St. Paul's Churchyard, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

3778   COOKS MATE

W. HARE

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

6TH AUGUST, 1915

William HARE

William Hare was born on 3rd September, 1894 at Yorkshire, England to parents Thomas & Louisa Johanna Hare (nee Mitchell). He was baptised on 30th October, 1894 in the Wesleyan-Methodist Chapel at Birkenshaw, Yorkshire, England. Their abode was listed as Tong.

The 1901 England Census recorded William Hare as a 6 year old, living with his family at Birkhill Farm, Birkenshaw, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Thomas Hare (Farm Bailiff, aged 36, born Balk, Yorkshire) & Louisa Hare (aged 42, born Bradford, Yorkshire). William was the youngest of four children listed on this Census – Elizabeth Hare (aged 12, born Dewsbury, Yorkshire), Joseph Hare (aged 10, born Dewsbury, Yorkshire), Thomas Hare (aged 8, born Dewsbury, Yorkshire) & William (born Tong). Also listed was a visitor – Emily Mitchell (aged 52, born Dublin, Ireland).

Louisa Johanna Hare, mother of William Hare, died on 12th January, 1909 at Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded William Hare as a 16 year old Farmer's son working on farm, living with his family at Springfield Farm, Birkenshaw, Yorkshire West Riding, England, which had 7 rooms. His father was listed as Thomas Hare (Widower, Farmer, aged 45). William was the youngest of four children listed on this Census – Elizabeth Hare (School Teacher, aged 22), Joseph Foggitt Hare (Farmer's son working on farm, aged 20), Thomas Hare (Farmer's son working on farm, aged 18) & William. Also listed was Thomas Hare's sister-in-law – Emily Ellen Mitchell (Housekeeper, aged 62).

William Hare, aged 18, was a passenger on *Armadale* which departed from the port of London, England on 15th November, 1912 bound for Western Australia.

William Hare joined Royal Australian Navy on 1st April, 1914 for a period of 5 years. He was given an Official number of 3778.

William Hare was posted to H.M.A.S. *Cerebus* on 1st April, 1914 as Cook's Mate II.

Cook's Mate II William Hare was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 4th August, 1914. He passed for Cooks Mate on 1st February, 1915.
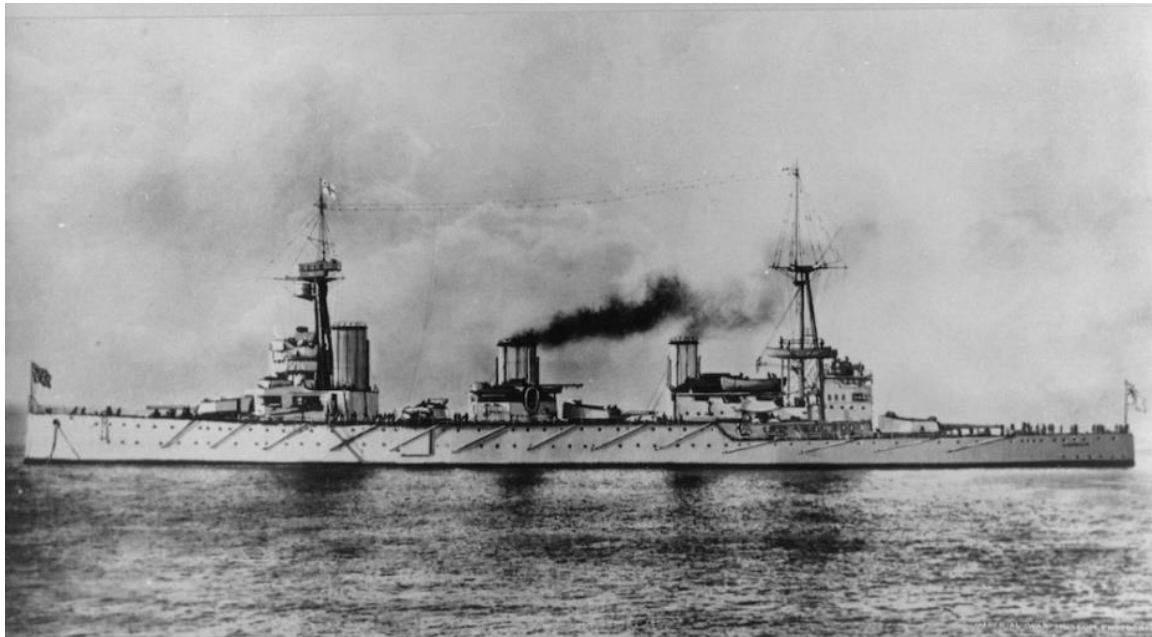
H.M.A.S. *Australia*

The Australian Navy's first flagship, the battle cruiser HMAS *Australia* (I) was the centrepiece of the 'Fleet Unit', whose acquisition signalled the RAN's arrival as a credible ocean going force.

