Teddington Cemetery,

Teddington, Greater London, England

War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

7681   CHIEF STOKER

E. R. H. LANGDON

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

23RD DECEMBER, 1916   Age 42

Peace, Perfect Peace

Ernest Robert Henry LANGDON

Ernest Robert Henry Langdon was born on 17th April, 1874 at Bristol, Gloucestershire, England to parents Robert Rockett Langdon & Elizabeth Langdon (nee Hartnup). His birth was registered in June quarter, 1874 in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.   Ernest Robert Henry Langdon was baptised on 28th June, 1874 at St. Luke's Church, Bedminster, Somerset, England.

The 1881 England Census recorded Ernest R. H. Langdon as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at Bath Road, Bedminster, Somerset, England. His mother was listed as Elizabeth Langdon (Master Mariner's wife, aged 40, born Lambeth). Ernest was one of four children listed on this Census – Frederick W. H. Langdon (Scholar, aged 9, born Bristol), then Ernest, William E. Langdon (Scholar, aged 4, born Bedminster, Somerset) & Percy T. Langdon (aged 1, born Bedminster, Somerset).

The 1891 England Census recorded Ernest R. H. Langdon as a 16 year old Baker's Assistant living with his family at 30 Stanley Street, Bedminster, Somerset, England. His parents were listed as Robert R. Langdon (Mariner Seas, aged 49, born London Middlesex) & Elizabeth Langdon (aged 50). Ernest was one of six children listed on this Census – (all listed as born at Bristol) - Frederick W. H. Langdon (Grocer's Assistant, aged 19) then Ernest, William E. Langdon (Merchant's Clerk, aged 14), Percy T. G. Langdon (Scholar, aged 11), Herbert A. Langdon (Scholar, aged 6) & Elvie C. Langdon (Scholar, aged 4). Also listed were Robert Langdon's nephew & niece – Frederick A Gottier (aged 23) & Blanche E. Gottie (aged 21).

Ernest Robert Langdon joined Royal Navy on 5th April, 1894 for a period of 12 years. He stated his date of birth was 17th April, 187<u>5</u>. (At the bottom of his Service Record is the following "*Date of birth given on entry to be adhered to for Official purposes, although the true date appears to be 17 April 1874.*") His official number was 276426 (Devonport).

Ernest Robert Langdon served in *Vivid II* as Stoker 2nd Class from 5th April, 1894 then was transferred to *Royal Arthur* from 18th October, 1894; *Wild Swan* from 10th June, 1895; *Royal Arthur* from 1st July, 1895 & back to *Wild Swan* from 24th September, 1895.

Stoker 2nd Class Ernest Robert Langdon was promoted to Stoker on 1st October, 1895 while serving in *Wild Swan*. He was transferred to *Vivid II* from 17th April, 1898; *Vivid III* from 6th August, 1898; *Vivid 2* from 14th October, 1899; *Collingwood* from 14th November, 1899; *Vivid II* from 25th November, 1899; Howe from 20th January, 1900.

The 1901 England Census recorded Ernest E. Langdon as a 25 year old, Stoker, Navy Man on HMS *Howe,* which was positioned at Portland, on the night of Sunday, 31st March, 1901, the night of the 1901 England Census. The Captain was listed as Henry L. Fleet & the HMS *Howe* was stationed on the Coast of Ireland.

Stoker Ernest Robert Langdon was transferred to *Vivid 2* from 5th May, 1901; *Nile* from 2nd November, 1901; *Cambridge* from 4th November, 1901; *Nile* from 31st January, 1902; *Vivid II* from 5th October, 1902 then *Cormorant* from 20th December, 1902.

Stoker Ernest Robert Langdon was promoted to Leading Stoker II Class from 18th February, 1904 while serving in *Cormorant.*

Leading Stoker II Class Ernest Robert Langdon was promoted to Leading Stoker 1st Class from 18th February, 1905 while serving in *Cormorant.* He was transferred to *Vivid II* from 23rd April, 1906.

