



National Bosun's Call



Vol 4 No 8

Once Navy, Always Navy

September 2022

*Vale
Her Majesty The Queen
1926-2022*



On behalf of our members past
and present
it is with the deepest sadness and
respect that
we offer our condolences
in remembrance of our
Sovereign Lady
**Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II**
21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022
to whom we promised that we
would be a safeguard to
Her Majesty
and to the British Commonwealth
of Nations

Her Majesty honoured the
Association with her patronage
from
16 October 1952 to 8 September
2022



National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Naval Occasions



*Left:
HM Queen Elizabeth II inspects the Naval Royal Guard, Ban and Colour Party on arrival in Australia on 31 March 1970 marking the 200th anniversary of Captain James Cook's landing on Australia's east coast*

*Front page:
NAA National President, David Manolas lays a wreath on the Naval Memorial in Canberra marking the death of Her Majesty. The text of the wreath card is overlaid on the photograph*



*Above
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II dedicating the Naval Memorial on ANZAC Parade Canberra on 3 March 1986 which also marked the 75th Anniversary of the naming of the Royal Australian Navy*

*and at left
is ferried across Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra during the 2011 Royal Visit. Note the presence of her personal flag flying in the bows of the royal barge on loan from the Fleet Commander.*

The Naval Association of Australia

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

The Queen's Personal Flag for Australia



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has a special flag that is flown only on those occasions when she is visiting Australia. The flag was approved by Her Majesty on 20 September 1962 and first used during the 1963 royal visit.

The flag consists of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms with a large gold seven-pointed Federation Star overlapping it in the centre. Within the Federa-

tion Star is Her Majesty's initial 'E' in gold, and above it rests a stylised St Edward crown, enclosed by a garland (a 'chaplet') of gold roses and set on a blue roundel.

Her Majesty's personal flag for Australia is used in the same way as the Royal Standard in the United Kingdom.

The Sovereign's Colours



Since being presented with King's Colours in 1927 the Royal Australian Navy has continued to proudly parade the Colours of subsequent Sovereigns. This continues today with HM Queen Elizabeth II having approved the ongoing use of the two suites of Colours held by the Royal Australian Navy.

The current Fleet Colour is held by the Maritime Commander on behalf of fleet units and was presented by the Governor-General in 1989 while the Establishment Colour is held by the Commanding Officer, HMAS *Cerberus* on behalf of the commissioned shore establishments.

Queen Elizabeth II presented a new Establishment Colour during her visit to Australia in 1986. The

Establishment Colour was presented by Her Majesty to the Colour Officer Lieutenant Steven Bell Hislop, RAN at HMAS *Cerberus* on Friday 7 March 1986. This is the only time an RAN Colour has been presented by the reigning monarch. HMAS *Cerberus* provided both the Royal Guard and the Divisions with some 800 personnel on parade. The Officer in Charge of the RAN's Communications School was given responsibility for the care of the Colour on behalf of the Commanding Officer of HMAS *Cerberus*.

The Colour is currently held in the Maritime Wing of the Defence Force School of Signals, HMAS *Cerberus*, Westernport, Victoria.

Notes from the National President

1. On Monday 12th September 2022, I sought advice from Government House, Canberra on the appropriate composition of a Letter of Condolence and a Request to HM The King seeking his concurrence to act as our Patron-in-Chief. Today (14 Sep 22) advice was received that the letter of condolence can now be mailed to Government House; this will be undertaken tomorrow (15 Sep 22). Further, we are advised to wait until after the Official Mourning Period, before sending the second letter. I envisage the posting process for the patron-in-chief letter will occur on or about 24th September 2022. It too will be posted to Government House, Canberra. This ensures the safe and hopefully timely delivery to Buckingham Palace Offices.

2. This morning, Wednesday 14th September 2022, I attended our NAA Commemorative Wreath Laying at the RAN Memorial Anzac Parade. This was an informal ceremony wherein members of the NAA ACT Section joined me to pay our respects on the occasion of the Passing of Her Majesty. (see cover) We spoke of our feelings towards Her Majesty and then laid a wreath on behalf of the NAA. Following on from these proceedings, Peter Cooke-Russell has been kind enough to put together a Commemorative Card to be posted to the Palace on our behalf.

