

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

HMAS ARUNTA

Item number: 40/3

Title: September 1943 - December 1944.
Refers to contents as a war diary



AWM78-40/3

[40/3]

"ARUNTA" WAR DIARY

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
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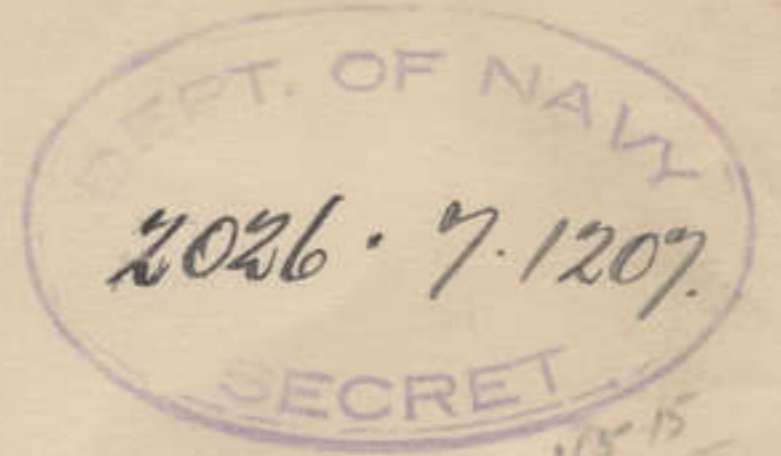
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Declassification Authority—Evidence Records
This record has been reviewed and has been
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Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)
Signature: *R. L. Smith* Date: 1 Nov 90

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.



RESTRICTED
 ACIC BY: AS 1350
 13.5.65

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA"
 Date 4th January, 1945. Reference No. W.D. 13/44.
 To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copy: Commodore Commanding H.M.A. Squadron).
 Subject WAR DIARY - DECEMBER, 1944.

DECEMBER
 1st

At SEEADLER HARBOUR

1600 Proceeded to HOLLANDIA with U.S.S. "LOUISVILLE" and U.S.S. "BELL".

2nd 0918-1050 Carried out close range firings at drogue target.

1235 Entered HUMBOLDT BAY.

1331-1350 Fuelled from tanker "VILLAGOBOS".

1856 Anchored.

3rd 1157 Weighed and proceeded to SEEADLER HARBOUR,

4th 1051 Entered SEEADLER HARBOUR. Found here H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA".

1126-1221 Fuelled (Dieselene) from tanker "CARONDELET"

1240-1404 Fuelled from tanker "LEOPARD".

1423 Secured alongside H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA".

8th 0630 Slipped and proceeded for exercise with "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE", "WARRAMUNGA", U.S.S. "RICHARD P. LEARY" and U.S.S. "LEUTZE"

0905-1020 Carried out A/A firings at drogue target.

1200-1300 Carried out Radar Tracking exercise.

1315-1515 Carried out tactical drills

1620 Entered SEEADLER HARBOUR and anchored.

10th 1130 Weighed and proceeded alongside Unit Repair Pier, LOMBRUM POINT for the installation of 40 m.m. guns in lieu of Oerlikons.

14th 0615 Slipped and proceeded for exercises with "AUSTRALIA" "SHROPSHIRE", "WARRAMUNGA" and U.S.S. "RICHARD P. LEARY".

0815-1050 Carried out A/A firings at drogue target.

1130-1230 Carried out Radar Tracking exercise.

1240-1440 Carried out tactical drills.

1639 Entered SEEADLER HARBOUR.

1659-1844 Fuelled from tanker "Y O 164".

1856 Anchored.

24 / m

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Department of the Interior

Local Government

Local Government Act, 1919

Section 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

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DECEMBER

- 16th 0544 Weighed and proceeded to anchor off LUGOS MISSION.
- 0618-1140 Embarked 40 m.m. ammunition.
- 1211-1520 Secured alongside H.M.S.I.S. "MERKUR" and provisioned ship.
- 1610 Secured alongside Unit Repair Pier, LOMBRUM POINT to complete fitting 40 m.m. guns.
- 19th 0704 Slipped and proceeded for exercises with "AUSTRALIA", "SHROPSHIRE" and "WARRAMUNGA".
- 0900-1015 Carried out A/A firings at drogue targets
- 1040-1140 Carried out surface tracking exercise combined with range and inclination exercise.
- 1200 Carried out night encounter exercise.
- 1249 Fired "R" torpedo.
- 1300 Regained torpedo.
- 1530-1550 Carried out close range and 4" firings at splash target.
- 1600 Carried out throw-off shoot with H.M.A.S. "WARRAMUNGA".
- 1720 Entered SEEADLER HARBOUR.
- 1759-1903 Fuelled from tanker "Y O 164 "
- 1910 Anchored.
- 20th 0935 Weighed and proceeded alongside "AUSTRALIA".
- 23rd. Slipped and proceeded alongside "WARRAMUNGA".
- 24th 0535 H.M.A.S. "WARRAMUNGA" slipped.
- 25th 1040 Weighed and proceeded to fuel from tanker.
- 1149 Anchored.
- 26th 0523 Weighed and proceeded to KOSSOL ROADS with "AUSTRALIA", "SHROPSHIRE", "WARRAMUNGA" and U.S.S. "NICHOLS".
- 0930-1100 Carried out A/A firings at drogue target.
- 1105-1332 Carried out Radar calibration exercise.
- 27th 1043-1130 "AUSTRALIA" and "SHROPSHIRE" carried out throw-off firings.
- 28th 1317 Entered Eastern entrance KOSSOL ROADS.
- 1359-1540 Fuelled from tanker "PAMUNSET"
- 1523 Anchored.
- 31st 0833 Weighed and proceeded to LEYTE GULF with:- "AUSTRALIA", "SHROPSHIRE", "WARRAMUNGA", U.S.S. "DICKERSON", "CLEMSON" and "SANDS".

R. A. N.

COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

ACK. BY. A.S. 1330Y
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Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

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Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA"
Date 4th December, 1944. Reference No. W.D. 12/44.
To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copy: C.C.A.S.).
Subject WAR DIARY - NOVEMBER, 1944.

NOVEMBER
1st

On A/S patrol Baker between Dinagat and
Homonhon Islands.

1030-1145 Air attack. Dive bombers attacked Task Group
in Leyte Gulf.
U.S.S. "KILLEN", "CLAXTON" and "AMMEN" hit.
U.S.S. "BUSH" heavily attacked in Surigao
Strait and suffered casualties from strafing.
U.S.S. "RICHARD P. LEARY" on patrol one mile
to the South attacked by torpedo bombers

1230 Rejoined Task Group 77.1 on patrol in Leyte Gulf.

Task Group 77.1 :-

MISSISSIPPI	AMMEN	JENKINS
CALIFORNIA	ARUNTA	SMITH
PENNSYLVANIA	ABNER READ	LEUTZE
PHOENIX	BUSH	LEARY
BOISE	KILLEN	BRYANT
NASHVILLE	NEWCOMBE	LAMSON
SHROPSHIRE	EDWARDS	DRAYTON
	BENNION	ROBINSON.
	FLUSSER	R.P. LEARY.

