Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

R. A. DAVEY

H.M.S. "CAMPANIA"

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 20

Reginald Argyle DAVEY

Reginald Argyle Davey was born on 19th October, 1896 at St. Peters, in the district of Norwood, South Australia to parents Arnold Edwin & Sarah Davey (nee Shannon). (Note – the date of birth recorded on the family headstone in Payneham Cemetery, South Australia is incorrect & has 19th October, 1897)

Birth Notice - South Australian Register - 26 October, 1896:

BIRTHS

DAVEY - On the 19th October, at Alcantara, St. Peters, the wife of Arnold E. Davey, of a son.

Reginald Argyle Davey attended Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, South Australia from January, 1906 until December, 1914.

Reginald Argyle Davey, Student, aged 13, & his family were passengers on S.S. *Mauretania* which sailed from Liverpool, England on 10th September, 1910 & arrived at the port of New York on 16th September, 1910. His family consisted of his father – Arnold Edwin Davey, aged 48, Miller; his mother – Sarah Davey, aged 47, Housewife & his older brother – Robert Shannon Davey, aged 18, Student.

Reginald Argyle Davey was given a commission in the Royal Naval Air Service on 11th May, 1915 & was posted to Royal Naval Air Station, Roehampton, England. He was given the rank of Temporary Sub-Lieutenant.

From The London Gazette 18 May, 1915:

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Temporary commissions in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve have been issued as follows:-

SUB-LIEUTENANTS

.

Reginald Argyle Davey

Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey was transferred to 3rd Kite Balloon Section on 27th May, 1915.

Newspaper article – *Critic*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 July, 1915:

LIEUTENANT R. A. DAVEY

Mr Arnold E. Davey has had a cable message from his son, Senior Flight Lieutenant Reginald A. Davey, R.N.V.R., who has been in the Mediterranean zone for several months, to say that he has returned to London and has now been appointed to a position in the North Sea.

Newspaper article – *The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 July, 1915:

AN ADELAIDE FLYER

Interesting Story

Lieut. Reginald Argyle Davey, youngest son of Mr Arnold E. Davey, of St. Peters, has been given a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. He thus wrote to his parents from the Royal Naval Air Station, Roehampton, England:"always merry and bright and brisk. I have only had my commission a week, and the other morning Col. Maitland sent for me, and asked me if I would like to go to the Dardanelles. It was 'topping" of him to ask, for most of the fellows are doing their best to get in. If course I promptly said 'Yus' and am off on May 25. I am well on with my flying, and to-morrow have to take charge and do my passing out flight, I want to show these people what an Australian can do. This flying suits me splendidly. I never feel giddy or lose my nerve. It's a great sensation to fall fast. On Saturday we fell 4,000ft. in about two and a half minutes, and had to get rid of a lot of ballast to right ourselves. I am thoroughly enjoying life and feeling brisk. I am in my new quarters, and they are quarters! The house

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

is a mansion as big as Government House in Adelaide. We have 200 acres of park attached, with golf links, gardens, fountains, and garages. We have the free run of the rooms, which are all oak lined, with carved ceilings and polished floors, and the bathrooms are all marble. They give is as good a dinner as the Naval and Military Club, served by two butlers in dress. This absolutely a pet corps, and we live like dukes. All we do is to go for a motor run to Hurlingham Polo Club and then go up for a ballroom run. I am having the time of my life. I sleep with three others in a big room, and the chaps are 'top hole." The Hon. Napier Sturt sleeps next to me, and he is a fine chap. We've been out all day together. His uncle is the Viceroy of India. There are several other heads here, and nobody swanks or snobs in this branch. I have been three free balloon trips and two captive. We were up last night looking for a Zeppelin which we were notified was about. I was on from 2 till 3 o'clock, up about 400 ft., and it was quite cold. I am demy 'solo' flight – up alone – yesterday. I got into the cage, and at once mounted about 5,000ft., into a bank of cloud. The earth was hidden, and so was the sun. So I let out and rose another 500 or 600 ft., right above the clouds into the bright sunshine. A deep band of cloud hid everything beneath. The sun was so hot that I had to take off both coats and put my handkerchief over my head. I was carried along by the wind at about 25 miles an hour, stayed up about one and a half hours, and then decided to land. Eventually I reached the ground somewhere in Hertfordshire. Men at hand helped me to fix up my balloon on a trolly, and took it to the railway station."

