

**Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery,
Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



W. G. H. McCARTHY

STOKER, RAN, 8020

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

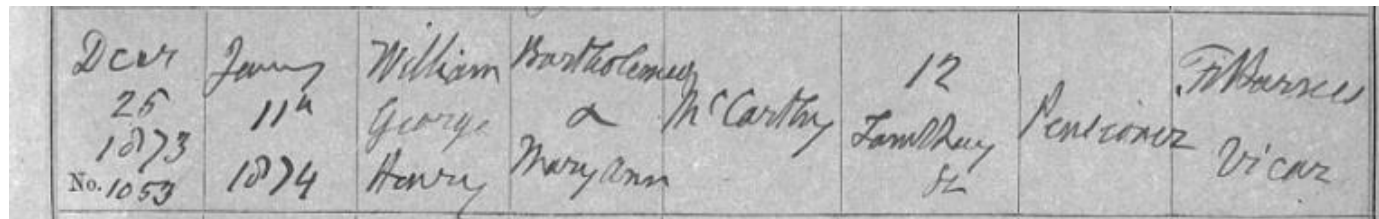
30TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 44

William George Henry McARTHY

William George Henry McCarthy was born on 25th December, 1873 at Plymouth, Devon, England to parents* Bartholomew (Seaman in Royal Navy) and Mary Ann McCarthy (nee Marker). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1874 in the district of Plymouth, Devon, England. William George Henry McCarthy was baptised on 11th January, 1874 at Holy Trinity & St. Saviour Church, Plymouth, Devon, England.

[Note: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has William George Henry McCarthy's parents listed as William George and Mary Ann McCarthy.]

Baptism Register:



Born: Decr 25 1873; Baptised Jany 11th 1874; William George Henry; Parents Bartholomew & Mary Ann McCarthy; Address – 12 T___ Street; Pensioner.

Bartholomew McCarthy, father of William George Henry McCarthy, died in 1880 at Plymouth, Devon, England.

The 1881 England Census recorded William McCarthy as a 7 year old scholar, living with his widowed mother & siblings at 17 Parade, Plymouth, Devon, England. Five separate households were listed at 17 Parade. William's mother was listed as M. McCarthy (Washerwoman, aged 28). Also listed were his younger brother - John McCarthy (aged 1 month) & his mother's Niece – Johanna Marker (Nurse Girl, aged 15).

The 1891 England Census recorded William McCarthy as a 17 year old Colporteur, living with his widowed mother & younger brother at 28 How Street (2 rooms), Charles, Devon, England. Six separate households were living at 28 How Street. His mother was listed as Mary A. McCarthy (Living on her Own Means, aged 40) & his brother was listed as John McCarthy (Scholar, aged 10).

William McCarthy joined Royal Navy on 16th April, 1894 for a period of 12 years. He was a Labourer & was given an Official number of 276519 (Devonport).

Stoker 2nd Class William McCarthy was posted to *Vivid II* from 16th April, 1894. He was transferred to *Hibernia* from 26th January, 1895 then served in *Hawke* from 18th May, 1895. On 2nd December, 1895 he was promoted to Stoker while still serving in *Hawke*.

Stoker William McCarthy was transferred back to *Vivid II* from 19th September, 1896 then transferred to *Blake* from 15th September, 1897. On 6th December, 1898 he was transferred to _____ then back to *Vivid II* from 8th December, 1898. He was transferred to *Collingwood* from 14th November, 1899 then back to *Vivid II* from 25th November, 1899.

William George Henry McCarthy married Laura Roberts. Their marriage was registered in the March quarter, 1900 in the district of Plymouth, Devon, England. A son – William Samuel Francis McCarthy has been born on 21st December, 1899. He was baptised on 11th January, 1901 at Holy Trinity & St. Saviour Church, Plymouth, Devon, England.

[The 1901 England Census recorded Mary McCarthy, mother of William George Henry McCarthy, (Washerwoman, aged 47) living at 17 Moon Street, Charles, Devon, England with her younger son – John McCarthy (Mason's Labourer, aged 20)]

Stoker William McCarthy was transferred to *Charybdis* from 18th April, 1900; *Vivid II* from 1st May, 1900; *Phaeton* from 17th September, 1900; *Vivid II* from 29th April, 1903; *Leander* from 1st May, 1905; *Vivid II* from 1st March, 1906. He became Stoker 1st Class on 1st July, 1906 while serving in *Vivid II*.

