

Thomas MUTTON

Leading Seaman 230864, HM Submarine "E37"

Died December 3rd 1916, aged 27

Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial

Thomas Mutton was born on May 21st 1888 to Thomas (*born c1862*) and Ellen Elizabeth (*nee Smith born c1863*) Mutton. His father was a mariner who probably spent much of his time away at sea, as he is not on any census return in 1891, 1901 or 1911, where Ellen is head of household and shown as a mariners wife. Thomas came from a large family of 9 children, with 7 sisters; Edith S (*born c1886*), Lenora (*born c1887*), Clara H (*born c1890*), Kathleen (*born c1894*), Gertrude (*born c1895*), Lilian (*born c1897*) and Clarice (*born c1899*), and just one brother, William G (*born c1900*). Thomas was not on any UK census return in 1911, so he may also have been at sea.

During the war Thomas was in the submarine service, then still in its early days. The first Royal Navy submarine was the secret and experimental Holland Class submarine, of which 5 were built in 1901/2. They proved unreliable and were mainly used for testing. When Thomas died he was on HM Submarine E37, an E class submarine. Fifty eight E class submarines were built at a cost of just over £100,000 each, to form the backbone of the British submarine fleet in the First World War. E37 was built by Fairfield Govan on the Clyde and was launched in September 1915. She was based at Parkeston Quay, Harwich, as part of the 8th and 9th Submarine flotillas. She failed to return from patrol in the North Sea on December 1st 1916 and was declared lost on December 3rd 1916 with no survivors.

She had a compliment of 30, and these were some of the crew lost that day:

Ralph Havery (26) Chief Engine Room Artificer*

Herbert George Barrenger (22) Engine Room Artificer 4th Class

David Hourston (21) Engine Room Artificer 4th Class

James Alexander (-) Engine Room Artificer

George Edward Woodger (26) Petty Officer Stoker

Joseph Alfred Matkin (-) Leading Stoker

William Henry Chapman (24) Stoker 1st Class

William Mockridge (-) Stoker 1st Class

Thomas Mutton (27) Leading Seaman

Thomas Eckford Powell (-) Ordinary Telegraphist

Thomas Henry May (-)

Harry Emery (-)

Ernest Ellender (-)

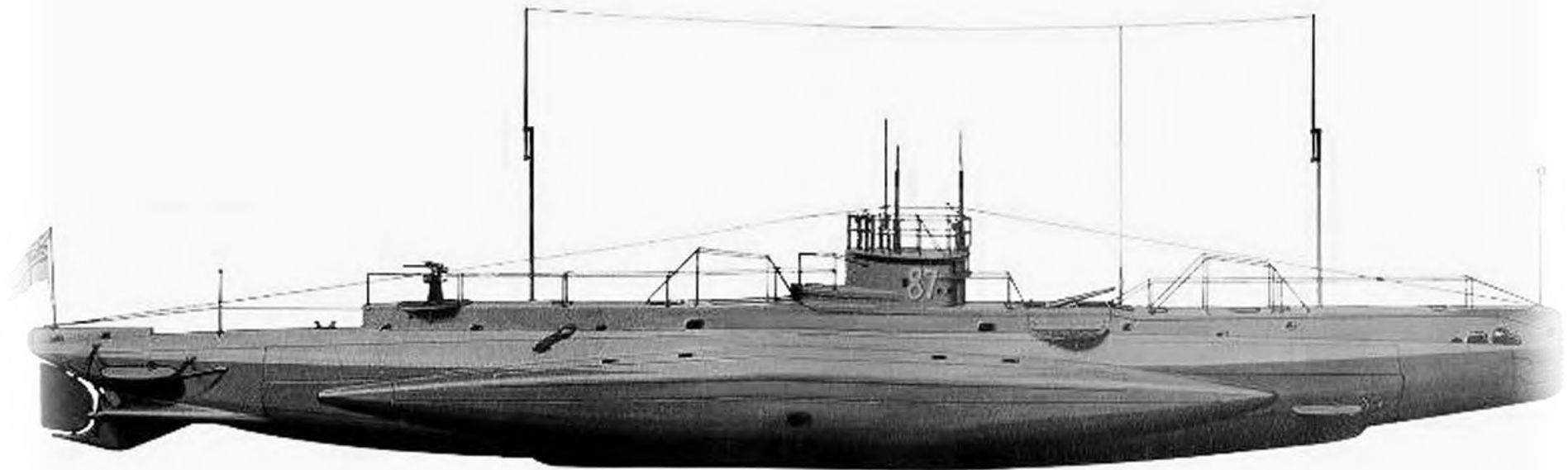
Frank Thomas Cowlard (-)

