

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3654 ABLE SEAMAN

ARTHUR STACEY

H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

18TH OCTOBER, 1916 Age 35

Arthur STACEY

Arthur Stacey was born on 12th February*, 1879 at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England to parents James & Eliza Stacey (nee Dyke). (*The date of birth of 12th February, 1879 was listed on Royal Naval & Royal Australian Naval records, however his birth was registered in December quarter, 1879 in the district of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England. Some family trees on Ancestry have his date of birth as 12th September, 1879)

The 1881 England Census recorded Arthur Stacey as a 1 year old, living with his family at Draycot, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. His parents were listed as James Stacey (Brewer's Labourer, aged 40, born Shepton Mallet, Somerset) & Eliza Stacey (Weaver (unemployed), aged 36, born Shepton Mallet, Somerset). Arthur was the youngest of six children listed on this Census (all born Shepton Mallet, Somerset) – Frederick Stacey (Errand Boy, aged 15), George H. Stacey (Scholar, aged 11), John Stacey (Scholar, aged 9), James Stacey (Scholar, aged 7), Ada Stacey (aged 4) then Arthur.

James Stacey, father of Arthur Stacey, died on 16th October, 1882 at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Arthur Stacey as an 11 year old Scholar, living with his family at 41 Catsash, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England. His widowed mother was listed as Eliza Stacey (Laundress, aged 45). Arthur was one of three children listed on this Census – Frederick (Labourer, aged 25) then Arthur & Harry Stacey (Scholar, aged 9, born Shepton Mallet, Somerset).

Arthur Stacey joined Royal Navy. He stated he was a Labourer & was born at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England on 12th February, 1879.

Arthur Stacey was issued a service number of 190289 (Devonport) & joined *Caracoa* on 2nd August, 1896 as Boy 2nd Class. He was rated as Boy 1st Class on 2nd November, 1896.

Boy 1st Class Arthur Stacey was transferred to *Vivid I* from 11th January, 1897 & was rated as Ordinary Seaman from 12th February, 1897. He signed on for a period of 12 years on 12th February, 1897 having attained the age of 18.

Ordinary Seaman Arthur Stacey was transferred to *Renown* from 8th June, 1897 & rated as Able Seaman from 1st March, 1899.

Able Seaman Arthur Stacey was transferred to *Vivid I* from 19th November, 1900 then transferred to *Cambridge* from 18th March, 1901.

The 1901 England Census recorded Arthur Stacey as a 21 year old, single, Able Seaman as a Lodger at Sailors Rest, Fore Street, Devonport, England.

[The 1901 England Census recorded Eliza Stacey (widowed, aged 34) living at Cricket Field Villa, Shepton Mallet, Somerset with 2 sons – James Stacey (Gardener, aged 27) & Harry Stacey (Brewer's Labourer, aged 19). Also listed was a boarder – Richard Baker (General Labourer, aged 22).]

Able Seaman Arthur Stacey was transferred to back to *Vivid I* from 18th November, 1901 then transferred to *Rainbow* from 17th December, 1901; *Donegal* from 5th November, 1903; *Hogue* from 20th April, 1904; *Suffolk* from 21st May, 1904; *Vivid I* from 14 November, 1904; *Cambridge* from 12th February, 1905; *Monmouth* from 30th January, 1906; *Vivid I* from 10th April, 1906; *Hogue* from 3rd May, 1906; *Vivid I* from 18th May, 1908; *Hogue* from 1st August, 1908; *Vivid I* from 26th August, 1908; *Europa* from 28th October, 1908; *Vivid I* from 23rd March, 1909; *Andromeda* from 1st February, 1910; *Monmouth* from 13th March, 1910.

The 1911 England Censuses listed Arthur Stacey as a 32 year old, single, Able Seaman listed as crew on board H.M.S. *Tamar*. The Commander was Cresswell J. Eyres. The *Tamar* was a receiving ship & was docked at Hong King, China on 2nd April, 1911 (the night of the Census).

