



National Bosun's Call



Vol 1 No 3

Once Navy, Always Navy

September 2020

Teddy Sheean Awarded Victoria Cross for Australia



His Excellency General the Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, with Chief of Navy VADM Michael Noonan AO, announces that Ordinary Seaman 'Teddy' Sheean is to receive a posthumous Victoria Cross

It was announced by the Governor General at Government House on 12 August that Her Majesty the Queen has approved a posthumous Victoria Cross for Australia to Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheean and he stated that "We will now work with the family and the Navy to arrange an investiture ceremony that will pitch the magnitude of the award."

Attending the announcement, Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mike Noonan said Ordinary Seaman Sheean's heroism was a standard by sailors of the modern Navy to aspire to.

"It is indeed a great day for our Navy, our nation and for a young Australian sailor who paid the high-

est price to save his shipmates from certain death," Vice Admiral Noonan said.

"His spirit of courage, sacrifice and service is an enduring part of our Navy, living on through our fleet and our people.

"This is a proud moment for his family who have fought for many decades for this outcome and I congratulate them on their perseverance.

"The Victoria Cross for Australia is a great honour for the late Teddy Sheean, for his shipmates, for the RAN, for the ADF and for our nation".

Edited from Navy Daily webpage

National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia



Veterans' Health Week to focus on social connection

The theme for Veterans' Health Week 2020 is *social connection*.
8 September 2020



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

Social connection is one of the most important contributors to a person's emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, and is even more important this year as we face barriers to the types of connection that we've always relied on.

DVA is encouraging the veteran community to reach out to those who are feeling or becoming isolated. So it's time to get creative and create new opportunities to connect, either in person or virtually over the phone or internet.

Veterans' Health Week will be held from Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November 2020. Events can also be held during the week before and three weeks after these dates.

For information about how to apply, please see the DVA webpage: dva.gov.au/vhw.

COVID-19 restrictions

With restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all organisations are asked to consider the advice from your local state and territory health department about what restrictions apply for people getting together where you live.

We are looking for innovative events to be held this year, and your local DVA community support adviser may be able to provide ideas and inspiration. DVA will not be able to support activities this year that require people to gather in close proximity, like bus trips or boat trips.

For more information, contact DVA:

1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

Email: vhw@dva.gov.au

To contact your local Community Support adviser: dva.gov.au/vhw

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Patron In Chief: HM The Queen of Australia.

National Patron His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC Retd
Governor General of Australia

Op-Ed — 75 years since the end of the Second World War: Honouring the one million that served

The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

Monday, 10 August 2020

The Second World War had a significant and enduring impact on all Australians.

Around 20 years had passed since the end of the First World War and during those two decades our country endured significant challenges, from losing 60,000 men, caring for the many thousands that came back, the Great Depression and at points, sky-rocketing unemployment.

And while all these events had a profound effect on Australia, the Second World War changed and shaped our nation forever — redefining aspects of the economic, domestic and international relations landscape, and influencing social issues such as female employment and Indigenous service.

Almost one million Australians served during the Second World War, fighting in theatres of war across the globe, from Europe and the Middle East through South East Asia to the Pacific. Keep in mind, this was at a time when the total population of Australia was around 7 million.

Over 39,000 died and some 30,000 Australian service men and women were made prisoners of war. Most of those taken prisoner were captured by the Japanese during their advance and capture of Singapore in early 1942. While many Australians who were prisoners of war of Germany had a strong chance of returning home at the end of the war, over one-third of prisoners of the Japanese died in captivity.

Australian women played a vital role, serving as nurses overseas, in auxiliary services in Australia and overseas and as workers throughout the war, maintaining our agricultural and manufacturing interests at home.

We should never forget that this was a war not only fought on foreign lands, but one that came to the Australian mainland. From air raids on Darwin, Broome and across Northern Australia, to midget

submarine attacks on Sydney Harbour, there were hundreds of Australians killed.

The fear of an all-out attack on Australia by Japanese forces was very real.

