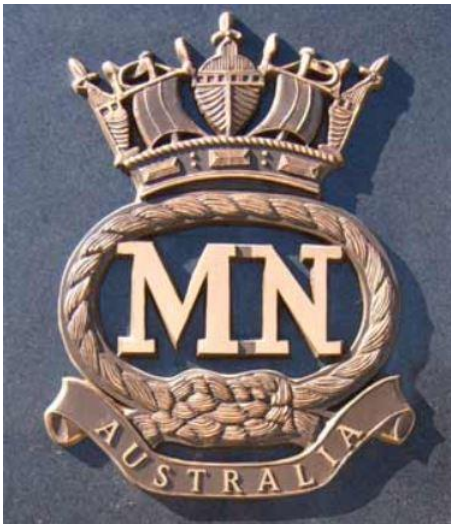
Tower Hill Memorial,

Greater London, England

Lest We Forget

World War 1



DONKEYMAN

H. PICKARD

AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE SERVICE

H.M.A.T. PORT MACQUARIE (LONDON)

4TH JULY, 1915

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Harry PICKARD

Harry Pickard was born at Buckhurst Hill, Essex, England around 1873/1874.

[Note: The place of birth was listed in Return of Deaths of Seamen (1891 – 1972). A birth for a "Harry Francis Pickard" was registered in the March quarter, 1874 in the district of Epping, Essex, England (with mother's maiden name of Wiggs). Buckhurst Hill was a civil parish within the Epping Registration District. George Henry Pickard married Sarah Hannah Wiggs in December quarter, 1862 in the district of Poplar, Middlesex/London.

[Based on the address listed by CWGC for Harry Pickard – the following Census details seem to fit]

The 1881 England Census recorded Henry Pickard as a 7 year old Scholar, living with his family at 10 Gibbons Road, Stratford, West Ham, Essex, England. His parents were listed as G. H. Pickard (Carpenter & Joiner, aged 45) & S. A. Pickard (aged 38). Henry was one of seven children listed on this Census – G. Pickard (Scholar, aged 15, born Bromley, Middlesex), William Pickard (Scholar, aged 11, born Bromley, Middlesex), Bertie Pickard (Scholar, aged 9, born Bromley, Middlesex), Amelia Pickard (Scholar, aged 13, born Plaistow, Essex), then Henry, Florence Pickard (Scholar, aged 4, born Plaistow, Essex) & Alfred Pickard (aged 2, born West Ham, Essex).

The 1891 England Census recorded Harry Pickard as a 17 year old Sugar Refiner living with his family at 24 Denmark Street, West Ham, Essex, England. His parents were listed as George H. Pickard (Carpenter & Joiner, aged 55) & Sarah A. Pickard (aged 48). Harry was one of four children listed on this Census (all listed as born at Plaistow, Essex) – Herbert Pickard (Carpenter's Apprentice, aged 19), then Harry, Florence Pickard (Draper's Apprentice, aged 14) & Alfred Pickard (Scholar, aged 11). Also listed was Mrs Trimmer (Lodger, aged 23) & her 1 month old son – Herbert Trimmer.

[The 1901 England Census recorded George H. Pickard (Carpenter, aged 66) & Sara H. Pickard (aged 59) living together with no children at 24 Denmark St, Canning Town, West Ham, Essex.]

[The 1911 England Census recorded George Henry Pickard (Retired Carpenter, aged 76) & Sara Ann Pickard (aged 69) living together with no children at 24 Denmark St, Plaistow, Essex.]

Harry Pickard joined Merchant Navy - Australian Mercantile Service.

Merchant Navy

The term "Merchant Navy" refers to a nation's commercial shipping and crews. During the First World War, merchant ships were requisitioned to act as transports, hospital ships and cargo carriers. (AWM)

Donkeyman Harry Pickard, official number 135132, served in *Port Macquarie* (A39).

Donkeyman definitions:

- A steam donkey or donkey engine is a steam-powered winch once widely used in logging, mining, maritime, and other industrial applications. Steam powered donkeys were commonly found on large metal-hulled multi-masted cargo vessels in the later decades of the Age of Sail on through the Age of Steam, particularly heavily-sailed skeleton-crewed windjammers. The operator of a donkey was known as a donkeyman.
- A merchant navy term for a stoker on the old steam ships.
- The rank given to a man operating the steam donkey aboard a merchant ship.

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"*Port Macquarie*" A39 departing, soldier walking along wharf towards camera on right. (3 June, 1915)

Port Macquarie (A39)

Port Macquarie was a cargo steamship built by Hawthorn Leslie & Hebburn & completed in September, 1912 for the Anglo-Australasian SN Co Ltd (Milburn Line).

From 1914 she was owned by the Commonwealth & Dominion Line Ltd, London.

Movements in 1915 (transcript of Troopship movement card from Australian War Memorial - shown below):

28:4:15 Due Pt Pirie from U.K. 30th inst for stiffening.

30:4:15 Pt Pirie Stiffening.

8:5:15 Left Pt Pirie for Sydney

12:5:15 Sydney. Bunkering

15:5:15 Left Sydney for Melbourne

18:5:15 Melbourne. Refitting

3:6:15 Left Melbourne.