3. This morning, Wednesday 14th September 2022, I received a call from the PM's Dept., advising the NAA is to receive an invitation for two representatives to attend the National Memorial Service at Parliament House, Canberra on 22nd September 2022. Mr Russell Pettis, our National Secretary and Mr Peter Cooke-Russell have kindly agreed to represent the Association on this occasion. They now await the PM&C formal notice to attend the Service.

4. Tomorrow, Thursday 15th September 2022, I leave for the UK (returning on 24th September 2022). I take with me a sense of immense pride in who we are and a firm appreciation of the privilege and responsibilities that have come my way, wherein I will represent the NAA at The Queen's Funeral at Westminster Abbey, London on Monday 19th September 2022 at 1100 (London time).

I appreciate much is happening across our Nation during this extraordinary and very emotive time following the Passing of HM The Queen. Regrettably not all NAA commemorative services and activities necessarily have the visibility and acknowl-

edgement within the Association or the wider community as we would wish, but please be assured we can all be proud of our own and the collective contribution. In due course we look forward to seeing images of these and other events where you have represented the NAA. Should you have images and accounts of commemorative events in your area please pass them on to both Peter (NBC) and Russell (WEM) so that they may be promulgated via these means, thank you.

In instances such as this it can appear to be very Canberra- focussed and for our Association, our national involvement has largely taken the form of a representational role for the Office of NP. In this

regard it has been very reassuring that within government here at home and in Buckingham Palace, it is known the NAA is among those organisations for whom the Queen has been Patron. On every occasion we have had to respond promptly and in circumstances where participation numbers have been rigidly enforced. Wherever possible I have strived to provide visibility to both the NX and NC (for dissemination to our members) of what has been happening and undertaken on behalf of us all.

At this juncture may I offer my heartfelt gratitude for the warm expressions of support and encouragement you have provided as I have endeavoured to work my way through all that is taking place. Nothing has been

achieved without the help and guidance of others, I am very much in their debt. I feel I am now close to completing those tasks and provisions that will allow me to set off tomorrow with a 'clear yardarm'. It has been a privilege to see and hear of the love and affection we have had for 'Our Queen and Our Patron' and it has been reaffirming to witness just how dearly we value the selfless service and dedication afforded us all by Her Majesty The Queen.

As previously advised, NAA Vice President (White) Lorraine Grey will assume the duties and responsibilities of Acting National President in my absence; thank you Lorraine.

Yours aye,

David Manolas

National President

Naval Association of Australia



Eleanor Tomlinson, a Yorkshire artist,

HMAS Canberra (I) - Memorial Service in Canberra marking the 80th anniversary of her loss



Above; The HMAS Harman Catafalque Party 'presents arms' at the memorial service held at the HMAS Canberra Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra

Above: ABMUS Rachael Byrnes, RAN Band Sydney, sounds the Last Post

Right: Des Jones laying wreath



Below ; Deputy Chief of Navy RADM C Smith CSM RAN representin the chief of navyand AIRCDRE P Gordon representing the Chief of Air Force laying wreaths



Above: Miss Emma Davidson MLA, representing the ACT Chief Minister and Miss Elizabeth Lee, Leader of The ACT Opposition lay wreaths

Photos: POIS Bradley Darvill



HMAS Canberra (1) Memorial Services

During Regional Presence Deployment 22-3 HMA Ship's *Canberra*, *Warramunga* and *Supply* sailed in formation while HMAS *Canberra* conducted a Memorial Service at sea on the flight deck to pay tribute to the 84 lives lost during the battle of *Savo Island* 80 years ago. HMAS *Canberra* (I) sustained significant damage causing her to be abandoned, she subsequently sank and now rests 760 metres below the surface of Iron Bottom Sound.

Royal Australian Navy ships across two task groups are currently conducting regional presence deployments throughout the Indo-Pacific region. During their deployments the ships and their embarked ADF units will undertake joint exercises and other engagements with Australia's regional partners.

