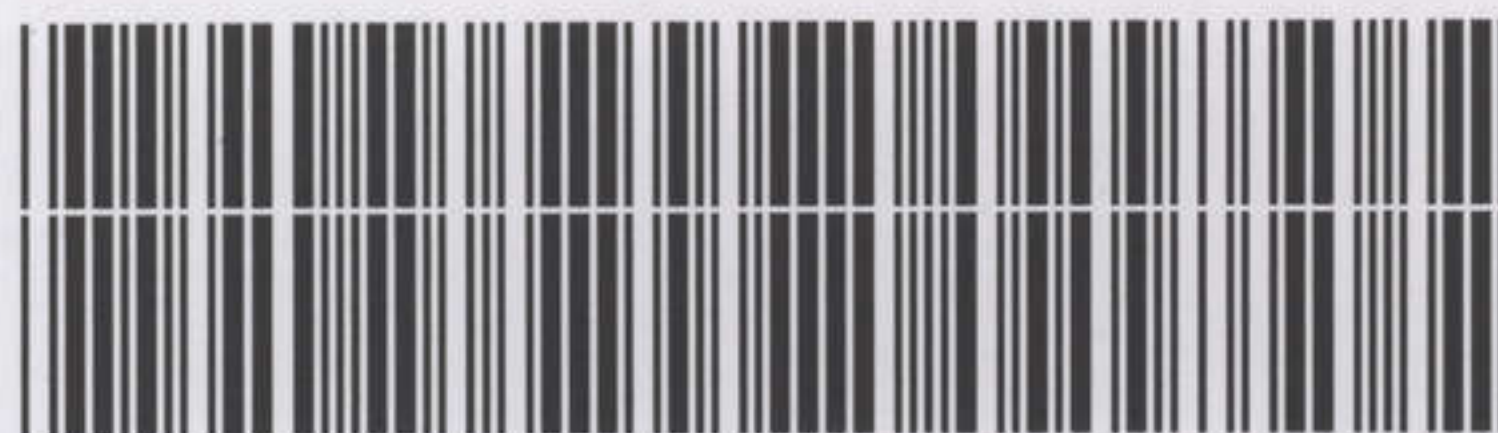


AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS SYDNEY

Item number: 329/3

**Title: September 1939 - October 1941. War
diary**



AWM78-329/3

327/3

SYDNEY
WAI

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

Declassification Authority—Defence Records
This record has been reviewed and has been
declassified by the Department of Defence
(Navy) with effect from: 17 DEC 90
Authority Dig (4) Admin 18-13.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: *R. L. Smith* Date: 12 MAR 91

NAVAL HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Mr. Kelly
3.6.65*

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

24/7

Royal Australian Navy.

From The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Sydney".

Date 5th November, 1941. Reference No. SC191/675

To The Rear Admiral Commanding H.M. Australian Squadron.

Subject WAR DIARY - OCTOBER, 1941.

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command for October, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office Memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



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18/11
18/11

J. Burnett
CAPTAIN.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

October, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

WAR DIARY.

- 1st October. At sea, escorting convoy U.S.12B to rendezvous in vicinity of Sunda Straits.
- 2nd October. At sea.
a.m. Launched aircraft and carried out the following exercises:-
Exercise action and dummy D/B attacks.
Depth charge attack.
Aircraft high level bombing.
1745. Sighted unknown ship. Action Stations. Ship identified as Norwegian Tanker "Bramora".
- 3rd October. 0130. Sighted unknown ship. Night Action Stations. Ship identified as British "Islander".
0800. Arrived rendezvous A.G. and turned over escort to H.M. Ships "Danae" and "Glasgow". Communicated by boat with the latter. Set course for Fremantle.
1810. Sighted square object which proved to be a lattice work structure supported on beams and floated by oil drums. Appeared to be a target or some form of sea mark. Hoisted inboard and dismantled.
- 4th to 6th October. At sea.
- 6th October. 2100. Received information of unidentified ship off Rottnest. Proceeded at 22 knots, object, to lead "Queen Mary" up Searched Channel.
- 7th October. 0400. Arrived off end of Searched Channel and R/V with "Queen Mary". Waited for sweeping to be completed before proceeding.
0630. Proceeded into harbour.
1030. Arrived Fremantle and secured at E Shed. Fuelled.
- 8th to 12th October. At Fremantle.
- 13th October. 0900. Slipped and proceeded for exercises. Carried out 6" sub-calibre day firings and night encounter. Height finding exercise. Exercise tow aft, with /S Trawler.
- 14th October. 0400. Carried out dawn attack on Rottnest Defences.
a.m. R.A.A.F. Aircraft carried out mock D.B. attack, followed by D/B and H.L.B. attack on splash target.
p.m. Exercised landing raiding party on Fremantle beach. Moored ship for seamanship training.
1600. Entered harbour and secured at E Shed. Fuelled.
- 15th October. In harbour.
Meeting of Fremantle Local Defence Committee.
- 16th October. Shifted berth to D Shed.
In harbour.
- 17th October. 1300. Slipped and proceeded on patrol.
- 18th October. 0900. Arrived Geraldton and anchored in roads.
- 19th October. At Geraldton.
- 20th October. 1300. Weighed and proceeded for Fremantle.
- 21st October. 0700. Arrived Fremantle and secured at A Shed. Fuelled.
- 22nd October. In harbour.
- 23rd October. In harbour.
a.m. Company of 6 platoons landed for Route March.
- 24th October. In harbour.
- 25th October. In harbour.
- 26th October. In harbour.
- 27th October. 0830. Slipped and proceeded for Bunbury.
1600. Arrived Bunbury and secured alongside Jetty in No. 1 East Berth.

Page 2.

28th October. In harbour.

29th October, 0800. Slipped and proceeded for Fremantle.

1600. Arrived Fremantle and secured at H Shed. Fuelled.

30th October. In harbour.

31st October, 0830. Slipped and proceeded for exercises.

1030. Carried out 6" full calibre firing, and Torpedo firing

Remainder of exercise programme cancelled.

1600. Anchored in Gage Roads.

Commonwealth of Australia

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Royal Australian Navy.

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From The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "Sydney".

Date..... 4th October, 1941 Reference No. SC 191/443

To The Rear Admiral Commanding H.M. Australian Squadron.

Subject WAR DIARY, September, 1941.

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command for September, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office Memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



J. Burnett.

CAPTAIN.

SECRET

SECRET

September, 1941.

H.M.A.S. "Sydney".

WAR DIARY.

- 1st. September At Sydney.
Slipped at 1415 and proceeded to sea for exercises.
Carried out the following practices.
(i) 4" full calibre firing at sleeve target.
(ii) Short range firings at sleeve target.
(iii) 6" sub-calibre firings, day and night, at Patt. VI target.
Returned to Harbour on completion.
- 2nd September Slipped and proceeded to sea for exercises.
(i) 6" full calibre reduced charge firing at B.P.T.
(ii) 6" full calibre, full charge night firing at B.P.T.
Returned to harbour.
- 3rd September Slipped and proceeded to escort US 12A, comprising H.M.T. "Queen Mary", and H.M.T. "Queen Elizabeth", which joined convoy at 2220 off Jarvis Bay, to rendezvous in Bight.
H.M.A.S. "Adelaide" part^{ed} company.
- 4th & 5th Sep. At sea.
6th September At 0700, H.M.A.S. "Canberra" rendezvoused and took over escort.
Parted company from convoy and set course for Port Phillip.
- 7th September At sea.
8th September Arrived Williamstown and secured alongside Nelson Pier. After fuelling, shifted berth to Princes Pier.
- 9th September At Port Melbourne.
Reverted to 12 hours' notice for steam for 36 hours, for repairs.
- 10th September At Port Melbourne.
Second Naval Member visited Ship.
Reverted back to 4 hours notice for steam at 2000.
- 11th September At Port Melbourne.
First Naval Member arrived on board at 1130 and walked round divisions.
- 12 September Slipped and proceeded for exercises in Port Phillip Bay.
Carried out simulated low visibility torpedo firing, also 6" sub-calibre firing.
Anchored off Port Arlington.
- 13th September Weighed and proceeded.
Secured alongside Princes Pier East.
- 14th to 16th Sep At Port Melbourne.
17th September Slipped and proceeded to Westernport.
Arrived Westernport 1600 and anchored off Stony Point.
- 18th September At Westernport.
Cadets and training classes from F.M.D. on board for instruction.
- 19th September Weighed and proceeded to rendezvous with US 12B.
At 1400 - rendezvous with US 12B, comprising H.M.T.'s "Harnix Van St. Aldergarde", "Aquitania", "Johann Van Oldenbarnevelde" and "Sibajak".
Took over escort from "Adelaide".
Set course for Fremantle.
- 20th to 24th Sep At sea.
Owing to heavy weather experienced during the period, speed of convoy had to be reduced to varying speeds between 10 and 13 knots. Weather moderated on 24th September, and speed of advance increased to 15 knots.

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Page 2.

25th September	Launched aircraft to precede Ship at Fremantle. Convoy US 12B arrived at Fremantle.
26th & 27th Sep	At Fremantle.
28th September	Slipped and proceeded to escort convoy US 12B to rendezvous R.G.
29th & 30th Sep	At sea.

ENCLOSURE No. 2 To AF 951/1141/30
 Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

RESTRICTED

Royal Australian Navy.

From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".
 Date 3rd September, 1941. Reference No. 191/218.
 To THE REAR ADMIRAL COMMANDING H.M. AUSTRALIAN SQUADRON.
 Subject WAR DIARY.

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command for August, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office Memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



J. Bennett.
 CAPTAIN.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY",
3rd September, 1941.

WAR DIARY.

1st to 2nd August.	At sea escorting "BUNGAREE" from Port Phillip to Port Jackson.
3rd August.	Arrived Port Jackson.
4th August.	Greek Consul General presented a trophy to Officers and Ship's Company called "Wingless Victory" on behalf of the Greek Community of Sydney. At 1330 slipped and proceeded to Dock at Cockatoo Island. Victorian and Queensland ratings proceeded on leave.
5th to 7th August.	In Cockatoo Dock.
8th August.	Undocked. Left Sydney escorting "AWATEA" to Auckland.
9th to 10th August.	At Sea.
11th August.	Arrived Auckland.
12th to 13th August.	At Auckland.
14th August.	Left Auckland escorting "AWATEA" to Suva.
15th August.	At Sea.
16th August.	Arrived Suva at 2330.
17th August.	At Suva.
18th August.	Left Suva escorting "AWATEA".
19th to 23rd August.	At Sea escorting "AWATEA". At 0700, 20th August, "AWATEA" reported 'Man Overboard'. Stopped and picked up body by lifeboat. Man did not recover. Body later transferred to "AWATEA" and identified as George YOUNG, Crew Attendant to "AWATEA". Parted company with "AWATEA" at 1700, 21st August in position 5°40' S. 161° 30' W. "SYDNEY" returning to Suva.
24th August.	Arrived Suva at 0800. Departed for Sydney at 1400.
25th to 27th August.	At Sea.
28th August.	Arrived Sydney.
29th to 31st August.	At Sydney.

ENCLOSURE No. 4 To AF 991/703/21
 Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

Date 1st August, 1941. Reference No. 191/10442

To THE REAR ADMIRAL COMMANDING H.M. AUSTRALIAN SQUADRON.

Subject WAR DIARY.

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command for July, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office Memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



J. Burnett

CAPTAIN.

~~RESTRICTED~~
SECRET

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY",
1st August, 1941.

WAR DIARY.

July, 1941.

<u>Tuesday, 1st July.</u>	0001.	In Bass Strait escorting H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" from Fremantle to Sydney.
<u>Wednesday, 2nd July.</u>	1000.	Catapulted Aircraft for search to N.E. and report early arrival.
	1400.	Proceeded Independently.
	1645.	Arrived Sydney and secured to No. 1 Buoy. Fuelled.
	2000.	H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived.
<u>Thursday, 3rd July.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Friday, 4th July.</u>	0930.	Court Martial assembled onboard. In harbour.
<u>Saturday, 5th July.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Sunday, 6th July.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Monday, 7th July.</u>		In harbour. Catapult training for R.A.A.F. Officers carried out.
<u>Tuesday, 8th July.</u>	1100.	Slipped and proceeded to sea for exercises.
	1300.	Carried out 4" full calibre firing at sleeve target.
	1400.	Carried out close range firings at sleeve target.
	1515.	Streamed splash target for R.A.A.F. dive-bombing practice.
	1745.	Entered harbour and anchored off Clark Island. Fuelled.
<u>Wednesday, 9th July.</u>	0530.	Weighed and proceeded as escort for S.S. "GLENIFFER" and "BERWICKSHIRE".
	1000.	Assumed modified convoy and set course to pass to Northward of New Zealand. Identified H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" escorting S.S. "AORANGI" - N.Z. to Sydney.
<u>Thursday, 10th July.</u>		At Sea.
<u>Friday, 11th July.</u>		At Sea.
<u>Saturday, 12th July.</u>		At Sea.
<u>Sunday, 13th July.</u>		At Sea.
<u>Monday, 14th July.</u>	a.m.	At Sea. Exercised all phases of action. Catapulted Aircraft.

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Tuesday, 15th July.

At Sea.
a.m. Catapulted aircraft for A.A. Defence Exercise.
1130-1330 Aircraft proceeded on reconnaissance to Eastward.
1600. Parted company from Convoy. Set course for Sydney.
1800. Convoy dispersed and proceeded independently.

Wednesday, 16th July.

At Sea.

Thursday, 17th July.

At Sea.

Friday, 18th July.

At Sea.

Saturday, 19th July, 0700.

Arrived Port Jackson and secured alongside Woolloomoolloo. Embarked 3 Army Officers, 30 other ranks, 2-6" guns and mountings, and associated stores to weight of 42 tons for passage to Noumea.
Fuelled and Provisioned.
1400. Slipped and proceeded for Noumea.

Sunday, 20th July.

At Sea.

Monday, 21st July.

0830. Launched Aircraft to precede the ship at Noumea.
1500. Arrived Noumea and anchored in the Grand Port. Disembarked Army Personnel and all gear.

Tuesday, 22nd July. 0530.

Weighed and proceeded for Port Jackson.

Wednesday, 23rd July.

At Sea.

Thursday, 24th July.

p.m. Reduced speed on account of heavy weather.
a.m. Heavy weather precluded an increase of speed
2130. Arrived Port Jackson and secured to No. 1 Buoy. Fuelled.

Friday, 25th July.

In Harbour.

Saturday, 26th July.

In Harbour.

Sunday, 27th July.

In Harbour.

Monday, 28th July.

In Harbour.

Tuesday, 29th July.

1300. Slipped and proceeded to sea for exercises.
1415. Carried out 4" full calibre firings and close range firings at Sleeve Target.
1700. Took over escort of convoy U.S. II B, consisting of H.M.T. "JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT" and S.S. "KATOOMBA". Set course for Bass Strait.

Wednesday, 30th July.

At Sea

Thursday, 31st July.

0700. Passed Wilson's Promontory.
1550. Rendezvous with H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA" and H.M.T. "MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE". Turned over escort and proceeded to R/V with H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE".
1615. Identified S.S. "COOLAH".
1700. Took over escort of "BUNGAREE". Set course for Port Jackson.

ENCLOSURE No. 4 TO A.F. 991/703/21
Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

SECRET RESTRICTED

From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"
 Date 1st July, 1941. Reference No. 191/10143.
 To REAR ADMIRAL COMMANDING H.M. AUSTRALIAN SQUADRON.
 Subject WAR DIARY.

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. ship under my command for June, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



J. Russell
 CAPTAIN.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"
1st June, 1941.

WAR DIARY.

June, 1941.

Sunday, 1st June.

At sea, escorting H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" to rendezvous J.K.

Monday, 2nd June.

At sea. Exercised Tow forward and Tow aft.

1430

Identified Greek Merchant Vessel G.S. "LIVANOS".

Tuesday, 3rd June.

At sea. Damage Control Exercise. Exercised Steering breakdown.

Wednesday, 4th June.

At sea. Dawn encounter exercise with "ZEALANDIA", firing Starshell.

Thursday, 5th June.

At sea. Gunnery Exercises.

Wednesday, 6th June.

1220

At sea. Exercised abandon ship station. Sighted H.M.S. "DANAË". Turned over convoy to new escort.

1330

Parted company from convoy and set course for Fremantle.

Saturday, 7th June.

At sea.

Sunday, 8th June.

0930

At sea. Identified Greek S.S. "EVI LIVANOS". Christmas Island to Fremantle.

Monday, 9th June.

At sea.

Tuesday, 10th June.

0630

Catapulted aircraft. Carried out Range and Inclination exercise with Rottneest Batteries. Exercised bombardment procedure.

0730

Arrived Fremantle and secured at H shed. Fuelled. H.M.T. "AQUITANIA" sailed.

Wednesday, 11th June.

In harbour. Meeting of Fremantle Local Defence Co-ordinating Committee.

Thursday, 12th June.

In harbour. Shifted berth to North Wharf.

Friday, 13th June.

In harbour.

Saturday, 14th June.

1130

Slipped and proceeded.

1400

Carried out 6inch Full Calibre reduced charge firing at battle practice target. Proceeded to rendezvous with H.M.S. "DANAË" and H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA".

Sunday, 15th June.

0800

At sea. Identified S.S. "BASILEA".

Monday, 16th June.

At sea. Exercised anti-scuttling parties.

