



BROADSIDE

September 2019

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Editorial

NVN current membership: 1125

Sailors in the Jungle: Borneo 08 November to 16 November 1965.

By: ex-CPORP Graeme Hanisch JP (Qualified)

When *HMAS Vendetta* was guard ship in the Tawau area of North East Borneo seven members of the ship's company were detached to the 1st Bt Scots Guards. On landing we were split into two groups, kitted up and issued with an SLR and ammunition. Four went to Company base 26 at Serudong Ulu and Lt. Craig, Ord QMG Stubbs-Mills and I went to Company base 27 at Serudong Laut. Four others were attached to the Tawau Assault Group.



We arrived by helo. The base consisted of several buildings that appeared to be an old trading post enclosed on the river side by a defensive log wall and was almost a circular perimeter

with barbed wire and "punji" (fire hardened sharpened bamboo in the ground at thigh height) that enclosed the remainder of the base. The area around was cleared to 100 yards with claymore mines and seismic detectors. We carried an SLR with a full magazine at all times. In addition to a company of Guards there was a 105mm and two 81 mm mortar pits, communication, intelligence and few others; about 240 all up with a large Indonesian base with an estimated 3000 troops and only about 3000 yards away on the other side of the river. At this stage the Indonesians had about 22,000 regulars some of whom had trained at the Jungle School in Malaya alongside the Australian, British and New Zealand forces. The Indonesians were supported by several thousand irregulars. British and

Events Calendar

(see website calendar for full details)

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27 Sep – Albury Jazz Basement Concert – RAN Jazz Ensemble.

02 Oct – Soundwaves Concert.

06 Oct – Portarlington Public Concert – RAN Concert band.

10-14 Oct – HMAS Choules visits Melbourne

11 Oct – Recruit School Graduation

12-20 Oct – Navy week in Victoria

16 Oct – Frankston RSL Centenary Dinner

17 Oct – Naval Gazing, Baw Baw regional colleges

18 Oct – HMAS Hobart Memorial Service

18 Oct – HMAS Lismore wreath laying

18 Oct – Defence Seminar, Anzac House

20 Oct – Seafarer's Service

25-27 Oct – Navy community activities at Phillip Island Moto GP

27 Oct – Nasho's service at the Shrine

28 Oct – NHS meeting - all welcome

30 Oct – Soundwaves concert

Latest Videos and News Headlines

NOTE: The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:

<http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>

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VIDEOS.....

- *MIDWAY Official Trailer (2019)*
- *Fijian Prime Minister visit To Garden Island*
- *Navy Surfers go from Ship to Shore*
- *105th anniversary of the loss of AE1*

Commonwealth troops numbered 12,000 and 87 warships including 14 RAN took part in the Confrontation.

Day one we settled in. The CSM asked me if I

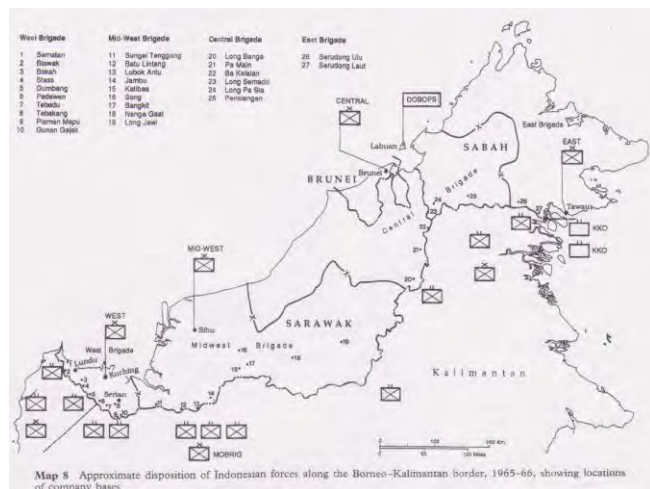
would prefer the Sargent's mess as a leading seaman executive branch, I was entitled to next rank privileges. I declined as Stubbs was just 18 and I thought we should stay together. The food was absolutely terrible washed down with two cans of hot Tiger beer. Day two, weapons training and drills. SLR, Armalite (we were the first in the RAN to use these), Bren and GPMG then onto the jungle range for a shoot. We impressed them.



