



NAVAL HISTORY

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

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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RANR RFD RET'D

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CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD
RANR

Listed in the following are some of the memorable events in naval history that have transpired during the month of August:-

AUGUST 1900

It was in August 1900 that her Majesty's South Australian Cruiser “Protector” sailed for China to engage in the Boxer Rebellion.

AUGUST 1908

The United States Great White Fleet visited Australia during their World cruise, arriving in Melbourne on the 29th of the month.

AUGUST 1914

At the outbreak of World War One the Defence Minister, Senator Millen, announced in Melbourne on Sunday 9th August 1914 that approval had been given for a Military force being formed to be designated as the **“Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force”**. **The force was raised** in record time and on 19th August 1914, it sailed from Sydney Harbour for active service in German New Guinea.

The Navy League member the late CMDR. Stan Veale, CMG**, RANR was a member of the force in which he served as a midshipman. CMDR Veale claimed to have been one of the first 200 Australians to go into action in World War One.

AUGUST 1941

HMAS CASTLEMAINE, the last of the 60 Australian built Bathurst Class minesweeper – Corvettes still afloat, was launched by Dame Pattie Menzies at Williamstown Victoria on 7th August 1941.

“Castlemaine” has therefore been afloat for 75 years and is moored not far from her original launching place, after having steamed some 117,000 miles during WW2 service.

I have no doubt that the reason Ex HMAS CASTLEMAINE is still afloat today, is due in no small way to the sterling efforts of Peter Williams and his loyal small band of volunteer helpers.

HMAS BATHURST the lead ship of the class and the first of 60 built in Australia was launched on the first of August 1940 at Cockatoo Island Sydney.

AUGUST 1942

HMAS ARUNTA, under the command of CMDR J.C. Morrow RAN, sank the Japanese submarine R033 off Port Moresby.

AUGUST 1942

It was the 9th August 1942 that HMAS CANBERRA was lost during the battle of Savo Island, the result of a surprise Japanese attack.

Eighty three of “Canberra’s” complement were lost during the action including her Commanding Officer Captain F.E. Getting.

The United States Navy also suffered heavy losses of men and ships in this action including the cruisers “Quincy” “Astoria” and “Vincennes” with the loss of 939 lives.

AUGUST 1943

On the night of 1st August 1943, a Japanese destroyer group of the “Tokyo Express” successfully ran supplies through to Villa in the Pacific despite attempts by United States PT. Boats to frustrate the effort. As the enemy ships retired on the fulfillment of their mission, the Japanese Destroyer “Amagiri” rammed and sank PT109 commanded by Lieutenant Kennedy, USNR. Kennedy and the surviving 10 members of his crew – two were lost – reached the shore of a small island east of Gizo. From there LEUT Kennedy sent a message, scratched on a coconut shell, by friendly natives to Wana Wana Island, where Coastwatcher LEUT Evans organized the rescue of LEUT Kennedy who eventually arrived hidden under ferns in the bottom of a native canoe. Arrangements were then made for the rescue of the remainder of PT109’S crew from their island hiding place by another P.T. Boat.

And so it was that a future President of the United States of America John F. Kennedy was saved by an Australian Coastwatcher, LEUT Reg Evans RANVR.

AUGUST 1945

The Japanese Government surrendered unconditionally, thus ending World War Two.

Admiral William F. “Bull” Halsey of the U.S. Third Fleet, plus units of the British Pacific Fleet formed part of various task forces in Japanese waters at that time including British and American Task Force 37 and Task Force 38 under the commands of Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings and US Vice Admiral John S. McCain.

United States leaders initially considered that the landing and occupation force planned for Japan was to be essentially American however, the British Pacific Fleet provided a landing force for Yokosuka and the Royal Navy landing battalion was placed under the command of the RAN’S Captain H.J. Buchanan of the Seventh Flotilla in HMAS NAPIER, which was a fine tribute to this distinguished Australian Officer.

The Japanese seaport of Yokosuka remains to this day a strategic naval base with units of the US. Navy forward deployed and home based at Yokosuka. These ships include the aircraft carrier ‘USS GEORGE WASHINGTON’, cruisers, the command ship “USS BLUE RIDGE” and the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers of destroyer squadron 15.

Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA TASMANIA DIVISION

Will be held at the Box Hill RSL, Nelson Road Box Hill Victoria

On Saturday 10th September 2016 at 10:00AM



VICTORIA-TASMANIA DIVISION

Tasmania Established 1900, Victoria October 1915

2016-2017 ANNUAL DUES

JUNE 30TH 2016

Please forward annual payment of **\$35.00** to Hon. Secretary R Gill by 30th June and that will assist our Honorary Officers responsible for the administration.

Payment can be made direct by internet banking into our account....

BSB 033 389 ACCOUNT NO; 107631 WESTPAC

Or POST to

P.O. BOX 2340 MOUNT WAVERLEY 3149

Please ensure reference name is included.

We hope you are enjoying Navy League's quarterly journal "The Navy".

We hold occasional Welcome Luncheons for visiting ships and special events depending on ship arrivals so please let our Secretary Ray know if you are Interested in being notified of these events and we will update our records.

To contact Secretary phone 9884 6237 or email...raydotgill@optusnet.com.au

If you/or a friend would like to attend events or need advice.

Yours Aye!

CMDR *John M Wilkins* OAM RFD*
Hon Treasurer – Events Co-Ordinator
03 9842 4256

HMAS CANBERRA EXERCISES WITH USMC

The following image depicts a United State Marine Corps V22 OSPREY aircraft cross decking with the LHD HMAS CANBERRA off the coast of Hawaii during the recent “Rimpac 2016” exercises.

The landing and take-off of the STOVL OSPREY shows the interoperability of the RAN with Coalition partners in particular the US.

The OSPREY which is also operated by the US Airforce has a cruising speed of 446KM per hour at sea level, a range of more than 1600 kilometres, and the capacity to carry up to 32 troops or 9000kgs of cargo

Exercise “Rimpac” (Rim of the Pacific) is the world’s largest international maritime exercise. “Rimpac” is a United States Pacific Fleet Biennial combined exercise involving forces from 26 countries.

Approximately 45 surface ships five submarines, 200 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel, including 1000 from Australia, participated in “Rimpac 2016” in and around the Hawaiian Islands.



AS IT WAS IN AUGUST 2006

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent naval history at items that involved, or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our "Keep Watch" brief. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports to August 2006. We note that it was around this time we reported on the following:-

1. Visit to Melbourne by HMAS SYDNEY FFG03
2. UK NAVY CADET HISTORY
3. USS ZUMWALT
4. COMPENSATION FOR NAVY OFFICER

HMAS SYDNEY VISITS MELBOURNE

A recent visitor to Melbourne was the guided missile frigate HMAS SYDNEY FFG03, under the command of CMDR Guy Hothouse (son of RADM Holthouse) with LCDR Simon Cannel as Executive Officer. HMAS SYDNEY has just recently completed a multimillion dollar conversion project, which included the installation of a new missile system.

A planned NLA luncheon for SYDNEY did not eventuate due to arrival timing alterations, however, the League through Victorian President CMDR John Wilkins presented Senior Officers from HMAS SYDNEY with an NLA plaque during another function on 22nd July 2006 held at Chelsea RSL. Shortly after the ships arrival I had the opportunity of accepting the XO'S kind hospitality of morning tea in the Wardroom during which time I distributed copies of the Navy Magazine. The XO is a veteran of Gulf War One.

During HMAS SYDNEY'S time in Victorian waters the ashes of WW1 veteran Evan Allan were scattered, Evan also an RAN veteran of WW11, served in the first HMAS SYDNEY.

Following her Melbourne visit, HMAS SYDNEY returned to the East Coast exercise area to join with HMAS NEWCASTLE and to assist NEWCASTLE through her working up period.

NAVY CADET HISTORY TS ADVENTURE – BRISTOL UK

Further to my package of notes relating to the origin of Naval Cadets, it is interesting to note the UK Sea Cadets were in existence in 1856, but as such, had no official organisation supporting them.

The first Navy League Group in Great Britain, TS ADVENTURE, was formed at Bristol in 1895 and has the distinction of holding the Navy League certificate No.1 granted to them that year.

In 1910, further Navy League units were formed in Bristol. On May 23rd 1938 the Bristol branch of the Sea Cadet Corps was formed, its first meeting being held at the Victoria Rooms.

On November 21st 1938 Admiral Sir William James presented their first colours at the Victoria rooms. The Duke of Beaufort presided at the occasion, along with Lord Lloyd of Dolobran, President of the Navy League.