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<u>Tuesday, 17th June.</u>		At sea.
	0710	Sighted H.M.S. "DANAÉ" and convoy.
	0800	Took over escort of H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA", set course for Fremantle. H.M.S. "DANAÉ" parted company.
<u>Wednesday, 18th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Thursday, 19th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Friday, 20th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Saturday, 21st June.</u>	1400	Launched aircraft to search to S.W. and report early arrival.
	1530	Parted company from convoy. Proceeded independantly to Fremantle.
	2030	Arrived Fremantle and secured to D shed Fuelled.
<u>Sunday, 22nd June.</u>	0100	H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived Fremantle In harbour.
<u>Monday, 23rd June.</u>		In harbour. Germany invaded Russia.
<u>Tuesday, 24th June.</u>	1330	Slipped and proceeded out of harbour.
	1530	Sailed for Sydney, escorting H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" and S.S. "CALIFORNIA STAR" Maintained close convoy escort.
<u>Wednesday, 25th June.</u>		At sea.
	1000	Identified H.M.A.S. "HOBART" proceeding to Fremantle.
<u>Thursday, 26th June.</u>	0700	Assumed modified convoy across the Bight. At sea.
<u>Friday, 27th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Saturday, 28th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Sunday, 29th June.</u>		At sea.
	Noon	"CALIFORNIA STAR" proceeded independantly to Melbourne.
<u>Monday, 30th June.</u>		At sea.
	A.M.	Identified S.S. "PERIOD" and "KOOMILYA"
	P.M.	Identified S.S. "VITO", "BASILEA", "CARLISLE" and "YARRA".

SECRET

H.M.A.S. "JUBILEE"
1st June, 1941.

WAR DIARY.

June, 1941.

Sunday, 1st June.

At sea, escorting H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" to rendezvous J.K.

Monday, 2nd June.

At sea. Exercised Tow forward and Tow aft.

1430

Identified Greek Merchant Vessel G.S. "LIVANOS".

Tuesday, 3rd June.

At sea. Damage Control Exercise. Exercised Steering breakdown.

Wednesday, 4th June.

At sea. Dawn encounter exercise with "ZEALANDIA", firing Starshell.

Thursday, 5th June.

At sea. Gunnery Exercises.

Wednesday, 6th June.

At sea. Exercised abandon ship station

1220

Sighted H.M.S. "DANAË". Turned over

convoy to new escort.

1330

Parted company from convoy and set course for Fremantle.

Saturday, 7th June.

At sea.

Sunday, 8th June.

At sea.

0930

Identified Greek S.S. "EVI LIVANOS". Christmas Island to Fremantle.

Monday, 9th June.

At sea.

Tuesday, 10th June.

0630

Catapulted aircraft. Carried out Range and Inclination exercise with Rottneest Batteries. Exercised bombardment procedure.

0730

Arrived Fremantle and secured at H shed. Fuelled. H.M.T. "AJUTANIA" sailed.

Wednesday, 11th June.

In harbour. Meeting of Fremantle Local Defence Co-ordinating Committee.

Thursday, 12th June.

In harbour. Shifted berth to North Wharf.

Friday, 13th June.

In harbour.

Saturday, 14th June.

1130

Slipped and proceeded.

1400

Carried out 6inch Full Calibre reduced charge firing at battle practice target. Proceeded to rendezvous with H.M.S. "DANAË" and H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA".

Sunday, 15th June.

At sea.

0800

Identified S.S. "BASILEA".

Monday, 16th June.

At sea.

Exercised anti-scuttling parties.

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11.

<u>Tuesday, 17th June.</u>		At sea.
	0710	Sighted H.M.S. "DANAÉ" and convoy.
	0800	Took over escort of H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" set course for Fremantle. H.M.S. "DAF" parted company.
<u>Wednesday, 18th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Thursday, 19th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Friday, 20th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Saturday, 21st June.</u>	1400	Launched aircraft to search to S.W. and report early arrival.
	1530	Parted company from convoy. Proceeded independantly to Fremantle.
	2030	Arrived Fremantle and secured to D she fuelled.
<u>Sunday, 22nd June.</u>	0100	H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" arrived Fremantle in harbour.
<u>Monday, 23rd June.</u>		In harbour. Germany invaded Russia.
<u>Tuesday, 24th June.</u>	1330	Slipped and proceeded out of harbour.
	1530	Sailed for Sydney, escorting H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" and S.S. "CALIFORNIA STAR" Maintained close convoy escort.
<u>Wednesday, 25th June.</u>		At sea.
	1000	Identified H.M.A.S. "HOBART" proceeding to Fremantle.
<u>Thursday, 26th June.</u>	0700	Assumed modified convoy across the Bight. At sea.
<u>Friday, 27th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Saturday, 28th June.</u>		At sea.
<u>Sunday, 29th June.</u>		At sea.
	Noon	"CALIFORNIA STAR" proceeded independan to Melbourne.
<u>Monday, 30th June.</u>		At sea.
	A.M.	Identified S.S. "PERIOD" and "KOOMILYA"
	P.M.	Identified S.S. "VITO", "BASILEA", "CARLISLE" and "YARRA".

ENCLOSURE No. 4 To AF 991/703/21
Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Royal Australian Navy.

From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".
Date 3rd June, 1941 *Reference No.* 191/9951
To THE REAR ADMIRAL COMMANDING H.M. AUSTRALIAN SQUADRON.
Subject WAR DIARY.

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command for May, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



J. Brunett
CAPTAIN.

SECRET

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"
1st May, 1941.

WAR DIARY.

May, 1941.

<u>Thursday 1st May.</u>		In harbour. At Fremantle.
<u>Friday 2nd May.</u>		In harbour. Shifted berth to North wharf.
<u>Saturday 3rd May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Sunday 4th May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Monday 5th May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Tuesday 6th May.</u>	0900	Slipped and proceeded for exercises and patrol.
	1000	Carried out 6 inch Sub-calibre firings.
		Launched aircraft and recovered under way.
<u>Wednesday 7th May.</u>	Noon	Proceeded on patrol to North West.
	At sea	On patrol to North West.
<u>Thursday 8th May.</u>	At sea	On patrol, returning to Fremantle.
	0900	Carried out 4 inch full calibre firing at smoke burst.
<u>Friday 9th May.</u>	0700	Carried out torpedo firing.
	0900	Anchored in Gage Roads.
		Exercised general drill.
	P.M.	Carried out trials with the ship listed 10 degrees starboard.
	1730	Entered Fremantle harbour and secured to G shed. Fuelled.
<u>Saturday 10th May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Sunday 11th May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Monday 12th May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Tuesday 13th May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Wednesday 14th May.</u>		Captain J. Burnett, R.A.N. joined to take over command.
<u>Thursday 15th May.</u>		Captain J. Burnett, R.A.N. assumed command. Captain J.A. Collins, R.A.N. left ship.
<u>Friday 16th May.</u>		In harbour.
<u>Saturday 17th May.</u>	0900	Slipped and proceeded on patrol to North West.
<u>Sunday 18th May.</u>		At sea on patrol.
<u>Monday 19th May.</u>		At sea on patrol, returning to Fremantle.
<u>Tuesday 20th May.</u>		At sea on patrol.

Wednesday 21st May. 0100 Received notification of a suspicious sighting North of Rottnest. Increased speed to rendezvous with H.M.T. "QUEEN MARY".
 0540 Sighted "QUEEN MARY". Proceeded ahead through searched channel.
 0930 Carried out 4 inch Full calibre low angle firing at Battle Practice Target.
 1045 Carried out Range and Inclination exercise with batteries.
 1300 R.A.A.F. carried out dummy dive - bombing attacks on ship.
 1400 Entered Fremantle harbour and secured to G shed. Fuelled.

Air search for suspicious vessel carried out A.M. was negative.

Thursday 22nd May.

In harbour.

Friday 23rd May.

In harbour.

Saturday 24th May.

0645 Slipped and proceeded for rendezvous B.L.

Sunday 25th May.

At sea, proceeding as above.

Monday 26th May.

1000 Rendezvous with R.A.C.A.S. in H.M.A.S. "HOBART" and H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA". Took charge of convoy and set course for Fremantle.

Tuesday 27th May.

At sea 1500 Identified S.S. "GLENNIFFER"

Wednesday 28th May.

At sea.

Thursday 29th May.

At sea
 2130 Anchored in Gage Roads. "ZEALANDIA" entered Fremantle.

Friday 30th May.

0700 Weighed and proceeded into harbour. Secured alongside H shed. Fuelled.

Saturday 31st May.

1615 Slipped and proceeded to escort H.M.A.T. to rendezvous J.K.
 1630 H.M.A.T. "ZEALANDIA" sailed.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Royal Australian Navy.

SECRET
RESTRICTED

From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".
Date 1st May, 1941. *Reference No.* 191/9700
To THE REAR ADMIRAL COMMANDING H.M. AUSTRALIAN SQUADRON.
Subject WAR DIARY.

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command for April, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office Memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



Maclean
CAPTAIN.

SECRET
RESTRICTED

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY",
1st May, 1941.

WAR DIARY.

April, 1941.

Tuesday, 1st April. 1000 Arrived Sydney and secured No. 5 bouy. Fuelled.

Wednesday, 2nd April. In harbour.

Thursday, 3rd April. In harbour.

Friday, 4th April. In harbour.

0945 R.A.C.A.S. in "HOBART" and "AUSTRALIA" sailed. Assumed duties of S.O. Force YY.

Saturday, 5th April. 0700 Shifted berth to Sutherland Dock, Cockatoo Island.

Sunday, 6th April. In dock. Oil fuel tank cap repaired and changing two propellers.

Monday, 7th April. In dock.

Tuesday, 8th April. Noon. Undocked, Shifted berth to No. 1 bouy.

Wednesday, 9th April. 0600 Slipped and proceeded to escort H.M.T. "QUEEN MARY" to Jervis Bay.

1245 Arrived and anchored to seaward of "QUEEN MARY". Armed motor boat patrol established. H.M.A.S. "KYBRA" and "GOULBURN" maintained A/S patrol of harbour entrance.

Thursday, 10th April. 0915 Weighed and proceeded.
1000 Rendevous with H.M.S. "ACHILLES", who took over protection duty of "QUEEN MARY". Proceeded to Port Jackson.
1430 Arrived Sydney and secured to No. 5 bouy. Fuelled.

Friday, 11th April. 0800 Slipped and proceeded independently for Port Phillip. Convoy U.S.10 escorted by H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" sailed.
1440 Ship appeared to hit a submerged object which broke surface astern.
Identified the following ships:-
1409 S.S. "MACEDON"
1620 S.S. "IRON KNIGHT"
1910 M.V. "MANUNDA"
1927 S.S. "MILDURA"
2130 S.S. "TOULOUSE" (Nor.)
2140 S.S. "CARADALE"
2215 S.S. "CORIO" (Separate report has been forwarded.)
2340 S.S. "CANOPUS" (U.S.A.)

Saturday, 12th April. 0400 Passed Wilson's Promontory.
0900 Passed Port Phillip Heads.
0930 Stopped off Portsea. First Naval Member and staff embarked. Proceeded to Fremantle.
Identified the following ships:-
0245 S.S. "WILLIAM MACARTHUR"
0325 S.S. "TIME"
0340 S.S. "MALOJA"
1340 S.S. "ATLANTIC"
1400 Passed 20th M.S. Flotilla.
1450 S.S. "ERA"

Sunday, 13th April.....

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Sunday, 13th April.

At Sea.

0630 Ran into fog. Reduced speed.
1140 Weather cleared. Proceeded at 26 knots.
1600 Identified S.S. "TROJA" (Norwegian)

Monday, 14th April.

At Sea.

Identified S.S. "EIDSVOLD" (Norwegian)
Encountered heavy weather off Cape
Leeuwin. Reduced speed.

Tuesday, 15th April.

0930 Arrived Fremantle and berthed at D Shed.
Fuelled.
1530 Slipped and proceeded for Singapore.

Wednesday, 16th April.

At Sea.

Thursday, 17th April.

At Sea.

Friday, 18th April.

At Sea.

1430 Passed through Sunda Straits.
1440 Spoke Dutch Patrol Vessel "SIRIUS"
1820 Identified Norwegian Ship "PLEASANTVILLE"
2215 Passed through Gaspar Strait.

Saturday, 19th April.

0330 Identified Dutch Ship "PHIN SAPA ROEA"
1250 Exchanged colours with Merchant ships
"ANGLEY", "PACIFIC" and Greek "IRENE
EMBRICOS".
1440 Passed boom.
1530 Arrived Singapore. Berthed at No. 9
Wharf, Naval Base.
Fuelled.
1st Naval Member and Staff embarked.

Sunday, 20th April.

In Harbour.

Monday, 21st April.

In Harbour.

Tuesday, 22nd April.

1545 Slipped and proceeded for Fremantle.
1700 Passed boom.

Wednesday, 23rd April.

At Sea.

1045 Passed through Gaspar Strait.
Communicated with Ayer Lanchur Light
House.
1600 Launched aircraft and recovered under
way. Practice for new pilot.
2130 Passed through Sunda Strait. Toppers
Island Light and Fourth Point Lights
were extinguished. Spoke Dutch Patrol
Vessel "SIRIUS".

Thursday, 24th April.

At Sea.

Friday, 25th April.

At Sea.

Saturday, 26th April.

At Sea.

Sunday, 27th April.

1130 Arrived Fremantle. Secured to D Shed
and fuelled.

Monday, 28th April.

In harbour.

Tuesday, 29th April.

In harbour.

Wednesday, 30th April.

1100 Shifted berth to G Shed.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

SECRET

From The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

Date 1st April, 1941. *Reference No.* 191/9545.

To The Rear Admiral Commanding, H.M. Australian Squadron.

Subject WAR DIARY

The attached War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command, for March, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office Memorandum of 8th November, 1940.



Macinnis

CAPTAIN.

SECRET
RESTRICTED

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"
1st April, 1941.

WAR DIARY.

March, 1941.

Saturday, 1st March.

0250 Passed Port Phillip Heads.
0600 Secured alongside Nelson Pier East,
Williamstown. Completed with fuel.
0800 Arrival H.M.A.S. "HOBART".
1720 Slipped and proceeded. "HOBART"
in company.
1930 Passed Port Phillip Heads.
Set course for Fremantle.

Sunday, 2nd March.

At sea.
0030 Identified S.S. "PARRAKOOLA" (Swedish).
0100 Identified S.S. "UNGANA".
0140 Spoke S.S. "SEA WITCH" (U.S.A.).
1030 Carried out range and inclination
exercise with "HOBART".

Monday, 3rd March.

At sea.
Encountered gale, reduced speed to prevent
damage.
1230 Identified S.S. "NOWANA".

Tuesday, 4th March.

At sea.
0930 Carried out Throw Short firings with
"HOBART".
1500 Identified S.S. "MACEDON".

Wednesday, 5th March.

0600 Launched aircraft for practice flight.
0645 Arrived Fremantle and secured alongside
F shed.
1100 Flag of F.O.C.A.S. Hoisted in "HOBART".

Thursday, 6th March.

In harbour.
Carried out Harbour Drills etc.

Friday, 7th March.

1600 Slipped and proceeded, "HOBART" in
company.
1800 Carried out Sub-Calibre concentration
firings.
2000 Carried out night Sub-Calibre firing.
Proceeded to rendezvous with "AUSTRALIA"
and convoy C.F.1.

Saturday, 8th March.

At sea.
0900 Carried out Range and Inclination
exercise with "HOBART".
1815 Acted as target for "HOBART" Throw Off
firings.

Sunday, 9th March.

At sea.
1745 Carried out Range and Inclination exercise
with "HOBART".

Monday, 10th March.

At sea.
0900 Carried out Range and Inclination
exercise with "HOBART".
1015 Carried out 4" Full Calibre firing at
smoke burst target.
1730 Carried out Throw Short firings with
"HOBART" as target ship.
1800 Transferred correspondence by boat
from "HOBART".

Tuesday, 11th March.

Tuesday, 11th March.

- At sea.
- 0945 Carried out range and inclination exercise with "HOBART".
 - 1740 Sighted Convoy C.F.1, escorted by "AUSTRALIA".
 - 1845 In an attempt to transfer correspondence to S.S."NIEUW AMSTERDAM" the canister containing the correspondence broke adrift. Seaboat lowered to recover.
 - 1920 Proceeded and took up station 5 cables on port beam of Commodore in "MAURETANIA".

Wednesday, 12th March.

- At sea.
- 0615 Transferred correspondence to "NIEUW AMSTERDAM".
 - 0700 Took up day station - Convoy and escort spread 8 miles apart.
 - 1800 Took up night station.

Thursday, 13th March.

At sea.

Friday, 14th March.

At sea.

Saturday, 15th March.

- 1000 Carried out 6" Full Calibre, Reduced Charge firing with "HOBART"
- 1300 Arrived Fremantle and secured alongside B shed. Fuelled.

Sunday, 16th March.

In harbour.

Monday, 17th March.

- 0830 Slipped and proceeded, "HOBART" and "AUSTRALIA" in company. Escorted Convoy C.F.1 through South West Focal Area,

Tuesday, 18th March.

- 0630 Parted company from Convoy. Carried out day shadowing exercise.
- 1600 Proceeded, set course for Fremantle A.S. in company.
- 1830 Carried out Dusk attack exercise.
- 2000 Proceeded, set course for Melbourne A.S. in company.

Wednesday, 19th March.

