

# NUNAWADING MILITARY HISTORY GROUP

## MINI NEWSLETTER No. 2

### Nearly 4 Years After Commissioning the US Navy First Fully Working Stealth Destroyer

The U.S. Navy's first stealth destroyer, the Zumwalt, is on track to have its combat system installation completed

It's the end of a long journey for the ship that was commissioned in 2016 without a working combat system but is finally preparing to fully enter service. The ship was slated to have its installation completed in March, and the service is still on track to deliver on time, the source said.

In November 2016, BAE Systems was awarded a \$192 million contract to deliver the combat system for Zumwalt and its sister ship the USS Michael Monsoor.

The DDG-1000 program has been beleaguered by cost overruns and changes over the years. The ship's original raison d'être, the Advanced Gun System, has been all but abandoned by the Navy as it has changed from a naval gunfire support platform for landing Marines to now a surface strike platform.

As the Navy truncated the buy of Zumwalt-class destroyers from 28 ships, to seven, and finally to three, the rounds for the guns became steadily more expensive, making the projectile — Long Range Land Attack Projectile — too valuable to fire. The Navy has yet to identify a replacement.

Instead, the ship has been predestinated a ship killer, with Maritime Strike Tomahawk and SM-6 integrated into its combat system.

The Navy has stood up the Surface Development Squadron to help it integrate new technologies into the fleet, such as unmanned surface vessels and the DDG-1000.

The USS Michael Monsoor should have its combat system activation done by the second quarter of 2020, according to a Naval Sea Systems Command program brief from January. The third and final ship of the class, the Lyndon B. Johnson, is still under construction at Bath Iron Works in Maine and should be delivered by December 2020.

The ship will then transit to San Diego, California, and have its combat system installed like its sister ships.



*Article by David B. Larter of Defence News*

# The Alamein Memorial

I do not usually put personal stories in U3A Military History mailings but on a recent visit to Egypt I wanted to visit the El Alamein Commonwealth War Graves Memorial. My father served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division and was at the Second Battle of El Alamein and did come home. While there I signed the visitors book on behalf of our class.

Alamein is a village, bypassed by the main coast road, approximately 270 kilometres west of Cairo on Egypt's Mediterranean coast where the decisive 1942 WW11 battle took place. The Memorial commemorates nearly 12,000 servicemen from the Commonwealth who died in the Western Desert and Middle East Campaigns and includes the names of over 3000 missing airmen.

There are the Australian (658), New Zealand (859), United Kingdom (7112), Canadian (213), Indian (1804) and South African (1226) commemorated in the cemetery. Three of the graves are of Australian VC winners, Arthur Gurney and William Kibby and Percival Eric Gratwick VC, all serving with 2/48th Battalion, who all died at the El Alamein.

The memorial is guarded by the Egyptian Police and on the other side of the road an Egyptian military installation and the El Alamein Battle museum is within the military compound.



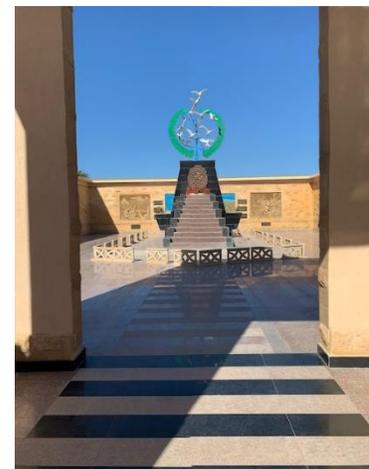
**El Alamein War Cemetery**



**The Australian 9<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial At El Alamein**



**The Australian 9<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial Plaque**



**The El Alamein Museum**