

# Veterans Support Centre CONTACT FRONT



## August 2023

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association (NSW)  
Hastings Manning Macleay Branch Inc.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART02436

**Roll Call by Signaller Ellis Silas, 16th Battalion AIF  
See article on War Artists pg 5**

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## From the Editor's Desk

Hello again,

When I first stopped in at the Veterans Support Centre with a view to seeing if I could help in any way, I met a veteran of the Vietnam War, David Barnes. Among other office tasks, he asked if I could take on the quarterly publication, Contact Front. He ignored the fact that I knew nothing about magazine production and patiently taught me how to put it together. I owe him my warm thanks as I have enjoyed putting Contact Front together now for the last 7 years.



Jill Opie, Editor



David passed away recently and I have included a few pictures of him, see pages 18, 19. He has held the Secretary, Vice President and President (several times) roles in VSC as well as Editor up to 2017. David has been a member of the Sub-Branch since 2003. He has been a BBQ chef many times (and I won't tell you what he said about my vegetarian burger or what he threatened to do with it). He has been a support to staff and veterans at the Centre despite being such an outspoken person. He has also helped to move VSC to new locations at least 5 times always with dedication and quite a few rude words.

His direct speaking and honesty have pissed off some folk, his devotion to the veteran community has been constant and his unique sense of humour has puzzled many. He has outridden the storms and enjoyed the sun. Once met, never forgotten. Love him or not, he will stay in our thoughts and so many veterans owe him so much.

David, thank you for your service and your support of the veteran community, Rest In Peace.

### **APOLOGIES FOR LATE DELIVERY DUE TO PRINT & PRINTER ISSUES**

Be kind to others, Jill

**ALL** veterans are supported by the Veterans Support Centre which is also part of the Hastings Wellbeing Centre (operates out of the Club/sub-branch facilities at Wauchope). Contact us if you need help or advice, information, a cuppa with like-minded folk - phone (leave a message if no answer and we will get back to you), email or pop in during open hours (Mon, Tues, Thurs 1030 - 1330).

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Don't forget - Chuckle pages are just meant to make you chuckle, finish off the magazine with a smile. They are, as is this magazine, for adult consumption and aimed at veteran humour. Please feel free to ignore them.

The opinions expressed above are mine alone and may not be the opinions of Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia, VPPAA Inc, or contributors to Contact Front and its readers.

## The Art in War - Australian artists

### Official war artists

Works by war artists are commissioned to illustrate and record different aspects of service, including an individual's experience, whether that be allied or enemy, service or civilian, military or political, social or cultural.

The role of the artist is to embrace all aspects of a conflict or mission. And their artworks serve both educational and historical purposes, as well as commemorating those who have served.

Starting during World War I, the Official War Art Scheme is one of the largest commissioned programs of art in Australia. The Australian War Memorial commissions official war artists to deploy along with the Australian armed forces, to continue the role of artwork in interpreting Australia's wartime history for future generations.

The works produced include a diverse range of imagery, style and perceptions of conflict and peacekeeping. Throughout the years since World War I, the artists commissioned have had varying skills, styles, interests and approaches to their artworks. Many were established career artists with years of experience.

The scheme plays an important role in commemorating and recording Australia's involvement in modern conflicts and operations.

### VIETNAM WAR

Bruce Fletcher arrived in Vietnam in March 1967. After only 3 days, he was shot through the foot. A captured Viet Cong weapon was accidentally discharged onboard a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) flight.

To recover from his wound, Fletcher spent 3 months in a ward at the 1st Australian Field Hospital, Vung Tau. During this time, he continued to work.

Many of Fletcher's artworks from Vietnam depict the activities of personnel at the Vung Tau base. He sketched tents, equipment and portraits of people doing their duties. Due to his injuries, he suffered a limp long after his return from Vietnam.

While he mainly worked with a fibre-tipped pen, Fletcher also created some oil paintings. One series of paintings shows soldiers performing basic army duties. These portraits highlight the many different activities people do in wartime.



Left - Official war artist Lieutenant Bruce Fletcher, held an impromptu outdoor exhibition of a series of his portrait paintings before they were dispatched to the Australian War Memorial, Vietnam, 1967

Right - Reconstruction of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, painted by official war artist Bruce Fletcher in 1970. Shows action between 'D' Company and Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces; events that happened at intervals during the battle are shown happening simultaneously.

4411076 Sergeant John Alfred Ford served as Army PR photographer SVN (South Vietnam) in 1971 and 1972. PR photographers were generally professional journalists and photographers with press backgrounds. They enlisted in the Directorate of the RAAEC (Education Corps). While their role was separate to infantry, Ford recalled having a positive relationship with his fellow soldiers.

During the Vietnam War, Ford served in field operations with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), 3rd Battalion (3RAR) and 4th Battalion (4RAR) in Phuoc Tuy Province. His role was to supply Australian mass newspaper and print media with film footage and press photographs depicting all aspects of wartime duties.



One of Ford's well-known images was taken during Operation Overlord, depicting a Centurion tank moving through the jungle.

## The Art in War - Australian artists

### WORLD WAR 1

Ellis Luciano Silas, artist, was born in London on 13 July 1885. His father was an artist and designer and his mother an opera singer. He was educated by private tutors before working in his father's studio, where he studied under the well-known artist Walter Sickert. Marine art became his main interest and he painted in English coastal towns. In 1907, Ellis Silas sailed to Australia where he spent time painting in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide before he settled in Perth.

On 16 October 1914, Silas that joined the AIF as a signaller with the 16th Battalion. He had served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) for 3 years and had a strong sense of patriotism. On 22 December 1914, Silas sailed with his battalion on the Ceramic for Egypt, where he trained at Heliopolis, near Cairo. He found army life distasteful, but persevered with signalling, and when possible, continued his sketching and painting. At about 6:00pm on 25 April 1915, Silas went ashore at Gallipoli with the 16th Battalion. The battalion was sent immediately to Pope's Hill at the head of Monash Valley, where they spent the night digging in under intense rifle fire. Silas later recorded his first experiences in his painting, *The End of the Great Day: The 16th Battalion, AIF digging the original trenches on Pope's Hill on the evening of the landing at Anzac, 25 April 1915—By an eyewitness (Signaller Ellis Silas, 16th Battalion AIF)*.



Roll call was always the most heart-breaking incident. Name after name would be called, the reply a deep silence, which would be felt despite the noise of the incessant crackling of rifles and screaming of shrapnel. This was taken the morning after the charge on Sunday night, 9 May 1915. As a signaller Ellis Silas landed on Gallipoli with the 16th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, which was committed to constant, desperate fighting. In those first weeks the battalion was reduced to two companies. Ellis Silas was moved to paint this picture by his recollections as a survivor in the melancholy muster, which followed the withdrawal of his company from the line.

### WORLD WAR 2

Roy Hodgkinson was born in Sydney in 1911.

A veteran of World War I, Hoff is known for his large sculptures and memorials, including Sydney's Anzac Memorial. Between 1929 and 1931, Hodgkinson worked as an illustrator and cartoonist for 2 Sydney newspapers, *Daily Guardian* and *The Sun*. Then he moved to Melbourne where he worked as an artist for *The Herald* newspaper.

Hodgkinson returned to Australia during World War II and enlisted in the Armoured division as a trooper. In 1942, he was appointed as an official war artist by the Australian War Memorial. His role was to document experiences of the war through his artworks. During his appointment, Hodgkinson served in Northern Australia, New Guinea, Ceylon, India and Burma.

Many of his works in the Northern Territory depicted the Japanese raids on Darwin in 1942. He sketched Australian gunners, buildings and ships damaged after air raids, and Japanese aircraft being shot down. He also documented everyday military life, such as troops playing and resting. Some sketches depict soldiers arguing or taking 'smoko' breaks. One well-known illustration *Temperature 104 degrees* shows unidentified Australian soldiers in a canteen scuffle on a 40°C day.



Left - *Temperature 104 degrees*  
Right - Roy Hodgkinson, *Wounded Gunner Home from Lae, 1943*



Sources - Australian War Memorial archives

## The Art in War - Australian artists

### World War 2

In 1941, the Australian War Memorial commissioned Griffin as an Official War Artist. He was assigned to the 8th Division of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and arrived in Singapore in November 1941. After time in the Mersing area of Singapore, Griffin had already completed many art pieces in 2 months. Unfortunately, the 15 oil paintings and sketches and 10 canvasses he posted back to Australia never arrived. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

Griffin's appointment as a war artist was initially for 9 months but it was extended for 3 months. In January 1942, he moved to the Gemas-Muar sector of Singapore.

After Japanese forces invaded the Malay Peninsula, they had captured Singapore by February. Along with 15,000 Australians, Griffin became a prisoner of war (POW).

### Prisoner of war

Griffin spent more than 3 years at Changi Prison Camp. During this time, he retained his rank as an officer, which meant he was exempt from forced labour and could continue working on his art. After his art supplies ran out, he began to improvise. He created his own colours using clay. He painted on wooden door panels, pieces of 3-ply wood and sheets of masonite from demolished buildings.

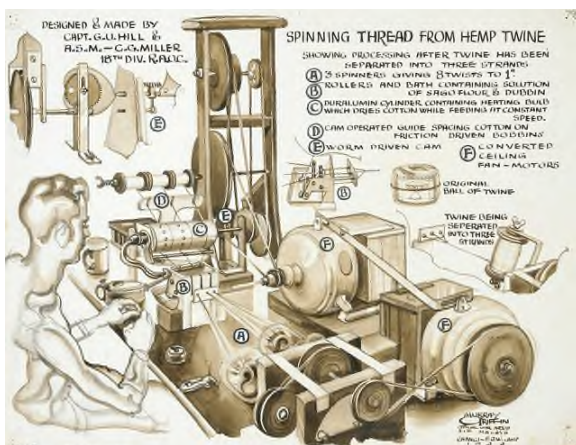
Griffin's artwork depicted everyday life in the POW camp. The daily struggles, the horrors from survivors of the Burma-Thailand railway and, later on, the inventions and improvised machinery used in the camps. In the last year of his captivity, his drawings focused more on religious and spiritual subjects.

