



Call the Hands



Issue No. 88

October/November 2024

From the President

Welcome to this 88th edition of Call the Hands and accompanying occasional paper 188. This occasional paper provides an overview of key Royal Australian Navy's historical events in the period 1950 to 1970. This demanding period in Australia's naval history involved periods of conflict as well as the acquisition and entry of many new ships in to service. Some of these ships were deployed on operations immediately after commissioning. Society member, volunteer and author, Ross Gillett will soon complete a new book on this period. *Serving the Nation: Always Underway - 1948 to 1972* will be published by the Society in the coming months.

You will note on page three of this edition, our pride in launching the new [Naval Art and History pages](#) on the Society's website. I am most grateful to the members who gave generously at this time last year when the project commenced. Lorraine Fildes and other volunteers are recognised for their efforts which delivered a site to be proud of. Similarly, the artistic talent and skills of the Society's webmaster, Belinda Johnstone from The Design Web provided an attractive and easily searchable product. More details and links are provided on page three.

Central to much of the Society's core business is the website. In addition to the thousands of stories, papers, podcasts and videos there are several useful and interesting tools to aid research. On page six we draw attention to several of these which may be of interest.

As readers will probably know, the Society owes its financial health to revenue derived from the [heritage tours and naval history cruises](#) conducted on Sydney Harbour. There is both good news and bad concerning this part of the Society's operations.

There is unfortunate news concerning the heritage tours of Garden Island. As a consequence of the National terrorist threat assessment which increased from 'possible' to 'probable' in August Defence recently directed the cessation of these tours. We hope to restart as soon as the security environment allows.

In terms of the cruises there is nothing but good news. Bookings for cruises scheduled in 2025 have been strong with most cruises in the first half of the year fully booked. Another initiative to offer modified cruises for school history students in 2025 has progressed well. Marketing in recent months has resulted in the first booking and goes some way to our goal to appeal to a younger demographic.

We trust you enjoy this edition of *Call the Hands* and look forward to bring you the next in early February.

Kind regards,
David Michael



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of Australia

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Patron Chief of Navy

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Vale Graeme Andrews OAM

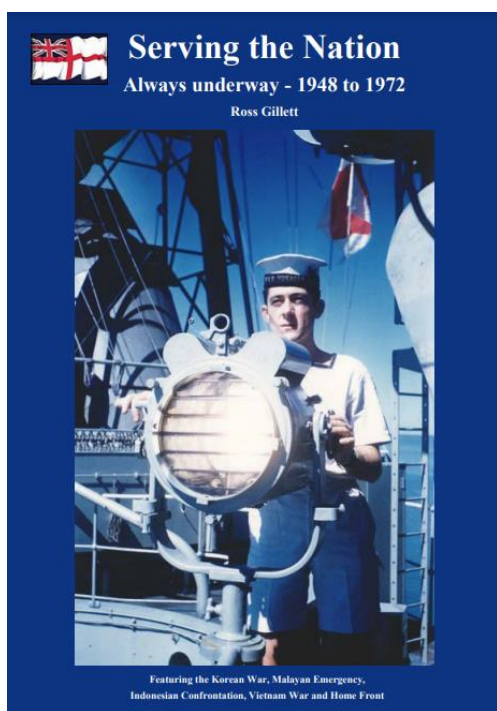
Graeme Andrews OAM, a life member of the NHSA, passed away recently. Details of his achievements and contribution to Australian Maritime and Naval History can be found in his obituary.

[Obituary - Graeme Andrews OAM 1938–2024 - Naval Historical Society of Australia](#)



Occasional Paper: Accompanying this Edition

Occasional Paper 188: Highlights of RAN History: Two Busy Decades, 1950s and 1960s.



