

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SIGNALMAN 343

T. D. TOUCHELL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.S. "KENT"

11TH APRIL, 1919 Age 19

We Loved Him Well

But Jesus Loved Him Best

God's Will Be Done

Thomas Daniel (Dan) TOUCHELL

Thomas Daniel Touchell was born on 18th July, 1899 at Fremantle, Western Australia to parents Thomas John & Lucy Janet Touchell (nee Rose).

Details from the War Gratuity file for Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell show:

Home Service	28 August 1917	22 June, 1918
Special Training	June, 1918	1 December, 1918
Sailed in S.S. <i>Kent</i>	1 December, 1918 <i>*marked in red 29/11/18</i>	Died 11th April, 1919

Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell served in S.S. *Kent* from 29th November, 1918.

Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell died on 11th April, 1919 at 1st Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Pneumonia.

Newspaper item – *The Fremantle Times*, Western Australia – 17 April, 1919:

Death of Dan Touchell

The Navy Board has notified the District Naval Officer of the death of "Dan" Touchell, a signalman of the Royal Australian Naval Brigade, at Fremantle. Death was due to broncho-pneumonia, and took place at the No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, in Southall, London, on April 11. Deceased belonged to the 1899 quota of the local reserve, and in June last volunteered for transport signal duties. He was sent to Williamstown for a special course of study and passed with credit. He was then drafted on to one of the New Zealand Shipping Co.'s vessels (unknown), and went home via Cape Horn. He had previously been on service for some considerable time. In conveying the sad news to Mrs. Touchell, the Rev. H. E. Hyde paid a tribute to the high esteem, in which the deceased was held by his comrades, and also conveyed the sympathy of all officers and men of the R.A.N.B.

Royal Australian Naval Brigade (R.A.N.B.)

The Royal Australian Naval Brigade (RANB) was a division of the Citizen Naval Forces during World War 1 and the immediate post war period. Members were either volunteers or compulsory trainees who served shore duty or sea duty.

Attested members of the force rendered operational service if they:

- volunteered for sea duty, or
- were in Naval expeditionary forces overseas.

Attested members who served on shore only rendered eligible service but not operational service.

(Information from Department of Veterans' Affairs)

HMS *Kent*

HMS Kent was one of 10 Monmouth-class armoured cruisers built for the Royal Navy in the first decade of the 20th century. She was placed in reserve when completed in 1903, but was recommissioned for the China Station in 1906. She remained there until she returned home in 1913 for a lengthy refit.

At the beginning of World War I in August 1914, she was still refitting. In October Kent was ordered to the South Atlantic to join Rear-Admiral Christopher Cradock's squadron in their search for the German East Asia Squadron, but arrived at the Falkland Islands after the British squadron had been destroyed in the Battle of Coronel. During the subsequent Battle of the Falkland Islands at the end of 1914, the ship sank the German light cruiser Nürnberg. Several months later she discovered the sole surviving German ship from that battle and forced the light cruiser Dresden to scuttle herself in the Battle of Más a Tierra. She was assigned to patrol the South American coast for the rest of 1915, but was transferred to the Cape Station in early 1916 to begin convoy escort duties along the West African coast until mid-1918 when she returned to the China Station. In early 1919 the ship was deployed to Vladivostok to support the Siberian Intervention against the Bolsheviks during the Russian Civil War. She did little militarily there, although she contributed some crewmen to man gunboats supporting the Whites opposing the Bolsheviks. Kent was sold for scrap in China in 1920.

(Information from Wikipedia)



HMS Kent

Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell was buried in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 102 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell – service number 343, aged 19, of S.S. "Kent, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Thomas John & Lucy Janet Touchell, of 114 Marmion St., Fremantle, Western Australia.