Leading Stoker 1st Class Ernest Robert Langdon was promoted to Stoker Petty Officer from 1st July, 1906 while serving in *Vivid II.* Her was transferred to *Cambridge* on 12th July, 1906; *Vivid II* from 8th August, 1906; "*Emp of India*" from 6th March, 1907; *Commonwealth* from 28th May, 1907 as Stoker Petty Officer 1.

Ernest Robert Henry Langdon married Lizzie Langdon on 1st June, 1908 at St. James' Church Fulham, London, England. Ernest was a Stoker P.O. with Royal Navy & aged 34. His father was listed as Robert Rockett Langdon, Master Mariner. Lizzie Langdon was aged 37 from 12 Waterford Road & her father was listed as John Langford (deceased), Cellarman. Their marriage was registered in June quarter, 1908 in the district of Fulham, London, England.

Stoker Petty Officer Ernest Robert Langdon was transferred to *Vivid II* from 25th May, 1909.

Kathleen Langdon, daughter of Ernest Robert Henry & Lizzie Langdon, was born on 30th May, 1909. She was baptised on 18th July, 1909 in St. Stephen's Church, Bristol. Ernest was recorded as Petty Officer with Royal Navy & the family lived at Le___ Villa, Fulham.

Stoker Petty Officer Ernest Robert Langdon was transferred to *Highflyer* from 31st July, 1909; *Cornwall* from 12th January, 1910; *Vivid II* from 4th September, 1910; *Bristol* from 17th December, 1910 as Stoker Petty Officer 2.

Stoker Petty Officer 2 Ernest Robert Langdon was Acting Chief Stoker from 2nd March, 1911 while serving in HMS *Bristol.*

The 1911 England Census recorded Ernest. R. Langdon, Chief Stoker, aged 35, as part of crew on board HMS *Bristol* which was located at Devonport (Keyham, North Yard) on 2nd April, 1911, the night of the 1911 England Census. HMS *Bristol* was a 2nd Class Cruiser, part of Home Fleet & was Captained by Rudolf W. Bentinck.

Hugh Langdon, son of Ernest Robert Henry & Lizzie Langdon, was born on 9th September, 1911 at Fulham Road, London, England.

Acting Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Langdon was transferred to *Vivid II* from 13th January, 1912

Eileen Elizabeth Langdon, daughter of Ernest Robert Henry & Lizzie Langdon, was baptised on 21st September, 1913 at St. Mary's Church, Teddington, Middlesex, England. Ernest was recorded as Chief Petty Officer with Royal Navy & the family lived at 29 St. Winifred's Road.

Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Henry Langdon was on loan to Royal Australian Navy from Royal Navy for a period of 3 years from 26th January, 1913. He stated he was born on 17th April, 187<u>5</u> & his next of kin was listed as his wife Lizzie Langdon, 151 Kingston Rd, Teddington, Middlesex, England.

Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Henry Langdon was posted to London Depot from 26th January, 1913 to 20th June, 1913. He was transferred to HMAS *Australia* on 21st June, 1913.

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.whose acquisition signalled the RAN's arrival as a credible ocean going force….