Stoker 1st Class William McCarthy served in *Crescent* from 2nd July, 1907; *Pyramus* from 24th August, 1907; *Terrible* from 1st September, 1909; *Vivid II* from 12th October, 1909.

The 1911 England Census recorded William McCarthy as a 38 year old, married, Stoker in Royal Navy living at 3 Batter Street, Plymouth, Devon, England. His wife was listed as Laura McCarthy (Charwoman, aged 37, born Plymouth, Devon). William & Laura had been married for 13 years & had 2 children – only 1 was listed on this Census with them – William Samuel McCarthy (at School, aged 11, born Plymouth, Devon).

Stoker 1st Class William McCarthy served in *Blake* from 15th February to 28th February, 1913.

William George Henry McCarthy was on loan from Royal Navy to Royal Australian Navy on 1st March, 1913 for a period of 3 years. His official number was 8020.

Stoker William George Henry McCarthy was posted to London Depot from 1st March, 1913. He was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Sydney* on 27th June, 1913.

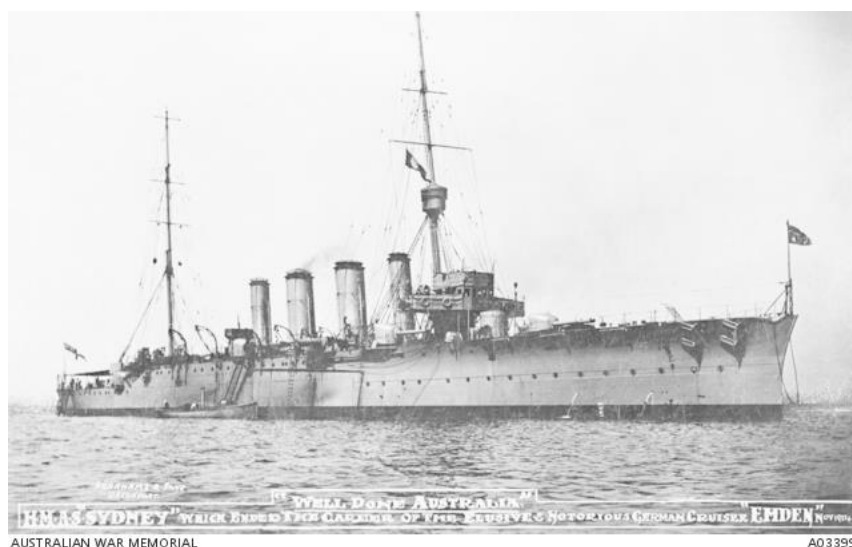
H.M.A.S. Sydney

H.M.A.S. *Sydney* was a Chatham class light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.). Laid down in 1911 and launched in 1912, the cruiser was commissioned into the R.A.N. in 1913.

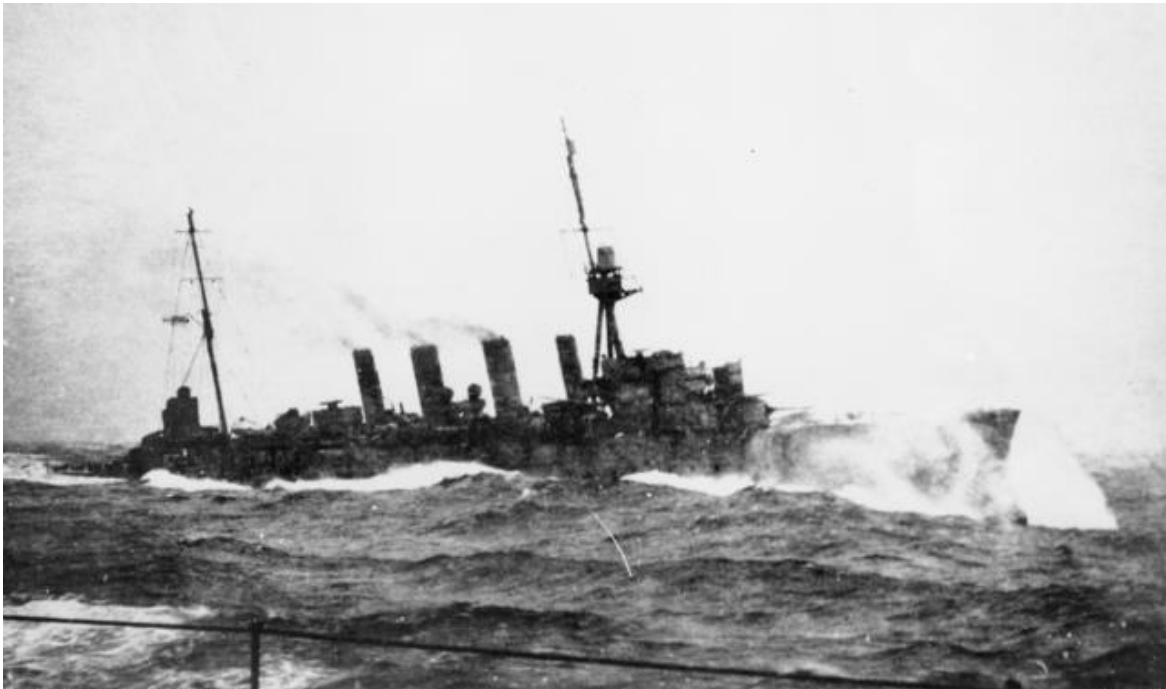
During the early stages of World War I, *Sydney* was involved in supporting the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, and escorting the first ANZAC convoy. On 9th November 1914, the cruiser defeated the German cruiser SMS *Emden* at the Battle of Cocos. During 1915 and 1916, *Sydney* operated on the North America and West Indies Station, before joining the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron at Greenock, Scotland in November 1916. On 4th May 1917, the cruiser was involved in an inconclusive action against the German zeppelin L43; neither was damaged. (*Wikipedia*)

