

Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent



Lest We Forget

World War 1



J/6671 ABLE SEAMAN

E. W. L. WEBBER

H.M.T.B. "No 10"

ROYAL NAVY

10TH JUNE, 1915 Age 22

Edward Wilmot Littleton WEBBER

Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber was born on 31st July, 1893 at Plymouth, Devon, England to parents Ambrose & Ida Wilmot Littleton Webber (nee Moyle).

[The 1891 England Census recorded Ambrose Webber (Collector Pearl Insurance Coy, aged 24, born St. Columb, Cornwall) & his wife Ida W. L. Webber (aged 20, born Llanyignog(?), Wales) living at 53 Jackson Street, Tynemouth, Northumberland, England.]

Ida Wilmot Littleton Webber, mother of Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber, died on 24th December, 1909 in Kent, England.

Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber joined the Royal Navy on 2nd January, 1910 at the age of 16. He was 5ft 4 ½ in with black hair, grey eyes & a fresh complexion. He was employed previously as a Labourer. Edward Webber was given a service number of J. 6671 (Chatham).

Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber joined H.M.S. *Ganges* on 2nd January, 1910 as Boy 2nd Class. He was rated as Boy 1st Class on 29th August, 1910 while still with H.M.S. *Ganges*.

Boy 1st Class Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber was transferred to H.M.S. *Leviathan* on 22nd September, 1910 then transferred to H.M.S. *Ca_____* (*name illegible*) on 20th January, 1911. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 22nd March, 1911.

The 1911 England Census, taken on 2nd April, 1911, recorded Edward W. L. Webber as a 17 ½ year old in the Royal Navy, listed with his family at 69A High Street, Deal, Kent, England, in a 9 roomed dwelling. His father was listed as Ambrose Webbers (Widower, Photographer & Stationer, aged 44, born St. Columb, Cornwall). Ambrose Webber had stated on the Census he had seven children, all still living & all listed on this Census – William A. Webber (Photographer Assistant, aged 19, born Gateshead, Durham), then Edward, Sophia M. L. Webber (At School, aged 16, born Honiton, Devon), Frederick J. Webber (Assistant in Business, aged 14 ½, born Wellington, Northampton), Alfred Webber (At School, aged 13 ½, born Deal, Kent), Ellen M. Webber (At School, aged 11, born Deal, Kent) & Albert W. L. Webber (At school, aged 8, born Deal, Kent). Also listed were 2 servants - Jane W. Chapman (Housekeeper, aged 27) & Ellis Glenton (Assistant Photographer, aged 21).

Boy 1st Class Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber was transferred to H.M.S. *Russell* on 5th April, 1911.

Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber, having attained the age of 18 years, signed on with the Royal Navy for a period of 12 years. He was rated Ordinary Seaman on 31st July, 1911 while still serving with H.M.S. *Russell*.

Ordinary Seaman Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber was transferred back to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 13th August, 1912 then transferred to H.M.S. *Dominion* on 15th October, 1912. He was rated as Able Seaman on 26th March, 1913 while still serving on H.M.S. *Dominion*.

Able Seaman Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber was transferred back to H.M.S. *Pembroke I* on 13th July, 1913 then transferred to H.M. *Actaeon* (T.B. 10) on 20th January, 1914.

H.M. T.B. 10

His Majesty's Torpedo Boat No. 10 was one of 36 first class torpedo boats of the Cricket class. She was originally names H.M.S. *Greenfly* but her name was changed to Torpedo Boat No. 10 in 1907.

T.B. 10 was assigned to the Nore Local Defence Flotilla. On 9th June 1915, at midnight, she sailed from Harwich with three other Torpedo Boats and five destroyers, on patrol off the Thames estuary, searching for reported submarines.

At 3.30pm on 10th June, *T.B. 12* (previously named H.M.S. *Moth*) hit a mine. She stayed afloat long enough for the other Torpedo Boats to come to her rescue - when *T.B. 10* came alongside, *T.B. 12*'s crew abandoned their boat, and she was taken in tow. But at 16.10 hrs *T.B. 10* hit a mine herself. She exploded, broke in half and sank.



