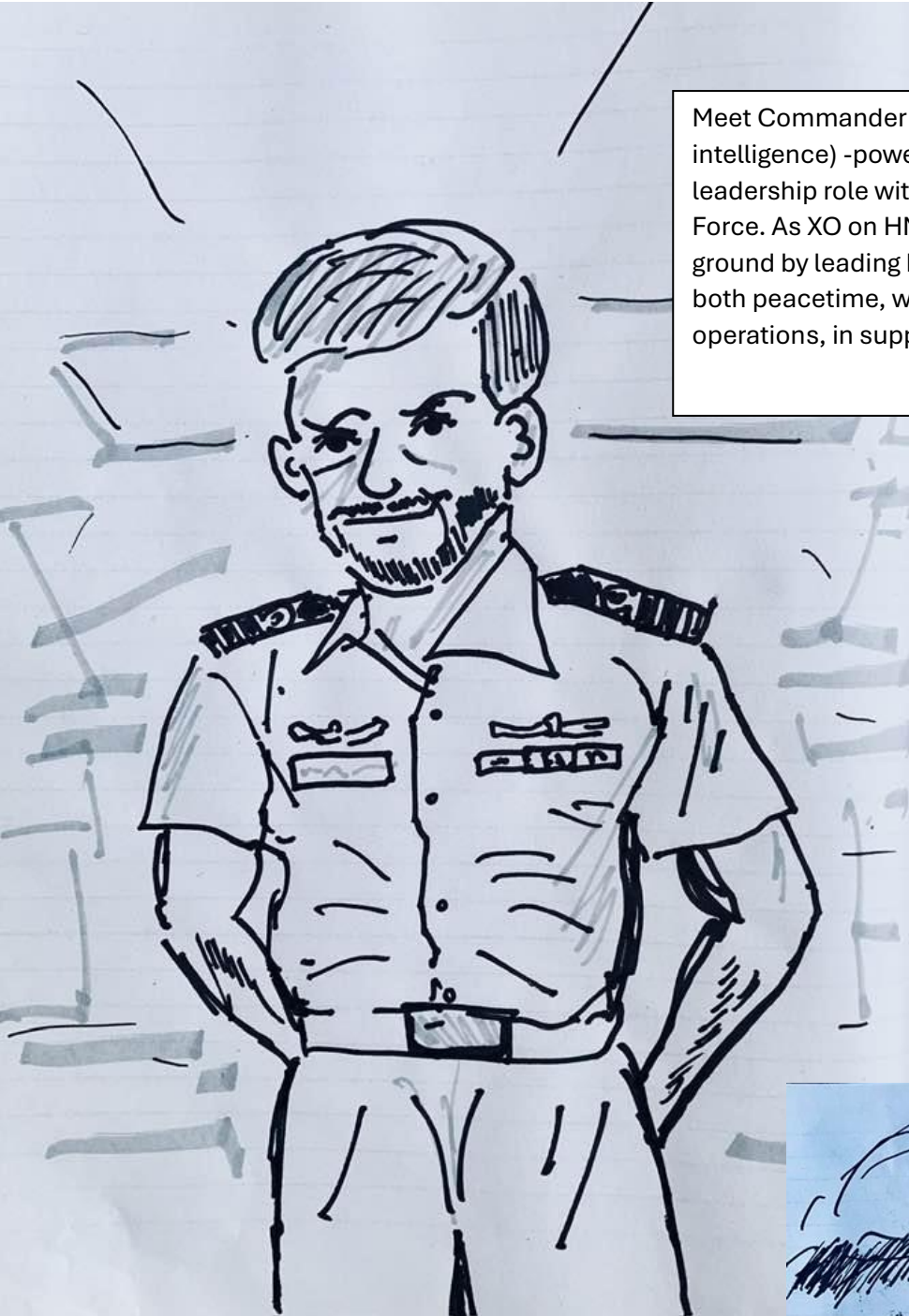



Artificial Maleficent

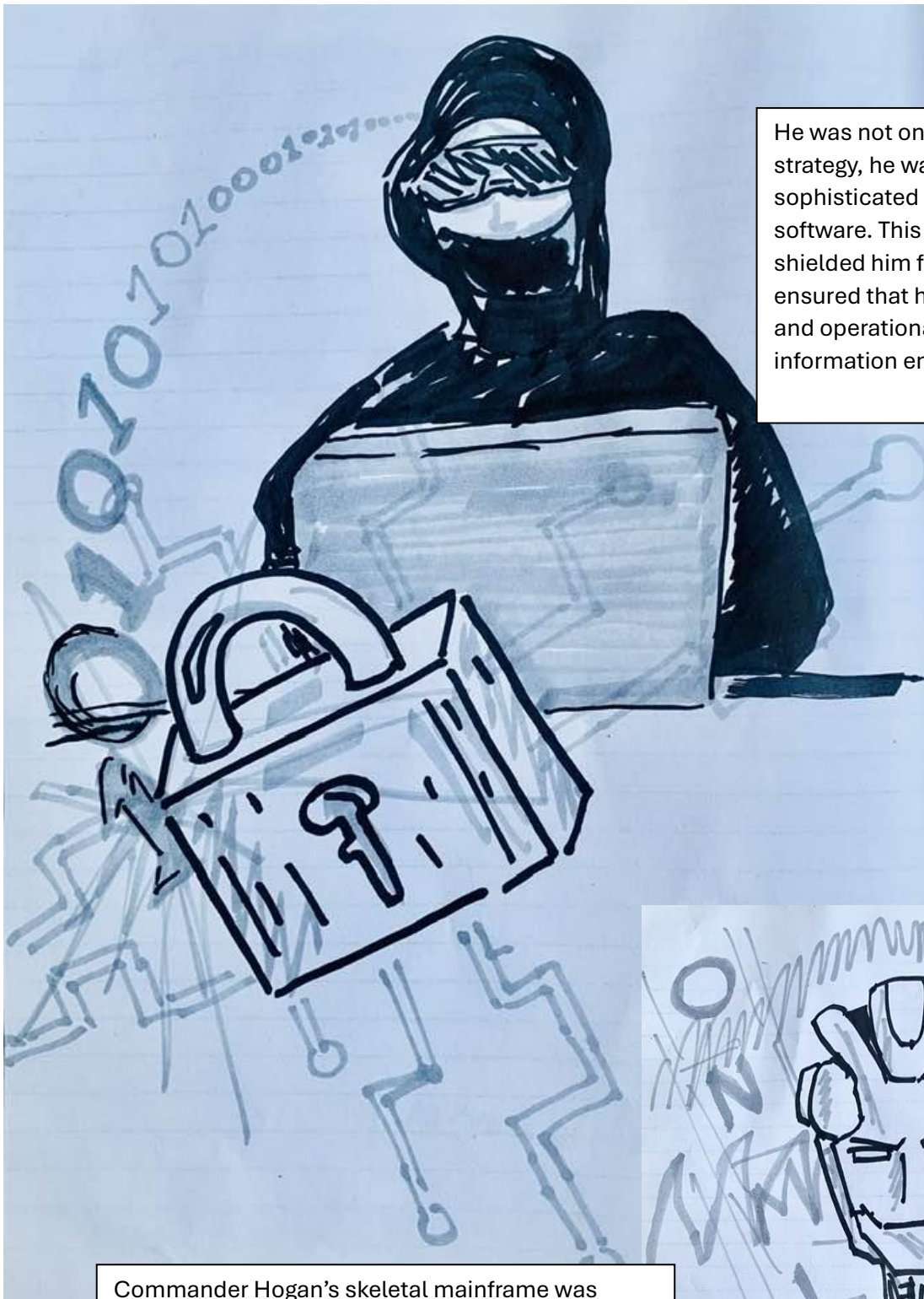
By Adam Lo



Meet Commander Hogan, the first AI (artificial intelligence) -powered robo-officer in a leadership role within the Australian Defence Force. As XO on HMAS Uluru, he broke new ground by leading human sailors and troops in both peacetime, war-like and non war-like operations, in support of his captain.



