

Committal of Ashes to the Sea Procedure

1. Family fill in request for committal of ashes and return to DCO (Defence Community Organisation) Sydney
2. Request forwarded by DCO to HQ in Canberra for verification, once verified DCO will receive an approval email and copy of service record from national archives.
3. Family will be contacted by phone and written correspondence will be forwarded advising them of the outcome of their request.
4. Ashes delivered to DCO by NOK (alternative arrangements can be discussed due to Geographical location).
5. DCO will identify HMA Ship and arrange for transfer of the ashes. Once this occurs written correspondence will be forwarded to the family advising ashes has been transferred. (time and date ship sails can be provided to family so they can witness the ship and ashes leave harbour)
6. Once ship has conducted ceremony, letter, and copy of chart will be forwarded to family from a ships representative.

NB: Depending on operational commitments process can take several months.

Members who served in the RN will need to provide copy of service record this can be done by contacting:

*Ministry of Defence
Defence Records 2A
Boune Ave HAYES
Middlesex UB3 1RF
United Kingdom*

Members who have been dishonestly discharged cannot have their ashes committed to sea from a Navy Ship.

Contact for Further Information is:

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