1320-1530 Attacked by dive bombers.
1330 U.S.S. "ABNER READ" hit. Opened fire of dive
bomber which was destroyed.
1412 U.S.S. "ABNER READ" sank after explosion of
After Magazine.

1820-1900 Air attacks by torpedo and dive bombers repulsed.

2nd 1730 Glosed H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" and transferred
guard mail.

3rd 0615-0645 Air attack.

1000 Proceeded with H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" and U.S.S.
"BUSH" to San Pedro Bay to replenish fuel and
ammunition.

1145-1415 Fuelled from tanker U.S.S. "CARIBOU".

1505-1720 Embarked ammunition from U.S.S. "MURZIM".

1720 Proceeded with H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" and U.S.S.
"BUSH" and rejoined Task Group 77.1 on patrol
in Leyte Gulf.

4th 0950-1700 Task Group fuelling.
1530 Buried one unidentified body found floating in
water in position 10° 55' North 125° 08' East.

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NOVEMBER

4th 1700 Resumed patrol in Leyte Gulf with Task Group 77.1.

5th 0830-1645 Task Group fuelling.
0930-1015 Fuelled from tanker U.S.S. "ARETHUSA".
1315-1430 Embarked dry provisions from U.S.S. "MISSISSIPPI".
1645 Resumed patrol in Leyte Gulf with Task Group 77.1.

6th On patrol with Task Group in Leyte Gulf.

7th 0855 Detached from screen and proceeded on A/S patrol between Homonhon and Dinagat Islands.

8th On A/S patrol.

9th On A/S Patrol.

10th 0730 Rejoined Task Group 77.1 on patrol in Leyte Gulf.
0800-1625 Task Group fuelling.
0930 Closed H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" and transferred guard mail.
1030-1220 Fuelled from tanker U.S.S. "SUAMICO".
1515 Closed U.S.S. "NEWCOMBE" and collected guard mail.
1625 Recommenced patrol in Leyte Gulf with Task Group 77.1.

11th 0815-1700 Task Group fuelling.
1700 Recommenced patrol in Leyte Gulf with Task Group 77.1.
2045 Ships in company opened fire on enemy aircraft.

12th 1514 H.M.A.S. "WARRAMUNGA" joined Task Group.
1625-1730 H.M.A.S. "WARRAMUNGA" closed and transferred mail.

13th 2245-2345 Enemy aircraft dropped flares over Homonhon Island.

14th 0800 A/S vessels in San Pedro Bay reported attacking sound contacts.

15th 0815-1430 Task Group fuelling.
1055-1310 Fuelling from tanker U.S.S. "ARETHUSA".
1340 Closed H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" to transfer and embark guard mail.
1430 Recommenced patrol in Leyte Gulf with Task Group 77.1.

16th 0700 Task Group 77.2 entered Gulf.
Task Group 77.2 :- MARYLAND
DENVER
COLUMBIA
TAYLOR
LANG
CONY
NICHOLS
MCCORD.
1100-1515 Mail being transferred between T.G. 77.1 and 77.2

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- 3 -

NOVEMBER

16th 1115 U.S.S. "LEARY" closed and delivered mail.
1440 Closed U.S.S. "CALIFORNIA" and collected mail for "ARUNTA" and "WARRAMUNGA".
1515 Proceeded to transfer mail to "WARRAMUNGA" on patrol Baker.
1700 Mail Transferred.
1800 Joined Task Unit 77.1.1 and sailed for Seeadler Harbour.

Task Unit 77.1.1 :-

MISSISSIPPI	BUSH
BOISE	ROBINSON
NASHVILLE	BRYANT
PHOENIX	ARUNTA
SHROPSHIRE	AMMEN.

17th En route to Seeadler Harbour.
18th 1440-1445 U.S.S. "MISSISSIPPI" carried out calibration shoot with main armanent.
20th 1515-1613 Carried out close range firing at drogue target.
21st 0600-0935 Carried out close and long range weapons firings at drogue target.
0700 U.S.S. "NEWCOMBE" and "BANNION" joined Task Group 77.2
1230 Entered Seeadler Harbour.
1445-1630 Fuelled from tanker U.S.S. "SILVER CLOUD".
1715 Anchored in Berth 221.
25th 0840 Embarked 2 Bofors Guns.
1020-1700 H.M.A.S. "YUNNAN" secured alongside completed with ammunition.
1727 Secured alongside Repair ship U.S.S. "WHITNEY" for 7 days availability.
26th-30th Boiler cleaning alongside U.S.S. "WHITNEY".

H. E. Archery

COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.



ADK BY 29 NOV 1944
RESTRICTED

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA"
 Date 6th November, 1944 Reference No. W.D.11/44.
 To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copy to C.T.F. 74).
 Subject WAR DIARY - OCTOBER, 1944.

OCTOBER.

1st.

At SEEADLER HARBOUR alongside U.S.S. "WHITNEY" boiler cleaning.

7th.

Completed 7 days availability alongside U.S.S. "WHITNEY".

0700

Sailed with H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" and U.S.S. "HUTCHENS" for long and close range A/A and torpedo firings.

1600

Returned to SEEADLER.

11th.

Sailed with T.F. 74 and 75 for HUMBOLDT BAY.

12th. 0420-1100 Carried out Radar tracking exercise and Radar range calibration.

1230

Arrived HUMBOLDT BAY.

13th.

1500

Sailed for Operation "King 11" with T.G. 77.3
 "AUSTRALIA" "DALY" "HUTCHENS"
 "SHROPSHIRE" "KILLEN" "BACHE"
 "PHOENIX" "ARUNTA" "BEALE"
 "BOISE" "WARRAMUNGA"

1600

Joined Task Group 78.1. Took station 8320 in disposition "C".

15th.

1100

Task Group 78.2 joined the formation.

17th.

0600-0800.

Fuelled under weigh alongside H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA".

19th.

2200

Formed special approach disposition.

20th.

0100

Entered LEYTE GULF through swept channel.

0620

H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" and U.S.S. "HARRIS" (A.P.A.) acted independently to clear mines in paravanes.

0630

Enemy air craft engaged by assembled ships.

0645

Order received to deploy. Proceeded to firing position in Fire Support Area "D", 1,300 yards from POINT VIGIA.

0925-1100. Carried out bombardment of targets to the north

12/12P

Department of Education

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1/12

OCTOBER
20th.

of PALO RIVER and on CAMIRIS POINT.

1030 Fired 6 salvos at gun emplacements on 371 foot hill south of TANAUAN.

1220-1245 BombarDED targets at the mouth of the PALO RIVER and inland towards the town of PALO.

1330 Relieved in Fire Support area "D" by U.S.S. "McKEE". Proceeded to Fire Support area "C", off the S.W. corner of SAMAR ISLAND.

1605 Torpedo bombers attacked Southern anchorage. U.S.S. "HONOLULU" hit by one torpedo.

1800 Enemy aircraft attacked Northern anchorage.

1820 Opened fire on 3 "Nells" or "Bettys" with 4" and close range weapons.

21st. 0600 Enemy air-craft attacked anchorages. H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA", in Fire Support area "D", was hit in this attack.

