



# Call the Hands



Issue No. 95

Apr/May 2026

## From the President

Welcome to this ninety fifth edition of *Call the Hands*. I trust you find it of interest as well as the accompanying occasional papers.

Much has changed in the world since 28 February when the United States and Israel went to war with Iran. The naval risks associated with the ongoing struggle between the United States and Iran over access to the Strait of Hormuz is not unlike the 1915 Allied experience attempting to penetrate the Dardanelles. In occasional paper 209 Desmond Woods adeptly makes comparisons between the two campaigns.

Occasional paper 207 and the story on page 2 deal with rescue missions conducted by RAN ships, HMAS *Torrens* in 1917 and HMAS *Australia* in 1950. That both were carried out in difficult conditions reminds us of the personal risk and sacrifice which confronts sailors in both peace and war.

Occasional paper 208 by Greg Swinden describes the history of Royal Australian Navy personnel who served in United Nations Sinai missions from 1982 to 1986.

Amongst the stories about new books, videos and podcasts featured in this edition you will find an article about the Navy Heritage Collection which is to be relocated once again and a story about the Royal Navy's final visit to Australia in 1968 before withdrawing from Singapore and Aden. As always, contact with members of the community is welcomed. I thank Dave Norman for bringing to our attention his musical tribute to HMAS AE2. The link to listen is on page 15.

Members will be aware the Society has recently been forced to review the prices for our goods and services due to a combination of escalating costs and obligation to register for GST. However, membership remains good value and I encourage subscribers who have not yet joined to do so. It is very easy. Just visit the Society's online [shop](#).

Finally, the Society has scheduled a number of events to be held in conjunction with the Australian National Maritime Museum this year. The list can be found on page 12. The Naval Graves website which we have developed in partnership with the Naval Graves Project will become a useful tool for genealogists and researchers alike. In addition to the information provided on more than 6000 naval men and women it will provide a wealth of naval history relating to ships and events relating to their service. More details will be provided closer to the July launch date.

Finally, on behalf of all members it is a pleasure to congratulate Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, Chief of Navy on his selection for promotion to Admiral and appointment as Chief of Defence Force from July 2026. As Society patron and previously as the Fleet Commander, Admiral Hammond has been a friend and valued supporter of the Society. We wish him well in the challenging years ahead.

Kind regards,

David Michael



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of Australia

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## HMAS Australia (II) Mercy Dash to Heard Island

In July - August 1950, HMAS *Australia* (II) undertook a mercy mission to the Australian Antarctic base at Heard Island where a member of the staff, Dr Serge Udovikoff, was ill with severe appendicitis. *Australia*'s sub-Antarctic base at Heard Island had been established three years earlier in December 1947 with assistance from the RAN.

*Australia* departed from Jervis Bay on Wednesday 26 July 1950 to commence its 4,000-mile voyage. Enroute, it called at Melbourne to refuel and embark another doctor to replace Dr Udovikoff on the Island. Making the announcement the Minister for the Navy (Mr Francis) said that the Minister for External Affairs (Mr Spender) had made an urgent request for an RAN ship be sent to Heard Island.



*HMAS Australia (II)*, Sea Power Centre-Australia collection.

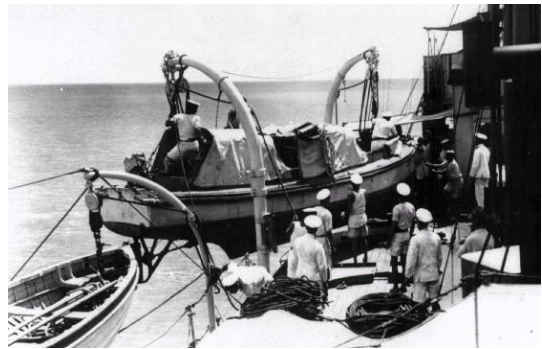
The only alternative to a vessel taking assistance was for the doctor to operate on himself. However, advice from medical specialists at the time was that he could probably wait up two weeks without becoming more seriously ill. Before the appeal for RAN assistance the freighter *Perthshire* had made for the island, but had to abandon the attempt when it ran when short of fuel 600 miles from the island.

The uncomfortable conditions (gale-force winds gusting to 65 knots, sleet, snow and hail) experienced by *Australia* during its southbound voyage were exacerbated by feed water difficulties due to the increased prevalence of plankton in the sea. Use of ship's water was restricted to drinking and teeth cleaning and no one was allowed to wash. Another issue was the effect of sun spot activity which prevented radio contact with the Australian expedition on

Heard Island for 24 hours prior to arrival on 6 August.