Andy Craig at entrance to Serudong Laut

over 40 kg. How does one carry all this? Then into the assault boats. These were overloaded with little freeboard with the addition hazards of submerged logs and sandbars. As a Leading Seaman with over five years in I felt very uncomfortable. Previously, divers from *HMAS Derwent* had to recover the bodies of drowned British soldiers.

As the river was wide with the jungle to the edge there was the risk of ambush. No one spoke, all instructions by hand signals. On landing with our Iban Border Scouts as guides, in addition to the risk of ambush, there was now the additional risk of the ex-US Korean War M14 Jumping mine and the Indonesian "Chocolate box mine" (it was the size of a Winning Post box of chocolates). On



Map of the area

- Chief of Navy talks about Sea Power Conference 2019
- A year in the life of a Submariner
- Launch of NUSHIP Stalwart at Ferrol Shipyard in Spain
- ADF enhances Pacific engagement with Samoa
- Royal Australian Navy Band performs for Samoan school

NEWS.....

DST will be showcasing its support in the cavitation and correlation space for the Australian Defence Force's maritime activities at the Pacific 2019 international maritime exposition.

The latest salvo in the national debate about how best to spread the risks and benefits of the \$300-billion naval shipbuilding plan is whether full-cycle docking of the Collins-class submarines should move from South Australia to Western Australia.

The Royal Australian Navy has begun its largest deployment of the year with more than a thousand sailors and officers bound for engagements across North and South East Asia.

The Royal Australian Navy and Indonesian Armed Forces have completed a six-day naval training exercise to combat illegal maritime activities.

The MNWMF is seeking donations for construction of new works to the Merchant Navy War Memorial, Kings Park Canberra that will see the installation of the names of Australian Merchant Mariners that sacrificed their lives for their country in WWI (184) & WWII (678).

VetRok 2019 - Two Day Music Event

VetRok 2019 will be held on the 7th and 8th of December at Lardner Park, Warragul, Victoria. This year, we have expanded the event to cover a full weekend of music and entertainment from some of the best bands, performers and artists in Australia. We will also have stalls, merchandise, food and drinks, a licenced bar, a bike show and other activities for you and the family to enjoy.

landing we moved through some swamp, then to high ground, gullies and over ridges. Late in the afternoon we set up camp for the night. We were



View from assault craft

absolutely knackered. After securing the area we stripped off our wet gear and put on dry to sleep replacing our soaked canvas boots with runners. We were stunned that we were covered in leaches, scratches and bites. Had an early sentry trick and got the head down. Middle of the night "Stand to". Guttural noises and other movement, SLR ready, safety off, a feral pig charged through the camp. A laugh now but not then. Andy Craig writing in *Vendetta's* trip book stated that "every time he eats pork he will be getting even." Come morning we moved out and after about 40 minutes realised that we were going in the wrong direction. Back on course to the pickup point for the return boat trip to the Base arriving during the afternoon. We had been gone 26 hours and cover three miles.



Stubbs and me

I don't recollect whether it was the following day or the one after when a trip flare went off on the other side of the river. In the time taken for the sentry to empty a magazine from his bren we had closed up and extra magazines of 7.62 for the SLR's was being handed out.

We stood to for several hours before patrols went out to check. Finding nothing we were stood down. During the dusk stand to, a 105mm shoot into Indonesian Kalimantan was carried out with a few mortars for effect.

The day before we returned to *Vendetta*, we ferried troops up river for a five-day patrol. The assault boat had almost no freeboard due to the heavy load and actually scraped a sand bar. On the return we stopped at a platoon size post where the troops were convinced that Stubbs and I were SAS. We had beards and the more we tried to convince them we were Australian sailors the less they believed us.

Veterans, their families, and the broader ex-service community are being asked to help shape the Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan as public consultation opens today.

The five-domains update Sea state

Iran says it will hold joint naval drills with Russian and Chinese forces 'in the near future'. According to General Ghadir Nezami Pour, the exercises will be held in international waters in the Sea of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean and include 'the exchange of tactical and military experiences'.

More than 150 Australian veterans have returned to Dili for the 20th anniversary of the International Forces East Timor mission.

