



NAVAL HISTORY

“The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the nation”

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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RANR RFD RET'D

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RANR

As we look back over the years the history books reveal the following naval events that have transpired during the month of July.

JULY 1925

Eighty nine years ago under the command of Admiral R.E. Coontz USN, a fleet of 56 ships arrived in Australia. As the US fleet neared Australia's East Coast they split into two groups, with the main group of 44 ships proceeding directly to Melbourne and the remaining 12 ships sailing to Sydney. This event was commemorated in the year 2000, as the 75th anniversary of the event, and celebrated at a luncheon-reception which was hosted by the NLA Vic. Division for the Senior Officers of USS John Paul Jones, when the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer visited Melbourne 14 years ago.

ED: Next year 2015 will mark the 90th anniversary of the visit.

JULY 1911

On July 10th 1911 King George V gave his approval for the Naval Forces of Australia to use Royal Prefix, thus the Commonwealth Naval Forces became the Royal Australian Navy.

JULY 1942

On the 1st July 1942, a number of allied prisoners of war, including RANR Coastwatcher's, lost their lives when the Japanese Transport Vessel "Montevideo Maru" transporting the P.O.W.'s to Japan was torpedoed and sunk by the American Submarine USS Sturgeon off the Coast of Luzon in the Philippines.

JULY 1950

Sixty four years ago hostilities commenced in Korea. The following RAN Ships engaged, HMA Ships Sydney, Anzac, Bataan, Tobruk, Warramunga, Condamine, Culgoa, Murchison and Shoalhaven.

JULY 1943

During World War 2 on the 10th July 1943, the allies landed in Sicily. This operation was codenamed Op "Husky. The following RAN Bathurst Class Minesweeper-Corvettes participated in this operation:-

Ships Cairns, Cessnock, Gawler, Geraldton, Ipswich, Lismore, Maryborough and Woolongong.

March 1909.

ACV THAIYAK

Could not help but notice in the background, during a TV press conference held by the Hon. Scott Morrison MP a vessel by the name of "THAIYAK". I thought it might be a visiting tug from Thailand as no mention was made of the vessel during Mr. Morrisons Conference, the press rather concentrated on asylum seekers and visa issues.

"THAIYAK" however, is Australia's latest addition to or Border Protection Fleet and features the following main characteristics:-

LENGTH	40 METRES
BEAM	12 METRES
GROSS TONNAGE	535

"THAIYAK" was built by the West Australian Company Strategic Marine at their shipyard in Vietnam and is currently berthed in Fremantle.

Once operational "THAIYAK" will be part of Australian Customs Fleet of vessels working with the Cape Class Patrol Vessels.

SHRINE REPORT JUNE-JULY 2014

Once again we thank NLA Victoria Division executive committee member Mr Ken Crook, for bringing us up to date with activities at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

On Sunday 15th June, the annual wreath laying ceremony was held in the Sanctuary at the Shrine at 11am to remember the sacrifice of all those who served in World War 11 aboard the "N" Class Destroyers. It is 72 years since the sinking of HMAS Nestor on the 16th June 1942.

The redevelopment work is progressing ahead of schedule, allowing time for the installation of approximately 800 exhibition items in the Galleries of Remembrance and the rebuilding of the old retail, visitor and staff facilities within the Northern Undercroft. It will be reopened to the public on 8th August. Refurbishment works in the Ambulatory area around the Sanctuary are now completed with all the display flags being refurbished and re-installed. The new 140 seat auditorium is now in use and is an excellent education asset for school children and the public. It has been decided to lay coloured asphalt, the same colour as the gravel footpath in the bus docking area in Birdwood Avenue, to alleviate the foot traffic of gravel into the building.

Another of the many improvements will be the extra path from the Post '45 Memorial, creating a loop path to the ring road around the Shrine. The ring road from the western stairs to the eastern stairs has been resealed. Landscaping of the large area from the southern steps down to Domain Road has been completed, but will remain fenced until the new grass has consolidated.

