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Raffell, R. 'Alf'

Passed away 9/1/1910. Ex CPOWTR.

Rashleigh, Percival Francis 'Percy'

Joined 3rd July 1950. R38590. Served at Cerberus, Lonsdale, Penguin, Kuttabul, Albatross. Sea service Sydney 1953. Promoted LS 1954 BNPS 20th September 1956.

Raymount, Bob 'Joffa'



Ex WTR. Served from June 1976 to June 1986. His postings included Harman (DSP) in 1977, Stalwart in 1978, Albatross in 1981, Cerberus in 1982 and Perth in 1983.

Reed, George Percival

PM 319 DOB 10/7/1921. Joined 28/11/1940. Lonsdale 28/11/1940 – 28/2/1941. Cerberus 01/3/1941 – 4/11/1941. Sydney 5/11/1941 – 20/11/1941. He went down with the Sydney.

Reeves, Bernard Charles 'Booka'

Joined 13/11/1950 O/N 39730. He served in establishments Cerberus, Lonsdale. His sea posting was Quadrant 53-54. Discharged 12th November 1956.

Reinhardt, Gordon William 'Flash'

Passed away 1963. R35070. DOB 30/12/1927. Joined 7/7/1947 and discharged 6/7/1959. Served in establishments Cerberus, Penguin, Albatross, Kuttabul and Watson.

Sea time Sydney 21/8/1951 - 27/5/1952 including operational service in Korea 51-52. Anzac 52-53 and Warrego 56-57.

Rettalick, Elaine (nee Worrall)

Ex POWRWTR. I was in the navy from 1967 to 1972 and paid off as a PO from Navy Office. My husband, Peter, was a Yeoman.

Richards John



Ex WTR. I joined up initially as an apprentice ETC at Nirimba in 1985, but took my optional discharge seven months later. I rejoined as a scribe in July 1987 and was on Initial Writers 22A, with 'Spider' Tatnell as instructor. My first posting was to DSP at Navy Office, where Ken Sinnamon was my Chief. From there I was posted to Stalwart in March 1989 with 'Knocker' White as my PO and 'Smack' Cocayney (later Cohayney) as LS. I was serving in Stalwart until she decommissioned in early 1990. I then ended up back in Canberra at HQADF in a few places before being posted down to Albatross in April

Richmond, Mervyn Henry

Joined 2nd November 1950. R39397 Served at Cerberus, Penguin, Tarangau. Sea service Arunta 1956. Promoted 1954. DEE 1/11/1956.

Rickard, Dave

Ex LSWTR R59624. Served from 11/1/1963 to 10/1/1972.

Rickard, Dave



Ex POWTR R64027. Joined the RAN from Adelaide on 16/1/1965. He served in HMA Ships Vampire, (twice, as ORD SMN & PO), Melbourne, Queenborough and Swan and at Cerberus, Albatross, Kuttabul II (LWTR with Naval Police) and Harman (Navy Office). Categorized as ORD ME, but very quickly saw the benefits of the Writer Branch over the Stokers' world.

Was serving in Vampire in the FESR in 1965 when the ship was called upon to assist in the escort of Sydney on her first of many voyages to Vietnam. Final posting was to NavyOffice(DSP), working as 2OIC in Engineering Postings, then as OIC Communications Postings. Met LWRWTR Pauline Haydon while serving in Navy Office and married her shortly after leaving Pussers. Paid off in January, 1977, and settled back in Adelaide. Joined the RANR and served as rocky for 30 years, completing several periods of FTS (mainly with NCS) and paying off in 2007.

Rickard, Pauline (nee Haydon)



Ex LWRWTR W115128. Joined the RAN from Adelaide on 21/5/1973. Served at Cerberus, Kuttabul, Harman (NO) and Encounter. In February 1974, was posted for recruiting duties in Sydney Recruiting Office, then in February 1976 joined the staff of DWRANS, serving under the Director at the time, the well respected Captain Barbara MacLeod. Completed her service in the Adelaide Recruiting Office, paying off in May 1979. Married ex POWTR Dave Rickard, who she met in Navy Office, in 1977.

Ritchie, Malcolm 'Darkie'



Ex scribe and SGT NP R93918. I joined the Navy as a Junior Recruit at Leeuwin in January 1963. After Leeuwin, I was posted to Vampire as an ORDSMN (WTR) before going to Cerberus in July 1965 for my WTR's course. I transferred to the new Naval Police Branch in 1974, paying off in 1984 as a Sergeant Naval Police (CPO) after 21 years service.

I served in Vampire, Melbourne, Sydney, Kuttabul (EDP), Lonsdale, Penguin and Rushcutter. After paying off, I spent the next nine years or so with the Naval Reserve, including Commanding Officer of TS Sydney (Spectacle Island) for five years.

