

**In Memory of  
Stoker 1st Class VICTOR ALBERT PAGE  
K/26880, H.M.S. Simoom, Royal Navy  
Who died, age 20, on 23 January 1917  
Son of Joseph Thomas Page,  
of Bromsgrove Place, Faringdon, Berks.  
Remembered with honour  
Faringdon War Memorial and  
CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

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 manning 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. It was unveiled on 26 April 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 Chatham was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler and William McMillan. Chatham Naval Memorial commemorates 8,517 sailors of the First World War and 10,098 of the Second World War.

### **War Diary**

The destroyer HMS Simoom, Cdr. Inman, was sunk in an engagement between British and German destroyers in the Flanders Bight on the night of January 22nd, 1917. The ship belonged to the Harwich Force under Cdre. R. Y. Tyrwhitt which had put to sea on the 22nd to intercept a German flotilla, under command of Cdr. Max Schultz, which was known to be making for Zeebrugge from German ports. This flotilla consisted of eleven V, S and G destroyers, 570-650 tons. The rival forces made contact between the North Hinder Light and the Maas at 2.45 a.m. on the 23rd. In the fight which ensued the S 50, which had lost touch at about 4 a.m. ran into a line of four British destroyers of which the Simoom was the leading ship. There was a sharp exchange of salvos and the S 50 discharged a torpedo which struck the Simoom and exploded her magazine, causing heavy casualties. The S 50 then escaped in the darkness. The destroyer Morris took off all the Simoom's survivors and she was then torpedoed and sunk by the Nimrod on Cdre. Tyrwhitt's orders. The Simoom carried a complement of 90.