Regional Presence Deployments demonstrate Australia's commitment and engagement with the region. These deployments play a vital role in Australia's long term security and prosperity by protecting Australia's interests, preserving a rules based order, enhancing cooperation and relationships with regional partners and allies and developing capability and interoperability

Right: HMAS Canberra's (III) Commanding Officer Captain Jace Hutchison delivers a speech to Ships Company at sunset during the 80th anniversary commemorative service for HMAS Canberra

Photo LSIS Matthew Lyall



Above: HMA Ships Canberra, Warramunga and Supply sail in-company through the Pacific Ocean during a commemorative service to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Savo Island.



Left: As seen in the top photo, HMA Ships Warramunga and Supply to port of HMAS Canberra during a service to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Savo Island and the loss of HMAS Canberra (I).

Photo LSIS Matthew Lyall

HMAS Canberra (I) Memorial Services



Above: (L to R) Captain Ashley Papp, CSC, RAN, Director Maritime Combat Support and Amphibious Capability; Rear Admiral Chris Smith, CSM, RAN, Deputy Chief of Navy; Mr Des Jones the last survivor of HMAS Canberra (I) and Commodore Raymond Leggett, AM, CSC, RAN, Chief of Staff Navy Headquarters at the memorial service held at the HMAS Canberra Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra. Both Smith and Papp have commanded HMAS Canberra (III)



Below: HMAS Harman's Catafalque Party and Midshipmen from ADFA,

(L to R) Able Seaman (AB) Emily Thomas, AB Angela Laing, Midshipman (MIDN) Harrison Wetherall, Petty Officer Benjamin Hale, MIDN Mia Findlay, AB Zachary Kidson and Seaman Connor Dayman at the memorial service held at the HMAS Canberra Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Canberra (I)

Photos from the ADF Website

Right: (l-r) Mr Des Jones and Chris Johnson after completion of the 80th anniversary of the loss of HMAS Canberra (I), held at the north end of Garden Island, Sydney.



Below: HMAS Cerberus Catafalque Party presents arms as the Last Post is sounded during the HMAS Canberra (I) Commemorative Service held at the Shrine of Remembrance, Victoria.



New therapy to treat PTSD for veterans

17 August 2022

The Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Thistlethwaite today launched a new world-first therapy to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The Department of Veterans' Affairs, in partnership with the Department of Defence and Phoenix Australia, has developed this innovative new method, which is an accelerated and effective treatment that is now being offered to help improve the lives of veterans and Defence members through Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling.

It is a sad reality that veterans experience symptoms of PTSD at higher rates than the broader Australian community. For many years now, prolonged exposure (PE) therapy has been one of the best ways to treat PTSD and improve quality of life for veterans. This PE is a form of cognitive behaviour therapy. It teaches patients how to approach trauma-related memories in a safe and controlled way. It is human nature to avoid things that remind us of past trauma. But doing so can reinforce feelings of fear. By facing what has been avoided a patient can decrease symptoms of PTSD. This is PE's objective.

The Rapid Exposure Supporting Trauma Recovery (RESTORE) trial investigated a new method of delivering PTSD treatment through an intensive

form of exposure therapy delivered within a two-week period, instead of the usual 10.

The results show this new method of treatment to be equally as effective as standard treatment while potentially offering additional lifestyle benefits. Over half of the participants in the trial lost their diagnosis of PTSD. Participants were also 4 times less likely to drop out of the condensed version of the therapy than the standard model.

The 10 week duration of PE therapy can be difficult for current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force personnel to commit to, especially if they are transitioning from the military or seeking employment.

RESTORE is about offering veterans a choice. Both forms of treatment, the standard and condensed, are now available for serving and ex-serving Defence personnel through Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling. Veterans can feel empowered to choose a therapy that best suits their circumstances.

To find out more, contact Open Arms on 1800 011 046 or visit www.openarms.gov.au.

Full details about the RESTORE trial, including associated findings, are published in the [Psychological Medicine Journal](#)

Release of Royal Commission Interim Report

11 August 2022

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide released its Interim Report on 11 August 2022. It provides a number of recommendations to help prevent those who have served in the Australian Defence Force from taking their own life.