Riddett, Reginald Percy



DOB 21/6/1919. R21650. Joined 27th September 1938 and was discharged 36th September 1961. His promotions were LS 1940, PO 1942 and CPO 1948. Shore postings included Penguin, Albatross and last posting was as canteen manager at Creswell. He had numerous sea postings: Hobart 1939, Perth 40-41, Shropshire 43-44, Sydney 1951- 1953 and 1958, Melbourne 58-59, Australia 1951.

Rix, Gordon Robert

P/N 23128, served from 13th January 1940 until 12th January 1952. He joined exactly on his 18th birthday. His career was spent in Cerberus on entry until 30th September 1939 when he was posted to Hobart (a modified Leander class light cruiser which served in the Royal Australian Navy during World War II) and was promoted LS whilst serving in Hobart 15/5/1941. Other postings were Penguin, Rushcutter where he was promoted PO 1/7/1942 and then Platypus.

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From 8th May 1944 until 22 August 1944 he served at Kuranda which was a WWII RAN establishment at Cairns. After that he moved between Penguin and Albatross on a regular basis until his discharge. Promoted CPO 1/1/1949. He died 29th September 2002

Rix, P C

Passed away 1st June 2005. R23128. Joined 2nd may 1939 and discharged 12th January 1952. Served at Cerberus. Penguin, Platypus, Albatross and Kuranda. Sea service Hobart 1939/1941 as AB. 1944 as LS. Promoted PO 1/1/1943 and CPO 1/1/1949.

Roberts, Les



Ex POWTR R62151 and CMDR. Joined the RAN from Melbourne as an adult recruiting May 1963 at 17 years of age. Writers Course included Denis Benfield, Vic Venaglia, Graham Parry, Jeff Fuller, Gus de Bakker and Mike Rice, with Instructors CPOWTR Frank Shugg and LEUT Keith Denton. I was posted to Cerberus (Accounts Office) after course and then to Lonsdale for NHBS in December, 1964. I went to sea in Parramatta in September, 1965, and then posted back to Lonsdale as A/LWTR in March, 1967. I did the POWTR's Course in 1968 with classmates including 'Woggie' Watson, 'Beachball' Sharman, 'Crash' Kennedy and Marty Grogan. I joined the Fleet

Writer Team at FHQ in March 1969 as a POWTR and then went to Nirimba in January 1971. I was posted to Lonsdale (for the 3rd time) for NOIC VIC as

Secretary, on commissioning as A/SBLT SDSU W in March, 1971. Next posting was to Creswell as SO (Cash) in June 1974, followed by a move to FOICEA as Assistant to the CSYO in June, 1976. I headed back to sea in Melbourne as DSO in January, 1978, then went to Cairns as BSO in December, 1979. On promotion to LCDR, I was posted to DGSUP-N in June, 1981, then went back to sea as SO in Torrens in May, 1982. A highlight of this posting was being presented to the Queen and Prince Philip, when Torrens was escort to HMY Britannia for the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane and a tour of the SW Pacific. I came ashore to Harman in January 1984 as the SO. On promotion to CMDR I was posted

to Stalwart in May, 1986. Highlights of this draft included cyclone relief in the Solomon's, being in Suva very shortly after the first Fiji coup, and the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the RAN. I went back to Canberra to the Directorate Navy Service Conditions in October, 1987, followed by Directorate Naval Logistics Policy in January, 1992 and then as Director Logistic Services – Navy in mid 1992, and Navy Facilities in 1996. I went to the Directorate Naval Manpower Planning in 1997, until I reached retiring age for rank in May 2000. However, I transferred to the Reserve and continued to serve on CFTS until paying off in March, 2004, after 40 years, 10



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months and one week unbroken service. I was lured back in July, 2004, to set up the Navy Establishment Validation Team (the reincarnation of the old Complements Committee) and paid off again in March, 2006.

Roberts, Leslie Arthur

Joined 11th April 1938. R21951. Served at Cerberus, London Depot, Sea service Hobart 1939, Canberra 1939/1940 (LS from 1/4/1940), Nizam 1941, Napier 1941/1942 (LS/PO). Discharged PUNS 20th June 1943.

Roberts, Monica Jean 'Jeannie'



Joined the WRANS in January 1975 and after training, she was posted to Albatross. Her next posting was to Coonawarra in Darwin where she met and married her first husband, Allan 'Ferret' Brennan, a POCK. As one of the first WRANS to return from maternity leave in 1977, she was posted to Cerberus and worked in the Pay and Personnel areas under CPOWTR Sid Nolan, WOWTR Peter Davies and CPOWTR 'Banjo' Patison. Jeannie joined Penguin in 1979 as a LWRWTR and worked for CPOWTR John Bignell in the Pay Office.

