**Signalman George Lawrie**

**Royal Navy**

**Service Number J/1909**

**Rank:** Signalman

**Service No:** J/1909

**Date of Death:** 20/01/1918

**Regiment/Service:** Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Mechanician."

**Panel Reference:** 27.

**Memorial:** [PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/142001/PLYMOUTH%20NAVAL%20MEMORIAL)



Plymouth Naval Memorial, England

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Locality:** Devon

**Identified Casualties:** 23205

**Location Information**

The Memorial is situated centrally on The Hoe which looks directly towards Plymouth Sound. It is accessible at all times. Copies of the Memorial Register are kept at the Tourist Information Office at Island House, 9 The Barbican, Plymouth, PL1 2LS, and also in the Naval Historical Section at Plymouth Library.

http://www.webrarian.co.uk/rnwm/

**Visiting Information**

Visitors are kindly requested not to 'embellish' inscriptions on the memorial using chalk or abrasive products in order to enhance them for photographic purposes. Previous incidences of this have damaged the panels.

As part of our preparations for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have embarked on an extensive programme of restoration projects.
The cleaning and renovation of the Plymouth Naval Memorial forms a major part of this programme.

Work commenced on the 23rd March 2014 and is due to complete on the 16th June 2014.

Due to Health & Safety requirements, the site around the Memorial will be closed to the public for the duration of the project. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but it is unavoidable under the circumstances.

**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 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. The Plymouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by HRH Prince George on 29 July 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 Plymouth was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler and William McMillan. The Extension was unveiled by HRH Princess Margaret on 20 May 1954. A further unveiling took place on 11 November 1956, when panels honouring those who died on shore, but who had no known grave, were unveiled by Admiral Sir Mark Pizey.

In addition to commemorating seamen of the Royal Navy who sailed from Plymouth, the First World War panels also bears the names of sailors from Australia and South Africa. The governments of the other Commonwealth nations chose to commemorate their dead elsewhere, for the most part on memorials in their home ports. After the Second World War, Canada and New Zealand again chose commemoration at home, but the memorial at Plymouth commemorates sailors from all other parts of the Commonwealth.

Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorates 7,251 sailors of the First World War and 15,933 of the Second World War.

**HHMS Mechanician**



HMS Mechanician was a cargo ship, built 1900 and owned by the Charente Steamship Company, which was requisitioned by the Admiralty as an armed merchant ship. She was torpedoed and sunk whilst on passage from London by

UB-35, 8 miles West of St. Catherine's Point near the Isle of Wight on 20th January 1918. 13 of the crew were lost. (Jane’s Ships 1919). UB-35 was depth charged and sunk by HMS Leven at 5103N 0146E on 26 January 1918 (no survivors); the wreck has since been located and identified by divers.