0800 Captain C.A.G. NICHOLS, M.V.O., R.N., took over command of T.F. 74.

0920 Air attack.

1300 H.M.A.S. "AUSTRALIA" sailed escorted by H.M.A.S. "WARRAMUNGA".

2000 Rejoined T.G. 77.3 and proceeded to patrol in LEYTE GULF.

22nd. 0700 Anchored at immediate notice in Fire Support area "D".

1730 Sailed with T.G. 77.3 for patrol.

1820 Air attack on anchorages.

23rd. 0630 Anchored at immediate notice in F.S.A. "D".

1445-1630 Fuelled from U.S.S. "CHEPACHET".

1815 Opened fire with 4" on enemy aircraft ("Vals").

1830 T.G. 77.3 formed in A/A disposition and proceeded to patrol in LEYTE GULF.

24th. 0700 Proceeded to the southward of SAMAR ISLAND for cruisers to fuel.

0750-0950 Air attack on anchorages. Made smoke to cover Fleet tanker.

1100-1245 Air attack on anchorages. Made smoke to cover Fleet tanker.

1700-1850 Air attack on anchorages.

1900 T.G. 77.3 proceeded to join T.G. 77.2 and to take up position on the right flank of battle formation at the Northern entrance to SURIGAO STRAITS.

OCTOBER

25th.

- 0220 P.T. Boats at southern end of SURIGAO STRAITS reported 2 heavy ships entering the Straits.
- 0248 Surface contact bearing 170° - 17 miles, course North, speed 25 knots.
- 0300-0600 Took part in night action in SURIGAO STRAIT.
- 0630 Set course for fuelling area.
- 0800-0845 Air attack on units of T.G. 77.2. 4 "Vals" reported shot down.
- 1415-1545 Fuelled from Fleet tanker U.S.S. "SALAMONIE" to the southward of SAMAR ISLAND.
- 1700 Air attack on anchorages. T.G. 77.3 formed in A/A disposition and sailed for northern entrance to SURIGAO STRAITS.
- 1830 "ARUNTA" took command of destroyers of T.G. 77.3. Formed battle disposition A.2. Manoeuvred destroyers in the battle formation during the night.

26th.

- 0600 T.G. 77.3 formed A/A disposition and proceeded to LAUAAN BAY.
- 1200-1300 Embarked 4-21" Mark 1X^{XX} torpedoes from H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE".
- 1300-1700 Lying to at immediate notice. Cruisers replenishing.
- 1700 T.G. 77.3 formed in A/A disposition and proceeded to patrol in LEYTE GULF with T.G. 77.2.
- 1800-2000 Air attacks on anchorages.
- 1820 Opened fire with 4" on 3 "Vals".
- 1945 Opened fire on low flying "Betty".

27th

- 0215 T.G. 77.3 sailed for rendezvous with T.G. 77.4 (C.V.E's).
- 0315 Com Des Ron 56 in "NEWCOMBE" with 5 D.D's joined.
- 0615 Made rendezvous with Carrier Group T.G. 77.4.2.
- 0700 "PHOENIX", "SHROPSHIRE" and 5 destroyers sailed for rendezvous with Carrier Group T.G. 77.4.1.
- 1030 Formed A/A disposition on T.G. 77.4.1.
"PETROF BAY"
"SANGAMON"

28th

- 0130 U.S.S. "MULLANEY" rejoined.
- 0630 U.S.S. "CHANANGO" and "SAGINAW BAY" joined formation.

29th

- 0300 Sailed with H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" and 3 destroyers for LEYTE GULF.
- 0930 Entered LEYTE GULF - proceeded to southern transport area.

OCTOBER
29th. 1230-1400 Fuelled from U.S.S. "MARYLAND"

Task Forces reconstituted. Joined new Task Group
77.1 consisting of:-

"MISSISSIPPI"	"PHOENIX"
"CALIFORNIA"	"NASHVILLE"
"PENNSYLVANIA"	"BOISE"
	"SHROPSHIRE"

and 13 destroyers.

1710 Sailed for A/S patrol "B" between HOMONOHON ISLAND
and POINT REB.

30th-31st. A/S patrol "B".

DR Buchanan

COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Commonwealth of Australia

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ACK. BY. A. 1830Y

-9 OCT 1944

INIT.

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA"
Date 3rd October, 1944. Reference No. W.D.10/44.
To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copy to C.T.F. 74).
Subject WAR DIARY - SEPTEMBER, 1944.

SEPTEMBER.

HN.

1st. 0900 Arrived MILNE BAY.
1600 Sailed for SEEADLER HARBOUR.

2nd. 1730 Arrived SEEADLER HARBOUR.

6th. 0800 Sailed with "AUSTRALIA" and "WARRAMUNGA" for surface and H.A. firings.
1700 Returned to harbour.

10th. 0615 Sailed with Task Force 75 (2 C.A. 3 C.L. 10 D.D's) for HUMBOLDT BAY.
1400-1700 Carried out I.F.F. and V.H.F. Test.

11th 0430 - 0530 Carried out Surface Tracking exercise.
0730 Arrived HUMBOLDT BAY.
2230 Sailed with Task Force 75 (less "NASHVILLE" "ABNER READ" and "BUSH") for MOROTAI ISLAND.

12th. 0430 - 0530. Carried out Surface Tracking exercise.
0900 - 1030. Carried out Range-finder Tracking exercise.

13th. 0630 Rendezvous with attack force - Task Force 77.
Formed cruising disposition C2.

14th. 2300 Task Group 77.1 (-C.V.E'S-) proceeded independently.

15th. 0500 Task Group 75.2 ("AUSTRALIA", "SHROPSHIRE", "ARUNTA", "WARRAMUNGA", "AMMEN", "MULLANBY") proceeded to close fire support area.
0600 "MULLANBY" and "AMMEN" proceeded independently to their bombardment stations. "ARUNTA" and "WARRAMUNGA" proceeded to A/S Patrol stations.
0615 "WARRAMUNGA" opened fire on Barge. - 0630 ceased fire, Barge badly damaged.
0650 - 0750. Cruisers carried out bombardment of selected targets.
0900 Rendezvous with C.T.F. 75.
0900 - 2000. Carried out patrol off MOROTAI.
2000 Task Group 75.2 proceeded to patrol to the Southward.

16th. 0700 Task Group 75.2 rendezvoused with Task Force 75.
0700 - 1800. Continued to patrol off MOROTAI ISLAND.
1800 Task Force 75 sailed for MIOS WOENDI.

17th. 0815 Obtained and investigated A/S Contact - classified non-sub.
"ARUNTA" and "MULLANBY" detailed to continue search until 1100 then rejoin.
1400 Rejoined Task Force 75.

18th 0830 Arrived MIOS WOENDI anchorage.
U.S.S. "KILLEN" joined Task Force 75.

SEPTEMBER.

- 27th. 0600 Sailed for SEEADLER HARBOUR.
1000 - 2100. Carried out A.A. Tracking and Tactical exercises, I.F.F. test, and Night-encounter exercise.
- 28th. 0445 - 1100. Carried out Radar and A.A. Tracking exercises.
- 29th. 0900 Arrived SEEADLER.
1600 Secured alongside U.S.S. "WHITNEY", commenced boiler cleaning.