Much of his early artwork was set against the backdrop of the beautiful Malayan scenery.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART24480



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART26455



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART25059

**Top left** - I started to paint the life around me. Men showering under the eaves of buildings in rain - it was fresher water than in the tongs. Men doing chores, men dragging trailers loaded with camp necessities, men doing the hundred and one things prison camp required. Members of the Australian Imperial Force, 8th Australian Division in Changi prison camp. Changi prison, early days. Murray Griffin, 1942

**Right** - Japanese guard riding on an improvised trailer pulled by prisoners of war. They are bringing rations into camp. These trailers were constructed by the prisoners and hauled by workers. The Japanese guard takes a ride, Murray Griffin, 1945

**Bottom left** - Men from the 18th (British) Division Royal Army Ordnance Corps spinning thread from hemp twine with a machine designed and made in the Changi prisoner of war camp by Captain G U Hill and Regimental Sergeant Major C G Miller. Spinning thread from hemp, Changi, Murray Griffin, 1944.

## The Art in War - Australian artists

### Official Naval Artists

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN), formed in 1911, appoints or commissions naval artists. These are artists who hone their skills in marine subject matter, such as boats, ships and submarines.

Marine artist Arthur James Wetherall Burgess was born in 1879 in Bombala, south-eastern New South Wales. In 1913, he was commissioned to paint the Royal Australian Navy fleet entering Sydney Harbour for the first time. Then in 1918, he was appointed Official Naval Artist to Australia. His role was to document the Navy's activities in World War 1. In 1918, Burgess painted *HMS 'Mersey' and HMS 'Severn' Firing on SMS 'Koenigsberg'*, depicting a naval action in German East Africa that included HMAS *Pioneer*. He also captured the Navy's flagship HMAS *Australia*.

Maritime artist Robert Torrens 'Bob' McRae of Wollongong, New South Wales, has been painting ships since the 1990s. In 2008, Bob was appointed Official Artist for the RAN Naval History Unit in the Iraq War. His role was to draw, paint and photograph naval activities. Most of the time, he was working aboard HMAS *Arunta* during patrols near Iraq.



HMAS Australia at the surrender of the German fleet in the Firth of Forth, undated, Arthur James Wetherall Burgess, oil on linen.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART00192

### Official aviation artists



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

023242

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), formed in 1921, appoints its own aviation artists. These artists are skilled in aviation subject matter, such as aeroplanes and helicopters.

For example, New Zealand-born artist, Frank Norton, was appointed official war artist with the RAN and the RAAF during World War II, and later appointed as an official war artist in the Korean War.

Sources - DVA (Department of Veterans' Affairs) (2023), *Learning about wartime art and Australian artists*, DVA Anzac Portal, accessed <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/education/theme/wartime-art>



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## Smooth and lethal : Boxer squadron's first live fire

Edition 3 and 4 Contact Front in 2021 reported the delays and issues with the rollout of Boxer - a new combat reconce vehicle. The article below shows that it is now at work.

Radio traffic across the Battle Group Warhorse net lit up when enemy armoured vehicles were seen advancing toward 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles.

Officer Commanding A Squadron, Major Katherine Clarkson quickly understood the threat and radioed through a situation report. "Niner, this is one-niner ... my assessment is we have triggered the most dangerous course of action. Over," Major Clarkson said. "Noting our successes in clearing to the 68 northing I request this call-sign proceed and conduct an assault by fire to prevent being interdicted from an enemy break-out to the south. Over ..."

This simulated enemy engagement had been months in the planning and was the first time A Squadron in its entirety had conducted a live-fire manoeuvre exercise with its Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles.

"I'm so proud of everyone ... the effects on target were smooth and lethal," Major Clarkson said after completing the activity. "We've put a new capability through static and troop-level live-fire activities in previous iterations, but to have the whole squadron roll out and conduct safe gunnery - it's a fantastic milestone."

Driver, Trooper Wade Musicka said the vehicles had been pushed more than ever and he was lucky to crew Boxer, after having completed initial entry training at the School of Armour. "The platform can fire out to 3.5 kilometres and has a target acquisition capability that can identify unmanned aerial systems," Trooper Musicka said. "The lethality of the vehicle, combined with the ease in which it can traverse difficult terrain allows the crew to feel safe and comfortable so we can get on with the job," he said. "The squadron loves them and the platform's only going to get better with each new development."



An Army Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle from 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) conducts a live-fire activity on Exercise Diamond Strike



Soldiers from the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) conduct a live-fire training serial with a Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle at Townsville. Photo: Corporal Nicole Dorrett

The **Boxer** is a multirole armoured fighting vehicle designed by an international consortium to accomplish a number of operations through the use of installable mission modules. The governments participating in the Boxer programme have changed as the programme has developed. The Boxer vehicle is produced by the ARTEC GmbH (*armoured vehicle technology*) industrial group, and the programme is being managed by OCCAR (Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation). ARTEC GmbH is based in Munich; its parent companies are Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH and Rheinmetall Military Vehicles GmbH on the German side, and Rheinmetall Defence Nederland B.V. for the Netherlands. Overall, Rheinmetall has a 64% stake in the joint venture.

A distinctive and unique feature of the vehicle is its composition of a drive platform module and interchangeable mission modules which allow several configurations to meet different operational requirements.

Other names in use or previously used for Boxer are **GTK** (*Gepanzertes Transport-Kraftfahrzeug; armoured transport vehicle*) Boxer and **MRAV** (*Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle*). Confirmed Boxer customers as of April 2022 are Germany, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Australia and the UK. The Boxer has been produced and seen service in A0, A1 and A2 configurations. The UK Boxer will be of the A3 configuration. Australian deliveries are an A2/A3 hybrid.

Sources - Defence news item by Major Roger Brennan ; Wikipedia; images same source

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Thank you for your support of our veterans and your generosity of time and advice.

**Peter Clark** B.Sc., M.Sc., Cert. Mkt., M. Nutr & Dietetics, APD, ASD, Member AN&D (USA)

- 10 years clinical experience
- DAA Advisor to Dept. of Veterans Affairs (DVA)
- Special Interest in:
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### NYRAMBLA - Central Bureau Headquarters



Above - Nyrambla (State Library of Queensland, Neg 67869)

At the rear of Nyrambla, Central Bureau's headquarters, there was a garage from which personnel from the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) operated. Nicknamed the 'Garage Girls' for the location of their operations, these women used TypeX machines, British cipher machines that were adapted from the German Enigma machines, to send and receive encrypted communications between Allied forces.

The work was top secret and the women were sworn to absolute secrecy, not even permitted to tell their families of their work. The Garage Girls processed huge daily volumes of coded communications spelt out in ciphers; these ciphers would change daily to make it harder for enemies to decipher. The messages would be padded with irrelevant messaging to make it more difficult for enemies listening in to understand. The messages would come in five-letter groups, which would be delivered onto a paper ribbon, and at the end of every shift they would carefully burn anything incriminating in an incinerator. Accuracy was key in the role of a typist, as mistyped letters or symbols could result in wide-scale disaster.

The highly secretive nature of the work meant that the Garage Girls formed incredibly close bonds with one another, and some remained life-long friends. One former operator, Madeline Chidgey, described her fellow Garage Girls as 'a close-knit, mutually-supportive group', remembering that 'anyone who was homesick, lovesick, or just plain sick of waiting for the war to end was never down for long'.

Indeed, some Garage Girls even found love within the secretive walls of Nyrambla; Coral Osborne met her future husband, Sandy Hinds, on her first day as a Garage Girl. The two kept in touch while he was deployed to South-East Asia by padding out the messages sent between field offices with their own communications, including a marriage proposal.



Coral HINDS joined the Australian Women's Army Service in 1943.

It is hard to believe now, but Coral Hinds never felt her work as a WWII cypher operator was remarkable.

"Really, we didn't know what was happening. We went in and we did the job," Coral tells *Woman's Day* from her home in Frankston South, Victoria. "We weren't doing any of the messages. We just got them in on the machines, on the Typex and when they came out, we'd stick them down."

But despite her modesty, Coral was in fact a highly skilled and essential war worker. Along with her mostly female colleagues, she helped receive, decode and translate Japanese radio transmissions.

"There were some very important messages but we didn't always know how important they were," she explains. "It was just a fun place to work."

Coral, 96, was one of Brisbane's "Garage Girls", self-named because they worked in a tin garage that housed the Typex rotor machine, similar to the famous Bletchley Park codebreaking system.

**Womans Day - April 2021**

## NYRAMBLA - Central Bureau Headquarters

### The Garage Girls and their secret war machine

In a suburban Brisbane garage, young women decoded radio transmissions that changed the course of World War II. For the first time, their top-secret work on a panicked Japanese cable about a new type of weapon can be revealed.

Not long after an American atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima, a horrified Japanese officer radioed back to Imperial Navy headquarters in Tokyo to report what he had witnessed.

The tone of the officer's report didn't seem to particularly reflect the constrained emotion one might expect of a buttoned-up Japanese man of war. But that day, August 6, 1945, his extraordinary witness account was intercepted by an Australian signalman stationed near the Philippines.

