

Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent



Lest We Forget

World War 1



T.Z/10626 SIGNALMAN

W. J. STORK

S.S. "SOUTHBOROUGH"

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

16TH JULY, 1918 Age 20

Wilfred John STORK

Wilfred John Stork was born on 7th June, 1898 at Otley, Yorkshire, England to parents James & Annie Isabella Stork (nee Freeman).

The 1901 England Census recorded Wilfred John Stork as a 2 year old, living with his family at 11 Hamilton Terrace, Otley, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as James Stork (Iron Turner, aged 41, born Lincoln, Lincolnshire) & Annie I. Stork (aged 39, born Otley, Yorks). Wilfred was one of three children listed on this Census – all born Otley, Yorkshire – Mildred A. Stork (aged 4) then Wilfred & Richard F. Stork (aged 1).

The 1911 England Census recorded Wilfred John Stork as a 12 year old at School full time, living with his family at 11 Hamilton Terrace, Otley, Yorkshire, England, which was a 5 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as James Stork (Mechanic Turner, aged 51) & Annie Isabella Stork (aged 48). James & Annie Stork had been married for 15 years & had 3 children, all still living – Mildred Annie Stork (Dressmaker, aged 14), then Wilfred & Richard Freeman Stork (At School full time, aged 11).

Wilfred John Stork joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 10th June, 1916. He was given a service number of Tyneside Z10626. His occupation was listed as Plumber & he was 5ft 10 in with auburn hair, grey eyes & a fair complexion.

Wilfred John Stork joined H.M.S. *Victory VI* on 9th January, 1917 & rated as Ordinary Seaman. H.M.S. *Victory VI* was a shore establishment Depot for the Royal Navy & Royal Naval Reserve at Crystal Palace. Ordinary Seaman Stork was rated as Able Seaman on 2nd April, 1917 while still at H.M.S. *Victory VI*.

Able Seaman Wilfred John Stork was transferred to H.M.S. *Victory I* on 2nd July, 1917. He was rated Signaller on 30th July, 1917 while still with H.M.S. *Victory I*.

Signaller Wilfred John Stork was transferred to H.M.S. *Vivid III* on 1st October, 1917. His records show that his service ended with H.M.S. *Vivid III* on 16th July, 1918 but there appears to be faintly written records after H.M.S. *Vivid III* which are illegible.

Signaller Wilfred John Stork's records are stamped "Killed on 16 July, 1918 S.S. *Southborough*" He died on 16th July, 1918 at North Sea (off Ravenscar, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom) as a direct result of enemy action. His body was not recovered for burial. His father – James Stork, of 65 Alexander Road, Shipley was advised.

S.S. *Southborough*

S.S. *Southborough* was built in 1910 by the Sunderland Shipbuilding Co. under the name of *Anerley*. In 1914 she was sold to Hazelwood Shipping Co. Ltd, Sydney, New South Wales. In 1915 *Southborough* was chartered to B.H.P. Shipping through agents W. Scott Fell & Co., Sydney & registered in Sydney. She was one of three British ships chartered by B.H.P. Shipping. *Southborough* traded around the Australian coast until she was recalled to Britain in May, 1918.

