

# REMEMBERING HMAS ARMIDALE

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## ASSOCIATION INC.

COUNTING DOWN TO 1 DECEMBER 2022 FOR THE  
80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN ARMIDALE, NSW 2350

**PRESIDENT:**

Angus Callander - jcallander3@bigpond.com  
0417 913 467

**SECRETARY:**

Maree Bujdegan - rhaainc@gmail.com  
0418 367 869

Visit <https://remembering-armidale.org/> for more information.

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## PATRON'S MESSAGE – HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA



As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have the privilege of having the Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, member of the WA Parliament for Warnbro WA, (who is also a former Lieutenant Commander and Navy Clearance Diver) as our Patron. This is his **first Patron's Message**.

I am deeply honoured to have been asked to be Patron of the Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association.

As an old Navy man, I have long been aware of the extraordinary heroism of Teddy Sheehan VC. Now that Teddy has been accorded rightful recognition, I believe it is time to address better acknowledgement of his shipmates. The incredible tale of those who survived and the tragedy of those who lost their lives when HMAS *Armidale* was sunk, should be known by all Australians.

I hope to work with the Association Executive and members with a view to raising awareness of the story and giving it the prominence it so richly deserves. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity.

Yours Aye, Paul Papalia

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association Inc. will be holding our Annual General Meeting at 5:30pm on Wednesday 18 March 2021 in the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Boardroom, 1<sup>st</sup> floor 56 Marine Terrace Fremantle. For those who wish to remain after the AGM, fellowship will follow at a restaurant in Fremantle. Details will be provided once RSVP is confirmed.

**As this is the Association's first AGM, the three Office Bearer positions:** President, Secretary, and Treasurer, are deemed as vacant and are therefore open for nominations. Any financial member is eligible to be elected to one of the Office Bearer positions. Nomination forms for the Office Bearer positions are attached at the end of this newsletter.

All members are welcome to attend. Please send your RSVP to attend the Dinner (if you wish to remain after the AGM) to Maree Bujdegan by 16 March 2021 either by phone on 0418 367 869 or via email to rhaainc@gmail.com.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO DONORS

The Association acknowledges the following who have generously donated to Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association Inc.:

- Dr Ray Leonard (last living survivor from HMAS *Armidale*) - \$100
- Royal Australian Naval Corvettes Association QLD - \$500

## NEW MEMBERS

Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Inc (RHAA) welcomes the following people who have become Members for Life since the last newsletter:

- #34 Mark Leonard – son of Victor Raymond Leonard (survivor)
- #35 Toni Jurinovich – interested in History
- #36 Andrew Bujdegan – Museum Curator, HMAS Stirling
- #37 Noel Nicholas Roberts – knew John Callander (Survivor)
- #38 Ian Holthouse – State President, Naval Association of Australia
- #39 John Savill – great nephew of Arthur Peter Knight (KIA)
- #40 Michael Templeman – half-brother to Robert Allanson Quayle (Missing)
- #41 Fred Templeman – brother to Robert Allanson Quayle (Missing)
- #42 Jeanne Templeman – sister-in-law to Robert Allanson Quayle (Missing)
- #43 Faye Templeman – niece of Robert Allanson Quayle (Missing)
- #44 Tyler Templeman – great nephew of Robert Allanson Quayle (Missing)
- #45 David Williamson – grandson of Maxwell Joseph Williamson (Survivor)
- #46 Brett Templeman – nephew of Robert Allanson Quayle (Missing)
- #47 Edward Templeman – great nephew of Robert Allanson Quayle (Missing)
- #49 Jim Truscott – author of Battlefield Guide to Timor-Leste
- #50 John Williamson – son of Maxwell Joseph Williamson (Survivor)
- #51 Tony Howes – Capital Community Radio Presenter and Producer

## RHAA RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATES

The following research projects are planned as part of the ongoing objective of the association. Updates on the projects will be included in future newsletters as they progress:

- Identify KNIL names / Next of Kin (more details later in this newsletter)
- Indonesian and Dutch connections - why the men were in Aust immediately prior to boarding HMAS Armidale; who were the three survivors rescued on the motorboat and what happened to them?
- Identify men in the photos on <https://remembering-armidale.org/>
- Crew Profiles – provide background stories on each man
- Contact any living relatives of the rest of the HMAS Armidale personnel

## CALLING ALL RESEARCH/PROJECT OFFICERS

We would like to call upon any interested person or persons willing to take on one of the above projects. You do not need to be a prolific writer – a willingness and enthusiasm to find missing information to do with the project is all that is required.

