



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

is
the
principal
objective
of
the
Navy League
of Australia

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COMMENCEMENT OF THE KOREAN WAR 65 YEARS AGO.

In the early hours of 25th June 1950 the silence of the 38th Parallel in Korea was broken by the thunder of artillery fire as units of the North Korean army charged across the artificial barrier that separated North Korea from South Korea.

The Soviet trained and equipped army of communist North Korea, led by Russian-made tanks, burst across the parallel and headed for the South Korean capital Seoul.

The North Korean's objective was to free their brothers in South Korea who had been backed by the United States. So it is in June of 2015 we commemorate the 65th anniversary of commencement of the Korean War which was at a time when the World was in crisis, as the uneasiness between the communist and Western World threatened to set-off a Third World War.

On the 28th of June 1950 the Australian Naval Board sent a signal to a Vice Admiral Turner Joy, the United States Navy Commander in the Far East, advising him that His Majesty's Australian ships were available for operations in Korea as required under United Nations Control.

British and New Zealand Naval ships were also made available to the United States Commander for operations in Korea.

The signal from the Australian Naval Board was confirmed on June 29th by an announcement from Australia's Prime Minister Mr. Robert Menzies, advising that the first two of an eventual nine RAN warships, were to be made available for operations in Korea

The modified River Class Frigate HMAS SHOALHAVEN was already close by in Kure, Japan and was followed shortly thereafter by the Tribal Class Destroyer HMAS BATAAN, at that time visiting Hong Kong.

Both ships were followed, not long after by the Tribal Class Destroyer HMAS WARRAMUNGA 1, also for operational service in Korea.

On her deployment to Korea HMAS SHOALHAVEN escorted a United States Navy Ammunition ship which marked Australia's first operational task in the Korean War.



HMAS BATAAN

A total of 4784 RAN personnel and nine RAN Warships served in Korea during the period the hostilities.

RAN Ships deployed to Korea 1950-1953 :-

HMAS SYDNEY 111	AIRCRAFT CARRIER
HMAS ANZAC 11	BATTLE CLASS DESTROYER
HMAS TOBRUK 1	BATTLE CLASS DESTROYER
HMAS BATAAN	TRIBAL CLASS DESTROYER
HMAS WARRAMUNGA 1	DITTO
HMAS SHOALHAVEN	MODIFIED RIVER CLASS FRIGATE
HMAS CONDAMINE	DITTO
HMAS CULGOA	DITTO
HMAS MURCHISON	DITTO

During long and arduous routines of War, these ships of the RAN endured climatic extremes Of Artic winters and scorching summers. Whilst not engaged in the ship vs ship gun battles of WW11, the destroyers and Frigates nevertheless combined their many tasks with the dangers of hazardous operations close inshore under fire. HMAS SYDNEY wrote herself into the history books launching her aircraft in such numbers that she created sortie records for her class of aircraft carrier.

The carrier, destroyers and frigates of the RAN continued their fine service until the armistice was signed on the 27th July 1953. Patrols of Korean waters by units of the RAN continued until 1955.

All of the ship's personnel maintained the RAN'S excellent record, a reputation which has been proudly earned in two World Wars and we acknowledge all of those personnel brought credit to their Nation.

So it is that 65 years onward, we spare a thought for those who served in the conflict that commenced 25th June 1950, the Korean War.

NAVAL HISTORY

The Month of June is indeed a significant month in terms of Australian Navy History, as the following reveals.

JUNE 1884

It was on this date, 25th June 1884, 131 years ago, that the Victorian Navy's torpedo boat HMVS Childers arrived in Port Phillip on her maiden voyage together with gunboats Victoria and Albert. The League six years ago celebrated the anniversary of this occasion with a luncheon reception at Melbourne's Mercure Hotel with guests from HMAS Childers No. 2 plus the C.O. from the visiting Canadian Frigate HMCS Winnipeg.

JUNE 1941

June 1: The cruiser HMAS PERTH and the destroyers HMAS NAPIER, NIZAM, STUART and WATERHEN, took part in the evacuation of Crete.

June 30: The destroyer HMAS WATERHEN was sunk off the Libyan coast by German aircraft, with no loss of life.

JUNE 1942

June 15: HMAS NESTOR suffered severe bomb damage from an Italian air attack off the coast of Crete, at the cost of 4 lives. She was sunk by HMS JAVELIN the following day. HMAS NESTOR was the only major RAN ship never to serve in Australian waters.

HMAS CASTLEMAINE ANNIVERSARY.

On 17th June this year the ex HMAS Castlemaine maintenance team celebrated the 73rd anniversary of the commissioning of the ship.

