



# BROADSIDE

August 2021

Volume 11 Edition 8

## Editorial



Each year, there is normally a wreath laying service at the Shrine of Remembrance to honour the service and sacrifice of those who served aboard N-Class Destroyers. Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID restrictions this year's service has been cancelled. There will be a virtual service streamed by the Shrine of Remembrance at 1100 on 29th August. In recognition of the significant contribution made by the N-Class Destroyers we have dedicated this month's editorial to all those who served aboard them.

### History and War Service of the N Class

The N-Class destroyers were a flotilla of ships built for the Royal Navy. Early in WW2, five were loaned to the RAN to be manned by Australian sailors. The *Napier*, *Nestor*, *Nizam*, *Norman* and *Nepal* subsequently served in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.



*HMAS Napier at sea*

The RAN's 'N' Class Destroyers displaced 2,500 tons, length 356½ft, beam 35ft, and a draught of 16ft. Armament was 6×4.7" guns (in three mountings), Oerlikon AA guns, 45 depth charges with two

## Events Calendar

(see [Calendar](#) for full details)



**NOTE:** Due to COVID-19, it is advisable to check with the coordinators to confirm whether the event you were planning to attend is still going ahead. We will endeavour to keep the Diary updated as news comes to hand.

**At present the Shrine of Remembrance is closed, but ceremonies are still being conducted and they are live streamed on the Shrine's [Facebook page](#).**

*28 Aug - 05 Sep – Legacy Badge Week Collections*

*29 Aug – Fleet Air Arm Association Memorial Service*

*31 Aug – Korean Veterans Service*

*01 Sep – Battle for Australia Memorial Service*

*03 Sep – Merchant Navy Day Service*

*08 Sep – Soundwaves concert TBC*

*11 Sep – Battle of Bitu Paka Service*

*12 Sep – AE1 & AE2 Commemorative Service*

*12 Sep – Victorian Emergency Services Service*

*27 Sep – Naval Historical Society Meeting*

*06 Oct – Soundwaves concert*

*10 Oct – Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service*

*11 Oct – Normandy Veterans Association Ceremony*

throwers, 10x21" torpedoes, speed – 36 knots and complement of 226 officers and ratings. At a cost of around £600,000, they were built in various British shipyards and commissioned over the period 1940-41 with the exception of *Nepal*, who due to extensive bomb damage during construction, had to be practically rebuilt before commissioning in 1942.

*Napier* and *Nizam* served initially in the Eastern Mediterranean where they arrived towards the end of May 1941 just in time for the evacuation of Crete in which they played a prominent part embarking hundreds of members of the Australian Army's 6th Division. After taking part in support of the land forces involved in the Syrian campaign, both ships were then engaged in what has been dubbed the "Tobruk Ferry Service" supplying the besieged garrison with much needed stores, ammunition, exchange troops and bringing out wounded. *Nizam* did no less than 14 round trips, including the last carried out in full moonlight. Other duties for both ships included fleet and convoy escort including those involved in the relief of Malta.

Meantime *Nestor's* area of operation was confined more to the Atlantic and Western Mediterranean where among other exploits she was credited with the destruction of a U-boat. She eventually joined *Napier* and *Nizam* in Alexandria in December 1941, but more on *Nestor's* war service later.

*Norman* commissioned in September 1941 and after trials commenced escort duties in the North Atlantic. Then a voyage from Iceland to Russia with a British trade delegation to Archangel. In January 1942, *Norman* left England in a huge convoy down the South Atlantic to South Africa. The four sister ships were finally united in Trincomalee, then a British Naval Base on the East coast of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), where they formed part of a newly established British Eastern Fleet.

The newest N class Destroyer, *Nepal*, commissioned 1st May 1942, joined the other N boats in November and set to work with them in the Eastern Fleet. For the remainder of 1942 and early 1943 the 'N's were engaged in combating a serious U - boat threat to Allied shipping around the Cape of Good Hope.

