

# **Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1727 ABLE SEAMAN**

**T. J. HOSE**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**

**H.M.A.S. "MELBOURNE"**

**7TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 20**

## Thomas James HOSE

Thomas James Hose was born at Bushfield, Victoria on 23rd February, 1897 to parents Ernest Charles & Grace Hose (nee Wilkins).

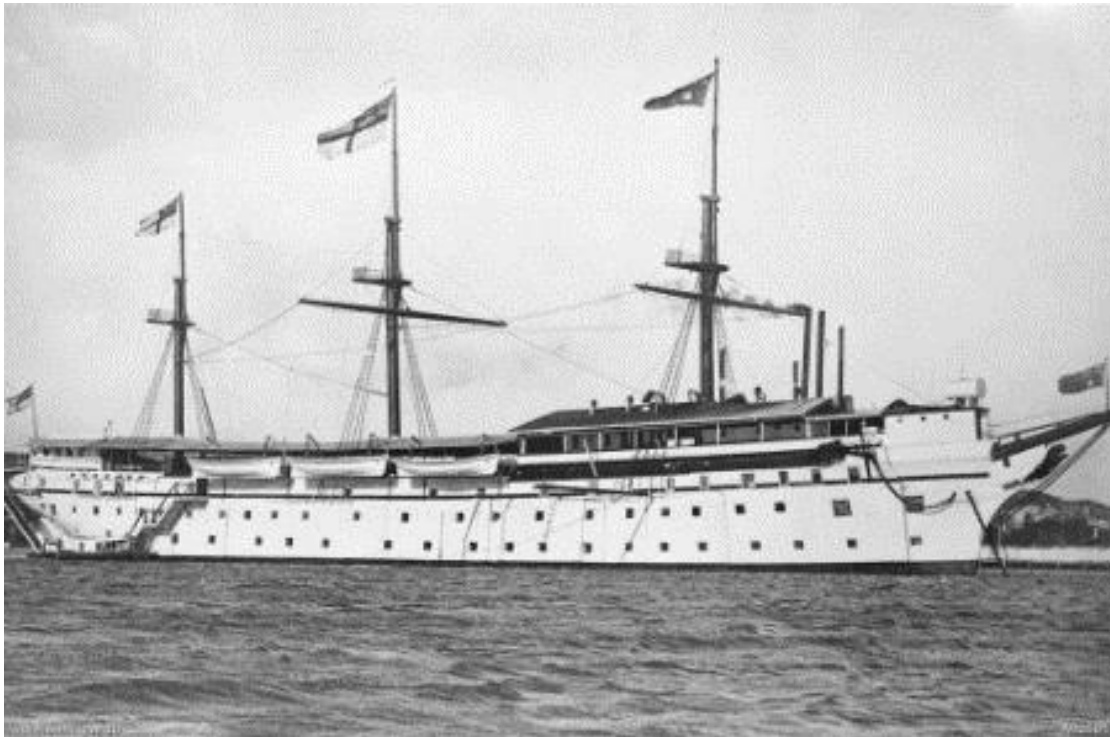
Thomas James Hose joined Royal Australian Navy on 1st June, 1912, aged 15 years. He was issued an official number of 1727.

Thomas James Hose was assigned to *Tingira* on 1st June, 1912 as Boy 2nd Class. He was rated as Boy 1st Class from 22nd March, 1913.

### **H.M.A.S. *Tingira***

H.M.A.S. *Tingira* (an aboriginal word for "open sea") was a training ship commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy. Previously the *Sobraon* carried cargo and passengers between Australia & the United Kingdom once a year between 1866 & 1891. The *Sobraon* had been purchased by the NSW Government in 1891 & was used as a reformatory or Nautical School Ship for wayward boys until 1911.

The Royal Australian Navy refitted the *Sobraon* & was commissioned on 25th April, 1912 as H.M.A.S. *Tingira* & moored in Rose Bay, Sydney. Up to 250 boys between the ages of 14 ½ and 16 could be trained at any time, although the trainee complement rarely exceeded 200. Between 1912 and 1927, 3,158 boys were trained for naval service. As *Tingira* was immobilised, the steam yacht HMAS *Sleuth* was attached to the training ship as a tender, and used to provide seagoing experience to recruits.



**H.M.A.S. *Tingira* moored in Rose Bay, Sydney in 1912**

Boy 1st Class Thomas James Hose was assigned to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* from 14th May, 1913. He was promoted to Ordinary Seaman II from 23rd February, 1914 then Ordinary Seaman from 23rd February, 1915 while serving in H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*.

