

# Sutton Veny

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War II



**P/K 60981 LEADING STOKER**

**F. I. HASKELL**

**ROYAL NAVY**

**H.M.S. *PENELOPE***

**18TH FEBRUARY, 1944 AGE 42**

## Frank Ivan HASKELL

Frank Ivan Haskell was born in 1903 to parents Harry Frederick & Louisa Haskell (nee Francis). His parents had married in 1896 at St. Denys, Warminster, Wiltshire. Frank's birth was registered in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire in the December quarter of 1903. Frank Ivan Haskell was baptised at Sutton Veny on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1904.

The 1901 Census recorded Frank's family (before he was born) living at Springhead, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as Harry Haskell (Coachman, aged 36, born Horningsham) & Louisa (aged 28, born Warminster). Four children were listed on this Census – Annie K (Aged 4, born Warminster), Florence E. (aged 3, born Horningsham) Alice B. (aged 2, born Warminster) & Frederick J. R. (aged 2 months, born Sutton Veny).

Frank Ivan Haskell enlisted with the Royal Navy. He was given the service number of P/K 60981. His records show that he was last posted to H.M.S. *Penelope* & was a Leading Stoker.

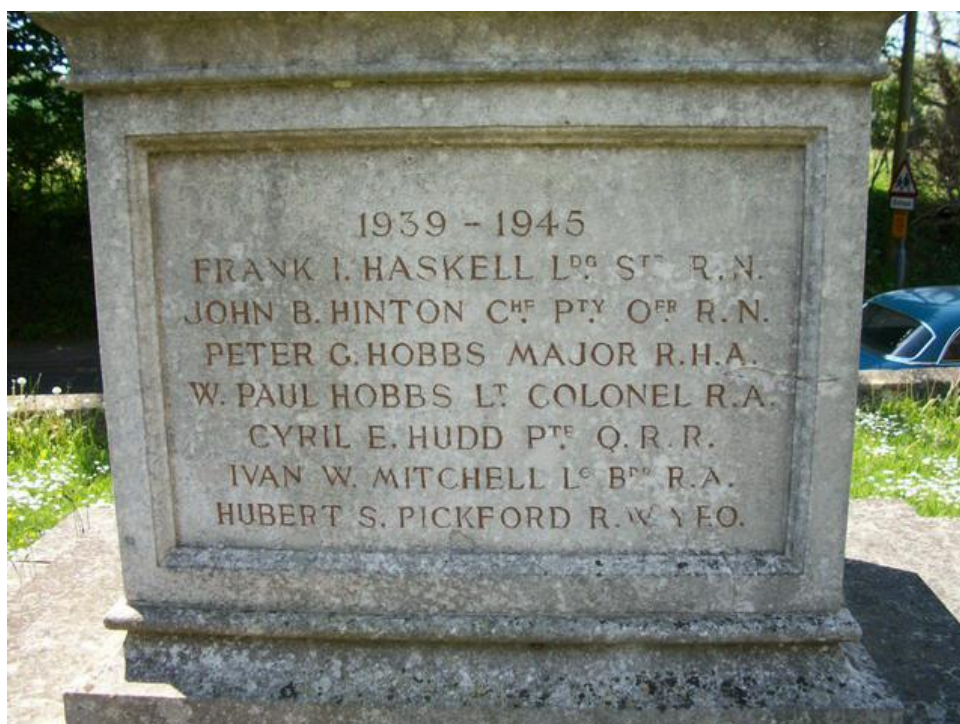
Leading Stoker Frank Ivan Haskell was killed aboard H.M.S. *Penelope* when she was sunk by enemy action on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1944, aged 42 years.

Leading Stoker Frank Ivan Haskell is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire – Panel 85, Column 2 as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Leading Stoker Frank Ivan Haskell, P/K 60981, as the son of Harry Frederick and Louisa Frances Haskell. He was attached to H.M.S. *Penelope* of the Royal Navy.

Administration was granted at Llandudno on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1944 regarding the estate of – "Haskell Frank Ivan of 95 Salisbury Road, Ealing, Middlesex, died on or since 18 February 1944 on war Service..... to Florence Ethel Haskell spinster. Effects £297 8s. 10d."

Frank I. Haskell is remembered on the Sutton Veny War Memorial, located in the foreground of St. John the Evangelist Church at Sutton Veny.





**Sutton Veny War Memorial** (Photos by Andrea Charlesworth 2012)

Frank Haskell is remembered on a Headstone located in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny along with his older brother, Bob and sister, Florence.