According to his Service Record sheet Able Seaman Arthur Stacey was still serving in *Monmouth* until 12th April, 1912. He was transferred to *Europa* on 13th April, 1912 then *Vivid I* from 22nd May, 1912 & *Donegal* from 30th January, 1913.

Mr A. Stacey, aged 34, ex Royal Navy, was listed as a passenger on *Orvieto* which had departed from London, England & arrived at Brisbane, Queensland, Australia on 19th May, 1913. Mr Stacey & the 36 other passengers on the passenger sheet list had contracted to land at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Arthur Stacey joined the Royal Australian Navy on 11th February, 1914 for a period of 5 years. His next of kin was listed as his cousin – Emma Ricketts, 13 Regent Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham, England.

Able Seaman Arthur Stacey was issued a Service number of 3654 & joined *Cerberus* on 11th February, 1914. He was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* on 2nd April, 1914.

H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*

HMAS *Melbourne* commissioned at Birkenhead, England, on 18 January 1913 under the command of Captain Mortimer L'Estrange Silver, RN. The ship completed her delivery voyage from England when she arrived at Fremantle on 10 March 1913.

Following the outbreak of war in August 1914 *Melbourne* spent a brief period in Pacific waters as a unit of the Australian Squadron operating as a counter to the German Pacific Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee. She took part in the seizure of the German Pacific possessions and on 9 September 1914 landed a naval party on Nauru Island to carry out the destruction of the wireless station. Her return to Sydney on 20 September 1914 ended this phase of operations. The cruiser covered 11,170 miles on Pacific patrols.

On 1 November 1914 *Melbourne* sailed from Albany, Western Australia, escorting in company with HMAS *Sydney* (I), HMS *Minotaur* and the Japanese cruiser *Ibuki*, the first Australian / New Zealand convoy, comprising 38 transports. Detaching from the convoy in the Indian Ocean, *Melbourne* reached Colombo on 14 November, proceeding the following day for Gibraltar, arriving there on 5 December 1914. On 10 December the cruiser received orders to sail for the Azores to assist in the search for the cruiser *Karlsruhe*.

Arriving at Madeira on 12 December, *Melbourne* received orders to proceed direct to Bermuda for attachment to the North America and West Indies Stations for patrol duties. Operations began from Trinidad on 28 December 1914 when she departed that post with orders to search the coastal areas of Venezuela, Colombia and Panama for the *Karlsruhe* and her attendant supply ship.

