

# THE FURPHY

*ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER*

*October 2025 Edition*



**1 Commerce Ave, Armadale, WA 6112  
PO Box 697, Armadale, WA 6992**

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Social media: [Facebook](#)

**General Meetings:**

**Second Sunday of the month at 1100hrs**

**Annual General Meeting:**

**Second Sunday of September**

## **Committee Positions**

| <b>Armada Sub-Branch Committee</b> |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| President                          | Mr Mike Fairweather |
| Vice President                     | Mr Bob Giles        |
| Secretary                          | Ms Carol King       |
| Treasurer                          | Mrs Cheryl Cowie    |
| Warden                             | Mr Graeme Cowie     |
| Warden                             | Mr Keith Northcott  |
| Membership Officer                 | Secretary           |
| Committee                          | Mr Geoff Scott      |
| Committee                          | Ms Fiona Boyle      |
| Advocate / Welfare Officer         | Mr Brent Errington  |
| Bar Manager                        | Mr Mike Fairweather |

## **ADVOCATE / WELFARE**

**Brent Errington “Erro” is available as follows:**

***At the Armadale RSL Sub-Branch:***

***Monday:***

***by appointment only***

***Thursday:***

***between 0900 - 1400hrs***

**Weekday Contact Details:**

***Mobile: 0407 449 150***

***e-mail: [welfare2@armadalersl.com.au](mailto:welfare2@armadalersl.com.au)***

## Diary Dates for October

| <i>Day</i> | <i>Date</i>      | <i>Event</i>                 | <i>Time</i> |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday     | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Social Committee Meeting     | 1100        |
| Tuesday    | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Management Committee Meeting | 1100        |
| Sunday     | 12 <sup>th</sup> | General Meeting              | 1100        |



*An AIM-9L Sidewinder is about to hit a North American QF-86H "Sabre" at China Lake, Sept. 29, 1977*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

Thanks to everyone who attended the recent AGM and for re-electing me to the position until 2027. For your information, please find below my 2025 report as President.

*"I would begin by saying that it's been my pleasure to take on the role of interim President over the past year. It was certainly a bit of a learning curve but with the very able assistance of the Secretary and Treasurer, I believe we coped pretty well.*

*It was made a little more difficult for the Executive having to function without a Vice President for a lot of that time, and I hope following the AGM today this position will be filled again.*

*I've had the honour to speak at our ANZAC and Remembrance Day services along with attending various other functions on behalf of the Sub-Branch. Thanks to those very committed volunteers who also assisted me with attending school ANZAC assemblies to deliver speeches, recite the Ode and lay wreaths.*

*There have been quite a few changes with the Metronet project happening recently and we apologise for any inconvenience you have been subjected to during that time.*

*The financial grant for the carpet replacement has been arranged however, with other hall bookings with First Aid etc., it is unlikely that we will be able to close the hall until at least the end of the year, to carry out this work.*

*The work out the back of the hall is a legacy project from Metconnx at no cost to the Sub-Branch. We will however be looking at adding potted plants and the like out there moving forward, but will let you all know our plans.*

*We have been attempting to obtain further grants for significant building maintenance, upgrade of our Security System and the installation of new solar panels and batteries. This will need to be followed up during the year.*

*My sincere appreciation goes to Irene, Lois, Lisa and Carol who do so much for us behind the scenes as part of the Social Committee.*

*I'd like to thank the Management Committee for their work in various capacities.*

*Thanks to all our regular members for your support over the last year, I really appreciate your patronage of the Sub-Branch.*

*I would like to wish the incoming President, Executive and Management Team, all the best for the upcoming year.*

Thanks everyone, and I look forward to working with the new Executive and Committee in the future.

# *Mike Fairweather*

President

Returned Services League Armadale Sub-Branch

Ph: (08) 9497 1972. M: 0403 980 290

1 Commerce Avenue Armadale WA 6112 | PO Box 697 Armadale WA 6992

e-mail: [president@armadalersl.com.au](mailto:president@armadalersl.com.au)





*Off the French Coast during the Battle of Britain a Bf-109E barely makes it back after a fierce dogfight*



*Cruiser USS St. Louis with visible torpedo damage from the Battle of Kolombangara, Espiritu Santo, July 1943*

# Secretary's Notes

*Hi Everyone,*

*My sincere thanks so very much to Cheryl and Stormy who re-nominated and elected at the AGM as our Treasurer and President respectively for the next 2 years. Bob Giles also joins the Executive team as Vice President*

*Mick Quinn and Tom Rynn stood down from their positions at the AGM and I'd like to say how appreciative we all are of their dedication and support over their respective tenures.*

*Keith Northcott joins Graeme Cowie as Warden. Geoff Scott remains as a committee member and I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to Fiona Boyle (Fee to most of us) who has kindly joined our committee this year.*