After promotion to PO, she spent over three years at the Supply School, moulding the minds of the 'baby' scribes. Fellow instructors included Mick Scully, Trevor Plymin, Sid Hoggett, 'Nobby' Clark, Norm Leaney, Steve Salmon, Andy Thomas, Bob Walton, 'Polly' Perkins, Jim Tester and Barry Howe. She enjoyed that time and the period since, meeting many "Brennan Trained" Writers years later. She married Peter Roberts, an ex CPOETC, in 1987. Her son joined the Navy as a Cook in 1994. Jeannie paid off in 1997 as a WOWTR from Creswell.

In 2001 Jeannie came back to the service as a Reserve, thanks to WOWTR Marty Grogan talking her into completing some CFTS time. She then went on to work at the Patrol Boat Group Headquarters in Darwin both as a Reserve and as a Public Servant.

In April 2013 Jeannie was posted to the Middle East on CFTS and she said "My job is the Cashier at a busy defence air base which sees many Australian troops move through on deployment and well as staying here to support and sustain the operation. The operation is OP SLIPPER and is Australia's military contribution to the international campaign against terrorism, maritime security in the Middle East Area of Operations and countering piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Although the majority of personnel located in the Australian section of the base are Army and RAAF, there is a small smattering of RAN officers and sailors who are in communication, logistics, operations and watch keeping roles. At the time of writing there are nine Writers of the over 400 personnel based here occupying administration, pay, contract and support positions. My small role keeps me busy seven days a week. We deal in three currencies – Dirham, Euro and US Dollars.

The majority of payments I make are to Australian Defence Service personnel and

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Defence Civilians for travelling allowances and advances on their pay. Writers are no longer required to do this type of work in the RAN in Australia with most cash offices being closed. It was a step back in time to see the troops taking regular cash payments in advance of their pay on any day of the week. At least there is no Coxswain waiting with a clipboard to pick them up for a haircut.”

Robertson, David ‘Robbo’



ex-POWTR R93575. Signed up from Adelaide and joined JRTE (Leeuwin) in the 4th intake of JR's, January 1962. Did all the usual things that JR's did during the 12 months I was there and at the end of it, I got a big surprise when I was selected in the first group of Topmen to undertake further educational studies as a prelude to possible officer selection and training. As I remember there were about 9 or 10 of us – some ex-JR's and some ex-Apprentices from Nirimba. That went OK for a few months, but somewhere along the way I realised that this wasn't for me. Not long after that I was sprung writing my own leave passes and that was the end of that.

Removed from the course and sent to Cerberus to do my Writer course in August 1963.

On completion of that was posted to Harman, where I stayed until April 1964 before joining Stuart – then in refit at Cockatoo Island Dockyard in Sydney. At that time Stuart was engaged in Ikara trials and when we did get back to sea we had a full complement of boffins on board to evaluate and maintain the Ikara systems. Known as the “grey ghost of the east coast” the ship was up and down the east coast of Australia, calling in to places as exotic as Eden and the mouth of the Hawkesbury, and a host of other places where the last thing the locals would expect to see in their bay was a warship.

We eventually had to actually test the missile so off to Fairfax Island Queensland we sailed. After some firings and shock and vibration trials headed back to Sydney for a period of maintenance, and my next posting – Fleet Headquarters on Garden Island. What a place that was! Old building at the end of the island, people crammed in where- ever there was space to spare. I remember the communications room was in the basement, and could only be accessed by leaving the building by the back door and re- entering via the basement door. The troops' locker room was down there too.

After about 2 and 1/2 years there I was posted to Penguin for about 6 months before joining Melbourne ship's company in late 1968. After Melbourne, was posted to Albatross for several weeks to fill in time before attending the EDP course in Canberra in mid 1970. From there of course the next step was the Garden Island EDP terminal, with Andy Hamilton, Russ Leavy, Alan Axford, Gary Cheney, Al Fraser, et al. LEUT Harry Watson, a communicator, was the Area EDP Officer at that time. Come the end of 1972, was posted to Leeuwin for my last year in the RAN, and joined there in late January 1973. Paid off there at the end of 1973.

Robertson, Harold Nelson 'Robbie'



ex-CPOWTR R17414. Robbie enlisted in the RAN in 1926 figuring that since the "Great War" was over he would be a peace-time sailor and it would be a good career. Previously a farm hand in northern NSW, he enlisted from Nambucca Heads where his family was established. (His mother was a member of a prominent Nambucca Heads family).

Completing his initial training at Cerberus he completed 6 months training as an ORDWTR in Melbourne before returning to Cerberus where he was duly promoted to Writer in June 1927.

Posted to the RAN College he was promoted LWTR in December 1929 before taking up his posting in Australia in mid 1930, after which he was returned to Cerberus before being promoted POWTR in April 1935.

