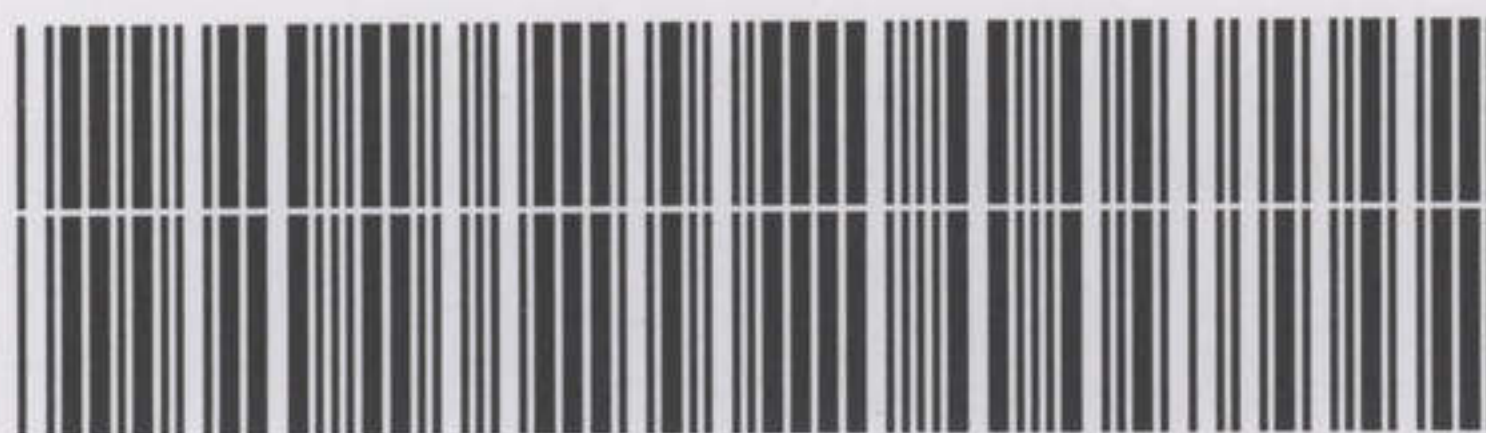


AWM78
**Reports of Proceedings,
HMA Ships and Establishments**

HMAS WATERHEN (I)

Item number: 362/1

Title: September 1939 - May 1941.



AWM78-362/1

[362/1]

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

"WATERHEN" WAR DIARY

Classification Authority—Defence Records
This record has been reviewed and has been
classified by the Department of Defence
(1.1) with effect from: 17 DEC 90
Security Dig (N) Admin 18-18.
Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)
Signature: *R. L. Smith* Date: 14 MAR 91

NAVAL HISTORICAL RECORDS

589/201/779

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN"

WAR DIARY - MAY. 1941.

MAY	1st.	At sea, forming part of screen to 1st. B.S. and "Formidable", covering convoys from Greece to Alexandria.
	2nd.	Returned to Alexandria.
	3rd. - 4th.	At Alexandria.
	5th.	Proceeded in company with "Voyager" to Tobruk with military personnel and stores.
	6th.	Arrived Tobruk at 0230. Sailed for Alexandria at 0430 with military wounded and details being relieved. Arrived Alexandria 1900.
	7th.	Sailed with "Stuart" as escort to convoy for Suda Bay, Crete. Convoy and remainder of escort (Auckland, Flamingo, Grimsby, Vampire) joined p.m.
	8th.	P.M. convoy attacked near Kaso Strait by torpedo bombers. M.V. "Rawnsley" hit and taken in tow by "Grimsby" with "Waterhen" as escort. Remainder of convoy proceeded.
	9th.	"Grimsby" towing "Rawnsley" to anchorage south of Crete.
	10th.	Parted company and proceeded to Suda Bay. P.M. sailed to escort "City of Canterbury" to Alexandria.
	11th.	On passage.
	12th.	Arrived Alexandria.
	13th. - 17th.	At Alexandria.
	18th.	Sailed with "Coventry", "Voyager" and "Glengyle" for Messara Bay, Crete to land troops.
	19th.	Returned to Alexandria. "Glengyle" bombed, but no damage or casualties.
	20th.	Arrived Alexandria.
	21st.	At Alexandria.
	22nd.	Sailed for Tobruk with military personnel and stores
	23rd.	Arrived Tobruk 2330.
	24th.	Sailed for Alexandria 0230 with military wounded and details being relieved. P.M. arrived Alexandria.
	25th. - 29th.	At Alexandria, boiler-cleaning.
	30th.	Sailed for Tobruk with military personnel and stores, arrived 2300.
	31st.	Sailed for Alexandria with military wounded and reliefs at 0200. Arrived Alexandria 1700.

Days at sea : 18

Miles steamed 5721.6

3

1
1

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
CONFIDENTIAL

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

14th May, 1941.

107/1

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH NAVAL BOARD. (Copies to:-
C-in-C MED STATION.)
WAR DIARY H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

Submitted,

Herewith is forwarded War Diary for the month of April.