On arrival off Atlas Cove, Heard Island the weather conditions were no better. There were frequent snow showers and slight icing to exposed positions on the upper deck. However, after an overnight delay a break in the weather occurred allowing the cutter to be lowered and Dr Udovikoff brought on board for the journey to Fremantle.

A framed image of the Heard Island station was later presented to HMAS *Australia* by the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition in appreciation of her successful voyage to Heard Island in response to the appeal for aid. Image courtesy of the Naval heritage Collection.



*Motor Cutter being launched. Sea Power Centre-Australia collection.*



*A framed image of the Heard Island station was later presented to HMAS Australia by the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition in appreciation of her successful voyage to Heard Island in response to the appeal for aid.*

*Image courtesy of the Naval heritage Collection.*

## RAN Heritage Collection, on the Move Again

Readers will be aware that the repository for the Royal Australian Navy's heritage collection located on Spectacle Island, Sydney has been progressively shifted to a new location over the last two years. The collection of more than six hundred thousand items varying in size from cannons weighing two tons to single sheets of paper is a precious record of Australia's naval history dating back more than 125 years.



*Submarine Collection while at Spectacle Island*

Unfortunately, the collection will be once more put at risk following the [Australian Government's recent decision](#) to sell off sixty-eight Defence sites including the warehouse at Banksmeadow, Sydney where the collection is currently located. This environmentally controlled warehouse, which was a good choice for the preservation and storage of the collection will now be sacrificed in favour of a commercially leased, less suited premises in Mascot, Sydney.

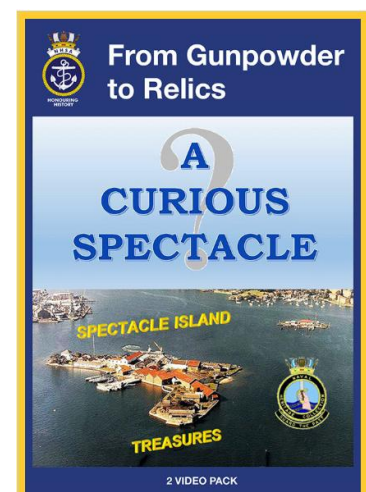
In addition to the excessive cost of leasing property over ownership in the long term (expected to be the case for the heritage collection) there will be costs in modifications to protect the items and removal risks as many items are fragile or delicate. There will also be a delay of several years to the cataloguing process during the packing and unpacking process.

The Defence Estate Audit sites listed for sale can be accessed via this [link](#).

## From Gunpowder to Relics, Spectacle Island and RAN Heritage Collection

These documentaries available on the Society's website provide the fascinating background to the little-known Spectacle Island which served as a major naval armament depot from colonial times until becoming a repository for the RAN's extensive heritage collection in the 1990s. These videos are both informative and at times humorous.

Access them via this [Link](#)



## Royal Navy Visit to Australian Ports, 1968

On 17 February 1968 Sydney welcomed 17 units of the Royal Navy, New Zealand and the Royal Australian Navy which berthed at Garden Island Dockyard. The arrival of six Royal Navy Ships was spectacular with the guided missile destroyer HMS *Devonshire* leading other units under the Harbour Bridge and around Cockatoo Dock before they returned to berth at Garden Island. The other RN ships included *Triumph* (Fleet maintenance), *Euryalus*, *Dido* and *Zest* (Frigates) and *Olna* (Fleet auxiliary). Other units made visits to Brisbane HMS *Daring* (destroyer), and to Adelaide HMS *Troubridge* (Frigate) and HMS *Cavalier* (destroyer). The latter two ships also visited Melbourne, Newcastle, Sydney and Hobart at later dates.

The Force was under the command of [Rear Admiral Edward B Ashmore](#), CB, DSC, Flag Officer Second in Command of the Far East Fleet with his flag flown in *Devonshire*.



*RN Squadron Visit to Sydney February March 1968, Sydney Morning Herald Photograph.*



*Left: HM Ships Triumph, Dido and Euryalus at Garden Island, February 1968. Facebook Photograph.*

### **British withdraw from East of Suez**

As this visit was essentially the last Royal Navy visit to Australia before Britain withdraw from East of Suez, it is worth exploring the rationale for the withdrawal which included the abandonment of major garrisons in the Arabian Peninsula and Southeast Asia, notably Aden and Singapore. The following is an extract from a paper by James Williams published in the [European Journal of International Security](#) on 14 January 2021.

