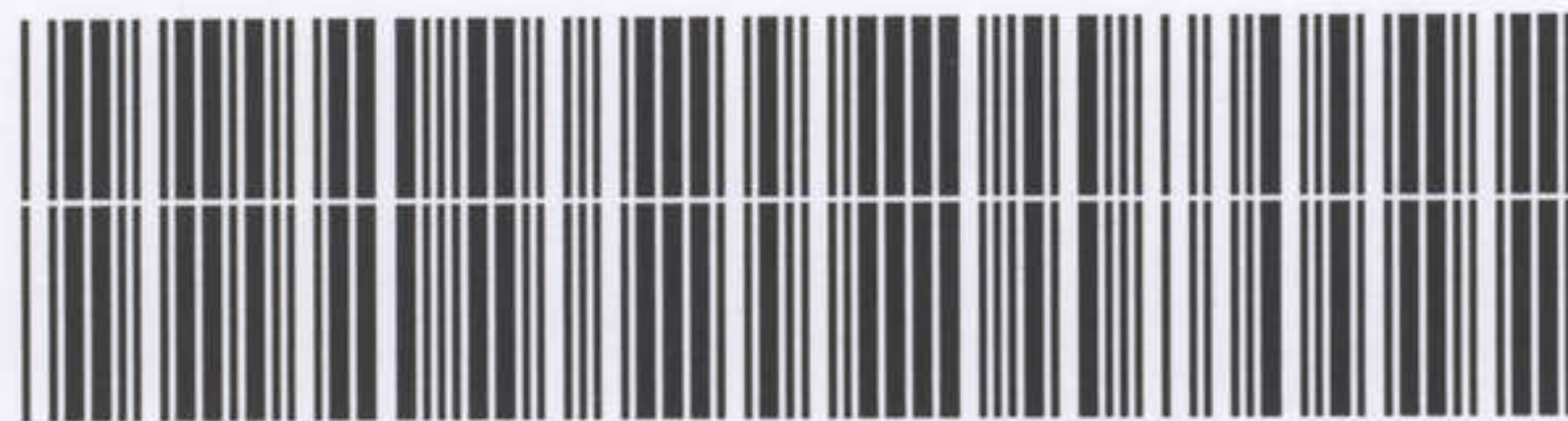


AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS ARARAT

Item number: 35/2

Title: September 1943 - August 1946.
Duplicate



AWM78-35/2

[35/2]

DUPLICATE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

H.M.A.S. 'ARARAT'

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
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: 1 Nov 1990
Authority Dig (N) Admin 18-13.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 1 Nov 90

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

Duplicate

From.....Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "ARARAT".

Date.....9th September 1946.....Reference No.....1-0-45.

To.....Secretary Naval Board.

Subject.....REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS ---- AUGUST 1946.

Submitted.:--

Remained at anchorage at Shortland Harbour until 1400/4th and proceeded to Rabaul.

Anchored in Rabaul Harbour at 2225/5th.

2359/8th. Sailed from Rabaul Harbour.

1250/10th. Secured alongside wharf at Dreger Harbour.

0605/11th. Slipped and departed for Rabaul arriving there at 1030/12th.

Remained at Rabaul until 22nd while a boiler clean was carried out and power was supplied for the pumping out of the "NARUTO".

1105/22nd. Proceeded for Buka Straits, Ruri Bay, Palmer Cove and Tiniputts Harbour where investigation for suitable anchorage for Flotilla was carried out.

1108/23rd. Anchored at Enus Harbour.

1235/24th. Remainder of Flotilla anchored.

0600/25th. Sailed with Flotilla to operation "KILLHAT".=

1550/25th. Operation completed and Flotilla proceeded to Rabaul.

1120/26th. Anchored in Rabaul Harbour.

1400/29th. Departed Rabaul with Flotilla for Bougainville.

1410/30th. Anchored at Latum Point.

0630/31st. Weighed anchor and proceeded to carry out operation "KILSAL".

1530/31st. Operation completed.

The health of the Ships Company has been good.

The conduct of the Ships Company has been excellent.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Hours under way for month. | 188.01 Hours. |
| Miles steamed for month. | 2066 Miles. |
| Average miles per ton. | 12.47 M.P.T. |
| Total miles steamed. | 102414 Miles. |
| Total hours under way. | 9795.4 Hours. |
| Average Speed. | 10.45 Knots. |



C. Dickson
(COMMANDING OFFICER)

A/Lt. Cdr. RANVR.

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2026/7/ 1386

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(See file 72/51/50)
J. Bailey
29/10/60

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
14 MAY 1946
D.O.T.M.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Ararat" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

March 1946

~~S.N.B.~~

~~2 N.M.~~

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~~D.N.I.~~

~~Ops. (N)~~

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~~D.O.T.M.~~

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

2026/7/1386

C.441/45.

SUBJECT: *Amas "Ararat" Report of Proceedings March 1946*

17/4

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20/11/60

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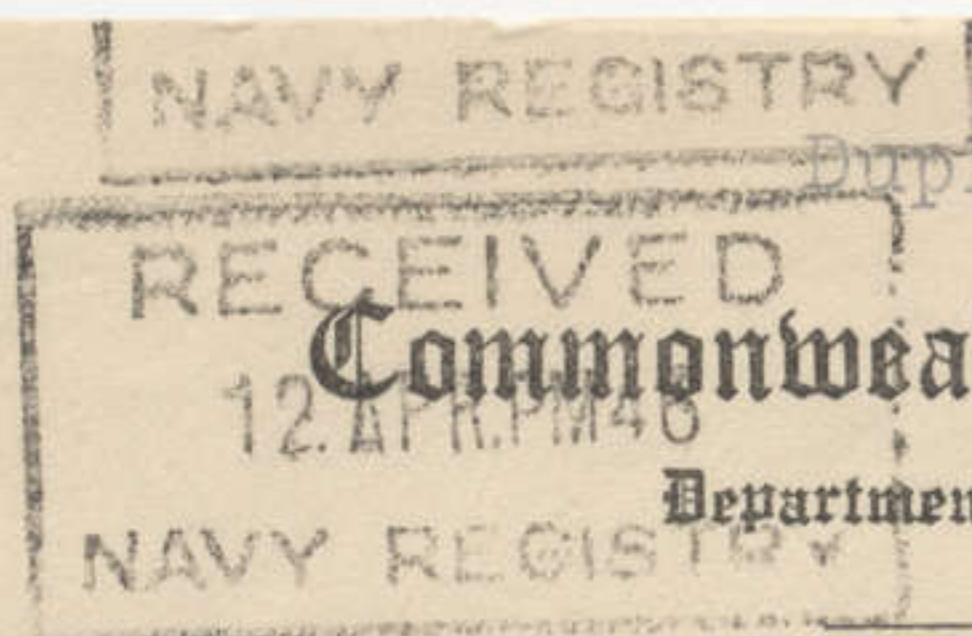
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Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

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Eng.



Royal Australian Navy.

From Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "ARARAT".

Date 1st April 1946.

Reference No. 1-0-22

To Secretary Naval Board.

Subject MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 1946.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board:-

Continued to carry out minesweeping operations on 1st and 2nd March
At 0815/3rd completed "Kilmoon" operation and sailed for Melbourne.

1720/3rd secured alongside Nelson Pier, Williamstown.
Remained alongside until 1352/6th when in company with Flotilla departed
for Hobart. 1434/8th secured alongside Kings Pier Hobart and remained
there until 1110/11th when with Flotilla sailed for minefield "Kilto".

Owing to adverse weather conditions Flotilla anchored at 1407/11th
in North West Bay. At 0815/12th weighed and proceeded but the weather
was still unsuitable for minesweeping operations so at 1106 anchored in
Great Taylor Bay. Remained at this anchorage until 0617/14th when Flotilla
proceeded to minefield "Kilto".

At 1610/14th Minefield "Kilto" was completed and at 1843 anchored in
Great Taylor Bay. At 0621/15th sailed for minefield "Kilpill" and at 1030
commenced minesweeping operations. At 1533 anchored in Port Arthur.

Owing to unfavourable weather conditions remained at this anchorage
until 0615/17th. Secured alongside Ocean Pier Hobart at 1055.

Remained alongside until 1105/25th, a boiler clean being carried out
in the interim.

At 1610 anchored with Flotilla in Port Arthur.

Because of poor visibility and bad weather remained there until 1715
/28th when in company with Flotilla proceeded to minefield returning to
anchorage at 1718. Remained at anchor until 0615/31 when with Flotilla
departed for minefield.

Operation "Kilpill" completed at 1315. Secured alongside Ocean Pier
Hobart, at 1826.

Conduct of ships company has been very good.

Health of ships company has been excellent.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Distance steamed for month..... | 1404 miles |
| Hours under way..... | 151.73 hours |
| Miles per ton..... | 11.78 |
| Total miles steamed..... | 91960 miles |
| Total hours under way..... | 8726.1 hours |
| Average speed..... | 10.5 knots |

Chubson
(COMMANDING OFFICER).

A/Lieut.Cdr

RESTRICTED

2026/7/1386

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1914

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(See file 72/51/50)
J. Bailey 29/11/60

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER.

SUBJECT HMAS "Anzac"

REPORT ON PROCEEDINGS.

S.N. 13/3

February 1946

S.N. 16/3

S.N. 19/3

D. C. P. 20/3

D. 21/3

D. N. I. (Later)

Ops. (N) 22/3

N. S. 25/3

J. D. E. (N) 26/3

D. J. T. M. 28/3

D. N. M. 29/3

H. M. 30/3

N. A. 2. N. 1. 31/3

N. S. 31/3

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C.441/45.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

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2026-7-1386

1/3 SUBJECT: HMAS "Anarat" Report of Proceedings February 1946
D.P.S. 1/3

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29/11/60

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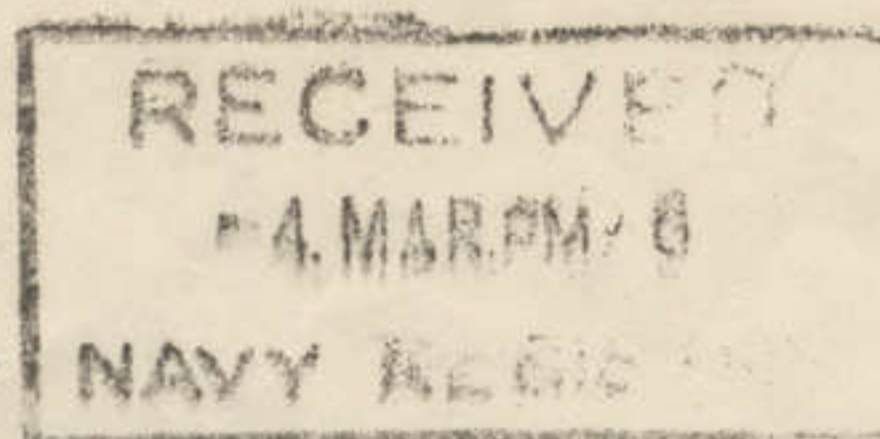
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J. Bailey
29/11/60

RESTRICTED



Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "ARARAT".

1st. March 1946.

1-0-16

Secretary Naval Board.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- FEBRUARY 1946.

Submitted:--

0748/1st. Secured alongside Nelson Pier, Williamstown.
1450. Slipped from alongside and at 1543 entered Williamstown Dry Dock. Remained in the dock until 1515/6th.
1540/6th. Secured alongside Nelson Pier.
Remained alongside until 1356/13th. when in company with remainder of the Flotilla, proceeded to minefield "Chaliapan Two".
1308/14th. Layed Datum Buoy Z1. At 1555 departed from minefield for Dover Island.
0430/15th. Sailed in company with H.M.A.S. "BUNBURY" for minefield.
1810/15th. Left minefield with Flotilla and at 1935 anchored on the East coast of Flinders Island. Owing to bad weather conditions remained at this anchorage until 0200/17th. when in company with H.M.A.S. "BUNBURY" proceeded to minefield.
Due to adverse weather conditions anchored at 0700/18th. in anchorage at Dover Island.
0705/19th. Sailed with Flotilla to minefield and carried out minesweeping operations until 1430/20th. when with Flotilla anchored at Sealers Cove. The opportunity was taken to pick up dan buoys from the sweepers to supplement gear lost in the bad weather.
0001. Anchor aweigh and in company with H.M.A.S. "BUNBURY" departed
1400. Completed recovering all dans the minefield having been completely swept and then sailed for Melbourne.
0147. Secured at Station Pier, Melbourne. Remained alongside until 1726/27th. when in company with remainder of Flotilla sailed for minefield "Kilmoon".
Minesweeping operations were carried out on the 28th.
The health of the ships company has been very good.
The conduct of the ships company has been excellent.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Distance steamed for month. | 1757 miles. |
| Hours under way. | 199.6 Hours. |
| Miles per ton. | 12.8 Miles. |
| Total miles steamed. | 90556 Miles. |
| Total hours under way. | 8574.37 Hours. |
| Average speed. | 10.5 Knots. |

A/Lieut. Cdr RANVR

COMMANDING OFFICER

6/3B

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2026/7/1386

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER.

SUBJECT

H.M.A.S. "Ararat" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

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H.P.B.

N.A.2.N.M.

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January 1946

Supplement

16

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161

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(See file 72/51/50)
J.B. Bailey 29/1/60

D.N.M.B. BRANCH
26 FEB 1946
NAVY OFFICE

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

2026-7-1386

C.441/45.