Please contact Angus Callander or Maree Bujdegan if you would like further information or to join our Research Team.

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABILITY

Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association Inc issues 2 editions of our newsletters annually. Each edition has a potential reach of over 1000 people from all over Australia and beyond. Given the extent of our distribution range, we would like to advise readers that there is space available for advertising in every newsletter.

The Association invites anyone who wishes to sponsor an article, project, or to advertise their business to contact Maree Bujdegan for further information.



## 2020 HMAS *Armidale* MEMORIAL SERVICE

The day was a resounding success and very moving. It was held in Kings Park Perth on the Lovekin Drive end of the Broadwalk Vista about 30 metres from Tree L287 where plaques are situated for two of the HMAS *Armidale* crew – Stoker Petty Officer Robert Allanson Quayle and Stoker Arthur Peter Knight. The dates on their plaques differ in that Stoker Knight was killed in action on 1 December 1942 and Stoker PO Quayle has the date on his plaque inscribed with 8 December 1942, the day after the men on board the raft were spotted by the Catalina and never seen again.

Close to 100 people attended the service comprising relatives and friends of the men from HMAS *Armidale*, as well as dignitaries including Mrs Dewi Gusina Tobing, Consul-General for the Republic of Indonesia and Mr Dominggus Suebe, Vice Consul for Social and Cultural Affairs; Mr Royce Spencer, RSL WA; Commander John Broadhead representing CO HMAS *Stirling*; Captain Doug Theobald, CO Submarine Force; and Mr Reece Whitby, member of WA Parliament for Baldivis.

Our Patron, Mr Paul Papalia CSC MLA, was unfortunately unable to attend due to flight delays and was represented by Mr Peter Zappelli, his Senior Policy Advisor.



*Some of the congregation at the 2020 Remembering HMAS Armidale Memorial Service  
(photo courtesy of Navy Imagery Unit)*

Captain Milo Velebir, Chaplain HMAS *Stirling*, provided the Service.

Reflections were provided by relatives of HMAS *Armidale* Crewmen:

- Mr Peter Savill spoke about his uncle Stoker Arthur Knight who was Killed In Action along with 9 RAN and 37 KNIL men Killed in Action on 1st December and the 2 RAN and 3 KNIL, who subsequently Died of Wounds or Drowned after the sinking;
- Mr Fred Templeman spoke about his brother Petty Officer Stoker Robert Quayle and the other 47 men who were Missing Presumed Dead;
- Mr Alan Higgins spoke about his uncle Engine Room Artficer Leslie Higgins and the other 19 men who survived on the Motorboat; and
- Mr Angus Callander spoke about his father, Lance Corporal John Callander and the 28 other survivors on the Whaler.



The Service was situated close to 2/2nd Commando Unit Memorial on Lovekin Drive, which is significant in that HMAS Armidale was on a mission to relieve the men from that Unit who had been fighting in Timor behind enemy lines for over 12 months.

The Navy once again supplied such wonderful support to the Association. In addition to the Chaplain and the Commanding Officers of both HMAS *Stirling* and Submarine Force attending, representatives of the Navy Band performed at the Service. PO Kristy Cameron sang the National Anthem; LS Nathan Hicks played the Slow Beat Pattern while Maree Bujdegan read out the names of the Fallen and during the laying of the wreaths; and PO Nigel Barrett played the Last Post and Reveille.



(L-R)

*Petty Officer Musician (POMUSN) Nigel Barrett, POMUSN Kristy Cameron, and Leading Seaman Musician Nathan Hicks of the Royal Australian Navy Band. (photo courtesy of Navy Imagery Unit)*

A huge thankyou is also extended to Capital Community Radio 101.7FM for the audio sponsorship on the day. Tony Howes, Presenter and Producer of Capital Community Radio's **Listening Post (Monday nights at 6pm)** and his Production Technicians, Karl Akers and Edo Brands, provided the excellent audio for the service which was then broadcast on the Listening Post program the following Monday, 7 December 2020. A podcast of the service can be found on our [website](https://www.capitalcommunityradio.com).



## LESLIE HIGGINS AND THE MOTORBOAT

The recent awarding of the Victoria Cross posthumously to Teddy Sheean, has generated much public interest in the story of the HMAS *Armidale*. Apart from the extraordinary bravery of Sheean, there were some awe-inspiring stories of courage, ingenuity, leadership, and incredible determination that can now also be told.



