Queensferry Cemetery,

Edinburgh, Scotland,

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

R. D. JUSTICE

STOKER   3537

ROYAL   AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

5TH MARCH, 1916   Age 21

Hopes That Were Lost

On The Journey Through Life

He Has Found

In The Heaven Above

Roy David JUSTICE

David Roy Justice was born on 10th March, 1895 at Thoona, Victoria to parents David Charles & Isabella Justice (nee Miller).

Roy David Justice enlisted with the Royal Australian Navy on 15th December, 1913 for a period of 5 years. He was given a service number of 3537. His next-of-kin was listed as his mother – Isabella Justice of Cowes, Phillip Island, Victoria. Roy Justice was 5 ft 4 1/2 " with dark brown hair, grey eyes & a fresh complexion. He had a scar on his left calf & a scar on his right mid-finger.

Roy David Justice joined H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* as Stoker 2nd Class on 15th December, 1913.

[*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 Roy David Justice was transferred to H.M.C.S. *Protector* on 31st January, 1914.

[*In 1901, Protector was transferred to the Australian Commonwealth Government and became a Commonwealth naval vessel primarily based in Sydney, New South Wales. In the years leading up to the establishment of an Australian Naval Fleet, Protector was active around the southern and eastern seaboards. Her main role was to train the Naval Militia Forces of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, a duty which she continued on following the foundation of the Royal Australian Navy. From September 1913, she served as a tender to the naval base HMAS Cerberus in Williamstown, Victoria. When World War I broke out in 1914, Protector was sent to Sydney and she began service as a parent/depot ship to two Australian submarines.]*

Stoker 2nd Class Roy David Justice was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 27th February, 1914. He was promoted to Stoker on 15th December, 1914. Stoker Roy David Justice had been assessed on 31st December, 1915 & his character was classed as very good & his ability as superior.
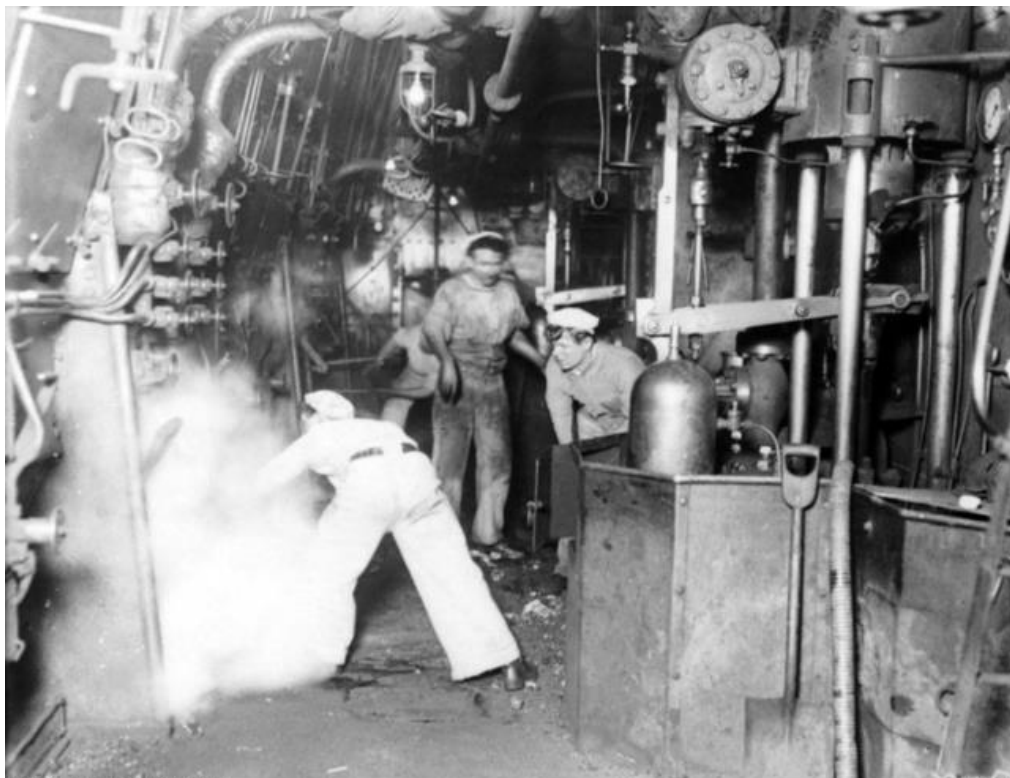
H.M.A.S. *Australia*

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.

H.M.A.S. *Australia* **1914**

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL   EN0506

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

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

(Photo c 1918)

Stoker Roy David Justice died on 5th March, 1916 at Rosyth, Fife, Scotland from Suffocation – accidental. (Source: Australian War Memorial – Roll of Honour)

Newspaper Reports:

FEARED THE COLD AND RISKED SUFFOCATION

Two men have been found dead on a barge lying in the Forth, near Rosyth. They were Walter Matthews (31) and Roy David Justice (20), believed to belong to London. Owing to the coldness of the weather the men, for the sake of warmth, had closed the hatch and other outlets to the air. Death, which took place in the stokehold, had been due to suffocation.

(*Dundee, Perth, Forfar, and Fife's People Journal*, Dundee, Angus, Scotland – 11 March, 1916)

TWO SEAMEN ARE FOUND SUFFOCATED IN STOKEHOLE OF BARGE AT ROSYTH

A tragic discovery was made yesterday morning on a steam barge at H. M. Dockyard, Rosyth, two seamen being found suffocated in the stokehole of the vessel.