Ken Crook

Notice is hereby given that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
THE NEAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA DIVISION
Will be held at the Box Hill RSL, Nelson Road Box Hill Victoria
On Thursday 18th September 2014 at 7: 00PM

NEWS IN BRIEF

Interesting to note that the RAN now has four Vice Admirals.

1. Vice Chief of Defence Force..... VADM Ray Griggs
 2. Chief of NavyVADM Tim Barrett
 3. Chief of Capability Development..... VADM Peter Jones
 4. Group HQ Joint Operations CommandVADM David Johnston
-

Of further interest to note is that Captain Kath Richards is to be promoted to the rank of Commodore at the end of this year.
Captain Richards was CO HMAS CERBERUS and "Senior Naval Officer Victoria" prior to current CO and SNO-Vic Captain Steve Bowater.
Captain Richards was also awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross on the recent Queens Birthday Honours Roll.

VICTORIA DIVISION Including TASMANIA
Tasmania Established 1900, Victoria 15 October 1915
2014-2015 ANNUAL DUES

We extend a very warm welcome to all our Tasmanian based members.

Please forward your annual payment off **\$35** to Hon Secretary R Gill JP by 30 June and that will assist our honorary officers responsible for the administration. Payment can be made direct by internet banking direct into our account, but make sure your name is included

BSB 033 389 A/C No.: 107631 Westpac Bank

or post to

P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

Hope you are enjoying Frank McCarthy's Monthly Email Newsletter and the Navy League's Quarterly journal "The Navy". We hold occasional "Welcome luncheons" and "special events" depending on ship arrivals so let us know when you send your payment if you are interested in being notified of these events and we will update our records.

Events and news items are listed in the Monthly Newsletter which is distributed by email and for those without a personal email you may I suggest that if you have family members or a friend to whom we can send it to you please let us know the email address.

Ring the Secretary 9884 **6237** if you and/or a friend would like to attend events or need advice.

Yours Aye!

AS IT WAS

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent naval history at items that involved, or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our “Keep Watch” brief. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports to July 2004. We note that it was around this time we reported on the following:-

1. Aurora Australis
2. Project Protector

AURORA AUSTRALIS

In July of 2004 we noted that machine guns had been fitted to an Australian Antarctic Research Vessel to deter illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean.

‘AURORA AUSTRALIS’ was fitted with two deck-mounted .50 Calibre guns and was to carry an armed Customs Boarding Party to deter poachers attempting to illegally fish Patagonian Toothfish stocks.

Justice and Customs Minister Chris Ellison was quoted as having said: “This sends a very clear message to illegal fishermen that we are serious about cracking down on the trade”.

It was the first time that a Customs or Fisheries Patrol Boat had been equipped with deck-mounted machine guns.

PROJECT PROTECTOR

It was also in July of 2004 that the League noted that Tenix (now BAE) had been nominated as the Australian firm contracted to build seven new ships for the New Zealand Navy with part of the work, known as Project Protector, to be carried out at their Williamstown Dockyard.

The following media extract of July 2004 provides more of the “Project Protector” details:-

TENIX TO BUILD SEVEN NAVY SHIPS FOR NZ

Australian firm Tenix has signed a contract to build seven new ships for the New Zealand navy, with some of the work to be undertaken at Williamstown.

New Zealand Defence Minister Mark Burton and Finance Minister Michael Cullen said yesterday they would release further details of the contract next week. In April, Tenix was named as the preferred tenderer for the ships under \$NZ500 million (\$450 million) Project program. The project includes building a new 8000-tonne, multi-role ship capable of operations in the Pacific. A Tenix spokesman said work on two 1500-tonne offshore patrol vessels would begin at Whangarei, on New Zealand’s North Island, and sections would then be barged to Williamstown to be assembled and fitted out. There would be work on the project at Williamstown until early 2008, he said.

ED Note July 2014:-

Project Protector continued in Victoria with the commissioning of the multi-role 9000 tonne HMNZ CANTERBURY L421 at Station Pier Port Melbourne on 12th June 2007.

