

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England



Lest We Forget

World War 1



11026 STOKER

F. W. LENTHALL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "GERANIUM"

1ST JULY, 1921 Age 21

Frederick William LENTHALL

Frederick William Lenthall was born on 26th July, 1900 at Wyalong, New South Wales to parents Henry Levi and Agnes Lenthall (nee Scanlon).

Henry Levi Lenthall, father of Frederick William Lenthall, died in 1904 at Grenfell, New South Wales.

Frederick William Lenthall was an 18 year old, single, Station Hand from Ramsgate Rd, Kogarah, NSW when he applied to enlist with the Australian Imperial Force on 12th August, 1918 in Sydney, NSW. His religion was listed as Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Agnes Lenthall, c/o Mrs Curry, Ramsgate Rd, Kogarah, NSW. His description was listed as 5 ft 5 inches in height, brown hair, grey eyes & a fair complexion.

As Frederick Lenthall was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. Frederick's father was listed as deceased so Mrs A. Lenthall wrote the following note, dated 31st July, 1918: "*This is to certify that my son Frederick William Lenthall was 18 years of age on the 26 July 1918 and that I give him fully permission to enlist.*"

Frederick William Lenthall was passed by the Medical Officer on 28th October, 1918 & was issued a Service number of N93723. He was posted to Recruit M & D Depot at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 28th October, 1918 for recruit training.

Private Frederick William Lenthall was "*discharged in Consequence of Expiration of Period of Enlistment*" on 31st December, 1918.

Frederick William Lenthall joined the Royal Australian Navy on 9th December, 1918 for a period of 7 years. His religion was listed as Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Agnes Lenthall of Ramsgate Road, Kogarah, NSW. His description was 5 ft 5 ½ inches in height, dark hair, brown eyes & a dark complexion.

Frederick William Lenthall was issued an Official number of 11026 & joined H.M.A.S. *Penguin* on 9th December, 1918 as Stoker II. He was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* on 9th December, 1918.

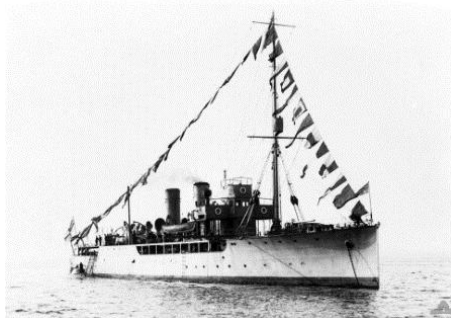
Stoker II Frederick William Lenthall was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* on 28th May, 1919 then transferred to H.M.A.S. *Sydney* on 6th August, 1919.

Stoker II Frederick William Lenthall was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Marguerite* on 1st February, 1920 & promoted to Stoker I on 2nd March, 1920 still on board H.M.A.S. *Marguerite*. He was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 27th April, 1920 then back to H.M.A.S. *Marguerite* on 1st July, 1920.

Stoker Frederick William Lenthall was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Geranium* on 1st April, 1921.

H.M.A.S. *Geranium*

HMAS *Geranium* (formerly HMS *Geranium*) was an Arabis-class sloop built in Scotland and launched in 1915. The ship was operated by the Royal Navy as a minesweeper from 1915 until 1919, when she was transferred to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) for use as a survey ship between 1919 and 1927. The ship was decommissioned in 1927 and scrapped during 1932, with the remains scuttled in 1935. (Wikipedia)



H.M.A.S. *Geranium*

From Navy Website:

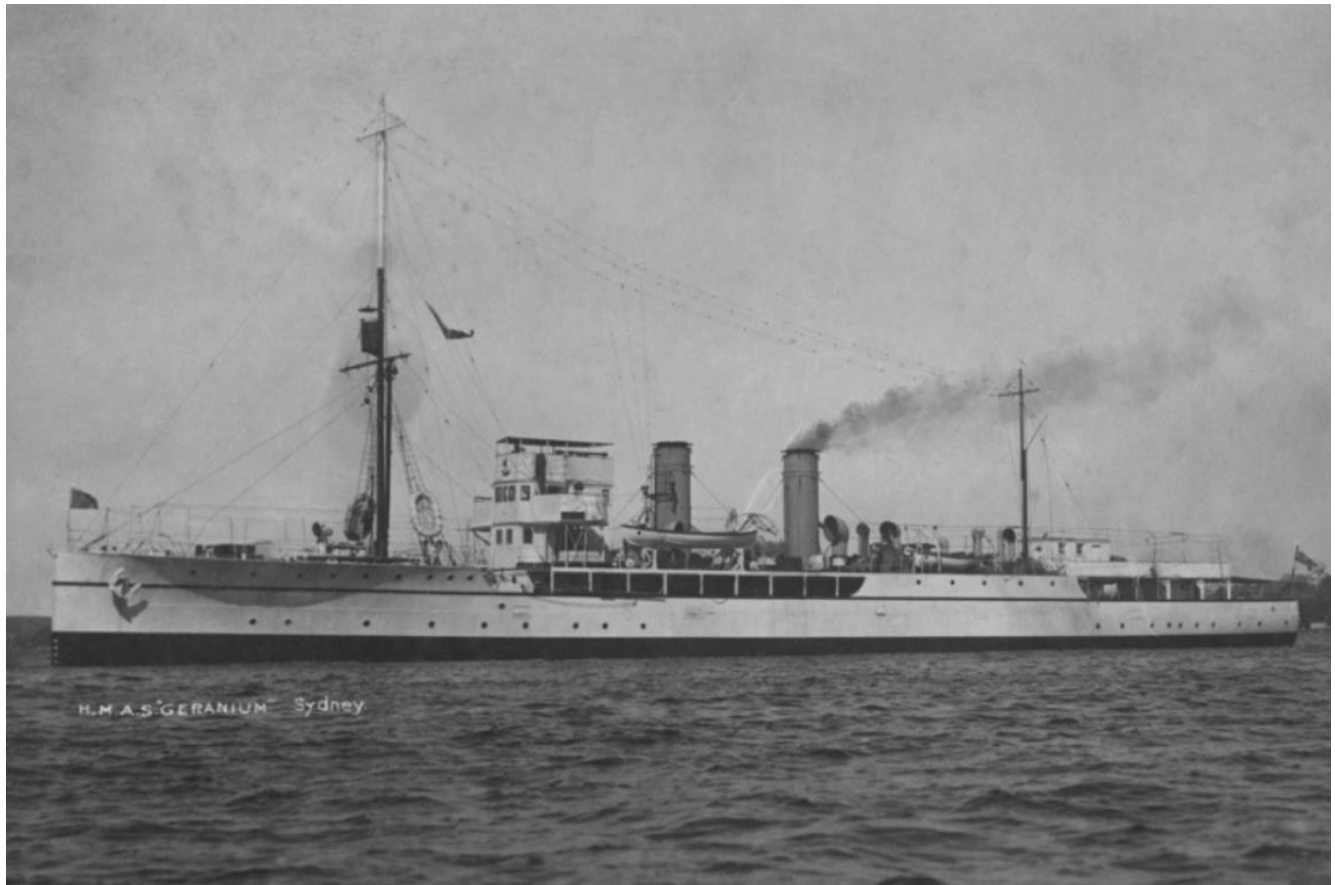
1921

Lieutenant Commander Kenneth Harry Litton MacKenzie, RN took command of *Geranium*, in Melbourne, on 3 January 1921. On arrival in Fremantle on 11 January 1921 she conducted two and half months of survey work in the port approaches before continuing north to Geraldton and Broome before arriving at Napier Broome Bay again in mid-April 1921 for more survey tasks. Operations in northern Australian waters did not generally take place during December-March due the risk of cyclones in the region.

