



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 edition 2021

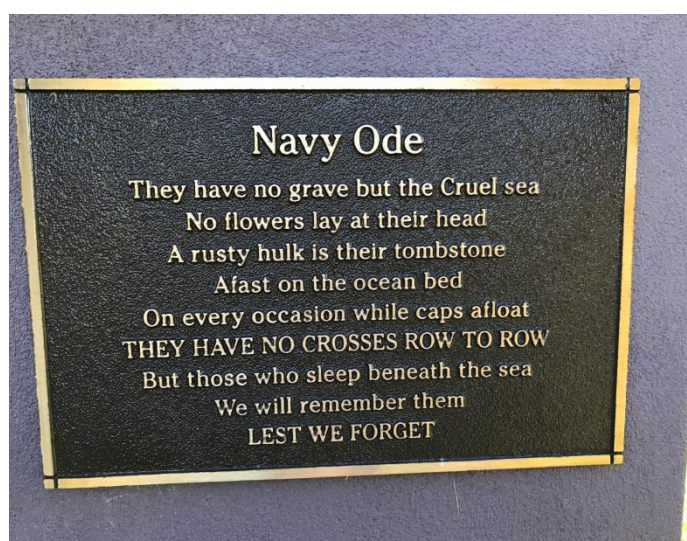
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ANZAC Day 2021 “We Will Remember Them”



VALE – HRH PRINCE PHILIP, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

CONSORT and NAVAL OFFICER

10 JUNE 1921 – 09 APRIL 2021



Prince Philip of Greece joined the Royal Navy in 1939, graduating the following year from the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, as top of his course. Appointed as a Midshipman in January, he would serve at sea for most of the second World War and continue serving with the Royal Navy until 1953.

In February 1940 he joined the battleship HMS *Ramillies* at Ceylon where she was escorting Australian and New Zealand troop convoys across the Indian Ocean, with a visit to Australia for repairs.

After service in two cruisers, in October 1940 he joined the battleship HMS *Valiant* in the Mediterranean. During the March 1941 Battle of Cape Matapan, he skillfully directed his ship's search lights for which he was mentioned in despatches (MID).

June 1942 saw the first of his destroyer postings. HMS *Wallace* escorted British east coast convoys before the invasion of Sicily. Promoted to Lieutenant in July 1942, he was appointed its Executive Officer at age 21. In July 1943 he saved his ship from a night bomber attack by launching a decoy raft with smoke floats.



In 1944 Prince Philip was appointed Executive Officer of the new destroyer HMS *Whelp* (above) which commissioned in April. After service at the Normandy landings, *Whelp* reached Ceylon in September. She would remain with the British Pacific Fleet and was present at the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay. Earlier in January 1945, he directed the rescue of two shot down British aircrew. Following the surrender, *Whelp* was stationed at Hongkong with the 27th Destroyer Squadron.

The ship returned to the United Kingdom in January 1946 to pay off.

In addition to his MID, he was awarded the Greek War Cross and the French Croix de Guerre.

Prince Philip then became an instructor at a Petty Officers School. Further shore postings included attending Greenwich Naval College before returning to sea in October 1949 as Executive Officer of the destroyer HMS *Chequers*.

Promoted to Lieutenant Commander in July 1950, he commanded the wartime sloop HMS *Magpie* in the Mediterranean.

With Royal duty taking precedence, his active naval career ended in January 1953 as a Commander.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CENTENARY



South Australia Division congratulates the Royal Australian Air Force on achieving its Centenary on 31 March 2021. RAAF Edinburgh houses many Air Force units including 92 Maritime Wing.

In March our Patron, the Governor of South Australia HE Hieu Van Le AC, who is also an Honorary Air Commodore, marked the RAAF centenary with a flight from RAAF Edinburgh in a PC-21 aircraft.

Photo by LAC Sam Price.



WOMENS ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL SERVICE 80th BIRTHDAY

Author: A/g SBLT Jack Meadows Photo: PO Bradley Darvill

Back in April 1941, 12 female telegraphists and two attendants were authorised into service in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS).

Sworn into the Navy as enlisted personnel, that first wave of women arrived at Navy's wireless/transmitting station, which was later commissioned as HMAS *Harman*.

The 80th anniversary of that historic moment was commemorated on 28 April this year at the Australian War Memorial's Last Post ceremony, by Warrant Officer of the Navy Deb Butterworth and former serving WRANS.



PRINCESS ANNE LEADS ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2021 IN LONDON



The **Australian War Memorial**, in London, was dedicated in 2003 to the 102,000 Australians who died in the First and Second World Wars. The memorial comprises a semi-circular curved wall of grey-green granite slabs from Western Australia (Verde Laguna granite from Jerramungup), cut in Australia before being shipped to London.

The memorial is located on the southern-most corner of Hyde Park Corner, on the traffic island, which also houses the Wellington Arch, the New Zealand War Memorial, the Machine Gun Corps Memorial and the Royal Artillery Memorial



On 25th April 2021, The Princess Royal attended two ceremonies in London to mark ANZAC Day, with her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, on behalf of the Royal Family.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Princess Anne and Sir Tim Laurence arrived for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Wellington Arch, where she laid a wreath at the memorial and signed the Book of Remembrance.

Later on the 25th, Princess Anne and Sir Tim Laurence attended Westminster Abbey for the annual ANZAC DAY Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving – paying tribute to all those who gave their lives in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. And afterwards, met with High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand and Defence personnel – Masks were mandatory for covid-19 regulations.

As well as being commemorated in Australia and New Zealand, ANZAC Day is also marked in the UK, notably in London and Edinburgh to honour the service and sacrifice of ANZAC soldiers through the years. The day also serves to remember the British soldiers and sailors who fell during the Gallipoli campaign.