SUBJECT: *HMAS "Ararat" Report of Proceedings January 1946*

D.P.S. 6/2

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D.T.S.R. 12/2

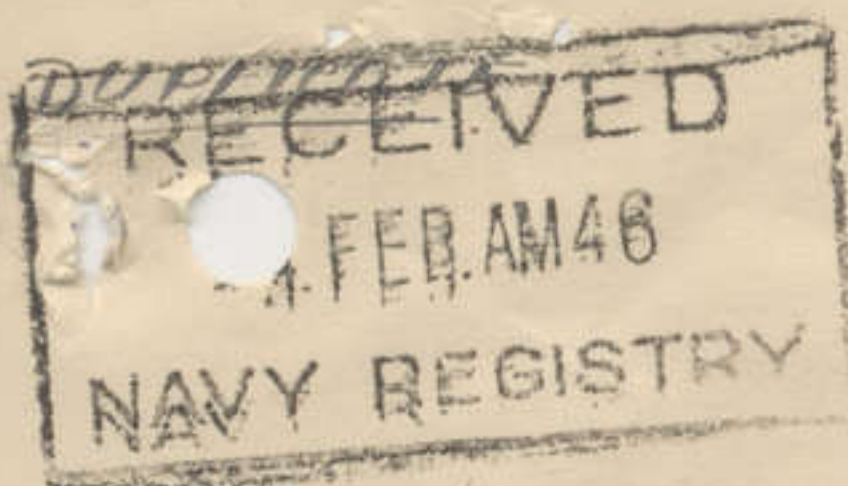
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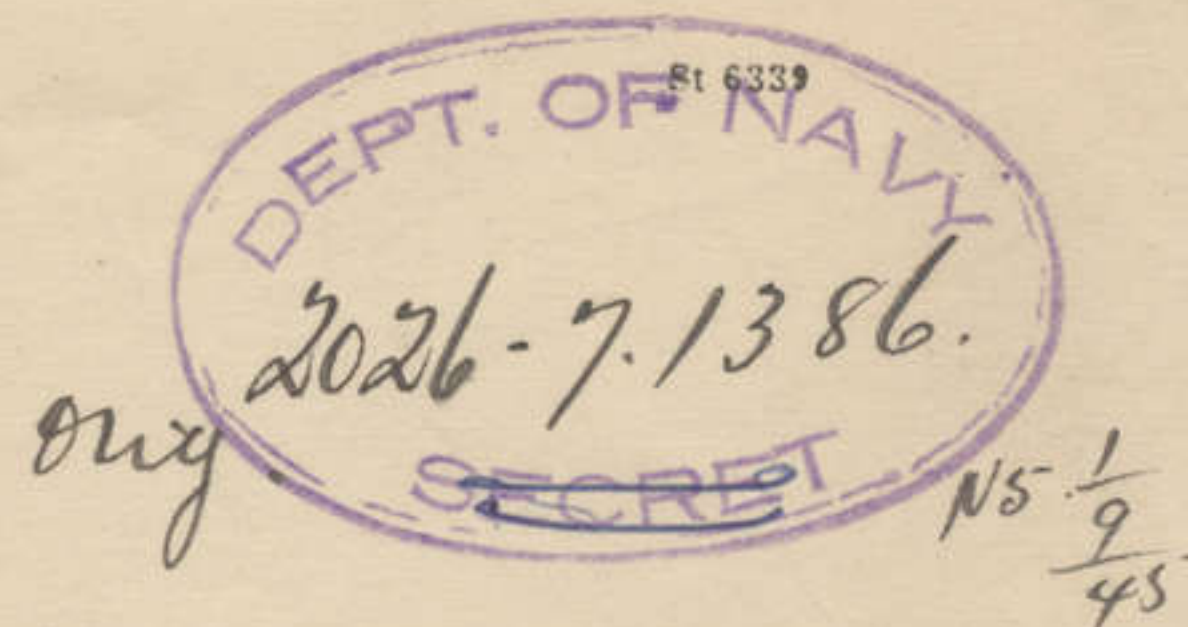


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JSB 29/11/60

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.



Royal Australian Navy.

From..... COMMANDING OFFICER H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"
Date..... 1st. February 1946 Reference No. 1.0.12.
To..... Secretary Naval Board
Subject..... MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS JANUARY 1946

Submitted for the information of Naval Board.
Remained alongside Village Point Jetty, Watsons Bay, Sydney on the 1st, and slipped at 2020/2nd, in company with H.M.A. Ships Swan, Bunbury and Cowra proceeded to minefield Killcastle Two.
Completed sweeping this minefield P.M. the 5th and departed with Flotilla for Sydney. Secured alongside Village Point Pier 0635/6th.
Remained alongside until 1345/9th. In company with Flotilla left for Waterloo Bay.
0920/11th Anchored at Waterloo Bay. Remained at anchor until 0315/14th, when in company with H.M.A. Ships Bunbury and Cowra departed to minefield "Chaliapan One" and layed Datum Buoy A7.
Carried out minesweeping operations on 14th and 15th and anchored in Norman Bay 2005/15th.
Owing to bad weather remained at anchor until 1555/20th, when in company with remainder of Flotilla sailed for Melbourne.
0907/21st secured alongside Nelsons Pier Williamstown.
Slipped 1426/24th, and in company with Flotilla left for minefield. With H.M.A. Ships Bunbury and Cowra layed Datum Buoys and Dan Buoys for A Row and Z Row.
1910/25th Anchored in Waterloo Bay. Remained at anchor due to bad weather until 0230/27th and returned to minefield. Continued operations until minefield "Chaliapan One" was completed. Anchored at night at Dover Island 1720/29th, left area and rejoined remainder of Flotilla at Sealers Cove. The 30th was spent at anchor and the opportunity was taken to renew and repair Dan Laying Equipment.
On the 23rd six additional Ordinary Seamen were drafted to the ship. This has made Dan Laying operations considerably easier, and enables some time to be spent on general ship's maintenance, which previously was neglected due to the amount of work necessary to maintain Dan gear effectively.
2105/31st sailed for Melbourne.
The Health of the ship's company has been very good.
The conduct of the ship's company has been excellent.

Distance steamed for month 2476 miles.
Hours under way for month 271⁴³ Hours.
Miles per ton 11.38 M.P.T.
Total miles steamed 88799 Miles.
Total hours under way 8374.77 Hours.
Average speed since commissioning 10.6 Knots.

Cluckeson
Lieut. R.A.N.V.R.
COMMANDING OFFICER

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2026/7/ 1386

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S.

"Marah"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

December 1945

S.N.B. 17/1

2 N.M. 21/1

3 N.M. 24/1

D. of R. 186 1/2

D.R. 1/1

D.N.I. (Later)

Ops. (N) 554 1/2

N.5.

D.E. (N) 211 8/2

D.O.T.M. 11 1/2

D.N.M.S. 11 1/2

H.P.B. 13/2

N.A.2.N.M. 13/2

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D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.)

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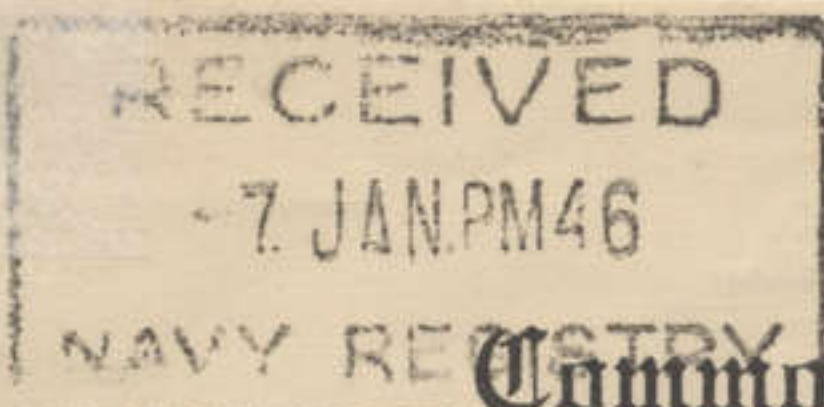
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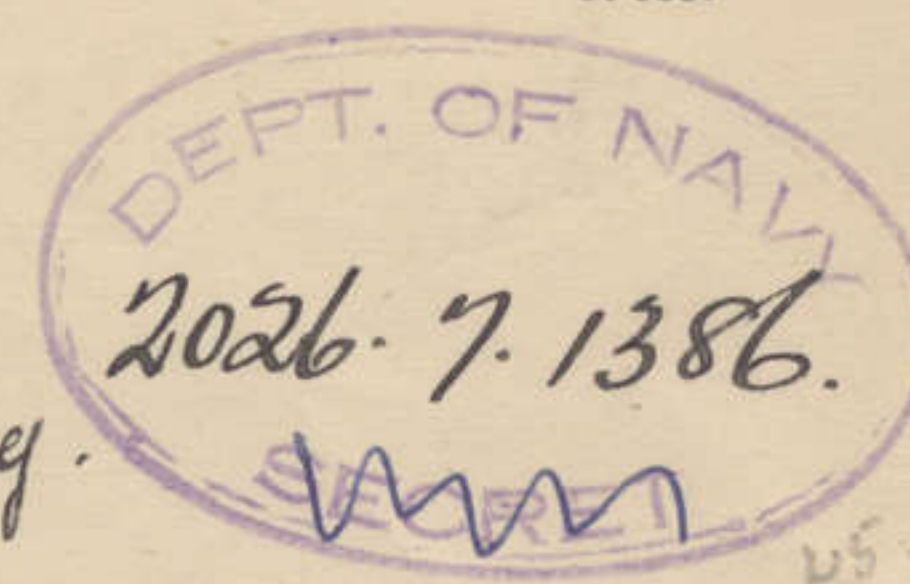
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Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

Duplicate

Royal Australian Navy.

Ency.From Commanding Officer H.M.A.S. "ARARAT".Date 1st January 1946.Reference No. 1011To Secretary Naval Board.Subject MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS --- DECEMBER 1945.Submitted for the information of Naval Board.Remained alongside Village Point Sydney on the 1st and 2nd.At 1918/3rd. slipped and proceeded to carry out Dan-Laying exercises for 3 days with H.M.A. Ships Bunbury and Cowra anchoring at night at Broken Bay.At 0407/7th. proceeding in company with H.M.A. Ships Bunbury and Cowra to the minefield to commence operation "Killcastle One" to lay the Datum Buoys. Remained at anchor on the 8th. and 9th. the time being spent in repairing and renewing dan-laying equipment.At 0405/10th. proceeded to the mine field and carried out dan-laying operations until the 13th. when we returned to Sydney.0632/13th. secured alongside at Village Point.At 2154/15th. slipped in company with H.M.A. Ships Swan, Bunbury and Cowra and proceeded to the minefield, remaining there for the 16th. 17th. and 18th., dan-laying with the remainder of the sweepers.1227/19th. anchored at Broken Bay due to bad weather.At 0440/20th. proceeded to area "Killcastle Two" with the remainder of the Flotilla. Carried out dan-laying operations until 1700/20th. when the Flotilla returned to Sydney and at 0747/21st. secured alongside Village Point Pier.Remainder of the month was spent alongside. During this period Ships Staff did a boiler clean and as much leave as possible was granted over the Christmas and New Year Holiday. Four days leave was granted to the natives of Victoria New South Wales and Queensland.The health of the Ships Company has been very good.The conduct of the Ships Company has been excellent.

Al

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Distance steamed for month | 1979 miles. |
| Hours under way | 240.51 hrs. |
| Average miles per ton | 12.36 miles. |
| Total distance steamed | 86323 miles. |
| Total hours under way | 8103.36 hrs. |
| Average speed | 10.6 kts. |

Chickson
LIUT. R.A.N.V.R.
(COMMANDING OFFICER).

4/10/45 19/11

382

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8 NOV 1945
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. 'Ararat' REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.
August & September 1945

S.N.B. *27/10*

2 N.M. *22/10*

3 N.M. *24/10*

D. of P. *27/10*

D.R.M. *29/10*

D.N.I. *31/10*

Ops. (N) *31/10*

N.B. *11*

D.E. (N) *11*

D.O.T.M. *13/11*

D.N.M.S. *15/11*

H.P.B. *19/11*

N.A.2.N.M. *19/11*

N.B. *22/11*

D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) *X*

Clap.
Miss Finch

2/10
2/11

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text on aged paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. Some words like "CONFIDENTIAL" and "RECEIVED" are visible.]

22 11 46
DNMB BRANCH
15 NOV 1946
OFFICE

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13/10

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1386

30

SUBJECT:

Amad "Ararat" Reports of Proceedings August to September 1945

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OTSA *RP* 11/10

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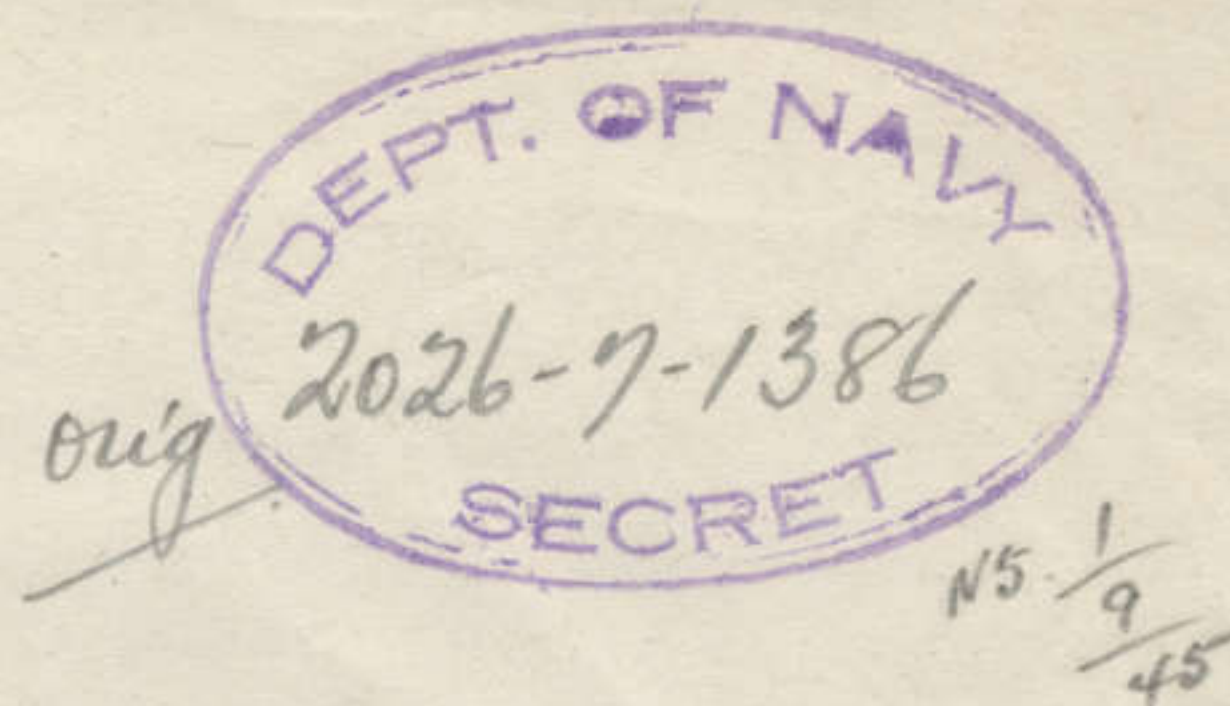
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14/10

16/10 P



COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

3rd. October, '45

Secretary to Naval Board.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS SEPTEMBER.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

Ship undergoing refit at Birkenhead, Port Adelaide.

Ships company on long leave.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Distance steamed during month | 114 miles. |
| Hours under way " " | 11 hrs. |
| Average miles per ton | 8.38 m.p.t. |
| Total distance steamed | 81,171 miles. |
| Total hours under way | 7,568.32 hrs. |
| Average speed. | 10.7 kts. |

LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

12/10 H



MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. AUGUST.

LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

15-19/9

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11 SEP 1945
L. J. M.

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(See file 72/51/50)
J.B. Bailey 29/11/60

2026/7/ 1386

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Ararat" REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

July 1945.

S.N.B. 24/8

2 N.M. 26/8

S.N.M. 28/8

D. of P. 29/8

R.M. 3/9

D.N.I. NIS-ROS 1/9

Ops. (N) 2/4/9

N.S. 5/9

D.E. (N) 20. 8/9

D.O.T.M. 0/3/9

E.N.M.S. 15/9

H.B. 1/9

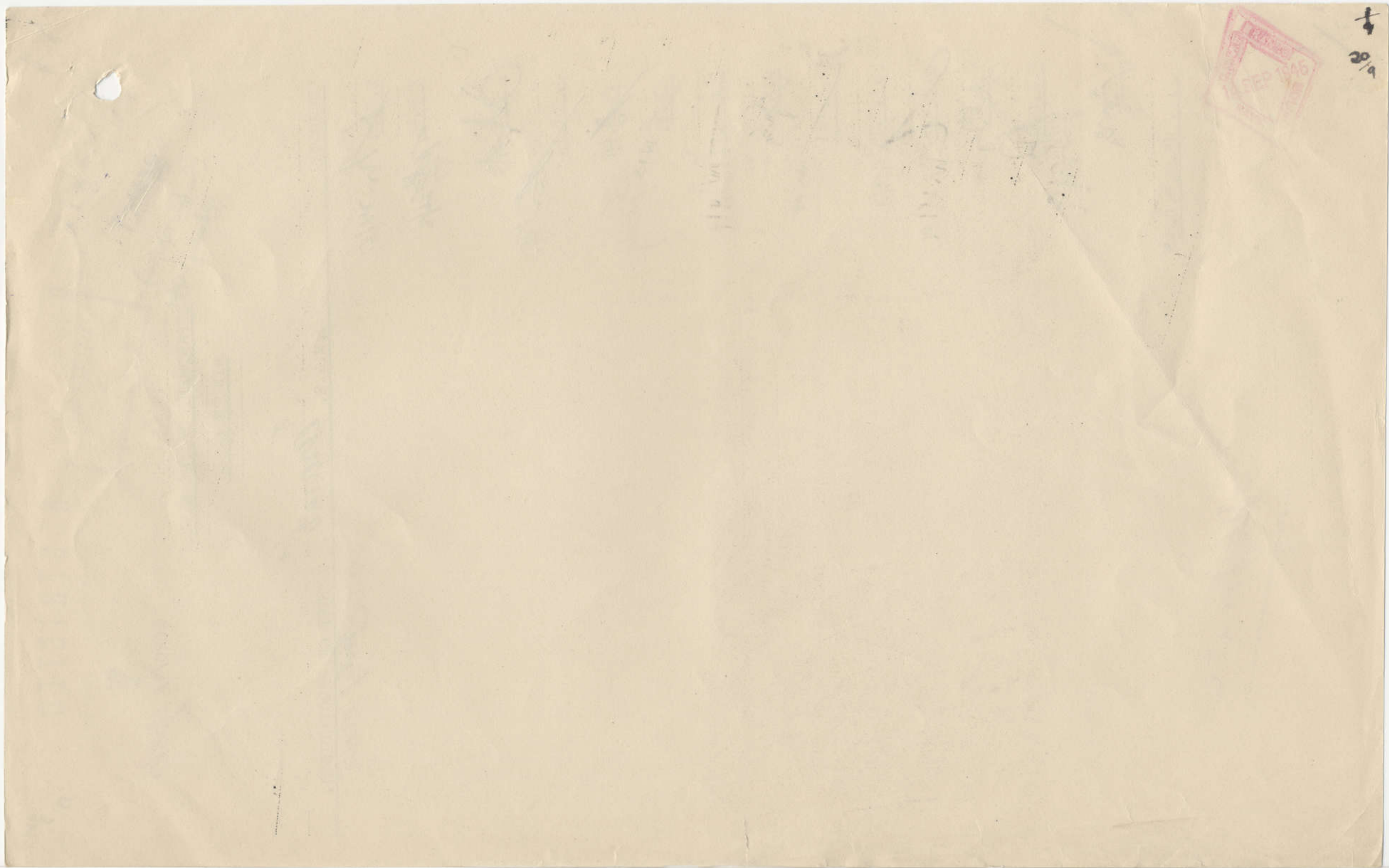
N.A.2.N.M. 1/9

N.S. 2/9

L.N.I. (N.H.R.O.) 4

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/7/1386

148. SUBJECT: *Amas "Ararat" Report of Proceedings July 1945.*

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JTB-22/11/60

D.P.S. *Vu* 11/8

D.T.S.R. *18/4/8*

DOD *9 15/8*

(3) Head of N. Request extract marked "X---X" be find OCHB *Jul 17/8*

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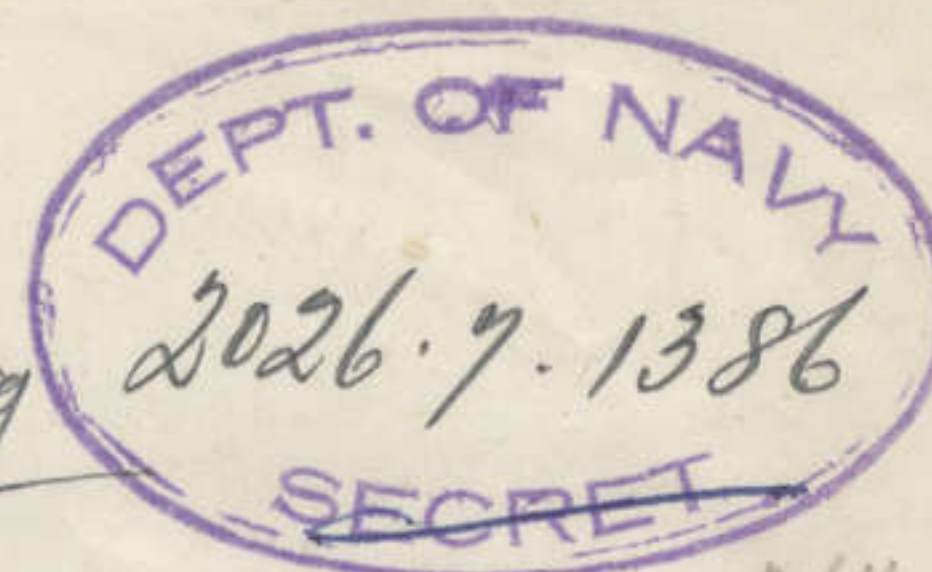
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(2) ~~ISTAM~~

(4) *NS.*

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29/1/60

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COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

2nd. August, '45

Secretary to Naval Board.

Report of Proceedings. July, '45.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

Departed from Morotai at 0631/4th. escorting Morotai Bruni Convoy No. 1 consisting of USS "Jos'e Verela" (Commodore) & N.A. 12. Arrived off Zamboanga at 0936/6th. detached from convoy and anchored in roadstead. Departed Zamboanga at 1400/7th. sailing independently. Arrived Morotai at 0630/9th. and at 0800 proceeded to sea in company with H.M.A.S.'s "Hawkesbury", (Com. D.) "Mildura", "Bowen", "Latrobe", & "Cowra" and carried out H/A. 4" gun practise and fleet manouvers. Returned to Morotai at 1135 and refuelled ex Bishopdale, and then proceeded to A/S patrol at position Baker at 1411/9th. Relieved at Baker by H.M.A.S. "Bowen" at 1055/10th. & anchored off Platypus at 1118/11th. Departed Morotai at 0730/13th. escorting USS "Lavaca" APA 180 Detached from convoy in position 05°21' N 124°20' E at 0900/14th. and returned to Morotai independently arriving at 0808/15th. and refuelled ex "Bishopdale". Departed Morotai at 0900/16th. independently. Arrived in Humboldt Bay at 0650/19th. and refuelled ex "Arayat". Departed Humboldt Bay at 0903 19th. Anchored in Madang Harbour at 1944k/20th. Departed Madang at 1612/21st. Arrived at Langemak at 1210/22nd. refuelled and departed Langemak at 1530/22nd. At 1555k deviated from course to assist survivors sighted on a waterlogged L.C.M. approximately 6 miles off the land. At 1605k lowered whaler and picked up American soldier in the water who was attempting to swim from the L.C.M. to shore. He had travelled about 2 miles from the waterlogged LCM. I consider this soldier very "game" but extremely lucky. At 1630k closed derelect and took off 5 more soldier survivors. At 1646k sunk derelect by gunfire and proceeded inshore. at 1700/22nd. transferred survivors into a rescue launch and proceeded. At 1845/22nd. commenced search for 15 fathom shoal reported in vicinity of 06°40'S 148°16'E. Gained numerous asdic shoal classifications but on running over contacts were not able to obtain bottom by fathometer or hand lead. At 2140 abandoned search and proceeded on voyage. At 1050/23rd. commenced search for 3-k/2 fathom shoal to the Eastward of Eve Shoal Buoy. Notice to Marines No. 70 refers. The area was thoroughly searched and I am of the opinion that this shoal does not exist. Abandoned search at 1408/23rd. and resumed voyage. On 25th. in vicinity of Bougainville Reef experienced abnormal S.E. set of about 2 to 3 Knots. Arrived Townsville at 1330k/26th. Refuelled and stored ships. Departed Townsville at 1709/27th.

To OCHB

2/c.

RESTRICTED


DB 29/11/60

Passed through boom gate entrance Sydney at 1040/31st.
Fuelled and secured to No. 7 buoy. Commenced storing ships

The health of ships company has been excellent.

The conduct of the ships company has been very good.
Despite warning a few ratings sampled native liquor when
ashore in Zamboanga with "delayed knockout" consequences.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Distance steamed during month | 5,560 Miles. |
| Hours under way | 436.53 hrs. |
| Average Miles per ton | 13.54 m.p.t. |
| Total distance steamed | 79,999 Miles |
| Total hours under way | 7475.71 Hrs. |
| Average speed | 10.7 knots. |


LIEUT. RANR (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.



orig.

| | | |
|------------------------|---|------|
| DEPT OF NAVY SECRET | | |
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Checked by
Indexing

COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

8th. July, '45

Secretary to Naval Board.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. JUNE.

H.N.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

Departed Morotai 29th. May and arrived at Tarakan 0900/H 1st. Departed from Tarakan at 1303/2nd. Anchored at Tawi Tawi at 0815 3rd. Refuelled and departed Tawi Tawi 1251/4th. escorting L.C.T's. 1316, 1321, 1325 & 1329. Anchored off Tarakan at 1823/5th. At request of Brigadier General Whitehead ship maintained an A/S and Radar patrol at approaches to the harbour during dark hours. Bombs were dropped by enemy aircraft on Tarakan on the nights of 8th. and 9th. During a.m. of 12th. carried out a L.L. and S.A. sweep of main channel.

Entertained Brigadier General Whitehead and his A.D.C. to lunch on 12th. Carried out practise 4" H/A & L/A shoot P.M. 12th. H.M.A.S. "Cowra" arrived at 1525/13th. and departed P.M. 14th. for Tawi Tawi to refuel. Embarked 5 Australian officers and 16 other ranks for passage to Morotai. Departed from Tarakan at 0803/15th. Arrived at Morotai 1230/I 17th. Refuelled and disembarked passengers. Anchored off "Platypus" at 1451/17th. Relieved H.M.A.S. "STAWELL" on patrol at point Baker at 1728/18th. Was relieved by H.M.A.S. "Glenelg" at 1351/21st. Air raid Alert 0350 to 0410/23rd. Departed Morotai 0920/24th. Sailing independently. Arrived Mios Woendi at 0634/26th. refuelled and departed at 0906/26th. Anchored in Sorido Lagoon at 1107/26th. and assumed duties of Guard Ship. Departed Sorido 1200 27th. escorting U.S.T. "Sea Barb" (Commodore) & "Evangeline". Escorts "Ararat" (S.O.E.) & "Latrobe". Investigated A/S contact at 1604/28th. in position 01°35'N 135°05'E. Contact classified as Non Sub. at 1617 28th. Arrived at Morotai at 0652/29th. Refuelled and anchored off "PLATYPUS" at 0927/29th. and commenced "boiler cleaning".

The health of the ships company has been very good.

The conduct of ships company has been excellent.

Leave was granted during period spent in Tarakan and many of the ships company took advantage of the chance to visit the A.I.F. in the front lines. This experience was very much appreciated as it gave the R.A.N. a chance to appreciate the conditions and hardships which our Diggers have to fight under. Such an experience is, in my opinion, excellent for morale.

- 2 -

Distance Steamed during Month
Hours under way during Month
Average Miles per Ton.
Total Distance Steamed
Total hours under way
Average speed

2,516 Miles.
220.25 Hrs.
10.2 M.P.T.
74,439 Miles.
7,039.18 hrs.
10.5 knots.



LIEUT. E.A.M.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

2026/7/ 1215 2/7 ⁴⁸⁰²

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT:

H.M.A.S.

Ararat

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

May 1945.