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S.S. "PORT MACQUARIE" (A39)

DATE.	TRIP No	CONVOY No	REMARKS.
28:4:15	1 Out	6.	Due Pt Piric from Ult. 30th inst. for stiffening.
30:4:15	"	"	Pt Piric. Stiffening
8:5:15	"	"	Left Pt Piric for Sydney.
12:5:15	2 OUT.	"	Sydney. Bunkering
15:5:15	"	"	Left Sydney for Melbourne
18:5:15	"	"	Melbourne. Refitting
3:6:15	"	"	Left Melbourne
16.10.15	3 IN / 3 OUT	14	✓ Melbourne. Discharge

Troopship movement card – HMAT *Port Macquarie* (A39) *(from AWM)*

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PB0877

"*Port Macquarie*" A39 departing, tug left background. (3 June, 1915)

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On Convoy 6 which embarked 4 June, 1915 from Melbourne, Port Macquarie (A39):

1 Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train • 3 Divisional Signal Company (Nos 1051-1869) • A total of 368 troops and 429 horses • Chaplains

Information from *First In, Last Out – The Navy at Gallipoli*:

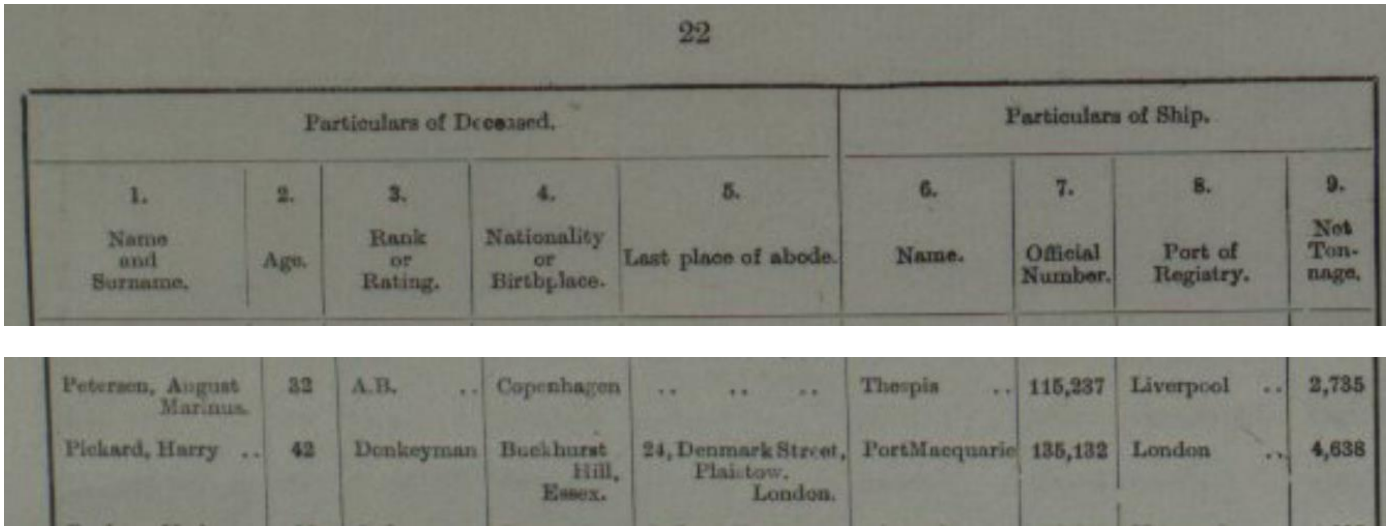
The A39 HMAT Port Macquarie was transporting the 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train, along with over 400 horses. They had departed from Melbourne 4/6/15, and suffered terrible conditions with heavy seas making it necessary to keep the ventilation ports closed, making the air below decks almost unbreathable. Many horses died, and the remaining horses were unloaded at Bombay at the end of June.

The A39 resailed on the 3rd July, and the next day "Harry Pickard died of a heart attack and was buried at sea the following day. A firing party was provided by members of the RANBT."

(see Map below – Bombay is now Mumbai)

Donkeyman Harry Pickard died on 4th July, 1915 at Sea on board *Port Macquarie* A39 from Shock & Exhaustion following operation for Empyaema.

Return of Deaths of Seamen Register – (1891 – 1972).

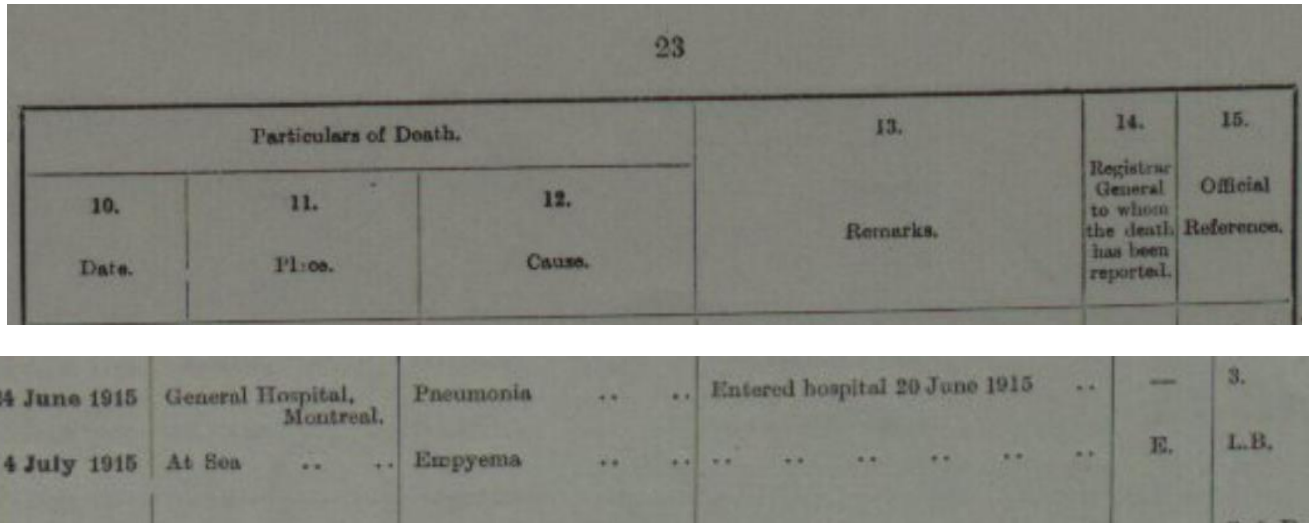


22

Particulars of Deceased.					Particulars of Ship.			
1. Name and Surname.	2. Age.	3. Rank or Rating.	4. Nationality or Birthplace.	5. Last place of abode.	6. Name.	7. Official Number.	8. Port of Registry.	9. Net Tonnage.
Petersen, August Marinus.	32	A.B. ..	Copenhagen	.. .. ..	Thespis ..	115,237	Liverpool ..	2,735
Pickard, Harry ..	42	Donkeyman	Buckhurst Hill, Essex.	24, Denmark Street, Plaistow. London.	PortMacquarie	135,132	London ..	4,638

Pickard, Harry / 42 / Donkeyman / Buckhurst Hill, Essex / 24, Denmark Street, Plaistow, London / Port Macquarie / 135,132 / London.