W. E. Buchanan
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

ACK BY A.S. 1330Y
12 SEP 1944
IT *mb*

DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1092
SECRET

File 11/1/43

RESTRICTED

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA".
Date 3rd September, 1944. Reference No. W.D.9/44.
To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELB. (Copies to: C.T.F.74.)
Subject WAR DIARY - AUGUST, 1944.

*13/9
14/9*

- August 1st. At MIOS WOENDI.
- 2nd. 0730 U.S.S. "NASHVILLE" rejoined Task Force 75.
0930 U.S.S. "AMMEN", "HUTCHINS" and "PHOENIX" sailed for Sydney.
- 3rd. 1115 Sailed for A/S patrol off harbour entrance.
1545 Returned to harbour.
1740 Sailed with "BOISE", "BEALE" and "MELLANY" for Sydney. Remainder of Task Forces sailed for SEEADLER HARBOUR.
- 6th. 1030 Arrived MILNE BAY.
1500 Sailed for Sydney via CORAL SEA.
- 10th. 0900 Arrived Sydney - secured to No.1 Buoy.
1430 Secured alongside Sutherland Wharf - Cockatoo Island.
- 13th 1230 Docked in Fitzroy Dock.
- 25th 1100 Cleared Fitzroy Dock. Proceeded for D.G. Calibration.
1230 Secured to No.5 Buoy. Swung Compasses.
- 26th. 0830 Sailed with Task Forces 74 and 75 for MILNE BAY.
1050 Stopped engines to effect repairs to Starboard Tube Bearing. *STERN*
1215 On receipt of orders from C.T.F. 75 returned to Harbour for investigation and repairs to STARBOARD TUBE BEARING.
1545 Arrived Sydney.
1610 Sailed for trials and survey of defects by Dockyard officials.
1745 Returned to Harbour.
- 27th 1215 Entered Fitzroy Dock - Cockatoo Island.
- 29th Cleared Fitzroy Dock - sailed for trials.
1115 Trials completed - Results satisfactory - Returned to Harbour to fuel.
1545 Sailed for MILNE BAY via CORAL SEA.

27/9

28/9

29/9

4/9

*A/WARD
File*

R. A. N.
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

15/9

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Department of the Army

170/11/11

Naval Australian Army

COMMUNICATING OFFICER, R.A.S. "HAWKMAN"

3rd September, 1944. Message No. 2,7,244.

SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, KEES (Copies to: 2,7,244.)

NAVY DIRECT - SYDNEY, 1944.

at 11:00 AM.

U.S.S. "HAWKMAN" rejoined task force 73.
U.S.S. "HAWKMAN" and "HAWKMAN" called
for Sydney.

Called for AS patrol off harbor entrance.
Returned to Sydney.
Called with "HAWKMAN" and "HAWKMAN" for Sydney.
Remainder of task forces called for SYDNEY HARBOR.

Arrived SYDNEY 11:30 AM.
Called for Sydney via COMNAV.

Arrived Sydney - secured to No. 1 buoy.
Secured alongside Sutherland Wharf - Cockatoo Island.

Booked in Sydney dock.

Cleared Sydney dock. Proceeded for U.S.S. "HAWKMAN".
Secured to No. 2 buoy. Buoy compass.

Called with task forces 74 and 75 for WILSONS PROMONTORY.

Proposed actions to effect repairs to Starboard Main
Engine.

In receipt of orders from U.S.S. "HAWKMAN" returned to Sydney.
For investigation and repairs to STARBOARD MAIN ENGINE.

Arrived Sydney.
Called for trials and survey of defects of Sydney
officials.

Returned to Sydney.

Entered Sydney dock - Cockatoo Island.

Cleared Sydney dock - called for trials.
Trials completed - results satisfactory - returned to
Sydney to fuel.

COMMUNICATING OFFICER,
R.A.S. "HAWKMAN"

15/8

2026/7/1092

176A

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

3644.

14/8

SUBJECT: H.M.A.S. "Arunta" War Diary + Report of
Proceedings - July 1944

D.N.S. all 15/8

~~sent~~

D.N.S.

~~1st. W.M.~~

~~19/8~~
~~15/8~~

note prospective action. 15/8

18/8

Bombardments
Rampart Id.

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A/NHRO

File

16/8

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

NO. 1

SUBJECT:

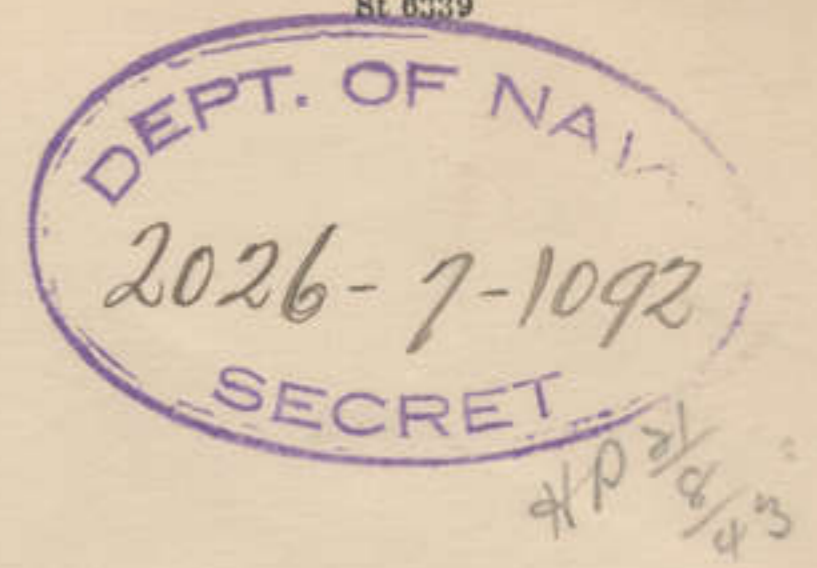
Accidents - July 1914

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Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.



RESTRICTED

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA".
 Date 3rd. August, 1944. Reference No. W.D.8/44.
 To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELB. (Copies to: C.T.F.74.)
 Subject WAR DIARY - JULY, 1944.

- 12/11/44
- July
1st. With Task Force 74 and 75 (1 CA, 2 CL, 10 DD's) proceeding to take part in operations for the capture of NOEMFOOR ISLAND.
- 2nd. 0600 "ARUNTA", "MULLANY" and "WARRAMUNGA" proceeded to Fire Support Area No.4. Formed astern of "MULLANY" so as to be in position to provide counter-battery fire on Targets 1-10.
- 0710 "ARUNTA" opened fire on Target Areas 11 to 15.
- 0735 Ceased Fire; 545 rounds of H.E.D.A. were expended.
- 0800 Rejoined C.T.F. 74.
- 0800-
1145 Patrolled in Fire Support Areas.
- 1145 Sailed for HUMBOLDT BAY.
- 3rd. 0930 Arrived HUMBOLDT BAY.
- 5th. 0945 Sailed with Task Force 74 and 75 for SEEADLER HARBOUR.
- 2000-
2130 Carried out Night Encounter Exercises.
- 6th. 0530-
0630 Carried out Radar Tracking Exercise.
- 1500 Arrived SEEADLER HARBOUR. H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" rejoined Task Force after repairs in Sydney.
- 8th. 0730 Sailed with "SHROPSHIRE" and "WARRAMUNGA" for Long and Close Range A.A. firings at sleeve target.
- 1215 Returned to SEEADLER.
- 10th. 1110 Sailed for A/S Exercises with U.S. Submarine in Area Z.
- 1800 Escorted Submarine in to harbour.
- 12th. 0930 Sailed with Task Force 74 for AITAPE.
- 13th. 0720 Arrived AITAPE.
- 14th. 0600 Sailed for MARUBIAN VILLAGE Area.
- 0800 Carried out bombardment of Cross Roads near MARUBIAN VILLAGE with Beaufort spotting fall of shot. 100 rounds of H.E. expended.
- 0813 Ceased fire. Carried out bombardment of barge hideout at mouth of DANDRIWAD RIVER. 101 rounds H.E. expended.
- 19/8/44

/over

July
14th. 0833 Ceased Fire. Aircraft reported 1 barge he could see badly damaged.
1115 Commenced A/S. Patrol off entrance to AITAPE Roads.