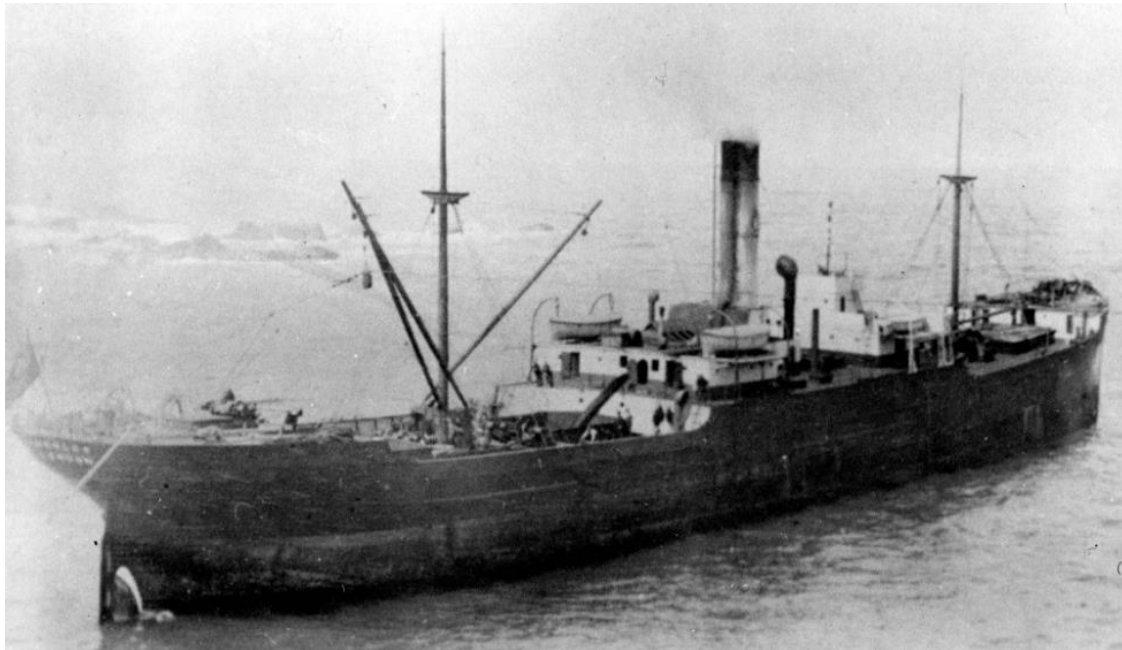
S.S. *Southborough* was on passage from La Goulette to the Tees with a cargo of iron ore. She was torpedoed by UB-110 at 1.43 p.m., 4-5 miles from Ravenscar, North Yorkshire. The vessel was hit on the starboard side of the forward bunker. S.S. *Southborough* was in convoy at the time and sank almost at once losing 30 of the crew. The eight survivors were picked up by an escort vessel and landed at Middlesbrough.

Newspaper article – *Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria, Australia - 23 July, 1918:

S.S. *SOUTHBOROUGH* TORPEDOED

The Acting Minister for Navy (Mr A. Poynton) has been notified that the s.s. Southborough has been torpedoed and sank in European waters. There were only eight survivors – two gunners and six of the crew. The names of those who were on the torpedoed ship have not yet been made available, The Southborough was a steel screw steamer of

3709 tons and traded between Australian and Europe. She was built in 1910 by the Sunderland Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. and was owned by the Hazelwood Shipping Co. Ltd.



S.S. Southborough

Signalman Wilfred John Stork was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Signalman Wilfred John Stork – service number Tyneside Z/10626, aged 20, of S.S. “Southborough”, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was the son of James and A.J. Stork, of 65 Alexandra Rd., Shipley, Yorks. Born at Otley, Yorks.

Signalman W. J. Stork 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 Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)

W. J. Stork is remembered on the Shipley Saltaire and Windhill War Memorial located at Nab Wood Crematorium, Shipley, West Yorkshire, England. (Panel 1, 3rd name from top).



(Photo with permission Richard Coomer)



W. J. Stork is remembered on the Roll of Honour located in St. Paul's Church, Shipley, West Yorkshire, England.



St. Paul's Roll of Honour, Shipley (Photo with permission Richard Coomer)

Newspaper Notices

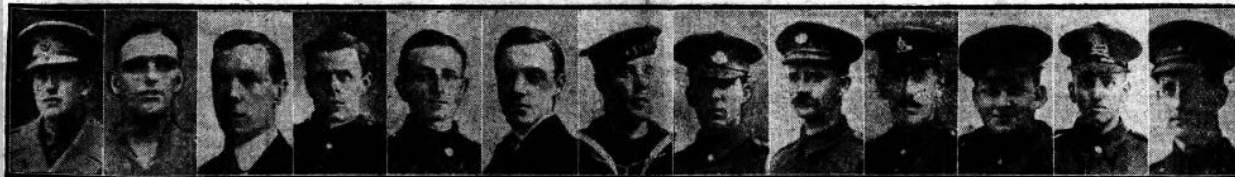
DEATHS

STORK – On July 19th, 1918, Sig. Wilfred J. Stork (late of Otley), and dearly loved son of James Stork, 65, Alexandra Road, Shipley, who was lost in the North Sea.