1944 saw the ships kept busy fulfilling the constant demand for convoy protection duties in addition to acting as part of the screen for the Fleet when engaged in offensive operations against the

## Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

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### VIDEOS.....

- *Submarine Combat Information Center (CIC) of the Future*
- *ADF Vaccination Outreach Program launched in Dubbo*
- *Cerberus Redevelopment Project Update*
- *HMAS Ballarat arrives home from regional deployment*
- *ADF supports Afghanistan evacuees*
- *Northrop Grumman Very Light Weight Torpedo (VLWT) at Sea Air Space 2021*
- *Navy trains with US and Japan in Large Scale Global Exercise 21*
- *Sea Air Space 2021 - Day 2*
- *Major Damage Control Exercise on board HMAS Ballarat*
- *HMAS Supply Ship's Company - One Unit, One Team*
- *Sea Air Space 2021 - Day 1*
- *Music selection grows*
- *HMAS Supply's first refuel at sea*
- *National Science Week 2021 - Defence Science and Technology Group*
- *Submarine Escape and Rescue in Australia Webinar July 2021*
- *HMAS Canberra I Memorial At Sea*

### NEWS.....

*Severn resurrects wartime paint scheme as she rejoins the Naval family. The combination of blue-grey and green-grey on a background of white and light grey was first applied to destroyer HMS Broke in 1940.*

*The Royal Australian Navy will join key regional partners India, Japan and the United States for Exercise MALABAR 2021. Anzac class frigate HMAS Warramunga will join ships and aircraft from participating nations for the high-end military exercise off the coast of*

Japanese. In December 1944 the 'N's were based temporarily at Chittagong at the head of the Bay of Bengal from where they were engaged in supporting the British Army troops in their push against the Japanese along the coast of Burma. Action included bombardment from the sea of enemy positions in mountainous country, transporting commandos and other assault troops and pre-landing bombardment of Japanese held beaches.

The formation by 1945 of a British Pacific Fleet based on Sydney meant that the 'N's could at last be stationed in Australia to join with the rest of the RAN in the final months of the Pacific War. On 1st April 1945 they left Sydney and headed north to join the Fleet which was operating in the Okinawa area, returning to Sydney briefly in June for repairs and boiler cleaning. Then northwards again to re-join the British Fleet which had by then linked up with three US Task Forces in an area close to Japan from where sustained air attacks were being made on the Japanese mainland by carrier based planes.

The presence of *Napier*, *Nizam*, *Norman* and *Nepal* in Tokyo Bay on 2nd September 1945 when surrender documents were signed on board USS Missouri was a fitting finale to their illustrious record of active service since 1941.

With the end of hostilities, they spent short deployments in Japanese waters, before returning to Sydney, and in October 1945, *Napier*, *Nizam*, *Norman* and *Nepal* were returned to Royal Navy control. They served in the RN till disposed of in the mid-1950s. Only *Nestor* was lost in action.

### HMAS NESTOR



*Nestor's commissioning bell now on display in the Museum of HMAS Cerberus.*



*Nestor* was commissioned on the Clyde on 3 February 1941 under the command of Commander George Stewart, RAN. She joined the Home Fleet based at Scapa Flow and spent the first months of

*Guam in the Indo-Pacific.*

*Putin launches construction of six warships and submarines for Russian Navy*

*"Every single one of us that went, knows the difference we made on the ground when we were over there." These are the words of one contemporary veteran who I met with following the unfolding events in Afghanistan.*

*The crew of Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Ballarat has been welcomed back to Garden Island, Western Australia after four months deployed.*

*Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt is now the commanding officer of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln — becoming the first woman to lead a nuclear carrier in U.S. Navy history.*

*One of the darkest hours in the history of women serving in the Royal Navy was remembered in Yeovilton today — 80 years on from the tragedy. In August 1941 the SS Aguila left for Portugal and Gibraltar with nearly 1,300 tonnes of general cargo and almost 100 military personnel embarked. Among the passengers: nine female officers and 12 ratings of the Women's Royal Naval Service, the latter all hand-picked chief wireless telegraphers assigned to the communications centre at the naval air station in Gibraltar.*

*Petty Officer Electronics Technician Emma Barnett joined the Navy as a gap year sailor and is living proof you can do anything you put your mind to.*

*Russia's secretive special survey ship Yantar raises eyebrows when she appears off Western shores. She has previously been noted conducting operations off Syria, in the Persian Gulf and off Americas. Now she is off the coast of Ireland, loitering in the vicinity of*

service escorting North Atlantic convoys, on patrol and screening the fleet capital ships at sea.

