

AWM78

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

AWM78 Class 201 - HMAS LAUNCESTON (I)

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Duplicate



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[201/2]

DUPLICATE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

H.M.A.S. "LAUNCESTON"

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL
ACCESS STATUS
OPEN

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Reviewer: LCDR R. L. Smith (RANEM)

Signature: R. Smith Date: 1 Nov 90

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

THE SECRETARY TO THE NAVAL BOARD,

H.M.A.S. "LAUNCESTON".

NAVY OFFICE? MELBOURNE.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1944.

- 1st Dec. At Fremantle. 1700 Slipped and proceeded to sea, to carry out convoy exercise in company with "Mildura", "Warrnambool", U.S.S. "Coucal" and "Isobel" and H.M. Submarines.
- 2nd Dec. 0600 Exercise completed, returned to harbour and secured on "Inverell" at 0925.
- 3rd Dec. Sunday. 0945 Divisions and prayers, Sunday routine.
- 4th Dec. 0730 Slipped and proceeded to sea, to make Rendezvous with U.S.S/M "Blackfin" at 0930. Returned to harbour with "Blackfin", then proceeded to anchor off Rottnest Island, carried out drills, fire and damage control lectures etc. 1600 weighed and proceeded to Gunnery Area and exercised A.A. defence stations with rocket targets 1815 Anchored off Fremantle Harbour.
- 5th Dec. 0700 Port Torpedo Officer joined. Weighed and proceeded to sea, "Mildura", "Warrnambool", "Inverell", "Isobel" in company. Carried out L.A. firing at Patt. VI target. 0900 Commenced LL sweeping exercises with "Inverell", "Mildura" and "Warrnambool" acting as danlayers. Most useful and instructive exercise. 1700 Recovered sweeps and returned to anchor in Gage Roads at 1950.
- 6th Dec. 0600 Weighed anchor and entered harbour. 0650 Secured alongside "Fort McDonnell". Wind rose to North West gale with heavy rain.
- 7th Dec. At Fremantle, bad weather continued.
- 8th Dec. 0530 Cast off and proceeded to sea to carry out exercises with U.S. S/Ms. Target Ship. . 1930 "Warrnambool" joined in exercise with U.S. S/M. "Gurnard". 2330. Ceased exercises and returned to Gage Rd.
- 9th Dec. 0200 Anchored in Gage Roads. 0840 Weighed and entered harbour. Secured alongside "Dubbo" at 'H' Shed. 0945 Commenced fuelling. 1035 Completed oil fuelling.
- 10th Dec. At Fremantle. 1430 Slipped and proceeded to sea to carry out patrol in area Westward from Rottnest Island.
- 11th Dec. On patrol. 0500 Sighted H.M.S. "Howe", 4 destroyers in company. 2200 Ceased patrol and returned to Gage Roads.
- 12th Dec. 0105 Anchored in Gage Roads. 0625 Weighed and entered harbour, secured alongside "Mildura". 1000 cast off and proceeded to anchor whilst shipping movements took place. 1300 Weighed and entered harbour, secured on "Mildura" at 'G' and 'H' ramp.
- 13th Dec. At Fremantle.
- 14th Dec. 0800 Slipped and proceeded to sea to carry out LL sweeping exercises with "Inverell", Y.M.S. 72, Y.M.S. 11, with "Mildura" as danlayer.

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5/12/60

A very successful day. The ship is now definitely showing signs of being useful at LL sweeping. 1520 Recovered sweeps. 1540 Recovered dan-buoys, and returned to harbour through South Passage 1740 Anchored in Gage Roads. 2115 Ordered to sea to investigate unidentified vessel off Rottnest. 2210 Ship identified as "Intrombi" from Geraldton. 2310 Anchored in Gage Roads.