Australia's armed forces employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in de-facto units to carry out reconnaissance of the northern Australian coastline, where they assisted locating Japanese and Allied aircraft crash sites.

The understanding and connection to country that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had proved to be of great benefit in the defence of the Australian mainland and islands to the north.

And we should never forget the powerful bonds created with our neighbours in the Pacific, particularly on the Kokoda Track where Australians were supported by the locals of Papua New Guinea who carried supplies forward and transported seriously wounded and sick Australian soldiers to safety.

Their compassion and care earned them admiration and respect from the Australians, who dubbed these men their 'fuzzy wuzzy angels'.

This year on 15 August, we mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, also known as Victory in the Pacific Day. This is an opportunity for the Australian community to publicly acknowledge the service and sacrifice of veterans of the Second World War, and also recognise the contribution made by all Australians. More than 12,000 veterans of the Second World War are still with us today.

I encourage all Australians to seize the opportunity to talk to any relative, friend or neighbour who lived through the Second World War to share the experiences and stories of this great generation and to say 'thank you for your service'.

Lest we forget.



Nuship Supply berthed at Navantia's shipyard in Spain, prior to departure to Australia for final fitout.

Sheean VC—Panel Of Experts Report

Teddy Sheean is the first member of the Royal Australian Navy to receive the Victoria Cross.

The potential for award of the Victoria Cross to 10 members of the RAN and one RNER serving in the RAN was reviewed by the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal (DHAAT) between 2011 and 2013. It did not recommend the award to any of them. Another review of Sheean's valor by the DHAAT was instituted in 2019 with the result that it recommended that the VC be awarded to Sheean.

This was not agreed by the Federal Government, but due to the strong reaction by the people, the Prime Minister asked a panel of eminent Australians (Experts) to examine respectively the detailed work conducted by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) on two separate occasions into Sheean's actions on 1 December 1942 during the sinking of HMAS *Armidale*. The Panel was unanimous in its conclusions and recommendations to the Prime Minister.

The Panel, led by former Memorial Director, Dr Brendan Nelson AO, found compelling new evidence in support of higher recognition for Sheean. The decision was welcomed and it would be a matter for consideration by the Queen.

The Victoria Cross for Australia is the only award within Australia's Honours and Awards system that requires Her Majesty's approval which was announced on 12 August 2020.

□

Extracts from the Panel's report are as follows:

The Panel is convinced by the evidence that emerged after the writing of the ROP [Report of Proceedings] that Sheean, having received the order to abandon ship, made his way to the ship's side and assisted Able Seaman Edward Keith 'Ted' Pellett to release the ship's motor-boat. He could, like Pellett, have survived. Instead, Sheean rejected the opportunity offered by the relative safety of the motor-boat and returned to his action station at the aft Oerlikon. He made this choice in an attempt to disrupt the Japanese aircraft that were strafing both the ship and his shipmates in the water. Sheean made a conscious choice to fight the enemy and protect his shipmates rather than seek an opportunity to survive.

□

The Australian official history states that "during the action one bomber and one fighter were seen to crash into the sea". The Panel has uncovered new evidence from the Japanese military archives in the National Institute for Defence Studies, Tokyo, showing that two Japanese bombers were damaged but were not brought down. Although the aircraft did not crash, the Panel is satisfied that the effect of Sheean's action was a deterrent to

the strafing pilots and undoubtedly saved his shipmates' lives by drawing fire away from them and onto himself. His action was remarkably effective, given that Sheean was a loader rather than the gunner on the Oerlikon.

□

Distinct requirements and considerations apply to each function. Importantly, the obligations imposed on the Tribunal when it conducts a review do not so bind it when it carries out an inquiry.

It is important to understand that the two Tribunals were engaged in different statutory processes, and were subject to different constraints. The 2013 Inquiry had terms of reference which required it to place an emphasis on Government policy. The 2019 Review was not legally constrained by Government policy and assessed Sheean's actions strictly against the eligibility criteria for the *Victoria Cross for Australia*.