HMAS CASTLEMAINE was launched at Williamstown by the late Mrs. R.G. Menzies on 7TH August 1941, and commissioned 10 months later on 17th June 1942.

The Ship is an Australian Bathurst Class Minesweeper – Corvette with a displacement of 650 tonnes, length 186 feet, beam 31 feet, draft 8 feet 3 inches, speed 15 knots and a crew of approximately 70.

HMAS CASTLEMAINE served with distinction during WW11 in the northern waters of Australia, New Guinea, Timor, Pacific Islands and China Sea.

NAVAL HISTORY C'TND

Perhaps HMAS CASTLEMAINE could be described as a lucky ship, as she could have easily suffered the same fate as HMAS ARMIDALE a Bathurst Class sister ship to Castlemaine, which was bombed and sunk by Japanese aircraft whilst operating with HMAS CASTLEMAINE off Timor during December 1942.

The fact that HMAS CASTLEMAINE is still afloat alongside at Gem Pier Williamstown, just a few hundred metres from where she was launched 74 years ago is testimony to the builders who constructed her and to Peter Williams and his dedicated band of volunteers, who have been instrumental in maintaining HMAS CASTLEMAINE over the past forty years.

JUNE 1943

June 11: The sister ship to HMAS CASTLEMAINE the minesweeper HMAS WALLAROO sank off the coast of WA after a collision with US liberty ship HENRY GILBERT COSTIN. 3 lives were lost.

JUNE 1944

It was seventy one years ago on the 6th June 1944 when approximately 500 RAN, personnel participated in the allied landings at Normandy, many were R.A.N.V.R., Officers in command of British landing craft.

The late Cdre. Dacre Smyth R.A.N., was the only Australian on board HMS Danae at the D.-Day Normandy landing. HMS Danae was a Dauntless Class Cruiser in which Dacre served as Gunnery Control Officer.

JUNE 1945

June 10: Australian forces landed at Brunei Bay, Borneo from HMA ships KANIMBLA, MANOORA and WESTRALIA supported by the cruiser HMAS HOBART, the destroyer ARUNTA, and the frigates BARCOO and LACHLAN.

JUNE 1969

LOSS OF USS FRANK E. EVANS FORTY SIX YEARS AGO.

Forty six years ago on 3rd June 1969, the U.S. destroyer "Frank E. Evans was sliced in two in a collision with the Australian Aircraft Carrier HMAS Melbourne in the South China Sea. The collision resulted in the death of 74 American sailors.

Fifty nine years ago your newsletter editor, accepted an invitation for a tour of inspection of the "Frank E. Evans" when the ship, as a representative of the U.S. visited Melbourne for the 1956 Olympic Games.

USS Frank E. Evans DD754 was an Allen M. Sumner Class Destroyer and was known by her motto as "*The Fighter*".

At the time of the ships visit to Melbourne "Frank E. Evans", was under the command of Cmdr. J.N. Behan Jnr., U.S.N., who advised that he and his crew were part of a "*Can do outfit*".

The Evans had a standard displacement of 2200 tons, an overall length of 377 feet and a beam of 41 feet. Her main armament consisted of six five inch and six three inch guns plus anti-submarine weapons including five 21 inch torpedo tubes. Her wartime crew totalled 350 and her speed was 34 knots.

USS Frank E. Evans engaged in both WW11 and the Korean War.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PACIFIC PATROL BOATS

As we reported in the March 2015 edition of our newsletter, the Commonwealth Government released a tender package to build 21 pacific patrol boats. The patrol boats will replace the current ageing boats that form part of the maritime security arrangements for Pacific Island Nations.

The tender came as good news to Australia's shipbuilders at a time when yards are contemplating enforced redundancies.

The Williamstown shipyard of BAE has already announced job cuts, with 80 positions to go in July.

The pacific patrol boat program is a key part of Australia's security arrangements in the South Pacific. With Australia building the 21 new patrol boats it will create approximately \$595 Million worth of Australian Defence industry opportunities with an additional \$1.38 billion to support 30 years of through-life sustainment and personnel costs.

Papua New Guinea has now joined the program with Timor-Leste indicating a strong interest. Other partners in the program include Solomon Islands, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

NUSHIP HOBART LAUNCHED

The RAN moved a step closer recently to once again being a "Destroyer Navy", when NUSHIP HOBART No.3 was launched in Adelaide SA at ASC shipyard.

NUSHIP HOBART DDG39, a guided missile destroyer, was launched 23rd May 2015 by Mrs. Nicola Hodgman, wife of the Tasmanian Premier.

Also present for the occasion were the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, South Australian Governor Hieu Van Le, South Australian Premier Jay Wetherill and Defence Minister Mr. Kevin Andrews.