4 July 1915 / At Sea / Empyema.



23

Particulars of Death.			13.	14.	15.
10. Date.	11. Place.	12. Cause.	Remarks.	Registrar General to whom the death has been reported.	Official Reference.
24 June 1915	General Hospital, Montreal.	Pneumonia	Entered hospital 20 June 1915 ..	—	3.
4 July 1915	At Sea	Empyema	.. ..	E.	L.B.

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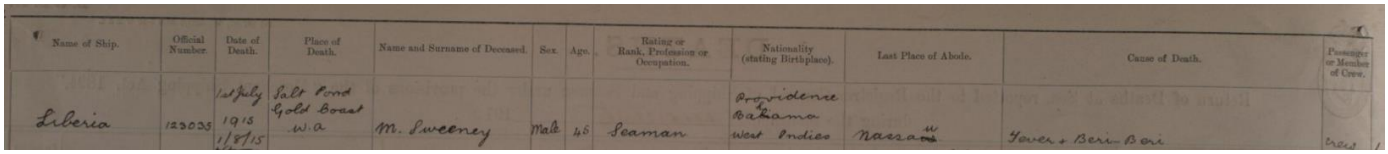
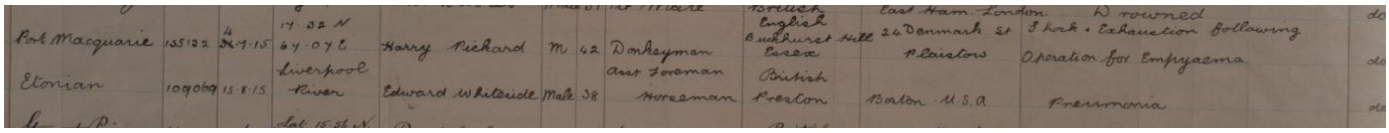
Deaths of Seaman Reported to Registrar General Register 1914 and 1915:



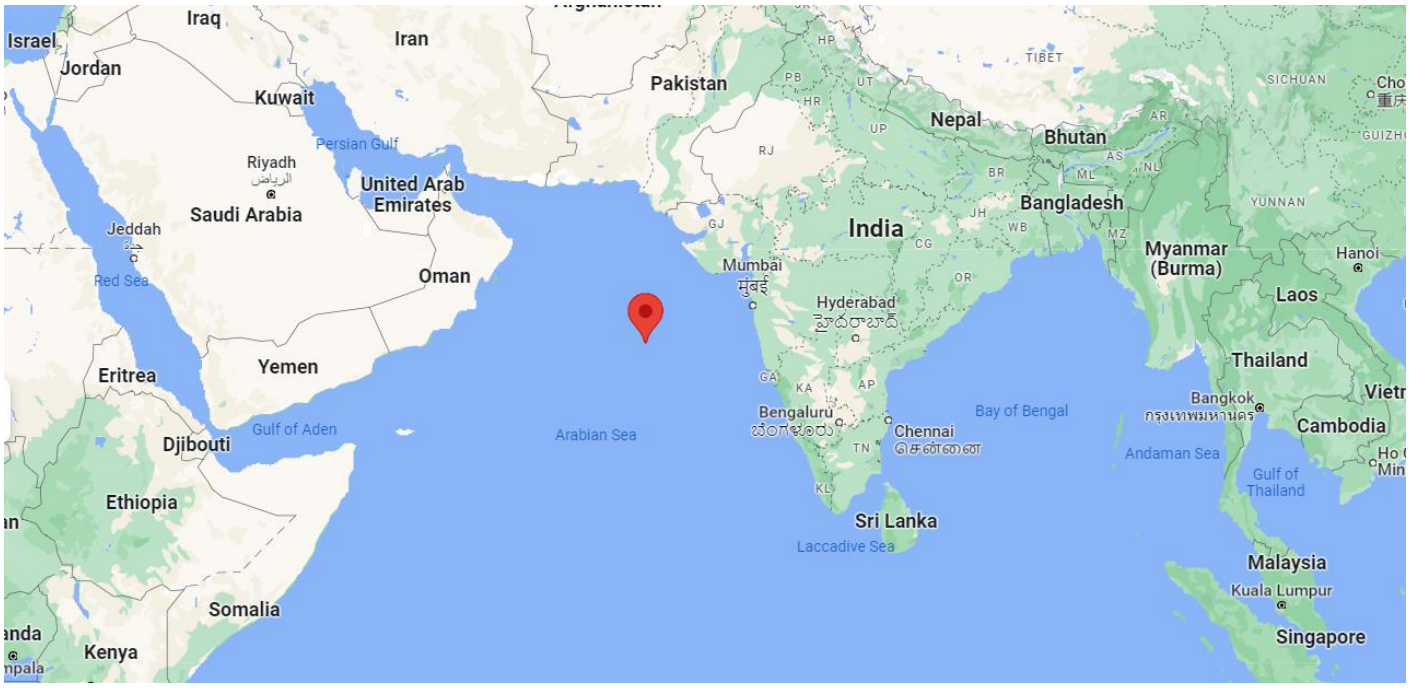
Name of Ship.	Official Number.	Date of Death.	Place of Death.	Name and Surname of Deceased.	Sex.	Age.	Rating or Rank, Profession or Occupation.	Nationality (stating Birthplace).	Last Place of Abode.	Cause of Death.	Passenger or Member of Crew.
Liberia	123035	1st July 1915	Salt Pond Gold Coast W.A.	M. Sweeney	Male	46	Seaman	Providence Bahama West Indies	Nassau	Fever + Beri-Beri	



Port Macquarie	135132	4 July 15	17 32 N 64 07 E	Harry Pickard	M	42	Donkeyman asst Foreman	British Buckhurst Hill Essex	24 Denmark St Plaistow	Shock + Exhaustion following Operation for Empyaema	
Etonian	109069	15 8 15	Liverpool River	Edward Whiteside	Male	38	Foreman	British Preston	Barton U.S.A	Pneumonia	

Port Macquarie / 135132 / 4.7.15 / 17.32N 67.07E / Harry Pickard / M/ 42/ Donkeyman / Buckhurst Hill, Essex / 24 Denmark St Plaistow/ Shock & Exhaustion following operation for Empyaema.