“Senior British ministers had accepted the need to withdraw from these bases as early as June 1965. They were, however, unable to publicise this shift in strategic thinking, as Britain was duty-bound to assist the fledgling Malaysian Federation in its ‘Confrontation’ with Indonesia. Ministers deemed it necessary to honour the UK’s alliances in the Asia-Pacific. The announcement was made in stages, beginning with Aden in February 1966 and then Singapore in July 1967 (following the abrupt end to the ‘Confrontation’ in August 1966). The timetable for retrenchment was ultimately accelerated in January 1968 due to the political fallout from the earlier currency crisis.”

“The retreat from ‘East of Suez’ was not a knee-jerk reaction to a financial or domestic political crisis. This was a process which took place over several years. What, then, led policymakers to embrace retrenchment? Large military bases in the Arabian Peninsula and Southeast Asia had become strategically vulnerable. They were designed to serve as hubs from which to operate but had instead become targets for local nationalist and communist movements. Far from enhancing agility, the bases became a drag on resources. Thus, the rationale for preserving ‘East of Suez’ shifted over the course of the 1960s; British policymakers assessed that the blood and treasure required to maintain order was disproportionate to the benefits that could be accrued from a basing strategy. The choice was made to abandon ‘East of Suez’ and concentrate on NATO commitments in Europe.

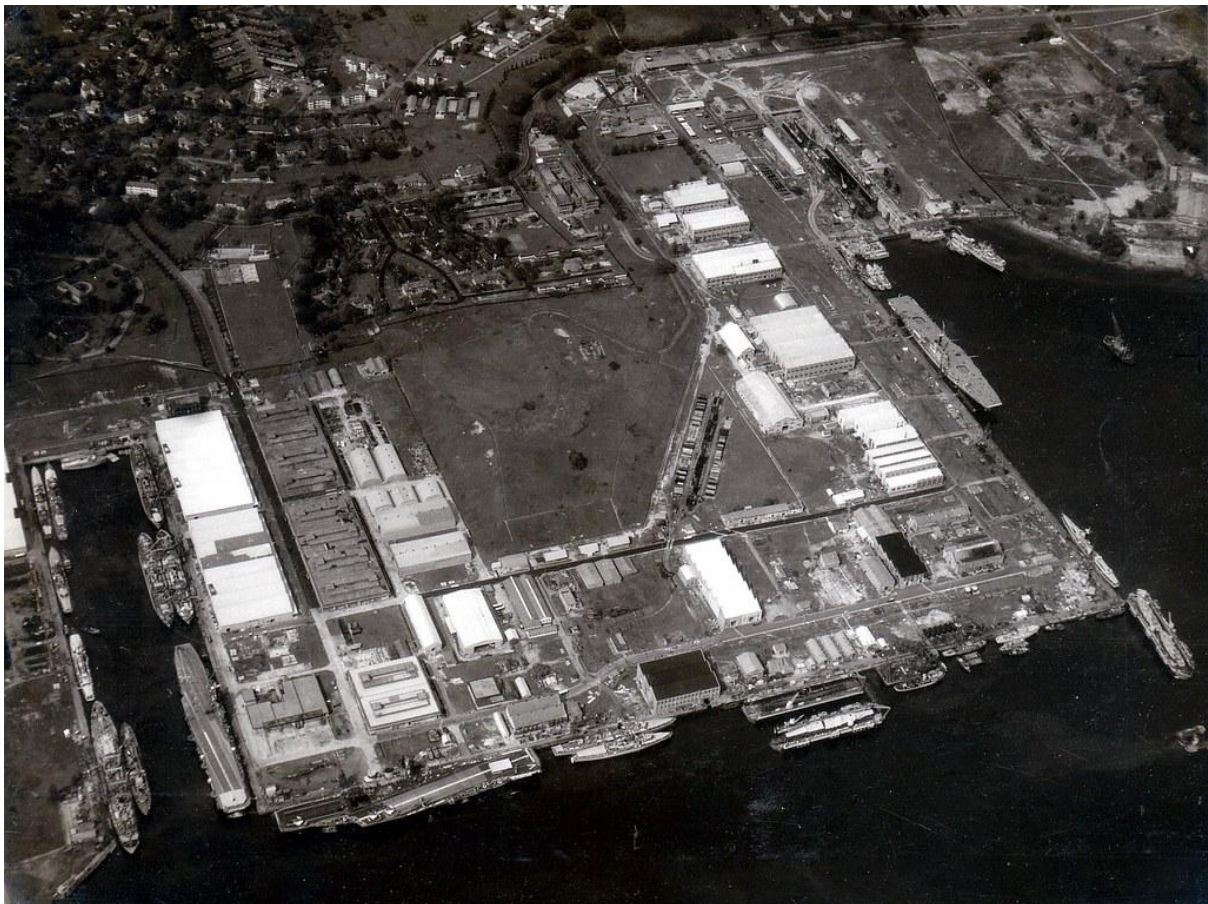
## Royal Navy naval base, Singapore, HMS Terror

