

Donald Robinson



Donald Robinson was born in 1924 and was the son of Joseph and Sarah Ann Robinson of Bolton Lane Ends, Cliburn, Westmorland. Donald served as a Stoker 1st Class (service number P/KX151561) on HMS Ringdove, Royal Navy. He died on 11th June 1944 age 20 with 3 shipmates as the result of a tragic accident shortly after visiting his father who had died 23 days earlier. He is remembered with honour on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial which commemorates around 10,000 sailors of the First World War and almost 15,000 of the Second World War.

Donald had a twin sister and first attended the school at Cliburn and later the Council school at Appleby. He was engaged in farm work until he joined the Navy.

His Commanding Officer, in a letter of sympathy to his recently widowed mother said *"that Donald was of such a cheerful, contented and helpful disposition that they could not fail to miss him greatly. They all felt a great sense of loss. He had caused his ship to proceed to the scene of the accident and had placed wreaths on the waters. A naval chaplain held a service. They all joined in sending her their deep sympathy."*

Relatives:

Twin Sister and Mrs Doreen Whitwell (niece and daughter of twin sister) 56 Mountbarrow Road, Ulverston LA12 9NS

Margaret Jarvis and Rodney Cook, 4 Howebeck, Maulds Meaburn, CA10 3HR neice and nephew

Donald had 11 brothers and sisters

Minelayer of the Linnet class



In Memory of
Stoker 1st Class

Donald Robinson

P/KX 151561, H.M.S. Ringdove, Royal Navy who died on 11 June 1944 Age 20

Son of Joseph and Sarah Ann Robinson, of Cliburn, Westmorland.

Remembered with Honour
Portsmouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Location Information

The Memorial is situated on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade, and is accessible at all times. A copy of the Memorial Register is kept at the Civic Offices in Guildhall Square and may be consulted there.

<http://www.memorialsinportsmouth.co.uk/southsea/naval.htm>

Visiting Information

Visitor Information Panels have recently been installed at the Portsmouth Naval Memorial to provide information about the war casualties commemorated here. Panels are being erected to help raise awareness of First and Second World War casualties in the UK (Feb 2013) ** Disabled access to the World War 2 Section of the Memorial is possible via the Common and the ramps at the rear of the Memorial. For further information regarding disabled access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 507200.

Historical Information

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided.

An Admiralty committee recommended that the three main 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 memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. The Portsmouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by the Duke of York (the future George VI) on 15 October 1924.

After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each. The architect for the Second World War extension at Portsmouth was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler, William McMillan, and Esmond Burton. The Extension was unveiled by the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother on 29 April 1953.

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