Let 13/6

Ocent 14/6

on 1 crew

*2nd 14/6
C.L.O.*

14/6

JD Van
Lieutenant-Commander.
(In Command.)

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY - APRIL, 1941.

APRIL	1st. - 3rd.	At Alexandria, boiler-cleaning.
	4th.	Sailed for Tobruk.
	5th.	Arrived Tobruk.
	6th. - 8th.	At Tobruk and on patrol.
	9th. - 10th.	Escorted "Thurland Castle" to Sollum and Alexandria.
	11th.	Sailed for Tobruk.
	12th. - 13th.	At Tobruk and on patrol.
	14th.	Hospital Ship "Vita" attacked by dive bombers outside Tobruk harbour at 1630. Proceeded to her assistance and found she was damaged by "near misses" and unable to steam. Took her in tow, but found her unmanageable. Slipped tow and ordered "Vita" to anchor. Proceeded alongside at 2230 and embarked all patients, 437 and medical staff of 6 doctors, 6 nurses and 41 sick berth ratings. Proceeded to Alexandria.
	15th.	Arrived Alexandria.
	16th. - 17th.	At Alexandria.
	18th.	Proceeded with "Coventry", "Glengyle", "Stuart" and "Voyager" to Bardia where a landing was made by troops from "Glengyle" on the town. Troops were landed at 2130 on 19th and re-embarked at 0400 on 20th. No opposition was encountered.
	20th.	Returned to Alexandria.
	21st.	Proceeded with "Grimsby" and "Vendetta" as escort to convoy to Piraeus. Owing to decision to evacuate Greece the convoy was directed to Suda Bay, Crete.
	24th.	Arrived Suda Bay.
	25th.	Proceeded in company with "Vendetta" to rendezvous with "Coventry", "Wryneck" and "Thurland Castle" at Megara, Greece to embark military personnel being evacuated. The evacuation was carried out without enemy action. The convoy sailed for Suda Bay at 0400, 26th. Four attacks were made by enemy aircraft on passage but there were no casualties or damage. Arrived Suda Bay 1800, 26th.
	27th.	Sailed at 0455 in company with "Wryneck" and "Vendetta" to form part of escort to a convoy sailing for Alexandria. "Wryneck" later parted company.
	28th.	On passage.
	29th.	Arrived Alexandria.
	30th.	Sailed to point of screen to the 1st. B.S. and "Formidable", ^{to screen} A convoy proceeding from Suda Bay to Alexandria.

Days at Sea: 25.

Miles steamed: 6770.7

RECEIVED
28 APR 1941
RECORDS

Royal Australian Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
CONFIDENTIAL

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

Date 4th April, 1941. Reference No. 104/13

To AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH NAVAL BOARD. (Copy to:- COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MED. STATION.)

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

Submitted,

Herewith enclosed War Diary for H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN"
for month of March, 1941.

CAPTAIN (D)
F192/61
5 APR 1941
H.M.A.S. STUART

[Signature]
Lieutenant-Commander.
(In Command.)

SECRET

II.

No. F.192/6.
The Secretary,
Naval Board, MELBOURNE.
(Copy to The Vice-Admiral, Light Forces,
Mediterranean).

Submitted for the information of
the Naval Board.

*sent 23.15-
orig. C. 10.*

H.M.A.S. "STUART",
10th April, 1941.

[Signature]
(H.M.L. Waller),
CAPTAIN (D),
10th Destroyer Flotilla.

Pero [Signature] 2/5

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY - MARCH, 1941.

March, 1st - 3rd.	At Tobruk and at sea on patrol.
" 4th	Sailed for Alexandria in company with "Wryneck".
" 5th	Arrived Alexandria.
" 6th	Sailed with "Barham", "Valiant" and destroyers to operate as covering force to convoys between Alexandria and Greece.
" 7th	Arrived Suda Bay.
" 8th	On A/S patrol outside Suda Bay.
" 9th	At sea with covering force.
" 10th	Returned to Suda Bay.
" 11th	At Suda Bay.
" 12th	Sailed with covering force, detached to Suda Bay and thence to Piraeus.
" 13th	Arrived Piraeus.
" 14th	Sailed as part as escort to convoy bound Alexandria and Port Said. Other ships of escort, H.M. Ships "Hotspur" and "Salvia".
" 15th - 16th.	On passage with convoy.
" 17th	Arrived Alexandria.
" 18th	Sailed for Piraeus. as part as escort of convoy. Other ships in escort H.M. Ships "Coventry" "Decoy" and "Hyacinth".
19th - 21st	On passage with convoy. Convoy was attacked by five J U 88 bombers off West coast of Crete at 1600 on 21st. Coventry had parted company at 0800 that day. Tanker "MARIE MAERSK" hit and set on fire by bomb and abandoned by crew. One Officer and ten ratings, volunteers from H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN" boarded the tanker and steamed her to Suda Bay with HM. trawler "AMBER" standing by. H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN" rejoined convoy at 2100 on 21st.
" 22nd	Arrived Piraeus.
" 23rd	At Piraeus.
" 24th	Sailed for Suda Bay to re-embark salvage crew from "MARIE MAERSK". Bombed and machine gunned by a J U 88 off Milo Island. No damage or casualties. After re-embarking salvage crew at Suda Bay sailed for Piraeus.
" 25th	Arrived Piraeus. Sailed with convoy for Alexandria. Other ships in escort H.M. Ships "Coventry", "Decoy" "Hyacinth".
26th	Between 1000 and 1100 convoy was attacked by J U 88 bombers, no damage. Between 1540 and 1600 convoy was attacked by J U 88 bombers one hit on S.S. "Baluchistan" but damage not serious.
" 27th	On passage with Convoy.
" 28th	Arrived Alexandria. Sailed with H.M.S. "Decoy" to join the fleet which was in contact with the Italian fleet (Battle of Ionian Sea.)
" 29th	At Sea.
" 30th	Arrived at Alexandria for boiler cleaning.
" 31st	At Alexandria.

