

**In Memory of
Able Seaman ROYCE LEONARD BAILEY
P/JX 519294, H.M.S. Isis, Royal Navy
who died, age 19, on 20 July 1944
Son of Leonard and Lilian Bailey, of
Faringdon, Berkshire.
Remembered with honour
Faringdon War Memorial and
PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL**



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

HMS Isis (D87), named for the Egyptian goddess, was an I-class destroyer laid down by the Yarrow and Company, at Scotstoun in Glasgow on 6 February 1936, launched on 12 November 1936 and commissioned on 2 June 1937.



Isis took part in the evacuation of Greece in April 1941. On 19 February 1943 she and the escort destroyer HMS *Hursley* and a Vickers Wellington medium bomber attacked and sank the German submarine *U-562* in the Mediterranean Sea north-east of Benghazi. *Isis* was hit in 1941 off Beirut, Lebanon after the Battle of Crete. She pursued two Vichy French destroyers which escaped. A Junkers Ju 88 aircraft then attacked and severely damaged her. *Hero* tried to tow her to Haifa, Palestine. The tow rope snapped, but the engines were started and she successfully reached Haifa.

Isis struck a mine and sank off the Normandy landing beaches on 20 July 1944. 155 officers and men were lost. She was later discovered during an expedition to locate the wreck of RMS *Carpathia*.

Portsmouth Naval Memorial is situated on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade, and is accessible at all times. 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. 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.

Portsmouth Naval Memorial commemorates around 10,000 sailors of the First World War and almost 15,000 of the Second World War.