Commander Stewart was replaced as Commanding Officer in early May 1941 and Commander Alvord Rosenthal RAN, became the new Commanding Officer. In late May, *Nestor* was a unit of the force which hunted and sank the German battleship *Bismarck*, although having been diverted to Iceland to refuel she was not with the force when the *Bismarck* was eventually sunk on 27 May 1941.

In July 1941 *Nestor* entered the Mediterranean for the first time when she operated as one of the escorts for the passage of important Malta convoys (Operation SUSTENANCE). In August she saw further Mediterranean service before proceeding on escort duties to the South Atlantic. In October 1941 she returned to England for repairs and refit.

Escort duties were resumed on 5 December 1941 when she sailed from Devonport to rendezvous with a Gibraltar bound convoy. On 15 December, off Cape St Vincent, she sighted the German submarine *U-127* on the surface at a distance of about seven miles. *Nestor* opened fire with her main armament, forcing the U-boat to dive, and after gaining contact made a successful attack with depth charge. She was later officially credited with the destruction of *U-127* which was lost with all hands.



*HMAS Nestor*

On Christmas Eve 1941 *Nestor* returned to Malta. Two days later she proceeded as one of the escorts of a convoy bound for Alexandria and on 30 December, sailed from that port on the screen

*underwater internet cables.*

*Ex-service organisations from across the nation have met with the Australian Government today to throw their support behind efforts underway to assist veterans and families impacted by the situation in Afghanistan.*

*The Navy is sending the amphibious warship USS Arlington (LPD-24) to assist with the humanitarian aid mission in Haiti in the aftermath of an Aug. 14 earthquake, Pentagon officials said on Tuesday. The aftermath of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake has killed at least 1,941 and wreaked havoc across the southwestern Tiburon Peninsula.*

*Victoria's COVID-19 Household Engagement Program has continued its vital work over the past month, assisted by personnel from the ADF.*

*Communications, remote sensing and precision navigation and timing for warships and submarines is becoming more and more important – and satellite technology is making the process that much easier.*

*For Staff Officer Navy Cyber Operations Chief Petty Officer Kathleen Price, no two days are the same. Working at Navy's Information Warfare team, she ensures Navy has the right people, skills, equipment and resources to combat the growing threat of cyber information warfare to Defence's warfighting capability.*

*The Royal Australian Navy's Lieutenant Commander Josh Cowell gained amphibious warfare experience while recently deployed on operations in the Baltic Sea region with the Royal Navy Littoral Response Group (North) aboard HMS Albion.*

*As a child growing up in Lebanon, Lieutenant Commander Fatena El-Masri dreamed of being an astronaut, but she*

of the heavy ships for the bombardment of Bardia in Libya, prior to its capture by the British 8th Army.

In January 1942 *Nestor* left the Mediterranean theatre to support operations to reinforce Malaya. On reaching Aden, she was ordered to join the escort of the aircraft carrier HMS *Indomitable*, engaged on ferrying aircraft to the Malayan/Java theatre. The operation successfully concluded, the carrier and her escort proceeded to Port Sudan to load a second flight of planes. Too late to land them in Malaya (Singapore had fallen), they were flown off some 100 miles off Colombo in time to take part in the defence of that port against the first Japanese air attack. Parting from *Indomitable*, *Nestor* proceeded to Trincomalee and after docking at Colombo joined the Eastern Fleet.

