# Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon

# War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



**8476    LEADING STOCKER**

# F. A. HARDING

# ROYAL NAVY

*Temporary Attachment to*

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**

**H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"**

**28TH FEBRUARY, 1919   Age 27**

# Fred Archer HARDING

Fred Archer Harding was born on 3rd August, 1893 at Ottery St. Mary, Devon, England to parents Walter & Ann Harding (nee Ham).

[Before Fred's birth - The 1891 England Census recorded Walter Harding (Agricultural Labourer, aged 33, born Newton Poppleford) & his wife Ann Harding (aged 31, born Newton Poppleford) living in a Cottage at Otterton, Devon) with their 3 daughters – Beatrice (aged 5, born Newton Poppleford), Amelia (aged 3, born Otterton) & Annett (aged 2, born Otterton).]

A death was registered in the December quarter, 1892 in the district of St. Thomas, Devon for Walter Harding, aged 33.

The 1901 England Census recorded Fred Harding as a 9 year old (born Normastown) living with his mother & older sister at Sid, Salcombe Regis, Devon in a 3 roomed dwelling. Fred's mother was listed as Ann Harding (Char woman, aged 42, born Newton Poppleford) & his sister as Annetta Harding (aged 12, born Newton Poppleford).

The 1911 England Census recorded Fred Harding as a 19 year old Labourer living with his widowed mother – Ann Harding (Charwoman, aged 52, born Newton Poppleford) in a 4 roomed dwelling at Sid, near Sidmouth, Salcombe Regis, Devon. Ann Harding had been married for 24 years & had six children, one having died.


Fred Archer Harding enlisted on 11th November, 1913 with the Royal Navy for a period of 12 years. He was 5ft 7in. tall with light brown hair, blue eyes & a fresh complexion. He had a tattoo of clasped hands on his right forearm. He was a labourer in an Iron Foundry when he enlisted.


Fred Archer Harding first served in *Vivid II* as Stoker 2nd Class from 11th November, 1913. He was transferred to *Highflier* on 26th March, 1914 then returned to *Vivid II* from 2nd August, 1914 until 12th October, 1914.

Stoker 2nd Class Fred Archer Harding joined *Conqueror* on 13th October, 1914. He was promoted to Stoker 1st Class on 11th November, 1914.

Stoker 1st Class Fred Archer Harding returned to *Vivid II* on 23rd November, 1917 until 26th November, 1917 where he was transferred to Royal Australian Navy as a temporary engagement for 3 years from 27th November, 1917.

Stoker 1st Class Fred Archer Harding was attached to H.M.A.S. *Sydney*, Royal Australian Navy. His new service number was 8476. He was promoted to Acting/Leading Stoker on 11th July, 1918.
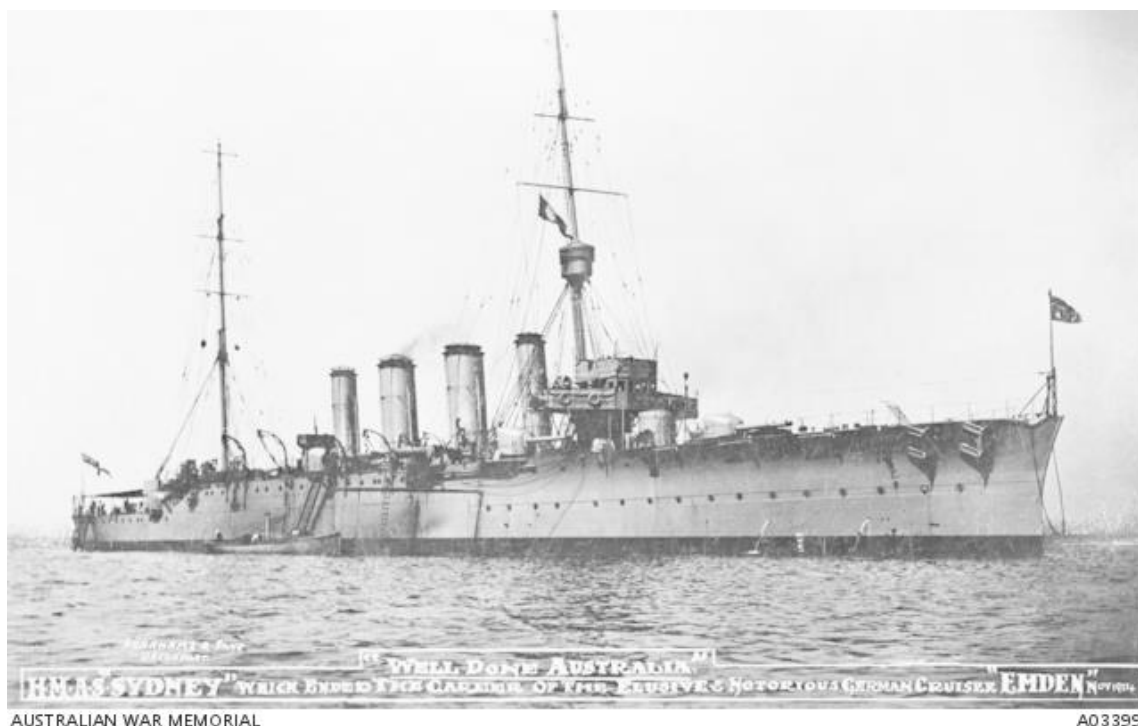

