

**Ann's Hill Cemetery,
Gosport, Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



J. W. TAYLOR

7738 A/STO. PETTY OFFICER

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "WARREGO"

24TH FEBRUARY, 1919

Peace Sweet Peace

Peace The Gift Of God's Love

Our Loss

Thy Gain O Lord

John William TAYLOR

John William Taylor was born on 24th May, 1891 at Barnsley, Yorkshire, England to parents William & Sarah Ann Taylor (nee Allen). (Note - date given as per Royal Navy records - possibly born in 1892).

The 1901 England Census recorded John W. Taylor as an 8 year old, living with his family at 13 Trinity View, Gosport, Alvestoke, Hampshire. His parents were listed as William Taylor (Labourer, aged 35, born Nottingham) & Sarah Taylor (aged 35, born Gosport, Hants). John was one of six children listed on this Census (all born Gosport, Hants except John who was born at Barnsley, Yorkshire) – Arthur Taylor (aged 11), John W. Taylor, Charles Taylor (aged 7), Emily Taylor (aged 5), Alice Taylor (aged 3) & Fred Taylor (aged 11 months).

John William Taylor signed on with the Royal Navy on 1st January, 1910 for a period of 12 years. He was previously employed as a Boilermaker's Labourer. He was 18 years old, 5 ft 3 ¾ inches with dark brown hair, blue eyes & a dark complexion.

John William Taylor was posted to H.M.S. *Renown* as Stoker II from 1st January, 1910. He was then transferred to H.M.S. *Victory II* on 6th March, 1910 then transferred to H.M.S. *Hecla* on 26th April, 1910. Stoker II John William Taylor was transferred to H.M.S. *Drake* on 11th September, 1910 & promoted to Stoker I on 9th February, 1911. Stoker I John William Taylor was transferred to H.M.S. *Victory II* on 2nd March, 1911 then transferred to H.M.S. *Halcyon* on 11th April, 1911. He was transferred back to H.M.S. *Victory II* on 13th January, 1913 then to London Depot on 26th January, 1913.

The 1911 England Census recorded John William Taylor as a 19 year old, Stoker with the Royal Navy, Royal Naval Barracks, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

John William Taylor was on transfer to Royal Australian Navy from Royal Navy from 26th January, 1913 for a period of 3 years. John William Taylor was 5ft 4 ½ inches, with dark brown hair, blue eyes & a dark complexion when he joined the Royal Australian Navy. His service number was 7738 & his religion was Roman Catholic. John William Taylor's next of kin was listed as mother – Sarah Anne Taylor, 59 South Street, Gosport, Hants

Stoker 1st Class John William Taylor was posted to London Depot on 26th January, 1913 then transferred to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 21st June, 1913. He was then transferred to H.M.A.S. *Warrego* on 6th May, 1914. Stoker 1st Class John William Taylor was promoted to Acting Leading Stoker on H.M.A.S. *Warrego* on 18th April, 1916. He was disrated to Stoker on 11th November, 1917. Stoker Taylor was promoted to Leading Stoker on 13th May, 1918 still with H.M.A.S. *Warrego*. He was promoted to Acting Stoker Petty Officer on 18th June, 1918 on H.M.A.S. *Warrego*. Acting Stoker Petty Officer John William Taylor was posted on H.M.A.S. *Swan (Warrego)* from 1st July, 1918.

H.M.A.S. Warrego

HMAS Warrego, named for the Warrego River, was a River-class torpedo-boat destroyer of the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.). Ordered in 1909, construction of the destroyer started in England, but she was then broken down and reassembled at Cockatoo Island Dockyard in order for the Australian shipbuilding industry to gain experience in warship construction. Warrego was commissioned into the R.A.N. in 1912, and spent her early career operating in Australian waters.

At the start of World War I, Warrego was assigned to the Australian force tasked with neutralising German colonies in the region, along with finding and destroying the German East Asia Squadron. On the night of 11 August 1914, Warrego and sister ship Yarra were tasked with entering Simpson Harbour at Rabaul to find and lure the German ships into the guns of the battlecruiser HMAS Australia, but found no ships in harbour. During late August and early September, the destroyer escorted the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to New Britain, and was involved in the landing of troops at Kabakaul to capture a nearby wireless station. Apart from a brief docking in Sydney, Warrego remained in the New Guinea area until 5 February 1915, when she was reassigned to patrols along the east coast of Australia. In October, she sailed to Borneo, and carried out patrols in the region until August 1916.