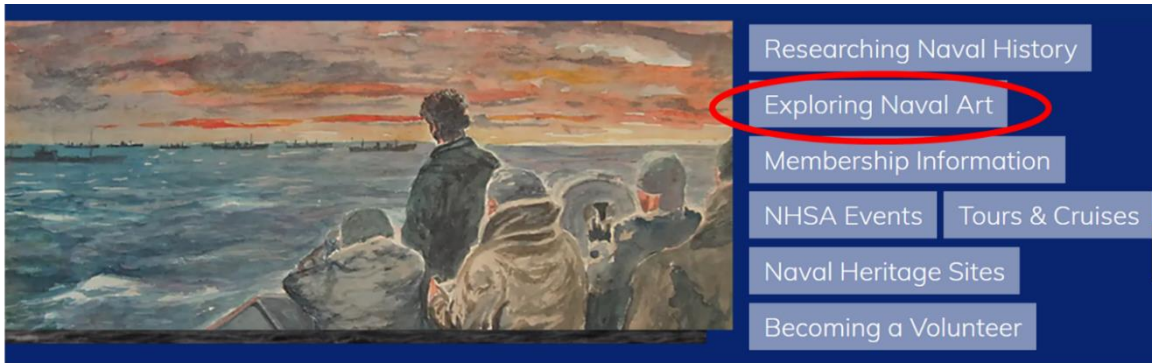
More detail on this period will be addressed in a soon to be published book by Ross Gillett.

Ross describes the 1950s and 1960s as demanding times for the Royal Australian Navy which was busy with its intensive involvement in the Korean War during the early 1950s, a long partnership with other Commonwealth navies to counter the communist insurgents against Malaya from 1955, the subsequent 1963-66 Indonesian Confrontation against Malaysia and the long-drawn-out war in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972.

An impressive total of 41 ships were procured, plus some smaller units. As these new ships were introduced into the Australian Fleet, the Navy was still required to send existing, followed by the newer warships into war zones, while at the same time, maintaining an effective training schedule to ensure such units were crewed by properly 'schooled' sailors.

We will advise the publication date when known.

Worth Exploring



From: Action stations at dawn on HMAS Perth in the Mediterranean by Roy Norris, 1941.

Naval Art and History

New Pages on the Website. A unique Initiative

Click on the home page [link](#).

The Committee is excited to report that a yearlong project to link naval art and history on our website was officially completed on 8 November 2024. Completion was marked by a formal launch event attended by members and invited guests including the Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral Christopher Smith and the former Governor of New South Wales, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair Rtd.

These pages are a unique medium for understanding Australia's rich naval history. They link the event, place and person portrayed with its historical context. The artist and the circumstances in which the artwork was created are also linked. It is organised for easy browsing by vessel, artist and place. Sailors on and off duty are also included.

This collection of more than 200 artworks depicts ships, submarines, aircraft, battles and scenes of life and activities in warships. The fifty artists whose works feature in these pages are many and varied. Some were marine artists employed either by the Australian War Memorial or Navy under an Official War Art Schemes. Others are professional and amateur artists some of whom served in the RAN. More works will be added to the collection over time.

In addition to commemorating the service of RAN personnel in war and peace, these pages are intended to promote an appreciation by all visitors of the experiences of service life and the wide range of operations conducted by the RAN. Another key outcome is to preserve the camaraderie of former members of the Royal Australian Navy now living in the community. Viewing these artworks which portray their shared experience at sea including hardships, will help maintain their camaraderie. This collection depicts many of those experiences.

Naval Historical Society of Australia
<https://navyhistory.au/>
Explore
200 paintings
50 artists
Historical notes

Enjoy your visit.