According to Deaths of Seaman Reported to Registrar General Register 1914 and 1915 - Donkeyman Harry Pickard died at position (17.32 N 67.07 E) as shown on the map below. He was buried at Sea.



Donkeyman Harry Pickard died at 17.32 N 67.07 E

Donkeyman Harry Pickard is remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial, Greater London, England - Panel 22 (Addenda) as he has no known grave.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Donkeyman Harry Pickard, aged 42, of H.M.A.T. *Port Macquarie* (London). No family details are listed. He was from 24 Denmark Street, Plaistow, London.

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Henry Pickard is 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.

Commemorative Roll *(Photo from AWM)*

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

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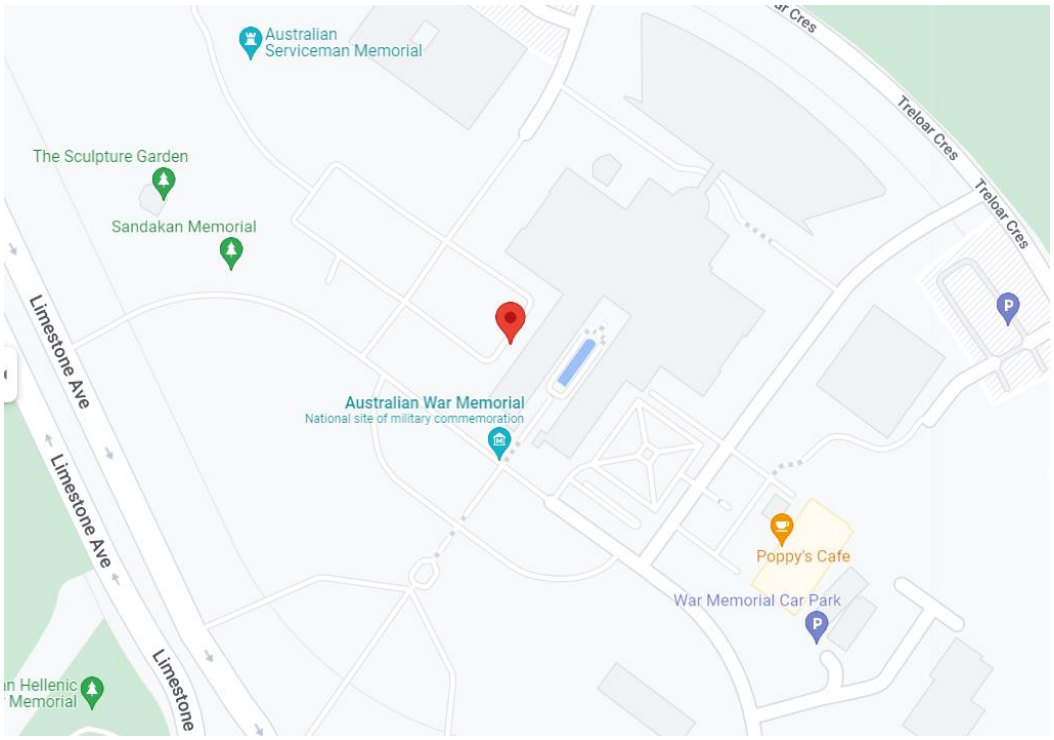
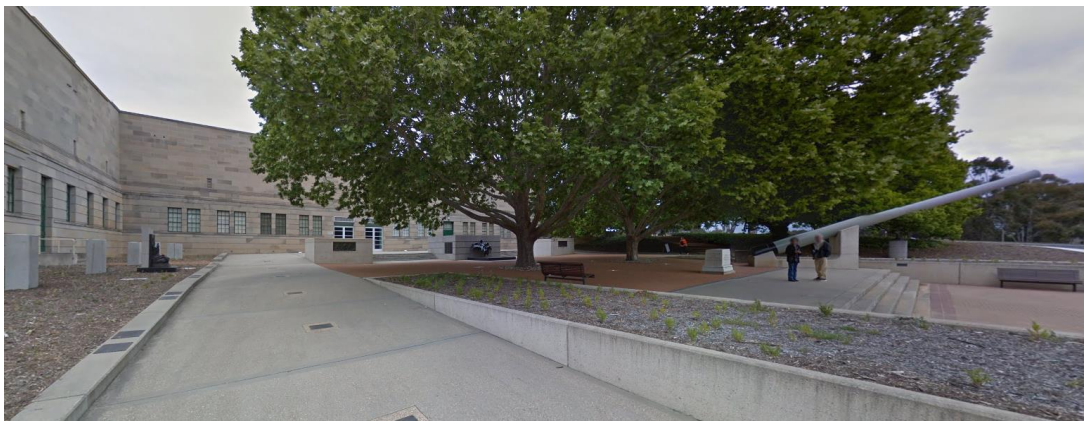
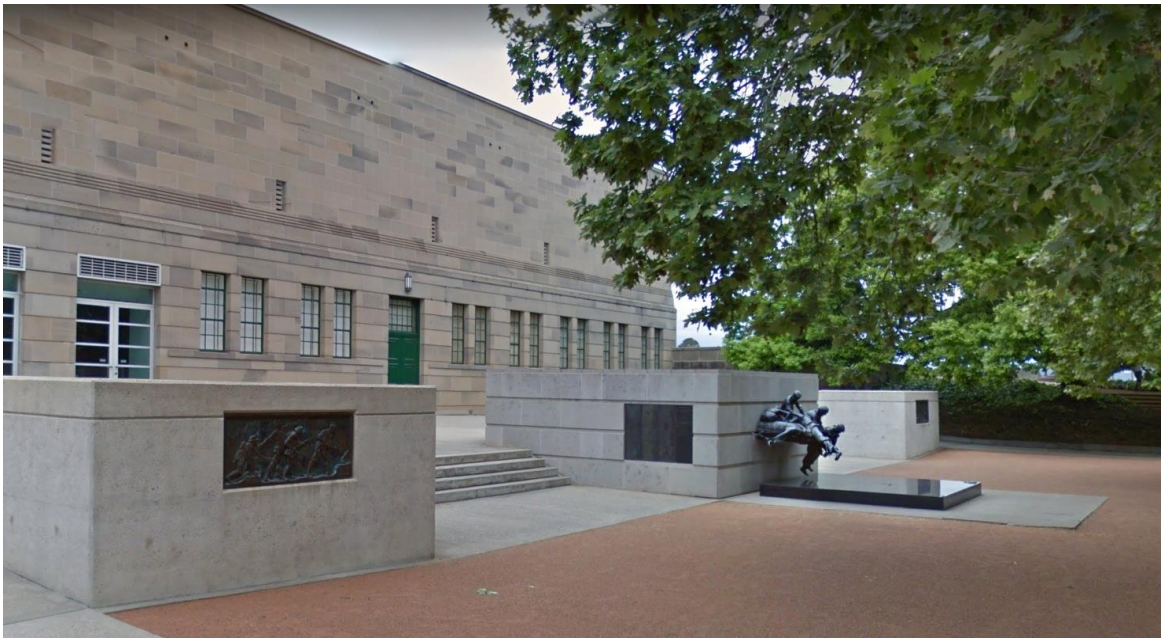
H. Pickard is remembered on the Merchant Seaman Memorial Commemorative Plaque, located at the Australian War Memorial – Western forecourt, Treloar Crescent, Campbell, Australian Capital Territory.