The RAN'S last destroyer, HMAS BRISBANE DDG41, completed her service with navy in 2001.

The Spanish designed 7000 tonne NUSHIP HOBART will eventually be joined by her two sister ships, NUSHIP SYDNEY and NUSHIP BRISBANE.



NU SHIP HOBART DDG39

VALE

The President & Executive Committee members of the Navy League of Australia, Victoria-Tasmania Division, were saddened to learn of the passing of Surgeon Captain Peter Freeman OAM, RFD, RD, RANR, on 19th June 2015. Navy League offers sincere condolences to Captain Freeman's family on this sad occasion. Captain Freeman is well remembered by the Navy League for his great support over the years, his presence will be missed.

With the kind permission of CMDR John Wilkins OAM, RFD, RANR, RET'D we include a further extract from his latest publication "Australian Naval Honours and Awards 1939-2015.

Commonwealth of Australia's Australian Navy (AN)

Constitutionally founded 1st. March 1901.

Royal patronage July 1911

Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Royal Australian Naval Reserve (RANR)



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NAVY

The “SILENT SERVICE”

Where did this title originate?

Three examples are listed:

1. N.R.S. Vol 138 *Shipboard Life and Organisation*, Ed Brian Lavery. p.134. Captain's Orders HMS *Amazon*, 1799.

“Working Ship - Silence - The different lieutenants are enjoined to preserve silence at their respective stations, to suffer no man to speak, to admit of no repetition of orders delivered by the officer carrying on the duty on the quarterdeck unless the lieutenants themselves find it absolutely necessary, and then they ought to repeat these orders as quietly as possible.”

2. *Mariner's Mirror*, Vol 7, October 1921. p.316. Captain's Orders HMS *Superb* 1803-4.

“3rd. Officers of every denomination are expected when the duty requires them at quarters or their different stations, to be particularly attentive to preserve silence amongst the men, and see that the orders issued from the quarterdeck are executed with celerity and without any noise and confusion.

3. National Maritime Museum. JOD 148. Journal kept by *Pynsent* on board HMS *Gibraltar* during a cruise in 1811.

“... what most attracted my notice was the silence which prevailed, not a word was spoken but by the officers commanding; which not only shewed the fine order to which the ships company had been reduced, but also the celerity with which everything might be done in case of emergency.” (*Pynsent* was a young civilian, he had relatives in the ship).

The practice of keeping silence pre-dated the Napoleonic Wars, but order books for that period are rare. Most things in the RN were based on tradition.

(From research by the late *Elizabeth Diamond* UK).



“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 the June period of the year 2005.

1. Air Warfare DDG Destroyers
2. RAN Frigate visits Melbourne
3. UK Sea Cadet Corps

AIR WARFARE DESTROYERS

“The Federal Government has awarded itself a contract to build three hi-tech warships to an unknown design at a shipyard that does not exist. Defence Minister Robert Hill wants taxpayers to believe value for money was the key factor in awarding the contract to the taxpayer owned Adelaide based ASC Pty Ltd.

Senator Hill refused to reveal the price of the two bids so transparency was an early casualty.

There is no chance of the Government revealing how much it expects this decision to boost the sale price of ASC. which it wants to dispose of as soon as possible.

There are four South Australian Cabinet Members – Senator Hill, Alexander Downer, Nick Minchin and Amanda Vanstone – so politics played a huge role in this decision.

Senator Hill could not explain how the value criteria were judged given the number of unknowns such as, the type of ship the navy wants. The role of former ASC Managing Director Dr. Stephen Gumley (now head of Defence Procurement Organisation) in the process barely rated a mention.

When the bubbly goes flat, the ASC. and South Australian Government will be faced with the harsh reality that they have just eight years for the first completion and delivery of the most advanced surface warships ever built in this country from what is now an empty paddock!!!!!! Those few words written by a reporter from a Melbourne daily newspaper probably sums up the air warfare destroyer situation, but still leave all of the tender decision questions unanswered.

The best that Tenix can now hope for is some of the work that ASC may sublet to Tenix or for Tenix Williamstown to be given a crack at the RAN’S forthcoming amphibious ships now coming up for tender, providing of course that Tenix Williamstown could handle that size vessel.