15th. 0800 Completed patrol. Entered harbour.
0930 Sailed for vicinity of CAPE DJERUEN
1130 Carried out a bombardment of enemy W/T Station with Beaufort aircraft spotting.
1140 Ceased fire. Aircraft reported target well covered; Probable Radio Hut destroyed. 102 rounds of H.E. expended.
1415 Arrived AITAPE
1900 Sailed with "WARRAMUNGA" "BACHE" "AMMEN" and P.T. Boats 129 and 134 to search area of coastline between 143°E and 143°10'E for enemy barges.
1930 "AMMEN" and P.T. Boats detached to act independently.

16th. 2100- Carried out search of Coast with S.G. Radar, Starshell and Searchlight. No barges sighted. Fired a few salvos at enemy trucks on coastal roads.
0530
0800 Arrived AITAPE

17th. 1700 Sailed with P.T. Boats Nos. 110 and 114 to carry out operations against barges and trucks in CAPE DJERUEN and CAPE KARAWOD Area.

18th. 1945- Attacked lights of trucks along the coast, and fired starshell in search for barges. 77 rounds 4.7" H.E. and 38 rounds 4" Starshell expended.
0555
0900 Arrived AITAPE

19th. 1130 Sailed to take over A/S Patrol

20th. 0645 Joined "AUSTRALIA" and "SHROPSHIRE" to act as A/S Screen.
0740 "WARRAMUNGA" joined.
0800- "AUSTRALIA" and "SHROPSHIRE" carried out a bombardment of targets in JAKAMUL Area.
0830
1015 Resumed A/S Patrol.
1315 Completed A/S Patrol. Entered harbour.

22nd. 1300 "AUSTRALIA" and "WARRAMUNGA" sailed for Sydney

23rd. 1800 Sailed for JAKAMUL Area to conduct operations against enemy barges and coastal traffic, and to render support as necessary to P.T. Boats Nos. 138, 496, 189, 494, 143 and 144 which were patrolling in pairs in the following areas:-
(1) JAKAMUL - MARUBIAN Area.
(2) SUAIN-ANUMB Area.
(3) NINIHAU RIVER - CAPE KARAWOK Area.

/over.

July
24th. 0100 In combined attacks with P.T. Boats 189 and 94 destroyed 1 enemy barge and damaged two in vicinity of ANUMB RIVER. Continued searching for barges, and watching for trucks throughout the night. Fired on stationary lights ashore. 72 rounds H.E. and 61 Starshell expended

0900 Arrived AITAPE

25th. 0545 On receipt of orders from C.T.F.74 attempted to salvage "SHROPSHIRE's" pinnace which had run ashore. Task Force 74 (1 C.A. and 4 DD's) sailed for HUMBOLDT BAY.

1130 Sailed for HUMBOLDT BAY

1630 Arrived HUMBOLDT BAY

28th. 0930 Sailed with Task Force 74 (1 CA., 5 DD's) to rendezvous with Task Force 75.

1700 Joined C.T.F. 75 to form Task Force 78 (1 CA, 2 CL, 9 DD's) as covering force for landings on CAPE SANSAPOR, Dutch New Guinea

29th. 0600- Carried out Radar Tracking Exercise.
0700
1000- Carried out BL-BK Test.
1100

30th. Acted as close support for landings on Cape Sansapor.

0900 Retired. Set course for MIOS WOENDI - PADAIDO GROUP.

31st. 0945 Arrived MIOS WOENDI.

R. E. ...
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

ACK. BY. A.S. 13501
17 JUL 1944

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.



Royal Australian Navy.

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

Date 2nd. July, 1944. Reference No. W.D. 7/44.

To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copies to: C.T.F. 74.)

Subject WAR DIARY - JUNE, 1944.

June
1st. On patrol with Task Force 74 off Biak Island.

2nd. 2300 Arrived Humboldt Bay.

3rd. Sailed with Task Force 74 and 75 (1 CA, 3 CL, 10 DD's) for patrol off Biak Island.

4th. 1740 Force was attacked by 6 (Approx.) Glide Bombers (Zero Fighter-Bombers or F.W. 190's). Three planes converged on "ARUNTA", but only one bomb was dropped which missed by about 300 yards. Opened fire with close range weapons; aircraft retired after dropping bombs.

2200 Proceeded between South East Point of Biak Island and Padaido Group to investigate possible enemy landing

5th. 0110 Attacked by unknown number of Torpedo Bombers whilst retiring by reverse route. Opened fire at suspected target.

6th. 0930 Des.Div. 42 (Fletcher, "Lavalette", "Radford" and "Jenkins") joined Task Force.

1915 Arrived Humboldt Bay.

7th. 2315 Sailed with Task Force 74 and 75 (1CA, 2CL, 14 DD's) to resume patrol off Biak Island.

8th. 1435 "Betty" - Reconnaissance aircraft sighted.

2155 U.S.S. "MULLANY" detached to carry out RADAR search of Korim Bay.

2220 "MULLANY" opened fire on unidentified aircraft which dropped bombs. "Mullany" rejoined.

2320 Obtained surfact contact, bearing 290°, 13 miles.

2326 Deployed on course 000°; "ARUNTA" and "WARRAMUNGA" ordered to support the van.

2342 U.S.S. "BOISE" reported torpedo passed astern.

2345 Enemy reported as 5 Destroyers with some barges retiring at full speed, leaving barges behind. Chasing at full speed.

9th. 0053 "ARUNTA" and "WARRAMUNGA" ordered to retire with Cruisers and subsequently ordered to search for enemy barges along the route followed in the chase.

/over

June
9th. 0202 Obtained small surface contact, bearing 209°, 2000 yards.

Contact identified as an enemy barge. Opened fire with close range weapons, and one mounting of the main armament in Quarters firing. Barge sank. Ammunition expended: 20 H.E.D.A. 4.7", 233 Pom-Pom, 366 Oerlikon.

0230- Searched coast between TG PRAISBARI and KORIM BAY.
0422

0422 Set course for rendezvous with Task Force 74.

0800 Joined Task Forces 74 and 75.

10th. 1400 Arrived HUMBOLDT BAY

11th. 1200 "AUSTRALIA" and 5 DD's sailed for SEEADLER HARBOUR.
1630 Sailed with Task Force 75 (2 CA, 8 DD's) for SEEADLER HARBOUR.