In 1942, the training of Sea Cadets became a joint operation between the Navy League and the Admiralty with His Majesty King George VI becoming the Sea Cadets Corps first Admiral.

In July 1965, the unit moved to new headquarters at Deal Cottages, Cumberland Basin.

Still based at Deal Cottage February 2006 saw the unit hard at work on a week's training exercise at HMS RALEIGH.

USS ZUMWALT FOR 2012

The next generation US destroyer program will be split between two shipyards Northrop Gruman and Bath Iron Works.

The class will be known as the Zumwalt Class named after former Chief of Navy Admiral Elmo R "Bud" Zumwalt JR, who held the post during the Vietnam War period.

The first ship of the class USS ZUMWALT pendant No.1000 is scheduled for commissioning in 2012.

***ED NOTE:** USS ZUMWALT DDG1000 is now scheduled to be commissioned October 15th 2016.

AS IT WAS IN AUGUST 2006 C'TND

OFFICER COMPENSATED

The Defence Department has reached a confidential settlement with one of Australia's most Senior Female Navy Officers, who claimed she was Discriminated against during her service at the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1986-87, and when she was removed from the position of Executive Officer at HMAS STIRLING in Western Australia during October 2006.

The Defence Department will compensate Lieutenant Commander Robyn Fahy and help her transition to a civilian job.

HMAS PIRIE – THE NEW AND THE OLD

Ship No.5 of the new Armidale Class of Patrol Boats, HMAS PIRIE was commissioned on Saturday July 29th 2006.

HMAS PIRIE Pendant No87 is the second ship so named for the RAN. The first HMAS PIRIE was a Bathurst Class Minesweeper-Corvette that served with distinction during the WW11 period, spending much time around the islands to the north of Australia.

The first HMAS PIRIE unfortunately had the distinction of having an alleged mutinous crew when a dispute in 1943 led to charges being laid against some of the crew.

Meanwhile, the two extra Armidale Class Patrol Boats that will take the proposed fleet from 12 to 14 boats have been named as GLENELG and MARYBOROUGH, which is in keeping with naming the class after former Bathurst Class Ships and Australian regional towns.

This also means that Victoria still only has the one boat named after a Victorian town or City in HMAS ARARAT the home town of the current Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Shalders and his brother Commodore Rick Shalders Commander of the RAN'S submarine fleet and Senior Naval Officer Western Australia.

Nuship ARARAT is scheduled to commission in Melbourne's dockland area on 14th October 2006.



HMAS ARARAT II

Membership

Any person with an interest in maritime affairs, or who wishes to acquire an interest in, or knowledge of, maritime affairs and who wishes to support the objectives of the League, is invited to join.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the Navy League of Australia is” The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the Nation” by:

- Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong Navy supported by maritime elements of the Air Force and Army and other Government Maritime agencies are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital to the freedom of Australia.
- Promoting defence self-reliance by supporting maritime research, defence industry, Australian shipping, ship-building, port and transport infrastructure and off shore resource exploration and development.
- Promoting and encouraging the interest and training of youth in the sea.

ACTIVITIES

The Navy League of Australia works towards its objectives in a number of ways:

- By including in its membership leading representatives of the many elements which form the maritime community.
- Through soundly- based contributions by members to journals and newspapers, and other media comment.
- By publishing *The Navy*, a quarterly journal reporting on local and overseas maritime happenings, past, present, and projected.
- By organizing symposia, ship visits and various other functions of maritime interests throughout the years.
- By supporting Australian Navy Cadets, and assisting in the provision of training facilities.

Member participation is encouraged in all these activities.

POLICY

The policy of the League can be found at the back of *The Navy*.

Joining the League

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of The Navy), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.
Victoria Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.
Queensland Division: PO Box 2495, Chermside Centre, QLD 4032.
South Australia Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
Western Australia Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

*If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victoria Division.
If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australia Division respectively.*

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



To: The Hon. Secretary
The Navy League of Australia

Division _____

I wish to join the Navy League of Australia, the objectives of which I support, and I enclose a remittance for \$35.00 (including \$3.18 GST) being my first annual subscription to 30 June next.

Name: [Mr] [Mrs] [Ms] [Rank] _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Street _____

Suburb _____ State _____ P/code _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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