Flaybrick Hill Cemetery, Birkenhead, Merseyside War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

4701   STOKER

E. B. HANCEY

H.M.A.S. "MELBOURNE"

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

12TH JUNE, 1917   Age 23

Edwin Banthorpe HANCEY

Edwin Banthorpe Hancey was born at Yongala, South Australia on 10th July, 1894 to parents Frederick & Jessie Hancey (nee Burnell).

Edwin Banthorpe Hancey joined the Royal Australian Navy on 27th February, 1915 for a period of 5 years. His Official number was 4701 & his religion was listed as Baptist.

Edwin Banthorpe Hancey was posted to H.M.A.S. *Cerebus* on 27th February, 1915 as Stoker 2nd Class. He was transferred to London Depot from 18th November, 1915 to 13th January, 1916.

Stoker 2nd Class Edwin Banthorpe Hancey was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* on 14th January, 1916. He was promoted to Stoker (first class) on 27th February, 1916.

H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*

HMAS *Melbourne* commissioned at Birkenhead, England, on 18 January 1913 under the command of Captain Mortimer L'Estrange Silver, RN. The ship completed her delivery voyage from England when she arrived at Fremantle on 10 March 1913.

Following the outbreak of war in August 1914 *Melbourne* spent a brief period in Pacific waters as a unit of the Australian Squadron operating as a counter to the German Pacific Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee. She took part in the seizure of the German Pacific possessions and on 9 September 1914 landed a naval party on Nauru Island to carry out the destruction of the wireless station. Her return to Sydney on 20 September 1914 ended this phase of operations. The cruiser covered 11,170 miles on Pacific patrols.

On 1 November 1914 *Melbourne* sailed from Albany, Western Australia, escorting in company with HMAS *Sydney* (I), HMS *Minotaur* and the Japanese cruiser *Ibuki*, the first Australian / New Zealand convoy, comprising 38 transports. Detaching from the convoy in the Indian Ocean, *Melbourne*reached Colombo on 14 November, proceeding the following day for Gibraltar, arriving there on 5 December 1914. On 10 December the cruiser received orders to sail for the Azores to assist in the search for the cruiser *Karlsruhe*.

Arriving at Madeira on 12 December, *Melbourne* received orders to proceed direct to Bermuda for attachment to the North America and West Indies Stations for patrol duties. Operations began from Trinidad on 28 December 1914 when she departed that post with orders to search the coastal areas of Venezuela, Colombia and Panama for the *Karlsruhe* and her attendant supply ship.
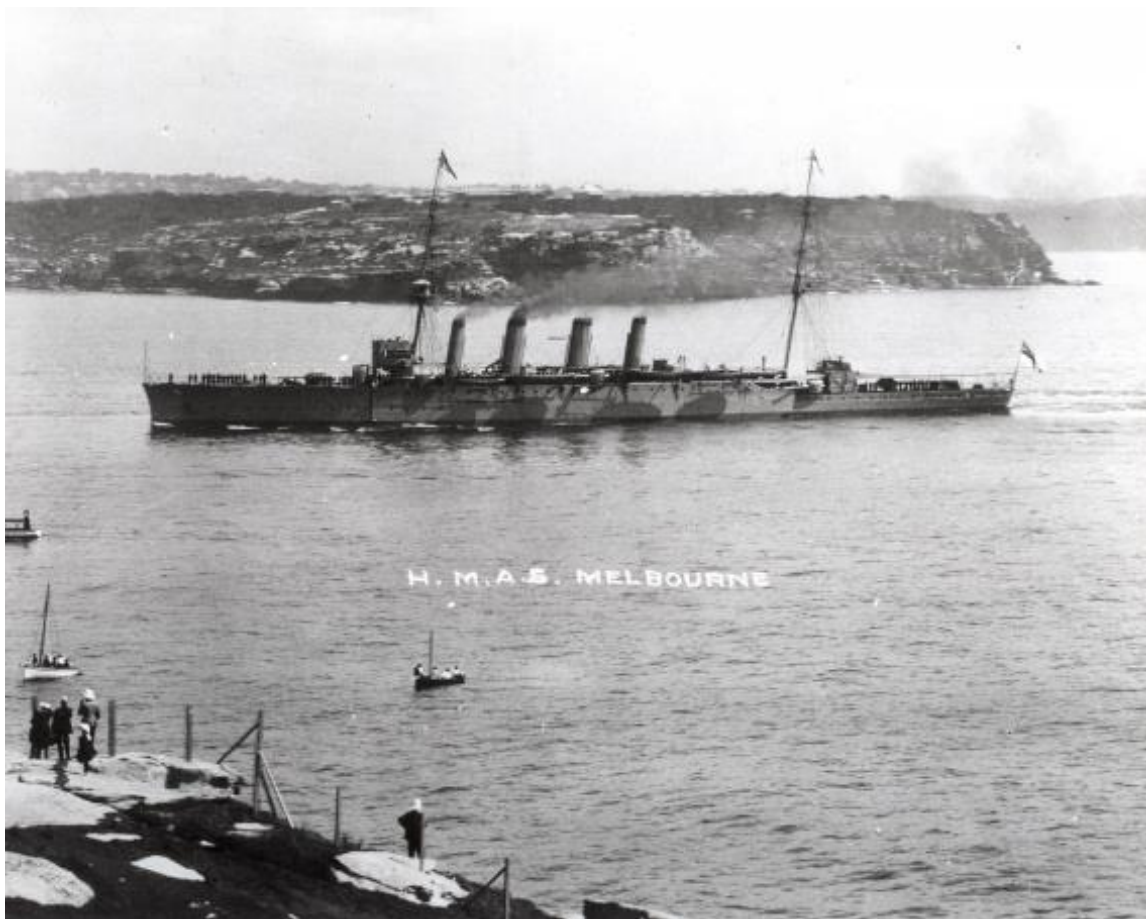
The following twenty months (January 1915 – 28 August 1916) were spent as a unit of the North America and West Indies Squadron maintaining a series of patrols in the West Indies with Jamaica as the centre point, and off Long Island and the entrance to New York Harbour with Halifax as the base. Squadron Headquarters were at Bermuda. *Melbourne* operated north to Halifax and south to the Para River, Brazil, taking in the Gulf of Mexico.