William Henry Chapman (-)

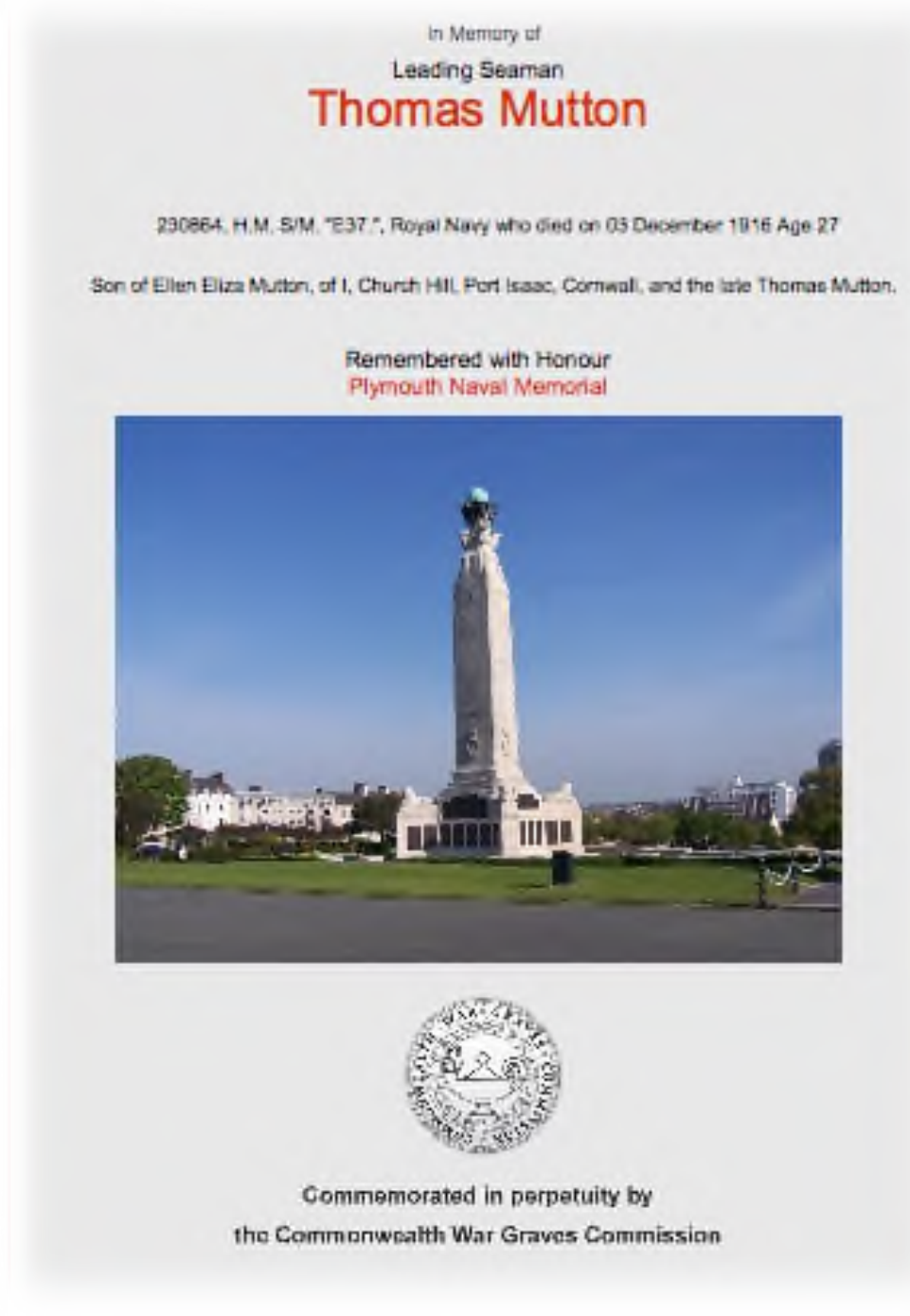
Ernest Cran (-)

