Queensferry Cemetery,

Edinburgh, Scotland,

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

ALBERT VICTOR ISON

3472   STOKER

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

16TH MARCH, 1915

Erected By His Shipmates

As A Token Of Their Respect

Albert Victor ISON

Albert Victor Ison was born at St. Paul's, Bristol, Gloucestershire on 7th May, 1894 to parents Archibald Samuel Ison & Ada Ison (nee Pomphrey). Albert Victor Ison was baptised on 29th May, 1895 in Bristol, Gloucester, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Albert V. Ison as a 6 year old, living with his family at 122 Hayward Rd., Bristol, Gloucestershire. His parents were recorded as Archibald S. Ison (Foreman in Fancy Card Box Factory, aged 31, born Leicester) & Ada Ison (aged 33, born Bristol, Bedminster, Somerset). Albert was one of four children listed in this Census – Beatrice A. Ison (aged 8, born St. Paul's, Bristol), then Albert, Gertrude M. Ison (aged 5, born Eastville, Bristol) & Lilian Ison (aged 2, born St. Lawrence, Bristol).

Archibald Samuel Ison, father of Albert Victor Ison, died on 29th August, 1910 in Bristol, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded Albert Victor Ison (born Argyll Rd., Bristol) as a 15 year old Clerk (Co-operative Society), living with his family at 64 York Rd., Bedminster, Bristol, Gloucestershire in an 8 roomed dwelling. Albert's mother was a widow – Ada Ison (Owner of Cardboard Box Factory, aged 41). Ada had been married for 20 years & had seven children, one child having died. Albert was one of five children listed on this Census – Beatrice Ada Ison (Clerk (assisting in the business), aged 17) then Albert, Gertrude Ison (At Home, aged 14), Lilian Ison (At School, aged 12) & Evelyn Mercia Scot Ison (At School, aged 8).

Ada Ison, mother of Albert Victor Ison, married James F. War in the September quarter, 1913 in the district of Bristol.

Albert Victor Ison enlisted with the Royal Australian Navy in Melbourne, Victoria on 8th November, 1913. He was given a service number of 3472 & his next-of-kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Ison, 64 York Rd., Bedminster, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Albert Victor Ison joined H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* on 8th November, 1913 as Stoker 2nd Class.

[H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* – previously H.M.V.S. *Cerberus* was renamed H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* when the navy became the Royal Australian Navy in 1911. By World War I, the weapons and boilers on H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* were inoperable & was confined to Port Phillip Bay in Victoria, Australia. The ship was retasked as a guardship and munitions store, while carrying the personnel of the Royal Australian Naval College on her paybooks.]

Stoker 2nd Class Albert Victor Ison was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 3rd February, 1914 until 7th April, 1914.

From the New South Wales Police Gazette – 22nd April, 1914:

Deserters from His Majesty's Service

From H.M.A.S. "Australia" at Sydney, NSW

On 4th April, 1914

Albert Victor Ison, stoker, born in Bristol, England, 20 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches high, fair hair, blue eyes, fresh complexion (small scar on left breast).

From the Police Gazette, Tasmania, April 24th, 1914:

DESERTERS FROM H.M. SERVICE

From H.M.A.S. "Australia" at Sydney, on the 3rd instant –

ALBERT VICTOR ISON, Stoker, 2nd Class, native of England, aged 19, height 5 feet 5 inches, fair hair, blue eyes, fresh complexion; small scar on left breast.

Stoker 2nd Class Albert Victor Ison rejoined H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 4th May, 1914.

Stoker 2nd Class Albert Victor Ison was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Penguin* on 8th May, 1914.

[H.M.A.S. *Penguin* – was originally H.M.S. *Penguin*, a composite sloop originally commissioned by the Royal Navy, before being transferred to the Royal Australian Navy in 1913 as H.M.A.S. *Penguin,* a depot ship at Garden Island, Sydney.]

Stoker 2nd Class Albert Victor Ison was transferred back to H.M.A.S *Australia* on 16th June, 1914. He was promoted to Stoker on 8th December, 1914.

