

**Caister Old Cemetery,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



C. McLENNAN 7883

STOKER. RAN. H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

DIED 19TH JUNE 1916

AGED 23 YEARS

Cecil (Pat) McLENNAN

Cecil Patrick McLennan was born on 5th June, 1894 at Lismore, New South Wales to parents John and Elizabeth McLennan (nee Maxwell).

John McLennan, father of Cecil McLennan, died on 8th October, 1901 in Lismore, NSW.

Cecil McLennan joined the Royal Australian Navy on 22nd February, 1913. He was given an official number of 7883. His engagement expired on 28th July, 1917. Cecil McLennan was 5ft 7 ½ inches, with black hair, hazel eyes, a fresh complexion & a scar on front of his right shin.

Cecil McLennan was posted to London Depot as Stoker 2nd Class on 22nd February, 1913.

Elizabeth McLennan, mother of Cecil McLennan, died on 26th March, 1913 in Lismore, NSW.

Stoker 2nd Class Cecil McLennan was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Sydney* on 27th June, 1913. He was promoted to Stoker while still with H.M.A.S. *Sydney* on 1st September, 1913.

Stoker Cecil McLennan was attached to London Depot from 5th February, 1916.

Stoker Cecil McLennan was admitted to Royal Naval Hospital, Yarmouth, Norfolk, England suffering from Mental disease.



Royal Naval Hospital, Great Yarmouth (Photo by John Fielding – taken 2014)

Stoker Cecil McLennan died on 19th June, 1916 at Royal Naval Hospital, Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. (According to newspaper reports Stoker Cecil McLennan died from Brain Fever).

A death for Cecil McLennan, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1916 in the district of Yarmouth, Norfolk, England.

Stoker Cecil McLennan was buried in Caister Old Cemetery, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England – Plot number B. 226 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

H.M.A.S. Sydney

HMAS 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.

Sydney arrived in Albany, Western Australia on 19 September 1913, after completing her maiden voyage. The cruiser operated off eastern Australia until March 1914, when she sailed to Singapore to meet the two new Australian submarines AE1 and AE2. The three vessels reached Sydney in May, and the cruiser was reassigned to patrols along the eastern coast.]

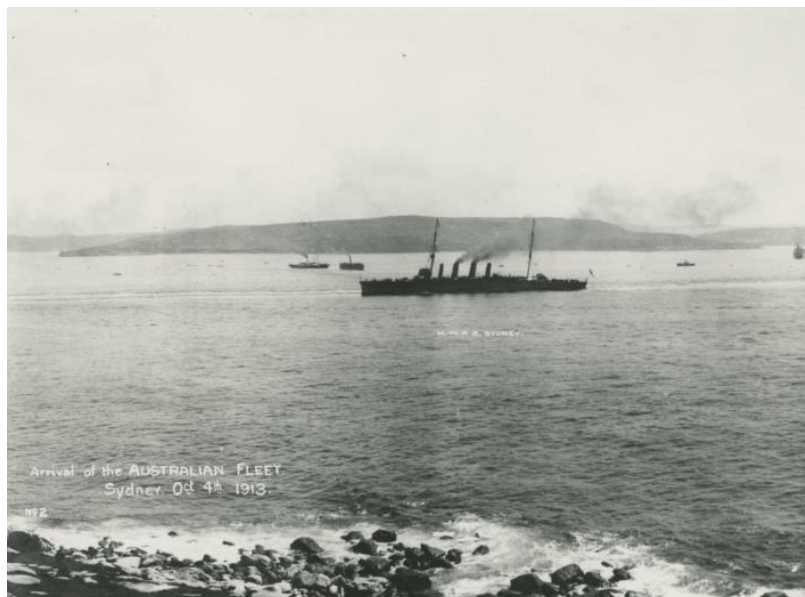
When World War I started, Sydney was north-bound to join Admiral George Patey and the battlecruiser HMAS Australia. The ships were quickly assigned to protect the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, which was used to capture German colonial assets in the region; Sydney participated in operations against Rabaul and Anguar Island in September. In October, Sydney and sister ship HMAS Melbourne left Patey's squadron for Sydney, where they joined the escort of the first convoy delivering Australian and New Zealand soldiers to Egypt. The convoy sailed around the southern coast of Australia to Albany, then departed on 1 November for Colombo.