We have lost, Heaven has gained,
One of the best this world contained.

(Shipley Times and Express, Shipley, West Yorkshire, England – 27 September, 1918)

CASUALTIES.



1. Sec.-Lieut. W. A. F. Gough, of Birklands Rd., Shipley (Prisoner of War and Wounded); 2. Capt. ...
 3. Dr. Lewis Mitchell, of 1, Elm-side St., Valley Rd., Shipley (Killed); 4. Seaman Richard Durham,
 of 64, Stone Hall Road, Eccleshill (Died of pneumonia); 5. Signaller Wilfred J. Stork, of Alexandra
 Rd., Shipley (Lost at Sea); 6. Pte. Day, of 24, Rhodes St., Shipley (Died of Wounds); 7. Pte. H.
 Carrbottom Road, Green-gates (Wounded); 8. Driver Charles Harrison, of Westgate, Shipley
 Wounded); 9. Bombardier A. Wood, of ...
 10. Wounded); 11. Lance-Cpt. Frank Senior, of Westgate, Shipley (W
 12. Lieut. B. G. Ackroyd, of 4, Seabrook Terrace, Shipley (Missing).



.....7. Signaller Wilfred J. Stork, of Alexandra Rd., Shipley (Lost at Sea);

(Shipley Times and Express, Shipley, West Yorkshire, England – 25 October, 1918)

Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England

Chatham Naval Memorial overlooks the town of Chatham, Kent, England. It commemorates more than 8,500 Royal Navy personnel from World War 1 & over 10,000 Navy personnel from World War 2 who were lost or buried at sea.

After the Armistice, the Naval Authorities and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were determined to find an appropriate way to commemorate naval personnel who had no grave.

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 Chatham Naval Memorial was unveiled by The Prince of Wales, the future Edward VIII, on 26 April 1924.

