

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED:

On behalf of Mr Clifford Jackson I am endeavouring to gather information in support of a claim and to establish the circumstances relating to his severe injuries that occurred due to a towing hawser parting on the AX of HMAS Melbourne at approximately **0830 03 April 1979**. Eight members of the ship's company were injured in this event. HMAS Melbourne was being towed to a buoy near Clark Island when the tug with the tow to Melbourne's AX went astern causing the nylon tow to snap whipping into the eight men (aged between 16 and 19 years old).

Mr Jackson had joined HMAS Melbourne that day. He had not been allocated a P.O.S; but had been detailed to the AX for the move. Of the rope handling party Mr Jackson was the closest to the fairlead and as the strain came on they were trying to ease the tow when it parted. The tow whipped back striking Mr Jackson with such force that he suffered compound fractures to the right femur, the coins and keys in his pocket were bent out of shape and imbedded into muscle, contusions left thigh and he suffered severe blood loss.

News paper reports of the day state that there was to be a Naval Board Inquiry into the incident. I can find no record of such an inquiry although I can find inquiries into less significant events in the ADF. Did such an inquiry actually to place?

Any person who was in HMAS Melbourne that day or at RANH Balmoral who has any information in relation to the incident and the post incident medical treatment please contact me. In particular I would like to contact the following persons who were also injured. Their locality is as the date of incident.

- Darryl Milburn of Heckenberg.
- Roger Cornwall of Montague Bay Tasmania.
- B.M. Bryant of Stanthorpe Queensland.
- J.G. Dowling of Derrydale Tasmania.

Please contact at hansafe@westnet.com.au

Graeme Hanisch JP (Qual) Grad Dip Mgt.