The men were Walter Matthews (31) and Roy David Justice (20), both of whom are understood to belong to London. They were last seen alive at a late hour on Saturday night. It is thought that when they entered the stokehole, the weather being cold, they closed ventilators and fell asleep.

About seven o'clock next morning a fellow seaman entered the stokehole and found the two lifeless bodies of the men, death having taken place several hours previously. It was certified that the cause of death was suffocation.

(*Dundee Courier*, Dundee, Angus, Scotland – 6 March, 1916)

Stoker Roy David Justice was buried in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number 1410 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

[Petty Officer Stoker W. J. Matthews, 7687, of H.M.A.S. "Australia", Royal Australian Navy, was buried in Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England. He was the son of Charles & Fanny Matthews of 12 The Flats, Chantry Rd., Southampton, Hampshire, England.]

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker Roy David Justice – service number 3537, aged 20, of H.M.A.S. "Australia", Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of D. J. and Isabell Justice of Cowes, Victoria, Australia.

Stoker R. D. Justice 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

R. Justice is remembered on the Phillip Island Returned Services League Honour Roll Book located in Phillip Island RSL Club, 225 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia.
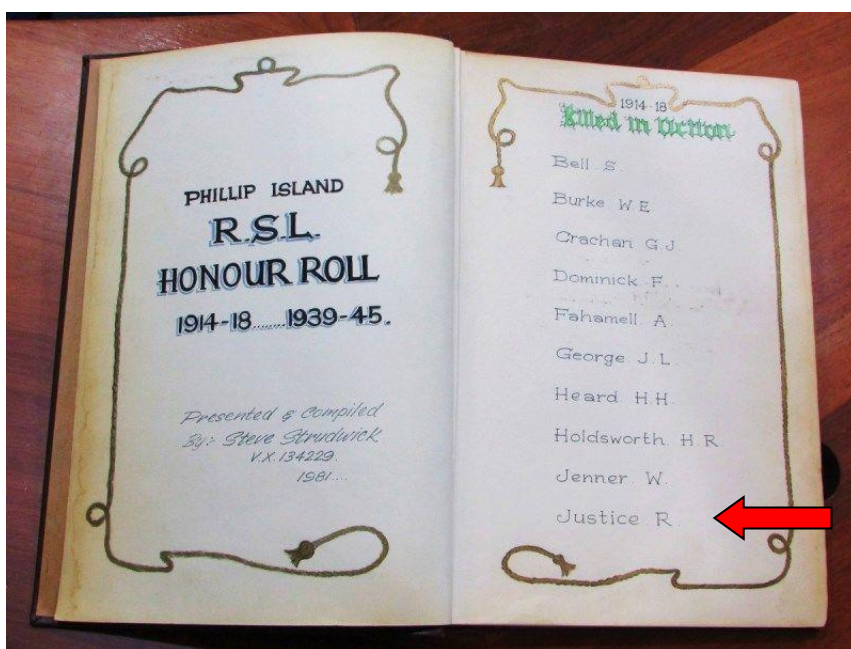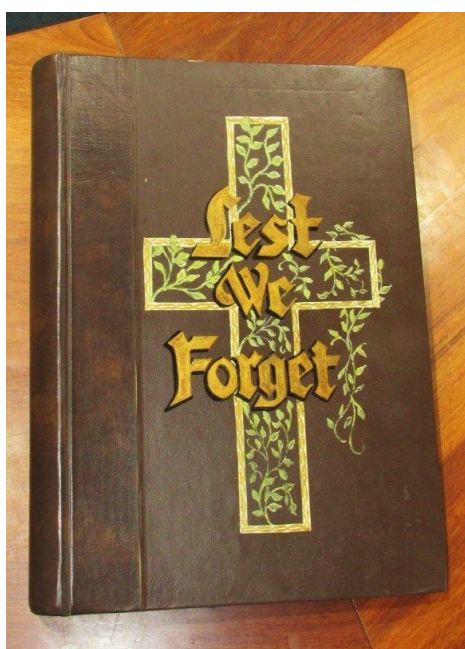
Phillip Island Returned Services League Honour Roll Book
(Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

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R. Justice is remembered on the Cowes War Memorial located on The Esplanande, Cowes, Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia.

Cowes War Memorial *(Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)*

Stoker R. D. Justice 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.	A.B.
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.B.

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.De C.	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

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

Newspaper Notices

IN MEMORIAM

JUSTICE – In loving memory of our dear comrade Roy Justice, H.M.A.S. Australia, who passed away, 5th March, 1916.

> Loved by all.

JUSTICE – In loving memory of Roy Justice, who passed away the 5th March, 1916, H.M.A.S. Australia.

> A sudden change at God's command he fell,
>
> He had no chance to bid his friend's farewell.
>
> Affliction came without warning given,
>
> And bid him haste to meet his God in heaven.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 March, 1917 & *The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 March, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

JUSTICE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Roy Justice, who passed away 5th March, 1916, on H.M.A.S. Australia.

> Silently the shades of evening gather round my lonely door;
>
> Silently they bring before me faces I shall see no more –
>
> > Those dear, loved faces.

JUSTICE – A loving tribute to Roy Justice, who lost his life on Admiral's barge, H.M.A.S. Australia, 5th March, 1916. (Inserted by his loving comrades on H.M.A.S. Australia).

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 March, 1918 & *The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 March, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 Royal Australian Navy members to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of the fallen was borne by the Australian Government.   *(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Stoker R. D. Justice does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

> *Hopes That Were Lost On The Journey Through Life He Has Found In The Heaven Above*

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 R. D. Justice's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.

(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble - 2020)