*It's not a huge group to manage the Sub-Branch affairs, but I'm confident that we have the experience and expertise to keep moving forward.*

*We will be holding a Members Only Lunch on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The menu is published elsewhere in this edition of the Furphy. Names will be taken from 12<sup>th</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> November.*

*As a token of our appreciation to Members for supporting us during the year this is heavily subsidised by the Sub-Branch. The charge to financial members is \$15 including dessert, but if you do not pre-book, we will be unable to serve you on the day.*

*All things Remembrance Day are getting much closer including holding the stalls, so the roster asking for names is now on the Notice Board. Please consider putting your name down for our very important fundraising initiative.*

*That's all from me for this edition.*

*Carol King*

**Sub-Branch Secretary**

**e-mail: [secretary@armadalersl.com.au](mailto:secretary@armadalersl.com.au)**

**JUST BOUGHT A SLOW COOKER...**





# Membership Update

*As at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2025:*

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Service Members:   | 139        |
| Affiliate Members: | 43         |
| Social Members:    | <u>79</u>  |
| Total:             | <u>261</u> |

*If any Service or Affiliate member has not yet received their Membership Card from RSLWA then please let me know.*

*Carol King*

Tel: 9497 1972

e-mail: [secretary@armadalersl.com.au](mailto:secretary@armadalersl.com.au)



*A Kettenkrad covered with a strange structure. It looks like it's meant to resemble the basic shape of a tank, likely for training purposes*

# HAPPY Birthday

## October Service Members:

|          |    |         |       |           |    |         |       |
|----------|----|---------|-------|-----------|----|---------|-------|
| Abboud   | Mr | Ali     | 02/10 | Barbet    | Mr | John    | 12/10 |
| Claudius | Mr | Clive   | 14/10 | Errington | Mr | Brenton | 10/10 |
| Fordham  | Mr | Richard | 06/10 | Hughes    | Mr | Anthony | 19/10 |
| Jackson  | Mr | Brian   | 17/10 | Johnston  | Mr | Kenneth | 03/10 |
| Karsten  | Mr | Michael | 12/10 | McVea     | Mr | Kim     | 09/10 |
| Miller   | Mr | Domenic | 10/10 | O'Rourke  | Mr | Patrick | 27/10 |
| Playle   | Mr | William | 05/10 | Rundell   | Mr | Shane   | 05/10 |
| Tyler    | Mr | Steve   | 12/10 | Walker    | Mr | Robert  | 13/10 |

## October Affiliate Members:

|        |     |        |       |         |    |        |       |
|--------|-----|--------|-------|---------|----|--------|-------|
| Bishop | Mrs | Ann    | 11/10 | Craige  | Ms | Pamela | 29/10 |
| Smith  | Mr  | Martin | 30/10 | Symonds | Mr | Kim    | 03/10 |

## October Social Members:

|           |    |        |       |        |      |          |       |
|-----------|----|--------|-------|--------|------|----------|-------|
| Floresta  | Ms | Sharon | 10/10 | Gilroy | Miss | Lorraine | 08/10 |
| Watterson | Mr | Neil   | 16/10 |        |      |          |       |

*If anyone has been missed off the list, please advise  
The Secretary (Interim Membership Officer)*

*These members may collect a free drink of their  
choice during the month*

*We hope you have a very special Birthday*



*A group of happy crew members on HMAS Perth in March 1941, in the Mediterranean Sea, during WW2.*

*The sailors across the front from the left are George Osgood, Ernie Brown, Mort Collier, Joe Deagon and Paddy Crayton.*

*Second from the left in the rear is Jacky Backen and to his left Alex Murphy. In the second back row on the far left, with his right hand on another sailors upper arm, is Richard Nikola. Further to the right the man in the peaked cap is Chief ERA Joe Hughes (later a POW) and in front to his left is George Christie.*

*HMAS Perth was torpedoed and sunk by the Imperial Japanese Navy at the Battle of Sunda Strait.*

*Over half her crew of 680 men, some 357 were killed in the battle. Of the 320 who were captured, 105 died as POWs.*

*The Battle of Sunda Strait was a naval battle which occurred during WW2 in the Sunda Strait between the islands of Java, and Sumatra. On the night of 28 February – 1 March 1942, the Australian light cruiser HMAS Perth and the American heavy cruiser USS Houston faced a major Imperial Japanese Navy task force. After a fierce battle of several hours' duration, both Allied ships were sunk.*

*Of the 1,061 aboard USS Houston, 368 survived and were taken as POWs. 77 died in captivity.*

# ***MEMBERS LUNCHEON***

***Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2025***

***(1230 hours)***



***Roast: Beef or Pork***

***Dessert: Sticky Date Pudding  
Choc Mint Cheesecake  
or Apple Crumble with Custard***

**FINANCIAL MEMBERS ONLY**

**\$15**

***Book and Pay by Close of Business 16<sup>th</sup> November***



### **John Simpson Kirkpatrick - "The Man with the Donkey"**

*On the rugged hills of Gallipoli, one man's courage became legendary. John Simpson Kirkpatrick, known as "the man with the donkey," bravely carried wounded soldiers from the battlefield to safety using his donkey, Duffy.*