He served in Ships Yarra and Sydney prior to returning to shore at Penguin. In February 1939 he was standing by Australia and joined the ship in August 1939, where he stayed until September 1939 – being posted ashore on his promotion to CPOWTR.

He then transferred to Darwin. He was there until April 1942, surviving the Japanese bombing of the port town and the general chaos which followed it.

After almost a year at Lonsdale he took passage to the UK to stand by Shropshire, soon to be commissioned into the RAN to replace the lost Canberra. He served in Shropshire until June 1944, leaving the ship in a maintenance period in Sydney after her active service in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian Ocean areas, and then in the South Pacific with Task Force 77 in the northern New Guinea and New Britain operations, including the seizure of the Admiralty Islands.

After service in various shore establishments he was posted to Torrens in Port Adelaide, serving in the depot itself and then in the Adelaide recruiting office, from where he paid off in August 1956.

Robbie died in Adelaide in August 1986.

Robertson, Phil 'Robbo'



WOWTR. Joined the RAN on 17/9/1984 and as of 2014, still serving, and still enjoying it. My first posting was to Harman, (a great little base and a highlight of my career.) I then moved into NOPO and being one of the busiest pay offices, I learnt heaps about pay and accounts. After NOPO, I was posted to Stalwart and worked for Leonard 'Knocker' White. At the time, Stalwart became the Flag Ship and lost the tag of 'Building 215'. (Back then sea time was a lot less restrictive and

probably more fun.)

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After I was promoted to Kellick at sea, I was posted to Fleet Headquarters as the Admiral's LSWTR. From there, I was selected for a posting to HMAS Cairns, but having my old POWTR from Stalwart as the poster probably helped. Cairns was an excellent posting and I where I was promoted to POWTR. After Cairns, I moved to another Admiral's staff in ACMAT-N.

Three years later, I joined DSCM as promotions PO for Seaman and Communications sailors. Whilst there, I got to choose my next sea draft and I took up a posting to Newcastle. When the ship became CTG, I was fortunate to be promoted to CPOWTR and remain posted there.

After Newcastle, I was the Writers' Career Manager at DSCM. There I had 95% of Writers happy with their postings, but unfortunately the other 5% made this posting not one of my most enjoyable. From DSCM, I went to Command Legal for eight months before going over to Baghdad for a six months operational deployment. For a sailor, to be in the middle of a desert and be shot at was quite strange, but a thoroughly enjoyable experience and good for a few warries.

From Baghdad, I was posted to HMAS Success for a couple of years and again enjoyed being at sea although most of the time we acted as a glorified 18,000 tonne Patrol Boat off Christmas Island chasing SIEV's.

After Success I was lucky enough to again be posted to Command Legal for three years where I acted as Clerk of Court for Defence Force Magistrate Hearings and Court Martial's. This was one of my most interesting postings and was fortunate to see quite a few trials. And it was always far better being on the right side of the Judge rather than the where the accused sat.

In early 2011 I was privileged to have been selected for promotion to Warrant Officer and was finally nabbed for a posting to HMAS Kuttabul as the Personnel Officer. Looking after 1500 full time members was definitely a challenge but one that I enjoyed.

Now, in 2014, after almost 30 years service, I am the Category Manager for the now Maritime Logistics Personnel Operations (nee Writers). It is a challenging but rewarding roll given the way forward for us is completely different than that when I joined almost three decades ago, but as our category has and always will do, we will adapt and overcome what ever they throw at us.

Robinson, Gordon Neil



Passed away 26 March 2007. Joined Creswell on 31/1/1961 as a Cadet Midshipman. He departed on 15/12/1961,(quoting 'a difference of opinion'). On 9/2/1962, he enlisted as a Recruit Writer and commenced his Trade Training on 16/4/1963. On completion, he was posted to Nirimba on 8/08/1963. He went to sea in Vendetta on 9/3/1964, working as Armaments Office Writer and in the Pay Office. During this posting, the ship went

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on a tour of the Far East during confrontation.

His next draft was to Tarangau on 3/2/1965 as Engineer Officer' Writer, then to Kuttabul as a LWTR on 18/12/1965 and Penguin He was promoted POWTR on 12/5/67 and posted to Platypus on on17/4/1967.

8/8/1967. Whilst there, he did trips in both Oxley and Otway. (He was forced to sleep in a bunk over the mess fridge in the CPO's Mess in Otway and therefore had to get out of bed on each occasion the fridge was opened). He was posted to Harman (NO) on 19/11/1968, including a SGCE Course at Leeuwin from 13/7/1969 to 1/12/1969. Promotion to CPOWTR came on 14/8/1970 and he joined Swan on 14/12/1970, when the ship was escort to Sydney during one of her voyages to Vung Tau. He was posted to Harman (NO) from 1/5/1972 until late 1973, and then Moreton on 8/2/1974, pending DEE.