One of these is the story of West Australian Leslie Ingram Higgins. Higgins was the Engine Room Artificer (ERA) and although badly wounded at the time, was selected by Captain David Richards on Day 2 of the ordeal to join himself and the other 20 men on the motorboat. Thirteen of the men selected were seriously wounded and the others were chosen by Richards to row the motorboat to an area that was regularly patrolled by Allied reconnaissance planes. Richards knew that since Darwin Headquarters were yet to send help, it meant they did not know *Armidale* had been sunk. Although the motor was riddled with bullet holes and in a state of disrepair, Richards chose Higgins to be on the boat in the forlorn hope he may be able to strip down the Ford 10 motor and get it

operational.

Higgins and ERA Maddox were able to rebuild the motor with a tool fashioned from a can opener, some silver paper from a cigarette packet, and some cardboard. Using a rope around the flywheel in place of the broken crankhandle, Able Seaman McKellar managed to start the engine. The men kept it going with the little amount of petrol they had. When that ran out, they used lubrication oil from the carburetor for fuel and ran the motor as a diesel engine. Each time the engine stopped, the able-bodied men would row until Les was able to get it going again.

The motorboat made good some 160 nm under power and on Day 5 was sighted by a RAAF Hudson which immediately signaled to Darwin that survivors of HMAS *Armidale* had been sighted. Once rescued and aboard HMAS *Kalgoorlie*, Richards was able to provide the coordinates of where HMAS *Armidale* went down, thereby initiating the search and rescue of the remaining crew.

One can only postulate that had Higgins been unable to get the motor going, would the motorboat have reached the area where it was sighted by the RAAF Hudson?

This remarkable act of resourcefulness by Leslie Higgins, ably supported by Richard Maddox, played a significant role in the story of HMAS *Armidale* and the bravery of Teddy Sheean being told.

Please find below a transcript of a letter Shirley Kershaw (nee Higgins) wrote in 2004 recollecting her memories of her father Les, and his stories about his service on HMAS *Armidale*.

In her letter, Shirley tells of the many trips she and her mother made to Perth Railway Station in 1943, in the hope her father would be arriving soon from the

Eastern States. Imagine the excitement and anticipation a 14-year-old Shirley must have felt, knowing her father was safe and was coming home. That feeling is an experience any young daughter, regardless of the circumstances, would have.

Shirley on seeing her father alight from the train, said it turned her sense of excitement into one of confoundment as Les limped towards them looking so thin and gaunt – the result of his experience on the *Armidale*. However, her Dad was home and that was what mattered most.

The original handwritten letter can be found on the Remembering HMAS *Armidale* website.

March 2004

Leslie Ingram Higgins of Bedford  
Chief Petty Officer, Engine Room Artificer

I have been very pleased indeed to have the opportunity of reading Frank Walker's book ("HMAS *Armidale*" The Ship That Had To Die), I do agree it is a story which had to be told – and thank you to Mr Walker for his research, perseverance, etc.

I personally did find details at times very distressing and very sad. It brought back many memories to me, although I was only 14 years old at the time.

Although my father did tell us most of what happened when he came home I have learned a lot more graphic detail and shocking suffering these men had to go through before being rescued.

When one's loved ones go to war. We are supposed to be prepared for the worst – but I have to say when my mother received the telegram my Dad had been wounded – at first it was very hard to comprehend. It seemed to be such a long time before we were told he was on the mend and would be coming home. Weeks went by and finally the authorities contacted us and advised he was on his way. However, they were not able to advise exactly the date, for security reasons. My mother and myself spent a great deal of time meeting Eastern States trains at the Perth Railway Station.

Eventually the great day arrived when my Dad stepped out of the carriage onto the platform. It was a wonderful moment when he walked towards us. Then reality set in and we realised how very thin and ill he looked, limping from shrapnel in his leg. This he had until the day he died. He had to have a lot more medical attention and was attending Leeuwin for some time.

Although he did tell us quite a lot when they were sunk, he was not keen to repeat this too often – always saying war was horrifying and he hoped never to see another one. He was very, very, angry to see so many very, very, young fit men killed in such an inhumane way, being strafed by Japanese fighters etc.

I have learned since of course what a wonderful job he did in getting the engine of the motor boat started, which seemed an almost impossible task with so little to work with (makeshift items only). I must say I am extremely grateful he had this task to perform to keep his mind occupied and not dwell so much on the terrible suffering around him. One thing I do remember clearly Dad saying the Captain asked of him "do you think we will make it Chief" – and he replied - "we will do our best Sir".

