

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SUB-LIEUTENANT

J. MACK

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.S. "DEFENCE"

31ST MAY, 1916 Age 19

Joseph MACK

Joseph Mack was born at St. Kilda, Victoria on 12th July, 1896 to parents Joseph Gardner Mack & Mayant Rose Mack (nee McCallum).

Joseph Mack joined the Royal Australian Navy on 20th October, 1913. He was selected for transfer to the British Navy under the scheme of cadetships & was transferred to the Royal Naval Reserve for training. His address was listed as The Rectory, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, England.

Probationary Midshipman Joseph Mack was transferred to H.M.S. *Indefatigable* from 13th November, 1913.

Joseph Mack applied for an appointment with Royal Australian Navy on 21st February, 1914.

Joseph Mack was posted to London Depot from 23rd April, 1914. He was appointed Midshipman, on probation, with Royal Australian Navy - Service number 1944. (Gazetted 8 August 1914 page 1362).

He was promoted to Acting Sub-Lieutenant from 13th November, 1914 while serving in H.M.S. *Indefatigable*.

H.M.S. *Indefatigable*

HMS *Indefatigable* was the lead ship of her class of three battlecruisers built for the Royal Navy during the first decade of the 20th Century. When the First World War began, *Indefatigable* was serving with the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron (BCS) in the Mediterranean, where she unsuccessfully pursued the battlecruiser *Goeben* and the light cruiser *Breslau* of the German Imperial Navy as they fled toward the Ottoman Empire. The ship bombarded Ottoman fortifications defending the Dardanelles on 3 November 1914, then, following a refit in Malta, returned to the United Kingdom in February where she rejoined the 2nd BCS.



H.M.S. *Indefatigable*

Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack was transferred to H.M.S. *Defence* from 23rd April, 1914.

On 19th October, 1915 Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack was admitted to Queensferry Hospital with Gonorrhoeal ophthalmia of left Eye. He was transferred & admitted to Plymouth Hospital on 18th November, 1915. (Information from British Royal Naval Reserve: Officers' Service Records)

Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack was classified fit on 13th December, 1915 & was ordered to rejoin H.M.S. *Defence*.

