



The Navy League of Australia

South Australia Division

A.C.N. 008 451 063

PATRON: His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION NEWSLETTER – Issue 2 - APRIL 2020

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION OF NAVY LEAGUE

PRESENTATION TO NUSHIP SYDNEY V

The South Australia Division of Navy League Australia had great pleasure in presenting a decanter to the Wardroom of NUSHIP Sydney V, prior to the ship's departure from Osborne Naval Shipyard South Australia, where she was proudly built.

Our South Australian tradition of making a presentation began between the World Wars with major Fleet units receiving a hand-made silk white ensign. Sadly, most were lost with their ships. More recently, beginning with the Collins Class, the custom was revived for RAN ships built in this State to be presented with a crystal Commissioning Decanter. We hope the decanter will remain as a pleasant reminder of Sydney V origins.

We congratulate Commander Edward Seymour, Lieutenant Commander Bernard Dobson and the ship's company in preparing the ship for its coming commissioning and look forward to the television news of 2 May to see something of the ceremony. We wish the ship many years of smooth seas.

“THOROUGH AND READY”



The evening festivities continued over dinner in the historic LARGS PIER Hotel (Largs Bay) where we had the opportunity to meet and mingle with members of the Wardroom.

Apart from presenting the decanter & keeper, a bottle of *Penfolds Port* and a supply of Tim Tams were also presented – and much appreciated.



Sydney's Executive Officer Bernard Dobson maintaining a firm grip on the decanter after its presentation by President Diana Hill



The night was still young

International Women's Day 2020 – Defence

Commanding Officer, CMDR Alastair Cooper ADC, Navy HQ-SA held a morning tea in the Navy Memorial Gardens (opposite the Cross of Sacrifice) North Adelaide on 4th March to pay tribute to all women who have served or are currently serving in the Royal Australian Navy.

Warrant Officer Deb Butterworth, OAM, CSM and Bar, who was promoted as the Royal Australian Navy's ninth Warrant Officer of the Navy in November 2019, was guest of honour. In her address she paid tribute to the WRANS who paved the way for today's women joining the RAN – and are still an inspiration.



**WO Deb Butterworth commemorates International Women's Day
in Adelaide 2020**

**With former WRANS who reported to HMAS CERBERUS
50 years ago**

And they had plenty of stories to swap...

“ONCE NAVY ALWAYS NAVY”

Navy commemorates first female Warrant Officer

Published on 31 March 2020 LEUT Tanalee Smith (author) Navy Daily



First Warrant Officer for the WRANS Lenore Maiden, right, being congratulated by the OIC WRANS Chief Officer Norma Uhlmann at HMAS Cerberus in 1972.

The Royal Australian Navy has paid tribute to a sailor who paved the way for women in service by becoming the first woman promoted to the highest rank as a senior sailor.

Warrant Officer Agnes Lenore 'Lennie' Maiden, who served in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) for nearly 29 years, passed away in Brisbane yesterday, aged 82. Warrant Officer Maiden was promoted to Warrant Officer in 1972.

Last year, 48 years later, the Royal Australian Navy promoted its first female Warrant Officer of the Navy, Deb Butterworth. WO-N Butterworth said Miss Maiden was a trailblazer for generations of women.

“I want you to know how much the women of the Navy owe to you and the generations of dedicated WRANS who served in the decades before gender equality was achieved in the Royal Australian Navy,” Warrant Officer Butterworth wrote in a letter to Miss Maiden before she died.

“We women of the present Royal Australian Navy know we stand on your shoulders.”

Warrant Officer Maiden joined the WRANS in 1956, specialising as a steward and then working as a trainer at Recruit School.



HMAS Cerberus Class 28, January 1956.

Lennie Maiden second from right front row



First Mess Dinner, WRANS Chiefs and Petty Officers Mess HMAS Cerberus, 1962

POWRSTD Lennie Maiden back row far right.; First Officer Barbara MacLeod in the centre.

She served in HMA Ships *Cerberus*, *Coonawarra*, *Penguin*, *Harman* and *Albatross* before leaving the WRANS in 1984; she continued to support the Navy through the WRANS Association throughout the rest of her life.

“The WRANS was a separate naval service with limited career opportunities, yet Lennie demonstrated that women could be promoted to the highest rank a senior sailor could attain,” Warrant Officer of the Navy Butterworth said.

“She trained a generation of young women who entered the Navy as WRANS and is remembered by them with affection as being fair and firm but also warm and humorous.”

The Royal Australian Navy has changed considerably since Warrant Officer Maiden’s days: women were not permitted to serve aboard ships until 1983, and by 1985 the WRANS were integrated into the Royal Australian Navy.