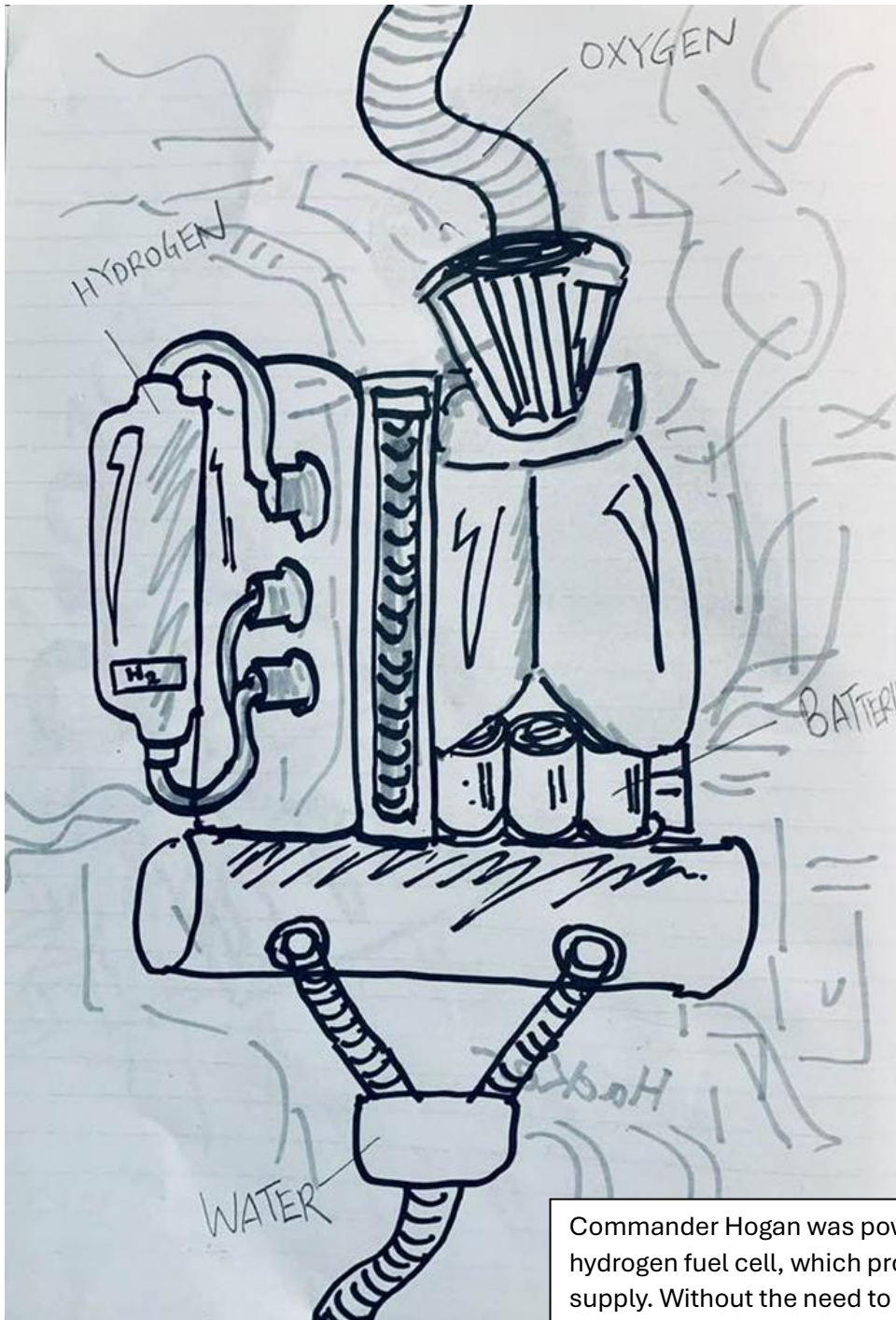
His AI capacity allowed him to conduct complex calculations in seconds, access unlimited data for real-time decision-making, and process vast amounts of intelligence instantly. With unparalleled precision, he was able to coordinate logistics, anticipates threats, and optimises mission strategies. His ability to analyse multiple scenarios simultaneously ensured that he was always a step ahead in any operation.



He was not only a master of data and strategy, he was also fortified with the most sophisticated antivirus and cybersecurity software. This advanced protection shielded him from cyber threats, and ensured that his systems remain secure and operational even in the most hostile information environments.

Commander Hogan's skeletal mainframe was equipped with advanced electronic countermeasures (ECMs) and electronic counter-countermeasures (ECCMs). These cutting-edge systems allowed him to detect, disrupt, and neutralise adversary signals and electronic threats. Not only was he able to jam hostile communications and defend against electronic warfare attacks, his in-built defences ensured that both he and his crew maintain the tactical advantage in any presenting situation.