## H.M.A.S. *Sydney*

H.M.A.S. *Sydney* was a Chatham class light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.). Laid down in 1911 and launched in 1912, the cruiser was commissioned into the R.A.N. in 1913.

During the early stages of World War I, *Sydney* was involved in supporting the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, and escorting the first ANZAC convoy. On 9th November 1914, the cruiser defeated the German cruiser SMS *Emden* at the Battle of Cocos. During 1915 and 1916, *Sydney* operated on the North America and West Indies Station, before joining the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron at Greenock, Scotland in November 1916. On 4th May 1917, the cruiser was involved in an inconclusive action against the German zeppelinL43; neither was damaged. During late 1917, *Sydney* became the first Australian warship to launch an aircraft, and the first warship to do so from a rotatable platform.

*(Wikipedia)*


On 1 June 1918, while patrolling in the Heligoland Bight, *Sydney* and *Melbourne* launched their aircraft to engage two German reconnaissance aircraft. *Sydney's* fighter destroyed one of the enemy aircraft. H.M.A.S *Sydney* was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow on 21 November 1918.

H.M.A.S *Sydney* sailed from Portsmouth on 9 April 1919 for the return passage to Australia calling at Gibaltar, Malta, Port Said, Port Suez, Aden, Colombo, Singapore, Penang, and Thursday Island before arriving in her home port of Sydney on 18 July 1919.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL                                                                                          A03399

**H.M.A.S.** *Sydney* **1914**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL                                                                                          EN0333

*October, 1918 - Group portrait of five unidentified stokers aboard HMAS Sydney. They are cleaning one of the funnels. HMAS Sydney was at the southern naval base of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet, near the Forth of Firth, Scotland, during a break from patrols of the North Sea with the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron.*

Leading Stoker Fred Archer Harding died on 28th February, 1919 at Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham from Influenza & Pneumonia, aged 25 years.

A death for Fred A. Harding, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Medway, Kent, England.

Leading Stoker Fred Archer Harding was buried on 8th March, 1919 in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England – Plot number 22 and has a simple granite marker headstone. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Leading Stoker Fred Archer Harding – service number 8476, aged 27, of H.M.A.S. "Sydney", formerly (K/21286), Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Mrs Ann Harding, of 6 Melbourne St., Exeter, England.

Leading Stoker Fred Archer Harding 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*

Leading Stoker F. Harding 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)*

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OUR GALLANT DEAD

INDIAN OCEAN

## SYDNEY-EMDEN ACTION
(OFF COCOS ISLANDS 9TH NOVEMBER 1914)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LYNCH, T. | P.O. | HOY, A. | A.B. | SHARPE, R.A. | A.B. |
| | | BELL, R.W. | ORD. SEA. | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BELTON, H. | STO. P.O. | JOPE, J.C. | P.O. | NORRIS, S. J.V. | A.B. |
| BRYANT, W. | STO. | MATTHEWS, F. | E.A. | ROSS, G.C. | STO. |
| CAMPBELL, J.D. | STO. II. | | | WILLIS, W.E. | STO. P.O. R.A.N.R. |

MEDITERRANEAN

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BROWNE, E.F. | STO. | FARMER, R.W.B. | LIEUT. R.A.N.R. | McCARTHY, W.G.H. | STO. |
| BROWNE, R.C. | STO. | GILBERT, S.J. | P.O. | TAYLOR, J.W. | STO. P.O. |
| COLTON, J.N. | STO. | GODIER, J.F. | STO. II. | VARCOE, C. | CH. STO. |
| CHITTS, T.J. | A.B. | HERBERT, C.H. | LIEUT. | WARREN, W.H.F. | COMMR. |
| DWYER, J.J. | STO. P.O. | KNAGGS, A.E. | A.B. | WILLIAMS, M. | STO. |
| EASTABROOK, T.S. | STO. | LEEDHAM, H.F. | LDG. STO. | WILSON, A. | CH. E.R.A. |
| | | MOORE, L.R.A. | ORD. SEA. | | |