The Royal Commission continues to examine past deaths by suicide, including suspected and attempted suicides, from a systemic perspective. So far, hearings have been held in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Townsville, and Hobart

The Interim Report has highlighted several key issues on which DVA must reflect and act. These include the simplification of DVA's legislation, bolstering staffing and resources to reduce the claims backlog, improving the transition process for those leaving the ADF, and increasing availability and access information and services. Submissions will remain open until 13 October 2023, with the final report expected in mid-2024. A brief on the Interim Report is on pages 7 and 8.

The Royal Commission is independent of Government, including the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, DVA, and the Department of Defence.

You can find a copy of the Interim Report on the [Royal Commission's website](#).

Making a submission

The [Royal Commission's website](#) outlines information about the process for the Royal Commission and how to make a submission or contact the Com-

DVA Contact Information

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN)

International callers: [+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section Department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Summary of Interim Report

On 11 August 2022, the Royal Commissioners engaged by the Australian Government to Inquire into Defence and Veteran Suicide handed their Interim Report to the Governor General. The report was released to the public the same day and can be found in full on the Royal Commission's website www.defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au

As of 31 July 2022 the Commission had received 1,912 submissions from individuals and organisations. In addition, it conducted private hearings, public hearings, video or telephone conferencing, its own research, round table discussions, departmental background briefings and written submissions.

A final report is to be handed to government by June 2024, but the Royal Commission will be accepting written submissions up until 13 October 2023.

The Royal Commission noted that service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) was included for the first time in the 2021 Census. The response from the census indicated that 84,865 were still serving and 496,276 had previously served in the ADF.

The Royal Commission at the outset acknowledged the importance of families of current and former veterans of the ADF and the impact that service in the ADF has on families, especially children. One submission submitted by the daughter of a former ADF member told about the heavy drinking and smoking by her father and the adverse impact it had on the family.

Another important part of the Royal Commission's inquiries was to take evidence from people with 'lived experiences' of ADF service and DVA. The Royal Commission saw this as very important as it is distinct from some government reports in that it reflected what veterans and their families had experienced or continued to experience.

The Royal Commission made 13 recommendations. An interesting inclusion in the recommendations is that in funding the recommendations, resources should not be taken from current DVA programs. In other words, there should be no robbing Peter to pay Paul. The Royal Commission also provides recommended timelines by which recommendations should be implemented. The recommendations include:

- Harmonisation of the three Acts covering veterans and their entitlements. The harmonisation to be completed by December 2023 and presented to parliament no later than early 2024. The Royal Commission suggested legislative reform could be:
 - One consolidated Act with MRCA subsuming the VEA and DRCA. The Commission agreed one consolidated Act would do little to improve the current situation.

- MRCA predominates but DRCA and VEA continue to exist for existing claims
- MRCA as the only Act
- Eliminate DVAs backlog of claims by 31 March 2024, then regularly monitor DVA to prevent further backlogs. The current backlog is 329 days which is described by DVA as being the median time for MRCA despite a government commitment to resolve MRCA in 90 days, VEA claims backlog is at 391 days. DVA said it currently has 62,396 claims yet to be determined.
- By 31 March 2023 and at least twice yearly DVA provide government about future funding needs.
- Remove the DVA average staffing level (ASL). The current employment cap means that 33% of people working at DVA were labour hire staff. DVA told the Commission that the cost of a labour hire member was 14/1% more expensive than an APS member
- Increase protections for persons engaging with the Commission. Providing information to the Royal Commission by government claiming parliamentary privilege or national security has hampered information gathering. The Royal Commission cited as one example, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report on cultural reform in Defence. The Royal Commission pointed out that although the report is contained on the ANAO website, under parliamentary privilege, they are not able to question Defence staff about the report.

The Royal Commission made it clear it is considering and will continue to consider a range of issues not mentioned in its Interim Report but could be raised in the Final Report. It argues that as it received new evidence or information, its thinking will continue to develop.

The Royal Commission identified 1,273 deaths by suicide among current and serving members of the ADF between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2019. This number is broken down to 211 who are serving and 1,062 who were former members of the ADF. However, the numbers who died by suicide prior to 2001 are not captured. In addition, there are no figures for family members who have taken their own life.

