

Portion 10

This portion contains over 370 Commonwealth War Graves from the three forces. 'Soldiers' Corner' was established in 1919. Flowers were cultivated and sold at the Cemetery from Portion 10 until the 1930s. In 1934, the area set apart for soldiers' graves within Portion 10 was extended to incorporate the flower gardens and the wooden pavilion was demolished. Military burials ceased in December 1942 when the military portion at the Lutwyche Cemetery was established.

Please browse through this portion at your leisure.

Postscript

Two sailors from the Netherlands Merchant Navy are also buried at Toowong Cemetery. They are mentioned in the Brisbane General Cemetery citation on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's website.

Boesidin 30-22-21

Sailor Boesidin was born in Bengkalan, Java in 1909. He died in Brisbane on the 27th of August 1942 while serving aboard the KPM line's *MV Maetsuycker*. The vessel had evacuated from the Dutch East Indies and was redeployed transporting Australian troops to New Guinea.

Samanuddin 29-9-11

Sailor Samanuddin was born in Dacca in 1906. He died in Brisbane on the 16th of July 1943.

Further Reading

Nunan, P. Tragedy in Moreton Bay *Wartime: Official Magazine of the Australian War Memorial*. Issue 34, 2006. p.55-57

The Australian Merchant Navy

<http://www.merchant-navy-ships.com/allied-fleets/dutch-fleets/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

Netherlands War Graves Foundation

<http://www.ogs.nl>

LEST WE FORGET

Naval History Walk to mark the centenary of the Royal Australian Navy 1911 - 2011

Remembrance Day Service and Guided Walk
conducted on 6 November 2011
Toowong Cemetery



Royal Australian Navy Official Badge Design of 1949

Those represented on this walk are only a small number of men and women who gave their lives in service to this country who are either buried or memorialised at Toowong Cemetery.

**Service arranged by Gavin Stoneley
Metropolitan Funerals**

Celebrant: Judy Magub

Commander Tony Roper, RANR

Able Seaman W. J. Harrhy, RN (4-16-4)

Welshman, William John Harrhy, a sailor on *HMS Dauntless*, in Brisbane for a Goodwill Visit, was drowned in the Brisbane River in the early hours of Good Friday, 1924. Members of the ship's crew were in Brisbane to participate in the unveiling of the War Memorial at Toowong Cemetery on ANZAC Day 1924. His body was found the following Monday downstream. It is believed that he tripped over an obstacle on the ship's deck in the early hours of the morning. Harrhy, aged 36, had been in the navy for over fifteen years and had a splendid war records. The funeral left the ship for the cemetery and many wreaths were laid including one shaped like an anchor and another, a model of the ship. The officers and crew arranged a dance in aid of Harrhy's family aboard the *Dauntless*.

Maurice Headford (10-72-35)

Headford was born in Port Melbourne, Victoria on the 23rd of February 1898. He entered the RAN as a Boy Class II on the 5th of November 1912 training aboard the *Tingira*. He was transferred to the newly completed *Australia* when he was promoted to Boy Class I a year later. In August 1916, he was promoted to Ordinary Seaman, then to Able Bodied Seaman in January 1918. While aboard the *Australia* Headford saw service in Rabaul and the North Sea. The *Australia* missed the battle of Jutland as she had collided with the *New Zealand*. After the end of World War I, Headford transferred briefly to the *Sydney* before ending his naval career aboard the depot ship the *Penguin* in January 1920, having served his term of seven years. He died of pulmonary tuberculosis at the Rosemount Hospital, Windsor on the 18th of June 1936. He was the son of Louis and Teresa Headford (nee Mottershead).

Stoker II class Arthur Kilminster Beaven (10-52-9)

Beaven was born on the 28th of January 1895 in Wiltshire, England. He enlisted for a five-year term on the 17th of February 1915 as a stoker, the position he retained for the rest of his naval service. He served aboard the *Cerberus*, *Encounter*, *Australia*, *Sydney* and finally the *Franklin* from January to April 1920. He died of heart failure at the Rosemount Hospital, Windsor on the 9th of June 1921. He was the son of Arthur and Edith Beaven (nee Kilminster).

Stoker Victor Cyril Button (10-53-14)

Button was born in Hobart on the 1st of January 1924. He was the son of Cyril and Jessie Button (nee Woods). He enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve on the 20th of November 1941 training at *HMAS Cerberus* and *Londsdale*. After serving briefly aboard *Australia (II)*, Button was transferred to the *HMAS Moreton*. He drowned in the Brisbane River on Christmas Day, 1942. He was the last military burial in Portion 10.

Able Seaman Archibald Edward Bartsch (10-44-20)**Warrant Officer Henry Theeman (10-41-21)****Steward Eric Ross Harrison (10-43-7)**

On the 4th of March 1942, the auxiliary minesweeper HMAS Tambar was fired on by the Examination Battery at Fort Cowan Cowan on Moreton Island. There was a mix up in the identification code signal of the ship and the battery was ordered to fire across the bow of the unidentified vessel. The 6-inch shell struck the ship's forecastle killing Able Seaman Archibald Bartsch, a member of the anchor party, instantly. The shell skidded across the deck into the Captain's cabin killing Steward Eric Harrison. It then passed through the radio room critically injuring Warrant Officer Henry Theeman. Both of his legs were severed and he succumbed to his injuries soon after. Other crew received injuries to various degrees.

London-born Theeman was aged 47. He had spent most of his life at sea. After three years in Moller Line ships travelling between Japan and China he left the line in August 1941 to join the RAN. Bartsch, son of 3rd Light horseman William Henry Bartsch, was an employee of the Australasian United Paint Company of Port Augusta, South Australia prior to his enlistment in the navy. He was aged 20. Western Australian-born Harrison was the son of William Ross and Rebecca Harrison. He was aged 33 and a resident of Melbourne.

The military covered up the incident so as not to affect morale. The newspapers widely reported the incident as an 'accident at sea'. The Tambar's crew was dispersed throughout the RAN immediately after the men's joint funeral two days later. The ship was temporarily paid off and the Captain given another command. The District Naval Officer (Commander E. C. Rhodes), other naval officers, and military representatives were present. The service was conducted by the Rev. H. H. Trigge of the Methodist Church and the Church of England's Rev. F. R. C. Birch. Cannon and Cripps made the arrangements for the funeral and the cortege of Naval ratings from the Alice Street Depot marched from their funeral parlour.

Lieutenant Watkin Llewellyn Whitaker, RN (10-83-13)

Whitaker was the son of Frank and Elizabeth Maria Whitaker and the husband of Jane Ellen Whitaker, of St. Budeaux, Plymouth, England. He was on loan from the Royal Navy. He had not long completed retraining for the RAN when he died at the St Helen's Hospital at South Brisbane on the 3rd of October 1942 of a haemorrhaging duodenal ulcer, aged 55.