

HMAS AE2 Submarine

Naval Personnel on loan from Royal Navy

ABBOTT, Harry

Service No 8268 Chief Petty Officer HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 18 April 1876 at West Feignmouth, Devon, England

Husband of Elizabeth ABBOTT

On leaving school he was employed as an errand boy. He joined the Royal Navy as a Boy 2nd Class at HMS IMPREGNABLE on 12 May 1891 signing on for a twelve year continuous Service Engagement.

Enlisted 01 December 1913 for 3 years

Lent from Royal Navy for three years' service

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey

After being released from captivity in November 1918 he returned to England via Alexandria and was loaned to the RAN for a further three years on 06 February 1919 and was drafted to the Submarine Depot Ship HMAS PLATYPUS on 25 March 1919

Returned to Australia with approved passage for wife and son at Government Expense

Approved to be retained in RAN for further period of 1 years from 06 February 1922

Discharged 25 April 1923

BELL, Stephen Thomas

Service No 8272

Chier Engine Room Artificer 1st Class

HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 16 February 1880 at Bermondsey, London, England

Husband of Alice Emily BELL

Enlisted 01 December 1913

Lent from Royal Navy

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey

After his capture he was held in Belemedik and suffered from poor health as well as being injured in a railway accident. He also contracted malaria whilst in POW Camps.

He returned home via Malta at the end of 1918 and joined the HMS London Depot before reverting to the Royal Navy.

Discharged 02 March 1919

BROWN, Herbert Alexander

Service No 8096 Stoker Petty Officer HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 19 August 1882 at Higham, Kent

Son of Sarah BROWN

Of 5 Providence Cottages, Upper Higham, near Rochester, England

Husband of Maude BROWN

Of South Hill Wood, Bromley, UK

Enlisted 07 May 1913 for a five year engagement

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War Afion Kara Hissar, Turkey

Wife and 3 Children given free passage per 'Konigin Luise' to Australia 18 December 1919

Drafted to the Cruiser HMAS SYDNEY

Discharged in Sydney 01 August 1922

It is understood that he later re-married and that he and his wife managed an orange orchard near Gosford, NSW. Next of kin given as Mrs. Maude BROWN of Manderville, Bickleigh Street, Abbotsford, New South Wales and later of Bark Mangrove Mountain near Gosford, NSW.

CHURCHER, Lionel Stanley

Service No 7970

A.B.

HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 11 March 1883 at Bermondsey, England

Son of Charles and Ellen CHURCH

Of 4 Esmeralda Road, Bermondsey, London.

After leaving school he was employed as a shop boy.

He joined the Royal Navy as Boy 2nd Class on 16 August 1989 signing on for a twelve year continuous service engagement.

Father of Edgar CHURCHER

Of Briar Cottage, Shedfield, Botley, Hants. England

Enlisted 15 March 1913 for a five year engagement

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey

Lionel was imprisoned at the Belemedik Camp where, by all accounts he was an awkward Prisoner. Later he was transferred to Afion Kara Hissar before being transferred again to the San Stefano Camp near Constantinople (Istanbul). He survived his imprisonment and after release from the Prisoner of War Camp late in 1918 he returned to the London Depot.

Demobilized from the RAN 10 April 1919

He joined the Merchant Navy as an Able Seaman and later re-enlisted int he Royal Navy.

He became ill and died in Portsmouth Dockyard 17 January 1930

He had been living at South View, Valebridge, Burgess Hill, Sussex, England

FAWNS, Peter

Service No 8285 Engine Room Artificer 1st Class HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 03 August 1874 in Dundee, Scotland

Son of Robert and jane FAWNS

Of 69 Crescent Street, Dundee, Scotland

After leaving school he trained as a coppersmith.

Husband of Jeanie FAWNS

Joined the Royal Navy 16 October 1895 signing on for a twelve year Continuous Service Engagement.

Enlisted 01 December 1913 for 3 years

Lent from Royal Navy

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War at Constantinople, Turkey

He was first held as Prisoner of War at Afion Kara Hissar and then at Cankiri before being transferred to Belemedik. In March 1916 he was sent to Pozanti before moving to a camp near Angora in January 1917. Peter survived his time as a Prisoner of War in Turkey and arrived back in London on Christmas Eve 1918 having been routed via Salonika.

Left the Navy and was demobilized 27 March 1919 shortly after his return to Scotland.

He was still living in Dundee in 1949

GIBSON, James Henry

Service No 8273

Engine Room Artificer 1st Class

HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 08 March 1874 at Manchester, Lancashire, England

Son of George Henry GIBSON

On leaving school he qualified as a fitter and turner.

Husband of Annie Elizabeth GIBSON

Joined the Royal Navy 04 March 1901 signing on for a twelve year Continuous Service Engagement.

