



The RUSI of Tasmania Inc.

The RUSI Gazette

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Anglesea Barracks Hobart

PROFILE ON THE STATE PRESIDENT

Commander Norman MacMillan (pictured opposite) was born in Scotland at Port Glasgow. He and his wife Agnes came to Australia in 1960 when he was Chief Officer of the Blue Star Line (Imperial Star). Norm took up the position of Stevedoring Supervisor with the Tasmanian Stevedoring Company. Norm stayed in Hobart until 1967 transferring to Melbourne.

Norm was commissioned into the RANR in 1960 as a Lieutenant. Norm and Agnes returned to Tasmania in 1974 to the position of General Manager, Tasmanian Transport Commission and he remained there until 1993 retiring as the Deputy Secretary. During his time with the Transport Commission he was responsible for the up-grade of Bass Strait Shipping with the purchase of the ABEL TASMAN, CHALLENGER B, SPIRIT of TASMANIA and STRAITSMAN. He was also involved with the design and implementation of the Bruny Island ferry, MIRAMBEENA as well as the wharf up-grades at King, Flinders and Bruny islands.

Norm saw Active Service in Vietnam between 1967 and 1973 with several lengthy deployments. As a LCDR he was a Sea Transport Officer and which position included ship chartering, and



Commander N.A. Mac Millan OAM, RFD, RANR (Ret)
State President, RUSI of Tasmania Inc.

Stevedoring contracts, as well as JIO reporting. He was CO Port Division RANR from 1978 – 1981 and again, at the specific request of Navy, from 1987 – 1990. He was appointed as Honorary ADC to the Queen 1979 - 1981

On his retirement from the Government he started up his own business as a Marine Advisor. He is a past chairman of the Defence Reserve Support Council, current President of the Master Mariner's Guild, and a Vice Patron of the Vietnam Veterans Association.

Norm was awarded an OAM for services to the Reserves and the Defence Community and has an RFD as well as Active Service and Vietnam service medals.

Norm was elected as State President of the RUSI of Tasmania in November 2011.



What's on and Where

Hobart

Thursday 19 April 2012

"The Dhofar Campaign 1970"

James Ayliffe

Thursday 17 May 2012

"Australia's Amphibious Future"

Major Peter Williams 1 DIV

Amphibious Assault Craft –

A new era in the ADF"

Thursday 21 June 2012

"The Peninsular War"

Dr Gary Daly

Thursday 19 July 2012

SQNLDR Steve de Haan

XO Force Support at El Minhad

Tuesday 14 August 2012

Hobart Branch AGM

5.30pm

RESERVE FORCES DAY 2012

RFD activities will be held on Sunday 01 JUL 2012. In Hobart there will be a March from Abuhera Street into Anglesea Barracks, followed by a BBQ Lunch. Members intending to participate are asked to register at the web site.

http://www.rfd.org.au/site/register_service.asp

Launceston

Wednesday 18 April 2012

LCDR R. Riley RFD, RANR

"Pilotage on the Tamar River

Sunday 29 April 2012

Branch BBQ at Clarence Point

Wednesday 16 May 2012

Major Peter Williams 1 DIV

"Amphibious Assault Craft-

A new Era in the ADF"

BOOK REVIEW – "ALL HELL LET LOOSE"

BY MAX HASTINGS

This is a study of the greatest and most terrible event in history and shows how it impacted on, not only soldiers, sailors and airmen, but ordinary housewives and peasants alike. Max Hastings has put 35 years of research into this book and some of the startling facts and figures will simple amaze readers.

The book ranges over a vast canvas from the agony of Poland in 1939, the Bengal famine in 1943 where at least 1 million people died under British Rule, to the last days of the Japanese Empire. This book is a 'must' for every military historian and is a superlative read.



An artist's impression of HMAS AE1.



An Artists impression of the AE1 at sea on her maiden voyage to join the Australia Fleet

As a matter of interest, The Captain of AE2, LCDR H.G. Stoker RN, is one of the Naval Officers being considered for a VC in the current review of honours being considered by a special Tribunal.

