



BROADSIDE

August 2019

Volume 9 Edition 8

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1125

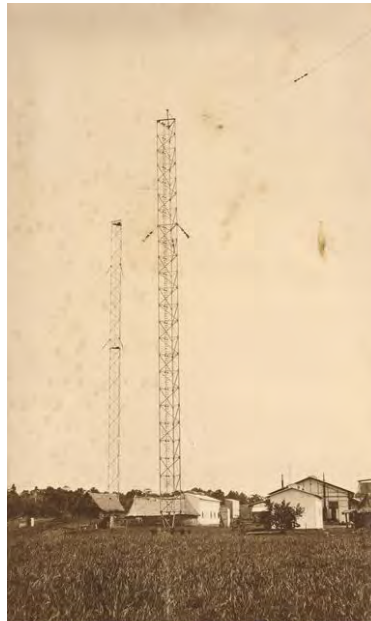
The Battle of Bita Paka – 11 September 1914

During the late 1800s and early 1900s the Germans established a network of powerful wireless and telegraph stations in the south-west Pacific. These stations enabled them to communicate quickly with Germany and with German ships in the region. When Britain declared war on Germany, Australia was asked to destroy the radio stations and to occupy German New Guinea and the surrounding areas.

A special force was to be raised for this task. Recruiting for the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) began on 10 August 1914. Less than ten days later Colonel William Holmes DSO had recruited, equipped, and embarked a 1,000-strong infantry battalion and 500 naval reservists and ex-seamen. The naval reservists were drawn from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

As well as the infantry battalion and naval brigade, the force included two machine-gun sections, a signals section, and a medical section. An additional militia battalion from north Queensland was to join the force at Port Moresby. The ANMEF left Sydney on 19 August aboard HMAT *Berrima* escorted by HMAS *Sydney*.

While the ANMEF was training at Palm Island, near Townsville, *Berrima* was joined by the stores ship Aorangi and HMAS *Encounter*.



Wireless mast at Bita Paka. c1914

Events Calendar

(see website calendar for full details)

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31 Aug-07 Sep – Legacy Week – please give generously.

03 Sep – Merchant Navy Day, service at Shrine.

04 Sep – Battle for Australia Memorial Service.

04 Sep – Soundwaves Concert in Cinema HMAS Cerberus, 1400 & 1900.

11 Sep – Battle of Bita Paka Service.

13-18 Sep – HMAS Melbourne visits, berths at Station Pier – TBC.

14 Sep – HMAS Melbourne Freedom of Entry march – TBC.

15 Sep – Loss of AE1 Commemorative Service.

23 Sep – Naval Historical Society Meeting - all welcome.

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

02 Oct – Soundwaves Concert.

06 Oct – Portarlington Public Concert – RAN Concert band.

Latest Videos and News Headlines

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

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

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LATEST VIDEOS.....

- Day in the life video of Leading Seaman Aircrewman Daniel Atkins
- HMAS Coonawarra ceremonial support for NT Navy Week
- HMAS Hobart fires first missile on

Submarines *AE1* and *AE2* joined the convoy on the way to Port Moresby, where it was met by HMAS *Warrego* and *Yarra* and the requisitioned liner *Kanowna* (which was sent home shortly afterward following an on-board mutiny by the ship's stokers and did not take part in any action). The convoy rendezvoused with HMAS *Australia* at Rossel Island before continuing on to Rabaul.



Location of Bitia Paka 1914.

On 11 September 1914, shore parties landed unopposed at Rabaul and nearby Kabakaul, where a patrol of 25 Australian naval reservists pushed inland to the wireless station at Bitia Paka. There they were engaged by a composite force of German reservists and Melanesian police.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A02544

German New Guinea local troops at drill, being trained by German Reservists, shortly before the arrival of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force.

As a result of the action, six Australians from the ANMEF were killed or died of wounds, and another four were wounded. One German was killed and one wounded. New Guinea troops suffered 41 casualties, with 30 killed and 11 wounded. RAN Reserve Officer Lieutenant Bond was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for his action in disarming eight Germans and causing the surrender of 20 New Guineans.

It was at this battle that the first Australian casualty of World War 1

home station

- LS Ruby Flinders Promotion to Petty Officer Boatswain
- HMAS Canberra returns home
- Arrival of Chilean tall ship *Esmeralda*
- Real life Rocket Man debuts over water

NEWS.....

Veteran wellbeing, mental health, homelessness and transition have been the focus of a meeting between federal, state and territory Ministers in Canberra today.

Recent photos reveal the construction of China's largest amphibious assault ship is progressing at a shipyard in the metropolis of Shanghai.

HMAS Melbourne (III)'s final cruise has also served as a fitting final voyage for the ashes of Captain John Philip Stevenson.

The Morrison Government is reaffirming its commitment to freedom of navigation and safe passage through the Gulf by announcing it will support an international maritime security mission.

Projects focused on mental health support for younger veterans will be prioritised in the next round of the Supporting Younger Veterans grants program.

Australia's record \$95 billion shipbuilding program is poised to reshape the nation's naval shipbuilding capacity and the future warfare capabilities of the Royal Australian Navy.

Australia's Armidale Class patrol boats have steadily experienced mission creep throughout their operational life, therefore it is reasonable to assume that the succeeding Arafura Class will be required to play a variety of roles.

Global Wrap: This global wrap-up provides updates of industry developments across the globe, including new procurement deals, capability introductions and key announcements.

occurred, that of Able Seaman Billy Williams, a sailor from Northcote, Melbourne. An enemy sniper fired at him from a tree top, hitting him in the stomach and fatally wounding him, the first of more than 60,000 Australians killed in World War I. Tragically, he had nearly completed his five years as a reservist and only had a week to go when war was declared.