*Despite the constant gunfire and danger, Simpson saved countless lives in just 24 days before he was tragically killed in action on 19 May 1915. His selfless service has become an enduring symbol of ANZAC spirit - courage, compassion, and sacrifice.*



*M4A3 Sherman converted into a bulldozer.*

# *Bar Manager's Report*

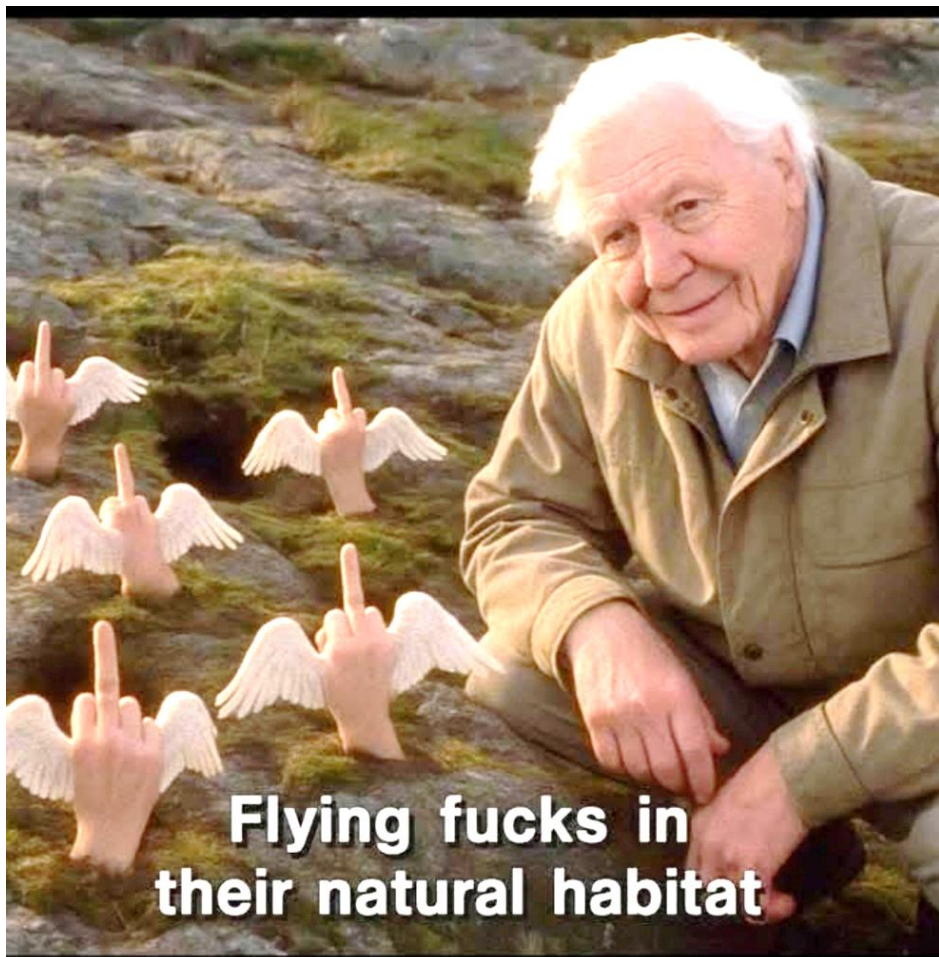
*G'day All,*

*The Bar is running pretty well at the moment, but we can always have more members come in.*

*I'm still trying to keep the prices down, but I do review our costs each month.*

*Cheers for now,*

*Stormy*





*"Despatch Carriers of the Royal Engineers on the Gallipoli Peninsula: Transport and Other Vessels Beyond."*



*A German Jagdtiger (Panzerjäger Tiger Ausf. B, Sd.Kfz. 186) of the 512th Heavy Tank Destroyer Battalion lies destroyed on a road near Osterode. The massive vehicle is missing its left armour plate, the roof of the fighting compartment, and the gun mantlet, damage consistent with having been blown up by its own crew.*

a doodle or a poodle....made u look!



**Best. Septic Truck. Ever!**



# Dark Victory - Operation Jaywick

## Singapore - 1943

Fourteen men in the fishing boat Krait make a perilous undercover voyage to strike at the heart of Japanese occupied Singapore.

On the night of 26 September 1943, men from Special Operations Australia's top-secret Z Special Unit, paddling three folding canoes, carried out a daring and successful undercover raid on enemy ships in Japanese occupied Singapore Harbour. They had sailed 3,960 km from Exmouth, Western Australia, deep into enemy territory aboard the captured Japanese-built fishing boat *Krait*. This is the story of Krait, the men of Operation Jaywick, and of one Singaporean woman caught up in the nightmare that followed.

