

FESR Archive (www.fesrassociation.com)

Documents appear as originally posted (i.e. unedited)

© 2008 FESR (Australia)

FESR Submission

Operation Search mate

This project is aimed at reaching old shipmates, alerting them to their entitlements, bringing them into our FESR Association, and then processing their entitlements, medals, pensions, disability claims, etcetera through our welfare arm ASAC Australia.

These objectives can be attained using three vehicles:

- i. your own circle of friends;
- ii. the internet email system; and
- iii. local newspapers which serve your friends/relatives residential areas across the country

All you have to do, is send a copy of this letter to the editor of your local paper asking them to pop it in to their newspaper. Then send the same letter to your friends and ask them to do the same. Experience allows me to say that most would give it a run somewhere in their publication. They may well edit the text, but all would understand the need and purpose of the letter.

The reach of the wider Naval family through each of these circles of friends has considerable magnitude and enormous potential for the success of Operation Searchmate.

We hope you see fit to support the initiative.

Many Thanks,
Joe Linaker
FESR Association.
gjlinaker@fesrassociation.com

Tel: 55464166
Fax: 55464900
Mobile: 0417751730
Car: 0412442980

Copy of Letter:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Re: Where Are They Now?

May I seek the help and the strength of your newspaper group to locate veterans who served in the Royal Australian Navy post WWII in the Far East Strategic Reserve. The Federal Government passed legislation recently, according them various service entitlements and recognition of their service to the country. As a consequence, many people are eligible for a wide range of benefits, remuneration Medals, pension and disability compensation.

Whilst details have been published in service magazines, association newsletters and periodicals, there are still a considerable number of veterans who have not claimed their benefits. This is possibly due to some veterans severing ties with the Service and Navy colleagues to pursue vocations in civilian life, some in remote areas and rural environments. Time is their enemy too, as many memories could dim given the 40-year span it took to recognize their place in our Military history.

For us, the active members of the Naval family who now enjoy the flow-on of these benefits, it has become a serious challenge to find our former shipmates and in some cases a race against time. Many are now advanced in years with deteriorating health and deserve the effort after serving their country onboard HMA Ships in conditions we know only too well as less than favourable.

We know many have passed on due to illness related to their service and many are alive but quite ill so families too can help us take up the challenge.

All veterans [or families who wish to help their "Poppa", Uncle or Brother] have to do is phone John Carlyon [07] 3285 7395, President of the FESR Association, or write to: Operation Search mate FESR Association Room A, Suite 5035th Floor, 184-210 Queen Street Mall Brisbane Q 4000I

Hope you would see fit to include these details in the letters or community billboard section of your newspapers, as many Navy veterans of the 50's 60's and 70's are unaware of their entitlements after a 40-year struggle.

Gary (Joe) Linaker
FESR Association
[07] 5546 4166