Finally, I would like to say how extremely proud I was and still am of him.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Kershaw (nee Higgins)

P.S. I do find also it is very sad that no recognition has been given in any way to the Captain, survivors, personnel lost – or the ship. It is as though it all never existed. SK



## JAMES THOMAS PRETT – ‘The Old Pommie’

James Thomas (Jim) Prett, the only non-Australian amongst the 86 RAN and AIF men on *Armidale* at the time of the sinking, had joined the Ship as an Able Seaman during 1942 after being released by the Royal Navy.

Prior to this Jim was on board HMS *Electra*, a British destroyer which was sunk by gunfire from the Imperial Japanese Navy destroyers *Asagumo* and *Minegumo* in the Battle of the Java Sea on 27th February 1942.

There were 173 men on board *Electra*, and at the time of her sinking, Jim was one of only 54 survivors. The survivors were subsequently picked up by a United States submarine and taken to Surabaya. After treatment in a Dutch hospital, Jim along with 41 of the other survivors were taken to Australia by the inter-island steamer *Verspeck* where they arrived on 10th March 1942.

The twelve initial survivors who did not go to Australia, had either died of wounds, or remained in Surabaya too critically ill to travel.

Of the 42 survivors who arrived in Australia, Jim was one of the fortunate ones to be seconded to the Australian Navy. Many of his shipmates were put on the liner *Nankin* which was bound for Ceylon and ultimately, home to Britain. On the way, *Nankin* was attacked and sunk by the German raider, *Thor*. **Jim's shipmates who survived the sinking of the *Nankin*, spent the remainder of the World War II in a Japanese prison camp.** Whilst in Australia, Jim was posted to HMAS *Armidale*, and was again lucky to survive that **Ship's fate when he was selected to be on the Whaler.** After the HMAS *Armidale* ordeal, Jim finally made his way back to Britain and re-joined the Royal Navy. Jim was again blessed to survive a third time, as his vessel was sunk during the Normandy landings on D-Day, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944.

Known to his crewmates onboard HMAS *Armidale* as ‘The Old Pommie’ the rather young Jim Prett, at 30 odd years of age, had by the end of the war seen his fair share of suffering and indeed good luck.



*Jim Prett (right) and John Callander  
(photo courtesy of West Australian Newspaper  
taken 26/4/1982)*

He visited WA from England in 1982 to see some relatives and was featured in an article in the *West Australian* about his ordeal on the *Armidale*. In the article Jim stated he would like to catch up with any *Armidale* survivors, as he had not seen any since December 1942. At the time John Callander was the only survivor residing in WA, so after 40 years, the two men caught up for the first time on Anzac Day.

Jim's last known address was in Lower Stoke, Rochester, Kent UK. Whilst ‘The Old Pommie’ is no longer with us, there may be some family members of Jim Prett's, with whom we would like to contact and let them know of the Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association Inc.

## IDENTIFYING THE MEN ON OUR WEBSITE PHOTOS

Over the years, the Association has collected several photos of various men who either served or were attached to HMAS Armidale (I). It is important that we put names to the faces in the photos so that the memories of those men live on.

Two members who recently joined were John and David Williamson, son, and grandson of Sick Berth Attendant Max Williamson. While perusing our website, they were able to identify their father in the photo below. Max is the man on the far left in the middle row with his cap tilted backwards.

The Association is seeking any information on the others in this photo as well as the other photos on our website. Please contact Maree Bujdegan if you can identify anyone from the photos.

Through these identifications, we hope to build a biography of all the men who served on HMAS Armidale. This is one of the research projects that we are currently doing to let the relatives know the incredible story of the HMAS Armidale and her crew.



*Max Williamson and others on HMAS Armidale (date unknown)*

### **MAX "Bungy" WILLIAMSON**

The story of Max Williamson is yet another poignant anecdote of what was an incredible story of survival at sea – being in the right place at the right time, whether surviving the initial attack, the strafing by enemy aircraft, or being selected to be part of the motor boat or whaler crew.

Max "Bungy" Williamson's story of survival started on Wednesday 2nd December 1942 when Captain Richards instructed Max to exchange places on the motorboat with an Officer. Max was Sick Berth Attendant (SBA) and Richards knowing many of the wounded, and in particular, Ted Morley, who had his jaw smashed open by enemy strafing immediately after the Armidale went down, would need constant medical attention. Richards also knew he was now the only Officer on the motorboat with the navigational experience to steer a course to Darwin. The decision made by Richards to have the men exchange places, not only required

decisiveness and leadership qualities but also enormous compassion.