From The London Gazette 7 November, 1915:

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Temporary commissions in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve have been issued as follows:-

LIEUTENANTS

.

Reginald Argyle Davey

Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey was transferred to "N' School" Portsmouth on 13th June, 1916 for a Signal course.

Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey was transferred to H.M.S. Campania on 30th June, 1916.

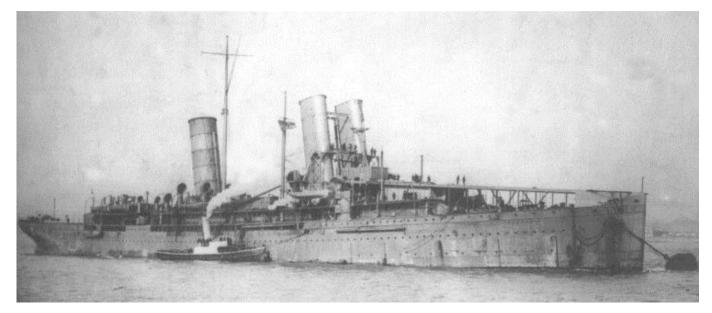
H.M.S. Campania

H.M.S. *Campania* was a seaplane tender and aircraft carrier, converted from an elderly ocean liner by the Royal Navy early in the First World War. After her conversion was completed in mid-1915 the ship spent her time conducting trials and exercises with the Grand Fleet. These revealed the need for a longer flight deck to allow larger aircraft to take off, and she was modified accordingly.

H.M.S. *Campania* failed to receive the signal to deploy when the Grand Fleet departed Scapa Flow on 30 May 1916 en route to the Battle of Jutland, but she sailed two hours and fifteen minutes later. Even though she was slowly overtaking the fleet early in the morning of 31 May, she was ordered to return to Scapa Flow as she lacked an escort and German submarines had been reported in the area. The ship participated in some anti-submarine and anti-Zeppelin patrols, but she was later declared unfit for fleet duty because of her defective machinery and became a seaplane training and balloon depot ship.

In April 1918 *Campania*, along with the Grand Fleet, was transferred from Scapa Flow to Rosyth She never saw combat and was soon relegated to a training role because of her elderly machinery. In November 1918 *Campania* was anchored with the capital ships of the Grand Fleet when a sudden storm caused her anchors to drag. She hit several of the ships and the collisions punctured her hull; she slowly sank, with no loss of life.

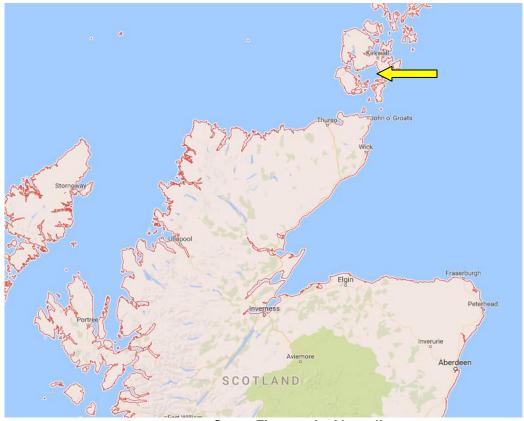
(Extract of information on H.M.S. Campania & photo from Wikipedia)



H.M.S. Campania

On 8th September, 1916 Flight Sub-Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey was up in the gondola of a kite balloon with the Captain of H.M.S. Campania – Commander Oliver Schwann at Scapa Flow when the cable tethering the balloon to the ship snapped and the balloon was blown away from the ship & soon crashed into the sea. According to some information – Commander Schwann's lifebelt failed to inflate and Flight Sub-Lieutenant Davey gave his lifebelt to the Commander thus saving Commander Oliver Schwann.

Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey was drowned on 8th September, 1916 at Scapa Flow, North Sea in an accident in a Kite Balloon. His body was not recovered for burial.