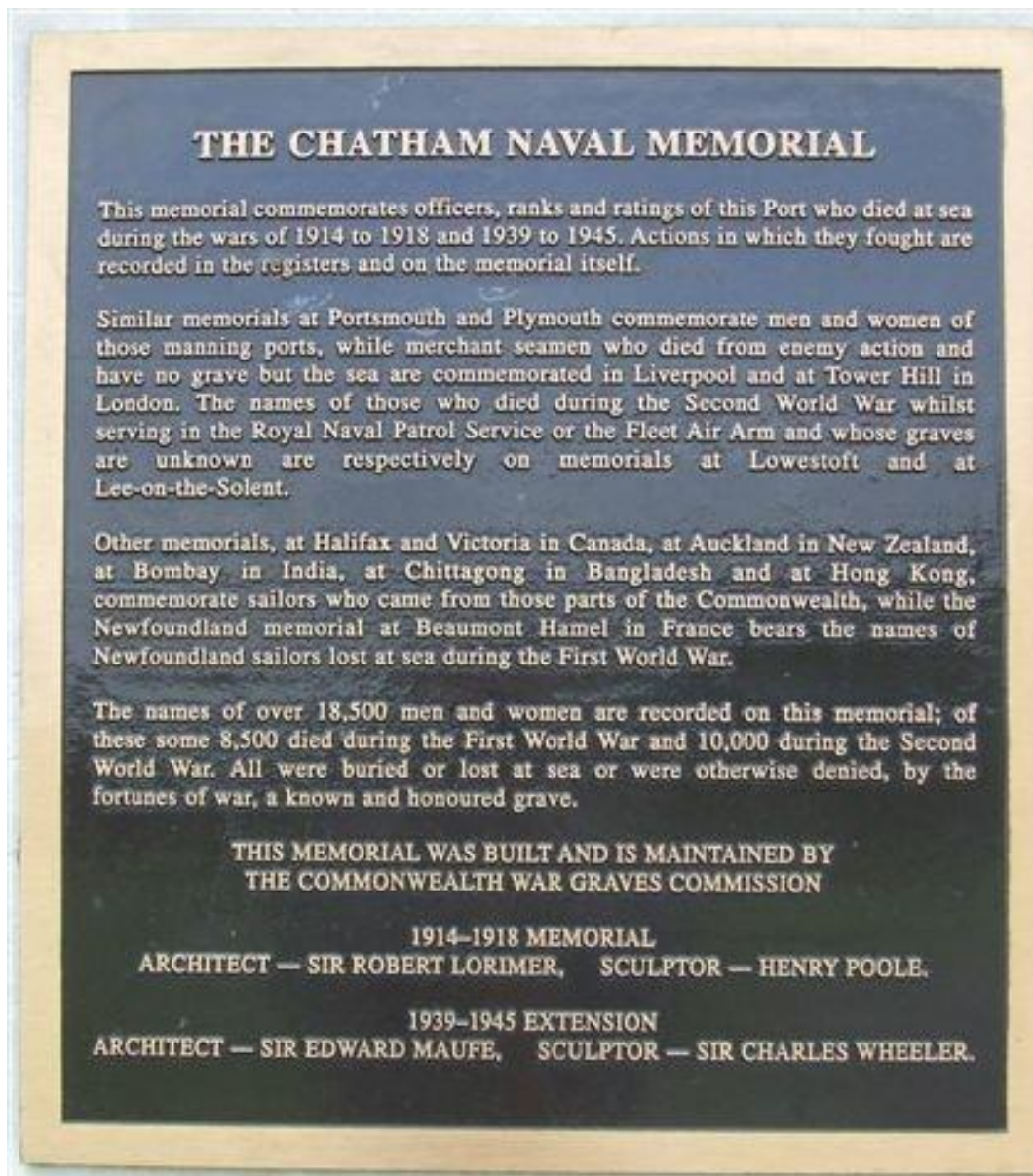


Chatham Naval Memorial (Photo above by Clem Rutter; below from CWGC)