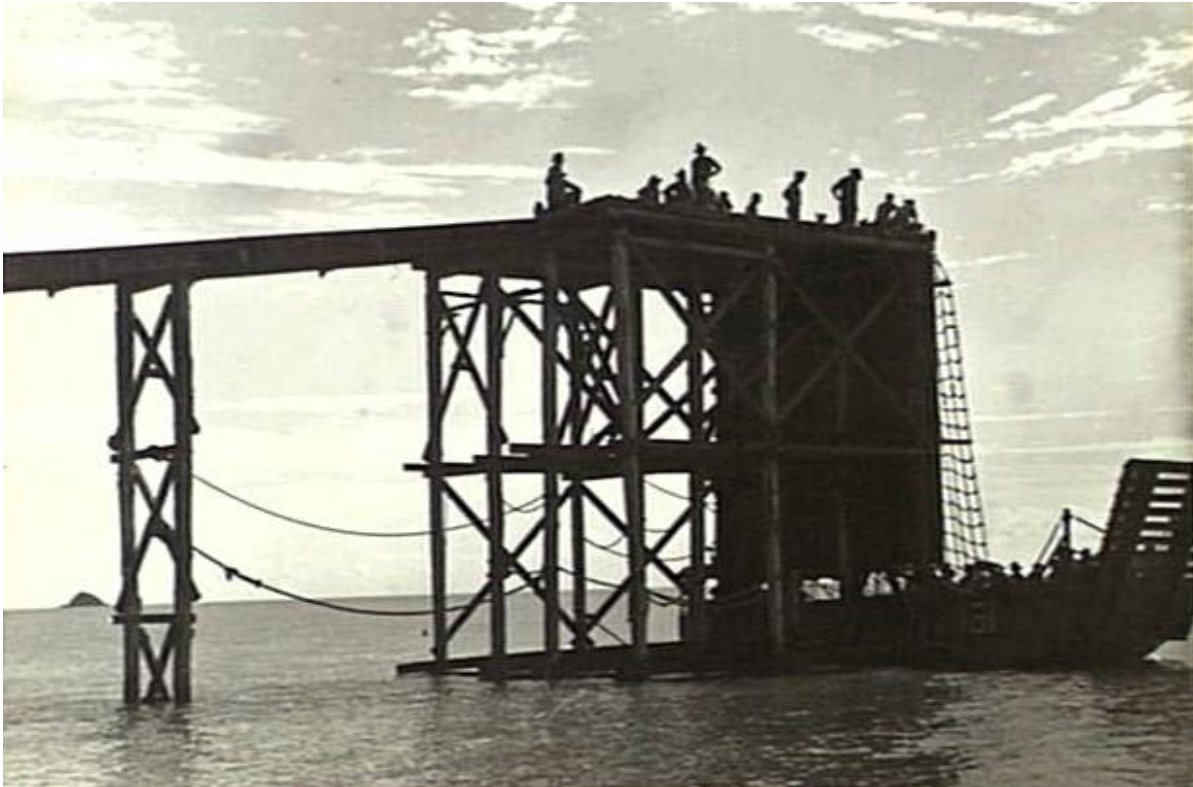
Trinity Beach: Paradise Today, WW2 Training Ground

A walk along the shore at Trinity Beach, North Queensland quickly draws attention to the important role the site played during World War (II) thanks to [interpretive signage displays](#) provided by the Cairns Regional Council. Trinity Bay was an important amphibious training ground for both Australian Army and Navy personnel.

Though it may seem like a tranquil paradise now, with the Japanese bearing down on Papua New Guinea, Trinity Beach was a hive of frantic activity from 1942 to 1945. The waterfront of Cairns was a vital place of military operations, not just for Australians, but Americans as well. Due to its close proximity to Papua New Guinea, Cairns became an epicentre for the South West Pacific campaigns of World War II.



The significance of Trinity Beach Navy was as an amphibious training area. A typical ship embarkation exercise involved troops loading into small landing craft. Troops were taught how to climb down vertical nets attached to wooden platforms built to simulate the side of a ship. The landing craft in which they were embarked would then move a few kilometres out to sea. On return to shore ramps were lowered for troops to land in shallow water before dashing up the unstable sandy beach. Whilst this was going on, others would undertake training in reconnaissance of the area and survey of beaches to assess water conditions and identify obstacles.



Trinity beach, north Queensland, Australia. 1944-08-10. General view of the ships side mock up from the beach. This mock-up was used to train troops of the 24th infantry brigade in the use of scrambling nets. AWM image.