Surveying was hard exacting work with thousands of soundings conducted to safely plot depths and identify reefs and rocks to be marked on new charts. This was done mainly by the ships Kelvite Mk IV sounding machine but in shallow waters it was more often than not done in one of the ship's boats using the traditional lead line to calculate the depth of water. The lead weight would be 'armed' by placing tallow in a groove, at the bottom of the weight, which upon landing on the seabed might have mud, sand, broken coral or shell adhere to the tallow thus indicating the consistency of the seabed and identifying better anchorages.

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Shore parties were also required to correctly identify the locations of islands, headlands and rivers to assist with chart production. This often involved teams climbing to the top of rugged terrain to take 'fixes' with a theodolite. Additionally tide pole parties operated in the shallow areas along the coast erecting the poles which had depths marked on them. Every 30 minutes for several days the depths were measured thus recording the rise and fall of the tide. This monotonous work was done in several locations and at different times of the year to create the 'tide tables' issued to mariners to enable them to accurately calculate high and low tides anywhere within Australia. This then enabled ship's masters to make better decisions on their arrival and departure times into shallow water ports.



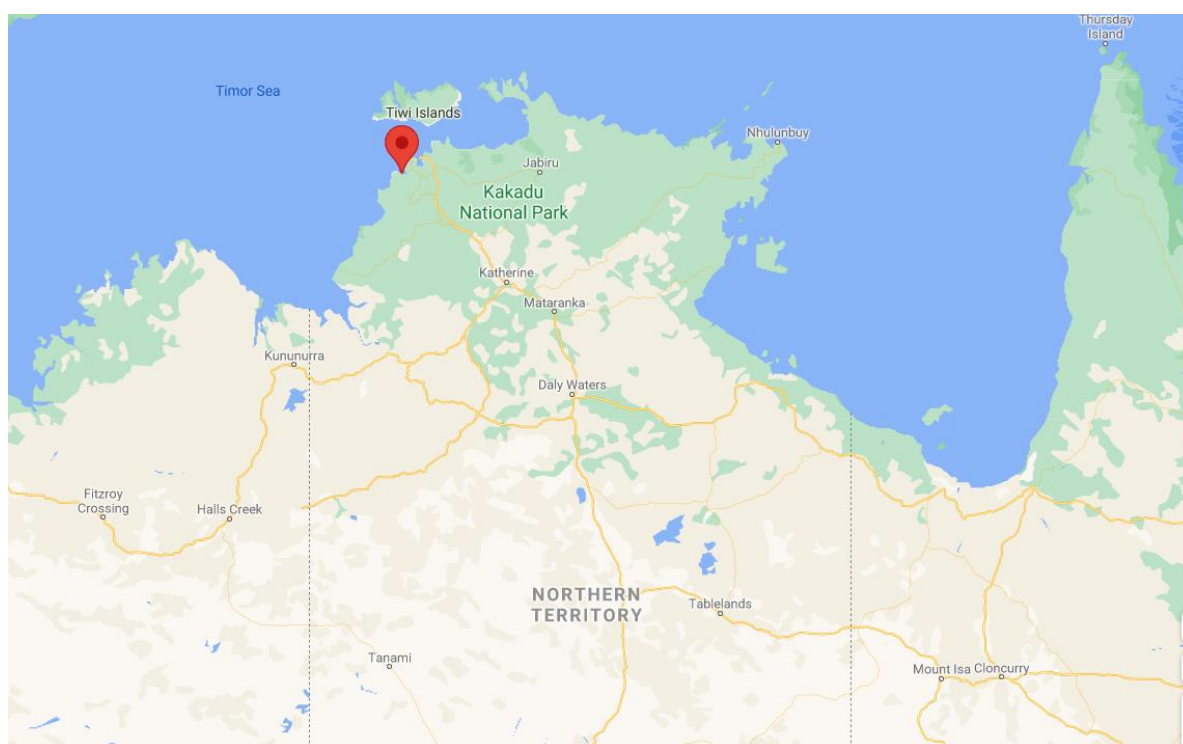
HMAS *Geranium* in Sydney Harbour after being converted to a survey vessel.

