

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3757 STOKER

G. ROSS

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "BRISBANE"

29TH APRIL, 1917

George Charles ROSS

George Charles Ross was born at Colebrook, Tasmania on 23rd January, 1896 to parents George Lawrence Ross & Maria Ross (nee Keats/Keates).

Maria Eliza Ross, mother of George Charles Ross, died on 23rd July, 1902.

George Charles Ross joined Royal Australian Navy on 1st April, 1914 for a period of 5 years. He was issued with an Official number of 3757. His description was 5 ft 5 ½ in tall, Dark hair, brown eyes & a fresh complexion.

Stoker 2nd Class George Charles Ross joined *Cerberus* on 1st April, 1914 then was transferred to *Encounter* on 10th June, 1914. He was promoted to Stoker on 1st April, 1915.

Stoker George Charles Ross was transferred back to *Cerberus* on 11th July, 1915 then transferred to *Franklin* on 4th November, 1915.

Stoker George Charles Ross' Service File recorded for 23rd October, 1916 "*Took part in operations in German New Guinea.*"

Stoker George Charles Ross was transferred to *Penguin* from 24th November, 1916 & transferred to *Brisbane* on 30th November, 1916.

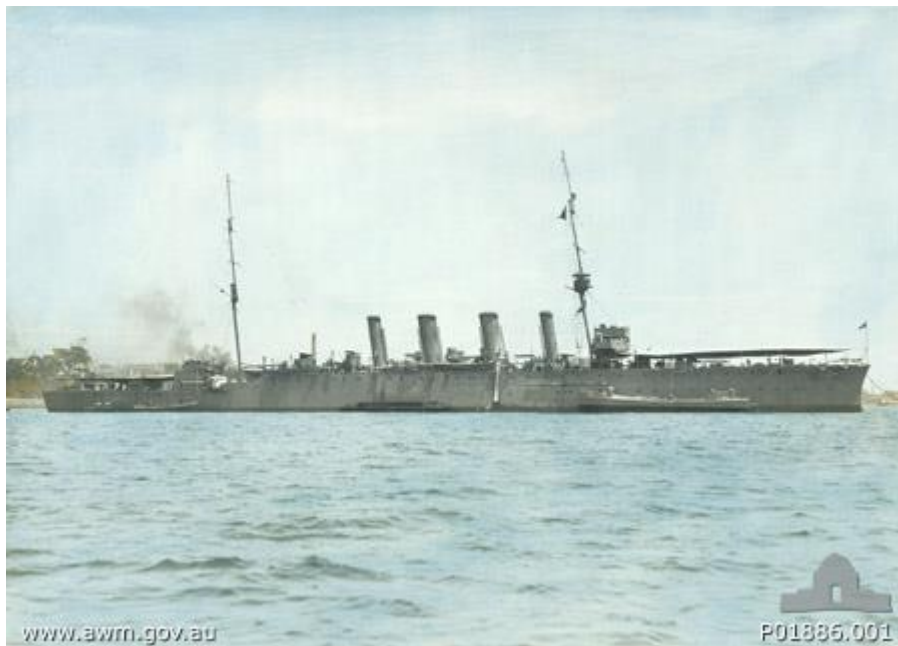
H.M.A.S. Brisbane

HMAS Brisbane was a Town class light cruiser of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Built in Sydney between 1913 and 1916 to the Chatham subtype design, Brisbane operated in the Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Australian coastal waters during World War I.

On 13 December 1916, Brisbane departed on a voyage to the Mediterranean. After reaching Malta on 4 February, the ship was fitted with equipment not available in Australia at the time. Soon after, the ship was redeployed to Colombo, and employed on Indian Ocean patrols to search for the German raiders Wolf and Seeadler.

In February 1917, a Sopwith Baby seaplane was acquired from HMS Raven II for reconnaissance work; the first aircraft to be used by a RAN ship. This remained aboard until June, when Brisbane was sent back to Australia with orders to patrol the Western Australian coast. From October 1917, the cruiser was assigned to operations in the western Pacific in response to reports of German raider activity. Initially deployed to the Solomon Islands, Brisbane visited Nauru, the Gilbert Islands, and Fiji, before returning to duties in Australian waters in January 1918...