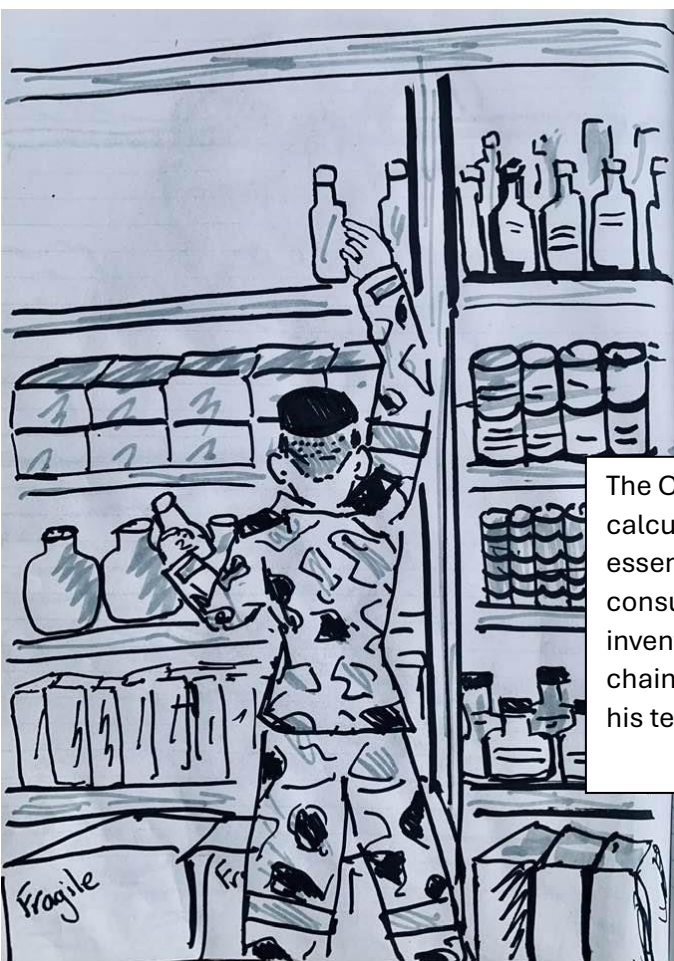
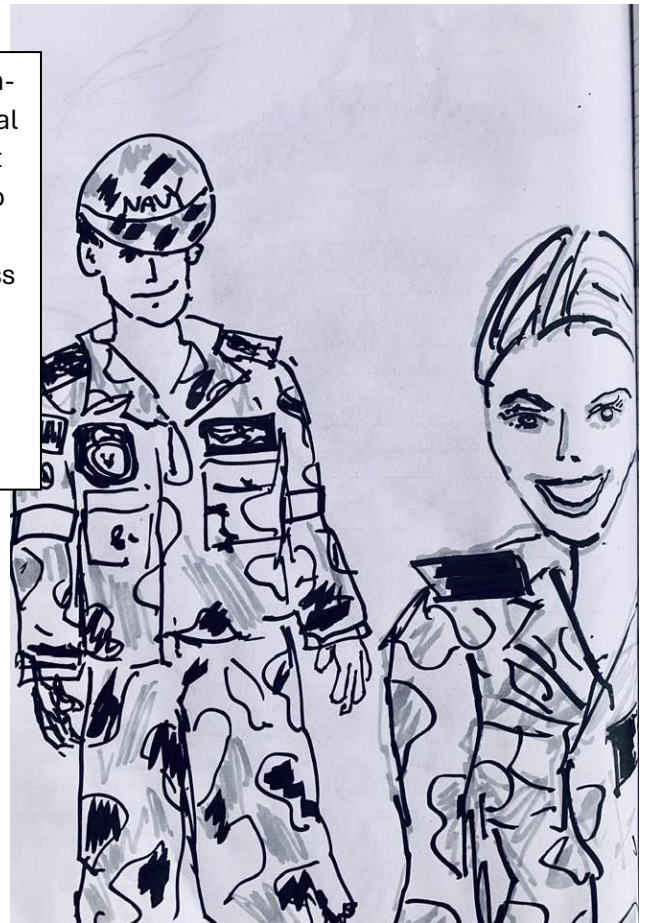


Commander Hogan was powered through a state-of-the-art hydrogen fuel cell, which provided him with limitless energy supply. Without the need to eat, drink or sleep, he was able to remain active for extended periods. With this advanced technology, the XO was undoubtedly an enduring and sustainable force at sea and in the field, capable of leading his team without interruption.



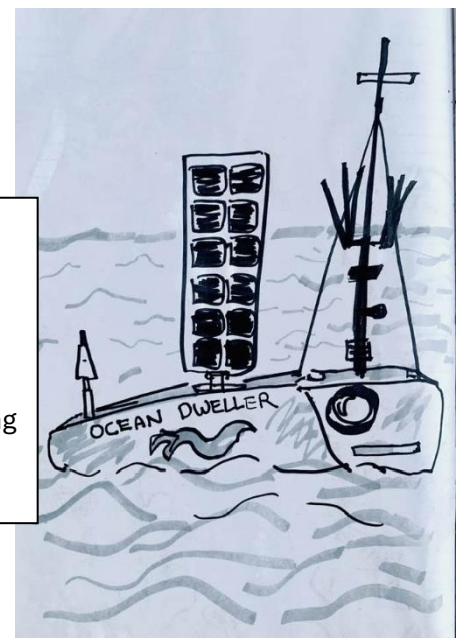
Despite Commander Hogan's sophisticated capabilities, the government maintained that a human will always remain in the decision-making chain and has the final say on all matters. While Commander Hogan's AI-driven insights and actions were invaluable and reliable, the highest authority still rested on his Commanding Officer, the decorated Captain of HMAS Uluru, thus preserving the essential balance between technology and human judgment.