Geranium proceeded to Darwin for resupply in early May before returning to Napier Broome Bay on 15 May. During her visit to Darwin there was an alleged mutiny on board when members of the ship's company held a 'stop work meeting' on the 11th, to complain about the long hours worked to coal ship in hot weather. The Melbourne Argus reported that "The Captain quelled the mutiny, but it is not known what measures were used". Coaling ship was one of the most laborious tasks for the ship's company, and required many hours of back breaking work to bring the coal on board (often in wicker baskets or hessian bags) and 'strike it down' into the ship's coal bunkers where stokers with shovels would spread the coal out evenly so that ship remained on an even keel. The men would wear their oldest clothing and on completion would be covered in coal dust from head to foot which would take days to wash off in *Geranium's* very basic washing facilities. All ranks, except the Captain, took part in coaling ship so it was an egalitarian experience in what was normally a rigid hierarchical system.

The ship transited westward to Vansittart Bay for surveying work during 23 May-4 June. During June and July more survey work was done in Bynoe Harbour, to the west of Darwin. Bynoe Harbour had been recommended by Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, RN in his report on the future naval defence of Australia, as a suitable anchorage for RAN ships to conduct refuelling and embarkation of stores during time of war. He foresaw that the RAN would need to operate extensively in its northern waters and that fuel, stores and provisions, carried in support vessels, would be required to keep the fleet at sea.

On 1 July 1921 deteriorating weather conditions forced *Geranium* to move to a more sheltered anchorage. The ship was steaming through Thring Channel with her steam cutter (No. 410) under tow when the vessel foundered. The cutter's coxswain escaped the sinking vessel but 20-year old Stoker Frederick William Lenthall went down with the cutter. Diving operations were hampered by bad weather and equipment failure and his body was never recovered.

Stoker Frederick William Lenthall died on 1st July, 1921 by drowning at Bynoe Harbour, Northern Territory.



Stoker F. W. Lenthall is named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England – Panel 32. He has no grave, however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker Frederick William Lenthall – service number 11026, aged 21, of Royal Australian Navy – H.M.A.S. "*Geranium*". He was the son of Henry and Agnes Lenthall, of 89 Forest Rd., Arncliffe, New South Wales.

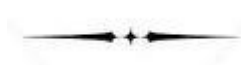
Stoker F. W. Lenthall is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia as he died after the end date of commemoration – 31st March, 1921.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(23 pages of Private Frederick William Lenthall's A.I.F. Army Service records & 2 pages of Royal Australian Naval 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

STOKER DROWNED

An Unlucky Family

DARWIN, Saturday.

The survey boat Geranium arrived in port late last night for supplies. She reports that on July 1, while towing a steam launch and two men, she ran into a hurricane, and the launch sank. A stoker named Lenthall was entangled in the gear of the sinking launch, and was drowned.

The Geranium dragged for the boat for three days, but in vain. Lenthall was 21 years of age. His father, brother, and uncle have been drowned. A Subscription amounting to £100, including £20 by the captain, was raised on board for his relatives.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 9 July, 1921) & (The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 10 July, 1921)

LAUNCH CAPSIZES

NAVAL STOKER DROWNED

DARWIN, Saturday.

The survey boat Geranium arrived in port late last night for supplies. She reports that on July 1, while towing a steam launch and two men, she ran into a hurricane, and the launch sank. Stoker Lenthal, it is believed, got entangled in the gear of the sinking launch, and was drowned.