- 0420 At sea. "AUSTRALIA" parted company and proceeded to Albany.
- 0910 Carried out Range and Inclination Exercise with "HOBART".
- 1420 Identified S.S."LARCHBANK".
- 1730 Acted as target for "HOBART" Throw Short firing.

Thursday, 20th March.

- At sea.
- 1730 Carried out Throw Short firings at "HOBART", exercising cruising watches.
 - 1830 Carried out searchlight exercise.

Friday, 21st March.

- At sea.
- 0900 Carried out Range and Inclination Exercise with "HOBART".

Saturday, 22nd March.

- 0900 Entered Port Phillip Heads.
- 1145 Secured alongside Nelson Pier West, Williamstown. Fuelled.

Sunday, 23rd March

SECRET

Sunday, 23rd March.

0915 Slipped and proceeded, "HOBART" in company.
1145 Passed Port Phillip Heads.
1300 "AUSTRALIA" joined company. Set course for Sydney.

Monday, 24th March.

1100 Carried out Height Finding Exercise
1300 Carried out Close Range Firings at Sleeve Target.
1500. Arrived Sydney and secured to No.5 Buoy. Fuelled.

Tuesday, 25th March.

In harbour.

Wednesday, 26th March.

In harbour.

Thursday, 27th March.

0700 Reverted to half hours notice.
0750 Slipped and proceeded towards Reference position H, to co-operate in air search for suspected enemy activity.
1330 Signal received that operation was completed. Set course for Sydney.
2015 Secured to No.5 Buoy. Fuelled.

Friday, 28th March.

0920 Slipped and proceeded as escort for Convoy V.K.9, Sydney to Wellington. Modified convoy cruising formation by day.

Saturday, 29th March.

At sea.
Modified convoy cruising formation by day

Sunday, 30th March.

At sea.
At 0930 Zone minus 11 parted company from Convoy and set course for Sydney.

Monday, 31st March.

At sea.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Royal Australian Navy.

From The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

Date 1st March, 1941. Reference No. 191/9362.

To The Rear-Admiral Commanding H.M. Australian Squadron.

Subject WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1941, - H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

SECRET
RESTRICTED

The attached War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command for month of February, 1941, is forwarded in accordance with Navy Office Secret Memorandum No.034995 of 8th November, 1940.



Meacius

CAPTAIN.

RESTRICTED

(Enclosure No. I. to H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" Letter No. 191 of 1st March, 1941.)

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1941.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Occurrence.</u>
1st Feb., 1941.	At sea, en route SEYCHELLES to FREMANTLE.
2nd Feb., 1941.	At Sea.
3rd Feb., 1941.	At Sea. Experienced strong gale. Reduced speed to prevent damage. Weather moderated by dusk. Proceeded at 18 knots.
4th Feb., 1941.	At Sea.
5th Feb., 1941.	0600 - Arrived Fremantle and secured alongside 'E' Shed, Victoria Quay. Fuelled. Embarked free freight stores. 1600 - Slipped and proceeded for Sydney.
6th Feb., 1941.	At Sea. A.B.C. Recording Unit, Photographer and War Artist were embarked at Fremantle to obtain publicity and recruiting material.
7th Feb., 1941.	At Sea.
8th Feb., 1941.	At Sea. Passed through Bass Strait. 0940 - Identified S.S. "AROONA". 1050 - Identified S.S. "COOLANA" (Very slow in making identification) 1540 - Identified S.S. "BARWON". 1755 - Attempted to identify S.S. "CITY OF CANBERRA", who did not reply. 2115 - Identified S.S. "DUNDULA". 2215 - Identified S.S. "MURADA"
9th Feb., 1941.	At Sea. 0745 - Spoke S.S. "IRON BARON" and exchanged colours. 0750 - Spoke Norwegian S.S. "HERMION" and exchanged colours. 0815 - Spoke S.S. "MACUNDA" and exchanged colours. 0830 - Passed S.S. "WEAR" and S.S. "IRON KING" - exchanged colours. 0930 - Passed S.S. "WILLIAM MACARTHUR" - exchanged colours. 1240 - Spoke S.S. "CARLISLE" - exchanged colours. Spoke S.S. "TALUNE" - exchanged colours. 1548 - Spoke S.S. "IRON MASTER" - exchanged colours. 1607 - Spoke S.S. "NGAKUTA" - exchanged colours. 2345 - Arrived SYDNEY and anchored in Watson's Bay.
10th Feb., 1941.	0925 - First Naval Member arrived onboard to welcome ship on behalf of the Naval Board. 0940 - Weighed and proceeded up harbour. 1030 - Berthed at No. 1 Circular Quay. 1035 - Rear Admiral Commanding H.M. Australian Squadron arrived onboard. 1045 - His Excellency The Governor General, accompanied by the First Naval Member, arrived onboard to welcome the ship on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia. 1115 - Representatives of the Commonwealth Government arrived onboard. Mr. W.M. Hughes, Minister for the Navy, welcomed the ship on behalf of the Government.
11th Feb., 1941.	1030 - The Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Sydney, accompanied by the State Premier arrived onboard. There followed the ceremony of unveiling of a Presentation Plaque, and presentations to Wardroom and Warrant Officers' Messes. 1145 - Officers and Ship's Company stepped off for march to Town Hall. There followed presentation of replica Plaques to the Captain and 10 representatives of the Ship's Company.

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II.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Occurrence.</u>
11th Feb., 1941.	1300 - Officers and Ship's Company entertained to luncheon at Town Hall. 1815 - Captain and Officers entertained to dinner at the Town Hall. This was followed by a Public Civil Reception for the Captain and Officers at the Town Hall. p.m. - Main body proceeded on 14 days leave.
12th Feb., 1941.	0930 - Shifted berth to Oil Wharf, Garden Island. Commenced refit and Dockyard routine.
12th Feb., 1941 to 26th Feb., 1941.	Refit and Dockyard routine. a.m. - Main body returned from leave. embarked fuel and provisions.
27th Feb., 1941.	Remainder of hands returned from leave. Dockyard refit completed. Embarked stores etc. Hoisted in aircraft.
28th Feb., 1941.	0400 - Slipped and proceeded out of harbour, for Melbourne. a.m. - Carried out after repair Full Power Trial. p.m. - Passed through Bass Strait. Following shipping was encountered:- 0745 - S.S. "ALLARA" 1220 - S.S. "MILDURA" 1320 - S.S. "TOMISLAV" (Jugo - Slav) All challenged and replied correctly. Exchanged colours.

ACK. BY A.S.
10 FEB 1941
INIT. *J*

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/2 01/179
CONFIDENTIAL

Royal Australian Navy.

From The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

Date 1st February, 1941. Reference No. 191/9124

To The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.
(Copy to: The Vice Admiral, Light Forces, Mediterranean.)

Subject WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF JANUARY, 1941.

RESTRICTED

The following War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command, for the period 1st January to 31st January, 1941, is submitted for the information of the Naval Board:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Wednesday, 1st January.</u>	In Dock, at Malta.
<u>Thursday, 2nd January.</u>	In Dock.
<u>Friday, 3rd January.</u>	1600 - Dock flooded to 18'
<u>Saturday, 4th January.</u>	In Dock.
<u>Sunday, 5th January.</u>	1030 - Undocked and secured alongside Hamilton Wharf. Fuelled.
<u>Monday, 6th January.</u>	Embarked ammunition.
<u>Tuesday, 7th January.</u>	Embarked ammunition. His Excellency the Governor of Malta called. 1510 - 1530 - Air Raid Warning in force.
<u>Wednesday, 8th January.</u>	Noon - Ship ready for sea. 1600 - Slipped and proceeded, "STUART" in company, to rendezvous with Commander-in-Chief. Set course to the Eastward after clearing searched channel. Following signal passed to Vice Admiral, Malta, repeated Admiral Superintendent, Malta:- "On completion of refit should like to express appreciation for all that has been done for the ship whilst at Malta.
<u>Thursday, 9th January.</u>	1100 - Rendezvous with Commander-in-Chief in Central Mediterranean. Fleet carrying out operation M.C.4., covering Malta and Athens convoys. 1300 - Parted company from Fleet, taking "STUART" under orders to sweep along Libyan Coast en route to Alexandria. "SYDNEY" was accorded a proud "send off", many signals being received from Commander-in-Chief, Vice Admiral Light Forces, and other units of the Fleet. During Night - Swept along Libyan Coast without encountering any sign of enemy surface or air forces. Continued on course for Alexandria. Intercepted various signals indicating considerable activity in vicinity of Malta and Fleet operating in Central Mediterranean.
<u>Friday, 10th January.</u>	2100 - Arrived Alexandria and secured in No.3 berth. Fuelled.
<u>Saturday, 11th January.</u>	a.m. Embarked draft, stores and provisions and gear landed on deposit. Disembarked draft for United Kingdom, Breda Guns, and ammunition etc. 1600 - Slipped and proceeded for Port Said.

Handwritten notes:
11/1 ✓
13/1 ✓
D.V.I. C.C.O.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Sunday, 12th January</u>	0240 - Arrived Port Said and picked up Pilot. 0340 - Entered Suez Canal. 0815 - Changed Pilots at Ismailia. 1015 - Sand storm and strong winds caused ship to anchor off South Light, Bitter Lake. Visibility $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. 1600 - Weather moderated; Weighed and proceeded. 1900 - Arrived Suez Bay and secured alongside Tanker, "BRITISH CORPORAL". Fuelled. 2100 - Slipped and proceeded to catch up convoy S.W. 4B.
<u>Monday, 13th January.</u>	0230 - Passed Straits of Jubal. Noon - As convoy had not been located, turned back to North-Westward for three hours. 1500 - Resumed South-Easterly course. 1545 - Launched aircraft to carry out search for convoy. 1700 - Recovered aircraft. Set course to rendezvous with remainder of escort.
<u>Tuesday, 14th January.</u>	0430 - Sighted "CARLISLE". Took station 8' on port beam. 0640 - Sighted convoy S.W.4B. Closed and took station ahead. Escort included "KANDAHAR" and "KIMBERLEY". 1800 - "SYDNEY" and "EMPRESS OF CANADA" detached to proceed ahead at best speed to Aden.
<u>Wednesday, 15th January.</u>	0800 - Launched aircraft to proceed to Aden ahead of ship. 1400 - Passed Perim and Straits of Bar-el-Mander. Sighted convoy B.S.12 $\frac{3}{4}$, escorted by "CALEDON", "HINDUSTAN" and "FLAMINGO". 2200 - Arrived Aden and secured in No.4 berth. Fuelled.
<u>Thursday, 16th January.</u>	0800 - Slipped and proceeded with "EMPRESS OF CANADA". 1800 - Rendezvous with convoy. Relieved "CARLISLE" and "KANDAHAR". Proceeded as Ocean Escort. 1100 - "STRATHAIRD" and "ORCHADES" detached to Bombay, "DUNEDIN STAR" to Colombo.
<u>Friday, 17th January.</u>	1400 - Passed between Cape Guardafui and Socotra, keeping 40 miles clear of the former. 1900 - Changed from two watch defence stations to three watch cruising stations.
<u>Saturday, 18th January.</u>	0730 - Closed and examined Swedish Tanker "SAINT GOBAIN", Liverpool to Aberdair in ballast.
<u>Sunday, 19th January.</u>	Noon - "STRATHALLAN" detached to proceed to Kilindini. 1800 - "ANDES" detached to proceed to Kilindini.
<u>Monday, 20th January.</u>	1000 - Rendezvous with "CERES". Turned over Convoy S.W.4B. Set course to North-West to cover "STRATHALLAN" and "ANDES". 1600 - Set course to arrive Mogadiscio p.m. Tuesday in order to reconnoitre that port.
<u>Tuesday, 21st January.</u>	Approached Mogadiscio and reconnoitred the roadstead. No shipping sighted. 1820 - Withdrew to South-East and set course for Seychelles.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Wednesday, 22nd January.</u>	At Sea.
<u>Thursday, 23rd January.</u>	At Sea. 1140 - Closed and identified British Ship "CLAN CAMERON", Colombo to Durban.
<u>Friday, 24th January.</u>	1000 - Arrived Port Victoria, Seychelles. Fuelled from M.F.A. "CLYDEFIELD". 1430 - Sailed on patrol and in search of suspected Raider, as a result of a distress message from British Ship "MANDASOR" (GCXB) 1840 - Obtained D/F bearing of GCXB, placing Raider to Eastwards. An approximate fix was obtained by a further D/F bearing from Mauritius. Proceeded to search accordingly.
<u>Saturday, 25th January.</u>	0600 - Position approx. 300' S.E. of Mahe. Launched aircraft to search to South East. 0815 - Recovered aircraft. Proceeded on a curve of search to South West. 1200 - Turned East to search to Eastwards of Saya De Malha Bank. 1600 - Launched aircraft to search to Eastward. 1800 - Recovered aircraft. Proceeded towards area of search ordered by Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.
<u>Sunday, 26th January.</u>	At Sea. 0530 - Reached Datum Point and searched area till dusk. Aircraft operated to assist in this search. Dusk - Left area and set course for Seychelles. Nothing was sighted during the whole operation.
<u>Monday, 27th January.</u>	0900 - Arrived Port Victoria, Seychelles. Fuelled from "CLYDEFIELD" 1330 - Slipped from oiler and proceeded for Fremantle. Set course to pass to Southward of Saya de Malha Bank.
<u>Tuesday, 28th January.</u>	At Sea.
<u>Wednesday, 29th January.</u>	At Sea.
<u>Thursday, 30th January.</u>	At Sea.
<u>Friday, 31st January.</u>	At Sea.

J. J. J. J.

CAPTAIN.

RECEIVED
- 1 FEB A.M.
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

1st January, 1941.

191/9054

The Vice Admiral, Light Forces, Mediterranean.
(Copy to:- The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne)
WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1940.

SECRET

The following War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command, for period 1st December to 31st December, 1940, is submitted for the information of the Admiralty:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Sunday, 1st December.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Monday, 2nd December.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Tuesday, 3rd December.</u>	In harbour. A.A. Guardship.
<u>Wednesday, 4th December.</u>	In harbour. A.A. Guardship. 1300 - 1410. Preliminary Air Raid Warning in force.
<u>Thursday, 5th December.</u>	0730 - Slipped and proceeded for exercises, 7th C.S. in company. a.m - Carried out 4" full calibre firings at sleeve target. p.m - Carried out 6" sub calibre firings at Battle Practice Target, exercising Plank Marking, Breakdowns and Concentration Procedure. 1830 - Entered harbour and secured in No.2 berth. Fuelled.
<u>Friday, 6th December, 1940.</u>	1000 - Slipped and proceeded, 7th C.S. in company. Set course for KASO STRAIT. 7th C.S. covering Aegean Convoys, North Bound.
<u>Saturday, 7th December.</u>	0500 - Passed through KASO STRAIT. 1200 - Arrived SUDA BAY and anchored C.4 berth. 1400 - Weighed and proceeded on Patrol to East of KITHERA.
<u>SUNDAY, 8th December.</u>	1100 - Arrived PIRAEUS and secured alongside Coal wharf. Assumed 3rd Degree of Readiness by day and 4th by night. Usual leave granted to ship's company.
<u>Monday, 9th December.</u>	At PIRAEUS. 1000 - V.A.L.F. in "ORION" sailed for Alexandria.
<u>Tuesday, 10th December.</u>	1600 - Slipped and proceeded, "AJAX" in company. Patrolled South West Aegean.
<u>Wednesday, 11th December.</u>	At sea, on patrol in S.W. Aegean, covering movement of H.M.S. "FIONA" through KITHERA Channel. Experienced very heavy weather. 2200 - Passed through Anti Kithera Channel.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Thursday, 12th December.</u>	0200 - Turned and set course for SUDA BAY. 1300 - Arrived SUDA BAY and anchored in D3 berth. Weather too bad for oiler to secure alongside. 1700 - Weighed and proceeded, "AJAX" in company. Patrolled to Northward.
<u>Friday, 13th December.</u>	0930 - Arrived PIRAEUS and secured alongside wharf in Inner Harbour.
<u>Saturday, 14th December.</u>	1600 - Slipped and proceeded, "AJAX" in company. Patrolled towards CRETE.
<u>Sunday, 15th December.</u>	0645 - Parted company from "AJAX". 0900 - Arrived SUDA BAY, anchored in D3 berth. Fuelled. 1300 - Weighed and proceeded to cover convoy A.N.10. Patrolled towards KITHERA. 1335 - Sighted Convoy A.N.10 escorted by "GALLANT", "SALVIA" and "HYACINTH" 1715 - Joined company with "AJAX" and continued the patrol to the Northwards.
<u>Monday, 16th December.</u>	0630 - Passed Convoy A.N.10 escorted by Greek Destroyers. 0900 - Arrived PIRAEUS and anchored in SALAMIS STRAIT. 1030 - V.A.L.F. in "ORION" arrived. Collected mail and correspondence. 1200 - Weighed and proceeded, "AJAX" in company - set course for SUDA BAY. 1800 - Arrived SUDA BAY. Anchored in D3 berth. Fuelled.
<u>Tuesday, 17th December.</u>	0300 - Weighed and proceeded, "in company with "AJAX", to rendezvous with the Mediterranean Fleet carrying out Operations M.C.2 and M.C.3. 0700 - Passed through Anti Kithera Channel 1500 - Sighted C.S.3 in "GLOUCESTER" and "YORK" 1600 - Rendezvous with V.A.L.F. in "ORION", west of CRETE. Cruisers carried out a sweep to the North West during the night.
<u>Wednesday, 18th December.</u>	<u>OPERATION MC.2</u> Object - to run Convoys to and from MALTA and ATHENS and to cover movements of H.M. Ships to MALTA. <u>OPERATION MC.3</u> Object - the destruction of Italian Convoys and shipping in the Southern Adriatic, between Italy and Albania. 0715 - Sighted H.M.S. "GRIFFIN" 0820 - Sighted Battlefleet (1st Division) Transferred correspondence by heaving line from V.A.L.F. to 7th C.S.. 1000 - 7th C.S. took station 5 miles on port beam of Commander-in-Chief. Set course to the Northward. 1200 - Experienced very heavy heavy squalls, wind force 8, with waterspouts. Striking force for M.C.3 - "ORION", "AJAX", "SYDNEY", "JERVIS", "JUNO" and "JANUS"- parted company to proceed ahead of bombarding force consisting of "WARSPITE" & "VALIANT" and Destroyers.