## Singapore

In 1941 the cosmopolitan British island colony of Singapore was a busy port at the crossroads of international trade and a linchpin of Britain's defence against looming Japanese aggression in the Pacific. Nicknamed the 'Gibraltar of the East', the island was defended by British, Australian, Indian and Malayan troops, batteries of 15-inch (380 mm) land-based naval guns and a Royal Navy base. On 8 December – the day after Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor – Britain, Australia and their allies declared war on Japan. Within days the Imperial Japanese Army invaded Hong Kong, Thailand and British Malaya, beginning a relentless march south to Singapore.

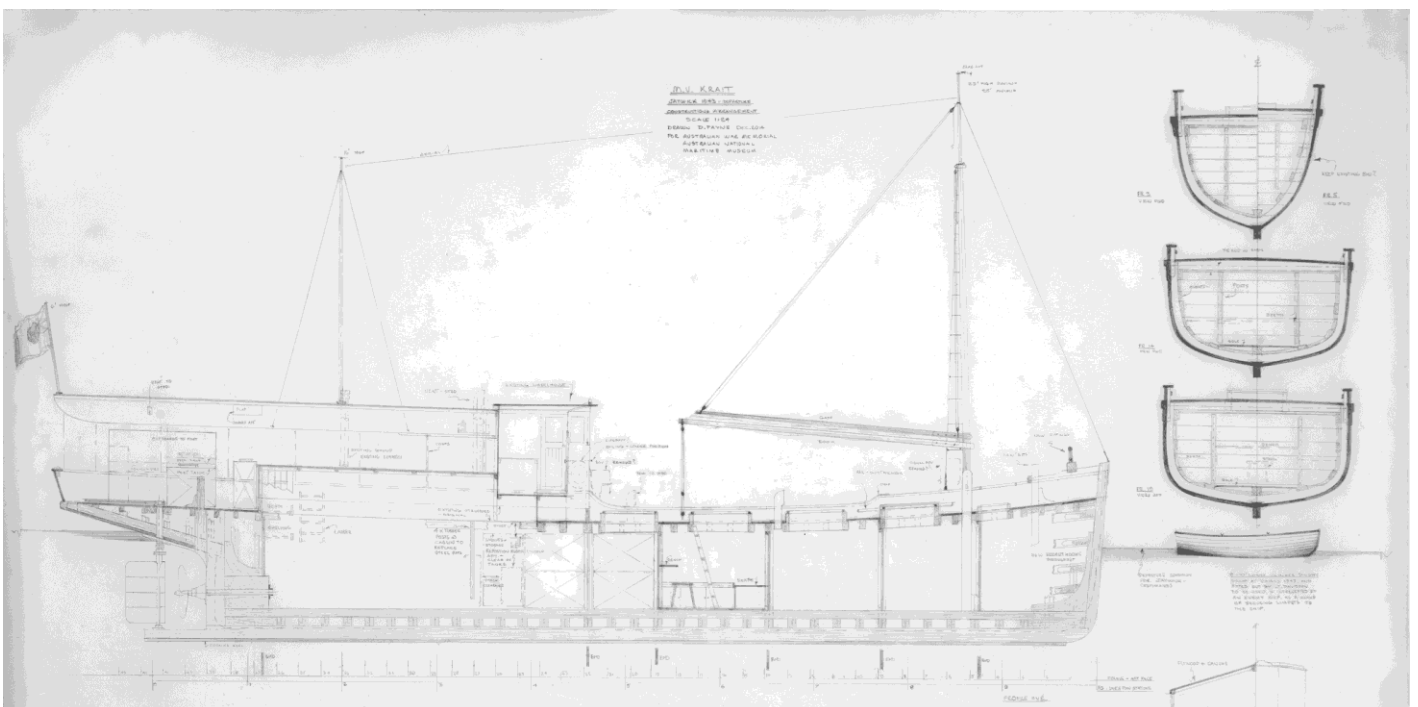
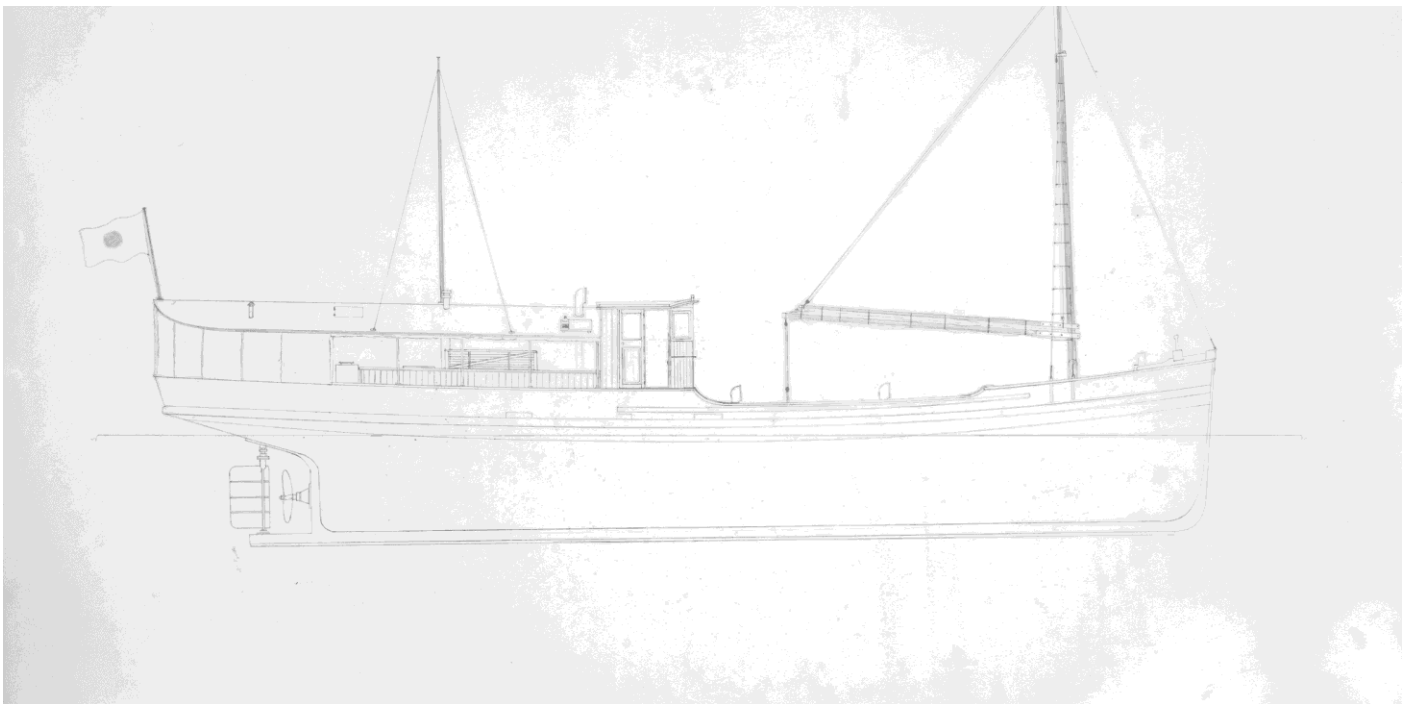
The Battle of Singapore lasted one week. The British surrendered on 15 February 1942 and approximately 80,000 British, Indian and Australian soldiers were taken as prisoners of war (POWs), joining 50,000 Allied troops already captured during the Malayan Campaign.