Days at sea: 28

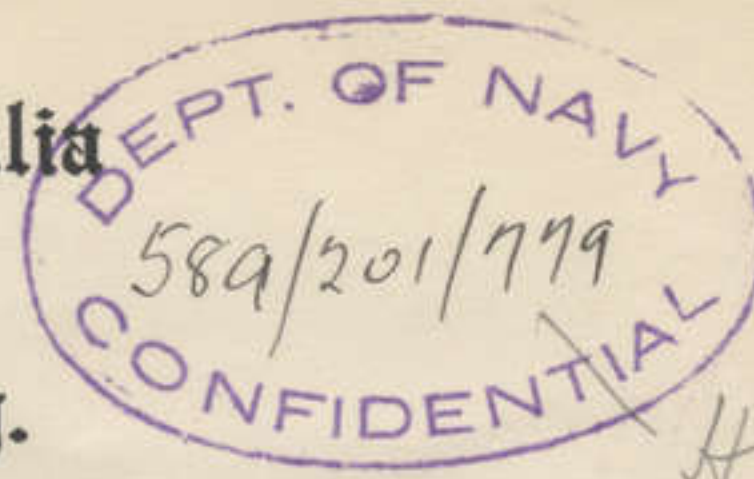
Miles Steamed: 6804.9



Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Royal Australian Navy.



m. Kelly
8.6.65
SECRET
From THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".
Date 1st April, 1941 Reference No. 103/27
To THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH NAVAL BOARD. (copies to:-
C-in-C Med Station.)
Subject WAR DIARY H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

Submitted,

Herewith are forwarded War Diaries for the months
of December, January and February.

Dec 28/4.
dist C.L.O.

MD Lami

Lieutenant-Commander.
(In Command.)

Jan 27/4
H. of "N"
74/44/41C

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY - FEBRUARY, 1941.

February, 1st - 12th	At Port Tewfik (Suez), refitting.
" 13th	Sailed from Port Tewfik and arrived Port Said.
" 14th	Sailed A.M. with H.M.S. "GREYHOUND" as escort for convoy bound for Piraeus.
" 19th	Arrived Piraeus.
" 20th	Sailed A.M. with H.M.S. "GREYHOUND" as escort for convoy bound for Port Said.
" 24th	Arrived Port Said, sailed for Alexandria.
" 25th	Arrived Alexandria.
" 26th	Sailed for Tobruk to join Inshore Squadron.
" 27th	Arrived Tobruk, employed on A/S patrol and local defence.
" 28th	At Tobruk and on A/S patrol.

Days at sea 16.

Miles steamed. ^{2939.9}~~74186.4~~

SECRET
RESTRICTED

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY - JANUARY, 1941.

January, 1st.	Arrived Alexandria from Sollum after collision with "Bandolero" escorted by "Mohawk" P.M. sailed for Port Said, enroute to Port Tewfik (Suez.) for repairs to stem.
" 2nd.	Arrived Port Said and passed through Canal to Port Tewfik.
" 3rd-31st	At Port Tewfik for repairs to stem. Boilers partially retubed. After set of torpedo tubes removed and a 12 pounder and a Breda gun mounted. Various defects made good.

Days at Sea 2

Miles steamed 434.9

~~RESTRICTED~~
SECRET.

