

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



BOY 1ST CLASS 5729

F. D. TAVENDER

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

26TH JANUARY, 1918

Frank David TAVENDER

Frank David Tavender was born on 27th April, 1901 in Angaston, South Australia to parents David George & Fanny Tavender (nee Hyne).

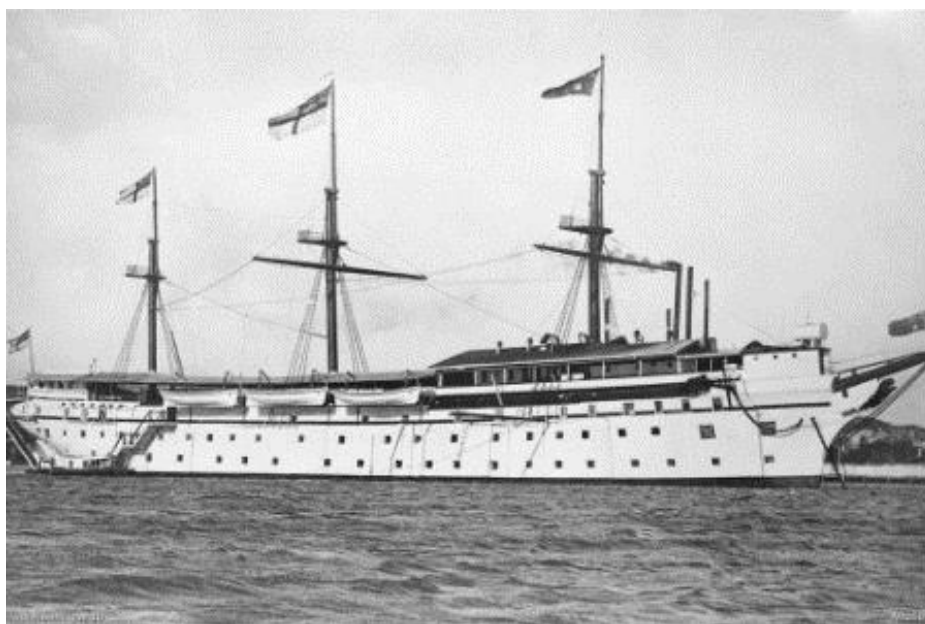
Frank David Tavender joined the Royal Australian Navy on 27th June, 1916, aged 15. He was issued an Official number of 5729 & joined *Tingira* on 27th June, 1916 as Boy 2nd Class.

Boy 2nd Class Frank David Tavender was rated Boy 1st Class on 13th July, 1917 while serving in *Tingira*.

H.M.A.S. *Tingira*

H.M.A.S. *Tingira* (an aboriginal word for "open sea") was a training ship commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy. Previously the *Sobraon* carried cargo and passengers between Australia & the United Kingdom once a year between 1866 & 1891. The *Sobraon* had been purchased by the NSW Government in 1891 & was used as a reformatory or Nautical School Ship for wayward boys until 1911.

The Royal Australian Navy refitted the *Sobraon* & was commissioned on 25th April, 1912 as H.M.A.S. *Tingira* & moored in Rose Bay, Sydney. Up to 250 boys between the ages of 14 ½ and 16 could be trained at any time, although the trainee complement rarely exceeded 200. Between 1912 and 1927, 3,158 boys were trained for naval service. As *Tingira* was immobilised, the steam yacht HMAS *Sleuth* was attached to the training ship as a tender, and used to provide seagoing experience to recruits.



H.M.A.S. *Tingira* moored in Rose Bay, Sydney in 1912

Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender was transferred to London Depot from 8th August, 1917 until 4th October, 1917.

