

**South Queensferry Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland,
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



ENGINEER SUB-LIEUTENANT

A. E. OAKLEY

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

H.M.S. "SUNHILL"

2ND JUNE, 1919

Alfred Ernest OAKLEY

Alfred Ernest Oakley was born on 28th February, 1892 at Bright, Victoria to parents Charles John (Jack) & Eliza Jane Oakley (nee Goff).

Charles John (Jack) Oakley, father of Alfred Ernest Oakley, died on 21st August, 1915 at Benalla, Victoria, Australia.

Alfred Ernest Oakley joined the Royal Naval Reserve. He was promoted to Engineer Sub. Lieutenant on 12th June, 1917.

Royal Naval Reserve

The Royal Naval Reserve (R.N.R.) is the volunteer reserve force of the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. The present R.N.R. was formed by merging the original Royal Naval Reserve, created in 1859, and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (R.N.V.R.), created 1903. On mobilisation in 1914, the R.N.R. consisted of 30,000 officers and men. Officers of the permanent R.N.R. on general service quickly took up seagoing appointments in the fleet, many in command, in destroyers, submarines, auxiliary cruisers and Q-ships. Others served in larger units of the battle fleet including a large number with the West Indies Squadron who became casualties at the Battle of Coronel and later at Jutland. Fishermen of the R.N.R. (T) section served with distinction on board trawlers fitted out as minesweepers for mine clearance operations at home and abroad throughout the war where they suffered heavy casualties and losses.

(Information on R.N.R. from Wikipedia)

Royal Naval Reserve UK Navy List – August, 1917:

Oakley, Alfred E. (Rank) E S L (Seniority) 12 June 17 (Tempy) (a)

Royal Naval Reserve UK Navy List – January, 1919:

Merchant Vessels Commissioned

SUNHILL

Eng Sub-Lieut. R.N.R.

Alfred E. Oakley 21 Dec 17

H.M.S. Sunhill

Previously named *General Havelock* & launched in May, 1895. She was purchased in 1915 by Sun Shipping Co Ltd (Mitchell, Cotts & Co, Managers) London and renamed *Sunhill*. HMS *Sunhill* was commissioned from September 1915 when she was chartered by the Admiralty for use as an Accommodation Ship where on-shore accommodation was either not available or limited. *Sunhill* was based at Portsmouth Harbour from 23rd September, 1915 till June, 1920. She housed Officers of R.N.R. (Royal Naval Reserve) & R.N.V.R. (Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve) for a short time before being dispatched to whatever ship had a vacancy to fill.



General Havelock

Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred Ernest Oakley signed on with R.F.A. (Royal Fleet Auxiliary) *Prestol* on 12th March, 1919.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary (R.F.A.) ships were deployed to carry fuel, ammunition and other supplies to Royal Navy ships, and to transport troops and equipment. Their crews were mainly civilian merchant seamen, and not members of the armed forces. (information from Shy and Simple Warrior by R. H. Parr)



R.F.A. *Prestol*

From the Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Service Records:

"Knight Templar" admitted Chatham Hospital 2/11/17. Discharged to Chatham Barracks on 12/12/17.

21/12/17 – Sunhill for disposal. 10/3/19 R.F.A. Prestol

1/6/19 Teleg Med So Queensferry, dangerously ill. Rheumatism Heart Failure.

Next of kin – Mother – Mrs Oakley of 28 Lawry St., Northcote, Victoria, Australia."

Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred Ernest Oakley died on 2nd June, 1919 at Royal Naval Hospital, South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland from Rheumatism & Cardiac Failure.

Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred Ernest Oakley was buried in South Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number 439 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate details:

Alfred Ernest Oakley, late of Kent Street, Benalla, Victoria who died on 2nd June, 1919 with no real estate at the time of his death & personal estate valued at £56 4s 8d granted to Eliza Jane Oakley, of Greensborough, widowed mother of the deceased.

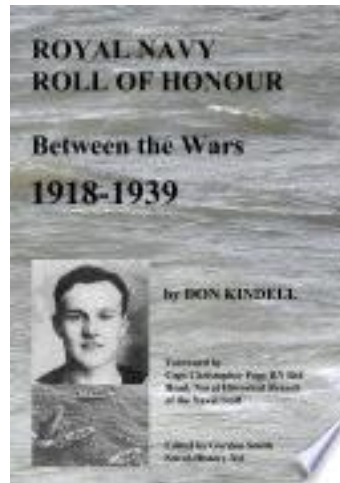
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred Ernest Oakley of H.M.S. "Sunhill", Royal Naval Reserve. No family details are listed.