The Royal Commission acknowledged that the rates of suicide are alarming and noted that they are higher amongst those who no longer serve full time in the ADF. Information supplied to the Royal Commission indicates for every person who dies by suicide, 135 people are directly or indirectly impacted.

(Continued on page 10)

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Summary of Interim Report

(Continued from page 9)

- Using these figures and based on the 1,275 known suicide deaths by ADF and former ADF members, between January 2001 and December 2019, this means 172,000 people are affected by the suicides. There are no figures for those who attempt suicide or have suicidal ideations.

The Royal Commission will continue its inquiries with overseas research visits to the UK, Canada, NZ and the USA.

Although service in the ADF was criticised by some witnesses, not all comments were negative. Some submissions commented favourably on the mateship experienced, the feeling of pride experienced by belonging to the ADF and the gaining of life skills. The positive aspects of ADF service could be a two edged sword. Although it engenders a sense of comradeship and belonging whilst in service, some of those who leave, find this kinship is missing and hard particularly mentally when trying to re-establish life away from the ADF. This loss of belonging or mateship has been cited by some veterans as contributing to their mental health issues. The leaving is especially hard on those who are discharged against their will, for example, medical discharges.

Some submissions related experiences of physical and mental abuse, bastardisation, bullying, rituals, discrimination, cover ups of illegal behaviour and lack of support by senior leadership. Some submissions related to inadequate medical or psychological care when a member fell ill. The Royal Commission noted that despite adverse publicity and reports in the past, on the subject of bullying etc., it still remained a problem within the ADF.

As was to be expected, some veterans were especially critical of DVA policies and practices, their entitlements, veterans' legislation and treatment by DVA staff. Other veterans said they did not know what their entitlements were. In some cases, veterans said DVA staff did not know what entitlements individuals were entitled to receive. Some submissions indicated the heavy psychological toll placed on ex-ADF personnel and their families in dealing with DVA. One ex-ADF member said he found the claims process 'so frustrating, prolonged and biased that it is not worth the stress and aggravation'.

Another observed, 'If I need an advocate to prepare my submission, then DVA has completely failed in its mission'.

The Royal Commission also quoted international and Australian research indicating that relationship breakdowns, especially among 18 to 34-year-old males, increased the risk of suicide.

A former Minister for Veterans' Affairs told the Royal Commission his office had received clear directions from the Prime Minister's office that no major initiatives were to be undertaken while the Commission was sitting. The Commission commented euphemistically, they were '...disappointed that the Australian Government of the day may have used this Royal Commission as a reason not to progress reform urgently. This Royal Commission is not an acceptable reason to continue to delay legislative reform until after that date.'

Another excuse cited by both government and DVA for delays in reform was a lack of 'a single voice' among veterans as being a barrier to reform. The Royal Commission did not accept this as a valid excuse to delay reform.

The Royal Commission also recommended the service differential be removed when prescribing the level of care, support and compensation provided to veterans. This was supported by the CDF, General Angus Campbell. The contemporary view was an injury was an injury whether it occurred in Australia or in a war zone.

The Commission repeatedly heard complaints about the time taken from when a claim is lodged to when a final decision is made. Some submissions said these delays and the associated uncertainty cause undue stress and anxiety. The delays and the lack of information from DVA has led some veterans to lose faith in the process. One submission said delegates often put hurdles in the way to ensure a claim is rejected.

The father of a veteran described how his son, a veteran, lodged a claim in October 2018, for medical and psychological conditions, but it was not until 16 June 2021, 18 months after the veteran committed suicide that DVA sent a letter accepting the claimed conditions.

Allan Joyce

19 August 2022

OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS
1800 011 046



**SAFE ZONE
SUPPORT**

FREE ANONYMOUS
COUNSELLING LINE
CALL 1800 142 072

**Defence
Family
Helpline**



1800 624 608

**Defence
All-hours
Support Line**



1800 628 036

The loneliest VCs

By Dr Tom Lewis



Of the 101 Australian military personnel who have been awarded the Victoria Cross, our highest honour for bravery, most lie in recognised graves. But five of our fallen – including our newest and only naval VC – have no known final resting place.

To explain further, when the recipients of the Crosses were given their honour, many were awarded posthumously – they had died in the action in which they performed their feats of bravery.