Both Max and the injured Ted Morley made it home, and by some coincidence, met up for the first time many years later when Max was in Sydney from his hometown of Yass, NSW receiving treatment at the Concord Repatriation Hospital. While waiting at a bus stop near the hospital a man approached him and said to him **"You must be Bungy Williamson?"** Max did not recognise him until he introduced himself as Ted Morley. Ted had undergone some remarkable reconstructive surgery on his face, jaw, and ears.

Max, born in Yass in 1909, went back to his job with the NSW Government Railways after the war and like many others, he never spoke to his family about the sinking.

On another note, **Max's youngest son John worked for the Armidale City Council** between 1980 and 1984. When Max was visiting John in Armidale during this period, he presented a sailors cap with its original HMAS Armidale tally flash (black ribbon) to the Armidale City Council. The Association hopes to track down the sailor cap with the tally flash and have it photographed for the Photo Collection on our website.

## ROYAL NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES SOLDIERS (KNIL) RELATIVES

We, as an Association, are determined to identify the KNIL soldiers who were on the Ship with the rest of the crew so that they can also be properly honoured. As such, one of our first research projects is to identify the full names of the KNIL men and contact any living relatives of those men. Much research has already been undertaken in relation to the KNIL and their next of kin by Jim Truscott, an exSAS Officer, who is also the author of *The Battlefield Guide to Timor Leste*.

It was very moving that Mrs Dewi Gustina Tobing, the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, and Mr Dominggus Suebu, Vice Consul of Social and Cultural Affairs, both attended the service. Mrs Tobing laid a wreath in honour of those KNIL soldiers who were either Killed In Action or were Missing Presumed Dead.

It is the **Association's belief that we** must build strong relationship with both the Indonesian Consulate and Dutch Embassy to try and locate any living relatives of the KNIL soldiers who were attached to HMAS Armidale.



*(photo courtesy Navy Imagery Unit)*



## PROJECT – Finding Armidale Team

Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association Inc is part of a project team recently set up to find the location of HMAS Armidale (I). The coordinates of her sinking are stated in published documents and so the search site should be in a relatively small area.

This is an extremely exciting and worthwhile project, and the Association is proud to be part of the team.

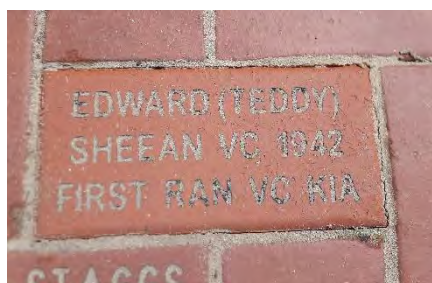
The Finding Armidale Team will be shortly seeking sponsors to help fund this valuable search effort. As an aside, the wreck of HMAS *Armidale* would be a great opening scene in the proposed film that was mentioned in our previous newsletter.

All enquiries regarding the search and potential sponsorship should be addressed through this Association to one of the Finding Armidale Team.

## EDWARD ‘Teddy’ SHEEAN PAVER LAID AT AUSTRALIA’S MEMORIAL WALK

The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company (RAAHC) has kindly laid a brick paver **at Australia’s Memorial Walk at North Head, Sydney** in honour of Edward ‘Teddy’ Sheean receiving the Victoria Cross.

The paver is located at M3 24 and has been laid underneath the family paver of Sir Roden Cutler VC who won his VC in Syria in WWII and who was also the longest serving Governor of NSW.



**Teddy’s paver is now one of 7 VC recipients with pavers in Australia’s Memorial Walk at North Head Sydney.**

Full details of Australia’s Memorial Walk, including a location map, is available on our [website](#).

## RAN CORVETTES ASSOCIATION (RANCA) ARTICLE ABOUT THE AIF SOLDIERS

On board HMAS *Armidale* when it left Darwin were three Australian Imperial Force soldiers. They were:

- |                          |             |                 |                            |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • Lionel Robert CLARKE   | b 31/8/1916 | 2/4th Battalion | Regimental Number NX 1983  |
| • Ivan Francis TELLEY    | b 17/6/1917 | 2/8th Battalion | Regimental Number VX 6240  |
| • John Warwick CALLANDER | b 11/1/1921 | 2/8th Battalion | Regimental Number VX 62689 |

Their objective was to man Bren Guns against enemy attacks during the transfer of troops and the evacuation of civilians from Timor.