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.
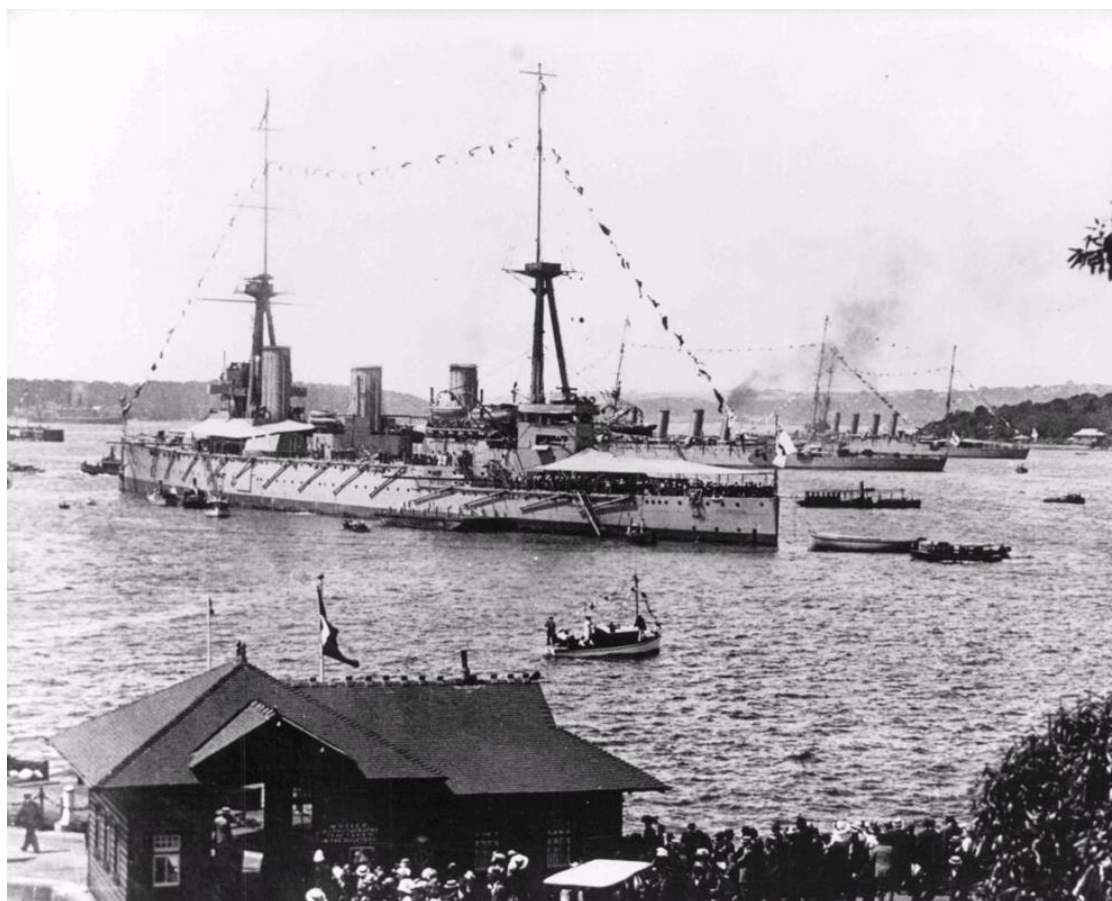
In company with the new light cruiser HMAS Sydney (I), Australia (I) sailed from Portsmouth on 21 July 1913, and their voyage home was seen as a further opportunity to stimulate public awareness and naval sentiment around the British Empire. The appearance of the Australian warships would, the Sydney 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…..

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. "The sight of the Fleet meant more to the Australian people than the visit of any foreign fleet. It was our expression of patriotism, ships of defence bought in love of country and empire..." wrote the Sydney Mail…

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. En route 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.

HMAS *Australia* entering Sydney Harbour for the first time on 4 October 1913.

On 22 April 1916 Australia (I) collided with New Zealand in heavy fog and the damage kept her in dockyard hands until 9 June 1916. She thus missed the Battle of Jutland, her place as flagship of the 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron being taken by New Zealand. On her return to service in June 1916, Australia (I) continued North Sea patrols as a unit of the British Grand Fleet until 12 November 1917, when another collision, this time with HMS Repulse, caused her to be docked for three weeks. Repairs completed, she resumed her generally uneventful routine of patrol and fleet exercises in the North Sea.

The routine was briefly broken by a call in February 1918 for volunteers for special service. In April, one officer and ten ratings from Australia (I) found themselves among 1300 other volunteers taking part in a bold commando raid on the occupied Belgian ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge. The Australians acquitted themselves well, with six receiving awards for bravery.

The last year of the war also saw Australia (I) used for aircraft experiments, with the ship's echelon turrets being thought to offer better wind exposure and a safer take-off position than alternative warships. On 7 March 1918 Australia (I) successfully launched a Sopwith 1½ Strutter from a platform erected on one of her 12-inch gun turrets. This was the first ever launching of a two-seater aircraft from a battle cruiser. Australia (I) would go on to achieve the first take-off with a full load on 4 April 1918 and launch several more flights without difficulty, including one at anchor. By the end of the war nearly every British capital ship carried a Strutter for reconnaissance and a Sopwith Pup or Sopwith Camel as a fighter.