At the close of August 1916 *Melbourne* detached from the North America and West Indies Stations and proceeded for Devonport, where she arrived on 7 September. Following a month in port she departed for Scapa Flow, to become a unit of the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron and part of the Grand Fleet.

A brief period of routine North Sea patrols ended in January 1917 when serious engine trouble forced her into dock at Birkenhead. She remained in dockyard hands until the end of June 1917.

On 27 June 1917 *Melbourne* sailed from Birkenhead to rejoin the Grand Fleet at Scapa and again became a unit of the 2nd Light Cruiser Squadron. The remainder of the war period was spent on routine patrols and fleet exercises in northern waters. She returned to Portsmouth on 30 November 1918. *Melbourne* took no part in any action at sea and suffered no casualties.

(Information & photo from Royal Australian Navy)

HMAS Melbourne entering Sydney Harbour for the first time 4 October 1913

Stoker Edwin Banthorpe Hancey died on 12th June, 1917 from Tonsillitis, Septicaemia & heart failure.

A death for Edwin Hancey, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Birkenhead, Cheshire, England.

Newspaper item – *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 July, 1917:

THE LATE EDWIN HANCEY

Mr J. Malcolm, of Wallaroo, has been informed that his grandson, Edwin Hancey, who was serving on H.M.A.S. Melbourne in the North Sea, died of sickness on June 12. Mr Hancey was 24 years old, and had served in the navy for about two years. He joined the navy from Western Australia, where his parents, Mr and Mrs F. Hancey, are farming. He has a younger brother, Trooper Fred Hancey, in the Light Horse.

Stoker Edwin Banthorpe Hancey was buried in Flaybrick Hill Cemetery, Birkenhead, Merseyside, England – Memorial Reference 16. C. of E. 469A. He does not have a headstone but his name is on the Commonwealth War Graves Screen Wall. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

[David Hancey – Great Nephew of the late Stoker Edwin Banthorpe Hancey has informed me that the family lived at Wongan Hills, Western Australia when Edwin joined the Navy & his parents only found out about their son's death 2 months later as they lived out of town. A cable had been waiting for them with the news of the death. They also received a letter from the nurse who tended him & the captain of HMAS Melbourne. The crew all contributed to a headstone but this was removed years later.]

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker Edwin Banthorpe Hancey - service number 4701, aged 23, of H.M.A.S. "Melbourne", Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Frederick and Jessie Hancey, of 59 Kimberley ST., Leederville, Western Australia.

Stoker E. B. Hancey 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

The West Leederville War Memorial is located at 84 Cambridge St, West Leederville, Western Australia. Edwin Banthorpe Hancey was not included on the original War Memorial which was unveiled in 1924 however, the West Leederville War Memorial received a facelift in 2015, as part of a grant from the Australian Government that was approved in 2014. H. B. Hancey was one of fifty new names that were added to the Cenotaph in 2015. The addition of the extra 50 names were added to a new back panel below the original 16 names & were added in alphabetical order.

West Leederville War Memorial

West Leederville War Memorial & the existing back panel where the additional 50 names were added.