Construction of the Singapore naval base was announced in 1923 and completed in 1931. The naval base covered an area of 54 square kilometres including the King George VI graving dock which at 300 metres in length was the largest dry dock in the world at that time. It also had the third-largest floating dock, and enough fuel tanks to support the entire British Navy for a period of six months.

After the fall of Malaya to the Japanese in 1942, the base was subsequently captured by Japanese forces relatively intact. At the end of the war and the surrender of Japan, the Naval Base returned to Royal Navy control. The accommodation blocks adjacent to the dockyard were named HMS Terror and remained operational until 1971 when British Forces withdrew from Singapore. The base was then handed over to the Government of Singapore.

## Buildings and Villages of the Former Sembawang Naval Base

An online story map produced by the Government of Singapore provides a summary of some of the buildings and places of interest related to the former Sembawang Naval base. Access it via this [Link](#)



*Singapore naval base at Sembawang, March 1962 Ahead of the SEATO Exercise Sea Devil.*

*HMAS Melbourne is left. Near Melbourne on the outer dock is the larger HMS Victorious with her V deck letter. The flat top in the upper right of this photo is believed to be the commando carrier HMS Bulwark during her 1961-62 Far East commission.*

*Photo courtesy of Ashley Moore, Sydney.*

## News

### Contract signed for Upgraded Mogami Class

Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles and his Japanese counterpart, Japanese Minister of Defense Shinjirō Koizumi, have officially signed the contract for the first of Australia's next-generation general purpose frigates. The first three vessels will be built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and based on an upgraded version of Japan's Mogami Class frigate design. The first ship is expected to enter service with the Royal Australian Navy in 2029. The ships will have a range of up to 10,000 nautical miles and feature a 32-cell vertical launch system. They will be equipped with surface-to-air and anti-ship missiles, operate with a core crew of 92 personnel and support the Navy's Seahawk helicopter.



### Prime minister names Chief of Navy Mark Hammond as new Defence Chief

The prime minister has announced Vice Admiral Mark Hammond as the new Chief of the Defence Force and appointed Lieutenant General Susan Coyle as the first female Chief of Army in the nation's history.

Vice Admiral Hammond has spent 40 years in the navy — including as a submarine commander — and will replace the current CDF, David Johnston, when he retires in July.

He is said to have formed a strong working relationship with Anthony Albanese and Defence Minister Richard Marles, who said the navy chief had been "right at the heart" of the government's hugely ambitious pitch to acquire nuclear-powered submarines under AUKUS.

Mr Marles praised Vice Admiral Hammond's leadership of the navy, and said his long stretch of service would position him well for the most senior military role in Australia.



## RAN History Milestones

A useful source of information on key milestones in the RAN's history can be found on the Sea Power Centre-Australia's website. It features more than fifty pages on subjects from early European exploration of Australia to Operation Bushfire Assist in 2019.

<https://www.navy.gov.au/about-navy/history/history-milestones>



*The replica Duyfken, commissioned in 1999, in the collection of the Australian National Maritime Museum.*



*Shrouded in smoke, a Royal Australian Navy Seahawk 'Romeo' Helicopter departs HMAS Adelaide during Operation Bushfire Assist, January 2020.*

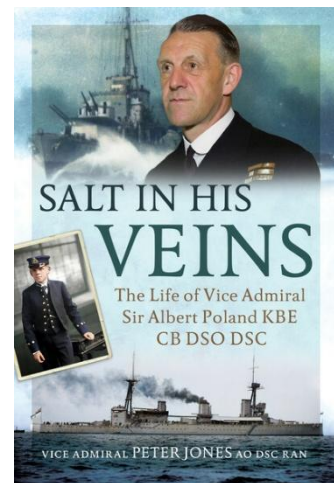
## New Book - Salt in his Veins, The Life of Vice Admiral Sir Albert Poland KBE CB DSO DSC

This latest biography by Vice Admiral Peter Jones AO DSC RAN describes the life of remarkable life of Vice Admiral Sir Albert 'Patsy' Poland.