On the morning of 9 November, the communications station at Direction Island, in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands group, was captured by the German light cruiser SMS Emden. Before capture, the station was able to transmit an SOS, which was received by the troop convoy, and Sydney was ordered to investigate. Emden's wireless operators had overheard the distress call and the orders to Sydney, and prepared to meet the Australian warship.

Sydney's first indication of Emden's location was when the German ship began to fire at a range of 6 nautical miles (11 km; 6.9 mi). The Australian warship was able to fire for effect after two salvos, destroying Emden's three funnels, foremast, wireless and steering gear, and setting the engine room on fire. The German ship beached herself on North Keeling Island, and Sydney went after the supporting collier Buresk, but the ship had already commenced scuttling, and the Australian warship returned to Emden. The Germans were still flying their war ensign, but pulled it down after Sydney transmitted an instruction to surrender, then fired two salvos when no response was forthcoming.

In the course of the engagement, Sydney had fired some 670 rounds of ammunition, with around 100 hits claimed. She had meanwhile been hit sixteen times; three of her crew were killed and thirteen were wounded. 134 German personnel were killed, with the rest of the ship's company were captured by Sydney (apart from a shore party, which commandeered the schooner Ayesha and escaped) and were delivered to British forces at Valletta, Malta. After leaving Malta, the Australian cruiser proceeded to join the North America and West Indies Station, arriving in Bermuda on 6 January 1915. For the next 18 months, she carried out patrol duties between the islands of the West Indies and along the east coast of North America, in concert with HMAS Melbourne. Both ships were also detailed for occasional special patrols along the north coast of South America.

(H.M.A.S. Sydney information from Wikipedia)



HMAS Sydney entering Sydney Harbour for the first time 4 October 1913. (Photo from Royal Australian Navy)



HMAS Sydney

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker Cecil McLennan – service number 7883, aged 23, of H.M.A.S. “Sydney”, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of John and Elizabeth McLennan. Born at Lismore, New South Wales.

Stoker C. McLennan 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.

