

The Royal Australian Navy in 15 Objects

Object 13

RAN Ensign signed by Mr José Ramos Horta



The Royal Australian Navy ensign came the fast catamaran HMAS *Jervis Bay* and signed by her ship's company after her last run to Dili, East Timor (Timor Leste) from Darwin on 26 April 2001. The flag also carries the signature of In 2002, after the independence of East Timor (now called the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste) Ramos-Horta became the first Foreign Minister. In 2006 he became acting Prime Minister and in 2007 he became the second President of Timor Leste. Mr Ramos-Horta and The Roman Catholic Bishop Ximenes Belo were jointly awarded the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize.

Jervis Bay was commissioned in May 1999 for logistics operations between Australia and East Timor and was affectionately referred to as the 'Dili Express'. She was retired in 2001 after a two year lease by the RAN from the ship's builder INCAT, based in Hobart, Tasmania. During her service with the RAN, the *Jervis Bay*, completed 107 trips between Darwin and Dili covering some 100,000 nautical miles, carried 20,000 passengers and 430 military vehicles. In addition, an impressive 5,600 tonnes of stores were shipped. Travelling at 43 knots fully loaded and 48 knots lightship, *Jervis Bay* usually crossed between Darwin and Dilli in approximately eleven hours.

The other legible signatures on the ensign include:

- Commander Dudley,
- Sergeant G T Watts,
- Second Engineer Greg Meares,
- Able Seaman Helen Montgomery,
- Able Seaman J Smith,
- Private John Mulcahy,
- Petty Officer Kurt MacKenzie,
- Petty Officer J M Koller,
- Corporal Foster,
- Able Seaman Dohan,
- Able Seaman Caruana,
- C Waters,
- Able Seaman K Whatt,
- Able Seaman McKean,
- Private Moller,
- Private Belson,
- W. Moffett,
- Leading Seaman Kynsak,
- P Freud.



Location: The Australian War Memorial.