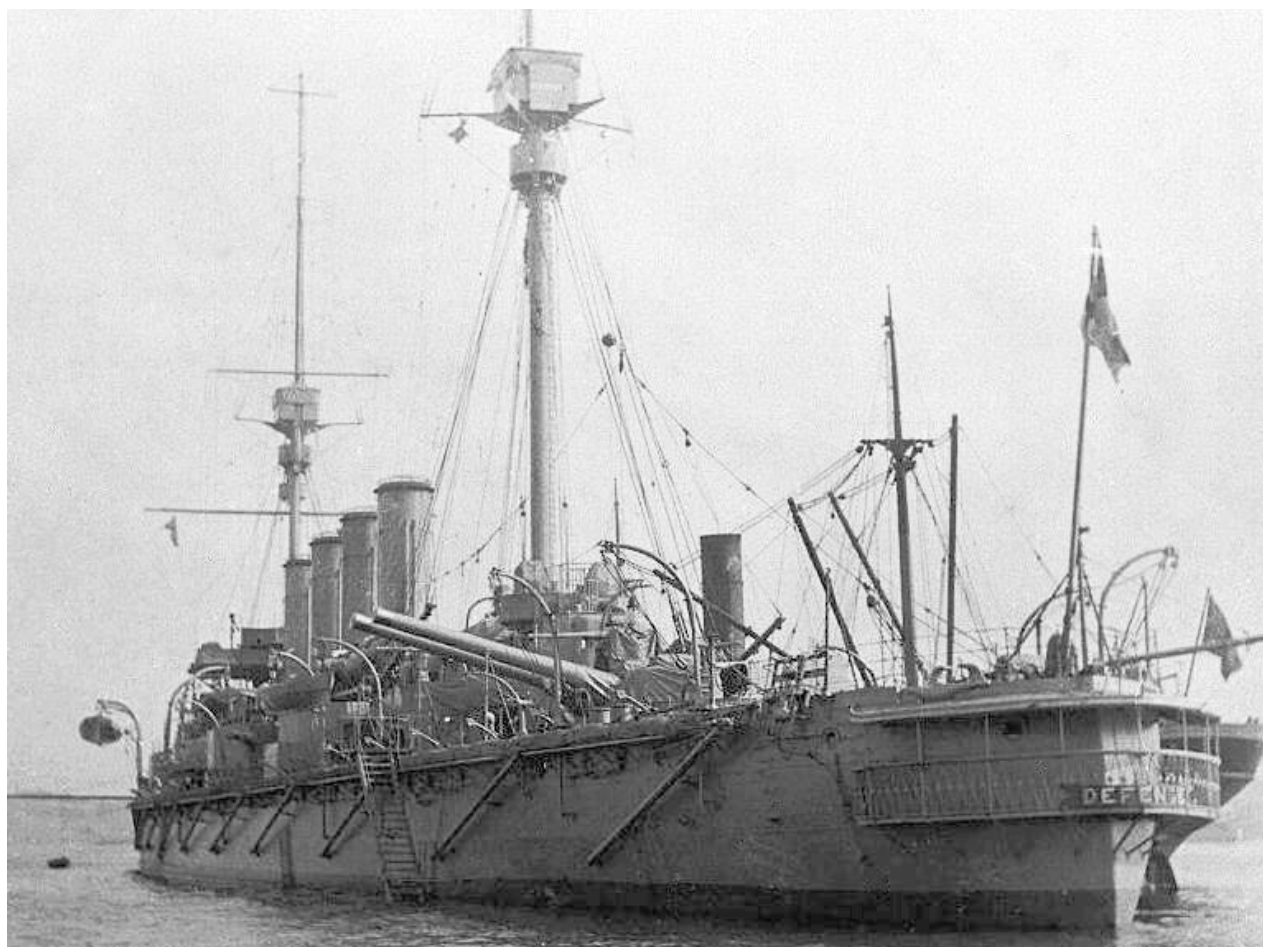
H.M.S. *Defence*

HMS *Defence* was a Minotaur-class armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy in the first decade of the 20th century, the last armoured cruiser built for the Royal Navy. She was stationed in the Mediterranean when the First World War began and participated in the pursuit of the German battlecruiser SMS *Goeben* and light cruiser SMS *Breslau*. The ship was transferred to the Grand Fleet in January 1915 and remained there for the rest of her career.

Defence was sunk on 31 May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the war. Escorting the main body of the Grand Fleet, the ship was fired upon by one German battlecruiser and four dreadnoughts as she attempted to engage a disabled German light cruiser. She was struck by two salvos from the German ships that detonated her rear magazine. The fire from that explosion spread to the ship's secondary magazines, which exploded in turn. The entire crew are believed to have been killed, although newspapers of the time made unverified claims of possible survivors.

During the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916, she was the flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Robert Arbuthnot, leading the First Cruiser Squadron. The squadron formed the starboard flank of the cruiser screen, ahead of the main body of the Grand Fleet. *Defence* was just to the right of the centre of the line. At 17:47 *Defence* and HMS *Warrior*, the leading two ships of the squadron, spotted the German II Scouting Group and opened fire. Their shells fell short and the two ships turned to port in pursuit, cutting in front of the battlecruiser HMS *Lion*, which was forced to turn away to avoid a collision. Shortly afterwards, they spotted the disabled German light cruiser SMS *Wiesbaden* and closed to engage. When the two ships reached a range of 5,500 yards (5,000 m) from *Wiesbaden* they were spotted in turn at 18:05 by the German battlecruiser SMS *Derfflinger* and four battleships which were less than 8,000 yards (7,300 m) away. The fire from the German ships was heavy and *Defence* was hit by two salvos from the German ships that caused the aft 9.2-inch magazine to explode. The resulting fire spread via the ammunition passages to the adjacent 7.5-inch magazines which detonated in turn. The ship exploded at 18:20 with the loss of all hands; between 893 and 903 men were killed.