H.M. T.B. 10

Twenty three crew died on T.B.10. One member of the crew was picked up but died subsequently as a prisoner of war. Twenty three also died on T.B.12. Forty one survivors were reported at the time to have been rescued. It was believed at the time that the boats were torpedoed but subsequently it was identified that the boats had hit mines laid by a German minelaying submarine, UC11, two days earlier. UC11 was sunk later in the war by mines she had laid herself.

Able Seaman Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber was lost at sea as a direct result of enemy action on 10th June, 1915 while aboard H.M. Torpedo Boat 10. His body was not recovered for burial. His father – Ambrose Webber, Town Hall Buildings, Auburn, NSW, Australia was notified of his son's death.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Able Seaman Edward Wilmot Littleton Webber - service number J/6671, aged 22, of H.M.T.B. "No. 10". of Royal Navy. He was the son of Ambrose Webber, of "Presteign", Beaumont St., Rose Bay, Sydney, New South Wales and the late Eda Webber. Born at Plymouth England.

Able Seaman E. W. L. Webber 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)

E. W. L. Webber & his brother F. J. Webber are remembered on the Auburn RSL WW1 Honour Roll, located at 33 Northumberland Road, Auburn, NSW, Australia.



Auburn RSL WW1 Honour Roll (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters)



Edward W. L. Webber's brother - F. J. Webber is remembered on the Auburn Soldiers' Memorial, located on Northumberland Road, Auburn, NSW.



Auburn Soldiers' Memorial (*Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW*)



Newspaper Notices



EDWARD WEBBER

Of Auburn, a gunner on torpedo boat 10.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 14 June, 1915)

N.S.W. ROLL OF HONOUR



GUNLAYER E. WEBBER,
of Auburn, of Torpedo Boat No. 10,
sunk by submarine.

Edward E. L. Webber, A.B., a gunlayer on torpedo boat No. 10, which with torpedo boat No. 12 was torpedoed by a German submarine in the North Sea while on patrol duty off the East Coast last week, is the son of Mr Ambrose Webber, of Auburn-road, Auburn, New South Wales. He joined the navy when he was 17, and is now 23 years of age. Mr Webber received a letter from him three weeks ago, written "At Sea" "We are getting along nicely" Gunlayer Webber wrote, "though beyond having an occasional shot at an enemy taube we have had little excitement. Unfortunately we missed the North Sea engagement. Nevertheless, the strain on us all is very tiring. We are heartily wishing that Von Tirpitz will send his battleships out to fight. On patrol duty one is not able to relax for a minute, and for the past fortnight I have been unable to change my clothes. In fact, I sleep alongside my gun at night."

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 16 June, 1915) & (*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 3 August, 1915)

Auburn Hero's Death

WENT DOWN WITH HIS SHIP

Mr Ambrose Webber, of Auburn, received a letter from the Admiralty on Friday, stating that his son, Edward Webber, who was on the torpedo boat No. 10, went down with his ship when she was torpedoed by a submarine in the North Sea. Mr Webber also received a letter of condolence from their Majesties, King George and Queen Mary. Mr Webber was living in hopes that his son might have been rescued by one of the other ships, but unfortunately this hope was doomed to disappointment. Our sympathy goes out to Mr Webber, be he has the consolation of knowing that his son's end was a noble one. He died doing his duty. Mr Webber remarked: "Yes, he died nobly. He was a good son, and was 22 years of age. I have another son at the front, but I do not know where he is. He is fighting somewhere with the British Army."

Edward E. L. Webber, A.B., was a gunlayer on torpedo boat No. 10, which with torpedo boat No. 12 was torpedoed by a German submarine in the North Sea while on patrol duty off the East Coast last week, is the son of Mr Ambrose Webber, of Auburn-road, Auburn, New South Wales. He joined the navy when he was 17.

Mr Webber received a letter from him some weeks ago, written "At Sea" "We are getting along nicely" Gunlayer Webber wrote, "though beyond having an occasional shot at an enemy taube we have had little excitement. Unfortunately we missed the North Sea engagement. Nevertheless, the strain on us all is very tiring. We are heartily wishing that Von Tirpitz will send his battleships out to fight. On patrol duty one is not able to relax for a minute, and for the past fortnight I have been unable to change my clothes. In fact, I sleep alongside my gun at night."