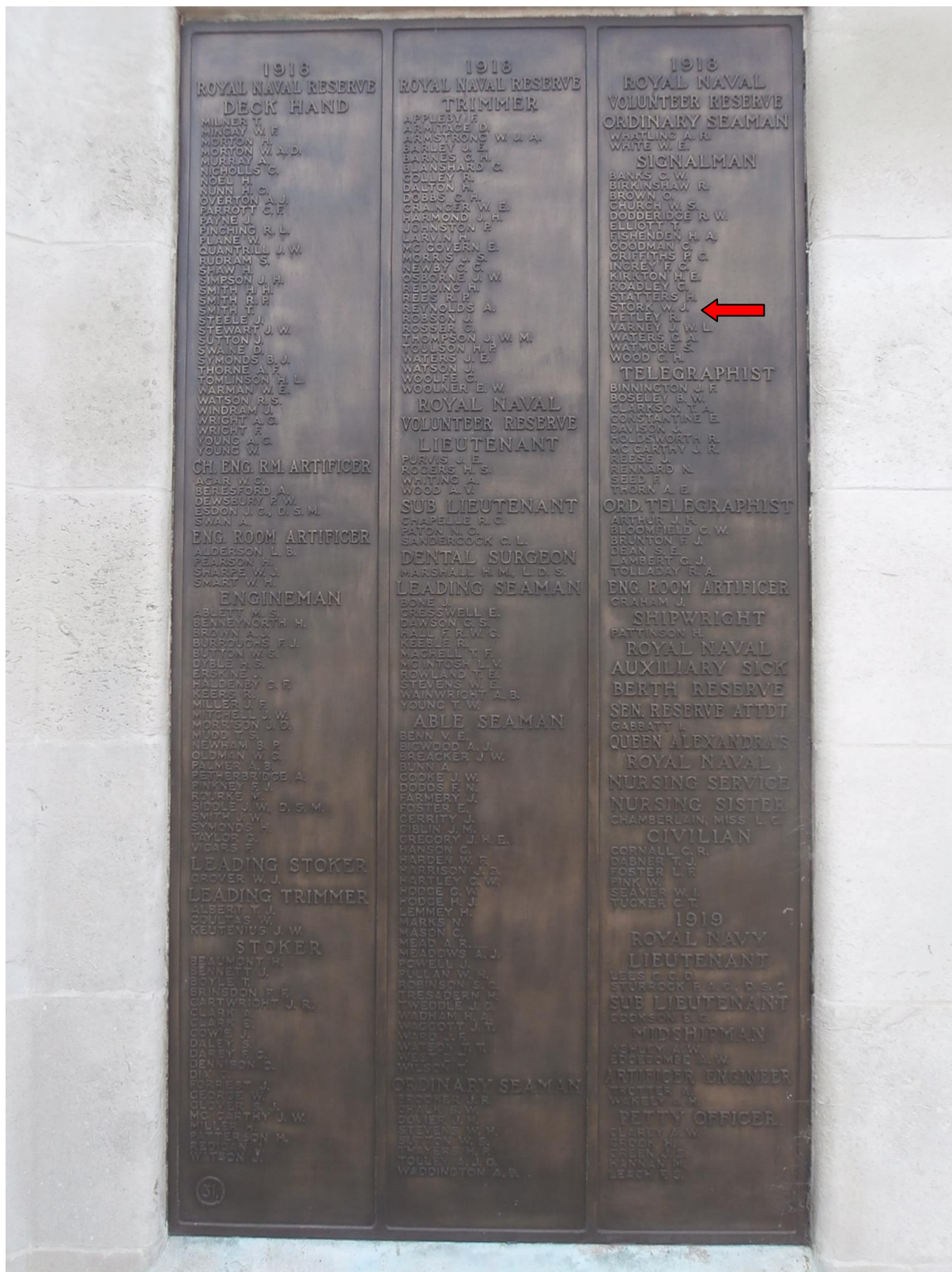


Chatham Naval Memorial (Photo from CWGC)



(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

Signalman W. J. Stork is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England as he has no known grave - Memorial reference 31.