..... and destroyers.

Dec. 18th (Continued)

Aircraft carrier Force consisted of "ILLUSTRIOUS", 3rd C.S. and Destroyers but weather prevented aircraft from operating.

2200 - Striking Force passed through STRAITS OF OTRANTO.

Thursday, 19th December.

0100 - Observed flashes in direction of VALONA - caused by bombardment by battleships.

0130 - Striking force arrived beyond line BRINDISI - DURAZZO and turned to southward to withdraw.

0500 - Passed through STRAITS OF OTRANTO, having encountered no enemy forces or shipping. Successful bombardment was also carried out without incident.

0600 - Sighted Battlefleet and took station 5' on starboard beam to continue operation MC.2.

1115 - 3rd C.S. joined company.

1200 - Cruisers parted company and proceeded to South West to cover Convoys M.W.

2340 - Sighted illuminated Hospital ship steering towards MESSINA.

Friday, 20th December.

0300 - Sighted Hospital ship steering towards BENGHASI.

0905 - Opened fire on friendly aircraft, slow in identification.

1400 - "AJAX" opened fire on unidentified aircraft.

Cruisers operation East of MALTA, covering eastbound convoy.

Saturday, 21st December.

0645 - "SYDNEY" parted company from V.A.L.F. to proceed to SUDA BAY for fuel independently, subsequently proceeding to MALTA for repairs after embarking aircraft, personnel and stores.

1300 - Opened fire on friendly aircraft, at long range.

2000 - Passed through ANTI KITHERA Channel

2330 - Arrived SUDA BAY and secured alongside R.F.A. "OLNA" - Fuelled. Embarked Walrus A/c, Personnel and Stores.

Sunday, 22nd December.

0600 - Slipped and proceeded to MALTA.

0900 - Passed through ANTI KITHERA Channel

Monday, 23rd December.

1100 - Arrived MALTA - entered GRAND HARBOUR and secured alongside, Hamilton Wharf.

p.m. Commenced disembarking ammunition and fuel.

Tuesday, 24th December.

Noon - In harbour. Refit and repairs commenced. First watch proceeded on 48 hours leave.

1600 - Shifted berth to No.4 Dock. Secured afloat.

Wednesday, 25th December.

Christmas Day.

Thursday, 26th December.

Boxing Day.
Dock pumped out. Refit continued
after Dockyard holiday.

Friday, 27th December.

0700 - First Watch returned from 48
hours leave.
Noon - 2nd Watch proceeded on 48 hours
leave.

Saturday, 28th December.

In Dock.

Sunday, 29th December.

In Dock
1030 - 1130 Air Raid Warning in force

Monday, 30th December.

In Dock
1200 - 1220 Air Raid Warning in force.

Tuesday, 31st December.

In Dock.

(Sgd.) J.A. Collins

CAPTAIN.

RECEIVED
20 DEC P.M.
NAVY DEPT

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
CONFIDENTIAL

Handwritten signature and date
19/11

THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".
1st December, 1940. 191/8936.

THE VICE ADMIRAL, LIGHT FORCES, MEDITERRANEAN.
The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.
WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1940.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

The following War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command for the period 1st November to 30th November, 1940, is forwarded for the information of the Admiralty:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Friday, 1st November.</u>	At sea, Mediterranean Fleet in company, patrolling off the south west coast of Greece. 1600. Set course for Alexandria. Group I parted company. Joined company with "ORION" and Group II.
<u>Saturday, 2nd November.</u>	At sea, proceeding to Alexandria. 1330. Torpedo bombing attack carried out on Fleet by four aircraft. Engaged with 4"H.A. and 6" barrage. Aircraft dropped torpedoes at 5,000 yards range and made good their escape. 1800. "ORION" and "SYDNEY" detached to proceed to Alexandria independently.
<u>Sunday, 3rd November.</u>	0010. Arrived Alexandria and secured No. 2 berth. Fuelled.
<u>Monday, 4th November.</u>	1015. Slipped and proceeded. "AJAX" in company. Set course for Port Said. 2100. Arrived Port Said and secured in E.4. berth. Fuelled.
<u>Tuesday, 5th November.</u>	A.M. Embarked army stores, Guns and ammunition for transport to SUDA Bay. 1045. Shifted berth to No.6.R. Embarked 32 officers and 450 other ranks of various army units. 1600. Slipped and proceeded. "AJAX" in company. Set course for KASO STRAIT.
<u>Wednesday, 6th November.</u>	0800. Passed through KASO Strait. 1340. Launched aircraft for A/S patrol in entrance to SUDA Bay. 1600. Arrived SUDA and secured alongside Jetty. Disembarked all Army personnel and Stores. 1800. Shifted berth to anchor in D.3. Disembarked Walrus Aircraft, personnel and Stores, to act as a reconnaissance unit under S.B.N.O., Suda Bay.
<u>Thursday, 7th November.</u>	1000. Weighed and proceeded alongside R.F.A. "OLNA". Fuelled. Arrivals:- "PROTECTOR", "CHALKA", "KIORA", "VAMPIRE", "WATERHEN", "FAREHAM", "PLUMLEAF", "OLNA", "BRISBANE STAR" with army units, (stores.....)

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OCCURRENCE.

DATE.

Thursday, 7th November.
(continued)

stores, boom defences, etc., for establishment of advanced base.
1200. Slipped and proceeded to rendezvous with the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and Force 'A'. Carrying out operation M.B. Eight.

Object. The establishment of an advanced base at SUDA Bay, the reinforcing of the Mediterranean Fleet, and of the Military Garrison at Malta. The covering of convoys to and from Malta and Greece, the latter to assist in Greece's War effort.

1500. Passed through ANTI-KITHERA Channel.

1800. Joined company with C in C and Battlefleet.

2000. Took station on night outer screen.

Friday, 8th November.

0900. Closed Battlefleet and took station on 2nd Division.

NOON. Sighted Malta convoy M.W.3.

1700. 3 formations of enemy aircraft sighted. No attacks carried out.

2000. Took station on night outer screen.

Saturday, 9th November.

1000. Closed Battlefleet and took station on 2nd Division.

NOON. Cruisers took station on the screen to northward of Battlefleet.

1515. Sighted Floating Mine.

1640. Sighted aircraft down bearing 140°, parachute observed descending. This proved to be an enemy aircraft shot down by our fighters.

Altered course during the night as requisite to maintain station on the screen and to close Battlefleet to southward of Malta in the forenoon.

Sunday, 10th November.

0700. Sighted Malta to northeastward, 25 miles distant.

0830. Cruisers rejoined Battlefleet.

0940. Sighted Force 'F' (Mediterranean Fleet reinforcements) "BARHAM", "BERWICK", "GLASGOW" and destroyers. Fleet manoeuvred to south and west of Malta during the day, waiting for Force 'F' and destroyers to fuel and rejoin.

1310. Formation of 5 enemy aircraft bombed Fleet. Engaged with 4". A few bombs dropped, but no hits or casualties.

1725. Sighted Floating mine.

1800. Cruisers parted company from Battlefleet to carry out diverging search in pairs to northeastward.

2200. "AJAX" and "SYDNEY" parted company from 3rd Cruiser Squadron.

Monday, 11th November.

0725. Sighted aircraft in sea. "GLOUCESTER" picked up survivors.

0900. Rejoined Battlefleet, course set to northeast.

1310. 7th Cruiser Squadron, "NUBIAN" and "MOHAWK" joined V.A.L.F. in "ORION" and proceeded to carry out night raid in Straits of OTRANTO.

2300. Passed through Straits of OTRANTO.

Tuesday, 12th November.

0100. Turned at north end of sweep and set course to southward.

(Night alarm.....)

SECRETED

DATE.

OCCURRENCE.

Tuesday, 12th November.
(continued)

Two torpedoes were fired at
the enemy.

0124. Night alarm bearing 100°. Sighted
convoy of one or two darkened escort and
four merchant vessels coming out of
VALONA BAY.
0128-0150. Convoy engaged. All ships hit
and damaged, with fires started. Two
~~torpedoes were fired at the enemy.~~ One
ship definitely seen to sink. A few salvos,
presumably fired by the escorting
destroyers fell near "SYDNEY" and one
torpedo track passed close under stern.
0200. Proceeded.
0330. Passed through Straits of Otranto.
1115. Joined company with C in C and
Battlefleet.
3 enemy aircraft shot down during the
forenoon, one of which was a Cant
Reconnaissance plane. Three Fulmers
attacked this plane in full view of the
Fleet and the attack resulted in the enemy
bursting into flames at a height of about
8,000 feet to fall into the sea close to
the port wing of the A/S screen.
1800. Night operation cancelled. (second
attack on Taranto by Fleet Air Arm. Set
course for Alexandria. Took station with
"ORION" on screen astern of 1st Division.
Note. During the night of the raid on
Straits of Otranto, aircraft from the
Fleet Air Arm carried out an attack on the
Italian Fleet in Taranto. Subsequent
reconnaissance reports stated:-
'One Battleship was under water, two
other Battleships were definitely in
trouble'
This very successful attack has since been
fully reported in the Press.

Wednesday, 13th November.

0830. Rejoined Battlefleet and took
station inside screen.

Thursday, 14th November.

0600. Arrived Alexandria. Secured in No.2
berth. Fuelled and ammunitioned.
Air Raid 'imminent' warnings in force
between the following times:-
1900-1930, 2215-2250, 2300-2305.

Friday, 15th November.

0001-0030, 0115-0430. Air Raid 'imminent'
warnings in force.
Ship and shore batteries engaged enemy
aircraft, but no bombs dropped in harbour
area.
Noon. Shifted berth to alongside
MAHMOUDIEH QUAY, No.40.
P.M. Embarked two motor trucks and stores;
9 officers and 274 other ranks of Army
units for passage to PIRAEUS.
1600. Slipped and proceeded, "GLASGOW" in
company, to take part in operation of
carrying troops and stores to Greece.

Saturday, 16th November.

0400. Passed through KASO STRAITS. "ORION"
and "AJAX" in vicinity.
0530. Sighted convoy, escorted by
"COVENTRY" and destroyers.
0615. Sighted C.S.3. in "GLOUCESTER" with
"BERWICK" and "YORK" and joined.
1500. Entered PIRAEUS Harbour with

(C.S.3 and.....)

SECRET
RESTRICTED

DATE.
Saturday, 16th November.
(continued)

OCCURRENCE.
with 3rd Cruiser Squadron and secured alongside in Inner Basin. Landed Army personnel and stores.
1800. Shifted berth to alongside Coaling Wharf.
C.S.3. and 3rd Cruiser Squadron sailed.
2100. Convoy of 4 ships arrived and entered harbour. "ORION" and "AJAX" anchored in SALAMIS BAY.

The arrival of British forces in Greece appears to be giving the utmost satisfaction to all sections of the Greek community, ships and men being loudly cheered and clapped as they arrive and disembark.

Sunday, 17th November.

1430. Slipped and proceeded out of harbour. Sailed in company with 7th Cruiser Squadron to cover slow convoy A.H.7. and Greek convoy in southern Aegean.
Patrolled on a line 340°-160° in southwestern Aegean during the night.

Monday, 18th November.

0700. "ORION" with V.A.L.F. parted company, proceeding to SUDA Bay.
0900. Sighted Greek convoy escorted by "COVENTRY" and 8 Greek destroyers. Two Greek ANSONS also acting as escort.
1000. Carried out Range and Inclination exercise with "AJAX".
1600. Rendezvous with V.A.L.F. off SUDA Bay. Patrolled on a line 325°-145° in southwestern Aegean during the night.

Tuesday, 19th November.

0700. Turned at north end of patrol line off BELOPULA. Set course towards KASO Strait.
A.M. Carried out Range and Inclination exercise, Dummy Torpedo attack and close Range Firing at balloons.
2000. Passed through KASO Strait. Set course for Alexandria.

Wednesday, 20th November.

1030. Arrived Alexandria and secured No.2 Berth. Fuelled.

Thursday, 21st November.

In harbour.

Friday, 22nd November.

In harbour.

Saturday, 23rd November.

0600. Slipped and proceeded, 7th Cruiser Squadron in company.
0730. Joined company with R.A.1. in "MALAYA", "RAMILLIES", "EAGLE" and destroyers, forming Force 'C' in operation M.B. nine. Set course for KASO Strait.
Object of M.B. nine. To pass various units through the Mediterranean - "RAMILLIES" and "BERWICK" to join Force 'H', "MANCHESTER" and "SOUTHAMPTON" to Alexandria, corvettes to reinforce Med. Fleet; Army reinforcements and stores to Malta and Alexandria; also covering convoy to and from Malta and Greece; and offensive actions as ordered.
1720. "RAMILLIES" engaged U Boat.
1900. Parted company to stand by "HASTY" with jammed rudder. Ship not located.

(Sunday.....)

SECRET
RESTRICTED

DATE.

OCCURRENCE.

Sunday, 24th November.

0200. Followed astern of Force 'C' and passed through KASO Strait.
0930. Entered SUDA Bay and anchored in C.4 berth. Destroyers fuelled.
1215. Unobserved high bombing attack on anchorage. 3 bombs dropped.
1245. Force 'C' weighed and proceeded. "BERWICK" ^{JOINED} company
1700. Passed through Anti-Kithera Channel. Set course to westward covering convoy M.W.4. Took up night station on quarter of Battleships.

Monday, 25th November.

0700. Took up day station inside screen.
0950. Sighted convoy M.W.4., escorted by "COVENTRY", "CALCUTTA" and destroyers.
1300. "MALAYA" and "RAMILLIES" joined escort. 7th Cruiser Squadron, "EAGLE" and "BERWICK" with 6 destroyers formed Force 1 and proceeded as necessary to carry out operation TRIPE - air attack on TRIPOLI.
1800. Took up night station - 7th Cruiser Squadron covering "EAGLE" from astern. Set course towards Tripoli.

Tuesday, 26th November.

0500. "EAGLE" flew off Air Striking Force for attack on TRIPOLI. Set course towards MALTA.
0700. Air Striking Force returned.
1000. Sighted Malta.
1400. Rendezvoused with Force 'D', "MALAYA", "RAMILLIES", "NEWCASTLE", "COVENTRY" and destroyers. Set course to the westward.
1800. Force 'D' parted company for passage of Narrows and to join Force 'H'. Force 'C' set course to eastward to cover convoy M.E.4. leaving Malta. Took up night station

Wednesday, 27th November.

0800. V.A.L.F. in "ORION", "SYDNEY" and "DIAMOND" parted company from Force 'C' and proceeded towards Anti-Kithera Channel to cover convoy A.S.7. from Greece.
Sighted convoy M.E.4. escorted by "CALCUTTA" and destroyers.
NOON. Information received of encounter with enemy forces by Forces 'H' and 'D', south of Sardinia.

Thursday, 28th November.

0400. Passed through Anti-Kithera Channel.
0600. "ORION" parted company to proceed to SUDA Bay.
0830. Sighted convoy A.S.7. escorted by "WATERHEN". "DIAMOND" detached to join escort.
1030. Rejoined "ORION". Continued patrol in southwestern Aegean covering convoy.
1445. Opened fire on friendly aircraft (Bombay), who was slow in identification.
2200. Passed through KASO Strait. Set course for Alexandria.

Friday, 29th November.

A.M. Carried out Range and Inclination Exercise, and 4" firing at smokeshell.
1430. Arrived Alexandria and secured in No. 2 berth. Fuelled. Guardship.
Assumed duty of A.M. Guardship.

(Saturday.....)

RESTRICTED

DATE.

OCCURRENCE

Saturday, 30th November.

In harbour.

(Sgd.) J.A. Collins

CAPTAIN.

Navy Office
Department of the Navy,
MELBOURNE S.C.1

SECRET

RESTRICTED

12th. February 1941

06701 - 06711

LETTERS OF PROCEEDINGS

I am directed by the Naval Board to forward herewith, for information, the following letters of Proceedings and War Diary.

War Diary

H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA

SEPTEMBER 1940

Letters of Proceedings

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY

NOVEMBER 1940

≠ H.M.A.S. STUART

20th. September to 31st. October
1940

≠ H.M.A.S. VENDETTA

OCTOBER 1940

≠ H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA

25th. September to 17th. November
1940

H.M.A.S. YARRA

OCTOBER 1940

× H.M.A.S. SYDNEY

OCTOBER 1940

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY

Narrative Attack on Enemy Convoy

≠ Not to R.A.C.A.S.