Scapa Flow marked by yellow arrow

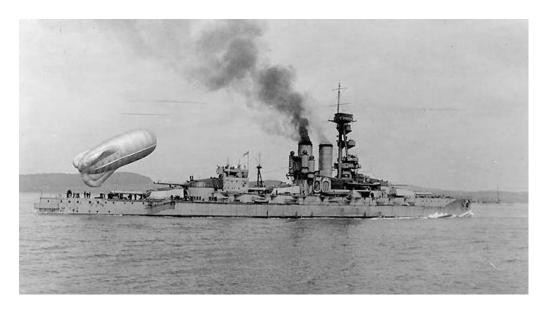


Photo shows H.M.S. Erin with a kite balloon moored aft, 1918

Probate details:

Davey, Reginald Argyle of St. Peters, South Australia died 8 September, 1916 at Scapa Flow N.B. Administration (limited) London 15 October to Scott Arnott Solicitor, the attorney of Laurance Llewellin Davey, Robert Shannon Davey and the Elder's Trustee and Executor Company Limited. Effects £288 3s. 6d.

Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey, aged 20, of H.M.S. "Campania", Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He was the son of Arnold Edwin and Sarah Davey, of Adelaide, South Australia.

Lieutenant R. A. Davey 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)

R. A. Davey is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.





National War Memorial - Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

R. A. Davey is remembered on the St. Peter's Heroes Memorial, located in St. Peters Street, St. Peters, South Australia. The memorial which was erected in 1922 was one of the Great War Memorials that did not feature the names of the fallen. A grant was awarded along with other funding & on 24th April, 2019 the memorial was rededicated with the names of 145 men from the suburbs of Hackney, College Park, East Adelaide, St. Peters, Stepney, Evandale and Maylands.

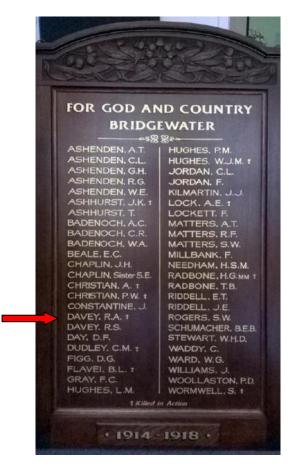


St. Peters Heroes Memorial (Photo courtesy of St Peters Residents Association Inc.)

The Great War DAVENPORT A. J. ABELSON C. AMBER A. DAVEY R. A. AYLIFFE G. B. DAVIES G. F. DAVIES J. BAGOT C. E. DAVIES J. N. BARNES S. W. BASSETT F. F. DEWHIRST E.B. BATES E. W. DREW F. N. BELL E.C. DUCKMANTON N. A. DUNN C. BIRT H. W. EDYVEAN R. BRANNAN E. H. BROSNAN P. J. ELLIS A. J. BULBECK C. G. F. EMMINS A. O. EMMINS W. E. BURFORD L. A. BURNSIDE R. D. ERIKSEN T. CADDY F. B. FERGUSON J. M. FISK F. T. CAMERON W. R. CAPPER W. R. FOSTER G. CARRAGHER M. FROUD E.T. CAVE G. A. GALLOWAY A. H. CLARK E.D. GALLOWAY L. J. CLARKE T. H. C. GARDNER W. H. COLBEY A. G. GILBERT S. J. COLE C. W. GODFREE B. L. COLLIGAN R. G. GODLEE J. COLLINS E. E. R. V. GORE B. COMLEY F. D. GRAY P.C. CONRAD H.S. HANNAFORDE J. C. COOMBS K. HAWKES O.C. COULTER R. B. HEWISH T. A. COX N. G. HOLMAN W. E. CRABB H. G. HUGHES W. J. M. CRAWFORD H. E. JOHNSON M. J. CREER F. R. G. JURY E. CROSSMAN W. A. T. KEENIHAN H. J. J. CROWHURST F. S. KELLY H. C. CRUICKSHANK E. KENNEDY P. CURLIS R. H. KINROSS W. A.

St. Peters Heroes Memorial (Photo courtesy of St Peters Residents Association Inc.)

R. A. Davey & his brother R. S. Davey are both remembered on the Bridgewater Primary School Roll of Honour, 46 Morella Grove, Bridgewater, South Australia.



R. A. Davey is remembered on the Stirling Sub-Branch R.S.S.A.I.L.A. Roll of Honour, located in RSL Hall, Apex Park, Merrion Terrace, Stirling, South Australia.



Reginald A. Davey is remembered on the Roll of Honour in the Wesley Uniting Church, Fullarton Rd & Grenfell St, Kent Town, South Australia.