Alfred Ernest Oakley, 3rd Engineer Officer, R.F.A. *Prestol*, who died on 2nd June, 1919 is remembered on the Historical R.F.A. Roll of Honour 1910 – 1919.



Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred E. Oakley is remembered in the book *Royal Navy Roll of Honour – Between the Wars, 1918-1939* by Don Kindell.

OAKLEY, Alfred E. Engineer Sub Lieutenant, RNR Sunhill, 2 June 1919.

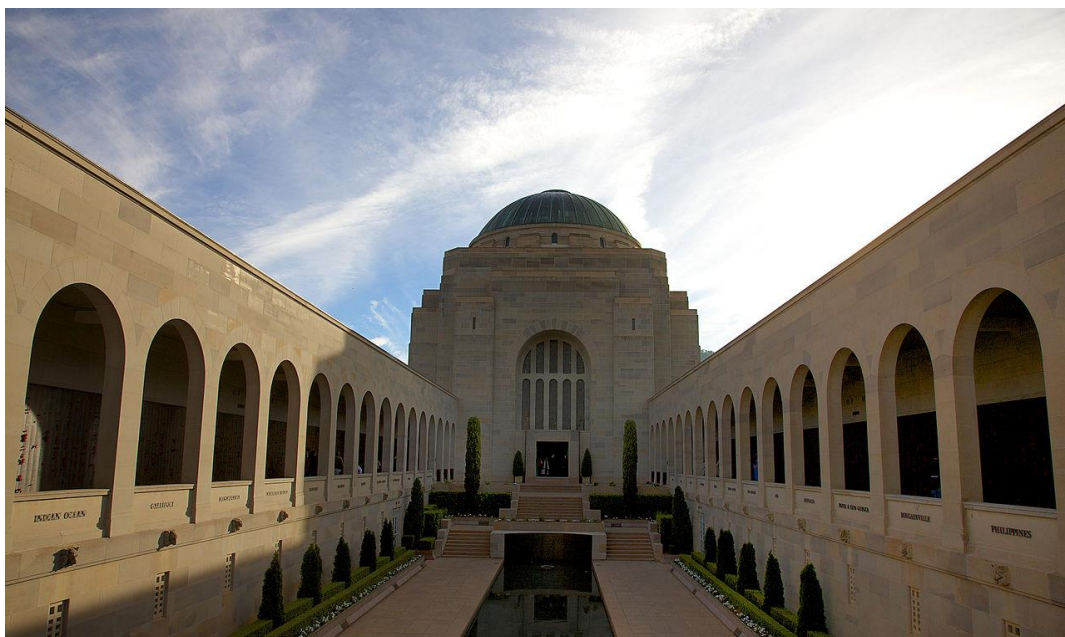


At the time of researching (October, 2019) Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred Ernest Oakley was not remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

A request was submitted in October, 2019 to The Australian War Memorial for Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred Ernest Oakley's name to be considered for inclusion of the Commemorative Roll Book.

UPDATE:

On checking the Australian War Memorial's Commemorative Roll in June 2021 - Engineer Sub-Lieutenant Alfred Ernest Oakley is NOW listed.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

OAKLEY – ON the 2nd June, at Royal Naval Hospital, Scotland, Engineer Sub-Lieut. A. E. Oakley, aged 27 years; loved fourth son of Mrs E. J. Oakley, Lawry street, Northcote, and the late C. J. Oakley; loving brother of Mrs W. Butler (Bright), Harry (Macedon), Fred (Greensborough), Mrs Ford (Fairfield), and George (Bright).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 June, 1919)

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.

Engineer Sub-Lieutenant A. E. Oakley has a Private Headstone.

South Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

South Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 180 First World War burials, almost all of them naval. There are also eight burials of the Second World War. There are 11 War Graves from World War 1 belonging to members of the Royal Australian Navy.

