

ISSUE 57

# CENTINEL

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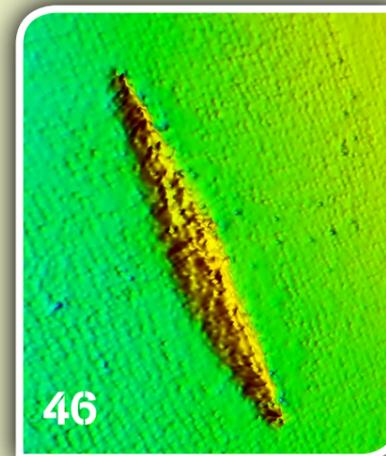
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Issue 57 – March 2018

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AIR, LAND & SEA



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Story page 26

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appropriate.

To be perfectly honest, putting this magazine together was a bit of a  
struggle – for several reasons.

It's always hard to find materiel in January. The ADF and pretty much  
all western defence forces are reduced to skeleton staffing over a decent-  
length holiday period, except of course in Australia's case, about 2000  
deployed personnel and 'duty staff'.

The ADF currently, for whatever reason, also seems to have some sort  
of boycott or 'go-slow' when it comes to sending out information to the  
media. In years past, they were organised and proactive, compiling stories  
and photos and video into packages and spoon-feeding the media (many  
of whom were also on reduced manning over the Australian summer  
holidays). But currently, not so much. Photos get published to the Defence  
Image Library and videos uploaded to their video library, but, save for a  
copy-and-paste 'deep caption' that doesn't change from image to image,  
there's no story to go with the majority of these very professionally  
captured photos and videos.

Even when there is a story to be told (which is also much rarer than it  
used to be), instead of sending a press release as they used to do, the story  
is simply uploaded to a different section on their web site and I only find it  
if I go looking – which isn't as bad for me because I know where to look and  
I now know I have to look regularly. But there's no 'feeding the media' any  
more.

That said, when stories are found or when ministers send press releases  
(because only ministers seem to send press-release these days, and not  
all press releases that are saved to yet another separate archive on the  
Defence web site are actually sent out), they are so dry (from being spun  
in the PR spin cycle) and so repetitive (using the same deep-caption info  
that's in the photos), that they are either useless or only usable with a lot of  
re-writing or imagination and/or artistic licence.

One thing I blame for all this is Facebook – in so far as each of the  
branches of the ADF seem to have latched on to Facebook as the shiniest  
'new' plaything, and pump out short, sharp hits, a) because it's easier and  
b) because the short-term sugar high of likes, shares and comments is the  
latest trendiest reportable metric (noting that the ADF is a bit slow on the  
uptake and still thinks Facebook is a good communication tool. They'll  
catch up/catch on in 18 months or so – maybe).

And therein lies another observation (because I'm obviously an expert  
who knows better ;-)) – but seriously, I am actually a Defence-friendly editor  
out here in the cold, struggling to fill a Defence-friendly magazine, and  
analysing why it has become so much harder) – each of the three services  
(and various branches of the Department too) seem to be running their  
own, separate, media campaigns, with no central oversight or coordination  
or cooperation. And that doesn't work for me. And if it doesn't work for  
me as a Defence-friendly, content-hungry media outlet, then it surely can't  
be working for Defence in terms of getting their message picked up by  
'mainstream' media.

Another related issue, which I might elaborate on more fully another  
time, is the ridiculous situation where photos are published on various  
and numerous official Facebook pages days before they appear in the  
Defence Image Library (the only place where media outlets can download  
high-resolution images), because they have to go through a separate,  
centralised clearance process in Canberra.

I could go on and on about this, but I've literally run out of room!  
Despite my complaints and excuses, however, I hope you find this issue  
nonetheless entertaining and informative. I did the best I could ;-)

Sincerely,

Brian Hartigan, Managing Editor

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Royal Australian Air Force personnel wave goodbye to a C-17A Globemaster loaded with fellow RAAF personnel and F/A-18F Super Hornet equipment from Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East Region, following the end of Australian air-strike operations in Iraq and Syria.



# LAST OF THE HORNETS LEAVE IRAQ



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Two young visitors to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra view a display in the new "From the Shadows: Australia's Special Forces" exhibition.

'From the Shadows' showcases the history of Australia's elite soldiers since World War II – something few outsiders ever sample.

More than 660 objects provided by Australia's Special Operations Command units, including uniforms, gallantry medals and military equipment are on public display until October 2018.

The exhibition also includes a collection of 25 interviews produced by award-winning broadcasters Chris Masters and Max Uechritz, featuring personal accounts of life inside the secretive world of Special Operations.



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# BIG PICTURE 3

A US Navy MH-60 Seahawk spotted at Anderson Air Force Base Guam during exercise Cope North 2018.



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# ACTION STATIONS



**H**MAS Hobart recently conducted weapons-firing trials off the east coast of Australia.

These trials included naval gunfire support drills, anti-air gunnery practice and torpedo testing against real and simulated targets, testing the ship and her crew's performance.

The trial also included the first time the Royal Australian Navy ever used the Phalanx close-in weapon system against a surface target.

HMAS Hobart will sail to the United States later this year to complete more trials ahead of being certified ready to deploy anywhere in the world on operations.

The 147-metre long Hobart-class guided missile destroyer is the first ever built for the Royal Australian Navy, with sister ships Brisbane and Sydney expected to be in service by 2020.

The ships are based on the Navantia-designed F100 frigate and are coupled with the Aegis Combat System.

In theory, they will provide air defence for accompanying ships in addition to land forces and infrastructure in coastal areas, and for self-protection against missiles and aircraft – though in practice, as with many RAN missions, they will be competent and capable working alone. The Aegis Combat System, incorporating the phased array radar AN/SPY 1D(V), in combination with the SM-2 missile, will provide an advanced air-defence system capable of engaging enemy aircraft and missiles at ranges in excess of 150km.



HMAS Hobart fires a Harpoon 'blast-test vehicle' (top), her Mark 45 Mod 6 5-inch gun (above) and a practice torpedo (below) during weapon trials off the east coast of Australia in February. Photos by Leading Seaman Peter Thompson.



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# THE INNER SANCTUM

## OF AN AUSTRALIAN POLICE SNIPER

BY JASON SEMPLE

# .308



# KILLER?

Has the 6.5 Creedmoor put our trusty .308 out to pasture?

I think the argument is compelling.



The author, Jason Semple, left, would like to dedicate this article to his good friend and business partner, former US special forces sniper Andy Butler, far left. "We bounce a lot of chat off each other when we travel and we fully share our knowledge of all things shooting," Jason said. The photo of Andy, far left, shows him leading Kurds to take a town in northern Iraq, and hangs in the Green Beret Club at Fort Bragg.



Custom build: 20inch carbon-fibre wrapped barrel chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor from Proof Research on an XLR20 AR10 from 2A Armament, by ex-US SOF sniper Andy Butler.

Humans are creatures of habit, as soon as we find consistency we revel in its warm embrace. This is definitely the case with precision shooting, where consistency is everything.

Shooting is a collective of habits – the way we breathe, the steady continuous press of the trigger, the follow-through of the shot, the way we caress the bolt handle when Chambering – these are all sophisticated habits in collaboration.

Our choice of calibre can also be a convergence of habit. Shooters spend hundreds of hours in pure dedication together with their chosen calibre as a partnership, chasing perfection, understanding each and every weakness or strength that the collaboration possesses.

As a shooter/calibre relationship, we get to know everything about each other after sending thousands of rounds through variations in weather conditions, both good and bad.

I know how my Federal .308 175gn HPBT LE match grade projectile performs in every facet of shooting delivery because there is no round that I have shot in greater numbers. I am 'attached' to this round because I know it so well – even though it's BC is ordinary and the projectile does not really perform well in windy conditions.

The thing is, I'm still very accurate with it because I know the round and I know what it does in a breeze. We are in sync from the strong bond we share that has been created by concentrated repetition more than mere companionship.

Habit and consistency allows you to form intuition and instinct when you're a precision shooter or sniper, built on real experience.

For most of us snipers and many precision shooters, the .308 has been the staple calibre over the years. The .308 calibre is very dependable and has been proven to possess the hitting power and accuracy that has kept it in the forefront of shooting for decades. The bulk of our training has been with the .308, which as stated above, has provided us with an immense depth of knowledge and shooting prowess.

Without doubt, the .308 has an impeccable pedigree too. It was the US Army's successor to the .30-'06 Springfield, developed to offer US soldiers similar performance in a shorter, lighter package. It allowed soldier's to carry more rounds for the same weight and has easily proven itself. Aligned with one of many match rounds, the .308 has shown its accuracy potential for six decades.

The .308 calibre also has an extremely diverse range of projectiles. The progression of projectile development has been driven by years of operational requirements, with enough exposures to properly ensure legitimate validation over time.

So, lots of positivity talking about a calibre that any CONTACT reader with even moderate shooting experience would agree with.

## ENTER 6.5 CREEDMOOR

Some of you may not have heard of it – so what is it? Well, the 6.5 Creedmoor, as a calibre, was developed by Hornady engineers Dave Emary and Joe Thielen in 2007 after Dave's interactions and discussions with Precision Rifle Shooting champion Dennis DeMille at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's National Match at Camp Perry, Ohio. Emary and DeMille wanted a calibre and projectile that would satisfy the rigours of competitive shooting in the Precision Rifle Series (PRS), a championship-style point-series event and the leading precision rifle competition in the USA. PRS matches are recognised as the 'major league' of sniper-style rifle matches.

The shooting matches are not shot from a bench or even on regular square ranges. They feature practical, real-world field conditions, with the addition of improvised barricades and obstacles to increase the difficulty and subsequent skills required. Rarely are shots taken from a standard prone position. Typical target ranges are from 250m to 1100m, with each PRS match having unique shootings challenges that test different aspects of precision shooting.

PRS comps have single cold-bore engagements at medium ranges, then multi-distance target engagement zones with varying size steel plates



## 6.5 Creedmoor .308 Winchester



ABOVE: XLR20 AR10 from 2A Armament chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor by ex-US special-force sniper Andy Butler.

RIGHT: Comparing ballistic data from .308 Winchester V 6.5 Creedmoor on the same range in the same conditions.

### .308 175 grain Sierra Match King (M118LR)

|                       |             |             |             |            |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Ballistic Coefficient | .243 G7     |             |             |            |
| Range                 | 300M        | 500M        | 800M        | 1000M      |
| Elevation Hold        | 1.0 mil     | 2.9 mils    | 6.8 mils    | 10.4 mils  |
| Wind Hold             | .6 mil      | 1.0 mil     | 1.8 mils    | 2.4 mils   |
| Velocity              | 695m/s      | 592 m/s     | 452 m/s     | 369 m/s    |
| Energy                | 2746 Joules | 1992 Joules | 1166 Joules | 779 Joules |

### 6.5 Creedmoor 140 grain ELD Match

|                       |             |             |             |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ballistic Coefficient | .322 G7     |             |             |             |
| Range                 | 300M        | 500M        | 800M        | 1000M       |
| Elevation Hold        | 1.0 mil     | 2.6 mils    | 5.8 mils    | 8.5 mils    |
| Wind Hold             | .4 mil      | .7 mils     | 1.2 mils    | 1.6 mils    |
| Velocity              | 736 m/s     | 654 m/s     | 540 m/s     | 471 m/s     |
| Energy                | 2460 Joules | 1946 Joules | 1335 Joules | 1017 Joules |

all the way out to 1100m. Added to the test is the distinct lack of time. Shooters may have 4-5 targets from 200m – 1100m and no more than 15sec to shoot them all.

The competition is set up in hand-picked ranges where difficult wind shots are required through traces where there are multiple and differing wind forces in play over the same trajectory.

New Zealand has some invite-only gatherings that are similar and really test a shooter's true skill under pressure.

The upside to these competitions is that there are in excess of 100 very skilled marksmen that participate over the series across America. This provides the commercial industry with some awesome data when it comes to ferreting out what works and what does not work in terms of ammunition and rifles.

It's not just the commercial world that benefits from this data and activity either. The military has active-service personnel who participate in their own time, and this has led to DoD and SOCOM taking significant interest in advancements such as 6.5 Creedmoor.

Top-ranked shooters such as Shannon Kay, who served as a sniper and sniper instructor in

the US Army both in conventional and special operations units, explains the benefit of the PRS competitions and equipment advancement.

"The civilian side is so much further ahead than the green side in this regard. They are leading the market. DoD and SOCOM are coming to the civilian side trying to figure it out," Kay says.

In terms of the 6.5 Creedmoor Kay acknowledges, "The 6s and 6.5s are ballistically superior, have less recoil, more efficient case designs, and use high-BC bullets. Any time you're shooting in a field or competition environment, if you can hold closer to the target either in windage or elevation, you have a statistically better chance of hitting the target. The 6s and 6.5s have far fewer variables than the .308s. They are a huge advantage."

So, if you are still asking, what is the 6.5 Creedmoor – well, in as non-technical lay terms as I can muster, the 6.5 is basically a necked down .308 cartridge with a long and sleek projectile running at 6.5mm in diameter. You can see the dimensional attributes in the attached photos, with both .308 and 6.5mm next to each other.

The positive factor here with the cartridge dimensions is that .308 stocks and magazines are

ready for the 6.5 calibre transition, though a full weapon would require the inclusion of the 6.5mm barrel of course.

The 6.5 also functions excellently in gas-operated gun configurations which is important if it wishes to succeed in LE or Military roles.

My business partner in the USA, ex-US SOF sniper Andy Butler, recently built a customised gas gun in 6.5 Creedmoor. Andy combined a 20inch carbon-fibre wrapped barrel from Proof Research with a beautiful XLR20 AR10 from US company 2A Armament. Since his first 6.5 purchase, Andy told me his .308s have been gathering dust.

"In my opinion the 6.5 CM pros well outweigh it's cons," Andy said.

