

**Royal Naval Cemetery,
Portland, Dorset
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



STOKER

GEORGE ELPHINSTONE

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

H.M. TRAWLER "WILLIAM PURDY"

20TH MARCH, 1915 Age 41

George ELPHINSTONE

George Elphinstone was born on 29th October, 1872 at Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland to parents Thomas & Mary Elphinstone.

George Elphinstone joined the Royal Naval Reserve in the district of Aberdeen, Scotland on 21st November, 1914. His service number was TS 1327.

George Elphinstone was posted to H.M. Trawler "William Purdy", Royal Naval Reserve on 11th December, 1914 .

Royal Naval Reserve

The Royal Naval Reserve (R.N.R.) is the volunteer reserve force of the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. The present R.N.R. was formed by merging the original Royal Naval Reserve, created in 1859, and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (R.N.V.R.), created 1903. On mobilisation in 1914, the R.N.R. consisted of 30,000 officers and men. Officers of the permanent R.N.R. on general service quickly took up seagoing appointments in the fleet, many in command, in destroyers, submarines, auxiliary cruisers and Q-ships. Others served in larger units of the battle fleet including a large number with the West Indies Squadron who became casualties at the Battle of Coronel and later at Jutland. Fishermen of the R.N.R. (T) section served with distinction on board trawlers fitted out as minesweepers for mine clearance operations at home and abroad throughout the war where they suffered heavy casualties and losses.

(Information on R.N.R. from Wikipedia)

Trawler "William Purdy"

The Trawler "William Purdy" was launched on 20th August, 1914 & completed on 1st October, 1914. It was allocated fishing registration number SN92 at North Shields & registered at North Shields on 7th October, 1914 to Richard Irvin & Sons Ltd.

In November, 1914 the Trawler "William Purdy" was requisitioned as a minesweeper and based in the Aegean Sea. She was returned to the owners in 1919. The Trawler "William Purdy" sank in 1954.



Trawler "William Purdy" (Photo from Trawler Photos UK)

Stoker George Elphinstone died on 20th March, 1915 at Portland Hospital, Dorset, England from disease of Brain.

A death for George Elphinstone, aged 41, was registered in the March quarter, 1915 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Stoker George Elphinstone was buried in Royal Naval Cemetery, Portland, Dorset, England – Plot number 551 and has an “Admiralty Cross” headstone, provided by the Admiralty. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

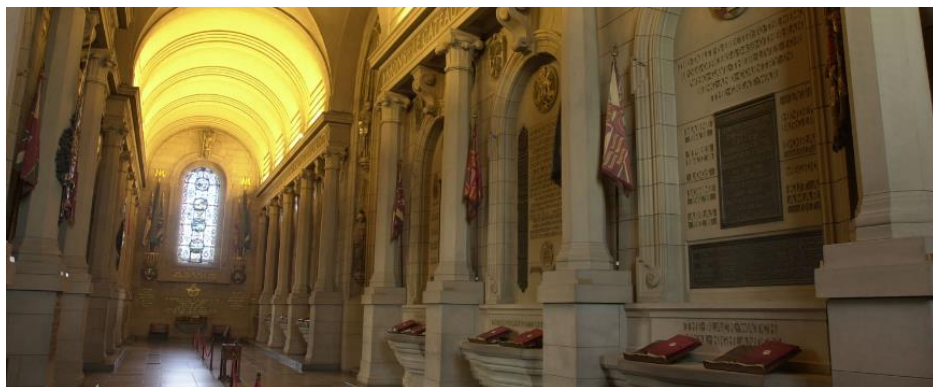
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker G. Elphinstone – service number 1327/TS, of H.M. Trawler “William Purdy”, Royal Naval Reserve. He was the husband of Elizabeth Elphinstone, of 11 Datchett St., Balmain East, New South Wales, Australia.

Stoker George Elphinstone is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.

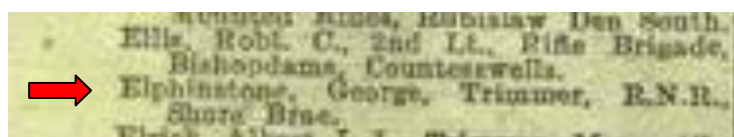
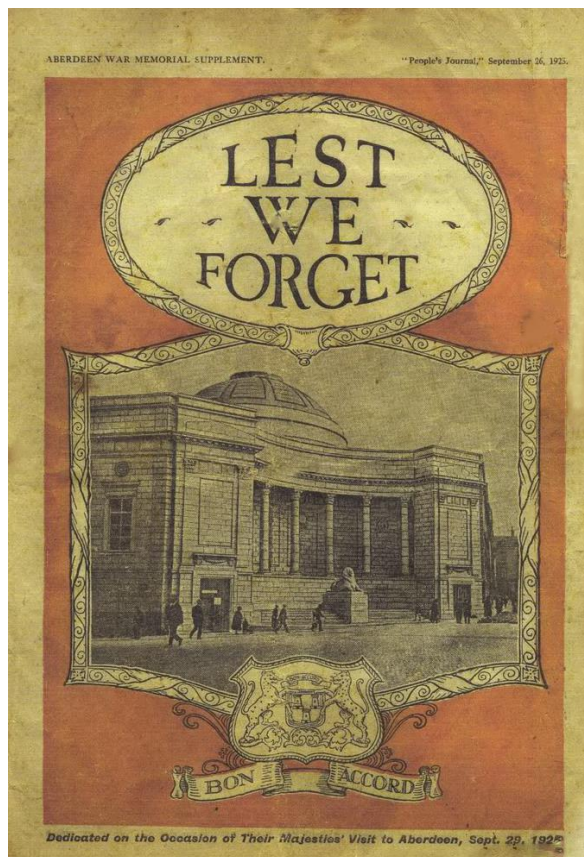


The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



George Elphinstone is remembered in the Aberdeen War Memorial Supplement People's Journal, 26th September, 1925 (Page 10).



*Elphinstone, George, Trimmer, R.N.R.,
Shore Brae*

The Aberdeen City War Memorial, located at Cowdray Hall, Schoolhill and Blackfriars Street, does not list individual names.



Aberdeen City War Memorial (Photo by pandabean – Scottish Military Research Group)

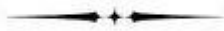
Stoker George Elphinstone is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour. *(Note: It appears that Stoker George Elphinstone's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.)*



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial *(Capital Photographer)*

(2 pages of Stoker George Elphinstone's R.N.R. Service records are available for purchase through National Archives of Australia website).

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



Royal Naval Cemetery, Portland, Dorset, England

The Isle of Portland, four miles south of Weymouth, famous for its oolitic limestone called Portland Stone which is extensively quarried, is actually a peninsula connected with the mainland by a long narrow ridge of shingle called Chesil Bank. The site was formerly part of a Naval base. The burial ground lies on the northern slope of Portland Bill, three-quarters of a mile due east of Portland railway station. The Cemetery is divided into three parts, Church of England, Roman Catholic and Non-Conformist, and contains war graves of both World Wars. There are 154 Commonwealth War Graves – 61 from World War 1 & 93 from World War 2.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Royal Naval Cemetery, Portland, Dorset, England



Photo of Stoker George Elphinstone's Admiralty Cross Headstone in Royal Naval Cemetery, Portland, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Gravestone Photographic Resource)