On 11 November 1918, the signing of the Armistice brought the fighting in Europe to an end. On 21 November, the Grand Fleet came out from the Firth-of-Forth in two divisions to meet the German High Seas Fleet steaming across the North Sea to be interned at Scapa Flow. Australia (I) had the honour of leading the port line at the head of her squadron. Melbourne (I) and Sydney (I) were also there, taking their place among the light cruisers. After anchoring, each enemy ship was allocated a guard-ship. Australia (I) was given charge of the latest German battle cruiser Hindenburg……

(Extract of information from Royal Australian Navy)

Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Henry Langdon died on 23rd December, 1916 at Naval Hospital Dunganell, North Britain (as listed in Probate details) from Heart Failure following an operation.

Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Henry Langdon was buried in Teddington Cemetery, Greater London, England – Plot number C. 183 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate Details:

Langdon, Ernest Robert Henry of 151 Kingston-road, Teddington, Middlesex, died 23 December 1916 at Naval Hospital Dunganell, North Britain. Probate London 25 August to William Edward Field, House decorator. Effects £135.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Henry Langdon – service number 7681, aged 42, of H.M.A.S Australia, Royal Australian Navy (formerly RN/276426 of Royal Navy). No family details are listed.

Chief Petty Officer Stoker E. R. H. Langdon 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

Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial *(Capital Photographer)*

Chief Stoker E. R. H. Langdon 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, 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

Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, Crib Point

Ernest R. H. Langdon is remembered by the Teddington Society Online Wiki.

The Teddington Society

Page | Discussion

Langdon, Ernest R.H

"Langdon, Ernest R.H"

Ernest Robert Henry Langdon

Son of Robert Rockett Langdon and Elizabeth Langdon née Hartnup

Born 17th April 1874 at Bedminster, Somerset

Married Miss Lizzie Langford at Fulham on 1st June 1908

Lived at 151 Kingston Road, Teddington, Middlesex

Chief Stoker (7681) on H.M.A.S. Australia, Royal Australian Navy

Died 23rd December 1916 at The Royal Naval Hospital, Dunganell, aged 42

Buried 29th December 1916 at Teddington Cemetery (Plot Eu Grave C.183)

(2 pages of Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Henry Langdon'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

Ernest Robert Henry Langdon

(Photos by Nancy Langdon Webb – grand niece)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.

Chief Stoker Ernest Robert Henry Langdon has a Private Headstone.

Teddington Cemetery, Greater London, England

Teddington Cemetery contains 70 Commonwealth War Graves – 40 from World War 1 & 30 from World War 2.

(Photo from Find a Grave – Iain MacFarlaine)