HMNZ CANTERBURY was built in the Netherlands with the finishing touches of communications and armament applied at the Williamstown Dockyard.

The offshore patrol vessels OTAGO P148 and WELLINGTON P55, were launched at Williamstown on 18th November 2006 and 27th October 2007 respectively.

Navy League Victoria Division was represented at each of the three abovementioned events.

The four inshore patrol vessels, making up the total of seven for Project Protector, were built in New Zealand.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Navy League member Rex Williams, who is also President of the Victorian Chapter of the Naval Historical Society, has kindly forwarded details of the successful bid for the erection of a naval monument in Port Melbourne as project "*Answering the Call*", the relevant details follow:-

Ten years ago, two Past Presidents of the Victoria Chapter of the NHS pondered the fact that although Victoria provided the bulk of the ships for the new Commonwealth Navy back in 1901, and indeed was the National Capital, with Navy Office being situated in Lonsdale Street until 1922, and then at Victoria Barracks until the move to Canberra; there was nothing to mark the significance of Melbourne in the operations of our Royal Australian Navy in two world wars. Flinders Naval Depot, now known as HMAS CERBERUS, is indeed a source of pride to Victoria, as is Williamstown Dockyard, but in Port Melbourne itself there was no monument. There is not a single Heritage marker to denote that the Navy was ever there, and that some 15,000 Naval Men and women had passed that way! The two close friends, Don Boyle and LCDR Mac Gregory decided to address the situation!

The initial dream was to erect a 'Navy Square' in Port Melbourne, opposite where the former HMAS Lonsdale was situated. Navy has had a long association with the Port Melbourne Precinct, dating back to the Colonial navy days of the mid 1850's until 1992, when HMAS Lonsdale was decommissioned and demolished. A high rise apartment block named 'HMAS' is now in its place. In WWII, anyone who joined the RAN for the Hostilities and 6 months in Victoria would have passed through HMAS Lonsdale. They carried PM in front of their official number which signified Port Melbourne and reflected where they had joined the Navy to go to war at sea. The concept of a 'Navy square' was supported by the Naval Historical Society, and the project got underway, receiving financial support from Naval Organisations and many individuals. Extensive plans were drawn up, DVD presentations made, and approvals sort and gained!

A major hurdle to obtaining sufficient funds was the projects inability to obtain Deductible Gift Recipient Status, (DGR). Sufficient funds were available, but conditional on DGR being available. Two applications to achieve DGR failed.

The Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia inc was incorporated on January 22nd 2008, and a stated aim was the erecting a 7 foot 6 inch (230cm) bronze statue of a WWII Sailor in square rig. He is to represent all ranks and rates, men and women who have served their country in both war and peace.

On 28th April last, Mac Gregory announced the good news that he had received a letter from the Minister For Veterans' Affairs, Senator The Hon. Michael Ronaldson advising that he has approved a grant of \$83,024 to the Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia Inc., of which Mac Gregory is President, to enable an immediate start for the "Answering the Call" Project-a statue of a Royal Australian Navy sailor to be erected on the Foreshore at Port Melbourne.

The statue will be set on a one metre granite block on the Beaconsfield Parade foreshore immediately opposite the end of Dow Street, Port Melbourne. That places it almost opposite the "HMAS" apartments which occupy the site of the former HMAS Lonsdale. Mac said that the original plan for the statue showed a sailor in "square rig" waving his right hand towards the sea and carrying his kitbag on his left shoulder. To increase the stability of the statue it has been decided to have the kitbag resting at the base beside the sailor's left foot.

The report ended with: All relevant approvals for the erection of the statue have been received and a contract is currently being drawn up. Mac expects the statue to be completed by the end of this year. The sculptor who has been commissioned is Louis Laumen.

Mac's colleagues and friends in the Naval Historical Society of Australia together with the Navy League of Australia extend their heartiest congratulations to Mac and his committee.