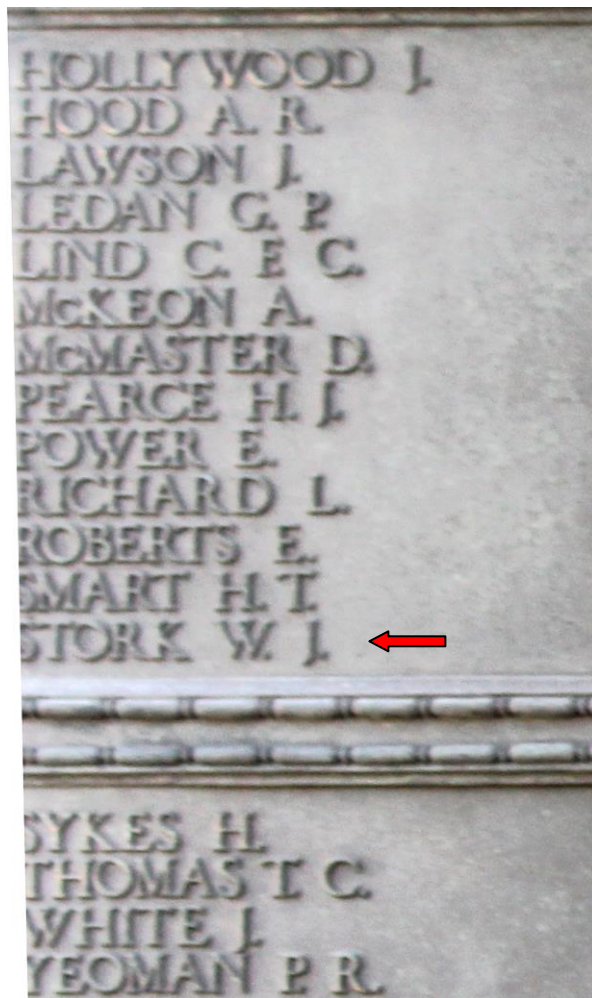
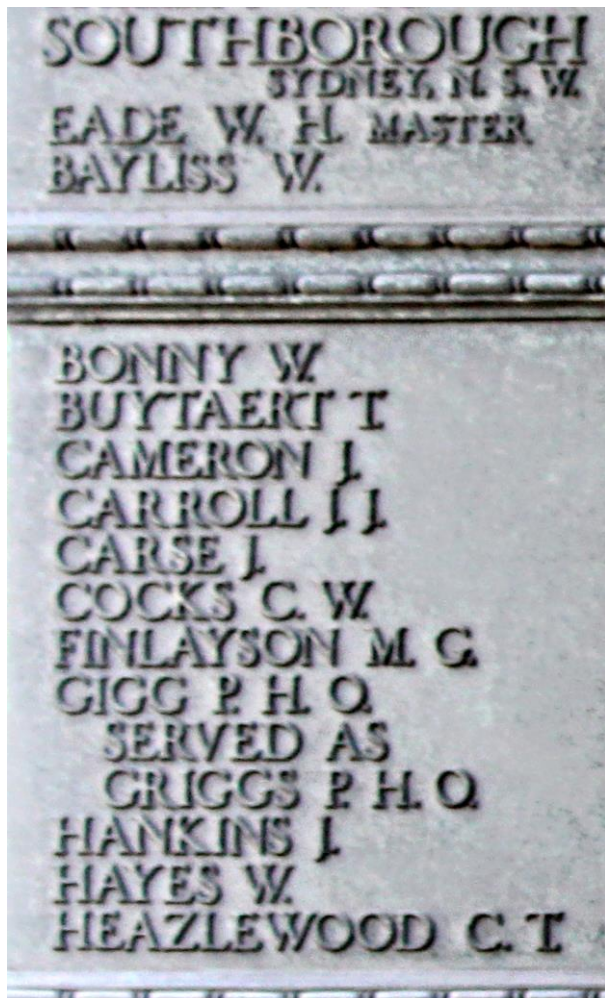
(Photo by Brad Evans)



Signalman Wilfred John Stork is also remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial which is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission war memorial on the south side of Trinity Square Gardens, London, England. The memorial commemorates those from the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets who died during both world wars & have “no grave but the sea.” 36,099 identified casualties are listed on the Tower Hill Memorial.



Tower Hill Memorial (Photo from CWGC)



Tower Hill Memorial – **Southborough** (Photo from Benjidog)



Research on the Australians remembered (or those connected to Australia) on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England was completed as part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's "For Those In Peril" project.

'For Those in Peril' is an initiative to encourage people to research, remember and share local stories of those who left their homes to join the war at sea, whose names are engraved on the Commission's three naval memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham.

The project has been launched to coincide with the opening of the Poppies: Wave at the CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial, presented by 14-18 NOW: WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, to mark the centenary of the First World War.



(Photo from 1418 NOW)



**Poppies: Wave By Paul Cummins, Artist and Tom Piper, Designer
at CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial**

23 August - 19 November, 2017

(Photo from 1418 NOW)

Poppies: Wave, a sweeping arch of bright red poppy heads suspended on towering stalks, was originally seen at the Tower of London as part of the installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red. It can currently be seen at the CWGC Plymouth Naval Memorial.