Able Seaman William Williams,
Royal Australian Naval Reserve

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

HO465

A ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Bitia Paka will be held in the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance on Wednesday, 11 September 2019 commencing at 11.00am. A wreath will be laid on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy by the Senior Naval Officer – Victoria, Commodore Grey Yorke. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Content obtained from the Australian War Memorial website

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.



- † LEUT R.E. Gill, 21 August 2019.
- † CPOEWE D.T. Cook, R93060, 19 August 2019. Aged 75.
- † TEL H.E. Telford, R49840, 14 August 2019. Aged 87.
- † AB D.A. Adcock, PA1886, 14 August 2019. Aged 98.
- † PO A.N. McKelvie, 01 August 2019. Aged 97.
- † POEWE R. Huppatz, August 2019. Aged 76.
- † POSV P.G. Ashton, R55746, 31 July 2019. Aged 80.
- † CPORSS G. Mettam, R64949, 31 July 2019. Aged 70.
- † LSSTO G.E. Steele OAM, S4165, 31 July 2019. Aged 98.
- † AB A.B. Waugh OAM, PM6571, 02 July 2019. Aged 93.
- † SURG LEUT S. Sakker, 30 June 2019. Aged 81.
- † LEUT J.L. Bennetts, 29 June 2019. Aged 75.

Lest We Forget

Note: VALE Notices

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

'Five Eyes' on China: This is your weekly look at recent developments in the South China Sea.

The third of 21 Guardian-class patrol boats donated by Australia to partners in the Pacific region has been escorted to Tonga by HMAS Armadale.

The Australian Government has today handed over the newest Guardian-class Patrol Boat Nafanua II to the Samoan Government.

A UK-led joint staff of Royal Navy and French Marine Nationale assumed command of the Bahrain-based Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 from the Pakistan Navy.

The Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester today launched the fourth Defence Reconciliation Action Plan.

Defence Minister Linda Reynolds has reinforced Australia's position as an Indian Ocean power during a speech at the Indo-Pacific Conference.

Western Australian Premier Mark McGowan and Minister for Defence Issues Paul Papalia have responded to two studies into the Collins Class submarine full-cycle docking maintenance program, which have found significant strategic and economic benefits of moving this work to Western Australia.

The Royal Navy has discharged three submariners after they failed a compulsory drug test. The submariners are understood to have served aboard Vanguard-class submarine HMS Vengeance.

A wargame publisher has been hired to help explore ways the Royal Navy and other UK armed forces services could use games for educational purposes. UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) has awarded gaming company Slitherine a two-year contract worth up to £1.5 million to demonstrate the potential of games to enhance training.

A selection of photos from the Battle of Savo Island and the sinking of HMAS Canberra Commemorative Service held in the Sanctuary at the Shrine of Remembrance on 09 August 2019. Photos courtesy: Chris Banfield.



Australia's Two Ocean policy, established in the late 1980s, marked a major shift in the naval force posture of the Royal Australian Navy as it shifted away from the last vestiges of power projection in the region toward continental defence in the sea-air gap. However, the rapidly evolving balance of regional power raises an important question about the validity of a three-decade-old policy.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) wants its dental and allied health service arrangements to continue meeting the needs of veterans and their families. For this reason, DVA is making changes to strengthen the quality of allied health care.

Leading Seaman Ruby Flinders was promoted to the rank of Petty Officer last week in what was a special milestone for the four-legged sailor and her proud shipmates. Petty Officer Flinders is posted to West Head Gunnery Range on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, where she serves as the range's mascot and brings joy to the ship's company every day.

A former Royal Australian Navy sailor who has been awarded for his bravery in the aftermath of a tragic accident 50 years ago will never forget the fear he experienced that fateful morning.

The Northern Irish shipyard that built the Titanic ceased business Aug. 5, and its part in a bid to build a new class of the general-purpose frigate for the British Royal Navy appears to have sunk with it.

The UK has confirmed its navy ships would join US assets on a new international maritime security mission in the Persian Gulf.

HMAS Paluma has been formally recognised as the 'First Lady of the Fleet', assuming the title of longest serving ship in the Royal Australian Navy.

Families of serving, transitioning, or ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who are experiencing mental health concerns

A selection of photos from the opening of the permanent exhibition of a collection of model ships by Max Montague at Seaworks Maritime Discovery Centre.



More photos can be seen at <http://navyvic.net/gallery/gallery.html> or visit Seaworks at 82 Nelson Place, Williamstown.

following trauma now have a new resource to help them.

More than 270 Australian Defence Force personnel have been farewelled at Robertson Barracks in Darwin today ahead of their upcoming deployment to the Middle East Region.

The Japanese government intends to acquire around 20 unmanned helicopters for its Maritime Self Defense Forces.

Melbourne has in effect turned its back on its rich maritime heritage. Melbourne was, and is still, a great port city. Trade by sea was, and is still, crucial in underpinning Melbourne's economic prosperity. Melbourne remains the nations largest port. This cultural and economic strength in Melbourne has not been adequately acknowledged in the public realm and thus far remains undervalued and inadequately exploited by government. The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) was formed to address these 'deficits'.

China's new defence white paper, China's National Defense in the New Era, has shifted the rising superpower's focus to developing a force structure and system of systems capable of supporting its ambitions towards the Indo-Pacific and its national interests, providing a clear message – we're the new king.

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

Naval Historical Society [August newsletter](#)

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

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

Visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for more news articles not included in this newsletter.

