

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3982 STOKER

G. STEVENSON

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "MELBOURNE"

21ST MAY, 1918

George STEVENSON

George Stevenson was born on 9th April, 1894 at Greymouth, New Zealand.

George Stevenson enlisted with the Royal Australia Navy on 5th August, 1914 for a period of 5 years. He was given a service number of 3982. He was 5ft 3 ¼ in tall with dark brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. There were no distinguishing marks, wounds or scars. His next-of-kin was listed as his friend Ledger McNeill c/- G.P.O. Melbourne.

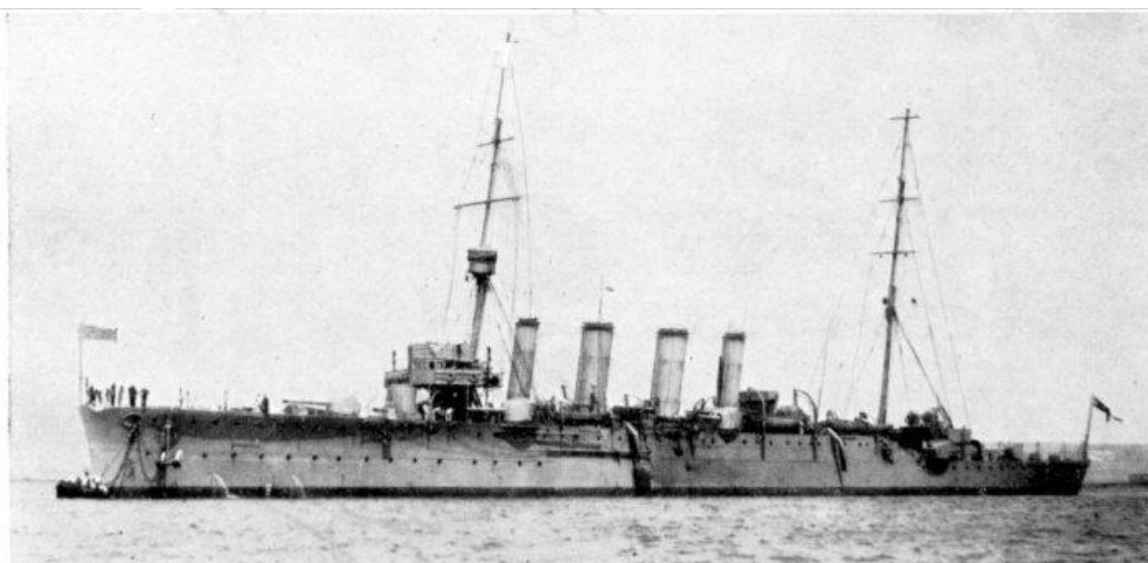
George Stevenson was attached to H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* as Stoker 2nd Class from 5th August, 1914.

[H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* – previously H.M.V.S. *Cerberus* was renamed H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* when the navy became the Royal Australian Navy in 1911. By World War I, the weapons and boilers on H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* were inoperable & was confined to Port Phillip Bay in Victoria, Australia. The ship was retasked as a guardship and munitions store, while carrying the personnel of the Royal Australian Naval College on her paybooks.]

Stoker 2nd Class George Stevenson was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* on 23rd September, 1914. He was promoted to Stoker on 17th June, 1915.

H.M.A.S. Melbourne

H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* was a Town class light cruiser operated by the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.). The ship was laid down by Cammell Laird at Birkenhead in England in 1911, launched in 1912 and commissioned in 1913. At the start of World War I, *Melbourne* was involved in attempts to locate the German East Asia Squadron, and participated in the capture of German colonies in the Pacific, before being assigned to the North America and West Indies Stations. In 1916, the cruiser joined the Grand Fleet in the North Sea, where she remained for the remainder of the war. The cruiser remained with the Grand Fleet until 30th November, 1918. During the entire war, *Melbourne* was not involved in any sea battles. (*Wikipedia*)



H.M.A.S. Melbourne (1912)

Stoker George Stevenson died on 21st May, 1918 at Rosyth, Fife, Scotland from Pneumonia. (*Source – Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial*)

Stoker George Stevenson was buried on 24th May, 1918 in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England – Plot number 81 and has a simple granite marker headstone. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker George Stevenson – service number 3982, of H.M.A.S. “Melbourne”, Royal Australian Navy. No family details are listed.

Stoker G. Stevenson 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 G. Stevenson 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)



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

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon contains 340 War Graves. Of the 219 First World War burials in Exeter Higher Cemetery, more than 180 form two war graves plots near the entrance. The Second World War plot contains most of the 121 Second World War burials. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. The Second World War plot also contains 62 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Polish and German.

(Information & photos from CWGC).

There are 9 War Graves which belong to the Australian Forces – Army, Air & Navy. Six are from World War 1 & three are from World War 2, from Royal Australian Air Force.