Roll of Honour (Photo from Wesley Uniting Church, Kent Town website)

Newspaper Article - The Register, Adelaide, South Australia - 21 February, 1919:

KENT TOWN CHURCH ROLL OF HONOUR

The fine old ivy-grown church at Kent Town (sometimes called the Methodist Cathedral of South Australia) is a place of many memories. Each of the handsome stained glass windows is a memorial, and on the walls are tablets to the memory of people associated with the church. A striking contrast, for instance, is afforded by the marble tablet in memory of the late Thomas Greave Waterhouse, who laid the foundation stone of the church in 1865, and died in England in 1883; and a brass in memory of Reginald Argyle Davey, R.N.V.R., 19 years 11 months, who died on duty in the North Sea in 1916. The gallery in the south transept is reserved for students from Prince Alfred College. A handsome roll of honour has just been put up on the south wall. This is worked in blackwood and contains 106 names of those who left the church for service abroad, 21 of whom have given their lives for their country. Among the names are those of several nurses. The design, which is the work of Mr R. Craig, is Gothic in style, with three panels. The central panel has a gracefully designed and well-carved laurel wreath, and over it the words, "Their name liveth for ever." The board harmonizes well with its surroundings in the beautiful old church, and a distinct addition to it. The roll of honour is the gift of Mr J. Gartrell, who will unveil it on Sunday morning.

Reginald Argyle Davey is remembered on a memorial to record the Scholarship Foundation provided in his memory at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, South Australia.



Prince Alfred College Scholarship Foundation Memorial (Photo courtesy of Prince Alfred College Archives)

Newspaper Article - Observer, Adelaide, South Australia - 10 March, 1917:

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE MEMORIAL

Honouring a School Hero

At Prince Alfred College on Monday afternoon, in connection with the present sessions of the Methodist Conference, a memorial was unveiled to record the founding scholarship by Mr and Mrs Arnold E. Davey, in memory of their son, Flight-Lieut. R. R. Davey, of the Royal Volunteer Naval Reserve, who was drowned in the North Sea. The memorial is of brass Gothic work on a polished blackwood mounting, and bears the inscription:- "Scholarship Foundation," after which there are the three stars denoting the rank, followed by the "flying eagle," the badge of the R.N.V.R., to which Lieut. Davey was attached. The emblems mentioned stand out in the relief, and are followed by these words:- "In loving memory of Flight-Lieut. Reginald Argyle Davey, R.N.V.R., H.M.S. Campania, who lost his life in the North Sea, September 8, 1916, in the great war, aged 19 years 11 months." The following letter of condolence which had been received by the deceased's parents is appended:- "The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the navy have sustained by the death of your son in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathize with you in your sorrow."

The following letter, forwarded by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) has been inscribed on the plate:"Your sorrow will always be tempered by that pride of family and by the knowledge that your son gave his life in a
great cause and died on the field of honour." Other appreciations which have been reproduced on the memorial are:From Wing-Capt. Oliver Schwann of the H.M.S. Campania – "He forms yet another of the gallant band of pioneers
who have given their lives in the advancement of the science of aviation." From Col. Edward Maitland of Royal Naval
Air Service – "He was a gallant boy, and I have never met any one more keen, enthusiastic, or conscientious than he

was. If there was a job of work to be done he was always a volunteer." Mr and Mrs Davey attached this note:- "This memorial has been established by his loving parents and brothers in devoted memory of an ideal boy a very gallant gentleman." The memorial was designed by Mr Copping, of the firm of Burmeister & Co. of the Arcade. The production was privately shown to the Governor on Saturday, who expressed pleasure at the result of the work.

The Rev. F. Lade, in handing over the memorial to the college, referred in eulogistic terms to the late Lieut. Davey, who, he said, was one of his old boys at the Kent Town Methodist Church. He hoped that there were many other examples of heroism hidden under the roofs of the old college. He was one of those lads who would make the seas of the world sacred by the thought that they were the graves of many of our noblest fighting men (Applause).

The head master of the college (Mr E. R. Bayly) also addressed the boys. He expressed the hope that many of them would in time to come prove themselves as heroic as their late comrade. He explained how the late Lieut. Davey had lost his life, by giving up his patent lifebelt to his comrade when they were both forced to take to the water from their disabled balloon, and said that the action recalled to his mind the heroism of Capt. Oates, of Scott's Polar Exploration Party, who had given his life for his comrades. (Cheers)

R. A Davey is remembered on the Roll of Honour at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, South Australia.



Prince Alfred College Roll of Honour (Photo courtesy of Prince Alfred College Archives)



Flight Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey

Newspaper Notices

SOCIETY GOSSIP

Mr Reginald Argyle Davey, who left for England two months ago to join the British Army, has been made Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service.