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)

*In Loving Memory Of*

**Frank Haskell**

*Ldg. Stoker R.N.*

*Lost With H.M.S. Penelope*

*18<sup>th</sup> Feb 1944, Aged 39.*

**F.J.R. (Bob) Haskell,**

*Passed Away in Sydney,*

*Australia,*

*10<sup>th</sup> May 1983, Aged 82.*

*Brought Home To Rest.*

**Florence Ethel Haskell**

*27 July 1897*

*5<sup>th</sup> May 1994*

*2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 Children Born To*

*Louisa And Harry*

*Rest In Peace.*

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## **Portsmouth Naval Memorial**

The Portsmouth Naval Memorial is situated on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade.

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 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.

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

*(Information & Photo from CWGC)*

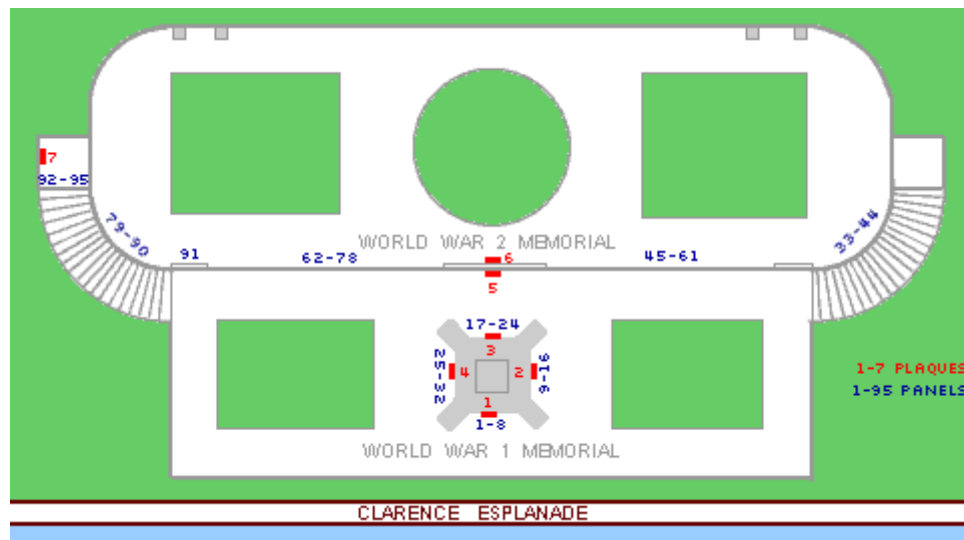
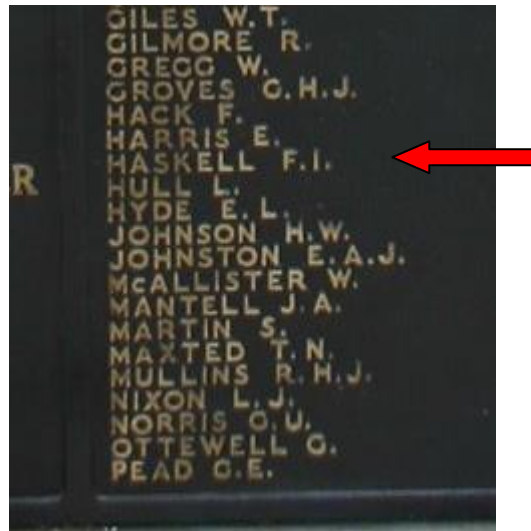




Portsmouth Naval Memorial



Panel 85 (Photos from Memorial & Monuments in [Portsmouth](#) – Tim Backhouse/Geoff Allen)



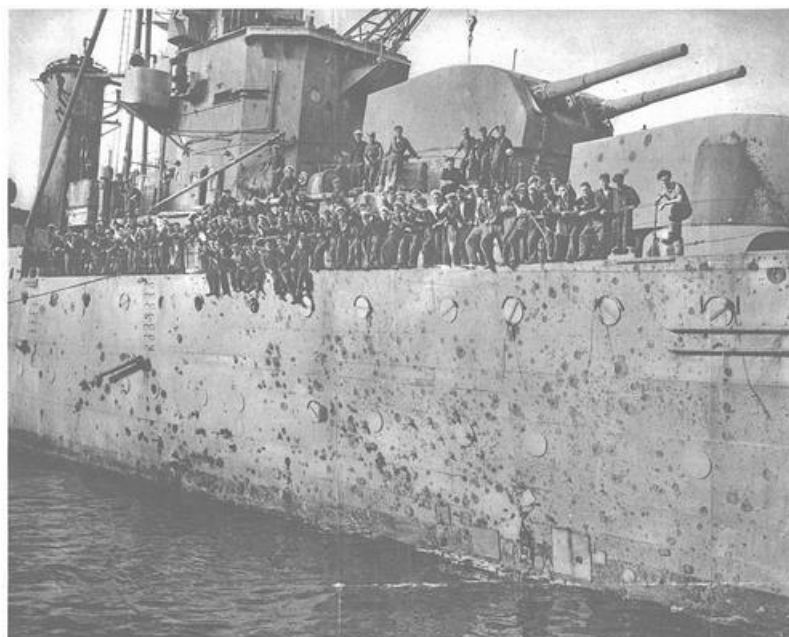
### **H.M.S. *Penelope***

HMS *Penelope* was an *Arethusa*-class light cruiser of the Royal Navy. She was launched on 15 October 1935, and commissioned 13 November 1936.