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY - DECEMBER, 1939. ⁴⁰

December, 1st	Arrived At Alexandria from Port Said.
" 2nd - 4th	At Alexandria.
" 5th	At sea for exercises.
" 6th - 7th	At Alexandria.
" 8th	At sea for exercises.
" 9th - 15th	At Alexandria.
" 16th	Sailed to join Inshore Squadron operating in support of the Army off the Lybian Coast.
" 17th	Screening H.M.S. "TERROR" while bombarding Bardia and carrying out A/S sweeps.
" 18th - 19th	Carrying out A/S sweeps in company with D. 10 in "Vampire" returned to Alexandria A.M. 19th. Sailed for Westward P.M.
" 20th	Patrolling between Mersa Matruh and Sollum. Escorted H.M. A.B.V. "Fiona" from former to latter.
" 21st	Escorting "Fiona" to Sollum, carried out A/S sweep with "Voyager".
" 22nd	Made rendezvous with H.M. A.B.V. "Chakla" and escorted her to Sollum and sailed for Alexandria.
" 23rd	Arrived Alexandria, took in oil fuel and sailed for Sollum.
" 24th	Anchored at Sollum, landed stores, commenced A/S Patrol off Sollum.
X " 25th - 26th	On A/S Patrol off Sollum. Air attack by Italian Aircraft at 1545, bombs dropped near "Chakla" (at anchor) no damage. Further attack at dusk, bombs dropping on shore. Sailed at 1900 to endeavour to intercept Italian Schooner running personnel and stores between Mersa Tobruk and Bardia. A Schooner sighted at 0030 and sunk by gunfire, twenty-nine survivors out of thirty-five on board. P.M. 26th transferred prisoners to "Vendetta" in Sollum bay. Air attack by Italian bombers escorted by fighters. No damage or casualties. At dusk attacked by torpedo bombers. No torpedoes seen. Opened fire but no apparent result. At night carried out A/S Patrol off Sollum.
" 27th	At dawn bombs observed bursting ashore. Continuing A/S patrol. Attacked by bombers. P.M. bombs falling 200 yards clear. Attacked by torpedo bombers at dusk engaged on torpedo bomber without result.
" 28th	Escorted "Cingalese Prince" from Sollum to Alexandria arrived P.M. fuelled.
" 29th	Sailed for Sollum.
" 30th	Arrived off Sollum and commenced A/S Patrol. At 2105 in collision with H.M. Trawler "Bandolero". The latter foundered at 2150. No casualties.
" 31st	After being in collision with H.M. Trawler "Bandolero" continued A/S patrol off Sollum. Stem found to be badly buckled and forepeak full, but no other damage. At dawn received signal from H.M. Trawler "Moy", aground and requesting assistance. At daylight anchored as close as possible to her and passed 3½ inch wire. "Moy" was refloated at 12-30, apparently undamaged. Sailed for Alexandria escorted by "Mohawk".

Days at Sea 20.

Miles Steamed. 5173.8

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13 APR AM
NAVY CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Royal Australian Navy.

DEPT. OF NAVY
589/201/779
CONFIDENTIAL

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

Date 2nd March, 1941 Reference No. 101/24

To CAPTAIN (D) TENTH DESTROYER FLOTILLA. H.M.A.S. "VAMPIRE".

Subject WAR DIARY H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

Submitted,

Herewith is forwarded War Diary (in triplicate)
for H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN" for the period October 1st to
November 30th.



[Signature]
Lieutenant-Commander.
(In Command.)

II.

No.F.192/6
The SECRETARY, NAVAL BOARD, MELBOURNE.
(Copy to The COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, MEDITERRANEAN).

Submitted for the consideration of the Naval
Board.

H.M.A.S. "STUART".
18th March, 1941.

[Signature]
(H.M.L.Waller).
CAPTAIN (D).
10th Destroyer Flotilla.

SECRET

~~SECRET.~~

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY - NOVEMBER, 1940.

November, 1st

Employed on anti-submarine patrol at entrance to Suda Bay, Crete. Air raid by Italian bombers p.m. No damage reported.

" 2nd - 4th

Formed part of escort of convoy from Suda Bay to Alexandria. Escort included Coventry, Vampire, Defender, Protector. Arrived Alexandria a.m. 4th.

" 5th - 9th

Formed part of escort of convoy to Malta, via North of Crete. On 7th parted company from main body of convoy to escort ships bound for Suda Bay. Fuelled there and overtook convoy. Arrived Malta (Marsaxlokk) p.m. 9th and fuelled. The Mediterranean Fleet was at sea covering the convoy. F.A.A. fighters shot down an Italian Reconnaissance plane that was shadowing the convoy on 8th.

" 10th - 13th

Sailed from Marsaxlokk a.m. 10th as part of escort of convoy to Alexandria. Arrived Alexandria a.m. 13th.

" 14th

Proceeded to Port Said to pick up transport to join convoy from Alexandria to Suda Bay, Crete. Sailed with transport p.m.

" 15th

At noon made rendezvous with convoy. Convoy arrived Suda Bay. Fuelled P.M. Sailed in company with Vampire, Mohawk, Nubian. At dusk carried out an A/S search of Kaso Strait. At 2200 resumed course for Alexandria.

" 18th

Arrived Alexandria at noon.

" 19 - 24th

At Alexandria. On the night 20th - 21st at sea, part of screen for "Illustrious" exercising night flying.

" 25th

Proceeded with "Warspite", "Illustrious", "Malaya" and ships of 14th D.F. to Suda Bay.

" 26th

Arrived Suda Bay, fuelled. P.M. proceeded to escort H.M.S. "Ulster Prince" to Piraeus arriving a.m. 27th.

" 27th

P.M. sailed from Piraeus for Port Said with convoy

" 28th

P.M. "Diamond" made rendezvous as part of escort.

" 30th

A.M. Arrived Port Said, fuelled.
P.M. Sailed with "Diamond" to escort H.M.S. Woolwich to Alexandria.

Days at sea 25

Miles steamed. 7567.6



~~SECRET.~~

RESTRICTED

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY - OCTOBER. 1940.

