

PERTH MAN WAS LAST TO SIGN ON

Biggest man in the R.A.N. as he was in football was Ordinary Seaman Jack de Gracie, one of the W.A. men missing.

It was his first trip to sea.

He is believed to have been the last man posted to the Sydney.

He joined the Navy in March, was posted to a vacancy on the Sydney shortly before her last voyage. The appointment delighted him.

He was the only man posted to the ship at the time.

Only 22 years old, he weighed 16½ stone was 6ft. 7ins. He was born in Kalgoorlie but educated at St. Patrick's School in Lord Street.

After leaving school he worked at the Mt. Hawthorn Modelling Works before enlisting with the Navy.

On his trip to the Eastern States for training, de Gracie



ORDINARY-SEAMAN

DE GRACIE

... Navy's big gun

and another local player were signed on by the South Melbourne Club but he did not play in the Victorian League.

Locally he played the game with West Perth seconds and this year with the Navy side which competed in the inter-services competition.

He was also interested in swimming.

His home was in Mt. Hawthorn.

"Jack de Gracie was one of the most popular fellows in Seconds football," said Mr. J. D. Brooker, who as an executive of West Perth Seconds for many years, got to know him particularly well.

"Unfailingly cheerful, the happiest day of his life came when he was accepted for the R.A.N.

"Everyone called him 'The Navy's Big Gun'."

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