Merchant Seaman Memorial Panels – WW1 Roll of Honour

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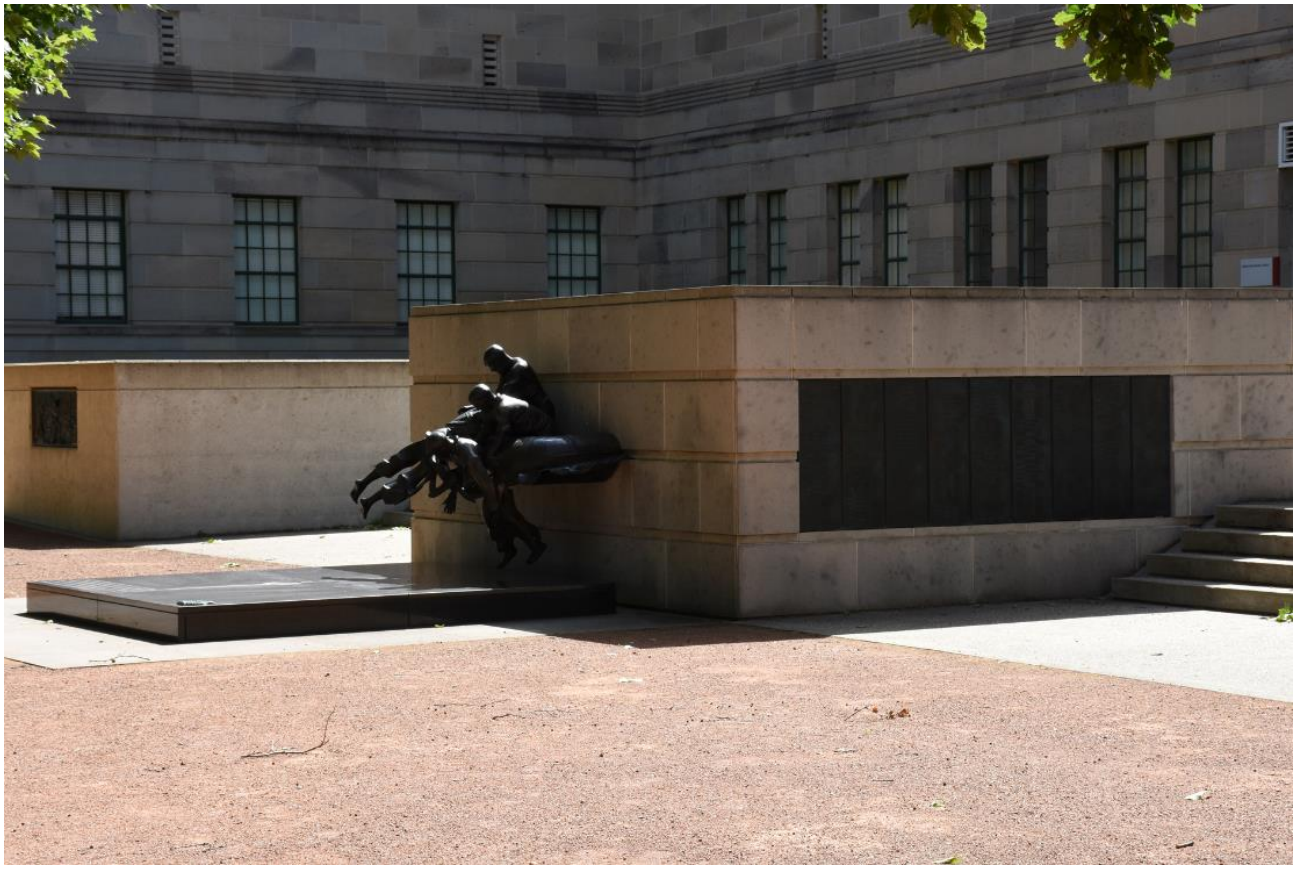

