

**Queensferry Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland,
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



F. BARNETT

STOKER 8572

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

5TH MARCH, 1918 Age 35

Thy Work Is Over

Rest In Peace

Fred BARNETT

Fred Barnett was born on 27th January, 1884 at Teddington, Middlesex to parents Fred and Henrietta Jane Barnett (nee Howden). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1884 in the district of Kingston, Middlesex, of which Teddington was a parish. Fred Barnett was baptised on 9th March, 1884 in St. James' Church, Hampton Hill, Middlesex. His parents were listed as Fred (a Tailor) & Henrietta Jane Barnett from Hampton Hill.

The 1891 England Census listed Fred Barnett as a 7 year old Scholar (born Hampton, Middlesex), living with his family at 2 Moles' Cottages, Wolsey Road, Hampton, Middlesex. His parents were listed as Fred Barnett (Tailor, aged 37, born Hampton, Middlesex) & Henrietta Jane Barnett (Helps in Business, aged 33, born Dover, Kent). Also listed were Fred's 3 younger sisters – Katherina Augusta Barnett (Scholar, aged 5, born Hampton, Middlesex), Amy Cathery Barnett (Scholar, aged 3, born Hampton, Middlesex) & Ada Cavendish Barnett (aged 1, born Hampton, Middlesex).

A death was registered for Henrietta Jane Barnett (mother of Fred Barnett jnr), aged 35, in the March quarter, 1893 in the district of Kingston, Middlesex.

[The 1901 England Census listed Ada C. Barnett (aged 11) & her sister Amy C. Barnett (aged 13) both listed as Inmates attending school at The Princess Louise Home, Kingston on Thames, Surrey. Jane Henrietta Skinner, aged 56, was the Superintendent of the Home.]

The 1911 England Census listed Fred Barnett as a 26 year old Milkman living at 123 Midhope Buildings, Cromer Street, South St. Pancras. Fred Barnett was living with Henry Barnett, Head of Household, (Window Cleaner, aged 32, born Bishopsgate, London) & Henry's brother – Ernest Barnett (Market Porter, aged 30, born St. Pancras, London).

[The 1911 England Census listed Amy Cathery Barnett (Tailoress, aged 23) & her sister Ada Cavendish Barnett (Tailoress, aged 21) as Boarders living at 15 Sunderland Road, Waling, in the 5 roomed dwelling of Henry George Moore (Railway Servant) & his wife Emily Moore. Henry & Emily Moore had 3 children aged between 12 & 7) & one other Boarder also lived there – Headley Robert Pritchard (Grocer, aged 27).

Fred Barnett was a 32 year old Milkman when he signed up with the British Royal Navy on 17th November, 1916. His service number was K37837. He was 5ft 8" with brown hair, blue eyes & a fresh complexion. He had a tattoo on his right forearm.

Fred Barnett was attached to HMS *Pembroke II* as Stoker II from 17th November, 1916 to 16th February, 1917. *[HMS Pembroke II was a Royal Naval Air Station at Eastchurch between 1913 and 1918.]*

Fred Barnett was transferred to HMS *Blanche* on 17th February, 1917 & promoted to Stoker I on 3rd August, 1917. *[During World War I, Blanche was assigned to several different battleship squadrons of the Grand Fleet. She was present at, but did not fight in, the Battle of Jutland in mid-1916. The ship was converted into a minelayer in early 1917 and made 16 sorties to lay mines during the war. Blanche was paid off in 1919 and sold for scrap in 1921.]*

Fred Barnett was transferred back to HMS *Pembroke II* on 29th November, 1917 & discharged on 3rd December, 1917 for Royal Australian Navy.

Fred Barnett was on loan to Royal Australian Navy for a period of 3 years from 4th December, 1917. He was attached to H.M.A.S. *Australia*. His new service number was 8572 & his next-of-kin was listed as his sister – Catherine Barnett of 78 Lawrence Rd, South Ealing, London.

Stoker Fred Barnett's character was assessed as very good & his ability as superior on 31st December, 1917.

Stoker Fred Barnett died on 5th March, 1918 at Royal Naval Hospital, Queensferry, Edinburgh from Pneumonia.

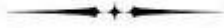
Stoker Fred Barnett was buried in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number 461 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

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Stoker Fred Barnett was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Stoker Fred Barnett – service number 8572, aged 35, of H.M.A.S. “*Australia*”, Royal Australian Navy. He was the son of Fred and Henrietta Barnett, of South Ealing, London.

Stoker Fred Barnett is remembered on The London WW1 Memorial 1914 – 1918 website.



H.M.A.S. *Australia*

H.M.A.S. *Australia* was launched in 1911, and commissioned as flagship of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 1913.

At the start of World War I, *Australia* was tasked with finding and destroying the German East Asia Squadron, which was prompted to withdraw from the Pacific by the battle cruiser's presence. Repeated diversions to support the capture of German colonies in New Guinea and Samoa, as well as an overcautious Admiralty, prevented the battle cruiser from engaging the German squadron before the latter's destruction. *Australia* was then assigned to North Sea operations, which consisted primarily of patrols and exercises, until the end of the war. During this time, *Australia* was involved in early attempts at naval aviation, and 11 of her personnel participated in the Zeebrugge Raid. The battle cruiser was not at the Battle of Jutland, as she was undergoing repairs following a collision with sister ship HMS *New Zealand* in heavy fog. *Australia* only ever fired in anger twice: at a German merchant vessel in January 1915, and at a suspected submarine contact in December 1917.