From there, it passed into the hands of a secret unit of women codebreakers whose work in a garage at the back of a Brisbane mansion was kept top secret for decades.

The never-before-released cable – declassified for the ABC by the Australian Signals Directorate – was decrypted, revealing the Japanese officer's account of what happened when three B-29s flew over Hiroshima that morning. It was one of first reports of the apocalyptic destruction that would soon become familiar around the world.

**“A terrific explosion accompanied by flame and smoke occurred at an altitude of 500 to 600 metres. The concussion was beyond imagination and demolished practically every house in the city,”** his cable read.

**“About 80 per cent of the city was wiped out, destroyed or burnt. Only a portion of the western section escaped the disaster. Casualties have been estimated at 100,000 persons.”**

The officer concluded his message with these chilling words: “Please investigate and report any information concerning this new type of bomb.”

Thousands of kilometres away, Central Bureau was a top-secret intelligence agency hiding in plain sight. It was given a beige name to disguise its thorny work handling the most sensitive military communications.

And inside were young Australian women who had heeded the call and stepped into a world of interception and intrigue that they could have barely imagined.

Joyce Grace was a 19-year-old working in a Sydney haberdashery store in 1943 when she received a letter from the Manpower Directorate, an agency of the Australian government tasked with conscripting civilians to fill labour shortages in the latter half of World War II.

“The letter said that I wasn't working in an essential industry,” Joyce told the ABC. “And they put it to me that if I left my job, the boss would have to take me back and give me the exact same job that I had when I left him.”



Joyce Grace and Joan Eldred at work at the draper C. Winn in Ashfield in 1940



World War II code breaker Joyce Grace at age 20 in Paddington, Sydney, 1943. Credit: AAP

Continued over the page

## NYRAMBLA - Central Bureau Headquarters

### **The Garage Girls and their secret war machine (contd)**

Joyce was sent for six weeks' basic military training at Ingleburn Army Camp where she was asked what type of army work took her interest.

"I hadn't given much thought to what I might do, but anyhow, I said, 'Well, my father was a naval signalman in the First World War, and he seemed to enjoy the job — I'll give signals a go'."

Joyce Grace was dispatched to Bonegilla near the Victoria-NSW border for a signals course, training in morse code and wireless messaging.

It was here that she met lifelong friend Coral Hinds.

"My friend Joy," Coral remembers wistfully. "She was tall, her hair was straight, a no-nonsense person. Joy and I seemed to just migrate together into doing things. And look, we've been friends all these years."

Coral left school at 14 and worked in a cake shop and then a grocer's. Not having a brother old enough to serve in the war, Coral and her younger sister Ruth decided to join up instead.

Shortly after turning 18, Coral enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS).

"The boss wasn't very happy about it. But that didn't make any difference — I still went," she said.

After Bonegilla and then a stint in Melbourne for more intense training in communications, Coral and Joyce were put on a train to Brisbane.

Their new place of work was at 21 Henry Street, Ascot, in a hot garage at the back of Nyrambla, an impressive 1880s mansion.

It had been requisitioned by United States General Douglas MacArthur, the Allies' supreme commander in the south-west Pacific, for his headquarters.

"That's how I became a Garage Girl," chuckles Joyce.

### **Inside the Central Bureau**

Joyce and Coral found themselves working in the cipher unit of Central Bureau, a signals intelligence organisation tasked with decrypting intercepted messages from the Imperial Japanese Army.

"Everything was so secret. 'Don't talk about it outside. Don't tell anybody. You can tell them you're in signals, but don't go any further than that'. And we sort of knew that there was something special about it," Joyce says.

"You couldn't talk about it," Coral recalls. "See, mum and dad didn't know what I did. I used to just tell people I was in signals. So, you know, it really just gets a way of life."

Working around-the-clock in eight-hour shifts, the Garage Girls used 12 British-made TypeX coding machines to both decode and encrypt highly classified material.

The Japanese signals were in Kana, or syllabic characters, which meant that once intercepted messages were decrypted, they still had to be translated into English by Central Bureau linguists.

If the TypeX machine was not generating recognisable Japanese syllables, the Garage Girls knew that the rotors in the machine, which were key to decryption, likely needed adjustment.

"On the whole, you just got to and plonked away on the TypeX and if it didn't work you stayed there and fiddled around with it until it did work," Coral explains.

"It was our secret machine," Joyce says of the TypeX.

"You had to set them up, before you could sit down and type, whether you're going to type for a message to be decoded, or when you're going to encode a message, and the machine did either one of those things."

### **Love and war**

Despite spending the war in a repurposed suburban house, for the Garage Girls the experience was far removed from their pre-war lives working in shops or going to school.

Some moved away from home for the first time for basic training, and enjoyed the camaraderie and shore leave that came with their freedom. And of course, for many that led to finding love.

The Garage Girls had developed a technique called "padding", where messages were lengthened with scraps of irrelevant information to confuse the enemy.

"If you had the message too short, it was easy for them to work it out," Coral explains. "But by putting this padding on ... it just put the enemy off the scent."

It also had the side effect of letting them pass messages to friends and lovers far from home.

Coral met her husband Sandy Hinds at Central Bureau. He was a signaller and was waiting to be sent north to New Guinea.

"Meeting Sandy — that was the most important thing in my life," she says. "I met him in the May, he went away in the June and in the October, the 20th of October 1944, he asked me to marry him. A faint heart never won a fair lady, somebody said." Sandy and Coral eventually got married on June 2, 1945.

## NYRAMBLA - Central Bureau Headquarters

But during the war, Coral fell ill during Sandy's deployment and the Garage Girls were keen to tell him how she was faring by using the TypeX machine.

When Coral ended up in hospital, Joyce decided to get a message to Sandy in the jungle. "I made it short, but it was just to let Sandy know that Coral was doing alright, she was coming out of hospital. Well, Sandy got that little message that I sent. And he carried it around with him I believe for a long time."

### Taking down an admiral

The work of Central Bureau contributed to one of the big strategic strikes against Japan in April 1943: Operation Vengeance. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy, was architect of the December 1941 Pearl Harbour attack, making him a top military target for Washington.

An Australian wireless unit picked up Japanese radio signals which, when decrypted, revealed that Yamamoto would be visiting troops in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea.

The Japanese cable not only detailed the admiral's itinerary, but also the type of Mitsubishi Betty bombers he and his officers would be flying in, as well as the six Mitsubishi Zero fighters that would be accompanying them. "They had everything, the whole lot," Joyce says. "And sure enough, they were waiting for him — our boys, and the Americans — and they got him."

US fighter planes intercepted Yamamoto's plane over Bougainville, downing on April 18, 1943. "They shot the big boy down," Coral says. "Oh, it was quite a thrill." The wreckage of Yamamoto's plane still rusts in the jungle about 9 kilometres from the Panguna copper mine.

The admiral's death was a blow to Japanese morale but it would be another two and a half years before the war in the Pacific ended.

### A chance discovery

The Allies had been split over the strategic wisdom of Operation Vengeance; the British believed that in exacting revenge against Yamamoto, the US had risked revealing their joint code-breaking ability which had broader strategic value.

Decoding Japanese signals had proven valuable in the war against Germany, insofar as Japanese diplomatic cables from Europe helped inform the Allies of Germany's evolving military strategy.

While the Allies' ability to decode encrypted Japanese signals had steadily improved, it was aided immeasurably by an Australian sapper's chance discovery of a steel trunk buried in soggy ground by retreating Japanese troops in January 1944 at Sio in New Guinea.

The trunk contained sodden code books from the Japanese 20th Army division. Dispatched back to Central Bureau, the code books were carefully prised apart, page by page, and then dried on clothes lines and heaters.

Joyce remembers her friend Helen Kenny, a fellow Garage Girl, helping in that delicate operation. (Kenny later had a long and successful career in journalism, including as literary editor for the Sydney Morning Herald.)

But with the Japanese code books now photographed and distributed among Allied codebreakers, the enemy's signals were terribly compromised — they could be decoded and read by Allied intelligence almost as quickly as the Japanese received it themselves.

So when a Japanese officer sent his grim cable from the port of Kure, south-east of Hiroshima, to Tokyo headquarters on August 6, 1945, it was able to be decoded almost word-for-word.



Above - Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy,  
Right - Group on steps to supply side entrance of Nyrambla



Continued over the page



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## NYRAMBLA - Central Bureau Headquarters

### The Garage Girls and their secret war machine (contd) Seeing the message

Joyce and Coral, like the rest of the Garage Girls, did not speak Japanese, so the first time they saw the translated Hiroshima cable was when the ABC showed it to them.

The translated Hiroshima cable was declassified for the ABC documentary *Breaking the Code: Cyber Secrets Revealed*. (Supplied: Australian Signals Directorate)

Joyce was struck particularly by the cable's last line: *Please investigate and report any information concerning this new type of bomb.*

"I don't like the sound of it," Joyce says, adding that the first she'd known about the atomic bomb was when she read it in the newspapers.

"I was shocked. Horrible. Terrible business."

Coral says she too finds the nuclear attack on Hiroshima confronting to consider.

"I know it was dreadful. But if it hadn't been them, it would've been us. I know it sounds dreadful but, I mean, when I think of what they did to our servicemen, the dreadful lives that they ended up with because of their cruelty..."

Coral doesn't quite finish the sentence. Instead, she starts another: "Yes, well, see they tried to kill our boys off in prisoner of war camps and some of them are still paying for it.

"I suppose we felt sorry for the Japanese, for the ordinary people. But you know, when you think some of the things that they did to our POWs and things ... it was just a blessing when it was all over."