(Sgd.)

Thos. J. Hawkins

for

Secretary.

To:-

R.A.C.A.S.

C.C.S.

C.S.T.

Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE

" " CANBERRA

" " MANOORA

" " MORESBY

" " WARREGO

" " SWAN

" " ORORA

" " DOOMBA



D.N.I.C.O.

RECEIVED
27 NOV P.M.
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

2026 7 215

Royal Australian Navy.

From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

Date 1st November, 1940. Reference No. 191/8698.

To THE SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE.

Subject LETTER OF PROCEEDING FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1940.

*Post to Sydney from
20/11*

RESTRICTED
SECRET

War Diary!

The attached War Diary describing the employment of H.M.A. Ship under my command during the month of October, 1940, is submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

*Sec. N. B. 9/11
2nd N.M. 10/11*

2. The ship being off the entrance to the Dardanelles on the morning of 27th October, 1940, aroused great interest in the Ship's Company. Although the ship was not close in shore, Anzac Cove and the War Memorial were clearly visible.

*3rd N.M. 11/11
D.O.P. 12/11/40
D.O.D. 12/11/40*

3. The health and conduct of the Ship's Company remains satisfactory.

*ops T 11/11
ops N 11/11
DIDE(N) 11/11*

Mearns

CAPTAIN.

*for D.O.P. M 13/11/40
H. of P. 3 13/11/40
N4*

N.A. 2 4 JAN 1941

*28/11
H acts B.M. 11
in sum*

N4

RECEIVED
27 NOV P.M.
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
SECRET

Adm. H. by [unclear] from [unclear] 27/11

THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

1st November, 1940.

191/8697.

THE VICE ADMIRAL, LIGHT FORCES, MEDITERRANEAN.

Copy: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1940.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

The following War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command for the period 1st October to 31st October, 1940, is forwarded for the information of the Admiralty:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Tuesday, 1st October.</u>	At sea, carrying out operation M.B. five. 0900. Closed Battlefleet and resumed station inside A/S screen. Set course to eastward. 1600. "CALCUTTA" and "VOYAGER" joined. 2000. "ORION" and "SYDNEY" detached and proceeded independently. 2200. Passed through Anti-Kithera channel. <u>NOTE.</u> H.M.S. "AJAX" joined 7th Cruiser Squadron.
<u>Wednesday, 2nd October.</u>	0400. Course and speed as requisite to investigate a darkened M.V. Ship identified as friendly - British S.S. 'POLERNO'. 0530. Passed through Doro Channel. 0700. Course and speed as requisite to investigate a schooner. 0930. One enemy shadowing aircraft sighted by "ORION". (doubtful) A.M. and P.M. Carried out a sweep past Phara towards Tenedos, and turned southwards. 2000. Position - Latitude of Doro Channel. Set course for Stampalia. 2300. Assumed 1st Degree of Readiness. 2345. Turned to the westward and carried out a night area bombardment of Stampalia. Target - Port MALTESANA. 2352.08. Opened fire. 2353.38. Ceased fire. Withdrew at high speed.
<u>Thursday, 3rd October.</u>	0400. Passed through KASSO STRAIT. Set course for Alexandria. 1900. Moored in B.3 berth. Fuelled.
<u>Friday, 4th October.</u>	In harbour. Completed with ammunition. Measurements of 'wiping' taken.
<u>Saturday, 5th October.</u>	In harbour. Fitted Degaussing 'S' Coil.
<u>Sunday, 6th October.</u>	0600. Shifted berth to No. 2 and 2a buoys.
	(Monday, 7th October.....)

Oct 28/40

WAX

Handwritten initials and marks

acms B.307

6/12 1/12

DATE.

RESTRICTED

OCCURRENCE.

Monday, 7th October, 1940.

In harbour.

Tuesday, 8th October.

0930. Slipped and proceeded for exercises and operation M.B. six.
1330. Carried out 6" Full Calibre Pair Ship Concentration firing with "ORION".
1430. 7th Cruiser Squadron in company. Practises completed.
1800. Took station on Battlefleet. Set course to westward.

Wednesday, 9th October.

At sea for operation M.B. six. Mediterranean Fleet advancing into Central Mediterranean and covering convoys to and from Malta.
0800. Resumed station with Battlefleet.
1800. "VENDETTA" carried out Depth Charge attack.
1800. "ORION" and "SYDNEY" took station 10 miles 360° from Battlefleet.

Thursday, 10th October.

0830. Resumed station with Battlefleet, proceeding towards Malta.
1815. Took station on the screen 10 miles 335° from Battlefleet.

Friday, 11th October.

0800. Resumed station with Battlefleet. Mediterranean Fleet manoeuvring as requisite south of Malta.
1700. "SYDNEY" remains near position 180° Filfla Island, 8 miles.
2100. Joined "RAMILLIES" and proceeded as requisite to rejoin Battlefleet.

Saturday, 12th October.

0600. Detached and proceeded ahead of "RAMILLIES".
0630. Resumed station with Battlefleet.
0715. "ORION" and "SYDNEY" took station 340° 10 miles from Battlefleet.
0810. Action Stations. Increased to full speed and slipped paravanes. Two enemy destroyers sighted, one damaged.
0839. 3rd Cruiser Squadron opened fire at retiring enemy destroyer.
0900. Proceeded to rejoin Battlefleet.
0923. "YORK" sunk disabled Italian destroyer.
1030. Resumed station with Battlefleet.
1230. Formations of enemy aircraft bombed Battlefleet. Engaged with 4" H.A.
1315. Joined 3rd Cruiser Squadron and proceeded towards convoy on receipt of Enemy Report of three "FIUME" class cruisers in vicinity.
1350. Engaged enemy aircraft.
1510. 3rd Cruiser Squadron and 7th Cruiser Squadron less "AJAX" spread to locate convoy in bad visibility.
1600. Sighted convoy and remained in company.
1800. Proceeded to take station 10 miles from convoy for the night.

Sunday, 13th October.

0630. Took station astern of convoy.
0720. Proceeded to rejoin Battlefleet, 3rd Cruiser Squadron and "ORION" in company.
NOON. Formed Group I with "YORK" and "ORION". Took up Cruising Order No.9, and kept touch with convoy while proceeding at 17 knots.
1800. "YORK" rejoined Battlefleet. "ORION" and "SYDNEY" took station 10 miles astern of convoy.

(MONDAY, 14th October.....

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<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Monday, 14th October.</u>	0300. Proceeded ahead of convoy to rendez-vous with Battlefleet. 0900. Resumed station with Battlefleet. Manoeuvred to southward of Eastern Crete during day. 1430. Formation of enemy aircraft bombed Battlefleet. Engaged with 4" H.A. 1800. Set course for Alexandria. Formed Cruiser Screen astern of Fleet. 1855. "LIVERPOOL" struck by torpedo.
<u>Tuesday, 15th October.</u>	1400. Arrived Alexandria and secured in No. 2 berth. Fuelled and ammunitioned.
<u>Wednesday, 16th October.</u>	In harbour. 1930-2100. Air Raid on Alexandria. 2230-2330. Air Raid on Alexandria.
<u>Thursday, 17th October.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Friday, 18th October.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Saturday, 19th October.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Sunday, 20th October.</u>	In harbour. 0800. Assumed duty of Emergency Cruiser and A.A. Guardship.
<u>Monday, 21st October.</u>	In harbour. 0210-0410. Air Raid Warning(imminent) 0800. Continued duty of Emergency Cruiser and A.A. Guardship. 2250-2310. Preliminary Air Raid Warning.
<u>Tuesday, 22nd October.</u>	In harbour. 0340-0545. Air Raid in progress. Opened fire with blind barrage. A.M. Completed with oil fuel.
<u>Wednesday, 23rd October.</u>	In harbour. 1225-1240. Preliminary Air Raid Warning.
<u>Thursday, 24th October.</u>	In harbour. 0250-0430. Air Raid in progress. Opened fire with blind barrage. 2130. Lieutenant Commander OPIE, U.S.N. joined ship.
<u>Friday, 25th October.</u>	0435-0505. Air Raid Warning(imminent). 0600. Slipped and proceeded, "ORION", "JERVIS" and "JUNO" in company, for operation M.A.Q.2. Set course for KASO STRAIT. 1645. sighted convoy A.N.5. with "CALCUTTA", "HERO" and "HASTY". 2300. Passed through KASO Strait, set course to westward.
<u>Saturday, 26th October.</u>	0700. Set course to pass through ZEA Channel and to exercise contraband control in Northern Aegean. 1050. Sighted enemy Reconnaissance aircraft. 1330. Destroyers investigated Greek M.V.'s 'KYRA PANADIA' and 'AIS GIORGIS'. 1700. Passed through DORO Channel. 1800. "ORION" and "JUNO" parted company. Commenced night patrol between MITYLENI and KHIOS, "JERVIS" in company.

(Sunday, 27th October.....

DATE.

RESTRICTED

OCURRENCE.

Sunday, 27th October.

0600. Rendez-vous with "ORION" and "JUNO".
Set course towards TENEDOS and the
Bardanelles.
0700. Investigated Greek tanker "THEO DORA"
0815. "JUNO" investigated sailing caïque.
1100. Off entrance to Bardanelles. Turned
and set course to southwestward.
1600. Launched aircraft to locate convoy.
1640. Sighted convoy. Recovered aircraft.
1800. Force C (Escort) joined company. Set
course through CYCLADES to KASO STRAIT.

Monday, 28th October.

0400. Passed through KASO STRAIT. Set
course for Alexandria.
0740. Ordered to proceed with despatch.
Increased 25 knots.
1015. Launched aircraft to carry out A/S
patrol en route to Alexandria.
NOON. Increased 26 knots.
1800. Arrived Alexandria. Secured No. 2
berth. Fuelled.

Tuesday, 29th October.

0010. Slipped and proceeded, "ORION"
(flying flag of V.A.L.F.), "YORK" and
"GLOUCESTER" in company.
Took station 2 miles astern of 2nd Division
course northwesterly.
Mediterranean Fleet at sea.

Wednesday, 30th October.

Joined Battlefleet, proceeding to Central
Mediterranean, with object of striking at
Italian Fleet should it put to sea and of
resisting any seaborne attack on Greece
by Italy.
1600. Transferred Asdic Transformer to
"DIAMOND".

Thursday, 31st October.

Carried out a sweep to latitude of
CEPHALONIA.
DARK. Mediterranean Fleet off west coast
of Greece.
Reports of Italian Fleet still in harbour.
Fleet turned south, and remained in sight
of land all day.
DARK. Fleet patrolling off southwest
coast of Greece.

(Sgd.) J. A. Collins

CAPTAIN.

RECEIVED
25 OCT 1940
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/119
SECRET

*Submitted by Form
Office*

THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

1st October, 1940.

191/8579.

THE VICE ADMIRAL, LIGHT FORCES, MEDITERRANEAN.
Copy to The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.
WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1940.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

The following War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command for the period 1st September to 30th September, 1940, is forwarded for the information of the Admiralty:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Sunday, 1st September.</u>	At sea for operation H.A.T.S. Dawn. Battle Fleet closed convoy whose speed was reduced by damage with bombs. Mediterranean Fleet proceeding to westward. 1600. "ORION" and "SYDNEY" detached to rendez-vous with Force F. 2000. Rendez-vous with H.M.S. "WRYNBECK" southeast of Malta.
<u>Monday, 2nd September.</u>	0700. Passed H.M.S. "COVENTRY" and "CALCUTTA" proceeding to Malta. 0800. Rendez-vous with Force F - H.M.S. "VALIANT", "ILLUSTRIOUS" and 4 destroyers. 1000. Rendez-vous with Battle Fleet south of Malta, remaining in this vicinity during the day. 1600. Bombing attack on Fleet by 2 aircraft. 1915. Bombing attack on Fleet by formation of aircraft. Engaged with 4". Two aircraft brought down by gunfire of Fleet. 2100. Set course to southeast. 2330. Altered course to east.
<u>Tuesday, 3rd September.</u>	At sea. Proceeding from vicinity of Malta to eastward, in company with Battle Fleet. 2000. Proceeded ahead in company with "ORION" 2200. Passed through Anti Kithera Channel.
<u>Wednesday, 4th September.</u>	0500. Parted company with "ORION", south of KASO Strait. 0530. Increased to 20 knots and course as requisite to carry out 6" bombardment of MAKRI YALO Aerodrome, SCARPANTO Island ("ILEX" in company). 0550. Launched aircraft. 0620. Opened fire. "ILEX" engaged and sank two 'E' Boats. 0645. Ceased firing. Withdrew to southeast and recovered aircraft. 0815. Sighted two unknown warships. Altered course and increased speed as requisite. 0830. Unknown ships identified as friendly. Sighted "MALAYA" and "EAGLE". 0900. Joined company with "ORION". 1015. Sighted Battle Fleet - took station as requisite. 1115. Bombing attack on "ILLUSTRIOUS".

(1115-1120.....)

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X
Manoeuvred and engaged enemy aircraft.
1200. Took station with Battle Fleet. Set course for Alexandria.

Thursday, 5th September. 0800. Entered harbour and secured in No. 2 Berth. Dressed ship with masthead flags in honour of birthday of Her Majesty Queen Farida. Assumed duties of A.A. Guardship. Fuelled and completed with ammunition.

Friday, 6th September. X In harbour.
1235-1320. Air Raid warning in force.

Saturday, 7th September. In harbour.

Sunday, 8th September. X 0800. Slipped and proceeded into Floating Dock.
1735-1805. Air Raid warning in force.
1950-2150. Air Raid in progress. Ships and Shore batteries engaged enemy aircraft between 2030 and 2050.

Monday, 9th September. In Floating Dock.

Tuesday, 10th September. 0815. Undocked and shifted to No.2 berth by tugs.
2130-2200. Air Raid warning in force.

Wednesday, 11th September. In harbour.
1125-1140. Air Raid warning in force.

Thursday, 12th September. In harbour.
1605-1625. Air Raid warning in force.

Friday, 15th September. In harbour.
0800. Assumed duties of A.A. Guardship.
2150-2200. Air Raid warning in force.
2210-2225. Air Raid warning in force.
2340-0040. Air Raid warning in force.

Saturday, 14th September. In harbour.
0710-0740. Air Raid warning in force.
0800. Continued duties of A.A. Guardship.

Sunday, 15th September. In harbour.

Monday, 16th September. In harbour.

Tuesday, 17th September. In harbour.
1315. Slipped and proceeded into Floating Dock.

Wednesday, 18th September. In harbour.
P.M. P.1. and P.2. 4" Guns exchanged for new Guns.
1900. Undocked and secured to No.2 berth.

Thursday, 19th September. In harbour.

Friday, 20th September. In harbour.
0800. Assumed duties of A.A. Guardship and Emergency Cruiser.

Saturday, 21st September. 0420-0505. Air Raid warning in force.
0700. Shifted berth to C.2.
0800. Continued duties of Emergency Cruiser.

Sunday, 22nd September. In harbour.
0425-0455. Air Raid warning in force.

(Monday, 23rd September...

RESTRICTED

DATE.

OCCURRENCE.

Sunday, 23rd September.

In harbour.
0310-0320. Air Raid warning in force.

Tuesday, 24th September.

1330. Slipped and proceeded to provide cover for H.M.S. "PROTECTOR", ordered to intercept French M.V. "THEOPHILE GAUTIER" leaving Beirut.

Wednesday, 25th September.

At sea.
0500. Arrived in position 40 miles west of Cyprus. Patrolled in area.
NOON. Ordered to return to Alexandria. Set course accordingly.

Thursday, 26th September.

0300. Arrived Alexandria and secured No.2 Berth.

Friday, 27th September.

In harbour.

Saturday, 28th September.

In harbour.
0800. Assumed duties of Emergency Cruiser and A.A. Guardship.

Sunday, 29th September.

0030. Slipped and proceeded for operation M.B. five. "ORION" and "YORK" in company.
0700. Took station 1 mile on bow of "WARSPITE", "ILLUSTRIOUS", "VALIANT", 3rd Cruiser Squadron, 2nd and 14th Destroyer Flotillas in company. Set course to the westward.
0920. Took station as requisite to act as Target Ship for throw-off firings. Firings subsequently cancelled.
1140. Closed Battle Fleet and resumed station.
1230. One enemy shadowing aircraft shot down by fighters.
1400. Took station as requisite and acted as Target ship for "ORION'S" throw-off firing.
1455 and 1510. High level bombing attacks on Battle Fleet.
1600. Closed Battle Fleet and resumed station.
2100. Took station with "ORION" 10 miles on port bow of Battle Fleet.

Monday, 30th September.

0900. Resumed close station with Battle Fleet.
NOON. Assumed 2nd Degree of Readiness on receipt of enemy report.
1340. Reverted to Defence Stations. Italian Fleet proceeding northwards. Set course to southwestward.
1900. Took station on screen, 045° distance 14 miles from Commander-in-chief.

CAPTAIN.

RECEIVED
26 SEP A.M.
NAVY DEPARTMENT RECORDS

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
SECRET

THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

1st September, 1940.

191/8455.

THE VICE ADMIRAL, LIGHT FORCES, MEDITERRANEAN.

(Copy to The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.)

WAR DIARY FOR PERIOD 1st AUGUST TO 31st AUGUST, 1940.

