

A SERVICE OF SCATTERING OF ASHES AT SEA

HMAS SIRIUS

Commander Darren Grogan, CSM, RAN



Richard "Dick" Vincent RADCLIFFE

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Introduction – Commanding Officer, CMDR Darren Grogan, CSM, RAN

We are gathered here today to celebrate the life and service of our brother Richard "Dick" Vincent RADCLIFFE and pay respect to the service he made to our country. Today we return him to the sea for the last time and in doing so pay tribute to all members of the Royal Australian Navy both past and present.

Eulogy – Executive Officer, LCDR Cindy Jenkins, RAN

Richard "Dick" Vincent RADCLIFFE joined the RAN as an Ordinary Seaman on 31 January 1938 and discharged as a Petty Officer on 30 January 1950. Dick had an amazing 12 year career in the Navy, serving on board HMA Ships VOYAGER 1, SYDNEY 2, ROCKHAMPTON, NAPIER, NEPAL and QUICKMATCH.

Dick served in HMAS SYDNEY 2 from 15th October, 1938 (before the outbreak of WWII) until 26th February, 1941. HMAS SYDNEY returned to Australia on 9th February, 1941, to a heroes welcome as a result of a successful campaign in the Mediterranean where they sank, in a one on one engagement, the pride of Mussolini's Fleet, the alleged unsinkable BARTOLLOMEO COLLEONI in July, 1940. Throughout Australia, news of Sydney's victory dominated the Newspapers. The Melbourne Herald of 20th July, 1940 reported in its evening edition that:

"Once again the Australian Navy has shown the splendid fighting quality of the last war. Sydney 1 outfought and destroyed the famous German Raider SMS Emden and now her younger Sister Sydney 2 writes another page of naval history that will thrill the civilised world"

Fortunately for Dick he was posted off HMAS SYDNEY 2 shortly thereafter, before her fateful battle with the German auxiliary cruiser KORMORAN in the vicinity of our current position. Both ships were destroyed in the half-hour engagement on 19th November 1941. 318 of the 399 personnel in the KORMORAN survived. While debris from SYDNEY 2 was found, there were no survivors from her 645-strong complement; it was the largest loss

of life in the history of the RAN. The HMAS SYDNEY 2 wreck was only discovered on 16th March, 2008.

Captain John Collins, whom Dick served under in the Mediterranean on board HMAS SYDNEY 2, once wrote as a forward to a book on HMAS SYDNEY 2:

“It is sad that there can be so few “Old Sailors” of the Cruiser SYDNEY of World War 2. Only that small number, who left the Ship before her last battle when she was lost with all hands, know the details of her story and carry on her memory.” The ones lucky enough to have posted off before this tragedy, such as Dick, never got over the loss. Later in life it became known as survivor’s guilt.

For his service Dick was awarded the Australian Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp “Japan” and the Australian Defence Medal. Dick’s service in HMAS NEPAL was recognised when he was awarded a Mention in Dispatches on 11 June 1946 for “Distinguished service during the war in the Far East whilst serving in HMAS NEPAL”

Bible Verses

- ***ABCIS Peter Farrell***

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business upon the great waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep.
Ps 107:23,24

- ***SMNML-SC Brian Semple***

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.’ *Jn 11:25,26*

Psalm 23 - ABBM Mary Palaamo

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff – they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

(off caps)

Prayers – SBLT Nicholas Asara, RAN

Lord our God, from whom neither life nor death can separate those who trust in your love, and whose love holds in its embrace your children in this world and the next; so unite us to yourself that in our fellowship with you we may always be united to our loved ones, whether here or there. Give us courage, constancy and hope; through him who died and was buried and rose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scattering of Ashes – Commanding Officer, CMDR Darren Grogan, CSM, RAN

Whereas it has pleased almighty God to take to himself the souls of our dear brother Richard; we therefore commit his ashes to the winds of heaven and the depths of the sea in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The ashes of Richard "Dick" Vincent RADCLIFFE are scattered in the ocean by Petty Officer Bosun Liam Apps of HMAS SIRIUS.

After a moment of silence:

Eternal Father, God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy for us you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Be our refuge and strength in sorrow. As your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us conquered death, and by rising again restored us to life, so may we go forward in faith to meet him, and after our life on earth be united with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, where every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

(on caps)

The Benediction – Commanding Officer, CMDR Darren Grogan, CSM, RAN

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour every person; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**