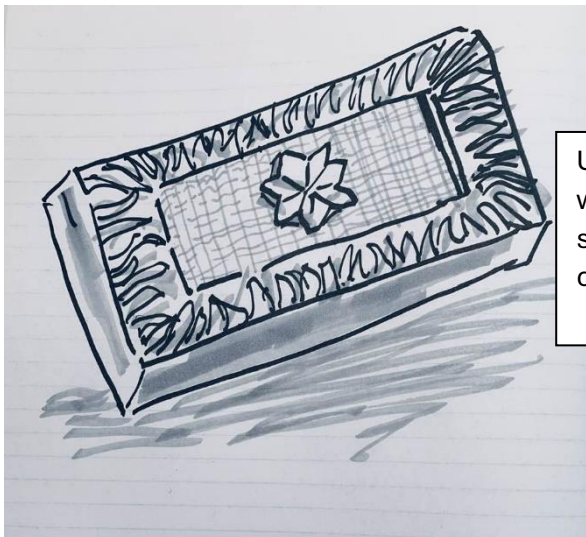
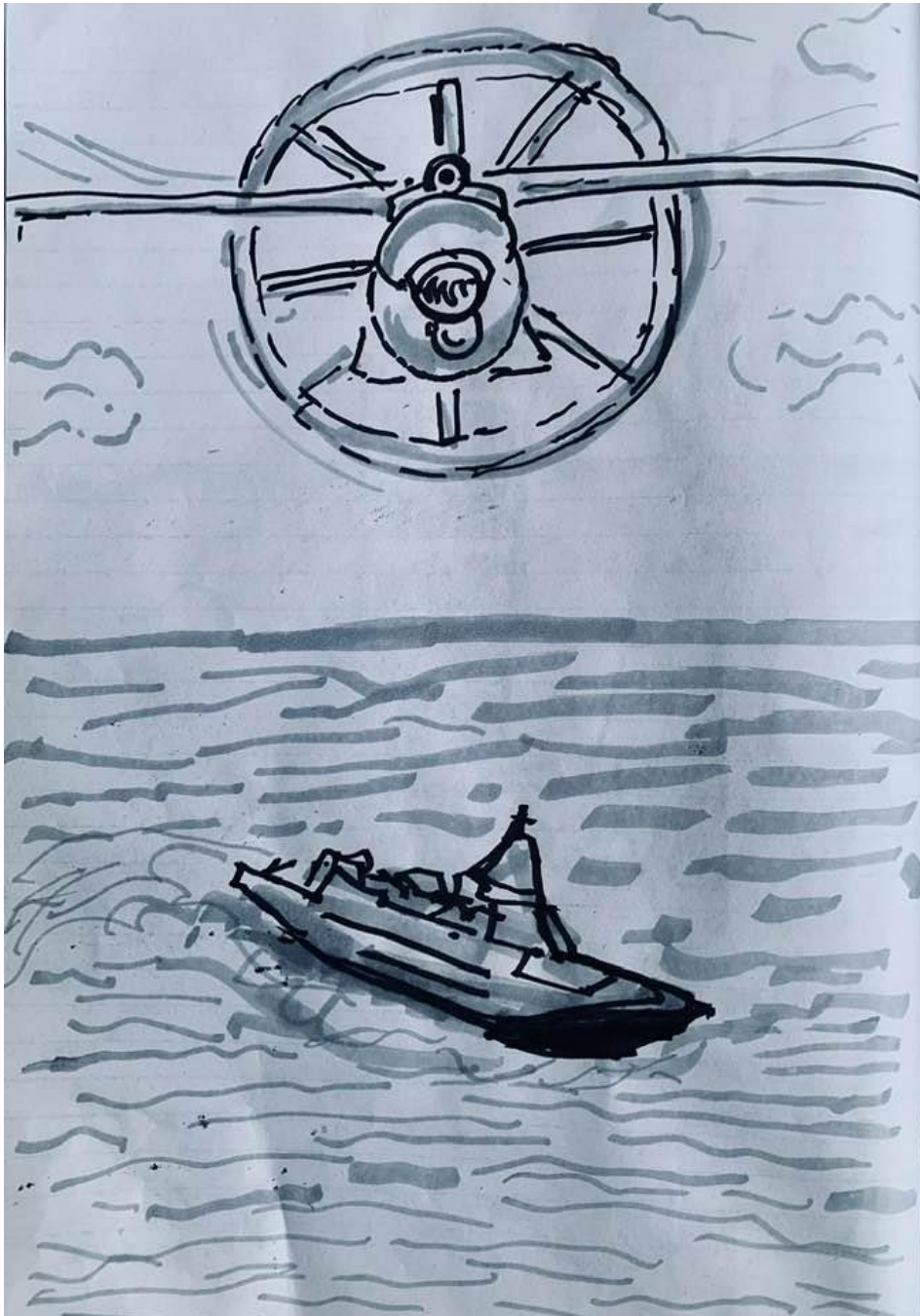
The XO was able to read physiological reactions and non-verbal cues, allowing him to understand the psychosocial needs of his crew. By monitoring subtle changes in heart rate, body language, and other indicators, he was able to assess stress levels, fatigue, and emotional wellbeing. This advanced insight enabled him to proactively address concerns, provide tailored support, and maintain the overall health and effectiveness of his team, ensuring they are always mission-ready.