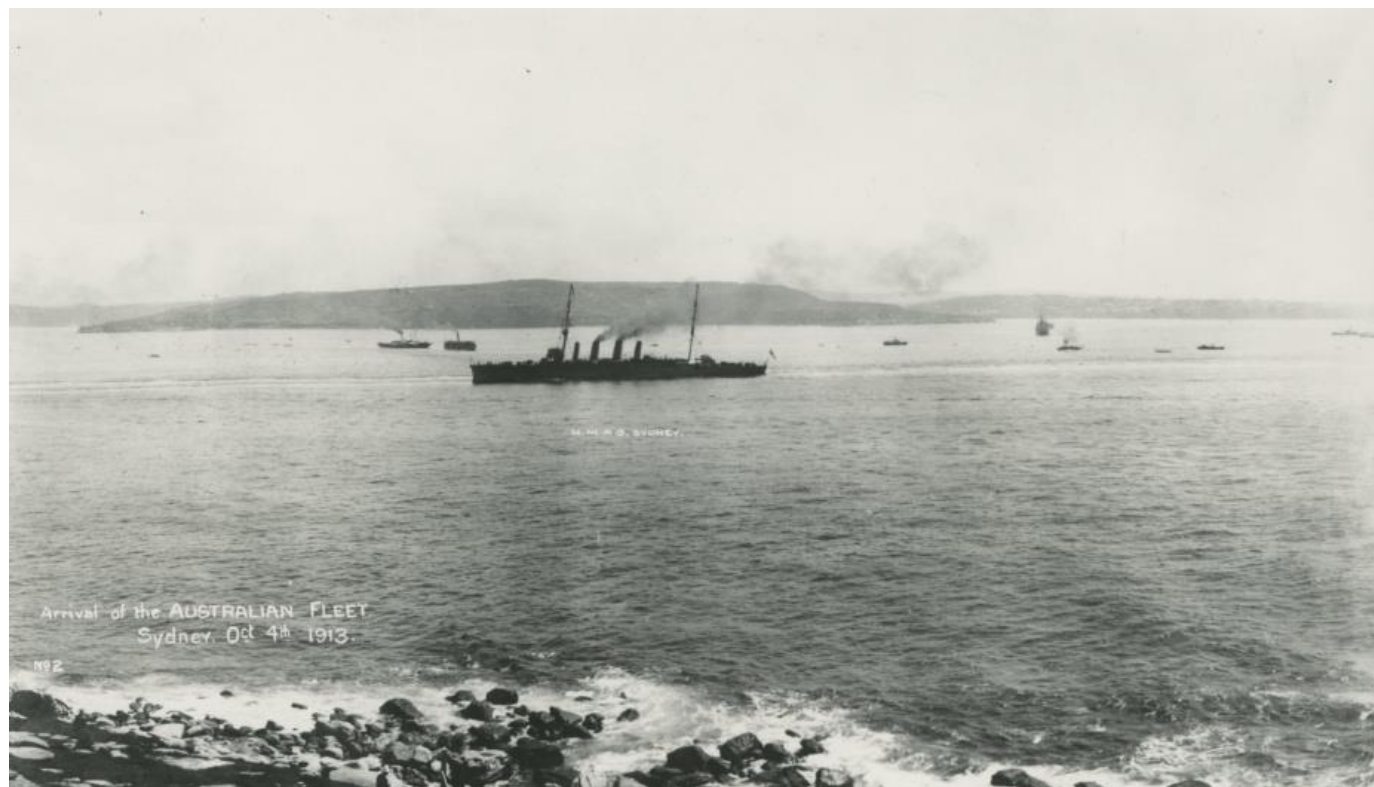
Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Sydney* from 5th October, 1917.

H.M.A.S. *Sydney*

The light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* was built in the United Kingdom and commissioned in June 1913. On 4 October 1913 she entered Sydney Harbour with other ships of the fleet unit.

Following the outbreak of war in August 1914, *Sydney* was engaged in operations against Germany's Pacific colonies and destroyed a radio station in the Pelew Islands. Returning to Australian waters, *Sydney* joined the escort of the first troop convoy from Australia to the Middle East, which left Albany on 1 November 1914.

On 9 November, Sydney was detailed to leave the convoy to investigate reports of an unknown vessel off the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. This vessel turned out to be the German cruiser SMS Emden. In the resulting engagement, Sydney was hit early by the long-ranging 10.5 cm guns of Emden, which resulted in four dead and twelve wounded. However, the superior firepower of the Australian cruiser's broadside soon told and Emden was left "beached and done for" on North Keeling Island.



H.M.A.S. Sydney entering Sydney Harbour in 1913 *(Photo from The Royal Australian Navy)*

Sydney briefly rejoined the convoy at Colombo before proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean, via the Mediterranean Sea. In December 1914, Sydney was deployed to the Caribbean and based at Bermuda. For the next 18 months, she carried out patrol duties between the islands of the West Indies and along the east coast of North America, in concert with HMAS Melbourne. Both ships were also detailed for occasional special patrols along the north coast of South America.

In September 1916, Sydney and Melbourne were transferred to the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron for duties with the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet in the North Sea. In company with HMS Southampton and Dublin, they undertook patrol, escort and screening duties. While on patrol on 4 May 1917, Sydney and the other vessels accompanying her were attacked by the German zeppelin "L43". The "L43" dropped ten to twelve bombs on the Sydney, none of which hit the ship, which responded with a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire. The "L43" escaped undamaged.