The Japanese occupation of Singapore saw acts of brutal oppression against civilians suspected of anti-Japanese sentiment. Over two weeks from 18 February, the Chinese community was targeted and systematically purged of 'hostile' elements in the Sook Ching, or 'great purge', when more than 6,000 people were executed.

## A fishing boat

Australian merchant seaman W R 'Bill' Reynolds took possession of a Japanese fishing boat, Kofuku Maru, seized in Singapore when the war with Japan began. He ferried 1,100 evacuees out to Sumatra (then the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia) as Singapore fell and realised that the boat went relatively unnoticed by Japanese aircraft attacking Singapore, something that would prove valuable in the future.

In Sumatra Reynolds met Major Ivan Lyon, a British Army officer with the Allied Intelligence Bureau, and began hatching a plan for the vessel. The Dutch East Indies surrendered to Japan in March and Reynolds escaped on Kofuku Maru to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Meeting up with Lyon again, the pair conceived a covert raid that would shock the Japanese with its audacity and stealth. Kofuku Maru was central to the plan, but it needed a new name. They renamed it Krait, after a small but deadly Asian snake, and the boat was shipped to Sydney on a P&O steamer.



## The plot

Called 'Operation Jaywick', their plan was to attack Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour with a team of commandos disguised as the Asian crew of a nondescript fishing vessel – the Krait. They would use folding canoes to infiltrate the harbour and attach limpet mines to the hulls of Japanese ships.

Operation Jaywick was assigned to Z Special Unit (later known as 'Z Force'), a specialist reconnaissance and sabotage unit formed by British Special Operations Executive officers who had escaped the Fall of Singapore. Although predominantly Australian, Z Special Unit also included British, Dutch, New Zealand, Timorese and Indonesian nationals.

In January 1943 Krait joined 14 men who had trained for Operation Jaywick in secret for three months at remote Refuge Bay on the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales. There they learnt how to fight, kill, wreak havoc and survive. On its way north from Sydney, Krait's Japanese engine died near Fraser island and it was towed to Townsville to wait for a replacement to be shipped from Tasmania, putting the feasibility of the mission in doubt.