The records for all three men state **they were "Detached for Duty NT Force Headquarters" on Saturday 28th November 1942.** HMAS *Armidale* left Darwin on Sunday 29th November 1942 and was sunk by enemy aircraft on Tuesday 1st December 1942.

There is no entry on **those soldiers'** respective Army record that they ever served on HMAS *Armidale* and the next listing after the 28<sup>th</sup> November states that on 20<sup>th</sup> December they were transferred to 121 Australian General Hospital in Darwin. There is no mention they survived the sinking even though all three were selected by Lt Lloyd Palmer to join the Whaler Crew.

The following is a transcript of an article **titled "Army Heros Were Only Phantoms"** that tells the story of the AIF soldiers attached to HMAS *Armidale*. The article was in an edition of the RAN Corvettes Association magazine in 1999:

### **Army heros were only phantoms**

We should all thank our lucky stars that we were not in the Army, because it seems the Army did not know where its own blokes were. When Operation Hamburger (the Timor run) was being planned in 1942, the RAN asked the Army to supply three Bren gunners to go with HMAS *Armidale*. Their job would be to hold off any Jap attack during the switchover of troops and the evacuation of civilians. Unfortunately *Armidale* was sunk 80 km off Timor and the three AIF soldiers finished up in the drink with the *Armidale* survivors.

They endured the same hardships as the *Armidale* blokes and thus played a significant part in one of the great survival epics of World War II. When they got back to Darwin they wer told never to mention the Timor operation or *Armidale's* fate to anybody, and armed guards were stationed around them while they were in hospital in Darwin to make sure they did not talk.

They assumed this was because of operational secrecy but when they got back to their unit they were court-martialled for being absent without leave and were demoted from corporal to private. That was a bit rough for blokes who had been through the Middle East campaigns and who had been ordered to go on the Timor operation.

It didn't worry them much at the time but recently they found that their service records did not mention that they had been in *Armidale* when she was sunk or even taken part in the Timor operation. When the *Armidale* survivors heard of this some of them wrote to the army verifying the fact that the soldiers had been with them but the army refused to accept their evidence. At least one of the survivors went to the local court and swore an affidavit to that affect, but the army still refused to accept it as evidence.

Your editor sent the Army the list of survivors which the Navy had given him for publication in his book, and the list contained the names of the three soldiers, but the Army still refused to accept that as evidence and it is still not on their records. It is some consolation to know that if they had been killed during the operation they would, according to the Army, still be alive because they weren't there.

Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association is seeking to have the records of the three AIF men rectified to show they were on HMAS *Armidale* as part of their service.

## HMAS *Armidale* (I) MODEL

Planning is underway to source a scale model built of HMAS *Armidale* (I) with funding being sought through sponsorship.

Initial brainstorming ideas included having a permanent display of HMAS *Armidale* memorabilia at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Although this idea sounds grand and may not seem achievable now, **it is the Association's objective** is to have a prominent public place where all people can visit to honour the men who were aboard HMAS *Armidale* when she was attacked in 1942. Our belief is that a public display of memorabilia would elevate the story and raise awareness of the plight of HMAS *Armidale*.

Other places being considered for a display of memorabilia include the WA Maritime Museum and HMAS *Stirling* Museum.

The WA Shipwrecks Museum in Cliff St Fremantle is currently hosting *Naval Sea Power in Miniature* - an exhibition of handmade models of both Australian and British warships built over the past 40 years by Gerry Westenberg (a WA model ship builder).

All models displayed in the exhibition are built to a scale of 1:192. Each model is very elaborate in detail and is true to form taken from known blueprints and plans of the actual ships.



*Bathurst Class Corvette HMAS Broome – sister ship to HMAS Armidale*

RHAA highly recommends a visit to the exhibition. It is open to the public until Sunday 18 April 2021. Gerry is in attendance each Thursday between 10am and 1pm should you wish to have a chat with him. He is available at other times/dates by arrangement through Maree Bujdegan.

More information can be found at:

<http://museum.wa.gov.au/museums/shipwrecks/naval-sea-power-miniature>



## 2021 HMAS *Armidale* MEMORIAL SERVICE

Initial planning has commenced for the annual HMAS *Armidale* Memorial Service.