(Information from Wikipedia)



H.M.S. *Defence*

The Battle of Jutland:

The Battle of Jutland involved 279 ships and nearly 100,000 men. It was fought in the North Sea off the coast of neutral Denmark. Some Australians took part in the battle, but no Australian vessels were involved. The enormous clash between the British and German fleets dwarfed all previous naval engagements. Germany claimed a tactical victory because the British Fleet lost more ships and more men. In effect, the battle was a strategic victory for the United Kingdom (UK) because Germany was denied control of the seas and her fleet remained hemmed into the North Sea. Without the dominance of the oceans, Germany could not win the war.

When HMS *Defence* sank with all loss of life, Australians on board included:

- RAN Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack, from Berry Bank in Victoria, aged 19 years
- RAN Sub-Lieutenant George Paterson, originally from England, aged 20 years
- Royal Navy Able Seaman William Furneaux, aged 21 years
- Royal Navy Stoker 2nd Class Mortimer Froude, from Balmain in New South Wales, aged 18 years

Mack and Paterson had joined the RAN but were on loan to the Royal Navy at the time of the battle for further training.

(information from Anzac Portal)

Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack was killed in action on 31st May, 1916 at Jutland, Denmark as a result of enemy action.

Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack is named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England – Panel 18. He has no grave, however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

