

**Southampton Old Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



W. J. MATTHEWS

STOKER PETTY OFFICER 7687

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

5TH MARCH, 1916 Age 31

Walter John MATTHEWS

Walter John Matthews was born at Southampton, England on 25th February, 1885 to parents Charles and Fanny Matthews (nee Jeans).

The 1891 England Census recorded Walter J. Matthews as a 6 year old, Scholar, living with his family at 87 York Street, Northam, Southampton, Hampshire, England. His parents were listed as Charles Matthews (Seaman, aged 41, born Porchester, Hampshire) & Fanny Matthews (aged 38, born Southampton, Hampshire). Walter was one of six children listed on this Census (all born Southampton, Hampshire) - Charles (Scholar, aged 12), George (Scholar, aged 10), Eliza (Scholar, aged 8) then Walter, Ada (Scholar, aged 4) & Mabel (aged 1) Also listed was Charles Matthews' mother-in-law – Mary A. Jeans (Widow, aged 64).

Walter John Matthews attended School at Northam, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Walter Matthews as a 16 year old Dock Labourer, living with his family at 48 Princes Street, Northam, Southampton, Hampshire, England. His parents were listed as Charles Matthews (Mariner, Merchant Services, aged 52) & Fanny Matthews (aged 48). Walter was the eldest of five children listed on this Census (all born Southampton, Hampshire) – Walter then Ada (aged 13), Mabel (aged 11), Alfred (aged 8) & Freddy (aged 5).

Walter John Matthews joined the Royal Navy on 1st September, 1903 for a period of 12 years. He was issued an official number – Portsmouth 304984.

Stoker 2nd Class Walter John Matthews served in H.M.S. *Nelson* from 1st September, 1903; *Firequeen* from 17th March, 1904 & *Revenge* from 3rd May, 1904.

Stoker 2nd Class Walter John Matthews was promoted to Stoker on 1st September, 1904 while serving in *Revenge*. He was transferred to *Victory II* from 1st September, 1905; *Andromeda* from 28th October, 1905 & *Moorhen* from 14th March, 1906. He was promoted to Stoker 1st Class on 1st July, 1906 while serving in *Moorhen*.

Stoker 1st Class Walter John Matthews was transferred to *Royal Arthur* on 5th March, 1908; *Victory II* from 8th May, 1908 & *Hecla* from 4th September, 1908. He was appointed Acting Leading Stoker from 1st May, 1909 while serving in *Hecla*.

Acting Leading Stoker Walter John Matthews was transferred to *Victory II* on 15th August, 1910 then transferred to *Fisgard* from 27th August, 1910. He was promoted to Leading Stoker on 1st December, 1910 while serving in *Fisgard*.

Leading Stoker Walter John Matthews was transferred to *Victory II* from 10th December, 1910 then transferred to *Neptune* from 11th January, 1911. He was Stoker Petty Officer from 1st December, 1911 while serving in *Neptune*.

Stoker Petty Officer Walter John Matthews was transferred to *St. Vincent* from 31st December, 1911; then *Victory II* from 13th January, 1913 until 25th January, 1913.

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour - Walter John Matthews came to Australia when he was 28 years of age.

Walter John Matthews was on loan to Royal Australian Navy from Royal Navy for 3 years, commencing on 26th January, 1913 where he was posted to London Depot as Stoker Petty Officer. His official number was 7687.

Stoker Petty Officer Walter John Matthews served in H.M.A.S. *Australia* from 21st June, 1913.

Stoker Petty Officer Walter John Matthews character was recorded as very good & his ability as Superior when assessed on 31st December, 1913. He received the same comments when assessed on 31st December, 1914, 31st December, 1915 & on 5th March, 1916.