The RAN's presence in the area commenced in June 1942 after the army had started using both the beach and wharf for training exercises. The RAN followed suit to provide maintenance to the

amphibious training vessels. Services also included refuelling and providing supplies to the troops. By 1943, the US was also using the facilities to prepare their troops for jungle warfare. As the Japanese drew closer, the area expanded and was commissioned as HMAS *Kuranda* in 1944, an important step in the Allies quest to defend the Pacific. With HMAS *Magnetic* only 150miles away at Townsville, Navy decided to decommission *Kuranda* in late 1944, with the base being integrated into *Magnetic* by January of 1945.

The experiences of a young officer who undertook training at HMAS *Kuranda* in late 1944 can be found in the story of Arthur Lunan RANR published in the [March 2022 edition of the Naval Historical Review](#). He was a member of the Naval Beach Commandos attached to the Australian Beach Group



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

017575

Trinity Beach, Cairns, Qld. Washing is still called dhobi and a stretcher is still a hammock to these sailors, who are under canvas. They are RAN naval commandos training in jungle warfare tactics north of Cairns. Left to right, Able Seaman (AB) M. J. Smith of Perth, WA, AB B. M. Lynch of Fremantle, NSW, AB G. H. Crane of Toowoomba, Qld. AWM image.

Further Reading

- [Cairns during World War II, Cairns Regional Council.](#)
- [HMAS *Kuranda* History, Sea Power Centre Australia](#)



Trinity Beach Today. NHSA image

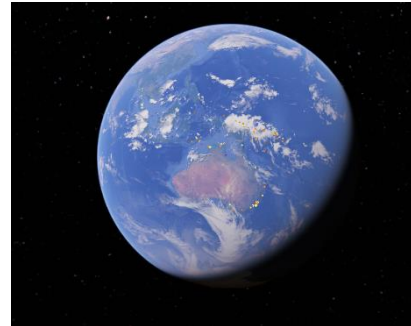
Website Tools available to Readers

The following useful tools are available on the Society's website. Please investigate the wealth of information they provide. Access them via the links below or visit the website [research page](#).

RAN events on a Google Earth Map

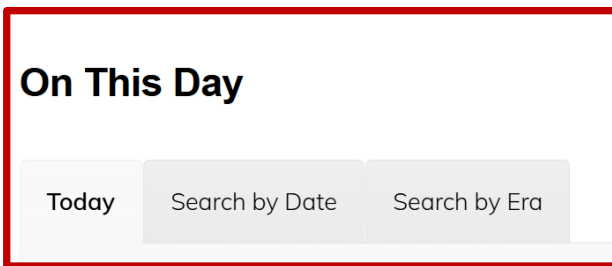
View RAN events on a Google Earth Map to discover where key RAN events occurred

[Click on this link to access the page](#)



On This Day

There are three ways to search using this tool; today, search by date and search by era.



[Click on this link to access the page](#)

Australian Military Ship Losses

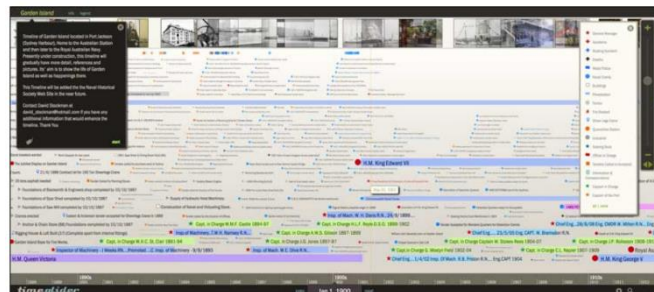
This page provides a list of Australian Military Vessel Losses. It includes details of casualties and the circumstances of the loss.

[Click on this link to access the page](#)

Garden Island timeline

Development of this timeline over many years is the work of Society volunteer, David Stockman.

It provides detailed information on events on Garden Island as well as events which provide additional context.



[Click on this link to access the page and scroll down.](#)

Bienvenida!" - Garden Island Welcomes Mexican Navy Tall Ship Cuauhtémoc

By Melissa Julian

From the 13th to the 19th of October, Garden Island, Sydney welcomed the Mexican Navy's tall ship Cuauhtémoc (pronounced *Kow-te-moc*). Sydney is the second-last stop on a long seven month and eight-day voyage around the world for the Cuauhtémoc.