12th. 1615 Arrived SEEADLER HARBOUR.

19th. 1730 Proceeded alongside U.S.S. "DOBBIN" for Boiler Cleaning

29th. 0800 Slipped from U.S.S. "DOBBIN"
1230 Sailed with Task Force 74 and 75 (1 CA, 2 CL, 10 DD's) for Tabletennis Operation.
1400- Carried out long and close range A.A. firings at
1630 Sleeve target.

30th. 0900- Carried out close range A.A. firings at Sleeve targets.
0945
1330- Carried out RADAR, Tracking Exercise, U.H.F. Test
1540 and BL-BK Exercises.

H. B. B. B.

COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.



Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA".Date 1st. June, 1944. Reference No. W.D.6/44.To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copies to: C.T.F. 74.)Subject WAR DIARY - MAY, 1944.May
1st - 3rd.

With Task Force 74 forming part of Task Group 78.2 (Task Force 74, 3 CVE and 7 DD'S) covering the landings at HOLLANDIA.

4th.	0830	Arrived SEEADLER Harbour.
10th.	0600	Sailed with "SHROPSHIRE" and "WARRAMUNGA" for H.A. and L.A. firings at sleeve target.
	1400	Returned to Harbour.
12th.	1200	Sailed for underway A/S. Patrol North of Harbour Entrance.
13th.	0630	U.S.S. "TRATHAN" took over underway patrol. Sailed with "AUSTRALIA" and "WARRAMUNGA" for H.A., L.A. firings, sleeve target.
	1300	Arrived SEEADLER Harbour.
15th.	1500	Sailed with Task Force 74 and Task Force 75 (5 Cruisers and 9 destroyers) to provide supporting fire and surface protection for landings at SARMI area.
16th.	2000	Arrived rendezvous north of HOLLANDIA. Proceeded to SARMI area keeping 10 miles ahead of Echelon S. 2.
17th.	0430	Task Force 75 acted independently to close fire support areas.
	0530	Took station astern of "AUSTRALIA" and "SHROPSHIRE" and closed fire support Area No.5.
	0605	Cruisers opened fire on targets in vicinity of CAPE SARMI.
	0615	"ARUNTA" carried out bombardment of targets on CAPE SARMI. Fired 216 rounds of 4.7" H.E.
	0625	Opened fire on Barge targets off VANDOE MOEAR and ANSAN MOEAR Islands. Fired 88 rounds of 4.7" H.E.
	0730	Investigated reports of barge targets in vicinity of NIROEMOAR Island. No sighting made. Rejoined Task Force.
	0750	Task Force 74 commenced patrol in area North West of WAKDE.
21st.	0700	Task Force 75 relieved Task Force 74.
	1315	Task Force 74 arrived HUMBOLDT BAY.

/over.

- May
25th. Sailed with Task Force 74 for BIAK Island, Schouten Group.
- 26th. 0700 Joined Echelon H.1 and took up day screening stations.
1800 Took up Night Screening Station on starboard bow of Attack Force.
- 27th. 0430 With "Warramunga" in company proceeded one mile ahead of Cruisers.
0615 Cruisers commenced bombardment. "ARUNTA" and "WARRAMUNGA" screening Cruisers from the Southward.
0715 Task Force 74 formed cruising disposition V2 and proceeded as necessary to remain in the fire support area.
0855 "ARUNTA" was detached to carry out a bombardment of Target area No. 74.
0920 Bombardment completed. 120 rounds of 4.7" H.E. fired. Rejoined formation.
1100 4 Japanese fighters attacked spotting aircraft in vicinity of MOKMER strip.
1645 4 Japanese aircraft attacked the landing beaches and U.S.S. "SAMPSON". One was seen to fall in flames.
1730 U.S.S. "NASHVILLE" and "ABNER READ" joined Task Force 74 temporarily. Task Force 74 proceeded to HUMBOLT BAY
- 28th. 0915 Arrived HUMBOLT BAY.
1230 H.M.A.S. "SHROPSHIRE" sailed for Sydney.
- 30th. 1900 Sailed with Task Force 74 to provide surface protection for our forces at BIAK Island.
- 31st. 0700 Made rendezvous with Task Force 75 and took over patrol. Task Force 75 returned to HUMBOLT BAY.

R. B. ...
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

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DEPT. OF NAVY
2026/7/1092
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Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

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

Date 1st. May, 1944. Reference No. W.D. 4/44.

To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELB. (Copies to: C.T.F.74.)

Subject WAR DIARY - APRIL, 1944.

Hollandia
Op

17/5
#11

- April 1st. 1615 At sea exercising with Task Force 74.
Arrived Milne Bay
- 4th. 0645 Sailed for Submarine Exercises in Areas B & C.
1700 Arrived Milne Bay.
- 6th. 0800 Sailed for Submarine Exercises in Areas B & C.
1830 Arrived Milne Bay
- 7th. 0645 Sailed with Task Force 74 for Exercises.
- 8th. 1230 Arrived Milne Bay.
- 14th. 1500 Sailed with Task Force 74 for Cape Sudest
- 15th. 0730 Arrived Cape Sudest
- 18th. 0545 Sailed with Task Force 74 for Seeadler Harbour - Admiralty Islands.
- 19th. 1130 Arrived Seeadler Harbour.
- 1730 Sailed with Task Force 74 for rendezvous with Attack Forces (T.F.77) at Point Gun 1° 35'S 146° 35'E at 0700K 20th. April.
- 20th. 0700 Joined Attack Forces (Task Force 77) took station on A/S Screen.
- 22nd. 0300 Task Force 74 acted independently and disengaged to the westward.
0400 Proceeded independently to Fire Support Area No. 6 in Tanamerah Bay.
0600 - Carried out underway bombardment of Area between Kiakebo Point and Wanja Village. Expended 75 rounds H.E.D.A.
0630
0645 Task Force reformed less "Ammen" and "Mullany"
0800 U.S.S. "Ammen" and "Mullany" rejoined.
0945 Proceeded with "Australia" and "Ammen" to carry out bombardment of targets in Demta Bay.
1000- Bombarded hut and Barge targets in Demta Bay and Moeris Bay.
1100
- 1100 Task Force reformed.
- 1100- Carried out patrol off Tanah Merah Bay.
- 1730
- 1730 Sailed for rendezvous with Task Group 78.2 (Car.Div 24 - 4 C.V.E., DESRON 48 - 7 D.D.)
- 23rd. 0730 Joined Task Group 78.2. Took station as A/S. Escort. Task Group patrolled off Hollandia providing cover for landing forces.
- 24th. Task Group retired to the northward to fuel destroyers.

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[Signature]

April
25th. Fuelling destroyers. "Arunta" fuelled from
"AUSTRALIA".
26th. Task Group resumed patrol off Hollandia.
27th. Returning to Seeadler Harbour to replenish
28th. 0700 Arrived Seeadler Harbour. Completed with fuel,
provisions and ammunition.
29th. 0530 Sailed with Task Group 78.2 for Hollandia Area.
30th. Carried out patrol North of Hollandia Area.

M. S. S. S.

COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.
MINUTE PAPER.