In late March and early April *Nestor* was engaged on patrol and escort duties in the Indian Ocean and on the screen of the Fleet. Following a visit to the temporary base of the Eastern Fleet at Kilindini (East Africa) she proceeded on an exercise cruise to Zanzibar and in June returned to the Mediterranean.

At Haifa in June 1942, in company with HMAS *Norman*, she was joined by HMA Ships *Napier* and *Nizam*, forming the 7th Destroyer Flotilla for Operation VIGOROUS, the passage of an east to west Malta convoy. The total covering force comprised eight cruisers and twenty-six destroyers supported by corvettes and nine submarines.

Enemy air attacks carried out almost exclusively by land based aircraft began almost as soon as the convoy left Alexandria. Early attacks were concentrated on the cruisers and the eleven ships of the convoy but later the destroyers became the principal targets.

At about 1800 on 15 June 1942, when the convoy was off the south west corner of Crete, *Nestor* was straddled by a stick of heavy bombs which caused serious damage to her No.1 boiler room and killed four of her personnel.

- † Stoker Petty Officer Jack Bulmer
- † Leading Stoker Matthew Burns
- † Leading Stoker Campbell Hill
- † Stoker Leslie Blight

She was taken in tow by HMS *Javelin*, but she continued to take on water and at about 0530 the next morning (16 June) with the

*now has other dreams. Her love of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects is driving her new dream to set up a program to encourage children studying those disciplines.*

*This is a distressing time for many of our Defence personnel and veterans who served our nation in Afghanistan with courage, dignity and honour, and made such a significant contribution to the allied military effort. We must never forget the 41 Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.*

*Two Navy personnel are finalists in their category in the annual Engineers Australia Engineer of the Year awards. Lieutenant Commander Wesley North is a finalist for the Engineer of the Year Award – Western Australia, and Chief Petty Officer Damien Richards has made the shortlist for the Queensland Young Engineering Associate of the Year category.*

*Behind every great defence force is an army of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians, all working to ensure that those on the frontline have the best technology, knowledge and know-how to outwit, outperform and outsmart adversaries. The ADF is no different.*

*The Chinese military sees the Littoral Combat Ship armed with anti-ship missiles as a key element of a U.S. distributed maritime force in the Western Pacific, according to a translation of a 2020 Chinese government research paper on the U.S. Navy's distributed lethality concept reviewed by USNI News.*

*The Royal Australian Navy's most advanced warships are now ready for operational deployment, boosting Australia's capacity to work with our strategic partners and maintain peace and prosperity in our region. Navy's*

destroyer going down by the bow, permission was requested to scuttle. After the crew had been transferred to *Javelin* she was sunk at about 07:00 by depth charge.



*Survivors from HMAS Nestor onboard HMS Javelin with their salvaged ship's bell.*

Other losses in the attempt to reach Malta from the east included one cruiser, two destroyers, and two merchant ships sunk. Three cruisers, one destroyer and one corvette were damaged.

The Commanding Officer of the *Nestor* during much of her service and at the time of its sinking was Commander A.S. Rosenthal, who went to a successful post war career. It is therefore very appropriate that he is recognised as our naval hero for the month of August.

### **Commodore Alvord Sydney Rosenthal**



**Alvord Sydney Rosenthal** was born on 16 January 1901 at Lewisham, Sydney and educated at The King's School, Parramatta. In 1915 he entered the RAN College at Jervis Bay, from which he graduated in 1918.