RESTRICTED

The following War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command for the period 1st August to 31st August, 1940, is forwarded for the information of the Admiralty:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Thursday, 1st August.</u>	At sea, for Operation M.A.nine. "ORION", "NEPTUNE" and 3 destroyers in company. Noon. Proceeded through Anti Kithera channel, and set course for Gulf of Athens. 1615. Altered course to return to Alexandria. 2030. Proceeded through Anti Kithera Channel.
<u>Friday, 2nd August.</u>	At sea, steering course for Alexandria. 1945. Arrived Alexandria and secured in No.1 Berth. Fuelled.
<u>Saturday, 3rd August.</u>	Embarked 4" ammunition, provisions and stores. Assumed duty of Emergency Cruiser at one hours notice.
<u>Sunday, 4th August.</u>	Embarked 6" Shell. Assumed duty of Stand-by Cruiser at two hours notice and A.A. Guardship.
<u>Monday, 5th August.</u>	In harbour. Make and Mend leave to one watch.
<u>Tuesday, 6th August.</u>	In harbour. Make and Mend leave to one watch.
<u>Wednesday, 7th August.</u>	In harbour. 0030. Air Raid Warning. 0800. Assumed duty of Emergency Cruiser and A.A. Guardship. Completed fitting splinter protection round 4" Gun Deck. 1915. Air Raid warning.
<u>Thursday, 8th August.</u>	In harbour. 0800. Continued duty of Emergency Cruiser and A.A. Guardship. Completed staining wooden decks blue.
<u>Friday, 9th August.</u>	In harbour. 0700. Shifted berth to B.2. buoy for 'WIPING'. 1900. 'WIPING' completed satisfactorily.
<u>Saturday, 10th August.</u>	In harbour. 1000. Shifted berth to No.1 buoy.
<u>Sunday, 11th August.</u>	In harbour. 0440. Air Raid Warning. 0800. Completed with fuel.

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On 9

(Monday, 12th August.

DATE.

OCCURRENCE.

RESTRICTED

Monday, 12th August.

0700. Sailed for operation M.D.six, with "NEPTUNE" in company as Force 'B'.
Set course to the westward to support Force 'A' consisting of "NUBIAN", "MOHAWK", "IMPERIAL" and "HOSTILE".
0930. Launched aircraft.
1030. Recovered aircraft under way.
2000. Force 'A' sweeping along Libyan coast during the night, with object of destroying enemy shipping.

Tuesday, 13th August.

0700. Launched aircraft for Reconnaissance flight
0930. Recovered aircraft. Air search negative.
Noon. Rendezvous with Force 'A' west of Crete.
1300. Turned to the eastward.
1430. Launched aircraft for Reconnaissance flight
1630. Recovered aircraft. Air search negative.
1800. Force 'A', less "HOSTILE" detached to carry out U BOAT sweep south of Crete during the night.
2030. Force 'B' and "HOSTILE" passed through Anti Kithera channel, to sweep north of Crete during the night and destroy enemy shipping in the Aegean.
2245. Altered course as requisite to investigate Greek merchant ship.

Wednesday, 14th August.

0015. Altered course as requisite to investigate unknown merchant ship.
0130. Assumed 1st Degree of Readiness.
0300. Passed through KASO Straits. Set course for Alexandria.
1130. Rendezvous with Force 'A'.
1500. "NUBIAN" reported torpedo approaching. Asdic search negative.
1930. Arrived Alexandria. Secured No.1 Berth. Fuelled.

Thursday, 15th August.

In harbour.
2200-2400. Air Raid warning in force. Bombs dropped in vicinity.

Friday, 16th August.

0415. Air Raid warning.
1700. Landed funeral party for late Able Seaman (Maltese) of Mooring Lighter 'MOONSTONE' sunk by bomb.

Saturday, 17th August.

In harbour.

Sunday, 18th August.

In harbour.
Noon. Flag of C.S.7. transferred to H.M.S. "KENT"

Monday, 19th August.

In harbour.

Tuesday, 20th August.

In harbour.
1200. Came under orders of Vice Admiral, Light Forces, in "ORION" as 2nd Division of 7th Cruiser Squadron.
1915. Air Raid warning.

Wednesday, 21st August.

In harbour.
1445. Air Raid warning.

Thursday, 22nd August.

0350. Air Raid warning. Bombs dropped in vicinity.
1215. Air Raid warning.

RESTRICTED

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Friday, 23rd August.</u>	0100-0350. Air Raids in progress. Bombs dropped on shore. 0800. Assumed duties of A.A. Guardship. 1030. Slipped and proceeded to sea, in support of D.10 and destroyers and "LADYBIRD" carrying out bombardment of Gulf of Bomba and Bardia respectively. 1200. Set course to the westward.
<u>Saturday, 24th August.</u>	0200. Altered course to southeastward to close coast. 0815. Rendezvous with D.10 in "STUART", "ILEX", "JUNO", "DIAMOND" and "WATERHORN". Set course for Alexandria forming astern of A/S sweep. 1930. Arrived Alexandria. No.1 berth. Fuelled
<u>Sunday, 25th August.</u>	In harbour. a.m. Completed to outfit with C.P.B.C. shell.
<u>Monday, 26th August.</u>	In harbour. Air Raid on Alexandria.
<u>Tuesday, 27th August.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Wednesday, 28th August.</u>	0445-0600. Air Raid warning in force. 0800. Assumed duty of A.A. Guardship.
<u>Thursday, 29th August.</u>	0510. Air Raid warning.
<u>Friday, 30th August.</u>	0400. Slipped and proceeded in company with Mediterranean Fleet for operation H.A.T.S. Proceeded to westward with V.A.L.F. in "ORION", Battle Fleet and "EAGLE". 3rd Cruiser Squadron covering Malta convoy.
<u>Saturday, 31st August.</u>	a.m. Med. Fleet to westward of Crete. Continued operation H.A.T.S. 1830. Enemy Fleet reported at sea, consisting of 2 Battleships, 10 Cruisers and 14 destroyers. 1930. Assumed 2nd Degree of Readiness.

CAPTAIN.

THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

1st August, 1940.

191/8276.

THE REAR ADMIRAL COMMANDING, 7th CRUISER SQUADRON.

(Copy: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne)

WAR DIARY FOR PERIOD 1st JULY TO 31st JULY, 1940.

RESTRICTED
The following War Diary for H.M.A. Ship under my command for the period 1st July to 31st July, 1940, is forwarded for the information of the Admiralty:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Monday, 1st July.</u>	At sea. 0700. Engaged enemy reconnaissance aircraft. 2130. Arrived Alexandria. Landed prisoners from "ESPERO".
<u>Tuesday, 2nd July.</u>	In harbour. Ammunitioned and fuelled.
<u>Wednesday, 3rd July.</u>	In harbour. Prepared for operation P.F., the object of which was to prevent the sailing of French Cruisers in harbour by a display of force if necessary.
<u>Thursday, 4th July.</u>	In harbour. 0720. Assumed 1st Degree of Readiness. Situation with French very critical. 0745. Engaged enemy aircraft attacking Alexandria. 0910. Assumed 2nd Degree of Readiness. 0945. Air Raid warning. 1000. Assumed 1st Degree of Readiness. 1300. Assumed 3rd Degree of Readiness. 1800. Reverted to Harbour Routine. French Cruisers prevented from sailing. 2130. Air Raid warning.
<u>Friday, 5th July.</u>	In Harbour.
<u>Saturday, 6th July.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Sunday, 7th July.</u>	In harbour. 1030. Air Raid warning. 2040. Engaged enemy aircraft. 2200. Proceeded to sea for operation M.A. five. 7th Cruiser Squadron less "LIVERPOOL" in company, providing part of covering force for two convoys from Malta to Alexandria.
<u>Monday, 8th July.</u>	At sea. 0500. Joined company with Battle Fleet. a.m. and p.m. Engaged enemy aircraft carrying out bombing attacks on Fleet. Four attacks directed at H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".
<u>Tuesday, 9th July.</u>	At sea, covering the sailing of two convoys from Malta to Alexandria. 1315. Engaged enemy reconnaissance plane. 1315. Assumed 1st Degree of Readiness. 1445. Sighted smoke on horizon to southwestward. "NEPTUNE" reported 4 Italian Cruisers. (1500. sighted.....)

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<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Tuesday, 9th July.</u>	1500. Sighted Italian Fleet, which consisted of 2 Battleships, 10 Cruisers and 24 Destroyers. 1514. Enemy opened fire. 1523. "SYDNEY" opened fire on Italian Cruiser. 1544. "WARSPITE" opened fire. 1600-1620. Salvos falling close. 1619. Shifted fire to enemy Destroyers laying smoke. 1638. Own destroyers moving in to attack. 1646. Heavy bombing attacks on Battlefleet. Enemy forces withdrawing to southwest under cover of smoke. ACTION OFF CALABRIA - Separate report forwarded vide my letter 8169/40 of 11th July, 1940. 1716-1918. Engaged enemy aircraft attacking Battlefleet. 1920. Salvo of bombs straddled the ship.
<u>Wednesday, 10th July.</u>	At sea.
<u>Thursday, 11th July.</u>	At sea. 0845. Engaged enemy reconnaissance aircraft with 4" H.A. 1430-1945. Three attacks by bombing aircraft directed at ship. Engaged with 4" H.A.
<u>Friday, 12th July.</u>	At sea. a.m. and p.m. Engaged enemy aircraft with 4" H.A. 28 raids carried out on Fleet in company. 1030. Salvo of bombs straddled. 1134. Salvo fell 200 yards on starboard quarter.
<u>Saturday, 13th July.</u>	0720. Arrived Alexandria. Secured No.3. berth. Ammunitioned and fuelled.
<u>Sunday, 14th July.</u>	In harbour. 0800. Air Raid warning. Continued ammunitioning ship.
<u>Monday, 15th July.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Tuesday, 16th July.</u>	0700. Proceeded into Floating Dock. 2200. Air Raid warning.
<u>Wednesday, 17th July.</u>	In harbour. 1230. Undocked and secured No.3. berth.
<u>Thursday, 18th July.</u>	0300. Slipped and proceeded for an operation with 2nd Flotilla, hunting Italian U Boats. Acted in support of D2, to northward of Crete. "HAVOCK" in company.
<u>Friday, 19th July.</u>	At sea, proceeding towards Gulf of Athens. 0740. Received enemy report from D2. Altered course to southward in support. 0815. Assumed 1st Degree of Readiness. 0820. Sighted two Italian Cruisers - "COLLEONI" Class. Increased to full speed and altered course as required to engage. 0828. Opened fire with main armament. 0835. Made contact with D2 in "HYPERION", "HERO", "HASTY", "ILEX". Enemy endeavoured to evade shortly after being engaged. Fire was continued on the two cruisers until 0938 when "BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI" was out of action. She sank at 0958. Chase was given to "GIOVANNI (DELLE.....

MP1049/5 - E/208
2026/3/350

RESTRICTED

DATE.

OCCURRENCE.

Friday, 19th July.

"DELLE BANDE NERE" until 1025, when fire was ceased on retreating cruiser. H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" sustained one hit in foremost funnel. There were no casualties. (Full report of action off Cape Spada forwarded vide my letter No. 8234/40 of 30th July, 1940.)

1520. Engaged enemy aircraft attacking ship. 1 salvo straddled amidships.

1845. Engaged enemy aircraft attacking ship.

Saturday, 20th July.

1100. Entered harbour and secured No. 3 berth, preliminary Air Raid warning being in force. Mediterranean Fleet cheered ship, which entered harbour with Australian Jack at the fore. Ammunitioned and fuelled.

1235. Air Raid warning.

Sunday, 21st July.

In harbour. (Captain J.A. Collins, R.A.N. received honour of C.B.)

0930. Air Raid warning.

1700. Funeral Party landed for funeral of late Italian seaman from "BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI".

Monday, 22nd July.

In harbour. Making good repairs of damage received.

Tuesday, 23rd July.

As above.

Wednesday, 24th July.

0800. Air Raid warning.

1700. Captain and officers attended funeral of late Captain Umberto Harvo of "BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI".

2000. Air Raid warning.

Thursday, 25th July.

0410. Air Raid warning and bombing attack of harbour. Bombs dropped in vicinity.

Painted ship 'Camouflage' colour.

Friday, 26th July.

Noon. Embarked aircraft.

1430. Air Raid warning.

1630. Air Raid warning.

Saturday, 27th July.

0300. Sailed with "NEPTUNE" in company.

Operation to cover Dardanelles convoy.

1015. Joined company with Commander-in-Chief and Battle Fleet.

1820. Enemy aircraft carried out bombing attacks on Fleet.

1912. Salvo of heavy bombs straddled, rendering aircraft unserviceable and causing two slight casualties from splinters.

Sunday, 28th July.

At sea.

0925. Proceeded in company with "NEPTUNE".

1300. Assumed 2nd Degree of Readiness.

1400. Passed through Elaphonisos Channel.

1540. Engaged enemy reconnaissance plane with 4".

1650. Enemy aircraft shadowing.

1935-1955. Bombing attacks. Engaged enemy with 4" and 6" barrage. One near miss port side amidships.

2030. Provided A/S protection for "NEPTUNE" in vicinity of Thessia Channel sinking Greek S.S. "ERMIONI" carrying petrol to Dodecanese.

2125. Proceeded.

Monday, 29th July.

0200. Passed through Kithera Channel.

At sea.

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MP 1185/8-8/18

RESTRICTED

DATE.

OCCURRENCE.

Tuesday, 30th July.

At sea.

Noon. Arrived Alexandria and secured in No. 3 Berth. Ammunitioned and fuelled.

Wednesday, 31st July.

0600.

Slipped and proceeded for operation M.A.9. Demonstration in Eastern Mediterranean to cover provision of Air reinforcements for Malta from Gibraltar.

1710-1900. Bombing attacks on ship. Engaged with 4".

CAPTAIN.

20 AUG 1940

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
SECRET

RESTRICTED

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

1st July, 1940.

214/8158.

The Vice Admiral Commanding 7th Cruiser Squadron.
(Copy to The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne.)
WAR DIARY FOR PERIOD 1ST JUNE TO 30TH JUNE, 1940.

The following War Diary of H.M.A. Ship under my command for the period 1st June to 30th June, 1940, is forwarded for the information of the Admiralty:-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE.</u>
<u>Saturday, 1st June.</u>	In harbour. 4th degree of A.A. readiness assumed.
<u>Sunday, 2nd June.</u>	In harbour. Duty Cruiser. V.A.D. walked round Divisions.
<u>Monday, 3rd June.</u>	0640 slipped and proceeded. At sea. Fleet exercises. Carried out practice C.X.I. and D.X.A.
<u>Tuesday, 4th June.</u>	At sea. Squadron Exercises. 1530 Returned to harbour (Y.4. berth) Assumed 4th degree of L.A. and A.A. readiness by day. Assumed 3rd degree of L.A. readiness by night.
<u>Wednesday, 5th June.</u>	In harbour
<u>Thursday, 6th June.</u>	1130 proceeded to sea for exercises. 2330 Returned to harbour (Y.4. berth)
<u>Friday, 7th June.</u>	In harbour. Assumed degrees of readiness as above.
<u>Saturday, 8th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Sunday, 9th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Monday, 10th June.</u>	In harbour. Assumed 1st degree of A.A. readiness at dawn and dusk.
<u>Tuesday, 11th June.</u>	0001 Commenced hostilities against Italy. 0400 Proceeded to sea; 7th C.S. in company. Swept to the West ward.
<u>Wednesday, 12th June.</u>	0400 Reconnaissance off Benghazi. 1200 Rendezvous with Commander-in-Chief. 7th C.S. detached to sweep to the North West.
<u>Thursday, 13th June.</u>	0400 Reconnaissance off the Ionian Islands. 1200 Rendezvous with Commander-in-Chief. 1615 Submarine contact attacked with depth charges. p.m. Swept to the South East and along the North African Coast.
<u>Friday, 14th June.</u>	a.m. Sweeping to the Eastward along North African Coast. 1900 Returned to Alexandria. Secured No. 1 berth. Fuelled.

Handwritten notes:
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<u>Saturday, 15th June.</u>	In harbour. Assumed 4th degree of A.A. readiness, with dawn and dusk A.A. Defence Stations.
<u>Sunday, 16th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Monday, 17th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Tuesday, 18th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Wednesday, 19th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Thursday, 20th June.</u>	1130 sailed for operation M.D. Three. 1st division of 7th C.S. and "LORRAINE" in company.
<u>Friday, 21st June.</u>	0600 Carried out operation M.D. Three. 2240 Returned to Alexandria. No.1 berth.
<u>Saturday, 22nd June.</u>	Fuelled. Ammunitioned. 2200 proceeded to sea and returned. Operation B.Q. deferred.
<u>Sunday, 23rd June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Monday, 24th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Tuesday, 25th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Wednesday, 26th June.</u>	In harbour.
<u>Thursday, 27th June.</u>	1100 Slipped and proceeded for operation M.A. Three. 7th C.S. in company.
<u>Friday, 28th June.</u>	On patrol and as requisite for operation M.A. Three. 1830 - 2030 Engagement with 3 Italian Destroyers. "ESPERO" sunk. "SYDNEY" picked up survivors.
<u>Saturday, 29th June.</u>	At sea, and on patrol with 1st division of 7th C.S.
<u>Sunday, 30th June.</u>	At sea, and on patrol with 1st division of 7th C.S. 1515 Enemy aircraft engaged. 1610 - 1710 Enemy bombers engaged. Bombing attacks on 7th C.S.