The following is taken from the publisher's website, 'Vice Admiral Sir Albert 'Patsy' Poland (1895–1967) came from a long-standing naval family and had an action-filled career spanning two world wars. For most of the First World War Poland served in the battle cruiser New Zealand, taking part in the battles of Heligoland Bight, Dogger Bank and Jutland. He earned a DSC commanding a torpedo boat in the heroic Ostend Raid. After the war Poland saw service in the Russian Civil War and then commanded gunboats in China and destroyers in the Mediterranean.

Poland's service in the Second World War was even more eventful. He was described by historian Donald Macintyre as the most bombed officer in the Royal Navy. He commanded the sloop Black Swan in the Norwegian campaign, which was bombed, yet miraculously survived. As one of Admiral Andrew Cunningham's trusted captains, Poland commanded the navy's resupply effort to besieged Tobruk, and then commanded the famous 14th Destroyer Flotilla at the Second Battle of Sirte. At the end of the war, Poland took the Japanese surrender at Sabang in Sumatra. In tracing the course of such a career, Salt in His Veins describes in graphic detail some of the Royal Navy's greatest deeds and gravest vicissitudes of the twentieth century.'

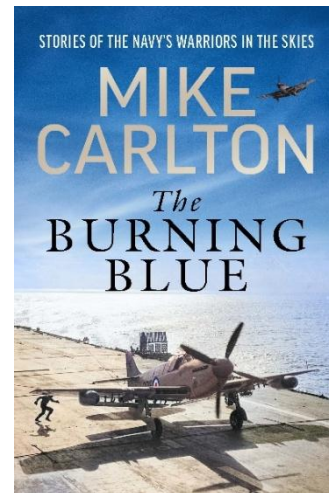
The publisher, Pen & Sword Books is now taking [pre orders](#).



## New Book - The Burning Blue, Stories of the Navy's warriors in the skies

Mike Carlton's latest book on the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Air Arm will be released on 28 July 2026. It traces the history of Australian naval aviators throughout the twentieth century.

A full description of the book and pre-order options are available through the publisher, Penguin's website. [Link](#)



## Video of the Month

In this video the fully-restored Grumman S-2G Tracker 844 leads HARS Aviation Museum's three-aircraft in a low-level low-level fly-past over spectacular Sydney Harbour and CBD to honour marching veterans below, on ANZAC Day, 25 April 2022.

With a camera on-board, Tracker 844 was joined in the loose line astern over the city by former RAAF C-47 (Dakota) and de Havilland Caribou from which further video was produced. The result is a unique Pilot's Eye view of the entire flight, including the Tracker 844 alongside on the route home. This video is a HARS tribute to all who flew in them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1A3txcly04>

**Duration:** 25 Minutes



## Photo of the Month



In October 1969 the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam was attached to the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company, at the Bearcat Base in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam. Here Petty Officer Airman Mechanic Airframes and Engines Ronald Charles (Ron) Cole (left), and Mechanician Airframes and Engines Kevin William Camm, check over the rotor head of a Huey troop carrying 'slick' helicopter. Both are quality control inspectors in the maintenance area of the base, checking the work done by other helicopter mechanics. AWM <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C342613>

## Occasional Papers

- Occasional Paper 207 - HMAS *Torrens* to the Rescue 1918
- Occasional Paper 208 - The Royal Australian Navy in the Sinai 1982 - 1986
- Occasional Paper 209 - Naval Operations in Dire Straits in 1915 and 2026

## Coming Events, For the Diary

The following events will be conducted in Sydney at the Australian National Maritime Museum in the coming months.

More details and advice on how to register will be provided separately for each event.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 24 July,    | Book and Website Launch,<br>Serving the Nation, always underway - 1948 to 1972<br>and Naval Graves Website |
| 15 August,  | Presentation, Naval Flags: History Unfurled by John Vaughan  |
| 26 August,  | Presentation, The History of the WRANS by Viv Murray   |
| 23 October, | Special Event, Naval Warfare developments over the last 50 Years.  |

Podcast of Interest

### **Taste of Combat: Commander John Goss RAN Rtd**

The Melbourne Shrine's current special exhibition entitled *Taste of Combat, The Evolution of Military Food* runs until November 2026.