As a Two Ocean Navy, there is a growing recognition that Australia's future submarine fleet will need to have a permanent presence on the East Coast.

Partner Service Pensions — eligibility changes for former partners from 20 September 2019.

Eight Australian universities will conduct additional research into human performance aimed at enhancing warfighter capability.

All recipients of the Partner Service Pension through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will now maintain access for at least 12 months after separating from their veteran partner.

Life on the Line - Podcast

Life on the Line tracks down Australian war veterans and records their stories. Life on the Sea is a special miniseries of this podcast, interviewing Royal Australian Navy veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The Navy's latest and most exciting addition to the Fleet has set sail for the first time and is currently conducting Builder's Sea Trials in South Australia.

The bonds between HMAS Melbourne

Other than the terrible food and two hot cans of Tiger the remainder of our time was fairly uneventful.

We arrived back in *Vendetta* at 1230 just in time for dinner. I still remember it was a choice of beef stew or curried beef, although I can't remember the duff. As usual, Jack was questioning the parentage of the cooks who were surprised that we all went around the buoy. Home at last, clean bedding, hot showers and reasonably good scan. What more could a bloke ask? *Vendetta* then proceeded to Singapore having completed 37 days on patrol.

Serudong Laut:
Lt. Craig A. O1779
LSRP Hanisch G. R56947
ORD QMG Stubbs-Mills P. R64150

Serudong Ulu:
ME Ayres R. R37685
A/LSUC Higgins R. R57867
A/LME Johnson R. R55632
ERA1P Wulff S. R51121

Tawau Assault Group:
RO Bawden B. R55901
CPOQMG Hope G. R29665
CME McLean R. R27953
A/LRO Nichols B. R55646

Five days after returning to *Vendetta*, Lance Corporal Rambahadar Limbu of the Gurkha Rifles was in action at Bau. For his bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross. During the Confrontation UK and Commonwealth forces were awarded 1 VC, 1 DSO, 1 DSC, 4 DCM, 48 MC and 45 MM.



Me with SLR (claymore mine in tree stump)

(III) and her namesake city were reaffirmed today with the ship's company exercising their Freedom of Entry for the final time before the ship decommissions later this year.

The British government has announced a major new naval shipbuilding program with the revelation of the Type 31 program kick-starting a period of sustained naval shipbuilding, providing parallels to Australia's own \$95 billion naval shipbuilding program.

US Navy submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) arrived in Fremantle, Australia, on September 11 as part of the ship's fall deployment.

As part of the ongoing cooperation between Australia and Vietnam, the Department of Defence has presented the Vietnamese Deputy Minister for Defence, Senior Lieutenant General Le Chiem with a digital database of Missing in Action data.

SubSea Craft has today revealed the full details of its VICTA Class Diver Delivery Unit (DDU) at DSEI 2019. This revolutionary craft combines the speed, range and capacity of a Long-Range Insertion Craft (LRIC) with the stealth and versatility of a Swimmer Delivery Vehicle (SDV).

Recognising the growing consensus among Australia's strategic policy thinkers, Defence Minister Linda Reynolds has used a speech in Canberra to reaffirm the government's commitment to enhancing the capacity of northern Australia's defence infrastructure.

As both Australian officials and their UK counterparts call for increased interoperability and a reinvigorated Royal Navy presence in the region is expected in coming years, Australia's position straddling the Indian and Pacific Oceans provides both nations with opportunities to develop an integrated, multi-domain warfighting capability.

An important aspect of training to fight and win at sea is the ability for Navy units and personnel to develop skills and

Graeme Hanisch JP (Qualified)
Grad Dip Management
Dip Assessment and Training Systems
Ex-CPORP

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.



- † LEUT P. Cuddy, O63833, 11 September 2019. Aged 71.
- † CPOWM T. Brooke, 02 September 2019.
- † LCDR M. Triantos, 02 September 2019. Aged 58.
- † Archdeacon T.M. Holz AM, 01 September 2019. Aged 79.
- † PO N.G. Imrie, S4339, 01 September 2019. Aged 99.
- † AB C.J. Bowerman, B4365, August 2019. Aged 93.
- † CPO K. Brown, R24591, 29 August 2019. Aged 95.
- † WOSN G. Bawley, R53679, 29 August 2019. Aged 78.
- † WOMTP A.J. Dearing, 29 August 2019.
- † WRQOA(O) M.L. Tanner MBE OAM, WR2471, 25 August 2019. Aged 97.
- † CPOETC D. Watson, 23 August 2019. Aged 59.
- † CAPT M.T. Kaminski, 23 August 2019.