On 23rd February, 1915, having reached the age of 18 years, Thomas James Hose signed on to Royal Australian Navy for a period of 7 years.

Ordinary Seaman Thomas James Hose was promoted to Able Seaman from 15th July, 1915 while still serving in H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*.

Able Seaman Thomas James Hose was transferred to London Depot, England from 24th October, 1916 until 8th March, 1917.

Able Seaman Thomas James Hose was transferred back to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* from 9th March, 1917.

### **H.M.A.S. *Melbourne***

*The light cruiser HMAS Melbourne was built in the United Kingdom and commissioned in January 1913. On 4 October 1913 she entered Sydney Harbour with other ships of the fleet unit.*

*Upon the outbreak of war Melbourne was engaged in operations against the German Pacific colonies. She was present at the capture of Samoa and landed a force which took Nauru on 9 September. Returning to Australian waters, she joined the escort of the first troop convoy from Australia to the Middle East, which departed Albany on 1 November 1914. On 9 November, Melbourne, commanding the convoy after the departure of HMS Minotaur, ordered HMAS Sydney to investigate a strange ship sighted off the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, which led to the destruction of SMS Emden.*

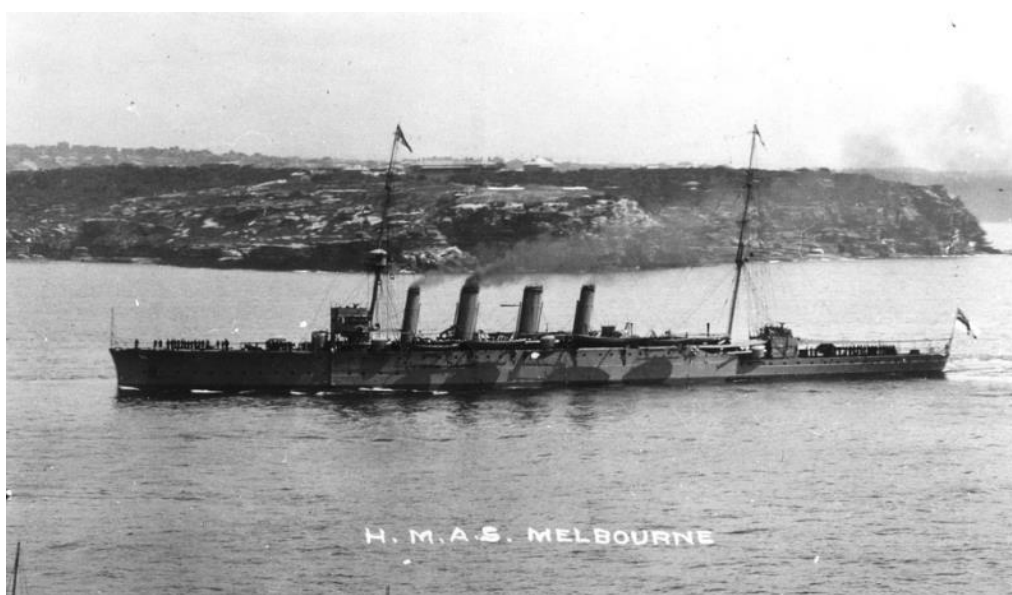
*Melbourne left the convoy at Colombo on 15 November and proceeded to the Atlantic Ocean. In December 1914, Melbourne was deployed to the Caribbean and based at Bermuda. For the next 18 months, she carried out patrol duties between the islands of the West Indies and along the east coast of North America, in concert with HMAS Sydney.*

*In September 1916 Sydney and Melbourne were transferred to the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron for duties with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea. In company with HMS Southampton and Dublin, they undertook patrol, escort and screening duties.*

*In November 1917, Melbourne was fitted with an aircraft launching platform and a Sopwith Ships Pup fighter. On 1 June 1918, both Melbourne and Sydney launched their aircraft to engage two German reconnaissance aircraft. Melbourne's fighter lost its target in the clouds.*

*Melbourne was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet on 21 November 1918. She returned to Portsmouth on 30 November 1918. Melbourne took no part in any action at sea and suffered no casualties. On 7 March 1919 her service in the European theatre ended when she departed Devonport for Australia, finally entering Sydney Harbour on 21 May 1919 after a leisurely cruise via Suez, Singapore and Darwin.*

(HMAS *Melbourne* information from the Australian War Memorial)



**H.M.A.S. *Melbourne***

Able Seaman Thomas James Hose died on 7th January, 1918.