BROWN C.	MCGOVERN K.M.
FLANNIGAN F.C.	OVERSBY T.
HILL R.J.	POWER R.E.
HORLEY D.G.	RICKSON S.E.
ION J.P.	TAYLOR E.J.
KEMPTON C.T.	TAYLOR R.J.
KERR J.	THOMPSON R.
KNEEBONE J.K.	TUFFIN E.D.
AYLETT F.T.L.	JONES C.E.
BECKETT J.	LEWIS G.D.
BLICK P.S.	LYONS J.
BOWEN J.W.	MARQUIS C.G.
BRADY E.V.	MARSLAND J.C.
BRAY H.O.	MOORE J.W.B.
COCKBURN G.	MORAN A.S.
CROSS A.	MUNDAY C.F.H.
DARBY E.H.	NEWMAN J.C.
DRABBLE W.E.	OATES C.N.
DUNSTAN P.P.	O'REILLY F.
EDMONDSON E.	PATERSON J.
EDMONDSON J.W.	PEARSON H.W.
ELIASSON C.A.	PLUMMER H.A.
FOSTER T.C.	RANDLE J.
GEORGE F.R.	SIGGS R.A.
HANCEY E.B.	SMEED L.A.
HENNERTY J.L.	SMITH D.
HINSON C.H.	SMITH F.W.
HOLDEN C.E.	SMITH S.I.
HOLDER H.	SUMNER C.W.
HOLDER J.L.	TOWNSHEND E.H.
HOWIESON D.	WALSH T.H.
JAMES A.V.G.	WHITE M.
JARVIS E.	WYATT W.J.

West Leederville War Memorial with new back panel

(Photos courtesy of Rosemary Ritorto – Local Studies Librarian, Town of Cambridge)

West Leederville War Memorial

Names added 100 on

Far from fading away, 49 West Leederville servicemen are finally being recognised on the West Leederville War Memorial almost 100 years after they were killed. Cambridge local studies librarian Rosemary Ritorto said: "I suspect the names were just missed."

Changes in technology meant all sorts or records could now be searched, she said.

The Memorial, which stands in Cambridge Street outside the old Town Hall building, was unveiled in 1924.

A panel has been removed from the memorial by Perth Monumental Works to add the names to the 130 already there.

Ms Ritorto said the names would fit because they would be added with less space between them.

*The remembered soldiers are: Frank O'Reilly, John Leggo Holder, Edwin Edmondson, Frank Thomas Lewis Aylett, Albert Victor Gordon James, Thomas Charles Foster, Harry Holder, Harold Alexander Plummer, Frederick Ralph George, Wyatt James Wyatt, Leonard Arthur Smeed, John Paterson, Joseph Leonard Hennerty, Poland Alfred Siggs, John Randle, Percival Swithin Blick, Wilfred Ernest Drabble, John Charles Marsland, Frederick William Smith, Edwin Hepburn Townshend, John Beckett, Clarence George Marquis, David Smith, Percy Phillip Dunstan, George Cockburn, Edward Harry Darby, Thomas Henry Walsh, Charles Edwin Holden, James William Bowen, James Whittaker Edmondson, David Howieson, Edgar Vernon Brady, James Lyons, Clifford Nicholas Oates, Morris White, John William Beverhoudt Moore, Cyril William Sumner, Alfred Stephen Moran, Harold Oswald Bray, Jack Carter Newman, Charles Forest Hill Munday, Albert Cross, Ephraim Jarvis, **Edwin Manthorpe Hancey**, Griffith David Lewis, Stewart Irwin Smith, Hoarce William Pearson, Charles Edward Jones, Carl Alfred Eliasson and Charles Henry Hinson.*

Stoker E. B. Hancey 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)*

(2 pages of Stoker Edwin Banthorpe Hancey'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) & National Archives

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Edwin Banthorpe Hancey *(Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Margaret (Facebook) – Great Niece)*

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<u>Newspaper Notices</u>

DEATHS

HANCEY – On June 12, 1917, Edwin Banthorpe, stoker, H.M.A.S. Melbourne, beloved eldest son of Frederick and Jessie Hancey, of Wongan Hills, died of illness; aged 23 years.

(*The West Australia*, Perth, Western Australia – 25 June, 1917) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, W.Australia – 29 June, 1917) &

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 July, 1917) & (*The Register,* Adelaide, South Australia – 26 July, 1917)

£.S.D.

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

WHERE IT GOES

Following are the probates, etc. issued this morning:-…

Letters of Administration

Edwin Banthorpe Hancey, late of Wongan Hills, to Frederick Hancey, £175.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 28 August, 1919)

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.