October 1st - 2nd

At Alexandria and at sea for Exercises.

" 3rd - 6th

Proceeded to sea for operation off South coast of Crete and Kithera Channel. Ships in company Malaya, Ramillies, Eagle and 10th Destroyer Flotilla. No enemy encountered; returned to Alexandria a.m. 6th.

" 7th

At Alexandria.

" 8th - 11th

Formed part of escort for convoy to Malta. The Mediterranean Fleet acted independently and as a covering force. Some contacts were obtained by Asdic and single depth charges dropped but no contacts were confirmed. Arrived Malta p.m. 11th and fuelled.

" 11th - 16th

Formed part of escort for convoy from Malta to Alexandria. On the afternoon of the 14th, when South of Crete, the convoy was twice attacked by high level bombing. No hits were obtained. Arrived Alexandria a.m. 16th.

" 16th - 28th

In harbour at Alexandria for repairs to condensers.

" 29th - 31st

Formed part of escort of convoy to Suda Bay, Crete, arriving p.m. 31st. Other ships of escort, Coventry, Vampire, Protector.

Days at Sea 17.

Miles steamed. 4291.5



SECRET.

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN."

WAR DIARY - AUGUST, 1940.

589/20/779

AUGUST.

- 1st - 12th. Refitting at Port Tewfik. (Suez)
- 12th - 13th. Proceeded to Port Said and then to Alexandria.
- 14th - 15th. Escorted convoy to Port Said and returned.
- 16th - 17th. Took part in operation involving bombardment of Bardia (Libya) by battle fleet. Fleet was bombed by Italian aircraft on return passage. No danger. Fleet returned to Alexandria P.M. 17th.
- 18th - 22nd. In harbour at Alexandria. P.M. 22nd at sea for three hours investigating reported submarine contact without result.
- 23rd - 24th. At sea for operation, bombardment of Bardia by H.M.S. LADYBIRD, WATERHEN acting in support. No damage or casualties in either ship. Returned to Alexandria, P.M. 24th.
- 27th. Proceeded alongside "RESOURCE." for repairs to condensers.
- 28th - 31st. Condensers under-repairs.

Days at Sea 8

2173.7 Miles Steamed.

J.D. Lami
Lieutenant Commander.
(In Command)

ackd R. 5/10

on 9

SECRET.

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN."

WAR DIARY - JULY, 1940.

589/201/779

JULY.

- 1st - 4th. In Alexandria Harbour alongside "Resource."
- 4th. Proceeded to Port Said escorting H.E.M. Yacht "Mahroussa."
- 5th. Passed through Suez Canal to Ismailia then to Great Bitter lakes and anchored P.M.
- 6th. Proceeded to Port Tewfik. (Suez)
- 7th. Proceeded from anchorage to basin and commenced refit.
- Ship was at Port Tewfik refitting for remainder of the month.

Days at Sea 6.

324.6 Miles Steamed.

2nd Lt 5710

acm 2-5710

On 9.

J.D. Wan

Lieutenant Commander.
(In Command.)

RESTRICTED

WAR DIARY - JUNE, 1940.

JUNE.

- 1st. In Harbour at Alexandria.
- 2nd - 5th. On Boghaz Pass patrol off Alexandria returning to harbour P.M. 5th.
- 6th. At sea for evening, returning to harbour P.M.
- 7th - 9th. In harbour at Alexandria.
- 10th. Proceeded to sea at 0200 in company with seven other destroyers under command of Captain (D) Two, in Hyperion for A/S sweep to westward. At war with Italy from 0001, 11th June. Returned to harbour 0900 11th June.
- 11th - 13th Boghaz Pass patrol, returning to harbour A.M. 13th.
- 13th - 15th. On inner patrol off Alexandria. At 2015 sighted gunflashes to seaward. Ordered by "Stuart" to remain on patrol. It was learnt later that Voyager had depth-charged a U-boat bringing her to the surface and then engaged her with gunfire. The U-boat was sunk. At 0102 contact was made with a minefield and shortly afterwards with what was believed to be a submarine. Depth charges were dropped without result and contact was lost.
- 15th - 17th Patrol was shifted to the Boghaz Pass P.M. on 15th. and ship returned to harbour P.M. on 17th.
- 18th. In harbour at Alexandria.
- 19th-22nd At sea for evening and then to outer A/S patrol off Alexandria. Returned to harbour for fuel P.M. 22nd.
- 22-23rd After fuelling proceeded on Boghaz Pass patrol Returned to harbour P.M. 23rd and proceeded alongside "Resource".
- 24th. In harbour at Alexandria.
- 25th-26th. On Boghaz Pass patrol, P.M. 25th to A.M. 26th, then returned to harbour.
- 27th-29th Boghaz Pass patrol, returning to harbour P.M. 29th.
- 30th. In harbour at Alexandria.

Days at sea 26

5782.2 Miles Steamed.

[Signature]

Lieutenant Commander.
(In Command)

~~SECRET.~~

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN."

WAR DIARY - MAY, 1940.

May 1st On passage to Malta in company with H.M. Ships MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, VELOX, and WATCHMAN and H.M.A. Ships, STUART, VAMPIRE, and VENDETTA.