And, according to the American general at Nyrambla at least, the work of the Garage Girls significantly shortened hostilities in the Pacific. "Douglas MacArthur, I think it was, that put the news out that we reduced the war time by two years with the work that we done - so we must have done something special, and I feel very proud about it," Joyce Grace says.

The lesson in war? "Keep it peaceful," Joyce concludes. "Help to keep it peaceful, if you can. Do whatever you can. War's terrible."

### Recognition

Coral Hinds, Joyce Grace and Ailsa Hale, the last surviving Garage Girls, were awarded the Australian Intelligence Medal in January 2023.

Coral died on February 10. Joyce Grace turned 100 on March 4. She and Coral Hinds's son Anthony were presented their medals by the Governor-General on April 18.

## Vietnam vets welcomed

IN recognition of the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, the Australian War Memorial will open the commemorative area and galleries for veterans and their families outside normal hours.

Assistant manager of visitor services Dan Hiscock said this would occur on the night of August 18 - Vietnam Veterans Day - and early the following morning.

Veterans and their families will have access from 5.45 pm to 7.45 pm, and from 8 am to 10 am.

"We are welcoming Vietnam veterans back, 50 years on, to the Australian War Memorial, not only to see the exhibits, but to say thank you for what they did," Mr Hiscock said.

The director of the AWM, Matt Anderson, said it was an opportunity to acknowledge their service.

The offer coincides with a national service to be held at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra on August 18, from 10am.

Australians are encouraged to honour and remember the approximately 60,000 men and women who served in the war, and their families.

During the Vietnam War, 523 Australians were killed and more than 3000 wounded.

Australia's involvement began with the arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam in South Vietnam during July and August 1962.

Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end on January 11, 1973.

The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon, which was withdrawn in June 1973.

In early 1975, the communists launched a major offensive in South Vietnam, resulting in the fall of Saigon on April 30.

During April 1975, a RAAF detachment of Hercules transports evacuated Vietnamese orphans (Operation Babylift), before finally evacuating embassy staff on April 25.

Veterans seeking to book free tickets to attend should visit [www.awm.gov.au/visit/plan](http://www.awm.gov.au/visit/plan).

Source - Army News July 2023

R.I.P. David Barnes, passed away Mon 10th July 2023



2013 President David Barnes.

David will be missed by all, rest in peace my mate and friend, Bill Wagner

Secretary



David Barnes  
Secretary



David Barnes, President  
HMMVPPAA

What a shock. I will really miss my Mondays travelling to Wauchope with my mate "Barnsey". Such a kind and thoughtful character with whom I enjoyed our coffees and cakes each week. A great mate for many years. Thank you, Tim Easton



Thursday lunch gatherings at Veterans Support Centre, Geebung Drive

To David , I would like to say thank you for getting me through some hard times. I enjoyed your sense of humour. And now it is going to be a challenge to get the Rabbitohs

His long and dedicated work will always be valued by VSC members  
Peter Millen

Windy day for Veterans Health Week BBQ for Vietnam Veterans and Soldier On, chef David, Nov 2021



**R.I.P. David Barnes, passed away Mon 10th July 2023**



David Barnes

Tears for David from Roger Mika

Many thanks and may you be in a better place David, cheers, Barry Lynch

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019**



L - R **Ian Robertson**, President 2009-10, 2010 - 11, 2011 - 12, 2012 - 13 (Aug - July following year)  
**Bill Wagner**, President 2005, 2006, (full years) and 2007 Jan-Aug, and 2007 - 08, 2008-09, 2018 - 19, 2019 - 20 (Aug - July following year)  
**Alex Hamilton**, President 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, (full years)  
**David Barnes**, President 2013-14, 2014-15, (Aug - July following year) 2016 -17 (part year)

**Thank you for your service David, RIP mate**



50th anniversary of end of Vietnam War Jan 2023



BBQ in honour of DRA flood recovery team, Laurieton, April 2021 Chefs David and Bill S.

His long time support and work devoted to the veteran community was a show of loyalty and selflessness as was his service in Vietnam. His way of doing things the "David way" was a source of irritation to me but hell I will miss that irritation! Rest easy mate, Jill

**ANZAC Day 2022**



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*Please see staff at the Office every Thursday from 10:30 - 13:00*

**Thank you to our members, advertisers and supporters for their continuing support of our Veterans Support Centre**

**REPORTS**

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

To all members who may not have heard, one of our long time members, David Barnes, sadly passed away on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. David's sister Barbara and family were supported by a large number of Vietnam Veterans and members of Wauchope Sub-Branch as well as other service personnel. The family appreciated our attendance at David's funeral which was conveyed to me by Barbara.

David was the office mischief. If anything went amiss, he was involved somehow. When questioned he would reply "it was not me". His main concern was the entitlements for all veterans, young and old, which caused a lot of arguments especially if the conversation involved Pollies and Government bureaucrats, as those who attended the Office all know.

David and I met about 20 years ago. Over this time he became a great mate and a good friend. Always willing to listen and give you his thoughts. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Fifty years after withdrawal from Vietnam, we still have veterans young and old still fighting to get their claims approved for their entitlements. The younger veteran personnel, who have done one, two, three or more tours are bringing their problems home to young families and partners. How they cope with settling back into civilian life is quite worrying. Our advocacy and pension team are doing the best they can to assist these veterans.

There is a Vietnam Veterans Conference to be held in Newcastle in September where all the above issues and more will be raised with a representative from DVA who will attempt to answer all these questions to our satisfaction.

If anyone has any questions regarding DVA or their entitlements please do not hesitate to contact the office. We are always ready to assist.

All those who are attending our get-togethers on a Thursday are enjoying our new office space with plenty of room to discuss local politics.

Cheers for now, please keep safe, Bill Wagner



**President  
Bill Wagner**



**Membership Officer  
Trevor Morrow**

**Membership Officers Report (August 2023)**

This is my quarterly report to bring you up to date regarding membership matters for 2023.

Sub-Branch Membership is based on the Calendar Year, so it is now time to renew your membership for 2023.

As at 24 July 2023 we have 60 financial members for this year.

Note that for every membership payment of \$30.00 made here at your local sub-branch, \$12.50 is retained by your sub-branch for local use.

To those who have renewed their membership for this year, thank you! Please stay safe and well!

Trevor Morrow, Membership Officer



**Treasurer  
Peter Dorman**

Reports that VSC is financial

**Compensation Advocate's Report**

I continue to assist veterans with their compensation and pension claims. It can be a long slow process with DVA and their current system but I can help to make a good start to your claim with the correct wording (very important) and with all necessary paperwork. Make an appointment to see me by ringing the office or to make a time for a phone call to discuss your case.

I am also a JP and will be happy to help with any JP related issues or signings (no charge of course).  
Mike



**Compensation  
Advocate  
Mike Opie**

**The Korean War 1950 – 1953 (Seventy years since end - July 2023)**

**Served: 17,164**  
**Died: 339**  
**Wounded: 1,216**

The crisis in Korea originated in the closing phases of the Second World War, when control of the Korean peninsula, formerly occupied by Japan, was entrusted to the Allies.

The United States and the Soviet Union divided responsibility for the country between them at the 38th parallel. By mid-1950, tensions between the two zones had escalated. On 25 June a North Korean army crossed into the southern zone and advanced towards the capital, Seoul. The city fell in less than a week, and North Korean forces continued their southward drive towards the strategically important port of Pusan.

Within two days, the US offered air and sea support to South Korea, and the United Nations Security Council asked all its members to assist in repelling the North Korean attack. 21 nations responded. Australia's contribution included 77 Squadron of the RAAF and the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR).

When 3 RAR arrived in Pusan, the North Korean advance had been halted and their army was in full retreat. The UN forces commander, General MacArthur, was given permission to pursue them into North Korea. 3 RAR moved north as part of the invasion force and fought their first major action near the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. As the UN forces continued their advance, a series of successes led many to believe that the UN forces would soon bring the war to an end.

At this point, China entered the war and moved 18 divisions into North Korea, attacking the UN forces, inflicting defeats on the UN forces and forcing them into retreat towards the 38th parallel. The Chinese halted their offensive in January 1951, Seoul once again having fallen. At the UN, efforts were made to conclude a ceasefire without success. By the end of February, Chinese resistance collapsed south of the Han River near Seoul, and the city was recaptured by UN forces in mid-March, the line of war remained around the 38th parallel – where it had started.

Australian troops participated in two major battles in 1951. On the evening of 22 April, Chinese forces attacked the Kapyong valley and forced South Korean and New Zealand troops into retreat; other UN troops, including Australians, were ordered to halt the attack. After a night of fierce fighting, during which their positions were overrun, the Australians recaptured their positions and stalled the Chinese advance, at a cost of only 32 men killed and 53 wounded. For their contribution to this action, 3 RAR was awarded a US Presidential Citation.

The second major battle for the Australians was Operation Commando, an attack against a Chinese-held salient in a bend of the Imjin, a river running north-south that crosses the 38th parallel just above Seoul. Here the Commonwealth Division, including the Australians, had two key objectives: Hills 355 and 317. The attack began on 3 October, and after five days of heavy fighting the Chinese withdrew. 20 Australians were killed in the battle and 89 were wounded.

From 1951 on, both sides found themselves engaged in a war of attrition reminiscent of the Western Front, where men lived in tunnels, redoubts and sandbagged forts behind barbed wire defences. The war was generally fought with artillery and mines and in set-piece battles; at night, patrols ventured into no man's land to raid enemy positions.

As the war settled into stalemate it became apparent that a negotiated truce was the only solution. The UN and North Korean leaderships signed an agreement on 27 July 1953. This agreement technically brought the war to an end, but a state of suspended hostilities continued to exist between North and South Korea.