At the outbreak of World War II she was with the 3rd Cruiser Squadron in the Mediterranean, having arrived at Malta on 2 September 1939.

On wartime service with Force "K", she was holed so many times by bomb fragments that she acquired the nickname "HMS *Pepperpot*".

*Penelope* took part in Operation *Shingle*, the amphibious assault on Anzio, Italy, providing gunfire support as part of Force "X" with USS *Brooklyn* on 22 January 1944. She also assisted in the bombardments in the Formia area during the later operations. She made eight shoots on 8 February.



THE STARBOARD SIDE OF H.M.S. "PENELOPE" after heavy attack by enemy aircraft in the Mediterranean: There are hundreds of holes, from fragments of the bombs dropped near her wharf in Malta Harbour, and these were all plugged before she sailed for Gibraltar

## Sinking

On 18 February 1944, *Penelope*, under the command of Captain G. D. Belben, was leaving Naples to return to the Anzio area when she was torpedoed at 40.55°N 13.25°E by the German submarine *U-410* under the command of Horst-Arno Fenski. A torpedo struck her in the after engine room and was followed sixteen minutes later by another torpedo that hit in the after boiler room, causing her immediate sinking. 417 of the crew, including the Captain, went down with the ship; 206 survived.

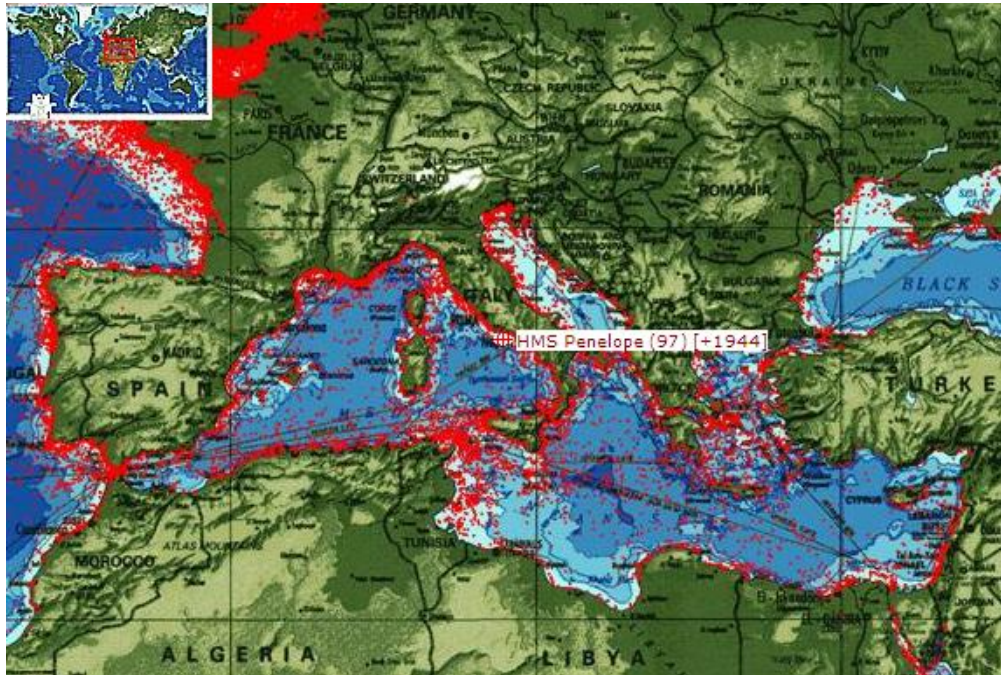
The remarkable point of the attack by *U-410* was that the cruiser was making 26 knots when hit. As far as can be ascertained, this is a unique case. In the history of submarine attacks during WWII, no other ship running at such speed was ever successfully attacked.

A memorial plaque commemorating those lost is in St. Ann's Church, HM Dockyard, Portsmouth.

(Wikipedia)



**H.M.S. *Penelope***



Location of H.M.S. *Penelope* (photo from [wrecksite](#))