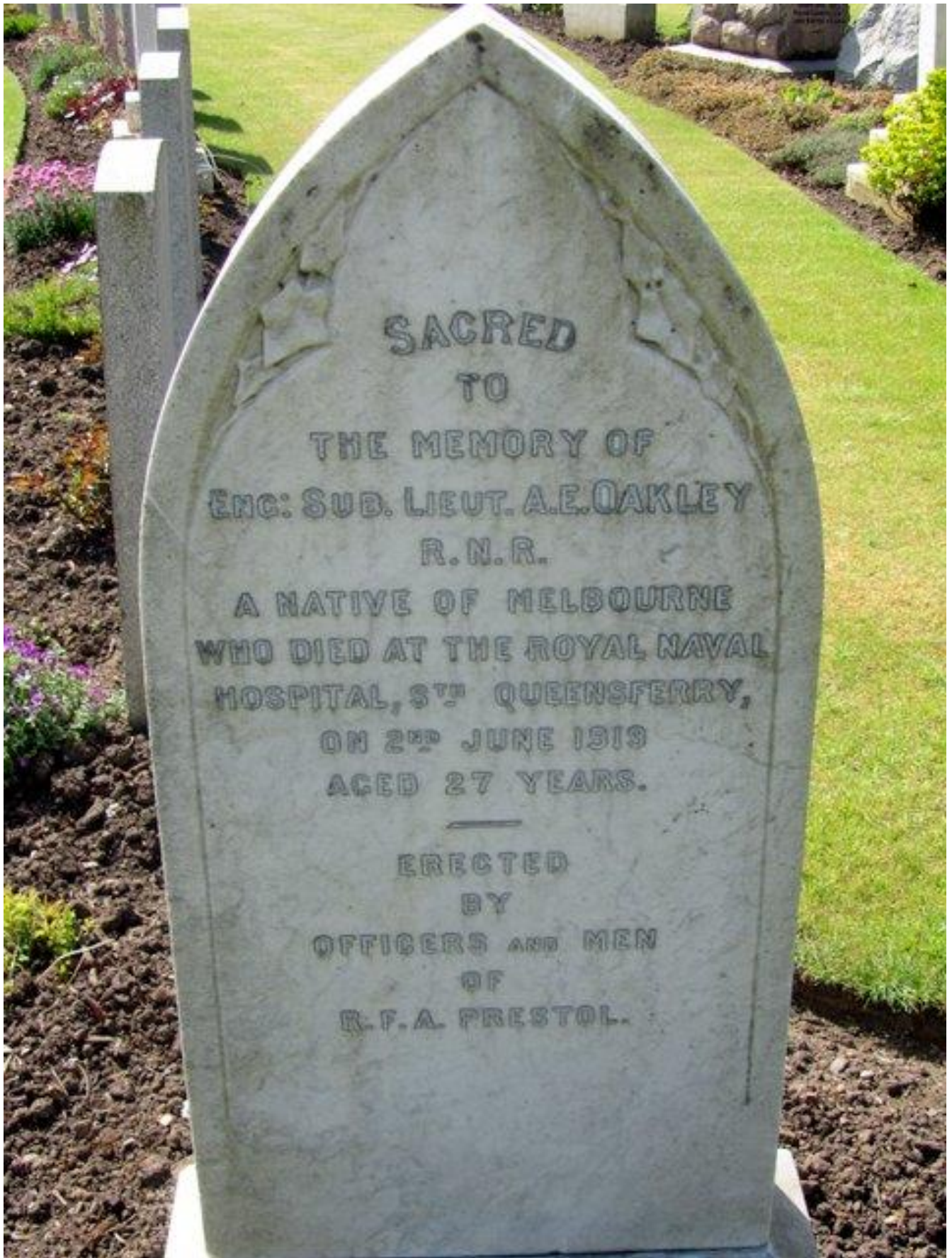
(Information & photo from CWGC)



(Photo from Queensferry History Group)

Photo of Engineer Sub-Lieutenant A. E. Oakley's Private Headstone in South Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.





(Photo courtesy of Peter Drysdale – Find a Grave)

Sacred
To
The Memory Of
Eng: Sub. Lieut. A. E. OAKLEY
R.N.R.
A Native Of Melbourne
Who Died At The Royal Naval
Hospital, Sth. Queensferry,
On 2nd June 1919
Aged 27 Years



Erected
By
Officers And Men
Of
R.F.A. Prestol