Later in 1917, Sydney was fitted with an aircraft launching platform and equipped with a Sopwith Ships Pup fighter. On 1 June 1918, while patrolling in the Heligoland Bight, Sydney and Melbourne launched their aircraft to engage two German reconnaissance aircraft. Sydney's fighter destroyed one of the enemy aircraft.

Sydney was present at the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet on 21 November 1918. She returned to Australia on 19 July 1919. After the war, Sydney carried out routine fleet duties until paid off in 1928. She was broken up the next year.

(H.M.A.S. Sydney information from the Australian War Memorial)

Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender died on 26th January, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Soudan*. He died from a head injury on 26 January 1918, aged 16 years 8 months, while his ship was on service at Scapa Flow, Scotland. The Register of Reports of Deaths (July, 1917 – July, 1919) recorded his cause of death due to “*fractured base of Skull.*”

26	Tavender Frank David	Boy 1st	"01 5729"	"At sea Sydney"	26 Jan 18	Fractured base of skull	26	High Commissioner for Australia	N
30	Jegillis Henry Johnson	Boys	"H 4137"	"Bembroke Isl"	29 Jan '18	Pleurisy	30	Mother	307, N.S.W.
1	Villey Eileen	Children	"10609"	"Brisbane"	31 Jan 18	Ship Sunk	1	Father	3/1/18 Q.

Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender was buried in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland – Plot number B. 75 and now has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender – service number 5729, aged 16, of H.M.A.S. “Sydney”, Royal Australian Navy. No family details are listed.

Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender 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

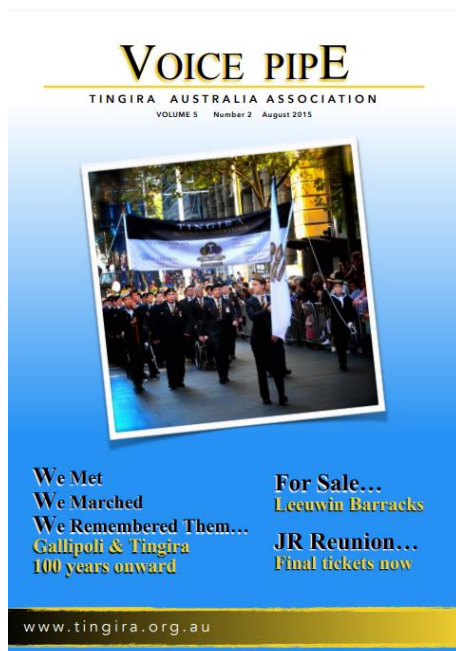
Frank David Tavender is listed on the Australian War Memorial’s “*First World War Boy Soldiers*” list.

During the First World War, the minimum enlistment age was 21 years or 18 years with the permission of a parent or guardian. We know there were hundreds of young men who lied about their age and served before reaching 18 years. The following ‘boy soldiers’ and ‘boy sailors’ have been identified among the approximately 61,000 names on the Roll of Honour for the First World War as having also died before the age of 18. (AWM)

From the Voice Pipe, Tingira Australia Association (Volume 5 Number 2 August, 2015):

29 TINGIRA Boys died in service between 5 August 1914 and 31 August 1921 (Cut off date for WW1 casualties as dictated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

Boy 1st Class Frank TAVENDER Died from a fractured skull when he fell from the superstructure of HMAS SYDNEY in North Sea.



