

MEDIA RELEASE

**THE PERTH MINT HONOURS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CONVOY OF WORLD WAR I**

As the City of Albany prepares for its ANZAC Centenary commemorative event program, The Perth Mint is proud to release a pure silver coin which marks 100 years since the departure of Australia's first fleet of military ships from the historic coastal town.

King George Sound at Albany was the meeting point for the first convoy of vessels, which departed on 1 November 1914 carrying the Australian Imperial Force and the New Zealand Expeditionary Force; both combined would later become known as the ANZACs.

As the largest flotilla to have ever left Australia up until that time, the fleet consisted of 39 ships, carrying approximately 30,000 Australian and New Zealand troops, and some 8,000 horses.

For many of the soldiers, it would be the last time they would stand on Australian soil, with 60,000 men losing their lives during the course of World War I.

Perth Mint Sales and Marketing Director, Ron Currie, said that Albany played a significant role in the story of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, and is recognised the world over.

"The Perth Mint is proud to honour the troops who set sail from Western Australia to defend our country's freedom with a special Australian legal tender tribute," he added.

The coin's reverse features two ships in the convoy as they depart from King George Sound in Albany, and a list of the 39 vessels that sailed from the port. The inscriptions "FIRST CONVOY ALBANY W.A." and "100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NOVEMBER 1914", a red poppy motif, and The Perth Mint's traditional "P" mintmark are also incorporated into the design.

The obverse of the release depicts the Ian Rank-Broadley effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the 2014 year-date, and the monetary denomination.

Priced at \$63.50, only 1,914 ANZAC Spirit 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coin Series – First Convoy 2014 1/2oz Silver Proof Coins will be released by The Perth Mint.

Making the pilgrimage to Albany, The Perth Mint will retail this tribute piece from the Albany Australian Post Office, the Albany Visitor Centre, and the National Anzac Centre.

Collectors can also secure this limited-edition coin from The Perth Mint at 310 Hay Street in East Perth, by telephoning toll free on 1800 098 817 or by visiting [www.perthmint.com.au/anzac](http://www.perthmint.com.au/anzac). This special release is also offered at leading coin dealers and Australia Post stores nationwide.

Commemorative activities will be held in Albany between 30 October and 2 November 2014. Featuring the Australian Defence Force, the memorial event program will include a Royal Australian Navy ceremonial sunset, a commemorative service, a symbolic departure of three to six naval ships, a troop march, and a ship open day. For more information, visit [www.anzacalbany.com.au](http://www.anzacalbany.com.au).

For further information:

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