

## Biographies - Alpha Surnames

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### **Adamson, Hugh Malcolm**

Hugh passed away 17/07/2001. O/N R8200. Reported for duty on 10th April 1945 with the rank of probationary Writer. He served during World War II in HMA Ships Madang, Tarangau and at Lonsdale. He was demobilised on 3rd February 1947 and received a war gratuity of 54 pounds and 15 shillings.

## Adamson, Joy Helen

Passed away 24 March 2013. WR1407 Writer. Served in HMAS Penguin, Lonsdale and Cerberus 1943/46.

## Alexander, Robert



Robert passed away on 27/04/2004. O/N A106426. Joined on 31st May 1969 as a RCTPNG and transferred to RCTWTR on 22/8/1969. During a long career, he served in Ships Sydney, Supply, Duchess, Melbourne, Torrens, Newcastle and Brisbane. He served ashore at Cerberus, Kuttabul (Fleet HQ), COMAUSNAVSUP, Penguin, Navy HQ, Leeuwin, Stirling, Encounter and Harman (twice).

He paid off on 31st October 1998 and enlisted in Reserves for five years. Retired as CPOWTR. Medals issued: DFSM, DFSM1\*, VLMSM, DFSM2\*, Second Clasp to DFSM, AASM45-VIET, AASM 1945-75 with Clasp Vietnam

## Allen, Frank (Gubby)

Gubby passed away in the late 1970s, at Frankston, Victoria. Ex LCDR. The following are recollections by ex Writers:

John Kindness "The Chief (Gubby) and I joined Platyus in August 1954. He came from HMAS Commonwealth (Japan). He soon let us know he did not like the term 'kippers' in reference to RNER's. He told us he was a proud Englishman. Unfortunately, his baggage went adrift for a while. He only had what he 'stood up in', so he wore the same clothes till he could go ashore and buy some kit to tide him over till his gear turned up. Mick Randell called him by his nickname, I thought he was saying 'Grubby' because of his appearance, due to lack of clean clothes. He put us straight of the difference!

One night on a run ashore he ended up at Andre's night club. He asked to see the manager and tell him his neon sign was not working properly. He told him the 'W' was out. His reply was in in best Darlinghurst French was 'Monsieur, the name of the club is Andre's NOT Andrews! The S&S Divisional Officer called the Chief to his cabin and proceeded to give him a lecture on his behaviour and his drinking habits.

He did not present a very good image to the Division. At the end of the lecture, he told the SBLT (Fresh from the college) when he had seen a bit of life had a few experiences and dried out between the ears he would be able to advise him, till then keep your opinions to yourself!

In spite of his social habits, he was always able to carry out his duties. Always available to answer any questions put to him. Many times he was asked to appear as the 'accused's friend'. I found him a model to which I could follow (Work wise). I

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can't remember when he left Platypus. He was relieved by CPO Lewin, another Chief to follow by example.

Alex Goodieson "When I joined Navy Office DSP in June 1960 "Gubby" Allen ( Frank) was a CPOWTR in charge of one of the posting sections."

Terry Young "Gubby was Captain's Secretary at Harman having recently been promoted to SBLT SDSU W when I was posted there as a WTR2 in April 63. Dave Keig was the LWTR and Ron Dalgleish the PO. I really liked Gubby and was old school i.e. knew his stuff. Recall he was married to Sandy and was always in strife with her as he loved his drink "whisky" I think and was always late home. He was tough but fair. I remember going through the signals one day and was tearing up the unclassified's and throwing them in the bin, by mistake I tore up a Secret one.

After realising my mistake I attempted to recover it and stick it back together with Sellotape, was not popular but apart from a dressing down escaped unscathed. Ironically I was later to take the same job as Gubby in the same building in 1974. Yep he was definitely ex-RN, a gentleman with a great sense of humour and to hear of the circumstances of his demise is very sad, there but for the grace of god go all of us.

Les Roberts "I was Secretary to NOICVIC from Mar 1971 to mid 1974 and, from memory, Frank was Secretary to CST and then when NOICVIC split from CERBERUS, he remained as Secretary to CO CERBERUS."

Lindsay Lake "LCDR Allen was the Base Supply Officer HMAS Tarangau in 1973. Frank told me over a beer that he was a Acting CPOWTR when he was only 22 years old. He also served as part of the allied occupational forces unit in Japan at the end of World War 2. Frank was called BSO Eye glass by the PNG personnel at Tarangau. He was a great man and very easy to talk to."

Arthur Skene "Frank Allen was a keen walker and frequently took part in walks for fund raisers around his home area in Victoria. While he was the BSO at TARANGAU and I was the CPOWTR in charge of the Pay and Accounts Office, he and I, as the two oldest members of the Writers Branch took part together in a fun run/walk to raise money for the local Manus Island Scouts participation in a forthcoming Jamboree.