"It is 25% more efficient than the .308 with reduced recoil for faster follow-on shots and a higher hit probability should the shooter make a mistake in calculations for range or wind holds, which can make the difference in situations where speed and accuracy could be the difference between mission success or failure."

Andy hits a familiar point too, which was also made by Shannon Kay, in that the 6.5 has less recoil than the .308. Recoil management is very

important when we look at follow-up shots. Less recoil and muzzle displacement mean we can get back on the target zone quicker and deliver more fire to the initial threat, or to a new one.

However, the ballistic data is the true validation point and the physics cannot be disputed. Andy and I compared the .308 175 grain Sierra Match King (M118LR) and the 6.5 Creedmoor 140 grain ELD Match rounds. We put them head to head using the same atmospheric ballistic data to ensure results were relative. Empirical data was obtained using Applied Ballistics through one of our Kestrel 5700 professionals and the Kestrel link app.

Data was derived using muzzle velocities of 869m/s (2850 f/s) coming out of 24inch barrels for both calibres.

The conditions were: temp 6 degrees Celsius; density altitude 589m; wind speed 4.5m/s; wind direction 90 degrees (full value); target direction 0 degrees; and, inclination 0 degrees.

I think the results speak for themselves. If you look at the tables, it's not surprising that the smaller 6.5mm projectile is maintaining more velocity at each range marker. The sleek 6.5 projectile has a superior BC and drag coefficient

over the 175gn .308 bullet, and that allows it to cut its way through the atmospheric more efficiently.

The 6.5 lacks the hitting power (energy) of the .308 round out to 500m, but let's look at that data for a minute. Even at close range such as 300m, the .308 projectile has only 10.4% more kinetic energy to unleash than that of the 6.5 (2746 J over 2460 J). Experts are saying that the 6.5 makes up for this energy reduction because the projectile's sectional density allows it to penetrate to the same degree as the .308 in the same mediums with less power requirement. Basically, the shape allows for more efficient penetration.

Once we are past 550m, however, the 6.5 maintains a better velocity and thus claws back the lead in the energy race. By the time we are at 1000m the 6.5 is delivering almost 25% more energy directly to the target than the 175 gn .308 projectile (1017 J over 779 J). There goes any hitting-power arguments against 6.5!

At the 1000m mark, you can see the .308 is just about to transition down from supersonic speed (343m/s) while the 6.5 has plenty left in the tank. In fact, the 6.5 projectile will still be supersonic out to 1150m before it fades into the transonic zone, which is similar to that of the .338. In lay terms, this means the 6.5 projectile will be more stable, more efficient and easier to predict out to greater distances. We try to avoid the transonic 'dirty air' zone as much as possible due to the unpredictable results we tend to get there.

The next thing we need to focus on is the vertical displacement and the effect of wind. If we go straight to the 1000m mark, you will see that the .308 projectile requires 1.9mils (or 1.9meters) more vertical hold than that of the 6.5 Creedmoor. The less vertical adjustment allows us to engage targets quicker that are spread between close- and long-range positions with less adjustment.

Of critical importance is the 6.5's ability to deal with wind. You can see from the data that at 1000m with wind at 4.5m/s from left to right, the 6.5 requires 0.8mils (80cm) less hold than the .308 (1.6mils over 2.4mils). This accuracy factor is incredibly important when you consider that wind is the main cause of a miss at medium- to long-range engagements. If we can be more confident with how we mitigate wind we can shoot quicker and with much more confidence.

I'm no different to other snipers and precision shooters who have an inherent love affair with our .308s and feel loyalty to a round that has no doubt been loyal to us for many years.

But we have to be careful not to let our loyalties prevent us from moving on either. There is no doubt in my mind that the 6.5mm Creedmoor is superior in all the areas that matter to me in shooting – speed, accuracy at all ranges, recoil management for follow-up shots and terminal ballistics.

Once 6.5mm has enough depth in terms of projectile types (armor piercing, glass penetrators etc) its transition into LE and military applications will be inevitable.

I don't think anyone is standing on the hilltops shouting that the .308 calibre is dead, but as Shannon Kay says, "That's only because it's too popular to die".

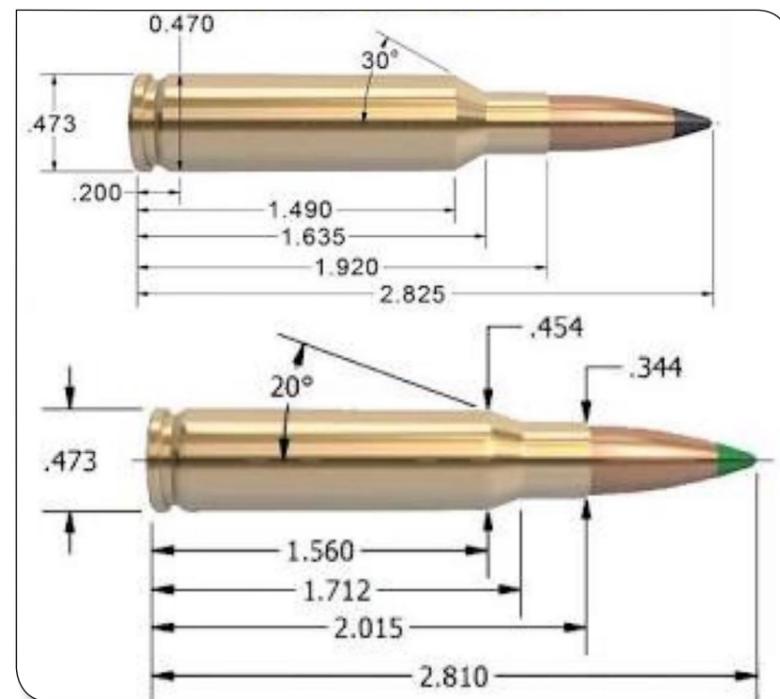
Shannon sums it up perfectly – "The longer the shot, the wider the performance gap between 6.5mm cartridges and the .308. Clearly the .308 is dead among long-range competitive shooters, as they are not bound by nostalgia or logistics. They only use what works best for the job – and in today's world, the job requires something more than what the .308 has to offer".

I'm really looking forward to seeing where it goes in the combative carbine world as well.

But, for me, my next longarm purchase will not be in .308, but in 6.5 Creedmoor.

6.5 Creedmoor is here to stay.

BELOW: 6.5 Creedmoor (top) and .308 Winchester.  
RIGHT: (from left) 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Winchester and 30-06.



# AWE 2018

## OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER

CONTACT has been appointed 'Media Partner' to the Australian Warrior Expo – a partnership that makes perfect sense to us, and one that is already reaping benefits.

# AUSTRALIAN WARRIOR EXPO

In case you don't know what Australian Warrior Expo actually is, let me explain...

Australian Warrior Expo is a pretty unique opportunity for companies specialising in the law-enforcement, military, emergency-services and security-products-and-equipment field to talk directly to buyers – and for both personal and institutional buyers in those fields to talk directly to the companies.

"But that sounds exactly like any other conference", I hear you say.

Australian Warrior Expo is not a conference – no death by Powerpoint – no boring 'lectures' – and no trudging through trade booths just because the organisers ask you to 'support the companies that made all this possible'.

AWE is all about the trade booths – all about turning up to 'talk turkey' with people who want to sell stuff – because the attendees are there specifically to buy stuff, either directly on the day or later down the track when their parent unit or organisation is ready to sign a procurement contract.

In this regard, Australian Warrior Expo is unique – there's simply nothing else like it in Australia.

AWE Event Manager Ashleigh North says that in deciding to pull this major event together, she consulted widely with people from both sides of the aisle.

"Exhibitors tell me they are tired of investing huge sums to set up in exhibition halls that are virtually empty except during coffee and lunch breaks, because the 'conference' is just that – a conference, where the exhibition is little more than a side show," she said.

"On the other hand, conference attendees turn up for the lectures or the key-note speeches and, for many, the 'side show' is little more than a place to mingle between talks with fellow attendees with a coffee in hand.

"For the serious operators and serious buyers Shot Show in Vegas is what they'd all love to attend – but the cost is prohibitive, especially if they want to go in an official capacity.

"So our idea with Australian Warrior Expo is to bring a little bit of Las Vegas to BrisVegas!

"Of course, Australian Warrior Expo won't be no "Shot Show" – that thing is unbelievable – but that's the style of event and vibe we're aiming for."

Australian Warrior Expo will feature trade exhibitions where company booths will be well staffed to talk with a keen crowd of attendees who are there for the flip side of the exact same coin – to buy, or at least learn about equipment offerings in the law enforcement, military, emergency services and security industries.

And so that the serious talking about equipment and gear can proceed on each stand un-distracted, there will also be a huge retail store on site where all the gear being discussed can be purchased – significantly below retail in most cases.

Australian Warrior Expo will be held at the massive, impressive and recently modernised Brisbane Showgrounds, almost in the centre of BrisVegas, on 15, 16 and 17 November – from 10am to 4.30pm on Thursday, 10am to 6pm on Friday, and with an early mark (9am-1pm) on Saturday.

Complementing the serious expo business during the day, a VIP night with guest speaker on

Thursday, and an AWE Party on Friday (both with limited tickets available), will offer ample extra opportunities to mingle with like-minded people in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Ashleigh North says, "The interest, enthusiasm and momentum thus far for Australian Warrior Expo has been phenomenal from both exhibitors and attendees alike".

"There's nothing else like this in Australia.

"This will be a unique event for this niche market – at least until the next one," she says with a grin.

Whether you're a personal retail shopper in the law-enforcement, military, emergency-services or security industries – or even an outdoor enthusiast – or if you're involved or interested in your parent-organisation's corporate equipment-procurement field, Australian Warrior Expo is for you.

Likewise, if you are a company wishing to sell into those markets, Australian Warrior Expo is a unique, exciting and groundbreaking opportunity you can't afford to miss.

For attendee and exhibitor information, visit [www.australianwarriorexpo.com.au](http://www.australianwarriorexpo.com.au)

# WARRAMUNGA



## BILLION DOLLAR DRUG BUSTER

In mid November 2017, in mid Indian Ocean, HMAS Warramunga and her ship's company of 190 rendezvoused with HMAS Newcastle and officially took over Operation Manitou duties.

After that, not much else happened – or, more correctly, not much worthy of reporting back home happened – as Christmas fast approached.

But after Christmas – well that's a whole different story altogether.

PHOTOS BY LEADING SEAMAN TOM GIBSON



Warramunga's mission is the 66<sup>th</sup> rotation of a Royal Australian Navy major fleet unit for operational duties in the Middle East since 1990, and her third.

HMAS Newcastle was already proceeding home on completion of operational duties as Warramunga headed west to commence her force assignment to Joint Task Force 633, on a mission that will see the ship and crew away from home for nine months.

The mid-ocean rendezvous was a brief opportunity to formally hand over the mission, swap some stories and, as a special treat for three pairs of siblings to briefly reunite.

Leading Seaman Dimitri Bellas, Leading Seaman Jamie Janes and Able Seaman Peta Large crossed decks from Warramunga to Newcastle to catch up with their homeward-bound siblings Leading Seaman Peter Bellas, Leading Seaman Isaac Janes and Able Seaman Paige Large.

Able Seaman Paige Large said it was a great opportunity to say 'hello and goodbye' and catch-up for an hour in person.

"An hour wasn't really long enough but it was so good to see each other," she said.

"We took lots of photos and I've already sent them to my dad and grandparents."

To complete the handover, Newcastle's Commander Mark Sirois presented Warramunga's Commander Dugald Clelland with the coveted Rhino Trophy, which has been passed from ship to ship on Operation Manitou for years.

HMAS Warramunga sits off the stern of a dhow in the Middle East as members of her crew search for illicit narcotics.

Christmas was a truly festive occasion aboard Warramunga, with lots of red-and-white clothes, tinsel, turkey, prawns and everything the crew could want – except grog and family.

Then, with the festivities over and when almost every other Aussie back home was watching cricket or frying on a beach, the men and women of HMAS Warramunga settled in to some serious work.

On 27 December, what turned out to be just the start of an incredible run of successes came her way.

Over the next three days, Warramunga's boarding parties intercepted and boarded three suspected drug-smuggling ships – and came away with a total of 8 tonnes of hashish and 69kg of heroin.

The operation was planned and coordinated by the Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150), which is currently commanded by Australia and supported by an Australian/Canadian staff.

The illegal drug haul was the largest quantity of hashish ever seized by an Australian ship on Middle East maritime security operations – and the overall haul had an estimated street value at around AUD\$415 million.\*

Commanding Officer HMAS Warramunga Commander Dugald Clelland said the operation was the culmination of months of hard work by his ship's company.

"The crew prepared extensively for a task like this and we were able to employ our helicopter and boarding crews to locate and board three suspect vessels," Commander Clelland said.

"A thorough search by the boarding parties uncovered a large quantity of hashish and heroin intended for distribution around the world."

Commander of Australian Forces in the Middle East Major General John Frewen said this operation would impact on the flow of narcotics around the world and the use of drug money to fund extremist organisations.

Australian commander of CTF-150 Commodore Mal Wise said the three-ship haul of narcotics was a reflection of the capability that HMAS Warramunga brought to the operation.

But Warramunga was only getting started.