But their bodies were recovered, and later buried or cremated.

Many of the other Cross recipients survived warfare. Later they died, and the usual process followed – they were given a funeral. But often they were overseas when that happened, often reflecting the fact that many of these military personnel were born overseas, and had sometimes gone to the country of their birth after their Australian military service. So 37 of our 101 VCs are interred in other countries. Perhaps the most remote of these is the grave of Sergeant Samuel Pearse, who earned his VC in 1919. He is buried in a military cemetery near the Obozerskaya railway station, between Emtsa and Archangel, in North Russia.

Of the VC recipients interred in Australia, most lie in the states or territories where they spent the rest of their lives. They are distributed as follows:

Australian Capital Territory	2
New South Wales	13
Queensland	5
South Australia	5
Tasmania	3
Victoria	1
Western Australia	9

The Northern Territory's only VC is Albert Borella from WWI. He is buried in Albury-Wodonga, where he spent his final years.

Four VCs are still living with us. And five of our 101 have no known grave.

Sixty-four Victoria Crosses went to the Australian Army in World War I. The Gallipoli campaign saw nine of these in only around six months, testimony to the fierce and



close quarter fighting. When Gallipoli was closed down the AIF moved to the Western Front, where it was joined by thousands more Australians for almost three more years of fighting.

Four of the five "no known grave" VCs come from WWI, although curiously, one received his VC for a WWI action, but died in WWII.

Two had fairly conventional ends. Lance-Corporal Alexander Burton died in 1915. Born in Kyneton, Victoria, in 1893, Burton, an ironmonger, joined the Australian Imperial Force and was posted to the 7th Battalion. Although he missed the landing on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, he saw it from the deck of a hospital ship, where he was being treated for an infection. A week later he was in the trenches, fighting in different areas with his Battalion.



On 9 August at Lone Pine, the Turks launched a counter-attack on a newly captured trench commanded by Lieutenant Frederick Tubb. The Turks advanced and knocked over a sandbag barricade but Tubb and Burton rebuilt it, together with a Corporal William Dunstan. The enemy twice more destroyed the barricade but each time was driven off and the barricade rebuilt. Burton was killed by a bomb while he was building up the parapet.

Burton's body was not recovered. Although this is difficult to understand, it reflects the fact that often soft-skinned humans in combat can be literally blown apart. To make matters worse their bodies can lie in a contested area – often known as "No Man's Land" where they might lie for some time. Others may lie in the same area. When one side or the other takes that part of the battlefield, hasty burials often result, usually into mass graves. It is an unpleasant aspect of battlefields, but reflects the fact that it is urgent necessity, not nicety, that is needed at the time. Burton has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.

Private Thomas Cooke died in 1916. He was 35 years old, comparatively old for a private, and married with a family. Born in New Zealand, he had migrated to Australia shortly before the war.

In the initial attack on Pozières, in France, Cooke's battalion captured ground, and held on under heavy enemy artillery fire and counter-attacks. Cooke was in a Lewis machinegun team working in a dangerous position. After the others with him were killed or wounded, he remained fighting at his

post. Cooke was later found dead at his gun. His body was lost in later fighting. He has no known grave site. Cooke's name is recorded on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial and on the war memorial in Kaikōura NZ, his town of birth

Captain Alfred Shout, despite being an Army soldier in WWI, was curiously buried at sea.



Shout had served in the Boer War, and following that conflict worked as a carpenter in Sydney, while serving part-time as an officer in the local militia. He joined the AIF when war was declared and took part in the landing on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He was awarded the Military Cross and Mentioned in Despatches for ac-

tions over the next month.

In August, in fighting at Lone Pine, Shout was involved in an action that saw him attacking an enemy trench, killing eight Turks with grenades. Later that day he was with one of the locally-made grenades when it exploded prematurely, causing horrendous injuries. Shout died on a hospital ship of his injuries two days later. He was buried at sea, with his Victoria Cross awarded two months later. He is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Corporal Walter Brown served in both WWI and II. A Tasmanian, he enlisted in 1915 in the Light Horse before transferring to the infantry. He gained the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1917 for bravery before he was involved in an attack on a German trench at Villers-Bretonneux in France. He then attacked an enemy sniper with two Mills bombs, and caused the surrender of several other enemy soldiers. He was awarded the Victoria Cross.