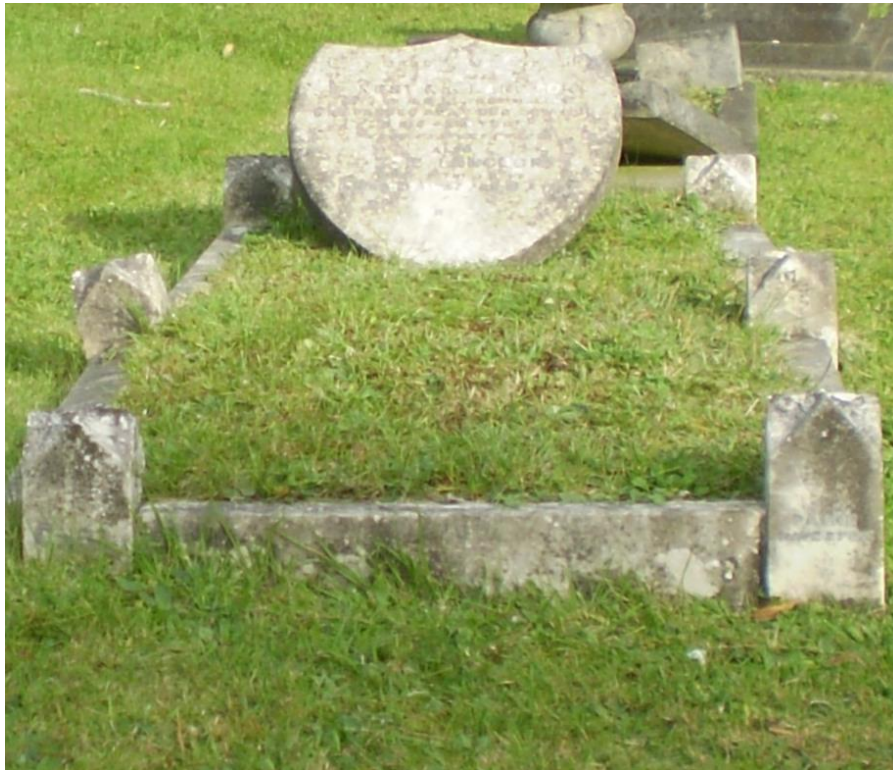© Cathy Sedgwick 2022

(Photo from CWGC)

(Photo from Find a Grave – David Neller)

Photo of Chief Stoker E. R. H. Langdon's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Teddington Cemetery, Greater London, England.

(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

(Photo from Find a Grave – David Neller)

In

Ever Loving Memory of

My Dear Husband

ERNEST R. H. LANGDON

Late of H.M.A.S. Australia

Who Passed Away Dec 23rd 1916

In His 43rd Year

Peace, Perfect Peace
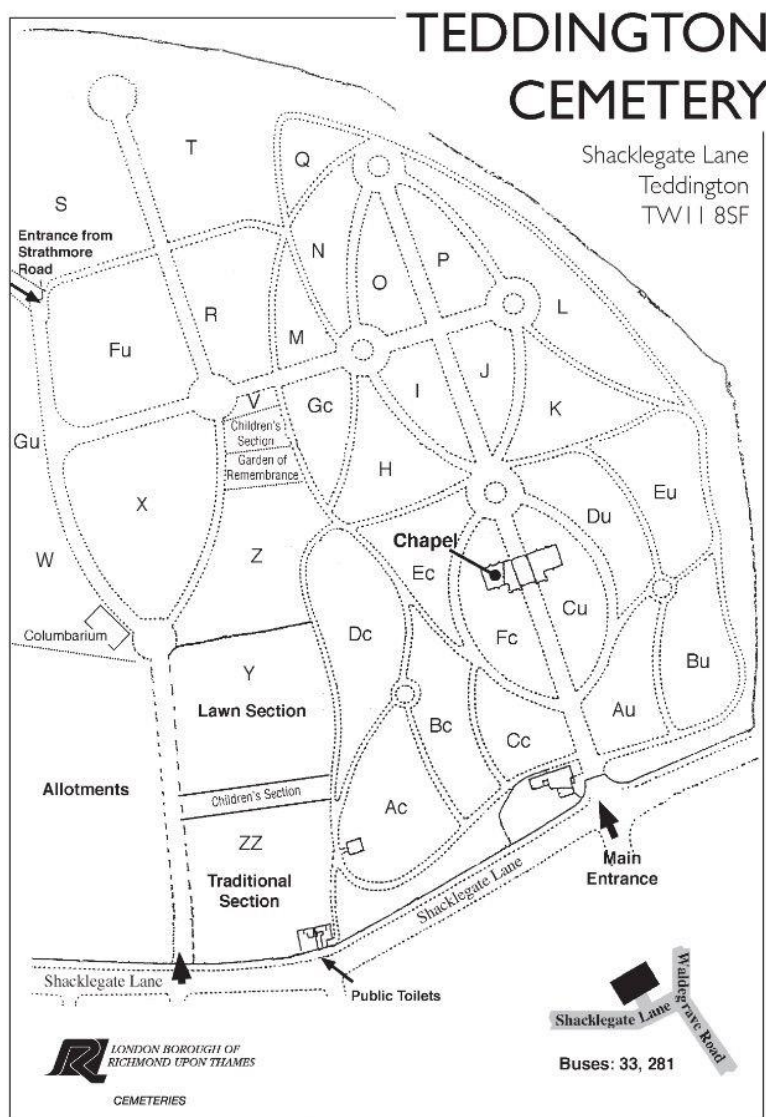

Also

Lizzie Langdon

Wife Of The Above

Who Passed Away Jan 31st 1937

Aged 65 Years

At Rest

(Photo from CWGC)

(Photo from Find a Grave – Beckajt)