The Geranium dragged for the boat for three days, but was unsuccessful. Deceased was aged 21 years. His father, brother, and uncle were drowned at various times. Subscriptions amounting to £100, including £20 by the captain, was raised on board for deceased's relations.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 July, 1921)

STOKER DROWNED

DURING HURRICANE

REPORT FROM H.M.A.S. GERANIUM

DARWIN, Sunday

The H.M.A.S. Geranium which arrived at Darwin on Friday reports that on July 1 while towing a steam launch containing two men she ran into a hurricane and the launch sank. A stoker named Lenthal was entangled in the gear of the sinking launch and was drowned. The Geranium dragged for the boat for three days without success.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 11 July, 1921)

GLEANINGS

While H.M.A.S. Geranium was towing a tug off Darwin a hurricane arose, sinking the tug. A stoker named Lenthal was caught in the towing gear and was drowned. Lenthal's father, brother, and uncle were all drowned previously in accidents.

(Singleton Argus, NSW – 12 July, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

LENTHALL – In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was accidentally drowned from H.M.A.S. Geranium at Port Darwin, July 1, 1921.

Deep in our hearts lies a picture
Of a brother and son gone to rest;
In memory's frame we shall keep it,
Because he was one of the best.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother and sister, Evelyn.

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear brother, Frederick William, drowned off the H.M.A.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, on July 1, 1921, age d21 years.

We do not forget him, and do not intend,
We think of him dearly, and will to the end.
Gone and forgotten by some he may be,
But dear to our memory for ever he shall be.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Annie, and nephew and nieces, Albert, Gwen and Doreen.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 July, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was accidentally drowned off H.M.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, July 1, 1921, aged 21 years.

Never can our hearts forget
The sorrow of the past,
For grief has left too deep a wound,
The pain must always last.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Evelyn.

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear brother, Frederick William, who was accidentally drowned off H.M.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, on July 1, 1921.

Too far away for sight or speech,
But not too far for thoughts to reach.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Annie, and children.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 July, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was accidentally drowned off H.M.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, July 1, 1921, aged 21 years.

Time may pass and bring its changes.
Fresh with every coming year;
But your memory will be cherished
In our hearts that loved you dear.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Evelyn.

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear brother, Frederick William, who was drowned off the Geranium, near Port Darwin, on July 1, 1921.

The hearts that love you truly
Are the ones that don't forget.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Annie, and children.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 July, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

LINTHALL – In loving memory of our dear brother, Frederick William, who was accidentally drowned off the H.M.S. Geranium near Port Darwin, on July 1, 1921.

Sunshine passes, shadows fall,
Loving memory outlasts all.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Annie, and nieces and nephew, Gwen, Albert, and Doreen.

LINTHALL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was drowned off the H.M.S. Geranium near Port Darwin July 1, 1921, aged 21 years.

As we loved you so we miss you,
To our memory ever dear,
Loved, remembered, longed for ever,
As it dawns the fourth sad year.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Evelyn.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 July, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was drowned off H.M.A.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, July 1, 1921, aged 21 years.

Dearer to our memory than words can tell,
The son and brother we loved so well.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Evelyn.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 July, 1926)

IN MEMORIAM

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was drowned off H.M.A.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, July 1, 1921, aged 21 years.

Thoughts return to scenes that are past,
Years roll on, but memory lasts.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Evelyn.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 July, 1927)

IN MEMORIAM

LENTHALL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was drowned off H.M.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, July 1, 1921, aged 21 years.

Although seven years have passed away
Since our great sorrow fell,
Still in our hearts we mourn the loss
Of one we loved so well.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Evelyn.

LENTHALL - In loving memory of Frederick William, who was drown off H.M.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, July 1, 1921, aged 21 years. Inserted by his loving brother and sister, Tom and Annie; and nieces and nephews.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 July, 1928)

IN MEMORIAM

LINTHALL – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Frederick William, who was drowned off the H.M.S. Geranium, near Port Darwin, July 1, 1921, aged 21 years.

Thoughts return to scenes that are past,
Years roll on, but memory lasts.

Inserted by his loving mother and sister, Evelyn.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 July, 1929)

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.

Stoker Frederick William Lenthall has no grave or headstone but is instead named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, England.

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)*



(Photo 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)