Horace Leonard Mellor (-)

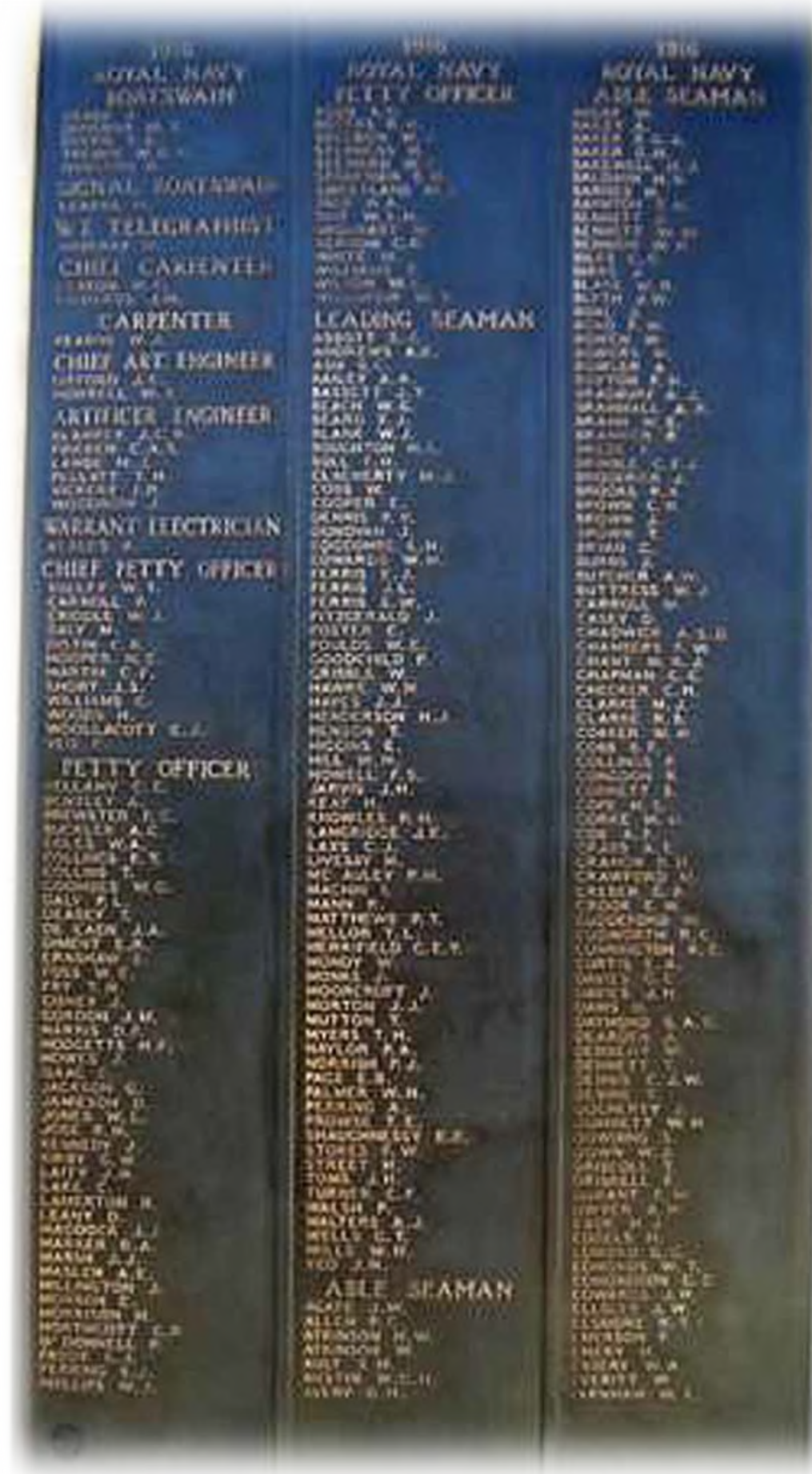
(*An artificer is someone skilled at making devices as needed in the field)