H.M.A.S. *Australia*

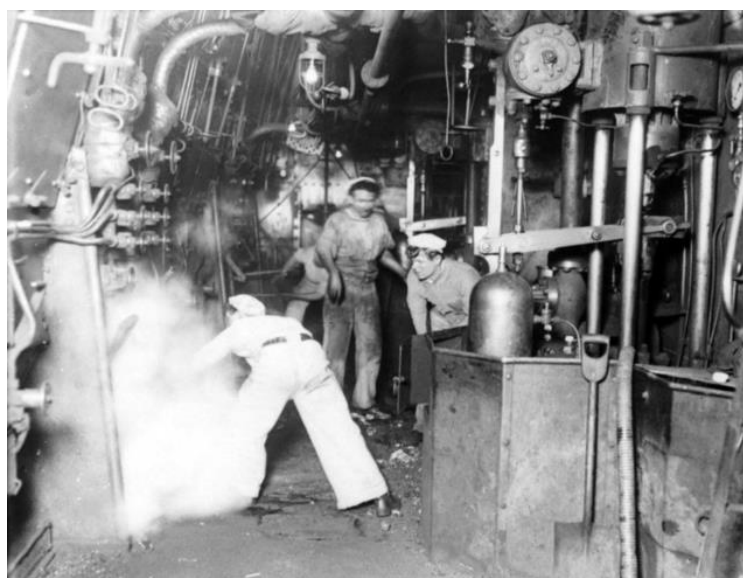
H.M.A.S. *Australia* was launched in 1911, and commissioned as flagship of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.) in 1913. On completion she sailed for Australia and, on 4 October 1913, led the cruisers and destroyers of the fleet unit into Sydney Harbour to public acclaim.

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)

Walter John Matthews married Alice M. S. Palmer in St. James' Church, Southampton, Hampshire, England. Their marriage was registered in March quarter, 1916 in the district of Southampton.

Petty Officer Stoker Walter John Matthews died on 5th March, 1916 at Rosyth, Fife, Scotland. He was accidentally suffocated whilst sleeping in steam barge in H.M. Dockyard Rosyth. (Source: Royal Navy Service Record card)

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)

Petty Officer Stoker Walter John Matthews was buried in Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number 156 A. 305 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – Hampshire Advertiser, England – 18 March, 1916:

FUNERAL – On Monday, the interment took place at the Cemetery of Walter John Matthews, formerly a stoker P.O. on one of his Majesty's ships. The first part of the service was held in St. James' Church, opening with the hymn "Rock of Ages" followed by a Scripture reading by the Vicar, The Rev. Bernard Hancock. The hymn "Jesu lover of my soul" being subsequently sung, the service concluding with an effective rendering of the "Dead March." Amongst the mourners were Mrs Matthews (the widow), Mr and Mrs C. Matthews and family, Mr and Mrs Palmer, Mr Plomer, Mrs George Matthews, Mrs C. Matthews, Miss Annie Matthews, Miss Mabel Lindsay, Miss Elsie Sims, and Miss L. Hillins. There were numerous friends at the graveside, and many floral tributes were placed on the coffin, which was covered with the Union Jack, and attended by a naval escort. The deceased, who was 31 years of age, was married a few weeks ago at the same church, and much sympathy has been extended to the widow.

[Stoker Roy David Justice – service number 3537, aged 20, of H.M.A.S. "Australia", Royal Australian Navy was buried in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland. He was the son of D. J. and Isabell Justice of Cowes, Victoria, Australia.]

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Petty Officer Stoker Walter John Matthews – service number 7687, aged 31, of H.M.A.S. "Australia", Royal Australian Navy. Formerly (RN/304984) Royal Navy. He was the son of Charles and Fanny Matthews, of 12 The Flats, Chantry Rd, Southampton.

Stoker Petty Officer W. J. Matthews 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.