In the history of the Australian N Class destroyers, published by the Naval Historical Society of Australia in 1972, they paid the following tribute to Rosenthal:

*'He was one of those rare individuals, a man of ultra-quick decision. For a ship at war, it had to be the right decision*

*Hobart-class Air Warfare Destroyers have reached final operational capability after the third ship, HMAS Sydney, completed a successful test and evaluation period off the coast of the US and Canada.*

*HMAS Supply, one of Navy's two new Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) ships, has completed its first ever Replenishment at Sea (RAS) with HMAS Anzac. This first RAS marks a significant milestone for Navy's refuel and resupply at sea capability, which is critical to extending time at sea for Australian and allied ships.*

*The crews of Australian Armidale-class patrol boat HMAS Glenelg and Republic of Fiji Guardian-class patrol boat RFNS Savenaca have worked together to build the mariner skills of personnel. Glenelg was deployed on Operation Solania supporting the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).*

*The ship's company of HMAS Glenelg shared an unforgettable experience with one of Australia's closest regional partners on July 30.*

*Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs Andrew Gee has today announced significant amendments to the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 which will modernise and streamline disciplinary matters in the Australian Defence Force. "Our military justice system provides the Australian Defence Force with a unique Australian legal framework that is able to be applied on operations anywhere in the world," Minister Gee said.*

*The Australian Defence Force and the United States Armed Forces will partner to develop a new precision missile capability to further interoperability and modernise both militaries. Australia's participation in the US led Precision Strike Missile co-development program contributes to both nations' strategic*

*in a moment of crisis, and NESTOR's illustrious career in a very large measure was due to the man who commanded her. Invariably relaxed and cheerful when off-duty or in harbour, at sea he drove the ship and her complement hard, but it was what everyone expected. He was the master of his profession as a destroyer-man. A capable ship-handler, a meticulous navigator, and insatiably interested in the day-to-day details of the ship's affairs that matter for fighting efficiency. Of bright and breezy personality, forthright and outspoken – not always to senior officers' liking – he was highly regarded by his brother captains in the various fleets in which Nestor served.*

Alvord spent his retirement at Frankston, indulging his hobby of model making. He died on 20 July 1975 at Heidelberg and was cremated. For his full biography is on our website:

<https://navyvic.net/heroes/rosenthal.html>

References:

[Royal Australian Navy](#)

[Naval Historical Society of Australia](#)

Herbert William Rodgers – [“The N Class Destroyer Story”](#)

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team



If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We will list their names in perpetuity on our special [Memorial Wall](#) on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

- † CPOATA3 G.I. Lancaster, R103862, 24 August 2021. Aged 69.
- † CPOMTP J.H. Pearson, R43233, 23 August 2021. Aged 71.
- † CPO C.J. Blaxter, 21 August 2021. Aged 62.
- † POME G. Little, R59505, 21 August 2021. Aged 75.
- † PO P.J. De Leeuw, R64288, 20 August 2021. Aged 70.
- † POSN P. East, 19 August 2021.
- † LEMC D.L. Williams, R42573, 18 August 2021. Aged 75.
- † CPOSY I.K. Harding-Colliss, R93519, 13 August 2021. Aged 75.
- † CPOEM R.A. Brown, R32923, 06 August 2021. Aged 92.
- † WOCOX C.F. O'Flynn, R50591, 04 August 2021. Aged 85.
- † CPOMTP B.E. Bennett, R65838, 03 August 2021. Aged 73.
- † CPOWTR R.C. Collins, R51612, 01 August 2021. Aged 87.
- † CMDR N.A. MacMillan RFD RD (MC) RAN, 29 July 2021. Aged 89.
- † LCDR S.A. Young RAN, 27 July 2021. Aged 64.
- † LCDR T. Hodges CSM RAN, 27 July 2021.
- † ABQMG H.E. Williams, R54625, 24 July 2021. Aged 80.

*objectives, delivering on a key aspect of Australia's 2020 Defence Strategic Update.*

*373,500 Australians have served in the Australian Defence Force over the past 35 years, of which 59,000 are currently serving, according to new statistics released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.*

*Despite the challenges faced in 2020 because of COVID-19, the team at HMAS Cerberus in Victoria defied the odds with a record number of blood donations; a record they hope to surpass when the challenge kicks off in September.*

*The Navy's Anzac Class frigate fleet is one step closer to operating next-generation sovereign air search radar technology. The SEA 1448 Phase 4B project – which aims to replace the SPS-49(V)8 Air Search Radar on the Royal Australian Navy's fleet of eight Anzac Class frigates with a CEAFAAR-2L phased array radar system – has officially achieved initial operating capability (IOC).*