~~S.N.B.~~

~~2 N.M.~~

~~3 N.D.~~

~~D. of~~

~~N.B.M.~~

~~D.N.I.~~

~~Ops. (N)~~

~~N.S.~~

~~D.F. (N)~~

~~D.O.T.M.~~

~~D.N.M.S.~~

~~E.I.B.~~

~~N.A. 2nd M.~~

~~N.S.~~

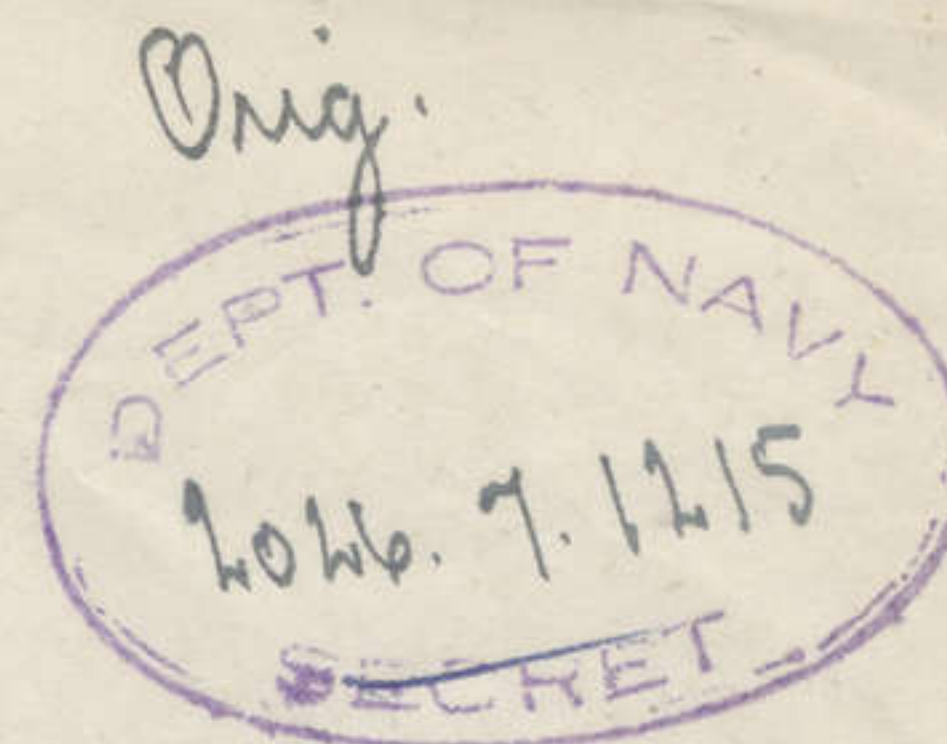
~~D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.)~~

TRIPLICATE

13/9 24/7

39 23/6





RESTRICTED

COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

7th. June '45

Secretary to Naval Board

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. MAY.

Submitted for the Information of the Naval Board.

Weighed and proceeded from Morotai at 1500 1st. in company with H.M.A.S. "Mildura" and carried out an H.A. 4" practise shoot on sleeve target.

"Rendezvous" at 1820 1st. with convoy G.B. 755. S/S "Richard Moczykowski (Commodore) and S/S "George Vancouver". Escorts H.M.A.S.'s "Mildura" (S.O.), "Ararat", & "Townsville".

Escorts detached from convoy at 1000 3rd. Anchored in Mios Woendi at 1830 3rd. Refuelled from "Villa Lobos" on 4th. At 1258 7th. weighed and proceeded to investigate a reported sighting of periscope off Owi Island. Obtained an A/S contact at 1405 in position 01°18'S. 135°15'E. Contact lost at 1430. H.M.A.S. "Kapunda" joined search. (My letter to Com. South West Pacific Sea Frontier dated 14th. May refers). Abandoned search at 1700/I. Anchored in Mios Woendi at 1809. Departed from Woendi at 0628/8th. escorting S/S "Matthew Flinders". Read prayers on VE day 9th. May. Entered Morotai at 0643/11th. and lead "Matthew Flinders" to anchorage. Relieved "Bundaberg" in position Baker at 0800/ 11th. "Bathurst" relieved me at position Baker at 1000/13th. Departed Morotai 1617 13th. escorting convoy G.B. 759 consisting of 10 L.S.T.'s. (Commodore in L.S.T. 775) and S/S "Edward Nickles" "John Ross" "Charles Tout" "Hoterlletysky" & "Thomas Coody". Escorts "Mildura" (S.O.) "Ararat" and "June". Escorts detached from convoy at 1642/15th. At 1710 15th. sunk a floating mine in position 00°44'S. 135°55'E. Arrived at Mios Woendi at 0610/16th. Refuelled from "Villa Lobos". Stored ship and departed Woendi at 1134/16th. Anchored in Sorido Lagoon at 1343/16th.

Departed from Biak at 1731/19th. escorting Convoy B.G. 540 "USAT Sea Ray" (Commodore) "Peter T. Rowe" & L.C.I. 73. Escorts "Mildura" (S.O.) and "Ararat".

Arrived Morotai at 0654/22. Anchored off "Platypus" at 0748 and commenced boiler cleaning period. At 1705/23rd. received orders from Commander (D) to raise steam. Commenced to reassemble machinery and boilers etc. etc. At 1817/23rd. received orders to resume boiler cleaning. Refuelled from "Bishopdale" at 0700/28th. At 1030/29th. Commander (D) embarked for passage to Tarakan. Departed from Morotai at 1214/29th. escorting USS "Blount" to Tarakan. Anchored off Tarakan at 100/1st. June.

- 2 -
RESTRICTED

JB 29/11/60

The health of the ships company has been very good. Two cases of "trachoma" diagnosed and prompt precautions prevented further cases occurring.

The conduct of the ships company has been excellent.

A leaking condenser tube was experienced during the last few days of the month.

I strongly recommend that all condenser tubes in this ship are surveyed during refitting period.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Distance steamed during month | 3418 miles. |
| Hours under way during month | 335.38 hrs. |
| Average Miles per ton | 12.996 miles. |
| Total distance steamed since commission | 71923 Miles. |
| Total hours under way " " | 6818.93 hrs. |
| Average speed | 10.55 knots. |



LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

I herewith enclose a copy of result of a Gallup Poll carried out in this ship last December 1944 by the Leading Steward. This was made in conjunction with the ships daily newspaper.

RESTRICTED

2026/7/ 1215.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

MINUTE PAPER

SECRET
(See file 72/51/50)
J.B. Bailey
29/11/62

SUBJECT:

RECEIVED

7 JUL 1945

H.M.A.S.

"Ararat"

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

April 1945.

S.N.B.

D.O.T.M.

2 N.M.

3 N.M.

D.O.P.

D.R.M.

D.N.I.

Ops. (N)

N.S.

D.E. (N)

D.O.T.M.

D.N.M.S.

H. C. B.

N.A. 2 M.M.

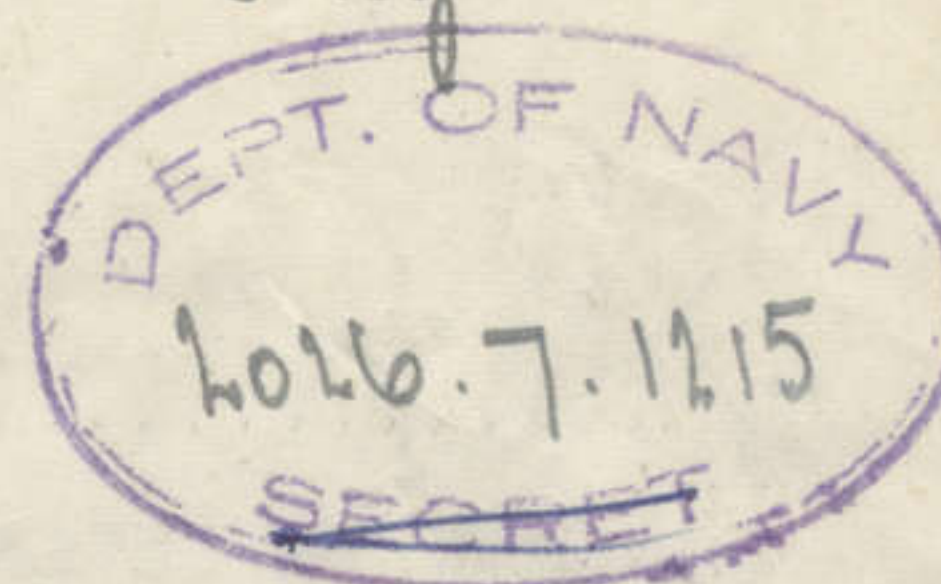
N.O.

D.N.I. (N.H.R.O.)

Mr. Lesson

13/1 K

11 JUL 1944
NAVY
OFFICE



COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

4th. May, '45.

N.B. 33.

Secretary to Naval Board.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. APRIL.

Submitted for the information of Naval Board.

At 0621 1st. weighed and proceeded alongside Wharf at Lae and loaded cases of Comforts. Departed from Lae at 0735. Anchored in Langemak Bay at 1231. Departed from Langemak at 1420 1st. towing a L.C.M. Entered Madang Harbour at 1930 2nd. Slipped L.C.M. and anchored. Departed from Madang at 0533 4th. Anchored in Hansa Bay at 1432 4th. and commenced discharging Army Stores by ships boats. At 1740 4th. weighed and proceeded. At 0025 5th. in position 03°07'S 144°31'E obtained a radar echo at 12,700 yds. and as plot reported target on suspicious course ship went to Action Stations. Increased speed to investigate. At 0124 target identified as H.M.A.S. "Lachlan". At 0700 6th. entered Humboldt Bay and refuelled. Departed Hollandia at 1017 6th. in company with H.M.A.S. "Mildura". At 1534 6th. in position 1°56'S. 140°22'E. hit submerged object (Letter to Naval Board No. N.B. 31 of 9th. April refers). At 155D 7th. arrived at Mios Woendi. Secured alongside "Platypus" and diver down to inspect damage. At 1857 anchored and commenced boiler cleaning period. Base A/S staff carried out repairs to A/S gear. Departed at 0830 12th. April. Arrived off Sorido at 1100 and Base A/S Officer boarded to carry out an A/S trial. Trials reported satisfactory. Departed for Woendi at 1200. Arrived at Mios Woendi at 1355 12th. Weighed and proceeded at 1250 13th. Anchored off Sorido at 1535 13th. Weighed at 1735 14th. and proceeded to escort Convoy No. G.I. 21 consisting of U.S.S. "George Berkley" (Commodore) & "James A. Bayard". Contacted U.S. Destroyer Escort "E.A. Howard" detached from convoy at 1415 16th. Arrived off Sorido at 1418 17th. picked up Convoy Orders and proceeded at 1452 escorting Convoy No. B.G. 530A. Consisting of U.S.S. "Sea Barb" and U.S.S. "Sea Ray". Arrived at Moratai at 1043 19th. Refuelled and anchored off Navy Wharf at 1500. Relieved H.M.A.S. "Bundaberg" at position ABLE at 0900 20th. On being relieved by H.M.A.S. "BUNDABERG" at 1335 20th. proceeded to carry out a L.L. sweep in channel between Dodda & Galo Galo Island. Completed sweeping at 1700 and at 1815 relieved H.M.A.S. "Bundaberg" at position ABLE. Was relieved by H.M.A.S. "Bundaberg" at 0756 21st. Relieved H.M.A.S. "Rockhampton" at position BAKER at 0827 21st. At 1725 22nd. was relieved by H.M.A.S. "Gootamunda". Departed Moratai at 1902 22nd.

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RESTRICTED

- 2 -

886 24/11/60

At 2130 attached to convoy No. G.B. 75V. consisting of U.S.S. "Clarence Roberts" (Commodore) & "Charles Steinmetz". Escorts H.M.A.S.'s "Bundaberg" (S.O.E.) & "Ararat". At 1100 24th. Convoy detached and proceeded in company with "Bundaberg" to Woendi. Arrived at Woendi at 1843 24th. and anchored at 1910. On 25th. fuelled and stored ship and departed from Mios Woendi at 1422 25th. Anchored in Sorido Lagoon 1633. Departed at 1728 25th. escorting Convoy B.G. 532 consisting of U.S.S. "Pulpit Rock" (Commodore) U.S.S. "Millen Griffiths" and S/S "Balikpapan". Escorts H.M.A.S.'s. "Mildura" (S.O.E.) and "Ararat". Entered Moratai Harbour at 0850 28th. Relieved H.M.A.S. "Bowen" in position BAKER at 1015. Was relieved by H.M.A.S. "Townsville" at 0840 30th. Weighed at 0842 and proceeded. Anchored off Navy Wharf Moratai at 0925 30th.

The health of the ships company has been very good. On the last day of the month one stoker was hospitalised at 2nd/5th. A.G.H. Moratai with Haematuria and one stoker contracted a mild attack of scabies. All isolationary precautions taken.

The conduct of the ships company has been excellent.

No more condenser trouble has been experienced during the month but the auxiliary machinery is showing signs of requiring a general overhaul.

The ships motor boat engine has been giving a great amount of trouble during the last four months and is now unusable. Efforts will be made to obtain a marine Simplex Engine.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Distance steamed during month | 3,971 miles. |
| Hours under way | 364.65 hrs. |
| Average miles per ton | 12.22 M.P.T. |
| Total distance steamed | 68,505 miles. |
| Total hours under way | 6,483.55 hrs. |
| Average speed | 10.56 knots. |

F.M. Mygell

LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

RESTRICTED

269/12

81 6339

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From... COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. ARARAPA 1945

Date... 2nd April, 1945. Reference No. 100 C

To... SECRETARY TO THE NAVAL BOARD, NAVY OFFICE.

Subject... MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, MARCH, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board :

Weighed anchor in Cleveland Bay at 0934, 1st, and proceeded into port. Secured to Harbour Trust Wharf, Townsville, at 1010, 1st. Half of ship's company sent away at a time for recreational leave at Charters Towers, for four days. Made one unsuccessful attempt to put ship on slipway at 0630, 10th, but due to docking party being unable to raise the rudder locking bar of the slipway, attempt had to be abandoned. On 11th, at 0700, ship was successfully slipped. At 0850, ship high and dry. At 0825, 14th, commenced to lower ship down slipway. Ship water borne at 0910. At 1700, 16th, ship ordered to prepare for sea to go to assistance of S.S. "Subigo", disabled in Coral Sea. General recall of liberty men sent out and at 2000, 16th, ship slipped from berth and proceeded to sea with only two ratings missing. Due to high wind and heavy sea and swell took shelter in lee of Palm Islands, at 0100, 17th. Contracted leaky condenser tube trouble and returned to Townsville for repairs. Secured to wharf at 1326, 17th, and commenced to carry out repairs. Slipped from wharf at 0900, 19th, and proceeded to area of search for S.S. "Subigo", E.S.E. of Grafton Passage. Arrived outer end of Grafton Passage at 2330, 19th, and commenced search. At 1310, 20th, received orders to proceed to pick up survivors from Douglas aircraft crashed 130 miles south of Port Moresby. Speed increased to 14 knots. At 1938, 20th, received orders to resume search for "Subigo". Reduced speed. At 12229, 21st, received orders to proceed to position 13° 31' S, 145° 03' E. and search for survivors of "Subigo". Increased speed to 14 knots. Arrived at forementioned position at 1000 22nd, and commenced to carry out thorough search. Reduced speed. At 1010, 23rd, located empty lifeboat in position 13° 49' S, 145° 25' E. No survivors. At 1603, 23rd., located second empty lifeboat in position 13° 24' S, 145° 14' E. No survivors. At 2000 ship steaming on starboard engine due to condenser trouble.