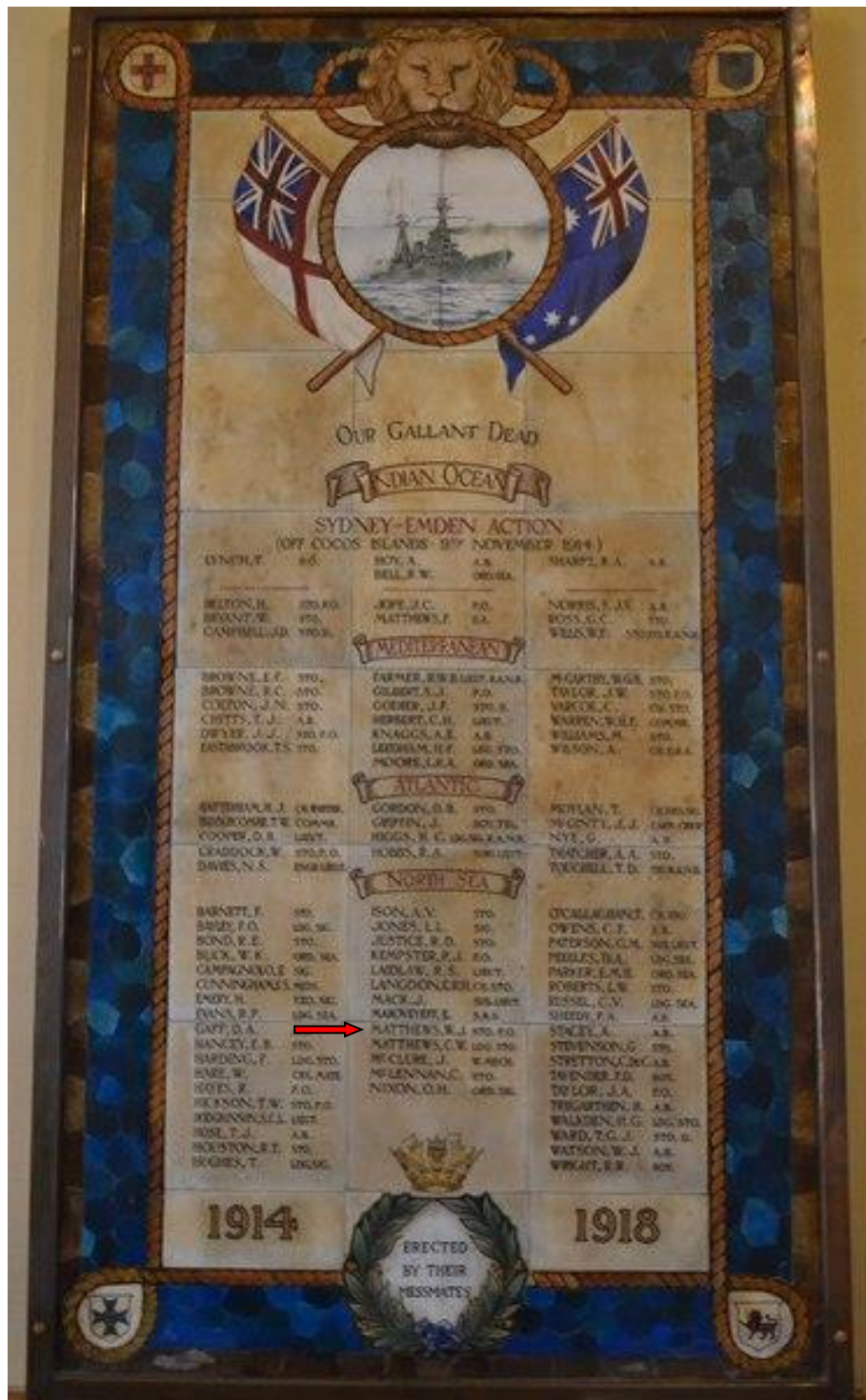


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. J. Matthews is remembered on Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, located at HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Nelson Road, Crib Point, Victoria.