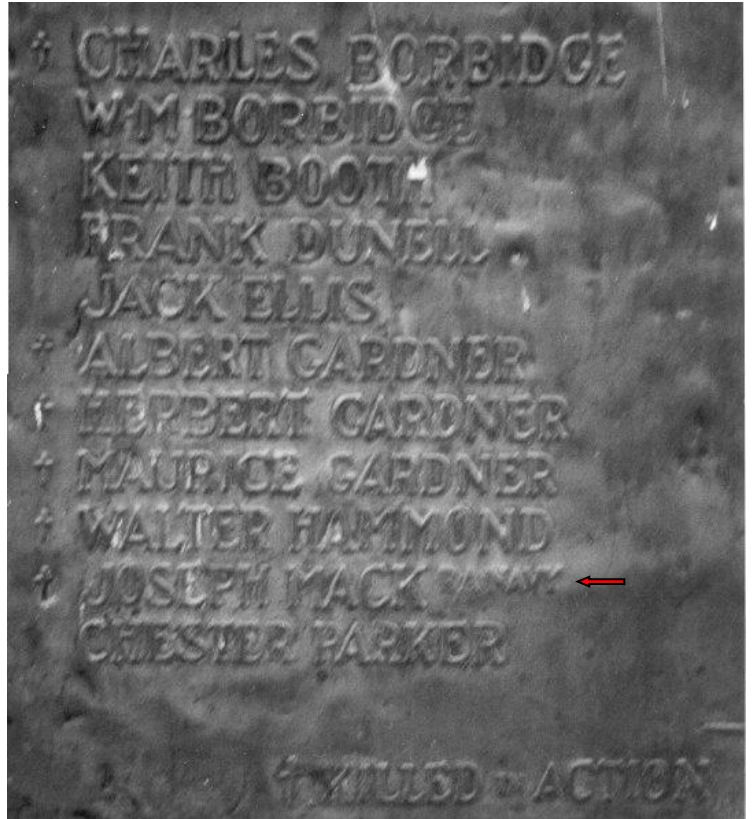
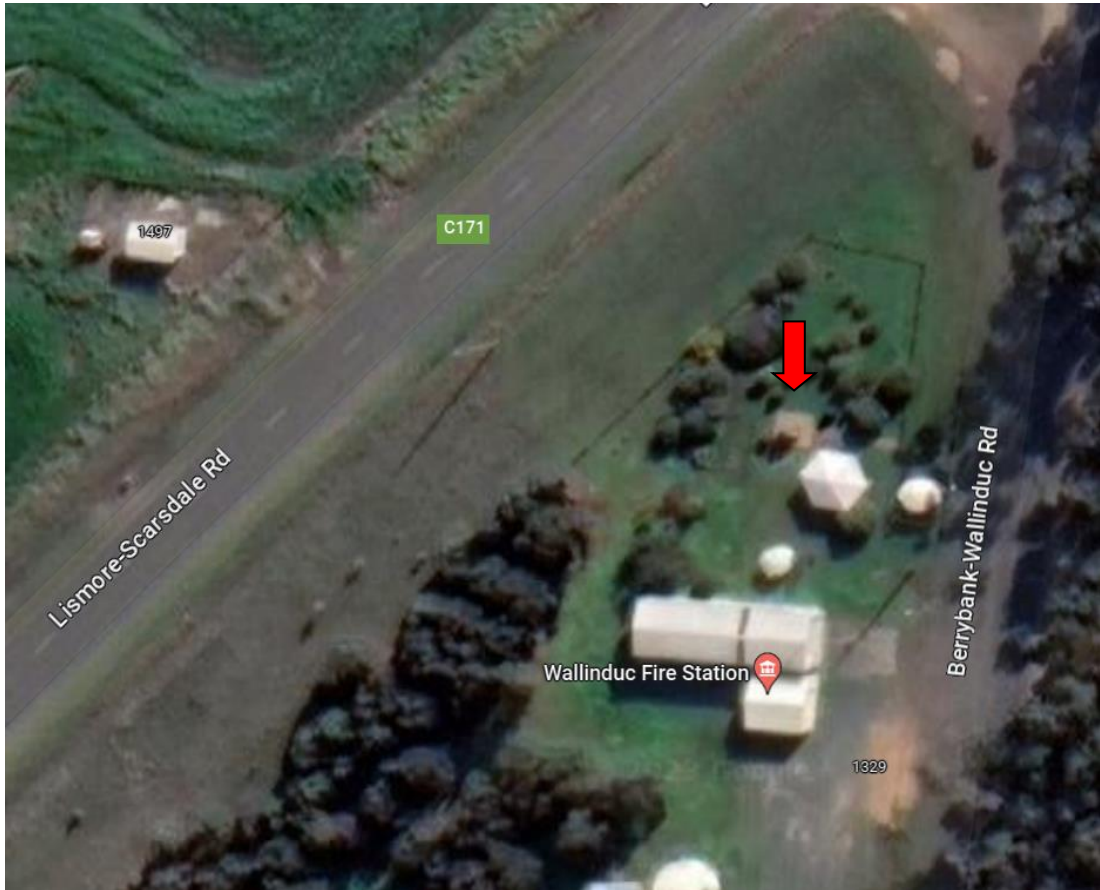
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack, aged 19, of Royal Australian Navy – H.M.A.S. "Defence". He was the son of Joseph Gardner Mack & Mayant Rose Mack, of 7 Retreat Rd., Geelong, Victoria.

Sub-Lieutenant J. Mack 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

Joseph Mack is remembered on the Wallinduc War Memorial, located on adjacent to Wallinduc Fire Station, corner of Lismore-Scarsdale Rd & Berrybank-Wallinduc Rd, Wallinduc, Victoria.