While the Jaywick team waited and continued their commando training, men from Z Special Unit in Cairns led by Lt Samuel Carey made a mock raid on Townsville Harbour on 23 June 1943 attaching dummy limpet mines to 15 ships, shocking Navy personnel and proving that Jaywick could be a success.

## Fourteen men

### Major Ivan Lyon (1915–1944)

Officer in the British Army's Gordon Highlanders. Operation Jaywick's mission commander and canoe leader. After the raid's success he led Operation Rimau the following year. Killed in a rearguard action while abetting the getaway of two men injured during Operation Rimau. Posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

### Lieutenant Hubert Edward Carse (1901–1970)

Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve and Krait commander during Operation Jaywick. He continued to work with Z Force and was discharged from military service in 1946. Carse was instrumental in facilitating Krait's return to Australia in 1964. Mentioned in despatches in 1944.

### **Lieutenant Donald Montague Noel Davidson (died 1944)**

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve seconded to Z Special Unit. Raid commander for Operation Jaywick and led one of the canoes. Killed during Operation Rimau. Posthumously awarded the DSO.

### **Lieutenant Robert Charles Page (1920–1945)**

Australian Army. Medical Officer during Operation Jaywick and commander of one of the canoes. Captured during Operation Rimau. Beheaded by the Japanese in Singapore, July 1945. Posthumously awarded the DSO.

### **Corporal Andrew Anthony Crilly (born 1913)**

Australian Army. Krait's cook. Served with Z Special Unit until the end of the war. Discharged 1946. Endorsed Labour Party candidate for the seat of Lockyer in Queensland 1951. Awarded the Military Medal.

### **Corporal Ronald George Morris (born 1923)**

Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. Medical assistant to Lieutenant Page during Operation Jaywick. Awarded the Military Medal.

### **Leading Seaman Kevin Patrick Cain (born 1915)**

Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Krait crewman and gunner during Operation Jaywick. Discharged from service in 1946. Civilian employee of the United States Navy at Guadalcanal post-WWII. Mentioned in despatches in 1944.

### **Leading Stoker James Patrick McDowell (1900–1964)**

Royal Navy. Seconded to the Royal Australian Naval Reserve and Z Special Unit. *Krait* engineer during Operation Jaywick. Remained with Z Special Unit until discharged in 1946. Awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM).

### **Leading Telegraphist Horace Stewart Young (born 1921)**

Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Was *Krait* radio operator during Operation Jaywick. Discharged 1946. Mentioned in despatches in 1944.

### **Able Seaman Walter Gordon Falls (1920–1945)**

Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Canoeist aboard the canoe commanded by Lieutenant Davidson during Operation Jaywick. Captured by the Japanese during Operation Rimau. Executed Singapore July 1945. Awarded the DSM.

### **Able Seaman Mostyn Berryman (born 1923)**

Discharged 1946. Mentioned in despatches 1944. Last surviving member of the Operation Jaywick team. Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Crewman aboard *Krait* and reserve canoeist during Operation Jaywick.

### **Able Seaman Frederick Walter Lota Marsh (1924–1945)**

Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Captured by the Japanese during Operation Rimau. Died at Singapore of malaria and injuries he received while a prisoner of war. Mentioned in despatches in 1944.

### **Able Seaman Arthur Walter Jones (born 1922)**

Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Canoeist aboard the canoe commanded by Lieutenant Page. Served with a number of naval units until the end of WWII. Discharged 1946. Awarded the DSM.

### **Able Seaman Andrew William George Huston (1923–1945)**

Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Canoeist aboard the canoe commanded by Major Lyon. Reported missing in action/ presumed dead during Operation Rimau in November 1944. Remains the only Operation Rimau member whose body was not recovered; his fate remains unconfirmed. Posthumously awarded the DSM, arriving on 19 October.



### **Jaywick operatives**

**Back:** AB Mostyn Berryman, AB Frederick Walter Lota Marsh, AB Arthur Walter Jones, AB Andrew William George Huston.

**Centre row:** Cpl Andrew Anthony Crilly, LS Kevin Patrick Cain, LDGSTO James Patrick McDowell, L/TEL Horace Stewart Young, AB Walter Gordon Falls, Cpl Ronald George Morris.

**Front:** Lt Hubert Edward Carse, Lt Donald Montague Noel Davidson, Major Ivan Lyon, Major H A Campbell (did not accompany the expedition), Lt Robert Charles Page.

## Synchronise watches

Engine problems and general unseaworthiness plagued *Krait*, delaying the operation. It finally departed from Exmouth, WA, on 1 September 1943. Almost immediately, on-the-spot repairs were needed to repair a broken propeller shaft.