ATLANTIC

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BATTERHAM, H.J. | CH. WRITER. | GORDON, D.B. | STO. | MOYLAN, T. | CH. YEO. SIG. |
| BIDDLECOMBE, T.W. | COMMR. | GRIFFIN, J. | BOY. TEL. | McGINTY, J.J. | CAPP. CREW |
| COOPER, D.B. | LIEUT. | HIGGS, H.C. | LDG. SIG. R.A.N.R. | NYE, G. | A.B. |
| CRADDOCK, W. | STO. P.O. | HOBBS, R.A. | SURG. LIEUT. | THATCHER, A.A. | STO. |
| DAVIES, N.S. | ENGR. LIEUT. | | | TOUCHELL, T.D. | SIG. R.A.N.R. |

NORTH SEA

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BARNETT, F. | STO. | ISON, A.V. | STO. | O'CALLAGHAN, T. | CH. STO. |
| BAYLEY, F.O. | LDG. SIG. | JONES, L.L. | SIG. | OWENS, C.F. | STO. |
| BOND, R.E. | STO. | JUSTICE, R.D. | STO. | PATERSON, G.M. | SUB. LIEUT. |
| BUCK, W.K. | ORD. SEA. | KEMPSTER, P.J. | P.O. | PEEBLES, D.A. | LDG. SEA. |
| CAMPAGNOLO, E | SIG. | LAIDLAW, R.S. | LIEUT. | PARKER, E.M.B. | ORD. SEA. |
| CUNNINGHAM, E.S. | MIDS. | LANGDON, E.R.H. | CH. STO. | ROBERTS, L.W. | STO. |
| EMERY, H. | YEO. SIG. | MACK, J. | SUB. LIEUT. | RUSSEL, C.V. | LDG. SEA. |
| EVANS, R.P. | LDG. SEA. | MANOVEYEFF, E. | S.B.S. | SHEEDY, P.A. | A.B. |
| GAFF, D.A. | A.B. | MATTHEWS, W.J. | STO. P.O. | STACEY, A. | A.B. |
| HANCEY, E.B. | STO. | MATTHEWS, C.W. | LDG. STO. | STEVENSON, G | STO. |
| HARDING, F. | LDG. STO. | McCLURE, J. | W. MECH. | STRETTON, C. DeC. | A.B. |
| HARE, W. | CKS. MATE. | McLENNAN, C. | STO. | TAVENDER, F.D. | BOY. |
| HAYES, R. | P.O. | NIXON, O.H. | ORD. SIG. | TAYLOR, J.A. | P.O. |
| HICKSON, T.W. | STO. P.O. | | | TREGARTHEN, H. | A.B. |
| HODGKINSON, S.C.L. | LIEUT. | | | WALKDEN, H.G. | LDG. STO. |
| HOSE, T.J. | A.B. | | | WARD, T.G.J. | STO. II. |
| HOUSTON, R.T. | STO. | | | WATSON, W.J. | A.B. |
| HUGHES, T. | LDG. SIG. | | | WRIGHT, R.R. | BOY. |

1914     1918

ERECTED
BY THEIR
MESSMATES

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL                                    H1 2608

**Leading Stoker Fred Archer Harding**

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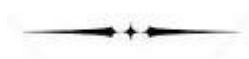
## Newspaper Notices

**INTERMENTS**

**Exeter Cemetery**

March

8 – Fred Archer Harding, Holy Trinity, 23 years

(*Western Times*, Exeter, Devon, England – 10 March, 1919)

**Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon**

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon contains 340 War Graves. Of the 219 First World War burials in Exeter Higher Cemetery, more than 180 form two war graves plots near the entrance. The Second World War plot contains most of the 121 Second World War burials. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. The Second World War plot also contains 62 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Polish and German.
*(Information & photos from CWGC).*

There are 9 War Graves which belong to the Australian Forces – Army, Air & Navy. Six are from World War 1 & three are from World War 2, from Royal Australian Air Force.