Signalman T. D. Touchell 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

T. D. Touchell is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.



Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



T. D. Touchell 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)

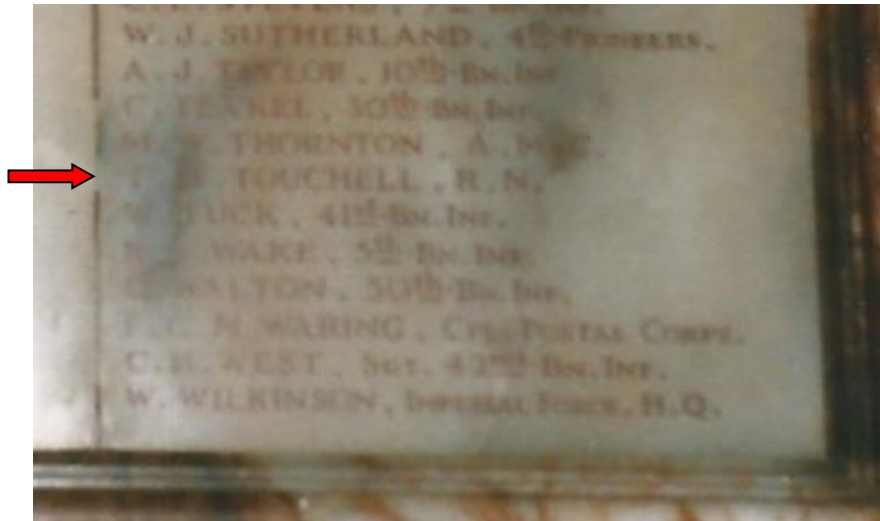


Royal Australian Navy WW1 Memorial, Crib Point

T. D. Touchell is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



(At the time of researching – Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell's Service Records were not available from National Archives of Australia website. His War Gratuity File was located by National Archives so information was obtained from these records).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03169.011

Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell

Australia's Fighting Sons of the Empire (Western Australia):

(page 63)



Private THOMAS DANIEL TOUCHELL.

Private Thomas Daniel Touchell (434), born on July 18th, 1899, at Fremantle, and educated at Fremantle, is a son of Thomas and Lucy Touchell. He was mobilised for Home Defence on the 28th August, 1917, and volunteered for service abroad, as a signalman on transports, on June 6th, 1918. He received special training at Williamstown, Swan Island and Edgecliff. He was appointed signalman on the s.s. Kent and sailed from Sydney for England, but on arrival there was sent into the 2nd Auxiliary Australian Hospital suffering from bronchial pneumonia, to which he succumbed on the 11th April, 1919. He was a lad greatly loved by all who knew him.

Connected to Signalman Thomas Daniel Touchell:

Father – Thomas John Touchell – Enlisted on 8th January, 1917 as a 43 year old, married, Locomotive Driver. Embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on 29th January, 1917 on HMAT *Miltiades* with Railway Unit – No. 3 Section as Corporal 909.

Returned to Australia per *Argyllshire* on 9th December, 1918 – Premature Senility.

Discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 1st March, 1919.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

TOUCHELL – On 11th April, 1919, at Second Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, England, signalman (Dan), R.A.N.R., of broncho pneumonia, the dearly beloved son of T. J. and F. J. Touchell, 114 Marmion-street, Fremantle. Aged 19 years 9 months.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 16 April, 1919) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 18 April, 1919)

DEATHS

DIED ON SERVICE

TOUCHELL – On 11th April, 1919, at Second Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, England, Thomas Daniel (“Dan”), Signalman, R.A.N.B., of broncho-pneumonia, dearly beloved nephew of P.W. and A. Smith, 52 Wittenoom-street, Boulder; aged 19 years 9 months. Sadly missed.

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 24 April, 1919) & (*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W. Australia – 29 April, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

SIBLY – A loving tribute to our dear comrades, Signalman E. Sibly, who was lost from H.M.A. Troopship *Ascanius*, on February 23, 1919, aged 19. Also our dear Comrade, Signalman Dan Toucell, who died of pneumonia in England.

Thy will be done.

Inserted by his loving comrades, Dewar, Robins, Bailey, Cooper, McBride, Bean, Harrison, Hall (all returned), Albany.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 5 July, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

TOUCHELL – In sad and loving memory of Signalman Dan, R.A.N.B., who passed away at Southall, England, April 11, 1919; dearly loved son of Tom and Lucy Touchell, and brother of Torrie and Gordon.

We loved him well,
But Jesus loved him best.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 11 April, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

TOUCHELL – In sad and loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Signalman Danie Touchell.

At rest

Inserted by his loving uncle, auntie, and cousins W.W. and S. Vincent, Gladys, Dorothy, and Thelma.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 12 April, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

TOUCHELL – In loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Dan, who died in England April 11, 1919.

We loved him well, but Jesus loved him best.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 11 April, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

TOUCHELL – In loving memory of Signalmán Dan. Touchell, R.A.N.B. son of Tom and Lucy Touchell, South Kuminin, who died at Southall and interred at Harefield, England, April 11, 1919; aged 19 years.

We loved him well, but Jesus loved him best.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 11 April, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

TOUCHELL – In loving memory of our dear son, Dan. Signalmán, R.A.N.B., who passed away at Southall, England, April 11, 1919.

Thy will be done.

Inserted by his father and mother, South Kuminin.

TOUCHELL – In loving memory of my brother Dan who died at Southall, Kent, England, April 11, 1919.

Inserted by his loving brother (Bub).