This year, the service will be held on Sunday 5 December 2021. That date is **significant in that it is known as "Separation Day"**. Captain Richards had left in the motorboat on 2 December with the seriously wounded. With no rescue in sight, and not knowing if the motorboat crew were successful in finding help, the whaler was made safe and Lt Lloyd Palmer made the heart wrenching decision to select his crew and row to Bathurst Island, approximately 160nm from where the Ship sunk. They left behind the last 28 RAN servicemen and 20 KNIL soldiers who had survived the enemy attacks.

Further details about the service will be provided to members closer to the date once all is confirmed.

The following poem has been taken from the book "*Armidale '42 – A survivors account*". It was a collaboration between survivor Col Madigan, Artist Jan Senbergs, and historian Don Watson:

### SEPARATION DAY

I really don't know how we survived that ordeal.  
However, recently these stories have been told and recorded.  
My salute tonight goes to those lost in battle,  
taken by sharks, and by fatal wounds.  
To the mysterious loss of those on that makeshift raft.  
That pitiful, pathetic photograph recorded by the Catalina Crew.

For here, Ladies and Gentlemen  
was the stark condition of our transfer  
between death and life.  
Why them, not us?  
That everlasting pain.  
We left them on that lonely sea  
hoping they would be rescued.  
We will always remember that outreaching arm,  
that beckoning hand,  
determining our destiny on Separation Day.  
We must always recognise and be thankful  
to the valour of that heroic band,  
for whatever we survivors leave  
for history or evolution to evaluate,  
their sacrifice enabled us to do it.  
Once again,  
farewell, dear friends, and Amen.

*Col Madigan  
(Survivor on the Whaler)*

## LIST OF HMAS Armidale (I) PERSONNEL

### The Fallen

KIA – Killed in Action    MPD – Missing Presumed Dead

DoW – Died of Wounds    DRN – Drowned

William Robert Anderson MPD	William Luckman KIA
Stanley Don Axford MPD	James MacVicar MPD
Bertram Henry Baker KIA	Ernest Anthony Malone MPD
Leslie Irwin Beard KIA	Wilfred Bickford Meredith MPD
William Ralph Beech KIA	Ronald George McGarrigle MPD
James Reginald Buckland MPD	Raymond Edmund McMennemin MPD
Ernest Burgess MPD	Keighley John Mitchell KIA
Donald Coldwell MPD	Donald Howie Paterson MPD
Joseph Currie KIA	Edward Stanfield Piesse MPD
Alfred Grant Evans MPD	Robert Allanson Quayle MPD
Bernard Alford Gay MPD	Maxwell Timothy Quigley MPD
Raymond Arthur Gould MPD	Harry Allan Reid MPD
James Frank Harcourt KIA	Harry Eric Rudland MPD
David Eric Hippisley MPD	William Edwin Sanson MPD
Denis Holden MPD	Harold Reginald Schrader MPD
Norman Frank Hopkins MPD	Edward Sheean KIA
Harry Ferror Merrychurch Jenkyn KIA	Frederick Francis Smith DoW
William Jensen MPD	Keith William Trenbath MPD
Charles James Kibble MPD	Albert Benjamin Turner MPD
Arthur Peter Knight KIA	William Brettingham Williams DRN

### The Survivors on the Motorboat

David Herbert Richards	Jack Duckworth
William George Whitting	Roy David Cleland
Richard Donovan Maddox	Ronald Barnes
Leslie Ingram Higgins	Maxwell Joseph Williamson
Raymond James Davies	Charles Robert Puckeridge
Arthur Lansbury	Edward George Morley
William Thomas Trew Nicholas	Louis Roy Lyndon
William David McKellar	Eric Abbott Millhouse
	Robert Cairns

## LIST OF HMAS Armidale (I) PERSONNEL (continued)

The Survivors on the Whaler	
Lloyd George Palmer	Edward Keith Pellet
Leigh Henry Bool	James Thomas Prett
Charles Henry Pankhurst	Russel Martin Caro
Douglas Hatton Lamb	John Percival Parker
Kenneth Leo McKoy	Victor Raymond Leonard
Phillip George Osborn	Donald Raymond Lawson
Reginald Clarence Arndell	Colin Frederick Madigan
Ray Beresford Raymond	William James Read
David Roger Roland Davies	Leonard Keith Sim
Geoffrey Clive Sanderson	David Aburn Webster
John Michael Dennis Roberts	Donald Rex Pullen
Denis Victor Reedman	Ronald Charles Wilson
George Richardson Devlin	John Warwick Callander (AIF)
William Noel Lamshed	Lionel Clarke (AIF)
	Matthew Telley (AIF)