26 24

At 0917, 24th, resumed steaming on two engines. At 1800, 24th, abandoned search as ordered by N.O.I.C. Townsville, and proceeded to Port Moresby for fuel and E.R. repairs. At 1423. 25th, secured to wharf, Port Moresby. Engine Room staff ~~xx~~ opened up both condensers during stay in Moresby and tightened up all condenser tube ferruls, and tested same satisfactorily. Slipped from Moresby wharf at 1500 29th, and proceeded to sea in company with H.M.A.S. "Mildura". Detached from "Mildura" at 1325 31st, off Mitre Rock. Anchored off Lae at 2336, 31st.


✓ The health of the ship's company has been very good. Four cases of dengue fever contracted whilst in Townsville were hospitalized in "Magnetic".

The conduct of the ship's company has been excellent. No disciplinary action was required during vessel's recreational period in Townsville, and under the circumstances of the ship having been in forward areas for nine months, I consider this exceptional.

Since last refitting in June, 1944, the ship has twice experienced condenser trouble but these had been satisfactorily overcome. However, during this last month this trouble has given rise to concern.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Distance steamed during March : | 2,579 miles |
| Hours under way " " ; | 223.56 hours. |
| Average miles per ton: | 14.9 m.p.ton |
| Total distance steamed: | 64,534 miles |
| Total hours under way : | 6,118.9 hours |
| Average speed : | 10.54 knots. |

Signed:


Lieutenant, R.A.N.R.(S).
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From..... COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. ARARAT
 Date..... 5th March, 1945..... Reference No.....
 To..... SECRETARY TO THE NAVAL BOARD, NAVY OFFICE.
 Subject..... MONTHLY REPOT OF PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board:

Departed from Woendi at 1445, 2nd, and anchored off Sorido Roads at 1705, 2nd. On 3rd February, embarked 2 RAAF ratings and approximately 2 tons of RAAF gear for Moratai. Departed from Sorido at 1430, 4th, escorting convoy No. B.G. 513 consisting of U.S.S. "Carlos Carillo" (Commodore), "West Texas", "E.C. Gardiner", "Noora". Escorts H.M.A.Ss "Ararat" (S.O.) and "Kapunda". At 1300, 7th, convoy entered Moratai Roads. Anchored off Naval wharf Moratai at 1320, and disembarked RAAF personnel and gear. Anchored in position ABLE and assumed A/S. guard. At 2245, 8th, streamed a grass-line to a sailing canoe containing three U.S. Flying Officers. The wind had dropped and the canoe as being swiftly carried out to sea by the tide. At 2330, canoe secured alongside. Officers given a shakedown for the night. Was relieved at position Able by H.M.A.S. Bundaberg, at 0740, 10th. Weighed at 1735, 10th, and proceeded to rendezvous outside the harbour to await convoy No. G.B. 733. Rendezvous effected with G.B. 733, consisting of U.S. Tug "Vireo" towing three barges, (Commodore), and L.C.I. 968, escorts H.M.A.Ss "Ararat" (S.O.) and "Kapunda". Detached from convoy at 1505, 13th, and proceeded to Mios Woendi escorting L.C.I. 968, as ordered by Port Director, Moratai. Arrived in Woendi at 0910, 14th. Anchored at 0923, 14th, and commenced boiler cleaning period.

Departed from Woendi at 0846, 21st. Anchored in Hansa Bay at 0525, 23rd, and commenced embarking 83 soldiers. Embarkation completed, weighed and proceeded at 0630, 23rd. At 0930, 23rd, for exercise dropped five depth charges in 160 fathoms in position 04°23' S, 145° 21' E. All fired correctly. Anchored at Madang at 1551K, 23rd, and commenced disembarking soldiers. Departed from Madang at 1615K, 24th. Secured alongside tanker "Brajara" in Dreger Harbour at 0736K, 25th, and refuelled. Departed from Dreger Harbour at 0917.


At 1410K, 26th, for exercise dropped one depth charge set to 50ft., in 70 fathoms of water in position $10^{\circ} 53' S$, $150^{\circ} 32' E$. This charge failed to explode. Immediately after this charge was released, the next charge in the rails (set to safe), jumped the pawls. A reoprt of this is being forwarded to the D.O.T.M. At 1505K, 28th, for exercise dropped three depth charges set to 100 feet in 20 fathoms from the faulty rail in position $18^{\circ} 21' S$, $146^{\circ} 40' E$. Charges all released correctly and all fired. Anchored in Cleveland Bay at 2052K, 28th.

The health of the ship's company has been very good.

The conduct of the ship's company has been excellent. The "talkie" pictures shown in H.M.A.S. "Platypus" every night are very much appreciated by the ship's company.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Distance steamed for February: | 3,334 miles |
| Hours under way " " : | 306. 03 hours |
| Miles per Ton " " : | 12. 48 miles |
| Total distance steamed : | 61,955 miles |
| Total hours under way : | 5,895. 34 hours |
| Average speed : | 10. 5 knots. |

Signed:


 Lieutenant R.A.N.R.(S).
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. ARARAT
 Date 4th Feb., 1945 Reference No. _____
 To SECRETARY TO THE NAVAL BOARD
 Subject MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY, 1945.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board:

Departed from Seeadler Harbour at 1702, 31st Dec. Arrived in Mios Woendi at 1507, 3rd Jan. Departed Woendi at 0904, 5th, and anchored off Sorido at 1144, 5th. At 1307, 7th, weighed and proceeded with Convoy No. B.G. 509; S.S. "Thomas Corwin" (Commodore), and S.S. "C.W. Pasley". Escorts H.M.A.Ss. Cootamundra (S.O.E.), Stawell and Ararat. Arrived off Moratai at 0845, 10th, and followed convoy into harbour. Assumed A/S. guard at position Baker at 0942, 10th. At 0315, 11th, Red Warning. Closed up at Action Stations. "All clear", and secured at 0342. Was relieved at point Baker by H.M.A.S. Stawell at 1146, 12th. At 1258, 13th, departed from Moratai, escorting U.S.S. "Dunback". Escorts H.M.A.Ss. Cootamundra (S.O.E.), Stawell and Ararat. At 1230, 15th, H.M.A.Ss. Cootamundra and Ararat detached from convoy, and proceeded independently to Woendi, arriving at 0629, 16th. Carried out A/S Guard inside boom entrance Woendi from 0800, 17th, to 0800, 18th. and from 1024, 19th to 1030, 20th. Departed Woendi at 1247, 20th, and arrived Sorido at 1545, 20th. At 1744, 20th, departed with Biak section of Convoy G.I. 4, consisting of U.S.S. "Maui" (Commdre.) "Cape Meredith", "Dilworth", "W.C. Atwater", "M. McCarven", and "Sam Jackson". Escorts H.M.A.Ss. Stawell and Ararat, Stawell as S.O.E. Effected contact with convoy G.I. 4, at rendezvous with the aid of the 272 Radar Set during heavy rain and poor visibility. H.M.A.Ss. Stawell and Ararat detached from convoy at 0940, 21st, and returned to Sorido, arriving at 1343, 21st.

Departed Sorido at 1603, escorting Convoy B G 511, consisting of U.S.S. "Minnie M. Fiske", (Commodore), and "Joseph M. Carey". Escorts H.M.A.Ss Stawell and Ararat, Stawell as S.O.E. Arrived at Moratai at 0920, 24th, and followed convoy into harbour. Assumed A/S. Guard at position Baker at 1200, 24th. Was relieved at Baker by H.M.A.S. Colac, at 1255, 27th.

Departed from Moratai at 1857, 27th, accompanying H.M.A.S. Stawell on independent passage to Woendi. Carried out 4 inch. H.A. practice shoot at 1630, 28th, using star shell as target. Arrived at Woendi at 1550, 29th.

The health of the ships company has been very good. There has been an epidemic of common colds throughout the ship, due to a cool change experienced for a few days during the month. One case of acute appendicitis was hospitalized in H.M.A.S. Manoora and an operation carried out. Patient progressing satisfactorily.

The conduct of the ships company has been excellent. A quota of beer for ships company was obtained from H.M.A.S. Wilcannia, and the issue of beer to the ships company greatly contributes to the contentment of all.

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Distance steamed during January: | 3,496 miles. |
| Hours under way " " : | 341.8 hrs. |
| Miles per ton : | 13.7 M.P.T. |
| Total distance steamed since commissioning: | 58,621 miles. |
| Total hours under way " ": | 5,589.31 hrs. |
| Average speed : | 10. 35 knots. |

Signed:



Lieutenant, R.A.N.R.(S).

COMMANDING OFFICER.

Handwritten signature
MANDER
13/11/44
14 NOV 1944

COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

3rd November, 1944

SECRETARY TO THE NAVAL BOARD.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. OCTOBER, 1944.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

At 1615 on 5th Oct., weighed and proceeded to sea to escort S.S. "Hinton. R. Helper". On passing through boom entrance I received a signal directing me to join D.E. 202 as he had a sub. contact while on A/S. patrol off the entrance. In company with D.E. 202 and later with H.M.A.S. "Hawkesbury", carried out a square search at 15 knots. At 2150 was ordered to detach from search and proceeded to rendezvous position, $00^{\circ} 43' S. 149^{\circ} 10' E.$ Effected rendezvous with Task Unit 31/5/4 at 1513 6th Oct. Ships K117 (Commodore), K 121, K 75, and K 107 detached from Task Unit at 1615 and H.M.A.S. "Ararat" assumed escort for these ships to Manus. Convoy entered Seeadler Harbour at 0600, 7th Oct. Entered Seeadler Harbour at 0613. Weighed at 1600 on 10th Oct., and proceeded to carry out an A/S. patrol in the approaches to Seeadler Harbour. Was relieved of patrol at 1840, 12th Oct and proceeded to rendezvous position $2^{\circ} 52' S. 148^{\circ} 15' E.$ Effected rendezvous with U.S. Submarine "Pollock" at 0420, 13th, and proceeded to escort same in a westerly direction. Detached from submarine at 1700, 13th, and course set for Kaniet Islands.

Approached Kaniet Islands from the west at 0400, 14th. Circumnavigated the islands, and at 0600 landed an armed party under the command of Lieut. E.C. Jeanes consisting of ten ratings and two officers, to comply with orders received to search for a suspected Japanese Radio Location. H.M.A.S. "Ararat" stood "close in", to give cover to landing party. At 1115 shore party commenced combing inland of the largest island and H.M.A.S. "Ararat" proceeded to investigate Sae Islands, 15 miles to the N-W. Completed investigation of Sae Islands at 1310 with negative results. Landing party returned to ship at 1700, to report no signs of Japanese occupation. Whilst wading across the reefs the party was attacked by sea snakes and sharks and when investigating native huts they were attacked by wild boars. No casualties occurred, but the party was naturally exhausted after tramping 10 miles with arms and ammunition in jungle areas.

Arrived at Seeadler Harbour at 0505, 15th, and refuelled. Departed from Seeadler Harbour at 1155, 17th en route to Madang to pick up new A/S. oscillator. Anchored in Madang at 0800, 18th. At 2310, on 18th, weighed and proceeded at full speed to the assistance of H.M.A.S. "Geelong" At 0825, 19th, in position 05° 56' N. 147° 31' E passed through floating debris consisting of French Float, dan buoy spar and pellets, rafts and timber. No sign of damaged vessel in given position of accident at 1030. Proceeded to carry out a sweeping search towards Langemak. At 1243 was informed by American P.C. boat that H.M.A.S. "Geelong" had sunk, all hands saved. Proceeded to Langemak. Arrived at Langemak at 1420, 19th. Departed from Langemak at 0520, 20th, with eight officers and sixty-four ratings ex H.M.A.S. "Geelong" on passage. Anchored in Madang Harbour at 1700, 20th, and disembarked personnel. Departed from Madang at 1220, 21st. Arrived in Seeadler Harbour at 1000, 22nd. Departed from Seeadler Harbour at 1722, 22nd en route to Ninigo Islands to pick up natives reputedly short of food. Lieut. Booker (A.N.G.A.U.) embarked. Anchored off Longan Island, Ninigo, at 1000 23rd, Lieut. Booker and landing party proceeded ashore. The party returned at 1330 with information that natives not in Ninigo Group, but on Hermit Islands. Weighed and proceeded at 1555. Anchored off Maron Island, Hermit Group, at 0625, 24th. At 0725 motor boat and shore party proceeded to Luf Island to pick up native survivors, who arrived on island in a native canoe, 22nd. Motor boat returned at 1005 with native survivor who on interrogation stated that his name was "Natava" (?). He and two other natives set out from Ocean Island 1500 miles away, to get away from the Japanese. One of the natives died from exposure, and the other one was taken from the canoe by sharks. Natava stated that he had been "seven moons" on passage. He was very weak and in an emaciated condition. Medical attention was given him and he was then placed in care of A.N.G.A.U.

Embarked 54 natives for passage to Manus at 1220. Weighed and proceeded at 1528, 24th. Arrived at Seeadler Harbour at 0512, 25th, and disembarked natives at 0700. At 1622 of 26th, passed through boom gate with convoy consisting of U.S.S. "Naos", (Commodore), "Arided", U.S.C.G. "Mintaka", and S.S. "Weltevreden". Escorts H.M.A.S. "Ararat" (S.O.E.) and S.C. 750. Arrived off Kossol Passage, Palau Islands, at 0645, 31st. Detached from convoy who entered passage. Entered Kossol Passage at 0808, refuelled and watered. Anchored at 1658.

The health of the ship's company has been excellent, despite the fact that no fresh fruit or vegetables has been available. The ship's company was vaccinated whilst in Madang.

The conduct of the ship's company has been excellent.

There is no relation between health & absence of fresh fruit & vegetables

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Distance steamed during October: | 4,148 miles. |
| Hours under way " " : | 382.75 hours. |
| Average miles per ton " " : | 17.5 m.p.t. |
| Total distance steamed since commissioning: | 46, 238 miles |
| Total hours under way " " : | 4, 395.03 hours |
| Average speed " " : | 10.52 knots. |

Signed:


 Lieutenant, R.A.N.R.(S).
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Copy to Comm (D)
 " " NOIC NG.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of The Navy.



25/10.

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT".

Date 4th Oct., 1944 Reference No. _____

To SECRETARY TO THE NAVAL BOARD.