Robinson, Norman

Joined 17th October 1951, R46295. Served in shore establishments Cerberus, Penguin, Kuttabul and Watson. LS 1956. DEE 16th October 1957.

Robl, Ted

P/N R115484. Joined the RAN via HMAS Leeuwin, Howden Division in 1970. He entered the Officer Candidates School, but later had to back out. He was posted to Cerberus and did a Writers course. His next postings were Harman, Kuttabul and Supply, before he was discharged in 1980. He is a published author of 'A Back Block Bard - The Collected Verses of Harry Breaker Morant'.

Rocke, Bruce

Passed away 23/9/2004 RANR. P2547. Joined 4th September 1939 and served at Cerberus, Rushcutter and Leeuwin. Promoted LS 1941, PO 1943 and ASLT 1945. As a SLT he served at various ships and establishments for a period of a few weeks each including Vendetta, Gascoyne, Madang, Tarangau and bar coo. He was demobbed 29th April 1946.

Rockey, John Thomas George

Born 10th April 1914. O/N 19776. Joined the RAN 30th May 1933. Spent his time after training at Penguin undertaking various assignments, spending some time at the Darwin Boom and Defence Deport. Promoted PO in 1939 at Penguin and posted 24th April to Perth, he made CPO 1st September 1941. After action with the Japanese and the Perth sank, he became a POW 2nd March 1942 he arrived back in Australia 10th October 1945 and demobbed 9th January 1946. He was provided with a pension of 10%.

Rodwell, Rosemary (Nee Ferazzo)

Passed away April 1987. On her death the Family established 'The Rosemary Rodwell Award' POWTR Rosemary Rodwell joined in 1963. Her distinguished career spanned more than 20 years during which she was awarded the British empire medal. She died in a car accident in 1987 and her family established the prize, which is awarded annually to an imagery specialist who best demonstrates the pursuit of excellence.

Rogers, Guy



Over the years there has been much recorded and published about our naval training, and sadly for some our time in the service was difficult. Without going into lengthy detail, my fifteen years encompassed many very good moments but also included difficult periods and ultimately my health could not sustain.

Entering as a Junior Recruit (Collins Division 24th Intake), my initial twelve months at HMAS LEEUWIN, JRTE - Junior Recruit Training Establishment, was one of excitement and challenge. I had already been working for twelve months as a young fifteen year old, as a delivery boy for David Jones in stores van – running many, many kilometres daily. Then in the immediate six months before joining JRTE as a Junior Station Assistant (JSA) for the NSW Government Railways – worked many railway stations and back then it was not uncommon for a JSA to be sole charge on their own at railway stations (eg Warwick Farm, Yennora, Telopia stations to name some that I worked), and on the larger railway stations there weren't too many toilet/heads that I hadn't cleaned. Arriving at JRTE in July 1968 to some extent was a relief because sadly my family life and upbringing had its challenges.

A broken collarbone playing rugby, a broken nose in the boxing tournaments, bloodied thumb requiring stitches when in an honour guard (ah hum bring the arm and fist down upon the bayonet of the junior recruit beside me while 'dressing off on parade.) Well these were the physical injuries...

I suppose there was some leadership potential identified by divisional staff at the time and I took on the role of Leading Junior Recruit as did five or six other lads in our division. The traits I presented no doubt could have been construed as 'officer material' but unbeknown to me there were some very difficult times subsequently upon leaving JRTE and many years later.

During those initial twelve months CW – Commission Warrant papers were raised and I was selected to remain behind but poor vision at a health examination resulted in my going to sea (HMAS SYDNEY) for common sea training, then Writers' training (including Data Operator element). I subsequently attended several more officer selection boards, was sent back to HMAS LEEUWIN as a

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Writer in the Pay Office there, then completed a further educational course and was promoted from the lower deck to the lofty rank of Midshipman (Supplementary List – Supply Branch SLSU) at nineteen years old.

As a Midshipman SLSU I was one of three lads from the lower deck and together with three RAN College Officers I completed my initial Basic Supply Course in 1971-1973, this entailed approximately six months at the Supply School and then eighteen months 'on job training'. My training was removed from the general run of supply duties and I spent almost twelve months learning a US Navy supply procedure Supply Operations Assistance Programming SOAP, this was followed by a posting to Navy Office Canberra – Directorate of Fleet Supply Duties DFSD but stationed in Port Melbourne as the Officer In Charge OICSOAP (talk about being wet behind the ears). During this period 1973-1974 ships in refit/modernisation passed through Williamstown Dockyard included HMA Ships SWAN, TORRENS, and DERWENT.