(Extract of information from Wikipedia)



Stoker George Charles Ross died on 29th April, 1917 at sea on board H.M.A.S. *Brisbane* - Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean (location as per Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial) from Pneumonia & Meningitis.

Stoker George Ross is named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England – Panel 23. He has no grave, however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker George Ross – service 3757, of Royal Australian Navy – H.M.A.S. “Brisbane”. No family details are listed.

G. Ross is remembered on the Gladstone Roll of Honour, located in Gladstone Hall, Carr Street, Gladstone, Tasmania.



Gladstone Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Stoker George Ross is named on a Plaque located in Gladstone Memorial Hall, Tasmania.



Memorial Plaque for Stoker George Ross (Photo courtesy of Revs O'Reilly)

Stoker George Charles Ross is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

88	Pte	Flogers	Archie	05.05.1917	21	12th Inf Bn	Port Cygnet	ANZAC
302	Pte	Foles	Leslie Horace	15.04.1917	19	12th Inf Bn	Carrick	ANZAC
919	Pte	Rollins	Vivian Ebenezer	05.10.1917	31	40th Inf Bn	Sandfly	
4596	Pte	Rollins	Leslie Oscar	02.04.1917	20	52nd Inf Bn	North Hobart	
3089	Pte	Romatch	Arthur Seibert	13.10.1917	36	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
2330	Pte	Romatch (Ward)	Frank Rudolph W	02.01.1917	36	20th Inf Bn	Hobart	
2998	Pte	Roscoe	John Henry	15.04.1917	22	12th Inf Bn	Ulverstone	ANZAC
3757	Sltz	Ross	George Charles	29.04.1917	21	HMAS Brisbane	Colebrook	
5781	Pte	Ross	Frank Colin	25.02.1917	30	12th Inf Bn	Circular Head	
2894	Pte	Rossendell	Harry Alfred	06.04.1917	24	12th Inf Bn	Newtown	ANZAC
640	Pte	Rossington	George Matthew	11.04.1917	27	15th Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	ANZAC
11068	Sgt	Rouse Mtl	Clude	14.11.1917	30	NZEF W/MR	Shetland	ANZAC
8281	Pte	Rowstrom	Walter Henry W	08.04.1917	34	12th Inf Bn	Rianna South	
22286	Pte	Rudd	Aubrey Maryn	24.08.1917	0	NZEF AR	Westbury	
2500	Pte	Rudd	Angus Raven	02.12.1917	27	51st Inf Bn	Orford	ANZAC
10976	Gnr	Rundie	Frederick Daniel	25.10.1917	20	5th Fd Any Bde	Launceston	
4892	Pte	Rushon	Clement Wilfred	08.04.1917	21	12th Inf Bn	Hobart	
9327	Pte	Russell	George Arthur	19.09.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Ulverstone	
1928	Pte	Russell	Henry McPogall	31.05.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Barrington	
9336	L/Cpl	Russell	William Hedley	28.03.1917	20	52nd Inf Bn	King Island	
6637	Pte	Russell	Albert	30.10.1917	22	6th Inf Bn	Burnie	
2381	Pte	Ryan	John Joseph	07.06.1917	30	40th Inf Bn	New Norfolk	
2320	Pte	Ryan (O'Brien)	Patrick	11.04.1917	31	4 LtTrenchMtrBty	Devonport	ANZAC
2508	Pte	Sale	Robert Henry M	18.03.1917	23	12th Inf Bn	Avoca	
8419	Pte	Sales	Henry Tesman	08.01.1917	38	8th Fd Amb Coy	Fingal	
2389	Pte	Saltmarsh	Horace Edgar	05.10.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Campbelltown	