" 2nd Parted company, and arrived Malta A.M.

" 3rd P.M. Sailed in company with H.M.S. RESOURCE and H.M.A. Ships VOYAGER and VENDETTA for Alexandria.

" 5th A.M. STUART and VAMPIRE took over escort and WATERHEN, VOYAGER, and VENDETTA returned to Malta.

" 6th Arrived Malta P.M.

" 7th Sailed P.M. in company with VOYAGER and VENDETTA to rendezvous with WARSPITE and escort to Alexandria.

" 8th At 0600 made rendezvous with WARSPITE escorted by VELOX, KEPPEL, VOYAGER and WATERHEN. VELOX and KEPPEL parted company P.M.

" 10th Arrived Alexandria A.M. secured alongside RESOURCE P.M.

" 11th & 14th Alongside RESOURCE, cleaning boilers.

" 15th & 16th At Sea for exercise.

" 17th At Sea P.M. for exercise.

" 18th In harbour at Alexandria.

" 19th On Boghaz Pass Patrol at entrance to Alexandria Harbour.

" 20th Returned to harbour a.m. Sailed P.M. in company with STUART, VAMPIRE, VOYAGER and VENDETTA to escort French Battleships to BIZERTA.

" 23rd H.M.A. Destroyers parted company and proceeded to Malta for fuel.

" 24th H.M.A. Destroyers sailed for Alexandria and arrived P.M. 25th.

" 25th & 26th In Harbour at Alexandria.

" 27th Proceeded to sea in company with VOYAGER to screen R.F. "LORAINÉ." while exercising, returned harbour P.M.

" 28th & 29th In harbour at Alexandria.

" 30th & 31st At Sea for Exercise.

Days at sea 23

Distance Steamed 6089 miles.

SECRET.

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN."

WAR DIARY - APRIL, 1940.

April, 1st	Sailed from Marseille to escort H. T. "DEVONSHIRE". to Malta.
" 3rd	Arrived Malta, P.M. sailed to escort "DEVONSHIRE." 50 miles on her way to Alexandria.
" 4th	Returned to Malta.
" 5th	Sailed to escort H.T. DILWARA to Marseille.
" 8th	Arrived Marseille a.m. and sailed p.m. to return to Malta.
" 10th	Arrived Malta.
" 11th	Sailed P.M. in company with STUART to rendezvous with ARK ROYAL and GLORIOUS and to relieve their attendant destroyers while they fuelled. at Malta.
" 12th	Returned to Harbour P.M.
" 13th & 14th	At Malta.
" 15th	Sailed P.M. to escort H.T. DILWARA back to Malta.
" 18th	Arrived Alexandria.
" 19th	Sailed P.M. to escort H. T. DILWARA back to Malta.
" 22nd	Arrived Malta.
" 23rd	At Malta.
" 24th	Sailed P.M. for Marseille, arrived 25th.
" 26th	Sailed to escort H. T. DILWARA to Gibraltar.
" 28th	Arrived Gibraltar and secured alongside oiler at 1530. 1700 shipped and proceeded in company with H.M. Ships MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, WESTCOTT, WATCHMAN, and H.M.A.S. VENDETTA, to Malta.
" 30th	At 1500 H.M.A.S. Ships STUART and VAMPIRE joined escort.

Days at Sea 27.

Miles Steamed 698 miles.

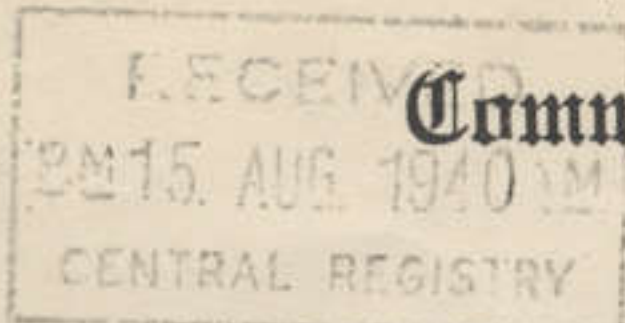
H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN."

WAR DIARY - MARCH, 1940.

March 1st.	Arrived Gibraltar from Malta.
" 2nd & 3rd	At Gibraltar.
" 4th & 7th	On A.S. Patrol seaward of Strait of Gibraltar, returning to harbour am. 7th.
" 8th	At Gibraltar.
" 9th & 13th	On A/S Patrol seaward of Strait of Gibraltar, returning to harbour a.m. 13th.
" 14th & 15th	At Gibraltar.
" 16th	Sailed for Malta, arriving a.m. 18th.
" 18th	Sailed to escort H.T. "DEVENSHIRE" to Alexandria.
" 21st	Arrived Alexandria a.m. Sailed p.m. and escorted "DEVENSHIRE" back to Malta.
" 24th	Arrived Malta.
" 25th & 28th	At Malta, boiler cleaning.
" 29th	Sailed for Marseille.
" 30th & 31st	On passage to Marseille, arriving p.m. 31st.

Days at sea 22.

Distance Steamed 5806 miles.



Commonwealth of Australia

Department of Defence

Royal Australian Navy.