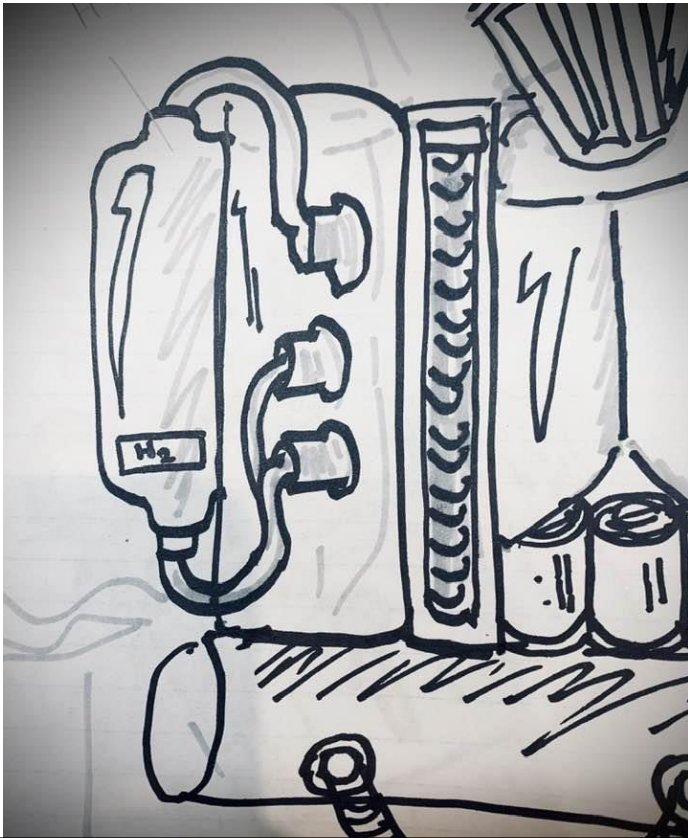
The Commander was also a master of logistics, precisely calculated requirements for rations, equipment and essential supplies. His AI-driven systems tracked consumption rates, forecasted future needs, and managed inventory in real-time. By efficiently coordinating supply chains and anticipating requirements, the XO always kept his team well provisioned, resourced and mission-ready.

Commander Hogan was also able to maintain continuous situational awareness of surveillance and reconnaissance assets under his command and control. His advanced AI capability allowed him to monitor drone feeds, satellite information, and other intelligence sources in real-time. This provided him with a comprehensive understanding of the battlespace environment. By fusing and integrating the information, he can quickly assess threats, identify opportunities, and adjust strategies and tactics.