**Left - 3 RAR defensive positions on the Jamestown Line, winter January 1953**

**Right - men from 3RAR night fighting patrol moving along a communication trench, July 1953**



**The Korean War 1950 - 1953**

**The Battle of the Samichon River (24-26 July 1953)**

was fought during the final days of the Korean War between United Nations (UN) forces—primarily Australian and American—and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA). The fighting took place on a key position on the Jamestown Line known as "the Hook", and resulted in the defending UN troops, including the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) from the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade and the US 7th Marine Regiment, repulsing numerous assaults by the PVA 137th Division during two concerted night attacks, inflicting numerous casualties on the PVA with heavy artillery and small-arms fire. The action was part of a larger, division-sized PVA attack against the US 1st Marine Division, with diversionary assaults mounted against the Australians. With the peace talks in Panmunjom reaching a conclusion, the Chinese had been eager to gain a last-minute victory over the UN forces, and the battle was the last of the war before the official signing of the Korean armistice.

During the action, the PVA had attempted to make a breakthrough to the Imjin River along the divisional boundary between the US 1st Marine Division and the 1st Commonwealth Division to turn the Marine division's flank. Yet with well-coordinated indirect fire from the divisional artillery, including the 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery, and support from British Centurion tanks of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, 2 RAR successfully thwarted both assaults, holding the Hook. U.N sources estimated PVA casualties at 2,000 to 3,000 killed, with the majority of them inflicted by the New Zealand gunners. Meanwhile, on the left flank, US Marines had endured the brunt of the attack, repelling the PVA onslaught with infantry and artillery. Only a few hours later, the armistice agreement was signed, ultimately ending the war. Both sides subsequently withdrew 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) within 72 hours to create the 4-kilometre (2.5 mi) Korean Demilitarised Zone.

**HMAS Sydney commences operations**

HMAS Sydney arrived in Korean waters in early October and began operations immediately. On board the carrier were three squadrons of the RAN Fleet Air Arm, Nos 805 and 808 squadrons, flying Hawker Sea Furies, and No. 817 Squadron, flying Fairey Firefly aircraft. The Sydney undertook numerous patrols in Korean waters during its deployment and its aircraft flew over 2,000 sorties, including ground attacks, artillery spotting, and escort missions. It incurred the loss of three crew and 13 aircraft. The Sydney returned to Australia in January 1952.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**



Left - Canberra Korea War Memorial - photo Peter Ellis  
Right - Canberra Korea War Memorial - photo Jerrye & Roy Klotz MD

**MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Hawaii (July 25, 2022)** Australian Army officers and Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, stand for the Last Post during a memorial service for the 69th anniversary of the Battle of Samichon River at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, July 25. The Battle of the Samichon River was fought during the final days of the Korean War. Twenty-six nations, 38 ships, three submarines, more than 170 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 29 to Aug. 4 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2022 is the 28th exercise in the series that began in 1971. (Photo by Royal Australian Navy Leading Seaman Jarrod Mulvihill)



## Korean Veterans' Day - 27 July

Only five years after the end of the Second World War, Australia became involved in the Korean War. Personnel from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), and the Australian Regular Army (ARA) were committed soon after the war began and would serve for the next three years in the defence of South Korea.

### **Prelude to war**

The origins of the Korean War can be traced back to the end of the Second World War, when the Allies were entrusted with control of the Korean peninsula following 35 years of Japanese occupation. The United States and the Soviet Union accepted mutual responsibility for the country, with the Soviets taking control of the country to the north of the 38th Parallel and the Americans taking the south. Over the next few years, the Soviet Union fostered a communist government under Kim Il-Sung and the US supported the provisional government in the south, headed by Syngman Rhee. By 1950 tensions between the two zones had risen to the point that two increasingly hostile armies had built up along the 38th Parallel.

In the pre-dawn hours of 25 June 1950 the Korean People's Army (KPA) launched a massive offensive across the 38th Parallel into South Korea. They drove the Republic of South Korea's (ROK) forces down the peninsula, capturing the capital, Seoul, within a week. South Korean and hastily deployed United States Army units fought delaying actions as they were forced further down the Korean peninsula, which allowed defensive positions to be set up around the port city of Pusan.

### **70th anniversary of the ARMISTICE**

**Korean Veterans' Day (27 July) 2023 marks the 70th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War.**

More than 17,000 Australians served in the Korean War, supporting South Korea alongside 21 other allied nations in defence of freedom and peace. Tragically, some 340 Australians lost their lives, more than 1,200 were wounded, 29 were taken prisoner, and more than 40 remain missing in action. These efforts went largely unnoticed in Australia, however, causing added suffering for many who served in the so-called 'forgotten war'.

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950 when the Korean People's Army of North Korea invaded South Korea. The North Koreans captured South Korea's capital, Seoul, within days. The United Nations Security Council declared North Korea the aggressor and set up the United Nations Command, a joint force to support South Korea.

Australia was one of 21 members of the United Nations to send military forces to help South Korea.

The Korean War became one of the most destructive conflicts of the modern era. Many of Korea's major cities were affected. The death toll rose to approximately 3 million, including many civilians. Fighting formally ended on 27 July 1953 when an armistice was signed by officials from the United States, North Korea and China. Some Australian defence personnel remained in Korea until 1957. They served as part of a multi national peacekeeping force in the post-armistice period.

The Korean War is sometimes referred to as the 'forgotten war' because it occurred between two very high-profile conflicts, World War II and the Vietnam War.

### **Australia at war**

Each of Australia's three defence services was involved in the Korean War. It was the first war for the newly formed Australian Regular Army.

Korea was the first and only time an aircraft carrier of the Royal Australian Navy had conducted wartime operations.

It was also the last time the Royal Australian Air Force engaged in air-to-air combat.

Of almost 18,000 Navy, Army and Air Force personnel who served in Korea, 340 lost their lives, over 1216 were wounded, and 29 became prisoners of war (POWs).

More than 150 Australian nursing sisters served both in Korea and Japan during the war. They treated the wounded and sick in hospitals, aboard hospital trains and on aeromedical evacuation flights.

In Australia, there was little political or community opposition to our involvement in the Korean War. Very few Australians opposed the Australian Government's military commitment.

Australia's involvement in Korea reaffirmed a view, formed after Japan entered World War II, that Australia's security interests now lay within Asia and our region.

The war also formalised Australia's military alliance with the United States in the ANZUS Treaty.

The Korean War also had implications for a much wider conflict, the Cold War.



## Korean Veterans' Day - 27 July

### First to fight

On 1 July HMAS *Bataan* and HMAS *Shoalhaven* left Japanese waters escorting US troop ships to Pusan. The following day, No. 77 Squadron, led by Wing Commander Lou Spence, flew the first ground support operations over Korea, becoming the first British Commonwealth and United Nations unit to see action in the Korean War. Over the next few weeks, No. 77 Squadron flew numerous sorties against KPA forces and, along with other allied air units, greatly assisted in slowing the North Koreans' advance.

### 3RAR deploys

In mid-July General Douglas MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander of United Nations forces in Korea and wasted no time in requesting the deployment of 3RAR to the peninsula. The Australian government agreed, but stipulated that the battalion would deploy only when fully ready. The battalion was brought up to strength over the next month and a half with reinforcements from K Force, an Australian government initiative calling for volunteers to serve a three-year period in the army, including a year in Korea. In early September, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Green took command of the battalion and put his men through an intensive training program.

In a brilliant master stroke, General MacArthur landed marines of the 1st Marine Division at Inchon on 15 September. Two days later, ROK, US, and British troops took part in the breakout from the Pusan perimeter. One week later, Seoul had been recaptured and UN units began their advance towards the North Korean border.

On 27 September 3RAR embarked from Kure, Japan, and arrived at Pusan the following morning. The Australian battalion was taken on strength of the British 27th Brigade, joining the 1st Battalion, Argyll and Southerland Highlanders, and 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. The brigade was renamed the 27th Commonwealth Brigade to reflect its Antipodean addition.

### 3RAR's first battle

As UN forces neared the North Korean border, China warned them not to cross into North Korean territory, and that such an incursion would not be tolerated. General MacArthur received permission to pursue the fleeing North Korean forces and shortly after crossed into North Korea. The capital, Pyongyang, fell soon after.

As part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade 3RAR advanced north of Pyongyang to assist the US 187th Regimental Combat Team, which had encountered heavy resistance after being dropped behind enemy lines in an attempt to rescue American prisoners of war. On the morning of 22 October 1950, 3RAR was the lead battalion leaving the town of Yongju when it came under fire from enemy troops within a nearby apple orchard. The ensuing fight was swift and brutal, with the Australians routing a numerically superior force and suffering only seven wounded. It was the first combat action fought by a battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment and the men of 3RAR had acquitted themselves well. In the following week those men would fight two more battles - at Kujin, known as the battle of the broken bridge, and Chongju.

At the beginning of November, 3RAR's commanding officer, the indomitable Lieutenant Colonel Charles Green DSO, was mortally wounded by shrapnel as he rested in his tent. Several North Korean artillery rounds had been fired into 3RAR's position but Green was the only casualty. He died of his wounds two days later.



Left - damaged positions along the Hook; Right - men from 2RAR June 1953

Sources - RSL NSW; DVA website; AWM site; Wikipedia and Wikipedia UK; [vwma.org.au](http://vwma.org.au); [awm.gov.au](http://awm.gov.au)

## Researchers uncover identities of more than 60 First Nations servicemen who fought in Korean War

Reg Saunders was a man known for his charm. Long before he worked as a public servant in Canberra, he served in two conflicts – World War II and the Korean War. Even in death, he is still known for his ability to bring people together.