*Ten thousand veterans with complex mental health needs will have access to a network of qualified GPs nationwide, following the expansion of support provided by the Australian Government. Minister for Veterans' Affairs Andrew Gee today announced the Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program has been expanded to provide additional support for DVA White Card holders with an accepted mental health condition.*

*The Navy Band will soon have a new selection of ceremonial music to support the fleet. Navy Band Melbourne recently recorded a revitalised selection at Oaklands Studios, Melbourne, to ensure that in its absence from an event, the Navy music catalogue contains everything required to hold a memorial*

- † CERA K.L.E. Johnston, R42012, 23 July 2021. Aged 81.
- † CPOATC J. Clayton, 21 July 2021.
- † LSTD M.R. McMillan, 21428, 21 July 2021. Aged 101.
- † CAPT D.J. Dalton RAN, O.217, 17 July 2021. Aged 88.
- † REM1 J.R. Carlyon, OAM, R44204, 11 July 2021. Aged 87.
- † LSETS W.J. Bulloch, R62968, 06 July 2021. Aged 78.
- † CPOETW G. Neylan, 29 June 2021. Aged 64.
- † ABUW C.F. Powell, R53730, 07 June 2021. Aged 83.

## Lest We Forget

Dear Seafarers and families,

Please note in your diary the Seafarers Church Service to be held at 10:30 am on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at St Paul's Cathedral, Flinders Street.

The Seafarers service has been held since 1907, originally an initiative by the Mission to Seafarers in recognition of the Battle of Trafalgar. Today, this service remembers Seafarers who serve or have served in Commonwealth and Merchant Navies. We acknowledge the service and sacrifice of all mariners, whether during conflict or their daily routine of moving trade around the world.

Being at sea, is from time to time a dangerous occupation. May all Seafarers continue their important work, safely and with our sincere appreciation.

The organising committee for this service comprises representatives from the Mission to Seafarers, Company of Master Mariners and Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria. The service is supported by the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Navy Cadets.

The Mission to Seafarers cares for the spiritual and practical welfare of all Seafarers, regardless of nationality or faith. In Victoria there are Stations in Melbourne, Geelong, Portland and Hastings. Over 21,000 Seafarers use the facilities annually, mainly for contacting their loved ones. The Mission also provides support for Seafarers in hospital, and for those with depression, as well as advocacy for those experiencing injustice. The Mission has been providing services to Seafarers for 163 years. The primary Mission in Victoria is located at 717 Flinders Street.

The organising committee look forward to your attendance at this important service to remember Seafarers and their extraordinary effort across the globe.

*Terry Makings*  
Terry Makings  
on behalf of the  
Organising Committee

*service all the way through to an International Ceremonial Sunset ceremony.*

*The RAN's oldest ship, First Lady of the Fleet HMAS Paluma IV, has conducted a final Freedom of Entry in the lead up to decommissioning next month.*

*Defending a large task group comprising five nations was a challenge for HMAS Parramatta – but with the assistance of her embarked helicopter, it was mission success.*

*British hackers have joined a US-based cyber security team in a bid to upskill in the fight against malicious actors. The UK Ministry of Defence has sponsored 26 'ethical hackers' to participate in a 'Bug Bounty' program in collaboration with US-based organisation HackerOne.*

*HMA Ships Canberra and Ballarat have arrived in the Western Pacific Ocean for the opening phase of the US-led Large Scale Global Exercise 21.*

*The Indian Ocean is an increasingly contested strategic environment. A growing Chinese naval presence raises the prospect that Beijing may seek to challenge US naval dominance, potentially sparking a competitive naval arms race in the region.*

*For one of Navy Band's rising stars, a passion for an ancient Japanese wind instrument has led to a share in a \$90,000 ABC commissioning fund aimed at exploring and developing new Australian music.*

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

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