A Memorial, which is located near the two chapels, contains the names of those buried in the circular plot surrounding the Memorial. The plot of land in front of the chapel was set aside by the Council as a commemorative plot early in World War 1. The burials are marked by simple granite slabs listing only the soldier's name.

A letter was sent to Mrs Carter, mother of the late Private R.A.E. Carter, A.I.F., dated 11th October, 1922 which reads: "*With further reference to your letter of the 7th June, enquiry has been made with regard to the grave of Private R.A.E. Carter in Exeter Higher Cemetery with the result that it has been discovered that all the private memorials erected over the graves of soldiers, in the War Plot have been removed by the Exeter City Council, and that a granite block has been placed over each grave and the turf levelled. On these blocks have been engraved the particulars of the deceased, painted black. The private memorials themselves have been placed in the mortuary.*

*This treatment has been carried out entirely by the City Council with a view to uniformity so that now all the graves in the War Plot in Exeter High Cemetery are exactly alike, but the burial place of each soldier is carefully distinguished by the granite blocks which have been placed level with the turf.*



**The Memorial**  *(Photos by Toltecia)*

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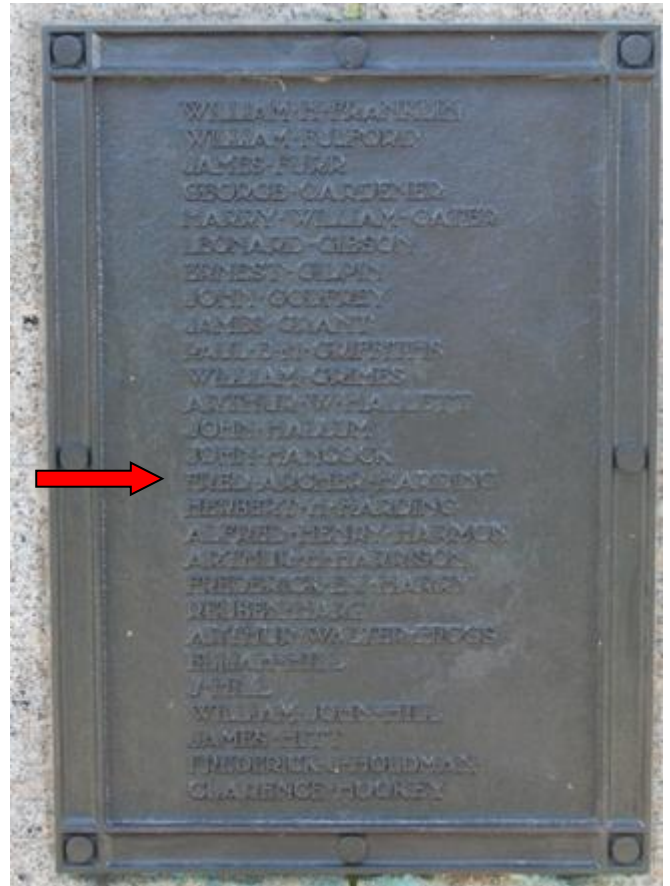
**An example of the plaques with the names of the soldiers buried in the World Ward 1 plot.**