The Commonwealth Government decided upon the name Australia, and it proved a popular choice, carefully avoiding any suggestion of favouritism towards any one Australian State. The ship's badge maintained the national theme by featuring the Federation Star overlaid by a naval crown, while the motto 'Endeavour' reflected the ideal of the Australian spirit and recalled Lieutenant James Cook's ship of 1768-71.

Notwithstanding some construction delays, John Brown delivered *Australia* (I) £295,000 under budget. Following successful gun, torpedo and machinery trials she commissioned as an Australian unit at Portsmouth, England, on 21 June 1913 under the command of Captain Stephen H Radcliffe, RN. Two days later the ship hoisted the flag of Rear Admiral George Edwin Patey, MVO (later Vice Admiral Sir George Patey, KCMG, KCVO), who had been selected to command the Australian Fleet.

In company with the new light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* (I), *Australia* (I) sailed from Portsmouth on 21 July 1913, and their voyage home was seen as a further opportunity to stimulate public awareness and naval sentiment around the British Empire. The appearance of the Australian warships would, the Sydney Morning Herald remarked, provide a practical demonstration of the RAN as a 'thoroughly competent, efficient, and considerable force'. *Australia* (I) called in at Capetown where Patey and his officers were directed to extend every possible courtesy.

HMAS Australia *at* **sea in 1913.**

On the morning of 4 October 1913 *Australia* (I), leading the remaining ships of the Fleet Unit (the cruisers *Melbourne* (I), *Sydney* (I) and *Encounter*, and the destroyers *Warrego* (I), *Parramatta* (I) and *Yarra* (I)), entered Sydney for the first time. Port Jackson was no stranger to imperial and foreign warships, but the battle cruiser, both majestic and forbidding at the same time, was something different. She was the embodiment of the Commonwealth's own sea power, and unquestionably superior to every other European warship in the Pacific. Already described as a 'living sentient thing', *Australia* (I)'s entry at the head of the fleet evoked a nationalistic euphoria never before experienced.

Arrangements were made at the first opportunity for the flagship to visit many of the principal Australian ports. Within a year she had called at Albany, Port Lincoln, Hobart, Glenelg and Melbourne, and steamed as far north as Townsville in a deliberate attempt to showcase the Navy to the widest national audience.

On the outbreak of World War I *Australia* (I) operated (with other ships of the Australian Fleet) as a counter to the German East Asian Cruiser Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee. The battle cruiser's presence deterred von Spee from operating in local waters, and as Prime Minister WM 'Billy' Hughes later declared, 'but for the "*Australia* (I)"...the great cities of Australia would have been reduced to ruins, oversea trade paralysed, coastal shipping sunk, and communications with the outside world cut off'. *Australia* (I) meanwhile kept busy, taking part in a series of operations to seize German Pacific colonies and destroy the enemy's radio network. During these operations *Australia* (I) captured the German ship *Sumatra*.

In late December 1914 *Australia* (I) received orders to sail to England via the Pacific and reached Devonport on 28 January 1915. Enroute she captured and sank von Spee's supply ship *Eleonore Woermann* (5000 tons) off South America. From Devonport *Australia* (I) proceeded to Rosyth in Scotland, where in February 1915 she became flagship of the 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron, flying the flag of Rear Admiral Sir William Pakenham, KCB, MVO. The squadron as initially formed comprised *Australia* (I) and her two sister ships, HMS *New Zealand* and HMS *Indefatigable*. From then until 22 April 1916, *Australia* (I) was based at Rosyth accompanying the Battle Cruiser Fleet on a succession of sweeps, patrols, and convoy escort tasks across the length and breadth of the North Sea. The enemy was rarely if ever seen, and a shot at a suspected submarine on 30 December 1917 marked the only occasion when she fired her armament in anger.

(Information & photo of H.M.A.S. Australia from Australian Navy website)

Cooks Mate William Hare died on 6th August, 1915 at Queensferry Naval Hospital, Scotland from Appendicitis & Pneumonia.

