

Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent



Lest We Forget

World War 1



J/16718 LEADING SEAMAN

G. W. DAVIS

H.M.S. "MYOSOTIS"

ROYAL NAVY

9TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 21

George William DAVIS

George William Davis was born on 11th October, 1895 at East Peckham, Kent, England to parents James Howard & Sophia Davis (nee Pattenden).

The 1901 England Census recorded George Davis as a 5 year old, living with his family at Victoria Mews, Culverden Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England. His parents were listed as James Davis (Coachman, aged 39, born Hawkhurst, Kent) & Sophie Davis (aged 34, born Goudhurst, Kent). George was one of four sons listed on this Census – James Davis (Grocer's Errand Boy, aged 13, born Goudhurst, Kent), Herbert Davis (aged 11, born Goudhurst, Kent) then George & Bernard Davis (aged 2, born Ticehurst, Kent).

A death was registered on the March quarter, 1905 in the district of Tonbridge, Kent for James Howard Davis, aged 43.

The 1911 England Census recorded George William Davis as a 15 year old, Refreshment Caterer's Assistant (born Merworth, Kent) living with his widowed mother – Sophia Davis (Domestic Cook Worker, aged 44, born Goudhurst, Kent) & his younger brother – Bernard Nichlon Davis (School Boy, aged 12, born Ticehurst, Sussex). The family of three were living in a five roomed dwelling at 9 Castle Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England. Sophia Davis had indicated on the Census form that she had four children, all still living.

George William Davis joined the Royal Navy on 30th April, 1912, at the age of 17 years. He was previously a Plumber's mate & he was given a service number of J/16718 (Chatham).

George William Davis was assigned to H.M.S. *Ganges* (Training Ship) on 30th April, 1912 as Boy II Class (S.T) then Boy II Class (L.T.O.) from 8th September, 1912. He was rated as Boy I Class on 2nd October, 1912 while still serving on H.M.S. *Ganges*.

Boy I Class George William Davis was transferred to H.M.S. *Berwick* on 3rd October, 1912 then transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 10th January, 1913. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Vengeance* on 26th April, 1913.

George William Davis was rated as Ordinary Seaman on 11th October, 1913 while still serving on H.M.S. *Vengeance*. He also signed on for 12 years with Royal Navy on 11th October, 1913. He was aged 18 & 5ft 4in with brown hair, grey eyes & a fresh complexion.

Ordinary Seaman George William Davis was rated Able Seaman on 11th October, 1914 while still serving on H.M.S. *Vengeance*. He was transferred back to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 30th July, 1915 then transferred to H.M.S. *Myosotis* on 3rd June, 1916. Able Seaman George William Davis was transferred to H.M.S. *Colleen II* on 1st July, 1916 then rated as Leading Seaman on 1st December, 1916 while still serving on H.M.S. *Colleen II*.

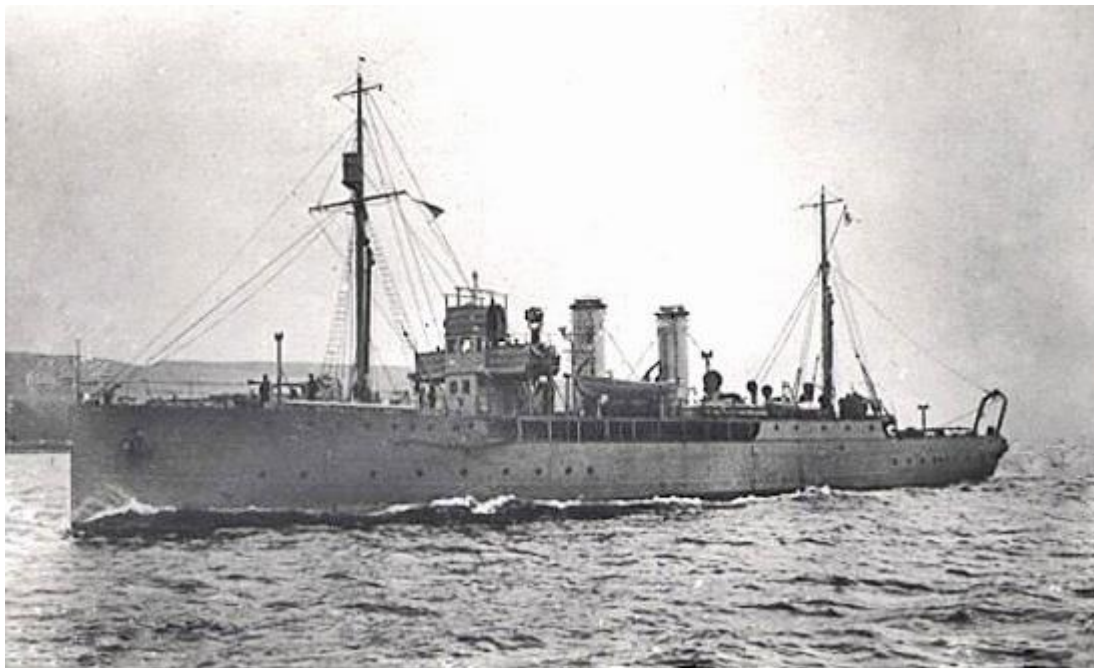
Leading Seaman George William Davis's British Royal Navy records show that the last ship he served on was H.M.S. *Colleen II*, however records show that he died while serving on H.M.S. *Myosotis*.