2026/4/1092

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SUBJECT: HMAS "Arunta" - War Diary - March 44

RESTRICTED

D.P.S. of 13/4

S.N.B. Report of Proceedings
circulated separately
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Admiralties
& Seadler Harbours
etc

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
MINUTE PAPER

Subject: Harold J. Bennett - War Service - 1914-1918

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Administrative
Service
1914-1918

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REC Commonwealth of Australia

8 APR 1944 Department of The Navy.

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Royal Australian Navy.

St 6339
DEPT. OF NAVY
2026.7.1092.
SECRET

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

Date 2nd. April, 1944. Reference No. W.D.4/44.

To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copies to: C.T.F.74.)

Subject WAR DIARY - MARCH, 1944.

March

1st. 0900 Arrived Milne Bay from Sydney.

2nd. 0600 Sailed for Cape Sudest
1700 Arrived Cape Sudest.

3rd. 1000 Embarked 100 troops of 7th. U.S. Cavalry with approximately
3 tons of stores and ammunition.
1100 Sailed with T.U. 76.1.3 (8 D.D.'s) and T.U. 76.1.2
(3 A.P.D.'s) for HYANE Harbour, Admiralty Islands.

4th. 0745 Arrived HYANE Harbour
0800 to Bombarded targets 7, 8 and 9 in HYANE Harbour
0825
0830 to Disembarked troops and stores in 2 L.C.M.'s and 1 L.C.V.
0920 from ashore,
0945 Took station on A/S. Screen.
1230 Sailed for Cape Sudest.

5th. 0030 H.M.A.S. "WARRAMUNGA" detached and proceeded independently
to Cape Sudest.
0930 Arrived Cape Sudest.

7th. 0930 Sailed with T.U. 76.1.53 (5 D.D.'s) and T.T.U. 76.2.53
Section 1 (7 L.S.T.'s) for SEEADLER Harbour - Admiralty
Is.
1945 U.S.S. STOCKTON joined Task Unit.
2230 Detached from Convoy and proceeded to rendezvous with
U.S.S. ETAMIN (T.T.U. 76.2.53) in Cape Cretin, Langemak
Bay Area, and escort her to the convoy.

8th. 0045 Rejoined convoy.
0700 Task Force 74 (3 C.R.'s and 4 D.D.'s) passed to port -
Proceeding.

9th. 0915 1 L.S.T. proceeded into HYANE Harbour ,
1030 Formed A/S. screen to seaward during entry of L.S.T. and
U.S.S. "ETAMAIN" into SEEADLER Harbour
2000 L.S.T.'s escorted by destroyers sailed for Cape Sudest.
2030 U.S.S. "THORN" AND "STOCKTON" proceeded for patrol off
HYANE Harbour.
2115 Carried out patrol north of SEEADLER Harbour with "BUSH"
and "DRAYTON".

/ over.

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4H 4

March.

10th. 0930 14 P.T. Boats with 1 Escort entered SEEADLER Harbour
1900 "THORN" and "STOCKTON" rejoined. Continued patrol
north of harbour

11th. 0745 "DRAYTON" entered harbour.
1430 Proceeded into harbour and re-fuelled from U.S.S.
"ETAMAIN".
1830 Completed fuelling. Proceeded down swept channel.
1915 Carried out bombardment with main armament and pom-pom
of Ndirilo Is. (Position 147° 20.8' E 1° 58.0' S.).
1945 Took up patrol station.

12th. 0745 Proceeded into SEEADLER Harbour to give fire support to
small craft.
1140 "ARUNTA" and "BUSH" carried out bombardment of Western
end of HAUWEI Is. (Position 1° 58.65S 147° 19' E)
1315 Landing craft proceeding to a position south of Western
end of HAUWEI Is. and then turning north.
1330 Fighters strafed HAUWEI Is.
1345 3 Alligators beached under fire on western end of Island.
L.C.M.'s proceeded to northern side of the Island
1415 Sailed for Patrol station.
1530 U.S.S. "BUSH" AND "THORNE" carried out a bombardment of
eastern end of Pityulu Island with "DRAYTON" spotting
for fall of shot

13th. 1400 U.S.S. "HOBBY" and "THORN" bombarded Pityulu Island.
1900 Proceeded to HYANE Harbour escorting 2 L.S.T.'s from
SEEADLER Harbour
1930 4 L.S.T.'s from HYANE Harbour joined convoy, which was
now 6 L.S.T.'s with 6 D.D.'s ~~and~~ ^{as} escort; sailed for
Cape Sudest.

15th. 1200 Arrived Cape Sudest.
1415 Sailed for Oro Bay for ammunition and repairs.
1630 Arrived Oro Bay. Ammunitioned and then secured along-
side U.S.S. "DOBBIN".

17th 1100 Sailed for rendezvous off Cape Cretin with 2 Liberty
Ships (William Beaumont - Newman Mack)
1300 U.S.S. "STOCKTON" took station
2000 Arrived rendezvous. U.S.S. "THORNE" joined escort.
2100 Sailed with convoy of 2 liberty ships for SEEADLER
Harbour.

/ over.

March.
19th. 0700 Led Liberty Ships into SEEADLER Harbour. "STOCKTON"
and "THORNE" joined A/S. patrol off Harbour entrance.
1500 Sailed with "Newman Mack" for Langemak Bay.
20th. 1700 Arrived Langemak Bay. Sailed for Cape Sudest.
2315 Arrived Cape Sudest.
21st. 1700 Received orders to get under way immediately and
carry out Hunter Killer tactics on submarine
reported $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Mitre Rock at 1000 (L)
1716 Sailed for patrol.
1915 U.S.S. "NICHOLSON" took station on port beam.
2315 Steering gear broke down. Commenced steering by
main engines
22nd. 0700 Set course for Oro Bay to carry out repairs on steering
gear.
1300 Arrived Oro Bay - Anchored.
1730 Secured alongside U.S.S. "DOBBIN".
26th. 0800 Sailed for Cape Sudest.
1015 Arrived Cape Sudest.
27th. 0700 Sailed for Milne Bay to rejoin Task Force 74.
1715 Arrived Milne Bay.
29th. 0700 Sailed with "Warramunga" for exercises.
1930 Returned to Milne Bay.
31st. 0645 Sailed with Task Force for exercises south of China
Strait.

R. Buchanan
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

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COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA".
4th. March, 1944. W.D.3/44.
SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copies to: C.T.F.74.)
WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY, 1944.

February

1st.	0900	Sailed from Milne Bay for Sydney.
4th.	2100	Arrived Sydney.
5th.	0900	Shifted berth to Cruiser Wharf - Cockatoo Island.
7th.	1200	Docked in Fitzroy Dock, Cockatoo Island.
15th.	1200	Undocked. Secured at East Wharf, Cockatoo.
25th.	0700	Carried out Tilt Test.
	0930	Shifted berth to No. 2 Buoy.
	1000 to 1500	Swung ship for deperming.
26th.	0830	Carried out D.G. Calibration over range.
	0930	Sailed to carry out test firings of Pom Pom fitted with Mk. 19 Sight.
	1200	Completed firings. Returned to Sydney Harbour.
	1330 to 1600	Swung compasses.
	1630	Sailed for Milne Bay via Red Route and Grafton Passage.
27th.	1630	Carried out Full calibre shoot on B.P. target in position 090° Cape Moreton 18 miles.
	2030	Carried out Full Calibre Night Shoot with Starshell on B.P. target. On completion proceeded for Milne Bay.