Enlisted 01 December 1913 for 3 years

Lent from Royal Navy

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey and imprisoned in various POW Camps in Turkey.

He returned home to London after the Armistice.

On 27 February 1919 James was loaned to the RAN for three years and was later changed to four years.

Passage approved for wife and Children to Australia March 1923

This was initially approved until it was noted that both his sons were over sixteen years of age.

He withdrew his request but resubmitted request for 'Free Passage' for his wife only and forfeited his own return passage to the UK.

He was drafted to HMAS CERBERUS 18 November 1922

Discharged 18 November 1923

Resided at 28 Spring Road, West Geelong, Vic.

HAGGARD, Geoffrey Arthur Gordon

Lieutenant

Born 04 May 1888 in London, England Son of Arthur HAGGARD Enlisted 01 December 1913 Served on AE2 28 February 1914 - 30 June 1915 Prisoner of War in Turkey Reverts to Royal Navy 28 March 1919

HOLDNERNESS / HOLDNESS, Charles

Service No 8270 Leading Seaman HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 22 July 1878 at Folestone, Kent, England

Husband of Daisy HOLNESS

Of Dover, England

On leaving school he was employed as a gardener.

Joined the Royal Navy 10 January 1894 signing on for a 12 year Continuous Service Engagement.

Enlisted RAN 01 December 1913 for 3 years

Lent from Royal Navy

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey

He appears to have suffered recurrent bouts of illness during his captivity. He was released from Prisoner of War Camp at Belemedik at the end of the War and returned home by Christmas 1918 returning to HMA London Depot.

Demobilized 14 March 1919 aged 41 years

Died 1943 in Folkestone, Kent England at the age of 64 years.

KNAGGS, Albert Edward

Service no 7893 Able Seaman

HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 12 August 1881 in Bristol, England

Son of Henry Stephen and Louisa KNAGGS

Husband of Sarah Annie KNAGGS

Of 11 Caxton Road, Newfoundland Road, St. Paul's, Bristol, England

On leaving school he was employed as a boot finisher and joined the Royal Navy 14 January 1897 signing on for a 12 year Continuous Service Engagement.

Volunteered for service with RAN 02 March 1913 for 5 years

Prisoner of War at Constantinople, Turkey

Died 22 October 1916 of Malaria in the hospital at Belemedick Camp

Aged 34 years

Originally buried at the Christian Armenian Cemetery but later his grave was relocated to the Baghdad North Gate War Cemetery He kept a diary of the events but entries ended on 18 July 1916 (3 months prior to his death) and was returned to Australia after the War by his fellow Prisoners.

His wife resided at 11 Canton Street, St. Pauls, Bristol.

NASH, George Henry

Service No 8056 Leading Seaman HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 31 March 1882 at Bristol, England

Son of Henry HASH

On leaving school he trained as a plumber and joined the Royal Navy on 20 August 1898 signing on for a 12 year Continuous Service Engagement.

Loaned to the RAN 14 April 1913 for 5 years

Served on the submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey in various POW camps including the Belemedik Prisoner of War Camp.

He survived his imprisonment and returned home at the end of 1918 rejoining the HMA London Depot.

Demobilized 25 March 1919 at his own request.

On discharge he gave his address as 13 Kitchener Street, Dalmuir, Scotland.

STOKER, Henry Hugh Gordon Dacre

Lieutenant Royal Navy HMAS AE2

Born 02 February 1885 at Dublin, Ireland

Son of Doctor and Mrs. STOKER of Dublin, Ireland

Joined Royal Navy 15 January 1900

Appointed Lieutenant 07 November 1913 for 3 years

Stoker took Submarine AE2 to Australia in February 1914 and took part in operations in the Pacific in late 1914 before returning to the Mediterranean in early 1915.

Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey and survived the war as prisoner of war.

After release he was appointed to the Submarine Flotilla Leader HMAS ITHURIEL

He was awarded the DSO 'In recognition of his gallantry in making the passage of the Dardanelles in command of H.M. Australian Submarine AE2 on 25th April 1915.'

He left the Navy on 02 October 1920 at the age of 35 and took up a career in acting and later as a playwright. He divorced after his return from the war and married again in 1925. They were contently married for around 40 years. He returned to Naval Duties during WWII.

Died 02 February 1966 on his eighty first birthday at St. Stephen's Hospital in Chelsea, London.