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 24 July, 1915)



GUNNER EDWARD WEBBER

Son of Mr and Mrs Ambrose Webber, of Auburn. The young sailor was a gunlayer on torpedo boat No. 10, which, with torpedo boat No. 12, was torpedoed by a German submarine in the North Sea while on patrol duty off the east coast. It is supposed that all hands went down with the two ships. Gunner Webber joined the navy when he was 17 ans was 22 years of age. How strenuous the life of the Navy men in the North Sea was indicated in a letter which his

father received from the young hero, who wrote:- "On patrol duty one is not able to relax for a minute, and for the past fortnight I have been unable to change my clothes. In fact, I sleep alongside my gun at night." Our sincere sympathies to the parents. But how proud they should be of their sailor son!

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 31 July, 1915)

MEN WHO FELL

KILLED

FREDERICK J. WEBBER, third son of Mr Ambrose Webber, Town Hall buildings, Auburn, born in England, was 19 years of age, and was employed at Messrs Ritchie Bros., Auburn, before enlisting. He was killed in action on July 20. This is the second son Mr Webber has lost in this war, his second son Gunner Edward W. L. Webber, R.N., being on a torpedo-boat which was sunk in the North Sea.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 1 September, 1916)

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.

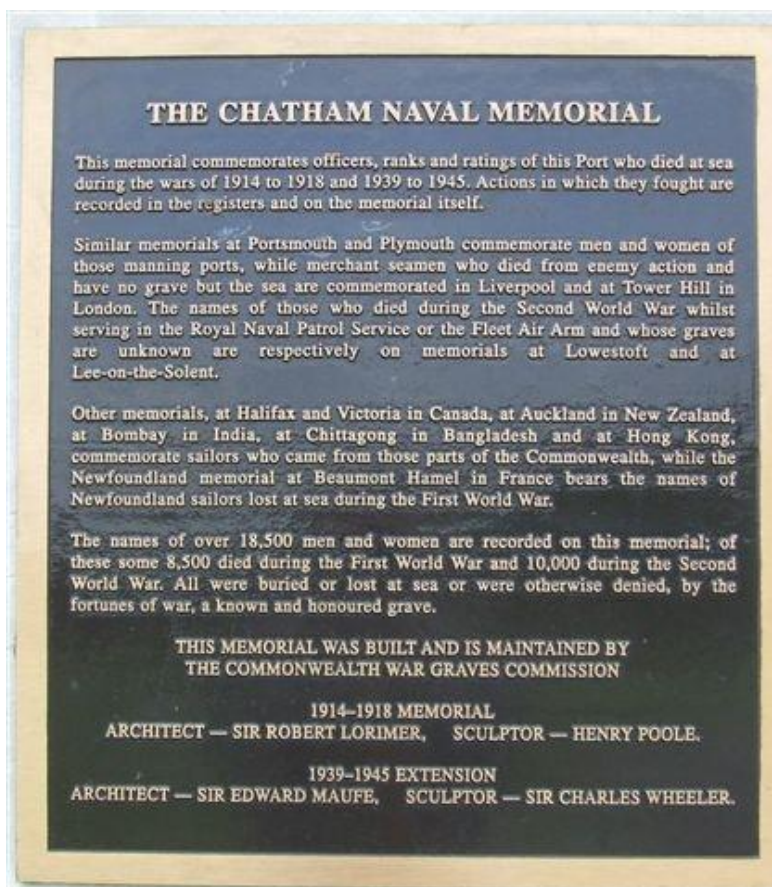
The Chatham Naval Memorial was unveiled by The Prince of Wales, the future Edward VIII, on 26 April 1924.