□

As the Panel will set out in section 6.1, the 2013 Inquiry's heavy reliance on [Commanding Officer HMAS *Armidale* LCDR] Richards' inadequate ROP constituted an error of judgment. Several witness statements added essential information that was omitted from the ROP, and in parts contradicted it. The ROP was both incomplete and, in part, inaccurate.

In the 2013 Inquiry, although the terms of reference expressly directed the Tribunal to: "make recommendations on the eligibility of the naval and military members, as listed, to be awarded the *Victoria Cross*, the *Victoria Cross for Australia*, or other forms of appropriate recognition for their gallantry or valour", it did not explicitly address the eligibility criteria contained within the *Victoria Cross for Australia* regulations in its consideration of the Sheean case.

□

The first important evidence was the testimony of the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan. Informed by months of detailed research undertaken by the Royal Australian Navy, Noonan, in testimony to the Tribunal, said:

'Sheean's actions on that day, 1 December 1942, were absolutely among the most conspicuous and gallant we've seen in our Navy.'

The second source of evidence was Grant Sheean's account of a 1992 conversation with Ted Pellett. Pellett confirmed to him that rather than remaining at the gun, Sheean had left his post to assist Pellett in releasing a motor-boat. Sheean then observed his mates were being strafed in the water, and while unwounded, decided to go back to the Oerlikon to return fire on the Japanese aircraft. While accepting the 2019 Tribunal's assessment, the Panel assigned less weight to this evidence, because it was being relayed from the recollections

Sheean VC—Panel Of Experts Report

of a then elderly veteran 28 years after the conversation had occurred.

□

Importantly, the 2019 Review was not required to consider or be bound by Government policy in relation to retrospective *Victoria Cross* awards. It focussed entirely on a merits review of the case against the *Victoria Cross for Australia* regulations.

□

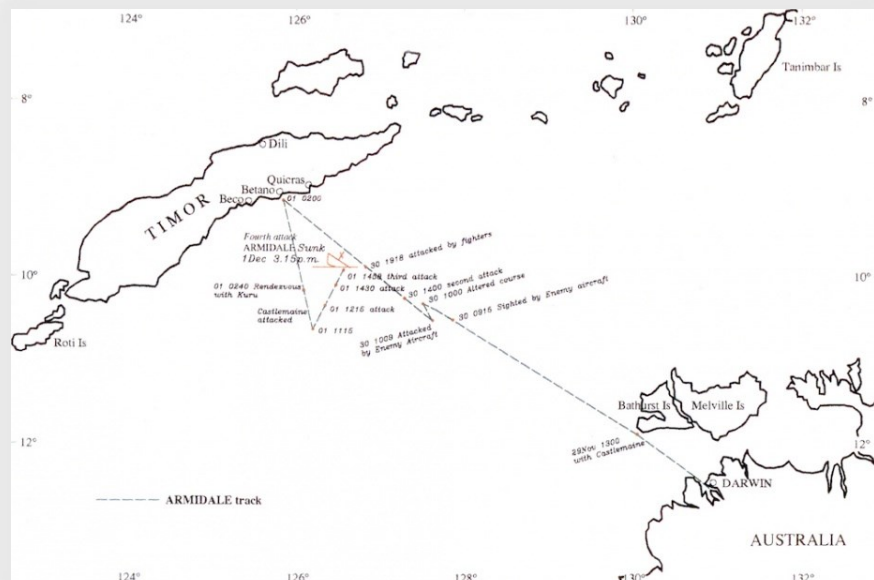
The Panel is of the view that the 2013 Inquiry assigned insufficient weight to Pellett's statement. This evidence showed that Sheean was uninjured at the time he made the decision to return. Had he moved to the motor-boat with Pellett, he would have had a reasonable chance of surviving the sinking. In choosing to return to the highly exposed Oerlikon gun while uninjured, in the context of a rapidly sinking ship under heavy strafing from enemy aircraft, Sheean decided to give up his chance of survival in order to protect his shipmates in the water.