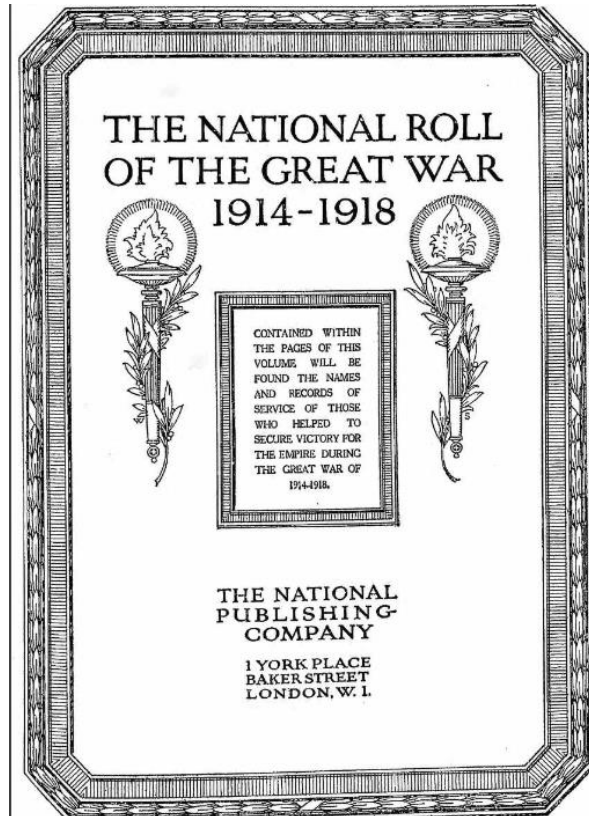
HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria *(Photo courtesy of Karen Standen)*



(Photo courtesy of Karen Standen)

From VWMA:

Royal Navy sailors who were generally speaking on three+ year agreements/loan to the Royal Australian Navy prior or during WW1 & were issued RAN service numbers and service cards. Those who served and died on Australian ships, were recorded by the CWGC as RAN and those with headstones lie under the RAN crest. More often than not the RAN paid both their prize money and war gratuity and most importantly without them there would have been no RAN as at the time the RAN was both experience and manpower poor. The nuances associated with RAN recruiting of the day, deem these men do not meet the current VWMA listing criteria however they are acknowledged here on this memorial.



MATTHEWS, E. A., Sergt., 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards.

He was already in the Army when war broke out, having served through the South African Campaign, and in 1914 was drafted to the Western Front. There he took part in the Battles of Ypres, Loos and the Somme, and many other engagements until the cessation of hostilities. He was still with his unit in 1918, and holds the Queen's and King's South African Medals, and the 1914 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.

T4302A

MATTHEWS, G. R., Engineer, R.N., H.M.S. "Kent."

He volunteered in August 1914, and rendered good service on board H.M.S. "Onitibia" during the Battle of the Falkland Islands in December 1914. Later he was transferred to H.M.S. "Kent," and was present at numerous encounters with enemy mines. He holds the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals, and in 1920 was still serving in the Navy.

4304

MATTHEWS, H., A.B., Merchant Service.

He volunteered at the outbreak of war in August 1914, and was engaged in conveying troops and stores to various battle zones. In June 1915, however, his ship, H.M.S. "Aqueduct" was struck by a torpedo and he was drowned. He was entitled to the General Service and Mercantile Marine War Medal.

X4305B

MATTHEWS, H. S., Gunner, R.G.A.

Volunteering in October 1914, he was in due course sent to France, where he was engaged in many important battles, including the Somme, Arras and Passchendaele. He was gassed during the first named engagement, but on convalescence, rejoined his unit and served until his demobilisation in March 1919. He holds the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.

X4308B

MATTHEWS, J. A.B., R.N.R., H.M.S. "Hawick."

Volunteering in August 1914, he did duty during the period of the war in H.M.S. "Horn," H.M.S. "Queen" and H.M.S. "Colubra," which vessels were engaged on patrol and mine-sweeping duties throughout the war zone. He rendered valuable services, and was on board the "Hawick," when she sank the German submarine U14 in the North Sea. He holds the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals, and was demobilised in July 1919.

X4307

MATTHEWS, J. B., Sergt., R.M.L.I.

Already serving at the outbreak of war he was engaged on escort and patrol duties in the Mediterranean for some considerable time. He was discharged in August 1919 after over eighteen years' service, holding the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals in addition to which he also possesses the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

X4305

MATTHEWS, J. C., Gunner, R.G.A.

He joined in February 1915, and shortly afterwards was sent to Palestine, where he saw much active service. He took part in many engagements until the signing of the Armistice and in February 1919 returned to England, and was demobilised. He holds the General Service and Victory Medals.