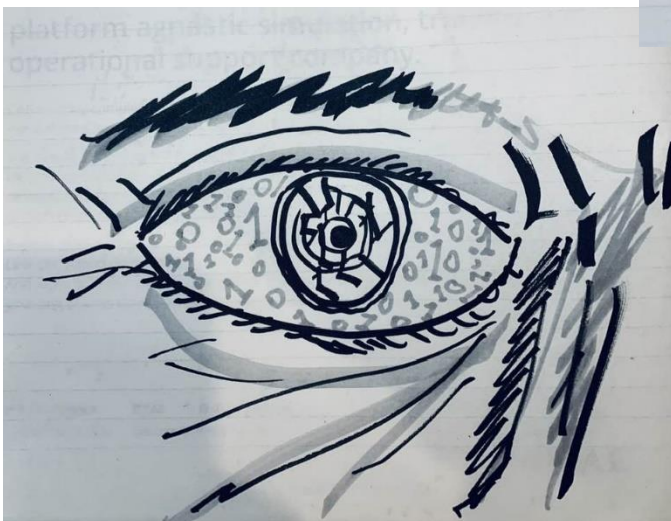




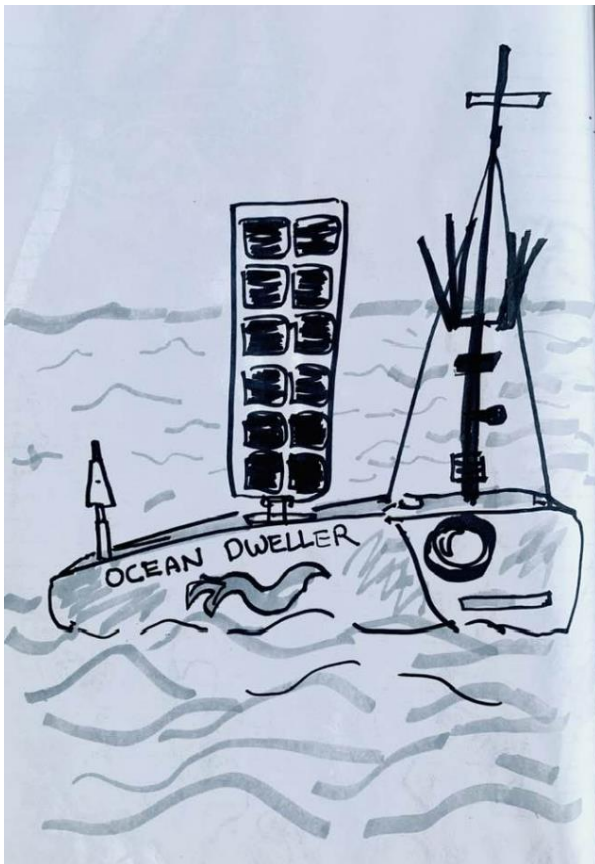
Under Commander Hogan's leadership as XO, HMAS Uluru was awarded with the Meritorious Unit Citation in 2038, for sustained outstanding service across the various confrontations in the Indo-Pacific region.