In October 1917, Warrego and her five sister ships were assigned to the Mediterranean. Based at Brindisi, the destroyers were assigned to anti-submarine patrols of the Adriatic. Warrego fought at the Second Battle of Durazzo on 2 October 1918, shelling the Austrian port. At the end of the war, Warrego was briefly deployed to the Black Sea before sailing to Gibraltar. The ship earned two battle honours for her wartime service: "Rabaul 1914" and "Adriatic 1917–18".

The six destroyers, accompanying the cruiser Melbourne, arrived in Darwin on 26 March 1919: Warrego had to tow Parramatta and Yarra into harbour, as they ran out of fuel. On 20 July, Warrego was placed in reserve. Warrego was briefly recommissioned from 17 January to 23 August 1920 for the visit of the Prince of Wales to Australia, then recommissioned again on 27 March 1928 for training purposes.

(H.M.A.S. Warrego information from Wikipedia)



H.M.A.S. Warrego

Newspaper item – *Western Morning News*, Plymouth, Devon, England – 14 January, 1919:

DESTROYERS IN A GALE

AUSTRALIAN CRAFT AT DEVONPORT

The Australian destroyers Swan, Torrens, Warrego and Yarra have arrived at Devonport from the Mediterranean. The craft belonged to a flotilla of six Australian destroyers which left Gibraltar for Devonport last week and met with extremely rough weather. On entering the Bay of Biscay they ran into a terrific gale, with tremendous seas, and became separated, although at times one or other could be seen mounting a distant roller. All the boats were severely buffeted about and lost some of their deck gear. The Swan and Yarra continued their passage across the Bay, but the Torrens and Warrego put back to Ferrol, and the Paramatta and Huon to Vigo. When the gale had somewhat subsided, the Torrens and Warrego continued their voyage. The Yarra had one of her boats washed clean out of the davits by a heavy sea which swept over her. The Paramatta and the Huon were at first reported missing, but they reached Vigo safely, and are expected at Devonport in a day or so. The six destroyers are to undergo refit at Devonport, and then return to Australia. The Yarra and Swan have been placed in No. 2 basin at the North Yard.

Acting Stoker Petty Officer John William Taylor died on 24th February, 1919 at Gosport, Hampshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for John W. Taylor, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Alverstoke, Hampshire, England.

Acting Stoker Petty Officer John William Taylor was buried in Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England – Plot number 100. 24016 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – *Western Morning News*, Plymouth, Devon, England – 3 March, 1919:

The Melbourne, light cruiser, arrived at Devonport from Portsmouth on Saturday. In a few days the Melbourne will leave Devonport for Australia, escorting the destroyers Huon, Parramatta, Yarra and Warrego.

Newspaper item – *Western Morning News*, Plymouth, Devon, England – 5 March, 1919:

The Melbourne, light cruiser, and the destroyers Huon, Parramatta, Warrego and Yarra are expected to leave Devonport tomorrow for Australia to resume duty with the Australian Navy.

Probate details:

John William Taylor, of 59 South Street, Gosport, Hampshire, Petty Officer Australian Navy died 24th February, 1919. Administration London on 12 April to William Taylor, Labourer. Effects £106 7s. 5d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Acting Stoker Petty Officer J. W. Taylor – service number 7738, of H.M.A.S. "Warrego". Royal Australian Navy. No family details are listed.

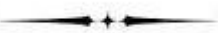
Petty Officer Acting Stoker J. W. Taylor is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(2 pages of Acting Stoker Petty Officer John William Taylor's 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, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Peace Sweet Peace
Peace The Gift Of God's Love
Our Loss
Thy Gain O Lord*

Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England

During both wars, Gosport was a significant sea port and Naval depot, with many government factories and installations based there, as well as the Haslar Naval Hospital. No 5 Squadron Royal Flying Corps were based at Gosport just before the outbreak of the First World War and during the Second World War the town acted as base to No 17 Group Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy Light Coastal Forces.

Gosport (Ann's Hill) Cemetery contains 104 scattered graves from the First World War. A number of the 144 Second World War burials form a plot at the western end of the cemetery. 1 of these is an unidentified Merchant seaman. There are also 31 German burials, including 2 unidentified, and 1 Belgian burial in the cemetery.

There are 3 Australians buried in this cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire *(Photo by soilsister)*

Photo of Acting Stoker Petty Officer J. W. Taylor's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by soilsister)



Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire *(Photo from CWGC)*