T4302B

MATTHEWS, J. R., A.B., Merchant Service.

Volunteering at the outbreak of war he did duty in various capacities on the high seas, conveying troops and stores to battle zones. Whilst on board H.M.S. "Ambrosia," this ship was torpedoed, but he was rescued and continued to serve until the termination of hostilities. In 1919 he was still at sea and holds the General Service and the Mercantile Marine War Medal.

X4306A

MATTHEWS, S. F., Corporal, 1/5th Hampshire Regt.

He volunteered in 1914, and after a short period of training was drafted to India later in the same year. During his service overseas he was engaged on important garrison duties until after the cessation of hostilities. He returned home in 1919, and was demobilised, holding the General Service and Victory Medals.

377B

MATTHEWS, W. A., Private, Devonshire Regiment (Labour Battalion).

He joined in March 1917, and after his training served at various stations where he was engaged on important duties with his unit. He was unable to obtain his transfer to the Front, but nevertheless, rendered valuable services until his demobilisation in November 1918.

T4302C

MATTHEWS, W. A., Gunner, R.G.A. and Sapper, R.E.

He volunteered in October 1914, and in the following year was drafted to the Western Front, where he took part in many important engagements. He was in action at Albert, Bapaume, Delville Wood, the Somme, Arras and Ypres, and during the Retreat and Advance of 1918. He holds the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals, and was demobilised in March 1919.

Jacob's Gutter, Hemmeston, Hants. X4306A

MATTHEWS, W. E., Private, 9th Hampshire Regt.

He volunteered in October 1914, and after a period of service in England was drafted to India, where he was engaged on garrison duties until October 1918. Transferred to Russia, he took part in the fighting in that theatre of war and was eventually demobilised in February 1920, holding the General Service and Victory Medals.

78, Firgrove Road, Wexham, Southampton. 4310

MATTHEWS, W. J., Stoker Petty Officer, R.N., H.M.S. "Australia."

Already in the Navy at the outbreak of war he did duty from August 1914, serving the North Sea. In 1916, however, he was accidentally torpedoed and died in March of that year. He was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.

6, Chantry Road, Southampton. 4309

MATTINGLY, H., Steward, Merchant Service.

He volunteered in August 1914, and served in S.S. "Majestica" and "Bahama" and H.M.S. "Neuman," on the high seas. He was employed on many duties, his ships crisscrossing from France to Cape Town and in other waters. He was discharged in April 1919, and holds the Mercantile Marine War Medal and the General Service Medal.

138, Northam Street, Southampton. 4308B

MATTINGLY, C. A., Leading Seaman, R.N., H.M.S. "Barham."

Already in the Navy at the outbreak of hostilities he saw much service in many waters, and was engaged in the battles of Heligoland and Jutland. He saw duty in Turkish waters, mine-sweeping, and was once blown up whilst engaged in this work. He holds the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals, and in 1920 was serving at Malta.

11, Abchurch Road, St. Denys', Southampton. X4311

MATTISON, C., Sergt., 1st Wiltshire Regiment and

Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

He joined in August 1914, and in the following December was drafted to the Western Front, where he played a conspicuous part in many engagements, including Belgium, Mesines, Passchendaele, and the second Battle of the Somme. He was also in action during the Retreat and Advance of the Allies in 1918. He holds the General Service and Victory Medals, and was demobilised in September 1919.

11th Street, Westcliff, Southampton. X4312

MATTISON, T., I./Corporal, Royal Defence Corps.

He volunteered in September 1914, and being physically unfit for active service, was retained on special duties at home to perform until the cessation of hostilities. He was demobilised in February 1919.

153, Newton Road, Littlesea Park, Southampton. X4313

MAUGER, C. R. P., Steward, Merchant Service.

Volunteering in August 1914, he did duty in H.M.S. "Asteria," conveying wounded to England for a considerable period. In March 1917, this ship was torpedoed, and he was drowned. He was entitled to the General Service and Mercantile Marine War Medals.

6, Derby Road, Southampton. 4314B

MAUGER, S., Private, Royal Fusiliers.