(Critic, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 May, 1915)



FLIGHT-LIEUT. REGINALD ARGYLE DAVEY, R.N.A.S.

(Royal Naval Air Service)

Now at the Dardanelles

(Critic, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 August, 1915)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

DAVEY – Drowned in the North Sea, on or about the 9th September, Senior Flight-Lieut. Reginald Argyle Davey, R.N.V.R., the youngest dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs Arnold E. Davey, St. Peters, aged 19 years.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1916) & (*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1916) & (*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1916)

& (The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 September, 1916) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 September, 1916)

CONCERNING PEOPLE

A cable message received in Adelaide on Sunday from the British Admiralty announced the death of Senior Flight Lieut. Reginald A. Davey, R.N.V.R., youngest son of Mr Arnold E. Davey, of St. Peters. The deceased, who was attached to the Royal Naval Air Service, with a cruiser, was drowned in the North Sea. He was only 19 years of age. In March of last year he left Prince Alfred College, which he had attended for several years, and with his father proceeded to England, where shortly after his arrival he obtained his lieutenancy in the air service. Afterwards he went to the Dardanelles, where he was not long before he received promotion. Subsequently he was transferred to the North Sea. From his commission, which was equal to the rank of captain in the army, and a grade lower than commander in the air service, it will be recognised that his career, although unfortunately so brief, was especially meritorious and brilliant. Of a modest and retiring disposition, among his comrades he was popularly known as "Kitchener, jun.," because of his genius and natural aptitude for organizing work, and both naval and military English officers held a high opinion of his capabilities. A brother (Lieut. Robert Shannon Davey, of the Royal Field Artillery) is serving in France. The deceased was a nephew of Mr Abe Shannon.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 September, 1916)

BIOGRAPHICAL



THE LATE SENIOR FLIGHT LIEUT. R. A. DAVEY

Concerning whom a biographical notice appeared in The Register on Monday.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 September, 1916)

THE LATE SENIOR FLIGHT LIEUTENANT DAVEY

Mr and Mrs Arnold Davey have received a cablegram from the Admiralty stating that their son, Senior Flight Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey, has been drowned in the North Sea. He was 19 years of age, and shortly after



The late Flight-Lieutenant Davey.

leaving Prince Alfred College, where he was educated, he proceeded to England and received a commission in the Royal Flying Corps. Since then he had seen 15 months of active service, and he was promoted to senior flight lieutenant, a rank next to that of commander, whilse serving in the Dardanelles. His career was brief but brilliant.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 September, 1916)

METHODIST CONFERENCE

THE REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

A large number of delegates and visitors assembled at the Pirie-street church on March1, when the representative session of the Methodist Conference was opened.

Visit to Prince Alfred College

In the afternoon the Conference paid its official visit to Prince Alfred College..... Advantage was taken of the opportunity to unveil a brass memorial of a scholarship foundation placed on the walls of the assembly hall by the family of Senior Flight-Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey, R.N.V.R., of H.M.S. Campania, who lost his life in the North Sea on September 8, 1916. The memorial was unveiled by Mr Arnold E. Davey, the lieutenant's father......

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 September, 1916)

SCHOOLS

OLD AND NEW

.....

Prince Alfred College

.... a brass tablet records the scholarship foundation "In memory of Reginald Argyle Davey, R.N.V.R., H.M.S. Campania, who lost his life in the North Sea, September 8, 1916, aged 19 years and 11 months." A companion panel records another scholarship in memory of his father, Mr Arnold F, Davey, by his brother. There is no large Roll of Honour to those who served in the Great War as yet.

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(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia - 19 May, 1923)

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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 (Photo above by Clem Rutter; below from CWGC)



THE CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL

This memorial commemorates officers, ranks and ratings of this Port who died at sea during the wars of 1914 to 1918 and 1939 to 1945. Actions in which they fought are recorded in the registers and on the memorial itself.

Similar memorials at Portsmouth and Plymouth commemorate men and women of those manning ports, while merchant seamen who died from enemy action and have no grave but the sea are commemorated in Liverpool and at Tower Hill in London. The names of those who died during the Second World War whilst serving in the Royal Naval Patrol Service or the Fleet Air Arm and whose graves are unknown are respectively on memorials at Lowestoft and at Lee-on-the-Solent.