Flaybrick Hill Cemetery, Birkenhead, Merseyside, England

Flaybrick Hill Cemetery, Birkenhead contains 222 Commonwealth War Graves – 170 from World War 1 & 52 from World War 2. There is 1 Australian buried here & 1 Russian, the rest being from United Kingdom.
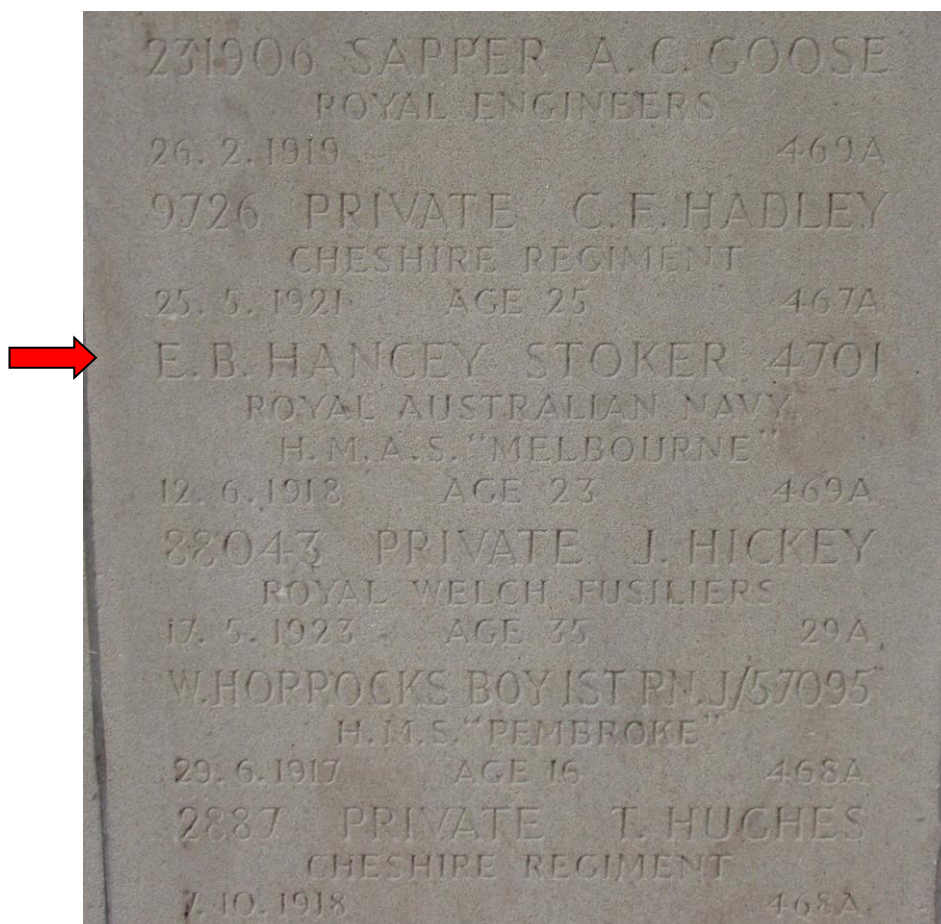

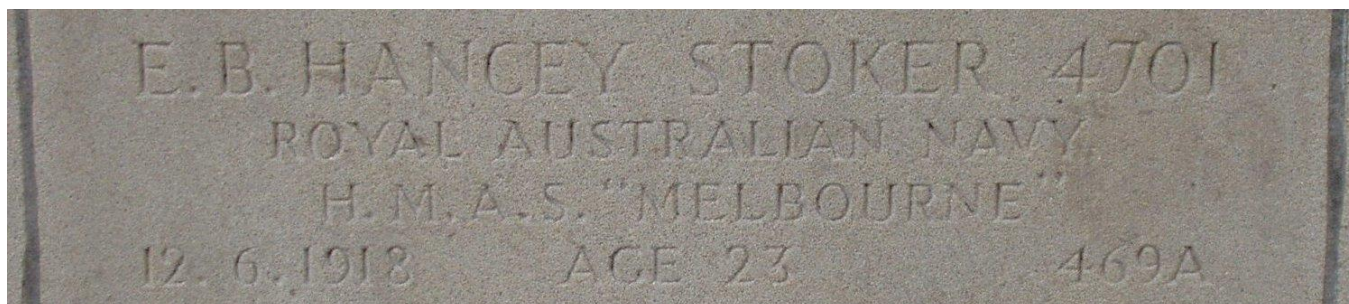**Flaybrick Hill Cemetery** *(Photos by Richard Minshull)*

Photo of Stoker E. B. Hancey's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Flaybrick Hill Cemetery, Birkenhead, Merseyside, England.

(Screen Wall photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

E. B. HANCEY   Stoker   4701

Royal Australian Navy

H.M.A.S. "Melbourne"

12.6.1918   Age 23   469A