As of October 2019, women make up 21.7 per cent of the Navy’s workforce and can serve in any role.

Vice-Admiral Michael Noonan, Chief of Navy, wrote to Warrant Officer Maiden to thank her for her decades of service and her devotion to duty. “You and your generation of WRANS showed Navy the way forward towards the modern integrated workforce in which every rank and career path is open to all our members,” Vice-Admiral Noonan wrote.

Rest in Peace Warrant Officer Agnes Lenore ‘Lennie’ Maiden.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

HMAS Toowoomba successfully interdicted 150 parcels of illicit drugs including hashish and heroin (pictured) on 29 March during Operation Manitou in the Middle East. She is the 68th rotation of RAN vessels in the Middle East since 1990.



Sydney residents had a first glimpse of their city's namesake ship with the arrival of NUSHIP *Sydney* entering Sydney Harbour. She will be the last of the three Hobart Class Destroyers to join the Royal Australian Navy Fleet.



NUSHIP SYDNEY V (HMAS SYDNEY V) 27th March 2020

Commanding Officer COMMANDER EDWARD SEYMOUR RAN

Arthur Baillie Steinthal - Citizen Sailor and Soldier

With Anzac Day nearly upon us, it is timely to honour a man who was among the first Australians to go into action in World War I on 11 September 1914. He later served at Gallipoli and in France.



Born in country South Australia in 1894, Arthur was educated at St Peters College then worked in Adelaide where he became a member of the Naval Reserve. When war was declared in 1914, the British Admiralty immediately commenced operations to capture German Pacific colonies and radio stations to deny their support to the German Pacific Cruiser Squadron. In August Australia quickly raised the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to capture German New Guinea and New Britain. Its first objective was the destruction of the radio station believed to be at Bitia Paka, near the colonial centre of Rabaul.

Arthur immediately volunteered to join the 80 strong South Australian contingent of the Naval Brigade. They formed No. 6 Company under Lieutenant Bond of Queensland. On 11 September 1914 Australian warships landed elements of the Brigade at Kabakaul. They advanced inland along a jungle track to locate and capture the Bitia Paka radio station. This was achieved after several periods of fighting resulting in Australia's first casualties of World War I. Arthur was among the 26 South Australians who fought in the engagement. One of his letters described the fighting as a "scrap". The Naval Brigade men returned to Australia on completion of their six month engagement and were discharged in March 1915. Most would continue to suffer from malaria.

Thirty four of the South Australians re-enlisted for further war time service. Arthur was recruited by Surgeon Morris to be a Medical Orderly in 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train. He served with this unique unit at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, where it constructed and operated much of the "port" infrastructure. Afterwards, they continued engineering duties in Egypt and on the Mediterranean coast. When the Train was disbanded in March 1917, rather than return to Australia, Arthur volunteered to transfer to the Australian Imperial Force. He joined the Royal Australian Engineers in England then served in France with 9 Field Company. Arthur was discharged in Adelaide in June 1919 after nearly five years in uniform.

Resuming his career as a stock and station agent, Arthur moved to Victoria. During World War II he again volunteered, serving from April 1941 to May 1945 as a Warrant Officer Class II in the Headquarters of the Victorian Lines of Communication Area.

**Arthur Ballie Steinthal personified Winston Churchill's dictum:
"The Reservist is twice the citizen"**

AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADET UNITS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA 2020”

“Integrity and Endeavour”

So much had been planned for all Australian Navy Cadets in 2020, particularly for South Australian Units.

Weekly training, national regatta in Sydney, Torrens Annual Training Camp in Canberra, ANZAC Day commemoration, community involvement, Fortunately, many of the cadets enjoyed an open day aboard NUSHIP Sydney before she sailed from Adelaide for Commissioning ceremony in Sydney.

Sadly, because of the health risk presented by COVID-19, there is a temporary suspension of all Defence Force Cadet activity, including of course, Navy Cadets.

CANCELLATION OF NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION LUNCHEON

Our annual luncheon planned for Sunday 28th June and has been cancelled
due to the terrible COVID-19 situation.

We look forward to advising a new date as soon as is practicable.

Sadly, we will also miss:

- ANZAC DAY commemorations - LEST WE FORGET -
- St. George Society's St. Peter's Cathedral Service & the traditional Morris dancers followed by roast luncheon at the Cathedral Hotel, North Adelaide
- Coral Sea Annual Dinner
- Coral Sea Commemoration Service at the Australian/American Memorial, Adelaide Botanical Gardens
- Attending ANC South Australian Unit activities/presentations

*President and Committee of South Australian Division
Of Navy League of Australia*

Wishes you all the best through this difficult time. Stay Safe