Mexican Navy's Tall Ship *Cuauhtemoc*. Mexican Navy image.

The Mexican navy ship is 90.5 metres long with a mast height of 48.2m was built in 1982. Named after the last Aztec emperor and warrior, the Cuauhtémoc, is used by the Mexican Navy as a training vessel for fourth year cadets of the Heroic Naval Military School. Launched in 1983, the steel hulled three masted ship currently carries a crew of 261 – 51 of which are women, the largest female percentage of crew members throughout her history, led by Captain (Navy) Victor Hugo Molina Perez

Sydney was the final port for Cuauhtémoc in Australia. After visits to Fremantle from the 19th to the 21st of September, where they picked up Australian Naval Officer, Sub Lieutenant Henry Mancilla. The ship then sailed across the Great Australian Bight before stopping in Melbourne from the 3rd to the 8th of October. The next stop for the Cuauhtémoc was a stopover in Auckland from the 28th of October to the 1st of November, before sailing home to Acapulco, Mexico.



Cuauhtemoc alongside Fleet base East, Sydney on 13 October 2024. HMAS *Supply* is berthed astern of her. Image by John Jeremy.

Video: [Cuauhtemoc, Mexican Navy tall ship arriving in Sydney, Australia](#)

Podcasts of Interest

RAN Navy History and Heritage Update: Future Direction

This presentation provides an overview of the planned way forward for history and heritage management in the RAN and an appreciation of the rationale behind the necessary changes that have and will occur in this domain. It also notes some of the challenges that lie ahead.



Speaker: Captain Alastair Cooper, RAN Director, Seapower Centre-Australia, delivered to members of the Victorian Chapter of the Society in July 2024.

Duration: 1 hr 26 Mins.

Link: [Click here to view the Podcast](#)

The Surface Fleet Review - Strategic and Practical Implications

A Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales Monthly Lecture dated 27 August 2024

Speakers: Jennifer Parker and Adam Lockyer

Jennifer Parker, commences at 07:26

Adam Lockyer, commences at 01:04:51

A panel discussion follows the presentation commencing @01:45:54



Duration: 2 hours 16 minutes 25 seconds

Link: [Click here to view the Podcast](#)

Further Reading

The Australian Surface Fleet Capability Gap 2024-2034, an assessment and suggestions for remediation: An opinion by David Deasey OAM RFD, Monograph Number 17. Published by the Royal United Services Institute for Defence & Security Studies – Australia Inc.

Available at: <https://www.rusinsw.org.au/Monographs/Monograph17.pdf>

Naval Historical Review: Apology

The September 2024 edition of *The Naval Historical Review* contained an article “Captain William Cromarty: Mariner and Pioneer”. The author, Dr Leslie Kilmartin, has since contacted the Naval Historical Society saying how extremely disappointed, he was with the changes made to his original work without approval, believing that the story is now distorted with some inaccuracies. We apologised to Dr Kilmartin for our error in not providing him with a revised copy of the draft before publication and agreed to publish his original work which can be accessed via this [link](#).

Photos of the Month



RAN Fleet Review in Sydney, 22 October 2024.

On 22 October a Royal Fleet Review was held on Sydney Harbour for their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The ship's taking part were the destroyer HMAS *Hobart*, the frigates *Arunta* and *Warramunga*, the mine countermeasures vessels *Gascoyne* and *Yarra*. There was also a fly-past of Fleet Air Arm and Army helicopters and RAAF fixed-wing aircraft.

Further Reading:

[Royal Fleet Review](#), Australian Naval Institute, published 27 October 2024.

News

\$7bn RAN missile buy

On 22 October the Australian Government announced that it will bolster RAN's air and missile defence under a \$7 billion agreement with the US to acquire Standard Missile 2 Block IIIC (SM-2 IIIC) and Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) long-range missiles. Reportedly these are the most advanced air and missile defence weapons in the world and will be progressively deployed across the Hobart class destroyers and in the future, the Hunter class frigates. This follows the recent successful test firing of a SM-6 from HMAS *Sydney*.