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

Sculpture at Merchant Seamans Memorial
depicting survivors in a life raft recovering other survivors from the water.
(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Brian Rowe)

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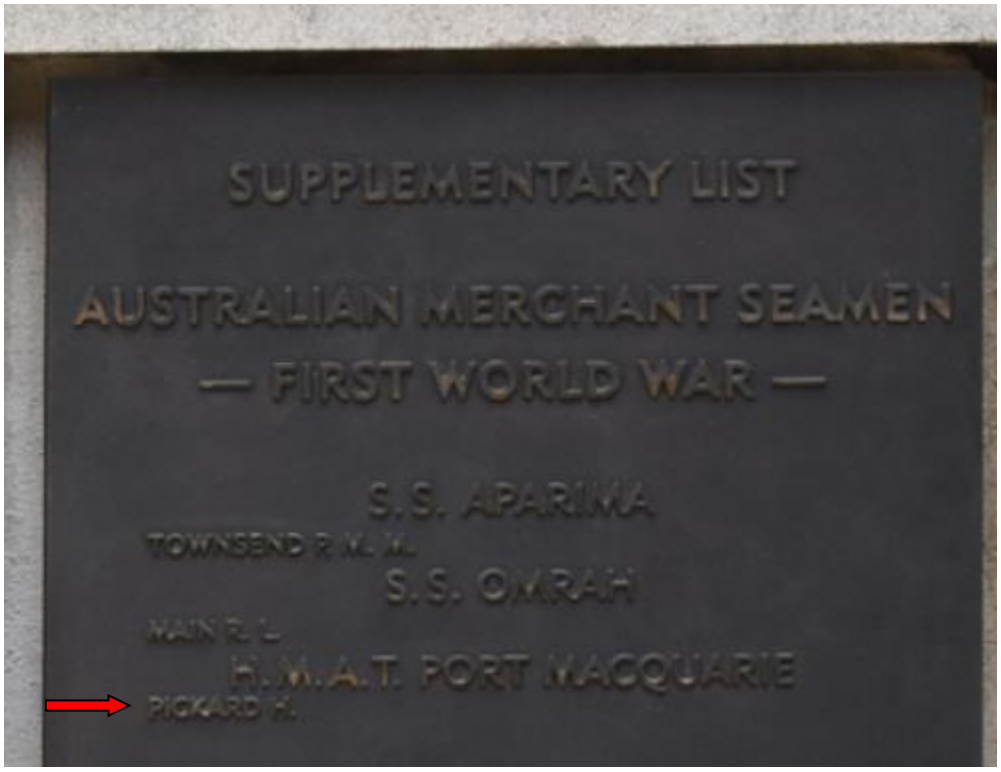
Merchant Seaman Memorial – WW1 Roll of Honour *(Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)*



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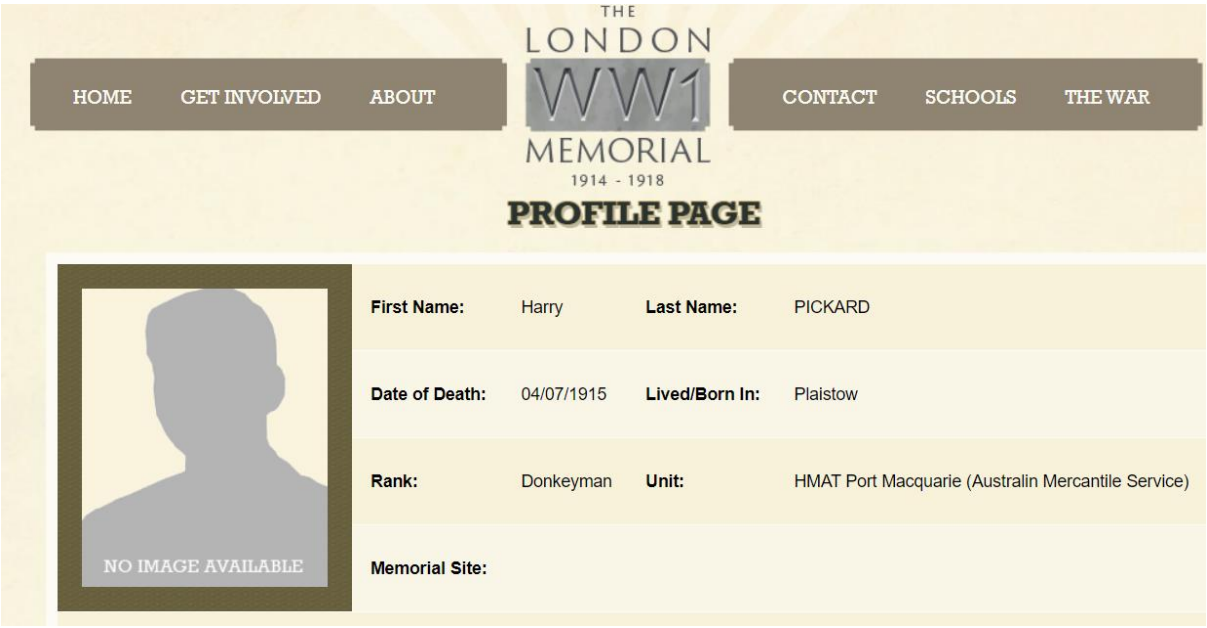
Harry Pickard is remembered on The London WW1 Memorial Online website.



Information from The Australian War Memorial:

Service records

The National Archives of Australia holds microfilmed employment records for Australian seamen who served on Australian merchant vessels between January 1922 and December 1990. The records are arranged by family name and give some personal information, the name of ships and dates of service.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.