File
H.N.
7/8/40

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

Date 5th JUNE 1940

Reference No. 56/11

To THE COMMANDER (D) 10.

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

Submitted,

Herewith is forwarded War Diary (in triplicate)
for H.M.A.S. "Waterhen" for the period October 1st 1939 to
February 1940.



GH O'Leary

Lieutenant Commander.
(In Command)

II.

No. F.192/6.

The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.

(Copy to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.)

Submitted for the consideration of the Naval Board.

15/8/40
Head of "N" Branch

H.M.L. Waller

(H.M.L. Waller)
C O M M A N D E R (D).

achd 15/8

Dn 9

H.M.A.S "WATERHEN"

SECRET.

WAR DIARY. -- FEBRUARY 1940.

- February 1st. At sea for exercises, on completion returned to Malta.
- 2nd -4th. In harbour at Malta.
- 5th. Proceeded to sea for exercises. On completion at 1330 proceeded to Marseille.
- 6th. On passage to Marseille.
- 7th. Arrived Marseille at 0940.
- 8th. Sailed from Marseille to escort H.T. "Andes" to Malta.
- 9th. Escorting "Andes" to Malta. At midnight turned over escort to "Vendetta".
- 10th. At 0800 arrived Malta.
- 11th- 13th. At Malta.
- 14th. Proceeded to sea for exercises. At 1800 exercises completed and proceeded to Marseille.
- 15th. On passage to Marseille.
- 16th. Owing to bad weather reduced speed. Arrived Marseille at 1730.
- 17th. Sailed at 1600 to escort H.T. "Duchess of Atholl" and "Talamba" to Malta.
- 18th. On passage to Malta.
- 19th. At 1740 arrived at Malta. It was found that No.1 oil fuel tank was leaking due to pounding experienced on passage to Marseille and it was decided that the ship must be docked.
- 20th- 26th. In harbour at Malta. The ship was in dry dock from 22nd to 25th while repairs were effected to No. 1 and No. 3 oil fuel tanks.
- 27th. After A/S exercises proceeded in company with H.M.S. "Bulldog" at 1930 to Gibraltar.
- 28th -29th. On passage to Gibraltar.

Days at sea 16. Miles steamed 4370.

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN"

WAR DIARY. -- JANUARY 1940.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

January 1st - 2nd. At Marseille.

3rd. Sailed in company with "Vendetta" at 0730 to escort convoy of two troop ships and four horse ships to Malta.

4th. On passage.

5th. "Stuart" and "Vampire" relieved "Vendetta" and "Waterhen" at 1330 off Malta and "Vendetta" and "Waterhen" entered harbour at 1600.

6th- 9th. In harbour for repairs and docking.

10th. At sea for exercises.

11th - 14th. In harbour at Malta.

14th. At 1900 proceeded to sea to rendezvous with convoy east of Malta and to relieve "Stuart" while the latter proceeded to Malta to fuel.

15th. At 0500 relieved "Stuart" as escort and with "Voyager" escorted convoy past Malta.

16th. Parted company with convoy and returned to Malta, arriving at 1200.
At 1900 proceeded to sea to escort H.Ts. "Duchess of Atholl" and "Ettrick" to Alexandria and Port Said respectively.

17th - 18th. On passage.

19th. At 0850 "Duchess of Atholl" parted company and proceeded to Alexandria.
At 2100 arrived Port Said in company with "Ettrick". Took in oil fuel and water.

20th. At 0400 left harbour and proceeded to rendezvous with "Duchess of Atholl" off Alexandria.

21st. At sea escorting "Duchess of Atholl" to Malta.

22nd. Arrived Malta at 1400.

23rd- 30th. At Malta. Boiler cleaning and harbour drills.

31st. At sea for exercises.

Days at sea. 14 Miles steamed 3553.

SECRET.

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY. -- DECEMBER 1939.

December 1st - 6th. On passage to Aden in company with H.M.A.S. "Vendetta". Arrived Aden 6th December at 1630.

7th. Proceeded to sea in company with "Vendetta" bound for Malta and to rendezvous with H.M.S. "Malaya" to escort her to Malta.

9th - 10th. On passage to Malta in company with "Malaya" and "Vendetta".

11th. Passed through the Suez Canal, fuelled at Port Said and continued passage to Malta.

12th - 14th. On passage to Malta. Arrived Malta at 0800 Thursday 14th.

15th - 19th. In harbour at Malta, boiler cleaning and making good defects.

20th- 21st. At sea for Gunnery and A/S exercises.

22nd- 23rd. In harbour at Malta.

24th. Proceeded to sea in company with "Vendetta" for exercises and to escort convoy of two troop ships and four horse ships to Marseille.

25th.. At sea in company with "Vendetta" and convoy.

26th. Arrived Marseille at 1500.

27th -31st. At Marseille.

Days at sea. 19. Miles steamed 5039.

RESTRICTED
SECRET

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY. - NOVEMBER 1939.