Stoker Albert Victor Ison died on 16th March, 1915 at Rosyth, Fife, Scotland from Epilepsy. (Source: Australian War Memorial – Roll of Honour)

Stoker Albert Victor Ison was buried in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number 569. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but his headstone was "erected by his shipmates as a token of their respect."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker Albert Victor Ison – service number 3472, aged 19, of H.M.A.S. "Australia", Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Ada Ware (formerly Ison), of 64 York Rd., New Cut, Bedminster Bridge, Bristol.

Stoker A. V. Ison 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

Stoker I. V. Ison 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)*
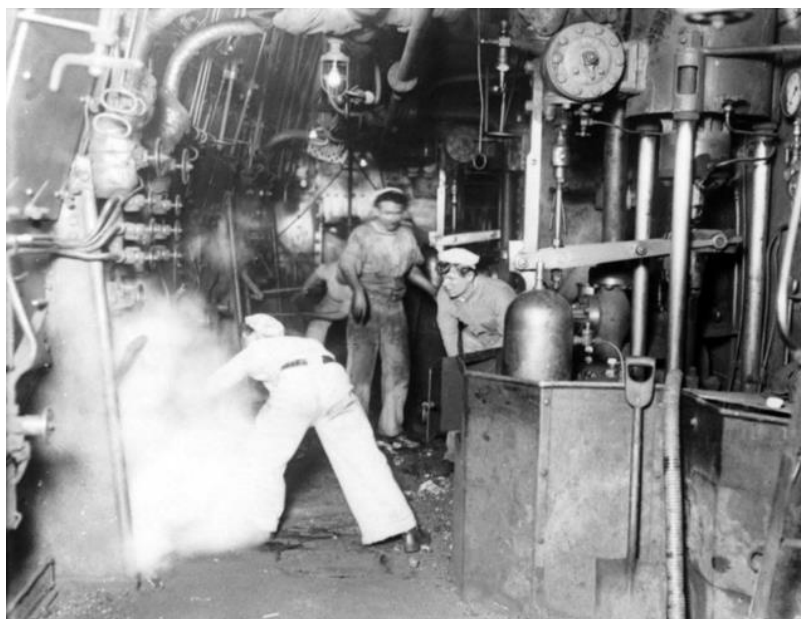
H.M.A.S. *Australia*

H.M.A.S. *Australia* was launched in 1911, and commissioned as flagship of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.) in 1913. On completion she sailed for Australia and, on 4 October 1913, led the cruisers and destroyers of the fleet unit into Sydney Harbour to public acclaim.

With the outbreak of the First World War, *Australia* became the flagship of the force that captured the German colonies in the southern Pacific. She led a force which captured Rabaul on 13th September, 1914 before proceeding to Samoa.

In late December, 1914 *Australia* received orders to sail to England via the Pacific and reached Devonport on 28th January, 1915. En route she captured and sank von Spee's supply ship *Eleonore Woermann* off South America. From Devonport *Australia* 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* and her two sister ships, HMS *New Zealand* and HMS *Indefatigable*.

H.M.A.S. Australia 1914

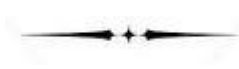Unidentified stokers at work in the boiler room on board HMAS *Australia*. *(Photo period 1914-1918)*

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An unidentified stoker scrapes out the ash from the bottom grate in the boiler furnace on HMAS *Australia*.

(Photo c 1918)

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

Newspaper Notices

(BIRTHS DEATHS & MARRIAGES)

Mrs Ware (formerly Ison) begs to thank all kind friends for letters of condolence and kind sympathy during the recent bereavement and sad loss of her son, Albert Victor Ison. Interred at Queen's Ferry Cemetery, Scotland, with full naval honours.