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Tower Hill Memorial, Greater London, England

The Tower Hill Memorial commemorates men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who died in both World Wars and who have no known grave. It stands on the south side of the garden of Trinity Square, London, close to The Tower of London. The Memorial Register may be consulted at Trinity House Corporation, Trinity Square (Cooper's Row entrance), Tower Hill, London EC3N 4DH, which will be found behind the Memorial.

In the First World War, the civilian navy's duty was to be the supply service of the Royal Navy, to transport troops and supplies to the armies, to transport raw materials to overseas munitions factories and munitions from those factories, to maintain, on a reduced scale, the ordinary import and export trade, to supply food to the home country and - in spite of greatly enlarged risks and responsibilities - to provide both personnel and ships to supplement the existing resources of the Royal Navy.

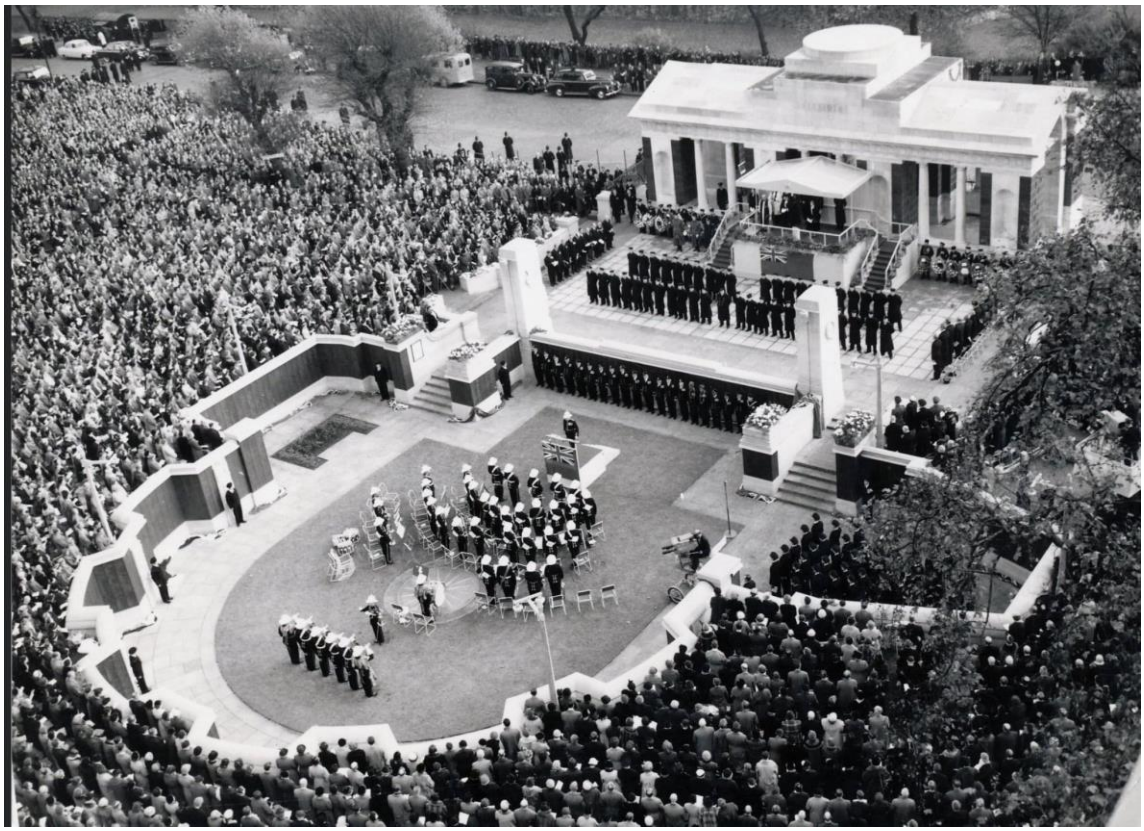
Losses of vessels were high from the outset, but had peaked in 1917 when in January the German government announced the adoption of "unrestricted submarine warfare". The subsequent preventative measures introduced by the Ministry of Shipping - including the setting up of the convoy system where warships were used to escort merchant vessels - led to a decrease in losses but by the end of the war, 3,305 merchant ships had been lost with a total of 17,000 lives.

In the Second World War, losses were again considerable in the early years, reaching a peak in 1942. The heaviest losses were suffered in the Atlantic, but convoys making their way to Russia around the North Cape, and those supplying Malta in the Mediterranean were also particularly vulnerable to attack. In all, 4,786 merchant ships were lost during the war with a total of 32,000 lives. More than one quarter of this total were lost in home waters.

The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea. The memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick. It was unveiled by Queen Mary on 12 December 1928.

The Second World War extension, which commemorates almost 24,000 casualties, was designed by Sir Edward Maufe, with sculpture by Charles Wheeler. It was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II on 5 November 1955.

(Information from CWGC)



Opening of WW2 Extension of Tower Hill Memorial - 1955

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(Photo by Chris Anderson)

(Photos courtesy of Neil Bright)