Lest We Forget

Note: VALE Notices

If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know (webmaster@navyvic.net). We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.



On Saturday 14 September 2019, CN Vice Admiral Mike Noonan AM RAN AND CO HMAS Melbourne CMDR Marcus Buttler RAN unveil a plaque dedicated to HMAS Melbourne I, II and III in the Shrine of Remembrance gardens.

test process in a simulated environment without the restrictions of the real world.

The Australian Defence Force has a heavy dependence on satellite communications for force coordination at long range.

BAE Systems has successfully finalised the mast manufacture and installation of the mast for HMAS Anzac as part of the Anzac Midlife Capability Assurance Program (AMCAP) upgrade.

On 14 July 2019, the Government announced reductions to deeming rates, with the changes backdated to 1 July 2019.

It can travel more than 100 nautical miles, passively detect an enemy through imaging stored in its computer brain, and can kill a target so precisely that an operator can tell it to aim for a specific point on the ship – the engine room or the bridge, for example. And it's heading to China's stomping grounds.

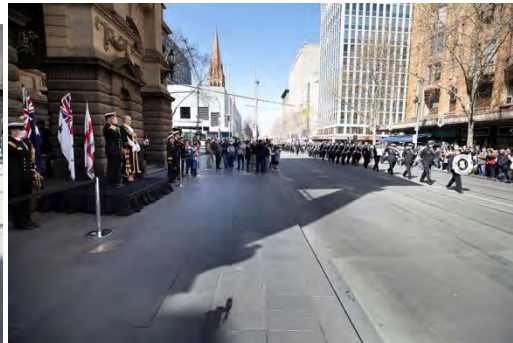
The word on the street is that the government intends to make a decision by Christmas on whether to relocate full-cycle dockings of the Collins-class submarines from Osborne in South Australia to Henderson in Western Australia.

Veterans and their families across Australia will be better supported thanks to more than \$875,000 in community grants aimed at improving veteran health and wellbeing.



With the Royal Australian Navy receiving a range of new surface ships and submarines, the fleet's ashore sustainment, overhaul and repair facilities are going to come under increasing pressure to accommodate larger, more complex and capable vessels during standard operations, let alone in the event of major conflict, raising serious questions about the nation's capacity to maintain and support the fleet.

Explosive experts from the Royal Australian Navy's Clearance Diving Teams One and Four have linked up with



HMAS Melbourne exercises its right of Freedom of Entry into the city of Melbourne



During his visit to Melbourne on 14 September 2019, CN Vice Admiral Mike Noonan AO RAN took time out to visit 100 year old ex-CPOCK(O) Thomas Fowler and present him with the Chief of Navy Coin.

their counterparts from Canada, New Zealand and the United States for Exercise Hydracrab.

An Iowa sailor killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 will finally be laid to rest in his home state. The Des Moines Register reports that Navy Signalman 3rd Class William James Shanahan Jr. of Cedar Rapids was killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack that pushed the U.S. into World War II, but his remains went unidentified for 78 years.

Australia is deploying a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to Japan to conduct maritime surveillance in support of the international effort to enforce United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions against North Korea.

In view of Derek Woolner's warning last month that the Royal Australian Navy's new Attack-class submarines will be obsolescent by the time they're delivered, it's time to revisit the main storage battery question—including what we're trying to achieve, the implications for submarine design and build programs, the state of the art, and what is actually being delivered.

The Royal Australian Navy is another step closer to welcoming its new fleet of support tankers into service, following the successful launch of NUSHIP Stalwart at today's ceremony in Ferrol, Spain.

Peninsula Ship Society - September edition of [Sea Chest](#)

Naval Historical Society [September newsletter](#)

Navy League (Vic/Tas) [September Newsletter](#)

FlyBy

A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia. [September issue.....](#)

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