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Handwritten signature: R. B. ...
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA".
Date 4th. February, 1944. **Reference No.** R.P.2/44.
To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELB. (Copies to:- Commander Task Force 74.)
Subject WAR DIARY - JANUARY, 1944.

January

1st.	1200	Sailed from Buna with Task Unit 76.1.43. ("Warramunga", "Arunta", "Helm" and "Ralph Talbot")
2nd.	0600	Task Unit carries out patrol off Helmholtz Point acting as covering force for landings by the American 32nd. Division at Saidor. On return escorted "Smith" and "Hutchens", damaged in collision, to Cape Ward Hunt.
	2345	Arrived Buna.
3rd.	2200	Sailed with Task Unit 76.1.43 escorting Echelon B11 (4 L.S.T.'s) to Cape Gloucester
5th.	1700	Left Cape Gloucester.
7th.	0245	Arrived Buna
8th.	1845	"Warramunga" sailed for Sydney. "Arunta" took over the duties of Task Unit Commander.
	2100	Sailed with "Helm" and "Ralph Talbot" escorting Eschelon B.13, (Section 1, three L.S.T.'s) and S.S. "Mulcra" and "Ganymeade" for Cape Gloucester. Section 11 (2 L.S.T.'s) joined convoy off Cape Cretin and "Ganymeade" left convoy off Finchaven.
10th.	1700	Left Cape Gloucester
12th.	0130	Arrived Buna.
	1000	Proceeded to Sudest; U.S.S. "Beale" joined Task Unit.
15th.	1000	Sailed with Task Unit for Cape Cretin.
	1600	Met Eschelon M. 8 (5 L.S.T.'s) off Cape Cretin and escorted them to Saidor
16th.	1100	Off Saidor. Fighter cover of Thunderbolts intercepted 20 to 30 Japanese fighters and eight bombers. They shot down about 20 without loss to themselves. No enemy aircraft reached the ships. Subsequently destroyers searched for Japanese survivors. The only one found was picked up by "Arunta".
	2200	Left convoy and proceeded with "Beale" to search for enemy submarines, barges and armed landing craft between Gali and Reiss Point. Remained in the area until 0200, but there were no sightings.
17th.	0400	Rejoined convoy
	1000	Task Unit left convoy at Cape Cretin and proceeded to Buna.
	1430	Arrived Buna.

January.

18th. "Beale" was detached from Task Unit which, until it was disbanded at the end of the month, consisted of "Arunta", "Helm" and "Ralph Talbot".

19th. 2100 Task Unit sailed for Saidor escorting Eschelon M.9 Section 1. (3 L.S.T.'s)

20th. 1330 Section 11 (2 L.S.T.'s) joined convoy off Cape Cretin.

21st. 1030 Dropped pattern of Depth Charges in position $5^{\circ} 39' S, 146^{\circ} 43' E$ on end of oil slick where aircraft reported the presence of a submarine. Although these precautions were taken it is not considered a submarine was present.

1800 Left Saidor.

22nd. 1100 Met "Daly" and Echelon B.16 (4 L.S.T.'s) at Cape Cretin. Exchanged Eschelons and sailed for Cape Gloucester with Eschelon B.16, escorted by Task Unit 76.1.43.

1500 One Zero dropped a bomb 400 yards astern of convoy. Position $16^{\circ} 30' S 47^{\circ} 58' E$.

23rd. 1900 Left Cape Gloucester.

25th. 0200 Arrived Buna.

27th. 2115 Task Unit sailed with Eschelon M.10 Section 1 (1 L.S.T.)

28th. 1320 Met Eschelon M. 10 Section 11 (5 L.S.T.'s) at Cape Cretin. Proceeded with them to Saidor.

29th. 1700 Left Saidor.

31st. 0015 Arrived Buna

1200 Sailed for Milne Bay.

2200 Arrived Milne Bay.

R. A. N.
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of The Navy.

Royal Australian Navy.

From COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "ARUNTA".
 Date 2nd. January, 1944. Reference No. R.P. 1/44.
 To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE. (Copies to:- C.T.F. 74.)
 Subject WAR DIARY - DECEMBER, 1943.

December.

1st.		At Milne Bay.
2nd.	1500	Sailed in company with U.S.S. "Helm" to rendezvous with U.S.S. "Phoenix", and escort her to Milne Bay.
3rd.	1745	Arrived Milne Bay.
6th.	0945	Sailed with Task Force 74 for exercises.
7th.	1300	Arrived Milne Bay.
14th.	0700	Proceeded with Task Force 74, as necessary to cover landings at ARAWE, NEW BRITAIN.
16th.	1045	Arrived Milne Bay.
21st.	0830	Sailed for H.A. Gunnery exercises in Milne Bay Area.
	1615	Arrived Milne Bay.
24th.	1615	Sailed with Task Force 74 for operations against Cape Gloucester, NEW BRITAIN.
26th.	0601	Carried out bombardment of CAPE GLOUCESTER AREA.
	1815	Arrived Buna.
27th.	1000	Proceeded with Task Unit 74.1.2 to Cape Gloucester area for patrol
28th.	2230	Arrived Buna.
	2345	Proceeded with Task Unit 74.1.2 to escort convoy of 6 L.S.T.'s to Cape Gloucester area/
30th.	0700	Arrived Cape Gloucester Area. Carried out patrol while L.S.T.'s beached.
	1700	Left with L.S.T.'s for Buna.
31st.	1845	Arrived Buna
		Whilst at Milne Bay "Arunta" carried out patrols between Dawa-Dawa and Ahiona on the nights of 3rd/4th, 7th/8th, 9th/10th, 13th/14th, 19th/20th and 23rd/24th.

M. Buchanan

COMMANDER, R.A.N.
 COMMANDING OFFICER.

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SUBJECT: Quas Arunta - War Diary - September 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

MINUTE PAPER

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SUBJECT: "Gunter" - War Diary - September 1942

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Department of The Navy.

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NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Royal Australian Navy.

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

Date 19th. October, 1943. Reference No. W.D.1.

To SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELB. (Copies to:- Commander Task Force 74.)

Subject WAR DIARY - SEPTEMBER, 1943.

A3/11
11/2/11/43

September

- 1st. to 17th. At Sydney for refit
- 18th. Carried out D.G. trials at Sydney.
- 19th. At Sydney.
- 20th. Proceeded to sea for Full Calibre Firing.
- 21st. Proceeded for Melbourne.
- 22nd. Arrived Williamstown, and berthed at Nelson's Pier
- 23rd. At Melbourne.
- 24th. Carried out Full Calibre and H.A. firing in Port Phillip
- 25th. & 26th. At Melbourne.
- 27th. 0630 Sailed with Convoy P.V.3 for Lady Elliot Island.
- 28th. - 30th. On passage to Lady Elliot Island.

P. J. ...
COMMANDER, R.A.N.
COMMANDING OFFICER.

o.o.s f 5/11 distance run, remarks etc missing.

o.c.s 28/11

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