- November 1st-6th. In harbour at Naval Base, Singapore making good defects, cleaning boilers and carrying out harbour drills.
- 7th - 10th. At sea in company with "Stuart" and "Vendetta" Carried out A/S exercises. Returned to Naval Base and anchored at 2310, 10th.
- 11th -12th. In harbour.
- 13th. Sailed from Singapore in company with "Stuart" "Vendetta" "Vampire" and "Voyager" at 1600 for Colombo. On the afternoon of Friday 17th "Vampire" and "Voyager" were directed to Trincomalee and parted company. Arrived Colombo Saturday 18th at 0950.
- 19th -24th. In harbour at Colombo, making good defects, cleaning boilers and carrying out harbour drills.
- 25th -27th. At sea in company with "Cornwall", "Dorsetshire" and "Eagle". These ships with H.M.A.S "Waterhen" formed Force "I" under the command of Rear Admiral A.J.L. Murray, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.N., in "Cornwall" one of those forces engaged in the search for an enemy raider believed to be in the Indian Ocean. The force carried out a patrol to the Southward of Ceylon during which various exercises were carried out. On the forenoon of Monday 27th oiling from "Cornwall" was exercised. While towing alongside the forward breast and the oil hose parted and the exercise was cancelled. Later in the forenoon an aircraft from "Eagle" was reported to be in the water and after a search the crew was picked up by "Waterhen", the aircraft having sunk. At noon "Waterhen" was detached to return to Colombo and arrived at 1930.
- 28th. Proceeded to sea in company with H.M.S. "Odin", bound for Diego Suarez, Madagascar. "Odin" was to part company at the Laccadin Islands. At noon "Waterhen" was recalled and returned to Colombo arriving at 1500.
- 29th. Sailed from Colombo at 1600 in company with "Vendetta", bound for Aden.
- 30th. At sea on passage to Aden.

Days at sea. 16. Miles steamed 3875.

~~RESTRICTED~~
~~SECRET~~

M. Kelly
8.6.65

H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN".

WAR DIARY, -- OCTOBER 1939.

October. 1st-2nd. In harbour, Farm Cove, Sydney.

3rd. Proceeded to sea in company with "Stuart" and "Vendetta" for exercises; returned to harbour P.M.

4th, 5th, 6th. Exercising at sea in company with "Stuart".

7th - 13th. Alongside dockyard, Garden Island, making good defects and carrying out harbour drills.

14th. Sailed from Sydney in company with "Stuart" and "Vendetta" and after full calibre firing proceeded to Brisbane, arriving Sunday 15th at 2320. Fuelled.

15th. Sailed from Brisbane in company with "Stuart" and "Vendetta" at 0800 and proceeded to Townsville, arriving Wednesday 18th at 0900. Fuelled.

19th. Sailed from Townsville in company with "Stuart" and "Vendetta" at 0530 and proceeded to Darwin arriving Sunday 22nd at 1850. Fuelled.

23rd. Sailed From Darwin in company with "Stuart" and "Vendetta" at 1220 and proceeded to Singapore arriving at 1730 Sunday 29th. "Vampire and "Voyager" had already arrived from Fremantle.

30th - 31st. In harbour at Naval Base, Singapore.

Days at sea. 20. Miles steamed 4941.

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The Commanding Officer, H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN" at Sydney.

12th October, 1939.

P.1/39.

The Secretary, Naval Board, Melbourne.

(Copy to : The Commodore Commanding, H.M. Australian Squadron)
REPORT OF PROCEEDING FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1939.

I have the honour to submit the following report of proceedings for the month of September 1939 .

I commissioned H.M.A.S. "WATERHEN" on 1st September and the first week was occupied with ammunitioning, storing and cleaning ship.

On 8th September I proceeded to sea in company with H.M.A.S. "STUART". Manoeuvres and exercises were carried out and an A/S patrol off Port Jackson was commenced. At 2105 I was ordered to investigate the report of a suspicious vessel off Long Bay. No such vessel being encountered I resumed A/S patrol. Exercises and A/S patrol continued until 0120, September 10th, when I proceeded to join "STUART" in the investigation of the report of a submarine in Terrigal Bay. At 1816 September 10th, I returned to harbour.

On 11th September I proceeded to sea in company with "STUART", after swinging for adjustment of compasses, for exercises and a full calibre firing, one day being spent at Twofold Bay. On September 14th at 0252 I spoke to an unknown merchant ship which answered only some of my signals. I ordered him to stop and sent away a boarding party. The vessel proved to be the S.S. "DUNDULA" and everything appeared to be in order. The Master stated that he had been unable to read some of my signals but did not explain why he had not asked for a repetition instead of ignoring them. I returned to Sydney P.M. on September 14th.

September 15th to 18th was spent in harbour, this time being occupied with harbour drills and cleaning and painting ship.

On September 19th I proceeded to sea in company with "STUART" for exercises and a visit to Jervis Bay where harbour drill were carried out and returned to Sydney on 21st September.

On September 25th I proceeded to sea in company with "STUART". A second visit was made to Jervis Bay and I returned to Sydney on 28th September.

On September 30th A/S exercises were carried out off Sydney.

I have the honour to be, Sir
your Obedient Servant



✓

Lieutenant Commander R.N.
IN COMMAND.

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