Prior to the Australian War Memorial being built, ANZAC Day wreath-laying ceremony has always been held at The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

FRENCH RENDEZVOUS FOR ANZAC AND SIRIUS



Author: LEUT Geoff Long Photo: LSMN Sam Greenland

HMA Ships *Anzac* and *Sirius* sail in-company with French Navy ships FS *Tonnerre* and FS *Surcouf* of the Jeanne d'Arc Task Group during a transit of the South China Sea.

Naval Task Groups from Australia and France have conducted a bilateral transit in the South China Sea, carrying out a series of training exercises along the way.

The Australian Task Group, comprising the frigate HMAS *Anzac* and auxiliary oiler HMAS *Sirius*, was joined by the French Navy's Jeanne d'Arc Task Group, comprising amphibious assault ship FS *Tonnerre* and the La Fayette-class frigate FS *Surcouf*.

Both Task Groups are deployed to the region and recently trained together during the French-led Exercise La Perouse in the Bay of Bengal in early April.

Commander of the Australian Task Group and Commanding Officer *Anzac* Commander Brendan Horn said he was proud of what had been achieved by the four ships from France and Australia.

"We gained a lot of experience in working with the Jeanne d'Arc Task Group during Exercise La Perouse, so it was a fantastic opportunity for both navies to put that experience to the test in a range of activities including officer-of-the-watch manoeuvres, replenishments at sea and flying operations," Commander Horn said.

"France and Australia enjoy a close partnership and share a commitment to maintaining an open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific."

Meanwhile, *Sirius'* ship's company performed replenishments at sea with all three of the accompanying ships, capping off a busy schedule of at-sea supply exercises during the deployment.

Commanding Officer *Sirius* Commander Chris Doherty said a dual replenishment at sea undertaken with the two French vessels was one of the deployment's many highlights. "Working with partner navies allows us to test our procedures and we've already resupplied vessels from Malaysia, the US, India and Japan in addition to HMAS *Anzac*," Commander Doherty said. "For many of our crew, working with partner navies will be a career milestone that they can look back on with pride."

The Jeanne d'Arc Task Group's five-month deployment will take the French Navy vessels to the Mediterranean, Red and South China Seas and Indian and Pacific oceans.

ARAFURA OFFSHORE PATROL VESSELS

Construction of the first of this class is well under way in both South and Western Australia.



OPV *Arafura*'s mast being hoisted aboard at Osborne Naval Shipyard SA.



OPV *Pilbara* at Henderson Shipyard WA

With the Arafura Class production line now busy building replacements for the Armidale Class Patrol Boats, HMAS *Pirie (II)* was decommissioned at Darwin in March. It had commissioned at its namesake "City of Port Pirie" in 2006. HMAS *Pirie (I)* was one of sixty Australian built World War II Corvettes.



HMAS *Pirie (II)* entering Darwin for the last time

AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS - SA

VALE LCDR George William (Bill) Harlow NRC (Rtd)



Bill crossed the bar on 20 March 2021 having reached 100 years in February. He served with the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Reserve for 19 years from 1938. Of his many ships, the cruiser HMS *Penelope* remained his favourite. Later he was a coastal forces instructor.

Bill joined the Sea Cadets in Nottingham in 1961 then, after immigrating to South Australia in 1967, joined TS Adelaide as an instructor. His talents saw him rise to Commanding Officer, followed by posting as Deputy Staff Officer Training SA until retirement in 1983. He remained in contact with the ANC and many of his former cadets. In 2010 he travelled to the Lofoten Islands, Norway, for the unveiling of a new Naval Memorial. He had last been there in 1940 on HMS *Penelope* following the Battle of Narvik.

Bill typified the saying "Once Navy always Navy".

ANZAC DAY ADELAIDE 2021 – TS ADELAIDE

Navy Cadets were detailed to assist individual groups in the ANZAC Day March in Adelaide this year. We were fortunate to meet LSMN Tiffany Wittup from TS Adelaide. Tiffany is also a Legacy Ward and would usually march with Legacy Club of SA & BH at the head of the march. BRAVO ZULU Tiffany,

HMAS ADELAIDE ASSOCIATION



NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – SOUTH AUSTRALIA DIVISION UPDATE

SA DIVISION ANNUAL LUNCHEON

We are delighted to report that the cancelled NLA-SA Annual Lunch of 2020 went ahead on Sunday 21st March 2021 at The Combined Ex-Services Club at Torrens Parade Ground in the city of Adelaide. Operating under Covid-19 protocol, the numbers were restricted, but did not deter the lively guests who attended.

Our Patron, His Excellency. Hieu Van Le AC Governor of South Australia and Mrs Lan Le were able to join us again for lunch, together with our Guest Speaker CMDR Alastair Cooper ADC RAN, Commanding Officer, Navy HQ-SA. CMDR Cooper gave a great speech including some naval history and current day RAN updates.

Our Immediate Past President, LCDR Dean Watson RFD (Rtd) presented Chief Petty Officer Jeremiah Anderson ADC with our NLA-SA Recognition of Exemplary 20 years of Service with the Torrens Flotilla in South Australia.



*Navy League South Australia Division Committee with
The Governor of South Australia His Excellency Hieu
Van Le AC and Mrs Lan Le*



*Guest Speaker CMDR Alastair Cooper ADC RAN
Commanding Officer Navy HQ-SA*



We also welcomed guests from Navy, WRANS, Naval Association, Seven Seas Club, Commonwealth Clubs and CMDR Nick Watson RAN, CMDR Keith Liddiard RFD RANR (Rtd) and CMDR Glen Lamperd RAN (Rtd).

*Wishing you all "Calm Seas and Following Winds"
Kindest regards from President & Executive Committee of NLA-SA Division*