Passing through Lombok Strait on 6 September, *Krait* proceeded to the Java Sea. There the crew and commandos flew a Japanese ensign, wore sarongs and covered their bodies in 'Helena Rubinstein' dark tan makeup to disguise themselves as local fishermen. Whenever possible the crew hid out of sight below decks. After crossing the Java Sea, *Krait* coasted along the coast of Borneo then headed for the Lingga Archipelago, a cluster of islands south of Singapore. On 18 September, six commandos disembarked in their two-man folding canoes at the island of Pulau Panjang. *Krait* then left for the relatively safer waters of Borneo with orders to rendezvous with the commandos on the night of 1–2 October.

## Success

The commandos island-hopped, paddling their folding canoes northwards through the archipelago arriving at Pulau Dongas on 22 September. There they observed Singapore Harbour traffic, where approximately 59,000 tonnes of Japanese shipping had gathered.

On 26 September, the six men in their three canoes slipped through the night towards their targets.

Lyon and Huston were spotted by a Japanese crewman but ignored, while Davidson and Falls were nearly run down by a tug.

They attached magnetic limpet mines to the hulls of seven ships and fled the anchorage undetected. Early the next morning, six explosions shattered the darkness and six Japanese ships – 35,000 tonnes – were sunk or severely damaged.

One mine had failed to detonate. *Krait* reached the rendezvous point on 2 October, collected the canoes and their crews and retreated back across the Java Sea through Lombok Strait to Exmouth, arriving on 19 October.

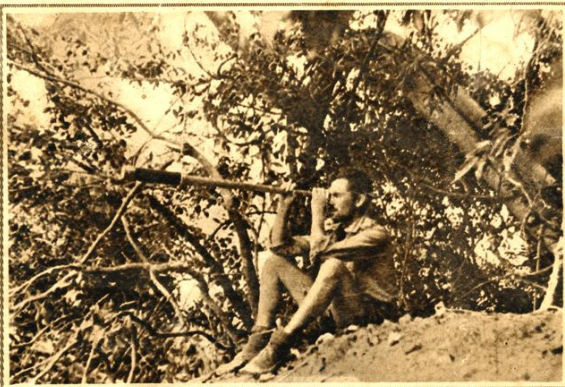
## THE 1943 "RUBBER CANOE RAID" ON SINGAPORE: A GALLANT WAR EXPLOIT.



ONE OF THE HIDE-OUTS FROM WHICH A PARTY RAIDED SINGAPORE HARBOUR IN RUBBER CANOES IN SEPTEMBER 1943, DESTROYING 37,000 TONS OF SHIPPING.

MR. FORDE, Minister for the Australian Army, revealed to the Australian Parliament on August 1 the story of a brave exploit which he described as one of the best-kept secrets of the war. It was the story of four British and ten Australian Servicemen who entered Singapore harbour on the night of September 26, 1943, in rubber canoes, and, attaching limpet mines and fire bombs to Japanese ships, destroyed seven tankers and cargo boats totalling 37,000 tons. Nine of the men received decorations and the others were mentioned in despatches. The accompanying photographs, received by air

(Continued below.)



(ABOVE) MAJOR IVOR LYON, GORDON HIGHLANDERS, WATCHING JAPANESE SHIPS SINKING AFTER THE EXPLOSION OF LIMPET MINES ATTACHED BY THE CANOEISTS. MAJOR LYON WAS KILLED IN A LATER OPERATION.

### Summary of Results

Sunk 1 Freighter 4000 Tons  
Probably Sunk 5 Freighters 23,000 Tons  
Damaged & burnt 1 Tanker (Sinko Ka Maru) 10,000 Tons

NOTE: Minimum Tonnage Figures are given based on ONI 208-J.

### The Detail of the Attack

MS 1 Cause Major Lyon AG Horton

Failed to locate blacked-out targets in the area south of their Tanjong. On the return journey attacked the tanker SINKOKU MARU 10,000 Tons in the Examination Anchorage.

### Observed Results

The explosion of the limpets was followed by a fire. At 1600 hours the vessel was observed to be down by the stern and smoking.

A PAGE FROM THE EXPEDITION'S DIARY, BROUGHT BACK TO AUSTRALIA AFTER 40 DAYS IN ENEMY-CONTROLLED AREAS.



TWO OF THE RAIDING PARTY CARRYING THEIR TWO-MAN RUBBER CANOE FROM ITS HIDING-PLACE TO THE WATER. THE CANOES WERE BROUGHT FROM AUSTRALIA.



THE FOURTEEN MEN WHO CARRIED OUT THE DARING EXPEDITION, WITH MAJOR JOCK CAMPBELL (IN TWEES), WHO ASSISTED IN THE EARLY PLANNING.