The SOAP Team destored each ship, completed materiel inventory, prepared computer input data. The resultant output reports generated by computer systems applications at Canberra relating to the SOAP process then indicated what obsolete materiel was to be taken out of onboard stores and what new onboard support was required. As a junior officer, I had a very good Chief Petty Officer, Petty Officers and junior sailors in my team that recognised the challenges we were confronted with be these logistical including transport and warehousing – they also recognised the youthfulness in my role, and to each and everyone they got on with the tasks at hand and I was proud of our achievements under difficult conditions.

Following SOAP, I eventually got back to some general duties, Secretary to COMAUSSUBRON ONE, and then Supply Officer Cash at HMAS PLATYPUS 1974-1976.

Expecting to eventually get to sea in 1976, I was once again posted out of general duties and here my background as a Writer with (Data Operator training in Canberra in 1970) came into play, I was posted to Flag Officer Commanding East Australia Area – FOCEA as the Command EDP Officer in charge of an Electronic Data Processing Centre at Garden Island Dockyard. 1976 -1979. A sea posting was on the back burner. During this appointment I was seconded as the Secretary to the NAS Nowra - Board of Enquiry following the aircraft and hangar fires occurring in late 1976.

In 1979 I was interviewed by the Fleet Supply Officer who was posting to Navy Office as Director of Fleet Supply Duties – there was a pending significant shift occurring with the introduction of administrative computer systems and applications in Supply – Navy Stores this was going to have major impact upon our overall supply materiel support processes at retail (RAN shore establishments) and wholesale (RAN supply depots). I posted to Navy Officer as a staff officer to Director General Logistics – Navy in 1979 and reviewed on task requirements to date for the implementation of the Defence Supply Retail Minicomputer System – Navy DSRMS(N). This required scoping for selected senior stores sailors and a Training

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Officer as well as a team of junior sailors. My mission as Field Implementation Officer DSRMS(N) involved numerous operations including NAS Nowra, Fleet Base West – HMAS STIRLING with remote link to HMAS LEEUWIN, HMAS CERBERUS, remote link NAS NOWRA to RAN College HMAS CRESWELL, then HMAS NIRIMBA – all these establishments completed stores systems change over in those early days of administrative computing. (Here is a good comparative example: computer central processing units with 40mb storage capacity looked like 10 stacked large vinyl LP records sitting in a multi-disk drive unit the size of a washing machine. Today a micro SD card of 8gb we use in our computer tablets (low capacity as these SD cards do hold a lot more) the 8gb would require the equivalent of 200 ‘washing machines’ 40mb drive units.

The field implementation role was the most challenging and rewarding of my naval service during this period from 1979 to late 1981 I was constantly travelling around the country. Aside from actual field implementations at the above establishments, forward planning activities were undertaken in the Sydney area including networking all establishments to a local computer facility (HMAS NIRIMBA being the first to link). Other sites included Brisbane, Cairns and Darwin, where site inspections and computer facility profiling was required. I always recall that from September 1980 to September 1981, I was never in one establishment longer than a month but always on the go forward planning, returning for final phase implementation, and gearing up to shift the team/s around the country. In each of those September months I wasn't in one place longer than a week. It was now time to go to sea.

By late 1981 I was sent on a six month sea ride so to speak. Aside from my stint at COMAUSSUBRON ONE – HMAS PLATYPUS I had virtually no general supply duties under my belt, no experience whatsoever and this had taken its toll and continued to do so the last few years I served until 1983 when I sadly resigned my commission.

My health suffered from as early as 1971 when I completed my education courses, to 1973 while understudying US Navy supply procedures, to 1975 while coming to terms with general supply duties, to 1977 immediately following the NAS Nowra board of enquiry, to 1981 at sea, to 1982 and 1983 ashore for six months as Deputy Supply Officer HMAS HARMAN, and then finally in February to October 1983 as the Navy's representative Training Officer for the Honeywell to Univac mainframe systems conversion and AUSMIMPS – Australian Materiel Inventory Movements Priority System – this last appointment was on scale that I very much would have liked to have followed through on but alas my health failed.

Postscript

In 1977 while at the RAN Hospital Penguin a senior medical officer encouraged me to have my service records officially petitioned for Government Employees Compensation and in May 1979 my service records were duly noted.

In 1994/95 I required medical attention as my past health troubles had arisen and the Department of Veterans Affairs processes kicked in. Also at this time I was

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encountering acute physical pain and though managed by my local doctor and physiotherapist, my health deteriorated.

In 1997 I was diagnosed with a degenerative disease – osteoarthritis in the cervical spine and cervical spondylosis. The orthopaedic specialist upon examining an MRI scan had immediately called in a neurosurgeon who discussed a surgical procedure with me. This was a complete shock and as explained by the specialists the condition is very insidious. I underwent microscopic surgery to remove portions of bone from three of my vertebrae in my neck to decompress main root nerves. I now swing a golf club far more cautiously and tentatively at times and swim regularly; I detest taking anti-inflammatory drugs unless there is extreme pain.