The inadequate description of events was not purposeful. Nevertheless, whatever the reasons, the Panel finds that, objectively, maladministration did occur. The incomplete and partly inaccurate ROP, by omission, contributed to the maladministration, compounded by the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board (ACNB) and the Admiralty's

handling of Sheean's citation, as will be set out in section 7.3.

□

The Panel's report can be viewed at www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/pmc/historic-victoria-cross-report-expert-panel



HMAS Canberra / Memorial Services



As can be seen from the photos on this page, the service remembering the loss of HMAS *Canberra* / with crew 84 and 1200 USN crew members killed in the Battle of Savo Island was beset by cold and damp conditions which resulted in the memorial service being severely shortened.

Wreaths were laid by:

The Chief of Navy
Vice Chief of the RAAF
USA Naval Attaché
HMAS Canberra/Shropshire Association
NZ Defence Attaché
ACT Section NAA
Naval Historical Society ACT Chapter
War Widows Guild ACT Branch



Above: ACT Section President David Manolas talking with Chief of Navy. CAPT Matt Ort USN to right of photo
Right: HMAS *Canberra* / Memorial Kings Park Canberra



Above: Chief of Navy VADM Michael Noonan laying a wreath on behalf of the RAN



Left: ACT Section Committee members reminiscing on conditions on the upper deck during inclement weather

From left to right, Peter Cooke-Russell, John Short, Alan Masters, David Manolas and Alex McGown. Tiger Lyons was there, but missed the fall in call, JJ Harrison was in the Sickbay

HMAS Canberra I Memorial Services

In a solemn sunrise ceremony in the seas of the Solomon Islands, 84 members of HMAS *Canberra III* held tiny wooden crosses bearing the names of the 84 crew who lost their lives in a World War II naval battle fought there by the ship's namesake.

The ceremony was held 78 years after the first *Canberra* sank in the Battle of Savo Island, on 9 August 1942.

Right: Commanding Officer HMAS Canberra, Captain Terry Morrison, DSM, RAN, lays a wreath to commemorate the sinking of HMAS Canberra (I) off Savo Island, Solomon Islands.



Unveiling of a Memorial Plaque at the Australian War Memorial

On 7 August a bronze plaque was unveiled at the AWM commemorating the service of HMAS *Canberra I* and HMAS *Shropshire*. Due to weather conditions, the service was held in the BAE Theatre in the AWM. The service was attended by members of the HMAS *Canberra*/HMAS *Shropshire* Association NSW



Above: The plaque being unveiled by CDRE Ray Leggatt AM CSC RAN previous Co of HMAS Canberra II and RADM Guy Griffiths AO DSO DSC RAN Rtd, Patron of the HMAS Canberra/HMAS Shropshire Association



Left Shropshire veteran ACT Section Member Lionel Mead, with RADM Griffiths and below Lionel with friend Penny.

Below: Centre Alan Masters and right David Manolas at the service



Australian Task Force Commander RIMPAC 2020

Captain Phillipa Hay RAN has become the first Australian woman appointed to command a task force in the 49-year history of RIMPAC

From 17 to 31 August, Captain Hay will command more than 2500 sailors and officers across 11 warships from Australia, Japan, Canada, US, France, and Philippines.

Captain Hay acknowledged the honour of being the first non-US female military officer appointed to the role, but preferred to focus on representing the men and women of the RAN and leading her task force.

RIMPAC is a test of Australia's maritime military capability, from warfighting exercises to the missile firings," she said.

It provides complex and challenging training in a multinational environment, perfect for strengthening interoperability with our regional partners and allies.

I am proud to be part of an Australian force which, with our partners and allies, can continue to train and operate in these challenging times. It demonstrates our collective true grit and resilience.

HMA Ships Hobart, Stuart, Arunta and Sirius, which have been part of the Regional Presence Deployment through Southeast Asia, will take part



Captain Phillipa Hay, on the bridge of HMAS Hobart

in Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2020 (RIMPAC).

This will be the first time a Hobart-class Guided Missile Destroyer has taken part in RIMPAC.