HMAS AE2

By all accounts, the ABC'S forthcoming television program "Catalyst" looks to be a most interesting story dealing with the exploration of the sunken World War One submarine HMAS AE2. The RAN'S submarine HMAS AE2 was scuttled by its crew in April of 1915 following an engagement with an enemy Turkish torpedo boat in the Sea of Marmara.

The crystal clear images, captured by a joint Australian-Turkish team under project Silent-Anzac" showed remarkably well-preserved details of the submarine.

The HMAS AE2 commemorative Foundation Chairman, Rear Admiral Peter Briggs, AO, CSC, RAN (RET'D), said "A roving camera had captured the entire length of the sunken submarine including many of her features. He further advised that the interior of HMAS AE2 is in amazingly good condition including what looks to be the battle ensign used by the submarine's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Henry Hugh Gordon (Dacre) Stoker".

For his deployment to Turkey Stokers first Lieutenant was LEUT Geoffrey Haggard with third Officer LEUT John Cary.

With the above three Officers AE2 certainly had strong literary connections as Dacre Stokers cousin Bram Stoker was the author of "Dracula", Geoff Haggard's uncle was Rider Haggard who wrote "King Solomon's Mines", and Cary's brother was Joyce Cary author of "The Horse's Mouth". League members may also recall that LCDR Geoff Haggard was the father of Mrs. Jenny Smyth wife of the late CDRE Dacre Smyth, AO, Legion of Honour(France) RAN.

HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH

Connoisseurs of fine whisky would have been interested to note that the latest forthcoming addition to the RN Fleet the 65,000 ton Aircraft Carrier 'QUEEN ELIZABETH was christened with a bottle of Scotch Whisky rather than the traditional braking over the bow of a bottle of Champagne. The Whisky alternative was a fine tribute to the Scots as they played such a prominent role in the construction of the ship.

The Aircraft Carrier QUEEN ELIZABETH was christened by the reigning Monarch Queen Elizabeth 2 on 4th July 2014. When HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH is fully operational she will be the largest ship ever to be part of the RN.

The type and brand of Whisky chosen for the ceremony was a Malt Whisky BOWMORE SURF from the Bowmore Distillery on the Isle of Islay, one of the Outer Hebrides.

Membership

Any person with an interest in maritime affairs, or who wishes to acquire an interest in, or knowledge of, maritime affairs and who wishes to support the objectives of the League, is invited to join.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the Navy League of Australia is "The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the Nation" by:

- Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong Navy supported by maritime elements of the Air Force and Army and other Government Maritime agencies are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital to the freedom of Australia.
- Promoting defence self-reliance by supporting maritime research, defence industry, Australian shipping, ship-building, port and transport infrastructure and off shore resource exploration and development.
- Promoting and encouraging the interest and training of youth in the sea.

ACTIVITIES

The Navy League of Australia works towards its objectives in a number of ways:

- By including in its membership leading representatives of the many elements which form the maritime community.
- Through soundly-based contributions by members to journals and newspapers, and other media comment.
- By publishing *The Navy*, a quarterly journal reporting on local and overseas maritime happenings, past, present, and projected.
- By organizing symposia, ship visits and various other functions of maritime interests throughout the years.
- By supporting Australian Navy Cadets, and assisting in the provision of training facilities.

Member participation is encouraged in all these activities.

POLICY

The policy of the League can be found at the back of *The Navy*.

Correspondence:- All articles for publication in the Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) Newsletter, should be addressed to the Editor, Frank McCarthy, email:- (alistle@bigpond.com). All other correspondence should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) P.O.Box 2340, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149: (raydotgill@optusnet.com.au).

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Joining the League

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of The Navy), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.
Victorian Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.
Queensland Division: GPO Box 1481, Brisbane, QLD 4001.
South Australian Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
West Australian Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victorian Division. If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australian Division respectively.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



To: The Hon. Secretary
The Navy League of Australia

Division

I wish to join the Navy League of Australia, the objectives of which I support, and I enclose a remittance for \$35.00 (including \$3.18 GST) being my first annual subscription to 30 June next.

Name: [Mr] [Mrs] [Ms] [Rank] _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Street _____

Suburb _____ State _____ P/code _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