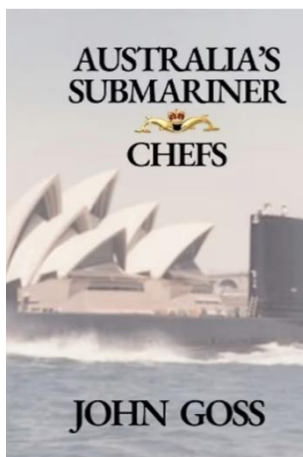
In addition to the physical exhibition, it includes on its website podcasts on the subject of catering in the Services. This includes an interview with retired Commander John Goss on the subject of catering in Oberon class submarines which uncovers the often-invisible service of catering for the military and the challenges, research and innovation involved in feeding the forces.



**Duration:** 34 minutes. Podcast [Link](#)

### **Australia's Submariner Chefs**

**By: John Goss**



The Oberon Class Submariner Chef must endure the hardship and demands of satisfying a crew of some seventy tired and hungry sailors three times a day, from a space no larger than small garden shed. The unrelenting tossing of a submarine on the surface, the angles of a submarine underwater, make it a significant challenge. Added to this, the submarine environment limits the holding of fresh produce, therefore the skills and creativity of the Chefs is essential to provide the expectations of the crew and usually morale. This book serves to keep alive the legacy of the many submariner Chefs who have served our country. Those who follow them will carry on the traditions, pride, and values of the Royal Australian Navy.

All royalties from the sale of this recipe book go to the [Friends of the Holbrook Submarine Museum](#).

[Book sales](#)



## This Month in History - April

April 1864	HMVS VICTORIA transported 100,000 salmon, and 3000 trout ova, from Melbourne to Hobart to establish Tasmania's fish hatcheries.
April 1910	The second Australian torpedo boat destroyer, HMAS YARRA, was launched at Dumbarton, Scotland.
April 1915	On 29 April the submarine HMAS AE2, (LCDR H. H. G. D. Stoker, RN), unexpectedly encountered the British submarine HMS E14 (LCDR E. C. Boyle, RN). This was four days after AE2 had penetrated the Dardanelles and commenced attacking Turkish shipping. The submarines met off Kara Burnu Point, in the Sea of Marmara. E14 had penetrated the Dardanelles the day before. Both captains agreed to rendezvous the next day, however, AE2 was sunk before the rendezvous could be made.
April 1918	HMAS TORRENS and HM Ships JACKAL and HORNET engaged five Austrian destroyers in a running gun battle in the Adriatic Sea. The Austrian vessels turned away and broke off the engagement.
April 1927	The O class submarine HMAS OXLEY, (CMDR H. R. Marrack, RN), was commissioned. OXLEY was laid down at Vickers Ltd, Barrow in Furness, UK, in 1925, and launched on 29 June 1926. OXLEY was formerly to be numbered OA1, but was renamed OXLEY.
April 1935	The hulk of the former HMAS GERANIUM was towed out of Sydney Harbour by the tug Chesterfield and scuttled approximately 40 kilometres off Sydney Heads later that day.
April 1941	HMAS PARRAMATTA towed the damaged cruiser HMS CAPETOWN to the port of Massawa in Eritrea. The cruiser had been attacked and torpedoed by Italian destroyers in the Red Sea.
April 1944	LEUT M. H. Shean, RANVR, commanding a midget submarine, successfully laid charges in Bergen Harbour, Norway. A floating dock was severely damaged and the merchant vessel BARENFELS was sunk in the attack. Shean was awarded the DSO.
April 1948	HMAS MINDARI, (Gunnery Instruction Centre located at Woolloomooloo, Sydney), was decommissioned. In recent times the site was occupied by the Gunnery Art Gallery, which referred to its previous use.
April 1953	HMAS CULGOA commenced operations off Korea when she arrived off the island of Paengyong Do to relieve HMS WHITESAND BAY on the west coast patrol. CULGOA remained on patrol, anchored off the island by day and under way at night until 28 April, when she was relieved on station by HMNZS KANIER.
April 1964	The first of three Bell Iroquois helicopters ordered for the RAN were received by the Fleet Air Arm.
April 1972	HMAS STUART departed Sydney for deployment with the ANZUK Forces in the Far East, followed by a visit to Pearl Harbor in August/September 1972 for exercises with US, Canadian and other Australian Ships. She returned to Sydney in October 1972.
April 1982	RAN personnel joined the Multi-National Force and Observers, (MFO), operating on the Sinai Peninsula, to enforce the separation of Egyptian and Israeli forces. The RAN provided Iroquois helicopters, (which had been transported to the Middle East by HMAS TOBRUK), to patrol the peninsula. The RAN presence ceased in 1986, but a small Army detachment remained.
April 1994	The Naval Depot at Newfarm in Brisbane, HMAS MORETON, was decommissioned after over 60 years of service. The base opened in 1933 as HMAS PENGUIN IV; in 1940 it changed to HMAS BRISBANE, and in 1942 to HMAS MORETON. For many years the base was the home of the Amphibious Squadron, comprising the landing ship HMAS TOBRUK, and several landing craft heavy, (LCH). Naval support activities were transferred to the new Naval Headquarters, Southern Queensland, located at Bulimba Barracks.
April 2005	A Sea King helicopter from HMAS KANIMBLA (CMDR G. A. McGuire, RAN), crashed and burst into flames at Nias Island, off the west coast of Sumatra, while providing medical support following a devastating earthquake, (Operation Sumatra Assist II). Of the eleven ADF personnel onboard nine were killed. The two badly injured survivors were dragged clear of the wreckage by Indonesian civilians who were waiting for the helicopter to land.
April 2011	HMAS ADELAIDE II was scuttled as a dive wreck off Avoca, New South Wales.
April 2020	Australia officially transferred ex HMA ships MELBOURNE and NEWCASTLE to the Chilean Navy during a commissioning ceremony at HMAS Watson Naval Base in Sydney. The two frigates were retired from service by the Royal Australian Navy in 2019, and bought second hand by the Armada de Chile, which has renamed them Almirante Latorre (ex HMAS MELBOURNE) and Captain Pratt (ex HMAS NEWCASTLE) for Chilean Navy service.