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Cooks Mate William Hare was buried on 9th August, 1915 in St. Paul's Churchyard, Birkenshaw, Yorkshire, England (north-east part, near Church) & has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Burial Register records that William Hare was 20 years old & from Tong St.

Newspaper article (date & paper unknown):

NAVAL FUNERAL AT BIRKENSHAW

Considerable interest was manifested both at Tong Street and Birkenshaw in the interment on Monday at St. Paul's Church, Birkenshaw, of the remains of Willie Hare, son of Mr and Mrs T. Hare, of Tong Street, who died at the naval base hospital, somewhere in Scotland, from pneumonia following an operation for appendicitis. He was well-know and highly respected in the district, his bright and cheerful; disposition gaining him hosts of friends. He spent his early years at Springfield Farm, Birkenshaw, which his parents formerly tenanted, attending the Birkenshaw National School, and also the Westgate Hill Council School. For a time he was employed by a firm of engineers at Liversedge, and in 1912 he emigrated to Australia, where he was engaged in sheep farming until he joined the

Australian Navy, and was drafted to H.M.S. Australia, the flagship of the Australian fleet in the capacity of cook. When war was declared he was on shore leave, and was recalled to his ship, with which he has been on active service up to the time of his death. The splendid service rendered by the Australian Squadron in clearing the Pacific Ocean of the German warships, especially the notorious Emden, will be still fresh in the recollections of our readers. In six months the Australian covered 24,000 miles, and consumed 10,000 tons of coal and 8,000 tons of oil. Since then the Australia has been in other waters, and only a few weeks ago young Hare had leave to visit home after being in hospital for pleurisy. On Saturday the remains were brought to Bradford by train, the coffin being covered with a Union Jack, and about 100 men from the ship represented all departments, together with the ship's ban playing funeral marches, accompanied the body to the station of departure. Amongst those who were present at the interment, at which the Rev. J. E. Crabtree officiated, were Mr and Mrs Pratt and Mr and Mrs H. Mallpress, of the Birkenshaw National School, and Mr and Mrs Long, of Westgate Hill. A wreath was sent from the ship, together with the following message, signed by the chief cook on behalf of the staff:- "Dear Mr Hare – It is with the greatest sorrow that we hear of the death of your son. During the time he worked with us he proved to be a most cheerful worker and a good comrade. We wish on this occasion to offer our most profound sympathy, and hope you will be sustained to bear up against this sudden bereavement."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Cooks Mate W. Hare – service number 3778, of "H.M.A.S. "Australia", Royal Australian Navy. No family details are listed.

Cooks Mate W. Hare 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

Cook's Mate W. Hare 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)*

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.	CARP. 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.	A.B.
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, F.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

William Hare & his brother Joseph Hare are remembered on the Tong War Memorial, located in Tong Street, Tong, West Yorkshire, England.

Tong War Memorial

(2 pages of Cooks Mate William Hare's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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

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<u>Newspaper Notices</u>

LIGHT WEIGHT (Final)

Dunn v. W. Hare (H.M.A. Navy)

This was a fine contest and the exhibition won the enthusiasm of the audience. Fast and clever boxing was displayed by both men, while at times the foot work was pretty to watch. Both were handy and dangerous with either hand and the four rounds were spirited. The opening was fairly even on points but in the second Hare scored freely and looked like running out a winner. His boxing was clean and attractive. Dunn freshened up in the third round and made up most of his lost ground. Both strove hard to secure the honors but Dunn's unfailing aggressiveness pulled him through and he carried off the much coveted prize. He undoubtedly deserved the win.

(*Trafalgar and Yarragon Times*, Victoria – 3 July, 1914)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Cooks Mate William Hare has a Private Headstone.

St. Paul's Churchyard, Birkenshaw, Yorkshire, England

St. Paul's Churchyard, Birkenshaw contains 8 Commonwealth War Graves – 4 from World War 1 & 4 from World War 2.

St. Paul's Churchyard, Birkenshaw *(Photo above by Jill S – Find a Grave; below by Martin Bentley – Find a Grave)*

Photo of Cooks Mate W. Hare's Private Headstone in St. Paul's Churchyard, Birkenshaw, Yorkshire, England.

(Photo Jill S – Find a Grave)

In Loving Memory of

WILLIAM HARE, of H.M.A.S. Australia

Who Died at the Naval Hospital, Scotland,

August 6th 1915, In His 21st Year.

Erected By Relatives, Friends, & Shipmates

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