Subject MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER, 1944.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.:

Duplicate

At 1430/1 2nd Sept., weighed and proceeded to sea to rendezvous with convoy, and at 1542/1 sailing orders postponed. Returned to Seeadler and anchored at 1616/1. Weighed and proceeded at 1434/1, 3rd Sept. Rendezvous with convoy at 1540/1, consisting of "JACQUES LARAMIE" (Commodore), and "NANCY HANKS". At 2105/1, 4th Sept., the steering gear jammed. Changed into hand steering and investigation carried out by E.R. Department. Engineer Officer is of the opinion that steam control valve stuck and overhaul of same carried out next time in harbour. Resumed bridge steering at 2126/1. Arrived off Biak Island at 0830/1, 6th Sept. Led convoy into Sorido Bay. Detached from convoy in Sorido Bay at 0910/1. Ordered by P.D. to return to Seeadler. At 1200/1 8th Sept., Sick Berth Attendant reported one CDR (D) A.B. suffering from acute appendicitis. Speed increased to 14 knots. At 1800/1, patient's condition satisfactory. Speed reduced to 12 kts. Arrived in Seeadler Harbour at 0700/1, 9th Sept. Appendical patient landed. Fuelled ship. Commenced to boiler clean. Completed boiler clean A.M. 16th Sept. Weighed at 0718/1 18th Sept., and proceeded to sea accompanied by U.S.S. "Alabaster" to carry out A/S exercises with U.S. submarine. Completed exercises and returned to Seeadler Harbour at 1440/1. At 0728/1, 20th Sept., weighed and proceeded to sea with H.M.A.S. "Burdekin" and carried out 4" H.A. and short range weapons A.A. practice shoot. Completed shoot at 0930/1 and proceeded to submarine exercise area. Commenced A/S. exercises with U.S. submarine. Completed A/S. exercises at 1415/1 and returned to Seeadler Harbour. Anchored at 1608/1, 20th Sept. Weighed and proceeded to sea at 0738/1, 25th Sept. with H.M.A.S. "Burdekin", to carry out A.A. practice shoot. Arrived in area at 0900/1. Owing to heavy rain shoot cancelled at 0945/1, and ordered to return to harbour. Entered Seeadler Harbour at 1113/1, and fuelled.

At 1924/1, 26th, I received emergency signal to raise steam and prepare to sail. At 2020/1 weighed and proceeded to sea as ordered to render assistance to vessels in distress off Lou Island.

Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No.

PAGE 2.

Arrived at scene of accident at 2300/1 and commenced searching for survivors. Carried out search throughout the night. No survivors found. Took 4 lifeboats (2 motor lifeboats) in tow. At 0526/1, 27th, received orders from H.M.A.S. "Hawkesbury" to "Stand By" Tug H.325 whilst she towed S.S. "Don Marquis" to Seeadler Harbour. Stood by throughout the day and night of the 27th Sept and was detached by Tug H.325 at 0646/1, 28th Sept. Entered Seeadler Harbour at 0707/1, 28th, and anchored at 0800/1.

At the request of U.S. Naval Authorities, myself and my 1st Lieut., (Lieut. E.C. Jeanes) acted as pilots to U.S. Battleships "MISSISSIPPI" and "PENNSYLVANIA", P.M. 28th Sept., on their entry into Seeadler Hbr.

At 2302/1, 28th Sept., weighed and proceeded to rendezvous with U.S. Submarine S.S. 241 in position 1° 27' S., 146° 32' E. Rendezvous effected at 0447/1 29th, and proceeded to escort submarine to Seeadler Harbour. Entered Seeadler Harbour at 0927/1, 29th. At 1335/1, 29th, arrived off boom waiting for U.S. Submarine S.S. 241 to come out of harbour. Submarine passed boom at 1515/1. Proceeded to escort same in an easterly direction. Was detached by submarine at 1707/1. Entered Seeadler Harbour at 1936/1, 29th Sept.

The health of the Ship's Company has been very good. One acute appendical patient and one acute dermatitis patient were admitted to U.S. Naval Hospital. The appendical patient has since recovered from operation and returned to duty. Tinea is prevalent amongst the Ship's Company, due to lack of fresh vegetables and fruit, none of which has been available this month.

One case of "crabs" occurred and has been cleared up without further cases occurring.

The conduct of the Ship's Company has been excellent. A ship's concert was held during boiler cleaning period. Both officers and ratings participated. This proved most popular and it is planned to hold concerts more frequently.

In being based on Manus this ship is fortunately able to send ratings shore in the evenings to see the "talkies", but at the majority of bases in New Guinea very little consideration has been given to counteracting what I consider one of the "small ships"

Royal Australian Navy.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

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PAGE 3.

biggest enemy, namely, monotony during recreational periods, and I submit that consideration be given to issuing a 16 millimeter talkie projector to A.M.Ss. Such action would pay good dividends in contentment of ships' companies.

September, 1944:

| | |
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| Distance Steamed: | 2,225 miles. |
| Hours under way: | 223 hours. |
| Average M.P.T. : | 13.4 M.P.T. |
| Total Distance Steamed: | 42,090 miles. |
| Total hours under way: | 4,612.263 hours. |
| Average speed since commissioning: | 10.4 knots. |

Signed:

V. M. Mayall
Lieutenant, R.A.N.R.(S).
COMMANDING OFFICER.



Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

2nd. September, '44

N.B. 25

Secretary to Naval Board.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST, 1944.

Submitted for the Information of the Naval Board.

duplicate

Arrived in Madang at 1048K 28th. July and commenced boiler cleaning. During the ships stay at Madang, i.e. from 28th. July to 9th. Aug., a much heeded "working up" programme was carried out under the direction of Commander (D's) staff. These exercises included 4" H.A. & L.A. practice shoot, firing 10 charge pattern of Depth Charges, streaming and energising L.L. sweep, radar, exercises, damage control, collision stations, sea boat, close range weapons practice shoot, in company with H.M.A.S. "Kapunda" carried out an L.A.L. sweep, officer of the watch manouvers, night encounter. At 2155K 9th. Aug. we were detached off Madang Harbour and proceeded independently to Manus. Arrived at Seeadler Harbour at 0703K 11th. Aug. Fuelled ship. Departed from Seeadler at 0825K 12th. Aug. escorting S.S. "C.M. Russell". Arrived in Hollandia Bay at 2040 13th. Aug. Departed from Humboldt Bay at 1545K 14th. Aug. escorting "Merkur" (Commodore) & S.S. "Stephen Furock". At 1036k 15th. "Stephen Furock" broke down through engine defects. Ordered "Merkur" to zig-zag at reduced speed and gave A/S cover to "Furock". At 1115K 15th. Aug. At 1115K convoy resumed speed 11.5 knots. At 2140K 15th. in position 1°49'S 145°48'E challenged and received correct reply from L/130. Arrived at Seeadler Harbour at 0900K 16th. Aug. Fuelled ship. Departed from Seeadler Harbour at 1907K 16th. Aug. and proceeded to position 1°25'S 146°21'E to "rendez vous" with U.S. Submarine. Affected "rendez vous" with S/S 197 (U.S.S. Seawolf) at 0535K 17th. Aug. and gave her surface escort until 1830K 17th. when we were detached by her. Arrived in Seeadler at 0713K 18th. Aug. Fuelled Ship. Departed from Seeadler at 1501K 19th. Aug. escorting S/S "John Hope". Arrived at Hamburg Bay, Emirau Island at 0815K 20th. Aug. Departed from Hamburg Bay at 1545K 20th. Aug. and arrived at Seeadler Harbour at 0710K 21st. Aug. Departed from Seeadler at 0800K 22nd. Aug. escorting S/S Stanley Matthews". Arrived off Wake Island at 0800k 24th. Aug. Detached from convoy in Maffin Bay at 0858K 24th. and on Port Directors instructions departed for Manus Island. Arrived in Seeadler at 0730K 26th. Fuelled Ship. Whilst in Seeadler Harbour A/B E.H. Boyle O/N H. 1823 accidentally sustained inter cranial injuries whilst on short recreational

CDR (D)
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S.O. (A/S)
S.O. (RAD)
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S.O. (H)
S.O. (S)

PA
27/9

leave. (My T.O.R. 29021z August and my letter N.B. 26 of the 9th. September refers.).

The conduct of the ships company has been excellent.

The morale of the ships company has positively soared due to the fact that mails from Australia are being received frequently and regularly, also to the fact that the American Naval Base, Manus, cater for the recreation of all ships companies by maintaining Rara Island as a place for all personnel wishing to swim and play games. There is also a talkie picture show every night at the Base which my ships company attend when circumstances permit.

During the month the "Merkur" let us have a quantity of bottled beer which has been rationed and issued regularly to the ships company; This privilege is greatly appreciated by all and is most conducive to a contented ships company.

| | |
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| Distance steamed during August | 3,358 miles. |
| Hours under way " " | 31011 Hrs. |
| Average Miles per ton | 13.904 M.P.T. |
| Total distance steamed since commissioning | 39,865 miles. |
| " hours under way " " | 3,798.283 Hrs. |
| Average speed | 10.91 knots. |



LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

New Guinea Broadcast, Madang, has been frequently inaudible during the latter part of month. L.S.



COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

2nd. August, '44

N.B. 25

Secretary, Naval Board.

Monthly report of Proceedings, July, 1944.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

Departed from Port Phillip at 1729K 29th. June. Arrived in Brisbane at 1445K 3rd. July. Fuelled and stored ship, and carried out repairs to Southern Cross Diesel generator. Carried out Radar Trials in Moreton Bay on 5th. July. Departed from Brisbane at 1130K 7th. July and proceeded via Frederick Reef to Milne Bay arriving at 1342K 11th. July. Departed from Milne Bay at 0800K 14th. July and proceeded independently to Langemak Bay arriving at 1150K 15th. July. Owing to small outbreak of Scarlet Fever ship was in quarantine from 16th. July to 20th. July. Departed from Langemak Bay at 1635K and proceeded to "Rendezvous" with convoy B.G. 102 "J.P. Bradley" (Commodore) "Pasquotank" "Sacajawea" "Norlargo" & "L.S.T. No. 456". Escorts H.M.A.S.'s "Bendigo" (S.O.E.) "Geelong", "Ararat", "Glenelg" & Y.M.S. 334. H.M.A.S. "Vendetta" joined at 1721K 22nd. July and assumed duties of S.O.E. Arrived in Hollandia at 0933K 23rd. and fuelled. Departed at 1935K 23rd. and proceeded to "Rendezvous" with convoy G.B.3. "Oliver Kelly" (Commodore) "West Cactus" & "Shikellamy". Escorts H.M.A.S.'s. "Bendigo" (SOE) & "Ararat". At 0555K 24th. July H.M.A.S. "Bendigo" detached from convoy & "Ararat" assumed duties of S.O.E. Detected a knocking noise in A/S compartment a.m. on the 26th. July. Engines were reversed and a moderately large 'V' shaped log came to the surface. Arrived at Langemak Bay at 1245K 26th. July. Departed from Langemak at 1654K 27th. July escorting "Lake Ormac".

The health of the ships Company has been very good indeed. We had two confirmed cases and one probable case of Scarlet Fever.

The conduct of the ships company has been very good but I was perturbed by a report from my Coxn relative to a slight lowering of morale of my ships company, particularly to the recently newly joined ratings, through the

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lack of regular mails being received from the main land.

To give an instance -- mail arrived in Milne Bay on the 13th. June -- my ships company received their mail P.M. that day -- we sailed for Langemak Bay at 0800 the following day but no mail bags for the A.M.S's stationed at Northern Ports were sent aboard this ship for delivery at our destination hence the A.M.S's in Langemak Bay had to wait a few more days before their mail arrived.

I beg to submit that I am of the opinion that no greater incentive to morale and contentment of my ships company could exist than the knowledge of a quick and regular delivery of mails from home.

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|------------------------------|------------------|
| Distance steamed during July | 3,881 Miles. |
| Hours under way | 361.45 Hours. |
| Average Miles per ton | 11.04 Miles. |
| Total Distance steamed | 36,506 Miles. |
| Total Hours under way | 3,479.183 Hours. |
| Average speed | 11 Kts. |


LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Copies to Comm(D)
" " NOICNG

COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

1st. July, 1944

M.B. 23.

Secretary to Naval Board.

Monthly report of proceedings. June 1944.

Submitted for the Information of Naval Board.

Duplicate

From 1st. June to 29th. June Refitting Period.

Carried out satisfactory Gun, A/S. W.T. & Radar Trials in Port Phillip Bay on 27th. June. Carried out satisfactory L.L. sweeping trials and adjusted compass in Port Phillip Bay on the 28th. June. Departed from Port Phillip Heads at 1730k. 29th. June bound for Brisbane.

The health of the ships company has been satisfactory.

The Conduct of the ships company has been satisfactory but there has been an increase of offences during the refit period. This may be accounted for by the vigilance of the Naval Shore Patrols and by the fact that my entire seamen branch has been changed and many of the new seamen branch have not been in ships before.

With the exception of the coxn, at the present time I have three leading seamen to discipline and instruct the seamen branch and of these three leading seamen one is the L.T.O. and another is the H.S.D. and at this stage both these ratings have to devote their duties to their departments.

One Petty Officer drafted to the ship has not yet arrived.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Distance steamed during June | 519 miles. |
| Hours under way | 41.86 Hrs. |
| Average Miles per ton | 12.4. M.P.T. |
| Total Distance steamed since Comm. | 32,625 miles. |
| " Hrs. under way | 3,149.593 Hrs. |
| Average speed since commissioning. | 11.3 kts. |

SO (D)
SO (E)
SO (A/S)

Copy NOIC NG
Comm. (D)

LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

P.A.
WR
8/8

COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

1st. July, '44

N.B. 22

Secretary to Naval Board.

Monthly Report of Proceedings. May 1944.

Submitted for the Information of the Naval Board.

Departed Seeadler Harbour at 1130K 30th. April escorting Tankers "Monmouth" & "Fort Donnelson". At 1307K 1st. May closed Langemak Bay signal station and received instructions to proceed with convoy to Milne Bay. Arrived at Milne Bay at 1738K. 2nd. May. Departed from Milne Bay at 1258K. 3rd. May. Anchored in Cleveland Bay at 1540K 5th. May. Proceeded into Townsville Harbour at 1935K. 5th. May. Fuelled & victualled ship. Departed from Townsville at 2255K. 5th. Entered Sydney Harbour at 0924K. 9th. May. Departed from Sydney Harbour at 1613K. 9th. May. Entered Port Phillip at 1330K. 11th. May. Secured at Williamstown at 1643K. 11th. and commenced Refitting Period.


The health of the ships company has been excellent.