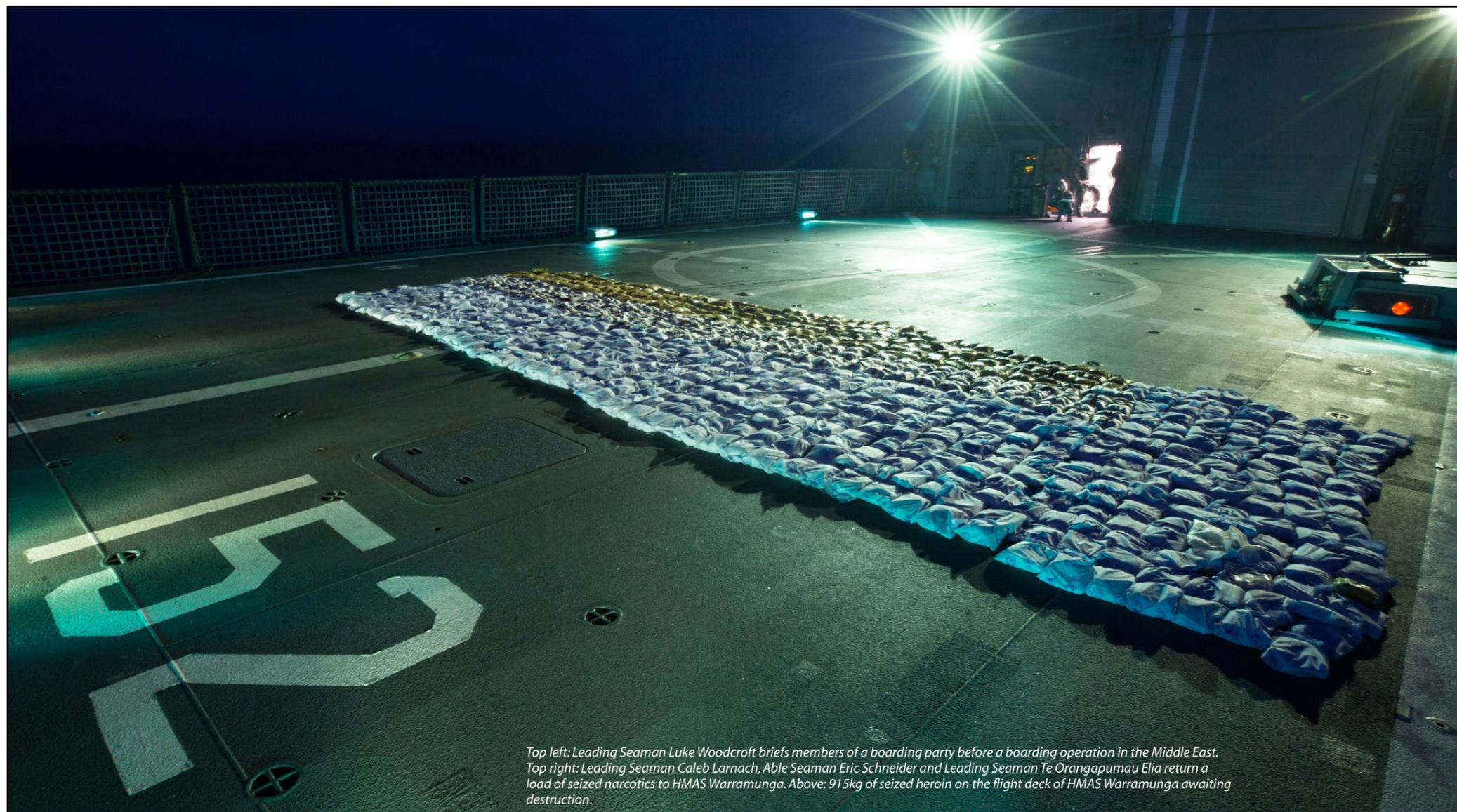
On 3 January, with support from a UK Royal Navy helicopter, Warramunga conducted a complex operation in the wee small hours of the morning.

Operating in the dark added a new level of complexity and danger for the crew, but they took it in their stride – and came away with another 3.5 tonnes of drugs, estimated to be valued at more than AUS\$180 million\*.

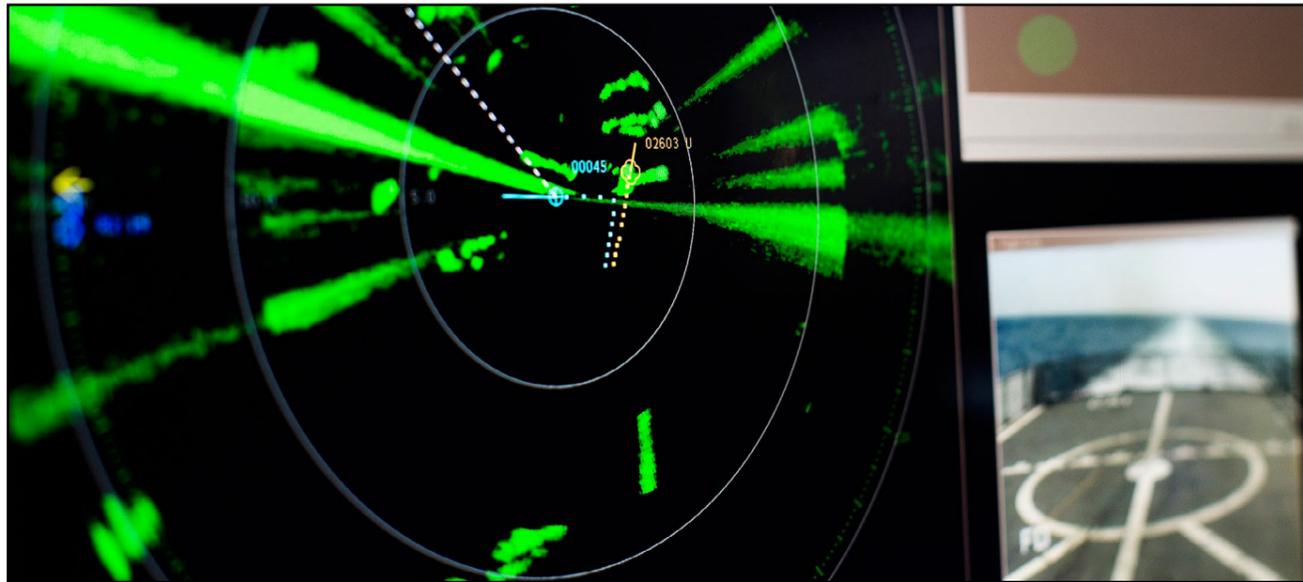
Warramunga's total seizures now tallied more than 11.5 tonnes of hashish and 69kg of heroin, with a total estimated street value of more than AUS\$595 million\*.

Commander Clelland said the operation was a result of a complex night operation conducted in close coordination with the crew of RFA (Royal Fleet Auxillary) Fort Rosalie.

"The Royal Navy helicopter was able to cue us on to the suspect vessel, which Warramunga's boarding party searched in challenging conditions," Commander Clelland said.



Top left: Leading Seaman Luke Woodcroft briefs members of a boarding party before a boarding operation in the Middle East. Top right: Leading Seaman Caleb Larnach, Able Seaman Eric Schneider and Leading Seaman Te Orangapumau Elia return a load of seized narcotics to HMAS Warramunga. Above: 915kg of seized heroin on the flight deck of HMAS Warramunga awaiting destruction.



"On this occasion, the boarding party did a first-rate job locating and seizing more than three-and-a-half tonnes of illicit narcotics."

Commodore Wise praised the close teamwork between Fort Rosalie and Warramunga.

"In this challenging maritime environment, the Royal Navy rotary-winged asset from Fort Rosalie was essential to locating the suspect vessel," Commodore Wise said.

"Close cooperation assisted the crew of Warramunga in successfully seizing a substantial quantity of narcotics."

"This operation highlights the excellent cooperation shown by many nations contributing to Combined Maritime Force operations in the Middle East Region, which are making an impact on the flow of illegal narcotics that fund terrorist networks."

Four days later, Warramunga was at it again, this time seizing 111kg of heroin valued at \$33 million.

This took the running totals up to 11.5 tonnes of hashish and 180kg of heroin with a total value of more than \$625 million\*.

While there was then a relative lull in the news back home for the next two weeks, HMAS Warramunga and the other elements of CTF 150 were still hard at work, analysing years of historical data on thousands of small- and large-ship movements across vast expanses of ocean.

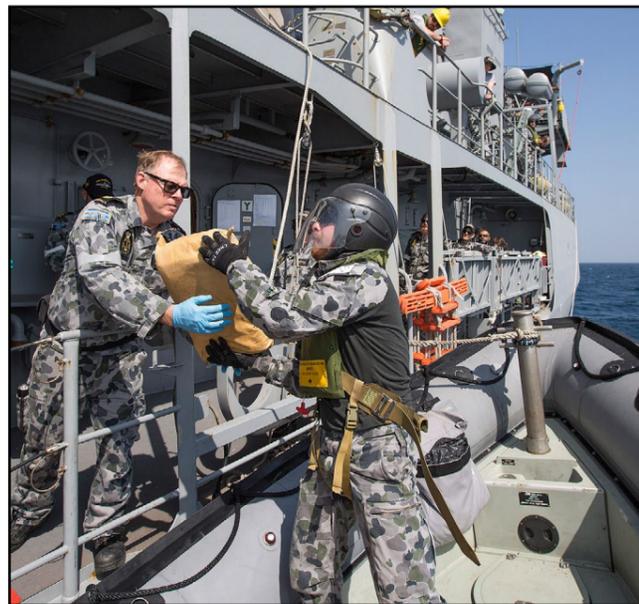
On 23 January, a Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft detected a suspicious vessel in the Western Indian Ocean, and HMAS Warramunga's boarding parties were again in action.

After boarding and a thorough search of this new suspect, on 24 January, the news that filtered back was gobsmacking – a new record haul of 915kg of heroin valued in excess of AUD\$274 million\*.

It might be a good time to mention here that the Kiwis flying above on this mission were not

Far left: Leading Seaman Neil Gough and Petty Officer Chris Leibick label and count parcels of seized narcotics. Left: Leading Seaman Adam Cook, Able Seaman Dylan Canderle and Able Seaman Lydia Ratu Kavoa label and bag seized narcotics. Bottom left: Radar tracking a 'contact'. Below: Petty Officer Chris Leibick passes down a parcel of seized narcotics to Able Seaman Eric Schneider.





Far left: Able Seaman Stephanie Pannell weighs bags of seized heroin. Left: A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 Orion flies past HMAS Warramunga's boarding team in action. Bottom left: Able Seaman Luke Pozzi passes a parcel of seized narcotics to Chief Petty Officer Mark Goulding. Below: Sub Lieutenant Thomas Liley passes a parcel of seized narcotics down to Able Seaman Lydia Ratu Kavoa.

the only Kiwis involved. Two Royal New Zealand Navy sailors posted on exchange on the Australian frigate were driving the sea boats that transported Warramunga's boarding party, and returned the heavy cache of illegal narcotics to Warramunga, where they were analysed, catalogued and ultimately destroyed.

The total tally now stood at more than 11.5 tonnes of hashish and more than 1 tonne of heroin – with a total value in excess of \$900 million\*.

If they keep this up they'll surely bust a billion!

And bust a billion they did – on 1 February when another 414kg of heroin valued in excess of \$124 million was taken out of the terrorists' financing chain.

On this occasion it was the ship's own Seahawk helicopter crew who detected the smuggling vessel while conducting surveillance late on 1 February, in an operation planned by the Australian-led Combined Task Force 150.

The subsequent boarding by Warramunga's crew located the narcotics disguised as a consignment of processed fish deep inside the wooden dhow.

Commanding Officer HMAS Warramunga Commander Dugald Clelland said the ship's seventh seizure had achieved a significant milestone for Australian maritime operations.

"As a result of this latest seizure, Warramunga has now taken more than \$1 billion worth of narcotics out of circulation.

"I think in anyone's estimation, that's an enormous sum of money that's no longer available to fund terrorist activities around the world.

"We have now taken seven shipments out of circulation and, with this success, my crew is even more determined to locate and seize even more narcotics, to take them off our streets and to make the funds they could generate from their sale unavailable to terrorist networks operating around the globe."

\* Drug valuations are based on the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2015-16 figures for cannabis resin (hashish) at AUD\$50 per gram (p215) and heroin at AUD\$300,000 per kilo (p216).



# WARRAMUNGA'S KIWI KLUB

Two Royal New Zealand Navy sailors were important members of the tight-knit team that helped HMAS Warramunga reach billion-dollar drug-buster status in the last weeks of 2017 and the first months of 2018.

As boat coxswains on Royal Australian Navy's ANZAC-class frigate HMAS Warramunga, Leading Seaman Combat Specialist Te Orangapumau Elia and Able Seaman Combat Specialist Daniel Peihopa drive the sea boats that transport the boarding parties to their target vessels and then return with the cache of seized narcotics to HMAS Warramunga.

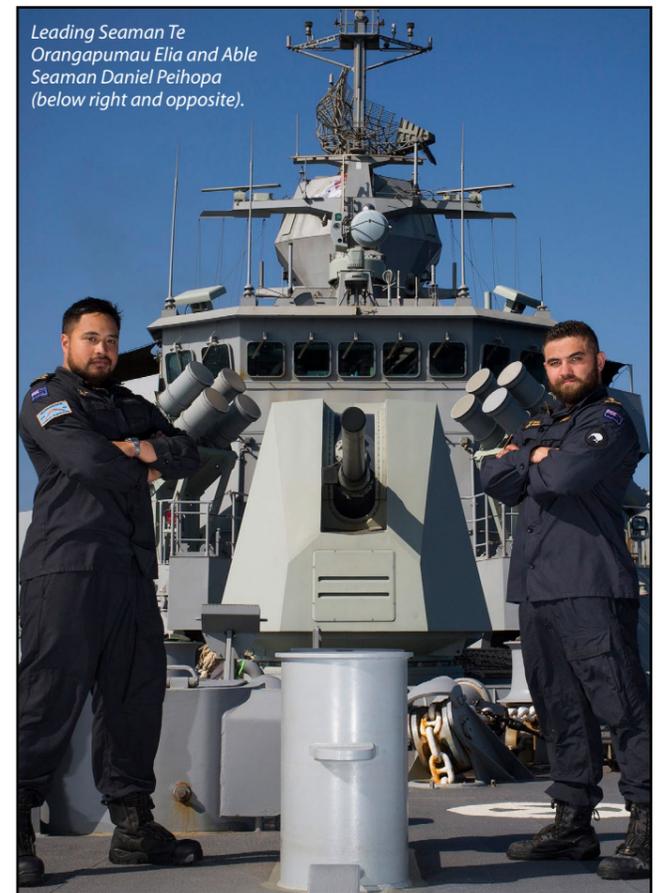
"It's the best feeling when all your hard work and effort to get the job done pays off," Leading Seaman Elia said.