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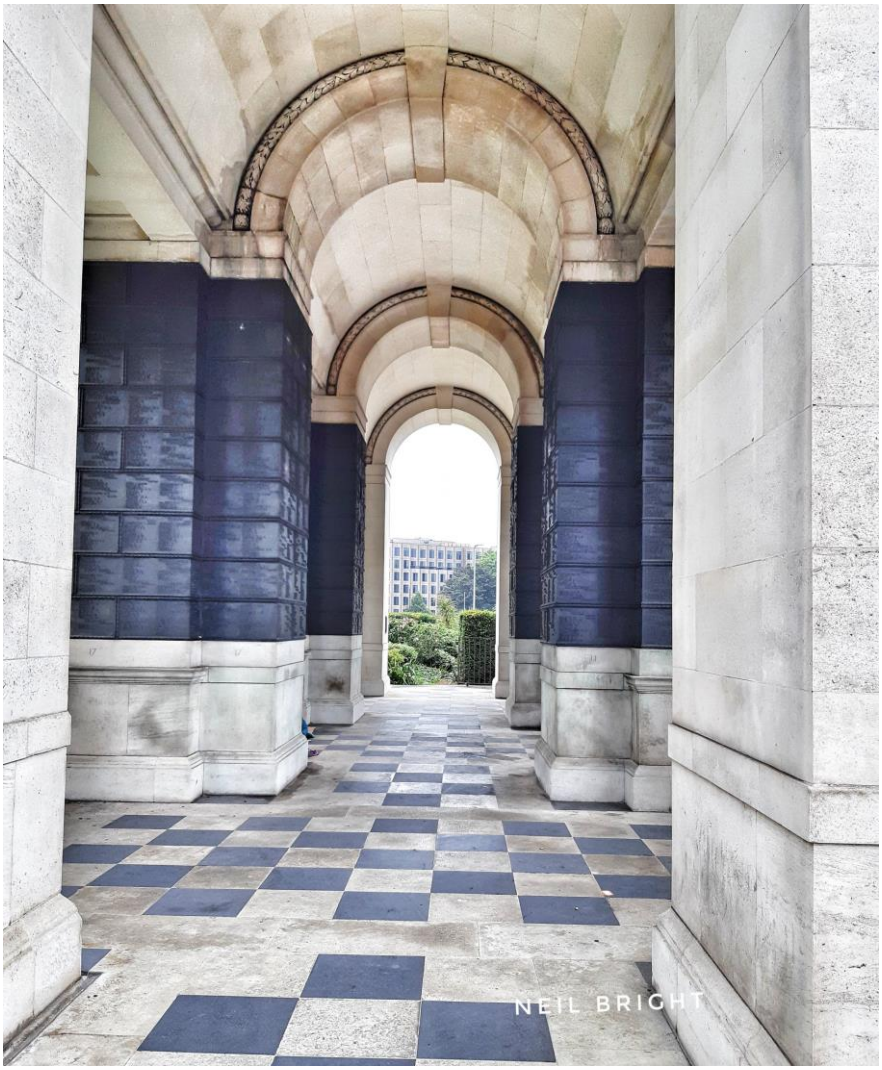

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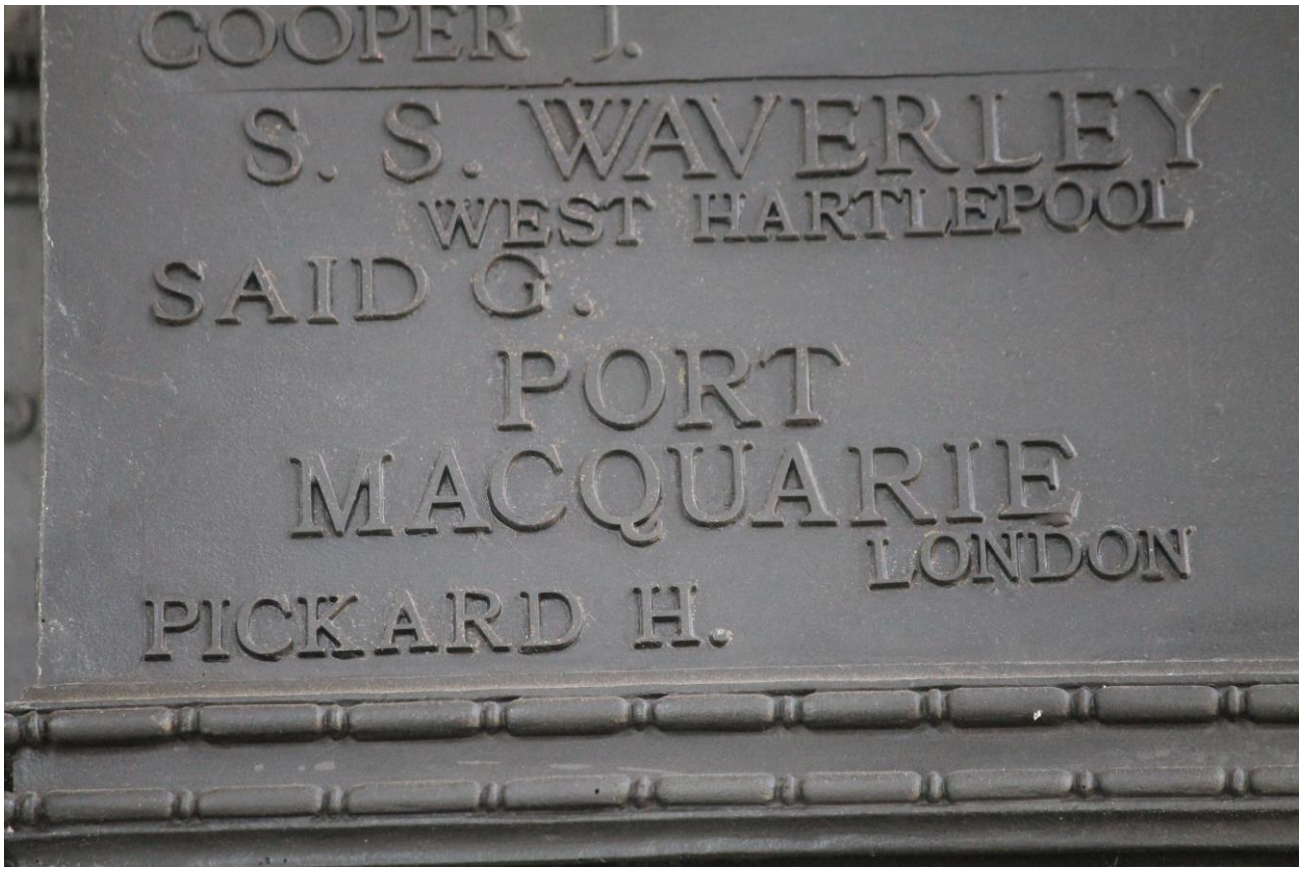
Photo of H. Pickard's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Tower Hill Memorial, Greater London, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Richard Moore)

(Photo from CWGC)

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