

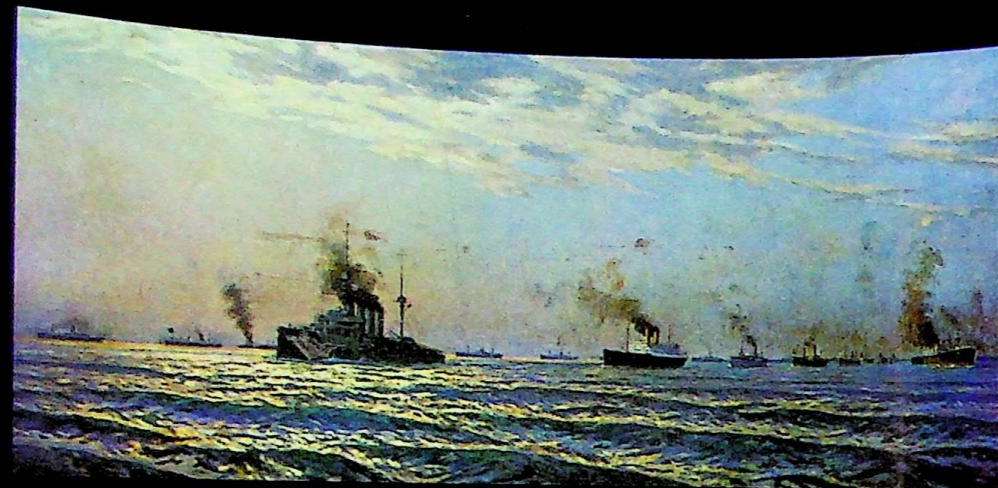
Peter Firkins joined the Royal Australian Air Force at the age of seventeen and by nineteen he had completed a tour of operation in the famous No 460 RAAF Heavy Bomber Squadron, RAF Bomber Command and been commissioned.

He has been Executive Director of the Perth Chamber of Commerce since 1963 and is married with three grown-up daughters.

His interests other than writing are cricket, tennis, swimming and national affairs. Previous publications include *Strike and Return*, *The Australians in Nine Wars*.

Front jacket illustration:
HMAS Sydney and Bartolomeo Colleoni in action, 19 July 1940, Frank Norton (*Australian War Memorial*)

Back jacket illustrations:
Above—*The First Convoy crossing the Indian Ocean, November 1914*, Charles Bryant (*Australian War Memorial*)
Below—*Australia leading the port at German surrender, 21 November 1918*, Arthur Burgess (*Australian War Memorial*)

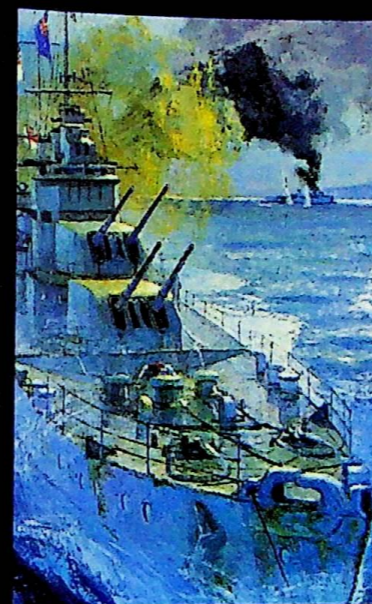


**Of Nautilus
and Eagles**

P. Firkins

Of Nautilus and Eagles

History of the Royal Australian Navy



P. Firkins

Of Nautilus and Eagles is the first history of the Australian navy published describing the growth of Australian sea power from the time of the Royal Naval squadrons based on Sydney, the development of the colonial navies, and finally the establishment of the Royal Australian Navy in 1911.

This book traces the early conflicts of opinion between the Australian colonies as to whether there was a need to establish colonial navies when the might of the British fleet guaranteed protection of the continent, and the ridicule that was heaped upon the protagonists for their proposals.

Largely because of the foresight and drive of Andrew Deakin, the dream became reality, despite further doubts and opposition raised in some quarters in Australia after Federation. By the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, the Royal Australian Navy possessed the most powerful fleet in the western Pacific and guaranteed the security of the Australian coastline and surrounding territories against possible attack from Admiral Graf von Spees' German Pacific squadron based on Tsingtao.

The RAN's first war action when *HMAS Sydney* engaged and sank the German cruiser *Emden* in a thrilling action off the Cocos Islands whilst escorting the first convoy of Australian troops to the Middle East in November 1914, established a quality for the infant Navy of the highest calibre.

This book covers all the major actions in which units of the RAN have been involved, together with the superb contributions of individual members of the service in such hazardous roles as mine and bomb disposal operations, and the coastwatchers in the south-west Pacific campaign of World War II.

Australians will read with pride of the exploits of their navy, and of the men who sail its ships, of their courage and endurance on the oceans of the world, often under great hardship.

Of Nautilus and Eagles is written by one of Australia's foremost military historians, and fills an important place in the history of the nation.

32 pages of illustrations

ISBN 0 7269 2862 3

CASELL AUSTRALIA