He volunteered in April 1915, and after a period of training was drafted to France. Here he took part in many engagements, and whilst in action on 23rd April 1918, he was killed. He was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.

8, Derby Road, Southampton. 4314A

MAUNDER, F., Leading Stoker, R.N., H.M.T.B. "Attrick."

Joining in August 1916 he did duty in the torpedo boat "Attrick" and "Himselfack" for a period of the war. He was on board the latter when she was torpedoed in 1917, and was in the water for a number of hours. As a result he was discharged in August of that year as medically unfit for further service, and holds the General Service and Victory Medals.

19, Leaze York Street, Northam, Southampton. 4315



**MATTHEWS, W. J., Stoker Petty Officer, R.N.,
H.M.S. "Australia."**

Already in the Navy at the outbreak of war he did duty from August 1914 patrolling the North Sea. In 1916, however, he was accidentally suffocated, and died in March of that year. He was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.
6, Chantry Road, Southampton. 4309

MATTHEWS, W. J., Stoker Petty Officer, R.N., H.M.S. "Australia".

Already in the Navy at the outbreak of war he did duty from August 1914 patrolling the North Sea. In 1916, however, he was accidentally suffocated, and died in March of that year. He was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.

6, Chantry Road, Southampton.

(2 pages of Private Stoker Petty Officer Walter John Matthews' 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, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



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 fallen was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Stoker Petty Officer W. J. Matthews has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but does not have an inscription.

Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England

This cemetery, on the Common, belongs to the Corporation. It was made in 1846 under Act of Parliament, and it now covers 27 acres. It contains 104 scattered Commonwealth war graves of the 1914-18 War, a plot of 21 1914-18 War Belgians and 15 Commonwealth war graves of the 1939-45 War.

(Information from CWGC)



Southampton Old Cemetery (Photos from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo above – Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery; below CWGC)

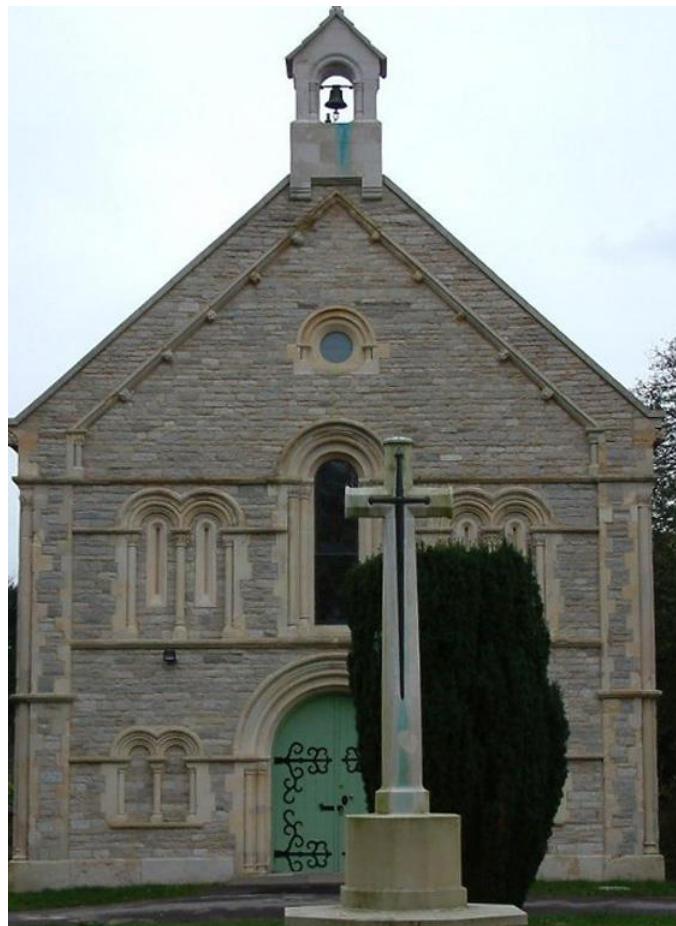


Photo of Stoker Petty Officer W. J. Matthews' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England.