Once again the Department of Veterans Affairs have proven to be invaluable having had the microforamenotomy (the bone removal procedure) I continued to work until May 1999 at which time I then medically retired from the Australian High Commission – Wellington.

I continue to receive specialist support and clinical management of my health conditions. And I have been deliberately challenged by clinicians to undertake interests outside my comfort zone – learning to ride a motorcycle, learning to play guitar (a never ending challenge but a rewarding one for me) and to step up on stage and perform with the guitar.

February 2014, I encounter severe chest pain. I attended local doctor an ECG taken and then immediately into an ambulance and off to hospital. Long story short: heart scare with high blood pressure and high cholesterol – motorcycle sold, swimming and gymnasium work monitored. Guitar playing? Well somethings never change.

Moira my wife of twenty eight years, and our daughter Samantha, live in the Hutt Valley region of Wellington and whether we may up stumps and swim across the ditch back to Aussie, I honestly don't know. For the moment though I am taking things easy enjoying a walk around the golf course, my guitar and swim centre.

Life is too short to dwell what has gone before, or what may lay ahead, but rather enjoy the moment while you can.

A lad that joined the navy with me (Mark Bruhwiler), and whom I haven't seen for 45 years, wrote a book recently formerly "The Last Dog Watch" then re-released as "From Seven Hill to the Seven Seas" it's a good read and a link is shared on my Facebook. (Guy Rogers Wellington New Zealand)

Rogan, William E. 'Bill'



I joined the RAN in January 1990 and went through Cat School under the tutelage of CPOWTR Al Hardie, POWTR Wayne Lanham and POWRWTR Chris Lindsay. I was posted to Creswell along with my classmate Stuey O'Brien. As there was a backlog of WTRs to get to sea I managed to spin my Creswell time out to about 2 1/2 years. During my time there I worked for Frank DeKoning in the Pay Office and Brad Clements in the Personnel Office. I still remember the morning when the buzz spread around the base that Frank, as OOD the previous day, was the new OIC of an amphibious bongo van. Seems that a wet slipway, no handbrake and a sprinting PO

DeKoning adds up to 1 x submerged bongo van.

I was then posted to Flinders for two years as the sole scribe and had the good fortune to enjoy some of her more exotic ports of call such as Weipa, Gove and Port Moresby, though going to Norfolk Island was a highlight. I was promoted to LSWTR and posted to Cairns for the next 12 months. I worked for / with Chris Legg and Al Dummett in the Personnel and Pay Offices respectively.

I was then posted to Harman (DSCM) and looked after transfers of category, working for CPOWTR Jo Jordan. About 12 months later I was 'lucky' enough to get my commission and went over the hill to the School of Knowledge (ADFA) for a few years. After that I spent time in Brisbane and Coonawarra as the Supply Officer Tenders. I transferred to the Reserves in 2003 after 13 great years. I don't regret a single minute of it and some days long to be back in 'rig' or having a run ashore somewhere.

Rolle , Margaret

Passed away 2012. W2158. Served 1944 – 1946. Served in shore establishments Lonsdale and Monterey.

Rose, Athol



Passed away 10th February 2014. Joined the RAN after having twice passed his Leaving Certificate from Sydney High. Three Writers and five Stores Assistants joined from NSW and a similar number from Victoria. From 31/5/1933 to 16/8/1933 they were posted to FND to complete their Recruit Course. He completed service in HMA ships *Canberra*, *Australia* and *Stuart* during the pre war period. This time also gave him an opportunity to pass for Leading Writer, PO Writer and the Writer element of Paymaster SBLT by 1936.

Athol was appointed an acting paymaster sub lieutenant in July 1937 and was subsequently posted to *Sydney II*. He was Duty Officer on the 3/9/1939 and after

Biographies - Romeo Surnames

deciphering the war declaration message, he recalled FOCAF, and was instructed to recall the Captain's and ships' companies to other ships. Later he typed and copied the more than 130 pages of the instructions to all authorities for the first big convey of soldiers from New Zealand and Australia to the Far East.

On promotion to Paymaster lieutenant in 1939 he was posted to *Canberra*. Following a brief posting to *Leeuwin*, Athol re-joined *Canberra* in which he was wounded in action during the battle of Savo Island in August 1942. 84 members of *Canberra's* ships company were killed and the badly damaged ship was later abandoned and scuttled. After convalescing, Athol filled appointments in the Sydney area before joining the naval base *Ladava*, at Milne Bay, New Guinea.

His career was mainly in Supply, where he looked after 100 ships' pay, stores etc., in all theatres of war from HMAS *Penguin*, *Ladava* (Milne Bay) and *Tarangau* (Finschaven). However, he never served in Navy Office! The carriers *Sydney* and *Vengeance* also were his home for several years. He was Fleet Supply Officer and then Acting Captain in *Cerberus* from 1958 to 1963.