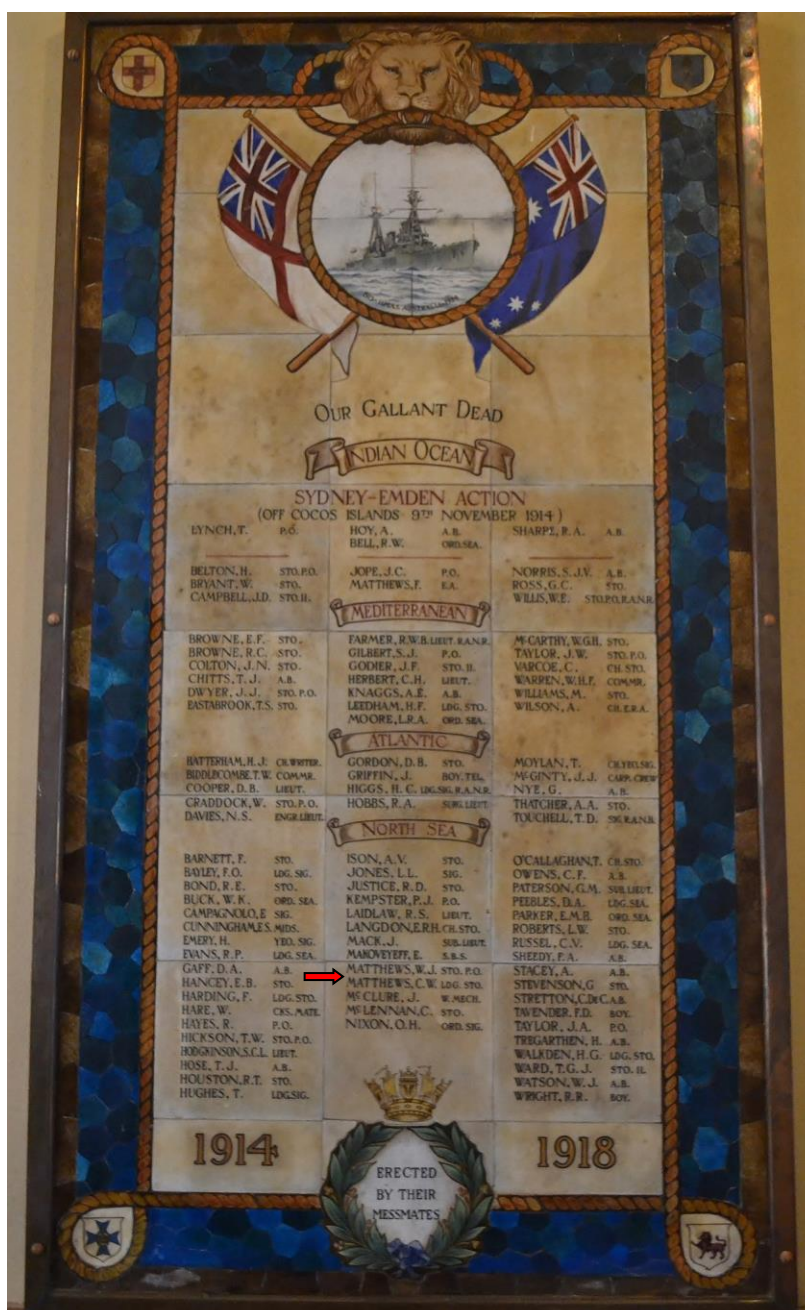


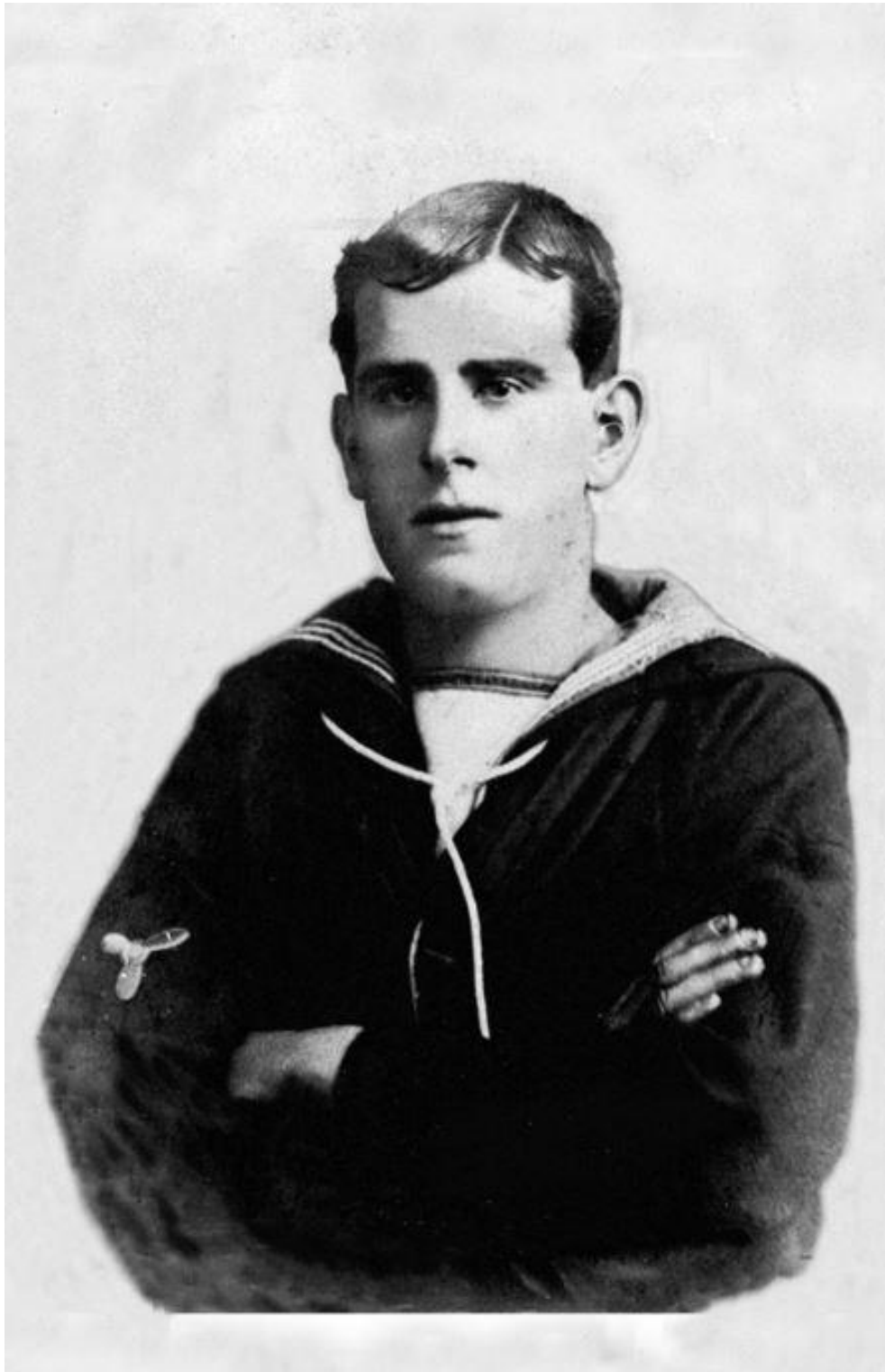
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