"Taking part in one of the Royal Australian Navy's biggest drug seizures is an amazing experience.

"Helping intercept one fishing vessel carrying drugs got me excited, but catching three boats trafficking illegal narcotics in a row – that was great!"

Able Seaman Peihopa said it was an awesome feeling seeing the tonnes of illegal narcotics transferred to Warramunga and then disposed of safely at sea.

"Preparations for the boarding [on 24 January that netted 914kg of heroin] started at midnight and the excitement of it all kept everyone awake," Able Seaman Peihopa said.



Leading Seaman Te Orangapumau Elia and Able Seaman Daniel Peihopa (below right and opposite).



Aussie sailor Able Seaman Bridget Hopkins and Leading Seaman Te Orangapumau Elia up front, with Able Seaman Daniel Peihopa driving.



Leading Seaman Te Orangapumau Elia and Able Seaman Daniel Peihopa (above right and below).

Leading Seaman Elia and Able Seaman Peihopa were both posted to Warramunga in July 2017, for a 12-month exchange.

They both previously deployed on another maritime security operation in the Middle East in 2015, during which the Royal New Zealand Navy frigate Te Kaha seized heroin worth NZ\$235 million.

"I was involved in Te Kaha's drug bust in the Middle East two years ago, so I know the feeling of success," Leading Seaman Elia, who joined the Navy in 2009 after graduating from Te Aute College in Hawkes Bay, said.

"The biggest challenge of being deployed is time away from family, especially my partner and our now six-year-old daughter.

"I phone them whenever we visit a port and email them regularly, so I know what's happening back home."

However, even with all the modern means of communication on Warramunga, Able Seaman Peihopa said he struggled at times with pangs of homesickness – however...

"Few sailors get this opportunity, so I'm making the most of it," he said.

"I'd like to improve as a sailor so I am doing my best to learn new ways of conducting boat operations, replenishment at sea and other skills."

Able Seaman Peihopa enlisted in the Navy in 2011 after graduating from high school in West Auckland.

He was a clearance diver with the Littoral Warfare Unit for three years before he trained to become a combat specialist in 2014.



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New Zealand Defence Force maritime and aerial surveillance crews who had been on a long and cold patrol in the Southern Ocean returned home in time for Christmas, having boarded six licensed fishing vessels and checked them for compliance.

HMNZS Otago arrived at Devonport Naval Base in mid December after a month away patrolling the Ross Sea.

Commander Joint Forces New Zealand Major General Tim Gall said the patrols covered a lot of ocean.

"There was no mistaking the message that we want to get across – we are serious about ensuring compliance with fishing regulations in the Southern Ocean," Major General Gall said.

"The NZDF is committed to enforcing the government's pledge to safeguard that unique and fragile environment."

The NZDF deployed offshore patrol vessel HMNZS Otago and a P-3K2 Orion surveillance aircraft from the Royal New Zealand Air Force's 5 Squadron to carry out the compliance patrols as part of a multi-agency operation to support the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which works to conserve the Antarctic marine ecosystem and regulate the fisheries.

Commanding Officer of HMNZS Otago Lieutenant Commander Lorna Gray said the ship's company boarded and inspected six licensed fishing vessels in the Ross Sea.

"The boarding party consisted of fishery officers from the Ministry for Primary Industries and crew from Otago – and all of the fishing vessels co-operated with the boarding team," she said.

"While most fishing vessels that operate in the Southern Ocean are compliant, we need to ensure ongoing adherence to the rules that govern the licensed fleet, and guard against the return of illegal operators."

New Zealand agencies conduct annual patrols in the area during the summer months with the latest patrol taking on a new impetus with a new Ross Sea Marine Protected Area coming into effect on 1 December.



# NZDF ICE PATROL



**Corporal Donald Todd recently shared on Facebook some of his photographs and recollections of London's Westminster Bridge terrorist attack, and the subsequent vigil in Trafalgar Square.**

"On 22 March 2017 I was sitting in the office at London's photographers post in Horse Guards and saw the live footage of what was going on at Westminster Bridge.

"I rushed out with my two cameras and ran to Parliament Square, which was already being cordoned off by armed police.

"At this very early stage, no one really knew what was going on and I just thought I'd take some documentary images of exactly what was happening in front of me

"A couple of days later I went to Trafalgar Square where the vigil was being held.

"I just picked the right place at the right time and got the shots I thought best documented this event, shooting with my Nikon D5 with a 14-24mm lens, which forced me to get right in with the crowds.

"I think this created a very personal and dynamic look in the images.

"My favourite shot has to be with the gentleman holding up the sign saying "Terrorism has no religion".

"While that's not the most technically correct image, I found this was a very powerful shot for two reasons – first, the message on the sign and also that there was a police officer walking past with all the TV reporters LED lights shining on him creating a shadow on the sign, and the vigil was being held for the policeman who was killed during the attack."



# HIS OWN LAST WORDS



11 MARCH 1968 – 17 JANUARY 2018

“AS I ENTER MY FINAL BATTLE, I OFFER THIS ADVICE: TAKE A POSITIVE VIEW, NOT A NEGATIVE ONE. BE PROUD. TAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS, SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FAMILIES, DO SOMETHING FOR YOUR MATES. AND LIVE LIFE.”



At 48, with a wife, two teenage children, a dog, mortgage and a project car, I was forced to confront the issues of depression and death. A year on, I was able to celebrate my 49th year.

In this time I have never been so proud of my courageous wife and two beautiful teenage children as they have helped me deal with the challenges of chemotherapy and the emergence of more troublesome cancers.

Sadly that's where the miracles end.

To borrow a golf metaphor, I am about to finish my round with a better-than-expected result and I'm heading for the clubhouse for some relief.

Not only has my family made me feel loved and cared for during this final, palliative phase of treatment, a group of friends has been quietly and selflessly showing what true mateship is.

Joined by colleagues, and even complete strangers, they conspired, with my wife's consent, to resurrect my British sports car under the cover of darkness and without my knowledge.

I find myself asking, why did they do it?

They all had different motivations but a constant theme – mateship.

These people from Army, Navy, Air Force, APS and the general public literally rebuilt my car with their bare hands, dipped into their pockets for loose change, used all their spare time and scoured the country (and the UK) to find the parts – and wanted nothing for it.

It is humbling. I am lost for words.

In a race against the finish of my health battle, they beat the odds and surprised me with the keys to my Stag a couple of weeks ago.

I hope you are picking up a theme here.

We all joined the ADF to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

We put ourselves in harm's way in order to protect our way of life, honour the Anzac tradition and make the future better for our children and future generations.

My car has become a metaphor.

Notoriously unreliable, it's a bummer to work on, and in 1987 was the most frequently stolen car in the UK.

But now, my talented friends have turned the car from a curbside relic to a vehicle that will hold enduring sentimental value.

It's a priceless gift to my family.

It has shown me the immense good and selflessness in our people.

I am most proud that it brought people together, and I am humbled that they did it for me.

I quietly wish there was more time to thank my friends and to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

I never thought I would see it going again.

On Sunday, November 12, I was liberated from my palliative care facility, surprised my understanding wife with a long lunch for all my mates, and drove through the streets of a quiet NSW suburb listening to the heartbeat of a 1970s British classic V8 as I basked in the sunlight of a warm spring day with the sun on my face.

I got to share laughs with my mates, smell the aroma of burnt oil, fresh car wax and 98 octane being turned into sweet smoke as I gripped the wheel and pressed the pedal for the first and likely last time.

I smiled.

This was a good day.

This is what life is all about.

Mateship, love, compassion.

As I enter my final battle, I offer this advice: Take a positive view, not a negative one. Be proud. Take your holidays, spend time with your families, do something for your mates and live life. We have a world full of amazing, compassionate people – please make sure that spirit continues.

For now, I'm heading out to tee off on a different course.

See ya later.

*From ARMY Newspaper, December 2017*

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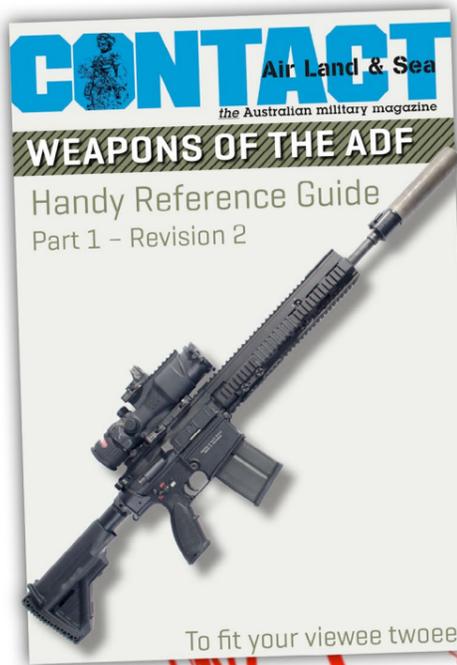


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# 103 YEARS MISSING AE1 FINALLY

Australia's oldest naval mystery was solved when the final resting place of Australia's first submarine HMAS AE1 was discovered off Papua New Guinea in December.

One hundred and three years since her loss, HMAS AE1 was located in waters off the Duke of York Island group in Papua New Guinea in more than 300 metres of water.

The Royal Australian Navy and the Silentworld Foundation commissioned the most comprehensive and technologically capable search ever committed to finding AE1 and the 35 Australian, British and New Zealand men entombed within.

The team of maritime surveyors, marine archaeologists and naval historians scoured the search area with a multi-beam echo sounder and side-scan technology in an underwater drone 'flying' 40 metres above the sea bed on pre-programmed 20-hour missions.

Data from the scans was collected and analysed and a three-dimensional rendering of the underwater environment was produced before dropping a camera to confirm the find.

HMAS AE1 was lost off Rabaul on 14 September 1914 and the fate of her 35 crew members remained one of the significant mysteries of Australian military history.

"It was the first loss for the RAN and the first Allied submarine loss in World War I – a significant tragedy felt by our nation and our allies," Minister for Defence Marise Payne said.

"Following the discovery of the submarine, a small commemorative service was conducted by those onboard the survey vessel, Fugro Equator, to remember those officers and sailors who lost their lives 103 years ago.

"Efforts are now being made to contact the descendants of the crew."

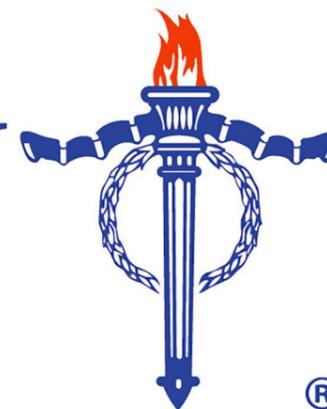
The successful search was jointly funded by the Australian government, the Silentworld Foundation, the Australian National Maritime Museum and Find AE1 Ltd; using Fugro Survey's vessel and search technology.

Minister Payne said the Australian government would work closely with the Papua New Guinean government to consider a lasting commemoration and recognition of the crew of AE1 and to preserve the site.

"The information gained from this expedition and from the research to date will greatly assist in unravelling the mystery of the loss of HMAS AE1, and will be held by the Australian National Maritime Museum for future generations to remember."

HOW SHE WAS FOUND...

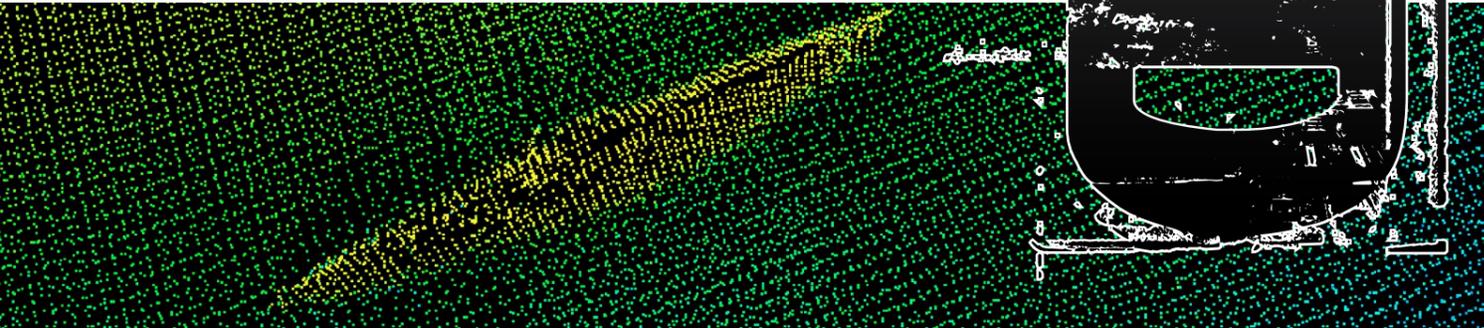
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# HOW AE1 WAS

# FOUND

**In the wake of the successful discovery of our first submarine, Navy's liaison officer attached to the search team Lieutenant James McPherson, describes how the search unfolded and the emotions involved.**

**T**he search for HMAS AE1 in December 2017 was the most comprehensive yet mounted to find the WWI submarine lost on 14 September 1914.

The discovery itself was rather subdued on board MV Fugro Equator, but the speed with which the wreck was found surprised everyone in the survey party.

We arrived in Port Moresby, embarked in the Fugro Equator and undertook the three-day transit to the Duke of York Island Group.

The team spent that time learning how to analyse the survey data that would be collected, and developing a watch bill so we could work around the clock and get three to five pairs of eyes on every piece of data to ensure nothing was missed.