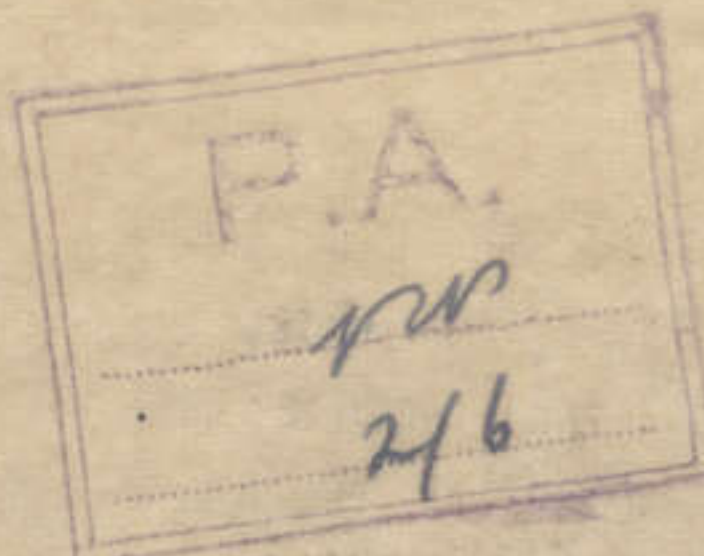
The conduct of the ships company has been excellent.

During the Refit Period the whole ships company received 21 days leave.

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|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Distance Steamed during May. | 8,046 Miles. |
| Hours under way " " | 224.46 Hrs. |
| Average Miles per Ton. | 12.8 M.P.T. |
| Total Dis. Steamed Since Comm. | 32,106 Miles. |
| " Hrs. under way " | 3,107.733 Hrs. |
| Average speed | 10.3 kts. |

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LIEUT. H.M.A.S. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.



CDR (D)

S.O. (T)

SEC.

S.O. (W/T)

S.O. (A.S.)

S.O. (RADAR)

S.O. (E)

S.O. (G)

S.O. (S)

405. COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

1554/20/5 May, '44

H.B. 17.

SECRETARY to NAVAL BOARD.

29/5 MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. APRIL, 1944.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

Copy to Commander (D)

Duplicate

Departed Langemak Bay at 1435K 2nd. April escorting S.S. "YOCHEW" arrived in Saidor at 0730K 3rd. and anchored. Departed from Saidor at 1200K 3rd. escorting S.S. "COMARA". Arrived in Langemak Bay at 0700K 4th. April. Departed from Langemak Bay at 1107K 4th. for escort duties. Convoy G.B. 74, S.S. "MELTRUM" (Commodore) "ISOLATOR", "STARGEN", & "PORTER". Escorts H.M.A.S. "BENDIGO" (S.O.E.) "ARARAT", "COWRA", S.C. 744 & Y.M.S. 316. At 1930K, M.L. 428 joined convoy off Lae. At 1452K 5th. S.O.E. detached M.L. 428 S.C. 744 & Y.M.S. 316 off Buna. Arrived in Milne Bay at 1015K. 6th. April. Refuelled and watered. Loaded stores and mail for Goodenough Island P.M. 7th. April. Departed Milne Bay at 0600K 8th April. Arrived at Beli Beli. Anchored Goodenough Island at 1555K 8th. and unloaded stores into H.M.A.S. "MANCORAS & KINABELAS" boats. Departed from Beli Beli at 0557K 9th. April. At 1235K carried out an A/S search along line of Somo Buys at the request of P.W.S.S. North Foreland as a possible Sub. contact had been made. Negative result. Arrived off Gili Gili anchorage and carried out an A/S sweep around ships at anchor. Anchored off "Ladava" at 2123K 9th. Carried out boiler clean in Milne Bay. Departed from Milne Bay at 0552K 19th April to Rendezvous in 08°35'S 153°00'E, off Woodlark Island with U.S.S. "ARIDED". Made Radar Contact with P.C. 1126 and U.S.S. "ARIDED" at 0210K 20th. Sent routing instructions to Commanding Officer of U.S.S. "ARIDED" by boat at 0610K 20th. Detached P.C. 1126 and proceeded with convoy. Passed a destroyer escorting a submarine at 1047K 21st. in position 6°22'S 148°00'E. Attacked a suspected submarine contact, instructed "Arided" to proceed to destination. Six depth charges dropped. (See letter Com. S.W.P.S.F. A.R. 34/2/5 of the 2nd. May.) one D.C. failed to explode. (See letter to S.O.I.M. of 29th April, Copy to Navy Board) Negative results. Carried out a thorough square search of area. Proceeded to destination at 0500K. Passed H.M.A.S.'s. "BUNDABERG & GLENELG" with convoy in position 2°29'S 147°12'E at 1105K. Arrived in Seeadler Harbour at 1530K 22nd. Departed from Seeadler Harbour at 1005K 24th. escorting U.S.S. "CELANO". Challenged U.S.S. C 24 & D 1036 in position 2°00'S 150°12'E at 0229K.

th. Sighted object in water at 1530K 25th in position 2°31'S 152°19'E. This object appeared to have been in the water a long time. It resembled the body of a large aeroplane with its nose air locked. Sank same by oerlikon gun fire. At 0920K 26th in position 4°22'S 153°54'E, intercepted 4 American P.T. boats who failed to reply to my challenge. On approaching them with my guns trained they stopped and informed me that they had no recognition signals. Allowed them to proceed. Arrived off Green Island at 1035K and reported to signal station. Stood off shore on A/S patrol. Departed from Green Island at 1535K 26th. At 2020K 26th. in position 3°45'S 154°00'E an aeroplane showing I.F.F. dropped one white flare into the water and 2 parachute flares. At 2025K obtained submarine contact on asdic. Carried out two attacks (See letter to Com. S.W.P.S. F. A.R. 35/2/5 & A.R. 36/2/5 of the 2nd. May) Owing to heavy rain, results were not observed. Carried out thorough search in area and proceeded at 2230K. At 1800K 27th in position 1°50'S 150°40'E passed large American ship escorted by two U.S. destroyers. Arrived in Seeadler Harbour at 1125K 28th. Carried out repairs to boiler brickwork throughout Saturday 29th. Departed from Seeadler Harbour, escorting tankers "MONMOUTH" & "FORT DONNELSON" at 1130K 30th. Carried out A/A shoot on sleeve target with short range weapons at 1400K 30th. During this shoot serious defects were experienced with the oerlikon guns. Suspected cause is faulty American Ammunition. Shoot completed at 1421K. Proceeded on passage to Milne Bay via Langemak.

The health of the ships company has been very good. One rating was sent to hospital in Milne Bay with dengue.

The conduct of the ships company has been excellent.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Distance steamed during April | 3,536 Miles. |
| Hours under way | 287.73 Hrs. |
| Average Miles per ton | 12.22 M.P.T. |
| Total Distance steamed since Commissioning. | 29,060 Miles. |
| " Hours under way | 2,883.273 Hrs. |
| Average speed | 11.2 Knts. |

Constructed to Card No R.29/r

[Signature]
 LIEUT. R.I.N.R.S.
 COMMANDING OFFICER.



So(R) *[initials]*
m/Boys
m. Inquisition
5/4
Fey.



COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

3rd. April, '44

N.B. 16

Secretary, Naval Board.

Copy To Commr(D)

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. MARCH.

SUBMITTED for the Information of the Naval Board.

[Handwritten signature]
Duplicate

At 0807L. 6th March departed from Cairns and proceeded to Vicinity Grafton Passage to assist in searching for suspected submarine in company with H.M.A.S. "ROCKHAMPTON". 1830L. Commander (D) transferred to H.M.A.S. "ARARAT" from H.M.A.S. "CASTLEMAINE". 2105L. Carrying out "endless chain" patrol across Grafton Passage with H.M.A.S. "BALLARAT". At 0848L 7th. transferred Commander (D) to H.M.A.S. "BALLARAT" and then continued "endless chain" patrol with H.M.A.S. "TOWNSVILLE". At 2114 proceeded to sea to "rendezvous" with H.M.A.S. "KALGOORLIE" and S.S. "ORMISTON". Relieved H.M.A.S. "KALGOORLIE" from escort duties and proceeded through Grafton Passage escorting "ORMISTON". Detached from "ORMISTON" at 0040L. 8th. and arrived in Cairns at 0300L. 8th.

Entered U.S. Floating Dock at 1005L. 8th. March and ships company employed in cleaning, scraping and painting ship's bottom. Left Dock at 0945L. 11th.

Departed from Cairns at 1645L. 11th. accompanied by H.M.A.S. "TOWNSVILLE". Made rendezvous with H.M.A.S.'s "KANIMBLA" & "MANOORA" off Fitzroy Island and transferred mail and ratings at 1815L. At 1915L proceeded. H.M.A.S.'s "ARARAT" (S.O.E.) & "TOWNSVILLE" escorting H.M.A.S.'s "KANIMBLA" (S.O.) & "MANOORA". Entered China Straits at 0825L. 13th. and instructed H.M.A.S. "TOWNSVILLE" to proceed to Milne Bay. H.M.A.S. "ARARAT" detached from H.M.A.S.'s "KANIMBLA & MANOORA" and proceeded at 14 kts. on route to Langemak Bay. Ships main refrigeration plant broken down due to leaking gas pipe in cold chamber. At 1620L. 13th. H.M.A.S. "ARARAT" overtaken by H.M.A.S.'s "KANIMBLA & MANOORA" escorted by P.C. 476 and attached to convoy. At 0650L. 14th. P.C. 476 discovered to be no longer in company. At 0720L. P.C. 476 sighted rejoining convoy. Anchored in Megim Anchorage at 1125L. 14th. Departed from Megim Harbour at 1450L. 14th. and arrived in Langemak Bay at 1615L. Refuelled.

Due to the able assistance of the Engineer Officer of

U.S. Tanker "VICTORIA" the ships refrigerating plant in working order A.M. 16th.

Entertained Brig. General Johns (U.S. Army) and Major Jackson (A.I.F.) A.D.C. to lunch on board on the 16th. March.

Departed from Langemak Bay at 1647L. 16th. escorting L.C.T's 259 & 400. Arrived at Arawe at 0832L. 17th. Departed from Arawe at 2050L. 17th. escorting L.C.T's 259 & 400. Arrived in Langemak Bay at 0850L. 18th. Departed from Langemak Bay at 1036L. 19th. escorting "TIMOSHENKO" (Tassy VI failed to Join). Passed through Dampier Straits at 1850L. Arrived at Cape Gloucester at 0945L. 20th. Departed from Cape Gloucester at 1457L. 20th. Dropped Depth Charge for exercise at 1700L in position 5°20'S 148°20'E. Exploded correctly. Entered Vittiez Straits at 2100L. 20th. Sighted H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" with convoy proceeding North at 0015L. 21st. Arrived in Langemak Bay at 0730L. 21st. Departed from Langemak Bay at 1750L. 23rd. Escorting Convoy No. L.G. 10 consisting of "ANHUI" (Commodore) and A.P.C. 3. via Vittiez Straits. Sighted H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" at 0245L. 24th. Arrived at Cape Gloucester at 1130L. 24th. Departed at 1325L. 24th. Clear of Dampier Straits at 1825L. Arrived at Arawe at 0740L. 25th. and delivered safe hand mail to Port Director. Departed at 1116L. 25th. At 1131L. 25th. was requested to stop by U.S. Motor launch and gave passage to Brig. General Cunningham (U.S. Army) and two Staff officers. 1137L. Transfer completed and proceeded. At 1750L. Steering failed. Steering by hand gear. Arrived in Langemak Bay at 1830L. 25th. Steering gear thoroughly overhauled.

Transferred 70 tons (approximately) of fresh water to U.S. Tanker "VICTORIA" during the day of 29th. March and replenished in Finsch Harbour.

The health of the ships company has been very good.

Fresh provisions have been readily supplied from the American Naval Store Langemak Bay. This has been of great assistance to the ship on account of a large quantity of ships provisions, procured in Cairns, having to be condemned due to the failure of the ships refrigerating plant.

The conduct of the ships company has been excellent. Swimming is enjoyed by all and great keenness exists between this ship and other H.M.A. Ships in this area with whom we have successfully played water polo matches and rowed whaler races.

Through the co operation of the A.I.F. in Langemak Area two parties of officers and Chiefs and petty officers have visited a few of the old battle fields ashore and it is anticipated that arrangements will be made to take one third of the ships company at a time on similar visits when convenient.

Distance Steamed during March
Hours under way " "
Average Miles Per ton
Total Distance since Commissioning
" hours under way " "
Average speed since Commissioning.

2,339 miles.
221 Hours.
10.13 M.P.T.
25,524 miles.
2,395.543 hrs.
10.13 Kts.

N. M. Mayall

LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.



140
16/3
10/16/3
Sec.



Copy

COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

3rd. March, '44

H.B. 14.

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD.

Comdr (D) Milne Bay

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. FEBRUARY.

Supple

SUBMITTED for the Information of Naval Board.

At 0934L 1st. Feb. weighed and proceeded to sea and carried out exercises with U.S. Submarine "Cero" and U.S.S. "Concal". Returned to Milne Bay and anchored at 2305L 2nd. Departed from Milne Bay at 1658L 3rd. and anchored in Suia Hia Bay at 1944L 3rd. Weighed and proceeded to sea at 0150L 4th. Made "rendezvous" with U.S. Submarine "Darter" at 0830L 4th. Escorted submarine to Milne Bay and anchored at 1540L 4th. Departed from Milne Bay at 1230L 8th. and relieved P.C. 476 on A/S patrol off Brumer Island. Sighted U.S.S. "Oyster Bay" at 0945L 9th. Dropped 1 depth charge for exercise at 1643L 9th. Sighted S.S. "Roseville" at 0810L 10th. Carried out short range weapons firing practice on kite target at 1010L 11th. Relieved from A/S patrol by H.M.A.S. "Bendigo" at 1130L 13th. Arrived at Milne Bay at 1630L 13th. and fuelled. Lieut. N.M. Muzzell R.A.N.R. (S) returned to ship at 1545L 14th. and resumed command of H.M.A.S. "ARARAT". Departed from Milne Bay at 0730L 15th. accompanying H.M.A.S.'s. "STUART", "GASCOYNE" & "STAWELL" and carried out an A.A. practise shoot, 4" L.A. practise shoot, radar exercises and various other flotilla exercises returning to Milne Bay at 1820L 15th. Departed from Milne Bay at 0445L 17th. and proceeded to sea. At 1140L. made "rendezvous" with U.S. Troopship "Cape Bon" and escorted and piloted her to Milne Bay arriving at 1700L 17th. Departed Milne Bay at 1525L 21st. Feb. towing H.M.A.S. "Potrero" and joined convoy M.V. 67 "Shikellang" (Commodore) and "H.9." escorted by H.M.A.S.'s. "Kapunda", "Bundaberg" & "Pirie". Detached from convoy at 1930 on 22nd. on account of a cross sea and increasing wind. Arrived in Cairns at 1300L 24th. and commenced boiler cleaning. Completed Boiler Cleaning P.M. 29th. Feb. Ship waiting for dry dock to be available.

The health of the ships company has been very good.