## LIST OF ROYAL NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES (KNIL) SOLDIERS ONBOARD HMAS *Armidale* (I)

Amatkasmiri	Amatparodji	Amelaman	Anschütz
Atmowirono	Katas	Roeslan	Soewondo
Bartman	Bodel Bienfait	Dawoed	Dimjadi
Diran	Djalil	Emping	Frank
Geurts	Karmin	Kasdi	Keijser
Kojongian	Kroedoek	Lijtsman Piernbaum	Margés
Mariman	Marsidjan	Marsoekoet	Moeralin
Ngadeni	Ngalimin	Ngatidjo	Pardjan
Pesaserun	Ranamedja	van Rossum	Soplanit
Sabar	Sadoen	Sajoeti	Salamin
Saleh	Samoedi	Sardi	Sarkoem
Sengkeij	Soebardi	Soekir	Soeratman
Soeriarredja	Soerso	Stoll	Tamijs
Teljeur	Toekiman	Towikromo	Tulenam
Verseput	de Vries	Wagsakrama	Wantania
Wiriotijssso	Wongsodinomo		

**LEST WE FORGET**



# MEMBERSHIP FOR LIFE APPLICATION



## MEMBERSHIP FOR LIFE Application Form for the Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Inc

Applicant Name:

Address:

Postal address (if different):

Mobile:

Other Phone:

Email:

Describe the nature of your interest in the Association and the historical ties you may hold to the HMAS Armidale (please also use other side of this form if necessary)

Please note that this information is for Association use only and will not be disclosed without your authorisation. It will provide the Association with the context of your application.

### Association FEES

Membership for Life Subscription	\$25.00	Payable to: Remembering HMAS Arm BSB: 066-162 Account No.: 10796532 Please use your Full Name as a Reference to ensure that your payment is easily identifiable
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### DECLARATION

Upon submission of this form and the Association's receipt of membership payment, I hereby authorise Remembering HMAS Armidale Association to enter my name in the Register of Members and promise faithfully to abide by the Rules of the Association.

Signature of applicant:	Date:
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The signed Membership Form should be sent to Maree Bujdegan either via email to: [rhaainc@gmail.com](mailto:rhaainc@gmail.com) or via post to: 18 Birrel Place GOSNELLS WA 6110

A Certificate and Membership Badge will be sent to you on approval of this membership application.

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Actioned:	Entered into Register? Y / N	Membership #:
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# NOTICE OF RHAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the inaugural Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association Inc Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Western Australia Fishing Industry Council Boardroom, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 56 Marine Terrace, Fremantle at 5:30pm on Wednesday 18 March 2021. Dinner and fellowship will follow at a restaurant in Fremantle. **Cost for dinner will be at the member's expense.** Please RSVP for the dinner no later than 16 March 2021.

This first AGM is being convened later than expected. According to the *Associations Act 2015* Remembering HMAS *Armidale* Association Inc AGMs are to be held within six months of the end of **the Association's financial year. In our case, it is the latter six months of each year (ie: sometime between July and December).** The Association aims to hold future AGMs shortly after the Remembering *Armidale* Memorial Service in December each year.

## AGENDA

1. **To receive the President's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2020.**
2. To receive the Financial Statement for the year ending 30 June 2020.
3. Election of Office Bearers:
  - a. President
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Treasurer
4. Any other business with which this meeting is competent to deal.

If you wish to nominate a member for one of the Office Bearer positions, please complete the form below, seal it in an envelope with the Position clearly written on front, and either place it into the Election Box on the night or send it in another envelope addressed to Angus Callander, President RHAA, PO Box 1605 Fremantle 6959 ensuring it is received no later than 17 March 2021.

Maree Bujdegan  
Secretary  
[rhaainc@gmail.com](mailto:rhaainc@gmail.com)

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## REMEMBERING HMAS ARMIDALE ASSOCIATION Inc. 2021 OFFICE BEARER NOMINATION FORM

For this 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, all positions are deemed vacant and any Member for Life can nominate or be nominated for a position.

Initial terms for the Office Bearers will be as follows:

- the President will have an initial term of three (3) years,
- the Secretary will have an initial term of two (2) years and
- the Treasurer will have an initial term of one (1) year.

From the next AGM, there will be an election of one (1) Office Bearer at each AGM with each position being for a term of three (3) years.

I/We nominate \_\_\_\_\_

For (position) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Proposer \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the above nomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
(signed by nominee)