(Continued.) mail from Australia, illustrate the heroic exploits of these men. Secretly trained for months in Australia, the party travelled 2000 miles unescorted through enemy-patrolled waters in an ancient Japanese fishing vessel, the *Krait*. Anchoring within 21 miles of Singapore, the *Krait* unloaded rubber canoes with stores, in which the men, travelling by night, reached Singapore harbour and were delighted to find it full of shipping. Two nights later, under favourable conditions, the canoes entered and crossed the harbour, watched by numbers of unsuspecting Japanese. After selecting their targets and attaching the limpet explosives, the men returned to their temporary hide-out ashore, reaching it before



TOASTING THE SUCCESS OF THEIR VENTURE: (L. TO R.) LIEUT. BOB PAGE, MAJOR IVOR LYON, AND LIEUT. D. N. DAVIDSON—ALL THREE SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED.

they heard the explosions. After reconnaissance to determine the damage achieved, the men returned in their canoes to the *Krait* and sailed for Australia. In a subsequent raid in 1944, six of the men were captured and "executed with honours" by the Japanese, who issued an order of the day praising their heroism. The British Servicemen who took part in the raid were Captain (later Lieut.-Colonel) I. Lyon, Gordon Highlanders, subsequently killed, awarded the D.S.O.; Corporal R. G. Morris, R.A.M.C., awarded the M.M.; Lieut. (later Lieut.-Commander) D. N. Davidson, R.N.V.R., subsequently killed, awarded the D.S.O.; and Leading Stoker J. P. McJowell, R.N., awarded the D.S.M.

The Illustrated London News, dated August 24 1946. Page 214 has the header; The 1943 'Rubber Canoe Raid' on Singapore: A Gallant War Exploit. It shows photographs of the men who carried out the expedition in the KRAIT, and text relating the story of the KRAIT, and the destruction of Japanese ships.



*Photograph of the Z Special Unit after Operation Jaywick. Lieutenant Ted Carse is seating at the bottom of the staircase.*

## Reprisal

In Singapore the Japanese were stunned by the audacity and success of Operation Jaywick. Not believing that it was an enemy plot, they immediately suspected the civilian population. Local Chinese and Malays, prisoners of war and European civilians topped the list of suspects, and a wave of arrests, torture and executions followed. These reprisals are known in Singapore as the 'Double Tenth' after the 10 October, the date that mass arrests by the Japanese *Kenpeitai* (military police) began.

The misery caused in Singapore was an unintended consequence of Operation Jaywick and has raised questions about its justification, especially given its relatively limited strategic outcomes. The Allies never admitted involvement, probably to preserve *Krait's* covert identity for future missions.

As a result the Japanese sought vengeance on Singapore's civilians.

## Mrs Choy

Yong Su-Moi (Elizabeth Su-Moi Choy) (1910 - 2006) was born in British North Borneo. She moved to Singapore as a young woman to attend Raffles College, and met Choy Kuhn Heng. They married in 1941.

Following the Japanese occupation of Singapore, Mr and Mrs Choy opened a canteen in Miyako Hospital that supplied daily essentials – such as food and medicine – to patients. Eventually, the canteen also became a conduit between inmates in Changi Prison and the outside world. In the wake of the Double-Tenth incident, Japanese authorities learnt of the couple's involvement in passing packages, money and messages to Changi prisoners. Both were arrested and Mrs Choy was imprisoned at Singapore's former YMCA building, where she endured 193 days of brutal interrogation and torture.

***"They kick you, they cane you, they punch you and smack you and do all kinds of things ... they force you to drink water until the water comes out of your nose ... and step on your stomach and all that ... but the worst was the electric shock on my bare body ... so horrible"***

Elizabeth Choy, 2005

Choy was awarded the Order of the British Empire, Order of the Star of Sarawak, Girl Guides Bronze Medal, and Pingkat Bakti Setia, Singapore.

## The Krait

As the Japanese fishing boat *Kofuku Maru*, a type common in South-East Asia, it was the ideal candidate for seaborne covert operations. Its teak hull was built in Japan in 1935. It is 21.5 metres (70 feet 8 inches) long, has a maximum breadth of 3.7 metres (12 feet) and a depth of only 2.3 metres (7 feet 6 inches). After Operation Jaywick, *Krait* operated on a few covert missions off north-west Australia and was present when the Japanese surrendered at Ambon on 12 September 1945. After the war it was sold into the Borneo timber trade. Through the 1950s it worked out of Borneo and was known as *Pedang*.

In the mid-1950s it was recognised by Australians travelling through the region as *Krait*, and eventually repatriated to Australia in 1964. It became a Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol vessel on the NSW coast, before being acquired by the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

*Krait* is managed for the AWM by the Australian National Maritime Museum and in 2017–2018 the museum undertook a major conservation plan that has restored *Krait* to its 1943 configuration for Operation Jaywick.



*Photograph of ML PEDANG (ex-KRAIT) with five people standing on the cabin roof and two more people inside. Handwritten on the back is "M.L. Pedang (Sword) / Formerly Krait / Sandakan Harbour / 1954."*



## **RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE ARMADALE SUB-BRANCH**

*Your RSL*