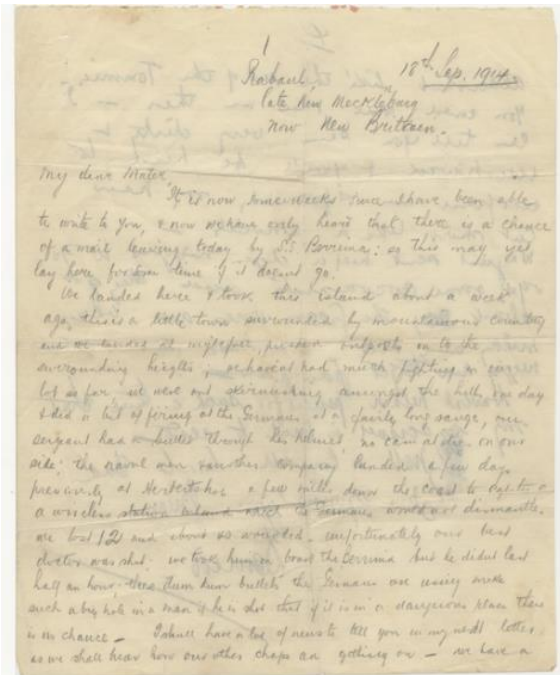
Flight Sub-Lieutenant D. G. Broad is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England as he has no known grave - Memorial reference 18.



(Photo by Brad Evans)



**Letters held by The Australian War Memorial
 from Private Dennis Gurney Broad to his mother
 in September, 1914 & October, 1914 from Rabaul.**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RC DIG 0000 263

3
 up on the verandah of the native police quarters
 only to keep our own boys with the in-
 charge of 3 men have to divide them into
 watches of 2 hours on & 4 hours off —
 its real hard the D always told us to keep
 about 200 yards from the native quarters and
 here we are on the bully verandah —
 only biscuits & bully beef to have sent
 a man away to get some tea —
 Wish now I was in England garrisoning

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDI60000262

4
 Aldershot like the rest of the Tommies —
 You could come & see me then — I
 can tell you I am very dirty & unshaven &
 you'll be hard to recognise me at present,
 my hair cut short like a convict —
 We just sent half a dozen niggers to go
 & get some cocoanuts and they got
 about 20; the green ones are very
 milky and nice. We have sent more
 niggers now to get paw paw —
 Haven't held a pencil for such a time that
 my scrawl is hard to read —
 Well so long all love to Dad Jim & yourself
 from
 Dennis

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDI60000262

Rabaul, 18th Sep. 1914

late New Meckleburg

now New Britain

My dear Mater

It is now some weeks since I have been able to write to you & we have only heard that there is a chance of a mail leaving today by S.S. Berrima: so this may yet lay here for some time if it doesn't go.

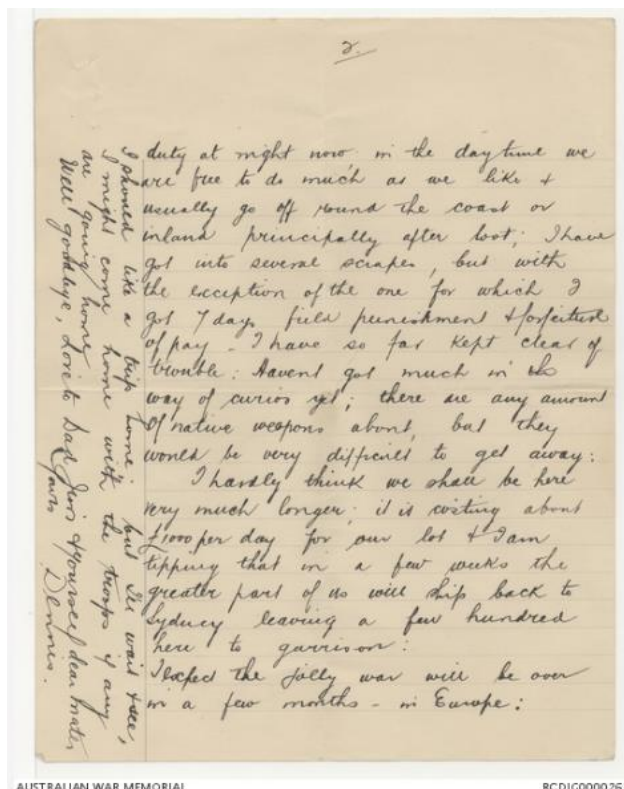
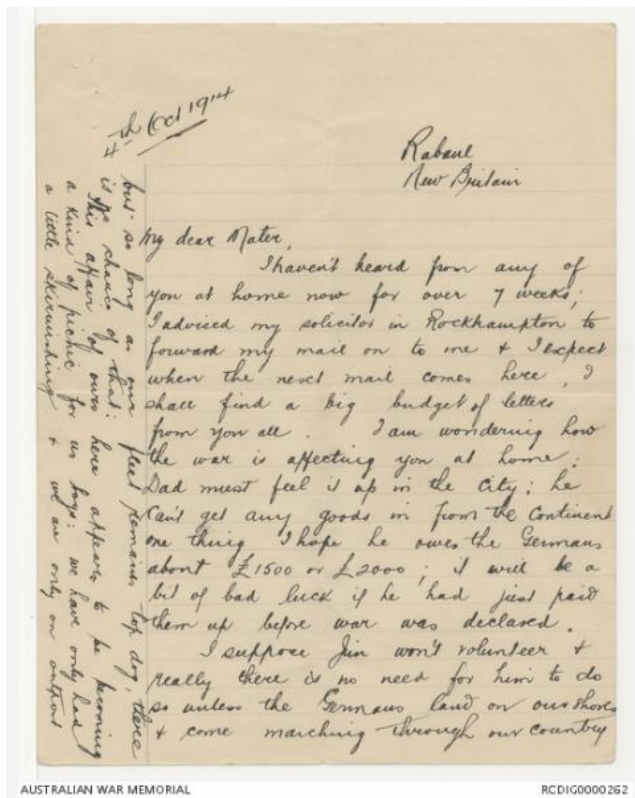
We landed here & took this island about a week ago, this is a little town surrounded by mountainous country and we landed at nightfall, pushed on posts(?) on to the surrounding heights; we haven't had much fighting in our lot so far, we were out skirmishing amongst the hills one day & did a bit of firing at the Germans at a fairly long range, our sergeant had a bullet through his helmet, no casualties on our side; the naval men & another company landed a few days previously at Herbertshoe a few miles down the coast to capture a wireless station inland which the Germans would not dismantle. We lost 12 and about 40 wounded. Unfortunately our best doctor was shot; we took him on board the Berrima but he didn't last half an hour; these dum dum bullets the Germans are using make such a big hole in a man if he is shot that if it is in a dangerous place there is no chance. I shall have a lot of news to tell you in my next letter as we shall hear how our other chaps are getting on — we have a fine fleet in the harbour & a French Battleship came in yesterday — we formally ___ this place the other day; & proclaimed one of our own men Governor, saluted with 21 guns, God save the King, hip hip etc. The German Governor took to the hills with a large body guard & we sent him an ultimatum to surrender which expired yesterday — he surrendered in time.