On 12 December, 1917 *Australia* was involved in a second collision, this time with the battle cruiser HMS *Repulse*. Following this accident, she underwent three weeks of repairs from December 1917 until January 1918. During the repair period, *Australia* became the first RAN ship to launch an aircraft, when a Sopwith Pup took off from her quarterdeck on 18th December. On 30th December, *Australia* shelled a suspected submarine contact, the only time during her deployment with the 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron that she fired on the enemy.



A Sopwith launching from one of *Australia*'s turrets (Donor Sandra Fox 2007)

In February 1918, the call went out for volunteers to participate in a special mission to close the port of Zeebrugge using blockships. Although many aboard *Australia* volunteered their services in an attempt to escape the drudgery of North Sea patrols, only 11 personnel—10 sailors and an engineering lieutenant—were selected for the raid, which occurred on 23rd April. The lieutenant was posted to the engine room of the requisitioned ferry HMS *Iris II*, and was

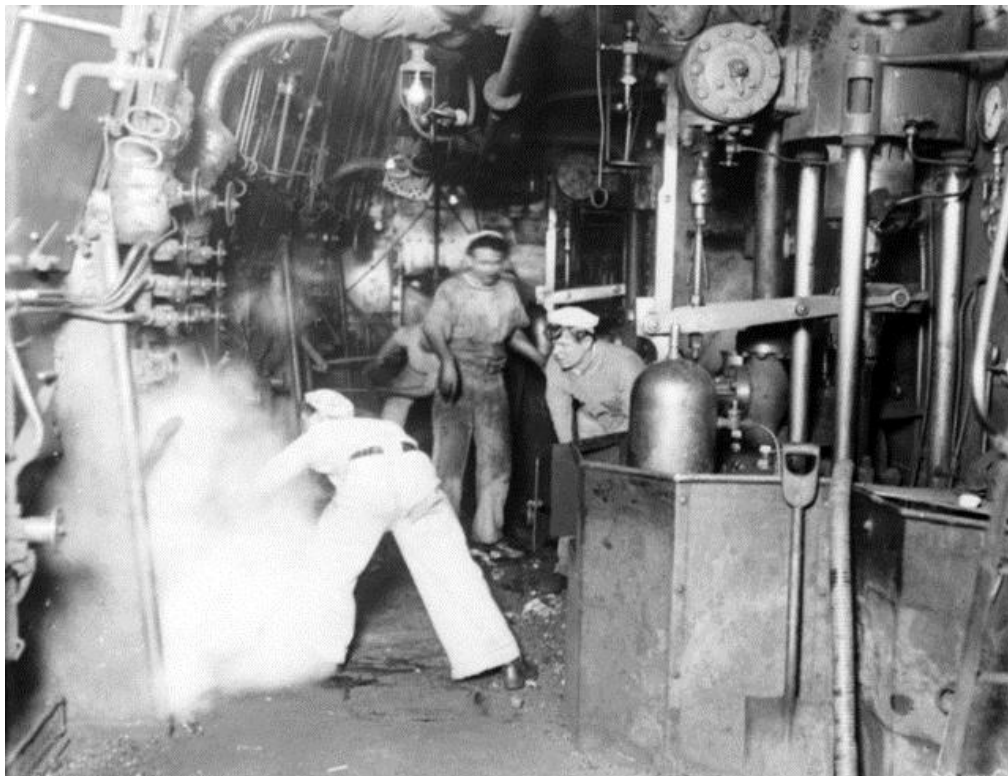
awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) for his efforts. The other Australians were assigned to the boiler rooms of the blockship *Thetis*, or as part of a storming party along the mole. All ten sailors survived—*Australia* was the only ship to have no casualties from the raid—and three were awarded the DSM, while another three were mentioned in dispatches. One of the sailors was listed in the ballot to receive a Victoria Cross, but he did not receive the award.

During 1918, *Australia* and the Grand Fleet's other capital ships on occasion escorted convoys travelling between Britain and Norway. The 2nd Battle Cruiser Squadron spent the period from 8th to 21st February covering these convoys in company with battleships and destroyers, and put to sea on 6th March in company with the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron to support minelayers.

(Wikipedia)



H.M.A.S. Australia 1914



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EN0506

Unidentified stokers at work in the boiler room on board HMAS *Australia*. (Photo period 1914-1918)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EN0535

An unidentified stoker scrapes out the ash from the bottom grate in the boiler furnace on HMAS *Australia*.
(Photo c 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 Royal Australian Navy members 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 the fallen was borne by the Australian Government.

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

Stoker F. Barnett does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Thy Work Is Over Rest In Peace



Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 180 First World War burials, almost all of them naval. There are also eight burials of the Second World War. There are 11 War Graves from World War 1 belonging to members of the Royal Australian Navy.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Photo of Stoker F. Barnett's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Queensferry Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Drysdale)