The SM-2 IIIC brings active seeker technology and significantly enhanced defensive capabilities against missile threats. The SM-6 missile will provide the RAN with extended range air defence capability against air and missile threats, an offensive anti-ship capability and for the first time, a terminal ballistic missile defence capability.

The missiles complement existing capabilities such as ESSM Block 2 and Naval Strike Missile as part of a layered strike and missile defence capability for Navy's surface combatant fleet.

Large Drone exercise wraps up at Jervis Bay

Australia the United States and United Kingdom conducted Exercise Autonomous Warrior in the Jervis Bay exercise area during October 2024. This naval drone exercise was designed to demonstrate how the AUKUS partners can jointly operate unmanned vessels in the Pacific.

The exercise lasted one month, testing some thirty unmanned systems provided by Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Representatives from Japan were present as observers.

Notable systems featured included the Ghost Shark, Remus 600 and Speartooth UUVs. The range of surface drones (USV) included the Australian Ocirus Bluebottle.



US contributions included the Saronic Cutlass, the Global Autonomous Reconnaissance Craft (GARC) built by Maritime Applied Physics Corporation. Swift's Sea Stalker and the Ocean Aero Triton, a combined USV and UUV, were further entries. Also involved was Anduril's Australian Ghost Shark which involved in its first publicised exercise.

This Month in History - October

October 1858	The hulk <i>Melbourne</i> was the first ship to be slipped at Williamstown Dockyard, VIC.
October 1913	The first RAN fleet, under the command of RADM Sir George Patey, RN, in HMAS <i>Australia</i> entered Sydney Harbour. With <i>Australia</i> were her consorts HMA Ships <i>Melbourne</i> , <i>Sydney</i> , <i>Encounter</i> , <i>Parramatta</i> , <i>Yarra</i> , and <i>Warrego</i> .
October 1915	The RAN Bridging Train was heavily shelled and bombed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli.
October 1917	The trawlers <i>Koraaga</i> and <i>Gunundal</i> , manned by the Royal Australian Naval Brigade under LCDR F. J. Ranken, RNR, swept a German minefield off Gabo Island. Thirteen mines were destroyed. Minesweepers were not commissioned in the RAN in WWI
October 1920	The Hydrographic Department of the RAN was established under CAPT E. Robins, RN.
October 1935	Secret orders were received by HMAS <i>Australia</i> in the Mediterranean. In the event of war with Italy, <i>Australia</i> was to join HMS <i>Berwick</i> , and proceed to a position off Taranto to cover HMS <i>Glorious</i> which was to launch its torpedo-carrying Swordfish aircraft against the Italian Fleet. The orders were reactivated with great success in 1940.
October 1940	Italy invaded Greece, and Greece joined the Allies. HMA Ships <i>Sydney Stuart</i> , <i>Vampire</i> , <i>Vendetta</i> , <i>Voyager</i> , and <i>Waterhen</i> were deployed to escort supply convoys to Greece.
October 1943	The tanker <i>Anna Knudsen</i> , was torpedoed by a submarine of the German Monsoon Group, in the Indian Ocean. HMAS <i>Tamworth</i> towed the damaged vessel to Aden.