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 11 April, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

TOUCHELL – In loving memory of Danny, signalmán R.A.N.B., died Southall, England, April 11, 1919.

Inserted by J. H. Bull and family.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 11 April, 1924)

Dan Touchell is remembered on a Headstone with his mother, located in Fremantle Cemetery, Western Australia.



*Signalman Dan
Touchelle, R.A.N.B.
Beloved Son of
Tom & Lucy Touchelle
Died on Service In
England 11TH April, 1919.
Aged 19 Years*



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)

Signalman T. D. Touchell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

We Loved Him Well But Jesus Loved Him Best

God's Will Be Done

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield

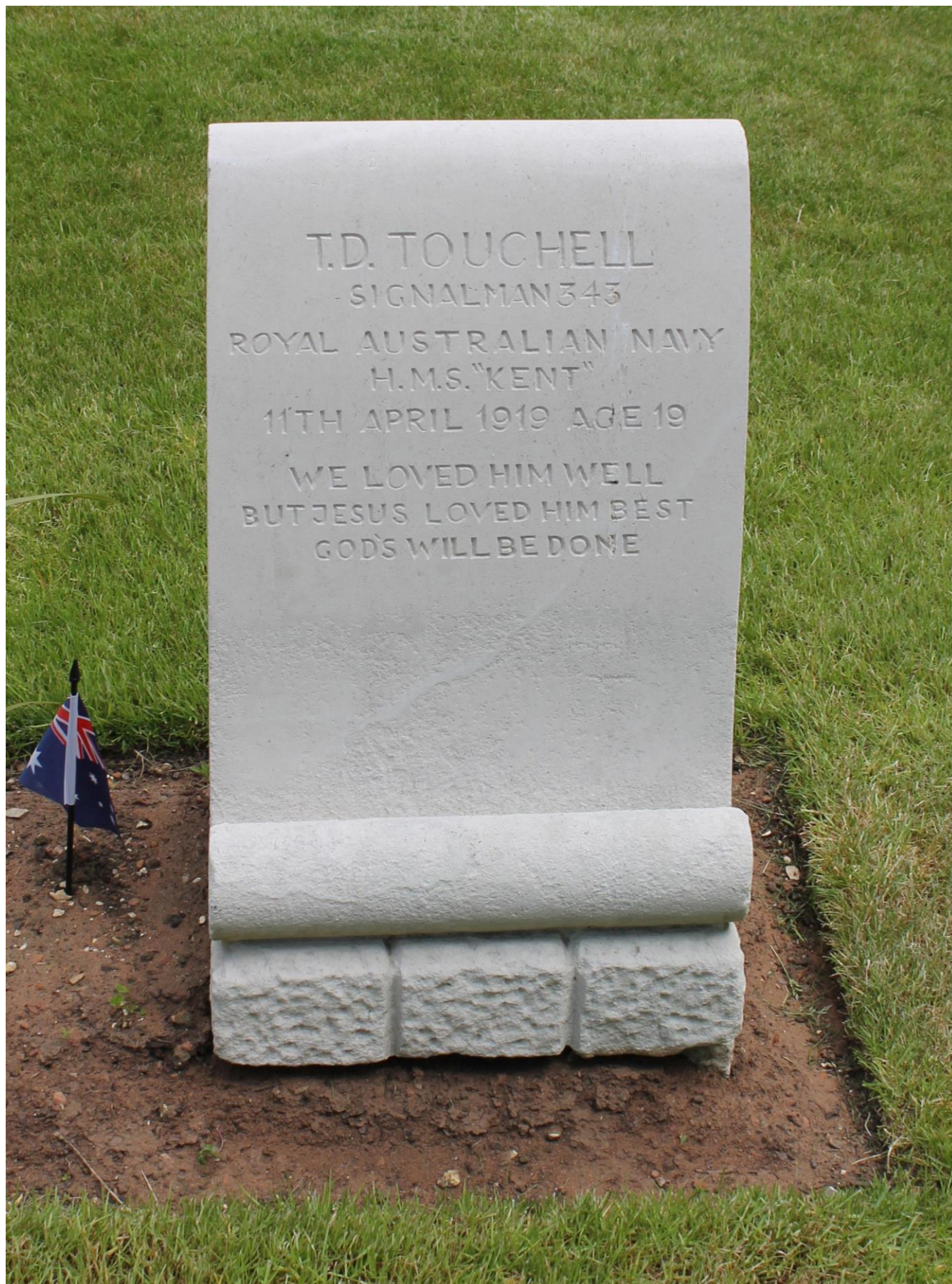




St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Signalman T. D. Touchell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (*Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett*)