8365	Pte	Sampson	Mortimer Francis	04.10.1917	34	5th Inf Bn	Franklin	102
5180	Pte	Sanderson	Robert	01.01.1917	31	52nd Inf Bn	Ross	610
2877	Pte	Saunders	Alfred Frederick	13.11.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Latrobe	158
274	L/Cpl	Saunders	Harry Francis	05.04.1917	23	18LtTrenchMtrBty	Launceston	ANZAC
2150	Pte	Saunders	Norman Basil L	02.10.1917	28	40th Inf Bn	Forest	838
3242	Pte	Saunders	Rowland Eugene A	08.10.1917	27	12th Inf Bn	Sidmouth	380
1107	Pte	Saunders	Henry Joseph	28.02.1917	30	40th Inf Bn	Sorell	207
1829	L/Cpl	Saunders	Robert Henry	24.10.1917	28	26th Inf Bn	Latrobe	ANZAC
1948	Cpl	Saunders	William Henry	18.10.1917	25	52nd Inf Bn	Zeehan	ANZAC
19 888	Pte	Saunders	Leslie James	26.03.1917	26	28th Inf Bn	Mahina	ANZAC
127106	Pte	Stanton	James	08.05.1917	0	NZEF AR	Fentonbury	4111
(127)	Lt	Scarr	Frank Sydney	08.05.1917	0	NZEF AR	Fentonbury	217
(11209)	Capt	Scheer	Herman	08.05.1917	37	5th Fd Coy Engr	New Norfolk	ANZAC
10983	Gnr	Scott	Archibald Neville	20.07.1917	23	3 DivTrenchMtrBty	Waratah	805
385	Sgt	Scott	Lewis George	20.04.1917	19	5th Fd Any Bde	Moonah	3445
2901	Pte	Scott	Robert Arnie	08.04.1917	23	12th Inf Bn	Devonport	2408
(2042)	Lt	Scott	William Robert	30.01.1917	22	47th Inf Bn	Manilla	ANZAC
3833	Pte	Scott	Douglas	11.04.1917	27	12th Fd Any Bde	Oatlands	ANZAC
2385A	Pte	Scott	William James	20.09.1917	32	12th Inf Bn	Lindisfarne	3260
4724	Gnr	Seabrook	Cyril Noel	30.09.1917	32	12th Inf Bn	Waratah	ANZAC
2524	Pte	Searle	Ray Vernon	30.08.1917	32	11th Fd Any Bde	Hobart	ANZAC
15048	Gnr	Selby	John Robert	12.08.1917	33	8th Fd Any Bde	Westbury	6794
34190	Gnr	Sevel	Reginald Arthur	22.10.1917	32	10th Fd Any Bde	Hagley	6882
2842	Pte	Shadwick	Edney	01.02.1917	19	40th Inf Bn	Mangera	1005
(1238)	2nd Lt	Shapira	Francis C	21.08.1917	29	3 Sqn AFC	Ouenston	ANZAC
5390	Pte	Sharp	Charles Frederic	12.10.1917	34	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	876
925	L/Cpl	Sharp	Howard Ralph	07.05.1917	38	3rd Fd Amb Coy	Port Cygnet	ANZAC
2844	Cpl	Sharp	Frederick Harold	18.10.1917	23	40th Inf Bn	Chermsont	3786
10116	Pte	Shearing	Henry	22.08.1917	31	2nd Fd Any Bde	Sandy Bay	ANZAC
735	L/Cpl	Shearing	Mark	28.03.1917	21	40th Inf Bn	Sandy Bay	ANZAC
4360	L/Cpl	Shelton	Lezard Charles	18.09.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Dyersart	ANZAC
1932	Gnr	Shepherd	Mervyn Edgar	03.10.1917	22	48th Inf Bn	Arosa	2277B
3898A	Gnr	Shepherd	Albustone Claude	24.10.1917	27	14th Fd Any Bde	Ulverstone	12202
486	Pte	Shepherd	James David	15.04.1917	28	12th Inf Bn	Railton	2705
388	L/Cpl	Sherrin	Edwin Charles	02.01.1917	33	40th Inf Bn	Beauly Point	ANZAC
(141)	Lt	Sherrin MC	Arthur	08.05.1917	22	40th Inf Bn	Penguin	ANZAC
2521	Pte	Shields	Raymond	08.04.1917	25	12th Inf Bn	Zeehan	2825
5183	Sgt	Shipton	Arthur William	07.08.1917	40	47th Inf Bn	Launceston	3497
8945	Pte	Stroove	William John	11.05.1917	31	52nd Inf Bn	Launceston	2075A
				03.05.1917	36	12th Inf Bn	Latrobe	ANZAC
							Port Esperance	148
								2290

Stoker G. C. Ross 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)