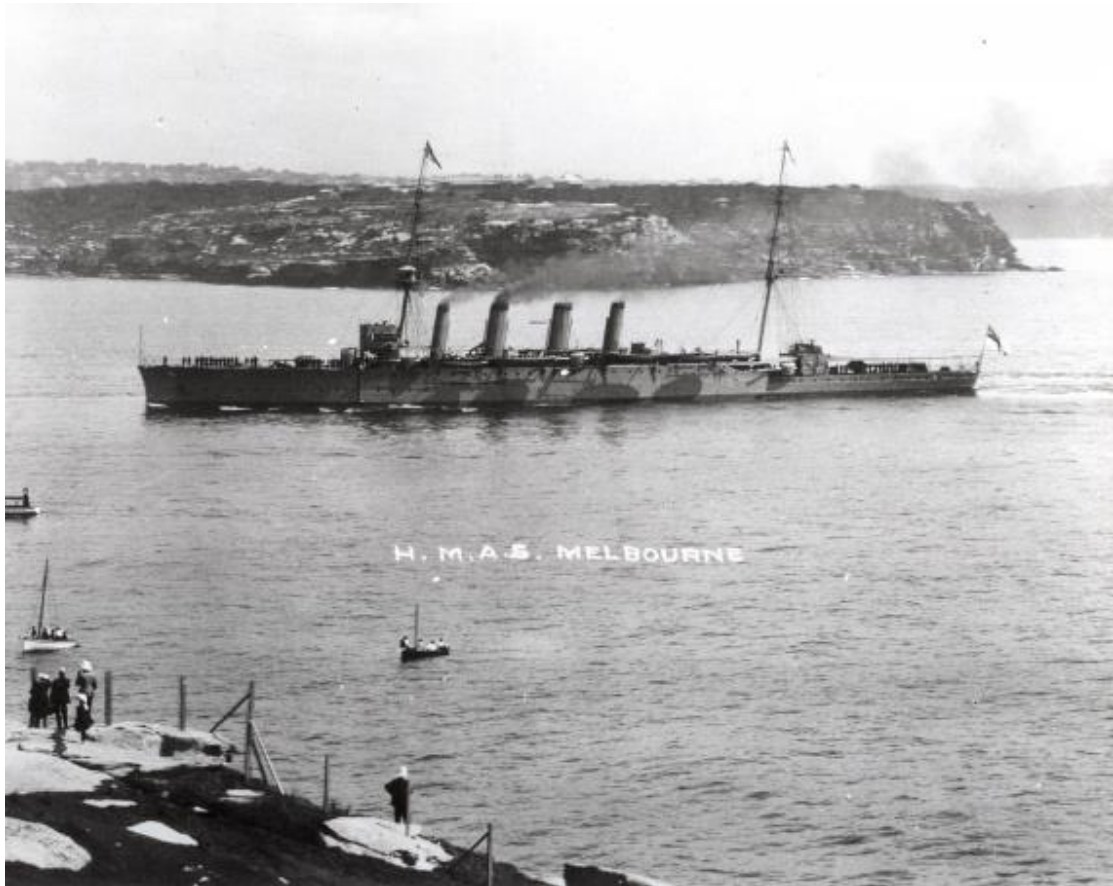
The following twenty months (January 1915 – 28 August 1916) were spent as a unit of the North America and West Indies Squadron maintaining a series of patrols in the West Indies with Jamaica as the centre point, and off Long Island and the entrance to New York Harbour with Halifax as the base. Squadron Headquarters were at Bermuda. *Melbourne* operated north to Halifax and south to the Para River, Brazil, taking in the Gulf of Mexico.

At the close of August 1916 *Melbourne* detached from the North America and West Indies Stations and proceeded for Devonport, where she arrived on 7 September. Following a month in port she departed for Scapa Flow, to become a unit of the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron and part of the Grand Fleet.

A brief period of routine North Sea patrols ended in January 1917 when serious engine trouble forced her into dock at Birkenhead. She remained in dockyard hands until the end of June 1917.

On 27 June 1917 *Melbourne* sailed from Birkenhead to rejoin the Grand Fleet at Scapa and again became a unit of the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron. The remainder of the war period was spent on routine patrols and fleet exercises in northern waters. She returned to Portsmouth on 30 November 1918. *Melbourne* took no part in any action at sea and suffered no casualties.

(Information & photo from Royal Australian Navy)



HMAS Melbourne entering Sydney Harbour for the first time 4 October 1913

Able Seaman Arthur Stacey died on 18th October, 1916 from Pneumonia after being transferred to Hospital Ship *Plassy* in North Sea, Scotland. (Source: Royal Australian Navy – Semaphore Issue 4, 2009)

A death for A. Stacey was registered in October, 1916 – Deaths at Sea (1891 – 1972).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03639.001

**Hand coloured photograph of the troopship HMAT Plassy,
viewed from the stern. (28 April, 1919)**

Able Seaman Arthur Stacey was buried in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland – Plot number B. 90. He has a Private Headstone, however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper item on death of Arthur Stacey – *Shepton Mallet Journal*, Somerset, England – 27 October, 1916:

DEATH OF ARTHUR STACEY, A.N.

News has been received by Mrs Eliza Stacey, of Cowl Street, Shepton Mallet, of the death of her son, First Class Gun Layer Arthur Stacey, of H.M.S. Melbourne, from pneumonia. The deceased, who is a brother of Mr J. Stacey, caretaker of the Constitutional Club, served 16 years in the English Navy, and on his retirement settled down in Australia. On the outbreak of war he volunteered for the Australian Navy, and was serving on H.M.S. Melbourne, which visited England some weeks ago to be refitted. During this time he obtained three weeks' leave, and visited his native town for a few days. He was apparently in good health, but on return to his ship he developed pneumonia which ended fatality. Great sympathy is felt for his sorrowing mother and relatives.