Ten nations, 22 surface ships, one submarine, multiple aircraft, and approximately 5,300 personnel will participate

COVID-19 information for veterans about telehealth

On 20 July 2020, the Australian Government made changes to telehealth services provided by general practitioners.

From 20 July 2020, general practitioners (GPs) will be required to have an existing and continuous relationship with a patient in order to provide telehealth services funded through Medicare and DVA arrangements.

This change responds to advice from medical experts, such as the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and will ensure patients continue to receive quality, ongoing care from a GP who knows their medical history and needs.

How will GP visits change?

DVA clients can continue to access face-to-face GP services from a doctor of their choice. DVA clients who wish to receive telehealth services from 20 July 2020 will need to have had at least one face-to-face service with their GP or another doctor at that clinic in the last 12 months.

Exemptions to this requirement will apply to:

- infants under the age of 12 months;
- people experiencing homelessness; and
- people living in a COVID-19 impacted area;
- urgent after-hours services (in unsociable hours); and

- services provided by a medical practitioner located at an Aboriginal Medical Service or an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service

Are telehealth services changing for allied health or specialist treatment?

There are no changes to existing telehealth arrangements for allied health or medical specialist telehealth services.

However, DVA clients are reminded of the requirement that referrals for allied health services may only be provided by the client's usual GP. This means a GP (or another GP in the same practice) who:

- has provided the majority of care to the DVA client over the previous twelve months; or
- will provide the majority of care to the DVA client over the next twelve months.

Telehealth or online GP services which have not provided regular clinical care to the DVA client are not able to issue valid referrals for DVA-funded allied health services.

Need more information?

For more information about what the changes to telehealth services means for veterans and their families, contact DVA on 1800 555 254.

Upgraded frigate sonar rollout almost complete



Post Anzac Midlife Capability Assurance Program (AMCAP) upgrade frigates HMA ships Anzac, right, and Arunta have both undergone the Broadband Sonar Advanced Processing System upgrade. The ships are seen here at Fleet Base West, Rockingham, Western Australia.

Upgrades to the Spherion B sonar processing systems in the Navy's Anzac Class Frigates under SEA 1408 Phase 2 is almost complete.

The SEA 1408 Phase 2 replaced the existing sonar processing system with the sovereign designed Broadband Sonar Advanced Processing System (BSAPS) while still utilising the existing Spherion B Hull Mounted Sonar Wet End.

The BSAPS was jointly developed in a collaboration between Defence Science and Technology (DST), Saab Australia, BAE Systems and Thales Australia.

Deputy Director Combat Systems Commander Danielle Radnidge said the BSAPS project began life as a submission from DST through the Defence Industry Realisation Fund, a precursor to the Defence Innovation Hub.

"The submission was picked up and commercialised by Thales Australia, and showcases Australia's world class ability to convert science and technology concepts into successful commercial enterprises," Commander Radnidge said.

"This is without doubt, an Australian success story," she said.

The BSAPS replaces the 'ship build' fitted sonar processing system which was supplied to Anzac Class Frigates as part of the original build program in the 1990s.

Responding to the emerging threat situation, a requirement was identified for a system that was more suited to modern submarine and torpedo threats expected to emerge over the lifespan of the Anzac Class Frigate - to date, six of the eight Anzac Class Frigates have been upgraded.

Among the many advantages offered by the SEA 1408 Phase 2 are a significant improvement in sonar passive capability, a greater level of sonar and Combat Management System integration, improved levels of sonar functionality and significant improvements in equipment reliability.

The new sonar system has been integrated with the 9LV Combat Management System and had been successfully demonstrated at sea over a number of years.

This technology has delivered a significantly advanced anti-submarine warfare and torpedo self defence capability to Navy's Anzac Class Frigates and provides Navy with one of the most advanced, sovereign Hull Mount Sonar capabilities in the world, providing exceptional underwater awareness for our frigates.