George William Davis married Elizabeth M. Richardson in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Tonbridge, Kent, England.

H.M.S. *Myosotis*

H.M.S. *Myosotis* was launched on 4th April, 1916. She was one of thirty six Arabis Class sweeping Sloops completed for the Royal Navy. H.M.S. *Myosotis* was damaged on 9th September, 1917 when she was torpedoed by SM UC 71 (a minelaying submarine or U-boat of the German Imperial Navy) between Isle of Portland & Isle of Wight in the English Channel. Fifty feet of her stern was blown off and the after 4in guns blown from the pedestal. The framing, plating, bulkheads and decks extending another 20 feet were distorted and crumpled "to an extraordinary degree". Three casualties resulted from the torpedoing – Leading Seaman George William Davis, Ordinary Seaman William Gadd (J/38817), buried Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon & Officers Steward 2nd Class Sylvester

Arthur Richmond Fox (L/6289), commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent. H.M.S. *Myosotis* was towed into Devonport by H.M.S. *Bluebell* & escorted by H.M.S. *Jessamine*.



H.M.S. *Myosotis*

Leading Seaman George William Davis died on 9th September, 1917 as a direct result of enemy action. His body was not recovered for burial. His wife – Elizabeth Davis of 13 Park St., St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England was advised.

Leading Seaman George William Davis was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Leading Seaman George William Davis – service number J/16718, aged 21, of H.M.S. “Myosotis”, Royal Navy. He was the son of Sophia Jeffery (formerly Davis), of 13 Park St., St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England and the late James Howard Davis; husband of Elizabeth Davis, of Melbourne, Australia.

Leading Seaman G. W. Davis 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 Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

G. W. Davis is remembered on the Tunbridge Wells War Memorial located on Mount Pleasant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England.



Tunbridge Wells War Memorial (Photo by N. Chadwick)



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.

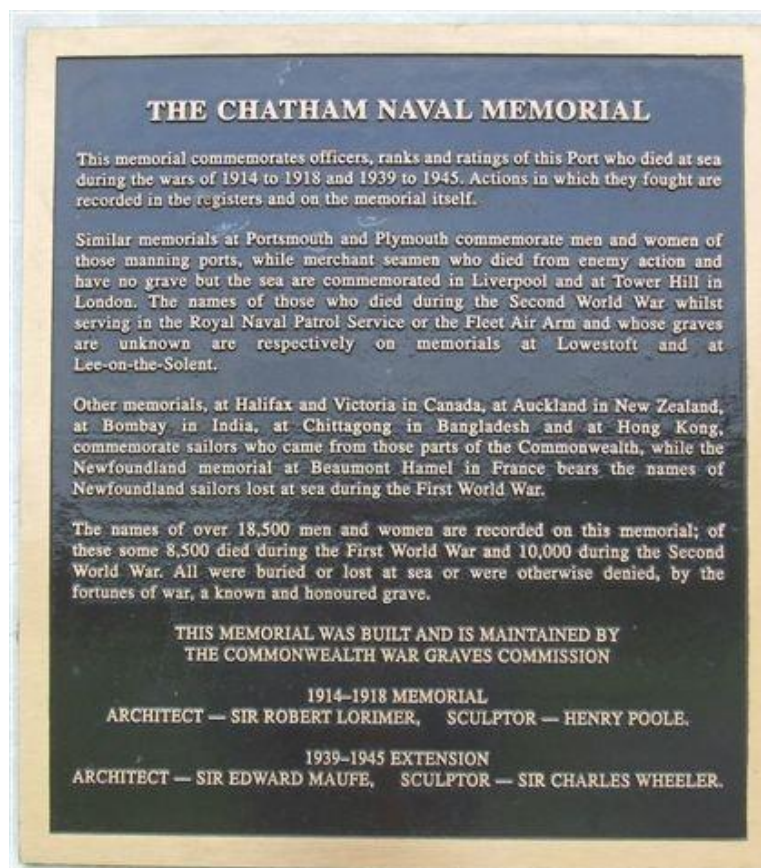
The Chatham Naval Memorial was unveiled by The Prince of Wales, the future Edward VIII, on 26 April 1924.



Chatham Naval Memorial (Photo above by Clem Rutter)



Chatham Naval Memorial (Photos from CWGC)



(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

Leading Seaman G. W. Davis is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England as he has no known grave - Memorial reference 21.



(Photo by Brad Evans)



**Poppies: Wave By Paul Cummins, Artist and Tom Piper, Designer
at CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial**

23 August - 19 November, 2017

(Photo 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.