The run/walk was from the Naval Base at Lombrum to Lorengau the Manus District (now Province) Administrative Centre, a distance of about fifteen and a half miles. Sandy, Frank's good wife, drove the BSO's vehicle and at every mile provided Frank with a "refresher" beer and me with a lemonade.

The result was that while one of the PNG Division sailors came in first as a runner, Frank and I had the distinction of being the first two walkers to finish the course. From memory, I think we did the walk in just under three and a half hours, which was pretty good considering our ages and not being particularly fit as neither of us were active sportsmen, and even with the help of the fluids incentive, the road was

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not flat, nor sealed, being a crushed coral base and went up and down many hills along the way.”

Marty Grogan “At the time of his death he was separated from his wife Sandy which I assume was Sandra. He lived in a Navy married quarter in Frankston. As a 2 and a half, he was Secretary to CDRE Dace Smyth (CST of Cerberus) in approximately 1969. He did a couple of stints at Tarangau. As a LCDR he paid off as PSO Melbourne (St. Kilda Road) in approximately mid 1979. He was to take over from Retired SD CMDR Alf Calder as Secretary of the RAN Relief Trust Fund and actually did a couple of weeks there as Resettlement Training.

Gubby was heavily in the grip of the Grape and used to do massive lunch time sessions at the Casa De Manyarna Hotel (Case of Bananas) on the corner of St. Kilda Road and Sturt Street opposite the Melbourne Shrine. He did not return to the RANRTF one Friday after lunch and was discovered by the police at about 1800 that night asleep on the Frankston Beach in full rig. His aspiring job as Secretary of the RANRTF was cancelled.

He was eventually found dead in his home at Frankston a couple of years later. He been dead for at least two months. He used to drink at Corvettes Corner at the Pier Hotel in Frankston with such luminaries as ex LEUT SDSU S Stan (The Man) Heywood, ex CPOPT Bill Lunnie, ex CPOME Jimmy McKenzie, ex POUW Rasher Bacon all of whom are now breasting the bar across the bar.”

### Allen, Robert Kevin

Joined 24 March 1958, R54052. Served at Cerberus, Lonsdale, Watson and Melville. Sea postings Vendetta 58-59, Melbourne 60-61 and Hobart 67-68.

### Allison, John

Transferred from the RANR for 2 years. P/N 33892. Served at Kuttabul and Penguin. Ships were Manoora I. Demobbed 12/3/1948.

### Alton, Chris

Ex POWTR. Joined as a JR.



Served at Harman (Navy Office) and Harman in 1987-89 then at Stirling.

Paid off approximately 1992.

## Ames, Wylie (Nee Radford)

Wylie passed away 22/02/2011. WR330. Wylie joined the RAN 5th October 1942 as a Writer. She served a number of shore establishments including Cerberus and Leeuwin. Promoted LS 5/1944 and PO 9/1944. On the 19th May 1945 she was appointed as Third Officer. Her appointment was terminated 2nd August 1946.

## Anderson, Christine

Ex LWRWTR. Joined the Navy from Sydney in 1967 and served at Cerberus, Albatross, Lonsdale (Recruiting) and Coonawarra. Paid off in 1971 and settled in Darwin.

## Anderson, Ruth Ailsa Nee Elliott



Passed away 21 June 2013. WR1882 Writer. Enlisted 10 November 1943. Appointed probationary Third Officer on 22 June 1944 and confirmed as such on 22 September 1944.

Promoted to Second Officer 1 October 1945. Served at the Port War Signal Station Sydney, HMAS Penguin, Cerberus (OTC) and Magnetic.

## Andrews, Frank Maxwell

Passed away 03/10/1941 from Pneumonia at the Repatriation Hospital, Caulfield.  
Joined 24/1/1941

## Andrews, John

Ex POWTR RANR S2658. Joined the Reserves in 1936 as a Writer. As he had sailed all his life, he realized that he had made a mistake joining as a Writer. After three years, requested a change to Seaman. Mobilised at outbreak of war and request denied.

Tried everything, but never got any sea time during his seven years, however, spent some time in Darwin. Did get the opportunity to sail from Wollongong to Sydney one day in Townsville. The CO insisted he take his seat on the bridge for the full trip and everybody on board was wonderful to him. They gave him a framed picture of the ship, inscribed from the officers and crew and signed by the CO.

Now he was happy! Sometime after, nearly got disgraced by Pay Captain Ernie Trivett when asked about pay experience as a LSWTR. He told him that he'd been doing more important work than ledgers! Received Reserves Long Service Medal.

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Later, as a scout master at Eden, Sir William Slim paid the troop a visit and was very impressed by his ribbon. It made John's day. Finally got his sea time fishing at Eden then in the pilot service for about 40 years.

### **Anthon, Bruce**



Ex CPOWTR R37520. Joined in July 1949 as RCT WTR. After the initial three month, went to Writers school where the instructors were commissioned Warrant Officer Alf Calder and CPOWTR Eddie Rodgers. Names from the course of about 10 that he remembers are Frank Young, Col Fraser, Binny Roberts, Ken Hall, and Peter Samuels.