October 1948	15 Spitfires aircraft issued to RAN FAA. They were trucked to Nowra for use as non-flying deck handling training aids. The Spitfire's were taxiied around the dummy deck at Nowra and used to train ground handling staff. After serving their purpose the aircraft were deleted from charge in 1952. Finally, the Spitfires ended up on the fire-ground, where they were set alight to give fire crews exercise in extinguishing aircraft fires. The story goes that the remains were then bulldozed into the ground at the old rubbish tip.
October 1953	HMAS <i>Sydney</i> with 805 and 850 Squadrons depart Fremantle for a second tour in Korean waters.
October 1959	The RAN's three Daring Class destroyers operated together for the first time, when <i>Vendetta</i> , <i>Vampire</i> and <i>Voyager</i> conducted a series of exercises and maneouvres in Jervis Bay area, the trio forming the 9th Destroyer Squadron
October 1967	The first contingent of the RAN Helicopter Flight, led by LCDR N. Ralph, RAN, arrived in Vietnam. The flight operated with the US 135th Assault Helicopter Company, and flew turbojet Bell Iroquois helicopters as troop carriers and gunships in support of ground operations.
October 1970	HMAS <i>Perth</i> landed a US Commando unit in the southern area of the Demilitarised Zone in Vietnam, to ambush Viet Cong small craft ferrying mines to South Vietnam.
October 1974	HMA Ships <i>Brisbane</i> , <i>Melbourne</i> , <i>Stuart</i> , <i>Supply</i> , <i>Vendetta</i> , <i>Torrens</i> and <i>Derwent</i> , and the submarine Onslow conducted a fleet entry into Sydney Harbour. The ships were dressed overall as part of the celebrations marking the opening of the Sydney Opera House on 20 October 1974.
October 1985	HMAS <i>Perth</i> , (CAPT G. Sloper, RAN), rescued the crew of the Singaporean ship <i>Hoe Lien</i> , in mountainous seas off Newcastle, NSW. <i>Perth</i> took the ship in tow and proceeded towards Sydney. The tow was passed to the tug <i>Wonga</i> the next morning, however <i>Hoe Lien</i> later sunk 30 miles north of Sydney.
October 1993	A Sea King helicopter from HMAS <i>Tobruk</i> was shot at, and sustained two hits by small arms fire in the tail, while conducting a routine reconnaissance flight near Kieta, Bougainville, as part of Operation Lagoon. The aircrew suspected that PNG Defence Force soldiers were responsible for the shooting.
October 2003	HMAS <i>Arunta</i> and HMAS <i>Tobruk</i> arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for a four-day good will visit.
October 2009	HMAS <i>Canberra</i> (II) was scuttled in 28 metres of water off Ocean Grove, Victoria to create an artificial reef and diving site.
October 2016	End of Operation Render Safe 2016 during which HMA Ships <i>Diamantina</i> and <i>Huon</i> spent two weeks finding and destroying unexploded WWII munitions in the waters around the Solomon Islands. The Sydney-based minehunter vessels found more than 10 tonnes of projectiles and bombs during their searches around the Russell Islands, Florida Group and Honiara.