The following letter was received from the Rev. Francis T. Robinson, chaplain of H.M. Hospital Ship Plassy:- "Dear Mrs Stacey, - You will, I am sure, be anxious to hear some particulars of the illness of your son Arthur. May I say first of all how very sorry we are that the illness ended fatally and how deeply we sympathise with you in your sad loss. Arthur was brought to us suffering from pneumonia. He was bright and cheerful, but his temperature was very high. Pneumonia is always a serious malady, so he was treated with the greatest care, and had every possible attention. A sudden change for the worse came on him on Monday afternoon, when he had a heart attack. This did not pass off, and his condition became grave. Sometimes he seemed to me more comfortable, but he never rallied. He passed into a state of unconsciousness, and then the end came. While he was ill I visited him from time to time, and prayed with him. He appeared to follow what I said, and joined in saying the Lord's prayer. It may comfort you a little to know that he had a woman's care all the time. The Head Sister of the ship nursed him, and did everything possible for him. The blow which has come upon you is both heavy and sudden, and it will need your courage to bear it bravely. I pray that you will do so, and that God will comfort you, and give you strength to sustain you in your trouble."

Probate Calendar:

Stacey, Arthur of 26 Cowl-street, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, Able Seaman in the Royal Australian Navy died 18 October, 1916 on board His Majesty's Hospital Ship Plassy. Probate Wells 6 March to Fred Ricketts, retired railway guard. Effects £194 13s. 11d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Able Seaman Arthur Stacey – service number 3654, aged 38, of H.M.A.S. "Melbourne", Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of James & Eliza Stacey, of 27 Cowl St., Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

A. Stacey 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)



Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial at HMAS Cerberus

Able Seaman A. Stacey 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.

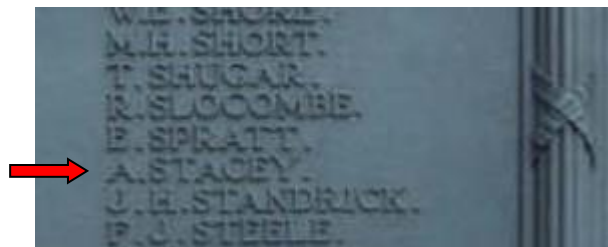


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Stacey is remembered on the Shepton Mallet Cenotaph, located on High Street, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England.



Shepton Mallet Cenotaph (Photos from War Memorials Online)



(2 pages of Able Seaman Arthur Stacey'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



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

October 18, on H.M. Hospital Ship Plassy, First Class Gun Layer Arthur Stacey, of the Australian Navy, late of Shepton Mallet, aged 37.

(Shepton Mallet Journal, Somerset, England – 27 October, 1916)

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.

Able Seaman Arthur Stacey has a Private 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)



Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery 1954 (CWGC)



Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery (Photos from CWGC)



Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery



(Photo courtesy of Iain Anderson)



Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery (*Photos by Bill Boaden – 2019*)



Photo of Able Seaman Arthur Stacey's Private Headstone in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland.



(Photo from Find a Grave – ADB48)

*We have fed our seas for a thousand years
And she calls us, still unfed,
Tho' there's never a wave of all her waves
But marks our English dead :
We have strawed our best to the weed's unrest
To the shark and the sheering gull*

*If blood be the price of admiralty
Lord God we have paid in full.*

(The Song of the Dead)

In
Memory
of

ARTHUR STAGEY, ABLE SEAMAN
H. M. A. S. MELBOURNE,
DIED 18TH OCTR 1916
AGED 35 YEARS

WE HAVE TIED OUR SEAS FOR A THOUSAND YEARS
AND SHE CALLS US STILL UNFED
THO' THERE'S NEVER A WAVE OF ALL HER WAVES
BUT MARKS OUR ENGLISH DEAD
WE HAVE STRAWED OUR BEST TO THE WEEDS UNREST
TO THE SHARK AND THE SHEERING GULL

IF BLOOD BE THE PRICE OF ADMIRALTY
LORD GOD WE HAVE PAID IN FULL