## This Month in History - May

May 1884	Tasmania's only warship a 2nd class torpedo boat known as TB191, arrived in Hobart.
May 1915	The RAN and the RCN operated together for the first time, when HMAS MELBOURNE and HMCS NIOBE joined up to conduct patrols off the east coast of the United States. These patrols were to ensure German merchant ships, then interned in neutral United States ports, did not try and escape.
May 1918	HMAS PARRAMATTA was fitted with anti-submarine hydrophones at Malta.
May 1927	HMAS GERANIUM towed the grounded passenger ship TASMAN off a reef at Clarke Island in Bass Strait.
May 1935	HMAS BRISBANE sailed for England manned by a complement which would form the balance of the ship's company of the new HMAS SYDNEY (ex-HMS PHAETON)
May 1940	PO Augustus Joseph Fisher, RAN, was awarded the DSM for daring, endurance, and resource, while serving in HM Submarine TRUANT. Fifteen months later he was awarded a MID for skill and enterprise in the same submarine.
May 1942	The trawler HMS LORD GREY, (LEUT C. Martin, RANVR), arrived at Colombo, Ceylon, (now Sri Lanka), after a seven-month voyage from the United Kingdom. During the voyage LORD GREY met gales, suffered numerous mechanical breakdowns, and nearly all the crew were sick or injured at some time.
May 1949	HMAS SYDNEY (III) arrived in Jervis Bay with the Fleet Air Arm's first Naval Air Squadrons, 805 and 816 Squadrons, embarked.
May 1959	LEUT Stanley Ray Carmichael RAN & ASLT Mike Williams RAN lost their lives when their Sea Venom aircraft of 724 Squadron flew into the sea whilst on a photographic exercise at sea off Ulladulla, NSW. The aircraft was seen to circle the merchant vessel KOMONA before crashing into the sea approximately 18 miles east of Ulladulla. LEUT Carmichael was one of the RAN's very early trained pilots, and was highly experienced having flown Sea Furies from HMAS SYDNEY during the Korean war. Twenty-nine years later on 18/05/88 the remains of their aircraft was brought to the surface by a CSIRO vessel. The port wheel cover is now displayed at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Nowra, NSW.
May 1965	With 347 officers and men of 1RAR embarked, as well as vehicles and stores, the fast troop transport, HMAS SYDNEY (III) departed Sydney for her first voyage to Vietnam, escorted by HMAS DUCHESS. The duo was later joined by HMA Ships PARRAMATTA (III), MELBOURNE (II) and VAMPIRE (II). They were replenished by HMAS SUPPLY enroute.
May 1971	RAN Clearance Diving Teams completed their service in Vietnam. Between February 1967 and May 1971, they carried out the following operations:- searched 7573 ships for mines and other underwater explosive devices, made 153 major dives, other than underwater ship searches, destroyed 358 tons of heavy ordnance, and completed 68 special operations, such as bunker searches, and the recovery of sunken vessels and aircraft. Total casualties were one accidentally killed and one wounded.
May 1986	HMA Ships STALWART, FLINDERS, BRUNEI, and BETANO, were dispatched to the Solomon Islands to render assistance, following a cyclone in the area.
May 1994	Exercise RIMPAC 94 commenced in Hawaiian waters, involving ships from Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and the United States. HMA Ships HOBART, SYDNEY, DARWIN, SUCCESS, and OVENS, were involved.
May 2005	HMAS NEWCASTLE departed for the Middle East region on Operation CATALYST. NEWCASTLE'S deployment was the Navy's 34th individual ship deployment to the Middle East region since 1990.
May 2020	The Royal Australian Naval College at HMAS CRESWELL graduated the largest officer cohort in its 107-year history, with 168 members of New Entry Officers' Course 62 completing their initial training.