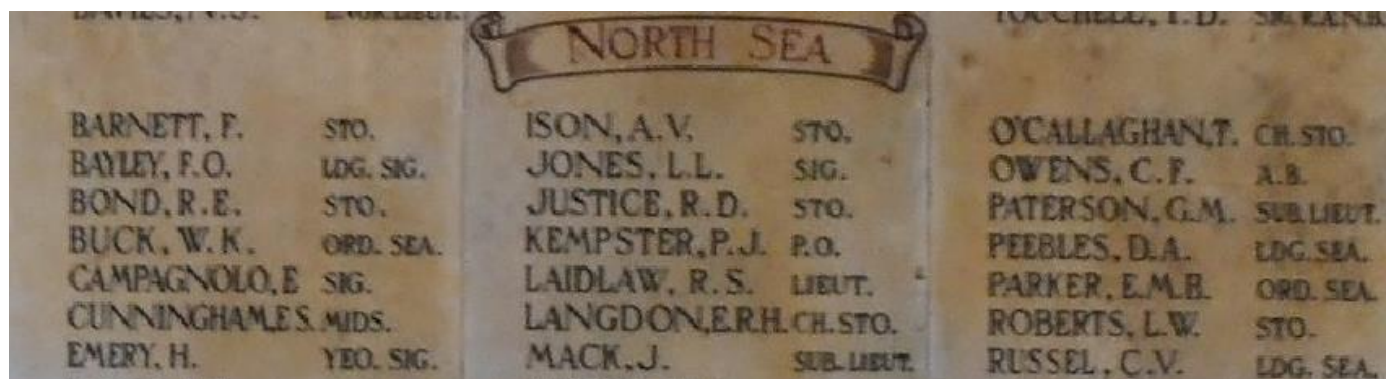


Wallinduc War Memorial (Photos from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

Sub-Lieutenant J. Mack 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)





Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, Crib Point

(3 pages of Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack'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



Joseph Mack, Royal Navy Cadet *(Photo courtesy of Richard Mack via VWMA)*



Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack (*Photo courtesy of Richard Mack via VWMA*)



LAST POST CEREMONY

Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 31st May, 2016.

Commencing at approximately 4.45 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)



Speech transcript

Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack, HMS Defence
KIA 31 May 1916
No photograph in collection

Story delivered 31 May 2016

Today we remember and pay tribute to Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack.

Joseph Mack was born on 12 July 1896 in St Kilda, Melbourne. He was the eldest son of Joseph Gardner and Margaret Mack of Berry Bank, Lismore. His grandfather, also Joseph Mack, was one of the earliest residents of the western district of Victoria, and had arrived at the site of the Berry Bank homestead on horseback as a five year old.

Although both his father and grandfather spent their lives following pastoral pursuits, the youngest Joseph Mack determined to go to sea, and in October 1913 was appointed a midshipman in the Royal Australian Navy. Within a short period he was seconded to the British Royal Navy for training before returning for subsequent service in the RAN.

On the outbreak of the First World War Mack was serving with the Royal Navy together with another young Australian officer, George Patterson. Mack had recently been promoted to sub-lieutenant, and the two were on board HMS Defence, a Minotaur-class armoured cruiser stationed in the Mediterranean. In 1914 it was involved in the pursuit of the German warships Goeben and Breslau, which were eventually given to the Ottoman Empire. After some months blockading the two ships in the Dardanelles, Defence was transferred to the Grand Fleet in January 1915 and served in the North Sea.

On 31 May the British Grand Fleet met the German Navy's High Seas Fleet in the North Sea near the Jutland Peninsula of Denmark. The resulting naval battle was the largest of the First World War, and saw the loss of 14 British and 11 German ships, along with thousands of lives.

HMS Defence served as the flagship of the First Cruiser Squadron. After pursuing a German light cruiser, it came under fire from a number of German battleships. Defence was hit twice, with one of the salvos detonating the rear ammunition store on board. The fire from that explosion quickly spread, igniting the rest of the magazines on board. The resulting explosion resulted in Defence sinking with the loss of all souls on board, totalling almost 900.

Among the casualties on board HMS Defence were Australian Sub-Lieutenants Joseph Mack and George Paterson. Mack was 19 years old, Paterson 20.

Joseph Mack's name is listed on the Roll of Honour on my right, among the more than 60,000 Australians who died while serving in the First World War.

This is but one of the many stories of service and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Sub-Lieutenant Joseph Mack, who gave his life for us, for our freedoms, and in the hope of a better world.

Dr Meleah Hampton
Historian, Military History Section

Newspaper Notices

The Latest

Two sub-lieutenants of the Royal Australian Navy were lost in the great naval battle named George Patterson and Joseph Mack. They were entered for training.