Newspaper Item – *The Warrnambool Standard*, Victoria – 13 & 14 March, 1918:

## **HEROES AT THE FRONT**

### **ABLE-SEAMAN HOSE**

*Mrs. Hose, of Western Reserve, has received the following letter from the commander of the H.M.A.S. Melbourne regarding her son, Able Seaman Thomas James Hose, who was lost off the vessel in January last:—*

*"You have no doubt had all information relative to the sad death of your son, but I felt I should like to write and tell you about it, having been his commander and had him directly under me now for several years. I was terribly grieved at his sad end, and his loss to the ship was very greatly felt. He has been under me for instruction and work ever since he first came to the ship as a boy, and I looked on him as one of the most promising men we had, so full of zeal, ability and capacity to get things done, and in consequence his rise to the higher gunnery rating of gunlayer was very quick. The night he went was one of the worst I have known; a regular blizzard was blowing. We were frozen all over with everything covered in snow and a terrific sea running. He had mustered his crew and was reporting to the officer of the watch, and was never seen after leaving the bridge. I think he must have slipped on the ladder and fallen, perhaps stunned himself, and then the heavy roll and sea got him between the rails and over the side. He could not have lived in such a sea for more than a few seconds, and I don't think he could have suffered much. We were all dreadfully sorry to lose him; he was such a good fellow, and always a credit to the ship and a man one was proud of I wish to tender you my heartfelt sympathy, and the only consolation I can offer is that you must remember that he died doing his duty under the most trying circumstances. My expressions are only those of all the officers of the ship, and especially those under whom he directly served."*

Able Seaman Thomas James Hose is named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England – Panel 28. He has no grave, however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Extract from Memorial Register – Plymouth Memorial:

*HOSE, A.B. Thomas James, 1727. R. Aust. N. H.M.A.S. "Melbourne." Accidentally drowned in North Sea 7th Jan., 1918. Age 20. Son of Ernest Charles and Grace Hose, of Springfield, Corio, Victoria, Australia. Born at Bushfield, Victoria. 28.*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Able Seaman Thomas James Hose – service number 1727, aged 20, of Royal Australian Navy – H.M.A.S. "Melbourne". He was the son of Ernest Charles & Grace Hose, of Springfield, Corio, Victoria, Australia.

Able Seaman T. J. Hose 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*

T. J. Hose is remembered on the Warrnambool War Memorial, located at Cannon Hill, Merri & Leibeig Streets, Warrnambool, Victoria.



**Warrnambool War Memorial** (Photos courtesy of Jennie Blake)



FRITSCH L.J.	LATTA J.
GALLAGHER J.	LEE E.V.
GARDINER J.	LEVINGS R.J.
GARTLAN L.P.	LEVY J.B.
GEARY A.	LOADER C.
GILMOUR S.E.	LONDON A.H.
GILLIN J.L.	LOVELL E.
GLEESON J.D.	MACKAY A.A.
GOODISON R.J.	MACKAY G.A.
GOODWIN B.	MAHER P.
GORMAN C.	MANSON H.G.
GUYETT H.A.	MARTIN J.H.
HAMMOND A.J.	MATTINSON J.
HAMMOND W.H.	MEADE D.
HANKINSON S.J.	MEMBRY W.J.
HARWOOD H.J.	MERRITT S.R.
HASTINGS J.	MITCHELL H.M.
HENDERSON B.E.	MITCHELL J.L.
HENNESSY F.J.	MOORE G.H.
HENRY H.J.	MORGAN J.W.
HENRY H.J.	MORGAN N.W.
HETHERINGTON L.P.	MORGAN P.
HILL H.	MURNANE W.E.
HOPE T.F.	MURPHY C.
HOPKINS C.B.	MURPHY J.F.
HORN L.W.	MURPHY L.J.
HOSE R.A.	MURRAY J.P.
HOSE T.J.	MCCARTY J.S.
HUNT W.	MCCARTY W.W.
HUTCHINSON R.	MCCONNELL T.J.
INGRAM C.	MCCREADY D.W.M.
JACKAWAY W.R.	MCDONALD A.
JAGO J.J.	MCDONALD N.
JEWELL H.G.	MCDOWELL A.E.
JOHNSON D.M.	MCDOWELL C.N.
JOHNSTONE C.A.	MCDOWELL C.F.E.
KING A.E.	MCDOWELL W.H.
KIRKWOOD W.J.	MCGENNAN J.W.
LIDLAW J.M.	MCGUINNESS J.P.
LIDLAW P.	MCGLOIN P.J.
LAITY E.R.	MCKAY R.