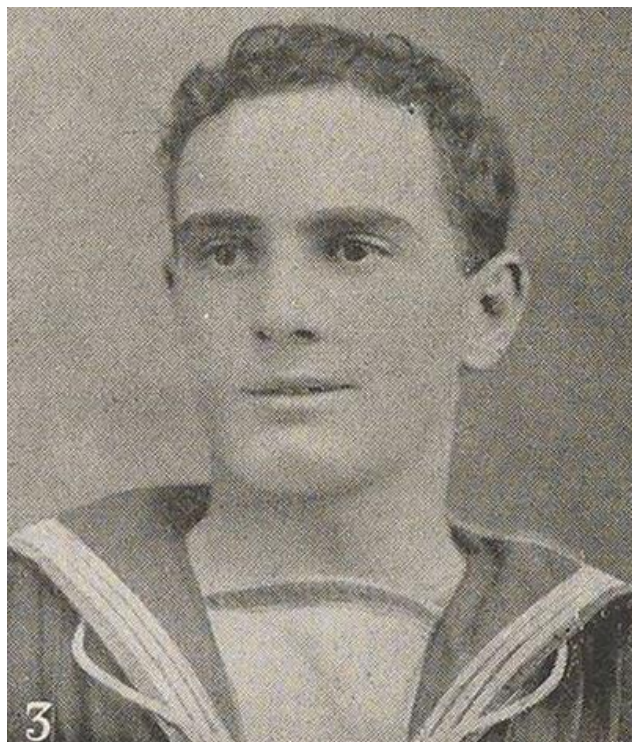
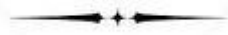
Stoker G. C. Ross is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(2 pages of George Charles Ross' 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



Stoker George Charles Ross



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

ROSS – On the 29th April, George Charles, late Stoker H.M.A.S. Brisbane, dearly loved youngest son of George and the late M. E. Ross, of Campbell Town, aged 21 years. At Rest.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 22 May, 1917)

PERSONAL

Mr George Ross, of Campbell Town, has received word from the Base Records Office that his son, Private. W. G. Ross, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery and conspicuous services rendered. He is at present an inmate of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netly, England, suffering from a gunshot wound in the left thigh, and unfortunately it has been necessary to amputate the right leg. Mr Ross had another son, Stoker G. Ross, who died of pneumonia. He was stoking on H.M.A.S. Brisbane, and was one of the landing party at Rabaul, New Guinea.

(Daily Telegraph, Launceston, Tasmania – 25 July, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

ROSS – In loving memory of my dear brother, George Charles Ross, stoker of the H.M.A.S. Brisbane, who died at sea on April 29, 1917.

Far from the home of his childhood,
 Away o'er the ocean deep,
In a foreign sea our loved one
 Is sleeping his last long sleep.

Inserted by his sorrowing sister, Florence Ross, also his loving aunt, Helen Lane.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 29 April, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

ROSS – In loving memory of our dear brother, George Charles Ross, stoker, of the H.M.A.S. Brisbane, who died at sea on April 29th, 1917.

“Always remembered.”

-Inserted by his loving sisters, M. Richards and F. Sidnell

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 29 April, 1931)

DEATHS

ROSS – AT Brisbane, Queensland, William George, beloved son of George Ross, Launceston, Tasmania, and the late Maria Ross, of Campania, and brother of the late George C. Ross, stoker, of the H.M.A.S. Brisbane. Aged 45 years. Late of the A.I.F.. Hobart papers please copy

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 20 November, 1937)

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 George Ross has no headstone but is instead named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England

The Memorial is situated centrally on The Hoe which looks directly towards Plymouth Sound.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided.

An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. The memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. The Plymouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by HRH Prince George on 29 July 1924.

After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each. The architect for the Second World War extension at Plymouth was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler and William McMillan. The Extension was unveiled by HRH Princess Margaret on 20 May 1954. A further unveiling took place on 11 November 1956, when panels 101 to 103 honouring those who died on shore, but who had no known grave, were unveiled by Admiral Sir Mark Pizey.

In addition to commemorating seamen of the Royal Navy who sailed from Plymouth, the First World War panels also bears the names of sailors from Australia and South Africa. The governments of the other Commonwealth nations chose to commemorate their dead elsewhere, for the most part on memorials in their home ports. After the Second World War, Canada and New Zealand again chose commemoration at home, but the memorial at Plymouth commemorates sailors from all other parts of the Commonwealth.

Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates 7,251 sailors of the First World War and 15,933 of the Second World War.