(Sgd.) J.A. Collins
CAPTAIN.



pp/tra

The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

1st June, 1940.

191/7961.

The Vice-Admiral Commanding, 7th Cruiser Squadron.
(Copy to: The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne).

WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY".

RESTRICTED

The attached War Diary of H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" for the month of May, 1940, is submitted.

He
27/6

(Sgd.) J.A. Collins

CAPTAIN.



ackd J.A. Collins
1940.9.

SECRET
RESTRICTED

WAR DIARY FOR PERIOD 1st MAY TO 31st MAY, 1940.

Wednesday, 1st May, 1940.

At sea.

0815. Received orders to proceed to Colombo at best speed. Set course to pass through Sunda Straits en route to Singapore for fuel.

Thursday, 2nd May, 1940.

At sea.

Friday, 3rd May, 1940.

At sea.

1625. Exchanged colours with Dutch Merchant vessel "JOSGFINA".
1800. Passed through Sunda Strait. Obtained permission to proceed from Dutch Naval Patrol Vessel.
1900. Stopped. Sent boat to H.M.S. "RAINBOW" for correspondence.

Saturday, 4th May, 1940.

At sea.

Passed through Carimata Strait.

Sunday, 5th May, 1940.

0110. Passed unidentified warship. Presumed H.M.S. "DURBAN".
1130. Established identification with P.W.S.S. at Changi.
1135. Exchanged colours with British Ship "HONG PENG".
1307. Exchanged colours with British Ship "BELAWAN".
1400. Exchanged colours with Dutch Ship "PULAUKIDJANG".
1520. Secured alongside Section X, 52 Godown, Wharf in Keppel Harbour.
Fuelled.

Monday, 6th May, 1940.

0010. Slipped and proceeded through Western Entrance, Keppel Harbour.
At Sea..

Tuesday, 7th May, 1940.

At sea.

0140. Spoke to Japanese Ship "ATLAS MARU".

Wednesday, 8th May, 1940.

0920. Launched aircraft.
Carried out 6" and 4" Full Calibre firings.
1430. Sighted R.F.A. "SLAVOL" and B.P.T.
1630. Exchanged colours with Norwegian Ship "ELSA".
1735. Established identification with P.W.S.S. Colombo.
1830. Secured in No.1 Berth, Colombo.
Fuelled.

Thursday, 9th May, 1940.

In Harbour.

Friday, 10th May, 1940.

1630. Slipped and proceeded under orders from C. in C., East Indies, to intercept and shadow Dutch M.V. "CHRISTIAN HUYGHENS".

RESTRICTED

Saturday, 11th May, 1940.

- 0545. Launched aircraft to assist in search.
- 1030. Received orders to return to Colombo.
- 1240. Exchanged colours with Japanese ship of Misui Line.
- 1630. Established identification with P.W.S.S. Colombo.
- 1730. Entered harbour and secured No. 1 Berth.
Fuelled.

Sunday, 12th May, 1940.

- 0930. Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, walked round Divisions.
- 1730. Slipped and proceeded to rendez-vous with US3 in vicinity of Cocos Islands.
- 2200. Spoke British ship "SHWEDAGON".

Monday, 13th May, 1940.

At Sea.

Tuesday, 14th May, 1940.

At Sea.

Wednesday, 15th May, 1940.

At Sea.

Thursday, 16th May, 1940.

- 0230. Received orders to return to Colombo. Set course accordingly.

Friday, 17th May, 1940.

At Sea.

Saturday, 18th May, 1940.

- 1830. Arrived Colombo. Secured No.7 Berth. Fuelled.
Embarked oiling gear and potatoes for Aden.

Sunday, 19th May, 1940.

- 0800. Slipped and proceeded at best speed for Aden.
- a.m. Whale observed cut in half by starboard propeller.
- 1440. Identified British Ship "GURNA".
- 1520. Identified British Ship "CLAN MCWHIRTER".
- 1730. Proceeded with despatch.

Monday, 20th May, 1940.

At Sea.

- 0410. Spoke Japanese Ship "AKIURA MARU".
- 1145. Identified Greek Ship "AGIOS GEORGIOS" IV.

Tuesday, 21st May, 1940.

At Sea.

- 0934. Identified Greek Ship "ARGOLIKOS".
- 2030. Spoke British Ship "BRITISH YEOMAN".

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Wednesday, 22nd May, 1940.

- 0910. Exchanged colours with Greek Ship "SARONIKOS".
- 0925. Exchanged colours with Japanese Ship "DELEGOA MARU".
- 1240. Exchanged colours with Italian Ship "PAOLINA".
- 1400. Launched aircraft for A/S patrol.
Established identification with P.W.S.S. Aden.
- 1600. Arrived Aden. Secured in "B" Berth. Fuelled.
- 2215. Slipped and proceeded for Suez.

Thursday, 23rd May, 1940.

- At Sea.
- 0220. Sighted H.M.S. "LIVERPOOL".
- 0315. Joined company with H.M.S. "GLOUCESTER" AND "EAGLE".
- 0510. Launched aircraft for A/S patrol.
- 0750. Exchanged colours with Dutch Ship "TJIKANDI".
- 1220. Identified British Ship "MYRMIDON".
- 1430. Identified Greek Ship "CHIOS".
- 1715. H.M.A.S. "HOBART" joined company.

Friday, 24th May, 1940.

- At Sea.
- 0000. H.M.A.S. "HOBART" parted company.
- 1000. H.M.S. "GLOUCESTER" parted company.
- 1340. Identified and exchanged colours with Greek Ship "NICOLAU CURANIA".
- 1620. Identified and exchanged colours with British Ship "DORYSSA".
- 2150. Identified and exchanged colours with Egyptian Ship "TAIF".

Saturday, 25th May, 1940.

- At Sea.
- 1900. Arrived Suez.
- 2035. Entered Canal.
- Identified and exchanged colours with following ships:-

- 0405. British Ship "GOGRA".
- 1110. Egyptian Ship "TALODI".
- 1140. British Ship "FAUNUS".
- 1554. Italian Ship "LEONARDO DA VINCI".
- 1600. Italian Ship "HILDA".
- 1755. French Ship "PAANE".
- 1826. British Ship "FELANIA".

Sunday, 26th May, 1940.

- 0515. Arrived Port Said and sailed for Alexandria.
- 0740. Identified and exchanged colours with U.S.A. Ship "WASHINGTONIAN" and Greek Ship "THRAKI".
- 1530. Arrived Alexandria.
Joined 7th Cruiser Squadron under command of Vice Admiral(D), Mediterranean.

Monday, 27th May, 1940.

In Harbour.

Tuesday, 28th May, 1940.

In Harbour.

Wednesday, 29th May, 1940.

In Harbour.

Thursday, 30th May, 1940.

In Harbour.

Friday, 31st May, 1940.

In Harbour.

Commonwealth of Australia
Department of Defence

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
CONFIDENTIAL

Royal Australian Navy.

pp Hw

ACK. BY A.S. 1030
24 MAY P.M.
INIT. *A.D.*

From The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"
Date 30th April, 1940. Reference No. 191/7961.
To The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.
(Copy to The Rear-Admiral Commanding, H.M. Australian Squadron.)
Subject WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

SECRET RESTRICTED

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to Navy Office Letter 589/201/765 of 10th February, 1940, the attached War Diary of H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" for month of April, 1940.

*Jhr
27/5*

Mearns
CAPTAIN.

*A.C.N.S. 2/28/5
D.N.J.*

~~SECRET~~
~~RESTRICTED~~

WAR DIARY FOR PERIOD 1ST APRIL, TO 30TH APRIL, 1940.

Monday, 1st April, 1940.

At sea, providing close cover for M.V. "MANUNDA"
0230 spoke S.S. "KAITUNA"
0940 sighted M.V. "MANUNDA" Carried out Range and Inclination exercise, having requested "MANUNDA" to proceed as in zig-zag diagram No.8. On completion took station 2 miles ahead.

Tuesday, 2nd April.

0210 parted company with "MANUNDA". Set course to close H.M. Transport X.3.
0910 passed Swedish ship "EQUAREN". Exchanged colours.
1315 spoke Norwegian ship "HIDELFJORD".
1728 sighted H.M. Transport X.3. Took station 4 miles ahead.
2400 parted company in vicinity of Rottnest Island and proceeded on patrol to the southward of the area.

Wednesday, 3rd April.

On patrol.

Thursday, 4th April.

On patrol.
a.m. exercised "bringing to" a suspicious vessel.
2309 sighted H.M. Transport X.2. Closed to take station 2 miles on starboard bow, 22 knots.

Friday, 5th April.

0600 In vicinity of Rottnest Is. Sighted "SWAN and "YARRA".
0700 H.M. Transport X.3 leaving harbour. Parted company with H.M. Transport X.2.
0743 Exchanged colours with Dutch ship "YUGAREN".
Provided close cover for H.M. Transport X.3 to the vicinity of Cape Leeuwin.
1700 parted company. Set course northward.

Saturday, 6th April.

0235 spoke S.S. "CORNWALL"
0725 Secured alongside 'D' shed, Fremantle. Fuelled.

Sunday, 7th April.

0700 slipped and proceeded.
Provided close cover for H.M. Transport X.2 to vicinity of Cape Leeuwin.
1340 exchanged colours with S.S. "NARIMBANK"
1700 parted company with H.M. Transport X.2. Set course to northward.
2120 spoke S.S. "CORNWALL"

Monday, 8th April.

0500 spoke S.S. "TRENTBANK"
0720 secured alongside 'H' shed, Fremantle. Fuelled.

Tuesday, 9th April.

In harbour.
1130 Seagull A.22 proceeded to Pearce to effect exchange aircraft.

~~RESTRICTED~~

Wednesday, 10th April.

Exercise Programme cancelled.
0945 slipped and proceeded on patrol and in compliance with instructions received from Naval Board.
Carried out extensive search for Norwegian Merchant Vessels.

Thursday, 11th April.

On patrol.

Friday, 12th April.

On patrol.
1820 spoke British ship "HARWALA"

Saturday, 13th April.

0518 spoke British ship "HARWALA"
0700 anchored in Gage Roads.
1000 Secured alongside 'G' shed, Fremantle. Fuelled.

Sunday, 14th April.

0900 slipped and proceeded on patrol and to escort Danish ship "ANGLO MAERSK" to Fremantle.
1220 sighted British ship "GORGON"
1245 sighted "ANGLO MAERSK".
1900 returned to Fremantle and secured to 'E' shed.

Monday, 15th April.

In harbour.

Tuesday, 16th April.

In harbour. Paint ship.

Wednesday, 17th April.

In harbour. Embarked aircraft. Fuelled.

Thursday, 18th April.

0900 sailed for rendezvous with U.S.2.

Friday, 19th April.

1340 sighted H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE"
1348 sighted H.M.S. "RAMILLIES" and U.S.2.
1720 joined escort as ordered by Senior Officer.
Diverted M.V. "DUNTROON"

Saturday, 20th April.

Escorting U.S.2.
1416 Diverted S.S. "MAHIA"

Sunday, 21st April.

0600 arrived off Rottnest Is.
1015 anchored in Gage Roads.
1600 shifted berth.
1630 secured alongside 'H' shed. Fuelled.

Monday, 22nd April.

1500 slipped and proceeded with "RAMILLIES" and U.S.2.

RESTRICTED

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Tuesday, 23rd April, to Saturday, 27th April.

Forming part of Ocean Escort for U.S.2.

Sunday, 28th April.

1105 sighted R.F. "SUFFREN". Transferred correspondence.
1230 parted company with U.S.2. Set course for Fremantle.

Monday, 29th April.

At sea. Proceeding to Fremantle.
1230 spoke S.S. "GOGRA"

Tuesday, 30th April.

At sea, proceeding to Fremantle.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Royal Australian Navy.



From The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" C/- C.O.

Date 18th April, 1940. Reference No. 191/7961.

Ask'd By Form A. S. 1880 a.

To The Secretary, Naval Board, Navy Office, Melbourne. (Copy to The Rear Admiral Commanding, H.M. Australian Squadron.)

Init. H. J.

Subject WAR DIARY - H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY"

Date 26/4/40

RESTRICTED
SECRET

The attached War Diary of H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" for the period 3rd September, 1939, to 31st March, 1940, is submitted for the information of the Naval Board with reference to Navy Office Letter 589/201/765 (02901) of 10th February, 1940.

H.N. [Signature] 27/4
14/40

[Signature]

CAPTAIN.

A.C.N.S. 13/27/4

~~D.N.S.~~ 30/4

C.L.O..

(ENCLOSURE TO H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY'S" LETTER No.191/7961 of
18TH APRIL, 1940.)

RESTRICTED

WAR DIARY FOR PERIOD 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1939 TO 31ST
MARCH, 1940.

Sunday, September, 3rd.

At Fremantle.
Britain at War with Germany.
Full Preparations for War completed.

Monday, September, 4th.

At Fremantle.
0730 General Drill.

Tuesday, September, 5th.

At Fremantle.
Shifted ship to Berth No.8, North Quay.

Wednesday, September, 6th.

At Fremantle.

Thursday, September, 7th.

0700 proceeded to anchorage off Rottnest Island.
"SYDNEY'S" aircraft carried out search to seaward for
Battleship "SCHARNHORST" mentioned in Naval Board Message 2124/6.

Friday, September, 8th.

General Quarters at dawn, then assumed 4th degree of readiness
by day and 3rd degree of readiness by night while at anchor off
Rottnest.

1200 Proceeded to sea for exercises.
Carried out 6" sub calibre firings at Hong Kong Target towed
by private motor boat.
1630 Returned to anchorage off Rottnest Island.

Saturday, September, 9th.

At anchorage.
0815 Weighed and proceeded to sea.
Carried out sub calibre practices.
Carried out Deflection Test.
1430 Returned to anchorage off Rottnest Island.

Sunday, September, 10th.

At anchor off Rottnest Island.

Monday, September, 11th.

0615 Weighed and proceeded into harbour to "F" berth.
Completed with fuel.

Tuesday, September, 12th.

0700 Proceeded to sea for exercises.
Carried out sub calibre practices
1100 Anchored off Beagle Road.

Wednesday, September, 13th.

At Beagle Roads, Rottnest Island.
Fired two torpedoes for test runs.

RESTRICTED

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Thursday, September, 14th.

At Beagle Roads, Rottnest Island.
H.M.A.S. "VAMPIRE AND "VOYAGER" arrived and completed with fuel:
repairs to machinery and boiler cleaning commenced.

Friday, September, 15th.

At Beagle Roads, Rottnest Island.

Saturday, September, 16th.

At Beagle Roads, Rottnest Island.

Sunday, September, 17th.

At Beagle Roads, Rottnest Island.

Monday, September, 18th.

At Beagle Roads, Rottnest Island.
Heightfinding exercises with "SYDNEY'S" aircraft carried out.

Tuesday, September, 19th.

0700 weighed and proceeded into harbour to "H" berth.
Completed with fuel.
Portable Battle Practice Target arrived at Fremantle.

Wednesday, September, 20th.

At Fremantle.

Thursday, September, 21st.

At Fremantle.

Friday, September, 22nd.

At Fremantle.

Saturday, September, 23rd.

At Fremantle.
Pattern VI. Target arrived - rigged by Depot's and ship's staffs.

Sunday, September, 24th.

At Fremantle.
1100 Proceeded to anchorage in Gage Roads.
1800 weighed and proceeded on patrol and to cover S.S. "ORONSAY'S"
arrival at Fremantle.

Monday, September, 25th.

On patrol.
0615 launched aircraft to search for "ORONSAY".

Tuesday, September, 26th.

Anchored off Rottnest Island.
0800 proceeded to sea for sub calibre practices at Pattern VI
target towed by "VOYAGER"
Fired two torpedoes for test runs.
1530 Anchored in Gage Roads.

~~RESTRICTED~~

- 3 -

Wednesday, September, 27th.

Weighed and proceeded into harbour at 1300.
Completed with fuel.

Thursday, September, 28th, 29th, and 30th.

At Fremantle.

Sunday, October, 1st.

0600 shifted berth to No. 7 berth, North Quay.

Monday, October, 2nd, to Sunday, October, 8th.

At Fremantle.

Monday October, 9th.

0720 proceeded to sea for exercises with "VAMPIRE" and "VOYAGER".
1740 anchored in Beagle Roads.
1930 proceeded to exercise night encounter with destroyers.
2100 anchored in Beagle Roads, Rottnest Island.

Tuesday, October, 10th.

0850 weighed and proceeded to sea for exercises.
0930 Heightfinding exercises with "SYDNEY'S" aircraft.
1040 towed bombing target for R.A.A.F. bombing.
Recovered bombing target.
1430 anchored off Rottnest Island.
1450 weighed and proceeded into harbour.
1630 secured alongside "H" berth.
completed with fuel.

Wednesday, October, 11th.

At Fremantle.
Prepared to paint ship.

Thursday, October, 12th.

At Fremantle.
Painted ship.

Friday, October, 13th.

At Fremantle.
Shifted berth to No. 1 berth, North Quay.

Saturday, October, 14th, to Monday October, 23rd.

At Fremantle.

Tuesday, October, 24th.

Proceeded to sea at 0700.
0900 carried out full calibre H.A. firing at smoke burst.
1100 "SYDNEY'S" aircraft bombing exercise at splash target
towed by "SYDNEY"
1130 R.A.A.F. bombing exercise.
1545 anchored in Gage Roads.
1630 weighed and proceeded on patrol.