When WWII broke out, Brown volunteered for the Army, despite being married and of older years. He went missing after the fall of Singapore in February 1942, when he was last sighted declaring, "no surrender for me". He likely died fighting in the confu-

sion surrounding the island's last stand.

Teddy Sheean is the last of the five with no known grave. HMAS Armidale was attacked relentlessly from the skies by Japanese aircraft on 1 December 1941, and hit by at least one torpedo. Despite "Abandon Ship" being ordered, he returned to his 20mm Oerlikon gun to defend his shipmates from the strafing and circling enemy. Armidale has not been found. She lies in waters closer to Timor than Australia, and a search for her has begun at least in analysing the records of the action.



It is a sad aspect for the bravest of our brave that they lie in unmarked graves. But at least we can remember them by recalling their stories.

-o-o-O-o-o-

Dr Tom Lewis OAM is a military historian. His latest books include Teddy Sheean VC, and – for upper primary/junior secondary – Australia Remembers 4: the Bombing of Darwin, both released by Big Sky Publishing.

ACT Section member Tom Lewis is working on his next book - see

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Lewis_\(author\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Lewis_(author))

for his others

The Steel Ship - Life & Death in HMAS Sydney and WWII ships of her kind

He would be grateful to hear from members who may have diaries or letters dealing the everyday aspects of such ships. In particular he seek aspects of the lives of the less-previously described ship's company members: bandsmen, chaplains, engineers, communicators, electrical and so on.

*He can be reached at
talewis@bigpond.com*

HMAS *Stirling* marks 44 years of service

10 August 2022

Navy's biggest base celebrated a birthday milestone recently as HMAS *Stirling* marked 44 years of service to the nation.

The base, located 4km offshore from Rockingham on Garden Island, Western Australia, was commissioned in 1978 and named in honour of Captain James Stirling who established the Swan River Colony in 1827.

Commanding Officer *Stirling* Captain Gary Lawton said before the arrival of Captain Stirling, Garden Island played a significant role in the lives of First Nation people.

"This island was known as Meandip by the Whadjuk people, the traditional owners of the land, and played an important cultural part in their day-to-day lives," Captain Lawton said.

The Commonwealth purchased the island in 1913 and in 1966 began planning for a naval establishment to be built there.

"The base has certainly changed a lot over the past 44 years with plenty more buildings, personnel, ships and, of course, almost the entire submarine force."

Garden Island is included on the Commonwealth Cultural List for its natural values.

By Lieutenant Gary McHugh



Above: Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling Captain Gary Lawton cuts HMAS Stirling's birthday cake with the base's youngest member Seaman Amity Coyer.

Photo: Lieutenant Gary McHugh



Left: HMAS Stirling on commissioning 28 July 1978. HMA Ships Stalwart, Perth, Vendetta and Derwent were berthed at the main wharf and HMAS Diamantina (I) at the smaller wharf.

Below: HMAS Stirling 44 years later. The wharf at the top of the picture is named after HMAS Diamantina (I).

Photos: Defence

In 1973, a 4.3km causeway linking the island to the mainland was completed and work began on *Stirling*, which was subsequently commissioned five years later..

Chief Petty Officer Physical Training Instructor Tim Ayling was present at the commissioning ceremony and is still a serving member today.

"In the early days, there were only a handful of buildings and a bus would come around and collect us to take us for lunch at the Junior Sailors Mess because the distances between buildings was so vast," Chief Petty Officer Ayling said.





*William Alexander Dargie (1913-2003) Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 1954
Historic Memorials Collection, Parliament House Art Collection
Department of Parliamentary Services, Canberra ACT*

***Sir William Dargie* KB CBE**

An accomplished war artist during the Second World War, William Dargie (1912-2003) was an eight-time winner of the Archibald Prize for portraiture. In 1954 he was commissioned by Melbourne industrialist James P. Beveridge (1881-1954) as the first Australian to paint the portrait of the newly-crowned Queen Elizabeth II (1926 - 2022)