(*Western Age*, Dubbo, NSW – 6 June, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS

TWO DIE IN ACTION

Mr Jensen (Minister for the Navy) has received a cable message reporting, with regret, that two sub-lieutenants of the Royal Australian Navy, George M. Patterson and Joseph Mack, were lost in H.M.S. Defence in the great naval action.

These young officers were entered from the Royal Naval Reserve for training in the British navy, for subsequent service in the Royal Australian navy.

Sub-Lieutenant Mack's home is at Berry Bank, Victoria. He is a son of Mr Joe Mack, the well-known farmer and Grazier.

(*The Evening Echo*, Ballarat, Victoria – 6 June, 1916) (Similar story in *The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 June, 1916)

BERRY BANK BOY LOST

The Minister for the Navy, Mr Jensen, has received a cable message reporting that two sub-lieutenants of the Royal Australian Navy were lost on H.M.S. Defence in the great naval action. One of them is Joseph Mack, grandson of Mr Joseph Mack, of Berry Bank.

(*Camperdown Herald*, Victoria – 7 June, 1916)

PERSONAL

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Sub.-Lieut. Joseph Mack, who was one of those killed in the loss of H.M.S. Defence in the North Sea fight, was a son of Mr. Gardner Mack, of Berrybank, near Lismore. He was a grandson of Mr. Joseph Mack, of Berrybank, one of the oldest homesteads in the Western district. Three of his uncles took part in the Gallipoli operations, Lieutenant Ernest Mack, Sergeant John Mack, and Trooper Stanley Mack. The first two are still with the A.I.F., but the last named has been invalided to Australia, and has been discharged. Lieutenant Joseph Mack was a midshipman in the Australian Navy, appointed on probation on October 20, 1913. He was lent to the British Navy under the scheme of cadetships, and was appointed to H.M.S. Defence. When the navy list was published in April last he was still a midshipman, but had evidently been recently promoted.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 June, 1916) & (*The Ballarat Star*, Victoria – 8 June, 1916)

& (*Lismore, Derrinallum and Cressy Advertiser*, Victoria – 14 June, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

MACK, Joseph, midshipman, eldest and much loved son of Joseph Gardner and Margaret Rose Mack, Rose-croft, Berry Bank, aged 19. Killed in action (By cable)

MACK – On the 30th May, eldest son of Joseph Gardner Mack, “Rosecroft,” Berrybank, age 20 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 June, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

MACK – On the 30th May, eldest son of Joseph Gardner Mack, “Rosecroft,” Berrybank, age 20 years.

(*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 June, 1916)

Sub- Lieutenant Joseph Mack is remembered on his grandparents' headstone in St. Kilda Cemetery, Dandenong Rd, St. Kilda East, Victoria. Grandparents - Kezia Jane & John McCallum (Baptist Compartment A Grave 203).



St. Kilda Cemetery entrance



(Photo from Find a Grave – Reid Matheson)



(Photos from Billion Graves)



In Memoriam

Sub-Lieut. JOSEPH MACK, R.A.N.

H.M.S. Defence

Loved Eldest Son of

J. C & M. R. Mack

Grandson of the above J. & K. J. McCallum

Killed in Action, Jutland Battle 31st May, 1916

Aged 19 years

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.

Sub Lieutenant J. Mack 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)



(Photo from CWGC)