Later — I had just finished the above when the sentry gave the alarm that another guard was coming along & we had to fall out & get our equipment & rifles — we were (7 men) marched away about 4 miles to guard the native police quarters, a rotten job — here we are up on the verandah of the native police quarters only to keep our own boys _____. I am in charge of 3 men & have to divide them into watches of 2 hours on & 4 hours off — its real hard, the D always told us to keep about 200 yards from the native quarters and here we are on the ___ verandah — only biscuits & bully beef. I have sent a man away to get some tea — I wish now I was in England garrisoning Aldershot like the rest of the Tommies. You could come & see me then — I can tell you I am very dirty & unshaven & you'll be hard to recognise me at present, my hair cut short like a convict — we just sent half a dozen niggers to go & get some cocoanuts and they got about 20; the green ones are very milky and nice. We have sent more niggers now to get paw paw.

Haven't held a pencil for such a time that my scrawl is hard to read.

Well so long all love to Dad Jim & yourself from

Dennis



4th Oct 1914

Raebul

New Britain

My dear Mater

I haven't heard from any of you at home now for over 7 weeks; I advised my solicitor in Rockhampton to forward my mail on to me & I expect when the next mail comes here, I shall find a big budget of letters from you all. I am wondering how the war is affecting you at home. Dad must feel it up in the city; he can't get any goods in from the Continent. One thing I hope he owes the Germans about £1500 or £2000; it will be a bit of bad luck if he had just paid them up before war was declared.

I suppose Jim won't volunteer & really there is no need for him to do so unless the Germans land on our shores & come marching through our country but so long as our fleet remains top dog, there is no chance of that.

This affair of ours here appears to be becoming a kind of picnic for us boys; we have only had a little skirmishing & we are only on outpost duty at night now; in the day time we are free to do as much as we like & usually go off round the coast or inland principally after loot; I have got into several scrapes, but with the exception of the one for which I got 7 days field punishment & forfeiture of pay - I have so far kept clear of trouble. Haven't got much in the way of curios yet; there are any amount of native weapons about, but they would be very difficult to get away.

I hardly think we shall be here very much longer; it is socting about £1,000 per day for our lot & I am tipping that in a few weeks the greater part of us will ship back to Sydney leaving a few hundred here to garrison.

I expect the jolly war will be over in a few months - in Europe: I should like a trip home; but I'll wait & see I might come home with the troops if any are going home.

Well goodbye, love to Dad Jim & yourself dear mater

yours Dennis



Research on the Australians (or those connected to Australia) remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England was completed as part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's "For Those In Peril" project.

'For Those in Peril' is an initiative to encourage people to research, remember and share local stories of those who left their homes to join the war at sea, whose names are engraved on the Commission's three naval memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham.

The project has been launched to coincide with the opening of the Poppies: Wave at the CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial, presented by 14-18 NOW: WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, to mark the centenary of the First World War.



Poppies: Wave By Paul Cummins, Artist and Tom Piper, Designer

at CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial

23 August - 19 November, 2017

(Photos from 1418 NOW)

Poppies: Wave, a sweeping arch of bright red poppy heads suspended on towering stalks, was originally seen at the Tower of London as part of the installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red. It can currently be seen at the CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial.