The upgrade project management occurred through the Warship Asset Management Agreement Alliance with the Anzac Ships Program Office and SEA 1408 Project

Adding a win to the tally for the small boat community

Sailors in Navy's Cape Class Patrol Boats are buoyed by the recent approval by Chief of Navy to replace their 'Royal Australian Navy', 'HMA Patrol Boat' and 'Patrol Boat Group' tally bands with their own ship's name.

According to Director of the Sea Power Centre - Australia, Captain Sean Andrews, cap ribbons have been in use by naval fleets and merchant shipping lines for over 100 years, with the earliest recorded use by Australian naval forces during colonial times.

"Merchant fleets also adopted the practice and it was not uncommon for red-flagged merchant ships to have ribbons produced for sailors in their crews," Captain Andrews said.

So when Lieutenant Commander Ken Brown, then Commanding Officer of ADV Cape Fourcroy (Port) formally posed the question of whether the practice could be adopted for all Cape Class Australian Defence Vessels, history was on his side.

"Esprit de corps is an important ingredient in any ship's company irrespective of its commissioned or non-commissioned status," Lieutenant Commander Brown said.

It was through this critical connection to their ship and shipmates that unanimous support amongst all Cape Class crews was found.

"It lets me show pride in all the work my shipmates and I do for the Navy by representing a ship that is very dear to all of us as a small boat community," Able Seaman Boatswain Mate Emma Harper from ADV Cape Inscription said.

"Having our own boat's tally band will give us a sense of our own uniqueness and individualism we feel in serving in this great ship."

Reflecting on the Navy culture pillars Value our People and Instil a Sense of Purpose, Commanding Officer ADV Cape Inscription (Stbd) Lieutenant Commander Jess O'Brien was excited for what this initiative meant for her crew and all patrol boat sailors.

"It is a small but meaningful change to recognise the important role Cape Class Patrol Boat sailors have within Navy, conducting maritime operations alongside Armidale Class Patrol Boats and other Defence Elements in Australia's northern waters," Lieutenant Commander O'Brien said.

"We are pleased that ADVs Cape Inscription, Cape Fourcroy, and our future Capes will be represented on tally bands along with our DPNU (Disruptive Pattern Navy Uniform) ball caps and patches.

"ADV Inscription is our home away from home and we all take a great deal of pride serving in her."

The new tally bands will soon be made available for wear by all Cape Class sailors.



A Mobi's Dream -**Once Were Warriors.....75 years old and a Sprog...**

Last night I was dreaming of Nirimba
The cold, the rain and the fog
I woke up shakin, mate I'm not fakin
I was a Seventy five year old Sprog

In my dream I was on a Navy bus
The passengers were me old pussers mates
We all had grey hair, and showing some wear
As we approached the big white gates.

I thought "I can't remember dyin"
So it wasn't the Pearly Gates
my heart nearly stopped, then the penny dropped
When I read the sign RANATE

We were all busting for a piddle
As we slowed down for the Boom
Then an old man appeared, and smiled through his beard
"I'm Nobby and I'll show you to your room"

He then ushered us down to the Clothing store
For the issue of our first term kit
But our body's had changed, kind of re-arranged
Gravity had seen to that.

No Number One's just a dressing Gown
Pair of slippers no dress shoes
Piddle Pads size 'Thick', and a walking stick
Ugg boots and what Night Cap to choose

Then down to Perce at the Barbers shop
Though I wasn't sporting much hair
He said I'd be fine, just an oil and a shine
"Just give me a Quid and sit there"

Now they'd made the Scrان Hall a sitting Room
There was no Queing up for meals
No Duty Cooks or MOBI's on chooks
It was all done by Meals on Wheels

So there was no push and shove in the Scrان line
It was served up in our beds
With one cup of Bran, and Prune juice per man
All the pushing would be done in the heads.

After Brekky we line up in our waking frames
All polished and looking so grand
A tear filled me eye, when I heard Jim Hume cry
Wheel on the Guard and Band.