"He was able to bridge gaps between people and generations," Australian War Memorial curator Garth O'Connell said. "He was a leader – he believed in actions, not just words."

Captain Saunders was also the first Indigenous Australian to be commissioned as an officer. But Captain Saunders is unusual in that he was acknowledged for his role as an Indigenous man to serve in the Australian army in overseas conflicts.

Now, the Australian War Memorial has identified more than 60 Indigenous men who served in the Korean War, 70 years after the Korean Armistice Agreement.

### A life of service

As a result of his achievements, Captain Saunders was awarded for his command of the Royal Australian Regiment in Korea. His military career was peppered with extraordinary experiences, including a year he spent on Crete during World War II, hiding behind enemy lines.

He also recalled in vivid detail the horrors of Korea, including the time he and another soldier found a baby alone in a house, and risked their lives to take her to a hospital for care. "It's certainly an experience that you could only have in war," he said in an interview in 1989. "It changed me, it changed my inner me. I've seen people suffer as no people have suffered before... even little children."

While Captain Saunders did serve Australia in an official sense, he later said he had served country rather than king or queen. As a public servant in the 70s and 80s, he went on to champion the First Nations cause, working in the Indigenous affairs sector.

He was frank about what had motivated him during his military career. "I don't owe any allegiance to the Queen, they tried to blood destroy me, and my family, my tribe, my people," he said. "I love my country very much, so my loyalty was purely Australian."

Australia, with its commitment to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, had two readily deployable RAN vessels, HMAS *Shoalhaven* and HMAS *Bataan* (which was on its way to Japan to relieve *Shoalhaven*), as well as No. 77 Squadron, RAAF. The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) was also available, but it was understrength and ill prepared for a combat deployment.

On 28 June Prime Minister Robert Menzies committed Australia's RAN assets to the Korean War, followed several days later by No. 77 Squadron. It wasn't until 26 July that 3RAR was committed to ground operations in Korea.



Top left - Painsstaking research has revealed that more than 60 of those who served in the Korean War were Indigenous Australians

Top right - Researchers have been investigating the role of Indigenous soldiers in Australian conflicts. The Korean War has been considered a "forgotten" conflict in Australia.

## **Researchers uncover identities of more than 60 First Nations servicemen who fought in Korean War**

### **Fighting to be recognised**

More than 17,000 Australians served during the Korean War, 340 of whom were killed, and over 1,216 wounded; 30 became prisoners of war.

The armistice, which continues today, was signed at 10am on July 27, 1953.

Australian War Memorial Indigenous Liaison Officer and Ngunnawal/Gomeri man Michael Bell led the research on contributions and service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

"I believe these men were fighting for more than their country, they were fighting to be recognised," Mr Bell said.

"It was a significant transition period for our people at home and their role in the defence forces overseas."

Historian Michael Kelly said the Korean conflict had long been described as the "forgotten war".

"Australian battalions fought several significant actions, including the battles of Kapyong and Maryang San, often against overwhelming odds," he said.

"The Korean Armistice Agreement 70 years ago was a time in the world's history when the United Nations was truly able to have an impact."

The memorial's curators believe they will uncover more First Nations servicemen that were previously forgotten for their military service.

The process of recognising their sacrifice continues the work Captain Saunders did during his lifetime, to highlight the role of Indigenous people in conflict.

Mr Bell said the reaction of the families of those now named had been one of emotion.

"The overwhelming reaction has been 'Wonderful, it's about time, we didn't realise that you did want our story,'" he said.

**Ken Colbung** was a "strong man with a big heart".

A prominent Aboriginal activist and respected Noongar Elder of the Bibbulmun people, he was described as a "fantastic bloke" who had big plans for his people. A veteran of the Australian Army, today he is recognised as one of more than 60 Indigenous Australians who served in Korea. Colbung enlisted in 1950 at the age of 19. As an Aboriginal man in the 1950s, he could not travel interstate or vote, but as a soldier in the Australian Army he could be sent overseas to serve in Japan and Korea.

"For the first time, as a soldier, I was allowed to drink. I only got knocked back once, by a barman in Adelaide, and my white mates stuck up for me. It wasn't important. I just laughed it off."

Colbung completed his training with the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, at Puckapunyal, Victoria, and served with the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), in Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.

He deployed to Korea with 3RAR in January 1954, during the Armistice enforcement period, and was involved in training and border patrols before the battalion returned to Australia in November 1954.

**Right** - Pusan, South Korea. 9 November 1954. Members of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), and the 16th Royal New Zealand Field Artillery Regiment, wave from the rail as the SS *New Australia* leaves the wharf at Pusan to return home.



Source - Item by Niki Burnside, ABC News ; other images from AWM, Claire Hunter

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## The history of forgetting, from shell shock to PTSD

It has been 100 years since the outbreak of World War One, a conflict which gave us the phenomenon of shell shock and saw the birth of military psychiatry. In that time, how much have we learned about war trauma?

Australia may well hold the record for rescuing the most shell-shocked soldier from the front during World War One. In late 1916, a young man came home from the front so badly psychologically damaged that for 12 years he could not tell a soul who he was. His case was extreme and captured the public imagination. Newspapers called him Australia's Unknown Soldier—buried, not in a cenotaph, but alive.

Whole sections of the Australian population became marginalised in the social conflicts brought about by the war, and what had been a relatively cohesive and peaceful society pre-war suffered trials and shocks it hadn't been subjected to beforehand and hasn't experienced since.

Behind the lines in France the young soldier was discovered wandering, incoherent, panicked and dishevelled, with no memory and no identification except for his Australian army hat. He was taken to a dressing station where doctors diagnosed him with severe shell shock. When he did not recover after several days, they recommended him for 'discharge as permanently unfit'. The reason? 'Stress of the campaign'.

The unknown soldier was sent back to Australia on a ship called the Karoola at the end of 1916 and was delivered to Callan Park Mental Hospital in Sydney. The certifying doctor, at a loss, opened a file and called him 'George Brown'.

As time passed, George's condition deteriorated. He was unpredictably violent to staff and to himself. He would roll up his coat and rock it like a child; he would repeat the same phrases over and over again.

Doctors observed that 'voices, who are unseen, worry him by calling him a coward. His memory is so dull that he cannot answer any question except by answering "I don't know, I don't know".' Their diagnosis was 'delusional insanity' and 'dementia praecox', which we would know today as schizophrenia.

In 1928, 12 years after his admission, the hospital contacted the newspapers to ask, in desperation, if anybody knew who he was. The Truth published his picture and in an article headlined 'Unknown Soldier's Living Death', breathlessly reported: 'It is under the name of "George Brown" that this worried looking soldier spends aimless days and years at Callan Park. Back from the European War came the Unknown Warrior, mentally buried alive in far away Flanders, but physically here in Sydney. He passed through these gates to Callan Park. Will he ever come out?'

The response was intense. More than 100 hopeful people called at the gates of Callan Park to seek a glimpse of George in the hope he was their missing father, son, husband or brother returned, finally—miraculously—from the Great War. Hundreds more wrote letters. Some provided detailed descriptions of their missing relative; others sent photos; still others offered to pay for his care or help trace his family. An elderly woman who had lost three sons in France sent George packets of cigarettes.

Dr Jen Roberts from the University of Wollongong has searched the records of Callan Park for the full story of 'George Brown'. 'Of the 60,000 Australian soldiers killed in WWI, 25,000 were listed as missing,' she says, 'and in most cases the family received no other information. The reappearance of George the damaged soldier, so long after the war, rekindled the hopes of thousands of Australian families who had been forced to live with the permanence of uncertainty'.

Any attempt to assess the impact of WWI on Australia has to start with trauma, according to Professor Martin Crotty from the University of Queensland. 'The trauma was spread widely,' he says. 'There were the wounded, the psychologically damaged, and on the home front there were the bereaved, those who suffered anxiety with relatives being away, and this trauma washed through Australian society as well.' 'Whole sections of the Australian population became marginalised in the social conflicts brought about by the war, and what had been a relatively cohesive and peaceful society pre-war suffered trials and shocks it hadn't been subjected to beforehand and hasn't experienced since.' 'So in WW1 we had violence in the streets, we had the persecution of minorities, we had mass strikes and so on. The closest we've got to this since would probably be the civil division of the 1960s, but the trauma in WW1 and its effects on everyone, whether they went to the front or whether they stayed at home was, I think, much greater.'

Historians are looking through repatriation files to see the extent of the damage. The medical records of returned servicemen offer us a forgotten history, one which runs parallel to the public story of the brave ANZACs. Brave they were, but many were deeply troubled and in desperate need of help. Millions of returned servicemen 'packed up their troubles' and brought them home, where they were encouraged to forget and move on.

## The history of forgetting, from shell shock to PTSD

From WW1 right up until 1980, psychiatrists were of the view that some men were 'predisposed' to suffer trauma because of their inherent individual weakness. 'Malingering' was of great concern to the military in its administration of war pensions. Yet between the world wars, military psychiatry was all but ignored as a field of study.

Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen lectures in history at the University of Western Sydney, and is researching the way psychiatrists conceptualised and treated war neurosis during the Second World War. 'In the medical literature in Australia, America and Britain as well, there's a sense that not all of these men are breaking down because of combat stress. Even if they are, it may be because there's an underlying weakness in their personality,' she says. 'It's not a very compassionate view and it's not a view we would espouse today when talking about PTSD. It's a psychodynamic explanation of war neurosis that doesn't regard trauma as an external stress.'