*(Photos by Toltecia)*



**Exeter Higher Cemetery showing Cross of Sacrifice & World War 2 War Graves**

*(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)*

**The World War 1 plots near the Memorial with plants & flowers between the named granite grave markers**
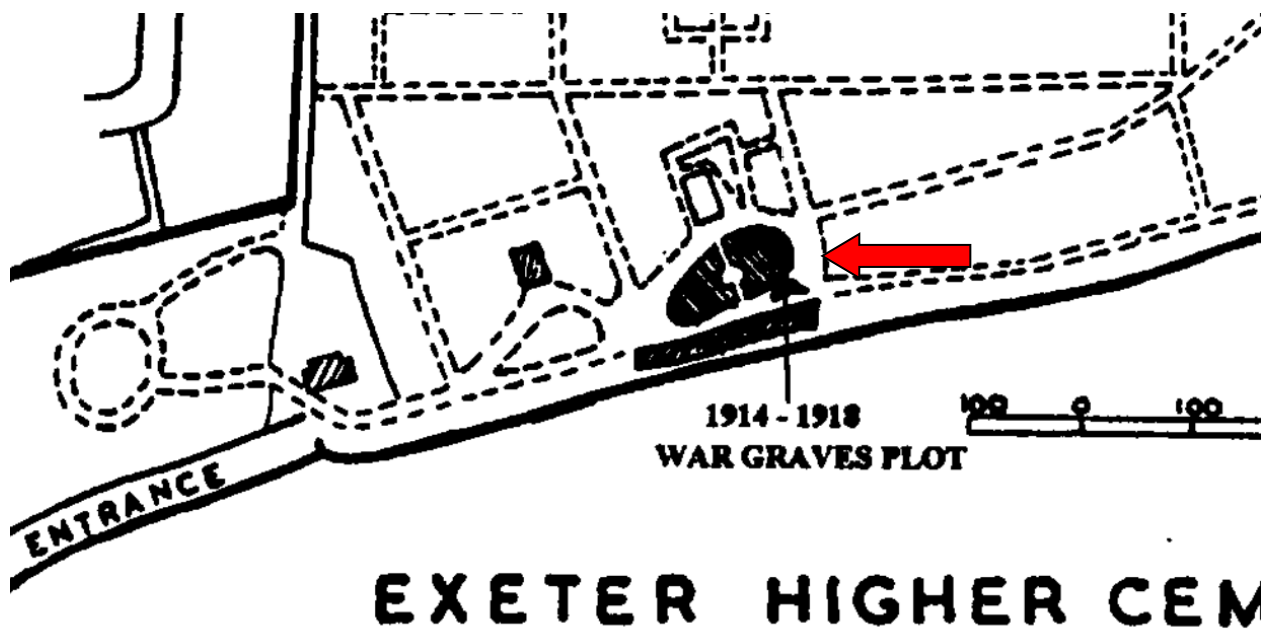
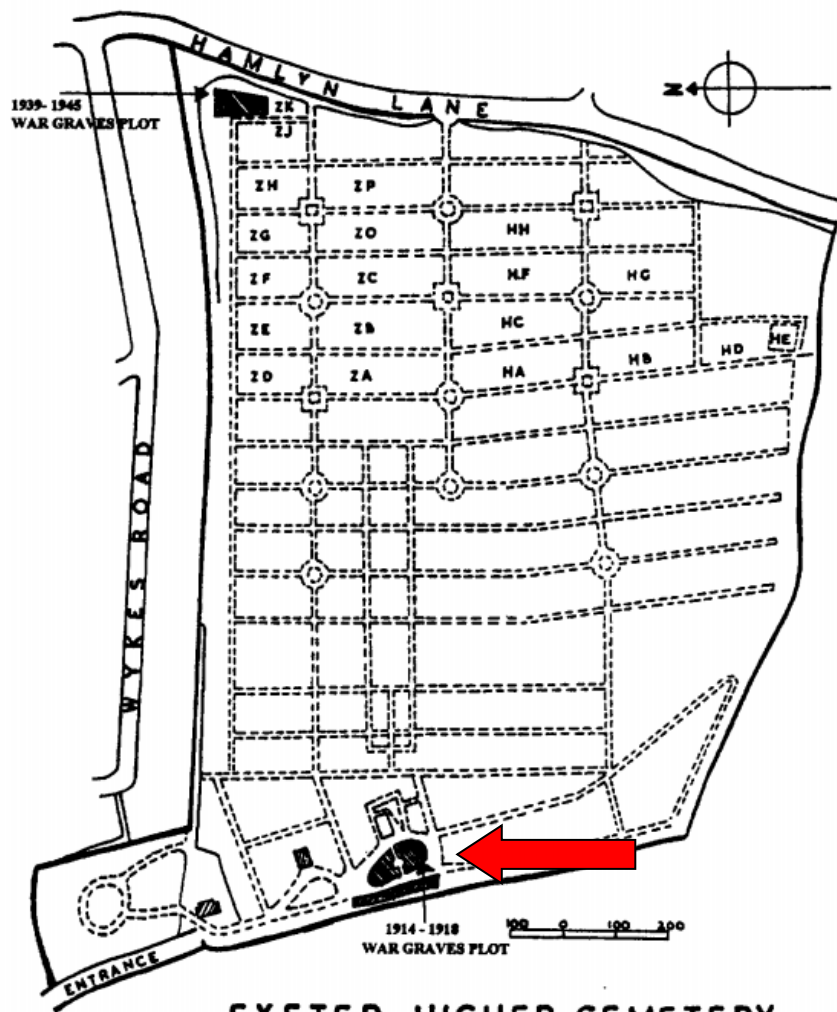*(Photos with permission from Norman Cummings)*

Photo of Leading Stoker F. A. Harding's granite Grave marker in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Toltecia)*

**Section showing World War 1 War Graves Plot.**

EXETER HIGHER CEMETERY

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