There was wheel chair access to every Donga.
Moving foot way from me hut to the shower
For Trade we did Weaving, Origami and Beading
And on chooks we had to pick flowers

There was no Rugby, Rules or Cricket.
Only Patience and Snap after Kai
Inter service sport, was tougher than I thought
There was Scrabble Carpet Bowls and 'I Spy'

I got into a blue at one RAAF game
At the Richmond Carpet bowls Court.
A birdie had the gall, to handle me ball
"Your hands are a bit cold sport"

Shit Stirring was as bad as ever
I had me blanket tossed under me bed
I said "Thats enough", then things got rough
Second Termers pulled me jocks over me head.

The monthly dance in the Cinema
Was a mixed Basket Weaving night
Then no messin about, They'd pipe Lights Out
Just after "The price is Right"

There was no need to go on Long Leave
Couldn't remember where we were from
But I did impress, when Nobby read me Approved
Address
The Quakers Hill Funeral Home.

I finished up on Nobby's Country Club
The punishment was still as bad
He made me sit while he spun a 'Dit'
He convinced me he was really me Dad!!!

One night I decided to Jump The Fence.
But for this I would need a 'Chit'
I'd need a Wheel Chair, and a PTI there
To help push me over it.

Nightly rounds we were in our Night Gowns
Sit to attention with night caps on heads
Heart monitors going, No piss stains showing
False teeth in a glass by our beds

Then came the Passing Out Parade
I now know why they named it that way
When Nobby gave a shout, we all passed out
Thank goodness for Oxy Vivas I say..

After that we were posted
To Aged Homes to be bathed and fed
When a nosey old Dame, asked me my name
I'm a MOBI I softly said.

I sit here now looking back on that time
There's that tear I've been trying to hide
Yeah the dream made me sweat, but i'll never forget
The great mates I had by me side.....

*Shang Moffitt....
13th Intake...July 1962*

Website broadcaster writes: Shang Moffitt has been at it again – looking inside his crystal ball – and was caught by Tiny Johnson when he posted the following in Facebook!!

Shang Moffitt writes: I posted a poem a while ago of my time at Nirimba...A little while after writing that one I wrote a second poem with a bit of a twist. What would it be like if the joining age was say, seventy five years. Hope you like it. For those who were not around during my time. Nobby Clarke was the Regulating CPO..He scared us shitless but was one of the finest men I met in my time. Commander Jim Hume was executive Officer. The right man for the job as it turned out. Perce was the Barber.

Remembering the end of WWII, 2 September 1945

Published on 02 September 2020 LEUT Anthony Martin (author)

It was a cloudy day on 2 September 1945 in Tokyo Bay, Japan. A large Allied contingent had gathered over the preceding two weeks, enabling all parties involved in the War in the Pacific to attend the final surrender of Japan.

Hostilities had ended in Asia and the Pacific on 15 August 1945 and the Supreme Allied Commander, General Douglas MacArthur had planned for the surrender ceremony to take place on 2 September to allow ample time for all the allied representatives to arrive.

The ceremony took place onboard the battleship USS *Missouri*. The Australian contingent, led by General Sir Thomas Blamey, included representatives from the Royal Australian Navy, Rear Admiral George Moore and Commodore John Collins.

There were 10 Royal Australian Navy vessels in Tokyo Bay for the ceremony, HMA Ships *Shropshire*, *Hobart (II)*, *Bataan*, *Warramunga (I)*, *Napier*, *Nizam*, *Ballarat (I)*, *Cessnock (I)*, *Ipswich (I)* and *Pirie (I)*.

Director Naval History at the Sea Power Centre - Australia, Mr John Perryman, said the war in the Pacific proved to be a challenging period for the Royal Australian Navy.

"The Navy had some significant losses during actions against the Japanese that saw HMA Ships *Canberra (I)*, *Perth (I)*, *Yarra (II)* and *Vampire (I)*, all sunk," said Mr Perryman.

"Many of *Canberra's* crew survived the Battle of Savo Island went on to serve in her replacement, HMAS *Shropshire*. In *Shropshire* they took the fight

to the enemy and were present in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945 to witness the official Japanese surrender."