The survey process involved running over the search area quickly with the ship-mounted multi-beam echo sounder (MBES) to get a rough topography, and then programming the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) to track the sea bed and run detailed lines in the search area on 20-hour missions, staying at a depth of 40 metres at 4 knots.

The AUV had a sub-bottom profiler, side-scan sonar, as well as an MBES, which scanned 300m-wide sections of the seabed on each pass.

During planning, it was decided that the designated search area would require three missions to cover.

The AUV was pulled out of the water after its first mission, and the Fugro Equator processing team began preparing the data for examination.

Almost immediately, expedition team members were called down to the data processing room.

On screen was a cigar-shaped object 55m long. The schematics were referred to, which confirmed that the width and height matched AE1.

No one wanted to get too excited in case it turned out to be a false positive, but the restraint was futile. The data was so compelling everyone was convinced AE1 had been found.

The data was examined thoroughly, and on the second day, as a camera was lowered more than 300m, the team waited with baited breath to see the first images.

As soon as the first hydroplane came into view, everyone on board was thrilled but quiet. No one dared interrupt the evolution, essentially looking through a keyhole 1m at a time.

Fugro Equator's crew, some of whom had spent two years looking for MH370, were particularly satisfied to find such a significant lost vessel. It



was proof that their skills are worldclass and the technology produces spectacular data.

The next two days were frantic as all the data was collected and packaged and the material made ready for the announcement.

Discovery of AE1 made international news and provided a great sense of satisfaction for many who had invested years researching possible scenarios and narrowing the search.

It was not lost on anyone, though, that the search was not for a hulk of metal, but for 35 lost souls.

The men have now been found – our compatriots now have a known final resting place and their families have the opportunity to receive the closure they deserve.

We often recite Lest We Forget. The work that went into this mission, the background research and the conviction and commitment of many current and former Navy members, proves that these are not hollow words.

# EXPEDITION DATA

# AE1 WILL BE BROUGHT

# FOR

# RE

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**As investigations begin into the final moments of Navy's first submarine HMAS AE1, moves are afoot to educate the public on her importance to Australia's wartime history.**

Before the search for AE1 was mounted, careful consideration was given to what would become of any discovery and the information collected during the search operation – and the Australian National Maritime Museum was the obvious choice to become custodians of the memory of the men lost in 1914.

Head of Research and Curatorial at the museum Nigel Erskine was on board MV Fugro Equator when the discovery was

made, to provide expert advice and ensure appropriate data was collected for posterity.

"The Navy is a large part of Australia's story and the museum is fully committed to interpreting the Navy story," Dr Erskine said.

"Within our remit, the loss of AE1 is profound – it was an unsolved mystery for so long, and the first major blow to our Navy.

"We already have in the collection the commissioning axe used to launch both AE1 and AE2, medals belonging to AB James Thomas who is entombed within AE1, as well as original letters of condolence from the prime minister to the families of the dead.

"The museum will now take all of the data and vision collected during the expedition and bring those objects to life.

"The story of 35 souls lost to us for 103 years is compelling and now we have found them we will be able to better honour their memories and explore the themes around loss, mystery and recovery.

"It's great to have been able to offer closure to the families during the Centenary of Anzac period.

"The museum has been a long-time supporter of Navy, recently appointing a dedicated curator for RAN archaeology.

"Our archaeologists will work with the experts gathered for this

search to begin the process of understanding what happened to the boat," Dr Erskine said.

Silentworld Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation established to research and preserve early Australian maritime history, provided half the funding for this search, matched by the Federal government.

Maritime archaeologist and director at Silentworld Foundation Paul Hundley said the project was of personal interest to their chairman, John Mullen.

"Rear Admiral Peter Briggs, of Find AE1 Limited, sat down with John Mullen and me to lay out the story and what they were trying to achieve," Mr Hundley said.

"John recognised the importance of AE1 in telling the history of Australia's maritime involvement in WWI, but more importantly, the importance to the families of those lost.

"He simply said 'it's the right thing to do' and was immediately on board, agreeing to personally underwrite our fundraising campaign."

Silentworld Foundation rallied corporate donors and marshalled the support that would make the search possible.

"To now be able to provide answers to the families of those who perished is particularly rewarding," Mr Hundley said.

# BYE BYE BEERSHEBA

**In the centenary year of the Battle of Beersheba, the final elements of 1 Armoured Regiment relocated to South Australia and tanks rolled in to Brisbane – signifying the achievement of Army’s grand Plan Beersheba. But the end of Plan Beersheba is just the beginning of a new plan...**

Photos by Brian Hartigan

**U**nder Plan Beersheba, the Army has now created three similarly structured combat brigades that each comprise the main elements of a potent combined-arms team, with combat service support, that can allow the Army to settle in to a manageable three-year 'set, ready, reset' cycle.

The Defence White Paper 2016 directed Army to further transform some existing capabilities to deal with cyber and electronic warfare – and to get ready for the influx of capable, connected, technically advanced equipment that will revolutionise Army’s warfighting ability – but do all that with no increase in soldier numbers.



# PLAN BEERSHEBA

## Future structure of Australia's combat brigades:

In the past, the Australian Army's three full-time combat brigades were structured as...

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in Darwin – mechanised
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in Townsville – light infantry
- 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Brisbane – motorised infantry

Now, after Plan Beersheba, each of the three combat brigades is home to two infantry battalions, as follows...

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade – 5RAR + 7RAR
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade – 1RAR + 3RAR
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade – 6RAR + 8/9RAR
- (each battalion is equipped with either PMV or APC (see next page))

All three combat brigades are now multi-role, combined-arms formations with...

- A brigade headquarters
- An armoured cavalry regiment, with one M1A1 tank squadron and two squadrons of ASLAV
- Two infantry battalions, with either PMV or APC (see next page)
- One artillery regiment
- One combat engineer regiment
- One combat signal regiment
- One combat service support battalion

Each brigade now rotates through a 36-month readiness cycle of three 12-month phases...

- Reset – dominated by individual training
- Readying – dominated by collective training
- Ready – certified ready to deploy on operations

So begins Plan Keogh.

Forces Command's head of plans Colonel Ian Langford said Plan Keogh was designed to prepare Forces Command for Army's major re-capitalisation programs, specifically the replacement of its armoured and protected-mobility vehicles, communications systems, logistics systems and soldier systems.

"There is significant new capability programmed for delivery to Army over the next decade, with intellectual and structural investment required to support planned equipment and systems," Colonel Langford said.

"Concurrently, Forces Command will support Army to deliver several interdependent tasks to help refine existing systems and new capabilities."

"Some older-model vehicles and equipment will start being phased out to make way for newer, more capable options that feature technology suited to the changing battlespace.

"Technological achievements over recent years have resulted in significant advances when it comes to vehicles and equipment.

"Plan Keogh aims to adequately prepare our future forces to ensure we operate with modern, well-designed equipment that adequately fits the purpose it is employed to fulfill.

"This will mean soldiers will be operating better, safer, more accurate equipment that could ultimately see us have the advantage over the enemy."

Colonel Langford said that with the changing nature of Army's manning and equipment disposition under Plan Beersheba, and to make way for new vehicles and kit, there was also a need to reassess personnel numbers assigned to various trades to ensure manning efficiencies were maintained.

"With new technologies comes new manning requirements, so as certain vehicles and equipment gets phased out, the requirement for personnel to operate new kit will increase and certain trades will be redeveloped to meet demand," he said.



## Future structure of Australia's infantry battalions:

### 1RAR – 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Townsville

By January 2019, 1RAR will be equipped with a fleet of organic Bushmaster PMVs. From mid to late 2018, it will also begin to receive Hawkei PMV-Ls.

### 2RAR (Amphibious) – 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Townsville

On 16 October 2017, 2RAR was officially renamed 2RAR (Amphib) and placed under command of the Amphibious Task Group (ATG), in 1<sup>st</sup> Division. It will remain at Lavarack Barrack, Townsville. From 2018, 2RAR (Amphib) will be reduced in manning to an admin company, battalion headquarters, one rifle company (with integral small-boat and helicopter insertion capabilities, and direct fire support weapons), and an ISR company (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) with sniper detachments, small boat operators, signallers, and a joint-fires team.

### 3RAR – 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Townsville

By January 2019, 3RAR will be equipped with a fleet of organic M113AS4 APCs, which will eventually be replaced by LAND 400 Phase 3 infantry fighting vehicles.

### 5RAR – 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Darwin

From January 2018, 5RAR will be equipped with a fleet of organic Bushmaster PMVs. From mid to late 2018, it will also begin to receive Hawkei PMV-Ls.

### 6RAR – 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Brisbane

From January 2018, 6RAR will be equipped with a fleet of organic M113AS4 APCs, which will eventually be replaced by LAND 400 Phase 3 infantry fighting vehicles.

### 7RAR – 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Adelaide

From January 2018, 7RAR will be equipped with a fleet of organic M113AS4 APCs, which will eventually be replaced by LAND 400 Phase 3 infantry fighting vehicles.

### 8/9RAR – 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Brisbane

From January 2018, 8/9RAR will be equipped with a fleet of organic Bushmaster PMVs. From mid to late 2018, it will also begin to receive Hawkei PMV-Ls.

As the infantry battalions transition, their surveillance sections will be reinvested to create larger and more reconnaissance patrols and their DFSW platoons will be renamed anti-armour platoons.

All the battalions must maintain expertise in dismounted, airmobile and combined-arms TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures) and skills – and all battalions (except 2RAR) will continue to rotate through the RBG (ready battlegroup) and operational duties in accordance with the combat-brigade force-generation cycle – and one rifle company from the RBG will train to meet the ARE GCE (amphibious ready element, ground-combat element) responsibilities.



In other words and in CONTACT's assessment, this means that as more soldiers are required to man more and more vehicles that are more and more technically advanced, then infantry battalions in particular will have fewer dedicated or specialist foot soldiers.

Or, to put it another way, while infantry battalions will not lose numbers from their current maximum allocations, they will have to staff vehicle-crew positions from within their current ranks.

Thus, either vehicle crews will become specialist vehicle operators (with all the weapons a vehicle can carry into a battle) or, they will simply be drivers, parking their vehicles in staging areas and proceeding from there on foot in their 'classic' infantry-section roles.

But, the battalions will not grow – will not be allowed to grow – to fill the increasing manning requirements of vehicle-crew positions.

Commander Forces Command Major General Gus McLachlan said he recognised Plan Keogh would have a very significant impact on the infantry.

"This reflects the massive enhancement coming when the 53-year-old M113 is replaced by a modern infantry fighting vehicle linked by increasing situational awareness," Major General McLachlan said.

"An infantry section will now be required to operate its own vehicle platform – but it will also own the protection, firepower and communications that come with advanced vehicles.

"This is the norm in our advanced peer militaries and we are already studying best practice overseas to ensure our training and employment is the best in the world.

"Our soldiers are adaptable and are already comfortable with technology.

"We will combine new vehicle skills with high-quality dismounted training such as the new combat-shooting continuum and the Army combative program to ensure they remain tough and resilient on their feet.

"Under Plan Keogh, training requirements in the Army will be addressed, with the aim of modernising and honing existing models to accurately meet future requirements."



# "We have to deal with any threat that comes our way"

For Sergeant Raymond Miller of the US Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, the Carl-Gustaf system has been a gamechanger on operations.

When members of the US Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne jump out of an aircraft on a mission, it's crucial they can depend on their equipment.

Sergeant Raymond Miller, a small arms master gunner, says the extremely challenging conditions involved in parachute assaults means that the weapons troops carry must be rugged, durable and easy to operate. It's one of the reasons he's a fan of the Carl-Gustaf shoulder-launched weapon system, which, after a two-year roll-out, is now being adopted across the division.

"The Carl-Gustaf's simplicity is one of its biggest strengths," Sergeant Miller said.

"When you're in combat, batteries can go flat and screens and lenses can break. But I have never heard of a Carl-Gustaf having any of those kinds of issues."

A 19-year veteran of the US military who has served in Iraq, Miller has no trouble listing what he regards as the most outstanding features of the Carl-Gustaf system, starting with its resilience.

"It's a rugged system that we can use in airborne operations to get to the objective rapidly," he said.

"Other systems aren't quite as durable and can't be dropped – they have to be air-landed – so that right there is a huge benefit."

Another big plus for the system is that it's re-usable, greatly reducing the amount of equipment that paratroopers need to carry compared to single-use weapons.

"You only have the rounds, as opposed to a bunch of disposable tubes," Sergeant Miller says.

"So, it's much easier to pack, and it's much easier to cross load across an organisation that has to carry everything on its back."

Sergeant Miller said that once on the ground, the lightness and versatility of the Carl-Gustaf system made it well suited to paratrooper operations, such as forced-entry missions.

"Once we insert, we have to sustain ourselves for 72 hours," he said.

"That means we have to be able to deal with any threat that comes our way."

"The Carl-Gustaf gives us the capability to deal with light anti-armour threats or entrenched personnel."

Miller noted that since its introduction, the weapon has proved useful for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne in Afghanistan.

"It has been used with great success," he said.

"The Taliban had been sending harassing fire out at long distance because previously we did not have effective fires out past 600 metres."

"The capability that the Carl-Gustaf brought to play was a game changer in that it gave us something to reach out past that and be able to deter them."

He said that while the division used the M3 version of the Carl-Gustaf, he is very interested in the lighter-weight M4, which weighs less than 7kg – more than 3kg less than the M3 version.

"Shedding weight from the soldier's load is always a good thing in my opinion," Sergeant Miller said.

"The reason being, it makes them less fatigued over time and it makes them more overall ready to be combat effective for longer."





# EXERCISE dealing with a mass-casualty incident

Flames dance in the mid-morning sun as Coalition forces call out for help following simulated gas-bottle explosion during a mass-casualty training exercise, 18 January 2018.

**US Army soldiers assigned to the 449<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade and Coalition soldiers from New Zealand, Singapore and Australia work together to simulate a real-world training scenario.**

The exercise provides hands-on experience in a combat situation if a flood of wounded patients came to the Camp Taji Role Two Enhanced Medical Facility.