(*Western Daily Press*, Bristol, England – 23 March, 1915)

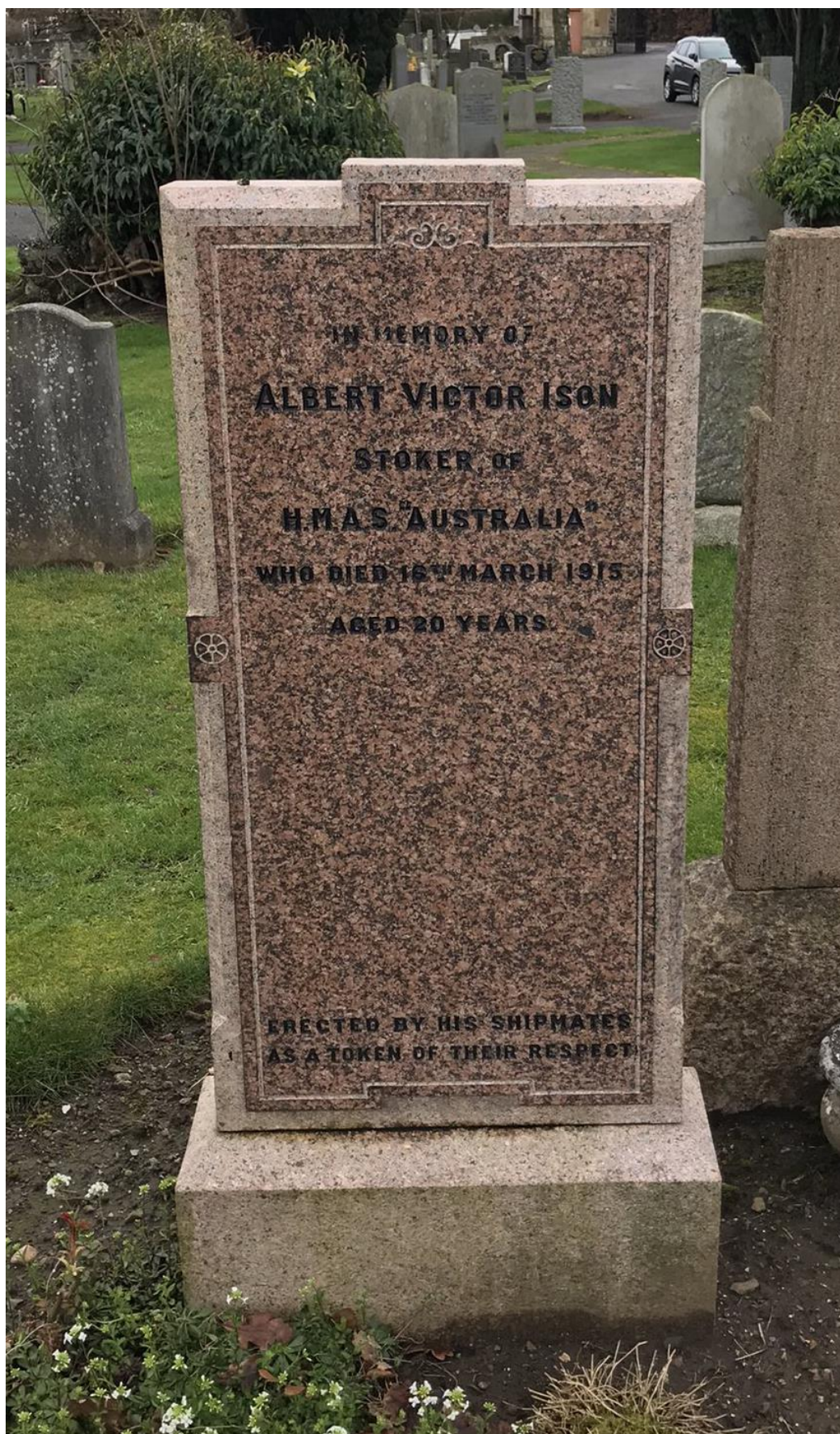**Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland**

Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 180 First World War burials, almost all of them naval. There are also eight burials of the Second World War. There are 11 War Graves from World War 1 belonging to members of the Royal Australian Navy.

(Information & photos from CWGC)

(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble – 2020)

Photo of Stoker Albert Victor Ison's Headstone in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland. His headstone was erected by his shipmates. Albert Victor Ison is also remembered on his parent's headstone – Archibald Samuel Ison & Ada Ware, located in Brislington Cemetery, Bristol, England.

(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble – 2020)

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