E Class Submarine: 181ft length, 15ft beam



Leading Seaman Thomas Mutton
on the Plymouth Naval Memorial

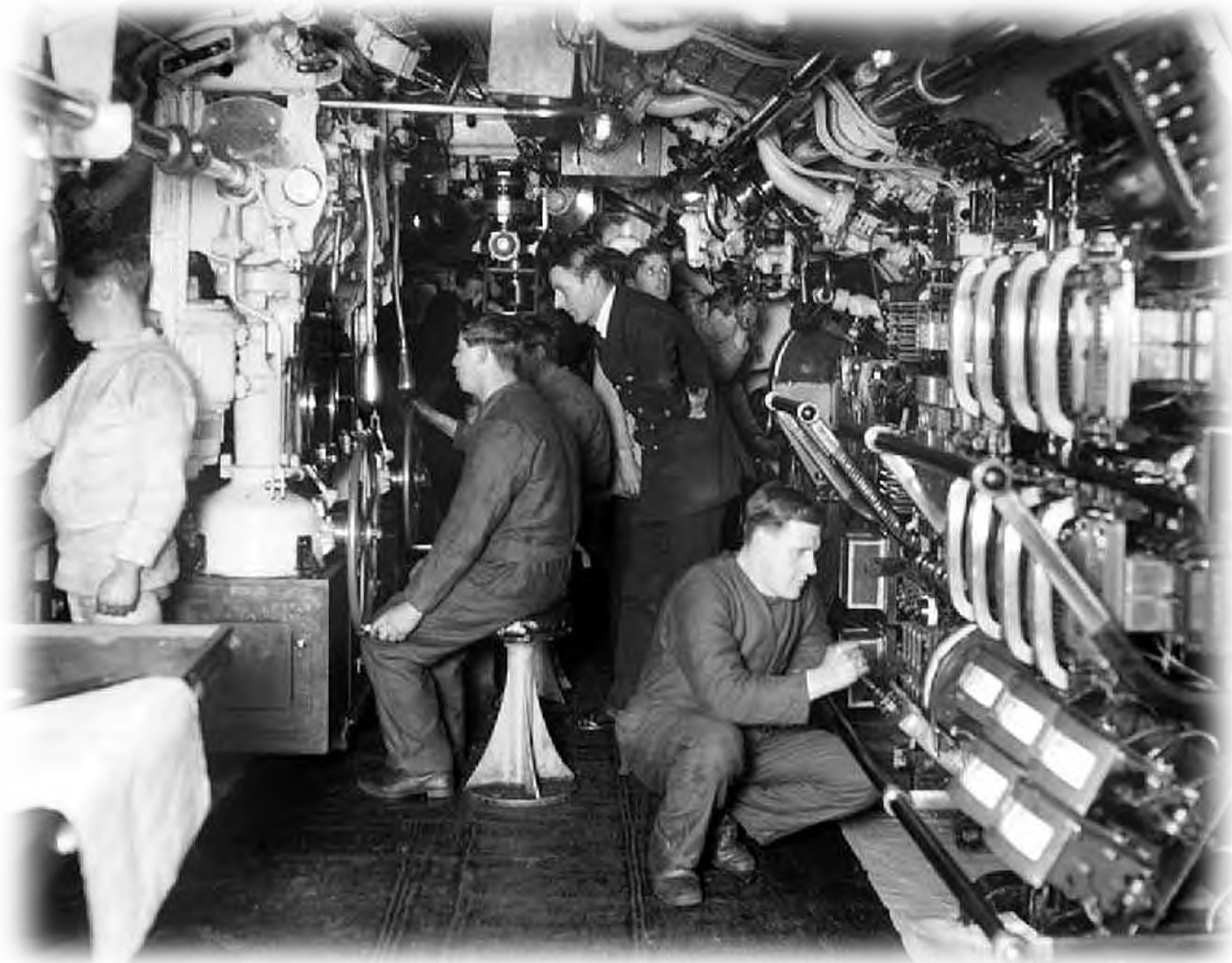


Sources

Royal Navy Submarines: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Submarine#The_modern_submarine

E Class Submarine: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_E_class_submarine

Submarine E32: <http://www.harwichanddovertcourt.co.uk/submarines-ww1/>



E Class submarine interior