Captain Brian Morey, an aero-medical physician assistant assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 126 Aviation Regiment, 449<sup>th</sup> CAB said these types of exercises were made to stress the system with a larger number of patients than it would normally cater to, so that personnel can iron out the kinks ahead of a real event.

On this occasion, medical personnel on site start to render aid to the afflicted as they wait the arrival of a medical evacuation team.

"Point-of-injury care will occur wherever the injury happens," Captain Morey says.

"If the event happens at an unknown, distant site, you have buddy aid or a Combat Life Saver, or, if there are medics, they respond.

"The incident is called to the medical facility and a medical evacuation team transports wounded personnel to the nearest appropriate facility.

"On arrival, patients are triaged and the medic that treated them at the site gives a report.

"Depending on the severity of the injuries, next-step treatment is planned and executed"

The facility at Camp Taji is overseen by the Australian Army and, despite difference in training, home procedures and cultures, smooth administration and effective medical treatment is seamlessly administered.

Australian Army Major Greg Button, the senior medical officer at the Taji Role Two Medical Facility, said that when it came to a mass-casualty event, all his staff work together very effectively.

"Essentially we have a Singaporean team in charge of resus (the resuscitation bay) and a New Zealand team in charge of primary health care, with an American Role One team also attached and helping us manage the other resus

bay in the event of a mass casualty situation," Major Button said.

Camp Taji is one of five Combined Joint Task Force, Operation Inherent Resolve locations dedicated to training partner forces and enhancing their effectiveness on the battlefield.

But pre-planning and cross-training of coalition personnel is also critical to ensuring they can support any medical situations that arise.

Captain Morey said the Australian Army didn't have physician's assistants, so the 449<sup>th</sup> CAB was pleased to facilitate that need.

"We preplanned this exercise with them well in advance, because they are not only taking care of their own soldiers but pretty much everybody here on base as well.

"In the weeks leading up to this we had them come down and see our equipment and aid stations and talked about our capabilities."

The 449<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade also provides aviation combined strategic partnership training

with regional military partners in order to conduct multinational training events.

Captain Morey said medical personnel assigned to the 449<sup>th</sup> trained 27 Coalition forces soldiers on patient-loading operations on a UH-60 Black Hawk, which also tied into this exercise.

"We did a walk-through of the danger areas of the aircraft, how to approach it and how the patients are loaded and we showed them how we sustain a patient inside the aircraft.

"This was a culminating event that we added to the mass-casualty exercise so they can actually load a patient on an aircraft at a real location and test their whole system."

This training is part of the overall CJTF-OIR building partner capacity mission, which focuses on training and improving the capability of partnered forces fighting ISIS.

"This also gives our medics a chance to work with multinational forces," Captain Morey said.

"It really does a lot for building experience."



MARK DANIELS



ALEXIA VLAHOS



PETER RUDLAND

The first Invictus Games 2018 Australian-squad training camps were held in multiple sports in February.

Wheelchair basketball and rugby, sitting volleyball, powerlifting, athletics, archery, swimming and cycling athletes all got solid workouts in various centres around the country.

The Australian Defence Force and Returned and Services League supported the participation of more than 70 serving and former-serving ADF members vying for spots on the 2018 Australian Invictus Games Team.

As part of the recent Australian training camps, participants took part in both team and individual

activities to support the selection process with the final team of 72 to be announced mid year, after a further series of training and selection activities.

Invictus Games is an international adaptive sporting event for men and women who were wounded, injured or became ill while serving in their respective country's armed forces.

Invictus Games use the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for wounded, injured and ill servicemen and women.

The fourth Invictus Games will be held from 20-27 October 2018 in Sydney and will attract 500 competitors from 18 nations.



ROXY



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# DENIED MENTAL-HEALTH CARE – BECAUSE DVA IS PAYING

**There are rumours in the veteran community that some health-care providers, including psychiatrists, are refusing to see military veterans as patients. Recently, I found out the hard way that the rumours are true.**



It took me a very long time to admit that I might need to see a psychiatrist.

When I did 'give in' at the urging of friends and family, I went to my GP to get a referral to a psych who was recommended by a friend.

With the GP's referral in hand, I further procrastinated for months before eventually ringing for an appointment – only to be told that this doctor wasn't taking on any new patients and hasn't for more than four years.

Disappointing, but OK.

More weeks passed before I went back to the GP for a new referral – this time to someone she recommended – "I think you and he will get on well from an age and personality point of view," she said.

Cool.

Now, I know that DVA and the minister are keen to advertise, "if you have had full-time service in the ADF, you are eligible to receive treatment for any mental health condition" – and DVA "covers the entire cost of your treatment for any mental-health condition" – I see it repeated over and over in their press releases.

But when they say it, they never mention any ifs, buts or maybes – no caveats – a whole new attitude towards veterans' entitlements and easier access to mental-health care.

To underline this new attitude, when I filled out the appropriate DVA form and sent it off, approval came back within 20 minutes!!!

Awesome. Confidence building.

Now I'm fully convinced I need and even want to go. I'm committed. I'm determined. No more procrastinating.

So I ring the second psychiatrist's office the same day and ask nicely for an appointment.

I was told the next available appointment was in April – but that was fine with me because I was about to go on holidays.

As requested, I immediately emailed them my GP referral – along with DVA's agreement to pay.

Two days later, the psychiatrist's secretary rings back and says, "I'm very sorry, but Dr XXX is unwilling to take on any new DVA patients at this time". I asked why, but she could only repeat the message.

Gobsmacked. Upset. Deflated. Set back.

I thought about this for a while. Calmed down.

And came to the conclusion that maybe it isn't just this doctor. What if this is a bigger issue?

And what if a suicidal veteran or 'emergency case' was told 'no veteran's allowed'?

So I went looking for answers.

I posed a range of questions to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a separate set of questions to the Australian Medical Association, and formally offered the doctor a chance to also clarify his position.

The AMA responded within 24 hours – the doctor an hour after that – and DVA – well it was 69 hours later, and 17 hours after the deadline I gave them.

The AMA's bottom line was that doctors were not obliged to accept DVA cards for payment – and, in fact, the AMA said they had long been aware that an ever-increasing number of medical-service providers were refusing DVA cards for payment.

Warwick Hough, Director of the AMA's General Practice and Workplace Policy Department said the problem was that DVA's fee schedule had been frozen since 2012, but even before that, DVA generally paid a lower fee for services than a medical practitioner would otherwise charge.

"While many doctors, in recognition of a veteran's service, are still willing to accept a lower fee, the lack of fee indexation has forced many to reconsider this," Mr. Hough said.

He cited a report on a survey of medical practitioners that the AMA conducted in March last year that found, "the indexation freeze is clearly having an impact on access to care for veterans and this will only get worse over time".

"Only 71.3 per cent of specialists are currently continuing to treat all veterans under DVA, with the remainder adopting a range of approaches including closing their books to new DVA-funded patients or treating some as private or public patients," the 11-month-old survey report said.

Mr. Hough said it was now well known that veterans often struggle to access psychiatric services under DVA-funded arrangements.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs agreed with the AMA that, "Health care providers in private practice, including psychiatrists, are free to choose how to run their business".

"This means they can choose who they see as patients, the operating hours of the practice and how much they will charge.

"This also includes whether or not to provide treatment under the Department of Veterans' Affairs arrangements."

They also said that in the event that a practitioner does not accept DVA patients, DVA could provide assistance to identify another practitioner, provide transport assistance, or consider a request from the practitioner to fund services at a cost above the DVA fee, which would be determined on clinical need and consideration to the patient's ability to reasonably access another practitioner.

The doctor who refused to take me on as a DVA patient phoned me to directly explain his position.

He said his current policy was not to accept any new DVA patients where a DVA card was the preferred payment method, simply because DVA did not pay a fair and reasonable fee.

He also said that he was legally barred from charging veteran clients a 'gap' under a DVA-payment arrangement, even if they were willing.

"On the other hand, if you or any other veteran want to come to me as a Medicare client and pay

the Medicare 'gap', I'm more than happy to take you on," he said.

The DVA spokesperson said DVA was aware of individual instances of health-care providers not accepting DVA arrangements.

"These do not suggest this is a wide-spread issue impacting on veterans' and war widows' ability to access clinically necessary treatment," she said.

"Overall, the number of psychiatrists providing services to DVA clients has increased over time."

The AMA disagreed.

AMA's survey of members, which was conducted 11 months ago following anecdotal feedback from GP and other specialist members that veterans were facing increasing barriers to accessing specialist medical care, says, "the indexation freeze is clearly having an impact on access to care for veterans and this will only get worse over time".

"The continuation of the indexation freeze puts a significant question mark over the future viability of the DVA funding arrangements and the continued access to quality specialist care for veterans."

On current trend, the AMA survey predicts the number of doctors willing to see DVA-funded clients could easily fall well below 50 per cent.

Mr. Hough said that while DVA arrangements were generally marketed by government as giving the same access to health care for veterans as privately billed patients, the funding provided did not match this commitment.

"There is a great deal of reliance on the good will of the profession and it would seem to the AMA that the government has chosen to test this good will with an extended fee freeze.

"Not surprisingly, this is now starting to impact on veterans' access to care."

*As I said at the start, my personal experience put truth to a rumour floating around the veteran community – and opened a can of worms on a much bigger issue.*

*I felt compelled to pursue this, not for myself, but for the greater good'.*

*Sitting down to think about this incident and how it made me feel, I had to reflect, "what if a truly needy patient experienced this". The answer is scary.*

*There is obviously a bigger issue here than DVA or the government is willing to admit. But surely they will have to eventually.*

*The AMA said that a very similar situation was brought to a head in 2006, and when the government was eventually forced to fix the problem, it cost \$600million.*

*So, yes, I concede the solution may be expensive.*

*But procrastination could easily cost more veterans' their lives.*

*How much are those worth?*

## WHAT THE MAJOR PLAYERS SAID

I present here, the full set of questions posed to and answers received from both DVA and the AMA, after giving them a brief outline of my failure to get a psych appointment. I feel it is valuable to see the tone and tenor of both the questions and each organisations response to them.

### QUESTIONED POSED TO THE AMA:

*Is it ethical – or acceptable to or allowed by the AMA – that a psychiatrist (or any other health-care provider) can refuse treatment on these grounds? Or any other grounds? Do you have an official policy that covers this?*

*On the other hand, have you received feedback from psychiatrists or any other medical specialists to suggest that DVA and/or their policies, procedures, payment methods, schedule of fees etc etc gives cause for concern, or may in some way justify or excuse this doctor's refusal?*

*Has (is or will) AMA investigated or in any way 'looked into' DVA and its relationship with any or all branches of the medical profession, because of concerns surrounding their policies, procedures, payment methods, schedule of fees etc etc?*

*Same question in relation to DVA's public/media reputation for 'failing diggers'?*

### AMA RESPONSE:

Our code of ethics deals with fees to some extent, highlighting that doctors should 'set a fair and reasonable fee having regard to the time, skill and experience involved in the performance of your services'. A doctor is not obligated to accept a DVA card, however, a veteran can also choose to be treated as a privately billed patient and receive the usual Medicare rebate.

In relation to DVA, its fee schedule has been frozen since 2012. Even before that time, DVA generally paid a lower fee for services than a medical practitioner would otherwise charge a privately billed patient. While many doctors, in recognition of a veterans service, are willing to accept a lower fee, the lack of fee indexation has forced many to reconsider this. Unlike Medicare, it is not possible to charge a gap for a DVA funded service so the doctor has to bear the cost of a 'real' reduction in DVA fees.

The impact of the indexation freeze is covered in [this] article – <https://ama.com.au/ausmed/indexation-freeze-hits-veterans-health-care>

In circumstances like this, I would encourage you to discuss your circumstances with DVA. It is well known that veterans often struggle to access psychiatric services under DVA funded arrangements and there may be scope for DVA to reach an agreement with the doctor concerned about the reimbursement of their fees. Indeed, I am happy to put you in touch with the relevant person at DVA if you would like me to do so.

Unfortunately, DVA arrangements are generally marketed by Government as giving the same access to health care for veterans as a privately billed patient. However, the funding provided does not match this commitment and there is a great deal of reliance on the goodwill of the profession. It would seem to the AMA that the Government has chosen to

test this goodwill with an extended fee freeze and, not surprisingly, this is now starting to impact on access to care.

I hope this answers your query.

**Yours sincerely, Warwick Hough**  
Director, General Practice and Workplace Policy  
Department, Australian Medical Association

### QUESTIONS POSED TO DVA:

How many instances have you been made aware of (please count this email as 1), of medical practitioners (from any discipline – plus psychiatrists specifically) refusing appointments/treatment to veterans – a) because of DVA's involvement, and b) for any other reason?

Are you aware of any ethical or policy guidelines that allow for such refusal – or any that specifically frown upon such refusal?

Do you have such a policy or guidelines?

Do you have a follow-up procedure/SoP after being notified?

Do you liaise with the AMA or any other body to 'sort out' issues of this nature?

Has the AMA or any other professional body approached you with concerns from their members relating to DVA's policies, procedures, payment methods, schedule of fees etc etc?

### DVA RESPOSNE:

In Australia, health care providers in private practice, including psychiatrists, are free to choose how to run their business. This means they can choose who they see as patients, the operating hours of the practice and how much they will charge. This includes whether or not to provide treatment under the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) arrangements.

DVA is aware of individual instances of health care providers not accepting DVA arrangements. These do not suggest this is a wide-spread issue impacting on veterans' and war widows' ability to access clinically necessary treatment. Overall, the number of psychiatrists providing services to DVA clients has increased over time.

In the event that a practitioner does not accept DVA patients or there are no providers locally available, DVA can provide assistance to identify another practitioner, provide transport assistance, or consider a request from the practitioner to fund services at a cost above the DVA fee. A request to pay above the DVA fee would be determined on the basis of clinical need and give consideration to the patient's ability to reasonably access another practitioner.