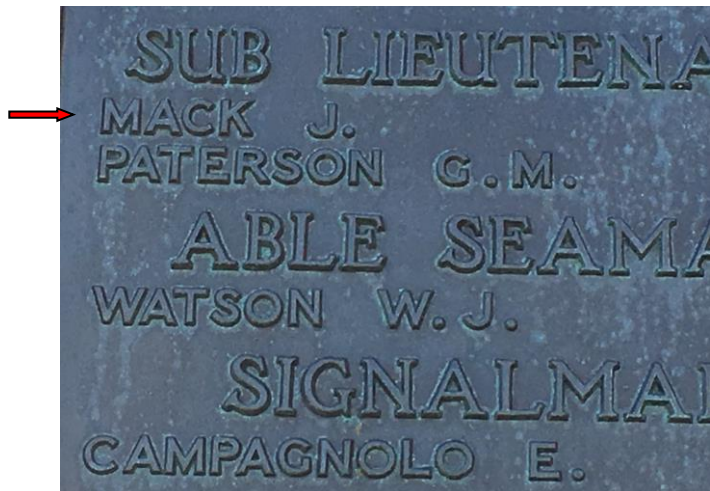
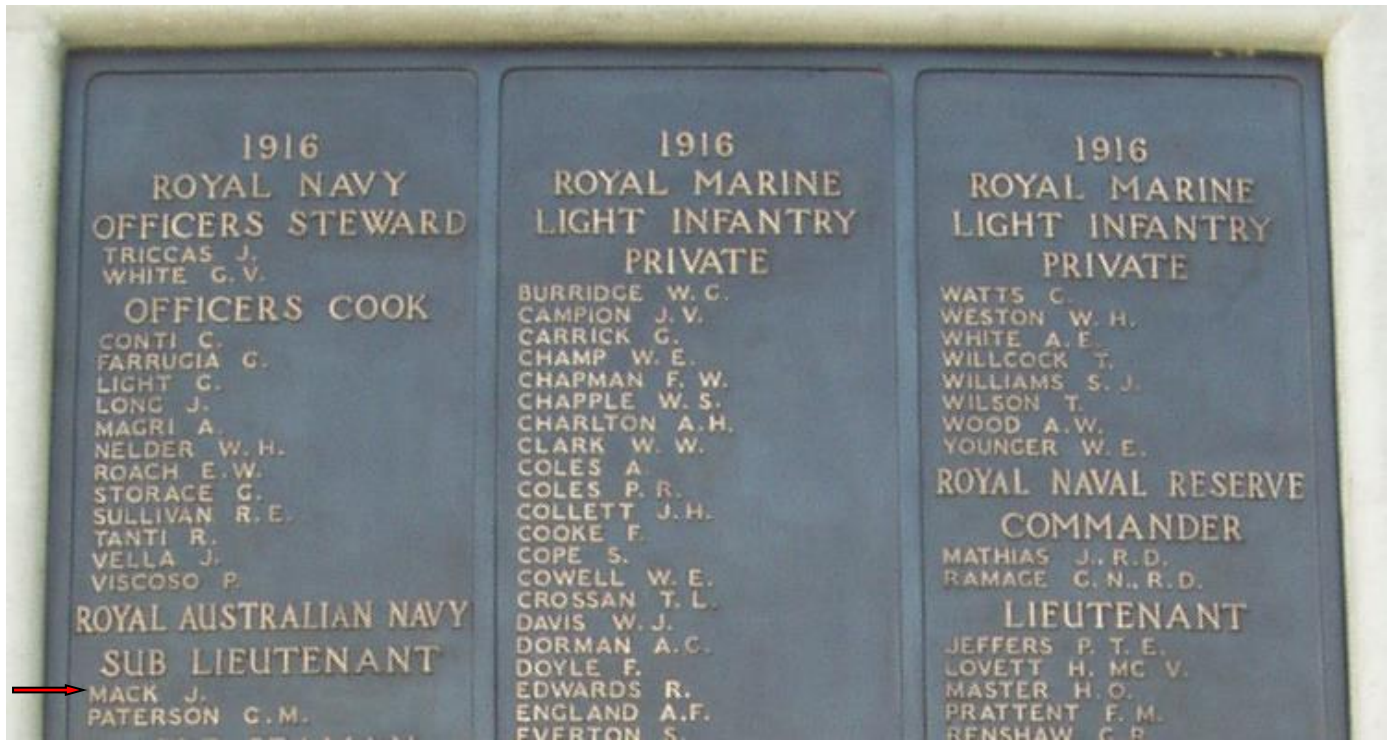
1914 – 1918 1939 – 1945
All These Were Honoured In Their Generations
And Were The Glory Of Their Times



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Sub Lieutenant J. Mack's name on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England.





(Find a Grave – Cliff Barry)



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