Chatham Naval Memorial *(Photo by Clem Rutter)*

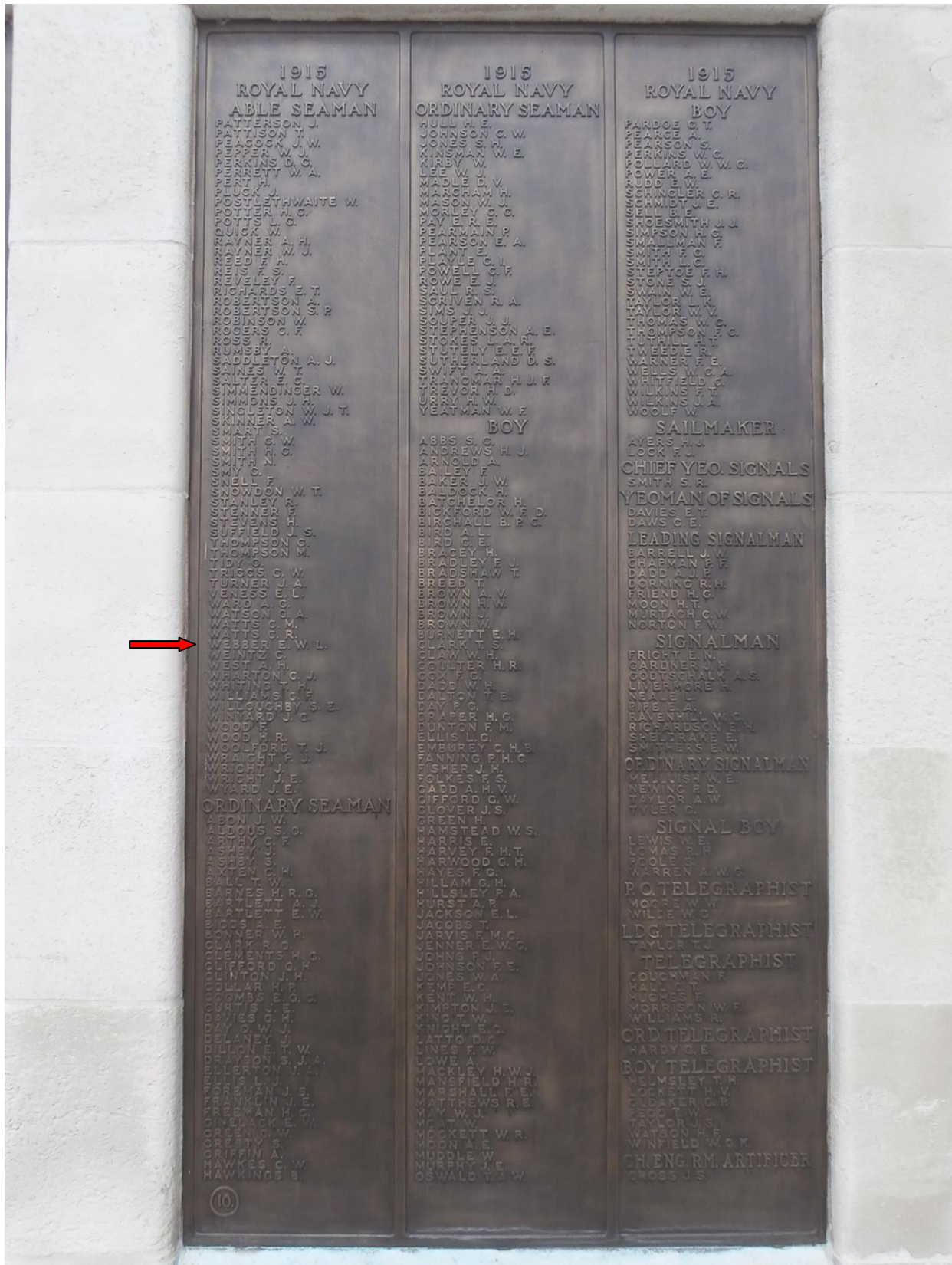


Chatham Naval Memorial (Photos from CWGC)

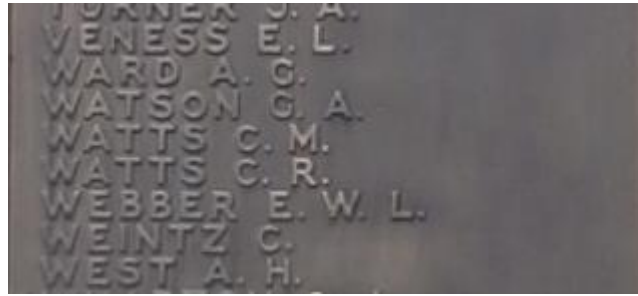


(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

Able Seaman E. W. L. Webber is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England as he has no known grave - Memorial reference 10.



(Photo by Brad Evans)



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.



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.



(Photo from 1418 NOW)