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



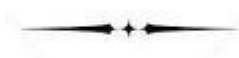
HMAS Cerberus Protestant Chapel of St Mark, Crib Point, Victoria (Photos courtesy of Karen Standen)





Stoker Cecil McLennan

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

LISMORE DISTRICT SCHOOL

The Roll of Honor containing the names of ex-pupils of the local District School is becoming larger weekly, and to-date, contains the names given hereunder. It is more probable that many more names are entitled to a place on the roll, also that one or two already sent in have been missed in entering. If so, the principal would be glad to receive notice of those again Cecil McLennan,

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 26 October, 1915)

THE LATE CECIL McLENNAN

Word was received from the Naval Department, Melbourne, that Stoker Cecil (Pat) McLennan died on the 19th June at the Naval Hospital, Yarmouth, England, the cause of death being brain fever caused through shock. He joined the Australian navy in 1912, serving 12 months on H.M.S. Drake, and sailed on the same ship to England, where he joined H.M.A.S. Sydney, coming out with the Australian fleet. He was on H.M.A.S. Sydney when she sank the Emden. He was the second youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs John McLennan, of Lismore.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 23 June, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

McLENNAN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Cecil McLennan, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, who died at Yarmouth Naval Hospital, England, on June 19, 1916. Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 24 June, 1916)

WAR NOTES

The late Stoker Cecil McLennan, of H.M.S. Sydney, died from brain fever, following on shock.

(The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser, NSW – 27 June, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

McLENNAN – In loving memory of my dear nephew, Cecil McLennan, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, who died at Yarmouth Naval Hospital, England, on June 19th, 1916, aged 22 years. Inserted by Mrs C. Butler.

(Camden News, NSW – 27 July, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

McLENNAN – In loving memory of our brother, Stoker Cecil McLennan, late H.M.A.S. Sydney, who departed this life on June 19th, 1916, at Yarmouth, England.

Inserted by his loving brothers and sisters.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 19 June, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

McLENNAN – In loving memory of our dear brother, First-Class Stoker Cecil McLennan, late of H.M.A.S. Sydney, who died at Yarmouth, England, June 19th, 1916,.

Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 19 June, 1918)

ST. PAUL'S HONOR ROLL

An Impressive Service

The unveiling of the honor roll at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning was most impressive, the sacred edifice being well filled for the occasion..... The Rev. Mr MacKillop then read the names of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice, their names being inscribed in gold on the board..... Stoker Cecil McLennan.....

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 1 June, 1920)

Caister Old Cemetery, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England

For many years Great Yarmouth was a naval base, containing a Royal Naval Hospital and there are three naval plots in the burial ground which contains war graves of both World Wars, as well as other Naval graves dating from 1906 onwards. Some of the 1914-1918 graves are in groups to the west of the entrance, while others are scattered. After the 1914-1918 War, a Cross of Sacrifice was erected near the mortuary chapel. During the early months of the 1939-1945 War, ground in plot M in the eastern part of the cemetery, north-east of the mortuary chapel, was set aside for service war graves, and this is now the War Graves Plot. It was used for Army, Air Force, Merchant Navy and Allied casualties, and the Naval plot A was used for Royal Naval casualties and for some of the Merchant Navy men; but there are a number of scattered war graves in the cemetery. There are now 168 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. Of these, 13 from the 1939-1945 War are unidentified. There are also 3 Foreign National war burials here.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Caister Old Cemetery (Photo by Evelyn Simak)



Caister Old Cemetery, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England

Photo of Stoker C. McLennan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission "Admiralty Cross" Headstone in Caister Old Cemetery, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England.



(Photos courtesy of Brian –Royal Naval Hospital website)