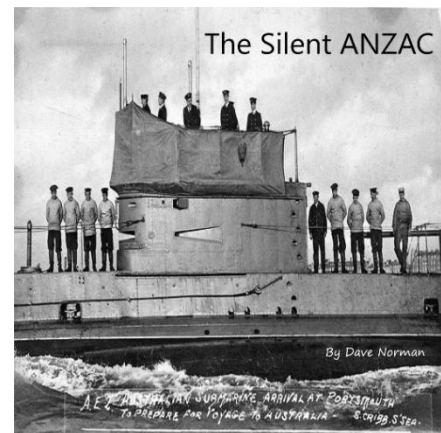
The entries selected for publication this month are randomly generated from an extensive database of historic naval events. The absence of a significant event is in no way intended to cause offence. The objective is to provide a cross section of events across time. The Society's website enables you to 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/>

## AE2 The Silent ANZAC

A song by Dave Norman

The Society was recently contacted by Australian singer and song writer Dave Norman who drew attention to his composition dedicated to the Australian submarine AE2.

Dave wrote, 'I don't know if you are aware but in 2015, I wrote a song about the AE2 called 'The Silent ANZAC'. Legendary guitarist Phil Emmanuel heard about it and asked if he could be involved which he was. The song gets played at our local ANZAC Centenary in Mango Hill each year and by a number of community radio stations.



You can hear the song at <https://davenorman2803.bandcamp.com/track/ae2-the-silent-anzac>

Regards, Dave'

He later explained that his interest was triggered by a talk on AE2 and also an initiative by the Moreton Bay Council to erect a [tribute to the AE2](#) on Anzac Avenue, Kallangur, Queensland.



*HMAS AE2 Anzac Tribute, Kallangur, Queensland, courtesy of Brendan Downs*

'The Pine Rivers Naval Association Sub Section was also active in getting the song out and I got to meet the granddaughter of one of the sailors and give her family a copy which was a great experience. In 2025 I met a member of the Stoker family, Dacre Stoker who is a writer and ex-Olympian living in America. He was also delighted to hear about the song.'

**Listen:** <https://davenorman2803.bandcamp.com/track/ae2-the-silent-anzac>

The Silent ANZAC was written about AE2's role during the Gallipoli campaign. The song features legendary Australian guitarist Phil Emmanuel and was written for the ANZAC Centenary. AE2 managed to transit the heavily mined Dardanelles to enter the Marmara Sea. AE2 was scuttled after taking battle damage and her crew taken prisoner. The wreck of the AE2 still lays on the bottom of the Marmara Sea as a shrine to the men who served in her.










### **RAN Band Recording**

[AE2 – Stoker's Submarine](#), Musical Composition by Lieutenant Matthew Klohs, RAN and performed by the Royal Australian Navy Band with narrative by Mr Mike Carlton.

It was composed to commemorate the Centenary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War One.

## Society Links

The Society is proud of the great variety of content on its [website](#). The following is provided as a guide to some of our key features. Have a surf.

<p><b>Society Events</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 	<p><b>YouTube Channel</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 	<p><b>Follow us on Facebook</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 
<p><b>Explore Naval Art</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 	<p><b>Podcasts</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 	<p><b>On This Day</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 
<p><b>Events on Google Earth</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 	<p><b>Naval Heritage Sites</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 	<p><b>Chapel of Remembrance</b> Commemorative plaque <a href="#">Application form</a></p> 
<p><b>Call the Hands, Back Copies</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> 	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p>Please join us</p> 	<p><b>SHOP</b></p> <p><a href="#">LINK</a></p> <p>Please browse</p> 