VARCOE, Charles

Service no 8275 Chief Stoker HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 04 August 1879 at St. Stephens, Cornwall, England Son of James and Mary VARCOE
Husband of Mabel VARCOE
Of 9 Glenmore Avenue, Stoke, Devonport, England
Prisoner of War at Constantinople, Turkey
Enlisted 01 December 1913
Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1916
Prisoner of War in Turkey
Died 18 September 1916 whilst Prisoner of War
Aged 38 years
Buried Baghdad North Gate War Cemetery

VAUGHAN, Charlie

Service No 8259 Chief Petty Officer HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 21 November 1873 in Worle, Somerset, England

Husband of Helena VAUGHAN

After leaving school he was employed as a mason. He joined the Royal Navy on 13 February 1890 signing on for a 12 year engagement.

Lent to the RAN 04 December 1913 for 5 years.

Served on submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Stamboul, Turkey

He survived the years of captivity being released in late 1918 arriving back in England on 18 December 1918.

Demobilized 18 March 1919

Released to pension 26 May 1919

WALKER, Thomas Henry

Service No 8289 Stoker 1st Class HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 10 April 1885 at Radford, Nottingham, England

Husband of Elizabeth Mary WALKER

Of Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, England

On leaving school he was trained as a fitter and turner.

He joined the Royal Navy 02 January 1908 for a twelve year Continuous Service Engagement.

He applied to join the new Australian Submarine Service and enlisted 01 December 1913 for 3 years.

Lent from Royal Navy

Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War at Afion Kara Hissar and Belemedik, Turkey

It is understood that he planned an escape with one other but this was foiled - possibly by illness.

He returned to London via Smyrna and Beirut on 18th December 1918.

Discharged 25 August 1919

WISHART, Thomas

Service No 8277 Stoker 1st Class HMAS Submarine AE2

Born 29 October 1884 at Partick, Glasgow, Scotland

Husband of Annie WISHART

Of 20 Hornsby St., Belfast, Ireland

Prior to joining the Royal Navy he worked in the Glasgow Shipyards as a rivet heater.

He joined the Royal Navy 10 January 1903 for a 12 year Continuous Service Engagement.

Volunteered for RAN 01 December 1913 for 3 years' service

Lent from Royal Navy

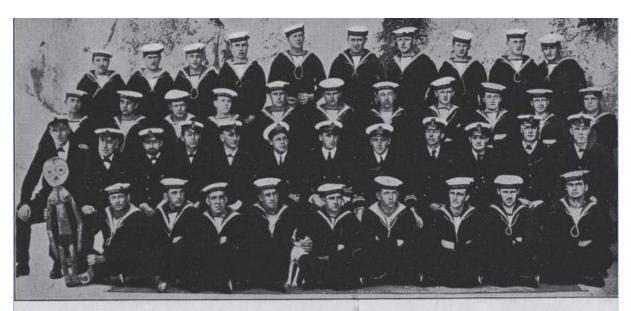
Served on Submarine 01 January 1915 - 30 June 1915

Prisoner of War in Turkey

He was imprisoned in various POW camps in Turkey, including Afion Kara Hissar but at the end of 1915 he was transferred to Belemedik. Here he was injured by a falling log in an accident. Thomas was apparently an independent prisoner and on at least two occasions he fought with the Turkish guards. He was beaten and placed in solitary confinement for the second offence. He was transferred back to Afion Kara Hissar later and then further transferred to the San Stephano Camp. He returned to London via Alexandria by the end of 1918 and was demobilized.

Rejoined the Royal Navy 11 February 1921 and served until 1st September 1926.

Died 20 February 1952 in Belfast.



Front Row (from left to right).—L/Sea. McGregor, A.B. Naggs, P.O. Gilbert, S.P.O. Brown, P.O. Stiling, P.O. Bray, S.P.O. Kinder, L/Sea. Holderness, Sig. Thompson.

Second Row (from left to right).—Wtr. Robinson, E.R.A. Fawnes, E.R.A. Gibson, C.P.O. Vaughan, C.P.O. Abbott, Lieut. Haggard, Lt.-Comd. Stoker, Lieut. Carey, C.E.R.A. Broomhead, E.R.A. Bell, Ch. Sto. Smith, Ch. Sto. Varcoe.

Third Row (from left to right).—A.B. Gwinne, A.B. Talbot, —, , —, A.B. McCready, A.B. Nicholls, A.B. Norris, Tel. Falconer, A.B. Wheat, L/Sto. Wishart, A.B. Cheater.

Back Row (from left to right).—Sto. Jenkins, Sto. Johnson, Sto. Walker, Sto. Broughton, Sto. Harding, L/Sto. Kerin, A.B. Naggs, Sto. Suckling, —, Sto. Wilson.

Photograph source: http://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-ae2

Compiled by Faithe Jones 05 March 2018

Sources used to compile the above information:

National Archives – list of Sailors on AE2 when lost https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Gallery151/dist/JGalleryViewer.aspx?B=370880&S=1
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Naval records available at https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/search/records?Series=A6770

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Trove Newspapers

Australian Submarines: A History

By Michael White