Henry Stoker, who was awarded the DSO for his Exploits in command of AE2, died on 2 February 1966 in London. Was 81 years old.

IT'S A DOGS LIFE

A man recently wrote a letter to a small hotel in a town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote " *I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well groomed, and very well-behaved. Would you be willing to allow me to keep him in my room with me at night. He has his basket and cushion for sleeping and is housed trained.*"

The owner of the hotel wrote back. "*Dear Sir, I have been operating this hotel for over 25 years and in all that time, I have never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the wall. I have never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. I have never had a dog leave without paying the hotel bill. Indeed your dog is most welcome to stay at my hotel and if your dog will vouch for you, you are welcome to stay here too.*"

WILD WEST HERITAGE IN THE RAN – HMAS WYATT EARP

How strange to find a ship of the RAN named after Wyatt Earp, the fabled Marshal of Dodge City in the USA. HMAS Wyatt Earp was commissioned in Adelaide in 1947. She was wooden vessel, 41.4 metres long and drew 4.6 metres and was 402 tons gross weight, and was probably the last of Her Majesty's ships to use sail.

After mechanical problems that saw her return to the Graving Dock from her berthing in Hobart in late 1947, she finally sailed for Antarctic Waters on 8 February 1948. Her mission was to assess a suitable site, chiefly on Heard Island, for future bases. She failed abysmally to negotiate the pack ice and on 16 March 1948 began her return to Melbourne arriving on 01 April 1948. She was paid off in June 1948 and sold to a coastal trading company and plied the coast until January 1959 when she ran aground near Double Island Point Lighthouse, during a storm, and was abandoned.



Australia's First Submarines

The AE1 and the AE2 were the first Submarines to enter service with the RAN. They were built in the UK and were 'state of the art' when delivered to the Navy in early 1914.

When the War broke out in August 1914, both Submarines were sent to New Guinea as part of the naval force to evict the Germans from the country.

On 14 September 1914 after an RV with HMAS Parramatta at 3.20pm off Berard Point on the Duke of York Island, nothing more was heard of the AE1. During the coming year a group of folk called AE1 Incorporated hope to mount a thorough search for the AE1 and to locate her resting place.

The AE2 was ordered to the Dardanelles to support the landing s there and managed to finally breach the Dardanelles and entered the Sea of Marmara where she harassed Turkish shipping until 30 April 1915, when sub-surface control was lost and she was fired on and her pressure hull punctured and was scuttled by the crew. Her remains were discovered, in good condition, in 1998. Hopes of preserving the wreck site are on-going in liaison with the Turkish government.

DID YOU KNOW?

You should learn by the mistakes of others – because you can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

If gluttony is a sign that something is eating us up, the 'Big Four Banks' are among the greatest gluttons this country has ever seen.

DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

At this stage, the Australian Government has not decided to issue this medal to any of her citizens. Canada has ordered 60,000 medals and embargoed 11,000 for the Canadian Defence Force.

The matter of Australia issuing the medal has been addressed by the National Council and at the request of Tasmania. It is understood a number of Ex-service organisations are taking the matter up with Government, including the RAAF Association.

Let us hope that this unique and probably never to be repeated Jubilee will not be let slip without a medal being issued. Poor old Queen Victoria would not be amused!.

Vale Eric

Our oldest member, Captain Eric Canning MBE, passed away peacefully on 05 January 2012 aged 94 years. Eric originally served with the RAAF in North Africa during WWII where he was captured by the Axis Forces. He was imprisoned in a number of POW Camps in Italy and Germany. He made three escape attempts all of which ended in re-capture.

After the war Eric qualified as a Dentist and became one of the country's leading dental figures. His funeral was attended by a number of his RUSI colleagues.

Would you believe

More snow falls in northern USA than falls at the North Pole, because it is too cold to snow at the North Pole.

Australia is the only country in the world which is a continent in its own right.

Where Washington and London are today, the ice was 1.5 km thick 18,000 years ago.

The Antarctic Ice cap contains 70% of the world's fresh water.