Later in 1917, *Sydney* was fitted with an aircraft launching platform and equipped with a Sopwith Ships Pup fighter. On 1 June 1918, while patrolling in the Heligoland Bight, *Sydney* and *Melbourne* launched their aircraft to engage two German reconnaissance aircraft. *Sydney's* fighter destroyed one of the enemy aircraft.

Sydney was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet on 21 November 1918. She returned to Australia on 19 July 1919. After the war, *Sydney* carried out routine fleet duties until paid off in 1928. She was broken up the next year. (*The Australian War Memorial*)



H.M.A.S. Sydney 1914



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EN0464

H.M.A.S. Sydney (January, 1918, Atlantic Ocean/North Sea)

Stoker William George Henry McCarthy died on 30th August, 1918 at Scapa Flow, Scotland from Heart failure.

Stoker William George Henry McCarthy was buried in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland – Plot number F. 18 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Probate details:

McCarthy, William George Henry of 90 Treville Street, Plymouth, died 30 August, 1918 at Sea. Probate London 20 June to Laura McCarthy, widow. Effects £191 4s. 7d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker William George Henry McCarthy – service number 8020, aged 44, of H.M.A.S. “Sydney”, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of William George* (see above) and Mary Ann McCarthy; husband of Laura McCarthy, of 90 Treville St., Plymouth.

Stoker W. G. H. McCarthy 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. G. H. McCarthy 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)



(2 pages of Stoker William McCarthy's Royal Australian Naval 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



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 W. G. H. McCarthy has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland

Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery is on the Island of Hoy, which is part of the Orkney Islands.

Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery is one of largest sites the Commission maintains in the UK.

The cemetery was begun in 1915 when Scapa Flow was the base of the Grand Fleet. Lyness remained as a Royal Naval base until July 1946 and the cemetery contains graves from both wars.

There are 445 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 109 of which are unidentified. The majority of the graves are of officers, ratings, and members of the land forces lost from H.M.S. "Hampshire," "Vanguard," "Narborough" and "Opal."

The 200 burials of the Second World War in the cemetery include those of 26 men from H.M.S. "Royal Oak", which was sunk off Longhope in Scapa Flow by a German U-boat on 14 October 1939. 8 of these burials are unidentified.

The cemetery also contains the graves of 14 sailors of the German Navy (the High Seas Fleet was interned at Scapa Flow after the 1918 Armistice), 3 German airmen and 1 German sailor from the 1939-45 war and 1 Norwegian sailor of the 1939-45 war. The Commission also maintains 30 non-war burials in the site (mostly Merchant Navy seaman).

The features of the cemetery were designed by Ralph Hobday. The Cross of Sacrifice was formally unveiled by Surgeon Rear Admiral Sir William Watson Cheyne (Bart., KCMG, CB, Lord Lieutenant of Orkney, and Shetland) on 29th September 1925.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Peter Drysdale)



© CWGC

Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery 1954 (CWGC)



Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)





(Photos by Bill Boaden – 2019)



Photo of Stoker W. G. H. McCarthy's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland.



(Photo from Find a Grave – ADB48)



(Photo courtesy of Iain Anderson)