*The original story published on our web site, [here](#), now has many comments attached. Please revisit the story if you haven't seen those – and perhaps add your own thoughts to the debate.*



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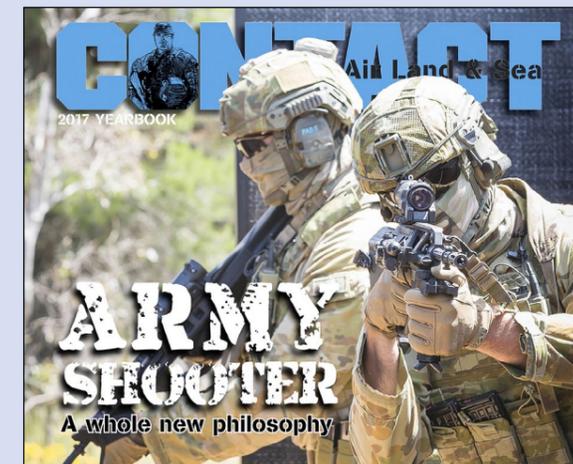
### TESTIMONIALS:

"I can thoroughly recommend the CONTACT 2015 yearbook. It is a great collection of all the best stories and images from 2015 in an attractive hardcover coffee-table-book format. CONTACT magazine has a long history of bringing us interesting and exciting stories about the ADF, together with excellent images. Whether you are a serving member, veteran, historian or are just interested in our military, you will find this book is an engaging and informative read and a great addition to your military-book collection." – **Troy Simmonds, WA**

*[Sergeant Troy Simmonds, Australian SASR, completed several tours of Afghanistan. His most memorable and deadliest encounter with the enemy is the feature story in the 2015 yearbook]*

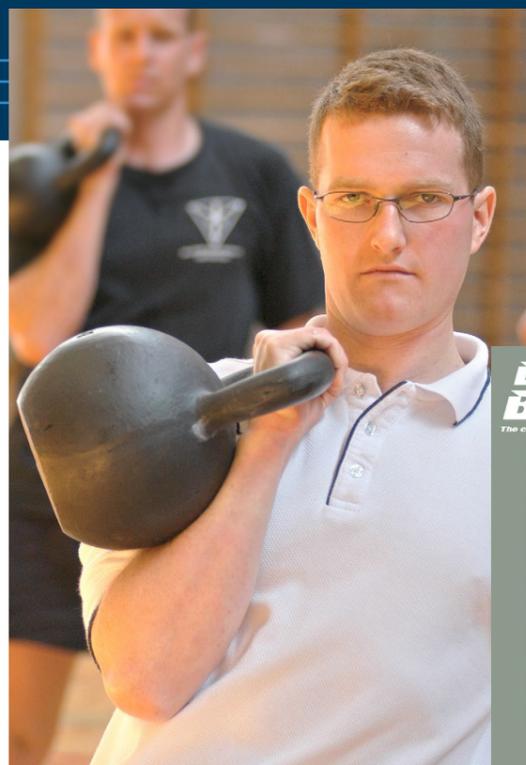
"Reading through the 2016 Yearbook today, the first thing that stood out was the quality of the photographs – they are fantastic. Not to take away from the magazine or online site, but the book is something else – it definitely has that 'special' feel about it. The content, physical size, layout and hard-back, all add to the overall experience, yet it still has that familiar feel. Overall, this compendium is a great idea and a great addition to the CONTACT experience. You can put me down for 2017's edition."

**Kind Regards, Chris B, Victoria**



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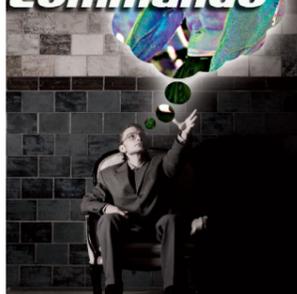


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## Gunner Joseph Delaney MM 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade

# COUNTRY COPPER

The police constable looked over the crime scene. The farmhouse had been ransacked and it was clear that the perpetrator must have known the movements of the farmer, family and the workers.

**Joe Delaney was a model bloke. He was strong, forthright and possessed a great balance of a fair-go and common sense.**

He was born in the small Victorian country town of Greta<sup>1</sup> and raised on the family property at Hanson South near Benalla with his older brother Bill, younger brother Hugh and sister Mary-Anne. He and his brothers grew to become competent bushmen, horsemen and good shots with a rifle. More importantly they developed a keen sense of right and wrong from an early age. If they did something wrong, they owned up to it, no fuss, no lies and copped sweet whatever punishment their parents decided on. At school Joe was a true leader, he was a strong, good-looking young man and a keen athlete.

Upon leaving school, Joe chose to continue his studies at night and sought work as a grocer as a way of earning a living and also to pay for his tuition.

With the onset of war in 1914, Joe decided to continue his studies rather than enlist immediately. He felt that his additional education may stand him in better stead to serve.

The news of the Gallipoli landings, Lone Pine and the Nek stirred the very soul of the nation. Bill wrote to his brother to let him know that he'd enlisted and hoped to get to Gallipoli before it was all over.

Later, when the AIF had deployed to France, the population learnt of the horrors of Fromelles, Pozieres and Mouquet Farm. As Joe read the paper, he thought long and hard of the future. Although his studies were going well, he knew he had a responsibility to serve his country and stand by his brother and his mates and do his bit. With that, and at age twenty-one-and-a-half, he enlisted in the AIF on 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1916.<sup>1</sup>

The new Diggers were housed in the Broadmeadows Camp on Melbourne's outskirts. It was here that some underwent selection for the more specialist corps. Given Joe's education and intelligence, he was allocated to the Field Artillery as a reinforcement. In April 1917, he marched into Ascot Vale Camp, in the Melbourne suburb of MacLeod where he underwent his initial training.<sup>2</sup> He was chosen to be an artillery signaller, which meant that when the time came, he'd be in the thick of the fighting, laying line and keeping the all-important telephone lines open from the forward observers to the guns. The life expectancy of artillery signallers was not great given the risk and that's why they were held in such high regard.

On 9 November, Joe boarded the transport *Port Sydney* in Melbourne, bound for Europe.<sup>2</sup> The training did not let up as they plied their way across the Indian Ocean. The Diggers were kept busy with a stringent training program, including physical training, which was difficult given the pitching decks, weapons training, map reading and first aid. Then there was the specialty training and soon the *Port Sydney* was a veritable cobweb of telephone lines running in and about the rigging, holds and cabins.

In the off duty hours, the officers organised concerts and various sports competitions. Joe was right into the sports and again proved his competitive spirit and sense of fair play. One particular highlight was the celebrated crossing-the-line ceremony, when 'land-lovers' were summoned before King Neptune and sought his favour, lest they undergo a light-hearted dunking which would see them mark forever that they had crossed the equator at sea. That night Joe carefully folded the



*His Majesty's Australian Troopship Port Sydney, a year before it bore Gunner Joseph Delaney to the war in Europe. State Library of Queensland via Wikimedia.*

crudely made certificate and slipped it into the envelope along with a letter to his father detailing the facets of the ceremony.

On 12 December, Joe and his mates disembarked in the Egyptian port of Suez. Even though they were in the desert, they were amazed by how cold it was in these winter months. After spending the night in a transit camp, they headed by train towards Cairo, then onto the port city of Alexandria.<sup>2</sup> Here a ship waited to take them to England where the balance of their training would be delivered. On route, the Diggers celebrated Christmas with a fine dinner served by the officer's and senior NCOs and later ushered in the New Year. On 4 January 1918, Joe disembarked at the southern English port of Southampton.<sup>2</sup>

England in winter was cold and bleak to say the least, but the training had to go on. After all, conditions at the front were going to be 100 times worse. Joe continued to impress his instructors and they knew, "We have a good'n here!"

On 8 April, Joe and the others were ordered to break camp and get ready to move – next stop France. Following a quick trip across the Channel, they marched into the Base Depot at Rouelles the next day.<sup>2</sup>

Joe learnt a few weeks later that he was to be attached as a signaller to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division Ammunition Column.<sup>2</sup> It wasn't as exciting as being posted to a gun battery, but Joe appreciated that it was a vital job to maintain the good supply of ammunition from the ammunition dumps to feed the guns. The Aussie gunners were in action right across the front line trying to repulse the huge German onslaught designed to seize the vital Channel ports and cut-off the allied

forces from their lifeline to England. This was truly a do-or-die situation and the Germans could achieve the unthinkable – and win the war at the drop of a hat.

Joe also learnt that his younger brother Hugh had enlisted as a sapper in the engineers.

Joe manned the field telephone and relayed the messages to his duty officer – "Sir, 1 FAB requests 1000 rounds HE, 500 shrapnel rounds, too sweet. They are in support of a brigade activity and can only keep up their current rate for the next hour!"<sup>3</sup>

"Right Delaney, I've got it – relay it straight through to the dump with my compliments and tell them to get it up there straight away," the officer ordered.

Joe reached for the other handset and relayed the message to the dump and, after completing the transmission, indicated to the duty officer, "Through Sir!"

In late June, Joe was transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battery of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade.<sup>8</sup> The brigade had been hit hard in the recent actions and was in desperate need of competent signallers. He soon proved himself a most capable soldier. His transmissions were always clear, concise and accurate. They had to be, one mistake could cost allied lives.

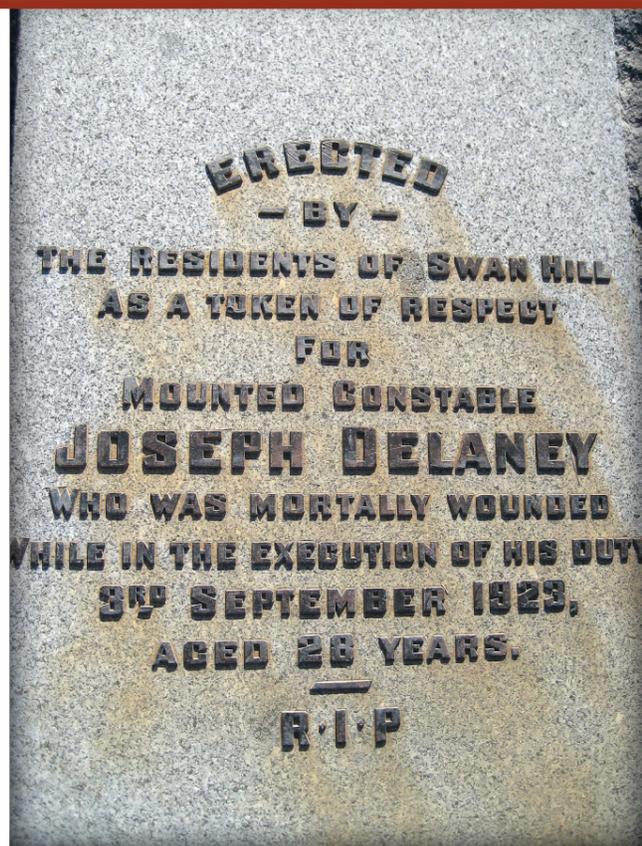
The Australian batteries were in constant support of the infantry battalions, for now they had seized the initiative and were pushing the enemy back further and further towards the German border.

On 8 August 1918, Joe was again transferred, this time to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Ammunition Column.<sup>2</sup> He was looking forward to this as his brother Bill was serving in the same unit. A few days later the Australians were up against stiff enemy opposition near the village of Lihons. Joe and another soldier,

# CLOSE BUT NOT CLOSE ENOUGH

## Australians recommended for the VC but not awarded

BY MAJOR DARRYL KELLY



### NOTES:

- 1 Melbourne Argus, Page 15, Tuesday 4 September 1923
- 2 National Archives of Australia: B2445, WWI Service Records, 37594 GNR J. Delaney
- 3 1 FAB = the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. HE = high explosive. The term 'toot sweet' was popular during WWI – like ASAP today.
- 4 AWM 28, Recommendation Files for Honours and Awards, AIF, 1914-1918 War
- 5 Melbourne Age, Page 15, Saturday 1 September 1923
- 6 Encyclopaedia of Australian Murders, Jim Main 2005
- 7 The Melbourne Age Monday 3 September 1923
- 8 National Police Memorial

Gunner Bates, were tasked to lay a line to a concealed forward observation post hidden in the village. Lihons was under constant heavy shell fire and the task was going to be highly dangerous, if not impossible to achieve. The pair set off with reels in hand and made their way towards the edge of the village. Enemy rounds were exploding everywhere and the pair looked at each other with blank expressions. Joe piped up and said "Right, this is how we'll do it – we'll head for that shell hole, take cover, then we'll head to the next and so on. It's the only chance we've got – agreed?" Bates nodded and they shook hands and readied themselves. In between explosions they scampered forward letting the line out as they ran. As the fire paused they were off again and leaped into the next shell hole. The fire paused again and they were off again. Suddenly the sound of an incoming shell pierced their ears and exploded about 20 yards away. A piece of shrapnel caught Bates in the chest thrusting him backwards. Joe summed up the situation and knew that many more lives depended on getting the line through. He raced back, picked up the additional reel and charged forward with his head down. In the next shell hole he spliced the wires together joining the two reels. Then he was off again. He was about 30 yards short of the OP when Lieutenant Orton, the forward observation officer saw Joe making his way forward. Orton darted out and jumped into the shell hole with Joe. "Good work mate, I'll take it from here, you follow up and we'll get this working!" the officer said.

Joe rushed into the ground floor of the shattered building, caught his breath and went upstairs. Orton was already bearing the wires when Joe squatted

down beside him. "I'll do that sir" he said, reaching for the cable. Hooking the phone up Joe tried to get through to the guns, but the line was dead. He made his way over to the window and looked out, and there it was – the telltale sign of a broken cable that had been severed by a shell.