(*Information from CWGC*)

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Plymouth Naval Memorial (Photo from VWMA – Julianne T. Ryan 2017)



(Photo from CWGC)



1914 – 1918 1939 – 1945

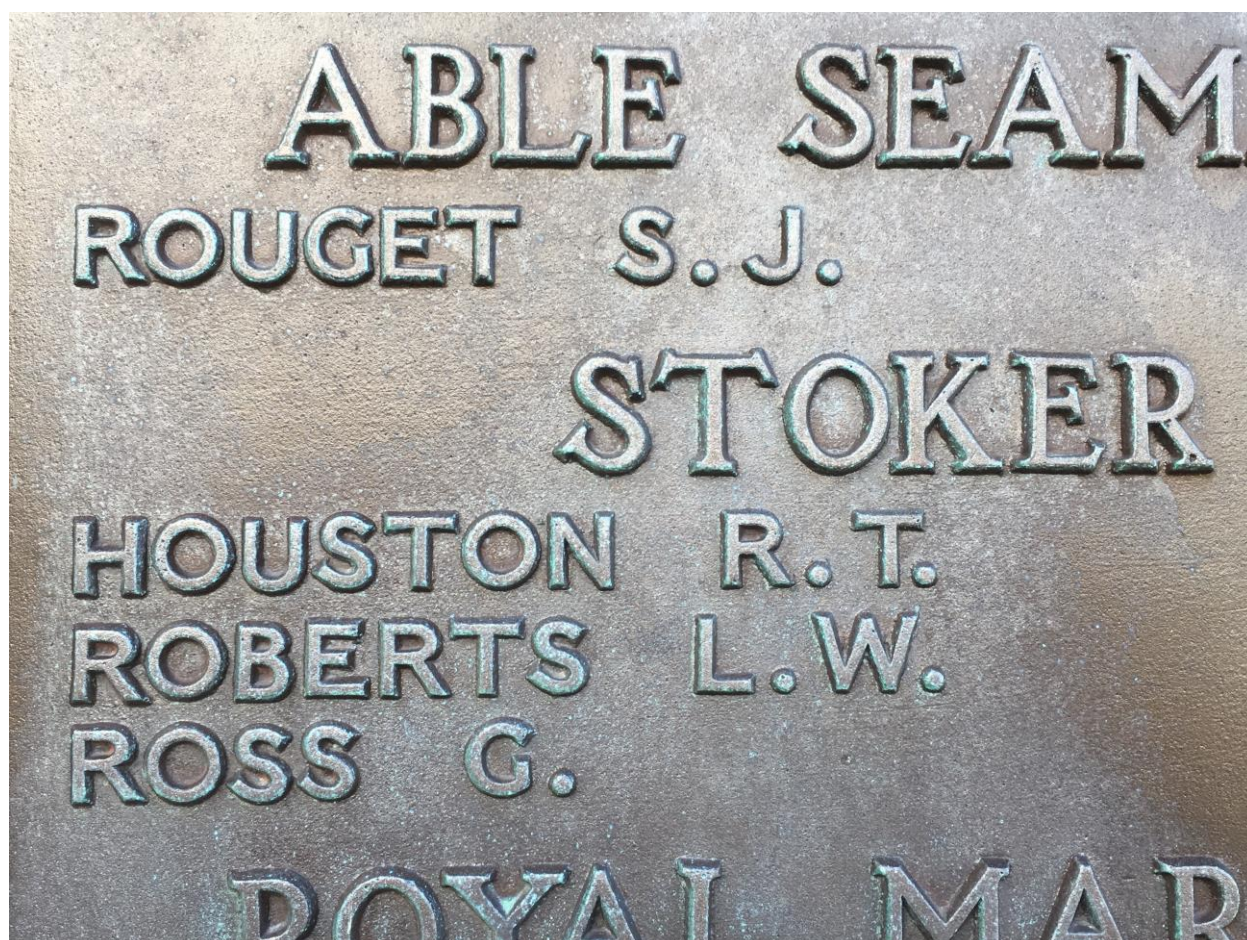
All These Were Honoured In Their Generations

And Were The Glory Of Their Times



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Stoker G. Ross' name on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England.





Panel 23 - Plymouth Naval Memorial



Poppies Wave at CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial *(Photo by Robert Pittman)*