Christina Twomey, professor of history at Monash University, is currently writing a book about the place of POWs in post-war Australia. Professor Twomey has searched the records of the Prisoners of War Trust Fund from 1952 to 1977 and repatriation records of the time. 'Some of the files I've seen, where the man's a patient at a repatriation hospital, he's been admitted for having a nervous breakdown, unable to continue employment, problems with alcohol—the full picture—sometimes psychiatrists write on the report and say, "I suspect this man is angling for a full pension. There's very little understanding that this may be because of their captivity. There's much more a tendency to think it's because these people are dissolute anyway.'

The Vietnam War was the catalyst for the biggest turning point in the history of war trauma, and this change was brought about mainly by the activism and advocacy of veterans themselves. After the war ended in 1975, psychiatrists in the US and Australia could not ignore the numbers of men reporting with symptoms they initially called 'post-Vietnam syndrome'.

'I hit the brick wall in '93. That's when things went bad and work just went down the tubes,' says Andy Foresdike, who served with the artillery in Vietnam. 'I had to retire at 43.' 'It just hit me, after what had happened over there and the nightmares and things. You know something's wrong but you don't know what it is, and then you just go off. I walked all the way home from Rose Hill to St Marys the day I... I hit a bloke and walked all the way home, and I don't remember it. I think you just learn to live with it. I have. You talk about it, but you always have flashbacks. You look at a name. I see the name of that place, Sawtell, and I immediately think of the bloke I was with who was killed.'

Talking about it was impossible for years, says NSW President of the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia, David McCann, so it was hard to judge the extent of the damage. 'I'd say there wouldn't be too many veterans who've actually experienced the front line, or anywhere near the front line, who don't have a slight touch of PTSD. That's a big statement and I'm no medical person, but you talk to any of your mates, it doesn't matter what service they were in, they'll all admit they feel a little different. We're all a little different when we come back.'

Veterans organisations waged a long campaign to have their war experiences recognised.

In 1980, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was finally included in the American Psychiatry Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or DSM. For the first time, it was understood that trauma was caused by a catastrophic event outside the range of usual human experience. For the first time, soldiers were not solely to blame for their own post-war distress.

'War veterans, who had been somewhat on the nose in the 1960s and '70s as either out of touch with contemporary society, or as relics of a militaristic past, or as somehow problematically involved in the Vietnam conflict, once you have a definition of trauma that posits war veterans as victims of this horrible event—war—it allows the public to re-embrace them,' Professor Twomey says. 'There's profound sympathy for people who've suffered this particular psychiatric condition on behalf of the nation.'

Hindsight presents history in a new light, offering insights and perspectives on the past through stories, some well known and some, till now, unheard.

**Lorena Allam, WhitePaper 2014/15**

IMPORTANT MESSAGE : REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM CITATION (CGWP)

Your attention is drawn to the information below from COL Max Ball (Ret'd) Nat Pres VVAA and refers to his successful appeal to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT) in respect of the Cross of Gallantry With Palm Citation (CGWP).

The salient details are in Max Ball's emails below. The Minister's comments regarding sensitivity are noted. Suffice to say this has been long overdue. I have highlighted the salient points in Max Ball's email.

*I am pleased to advise you that today I have received a letter from the Hon Matt Keogh MP, the Minister for Defence Personnel, that the Department of Defence has recently completed the necessary research required to identify the relevant units, and consequently individuals, who are eligible to apply for and receive the Citation. I also received my Citation in today's mail.*

*As soon as practical please draw the attention of your members to this welcome decision and to the following webpage on the Directorate of Honours and Awards website,*

[Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation | ADF Members and Families | Defence.](#)

This page includes a further site, [List of Army Units eligible for the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation \(PDF 191.07 KB\).](#)

Information on making an application for the Citation, including those made by family members of deceased Vietnam veterans who may be eligible, can be found at

[Defence Medals Application Form | ADF Members and Families | Defence.](#)

All who served in Vietnam from beginning to end including all those we lost KIA/DOW and who succumbed to other causes while in Vietnam will be eligible.

Similarly families/NOK of those who died post-Vietnam will also be eligible to apply for this device on behalf of their now deceased loved ones.

This will take you to the master page <https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards>

Go to <https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/medals/foreign-awards/republic-vietnam-cross-gallantry-palm-unit-citation>

This link applies to families of deceased veterans: <https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/policy-information/unissued-service-awards-deceased-members>

The pdf document listing all eligible units is here: <file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/List-of-Army-Units-eligible-for-the-Vietnam-Cross-of-Gallantry-with-Palm-Unit-Citation.pdf>

The information above is from several emails detailing how you may apply. The web links can be used to start the process. It is not an easy process but can be started by going to the above sites and carefully reading through the details to make your application.

Thanks are due to COL Max Ball (Retd), National President VVAA for his pursuit of this award for all eligible individuals and for families of deceased Vietnam Veterans and to the members who sent me the above information drawing attention to this award. Ed



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## Ex Talisman Sabre

The Australian Amphibious Force (AAF) completed four weeks of large-scale operations when it wrapped up Exercises Sea Explorer and Sea Raider ahead of the multinational Exercise Talisman Sabre. Conducted at sea and ashore near Bowen and Shoalwater Bay, Queensland, the Sea Series of exercises builds the readiness of the AAF by integrating units from across the ADF.

The series began with Exercise Sea Explorer, during which more than 1200 personnel, four helicopters, 101 vehicles, including a troop of M1A1 tanks, and three military working dogs embarked in HMA Ships *Adelaide* and *Choules*. Personnel practised the basic capabilities to manoeuvre, land and support forces from the sea to shore by helicopters and landing craft. Providing realistic scenarios to certify and develop the ADF's amphibious capability, the Sea Series ensures the AAF can provide the Australian Government with the ability to rapidly deploy forces in response to a range of missions.

Commander of the Amphibious Task Force Captain Phillipa Hay said it was important to maintain currency in such a complicated military environment. "With such a large amphibious force being formed from across all three services, there are a lot of moving parts," Captain Hay said. "The Sea Series of exercises allows us to continuously improve on previous years' efforts, as well as continuing to sharpen our skills. Each individual plays a key role in the successful execution of amphibious operations, be they a sailor, soldier or aviator. I am privileged to co-command a force filled with the finest Australians who rise to the challenge."

Exercise Sea Explorer was also the backdrop for this year's major medical exercise – Hospex – which involved more than 40 clinicians, including doctors, surgeons, anaesthetists, dentists and pharmacists.

Hospex included multiple casualty transfers from ship and shore via landing craft and helicopters, major mass-casualty incident response training, and the embarkation of a veterinarian and robotic dog to familiarise medical specialists with the unique requirements of caring for military working dogs in the maritime environment. (contd next page)



Left above - An M1A1 Abrams main battle tank leaves the Mexe-flot after being delivered to the beach head from HMAS Choules - photographer unnamed  
Right above - a simulated casualty is helped to a CH-47 Chinook from the 5th Aviation Regiment during a medical evacuation serial - photographer unnamed



Left above - Gunnery from the 4th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, fire M777 howitzers in support of infantry during Exercise Sea Raider. Photo Lieutenant Stephen Hunter  
Right above - Australian Army soldiers and Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles are loaded onto Landing Helicopter Dock Landing Crafts during the reconstitution of the Australian Amphibious Force. Photo Sergeant Andrew Sleeman

Source - Defence site, photos as listed

## Ex Talisman Sabre

**Contd -** Exercise Sea Raider exposed the force to a range of multifaceted challenges. The layered scenarios provided commanders and the task force with a variety of competing priorities.

Commander Landing Force Colonel Douglas Pashley said there were fundamental difficulties building and maintaining the skills to effectively fight in littoral areas. “This exercise has allowed us to build the readiness of the force – the latest chapter in the ADF’s amphibious journey,” Colonel Pashley said. We have formed a strong joint and multinational team that is capable of cross-domain operations in Australia’s archipelagic environment. Whilst we have achieved real progress over the past few years, it is demanding and it requires regular and focused attention. The Sea Series has been an opportunity for our people to come together, establish trusting relationships, learn from each other, gain an appreciation for the littoral environment and to understand how each element can contribute to the objectives of the force across air, sea and land.”

The force comprised various units and elements from across the Army, including more than 700 personnel and equipment from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the Royal Australian Regiment, as well as elements from 17th Combat Service Support Brigade, and 16th Aviation Brigade.

The AAF now pivots to Exercise Sea Master, nested within Talisman Sabre.

**Defence news, July 2023**

**In an Australian-military first**, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) has conducted a live fire demonstration of a Type 12 Surface-to-Ship Missile (SSM) off the Australian east coast.

The live fire was part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 and marked the first time the JGSDF has tested the capability in Australia.

The Type 12 SSM, which did not include explosive ordnance, was launched from a truck-mounted system at Beecroft Weapons Range and fired at an unmanned target in the East Australia Exercise Area off the coast of Jervis Bay.

Exercise Director, Brigadier Damian Hill, said Talisman Sabre was an excellent opportunity to train alongside our allies and regional partners.

“This is Japan’s largest-ever participation in Exercise Talisman Sabre, and further strengthens interoperability between our military forces. It is another example of how our valuable partnership continues to grow and deepen,” Brigadier Hill said.

“Australia and Japan work closely together to support a secure, resilient and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

“We undertake military training exercises with Japan and other partners regularly, but Exercise Talisman Sabre is a good opportunity to conduct more complex training activities together, like this missile firing.

“I thank the Illawarra and South Coast communities for hosting the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force for the past weeks as they prepared for a safe and successful firing.”

JGSDF Chief of Staff, General Morishita Yasunori said the live-fire activity helped build relationships.

“Exercise Talisman Sabre is important because it strengthens cooperation with Australia and the US, which will help maintain and strengthen a free and open Indo-Pacific,” General Yasunori said.