F. D. Tavender 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)

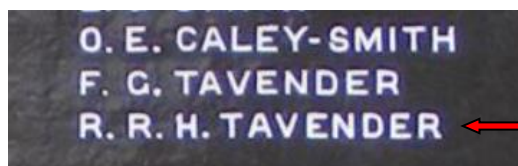


Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial at HMAS Cerberus

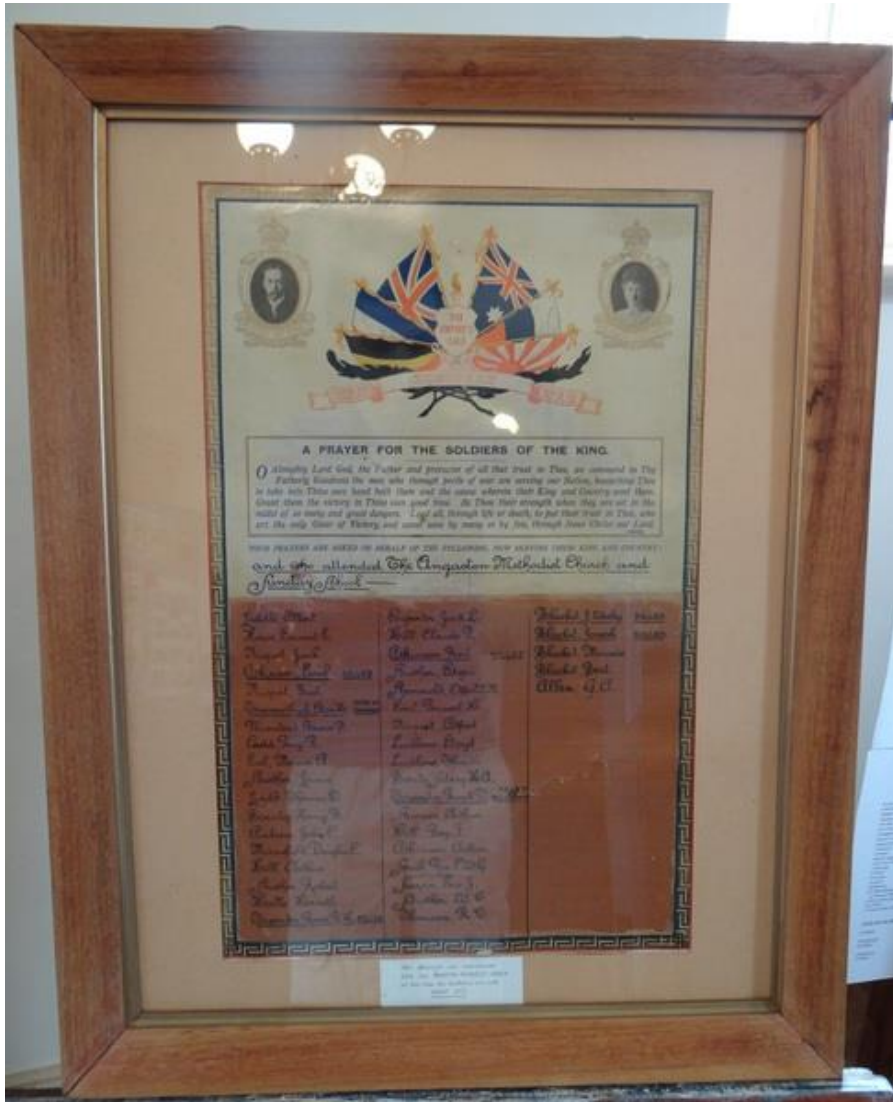
F. G. Tavender is remembered on the Angaston War Memorial, Kent Street, Angaston, South Australia.



Angaston War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



Frank David Tavender is remembered on the Angaston Methodist Church & Sunday School WW1 Honour Board, located at corner of Fife & Sturt Street Angaston, South Australia.



Angaston Methodist Church & Sunday School WW1 Honour Board

(Photo from VWMA – submitted by Nathan Rohrlach)

F. G. Tavender is remembered on the District of Angaston Roll of Honor, located in Angaston Town Hall Foyer, Washington Street, Angaston, South Australia.



District of Angaston Roll of Honor (Photo from Monument Australia - Kaylene Saegenschneider)

(2 pages of Frank David Tavender'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



Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender

Newspaper Notices

APPEAL FOR SAILORS

Allan Stephens, ordinary seaman, on one of the Australian warships, writing from London to "The Advertiser" says: May I appeal through the columns of your paper for parcels of comforts and tobacco on behalf of my comrades. We have spent several winters here after, and we do not receive many comforts. People in Australia seem to have forgotten that the navy saved England and Australia from invasion, and they do not think of the nerve-racking nights spent in sweeping round the northern seas. Our pay compared with that of the Australian soldiers is very small, and so we cannot buy things for ourselves like they can do. The list of South Australians in my mess is **Boys (1st class), Frank Tavender (Angaston)**, Eric Walder (Adelaide), Howard Law (Clarence Park), R. A. Hammence (Port), F. E. White (Port), Edward Parker (Seuuiphore), T. Erlandsen (Alberton), Walter Farmer (Glenelg). W. W. Jacobs (Adelaide), Eric Bartlett (Norwood), A. Bybing (Mitcham). We would be cheered up immensely if the people of S.A. would be generous enough to send us something to read, smoke, eat, wear, or look at. We are getting near Christmas now, and are anxiously waiting to see if the people in dear Australia have remembered us.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 December, 1917)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

TAVENDER – On the 26th January, on board hospital ship Soudan, England, from fractured skull, Frank David, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, the youngest dearly loved son of D. G. and F. Tavender, of Angaston, aged 16 years and 9 months.