This Month in History - November

November 1900	AB J. Hamilton, of the New South Wales Marine Light Infantry, died at Tung Chao in China. He was the first sailor to die in an Australian expeditionary force overseas.
November 1917	The Italian transport <i>Orione</i> had her stern blown off by an enemy torpedo. <i>Parramatta</i> and <i>Yarra</i> stood by to salvage after <i>Warrego</i> and <i>Huon</i> had rescued the survivors. <i>Parramatta</i> took her in tow but the enemy was still lurking beneath the surface and fired a second torpedo while the tow line was being secured. She then broke surface and dived again passing directly under <i>Parramatta</i> . <i>Yarra</i> set out to hunt the enemy down but after a long and fruitless search returned to help in towing operations until the damaged ship was handed over to an Italian tug later that day.
November 1927	The Sydney Harbour ferry <i>Greycliffe</i> , was run down and cut in two by the Royal Mail Steamer <i>Tahiti</i> , off Bradley's Head, Sydney. Several vessels including the RAN launch <i>Sapphire</i> were used to rescue survivors. 40 passengers were killed in the disaster, among them a number of RAN Personnel, including Surgeon LCDR J. Paradice, RAN, who had boarded the ferry at Garden Island only a few minutes before.
November 1936	HMAS <i>Vendetta</i> was despatched from Sydney to search for the 32-foot launch <i>Viking</i> , missing between Sydney and Lord Howe Island. Although five steamers and numerous smaller craft joined in the search, no trace of the missing vessel was ever found.
November 1940	HMAS <i>Sydney</i> , with HMS <i>Orion</i> , HMS <i>Nubian</i> and HMS <i>Mohawk</i> attacked an Italian convoy of four merchant vessels and two destroyers, north of Otranto. All four merchant ships were sunk, and the destroyers were driven off. When <i>Sydney</i> rejoined the Mediterranean Fleet, the C-in-C, ADML A. B. Cunningham, signalled:- 'Did you have a wild Australian night?'
November 1942	RAAF Beaufighters of No. 31 Squadron, drove off 14 Japanese fighters and bombers which were attacking HMA Ships CASTLEMAINE and ARMIDALE, (minesweepers), in the Arafura Sea.
November 1947	The Antarctic Research Vessel HMAS <i>Wyatt Earp</i> , (CMDR K. E. Oom, OBE, RAN), was commissioned. As <i>Fanefjord</i> , (wooden steamer), she was laid down in Norway in 1919. Purchased, and re-named <i>Wyatt Earp</i> by US millionaire Lincoln Ellsworth in 1933, she made several runs to the Antarctic. In 1939 the Australian Government purchased her and re-named HMAS <i>Wongala</i> for WWII service. <i>Wyatt Earp</i> made seven voyages to the Antarctic for ANARE, 1947-1948.
November 1955	HMAS <i>Lae</i> was sold for scrapping after being in reserve since 1948. <i>Lae</i> and the former HMAS <i>Labuan</i> left Sydney under tow for Hong Kong on 28 October 1956 carrying a load of scrap metal. On 3 November <i>Lae</i> ran aground on South Percy Island off the coast of Queensland and was abandoned after an attempt to recover her cargo failed.
November 1962	725 Squadron recommissioned flying the first two Westland Wessex 31A helicopters delivered to the RAN for ASW training and support to 817 Squadron, the Fleet Air Arm's front line Wessex Squadron
November 1976	HMAS <i>Stuart</i> was dispatched to rescue survivors from the oil exploration barge <i>Perentie</i> . Two of the barge's crew of five were picked up.
November 1983	The Wessex celebrated 21 years of service in the RAN and the occasion was marked with a flypast of RAN Wessex, Iroquois and Sea King helicopters as well Royal Navy Sea Harriers from the visiting HMS <i>Invincible</i> .
November 1998	The Royal Australian Navy's first female pilot, Sub Lieutenant Natalee McDougall, RAN, graduated from the Australian Defence Academy's helicopter training facility after 17 months of intensive classroom and practical training at RAAF Base Fairbairn. She joined 723 Squadron the following January.
November 2014	HMA Ships <i>Tarakan</i> , <i>Labuan</i> and <i>Brunei</i> were decommissioned. In July 2015 <i>Tarakan</i> and <i>Brunei</i> were gifted to The Philippines.
November 2018	The future HMAS <i>Supply</i> , was launched by Spanish shipbuilder Navantia at its Ferrol shipyard

The entries selected for publication this month are randomly generated from an extensive database of historic naval events. The absence of a significant event is in no way intended to cause offence. The objective is to provide a cross section of events across time. The Society's website enables you to look up any event in RAN history. Searches can be made by era, date look up or today. The latter appears on the home page. The others are accessed via the Research page. <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/research/on-this-day/>

Remembrance Day History

In November 1920, in strictest secrecy, four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why. The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. Once there, the bodies were draped with the union flag. Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at random. The other three were reburied. A French Honour Guard was selected and stood by the coffin overnight of the chosen soldier overnight. On the morning of the 8th November, a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court arrived and the Unknown Warrior was placed inside. On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed:

"A British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for King and Country".

On the 9th of November, the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse-drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the quayside. There, he was saluted by Marechal Foch and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover. The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths, surrounded by the French Honour Guard.

Upon arrival at Dover, the Unknown Warrior was met with a nineteen-gun salute - something that was normally only reserved for Field Marshals. A special train had been arranged and he was then conveyed to Victoria Station, London. He remained there overnight, and, on the morning of the 11th of November, he was finally taken to Westminster Abbey.



The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served on the front line during the Great War the union flag he had used as an altar cloth whilst at the front, was the one that had been draped over the coffin. It was his intention that all of the relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost husband, father, brother or son

Further Reading

[Unknown Warrior](#), Westminster Abbey

[The Story of the Grave of the Unknown Warrior](#), by Historic England, 8 November 2020