1 The conduct of the ships Company has been very good. The Military Camp in the Tablelands was unable to accomodate any ratings during the stay in Cairns and 48 hours leave was granted all watches in rotation.

The majority took advantage of this leave and visited Innisfail where one Stoker Petty Officer misbehaved himself thereby causing the 1st. Warrant, since ship commissioned, being read.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Distance steamed during Feb. | 2,403 Mls. |
| Hours under way " " | 268.783 Hrs. |
| Average Miles Per ton " " | 12.324 M.P.T. |
| Total Distance Steamed since Commissioning | 23,185 Mls. |
| Total Hours under way since Commissioning | 2,374.543 Hrs. |
| Average Speed since Commissioning. | 9.69 kts. |



LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.

1500R 19/1 ✓
set Radar 19/1 ✓



COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT"

17th. February '44

N.B. 11.

Secretary, NAVAL BOARD through COMMANDER (D) MILNE BAY.

MONTHLY REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. JANUARY, '44

SUBMITTED for the Information of Naval Board.

Duplicate

2
Weighed and proceeded from Milne Bay at 1700L 1st. Jan. to affect a Rendezvous with tanker "STICKLESTAR" in position 130° 52'S 152°18'E. This "rendezvous" made at 1700L 2nd. Jan. and tanker escorted and piloted back to Milne Bay. Arrived at Milne Bay 1710L 3rd. Jan. and refuelled. Departed from Milne Bay at 0800L 5th. Jan. and proceeded to patrol area off Brumer Island and relieved H.M.A.S. "STAWELL". Exercised 4" guns crew at 1700L 7th. Jan. fired 5 rounds A.A. shoot. Sighted S.S. "CAPE GREY" at 0735L 8th. Jan. and escorted her to entrance of China Straits, then proceeded back to patrol area. Was relieved by P.C. 476 at 1220L 8th. Jan., and anchored in Suia Huir Bay at 1435L. Weighed at 1615L 8th. and proceeded to affect "rendezvous" with S.S. "ARICKAREE". Received orders from N.O.I.C. New Guinea re alteration of time of "rendezvous" at 2200L, and returned to Suia Huir Bay anchored at 0335L 9th. January. Weighed at 1645L. 9th. and proceeded to "Rendezvous". Made "rendezvous" with "ARICKAREE" at 1700L. 10th. Jan. "ARICKAREE" stopped engines from 1930L to 0017L 11th. to carry out Engine repairs. Carried out circular A/S patrol during that period. Sent charts aboard "Arickaree" at 1800L 11th. Jan. and piloted her through China Straits and up to Milne Bay. Anchored in Milne Bay at 2225L 11th. Fuelled ship and departed from Milne Bay at 1445L 12th. Jan., escorting "W.E.CHANNING". Anchored in Suia Huia Bay at 0600L 12th. 1944 Jan. and carried out A/S listening watch. Weighed at 0600L 13th. Jan., and proceeded with "W.E. CHANNING". Detached "W.E.CHANNING" inside Grafton Passage and arrived in Cairns at 0755L. 15th. Jan for boiler cleaning.

Whilst in Cairns 30 ratings were sent up to a Military Camp in the Table Lands for recreational purposes for 48 hours.


Departed from Cairns at 1347L 22nd. Jan. and "rendezvous" with convoy. L.N. 210 in Grafton Passage at 1530L. Escorts H.M.A.S.'s "BUNDABERG", (S.O.E.), "KAPUNDA", "KATOOMBA", "ARARAT", "PIRIE", S.C. 741, M.L.'s 802, & 803.

M/V's "BOTH (COMMODORE)", "BONTEKOE", "CHARLES SMITH", "ALBERT HILL", "GREYLAG", "SAN ANTONIO", "R.P. WARNER", "EDWARD BAKER", "FRANCIS WARDELL" & "WD. BURNHAM". At 1600L. 24th., H.M.A.S. "PIRIE" & "KATO-OMBA" escorting R.P. WARNER detached for Port Moresby. Arrived at Milne Bay at 1440L. 25th. Jan & refuelled. Departed from Milne Bay at 2315L. 25th. and proceeded to Moresby Straits and carried out a search for suspected submarine. Contacted "Bontekoe" and accompanied by P.C. 1124 at 1430L. 26th. and escorted her through the Warrego Passage. Anchored in Beli Beli Bay at 1710L. Detached P.C. 1124. Weighed at 2208L. 26th. and proceeded to Milne Bay. Arrived at Milne Bay at 0935L. 27th and refuelled. Lieutenant N.M. Muzzell left H.M.A.S. "ARARAT" on P.M. 28th. Jan. and Lieut. J. Thomas assumed command. Departed from Milne Bay at 1600L. 28th. escorting convoy M.V. 60. "Thomas Corwin" & "William S. Ladd". Made "Rendezvous" with H.M.A.S. "BROOME" at 1530L. 29th. detached convoy M.V. to her and returned to Milne Bay arriving at 1230L. 30th. Jan.

The health of the ships company has been very good but a small number of ships company are suffering from boils due in my opinion to the fact that very little fresh meat fruit & vegetables being available to A.M.S's. in Milne Bay.

The Conduct of the Ships Company has been very good. The visit to the Tablelands by 30 ratings was most beneficial to the morale of the ships company and I hope to give the remainder of the crew a chance of visiting this military camp.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Distance steamed During Jan. | 4,332 Miles |
| Hours under way " " | 389.3 Hrs. |
| Average Miles per ton " " | 13.24 M.P.T. |
| Total Distance Since Commissioning | 20,782 Miles. |
| Total Hours under way " " | 2,105.76 Hrs. |
| Average Speed Since Commissioning | 10.45 kts. |


 LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
 COMMANDING OFFICER.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARARAT".
Date 4th. October, '43 Ref. No. N.B. 2.
TO Navy Board through NAVAL OFFICER IN/CHARGE, BRISBANE.
Subject LETTER OF PROCEEDINGS "SEPTEMBER".

FORWARDED

Wed. Sept. 1st. to 3rd. "Working up" at Broken Bay. Letter to N.O.
I.C. Sydney S.4. 3rd. September 1943.

Fri. Sept 3rd. 1620. Entered Sydney Harbour.

Mon. Sept. 6th. Chief Staff Officer, Sydney inspected ship and
Ship's Company.
1540 Slipped and proceeded to sea to carry out 4" gun
day & night shoot.
1935. Returned to harbour.

Tues. Sept. 7th. 1200 Slipped from Buoy and proceeded to sea on
passage to Brisbane.
2115 Sighted suspicious light in Position 32°52'S 152°
38'E. Hands to "action stations". Light discovered to
be calcium flare. Letter to N.O.I.C. Brisbane B.1. 9th.
September.

Wed. Sept. 8th. Sea Passage.

Thurs. Sept. 9th. 0922. Anchored off Caloundra. 1025. Transferred
injured rating to M.L. 818. 1603. Anchor aweigh. 1615
American Submarine Liaison Officer & A/S Officer aboard.
Left to carry out A/S exercises with U.S. Submarine S.290.

Fri. Sept 10th. 0600 Rendezvous with Y.M. 355. A/S Exercises.
0938. Rendezvous with P.C. 479. 2355 Steering gear jammed.

Sat. Sept. 11th. 0002. Steering gear all clear. 0235. Stopped
off Caloundra. 0500. Proceeded to sea with Submarine.
0941 Steering gear jammed. Into hand steering. 1145.
Steering gear all clear. resumed A/S exercises with
Submarine. 1620 Completed exercises. 2117. Anchored off
Caloundra.

Sun Sept. 12th. to Tues. 14th. Sept. Fueled & stored ship at
Brisbane.

Tues. Sept. 14th. 0930. Slipped from Patricks Wharf. 1415. Anch-
ored off Caloundra. 1505 Proceeded to sea. A/S Patrol.
Awaiting Convoy. 1710 Convoy Q.L. 12 forming up. Seven
Ships. "MERNOC", "THEDENS", "JANE B. McPHERSON", "NORLAGO",
"BURWAK", "CONRAD KOHRS" & "HANYANG" (Commodore) Escorts
H.M.A.S. "LITGOW" (Act. S.O.) S.C. 741 & S.C. 735.

Wed. Sept. 15th. 1635. Left Q.L. 12 to investigate N.O.I.C.B's rep-
ort of vessel aground off Sandy Cape Shoal. Ship aground
was not located before dark but aircraft as position &
V/S contact was made with 20" Lamp. The ship was "Joseph
A. Holmes. Letter to N.O.I.C. Brisbane B.2, 22nd Sept.
covers operations between 15th & 20th. Sept. 1940.
Proceeded to patrol Northern Area of Breaksea Spit.

Thurs. Sept. 16th. 0630 Closed to vicinity of grounded vessel.
0810. Went into grounded vessel to render practical
assistance. My motor boat sounding ahead. 0838. Heaving
lines passed to vessel. 0929. Line to "Joseph A. Holmes"
parted on account of too strong a tide. Postponed further
assistance on account of tide. Proceeded to deeper water
and to patrol area North of Breaksea Spit. 1430 In V/S
range of grounded vessel. 1500 Patrolling

Fri. Sept. 17th. 0630 Closed "Joseph A. Holmes" prepared to render further assistance but master signalled at 0720 to say he had main engine trouble. Proceeded to Batrol North of Breaksea Spit. 1515 Made contact with Salvage Tug "TANCREW", Passed all navigational data. Accompanied tug to grounded vessel. Stood by whilst "TANCREW" investigated. 1830. Proceeded to patrol area North of Spit.

Sat Sept. 18th. 0535. Closed to vicinity of grounded vessel. 0830. Tug "TANCREW" secured to grounded vessel. 0820 Tug attempting to move "J.A. Holmes". 1207. Tug has wire around propeller. Went in to assist. 1225 Passed line to tug. 1345. Tug "TANCREW" in tow. Proceeding to Urangan.

Sun. Sept. 19th. 0935 Pilot boarded off Channel Buoy. 1220 Tug secured alongside Wharf. 1245. Secured alongside Urangan Wharf.

Mon. Sept. 20th. 1627 Slipped from Wharf. 1745. Passed Channel Buoy. Proceeded to Rendezvous.

Tues. Sept. 21st. 0530. Contacted S.C. 741. Sighted Convoy L.Q. 13 off Lady Elliot Island consisting of four ships, "CITY OF FORT WORTH", "VERA" (Commodore) "OZARK" & "EMPIRE HAMBLE". 0745. Took over escort & duties from H.M.A.S. "GEELONG" (S.O.) Escort now consist of H.M.A.S. "ARARAT", (S.O.) S.C. 650, & S.C. 741.

Wed. Sept. 22nd. 0600 Convoy forming order 2 to enter harbour. 0700 all convoy inside harbour. 1200 Secured to Newstead Wharf, Fuelling. 1435 Secured to Lighthouse Wharf.

Fri. Sept. 24th. 0600 Slipped and proceeded to "Rendezvous" off Caloundra with H.M.A.S. "WARREGO" and carried out Oerlikon & Vickers practice A.A. Shoot on sleeve target. 1457. Carried out 4" gun L.A. shoot on target in Moreton Bay. 1823 Anchored off Caloundra.

Sat. Sept. 25th. 1025 . Weighed anchor and carried out 4" A.A. practice shoot on sleeve target with H.M.A.S. "WARREGO". 1234. Anchored off Caloundra. 1543. Weighed anchor and proceeded to sea to carry out A/S sweep prior to convoy Q.L. 15 leaving harbour. 1600 Convoy Q.L. 15 leaving harbour in cruising order No. 2. Three Ships "BONTEKOE", "MAETSUYCKER" (Commodore) & "SKAGERAK". Escorts H.M.A.S. "ARARAT", P.C. 476, S.C. 741 & S.C. 737. 1745. Cruising Order No. 1. 2100 . Informed "BONTEKOE" of light showing amidships.

Sun. 26th Sept. 0420 Large unknown merchant ship passed through convoy on opposite course. 1705 Handed over Senior Officer Escort to P.C. 476 and left convoy to return to Brisbane vide N.O.I.C. B's signal.

Mon. 27th. Sept. 0909 Entered Harbour. 1345 Secured alongside H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW" at Newstead. Fuelling. 1520 Berthed alongside H.M.A.S. "GEELONG". Lighthouse Wharf.

Tues. 28th. Sept. 0915 Slipped from H.M.A.S. "GEELONG" & proceeded down river to Pile Lt. 1102 Pile Light. 1128. Informed by signal that M.L. 816 is standing by drifting mine. Warned ships to be on lookout. 1151. Convoy weighing and proceeding in Cruising order No. 2. 1445 Ordered by H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" to assume duties of Senior Officer Escort. 1530. Convoy Q.L. 16 proceeding out of harbour in order No.2, consisting eleven ships. "DUNDULA", "COLORADO", "MANGOLA", "BALIKPAPAN", H.M.A.S. "BUNGAREE", "TAMBA", "DUNTROON" (Commodore) "GREEN CABLES PARK", "OZARK", "JOHN EVANS", & L.S.T. 170. Escorts H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" "ARARAT", P.C.'s 1122, 1123, & S.C. 650. 1647 . Convoy taking up Cruising Order No.1.

Wed 29th. Sept. 0700 Passing L.Q. 15 H.M.A.S. "LITHGOW"

Thurs 30th Sept. 0323. Passing Lady Elliot Island. H.M.A.S. "VENDETTA" left convoy. 0830 "BALIKPAPAN" reported she had set adrift a wrecked lifeboat. 1040 Convoy disposed off Bustard Head. 1350 Anchored off Jenny Lind Buoy. P.C's 1122, 1123, & S.C. 650 proceeded to Gladstone. 2130 S.C. 650 passed my sailing orders by line then proceeded to sea with P.C's. 1122 & 1123 to A/S sweep. 2201 Weighed & proceeded to carry out A/S sweep to seaward. L.Q. 16 coming out of harbour in order 2. 2340 Convoy in cruising order No. 1. Proceeded.

The conduct of the Ship's Company has been very good indeed.

The health of the Ship's Company has been satisfactory. One case of suspected "Scabies" was reported on the last day of the month.

It has been most gratifying to me that the engine room department discovered the cause of the frequent jamming of the steering gear on Sept. 12th.

The fault was discovered to be a split pin at a knuckle joint of the steering rod dropped out occasionally and catching in the steering rod guard plating.

Distance steamed during September 3461 Miles.

Hours under way " " 396.3 hours

Average miles per ton 15.3 Miles.

Total Distance Steamed since Commissioning (June 16th.) 4295

Total Hours under way " 2 (" ") 582 hours


LIEUT. R.A.N.R. (S)
COMMANDING OFFICER.