Other memorials, at Halifax and Victoria in Canada, at Auckland in New Zealand, at Bombay in India, at Chittagong in Bangladesh and at Hong Kong, commemorate sailors who came from those parts of the Commonwealth, while the Newfoundland memorial at Beaumont Hamel in France bears the names of Newfoundland sailors lost at sea during the First World War.

The names of over 18,500 men and women are recorded on this memorial; of these some 8,500 died during the First World War and 10,000 during the Second World War. All were buried or lost at sea or were otherwise denied, by the fortunes of war, a known and honoured grave.

THIS MEMORIAL WAS BUILT AND IS MAINTAINED BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

1914–1918 MEMORIAL
ARCHITECT — SIR ROBERT LORIMER, SCULPTOR — HENRY POOLE.

1939–1945 EXTENSION
ARCHITECT — SIR EDWARD MAUFE, SCULPTOR — SIR CHARLES WHEELER.

(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)

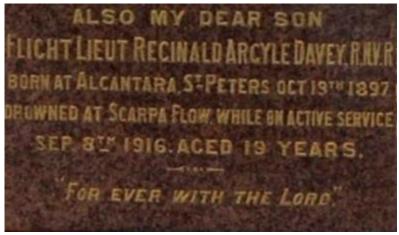
Lieutenant R. A. Davey is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent, England as he has no known grave - Memorial reference 20.



(Photo by Brad Evans)



Flight Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey is remembered on the Family Headstone located in Payneham Cemetery, South Australia.



Also My Dear Son

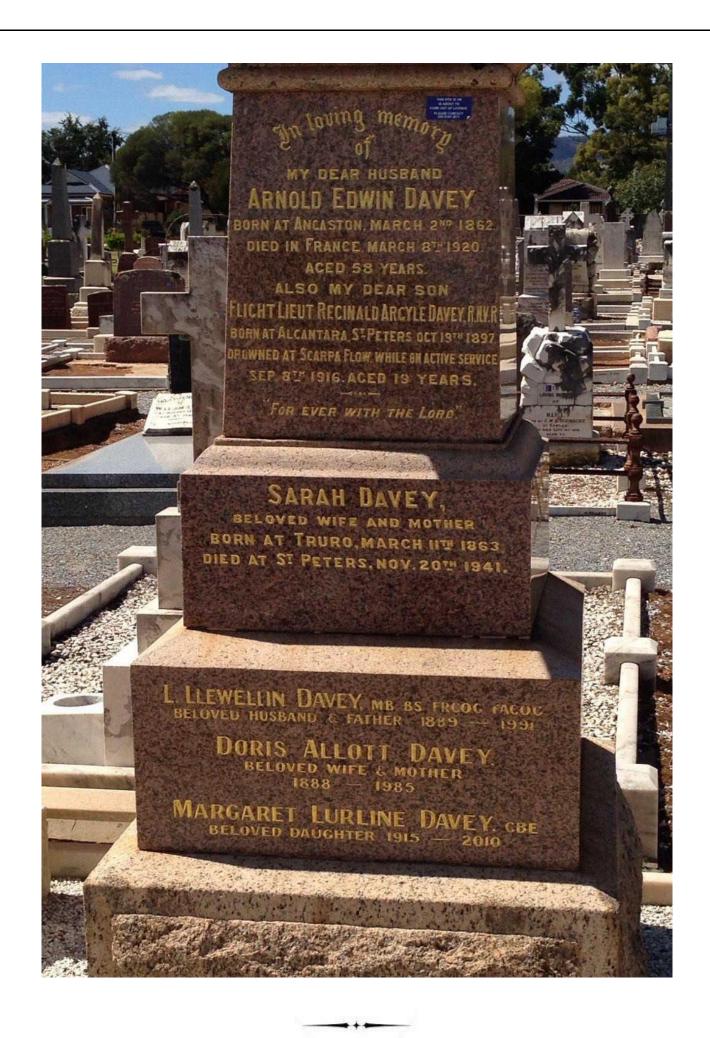
Flight Lieutenant Reginald Argyle Davey, R.N.V.R.

Born At Atlcanta, St. Peters Oct 19TH 1897

Drowned At Scarp Flow While On Active Service

Sep. 8TH 1916. Aged 19 Years.

"For Ever With The Lord."



Research on the Australians remembered 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

(Photos 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.