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 29 & 30 January, 1918) & (*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 January, 1918) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 February, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

TAVENDER – On the 26th January, on board hospital ship Soudan, England, from fractured skull, Frank David, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, the youngest dearly loved son of D. G. and F. Tavender, of Angaston, aged 16 years and 9 months.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 January, 1918) & (*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 January, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 February, 1918)

IN THE COUNTRY

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ANGASTON, April 25.— Notwithstanding the inclement weather to-day, an Anzac Day commemoration service was held in the institute hall, which was filled to the doors. A procession headed by the Scoutmaster (Rev. H. G. Nelson) and the Angaston Boy Scouts, with the school children, proceeded through the main street to the hall. Places of business and shops were closed for an hour. In the absence, through bereavement, of the Chairman of the District Council (Mr. J. P. Heggie), Cr. William Sibley presided over a large and representative gathering. The National Anthem was sung, and Rev. H. G. Nelson gave a short address. The Chairman called upon Mr. Frederick Thorn to unveil a framed enlarged portrait of four Angaston heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country.— **Frank Tavender, seaman**; Lce.-Cpl W. Garrett, Ptes. E. Perry and E. R. Atkinson. Under the head master (Mr. J. B. Maley) the school children recited the "Empire pledge," and saluted the Union Jack. The people stood in silence for a minute. The photos will be hung in the vestibule of the institute with others of fallen comrades. The number is now 15, of a total of about 115, who have volunteered from Angaston and district. The audience sang "God bless our splendid men." Rev. H. H. Coles (captain-chaplain) delivered a stirring address. A collection in aid of the Returned Soldiers' Building Fund realized £5 9/4.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 April, 1918) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 May, 1918)

On Honor's Roll

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

We give here the names of boys from this district who have gone to take their part in the great struggle for right. Some have made the supreme sacrifice, some have been wounded and gone back to the trenches, some have come out of the inferno never to return to it. Let us not forget that each man has done his duty. We want you to help us keep this record correct, so that no omissions may occur, and each boy be given credit for the work he has done.

.....

Seaman Frank Tavender, killed

(*Leader*, Angaston, South Australia – 21 August, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

TAVENDER – In loving memory of my dearest Frank, of H.M.A.S. Sydney, died January 26, 1918.

And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since and lost awhile.

-Ever remembered by Jean, Angaston

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 January, 1919)

ANGASTON SCHOOL'S WORK

The children of the local State School have completed the raising of £9/9/- for their nine bricks in the Soldiers' Home, at Myrtle Bank, and as these are to bear plates with the names of old scholars who have made the supreme sacrifice, the following names have been sent :— Errol Atkinson, killed in France 27/9/17; Frederick Atkinson, killed in France 5/4/17; Bernard Gabel, killed at Gallipoli 2/5/15; John Kohring, killed at Fleurs 5/10/16; Claude Radford, killed at Messines Ridge 10/6/17; Sgt. Caley Smith, killed at Fleurs 5/10/16; Roger Tavender, killed in France 2/4/17; **Frank Tavender, killed through accident on the "Sydney" 26/1/18**; Louis Smith, killed at Bullecourt, France 7/5/17.

(*Leader*, Angaston, South Australia – 27 March, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

TAVENDER – In loving memory of my dear brother, Frank, who died on hospital ship Soudan, 26th January, 1918. His duty bravely done.

-Inserted by B.F., Angaston.

TAVENDER – A tribute of love to the memory of Frank, died January 26, 1918, on hospital ship Soudan. "I am picturing you in memory, Frank, just as I saw you last." – Jean.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 January, 1920) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 January, 1920, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

TAVENDER – In loving memory of Frank H.M.A.S. Sydney. Ever remembered by Bessie, Jean, Linley, Angaston.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 January, 1921)

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.

Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender 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)



(Photos by Bill Boaden – 2019)



Photo of Boy 1st Class Frank David Tavender's Private Headstone in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands, Scotland.



(Photo from Find a Grave – ADB48)

Sacred

To

The Memory

Of

FRANK DAVID TAVENDER

Boy 1st Class

Who died on January 26th 1918

As the result of an accident

In the execution of his duty

On board H.M.A.S. Sydney