“I believe the SSM firing exercise, in conjunction with the Australian Navy, will enhance a high level of trust between Australia and Japan.”

Talisman Sabre 2023 opening ceremony was held yesterday on-board HMAS *Canberra* in Sydney will run until August 4 with more than 30,000 military personnel from 13 nations. **Defence news, June 2023**



Left above - Lieutenant General Hiroki Kobayashi, Vice Chief of Staff of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force speaks with JGSDF soldiers ahead of a live fire of a JGSDF Type 12 Ship Missile at Beecroft Weapons Range, NSW in the lead up to Talisman Sabre - photographer unnamed

Right above - Soldiers of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force launch a Type 12 Surface-to-Ship Missile at Beecroft Weapons Range, NSW during Talisman Sabre - photographer unnamed

Australia-US war games on hold as search for crashed helicopter, four crew members, continues. An Australian helicopter crashed into waters off Hamilton Island in Queensland during joint military exercises on Friday night. Four people remain missing. 28 July 2023  
OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE FAMILIES OF THESE FOUR CREW MEMBERS  
Ex Talisman Sabre see previous pages

### The AUKUS Nuclear-Powered Submarine Pathway: a partnership for the future

The AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine pathway will deliver Australia a world-class capability that will see our nation become one of only seven countries that operate nuclear-powered submarines.

The pathway delivers significant long-term strategic benefits for Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. It strengthens the combined industrial capacity of the three AUKUS partners, with increased cooperation making trilateral supply chains more robust and resilient.

Over the past 18 months, Australia, the UK and US have worked in close partnership to develop the Optimal Pathway for Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines.

- **A range of opportunities** for Australian personnel to work with and learn from UK and US Navies including through increased visits to Australian ports by the UK Royal Navy and US Navy nuclear-powered submarines;

- **Increased forward presence** of Royal Navy and US Navy nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, to assist us in developing our knowledge base and industrial capabilities;

- The delivery of three **Virginia class nuclear-powered submarines** for the Royal Australian Navy from as soon as the early 2030s, with the potential to acquire up to two more if needed; followed by

The development, construction and delivery for the Royal Australian Navy of an advanced, nuclear-powered submarine called '**SSN-AUKUS**', incorporating Australian, UK and US technologies.



US Navy sailors holding United States and Australian flags at graduation ceremony of US Navy's Nuclear Power School

Three Royal Australian Navy officers recently graduated the United States Navy's Nuclear Power School (NPS), marking a significant step in Australia's mission to operate conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines.

Lieutenant Commander James Heydon, Lieutenant Commander Adam Klyne, and Lieutenant. William Hall joined the NPS in November 2022, becoming the first group of RAN personnel to undertake one of the US Department of Defense's most rigorous and demanding training programs.

The NPS trains and develops the skills of officers and enlisted sailors in the science and engineering principles fundamental to the design, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

Being one of the first Australians to graduate from NPS, Lieutenant Commander Heydon highlighted the incredible challenge the training program presented to both himself and the team.

"I knew coming in that this was going to be a challenge and I was not disappointed," he said.

"That said, being one of the first Australians to graduate from NPS means a lot to me personally and for Australia as we work to build the skills and knowledge needed to safely operate naval nuclear propulsion technology. With that as our motivation, my colleagues and I put our heads down and cracked on".

The news was well received across the Royal Australian Navy, especially by the Chief of the Nuclear-Powered Submarine Program, Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead.

"I could not be more proud of these three Australian officers, and what they have achieved. This is just the start, as Australia continues to work with our AUKUS partners, learning from the best, to become sovereign ready to safely own and operate our own nuclear-powered submarine fleet".

AUKUS Integration and Acquisition Program Manager USN Captain Lincoln Reifsteck said the Australian sailors and officers who completed the training would pave the way for future endeavours.

These officers will form the nucleus of the RAN's nuclear-qualified submariners," he said.

"Through them Australia will develop its ability to operate, maintain, and build their own conventionally-armed nuclear-powered submarines when it receives its first Virginia class submarine from the early 2030s".

The three Royal Australian Navy officers are set to continue their training at the Nuclear Prototype Training Unit in Charleston, which is expected to conclude in late 2023 or early 2024.

Source - Navy News, images same source

Defence personnel stopped by Sri Lanka and participated in military exercises, workshops, training, sporting events and cultural activities as part of Australia's flagship regional engagement activity, Indo-Pacific Endeavour.

Indo-Pacific Endeavour is visiting 14 countries between June and October, with Defence personnel participating in a range of military activities and engagements involving maritime law, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and gender, peace and security.

This month, the activity was in Sri Lanka where a team of ADF lawyers (Navy and Army) facilitated a Maritime Law Forum in Colombo with counterparts from the Sri Lankan Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Police, focusing on the international legal aspects of transnational crime.

RAN Legal Officer Commander Jaqueline Swinton said the legal team had come from the ADF's Indo-Pacific Centre for Military Law to deliver a two-day maritime security workshop. "This workshop is part of the ADF's commitment to education and training in Sri Lanka as part of the Defence Cooperation Program," Commander Swinton said. "For me as a lawyer, being here has really helped my understanding of the maritime legal issues being faced by the Sri Lankan armed forces and how the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea can support a more stable and secure Indo-Pacific region."

Commander Maritime Border Command Rear Admiral Justin Jones said the Defence Strategic Review highlighted the need to invest in regional partnerships. "Indo-Pacific Endeavour supports the Government's commitment to deepening our diplomatic and Defence partnerships across South-East Asia and the north-east Indian Ocean," Rear Admiral Jones said. "Australia is not just in this region, we are of this region and committed to working with our partners to support a peaceful, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region that is predictable and operates by agreed rules."

In Trincomalee, on Sri Lanka's north-east coast, the Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diving Team Four conducted interoperability exercises with the Sri Lanka Navy clearance divers and Special Boat Squadron.

Executive Officer Australian Clearance Diving Team Four Lieutenant Joseph Woods said the team was sharing underwater sonar and navigation skills with the Sri Lanka Navy. "Artemis is a new capability for use in both search and tactical diving," Lieutenant Woods said. "This week we have trained 15 Sri Lanka Navy clearance divers and Special Boat Squadron personnel on the Artemis system, including various search techniques, target acquisition and prosecution utilising sonar and under water navigation."

ADF personnel who visited Sri Lanka for Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023 were unanimous in their love for the country, food and people.

Next stop for Indo-Pacific Endeavour will be Timor Leste.

**Defence News Navy July 2023**



Left above - Sri Lanka Navy divers and Royal Australian clearance divers underwater during an exercise as part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2023 - photo Lieutenant Joe Woods Right above - Sri Lanka Navy divers and Royal Australian clearance divers conduct exercises at the Sri Lanka Naval Base Trincomalee - photographer unnamed Left below - Lieutenant Joe Woods presents Command Diving Officer Lieutenant Commander Dhanajnaya Vipulasena of the Sri Lanka Navy, with a gift - photo Leading Aircraftman Samuel Miller Right below - Sri Lanka Navy divers and Special Boat Squadron personnel share a physical training session with Royal Australian Navy Clearance Divers



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**A friend suggested putting horse manure on my strawberries... I'm never doing that again, I'm going back to whipped cream.**





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I ENJOY A GLASS OF WINE EACH NIGHT FOR ITS HEALTH BENEFITS. THE OTHER GLASSES ARE FOR MY WITTY COMEBACKS AND FLAWLESS DANCE MOVES



- MOM WHAT IS THAT?

Doctors are receiving an increasing number of complaints about back problems from ANC politicians, members of parliament, mayors etc. After a short and intense investigation it was found that these problems originated from the mattresses they were sleeping on.



MY WIFE MADE ME COFFEE THIS MORNING AND WINKED AT ME WHEN SHE HANDED ME THE CUP. I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE SCARED OF A DRINK IN ALL OF MY LIFE.



- IT'S THAT DAMN SLUT YOUR FATHER RAN OFF WITH LAST YEAR



"Hey, it's good to see you again. That medicine must have worked!"

**A HORNY BURGLAR !!!**  
A burglar entered a bedroom, tied up the husband and wife, kissed the wife's ear and went to the bathroom...  
  
The husband said to the wife "satisfy him or he will kill us, be strong. I love u"  
  
Wife said "he didn't kiss me, he whispered in my ear that he is gay, he needs vaseline and I told him it's in the bathroom."  
😂😂😂😂😂😂😂  
  
So be strong, I love u too.....!!!

And from Submissions from veterans - thank you

## **Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association Inc.**

HASTINGS MANNING MACLEAY  
SUB-BRANCH  
VVPAA Inc, PO Box 5330  
Port Macquarie 2444

Phone: 6581 5230

E-mail: [hmmvppaa@c2a.com.au](mailto:hmmvppaa@c2a.com.au)

website - [www.veteranssupport.org.au](http://www.veteranssupport.org.au)



An affiliated Sub-Branch of the Vietnam  
Veterans Federation of Australia

We are an independent, 100% volunteer Registered Charity Ex-Service Organisation providing a welfare, pension, advocacy, support and information service for veterans and ex-serving & serving members of the Australian Defence Forces, from all arms of the ADF and from all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved.

### **OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

**MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS**

**1030 TO 1330**

### **PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION Port Macquarie HASTINGS GROUP**

The Partners of Veterans PMQ Hastings Group meet for Lunch at 12.30pm onwards on the Third Wednesday of each month

Partners of Veterans from all conflicts are always welcome.  
For any further information contact  
Tineke Dalton on 6586 3461



**Korean War National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra**

Source - [Honesthistory.net](http://Honesthistory.net)