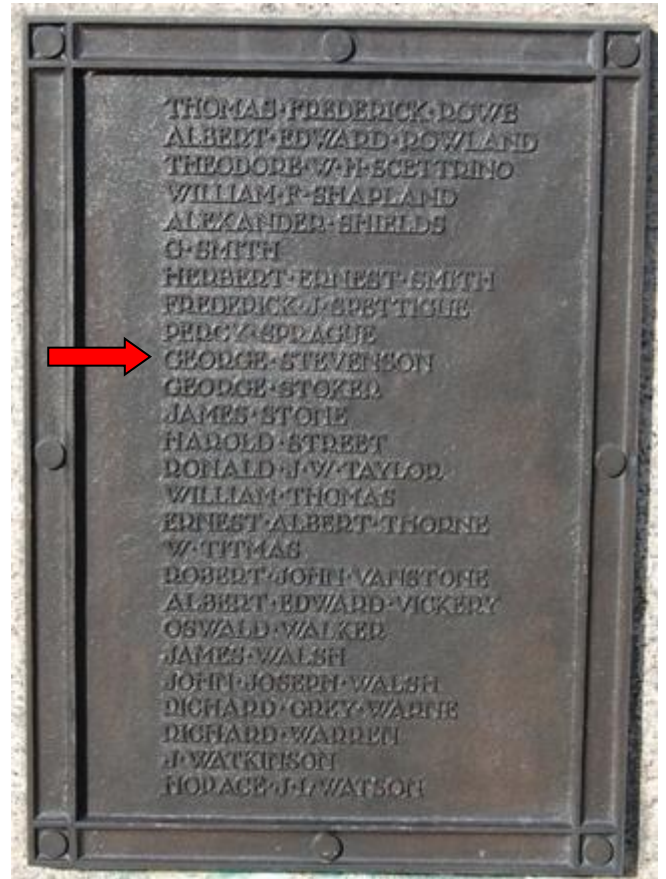
A Memorial, which is located near the two chapels, contains the names of those buried in the circular plot surrounding the Memorial. The plot of land in front of the chapel was set aside by the Council as a commemorative plot early in World War 1. The burials are marked by simple granite slabs listing only the soldier's name.

A letter was sent to Mrs Carter, mother of the late Private R.A.E. Carter, A.I.F., dated 11th October, 1922 which reads: *"With further reference to your letter of the 7th June, enquiry has been made with regard to the grave of Private R.A.E. Carter in Exeter Higher Cemetery with the result that it has been discovered that all the private memorials erected over the graves of soldiers, in the War Plot have been removed by the Exeter City Council, and that a granite block has been placed over each grave and the turf levelled. On these blocks have been engraved the particulars of the deceased, painted black. The private memorials themselves have been placed in the mortuary.*

This treatment has been carried out entirely by the City Council with a view to uniformity so that now all the graves in the War Plot in Exeter High Cemetery are exactly alike, but the burial place of each soldier is carefully distinguished by the granite blocks which have been placed level with the turf.



The Memorial *(Photo by Toltecia)*



An example of the plaques with the names of the soldiers buried in the World War 1 plot.

(Photo by Toltecia)



Exeter Higher Cemetery showing Cross of Sacrifice & World War 2 War Graves

(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)



The World War 1 plots near the Memorial with plants & flowers between the named granite grave markers

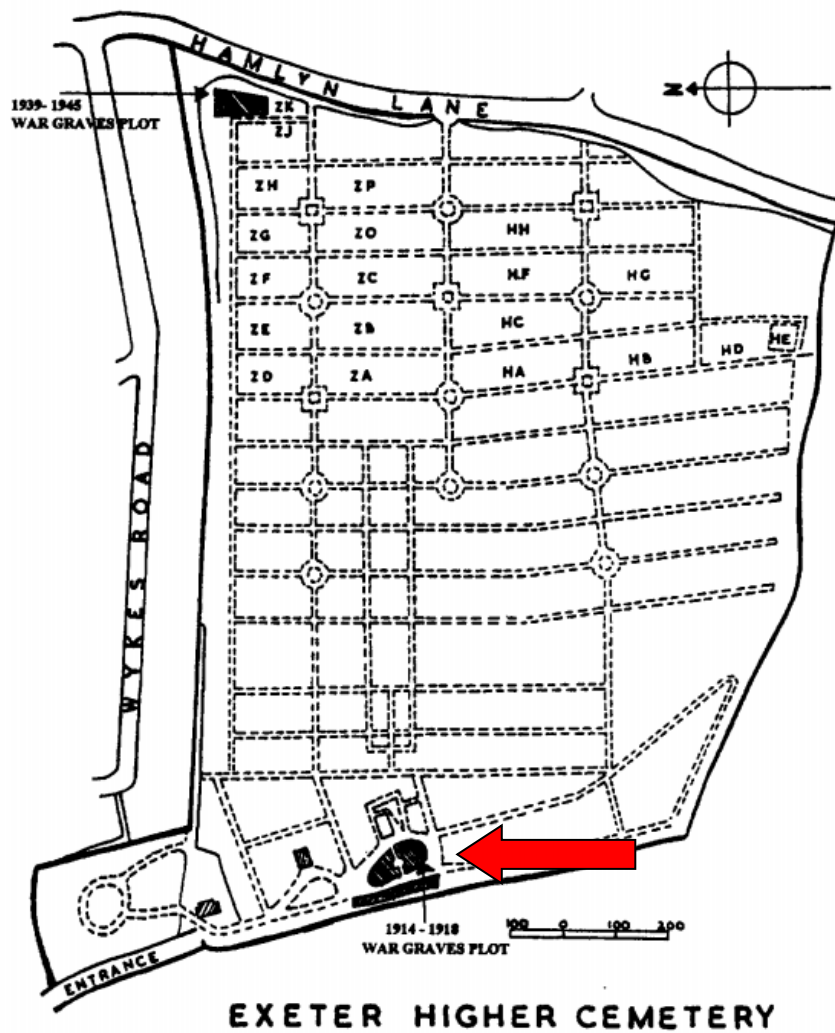
(Photos with permission from Norman Cummings)



Photo of Stoker G. Stevenson's granite Grave marker in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England.



(Photo courtesy of Toltecia)



Section showing World War 1 War Graves Plot.