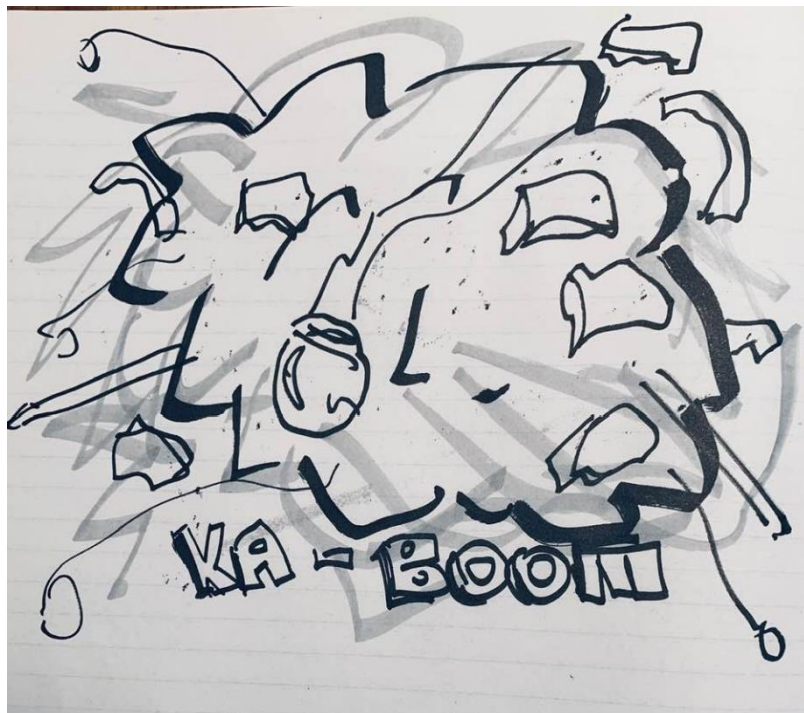
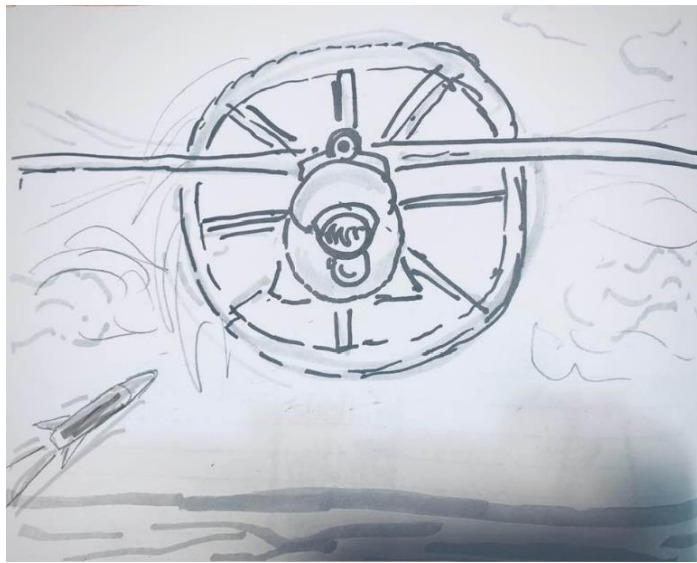
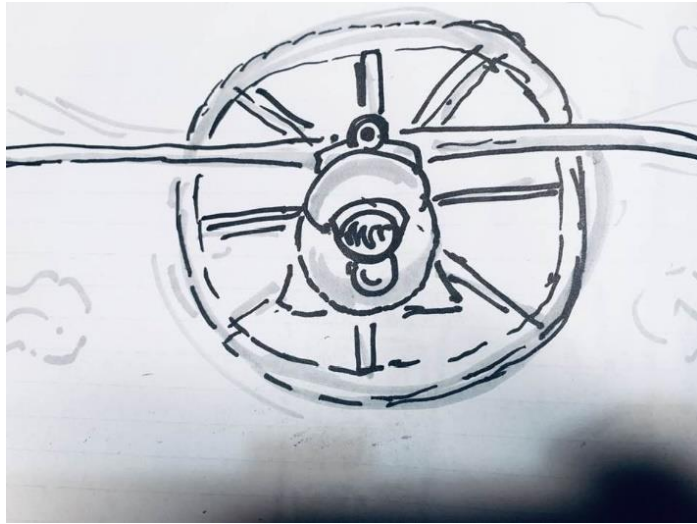


Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. A sabotage operation by a couple of 'trusted insiders' successfully tampered with Commander Hogan's hydrogen power system during a routine service and calibration. This act of betrayal caused catastrophic damage, ultimately leading to his destruction. The loss of Commander Hogan not only devastated the crew of HMAS Uluru but also highlighted the vulnerabilities that can arise from within, reminding everyone that even the most advanced systems are susceptible to human malice.



To make matters worse, the downfall of Commander Hogan left HMAS Uluru in an extremely vulnerable position. The crew's (and the Captain's) previous reliance on his advanced capabilities meant that they were ill-prepared for the sudden challenges that presented itself. Very soon after the demise of the XO, enemy submarines launched swift attacks, exploiting the gap in leadership, situation awareness and coordination. This highlighted the critical importance of having a balanced approach to technology and human oversight, as the crew struggled to regain control in the face of relentless threats, including the destruction of their surveillance assets.





While initially shocked and surprised by the loss of Commander Hogan, Captain Holt quickly regained his composure in the face of adversity. Despite lacking the technological edge that Hogan had previously provided, he relied on his extensive training, years of experience at sea, and the resilience of his crew to repel the submarine attacks. Through decisive leadership and effective communication, Captain Holt orchestrated a successful counter-offensive, and ultimately destroyed the enemy vessels.



Sarah Takashi-Smith MP, Defence Minister

“Today, as we remember Commander Hogan, we honour not only his remarkable achievements but also the invaluable lessons his service has demonstrated to us all. He represented the pinnacle of technological advancement, and demonstrated how artificial intelligence can greatly enhance our military capabilities. However, his tragic loss serves as a powerful reminder that we cannot completely rely on technology, or AI. We, humans, brings intuition, empathy and critical thinking that technology cannot. In times of crisis, it is the human spirit, like the ANZAC spirit, that drives us to adapt, to innovate and to overcome adversary. The recent events surrounding HMAS Uluru highlighted the need for a balanced approach between technology and human involvement. Our technologies should always support, but never replace, the human factor.”

“By far, the greatest danger of Artificial Intelligence is that people conclude too early that they understand it.”

Eliezer Yudkowsky