First draft on completion of course late 1949 was to Cerberus. Other establishments served in were Albatross, Harman (where he was promoted LWTR), Lonsdale (where he and a very young Brian Tucker implemented the transfer of the old ledger system to the new pay cards in 1956), Cerberus again (for PO's Course, 3 years after he was rated Petty Officer!) and Harman (Navy Office) (where he was promoted to CPO). Served in Ships Quadrant (where he was promoted PO), Tobruk (Ships Office, where Jack Sherwood was Captain's Sec and Graham Smith Captain's Office). Discharged in July 1961.

### **Arbuckle, Raymond**



B3795. Reported for duty at Cerberus on 12/6/1942 with the rank of Writer Probationary II.

He was posted to Basilisk on 23/2/1943 and moved between Basilisk and Moreton for the next two years. He returned to Cerberus for discharge and was demobilised on 9/8/1946.

### **Armstrong, Patrick James**

Passed away on 20/8/1995. R53481. Joined in 19th September 1957. Shore postings were Cerberus, Watson, Kuttatul, Albatross, Creswell, Penguin, Rushcutter, Waterhen and Harman . Ships Sydney , Swan, Stuart. Had a posting to Vietnam at HQAFV 68 - 969 as PO. He was discharged in 1977.

### **Atkins, Kevin Thomas 'Artie'**

Artie passed away in the 1990's. Joined the RAN 14/9/1948 and served in shore establishments Albatross, Tarangau, Cerberus, Lonsdale. Ships were Murchison as LS and Warramunga as PO. Discharged 15/12/1960.

## Atkins, Trevor



R59656. Joined February 1963. Shore postings were Albatross, Cerberus, Lonsdale, Coonawarra, Melville, RANHFV, Harold E Holt, Leeuwin (Campbell Barracks) and Stirling.

Sea postings were Stuart. Promoted PO in just over seven years and remained in that rank for the next 13 years.

Paid off from Stirling 20 years, one week and two days after joining.

## Atkinson, Cecil Frederic

Joined 10/07/1949. O/N R34967. Served in shore establishments Cerberus, Penguin, Albatross and Platypus. His sea postings consisted of Vengeance 54-55, Sydney 57-59. Promoted LS 1951 and PO 1955. Discharged 9th July 1959.

## Atkinson, James (Bomber)



Bomber passed away 07/08/2004. Joined the Navy in 1959 and completed 38 years continuous service in August 1997. Ships served Anzac (AB), Derwent (LS), Melbourne (PO), Sydney, Swan and Darwin. Establishments Cerberus, Albatross, ALO- Korea, Tarangau, Penguin (twice), Waterhen, Harman and Kuttabul (5 times). Additionally, he was posted to Naval Support Command three times, in total, wearing the Kuttabul tally band for more than 22 years.

Bomber was a legend of the Branch. He didn't take Make and Mends or 'Sporties' and he devoted his life to the Writer category and the RAN. At the time of his discharge, Bomber was the senior CPO of any category in the RAN with 22 years seniority. He spent a great deal of this time working with the Command Legal Organisation.

From 1999 to the time of his death he worked at Maritime Headquarters where he was employed as Staff Officer Honours and Awards. Jim was a regular organiser of the Writers' Luncheon in Sydney. One such luncheon had been held the day previous to his death. Bomber was a devout family man who loved his wife Jenny of over 33 years and their daughter Catherine. After his family, his first love was the RAN, followed closely by his passion for studying the history of medals.

## Atkinson, John Victor

Joined 19/06/1952. O/N R47762. Served in shore establishments Cerberus, Penguin, Kuttabul. His sea postings were Queenborough 56-57 and promoted LS in 57. Discharged 17th April 1958 BNPS.

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### Axford, Alan (Ajax)



R94567. Joined the Navy from Adelaide in January 1965 as part of the 10th JR Intake at Leeuwin. ORD'S time on Diamantina during 1966 and completed the Writers' Course (under CPOWTR Jack Geiger) in 1967 at Cerberus. Posted to Creswell, then to FHQ in 1968 as FOO's Writer (CMDR M. W.Hudson RAN) and served on Fleet Staff. I served in Melbourne during this time when FOCAF (RADM G.J.C. Crabbe RAN) was embarked. From FHQ, I spent time at Waterhen in early 1970.

Completed the Data Operator's Conversion Course in Canberra in April 1970, with Allan Fraser, Garry Cheney, Mal Ritchie and the late Ron Dawe. On completion of the course posted to the EDP Terminal at Garden Island, Sydney, with Harry Watson as the EDP Officer. Others serving at the terminal during this time included PO Dave Robertson, Russ Leavy, Andy Hamilton, Pete Young, Trevor Clark, Ron Dawe and Eric Brenton Bullock (ex DO). I joined Torrens in mid 1973, and then paid off in January 1974 as LWTR. Atkinson, John Victor

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