Joe grabbed his pliers – "Back in a minute!" he said to the officer. Running out, he grabbed both ends of the shattered lines and dragged them to the safety of a nearby shell hole. Quickly he spliced the ends together and hoped for the best. He took a breath and ran back to the OP and, as he rushed in, yelled out, "Try it now!"

Orton tried the phone and got an immediate response and quickly set about calling in fire. In between messages, Joe told Orton that he was going back for Bates. As he retraced his steps he could see Bates still where he had dropped. Rushing forward he swooped down and picked up the injured Digger and threw him over his shoulder. Once in the relative safety of a shell hole, Joe took stock of Bates' condition. He was in a bad way and Joe quickly ripped open a shell dressing from his mate's pocket and rammed it into gaping wound. Joe thought that he was finally stemming the flow of blood, when all of a sudden Bates looked at him and smiled weakly. Then the wounded Digger's eyes glazed over and he was gone.

For Joe Delaney's actions that day he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. One portion of the citation detailed, "his great courage and splendid determination".<sup>4</sup>

As the Great War spluttered to a halt, Joe took a little leave to see some of France and England. In June 1919 he received word that he was going home and, on 20 June boarded the Troopship *Konig Frederick August*

bound for Australia, where, on 6 August, he stepped back on home soil, and was discharged from the AIF nine days later.<sup>2</sup>

Joe Delaney pondered his future and decided he might give being a copper a go. His application was successful and on 13 November he donned the uniform of the Victorian Police Force. After training he was posted to the St Kilda Road station where he learnt the finer arts of policing from the 'old hands' of the force, and was soon found to be a first-rate constable – efficient, reliable and trustworthy.<sup>4</sup>

The young policeman yearned to return to the bush and requested a transfer. In November 1921 he was sent to the Murray River town of Swan Hill where he settled in well. He was fair, firm and impartial, and not known to back down from a fight – local blokes not keen to tackle with Joe if they got out of line. The local population felt comfortable around the young constable, especially the school kids.

His career got a well earned stimulus when he cracked a big case following a break-in at the co-operative store at Swan Hill. Due to Joe's diligence in the investigation, the ensuing court sentenced the perpetrator to prison.<sup>5</sup>

On 28 August 1923, the Swan Hill Police Station was contacted by a local farmer, Bill Crick, whose farmhouse about eight miles from Swan Hill at a place called Tyntynder, had been broken into while he was away, and a quantity of jewellery and other items were missing. The police suspected the break-in had been committed by 15-year-old Frederick Smith, a ward of the state, who worked on the adjacent Pickering farm.<sup>6</sup>

A few days later, Joe decided to ride out to the Pickering's farm and speak to Fred Smith in person. As he rode into the property, he passed another returned soldier by the name of Urquhart, who was working in the lower fields. Urquhart was curious as to the constable's visit knowing that Mr Pickering was away and started to walk up to the house just to see what was happening.<sup>5</sup>

As Joe dismounted his horse, he walked up to the front door of the homestead, knocked, but found it ajar, so he entered. He called out for Fred Smith and then saw some movement from behind the door. As Joe turned around, the full blast of a shotgun caught him point blank in the chest. Fred Smith stood over his victim and smiled as Joe clutching his chest, struggled to look up at him.

Smith heard movement outside and placed the shotgun down on the floor. Going out through the front door he encountered Urquhart coming up the front steps. Smith said "Constable Delaney is inside the house. He is wild. Don't go inside. He is searching the house. He has accused me of stealing!"<sup>5</sup>

Urquhart suspected that something was amiss and said he was going in to speak to Delaney. As he knocked on the door he heard a feeble response of "Come In" from Delaney. Urquhart was shocked when he saw the constable lying in a pool of blood. As he turned him over Joe said, "The lad shot me. Please turn me on my back and tell my people I died bravely!"<sup>5</sup>

Urquhart knew Delaney was in a bad way. As he went outside to call for help, he saw Smith gallop away on Delaney's horse.<sup>5</sup>

A police officer and the local doctor made their way to the farmhouse, they had been delayed by two hours after getting bogged on the way. They were worried that they were too late, but Joe was still clinging to life.<sup>6</sup>

Joe Delaney was taken to the Swan Hill Public Hospital, where his condition was stated as 'serious'. The local doctors did all they could but they needed specialist help and they needed it now!

One of Melbourne's top surgeons, G.A. Syme was flown to Swan Hill, to operate on the young constable. He was accompanied by Police Commissioner Nicholson, and pilot Flight Lieutenant Stephens.<sup>7</sup> The flight took more than two hours and ended on the Swan Hill racecourse, as the town had no airfield.

Syme operated immediately and found pellet wounds to Delaney's chest, neck and back, with the chest taking the brunt of the blast. He was concerned that the young constable's spine had been splintered and that he may be paralysed – if he recovered.<sup>7</sup> On the morning following the operation, Dr Syme was as relatively pleased with his patient, but knew his life still hung in the balance.<sup>7</sup>

The whole of the Swan Hill community were hoping against hope that their friend would pull through. Joe was visited later that evening by one of his brothers, and Joe spoke openly of the circumstances of the shooting.<sup>7</sup>

Meanwhile police cornered Fred Smith in a farmhouse a few miles from where the shooting occurred. He gave up without a struggle and was taken to the police station, and charged with intent to murder and larceny.<sup>6</sup>

The same dogged determination that carried Joe Delaney throughout his civilian and military life now seemed to carry him through this latest ordeal. Many started to feel he would pull through.

Then Joe's condition took a turn for the worse and, in the early hours of 4 September, he lost his hold on life.<sup>1</sup>

Accolades poured in for the young constable. The flag atop Police Headquarters in Russell Street, Melbourne, was flown at half-mast as a sign of respect. The Police Commissioner said he would have no hesitation in posthumously awarding Joe Delaney with the Police Valour Badge if the family requested it.<sup>1</sup>

It was decided that Joe would be buried in his home town of Greta and his brother would escort the body on the train. Swan Hill turned out enmasse to farewell their mate and, as the hearse made its way towards the station, the population followed. Most moving was the contingent of school children who followed to say goodbye to their favourite policeman.<sup>1</sup>

Fred Smith appeared before Bendigo Supreme Court charged with murder. He was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He was further ordered to receive a private whipping of 10 lashes of the birch.<sup>8</sup>

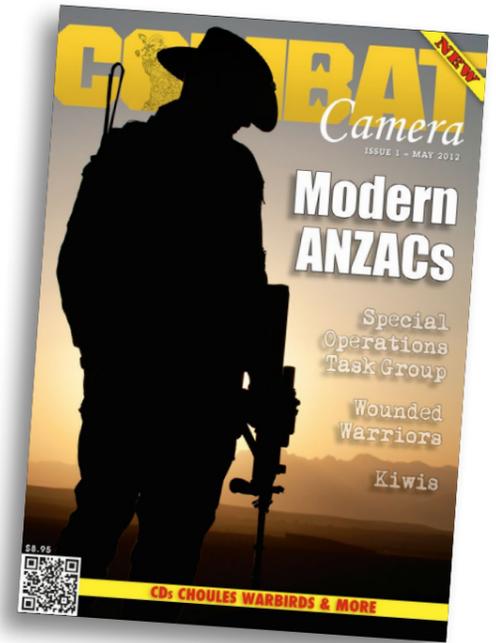
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ARMY NAVY RAAF

## Community achievers

For Australia Day this year, the Air Force Cadets from No 622 Squadron, AAFC, in South Australia again joined with local Army cadets to support the Australia Day Ceremony run by the Rural City of Murray Bridge at Sturt Reserve. Of particular note, former Cadet Under Officer Samuel Mach was a nominee for the 2018 Murray Bridge Young Citizen of the Year Awards.

So too were serving cadets Cadet Warrant Officer Walter Harris, Cadet Corporal Tegan Thomas and Leading Cadet Jacob Lavery. It's worthy recognition of their contribution to the community just to be nominated.

The Commanding Officer of No 622 Squadron, Squadron Leader (AAFC) Lawrence Ng, said, "They are the best team around – great leaders today, and even better tomorrow".

Lawrence was himself an award recipient last year, awarded the Premier's Certificate for Outstanding Volunteer Service. This award was made in acknowledgment of the many years' service he has given to the local community and in particular the AAFC in the Adelaide Hills area.

Meanwhile over at nearby Mannum, Cadet Sergeant James Marchant from 622 Squadron was awarded the Lions Club Australia Day Youth Achievement Award. Congratulations James!

This award caps off a very successful 12 months. Last year, CSGT Marchant led the 622 Squadron team in the 2017 Catalina Cup Competition. The team won the .22 Long Rifle Team Shooting Competition, and CSGT Marchant himself was the 6 Wing .22 Champion Shot for 2017. And at the National Rifle Competition last year at the Melbourne International Shooting Complex, the 622 Squadron placed third overall, with CSGT Marchant placing second individually.

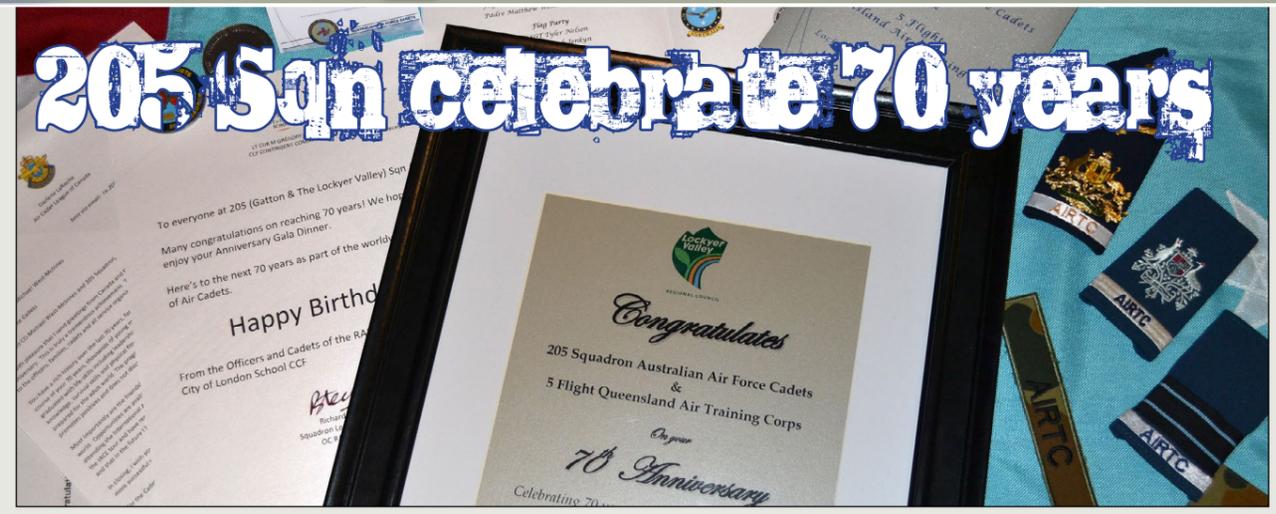
Former Commanding Officer of 622 Squadron (2016-17), Flying Officer (AAFC) Paul Lemar said, "I'm so proud of the service ethos all of our cadets in Murray Bridge show all the time".

"We congratulate these nominees and all award winners," Flying Officer (AAFC) Paul Rosenzweig, 6 Wing Public Affairs & Communication Officer said.

"These cadets demonstrate the community spirit which contributes to our national identity."

Flying Officer (AAFC) Lemar is now Commanding Officer of 602 Squadron in the Adelaide Hills. He said they were now looking for new members to join the squadron.

"It's going to be an exciting year, with a lot of cooperative activities planned for 602 and 622 Squadrons."



205 Squadron AAFC based at the University of Queensland, Gatton Campus, celebrated 70 years of developing young leaders in the Lockyer Valley on Saturday night, 9 December 2017.

The squadron was originally formed as 5 flight Queensland Air Training Corps on 13 February 1947 as a feeder organisation for the Royal Australian Air Force.

Cadets make friends and bond for life and this was evident with the guest list at the dinner including two former commanding officers and some of their cadets who have gone on to careers in the RAAF and RNZAF.

The gathering was a great opportunity for the generations of members from the squadron to reminisce on the past 70 years.

Guests included former member and international guest Corporal Shaun Jones of

the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and Flight Lieutenant Hannah John, a Joint Battlefield Air Space Controller with 452 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council Mayor Tanya Milligan, also a former cadet, gave a well-received address on how the then 5 Flight QAIRTC, helped her through her teenage years.

She presented Commanding Officer Flying Officer (AAFC) Michael West-McInnes with a congratulatory certificate on behalf of the council.

Current and former cadets and staff were presented with a commemorative coin.

Cadets also received birthday letters from members of the Air Cadet League of Canada, The United States Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol, Royal Air Force Section of the City of London CCF, French Air Cadets and from former staff.

2018 Young Citizen of the Year nominees for the Rural City of Murray Bridge, Cadet Corporal Tegan Thomas, former Cadet Under Officer Samuel Mach and Leading Cadet Jacob Lavery.



## V/Regal visit

On the 22 November 2017, members of 336 Squadron, AAFC, met and greeted Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove at RAAF Base Richmond and provided an honour guard as he boarded his aircraft.

After talking to cadets and complimenting them on their dress and bearing, Sir Peter presented 336 Squadron with a Governor-General's Medallion, which was accepted by CUO Jordan Klompenhouwer on behalf of 336.

After the Governor-General departed, the cadets looked over a C-27J Spartan.

Wing Commander Jarrod Pendlebury, CO 35 Squadron, was on hand to speak to the cadets about the aircraft and show them through.



CUO Jordan Klompenhouwer receives a Governor General's Medallion from Sir Peter Cosgrove, on behalf of 336 Squadron AAFC.

Squadron members thanked the RAAF for the amazing opportunity, which was very much appreciated by the cadets.

Commanding officer 336 Squadron Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Dennis Lockwood said he was extremely proud of the way the cadets presented themselves on the day.

"They were a credit to themselves, the squadron and the AAFC," he said.

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