- 15th Dec. 0630 Weighed and entered harbour, berthed on "Mildura" at 'G' and 'H' ramp.
- 16th Dec. 0930 Commenced fuelling. 1000 Completed.
- 17th Dec. Sunday. 0210 Ship brought to immediate notice. 0335 Slipped and proceeded to assistance of "Bunbury", who had sustained damage in a collision. 0430 Came up with "Bunbury", and returned with her to harbour. 0530 Entered harbour and secured on "Mildura". Sunday Routine.
- 18th Dec. Commenced boiler cleaning.
- 19th - 22nd Dec. Boiler cleaning. D.C. pistols landed for testing.
- 23rd Dec. 0730 Slipped and proceeded to sea, to carry out exercises with U.S. S/M. 1600 - 1800 Carried out A/S exercises. 1900 - 2300 Target ship for U.S. S/M.
- 24th Dec. 0620 Entered Cockburn Sound and weighed a dan-buoy, then entered harbour at 0815, and secured on "Inverell" outside "Fort McDonnell" at 'H' Shed.
- 25th Dec. 0800 "Ready" Ship, steam at immediate notice. 0840 Divisions. 0900 Divine Service on wharf in company with other ships, conducted by chaplain from "Leeuwin". Ship permitted to remain at berth, at immediate notice, and to entertain visitors until 1600. 1600 Cast off and proceeded to Gage Roads to anchor.
- 26th Dec. 0830 Weighed and entered harbour, secured alongside "Mildura". Sunday Routine.
- 27th Dec. - 28th Dec. At Fremantle.
- 29th Dec. 1000 Slipped and proceeded to sea for exercises with H.M. S/Ms and torpedo recovery. Weather unsuitable for retrieving torpedoes, exercise continued. 2000 Joined by "Inverell", "Bubbo", and U.S.S. "Corpus Christi", and carried out convoy exercise.
- 30th Dec. 0600 Exercise completed. Remained to recover torpedo, which gave plenty of trouble on account of the heavy sea that was running. 0945 Entered harbour and secured alongside "Dubbo", passed torpedo to "Maidstone's" boat, and took aboard 'A' type S.A. gear Mark IV from "Dubbo". 1300 Slipped and proceeded to Cockburn Sound, to join "Pirie" in exercises, anchoring in Sulphur Bay.
- 31st Dec. 0630 Weighed and proceeded to sea with "Pirie" for exercises, towing forward and towing aft, sea-boat etc. 1530 Entered harbour. 1600 Secured at 'A' Shed and commenced fuelling. 1700 Fuelling completed. Shifted alongside "Inverell" at 'H' shed, and secured 1735.

Miles steamed during month....1809) Oil fuel consumed,
Hours under way..... 165) 153 tons = 11.8
Average Speed..... 10.95knots)	miles per ton.

Total distance steamed105,550 miles.

28/5/60
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DEPT. OF NAVY
2026-7-1230.
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H5 4/1/45

Health and conduct of ship's company have been good, with the exception of three leave-breaking offences. Ship has shaken down now and is becoming more efficient. Arrival of "Pirie" and the prospect of working up with her has put a keenness into all hands which is most satisfactory.

(Sgd) E. J. Barron.

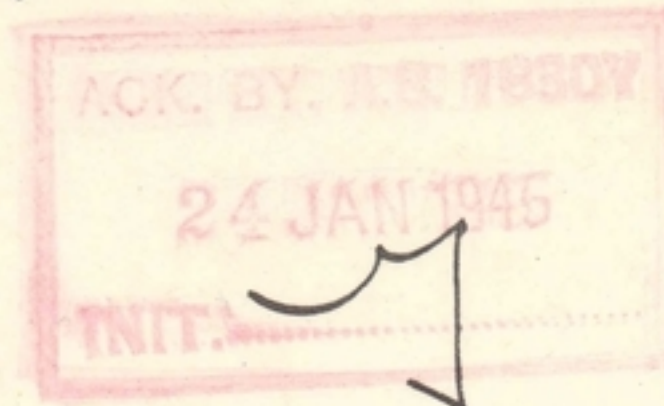
~~SECRET~~
A/ Lieutenant Commander, R.A.N.R(S)

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

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NOIC. Fremantle.

S.O. M/S 22.



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The Secre-tary
Naval Board.

Submitted for the information of the Naval Board.

C. J. Jp

FREMANTLE.
22nd January, 1945.

COMMODORE, R.A.N.
NAVAL OFFICER-IN-CHARGE.

20/1/45
NA
20/1/45

DNMS BRANCH
1 MAR 1945
NAVY

SSND JANUARY, 1945.
FREMANTLE.

NAVY OFFICER-IN-CHARGE.
COMMODORE, R.N.Z.

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Submitted for the information of the Navy Board.

Navy Board.
The Secretary

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S.O. M/S SS.

MOIC. Fremantle.

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COMMANDING OFFICERS, H.M.A.S. "GALVESTON".

V. Lieutenant Commander, R.N.Z.(S)

(Sg) E. J. Barton.

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