“AS IT WAS C’TND”

****EDITORS NOTE:** HMAS HOBART 111 DDG39 was launched in Adelaide at ASC 23rd May 2015. The first of the Air Warfare Destroyers

RAN FRIGATE VISITS MELBOURNE

Following exercises with units of the New Zealand Navy earlier this year plus operational patrols in the Indian Ocean the guided missile frigate HMAS MELBOURNE FFG05, called at Melbourne on her way from Fremantle to Sydney, where she will enter dock for an extended maintenance period. The arrival in Melbourne of HMAS MELBOURNE on 3rd June 2005 coincided with the 36th anniversary of the collision between HMAS MELBOURNE No2 and the American destroyer USS FRANK E EVANS DD754.

The Australian aircraft carrier sliced the USS FRANK E EVANS in half resulting in the loss of 74 US sailors lives.

During HMAS MELBOURNES visit to Melbourne, the Victorian Division of the Navy League of Australia entertained the Commanding Officer CMDR Tony Raeside, and the Supply Officer LCDR Tim Mahoney at a luncheon reception held at the Melbourne Club.

HMAS MELBOURNE arrived at Station Pier Port Melbourne having the day before embarked a number of Australian Navy Cadets at Portland Victoria from various training ships including TS MELBOURNE and TS BENDIGO.

The Cadets to whom I spoke on board MELBOURNE remarked that the experience of the trip from Portland to Melbourne was absolutely marvellous.

HMAS MELBOURNE departed from Station Pier 6th June 2005 with a number of crew family members on board for the final leg of their journey from Melbourne to Sydney.

The ship was expected to arrive at Garden Island on 8th June 2005.

SEA CADETS CORPS

An article in a British Naval Magazine highlights an interesting history of Britain’s Sea Cadets Corps and details that the Sea Cadets Organisation is one of the country’s leading youth movements. The Corps also serves as a valuable introduction to Royal Navy, as over 20% of those joining the fleet are former members.

There are 400 units nationwide with some 10,000 cadets. The Sea Cadets Corps (SCC) can trace its history back to the Crimean War when returning sailors set up “Naval Lads Brigades” and also to the subsequent Navy Leagues Boys’ Naval Brigade and Sea Scout Groups.

By the outbreak of World War 2, under the sponsorship of the Navy League there were 10,000 cadets in 100 units dotted up and down the country. After the War the Navy League and the Admiralty continued to co-sponsor the SCC.

In 1976 the Navy League was renamed The Sea Cadet Association as support of the “Sea Cadet Corps” together with the “Girls Naval Training Corps” had become its sole function. Four years later the two were amalgamated though full integration was not achieved until 1992.

2015 NAVY WEEK

Our gratitude goes to NCCV for kindly providing details of the proposed program to celebrate Navy Week 2015.

Celebrations will start with the Anzac Naval Commemoration Ball on Saturday 17th October 2015. This event will be a main attraction of Navy Week and will include the attendance of Senior Defence Flag Rank Officers.

More information is available on anzacball2015.org

The Seafarers Service at Saint Paul's Cathedral will be held on Sunday 18th October at 10;30 am, followed at 12;30 by the Navy Wreath Laying Service at the Shrine of Remembrance. Admiral Chris Barrie will be present at this service.

A Golf Tournament at Waverley Golf Club is in the planning stages for Monday 19th October and the Naval Officers Club will be holding their annual 21st of October Trafalgar Dinner at The Melbourne Club. It is necessary to be accompanied by an NOC member to attend the dinner.

The Navy League of Australia, in conjunction with Williamstown "Royal Victorian Yacht Club" and the RAN, are currently putting arrangements in place for their annual "Navy Week" yacht race. The race is held in October of each year where competitors, including Navy, vie for the "*Geoffrey Evans Cup*".

An Open Day at HMAS CERBERUS on Sunday 25th October will complete Navy Week 2015.

Further details of these events will be made available as they come to hand.

A concerted effort is being made to implant additional stimulus into Victoria's Navy Week, and we believe it's headed in the right direction.



VICTORIA -TASMANIA DIVISION

Tasmania Established 1900, Victoria 15 October 1915

2015-2016 ANNUAL DUES

Please forward annual payment off **\$35** to Hon Secretary R Gill JP by **30 June** to ensure you continue receiving the Journal and the monthly email newsletter.

If you are not receiving the journal/newsletter that may indicate you have overlooked your payment for 2014-15. If so please be so kind as to send **\$70**.

Direct payment - by internet banking into our account , but please ensure 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"

"Welcome luncheons" for visiting ships and "special events" are held depending on ship operations so please let Secretary Ray know you are interested in being notified of these events so we can update our records.

Monthly Newsletter has news and event items and is distributed by email. Those without personal email may have a family members or a friend to whom we can send it. Please let us know that email address.

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

Yours Aye!

*CMDR John M Wilkins OAM RFD**

Past President / Hon Treasurer

03 9842 4256

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*.


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 _____
<small>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.</small>		