For the Royal Australian Navy, the Second World War had begun on 3 September 1939 in response to aggression by Nazi Germany, and later Italy, before expanding to the Asia-Pacific following Japan's attack on the USA on 7 December 1941.

The long struggle that ensued saw the Royal Australian Navy's numbers swell from 5440 in 1939 to a peak wartime strength of 36,976, including members of the Women's Services. Similarly, the number of ships in the Royal Australian Navy fleet expanded from just 28 at the beginning of the war to 337 by 30 June 1945, by which time it was briefly the fourth largest Navy in the world.

During World War II, ships of the Royal Australian Navy saw service in all of the world's oceans and in many of its seas.

Actions were fought that are today etched in the annals of the Royal Australian Navy as [Battle Honours](#) and Campaign Awards, ranging from service in Arctic waters and the constrained rivers and waterways of New Guinea, to the hotly contested waters of the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

Ships were lost and more than 2000 men and women of the Royal Australian Navy made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation during the war.

"The strength and commitment of those Australians in time of war is a worthy example to our nation today of what we can achieve when we work together for a common cause," said Mr Perryman.



Australian delegates at the Japanese surrender ceremony on board USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945.

L-R, back row: Captain J Bal-four; Lieutenant Colonel DH Dwyer; Air Vice Marshal G Jones; Lieutenant General FH Berryman; Commodore JA Collins.

Front row: Rear Admiral G Moore; General Sir Thomas Blamey (who signed for Australia); and Air Vice Marshal WD Bostock.

(Australian War Memorial Collection 019136)

Remembering those “still on patrol”

Published on 31 August 2020 Ms Harriet Pointon Mather (author),

National President of the Submarines Association Australia, Commodore Bob Trotter, OAM, RAN (Ret'd), left, and Commander Submarines, Captain Doug Theobald, CSC, RAN attend the Lost Submariners Memorial Service at the Rockingham Navy Club, WA.



Submariners past and present gathered for the Lost Submariners Memorial Service at the Rockingham Navy Club in Western Australia recently, as they remembered submariners whose lives were lost during their service.

The National President of the Submarines Association Australia, Commodore Bob Trotter, OAM, RAN Rtd was in attendance along with Commander Submarines, Captain Doug Theobald, CSC, RAN as they jointly hosted the commemoration to those “still on patrol”.

Despite the threat of inclement weather numbers attending were strong, giving a firm indication of the importance of this commemoration.

Mr Reece Whitby, MLA was in attendance, representing the Premier of Western Australia, along with the Mayor of Rockingham, Mr Barry Sammels.

Commodore Trotter gave the Welcome Address and noted that submariners become part of a community that most people can never imagine, one characterised by a dangerous working environment where men and women, act, think and endure as one.

“It takes a submariner to understand the work environment of service in submarines; submariners enjoy a unique “esprit de corps” and forge relationships that endure beyond their career, they are forever “buddies in boats,” Commodore Trotter said.

Commander Submarines, Captain Doug Theobald gave a moving tribute to those lost in the service of

their country and those lost more recently who were a vital part of the submarine community.

“Although we have not lost a submariner at sea for over 30 years the voyage has not been all smooth sailing and we have lost brothers and sisters along the way, whose names do not grace the walls of memorials or appear on any honour roll.

“They are no longer with us but their names, their faces, their achievements and their exploits are remembered,” Captain Theobald said.

Captain Theobald said it was an honour to participate in the day's events, noting it was a community of ordinary strangers, drawn together to honour those who had been lost.

“Today we honour those we lost, never knowing how much they would be missed. While you may feel the loss is yours, you do not bear it alone, for your loved ones were our brothers and sisters, and will always be so. And we mourn, and we remember, and we reflect, with you.” Captain Theobald said.

As the last post played and wreaths were laid, storm clouds made way for blue sky just in time for tots and an afternoon of reminiscing amongst submariners old and new.

Notably this year's event was of special significance in that it was held only a number of weeks after the passing of Vice Admiral Ian Donald George MacDougall AC RAN, Australia's most senior submariner, former Chief of Navy, and patron of the Submarines Association Australia.



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