Warrnambool War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Jennie Blake)

T. J. Hose 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)



(2 pages of Able Seaman Thomas James Hose'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **HEROES AT THE FRONT**

#### **ABLE SEAMAN THOMAS JAMES HOSE**

The sad news was received by telegram by the Rev. W. E. Wood from the Navy Office on Saturday that Able Seaman Thomas James Hose, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs E. C. Hose, of West Reserve, was accidentally drowned at sea on the 7th inst. He carried out the painful duty of imparting the news to the bereaved parents. The deceased was only 20 years 11 months old, and was a bright and promising young man. He joined the Navy 5½ years ago. After spending 10 months on the training ship Tingira he was transferred to H.M.A.S. Melbourne, on which cruiser he remained till September, 1916. He then joined H.M.S. Excellent at Portsmouth, and was subsequently again transferred to the Melbourne. While serving on the Melbourne he met his death as stated. A younger brother, Edward Hose, is also in the Navy, and is at present on the Tingira.

*(The Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 14 January, 1918)*

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### **DIED ON SERVICE**

HOSE – On 7th January, accidentally drowned at sea, Able Seaman Thomas James Hose, of H.M.A.S. Melbourne, and eldest son of Ernest Charles and Grace Hose, of West Reserve, Warrnambool, aged 20 years 11 months.

*(The Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 14 January, 1918)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN A. B. DROWNED**

#### **KING EXPRESSES SYMPATHY**

Information has been received by the Naval Department that Able Seaman Thomas James Holt, of the Royal Australian Navy, was accidentally drowned at sea on January 7. Beyond the cabled report no details are to hand.

Hose, who came from Warrnambool, was very popular among his shipmates. Their Majesties the King and Queen have directed that an expression of their regret and sympathy be conveyed to the lad's mother.

*(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 January, 1918)*

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### **SEAMAN DROWNED**

Information has been received by the Naval department that Able-Seaman Thomas James Hose, of the Royal Australian Navy, was accidentally drowned at sea on January 7. Hose came from Warrnambool.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 23 January, 1918)*

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## **BEREAVEMENT NOTICE**

Mr and Mrs HOSE and Family, West Reserve, desire to Thank their many Friends for Expressions of Sympathy, Letters and Cards, received during their recent sad bereavement in the death of their son, Able Seaman Thomas James Hose, on active service (accidentally drowned).

*(The Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 14 March, 1918)*

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## **OUR FALLEN HEROES**

### **MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES PRESENTED**

The returned Soldier's Reception Committee have prepared memorial certificates for presentation to the parents or nearest relatives of all soldiers enlisting from the city or shire, who have given their lives for the Empire....

The following is the list of fallen heroes up to date:-

.....

A.B. THOMAS JAMES HOSE, Warrnambool

.....

*(The Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – 30 May, 1918)*

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### 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.

Able Seaman Thomas James Hose has no headstone but is instead named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

## **Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England**

The Memorial is situated centrally on The Hoe which looks directly towards Plymouth Sound.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided.

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 memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. The Plymouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by HRH Prince George on 29 July 1924.

After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each. The architect for the Second World War extension at Plymouth was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler and William McMillan. The Extension was unveiled by HRH Princess Margaret on 20 May 1954. A further unveiling took place on 11 November 1956, when panels 101 to 103 honouring those who died on shore, but who had no known grave, were unveiled by Admiral Sir Mark Pizey.

In addition to commemorating seamen of the Royal Navy who sailed from Plymouth, the First World War panels also bears the names of sailors from Australia and South Africa. The governments of the other Commonwealth nations chose to commemorate their dead elsewhere, for the most part on memorials in their home ports. After the Second World War, Canada and New Zealand again chose commemoration at home, but the memorial at Plymouth commemorates sailors from all other parts of the Commonwealth.

Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates 7,251 sailors of the First World War and 15,933 of the Second World War.  
*(Information from CWGC)*



**Plymouth Naval Memorial** *(Photo from VWMA – Julianne T. Ryan 2017)*



*(Photos from CWGC)*



**1914 – 1918 1939 – 1945**

***All These Were Honoured In Their Generations***

***And Were The Glory Of Their Times***



*(Photo from CWGC)*



**Poppies Wave at CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial** *(Photo by Robert Pittman)*

Photo of Able Seaman T. J. Hose's name on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England.