He retired from *Kuttabul* as Supply Officer in November 1964 and worked as an accountant until November 1984, having studied in FND with the NSW Tech by correspondence. Though he assisted in putting Naval Stores onto computer from 1961 on, he never has had any use for computers in his own home.

Rose, Ronda (nee Neilson)

Ex POWTR and CPOWTR (Reserve) W117727. Service in the PNF was from 1974 to 1986.

Ross, Helene (Nee Hawe)



Passed away 2010. Born 21 July 1925. WR2746. Joined the RAN 20th March 1945 as Assistant Writer. Discharged 28th August 1946. Served at *Kuttabul*, *Lonsdale*, *Torrens* and *Rushcutter*.

Ross, Trevor

Passed away 21st July 2011. Trevor joined 25th May 1959 as a Seaman FC rate. He subsequently transferred to the Writer Category 14th February 1964. On completion of training he joined *Kuttabul* until his first sea posting as a Writer - Stuart 7th April 1965 and on 6th November he joined Sydney. His final shore posting was *Kuttabul* 26th February 1967 until his DEE 25th May 1968.

Rotherham, Mark



R122955. Joined as a JR on 11/7/1977 in Collins Division. He completed the Writers Course at Cerberus with POWTR 'Stuey' Stewart and after a small period at the Cerberus Personnel Office, he was posted to Harman (Navy Office–DSP). His next posting was to Penguin, where he worked under CPOWTRs 'Crash' Kennedy and Terry Standen. He was posted to Nirimba then Melbourne where he had the pleasure of working with Marty Grogan, who saved his butt on several occasions.

Coming ashore, he was posted to Harman, Navy Office (Directorate of Underwater Weapons) and met a great man, CAPT I.D.G. McDougall (later Admiral), who gave him much inspiration. He moved from Navy Office to Albatross (Pay Office) then went to Supply, which was refitting. He was lucky to swap from Supply to Sydney, where, compliments of DSO, he got reduced from LSWTR to ABWTR. Mark went back to Harman (Navy Office–DNMP) where he worked with Charlie Emerson, then DNEP and worked with Stokers and realised his time was up.

He was Discharged AOR on 10/6/1986 and joined the Australian Federal Police on 13/6/1986. He worked on many of the country's prominent crimes, including the murder of Assistant Commissioner Colin Winchester in 1989. Two beautiful daughters came into his life during this time; Nadine in 1986 and Natashain in 1987. He became a Surveillance Officer at Melbourne's Crown Casino in 1996. Mark then moved to become Assistant Manager of Surveillance on a cruise ship in Singapore in November 1997, until it sank.



In March 1998, he became Surveillance Manager of the Andaman Club Casino in Myanmar, Burma, until March 2003. He opened his own restaurant; Sophon's Hideaway, in Ranong, Thailand, in March 2004 and still has the place. As at 2005, he is helping a friend in Subic Bay, Philippines, who has the Management contract for a new Casino, the Subic Diamond, where he is the Manager of Surveillance and Security. Marks claims that he still drinks too much.

Rouse, James Leslie

Passed away mid 2008. Joined 16/06/1944 as a Writer Probationer II. Official number: S 5932. Promoted Writer 26/12/1944. He joined *Cerberus* on entry and then posted to *Ladava* 22/08/1944 and *Penguin* 13/11/1945, and demobilised 04/11/1946.

Royall, Peter



Ex LWTR. Joined the navy and went through Leeuwin in 1965. There were quite a few Writers from my intake and my class including, 'Tubby' Barnes, Allan Axford, and Lindsay Klem. Two others from our class went to the Naval College and ended up as Supply Commanders. These were Bob Allen and Brian Castles. I also did some time at Harman in 1968 at Navy Office, working in the Sailors Posting Section with Writers 'Slinger' Woods, Johnny Grantins, Mick Hasler, Gary Waters, Alan Frazer, Mick Feutrill, and Russ Leavey.

Rushton, Hillary (nee Williams)

She joined the WRANS on 11/11/1974 and discharged on 09/08/1998. Completed Basis Wran Writers course – 1975, Advanced Writer course – 1980 and was the Basic Writers' Course Instructor - in 1980, 1981, 1985 & 1986. Ex – CPOWTR.

Rutherford, Allan Vincent

Passed away late 2011. S835. He joined the RAN 15th February 1943 and served at *Cerberus* and *Penguin*. He dislocated his shoulder so bad that he was unable to continue his career. He was discharged PUNS 22nd April 1944.

Ryan, Angela Mary Jane



Scribe 1979 to 1987 - *Cerberus*, *Navy Office Canberra*, *Harman*, *Kuttabul*, *ComAusFleet*, *ComAusNavSupp*, *Huon Recruiting*.