Wednesday, October, 25th.

On patrol.
p.m. returned to harbour.

RESTRICTED

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Wednesday, October, 25th. (Continued)

1515 Secured alongside "KURUMBA" - North Wharf, Fremantle.
Completed with fuel.

Thursday, October, 26th, to Sunday, October, 29th.

At Fremantle.

Monday, October, 30th.

At Fremantle.

Meeting of Fremantle Local Defence Co-ordination Committee
in the District Naval Office, Fremantle.

Tuesday, October, 31st.

0700 proceeded to sea.
0820 carried out 6" sub calibre firing at Hong Kong target
towed by private Motor Boat.
1000 fired two torpedoes at target.
1150 anchored in Gage Roads.

Wednesday, November, 1st.

At anchor in Gage Roads.

Thursday, November, 2nd.

0530 weighed and proceeded for exercises.
1000 R.A.A.F. bombing exercise.
1340 Secured alongside "KURUMBA".
Completed with oil fuel.

Friday, November, 3rd, to Sunday, November, 5th.

At Fremantle.

Monday, November, 6th.

At Fremantle.
Air Reconnaissance Exercise by R.A.A.F., Pearce.

Tuesday, November, 7th.

0515 tug "UCO" proceeded to sea with Battle Practice Target.
0700 Ship proceeded to sea for full calibre firing with
Air Force and Army Officers and press representatives onboard.
0815 General Quarters.
0850 Commenced full calibre firing.
0900 Dropped one Depth Charge.
1300 secured to No.1 berth, Fremantle.

Wednesday, November, 8th, to Sunday, November, 12th.

At Fremantle.

Monday, - November, 13th.

At Fremantle.

Tuesday, November, 14th.

Proceeded to sea for full calibre firing at B.P.T.
Returned to harbour at 1230.

Wednesday, November, 15th.

At Fremantle.

RESTRICTED

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Thursday, November, 16th.

Captain J.W.A. Waller, R.N. left ship, Captain J.A. Collins, R.A.N., assuming command.

Friday, November, 17th, to Sunday November, 19th.

At Fremantle.

Monday, November, 20th.

Exercises off Rottnest later proceeded towards Albany.

Tuesday, November, 21st.

Returned to Rottnest.
Proceeded to look for S.S. "STANHOPE HALL", overdue from Colombo.

Wednesday, November, 22nd.

Returned to Rottnest for orders then proceeded to Geraldton.

Thursday, November, 23rd.

Arrived at Geraldton at 0530.

Friday, November, 24th.

At Geraldton.
General Drill and General Quarters in forenoon.

Saturday, November, 25th.

1315 weighed and proceeded to Fremantle.

Sunday, November, 26th.

0630 arrived at Fremantle
Completed with fuel and berthed at 'D' berth.

Monday, November, 27th.

0630 proceeded to sea.
Carried out full calibre reduced charge firing.
Anchored in Gage Roads on completion.

Tuesday, November, 28th.

At anchor in Gage Roads.

Wednesday, November, 29th.

Proceeded on patrol.

Thursday, November, 30th and Friday December, 1st.

On patrol.

Saturday, December, 2nd.

0630 rendezvoused with "CANBERRA" and "AUSTRALIA".
1000 carried out full calibre throw off shoot at "CANBERRA"
1800 returned to Fremantle.
Stern damaged whilst securing.

Sunday December, 3rd, to Tuesday, December, 5th.

At Fremantle.

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~SECRET~~

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Wednesday, December, 6th.

0600 fuelled from "KURUMBA".
proceeded to sea for torpedo firing at "KOROWA"
One torpedo lost.
p.m. anchored in Gage Roads.

Thursday, December, 7th.

1030 proceeded to sea from Gage Roads.
p.m. rendezvoused with M.V. "DUNTROON".

Friday, December, 8th.

0800 left M.V. "DUNTROON" and proceeded on patrol.

Saturday, December, 9th.

On patrol - looking for the "WYMEREIRA".

Sunday, December, 10th.

1130 arrived at Fremantle.

Monday, DDecember, 11th.

Left Fremantle and escorted "WYMEREIRA" south.

Tuesday, December, 12th.

Returned to Fremantle.
Secured in "H" berth.

Wednesday, December, 13th.

0600 H.M.A.S. "ADELAIDE" arrived Fremantle.
1345 "SYDNEY" proceeded for Sydney.

Thursday, December, 14th to Sunday, December, 17th.

On passage to Sydney.

Monday, December, 18th.

Secured alongside Garden Island at 1400.

Tuesday, December, 19th.

Ship went into Dockyard hands.
10 days leave granted.

Friday, December, 29th.

Undocked.
Secured to No.6 buoy.

Saturday, December, 30th.

At Sydney.
Completed with fuel, ammunition and stored ship.

Sunday, December, 31st.

At Sydney.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

- 1 -

Monday, January, 1st.

At Sydney.

H.M.A.S. "SYDNEY" took over duties of Senior Officer, Force Y.Y.

Tuesday, January, 2nd, to Sunday, January, 7th.

At Sydney.

Wednesday, 3rd, Thursday, 4th and Friday, 5th, painted ship.

Monday, January, 8th.

At Sydney.

Proceeded to sea for exercises and Jervis Bay.

a.m. Gunnery Drills.

1730 carried out 4" H.A. full calibre firing at sleeve target towed by R.A.A.F. aircraft.

2030 anchored in Jervis Bay.

Tuesday, January, 9th.

Jervis Bay - Sea.

1720 Weighed and proceeded to rendez-vous with convoy.

2025 spoke S.S. "ORUNGAL"

2250 spoke S.S. "WAREEN"

Wednesday, January, 10th.

At Sea.

0425 sighted H.M.S. "RAMILLIES"

1125 sighted H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA"

1200 sighted H.M.S. "LEANDER" and convoy.

1220 altered course as requisite to take station 1 mile on port beam of convoy.

1720 took station 1 mile astern of convoy.

Thursday, January, 11th.

At Sea - Jervis Bay.

0455 sighted H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

1000 ASY carried out High Level Bombing Practice on target towed by "SYDNEY". "SYDNEY" carried out Height Finding Exercise.

1310 anchored in Jervis Bay.

2050 ASY practiced night landing.

Friday, January, 12th.

Jervis Bay - Sydney.

0620 weighed and proceeded.

1455 sighted H.M.S. "LEANDER"

1530 carried out 6" sub calibre practice at target towed by tug "LINDFIELD".

1855 secured to No.2 buoy, Sydney.

Saturday, January, 13th to Monday, January, 15th.

At Sydney.

Tuesday, January, 16th.

At Sydney - Sea for exercises.

1335 slipped and followed "LEANDER" out of harbour.

1600 carried out dummy, low visibility, torpedo attack.

1730 "LEANDER" carried out 6" full calibre throw off shoot at "SYDNEY".

1815 carried out 6" full calibre firing at Battle Practice Target towed by tug "LINDFIELD".

2030 carried out Night Encounter Exercise with "LEANDER" - 2 runs.

RESTRICTED -8-

Wednesday, January, 17th.

Sea - Sydney - Sea.
0330 carried out exercises with Newcastle port defences.
0745 standing by Battle Practice Target which had broken adrift.
1100 secured to No.1 buoy.
1645 general recall of ship's Company.
1930 slipped and proceeded. Course and speed as requisite for standing by Battle Practice Target, ashore on Long Reef Point, throughout the night.

Thursday, January, 18th.

1300 proceeded at course and speed as requisite to make wash in an endeavour to shift the Battle Practice Target.
1709 secured to No. 2 Buoy.

Friday, January, 19th.

At Sydney - Sea - Sydney.
0730 slipped and proceeded.
0825 stopped off Long Reef. Sent pinnace and cutter inshore to assist tug in getting of Battle Practice Target.
1150 tug under way with Battle Practice Target in tow.
1500 secured to No.1 buoy.
1620 completed with fuel.

Saturday, January, 20th to Wednesday, January, 24th.

At Sydney.

Thursday, January, 25th.

At Sydney - sea for exercises.
0930 slipped and proceeded out of harbour.
1100 exercised attack on Sydney Fortress.
1340 carried out high bombing exercise with ASY.
1430 carried out 4" full calibre H.A. practice at smoke target.
1650 sub calibre 6" firing at Patt. VI target towed by tug "LINDFIELD".
2010 carried out sub calibre night firing.
2045 Aircraft Night Shadowing Exercise.

Friday, January, 26th.

At Sea - Sydney.
0345 exercised attack on Sydney Fortress.
0615 secured to No. 1 Buoy.
a.m. completed with fuel and ammunition.

Saturday, January, 27th and Sunday, January, 28th.

At Sydney.

Monday, January, 29th.

At Sydney - Sea for exercises - At Sydney.
0805 War Cabinet arrived onboard.
0910 His Excellency the Governor-General arrived onboard.
0915 slipped and proceeded flying flag of G.G.
0947 Catapulted aircraft.
1020 carried out 6" full calibre throw off shoot at H.M.A.S. "MANOORA" and 4" H.A. firing at target smoke shell.
1135 dropped a depth charge.
1248 secured to No.1 buoy.
1407 Struck G.G.'s flag.

Tuesday, January, 30th, to Wednesday, January, 31st.

At Sydney. Completed with fuel and ammunition.

RESTRICTED

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Thursday, February, 1st.

At Sydney.

0900 slipped from No.1 buoy and proceeded for Portland.

Friday, February, 2nd.

On passage.

Saturday, February, 3rd.

Sydney to Portland.

0805 sighted H.M.A.S. "CANBERRA"

0845 anchored in Portland Bay.

0930 Rear Admiral Commanding H.M. Australian Squadron onboard for inspection of ship at Action Stations. Weighed and proceeded to sea. On completion anchored in Portland Bay.

1200 Rear Admiral Commanding H.M. Australian Squadron left ship.

Weighed and proceeded for Fremantle.

Sunday, February, 4th and Monday, February, 5th.

On Passage to Fremantle.

Tuesday, February, 6th.

On Passage to Fremantle and at Albany.
1820 anchored in King George's Sound.

Wednesday, February, 7th.

On passage to Fremantle.

0630 weighed and proceeded.

Took over duties of Senior Officer, Force Z.Z. from H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA"

1900 Spoke S.S. "MAGDALA" (Dutch).

Thursday, February, 8th.

On passage to Fremantle and at Fremantle.

0712 entered harbour.

Completed with fuel (South Wharf).

Friday, February, 9th.

At Fremantle.

Divers examined starboard propellers.

Saturday, February, 10th.

At Fremantle.

Sunday, February, 11th.

At Fremantle.

Monday, February, 12th.

At Fremantle.

0630 shifted berth from South to North Wharf.

Tuesday, February, 13th.

At Fremantle.

0945 meeting of Fremantle Defence Co-ordination Committee.

1130 commenced ammunitioning.

1530 ammunitioning completed.

RESTRICTED

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Wednesday, February, 14th.

At Fremantle.
Heightfinding Exercise with "SYDNEY'S" aircraft.
Aircraft Navigational Exercises.

Thursday, February, 15th.

Fremantle to Bunbury and exercises off Rottnest.
0630 slipped and proceeded.
0800 Carried out dummy torpedo attack on "KOROWA" and
"OLIVE CAM".
1030 "SYDNEY'S" aircraft carried out High Level Bombing
Practice on target towed by "SYDNEY".
1100 Bombing exercise by R.A.A.F. combined with range
and inclination exercise with Rottnest Defence.
1345 carried out 4" full calibre H.A. firing at sleeve
target.
1440 carried out 0.5" and Lewis Gun firing at sleeve
target.
1710 carried out 6" sub calibre firing at Battle Practice
Target towed by "KOROWA".
2030 carried out 6" full calibre night firing at B.P.T.

Friday, February, 16th.

Fremantle to Bunbury and off Bunbury.
0530 anchored off Bunbury.
2100 weighed and proceeded for Fremantle.

Saturday, February, 17th.

On passage from Bunbury to Fremantle and at Fremantle.
0500 carried out dawn attack with Rottnest Defences.
0712 entered harbour and proceeded alongside South Wharf.
Completed with fuel
0930 slipped from South Wharf and proceeded alongside
North Wharf.

Sunday, February, 18th.

At Fremantle.

Monday, February, 19th.

At Fremantle.
0930 carried out heightfinding exercise with "SYDNEY'S"
Aircraft.

Tuesday, February, 20th and Wednesday, February, 21st.

At Fremantle.

Thursday, February, 22nd.

Fremantle - Carnarvon and at Fremantle.
0900 slipped and proceeded out of harbour.
1110 carried out 4" full calibre firing at sleeve target.

Friday, February, 23rd.

Fremantle - Carnarvon and at Carnarvon.
1835 anchored off Carnarvon.

Saturday, February, 24th.

Off Carnarvon.

RESTRICTED

Sunday, February, 25th.

Off Carnarvon and in Turtle Bay.
0700 weighed and proceeded for Turtle Bay.
1045 anchored off Cape Inscription.
1900 weighed and proceeded for Fremantle.

Monday, February, 26th.

Shark Bay - Fremantle.

Tuesday, February, 27th.

Shark Bay - Fremantle and at Fremantle.
0540 carried out dummy torpedo attack on "KOROWA"
0712 entered harbour and proceeded alongside South Wharf.
Completed with fuel.
1140 shifted berth to North Wharf.

Wednesday, February, 28th.

At Fremantle.
0945 Meeting of Fremantle Defence Co-ordination Committee.

Thursday, February, 29th.

At Fremantle.

Friday, March, 1st, TO Sunday, March, 3rd.

At Fremantle.

Monday, March, 4th.

At Fremantle.

Tuesday, March, 5th.

0940 slipped and proceeded to sea for exercises.
1100 carried out torpedo attack on "OLIVE CAM" - fired one torpedo.

1330 carried out 6" sub calibre firing at Patt.VI. target towed by "OLIVE CAM"
1600 exercises completed - proceeded on patrol in northern portion of focal area.

Wednesday, March, 6th.

On patrol.

Thursday, March, 7th.

On patrol.
0830 carried out range and inclination exercises with Rottnef Defences.

Friday, March, 8th.

0700 proceeded into Fremantle Harbour.
Completed with fuel.
0930 shifted berth to North Wharf.

Saturday, March, 9th, and Sunday, March, 10th.

At Fremantle.

Monday, March, 11th.

0830 hoisted out aircraft which proceeded to Pearce. Pilot required to fly R.A.A.F. target towing aircraft for R.A.A.F. firings.

RESTRICTED

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Tuesday, March, 12th.

At Fremantle.

Wednesday, March, 13th.

0900 slipped from North Wharf and proceeded to sea for exercises. To witness the firings the following were embarked:-
15 R.A.A.F. Officers, 5 Army Officers and 4 press representatives.
1030 launched aircraft.

1100 prepared to carry out 6" full calibre firing at portable Battle Practice Target towed by "OLIVE CAM".

Towing wire parted - practice postponed.

1250 carried out full calibre firing at Battle Practice Target.

1350 carried out 4" H.A. Firing at sleeve target.

1530 1630 R.A.A.F. Bombing Practice at target towed by "SYDNEY"

1800 anchored in Gage Roads. Landed spectators.

Wednesday, March, 13th (Continued)

2145 weighed and proceeded for patrol and Busselton.

Thursday, March, 14th.

0600 closed and spoke M.V. "MANUNDA"

0900 - 1100 Reconnaissance Exercise by R.A.A.F.

1200 anchored off Busselton.

2100 weighed and proceeded for Fremantle.

Friday, March, 15th.

0600 carried out torpedo attack on "OLIVE CAM" - fired one torpedo.

0745 entered Fremantle Harbour and secured in "D" berth.

Completed with fuel.

1015 shifted berth to North Wharf.

Saturday, March, 16th, to March, 18th.

At Fremantle.

Tuesday, March, 19th.

0930 slipped and proceeded for exercises and patrol.

1040 Stopped. Fired one torpedo for test run.

1130 torpedo recovered. Proceeded.

1330 catapulted aircraft for reconnaissance and course reporting exercises.

1500 Aircraft H.L. bombing at target towed by "SYDNEY"

1600 recovered target and aircraft.

Proceeded on patrol.

Wednesday, March, 20th.

On patrol.

0610 closed and spoke S.S. "KINROSS".

1000 closed and spoke S.S. "CITY OF MOBILE"

1330 stopped in Geographe Bay. Fired one torpedo - test run.

Thursday, March, 21st.

0720 anchored in Gage Roads.

1330 entered Fremantle Harbour.

Completed with fuel and embarked provisions.

Friday, March, 22nd.

At Fremantle.

RESTRICTED

M. Kelly
3.6.65

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Saturday, March, 23rd.

At Fremantle.

Sunday, March, 24th.

1100 slipped and proceeded to give cover to Troopship "DUNTROON" off Cape Leeuwin.

Monday, March, 25th.

Off Cape Leeuwin.

0830 launched aircraft to fly along "DUNTROON'S" route. Aircraft refuelled at Bunbury and proceeded to Fremantle.

Tuesday, March, 26th.

0700 entered Fremantle Harbour. Completed with fuel.

Wednesday, March, 27th.

0945 meeting of Fremantle Defence Co-ordination Committee.

Thursday, March, 28th to Saturday March, 30th.

At Fremantle.

Sunday, March, 31st.

Proceeded to sea to give cover to "MANUNDA".
1730 closed and identified M.V. "SALAMIS" (Norwegian) who did not answer signals.